



# France & Colonies Philatelist

## THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE COMMUNE REVOLUTION

by Gardner L. Brown  
 (cont. from FCP 222, p. 110)

### CHAPTER X – POTPOURRI

This, the final chapter of our article on the Postal History of the Commune Revolution, is intended to cover several subjects which did not fit into the other chapters. They are as follows:

1. The 20-Centime Siege Issue (The Commune Print).
2. Hanky-Panky.
3. How Complete Is Our Survey?
4. Erratum.
5. Acknowledgments.

#### The 20-Centime Siege Issue:

For many years collectors spoke of the "Commune Print" of the 20-Centime Siege Issue. Supposedly these were stamps which the Communards had produced using printing plates which they had found (left in the mint?). Maury (1) has reproduced a list of the quantity of stamps which the Communards had printed. But there has been a question as to whether or not they printed the Siege Issue. We have not bothered to include that listing since all but the value under question are indistinguishable from those printed by the regular government.

(1) Maury, Arthur: "Histoire des Timbres-Poste Française," Paris 1907.

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The so called "Commune Print" is printed on paper which has been described as grayish or slightly yellow. Suffice it to say, the color just doesn't look "right." In addition, the quality of the printing is poor, especially in the region of the brickwork found in the corners just outside the medallion circle. This has been ascribed to the inept use of the decoupage placed behind the sheet to be printed so as to vary the printing pressure on various parts of the design. The covers shown in Figures V-1 and VI-13 have stamps which collectors have long called the "Commune Print."

Fromageat (2) has had the last word on this subject. He points out that covers franked with the "Commune Print" are known on balloon mail well before the Commune Revolution. Therefore there must be different reasons than inexperienced communard printers to explain the difference in appearance.

We are tempted to speculate there must have been shortages of paper, as well as food, during the Siege and perhaps the "Commune Print" is simply the result of the use of substandard paper.

### **Hanky-Panky:**

Hanky-panky is an American slang expression defined as "devious or mischievous activity." In other words, it means doing something you really shouldn't be doing. We like the use of the expression in connection with the Postal History of the Commune because it is broad enough to cover both outright forgeries and material produced as souvenirs.

It has been our observation that very little of the Commune material we have seen bears the signature of an expert. The wonderful book on forgeries by Brun (3) contains no examples of Commune forgeries. Yet, we know from his book that very elaborate forgeries of other material have been produced.

(2) Fromageat, Dr. Jacques: Documents Philatélique No. 90, 1981.

(3) Brun, Jean-François: "Faux et Truqués," Editions Loisirs et Culture, 1980.



## **FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST**

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This leaves the ordinary collector in the position of applying the age old question of postal history, "Does it make sense?" For instance, we have seen described a letter for Paris postmarked in a French town on March 24, 1871; yet, it also has a 10c added stamp postmarked in Paris in May. We did not include it in our survey because it "did not make sense" to us. While the item may be perfectly legitimate, there was no reason for the letter not to have reached Paris before the beginning of the postal blockade.

As another example, the validity has been questioned concerning the Bruner cover shown as Figure IV-24 (*F&C Philatelist #218*). Certainly, it would be simple to forge such a cover by writing the word Bruner on the envelope. Some feel this letter posted on March 28 should have arrived in Paris by the 30th, the blockade having begun that evening. However, it was posted in Blidah, Algeria, and had to cross the Mediterranean to reach the train for Paris. It is very reasonable to assume this letter was among the first to be detoured to the Palace at Versailles and thus impounded.

The only question that remains is why did it take so long (May 1) to get into Paris? It is also reasonable to assume that the answer lies in the fact, that in the early days of the blockade, things were very confused at the emergency post office at Versailles.

We think this cover "makes sense" and so did the two experts who signed it.

It is because of the old warning, "Caveat Emptor" that we do not like covers with stickers on them. We know that some of these stickers exist not on cover. It would be so easy to glue one of them on the back of an ordinary cover and thus transform it into a rarity! The wary collector should look for other evidence (the text of the letter) that the sticker really belonged there.

We have shown the Lorin-Maury vignettes in earlier chapters (Figures IV-6 and V-3 in *F&C Philatelist #217* and *F&C Philatelist #220*) and have discussed the controversy about their use on covers. Now, several months after our earlier pontifications on the subject, we find no reasons to conclude these covers do not "make sense." Certainly, the doubts raised have diminished their value in the philatelic market, but it is very difficult to prove a negative.

Nowhere in the literature has anyone described their colors. For the ones used on outgoing mail the 5c is green; the 10c is violet and the 50c is red. The same colors were used on the vignettes used on incoming mail: green for imprimé; violet for lettre and red for chargement.

Figure X-1 shows a group of 7 vignettes similar to those of Lorin and Maury. They are overprinted with apparently meaningless numbers. The design of the top 3 is similar to the L&M labels used on mail from Paris. However, they do not have the dotted line found on the original designs between the numeral and the word centimes. This was intended as a guideline to show where to cut off the top part to affix on a letter. In addition a new "imprimé" value has been added this time as 10c and perforated. It is in green as was the original 5c version.

The bottom 4 are even stranger. All have the initials L and M replaced by R and F. Although all are similar, new values and colors appear as well as some design changes. The 5c imprimé is in dull gray with the cutoff label at the bottom. The 10c lettre is gray and the 20c lettre is red. Finally, there is an 80c chargée in violet.

Figure X-2 shows 4 fantasies for the Agence Moreau. Only the 25c value has been published in the literature and they all have a circular cancel in the upper right corner. The 5c is red, 10c is violet, 15c is green, and 25c is pale red.

Figure X-3 is taken from Chamboissier and is said to be part of the production of M. de Té....., a printer in Versailles who printed 250 varieties of souvenirs such as this.

One more souvenir should be mentioned as it sometimes comes up for auction. While it is illustrated in Maury (1) we have been unable to get a good photocopy as the design is so dark. It can be recognized in the auction descriptions because it is called an essay with the value tablet listed as "00 Centimes." In a curve at the top are the words "Commune de Paris."

### How Complete Is Our Survey?

Our survey identified 364 Commune covers which is close to the 380 we estimated in Chapter I. The information was derived from friends, the philatelic literature and from over 350 mostly European auction catalogs, as well as what we have seen at exhibitions. Accordingly, we have mounted our Commune Exhibit using phrases like, "one of 2 known,"



Figure X-1. Souvenirs similar to the vignettes used by the Lorin and Maury Agency for use on mail from Paris to be posted outside the city.



Figure X-2. Souvenirs of the Moreau Agency. None are known used on cover.

etc. Stanley Luft has pointed out the danger of making such comments in his "Thoughts on Philatelic Censuses." (4) He cited a case history on a survey of the February, 1871 German Censor Marking used at Versailles on mail to foreign countries. Starting off with only a very few known covers, his publication identified 37 examples. It has been two years since his publication and he has now received enough information to expand the list to 41 items.

As another example Lewis Bussey made a census of RF overprints starting out with the 250 items noted in Goodkind's Handbook of 1958. Bussey found another 50 and suspects there are 50 more that he does not know about.

Even though we believe our survey used greater depth in terms of auction catalogs, the other surveys caused us to wonder how "complete" was our own census? Coincidentally, two opportunities have arisen to test this question.

(4) Luft, Stanley J.: American Philatelic Congress 1988 Yearbook, pp. 35-39.

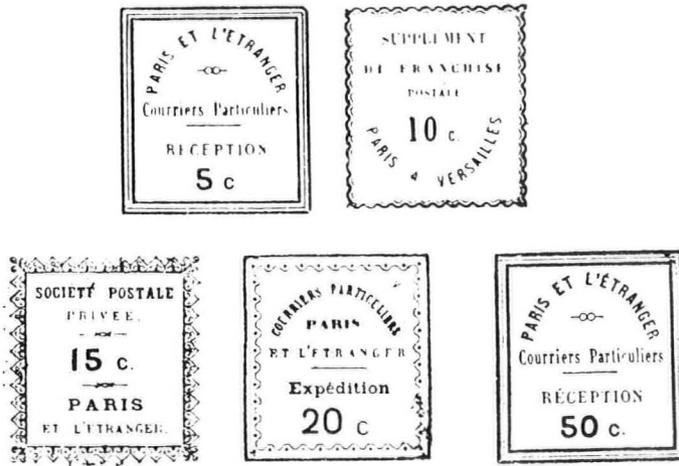


Figure X-3. Some of the handiwork of Mon. de Té..... a printer in Versailles. (From Chamboissier).

At PhilexFrance 89 John Levett showed 19 Commune covers in one of his exhibits. We have examined them with a view to establishing how many of them we already knew about before the exhibition. We have tabulated them by type as follows:

	Total In Exhibit	Number We Knew About
Mail Into Paris	7 covers	3
Mail From Paris	5	0
Paris For Paris	2	2
Prisoner's Mail	5	2
Total	19	7 (37%)

This means that, despite our survey, John Levett had 12 covers we did not know about.

A second opportunity for a test came with the Soluphil Sale, June 27, 28, 1990, in which the Stephen Holder collection of the Franco-Prussian War was sold. It contained 35 items which we would classify as Commune covers.

	Total In Sale	Number We Knew About
Mail Into Paris	10 covers	2
Mail From Paris	18	3
Paris For Paris	6	1
Prisoner's Mail	1	1
Total	35	7 (20%)

On the basis of these tests one might conclude that there exists 3 to 5 times our survey of 364 Commune covers. We think this is not the case. John Levett and Stephen Holder are very serious collectors judging by the numbers of International large golds they have won. They are hardly what one might call "average collectors." What surprises us is that we have been "fishing the same philatelic brooks and lakes" for many years. Despite the fact that "fishing has not been good," we note that many of our acquisitions have been made by private sale rather than through auctions.

