



# France & Colonies Philatelist

## THE FIVE FRANC LAUREATED NAPOLEON III by Robert T. Kinsley

Confusion continues regarding the date of issue and quantities printed and issued of the 5F laureated Napoleon III, the only large rectangular postage stamp of 19th Century France.

Some earlier accounts (1,2) state it was issued in August 1869, with a total printing of not more than 4,451,850 stamps. More recent studies (3) indicate that it was probably issued on 1 November 1869, that a total of 4,635,150 stamps were printed between 26 (or 28) July 1869 and April 1870, and that ca 4.3 million remained unsold as of 27 June 1871. Fromaigeat also states that the earliest date stamp known is of June 1870.

Despite its small usage (quantity issued still debatable), it was the last stamp in the Lauré design to be withdrawn from circulation, being replaced by the 5F Sage 1 June 1877. This thirty-third stamp (via Yvert) ranks as the third rarest of French stamps, after the 1F vermillon and 1F carmine, according to a survey of "500 collections of high standing (2)."

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“Imprimés” (printed matter) cancellation in red.

Scott lists only the unused imperforate as a variety, and the missing 5 and F error, and footnotes that the 5 and F vary in height from 3¾mm to 4½mm. Yvert additionally identifies two shades, violet-gray and gray-blue, specifies a variety whereby the 5 and F are seen in blue, and describes in its specialized catalog another variety cited in the translated article as follows: “the lines that form the background in the central rectangle are doubled in the upper left corner, especially the third and sixth lines from the top” (Figure 2)...

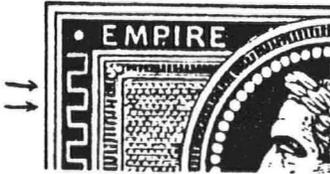


Figure 2



Figure 3



“Yvert’s 1939 specialized catalog rates it at twice normal price, reports it coming 4 times in every 100 copies (2).” After reading this description, this writer examined his copies and was happy to have discovered an example of this twice-normal-priced variety.

Kremer appears to question not the thesis of printing in two separate operations but the possibility that there were two different printing arrangements—one with and one without the 5 and F, asking “Who can solve the mystery (1)?” Rich goes so far as to say that the numeral variety in blue is simply a fade while acknowledging that “such a statement goes quite against general opinion (2).” Linn’s “*Philatelic Gems*” writer Donna O’Keefe says that because printing was in two separate operations, “the position of the 5F varies from sheet to sheet (4).” But in the absence of sophisticated measuring equipment, such location variation was not evident to this writer.

There are, of course, many “varieties” of this great stamp. Articles in no less than six issues of our journal through 1980 (5) are devoted to this subject. Rich does say, however, that he is convinced that all the various “types” (Figure 3) reported by writers such as Marconnet intergrade fully and are the result of ink clogging and plate wear (2). He asks where is the study on the proposition that long and short flags on the 5 can be found. Similarly, the myriad of shades is considered to be the logical end result of age and exposure. The writer, a complete novice in that sort of debate, and having hidden his copies from “exposure” for verily decades, believes in the printing-ink variation thesis. What say our readers?, who are invited to direct comments to our editors.

## REFERENCES

- 1) Brainerd Kremer, *French Philatelic Facts*, Oct. 1950 and Feb. 1951; reprinted in *Billig’s Philatelic Handbook*, Vol. 29, p. 145-46.
- 2) R. Cotin, in *La Quinzaine Philatelique* (1947); transl. as “A Short Study on the 5 Francs of the Empire...” by Stephen Rich, in *FCP N° 72*, 1953.

- 3) Fromaigeat, Jacques, *Histoire des Timbres-poste de l'Empire*, Vol. III, Le Monde Etude N° 110 (1969) and Vol. IV, N° 137 (1972); the November 1869 date has been accepted by the 1975 Yvert Specialized Catalogue and by the Marianne Catalogue Fédéral.
- 4) *Linn's Stamp News*, Nov. 5, 1984, p. 32.
- 5) *FCP 40 Year Cumulative Index*, by Robert G. Stone.



## GRANADA '92

We shall leave to others the grumbling about shortfalls, oversights, and problems at this show. Undoubtedly it will be a landmark in the history of F.I.P. international exhibitions, and the deficiencies will get their fly-bites in due course and other publications (see *Linn's*, e.g.).

We drove to Granada from Malaga, up the coastal ridge through olive groves and fields of wheat and asparagus. The land is dry with topography like southern California. Cottonwood trees along the water courses were shedding, so we encountered a blizzard of fluff every time we crossed one. Granada is at the foot of the snow-capped Sierra Nevada mountains, and the setting is spectacular. The famous Alhambra overlooks the town from a ridge to the east, and is justly noted for both architecture and gardens with tree roses in full bloom. Streets are narrow in the old sections of town, but we never had a problem finding a parking space.

We arrived on Tuesday, 28 April in time to check into our motel (five clicks west of the beltway) and made our way to the Congress Palace in time for the reception for Brasiliiana '93. I will be U.S. Commissioner for that show, so this was a "must" event on our show calendar. The Court of Honor and Championship Class exhibits were in this building, a handsome new structure of green marble just south of the center of town. It was the site also for the exhibitors' reception Thursday and the Palmares Saturday night.

Wednesday I began three days looking at the exhibits. Those in open competition were at the fairgrounds south of town, just off the beltway. Admission to the show was absolutely free, although the show catalog with souvenir sheet was \$20. Lighting here was better than at the Congress Palace. Workday show hours included the traditional 2-5 p.m. break for siesta--a break from the midday heat and time for a snack, something to drink (we liked the tinta verana), and comparing notes with friends.

The National Class was decimated by reason of some better exhibits shown by invitation at the Congress Palace, and the new revenue section was a disappointment. The French Community was shown in invited exhibits, Championship Class, and several entries in traditional, postal history, and aerophilately. I noted: Grabowski, Colonial Group type, Large Vermeil; Massler, Monaco, Gold; Piat, Crimean War (with several gems, ex-Foster), Large Gold; Shirley Gallagher, Tahiti, Large Vermeil; Candoni, Sage Stationery, Large Vermeil; Von Scharpen, Colonial Stationery, Large Vermeil; and Massler, Monaco revenues, Silver. Two exhibits of ballon montés got Large Vermeil and Large Silver. Some literature was on display only the last two days of the show, and I found nothing of particular interest.

The Awards banquet was superb, complete with Flamenco dancing and silver pomegranate pins for the ladies. Afterwards we drove to Seville for the once/year bullfights on horseback, an evening at Feria, and a day at the International Expo. Spain has caught up with the rest of Europe; it is cheap no longer. At the show we bought postage on the new adhesive labels at 83 cents for card or letter. Hotel was \$110/night, gasoline \$1/liter, a coke \$1 (\$2 at Expo), so you see that prices were comparable to the rest of Europe.

J.E.L. & J.B.L.

## SOME DOCUMENTATION AND OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE MILITARY-POSTAL SYSTEM DURING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

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### Introduction

During the 1980s, in the course of delving into the French archives and other authoritative sources for first-hand information on the military posts of 1792 and later years, my colleague Mme. Nicole Garcin and I uncovered considerable and diverse information, much of it pertinent to our particular convergent and divergent postal-history interests.

Inasmuch as I expect to concentrate my efforts for some years to come upon the postal history of first and foremost the French Revolutionary armies in the West of France (Vendée and Bretagne), and also of the Armée de Sambre-et-Meuse, some of the basic information found by Mme. Garcin and myself will be offered here. This is because: 1). Some of the information is of a general nature and therefore of potential interest to other students of the period; 2). or else may never find a suitable "home" other than in this article. Additionally, new archival searches for much of this same information would be a time-consuming and expensive task for other students, particularly those living far from sources of the material.

