



# France & Colonies Philatelist

## MADAGASCAR AND THE FRENCH COLONIAL GROUP TYPE

by Ed J. Grabowski

This article is based on my presentation given at the FCPS meeting of September 3, 1991, our opening meeting for the new philatelic season. Madagascar and its Dependencies represents one of the most complex and postally rich regions in which to explore the use of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type during the 1892-1922 period. Madagascar received its Group Type stamps in 1896 when it became an official colony. Surrounding Colonies received their own Group Type stamps (first date), and were subsequently placed under the administration of Madagascar (second date): Anjouan-1892/1911; Diego Suarez-1892/1898; Grand Comoro-1897/1911; Mayotte-1892/1911; Moheli-1906/1911; Nossi-Be-1894/1901; and Sainte Marie-de-Madagascar-1894/1900. Nossi-Be and Sainte Marie-de-Madagascar were administered by Diego Suarez from 1894. In 1898 Anjouan, Grand Comoro and Moheli were made dependencies of the Mayotte administration. Individual issues properly used in early periods from the individual Colonies and issues showing transition periods represent rarer uses. As administrations coalesced, their Group-Type stamps were interchangeably used throughout the area. If the above has made any sense, the reader has some understanding of the complexity of the area. Beyond this, the area has a multitude of small post offices; provisional numeral, letter and manuscript cancels; railroad markings; telegraph cancels; French Packet postings; bisects; overprints; and just about everything else imaginable. Illustrated herein are some of the more unusual items which are part of my Group-Type collection. Figure 1 shows a map of the area and the location of the various entities. Some of the stamp varieties that one can collect are shown in Figure 2. Illustrated are the imperforated 5F variety from Moheli, a millesime 3 from Sainte Marie-de-Madagascar, and the inverted variety of the 1902 0,01/2 large O-variety overprint from Madagascar.

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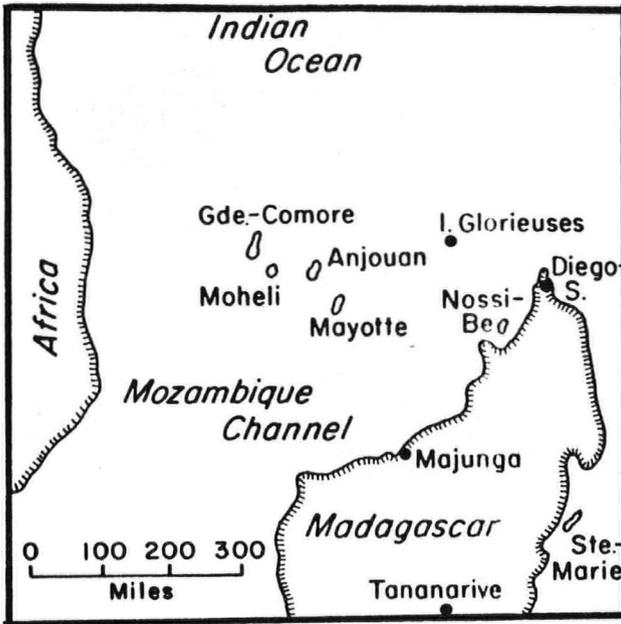


Figure 1.  
The Madagascar area.



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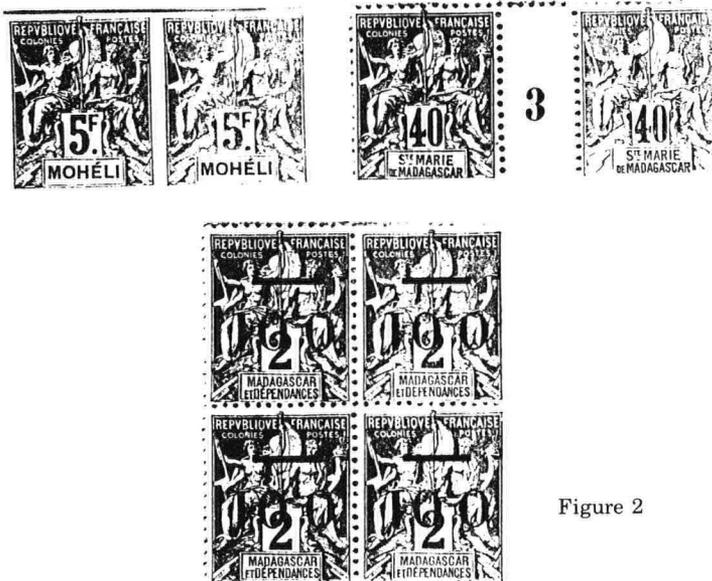


Figure 2

Shown from Anjouan in Figure 3 is a 50c registered French Community rate (the boxed **R** was left off) with a good strike of the octagonal **ANJOUAN PROTECTORAT FRANC. 26 DEC 96** date stamp in blue. From Mayotte Figure 4 shows a postal card from the small office at Mamoutzou (22 May 1904). Any office other than D'Zaoudzi is very difficult to find from Mayotte. Figure 5 illustrates the 10c French Community rate from Mohéli, with the stamps tied by the **MAYOTTE-ET-DEPENDANCES MOHELI** date stamp of 18 Dec. 1906 just three months after the Colony received its first stamps.

Figure 6 shows use of the special 15c military rate (cachet, manuscript endorsement and signature are present to verify the rate) from Nossi-Be (March 6, 1895) employing the 15c Group Type issue of Diego Suarez and Dependencies for franking. This is from the period when Nossi-Be was under the administration of Diego Suarez. A more interesting military rate is shown in Figure 7. Franked at 70c (20c plus 50c stamps) it represents a triple weight (3x15c) registered (25c) military rate where the stamps are tied by the octagonal date stamp **CORRES D'ARMEES DIEGO SUAREZ, 20 FEVR 97** and appropriate endorsements and a cachet present to verify the rate. This is among the rarer military pieces in my collection.

Sainte Marie-de-Madagascar is one of the most difficult Colonies from which to obtain material. Shown in Figure 8 is the rare 1888 formula card from Sainte Marie posted on Sept. 27, 1896 and bearing a notice of the receipt of registered mail on the reverse. It came to me from a local mail sale, at far less than the princely price brought by a similar piece in one of the Jamet-Dubuis sales a few years ago.

Figure 9 shows a letter posted on the railroad between Antsirabe and Tananarive and struck with a boxed **BM** handstamp to indicate posting on the line. The letter is properly franked at the 10c local rate (posted May 11, 1913) with two 1912 **05/2** overprints from Anjouan. Use of stamps from one entity by another was fairly common at this time. However, U.S. dealers do not seem to be aware of this fact, and they ask irrational sums for these covers thinking that they have minor rarities.

Registered letters with the boxed **AR** handstamp denoting a request for a return receipt are somewhat difficult to find in the Group Type period. With almost 700 Group Type covers in my collection, only six have **AR** handstamps. The rates pose some problems, as many were posted at the regular registered rates with no premium for the return receipt,

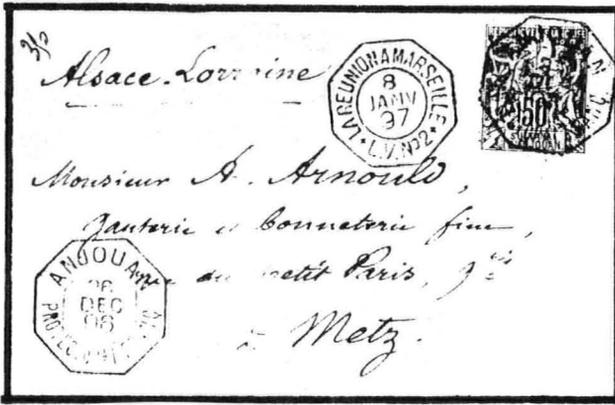


Figure 3



Figure 4

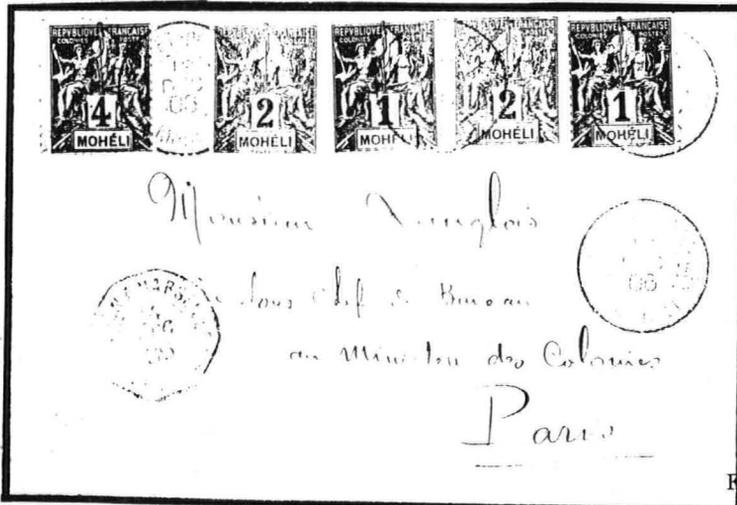


Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

whereas others might reflect a 10c charge for the receipt request. The one shown in Figure 10 is at the regular French Community registered rate (15c postage and 25c registration) posted in Majunga on the 13th of September 1917. No extra charge for the return receipt is evident.

