



France & Colonies



Philatelist

THE 1909 AMIENS STRIKE STAMP

by Derek J. Richardson

(Reprinted from *Fr. and Colo. Phil. Soc. Jr.*, No. 166, Dec., 1987, by permission.)

In the 1950s Charles De Gaulle often referred to strikes as "the English disease," but half a century earlier it was France that was so afflicted. February to May 1909 saw no fewer than three bouts of unrest involving the employees of the *Postes, Télégraphes et Téléphones*. I will trace the events of this time, which, as we shall see, had brief philatelic consequences for the town of Amiens.

P.T.T. employees, and particularly those of the Paris-Central telegraph office at 103 rue de Grenelle, felt that they had for too long endured bad conditions of service. Dismissals on political or religious grounds were not uncommon, manipulation of personnel dossiers was suspected, salaries were affected by slowness of advancement, promotions depending on patronage, and general mismanagement was complained of. They held Monsieur Simyan, Under-Secretary of State for the P.T.T. (whose office was in the same building) to blame for their plight, he having done nothing to improve things in the two years he had been in the job.

An incident on Monday, 8 February, 1909 involving an attempt to arbitrarily change the working hours of fifteen employees at Paris-Central was all that was needed to spark off the first conflagration. The telegraphists unplugged their machines and tumult reigned all morning. At the end of the morning shift, the demonstration continued in the streets. The altercations lasted two more days. The strikers' leaders persuaded M. Simyan to amend

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the change which was the immediate cause of the trouble but failed to get any satisfaction on their broader package of grievances. The telegraphists returned to normal working on Thursday, 11 February, but their hostility to M. Simyan continued.

The March Strike

The February revolt at the Paris-Central turned out to be a curtain-raiser to a very serious strike in March that same year. On Friday, March 12 a crowd of 300 *ambulant* postal workers invaded the Paris-Central to make a demonstration against M. Simyan. The police were called in and 37 arrests were made. At 2 p.m. the next day, the 1200 telegraphists began a sympathy strike. Under a law of 1884, strikes in the public service were illegal and after conferring with his chief, M. Barthou, Minister of Public Works, Posts and Telephones, M. Simyan threatened summary dismissal for all workers who did not resume work immediately. The strike ended by 5 p.m. but agitation continued. On the morning of the next day, Saturday, 13 March, the Government decided to suspend temporarily from service 38 telegraphists and P.O. clerks who were regarded as ringleaders of the previous afternoon's strike. Meetings of Paris mail van employees on Sunday evening and of postmen on Monday afternoon both voted for strike action and that evening, 15th March, a general strike was declared, the strike aims being an all-round improvement in conditions of service and the resignation of M. Simyan.

Employee response was patchy at first, but by Wednesday, March 17, although the strike was still far from total, services were thoroughly disorganized. Three million letters awaited delivery. The railway mail service was in chaos. At the central telegraph office employees were clocking in but doing no work. Support in the provinces was solid. Prime Minister Clemenceau told a strikers' deputation that those on strike would be replaced. Two days later, the situation was very serious, France being virtually cut off from communication with the outside world and the business community suffering badly as a result of non-payment of bills by post. That evening, March 19, the Chamber debated the postal strike



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and expressed by a large majority approval of the Government's firm stance, particularly in relation to the demand for M. Simyan's resignation which the Chamber regarded as an attempt to interfere in politics. In his report to the Chamber, M. Barthou revealed that there had been dozens of cases of telegraph wire cutting.

On the Saturday (March 20) M. Barthou received six representatives of the National Syndicate of Post Office Workmen. They promised an immediate resumption of work on condition that M. Simyan resigned and none of the strikers were dismissed or punished. M. Barthou confirmed that M. Simyan would continue in office and ordered the strikers to return to duty on Tuesday, March 23rd at the latest, after which he would receive representatives of all categories of post office employees in order to hear their grievances. On the Tuesday morning, a mass meeting of strikers at the Tivoli-Vauxhall decided by nearly 10,000 votes to 250 to return to duty. That afternoon, they proceeded to their places of work, claiming to have "given the Chamber a lesson it will not forget."

One can only speculate as to why the strike collapsed just when it was beginning to be most effective, but the vote in the Chamber at the end of the previous Friday's debate must have been a factor. The Government for its part must have been much relieved at the outcome, for if the railwaymen had joined with the postal workers it is highly likely that the Government would have been brought down.

The May Strike

A series of disciplinary hearings, at which seven strikers were required to answer for their actions during the March strike, began at the end of April, and led to their dismissal on 9 May. 52 employees were suspended from duty for staying away from work on May Day. On May 7th the Public Prosecutor initiated legal action for the dissolution of the Postmen's Syndicate on the grounds that its existence was in violation of the law of 1884 on professional syndicates. If these actions were calculated to goad the post office workers into another strike, they succeeded, for at a mass meeting at the Hippodrome in the evening of 11 May eight to ten thousand there voted for a general strike.

Unlike in March when the Government was unprepared for what happened, elaborate plans had been laid in case of a fresh strike. In case the traveling sorters went on strike all mail was to be sorted at the Prefecture on arrival; alternative arrangements made for Paris included bringing in the military. Paris addresses were to show the *arrondissement* number (an innovation which was to become permanent). In Bordeaux, for example, as in Paris, a large number of carrier pigeons were being collected and trained. Chambers of Commerce of all large towns had made arrangements for the organization, at short notice, of a comprehensive mail service. Members of bicycle and automobile clubs had been asked to volunteer to act as couriers. Troops were being held in readiness for instant duty at railway stations and in post offices.

The post office workers' strike of May, 1909 was, in the words of the *Times* correspondent, "a total fiasco." The union leaders misread the mood of their rank-and-file members, who had no stomach for another strike so soon after the March one. Fewer than ten per cent struck, and those who did were sacked and their jobs given to new recruits. In some provincial towns there was zero support for the strike. Which came to an end officially on 22nd May.

Chambers of Commerce Postal Services

The strike declaration on the night of May 11 was the signal for Chambers of Commerce up and down the country to implement the plans they had prepared. I am not able to say what happened in other towns, but I can say that in Amiens these plans were a little more elaborate than they were anywhere else, for they included the issue of a special stamp for the purpose. The text of the Chamber of Commerce's announcement of the service (as reproduced in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* No. 394, 15 May 1909) is as follows:

Amiens Chamber of Commerce NOTICE TO BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

The President of the Chamber of Commerce informs businessmen and manufacturers that a transport and distribution service for commercial correspondence is organized by courtesy of the Amiens Chamber of Commerce. This service is provided on the following conditions:

1. It is limited to commercial correspondence and covers ordinary letters only, not printed matter, catalogues or insured or registered items. The dispatch and distribution will

be undertaken without any responsibility on the part of the Chamber of Commerce.
 2. Correspondence must be handed in by 6 p.m. at the premises of the Chamber of Commerce at the Hôtel de Ville. Items for Paris must carry the *arrondissement* number.
 3. The following categories of letters will be accepted:

1. - Letters bearing a *griffe commerciale* [either imprinted or rubber-stamped, presumably - D.J.R.], sent by one businessman to another;
2. - Letters bearing a *griffe commerciale* sent by a businessman to one of his clients; For these two categories, the envelope must carry the name or business title, as well as the address of the originating business house.
3. - Letters sent by a client to a businessman, but on the express and strict condition that the business nature of the addressee shall be clearly indicated and distinctly specified.

Anything not satisfying this requirement will be refused.

Letters handed in must be franked with ordinary postage stamps to which will be added a special Chamber of Commerce 10 centime stamp which will be supplied at the time the letters are deposited.

The Service Operates From Now On

* * * *

Now, L'Echo is the house magazine of Yvert et Tellier who by chance had been given the task of printing the stamps mentioned in the notice above, and in the next issue (No. 395, 15 June 1909) appeared a charming account of how these stamps had come into being, which read as follows:

"Around 10 a.m. on 12 May, the President of the Amiens Chamber of Commerce came and asked us to deliver to him, that day, 50,000 stamps capable of being affixed to items of mail handed in at the Chamber of Commerce while the postal strike lasted. He explained roughly what he wanted, and left the detailed planning and execution to our initiative.

"Our print works being ill-prepared for making postage stamps, we had to content ourselves with the most elementary procedures; we immediately had the arms of Amiens engraved and the engraving transferred 25 times onto a stone; from this stone we immediately started printing in very light blue. In the meantime, the typographers were composing an unpretentious little vignette which was in its turn transferred 25 times in stone, then printed off in dark green. During the execution of the *report* [transferred impression - D.J.R.] a slight accident happened, damaging the C of the 23rd stamp. It would have been easy, at leisure, to correct this error, but time pressed and it was considered simpler to remove the damaged letter altogether. As to the 4th stamp, at the top, this was intentionally inverted to form a tête-bêche with its neighbours; an incomplete tête-bêche, though, for the arms of Amiens are the right way up throughout the sheet.

"As to the perforating, this had to be done by machines which we normally used for commercial printed matter, and which, in the present instance, gave a somewhat ugly result; we only sought, though, to obtain a means of easy separation and an approximately regular centering.

"We were very conscious of not having produced a masterpiece, but first thing on 13 May, the Chamber of Commerce took delivery of its stamps and made them available to the citizens of Amiens under the terms of an announcement which the *Echo* has already reproduced.

"These stamps were sold on the premises of the Chamber of Commerce by a postal employee supplied by Amiens' head office. They were immediately stuck on letters already bearing one or more 10c Sower stamps, according to the letter weight, and cancelled, at the same time as the Sowers, by another postal employee equipped with a regulation cachet.

"The service functioned thus until 6 p.m. on 19 May, which is when the postal strike ended. During the seven days it lasted, it rendered considerable service to the inhabitants of Amiens, who readily used the means put at their disposal by the Chamber of Commerce.

"We have not been able to find out exactly the number of stamps that were used, but we have just learned that the Amiens Chamber of Commerce decided, at its meeting of 8 June not to demonetize the small stock which remains. It will continue to sell at face value all that are left in its tills. Those of our readers who wish to acquire some of these stamps can therefore ask them for them. We would be quite willing to act as our subscribers' intermediaries in this matter, but for orders of one sheet or more and on condition that

they kindly enclose the return postage, and pay when ordering.

"Without knowing what the future holds for this interesting vignette in the world of collectors, we regard it as an official item which many will want to possess and keep in their albums."

* * * *

The first philatelic article mentioning the 1909 Amiens Chamber of Commerce stamp which came to my notice was by L.N. and M. Williams in the December 1937 issue of *Stamp Review*. It was entitled "More Locals," and in it they say:

"...The stamp is type-set, and of extremely simple design. The words CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE - AMIENS appear, respectively above and below 10 C. in large *sans-serif* characters, and the whole is surrounded by thick and thin frames of printers' rule.

