



France & Colonies Philatelist

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE COMMUNE REVOLUTION PARIS 1871

by Gardner L. Brown
 CHAPTER VI — PARIS-FOR-PARIS
 (cont. from FCP 219, pg. 16)

The same is true for the very scarce maritime anchor lozenge (Figures VI-15 and IV-19). We have listed separately the details on the 13 examples found. The anchor cancels are listed in the specialized catalogs which also refer to "GC 892, griffe linéaire au lieu de cachet à date." We have not seen these illustrated in the literature and the only example found was the normal GC 892 with a Paris route date stamp on the side.

In addition, Boussac (6) lists 3 examples of small numeral lozenges; 892, 1715 and 2523. This survey did not find any of these.

Boussac (6) also illustrated the deformed Paris-Bercy datestamp. Three examples are known, one being used as a departure cachet on April 6. The other two were used as arrival date stamps. Figure VI-16 shows the dates of April 4 and 5. The other known cover has the date of May 10, 1871. All have the tipped numeral for the day of the month and a break in the outer circle at the position of 8 o'clock.

Figure VI-17 shows a recently-discovered cover with a "2 Paris 2" date stamp with the date completely missing. The letter in the envelope is dated April 17, and there is a very faint arrival date stamp on the back with a readable date of the 18th. The letter is from

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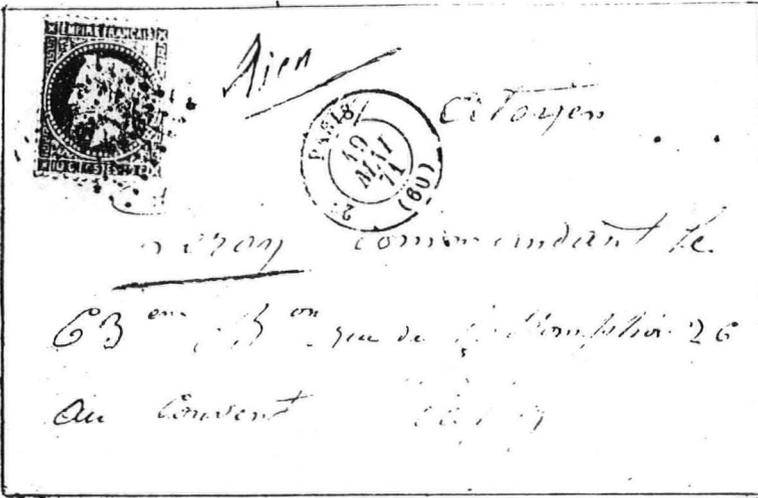


Figure VI-15. Anchor lozenge of the maritime service used at Paris to cancel a letter addressed to a soldier at Passy. Route date stamp May 19. The anchor in the lozenge usually is not very clear. (The anchor lozenges were no longer used on ships after May, 1876, but used at Paris in emergencies.)



FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST

USPS #207700

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

April 1990 — Vol. 46, No. 2, Whole No. 220

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 650, Snow Camp, NC 27349

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,
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Figure VI-16. Deformed Paris-Bercy date stamps used as arrival markings.

the Garde Nationale telling the recipient to report with the birth certificates of his two sons. Since it was addressed to a civilian, it was taxed 15c. The extra handwriting on the envelope is a progress report on this case. The addressee had stated his older son was out of the city, but the authorities seem to have located him within Paris. We have no mention of this postmark in the literature.

We have listed the cancellations found on the Paris-For-Paris covers. A little more information about Paris cancellations is given in the chapter on Mail-Into-Paris. Special cancellations from outside of Paris, which are often called Commune Cancellations, will be covered in the chapter on "Cachets de Fortune."

Star Cancellations on Stamps

Star	Remarks or Date Stamps	Examples Known
?	number, if any, is illegible	10
2	1 with route date stamp. no info on back	2
3	route date stamp	1
4	1 with normal, 1 with route date stamp	2
15	both normal date stamp	2
23	not enough information	1
26	normal date stamp	1
28	route date stamp	1
35	route date stamp	1
39	both normal date stamp	2

Normal Date Stamp Used To Cancel Stamps

Paris 60	1
Place de la Bourse	2
Rue de Clery	1
Paris les Batignolles	2
Paris RC	1

Route Date Stamp Used To Cancel Stamps

1 Paris 1	3
3 Paris 3	3
5 Paris 5	2
6 Paris 6	1
7 Paris 7	2

GC Lozenges Used To Cancel Stamps

(Not including anchors, see following table)

GC 892	4 Paris 4 route date stamp	1
GC 1715	normal Paris/Grenelle date stamp	1
GC 4277	normal Paris/La Villette date stamp	1



Figure VI-17. "2 Paris 2" route date stamp with the date missing. Letter inside was from the Garde Nationale dated April 17. Although it carried a Commune cachet on the letter, it was taxed 15c as it was addressed to a civilian.

Anchor Cancellations				
No.	Source	Stamp	Date Stamp	Remarks
			<u>DURING THE COMMUNE</u>	
1.	Jamet 123 lot 1765	10c lauré	Paris Montmartre May 16	To a soldier
2.	Demarest advt. part of logo. L'Echo 11/87 pg. 23	10c lauré	Paris 60 May 17	
3.	Jamet 6/76 lot 1527 Part 1 Special Coll.	10c Bord.	7 Paris 7 May 19	Large fragment
4.	Collection L. Fig. VI-15	10c laur]	Paris 60 May 19	To Passy
5.	SAMP 40, pg. 100	10c Bord	Place de la Bourse	To M. Mirabourd
6.	PhilexFrance 89	10c laur]	Rue Aligre May 20	To a soldier at Montrouge
7.	Relais No. 2	10c Siege	Paris Montmartre May 21	Printed form to Agent Moreau
8.	See Fig. IV-19 from Luxembourg	10c laur]	Paris Montmartre May 21	To M. Bac, Ms arrival June 1
9.	Schatzke sale 4/76 lot 312	10c lauré	Paris les Batignolles May 22	To a soldier
10.	PhilexFrance 89	10c lauré + 2x5c Emp.	Blue Paris 60 May 27	To Vernouillet
<u>AFTER THE COMMUNE</u>				
11.	Robineau 65 lot 164	20c Siege	3 Paris 3 Bau Central June 3	UK tax 4d CA London June 5
12.	Jamet 104 lot 3685	2x10c Siege	Paris les Batignolles June 6	To Oise
13.	Jamet* June 76 lot 1530 Part 1 Special Co.	20c Siege	Nearly illeg. Paris les Batignolles June 4	Destination not given

* Jamet states, "This bureau used the anchor during June."

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CHAPTER V - MAIL FROM PARIS

In Chapter IV we reported our survey identified 113 examples of mail from Paris addressed to locations outside the city walls. Since that was written the total has grown to 124 items. All but sixteen were posted outside of Paris but were easily identified as Paris mail either by the message in the letter or by the merchant's handstamp applied in the return address portion of the cover.

The survey showed fourteen letters which had been cancelled in Paris at the very beginning of the postal blockade and two of these were illustrated in Chapter II (Figures II-1 and 3). Two more letters are known from the very end of the Revolution (Figure II-7).

Most of this mail is business correspondence and does not make very interesting reading. However we shall quote from two personal letters.

The first is not really a "commune letter" by our definition. It was written in English, March 19, 1871, the day after the Revolution began but well before the beginning of the postal blockade. It was delivered the next day in London:

"Paris is in a complete state of anarchy. The Red Republicans have taken over all the public offices and have murdered several generals."

The second was written in German and addressed to New York, the only example of mail in the survey sent to the U.S.A. It is illustrated in Figure V-1. We quote the entire letter because it describes not only the conditions in Paris but also tells how the letter was to be taken outside of Paris. It was posted in Maisons-Alfort just outside the southeastern wall of Paris. We have the translation thanks to the kindness of Ernst Cohn:

276 rue St. Honoré
Paris, the 18th May, 1871 (1)

My beloved, dear Mrs. Hartung

Who would have thought that I would write to you to New York in May, since I had hoped confidently to see you at this time in Paris, perhaps you are already in Germany and your letters are in Versailles, but until this cursed civil war is over we shall not receive our letters. It is nearing the end, the Versailles people broke into the fortress walls last night (2) and one hopes that the city will be taken today and order will be restored. Today it is exactly 2 months since they started to fight and no day has passed on which not at least 500 were killed on each side, last evening there was a terrible explosion and a powder magazine was blown up and killed several hundred people, it was at 6 o'clock in the evening and the ground shook just like in an earthquake. Bombs have been dropping into the city for several days already, in brief, one can almost not go out anymore, it is very lucky that still a few gates are occupied by the Prussians and we can commit ourselves to their protection if things can't be borne anymore.

The old Deloison is still alone with the maid and his niece who comes every day from the country. I helped him for two days to get a mailing ready for you because one can now mail merchandise again with confidence because the Prussians protect the railways. Worino (not sure of spelling) is in the country with his wife and child with the workers, they work there, the women come in to bring in the merchandise and take it out. Women can always come and go on the sides where the Versailles people are not, only men between 19 and 45 years old are not safe in the city, because if the mob catches one, regardless of nationality, he is put into uniform and must fight. If he is lucky he can surrender to the Versaillais and become a prisoner, but that is not always possible. All shops which are not the most necessary are closed, almost no carriages come into town anymore, one sees only cannon and that mob

(1) The letter actually is dated March 18 but this is an obvious mistake.

(2) The Versailles troops actually entered Paris a few days later, during the evening of May 21.

of Garde Nationale, which to our great good fortune becomes less day by day. There are many women who go to fight with rifles on their shoulders but since many of them have been shot dead already they are starting to get tired of that.

My Jeanne is safe in the country and I shall flee as soon as there is real danger in the streets. One hopes that either the old emperor will be reinstated or a king and then it will be quiet again and business will revive. I am very anxious for that and also convinced that things will be much more quiet than before because there is at least 20,000 less of the mob that started upheavals, and one could be very quiet even everywhere if the bombs were not falling and if there weren't barricades everywhere with powder mines below them, one could be very quiet as long as one doesn't speak to anyone on the streets and goes his own way quietly. The Prussians will stay in Paris (at the gates we presume - G.L.B.) until December in order to help the government to keep order and everyone in the surroundings now are friendly with the Prussians and very happy to keep them.

