



# France & Colonies Philatelist

USPS #207700

## THE MILITARY POST DURING THE SIEGE OF PARIS

By Steven Walske

Most France and Colonies collectors are familiar with the unforgettable chapter in French history known as the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War. From the French perspective, among the War's few highlights were the Parisian military resistance during a four-month siege, and the fearless balloonists who carried mail out of encircled Paris.

This study analyzes balloon mail handled by the military postal services in Paris during the siege. There were five types of military personnel in Paris: regular army, navy, Garde Mobile (active National Guard), Garde Nationale (a "civilian" army which caused great problems both during and after the siege), and the Franc-Tireurs, which were semi-organized "guerilla" bands.

Since only the regular army and, to a lesser degree, the Garde Mobile had dedicated postal facilities, this study will focus on their usages. Those usages grew out of a long-standing French army tradition to establish formal postal facilities for mail from soldiers at the front lines. The mail so collected was processed and postmarked by a military postmaster and transmitted to the regular postal system for forwarding.

This study's conclusions are drawn from a variety of sources. First, the author has examined 33 regular army covers in private hands, and thanks those who anonymously opened their collections for his review. Second, over 5,000 balloon-mail auction listing were reviewed, resulting in data on an additional 69 covers. Finally, the literature on this subject was examined, yielding an additional ten data points. This small sample size of 112 underscores

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the study's first conclusion: these are very rare covers, which in total represent only about 1.5% of the 5,000 covers. Further, as explained later, some military-bureau usages rank among the rarest of balloon mail letters.

From this data, and a review of the historical literature, this study attempts to describe the development of the regular army postal system, the characteristics of its covers, the location of its bureaus, and the pattern of its usage.

### Historical Background

The French Armée du Rhin (so named because it was expected to fight only on German soil) was formed in July-August, 1870 in response to France's declaration of war on Prussia. Seven army corps were formed during the initial mobilization, and seen met with a string of military disasters. By September 2, all seven of these corps plus a recently-formed Twelfth Corps (for some reason, no corps were labelled 8 through 11) had been either captured at Sedan or besieged in Metz.

The 13th Corps was formed in Paris in August around two seasoned regiments back from occupation duty in Rome, and a number of depot battalions (groups left behind in mobilization centers by the First through Seventh Corps). It was only partially constituted at 75% of normal strength (25,000 men) when it was ordered to support the Sedan action. Fortunately, it arrived too late to be captured, and undertook a harrowing retreat back into Paris, where it became the core strength of the military forces there. As a part of the Armée du Rhin mobilization, its postal bureaus were supplied with "Armée du Rhin" cachets and killers, and it was allotted five bureaus: headquarters, Bureau AL, Bureau AM, Bureau AN, and Bureau AO. Bureau AO was never placed into use.

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The 14th Corps, also constituted at about 25,000 men, was formed in Paris during September, 1870. It was highly heterogeneous, drawing its strength from companies left behind in depots as the depot battalions were formed into the 12th and 13th Corps. Its heterogeneity slowed its development as an effective fighting force but, since it was made up with trained soldiers, it did become an important bulwark during the siege. As this Corps was formed after the collapse of the Armée du Rhin, its postal facilities were more appropriately named "14th Corps Armée Française" bureaus. The late formation of this army group also meant that only two postal units were formed; the headquarters and Bureau A, although Bureaus B and C were evidently authorized.

On November 8, 1870, the Garde Nationale, 13th Corps, 14th Corps, and most of the Garde Mobile were reorganized into three new armies for better operational efficiency. Virtually all of the effective fighting forces were concentrated in the 100,000-man Second Army, and a new postal system was established to service its mail. These postal facilities were organized into "Armée Française" Bureaus A, B, C, D, F, G, H, J and M. There was no headquarters bureau, and apparently no Bureaus E, I, K and L.

All of the 13th Corps, 14th Corps and Armée Française bureaus were located in fixed locations outside of the Paris walls, except for the 13th Corps headquarters bureau. Usage of the bureaus was very light since army units tended to be moved around and into Paris on a regular basis. Evidence shows that the soldiers (those who were literate) were more likely to write during their tours in Paris, and so make use of the regular postal system. Also, as shown later, the military bureaus were frequently closed, reducing the volume of mail handled, and reducing the army's confidence in the service's reliability.

### 13th Corps Data

Although the 13th Corps was constituted by only 25,000 men, its postal covers are generally the least scarce of the balloon-mail usages. Figure 1 shows the postmarks and killers in this series.

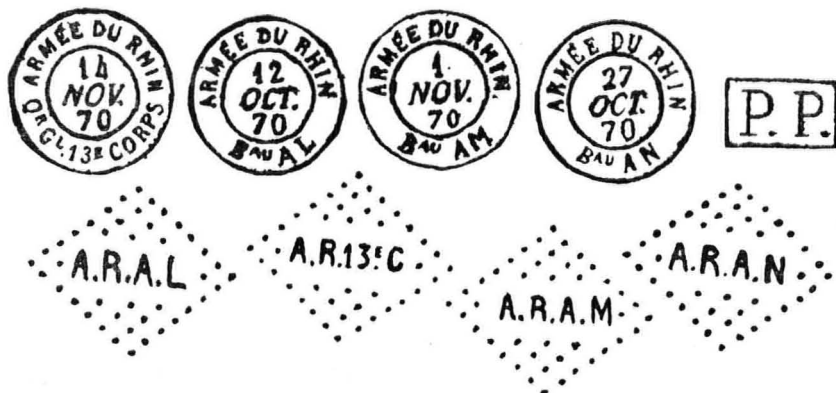


Figure 1. 13th Corps Postal Markings

Table 1 shows this study's sample distribution among the four 13th Corps bureaus.

TABLE 1  
13th Corps Sample Results  
Cancelling Device

Bureau	Free Frank	Postmark	Lozenge	Total	Dates of Use	Location
Headquarters	4	0	9	13	9/23-10/6, 10/30-11/24	
Bureau AL	1	1	18	20	9/29-11/18	Vincennes
Bureau AM	0	0	12	12	10/1-11/24	Bicetre
Bureau AN	0	0	5	5	10/9-11/12	?
Totals	5	1	44	50		

A number of interesting conclusions can be drawn from Table 1. First, the 13th Corps usages represent only less than 1% of our 5,000 covers, which ranks them as significant balloon-mail rarities. Further, all of the 13th Corps markings (other than "P.P." marks) reviewed in this study are in black; some of the early philatelic literature refers to red markings, which this study cannot substantiate. Of particular interest is the correlation between bureau postmarks and lozenge killers: the headquarters postmark is always seen with the "ARAL" killer; the Bureau AL postmark was always used with the "AR13eC" lozenge; and the Bureau AM and AN postmarks are always correlated with the corresponding "ARAM" and "ARAN" killers. Finally, as shown in Figure 2, the Bureau AM covers are always marked with a "P.P.," half of which are in red and half in black.



Figure 2. 13th Corps Bureau AM with "P.P." Marking

Table 1 shows that only one 13th Corps cover is known with the postmark used as a cancelling device. It is also the earliest recorded Bureau AL usage (before the killers were made?), and is shown here as Figure 3. Also, the 13th Corps covers which received military free franks represent only 10% of all 13th Corps covers, an example of which is shown as Figure 4. Nonetheless, they are generally less popular with collectors because of the absence of franking.

The earliest 13th Corps usage reflected in this study is September 23, while the latest is November 24. The latter date shows that, while the 13th Corps was incorporated into the Armée Française on November 8, its cachets remained in use until the end of November. This is because the consolidation took place on the eastern side of Paris, and the 13th Corps bureaus were already in use there and remained so during the consolidation. Thus, starting



in mid-November, some 14th Corps units began using the 13th Corps bureaus as they were being folded into the new army. Further, the replacement Armée Française bureaus were not placed into use until early December, so the postal service was slow in responding to the reorganization.

Table 1 also shows that Bureau AL is the least scarce of the 13th Corps bureaus, while Bureau AN is the rarest by a factor of four. Part of the reason for this is that the bureaus were successively placed in use over time. The earliest Bureau AM usage is October 1, while the earliest Bureau AN usage is a week later.

Location also played an important role in the relative scarcity of the 13th Corps bureaus. Bureau AL, the most common, was located near a large troop concentration at Vincennes (east of Paris); the headquarters bureau, also relatively less scarce, was located in the Montparnasse train station in Paris; Bureau AM was located near a lesser troop concentration at Bicetre (south of Paris), while Bureau AN was probably located near a small troop concentration northeast of Paris. All of this bureau location information has been derived from examination of letter contents and historical literature.

Finally, it is interesting to note the October 7-29 hiatus in usage of the headquarters bureau. There was considerable French military activity during this period, so the bureau was closed for censorship reasons, or because its personnel were at the front lines.

#### 14th Corps Data

Because of the later, less-organized formation of the 14th Corps, its postal usages are considerably scarcer than those of the 13th Corps. Figure 5 shows examples of these cachets. As shown later, there were no killers in this series.

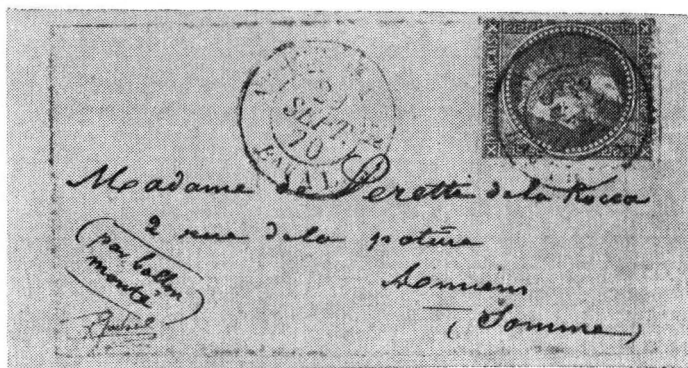


Figure 3. 13th Corps Bureau AL With the Postmark as Cancel

Table 2 tabulates this study's finding for the 14th Corps.