"The stamp is printed in dark green on white paper, and is roughly perforated 11½. The arms of Amiens are impressed faintly in light blue on each stamp. There are twenty-five impressions on each sheet, and the fourth stamp in the top row is *tête-bêche*; the arms, however are impressed the right way round. The third stamp in the last row has the C. of 10 C. missing.

"The issue was made during a postal strike, when the Chamber of Commerce established a local service and levied a charge of ten centimes, in addition to the usual postal fee, for delivery within Amiens. The stamps were printed by the well-known firm of Yvert et Tellier, at Amiens, and the issue consisted of fifty thousand copies."

The words "within Amiens" in the third paragraph denoted where the ten centime charge, in addition to the usual postal fee, was levied but did not apply to the area of delivery (recall that the Chamber of Commerce notice said "items for Paris must show the *arrondissement* number").

Fig. 1 is an illustration of an entire 173x141mm sheet showing the varieties in positions 4 and 23 described by the authors. The arms of Amiens, being in blue, are hardly discernible on the photocopy.

The Yvert et Tellier Catalogue, Tome I, lists this stamp as *Timbre de Grève* No. 1, and the "missing C" and *tête-bêche* varieties as Nos. 1a and 1b respectively. Other varieties listed are "imperforate" and "without background shade" (i.e. without the arms of Amiens imprint). It was "valid for use at Amiens during the postal workers' strike from the 13th to the 19th of May."

The System In Operation

On the morning of Thursday, May 13th the Amiens Chamber of Commerce expected to be the provider of the only postal service in town, and must have been surprised to find that the Post Office too was open for business. The Amiens postal employees had ignored the call to strike, as had those in most other provincial centres. In a sense, therefore, the new service was redundant. The businessmen of Amiens, however, utilized the Chamber of Commerce service, despite the extra expense, probably taking the wise view that "things may be OK today, but might not be so tomorrow." It is possible that a fraction of the Chamber of Commerce mail was philatelic. The Amiens post office, at the same time, carried on serving the rest of the community as usual.

Letters handled by the Amiens Chamber of Commerce postal service had their stamps obliterated by the regular circular date stamp of that town. This is not always the case in other towns; for instance, Roubaix and Le Havre to my knowledge, and perhaps some others as well, used specially-made handstamps incorporating the words *Chambre de Commerce*.

Genuinely used items from this one-week period in 1909 do come up from time to time. One which most recently came to my notice, and which I illustrate, was in Fourcaut's postal auction of 14 September, 1987. This commercially-used letter dated 19.5.09 fetched 1060 francs. (Fig. 3)

Non-Philatelic Postscript

In case any readers wonder what happened to M. Simyan, the man who was the chief target of the employees' hostility throughout the three disputes, he survived with equanimity and kept his post as Under-Secretary of State for the P.T.T. up until the fall of the Clemenceau ministry on 20 July, 1909 when Monsieur Briand became Prime Minister.

M. Simyan's successor was a M. Millerand. Within a year, all the strikers who had lost their jobs in 1909 had been reinstated.

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to Mr. George Ramsden for suggesting this topic and for directing my attention to the 1937 article in *Stamp Review* by Messrs L.N. & M. Williams. Mr. L.N. Williams, the surviving author of the article "More Locals" (and nowadays Editor of *The Cinderella Philatelist*) kindly allowed me to quote from it. Monsieur F.-X. Piat Dewavrin of Bondues took the trouble to make an enquiry in Amiens for me and Monsieur M. de Lempis of the Amiens Bibliothèque Municipale unearthed some information in *Le Monde des Postes et Télégraphe de la Belle époque* by Roger Rouxel (Paris, Ed. Emancipation, 1983) which was relevant. The best historical data by far, though, came from the *Times* which carried detailed daily reports at the time of the *les troubles*.

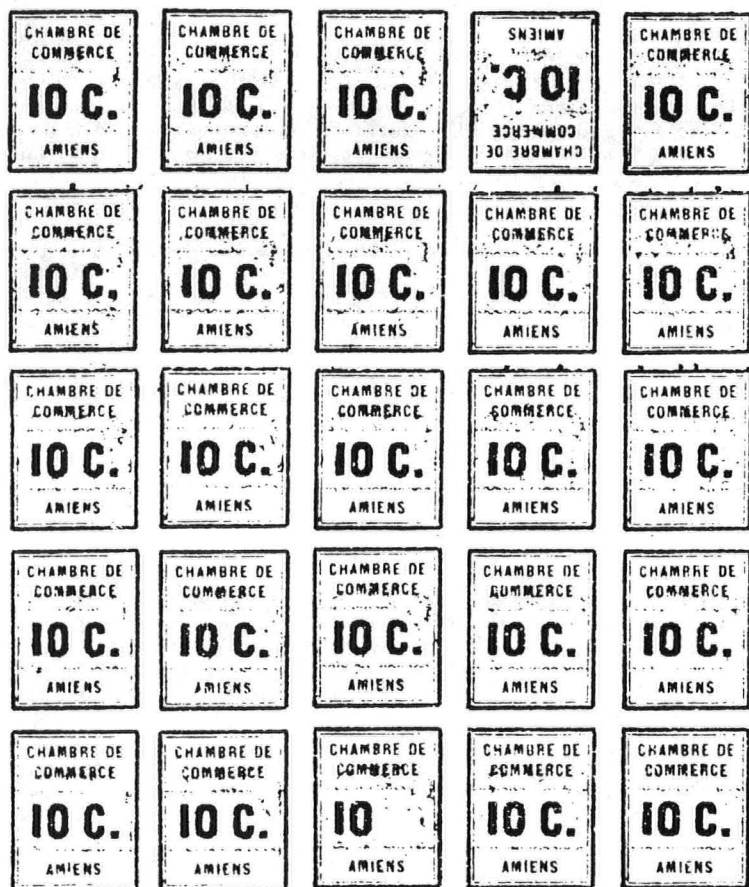


Figure 2

Sheet of twenty-five Amiens Chamber of Commerce stamps, showing the two varieties. Note: Cropped in height by Journal Trimming; actual height 212mm (C.S. Holder collection).



Figure 2



Amiens "Strike Stamp" FDC. L'Echo was, and is, the house magazine of the Amiens firm of Yvert et Tellier who printed the issue for the Chamber of Commerce to sell. Addressed to a philatelist/stamp dealer in Paris. (C.S. Holder collection)

Figure 3

THE POSTAL STRIKES OF 1909

by Derek J. Richardson

(Reprinted from Jn. Fr. and Cols. Phil. Soc. #168, June 1968)

By kind permission of the author)

In an article in Journal #166 I related how there were two strikes in 1909, the first in March, which virtually brought the business of the country to a halt, and the second in May which was a flop but gave rise to the issue of the Amiens strike stamp, the subject of that article. From his vast library of French philatelia, Mr. C.S. Holder has kindly sent me copies of three additional articles relating to these strikes, with the suggestion that I turn them into a follow-up Journal article. This, with due acknowledgment, I now do.

Taking the articles in the order in which they appeared, the first, entitled "La grève des postes," was an unsigned editorial published in *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*, No. 342, 1 April 1909. In a way, it is the most interesting because it is the only one I have seen that was penned at the height of the March strike. In it, the writer says that for Pari-

sians cut off from the outside, the strike was reminiscent of the Siege. Private individuals, deprived of an official postal service, were resorting to all sorts of means of transmitting their mail. Businessmen were getting together to share the cost of sending mail abroad by couriers (*estafettes*). "We have supplied quantities of Belgian and English stamps for the franking of letters which business houses have had posted directly in Brussels and London. Openly, some Paris trades unions are undertaking for a fee, to deliver mail to a foreign office. We have before our eyes a circular from one of these *Syndicats* which calls to mind the prospectuses of private agencies during the Commune! Judge for yourselves!"

PROVISIONAL POSTAL SERVICE

"During the strike, a special employee will depart daily (7.20 p.m., gare du Nord) for Brussels, with the letters and telegrams for abroad which are entrusted to our service.

"LETTER DELIVERY - Trade Union head office, up to 6.15 at the very latest.

"Besides the normal postage from Belgium to the destination, a charge of 0.25 fr. per letter will be applied.

"This service will be performed by trustworthy persons, the organising Committee accepting no liability.

"Some special envoys may be routed to French ports, if there is enough mail.

"LETTERS from ABROAD for PARIS may be routed to Brussels addressed as follows: "NAME or FIRM" very exactly, then the words "OF PARIS," with the conventional designation "EXPORT", and lastly the address: "HOTEL de la POSTE-BRUXELLES."

"The special envoy will set out from Brussels the next day at 59 minutes after mid-day, and will be in Paris, 62, faubourg Poissonnière, around 5.35 pm.

"Charge for each letter brought back: 0.25 fr.

"The special envoy will undertake the sending of telegrams from Brussels to all countries.

"Supplementary charge: 0.50 fr. receipt included.

"He will bring back also telegrams arriving at the Brussels Hotel de la Poste.

"Charge per telegram brought back: 0.50 fr.

"First departure Saturday 20 March 1909. Saving normal resumption of services."

[Soon after this was written, the strike collapsed suddenly and there was a return to work on Tuesday 23 March, so this service, assuming it ever got started, would have been short-lived. — D.J.R.]

Other facts reported in this news item were (in summary):

Rennes Chamber of Commerce had, at its own expense, set up a postal link with Paris.

Paris Chamber of Commerce organised on 22 and 23 March from place de la Bourse a despatch of business and industrial mail for abroad. Regularly franked, the mail was cancelled using the old PARIS-DEPART date-stamp lent by the Recette-principale.

The Lyon Exchange used its own union employees to convey mail to Paris Bourse. Regular franking took place, stamps being cancelled by the Exchange's own cachet.

Paris Exchange did much the same, obliterating the stamps with a simple made-up date-stamp.

Collectors will no doubt look out for the many unofficial markings that have appeared, as reminders of these regrettable troubles.

The second item is from *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*, No. 344, 1 June 1909 and refers to second strike of 11th to 22nd May 1909 under the heading "La nouvelle grève de postes." The opening paragraphs read:

"The second attempt by the postal workers, though not of the same magnitude as the first, has been just as bad for French commerce. Business has been paralysed, less by the fact of an incomplete postal service than by the senders' fear of seeing their despatches "sabotaged" or stopped en route.

"We know of large foreign industrialists who, from fear of losing contact with their firms, promptly left Paris after the start of the strike.

"Chambers of Commerce having had, on this occasion, time to act in concert, told the public that a regular exchange service between all French Chambers was going to be organised, but in fact it was a mixed service, letter distribution having been ensured almost exclusively by the post office. As in March last, we have noted numerous chance cancellations (*oblitérations de fortune*): Chambers of Commerce, Unions, etc.

