



# France & Colonies Phîlatelist



## THE FRENCH POST OFFICE AS A DEBT COLLECTOR The *Recouvrements* Service

by C.W.E. Coles

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From 1879 the Post Office undertook the collection of debts, for which they charged a commission. This was deducted from the debt recovered. If, however, they failed to recover the debt, or any part of it, a fee was charged which was collected as if it was postage due. Initially, postage due stamps were used, but in October 1908 special *Recouvrements* stamps were issued and continued to be issued until 1931. After that date, postage due stamps or ordinary postage stamps were used to collect the fee.<sup>(1)</sup>

Special postmarks were used in the *Recouvrements* Service: linear handstamps (Fig. 1) from about 1880 and special datestamps (Figs. 2 & 3) from about 1891. I have seen only Paris datestamps, but similar datestamps probably exist for all the large towns. The cancellation found on *Recouvrements* stamps is either a datestamp or more commonly one of the triangle cancellations normally found on postage due stamps.

<sup>(1)</sup> In Appendix 1 can be found a translation of the account in the 1929 *Catalogue des Estampilles*. The initial (1889-1892) charges for the service are recorded in Appendix 2.

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As large quantities of stamps were used on this Recouvrements Service at Paris, the practice began of precancelling stamps in sheets. As far as I can recall, my attention was first drawn to the precancel nature of some of the cancels found on these stamps by the publication of "The Precancelled Stamps of France, Algeria, Monaco and Tunis" edited by H. Menard of Paris and published by C.R. Higby in Belgium in 1952. The devices used to precancel these stamps were said to be hand rollers which applied triangle devices to sheets of stamps. Two varieties of the device were described, a blank triangle (Fig. 4), used from 1925 to 1930, and one containing the letter 'R' (Fig. 5), the 'R' signifying Recouvrements, used from 1930 to 1938. An example of Fig. 5 on cover is shown at Fig. 6.

# RECouvreMENT

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Fig. 4



Fig. 5



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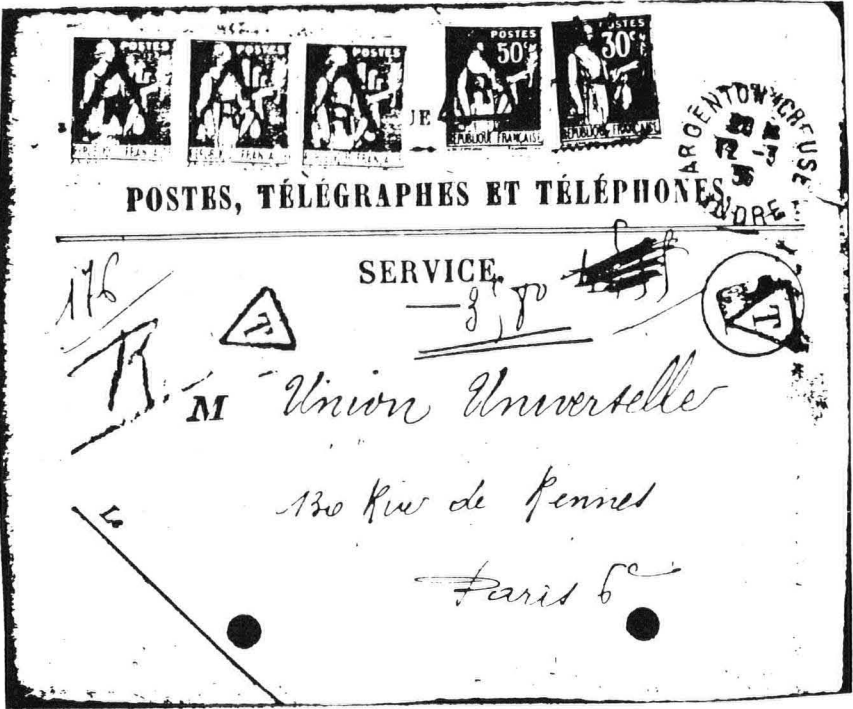




Fig. 6

There were similar triangle devices with the letters A and B used to precancel Postage Due stamps, and these devices exist on some Recouvrements stamps, but whether these latter stamps were used as postage due stamps or Recouvrements stamps I do not know. Certainly, Postage Due stamps and ordinary postage stamps precancelled with the 'R' device were used as Recouvrements stamps. The precancelled stamps are listed below:

Catalogue Numbers Value and Colour				
Yvert	S.G.			
<u>Recouvrements Stamps</u>				
56	D455	10c rose	x	x
57	D456	30c bistre		x
58	D457	60c red	x	x
60	D459	1fr blue green		x
62	D460	2fr sepia		x
63	D494	UN FRANC on 60c red		x
64	D471	1fr 20 on 2fr blue green		x
65	D472	5fr on 1fr violet		x
<u>Postage Due Stamps</u>				
28	D297	5fr blue	x	x

Catalogue Numbers Value and Colour  
Yvert S.G.

Postage Stamps

280	502	30c green (Paix)
283	508	50c red (Paix, Type III)
286	512	1fr orange (Paix)
369	512a	1fr rose (Paix)
301	525	2fr green (Breton River)
311	544	2fr blue (Daudet's mill)
260	473	5fr brown (Mont St. Michel)
261	474	10fr blue (La Rochelle)
262	475	20fr red-brown (Pont du Gard)
394	601	20fr green (St. Malo)



x  
x  
x  
x  
x  
x  
x  
x  
x  
x

Menard and Higby's Catalogue refers to the precancel devices as rollers, but this has since been contradicted. G. Dreyfus in an article in *La Philatélie Française* in 1958 established that the precancel was applied by a flat or curved handstamp comprising 5 devices (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7

Although it is said that the triangle precancels were used in large towns, I have only seen evidence of Paris usage and certainly the triangle devices with letters in them were used in Paris only.

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- 1) Catalogue Spécialisé de Timbre de France, Tome II (XX Century Part I, pp. 281-288) Yvert et Tellier 1982.
- 2) Catalogue des Estampilles et Oblitérations Postales de France et Colonies Françaises, Yvert et Cie 1929.
- 3) Catalogue des Timbres-Poste de la France etc. Tome 1 1936.
- 4) The precanceled Stamps of/Les Timbres Préoblitérés de/France, ALGERIA, MONACO, TUNIS 1952. Editor H. Menard, Publisher C.R. Higby.
- 5) Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969, Joany etc., 1982.

### APPENDIX 1 (Translated from Ref. 3 above, Chapter 10)

The Post Office is authorized by the law of 7 April 1879, to recover on individuals' behalf commercial payments or even subscriptions to ordinary societies. This service has undergone a great expansion; it makes use of service envelopes, special forms, and cachets applied to communications returned to the originator. These envelopes contained sometimes the *mandats* for the sums recovered, sometimes the unpaid bills. The latter were taxed, this tax nowadays (1929) taking the form of tax stamps called *Recouvrements*.





Fig. 8: Example of Mandat Poste used for Recouvrements

For ten years, this service made do with a mark in capital letters with the single word **RECouvrement**. This is what is still used in the great majority of offices. But from 1891 onwards certain offices in large towns (Paris, Marseille, etc.) which specialized in this service had special date stamps made. The word **RECouvrement** figured prominently in either the upper or lower part of the outer ring, the office name occupying the other part. Certain current cachets feature the department name as well. The first format was 20 or 23mm dia. with small characters, then 24mm with large bâton characters, and now they are the 27mm postal-type cachets.

When debts are not recovered, it is not rare to find the tax to pay indicated on the return envelope in all formats and all styles. Their make-up was left to the whim of the *bureaux*. Small offices had to write the figures by hand.

## APPENDIX 2 (Translated from Ref. 5)

A. Effective 15.6.1879

## RECOUVREMENTS

Recovery of bills, etc. payable without charge, not exceeding 500F.

Registered letter enclosing the invoice (form 212 bis)

Fixed fee irrespective of weight - - - .25

Settlement by *mandat* subject to the following deductions.

Mandat charge (proportional fee) - - - 1%

Fee payable to postman per 20F

or fraction of 20F - - - - - .05 (with .25 max.)

An identical fee to the postmaster

Unpaid bills returned by registered post without charge (form 214 bis).

B. Effective 1.4.1892, the last item was replaced by a charge for presentation of unpaid bills of 0.10 per bill, indicated by tax stamps on the return envelope No. 214 bis. This compensated for the 0.05 + 0.05 handling charges which could not otherwise be recovered because there was no *mandat* to deduct them from.

## Argentina to U.S. by French Steamships by Richard F. Winter

Raymond Salles' masterful work on maritime posts, *La Poste Maritime Française*, published in nine volumes from 1969 to 1975, provides a marvelous source of information to those who collect maritime postal-history material. If there is a French steamship connection, anywhere in the world, on a cover you are trying to analyze, there is a good probability that you will find answers to your questions in the wealth of information available from Salles. One particularly interesting folded letter will be used to explain this.

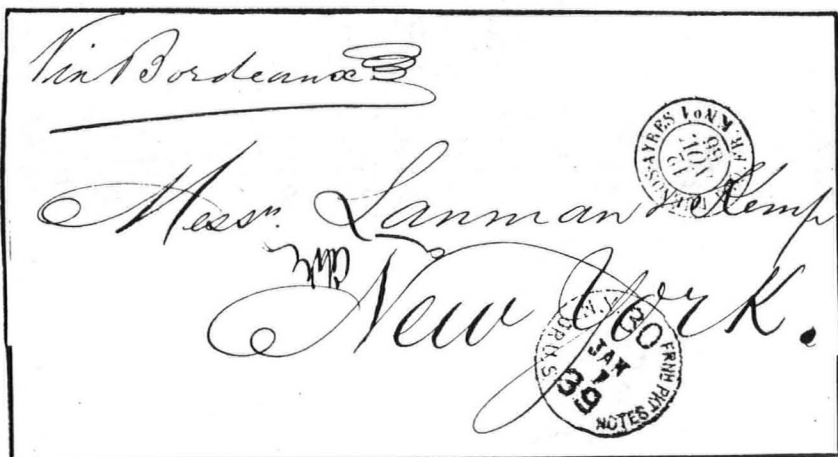


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Figure 1. 11 November 1866 folded letter from Buenos Ayres to New York carried by French Line K steamship to Rio de Janeiro and French steamships to Bordeaux and New York.

Figure 2. Letter sent unpaid. 30 cents due in coin or 39 cents in U.S. notes at New York. (Fig. 2).

Figure 1 illustrates a stampless, folded letter written on 11 November 1866 in Buenos Ayres, Argentina, addressed to the well-known drug dealer of New York, Lanman & Kemp, "via Bordeaux." The letter was sent unpaid, leaving all postage to the recipient, a common practice of the time when permitted by the effective postal treaties. This letter was sent in the French mails to the U.S. and was permitted by treaty to be sent wholly unpaid.

