



# France & Colonies Philatelist

## FRENCH MARCOPHILY-I. DEPARTURE MARKINGS

by Robert T. Kinsley

Postal markings on old letters is a subject which has been covered extensively in French philatelic journals, including our *France & Colonies Philatelist*. Because the subject has not been discussed there recently, since the fine article on early French letters in the April 1987 issue<sup>1</sup>, and inasmuch as it is such a fascinating and popular collecting area, it is worth repeating from time to time. This first section will review the early departure markings (marques de départ) which identify the city from which the letter was mailed.

The earliest known are simple manuscript identifications of the town, located in no particular position on the cover, and dating back to the 16th Century (Figure 1). The first use of a printed handstamp, with the town name preceded by "DE" or "DU" (from) (Figure 2) appeared in 1695<sup>1\*</sup>. Such handstamps identifying the city of origin became mandatory by a memorandum ("circulaire") of 3 March 1749<sup>2</sup> and, incidentally, charges for delivery of letters did not begin to be standardized until passage of the Law of 8 July 1759<sup>3</sup>. At that time France was divided into about 33 "généralités," each named after the city where the royal intendant (chief political officer for the Crown) resided (Figures 3 & 4). At the start of the French Revolution, the Constituent Assembly in December 1789 divided France into 83 Départements (Table 1) and stipulated that no part of a department should be more than a day's ride from its capital, an apparent effort to redress one of the faults of earlier political divisions. This numerical identification was not implemented until late 1791 when the first markings with department numbers above the town name (Figure 5) are reported. In a few cases both the name of the town and of the department are used (Figure 6).

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Beaune  
Monsieur  
M. de la Roche  
Monsieur Le Baron de Gemeningen  
President Et Louis Sieve de F. A. S. Monge  
Le Marquis de la Roche de la Roche  
par Strasbourg  
de la Roche

Figure 1-A

\*\*\*\*\*

## FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST

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*Monsieur*  
*Monsieur Le Baron Delais*  
*Montales buson Chateau de Nismes*  
*As Ambrois*

Figure 1-B. Ms marks of Beaune and Nismes.

*Monsieur*  
**DEVERSAILLES**  
*Monsieur Vandermaire*  
*En diamant rue Sauter de Nismes*  
*En Sande*  
*A. A. M. B. R.*

Fig. 2

Figure 2

These departments were supplemented by the many areas created as the French armies conquered and annexed Belgium, Holland, and parts of Germany, Italy, and Spain during the ensuing period ending in 1813 (Figure 7 and Table 2)<sup>4</sup>. The department numbers missing from Tables 1 and 2 are as follows:

88 - Loire: created in 1793 by separation from Rhone-et-Loire

89 - Vaucluse: the Comtat Venaissin annexed 1791; department created 1793

115 - Tarn-et-Garonne: created in 1808 from parts of adjoining departments Lot-et-Garonne and Haute-Garonne<sup>5</sup>

The only other numbering change which occurred during the period of use of these straightline departure marks was Corsica (purchased from the Republic of Genoa in 1768),

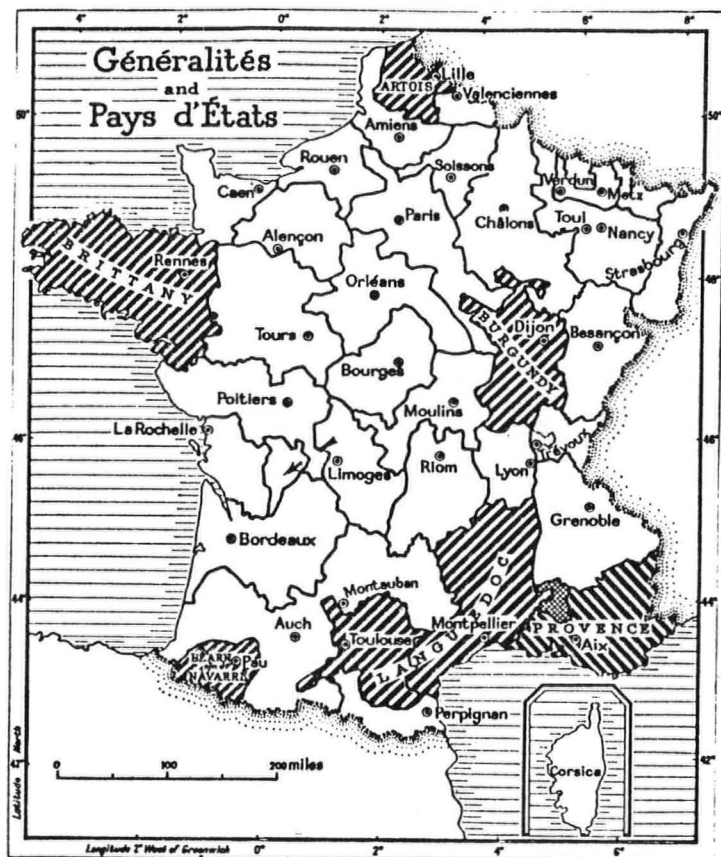


Figure 3

being divided into Golo (N° 19) and Liamone (N° 90 in 1793, and then reunited as Corse (N° 19) in 1811, leaving N° 90 available and reassigned to Le Montserrat.

Straightline city markings also include the use of "P. # P." to signify the prepayment of postage (Figure 8). Another variety, almost universally present only as a backstamp, is the city name preceded by "DÉB" for "déboursé" (Figure 9). This is not a departure marking<sup>6</sup> but a transit marking whereby the letter was forwarded and use of the DÉB indicated that the charge for postage due was removed from the forwarding post office's account. From the beginning of 1819 are found marks of secondary post offices ("distributions") in italics ("cursive") (Figure 10), usually accompanied, until the end of April 1830, by the name of the larger bureau to which they were attached, although some later usages of both names are known. And in February 1828 a very short-lived effort was launched in about 100 localities to also indicate the date a letter was mailed. Known as "le cachet d'essai de février," these handstamps were discontinued after three weeks of use because of poor impressions (Figure 11) and difficulty in making the daily date-slug changes. Simply as an example of the extent to which a collection of such marks might evolve, we show the different marks of but one city in one department (Table 3)<sup>7</sup>. Finally, there exist some less common straightline city marks, such as Poste de Paris or the local post of Bordeaux (Figure 12) for which we can only refer the reader to his choice of the many reference books on French postal markings.



**CARCASSONE**

# HAVRE

Messieurs

~~SECRET~~AVRAN

NANTES

Momieu Le Clinico de Miniac.

A. S. Maston

Figure 4

N <sup>os</sup>	DÉPARTEMENTS	N <sup>os</sup>	DÉPARTEMENTS
1.	Ain.	29.	Gard.
2.	Aisne.	30.	Garonne (Haute).
3.	Allier.	31.	Gers.
4.	Alpes (Hautes).	32.	Gironde.
5.	Alpes (Basses).	33.	Hérault.
6.	Ardèche.	34.	Ille-et-Vilaine.
7.	Ardennes.	35.	Indre.
8.	Ariège.	36.	Indre-et-Loire.
9.	Aube.	37.	Isère.
10.	Aude.	38.	Jura.
11.	Aveyron.	39.	Landes.
12.	Bouches-du-Rhône.	40.	Loir-et-Cher.
13.	Calvados.	41.	Loire (Haute).
14.	Cantal.	42.	Loire-Inférieure.
15.	Charente.	43.	Loiret.
16.	Charente-Inférieure.	44.	Lot.
17.	Cher.	45.	Lot-et-Garonne.
18.	Corrèze.	46.	Lozère.
19.	Corse (Ile d'Elbe).	47.	Maine-et-Loire.
20.	Côte-d'Or.	48.	Manche.
21.	Côtes-du-Nord.	49.	Marne.
22.	Creuse.	50.	Marne (Haute).
23.	Dordogne.	51.	Mayenne.
24.	Doubs.	52.	Meurthe.
25.	Drôme.	53.	Meuse.
26.	Eure.	54.	Morbihan.
27.	Eure-et-Loir.	55.	Moselle.
28.	Finistère.	56.	Nièvre.
57.	Nord.	71.	Sarthe.
58.	Oise.	72.	Seine-et-Oise.
59.	Orne.	73.	Seine-et-Marne.
60.	Paris et Seine.	74.	Seine-Inférieure.
61.	Pas-de-Calais.	75.	Sevres (Deux).
62.	Puy-de-Dôme.	76.	Somme.
63.	Pyrénées (Hautes).	77.	Tarn.
64.	Pyrénées (Basses).	78.	Var.
65.	Pyrénées-Orientales.	79.	Vendée.
66.	Rhin (Haut).	80.	Vienne.
67.	Rhin (Bas).	81.	Vienne (Haute).
68.	Rhône.	82.	Vosges.
69.	Saône (Haute).	83.	Yonne.
70.	Saône-et-Loire.		

