



France & Colonies Phîlatelist



"LA BRETAGNE"—

REDISCOVERIES CONCERNING A PARIS-SIEGE BALLOON

By Ernst M. Cohn

Some writers still call it "La Normandie," despite the fact that everyone connected with the adventure knew that its pilot Cuzon had named it "La Bretagne." Everyone insists that it carried no official post-office mail mags, though that is perhaps doubtful, according to eyewitness testimony from the landing area.

A very detailed account of the flight and its aftermath was published by Paul Maincent in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* from September 1964 to October 1966, No.s 1329-1354. I have described its impact on the origins of international air law in the *Federal Bar Journal*, vol. 27, No. 3, 1967, at some length. Yet there was more to be discovered, as is so often the case in history and science.

The New York Tribune had a "special correspondent" (who may or may not have been a professional journalist) inside Paris, who wrote the following related reports, about events leading up to the launching of the "Bretagne":—

"Saturday Morning, October 8 [Paris].—Yesterday I happened to call



Fig. 1

ing at the Embassy, when a young English gentleman made his appearance and gravely asked whether he could take any letters to England. He is to start today in a balloon. I gave him a letter, and a copy of one which I had given on Wednesday to an Irishman who is trying to get through the lines. I hear that tomorrow the Columbian Minister is going to the Prussian Headquarters, and a friend of mine assures me that if I give him a letter by 1 o'clock today, the diplomatist will take it . . .

"Sunday, October 9.—The Representative of the Republic of Columbia, to whom I had given my letter of yesterday, has returned it to me, as he was afraid to cross the lines with it. The Briton who has paid for a place in a balloon is still here, but he imagines that he will start tomorrow, so I shall give him my Columbian letter and this one. I understand that any one who is ready to give assurances that he will praise everything and every one belonging to the Government, is afforded facilities for sending out letters by the Post-Office balloons. . .

"Paris, October 27, 10 PM.—I am still wondering whether the dispatch I intrusted this morning to the balloon "La Bretagne" has dropped in Brittany or in Switzerland, in the Department of the Somme or within any of the Prussian lines. The departure had a special interest for me. One of the travelers was the bearer of my dispatch and was going direct to London, which would give me an important advantage in respect of time. Never was weather more contrary, never wind more capricious, more baffling. For five days were we tantalized. This morning at seven we were at the Gare du Nord, where La Bretagne—like a huge bladder—lay under cover, limp, flaccid, dead. French unpunctuality was never more manifest. M. Cuzon—the aeronaut—was ready. M. Worth, an English *négociant*, came as the clock struck. M. Manceau arrived at the same time as myself. M. Etienne—engineer of the Ville de Paris, and charged with an important government mission—followed on our heels, but no director, notwithstanding a positive engagement the previous afternoon to be on the spot at the hour specified—*heure militaire*, that is "sharp." For two mortal hours and a half did we wait, making—to employ a French expression—bad blood. . . At length arrived the director. He was unable to comprehend why the balloon had not been sent to the gas works at La Villette, where it was to be filled. . . Another rendezvous was for half past eleven at La Villette. . ."

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We switch you now to the *Globe and Traveller* (London) of 26 October, page 3, for an eyewitness report on why Manceau and Worth, who were to have left aboard the "Liberté," were still in town:—

"A Paris correspondent writes:—Shortly after mid-day [17 October], accompanied by a friend who had agreed to pay £80 to get a despatch out in De Fonvielle's balloon, *La Liberté*, I went up to Montmartre to see what Mr. Nadar was going with his *aérostats*. Conceive our horror as we turned on the hill and saw the great balloon—so great that it could be no other than *La Liberté*, rolling in the sky and pitching about like a drunkard. There was a strong wind, and now it heeled over then recovered itself, now again heeled over, then steadied for a minute and, at length got lost in the driving clouds. What of the passengers? And what of all the luggage and sacks of letters that were to accompany them? We stood aghast, full of horrible conjectures, which were all the more painful as this particular balloon had been promoted by a company of whom about half were Englishmen, and the balloon might even be described as half English. The simple fact was this, as we afterwards learnt, that the captain of the balloon, M. de Fonvielle, had not taken sufficient care that the balloon should be held down or anchored with the proper weight. The weights were taken out in order that the passengers might get in, and while the balloon was held down by a number of men it gave a lurch. Some of the men let go—they had no notion of being carried up into the air; the rest who held on were too light to keep the balloon down—they, too, were compelled to let go, and off it went without cargo of any kind."

In *Icare* No. 56 is a photo of a Bavarian tent, made from part of the gas bag of the "Liberté" after butterfingers De Fonvielle lost it.

On 27 October, "Le Bretagne" left the gas works some time after 2 PM. That evening, someone wrote a letter to the *Kölnische Zeitung*, which published it in its "Extrablatt" (free for the troops) of 29 October-4 November. He mentioned that that balloon had left behind numerous newspapers and letters, tossed out along the way just before it landed. It had been sighted first at Landrecourt and been shot at from there to its landing spot at palace Billemont. Three men had been caught and would be taken the next day to headquarters at Charny for presentation to Major General von Gayl. The prisoners had mentioned having paid 3000 francs each for their balloon seats.

According to the *Times* of 10 November, a large sack of letters had been handed to the German general staff for inspection. If that sack really came from the "Bretagne," then it could only have been an official post-office mail bag.



Fig. 2

The capture was made, according to the *Kölnische Volkszeitung* of 9 November, by the Seventh Rhenish Lancers (7. Rheinische Ulanen). They also flushed out Manceau two days later, at the home of a curé in a nearby village, where Manceau was in bed with a sprained or broken foot or leg. The balloon, divided into four parts, had been hidden by peasants and was destroyed by the Germans. Manceau was taken to Prince Friedrich Karl's headquarters. Three of his pigeons apparently were still in the cage. The Germans sent them off to Paris with news of the surrender of Metz.

On 2 November, a German soldier at Nanteuil wrote to the *Dortmunder Anzeiger* (issue of 10 November) that "a rather large balloon" had flown across the Marne valley a few days earlier. Everyone had wished that the wind bag had sailed past a few thousand feet lower, so they might have been able to make personal acquaintance with it. But it had flown off. Then, on the night of 2 November, three gentlemen were brought in under escort, an older one and two younger ones, who had left Paris by that means, carrying quite a bit of money and a well-locked briefcase. They were then on their way to Versailles.

At this point, we reproduce the text of a folded letter, illustrated here, which has the blue cachet of the Royal Prussian Command, Versailles (royal eagle in the center); the cds of the Royal Prussian Field Post Expedition, 9th Infantry Division, of 15 November; and, on the back, a fairly indistinct cds of the place of destination, Quimper (Département du Finistère), 1E/30 Novembre 1870. (Fig. 1.) It is addressed to Madame René Cuzon, wife of the pilot of the ill-fated balloon:

"This Friday, 11 November 1870. Prison of Versailles.

Dear Friend,

At the end of my strength to support our long separation, I had decided that, in order to rejoin you, I would enter the corps of aréonautes [sic], and on Thursday, 27 October, I left with the balloon *La Bretagne*. The wind having shifted I found myself at 5:30, at the moment when I descended, in the midst of the Prussian lines. I escaped death of all kinds miraculously—a terrible tempest and more than 20 bullets that had been aimed at me spared me—I was taken to Versailles where I am locked up in the cellular prison of the town. I am awaiting an interrogation which, I hope, will cause me to be set at liberty, not having been entrusted with any mission and having with me only merchants who were going to rejoin their families and their businesses in the provinces. Anyhow, for the moment I am a prisoner of war. . . Have patience, most of all don't fret, your health could suffer from it. You are passing through the most difficult period of your condition, and if a misfortune would happen to you, I would be inconsolable. . . I think that [my] mother must be at Redon, I shall take advantage of the authorization that I obtained today to send news to her. . ."

Hence that folded letter is evidently Cuzon's first written message after his capture.—The other document, of which the front of the envelope is shown (Fig. 2), is one of the last letters he wrote in German captivity. It shows the blue cachet of the Royal Prussian Garrison Hospital Commission at Cologne (another type of royal eagle in the center), a Cologne postmark of the horse-shoe type of 14 February 1871, 9-10 [AM], and a French small black PD on the front; on the back is the Redon cds of 1E/19 Feb. 71.

The message, addressed to his brother, who had been one of the passengers on the "George Sand," reads as follows:

"Monday 12 Feb. 1871 [Monday was the 13th], Hospital of Cologne
Dear Etienne,

After two days I entered the hospital, my physical strength could no longer resist the torments and worries of my spirit. . . I am locked in exactly as in prison, and except for the doctor's visit there is no difference in my situation. . . . Poor Céline, is she confined yet. . . I have been judged and acquitted, yet here it is almost five weeks that I had been told I would soon be freed. . . I am counting heavily on the protests you must have made on my behalf to the government. . . For the past 15 or 17 days I have received no letter from mother or Céline. . ."

On that St. Valentine's Day, when his letter was postmarked at Cologne, René Cuzon's son was born. Two days later, he was sent back to the regular prison and his friends. And on the 20th, he started his homeward journey. Chances are that he reached home before his brother got the letter.