Salles details the French steamship lines to South America in volume 3 of his series. The French mail-packet line to Brazil in 1866 was designated Line J, running from Bordeaux to Rio de Janeiro. Calls at Lisbon (Portugal), Dakar (Senegal), Pernambuco

(Brazil), and Bahia (Brazil) were made before the steamers reached the western terminus of Rio. In April 1866 a monthly branch service, called Line K, was opened to Montevideo (Uruguay) and Buenos Ayres (Argentina). 12 round trip voyages were made on this branch route by the steamship *Carmel* and 29 round trips were made by the steamship *Aunis* before the Line K operations ceased. The voyages from Rio to Buenos Ayres and return each took about eight days. Postal agents sailed on the steamers and processed the mails on board. The double-circle datestamp in the upper right of Figure 1, which reads BUENOS-AYRES PAQ.FR.K No1 (Salles #1037), was applied in black ink by the on-board postal agent and shows the date the steamer *Carmel* departed Buenos Ayres for Rio. Apparently, the agent made up closed mail bags for Paris, and possibly for the United States, because there are no markings on this cover which show the next legs of the voyage.

*Carmel's* mails for France were transferred to Line J steamer *Guienne* which departed Rio on 24 November 1866 and arrived Bordeaux on 19 December 1866. The Figure 1 letter, still in a closed mail bag, was sent to Paris by rail and then to Brest to join the mails being carried by the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique steamship *Pereire* of Line H which operated directly between France and New York. *Pereire* departed Havre on 20 December 1866 and called at Brest, sailing from there on 22 December for New York. She arrived at New York on 1 January 1867. Here the closed mail bags were opened at the New York Exchange Post Office. The dual rating circular datestamp "N.Y. 30 FRNM PKT or U.S. 39 NOTES" was applied in black. This was a postage due marking which indicated that 30 cents was due if paid in coin or 39 cents if paid in greenback notes. A note of explanation is needed here. The American Civil War caused a serious devaluation of the currency in use, the greenback notes. By mid 1864 inflation had resulted in premiums on the notes as high as 250 percent when compared to the value of coins. The post office department suffered greatly from this inflation in its international transactions. While it collected postage due for letters sent unpaid from foreign countries in deflated greenback notes, it had to settle its foreign postal accounts in gold currency. Measures had to be taken to stop the revenue losses caused by the inflation or loss of value of the currency in use. In early 1864 the Congress passed a law allowing the Postmaster General to collect a premium on unpaid letters from those foreign countries with which the U.S. had mail treaty arrangements if the letter recipients paid in greenback notes. This premium was calculated daily at the Exchange Office Post Offices that received the incoming unpaid letters. New York devised a dual-rating handstamp (Fig. 2) that showed the two amounts which could be paid for postage due.

The letter examined here was 51 days in transit from Buenos Ayres to the United States by way of Europe. On each of the ocean legs of the journey it was carried by a French steamship. Each of the steamship voyages can be found listed in Salles, Volume 4 covering the North Atlantic routes and Volume 3, the South Atlantic routes. In addition, a tracing of the French steamship agent marking of Line K is illustrated along with countless other markings; however, he does not show examples of the New York Exchange Office markings used for the incoming French steamship mails.



## THE 24mm DIAMETER, DOUBLE-RING POSTMARKS OF DOUALA, CAMEROUN

by M.P. Bratzel, Jr.

The postal history of French Cameroun is the subject of a long term study by the author. The study includes postmarks and their observed dates of usage. The consideration of postmarks builds upon Wall's general report (1) that identifies which types of postmarks are found for which towns in Cameroun; Wall listed approximately 250 different postmarks. Earlier reports by Hamilton (2,3) and von Rudolphi (4) also discussed types of postmarks

by town. More recently, Waugh (5) has discussed railroad postmarks for Cameroun. For the past three years, the author, in collaboration with R.J. Maddocks and H. Kraja, has been assembling additional information about postmarks through examination of numerous stamps and covers. A recent report (6), which summarizes the use of three captured German cancellers at Douala during and after World War I, is one product of this endeavour.

The close examination of postmarks of a given type for a given locale reveals that, quite often, there are actually two or more similar but distinctly different postmarks. This is particularly obvious for the 29-30mm single ring devices introduced into Cameroun beginning in 1921 and used well past independence in 1960; these will be the subject of future reports.

This present report describes another fertile field of investigation: the 24mm (nominal) double ring cancellers used at Douala beginning in 1916 and continuing, with interruptions, until at least 1953. Some of the differences among these postmarks are quite obvious, such as the spelling (Duala vs. Douala) and the spacing between letters and words. Other differences are more subtle, such as the number of dashes that comprise the inner ring and the position of the letters in relation to these dashes. In addition, for some of the postmarks, the diameter varies slightly from 24mm, or the letters are larger. Distinguishing among these postmarks is confounded by the generally poor strikes and by the wear and damage that some of the cancellers sustained.

At least 17 different cancellation devices were used: 7 inscribed Duala and 10 Douala. In addition, there are at least one fake and three dubious marks. Enhanced illustrations of each postmark are depicted below. To help distinguish among them, each illustration is accompanied by a description of easily measurable characteristics and easily visible differences. Nonetheless, that some of these postmarks are different may not be evident. That they are indeed different can, however, be confirmed when the illustrated postmarks are superimposed atop a light box; in particular, not all the letters will align.

Also presented below are the observed dates of usage for each postmark; the range will, of course, be expanded as additional information is obtained. The order of listing is somewhat arbitrary, but postmarks that are quite similar have been grouped together.

The author is preparing an inventory of the specific dates that each canceller was used. In order to make this inventory as complete as possible, photocopies of any postmarks that the reader may have would be appreciated. So far, the inventory has revealed extensive usage for some cancellers and sparse usage for others. Some were used concurrently. Others were apparently retired but resurrected at a later date, perhaps as the volume of mail increased or as other offices were opened (e.g. Douala Deido and Douala New Bell). Still other cancellers are known to have been used only at late dates (in the 1940's and the 1950's) but, considering the wear exhibited by the strikes, they must have seen earlier usage; the question is why earlier dates have not been found. Usage could have been for parcel post, or at an office that had a small volume of mail, or for some other service or location where the postmarks would not have ended up in the philatelic market or channels. However, this is only speculation.

In addition to photocopies of postmarks and dates of usage, the author would appreciate information about how these cancellation devices were constructed and the material used in the construction. The date portion of the postmark can be found rotated, relative to the town/country name, so there must have been set screws or other means to hold the canceller together. Perhaps the centre section was removable, as was generally feasible for many postmarkers of many countries.

Examination of the 24mm, double-ring postmarks for other towns in French Cameroun reveals that, in most cases, two or more cancellers were also used, although generally not concurrently. Such postmarks for other locales will be discussed in a subsequent report.

Based on the finding of the author and on information provided by R.J. Maddocks, H. Kraja, M. Wright, and others, it is possible to double the number of postmarks originally reported by Wall (1) for French Cameroun from about 250 to approximately 500.

Reported forthwith are the 24mm, double-ring postmarks of Douala, Cameroun (or Duala).

## Duala No. 1.



20 dashes. Distance between the D of Duala and the C of Cameroun (as measured from the bottom of the D to the top of the C) about 5mm. Distance from the bottom of the D to the right leg of the second A in Duala about 13mm. Distance from the right leg of the second A in Duala to the top of the right arm of the N in Cameroun about 5mm. Dash centered under the D, and dash extends to the right of the A in Cameroun. Later strikes show damage to outer ring near U of Cameroun.

Earliest: 4 MAI 16

Latest: 6 SEPT. 26

Violet strikes are found for late September 1916.

Maddocks speculates (8) that, in early December 1916, this postmark was applied at Yaounde, pending the arrival of a standard cancellation device to replace a three-line Jaunde handstamp. If this canceller was indeed used at Yaounde, the period of usage needs to be established. The post office at Yaounde opened on 1 July 1916 (9). The provisional Jaunde handstamp has been found for the period 17.10.16-21.4.17; the earliest French-style Jaunde (German spelling!) postmark recorded by the author is 8 Dec 17.

## Duala No. 2.



Similar to No. 1 but 21 dashes. D - C distance about 5¼mm, D - A distance about 13mm, and A - N distance about 5¼mm. Gap under D, and dash extends to the left of A in Cameroun. Compare also the position of the dashes relative to the second A in Duala for Nos. 1 and 2.

Earliest: 13 MAI 16

Latest: 28 OCT 22

Violet strikes are found for mid July 1916.

## Duala No. 3.



19 dashes. D - C distance about 8½mm, D - A distance about 11¼mm, and A - N distance about 7¼mm. Dash extends to of A in Cameroun. Later strikes show damage to the right leg of the second A in Duala.

Earliest: 2 AOUT 18

Latest: 8 OCT 24

## Duala No. 4.



Similar to No. 3 but 20 dashes. D - C distance about 8¼mm, D - A distance about 10¼mm, and A - N distance about 8mm. Dash extends to left of A in Cameroun. Compare also the position of the dashes relative to the second A in Duala for Nos. 3 and 4.

Earliest: 38 JANV 17

Latest: 19 NOV 20

## Duala No. 5.



20 dashes. D - C distances about  $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm, D - A distance about 12mm, and A - N distance about  $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Earliest: 10 JUIN 17

Latest: 24 DEC 22

## Duala No. 6.



Similar to No. 5 but 21 dashes. D - A distance about  $11\frac{3}{4}$ mm, A - N distance about  $7\frac{1}{4}$ mm, and D - C distance about  $7\frac{3}{4}$ mm. Compare the position of the dashes relative to the N for Nos. 5 and 6.

Earliest: 13 NOV 23

Latest: 25 JUIN 25

## Duala No. 7.



19 dashes. D - C distance about  $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm, D - A distance about 13mm, and A - N distance about 6mm.

Earliest: 7 DEC 24

Latest: 24 NOV 27

## Duala Forgery.



Date: 10 JANV 19. 43 dashes. Diameter about  $24\frac{1}{2}$ mm and letters are larger. The numerals "19" are shaped differently.

## Duala Dubious.



Date: 27 AVRIL 21. D - C distance about 8mm, D - A distance about 11mm, and A - N distance about  $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Status of postmark cannot be established at this time.

Douala No. 1.



21 dashes. D - C distance about  $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm, D - A distance about  $13\frac{1}{2}$ mm, and A - N distance about  $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Dash over M and over N; gap over E. Later strikes show damage to the outer ring between the AL of Douala and below the A of Cameroun.

Earliest: 7 JUL 23

Latest: 4 OCT 30

Douala No. 2.



Similar to No. 1. 21 dashes. D - C distance about  $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm, D - A distance about 13mm, and A - N distance about  $4\frac{1}{4}$ mm. Gap over M; dash over left arm of N and over E. Later strikes show a break to the outer ring below the E.

Earliest: 8 JUL 24

Latest: 22 OCT 25

Douala No. 3.



19 thin dashes, generally faint. D - C distance about  $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm, D - A distance about  $13\frac{1}{4}$ mm, and A - N distance about  $5\frac{1}{4}$ mm. Dash over A and over N of Cameroun. Outer ring dented; on later strikes, the outer ring is also broken below the C. Postmarks appear to be slightly narrower than high.