I must close because Deloison wants to take my letter in order to mail it in the country, for we cannot confide any mail to the post office in Paris until order is restored.

I will write to you again as soon as we are liberated, meanwhile receive the heartiest kisses from the one who loves you dearly.

Yours,

Mavin Meslin (not sure of spelling)

Many kind regards to your dear family.

Since rue St. Honoré is very close to the Vendome Column, it is surprising the letter does not tell of its destruction by the Communards just 2 days before the letter was written. One is left to wonder about the fate of the letter's author as "The Bloody Week" began just 3 days later with the entry of the Versailles troops into the southwestern corner of Paris. The records (3) show one building on rue St. Honoré (No. 422) was destroyed by fire that week and another (No. 132) was damaged.



Figure V-1 Letter for New York posted in nearby Maisons-Alfort by a friend visiting Paris.

(3) Lorin, F. Herve du: Paris, before and during and after the war and its insurrection. Paris 1873. In English for tourists.

Agency Markings:

In sharp contrast to the results found in our survey of Mail INTO Paris, only four letters were found showing external evidence which identified the agent who took the letter out of Paris, and one is really a bit late for the postal blockade during the Commune.

Figure V-2 shows a letter brought out by the bankers, Marcuard Andre. The stamp was cancelled by the ambulant of the Paris to Calais train and was addressed to Switzerland.

Figure 3 shows the vignettes produced by the Lorin-Maury agency for use on outgoing Paris mail. Like the ones created for incoming mail, their authenticity is very much in question.

Figure 4 shows the only example published in the literature of the use of their vignette. Only the little tab from the top of the adhesive was affixed to the letter. It wouldn't take much effort to attach such a label to a more common example of mail for the provinces.

One cover is known with the Moreau & Osmont sticker on the back. It was posted in Vincennes May 15 and arrived in Le Havre on the 17th.

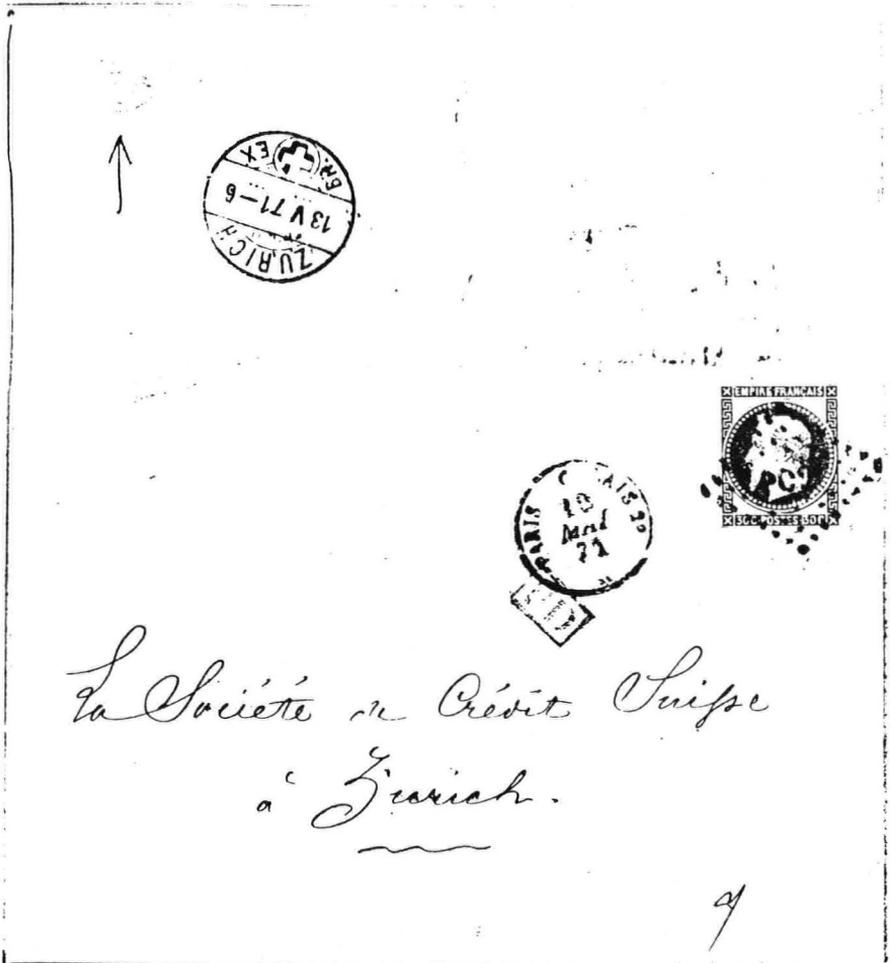


Figure V-2 Paris letter posted May 10 on the Paris to Calais train by the agent Marcuard Andre. Note the banker's handstamp at the upper left.



Figure V-3 Vignettes sold by Lorin-Maury for use on outgoing Paris mail. Only the top part was affixed to the letter indicating the fee paid. (From Chamboissier)



Figure V-4 The only illustrated example of mail taken out of Paris by Lorin-Maury. (From Chamboissier)

The last cover of the series carries a large red oval cachet of the Bowles Brothers Bankers. They did not actually carry the letter out of Paris as it was posted in Paris May 27. Lacking adhesives, it has a 30c double line tax cancelled by a star. It arrived in London on May 30 but the English did not treat it as properly franked mail and taxed the letter 6 pence.

Posting Locations:

The following table lists the places outside of the Paris walls where Paris mail was posted together with a number of covers found in the survey: (See Map Figure 5A)

St. Denis	50 examples
Versailles	25
Vincennes	5
Montmorency	5 (straight line)
Pantin	4
Pontoise	4
Charenton le Pont	4
Enghien les Bains	3
St. Mandé	2
Maisons-Alfort	2
Beaumont s/Oise	2
St. Maur les Fosses	2
Sarcelles	2
Paris/Calais ambulant	2

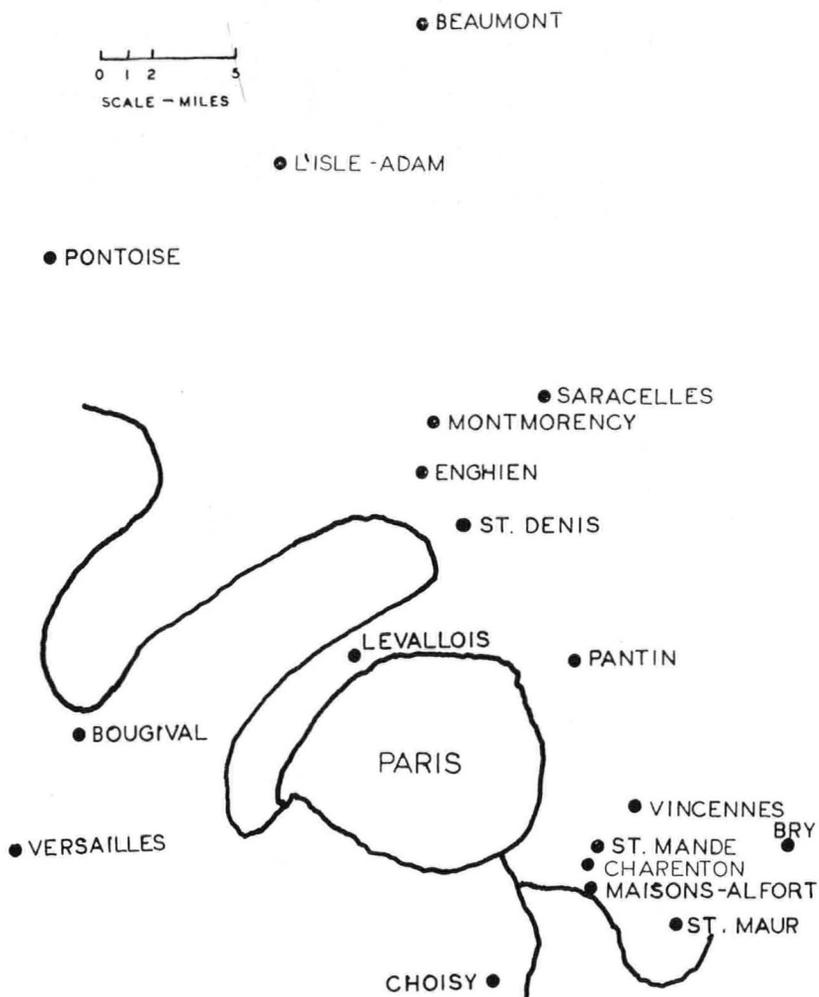


Figure V-5a Map of posting locations outside Paris.

Elbeuf	1
Gare de Melun	1
Bougival	1
Chastellux s/Cure	1
Bry s/Marne	1 (Obl. Small "PD")
Choisy le Roi	1 (GC & cad in blue)
Criel	1 (Obl. LIL-P ambulant, Gare de CRIEL cad)
Levallois-Perret	1
Lyon	1
L'Isle-Adam	1
Fontenay s.s. Bois	1
Charing Cross (London)	1

In addition we have prepared a map showing the locations of the towns nearest Paris known to have handled mail from Paris.

An examination of the list brings several questions to mind. First, we think the number of letters posted in Versailles is surprising. You couldn't travel directly from Paris to Versailles but had to go to St. Denis and hire a horse and wagon to travel the 20 miles to Versailles. That doesn't sound reasonable unless you had to go to Versailles for some other reason such as picking up your mail which had been impounded there.

Among the 124 letters posted outside of Paris there were fourteen envelopes used by the Havas agency to mail their dispatches (Figure V-5). Half of them were mailed in Versailles on April 5 (2 examples), 7 and 10 and May 2, 14 and 20. The other half were posted in St. Denis on April 10, 16, 17, 19 and 28 and May 4 and 15. Oddly enough both post offices were used on April 10.