We have been collecting the Commune for over 35 years. We got started because the New England Stamp Company, then located in downtown Boston, had acquired a "lot" of Commune covers. Gradually we acquired them at very reasonable prices for not many

in the U.S. were interested in the subject. There were enough of them to win a gold at a local show, The Mahoning Valley Stamp Club (Youngstown, Ohio) in 1961.

To the best of our recollection, we estimate that of our 97 covers, only 22% were obtained from auction sales. Our estimate follows with the caveat that it is a little difficult to remember where you bought something 25 years ago.

To illustrate this point we offer the following tabulation from memory:

	Our Collection		
	No. Covers	From Auctions	Private Sales
Mail Into Paris	25	7	18
Mail From Paris	33	9	24
Paris For Paris	23	2	21
Prisoner's Mail	16	3	13
Total	97	21 (22%)	76 (78%)

While our survey identified 364 Commune covers (not including the 40 Levett/Holder covers we did not know about), we estimate there may be as many as 500 covers in existence, a very small number in comparison with balloon mail. While some Commune covers are more common than others, there is no such thing as a common Commune cover, and many are very rare.

#### Erratum:

We are aware of only one serious error in this treatise. In our chapter on Mail From Paris (V), (*F&C Philatelist* #220) we give a list of the types of franking used on this mail. For the covers with a single 20c Siege issue we record only 5 which is incorrect. The correct number is 17 and we should also add 2 covers with the 40c Siege.

We had also commented that the use of the Bordeaux Issue was as common as the Siege Issue, which amazed us, but isn't quite true.

What we should have done was to point out the vast preponderance of covers franked by the Napoleon Issues:

Napoleon	95 (76%)
Siege	20
Bordeaux	9
Total	124

Since our objective now is to deduce whether or not the Siege Issue was commonly available in Paris we should also look at the figures for the 10c rate on Paris For Paris mail (*F&C Philatelist* #219):

Napoleon	43 covers
Siege	3
Bordeaux	3
Total	49

Since we know the Bordeaux Issue was not commonly available within Paris, we must conclude from this analysis that the Siege Issue was not either. Maury (1) has stated the Communards printed a little over 5 million 20-centime stamps. It would seem apparent to us that they did not print any of the Siege Issue. They must have printed the Napoleon Issue despite their dislike of the gentleman.

Fromaigeat (2) also noted he had made a survey of Commune covers in the hands of collectors and found the stamps used were about 50% Cérès and 50% Napoleon. Obviously this differs widely from our results. However, we are sure he knew a lot more about covers in the hands of collectors than we do.

It has been said the post offices outside of Paris were instructed not to accept Paris mail, and one might argue the use of the Siege Issue might be construed to be a sign of Paris

mail. However, this argument is weakened by our observation that two-thirds of the covers in our own collection of outgoing mail has a Paris business logo on the outside.

**Acknowledgments:**

Many thanks are due to several France and Colonies members. To our good-humored editor Bob Stone who kept our article remarkably free of errors and whose prodigious memory gave us the obscure (to philatelists) Parlange reference without which our chapter on Prisoner's Mail would have been much less informative. To John Lievejay who is always the first to spot something that doesn't make sense and for photocopies of several important items. To Ernst Cohn for his translation of a letter written in German script and for being the first to recognize our diplomatic pouch cover for being what it is. To Yvonne Newbury for the photocopy of her diplomatic pouch cover which is a look-alike to ours but is from the Siege Period. To Marc Martin who ensured we had captured the true sense of several journal articles written in French. To Stan Luft and Jeff Bohn for the details on their Commune holdings. To Alain Millet for sharing with us his expertise about New Caledonia as we searched for information about mail to and from this colony. Finally, to Albert Schneider for sharing with us his extensive knowledge about the Commune and for his positive genius in finding what he calls "juicy" items for sale.



**THE CIVIL POSTMARKS OF ALGERIA, 1876-1904**

by Laurence H. Lambert

(cont. of study begun in FCP 222, p. 119)

**Introduction**

The period 1876-1904 was a period of significant activity in Algerian postal history. During the period several hundred new post offices were opened, a large number of offices had their names changed, and several small offices which were no longer needed were closed. At the beginning of the period, there were only four cancel types in use. During this 28-year time span, 26 new cancel types were added.

**The 1875 Plan**

The period began with a plan in 1875 to change the cancel types to show the Department name instead of ALGERIE. The use of the Gros Chiffres was officially discontinued in April, 1876. Its use at most offices ceased at once; at a few, it continued to see some use for a few months or years (Figure 12). Some Algerian GC's were still being used at the Paris Post Office to cancel New Year's greeting cards as late as the 20th century.

The change in the cancels planned in 1875 was slow in becoming a reality in Algeria. Even post offices newly opened during 1876 and 1877 were issued the old cancel types E and E2 (*F&C Philatelist*, October, 1990, p. 113). At several offices these old cancel types continued in use for long periods of time. In at least two instances, they were still in use in 1902, underwent modification, and continued in use a few years longer. Most of the offices eventually received the new cancels, Type G for Recettes and Type H for Distributions (Figure 1). The only differences in these two types from the previous types, E and E2, are the removal of the name ALGERIE and replacement by the Department name, ALGER, CONSTANTINE, or ORAN, and a noticeable, though minor, difference in the size of the outer circle. Cancel Type G is not very difficult to obtain on cover, but cancel Type H is not common.

**The Succursale Types, 1870s**

Soon after the beginning of the period, a new type of post office came into existence. This was the Succursale, a Recette secondary to a Recette Principal. The new Succursales, along with their opening dates, were ORAN-KARGUENTAH, 1877, ALGER-PLACE DU GOUVERNEMENT, 1878, and CONSTANTINE SUCCURSALE, 1879. These new Succursales used cancel Type F (Figure 1), except for Oran-Karguentah which was issued the earlier Type E. Cancel Type F is exactly like Type G, except the Recette name is at the top, the Succursale name is at the bottom, and the department name is not shown. Cancel Type F is a little difficult to obtain on cover.

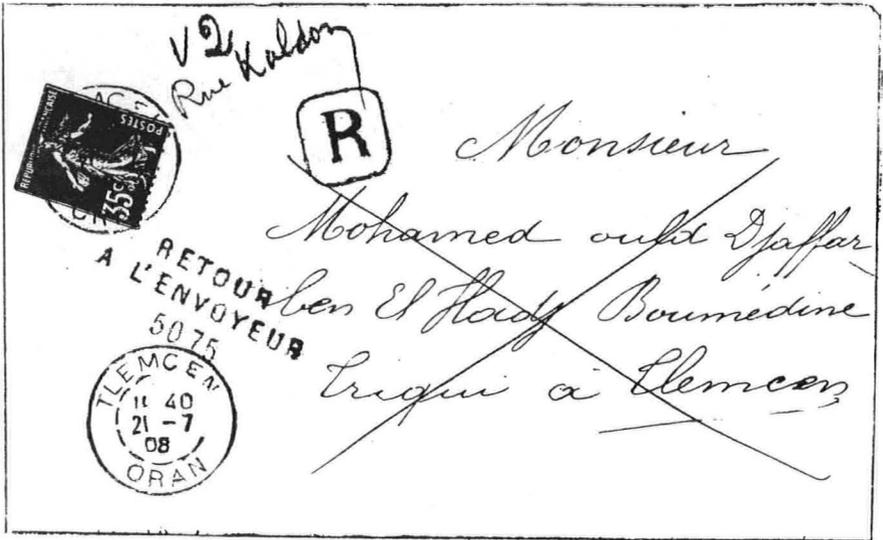


Figure 12. The Gros Chiffres was officially discontinued as a killer cancel in 1876. However, TLEMCEM's GC, 5075, still remained in the RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR cachet, and appeared on the cover illustrated above, in 1908.

Also early in the period there was one unique cancel type used. This was Type S2 (Figure 1), used by the post office at Freneda during the early 1880s. This small double-circle cancel did not carry the Department name.

#### New Recette Types, 1886-1900

Cancel Types J and L (Figure 1) made their appearance in Algeria in 1886. Since 1854 when the Distributions first received a circular cancel, the types for Recettes and Distributions had been exactly alike, except for the additional outer circle of dots for the Distributions. However, with the advent of Type J there is no corresponding type for the Distributions. For Type J, the center dater is similar to previous types beginning with Type E in 1868. The inner circle is made up of short dashes. The new Type L was like the previous Type H, except a little larger, and the outer circle was made up of short dashes rather than dots. Both Type J and Type L used significantly larger lettering, for the first time sans-serif. Type J is easily obtained on cover, but Type L is not obtained so easily.

Type K (Figure 1) was a rather uncommon Recette cancel type used during the same period as Type J. Type K was used by offices which had been issued cancel Type L as a Distribution, and then later promoted to Recette. By removing the outer dashed circle from the canceling device, Type L was modified to make Type K. Indeed, this may have been done in the past with Types C2, E2, and H cancelers, to make Types C, E, and G when Distributions were promoted to Recettes. Type K is known from only about ten offices.

The three Succursales also had a new cancel in 1886, Type I (Figure 1). Type I is exactly like Type J except the Recette name is at the top, the Succursale name is at the bottom, and the department name is not shown. At the time of the change from Type F to Type I the name of CONSTANTINE SUCCURSALE was changed to CONSTANTINE-COUDIAT. A little later, in 1892, the name of another of the Succursales was changed from ALGER-PLACE DU GOUVERNEMENT to ALGER BOURSE. In addition to Type I, one of the Succursales, Oran-Karguentah, also used Type J, with the inscription ORAN-KARGUENTAH/ORAN. This Succursale ceased to exist in 1904, when it was re-named ORAN-PREFECTURE.