Earliest: 11 MAI 27

Latest: 20 DEC 28

Douala No. 4.



Similar to No. 3. 19 thin dashes, generally faint. D - C distance about  $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm, D - A distance about  $13\frac{1}{2}$ mm, and A - N distance about  $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm. Dash to left of A and gap over N of Cameroun. Compare also the position of the dashes relative to the second A in Douala for Nos. 3 and 4. Earlier strikes are round and the outer ring relatively undented; later strikes are slightly wider than high and the outer ring is considerably dented.

Earliest: 7 AOUT 27

Latest: 1 DEC 30

Douala No. 5.



21 dashes. D - C distance about 6mm, D - A distance about 13mm, and A - N distance about 6mm. Large dash over left part of N and gap over R.

Earliest: 5 NOV 21

Latest: 3 AVRIL 26

Douala No. 6.



Similar to No. 5. 21 dashes. D - C distance about 6¼mm, D - A distance about 13mm, and A - N distance about 5¼mm. Gap over N and dash over R. Strikes for 1945 show a break to the outer ring to the left of the D.

Earliest: 11 FEB 30

Latest: 24 JUIL 30

Subsequent Usage:

Earliest: 4 JUIN 45

Latest: 12 OCT 45

Douala No. 7.

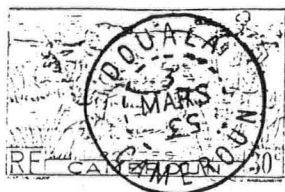


19 dashes. D - C distance about 8¼mm, D - A distance about 12¼mm, and A - N distance about 8¼mm. Dash under left part of O in Douala. Locally made year slug for 1944; no year slug for 1946.

Earliest: 8 DEC 44

Latest: 1 FEV 46

Douala No. 8.



Similar to No. 7. D - C distance about 9mm, D - A distance about 13mm, and A - N distance about 8½mm. Dash centered under O in Douala. Only one example seen. Date: 3 MARS 53. Note: Stamp (Scott 305) issued in 1946.

Douala No. 9.



No trace of any dashes. D - C distance about 5mm, D - A distance about 13½mm, and A - N distance about 5mm. Only two examples seen, both dated 20 Juin 26. A third example with the same date appears quite similar but differs in several subtle respects, including the width of the first A in Douala, the ink, and the diameter. Status of this last example cannot be established at this time.

Douala No. 10.



Similar to No. 9. No trace of any dashes. D - C distance about 5½mm, D - A distance about 14¼mm, and A - N distance about 5½mm. Only one example seen. Date: 18 AOUT 31.



## Douala Dubious.



19 dashes. D - C distance about 7mm, D - A distance about 13½mm, and A - N distance about 6mm. To date, only three dates have been recorded (5 AVRIL 25, 5 AVRIL 26, and 1 MAI 26), but these have been found in quantity, both on loose stamps and on cover. The covers are all overfranked but show no evidence that additional services (such as registration or special delivery) were rendered to account for the additional postage. The covers have no transit or receipt marks. They also bore no contents; the strong application of the canceller to the fronts of the envelopes has created strong indentation

on the backs. The envelopes seen to date bear a pre-printed return address, "Territoires du Cameroun/Direction/des Travaux Publics/Chemins de Fer/Ports et Rades," or some variant. One cover, although postmarked 1926, has been addressed with a ball-point pen; ball-point pens were not perfected until the 1950s. The postmark may or may not be legitimate. The covers could have been philatelically inspired, the stamps cancelled to order, and addresses added then or at a later date to enhance their apparent authenticity. The status of this postmark cannot be established at this time.

The author wishes to thank R.J. Maddocks, H. Kraja, M. Wright, and others who graciously loaned covers, stamps, and photocopies of Douala/Douala postmarks. The information that they provided contributed immeasurably to this report. Please address correspondence to the author at: 1233 Virginia Avenue, Windsor, Ontario N8S 2Z1, Canada.

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## Albert Decaris

Lovers of fine stamp designing and engraving will be saddened to learn of the death of Albert Décaris on 1 Jan in his 87th year, after 72 years of steady devotion to his metier. He began engraving in 1915 at the Ecole Estienne and then at the national School of Beaux Arts. He won his first Grand Prix du Rome in engraving in 1919, and spent 5 years in Italy working on Greco-Roman mythological figures, which he illustrated in hundreds of books. He would not limit himself to engraving but practiced also in watercolors, oil painting, frescos, murals, and sculpture. Engraving and designing stamps began in the 1930s, the Paquebot Normandie being one of his first. He has done many 100s of stamps, not only for France and colonies. It was a field he was glad to get into along with other

artists of his generation because the once flourishing book-illustrating business which had kept so many artists busy during the preceding century, had vanished in the face of photography. In fact the stamp engraving has mainly been responsible for keeping the French engraving tradition alive.

Décaris was a fast worker, but never quite satisfied with his work and was always striving to be better, looking forward to the next project. He was not bashful about going to bat with the government officials over stamp designs.

Among artists and book lovers he had plenty of recognition before he entered philatelic work. He was a member of the Institut de France, the Académie des Beaux Arts since 1943 and its President in 1960 and 1966, an Officer of the Légion d'Honneur for Arts and Letters, and Croix de Guerre 1939-45. Décaris was happy to accommodate the philatelists, their interest having supported the livelihood of many artists; he praises the younger generation of stamps engravers as very talented.

He never felt the need to become a Professor. Although he loved the Mediterranean and had a studio at Toulon, he spent 10 months of the year in Paris where most of his work was. He kept up working and showing at Salons right to the end, though the last several years he found engraving too strenuous and hard on the eyes so he spent most of his time on painting. He credited his enduring health to gymnastics and eating and drinking little as possible.

Décaris' style of design and engraving has been the subject of many articles and comments in the press, including some by us in FCP and in Essay-Proof Journal. Much has been made of his free-flowing style which conveys a sense of life and movement, and his exaggerations in his historical scenes. In his paintings and watercolors one often sees a frivolous fanciful sense of humor not evident in his stamps, which have to conform to the administrative taste.

He had become sort of a cult among collectors of stamp designs; proofs and essays of his designs and other memorabilia are much sought for--with resulting high prices.

(See notes on Décaris in Fr. Cols. Phil. #s 57, 64, 151, 153, 135, 160, 162, 165, 168, 171, 172, 173.--)

--R.G.S.

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## WHAT THE PTT HAS IN MIND FOR 1988-1990

In an interview with Guy Lormand, the PTT official responsible for philatelic matters, in Timbroscopie for Jan. 1988, he answers some questions about the plans of the PTT for the period 1988-90.

Among the stamp issues in 1988 the "bande-dessinée" booklet (see description under Announcements which follows) is specially mentioned, and the projects for three joint issues with other countries: viz., the XXV Anniversary of the Treaty of Cooperation with Germany, and joint issues with Denmark and Switzerland.

The Minister for PIT had already announced that consultations were going on with all the stamp artists to come up with a new Marianne design for the regular issues, the present Liberté design having been in use long enough. The PTT has a dossier of designs held over from the previous years and wants to get a bigger selection for consideration. A preliminary selection might be ready to present at time of Philexfrance.

For Philexfrance an emission in triptyque is planned, consisting of two historical events, the Assemblée de Vizille and the Journée des Tuilleries at Grenoble, which in 1788 had preceded the Revolution, with a vignette in center without value showing the Bicentenary and Philexfrance logos. In 1989 there will probably be another special booklet relating to the Bicentenary of the Revolution and the Declaration of the Rights of Man.

Any further celebrated-persons projects will have to wait till 1990 at least.

The PTT is trying to plan its future issues by using a computer to classify the various regular categories or series of subjects that the PTT will countenance for issues, which will be given to the Stamp Commission for considering the 1989 program; the list of subjects amounts to 160 proposals out of which only 30 to 40 stamps will actually be pro-

duced. The Commission's choices for them will be submitted to the Ministry. The first part of the program thus determined will be published in the middle of the year, the rest in November. About half of the chosen subjects are given to several artists inviting them to submit their conceptions for them. The art works they submit are then shown to various officials in the PTT and to persons or organizations who may have a family or moral concern with the subjects.

The reproductions of paintings for the artistic series present tricky difficulties in order to obtain a faithful result--it is not always possible to simply use photos and print by helio, for example. Regardless of what reproduction and printing technique is used, the adaptation of the original art work to the stamp format presents problems--Lormand thinks they should discuss the projects at a round table of all the parties concerned.

It is not planned to issue any more denominations for the current issue, as the commonest tariffs are now covered by individual stamps.

Some people hope the European Parliament will issue a common stamp for all the European posts. But this faces some obstacles that can be foreseen as rather daunting:--the postage rates would have to be unified and that requires a common currency, and the tendency to convert the postal services into private or quasi-government corporations in place of the government monopolies (as already in GB, and US and soon to be in Netherlands, and being considered in France).

The program for postal stationery will come up for study in 1988 with the possibility of a whole new series perhaps at the time of Philexfrance. The present entries are a mixed bag, not meeting public convenience nor esthetic objectives. The LSA franking machine labels have been favorably received and will not be given up. A new mode of automatic franking is being studied for introduction after several years.



## INVESTMENT STATUS OF FRENCH CLASSIC ISSUES

The editors of Timbroscopie, in connection with a "dossier" article on stamp investing, offer a table of their impressions of the demand and investment outlook for classic issues of France--which will be of interest to our readers:

Cérès 1849-50--the 10c bistre is especially sought by specialists, the 15c green has stabilized in price owing to excessive attention, the 20c black suffers from lessened interest and lowered prices, now stabilized; the 25c blue and 40c orange have been unjustifiably neglected; the 1f carmine and vermillion are still the "stars" of this issue.

Presidence--rare stamps that cannot be afforded by the usual run of collectors; market is regularly rising and is an excellent investment.

Empire non-lauré--much sought for on covers, good investment for shades and varieties.

Empire non-laureated perforated--mint are rather neglected, but much collected as used singles and on cover, a good investment.

Siege of Paris--strong postal-history interest; blocks and tete-beche much in demand.

Bordeaux--a star issue among the classics, and benefits from the great popularity abroad; rich in rare shades; always a good investment.

Cérès Republic--little demand, stable market, sought in very high quality only; good future.

Sage--very popular, covers in demand for study of rates and cancels; 1c Prussian blue price stable, Types I and II 25c se-tenant are the stars, imperfs and millésimes deserve more attention.



## THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARDINAL SPELLMAN MUSEUM BUILDING

The CSPM, located on the grounds of Regis College in Weston, MA, is going to celebrate its silver anniversary in September of this year. More exactly, the building housing the

museum is 25 years old. The purpose of the museum is to serve and to stimulate philatelic interest throughout the world.

The museum's collection was basically donated by the Cardinal when he discovered that he did not have enough time to take care of it. In 1948 the National Philatelic Museum, located on the grounds of Temple University in Philadelphia, merged with the CSPM.