Table 1

16  
ROCHEFORT  
*Messieurs*

30  
TOULOUSE *Messieurs*

53  
VERDUN-S-MEUS

*Monseigneur de Tour*

54  
HENNEBON

*Consigne*  
*Antoine-Joseph Popiliet,*  
*procurateur*  
*à Montgermer.*

Figure 5

62  
CLERMONT  
DU PUY-DE-DÔME

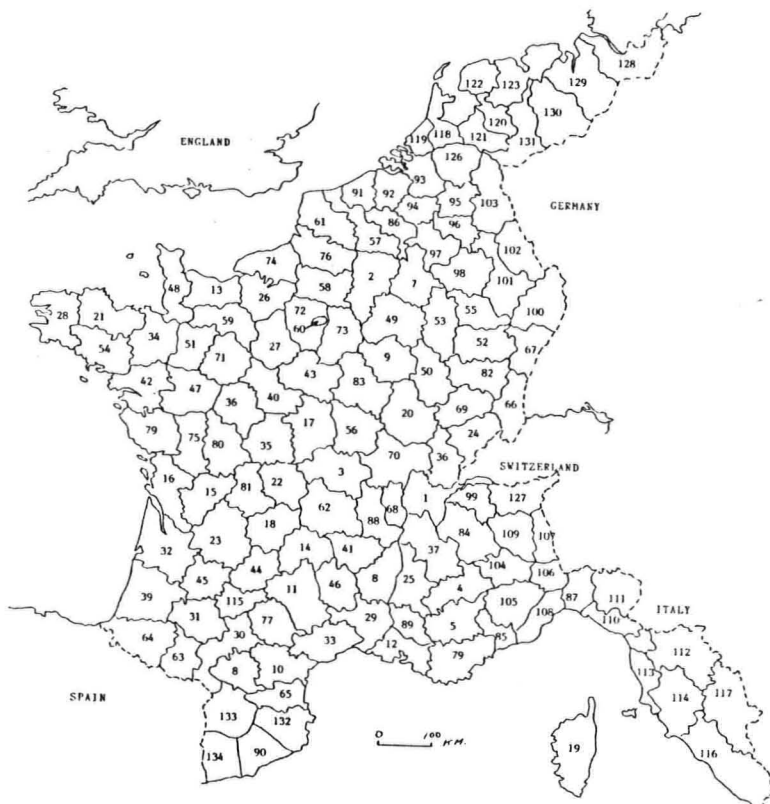
I  
BOURG-AIN

*V. Monseigneur*

*16* *Monseigneur* *Popiliet, avec*  
*la gex. l.*

99  
JUL 1829

Figure 6



Map of The French Empire of 1812 and Its Departments  
(See Tables 1 & 2 for names of departments)

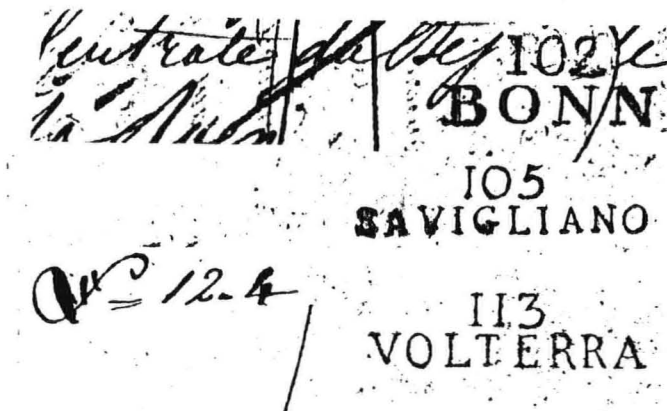


Figure 7

Number	Name	Year Estbl.	Capital	Present Location
84	Le Mont Blanc .....	1792..	Chambéry .....	France
85	Les Alpes Maritimes .....	1793..	Nice .....	France
86	Jemmapes .....	1793..	Mons .....	Belgium
87	Le Mont Terrible .....	1793..	Porentruy .....	Switzerland (a)
87	Gènes .....	1805..	Gènes .....	Italy
90	Le Montserrat .....	1812..	Barcelone .....	Spain (b)
91	La Lys .....	1795..	Bruges .....	Belgium
92	L'Escaut .....	1795..	Gand .....	Belgium
93	Les Deux Nèthes .....	1795..	Anvers .....	Belgium
94	La Dyle .....	1795..	Bruxelles .....	Belgium
95	La Meuse Inférieure .....	1795..	Maestricht .....	Belgium and Holland
96	L'Ourthe .....	1795..	Liège .....	Belgium
97	Sambre et Meuse .....	1795..	Namur .....	Belgium
98	Les Forêts .....	1795..	Luxembourg .....	Luxembourg
99	Le Léman .....	1798..	Genève .....	Switzerland and France
100	Le Mont Tonnerre .....	1798..	Mayence .....	Germany
101	La Sarre .....	1798..	Trèves .....	Germany
102	Le Rhin et Moselle .....	1798..	Coblentz .....	Germany
103	La Roër .....	1798..	Aix-la-Chapelle .....	Germany
104	Le Pô .....	1802..	Turin .....	Italy
105	La Stura .....	1802..	Coni .....	Italy
106	Marengo .....	1802..	Alexandrie .....	Italy
107	La Sésia .....	1802..	Vercell .....	Italy
108	Le Tanaro .....	1802..	Asti .....	Italy (c)
108	Le Montenotte .....	1805..	Savone .....	Italy
109	La Doire .....	1802..	Ivrée .....	Italy
110	Le Apennins .....	1805..	Chiavari .....	Italy
111	Le Taro .....	1808..	Parme .....	Italy
112	L'Arno .....	1808..	Florence .....	Italy
113	La Méditerranée .....	1808..	Livourne .....	Italy
114	L'Ombrone .....	1808..	Sienne .....	Italy
116	Le Tibre .....	1810..	Rome .....	Italy
117	Le Trasimène .....	1810..	Spoletto .....	Italy
118	Zuyderzée .....	1810..	Amsterdam .....	Holland
119	Les Bouches de la Meuse .....	1810..	La Haye .....	Holland
120	Les Bouches de l'Yssel .....	1810..	Zwolle .....	Holland
121	L'Yssel Supérieur .....	1810..	Arnheim .....	Holland
122	La Frise .....	1810..	Leuwaarden .....	Holland
123	L'Ems Occidental .....	1810..	Groningue .....	Holland
124	L'Ems Oriental .....	1810..	Aurich .....	Holland
125	Les Bouches de l'Escaut .....	1810..	Middlebourg .....	Holland
126	Les Bouches du Rhin .....	1810..	Bois-le-Duc .....	Holland
127	Le Simplon .....	1810..	Sion .....	Switzerland
128	Les Bouches de L'Elbe .....	1810..	Hambourg .....	Germany
129	Les Bouches du Weser .....	1810..	Bremen .....	Germany
130	L'Ems Supérieur .....	1810..	Osnabruck .....	Germany
131	La Lippe .....	1810..	Munster .....	Germany
132	Le Ter .....	1812..	Gironne .....	Spain
133	La Sègre .....	1812..	Figüères .....	Spain
134	Les Bouches de l'Ebre .....	1812..	Lérída .....	Spain (d)

(a) Attached to the Department of the Haut Rhin in 1800.

(b) This number has previously been used by the Department of the Liamone in Corsica.

(c) Cut up and attached to three other departments in 1805.

(d) No post office was opened in this department.

Table 2

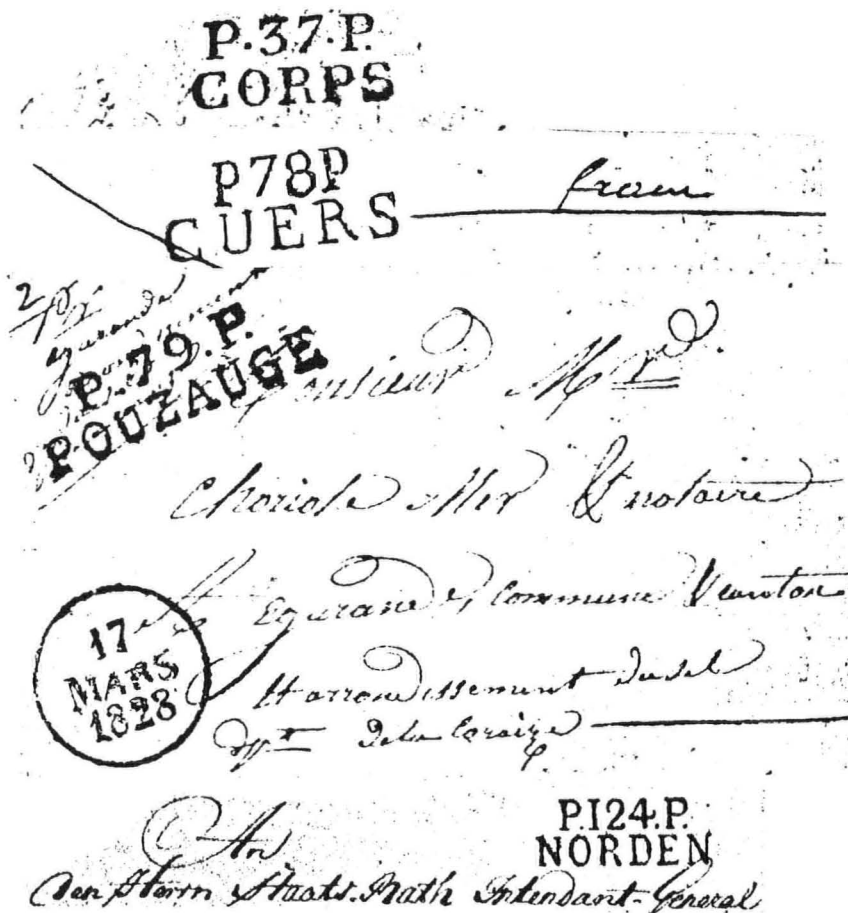


Figure 8

DÉB  
CHATEAU-THIÉRY

Figure 9

43  
Cléry

85  
Bléneau

Monsieur Gouppe,  
notaire,  
Gien

Coire

86  
Sablét-pres-Ouvère

Messieurs H. Vallat & Co

Lyon 25

ST. FARGENT  
14  
DEC.  
1836

D. PAILLEAU PERRE  
A. SABLET

MAISON  
ED  
AINT  
1837

Figure 10

SAINT MALO. 34  
3 FEVRIER 1828

Figure 11

Début 18e	<i>de Perpignan</i>	An 4	65 PERPIGNAN
1712-1728	DE PERPIGNAN	An 6/7	65 PERPIGNAN
idem	DE PERPIGNAN		65 PERPIGNAN
1719-1744	DE PERPIGNAN	An 8	65 PERPIGNAN
1744-1751	DE PERPIGNAN	1805-1809	65 PERPIGNAN
1756-1776	DE PERPIGNAN	1809-1812	65 PERPIGNAN
1761-1791	PERPIGNAN	1812-1813	65 PERPIGNAN
1771-1772	DE PERPIGNAN	1814-1816	65 PERPIGNAN
1780-1784	PERPIGNAN	1818-1821	65 PERPIGNAN
1786-1787	PERPIGNAN		65 PERPIGNAN
1792-1794	65 PERPIGNAN		65 PERPIGNAN



Table 3 (cont.)