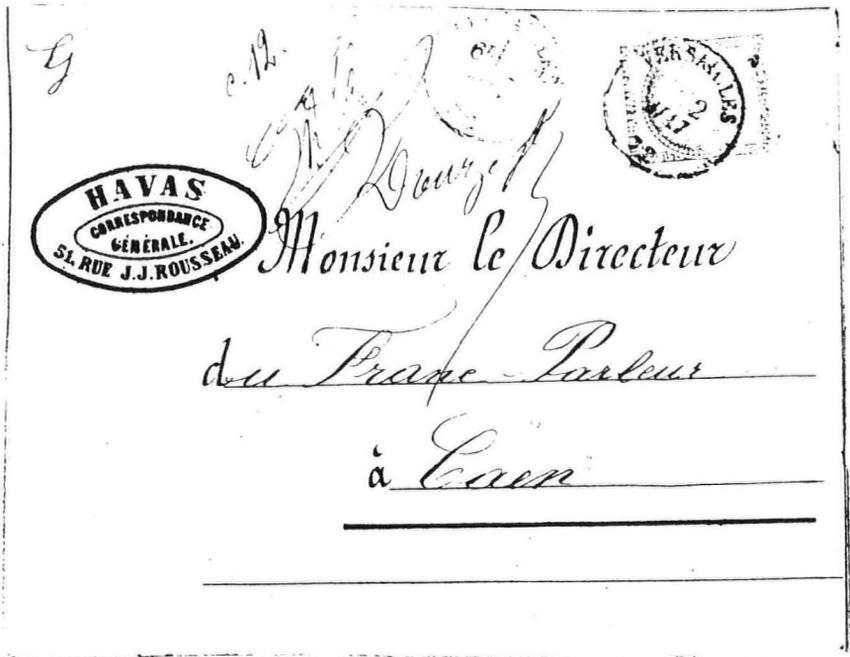


Figure V-5 Envelope used by Havas for mailing their newsletter. Posted in Versailles May 2.

Secondly, the number of letters posted at Vincennes seems too low since at least two of the agencies used this town to mail their letters from Paris.

For many years covers with a straight-line MONTMORENCY cancellation (Figure V-6) have been collected as Commune Revolution material, but in more recent years they have been classified as "cachets de fortune." However, five of these covers have been identified as Paris mail having been brought to Montmorency to post.

Stamps Used:

20c Empire non perf	1	
4x5c non-lauré	4	
2x1c lauré	1	Paris circular giving agent's address
2x10c lauré	23	
20c lauré	36	
3x10c lauré	2	

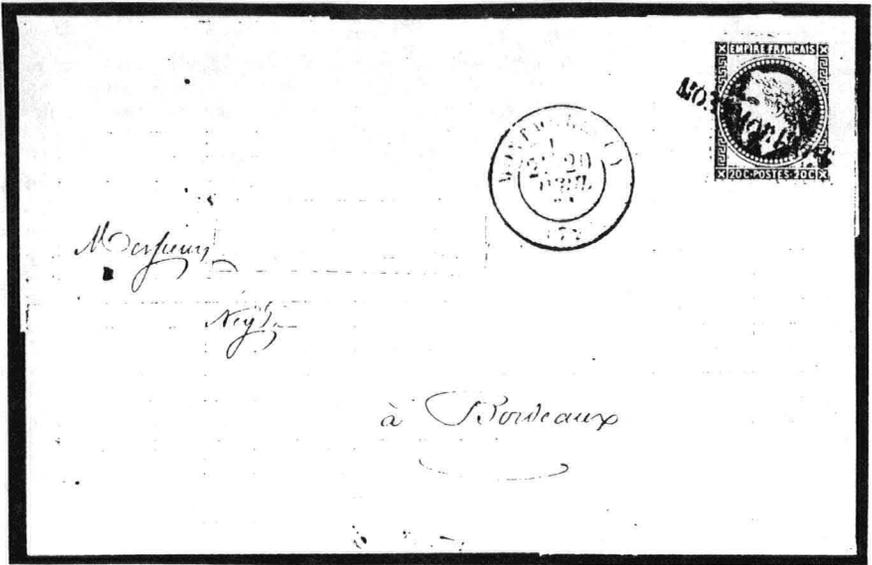


Figure V-6 Montmorency straight-line cancel. Used mostly during the Commune. Postmarked April 10, 1871.

10+20c lauré	6	
30c lauré	3	
4x10c lauré	1	
2x20c lauré	3	
40c lauré	8	
2x20+10c lauré	1	
2x30c lauré	1	
80c lauré	3	2 are domestic mail
80+20c lauré	1	to Peru
2x80c lauré	1	double rate to Uruguay
20c Siege	5	
3x20c Siege + 10c lauré	1	to U.S.A.
10c Bordeaux + 2x5c non lauré	1	
20c Bordeaux	5	
20c Bordeaux + 10c lauré	1	
2x20c Bordeaux	1	
4x20c Bordeaux	1	to Mexico
Unfranked	3	

The results of this part of the survey are simply amazing to us. The use of the Bordeaux issue on outgoing mail was as common as the Siege issue!

Apart from having stamps around the house, there were three sources of stamps for these letters; a Paris post office; a suburban post office; or, stamps sent into an agent's office to pay for his services of taking mail to Paris. The Siege issue was common within Paris, St. Denis and Vincennes, all three being part of the Siege, and the Siege issue was printed in Paris and their use was common on balloon mail. The other suburban towns shown on our map were all under German occupation during the Siege, and until March 24, 1871 when the control of the post offices in non-annexed territory was returned to the French. During this time, only German occupation stamps were available at these post offices. Despite this, the 1972 Schott Catalog of cancellations on the Occupation stamps lists examples known only from Versailles, Maisons-Alfort and Melun of the towns known to have handled Paris mail during the Commune.

Figure 7 shows the most outstanding of the covers franked with the Bordeaux issue. It is generally agreed none of these suburban towns ever had the Bordeaux issue for sale. One can understand how people who had fled to the provinces before the Siege might bring back isolated copies of the Bordeaux, but here is a beautiful strip of four.

The survey showed five double-rate covers, one of them being to Uruguay. Only two triple-rate covers were found (Figure V-8).



Figure V-7 Strip of four 20c Bordeaux issue for rate to Mexico. Stamps are Type 3, report 2, plate positions 6, 7, 8, 9. Posted St. Denis, April 26.

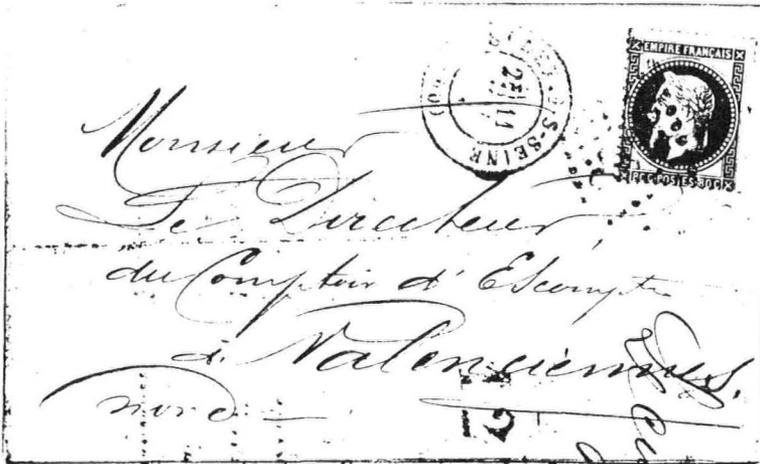


Figure V-8 Triple rate (80c) on a domestic letter. Posted St. Denis, May 11. The 12 (bottom) is part of a merchant's receiving handstamp. Dated Paris, May 10.

Cancellations:

Since most of this mail was cancelled outside of Paris, the bulk of the cancellations used were perfectly ordinary. The exceptions were the five Montmorency straight line covers; a blue GC and cad from Choisy le Roi; a small boxed PD from Bry s/Marne and Qeé Notre Dame from Versailles.

The most unusual cover by far is the one shown in Figure V-9. It is believed to have been carried out of Paris in the diplomatic pouch of the United States Minister to Paris, Elihu Washburne. Thanks to Ernst Cohn's careful research in the libraries of the world, we know Washburne had asked permission to continue to take out private letters in his pouch due to the unsettled conditions between the end of the Siege and the beginning of the Commune. Although the letter was written in Paris, it gives no indication of how it got out of Paris. Figure V-10 is owned by Yvonne Newbury and is a twin of V-9. It is from the Siege period and contains a copy of the Gazette des Absents No. 7 with a letter written by Albert Lee Ward, the private secretary to Mr. Washburne. We KNOW that Yvonne's letter went out in pouch No. 5 on November 15, 1870 and BELIEVE our letter went out in a similar manner during the Commune.

As for the letters posted in Paris, we have already shown (Figure II-3) one of the two known covers which were pen-cancelled. In addition 2 others are known cancelled with a Paris blue star with a Paris-Etranger cad. Stars 15, 24 and 26 have been identified as well as route cad's 3 and 5 as well as the *. Only one lozenge cancel is known, PC 2523, Paris-Montrouge.

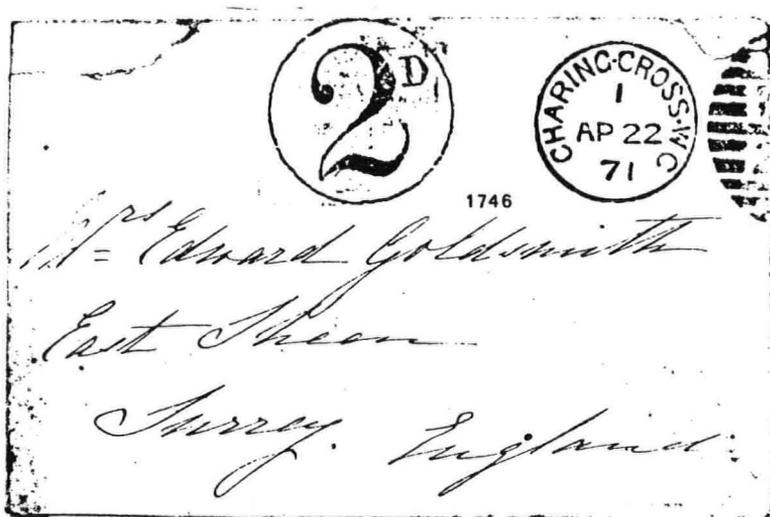


Figure V-9 Paris letter dated April 16. Believed to be the only known example of mail taken out in the diplomatic pouch of Elihu Washburne. Note the similarity to Figure V-10.