TABLE 2  
14th Corps Sample Results  
Cancelling Device

Bureau	Black Pmk	Red Pmk	Green Pmk	Total	Dates of Usage	Location
Headquarters	17	0	1	18	10/17-11/18	Neuilly
Bureau A	0	6	0	6	10/23-11/11	Clichy
Bureau B	0	0	0	0	?	?
Bureau C	0	0	0	0	?	?
Totals	17	6	1	24		

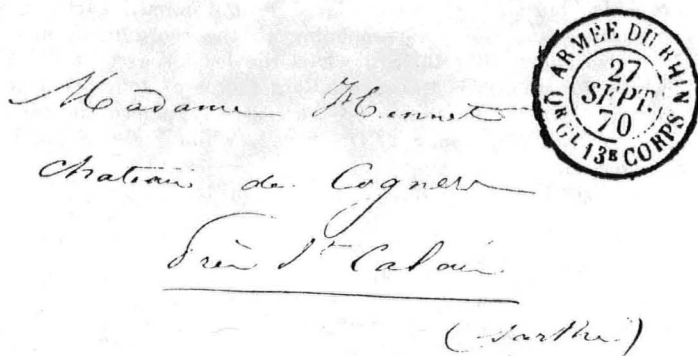


Figure 4. 13th Corps Free Frank Usage

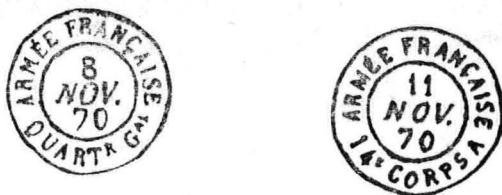


Figure 5. 14th Corps Postal Markings

The study substantiates the supposition that Bureaus B and C were never placed into use, and also shows the extreme rarity of Bureau A usages—only three auction listings were noted in a review of 5,000. By contrast, the Headquarters usages are considerably more common even though that bureau was in use for only a month. In fact, the 14th Corps bureaus show a shorter span of use than the 13th Corps bureaus. Evidently, since the 14th Corps was merged into the 13th Corps, its cachets start to disappear much nearer to the November 8 reorganization date. Thus, by the latter part of November, 1870, all of the 14th Corps was using the 13th Corps postal system. An early example of this is Figure 2, which shows 13th Corps cachets, but was written by a 14th Corps soldier being moved "to form one big Corps."

Both Table 2 and Figure 6 show that separate killers were not made for the 14th Corps, and that the postmarks were used as cancellers. Bureau A postmarks are known only in red, while the Headquarters markings are exclusively black. The only exception to this is on the earliest-known Headquarters usage, which has a blue-green pestmark.

Examination of the 14th Corps letters clearly places the Headquarters Bureau at Neuilly (west of Paris, outside of the walls), and Bureau A at Clichy to the northwest of Paris. Other 14th Corps soldiers are known to have used the regular postal facilities at Auteuil (southwest of Paris), which lends further credence to the presumption that Bureaus B and C were never placed in use, since one of those bureaus would almost certainly have been established near Auteuil.



Figure 6. 14th Corps Headquarters Cover

### Armée Francaise Data

Even though the Armée Francaise was larger than both the 13th and 14th Corps combined, its postal usages are considerably more scarce and, consequently, greatly sought after by collectors. The reasons for this greater scarcity are not totally clear, but the evidence indicates that these bureaux were concentrated only to the northeast of Paris, and were only open sporadically. Overall, only 25 out of 5,000 auction listings were found for ALL Armée Francaise bureaux, indicating that these cachets represent only 0.5% of all balloon mail. This ranks them among the most significant balloon mail rarities. Figure 7 shows some examples of these markings.



Figure 7. Examples of Armée Francaise Postal Markings  
Table 3 tabulates the study data.

TABLE 3 Armée Francaise Sample Results						
Bureau	Cancelling Device				Dates of Usage	Location
	Black Pmk.	Black Loz.	Red Loz.	Total		
Bureau A	4	5	0	9	12/9-12/11, 12/30-1/18	?
Bureau B	0	0	1	1	1/13	?
Bureau C	3	0	0	3	1/5-1/11	Pantin
Bureau D	0	1	1	2	1/10-1/11	?
Bureau F	0	5	8	13	12/12-12/18, 1/4-1/26	Vincennes, Lilas
Bureau G	0	1	0	1	12/26	Noisy
Bureau H	5	2	0	7	12/18-12/30, 1/19-1/20	Montreuil
Bureau J	0	2	0	2	1/6	Pantin
Bureau M	0	0	0	0	?	Nogent
Totals	11	17	10	38		

Overall, the earliest recorded usage is December 9, and the latest is January 26. Thus, although this army was created on November 8, its postal bureaus did not appear until a month later. This is due to both slowness on the part of the postal authorities, and a major French military operation during November 29-December 5, 1870. All military posts closed down during such operations, probably for censorship reasons.

The patterns of usage vary greatly according to bureau, so each will be considered separately. Generally, however, all bureaus except for Bureau C were provided with lozenge killers, although Bureaus A and H used the lozenge and postmark interchangeably as a canceller. These markings are seen mostly in black, although three bureaus (particularly Bureau F) did use red markings as well.

Bureau A used the postmark and "AFA" killer equally often as a cancelling device. All of these markings are known only in black. This bureau appears to have been open only in two distinct periods: December 9-11 using the lozenge killer only, and the end of December through mid-January using both the lozenge and postmark as a cancel. Its location has not yet been pinpointed.

Bureau C usages are quite rare, and the sample shows its use only during the week of January 5-11. It is the only bureau which shows exclusive use of the postmark as a canceller, and all of its markings are known only in black. Its location was near Pantin, at the northeast corner of Paris.

Bureau F was the most-used of the Armée Française postal facilities. Its usage is known from December 12 until December 18, and from January 4 until the end of the siege. The French attempted a significant military breakout to the northeast on December 20, so this bureau may have closed in response to that. Also, Bureau H was open during the same time that Bureau F was closed, so it may have opened just to service the Bureau F mail. All of Bureau F's covers are known with the "AFF" lozenge, as in Figure 8 (which shows an extraordinary combination of Armée Française usage on the very rare "Richard Wallace" balloon which was lost at sea). The bureau used black ink exclusively in December and red ink exclusively in January for its postal markings. It was located at Vincennes, and appears to have been the successor to the 13th Corps Bureau AL. It also moved



Figure 8. Bureau F on a "Richard Wallace" Letter

north to Les Lilas in mid-January in response to the German bombardment of its previous position.

Bureau H usages are somewhat hard to find, particularly when the "AFH" lozenge was used. Figures 9 and 10 show examples where the postmark and lozenge were used as canceller. The sample shows that Bureau H was open during two short periods: December 18 through December 30, and January 19-20. It appears to have opened in December only for the purpose of assuming Bureau F's mail-processing responsibilities. It is not clear why it reopened in January. All of its markings are known only in black. The bureau was located near Montreuil-sous-Bois, which is itself close to the Bureau F location at Vincennes.

Bureaus B, D, G, J, and M were also identified in the study, although all showed sample sizes of two or less. As such, these bureaus represent great rarities, and it is difficult to draw conclusions about their usages. Nevertheless, Bureau G (an example of which is shown in Figure 11) was located at Noisy, due east of Paris and very close to Bureau H; Bureau J near Pantin and Bureau C; and Bureau M at Nogent, the farthest east of all Armée Française bureaus. These rarer bureaus were apparently used to occasionally relieve the more active bureaus. The study did not uncover usages from Bureaus E, I, K, or L, and suggests that they may never have been placed into use.

Finally, Figure 6 shows a usage from the 14th Corps Headquarters Bureau. The postmark "Armée Française Quartier Générale," with no specific reference to the 74th Corps, has created the philatelic confusion that this postmark was part of the later Armée Française series. This study disproves that by showing no overlap in the dates of usage, as well as Headquarters usages before the November 8 reorganization. Further proof is provided on page 55 of Le Pileur's 1943 book, which illustrates a November 9 Headquarters cover bearing the private cachet "14e Corps d'Armée Etat Major Général."

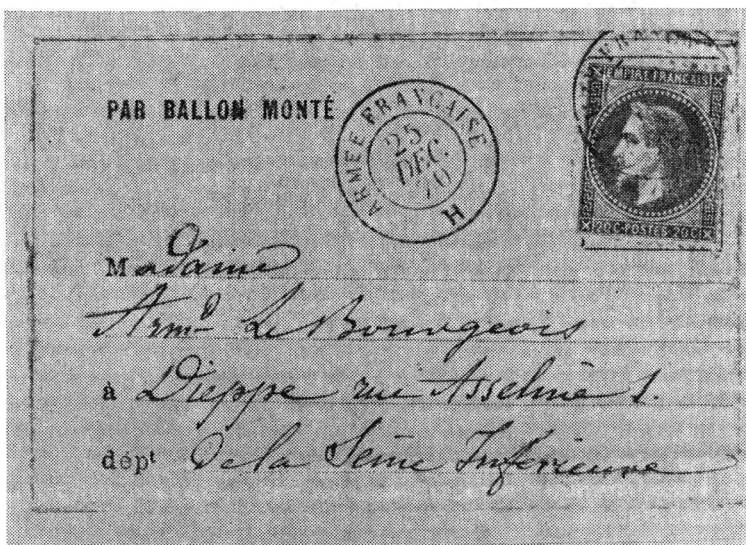


Figure 9. Bureau H Postmark Used as a Cancellor







Francaise bureaus, have small enough sample sizes that further data would be extremely useful in firming up the conclusions, provided that further meaningful data can be found. Specifically, more data is needed to pinpoint the location and dates of usage of several bureaus and, in the case of Armée Francaise Bureaus E, I, K and L, even to establish their existence!

Any additional data or information which can help clarify or amplify the conclusions drawn here would be gratefully appreciated by the author.

November, 1985

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### ABBOT LUTZ

We are saddened to learn that our member Abbot Lutz of New York City died in November after a lingering illness. Abbot was a man of many parts, of which those who were only acquainted with him philatelically may not have been aware. He had interests in various, some esoteric, non-philatelic collecting areas. Before taking up philatelic things professionally he had worked as an R & R man for several classical record companies and had an abiding interest in music and considerable knowledge of the industry. From his years in England, after wartime work, he took up collecting some byways of British philately. He had a real talent for salesmanship and became a successful philatelic broker, also an assistant to several auction firms. To the great benefit of the Collectors Club he promoted greatly increased sales of advertising for its Philatelist, and served the Club well in other ways. He was a savvy editorial advisor and lately had edited the American Philatelic Congress Book giving it a much stronger image. Abbot had some very definite opinions about some things (and some people) which he was not too bashful to express openly and clearly, not to mention a puckish sense of humor—at a France and Colonies meeting he "proved" a meaningful exhibit could be made of one copy of one stamp (the only one issued). We will greatly miss Abbot as a friend and stimulating raconteur. Our sincere condolences to his wife and daughter.—R.G.S.

