

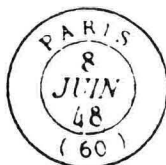


France & Colonies Phîlatelist

LOCAL LETTERS OF PARIS 1795 - 1850 (cont. from FCP No. 215, Jan. 1989, Pg. 16)

Period 13 1848

On 1 May 1848, a new date cachet was placed into service, thus initiating Period 13. The old date stamp had remained in use since 1806, and was now being replaced by a more contemporary type of cachet that was already in use throughout the provinces:



Black

The Port Payé, Port Dû, and levée markings for Period 13 are the same as those utilized during the last sub-period of Period 12.

Period 13 was very short lived, lasting for only slightly more than 2 months. The latest known cover from this period is dated 6 July 1848.

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Montieu Comariny

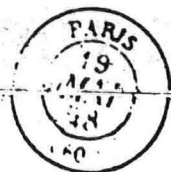


avoue

sur les Pyramides n° 8
Paris

Third Distribution
Noon Delivery

15 centimes
Collected
on Delivery



Bureau A
10:30 AM Collection



FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST

USPS #207700

Published quarterly by the
FRANCE AND COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC. (N.Y.)
Affiliate No. 45, American Philatelic Society

April 1989 — Vol. 45, No. 2, Whole No. 216

Second-class postage paid at Bloomfield, NJ

Office of Publication: 103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003

An additional entry office at Platteville, WI 53818

Printing arranged by: Jay Smith, P.O. Box 9630, Madison, WI 53715

Dues \$7.50 per year. Parent Chapter \$10.00 (plus 50¢ admission fee),
\$4.50 of which is for a subscription to the F. & C. Philatelist.

All communications about membership, subscriptions, activities, and services of the

Society should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary,

Walter E. Parshall, 103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003

All contributions to and questions concerning the contents and policy of this
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Period 14
1848 - 1850

The fourteenth period began on 7 July 1848, when new Port Payé and Port Dû markings were introduced showing both the levée and distribution times incorporated into a single cachet, thus eliminating separate handstamps for collection and delivery:

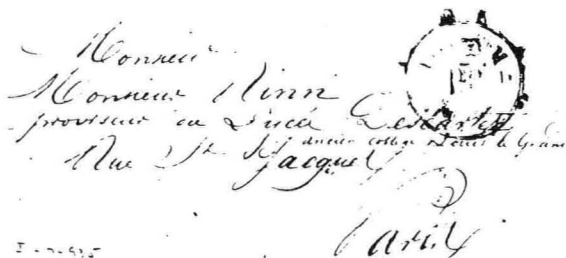


Red



Blue

The Port Payé cachets of Period 14 remained in use as the singular indication of prepayment until 23 July 1850, when the 15 centime Cérès stamp was issued. After this time, the cachet occasionally served in conjunction with the 15c stamp to indicate levée and distribution times. (Usage of this cachet on printed matter, however, was continued.) The Port Dû cachet continued in normal usage until 1 June 1851.



Port Payé
Bureau D
8 AM Collection
9:30 AM Delivery

D
17

Post Box (Boitier)
No. 17

26 August 1848





20 November 1850

Port Payé
Bureau F
4:30 PM Collection
6 PM Delivery



Monsieur le Président du Conseil des médecins du
bureau de bienfaisance du 4^e arrondissement,
à l'adresse, Place du chevalier de Guise, 16.
Paris.

Levy.

PERIOD	BEGINNING OF PERIOD	END OF PERIOD	RATE	PORT PAYÉ
1A	March 1795	26 Dec. 1795	5 sous/ $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	<p style="text-align: center;">J P.P.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H P.P. (possible in 1835)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PP (1835)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PP (1835)</p>
1B	27 Dec. 1795	2 July 1796	15 sous/ $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	
1C	3 July 1796	24 Dec. 1796	3 sous/oz.	
1D	25 Dec. 1796	June 1797	2 sous/ $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	
2	June 1797	21 March 1800	↓	
3	22 March 1800	14 June 1801	1 decime/ $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	
4	15 June 1801	4 July 1801	↓	
5	5 July 1801	22 Sept. 1802	↓	
6	23 Sept. 1802	21 Oct. 1802	↓	
7	22 Oct. 1802	31 Dec. 1805	↓	
8	1 Jan. 1806	11 May 1806	↓	
9	12 May 1806	31 Dec. 1823	15 centimes/ $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	
10	1 Jan. 1824	31 Dec. 1827	↓	
11	1 Jan. 1828	1 May 1837	↓	
12A	May 1837	May 1841	↓	<p style="text-align: center;">PP (1835)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PP (1835)</p>
12B	May 1841	30 April 1848	↓	
13	1 May 1848	6 July 1848	↓	
14	7 July 1848	23 July 1850	↓	

FORGERIES OF DUALA KAMERUN POSTMARKS - ADDENDUM

by M.P. Bratzel, Jr.

Six forgeries of Duala Kamerun postmarks have previously been illustrated and described (1). Two additional forgeries of Fr. 21, both extremely well executed, have been confirmed. Both forged cancels have been found on stamps with forged overprints of the second French occupation issue for Cameroun (Yv. 53-66). The stamps in question have been examined by Roger Calves and by Dr. Werner M. Bohne, Chairman of the Expert Committee for the Germany Philatelic Society; both experts confirmed the fraudulent nature of these items.

The diameter of each forged cancel is the same as the genuine, about 26¼mm. Further, both forgeries bear the date 23.6.16 and, to confound the issue, genuine strikes also exist with this date. Enhanced illustration of the two forgeries are presented below, along with a description of the major differences.

Forgery No. 7



Date: 23.6.16. No stop after 16. The letters in Kamerun are not as high as in the genuine. For example, the E and the R are both slightly less than 3mm; in the genuine, the E is about 3mm and the R, about 3¼mm. The letters in Kamerun (as measured from the top of the E and the R) are approximately 1¼mm from the inner ring; on the genuine, this distance is about 1¼mm.

Forgery No. 8



Date: 23.6.16. The E in Kamerun is slightly less than 3mm high, and the R is about 3mm. The letters in Kamerun are about 1¼mm from the inner ring.

There are numerous other subtle differences that do not readily lend themselves to a written description. Many of these subtle differences relate to the relative position of the N in Kamerun, the following bracket, and the index b. These differences can be discerned upon close comparison of fraudulent strikes with genuine examples, using a 10X magnifier with a millimeter scale.

The author would appreciate any information about other forged or suspicious postmarks of Cameroun.

Reference

1. Bratzel, M.P. Jr. "Forgeries of Duala Kamerun Postmarks." *France & Colonies Philatelist*, Vol. 44, No. 1, Jan., 1988, pp. 8-10.

FRENCH MILITARY CACHETS OF THE 1849 EXPEDITION TO ROME

by Joseph Geraci and William Waugh

In addition to the postal markings used in the French military post offices located in the Roman States during the period 1849 - 1870, there were a few very rare French military cachets which can be found on cover applied by various units in the occupying forces.

These have been found on mail sent through both the French military postal system and the Roman States civil post offices. They appear to be unit cachets having no franking value, but applied to identify the sender and origin. They may be found on either the front or back of covers, or on both sides. These cachets are both interesting and elusive; interesting because they document the locations where French troops were stationed; elusive because very few have been reported to date.

A century and a third after its use, an apparently unreported marking of this nature has been discovered on an envelope in a Roman States postmark and postal history collection included in the National Philatelic Collection of the Smithsonian Institution. As can be seen in Figure 1, the cachet bears the legend "COMMANDANT SUPERIEUR/DE/VITERBE."

The letter appears to have been sent by the commander of the French troops stationed at Viterbo (located about 70 kilometers north, northeast of Civita Vecchia where the French originally landed) to a town official of Ronciglione, which is located about 20 kilometers southeast of Viterbo. Although the envelope bears the endorsement "S.M." (Service Militaire), it was rated postage due because it was sent through the Roman States civil postal system, which did not accord the occupying French forces free franking privileges.

The envelope bears a Viterbo straight line postmark, and a receiving backstamp of "22 Gennaro" (22 January). Unfortunately, the contents are no longer with the envelope, so we cannot pin down a year date for this cover. However, since the French forces landed at Civita Vecchia in April 1849, the cover has to date from 1850 or later. If we were able to determine how long the French remained at Viterbo, perhaps the year date might be deduced.

Both Viterbo and Ronciglione were located in Radius 3 of Distance 1 (zones for determining Roman civil postal rates). The Roman rate, which applied for letters originating within the territorial boundary of one Post Office of Direction destined for delivery within the territorial boundary of a bordering Post Office of Direction, was 2 bajocchi (about 2 U.S. cents) for each single sheet of paper. This cover is rated 4 baj. due, normal for an envelope with a one sheet enclosure, the envelope being counted as one sheet.

In our search of literature, we have noted seven other different French military cachets used in the Roman States during the occupation period, 1849 - 1870. These are described below. Others may well exist and, if our readers know of any, we would be pleased to hear of them.

- 1) "CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE" in double circle with "LE/GENERAL/EN CHEF" in center. Dated 1849.
- 2) "CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE" in double circle with "LE CHEF/D'ETAT MAJOR/GENERAL" in center. On an 1849 cover.
- 3) "REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE/CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE EN ITALIE" in a double lined, semi-oval with "ETAT MAJOR/DE LA PLACE DE ROME" in center. Dated 1850.
- 4) "DIVISION D'OCCUPATION A ROME" with "LE/GENERAL/COMMANDANT" in center. No date noted.
- 5) "DIVISION D'OCCUPATION/PLACE DE ROME," double circle with eagle in center. Dated 10 February, 1858. Gallenga mentions this as struck in blue.
- 6) "DIV. D'OCCUPATION EN ITALIE/LE GENERAL COMMANDANT" in large double circle with eagle in center. On covers dated 1 October, 1859 and 12 May, 1860.
- 7) "PLACE/DE/CIVITA/VECCHIA" in center of a double circle. Dated 1849.

In closing, we wish to acknowledge the kind assistance of Dietrich Lenz of Stuttgart, Germany.

References:

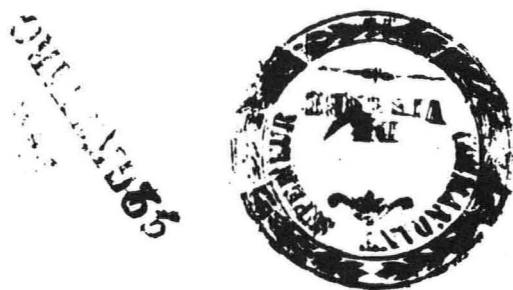
- A) M. Foster, "L'Occupation de Rome (1849-1870), *Document Philateliques*, No. 104. (Cachets, numbers 4, 5 and 6.)
- B) M. Gallenga, *I bolli di Roma dalle origini al XX settembre 1870*, Roma 1980. (Cachets,

numbers 1, 3 and 5.)

- C) A. Pozzolini, "I moti del '48 - '49 e le poste nello Stato Pontificio, 5, L'intervento Francese," *Il Collezionista*, N. 9, 1964. (Cachets, numbers 2 and 7.)
- D) J. Geraci, "The French Occupation of Rome, 1849, A Condensed History of the Event," *Mare Nostrum*, Journal of the Italy & Colonies Study Circle (USA), Vol. II, No. 1.