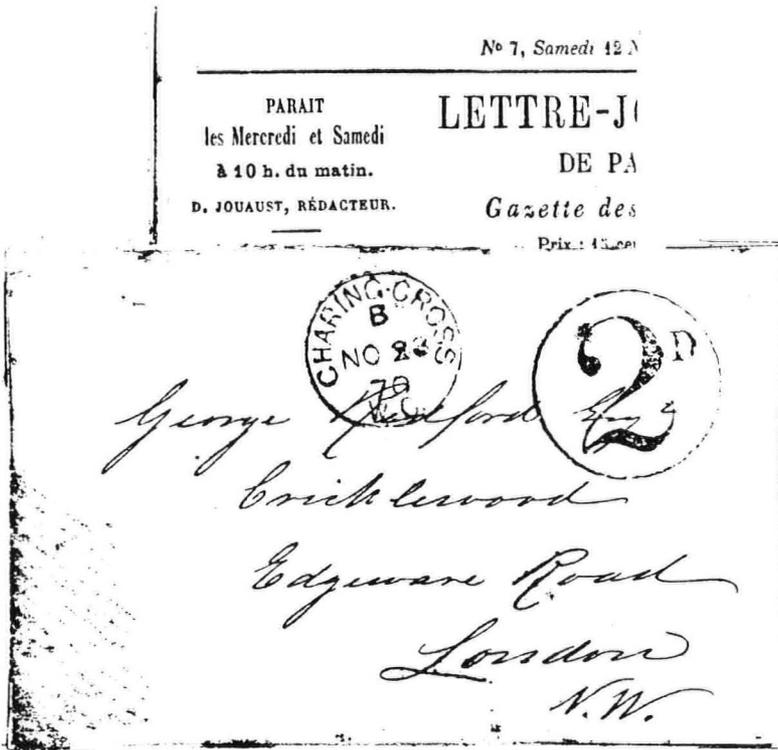


Figure V-10 Known to have been carried out of Paris during the Siege in Bag No. 5 on Nov. 15, 1870 in Washburne's diplomatic pouch. Contained Gazette des Absents No. 7. Sent by Washburne's private secretary. (Courtesy of Yvonne Newbury)

Destinations:

Belgium	5
Holland	2
U.S.A.	1
Mexico	3
Italy	5
England	7
Turkey	1
Switzerland	3
Jersey	1
Spain	2
Uruguay	1
Peru	1
Argentina	1
Alsace-Lorraine	6

Balloon Mail

In the early days of the second blockade of the mail there were great plans to resume the transport of mail from Paris by balloon. With the development of the system of agents, it was soon obvious this scheme was not needed. As for ballooning mail into Paris, this had been shown to be impractical during the Siege.

The late Paul Maincent has documented (4) this effort very well and we do not choose to comment further since nothing happened of a philatelic nature.

-
- (4) Maincent, Paul, *L'Exchangiste Universel* #882, 883, 885, 890, 894, 1973, 1974, and *Icare* #77, Vol. 2, Summer 1976 and in English, the *Aerofield* Sept. 1974, Vol. 38 has an article by Michel Girard translated by Reginald Auckland.

(To be continued)



CAPTAIN CECIL JOHNSON'S ROUND TRIP TO BESIEGED PARIS

By Ernst M. Cohn and Albert Schneider

Many unusual means for transporting private mail and messages were used in the Franco-German War of 1870/71. This account concerns one of them - the only time when a diplomatic messenger took the diplomatic pouches of two nations from besieged Paris to London and when, in contrast to normal custom of the time, both pouches contained private letters.

The Trip

The Paris *Avenir National* of September, 1870 reported that, at the moment of going to press, it had received the following telegram from the news agency Agence Havas:

Rouen, September 18, evening

A cabinet messenger, carrier of important despatches for Lord Lyons, arrived here this morning. Because the railway connection is cut, he continued to Paris by mail (coach).

Actually, Lord Lyons, British ambassador to Paris, had left the French capital on the night of September 17, in the company of the Austrian (Prince Metternich), Ottoman (Djemil Pasha), and Italian (Chevalier Nigra) ambassadors as well as the Russian chargé d'affaires (Okouneff). They had arrived the next day at Tours, the seat of the Delegation of the Government of National Defense (a).

The decision to leave must have been a sudden one, because the other foreign diplomats at Paris did not know about it. It was so near the start of the investment of Paris that the train had to go the roundabout route of Rouen, Lisieux, Serquingny, Mézidon, Alençon and LeMans (b).

As a matter of record, and of particular interest to those wondering when the last mails could have left Paris by rail before the siege, the final train left on September 18 from Gare Montparnasse by the Chemin de Fer de l'Ouest (c). It started about 5 PM, preceded by a pilot engine (d).

Johnson knew nothing about all that, of course. When he arrived at Paris, the Honorable Henry Wodehouse was the caretaker of the embassy, assisted by the military (Col. Claremont) and naval (Capt. Hore) attachés (c).

Some interesting details are recorded about Johnson's arrival (e):

This morning, around eleven o'clock, the cabinet messenger of Her British Majesty, Captain Johnson, was arrested by a crowd on the Faubourg Saint-Honoré.

He bore important despatches and asked to be conducted to the embassy immediately.

-
- (a) *Times* (London), March 4, 1871, p6c4 (=page 6 column 4), citing Lyons letter of Sept. 19, 1870.
 (b) *Daily News* (London), Sept. 24, 1870, p6c2-3.
 (c) "Letters from the Hon. Henry Wodehouse, 1870-871." London 1874.
 (d) Henry Vizetelly, "Paris in Peril," vol. 1, p. 232, London 1882.
 (e) "Le Journal Du Siège de Paris," *Le Gaulois*, Paris 1871.

Arrived in the courtyard, the caretaker recognized him immediately and declared that Mr. Johnson had been Her Majesty's messenger for twenty-five years. The response was that that was not true and that this gentleman was a spy paid by the English government for giving news to Prussia.

The crowd, growing constantly and becoming more and more menacing, seized Mr. Johnson without further ado and took him to the post of the Elysee. There, an officer of the National Guard calmed and dispersed the irritated crowd, but not without difficulty. Let us add, for the sake of completeness, that Captain Johnson had already been arrested yesterday at Saint Germain-en-Laye by Prussian troops and could not resume his way to Paris until this morning.

Two days later, the same paper added this note (e):

Captain Johnson, whose arrest we reported yesterday, resolved not to quit Paris before the end of the siege, fearing that he would again be arrested either by the Prussians or by the French.

Actually, it was not up to the captain but to Wodehouse to decide whether Johnson would try to return to London soon. In a draft letter to Lyons at Tours, he wrote (f):

Paris, September 23

My Lord,

I find that there would be some risk in sending Messenger Johnson to England tomorrow as I had intended, and I therefore shall refrain from doing so at present. . .

Then something must have happened, presumably an interview with French Foreign Minister Jules Favre, because Wodehouse wrote to U.S. Ambassador Elihu Washburne at Paris as follows (g):

Dear Mr. Washburne,

I believe it is all satisfactory arranged about the Courier - he will start tomorrow morning, but I do not yet know at what hour - will you therefore be so good as to send me this evening - what you have to send - by about 10 o'clock.

Yours very sincerely,
Henry Wodehouse

British Embassy
September 26/70.

I cannot find any packet from your Legation. I think it was taken back to you some days ago.

On the same day, Wodehouse wrote to the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Grandville (f):

My Lord,

I have forwarded to Your Lordship the despatches which I have written from day to day since the departure of Lord Lyons, in the hope that they may still possess some interest.

I had intended to endeavour to send the messenger on Friday last (Sept. 23) but I found some difficulty in obtaining a flag of truce learnt that there would be objections to granting any more flags of truce, and I was unwilling to authorize his starting without one. . .

An interesting eye witness account of the departure of Johnson is furnished in the *Daily News*, presumably by its Paris reporter Labouchère (h):

Paris, Tuesday, September 27.

This morning messenger Johnson was sent off with despatches to England from the British Embassy. He was provided with a safe conduct, signed by General Trochu, and a letter to the Commandant of the Fort of Vavnes,

(f) Public Records Office at Kew (England), file FL-16/1484.

(g) National Archives at Washington (DC), "Correspondence, American Legation Paris, Elihu S. Washburne," *Miscellaneous Correspondence Received*, vol. 4, May 1869-Sept. 1877.

(h) *Daily News*, Oct. 11, 1870, p5c3

enjoining him to forward him under a flag of truce to the Prussian lines. At half past nine Messenger Johnson, arrayed in a pair of high boots with clanking spurs, the belongings, I presume, of a Queen's messenger, stepped into his carriage, with that "I should like to see anyone touch me" air which is the badge of his tribe. His coachman being already drunk, he was accompanied by a second man who undertook to drive until Jehu had got over the effects of his potatoes. . . .

Johnson spent the night of the 27th to the 28th at Chatillon. He arrived at Versailles on the 28th. That morning Bismarck's office sent a telegram at 10:27 AM about "Captain Johnson, an English cabinet courier." (i) The same day Johnson saw William Howard Russell, the *Times'* correspondent stationed at Prussian headquarters. Russell knew him well: "I can scarcely say in what quarter of the world I have not seen that martial countenance." (j)

Johnson received permission on the evening of the 28th to leave Versailles and did so on the morning of the 30th for Calais via Belgium. While we have found no mention in the press about his travels to London nor about the date of his arrival there, that latter, at least, is apparent from a letter he carried, presumably in the British diplomatic pouch.

The Mail

Presently we know of two letters carried by Captain Johnson. One of them was lot 297 in an auction (k):

Evenloped franked with strip of three 20-c. laureated Napoleon, uncanceled, addressed to London. Arrival mark, 3 October 1870, and British due marking 2d in circle. Inside, a note dated 27 September 1870, saying: "I hope to have a sure means of sending you these lines."