1821-1825	65 PERPIGNAN	1810	P. 65.P. PERPIGNAN
1824-1826	65 PERPIGNAN	1811-1829	P. 65.P. PERPIGNAN
Déc. 1828 à Jan. 29.	65 PERPIGNAN	1822-1831	P. 65.P. PERPIGNAN
Fév. 1828	PERPIGNAN 65 11 FEVRIER 1828	1788-1792	DEB. DE PERPIGNAN
1798-1791	PERPIGNAN PORT-PAYE.	1795	DEB. DE PERPIGNAN
An 4-1810	P. 65. P. PERPIGNAN	1802-1805	DÉB. PERPIGNAN
An 6-1793	P 65 P PERPIGNAN	1811-1814	DÉB 65. PERPIGNAN
		1814-1828	DÉB. 65 PERPIGNAN
		1826-1830	DÉB. 65 PERPIGNAN

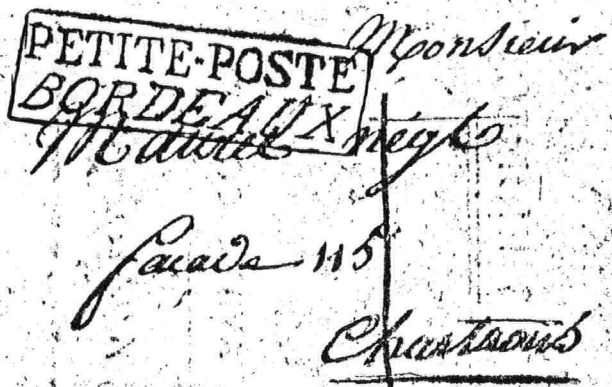


Figure 12

An interesting sub-area is a collection of city and town names, which as a result of official animosity toward the ruling and ecclesiastical (Figure 13) classes that greatly fomented the Revolution, were changed beginning late 1792 to more innocuous or "republican" names. A few examples, taken from the program of the French Centennial Stamp Exhibition (1/16 - 2/13/1949) at the short-lived Temple University Philatelic Museum<sup>8</sup> are given in Table 4--which is incorrect, for Vitry-le-François actually became Vitry-sur-Marne (Figure 14). Most of these towns reverted to their original names after the 1804 Concordat with the Pope, which re-established religious values or later (from July 1815), following Napoleon's downfall. For a nearly complete compilation and study of Noms Révolutionnaires, see Legendre<sup>9</sup>.

The straightline town marks were, with a few exceptions, superseded by circular postmarks in 1830, and a next section will provide examples of the early types of such marks.

As a postscript, we consulted no less an authority than the Encyclopaedia Britannica in the local library to determine the present numbers assigned to the departments which, as a result of dividing the greater Paris area into eight distinct departments in 1964, now

St. Lô	became	Rocher-de-la-Liberté	(no more Saints)
Château-Thierry	became	Egalité-sur-Marne	(no more châteaux)
Le Donjon	became	Val-Libre	(no more dungeons)
Dunkerque	became	Dune-Libre	(no more churches)
Baume-les-Dames	became	Baume-les-Citoyennes	(no more ladies)
Pont-L'Évêque	became	Pont-Chalier	(no more bishops)
Aignay-le-Duc	became	Aignay-Côte-d'Or	(no more dukes)
Montdauphin	became	Mont-Lyon	(no more crown princes)
Bourg-la-Reine	became	Bourg Egalité	(no more queens)
Dun-le-Roy	became	Dun-sur-Auron	(no more kings)
Mont-Louis	became	Mont de la Liberté	(no more Louis)
Vitry-le-François	became	Vitry-le-Français	(no more François)
Dieu-le-Fit	became	Mont-Jabron	(no more Gods)
Pont-St.-Esprit	became	Pont-sur-Rhône	(no more Holy Ghosts)

Table 4

83 88  
 VILLENEUVE ST SYMPHORIEN  
 L'ARCHEVEQUE DE LAI

Figure 13

49  
 VITRY-S-MARNE

Figure 14

total 93 in mainland France, two in Corsica, and five overseas. A mistake, and we confused ever so many correspondents, so please do not use the information in any *Britannica* edition prior to 1991, and you won't find any numbers at all in the 1991 edition<sup>10</sup>. The current department numbers, direct from the French Code Postal, will be provided in Table 5.

(to be continued)

#### FOOTNOTES

1. Jacques Desrousseaux, "French Letters from the XVth Century up to the First Postmarks."
- 1a. Dr. Martin F. Stempien, Jr., "International Mail, 1699-1869," p. 1-2 in "Philatelie à la Française"; The Philatelic Foundation Seminar Series Textbook N° 2, 1991.
2. "Catalogue Spécialisé des Timbres de France," Vol. 1; Yvert & Tellier, 1975, p. 2.
3. F. Doé, "Les Estampilles Postales Françaises"; Yvert & Tellier, 1900, p. 3.
4. Dr. Carroll Chase, in FCP N° 114, 1962; also see W.M. Waugh, "The French 'Départements Conquis' 1791-1815"; FCPS Vaurie Mem. Fund Publ. N° 3, 1980.
5. Although the Yvert catalogue of marques assigns Dept. N° 115 to Mella (Lombardy Italy) a review of French auction catalog listings suggests that N° 115 was used only on Tarn-et-Garonne SFLs.
6. Though used also, on rare occasions, as a departure marking.
7. Henri Dubois, "Histoire Postale du Département des Pyrénées-Orientales," 1982.
8. Then became nucleus of present-day Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum in 1961.
9. James Legendre, "Les Noms 'Révolutionnaires,'" 1974.
10. The Editorial Division, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, advised (pers. commun., August 6, 1991) as follows: "The country's *régions de programme* were indexed alphabetically, and within each was grouped the *région's* constituent *départements*, again in alphabetical order. This numbering system, while it did not correspond to the French government's own numbering system for the *départements*, had the advantage of being easily grasped by non-natives of France... in the 1991 printing of the encyclopaedia we eliminated the numbers entirely, primarily to avoid the potentially confusing discrepancy with the French numbering system."

## ON SOME PAPERS USED FOR THE LIBERTE SERIES

A. Le Guillou, leading expert on and popularizer of coins datés, summarizes the paper types used recently for some of the later printings of the Liberté series.

British-made Whiley paper is very white, reacts pale bluish under UV, and has white, dull gum similar to the "Hollandaise" gum of some earlier Sabines. Whiley paper was used for Libertés as follows:

0,30 20th press run, printed 12 Feb. 1987; 21st run, 17 and 24 April and 4-7 May 1987  
 0,70 16th press run, 11, 20, 21, and 29 May 1987  
 3,00 14th press run, 6-14 Jan. 1987  
 3,40 3rd press run, 19-24 Mar. 1987

True chalky paper was used in 1989. UV reactions vary between rolls of paper, range from very pale bluish to pale rose, and usually blotchy-appearing. Gum is white and very shiny. Chalky paper (which you really don't want to test by rubbing with a silver coin so as to notice the tell-tale, non-removable gray mark left behind) was used to print some late Liberté printings as follows:

0,40 21st press run, 18-19 May 1989  
 0,50 38th press run, 25 Jan.-6 Feb. 1989; 39th run, 23-29 Mar. 1989  
 1,00 36th press run, 9-20 Feb. 1989; 37th run, 16-23 Mar. 1989  
 3,60 5th press run, 7-9 Feb. 1989  
 10,00 16th press run, 12 Feb.-14 Mar. 1989

Chalky paper was also used for some closed booklets of the 2,20 Liberté, including those with covers reading "Pour Offrir des Timbres," "La Réserve Gratuite," "Faites de la Musique... 1989," and all PhilexFrance '89 booklets prepared at the exhibition.

--S.J.L.



## AN APPEAL TO THE MEMBERSHIP

If you've long felt (or just recently) that the Scott catalogs are lacking in one respect or another when it comes to serving your particular interests in France or the Colonies, be assured that you're not alone.

We now have the opportunity (once again, I understand) to try and help the editors of Scott Publications in rectifying some of these shortcomings and make the volumes more "user friendly." In an exchange of sorts, Scott's will publicize our Society on its catalog acknowledgement pages.

Please contact Stanley J. Luft, 16291 West 56th Place, Golden, CO 80403, if you believe you can furnish expertise for any F&C country or entity on any of the following problem areas:

1. Outright errors in cataloging, description, etc. of specific stamps.
2. Advice on those difficult-to-find stamps that presently catalog far too low.
3. Advice on stamps that in the usual normal state tend to be badly centered, shabbily perforated, or poorly printed; that is, those items for which fine or better centering, perforating, or printing should command a premium over catalog values.
4. (This would be for some Colonies only): Advice on whether catalog values should refer to postally used items or to CTOs; that is, whether CTOs should command the catalog values shown for used stamps or whether they should sell for far less (and how far less).
5. What printing types, overprints, surcharges, etc. should be illustrated in the catalogs to aid user in identification.
6. Point out items hard-to-identify by the novice collector, that should be considered for inclusion in some general "Identifier" section.
7. (This is for our dealer-members and for advanced collectors): Suggest pricing changes (upward or downward) as reflected from our special knowledge of market trends abroad.

Looking forward to hearing from you, for this is our great opportunity to be heard from and acknowledged as a leading society of specialist collectors. Unless you swamp me with suggestions, I'll do my best to discuss yours with you prior to collating and conveying them to the editors of Scott. Thanks in advance!

--S.J.L.

## THE OTHER CHIGI LETTER

by Ernst M. Cohn

The *France & Colonies Philatelist* #214 (Oct. '88) contains a short article about a cover carried out of besieged Paris by the Papal Nuncio, Msgr. Flavio Chigi, Archbishop of Myre. Not long afterwards I became aware of the existence of yet another letter, apparently carried out by Msgr. Chigi at the same time.