## THE MONACO CENTENARY EXHIBITION

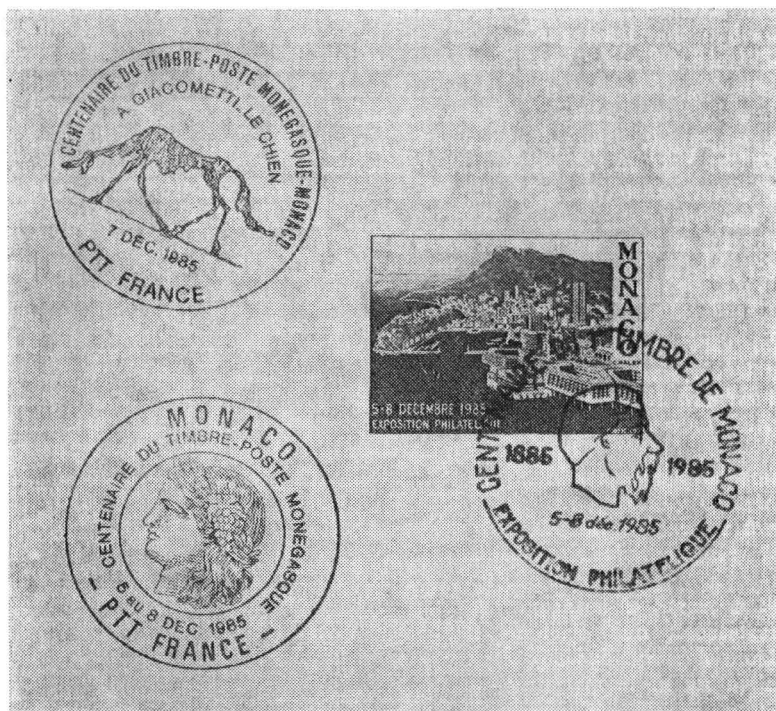


The Centenary Exhibition of Monaco held at the Center of Congress Auditorium December 5th to 8th was by all standards a fine success, excellent lighting, new plexiglass for the frames, large public attendance, and an excellent organizational effort by Mrs. Ruth Castellini and her staff all contributed to the overall quality of the show.

Opening day was marked by the attendance of the Royal Family and a reception for exhibitors, dealers, postal officials, and other members of government. The private collection of S.A.S. Prince Rainier III was prominently displayed. The selected rarities shown included postal markings, Sardinian and French stamps and letters used in the Principality, tax stamps postally used, postal stationery, mixed frankings, and a bulletin de conversation. The 1885 Charles III 15c Blue envelope, 1 Franc block of twenty-five, 5 Franc strip of five and vertical pair, all unique items were also displayed.

Thirty prominent collectors from five nations were invited by the Prince to exhibit and the two-hundred plus frames constituted the largest gathering of Monegasque material in history. Highlighting this tour de force were the decrees authorizing Cavalinis of Sardinia for usage within the Principality. While none are known used from Monaco, examples of all three of the first issue plus the 25C. of the second issue used to Mentone were shown. Four exhibits of Comte De Nice 1815-1860 when Monaco was united with Savoy under the King of Sardinia by the Treaty of Paris followed. Sardinian letters on display included 8 with Monaco cancellations and 20 with Mentone cancellations, one featuring the 10C. with inverted center. Four boules de Moulin and seven ballon montes as well as the rare 78 Monaco in black were shown. Other highlights were a used strip of four of the 5 Franc Charles III and six covers including the only two known with multiple usage. A unique sheet of the 50C. telephone stamp and an essay with "POSTES" as well as three examples of the 78 Monaco tronqué, six covers with the small numeral 2387 and seven letters with the 4222 obliteration were featured. Rounding out the exhibits were three fine showings of postal stationery, an exhibit of Commemorative Vignettes, and a showing of tax stamps with an 1880 essay with the first adhesive use of "Principauté de Monaco."

Twenty-seven dealers constituted a lively bourse and all reported brisk business owing to the large attendance. The French and Monegasque Post Offices were represented by large booths issuing stamps for the exhibition



and special cancellations for each day. Czeslaw Slania, dean of modern engravers, was present daily to autograph stamps and proofs of his design. Die proofs of the stamp issued for the exhibition were hand produced and distributed free to those in attendance daily.

The show concluded with a dinner held at the "Folie Russe" in the Loews Hotel featuring a floorshow replete with singers, lovely showgirls, jugglers, and dancers. All exhibitors were favored with a large medal commemorating the event and a specially prepared presentation album from the Postal Museum of the Palace which included both single and collective proofs of the souvenir sheet housed in a red leather folder with the monogram of Prince Charles III.

—Jerry Massler

## MEMBERS APPEALS

**FOR SALE:** L'Emission Metropolitaine Francaise De 1849-1850 Aux Colonies, by Henri Tristant—a detailed study of the issues of France as used in the Colonies, with tabulations of covers, rates, and illustrations. \$15. postpaid from Ed Grabowski, 741 Marcellus Drive, Westfield, NJ (Mb. #1469).

**OFFER:** Pre-embargo N. Vietnam and other Indochina. Send SASE for list to: Dr. Steven Carol, P. O. Box 414, Holbrook, NY 11741 (Mb. #2287).

**WANTED:** Interested in acquiring stamps and covers with good cancels of Bamako, French Soudan (now Mali) from 1894 to the present.—Larry Jones, 632 Aldershot Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21229 (Member #2485)

## POSTAGE-DUE STAMPS USED FOR REGULAR POSTAGE IN REUNION 1901

By Edward Grabowski

The use of postage-due stamps for regular postage in Reunion from December 31, 1900 until January 20, 1901 has been discussed by Stone and others. Recently I obtained three interesting examples of this usage, and a fourth which is at variance with the literature.

To recapitulate—during 1900 some of the French Colonial administrations began to run out of stocks of the low values of the then current Allegorical Group Type issue. Normally these values were used on local mail. To meet the shortage in Reunion, use of the current postage-due stamps (Scott numbers J15-J22) was authorized for prepayment of local mail. The period authorized for use was December 31, 1900 until January 20, 1901. Certification of this special usage was to be done in manuscript notation on the mail by local postmasters; however, this was often not done. A packet-boat with new stocks of stamps was due to arrive on January 21st and use of the dues was to cease.

Because of the short period of use and the restriction to local mail, covers showing this usage are quite rare. Shown in Figure 1 is a typical use of the dues stamps (Scott J15 and J16) at the 15-centime local rate from the office at St. André. Posted on the 11th of January the cover bears the inscription "chiffres-taxes valant timbres-poste pour affranchissement . . ." in accord with the authorization. It was received at St. Denis on the day of posting.

Shown in Figure 2 is a commercial letter franked with the 15-centime due in green (Scott J17). The letter was posted on the railway system on the Windward Route around the island ("LIGNE V"—"LIGNE DU VENT") to the port at Pointe-des-Galets. Reunion railroad cancellations are among the more sought-after postmarks of the island (see article by Waugh, this issue of FCP).

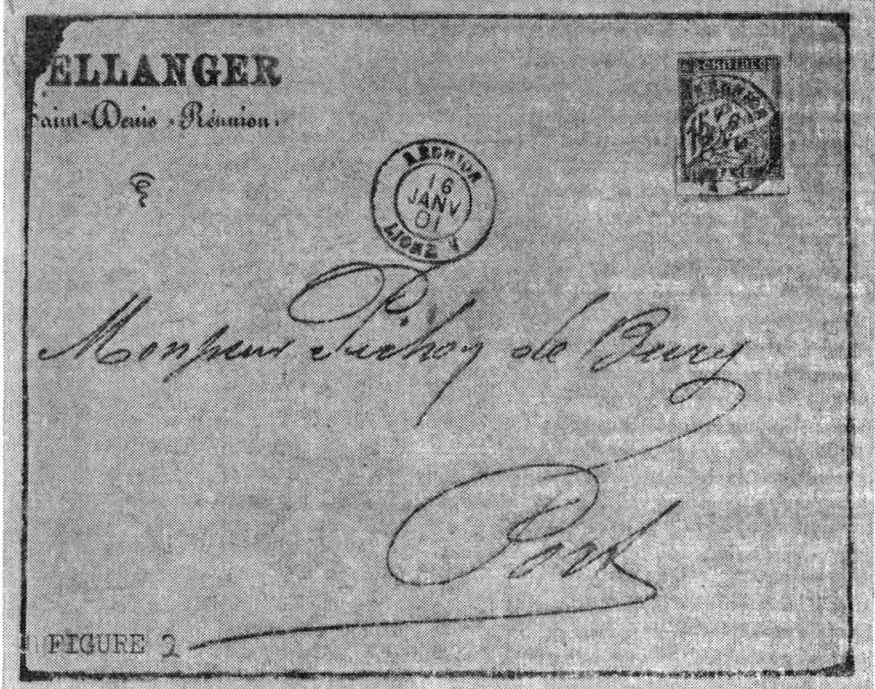
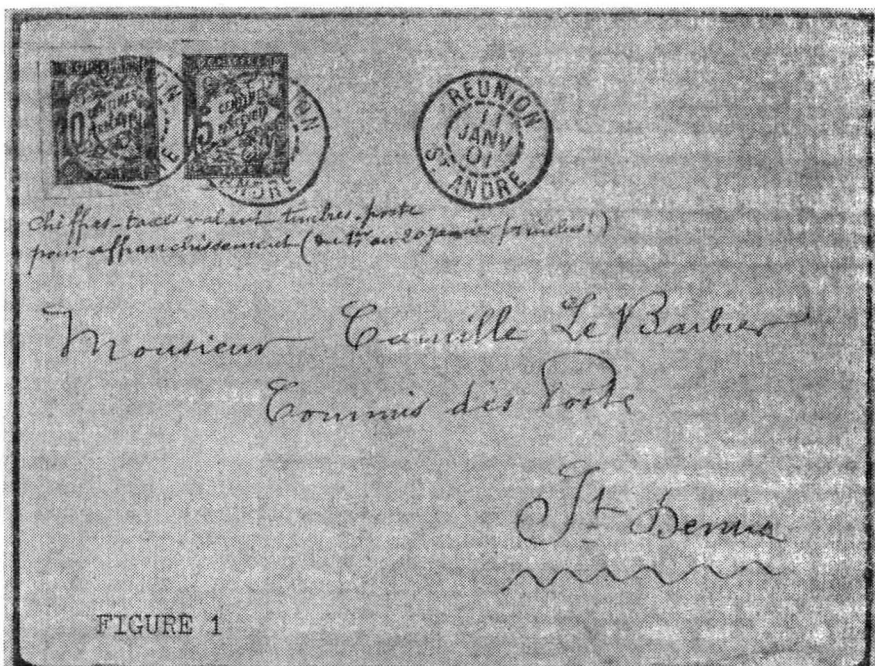
Shown in Figure 3 is a letter posted at the small office of Possession (a rare postmark) at the 10-centime city rate franked with a pair of Scott J15. Both the town and rate make this an excellent piece. As with the cover shown in Figure 2, no manuscript authorization is present, but the dates of both covers are well within the period of established use of dues stamps.