STAMP PROGRAM FOR 1977

The full plan for the 1977 issues was announced Dec. 16:

"Philatelic Creations" Series: (orig. works of current artists): by Trémois, and by Vasarely. (Also by Excoffon?)

Paintings Series: Rubens "Portrait d'Antoine Goubeau et de sa femme Anne, aux pieds de la Vierge" (detail)

Europas: Porte Breton; Village Provençal

Touristic Series:

Abbaye de Fontenay

Chateau de Vitre

Cathedrale de Bayeaux

Abbaye des Prémontrés à Pont a Mousson

Collégiale du Dorat

Tour Abbatiale de Saint Armand les Eaux

Great Accomplishments Series:

Centre Georges Pompidou; Extensions Portuaires de Dunkerque

Nature Series: Cigale rouge (an insect)

Regions Series: Franche-Comté, Languedoc-Roussillon, Rhone-Alpes, Martinique, Reunion, Bretagne, Alsace, Champagne-Ardenne

Commemoratives: (7)

5th Cent. of the Battle of Nancy

Tricent. of the return of Cambiara to France

150th Anniv. of the Societe Nationale de Horticulture

60th Anniv. of the French football cup

50th Anniv. of Lindberg's Crossing of the Atlantic

10th Anniv. of the Assoc. Intern. des Parliamentaires de Langue Francaise

Memorial to Gen. deGaulle

Divers:

Congres Nat. de FSPF at Annecy

Expo Métiers d'Art

Institute Catholique de France

Jeune Chambre Economique de France

Ecole Polytechnique de Palaiseau

Floralies Intern. de Nantes

Fédération Intern. de Construction

"Les Estampilles Postales de la Grande Guerre." By Stephanie Strowski. Reprint of the original edition plus an up to date priced catalog of the marks by B. Sinais. 400 pp. 735 illustr. Dec. 1976. 105Fr p.p. Maison. A. Maury, 6 Blvd. Montmartre, F75009-Paris. (A classic work long out of print.)

The Regular Issues of France Since 1876

By Stanley J. Luft (#915)

XII. F. Sports Issue of 1953 (cont.)

(Continued from FCP #166, p. 117)

40F

The 40F Canoeing (Sc 703, Yv 963) replaced the 40F Pic du Midi (Sc 673, Yv 916) beginning in late Nov. 1953.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 8 Dec. 1951):

Registered printed matter, from 50 to 100 gm.

Foreign usage (Tariff of 1 May 1951):

Airmail letters and cards, to 5 gm, to Near East and Iran.

Printed in sheets (4 press runs) between 13 Nov. 1953 and 1 April 1954; issued 30 Nov. 1953-4 Sept. 1954; 17.095 million stamps printed.

Replaced by the 40F China and Crystal (Sc 713, Yv 972) beginning in May 1954.

50F

The 50F Rowing (Sc 704, Yv 964) replaced the 50F Caen (Sc 674, Yv 917) beginning in late Nov. 1953.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 8 Dec. 1951):

*Registered letters, to 20 gm;

Letters, from 100 to 300 gm;

Parcels, from 1000 to 2000 gm, to military personnel in the field;

Special delivery (express) fee.

Foreign usage (Tariff of 1 May 1951):

Airmail letters, from 5 to 10 gm, to Near East and Iran.

Printed in sheets (3 press runs) between 13 Nov. 1953 and 2 April 1954; issued 30 Nov. 1953-4 Sept. 1954; 21.215 million stamps printed.

Replaced by the 50F Jewelry (Sc 714, Yv 973) beginning in May 1954.

75F

The 75F Equitation (Sc 705, Yv 965) was issued 30 Nov. 1953; newly-created value following foreign Tariff of 1 May 1951:

Foreign usage:

*Registered letters, to 20 gm;

Airmail letters and cards, to 5 gm, to South America, Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia, Burma, and Thailand.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 8 Dec. 1951):

Special delivery (express) letters, from 20 to 50 gm.

Printed in sheets (2 press runs) 14-26 Nov. 1953 and 27-30 Jan. 1954; issued 30 Nov. 1953-4 Sept. 1954; 6.635 million stamps printed.

Replaced by the 75F Perfumes and Flowers (Sc 715, Yv 974) beginning in May 1954.

References for Sect. XII

Berck: "Catalogue Berck-70."

Bottin: "Annuaire du Commerce Didot-Bottin," Paris; for years 1945 through 1950, and 1957.

Cérés: "Catalogue Cérés 1973."

Joany, R.: "Nomenclature des Timbres-Poste de France": v. I (1959); v. VII (1975).

Joany, R., (1972-73), "Les Surtaxes de la Poste Aérienne"; Le Monde des Philatélistes, Nos. 247, 250, and 251.

deVinc de Winnezele, Baron (1950, 1955) (brought to date by Marcel Charvet): "L'impression des Timbres Français par les Rotatives," 3rd ed.; Montpellier; Pt. 2 (1950), Pt. 3 (1955), and Supplements.

PROBLEMS IN ORGANIZING A SPECIALIZED SOWER COLLECTION FOR EXHIBIT

By Raymond L. Gaillaguet

C

The expense and difficulties in acquiring "classic" (1849-76) material of France which could win high awards in national and international philatelic exhibitions has turned many exhibitors towards later issues where the opportunities seem more realizable. Among the post classic issues, or semi-classic as the French call them, the Sowers have attracted many students and specialized collectors. Some of them are beginning to obtain recognition in national exhibitions. It would seem that it is only a matter of time before they will do well in internationals. Since the Sowers now are only from 50 to 70 years old, the material is still available at reasonable cost.

The writer, having gone as far as he could with the classics, looks to his Sowers—long his second favorites—for future exhibitions. The first problem that arises is the large number of varieties, both major and minor, the multitude of uses, etc., which makes a specialized collection of Sowers so bulky that it is difficult to visualize how one can form a rational and comprehensive showing of this material in the few frames allotted nowadays to exhibits in the better shows. Hence one has to look for a classification of material from which subclasses of more limited size and scale, could be extracted for exhibits. If one wants to show an across the board representation of this material, he needs a classification to guide him since no one catalog outlines all of the categories. A comprehensive classification requires compilation from many sources. The standard catalogs and Barrier's book are the best starting point. The customary grouping of the design types is:

1. Lined Sowers (lignée)
2. Sower with ground (avec sol)
3. Cameo (camée) without ground and with thin numerals.
4. Retouched Cameo (camée) with thicker numerals, the definitives.

There are 19 values of the Lined plus 10 surcharges with new values including the "B.I.T." and "Caisse d'Amortissement"; and 35 values of the Cameo plus 13 surcharges. (1) Even this does not take into account the multiple die types (DeLizeray) nor that some Lined and Cameos were printed on both flat and rotary presses.

Considering now the various formats and varieties either not listed in regular catalogs or under other headings than regular postage issue, I find the following items:

1. Booklets, "portes timbres"; and encased stamps (used as change in WWI).
2. Paper varieties (see FCP #149, Vol. 28, No. 3, July 1972).
3. Freaks; errors; imperfs; proofs; essays; non-issued; recto-verso; and fakes to defraud the P.O. Perfins would also fit in this group.
4. Shades
5. Overprints not included in the Yvert count for regular French postage:
 - a. For use by foreign government, such as "Postes Serbes" of WWI (actually a cancellation).
 - b. For "F.M."; patriotic overprints of WWI (Alsace Libérée); Red Cross.
 - c. For use in the offices abroad, mandates, occupations, Andorra, Memel.
 - d. For precancels.
 - e. For instructional purposes: hexagonal cancels used at Blvd. Brune (Paris) for rejected stamps that should have been incinerated. This overprint comes in two types: typographed in the entire

sheet, ring about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. thick, and for hand stamps ring about 2 mm. thick.

Annulé; Spécimen (Used at first for U.P.U. purposes and later on for the training of new personnel).

6. Postal Stationery (just coming into its own in collecting respectability). Note that two values are found **only** on stationery:—the 30 c camée violet (1907-16) and the 1f20 postal card (1944) lignée for use of soldiers of WWII.
7. Millésimes and Coins Datés.

Louis Barrier, the first philatelist to publish an extensive research on the Sowers, offers guide lines on how to present this issue: (2)

1. From the sheet of 300 flat press to show the millésimes.
2. From the booklets, in pairs to show margins on top and bottom.
3. From coils of the flat press, in vertical strips of at least six stamps to show the numbers.
4. From the sheets of 100 rotary press with gutters, showing parallelograms.
5. From coils of the rotary press, in vertical strips of at least eleven to show the numbers.

Note that this outline makes no mention of either design or die types or papers, nor does it make it clear whether one should show all of the millésimes and coins datés (probably nearly impossible).

These all are subvarieties of one or more of the basic design types or of particular denominations of them. Thus the total number of possible varieties is very large, much greater than the basic major numbers in the catalogs.