Geraci & Waugh
Figure 1



Geraci & Waugh
Figure 2

***** THE CENTRAL WARD POST OFFICES (BUREAUX CENTRAUX d'ARRONDISSEMENT) OF PARIS

by Stanley J. Luft

(Académie Européenne d'Etudes Philatéliques et Postales)

As the volume of mail to, from, and within Paris increased by leaps and bounds during the latter part of the 19th Century, the facilities of the main PO (Recette Principale), located at 52, Rue du Louvre, Paris 1°, became severely overtaxed.

By a 1900 decision (not seen by me) of the P.T.T., one branch post office within each of the outer (12 through 20, see Figure 1 map) Paris wards (arrondissements) was designated as the central PO for that ward. Its equipment and staff were increased so as to enable it to centralize all mail to and from the other branch offices within the ward. These new central ward POs, therefore, relieved the main PO of one major step in communicating within Paris, with the rest of France and with the world. The main PO, however, continued for the time being, to centralize mail to and from the inner (1 through 11) wards of the city.

Figure 1

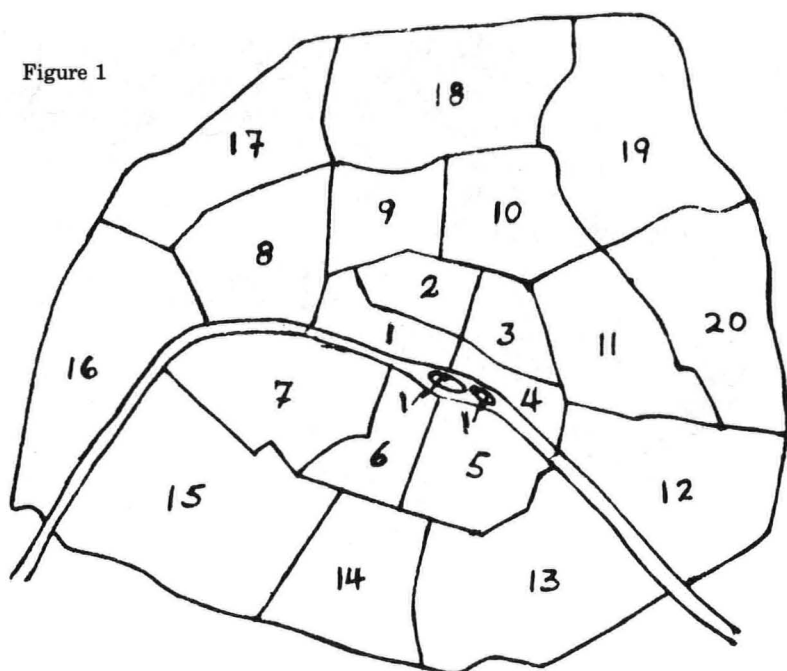


Figure 2

Because of their importance, which is second only to the main PO for volume of mail, the central ward offices eventually became fully equipped to handle all categories of postal services and functions, acquired special annex branches of their own, and administered the auxiliary postal facilities that were located in private enterprises.

The first Bureaux Centraux d'Arrondissement (N° XII-XX) were officially created 1 October 1901. Roman numerals were used (Figure 2) to distinguish them from ordinary branch POs. At that time, the former branch POs N° 12 to 20 were renumbered 112 to 120.

Paris XI was created for the 11th ward, 1 February 1910; Paris X on 1 July 1912; and Paris IX on 6 April 1919. Wards 5 through 8 were dotted with central POs between 1929 and 1954 (see Table). The main PO continues to serve wards 1 through 4, located on the right bank of the ancient part of the city.

Roman numerals were changed to Arabic numerals on cancelling devices (Figure 3) in early spring 1967, by a 9 November 1966 decision. This was done chiefly to facilitate automation of mail handling.

Because of the importance of the central ward offices and of the multiplicity of services

they render, the variety of cancellations and other postal and ancillary markings possible is second only to that from the Recette Principale. Also, as may be seen from the Table which follows, some of these markings were used for only a short time as offices moved or were shut down. The interested specialist will soon learn that forming a comprehensive collection of central ward PO markings becomes a major challenge.

Selected Bibliography

R. Boré, G.P. Cuny, and J.-C. Delwaulle, "Les griffes 'retour a l'envoyeur' de Paris," FM (Feuilles Marcophiles) N° 231, 1982.
 G. Brunel, "Les mutations des bureaux de poste de Paris de l'origine 1760 à nos jours," E. Strauss, Paris, 1934.
 G.P. Cuny, "Les mutations des bureaux de Paris," FM N° 220-221, 1980.
 P. Lux, "Les recettes auxiliaires de Paris 1894-1972," Paris, 1973.
 Dr. Rykner and P. Gobilot, "Les oblitérations de la poste pneumatique," Le Monde des Philatélistes, N° 276-278, May-July, 1975.
 D. de Vries and H.W. vd. Vlist, "Les bureaux de poste de Paris 1849-1977," Amsterdam, 1978.

I here list the central ward post offices and their annexes (Figure 4), along with address and other changes (mutations), from 1901 to the present. This list, adapted from de Vries and van der Vlist (1978), has been corrected and updated via several sources, including Cuny (1980), notes in the philatelic press, etc. Those administrative suboffices and annexes and others privately-managed that are not open to the public, are not listed here.

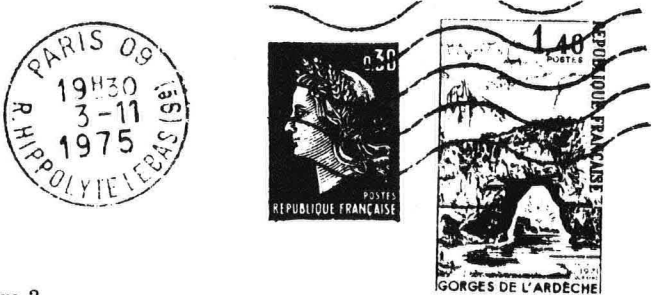


Figure 3

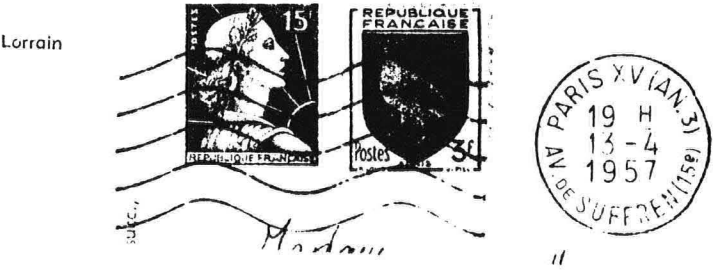


Figure 4

Ward N°	Date Opened	Address
V	10/1933	10, R. de l'Epée de Bois
VI (ex-N°89)	2/1954	6, R. St. Romain
	3/1981	111-113, R. de Sèvres
VII (ex-104)	4/1929	81, Ave. Bosquet
	11/1929	56-58, R. Cler
VII annex	1943	37, Ave. Rapp (became N°27 in 1945)
VII annex 1 (ex-120)	2/1953	195, Blvd. St. Germain (closed 12/1983)
	12/1983	3, Blvd. Raspail
07 annex 2	7/1982	Tour Eiffel
VII annex (ex-202 ann.)	9/1959	Aérogare des Invalides
VIII (ex-47 ann. 1)	11/1931	49-51, R. de la Boétie
VIII annex 1	12/1953	71, Ave. des Champs-Élysées
IX	4/1919	4, R. Hippolyte-Lebas
X	7/1912	117, Quai de Valmy
	3/1967	107, R. du Faubourg St. Denis (on Square Alban-Satragne)
X annex 1	11/1930	Gare de l'Est (became N°128 ann. 1, 6/1932)
XI	2/1910	31, R. Mercœur (became N°112 in 1965)
	11/1965	21, R. Bréquet
XII (ex-N°23)	10/1901	5, R. Erard
	5/1910	27, R. Crozatier (corner 47 bis, Blvd. Diderot)
	1916	31, R. Crozatier (corner 51 bis, Blvd. Diderot) (became 12 ann. 1 in 1971)
	4/1971	30, R. de Reuilly
12 ann. 1	1971	31, R. Crozatier (see above)
12 ann. 2	1/1980	1, R. de Dijon (ex-N°57)
12 ann. 3	2/1982	29, R. des Meuniers
XIII (ex-N°65)	10/1901	77, Ave. d'Italie
	6/1960	23, Ave. d'Italie
XIII ann. 1	7/1935	129, Blvd. Masséna (at Porte d'Italie)
XIII ann. 2	6/1946	Aérodrome d'Orly (later Orly Gare, to 3/1961)
13 annex	4/1977	7, Villa d'Este
XIII ann. 3 (ex-77 ann. 1)	6/1951	45, Blvd. Arago (became N°145, 10/1981)
XIV (ex-69)	10/1901	19, Ave. d'Orléans
	4/1907	15 bis, Ave. d'Orléans
	2/1948	15 bis, Ave. du Gal. Leclerc (same locale)
	10/1978	109-115, Blvd. Brune
XIV ann. 1	5/1929	1, Place de la Porte d'Orléans
	1948	1, Place du 25 Août 1944 (same locale)
XIV ann. 2	12/1929	2, R. Liard
	5/1951	78, R. Amiral-Mouchez (other corner of same locale)
XIV ann. 3	5/1934	Cité Universitaire (at 19, Blvd. Jourdan)
14 ann. 4	11/1978	15 bis, Ave. du Gal. Leclerc (became N°147, 1/1980)
XV (ex-75)	10/1901	93, R. Blomet
	1908	3, Pl. de Vaugirard (other corner of same locale)
	11/1935	19-21, R. d'Alleray
XV ann. 1	10/1930	1, R. Alex.-Cabanel (closed 9/1939)
XV ann. 1 (ex-72 ann. 1)	7/1951	3, Pl. de la Porte de Vanves (became annex 5, 6/1981)
XV ann. 2	5/1929	1, R. de Langeac (closed 2/1956)
15 ann. 2	4/1974	Tour Maine-Montparnasse (at 33, Ave. du Maine)
XV ann. 3	8/1932	30, Ave. de Suffren
XV annex	1/1931	Parc des Expositions (closed 10/1942)