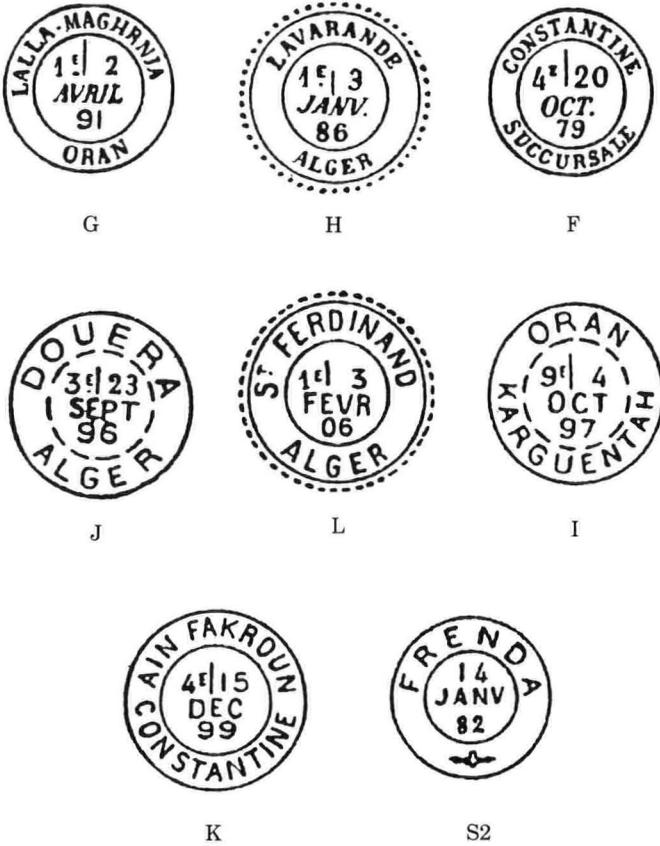


Figure 1. Standard cancel types of Algeria from 1876 up to 1902, except cancel Type O, illustrated in Figure 2.

To bring us fully up to the 20th Century, we must remember that at the beginning of the period, the Distribution Entrepot, an auxiliary bureau that came into existence in 1860, was still using cancel Type S. (See *F&C Philatelist*, October, 1990.) However, as new bureaux continued to come into existence, the size and style of the lettering became much less standardized. Finally, in 1895, auxiliary bureaux began using a new cancel, Type O. Type O is a small hexagonal mark bearing the name of the post office and the Department. The center dater is enclosed within a small circle. There are two variations in the dater, and one of these variations is the same as for the other cancel types of the 1880s and 1890s, which contain the number of the levy of the mails. Langlois and Bourselet may have been unaware that Type O with this particular dater existed, because their Type O is of the second variety, the same as the author's Type O2 (Figure 6). While the author cannot state which variety came first in Algeria, the new Type O is more consistent with the other types of the period. The new cancel Type O is illustrated in Figure 2. It is difficult to obtain on cover.

**The 1902-1904 Changes**

In 1902, a new cancel type for Recettes appeared. This was Type M (Figure 3), which was basically an enlarged Type J with a major change in the dater. On Algerian cancels since 1868, the dater had contained on the first line the number of the levy of the mails, followed by a vertical bar and the day of the month; on the second line the month or month abbreviated, and on the third line the year in two digits. The changed dater had on the first line the time of day, often corrupted or replaced by an asterisk; on the second line the day of the month and the month represented numerically, and on the third line the

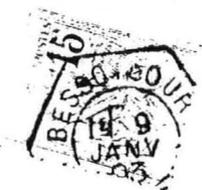
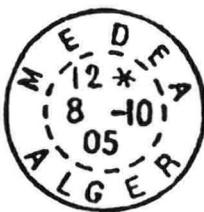


Figure 2. New cancel Type O. The depicted cancel was used at BESSOMBOURG 9 JANV 03. Note that it is a pre-1902 type, with the dater showing the number of the levy of the mails.



G2



M



H2



J2



I2



K2



I2

Figure 3. Cancel types of 1902, except for E3 and E4 which are illustrated in *F&CP* of October, 1990.

year in two digits. Thus, the center dater now had, for the first time, an all-numeral display. Cancel Type M was issued to only about 25 Recettes. At some of these offices, notably Medea, it was used into the 1940s. Type M may be easily obtained on cover.

Also in 1902, or soon after, most of the cancelers in use in Algeria had the center dater modified to be like Type M. This did not occur at once. (See Figure 4 for late usage of cancel Type J, and Figure 1 for a late example of Type L.) Because of the 1902 modifications we have an abundance of new cancel types, including E3, E4, G2, H2, I2, J2, K2, and L2. Type I2 was for the Succursales, Types E3, H2, and L2 were for the Distributions, and the other four were for Recettes. Cancel types of 1902 are illustrated in Figure 3.

Type E3 (*F&C Philatelist*, October 1990, p. 113) has been documented for a single office, Duquesne. It is possible that another office or two used this type, but not very likely, since Type E and its variations were obsolete long before. Type H2 was used by several of the Distributions. Type L2 was the type used by most Distributions between 1902 and 1904, and for a few years thereafter. As time moved on, usage of Type L2 became less and less, but usage as late as 1943 is known (Figure 5). Perhaps evidence of later usage exists.

For the Recettes, Type E4 (*F&C Philatelist*, October 1990, p. 113), like E3 of the Distributions, has been documented for a single office only, Bordj Menaiel. Type G2, another modification of an obsolete cancel type, was not used by very many offices, Type K2, recorded at only two offices, one of which is doubtful, is uncommon. Type J2 was the most common Recette cancel type for a few years after 1902, due partially to a restricted issuance of Type M cancelers. Though some of these cancels continued in usage at several bureaux for a few years, they may all be considered as obsolete types after the postal reorganization of 1904. Nevertheless, Type J2 is known to have been used as late as 1938, and probably later usage exists. (See Figure 5 for an example of usage of J2 in 1933.) Type I2 for the Succursales is likewise common, and was used into the 1930s by at least one office, Constantine-Coudiat.

Late in the period there came into usage four sub-types, three of which have not been previously fitted into Langlois and Bourselet's classification scheme. These are Types I3, J3, L3, and O2. These types all have the center dater made up of three lines, containing the day, the month or month abbreviated, and the year in two digits. This particular dater was not commonly used in Algeria, and it differentiates these sub-types from the basic types, I, J, L, and O, as well as from all other sub-types. Examples of the three new types, I3, J3, and L3 which have been seen by the author date between 1902 and 1908. Type O2 existed until about 1920, so there may be examples of the other types after 1910. These four cancel types are illustrated in Figure 6.

There were some minor variations within the individual cancel types used during the period. The components of the dater were replaceable, which occasionally led to a mixing of the styles of lettering used in the dater, or to a dater with a lettering style inconsistent with that of the post office and Department names. Two examples of these variations are depicted in Figure 7. Such atypical cancels have not been given a separate classification, because, for the most part, they have not been identified or documented for Algeria.



Figure 4. An example of late usage of a cancel type of 1886. This cancel, Type J (TOUGGOURT 20 MARS 06), escaped modification in 1902, and continued to carry the number of the levy of the mails and the name of the month, rather than a numerical representation.

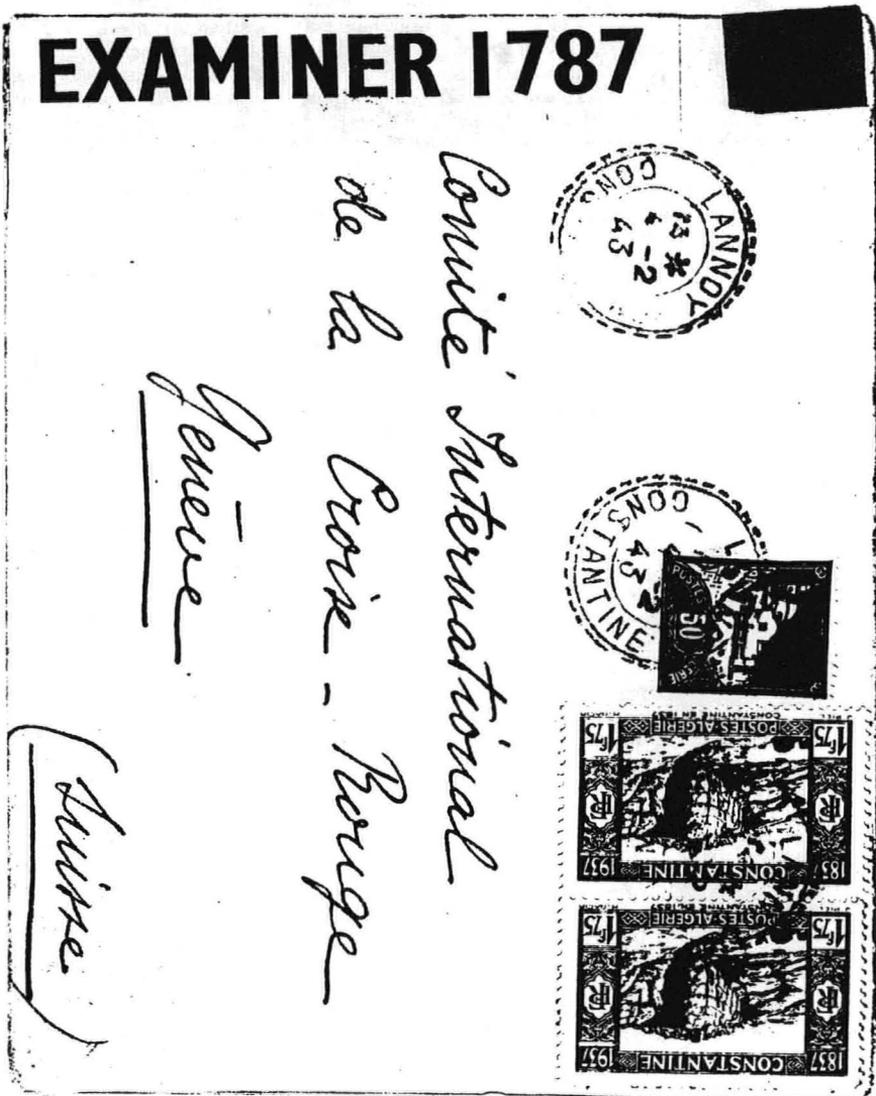


Figure 5. Example of very late usage of cancel types of 1902. Type L2 used at LANNOY in 1943.