The organization of so much material for a collection or an exhibition can be approached in many different ways: by design, by denomination, by printing methods, usages, etc. Yet, if one wishes to get examples of most or all of the kinds of varieties into a reasonable compass, I believe that the only workable solution is to take one of the common stamps, such as the 50 c red lined sower (Y&T #199), printed for six years (1926-32) on both kinds of presses, and make a complete showing of it in every imaginable variations and usage. Still that would not be sufficient to illustrate all kinds of Sowers material, so that one would have to add examples of the 15 c Lined, the 5, 10, and 25 c cameo (Y&T #s 130, 137, 138, 140).

I know that some collectors believe that any single page in a major show should have at least a catalog values of X amount of \$. I, for one, do not go along with that theory since judging rules allot 60% for philatelic knowledge, 20% for presentation and only 20% for "rarity."

To return to the idea of showing the 50 c red, Barrier lists the following stamps of the 50 c:

1. 7 shades
2. 7 varieties (I have 9)
3. 1 fake (Marseille)
4. 7 coins datés
5. "F.M." with two types of surcharges (flat and rotary press). He does not mention the three errors found on that stamp in positions 96, 97 and 100.
6. "B.I.T."
7. Cancelled "Dragon d'Annam," very rare, on cover only.
8. Cancelled by Agence Comptable des Timbres Postes.
9. Idem in black
10. Used in Andorra

Not listed by him:—

1. Coil in band of eleven

2. 8 Booklets (Y&T #C6, D7-8-9-10-11-12-13). In that group alone there are 66 different booklets with different advertisers or no advertising at all on selvaige or cover or both. Besides there are 28 booklets having been "annulé." (3)
3. 8 Different stationery items (4)
4. Philopode booklet.
5. Perfins "E.I.P.A." and "L.T.M.," the latter on both stamps and stationery (5).

Wanos and de Belleville in "Catalogue des Variétés des France 1900-1964" (p. 40) list 48 varieties of this stamp alone.

The physical display must be left pretty well to the artistic talent of the exhibitor. My sole suggestion would be to show the coins datés in blocks of four. The controversy over exploded vs. unexploded booklets will remain one. Personally, I explode the booklet when I feel that the story will be better told by showing the cover separately, such as in the private booklets, i.e. "Virgile-Chareyre," or booklets of regional advertisers, such as "Le Coq Blades" used only in the Vichy area.

I hope readers will use the Philatelist as a forum to give their ideas as to how to solve the problem of showing a comprehensive collection of the Sowers.

If enough interest is shown, I will write an addendum on other ideas that I have or might receive. I will also try to put together a bibliography of this issues, which I find, is as long as the catalogue of the stamps themselves.

References:

- (1) Yvert & Tellier Catalog, 1975, Tome I, page 19.
- (2) Louis Barrier. "Essai sur les Semeuses," Bulletin Philatélique du Midi, 1951, page 66.
- (3) Giannetto & Lucini: "Francobolli Pubblicitari Emessi in Francia La Semeuse". Editrice C.F.I., Milano, 1970.
- (4) Francon & Storch: "Catalogue Spécialisé des Timbres Poste de France," Etudes Philatéliques et Marcophiles, Editions du Cercle Lyonnais, 1973, page 129.
- (5) Ibid, page 126.

MEMBERS APPEALS

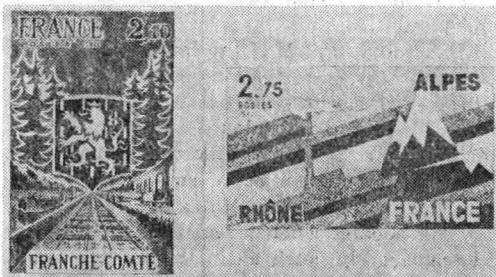
(Members Advertising)

WANTED: Cover with continuous machine slogan cancel (flamme) of Chamonix and text: "Sports D'Hiver/Chamonix-Mont-Blanc/Janvier 1924," used in Dec. 1923-Jan. 1924. Also Paris 1924 Olympics covers and cards. Sherwin Podolsky, 16035 Tupper St., Sepulveda, Calif. 91343 (Mb. #1644)

OFFER: A complete run of "Les Annales de Philatélie," vols. I-III, 29 nos., 1933-1940. It was the predecessor of the present "Documents Philatéliques," and carried many important research studies by prominent philatelists—still valuable references. Now a scarce set. For benefit of the FCPS Vaurie Publication Fund. First check for \$40 (recent auctions brought more) gets it—make out to FCPS. R. G. Stone, Box 471, Biglerville, Pa. 17307 (Mb. #61)

WANTED: Stamps and covers with Paris cancels 1849-1876. Will trade entire France 1876 to 1964 collection for those I need. Also have extensive worldwide material to trade. Send list of what you have and what you need and let's trade. You set the trade basis. Earle F. Plyler, P. O. Box 550, Edmond, Okla. 73034 (Mb. #1364)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS



The Anna de Noailles stamp had its FD on 6 Nov.; the 1.10 Cathédrale de Lodève (which was not announced earlier) on 13 Nov.; the Foire Expos on 20 Nov., the Ste. Barbe and Sybille Cimmérienne red-cross stamps on 20 Nov.; the 1.10 Douanes 27 Nov.; Musée de l'Atlantique Port Louis 4 Dec.; Vlamincx's "Nature Morte" 18 Dec.

On 8 Jan. the 2.10 Franche-Comté, was due, on 15 Jan. the 2.50 Languedoc-Roussillon, on 22 Jan. the 2.75 Rhone-Alpes and the 3 Conseil de l'Europe stamps, on 29 Jan. the 1.50 Martinique, on 5 Feb. the 1.00 Centre G. Pompidou and 1.45 Reunion, on 12 Feb. the 2.00 Corot's "Le Pont de Montes" and the 0.50 Dunkerque port, on 19 Feb. the 2.40 Bretagne, and 26 Feb. the 3.40 Alsace. The 1.00+0.20 Journée du Timbre issue will appear 26 March, on 16 April the 3.20 Champagne-Ardenne, on 23 April the 1.00 and 1.40 Europas, on 28 May the 1.00+0.20 Congrès FSPF at Annecy, also in May sometime the Metiers d'Art.

The new French tariffs of 2 August last are as follows: Domestic: slow mail raised from 60 to 80c/20gr, fast mail 80 to 1.00/20gr; registry fee raised 4.70 to 5.50 for letters, 2.40 to 3.00 for other objects; postal cards raised from 80 to 1F. The weight steps for domestic and international mail are now:

	Slow	Fast	Intern.
0-20 gr -----	0.80	1.00	1.40
20-50 -----	1.10	1.70	2.50
50-100 -----	1.45	2.40	3.20
100-250 -----	2.75	4.80	6.50
250-500 -----	3.90	6.00	12.50
500-1 kg -----	5.80	8.00	22.00
1-2 kg -----	8.20	10.50	35.00
2-3 kg -----	10.80	13.20	—
3-4 kg -----	13.20	15.70	—
4-5 kg -----	15.40	18.00	—

For Canada and countries neighboring to France special reduced rates of 1Fr 0.20gr, over 20gr consult the PO; to Switzerland and Liechtenstein 1.25 for 20gr.

The Le Monde Des Philatélistes magazine celebrated its 25th anniversary last October—congratulations to one of the best anywhere.

The PTT announced that an original art work of Excoffon will be the subject of a stamp sometime in 1977.

The three stamps for the Conseil de l'Europe (not for UNESCO as we previously ann.) will illustrate the new headquarters building for the Conseil

in Strasbourg, to appear 24 Jan.

The Musée Postal is displaying from 18 Dec. to 9 Jan. an exhibit of original personal works of designers and engravers that have worked on French stamps.

We regret the omission from our report on the CINPEX awards in last FCP, that our member Jeanne H. Hudak won the Phil. Society of Cincinnati President's Topical Award for her exhibit of the 1957 Jubilee Jamboree (Scouts). Apologies and congratulations (—our intelligence sources were not on the ball).

The new helio printed stamps of the AFT carry in the coin daté the indicia "HEL 1"—that is helio press number 1.

The French P.O.s were ordered to withdraw the old 0.60 and 0.80 Bequet stamps from sale on 15 Sept. last, but prior to that some offices, especially in the overseas Departments, were selling off their old colors of Bequet before selling customers the new colors. The 1 Fr Bequet is being sold in the DOMs with phosphorescent bars but with the "overseas gum." It is not yet known if the new 0.80 are being sold in the DOMs with bars.

A club for specialist collectors of the "E.A." overprint issue of Algeria is being formed in France; contact M. Goudard, 14 rue de la Bidassoa, F75020-Paris, with self-addressed stamped envelope for return.

Alexandre Varga, the well-known director of the Theodore Champion firm in Paris, a doyen among the Paris dealers, and organizer of many expositions, has been nominated by the Secrétaire d'Etat for the P. et T. as a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

The New Hebrides stamp of 29 June 1976 which shows a map of the archipelago, contained a "serious error"—the longitude marked 116°E should be 166°E, a difference of several thousand miles!