This piece, characterized as "RR" and shown on photo plate 6 of the auction catalogue, is addressed to W. Schall Esqr., care of the London Joint Stock Bank, Prince St., London. The single circle postmark reads LONDON S.W./2z/OC 3/70, so the letter was posted at London. It is part of a well-known correspondence between two banking houses, Marcuard, André, & Cie. (Paris) and Schall (London), some of whose letters were sent via the U.S. diplomatic pouch in both directions. This cover, however, was carried by Johnson either on his person or, more likely, in the British diplomatic pouch.

The other cover, known to have been carried by Johnson, is from the U.S. diplomatic pouch. It is now in the collection of one of us (.S.) and is shown in Figure 1.

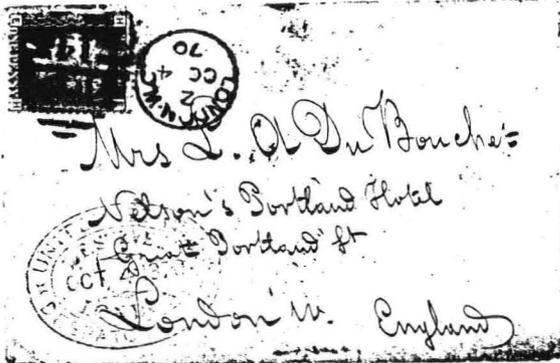


Figure 1
To be continued

- (i) Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes (Archives of Foreign Office) at Bonn (Federal Republic of Germany), vo. 54, doc. 21/22.
- (j) Yvonne Z. Newbury, letter to EMC, July 1988, citing W.H. Russell. We have adopted Russell's spelling of the messenger's name, Johnson, although half the time it appears as Johnston in both print and manuscript sources. Mrs. Newbury favors Russell's spelling because he knew the captain well.
- (k) Jacques Robineau et al., Nov. 7-8, 1961, Paris, Hôtel des Ventes, 9 rue Drouot.



OBSERVATIONS ABOUT EARLY FRENCH CAMEROUN POSTMARKS

by M.P. Bratzel, Jr.

From its opening (1) on November 10, 1915 until March 31, 1916, the French post office at Douala likely used a military canceller (2). During this time, use of the three captured German cancellers was probably limited to the British post office, which had opened in early October 1914 and which closed on March 31, 1916 (2, 3).

The British and the French partitioned Cameroun, effective April 1, 1916. On that date, two of the German cancellers (one having disappeared) became available for use at the French post office. Thus, the absence of a French-style cancel (as depicted in Figure 1) was not critical. The earliest confirmed date for a French-style cancel (inscribed Duala) is April 29, 1916 (4).

The French significantly expanded service throughout their zone with the opening of 25 post offices between mid-1916 and early 1918 (5). However, cancellers apparently were not immediately available when some or all of these offices opened, probably because of difficulties of procurement and manufacture during wartime. The earliest recorded dates for postmarks are usually a considerable period of time after the date of opening. How, then, was mail marked to indicate origin? Different answers are available for two towns: Yaounde and N'Kongsamba.

At Yaounde, a three-line rubber handstamp (see Figure 1) was used at least from October 17, 1916 to April 21, 1917; Waugh and Luft (6) give a range of March 1916 to late 1917. The earliest recorded date for a French-style postmark (inscribed Jaundé) is December 8, 1917. Maddocks has speculated that one of the Douala cancellers (at least five-two German and three French--were available at the time) was used at Yaounde in conjunction with, or in lieu of the provisional handstamp (4). He illustrates a registered cover with the provisional Jaundé handstamp plus French-style Duala postmarks (that



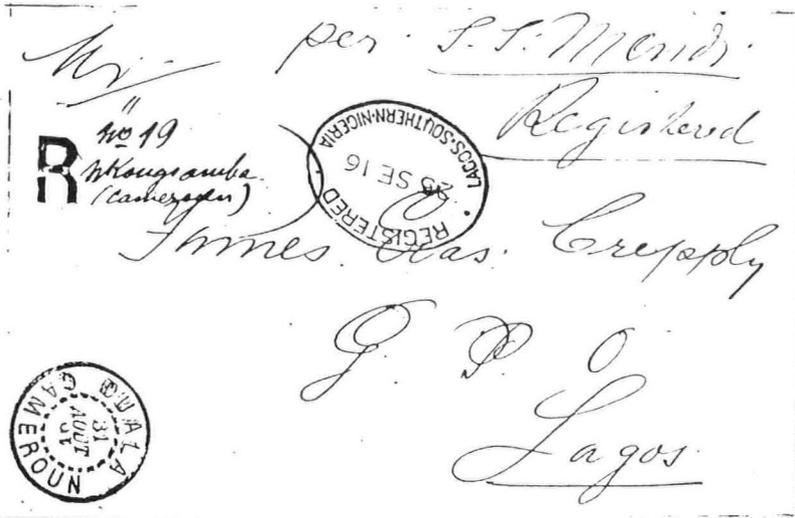
Figure 1

cancel the stamps), all dated December 5, 1916, plus a German-style (Fr 19) Duala transit mark dated December 9.

At N’Kongsamba, the origin of a registered cover (Figure 2) posted in late August 1916 is indicated only by the registration marking. The block R is in black, and the following manuscript notation and the encircling line in bluish ink. Apparently, no canceller was available at N’Kongsamba at the time, so the stamps were cancelled later with the Duala transit mark. However, a canceller inscribed N’Kongsamba was available by October 25, 1916.

As an aside, the cover in Figure 2 is also interesting because of the ship designation (per S.S. “Menos”) and the long transit time (about four weeks) from Douala to Lagos. Where did the cover languish and why?

Figure 2



Front



Back

Two interesting postwar situations have been found for Yoko and Ayos. An oddmark for Yoko are postal stationery (H&G #IB4; Borek #FB4) marked with a two-line handstamp, YOKO/1.3.22 (Figure 3). At the time, the post office at Yoko was closed. All examples seen to date have a two-line, typewritten address: Monsieur D. Bouchier/BIBAO. For the record, the Yoko post office was opened in November 1916, closed May 21, 1917, and not reopened until May 14, 1923 (5). Further information is required to establish whether this is a provisional or a private mark, or philatelic shenanigans.

A postal agency opened (5) at Ayos on March 20, 1925, but the earliest recorded date for a French-style postmark is March 14, 1929. Prior to that, the administrative seal (see Figure 4) was used to postmark outgoing mail (including registered letters); the date of usage extends from at least August 1926 to August 1928, as determined by other postmarks on envelopes seen to date.

Any information about early (possible "pre-postmark") covers from these and other towns in French Cameroun would be appreciated. Please address correspondence to the author at: 1233 Virginia Avenue, Windsor, Ontario N8S 2Z1, Canada. Thanks are extended to Bill Mitchell and Hubert Kraja for sharing material, thus making this note possible.



Figure 3



Figure 4

References

1. Bureau international de l'Union Postale Universelle, No. 1868/86, Berne, 15 avril 1916.
2. Bratzel, M.P., Jr. "British and French Usage of Captured German Cancellers at Douala, Cameroun." *France & Colonies Philatelist*, Vol. 44, No. 1, January 1988, pp. 5-8.
3. Wright, M. St. J. *The Postal History of the British Occupation and Administration of the Cameroons (1914-1961)*. British West Africa Study Circle, March 1983.
4. Maddocks, R. "Cancellers of Occupied Kamerun." *Vorläufer*, No. 57, December 1982, pp. 24-30.
5. Bouvet, P. "Les Bureaux de Poste du Cameroun sous Mandat Français." *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, January 1935, pp. 68-69.
6. Waugh, W.M. and S.J. Luft. *A Chronology of French Military Campaigns and Expeditions with their Postal Markings. 1815-1983*. Robert G. Stone, editor. A joint publication of The France and Colonies Philatelic Society and The War Cover Club, 1984.



THE ARMEE D'ORIENT IN SERBIA - 1915

by Richard M. Stevens

The operations of the Armée d'Orient in Serbia in 1915 are described by C. Deloste in "Histoire Postale et Militaire de l'Armée d'Orient 1915-1920." He reports that three French divisions operated in Serbia: the 156th, the 57th, and the 122nd. They used Tresor et Postes No. 503, 508, and 509 respectively. The first troops entered Serbia on 14 October 1915, and the last returned to Greece on 13 December.

One would expect that a substantial volume of mail was sent by these troops. Certainly any item from those three field post numbers cancelled during that two month period would be a good candidate. However, the card illustrated with this article is the first example I can recall having seen. It is an example of the official field postcard "with eight flags" (No. 12 in the Sinais & Weingarten catalog.) The front is shown in Figure 1. Although there is no postmark, the return address is "Secteur postal no. 508." Figure 2 shows the reverse side, and clearly establishes the origin. A translation of the message is:

Netogin in Vardar
26/11/15



Figure 1

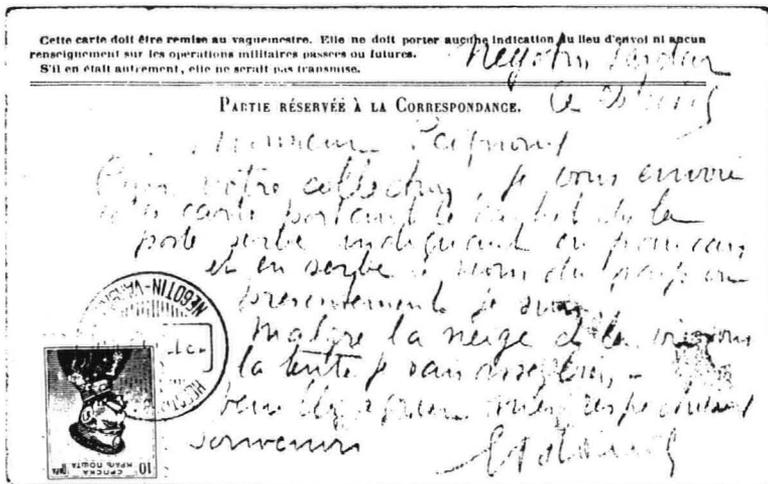


Figure 2

Mr. Peignonnet,

I am sending you this card for your collection. It bears the Serbian postmark of



THE PHILATELIST AS DETECTIVE

by Stanley J. Luft

Recently I became involved in a divorce case, most indirectly I assure you. My role was merely of an expert witness, and that uniquely by correspondence.