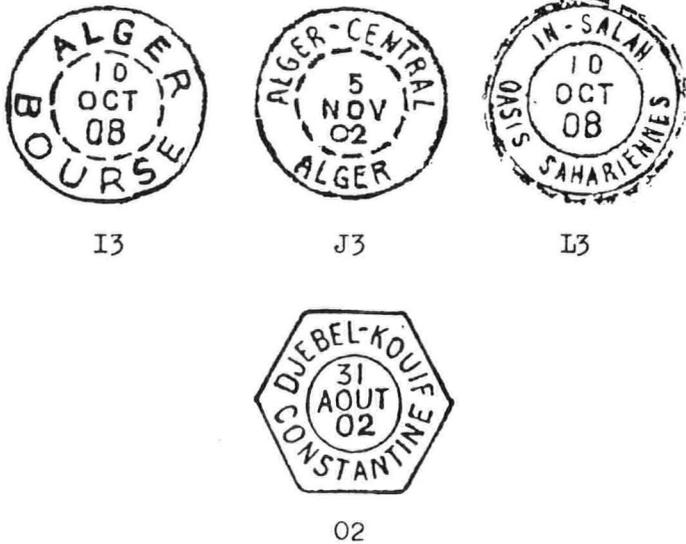


Figure 6. Cancel types classified by the author, except for Type O2. Type O2 is the same as L & B's Type O.



Figure 7. Cancels not true to standard type. Shown are a late Type G cancel of LALMA with the month shown in vertical sans-serif letters, and an early Type J cancel of MOSTAGANEM with the month in slant letters with serifs. Compare with standard types shown in Figure 1.

**Special Services Cancels**

Special services cancels, initiated with the BOITE MOBILE cancel depicted in Figure 4, *F&C Philatelist* of October, 1990, were extended during the period 1876-1904. Whereas the earliest of these resembled cancel Type C, a new BOITE MOBILE cancel is known, which resembles Type G. In addition, the Recettes Principal, at least Alger and Constantine, were issued special cancels for special services usage. Thus we have CHARGEMENTS ALGER and AFFRANCHTS CONSTANTINE on cancels resembling standard types. These services cancels are classified as Types U and T, with the difference in the dater. Type U, the older type, which was used before 1886, has a dater with slant letters and serifs; Type T has vertical sans-serif characters. Other service types are V and V2, from late in the period. Langlois and Bourselet's Type W is considered by this author not to fit within a services classification. It is the same as Type J. Services cancel types, along with the new BOITE MOBILE cancel, are illustrated in Figure 8.

### The Oases and Military Regions

During the period 1876-1904, most of the post offices established in Algeria were the result of internal population growth, rather than territorial expansion. From the early 1870s through 1890, Algeria was peaceful. In 1891, a move was made toward the occupation of the oases of the Sahara, beginning with El Golea. At this time, the three established departments extended only a little beyond the Atlas Mountains. The major part of Algeria, which was undeveloped, was administered militarily, as the Territoires du Sud (Figure 9). As occupation of the oases began, the newly occupied towns were not immediately assigned to one of the three departments; so the postmarks, though they were civil types, had no department name. Instead the name of one of the four military regions, SUD ORANAIS, EXTREME SUD ORANAIS, SUD ALGERIEN, or OASIS SAHARIENNES, was inscribed on the cancel. Figure 10 illustrates some examples of cancels bearing these inscriptions. Figure 11 illustrates two military covers of the period, one of which was mailed at one of these occupied oases.

Cancels bearing military region inscriptions have not been separately classified in this article, since to do so would require several new sub-types. At some locations the above inscriptions continued in use for several years. Probably all had been replaced by about 1911. The occupation of the oases was completed in 1906.

It is impressive that of the approximately 1,400 post offices, including name changes, that existed in Algeria at one time or another during the 132 years of the French administration, nearly half were established during the 28-year period 1876-1904. It is also significant that half of Algeria's cancel types, 1830-1962, were in use during this 28-year time span. Much more study and documentation of the cancel types used by individual post offices during this period are needed.

Having gone through a period of rapid growth and change, the Algerian post office system was to be reorganized in 1904, and undergo a long period of stability. Thus, 1904 may be considered as the end of a middle period in Algerian postal history.

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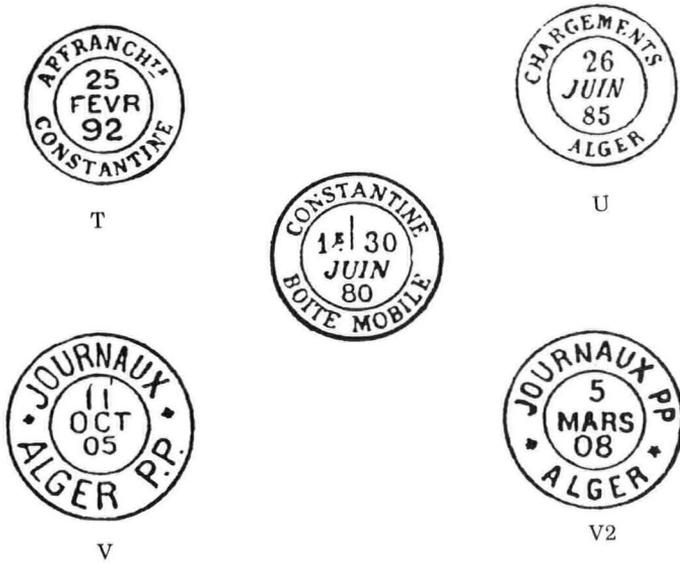
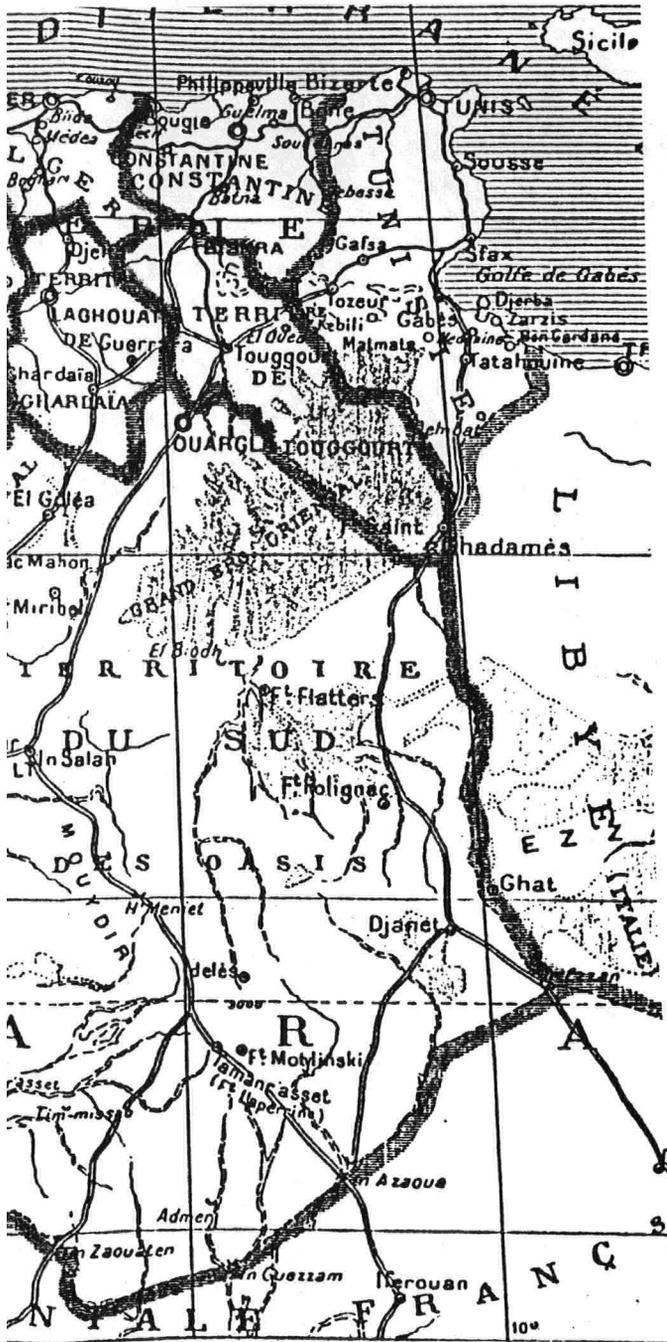


Figure 8. Services cancel types and BOITE MOBILE cancel.



Figure 10. Examples of cancels having regional names (oases) instead of department names.