Registered printed matter is always a difficult rate to find. Shown in Figure 11 is a 5c Madagascar Sage envelope to Belgium posted at Fort Dauphin and raised to the registered



Figure 8

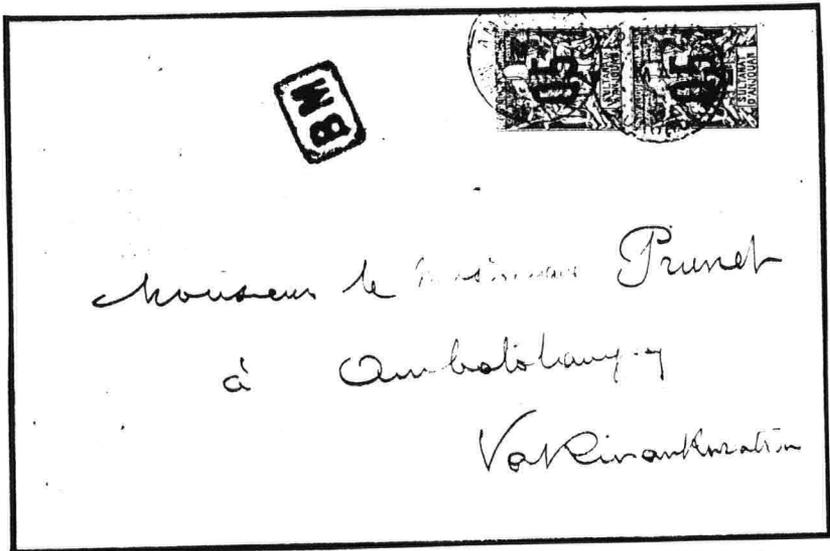


Figure 9

rate with a 25c Group Type issue. The most unusual registered rate in my Madagascar collection is shown in Figure 12. It is franked at the 40c French Community rate with two 20c Group Type stamps (a nice combination) posted from the small office at Ampanihy on Jan. 17, 1905. Little is recorded about this office, but apparently at this time it did not even have a provisional numeral date stamp (see below). The stamps were manuscript cancelled **AMPANIHY, 17-1-05**, and a circular date stamp was applied to the letter by pen. Figure 13 shows a 35c French Community registered letter franked with a 25c Group Type in blue (1900 reissue) and a 10c provisional of the Colony cancelled in Tananarive on the 2nd of October 1912. The letter bears an unusual boxed **TROUVÉ À LA BOÎTE** handstamp, indicating that it was found in a railway post box. I would be interested in hearing from others who have similar makings in their collections.

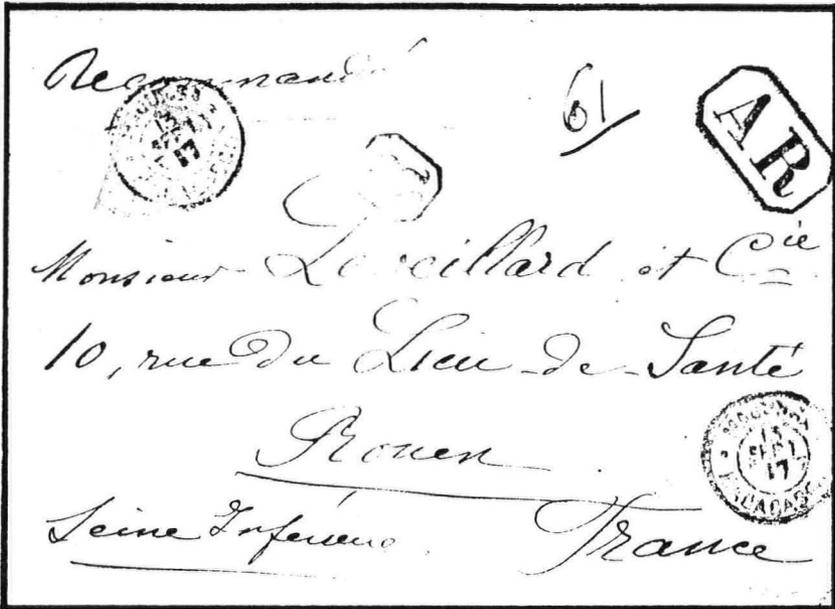


Figure 10



Figure 11

Last year's London show brought the unusual registered parcel tag shown in Figure 14. It is franked at 1F35c primarily with a large block of 1912 05/15 Anjouan overprints and posted to Reunion. Apparently the locking mechanism holding the numeral clichés loosened during the printing, and this piece shows a spectacular overprint shift in addition to a most unusual rate.

Does anyone know anything about Madagascar telegraph cancels? I have two from the same correspondence (see Figure 15 for one) posted in Analalava during February-March 1903.

The Madagascar numeral cancels always delight. These were used provisionally until regular date stamps became available for the newer offices. New discoveries can be had,

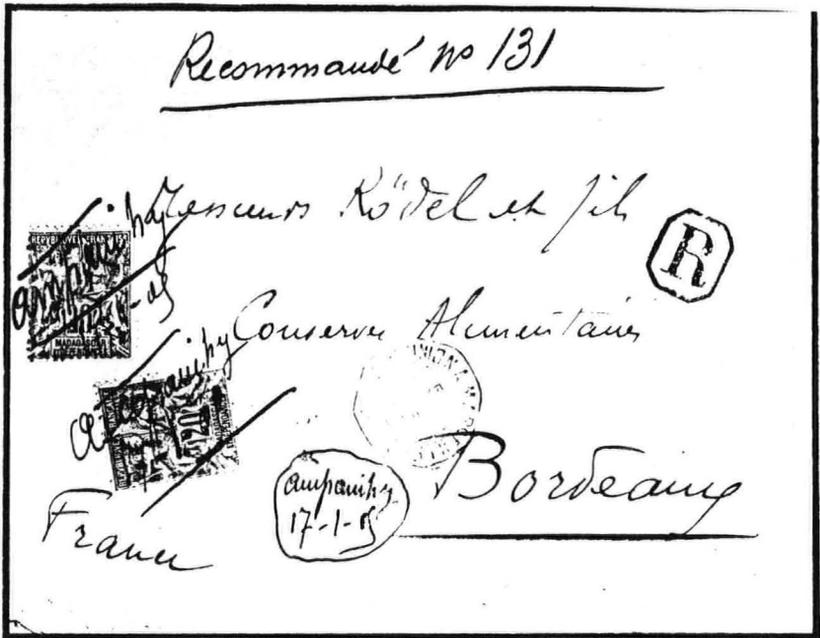


Figure 12

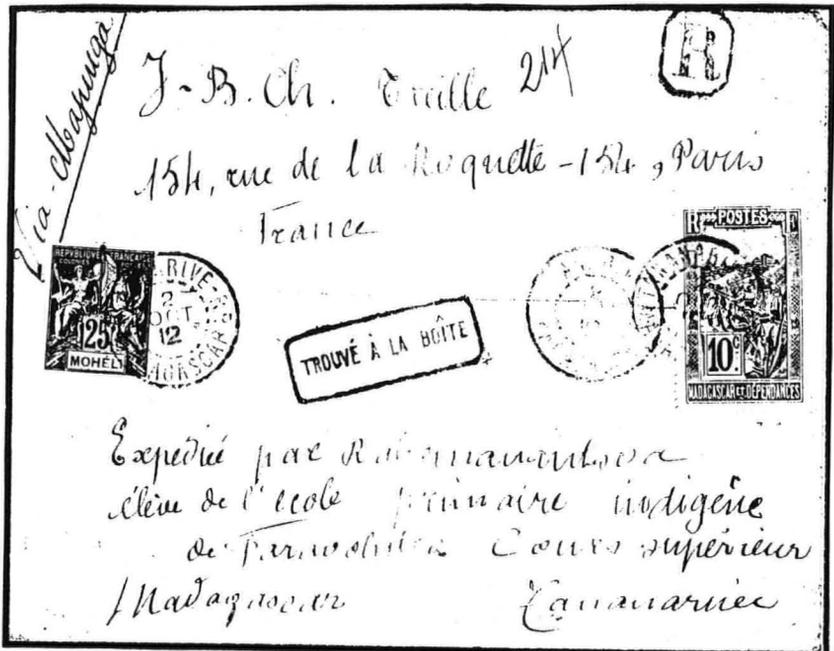
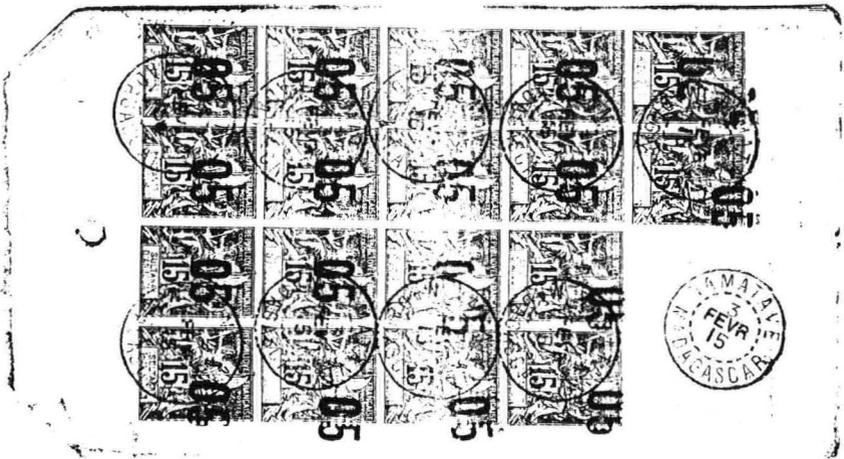


Figure 13

Figure 14. Front.