15 ann. 4	3/1981	12, R. François-Bonvin
15 ann. 5	6/1981	3, Pl. de la Porte de Vanves (ex-annex 1)
15 Air	11/1974	Cité de l'Air (at 26, Blvd. Victor)
XVI (ex-70)	10/1901	Place Chopin (at 9, R. Singer)
	12/1931	40, R. Singer (corner 13, R. Talma) (incl. N°216 from 8/1944 to 9/1959)
	4/1967	1-7, R. Jean-Richepin
Centre de Tri de Paris 16 (ex-N°216)	9/1959	40, R. Singer
XVI ann. 1	4/1928	31, R. Gros (was N°216 ann. 1 from 8/1944 to 9/1959)
XVI ann. 2	6/1937	64, Ave. de Tokyo (corner 2, R. Beethoven) (closed 9/1939)
	9/1943	82, R. Boileau (became N°216 ann. 2, 8/1944)
	9/1959	64, Ave. de New York (ex-Tokyo) (at 2, R. Beethoven)
XVI ann. 3 (ex-216, ann. 3)	1959	15, Blvd. Murat
16 ann. 4	12/1968	Centre Universitaire (at Ave. de Pologne)
16 ann. 5 (ex-138)	12/1986	37-39, R. de la Pompe
XVI bis	8/1935	Ecole Universelle (at 59, Blvd. Exelmans) (Tri N°16 bis, from 8/1944 to 9/1959)
XVI ter	1/1960	OTAN (NATO) (at Porte Dauphiné) (closed 10/1967)
16 ter	2/1969	O.C.D.E. (at 2, R. André-Pascal)
XVII (ex-66)	10/1901	55, R. Jouffroy
	12/1930	108-110, Ave. de Wagram
XVII ann. 1 (ex-74 ann. 1)	1932	12, Blvd. Gouvion-St. Cyr
	4/1978	Porte de Champerret
XVII ann. 2	6/1933	147 ter, R. Cardinet (closed 9/1969)
17 ann. 2	1/1975	C.I.P.C.O.M. (at Porte Maillot)
XVIII (ex-60)	10/1901	70-72, R. Clignancourt (annex 1 from 11/1936)
	11/1936	19, R. Duc
XVIII ann. 1	11/1936	70-72, R. Clignancourt (ex-XVIII; became N°29, 11/1953)
XVIII ann. 1	6/1955	7, Ave. de la Porte d'Aubervilliers
18 bis	6/1978	3, Blvd. Ney (became private-use N°05 bis, 11/1978)
XIX (ex-77)	10/1901	139, R. d'Allemagne (name changed to Ave. Jean-Jaurès in 1914)
	11/1931	8-12, Ave. de Laumière
19 (R-D)	2/1975	118, Ave. Jean-Jaurès (= Paris Belvedere)
XX (ex-91)	10/1901	200, R. des Pyrénées
	11/1930	248, R. des Pyrénées
XX ann. 1	2/1934	48, R. Pelleport (Division des Postes de Paris)

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE COMMUNE REVOLUTION, PARIS 1871

by Gardner L. Brown

Editor's Note: In this issue we begin a serialized version of a treatise by Gardner Brown on the postal history of the Commune Revolution, Paris 1871. With but a few exceptions, the illustrations are from his own collection. In this installment, he begins with a brief history of the Revolution, then adds a section called "The Beginning and the End" which deals with the sometimes rather loose dates of the uprising. This is followed by a discussion of "Mail Detoured Around Paris" during this period.

Other subjects to be covered in future issues are: Mail into Paris; Mail out of Paris; Paris for Paris Mail; Prisoner's Mail as well as Free Franking; The Stamps Used; and Official Mail.

FOREWORD

Very little has been written in English on the philatelic aspects of the Commune Revolution. The purpose of this effort is to correct this situation and to combine a study of the literature with a survey of philatelic material which has been illustrated or described in auction catalogs over the years.

The method used was the same as in 1975 when we reported¹ on our "Pretend Collection of Balloon Mail." At that time, we were able to report on the description of 3,263 balloon covers and were then able to know what was rare and what was common.

Using the same catalogs, plus those issued since that time, we were able to find only about 380 Commune covers. This was from over 350 catalogs. This told us what we already knew; a collector of the Commune must be patient. Commune material is hard to find!

The survey also produced "philatelic evidence" which is interesting to compare with the poorly-documented laws and regulations of the times.

As always, just about the time you describe a cover as "unique," a similar one appears in the exhibition frame next to yours. In the same fashion, what we have described as unique or unusual may not be so. It is hoped this effort will result in correspondence from many collectors describing their "gems." After all, one of the covers we illustrated was found, only a few years ago, in a dealer's box of "cheap" covers.

¹Brown, G. and R.; F&C Philatelist, #161, Vol. 31, No. 3, July, 1975.

CHAPTER I - A BRIEF HISTORY

To understand the postal history of the Commune Revolution, it is helpful to know a little about the causes and major events of the time. The Revolution followed the end of the Franco-Prussian War by only seven weeks. Besides being beaten by the newly formed German nation, a lot had happened to change the course of the history of France forever.

The French Emperor, Napoleon III, was captured at Sedan early in the war. This finished the period of the Empire and a provisional republican government was formed outside of besieged Paris.

Many Parisians felt they were not properly represented in the negotiations which resulted in the Armistice declared on January 28, 1871. They were convinced they could have broken out of Paris, dispersed the Germans and won the war. One aspect of the armistice agreement was particularly onerous to the proud Parisians. All of Alsace and a large part of Lorraine was to be annexed by Germany as part of the "spoils of war." However, the Alsatian territory of Belfort was still under siege and they refused to surrender. As a compromise, Belfort would be allowed to remain as a part of France if Paris allowed the Germans to have a victory parade down the Champs Elysées. That was bitter medicine and Figure I-1 captures the reactions of the Parisians to this event of early March.

Before the parade, the National Guard moved 200 cannons to the Place du Tertre, on the hill of Montmartre, to keep them from the hands of the Germans (Figure I-2). Now General Vinoy recognized the National Guard as a threat to the stability of France as the size of the regular army had been sharply reduced as a result of the armistice agreement. Under his orders, a detachment of the regular army was sent to recover the guns early on the morning of March 18th. They made the mistake of not bringing with them



Figure I-1

Figure I-1. Purification of the Arc de Triomphe by smoke after the departure of the Germans.

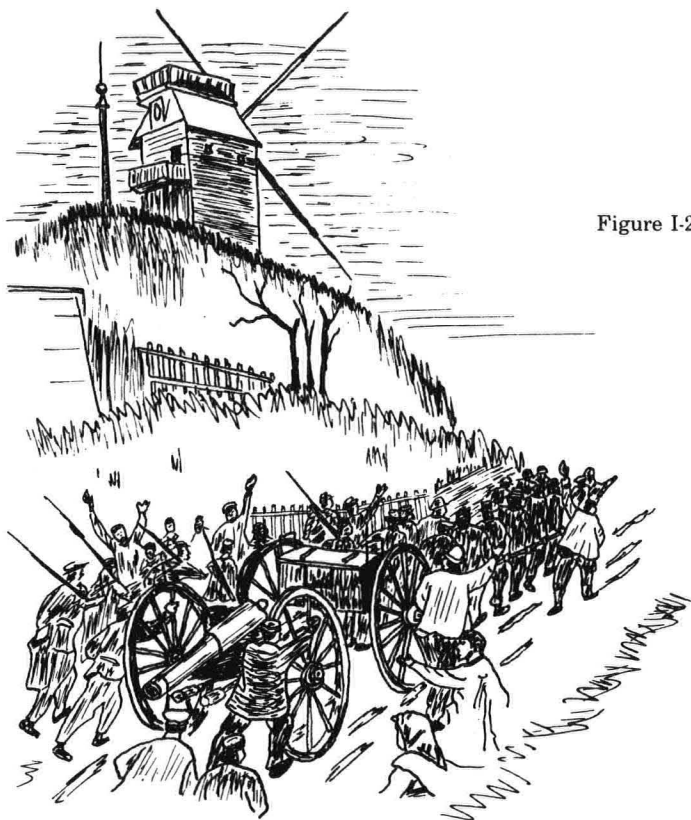


Figure I-2

Figure I-2. National Guards pulling THEIR cannon up the Montmartre hill to the Place du Tertre.

any teams of horses to transport the cannon. The extra time required allowed the sleeping Parisians to awake. They regarded the cannons to be their own as they had been paid for by public subscription. The riots which followed allowed the revolutionaries to take over control of Paris that day, March 18.

During the Siege of Paris, many soldiers from the provinces were within the city to defend it. They went home after the Armistice leaving the demoralized National Guard in the hands of the more radical Parisians. National elections were held in February and, of the 768 deputies elected to the National Assembly, only 200 were Republicans. When this new body decided to hold their meetings in the Palace at Versailles instead of Paris, the general population feared a return to a monarchy (Figure I-3) which the Palace symbolized.

To add to this unrest, it was proclaimed that all debts which had been deferred during the Siege were now due in full.

Figure I-4 is adapted from a contemporary cartoon. Its use here is to make the point that no one was sure of what the Commune meant; everyone had his own idea and, on the whole, felt it a good idea--whatever it was. The Communards have taken credit for the Revolution and, indeed with some justification. In truth, the cause was a complex melange of injured pride, city vs. rural interests and the haves vs. the have-nots.

While March 18, 1871 is the accepted historical date for the beginning of the Commune Revolution, postal historians prefer to use the date of March 30, 1871, for it was on that evening the leaders of the post office moved to Versailles taking with them, many supplies as well as the outgoing mail.

Thus began what many have called the "Second Siege of Paris." The Chapter on the "Beginning and the End" will show it is difficult to assign a precise date for the end of the Revolution. For the purpose here, we will just say it was at the end of May, so the interest of postal historians is confined to a two-month period: April and May of 1871.



Figure I-3

Figure I-3. Destined to become the leader of the Third Republic, many feared he might be crowned King instead.

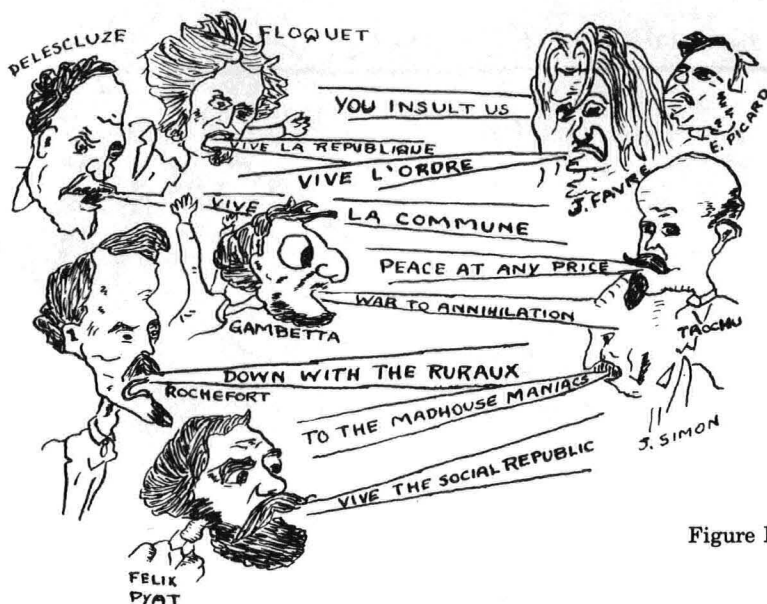


Figure I-4

Figure I-4. Republicans on the left, Monarchists on the right, each with a different slogan.

CHAPTER II — THE BEGINNING AND THE END

The postal blockade of Paris was initiated by the government in Versailles by withdrawing the Paris postal officials to Versailles the evening of Thursday, March 30, 1871. Parisians were first aware of the new situation when they stopped getting mail from the outside. They kept posting their letters for the provinces as usual until the truth was known.

The Beginning—Mail from Paris

What was left of the Paris postal system tried valiantly to overcome the blockade by sending couriers outside of Paris to various train lines such as the ones to Amiens, Soissons, Tours, Nancy, Troyes, Mulhouse and Dijon. They stopped this on April 14 as some of their employees had been arrested trying to post the mail. The same day, a traveler was stopped at Boulogne-sur-Mer as he was carrying 300 letters to mail in Paris.