"This time, the strike is going to leave philatelists a more "tangible" reminder, a 10-centime adhesive stamp made by the Amiens Chamber of Commerce which, following

the government's advice 'to ensure postal traffic by *every means*,' decided that all service had to be paid for and has not hesitated to levy 10c on dealers who entrust their letters to them.

"We do not know what welcome businessmen and industrialists of the Amiens region have accorded to the decision of their Chamber. It is regrettable that it has sought to make money out of its hard-pressed members who, it should not be forgotten, provide most towards their Chamber of Commerce's budget. This issue will perhaps be judged severely, but it is none the less in order, the authorities (we are told officially) not having opposed it.

"Here is the text of the notice published on this subject:"

[A translation of this notice was supplied in Journal 166, see above]

There followed a description of the stamp, its presentation in sheets of 25, the rough perforation and the two errors, all as described in the Journal 166 article, and goes on rather acidly to suggest that the Amiens Chamber of Commerce was as much concerned with the benefits of selling to collectors as with serving its members!

"We end this article by reproducing the text of a prospectus received in our office on the morning the strike was declared. A hoax, perhaps!"

The third article was 'A "Strike" Stamp, An account of the Special Stamp issued in Amiens (France) during the Postal Strike of 1909' by Alexander J. Sefi and it appeared in *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, May 1926. Britain was in the throes of a General Strike at the time, so the subject-matter was of topical interest. The article contains no new information, but centre-page we see an example of the stamp itself and in the text we read: "Our publishers have been fortunate in buying a small "remainder" of this interesting stamp and, as present "general strike" conditions render the making of a block for illustration difficult, have pleasure in illustrating this short note with an actual specimen of the stamp, which readers should find affixed to this page."

GLEANINGS FROM THE GROUP TYPE

by Ed Grabowski

In 1984, Bob Stone and I did an update on collecting the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type. (1) As many of you know, this remains one of my favorite collecting areas, and I continue to be amazed by the breadth of unusual material that can be found. Herein I would like to present some new and, hopefully, unusual items which I have added to my collection, and to continue to develop an area that is filled with philatelic opportunities.

Most of you are aware that François Fournier's Group Type fakes abound. I regularly remove them from APS circuit books in my duties as a checker. These are perforated 14 x 14 and their characteristics have been documented in our earlier article (Figure 1) (1). These were printed in 5 x 5 panes of 25 with a single Colony name in the name tablet. However, checking plate 30 of the Ragatz book shows a second setting of the Fournier Group Type fakes. (2) It is a 6 x 5 imperforate sheet of the 1 franc value, showing all of the Colonial names in the name tablet, with Soudan used twice to complete the sheet. Bob noted this arrangement earlier. (3) I recently acquired one of these sheets, and it is of note that cliché used for its creation differs from that of the common perforated fakes (Figure 2). It is very poorly executed, and can not be confused with the originals. I have not seen any of these fakes in sales or collections, and I would be interested in anyone who has experience with them.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

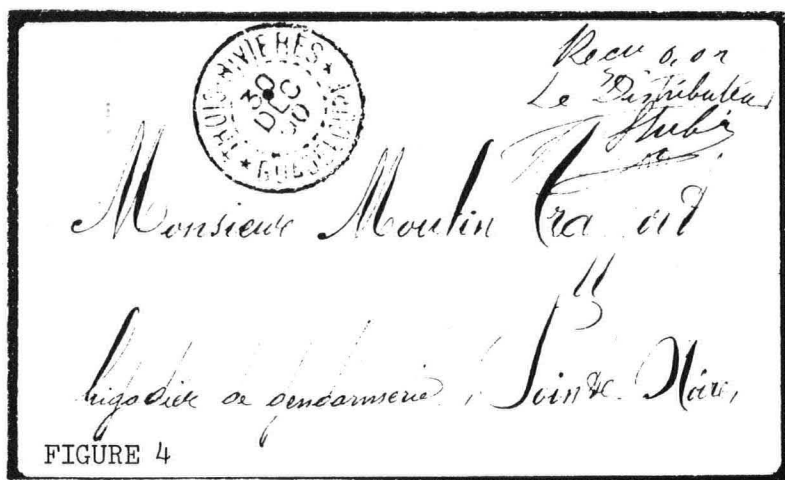


Figure 4

Mail from the smaller offices remains one of the most delightful of the Group Type's pastimes. Often this aspect is missed by local dealers and small bargains can be had. Not so for the 25c of Guadeloupe used from Abymes (Figure 3). This one came from the recent Dubus sale. It is the only item from that office that I have seen. The prepaid, but unfranked, letter from Trois Rivières, Guadeloupe (Figure 4) is from the December 1900 period when there was a shortage of low-value Group Types. Various methods were used to indicate prepayment, (4,5) and most of the letters seen are from Pointe-a-Pitre and Basse Terre. The example shown, in addition to being from one of the smaller offices, shows that the local postmaster decided to note prepayment in manuscript ("RECU 0,02 LE DISTRIBUTEUR") and add his signature, quite unlike the procedures noted from the larger offices. An example of the straight-line provisional killer TALOGOUGA/CONGO FRAN-

ÇAIS is shown in Figure 5. It was used for less than a year. The double-weight letter was under franked at 25c and was received 50c due in Basel. Among the more difficult Reunion small offices is that at La Rivière illustrated via a 1902 post card (Figure 6). Little Group Type mail is seen from Laos, and the triple-weight registered letter (3 x 15c + 25c) from the small office at Khone (Figure 7) is indeed unusual.

Tahiti remains one of the most popular of the French Colonies, and even ordinary mail always seems to command a premium. An extraordinary piece is shown in Figure 8 from the small office at Taiohae (23 Sept. 98). It is a wrapper franked at the overseas registered printed-matter rate (15c postage plus 25c registry), with the rate prepaid by two 20c Group

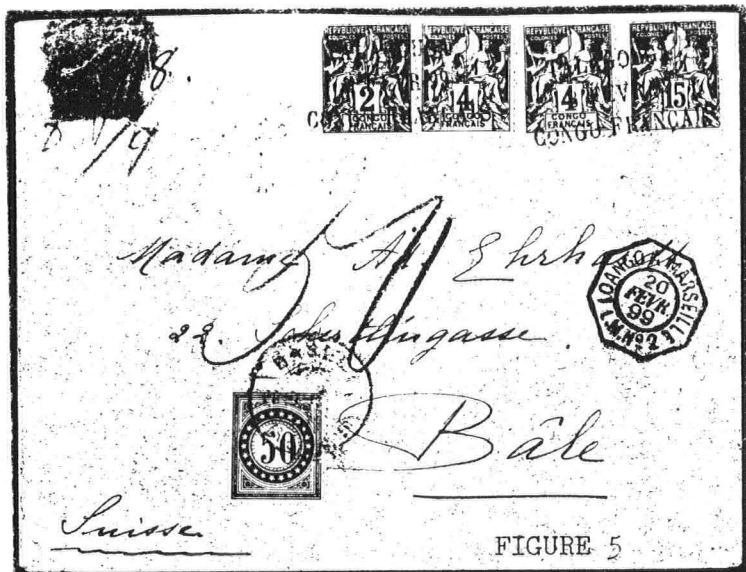


FIGURE 5



FIGURE 6

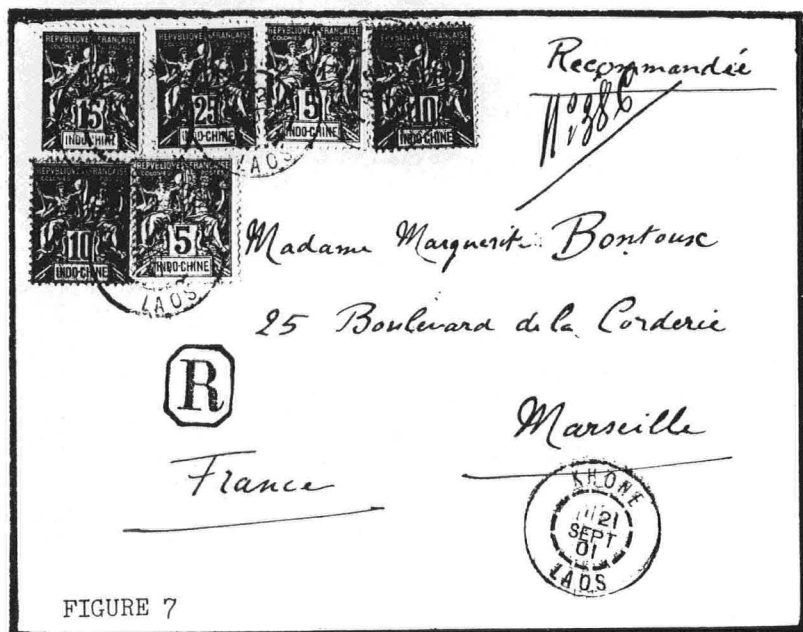


FIGURE 7



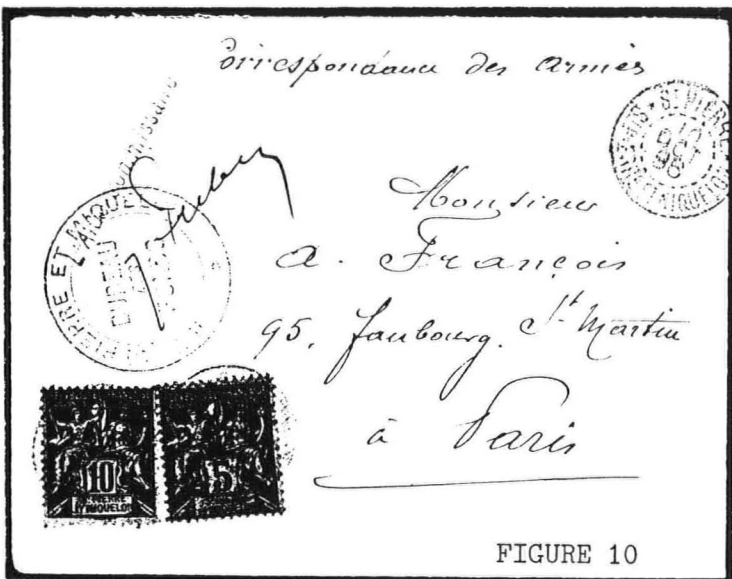
FIGURE 8

Figures 7 and 8

Types. In fifteen years of collecting this area, the only other registered printed-matter piece I have seen is that from Madagascar reported by Bob Stone. (6)