It seems that the lawyer for a certain Mr. X, resident of an eastern seaboard state, wished to prove in court that his wife had been (and perhaps errantly so) in Paris during November of 1982. His evidence (defendant's exhibit no.—) consisted of a Hotel Claridge envelope she had mailed to him, bearing a meter strip (oh fie on her!) from Paris 123 (Rue d'Anjou P.O.) dated 24 11 82. In the French manner, that would be 24 Nov. 1982, case closed, though one could also take it as 24 - Roman II sans serif - 82, or 24 Feb. 1982.

In 1982, whether November or February, Paris postal stations were using Arabic numerals to denote months, the Roman numerals having gone out of style. Ergo, obviously November, and Mrs. X was surely to be found compromised. However, and although as a dyed-in-the-wool stamp collector I shun (even help stamp out) meters in general, I found I did have a couple of them from 1982 and 1983 in my collection of modern Paris stuff. I noted with great interest that both bore unmistakable Roman numeral months. Meanwhile, Mrs. X's lawyer (to whom I was reporting) independently obtained information from U.S. and French postal authorities to the effect that some French postal meter strips of the time had Roman numerals and some Arabic ones. And so 24 February 1982 became a viable contender.

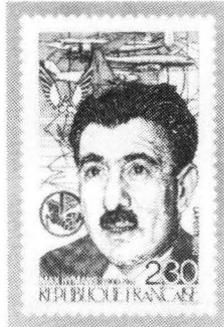
The clincher turned out to be those wonderful "Principales Taxes" leaflets the PTT prints in enormous quantities whenever rates go up. I was pleased to note a rate change in June 1982, which neatly separated February rates from November rates. Indeed the very same increase which confused me when I went to visit PhilexFrance 82, causing me to scream at startled postal clerks that they were trying to cheat this gringo. Anyway, I noted that the 6.85Fr metered postage prepaid no specific airmail rate to the U.S. back in November 1982 (Tariff of 1 June 1982). Whereas 6.85Fr was the rate in effect during February 1982 for an airmail letter of 20-25 gm to the U.S. (Tariff of 1 Sept. 1981). Voila!

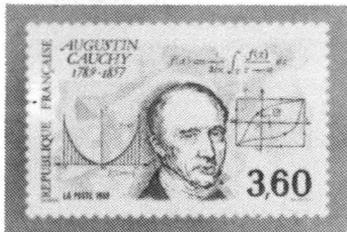
Certain questions remain unanswered, such as why did the lady (or her?) post the letter from Rue d'Anjou when there was a branch P.O. almost directly across the Champs Elysées from the Claridge? But I hadn't been asked, and I didn't bring it up.

Mr. X's lawyer was forced to agree that the letter had indeed been posted in February. Sad to relate, that wasn't enough to win the case for Mrs. X, who lost for some other, untold (to me) reasons. Certainly not because of my testimony!

The moral, if any, of this story is that you never can tell along what paths your philatelic knowledge might take you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS





- ▶ On 31 December the 2.30F Marianne de Briat was issued to main post offices. On 2 January the Liberté "C"s were issued as temporary denominations, the green stamp for 2.10F, the red stamp for 2.30F. On 3 February the 2.50F La Dentelle was issued. On 8 February the 2.50F for Olympic Games (winter) at Albertville with se-tenant logo, incl. a surtax of 20c. On 8 February the 2.30F + 0.20c for Patinage artistique (Olympic Games) was issued. On 24 February the 2.30F Centenary of DeGaulle's birth appeared. On 26 March 0.10F, 0.20F, 0.50F, 3.20F 3.80F in the new Marianne design were issued. On 3 March the 2.30F Max Hymans and 5.00F work of Odilon Redon (painting La Femme); on 17 March 2.30F + 0.60c Journée du Timbre "Service Financière des Postes" and in booklets of 6 stamps in different colors were issued. 24 March the 3.20F Jean Guehenno.
- ▶ The Marianne 2.10F put on sale around the end of January had no First-Day cancels. It had been planned to issue on about 29 January a booklet of 10 of the 2.30F Marianne, self-sticking stamps printed in recess on the RGR2 press, not perfed but pre-cut. This is an experiment. Coils of the 2.30F Marianne in red will be issued when the printery can get around to them, to sell at 2.30F per stamp.
- ▶ At Interpex '90 on 15-18 March, we had a booth, and a number of members, as usual, went to dinner on the 15 after the show. Joining were Alain Millet, Dick Stevens, Ed Grabowski, Ira Zweifach, Marc Martin and Bob Stone.
- ▶ In March a new aerogramme with vignette of the "ATR-72" plane and denomination 4.20F was to appear.
- ▶ The Europa 1990 stamps illustrate various postal establishments, the French ones being the Central P.O. at Macon (2.30F) and the P.O. at Cerizay, Deux Sevres, 3.20F.
- ▶ The Odilon Redon stamp on 2 March is printed in offset, the first of the artistic series to be printed thus.
- ▶ In two French Departments the post offices are experimenting with stocking only a reduced range of denominations.
- ▶ In the eastern Ile de France region 100 new booklet dispensing machines of Swedish make are being set up in protected places; these machines take only the Liberté booklets of 1987, of which the PT still has a stock.
- ▶ For Andorre the 1990 stamp program was announced in December: 10 stamps, 1) Europa (a), 2) Encensoir province de Sant Rome des Bons, 3) Pont de la Margineta, 4) Commemoratives for Pierre de Monnaie province de l'église Santa Eulalia, Sechage de tabac, mines de Liors, 5) Nature: roses, 6) Fragment d'une peinture murale de Santa Coloma.
- ▶ For Polynesia, on 11 January, 34 and 35F, La Vanille.
- ▶ For St. Pierre-Miquelon: 2 January 2.30F Marianne of France surcharged "St. Pierre et Miquelon"; 22 January, 2.50F Pied de Mouton. 26 March, Marianne's surcharged "St. Pierre et Miquelon" on five values: 0.10F, 0.20F, 0.50F, 3.20F and 3.80F.
- ▶ The stamp program for 1991 was given a preliminary announcement recently: With surtax--Journée du Timbre "Métiers de la Poste"; Celebrated personnages--French poets

of 20th Cent.: P. Eluard, A. Breton, Louis Aragon, F. Ponge, J. Pievert, R. Char.; Red Cross: Toulon.; Winter Olympic Games at Albertville: Slalom, ice hockey, bobsleigh, curling. Without Surtax:

Artistic--works of Max Ernst, G. Sevrat, F. Rouan, Rob. Matta; Europa--space activities at La Guyane, satellite and direct TV; Nature--Pyrenean bear, land turtle, beaver, martin-pecheur. Commemorative--FSPF Perpeignan; Gaston Phoebus, Marcel Cerdan.

► At the Salon d'Automne last November the Grand Prix de l'Art Philatélique Européen was awarded to the 150 escudos bloc of Portugal, the Grand Prix de l'Art Philatélique des Treize Nations Africaines et Malgache d'Expression Française to R. Longlet for a stamp 50F CFA of Benin "Sterna dongalli"; the Grand Prix de l'Art Philatélique of Territoires d'Outre Mer went to Pierre Forget for his 200F bloc of Polynesia "Bicentenary of the Revolution Française--Mutinérie du Bounty."

► The new Marianne 2.30F red stamp was already "imitated" in Spain by photolithography and seen used on covers with genuine FD cancels!

► Fraudulent modifications of the mechanical franking imprints and labels are being reported, made in an effort to avoid postage charges; the perpetrators are being prosecuted under the penal code against falsifying stamps.

► Our peripatetic Director Jerry Massler has now showed up as a resident of Sevilla, Spain, name of Don Jerold José Martin Massler. His New Year's card shows him in colorful toreador uniform.

► Member Bob Kinsley reports he got a Silver award for his French Somaliland exhibit at the APS Stamp Show last August.

***** NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS *****

"France Poste Maritime Prephilatelique, Histoire Postale et Catalogue." By J. Bergier, V. Pothion and G. Noel, 1990, 64pp, in two colors. Special no. of Les Feuilles Marcophiles. 210Fr p.p.d. From Union Marcophile, c/o L. Bridelance, 19 Ave. du Chatelet, 77150 Lesigny. (Prices based on no. examples seen. Includes associated marks, prisoners' letters, and Grande Peche. Many illustr., tables.)

"Catalogue des Timbres et Monnaies d'Andorre," 1990-91. M. Abad, Angda, Carlemany 41, Escaldes, Andorre.

"Nomenclature des Cachets Poste de la Somme." By E. Philippe. Société Philatélique de Picardie, 39 rue Gaudissart, 80000 Amiens.

"Histoire de la Poste et des Communications en Roussillon." By René Abelanet. 1989, 144pp, 90Fr + post. Société des Amis du Musée de la Poste au Roussillon, Samporo, P.O. 66020, Perpignan Cédex.

"Les Cartes Maximum de France." 1989, 500pp, 350Fr p.p.d. Maximaphiles Française, 62 rue Leon-Bacquet, 94100 Saint Maur des Fosses.

"Oblitérations Postales du Var; Gares, Entrepôts, Ambulants, Convoyeurs, Boîtes Mobiles." By Gregnac-Daudemard, three posters, brought up to date annually. The author, Colline, Blvd. des Arbusiers, 83120 Ste. Maxime.

"Vernon au Temps de la Poste aux Chevaux." By R. Dordet, 1989. 70Fr + post. R. Dordet, 19 rue Pierre le Tellier, 27200 Vernon.

"Ledru des Essais Un Grande Patriote Méconnu, 1765-1844." By J.L. Bonnery. 90Fr + post. Sold by Union Marcophile, to order of M. Bonnery, 19 Ave. du Chatelet, 77150 Lesigny. (50 letters with markings of various Armées.)

"United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations, 1847-UPU." 2nd ed. revised. 1990. \$37.50. (Valuable for collectors of transatlantic mail to France.) See review following.

"The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918." By Norman, Collins. 2 vols. 1990. Vol. 1, 180pp, \$50 + \$3 post. Chas. A. Tuteur, Treas. WPC, 1438 Pratt Blvd., Chicago, Ill. 60626. (Vol. 2 will appear later in 1990.)