Figure 14. Back.



and I am grateful to Dr. Desnos in Prades for helping to identify the towns of origin of many unrecorded ones that I have been able to obtain. The 10c postal card in Figure 16 is typical with a nice strike of number 31. According to Dr. Desnos this is the first example of the 31 recorded from the village of Manankary, noted in the dateline on the reverse. Letter cancels are even more unusual, with less than a dozen known. Shown in Figure 17 is a 25c overseas rate to Norway (presumably from a Norwegian missionary) tied by the provisional **AB MADAGASCAR, 28 SEPT 01.**

A word must be said about the Madagascar provisional bisects of 1904. There was an alleged shortage of stamps in Voehemar, Diego Suarez, Antalaha, etc. during this year, and bisects were created to meet various rates. To give them a vision of respectability and philatelic marketability, handstamps noting the shortage of stamps, were also created and used on the prepared covers. In reality, there was no shortage of stamps, and it was strictly a ruse to get money from collectors. But that was past history, as some of these can reach tens of thousands of francs in French mail sales. Shown in Figure 18 is a creation from

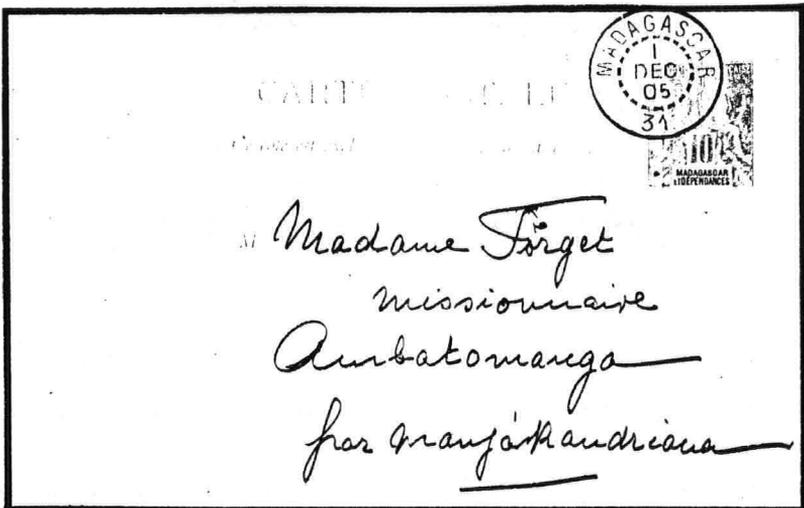
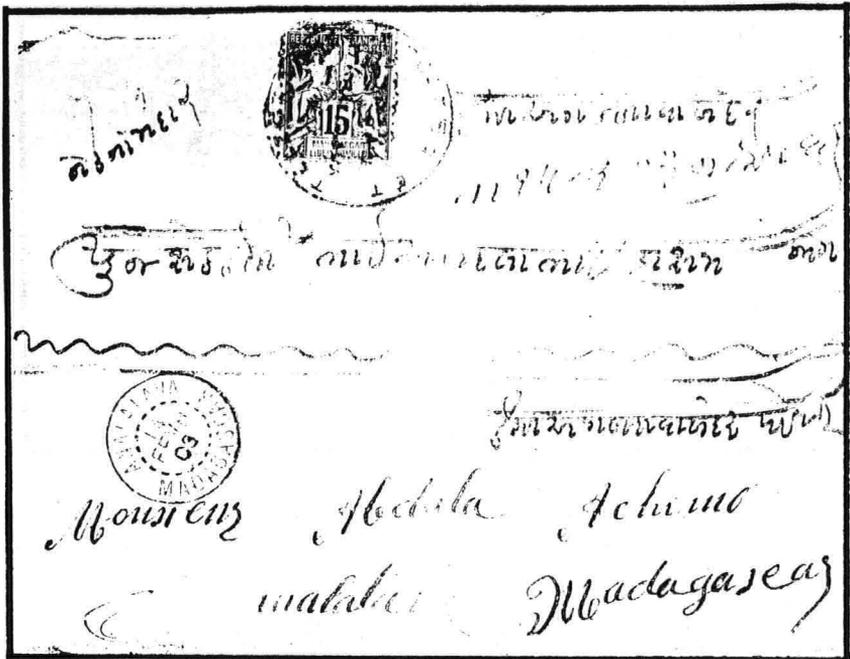


Figure 16

Vohemar on the 29th of February 1904 (what a piece for a leap year collector!) with a bisect of the 50c stamp plus 4c and a 1c issues to make a proper double local rate. The letter did actually travel to Diego Suarez where it was received four days later.

Finally, Madagascar offers the opportunity for the latest legitimate Group Type use since 75c stamps were revalued at 60c and 5F stamps were revalued at 1F in 1921 for use on

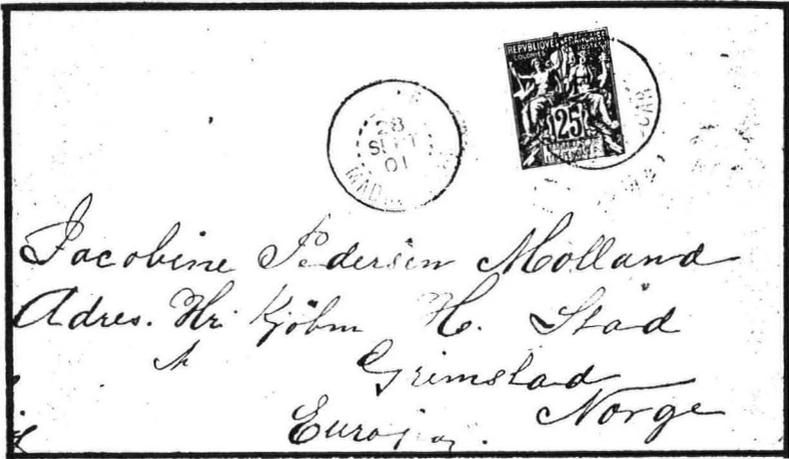


Figure 17

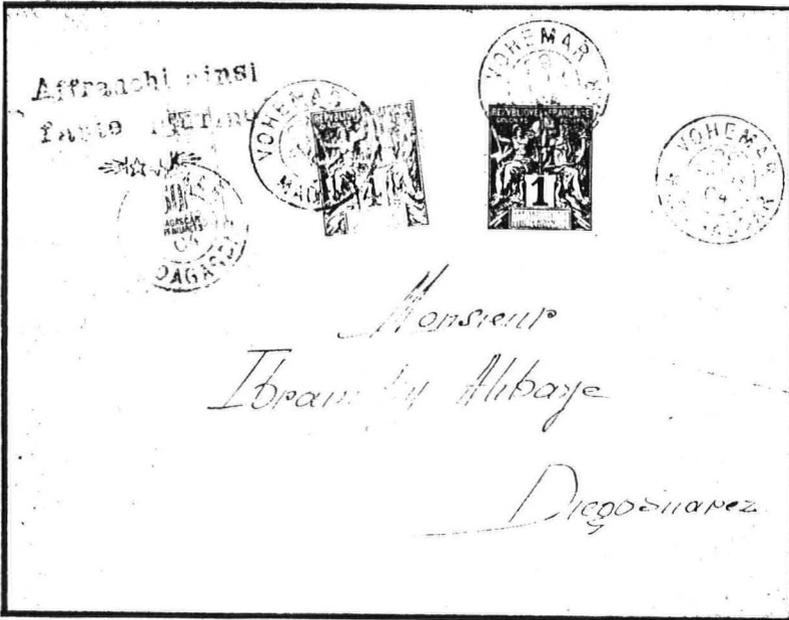


Figure 18

local and overseas registered letters. That shown in Figure 19 is of the inverted 0,60/75 overprint variety, which does not show well due to the red overprint on a brown/orange stamp.

These were some of the covers highlighted in my talk. The point, as usual, is to indicate that collecting the Group Type offers many opportunities to gather some very unusual material. Detailed studies of this issue, as exist for the General Issues or the Sage Issue, still do not exist. The literature is scant and the opportunity to gather nice pieces at affordable prices still exists. Good hunting!



Figure 19

THE COMBINED U.S.-FRENCH STEAMSHIP SERVICE  
 FOR ARGENTINE MAILS 1867-1870

by Jeffrey C. Bohn

(Continued from FCP #225, July 1991, p. 80)

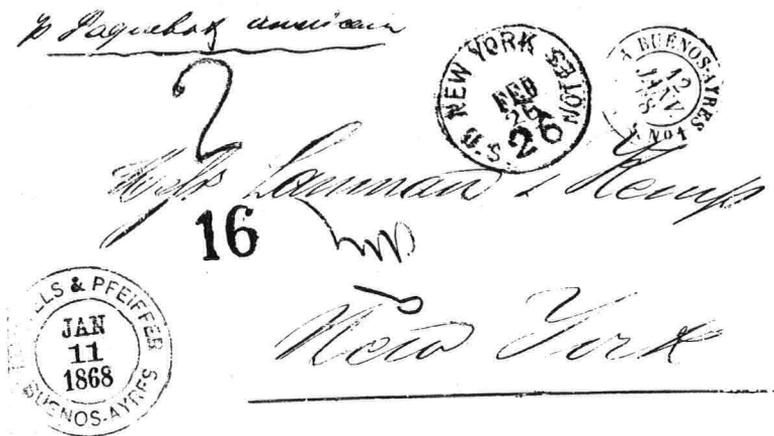


Figure 9. An unpaid, double rate letter from Argentina, sent to the U.S by the combined U.S-French packet service. (Winter Collection)

An unpaid, double weight letter from Argentina to the United States is shown in Figure 9, where the Ligne K cachet of 12 January 1868 is again prominent, as well as the French "16" cent debit marking. This cover was carried by the U.S. steamer "Mississippi" from Rio to New York, and on arrival, a collection of 26 cents was required to pay the 10 cent U.S. ship fee and internal postage, plus the debit to France. Although the indication of the total U.S. postage due on this cover appears in a New York depreciated currency handstamp, no dual currency depreciation measures were ever enforced on mails exchanged by this U.S.-French service, and all unpaid fees were to be paid in notes rather than specie.

