



France & Colonies Philatelist

USPS #207700

ON THE MILLÉSIMES OF FRENCH COLONIES STAMPS

By Robert G. Stone

Collectors of France issues 1891 to 1930s are familiar with the so-called "millésime" varieties, which are listed by the leading French catalogs (Yvert, Thiaude, Cérès, Maury, Monteaux). "Millésime" means the year date, as in a postmark or the year of printing of a stamp. From October 1891 to about 1934 nearly all the French and colonial stamps in the small format printed by typo from flat plates, had a single-digit number printed in the vertical gutters between the panes of 25 clichés, opposite the second row of stamps of each pair of 25-cliché panes (i.e., 3 times in each sheet of 150 stamps). The number thus printed represents the last digit of the year in which the sheet was printed. There can be confusion in a few cases where a stamp of a given design type in the same color was printed in, e.g., 1891 and 1911, or 1892 and 1902, etc. But there are usually minor characteristics of the printings that permit distinction in such cases.

Collecting tradition calls for saving the millésime number between a gutter pair (called "encadré"); a single stamp with millésime in gutter setenant is not considered desirable, but may be accepted if it's a rare or very expensive one. A millésime block of 4 with the horizontal gutter at top attached is more interesting as it may show which pair of panes it came from. There were a few printings of certain stamps in certain years made without any millésime number where it should be (called a "sans millésime" variety), in which case one must collect the upper gutter block of 4 embracing where the millésime would normally be. Millésimes are only in demand and priced in mint state. Copies cancelled or on cover are generally regarded as mere curiosities, however rare they may be thus.

What about the millésimes of the colonies stamps? In the period when the colonies stamps were being printed with millésime numbers, collecting the millésime pairs was popular and they were generally easy to obtain for the current issues. As time passed after a stamp was no longer on sale in the POs or the Paris Agence, and dealers' stocks were drained off, the millé-

simes became more and more difficult to get and their cost increased much above that of the normal stamps. The colonies millésimes were listed and priced in the various editions of the Yvert et Tellier specialized catalogs of France and Colonies, the last of which that included the colonies being published in 1936. By that time some of the rarer millésimes were catalogued at very high prices. But interest in collecting colonial millésimes steadily faded from 1930 on, and since the last Yv. et T. catalog has long been out of print and rather difficult to obtain, in recent years only a few deep specialists in individual colonies bother to collect the millésimes (if they can find them). They occasionally come up in auction lots, which go for modest prices considering the state of supply; and they have been almost completely stripped from dealers' stocks. Mint sheets have practically disappeared from the market. One can say that interest in and knowledge of the colonial millésimes is now at a very low point.

What is the intrinsic philatelic value of collecting and studying colonial millésimes, especially if we assume they have all been cataloged and nothing remains to be discovered? Apart from merely filling out a specialized collection for sake of completeness, the millésimes are of much value in showing in what years some of the more distinctive shade, paper and gum varieties of certain stamps were printed. However, there was considerable variation in some years, due to more than one printing in the year. Of course they also "verify" the catalog data on year of issue. But here comes in an interesting complication of postal-history interest and which offers opportunities for further research. Some of the stamps printed in a certain year (notably ones of 1900) were not sent to the colony postoffices until a number of years later, and only a few philatelic uses are discoverable (by the cancels) from the years in the interim (—see my notes on this published in *Fr. & Col. Phil.* #118, pp. 2-5, and #147, 1972, pp. 7-8). There is a possibility of discovering some millésimes not cataloged by Yv. et T.—several cases have been mentioned in the literature; especially some "sans millésime" varieties may have been overlooked heretofore.

As for the relative scarcity of the various millésimes, the prices in Yv. et T. seem to be in proportion to the total quantities of stamps printed where

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that is known. However, the quantities are not recorded for many of the stamps and for these the Yv. prices are probably based on the impressions of dealers. For stamps printed in small quantity, such as 10,000, Yvert usually priced the millésime at around 300-500 francs as of 1935. A 10,000 printing would have had only about 200 Millésimes, of which many were probably lost in use or discarded; hence it is unquestionably a rare item. Some of the stamps issued in such small quantity now catalog as singles around \$20-\$50, so what do you think its millésime should be worth—if at least several people want it? Yvert does not even price some millésimes for printings which we know were not very small—e.g., for the higher values of some of the 1892 printings for which probably few people bought the millésimes as they were a “new” item then and collectors were not yet alerted to them. On the other hand, the 2, 3, and 5 franc values of the Group Type that several colonies issued were printed in quantities of only 3000-6000, but their millésimes are not any rarer than those of many stamps printed in much larger quantity, because nearly all of the stocks of these high values were “saved” by collectors!

The reason for the “sans millésime” varieties is puzzling. Dr. Joany is currently investigating it. Since most authorities think many were made in 1900, the hypothesis occurs to us that they were on sheets of the stamps (new color changes) specially printed in a hurry for the Paris 1900 Expo; the sheets of the same stamps printed later in the year for distribution to the colonies got the millésimes (“0”). However, there are listed sans-millésimes from the 1890s for 11 of the colonies, and from 1904-05 for 4 colonies. Joany admits some of these may have been accidental misses, but he thinks it more likely they are printings made at times when small requests had come in from the colonies, the printery after supplying these holding the rest of printing for future distribution.

THE PICTURE POST-CARD AS HISTORY

Father Patrick O'Reilly of the Société des Océanistes in Paris, who has spent many years in French Oceania and New Caledonia, has prepared two books published by the Société which the collectors of those two colonies should not miss. They are titled “Le Tahiti au Temps des Cartes Postales” (1975) and “La Nouvelle Calédonie au Temps des Cartes Postales” (1973). What the author has done is amass a great number of view cards of those colonies, especially from about 1900 to 1940, selecting ones (over several hundred for each colony), which illustrate well the character of the natives, the scenery, the settlements, economic activities and life of the peoples. Each card is reproduced with little reduction (no cards that were published in colors are included) with a brief text about the subject, some background information and commentary, including the photographers and publishers. Many of these cards have postage stamps on the view side postmarked at place of the scene. The result is a fascinating history and a better overview of the evolution of the area over the last century than one can get from any other single book. Postal historians will find much useful information. It was a capital idea of O'Reilly's. Unfortunately the Tahiti book is out of print, but the New Caledonia one can be obtained at 75 Francs from Nouvelles Editions Latines, 1 rue Palatine, F75006-Paris. The books are also available in a few large libraries.—R.G.S.

'REBUTS' AND 'RETOUR à L'ENVOYEUR'

Karl K. Wolter, a German postal-history specialist, has published a useful survey from the literature, of the dead-letter office and return-to-sender types of French markings ("Die Retour Brief im Frankreich," Arbeitsgem. Frankreich, 1977, and transl. in *Feuilles Marcophiles* #212, 1978). Many of these marks are familiar to collectors, but others are rare. A summary of Wolter's survey should be of interest to our readers.

REBUTS:—

Prior to 1800 labels were affixed to letters that couldn't be delivered; on the labels a manuscript notation indicated the place from which returned, the reason for non-delivery, and the procedure of return or disposal. Three types of these labels are known but they are very rare. Also known are straightline marks "INCONUE/J," some with initial of month added, on letters 1772-1800, often with the label attached also. A round cachet 13 mm with "R" in center (for "Rebuts") is reported 1753-79—extremely rare.

The earliest use of a cachet with word "Rebuts" (straightline) spelled out dates from 1806, accompanied by a mark such as "Administron genl des Postes" and "ouvte pr renseignement" or "rensignments" (opened for information).

From 1848 on to recent years the "Rebuts" cachet in an oval of 20x10 mm is frequently seen. In the 1850s there first appeared some of the many double-circle date postmarks inscribed "Réclamations" or "Rebuts" or both. For Paris special such date postmarks were issued, inscribed "Rebuts de Paris/Contrôle" (or "Réclamation" or neither). Postoffices in the provinces had double-circle postmarks inscribed "B. des Rebuts des Non Valeurs," "Non Valeurs et Rebuts," "Rebuts et Réclamations," or "Réclamations," with or without the town name. From 1915 on such marks were in the single-circle type of postmark; those for Paris read: "Direction de Postes/Rebuts," or "Dépot Contrôle des Rebuts."

The central rebuts office in Paris sometimes used a variety of auxiliary straightline cachets such as: "Reclamée," "Bau des lèrs Rebuts," "Rebut Rejeté," "Non-Reclamée," "Contrôle des Rebuts de Paris"; and a lozenge of 60 points with "R" in center (rare) for cancelling French stamps added by the rebuts office to letters returned to foreign countries.

Since 1945 most of the P.O.s have been furnished one or more of a great variety of straightline cachets for Rebuts, some with name of the PO included.

RETOUR:—

The numerous "Retour à l'Envoyeur" type of marks appeared after postage stamps had been introduced. They have been and are still used to mark undeliverable letters returned to the sender when his address is determinable and no postage had to be collected. (If the sender's address cannot be identified then the letter is sent to a Rebuts office, many of the larger cities now having one.) These marks are generally in 2 or 3 straightlines: "Retour/à l'Envoyeur"; in a third line some indication might be added as to the postal section or region handling the return: "R * C," "P * R" (for Poste restante), "Rebuts," "Réclamations," "Nord," "Est," etc. (rarely a town name, only Lyon?). An additional informational cachet might be struck on the cover front, such as "Inconnu," "Refusé," "Décédé," "Descendu," "Parti sans laisser d' adresse," "Parvenu sans adresse," etc.

When no address of sender could be found, even after opening the letter, the dead letter office would destroy it after holding for some regulation time. Letters returned to sender, if they had been opened, were at first closed by the Rebuts using a wax seal impressed with wording: 'Depot/des/Rebuts/

Direction des Postes.' Special official PTT "service" envelopes were supplied to the POs for enclosing letters being sent to the Rebut or to the sender. These envelopes, known since at least 1839, come in a variety of formats, colors of paper, and printed headings, such as "Lettre Renvoyer à Son Auteur," "Lettre Pour un Destinataire Inconnu à —," "Lettre Adressée à Un Fonctionnaire Public/refusé à cause de la taxe"; "Lettre Tombée en Rebut/ouverte conformément à la loi et renvoyer à Son Auteur," "Lettre Tombée en Rebut à l'Etranger," etc. At times (WW I) when these envelopes were not available labels were affixed, printed with one of above wordings.

THE "BEAUTY SPOT" ON THE SABINES—AN ACCIDENT

By Pierre de Lizeray

The several students who have reported in the French press (*Le Monde*, April 1979, p. 69) the discovery of a "beauty spot" in the shoulder of some copies of the 1Fr Sabine design, have thought the cause was due to there being two transfer rollers used, one of which had the spot defect (see FCP #175, p. 50). The truth is that the spot is an accident that happened to the one and only die made for the 1Fr. This accident produced a little hole in the die giving a black spot on the stamps. Before the accident happened all of the many rollers required for the numerous cylinders of this stamp did not have the defect, and so that created a State I, and after the accident numerous additional rollers required had the spot and thus created State II. The rollers having the design of the stamp lying sideways for the TD-3 presses, are as often with State II as the rollers made with design upright for the TD-6 presses and the RGR presses. Thus there is not one roller for State I and one for State II, but many rollers for each. One can readily understand the need for many rollers of a large volume stamp like the 1Fr, considering that the cylinders for one plate alone for the RGR press contain 800 clichés! It is pure madness to speak of one or two rollers!

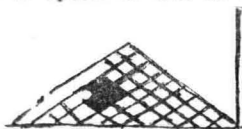


Fig. 1. The so-called "beauty spot" in the cross hatching of the lower SE corner of the stamp, from a great enlargement.

CLIPPERTON ISLAND

Some collectors are aware this island is now a French possession but generally they are ignorant about its philatelic status. Questions about it are asked from time to time. The cinderella collectors are somewhat better informed as they know of the set of "local stamps" issued for Clipperton in 1895 by a San Francisco firm.

The island is an uninhabited dry coral atoll 3x2 km with fringing reefs, about 670 miles SW of Mexico in the East Pacific. It was a base for British buccaneers under John Clipperton in the early 1700s. Later re-discovered by Spanish sailors and visited by several U. S. and British explorers. France annexed it in 1858 when a French naval officer landed and took possession in the name of Emperor Napoleon III, discovering incidentally that there were extensive guano deposits.

An American firm, the Oceanic Phosphate Co. of San Francisco, started phosphate diggings there in 1895, and late in that year issued a set of 12

perforated stamps in 6 designs, which were sold mint, cancelled, and on cover by an agent in San Francisco. In 1897 a French cruiser came by and required the Americans to haul down their U.S. flag. Shortly the Mexican government sent a gunboat to raise the Mexican flag and claim possession, evicting the U.S. company. Later Mexico leased the isle to a British phosphate firm who abandoned their claim in 1914. France protested the Mexican actions and for years the two countries carried on a strong dispute in diplomatic channels.

In 1909 the Mexicans, to strengthen their position, put a 20-man garrison on the island. But by 1910, due to the Revolution in Mexico, the garrison was forgotten. Most of the men set sail for Mexico, leaving behind four families, but their boat foundered at sea and the men lost. In 1917 an American gunboat called and was surprised to find the 4 families still living there apparently well.

The Mexican government had in 1909 agreed with France to submit their dispute to arbitration by the King of Italy. Finally the King in 1931 confirmed the French claims. Starting in 1935 the French navy has had a vessel call at Clipperton every several years to "show the flag." Some of these naval ships while anchored off the island used on board a special cachet or "flamme" postmark to commemorate the visit.

The Oceanic Phosphate Co. stamps were for many years denounced in the philatelic press as illegal and bogus, made to delude and mulct collectors, etc. But in recent years a number of covers and pieces with the stamps showing San Francisco arrival postmarks have turned up in auctions at high prices and are recognized as probably genuine uses.

There is a bogus horizontal overprint CLIPPERTON on several Mexican stamps put out in 1909 by a Mexican "entrepreneur" who pretended there was a postoffice on the island. Actually, the mail from the Mexican garrison there was taken to Mazatlan for posting.

For some years now Clipperton has been assigned to French Polynesia for administration purposes. French naval ships supporting the "atomic" tests in the Tuamotus since 1965 have called at Clipperton on a number of occasions.

EXHIBITION REPORT—ROMPEX '79

ROMPEX '79, hosting the Spring Meeting of the American Philatelic Society, was held in Denver, Colo., May 18-20, 1979. F. Burton Sellers won the Grand Award and an invitation to enter his Liberty Head Issue of Haiti in the World Series of Philately, and R. Rustad won the Reserve Grand Award with U. S. 1861 Issue. A total of 356 frames were entered in competition.