Figures 11a and 11b. Two military covers of the period of the occupation of the oases, from the collection of the late Seymour Lauren, friend of the author. The top cover bears a Type L cancel from DJENIEN-BOU-REZG, an important base, dated 1901. The other has a Type L cancel of BENI-ABBES EXTREME SUD ORANAIS, dated 1904. Also present are almost unreadable cachets, TROUPES DU TIDIKELT - REGION D'IN-SALAH, and on the top cover an administrative cachet, OASIS SAHARIENNES.



## BILL WAUGH--A LONG FRIENDSHIP IN STAMPS

The following remembrances by Bill Olcheski, well-known philatelic writer, are excerpted from his column in the November American Philatelist.

One of the nicest benefits you gain from being a stamp collector is the lifelong friendships you develop with other collectors. The full impact of such a benefit never hits home until the friendship ends with the loss of a "stamp buddy."

Bill Waugh was my stamp buddy until his death on August 29. Perhaps his death should not have come as a shock to me as he had been seriously ill for some time. But, when the time came, it hit me like a bunch of stamp albums toppling down from a high shelf.

For more than thirty years Bill and I worked with stamps and shared our stamp adventures. He was the one who started me in stamp collecting and, for that I shall be forever in his debt.

The story began in 1953 when I was a patient in a military hospital recuperating from a long illness. My boredom grew as the days stretched into weeks and the weeks into months. I searched frantically for something that would occupy my time and challenge my imagination. I found the answer in a tiny ad in a civilian publication circulated among military personnel. The ad offered a packet of worldwide stamps for a couple of bucks from somebody named Bill Waugh.

I stuck my two bucks in an envelope and the order was on its way. It was the best stamp investment I ever made.

After the initial purchase Bill and I began to correspond. He was very patient in answering my questions and luring me deeper into stamp collecting. I did not know what he did for a living, nor did I particularly care. After you have been around stamp collectors for a while you will understand this kind of camaraderie. It makes it possible to leave our everyday world and find adventure and friendship in stamps and in the people who collect them.

When I left the Air Force, I went to work for the Army Times Publishing Company. Imagine my surprise when I found that Bill worked for the same company as a writer. We became good friends. As our friendship grew, so did our shared interest in stamps. I truthfully can say that Bill taught me all that I know about stamps. Unfortunately, he didn't teach me all that he knew about them. However, as we spent more time together working on collections and mixtures, I learned by listening, watching, and asking questions--the same secret formula I recommend to all beginning collectors.

Bill had a head start on learning about stamps. As a young boy in Cleveland, Ohio, he apprenticed himself to a local stamp dealer. Bill would soak and sort for the dealer and take his pay in stamps.

In later years he worked closely with several dealers in the Washington, D.C. area and he delighted in sharing stories about those days.

One of his favorite stories was about a collector who came into the shop about once a week armed with a large magnifying glass, a small stamp budget, and a grumpy disposition. He would spend hours looking over the stamps in the albums until he found a perfect copy of the stamp he wanted. One day when he found one priced at twenty-five cents he asked the dealer if he had a slightly damaged copy that could be bought for less money. The shop owner pondered

the question for a minute, then took a pair of scissors, snipped a corner off of the stamp, and said, "Take it for a dime."

This same stamp dealer had been allowing a group of local "stamp lookers" to meet at his shop. After about a year he made his first sale to a member of the group, who bought a pack of hinges. "That's it," the dealer said, "if you are going to turn these meetings into a commercial venture I'm afraid I can't let you meet here anymore."

For some years Bill and I shared a table at local stamp shows. At one of the shows we both got pretty hungry and realized that no food was available on the premises. We sent my youngest son to the local Chinese carry-out to bring back some wonton soup. When he returned with two containers but no spoons, we fished the noodles out with our stamp tongs. Another fringe benefit of stamp collecting that you probably have overlooked.

When Bill and I went out to appraise or buy a collection, he would start at one end of the accumulation and I at the other. When we each had covered the same ground, we would put our estimates on a piece of paper and exchange notes. We recently bought a \$900 collection on which our estimates were four dollars apart.

At stamp shows, Bill always carried a stack of envelopes of material he had accumulated for his "special" customers. As near as I could figure out, that meant anyone who had ever bought a stamp from him.

Bill was an inveterate counter. He would sift through the three-cent box and then ask if I knew that there were 3,274 stamps in the box. When he worked in his garden, he even counted the peas and beans as he planted them.

I guess all of this counting was a reflection of his research skills. For many years he served as a political researcher working with national committees. He also did extensive research on his collection of French railway cancellations and wrote several scholarly monographs about them for the France and Colonies Society.

After Bill's mother died he lived alone in an old house he had shared with her. The neighborhood has developed into an area of expensive homes. Although he could afford to do so, Bill never made changes in the house. Many of the inside walls are lined with shelves full of books, many of them dealing with the history of Virginia, the United States, and France. He read extensively. He was fun to argue with or question about history. He was proud of his degree from Yale and his extensive knowledge showed that his time at the university had not been wasted.

Bill is gone now, returned to his beloved Cleveland where he was buried near the lake that held so many happy childhood memories for him.

My only regret is that I did not get to know him sooner so that I could have enjoyed more years of his friendship. Look around your stamp club. Perhaps you will be lucky enough to find a friend such as Bill. If you find one, it will greatly increase your enjoyment of our hobby.

## AMERICANS IN FRENCH INTERNMENT CAMPS WW II

Derek Richardson, editor of the *Journal of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society* (G.B.) has been publishing a series of studies on French Internment Camp mail. His next Chapter is to be on "Camps for British and American Civilians." He has struck a fairly rich vein of information in the British Foreign Office dossiers of the period, but has very little to go on as far as U.S. civilians are concerned, so he is appealing to our readers for help. He writes:

"Let me explain. When the U.S.A. entered the war at the end of 1941, U.S. citizens resident in France (mostly in the Paris area) had to register as enemy aliens. About 300 men were rounded up straight away and put in a camp at Compiègne (Oise). There was a second and larger round-up in September 1942, including women this time. I think the men joined their compatriots at Compiègne but I have no details. The women were interned at Vittel (Doubs) where they joined the larger contingent of British women who were already there.

"Now, because Vittel was an Anglo-American camp, I have precise statistics from F.O. sources in the form of reports of inspections by International Red Cross officials, and others, but naturally the F.O. has nothing on Compiègne because there were no Brits there. I have only some sparse information gleaned from a search of the *New York Times*.

"Can you readers please point me in the direction of any published information, philatelic and non-philatelic, about American civilian internees in Occupied France during WW II, and in particular about Compiègne?" Thanks.

--DJR, 18 Fairford Ave., Luton, LU27ER England

## \*\*\*\*\* NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS \*\*\*\*\*

- "Catalogue des Timbres Fiscaux Locaux et Speciaux de France." Soc. Fr. de Philatélie Fiscale, c/o Roger Coudrin, SFPF, 4 Sq. du Roi Arthur, 38000 Rennes (Complements the Yvert et Tellier Catalogue of Timbres Fiscaux, 1990).
- "Catalogue des Envelopes de Premier Jour 1990-91" 31st ed., 366 pp. Eds. Farcigny. (Sold by Yvert et Tellier at 160F). (Covers Monaco, Andorre, T.O.M., D.O.M. as well as France, classified thematically).
- "L'Impression des Timbres Françaises par les Rotatives," Vol. 2, (Pt. II issues to 1950, Pt. III issues 1950-55, announced previously), Pt. IV issues 1955-59. 114 pp. Sept. 1990, 60F from SOCODAMI, c/o R. Coudrin, 19 Ave. Alsace-Lorraine, 22000 St. Briec.
- "Catalogue Cérès France 1991." Cérès, 22 Rue du Louvre, 75041, Paris. For sale by many dealers.
- "Catalogue Yvert et Tellier 1991, France, Andorre, Europa, Monaco, and U.N.," 75F paper bd. Contains the Catalogue des Timbres Fiscaux et Sociaux, and a Supplement of Selection des Lettres Rare 1853-60. (The Vol. 2 with stamps of Colonies, etc. is due out this year.)
- "La Belle Epoque, les Années 1900 par La Carte Postale." By S. Zeyons, 1990, 240 pp, 400 illustr., 230F, publ. by Larousse.
- "Catalogue des Cachets Courriers Convoyeurs Lignes 1877-1966." By V. Pothion, 90 pp, 165F ppd, 1990. From Poste aux Lettres, 17 Faubg. Montmartre, 75009 Paris.
- "Poinçons de l'Histoire," Vol. IV, "Inventeurs, Savants, et Mediciens." Musée de la Poste, Dec. 1990. In 2 parts, 95 personalities shown, by die impressions of unissued designs, proofs in colors, with text. Continuation of series, Tomes I-III previously listed in FCP and are still available. Musée de la Poste, Service Commerciale, 34 Blvd. Vaugirard, 75731 Paris, Cédex 15. 680F + 15F postage.
- "Les Moyens de Recommandation Provisoires en Alsace-Lorraine 1945-1949." By André Peine. 1990. 170 pp, 450F, Assoc. des Spécialistes en Marques Postales d'Alsace-Lorraine, B.P. 4, 67381 Lingolsheim Cédex.

## CURRENT JOURNAL ARTICLES

With this installment we end this Department which has been running since 1964. Its preparation has been onerous and we have not had indications that it is much referred to by our members and others. Meanwhile a similar project has been started by Colin Spong in the Journal of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society (G.B.) and we do not feel duplication by us is justified. We will continue the New Book listings.