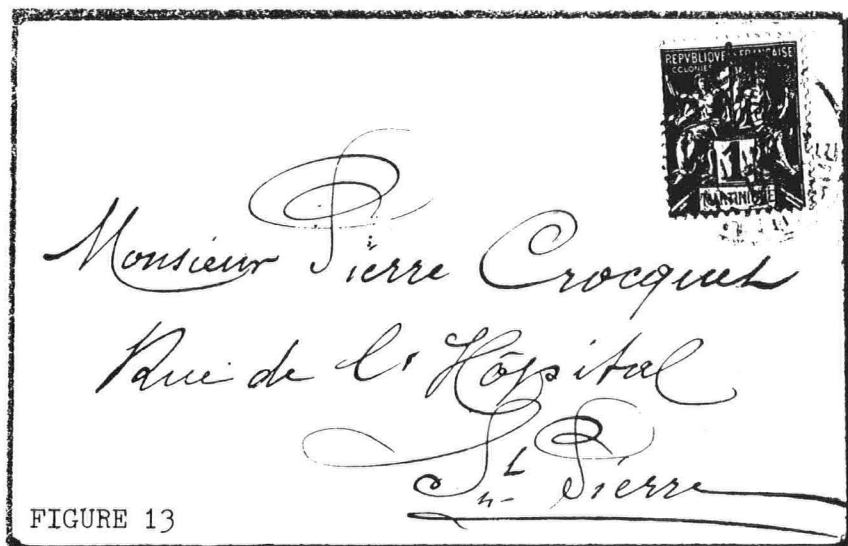
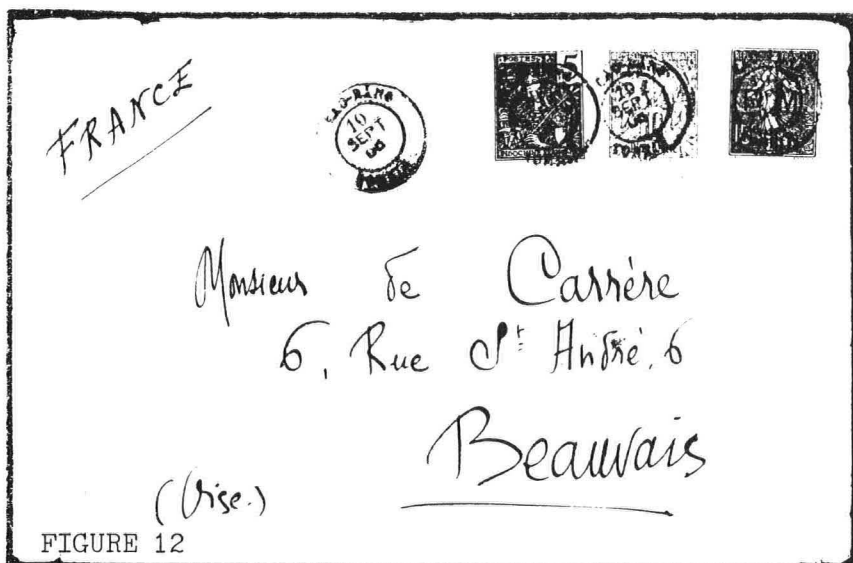
Group Type military material represents an excellent opportunity to obtain a variety of unusual items. From the Group Type's beginnings in 1892, until September, 1899 when the "F.M." overprints came into use (see below), the 15c reduced military rate was in effect. Typically, the commander's manuscript endorsement was required to validate the rate, and often unit military cachets were added. The rate also applied to members of the Gendarmerie stationed in the Colonies and certain other officials. A typical example from

Guadeloupe is shown in Figure 9, with the rare CORR. D ARMEES BASSE-TERRE datestamp. Even more unusual is the same rate from St. Pierre & Miquelon (Figure 10), as no troops were stationed there, and very little of this category of mail resulted. One of my most unusual military rates is shown in Figure 11. The military insured money-letter was posted from Libreville, French Congo on June 18, 1896 with a total franking of 1F50c founded upon a large-format Group Type 15c envelope. This envelope bears the officer's endorsement and a MARINE FRANÇAISE cachet on the reverse. The rate breaks down as follows: 30c (double 15c) military postage, 25c registry and 95c insurance. From

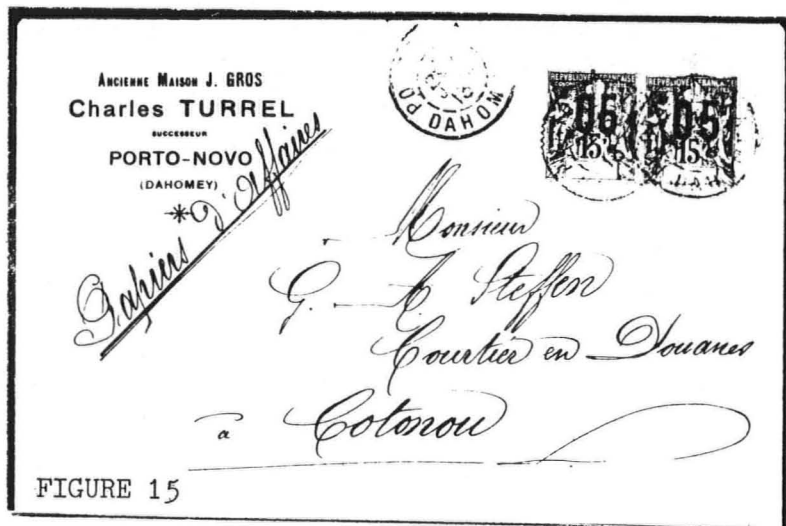
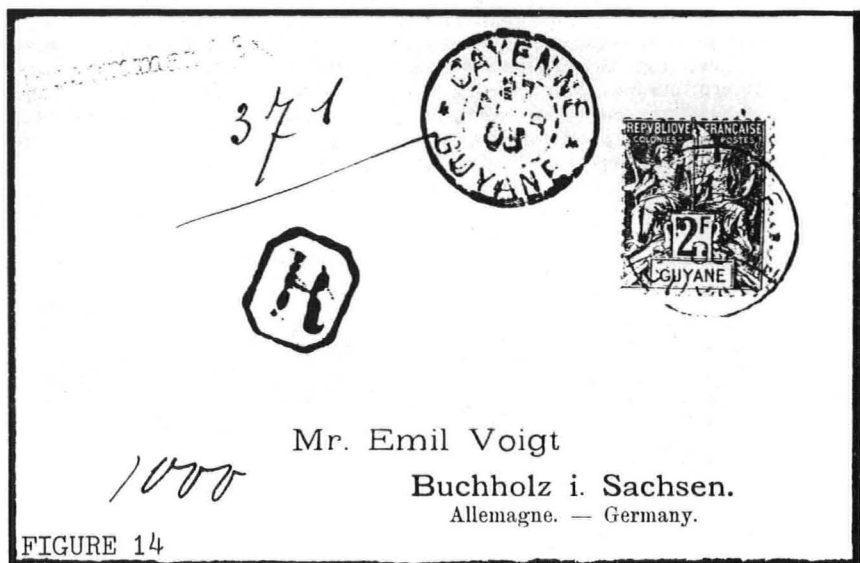


Figures 9 and 10

Another category of Group Type mail worth looking for is the out-of-the-ordinary frankings. One-centime frankings are seldom seen. The rate applied to local newspaper service and to 25 gr of electoral printed matter mailed locally (does any of this exist?). Shown in Figure 13 is a 1c franking on a small envelope used locally in St. Pierre, Martinique. At first this appears suspicious, however, a check of the Martinique annuals at the turn of the century revealed a 1c city rate for the mailing of tickets -- mostly lottery of course. Inside this envelope is a ferry ticket for the service between St. Pierre and Fort-de-France. Unfortunately, the date of posting is not readable, but one wonders if the unused ticket is associated with the volcanic events of 1902 in St. Pierre and the cessation of ferry service.



Figures 12 and 13



Figures 14 and 15

Some frankings are so unusual that there is some question as to their use. Has anyone seen a single 45c Group Type used on cover? This would correspond to a double weight (20c) registered (25c) letter within the French community. Anyone who has one or who has seen one please write! Also, I have never seen a 2F stamp properly used. The philatelic franking from French Guiana in Figure 14 is one of the few on cover examples I have seen.

Rates for business papers (papiers d'affaires) and commercial samples (echantillons) are always difficult to find. Shown from Porto-Novo, Dahomey (Figure 15) is an example of the local rate for business papers (10c per 20g) in 1913 franked with a pair of the 05/15 overprints. As an added bonus one of the overprints is of the wide-spacing variety. Figure 16 illustrates the double registered commercial samples rate (2 x 10c for up to 100g plus 25c registry) also from Porto Novo in 1908. Part of a sheet margin was used to fabricate a registry label.

Early use of the Group Type presents the chance of combination covers with the General Issues Dubois type or the multitude of provisionals used throughout the French Colonies. In Figure 17 is seen a 25c Group Type envelope from Libreville in 1894. Additional dues and Dubois overprints have been added to make the proper 50c foreign registry rate; although with a German destination one always has to wonder if there is a bit of philatelic inspiration. A combination of the 15c Group Type and the 35c Colonies' Dubois type prepaid the 50c French Community registered rate on the cover in Figure 18 from Pondichery, French India to France in 1894.