A prepaid, 90 centime rate letter from Buenos Aires to New York is shown in Figure 10. This cover bears the Ligne K cachet of 12 August 1869, and the stamps have been canceled with the anchor lozenge. In addition, a red boxed PD has been struck on the letter to indicate that the postage has been paid to destination. There is no indication of a 10 cent credit to the U.S. on this cover, but rather a manuscript "7½" in blue crayon that would appear to be a reiteration of the French portion (in cents) of the prepaid amount. This letter was carried by the U.S. steamer "Merrimack" from Rio de Janeiro to New York, where on arrival, a red NEW YORK/PAID ALL date stamp was applied.

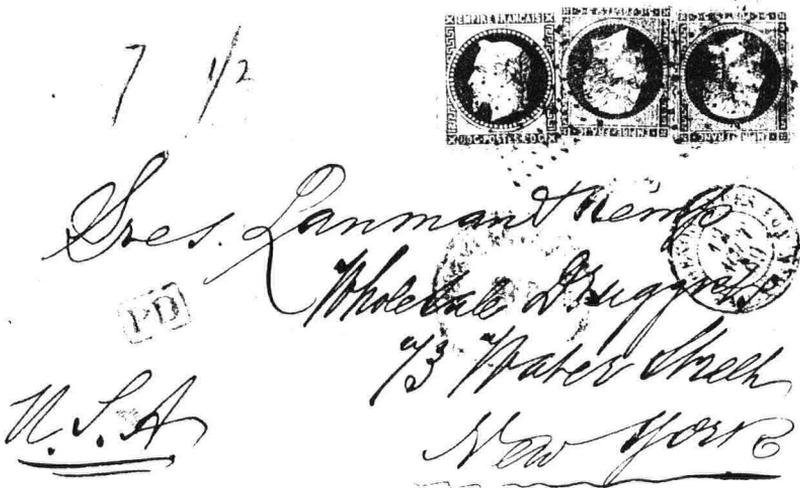


Figure 10. A single rate letter from Argentina, prepaid at the 90 centimes per 7½ gram rate, and sent to the U.S. by the combined U.S.-French packet service.

The Buenos Aires Ligne K cachets shown in Figure 11a is typical of all known north-bound covers from Argentina, and a similar cachet from Montevideo (Figure 11b) has also been recorded on mail originating from that port.



(a)



(b)



Figure 11. French cachets de provenance applied to letters from Argentina and Uruguay that were carried by French paquebots between Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro.

Figure 12 shows a prepaid letter from Montevideo, sent by the Ligne K paquebot "Aunis" to Rio de Janeiro, and forwarded to New York aboard the U.S. steamship "Mississippi." This letter was franked with the 10c and 80c values of the Laureate Napoleon issue (shown overlapping on the cover). Of this 90 centime prepayment, 10 cents were credited to the U.S. for the packet services provided from Rio de Janeiro to New York, plus the U.S. internal postage.

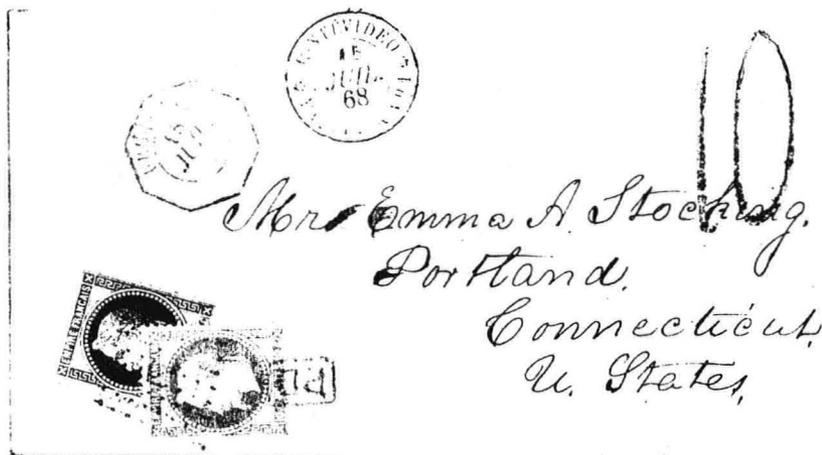


Figure 12. A prepaid, single rate letter from Uruguay, sent to Connecticut via the U.S.-French packet service. Note that of the 90 centime prepayment, 10 cents were credited to the U.S.

The unusual Ligne K cachet shown in Figure 11c is also known on a letter from Uruguay, carried by this combined U.S.-French service. This cover (Figure 13) is an unpaid, multiple-weight letter from Montevideo, carried by the "Aunis" to Rio de Janeiro, and placed aboard the "South America" bound for New York (despite the "via Bordeaux" endorsement). France debited the United States 32 cents for this letter, indicating that the contents weighed between 22½ and 30 grams. The U.S., however, charged 72 cents for delivery, collecting 40 cents in addition to the French credit. Thus it appears that the U.S. considered this letter to weigh between 1½ and 2 ounces. Obviously, one of the rating systems was in error.

It is anticipated that the Ligne K cachets employed on northbound mail were superseded by the corresponding Ligne J cachets (Salles Nos. 1072 and 1076), beginning with the 30 November 1869 sailing of the "Estramadure" from Buenos Aires. As of this writing, however, no northbound Ligne J mail has been reported from either of the two possible sailings during the period of this combined U.S.-French service.

In researching this short-lived and fascinating aspect of U.S.-French postal relations, a total of 24 southbound and 16 northbound letters have been recorded (5). In contrast, however, no examples of the printed matter rates have been reported for either portion of this service. Perhaps such items repose in many collections, but have not yet been recognized as members of this special group. Hopefully, this article has provided sufficient means to recognize examples of mail carried under this joint U.S.-French arrangement, and thus will prompt all collectors to examine their holdings in an effort to expand and update the current listings. All information and contributions will be greatly welcomed and acknowledged.

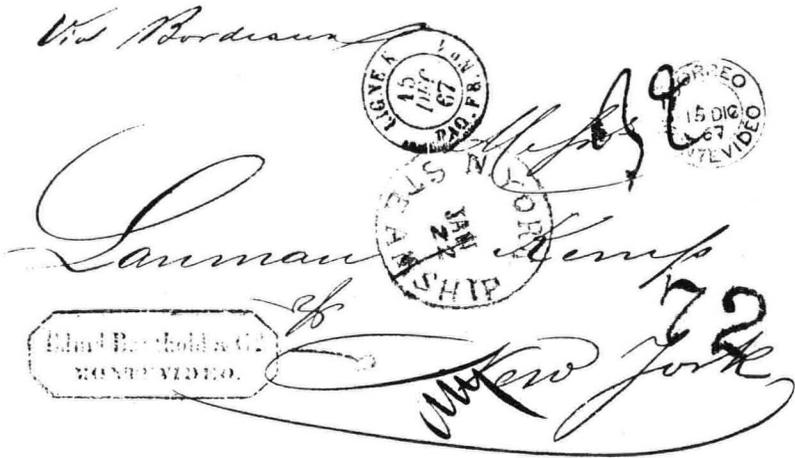


Figure 13. An unpaid, multiple rate letter from Uruguay, sent to the U.S. by the combined U.S-French packet service. Note that the French "32" cent debit marking is applied in manuscript.

(5) A chronological listing (Table 2 herewith) of the known letters carried by this combined U.S-French packet service was presented in the November 1985 issue of "The Chronicle," the official journal of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society. Since the publication of this listing, however, 18 additional covers have been recorded. Interested members may receive an updated listing by requesting same from the author at P.O. Box 2301, Columbia, MD 21045.

TABLE 2 SAILING LIST OF THE NORTHBOUND STEAMSHIPS  
FROM BUENOS AYRES TO NEW YORK

FRENCH STEAMSHIP	DEPART B.A.	ARRIVE RIO		U.S. STEAMSHIP	DEPART RIO	ARRIVE N.Y.
Aunis	12/8/67	20/8/67		North America	25/8/67	20/9/67
Aunis	12/9/67	20/9/67	*	South America	25/9/67	21/10/67
Aunis	12/10/67	20/10/67		Guiding Star	26/10/67	22/11/67
Aunis	12/11/67	20/11/67		North America	25/11/67	23/12/67
Aunis	12/12/67	20/12/67	*	South America	26/12/67	22/1/68
Aunis	12/1/68	20/1/68	*	Mississippi	29/1/68	26/2/68
(1)	4/2/68	12/2/68	*	Merrimack	25/2/68	23/3/68
Aunis	12/3/68	20/3/68	*	South America	26/3/68	21/4/68
Aunis	12/4/68	20/4/68	*	Mississippi	25/4/68	20/5/68
Aunis	12/5/68	20/5/68		Merrimack	27/5/68	20/6/68
Aunis	12/6/68	20/6/68	*	South America	25/6/68	20/7/68
Aunis	12/7/68	20/7/68	*	Mississippi	26/7/68	21/8/68
Aunis	8/8/68	16/8/68		Merrimack	26/8/68	20/9/68
Aunis	12/9/68	20/9/68		South America	25/9/68	20/10/68