### The Military-Postal System

#### Organization

The military-postal system (*Poste aux Armées*), created during the pre-Revolution *ancien régime*, was greatly enlarged but generally only slightly modified by the Revolution. In keeping with the earlier service, each army had a *Directeur Général* and each division a *Directeur Divisionnaire*. The system included an *Inspecteur Général* and inspectors for the armies--each of whom headed a group of functionaries, clerks (*commis*), couriers, and teamsters. Military-postal personnel were selected (and removed), apparently indiscriminately, by the Committee of Public Safety itself, by the Peoples Representatives on Mission to the Armies and to the Departments, and (or) by the *Directeur des Postes* at Paris.<sup>1</sup> The inspector's role was to ensure the mail service between frontier postal bureaus and the armies, between armies, and between corps (or other entities) in the same army.<sup>2</sup> An important, additional task delegated to inspectors was assisting a Principal Agent of the Posts in maintaining surveillance over the activities of postal personnel within the armies.<sup>3</sup> Yet another task for the inspectors was, from 5 March 1795, to act as go-betweens with the Peoples Representatives and with the *Commissaires Ordonnateurs-en-Chef* (armies' chief fiscal and supply officers) (Chabrol, 1989). Smaller units, of division size and smaller, had *Directeurs Divisionnaire* and *Subdivisionnaires*, with relatively smaller staffs. (see Frémont, 1906; Vaillé, 1947).

All mail addressed to the armies in the field, prior to 1797 and possibly later--and perhaps also most or all personal mail *from* the armies to destinations throughout France--apparently and normally went to and from the armies' postal bureaus via the intermediary of the principal *Bureau des Postes* at Paris.<sup>4</sup> The possibilities thereby, for censorship of the mails at Paris (see further), become very evident.

Except for mail carried by special couriers, military mail to and from the armies was generally transmitted, over much or all of its journey, by the existing civil posts, and was taxed at the currently-in-force distance-plus-weight tariff rates. Mail to garrison troops was directed to the appropriate army. Mail to troops in the field went to the army's headquarters bureau, where the military-postal functionaries--kept in constant knowledge of troop dispositions--dispatched the mail to the locality where the battalion (or other entity) was expected to be. Upon arrival at this locality, the mail was transferred from the civil postal system to the unit's paymaster-postal officer (*vaguemestre*)--usually a non-commissioned officer--so that the sure and rapid delivery of letters addressed to the defenders of the Fatherland could be guaranteed.<sup>5</sup> (A shrewd political move, giving the *Poste aux Armées* credit for the work of the civil posts).

Cappart,<sup>6</sup> quoting from a 1793 directive of the *Directeurs et Contrôleurs des Postes de l'Armée*, states that the *vaguemestre* is to keep an account book wherein he shall record the money letters and money he receives, and wherein those receiving such objects are to sign for them in the margin. Additionally, he is to erect a mailbox for outgoing mail and to place a visible sign nearby stating in large, easily read letters that soldiers are to advise their correspondents of their correct company, battalion, and army, so as to ensure receiving replies.

### Moving the Mail

Relatively little information is readily available in print, in the published postal histories of the French Revolutionary period, on how the mails were moved, on the application of the free postal franchise, or on censorship of the mails. All of these complicated subjects are important to the understanding of contemporary letters and to any study-in-depth of the postal history of the armies. For these reasons I'm addressing these matters at some length, making use of original documentation. Though emphasis is upon the armies in the West, this section should prove informative and useful to the study of other postal histories of the period, civil as well as military.

Soldiers tend to write to family members and loved ones at home (and also to lawyers, bankers, and to friends and relatives in other armies) during moments of relative calm, or leisure, or apprehension--as just before or after a battle. More often than not, they write during moments of boredom--as during winter quarters. Thus, volume of mail from any given army or smaller unit tends to be cyclical in time. Under guerilla-warfare conditions, however, safe winter quarters are seldom the rule. Nor what could otherwise pass for relative tranquility between battles and ambushes. Conditions such as these are distinctly unfavorable for the safe passage of letters once they've actually been written. Mail written *and* delivered during periods of active major campaigns and of local civil unrest can be hard to come by.

Mail from the troops traveled by various means: The military post, the civil post (foreign as well as domestic), and also by hand--via comrades returning to their home districts. Although only the first-named method is the subject of this study, the other types of messages, mailed or otherwise carried, can sometimes be of considerable military interest.

The heavy reliance upon the civil postal system among some armies--more definitely among some units--explains why much military mail<sup>7</sup> bears only town markings. Some such mail may also show manuscript markings of a military bent alongside the town departure markings. However, and in most such cases, only the message inside would indicate that a letter was sent by military personnel and that the cover properly belongs in a collection of campaign letters.

As stated above, much of the mail to and from military personnel was handled mainly by the civil posts, except for the very localized but important role played by unit *vaguemestres*. But, what can be said about the actual details of transmission of the mails?

The text of an important decision, dated 16 Germinal II (= 5 April 1794), of the Convention's Committee on Correspondence, gives us some partial answers.<sup>8</sup> Mail to soldiers on garrison duty was sent directly to the indicated town's post office. (It should be re-emphasized that the transport of the mails between towns always remained a function of the civil post.) Mail to battalions and staff on campaign or quartered temporarily in the field was sent (again, by the civil post) daily and within one pouch, to each of the armies' headquarters, by way of the appropriate civil post office. A postal employee was permanently on duty at each headquarters postal bureau. Among his duties were keeping records of every battalion and other military entity assigned to that particular army--and of their locations, advising the postal administration of any changes in their number, nomenclature, and location, and delivering and receiving mail from each of these units--within separate pouches for each battalion (or other unit). He was also responsible for the safekeeping and proper use of the army's handstamps (for unpaid, prepaid, and forwarded mail). Official dispatches--carried outside normal postal channels by special messengers (*estafette*) and thereby bearing no postal markings--would be the exception of this system.

Each battalion or other entity selected a *facteur* or *vaguemestre*<sup>9</sup> from its ranks, who thereupon was authorized to handle monies as well as the mail he received from, or gathered for, the headquarter's postal employee.

Some additional texts, bearing upon these matters, follow:

"It is customary that letters, including money letters, addressed to officers and soldiers, be turned over to the *vaguemestres* or postal employees of regiments or battalions... This usage will continue."<sup>10</sup> "Whenever the [postal] Directors receive... letters addressed to military personnel whose 'corps' have moved to other places, they should immediately advise, upon the *bordereau de Déboursés* (register of detaxed forwarded mail), which they are to simultaneously remit, that the said regiment has left their town for another; and, anticipating that Paris has the list of destinations of these regiments, these directors... should immediately advise the Paris bureau of the departure of said regiment, in the space indicated on the advisory forms they are to send to Paris; while the postal Directors of the towns to which the regiments arrive must also similarly advise the Paris bureau of the arrival of said regiments."<sup>11</sup>

A later, equally pertinent resolution (18 October 1794) of the Committee of Public Safety<sup>12</sup> is paraphrased here. In order that the defenders of the Fatherland be spared any anxiety regarding mail and monies addressed to them, it is resolved that:

- (1) The utilization of battalion and regimental *facteurs* and *vaguemestres* is to be continued and maintained;
  - (2) the *vaguemestre* or *facteur* is to be chosen by the administrative council of each battalion or regiment; the nomination is to include his authorization to receive from the nearest postal bureau all mail for his unit, including money letters (*lettres chargées*) and *assignats*;<sup>13</sup>
  - (3) the names of these military mail clerks are to be sent to the Director of Posts at Paris, on stationery handstamped with the *cachet of the corps* (my italics for emphasis);
  - (4) whenever a regiment or battalion is divided, and stationed within the circumscription of several postal bureaus, the officer commanding each separate detachment will name and authorize a *facteur* for that detachment;
  - (5) no other military person, regardless of grade or rank, may demand the mails from postal bureaus, in the stead of the authorized *facteur*;
- [Items 6, 7, and 9 are of less direct interest];
- (8) allows for the authorized replacement of ill or otherwise indisposed *facteurs*;
  - (10) this resolution becomes effective, not only in all the armies of the Republic, but also in all localities wherein regiments, battalions, or military hospitals may be located.