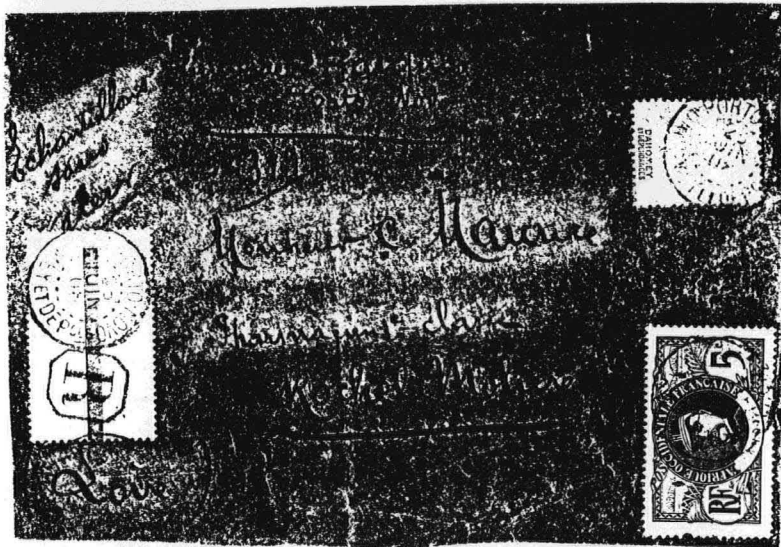


Figure 16



FIGURE 17

Figure 17

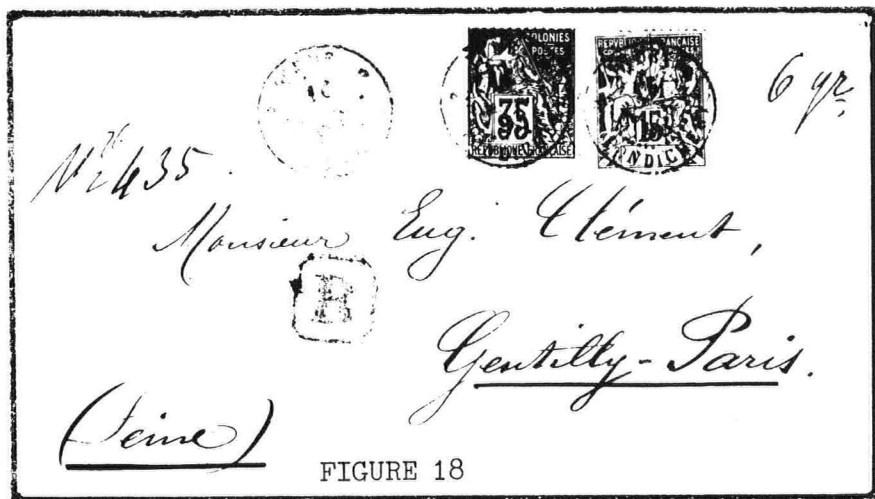


FIGURE 18

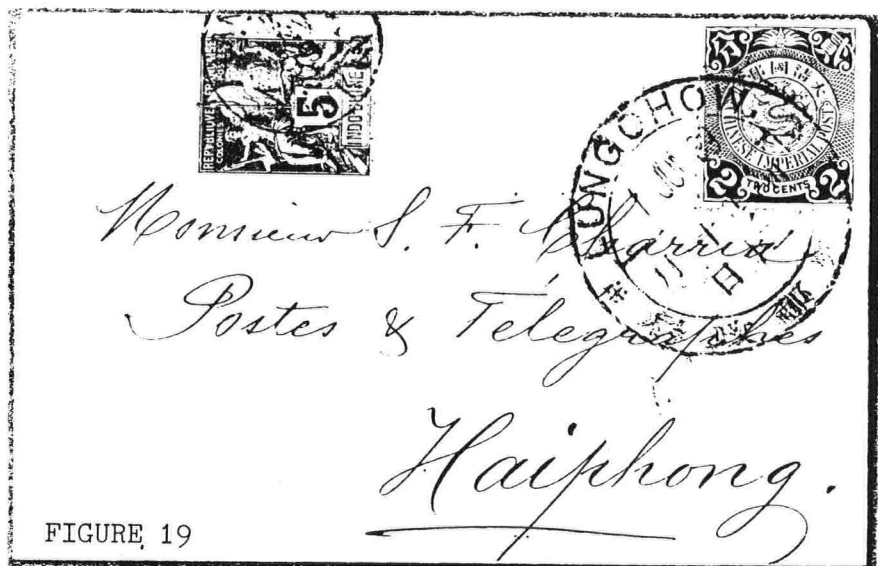


FIGURE 19

Figures 18 and 19

At the turn of the century the office at Longtcheou in China was supposed to get its office's version of Group Type overprints. However, due to the death of the postmaster; use of overprints did not materialize. Hence, mail from this office required Chinese and Indochinese postage; the former for transit within China; the latter for beyond via Indochina. Figure 19 represents an example of a printed matter rate, with a 2 cent Dragon issue cancelled in LUNGCHOW, and a 5c Group Type cancelled in Lang-Son prepaying the printed-matter rate to Haiphong. Figure 20 follows with a regular letter bearing a 10-cent Dragon issue and a 15c Group Type prepaying the letter to France.

Among one of my more unusual recent acquisitions is the French Guiana reply card shown in front and back in Figure 21. A study of the transit markings reveals the complete outbound (as a send-reply combination) and inbound routes. Most often the reply cards that are seen are philatelically created with the two halves of the unit intact. The

outbound transits are often struck on the reverse of the reply portion, as happened in this case. Based on the addressee, the unit originated in St. Laurent-du-Maroni, French Guiana in late 1896. It traveled via Georgetown, British Guiana (Dec. 17, 1896) and Barbados (Dec. 26, 1896) enroute to Para, Brazil (Jan. 6, 1897, today known as Belém) on Brazil's northeastern coast. Its final destination was a small village named Pinheiro. The latter is surmised from the posting written by the sender: PINHEIRO, 15 JANVIER 97. The card also bears a manuscript 'via Barbados' for routing on the front. The Group Type effigy was not obliterated, probably because Pinheiro was too small to have canceller. No transit via Para is present, but this is the likely outbound route. From Para the card traveled on a passing and probably regular merchant vessel to Barbados where it received a BAR-



Figures 20 and 22



FIGURE 21A

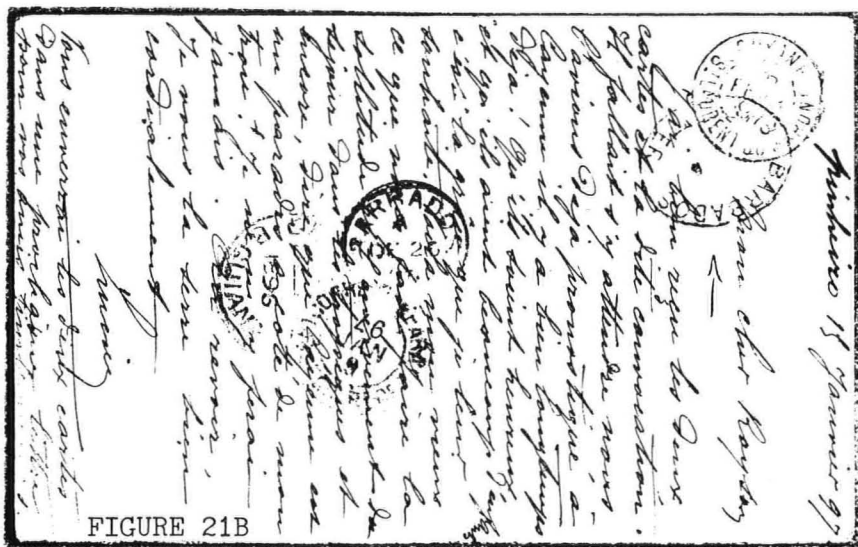


FIGURE 21B

Figures 21A and 21B

BADOS/SHIP LETTER oval transit on arrival, a mark noted as rare in Lund. From Barbados it returned to Georgetown (Feb. 12, 1897), then to Cayenne (Feb. 18, 1897) arriving in St. Laurent-du-Maroni on the same day.

An unusual and unrecorded use of Group Type postage stamps as dues from Gabon is shown in Figure 22. The letter was posted locally in Loango, Gabon on Aug. 15, 1917 using a 10/2F 1912 overprint for franking. The apparent local rate was 15c, and two 05/15c Group Types were affixed and overprinted with a "T" in triangle, which was also struck on the face of the cover, to collect 10c due. I have seen no previous examples of this type of use for the Group Type in Gabon. Whether this is legitimate or not is hard to tell, given that Gabon was a center of philatelic hanky-panky during the period. From Reunion Figure 23 shows what appears to be a 5c-rate mourning card rate posted from the small office

at Salazie in 1902. Apparently a written message was included, and the piece was treated as if it should be the 15c local rate. Hence, the 10c postage additional postage and 10c fine was represented by the addition of two 10c due stamps for 20c to be collected on arrival.

Finally, no presentation of the Group Type would be complete without at least one example of a packet posting. Shown from Oceania (Figure 24) is a 15c envelope raised to the double 50 overseas rate by the addition of Group Types. The letter was placed on a New Zealand-bound ship and received the boxed PACKET BOAT handstamp in Auckland enroute to Germany.

Such is some of my recent and more interesting material. The search goes on; what will the next show bring?

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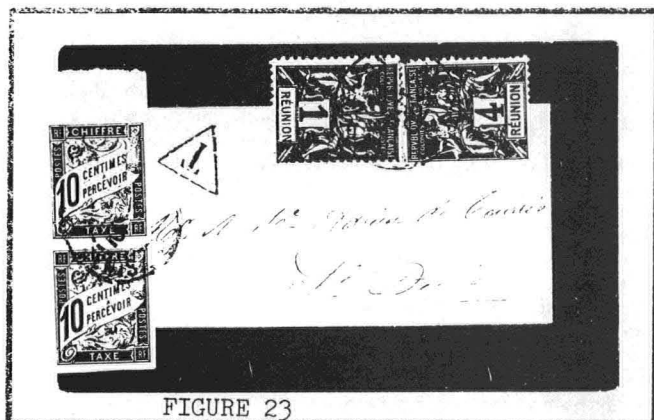


FIGURE 23

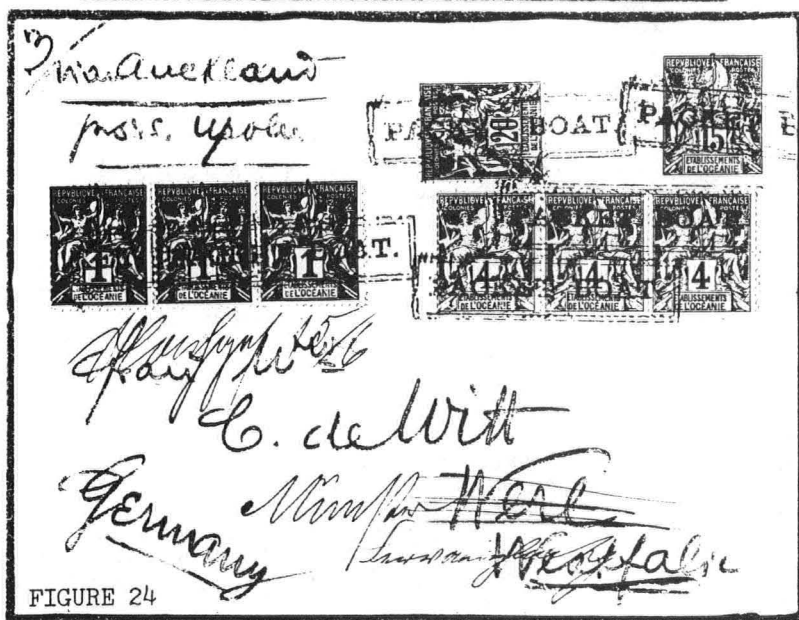


FIGURE 24

Figures 23 and 24

- 2). THE FOURNIER ALBUM OF PHILATELIC FORGERIES, L. Ragatz, Ed., Janet van den Berg Pub., Worthington, Ohio, 1970, PLATE 30.
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THE PAPAL NUNCIO CARRIED MAIL FROM BESIEGED PARIS

by Ernst M. Cohn

An unprepossessing folded letter, franked for delivery inside France, tells an interesting story of the Siege of Paris during the Franco-German War of 1870/71. (1) The message is handdated, Paris, 12 October 1870, and addressed to the Baron de Lassus, Château of Montréjeau, Montréjeau, Haute Garonne Department. The 20-centimes stamp is cancelled by a lozenge with small numeral 1352 of Dreux, near which is the Dreux circular date-stamp 1E/20 Oct. 70, i.e., from the first daily collection period. The back stamps are a poorly struck train mark Bordeaux à Toulouse (?) D 23 Oct. and the arrival mark of Montréjeau, 1E/24 Oct.