Figures 4A and 4B indicates that the special use of dues stamps did not cease on January 20th as authorized. This is the first time such late use has been noted. The envelope is franked with a strip of three of the 5 centime dues stamp (Scott J15) tied by a January 24, 1901 datestamp of the small office at Hell-Bourg. The manuscript "Bon pour affranchissement" (valid for franking) provides authorization for use of the dues stamps. Apparently new stocks were not yet available in Hell-Bourg on January 24th. The letter was posted to and received at St. Denis on the same day. Its arrival caused some confusion as the envelope was struck with a "T"-in-triangle mark to indicate postage due. The special franking on the reverse side of the envelope was recognized, and its acceptance noted by the pen obliteration of the "T."

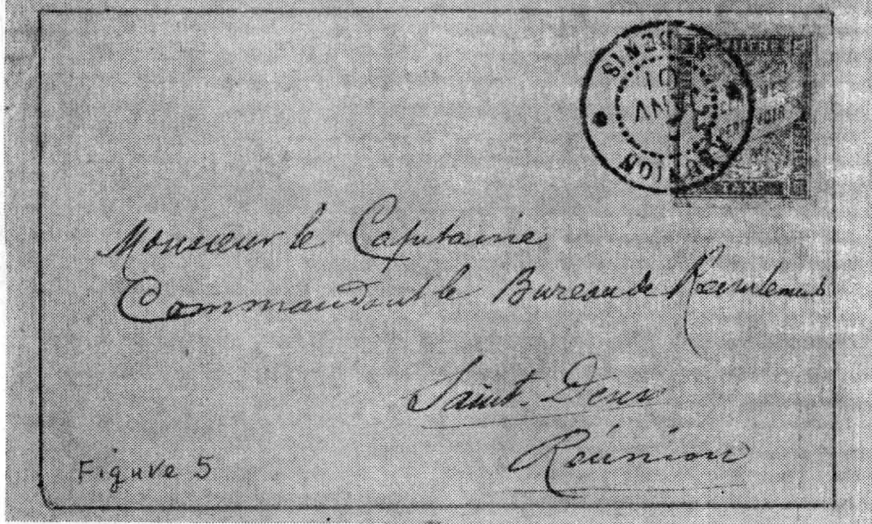
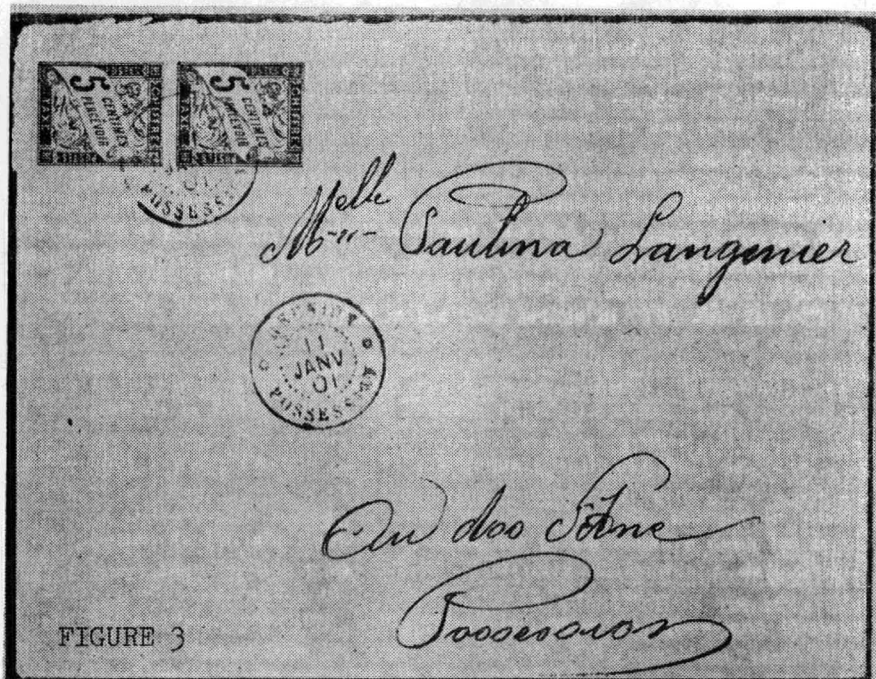
Finally we illustrate (Fig. 5) a cover from R. G. Stone's collection showing a single 5c on a New Years greeting card envelope postmarked St. Denis 2 Jan. 1901, local use, printed matter rate.

Use of dues stamps for regular postage in Reunion represents one of

the island's more interesting aspects of postal history. As this note shows, new discoveries can still be made.







## References

1. R. G. Stone, "Coll. Club Phil.," pp 274, 283, Nov. 1962.
2. Anon., "Fueilles Marcophiles," #214, p. 10, 1978.
3. Yvert et Tellier, "Catalogue des Timbres de la France et des Colonies Francaises; Tome II. Colonies Francaises," p. 637, Amiens, 1936.



## STEPHEN G. RICH MEMORIAL EXHIBIT

MARCH 4, 1986

Fellow Members:

The annual Stephen G. Rich Exhibit will be held at the March meeting of the New York group. Local members are asked to bring in an exhibit of some aspect of their philatelic interest, to show and describe. In order to keep this as much as possible a general Society event, we cordially invite any out-of-town members who would like to send in an exhibit.

The rules are similar to those of previous exhibits:

- a) only members can exhibit
- b) a minimum of 2 frames of 16 pages should be submitted, more pages can be viewed by the judges, in case there is not room for them all in the frames; indicate which pages are for the minimum 2 frames.
- c) exhibits must be submitted on this official blank, and either brought to the Collectors Club on the night of the exhibit, or mailed to Mr Dick Stevens, P. O. Box 99, Greendell, N. J. 07839.

All reasonable precautions will be taken to protect exhibits against loss or damage. However, no responsibility of any kind or character shall be attached to France and Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc., or any of its members. Submission of an application constitutes acceptance of these rules and conditions. Honors will be awarded in categories to be determined by the judges, with medals for the best in show and top exhibits in each category. Results will be published in the PHILATELIST.

Sincerely, Dick Stevens, President

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### Entry Application Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibit

Mail to Dick Stevens, P. O. Box 99, Greendell, N. J. 07839

Please enter my exhibit, entitled \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in the 1986 Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibit.

I will deliver and pick up my own exhibit \_\_\_\_\_. Exhibit to be shipped \_\_\_\_.

Return postage \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

Member's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Return Shipping Instructions:—Please return my exhibit via: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



FIGURE 4A

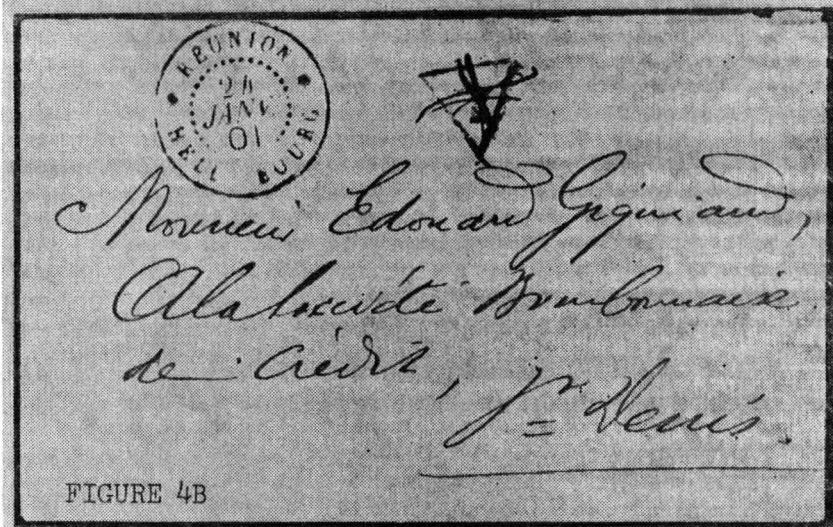


FIGURE 4B

4. R. G. Stone, "A Bibliography of Philatelic Literature on the French Colonies, Protectorates, and Overseas Territories—La Reunion," in "Philatelic Literature Review," 30 (#3), pp. 152-159 (1980). A listing of all references relevant to this topic.

### MY MYSTERY COVER IS FOR REAL

Ernst Cohn described a Bruner cover from the Commune Revolution (F&CP Oct. '85) which was auctioned by SOLUPHIL last April. I was the lucky bidder and hasten to tell you more about it since its authenticity has been questioned by Ernst. He had written much the same thing to me, before he knew I had won it, and must have sent in his article before he got my reply.

The letter was posted in Algeria March 28, 1871 with normal franking. Later a 10c stamp was added and cancelled with the Paris (60) cds on May 1, 1871. In the upper left corner, in handwriting, is "Bruner & Cie." Ernst felt the handwriting was the same as in the address. In my opinion they are similar but different. The letters u and n are quite different. Perhaps the most important clue is in the intensity of the black ink in the address compared to the Bruner. The former is unusually dark whereas the Bruner is definitely lighter in shade. This difference was not apparent in the photograph.