Aunis	12/11/68	20/11/68		Merrimack	25/11/68	23/12/68
Aunis	12/12/68	20/12/68		South America	26/12/68	22/1/69
Aunis	12/1/69	20/1/69		Mississippi	26/1/69	21/2/69
Aunis	12/2/69	20/2/69		Merrimack	24/2/69	23/3/69
Aunis	12/3/69	20/3/69	*	South America	26/3/69	21/4/69
Aunis	12/4/69	20/4/69		Mississippi	23/4/69	(2)
Aunis	12/5/69	20/5/69		Merrimack	26/5/69	20/6/69
Aunis	12/6/69	20/6/69		South America	25/6/69	21/7/69
Aunis	12/7/69	20/7/69	*	North America	26/7/69	21/8/69
Aunis	12/8/69	20/8/69	*	Merrimack	26/8/69	21/9/69
Aunis	12/9/69	20/9/69		South America	25/9/69	20/10/69
Aunis	12/10/69	20/10/69		North America	26/10/69	20/11/69
	(3)			Merrimack	25/11/69	20/12/69
Gironde	30/11/69	6/12/69		South America	25/12/69	21/1/70
Estramadure	30/12/69	6/1/70		North America	26/1/70	20/2/70

KEY: (1) Service provided by a Brazilian steamer  
(2) Mississippi wrecked off Martinique on 11 May 1869  
(3) Ligne K abolished - the Aunis did not provide northbound service from Buenos Ayres to Rio  
\* Letter recorded from this sailing

## SOCIETY MAIL SALE OF PHILATELIC LITERATURE

When the Society's cabinet was removed from the Collector's Club, a number of items of philatelic literature were found. The Directors decided that there was no reason for the Society to retain these, and that they should be sold. To provide an equal opportunity to all interested members, they are being offered in the Mail Sale which follows.

### Conditions of Sale

1. Bids will be accepted only from member of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society in good standing, with dues paid for 1991 or 1992.
2. All lots will be sold to the highest bidder at one advance over the second highest bid, or at the reserve if there is no other bid. In the case of tie bids, the first received will be given precedence.
3. A reserve price is shown for each lot, and no bid will be accepted below that price.
4. Standard bidding levels will be in increments of \$1 to \$50 and increments of \$2 above \$50. Bids which do not conform to these levels will be reduced to the nearest lower level.
5. All lots will be shipped by insured parcel post unless other instructions are given when the bids are placed.
6. All proceeds go to the France & Colonies Philatelic Society. No commission will be charged. Shipping charges will be billed at cost. Weights shown are approximate and do not include packing materials.
7. The lots have been described with some care. No inspection will be possible. Considering the character of the material being sold, all sales will be final, and no returns permitted.
8. No lots will be shipped until payment in full has been received.
9. All bids should be submitted in writing to:  
Richard M. Stevens  
P.O. Box 99  
Greendell, NJ 07839
10. Closing date for submission of bids: January 31, 1992.

### ITEMS FOR SALE

Lot #1: Yvert & Tellier: *Catalogue Specialise des Timbres de France*. Tome I (1849-1900); & published at Amiens in 1975. Condition very fine, with original dust cover. Never used.

Weight: 3½ lbs.

Reserve: \$50

Lot #2: H.L. Lindquist: *The Stamp Specialist*. Yellow book; published at New York in 1942. Condition fine. Probably never used but with some soiling on covers; pages with mild age toning (wartime paper was not very good); upper corners of front cover stubbed and slightly broken.

Weight: 18 oz.

Reserve: \$10

Lot #3: E.H. de Beaufond: *Le Marcophile*. Broken run consisting of the following 38 issues:

No. 1 (Jan. 1947)

No. 7 (Jan. 1948)

No. 9 (May 1948) to No. 11 (Sept. 1948)

No. 15 (May 1949) to No. 18 (Nov. 1949)

No. 21 (May 1950)

No. 25 (Jan. 1951) to No. 51 (May 1955)

No. 54 (Nov. 1955) to No. 55 (Jan. 1956)

Condition fair to poor. Issues through #38 have been punched and are contained in a small three-ring binder. Most pages and some covers have substantial age toning. A number of issues

No. 61 (Jan. 1937)

No. 77 (Sept. 1959)

No. 80 (Mar. 1960)

have pieces of the front cover torn off, apparently to remove stamps which had been used for mailing.

This was a dealer's house publication. Each issue has 12 pages, typically with five pages devoted to short articles mostly on postal history topics, and seven to offerings of mostly covers for sale.

Weight: 2 lbs. 6 oz. with binder; 1 lb. 10 oz. without.

Reserve: \$23

Lot #4: *Le Monde des Philatelistes*. Complete run of 67 issues from No. 139 (May 1963) to No. 205 (Dec. 1968) contained in five attractive publisher-supplied binders. Condition fine. The papers have substantial age toning at the exposed edges.

This is a French monthly philatelic newspaper printed on a paper somewhat better than ordinary newsprint. The binders are about 10"x14"x2 3/4" with a vertical wire to hold each issue, and were obviously sold by the publisher.

Weight: 25 lbs.

Reserve: \$24

Lot #5: *Le Monde des Philatelistes*. Complete run of 81 issues from No. 206 (Jan. 1969) to No. 286 (April 1976) with extra copy of No. 210 (May 1969). A continuation of the previous lot but without binders. Condition very fine. These were stored wrapped in two bundles and show only minor toning.

Weight: 30 lbs.

Reserve: \$28



### MODERN-DAY FRENCH CONVOYEUR MARKINGS

There are far fewer courriers-convoyeurs-lignes in France these days than at the end of the 19th Century. Many of them now utilize night-ambulant-like (Type III) single-circle dated handstamps similar in size to the present-day town handstamps.

J. Gautier, G. Raynal and B. Bougue have written a detailed, albeit self-styled preliminary study of these night-ambulant-like date stamps in Feuilles Marcophiles, No. 265, April 1991. All show 6-pointed stars at top of daters. In the earlier used metallic date stamps, the stars were set within semi-circular slugs and show either a horizontal or a vertical bar. More recent date stamps are made of plastic and were largely introduced during the 1961-66 period (and of course ever since). Their stars are lodged in rectangular slugs and uniformly show only a vertical bar.

The authors have prepared a table showing the various convoyeur services, with material used for the date stamp, and known years of utilization. Shorter tables follow for more modern services. These are: Brigade letters added to the bottom of date stamps; Service de Convoiemnt et d'Ensachage (S.C.E.), inaugurated October 1980, and with SCE prefixing the routing; and finally (first appearing from January 1984) with CC (courrier-convoyeur) and SC (service de convoiemnt) serving as prefixes.

Some of these lines appear to have existed for only a few months and their markings should be modern rarities.

S.J. Luft



### IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

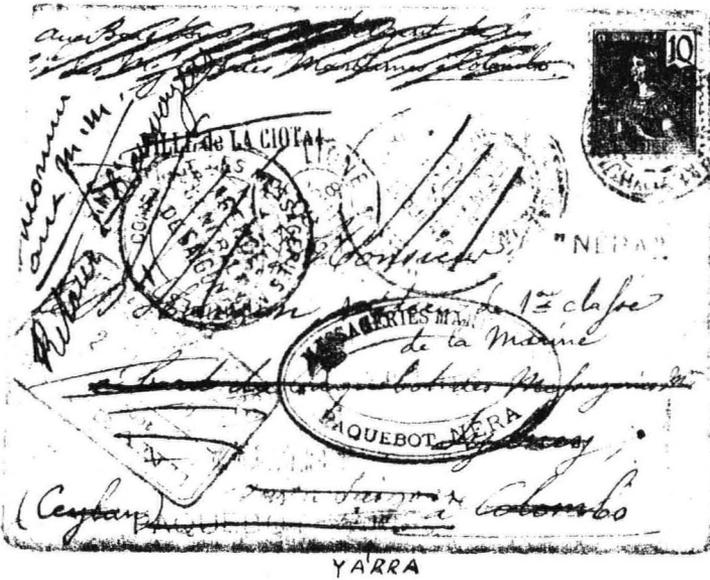
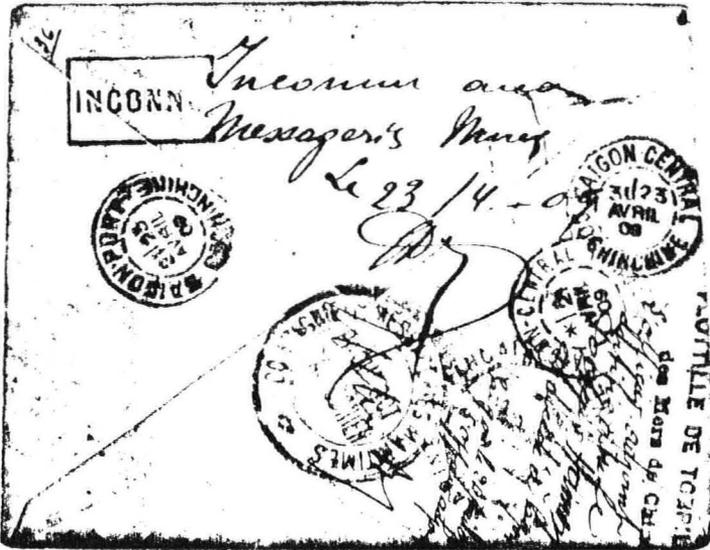
by Robert T. Kinsley

Or, more appropriately, is there a doctor on the ship--and which ship?