Four FCPS stalwarts (27 frames total) competed and all four received small Golds for their efforts, with Ray Gaillaguet's tremendous showing of Sowers (essays, proofs, and all) edging the field to receive our own FCPS Award. The much ballyhooed head-to-head combat of the Paris Stars, manoeuvred by John Lievsay and Earle Plyler, ended in a dead heat with both combatants promising to remount and charge once again in the near future. The fourth small Gold went to Stan Luft's Chaplain-design pneumatiques, along with a UPSS 1st Certificate. An exhibit of Central African Republic deluxe sheets (6 additional frames) took a Bronze. Thus nearly 10 percent of the frames consisted of France and Colonies material, and more such was present in other exhibits, particularly in the topical ones.

The panel of judges skillfully and good-naturedly parried our various anguished cries. Among FCPS non-exhibitors present at the festivities were Early Apfelbaum and David Lidman. (S.J.L.)

ON STAMPS FROM COILS

By Pierre de Lizeray

How do you prove the coil origin of stamps?

This must be considered separately for the five eras of different printing format for the coils and sheets from flat and rotary plates.

COILS FROM FLAT PLATES:

1) Coils from flat plates printed in the period when the ordinary sheets were also printed from flat plates, are collected in vertical strips of 6 stamps in the case where the coils are manufactured in small rolls. But in the case where the stamps have not been made in small rolls, but the stamps intended for coils are left in the state of sheets, then one collects vertical blocks of 6 (2x3) spanning the vertical gutter containing the millésime number to include two rows of stamps above the row with the millésimes. It is impossible in both of the above situations to extract such pieces from ordinary sheets printed from flat plates.

COILS FROM ROTARY PLATES:

2) During a period succeeding that of 1) above, coils were printed from rotary plates while the ordinary sheets of the same stamps were still being printed from flat plates. During this period the rotary coils are again to be collected in vertical strips of 6 stamps if the coils were manufactured in small rolls; it is impossible to extract a vertical strip of 6 from ordinary sheets from flat plates. But if the coils were not manufactured in small rolls but in special sheets (called "feuille de roulettes") then they are collected with the special marginal date-numeral at the left of such sheets (called "date à gauche").

3) In a still later period, rolls (for coils) and ordinary sheets were both being printed from rotary plates. During this period a vertical strip of 11 stamps is necessary in case of coils manufactured in small rolls; it is impossible to extract such a strip from ordinary sheets printed from rotary plates. Or, in the case the coils are made in special sheets, again the stamps with the marginal date-numeral at the left are to be collected.

4) But when the stamp has a number printed on the back, only that stamp is needed instead of the strip of 11. No coils with number on back have been sold in the form of "feuilles de roulettes." (In connection with the numbers, contrary to what was reported in FCP for Jan., 1979, p. 12, all the paper procured by the Perigueux printery is pre-gummed, and has been since the beginning of the rotary-plate printings, so it is impossible to have numbers printed before gumming and all numbers have been printed on top of the gum.) When a cancelled coil stamp is soaked in water any number it had on back will disappear, if it had not-already been removed by the moistening to affix it to a cover.

5) Since the time when the 0,80 green Bequet and the 1F red Bequet coils were no longer issued with vertical perforation (on either left or right), any stamp with or without the number on back and without the vertical perforation is a coil stamp.

It is interesting, incidentally, to note that the 0,80 green Bequet has only 12 holes in its horizontal perforation whereas the 1F Bequet has two patterns of holes in the horizontal perms: at first, they were issued with just the 12 holes, but later with 12+2 half-holes, one half-hole being at each extremity of the perf row. This second type of perf is the only one used later on, so it is found on both the 0,80 green and 1F red and on the 1F green and 2,20 red Sabines. Because the vertical cutting between the rows of stamps is often

misplaced a bit to one side or other or misaligned, it will be less confusing to describe the two types of perfs as "discontinuous horizontal perf" for the 12 holes and "continuous horizontal perf" for the 12+2 half-holes.

PLATERS CORNER—WHAT'S THE USE?

In the winter issues of *Le Monde, Lt. de la Mettrie* began his summary of his serial on the 25c 1871. In one section entitled "Est-ce Utile?" he gives some further clues to the rewards and satisfactions which may flow from the patient and careful study of just a single stamp. The systematic questioning of everything seen leads to some interesting conclusions—not just winnowing out the mischief manufactured to appeal to the innocent. In a discussion of the general method of plate manufacture he notes the practice of blocking the moveable clichés in frame to make the printing plate, with the possibility of irregularity of alignment (*décalage*). Sure enough, another researcher reports in the first quarter 1979 issue of *Documents Philatéliques* that such a constant variety exists for the entire second vertical row of fifteen positions of pane D5, type II, 25c 1871. Given that this constant may be visible affecting stamps to either side, that is a further tool for identification of a total of 30 possible positions, or 10% of the plate. If that isn't serendipidity, it is at least a swell foop.

In another corner, with time out for packing and moving, the indefatigable Ruth and Gardner Brown are at work on early drafts of an English language handbook on the Bordeaux issue (a possible FCPS publication). Report one of the 5 centimes Bordeaux was finally plated and shown at AR-PHILA 1975, and from the research the plating was available for the *Yvert et Tellier* 1975 specialized catalogue. At a quotation differential of about 10-1, for report one over report two, it pays to be able to identify; but some comment has been made that the differences between the two reports are both minute and difficult to see—the only certain method being the plating of every copy. If you were not moved by the prospect of a threefold premium for completing a plate of 300 copies (Oct. 1978); how does a carrot of 10-1 for each copy grab you?—J.E.L.

MEMBERS APPEALS

(Members Advertising)

OFFER: Nine postcards from Guadeloupe: four picture postcards used with Groupe Type or pictorial stamps and sent through the mails, two of which have the stamps on view side; four picture cards with stamps cancelled on view side but not mailed; one used 10c Groupe Type postal card. \$8.00 for the lot. R. G. Stone, Box 356, Blue Ridge Summit, Pa. 17214 (Mb. #61)

APPEAL: L'Union Marcophile plans to assemble what should become the definitive handbook-catalogue of the postal markings of French armies (*marques d'armées*) of 1791-1815. Owners of such covers, living in the Western Hemisphere, are urged to contact Stanley J. Luft, 870 So. Miller Court, Lakewood, Colo. 80226 (Mb. #915) for procedural details. Do not send covers. Who knows? your covers may become "pieces du catalogue"!

ANNOUNCEMENT: I have issued an illustrated pricelist of covers of U.S., French, Swiss and German postal history, from my very large stock of over 100,000 covers. Send 25c (postage o.k.) to Gary Hendershott, 1637-B East 15th St., Little Rock, AR 72202. (Mb. #1833)

ON THE FRENCH COLONIES "CINDERELLAS"

There does not seem to be a very well-defined widely-accepted concept of what is a "cinderella" (among the philatelists). In general almost anything in the nature of a stamp or label that is not listed in the "standard" general catalogues is potentially a cinderella. That is a very ad hoc approach since some types of things listed in the catalogs for one country may be omitted from catalogs of most other countries.

The biggest category of potential cinderellas for most countries is the revenue stamps. But there are extensive catalogs of revenues and the vastness of that field causes most cinderella buffs to exclude them from their attention.

The next largest category is probably the so-called "local stamps." But some of these are in standard catalogs (e.g. U.S. locals), and some (like Zemstvos of Russia) are so numerous and fully catalogued in special publications that again the cinderella buffs are willing to forget about them. The definitions of what is a "local" are nebulous and inconsistent among catalogs and specialists.

Another large category of unquestionably cinderellas are the labels issued for charity, souvenir, patriotic, and commemorative purposes that often were affixed to covers passing thru the mails. (Some countries now only permit these to be put on the backs of covers.) The red-cross labels are the best known and most popular of this category, and for which some national and world-wide listings have been published.

So now we can ask what sorts of cinderellas does one find from the colonies (i.e., on colonies documents or mail)? There are mainly the revenue stamps and the labels. No "locals" are found in the sense usually meant, except several issues which are listed in the standard catalogs (New Caledonia and Reunion). (The Moroccan locals were used before the French regime.) Several attempts to issue private local provisional issues were quickly blocked by the administrations as infringements on the postoffice monopoly, but several others like the piroque and pedipost cachets of Gabon saw some use tolerated or abetted by the authorities.

The colonies revenues are very numerous. The well-known catalog of Forbin (1937) is quite incomplete. A new catalog is in preparation under the auspices of the American Revenue Association and Lee Wade has already published a listing for Indo-China (in Indo-China Phil.).

That leaves the labels. Here is some virgin territory. Some labels are listed in the catalogs of Chapier and Chapier and Bourdi, who include various fantasy issues (like the Kingdom of Sedang, Clipperton Id., Queen Pomaré, etc.). Some of these are also in the locals catalog of Hurt and Williams. But these authors have not really gotten into the numerous patriotic and souvenir labels. These labels were mostly wartime issues, some prepared in France or other countries and privately sent or carried into certain colonies where affixed to mail. In this category might be included cacheted covers for the same purposes. French red-cross labels can be found on colonial mail but we are not aware of any issued in the colonies (we are not speaking here of the red-cross stamps listed in the catalogs—they were postal issues).

The locals and labels are very rare on colonies covers, and the revenues, mostly common off document, are rare on documents.

Thus apart from the revenues, the colonies do not offer much scope to a would-be cinderella specialist, only a few unusual items that the specialist in stamps or postal history of an individual colony can well use to pep-up his collection.

A LIST OF THE FRENCH COLONIES AND ALGERIA BOOKLETS

By Robert G. Stone and Paul Dinger

An area of collecting which is both interesting and challenging lies in the postal booklets. While a great number of varieties exist for the issue of France, the colonies issues are not numerous, many colonies not issuing booklets at all. However, the quantities printed were generally small (ranging from 400-9000 for most issues) and will require a lot of searching to obtain. Auctions are one source, particularly for the individual booklet panes, but even here the booklet items will usually be part of collection lots. Luckily, the demand for Colonies booklets has never been great, even in France, and they can often be purchased for ridiculously low prices considering their scarcity.

Booklets were issued first for Indo-China and Madagascar in 1908, with other colonies following in 1915 or later, and most contain booklet panes of the pictorial designs then in use for postage stamps. The early booklet covers were generally plain, with printing on front only, consisting of the name of the colony, denomination of stamps contained and the selling price (see illustr. in FCP #121, p. 75, 77). Proofs of booklet panes are very rare (see illustr. in Essay-Proof Jn. #137, Winter 1978, p. 12). The popularity of these booklets was considerable only in the colonies with large numbers of French residents who had become familiar with their convenience in the home country, and other colonies ceased production by the mid-1920s. Algeria, Indo-China and Tunisia continued into the 1930s and also adopted the use of advertising on the booklet covers and on the booklet pane margins (Pubs) which had indirectly been a successful source of revenue in France. The advertising contract for Algeria was given to Carlos Courmont, who had this consecration for the booklets of France, and that for Tunisia was given initially to J. B. Escano (but later was also given to Courmont).

Due to changes in postal rates for Algeria and the decision to discontinue booklets in Tunisia, a number of sheets of stamps especially printed for use in preparing booklets were sold over the counter in postoffices and are occasionally seen. These sheets are smaller (sheets of 80 or 120) than the normal stamp sheets.

Used examples of stamps from booklets are unidentifiable on or off cover unless they are in pairs or blocks showing the Pubs or interpane margins (see illustr. of cover in FCP #126, pp. 14-15).

The following list of the booklets is based on the Braun, Tessier, Cérès, Scott, Glogg, and Rogers catalogs, none of which is complete. Additions and corrections to this list would be appreciated.

Some comments on the listings: The Scott numbers in parentheses are those for the corresponding stamps when Scott does not list a booklet pane. The Yvert numbers are for the corresponding stamps as Yvert does not list any booklets.

Algeria is included for convenience and comparison (Braun also lists it with the colonies), although it was not a colony nor Protectorate (as Tunisia and Morocco)—its issues actually have more the character of booklets of France (which were used in Algeria prior to 1924). As Tunisia and Morocco had autonomous postal systems the character of their booklets is unlike that of the colonies.

Note that many colonies never issued any booklets: Chad, Equatorial Africa, Gabon, Guiana, Comores, India, Martinique, New Caledonia, Niger, New Hebrides, Oceania, St. Pierre, Somali Coast, Reunion, and Ubangui-Chari.

No studies have been reported on the possibility of die sub-types for the booklets different from the die types of the sheet stamps; the Senegal booklets could be readily checked for the 3 or 4 vignette die types—see Roberts, Fr. Cols. Phil., #s 75 (1954), 78 (1955), and 144 (April 1971).

The panes of the colonies were at first often 4x10, but by 1920 nearly all of them became 4x5. Some unusual 5x5 and 10x2 or 10x1 panes occurred.