The CSPM was incorporated in August of 1960 and the collection was donated to the museum. Besides the Cardinal, many well known philatelists were on the board. A gift of \$500,000.00 made the building possible. Through the efforts of Harry L. Lindquist, a well known philatelist and museum trustee, 100 prominent collectors were asked to pledge \$1,000.00 each to establish a Founders Endowment Fund.

In 1963, the museum was officially dedicated. It is now an independent, tax exempt, institution. The museum is now completely funded through tax exempt donations and membership fees: Active \$15.00, sustaining \$35.00 with family membership available for \$20.00 and \$50.00 respectively. Patrons \$100.00 per annum. The salaried staff, all part-time, consists of a curator, an assistant curator, a librarian and a few other persons. All of the other workers are unpaid volunteers.

On the third week in September 1988, festivities celebrating the silver anniversary of the museum building will be held.

Prominent collectors will each be asked to exhibit 80 pages (5 frames) of their collection on a non competitive basis. This will give area collectors an opportunity to see material that otherwise could only be seen at national and international exhibitions.

On Friday, September 16, a reception, culminated by a \$100.00 a plate, formal dinner, will open the silver anniversary celebrations. The formal opening will be on Saturday, September 17, with an informal buffet at \$25.00 per person. The previous day's guests will be admitted free of charge to the buffet. On Sunday, September 18, the usual 3rd Sunday Bourse will be open as well as the gallery and country post office. The collections in the gallery will remain on display for a full month. Although further news releases and articles will appear in the philatelic press before September, make sure to make a note now on your calendar to attend this truly exceptional philatelic event.--

Raymond L. Gaillaguet,  
Trustee

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## BUREAU DE DIRECTION AND BUREAU DE DISTRIBUTION

The literature often makes reference to these administrative classes of post offices assuming you know what they mean; French collectors are familiar with them just as we are familiar with the U.S. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Class P.O.'s.

The date postmarks of these two classes were different. And the functions of these classes changed after 1819 from time to time. For the period 1849-75, the late Dr. Lejeune has given a brief explanation applying to the P.O.'s outside Paris.

The Bureaux de Direction (not readily translated but something like main or first-order offices): These were offices of some importance in which all possible types of postal service were provided, including registered, insured and money order mail. At the head was a Directeur. There were two kinds of Directions: "Bureaux Simples" run only by a Directeur, and "Bureaux Composés" (composite offices) headed by the Directeur aided by one or more employees of various grades. In each Departement there was also at least one "Bureau de Direction Comptable" which centralized responsibility for all the other Bureaux de Direction in the Departement, usually located in the chief town of the Dept. (with a few exceptions).

The Composite offices were divided into 8 classes (7 from 1871 on) plus one unclassified category, according to the number and kind of employees; 1st Class was for the biggest towns (Lyon, Marseille, etc.), 2nd Class for large towns like Havre, Nantes, Rouen, Toulouse. The 59 unclassified offices were mostly in the Seine area.

Bureaux Simples had 6 classes; on 1 Jan. 1849 there were 2,360 of them. Including the

composite and unclassified, the total number of Directions in 1849 was 2,599.

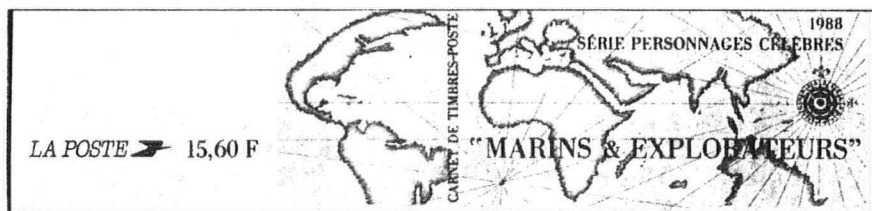
The Bureaux de Distribution: The term implies they only distributed mail but actually they differed mainly from the Directions in not offering as many services, especially ones with financial accountability such as money orders, insurance, etc. The Distributions were annexes to Directions offices nearby, usually in the same Dept. Distributions were divided into five classes in order of size of the postal receipts. Mail from the 5th Class is thus the scarcest. In August 1850 there were 1,016 Distributions offices. Distributions were sometimes upgraded to Directions or downgraded, or had their classification changed, even closed.

In 1864 the Directions were renamed Bureaux de Recette and the Directeur became the Receveur. In 1874 all the Distributions became Bureaux de Recettes of the 4th Class.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

► On 5 Dec. two stamps for UNESCO use were issued: 2FR Acropolis, and 3.60F Temple of Philae. On 1 Feb. four new precancels in 30x26mm size horizontal, designed by Picart Le Doux and engraved by Cécile Guilaume, printed in recess: 1.36F with symbol for The Air (bird), 1.75 symbol for Water (amoeba), 2.83 symbol for Fire (droplets), 4.75 symbol for Earth (a branch). On 7 Feb. the 2Fr Synagogue Victoire at Paris.

► On 20 Feb. four stamps for celebrated persons: mariners and explorers--1.00 + 0.50 Duquesne, 2.20 + 0.50 La Bourdonnais, 2.00 + 0.50 Suffren, 2.20 + 0.50 Bougainville, 2.00 + 0.50 La Perouse, 2.20 + 0.50 Dumont D'Urville. Printed in sheets of 50, horizontal format, and a booklet of 6 sold at 15.60F. In recess, design by Geoffroy-Deshaume, engraved by Pierre Bequet. The booklet cover is printed in helio. FD cancel is the same for all the stamps and the booklet.



► On 4 March a 20F for Philexfrance '89. On 12 March the Journée du Timbre stamp, showing a post stage wagon, 2.20 + 0.60, with booklets of 6 sold for 16.80F. On 20 March the 3.60 Centenary of the Ecole Normale Supérieure.

► The booklets of 10 celebrated-personages stamps of 1987, had an error in the first printing in the information panel where the "La Pochette Trimestrielle (T.P. Seule)" line was corrected in later printings to read "Le Pochette Semestrielle"

► Two new "closed" booklets of 10 of the 2.20 Liberté appeared in November without any official notice. One has folded panes, yellow covers printed in blue, carries the press No. "6" on back on a table of the New Tariff of 1 Aug. 1987. The other booklet has panes stapled at the two ends. The booklets that were already in use prior to November had covers in cream color with red inscriptions for the automatic vending machines and for 3 months between Sept. and Nov. last an additional blue in the vertical borders (press No. "9")--these will be very scarce booklets. Question is when will the "open" booklets be issued with the "PTT-Yellow" covers?

► A 4.20F aérogramme was issued recently without formal announcement, in same design as used for last 12 years.

- ▶ St. Pierre-Miquelon issued on 1 Feb. (Jan. ?) a 2.50 stamp illustrating mushrooms, and a 2.50F Russele orangée.
- ▶ New Caledonia issued a 76F Blason of Dumbea on 13 Jan. and a 36F on 10 Feb. for Bicentenary of the disappearance of the ship *La Perouse*.
- ▶ Polynesia released on 12 Jan. a 40F and 75F showing native culinary dishes of food: Varo, bananas in coconut milk; and on 10 Feb. a stamp for writers of the Pacific area.
- ▶ Wallis and Futuna issued on 29 Jan. a 40F Francis Carco.
- ▶ For Andorre: on 6 Feb. a booklet of 10 of 2.20 blason d'Andorre, on 15 Feb. a 3.00F Pied ex-Voto, on 31 March 2.20 Rugby.
- ▶ For Monaco: on 15 Jan. 20F with heads of the Princes; a fish series 2.00, 2.20, 2.50, 3.00, 3.70, and 7Fr. A booklet of 10 2.00F in the Armoires type on 15 Jan.
- ▶ The sales of the French stamps of 1986-1987 were mostly in range of 1 to 7 million, but the 2.20 Redon and 2.20 Claude Vasconi sold over 10 million; the 1.90 for 100 years of technical education and the 2.20 Mulhouse Musée des Techniques and 1.90 Raoul Follereau sold in the 13-15 million range.
- ▶ The specialists in the recent Liberté issues have discovered that all the stamps printed since 18/3/86 on the RGR-2 press have a variety of perforation larger than normal: 12½ instead of 13. Affected are the stamps in the 2nd row of every other sheet, which are 26.6mm high instead of 26mm. The values concerned are the 2.20F, the "A", and the 1.90F.
- ▶ Raymond Gaillaguet who is the U.S. Commissioner for PHILEXFRANCE '89, has available copies of the Provisional Entry Forms to be filled out by those wishing to exhibit at Philexfrance. The submitted forms must reach Gaillaguet by 15 June at latest. Request from him the blank forms at 15 Fletcher St., Rumford, RI 02916.
- ▶ Michael F. Schreiber, formerly with the Roger Koerber firm, has now been employed by Linn's Stamp News to write a monthly column of France and Colonies. He will be pleased to hear from readers with views and suggestions for the column. The Stamp Collector magazine is looking for someone to contribute notes and news on French-area philately. It seems there is an increasing interest in the French area, partly no doubt fueled by the topical/thematic aspect but also for postal history.
- ▶ Harlan Miller, our former printer, was in the hospital recently for 18 days with a ruptured esophagus and is now recovering, spending only one or two days a week in his shop. He had to quit printing the Roundup magazine, devoted to pulp fiction, which he had been doing for 50 years. He likes our new Philatelist. We wish him a happy retirement, well earned.
- ▶ Stanley Luft won the Reserve Grand at SANDICAL '88 for 10 frames of Revolutionary and Napoleonic Armies, also the War Cover Club Award and APS Research Medal. Lewis Bussy obtained a Vermeil for French Naval mails to US in WW II, mostly with R.F. overprints; Marc Isaacs won a Silver for his Indochina Mail by Water. Stan Jersey show New Hebrides (silver).
- ▶ At the Filatelic Fiesta '88 in San Jose, Donald Dretzke won a silver medal for his entirely new exhibit of French Sage issues.
- ▶ The venerable firm of Yvert et Tellier, publishers for many years of the Yvert catalogs and the L'Echo de la Timbrologie, celebrated its 100th anniversary on 19 Nov. 1987 with a party attended by notables of the PTT and local government, at which there were exhibits illustrating the history of the L'Echo and the catalogs. A cake with 100 candles took five people to blow out. It was noted the Eiffel Tower opening coincided with the first issue of L'Echo (Nov. 1887).
- ▶ The firm of Brun et Cie celebrated its 80 years of age in 1987. For the occasion, J.-F Brun held a contest with a 5000F prize--to participate one had to have a minitel terminal to make 3615 Code PHO, and tap 6 BRUN.
- ▶ For a recent private balloon flight from the continent to Corsica philatelic promoters



arranged to send philatelic souvenirs but the PTR would not permit any postal cancels.