To speed the movement of mail, the number of postal employees serving the Armée du Nord (13 May 1795), and then (21 June) all other armies were ordered increased.<sup>14</sup> Effective 22 June 1795, *facteurs* or *vaguemestres* were to provide mail service to hospitalized soldiers from their battalions or other units.<sup>15</sup>

If we take into consideration the times and the problems, handling of the military mails was remarkably rapid, conscientious, and secure. However, and in spite of all measures and well-meaning assurances for the benefit of the "defenders of la Patrie," the system did not always function properly--loss and interruptions due to the hazards of war aside--as we soon shall see.

### Transmittal of Official Dispatches

Official messages between units, to and from an army's commander or general staff, and to and from the Paris authorities were normally carried by dispatch riders rather than by the mails, and therefore usually lack postal markings though may show administrative markings of various sorts.

The law of 19 September 1792 (day before Valmy), of the National Assembly, created a courier service for the purpose of carrying dispatches to and from the various armies. These couriers could also serve, and did so, on secret missions for the government. The service was further refined by an agreement of 15 May 1793<sup>16</sup> of the Committee of Public Safety, for the rapid transmission of communications with the armies of the Republic. Couriers were to carry dispatches from and to the chambers of deliberation of the Executive Council. This council was empowered to draft the organizational plans for this courier service, in conjunction with two Postal Administrators.

The Convention's men selected couriers with the utmost care. They were recruited from among elected citizens of the Paris *sections* and provisionally appointed by the generals. According to Frémont,<sup>17</sup> these agents of the *Poste aux Lettres* weren't military personnel

*per se*. They were granted advances of funds and the right to requisition and use military mounts. By a text of 26 Frimaire III (16 December 1794), personnel assigned to the military posts were entitled to draw rations from the military establishments they served. Specifically, and for the Armée des Côtes de Brest, a Committee of Public Safety resolution of 12 August 1795<sup>18</sup> ordered that the director, comptroller, and other postal employees attached to the army were to receive military rations. The Committee of Public Safety reimbursed their travel expenses according to predetermined rate structures; e.g., 15 livres per post and 7 livres 10 sols<sup>19</sup> for a guide (4 June 1795). They received 25 livres lodging allowances within the frontiers of the Republic (26 June 1795). Prior to that time, the Committee had authorized (decision of 13 December 1794)<sup>20</sup> couriers to receive 4 livres 10 sols to defray expenses incurred on their travel to Paris via mail coach (*la malle*), inasmuch as their allocated 30 sols per post could not cover their expense or hire of horses.

### Postal Rates

During the period of this study--basically the last decade of the 18th Century--taxes on letters and other forms of mail were determined on complex bases of weight times distance traveled. Rates were changed several times during the decade (and after)--mainly upward--as a result of inflation and of the promulgation of different tariffs. These tariffs and the various rates for simple letters and for other objects--which are not truly germane to this study--have been tabulated in Larue (1977) and in Alexandre, et al. (1982), and can also be found in some older compendiums.

Weights until 1800 were based upon ounces and fractions of ounces, then in grams. Distances were calculated as bird-flight distances between geographic centers of departments, and were at first measured in leagues, then in myriameters, and finally in kilometers. The currency in use was originally in sols or sous, and then in décimes and francs. Folded letters are much more common than envelopes because the use of envelopes, at first, cost an additional sou. Prepaid letters are much scarcer than unpaid ones--a universal feature until the middle of the 19th Century.

Postal Employees at headquarters postal bureaus were supposed to be knowledgeable about changing tariffs and rates and about the proper application of taxes. Because some were not so knowledgeable or diligent, many covers of the period are (or appear to be) incorrectly taxed.

The Law of 23 June 1792 provided that mail to the military was taxed within France at the customary civilian rates in effect, but that no additional tax was to be added for destinations beyond the frontiers of France.

Sharply reduced rates on mail to military personnel were in effect temporarily from 23 July 1795 (and see The Franchise, below). By decision of the Directory of 30 Messidor IV (18 July 1796), Carnot presiding,<sup>21</sup> parents, relatives, and friends of military personnel could write to them by paying the appropriate tax *en numeraire* (via an account?) to the *Poste aux Lettres*. But, until so informed, they need pay only what they could afford, and the soldier recipient would not have to make up the difference. On 4 Thermidor IV (22 July 1796)<sup>22</sup> Carnot advised the Council of the Five Hundred that the above decision caused much confusion. In order that the military would continue to receive mail and to avoid forcing them to pay the tax due, there would be no termination date set at this time to this obvious drain upon the public revenue. (Personally, we have not heard of nor seen any such surviving letters).

By the Law of 5 Nivose V (25 December 1796), applicable immediately, military personnel on active service ("*sous les drapeau*") could prepay simple letters of  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce or less for 15 centimes (3 sous) to any destination within the national territory. This privilege favoring prepaid mail remained in effect until 1814.

### The Franchise

At first (Decree of 23 June 1792 and Law of 27 June 1792), the military franchise was applicable only beyond the frontiers of France.

According to the Law of 3 September 1792, the Peoples Representatives to the armies and to the departmental administrations received the right to the free postal-franchise. Lacking special handstamps, they resorted to the apparently illegal use of their signatures as evidence for free franking. The Convention's Decree of 6 July 1793 reaffirmed their

right to the franchise,<sup>23</sup> and eventually led to the design, engraving, and issue, between 1794 and 1796, of now mostly rare administrative markings of cachets in various formats.<sup>24</sup>

"Article IX of the Law of 3 September 1792 confirmed the franchise accorded to *Commissaires des Guerres* by Articles 7 and 8 of Title 9 of the Law of 14 October 1791."<sup>25</sup> Article 7: "The correspondence of *Commissaires Ordonnateurs, Auditeurs et Ordinaires* (army fiscal officers) among themselves and with general officers and commanders-in-chief, within the boundaries of the same military division, and that of *Ordonnateurs* and *Auditeurs* among themselves throughout the extent of the kingdom, if pertinent to their office, will be carried free of charge by the Posts; official packets will be within crossed paper bands or wrappers." Article 8: "It is prohibited to insert any unofficial letter, or other unofficial matter, within these packets; postal officials in charge can require the opening and verification of the contents, in their presence, of such packets as they see fit, and their demand cannot be refused under any pretext. Should abuse of the franchise thereby be proved, the *Commissaires des Guerres* (etc.) will be brought to face the tribunal, and condemned to pay 100 *écus*, or double that if guilty of being previous offenders."

Application of the franchise and of the *contreseing*<sup>26</sup> were greatly expanded in 1795 and still more in 1796, as shown on the accompanying Table.