Catalog Nos.:			Denom.	Year Issued	Number of Sts/Pane x Panes	Quantity Printed (no. booklets)	Remarks
Scott	Yvert	Braun					
Cameroun							
133a	70	7	5c	1916	4 x 10	2064	
135a	72	8	15c	1917	4 x 5	4464	
154a	74	9	25c	1921	4 x 5	6900	
Dahomey							
(45)	46	14	5c	1915	4 x 10	1320	
(47)	47	15	10c	1915	4 x 5	3850	
(50)	48	16	15c	1919	4 x 5	2016	
French Morocco							
135a	139	78	50c	1935	10 x 2	101,100	With fancy front covers in red and black
				1936	10 x 2	90,000	
136a	140	79	65c	1937	10 x 2	112,000	
				1938	10 x 2	100,000	
French Guinea							
66a	66	23	5c	1915	4 x 10	1500	
				1916	4 x 10	6792	
68a	67	24	10c	1915	4 x 5	2800	
				1916	4 x 5	8904	
(71)	68	25	15c	1919	4 x 5	4480	
French Sudan							
31a	27	55	25c	1922	4 x 5	6376	
				1925	4 x 5	6376	
Guadeloupe							
57a	58	17	5c	1920	4 x 5	13824	
59)	47	18	10c	1920	4 x 5	9000	
(60)	60	19	15c	1920	4 x 5	1320	
(64)	80	20	20c	1922	4 x 5	6936	
(65)	62	21	25c	1922	4 x 5	6840	
66a	81	22	25c	1922	4 x 5	?	
Indochina							
(44)	44	34	5c	1908	4 x 10	504	
				1909	4 x 10	7800	
				1914	4 x 10	380	
				1919	4 x 10	2748	
123a	159	38	5c	1930	5 x 5	15000	
124a	160	39	6c	1930	5 x 5	8004	
(68)	75	36	2c/5c	1920	4 x 5?	14076	
(69)	76	37	4c/10c	1920	4 x 5?	16752	
(45)	45	35	10c	1908	4 x 5	504	
				1909	4 x 5	10800	
				1919	4 x 5	4188	

154A	131	110	5c	1931	10 x 2	? With various official
155a	132	111	6c	1931	10 x 2	? slogan advices to the public in margins (Pubs)

Ivory Coast

45a	44	11	5c	1916	4 x 10	3480
47a	45	12	10c	1916	4 x 5	3480
(50)	46	13	15c	1919	4 x 5	2160

Madagascar

82a	97	40	5c	1908	4 x 10	5916
				1910	4 x 10	1752
				1916	4 x 10	2904
				1919	4 x 10	6336
				1920	4 x 10	5304
83a	131	43	5c	1925	4 x 10	6480
84a	98	41	10c	1908	4 x 5	7200
				1910	4 x 5	768
				1914	4 x 5	384
				1915	4 x 5	1536
				1916	4 x 5	2208
				1919	4 x 5	5496
				1920	4 x 5	8376
86a	133	44	10c	1925	4 x 5	6432
87a	99	42	15c	1919	4 x 5	4548
88a	156	45	15c	1925	4 x 5	6432

Mauritania

21a	20	46	5c	1915	4 x 10	552
				1919	4 x 10	1764
23a	21	47	10c	1915	4 x 5	552
24a	22	48	15c	1919	4 x 5	2256
				1920	4 x 5	840
26a	24	49	25c	1922	4 x 5	2064

Middle Congo

(10)	55	10	25c	1919?	4 x 5	?
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Senegal

82a	56	50	5c	1915	4 x 10	2904
				1919	4 x 10	11472
				1920	4 x 10	2268
				1921	4 x 10	9408
(83)	72	—	5c	1922	4 x 5	?
84a	57	51	10c	1915	4 x 5	3360
				1919	4 x 5	18360
				1920	4 x 5	2688
85a	73	54	10c	1921	4 x 5	9240
(91)	60	53	25c	1922	4 x 5	6912
87a	58	52	15c	1920	4 x 5	7440
				1921	4 x 5	9360

Tunisia

(32)	31	?	5c	1911	10 x 2	288
33a	70	67	5c	1921	10 x 2	? 5c and 10c panes bound
(35)	71	67	10c	1921	10 x 2	? in the same booklet

Some on chalky
(couché) paper,

33a	70	57	5c	1921	10 x 2	? 5c and 10c panes bound
(65)	76	57	10c	1921	10 x 2	? in the same booklet
33a	70	58	5c	1921	10 x 2	? 5c and 20c panes bound
38a	34	58	20c	1921	10 x 2	? in the same booklet
(34)	32	63	10c	1911	10 x 2	288
(35)	71	66	10c	1921	10 x 4	?
65a	76	68	10c	1921	10 x 2	?
38a	34	64	20c	1911	10 x 2	288
40a	72	56	25c	1921	10 x 2	?
			25c	?	10 x 1	?
(39)	35	65	25c	1911	10 x 2	
88a	181	59	50c	1934?	10 x 1	74,970 pane of 10 at left, right pane blank
(145)	152	60	65c/50c	1936	10 x 1	? red surcharge, right pane blank; known w/o surch, and with surch. in black (essays?)

Tunisia, with "Pubs" (marginal ads)

(87)	132	200-203	50c	?	?	? ads for "Vitamate"*, "Montparnasse"*, "Bacchus"*, and "Air France"*
58a	181	204-205a	50c	?	?	? ads for "Lisez L'Af- rique du Nord Illust."
(223)	334A	206-209	15Fr	?	?	? ad for "Frigidaire"
(223)	344A	210-215	15Fr	?	?	? ads for "Paparone," "Spécialité," "Vitalor," "Glaces," "Mielor" and "Jus de Fruits"

Note: *These consist of a pane of 10 without Pubs but with a large lateral pane at right having ads for one or other of these products or firms.

Tunisia Sheets printed for booklets and sold as sheets by the P.O.:—

Known for Sc (Yv) numbers 33 (70), 65 (76), 38 (34), 40 (72), 87 (132), 35 (71), 39 (35), 85 (131), in panes of 120 subjects (10 x 12), two panes tete-beche per sheet; 87 (132) in panes of 80 subjects (8 x 10) the right panes having been removed by the PO before sale (i.e., the ones with the Pubs).

Upper Senegal and Niger

21a	21	26	5c	1915	4 x 10	1476
				1919	4 x 10	972
(22)	22	27	10c	1915	4 x 5	2808
				1919	4 x 5	1656
(23)	23	28	15c	1919	4 x 5	3312
(25)	25	29	25c	1921	4 x 5	3972

Upper Volta

4a	4	30	5c	1921	4 x 10	432
(6)	5	31	10c	1921	4 x 5	516
(9)	6	32	15c	1921	4 x 5	516
(11)	8	33	25c	1921	4 x 5	528

Algeria

7b	9	1	10c	1924	10 x 2	13,020
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37a	38	91	10c	1926	10 x 2	7032 with adv. pane mar.
(38)	39	92	15c	1927	10 x 2	30,840 with adv. pane mar.
13a	14	86-89	25c	1924-5	10 x 2	1,221,492 with adv. pane mar.
16a	17	90	30c	1925-6	10 x 2	392,172 with adv. pane mar.
47a	45	2	40c	1929	10 x 2	119,116
47a	45	93	40c	1929	10 x 2	119,116 with adv. pane mar.
49a	47	94	50c	1927	10 x 2	637,200 with adv. pane mar.
49a	47	3	50c	1929	10 x 2	802,002
50a	79A	95-99	50c	1929-37	10 x 2	5,262,568 with adv. pane mar.
50a	79A	4	50c	1930	10 x 2	305,856
53a	137	100	65c	1938-	10 x 2	2,487,324 with adv. pane mar.

Algeria Sheets printed for booklets and sold as sheets by the P.O.:—

Known for Sc (Yv) nos. 53 (137), 47 (45), 131 (158), 136 (166), 131 w/o surch (137A), in panes of 80 (8 x 10), or 120 (12 x 10) subjects.

Algeria, with "Pubs" (marginal ads) exist for very numerous different firms and products—for listing see J. Braun "Catalogue des Pubs des Carnets de France et des Colonies Francaises," 1958, 1976.

ADDENDA TO

"A GLOSSARY OF FRENCH TERMS FOR SHIPS OF VARIOUS TYPES"

By Robert G. Stone

We are indebted to Henri Tristant and Stan Luft for calling our attention to several errors and omissions in our list published in FCP for Oct. 1978. We have meanwhile found a considerable number of additional terms. Our sources were largely a variety of secondary works, some old and some specialized on fishery or marine work, and several dictionaries. Apparently some of these terms are archaic, found in older literature, and some are spelled in different ways in different works.

A

allège—lighter, tender

arche—ark

armement—discriptor for a boat out-fitted, manned, or engaged in shipping

arraisonneur—examination boat

aurique—with fore and aft sail

B

baleinière—also a whaling dory

barque—also any small boat

barquette—skiff

barque traversière—ferry

bateau d'embarcation—landing boat

bateau de ligne—better, "ship-of-line"

bateau-pilote—pilot boat

bateau-poste—(with final "e")

bâtiment—"â" has a circumflex

bâtiment d'assistance des pêches—
fisheries-support boat

bâtiment auxiliaire—auxiliary ship

bâtiment-atelier polyvalent—all-
purpose repair ship

bâtiment école—also training ship

bâtiment désarmé—laid-up ship

bâtiment de soutien logistique—
logistic support ship

bâtiment portuaire de servitude—
port-service boat

Berthon—a make of collapsible boat

brig—also brig in French

brûlot—fire ship

C

caboteur—coasting boat

caïque—caique

cale sèche—dry dock

canonnière—gun boat
 carène—hulk, bottom
 céréalier—grain boat
 chasseur de mines—mine layer?, mine
 sweeper
 charbonnière—coaling ship, collier
 citerne—tanker
 croiseur cuirassé—armored cruiser
 cuirassé—also armored ship
 contre-torpilleur—destroyer, light
 cruiser

D

deux mats—two master

E

embarcation—also any small boat
 embarcation à moteur—motor boat
 escadrille—also flotilla
 escorteur cotière—coastal escort

F

frégate (only one "t")—has 20-60
 guns
 frégate lance missile—missile launch-
 ing frigate
 ferry—ferry boat
 flotte armée—battle fleet

G

galère—galley, convict ship, slave
 ship
 garde côte—coastguard ship
 garde pêche—fishery patrol
 glisseur—hydroplane, speed boat
 goélette—"ë" is archaic

K

kayak—alternative spelling

L

lance-mines—mine layer

M

marine national—national navy
 matelot—ship

N

naufnage—shipwreck
 navire abandonné—derelict, abandoned
 boat
 navire de commerce—merchant ship
 navire à deux ponts—two decker
 navire irrégulier—tramp steamer
 navires jumeaux—sister ships
 navire long-courrier—ocean going
 ship
 navire non-ponté—open boat

navire de mesure—measurement ship;
 survey ship
 navire ponté—decked boat
 navire renflé—bluff-bowed ship
 navire en réserve—ship out of com-
 mission
 Normandie—a Normandy boat

P

paquebot régulier—regular packet
 patache—water-police boat
 pavoisement—flag ship
 pêcheur—fishing boat
 pinasse—pinnace
 piroque balancier—outrigger canoe
 piroque postale—post canoe
 ponton—hulk, prison ship, floating
 platform, pontoon
 poseur de mines—mine layer

Q

quatre mats—four master

R

rafio—skiff
 ravitailleur—also a depot ship
 ravitailleur d'avion—aircraft tender
 régata—regatta
 remorqueur—(spelling)
 remorqueur de haute mer—ocean-
 going tug

S

schooner—schooner
 senou—also spelled senau
 six mats—six master
 snow—a kind of brig
 sole—a bottom (figurative for ship)
 stationnaire—guard ship
 steamer—steamer, steamship
 submersible—submarine

T

thonier—tuna fishing boat
 torpilleur—torpedo boat, destroyer
 traile—trawl, trail ferry
 trirème—trireme
 trois ponts—three decker
 transport—transport ship
 transport hôpital—hospital ship
 transport de troupes—troop ship

V

vedette—sentry boat, patrol boat,
 motor boat, launch
 vedette lance-torpilles—torpedo boat
 voilier (spelling)

THE REGULAR ISSUES OF FRANCE SINCE 1960, ACCORDING TO THEIR NORMAL POSTAL USAGE

By Stanley J. Luft (#915)

(of the Académie d'Etudes Postales)

(Cont. from FCP #176, p. 46)

o,30 Semeuse de Piel

The o,30 Semeuse (Sc 942A, Cs 1234A) was issued on 23 Feb. 1961.

Printed in sheets from 1 plate, 16 Feb.-1 March 1961 and 21-29 Aug. 1961.

Issued specifically (until 31 Dec. 1961) for use on C.C.P. (comptes de chèques postaux) formules to be returned to payee.

Other domestic usage (Tariff of 6 Jan. 1959):

Newspapers, from 500 to 600 gm, individual rate;

Airmailed printed matter, from 25 to 50 gm, to Algeria;

(Commonly used on small packages during 1962).

Foreign usage (Tariff of 6 Jan. 1959):

Postal cards;

Printed matter, from 50 to 100 gm;

Letters, to 20 gm, special rate to Indo-China, Tunisia, and Morocco;

Invoices and other commercial paper, unsealed, from 50 to 100 gm;

Newspapers, magazines, and books, from 200 to 250 gm;

Airmailed printed matter, to 25 gm, and visiting and greeting cards w/o added message, to French Community areas of Africa, certain parts of Europe, and islands in the Atlantic.

Retired from sale, 7 July 1962.

B. The o,25 Marianne de Décaris (typographed) issue of 1960-68

Scott Type A349

Designed by Albert Décaris; engraved by Jules Piel

The o,25 Marianne de Décaris (Sc 968, Cs 1263) was issued 18 June 1960-17 July 1965; used concurrently with an eventually replaced the o,25 Marianne à la Nef (Sc 942, Cs 1233).

Printed in sheets of Type I from 48 plates, 31 May 1960-5 Jan. 1965; the effigy in rose instead of gray (Cs 1263b) is from part of the 6 Feb. 1962 printing. Booklets of 20 stamps of Type I (Braun Nos. 398 and 398/I) issued July 1960; similar booklets, but with pubs advertising PHILATEC (No. 398/II) were issued in 1964. Coils of probable Type I issued January 1961? Booklets of 8 stamps of Type II (Braun Nos. 399 and 399/I) issued in late August 1960. Printing of all booklets ceased 7 Sept. 1964. Stamped postal cards of Type II issued in 1965 (ACEP 201) and 1968 (ACEP 201A).

Domestic usage (Tariff of 6 Jan. 1959):

*Letters, to 20 gm;

Printed matter and samples, from 50 to 100 gm;

#Newspapers and magazines, from 400 to 500 gm, "ordinary" (individual) rate;

Packets to military personnel in the field, to 1000 gm (in effect 1962 or earlier).

Foreign usage (Tariff of 6 Jan. 1959):

*Letters, to 20 gm, to Canada, West Germany, Italy, San Marino,

Belgium, Luxembourg, and nearly areas of Spain and Switzerland;

Newspapers, magazines, and books, from 150 to 200 gm.
Domestic usage (Tariff of 18 Jan. 1965):

*Postal cards (incl. French Community).

Foreign usage (Tariff of 18 Jan. 1965):

*Postal cards, to Canada, "rayons limitrophes," and Common Market countries;

Postal cards "of 5 words";

Visiting and greeting cards "of 5 words";

Printed matter, to 50 gm;

Small parcels, per 50 gm above first 250 gm.

Used concurrently with, from mid-March 1962, the 0,25 Coq (Sc 1024, Cs 1331). Adhesive stamps retired from sale, 17 July 1965.

C. The 0,20 Marianne de Cocteau (engraved) issue of 1961-67

Scott Type A360

Designed by Jean Cocteau; engraved by Albert Décaris

The 0,20 Marianne de Cocteau (Sc 985, Cs 1282) was issued 23 Feb. 1961; used concurrently with and eventually replaced the 0,20 Semeuse (Sc 941, Cs 1233).

Printed in sheets of Type I (15 press runs), 7 Feb. 1961-26 May 1965; in sheets of Type II (3 additional press runs), 1 June-28 Oct. 1966; sheets of Type II issued Summer? 1966.

Usage (Tariff of 6 Jan. 1959) (see 0,20 Semeuse, Sec. A, above).

Domestic usage (Tariff of 18 Jan. 1965):

#Newspapers, from 300 to 400 gm, individual rate.

Domestic usage (rate increases in effect from 1 Aug. 1966):

Printed matter and samples, to 50 gm;

Visiting and greeting cards, without written message.

Used mainly, from 18 Jan. 1965 to 31 July 1966, as a complementary value. Retired from sale 20 May 1967.