Regarding the philatelic manipulations of TAAF covers mentioned in the Oct. FCP, Claude Lajugie gives more specifics in Ice Cap News #119. The complaints are against covers sold by dealers who prepared faked covers for the ARAKS campaign, against the numerous handstamps of the supply ship "Marion Dufresne" whose master prepared covers with odd stamps such as UNESCO or UN, and against covers with imperf TAAF stamps (illegal use). Also too many unnecessary handstamps of offices and officials of the expedition at Adélie Land are being put out.

TAAF collectors are rather dismayed that the philatelic mail sent out to Kerguelen for FD cancellations on 1 Jan. and which arrived there 22 Dec. 1975 has been filtering back with postmark dates ranging from 1 Jan. to 2 Aug. 1975, which implies a miscarriage somewhere. The TAAF Administration and the BEPTOM are investigating.

The new stamp of artist Carzou's original painting "Princesse Lointaine" was supposed to be of the promised avant-garde artist's designs for future stamps (as recommended at the Arphila colloquia). However, it is being questioned whether this design really fits the bill. Carzou is a well-known and respected artist and the design is not really avant-garde but a form of expressionism and fantasy that goes back to the early 1900s. Also the reproduction in the stamp is said to be very poor by those who saw the original painting—the bright, rich, and subtly-varied colors of the original are not there and some of the colors are not shown at all or greatly modified. The vivid three-dimensional graphism of the original comes out flat and dull in the stamp. Perhaps, as some suggest, it wasn't technically feasible to reproduce such a painting faithfully on a stamp, at least not by recess. Would helio have been better?

French philatelists continually complain that all their post-War Marianne designs for regular-use stamps have been more or less ugly (compared to the commemoratives). We don't feel that that attitude is fully justified. The Cocteau stamp was certainly diverting and unconventional. And the Marianne de Gandon has an expression alive with beauty and character (—naturally, it is his wife!). The rest are admittedly very banal.

The new French tax law on capital gains is not so serious for collectors as originally feared. Sales of collections are charged a tax of 3% on gains over 20,000F, 20-30,000F the basis is reduced to the difference between the gains and 30,000F. Public auction gains are taxed 2%. The rules give some complicated options as to figuring the acquisition price. If sale is made to a national institution it is tax free. And auctions of owners residing abroad are not taxable.

We congratulate the magazine *Philatélie*, published by the Thiaude firm, upon issuing its 100th whole number Sept. last. But the editor of *Philatélie* has some simplistic notions about American philately. He thinks Americans join stamp clubs primarily for social reasons, philately being only a pretext. And he thinks that is the reason why our Interphil, put on by philatelic organizations rather than the government, did not come up to the magnitude and ambiance of Arphila; the Americans he says only put on internationals because others do it, not with their heart in it. Arphila was to promote philately, but Interphil was just a vanity trip. In the U. S. only local organizations promote philately. Well, that manages to be a sort of naive caricature of only a grain of truth. It is too big over here to make such generalizations with any validity.

The situation of the overseas Territories continues to ferment, with philatelic consequences probably in the offing. It is rather definite that St. Pierre will become a Department (perhaps by Jan.?). Mayotte will be a Dept. but it has four years to decide whether it wishes to revert to a Territory. The Wallis and Futuna Assembly is considering if it wants to become a Dept. The political status of New Caledonia seems overdue for some sort of change—a regional Council must be created. Polynesia is not enthusiastic about its ties to France, especially since the nuclear tests. It would break away if a viable economic independence could be assured; some fear American or Russian "influences." New Hebrides are thought to be satisfied to stay with the English and French condo. Afars and Issas are being given native control of administration; the economy is shot since the Suez Canal was closed and now the ships bypass it. Speculation is rife as to whether the Ethiopian and Somali troops will battle for Djibouti, and then what will US, Russia, and China do?

Member Earle F. Plyler of Oklahoma, one of our most star-struck and ambitious Paris-cancel hounds, made a good start with a Silver Award at OKPEX 76 for his "Paris Cancellations on the Classic Issues of France 1849-1976." He has gold-en dreams.

The annual French TB Xmas seals for 1976 appeared 15 Nov. The design this year reads "Le souffle c'est la vie" (the breath is the life) and shows five medallions containing views of aspects of TB therapy. The seals are sold in booklets of 10 for 1Fr, "auto-collants" at 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100Fr, also on a pennant and as an insignia on cords, etc.

The Miro firm in Paris has been absorbed by the Thiaude firm and the last several auctions or ventes scheduled by Miro were not held.

A correspondent of *Le Monde* reports information from the PTT at Mayotte as to what stamps have been and are being used there since the other Comores broke away from France over a year ago. Apparently in the first

part of 1976 the old Comores RF territory stamps were being used up and when they ran out they had the meter labels from a SATAS machine to tide them over till August when a supply of French stamps was received. Incidentally it is stated that there are only two postoffices for Mayotte: D'zaoudzi (chief p.o.) on the island of Pamanzi, and Mamoutzu on Mayotte proper.

Dr. Manfred Bergman who exhibited at Interphil, is planning to write a book on the philately of the 1924 Olympic Games. He lives in Switzerland and is a recognized and experienced philatelic judge. He has asked me to serve as liaison between him and FCPS members who may wish to contribute photocopies of material and information. Work will begin in early 1977. Readers are urged not to delay their contributions. Copies of material, especially covers, blocks, varieties, should be annotated for colors and dimensions where pertinent. Please forward to Sherwin D. Podolsky, 16035 Tupper St., Sepulveda, Calif. 91343. Unless requested otherwise, all contributions utilized will be acknowledged in the book.

Member Charles Neidorf has finally published in the Collectors Club Philatelist for Nov. 1976 an article summarizing the results of his enormously detailed studies of the plate characteristics of the Arc de Triomphe stamp, which he has been working on for over a decade. It goes much beyond any previously published studies on this stamp and with rather different conclusions. His methods of study were original and should have application to plating of other stamps. His full report, which comprises a manuscript of over 100 pages, will be deposited in the Collectors Club library and a copy in the Musée Postal in Paris.

ON THE NEW BEQUETS

Pierre de Lizeray calls our attention to some corrections to be made in our note in FCP #166 (Oct.) p. 108-9. It should read: French postage rates went up on 2 August last. The basic domestic rates for slow mail are raised from 0.60 to 0.80 and from 0.80 to 1.00F for the fast mail. — For the new rates the 0.80 Bequet will appear in green, and the 1.00 Bequet in red. The 0.80 in sheets is printed in typo; the 1F in sheets, booklets, and coils are printed in recess. The 0.80 Bequet is printed in recess for all booklet and coils.

For the 0.80, thus, there are differences between the sheet stamps and the booklet and coil stamps, in engraving, size, perforation, and kinds of inks, but the colors are essentially the same.

It is amusing to note, says DeLizeray, that the stamps of the 0.80 in booklets could be (but are not) without perforation on the north side of their first row and on the south side of the 2nd row, as the endless roll of paper used in their printing can only be cut 2x2 rows of stamps. For the 1F booklet the problem is different, the printing on the endless roll being cut differently for booklets of 5, 10, and 20 stamps, some having one row some 2 rows of stamps.

The 0.80 and 1.00 recess Bequet in coils lack perforation only on the vertical sides (FCP 166, p. 107). For the coils of the 0.80 and 1F recess, the vending machines give out only one stamp at a time (—one puts in four 20c coins for the 0.80 and a 1F coin for the 1Fr stamp). These stamps have had their vertical sides cut at the printery at Perigueux and the horizontal perforated sides are cut by the vending machine. But it would be impossible to have stamps imperf on 4 sides, because the horizontal perfs are needed for pins in the machine to grasp the coil and move it out, after which the stamp is cut off.