### APPLICATION OF THE FRANCHISE (1795-96) <sup>(1)</sup>

Titles of authorized persons	Application measures	Remarks
Peoples Representatives (singly or collectively)	Committee of Public Safety decision of 6 Vendémiaire IV (28 September 1795)	franchise only
General officers in the armies; commanders of military divisions (within their geographic jurisdictions; <i>commissaires ordonnateurs</i> )	Laws of 3 September 1792 and of 28 Nivose III (17 January 1795)	franchise and <i>contreseings</i>
<i>Commissaires des guerres</i> (war commissioners)	Law of 28 Nivose III (17 January 1795)	franchise only
Contractors for military transports	Committee of Public Safety decision of 10 Floréal III (29 April 1795)	franchise, on postal items within wrappers
Contractors for military fodder, stores, etc. for the armies and for artillery transport	Agreements with Minister of War, Pluviose IV (January 1796), and decision of Minister of Finance, 21 Prairial IV (9 June 1796)	franchise on correspondence relating to their service, under postal auspices of Minister of War, of generals, or of <i>commissaires ordonnateurs</i>
Military personnel on active service on land and at sea (2)	Law of 5 Thermidor IV (23 July 1796), and letter of Minister of Finance of 25 Thermidor (12 August 1796)	permitted to pay in paper of nominal value, until 6 Brumaire V (27 October 1796) (3)
Administrators of provisions and supplies, of staging points, etc., and their principal agents; also maritime administrators similarly engaged	Decisions of the Directory of 23 Pluviose and 5 Prairial IV (12 February and 24 May 1796); letter of Minister of Finance of 30 Thermidor IV (17 August 1796)	open credit line with the appropriate Postal Directors, for monthly reimbursements

- 1) Extracted and adapted from table prepared in Vendémiaire V (September-October 1796) by Postal Administrators Mouillesaux, Rouvière, and Caboche, for the Legislative Corps and the Council of 500, entitled "Etat des franchises et contreseings accordés aux diverses autorités constituées et fonctionnaires publics"; *Archives Nationales, Paris, AD IX 561.*
- 2) "...sous les drapeaux ou sous les pavillons de la République."
- 3) Unpaid letters to the "defenders of the Fatherland," taxed at 20 sols or less, needed to be paid by these military and naval personnel only by *mandat* (money order) or *assignat* of nominal, depreciated value, rather than in specie. (No. F 90 20.018, *Archives Nationales, Paris*).

The resultant flood of untaxed mail very severely affected the postal revenues of the nation. In reaction, the Executive Decision of 27 Vendémiaire VI (18 October 1797)--based upon the Law of 9 Vendémiaire VI--ordered the suppression of all franchises and *contresings*, effective from 1 Brumaire IV (22 October 1797). All persons other than those officials listed (below) under Article 3 had to prepay the letters they addressed to public officials (which category included generals on active duty). Letters from public officials were to be sent unpaid, with the tax paid by the addressee. According to Article 3 of this Decision, special handstamps would be used, subject to advance payment of postage, on official mail:

- (1) From the Directory and its general secretary to
  - (a) all general officers
  - (b) all commanders of "corps" and fortified places;
- (2) from the Minister of War to
  - (a) all general officers on active service
  - (b) all commanders of "corps" and fortified places
  - (c) *commissaires des guerres* on active service
  - (d) military administrative councils (of military units)
  - (e) municipal administrations of all communities with garrisons or active line troops.

According to Article 4, all of the above (a through e) public officials could correspond with the Directory, the ministers, and the National Treasury without prepayment penalty, as long as they affixed their signatures--beneath their official titles--upon the address side of their dispatches.<sup>27</sup>

Letters from the Directory, Minister of War, etc., and conformable with Article 3, above, were to be handled separately within the postal service, so that each item could be accounted for upon a summary debit sheet; they would then be stamped PORT PAYE (Prepaid) so that the recipients need not be charged any tax (Article 5).

Letters from Article 3 "a through e" - certified officials to the Directory, Minister of War, etc., were to be similarly handled, but then were to be taxed upon arrival and also to be listed upon summary debit sheets (Article 6).

Finally (Article 7), those "a through e" officials could correspond among themselves in their official capacities without paying tax on their outgoing mail; conversely, they were to pay taxes upon incoming mail.

This state of very limited franchise remained in effect until the Consulate and the Law of 27 Prairial VIII (16 June 1800).<sup>28</sup> Limited right to the franchise and *contresing* were accorded by this law to generals of division and of brigade, chiefs-of-staff of armies and of military divisions, and inspectors general serving the War Ministry. They could receive under franchise (and send under their counter-signatures) mail from and to one another and from and to their subordinates, but only within the geographic limits of their commands or jurisdiction. Their counter-signatures were valid and recognized only if said mail was entrusted directly to the Postal Directors or, at Paris, to the departure bureau of the General Postal Administration. Mail that circumvented these postal officials or facilities (i.e., placed directly into the mail stream) was to be taxed.

In addition to the above officials, the following were entitled to a limited franchise, via their counter-signatures: Commanders of garrisons, forts, "corps," and of detachments, war commissioners, and directors of fortifications. The 1800 instructions remained in effect until passage of the Law of 6 August 1817.

Additional information and clarification regarding the franchise came with the *Instruction des Postes de 1808*.<sup>29</sup> Those officials having postal-franchise privileges (as per the Law of 27 Prairial VIII, above) were to receive [franchise] handstamps from the postal administration. Those lacking this privilege were to countersign in their own hand.

Other pertinent instructions and restrictions of these Instructions follow. Only official matters could travel within franchise and *contreseings* letters and packets; any other introduced matter was to be taxed, and postal agents had the right to demand the opening of such mail and the verification of its contents.<sup>30</sup> In case fraud was discovered, the postal agents were to notify the Director General of Posts via an official form (Article 25 of the Instructions). Countersigned mail retrieved from mail boxes or from outside the procedural stream could be returned only to its originator or his designated representative (Article 66). Countersigned mail that was refused by the addressee (for not wanting to pay the tax or for other reasons) was to be returned to the originating postal bureau via the *débourisé*<sup>31</sup> routing system, and marked A TAXER if need be (Article 91, et seq.) Finally, money letters addressed to franchise-granted officials by those entitled to (and correctly using) the *contreseing* were not to be taxed; conversely, if the sender were an individual not listed among those entitled to use the *contreseing*, then the customary tax rate was to be doubled (Article 149).

### Postal Censorship

Correspondence of a “suspicious” nature, particularly with countries at war with France, was generally seized as a Revolutionary measure, particularly after 10 August 1792 (date of the King’s deposition). Each town or community that had a post office was required to select a local commissioner who was empowered to open, read, and burn unacceptable mail - at first only within the Department of the Vendée, and then in other Western departments. A 14 August 1793 decision of the Committee of Public Safety required that letters and packets emanating from the town of Thouars (Deux-Sèvres) were to be held up in the posts and conveyed to the Committee of General Security.<sup>32</sup> Mention is made<sup>33</sup> of censorship at Lorient on 9 November 1793, and at Mortagne-sur-Orne, Chateaubriand, Domfront, Dreux (all in the West of France), etc. until December 1794, and even as late as February 1795.

The Convention also and secretly undertook the control and seizure of the mails, and the practice was later adopted with some modifications by the Directory.

The Directory’s decision of 27 Nivose IV (17 January 1796), deploring the ease by which *chouans* and other rebels could communicate among themselves via the national posts, ordered the interception of all mail to and from rebel-occupied communities in the West, at the closest postal bureau to these insurgent localities.<sup>34</sup> In secret deliberation (N° 181) of 20 Ventose IV (10 March 1796) the Directory,<sup>35</sup> acting upon the above decision, ordered that all seized letters and packets which, until that date were conveyed to the Ministry of the Interior, were now to be sent directly to the Ministry of the General Police.

Though not exactly falling within the realm of censorship *per se*, a number of newspapers—“*Le Postillon des Armées*” among them—were denied postal privileges by a Committee of Public Safety resolution of 4 October 1795.<sup>36</sup> Postal administrators were made responsible for enforcing the prohibition. These journals, pamphlets, and broadsheets had been denounced as being either scurrilous, or else guilty of discussing secrets such as troop strengths and movements, and sometimes both.

### Problems of Communications

Here I’m forced by the nature of our archival studies and interests to concentrate upon problems in the West of France, with little to contribute towards the more general problems of communications with the armies on, within, and beyond the frontiers of France. I hope the reader might find reason to extrapolate beyond the West, as per his interests or requirements.