On April 15, they began sending the postal couriers only to nearby towns such as St. Denis, Vincennes, Charenton, Maisons-Alfort and Meaux. All but the last named were barely outside the Paris walls where there was a strong German Army presence.

Figure II-I shows a letter with a Paris postmark of April 2 and an arrival in Rouen on the 6th. The cover shown in Figure II-2 is very similar, having been written in Paris on the 2nd with an arrival in Rouen also on the 6th. However, it was taken to Sarcelles, a suburb of St. Denis, where it was posted on April 2. It is tempting to think both letters were given to a post office in Paris where one was cancelled and one was not, and then, both were taken to Sarcelles by a postal employee.

The survey shows 3 other examples which were handled by postal couriers, i.e., they were cancelled in Paris, yet were delivered outside of Paris. One has a Paris blue star and a Paris Etranger date stamp of April 1. That letter was delivered in Amsterdam on the 7th, and the other two examples known received fairly prompt delivery also.

The newspapers kept quoting Paris postal officials who advised everything was all right, but this was not the case. People soon found suburban post offices would not accept mail with Paris postmarks. After all, if the Communards sold the stamps for mail which was obviously from Paris, why should the Versailles Government incur the cost of transport-

Figure II-1

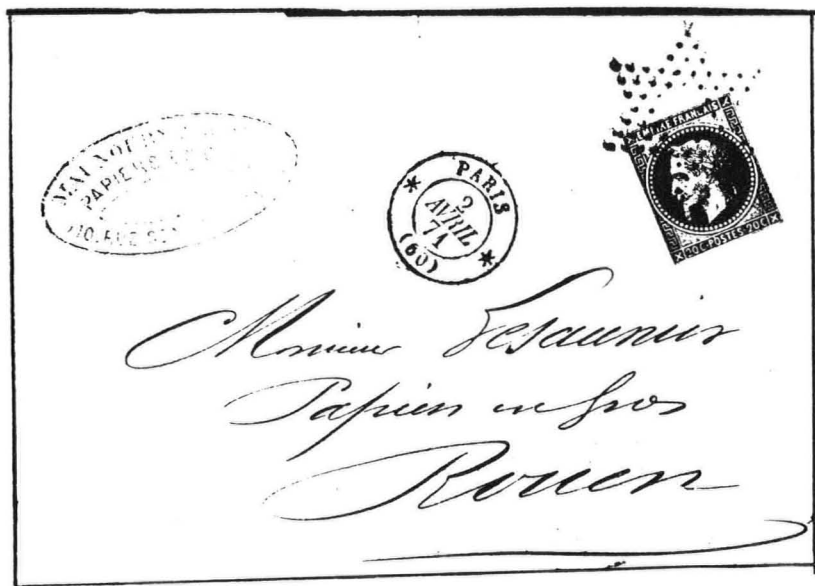


Figure II-1. Mailed in Paris and carried by a post office courier to meet the train outside of Paris. Arrived Rouen April 6.

Figure II-2

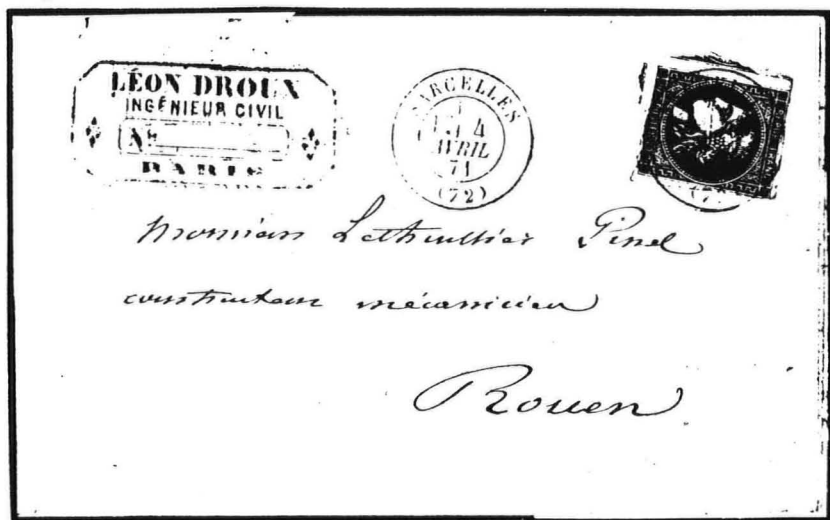


Figure II-2. Written in Paris April 2 and posted (by postal courier?) in nearby Sarcelles April 4. Arrived Rouen April 6.

ing and delivering such mail? Theiz, the Communard postmaster, later reported¹ "We later had to change the dotting on our cancellations." Even in the original French, the exact meaning of the word "dotting" is unclear, but obviously it has to refer to the dots making up the distinctive Paris star cancellations.

Figure II-3 illustrates one of the two recorded examples of Paris mail with a pen cancel. Rather than being an ugly X, it spells out the French word for cancelled. The ruse worked as it was delivered in Brussels April 5. Lacking its contents, we do not know the precise Paris date.

The survey records four letters with Paris cancellations as late as April 7, which were not delivered in the provinces until late in May. Oddly enough, two of these have delivery dates which do not coincide with the end of the Revolution, implying they were not stored in Paris until the hostilities were over. One was to go to St. Brieuc (Côte du Nord), the other to Italy. Both arrived on May 21, the day the Versailles troops entered Paris from the west. Perhaps these were letters impounded (and finally released) when the Communard mail couriers were arrested? The one to Italy was cancelled with a Paris blue star as was the case with the previously mentioned letter to Holland.

The other two examples of mail, with early Paris cancels but late delivery dates, may well have been held in Paris as the dates are May 29 and 30.

The Beginning-Mail into Paris

Collectors always worry about whether or not a letter addressed to Paris during the Commune actually got there. It is most unusual to find a Paris arrival postmark on such mail unless it has an added 10 centime stamp for local delivery. The collector is lucky if the contents of the letter simply give some indication the letter was received, as in Figure II-4. We know of only one example with a Paris arrival cachet during the Commune, Figure II-5, and it is suspect. Although there is absolutely no trace of a second numeral in the date, the 2 does seem to be too far to the left for a single-digit number. Perhaps it was delivered after the Revolution and the second numeral is missing from the date stamp?

Figure II-3

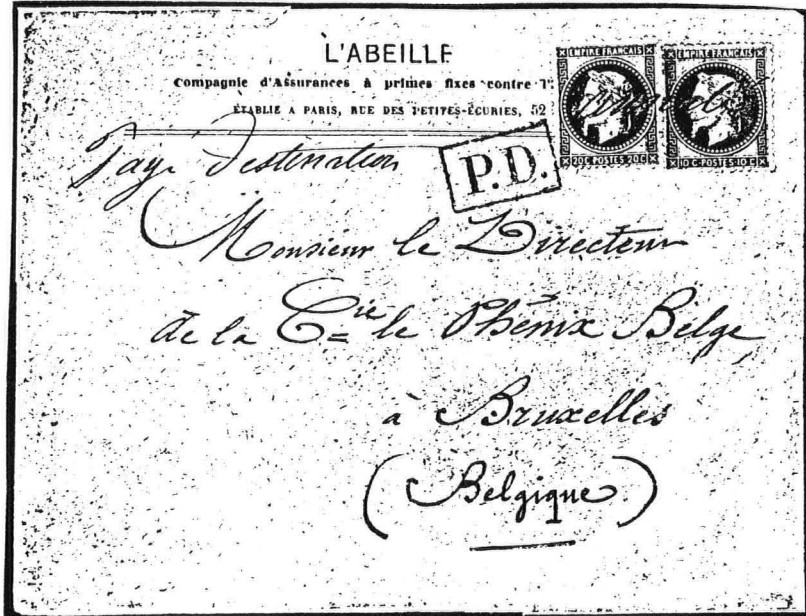


Figure II-3. Pen cancelled in Paris to deceive Versailles controlled post offices who would not handle mail with Paris cancellations. Arrive Brussels April 5.

¹ Lissagary, *History of the Commune of 1871*, Reeves and Taylor, London, 1876. Translated by Eleanor Marx Aveling, page 473.

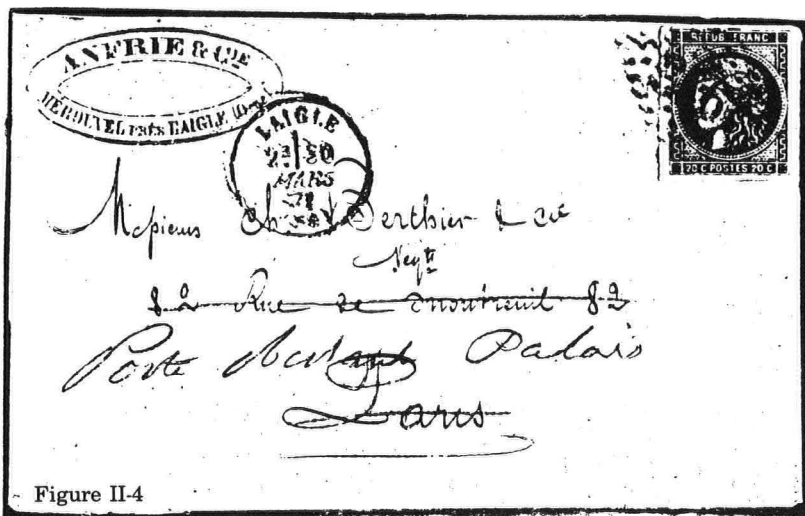


Figure II-4

Figure II-4. Posted Laigle March 30. Detoured to Poste Restante, Palais (Versailles).

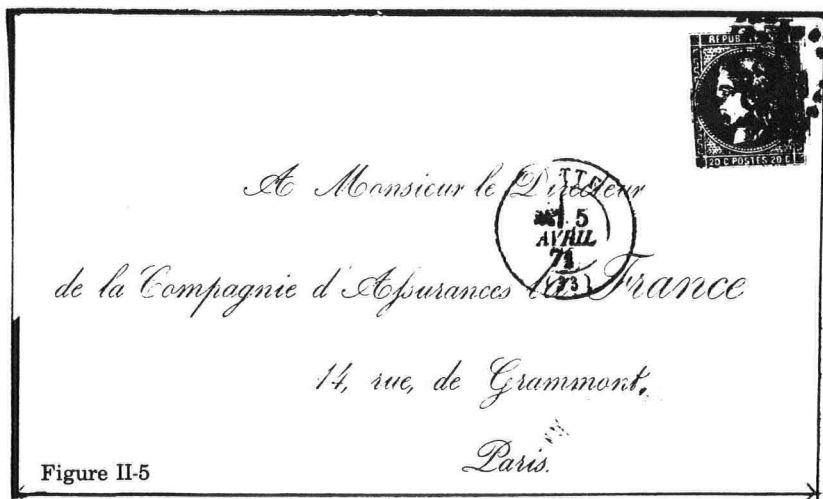


Figure II-5

Figure II-5. Posted Cette April 5. Paris arrival appears to be May 2. Could be May 2-?

The End-Mail from Paris

While the effects of the postal blockade were very sharply defined at the beginning of the Revolution, they were very diffuse at the end. In essence, the date depends on which direction the mail was going.