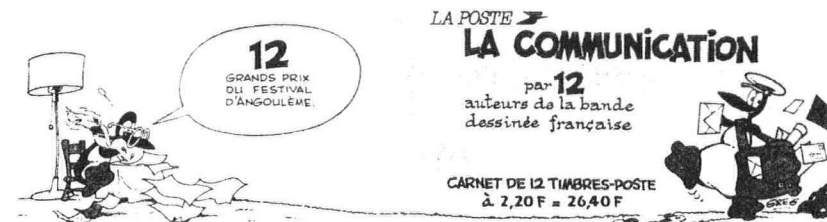
► At a reception in Paris on 14 November celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Expéditions Polaires Françaises with P.-E. Victor and EPF representatives and scientific researchers present, The Minister of D.O.M.-T.O.M. announced that the administration had given the green light to implementation of a direct air service from France to Terre Adelie to start in 1990.

► The Minister of PTT, G. Longuet, is a dynamic pusher, with a program to make the French services in communications on a par or better than the strong competition in the international area. He felt he had made good progress in 1987, reducing the debt (almost as bad as the US debt) and expanding the various services by technical innovations and making use of the private sector, improving morale of the employees, etc. Expansion of the financial services meets with objections by the private banking sector and there are difficulties in the plan to make the postal service into a corporation (as in US and GB) owing to resistance of the unions. It is only by the many financial services operated by the PTT that a great many of the post offices can be kept open and justified, the purely postal functions often being too small to be remunerative in the smaller places.

► Since 1986 a new generation of "Fictif" vignettes for the instruction of mailmen has begun. The preceding vignettes of several designs, were printed by type (rotary since 1935) and 1961-on by a sort of offset recess. Each fictif denomination corresponded to an actual tariff and a similarity in color. The tariffs have changed so frequently in the last few years that they couldn't keep the fictifs up to date with the tariffs. In 1986 a new type of fictif appeared in which in each vignette only the words "Sans Valeur" without any numeral were printed; and only the colors red and green for the basic letter rates of June 1987; these vignettes are printed by recess in the large format 22x36mm in sheets of 25 with guilloché and coins datés in margins.

► For the 1987 issues of France 32 artists were used. Ten stamps were engraved in recess by artists who did not originate the designs. Some artists both designed and engraved certain stamps, others only designed or only engraved. Some artists who did work in recent previous years were not used in 1987: e.g., Andreotto, Baillais, Bequet, Combet, Favier, Fernand Leger, Bertholdt Mahn, Décaris, Bid, Viera da Silva, Widmer, Durand-Megret. Some new artists appear in 1987: Patrick Lubin, Eve Luquet, Alain Koubier, Rober Druet, Yvette Michaux. The roster for 1987: Pierre Albuissou 1st, des. & engr.; Georges Bétemps, 1, d & e, Charles Bridoux, 1, d; Raymond Coatantiec, 1, d & e; Jean Delpech, 1, d & e; René Dessirier, 1, d; Roger Druet, 1; Michel Durand-Megret, 1, d; Claude Durrens, 3, d & e; Pierre Forget, 2, d & e; Jacques Gauthier, 3, d & e; Geoffroy-Deschamps, 7, d; Marie-Noëlle Goffin, 2, d & e; Cécille Guillaume, 1, e; Joseph de Joux, 1, d; Claude Haley, 2, d & e; Jacques Jubert, 3, d & e; Claude Jumelet, 4, e; Eugène Lacaque, 1, d & e; Pierette Lambert, 1, d & e; Jacky Larrivière, 3, e; Patrick Lubin, 1, d & e; Eve Luquet, 1, d & e; Yvette Michaux, 1, d; Jean Pheulpin, 1, e; Picart le Doux, 1, d; René Quilivic, 1, d & e; Joseph Rajewicz, 1, e; Alain Rouhier, 1, d; Huguette Sainson, 1, d; Jean-Paul Veret-Lemarinié, 6, d. The total face value of the stamps of 1987 was 207.80F plus 70.10F for the special booklets, and 66F for regular booklets, and 6.70 for stationery, and 70F for airmails. There were 18 different denominations (less than before). Most issues were in recess but 7 were in helio and 3 in offset.

► On 29 January the PTT released a colorful novelty which might start a trend. It is a special booklet of 12 stamps each 2.20 face, sold at 26.40F, to celebrate the theme "La Communication" consisting of one frame from each of 12 French Grand Prix winners of past annual international Festivals of the Comic Strip held at Angoulême. The term "bande dessinée" is used to describe comic strips and books in France. So we have here single examples of the work of 12 French artists in this medium, shown in full colors of the originals, printed by helio. The idea for this issue was promoted by the Directors of the Angoulême festival as long as 3 years ago, but the PTT did not get started on the project until last fall, and had to work with uncommon speed to get it ready for the 29 January



The front cover of the "bande dessinée" booklet, showing cartoon images of the penguin "Alfred of the Future," the PTT's idea to honor the best designer of comic strips who never got published.



Angoulême Festival date. There were 12 French artists who had won the Grand Prix at Angoulême in past years. Claude Mezières who was a Grand Prix winner in 1984 chose the designs to be reproduced (—a design of his is seen in the 5th stamp from the top in the left row).

The booklets are in the format similar to the annual Red Cross issue booklets. A special cover design by Michel Greg shows "Alfred of the Future" a penguin mascot which the PTT created to console the best BD designer who never won a prize. There was also a special FD cancel showing Alfred.

Comic strips and illustrated stories in France date from 1887, mainly for children until the 1950s, since then adult themes became common. By 1979 the fad for collecting such material as in other countries led to catalogs and auctions of comic books.

The 12 designs starting from top left down are: René Pellos 1976 Gd Pr, who created the first French Science-Fiction strip in 1937; Jacques D. Marijac, Gd Pr 1979, created in 1944 the *Trois Mousquetaires du Maquis*—his design shows Indians communicating by smoke signals; Jean Moebius, Gd Pr 1981, started a new style of design which has been much imitated; Claire Bretcher, Spec. prize at 10th Festival, his series *Les Frustrés* and *Les Mères* have been very popular among intellectuals for their wild and savage humor; Jean-Claude Mezières Gd Pr 1984, a specialist in science-fiction illustration; Jacques Lob Gd Pr 1986, is an illustrator in diverse styles; Jean-Marc Reiser Gd Pr 1978 (died 1983), was a satirical designer; Othon Aristides Fred Gd Pr 1980, —his stamp shows one of his characters, Philémon, he has published a number of albums; Paul Gillon Gd Pr 1982 draws in a classic style; Jean-Claude Forest Gd Pr 1983, favors absurd and symbolic in very original graphics; Jacques Tardi Gd Pr 1985, tends to themes of the early 1900s in the black humor and fantasy, the police, and social travail; Enki Bilal Gd Pr 1987 is devoted to pessimistic political fiction.

The Pane of 12 stamps of the "bande dessinée" booklet.



► **Reminder** - there will be a regional meeting of FCPS at ROMPEX, Denver, May 20-22. See announcement in Jan. FCP, p. 17.

► You may have noticed that lately there is a trendy boom to fancy booklets, not only in France but in many other countries. Booklets used to be an esoteric specialty for most collectors and they were not greatly popular owing to difficulties in mounting, acquisition, and lack of esthetic appeal. Many past booklets were issued in relatively small quantities and are now scarce and difficult to obtain as well as expensive. (Note that in Sweden for some years now stamps have only been issued in booklet or coil form.) For a long time the general catalogs did not list booklets as such but only such regular stamps that happened to be issued only in booklets; complete booklets were cataloged only in special publications, but lately the standard catalogs of each country generally list and price booklets. Booklets of a commemorative sort (like French Red Cross) are still coming out in small quantities which causes collectors to rush to get them before they are withdrawn and dealers to stock for speculation. The booklets of regular issue sold in the vending machines are not popular in some countries and have to compete with coil stamps from vending machines. Specialists watch for booklet and coil stamps used on commercial covers—which may be very hard to find and often require specialized knowledge of the characteristics for identification.

► Ernst Cohn advises our readers of a recent article by him published in Germany that reproduces (transl. to German) Steenackers order of 1 Jan. 1871 giving American volunteers the right to free postage on letters home and from home. The order names units from Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires and the Argentine Legion. No mail of these or other American units is known as of now. Cohn doubts anyone will come up with an example so he calls this a case of Phantom Postal History. Cohn's article titled "Kämpfen 1870/71 Brasiliane in Frankreich gegen Preussen?" appeared in Arbeitsgemeinschaft Brasilien Forschungsbericht 29 Oct. 1987, pp. 19-20.

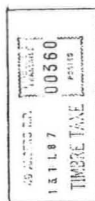
## FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from FCP #211, p. 28)

► 536). An unusual franking-machine label is reported from the P.O. at Angers from last November. The label is inscribed "TIMBRE TAXE" and the amount of postage due; the cover front also bears a large "T." The franking machine used must be specially programmed for this postage-due imprint.

► 537). Allen Anderson writes us that he has a cover with the Territoire de Saint James Antilles printed heading same as that we illustrated in FCP #210, p. 112; it was sent from Fort de France, Martinique, in Feb. 1937 and addressed to a member of Anderson's family; sent by the steamer Flandre, a French mail packet. Indicia on the back indicates the stationery was printed by a Paris firm. But we still have no information as to what the Territory of Saint James was.

► 538). Reference the article by Desrousseaux in Jan. FCP on p. 12 it is stated that about the beginning of November 1941 mail was sent from storage in Frankfurt to Marseille; Walter Tuchman sends us an illustration of a cover of this category addressed to Paris from U.S. in Jan. 1941 and marked Returned to Sender, etc., but with a U.S. arrival backstamp of October 21, 1941. Hence it would seem that the movement of stored mail to Marseille was earlier than the beginning of November.



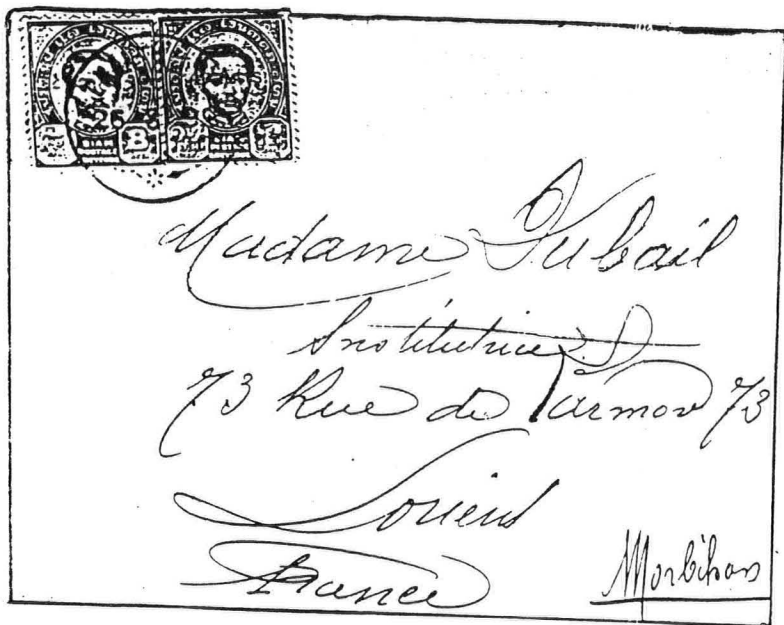
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► 539). The French Congo stamps of 1900 were surcharged with new values "5c" and "0.10" and issued at Libreville on 13 July 1903 owing to exhaustion of the stock of 5c and 10c unoverprinted stamps. 4,000 of each surcharge were printed but not all were used, as 1,585 and 1,178 of each were incinerated on 10 Sept. 1903. They are scarce stamps properly used on cards or covers in the correct period. The stamps were not sold to the public at the P.O. window but affixed on mail by postal clerks after payment in cash. The few mint copies reported came from 800 copies each sent to the UPU at Berne for distribution to UPU postal administrations. Both surcharges have been forged on mint stamps, the 5c forgery by rubber handstamp with grayish ink showing through on the back, and the vertical bar of the "5" too thick and "c" too big. The 10c forgery was done by typography, too strongly impressed especially in the horizontal bar, very black ink showing through on the back. The foot and top of the "1" are too thick.