That letter is hand dated "Paris - 5 Octobre" and starts:

Dear Friend, The Nuncio let me know that he has the opportunity of passing a letter (through the lines) and I profit from it...

Signed "Marie," it is unfranked, without any sign of postage-due marking, addressed to "France/Marquis de Biron/Château de Juigné/Sarthe par Sablé. Of the two postmarks, one on front says ROUEN 3 (or 5)E/22 OCT. 70, that on the back SABLE-S-SARTHE/ 1E/ 24 OCT. 70.

This particular note is dated exactly one week earlier than the other one, with its earliest postmark of Rouen struck two days later than that of Dreux on the other. Hence the opportunity that Msgr. Chigi had hoped for obviously could not be realized. The explanation is found in E.B. Washburne's "Franco-German War..." (Washington, Government Printing Office 1878, pp. 78-79, 82), from which the following is excerpted:

The members of the diplomatic body met in accordance with the notice given by the nuncio yesterday. The committee submitted the answer to Count Bismarck that had been drawn up, which was unanimously agreed to and signed by all the members.

The communication is hereto annexed.

### Diplomatic Corps to Count Bismarck.

The undersigned, members of the diplomatic corps residing at Paris, had the honor to send to your excellency, on the 24th of September last, the expression of their wish, that a courier, carrying their official dispatches, might pass the lines of the besieging army every week on days to be hereafter named, and proceed to some point whence a regular postal communication could be assured.

The minister of foreign affairs of France has informed us, by letter of October 3, that he had the day before received as the reply of your excellency, "that a diplomatic courier could not pass the lines of the besieging troops except upon condition that the dispatches be unsealed and treat of no subject relating to the war."

We should have made it a duty, as regards the contents of our dispatches, to conform scrupulously to the obligations imposed during a siege upon diplomatic agents by the rules and usages of international law.

On the other hand, our position as diplomatic agents, and our obligations toward our governments, do not permit us to accept the other condition, viz, to address to them unsealed dispatches only.

If this last condition is to be maintained, it will be impossible for the diplomatic representatives of the neutral states, to their deep regret, to keep up official communication with their respective governments.

Receive, sir, the assurance of, &c., &c., &c.

Paris, October 6, 1870.

(16 signatures)

Clearly, Marie was on excellent terms with Msgr. Chigi, who had already told her something about his hopes of sending a joint messenger with a sealed bag through the lines. (It also appears as though he did not intend to live up to his promises in the above letter.) As the dean of ambassadors at Paris, he not only had put the first signature on the letter but also had the response addressed to him by Bismarck:

Versailles, October 10, 1870.

"Sir: I have had the honor to receive the letter of the 6th October instant, by which the members of the diplomatic corps still residing at Paris have seen fit to inform me that it would be impossible for them to keep up official correspondence with their respective governments if the condition prescribing that they should forward only **open** dispatches should be insisted upon.

\*\*\*\*\*

Whatever may be our confidence that the signers of the letter of October 6 would conform, in their communications addressed to their governments, to the obligations which their presence in a besieged fortress imposes upon the diplomatic agents according to the laws of war, we must provide for the possibility that the importance of certain facts in a military point of view may escape them. It is evident, too, that they cannot furnish us the same guarantees for the messengers whom they may employ, and whom we shall be obliged to let pass and repass through our lines.

\*\*\*\*\*

In presence of a situation so irregular it is difficult to establish, on the basis of the law of nations, rules which should be free from doubt in all points of view. I hope that your excellency will not fail to recognize the justness of these observations, and will appreciate the considerations which prevent me, to my great regret, from consenting to the wish expressed in the letter of the 6th of October..."

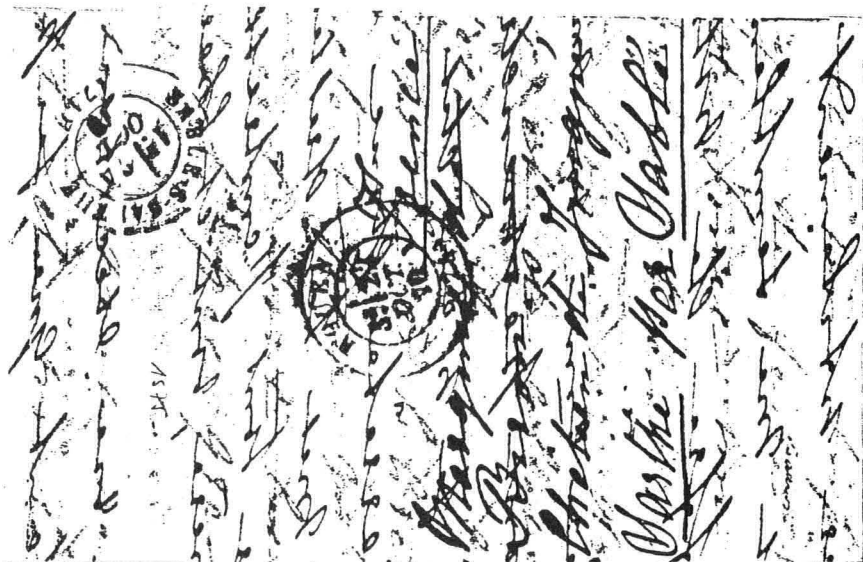
Msgr. Chigi had evidently retained Marie's letter and, when finally leaving Paris for Versailles, had taken it with him personally.

Rouen being quite out of the way, it is not clear what caused this detour; possibly the nuncio entrusted the letter to someone who took it to Rouen before it was mailed. It would have been simpler to have posted it at Tours, whence it could have reached Sablé either via LeMans or, slightly further, via Saumur and Angers.

Finally, a word about the history of this cover as far as I have been able to follow it: It was lot 417 in the 116th sale of Jamet, held at Paris in March 1979, and sold for 1575 French francs. It surfaced again as lot 30321 in the sale of Feldman, held at Geneva in May 1982, and sold for 1500 Swiss francs. At this writing, it is offered as lot 2824 in the 148th sale of Robineau, to be held at Paris in March 1992, with an estimated value of 5500 French francs.

### Illustration

Shown here are front and back of the cover, with part of the back cut off one side and added on to the other side to show the postmark of Sablé in one piece. Sharp eyes may see 1575 upside down with respect to the address (on the back), the price paid for the piece in 1979.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

► We don't recall having seen any announcements in the U.S. philatelic press, but it appears that our high-flying U.S. Postal Service whose current motto seems to be Olympics über Service is, among other things, sponsoring an international design competition for artistry in stamps on Olympic themes. France (at 2,50F face) and Greece will issue same-design entries on 3 (6) April. The design, by Alain Rouhier, promises to be both colorful and energetic (see cut).



► A recent official-use item of postal stationery that may be difficult to acquire. La Poste prepared (early Fall? 1991) a postal card bearing an imprinted reduced-size, CTO copy of the 2,50 Parours de la Flamme Olympique (Route or Way of the Olympic Torch) postage stamp that was issued 14-15 November 1991. The pre-printed destination reads Allez La France/Allez La Poste/Soutiens des Postiers a/l'Equipe de France/73277 Albertville Cedex. Every postal employee in France was to have received one copy and to have mailed it to Albertville prior to 27 November 1991, supposedly as a test of speed of mail movement prior to the anticipated heavy influx of mail during the February 1992 Winter Olympics in Savoy.

► Jacques Robineau, one of the foremost dealers and auctioneer in French stamps and covers and an honorary member of the Académie de Philatélie, died 27 December 1991 at the age of 78.

► Self-adhesive booklet stamps of the 2,50 Marianne de Briat now come on two distinct stocks of paper, creamy and white. The white paper shines brightly under UV light. As of November 1991, the observed ratio was nearly 90% creamy paper with little or no UV reflectance, the rest white and reactive.

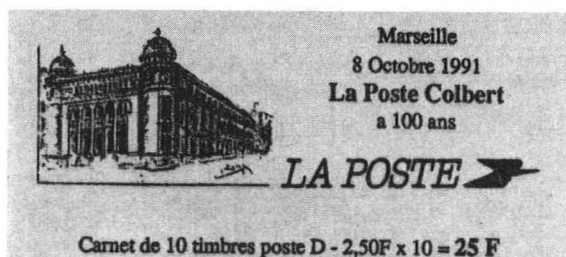
► Another privately produced booklet was assembled in Marseille for the 8 October 1991 centennial of the Colbert post office building and has joined the predecessor "Figeac" item. It consists of 10 red "D" Marianne de Briat stamps (from sheets) glued along the pane margin to covers bearing the La Poste insigna and view of the building (see illustration). This time, and to disrupt speculation, La Poste "reprinted" the booklet and issued it on



27 Jan. 1992. Available only by mail from the Service Philatelique de La Poste, at 25F face--which is considerably less than asking prices for the original.



► Our prolific expert on 1870-71 matters, Ernst M. Cohn, has published a study and census on mail carried from and into besieged Paris (Documents Philatéliques, N° 131, 1992) via United States diplomatic pouches and, earlier in the Siege, also by some individual Americans safeguarded by the Flag. The census shows that only 37 personal letters are presently known, exclusive of official U.S. government dispatches.



Private booklet, reprinted by La Poste to avoid speculation.



► During the 8-23 February 1992 16th Winter Olympic Games held in Savoy, each Olympic site will have its own large-format single-circle date stamp, 14 in all. In addition five special limited-duration post offices were opened in January, each (Brides-les-Bains V.O., Les Saisies V.O., Moûtiers C.I.R.T.V., La Léchère C.P.P., and Albertville C.T.O.) doted with a small-format single-circle cachet.

On closing day of the Games, 23 February, France and Norway will have issued official envelopes announcing the 1994 Winter Olympics at Lillehammer, Norway. The envelopes will bear the logos of the two Olympic Committees; the French one will bear the 2,50F Way of the Olympic Flame and a special cancellation and will be available for 15F until 30 September 1992 at post offices in Savoy or from the Service Philatélique de la Poste, 18 rue F. Bonvin, F-75758 Paris Cédex 15.