Throughout the rebellion in the West, complaints lodged over the safety of the mails and of postal employees, over the state of post roads, and also over pillage of the mails by postal employees themselves, were legion. Some examples illustrating the perils of the posts follow. Entrusting letters to the postal system in the West was a chancy thing prior

to--and quite commonly after--1794. Because of the guerilla nature of much of the conflict, with its hit-and-run tactics and constant peril to postal couriers and coaches, as well as the difficulties of writing from the field, nearly all mail from the armies (very little has been found *to* the armies) was sent from headquarters and garrisoned towns that were permanently or at least temporarily held by the Republicans.

### On Protecting the Mails from Rebels and Brigands

Representatives on Mission Jeanbon Saint-André and Bréard complained to the Committee of Public Safety that, as of 8 November 1793,<sup>37</sup> three couriers had failed to arrive from Paris and expressed concern over a fourth expected that night. Another courier had not returned from Rennes, and news was not forthcoming from Nantes. They had advised Gen. Tributou to use soldiers to safeguard the posts at Châteauneuf and St.-Servan.

By resolution of 15 August 1794 of the Committee of Public Safety,<sup>38</sup> the *Commission de l'Organisation et du Mouvement des Armées de Terre* (the former War Ministry) was to advise the generals, *ordonnateurs*, and *commissaires de guerre* of the Armée des Côtes de Brest to escort and protect postal couriers along the Redon-Rennes route--and elsewhere as deemed necessary--and to ensure that the postal service not be delayed. In view of the assassination of couriers throughout the West, this measure was soon extended to all departments of the West where rebels operated.<sup>39</sup>

Carnot advised the Peoples Representatives to the Armée de l'Ouest, 16 September 1794,<sup>40</sup> to take all necessary measures to prevent communications between the Vendée rebels and those in Brittany, as well as to safeguard government communications throughout the West. Nonetheless, attacks on couriers increased markedly during December 1794, apparently partly in reaction to Carnot's offer of amnesty to all rebels.

The *Comité des Postes, Messageries et Transport* received, 9 October 1794<sup>41</sup> a message from the directrix of the post at St.-Hilaire-du-Harcourt, stating she had been unable to send dispatches during the 25 September - 2 October period because couriers refused to move without an escort, the *chouans* apparently committing daily atrocities along the Fougères road. The Committee also discussed the failure of a courier to take the mail from the post of La Riotière near Nantes, for lack of an available escort. It was agreed to work with the military committee, so as to offer escorts to couriers operating in brigand-infested territory. The latter committee (*Commission de l'Organisation et du Mouvement des Armées de Terre*) Almost immediately asked the generals commanding at Laval and Rennes to furnish adequate, permanent escorts for safeguarding the Brest-Rennes-Nantes routes.

The *Comité des Postes*, etc. authorized (16 January 1795),<sup>42</sup> (on orders from the Committee of Public Safety) its agents to make direct requests to the authorities for military escorts. These authorities would be required to furnish sufficient forces to safeguard the passage of mail coaches, stages, and other government vehicles, wherever communications could be threatened by the enemy or government dispatches delayed.

Writing from Alençon, 3 July 1795, to the Committee of Public Safety, Peoples Representatives Blad and Tallien<sup>43</sup> requested that important dispatches not be sent to them via the mails, for couriers are oftentimes captured by the rebels.

And, in a letter of 29 December 1798 to the Vendée administration, Gen. Travot advised that three companies of *chasseurs à cheval* were being made available to escort the mails.<sup>44</sup>

### On the State of Post Roads

The condition of post and stage roads in the West at the beginning of the Revolution was deplorable, and remained mainly that way well into the 19th Century. Winding dirt roads were the rule, and were oftentimes impassable after heavy rains. Because of widespread poverty and low literacy throughout the region, and of the seafaring tradition that stressed commerce, travel, and communication by boat along the coast and rivers at the expense of land travel, the road network within Vendée, Brittany, and to a lesser extent Normandy were more spaced apart and less reliable than in almost all other parts of France, even including inland mountainous regions. It might be assumed also that post roads to and beyond the frontiers could very likely be, at least locally, in equally deplorable states.

Representative on Mission Deydier advised the Committee of Public Safety, 20 February 1794,<sup>45</sup> upon his arrival at Nantes, that the post roads, especially between Angers and

Nantes, are in deplorable condition, and that there is a lack of forage for horses. Mention was made 3 July 1795<sup>46</sup> of the generally bad state of post roads in the Alençon area.

The Representatives to the Armée des Côtes de Brest et de Cherbourg, writing from Quimperlé on 19 August 1795 (but received at Paris by the Committee of Public Safety only on 1 September),<sup>47</sup> advised that their travels from Quimperlé will be slowed by unsafe roads and the need for armed escort, and also by the scarcity of spare remounts.

A proposal to transport mail between Nantes and Angers, by boat on the Loire, was made 15 July 1795 to the Committee of Public Safety.<sup>48</sup>

### On the Dishonesty of some Postal Employees

Postal personnel, whether selected by the postal administration, by the Peoples Representatives, by local politicians in current favor, or by the Committee of Public Safety itself, were selected primarily--and retained in office--for their devotion to the Revolution--or at least to their patrons. Though most proved to be diligent and faithful at their tasks, some of course were not. Examples of laziness, lack of dedication, political favoritism, insubordination, and fraud, in the postal bureau at Brest, were recounted by Paillart, named comptroller of posts with the Armée des Côtes de Brest from 5 February 1794.<sup>49</sup> Many other examples of dubious postal practices are known with some recounted here.

The movement of the mails was not always mainly to the benefit of the troops. Some *vaguemestres* and postal employees were found to be keeping one *sol per livre* (or 5 percent) on money sent by mail to the troops, as well as collecting an occasional *sol* upon delivery of the mails. The Committee of Public Safety, meeting on 7 Thermidor II (25 July 1794), ordered the military committee (ex-War Ministry) to take immediate measures to prevent these practices.<sup>50</sup>

Peoples Representatives Prieur de la Marne and Garrau, writing to Carnot 22 February 1794 from Montaignu,<sup>51</sup> stated that the *commis* in Brittany rob the mails on a daily basis. This was in special reference to money letters (*lettres chargées*) from the Morlaix and Lorient postal bureaus. Garrau later (8 April) wrote Carnot from Nantes<sup>52</sup> to advise that a postal employee at Nantes had been accused of stealing *assignats* from incoming money letters. It thus appears that monies were being stolen from within, at departure and at destination bureaus.

Throughout the later volumes of Aulard III (i.e., Vols. XVIII-XXVIII), mention is made on several occasions of complaints lodged against postmasters<sup>53</sup> during 1794 and 1795, for having overcharged for oats for horses and for passengers' lodging and transport, for delays en route, for loss and outright robbery of the mails, etc. Couriers were also accused of falsifying their travel vouchers.