► 540). The 25c and 50F large diamond-shaped stamps of Somali Coast of 1894, were issued mainly for fiscal use and any postal uses were surely philatelic (generally with postal cancels, covers extremely rare). Many of these stamps were surcharged with a small "s"



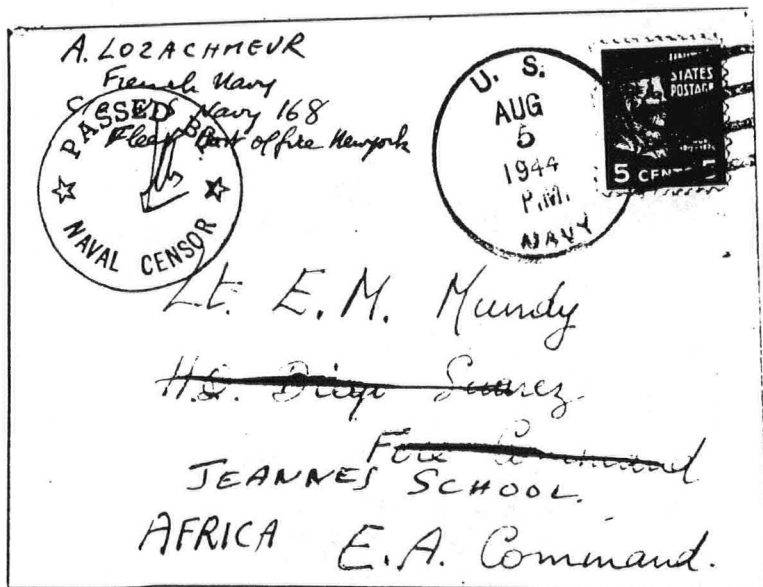
FOR THE RECORD  
NO. 542



in blue which is believed to be an abbreviation for Specimen, which are cataloged much less in that condition; that has induced fakers to remove the "s", which is readily detected. But "dangerous" forgeries of these two stamps exist; they are printed by litho (originals are in typo), the quadrille also done by litho. The 25F was shown in Fournier's catalogue of facsimiles and we suspect the 50F was also done by Fournier. The quadrille on originals is in an almost colorless varnish which can be seen easily against a light but on the forgeries the quadrille is difficult to detect. Under the "5" there is a comma on the originals but a period on the forgeries. The forgery postmarks read: "Djibouti/18 Oct. 94/Postes" in a wavy outer circle, "Djibouti 10 Aout 97/Colonies Francse," "Cote Francaise des Somalis/7 Mars 04/Djibouti."

► 541). The "+5fr/Spitfire" local surcharge on four Cameroun stamps, issued 28 Nov. 1940, and the "Spitfire 10fr/General de Gaulle" local surcharges on two values of the Cameroun 1939 N.Y. World's Fair stamps, issued 23 Feb. 1941, have been forged in France. The "+5fr" fakes were done by handstamp and are somewhat fuzzy, though the cross bars are regular whereas they thicken towards the extremities on the genuines. The top of first "I" of Spitfire is rounded on the fakes. The gum on genuines is weak or missing owing to exposure to the tropical climate in the colony but it is normal on the fakes. The Spitfire 10fr fakes have a strong impression (foulage) on back, letters very regular ("e"s often filled in on the genuines), accents on "e"s often touch top of "e," gum normal, "0" of "10" is normal not thick as on genuines, shade of the 2.25 F stamp is fresh ultramarine not grayish.

► 542). Reference the discussion of the French occupation of the Siamese town of Chantaboun (in Waugh and Luft, pp. 58-59) in 1892-1904, the existence of French military covers in franchise is noted, none with stamps; but recently M. Messenger illustrated in Bull. COLFRA #40, a remarkable cover from Chantaboun of October 1899, to France, with a pair of Siamese stamps cancelled by an apparently Siamese postmark of Chantaboun. Nothing on back to indicate the routing, whether via Cambodia or Saigon or via Siam.

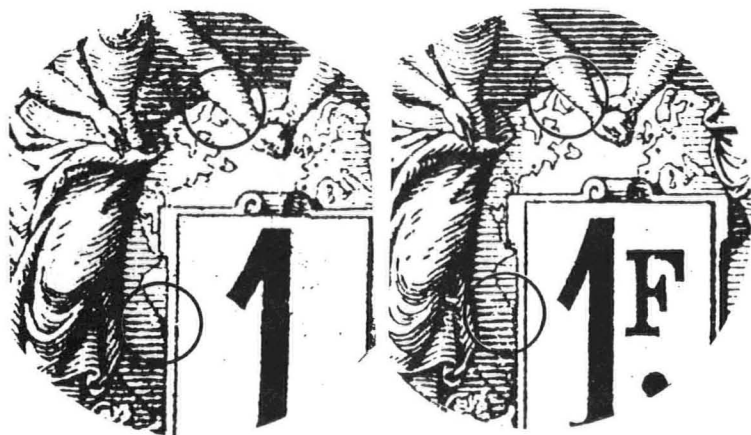


► 543). Colin Spong sends us a photocopy of a WW II military cover with possible connection to secret operations. It is from a French Navy man whose address was c/o U.S. Navy 168, Fleet Port Office, N.Y., to a Lt. at Hq Diego Suarez Fire Command and forwarded

to the Jeannes School (apparently somewhere in the East African Command?). Posted on Aug. 5, 1944, received "E.A. APO 53, 21 Nov." (bs) (probably Diego Suarez). What was "U.S. Navy 168?"

► 544). In FCP #211, in FtR #532, we noted some of the unusual postmarks of Madagascar in Favrel and Mathieu's study of Madagascar postal markings. A continuation of their article illustrates some odd cachets of administrative nature cancelling stamps: a circular "Poste Administrative de Sambooa"; straight line "Arivonimamor---1911/L'Administrateur---, Chef du District"; a large rectangle inscribed "Province du---/25 Avril 1916/Enregistré sous No. 1298/Repondu le---/Dossier---"; A large straight line "TANANARIVE" cancelling a French stamp is said to be a griffe used on stamps on covers which had not been cancelled at origin. "CONTROLE" in a rectangle was struck on stamps or covers that were opened for inspection by the P.O. A killer of concentric hexangonals (seen in France also), and a heavy circular ring.

► 545). A satisfactory explanation of the well-known peculiar square-box postmark of Mytho, Indochina, inscribed "CE/POSTES/MS," has never been forthcoming. A correspondent to Timbroscopie proposes his theory (he had lived at Mytho for some years): the "CE" presumed to stand for Corps Expeditionnaire, but since the more rapid means of mail dispatch was via a steam launch down the river, the letters may stand for "C" = chaloupe, "E" = expeditions, "M" = marine, and "S" = Saigon. Perhaps, nice try, anyway.

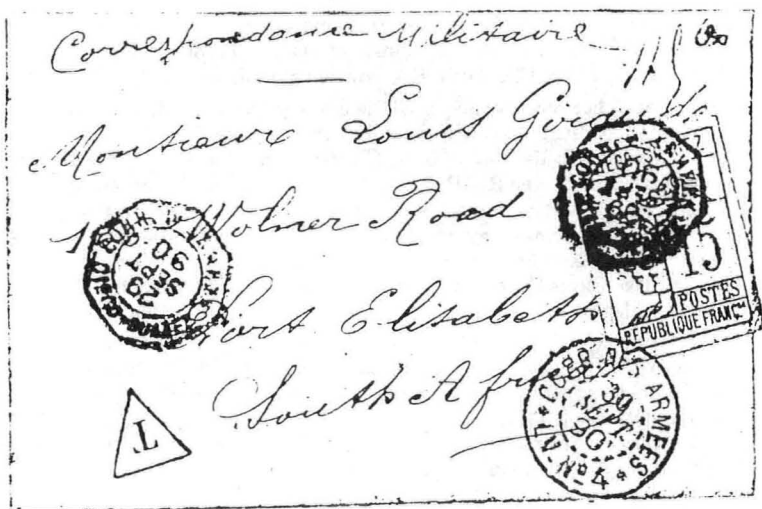


Type I

Type II

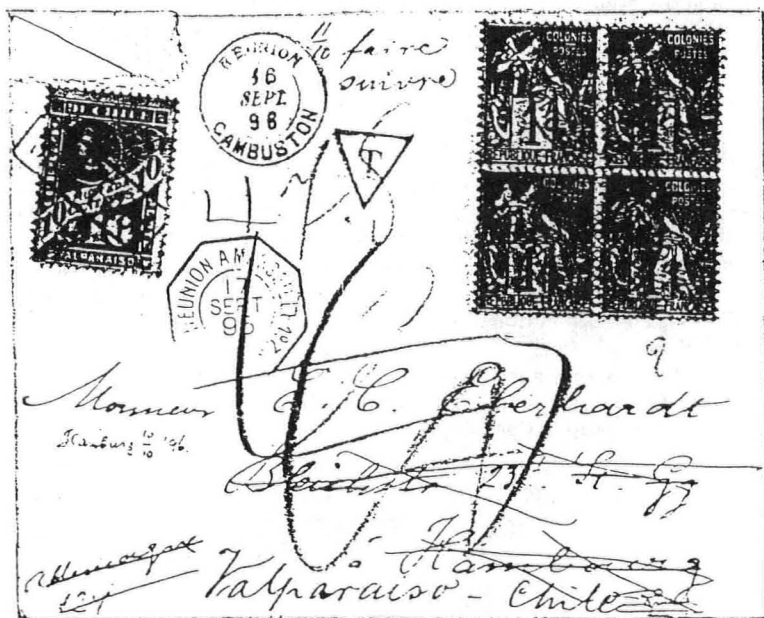
► 546). We are always expected to distinguish the Types I and II of the Sage issue by the positions of the letter "N" beneath the "B" or "U" of "Republique" in the inscription at bottom of the stamps. But what do we do if, as sometimes happens, the inscriptions are not visible due to a poor impression or covering by a cancellation, or to trimming of the margin? There is a way, as M. Melot points out in Timbroscopie: there is a line in the area to the upper left of the numeral box which is the outline of the west coast of South America (on the globe), in Type I this line joins the frame without any gap, in Type II there is a small gap just outside the frame. Also, under the arm of the Peace figure resting on the globe, in Type I the outline of the SW. coast of Greenland is broken, while on Type II it is entire.