In addition, when I got the cover, it had been authenticated by Calves although his signature did not show in the color photograph in the catalog. Calves must have expertized the item after the catalog was printed.

The Commune Revolution began on March 18, 1871 but the postal service was normal until most of the postal employees moved to Versailles late in the day on March 30. From that point on the Versailles government refused to handle any mail with Paris postmarks and held all of the mail for Paris at Versailles. It seems to disturb some of my colleagues that the "mystery cover" was postmarked in Algeria on March 28, while postal operations in Paris were normal. How did the sender know to direct the mail "via Bruner"? The answer to that question is that he didn't.

The following is what I believe happened.

In Lissagary's book, "Histoire de la Commune," he quotes a long letter from Theisz, the Communard postmaster. It also appears in French in Documents Philatéliques, #68, 1976. It says, "... the collection of letters from the provinces were at a standstill. Some men of business set up agencies where, for a very high fee, the letters which they went to fetch at Versailles might be obtained." "We contented ourselves with reducing their profits somewhat, by deducting from each letter the postage of Paris for Paris." That explains why a 10c stamp had to be added before the Commune postal system would deliver it. It is also important that the letters were "fetched from Versailles" as letters for Paris were impounded at Versailles. Letters addressed to Poste Restante could be claimed but not those addressed to Paris.

It is apparent to me (and I can't find where I read it) that a delegation of business men went to Versailles via St. Denis, and told the authorities of their woes and asked that their letters be set aside for Bruner to come and collect them for transport to Paris. One can assume the loyalty of these men was to the Versailles government rather than to the revolutionaries and they were accommodated.

Therefore, the Bruner inscription was written on certain letters by the postal clerks in Versailles. My cover mailed on March 28 must have been among the first to have been held in Versailles and you will note it was not postmarked in Paris until May 1. The Paris newspaper, Journal Officiel, states in the April 4 issue, "Bruner brought in 2,000 letters from Versailles yesterday and this makes a total of 6,000 letters so far.

I've been watching for years and only know of a handful of Bruner covers. Gaillaguet and Chanaryn each owned one and another is pictured in the Yvert '75 Specialized catalog. Mrs. Dayton, who was once a member, owned one and I vaguely remember having bid on one other without success. In the Schatzkes collection there was a letter addressed to Bruner, Poste Restante, St. Denis with a 10c stamp postmarked Paris, May 2. Boussac (Relais, June '83) illustrates a postcard from Bruner posted in Paris May 10 advising they have a letter for a client. Apparently not many of these have survived. — Gardner Brown

## RAILWAY MAIL IN THE FRENCH AFRICAN AND INDIAN OCEAN COLONIES

By William M. Waugh

Railway mail service in the French African and Indian Ocean Colonies was a natural outgrowth of the convoyeur service in France. In France there was AMBULANT service on main lines—mail cars with brigades of clerks sorting the mail—and CONVOYEUR service on branch lines and some main line locals in which postal service was conducted from a compartment reserved for postal use. On both types of service clerks cancelled the mail with distinctive cancelling devices. And many people took their mail to the train to mail it there.

Almost all of the French convoyeur postal markings are easy to recognize because of their wavy (undulated) outer circle. Most, but not all, of the French Colonial convoyeur markings are also of wavy-circle types with the termini of the line spelled out in capital letters without accent marks. Some are of the exact same types used in France, but there are many local variations and distinct types.

For when the French started building railroads in their African and Indian Ocean Colonies, they did the normal thing and started postal convoyeur service on most of the lines, adapting it to local conditions.

If you start collecting this material, you will find that covers are extremely elusive, even of the less scarce markings. Most of what you find will be in the form of marks on detached singles. And do not spurn partial or faint strikes; for many lines you will be very lucky to find even these.

Principal sources are in French and date back many years. Henri Tristant's 1955 article is still the most complete work on the subject. Langlois and Bourselet 1927 and 1937 is still very useful. Reunion has been well studied up to the close of its convoyeur service in 1956. Students in England and France have done much to update Madagascar, and this effort is continuing. But in general much of the post WW II story remains to be discovered.

The illustrations of postmarks are original size but the covers are reduced.

I am greatly indebted to Henri Tristant for furnishing numerous photocopies of marks and covers which considerably enhanced my documentation. Editor R. G. Stone assisted me with loan of literature and illustrations.

### FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA

Construction of the Congo-Ocean Line of 511 kilometers from Pointe-Noire on the Gabon coast to Brazzaville in Middle Congo commenced in 1921 and continued with heavy expenditure of lives of workmen (imported Indo-chinese) until its completion in July 1934. By 1930 the line was open for its first 90 km inland from the coast and at the other end had been put through 190 km westward from Brazzaville. The 2,000 ft. Mayumbe mountains, posing severe construction problems (17 tunnels), had separated the two sections, which were connected by a highway in the meantime.

The line was built on the British Colonial gauge of 3 feet 6 inches, to

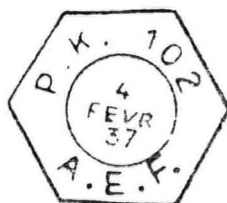
nearest  
copy  
sent you



A.



B.



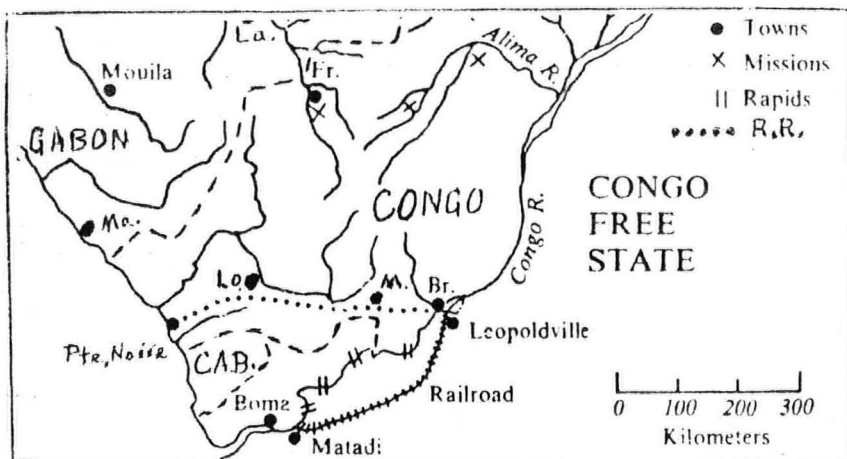
E.



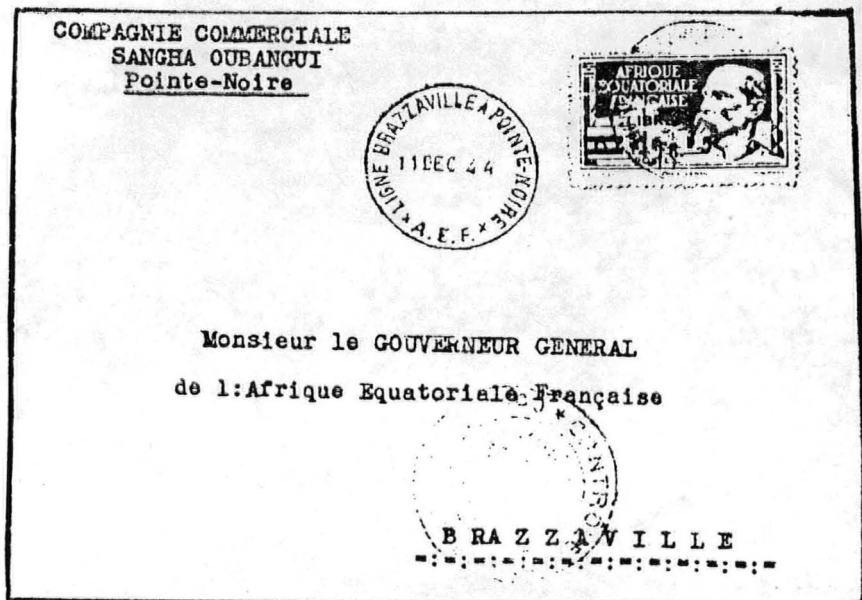
C.



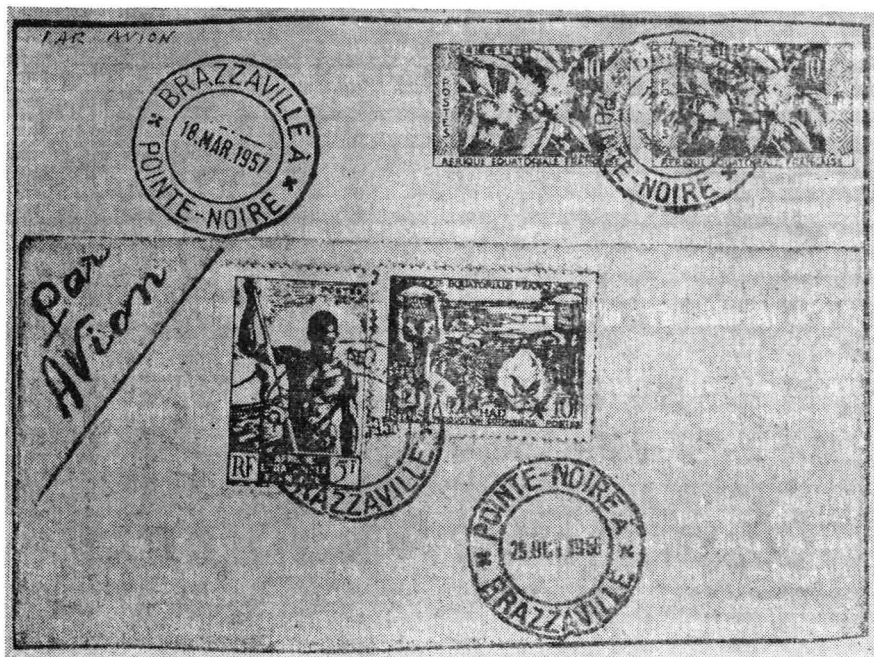
D.



Br= Brazzaville  
 M= Mindouli  
 Lo = Loudima







match the Belgian Congo rail line. There is a junction at Monte Bele (near Loudima) with the 180-mile Comilog Line which was opened in 1964 to carry manganese ore from the Moanda mines in Gabon.