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## FOOTNOTES

- 1) Ferrier, 1975, p. 51.
- 2) Vaillé, 1947, p. 41.
- 3) Ferrier, op. cit., p. 54.
- 4) Evidence for this is scattered within the *Archives Nationales*, Paris (henceforth AN) F 90 20.022, *Délibérations des Directeurs des Postes*.
- 5) Decision of Committee of Public Safety, in Vaillé, op. cit., p. 41.
- 6) Cappart, 1985, p. 11.
- 7) Particularly prior to 1794, when availability and use of military-postal markings were less than universal.
- 8) in Frémont, 1906, p. 95.
- 9) Essentially a paymaster, doubling as a postal clerk for his unit.
- 10) Freely translated from the *Instruction Générale sur le Service des Postes, édition du 14.2.93*, AN AD IX 561, p. 52.
- 11) *ibid.*, p. 62.
- 12) Aulard (II), Vol. XVII, pp. 495-496.
- 13) Government notes of indebtedness, also circulating from 1793 as paper currency; and soon just about "not worth a Continental"
- 14) AN AF II 288; in Aulard III, Vol. XXIV, p. 583.
- 15) AN AF II 284; in *ibid.*, p. 611.
- 16) Aulard (I), Vol. III, p. 265.
- 17) p. 90 et seq.
- 18) AN AF II 282; in Aulard (III), Vol. XXVI, p. 343.
- 19) 1 sou = ½ décime = 5 centimes; 1 décime = 10 centimes; 1 franc = 10 décimes = 100 centimes; 1 ounce = 30 grams; 1 league = 4.45 kilometers by some standards, though the "postal league" (= 2000 *toises*) was only 3.90 km.; 1 myriameter = 10 kilometers.
- 20) Aulard (III), Vol. XVIII, p. 675.
- 21) AN C399, dossier 272.
- 22) *ibid.*
- 23) Garcin, 1971.
- 24) Viet, 1963.
- 25) This, and other quotes in this paragraph, are freely translated from p. 95 of the *Instruction Générale*, cited in footnote 10, above.
- 26) As a rule the franchise spared the recipient from having to pay a tax upon receipt, whereas the *contreseing* (= counter-signature) spared the sender (and countersigner), if not the recipient. The franchise was generally so indicated on the front of a piece of mail by a handstamped *cursive* marking, so called for the script-like lettering.
- 27) That is, a limited form of the *contreseing*, and to only a possible few addresses.
- 28) *Arrêté portant réglemant sur les franchises et contreseings*, sections IV and X.
- 29) Particularly Title II. *Contreseings et franchises*, articles 21-26, in p. 11 of the *Instruction Générale*.
- 30) q.v. Article 8 of the Law of 14 October 1791, above.
- 31) Forwarded mail, detaxed prior to forwarding, and for which record-keeping was required to credit the originating office, or whichever office was on record for collecting the tax.
- 32) AN AF II 278, written by Barrere; in Aulard (II), Vol. V, p. 545.
- 33) in *Etats des differents bureaux qui ont envoyé des notes sur la violation des lettres* ("On the state of various post offices that have sent information regarding the violation of letters [privileges]"), in the *Archives Nationales*, Paris.
- 34) AN 6 AQ 3; in Debidour, Vol. I, p. 435.
- 35) in *ibid.*, p. 770.
- 36) AN AF II 52; in Aulard (III), Vol. XXVIII, p. 41.

- 37) Aulard (II), Vol. VIII, pp. 296-97.  
 38) AN AF II 20; in Aulard (III), Vol. XVI, pp. 117-18.  
 39) *ibid.*; in *ibid.*, p. 270.  
 40) Charavay, 1907, pp. 655-56.  
 41) AN AF II 19 (Minutes of Proceedings of the *Comité des Postes, Messageries et Transports*).  
 42) *ibid.*  
 43) Bruno, 1986, p. 7.  
 44) Aulard (III), Vol. XXV, p. 113.  
 45) Aulard (II), Vol. XI, p. 303.  
 46) Aulard (III), Vol. XXV, p. 111.  
 47) *op. cit.*, Vol. XXVI, p. 523.  
 48) *op. cit.*, Vol. XXV, p. 446.  
 49) *Le citoyen Paillart, Directeur des Postes aux Lettres à Lille*; 26 pp. brochure assembled from original documents by F-P. Leclercq; Imprimerie Paul Michel, Dunkerque, 1932; published for the Société d'Etudes de la Province de Cambrai.  
 50) Signed by Carnot, AN AF II 204; in Aulard (II), Vol. XV, p. 419.  
 51) in *ibid.*, Vol. XI, p. 338; also Charavay, 1907, p. 292.  
 52) Charavay, p. 325.  
 53) It appears that a significant percentage of postmasters were women, known as *maitresses de la poste aux chevaux*. I assume that many of them were widows of revolutionary soldiers or of other deserving citizens, and that their honesty was probably above average for the job description.

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**FRENCH MARCOPHILY-II. DEPARTURE MARKINGS**

by Robert T. Kinsley  
 (cont. from *FCP #228*, April 1992, p. 47)

As a transition between the earlier-reviewed straightline city markings and the ubiquitous circular town-and-date markings still to be discussed, we will devote this short

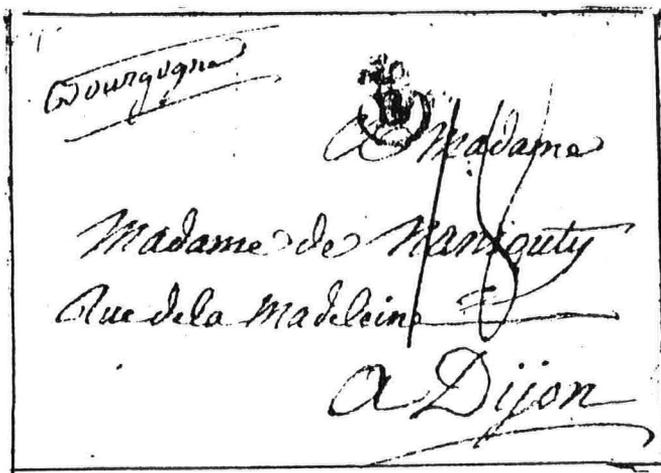
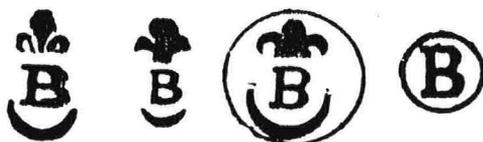


Figure 15



segment to providing a few samples of departure markings, as classified by Yvert,<sup>11</sup> which fall into neither category. And, as well stated in the survey of early Paris letter markings in FCP #215 (January 1989), "marks on the covers are often indistinct or smudgy," so where appropriate we show a clearer copy of the mark itself.

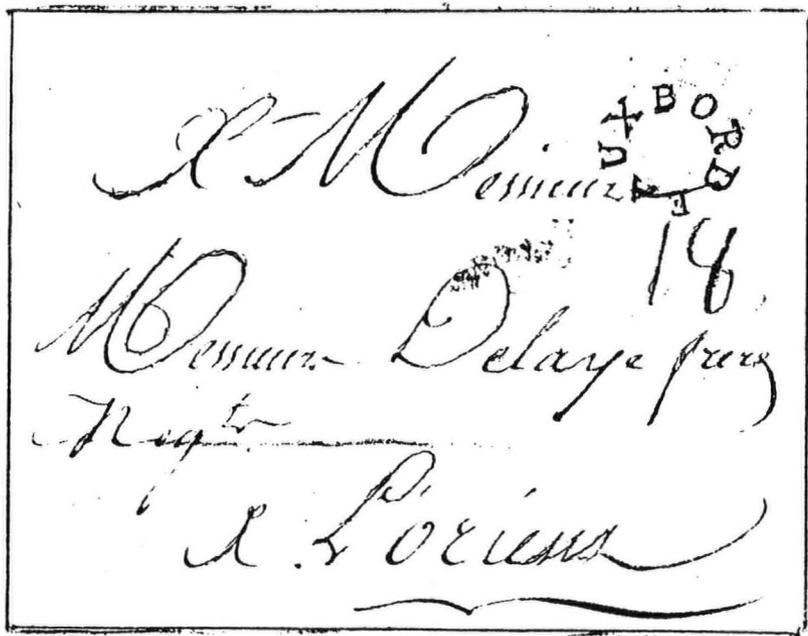


Figure 16

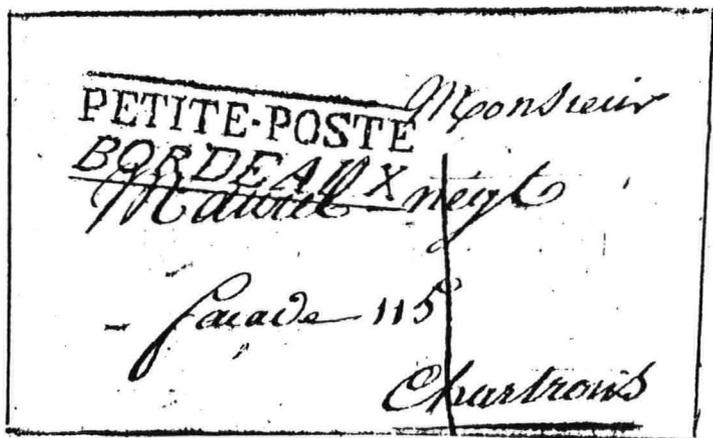


Figure 17



Figure 18

*à Monsieur*  
*Monsieur de Fontaine*  
*Montrevel en son château*  
*Macon*

*à Macon*





  
**P P P P P**

Figure 19

*A Monsieur*  
*Monsieur Desbuisson*  
*Secrétaire de Monsieur de*  
*Comte de Montrevel en son*  
*Château de Challes*  
*par Bourg en Bresse*  
*à Bourg en Bresse*