D. The Coq de Décaris (engraved) issues of 1962-68

Scott Type A379

Designed and engraved by Albert Décaris

0,25

The 0,25 Coq (Sc 1024, Cs 1331) was issued 10-12 March 1962; used concurrently with the 0,25 Marianne de Décaris (Sc 968, Cs 1263).

Printed in sheets (12 press runs) between 5 March 1962 and 22 Jan. 1965 (first small-format regular to be printed on the TD-6 press); printed on experimental fluorescent paper (Cs 1331B) as part of 5th press run, between 9 and 14 Nov. 1962. Booklets of 8 stamps, and coils, issued February? 1963; first French coils printed with control numbers (on back of every 10th stamp).

Usage (Tariffs of 6 Jan. 1959 and 18 Jan. 1965) (see 0,25 Marianne de Décaris, Sec. B, above).

Replaced by the 0,25 Mont-de-Marsan (Sc 1144, Cs 1469) beginning in January 1966. Retired from sale 17 Sept. 1966.

0,30

The 0,30 Coq (Sc 1024B, Cs 1331C) was issued 15-18 Jan. 1965.

Printed in sheets (17 press runs) between 5 July 1963 and 8 Sept. 1967.

Booklets of 10 and 20 stamps, and coils, issued 18 Jan. 1965.

Domestic usage (Tariff of 18 Jan. 1965):

*Letters, to 20 gm (incl. French Community in Africa, Andorra, Monaco, Algeria, and Common Market nations);

#Printed matter and samples, from 50 to 100 gm (id.);

#Newspapers, from 500 to 600 gm, individual rate;

Airmailed printed matter, to 25 gm, and visiting and greeting cards w/o added message, to French North Africa (from 1 Aug. 1966).

Foreign usage (Tariff of 18 Jan. 1965):

*Letters, to 20 gm, to Canada and to nearby areas of Spain and Switzerland (and see Domestic, above);

Newspapers, magazines, books, and brochures, from 150 to 200 gm.

Issued and used concurrently with the 0,30 Blason de Paris (Sc 1095, Cs 1354B). Replaced with the 0,30 Blason de Paris (Sc 1095, Cs 1354B).

Replaced by the 0,30 lilac République de Cheffer (Sc 1198, Cs 1536) beginning in November 1967.

Retired from sale 6 July 1968.

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(To be continued)

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from FCP #175, p. 17)

- ◆ 341). In Luft's serial on the Regular Issues, under the 6F Marianne de Muller, it was stated that the coils of it were sold in rolls of 1000 stamps. In Broustine's book on Roulettes it was also stated that the coils were only of 1000. But in a later note by Storch he indicated indirect evidence that some rolls of the 6F were of 2000 stamps. Luft has queried De Lizeray on this, who replies as follows: "I have asked two dealers of Paris about it—Georges Monteaux has in his possession one coil of 1000, and Mon. Rillon has a coil of 2000. So, exceptionally, this low-face stamp was issued in both 1000 and 2000 rolls, though the general practice for coils was to make them in rolls of 500 and 1000 (i.e., since 1929, before that in 600 and 1200). It is interesting to note that the stamp-vending machines in the postoffices are always supplied with coils of the largest-size roll, which for the 6F Muller would have been the 2000s. The smaller rolls were issued only for the convenience of commercial firms (and philatelists when they need no more single stamps but can buy coils of 1000)."
- ◆ 342). The mark *IMPRIMÉS DECLARÉS* in a rectangular frame sometimes seen on Sage stamps and covers has been subject of controversy, being considered by some as a fantasy. However, it is now cataloged by Rochette and Pothion (as #2035), and "Instructions" of the PTT have been found which stated that each packet of printed matter containing non-official publications and printing, regularly so declared by the sender, is to be struck with a mark reading "Imprimés Déclarés." The common mark "Imprimés P.P." was to be used only on regularly-issued bulk mail from printing and publishing firms, charitable societies, etc. The "Imprimés Déclarés" would be used on matter in open envelopes prepaid in stamps, and by the sender declaring it to the postoffice as such would be entitled to the printed-matter rate.
- ◆ 343). Reginald Kirk writing in *Postscript* Oct./Dec. 1978, shows that the French entry marks for Suez, Marseille, and Brindisi, reading "Poss. Ang," and "Cols Fra V. Suez," "Pays Etr V. Suez," etc., "Indes Or.," are often found on letters carried on the British P. & O. company steamers, not on French packets.
- ◆ 344). What is a Bigramme? It is a mark impressed without ink at the lower left front of a cover by the P. de C. (Poste de Codage?) machine. They are only found on mail treated and indexed by the PIM and PIS machines of the new automatic sorting centers.
- ◆ 345). H. Gachot quotes an old article by Dr. Kalckhoff which quotes a

passage from the *Almanach de La Petite Poste* of 1777: "There exist now, certain engravings on cards, carried by the post, with readable messages for everyone. This new invention is by Demaison, the engraver, and there is much talk about it." Thus it seems the first French illustrated postal card, of a sort, antedates the Revolution and 1871!

◆ 346). An article in *L'Echo* for Nov. 1976 by the well-known expert on modern France, Jack Blanc and four of his colleagues, reports observations made on a visit to the French stamp printery at Perigueux. While much of what they saw has been described numbers of times in the philatelic press, several of their observations are of special interest including some we do not recall having seen before. They only discuss the recess printing. The plant consists of a main production section, to which are attached special supporting "laboratories" for photography, inks, papers, gums, solvents, and metallurgy. The maquettes (models) designed by the artists are photo-reduced to the dimensions of the planned stamp, then reproduced on a steel block the surface of which has been sensitized by a film of silver-bromide gelatin. This is given to the engraver to guide his cutting and will become the original master die. In the engraving shop three engraver-retouchers work at verifying the condition of the dies turned in by the engravers, making necessary or desired retouches on them, pulling proofs to check the perfection of the die. The retouchers may recut some lines and "clean-up" the die. To try out inks, proofs are made from a special die on a special paper (*nuancier*). The case-hardening of the dies is done by immersing in a sodium-cyanide melt (at 900 deg C). The plastic ink contact-rollers used for the multicolor recess printing are cut by tools which each "decoupeur" worker fashions for himself. The brass shells which are fitted around the cylinder to make the plate have been surfaced with chrome in an electrolytic bath so they can stand to print 100,000 impressions without any wear. The 6-color presses are used mainly for high-volume printings of regular-issue stamps and booklets. The new prototype 4-color press now (1976) being installed has the engravings transferred directly to the cylinder omitting the need for shells. The TD-4 press has a new system of hardening the inks by ultraviolet (polymerization) instead of thermal drying by infra-red, as the sheets come from the printing cylinders.

◆ 347). A note in *Feuilles Marcophiles* #214 reports a provisional usage in French Congo which we have not seen before in the literature. There was a shortage of 5c stamps at Libreville in the beginning of 1905, so the franking of greeting cards was authorized to be done by use of postage-due 5c stamps (Fr. Col. General Issues). These stamps were to be applied only at the postoffice. An example is illustrated on which the stamp was cancelled by the regular postmark plus a pen cross and at the side was a cachet in blue reading: "Receveur Principal/Contrôle des Postes/et Télégraphes."

◆ 348). In *L'Echo*, 1894, p. 549, Flandrin quotes the *Bulletin* of the *Postes et Télégraphes* for Nov. 1893 to the effect that colonial stamps are valid only in the colony for which issued and if other colonies stamps are affixed by a sender the piece must be charged as unfranked and marked with the "T" (for due). There are covers which seem to indicate this rule was not always observed, perhaps by oversight or collusion, and in West and Equatorial African colonies the use of stamps of one colony in another was specifically authorized in a number of instances, and tolerated in others.

◆ 349). Another colonial provisional usage which we have not seen reported before is cited in a note in *Feuilles Marcophiles* #216. On account of a shortage of 15c "Benin" stamps of 1894 issue in early 1899, Governor

Victor Ballot instead of authorizing surcharges, put out an arrêté on 18 Feb. 1899 which permitted use of 20c stamps in lieu of the 15c on local letters and prohibited the 20c from being surcharged or marked over in any way. The 20c had to be applied by the postoffice who would keep an account for the treasury records. An arrêté of 24 March 1899 abrogated the one of Feb. 18 since a new supply of 15c stamps had arrived from France on 22 March. Of course they could have used three 5c or a 10c plus 5c stamps but then these would likely have soon run out of stock too.

◆ 350). How does one collect the stamps printed by the RGR-1 press for the varieties of sheet margin indicia—which are different than on the stamps from the other presses? According to Dr. Rouques, it is necessary to save strips of 20 from the two lower rows; they carry the date, the press indicia, and particularly the cylinder indexes "1" or "2" which are at the right of the serial number of the sheet. Ideally one should have for the same date the bottom of the combined side-by-side 1 and 2 sheets, but that isn't because the packages of sheets from 1 and 2 are probably not sold in the same postoffice. But one could content himself with 1 and 2 sheets from adjoining dates. To identify the cylinder it is necessary to save the electronic guide-mark which is found on the 2 sheets in the left margin at the level of the 1st stamp; this stamp with the two corner margins will suffice but a pair or a block of 4 would be nicer. In speaking of the combined side-by-side adjacent sheets, one should keep in mind that now the 8 shells of 100 clichés are not disposed on one cylinder (as on TD3 and 6 presses) but over two cylinders of 4 shells each horizontally combined; the combined sheets are separated vertically by a cutter.

◆ 351). Many specialists in the Mariannes de Bequet have noted that occasionally the phosphor bars are missing on stamps that are supposed to regularly have them. The printery at Périgueux gives the following explanation for this:— in preparing the start-up of the rotary presses each morning there is an adjustment of the two different machines involved (one for stamps, one for the bars). Before this adjustment is finished for the bar printer, a certain number of sheets of satisfactory recess impression have been run off (without bars). In the interest of economy these sheets are taken out and sent to the postoffices in Departments that have not yet been supplied mechanical sorting centers (see item 352 below). It was arranged in 1977 for the Service Philatélique to have some of these sheets to sell to collectors.

◆ 352). Considerable reference has been made lately to the existence of Bequet stamps without the phosphor bars. J. Rabineau in his survey of the Bequet issues in *Le Monde*, summarizes a list of the ones recorded without the bars:—

45c blue, none had the bars

50c red, intentionally omitted while the use of bars had not yet become general

60c green in typo in sheets with overseas gum

60c green in recess in booklets of 20 with overseas gum

80c red in recess in sheets and booklets with overseas gum

80c red recess in sheets, bars accidentally omitted, brilliant gum, sold in Depts. of Vendée and Allier

1Fr red in recess, brilliant gum, bars printed dry

Booklets of 20 sold at St. Yorre (Allier), Sept. and Oct. 1976

Sheets of 100 sold at Clermont-Ferrand Nov.-Dec. 1976

booklets of 10 sold at Lyon in Nov. 1976

all CFA-surcharged issues

◆ 353). Denis Vandervelde (Postscript, Oct./Dec. 1978) reports that after 1897 mails from the Comoro Ids. that failed to catch the monthly northbound Ligne U French mail packet (23rd ea. mo.) were sent by southbound steamer for transfer at Diego-Suarez to a Ligne V packet on the more direct route. An 1898 registered letter has the boxed "grille de chargement" (cachet descriptif) of Dzaoudzi on back and beside it the grille of the Ligne V packet "Oxus," which has the "L.V. No. 1" at left, not recorded in Salles.

◆ 354). In regard to the report in FCP #173, p. 76, on the existence of 14 perf holes on the 1Fr Bequet coils, DeLizeray was informed by M. Marion that he found an 0,80 green Bequet coil strip (genuines were only perfed 12 holes) with a faked 14 holes—the two end holes were added and show up as false because they are not exactly aligned with the other 12 holes.

◆ 355). In FCP #176, p. 50, we noted the existence of 1Fr Sabines allegedly with evidence of coming from two different rollers (molettes), but which DeLizeray shows was just due to an accident to the die. Cuny and Guillou in April LeMonde list the presentations of the 1Fr so far found with each die State (#1 before accident, #2 after accident—the "beauty spot") :—Artists proof—#1; 1Fr red shows State #1 on sheets from cylinders A and B, trial color proofs, imperfs, and booklets from first printing from press 4; 1Fr red shows State #2 on sheets from cylinders C, D, E, and F, coils, booklets of 2nd printing press 6, deluxe proofs, and Documents Officiels 46.77 and 16.78; the 1Fr green shows State #1 only on booklets first printing press 4; 1Fr green shows State #2 on sheets from all cylinders, imperf sheets, booklets 2nd printing press 6, coils, postal cards, deluxe proofs, and Document Officiel 29.78. (See article by DeLizeray FCP #176.)

◆ 356). From the early 19th Century there were some classes of objects which enjoyed special French rates of postage less than the letter rates. The objects which at one time or another had such reduced rates, were:— certain kinds of journals, newspapers, periodic annals, reports and memoirs; printed circulars, and other printed matter; merchandise samples; business and legal papers; notices of birth, marriage, and death; greeting cards; electoral circulars and voting ballots; corrected printer's proofs; valeurs à recouvrer; braille publications; packages under 3kg. The actual rates and specified conditions for such mail, were given in various laws and PTT Instructions, which were changed from time to time, so that it is very complex to follow. These rates have not generally been cited in philatelic works, as few of the rates are of interest to collectors, who seldom see much of such mail if any. However, some stamped newspapers and of course the little envelopes with notices of birth, death, or marriage, and greeting cards, are more or less familiar to us. A good review of the laws and rates on the "objets de prix réduit" appeared in Le Collectionneur Phil. et Marcophile #41, Jan. 1979, by B. Mullenheim.

◆ 357). The "Trésor et Postes" military postmarks of World War I period 1914-19, are familiar on the free-franchise postal cards and covers of military personnel on duty in military-controlled areas, addressed to within French territory. These marks have been extensively discussed and cataloged in the books of Col. Deloste and Bertrand Sinais. Each mark contained a number. Collectors often ask us if the place of use of a given number on a given date can be identified. Unfortunately that is seldom feasible, as the numbers were assigned to given military units whose locations were apt to be constantly shifting. However, the names of the units to which each no. was assigned for some period are generally known and the general area of operation of many

of these units can be found in military histories and archives (see the books mentioned). It was generally forbidden for senders to include their location in their messages. Some numbers were assigned to units in overseas campaigns. Some were to higher headquarters commands which were stabilized for some time. Some numbers were used only very briefly or where there was little mail, and hence are very rare. Sometimes the Trésor et Postes postmarks are found cancelling stamps. There were certain categories of mail from military personnel which required franking in toto or in part by stamps. These were: registered letters over 20gr, letters addressed abroad (to non-French countries), soldiers mail posted in civilian P.O.s, letters from military personnel of the allied armies, business mail, and voluntary franking due to ignorance of the franchise rules.