As of about 1969 (after independence of the colonies from France) there were two railcar expresses each way daily on the line, each carrying a first-class car with a bar. It was a 11½ hour trip from Pointe-Noire to Brazzaville with 39 stops. In addition there were slow mixed trains which the natives used to peddle produce, chickens, and goats from village to village.

There have been two sets of convoyeur marks:—

\*LIGNE BRAZZAVILLE A POINTE-NOIRE\*A.E.F., 1938-51 (Fig. A)

\*LIGNE POINTE-NOIRE A BRAZZAVILLE\*A.E.F., 1938-51 (Fig. B)

\*BRAZZAVILLE A \*/POINTE-NOIRE, 1952- (Fig. C)

\*POINTE-NOIRE A \*/BRAZZAVILLE, 1952 (Fig. D)

These marks are scarce.

A postal agency was opened at Kilomètre 102 (from Pte. Noire) on the line about 1937. It was probably at the site of a former construction camp for a difficult part of the line where many tunnels and viaducts were being built. (The Mindouli viaduct is illustrated on the Middle Congo stamp Sc. Type A4 and another viaduct on the French Equatorial Africa stamp Sc. Type A1.) This agency used a hexagonal marking (Fig. E) reading "P.K. 102/A.E.F." until 1948, then a circular one. They are regarded as station markings and are very rare.



A.



B.



C.



D.



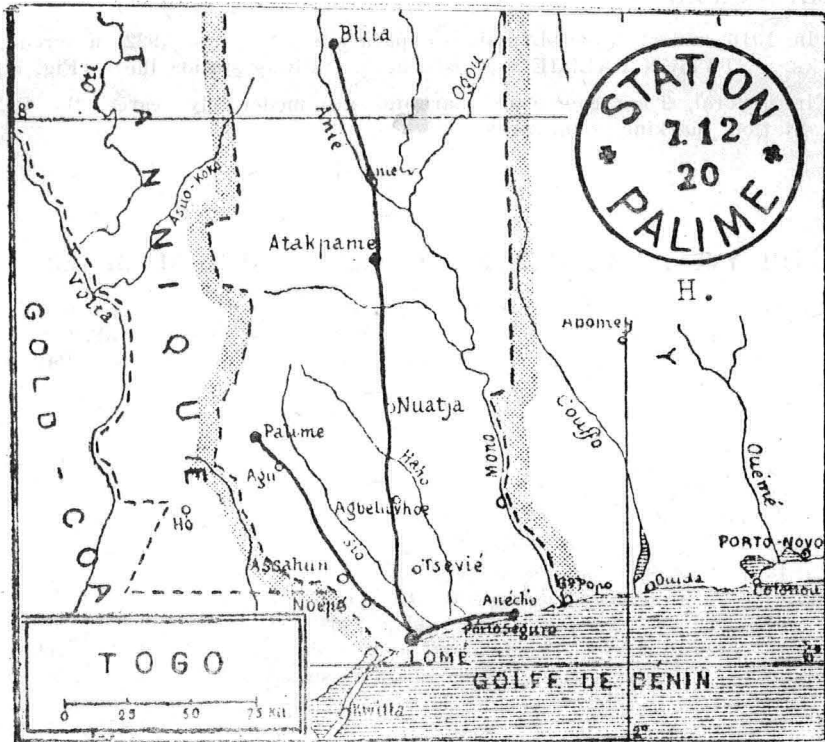
E.



F.



G.



## TOGO

The German colony of Togo was conquered by the French and English in 1914. A period of joint occupation followed. Then after WW I, Togo became a League of Nations mandate, most of it going to France, part to Great Britain.

The French inherited three railway lines from the Germans, a western line of 119 kilometers from Lomé to Palimé completed in 1905, a coastal line of 43 kilometers from Lomé to Anécho also completed in 1905; and a central line from Lomé completed to Atakpamé in 1913 and extended by the French to Blitta in 1934 for a distance of 280 kilometers. Under the German administration the railways transported mail, but there was no railway mail service.

The French started convoyeur service. Togo convoyeur markings were inscribed in one direction only, with no separate markings for return trips.

LOME A PALIME (Fig. A) 1922-50's

LOME A PALIME (Fig. B) introduced in 1950's, slightly larger circle

LOME A ATAKPAME (Fig. C) 1922-46

LOME A BLITTA (Fig. D) 1946-51

LOME A ANECHO (Fig. E) 1922-48-

LOME BLITTA TOGO (Fig. F) 1952-55-

LOME ANECHO TOGO (Fig. G) 1952-58-

In 1916 under Franco-British occupation and on into 1922, a circular marking, STATION PALIME was used at the railway station there (Fig. H).

In general, Togo convoyeur markings are moderately scarce, the Palime Station marking semi-rare.

(to be continued)

## THE YVERT SPECIALIZED COLONIES CATALOG REPRINTED

Roger Koerber, the dealer and publisher of philatelic literature, has just issued a reprint of the Yvert et Tellier Catalogue des Timbres de la France et des Colonies Françaises, Tome II, "Colonie Françaises, Pays de Protectorat, Pays sous Mandat, Bureaux Indochinois." 1936, 842 p., the last edition published. This catalogue—long a "bible" among colonies specialists fortunate enough to own one—has been out of print for many years and very difficult to find second-hand; it has brought high prices on the few occasions when offered in auctions. Libraries consider it a rare book and will not loan it unless they have an extra copy. It is indispensable for serious colonies collectors, dealers, and auction writers. Especially valuable for details of provisional issues, settings of some surcharged and type-set issues. Many authorizing decrees for the provisionals are quoted, and many notes on circumstances for issues, odd varieties, reprints, forgeries, proofs and essays. The prices are of course out of date but valuable for relative indications of scarcity; the absence of the issues after 1925 is not serious as these are well-covered in the standard catalogs. The reprint is loose-leaf, in a binder, on 300 pp. For sale at \$43.95, p.p.d., cat. #PA87, from Roger Koerber, 15565 Northland Dr., Suite 605 West, Southfield, Mich. 48075.

*Insert  
copy  
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

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◆ On 7 Dec. the 5.00F "Le Chien" sculpture of Alberto Giacometti, was issued. On 25 Jan. the 3.20F "Tricentenaire des Relations Diplomatiques avec la Thailand" was to appear.

◆ On 3 February will be issued the 2.20F Cinquantenaire du Front Populaire — "Les Loisirs" after a work of F. Leger; on 12 Feb. the 2.20 Carnaval-Venise de Paris; on 22 Feb. a set of 6 stamps of celebrated personages: 1.80+0.40 Francois Arago, 2.20+0.50 Paul Heroult, 2.20+0.50 Marc Seguin, 1.80+0.40, Henri Fabre, 1.80+0.40 Henri Moissan, and 2.20+0.50 Alfred Kastler—they will be issued separately in sheet form and also the 6 combined in booklets sold at 14.70F; a special PD postmark will be used on the booklets.

◆ In December 1985 a new Andorre aerogramme was issued in the design of Airbus flying over Lac Engolasters, 3F denom?, was issued.

◆ The PTT issued in December 1985 No. 04-85 of its Collection Philatélique des PTT de France, including the stamps issued between 2 Sept. and 31 Dec. plus the Notices on them; sold at 65.00 Fr; also the Pochette Semestrielle No. 2 of 1985, including 23 stamps issued between June and Dec. 1985; for sale at 90Fr. The bound volumes of the Notices for all stamps of France and Andorre issued during 1985, are available at 70 Fr for France and 20 Fr for Andorre.

◆ The PTT plans to issue the Journée du Timbre stamp for 1986, showing a postal vehicle of the 19th century, to appear in March, in a booklet containing six of the stamps each in a different color than the sheet stamp.

◆ The President of the Fédération des Sociétés Philatéliques de France, in accord with the PTT, presented to FIP at Rome in November, the French proposal for an international expo at Paris in late 1989 to commemorate the bicentenary of the French Revolution. The PTT, with the Federation and the Chambre de Négociants et Experts and the philatelic press, have organized a commission to take charge of planning and funding for the Expo. The date has been stated as late 1989 though the Revolution is considered to have started with the storming of the Bastille in July 1789.

◆ In the last half of 1986 UNESCO will hold an international show in 54 countries titled "Mémoire des Rues" giving a retrospective of the evolution of streets in 90 historic towns. In connection with promoting this show in France, from 19-23 Nov. 1985 several expositions were organized in Paris in six of the most-frequented Paris Metro stations, on the theme of Paris—100 years of posters, stamps and medals, crafts, opera, fashions, etc. The PTT and Admin. of Money and Medals took space in the Montparnasse station, presenting: history of Paris on postage stamps, operation of a hand press for printing stamps, 6 frames of Musée de la Poste exhibits of photos of Paris places with the related stamps. A flamme commemorating the event was used at a temporary P.O. at the Gare Montparnasse.

◆ The recent 5.00Fr stamp showing a sculpture of Alberto Giacometti (1901-66) titled "Le Chien" (the dog), is a work in the Foundation Maeght

museum, Saint Paul de Vence, created in 1956. Giacometti's early work was influenced by cubism, Greek and African carvings, and tended to the abstract. Later his more celebrated work is more realistic and humanistic. The dogs' statute is spacious with supple curves, and suggests rambling movement, the dogs' heads bowing to the ground. Their thin silhouette reflects the absurdity of life menaced by death.

◆ Our charter member Adrien Boutrelle and ever-present photographer, as a member of the French veterans organization Les Anciens Combattants de France, U.S. chapter, attended the commemorative celebrations in New York and Washington last November 9-11 where 200 Anciens Combattants from France joined their U.S. confreres. In Washington on 11 Nov. Adrien, recognized as "a devoted photographer at the service of the French Community for over 50 years" received the insignia of a Chevalier des Arts et Lettres.

◆ Member Frank Anderson (Philatéliques Francaise, Inc.) of Dallas advises us that he now has the 1986 edition of Yvert et Tellier Catalogue, vol. 1. France, for sale at \$12 plus \$1.50 post and handling.

◆ Member Steve Carol calls our attention to the new edition of Stanley Gibbons South East Asia Catalog (2nd ed., 1985), which will be important for collectors of Indochina, especially the post 1950 issues of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam (North and South) many of which are not in Scott. The recent souvenir sheets are now all listed, and show marked price rises since the 1981 ed. A number of South and North Viet Nam issues are listed for the first time—the prices of some are very high and interested collectors should try to acquire them before the catalog influences the market. If U.S. should normalize relations with Hanoi there will be an increased demand for the Viet Nam issues.