Figure II-6 is a map made from a combination of one by Le Pileur² which shows the locations of the post offices within the walls of Paris, and a map from an unknown source which shows the daily progress of the Versailles troops during that period called the "Bloody Week." The second map is due to the courtesy of Ernst Cohn.

² Le Pileur, J. *Les Aerostats Post 1870-1871*. Au Comptoir des Timbres. 1935.

The map shows why the direction of the mail was so important. The earliest known letter out of Paris at the end of the Revolution is shown in Figure II-7 (front) and II-8 (back). The main post office at Rue St. Lazare was recaptured on May 24 and the letter was posted there that day. It was addressed to Cerences (Manche) and thus went out of Paris on the line to Granville to the west. The back shows 5 strikes of the Paris to Granville ambulant. The first is for the night of May 25 which seems to indicate the train was ready to receive mail on the 25th. The next is for the 27th (the letter arrived on the 28th) and suggests the train really wasn't ready to travel very far for a couple of days. It was rerouted to Pontorson, which fact accounts for the other readable ambulants.

The second earliest example of mail out of Paris at the end of the Revolution is a letter written on May 24. It was mailed at Beaumont-s-Oise on the 27th. The choice of Beaumont, about 25 miles northwest of Paris, is peculiar because it had no direct rail connection with Paris in 1871. However, it did have a short rail line which connected with a line to the west at Pontoise or, to the north via Creil. The map partially explains the delay as the Gare du Nord was barely liberated on the 23rd and heavy fighting was close by for several days afterward.

Three more letters are known postmarked in Paris close to the end of the Revolution. All were mailed May 27. The one to Argenteuil, very close to Paris, didn't arrive until the 29th. The other two arrived in London on the 30th.

The End-Mail into Paris

Despite the philatelic evidence, the following item from *The Times* (London) speaks to the confusion of the period. Dated Boulogne, June 3, 1871, 12:52 a.m. "-----the up-mail carrying Friday (June 2) night's London mail, will be the first passenger train to enter Paris and inaugurate the regular traffic. All letters have hitherto gone round by Versailles."

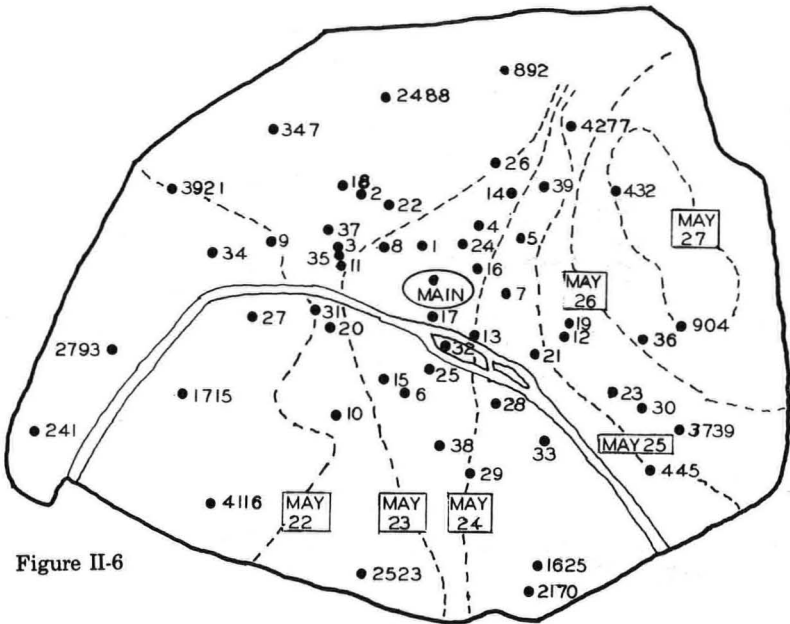


Figure II-6

Figure II-6. Paris Stars, Lozenges and Advance of Versailles Troops.

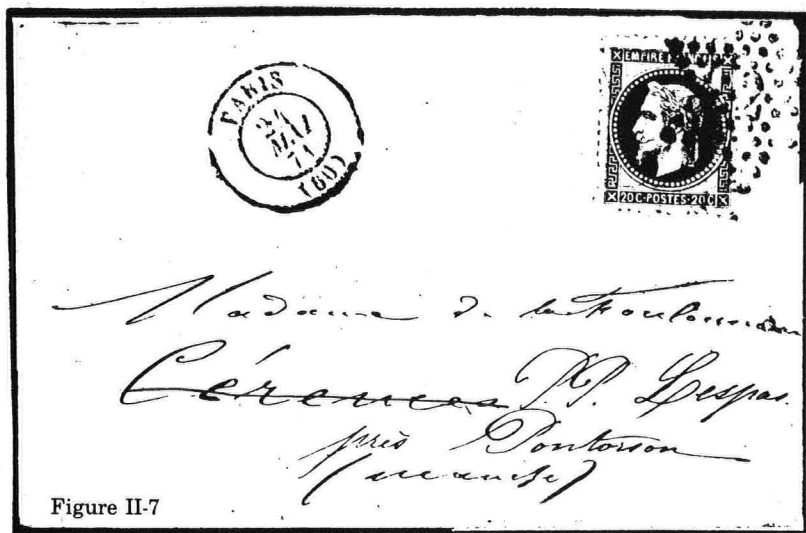


Figure II-7

Figure II-7. Mailed at the main post office the day it was recaptured. See also Figure II-8.

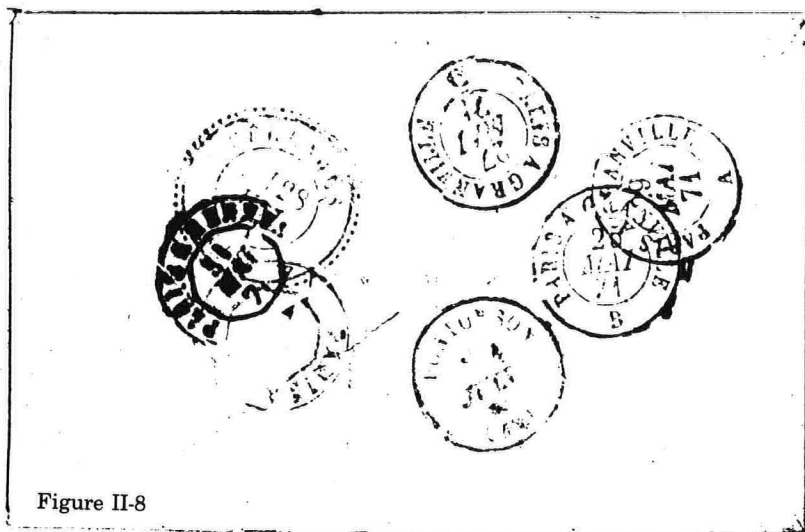


Figure II-8

Figure II-8. Back of Figure II-7. Paris to Granville ambulants; May 25 night; illeg. day; May 27 night; May 29 night; May 31 day. Arrivals Cerences May 28; Pontorson June 1.

We know of only two letters into Paris at the end of the Revolution. Figure II-9 shows the first one, postmarked Bourg-en-Bresse, May 26. It must have been held by the post office there until the Paris situation had stabilized, for there is a Bourg-en-Bresse postmark on the back dated May 31. The normal route into Paris would have been via the Lyon to Paris railroad, entering Paris via the southeastern corner.



Figure II-9. Posted Bourg-en-Bresse May 26 and held there until May 31 (2nd strike on back). Paris arrival June 2.

The second, Figure II-10, was written by a Communard National Guard soldier who had been sent out to buy cattle for the troops in Paris. While there, he committed a civil offense and was put in jail. He wrote his commanding officer in Paris asking for help, mailing his letter from Provins on May 25. The envelope has no Paris arrival cachet but, when it got there, it was forwarded to Versailles and became part of the evidence that M. Pascal Chataigneau was a Communard and should be punished. The normal route into Paris would have been via the Belfort to Paris line, entering Paris via the northeast corner. Figure

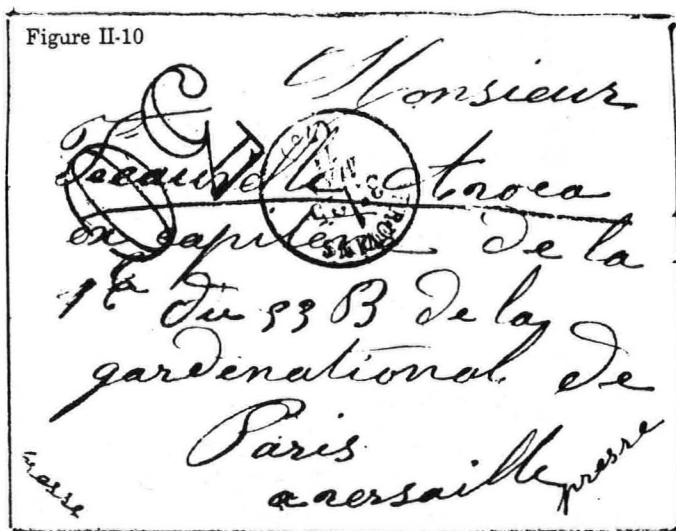


Figure II-10. Provins to Paris May 25. To a Communard soldier in Paris. Forwarded (a Versailles in manuscript) to become part of a police file.

II-11 shows the letter itself. The red crayon handwriting is typical of mail falling into the hands of the military police.

After the Siege of Paris, there was a great influx of mail addressed to Paris which had been held up until it could be delivered after the war. These were called "Tentatives des Entrées," and it is said 9 million of them were brought into Paris after the Siege. Most examples we have seen do not have a Paris arrival cachet, probably because of the volume of the mail handled.

The mail embargo caused by the Commune lasted for only 2 months instead of the 4½ months of the Siege. Even so, we have not been able to find an equivalent influx of mail after the Commune. The cover shown in Figure II-5 might be an example and, we have already described the other two we know.

Figure II-11

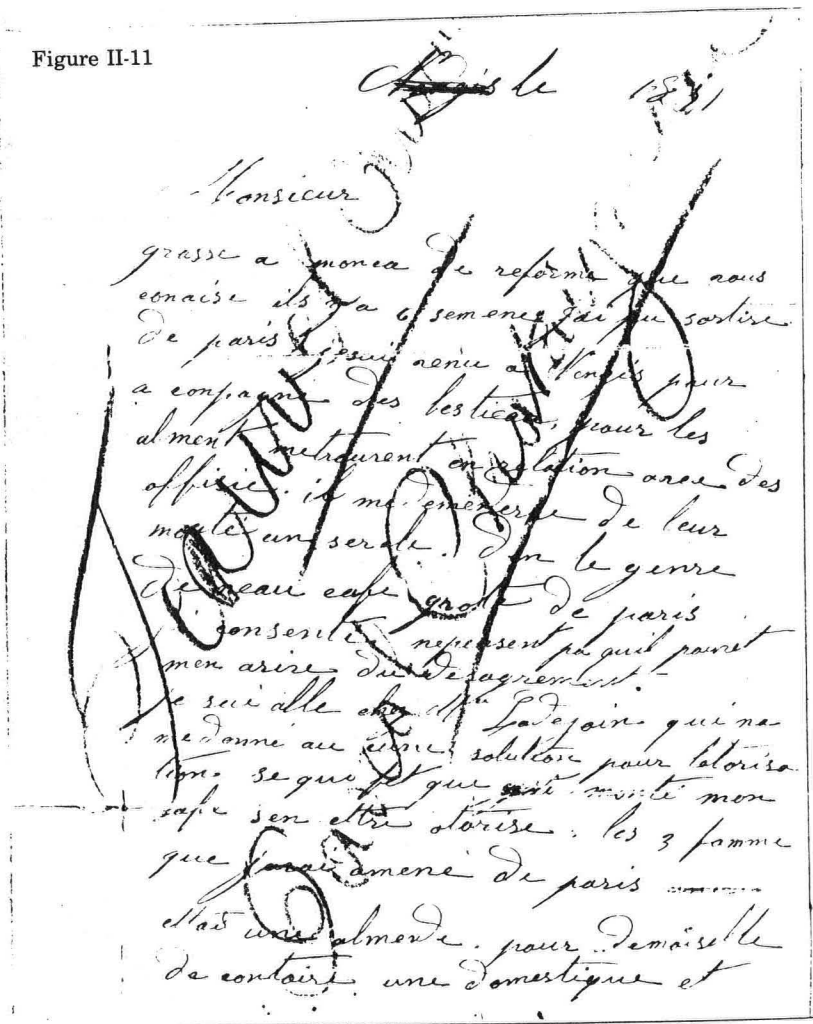


Figure II-11. Letter from Figure II-10. Red crayon marking typical of treatment by Versailles military police.