The absence of postal markings from Paris indicates that the letter was not postally processed there. The beginning of the text confirms this:

My dear Marc,

I profit from the departure of His Eminence the Apostolic Nuntius, who will kindly undertake to put this letter into the mail outside of Paris, to give you news from us. I have already sent you three successive letters by balloon since we have been blockaded, but I have only mediocre confidence in that mode of expedition, because these balloons have so many things to take along for the government that they mostly leave behind private correspondence from those who do not have special recommendations (i.e., connections) for the aeronauts. But this time, thanks to the obligingness of Mgr. Chigi, who has just decided to leave Paris, this letter must surely reach you. What a situation, my dear Friend,...

The text leaves no doubt as to the mode of transport that was intended for the letter. Is there any way we can confirm that it actually was carried out by the Archbishop of Myre and dean of Paris diplomats?

To that end, we turn to various sources that mention the doings of Monsignor Flavius Chigi. Thus, we find: "The Nuncio has sent to the Diplomatic Corps a notice to be at his house at eleven A.M. to deliberate on the question of leaving the city." (2)

Futhermore: "A meeting of the diplomatic corps having been convoked by the Pope's nuncio, the *doyen* of the corps, some twenty-two members of the body met at 11 o'clock a.m., Friday, September 23, 1870, at the residence of the nuncio, No. 102 St. Dominique, St. Germain, Paris...It would be unnecessary at the present meeting to take any steps in relation to going out of the city, as the emergency had not arisen to render it necessary to go." (3)

On that Friday, the first manned mail balloon of the siege, the "Neptune," flew out of Paris; and Elihu Benjamin Washburne, the U.S. Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris, had his 54th birthday.

"In accordance with a previous notice, the diplomatic corps met at the residence of the Pope's nuncio at eleven o'clock on Tuesday, the 4th day of October, 1870. Twenty-one members of the corps were present." (4)

"Mr. Kern, Baron Nyevelt, and Mr. Washburne met at the residence of the nuncio, at 2 o'clock p.m. (6 October) to agree upon the answer to be made to count Bismarck...the diplomatic body (was) to meet at his residence the next day, at 11 o'clock a.m., to act upon it and to sign it if it met their views." (5)

"The undersigned (sixteen) members of the diplomatic corps residing at Paris had the honor to send to your excellency (Bismarck)..." (6)

Bismarck's reply, dated at Versailles, 10 October 1870, denied the diplomats the right to send sealed messages by courier. He excepted only Washburne. (7) That negative answer appears to have decided Mgr. Chigi to leave Paris.

An entry in the war diary of the later German Emperor Friedrich III mentions that "today (13 October) the papal nuncio, Monseigneur Chigi, requests passage. (8) Also, Colonel Loyd-Lindsay who was "back from Paris today (15 October) brought a letter from Chigi for Friedrich. (9)

According to one source, Chigi crossed the lines that same day with two carriages, (10) but another source mentions that this event occurred around 3 P.M. on 16 October. (11)

Hatzfeldt, however, confirms that Chigi arrived at Versailles on the evening of 15 October, as mentioned in one of his letters of that very date: "The Nuncio arrived this evening, and I had the pleasure of running about with him for two hours in order to find him an apartment. I have just come in tired, wet and in a bad temper. At the Hôtel des Reservoirs I had to wait an hour without getting an answer, and that put me into such a rage that I threatened to have them put in prison. At last I have got some food and a

recu par le Nuncio Monseigneur Chigi le 15 octobre 1870. Le Nuncio est arrivé à Versailles le 15 octobre 1870. Il a été reçu par le Prince de Hatzfeldt. Le Nuncio est resté à l'Hôtel des Réservoirs. Le Nuncio a demandé un appartement. Le Prince de Hatzfeldt a essayé de lui en trouver un, mais il n'a pu en trouver. Le Nuncio a été très fatigué et très humecté. Il a été très en colère. Il a menacé de faire mettre en prison les gens qui ne lui ont pas donné de réponse. Enfin, il a obtenu de la nourriture et un

On a fortuitement obtenu ce matin à Paris, de la part du Nuncio Monseigneur Chigi, l'Etat Major une petite grande de Prussiens. Lors du dernier jour les différents renseignements nous ont été favorables. Mille bonnes amitiés de tous

Hatzfeldt
Chigi
Washburne
Loyd-Lindsay
Friedrich

Paris 17 Octobre 1870.
 Mon cher Marc, Je profite du départ de
 L. B. Bessie pour t'écrire par ballon. Je t'embrasse
 chers et mères. Cette lettre a été postée hier à Paris, j'en
 vois deux autres par ballon. Je t'embrasse de tout mon
 cœur. Adieu. Ton frère Paul.

room for him, so I shall go to bed. (12)

On 17 October, Hatzfeldt wrote to his wife: "I will try to put on my boots now to go and call upon the Nuncio. I was obliged yesterday to put off doing so. He is to have an audience of the King at noon and wants to leave soon. I am going to arrange this for him. He gives me the impression of being very glad that he is out of Paris." (13)

And again, on 18 October: "The Nuncio was received today by the King and Crown Prince and leaves again tomorrow. He sends you his compliments. I am very thankful that he is going away, for since he has been here he has written me at least two letters a day to ask me something or other." (14)

Chigi apparently did leave on 19 October, passing through Dreux late that day or early on the 20th, because the Daily News contains a brief item dated Tours, 21 October, 10:10 P.M.: "The Papal Nuncio arrived here today from Paris." (15)

He presumably stayed at Tours, probably in the bishop's residence, until the Government Delegation moved from there to Bordeaux, where he lived in the archbishop's residence until some time after the armistice was signed. (16)

Finally, from correspondence between Chigi and Washburne, we know that during the Paris Commune Chigi lived for some time at 2 Rue de la Vieille Eglise in Versailles-Montreuil. (17)

If balloon covers from the siege of Paris are unusual, commercially smuggled mail of that period is scarce, and private letters taken across the lines in the U.S. pouch are rare, then this cover is perhaps comparable to hens' teeth. Its mode of transportation appears amply authenticated by the sources cited.

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- 5). *ibid.*, p. 78.
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- 10). Ad. Birkholz, "Das Zweite Hanseatische Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 76 im Kriege gegen Frankreich 1870 und 71," Hamburg, 1871, p. 24.
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13). *ibid.*, p. 127.

14). *ibid.*, p. 129.

15). *The Daily News* (London), 22 October 1870, p. 3, col. 1.

16). Louis Auguste Chaintrier, "Histoire documentaire et anecdotique des Ballons-Poste du Siège de Paris (1870-71)," in *L'Echangiste Universel*, No. 712 (Sept. 1959) p. 209.

17). *as ref.* 2, p. 215.

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

"Cérès Catalogue '89, Tome I. France, Andorre, Monaco, Nations Unies." 80Fr + 20Fr. post. Eds. Cérès 23 rue du Louvre, 75041 Paris Cédex 9. (Sold by most dealers in France and some in US). - (600 prices revised, rises in many categories; booklet section revised, LSA labels now covered; cover prices generally raised. Some modern stamps which are increased 10% or more include: 1924 Olympics, Pasteur, Arts Décoratifs, Jacques Cartier, Vimy, 1957 Expo, Eiffel Tower, Entraide d'Hiver, Travail, La Meuse, Le Clos Vougeot, Métiers d'Art, 2nd set of Sports, Guadeloupe, Van Gogh, Ville de France, Air mails. Also the precancels Yv. nos. 52A, 54, 68, 70, 73, 75. Paintings stamps are going up. Stamps relating to the Revolution are up, and the Journée du Timbre of 1950's and the art series of the 1980's also.)

"La Cote des Coins Datés et des Millésimes," 51st ed. 1988. 104 pp. 50Fr ppd, from: SOCOCODAMI, 19 rue Alsace-Lorraine, 22000 Saint Brieuc.

"La Poste Allemande et le Courrier des Deportés 1941-44; Le Courrier des Internées 1941-44." By R. Damel and X. Pigeron. 1988, 217 pp. 180 Fr. + post. From X. Pigeron, 202 Blvd. St. Germain, 75007 Paris. (Vol. 4 of a series on the German posts; priced).

"Les Postes du Bas Poitou, Puis en Vendée." 1988, 125 pp. 65Fr. From Gerond Alert, 5 Chemin des Bruyères, Le Pocré-sur Vie, 85170 Belleville sur Vie (new edition).

"Le Cycle et La Poste." By J. M. Maugin and R. Geslin. 1988. Expected price ca. 250Fr. plus p., from the author, 8 rue de Grimonbois, 55000 Bar-le Duc.

"Falaise d'Hier et d'Aujourd'hui." By M. A. Ebrault. 1988. 30Fr. from author, 9 Place du H. Calloué, 14700 Falaise. (all the markings of that locality).

"Les Grands Moments de la Poste." By P. Chauvigny. 1988. 169 pp. 82Fr., from Eds. France-Empire, 68 rue J-Jacques Rousseau, 75001 Paris. (A history of the post) (For sale by L'Echo de la Timbrologie).

"The Norwegian Missions in Africa, Vol. 2, Madagascar," By F. Fuglestad and Jarle Simenson. Oxford Univ. Press, 1986. 155 pp.

Indochina Philatelic History

In 1987, M. Jacques Desrousseaux wrote (in French) a text containing everything he knew about Indochina philately. It has the following sections:

- (1) Bureau Francais D' Extrême Orient (1860-1895), 42 pages.
- (2) Les Corps Expeditionnaire (1883-1904), 59 pages.
- (3) Cachets Civils D' Indochine Francais & Des Bureau Francais en Chine (1875-1955), 102 pages.
- (4) Courriers Militaires & Occupation Japonaise (1900-1975), 65 pages.
- (5) Courriers Entre Indochine, Chine & Francais (1865-1945), 76 pages.
- (6) Timbres D' Impression Locale. Emissiones des Nouveau Etats (a partier de 1941), (1941-1976), 62 pages.
- (7) Les Nouveau Etats D'Indochine (1952-1984), 59 pages. Total 475 pages.

He placed one typewritten copy in Paris Postal Museum; they supply photocopies for 1 Franc per page plus postage (about \$85.00). I have a copy and offer photocopies for \$45.00 including postage. Pages have been "straightened, cleaned, margins evened." (In the original, I had to re-order 42 pages that were poorly photocopied.) Pages are unbound, one-side only, with many maps, hundreds of drawings of markings and some handwritten corrections.