► 547). Colin Spong has a military correspondence cover from Diego Suarez 1890 addressed to South Africa bearing a 15c Diego Suarez lithographed stamp of Sept. 1890 issue, in the large gross design of two heads overlapping. The 4 stamps of this issue, which intrigue so many collectors, are not rare off cover though there are many reprints and fakes (not



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always easy to tell), but on cover they are extremely rare—we know of only three or four. Spong's cover and stamp is cancelled by the octagonal "Corr D'Armée/Diego Suarez" postmark 29 Sept. 1890, and on the cover face the packet-sorter transit postmark "Cor. Des Armées/L.V. No. 4, 30 Sept. 1890." Cover marked "T"-in-triangle for postage due (by D.S. P.O. probably), because the 15c franking for the military rate was only valid within



FOR THE RECORD NO. 548

the French empire and not to foreign destinations. Spong deduces the cover was picked up at D.S. on 29/9/90 and landed at Zanzibar via the French packet Rio Grande on Oct. 3, then taken to Port Elizabeth, S.A., by some other service.

► 548). Scott Gallagher recently acquired the cover shown here, that went from Reunion to Chile via Hamburg in 1896, which must be "unique" in some ways. Posted at the very small P.O. of Cambuston, Reunion, 16 Sept. 1896 with a block of four of the 1c Dubois of French Colonies surcharged REUNION. The cover marked "T" for due by the Reunion P.O.—not knowing what the contents were we cannot say what the proper franking should have been but 4c did not then pay any foreign rate. Reunion à Marseille French-packet sorter cachet 17 Sept. Addressed to Hamburg, forwarded there on Oct. 10 to Valparaíso, Chile, where a 10 centavos Chilean postage-due stamp was affixed and cancelled by a rectangular cachet (illegible). Various penned and crayon marks are apparently charge marks and other annotations are probably by some collector(s).

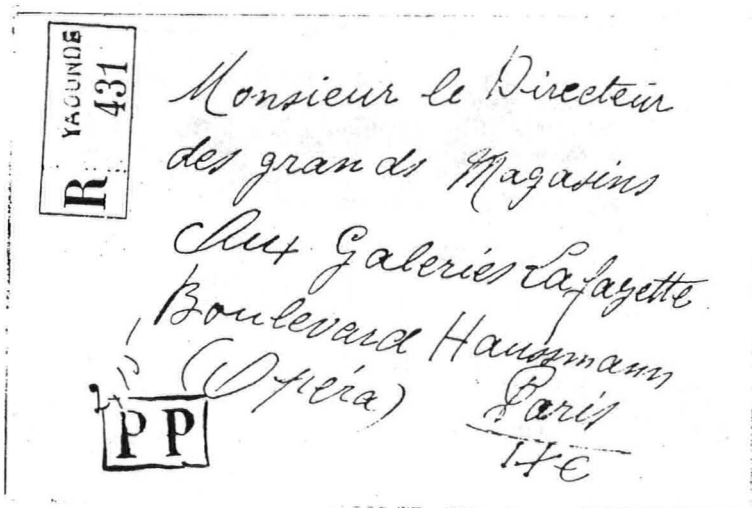
► 549). The use of "P.P." cachets in lieu of postage stamps to indicate prepayment of postage in cash was frequent or occasional at several P.O.s of Cameroun during 1938 to 1940s or 1950s—see our article on such uses of PP cachets in various colonies in FCP #183, (pp. 9 and 16 refer to Cameroun); these have been seen mostly on registered commercial covers. An example of the "usual" type is shown here from the collection of J-F Ressort which however lacks a date postmark but is around 1950 judging by the type of registry label. Marty Bratzel shows this more unusual type of such use (D. Mayo coll.), from Douala to U.S. 1945, on which the postmaster annotated the front with: "Taxe percue 670 francs, siscent-soixante francs.—Le Receveur Principal—." That was a pretty high franking, but the large cover was probably with heavy business papers of an oil dealer. The question about these covers is why were stamps not used. The reasons may have been various. In the 30s and 40s there were actually shortages of some denominations and the use of PP cachets for cash franking was authorized by the Cameroun administration in 1938. But in the case of this cover with 670 francs franking, the highest stamp denomination available was 20Fr and that would require 34 stamps for which there was hardly room and perhaps would run the P.O. stock too low. During the 1930s and 1940s the postage rates were frequently raised owing to inflation, and the stamp denominations could hardly be changed fast enough to keep up. For some reason the top denomination in most colonies remained at 20Fr during this period and one sees heavy airmail covers plastered with 20Fr stamps. Later 50, 100 and 200 Fr stamps were issued but most P.O.s did not stock them.

► 550). Alain Millet has a local cover of Martinique sent from St. Pierre to Trinité 26/3/1892 bearing a 1c plus a 2c Dubois colonies stamps for a 3c franking. This was a rate for unsealed envelopes (greeting cards, etc.) which was only in force from 1/1/89 to 1893. Our Guadeloupe and Martinique experts say such covers are very rare.

► 551). We recently saw notice of a French aerogramme of 1.60F overprinted SPECIMEN, 31mm long, the value was obliterated by a 1.90 new value.

► 552). There is a French military postcard of 1944, with imprint ARMÉE D'AFRIQUE and PAR AVION.

► 553). Tom Marra reports a cover postmarked from Dzaoudzi, Mayotte, 12/1/09 with a 5c Madagascar Group-type stamp—this was before the general use of Madagascar stamps in the Comores had been authorized from 1912 on.



FOR THE RECORD NO. 549

## MEMBERS' APPEALS

WANTED: Siege of Paris material: letters, journals, cards, etc. send xerox copies and price desired. --Walter Brooks, 305 West Ave., Springfield, PA 19064 (Mb #1023).

WANTED: French black and white pre-1920 picture postcards, used or unused, showing dog-carts, occupations, workers, shops, market scenes, Paris scenes, balloons, small trades of Paris, Paris vecu. Send on approval to Michael Cammas, C.P. 4, Ste., Therese, PQ, J7E 4H7, Canada (Mb. #1929).

WANTED: Scott specialty pages for French colonies prior to independence. Send list with



country name and price. --R.A. Breault, 3912 Moss Oak Dr., Jacksonville, Fla. 32211 (Mb. #2648).

FOR SALE: France Scott #P3 used VF on VF complete newspaper "JOURNAL DES INSTITUTERS, Dimanche 10 Juillet 1870" tied by newspaper printing. New \$50.00. Ed Grabowski, 741 Marcellus Dr., Westfield, N.J., 07090 (Mb #1469).

WANTED: "Peace and Commerce" (presumably France Sage issue) with clear cancels. Also any articles on these. Will exchange or buy (if inexpensive). --Nick Bantock, P.O. Box 32, Bowen Id., B.C., VON 1G0, Canada (Mb #2614).

## NEW MEMBERS

- 2685 Funk, Dean M., 228 Addison Drive, St. Peters, MO 63376 (General France: mint. Semi - postals - booklets - coils - air mails. Europa, French Southern & Antarctic Territories: mint.)
- 2686 St. Clair, John M., 2101 6th Ave., North, 11th Floor, Birmingham, AL 35203 (General France: all issues - mint.)
- 2687 Greenwood, Marcia B.H., 36 Beecher St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (Topical: 1962 World Against Malaria. General France: used. Postal history in general. Andorre, Monaco, Europa, & United Nations. Colonies general issues: used. Independent Colonies general collecting. Philatelic literature. Exchange.)
- 2688 Woods, James L., 2018 Dickson Place, Madison, WI 53713 (Classics 1849-1876: mint - used - on cover - 1870-1871 issues - commune - ballons - dues. Colonies general issues: mint - used - on cover.)
- 2689 McIntyre, Gordon, 219 1st Ave., North, Court B, Seattle, WA 98109 (General collector France & Colonies.)
- 2690 Sommerfield, Dean, 472-115 Diamond Crest Rd., Susanville, CA 96130 (General France: used. Specialized France: entry markings - military posts - maritime posts - railway posts - used abroad - postal history in general - all cancellations from 1853-1875 (Scott's #s 12-63). Classics 1849-1876: mint - on cover - cancellations. Exchange.)
- 2691 Dressel, Floyd J., 652 Devonshire, Belleville, IL 62223 (Classics 1849-1876: mint - used; 1870-1871: issues - commune - ballons; Alsace-Lorraine: locals - dues; Sage type 1876-1900. Modern France to 1935: mint - used - special issues & usages: dues - revenues. Colonies: general issues to 1935: mint - used. All Colonies & Territories to 1935.)
- 2692 Schueck, Larry, HCR 61, Box 320, Mill Creek, PA 17060 (General collectors all issues. General France: mint - used - on cover.)
- 2693 Manwell, Edmund, 1 Sansome St., 14th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104 (General France: mint - used.)
- 2694 Cheung, Wong Wai, 603 Block A, Yan Wing House, Yan Tsui Court, Chai Wan Hong Kong, Hong Kong (General collector all issues. All topics. General France: mint. Saar. Colonies general issues: mint. All Colonies & Territories. Dealer: Mail sales.)
- 2695 Belt, Eugene H., 2124 Olympic St., Springfield, OH 45503 (General collector all issues. General France: used.)
- 2696 Huling, Dudley F., 12269 W. Kentucky Dr., Lakewood, CO 80228-3313 (General France: mint - used. Modern France: Sowers (peace w/olive branch - others: Ceres - Iris - Petain - Mercury - Marianne.) All information on these items. Philatelic literature.
- 2697 Bodelel, Jacques, 4391 St. George St., Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5V 4A3 (General France: on cover. Specialized France: stampless covers to and after 1815 - Departmental "Marques Postales" - Paris "Marques Postales" - entry markings - military & maritime posts - railway posts - used abroad - postal history in general. Regular issues: cancellations - Maximum cards. Special issues & usages: telephone & telegraph - dues - parcel post - newspaper - Franchise Militaire - revenues - air



meets - first flights - Liberation issues - expositions - special & temporary bureaus - Occupations issues of & by France. Offices abroad. Monaco. Colonies & Territories: cancels & postal history.)

- 2698 McDonald, William T., P.O. Box 1287, Coupeville, WA 98239 (All revenues of France, Colonies & Independent Republics.)
- 2699 Touchette, Norman W., 8807 Sheryl Ann Dr., St. Louis, MO 63126 (General France: used. Perfins.)
- 2700 Ruimy, Joel D., 775 Eastbourne Ave., Ottawa, Ont., Canada K1K 0H8 (All Colonies & Territories. French Morocco especially.)
- 2701 Witthoft, John G., 111 Dean St., West Chester, PA 19382 (General France: used. Regular issues: Classics 1849-1876: used. Modern France: used - Sowers. Special issues & usages: stationery.)
- 2702 Cochran, Dennis W., 1337 N. Rosemore Ave., Modesto, CA 95351-1342 (Colonies General Issues: mint - used. Stamps of Africa. Dealer: Full time.)