Perhaps the reason for this lies in our observation that most of the Tentatives from the Siege are personal in nature and much of the mail from the Commune period was commercial. Personal mail is much more likely to be saved as a "souvenir" of the war. Another possibility is that Tentatives from the Commune period have not yet achieved sufficient popularity with collectors to warrant auction catalog listings. Then too, we have not been able to examine all of the letters into Paris without an obvious Paris arrival. So, maybe some of them did not actually arrive until after the Commune but, we don't think so.

***** CURRENT JOURNAL ARTICLES *****

LE MONDE DES PHILATELISTES

- #416 March 1988—Artaud: "Un piquage en forme d'arc flamme (Yv 14). Prugnon: "1er émission de France." Calves: "Le faux pour tromper le poste—le 50c Paix." Altériet cont.: Zeynon: "Jeux Olympiques cartes postales." Guiraud-Darmais: "Monaco oblitérations temporaires" (cont.). Ducos: "La Grande Cassure." Roumet: "Blocs 4 de lfr Cérés London Expo."
- #417 April 1988: Altériet cont.: Calves et J.: "Expertise—Diego Suarez litho de 1890." Altériet: "Carnets courants." Michon: "Variétés de Guinée." Prugnon (cont.); Guiraud-Darmais cont.: Julien: "Jean Depech graveur de 100,000 oblitérations." Prugnon: (20c noir on cover from Gorée.)
- #419 May 1988—D.B.: "Mai 68—vingt ans apres (grève)." Storch et Francon: "La poste et les assurances sociales." Fromageat: "Le 5Fr de l'Empire." Trassaert: "Téléimpression—le courrier de l'an 2000." Calves et J.: "Le faux pour tromper le poste—50c Semeuse, 1.50F Pasteur." Altériet cont.: Rouy: "Le marché philatélique." Julien: "Pierre Albuissou." Roumet: "1870—boule de Moulins, lettre from GB of Paris."
- #421 July-Aug. 1988—Altériet cont.: Beneteau: "La collection des télécartes." Laurent: "Roland Garros." P.J.: "La dation Zoumaroff." Disparution de Jean Delpech." "Sondage de 2,400,000 collectionneurs." Tristant: "Maréchal Pétain—un cachet à date ensolite." "Maquettes refusées."
- #422 Sept. 1988—Buffier: "Guerre et Paix (11 Nov. 1918)." Trassaert: "Timbres factices et vignettes d'essai" (cont.). "Maquettes refusées." Doklean: "Bicentenaire de la Rév. Fr." Altériet: "4fr Pétain—un timbre méconnu." de la Métrie: "Defautes illusoires." Artaud: "Flammes mécaniques des DOM-TOM et Colonies." David: "Fortier (cartes p.) au Dahomey." "Surcharges de Fezzan."
- #423 Oct. 1988—Buffier: "Strasbourg—2000 ans d'histoire." Artaud: "Flammes mécaniques des DOM-TOM et Cols" (cont.). Trassaert cont.: Altériet cont.: Laporte: "Jeux Olympiques." Sides: "L'auto Française à l'étranger." Doklean cont.: de la Métrie: "Géométrie postale." Calves et J.: "15F rouge Marianne de Gandon faux." Altériet: "Carnets Liberté." "Non-émis de l'Algérie—Conference Afro-Asiat."
- #424 Nov. 1988—Jubert: "La gravure Buissonnière—Cent. de l'Ecole Estienne." Legay: "Debaptisation des Communes." Prugnon: "Porte local Paris pour Paris." Tristant: "Le Lazaret de Malte." Ducos: "Les raccords." Béneteau: "Télécartes." Sohler et Madron: "Etats de phosphore de la Sabine." Storch: "Semeuse camée." Altériet cont.: Buffier: "L'Académie Française." Joffre: "TAAF—Histoire des timbres et oblitérations."
- #425 Dec. 1988—Buffier: "Droits de l'Homme et Croix Rouge." Storch: "Série courant—Recherche Marianne désespérément." Prugnon cont.: Altériet cont.: Béneteau cont.: "40c retouche Cérés en feuilles d'essai." Zeynon: "Cartes postales de Bicent. de la Rév." Julien et Buffier: "Roger Calves expert—possible signatures."
- #426 Jan. 1989—Storch: "Série courant—recherche Marianne désespérément." Altériet cont.: Legay: "Révolution toponymique." de la Métrie: "Préoblitéré avant la lettre." Crané: "Informations polaires." de la Métrie: "Marocan—les petites bateaux Redoubleable et Richillieu." Artaud: "(unusual flammes illustrées.)"
- #427 Feb. 1989—Storch cont.: "Emile Munch, pionnier de l'air Paris-Noumea 1932." Jacquemin: "Des origines de l'écriture aux cent ans de l'Ecole Estienne—l'imprimerie." Doklean: "La chute de la Monarchie, 1791-2." Joffre, Crané: "Polaires," "TAAF." Beslu: "Laérophilatélie en Polynésie Française" (begin). de la Métrie: "Interest."

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- On 4 Feb., a set of 6 stamps of celebrated personages of the Revolution, 2.20 + 0.50 each (for Sieyes, LaFayette, Mirabeau, Barniave, Vcmte de Noailles, Drouet) and a combined set in a booklet of 6 with marginal logos at top and bottom, with a fancy cover designed by Forget printed in helio — sold at 16.20F.
- On 4 Feb., two stamps, 2.20 and 3.60, for the 40th anniv. of the Conseil de l'Europe, and a 2.20 for Centenary of the Ecole Estienne.
- On 4 March, 2.20 for Elections au Parlement Européen, and 3.60 Vol. Franco-Soviétique (not in original program). On 18 March, 2.20 Liberté — Bicent. de la Rév.
- On 15 April, the 2.20 + 0.60 Journée du Timbre "Diligence Paris-Lyon," and in booklets of 6 with fancy cover design, sold at 16.80F. On 22 April, the 2.20 Egalité — Bicent. de la Rév.
- On 3 April, it was previously announced to appear a strip of 5 stamps 2.20, each showing a panorama of different views of Paris monuments: Arche de la Défense; Eiffel Tower; pyramid du Louvre; Notre Dame; Opéra de la Bastille. However, the issue was deferred to a later date, probably in June. A set of 5 postal cards is envisioned also.
- For Andorre: on 6 March the Poble de Pal, 2.20.
- For Polynesia: 7 Dec. 40c and 1.00F showing Grand Missions Protestantes des Iles. 12 Jan. 30F and 40F showing the first Tahiti P.O. building 15 Feb. 29F and 31F Centre des Métiers d'Art.
- For New Caledonia: 16 Nov. 40th Anniv. of the OMS; 7 Dec. 54F and 92F Peintures de Pacifique. 22 Feb. 200F Koumak.
- For St. Pierre: 9 Dec. 2.20 Dr. Thomas; 30 Jan. mushrooms 2.50; 4 March 5F Judo; 27 March 2.20 Bicent. Rév.—Liberté; 9 May 2.20 Egalité—Bicent. de la Rév.; 19 June 2.20 Fraternité—Bicent. de la Rév.
- For Wallis et Futuna: 15 Dec. 400F Noel; 26 Jan. 26F Anniv. du Amiral Chârnier; 16 Feb. 24F 10th Anniv. death of Jean Renoir.
- For Monaco: 8 Feb. 6 values of descriptures rupestres du Parc Nationale de Mercantau; a booklet of 10 of the 2.20F La Place Saint Nicolas of Cl. Rosticker; 14 March new values in the current series of effigy of Pr. Rainier III—2f, 2.20, 3.60, 5f, 15f.
- In December 1988, a postal strike in Corsica led to the issue of private labels for businesses to forward mail privately to Nice for posting there. The vignettes with 2.00 and 2.20 face are being offered by dealers at high prices as well as philatelic covers also (covers to have regular postage added). There are separate issues of different design for Bastia and Ajaccio.
- During last Nov. 9-15 Paris postal strike, the Chamber of Commerce of Paris endeavored to assure the forwarding of commercial mail that was handed to it for forwarding at no fee but letters had to bear normal postage stamps. This mail was cancelled by a SECAP machine of the Bureau de Paris LaBoetie with a star in place of the Levée—about 50,000 pieces were handled per day.
- The Musée Régionale de Timbre et Philatélie du Luc en Provence held a hommage à Décaris celebration at which souvenir cards and envelopes with illustrated cachets relating to Décaris were sold at 12F + post; Place de la Convention, 83340 Le Luc.
- The St. Pierre P.O. offers an encart on which all the stamps of the year are grouped and cancelled with FD cachets. Make reservatons to the Bureau Philatélique de SPM, Place de Général de Gaulle, 97500 St. Pierre-Miquelon.
- The magazine Thalassa for December last has a 2-page article on Décaris, sold for 30F, Quai de la Conférence, 75384 Paris.
- The Service Philatélique de la Poste and the philatelic windows have for sale at 10F, a brochure in color intended for juniors and others titled "Impressions," which describes the techniques of printing at Perigueux.
- The General Assembly of ASCAT, the Intern. Assoc. of publishers of postage stamps, at its recent meeting in The Hague modified its statute to include the philatelic press in its organization and add philatelic publications to its title.
- Jean Mistler, the Permanent Secretary of the Académie Française who died last Nov., is remembered as Minister of PTT in 1934, when he proposed a complete change of the current stamp designs and got some 28 artists to submit designs, most of which were en-

graved and proofs made. But, only 3 of them were actually issued.

► The Minister of PTT, Paul Quelis, announced on 16 Jan., the opening of a concours (competition) for the design of a stamp to replace the current Liberté series. The candidates must send their applications by 31 March and their work must be submitted before 31 May. It is hoped the decision can be announced at Philexfrance.

► Mme LeFloch, the new Director of the Musée Postal, has intentions of broadening and reorienting the program of the Musée. She will turn it from the past emphasis on history, and open up to the contemporary world, the modern postal service and its relations to contemporary art. The Musée will invite artists in the plastic media to exercise their creative imaginations in design of postal equipment and objects the Musée can sell to the public.