► Two oversize stamped envelopes for documents were issued 4 November 1991 under the name of DISTINGO. The envelopes are made of allegedly non-tearing and waterproof DuPont Tyvek, also used by our postal service for some (2-pound pack) Express Mail (but unstamped) envelopes. They both share the same imprinted non-denominated geometric-design stamp, which appears in upper right—one for up to 12 enclosed pages and sold at 20F, the other for up to 30 pages and sold at 25F.

► The XVIth Winter Olympics souvenir sheet, originally projected for December 1991, was to be issued 8 February 1992, opening day of the Games, at Albertville. The ten semi-postal stamps are each valued at 2,50 + 0,20 (total face 27F), which means that six of them will differ in face value from the originally issued 2,30 + 0,20 stamps.

► Used self-adhesive Marianne de Briat stamps (2,30, "D," and 2,50 values) can be removed from envelopes by soaking them for about 10 seconds in benzene, toluene, acetone, or dichloromethane. In each instance, some of the color and much of the cancellation are removed. Safer results are obtained from no more than 10 seconds in ethyl acetate. But, we've had no trouble obtaining satisfactory separation by the simple, time-honored, cool-water bath method...

► A third private or local booklet of stamps has appeared. Actually, chronologically the second, being post-Figeac and pre La Poste Colbert (Marseille). Apparently issued at end of Summer 1991, it consists of ten red "D" Marianne de Briat stamps (25F face) within yellow covers reading at bottom FRANCHE-COMTE/LE TOURISME VERT, with LA POSTE and its emblem in upper right; stylized map of France with a "floating" eastern part (Franche-Comté) in upper left.

► Three faint cheers! It seems that total face value of French 1991 emissions was only 248,80F, down from the 268,87F of 1990. However, these figures do not include booklets with special covers, private booklets, or Distingo envelopes—which would raise the total to 509,80F vs. a similar package of "only" 466,27F for 1990.

► On Christmas Eve 1991, the block of buildings that contained the print shop of our former printer Harlan Miller was destroyed in a fire. The site is considered a philatelic landmark by Herman Herst, Jr., reporting the event in Linn's on Jan. 28, 1991, in view of the many philatelic journals and pamphlets that were printed there by Miller in his career of 50 years. Most of the contents were destroyed but some of Miller's collections, though damaged, were stored in metal cabinets. We are indebted to Mrs. Miller for a clipping from Lawrence (Kansas) Journal World about the fire and picture of the ruins.

► Non-denominated stamps, whether the A through F series of the U.S. and some Christmas emissions, or the A through D series of France, are not supposed to cross national boundaries, according to UPU regulations, and are to be turned back at the local points of departure. This, of course, has never been entirely successful over the years. Yet, how many French (or U.S., or ?) covers bearing non-denominated stamps have you received from abroad? and retained entire? We expect very few and suggest you seek them out, preferably if not philatelically contrived.

► The Musée de la Poste on Blvd. Vaugirard, Paris XV now has a completely redesigned (by Christian Duc) and refurbished entrance hall and boutique. The theme of the latter is Correspondence, and it offers all sorts of very unusual artifacts—modern as well as

reproductions of older writing implements, papers, etc., and international in aspect as well as purely French. The museum will be open now from 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the boutique until 7:00 p.m., Sundays and holidays excepted.

► On perhaps a more serious note (though we'll gladly accept cadeaux for next Noel from the museum's boutique!) is the imminent appearance of a Musée de la Poste publication by Pierre Nougaret, in two volumes, entitled "Guide des recherches en histoire postale, dans les archives et bibliothèques de France"; price not communicated. Also, and published in conjunction with the Bibliothèque Nationale, will be a thesis by M. Arbelot on Les Routes de Poste."

► The new deputy minister for Postes and Télécommunications is Jean-Marie Rausch, formerly minister of foreign commerce, president of the general council of Lorraine, and mayor of Metz. He serves directly under the minister of the economy, finances and budget.

► The ambulants Toulouse-Perpignan, Bordeaux-Hendaye, Lyon-Strasbourg, and return, are no more as of 1 June 1991, due to increased automatization at centres de tri and to the increased volume of domestic air mail services. This now leaves France with only about 30 ambulant services.

### **New Issues and Withdrawals** (cont. from FCP #227, Jan. 1992, p. 224)

► France: 18 (20) Jan. 1992: 2,50F French Pavilion at Seville Expo. 31 Jan. ? : Pre-cancels: 1,60; 1,98; 2,08; 2,46; 2,98; 3,08; 3,14; 3,19; 5,28; 5,30; 5,32 (Musical instruments). 27 Jan. or early Feb.: Marseille Poste Colbert booklet of 10 red "D" stamps at 25F (official reprint of the limited issue Oct. 1991 privately produced booklet, to offset speculation). 8 Feb.: XVI Winter Olympics SS of 10 stamps at 27F (and see elsewhere in this journal feature). 7 Feb.: Booklet of 10 x 2,50F M. de Briat at 25F with M&Ms cover. 7 (9) Mar.: Day of the Stamp semi-postal (Service des guichets theme) 2,50 + 0,60F and booklet at 18,60F. 3 (6) April: 2,50F Olympic Games (joint design with Greece, and see elsewhere in this feature). Withdrawals: 17 Jan. 1992: 10F French Revolution block. 10 April: 2,50F 10th World Forestry Congress, 2,50F Cent. of Special School for Public Works, 2,50F and 3,50F EUROPA 91.

► Andorra: 26 (28) Oct. 1991: First écu of Andorra 2,20F and 2,50F. 10 Feb. 1992: Winter Olympics triptych 2,50F slalom + label + 3,40F skating. 21 (23) Mar.: 2,50F Church of St. Andreu-d'Arinsal. Withdrawals: 17 Jan. 1992: 5,00F fragment of painting at Sta. Coloma. 13 Mar.: 2,50F Chapel of St. Roma-dels Villars, 2,50F Games of the Small States of Europe.

► Monaco: Jan. 1992: 1992 Olympics: 7F bobsled, 8F football; 16th Festival of the Circus, Monte Carlo 2,50F; 60th Automobile Rallye, Monte Carlo 4F. 7 (8) Mar.: Cactus during each of the 4 seasons, 3, 4, 5, 6F in blocks of 4 at 18F. Mar.: Dolphins 4, 5, 6, 7F in sheetlet; 50th Auto Grand Prix of Monaco 2,50F; 25th Inter. Bouquets Competition 3,40F; 25th Canine Expo, Monte Carlo 2,20F; Pre-cancels: 1,60; 2,08; 2,98; 5,28 (4 seasons in which to drown!) 24 April: EUROPA (Discovery of America theme); 2,50F "Pinta," 3,40F "Santa Maria," 4F "Nina," and sheetlet at 19,80F; 7F Monaco Pavilion at Seville Inter. Expo.; Ameriflora (Columbus, Ohio) 4F fruit & vegetables, 5F bouquet; Columbo (Genoa) 6F fresco from Spinola Palace.

► French Polynesia: 2 Dec. 1991: 307F 50th Anniv. of Central Fund for Free France (C.C.C.E.). 11 Dec. 1991: Christmas under the sea (underwater scenes) 55, 83, 86F. 12 Feb. 1992: Touristic Activities 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6F. 18 Mar.: Polynesia as seen from space: 46, 72, 76F, and sheetlet at 230F.

► French Austral & Antarctic Terrs.: 16 Dec. 1991: Institute for Polar Research and Technology 15,00 + 15,00 (humorous diptych separated by label).

► New Caledonia: 2 (3) Dec. 1991: 50th Anniv. of C.C.C.E. 76F + 76F diptych. 18 (19) Dec.: Painters of the Pacific 130F, 435F. 15 (16) Jan. 1992: Cagou bird series 40F, and booklet of 10 x 40F at 400F. 5 Feb.: 400F Bleue River Natural Park, and sheetlet at 450F. Withdrawals: Mar. 1992: 36F La Pérouse (issued 1988), 30F and 46F Noumea Aquarium (issued 1988), 110F molluscs (issued 1989).

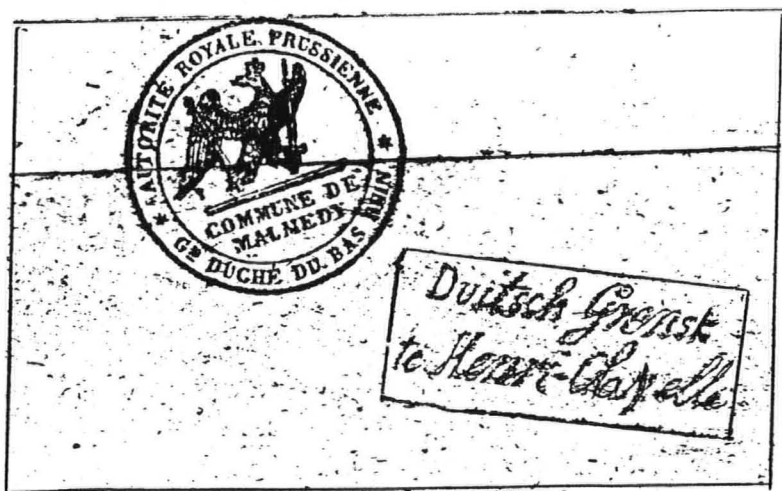
► St. Pierre & Miquelon: 8 (13) Jan. 1992: Booklet of 10 x 2,50F M. de Briat (overprinted) stamps at 25F; 2,50F Adm. Muselier. 10 Feb.: Winter Olympics; 5F skating. 6 (9) Mar.: 3,60F insect and plant. 6 April: Ships' tools 1,50F and 1,80F. 11 May: 20F model plane making. Withdrawal: 20 Dec. 1991: 2,50F 100th Anniv. of musical society of the Lyre.

► Wallis & Futuna: 2 Dec. 1991: 10F 50th Anniv. C.C.C.E.; Flowers 1, 4, 80F. 16 Dec.: 60F Greetings. 20 Jan. 1992: 48F Maritime surveillance. 17 Feb.: 150F Winter Olympics. 25 Mar.: 35F World Philatelic Youth Exhib., Montreal.