◆ 358). Member Hervé Drye has recently published in COLFRA Bull. 6 a list of the New Caledonia postoffices that were open in 1976, as follows:—
Regular Postoffices: Bouloupari, Bourail, Canala, Chepenehe, Fayaoué, Hienghene, Houailou, Kaala Gomen, Kone, Koumac, Kuto, La Foa, Moindou, Nepoui, Noumea Ducos, Noumea R.P., Noumea Montravail, Noumea Sud, Noumea Vallée des Colons, Oaco, Ouegoa, Paita, Poindimie, Ponerihouen, Pont des Français, Poro, Pouébo, Pouémbout, Poum, Poya, Tadine, Temala, Thio, Tontouta, Touho, Voh, We, Yaté.

Agences Postales:— Arama (formerly a regular PO), Belep, Farino, Fonwhary, Kouaoua, La Tamoa, Laroche, Mont Dore, Megropo, Nouville, Pam, Sarra-meia, Tiga, Plum, Tomo.

Bureaux Mobiles:— Canala, Annexe Mobile, Ponerihouen Annexe Mobile, We Annexe Mobile, Tadine Annexe Mobile, Kuto Annexe Mobile, Fayaoué Annexe Mobile.

(The 3 offices in Loyalty Ids—Ouvea, Lifon, More—and one in Ile de Pins are not included here.)

◆ 359). J. Rabineau has published in *Le Monde* a survey of all the states, presentations, varieties and variations that have been found so far on the Mariannes de Bequet. He notes that although only 6 to 8 Bequet stamps are usually collected by non-specialists, there are about 60 different states or formats that can be distinguished plus a multitude of minor varieties. More will probably show up. Some of the states are scarce and the would-be specialist should take note before they become too costly. He mentions especially the following:— Of the first issue: 50c red in sheets of 100 from TD-3 press without phosphor bars; 50c red sheets of 100 from TD-6 with bars of type L and type D. Of the 2nd issue: 80c red in sheets of 100 and booklets of 10 with brilliant gum and without phosphor bars; 80c rose in sheets of 100 from RGR-1 with phosphor bars type C and without bars (accidental and rare); 80c deep rose sheets of 100 from RGR-1 with bars type C; 60c green booklets of 20 and coils from TD-6 bars type B. Of the Third issue: 80c booklets of 20 and coils from TD-6 bars type B; 1Fr booklets of 10 and 20 and sheets of 100 from TD-6 without bars; 1Fr sheets of 100 with bars type B. The CFA surcharges are desirable, likewise the overseas gums, postal cards, the 1Fr on thick paper, and coils.

CURRENT JOURNAL ARTICLES

Le Monde des Philatélistes (CC, APRL)

#314, Nov. 1978: Brun: "L'Académie de Philatélie—50 ans et de nombres

projets"; "Le budget PTT pour 1979"; "Deux rapports sur la dégradation du service de poste"; conts. of De la Mettrie, Mazabrey, DeLizeray, Frybourg, Gutekunst, Rouques/Guillou, La Fr en Thémétique.

#315, Dec. 1978: "Les Grand Prix de l'Art Philatélique 1978"; Fromageat: "De l'utilité de l'expertise"; Rouy: "Rencontre avec Yves Brayer"; Perrin: "Algérie—premières émissions définitives en typo 1926-43 (begin); Rouques/Guillou: "Les roulettes"; C. R. W.: "La croix rouge et la poste—émission 11 Aout 1914"; conts. of DeLizeray, De la Mettrie, Frybourg.

#318, March 1979: Garlin: "Rendons à Auray"; Joffre: "Complements à l'histoire des TAAF"; Ablard: "A propos du catalogue des oblitérations mécaniques" (begin); conts. of Joffre, Perrin, Bayle, Rouques, Frybourg, DeLizeray, La Fr en Them.

#319, April 1979: Percher: "Le marques postales de Nantes" (begin); Lebland: "Les timbres de roulettes avec perforations des firmes—complements"; Mazabrey: "Faux de Sperati: comment les reconnu, les 2c et 4c Bordeaux"; M. M.: "Oblitérations navales"; Rouques: "Les dates de couleurs anormales 0.50 Bequet, et gomme D. O. M."; Cuny et Guillou: "Les deux molettes 1Fr Sabine"; conts. of Perrin, Bayle, DeLizeray, Frybourg, Rouques, Fr. en Thém.

L'Echo de la Timbrologie (CC)

#1497, March 1979: Cohn: "Les passeurs aériens professionnels 1870-71" (end); De la Ferté: "Les peintures rupestres"; Goubin: "Cachets de 1884 à cercle intérieur continu, millésimes 1960"; Tristant: TAAF campagne 1977-8" (begin); Muhlenheim: "Au sujet de la poste par ballon pendant le siège Belfort 1870"; conts. of Storch et Francon, Munier.

#1498, April 1979: Boubin: "Flammes d'oblitération"; Pluchard: "Au Dahomey, timbres coupés en 1920"; Sinais: "Le siège de Paris et les boules de Moulins"; Storch et Francon: "Les types Droits de l'Homme et Mouchon 1900-03" (cont.); Tristant: "TAAF campagne 1977-78—I Terre Adélie"; Dumont: "Quelques informations sur les documents de franchise de la 2nd Guerre Mondiale" (begin).

La Philatélie Française (CC, APRL)

#297, March 1979: Lejeune: "Marques postales de l'ancien régime"; C. L. A.: "Ouverture de Lignes par DC 4 Skymasters en 1946"; C. F. A.: "La ligne Alger-Biskra-Touggourt-Ouargla 1922-23"; Storch et Francon: "L'état et la valeur des entiers postaux"; Storch et Francon: "Les variétés des timbres de France: étude générale" (begin); Devries: "La poste par pigeons en 1574 pendant le siège de Leyde"; Codoret: "Timbres neufs, timbres usages"; conts. of Bergez, Blondelle, Delbrel.

Feuilles Marcophiles (CC)

#216, 1st Trim 1979: "Marcophiles coloniale—Dahomey 1899"; Petit: "Taisez-vous, méfiez-vous—les yeux ennemis vous regardent!"; Noel: "Timbres de journaux mobile de 1869"; Bridelance: "Correspondance d'Armées Indo-Chine"; Bridoux: "Group d'étude du 20c noir 1849"; Stone: "Les marques postales des Iles St. Pierre et Miquelon" (cont.); Devries et Dumant: "Le service de colis postaux en Alsace-Lorraine"; Cuny: "Le coin de Paris"; Delvaux: "Les nouveautés en matière de Guichets Annexes"; Carnévalé-Mauzan: "Les messages Vatican pendant le 2nd G. M."; Guiraud-Darmais: "Les cachets Monte Carlo T-A

et Monte Carlo T-B"; Desrousseaux: "Courrier entre la France et l'Extrême Orient 1939-41" (cont.); Lamar: "Des mini-télégrammes en 1944-45"; Delwaule: "Encore du nouveau sur les Daguis?"; Boulad d'Humières: "Egypte curiosité postale"; Grapinet: "La conquête et l'occupation Française du Fezzan 1943-52"; Pouey: "Histoire postale des Hautes-Pyrénées"; Bridelance: "Lettres recommandées d'office"; Bellon: "Les griffes Retour à l'Envoyeur dans les 48 Bureaux de Poste des Hautes-Alpes en 1974-5"; Saulgrain: "A propos du circuit d'Anjou"; Ketterl: "Nouveau cachet de Deux-Ponts (1959)"; Gregnac-Daudemard: "La poste rurale dans la région Tropicaine (Var)"; Baron: "Avis de capture—2nd G.M."

Feuilles **Marcophiles Informations** (CC)

- #21, Feb. 1979: L'Huillier: "Les campagnes militaires et les Traités 1792-1813" (begin); Lejeune: "La poste ferroviaire des ambulants"; Lejeune: "Les marques linéaires doubles avant l'apparition du Type 18"; Sinais: "Marques de la croix rouge à Monaco pendant la 1ère G.M."; Combes: "Nouvelle marque administrative de bateau à vapeur ('Prophète')"; Combes: "La cursive de St. Genis Pprenées Orientales a existé sous trois types."

Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile (CC)

- #41, Jan. 1979: Cuny: "5 cent. Auch"; Delore: "Correspondance de prisonniers de guerre Françaises en Allemagne 1940-45" (begin); Auriacombe: "Les agences postales militaires de command en Algérie"; Rayssiguier: "Convoyeur-lignes du Finistère"; Fradois: "Essai du catalogue des timbres fiscaux Françaises" (begin); Mulhenheim: "Les objets à prix réduit"; "Etoiles 1 en habit de novel an"; "Chalon Aviation 16 Oct. 1910"; Brun: "Impremés déclarés"; Lamar: "Napoléon coupé machine."

Collectors Club Philatelist

- V. 57, #3, May 1978: Langford and Hayhurst: The US Postal Sta. at Paris Expo 1900."

Nov. 1978: Stempien: "The US Postal Sta. at the 1900 Paris Expo—postscript."

- V. 58, #1, Jan. 1979: Stempien: "Cachets d'entrées."

Postillon (CC) (former **Briefe der Arbeitsgemein. Frankreich . . .**)

- #142, Sept. 1978: Gachot: (cont.); Pouzet: "Briefmarken der Legion des Volontaires Français"; Hout: "Überdruck von Saint-Nazaire vom Okt. 1941"; Boblique: "Die drei 10c Saërin mit glattem Grund mit wicker Inschrift"; "Kleine Neuerung im Postdienst die Markenheftchen"; Harm: "Der Coupon-reponse E"; Nitsche: "Eine umstrittene Nuance Bordeaux 30c gründlichbraun"; Col. Leblond: "Betrachtungen über die Marken der Type Iris."

- #143, Dec. 1978: Gachot (end); Boblique: "Hundert Jahre Rohrpost"; Sambourg: "Abstempelung kleine Ziffer auf Saërin im Jahre 1915"; Peuzet: "Deutsch Feldpost (in France)"; Goubin: "Vignetten oder Freimarken?"—"Die Bildmarken der Lebensmittelversorgung 1946"; Boblique (end); Leblond (end).

- #144, March 1979: Boblique: "Hundert Jahre Rohrpost" (cont.); Harm: "Die 20 centime Napoleon III mit Lorbeerkrantz"; Pursch: "Über das Briefmarkensammeln und dessen Gefahren"; Joany: "Die nicht zur Ausgabe gelangten Briefmarken Frankreichs"; Harder: "Timbres de Cours d'Instruction"; Van der Vlist: "Vorauswertung Yv #26 5c Saërin grün mit Aufdruck Postes Paris 1921"; Ehmke: "Halbierte

Portomarken Mi #29 im Jahre 1917"; Lanser: "Kurze Anmerkungen zu französische Vorausentwertungen."

Bulletin de la Société COLFRA (CC)

#5, Sept. 1978: Venot: "Mauritanie—nomenclature des cachets postaux 1904-1977"; Theiss: "Lettre d'un commis des PTT à Majunga 1910."

Scotts Monthly Journal (CC, APRL, SI)

March 1979: Seebacher: "Oddballs and an occasional strike"; Stempien: "Philatelic history of Memel"; Alton: "AMGs—what are they?"

April 1979: Stone: "On the designing of the French colonial pictorials."

Indo-China Philatelist (CC, APRL)

#34, March 1979: Schwirtz: "Do you know Pelei-Agua?"; Stone: "Lozange obliterations of French colonies"; "Propaganda labels of SE Asia"; Kerr: "Laos, the Indian Field P.O."; Ahler: "Mystery (Cambodia 1972)"; Desrousseaux: "Viet Nam and Laos military covers."

#35, May: Kerr: "Laos army postal system"; Wade: "Revenues of Indo-China area and Annam 1890."

Ice Cap News (CC, APRL)

#133, Jan.-Feb. 1979: Lajugie: "Response to TAAF criticism"; Lajugie: "TAAF—polar philately exhibit at Sucy-en-Brie"; Shelton: "A visit to Expéditions Polaires Françaises (Hdqtrs in Paris)."

Postscript (CC)

#137, Jan.-March 1979/1: Roche: "Andorre-Postes, Correos Andorra."

La Philatélie au Québec (CC)

March 1979: Nolet, cont.; Podevin: "La musée de la poste à Amboise, Indre et Loire, France" (begin).

April 1979: Podevin (cont.)

May 1979: Nolet (cont.); Podevin (cont.)

Philatelic Magazine (CC, APRL)

#87/2, Nov. 1978: Harris: "The Armistice Car of 11 Nov. 1918."

Balasse Magazine (CC)

#239, Sept. 1978: Grasset: "Les timbres du Royaume de Sedang."

Bulletin de la Société Philatélique E. A.

Sept. 1978: "Emission de Tizi-Ouzou et Tlemcen" (cont.); "Repertoire des Bureau Algérienne en service en 1962" (cont.)

#3, Jan. 1979: "Le Tirage de Setif d'Algérie surchargé E.A." (cont.); Bosc: "Le second tirage de Tlemcen."

Bulletin de l'Association des Collectionneurs des Timbres de la Libération

#43, Oct. 1978: Duvergey: "Emissions de Collonges-Fort l'Ecluse"; Brives: (cont.); Duvergey: "AEF" (cont.); Bouttes: "Censures recherchés."

#44, Jan. 1979: Brives: "L'émission de Marseille les cinq avenues"; Brives: "La surcharge Brest—R F sur 1.50 Petain: Duvergey: "La France Libre l'A.E.F.—poste aérienne."

Bulletin de l'Amicale Philatélique de l'Ancre à Nantes

#13, Jan. 1979: Porcher: "Les marques postales de Nantes" (end); Seguy: "Histoire postale et philatélique de la Saare."

Bulletin du Groupement Philatélique des Pyrénées

#8, Feb. 1979: "Le Maréchal Bercheny à Tarbes"; "L'Organisation d'un Bureau de Poste sous l'Ancien Régime"; "Variétés des Sabines."

Bulletin de Liaison de la SATA (CC)

#36, June 1979: Maisonneuve: "Info concernant le Victor Schoelcher cachets"; "Calendrier de navire Marion Dufresne 1979"; "Campagne Scientifique a bord Marion Dufresne 1979"; "Tableaux sur traffic

postal bases TAAF 1979."