### Le Monde des Philatelistes

- #435, Nov. 1989: Joffre: "TAAF"; "Projets de Marianne"; "Sinistrés de la Guadeloupe"; D.B.: "Petain"; Calves: "Faux Petain d'Intelligence Services"; Michon: "Sudan Fr., demi-siècle de Variétés"; Joffre: "Usage de timbres poste déjà servi"; "Rêves en bleue."
- #436, Dec. 1989: "Le Marianne de Briat"; "Expertise de 1F Philatec 1964"; "Contrefaçon empreintes LSA, GAPA."
- #437, Jan. 1990: "Institut éloge d'Albert Décaris"; Altériet: "Variétés 2.30 Marianne de Briat"; Trasaert: "La Révolution de 1778, les carnets d'essai de la Confect #9"; Joffre: "Polaires"; Storch: "Napoleon III essais en relief."
- #438, Feb. 1990: "Expertise sur faux 2.30F Mariannes de Briat"; Crane: "Polaires."
- #439, March 1990: Altériet: "Les carnets autocollants 2.30F de Marianne de Briat"; Altériet: "Liberté "C" "; Buffier: "De Gaulle"; Calves: "Faux de Gaulle."
- #440, April 1990: "Renault" (topical); "Carnets et Publicité"; "ONU et la Philatélie"; "33 lest ambulants ferroviaires"; Prugnon: "Bordeaux de vaguemestre Yokohama à Marseille 1923"; Joffre: "Faux oblitérations et surcharges"; Altériet: "Les Mariannes-carnets autocollants"; Janot: "Perforés."
- #441, April 1990: "P.J. Andreotti dedicacés à Marigny"; Altériet: "Vars, Liberté et Marianne de Briat"; Joffre: "Dome C base Fr. au Antarctique"; Marziano: "Gare aux faux impressions à sec (Liberté)"; Joffre: "Quel propriétaire? expéditeur ou destinée"; Calves et Jacquart: "Expertise-Fezzan surcharge Juin 1943."
- #442, June 1990: "Andreotto artiste multimedia"; Prugnon: "L'Apparition des Boites aux Lettres privées (1853)"; Joffre: "Droits de reproduction, Loi 11 Mai 1857."
- #443, July-Aug. 1990: Duran: "Facteurs en vélo"; Monchicourt: "Affranchissements coupés 1849-71"; Morey: "La taxe sur vélocipèdes"; De la Méttrie: "Bleu, blanc, rouge-affranchies n'est pas timbrer"; Crane: "TAAF"

### Timbroscopie

- #55, Feb. 1989: "La Bastille sur série fleuve du cent cinq. 1789-1799"; "Le dix années qui ont bouleversé la Poste"; Le 50c Semeuse lignée rouge, roi de carnets"; "Guerre des tarifs à Monaco"; "Madagascar derniers provisoires et affranchissements de fortune"; "Les enveloppes racontent leur histoire."
- #56, March 1989: "1943-44 Marianne débarque en Corse"; Melot: "Toute l'histoire des Bordeaux, tout sur leurs nuances de couleur"; "Variétés de Monaco"; Blanchais: "Transports Aériens Guyanais (TAG)-les papillons le plus rares de Guyane"; Salanne: "Les semi-modernes de France seuls sur lettres"; Salanne: "Les autographes célèbres de la Révolution."
- #57, April 1989: Melot: "France tête bêche-une collection unique réunie au complet"; Melot: "Marianne de Muller, huit timbres, deux surcharges et une myriade d'entiers"; Salanne: "Un lecteur découvre la République du Seni"; Salanne: "Les marques postales de la Révolution."
- #58, May 1989: Melot: "France les bloc-feuillets, timbres et documents des expositions internationales"; Melot: "Les types Iris"; Charrette: "Le Général de Gaulle de Londres à Paris"; Salanne: "Les marques postales des Armées de la Révolution"; Charrette: "Polynésie, la folie des vignettes"; Salanne: "Monaco les blocs princiers."
- #61, Sept. 1989: "Algérie en Zoumaroff collection"; Salanne: "Comment est né le bloc de l'année (Bicenten.)."

- #62, Oct. 1989: Storch et Francon: "Les timbres en Types Blanc (I)"; Salanne et Beslu: "Bora Bora"; "Scandale en Polynésie"; "TAAF sac postale tombe en mer."
- #63, Nov. 1989: Bartoli: "La folle histoire du royaume de Sedang"; Storch et Fr.: "Type Blanc (II)"; Salanne: "1975 Scandale politique-philatélique au Laos"
- #64, Dec. 1989: "Type Blanc (III)"; Melot et Omar: "Collection Clouzel de Côte d'Ivoire"; Salanne: "Courrier des Chantiers de Jeunesse"; Salanne: "Thermalisme sans rouge-var. ou timbre type?"
- #65, Jan. 1990: Storch et Fr.: "La Liberté"; Salanne: "Non-émis Marianne d'Excofon"; Melot: "Communes de Paris"; Melot: "Les lithos de Mon Moulin."
- #66, Feb. 1990: "Nouveau tarifs"; Storch et Fr. cont.; Melot: "1.50 Expo Intern. de 1937"; Melot: "Sénégal 1817-92"; Very: "NCE--faux provisoires"; Salanne: "Dernier traces de présence Française en Chine"; Janot: "5 tons courrier sous le loupe"; Salanne/Brun: "Préparatés de Marianne."
- #67, March 1990: Storch et Fr. cont.; Storch: "Cartes postales précurseurs"; Beslu et Salanne: "Makatea."
- #68, April 1990: "Dix ans de Liberté en variétés"; Melot: "Les grandes formats de 1920-50."

### Journal of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society (G.B.)

- #173, Sept. 1989: Richardson cont.; Reader: "50th anniv. of Agde Camp"; West: "Red X le petite timbre tricolore"; Bister cont. (art. on standards of literature judges): "Delayed by fire on train."
- #174, Dec. 1989: Mitchell: "War time Jour de l'An in Cameroun"; Bellack: "Former Fr. Col. in North America, Nouvelle France"; West: "Red X expedition des Dardanelles"; Bister cont.: "Jeanne d'Arc stamp"; Richardson cont.; Spong: "Madagascar bogus stamp"; Stenning: "Dahomey fiscal postally used."
- #175, March 1990: Bidmead: "Postal service of Gd. Duchy of Berg"; Richardson: "The 50c Sower story"; Reader: "Detained in France during G. Ascap--story behind the cachet"; Blanc: "Type Duval issue 1882-4, 1842"; Bister cont.: "50c J. d'Arc"; Richardson: "Postal tariffs of 11 Jan. 1990."
- #176, June 1990: Hitchen: "Lozenge cancels of Paris 1852-63"; Storch et Fr.: "More on Sowers"; Stuckey: "Siege of St. Nazaire"; Richardson: "Barcelona forgery of 50c Paix"; Jones: "People on French stamps (addendum)!"

### Documents Philatéliques

- #121, 3rd Trim 1989: Pothion: "Les jetons-monnaie"; Fillinger: "La Gde Armée de 1804-1814"; Bridoux: "Sauvée des eaux, sauvée du feu"; Cappart: "La nuit du 4 Aout 1789"; Millet: "Cartes postaux précurseurs des colonies"; Thouvignon: "Relations entre d'Admin. de Poste et les compagnies chemin de fer 1823-1845"; Alexandre: "Courrier du Pacifique per l'isthmus de Panama"; Millet: "Correspondance et oblitérations de Mayotte et NSB."
- #122, 4th Tr. 1989: Blanc: "Timbres poste demonetoses 1944-47"; Domenech: "Savoie 1792-1860 de la Révolution à l'Annexion"; Bergier: "Poste maritime pré-philatélique du XV au XIX siècle"; Lux: "Les avatars d'une lettre au début de 1917"; Mayeur: "Contribution au planchage du 25c Cérés Type I"; Blanc: "Le 40c chiffre taxe bleu"; Gobillet: "Retours et rébutés de Paris 1828-1876"; Granit: "Congo Française affranchissement de fortune"; Perrin: "Timbre d'essai de Fevr. 1828."
- #123, 1st Tr. 1990: Bridoux: "Convoyeurs stations"; Alexandre: "Courrier d Pacifique par l'Ist. de Panama" (cont.); Hosteau: "Ler voyage de l'Euphrate"; Comenech (cont.); Noel: "Europe--paquebot Française"; Desarnaud: "L'Affaire de courrier d'Ecuville."
- #124, 2nd Tr. 1990: Alexandre (cont.); Malévergne: "Précurseurs des imprimés sans adresse"; Schroeder: "Affranchissement insuffisants taxés par timbres-taxe carrés"; Cappart: "Papillons de Metz"; Desarnaud: "Les Expres"; Noel: "Voie de Etats Unis"; Guigues: "Post clandestine de Triel"; Thouvignon: "Poste fluviale."

- #125, 3rd Tr. 1990: Rachou: "Sects. et Comités Revolutionnaires de Vallee-Affranchie"; Proust: "Utilisation de Gerbes timbres-taxe"; Najoux: "Bons de poste"; Rykner: "Cartes télégraphiques du Service Sanitaire"; Noël: "Paquebots d'Atlantique Sud"; Lissarague: "Emploi Après de Depart"; Cappart: "Correspondance par ballon Jules Leveille"; Desarnaud (cont.); Blancher: "Fin du Comté de Nice 1860."