## FOR THE RECORD

(cont. from FCP #227, Jan. 1992, p. 23)

► 594.) The Prussian Grand Duchy of the Lower Rhine (see illustration of an administrative cachet) had no connection with Alsace nor its Bas-Rhin Dept. According to James Van der Linden of Aachen, the cachet shown here as a backstamp is known also from Verviers as well as Malmédy (both in present-day Belgium). Possible period of use is March 1814 to July 1817--or from restitution of the Thorn & Taxis service to the Prussian annexation of the Rhein Provinz. The boxed script also shown reads *Duitsch Grensk tc Henri-Chapelle*, which is a United Netherlands entry marking from Prussia, and either of two Van der Linden types known used October 1817-August 1818. The cover, therefore, most likely dates from the second half of 1817. Such post-Napoleonic material properly belongs in collections of Belgium or the United Netherlands or even Prussia; certainly not France as your assistant editor once mistakenly thought.



► 595.) In order to reduce the immense public debt incurred during World War I, the Caisse d'Amortissement (Sinking Fund) was created in 1926. This involved the PTT (Finance Law of 26 March 1927, articles 76-79) from 1927 to 1931, during which time stamps in the Sower and Pasteur designs were printed in new colors and overprinted on rotary presses with "Caisse d'Amortissement" (on Sowers) or "C A" (on Pastes) plus a surcharge for the benefit of the fund.

These semi-postal issues, which should be in every Sower and Pasteur collection, are listed in the Scott catalog as B24-26, B28-33, B35-37, and B39-41, and in the Yvert catalog

as 246-51, 253-55, 266-68, and 275-77. Yvert also lists such overprint errors as "Amortissement" without the first "e" and without a dot over the "i," and "C" of "Caisse" over the first "t" of "Amortissement." Yvert 276 also exists with a short, broken "i" with no dot; N° 249 with doubled "+" and "1"; and N° 275 with a reversed "e" in "Caisse." Deluxe and collectible proofs exist and are expensive (from *LEcho de la Timbrologie*, November 1991).

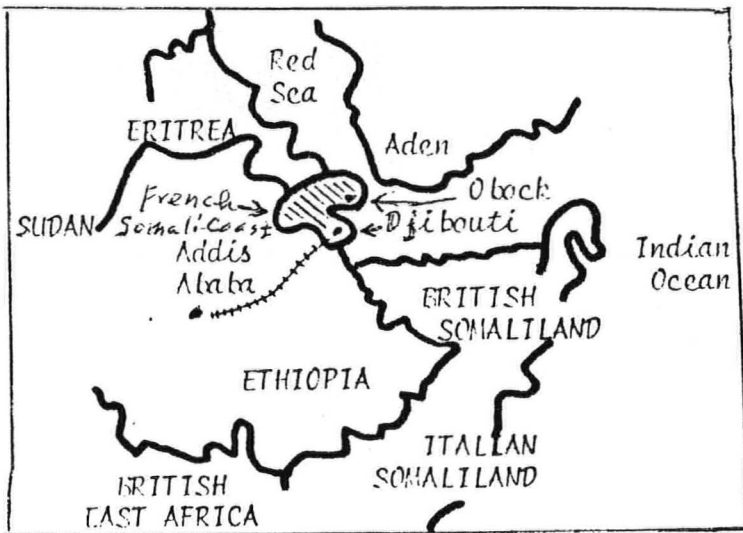


## ETHIOPIA—A POSTAL HISTORY FRAGMENT\*

by Robert T. Kinsley

Ethiopia, a fiercely independent country in northeastern Africa, was at one time wholly dependent on France in matters postal. This dependency was both voluntary and involuntary. Voluntary to the extent that, despite being courted by the ambassadors of all the colonial powers, not the least of which surprisingly was Russia, the Ethiopian emperor selected a Frenchman to develop and provide communications systems; and involuntary because the mail of that land-locked country had to traverse a French colony to reach a port of departure. The time period was the turn of the century when colonization in Africa was escalating, and the adjacent colony was French Somaliland consisting mainly of the seaports of Obock and Djibouti on the Indian Ocean at the entrance to the Red Sea. By decree of 10 February 1893 Emperor Menelik II formalized the granting of concessions for postal and telegraph services to the Frenchman L. Chefneux, including authority to obtain Ethiopia's first stamps from France. A year later the concession for a railroad between the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa and Djibouti was granted to a Swiss, but later, because of inactivity, it was transferred to the French. On 27 April 1896 France agreed to finance such an undertaking, with construction beginning at Djibouti whose seaport had opened just one month earlier.

The mails of Ethiopia, virtually all written by foreigners, traveled by mules to the easternmost city of Harar where the French Catholic Mission arranged for its transport by camel caravan to the French Somaliland seaports. In addition to stamps of Ethiopia such mail was also required to be franked by stamps of French Somaliland since Ethiopia was not yet a member of the Universal Postal Union. No postal system had yet been established in Ethiopia through 1898 and very few mixed-franking covers of this time period are known (Figure 1). After the port of Obock was closed at the end of 1899 and its postal functions merged with Djibouti, available stamps of Obock became valid for postal use equally with those of Djibouti (Figure 2). In late 1899 the Mission in Harar obtained a special postmark (Figure 3) which remained in regular use until the middle of 1908. In November 1906 a third post office opened in Ethiopia, that of Dire Dawa, a city created as a result of, and perhaps in celebration of, the railroad construction finally progressing across the French Somaliland border into Ethiopia (where it stalled for many years due to lack of funds). This post office became the French postal services headquarters and was provided with its own distinctive postmark labeled "Abyssinie" (Figure 4). During a limited time in 1907 three of the stamps printed in the design types for use in the French Levant (25c, 50c, 1F) were actually used exclusively in the French post offices in Ethiopia (Figure 5) although such usage is very seldom seen. In mid-1908 a new postal service patterned after that in French Somaliland was put into effect, and the word "Françaises" was soon removed from the postmarks (Figure 6). Finally on November 1, 1908, Ethiopia was admitted into the U.P.U. and was no longer required to affix the stamps of French Somaliland to its foreign mail.



French Somali Coast (ruled area), Obock, Djibouti and Addis Ababa, Railroad

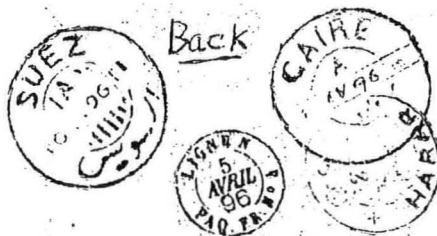
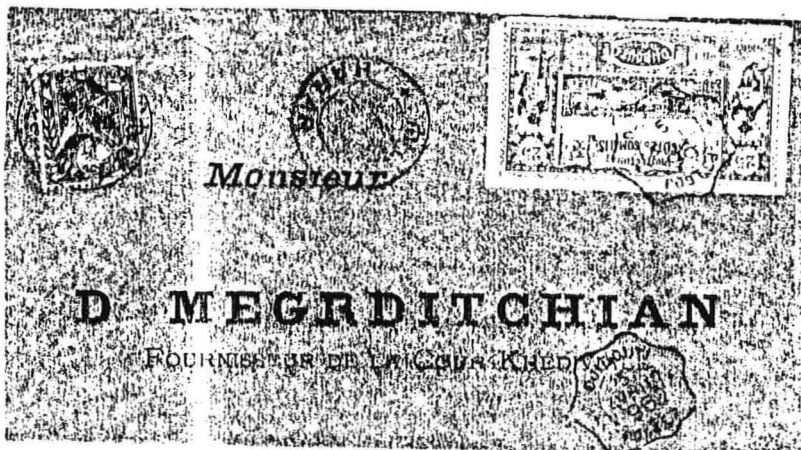
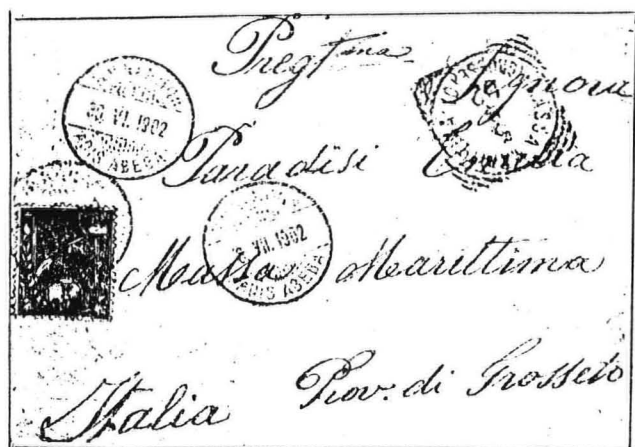


Figure 1. Harar to Cairo Jan-Apr. 1896. Ethiopian and Djibouti stamps in mixed-franking--rare use.



Back

Figure 2. Showing combined use of Ethiopian and Obock stamps, July 1902, Addis Ababa to Italy.



Figure 3. French P.O. at Harar to Egypt ca. 1908?, with Somali Coast stamps (Harar with one "r"). No Ethiopian stamps now required.

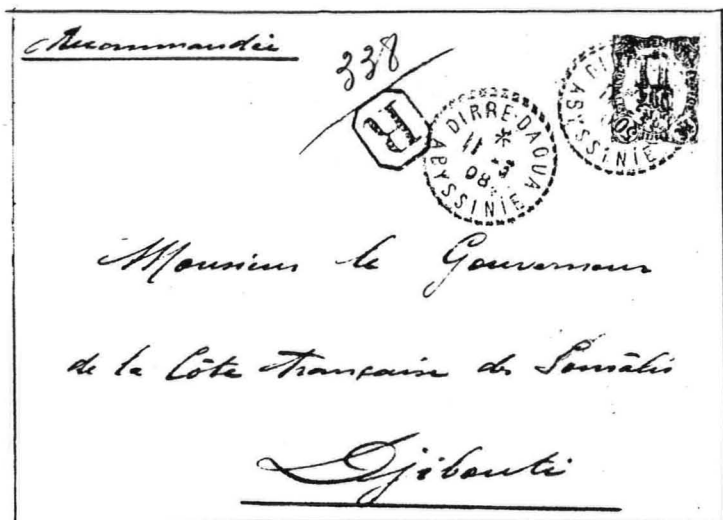


Figure 4. French P.O. at "Dirre-Daoua, Abyssinie," to Djibouti, 11/31, 1908, with 50c Somali Coast stamp. Registered fee 25c plus 25c postage.