◆ At the large international expo ITALIA '85 held at Rome 25 Oct.-3 Nov., a number of our members were successful exhibitors (so far as we know at this time):—

M. Vermeer: French Colonies General Issues—Large Vermeil

Isaac Backal: Mexico 1856, the Medio Real—Gold

Isaac Backal: Mexico, Maritime Mail 1825-85—Gold plus special prize

Stan and Anita Luft: French Revolutionary and Consular Armies 1792-1804

—Gold plus postmen's badges from the Fed. des Soc. Phil. Fr.

Walter Brooks: Siege of Paris 1870-71—Vermeil

J. I. Matsumoto: The French Post Office at Yokohama and its Time—Gold

J.-F. Baudot: Forerunners and Cancellations of the Comte de Nice—Gold plus special prize

Jerry Massler: Monaco 1729-1924—Large Vermeil

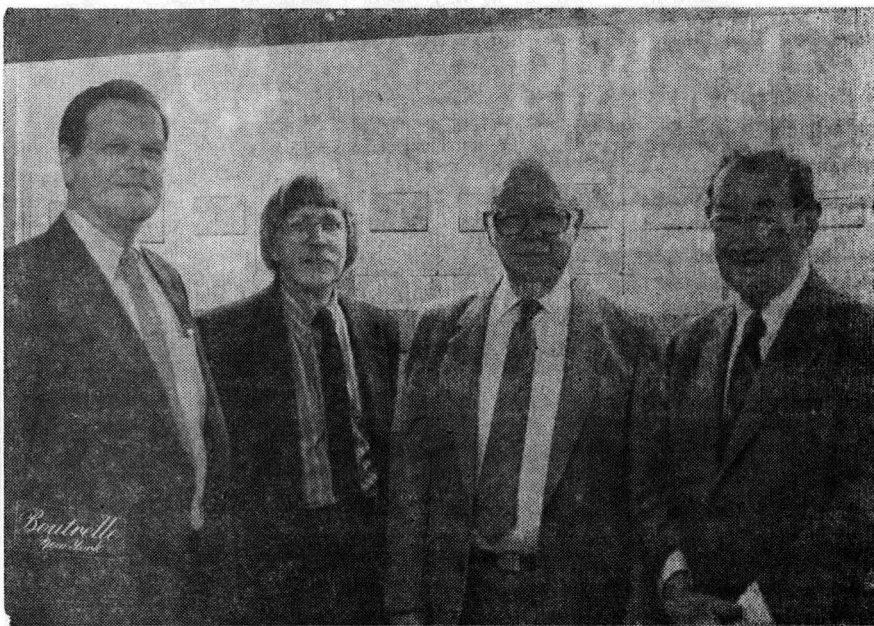
Ernst Cohn: Postal History Journal—Vermeil

The show was naturally strong in Italian exhibits. Many exhibits from France won good awards. U.S. classics were not well represented as probably many were holding off for AMERIPEX. There was much complaint about the bourse being inconveniently dispersed over four floors, many dealers left in disgust.

◆ At the Collectors Club meeting in October at which France and Colonies members were invited to show and speak, Marc Martin showed his classic France, Jerry Massler his Monaco, Ed Grabowski his Colonies group type. These have all been shown at FCP regular meetings in the past.

◆ At the ASDA show in New York in November Jerry Massler won a Vermeil for his Monaco. Among those seen at the show were: Jeff Bohn, Bill Bogg, Marty Bratzel, Ray Gaillaguet, Mel Garabrant, Ed Grabowski, Geo. Guzzio, Leo LeFrance, John Lievsay, Jerry Massler, E. J. McConnell, Mary Ann Owens, Walter Parshall, Howard Rapaport, Alfred Schneider, Sergio Sismondo, Eric Spiegel, Martin Stempien, Dick Stevens, Bob Stone, Keith Wagner, Bill Waugh, and Ira Zweifach.

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Members at the Collectors Club France and Colonies Night, last October. Left to right: Ed Grabowski, Martin Stempien, Ira Zweifach, and Marc Martin. (Photo courtesy Adrien Boutrelle)

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## F. & C. P. S. OFFICIAL

### President's Message

In recent years the Society has discontinued the publication of a membership directory. From time to time various of our dealer members have wanted to make a mailing to all or a large part of our membership. On several



such occasions we have arranged for our printer to provide a set of mailing labels for this purpose. The only charge in these cases has been the reimbursement of our printer's charges. The Directors have become concerned that some members might not want to be included in such a list. This concern lead to the query which all domestic members found this year on their dues notice. This provides an option so that members can have their name omitted from any such release. The Society has never sold its membership list, and does not expect to in the future.

As usual the Society will have a booth at the INTERPEX show in New York in March. We hope that we will see many of you there.

—Dick Stevens

### Entries Invited For Rich Exhibit

Every year the Society holds a competitive exhibition, named in honor of our pioneer member Stephen G. Rich. The exhibits are displayed at the Collectors Club in New York, in place of our regular March meeting. Any member of the Society is eligible to compete; there is no entry fee, although the delivery and return of the collection must be provided for. Officially entries are limited to two frames, but additional pages may be submitted, and they will be displayed if space is available.

This year the exhibit will be held on the evening of March 4. An official entry form is included with this issue of the Philatelist. We realize that current postage and insurance charges represent a significant obstacle to our non-resident members, but we encourage their participation. Last year there were only four entries, all from our "regulars," and we would really like to see something from "new blood." Further details will be found on the entry form.

### Ameripex '86

Arrangements have been completed for the official participation of the Society at AMERIPEX '86. We will have a booth on the exhibition floor, and we expect this to be the principal meeting point for members during the show. We would like to have someone manning the booth as much of the time as possible. Any member who will be visiting the show, and who would be able to sit at the booth should contact the president, Dick Stevens (P. O. Box 99, Greendell, N. J. 07839, Tel. 201-383-7591), so a schedule can be arranged.

The society is sponsoring talks by two members, each of which will be scheduled twice. Ed Grabowski will talk on "Classics of French Second Empire" on Friday, May 30 at 4:30 P.M., repeated on Sunday, June 1 at 10:30 A.M. Stan Luft's topic will be "French Military Mail," presented at 10:30 A.M. on Thursday, May 29, at 10:30 A.M., and again on Saturday, May 31 at 12:00 noon. We were also offered time and space for formal Society meetings, but have decided that such would be unnecessary. Everyone is urged to attend our sponsored talks and, these will serve as informal meetings.

At this writing, acceptances had not yet been distributed, but a number of members have applied for frames, and we expect to be well represented at the exhibition per se. It has been well publicized that hotel reservations for the show have been in heavy demand. Anyone who is planning to attend, and wants to stay at a hotel near the exhibition hall, should make his reservations immediately.

### Meeting of 1 October

Marc Martin brought us the French Classics tonight, and the troops, including Albert Schneider from Paris, turned out in force. The first through fifth issues were shown in shades, multiples, and varieties on and off cover. The 20c Cérès in black included a used block of 20 (10x2), a pair on cover at the double-weight printed-matter rate, and a tete-beche described by Marc as "nothing special" which brought chuckles from the audience. The 1F was highlighted by an unused pair in vermillion!

The 10c Napoleon Presidence issue featured a superb 10c pair on cover, whereas the Empire issue was also shown in a pair on cover cancelled by the Paris star in blue. A used block of fourteen (pc cancel) of the 40c and an unused 1F top margin block of four closed out the imperforate Empire section.

The perforated issue began with an unused block and a complete 1c printed-matter piece. Cancels included stars in red and blue, an "OR," a typographical, a red journal datestamp and a boxed "PP." This was typical of the variety of cancels throughout the exhibit. The feature of this section was the 20c on a cover posted at the Bureau du Palais de St.-Cloud on 2 November 1863. A letter from the office at St. Thomas to Bremen was franked at a 4 x 1.20F rate with six of the 80c issue.

The Laureated issue featured a 4c gris modoré shade on part of a newspaper, and a strip of five cancelled with the "LP" lozenge on a cover at the 20c rate. Finally the 5F was shown with the "5" and "F" in blue to close out the presentation. The many questions and lingering at the frames confirmed the audience's delight and interest in the program.—Ed. G.

### Meeting of 5 November

Churchill and brandy; Robespierre and revolution; Ruth and homers—tonight it was Massler and Monaco. Fresh from a Vermeil for his Monaco Postal Stationery in Boston, and working day and night to ready his full exhibit for an invited presentation in Monaco in December, Jerry showed eight frames of the stationery covering the 1878-1941 period.

Prior to 1886 French stationery was used in the Principality, and from then until 1891 it was used along with that prepared specifically for the Principality. Jerry presented a good selection of the French material—all properly used in Monaco, plus a French reply card used from Italy to Monaco. In the Charles III section was a good group of wrappers including many with added postage prepaying higher printed-matter rates.

Among the Albert I issues Jerry showed some banded packages of envelopes as originally sold by the Post Office. There was a ½ to 1 centime per envelope extra charge instigated by the stationery manufacturers so that PO customers didn't get the envelopes free. Jerry wondered how long the extra charges for the envelopes were continued and whether such was also done for letter cards. No answers came from the audience; possibly our readers can make a comment.

Few stationery errors are available, but Jerry showed two Albert I letter cards with doubling of the "TAXE REDUITE/A OF 10" revaluation surcharge. The first appeared due to a skipping during the printing process; the second contained two very clear separate overprints. The latter has been sent to nine experts and has come back four for, four against and one uncertain. The A.C.E.P. certified both overprints genuine, but would not say whether they were applied at the same time.

Louis II material followed including a piece with a casino cancel. A section of miscellanea ended the presentation.—Ed G.

## Meeting of 3 December

Once again it was "Members Participation Night" and a number of unusual items were presented. Charles Vengrove began the proceedings by showing a presumed 1c Lauré Rothschild, recently purchased for a modest price. The general view was that it was an imperf Colonies issue as Charles expected. He also showed a beautiful Sage set on Bristol card prepared in 1900 for the archives and 1900 Exposition. Marc Martin followed with an "it ain't what it seems to be" cover franked with a 15c first issues Ceres tied by a grill cancel and posted from Granville (31 Juil 50) to Chinon and sold at auction as being from the first week of use. Not quite—as the 15c rate did not apply from city to city and the stamp was an 1862 reprint! The cover, without its original 20c stamp, and the 15c reprint were united long after their presumed use in an effort to enhance the value of an ordinary piece many-fold.