Publications of the Club Le Meilleur, B.P. 21, 77350 Le Mée sur Seine:

"Boîtes Rurales du Rhone." By R. Laborde. 21pp, 32.70Fr.

- “Catalogue des Oblitérations Mécanique des Checques Postaux.” By E. Barthélemy. 22pp. 18.70Fr
- “Catalogue des Oblitérations Circuits Poste Automobile: Oise.” 8pp. 10Fr; “Loire,” 6pp, 25Fr
- “Circuits Automobiles par Dept.” 122pp, 250Fr
- “Poste Automobile Rurale, Nomenclature Dept. des Correspondances Postaux No. 22bis.” 74pp, 100Fr
- “Supplement 1988 au Catalogue des Oblitérations Mécaniques à Flamme Illustrées ou Stylisées.” 80pp, 67.40Fr. Brochure #264, Le Monde, 34 rue Chauchat, 75009 Paris.
- “Catalogue des Oblitérations des Colonies Françaises, Tome I, Les Possessions du Pacifique: Océanie, Nouvelle Calédonie, Nouvelles Hébrides, Wallis et Futuna, Clipperton.” By Bertrand Sinais and Guy Venot. 1989. 350Fr + 25Fr post. From Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue Chateaudun, 75009 Paris.
- “Les Oblitérations du Cameroun 1914-1960.” By M.P. Bratzel, H. Kraja and R.J. Maddocks. MPB Canada, 1990. For exclusive sale in U.S. by Leonard Hartmann, Box 36006, Louisville, Ky. 40233-6006. Price \$40 p.pd. (Limited edition of 200)



REVEIW

“United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations 1847 to GPU/UPU”

Revised edition, hardbound. By Charles J. Starnes. 1990. 82pp. Publ. by Leonard Hartmann, Box 36006, Louisville, Ky. 40233. \$37.50 p.pd. to any country.

This excellent work, while ostensibly primarily addressed to U.S. postal history specialists, is of much interest and value to our collectors of transatlantic covers from U.S. to France and to French colonies and offices. There are many updates and changes since the first edition of 1982, with new listings and tabulations. The format tabulates letter rates by destination country chronologically by various mail services. In particular the rates according to various international postal conventions are listed by exact dates of inception and discontinuance. Special tables in the Appendices of interest to us include: British treaty mail via France, French postage charges on mail to and from U.S. 1843-57, French postage charges to U.S. 1870-74, foreign currency equivalents, observed depreciation ratios, notes to gold, an extensive bibliography. Fifty-five more covers are illustrated that the 57 in the first edition. The data will be useful in detecting altered covers which have had U.S. stamps fraudulently added. If you have a cover to decipher, first check in Starnes, then you can refer to books by Hargest and by Hubbard and Winter to find out about the ships and their sailings.

The printing, illustrations and binding are of excellent quality.

-R.G. Stone



F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

Corresponding Secretary's Report For 1989

Total membership as of January 1, 1989	790
Total new members for the year of 1989	54
Total reinstatements for the year 1989	<u>31</u>
	85
Resignations received for the year 1989	16
Total deceased members for the year 1989	2
Members dropped for non-payment of dues	<u>45</u>
	63
Net membership gain for the year of 1989	22
Net membership loss for the year of 1989	0
Total membership as of December 31, 1989	812

Treasurer's Report
France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc.
1989

Balance on hand 12/31/89 \$11,429.90

RECEIPTS:

Total 1989 dues	\$6,089.00	
Publications:		
Back issues	\$ 46.50	
Index	75.00	
Luft II	64.00	
Luft III	85.00	
Vaurie issues	255.00	
Bordeaux	<u>150.00</u>	675.50
Samples		4.00
Miscellaneous		2.00
Interest		<u>490.71</u>
		<u>7,261.21</u>
		\$18,691.11

DISBURSEMENTS:

Meeting expenses	744.03	
Philatelist	4,732.20	
Editor's expenses	318.41	
Secretary's expenses	600.00	
Treasurer's expenses	22.76	
Advertising & membership	385.02	
Printing & stationery	269.98	
Exhibitions	162.58	
Publications	299.13	
Spiegel Fund purchases	233.00	
Collectors Club	<u>100.00</u>	7,867.11
Balance on hand 12/31/89		\$10,824.00

MEMORANDUM:

Vaurie Fund	11,374.47
Spiegel Fund	1,323.43
Prepaid 1990 dues	5,365.00
1989 deficit	<u>(1,719.80)</u>
Cash in banks	<u>\$16,343.10</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Beatrice M. Berner,
Treasurer

3/7/90

Approved by vote of Directors, 3/13/90, Richard M. Stevens, President

President's Message

Enclosed with this issue of the *Philatelist* is an entry form for the 1990 Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibit. This year it has been scheduled for the first Tuesday of June. We hope this will provide sufficient notice for any members who wish to participate. Recently the Rich Exhibit has been held in May; this year the May meeting date fell just shortly before the opening of Stamp World London '90. The Annual Meeting could not be postponed as the Bylaws require it to be held in May.

I encourage any and all members to submit an entry for the Rich Exhibit. We continue to offer one year's free dues for first-time exhibitors. The two-frame format permits one to choose a topic which might be too limited for a larger exhibit. We particularly invite

beginning exhibitors to participate. In addition to the judges, several others of us will be present who have formed national and international gold-medal exhibits and will be happy to offer our advice. We would be delighted to have to worry about having too many exhibits to fit in the twenty wall frames at our meeting room.

Reduced Price To Members For Bordeaux Book

The book "*The Bordeaux Issue of 1870-1871*" by Ruth and Gardner Brown was published under the auspices of our Vaurie Memorial Publication Fund in 1981. At that time copies of the paperback edition were distributed as a bonus to all members. Hardbound copies were also produced, which the club has had for sale at \$20 plus postage. After eight years the Society still has a substantial stock of this book. Many of our members have joined since 1981, and probably do not own this excellent work.

The Directors have now decided to make a special offer to all members. Until further notice any member will be able to purchase copies of the Bordeaux book at half-price, that is \$10 plus postage. The postage for one copy by domestic book rate is \$1.25; by surface mail to all foreign countries it is \$2.30. In other cases the postage will be charged at cost. All orders should be sent to the corresponding secretary, Walter E. Parshall, 103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003.

Book Donation In Memory Of Eric Spiegel

We have previously reported that the Society received a generous donation from his family in memory of our deceased director, Eric Spiegel. Last year the Directors decided to use a portion of this money to purchase books for donation to the Collectors Club Library. In January the following were presented to the Library:

- R. Françon, et al: "*1990 Cérès Variétés Marianne*"
- R. Joany, et al: "*Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969*"
- G. L'Heritier: "*Les Ballons Montés*"
- B. Sinais: "*Catalogue des Oblitérations Militaires Françaises 1900-1985*"
- B. Sinais: "*Catalogue des Oblitérations Navales Françaises 1771-1986*"

We anticipate that additional donations will be made in the future as useful new books are published in France.

Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting for the presentation of reports and election of officers and directors will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 1990, at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, N.Y.

Meeting of 2 January

Lou Robbins led a discussion of what's wrong with the new Scott catalogs. Lou believes that the current owners of the Scott catalogs know as much about stamp collecting as he knows about flying a zeppelin under water. The new gimmick is to sell the catalogs as a "fictional retail price list" based on "fictional quality" and a "fictional collector survey." Certainly the FCPS has been part of the Scott fictional surveys. Our last response to their queries was met by a very nice letter stating that they were going to ignore everything we suggested. This includes improving some of the absolutely useless caricatures of the early issues of France.

Lou noted that the '89 attempt to reduce prices by 10-50% turned out poorly, so in '90 the idea was to create a retail price list by cutting prices even further. Many of today's dealers avoid the whole mess by using the '88 catalogs. Many of the stamps "cataloged" in Scott at retail prices have not been on the market for years. Thus, the prices are absolutely meaningless, since there is no stock available and there have been no transactions at auction. Yet Scott's continues with the fiction of a retail price for these issues. A comparison of values for the French classics in Cérès, Scott's and Linn's Trends just adds to the confusion. Lou concluded that Scott's is good for a listing of stamps, but little else. Given all of the problems with Scott's, I think anyone who is serious about the French area should make an effort to use the Yvert or the Cérès catalogs, and also carefully follow the key issues in the French sales.

Meeting of 6 February

Mr. Fernanco Inglesias and his wife joined us this evening for a delightful presentation on the French post offices in Cuba. France, along with England, played a large role in controlling the mail routes in the Caribbean. Beginning June 1857, 20,000,000FF were invested over twenty years in providing three ship lines for mail to and from the Americas. In the early 1860's, service to Cuba was included. Octagonal date stamps inscribed with the office and ship were used to denote transit of mail. A cover at 8d due posted from Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux with the date stamp of the Louisiane on its first visit was shown.

A variety of cancellations (line, ship, office and anchor) and rates were illustrated from the office at Santiago de Cuba, including some very unusual and rare pieces. Among them was a cover to Peru franked with 3x30c Sage issues with Peruvian dues to complete an underpaid new rate. Material from the newer office at Havana was also shown.

The most interesting cover was one carried on Ligne M, which was a connecting line between Havana and New Orleans scheduled to meet with Ligne B. The maiden voyage for this line was January 1867 and Mr. Inglesias showed the only known cover carried on this line which is believed to have been carried by the captain of the ship.

-Ed Grabowski

Meeting of 6 March

George Guzzio, ably assisted by Mary Ann Owens, presented a mounting and graphics workshop to the assembled membership. George and Mary Ann have been very active in exhibiting, judging, conducting workshops and writing, and they presented some of the latest ideas in exhibiting this evening. Previously, the cardinal rules seemed to be: Use white pages and no black pages and keep the write-ups short.

George opened by showing a steel ruler with a thin cork backing which prevents slipping while cutting mounts, paper, etc. These are available at artist supply stores, and are a godsend to those of us who have been cutting crooked mounts for almost a lifetime. One of the trends noted, is the use of slightly tinted pages (beige or gray) to make exhibited material look better. George showed some examples of older stampless covers on white pages. The white background served to highlight the imperfections in the covers. The same covers mounted on beige paper looked ever-so-much better with the background serving to highlight the light brownish color of the covers rather than their imperfections. The use of windows (cut-outs in the mounting pages) to just show key portions of covers and allow space for more material to be exhibited on a given page was also illustrated. Double pages with auxiliary material were used for exceptionally large items. Finally, colored borders were illustrated to highlight key items including the use of brightly colored ones.