This is the saga of a much travelled and marked-up civilian Indo-China cover (Figure 1) addressed to Monsieur Hanson, médecin de 1<sup>ere</sup> classe (note the old-fashioned double "ss" form) on board the Messageries Maritime's "Sydney" at Colombo, Ceylon. It was postmarked Saigon Central, Cochin Chine, 7 Aug. 1908 and put on a ship 8 August. The Ligne N Paq. Fr. No. 7 date stamp of that day suggests it was the "Tourane" which left Saigon for Ceylon and Marseille.

The 10c stamp sufficed for the voyage inasmuch as recipient was expected to be on a French ship and therefore "under the flag."

Instead of an upper left identification of the sender, we find "aux bons soins" (in care of) the line's agent at Colombo (later crossed out). The envelope received the blue straight-



line handstamp of the "Sydney," but it didn't stop there. Onward to the ship "Nera," logged-in 3 Oct. 1908 in violet; and then the "Yarra"; and the "Salazie" which used a nice round green cachet; and the "Tourane" which preferred a rectangular violet cachet, logged-in 2 Feb. 1909; and an undated straightline "Ville de la Ciotat." Finally we note from the backside that they also looked for the good doctor on the "Calédonien."

It is interesting to note that five of these ships ("Sydney," "Yarra," "Salazie," "Ville de la Ciotat," and "Calédonien") are cited by Salles (1) as being part of a grouping of seven ships placed in the ship yard at Ciotat (for which the largest ship, "Ville de la Ciotat," was named) to accommodate the opening of the Australia line. Since the date in the "Nera's"

handstamp does not correspond to the time of any of its few voyages recorded by Salles, this envelope apparently moved from ship to ship while in port.

Logically, we find a manuscript "inconnu" (unknown) in red, and return to sender. So back to Saigon, with receiving postmark of Saigon Central, 21 April 1909 on the back. Here is also received the shipping line's main office cachet "Agence General de Saigon" in violet, on top of and largely obliterating one of the green "Salazie" cachets, with postage due "T" in triangle alongside.

On the back, we note in red manuscript that the shipping line has finally given up: "unknown to the Messageries Maritimes 23 April 1909," and the envelope is turned back to the civilian postal system by postmark at the dock, Saigon-Port, 2nd collection 23 April 1909, and Saigon-Central, 3rd collection, same day.

The postal service then turns to the navy, evidenced by the bright blue handstamp of "Flotille de Torpille (torpedo boats) des Mers de Chine" and the typical anchor cachet "Marine Française-Service a la Mer." Sadly, we see in manuscript "L'officier adjoint" (deputy) at Saigon certifies on 24 April 1909 that. . . Hanson "est décédé (is deceased).

Twenty strikes (as I'm able to count and interpret them), seven ships, even a torpedo flotilla! Would our present postal service-or any other-ever go to such lengths?

1) Raymond Salles, "La Poste Maritime Française," tome V, "Les Paquebots de l'Extrême-Orient."

## \*\*\*\*\*

### THE ILL-FATED 1940 NARVIK CAMPAIGN

Bertrand Sinais has written another of his detailed, definitive studies of minor (i.e., underfunded and/or undermanned) 20th Century military campaigns. In the April 1991 (No. 265) Feuilles Marcophiles, he covers in detail "Le Corps Expéditionnaire Français en Scandinavie (Avril-Juin 1940)," better known as the Narvik Campaign.

A brief history of the military-political background for the Franco-British invasion of Norway (prior to and following the unanticipated German invasion of same), is followed by the role of individual French units and tracings of their markings. The French contingent consisted of three light divisions (mainly alpine troops), a Polish brigade, two Foreign Legion battalions, and support troops--all carefully identified here. Postal sectors were of the 17,000 series (30,000 series for the Poles). Military postal bureaux (BPMs) consisted of No. 201 at Bournemouth, serving as the Bureau Frontier, No. 205 for the 1st Light Chasseurs Division, landed at Harstad and without postage stamps; No. 206 for Corps HQ; No. 207 for the 3rd Light Infantry Division, which stayed in France; and No. 208 for the 2nd Light Chasseurs Division, which returned to France from England, after having boarded ships for Norway.

Units of the 1st Light Chasseurs Division, plus the Poles and Legionnaires, landed at Harstad from 27 April, took Narvik 28 May, but found it untenable under heavy land and air German pressure. The troops were evacuated from Norway on 6 June and returned to France just in time for the surrender. Of the other foreign personnel present in Great Britain after the fall of Norway, some joined de Gaulle and went to North Africa whereas others returned to France.

The Allied fleet engaged in the operation was mainly British, but a number of French vessels also participated. The largest were cruisers "Emile Bertin" and "Montcalm"--both with shipboard postal agencies. Ships lost were destroyers "Bison" (sunk by air attack) and "Maillé Brézé" (sunk by explosion while in the Clyde), and submarine "Doris" (lost). Agence Navale No. 30, of which very few markings are known, was aboard the patrol boat "Léoville," serving as a radio station in the Clyde estuary.

All markings of this short-lived and small-scale expedition are very scarce to extremely rare.

## COLIS POSTAUX IN ALSACE-LORRAINE, 1940-1945

An article in Feuilles Marcophiles, No. 266 (1991) attempts to clarify some mysteries regarding parcel post formules and usage for Alsace-Lorraine during the World War II German occupation. Rates (including supplementary services), unusual usages, cachets, and franchise use are covered.

The author, Ph. Boutserin, shows the square grid system used by Germany (ever since 1858?) to delimit geographic zones 75(?) km per side—the basis for determining distances from origin to destination. Rates are shown on a distance times weight basis, and special or supplementary service surtaxes are also given.

Stamps used on formules include Hindenburgs without and (much more commonly) with the Elsass and Lothringen overprints, officials, and Hitler-effigy stamps. Because rates were in multiples of 5 and 10 pfenigs, the 1, 3, 4, 8 and 12 pf values seldom occur. Unoverprinted Hindenburgs are less commonly seen from Elsass than from Lothringen. The 3M and 5M Hitler stamps have not yet been recorded on these formules. Perfins are known.

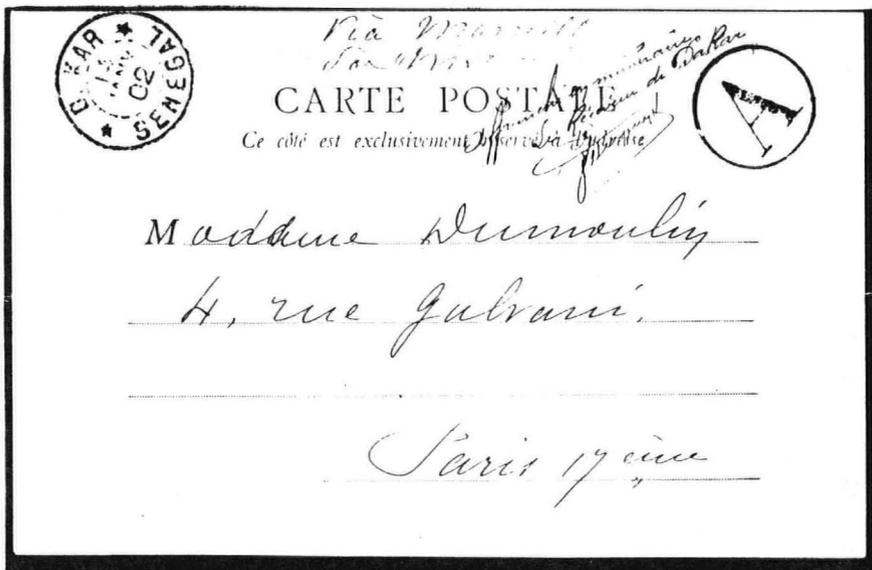
Unusual cancellations include the large, illustrated circular cachets and the early provisional rubber-stamped straightlines. The latter served for a longer period in Lothringen and are much more commonly used from there.

Armed with this article, I eagerly checked the eleven examples in my collection. To my surprise and dismay, none of the rates indicated by affixed postage stamps fitted into the article's rate chart. Evidently, additional studies are needed before we can fully understand and appreciate how parcel shipments were prepaid during this wartime period.

S.J.L

### FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from FCP #225, July 1991, p. 88)



For The Record #582



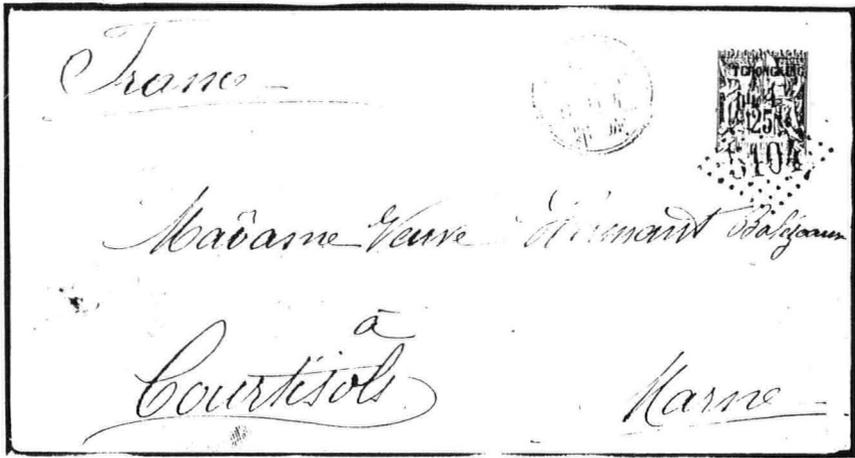
*Monsieur Chapuis,*  
*Kaédi,*  
*Mauritania.*



*Monsieur Chapuis,*  
*Kaédi,*  
*Mauritania.*

►581). Example of the non-use of the Group Type stamps: Post card at the 10c rate from Dakar, Senegal posted January 14, 1902. No stamps are evident, but a manuscript endorsement and encircled **A** are.