► The PTT is experimenting with a rapid transmission and delivery of packages from door to door within France in less than 5 hours as part of its Chronopost service, and in association with the aviation service of Air Inter. Fret. Packages up to 30 kilos are taken at tariffs of 240 to 550F. Since 1987, such service had only been guaranteed from airport to airport. The scheme resembles the Express Mail of USPS and some commercial services in the U.S.

► Up to 1 March, Communes without a P.O. had to have their mail addressed to show the postal code and name of P.O. to which the Commune was attached. Now, the name of the P.O. to which it's attached is omitted and only its postal code no. is given—mayors of the Communes didn't like the public to get the impression of being dependent on another.

► Member Huguette Gagnon sent us a set of four sheets of 12 gummed labels, each with different designs of original seals from the Revolution period and printed in bistre. Also, a set of 8 different post cards with these designs. The cards cost 25F and the set of labels, 25F. They are being sold by the Club Philatélique du Collège de Chartres de Bretagne to raise money to permit a teacher from the Collège to take his students to Philexfrance '89.

► The 5.00F Yves Klein painting stamp issued Jan. 21 is titled "Anthropométrie de L'Epoque Bleue." Klein, like Picasso, had his "blue period." This work grew out of an avant-garde theater scene project in 1960. The artist had 3 nude models covered with blue paint lie down on large white sheets of paper, so the artist did not actually paint bodies. Klein said he was a man with ideas about art! which was something of an understatement. Later he tried other such novel creations—a pioneer of the New Realism who struck out against the academies, critics, and media.

► The 2.20F stamp for the Centenary of the Ecole Estienne was designed by a student of the Ecole. The school was formed under official auspices to meld art and technique, and its many graduates have, over the years, won wide recognition in the art and graphics professions.

► At SANDICAL-Expo '89 in San Diego, member Clarence Stillions won a vermeil for "Newfoundland K.G. Coronation"; Marc Issacs, a vermeil for "Indochina Forerunners"; Stanley Luft, a vermeil for "France 15c Sage"; Donald Dretzke, a silver for "France Sage Issues"; and Donald Egger, silver-bronze for "France Postal History and Stamps 1800-75." Ernst Cohn was the Chief Judge and Stan Jersey the Exhibits Chairman.

► At Milcopex '89, member Tom Marra won the Reserve Grand and MPS Gold Medal for his French Colonial General Issues. Melvin Kessler obtained a silver for his Indochina postal history.

► Member Larry Jones has won medals at a number of shows during the last several years: Gold at LEBPEX 1987 for his French Letter Rates with Marianne de Gandon covers; a silver at WILSHOW 1987 for his French letter rates; a Grand for British numeral postmarks (got a silver at VAPEX 1987); and a Gold at YORKOPEX 1988 for his French Letter Rates 1921-61.

► At INTERPEX in March, we had a booth which a few members visited. In the Collectors Club exhibits, Jerold Massler showed Monaco Poste Sarde, and Dick Stevens, Serbia. In the regular competition, the Grand went to the Cuba postal history of Y.H. Kouri, which had numbers of beautiful French maritime covers. Twelve FCPSers turned out for a dinner party one evening.

► A flap has developed in France over the error in the Thermalism stamp; the numeral of value was supposed to be printed in blue, but some sheets were distributed with it in red. While waiting for a last minute decision on the face value (raised to 2.20), sheets had been printed up with face value both in red and blue. When the final decision was made, some of the sheets in red got mixed with those in blue. It's an error everybody will be looking for and expect some speculation.

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

Corresponding Secretary's Report For The Year 1988

Total membership as of January 1, 1988	774
Total new members for the year of 1988	82
Total reinstatements for the year of 1988	<u>17</u>
	99
Resignations received for the year of 1988	16
Total deceased members for the year of 1988	6
Members dropped for the non-payment of dues	43
Members undeliverable as addressed for 1988	<u>3</u>
	68
Net membership gain for the year of 1988	16
Net membership loss for the year of 1988	0
Adjustment for error in membership count	(-15)
Total membership as of December 31, 1988	790

Treasurer's Report
France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc.
1988

Balance on hand 12/31/87		\$10,968.66
RECEIPTS:		
Total 1988 dues	\$6,380.50	
Publications:		
Back issues	355.26	
Index	70.00	
Luft II	65.00	
Vaurie Fund issues	318.00	
Bordeaux	<u>128.50</u>	
	936.76	
Interest	443.88	
Spiegel Memorial Gift	1,500.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>11.00</u>	
		<u>9,272.14</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS		20,240.80

DISBURSEMENTS:

Meetings	751.12	
Philatelist	5,964.43	
Editor's expenses	612.10	
Secretary's expenses	423.00	
Advertising & Membership	434.30	
Printing & Stationery	177.03	
Exhibitions	322.92	
Collector's Club	100.00	
Refunds	<u>26.00</u>	
		<u>8,810.90</u>
BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/88		\$11,429.90

MEMO:

Vaurie Fund	\$10,450.19
Spiegel Fund	1,500.00
Prepaid '89 dues	3,806.00
1988 Deficit	<u>(335.69)</u>
Cash in banks	\$15,420.50

4/11/89

Approved by Board of Directors

Respectfully submitted
 Beatrice M. Berner
 Treasurer, 3/15/89

President's Message DUES TO INCREASE FOR 1990

At this time last year the Directors knew that expenses were going to be greater than income because of the increase in the cost for printing our journal. However, we were not certain just how large that shortfall would be, and we had accumulated a significant surplus in the last few years. Therefore we postponed the inevitable dues increase until this year.

In the Treasurer's Report in this issue, you will find that we ended 1988 with a deficit of \$335.69 in the current account. This compares with a surplus of \$1,766.49 at the end of the prior year. This shows that last year we recorded a deficit of \$2,102.18. A quick comparison of the Reports will show that the cost of printing and mailing the *Philatelist* increased from \$3,640.86 to \$5,964.43, more than accounting for that deficit. I must emphasize that this increase in printing costs was the result of the retirement of our previous printer whose low charges had long permitted us to produce the *Philatelist* at an unusually modest price.

Assuming no significant changes in receipts and disbursements for 1989, we will finish this year with a current account deficit of approximately \$2,500. This is tolerable only because of our ability to borrow temporarily from the Vaurie Fund. However, it is clear that dues for 1990 and succeeding years must be increased enough to cover our current expenses and to offset that \$2,500 deficit. Since we have approximately 800 members, the dues increase must be at least \$3 to cover current expenses and make some payment on the deficit. As the board preferred to set dues at an even dollar amount, we have decided to increase the basic non-resident dues to \$11 per year.

Currently the cost of printing and mailing the notices for our New York meetings is nearly \$4 per resident member. As the Directors feel that this expense should be covered by the dues paid by resident members, those have been increased to \$15 per year. Considering the increases in postage costs, the dues for foreign members will also be increased to \$15.

The Directors of this Society are always reluctant to raise dues, but we must have sufficient income to cover our expenses. It was clear that annual dues of \$10 would not have been sufficient. At \$11 our dues are still lower than those of most specialist groups, and particularly of those who publish a journal of the size and quality of the *France & Colonies Philatelist*. With these considerations in mind, the dues increase was passed by unanimous vote at the April Directors' meeting.

Meeting of 6 December

VP Bill Wallis and yours truly gave a talk on philatelic photography. Over the past ten years, we have developed our own system of making slides and photos of philatelic items. Despite the potential of GORBY-GRID in NYC, we trucked in all of our equipment and gave a how-to presentation. The key, of course, is a good camera, and Bill has a fine Minolta SLR equipped with an equally good macro lens. With its extension tube, a 1 to 1 magnification can be had. We have chosen to use Kodak 25-speed film. Despite its slowness, it gives excellent images and fine color fidelity. To use such slow film requires the use of high intensity quartz-iodine lights, color corrected with the appropriate filter for the temperature of the lights. The lights can be had for about \$150, and details of the color correction are included with the film. Beyond a camera stand and a level on the back of the camera, I constructed a vacuum easel to avoid having to cover the subjects with any kind of glass and lose resolution and create glare. The easel is simply a black box with a black perforated steel sheet top, (the latter found in a neighbor's basement), hooked up to a small vacuum cleaner. A piece of colored construction paper is used to separate the item from the easel, and enough air is drawn through the system to hold stamps and covers flat. Using the overall system, we shot at f 8 at $\frac{1}{500}$ th, which gives a reasonable depth of field.

A number of slides were shown to illustrate the results. The 20c imperf Napoleons on various papers (bluish, lilac, green, gray, white) and plate flaws proved a good test of the system. Shades of the same issue also clearly showed in the slides. A vigorous question and answer period and demo session followed the formal talk.

Ed Grabowski

Meeting of 3 January

President Stevens presented what was billed as his "love-hate" relationship with the Martinique provisionals of 1886-1892. In fact, it proved to be a unique opportunity to see these little-studied issues in exceptional detail with thirteen frames of stamps and covers

on display, coupled with illustrations provided by color slides.

Each of the issues was discussed at length. Dick speculated that much of the overprinting was done on the 20c Dubois General Issue as that was the one available in quantity, with the 20c local rate having been recently reduced to 15c. The first provisional was created by overprinting the 20c Dubois with "MARTINIQUE" and "5." After printing the first pane of 50, it was decided that the "5" was too small. Its size was increased for the next pane of 50, but the spacing was unsatisfactory. Finally, everything was done to satisfaction in the final arrangement, but three issues had been created, two in very short supply.

A study of the Dubois overprints followed, noting constant and floating plate flaws where, for example, in the 1888 overprints, the period after the "C" moves even in a constant plate position. This, along with other examples, indicated the components making up the individual overprints were not always locked tightly in the frames.

The 1891-92 dues overprints were exceptionally well presented, including many complete panes. Dick noted that the surface of some of the stamps was damaged due to sticking before the sheets were overprinted. Most of the denominations had two or more printings and many plate varieties were noted.

In his studies, Dick has noted three fake stamps and one phony cover, neglecting, of course, the kilobuck issues.

Covers present serious problems for these issues since the key 5c and 15c rates corresponded to printed matter and local mail—those least likely to be saved. Most of the multiples seen on cover correspond to overseas and overseas registry rates, and smell of philatelic doings. Still, four frames of covers were presented. The highlight was one bearing five of the 05/10c dues overprint from the small office at St. Esprit to Chaudoc in Cochinchina via Line D on July 1, 1891. Certainly no philatelic hanky-panky here. A delightful evening for all, and a chance to see one of the best gatherings of this material available.

Ed Grabowski

Meeting of 7 February

Ira Zweifach, our program director, scheduled another PROBLEM NIGHT, and fifteen members attended the session. Or was it that they really showed up for the Chinese New Year's banquet at the Empire?

Charles Vengrove began things with copies of the 10c and 25c Sage issues on proper tinted paper, but with extremely light black printings. Each bore large postal administrative cancels, and it was suggested that these were a form of printers' waste and the cancels were used to invalidate them or they were used in the school for training of postal employees.

Gil Loisel followed with a copy of the 50F air mail stamp of 1946 (Ceres #17), normally in rose, but with the apparent red-orange color of the 200f issue of the same series. Gil wondered if it was a color error. But a close look at the stamp showed quite a variation in color from top to bottom on the stamp, with the top being almost the normal color, and the bottom having the red-orange shade. Most likely an inking variety, noted Dick Stevens, to the general agreement of those present.