## REINSTATED

- 2479 Mourad, Elie, 11 Commerce St., P.O. Box 32402, Midtown Station, Newark, N.J. 07102 (Already in Philatelist.)
- 1203 Worcester, David L., 1808 University Ave., Columbia, MO 65201 (General collector: all issues.)

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS & CORRECTIONS

- 1732 Turner, Daniel L., (Add on for nine digit zip code.) 11401 Madison Ave., Kansas City, MO 64114-5241
- 1634 Jones, Herman LeRoy, Jr., 14 Harbor Village Drive, Apt. 3, Middletown, RI 02840
- 2578 Waite, Donna J., 3746 26th St., San Francisco, CA 94110
- 765 Van Dam, Theodore, (Change of zip code) P.O. Box 8809, Anaheim, CA 92812
- 963 Winter, Capt. Richard F., USN, Ret., Add Ret. to name.
- 1795 Hrycak, M.R., (R) (Change of zip code) MJH Philatelics, P.O. Box 288, Flushing, NY 11352
- 2672 Phillips, Robert B., (Change of zip code) 1525 Northway -333, St. Cloud, MN 56302
- 2602 Godwin, Morgan W., (Change of zip code) P.O. Box 573, Concord, NH 03302-0573
- 2649 Hornberger, Louis, 903 Beaver St., Bristol, PA 19007
- 1080 O'Hara, John B., Hershey's Mill, 595 Franklin Way, West Chester, PA 19380
- 1296 Kudzma, Thomas G., (Change of zip code) P.O. Box 1412, Nashua, NH 03061-1412
- 1136 Balch, Steven A., M.D., (Change of zip code) 3337 Fosca St., Rancho La Costa, CA 92609
- 2070 Hinterkopf, J. Peter, (Add on 4-digit zip code) 12116 Blue Ridge Court, Waynesboro, PA 17268-9280
- 2455 Bean, Dr. Frederick G., (Change of zip code) The Stamp Professor, 1500 East 79th St., Bloomington, MN 55425
- 2441 Djerahian, Leon, c/o Mercury Tours, Inc., 729 Boylston St., Suite 401, Boston, MA 02116
- 2368 Lattanzi, Daniel R., 2031 Blairmont Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15241
- 2458 Wanstall, George E., 11224 Dell Loch Way, Fort Wayne, IN 46804
- 2544 Rudner, Mel, P.O. Box 061513, Palm Bay, FL 32906-1513
- 2625 Beeler, Walter R., 37 Skymountain Circle, Chico, CA 95928-6309
- 1946 Satloff, Aaron, M.D., 24-A Grove St., Pittsford, NY 14534
- 2636 Drake, Dale P., (Correction street spelling should be "Bellen") Rt. 2, Bellen Rd., Broadalbin, NY 12025
- 2064 Welch, Bill, (Change zip code) 706 Sunset Rd., State College, PA 16803
- 2534 Miller, A.G., (Change zip code) 7082 N.W. Third Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33487
- 1133 Orzano, John. (R), (Add on 4-digit zip code) P.O. Box 609, Islip, NY 11751-0609

- 1976 Swanson, William F., (Box number change) Rt. 5, Box 5017, Spring Grove, PA 17362  
 2436 Balbaton, Richard J., (Add on 4-digit zip code) P.O. Box 911, North Attleboro, MA 02761-0911  
 1534 Beatty, Millard F., (Change of zip code) P.O. Box 22166, Lexington, KY 40522  
 944 Diamond, J. Leonard, (Eliminate Federal Bldg.) Fifth Floor, 407 Lincoln Rd., Miami Beach, FL 33139  
 2614 Bantock, Nick (F), P.O. Box 32, Bowen Island, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V0N 1G0  
 1364 Plyler, Earle F., (Add on 4-digit zip code) P.O. Box 550, Edmond, OK 73083-0550  
 441 Sturznicke, Donald M., 13-A Swift Circle, Whiting, NJ 08759  
 2355 Coulbourne, Joseph C., SAM Division, USS John F. Kennedy CV67, FPO, New York, NY 09538

## REMOVED FROM MAILING LIST

For Non-Payment of Dues by April 1

M. Arslanian; A. Amine; J-F. Brun; R.H. Berkes; M. Bloom; R.J. Burwell; R.C. Coe; R. Cohen; Max Corley; Jon Corrado; Geo. Cairis; H.A. Drescher; A.R. Eunice; Joe Eaton; Jos. Greenfield; V. Gurton; Dr. R. Gibeault; Kay Gaetjens; M. Gandveau; J.G. Hopkins; R.A. Ierardi; Alex Jackson; Gary Jones; Dr. M. Lieb; Geo. Lauscher; L.F. Livingston Co.; W.F. McManus; Don J. Marcus; Robt. Moorefield; Ronald Newberry, Sr.; Richard Nielson; A.T. Perry; David Pickard; Geo. Quinot; E.A. Rappaport; Margaret Ransom; Jas. W. Reinhardt; D.T. Smith; Raymond Slater; H.W. Schneiderman; John Truedell; Ms. H.R. Valeriotte; Jack H. Wills.

## RESIGNED

J.M. Glezen; Ed. J. McGrath; Peter B. Martin; Marlin K. Sandberg; Wm. E. Wells.

## ADDRESS UNDELIVERABLE

Robt. W. Harwood; Robert Desjardins; Pierre Bosquet.

# F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

## President's Message

I am writing this message Sunday evening following the INTERPEX '88 show in New York. I must admit I found it a very successful show: not only did the judges show an appreciation of my exhibit of Martinique Forerunners, but I also acquired an outstanding Postes Serbes cover at a quite reasonable price.

Unfortunately it was not that good a show for the France & Colonies Philatelic Society. Our booth was located next to the American Topical Assn., helping assure a goodly number of passers-by. However, we were unusually short of volunteers to man the booth, with the result that no one was there about half the day Friday and Sunday. This also meant that nearly half our fifteen four-day passes were unused. We have fifteen passes for each show, nominally for the use of those who man the booth. However, I reiterate that I would prefer to have these used by other members who attend the show, rather than have them wasted. Therefore I urge any member who can use a pass to contact me two weeks before the show, and it can probably be arranged.

In May I will be travelling to Denver to attend ROMPEX, and I hope to meet many of our members there.

Dick Stevens

## Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual meeting for the presentation of reports and the election of officers and directors will be held at 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 3, 1988, at the Collectors Club in New York City, in conjunction with the regular monthly meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**  
**France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc.**  
**1987**

Balance on hand 12/31/87 \$10,198.77

**RECEIPTS:**

Total 1987 dues	\$6,033.50	
Publications		
Back Issues	326.00	
Index	120.00	
Luft	65.00	
Lozenges	4.00	
Vaurie Fund issues	1,175.00	
Bordeaux	361.50	
Miscellaneous	115.00	
Interest	360.64	
Samples	2.00	8,562.64

**TOTAL RECEIPTS**

18,761.41

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

Meetings	397.80	
Philatelist	3,640.86	
Editor's expenses	601.67	
Secretary's expenses	500.00	
Treasurer's expenses	17.45	
Advertising & Membership	432.95	
Printing & Stationery	77.26	
Exhibitions	782.61	
Publications	1,140.65	
Miscellaneous	207.50	7,798.75

**BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/87**

\$10,962.66

**MEMO:**

Vaurie Fund	\$9,193.17
Prepaid 1988 dues	4,691.50
1987 surplus	1,766.49
Cash in banks	<u>\$15,651.16</u>

Respectfully submitted,

3/10/88

Approved by Board of Directors

Beatrice M. Berner,  
Treasurer

**Corresponding Secretary's Report For the Year 1987**

Total Membership as of January 1, 1987	803
Total New Members for the Year of 1987	53
Total Reinstatement for the Year 1987	8
	<u>61</u>
Resignations Received for the Year 1987	18
Total Deceased Members for the Year 1987	7
Members Dropped for the Non-Payment of Dues	62
Members Undeliverable as addressed 1987	<u>3</u>
	90

Net Membership Loss for the Year of 1987	29
Total Membership as of December 31, 1987	774

### **Gifts Received In Memory Of Eric Spiegel**

At the February meeting we were pleased to announce the receipt of a gift of \$1500 in memory of our long-time director, Eric Spiegel. In making the gift his sister, Mrs. Gerda Wile, remembered that he had enjoyed the France & Colonies Philatelic Society so much, and never missed a meeting until his final illness. She has asked that the money "be put to some use he would be pleased with."

The Board is currently considering possible uses for this money, and would be happy to receive any suggestions. We feel that this money should be spent for something beyond our regular budget, and which would serve as a fitting memorial to a most faithful member and director.

### **Spring Meeting Schedule**

Regular monthly meetings are held at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., N.Y.C., beginning at 8:00 P.M. All members are heartily invited to attend, and if they can arrive by 6:00 P.M., to join us for dinner at a near-by Chinese restaurant. The speakers this spring will be:

April 5: Eugene Fricks on "Tax Stamps."

May 3: Harlan Stone on a Swiss-French topic to be announced.

June 7: Jerold Massler on "Recent Acquisitions of Monaco."

### **Meeting of 2 February 1988**

Program Director Ira Zweifach changed hats this evening and became our speaker. His topic was Unusual Aspects of Modern France, and he took the opportunity to just touch on the endless array of postal history items to be had from the French modern period. Among the many items he showed were: a S.H.A.P.E. cover from the Allied HQ; a liberated cover from Corsica in 1944; a variety of WWI army cancels including material from air bases and auto mail; and various crash covers. Other unusual items included a cover franked with Belgian stamps used by the King and Queen of Belgium during WWI. Forced out of their own country by the war, they were permitted to continue to use their own stamps while in exile in France.

Ira also presented a package of 5c Blanc envelopes still in their special post office wrapper. FM letters to the De Lawrence Company of Chicago used by Black-African troops attempting to purchase black magic paraphernalia were shown. These came due as the FM service was not valid to the USA. Ira concluded with a proper use of a ration stamp on card, this being needed to obtain ration books in war-torn France.

- Ed Grabowski

### **Meeting of 1 March**

Tonight we had the Rich Exhibit, and a reluctant Rich it was. Because of the late arrival of the January PHILATELIST we had but two entries, and they were noncompetitive. However, both were of the very best quality.

Marc Martin began with his Essays of the Early French Issues, with material from the Ceres through the Sage issues. Artist's proofs, color essays, fabric essays, cut outs and non-adopted essays abounded. Even a letter franked with proofs that was carried through the mails was shown. Dick Stevens gave us one-third of his Martinique Forerunners to be shown at the March INTERPEX exhibit. A good showing of the 'timbre couche', foreign destinations (USA, Cuba, Trinidad, and Venezuela), military mail, insufficiently franked letters, and manuscript cancellations on various covers were presented, all franked with the general issues. No awards given out, but both golds in my book.

- Ed Grabowski