Ever the heretic, Lou Robbins asked, "Why bother with this at all? Just show the material!" George responded to the point: "Material shown on blank pages is just a collection, whereas material tightly organized and clearly presented, with an excellent text for support, is an exhibit!"

-Ed Grabowski

Leo J. LaFrance

Our old-time members in New York remember Leo LaFrance as a "regular" during the years he lived in the New York area, 1957-81. Leo was an astute collector of 19th Cent. France and in recent years specialized in some aspects of mails between U.S. and Canada which he exhibited several times. He was also active in the Br. No. Amer. Phil. Soc. A chemist and industrial hygienist, he retired from Union Carbide and moved to a retirement community near Hendersonville, N.C. I saw him at several stamp shows in the last couple years; he was fighting cancer and had already lasted well beyond his doctor's predictions. Leo died last January 22. A letter from his wife Sue informed us: He was under care of a Hospice (which he had supported) but able to be at home those last suffering days. He did not "go quietly into the night," battling the odds given him. His times with France and Colonies Group were fun and filled with good fellowships. Please let the other members know of Leo's death. With fond remembrances--Sue LaFrance.

Philatélie à la Française Seminar a Success

The Seminar--co-sponsored by the Philatelic Foundation and FCPS, announced in the

January FCP, p. 20--held 16 March was well attended with a full room. The Foundation was pleased that its first venture of this sort for outside the U.S.-philately area went so well, and the officers of the Foundation have written us of their appreciation to FCPS for its contributions. A booklet was passed out to the attendees containing the outline of the presentations with reproductions of the illustrations they were shown. The Foundation may later publish a pamphlet on the presentations.

NEW MEMBERS

- 2811 TILLS, JAMES M., 717 Bergen St., Madison, WI 53714-3011. (Modern France: mint - Engraved pictorials - Flammes. Andorre. Monaco. Saar. Omnibus Issues: Fides. All Africa and Asia to 1975.)
- 2812 SMITH, J. WESTON, Box 609, St. Joseph, MN 56374. (Classics 1849-1876: used. Colonies General Issues: used.)
- 2813 BUSSEY, LEWIS E., P.O. Box 18674, Denver, CO 80218. (Naval mail of World War II postal history.)
- 2814 THIERRY, LALLEVEE, 18 Rue Du 8 Mai, 69110 Ste Foy-Les-Lyon, France. (France: military & maritime posts - Used abroad. Colonies & Territories: cancels and postal history. Dealer: Mail sales - Postal bid sales.)
- 2815 CORAPCIOGLU, YAVUZ, N.W. 415 North, Pullman, WA 99163. (Postal Stationery.)
- 2816 PEACOCK, JOHN E., P.O. Box 1117, Coventry, RI 02816. (General France: mint - used - on cover.)
- 2817 SMALL, RICHARD, 3167 Dearborn Ave., Palmdale, CA 93551. (Philatelic literature. Machine cancels.)
- 2818 FISCHBACH, WILLIAM, P.O. Box 1027, Dahlgren, VA 22448. (All Colonies & Territories - stamps of French African Colonies, French Africa. Philatelic literature.)
- 2819 GOUGH, JAMES PETER, 9741 Rangeview Dr., Santa Ana, CA 92705. (France: dues on cover: pre-1930. Individual Colonies: postage-due stamps on cover: pre-1930. "Return to Sender.")
- 2820 McFARLAND, D. CRAIG, 4545 N. Hamilton, Chicago, IL 60625. (Offices Abroad. Colonies General Issues.)
- 2821 JENSEN, BENNY MOLLER, Skolegade 25, 9800 Hjørring, Denmark. (General France: used - on cover. Sowers. Precancels. Exchange.)
- 2822 FINK, LAURENCE, Pike St., Alpine, NJ 07620. (Classics 1849-1876: mint - Dues - Sage Type, 1876-1900. Modern France: mint. Railway Posts. Telephone & Telegraph - Dues - Parcel Post - Newspaper - Franchise Militaire - Liberation.)
- 2823 SPIRES, STEVEN, 670 115th Ave. NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433. (General France: mint - used.)
- 2824 MAYNE, E.J., 41 The Wheatlands, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 5LS, England. (Andorre. Saar. Colonies General Issues: used. All Colonies & Territories, especially Togo to 1918.)
- 2825 LEE, ARTHUR R., 64 Harbor Oaks Circle, Safety Harbor, FL 34695. (Offices Abroad (China). Colonies General Issues: mint - used - on cover. Stamps - covers of individual colonies: Annam & Tonkin - Offices in China - Cochinchina - Indochina. Independent Republics: Cambodia, Laos. Vietnam. Philatelic literature. Exchange. Primarily interested in the postal history of the Indochina peninsula.)
- 2826 AKERSTROM, DONALD B., 5571 E. Mansfield Ave., Denver, CO 80237. (Colonies General Issues: mint - used. All Colonies & Territories.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2411 MILLS, DAVID A., JR., 479 Rockport Circle, Folsom, CA 95630
- 2448 DOIG, KENNETH F., 522 S. Madera Ave., Madera, CA 93637
- 2340 TRIBOLET, DAVID, (Transfer of Membership from Father (Robert W. Tribolet) to Son. Father deceased.) 609 Townsend Dr., Aptos, CA 95003
- 555 McKANNA, A.G., 103 Riverview G.B. 26, RR 2, Alliston, Ont. Canada LOM 1A0
- 1468 FORDOR, CAMILLE, (Change of street number.) 4229 Belle Isle Court, New Port Richey, FL 34653
- 2103 KERMAN, ARNIE. (Add-on interests to specialties.) General France. Classics - Semi-Postals - Merson Types. Dealer.

- 872 SMITHEN, DR. A.H., P.O. Box 611259, Port Huron, MI 48061-1259.
 2122 WOLFF, CHRISTOPHER J., 113½ Green St., Dayton, OH 45402.
 1521 BLECHER, FRANKLIN H., P.O. Box 41-4626, Miami Beach, FL 33141.
 1439 HOBURG, JOHN L., 835 Bay View/Routledge No. 113, Wilmington, CA 90744.
 (NPD)
 2746 HARDER, EDWARD J., 5300 Maryman Rd., Louisville, KY 40258-1212. (NPD)
 2421 SCHUSTER, JEFF, P.O. Box 11579, El Paso, TX 79982-0579.
 2153 HEIDERMANN, RICHARD H. (Change of zip code.) P.O. Box 10533, Tampa, FL
 33679-0533.

REMOVED FROM MAILING LIST FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES BY 1 APRIL

Lawrence Albertson, Terri Auch-Schwelk, James Baun, John Bavicchi, Henry Beck, Bernard Behr, Dr. Robert Block, Guru Bose, Adrien Boutrelle, Jos. Castiglione, Peter Cerato, John Chaite, Wallace Craig, Frank Del Ponte, Donald Doehla, Marguerite Doney, Jerrold Engber, Jean Pierre Foucart, Marc Goldwasser, Sanford Greenberg, Terence Hines, William Horwitz, Henry Nadatq, Peter Elias, Gary Fentress, John Gaffney, John Geisler, Pieter Geuze, Charles Gifford, Mark Hamburg, Edw. Harder, Keith Helm, Ralph Herdenberg, Douglas Hiley, John Hoberg, Sunwook Hwang, Gary Jones, Dwight Lilly, Marcel Lotwin, Kirk McKenzie, Hugh McPhail, Peter Mancino, Bernard Naster, Lawrence Montello, David Morck, Gloria Newcomer, David Perley, William Peters, Thomas Pier, Robert Piglowski, Mel Rudner, John Pisano, William Rain, Howard Rappaport, Edward Schechter, Warren Scherich, James Sandiford, Stephen Straussberg, Timon Thompson, William Trevett, Jr., Don Trieschman, Capt. William Von Mattix, Donald Walsh, George Wanstall, Barbara Waters, David Werner, Gregoire Teyssier, Patricia Williamson, David Zylberman.

RESIGNATIONS

- 2132 Raymond Dertz 2673 Alan J. Uram 1831 Eli Gershom

DECEASED

- 658 Leo J. LaFrance 2776 George S. Trevor

MEMBERS' APPEALS

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 OFFER: I have several hundred Navigation and Commerce (Group Type) Fournier forgeries, including multiple copies. Need about 100+ more to complete my collection. Willing to trade my three for your one.--Robert F. Carmody, 573 Riviera Circle, Larkspur, Calif. 94939 (Mb. #2182)
 OFFER: Postal History of the World, in auctions and by private treaty, classics before 1920, with large numbers of covers of maritime, military, colonies, rare cancels and combos. Catalogue on request, or indicate your specialty and I will send photocopies of what I have available.--Lallevée Thierry, Lugdunum Philatélie, 18 rue du 8 Mai, 69110 Ste. Foy-Les-Lyon, France. (Mb.#2814)
 WANTED: Computer-printed postal cards mailed from PhilexFrance. Top prices paid.--Yavuz Corapcioglu, NW 415 North, Pullman, Wash. 99163. (Mb #2815)
 WANTED: Covers from New Caledonia during 1878-79 with the 35c rate; and postal cards of 1880 with the 1881-83 overprints, and inbound covers prior to 1885.--Stanley C. Jersey, Box 713, Carlsbad, Calif. 92008. (Mb. #1770)
 OFFER: Extending scope of my auction from BWI to include Fr. Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Haiti. Request Catalogue.--David N. Druett, Pennymeade Auctions, Scotton, Knaresborough, N. Yorkshire, England HG5 9HN. (Mb. #2768)
 OFFER: If enough correspondents indicate a desire to order the new book of Sinais and Venot "Catalogue des Oblitérations des Cols. F., Tome I, Poss. du Pacifique," (375F) our member Alain Millet in Paris will attempt to get us a discount price.--R.G. Stone, Box 356, Blue Ridge Summit, Pa. 17214.