### Le Collectionneur Philatliste et Marcophile

- #34, Oct. 1989: Blanc: "La taxe de 5Fr double trait"; Mathieu: "Ambulance de la Guerre 1914-18"; Mience: "Les Tobareau Dirs. de Poste à Lyon"; Charbonnier: "Siège de Belfort--lettres par passeurs et par ballons"; Charbonnier: "La Vallée d'Arpe--Bur. de poste et MOBS (LSA); Camboulives: "Carte des routes de Pau l'An 8"; Charbonnier: "Liberté sur jaune vif"; "Routes P. de l'Ain."
- #35, 1st Tr. 1990: Camboulives: "Cachets d'Ambulant repairs"; Carnévale-Mauzan: "La poste rurale en France"; Mience: "Lyon et les origines de sa poste"; Guiraud-Darmais: "Etude du Bureau de Poste dans Princ. de Monaco."

### Bulletin de l'Assoc. COLFRA

- #50, 2nd Tr. 1990: Mathieu: "Madagascar"; Bouerat: "Sénégal Arrêtés; Sénégal poste 1817-53"; Bilhaut: "Cachets Kerguelen Résidence de France"; Payen: "Inini"; Brun: "Côte d'Ivoire."
- #42, 2nd Tr. 1988: Bouerat: "Sénégal Décret Imp"; "Polynésie timbres de service"; Desrousseau (cont.); Desnos: "Madagascar les marques recommandés des origines à 1958."
- #45, 1st Tr. 1989: Desnos: "Madagascar le timbre Repcot"; Bouerat: "Gorée, Dakar et Senegal"; Favrel et Drye: "Madagascar début de la poste"; Potot: "Oblitérations de Madagascar et Dep."

### Feuilles Marcophiles

- #258, 3rd Tr. 1989 (July): Tristant: "Le dessert postale du Sénégal par la voie d'Angleterre"; Tristant: "Les taxes territoriales coloniales du Sénégal et Gorée et à St. Louis 1843-53 et les marques locales 50c de Gorée 1845-53"; Nory: "Les boites mobiles de Rouen"; Cappart: "Un PP de fortune 1870"; Pouey: "La poste dans les Hautes Pyrenées au travers de monographies commandes de 1887"; Floch: "Combinaison cachet a date et marque lineaire de PP 1830-31"; Cappart: "Bureaux de la Seine rattaché à RP Paris"; Lamar: "Lescale toulonnaise des paquebots de l'Orient Line"; Charbonnier: "Annulation d'indexation à l'aide de la machine à affranchir SECAP"; Cuny-Delwaille: "Paris aviation"; Cuny-Delwaille: "Cachets manuels de RP Paris Mars 1876"; Raynal: "Nouveaux cachets taxes"; Lebrun: "Plis de vol Fr. que n'était pas dans le LFV."
- #259, Oct. 1989: Seguy: "Envoi en grand nombre d'un imprime au 1860"; "Erreurs et anomalies"; Seguy: "Corps d'Obs. de la Gironde"; Cappart: "Lettres par ballon"; Charbonnier: "Les bureau de semaphores"; Delwaille: "Nouvelle cachet Type 23"; Godof: "Le Comité du Douai 1944-46"; Barriquand et Sabara: "Entier aeropostal au type Petain"; Bournique: "Lettres d'Alsace avant 1 Mars 1945"; Perruchon: "Relations postales pendant le Siège de la Rochelle 1944-45."
- #260, 1st Tr. 1990: Triponey: "Convention entre l'office G.P. de France at l'office de Neuchatel 23 Juin 1828"; Montpellier: "Premier marques postales de Sénégal/Gorée"; Noël: "Taxe locale par défaut"; De la Métrie: "Le fraud a Caen"; Gautier (cont.); Perruchon (cont.)

\*\*\*\*\*  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS**  
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► On 8 Dec. the 5.00F "Jaune et Gris" painting of Roger Bissière appeared; on 15 Dec. 3.20F for 30th anniv. of the Organ. de Coopération et de Développement Economique; on 22 Dec. the 2.30 + 0.20F Sant Courcheval (Olympic games '92); on 29 Dec. the 2.30 + 0.20F Ski de Vitesse Demo Test area (Olympic games '92); on 19 Jan. the 2.30 + 0.20F Slalom Les Menuières (Olympic games '92). Special FD cacheted and cancelled envelopes will be sold at 15F for the Olympic games issues, and a bloc of 4 of each at 30F.

► The new pre-cancels were incompletely described in the Oct. FCP--two stamps in the musical instruments designs had been issued already in 1989: a 2.90F trumpet and 4.84F violin--these are still in use; but added to them new in Sept. 1990 were: 1.93F harp, 2.39F piano, and 2.74F violin, and also the 4 values listed in the Oct. *F&C Philatelist*. These stamps were designed by Charles Bridoux, printed in offset.

► The PTT is cooperating with the Japanese Ministry of Posts in its World prize competition for 4 designs for stamps, the deadline for submitting designs is 31 May.

► For Andorre, on 23 Oct. was issued the triptyque 2.30 + 3.20F for General de Gaulle.

► For Monaco, on 8 Oct. stamps for the four seasons, 3, 4, 5, and 6F; on 17 Oct. a 500F for birthday of Tchaikovsky, 7F painting "La Pié," and 5F Rodin's "La Cathédrale."



► For St. Pierre-Miquelon, on 18 Oct. a large format stamp of view of St. Pierre, 16.85F; 17 Dec. 2.30F children's design for Christmas; 24 Dec. a postal card with effigy of General de Gaulle 2.30F face but sold at 2.50F; on 21 Jan. a 2.50F butterfly stamp.

► For Polynesia, 2 Sept. 2.60F Cent. of General de Gaulle; on 21 Sept. 8, 10 and 12F women wearing pareos.

► For New Caledonia, on 6 Sept. a 50F in the current Cagou design; 17 Oct. "le Monde des Profondeurs"; 29 Oct. 85F Conf. du Pacifique Sud; 7 Nov. 105 and 120F flora of NCE.

► For Wallis and Futuna, 16 Oct. Journée du Timbre 97F.





► The Stamp Program for Andorre in 1991 has been announced:

- 1) Europa, on space theme: Satellite TV direct TDF1, and an astronomical observatory.
- 2) Andorran Patrimony: Petite amboules from tombes of St. Vincenc d'Enclar.
- 3) Touristic: Chapelle de Sant Roma dels Vilars.
- 4) Commem. and divers: Champ. du monde de Petanque; Jeux des Petits Etats de Europe, Bicent. de Mozart's death.
- 5) Nature: Le Mouton, La vache pyreneenne
- 6) Art: Vierge de Sant Julia i Sant Germn.

► The Christ from a painted-glass window of the monastery de St. Pierre et St. Paul at Wissembourg, shown on the 5.00F stamp recently issued, is in a style from the 9th Century, one of the oldest preserved in Europe, though this example was done in a technique of the 11th Century when the monastery was built.

► The painting of Bissière titled "Jaune et Gris" reproduced on the 5.00F stamp of Dec. 8 is of 1950, in the period when he had returned to painting after years of teaching and writing about art. He had become more and more influenced by the post-cubists. He preached "the more you get back to the essential forms: cube, triangle, cone, pyramid, cylinder, circle, etc., the more your work will be expressive." Later worked on tableaux and tapestries made by his wife. His late work tries to express reality more by suggestion than representation. On the stamp, we see two connected panes on a luminous background showing great color harmonies in symbols and spaces of a grilled structure.

► The postmaster of Figeac (Dept. of Lot, 46,100 Cédex) had considerable demand for booklets from passing tourists, but his repeated orders for a supply of booklets had not been filled. So he created his own booklets without any authorization or approval from his superiors. He had yellow booklet covers copied by a local printer in the standard PTT style and fitted into the panes of 10 stamps taken from regular printed stock sheets, thus some panes with imperf margins, sold at 23F. But he now has a stock of his booklets left which he cannot sell because in October the PTT changed the logo on the booklet covers. Meanwhile no reaction from the higher administrators.

► Several of the stamp firms which have resided on Rue Drouot (the Nassau St. of Paris) for some years have recently moved their offices to other parts of town, causing some people to wonder if Rue Drouot was dying. However, other firms have been moving to Rue Drouot so things are balancing out. Two of the firms leaving are old establishments like Theodore Champion and Image Document. Those that have moved do not find it caused loss of business.

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## F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

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### President's Letter

INTERPEX '91 will be held at Madison Square Garden in New York on March 14-17, 1991. As usual, the Society will have a booth, and we urge all our members to stop by. A group of us will go out to dinner Thursday evening; if you wish to join us, either stop at the booth by the middle of the afternoon, or contact Ed Grabowski in advance. There was no admission charge at National '90, and I expect that will also be true at INTERPEX '91. Watch the philatelic press for an official announcement. At our regular meeting on March 5, we will be signing up volunteers to man the Society's booth. Anyone who is interested in helping out: please contact me at P.O. Box 99, Greendell, NJ 07839 (Tel. 201-383-7591).

Every year we hold the Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibit. The formal announcement and entry form will be included in the April Philatelist. Each entry is limited to two frames, and all members are encouraged to participate. If you have never exhibited before, this is the time to start. You only need to prepare two frames of material (36 pages of normal size), and you can be assured that your exhibit will be critiqued by people who are knowledgeable in French philately, and experienced in exhibiting at all levels.

### 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 7, 1991, at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, NY.

### Meeting of 4 September

The meeting began on a sad note with the recent deaths of fellow philatelists Bill Waugh, Phil Robbins and Lynn Warm-Griffiths noted by President Stevens. In a happier vein, Dick mentioned that Lou Robbins has sold 43 copies of our publication, *The Bordeaux Issue*.

Peter Robertson, an old friend from the Foundation, joined us this evening to present some of the Foundation's reference holdings from the Liechtenstein Collection and the Luff Reference Collection. With regard to the former, Liechtenstein purchased the former Worthington Collection in 1917 for about \$400,000 and his daughter, Louise Boyd Dale, eventually got portions of the French Colonies material. After she died in 1968, the better items went to auction, with the remainder going to the Foundation.