Dick had two covers from Martinique to Peru franked with Eagles at the 80c rate. Noting transit to Panama on the French service, Dick wondered how these letters were then transmitted to their destination. No help from the audience on this one.

Yours truly concluded not with a problem, but with some interesting Colonies' parcel post items. A complete parcel post manifest (Bulletin D'Expedition) from Guadeloupe franked with a pair of the 5c 1891 provisionals was shown, as were a number of pieces bearing the Indochina parcel stamps from smaller offices in Annam and Tonkin.

Ed Grabowski

RESIGNED

Pierre Bousquet; Richard Basini; Jeffry Berkovitz; Paul K. Mader; Harold H. Roberts; Norbert E. Pentz; Kendall C. Sanford; Louis Tanguy.

REMOVED FROM MAILING LIST

For Non-Payment of Dues by April 1

Peggy Aldrich; Earl P.L. Apfelbaum; James Baird; Raymond L. Breault; Wm. J. Boest; Nick Bantock; Jacques Bodelei; Jean-F. Brun; Wm. J. Corrigan; Edward Crossley; Wong Wai Cheung; Behcet Cirogan; Albert R. DeLisle; Dale P. Drake; Harry G. Fenneberg; Edward Foley; Catherine Goodson; Paul R. Graham; Vince Guinee; Richard T. Hall; Wm. H. Horwitz; R.M. Ierardi; Madeleine Jamet; Thomas A. Joseph; Henriks K. Kapoh; Richard

M. Keeler; Robin N. Kutner; Wm. H. McCarroll; Roger Mills; Lawrence J. Montello; Stuart J. Morrissey; J. Douglas McCulloch; Frank O'Keeffe; B. Howard Rappaport; Michael Rikon; Trevor D. Roberts; Greg Schmidt; Dean Sommerfield; Rev. Eric C. Stumpf; Richard M. Suehla; Dr. E.L. Taylor Jr.; Fred Scinto; Thomas A. Stott; Regina Joy Sieminski; Kelly Zidana.

NEW MEMBERS

- 2756 BOSE, GURU P., 220 Locust St., Apt. 3E, Philadelphia, PA 19106. (General collector all issues. Essays - Deluxe - Proofs - Imperforates - Artist's proofs and color trials. Colonies General Issues: on cover.)
- 2757 GRENIER, CHRISTOPHER, M.D., 604 Hester Ave., River Ridge, LA 70123. (General collector: 19th century.)
- 2758 CLARK, ROBERT J., R.R. 1 Box 104, La Porte City, IA 50651. (Modern France: Semi-postals - Booklets. Andorre. Europa and United Nations. Colonies General Issues: mint.)
- 2759 DORIN, PHILIP M., 6406 West Sixth St., Los Angeles, CA 90048. (Used Abroad. Stamps and covers of pre-independence Algeria, all aspects.)
- 2760 BECK, HENRY W., 105 Bala Ave., Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004. (General France: mint - used - on cover.)
- 2761 ENGBLOM, R. DENNIS, 11221 NE 53rd St., Kirkland, WA 98033. (General France: mint. Modern France: Sowers - Booklets. Dues - Franchise Militaire - Specimen, Annulé, Fictifs - Precancels - Occupations Issues.)
- 2762 ST. MAURICE, DAVID J., 66 Falleson Road, Rochester, NY 14612-5752. (General France: mint. Andorre. Colonies General Issues: mint - used.)
- 2763 GEISLER, JOHN, M.D., 500 Wentworth Lane, Modesto, CA 95350. (General collector: all issues - 19th and 20th century, mint.)
- 2764 HAMBURG, MARK L., P.O. Box 2501, Riverside, CA 92516. (General France: mint - used - on cover. Postal history in general. Modern France: Study of counterfeits & forgeries, etc. First-day covers: Air Meets, First Flights, Etc. Andorre. Monaco. Saar. Colonies General Issues: mint - used - on cover. Colonial provisionals. All colonies & territories stamps & covers. Philatelic literature. Exchange.)
- 2765 SPROTT, DOUGLAS H., 171 Carleton Ave., Ottawa, Ont., Canada K1Y 0J5. (General collector: France all issues. All colonies & territories.)
- 2766 LINDHOLM, JOHN, 42 Glendale Ave., Fremont, OH 43420. (Colonies General Issues: used - on cover, cancels & postal history. Stamps and covers of African Colonies - Postal stationery used.)
- 2767 MacGREGOR, ALEXANDER P., Jr., 6822 N. Lakewood Ave., Chicago, IL 60626. (Artist's proofs and color trials of colonies. Colonies General Issues: mint & used from 1907-1940. Group Type. Moyen Congo 1907. Ethiopia: issues designed in Paris. Exchange. Particularly interested in African colonial issues 1907-1940, their designs and printing history.)
- 2768 DRUETT, DAVID N., Pennymead Auctions, Scotton, Knaresborough, N. Yorks - England HG5 9HN. (Stamps & covers of French Guiana - Guadeloupe - and Martinique. Dealer: full time - mail sales.)
- 2769 PASCOE, JEFFREY, 62 East Terrace, South Burlington, VT 05403. (Colonies General Issues: pre-1940: used. Foremost interest: Well-cancelled stamps of Indochina, including offices abroad, pre-1940.)
- 2770 BOISCLAIR, ANDRE, 1184 Des Fauvettes, Boucherville, Que., Canada J4B 6M9. (France Classics used - on cover - cancellations - Sage Type. Modern France: used - on cover. Specimen, Fictifs, Annulé - Precancels. Exchange. Also exchange of Canadian stamps for France.)
- 2771 DESJARDINS, PAUL, 972 Montarville, St. Bruno, Que., Canada J3U 5A7. (General France: mint - used - on cover. Dealer: auction. Philatelic literature. Exchange.)

REINSTATEMENTS

- 1594 SIMONETTI, FRANK, P.O. Box 335, Middle Village, NY 11379. (General France: all issues mint.)
- 1739 BUCKNER, DR. JOHN M., (This is a new address, delete any old one.) 2839 NW 21st. Ave., Gainesville, FL 32605. (Maritime posts - used abroad. Classics 1849-1876 on cover. Sage Type. Telephone & Telegraph - Newspaper - Stationery - Revenues - Pre-Cancels - Perfins - Occupation Issues. Colonies General Issues: on cover, cancels

& postal history. Philatelic literature.)

- 2559 DE CASTRO, J. EDMUND, 132 Lexington Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. (General France: mint. Stampless covers to and after 1815 - Departmental & Paris "Marques Postales" - Entry Markings - Railway Military & Maritime Posts - Used Abroad. Classics: mint - used - on cover. Sage Type. Modern France: mint - Semi-postals - Air Mails - Booklets - Coils - Coin Dates - Maximum Cards - First - Day Covers - Miniature Sheets - Franchise Militaire.)
- 1782 FENTRESS, GARY W., 15136 Magnolia #102, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. (General collector all issues. Philatelic literature. Exchange.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 1736 ARELLANO, JR., REFUGIO L., 1801 E. La Veta Ave. #236, Orange, CA 92666
- 2552 DOLMAN, LOREN I., P.O. Box 4245, Ventura, CA 93004-4245.
- 2349 GOOLD, WILSON S., III, Schulze Share-A-Home, 409 Forest Ave., P.O. Box 557, Dayton, OH 45405.
- 2152 HINES, TERENCE, P.O. Box 629, Chappaqua, NY 10514.
- 2194 GREENBAUM, LEON M., 4857 Brighton Lakes Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33436.
- 2620 RANDOLF, VIRGINIA, 347 "O" St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20024.
- 338 FENNEBERG, HARRY G., P.O. Box 161, Perrysburg, OH 43551.
- 1929 CAMMAS, MICHEL, C.P. 4, Ste. Thérèse de Blainville, Que., Canada J7E 4H7.
- 1763 DEL PONTE, FRANK, P.O. Box 35-1941, Palm Coast, FL 32035.
- 1959 MONTEBELLO, LAWRENCE J., P.O. Box 2337, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-2337.
- 2647 WILMAN, ROBERT, 3758 Creston Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46222.
- 2689 McINTYRE, GORDON, 3279 SW Avalon Way-Upper Unit, Seattle WA 98126.
- 2338 GAGNON, MISS HUGUETTE, Box 8110-45, Blain, WA 98230-2107.
- HOUWINK DR. R.H., Haymanstraat 1, 4335 CV Middleburg, Netherlands.
- NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM, Canadian Postal Archives, 365 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, Ont. Canada K1A 0N3.
- 1029 AINSWORTH, G.C. JOSEPH C., 1740 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101.
- 2657 KNEE, STEVEN T., One Balsa Rd., Santa Fe, NM 87505.
- 2523 VAN VYNCKT, RANDALL J., 1307 W. Addison Apt. #3A, Chicago, IL 60613-3734.
- 2743 MEYERSON, LAWRENCE ALAN, 24764 Davenport, Novi, MI 48050.
- 2734 FERGUSON, JIMMY W., 4378-B. 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94110.
- 1481 WAKAKUWA, SHOICHI, 2-117-2 Sekiyamatsumanamico, Niigata City 951, Japan.
- 2593 STRAUSSBERG, STEPHEN L., 1654 Espanla Ave. #3, Holly Hill, FL 32017.

CHANGES OF SPECIALTY

- 1086 NORWOOD, CHARLES, 370 Pleasant, Birmingham, MI 48009. (General France: mint - used. Classics - on cover. Sage Type. Modern France: mint - used - Semi-postals - Air Mails - Booklets - Miniature Sheets. Andorre.)

MEMBERS' APPEALS

- *****
- OFFER: French Colonies General Issues postage due stamps, Scott #'s J15, J16 and J17, each in sheet of two horizontal panes of 25 with gutter and millesime number. Catalog value of stamps is \$75.00 without millesime premium, the lot for \$26 mailed flat. --Ed Grabowski, 741 Marcellus Dr., Westfield, NJ 07090 (Mb. #1469).
- OFFER: Sheet of 25 Navigation and Commerce (Group) Type Fournier facsimiles from Martinique, Mayotte, Grand Comore, St. Marie de Madagascar or Inde as printed in 5x5 perforated format. Mailed flat at \$16 each sheet. --Ed Grabowski, 741 Marcellus Dr., Westfield, NJ 07090 (Mb. #1469).
- FOR SALE: "Andorre-Andorra, its Stamps and Postal History," by J.A. Jacques, Hardbd., 68 pp., illustr., specialized, to 1970, as new. \$17.50 postpd. --David Grossblat, Box 26387, Phoenix, AZ 86068 (Mb. #2.27).
- WANTED: Full cover from France to Switzerland dated between 1850 and 1864 showing 40c rate with proper back markings. Mixed franking preferred, but will accept single. Must be show grade. Send photocopy and price. --Robert E. Picken, 4176 Hancock Dr., Holt, MI 48842 (Mb. #2480).
- WANTED: Looking for the following on cover: Sc. 38-40 (Yv 39-41), any one; Sc. 477-80, 487, 493-95 any one; Sc. 481-86, 488-492 any one. --Brice Brown, Box 467, APO New York, NY 09019 (Mb. #2646).