Figure 20

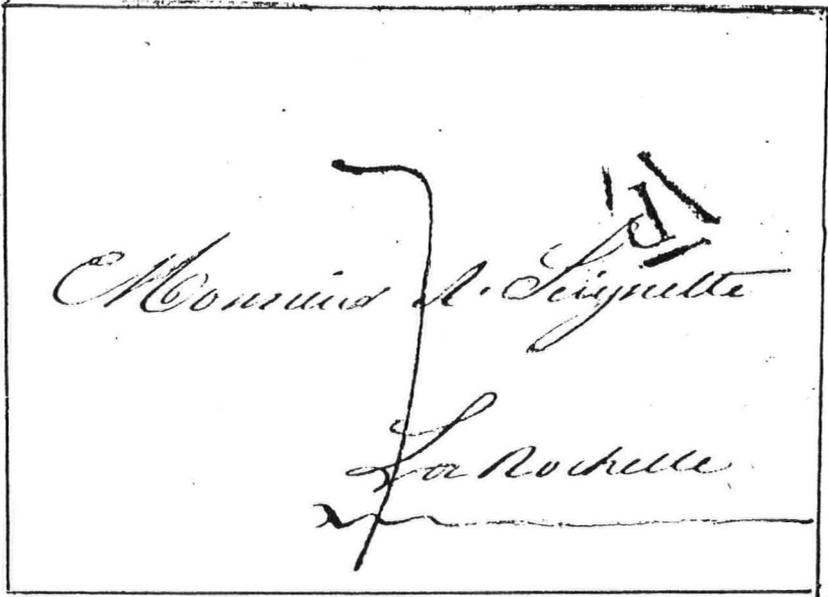


Figure 21

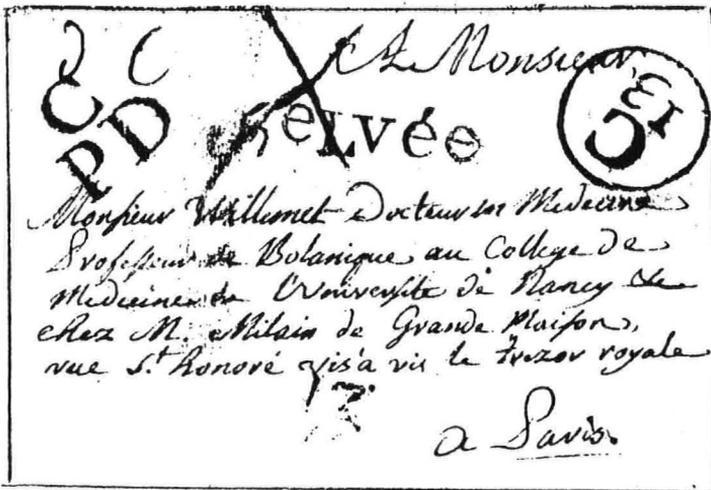


Figure 22

The earliest of these atypical departure markings appears to have originated not in Paris but in the historic port city of Bordeaux where, early in the 1700s, a "B" in a circle with a fleur de lys--and later without one--is reported (Figure 15). In the late 1700s the entire city name forming a circle is seen (Figure 16), and in the early 1800s Bordeaux had its own "Petite Poste" (Figure 17). Instead of a fleur de lys, the cities of Lyon and Limoges used an "L" topped by a crown (Figure 18). Paris also used a "P" topped by a crown in the early 1770s and without the crown in 1774 (Figure 19), as well as a stylized abbreviation (Figure 20), followed in 1778 for a period of over 50 years by a simple "P" in broken triangles (Figure 21). In contrast to Bordeaux, the mail of the Paris "Petite Poste," which opened 9 June 1760, is identified only by its special marks (Figure 22), e.g., bureau letter and number of the mail handler in a circle.

#### FOOTNOTES

11) *Le Catalogue des Estampilles*, Yvert, 1929.

(to be continued)

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\*\*\*\*\*  
**FOR THE RECORD**  
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(Continued from FCP #228, April 1992, p. 56)

►596.) Differences in size and shape of many value numerals in Daussey-design fiscal stamps are attributed by Y.M. Danan and J. Delmas (*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, November 1991), for the most part, to the fact that some come from flatbed printings and others from rotary-plate printings. Unfortunately and due to paucity of information, one cannot generally tell which process was which, or which antedated the other. Therefore, the authors are reduced to discussing which are the "normal" types and which the scarcer variant types in their short but well-illustrated article. They infer that larger numerals probably come from rotary printings.

This is followed by mention of two major paper varieties: the August 1934 10F on blue paper (Yvert 37A) and the unissued, watermarked blue paper 50c Impot stamp for Algeria of this same period. White chalky paper was used in 1933 for a small fraction of the press runs of the 25c, 1,44F and 3F values; the 3F is only known overprinted EPREUVE.

The article concludes with characteristics of counterfeit (to defraud the government) 10F, 15F and 20F values, their discovery in 1934, and the consequences from 1935-on, which resulted in the demonetization and replacement of the Daussey design for these values.

►597.) There appears to be renewed interest in postal markings of "agences à gérance gratuite," which are contract stations within private enterprises that are operated for the benefit of the enterprise and in certain cases, also or mostly for the public ("courtesy" stations might be an appropriate term). These enterprises include factories, laboratories, department stores, tourist attractions, resorts and sanatoriums, casinos, hotels, schools, chateaus, markets, etc.

Markings have existed since at least 1884, and are usually recognized by bearing the name (or part of it) of the establishment in the date stamp's crown. They include ordinary single- and double-circles, solid and dashed hexagons, some slogan machine cancels, and even a few straight lines. Most are no longer extant.

G. Fabrègue has published a fully illustrated but somewhat incomplete checklist, by departments, in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, November 1991-January 1992, and which expands upon the pioneering works of Pierre Lux and Louis Goubin.

G. Fabrègue concludes his serial on "bureaux d'intérêt privé" (contract stations in private enterprises, etc.) with two pages of Paris bureaus and cancellations, in the February 1992 "*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*."

►598.) A short study (SPAL Etude XXX-A) on the relative scarcity of killers on "single letter-rate Classic stamps of 1849-70 draws some interesting conclusions that we'd like to pass along.

Scarcest of all (15 days total duration) are the circular date stamps on the 20c black Cérés of January 1849, used as killers prior to the arrival of grill killers. Next in order would be (1) Petits Chiffres on the 20c perforated Empire of August 1862 (3-3½ months duration) prior to use (including premature use) of Gros Chiffres; and (2) Gros Chiffres on the 20c perforated Empire (type II) of 1860 (duration variable through late usage of stamp and premature use of killer). Next shortest duration (given as 3-7 months) should be Petits Chiffres on the 25c Empire of November 1853, which disappeared from use almost immediately after its 1 July 1854 replacement by the 20c value.

Of course, relative scarcity does not equal actual scarcity or monetary value. Cachet-cancelled 20c blacks are very scarce and 25c Empires somewhat less so, especially when compared to the 20c Empire values. However, I believe that P.C.s on the 20c perforated Empire (other than P.C.s of the G.C.s) are extremely scarce as a proportion of the whole mass of this stamp. --S.J.L.