President Dick "MQE" Stevens followed with a number of new Martinique covers including a 50c rate cover (2 x 5c plus 40c Eagles) from St. Pierre to France posted Feb. 12, 1867. It was struck with a Line B transit and a "Corps Exp. Mexique" Paris arrival. Pourquoi? A cholera quarantine in St. Thomas detoured the last troop ship from Mexico, and this piece was mixed in with the Mexico mail, thus receiving the wrong sorter's handstamp in Paris. A 10c Dubois on an insufficiently-franked cover posted locally in St. Pierre in the 1880's followed. It was forwarded to Fort-de-France (a forwarder's handstamp) and a manuscript "2" on the face. Much discussion and a variety of explanations followed. Since the cover traveled between two cities the proper rate should have been 20c. It was 10c short or 20c due—so Dick believes. But why the forwarder's handstamp?

Larry Kunstadt took the honors for the most unusual presentation of the evening with a showing of 12 covers from WW II internment camps in France. Actually France began interning German Jewish refugees in camps prior to the outbreak of the fighting. This was extended to French Jews under the Vichy regime. Larry is making a study of this unhappy period in French philately, with some of his material coming from his Grandfather who was an internee. Information is difficult to locate and Larry would be interested in hearing from anyone with related covers and information.

Your truly showed a variety of debris including an SPM Group Type cover franked at the 15c military rate (1896), and a strip of five of the 1892 "Nlle CALEDONIE" overprint on 2c Sage issue on a cover posted locally in Noumea on 11 Nov. 1892 despite the fact that the stamp was supposedly never issued (see Y&T Colonies 1936, p. 551). Eric Spiegel brought in a page of the 25c Ceres issue featuring a study of the "Grand Cassure" including a cover showing three different positions of this famous variety!

Martin Stempien concluded the proceedings with another "it ain't what it seems" cover—a stampless from NYC to France. The cover was posted at 21 cents prepaid (31 Aug. 1853), presumably during the "retaliatory" period, and bore a correct Boston British Packet transit. But in France it was marked "8" décimes due instead of "13", and treated as carried by an American packet. Martin concluded that the letter missed the Boston sailing, despite the British Packet marking, and was returned to NYC for passage on an American ship. The moral—study your markings; know your dates; and read the literature.

Despite the a priori uncertainty of this type of meeting, the results are inevitably excellent. Keep this in mind when the next one is scheduled—join us for a good show and bring something along. —Ed Grabowski

## NEW MEMBERS

- 2509 ALBERTIN, Richard, 5 Sunset Ave., Albany, N. Y. 12203  
(General France, mint, used)
- 2510 FAGERSTROM, Stephen R., 4822 Bedford St., Mesquite, Texas 75150  
(General France, mint. Saar)
- 2511 ARNDT, Gerald J., 2209 Girard Ave., North, Minneapolis, Minn. 55411  
(Topical: Religion, Martin Luther, Reformation. Modern France. Full sheets, DeLuxe proofs, imperforates. Mali)
- 2512 ELIAS, Peter M., M.D., Box 601—Star Rt., Muir Beach, Calif. 94965  
(General collector all issues. General France, mint, used, on cover. Antarctic, Polynesia, Oceania. Exchange)
- 2513 HILEY, Douglas L., 637 Dundee Ave., Flossmoor, Ill. 60422  
(General France, mint. Colonies General Issues, mint. Dealer, part time)
- 2514 TRAMMEL, Jack L., Plaza Stamps, Inc., 6324 Gaston Ave., Dallas, Texas 75214 (Dealer, full time all issues)
- 2515 BUCHSBAYEW, Paul, Cherrystone Stamp Center, Inc., 132 West 34th St., New York, N. Y. 10001 (Dealer, full time. Auctions)
- 2516 BIRD, Warren, Duke University Medical Center Library, Durham, N. C. 27710 (Guadeloupe, used abroad, revenues used in Guadeloupe. Colonies General Issues, mint, used, on cover in Guadeloupe. Cancells, postal history, stamps, covers of Guadeloupe)
- 2517 STAPLES, Steven, P. O. Box 68, Cambridge, Mass. 02140  
(General France, mint, used. Classics: 1849-1876, used. Modern France mint, used)
- 2518 ROUSSOT, Pierre, B. P. 204, 71007 Macon Cedex. France  
(France, stampless covers. Departmental "Marques Postales", Paris "Marques Postales". Entry markings. Military posts. Maritime posts. Used Abroad. Postal History. Colonies General Issues, on cover, cancells, and postal history. Covers of individual colonies)
- 2519 BALLINGER, Richard L., 12016 N.E. 145th, Kirkland, Wash. 98034  
(Art stamps. Stamps and covers of French Polynesia, New Caledonis, New Hebrides, and Wallis-Futuna)
- 2520 PASCOE, Jeffrey P., 61 Catherine St., Burlington, Vt. 05401  
(General France, used. Colonies General Issues, used. Cancells and postal history of colonies and territories. Navigation and Commerce issues of colonies)
- 2521 BROOME, John R., 1000 Water St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024  
(General France, mint, used. Classics. Sage Type. Modern issues. Air Mails. Colonies General Issues, mint, used. All colonies and territories stamps to 1975. Exchange)
- 2522 BARKER, Charles S. P., 211 East 18th St., New York, N. Y. 10003  
(General Collector 20th cent. General France, mint)
- 2523 VAN VYNCKT, Randall J., 518 Addison #309, Chicago, Ill. 60613  
(Postal History in general. Classics. Sage Type. Modern France. Semi-postals. Philatelic literature)
- 2524 MAIER, Ray L., 818 East Julia, Clinton, Ill. 61727  
(General collector 20th cent. General France, mint, used)
- 2525 SUTTER, Robert A., The Stamp Fair, P. O. Box 705, Glenview, Ill. 60025 (Dealer)
- 2526 KOHN, Stanley P., 250 S. Beverly Dr., Suite 202, Beverly Hills, Calif. 90212 (General France, used. Offices abroad, used. CFA, Andorre. Colonies General Issues, used. All colonies and territories, stamps. Exch.)

- 2527 GREENWOOD, John S., 202 River Road, Winthrop, Mass. 02152  
(St. Pierre et Miquelon)

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2479 MOURAD, Elie, 37-04 28th St., Long Island City, N. Y. 11101  
1857 BASKERVILLE, William L., 37 Skyline St., Gorokan, N.S.W. 2263, Australia  
2425 KLEENE, Steven J., 3411 Clifton Ave., #17-B, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220  
2103 KERMAN, Arnie, 2915 S. W. 22nd Ave., 17-107, Delray Beach, Fla. 33445  
2423 PISANO, John T., 15 Brawton Dr., Palgrave, Ont., Canada L0N 1P0  
2187 ROTHFUSS, Joan, 1607 Dupont Ave., North, Minneapolis, Minn. 55411  
29 SCHILLING, W. H., Jr., 1201 Yale Place #1108, Minneapolis, Minn. 55403  
2396 VAUPOTIC, Gregory, 10595 N. W. Flotoma, Portland, Ore. 97229  
1929 CAMMAS, Michel, 28 Carre Dominique, Blainville, Que., Can. J7C 3E6  
2322 UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS, Library Serials, P. O. Box 830643, Richardson, Texas 75083-0643  
2505 DE JONG, Harry H., 1935 Trillium Lane, Charlotte, N. C. 28211  
2492 WALBOW, Nathan, 1042 North Vista #1, Los Angeles, Calif. 90046  
2024 MAZUR, Alfred, 4931 N. W. 53rd St., Tamarac, Fla. 33319  
818 ROSENTHAL, Solomon, P. O. Box 249, Lake Katrine, N. Y. 12449  
2340 TRIBOLET, Robert W., 749 Canal Rd., Sarasota, Fla. 34242  
2450 TEICHMAN, Robert, P. O. Box 3253, Topsail Beach, N. C. 28445  
358 CHAMPLAIN, Charles E., R. D. #1, Box 143, Addison, N. Y. 14801  
2349 GOOLD, Wilson III, 216 North Rice St., Springfield, Ohio 45504  
1521 BLECHER, Franklin H., P. O. Box 630, Cranford, N. J. 07016  
2232 BURWELL, Robert J., 318 Bar Court, Poinciana, Fla. 32758  
1770 JERSEY, Stanley C., P. O. Box 26, Oak Park, Ill. 60303  
1801 BULL, James, 618 Crane St., Schenectady, N. Y. 12303  
1157 KLOSS, Kenneth, P. O. Box 1779, Lomita, Calif. 90717  
1959 MONTELLO, Lawrence J., P. O. Box 548, Janesville, Cal. 96114  
2185 BALLANTYNE, Larry F., 1710 Wine Cedar, Katy, Tex. 77450-5056  
2494 HERBERT, Robert M., 295 W. River Dr., Brawley, Cal. 92227-1444  
2265 SLATTERY, James M., 503 Wentworth, Woodwind, Mauldin, SC 29662  
2256 KUTNER, Robin M., 36 Sunset Hill Rd., Bethel, Ct. 06801-2923  
2208 KEENSTJERNA, Frederick R., 804 5th St., Huntington, W. Va. 25701

### REINSTATEMENTS

- 1571 GANDVEAU, Michel, 13 Rue De Navarre, 78490 Montfort L'Amury, France (Already in Directory)  
2337 MALVAUX, Michel, 5 Rue De La Fauvette, B. P. 765, St. Pierre et Miquelon via Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada (In previous Directory)  
2137 VOSHELL, Steven William, 421 East Livingston St., Philadelphia, Penna. 19125-3317 (General collector. France. All colonies and territories. All independent republics)

### RESIGNED

- 2391 WEINBERGER, W. A., West Orange, N. J.  
2018 COE, Joffre L. II, Raleigh, N. C.  
2245 DUFOUR, Lawrence P., Tucson, Ariz.  
2393 HARTMANN, M. Eleanor, Rutland, Vt.