If you want a copy, send a non-refundable \$10.00 deposit to Paul Blake, 1466 Hamilton Way, San Jose, CA 91525. Only enough copies will be made at this time to fill reservations. Books will be shipped about Nov. 1, 1988.

► At St. Pierre-Miquelon on 25 July the 2.20 Liberté was overprinted "St. Pierre et Miquelon" extending over the Philexfr. logo label se-tenant; on 7 Aug. the La Pêche design appeared in new values and colors: 1.30, 1.60F; on 7 Aug. a 2.50F for the 50th anniv. of the last seized goelette.

► Some of the postal tariffs were officially raised on 16 August. The rate for ordinary (non-urgent) letters was not changed. The registration category R 4 was abolished, the indemnity in case of loss was raised for P 2 from 430 to 750 Fr, and the R ¼ from 220 to 1500 Fr; also a rise in paquets, limitations to 7KG; simplified air mail zones.

► The St. Pierre overprint of July 25 came out without any announcement or publicity. The straightline overprint "ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON" extending over both the stamp and the se-tenant Philexfrance logo; many copies had the overprint displaced upward to overlap part of the logo wording. The weekly French journal *Le Monde* had indicated on 16 July that this was coming, but few people noticed.

► The temporary P.O. at the expo at Valence on the last day was selling booklets of 10 printed in a distinctly different type, thicker and larger, but the bottom line was shorter 53cm instead of 53.8mm, and greater spread between the lines.

► The PT will experiment from Sept. 11 on with issuing a new series of philatelic documents called "Notice Premier Jour" for each new issue on a sheet 14 x 21 cm, the stamp to be cancelled with the P.J. date postmark, with a text about the issue. To be sold at 10Fr each at the philatelic windows.

► The PT is also experimenting with a new model of booklets for vending in the automatic machines, which would be sold at a discount of up to 1%. A prototype from a Swedish firm will be tested in Sept. and a preliminary sale of a limited number of the booklets will be made in December. The new venders will sell booklets with fixed face value of 20F which would be made up of 10 stamps, e.g., 6 of 2.20F, 2 of 2F, plus 2 of 1.50F giving a total face of 20F, which would permit a 1% discount and serve for franking the usual rates. The new machines would cost less than present ones, hence the interest of the PT.

► Member Alain Millet won a large Vermeil for his exhibit of beginnings of the post at Madagascar and Comores, at the Valence meeting of the French Fed. of Phil. Socs.

► At the present time, the Agence des Timbres Poste, at 85 Ave., de la Bourdonnais, 75007, Paris, is acting as sales agent for the following French area countries (not for all their issues, however, only those printed by the French Govt. printery or contracted by the Agence): Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Central Africa, Comores Rep., Congo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Guinea, Rep. Malgache, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Tchad, Djibouti, New Caledonia, Polynesia, Wallis et Futuna, St. Pierre, Maroc, Tunisia. The Agence sells mostly to dealers and the buyers have to take all the new issues currently promoted.

► The new Director of the Musée de la Poste is Marie-Claude Le Floc'h.

► Richard Graham in his regular Postal History column in *Linns Weekly* recently gave FCPS a nice "plug" with special mention of the Waugh/Luft "Chronology of French Military Campaigns."

► Our dealer member Frank Anderson of "Philatéliques Françaises Inc." has given FCPS promotion regularly in his offers, which we appreciate.

► At INTERPEX last Spring, Richard Stevens obtained a Gold and the Reserve Grand for his exhibit of Martinique Forerunners.

► At FINLANDIA '88, Stan Luft won a Gold for his French Revolution and Napoleonic Armées; Guy de Rivières a Gold for his Canada/Quebec Letters under the French Regime, George Guzzio a Gold for his famous Penguinalia, Denise Gallaiquet a Vermeil for her Sowers, Jerry Massler a Vermeil for Monaco 1907-1924, Scott Gallagher a Vermeil for his mails in the Caribbean, Ernst Cohn a Vermeil for the Postal History Journal, Marc Martin a Large Silver for French Maritime Mail 1788-1900, Bill Welch a Silver for Columbian Revenues, and H. Van der Vlist a Silver-Bronze for French postage dues.

► At BALPEX '88, where Latin America was especially exhibited, there were some exhibits in which French-related material appeared: French maritime mail from Panama, Haiti, Levant, Somali Coast, and Indochina airmails, (Isaacs) the native-woman issues of Indochina (Ron Bentley). An exhibit of early Ecuador contained numbers of covers with Ecuadoran stamps cancelled by a French Gros Chiffre obliterator (formerly used in Alsace) -- a curiosity without official status contrived by a Frenchman residing in Quito as a consultant to the Ecuador P.O. who brought that killer from the office in France where he had worked. At the Sunday champagne brunch we had our usual gathering of members

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS



- On 10 Sept. the 2.20F Armistice du 11 Novembre 1918-88, was issued; and also the 2.20F Perruges (Ain) in the touristic series. On 24 Sept. the 2.20F Bimillenaire de Strasbourg.
- On 22 Sept. the 5.00F work of sculptor Robert Jacobsen: "Homage to Leon Dejaud" (artistic series) appeared -- the Danish P.O. issued the same design in 4.10kr denomination at same time; both stamps were printed by the French printery at Perigueux in recess, engraved by P. Forget and designed by Louis Arquer. Both the French and Danish stamps could be mailed on the same cover but cancelled by their respective administrations. On 22-24 Sept. a temporary P.O. at the Musée de la Poste had FD covers published by the Danish P.O. at 15Fr with both stamps each with its appropriate FD cancel. The Danish stamp was sold separately at 4.50Fr.
- On 15 Oct. a 5.00F Richier "Le Sepulchre - St. Mihiel" was to be issued; and on 22 Oct. a 5.00F work of Serge Poliakoff.
- For Monaco on 20 Oct. Red X stamps showing La Vie Legendaire de Ste. Devoté were to appear; a 4Fr of the arrival of the Roman Governor in Corsica and a 5Fr showing Devoté chez le Senateur. A bloc for the four seasons designs: 3, 4, 3, and 6Fr.
- For Andorre: On 3 Sept. a 5Fr Roman fresco of the church at Andorre Le Vieille.
- For New Caledonia: On 30 July a dyptych of 42f + 42f for SYDPEX 88.; on 18 Aug. a 40F Cabou; on 14 Sept. a 150F for the Seoul Olympics.
- For Polynesia: On 1 Aug. a 68Fr for SYDPEX 88; on 30 Aug. a 350Fr for 30th Anniv. of death of Eric de Bisschop.
- For Wallis and Futuna, on 1 Sept. 11, 20, 40 and 80Fr for Seoul Olympics.

and guests: Ed Grabowski, Dick Stevens, Dick Winter, Joe Geraci, Larry Jones, Marc Isaacs, Bob Stone, Walter Parshall, Lucio Marson, Martin Stempien, Bill Sandrik, and Jeff Bohn -- 12 in all, a better turn out than usual. Jay Smith was busy tending his booth and could not join us.

► Jacques Desrousseaux calls our attention to an error in the item No. 538 of *For the Record* in the January FCP, p. 21, where it stated that the stored mail in Frankfurt was sent to Marseille in November 1941; actually it was in November 1940, when the postal service between Germany and occupied France was re-established. Covers of that time with censor marking "e" of Frankfurt are rare. Later the mail from America to France occupied zone passed by way of Lisbon and Spain but did not reach Germany. Covers have also sometimes a similar censor mark "e" coming from the clandestine German censor office in Madrid -- which is the case for the cover described by Walter Tuchman in *FtR* 538.

► Attention is called to an error in the logo at top of the pages on the April and July FCP's where were given Whole Number 211 and should have been numbers 212 and 213.

► The mysterious cover we illustrated in the last October FCP on p. 112 with heading *Territoire de Saint-James* can now be explained. Saint James was the name of plantations on Martinique which produced rum, owned by a French firm that used the *Territoire de Saint James* as a trade designation for advertising purposes. The *Rhum de Plantations de Saint James* was widely sold in France and other countries.

► Member William Waugh has been given an award from the Mobile Post Office Society for his articles on the railway postmarks of French colonies published in FCP and reprinted as a *Vaurie Fund Publication*.

The 1989 French Stamp Program

On August the PT announced the definitive list of stamp designs to be issued in 1989:

Stamps With Surtax: *Journée du Timbre* (Paris Lyons Diligence 1770); Celebrated Personages: Mirabeau, Lafayette, Sieges, Drouet, Barnave, Vicomte de Noailles; Red Cross (Solérie de Lyons; Artistic Series: Works of Yvess Klein, David, Charles Lapicque; Europa: Children's games.

Stamps Without Surtax: Touristic Series: *Foret de Fontainebleau*, *La Brenne*, *Chateau de Vaux de Vicomte*; Commemorative and Misc. Series: Declaration of Rights of Man, Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité, Mission for Commem. Bicentenary of the Revolution, Panoramas of Paris, Cent. of the Ecole Estienne, Conf. Union Intern. des Télécommunications, Champignon du Monde Cyclisme, Hommage à Harkis, Malestroït, four personages of the Revolution, Augustin Cauchy, Maison France-Brazil at Rio, Traité de Villers-Cotterets, Elections to the European Parliament, Aid to the blind, Cent. of electric trams at Clermont-Ferrand, TGV Atlantique, Monument aux Combattants d'Indo Chine, Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny.

REVIEW

"A Book of Postal History," by Ernst M. Cohn, 1988, 110pp. Triad Publications, 30 Drabbington Way, Weston, Mass. 02183.

This book by our eminent author member and expert on balloon mail, is a revamping of some of his regular columns on postal history in *American Philatelist*, logically organized into chapters on various aspects of the subject. After an autobiographical introduction telling how he gradually "grew" into specializing in postal history, there follows a chapter on the nature of postal history containing a miscellany of general philosophical musings on collecting postal history, its advantages and the reasons for it, its future, etc. Next chapter outlines more or less briefly a number of special types of collecting or collections, mostly flavored by his own special interests. A section on postal history research and sources of information has valuable suggestions for the more serious student, and useful for analyzing covers. The chapter on showing and exhibiting echoes some of the advice of the sort

much discussed in the press and books lately with views on judging -- he is an experienced judge. The section titled on the "darker side" relates several cases of forgery in postal history material which should alert collectors to wider possibilities in this area. A final chapter concerns some aspects of writing, editing, reviewing, indexing, publishing, cataloging, etc., from the perspective of the author's experience as a writer and editor, brief but to the point for the would be postal-history writer and exhibitor. An "epilogue" on "thrills of postal history" is a bit of personal flag waving.

This is a good book as far as it goes for the relatively inexperienced collector, not a definitive textbook, but in absence of comprehensive treatments of the subject in the available literature will serve to open the eyes to its scope and problems as well as its attractions. Specialized collectors and students of postal history will profit from the broad outlook -- there are too many "specialists" in some narrow topic of postal history who lack sufficient appreciation of the fundamentals and other specialties.