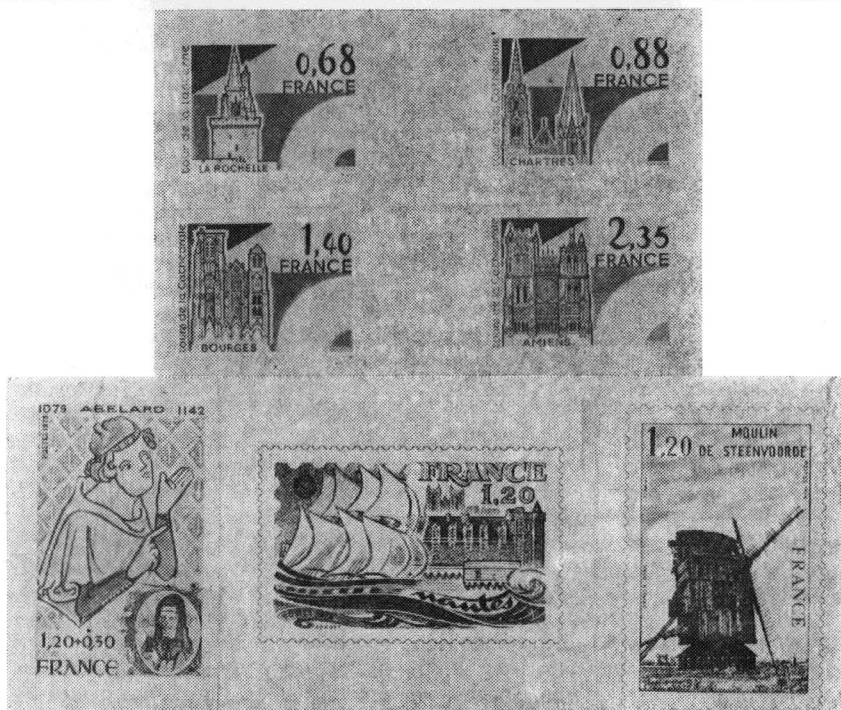
Posthorn (CC, APRIL, SI)

May 1979; Jones: "Mail from Norway to France" (end).

Newsletter of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society (of GB) (CC)

#31, March 1979: Coles and Barker: "A study of the 5Fr Merson of 1900-29" (cont.); Spong: "The Fournier forgeries of the Allegorical Group Type"; Dudley: "Ultraviolet light and stamps"; Newbury: "The BBC2 Series on the Post—report on making Program #7 on air-mails"; Society Meeting 31/1/79—"B. M. Mendelsohn on Indo-China."

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS



◆ The Andorre "Europas" appeared on 28 April. The 1.40 Abbaye de St. Germain des Prés on 21 April; 1.20 Nantes on 5 May; 1.20 Moulin de Steenvoorde and 1.20+0.30 Léon Jouhaux on 12 May; 1.00 Palais Royal and 1.20 Election de l'Assemblée des Communautés Européens on 19 May; 1.20+0.30 Pierre Abélard and 1.70 Salon Intern. de l'Aéronautique de l'Espace on 9 June; 1.00 Abbayes normandes on 16 June; 1.80 Felix Guyon (outside planned program) and 1.20+0.30 Georges Courtéline on 23 June; 2.00 Andorre Pin-turn Pre-Romantic on 2 June; 1.00 Auray on 30 June; 1.50 Grotte de Niaux on 9 July, and 1.70 Andorre Any Intern. de l'Infant 7 July.

On 13 Aug. the 4 new precancels in the Historic Monuments types will be issued: 0.68 Tour de la Lanterne à la Rochelle, 0.88 Tours de la Cathédrale de Chartres, 1.40 Tours de la Cathédrale Bourges, and 2.25 Tours de la Ca-



thédrale d'Amiens. On 24 Sept. will appear the 2,00F Diane au Bain-chateau d'Ecouen (art series), and Télécom 79. (A proposed stamp of a work of Pissarro will not come out until 1981.)

◆ Several new issues outside the program announced last November will appear in the last half of 1979: Chateau de Maisons Lafitte, Téléposte, Métiers d'art, Championnats du Monde de Judo, and Van Gogh's "L'Eglia d'Auvers."

◆ The new stamp of scene of Auray (due 30 June) has some collateral interest for Americans. It was at Auray that Benjamin Franklin debarked on 4 Dec. 1776 on a trip to solicit the help of France in the war against Great Britain. Also about that time Commander John Paul Jones was welcomed there when forced to seek refuge from the British. On that occasion the starred banner of the 13 U. S. colonies was displayed for the first time in Europe.

◆ A new French aérogramme in the Concorde design for 1.90F rate was issued on 24 October 1978. The Concorde-type aérogramme was also issued in 1978 in 50F CFA denomination for use in Reunion (now obsolete).

◆ Member Robert J. Seeke garnered a silver award at FOPEX (Albany, N. Y. May 11-13) for an exhibit of odds and ends of France—it was his first try at competition. Must have been some good stuff in it.

◆ Ray Gaillaguet in same May week-end won a gold at ROMPEX and ran off with the Grand Award, a Gold, and Best Research Award for his Cameo, Sowers at the Boston Show. Now that is really something.

◆ New members elected to the Académie de Philatélie in May were: Lucien Bridelance, Charles Bridoux, Georges Laveau, Arnaud de la Mettrie (FCPS member), Georges Rykner, and Jean-Paul Shraeder.

◆ Our member Joseph Schatzkes was nominated recently to the grade of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. He is also the President of the Conseil to the Musée Postal.

◆ The printery at Perigueux has implemented a new press that prints the covers of booklets in a continuous strip, according to B. Mignon. The Sabine 1.20F booklets of 10 covers have in the past had a small index number, from 1 to 8, on the "Code Postal" page, but the new ones have #9 (and other small differences); the first printings of these appeared in July 1978.

◆ When the tarif on the basic (ordinary) letter went up to 1.20F on 15 May 1978, it was 3 weeks later (5 June) before a 1.20F stamp became available.

Meanwhile all sorts of combinations of stamps had to be used to make up the 1.20 franking. One specialist reports that he has found as many as 50 different combinations (Bequets, Sabines, blasons, commems, etc.).

◆ Sabine postal cards of 0,80 and 1F printed on the TD-3 and TD-6 presses are from plates of 12 images on a single cylinder (2 rows of 6)—each image is sideways on the plate. Each turn of a cylinder prints 3 sheets of 4 cards each, which are then cut up in two directions. R. Altérier reports that there are small variations between each cliché on a cylinder and thus one can collect 12 varieties.

◆ P. Marion has started the publication in *Le Monde* (May) of a study of the 0,20 Saint-Lo stamp. This stamp is interesting and complicated by the fact the first printings were done in Paris by a private firm, and later by the printery at Périgueux using the firm's cylinders; still later, the printery began to make its own cylinders for the St. Lo's, from 1972 on. Marion shows how to identify these various printings.

◆ If you are collecting Sabines beyond the basic types in singles you should be aware that some of the scarcer varieties are bringing rather high prices already; we see ads from dealers with offers such as: booklets of 20 of 0,80 green tropical gum at 260 to 280 francs, booklets of 10 of 1Fr red tropical gum at 160Fr and booklet of 20 1F red tr. g. at 360F, coil strip of 11 of 0,80 green with two bars for 600fr; bottoms of sheets of 20 with coin datés and no. of machine, and 3 coils sheets (60 stamps) with nos. at left, trop. gum: of 0,80 green and 1F red with bars for 975Fr each, of 0,80 green w/o bar at 300fr, and 1F red w/o bar at 975F.

◆ In reply to complaints that stamps which failed to receive a postmark on departure are being cancelled by pen by the P. O. of destination, the PTT refers to the Arts. 222 of Fasc. IV and 11 of Fasc. VI of the "Instruction Generale des Postes" which prescribe that in such cases the PO of transit or destination should cancel the stamps with a horizontal griffe or pen mark. We have seen a number of examples of the horizontal cachets of the sorting offices in the major gares cancelling stamps on covers or cards, mailed from other places.

◆ In early May there were rumors of cornering of the supply of the new Andorre Europa issue, because the philatelic windows had quickly run out of stock. This led to a panic and some dealers were selling at very inflated prices. However, the philatelic windows were soon re-supplied (—the size of the printing was normal but the PTT had misjudged the philatelic demand).

◆ The Phil-Andorre specialist society has issued a warning to Andorra collectors that a small number of souvenir sheets of the 50eme Anniv. of the Spanish Post in Andorre have been faked. In these blocks the white coat of the facteur illustrated on the 10 peseta stamp "Distribution du Courier," has been tinted in rose by some artificial means. These blocks are being offered on the Madrid market at astronomical prices. Such fakes have also been made of single stamps and on covers. The Phil-Andorre also reports that the private Andorra airmail labels of "Correu Aeri-Sobretaxa" of 1932 overprinted MUESTRA or Franquicia des Consell are fakes.

◆ The Scott Publ. Co. has reissued their specialized stamp album for France (thru 1978) which sells for \$36.95 plus 10% for postage; the Supplementary pages for 1978 are available at \$2.25. Monaco and French Andorra are in a separate album (\$37.95). The French Colonies album is not currently available, but Supplements for 1976 and 1977 are.

◆ The grand opening of the new SIRCA system automatic sorting center at Strasbourg-Schiltigheim was announced by the PTT in February. This "Système d'Indexation par Reconnaissance et Codage d'Adresse" is said to be unique and the most advanced in the World. It permits the indexing in a single pass all the mail that is mecanizable, whether printed or typed addressed, or manually at video-coding booths for other correspondence. The indexing consists of marks in short-line strokes that translate the Postal Code so that they can be read by the sorting machines.

◆ In a recent Communiqué from the Service Philatélique des PTT are given "explanations" of a number of matters on which philatelists have had questions or criticized the PTT:

1) On the phosphor bars—one or two bars are printed on the current regular issues for letters or non-urgent matter. Thus the Sabines in the lower denominations than the letter rate (except the .01, .02, and .05) have only one bar, and those for the letter rate and higher have 2 bars. The large format stamps generally have face equal to or above the letter rate (but not barred). The green-colored stamp with one bar is for franking non-urgent pieces (such as postal cards), and the red stamp being for letters has two bars. Thus when the postage rates were changed the colors of some denominations and their bars were also changed. The most-used stamps for letters and non-urgent mail, are consumed at a rate of 250 million a month and could not be retired from sale immediately when the rates changed, and were continued on sale until used up (several months); as a result stamps of different color and bars were available concurrently for the same denomination.

2) There are two kinds of gum used—the "vegetable gum" and the "tropical synthetic gum." The former is applied on stamps for sale in metropolitan France, except the coils. To avoid effects due to the humid climates the large format stamps sent to Overseas Departments have had wax paper interleaves between the sheets. But on the Sabines (and some other recent regular issues) intended for the Overseas Depts. (sheets, booklets, and coils) a so-called tropical gum of hydrosoluble polyvinyl in an alcohol base has served to reduce the tendency for sheets or stamps to stick together. This tropical gum has a dull finish compared to the brilliant vegetable gum. The PTT says it will not in the future Notices of new issues mention which kind of gum is used as it considers it a technical matter of only internal concern to the administration. Studies are underway to develop a single gum that will serve for all purposes. But the Service Philatélique and philatelic windows at present can supply separately the stamps with tropical gum.

3) The denominations of the current regular issues—the Sabines—are supposed to cover all the values for franking the commoner rates; the public demand is mainly for:

first 3 steps of letter frankings for interior of France—1.20, 2.10, 2.90.

first 3 steps of frankings for non-urgent pieces—1.00, 1.40, 1.80.

first 3 steps of franking for package post, general or inter-Departmental—1.80, 3.50, and 5.00, and for urgent 2.90, 5.80, 7.20.

the first steps for international letter mail—1.20, 1.50, 1.70, 2.90, 3.00, 4.00

the franking for journals—0.30/100gr.

the franking for small parcels in internal mail—1.80, 3.00, 5.50.

The "special" (large format, precancels, booklets, coils, entires) stamps have denominations for one or other of the above rates.

4) There is criticism of the increasing tendency at postoffices to use franking machines in lieu of stamps; the PTT replies that in the 18,000 POs

there are 50,000 stamp windows, but the number of franking machines is only about 4000.

5) In 1978 the stamp printery at Perigueux made 3,729,890,560 stamps in sheet form for France and Andorre, 65,571,446 booklets, 33,570 coils, and 83,348,629 stamps for other administrations (including 38,000,000 for Overseas Territories).

6) In spite of the desire and efforts of the PTT to put out products of rigorously uniform character and quality, there are factors which make it difficult to achieve absolute constancy. E.g.: the papers made to rigid specifications in the contracts nevertheless differ according to the maker in grain, color and substance, and sometimes even vary from bobin to bobin; the inks suffer the same problem; the stamps of a given type or issue may be printed on different machines (3-color, 6-color, or RGR presses). But the PTT does not have the means to study and specify all these variations and cannot reply to questions about them.

◆ Georges Laveau has been named the Conservateur of the Musée Postal. He is an Inspecteur des Postes in the civil service and has been responsible for the various special exhibitions of the Musée in the last several years.

◆ The original maquette by Andreotto for the 1978 Otarie stamp of TAAF has been reproduced by gravure hand print in colors (950 copies) signed by the artist, with the Otarie stamp mounted on it and cancelled with Kerguelen postmark in 1979. These prints have been sold by subscription at 90F by the TAAF office in Paris, 27 rue Oudinot. There were also 25 artist's proofs on a special paper. We do not know if any more copies of the print are still available (payment by check to the Trésor Public).

◆ It gives us pleasure once again to call your attention to the outstanding quarterly journal "Les Feuilles Marcophiles," the organ of the Union Marcophile, devoted to postal markings of all kinds and countries and to postal history. Always since its beginning in the 1950s, full of valuable studies, several years ago they began de luxe printing on coated paper with excellent reproductions. Each issue runs to 40 pp or more. We have never known a philatelic journal of this type for which its readers all seem to have the greatest enthusiasm. If you are interested in French postmarks and postal history it is one journal you shouldn't miss. The contents are listed in our Current Journal Articles section. In addition the U.M. publishes a mini-journal called "F. M. Informations" which carries short pieces and notes. You can join U.M. and get both journals for 80F a year or subscribe to F.M. at 55F. Write Lucien Bridelance, 19 Ave. Chatelet, Lesigny, F77330-Ozoir-la-Ferrière.

◆ The Union Marcophile in connection with its annual meeting this year at Mulhouse, in April, held an exhibition of postal markings and postal history, "Marcophilex VI." A set of souvenirs and a catalog of the expo were sold at 5F an item, including: a cacheted cover with view of Old Mulhouse, a postal card designed by stamp-engraver Lacaque and a cacheted postal card (répiqué) with a wood engraving of a 15th Cent. messenger. The deluxe catalog contains a study of the "Armée du Rhin" by Léon Dubus. Some of these may still be available—write Gilbert Riegert, rue de la Minotérie, F98100-Mulhouse.

◆ Comments last year in Philatélie, indicate that the 80c lined Sower is a very scarce stamp in well-centered condition and with coin daté; much under-cataloged because of limited demand.