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND CATALOGS

- "Catalogue Yvert et Tellier 1977 (81 Ann.)—Tome I. France et Pays d'Expression Francaise, Anciennes Colonies, Protectorats, Afrique du Nord, Pays Ex-Associés, Andorre, Monaco, Bur. à L'Etranger, Sarre, Europe." 1976. 696 pp. 20Fr p.p. Yvert et Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, F80036-Amiens Cédex. (General rise in prices of 19th and early 20th, later 20th selective rises; new sections for coils, and up-dated chapter on deluxe proofs.)
- "Les Roulettes: Timbres pour Appareils Distributeurs—". By P. Broustine, R. Francon, B. Mignon, et J. Storch. Illustr. 1976. 80Fr p.p. from Paris dealers. (First work treating all the coils 1908-1976, incl. those of the Palissy stamps).
- "Les Numéros de Poste de Campagne de l'Infanterie Allemande 1939-45, Tome I." By J-P. Lebrun. 1976, 136 pp., 39Fr p.p. The author, 35 rue Raspail, F92270-Bois Colombes. (Gives key to places corresponding to the Feldpost numbers).
- "Dictionnaire des Types Typographiques et Taille-Douce." By Pierre Marion, preface by P. de Lizeray. 220 pp. 1976, illustr. 55Fr p.p. Editions SAJIC, 400 Ave. de Navarre, F16004-Angoulême. (This is Tome II in a series of Dict. de Aypes; incl. photos of the stamp types, enl. 4X and sketches even larger.)
- "Les Timbres au Type Pasteur." By J. Storch and R. Francon. 1976, 220 pp. 107 photos, 80Fr p.p. From Paris dealers or Robt. Francon, 19 rue Franki-Kramer, F07-Annonay. (First book on the Pasteurs, covers stamps, proofs, essays, entires, coils, forgeries, covers, and a chapter on the Ile de France issue).
- "Dictionnaire des Bureaux de Poste Francais 1575-1904." By J. Pothion. 1976, 170pp, (limited printing) 175.00Fr. La Poste aux Lettres, 17 rue Faubg. Montmartre, F75009-Paris. For each p.o. since 1575 to 1904 listed alphabetically, it gives: no. of the Dept., the P.C. and G.C. nos., the service postal, petite poste, recette auxil., facteur-boitiers, distribution, direction, dates of opening and closing, changes in name and other info.
- "Catalogue Spécialisé France 20th ed. 1977." By G. Monteaux, 1976, 120 pp. 13Fr p.p. Georges Monteaux, 6 Sq. de l'Opera Louis Jouvét, F75009-Paris (Annual specialized cat. of 20th Cent. only by types, sheets, booklets, coils, shades, papers, millésimes, coin datés, etc.)
- "Catalogue des Timbres Fiscaux." By A. Forbin. Reprint 1976 of the 1915 edition. 800 pp. illustr. From Paris dealers. 165Fr p.p. (Reprint of famous work, still in great demand; worldwide coverage.)
- "Art et Technique du Timbre Poste." 1976, 112 pp. Arphila 75 Paris. Price ? . Publ. by Arphila commission, 34 Ave. de Vaugirard, F75731-Paris Cédex 15. (Verbatim proceedings of the two colloquia held at Arphila on the subject).
- "Guide Philatélique de la Jeunesse." By J. Fromaigeat. 1976. 2nd ed. 20Fr. Groupement d'Intérêts Philatéliques, 7 rue St. Lazare, F75009-Paris.
- "British Open Mail to France with Emphasis upon the American Packet Service." By Geo. E. Hargest. In: "Silver Anniversary Book of the U. S. Philatelic Classics Society, 1948-73." 1974, pp. 52-58. (Also in same booklet is a disc. of a cover to France 1857-8, p. 62-64).
- "Les Préoblitérées de France et Leur Variétés." By L. Rouques. 1976, 24 pp. 10Fr p.p. Le Monde Brochure #199. Le Monde des Philatélistes, 11bis Blvd. Haussmann, F75009-Paris.

- "Histoire et Marcophilie—Tome III." By P. Savélon. 1976, 24 pp. 10Fr p.p. Le Monde Brochure #200 (see above).
- "Oblitérations des Bureaux Temporaires et Premier Jour France—1975; Cotation de PJ et Oblits. Temp. 1941-75." 58 pp. 1976. 16.45Fr p.p. Le Monde Brochure #201 (see above).
- "Les Oblitérations Mécaniques." By P. Brémard. 1976, 40 pp. 16.45Fr p.p. Le Monde Brochure #202 (see above).
- "Léxique Philatélique Français-Allemande, Allemande-Français." By P. Melot et B. Landl. 1976. 40 pp. 16.45Fr p.p. Le Monde Brochure #203 (see above).
- "Sélection Philatélique No. 5." (Various authors). 1976, 32 pp. 13.25Fr p.p. Le Monde Brochure #204 (see above).
- "Les Empreintes de la Marine Nationale." By J. Baudelocque. 1976, 40 pp. 14.30Fr p.p. Le Monde Brochure #205 (see above).
- "Experts et Expertises—La Douane et les Timbres." 1976. 40 pp. 14.30Fr p.p. Le Monde Brochure #206 (see above).
- "Catalogue Berck 77." 1976, 124 pp. 10Fr. Ed. Berck, 6 Place de la Madeleine, F75008-Paris.
- "Europe-Philatélie-Catalogue Spéciale" III, 3rd ed. 1976, 268 pp. 65Fr+6Fr post. Paul Staedel, 174 route de Lyon, F67400-Graffenstaden. (Catalog of stamps and cancels of Conseil de l'Europe, Europa, Parliament Europe, etc.)
- "Catalogue Thiaude Spécialisé France" 62e Ed. 1977. Oct. 1976, 15Fr. H. Thiaude, 24 rue du 4 Sept., F75002-Paris.
- "Catalogue des Oblitérations de France 1876/1908 des Timbres Emission au Type Sage." 1976. By Le Club "Le Meilleur," B. P. 21, F77350-Le Mée-sur-Seine.
- "Les Chemins du Fer Racontés par un Siècle de Timbres-Poste." By J.-J. Leblache. 56 pp. 1976, illustr. Ed. Le Vie du Rail, 11 rue de Milan, F75440-Paris Cédex 09. Also: "Catalogue Mondial Complet Illustré des Timbres Ferroviaires." 1976, 2 vols. Same publisher. (Railways topicals).

Reviews

For All 1870 Buffs (and others)

ICARE No. 77 has arrived, entitled "La Guerre Franco-Prussienne de 1870-71, Tome II." It covers, after an introduction by editor Jean Lasserre: Nadar's advice to neophyte balloonists (for an English version, see *Balloon-ing*, vol. 8, No. 1, 1974-75, pp. 16-20); attempts at entering Paris; military ballooning in the provinces; Prussian reaction (but they really started it; see *The German Postal Specialist*, August and September 1974); balloon psywar; toy-balloon mail; (submarine) zinc-ball mail; aeronautical R&D during the siege; dirigibles (nothing achieved); hot-air balloons of Ménier Brothers (likewise); the newspaper-letters of the siege; Commune psywar balloons; monuments and souvenirs; Count Zeppelin's raid (irrelevant but interesting).

Except for Jean Prinnet's skimpy paper on the aerial press, the contributions are by Charles Dollfus and Paul Maincent, as in volume 1. The quality varies, many items being rather superficial. By far the best and most thorough is Maincent's paper on the Commune, very well referenced, too. As usual, illustrations are lavish, excellent, and germane, thus offering great value even to those who do not read French. Where else can you see the psywar leaflets of the War and the Commune, or a contemporary photo (NOT the usual sketch) of Krupp's balloon gun? The volume is highly recommended.

Icare No. 77 is available at 25 French Francs plus postage from ICARE, Cedex A No. 213, F-94396 Orly-Aérogare, France. The third volume, about 1870, is scheduled for 1977; let us hope . . . —E. M. Cohn

Balloon Post Of The Siege Of Paris, 1870-71. By Louis A. Chaintrier, translated by George W. Angers, Everett E. Thompson and Joseph L. Eisendrath. Edited by Joseph L. Eisendrath, introduction by Ernst M. Cohn. A translation of the original articles serialized in *L'Echangiste Universelle* from March 1954 through January 1963, and originally published in the *Airpost Journal* October 1954-March 1970. Available from George D. Kingdom, Box 499, Conneaut, OH 44030, for \$10 postpaid for AAMS members, \$12.50 to non-members postpaid.

Thanks to the American Air Mail Society we now have, in English, a more complete reference to the Paris Balloon Mail than any single volume written in French. Very few of those associated with the Paris Balloon effort wrote personal accounts of their adventures. Chaintrier was the first, in the 1930's, to investigate and to report on the details of all the other flights. From his text it is obvious that he visited most of the balloon landing sites and interviewed remaining eye witnesses.

It is no longer necessary to obtain back copies of all those *Airpost Journal* articles as we did a few years ago at great effort. We have used them extensively in our study of the routes taken by the mail after the balloon landed. Chaintrier does not often take you beyond the first post office, but frequently he does tell how the balloonists reached Tours or Bordeaux, and this is a clue as to how the mail went.

Since the 1930's more details have become available, some of which contradict Chaintrier. For the latest information one should consult Icare, Vol. 56, or, in English, the writings of Ernst Cohn, especially those definitive articles which have appeared in various Yearbooks of the American Philatelic Congress.

In this book editor Joseph Eisendrath has included two other useful documents. Years ago George Angers translated, and published privately a pamphlet concerning the Paris Pigeon Mail written by Charles de Lafolaye. Thanks to the American Air Mail Society this "original source" document is now readily available. Also included is the balloon-mail section of the *American Air Mail Catalogue*, 1st Vol. 5th Edition (1974), but without prices. It is the inclusion of this work by Ernst Cohn that makes this book more complete, than any single French reference. Chaintrier (and Icare) is not of much help in identifying on which balloon a particular letter might have flown. The catalogue of Cohn's is of very great help in this regard. Since it is somewhat condensed, students will want to consult other references such as *Le Pileur*, Savélon, Bulletin 25 of the Société Des Amis Du Musée Postal, the specialized Yvert catalogue published in 1975, as well as various journal articles such as those currently running in *Postal History International* as an effort of the Franco-German War Study Group.