The editing and printing are very good; more illustrations would have been desirable. - R.G.S.

***** F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL *****

President's Message

Each year, at BALPEX, on Labor Day weekend, a group of F.C.P.S. members has gathered for the Sunday buffet brunch. This year, I believe we set a record, with twelve persons included. Between the time that I write this, and that you read it, we will have had a similar informal gathering on Thursday evening at the A.S.D.A.'s National Stamp Show in New York. In March, we will also have an informal dinner on the Thursday night of INTERPEX.

The Society no longer holds a formal Annual Banquet. (A move which has brought an amazing reduction in the amount of discussion at Directors' meetings.) Generally, we are happy to include any members and friends who are at those shows. Ed Grabowski usually handles the arrangements and needs to know, at least an hour or two ahead, how many people will be coming so that he can make reservations.

Many members will be going to Paris for PHILEXFRANCE '89, and the Society will be donating a special prize. Therefore we will limit our participation in national shows in 1989 to our regular booths at the A.S.D.A.'s INTERPEX and National Stamp Show in New York. The Directors will be happy to consider participation in other national shows in 1990 or later.

May I offer my best wishes to all our members for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dick Stevens

Meeting of 7 June

With the scheduled speaker at an international, Dick Stevens and I filled in with some new colonial material. From Martinique, Dick showed an 1814 wrapper with a manuscript '4' marking, which Dick could not understand unless it corresponds to the printed matter rate of the time. Various MQE provisional covers were shown, always difficult to find. A 15c Group Type military letter cancelled on arrival in Marseille after apparently traveling on a naval vessel closed out Dick's section.

Yours truly showed an underfranked 1917 letter from Syracuse, NY to MQE which was refused, re-franked with 2 x 5c and 20c Duval dues and returned. An Eagles cover from Trois Rivières, GPE and a Group Type military letter also from GPE with the Camp Jacob cachet ended the evening.

Ed Grabowski

Meeting of 5 September

Back from his world travels, member Jerry Massler presented some of his peripherals of Monaco; material he buys when the material he is really seeking is not available. He began with a long series of the so-called 'Ridicule Post Cards.' These humorous cards knock all that is holy to the Principality, primarily gambling and often the Prince himself. They

are illegal in Monaco. Most relate to the trials and tribulations of gambling, showing travelers arriving first class and departing third class, or sheep being sheared, or gamblers hanging or shooting themselves after a typical day at the tables. Few deal with the winners. Jerry also showed cards for keeping roulette scores and cards showing the payouts, should one be fortunate enough to win at the wheel.

He followed with a collection of his hotel corner cards. All had cachets, addresses, or images of the hotels or origin. Often the rise or demise of the subject hotel could be followed by the changes in its stationery. Hotel receiving-forwarding labels and baggage labels concluded the presentation. An interesting and colorful presentation for the post-labor-day meeting.

Ed Grabowski

Correction:

The running heads of the pages in the April and July, 1988 issues of the FCP were incorrectly identified as "Whole Number 211." Please correct your copies to indicate Whole Number 212 for the April issue and Whole Number 213 for the July issue.

NEW MEMBERS

- 2723 GUINEE, VINCE, 8250 Townsend St. #202, Fairfax, VA 22031 (France: Military posts-used abroad. Regular issues: cancellations. Occupation issues of France. Offices abroad (especially Zanzibar). Philatelic literature.)
- 2724 KENNEDY, IRVIN E., 820 Greenway Court, Wichita, KS 67213 (General France: mint - used. Specialized: military, maritime, and railway posts, postal history in general. Semi-postals - air mails - booklets - coils - coin dates - maximum cards - miniature sheets. Essays, rejected designs - Perfins.)
- 2725 CRAIG FRPSL, WALLACE A., P.O. Box 3391, Fullerton, CA 92634 (General collector all issues. Saar. Colonies general issues: mint - used - on cover.)
- 2726 OTTE, THEODORE J., 6298 Donald Drive, Florence, KY 41042 (General collector all issues.)
- 2727 MCKENZIE, KIRK, 1001 N. Fulton, Tulsa, OK 74115 (General France: mint - used.)
- 2728 LELAND, DR. HENRY, 2120 Iuka, Columbus, OH 43201 (General collector all issues: mint - used - on cover. Air mails - booklets - coils. Liberation issues - precancels - Occupation issues. Offices abroad. CFA. Andorre Saar.)
- 2729 MATILSKY, TERRY, 5 Briarwood Drive, Somerset, NJ 08873 (General France: mint - used - on cover. Classics 1849-1876: used - cancellations. Semi-postals - air mails. Dealer: part time - approvals. Philatelic literature.)
- 2730 CROSSLEY, EDWARD, 5302 Ranger Drive, Covina, CA 91722 (General France: mint - used. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: mint - used - on cover. Semi-postals - air mails - miniature sheets. Dues - parcel post - Occupations. Offices abroad. CFA. Andorre. Monaco. Saar. Colonies general issues: mint - used. All Colonies & Territories. Omnibus issues. Exchange.)
- 2731 HUCULAK, PETER J., 26-11 Middlesex Circle, Waltham, MA 02154 (General France: used. Classics. Modern - all used - semi-postals - air mails - coils. Occupation issues. Colonies general issues: used.)
- 2732 HWANG, SUNWOOK, 37 Northwood Apartments, Storrs, CT 06268 (General collector all issues. Topicals: scientists and buildings. General France: mint. Postal history in general. Modern France: mint - booklets.)
- 2733 BELL, SCOTT H., 3160 20th St., North, Arlington, VA 22201 (General collector all issues, mint. Monaco.)
- 2734 FERGUSON, JIMMY W., 84 Elgin Park, San Francisco, CA 94103 (General collector all issues. Topical: trains. General France: mint. Philatelic literature. Exchange.)
- 2735 SCHAEFER, WAYNE, 5418 N. Lamon, Chicago, IL 60630 (General France: mint - used. Pre-1935 stamps & covers of: Morocco - New Caledonia - Colonies of French West Africa.)
- 2736 HENDERSON, GEORGE L., 3137 Alanhill Lane, San Mateo, CA 94403-3109 (General collector all issues.)
- 2737 CHALUFOUR, MICHEL, 16 Creighton St., Cambridge, MA 02140 (General collector all issues: mint - used - on cover.)
- 2738 NEU, ARTHUR M. (RR), 120 Vermilyea Ave., New York, NY 10034 (Postal history

- in general. Colonies general issues: on cover. Colonial provisionals. All Colonies and Territories.)
- 2739 ROBERTS, STEPHEN S., 1701 N. Kent St. - Apt. 806, Arlington, VA 22209 (All Colonies and Territories.)
- 2740 MEAD, WILLIAM, 3481 Bandini Ave., Riverside, CA 92506 (General France: mint - used - on cover. Postal history in general. Semi-postals - air mails - booklets - coils - coins dates. Telephone & telegraph - dues - parcel post - newspaper - Franchise Militaire Liberation issues - Strike stamps - Specimen, Annulé, Fictifs - Precancels - Occupation issues. Philatelic literature. Exchange.)
- 2741 SHAW, FOOK CHENG, P.O. Box 93-94, Taipei, Taiwan 10098 (General collector all issues. Omnibus issues of Indo China. Stamps and covers of Indo China - Vietnam - Laos - Cambodia. Dealer: auction - mail sales.)
- 2742 TONDREAU, ROBERT E., 25 Surrey Drive, Trenton, NJ 08690 (General collector all issues. General France: mint - used. Mint, Blanc, Mouchon & Merson types - Sowers - semi-postals - air mails - booklets. Colonies general issues: mint.)
- 2743 MEYERSON, LAWRENCE ALAN, 40422 Guilford, Novi, MI 48050 (General collector all issues. Topicals: legal journalists - authors - poets. General France: mint. Liberation issues - Occupation issues. All Colonies and Territories. Philatelic literature. Exchange. Beginning collector in listed specialties.)
- 2744 ALRICH, PEGGY, 42 S. Dean Road, Orlando, FL 32825 (Topical: orchids. Postal history in general. Modern France: cancels. Flammes - Slogan cancels essays - rejected designs - DeLuxe proofs - imperforates - artist's proofs and color trials - Specimen, Annulé, Fictifs - Precancels. Colonies & Territories: on cover, cancels & postal history.)

REINSTATEMENTS

- 2143 DUMONT, ARTHUR A., 901 Lake Shore Drive, Apt. 114, Lake Park, FL 33403 (General collector: all issues - 19th & 20th Century. General France: mint - used. Colonies general issues: mint - used.)
- 1923 REINHARDT, JAMES N., 928 Pierce St., San Francisco, CA 94115 (Already in Philatelist.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2605 MURPHY, PIERRE E., 6167 Wellington Commons Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310.
- 2330 GODAR, JAMES P., 4633 N. Winchester #204, Chicago IL 60640.
- 1420 STEELE, CAPT. JOHN R., PSC Box 254, APO New York, N.Y. 09673-2055.
- 2421 SCHUSTER, JEFF, 905 Galloway, El Paso, TX 79902.
- 698 KUHN, W.E., 1840 Northwest Ramsey Drive, Portland, OR 97229.
- 1959 MONTELLO, LAWRENCE J., 600 E. Niobrara, Chadron, NB 69337.
- 2682 LaFORGUE, ROD, (Correct spelling for name Laforgue, Roger.)
- 2382 HACKER, MORRIS B., 3000 Grand Avenue - Apt. #707, Des Moines, IA 50312.
- 2686 ST. CLAIR, JOHN M., 2008 Inverness Cliffs, Birmingham, AL 35242.
- 2212 GIFFORD, CHARLES, 46 Bayberry Lane, So. Burlington, VT 05403.
- 2706 GOODSON, CATHERINE, 23 Essex St., #2, Cambridge, MA 02139.
- 2720 TRIESCHMAN, DON C., 2417 Palm Ave., P.O. Box 3076, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 (Town, state and zip code were left out of Philatelist.)
- 2137 VOSHELL, STEVEN WILLIAM, 2047 E. Sergeant St., Philadelphia, PA 19125-1719.
- 2611 HOUSER, KEVIN, 256 St. Andrewa St., Apartment 314, Cambridge, Ont., Canada N1S 4T9.
- 1967 STUMPF, REV. ERIC C., 11480 German Church Road, Burr Ridge, IL 60521-6459. (Note: Name was spelled wrong on address label. Was "Stumpy", should be "Stumpf".)

MEMBERS' APPEALS

WANTED: To buy or trade, cancelled Pubs of France (Sowers, Peace and Commerce, Mariannes from booklet panes with advertising on the selvage). --Gilbert R. Loisel, 89-14 31st Ave., East Elmhurst, N.Y. 11369. (Mb "877")

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