◆ The V.O. #334 of the Roumet firm in Feb. had many exceptional ballon montés covers which brought astounding prices, 3 or 4 times catalog. A Neptune brought 10,510F, a card with griffe "Trouvé à la Courneuve" 7,110F; a Montgolfier plis confié with stamp cancelled by a Garde Mobile-Le Colonel cachet 23,510F; a Jules Favre with Aéroliers cachet 15,016F; a General Chanzy Gazette des Absents #17 with German censor mark 19,365F; a Gazette #28 cancelled "GP2" and Paris/Givet 23 Janv. 25,542F.

◆ The journal of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Frankreich e.V. im Bund Deut. Phil. which has heretofore been called their "Briefe" has been renamed "Postillon" starting Sept. 1978. The Arbeitsgemeinschaft is holding a "Franco-Phila '79" Expo Sept. 21-23 in Munich (Inst. Francaise de München, Kaulbachstr. 13), in celebration of its 25th Anniversary. The French Académie d'Histoire Postale will hold a meeting at the show. For info write Alfred Busotti, Zuer Deutschen Einheit 8000 Muenchen 81, Fed. Rep. Germany.

◆ At SCOPEX (State College, Pa.) on April 28-9 there was a complete and very neat exhibit of the French experimental postal cards of M. Picard, which didn't win a very high award apparently because it strictly followed the catalog.

◆ At NAPEX in Washington May 4-6, your editor managed to squeeze out a Silver for his French Oceania Postal History; there were some very fine French maritimes from Haiti, of Wallace Dean III, and some maritimes from Puerto Rico in Gandara's exhibit, and French and Indochinese offices in China covers of Ellery Denison.

◆ Don't forget RIPEX XIV, will be held at Warwick Hall, 100 Warwick Mall, Providence, Sept. 29-30. For entry forms write John Perrino, Box 563, Pawtucket, R. I. 02862. Frames are \$2.

◆ On 1 June the PTT announced that such stamps of St. Pierre et Miquelon as were still in stock in SPM POs will be retired from sale as of 15 Sept. 1979. The Agence in Paris no longer has any SPM stamps, so from Sept. on one will have to depend entirely on dealers. This announcement may cause a rush on the SPM POs so that there may not be many stamps left by Sept. 15. SPM stamps will probably continue to be valid for postage, at least for the time being.

◆ The PTT has just announced a preliminary version of the Stamp Program subjects for 1980 (final Program is always announced in November):

Stamps with surtax:— Journée du Timbre "La lettre à Mérie d'Avati" (first of a new series on the letter in Art); Red Cross—two sculptures of stalls in the Cathédrale d'Amiens; Celebrated persons: Frederic Mistral, Eugène Viollet-le-Duc, Jean Monnet.

Stamps without surtax:

Art series: Works of Hartnung, Picart De Doux, LeNain, Dürer, Modigliani, Zadkine, Lebac (for promotion on the 1982 Intern. Phil. Expo Paris).

Europa: CEPT theme: Saint Benoit, Aristide Briand.

Touristic series: Cathédrale du Puy (Hte Loire), Cordes (Tarn), Montauban (Tarn-et-Garonne).

Commemoratives and Diverse: 40e Anniv. de l'Appel du 18 Juin et Xe Anniv. de la Mort de Gen. deGaulle, Jeux Olympiques de Moscou, 25e Anniv. de Eurovision, Année du Patrimoine Culturel, Congrès de FSPF Dunkerque, Les Géants du Nord, Métier d'Art.

Nature series: Papillon "Graellzia Isabellae."

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND CATALOGS

- "Timbres Ferroviaires Francaises et Colis Postaux: Nomenclature Tariffaire des Entiers Postaux et des Timbres." By C. Gavault, 1979, 76pp. Price 26.75F+1.80F. Le Monde Etude #227. Le Monde, 11bis Blvd Haussmann, F75009-Paris (listing and discussion of parcels post issues, by an authority on them).
- "Les Timbres Perforés." By Col. Lebland. 20 pp., 1978, 14.65+1.80F. Le Monde Etude #226. (See above.) (The 12th to 15th lists of perfins he has cataloged.)
- "La Poste dans Les Anciennes Colonies," Tome II. 1978, 36 pp. 18.95+1.80F. Le Monde Etude #225. (See above.) (Contains Lebland: "Les timbres au type Groupe" and Wirth: "Saint Domingue.")
- "France Oblitérations 1849-76." By J. Pothion. 1978, new edition. 100 pp. 55Fr postpaid. La Poste aux Lettres, 17 faubg. Montmartre, F75009-Paris (new revised edition with rarity indices instead of prices).
- "Catalogue de la Carte Postale F.M.—Guerre 1939-1945." 3rd ed., 1979, 71pp. Price?. Le Club le Meilleur, B. P. 21, F77350-Le Mée sur Seine.
- "Censures des Camps de Prisonniers de Guerre Francais en Allemagne 1914-18." 1979, 278 pp. Price? Le Club le Meilleur (see above.)
- "Catalogue des Enveloppes Premier Jour—Edition 1979." 244 pp. 30Fr. Editions J. Farcigny, 39 rue d'Estienne-d'Orves, F92400-Courbevoie (priced cat. of FDCs of France, colonies, Territories, Monaco, Saar, Fr. community republics, Red Cross, issued by this firm).
- "Catalogue Borek 1979-80: France, Andorre, Monaco, Polynesia, Reunion." 1979, 208 pp. 9DM+postage. Richard Borek, Breitstr. 25/26, Postfach 3220 Braunschweig, Fed. Rep. of Germany.
- "Timbres de Guerre 1914-1918." 38 pp. Xerox reprint, 1979, of an out-of-print catalog listing. For sale by Theo Van Dam at \$8.50, P. O. Box 26, Brewster, N. Y. 10509 (list various patriotic wartime seals and labels of the Allies).
- "La Côte des Coins Datés et Des Millésimes." Edition 1978-79. 86 pp. Price? By M. Moriquand, 5 rue du Cdt.-Guilbaud, F75016-Paris (annual price list issued under auspices of SOCOCODAMI).
- "Les Jeux Olympiques Par le Timbre Poste." By P. L. Millet. 1978. 36 pp. Editions du Chat Perché-Flammarion. 26Fr. (order from French book dealers).
- "Forged Pre-Adhesive Postmarks of Old Italian States, Especially the Territory of Venice." By Paolo Vollmeier. Transl. by E. M. Cohn. 1979, 56 pp. Price? Special Publ. of the Postal History Society, P. O. Box 20, Bay-side, N. Y. 11361 (includes marks of the period of French occupation of Venice 1797-1807).
- "La Poste à la Belle Epoque." By R. A. Blanchon and J. Feyrin. 1979. 144 pp. 59Fr+7.85 postage. Comité d'Entraide des PTT de la Ligne Ouest. Cédex 85, F75300-Paris Brune (deluxe album of reproductions of post cards of the Belle Epoch—fin de siècle—early 1900s—showing the posts, postal personnel, its functioning, the POs, etc.—issued for the benefit of PTT employees on occasion of the 1979 Journée du Timbre).
- "A Combined Display by Members of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society to the Royal Philatelic Society, London, 15 March 1979." FCPS, 1979, 10 pp. (list and descr. of collections exhibited).

- "Oblitérations des Bureaux Temporaires et Premiers Jours: France, Andorre, Territoires de Outre-Mer et Pays d'Expression Francaises, 1978." 56pp. 1979, *Le Monde Etude* #228, 21.05 Fr post paid (see above).
- "Les Timbres Francaises de 1978." 1979, *Le Monde Etude* #229. 19.25+1.80 post. (see above).
- "Supplement 1978 au Catalogue des Oblitérations Mécaniques." 1979, *Le Monde Etude* #230. 12.85+1.80 post. (See above).
- "Flammes Mécaniques et Oblitérations Temporaires de Monaco." By J. Guiraud-Darmais. *Le Monde Etude* #231 (see above). (Update of *Le Monde Etude* #127).
- "Cérès France—1980." 38th Ed. of annual catalog, pubd. July 1979. 2 Vols., sold separately: "Vol. I. France Complet" 36 Fr+7.50 post. (all illustr. in colors), "Vol. II, Colonies Francaises, Andorre, Monaco, Sarre, Terr. d'Outre-Mer." 13Fr+5F post. (illustr. in black and white only). The two vols. together sold at 53Fr post paid. Editions Cérès, 23-25 rue du Louvre, F75041-Paris Cédex 01.
- "Les Cachets Courriers-Convoyeurs-Lignes 1872-1966." Ed. 1979. By J. Pothion. 88 pp. 1979, 55Fr post paid (see above).
- "Nomenclature des Bureaux de Postes Francaises 1852-76." Ed. 1979. 108 pp. 1979. By J. Pothion. 55Fr post paid (see above).
- "Côte des Entiers Postaux de France et des Pays d'Expression Francaises 1979." 1979, 25Fr post pd. A.C.E.P., M. Gobillot, 7 rue Marcélin-Berthélot, F93300-Aubervilliers (new price list to the ACEP cat. of 1974).
- "Prix Courant 1979 des Enveloppes Illustrées Historiques Editions P.J.," 1979 ed. 132 pp. Empire Philatélique, 48 Galerie Montpensier, F7500-1 Paris (RDCs pubd. by this firm for France, cols., French community, priced).
- "Catalogue Spécialisé des Timbres Anciens d'Europe." By P. Macoveanu. Nov. 1979 352 pp., Illustr. Subscr. price up to 30 June 130Fr+15F postage. The author, 29 rue de Fontenay, F92320-Chatillon (priced cat. of classic stamps, 19th cent. Europe, specialized by pairs, strips, varieties, postal forgeries, official reprints, cancels, covers; data on printings, multi-lingual glossary).
- "La Philatélie." By Thierry Wirth. 1979, 224 pp. Librairie Hachette, Paris. Price? (By the editor of *Le Philatéliste Universelle*; a general guide to collecting).
- "Au Temps des Malles Poste et des Diligences." By Paul Charbon. 1979, 216 pp. 240 illustr., some in color. 125Fr+post. Editions des Amis de l'Histoire des PTT d'Alsace, B. P. 153 R 4, F67004-Strasbourg Cédex. (Early orders will be sold for 11Fr post paid. Deals with the life of the highways and the diligences over 250 years, many original illustr., paintings, sketches, postcards; the wagons and mails.)
- "La Poste dans le Rhone et La Loire des Origines à 1876." By L. Dubus, 2nd ed. revised and augmented by Dr. A. Camboulives. Subscr. price 75 Fr. post paid. From Dr. A. Camboulives, 17 rue Colin, F34000-Montpellier. CCP 2 287.61 Z Montpellier. (Includes all the discoveries by the students of Lyon collectors group; covers the Petit Poste, boîtes rurales, franchises; priced by indexes analagous to those in Lenain and Pothion.)

THE "COLLECTION C . . ." SALE OF BALLONS

In response to our editor's request, here is a brief aperçu of the 36-pp., 255-lot (one number was skipped) catalogue, issued by J.-P. and J.-R. Rob-

ineau for the sale, by public auction, of a small portion of the collection of the deceased M. "C," which took place on 30 May 1979, starting at exactly 1400 hours in hall No. 6 of the Hôtel Drouot-Rive Gauche, the real Hôtel Drouot still being rebuilt on the other side of the seine.

Mon. "C" (Courtois) has not had, to my knowledge, an obituary in the French philatelic press. He many never get one, which is a pity. For, though he was not liked by his peers, he must have been an interesting person. He wrote two brief items in *l'Echo de la Timbrologie*, Nos. 1221 (1955) and 1226 (1956), where he used the famous *Aérostiers* and *Aéronautes* markings—on mail personally entrusted to balloonists of the firm Dartois & Yon, which built about half of the new siege balloons in 1870/71—as tracers for distinguishing and characterizing mail not so marked. Though his method may have been used before he wrote about it and certainly was re-discovered afterwards, this is the first time it appears in print. It is entirely sound. He was never given credit for it. And that is the only time he apparently ventured into print. M. "C" never exhibited. M. "C" never let anyone look at his treasures, as far as I know. M. "C" is said to have owned some 4,000 covers of the 1870 war. The catalogue must, therefore, contain the *crème de la crème* of his collection.

My friend R. R. Thompson and his trusty calculator came up with roughly a quarter million dollars worth of estimate for the total. The prices realized were about double that.

Among those noted in attendance were a German collector and a Gibbons representative, the latter bidding on a large number of lots for an unknown client, who was concentrating on the choicest items. He is said to have obtained about half the lots he wanted and to be well pleased. Among other items, he seems to have concentrated on the red "PARIS SC" postmark, which occurs on about 3% of siege mail, the same percentage as for covers personally given to balloonists.

Lot 1 is one of these rare "Neptune" covers, flown on the first siege mail balloon, of which very few are known. It sold for FFr 27K (in what follows K=1,000 francs), despite the fact that some clown had scribbled "par Ballon monté" on it. That's like the Roman coin dated "27 B.C.": The balloon decree with that phrase wasn't published until the 27th, four days after the "Neptune" had taken off on 23 September.

Looking at the remainder from a crass monetary point of view, lot 25 with Russian arrival mark sold for 25.2K, lot 26 via "Armand-Barbès" with red *Aérostiers* and the Magny cds 22K, lot 48 also *Aérostiers* plus Basel Bad. Bahnhof 20K, lot 69 "Montgolfier" carried by Col. LeBouëdec 20.5K, lot 93 *Moniteur Aérien* second issue via "Fulton" 25K, lot 96 to Monaco 20K, lot 111 small *Gaulois* newspaper with army postmark 25K, lot 124 "General Uhrich" with blue *Aéronautes* 24K, lot 125 large *Gaulois* via "Uhrich" plus exceptional red *Aéronautes* 40K, lot 127 to Manila 23.5K, lot 138 *Montgolfier* newspaper to family by that name 30K, lot 157 "Jacquard" from Bryher Island with red Boulogne transit 21K, lot 226 large colored Paris map flown to Edinburgh 40K, lot 241 *Ballon Poste* paper to Monaco 30K, lot 250 papillon de Metz taken into besieged Paris by Schmi(t)t of U. S. Legation 30K, and lot 256 zinc ball letter with Quillebeuf arrival of 26 March 1871 33K. At time of sale, FFr 1=\$0.225. However, to that must be added an extra commission, ranging from 16% down to 10% depending on the price of the lot, plus incidental costs.

The sale was particularly rich in personally-entrusted (plis confiés) letters, the kind that were not mailed within Paris, hence show no Paris post-

marks, but were mailed by the balloonists outside, near place of landing or in a larger town, including Tours and later Bordeaux, where many had to report to the French Government Delegation.

There was the normal number of misdescriptions, mainly wrong characterization by balloon. E.g., lot 20 is not a "Céleste," the "Bretagne" continues to be misnamed "Normandie," lot 141 is not a "Ville d'Orléans" but a clear "Jules Favre II," lots 147, 149 and 150 are all "Jacquards." These errors are unlikely to have affected prices, however.