Even if you don't collect Balloon Mail you will want to own a copy of this reasonably priced, 163-page, hardbound book. Until we can persuade Ernst Cohn to write an updated history of the subject, this one will be known as a "Classic."—Ruth and Gardner Brown

"Die Olympischen Spiele Im Blickpunkt Der Philatelie Und Ihren Randgebieten," by Heiko Volk, Jr., Albert Schweitzer Strasse 34, D-6120 Erbach, West Germany. Available from the author at DM 48.50 including airmail overseas postage. 189 pages printed on one side. Loose-leaf in ring binder.

The first Olympic Winter Games were held in Chamonix, France in 1924 and produced a continuous cancel. The Eighth Olympiad was held in Paris, France. This book includes 18 pages devoted to the philately, postal history, post cards and vignettes of France, Syria and Lebanon for the 1924 Olympic

Games. Details include sheet format, varieties of all kinds, proofs, essays, minister blocks, Olympic committee covers and other details. Profusely illustrated. Book covers period 1894 to 1944. For the specialist. Recommended.—S. Podolsky

RECOLLECTIONS ABOUT RAY SMITH

One evening at home in Colorado in the early 1960's, the telephone rang and a man's voice at the other end introduced himself, said he collected French stamps, and that he was passing through at the time. I directed him to our place—which he managed to find; and that is how I first met Ray Smith.

Over the ensuing years, Ray could be found nearly everywhere on this globe, making friends in much the same fashion. Yet, we managed to get together almost yearly, at my home, at his, quite frequently on "neutral ground" at various stamp exhibitions. Each occasion was reason enough to gab until the wee hours, and exchange compliments upon each other's latest philatelic acquisitions. Except for a few sub-specialties, we tended to collect the same categories of French material, which oftentimes led to a friendly rivalry over who would own the choicer item. Rather early in this relationship, we had to resolve to avoid bidding against each other at auctions.

I think that, in the beginning, Ray was the more advanced collector of French stamps. I'm not sure if it was he who introduced me to the French catalogues, but I do know he was the one who sponsored me into our Society. He worked hard, well-worn dictionary in hand, teaching himself the intricacies of the French language. Pronounce it he did not; his circle of friends has long been resigned to—and even adopted some of his malapropisms—best known of which was "coin dates" (pronounced as the two English words)!

We constantly swapped information, stamps, and xeroxed literature. In the more (and sometimes less) serious moments during visits, we would put our heads together and try to come up with some significant finding. A comparison of our combined coins datés of the 10c Sower of 1922-28 suggested to us that there might have been an unannounced official color change, from ultramarine to blue during the life of the stamp. A joint note for the record appeared in our Philatelist; encouraging comments did not; and that was the end of that noble experiment.

From time to time, Ray would send me items and ask for my opinion. He once sent a semi-modern cover, now known as one of the truly scarce items of 20th Century French philately, and I still hope I may be allowed the first refusal on it.

Ray made and retained friends easily. His friends became mine as well, and we all the better for it and for him. He may have been just another ordinary-looking person, a bit paunchy (until near the end)—the very picture, in and out of uniform, of a jolly Chief Master Sergeant in the Air Force. Once past this first impression, he was a grand, open, unassuming guy, rejoicing in other people's successes, devoted to his family, his friends, his work, and his hobby. I recall his pride at the time his eldest son became a commissioned officer, and Ray having to salute him at graduation time. Ray didn't say much about his work, which sometimes required 12-14 hours per day and 6 days per week, and I suppose that much of it was of a classified nature. From his foreign travels, he would always mail or bring me picture postcards of volcanoes and samples of volcanic rocks and, for my wife, examples of native art.

Ray assembled some very fine collections, among them plated 25c Cérés stamps of 1871, booklets, coils, coins datés and millésimes, stationery, perfins,

and Paris and other cancellations; his Classics were more than passing fair. Ray's travels, and his desire for completeness of material, prevented him from transferring his material from stockbooks into albums, and from exhibiting, which he planned for his retirement years. Another retirement goal was to collect a dated cancel for each and every French town! He also found time to write for the philatelic press, contributing three short articles (on coils, the Sénat perfin, and the Japan paper to the Philatelist). Ray would have been good for several more. We surely will miss him.—S.J. Luft

My friendship with him began when he inserted a note in the Philatelist—still in the old format then—to make contact with other French collectors interested in the postal stationery. We began a correspondence which soon developed into meetings, and then to home visits. We always enjoyed having him stop over; he was one of the most attentive appreciative persons I have ever known.

Quickly our initial correspondence and exchange broadened from the stationery to include the whole of French philately. In recent years we both sought French revenues, thus seemingly placing us both in a rather esoteric category.

Yes, we will miss him!—John O. Marsh.

As Editor I had some correspondence and a few visits from Ray—always most enthusiastic about French philately and a very appreciative supporter of the Philatelist. What seemed to me his outstanding personal trait was an enormous generosity of spirit. At Interphil, I am told, his courage and friendly enthusiastic manner for three days in spite of his visibly very ailing condition, was astounding. I recall at Lievsay's one evening when there was a house overfull of visitors for a show, Ray cheerfully volunteered to be the good soldier (that he always was) and take the sleeping bag on the floor.—R.G.S.

CURRENT JOURNAL ARTICLES

Le Monde des Philatelistes (CC, SI, APRL) (59F/ann., 5 rue des Italiens, Paris)

#290, Sept. 1976: Cotin: "Vrai ou faux—le 5F de l'Empire"; DeLizeray: "Nouvelles précisions sur la taille-douce 6 couleurs" (end); "La doune et les timbres-poste" (end); Wirth: Thématique—la bicyclette"; C. R-W: "La Croix Rouge et la poste"; cont. of DeLizeray, Joany, Savélon.

#291, Oct. 1976: Wirth: "La poste dans les anciennes Colonies—St. Domingue" (begin); Dubus: "La poste à Hambourg, Brème, et Lubeck—Depts. Fr. 128 et 129" (begin); DeLa Mettrie: "Le Type III du 25c Cérès de 1871" (begin); cont. of Frybourg, DeLizeray, Rykner et Gobillot, Joany (end), Danan, De Wailly, Savélon, Rouques, Gavault, Phillipon, Leblond.

#292, Nov. 1976: Brun: "Le détermination des types—vrais ou faux: 20c Empire 1854, Bordeaux Type I-III"; "Détournement du courrier (Concorde 1st flights, by Air France)"; conts. of: DeLizeray, Wirth, Leblond, Savélon, DeLaMettrie, Dubus, Bertoni, DeWailly, Joffre, Fr. en Thématique.

L'Echo de la Timbrologie (CC, SI, APRL) (59F/ann., 37 rue des Jacobins, F80036 Amiens (Cedex).

#1469, Sept. 1976: Gervais: "Le timbre est-il une estampes?"; cont. of Tristant, Sinais.

- #1470, Oct. 1976: Quesnel: "Le faux 5F Merson de France"; Veyssiers: "Du côté du Spécialisé—L'Homme d'Amiens"; cont. of Tristant.

La Philatélie Française (CC) (30F/ann, 7 rue Saint-Lazare, F75009-Paris)

- #269, Sept. 1976: Fallot: "Guide de la jeunesse et colloque sur les faux (at Rouen 76)"; "L'Augmentation des tarifs postaux"; "Le cinquantenaire des liaisons aériennes avec l'Allemagne 26 Mai 1926"; "Le timbre poste: histoire de la poste"; Flatters: "La zone Fr. d'Occupation en Allemagne"; Bergez: "Chronique des TAAF"; "Les Régions"; "Il y'a cent ans—déjà des faux (Feb. 1876 PTT ann.)"

Feuilles Marcophiles (CC)

- Information No. 12: Nov. 1976: Goubin: "Les Daguins" (end); Lejeune: "Les cachets a date 17bis et 24bis"; Midaux: "Les pigeongrammes de 1909"; Cathala: "Fréjus—sa marque d'accidenté"; Sambourg: "Un descriptif—collection—peu commun"; Sinais: "Le devenir du A. P. 528 en 1922."

Philatélie (CC) (50F/ann., 42 rue Le Peletier, F75009-Paris)

- #100, Sept. 1976: "En marge d'Interphil"; "Le Min. des PTT hausse ses tarifs et dit pourquoi"; "Timbres: Ramses II, R. Delaunay, LaFete, Max Jacob"; "La République (Marianne) est laid"; "Obock, un désert, des ruines, les chèvres"; "Ou en sont les DOM-TOM"; Vauber: "Bicent. des Etats Unis 1776-1976—thématique"; Berenger: "La presse de declame contre la poste aux armées"; "Attributions des Bureaux de Poste de France et des Depts. DOM au 1er Janv. 1976."
- #101, Oct. 1976: Savigny: "La Marianne de Béquet ou la fin de la République"; "Timbre Guyanne, E. Fromentin"; "Fallut-il placer Mounet-Sully à la galerie des ancêtres"; "Un Bordeaux 71"; "Pirogue postale (Gabon 1945)"; "Costes et Bellonte' pioneer flight"; "Madagascar—timbres-monnaies et surchargés en 1921"; Sinais: "La reforme du service postal militaire Nov.-Dec. 1914"; "Cent. of the Frigorifique 24 Sept. 1976."
- #102, Nov. 1976: "Voltaire amiant la poste"; "L'Eglise de Brou"; "Poetesse Anna de Noailles"; "Un Bordeaux 71: le ballon fantome"; "Demain l'Afrique"; Sinais: "La reforme—" (cont.)