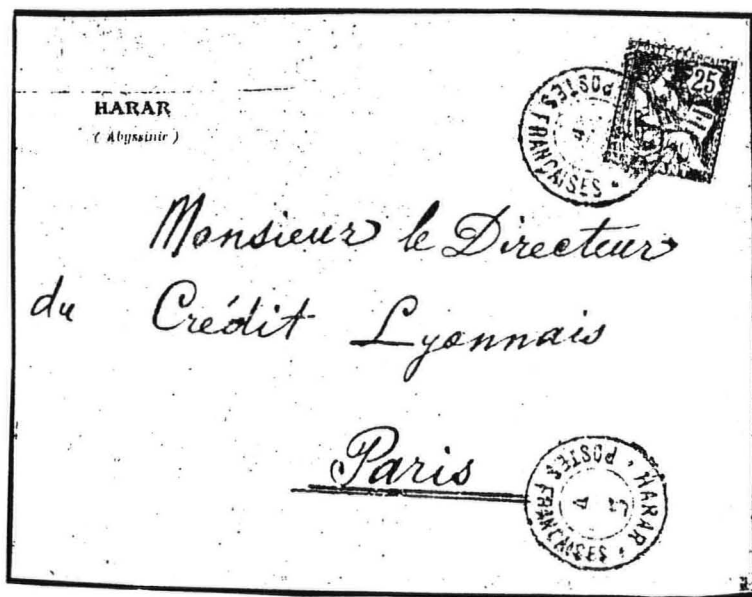


Figure 5. Example of use of French Levant stamps in 1907 specially printed for Ethiopia and only used there, without surcharge in Turkish currency. Harar to Paris, 1907; no Somali Coast stamps required. Rare.

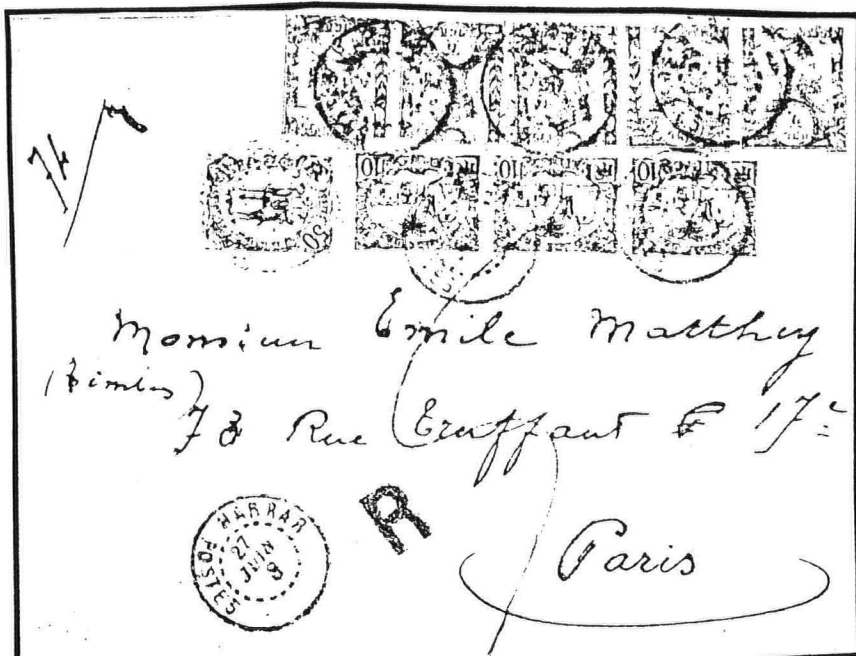


Figure 6. Harar to Paris, 1908. Postmark "Harrar" (two r's), with word "Françaises" cut out. Ethiopian stamps and 80c in Somali Coast stamps (overpaid?). Sender probably affixed the stamps and sent under separate cover to the P.O. to postmark and register, a frequent practice at this time. The "Postes Françaises" marks were an error as offices were operated by the Ethiopian postal service. But on 1 June 1908 a joint Franco-Ethiopian Service was set up which ran till Ethiopia joined U.P.U. a few months later.

### Footnotes

\* Mr. Kinsley in this very brief overview succeeded in illustrating nearly all the basic types of mixed-frankings of Ethiopia. He does not give any references, but apparently depended on the comprehensive study by Henri Tristant "Les Relations Postales de L'Ethiopie Avant 1908 et La Poste Franco-Ethiopienne" published in Documents Philatéliques nos. 37-38 (Jy-Oct. 1958, 111 pp.) which should be consulted for details of historical background and usages. Tristant later published a series article in *Le Monde des Philatélistes* which *Le Monde* reprinted in three brochures. -R.G.S.

1. "Abyssinia, or at least the northern portion of it, was included in the ancient kingdom of Ethiopia," according to Encyclopaedia Britannica 9th Ed. 1893.



## SUSAN M. McDONALD

We are saddened to learn that our member and prominent philatelist Susan McDonald died on 17 March after a long illness. Susan, in recent years, was best known as the extremely able editor of the *Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Issues*, but she was also author of many scholarly articles and editor of a number of books published by the U.S. Classics Society. As a specialist in U.S.-Canada mail exchanges, she had won many Grand, Gold and Vermeil awards for her exhibits. Recipient of major philatelic honors including the Luff Award, the Lichtenstein Award, the Ashbrook Cup, Brookman Cup and Distinguished Philatelist Award.

A high school valedictorian, who earned a B.A. with Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar College and an M.A. in English from Radcliffe. She married a physician Dr. J.C. McDonald from Canada and is survived by several daughters and a son, two sons having preceded her in death.

Apart from her philatelic activities, she was a remarkable person with interests in riding, boating, sewing, travel, nature and other outdoor activities. She was a leader of scout groups, patron of arts, listed in *Who's Who*. She leaves behind a host of friends and admiring colleagues. --R.G.S.

## F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

### President's Letter

For any of you who read my comments in the last President's Letter regarding the expulsion of one of our members, and then tried, unsuccessfully, to find the name in the Corresponding Secretary's report, my apologies. Our kind-hearted secretary does not like to include such items in his report, but he has assured me that it will appear in this issue. The circumstances which cause the Society to expel a member are unfortunate, but I feel a major reason for taking such action is to warn other members, and therefore the publication of the name is essential.

I am writing this shortly after the end of INTERPEX '92. I felt it was a successful show. During the four hours I spent at the Society's booth, we had more traffic than at many past shows, including a visit Sunday afternoon from our member #11, George Weiler. He had put his philatelic interests aside many years ago to marry and raise a family. We had a pleasant talk, but I am sorry none of our other older members were around at the time. As you can see elsewhere in this journal, we are planning to feature the Society at National '92 in New York this fall. I urge you all to come to the Show, help us have some audience at the talks, and, even better, join us as an exhibitor.

The prices realized from the Society Mail Sale are elsewhere in this issue. I thank the six members who submitted bids for their participation. We raised over \$200 for the Society treasury, and hopefully placed some literature, which had been hidden away in a closet, into the hands of people who can use it. Even this small sale demonstrates certain of the truisms we must remember about auctions. For one: send your bids in early; even with just six bidders, we had tie bids on two of the lots, including a three-way tie on one; it is the first bidder who is the winner in such cases. Secondly, be very cautious in interpreting the prices realized. One can argue that the sale prices for the lots with tie bids must be at the market. However, on the other two lots, the selling prices were substantially below the actual high bids received. What is the real value of those lots? The price at which they sold, or the price that buyer was willing to pay? --Dick Stevens

### Prices Realized

Society Mail Sale of Philatelic Literature  
(in October 1991 *France & Colonies Philatelist*)

- |            |           |           |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. \$64    | 3. \$23   | 5. \$60 * |
| 2. \$10 ** | 4. \$50 * |           |

\* Tie bids.

\*\* No bid. Sold at the Reserve at March F.C.P.S. meeting at the Collectors Club.

### Meeting of 7 January

Tonight John and Jo Lievsay presented a delightful overview of PHILANIPPON, the international show held in Tokyo this past November. John was there as the U.S. Commissioner and an Apprentice Judge, and Jo filled in as #1 Assistant. Many important duties fell to her, including supervision of the taking down and packing of U.S. exhibits.

A total of five mail bags containing 44 exhibits with a gross weight of 400 pounds was carried safely by the Lievsays. I watched Ray Gaillaguet run into some heavy customs problems when we entered Paris for the '89 show. Fortunately, his French was as good as his English. How John and Jo managed in Japanese, I'll never know. JAL was A-1 in helping as much as they could.

As is typical for a Lievsay return-from-the-international show-and-tell, a variety of souvenirs were presented; some philatelic, some now. John donned a Japanese jacket, head-band (I believe it read #1), and tie, plus a pin for the '98 Winter Olympics as he presented his material. Included were official postcards, a reprint of the 5 koban stamp (a future goody?), souvenir sheets, stamps, secret first day items, souvenir exchanged by government officials (including stamps, sheets, etc.). As to his jury duties, John had to judge 62 exhibits in two days!