►582). Provisional due stamps were created in Mauritania during September 1906 by overprinting the current *Faidherbe* and *Palmiers* issues with a **T** in triangle. Shown are two covers posted from Dakar, Senegal on October 2, 1906 to Kaedi, Mauritania. Both are under-franked with current Group Types relative to a 10c rate. The first is 2c short and was charged double the deficit on arrival with two of the 2c provisional due stamps. This cover is the discovery copy of use of the 2c provisional due of Mauritania, as there is no previous listing of such in the literature. The second cover was underpaid by 5c, and was charged 10c due on arrival of the 16th of October. These are the only known covers which illustrate proper use of the provisional due issues; other known covers are outright philatelic fabrications created locally at various offices in Mauritania.



►583). Use of the 25c Group Type of Tchingking from the Chinese village of Chengdu in Sichun province on the 17th of September 1904 (Chinese date stamp), via Shanghai where the letter was backstamped on the 14th November and the stamp was cancelled with the obsolete 5104 lozenge of that office. Thereafter, the letter entered the French mails and arrived in Paris on the 16th of December en route to its destination in France on the same day. Not only is this an unusual use of a Group Type stamp, but it is possibly the only example of this issue cancelled with the Shanghai 5104 lozenge. The reasons for the routing through Shanghai are unknown.

►584). PRESENCE POSTALE/HOMMARTING (Figure 1) is an experimental marking applied at the village hall of Hommarting (Moselle) commune—which lacks postal facilities—for a period of 4 hours each week (also, but for only 2 hours at Guntzville, the other “experimental” village). Presumably a postman would be on duty at the commune hall during that specified time, and then take such mail to the Arzville P.O. for further postal handling. (J.P. Bournique in the SPAL newsletter, “Trait d’Union,” No. 65, 1991.)

►585). Postal cards without imprinted stamp vignettes were prepared locally in a number of French Colonies in the early days of World War II as means for communicating (no envelopes allowed) with both occupied and unoccupied France. The apparent models were the more familiar interzone cards of France, with their very strict, imprinted regulations concerning legibility of messages, contents restrictions, number of lines used, etc. Gérard Fabrègue, writing in *L’Echo de la Timbrologie*, June 1991, discusses and illustrates (reduced size) some such cards from Equatorial Africa, Cameroun, Ivory Coast, Somali Coast, Guadeloupe, and French Oceania. For various reasons (i.e., non-conformance with the imprinted regulations, suspension of postal service, non-acceptance by occupied France, etc.), the majority seem not to have been accepted by postal authorities of both portions of France.



#### For The Record #584

►586). Our indefatigable colleague, Bertrand Sinais, continues his detailed studies of "minor theatres" of 20th Century warfare with a very fine, comprehensive article (history, ships and units engaged and lost, postal markings and covers) on the French naval and military role in the evacuation of Dunkirk (late May-early June 1940), in Feuilles Marcophiles, No. 266, 1991. The little-known mail of French evacuees in England is covered in detail. Ironically, many of the French evacuees were immediately returned to France, via Cherbourg and Brest, but far too late to be a balancing factor in the final days of the Third Republic.

►587). As small numerals in lozenge (P.C.) 1817 killer--normally used at the very minor P.O. of Luzy (Nièvre Dept.)--was sent accidentally to Lyon when the postal authorities there requested an extra P.C. 1818 device. Ten covers are known bearing Lyon cds in conjunction with the P.C. 1817, with dates between 3 and 12 June 1859. It is therefore far rarer than the 1862 provisional Lyon 1818s. C. Marsaux (Documents Philatéliques, No. 129, 1991) concludes that the Lyon postal people noticed the error essentially immediately, and used the P.C. 1817 device only as a last recourse on extra busy days, before returning it to Paris? or to Luzy? or perhaps simply pitching it.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

### New Issues And Withdrawals

► France, 3 (5) Aug.: 2.50 + 0.20F Artistic Skiing (Winter '92 Olympics); 17 (19) Aug.: 2.50 + 0.20F Alpine Skiing (ditto); 14 (16) Sept.: Nature Protection series, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00; 22 (24) Sept.: 2.50 10th World Forestry Congress, Paris.

Withdrawals: 3 May: 4F postal card for the 1989-1990 postal turn about the world; 14 June: 2.30 Maurice Genevoix; 5F Rodin (Art); 5F Head of Christ of Wissembourg (Art); 12 July: 3.20 30th anniv. of OCDE; 5F Bissière (Art); 13 Sept.: 2.50 + 0.60 Stamp Day 1991 (sheet stamps and booklets).

► Andorra, 24 June: Faune; 14 (16) Sept.: 2.50 World Bolla (Pétanque) Championships. Withdrawals: 10 May: Nature: 2.30 roses and 3.20 otter; 22F booklet of 10 x 2.20 Arms of Andorra; 14 June: 2.30 tobacco drying at Les Bons; 3F Encensoir de Sant-Roma.



► St. Pierre-et-Miquelon, 5 Aug.: 2.50 St. Pierre to Newfoundland rowing meet; 26 Aug.: 5.00 Basque sports; (2.30F + 14.50F Savoyard Tourism triptych postponed indefinitely from indicated 15 July date.)

Withdrawals: 22 April: 3F ships St. Pierre and St. Denis; 3 June: 10F DC-3 Apache airmail; 7 June: 22F Liberté booklet (10 stamps at 2.20); 18 June: 1.70F + 2.30F Charles de Gaulle triptych; 2.30 Noel 1990; 15 July: 2.30F + 14.50F vue of St. Pierre triptych; 2.50F butterfly.

► Preliminary schedule of new issues for rest of 1991 (announced last Feb., see FCP July, page 88.)

To appear from Sept. on:

Sept.: 10th Congress of World Forestry at Paris; Nature series, Pyrenees bear, land turtle, kingfisher, beaver.

Oct.: Work of R. Matta; Centenary of economics of public works; 30th anniv. of Amnesty International.

Nov.: Bicentenary of death of Mozart; Red Cross/Toulon.

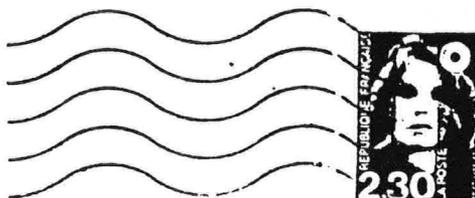
Dec.: Work of Rouan; Ski Artistique; Ski alpin; Carrying the Olympic Flame.

► At NAPEX May 31-July 1 Member Ramond Gailagut was the chief judge, and Stan Jersey also served on the jury. The exhibit of Carrol Lloyd on Haiti showed some very fine French maritime covers. In attendance at the show were members Dick Winter, Jeff Bohn, Martin Stempien, John Lievsay, John Chaite, Clarence Stillions, Walter Parshall, Dr. P. Hinterkopf, Joe Geraci.

► Ernest Cohn notes a correction should be made in his article in the July FCP on Second Thoughts about Mail on the Piper I: in the 8th paragraph the bogus cachet should be stated to have originated in the second *quarter* of the 20th Cent.

► In the report of the meeting of June 4, page 95 in the July FCP, in next to last paragraph the last two lines, change "two" Perf. 25c to "three" and "three imperf. 20c Colonies General Issues."

► Herewith, an illustration of the new format SECAP Machine cancel mentioned in July FCP, page 92, this one with an *early* April date.



► Winner of the best (or favorite) French stamp for 1990 was the Odilon Redon 5.00 Art stamp "Profile of a Woman," according to a La Poste poll of collectors who reserve or subscribe to current stamps.

► Our long time member, director, and contributor, Dr. Martin F. Stempien, Jr., was scheduled to receive the Postal History Society gold medal at BALPEX '91 for "Franco-Thurn & Taxis Accountancy Marks," the best article in "Postal History Journal" for 1990. Nice going Martin!

## REVIEW

"*Philatélie à la Française*," John E. Lievsay, editor; The Philatelic Foundation Seminar Series Textbook No. 2; New York, The Philatelic Foundation, 1991, 101 pages, 8½ x 11 inches, paperbound. (Available from the Philatelic Foundation, 21 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016, for \$14.95 + \$2.50 postage.)

This well-produced, glossy paper, clearly and extensively illustrated handbook starts with Acknowledgements by Harlan F. Stone, a Preface by Dr. Robert M. Rosende, and an

Introduction by its editor, John E. Lievsay, all distinguished philatelists and exhibitors. It is basically the printed version in text (probably refined and augmented) and illustrations of public lectures given at The Philatelic Foundation on March 16, 1990, with our editor, Robert G. Stone as moderator.

The bulk of the book consists of four articles, each derived from the seminar lectures: "International Mail, 1699-1869," by Dr. Martin F. Stempien, Jr.; "The Hulot Plates of 1849-1876: A Graphic Presentation," by Marc W. Martin; "First Issues," by John E. Lievsay; and "Guadeloupe 1859-1915: Its Stamps and Their Use," by Dr. Edward J.J. Grabowski. Each author has picked a subject which he, through years of study, writing, and exhibiting, is eminently qualified to cover. The remaining 40 percent consists of four appendices: "Frankings of September 1871," "Expertizing France by The Philatelic Foundation," "Sperati Forgeries of the First Issues," and finally a one-page listing of currently available publications of our Society. Lievsay is listed as author of the first appendix. I suspect that he is also responsible for preparing or editing the others.