L'Echangeur Universelle (CC, SI) (\$10/ann., 7 rue du Dr. Belot, F7600-Le-Havre)

- #911, Aug. 1976: Cont. of Storch et Francon, Sinais, Barbey, Blanc, Bacquer: Brun: "La Commune de Paris"; Bilhaut: "Le campagne océanographique Galliéri 4 28 Mars-7 May 1971" (TAAF).
- #912, Oct. 1976: Melo: "Les marques électroniques"; "La plus value et la philatlie"; cont. of Storch et Francon, Blanc, Sinais.

Documents Philatéliques (CC) (70Fr/ann., 7 rue Chalgrin, F75007 Paris E)

- No. 70, 4 Trim. 1976, Tome XV: Prugnon: "Frequence des types d'oblitération provisoire sur le 20c noire"; Dreyfuss: "Le double affranchissement des imprimées 1871-2"; Salles: "Le bureau Fr. de Yokohama"; DeFontaines: "Mandats durant le siège de Belfort"; Perrin: "Timbres de France surchargés 'Algérie'."

Messages des PTT

- #248, Sept. 1976: "PTT au Sicob"; "Promenade dans le Haut Quercy"; "Recontrés avec des abeilles", "L'Aviation postale du Nuit."

Il Nuovo Corriere Filatelico (CC)

- #6, Aug. 1976: Longhi: "L'aviation Fr. dans la défense de Venise pendant la première guerre mondiale"; Naudet: "Paris-Rome-Turin 28 Mai-15 Juin 1911."

Journal of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society (GB) (G. E. Barker, 18 Rodney Way, Boxgrove Park, Guildford, Surrey)

- #133/134, 1976: Holder: "Cachets des facteurs"; "The other homing pigeons of 1870" (cont.); Holder and Bellack (end); Reader (end); "French PO Nos. 1863-76" (cont.)

Diligence d'Alsace

- #15, June 1976: "Les messageries alsaciennes de la Renaissance à la Guerre de 30 ans"; Charbon: "Les messageries en France au 18e siecle"; Fouche: "Un maitre de poste fournisseur aux armées"; Gastebois: "L'art et la poste aux cheveaux en 1900"; Gachot: "De la poste aux cheveaux au chemins de fer."

Indo-China Philatelist (CC, APRL) (85c/#, P. O. Box 531, Chicago, Ill. 60690)

- #20, Dec. 1976: Vanderburgh: "Military mail of So. Viet Nam"; Bentley: "Forged cancellations (on Fr. Cols. Gen. Issues)"; Desrouseeaux: "Notes on recent controversial Laos issues"; Cartafalsa: "Postal cards of S. Viet Nam"; Wade: cont. of "Revenue Stamps of SE Asia"; Kerr: "An official Patet Lao cover"; Mendelsohn: "A specialized catalogue of stamps of Indochina" (begin).

Ice Cap News (CC, APRL)

- 119, Sept.-Oct. 1976: Lajugie: "TAAF SATA Convention report."

American Philatelist (CC, APRL, SI)

- Sept. 1976: Carriker: "The kagu bird overprints on early New Caledonia stamps."

Australian Chit Chat (CC)

- #91, June 1974: Carriker: "New Caledonia's 1899 5c on 4c surcharge."
#97, Jan. 1975: "New Caledonia's T-in-triangle postage dues of 1894 and 1900."

Postal History Journal (CC, APRL, SI)

- #44, Oct. 1976: Luft: "Detoured cover of Russo-Japanese War?" (Fr. China mail); Aronson: "The Packet-Letter/Mauritus cachet."

Icare

- #77, 1976: Dollfus, Maincent, et Prinnet: "La guerre franco-prussienne de 1870-71 (Tome II)" (see "Reviews," below).

Philao

- #18, April 1976: "Connaissance de Laos"; "Au Laos en 1941"; "Sujets laotienes sur timbres étrangers"; "Le postes du That Louang"; "Les animaux du Laos: crocodile."

La Révue Postale (Galerie du Centre, Bur. #330, 1000 Bruxelles)

- #97-98, June 1976: Vervisch: "Les premières timbres de France authentique et faux."

Postal History International (CC, APRL, SI)

- Vol. 5, #7, July 1976: Schlegel: "Picture parade of 1870 ballons monté" (cont.)

Bulletin de la Association des Collectionneurs des Timbres de la Libération

- #33, April 1976: Duvergey: "Emission Libération de Paris 122"; Bouttes: "La France Libre" (cont.); Boudhors: "Cachets de Gaulle à travers la philatélie."

Marianne (Bulletin de Contactgroep Frankrijk Verzamelers)

- #31, March 1976: (The lined sower); (colis postaux stamps) (in Dutch).
#32, May 1976: (inquiry into specialties of the members); (classification of cancellation types); (forgeries of the 50c lined sower and 50c paix de Lauerns); (French telephone stamps); (varieties of the Ron-champs). (In Dutch).

Filatelía Cubana

- #2, May/Aug. 1975: Terry: "Un courrier aérienne de fortune durant le siège de Paris en 1870-71."

Bulletin de Liaison de la S.A.T.A. (CC)

- #24, June 1976: Bergez et Guillaume: "A propos des plis spéciaux ARAKS —deux avis"; "Voyage du Thala Dan en Terre Adélie 26ème expéd. Oct. 1975-Mars 1976"; Labeille: "Courrier déposé en mer—griffe Paquebot"; "Cook et les Kerguelen"; Tristant: "Publications sur TAAF."

Révue des PTT de France

- 1976, #1: La conseil d'Etat"; "Menton" (hist. postale).

Bulletin de Section Andorre Union Philatélique Libournaise

- #3, May 1976: Bacquer: "Série provisoire Alphonse XIII surchargé 'Correos Andorre'."

Bulletin Groupement U. V. Française

- #12, June 1976: Blondelle: "Les erreurs de fonctionnement"; Frybourg: "Le marquage de contrôle à sec des V.I.S. et des P.I.M."

Le Collectionneur Lyonnais

- #30, April 1976: Rayssiguier: "Le 10c semeuse maigre Type I"; Magnard: "Les franchises de l'armistice"; Camboulives: "G. C. refaits de Lyon 2145-2145A."

Philatelie (Netherlands)

- #11, May-June 1976: Van Beek: (the KLM Line to Indochina 1928-1932) (cont.)

F. & C. P. S. OFFICIAL

Notices

The annual Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibition and Competition will be held at the time of the regular March meeting, Tuesday, March 2, at the Collectors Club, N. Y., 8 p.m. Start now getting your exhibits ready. A detailed announcement and entry form will be sent out in January. This year the judges will have the added option of awarding again the Lesgor Award cup and certificate for an exhibit of meritorious philatelic research shown at the Rich (not necessarily awarded each year). The cup had been awarded years ago to Jan Kindler but was lost and only given him last year—he has generously offered it back for re-awarding (if a new base for it can be found).

The new edition of the Directory of Members was expected to appear as a Supplement to this January FCP. Members are reminded that the Directory is not sold to the public separately.

Also with this issue of FCP will be included a separate Supplement by R. G. Stone on a "Key to the Lozenge Obliterators on the French Colonies General Issues," a revision of his earlier publications on this which are still in much demand but now out of print and out of date. It will be sold separately to the public at \$2 each, from the Secretary.

Meeting of November 2

Our speaker was Jan Kindler with a ten frame sampling of his specialized collection of the 10c red Sower issues, Scott #155 and 162.

In the first two frames he showed just the regular-issue varieties: a part pane of 50 from the 1906 provisional printing from the essay die (one other part pane was from the lined-sower die, the third blank); the full range of

red shades, the scarlets, and a raspberry color-trial postally used; a part pane of 50 from the 1914 printing with experimental plate number over the top right block of 25; booklets of the thin-lettering printings; and strips and a part sheet of the coil printings.

One of the true rarities of the issue is the booklet printing on GC paper, first identified by DeLizeray. Jan showed a mint pair, a mint strip of three, and a used single. He also showed the identification points, principally the inner frame line and the break in the hand illustrated as type IC at page 86 of the Luft handbook. While this sub-type has been known as the booklet-modified die, the printings on GC paper are not well-known, and certainly worth checking for in your collection and stockbooks. The first booklets contained 20 stamps and were priced at F2.05, but the public wouldn't pay the premium for the convenience, forcing the government to reduce the price to face, and Jan showed a copy of a booklet cover marked down to the revised price.

Also on display were an intermediate essay as the Sower with ground die was modified to the final Cameo Sower, proofs imperf, on bristol, and a block of four of the deluxe printing with printed (simili-) perforations. There was a full range of part panes and blocks showing the millesime number "1", including one exceptional block of 12 from a coil printing showing two.