Among surprises were: lot 48 from reporter Seinguerlet (whose letters to the *Frankfurter Zeitung* and the *Neue freie Presse* are perhaps overpriced and -priced) to his mother at their own home in Heidelberg—bought for FFr 2505 in 1969, incidentally; two highly unusual lots 122 and 214 of red "PARIS SC"s without any stamps; lot 117 by Félix Lacoïn, brother of the inventor of the 4-question reply scheme for the pigeon post.

There were many other rarities, even if not as highly priced as those cited. Only one lot, 190, went unsold, a *Gazette* No. 16 via "Parmentier" and franked with a 20c Napoleon imperforated, cancelled with the red SC.

When will the other 3750 lots come on the market?

—Ernst M. Cohn, AP(corr), AEP.

ADDENDUM TO DEALER MEMBER SPECIALTIES

Two dealer members who failed to reply to the questionnaire as to the specialty material they offer (see April FCP, pp. 31-32), have asked to be mentioned also:—

Fritz Billig, 168-39 Highland, Jamaica, N. Y. 11432, has a large stock of France and colonies including varieties and cancellations, special lists available on France B nos. and on Syria.

Vivien Pietro, who trades under the name L. F. Livingston Co., 716 York Rd., Towson, Md. 21204, carries a general stock including France and colonies stamps and covers.

F. & C. P. S. OFFICIAL

Notices

At the 1 May meeting the election of officers for 1979-80 was held; the present officers were re-elected: President—Ira Seebacher, Vice Pres.—Peter Blank, Treasurer—Beatrice Berner, Recording Secretary—Don Shannon, Corresponding Secretary—Walter Parshall. Eric Spiegel and Ira Zweifach were re-elected to three-year terms on the Board.

The banquet on 19 May was attended by 35; the auction netted \$95. In addition the late Charlie Meyer's philatelic literature was auctioned, for benefit of his estate.

At the May Board meeting it was voted to invite Martin Stempien as an honor guest to the banquet in recognition of his many contributions to the Society; Pres. Seebacher reappointed John Lievsay as FCPS representative to APS, and R. G. Stone as Editor.

The tape/slide show of Gailaguet's "Birth of the Third Republic" exhibit has been completed and it is now available for loan from our Secretary Parshall; a copy also was released to APS. Has 130 slides, 40 minutes.

The Luft handbook II has been entered in the literature competition at the APS show in Boston in August; the Philatelist is being entered in the London International show 1980.

Two books have been purchased and deposited in the Collectors Club library: "Catalogue des Oblitérations Militaires Francaises 1939-1945" by Bertrand Sinais, and "Les Oblitérations Militaires Francaises 1914-1918," by B. Sinais (these are priced illustrated catalogs with documentation).

Meeting of 3 April

President Seebacher opened the meeting. The Corresponding Secretary reported 19 new members; the last assigned #1912.

H. Allen Smith, author of "Life in a Putty-Knife Factory," "Low Man on a Totem Pole" and "Lost in the Horse Latitudes," was, back in the late forties, one of my favorites, and somewhere in one of those epics he devoted considerable space to a breezy character named Jim Moran. The reason why Jim Moran's "footprints in the sands of time" were thus Graumanized by Smith was that up until that time he—Moran—was the only person known to have sold an ice-box to an eskimo. Smith would have loved Mel Garabrant. He came to sell topical collecting to a group consisting largely of classicists and postal-historians, and once the foot was in the door there was no holding him. Out of his sample-case came seven frames of topical pages, a couple of cover albums and an assortment of stock books, all containing what the agency people refer to as "visual stimuli"; eye-catching covers and stamps to reinforce his verbal message.

Basically, his message (titled "Collecting Modern France") is that the modern French postal emissions are ideally suited for the formation of first-class topical collections, and the wealth of issues devoted to historical personages, artists, and intellectuals of every stripe, coupled with the limited-edition imperforate varieties and de-luxe proofs, are right up a topical collector's album. He delivered the pitch with conviction, and enthusiasm, and it is obvious that with Mel stamps are more a passion than a pastime.

If one of the larger societies ever undertakes a cloning project to ensure stamp collectors for the future, they would do well to get to Mel early on.

The topical collectors in the audience of course needed no selling, but some who had been toying with the idea may have been moved to action by Mel's presentation and double-your-money-back guarantee. The rest of the eskimo's present may not have bought Mel's ice-box, but probably enjoyed rubbing noses with him just the same.—Don Shannon

The diversity of modern material, particularly with the introduction of multi-color presses since the war, has led to an increased appreciation of France because of the unusual items which appeal to both the traditional and topical collector. Trial colors, die proofs, artists' proofs, and maximum cards are just some examples of premium items which can enhance a collection, and which are available from the issues of France more readily than from many other modern issues. Four frames of French Europa, and two frames of maximum cards were on display to prove the point. The growing popularity of this material for topical collectors has compounded the competition for traditional collectors, as there is a growing awareness of the desirability of unusual items and varieties. Coils, booklets, souvenir sheets, and first-day covers were shown as examples of items already recognized for both specialized study and investment purposes. With the current pace of new issues and rate changes, even local rate covers for many denominations are graduating from the shoebox class.—J.E.L.

Meeting of 1 May

Corresponding Secretary Parshall reported four new members, the last assigned #1916. Treasurer Beatrice Berner was on hand to read her annual report to the assembled members, including a new one, Vicki Nugent, attending her first meeting.

A minute of silence was observed following the sad announcement of the passing of long-time member Charles Meyer.

What do you do with a grizzly bear that talks? Right . . . you listen. And when Lou Robbins talks you listen also; not because there is anything grizzly about him—he is in fact rather urbane—though he is somewhat bearish on stamps as an investment, which was the subject of his talk on “Stamp Market Madness.” Rather, you listen because of his almost 50-year involvement in one phase or another of the stamp business. He has been an observer—or more correctly, a part—of the stamp market through boom and bust, war and peace, and more war, depression, recession, and inflation. He has, in short, seen it all. And in all that time he has seen very few stamps, he tells us, that appreciated enough to be considered sound investments for their owners. The reason for this, he says, despite his own long-time involvement, is primarily the dealer. When stamps are bought it is from a dealer, or through an auctioneer, who makes a profit, and when they are sold it is again to a dealer, or through an auctioneer, who again takes his cut. So the dealers, literally, get you coming and going. Mr. Robbins is no frontman for the middleman.

Turning toward the future he sees no hope at all for the would-be investor with little or no philatelic knowledge, who is ignorant of or indifferent to condition, or who loads up on the current heavily advertised “hot one.” Still, there are good stamp investments possible. Sound classic items in limited supply, in faultless condition, from a philatelically popular area, that can be purchased at a non-inflated price should, he says, do pretty well. I’m afraid I wasn’t listening when he told us where to get them.—Don Shannon

Lou thinks that this “madness” is a disease of middle age and not the repression of primordial visions of childhood—stamp collecting having obtained some kind of social acceptance about the time that the public decided it was one of the few activities of FDR subject for discussion in polite conversation. The first signs of disorder were noted about ten years ago when the hobby began to be recognized as an investment football—an increasing number of collectors, a limited supply, and a steady 5-7% trimming of the buying power of the dollar all cited as economic considerations.

Noting these symptoms, Lou was not surprised by prices increasing 100% in ten years for standard-to-superior quality. Fivefold, however seems to suggest that buyers are indifferent to (or ignorant of) quality, and some indiscriminate purchasers at current levels will be dismayed when they discover the spread between bid and ask when they go to sell.

A side effect, inflation’s push on the cost of doing business, is seen in the 40-60% realizations for country collections that not too many years back routinely sold at 1/10th catalogue. While serious collectors (which he rates as ones willing to spend enough to influence prices, perhaps \$1000/year) are still able to find some material of specialized interest, many have been driven from the market for standard items because of this uninformed speculation. The extra premium for “never-hinged” was mentioned as another manifestation.

Prescription: knowledge makes stamp collections. Prognosis: straight-

jackets may be required unless there is a remission before terminal illness.
—J. E. Lievsay

Meeting of 5 June

Eric Spiegel and Marc Martin combined efforts with selected pages of their "accumulated" imperforate Empire material, showing a total of nine frames of the issue covering a wide range of specialization. From the approximate total of 1.3 billion printed, Eric tackled the 20 centimes blue value with four frames of the type I and one of type II. On cover and with selected singles, proofs, and multiples he demonstrated the shades, papers, and cancels which make this value a popular vehicle for specialists. Among the varieties shown were a page of sheet margin copies with border line, missing frame lines, and a page of the variety POSTFS. The cancels included ambulants, Paris essays, offices abroad, and the CCH lozenge of the forces in Indo-China.

Marc covered the rest of the issue, with first a few slides on the method of plate preparation from our tape/slide show #1 (see transcript and drawings in FCP for April 1974). Of further interest were his pages showing the progression of colors and shades for the 40c and 80c; with matrices of drawing inks to show the mixtures of yellow and orange for the 40c, and the three-way combinations of pink, carmine, and vermilion for the 80c. With examples of single copies of the stamps on both the white and yellowish papers, he made sense out of catalogue descriptions which have confounded a lot of collectors, your reporter included.—J.E.L.

NEW MEMBERS

- 1908 FINNE, Mrs. Vivian W., P. O. Box 292, Calpella, Calif. 95418
(General France all major varieties used. Selected Colonies only.)
- 1909 MORELAND, Keith R., P. O. Box 177, Hillsboro, Ore. 97123
(Offices abroad. CFA. Colonies General Issues, mint, used, on cover. Cancels and postal history. Stamps and covers of French Africa. Dealer full time, auctions, mail sales. Philatelic literature.)
- 1910 NUGENT, Vicki, c/o Reddy, 451 E. 14th St., New York, N. Y. 10009
(CFA, Monaco, Europa and U. N. Senegal. Philatelic Lit. Exchange.)
- 1911 MULVEY, F. Walter, 64 Spice Hill Dr., Wallingford, Conn. 06492
(General collector 19th Century. Dealer, part time.)
- 1912 HILER, Ernie, Edison Road, Lake Hopatcong, N. J. 07849
(Topical collector: Art on stamps and especially on labels. Modern France: miniature sheets, deLuxe proofs, imperforates, artist's proofs, and color trials. Exchange.)
- 1913 HAAKE, Leon A., 326 Sawtelle Ave., San Diego, Calif. 92114
(General collector all issues. Philatelic literature.)
- 1914 MAINVILLE, Roger, 480 Houle CP 670, Marieville, Que., Can. JOL 1JO
(General collector all issues. France, all major varieties mint & used.)
- 1915 FRUEHWALD, Michael R., 6613 Gateshead Lane, Apt. 2-B, Indianapolis, Ind. 46220 (General collector all issues. France all major varieties mint and used.)
- 1916 GILMARTIN, Leo J., Jr., P. O. Box 9272, San Antonio, Tex. 78204
(Colonies General Issues, mint, used, on cover. Cancels and postal history. Stamps and covers of Guadeloupe. Philatelic literature.)
- 1917 THOMPSON, Reuben R., 5005 North Orange Ave., Lakeland, Fla. 33801
(Siege of Paris mail 1870-71. Military post of 1870-71. Classics 1849-76)

- used on cover 1870-71 issues, Commune, Ballons, cancellations. Philatelic literature. Exchange.)
- 1918 PENTZ, Norbert E., 9358 Forest View Road, Evanston, Ill. 60203
(Offices abroad. Colonies General Issues mint and used. All Colonies and Territories, major varieties. Exchange.)
- 1919 LONG, D., Drawer H, Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. 92067
(General collector 20th Century. France all major varieties, mint N.H.)
- 1920 DROLET, Yves, 3765 St. Kevin, #1, Montreal, Que., Canada H3T 1H8
(General France all major varieties used. Postal history in general. Offices abroad. CFA. Colonies General Issues used.)
- 1921 SMITH, James R., 1006 Green Acre, Towson, Md. 21204
(General France all issues, mint, used, on cover. Stampless covers to and after 1815, Paris "Marques Postales." Classics 1849-1876 on cover. Modern France: mint, semi-postals, airmails, FDCs, Air meetings, First flights, crash covers. Philatelic literature. Exchange.)
- 1922 NEWBURY, Mrs. Yvonne Z., Eleighwater House, Nr Chard, Somerset, England TA20 3AG (1870-71 Issues, Commune, Ballons. Philatelic literature. General France.)
- 1923 REINHARDT, James N., 2747 Judah St., San Francisco, Cal. 94122
(Classics 1849-76, used. Modern France, mint. Exchange.)

REINSTATEMENTS

- 1212 VERMEER, Dr. M., De Ruwiellaan 7, Amstelveen, Netherlands
- 1571 GANDVEAU, Michel, 13 Rue De Navarre, 78490 Montfort-L'Amaury, France
- 722 BARIE, Michael J., Box 1445, Detroit, Mich. 48231
- 1259 WARM, Harvey R., 301 East 47th St., New York, N. Y. 10017
- 1548 HIGHLAND, Terrence E., 3700 E. Texas, Lot 23, Bossier City, La. 71111
- 1046 AGRELL, Nils, 377 Chestnut Place, Mineola, N. Y. 11501
- 1458 VAN EVERY, K. E., Viking Stamps, P. O. Box 3096, San Diego, Cal. 92103
- 1015 BLACK, Irving L., 3563 Bainbridge Ave., Bronx, N. Y. 10467
- 1752 WYNNS, John P., 6835 De Soto Ave., Apt. 9, Canoga Park, Cal. 91303

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 1157 KLOSS, Kenneth, P. O. Box 790, Lomita, Cal. 90717
- 1634 JONES, Herman Le Roy, Jr., Capella South, Goat Island, Apt. 1306, Newport, R. I. 02840
- 1686 ZIGNAGO, Dario A., P. O. Box 370172, Miami, Fla. 33137
- 702 BROWN, Gardner L., 2 Center St., Rockland, Maine 04841
- 1533 JALONEN, Norma, 6353 North Cheryl, Fresno, Cal. 93711
- 1282 O'GRADY, Patricia, 5826 Carlton Way, Los Angeles, Cal. 90028
- 1481 WAKAKUWA, Shoichi, Noazuark, 3-5323 Gakko Cho, Niigata City 951, Japan
- 1788 BOIKESS, Robert S., 451 South 5th Ave., Highland Park, N. J. 08904
- 1771 CARLETON, John C., 10143 Paget Drive, St. Louis, Mo. 63132
- 1901 CUBBERLY, Ray E., 6750 Hawaii Kai Drive, #306, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825
- 1709 BURTON, Henry B., 1526 N. W. 64th St., Seattle, Wash. 98107
- 1856 SANFORD, Kendall C., 620 Victoria Ave., Westmount, PQ, Canada H3Y 2R9
- 561 HOROWICZ, Sigmund, "Moved, not forwardable"
- 1894 JENNINGS, Robert Conrad, "Moved, left no address"