What can one possibly say about a book authored by four eminent France and Colonies experts who are all former presidents of our Society, present directors or officers, and especially, good friends and colleagues of this reviewer? Very little other than, well done, guys! I found only one error of commission. At the top of page 40, the symbols shown at the left of Figure 18 stand for press operator "P" doing his printing on 2 April, and not press number 204. (Sorry, John. . .)

As a long-time French collector, and one familiar with the authors' previous writings and their exhibits, I did not find any significantly new information here. In fact, Appendix C on the Sperati forgeries was the highlight of my perusal simply because I do not own a copy (few do!) of the British Philatelic Association compilation of Sperati's work (expensive and scarce), and I find the inclusion of the French section here, in 29 pages, an invaluable addition. But really, I do heartily recommend this book to the average collector of France and Colonies and to incipient specialists in these areas. For it can clue one in on possible areas to collect, on the sort of material to collect (or avoid), and it points out some potential pitfalls to the otherwise unwary. The material is written in clear language and is free of typographical errors. The book is well produced (though flimsily bound), lavishly and clearly illustrated, and the type is of good size.

Each article terminates with a short but useful bibliography. I wished to have seen more English-language titles for those readers who are not proficient in French. Searches through our journal and that of our British confrères would have added some useful, or at least rudimentary references.

S.J. Luft



**GARDNER L. BROWN**

**August, 15, 1921 - September 29, 1991**

Gardner's mail has encountered its final detour. He was a leading student of the Franco-Prussian War, 1870-71, and has left us a rich contribution to understanding the Postal History of that period - notably "Detoured Mail During the Franco-Prussian War," *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 54, No. 6, November 1975; *The Bordeaux Issue*, 1981; "Detoured Paris - Railroads, Boats and Balloons" in the *New Studies of the Transport of Mails in Maritime France*, 1986; and the "Postal History of the Commune Revolution" series of articles in this Journal, April 1989-Jan. 1991 (to be reprinted in the Vaurie series). Gardner was justly proud to have been invited as a Founding member of the French Académie D'Etudes Postales.

His formal obituary in the Rockland, Maine *Courier Gazette* lists B.S. and degree in Chemical Engineering from Columbia University, 1942-43. There is a note that he was a member of the Honorary Society of Dumbells. This clears up a mystery for me - whenever I made a mistake in correspondence, he would take me to task, point out the error of my ways, and chastise me "Dumbly."

I didn't know Gardner when he was working at Goodyear and Pennsylvannia Industrial Chemical in Akron, Ohio - dealing with synthetic rubber and authoring *Resins in Rubber*.

In 1969 he moved to Stamford, Connecticut, to begin his tour as Director of Research for St. Joe Minerals (superplastic zinc and maintenance-free batteries). He was elected Vice-President of France and Colonies Philatelic Society in May, 1970. It turned out that our offices in Manhattan were just around the corner from each other, and we began a long friendship. Once in a while we would have dinner together at a Chinese restaurant near my apartment, Peng-Teng's, which became famous in the G. Brown list of NYC memorable sites as "Poon-Tang." I couldn't match Gardner's love of word-play, although in correspondence he became "Dear Farmer Green." The only time I scored a clear "gotcha" was when he contributed a recipe for leg of lamb to the local church cookbook, starting, "Take a leg of lamb, I don't know which one..." I zinged him, "The uphill leg, Dummy!"

One of Gardner's favorite ploys was to type a chapter of his current work in progress, ship it out for comment, and then take off on a trip to visit one or both of his daughters, Priscilla Elliott and Nancy Zielinski-Clark. He would always give a detailed itinerary where he could be reached, and expected to be called. I remember one evening, or at least am told of it, when we were working on the Bordeaux book and I called him at Nancy's, then in Rochester, NY. It was late in the evening and after a few glasses to wash down the draft in hand, we talked. It is alleged that neither of us possibly could have distinguished between a comma and a semicolon, and that chapter was put in shape another day.

We shared some good times at International exhibitions, the last being sidewalk lunch together in Paris in 1989; after which we sent our wives off shopping while we went back to look at exhibits. One disaster was our invited participation in the Royale exhibition at Quebec, 1984. Having just won a vermeil at PHILEXFRANCE 82, the Browns were not pleased to be awarded a silver. What was worse was the attitude of the Chief Judge, being offered a guided tour of the exhibit, quote "I specialize in Canada and don't want to fill my head with such stuff"-Gardner's revenge was subtle but direct, the city was thereafter renamed-"Queerbec" (and the Judge was retired from the active list).

We visited the Browns this summer when Gardner was able to have visitors after his first hospital confinement. Lovely season with lupine in bloom along the roadside; and topped off with his favorite meal - lobster. (We didn't get out this time to the summer cottage on Perriwinkle Point, where Gardner retreated for relaxation and sometimes some philatelic writing). If a caricature artist would have had him for a sitting, this is how he would be pictured for us to remember him - big grin, stamp tongs in one hand and a lobster claw in the other. If this brings a smile to your face, and you'd like to share this memory with a donation, the family has requested that it be addressed to the Gardner L. Brown Science Scholarship, c/o Supt. of Schools, 43 School St., Rockland, ME 04841.

J.E.L.

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

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**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Ultimately, all the potential participants in the Rich Exhibit were satisfied to "wait until next year." Details and the entry form for the 1992 Rich Exhibit will be published in the January Philatelist.

In this issue you will find what may be a first for this Society: a mail sale. Certainly it is the first one held since I became president. Occasionally I have been asked whether the Society had a library, and certainly the present answer is No. The material being offered could certainly not be called a library, even if it had been available for use by members, which it was not. After this sale, the Society will essentially own no literature except its own publications. Some of our older members recollect that the Society once had additional holdings; however, there was never any central repository. Apparently anything else that we once had was stored at the offices of one or more of our early prominent dealer-officers and was not retrieved by the Society after their death.

The Society will have its usual booth at the National Postage Stamp Show in New York from November 7-10 at Madison Square Garden. Recent experience suggests you may not receive this journal until after that show is over. In any case we would like to meet anyone

who attends the show. Make a particular note on your calendar for the Interpex '92 show which will be held March 12-15, 1992 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in New York. The Society expects to present a series of lectures at that show, in addition to having its regular booth. Details will be in the January Philatelist. As the Society was founded in November 1941, the year 1992 will be the beginning of our second half century.

Dick Stevens

### Meeting of 1 October

At tonight's meeting we were all saddened to learn of the passing of our long-time friend Gardner Brown. Gardner died of complications following a heart attack. Members of the Society will always remember him, not only as a collector and author, but also as a teacher of the art of philately and the collecting of postal history.

*A propos* of the opening announcement, tonight's speaker was Lou Robbins and his topic was philatelic estates. After a lifetime in the philatelic business, Lou has truly seen it all, and tonight he tried to pass along some lessons of what to do and what not to do in leaving a philatelic estate. Of course the horror stories were many. Notable was that of the collector who made a habit of undervaluing his material to his spouse, and when he was gone she sold it for less than 1/10th of its true value based on the information he had given her.

First and foremost among Lou's lessons, is to keep your collection in order and to have a reasonable idea of its market value. Advise the person who is most likely to handle the estate as to its likely value, and where any documentation on it may be found. Have everything arranged so it is clear what it is and so that material can not go astray. The value of a collection can be diminished dramatically if it is stored in unordered shoe boxes and cartons. Lou has seen many of these.

Your heirs should never be in a hurry to sell. How does one sell a collection left as part of an estate? First, a good appraisal is needed, though it may be a problem to get someone who can appraise a complex collection, especially if it is heavy in postal history and collateral material. Negotiate the size of the appraisal fee beforehand. If the collection is a straightforward assembly of stamps in the 10-20K range, an outright sale to a dealer based on the appraisal might be in order. The auction market is fraught with problems. The first is to find a proper house to handle the sale. There are but a very few houses in the USA that could begin to handle a complex French area postal history collection. Going overseas is complicated. Because of currency restrictions, France, the strength of our market, is really not available to us for auction sale. Even if a good house is found to handle the collection, delays could amount to as much as a year or two due to extensions and resales of unsold material. For maximum value, the careful placement of the collection with a specific auction house is the key to success. Lou would not make recommendations of which auction houses to consider or not consider. But a good rule of thumb might be to review what a particular house has been selling in your area, and if the prices seem good, think about going with them.

Each collection is different. Our job is to be sure that our heirs have as much help as possible in getting fair market value for what we have had so much fun putting together.

Ed Grabowski

### NEW MEMBERS

- 2894 DICKEY, MARK, Kegelgasse 6/13, 1030 Vienna, Austria. (General Collector: all issues.)
- 2895 MITCHELL, CHUCK R., FAHRA, Director of Radiology Services, University Hospital, Jacksonville, FL 32209. (Topical: X-ray-Radiology-Roentgen-the Curies, etc. General France: mint, on cover. Postal history. Maximum cards-First- Day Covers-Miniature Sheets. Expositions-Special & Temporary Bureaus-Essays-Deluxe Proofs-Imperforates-Artist Proofs-Color Trials-Specimen, Annulé, Fictifs. Monaco. Colonies General Issues: mint, on cover.)
- 2896 SCHROEDL, GERALD F., 4313 Wells Road, Knoxville, TN 37920. (Stamps & covers of individual colonies, French Caribbean-French West and Equatorial Africa-Constitutional Colonies pre-independence.)



U.S. Postal Service STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION <small>Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685</small>			
1A. Title of Publication  France And Colonies Philatelist		1B. PUBLICATION NO.  2 0 7 7 0 0	
3. Frequency of Issue  Quarterly		3A. No. of Issues Published Annually  4	2. Date of Filing  9/17/91
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