The General Issues, Guadeloupe and Martinique were presented, with the emphasis on stamps, their varieties and fakes. The material is supplemented by photos and notes.

Peter closed by mentioning that henceforth, and only with the submitter's authorization, material determined to be fake by the APS or the Foundation would be so marked.

--Ed Grabowski

### Meeting of 6 November

It was yours truly at the podium tonight, to discuss application of a computer data base to stamp and postal history collections. I am not a computer specialist, but rather what is termed in the trade as an "end user," so my interests are not in details of the hardware or software, but just in practical applications to the problem at hand. There are many good computer data base programs available today; I happen to have purchased one entitled **Q&A** by SYMANTEC, which has more than done the job on my IBM 286 clone. It will run fine on any XT or AT equivalent too.

Why get into a computer data base in the first place? Simple... my Colonies' collections now contain over 800 covers and I have lost the ability to clearly remember them all. I have carefully documented each on a 3x5 card sorted by country and Scott number. But with two feet of cards, it is hard to answer simple questions such as, "How many and what type of postal stationery items do I have in the Group Type?," or "What is the earliest Group Type cover I have?," or "What have I purchased from dealer X?," or "What printed matter rates do I have in my Guadeloupe General Issues collection?." All of this information is on my cards, but I can not access it readily, except for country and Scott number.

The key to a good data base is the design of your individual records, and I discussed such particularly with regard to my General Issues and my Group Type collections. The idea is to design the individual record (equivalent of the 3x5 card) carefully, so all relevant data will be present and it can be readily accessed by the computer. The Group Type presents some particularly tricky problems, since the same stamps were used amongst a variety of countries at times (i.e., Madagascar, Nossi-Be, Anjouan, Diego Suarez, etc. or Benin-Dahomey or French Congo-Gabon). Also, a complex array of stationery exists, and often this is franked with stamps too. Combination covers exist (China-Indochina, Group Type-France, Group Type-dues of other countries, etc.) and it takes some experimentation to get the individual records set properly. Other complexities include designing the records such that Indochina covers from Annam, or Tonkin, or Laos, etc., can be readily located. The same for French Packet and Paquebot covers. I have chosen to string these key identifiers in the portion of the record titled "Country"; thus a postcard in my collection with Indochina Group Types posted on a coastal local packet in Annam is designated "Indochina-Annam-Packet." It will be found under that complete name or any portion of it when I do a search.

It would take far too long to detail the items covered in the talk. Let me just say that application of a commercial data base to a postal history collection works exceptionally well, and you can begin to see things in your collection that were unnoted or very hard to get before. What have I found out that I didn't know before? My earliest Group Type cover was posted January 12, 1893 while the stamps were issued in December, 1892. I have about 200 items of postal stationery, but none from the Ivory Coast. I can get a listing of material from the small offices of any or all Colonies at a keystroke. This keeps me from getting duplicates from these offices. I have five covers with "AR" markings and nine with "BM" strikes (five from Guadeloupe). I tend to pay top dollar for covers from the dealer Andy Holtz, but I am very pleased with the material I get from him. I have bought about 100 of my covers from Bob Stone! Despite having been a curmudgeon in his lifetime, I purchased some very good small offices covers from the suitcase dealer Ruben Braun (Mana, French Guiana and St. Martin, Guadeloupe), plus a very unusual registered commercial samples wrapper. I have no 4c rates and no 45c rate franked with a single stamp. I have created a "Current Value" field wherein the computer does a calculation when asked to update the value of an item or a collection, assuming that I have been an astute buyer (probably wrong), and my material appreciates at 7.5% a year (wrong again!). Thus, I can quickly find out the total invested in my material and what is an estimate of its current value for insurance purposes.

Enough written. If any of you out there have been doing something similar, I would be most interested in hearing from you.

--Ed Grabowski

**NEW MEMBERS**

- 2858 BARRY, CHARLES, 194 Santa Rosa Dr., San Jose, CA 95111. (General France: all issues. Andorre. Monaco. Saar. Colonies General Issues. All Colonies and Territories.)
- 2859 MONTGOMERY, DONALD J., 2391 Shawnee Trail, Okemos, MI 48864. (General France: mint - used. Andorre. Monaco. Philatelic literature.)
- 2860 FRASE, WILLIAM C.H., 1957 Drew Ave., South, Minneapolis, MN 55416-3617. (General France: mint, 19th Century. Topical: music - musicians - maps. Colonies General Issues: mint. Philatelic literature. France & French Africa primary interests.)
- 2861 STEELE, ROBERT W., 3529 Tremont Rd., Evansville, IN 47710. (General France: mint. Andorre. Monaco. Saar. Colonies General Issues: mint.)
- 2862 MASTERS, WILLIAM D., 42 Windward Way, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022. (General France: all issues.)
- 2863 BASCHKIN, BERNARD B., 2 Captains Lane, Rye, NY 10580. (General France: all issues.)
- 2864 GEORGE, WILLIAM K., North 6617 Monroe, Spokane, WA 99208. (General France: all issues. Modern France: mint - on cover - semi-postals - air mails - booklets - coils - maximum cards - first-day covers - miniature sheets. Europa & United Nations. Exchange.)
- 2865 SHAFER, WILLIAM H., M.D., 25 West Boscawen St., Winchester VA 22601. (France & Colonies General: all issues, mint - used - on cover. World War II. Andorre. Monaco. Saar. Colonies General Issues: used - on cover. Philatelic literature.)
- 2866 DRASIC, JOHN T., 4930 N. 47th St., Milwaukee, WI 53218. (General France: all issues - mint - used - 1870-1871 issues. Modern France: used - semi-postals - air mails - coils - miniature sheets - dues - pre-cancels - Occupation issues. Saar.)
- 2867 WESOLOWSKI, THOMAS R., 602 Carriage Court, Salina CA 93905. (Offices Abroad. Colonies General Issues: mint - used - on cover. All Colonies and Territories: cancels & postal history - stamps & covers of individual colonies.)
- 2868 BREESE, WILLIAM H., 30 Hilltop Lane, Apt. 11, Mankato, MN 56001. (General France: all issues - used. Postal History. Used Abroad. Dues. Modern France: used - semi-postals - air mails. Telephone & telegraph - revenues - pre-cancels - perfins. Colonies General Issues: used. Stamps of individual colonies.)
- 2869 GEORGE, DARRELL L., 19410 Highway 10, Little Rock, AR 72212. (General France: all issues. All Colonies and Territories & independent republics.)

**REINSTATEMENTS**

- 1761 PETRI, ERWIN A., Jr., P.O. Box 111, Roseland, NJ 07068. (Already in Philatelist.)
- 2238 McGRATH, EDWARD J., 223 Ontario St., Apt. 16, St. Catharines, Ont., Canada L2R 5L2. (Already in Philatelist.)

**CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS**

- 1534 BEATTY, MILLARD F., Box 30433, Lincoln, NE 68503-0433.
- 2842 CRISSEY, HARRY, 320 Welcome - 6, P.O. Box 26900, Los Angeles, CA 90026-0900.
- 2741 SHAW, FOOK CHENG, 12 Templeton Place, N.E., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T1Y 5L9.
- 2397 FRUMKIN, STEVEN C., P.O. Box 2077, Beaverton, OR 97075.
- 2626 STOCKTON, PETER STEPHEN, 5 Fulmar Close, Poynton, Stockport - Cheshire, England SK12 1JP.
- 2816 PEACOCK, JOHN E., 25 Grant Dr., Coventry, RI 02816-4306.
- 2778 SCHWARTZ, DEBORAH F., Rt. 2, Box 33C, Henderson, TN 38340.

- 16 MUSY, JACQUES A., P.O. Box 69, Valrico, FL 33594.  
2748 LUIKAART, W. DAVID, P.O. Box 7099, Grand Rapids, MI 49510-7099.  
2261 EDINGER, PAUL F., Coker College, Box 5022, Hartsville, SC 29550.  
2004 ROUND, MICHAEL, 52 Stuart Rd., Wimbledon Park, London, SW19 8DH,  
England.  
2392 KESSLER, MELVIN M., 526 Cheshire Ave., N.W., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547.  
1518 STILLIONS, CLARENCE A., 5031 Eskridge Terrace, N.W., Washington, DC  
20016-3444.  
2693 MANWELL, EDMUND R., c/o Manwell é Milton, 101 California St., Suite 3750,  
San Francisco, CA 94111.  
2757 GRENIER, CHRISTOPHER, M.D., 32 Old Sterlington Rd., #286, Monroe, LA  
71203-2648.  
512 BLINN, CHRISTINE, P.O. Box D-6, Cape May Point, NJ 08212-0455.  
2822 FINK, LAURENCE, Box 916, Alpine, NJ 07620.  
2689 McINTYRE, GORDON, 8012 Linden Ave., North, Seattle, WA 98103.  
1410 ROSEN, IRWIN, 73-44 Austin St., Apt. 1-W, Forest Hills, NY 11375.

### RESIGNED

Pierre Lanneret, David Perkins, Charles Norwood, Don Kliebenstein, Fritz Gelb, James Tills, David Shelby, Hulda Kreiss, Harry Heaps, Robert Hardie, James Russell, Samuel Leask IV, Gerald McKay, Bernard Shapiro, Robert Phillips, Bill Welch, John Williams, Michel Cammas, Norman Touchette.

### DECEASED

BRAUN, REUBEN

### NO ADDRESS

Gerard Lallemand, Kevin Houser.