Jan commented on a cover carrying 25c, two 10c Sowers and a bisect. The cover demonstrated all three tests for authenticity (besides having the bisect tied by cancel):—it was the exact rate for the destination, Geneva; it was not charged due; and it bore receiving marks to indicate that in fact it went through the mails and was not simply a favor cancel.

In the postal-history frames, there were examples of airmail and air meet, ship use, and military posts. Also examples of foreign cancels on the French stamps. One of the interesting covers was from the Serbian Ministry on Corfu to a government office in Switzerland, bearing the famous straight-line postmark POSTES SERBES. Another unusual item was a 10c Sower letter-card, evidently picked up by a German soldier in France who was then shipped in 1914 to the Eastern front where he mailed the card to a relative in Chicago, the stamp honored by the German military and cancelled by a Feldpost. Also shown was a cover bearing the "Regrets of the Admn. for indiscretion of a facteur" (who stole the mails containing money) reported in *For the Record* #185.

An exceptional presentation, admirably and fully described by Mr. Kindler. And another demonstration that an interesting and valuable collection can be made of an ordinary stamp which was printed for years to serve as the normal value for single-weight letters.—J.E.L.

Meeting of December 7

Marc Martin, our past-President, showed French Colonies stampless and General Issues, and St. Pierre-Miquelon Free-French Overprint Issues. Beginning with the stampless-cover markings on letters to France he showed types of entry marks in use to 1827, including the rate marks for charges due from the recipient (no prepayment from colonies as a rule then), and marks of entry which differentiate between colonial and foreign origins, up to 1849. Included was a strike of the fancy "Colonies par la Flotte" which adorns the masthead of our Philatelist; La Flotte was on the Ile-de-Ré off the coast near La Rochelle. A second frame displayed examples of stamped mail from colonies with entry marks of the period after 1860.

Five frames amply illustrated the Colonies General Issues, mint, used, and on cover. Noted were the "tete-bêche" (actually only sideways) stamp of the

Eagles 10c, a mint block of 70 of the 5c Eagles, copies with blind lozenges of Pondichéry and Gorée, and covers from Senegal, and with Corr. d'Armées-type postmarks. There was the rare 2c Ceres mint, and 25c black on red Sage mint. Commenting on the printing history, he noted the generally-held opinion that the stamps often arrived in some tropical colonies stuck together so they had to be re-gummed locally, and he expressed the opinion that perhaps they were even sent out ungummed from Paris in some cases. Also mentioned the fact that delays by Paris in supplying replenishments of stocks caused some colonies to make surcharges in the 1880s. Then in 1891 all stocks were locally overprinted with name of colony in anticipation of forthcoming definitive issues and to prevent speculation by buying in one colony and selling in another where the exchange was more favorable.

His showing of the SPM France-Libre overprints included seven panes of 25, one for each setting, from which he had deduced the plating of the overprints as a check against forgeries (of which there are many). In addition to mint sets he showed double and inverted overprints and a number of covers.
—J.E.L.

NEW MEMBERS

- 1702 CASE, Gerard Ramon, 129 Carlton Ave., Apt., Jersey City, NJ 07306
(General France all major varieties: mint, used, on cover. Classics 1849-1876: Used, on cover. Sage Type, 1876-1900. Modern France: mint, used, on cover. First Day Covers. Special issues and usages: flammes (slogan cancels), expositions, special and temporary bureaus. CFA. Philatelic literature. Exchange.)
- 1703 CODY, Duane, Box 349, Riverton, Wyo. 82501
(General collector all issues. Topical collector: space, fine art. Philatelic literature. Exchange.)
- 1704 DODDS, Louise J., H. E. Harris & Co., Inc., c/o Appraisal Dept., 645 Summer St., Boston, Mass. 02210. (General collector all issues—19th and 20th century.)
- 1705 SENTERFIT, Michael, 540 University, Boulder, Colo. 80302.
(General collector all issues. General France all major varieties: mint, used, on cover. Philatelic literature. Exchange.)
- 1706 RUMSEY, Schuyler, 131 Parkside Dr., Berkeley, Cal. 94705
(General collector all issues. General France all major varieties: mint, used, on cover. Classics 1849-1876: mint, used on cover. 1870-1871 issues, Commune, ballons. Cancellations. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: mint, Blanc, Mouchon and Merson types, Sowers, semi-postals, air mails, coils, coin datés. Special issues and usages: dues, liberation issues, essays (projects, rejected designs), deluxe proofs, imperforates, artist's proofs and color trials, precancels.)
- 1707 BROWN, Arthur J., c/o Argyll Etkin, Ltd., 55 New Bond St., London W1Y 9DG, England (Postal history in general. Andorre. Monaco. Cancels and postal history of Tunisia. Dealer full time. Philatelic Lit.)
- 1708 KAY, Richard F., Department of Anatomy, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N. C. 27710 (Cancels and postal history, stamps, covers of St. Pierre & Miquelon and Madagascar. Malagasy Republic. Philatelic literature. Exchange.)
- 1709 BURTON, Henry B., 1312½ 8th Ave., E., Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
(General France all major varieties: mint. All colonies and territories, major varieties. Philatelic literature.)
- 1710 PIAZZA, George A., 656 Florence St., Daly City, Calif. 94014
(General France all major varieties: mint and used.)

- 1711 REIFLER, Ron, 1139 West Wellington Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60657
(General France all major varieties: Used. Classics 1849-1876: used, Alsace-Lorraine, locals. Sage Type, 1876-1900. Modern France: used, semi-postals, booklets, miniature sheets (bloc feuillets). Special issues and usages: telephone and telegraph, dues, parcel post, newspaper, franchise militaire, liberation issues, precancels, perfins. Offices abroad. Philatelic literature. Exchange.)
- 1712 MARRA, Thomas, 1934 Short St., Madison, Wisc. 53715
(All colonies and territories, major varieties. Stamps, covers of individual colonies pre-1960 stamps and pre-1950 covers from all colonies. Also interested in proofs, essays, DLP, etc. Philatelic literature. Special interest in articles written by R. G. Stone.)
- 1713 ZIMMERMAN, David M., Jr., 5925 Gloster Road, Bethesda, Md. 20016
(Offices abroad. Syria and Lebanon pre-1960. Cancels and postal history: covers of Syria and Lebanon pre-1960. Philatelic literature.)

REINSTATEMENTS

- 607 MARTIN, William C., 92 Minebrook Rd., Edison, N. J. 08817
(Specialized France: postal history: stampless covers to and after 1815. Military posts, maritime posts, railway posts. Classics 1849-1876: used, on cover. 1870-1871 issues, commune, ballons. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: mint, used, on cover, Blanc, Mouchon, & Merson types, Sowers, semi-postals, air mails, booklets, coils, First Day Covers. Special issues and usages: specimen, annulé, fictifs, precancels. Philatelic literature.)
- 1545 HARACKIEWICZ, Judy, 32 Irving St. #43, Cambridge, Mass. 02138
(General collector all issues. General France all major varieties mint and used. Andorre. Europa & UN. Colonies General Issues mint & used. Exchange.)
- 877 LOISEL, Gilbert R., 89-14 31st Ave., East Elmhurst, N. Y. 11369
(France: 19th century used and cancellations. France small and large numerals. Pubs, used.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 1312 WALSKE, Steven C., 7005 Buxton Terrace, Bethesda, Md. 20034
- 1137 RICHMOND, Robert J., 40 Clinton St., Apt. 5-M, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11201
- 1695 REIMEL, Kurt R., 5993 Avalon Circle, Lexington, Mich. 48450
- 1353 BOHN, Jeffrey C., 5627-B Harders Farm Rd., Columbia, Md. 48450
- 1690 SIMONS, Richard P., P. O. Box 1311, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37401
- 1662 CLARK, Larry, 2006-1850 Comox St., Vancouver, B. C., Canada V6G 1R3
- 1284 COINTREAU, E., 156 State St., Boston, Mass. 02109
- 1615 CASE, Karl, P. O. Box 33286, Granada Hills, Calif. 91344
- 955 MENDELSON, Bertram M., 5, St. Michaels Ct., Woodside Rd., Ashmham, Buckinghamshire, HP6 6AY, England
(Addition to specialty listing: St. Pierre & Miquelon.)
- 1364 PLYLER, Earle F., P. O. Box 550, Edmond, Okla. 73034
- 1642 HOLSONBACK, T. Joe, 712 Tahoe Cr., Stone Mountain, GA 30083
- 1024 STEPHEN, Pierre, 515 Lincoln, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901
- 1646 URKO, William, Jr., 4 Interlvalle Rd., Livingston, NJ 07039
- 1645 JOHNSON, Alan, 2350 27th W., Seattle, WA 98199
- 156 HOEFLE, Otto, P. O. Box 67, Geyserville, CA 95441
- 1169 DOSSIN, Thomas R., P. O. Box 36248, Grosse Pointe, MI 48236

RESIGNED

- 1213 DeVRIES, D., Waalstraat 53, Amsterdam—Z, Holland