An interesting aside, while boarding the bus from the hotel to the show, John and Jo noted that the bus was rocking a bit from side-to-side. They thought it due to a soft suspension and the weight of others getting on. A look outside revealed some consternation on the faces of the locals: it was a 4.8er on the Richter scale! --Ed Grabowski

### Meeting of 4 February

Harlan Stone, Director of Education at the Philatelic Foundation and Editor of the *Postal History Society Journal*, joined us again this evening. As most philatelists know, Harlan is a specialist in everything to do with Switzerland. Tonight his topic was once again the French Postal History of Switzerland, covering the stampless 1842-1845 period, and the markings and rates that evolved for the handling of mails between France and Switzerland. Harlan has presented this topic to us twice before. However, since this is an area of the study of genuine postal history about which not too much is known, it was not déjà-vu-all-over-again. In fact, Harlan has learned so much about the area and has so much fascinating information, it is time he committed his studies to writing. Possibly our Editor can persuade him to do a series of articles in the *Philatelist* on this topic. The amount of information is too great to cover in the meeting minutes, so I am looking forward to seeing it all in print. Let's go Harlan! --Ed Grabowski

### Corresponding Secretary's Report for 1991

Total membership as of January 1, 1991: .....	778
Total new members for the year of 1991: .....	43
Total reinstatements for the year 1991: .....	8
	<hr/> 51
Resignations received for the year 1991: .....	28
Total deceased members for the year 1991: .....	3
Members dropped for non-payment of dues: .....	63
	<hr/> 94
Members undeliverable as addressed: .....	1
Net membership gain for the year of 1991: .....	0
Net membership loss for the year of 1991: .....	44
Total membership as of December 31, 1991: .....	734

### NEW MEMBERS

- 2911 MEYER, EUGENE, 3707 Sun Eagle Lane, Bradenton, FL 34210. (Topical: paintings. General France: mint. Antarctic: mint. St. Pierre & Miquelon: mint.)
- 2912 ROTTMAN, MILTON, 100 Worth Ave., Apt. 403, Palm Beach, FL 33480. (General Collector: all issues.)

- 2913 CARROLL, JAMES M., 1592 Union St., #238, San Francisco, CA 94123. (General France: mint. Colonies General Issues: mint. Dealer: part-time.)
- 2914 DUGAS, JANICE, 10564 Olympia, c/o Timbre Themes ENRG, Montreal, Que., Canada H2C 2W3. (General Collector: all issues. Dealer: part-time - Mail Sales - Approvals.)
- 2915 DIMIDJIAN, CLAUDE, c/o GECO Chemical Company, P.O. Box 289, ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates. (Postal history in general. Classics: used, on cover, cancellations. Sage Type & Modern France: used, semi-postals. Philatelic literature.)
- 2916 LANGSTON, J. DAVIS, Rt. 4, Box 82AA, Brookhaven, MS 39601. (General France: mint, used. Modern France: mint, used, semi-postals, airmails, coils, booklets, miniature sheets. Telephone & Telegraph, dues, parcel post, newspaper, franchise militaire, pre-cancels. Offices abroad.)
- 2917 SCHULER, STEVEN C., 105 Muir Ct., Petaluma, CA 94954. (Classics: mint, used, on cover, cancellations. Sage Type.)
- 2918 LARSON, PETER B., Box 2792 CS, Pullman WA 99165-2792. (General France: used, on cover. Classics: used, 1870-1871 issues. Sage Type. Modern France: used. Semi-postals, airmails, dues, parcel post, revenues, pre-cancels.)
- 2919 BARKANIC, RICHARD J., 7006 Gardner Lane, Highland, MD 20777. (Colonies General Issues: mint.)
- 2920 HEDLEY, FRANK E., 519 Hawthorne Ave., San Bruno, CA 94066. (General Collector: all issues. Topical: rotary. General France: mint.)
- 2921 BOWDEN, GODFREY H., 48 Martin Dene, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 8NA, United Kingdom. (Sage Type. Modern France: mint, used, all up to 1949. Telephone & Telegraph, parcel post, newspaper, franchise militaire, stationery, revenues, pre-cancels. Monaco. Colonies. General Issues: mint, used, on cover. Colonial provisionals on Sage, cancels. Stamps of Algeria, Tunisia.)

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS & CORRECTIONS

- 2448 DOIG, KENNETH F., 522 S. Madera Ave., Madera, CA 93637.
- 1824 KELTON, EUGENE, 2312 Amherst St., Fort Collins, CO 80525.
- 2828 RADIN, STEPHEN, Albany Stamp Co., P.O. Box 30398, Charleston, SC 29417-0398.
- 2613 BAILEY, FRANK H., (box number change) Fern Hill Station, Box 12071, Tacoma, WA 98412.
- 2516 BIRD, WARREN, (change in zip code) 35 Stoneridge Place, Durham, NC 27705-5562.
- 2870 AYLMER, RICHARD J., Quay Fields, Snave, Bantry, Co. Cork, Eire (Ireland).
- 2060 THEURER, JACK, 215 West 92nd St., Apt. 7F, New York, NY 10025.
- 2646 BROWN, BRUCE, (zip code change) Box 467, APO AE 09613.
- 2072 MERWIN, GRIER, 52 Harrison St., Brookline, MA 02146.
- 2864 GEORGE, WILLIAM K., 1518 Third St., Wenatchee, WA 98801-1737.
- 2705 IGLESIAS, FERNANDO, 80 Addison Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070.
- 2808 VIDAL, HECTOR O., P.O. Box 160663, Miami, FL 33116-0663.
- 2879 NELSON, FRANK, Rt. 1, Box 69N, Columbia, NC 27925.

### RESIGNATIONS

- 2682 LaFORGUE, ROGER
- 2421 SCHUSTER, JEFF
- 2596 GILBERT, OTHAN
- 2735 SCHAEFER, WAYNE
- 2647 WILLMAN, ROBERT

### DECEASED

- 2232 BURWELL, ROBERT C.
- 526 HILTON, HOMER, JR.
- 2722 McDONALD, SUSAN M.

### EXPELLED FOR CONDUCT UNBECOMING A MEMBER

- 2246 HARDER, EDWARD J.

## UNDELIVERABLE ADDRESS

SHAW, FOOK CHENG  
RAPHAEL, STEPHEN M.

### DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES BY 1 APRIL

Louis J. Champagne, Robert J. Clark, Jules M. Crane, Jr., John T. Drasic, Marion J. Dudek, Giles A. Gibson, Dr. John M. Gordon, John J. Hobart, Louis Hornberger, Ronald A. Hoyt, James E. Jones, Dr. Edward A. Khairollah, Gordon McIntyre, Chuck R. Mitchell, Marilyn N. Nosaka, John M. Owens, Robert E. Picken, Dr. Russell H. Pope, James M. Slatterly, Richard E. Small, I.D. Steinman, Donald M. Sturznickle, Darryl L. Templar, David Tribolet, John Wallis, Dick Wessman, Michael X. Zelenak, Alain Louis Bribes, Mick Dickey, David N. Druett, Gaston Lalancette, Hans U. Liechti, Jacques Nolet, Peter Stephen Stockton, Paul S. Watkins, David Flast.

## MEMBERS' APPEALS

**FOR SALE:** Entiers postaux collection of 300 items, 115 varieties mostly 1800s, incl. Yvert 190-193, 233, 310, 314, 315, 344, 2751, 2752, 2833-Yv cat 47,500 Fr. Also singles available of Yv 190-193, 310, 314, 315, 2751-2.--John O'Hara, 595 Franklin Way, West Chester, PA 19380 (215-344-7024). (Mb. #1080)

**WANTED:** Cover bearing one or more examples of Madagascar Sc C60.--Ron Knight, Box 34314, San Diego, CA 92165. (Mb. #2495)

**WANTED:** French rarities, especially 19th mint, from #1 on. Varieties, rare covers, multiples, from \$100 to \$50,000 per item. Also, back of the book: coloix postaux, pre-cancels, etc. Have several important clients and can pay auction prices. Offers welcome.--Henry Gitner Philatelists, Inc., Box 3077, Middletown, NY 10940, (914-343-5151).

**EXCHANGE:** Offer your used stamps of France and Andorre for stamps from Australia and New Zealand or worldwide.--John Niehof, 16 Lawrence St., Alfredton, Victoria 3350, Australia. (Mb. #2850)

**WANTED:** Cambodia postally used, esp. 1969 and after. Also, covers commercially used, any dates. Write for want list.--Robert C. Bellinger, 615 East Broadway #206, Long Beach CA 90802-5126. (Mb. #2884)

**WANTED:** Covers, postcards, stationery and newspaper wrappers from French Morocco, Algeria, Syria, Lebanon, Alouites, Cilicia, Fr. Offices in Turkey, and Memel, franked with Blanc, Mouchon, Sowers, Pasteur and Merson stamps, period 1903-30 only, and pref. commercial. Send photocopies both sides with price.--Alain Bossard, 5-1160 Shillington Ave., Ottawa, Ont., Canada K1Z 7Z4. (Mb. #2838)

**OFFER:** Set of Documents Philatéliques Officiels de la Collection Historique du Timbre Poste Français, starting with #1 1973 to 1985, total of 500 sheets with original covers, each issue with the stamp cancelled FD, description of stamp and a proof. Incl. com-mems., semi-postals, airmails, souv. sheets; some sheets have complete issues on one proof. Some of these priced in France up to \$50. Coll. of 500 items \$2,000.--George M. Chandler II, Box 20325, Indianapolis, IN 46220. (Mb. #2828)

**EXCHANGE:** U.S. mint and used stamps for France mint and used.--Roland F. Galarneau, 545 Rimmon St., Manchester, NH 03102. (Mb. #1228)

**EXCHANGE:** I have an extensive stock of France mint and used 1930-1975, few hundred imperfs, some Deluxe sheets, artist's proofs. Turkey 1925-1980, and Israel to 1980. **OFFER** in trade for France mint and used prior to 1900, imperfs, proofs, annulés, trial colors, specimen, etc. Also, Fezzan-Ghadames cancelled on fragment or cover, Italian stamps overprinted by French, mint and used. What else can you offer? Do not send anything before reaching agreement.--Dr. René Amon, 6007 No. Sheridan, Apt. 75, Chicago, IL 60660. (Mb. #1891)

**OFFER:** France classics, mint used and on cover, Sage and modern classics, FDC. Monaco. Specify your wants.--Felix Mille, 6110 Graciosa Dr., Apt. 11, Hollywood, CA 90068. (Mb. #2907)