►599.) Daguin obliterating machines--originally with two dissimilar date stamps--were later modified to allow for the familiar publicity slogans within a square with rounded corners, as noted in the *Journal Officiel* for 17 August 1923. L. Aymard (*L'Echo de la Tim-*

*brologie*, December 1991) has found pre-notice usage from Bagnieres de Luchon, Hte. Garonne, dated 1 and 13 July 1923. Who has an earlier date from anywhere?

► 600.) Fakes of the 1940 "Elsass" and "Lothringen" overprints on Hindenburg stamps (Scott N27-58, Yvert Occup. 8-39) have surfaced recently. J.P. Bournique (SPAL Etude XX-A) states they are generally easily recognizable by (1) the overprint overlies a genuine cancel; (2) cancel may not show correct (1940 or 41 year); (3) overprint ink too fluid and less opaque, making outlines of letters less sharp and with blunter angles than for genuines. Bournique, who shows enlarged sketches of some of these letters, wonders why anyone would bother faking these inexpensive stamps.

► 601.) G. Dreyfuss concludes his article on P.P. machine-cancel markings (For the Record N° 590, January 1992) with numerous reduced-size illustrations of unusual and rare P.P. markings on cover.

► 602.) Experimental thermal-process (by Crouzet) meter impressions were produced 11-21 June 1982 during the course of PhilexFrance '82. They've been found to fade and even disappear upon prolonged exposure to light. Other Crouzet products of the period include Test and SICOB impressions, all from the one machine LSA 92954. These probably fade too.

► 603.) Interzone cards used during World War II in Vichy-controlled overseas France and addressed to Occupied Zone of France from late September 1940 are the subject of a well-illustrated study by B. Sinais (*Le Monde des Philatélistes*, N° 459-60, January-February 1992). Proper usage required that no adhesive stamps be used (lest they hid secret messages), and this resulted in continued use of obsolete 80c imprinted Iris and Pétain cards after the rate had increased to 1F20 and prior to receipt of 1F20 Pétain cards.

Sinai shows many interesting usages, including that of provisionally altered official-use postal cards. Because adhesive stamps could not be added, airmail surcharges were indicated by a large variety of "airmail postage prepaid" (*surtax aérienne perçue*) locally-made handstamps. Once the Allies invaded North Africa (8 November 1942), all mail service to France was suspended. Leftover stocks of cards in liberated Africa were then used to other destinations, with adhesive stamps legitimately added according to rates and need. Demonetization of these Pétain-design imprinted cards did not take place until 1 November 1944.

► 604.) The first(?) postal forgery of the 2,50 Marianne de Briat surfaced in southwestern France and saw limited postal use during part of October 1991. In this case the subject is a simple color photocopy. The culprit was to face a tribunal in Bergerac (Dordogne).

► 608.) Best considered as what member Ernst Cohn collectively calls "ephemeral philately" are possible surviving World War II letters from Frenchmen who spent time in German-sponsored military units other than the better-known *Légion des Volontaires Français*, and perhaps also from isolated Frenchman serving in Axis Power units. Item 609 following gives some of these examples.

► 609.) J.-P. Lebrun (*Feuilles Marcophiles*, N° 268, 1992) recounts several possibilities and illustrates some of them with mainly enigmatic covers that may (or perhaps not) have originated with such ephemerals. Included are the "Phalange Africaine" recruited in Tunisia and largely lost there in 1943; members of the Brandenburg "Division," Friedenthal Unit, and other S.S. affiliates; Alsatian and Lorrainers who volunteered prior to the forced August 1942-on conscription; and finally, those repatriated enemy French who were grouped October 1948 into a battalion sent to die in Indo-China. This concludes, for now, Lebrun's scintillating four-part study on mail from French military units that served the enemy cause in World War II.

► 610.) For the Record N° 586 (*FCP* N° 227, January 1992) requires an addendum. Alain Millet has advised P. Hartland-Swann that the 1876 provisional New Caledonia triangular cachet (the genuine one!) was reauthorized for use between 19 February and 18 April 1877.

► 611.) ERRATUM: An unfortunate transposition has occurred in the January 1992 issue (N° 227). The last two paragraphs, "In addition, the names of..." and "I will be pleased to discuss..." of Barker's comments on p. 20 were actually written by Lambert, and properly belong on p. 13 at the end of his "Notes on Other Comments on my Articles." Our apologies to all concerned.

►612). The normal killer on French stamps from mid-January 1849 to mid-January 1852 was the familiar lozenge-shaped 20.5 x 27mm grill of lozenges. Through long usage at some major cities (Paris, Lyon, Rouen, etc.), the corners tended to wear and become rounded, and the marking to shrink slightly (to  $\pm 20 \times 26.5$ mm). But we fail to see a reason for attaching a plus-value to such slightly smaller and rounded-off killers. They should not be confused with the extremely rare, **locally-made**, provisional grills (of Châteauroux, St. Mamert-du-Gard, Bain de Bretagne) mentioned in specialized catalogs such as Pothion's "Oblitérations," Yvert, Vol. I, etc.

►613). Member Dr. Martin F. Stempien, Jr. begins a serial on "GPU/UPU, 1875-81: Mail from Outside the Union" in the February 1992 *Postal History Journal*. Martin reminds us that France stayed outside the General Postal Union between its 1 July 1875 inception and 1 January 1876. That during this interval France continued to use earlier treaty rates to determine postage. That from 1876 to 30 April 1878, the French 1x letter rate to GPU countries in Europe was 30c (paid) and 60c (unpaid), and to the U.S. and other areas more than 300 nautical miles distant, 40c (paid) and 70c (unpaid). During the brief period between 1 May 1878 and 15 February 1879, the rates were, respectively, 25c and 50c, and 35c and 60c. On 16 February 1879, the "voie de mer" penalty was cancelled for the U.S., Canada, Newfoundland, and French overseas colonies, and the 1x letter rate there also became 25c (paid) and 50c (unpaid). By the mid-1870s unpaid letters were far less common than paid ones. We shall look forward to the next installment.

►614). If you've wondered why some of your used copies of 1920s and 1930s French high-face-value stamps (Merson, Monuments and Sites) have nice round (mostly) holes in the middle, it was done to discourage pilferage or other nasty postal doings in Alsace-Lorraine P.O.s during the 1919-31 period. (In other words, an official perfin). At that time parcel post within and from Alsace-Lorraine was handled by the PTT rather than by the railway system as for the rest of France. Post offices there held and used a larger than usual quantity of high-value stamps for this purpose. Regulations called for perforating in advance of use all stamps of face value above 2F. This was misunderstood at Strasbourg-Tanneries (a contract station within the tanneries) which, for some time, also perforated the 2F Merson. Stamps not pre-perforated were required to be perforated directly on (and through) the parcel post formules after being affixed.

►615). The o,25 Coq de Décaris (Scott 1024, Yvert, Cérès 1331) of 1962-66, and the first to come off the then new TD-6 presses, has been found with red color missing (blue and brown only) on a 27 October 1964 cover mailed within the Somme Dept. (*LEcho de la Timbrologie*, February 1992). Most likely the red-ink roller ran dry for a brief period of time before the error was noted. Still, one would expect that at least one post office pane of 100 stamps (and probably many) was thus incorrectly printed and that some of the companion red-missing errors are still somewhere.

On back cover of that same issue, Paris dealer Pagnanini offers (price upon request) an unused copy lacking the blue color. This error is also unlisted. We assume that more such missing-color errors will surface, and that caches of them probably exist, even 26 years after the stamp was retired from sale.

►616). Thanks to Felix Mille in a letter to the editor, I have reread my draft of the article (in January *FCP*) on the "American Legion Issue of 1927" and found that indeed I made an error in stating that 75 "sheets" of the value missing 90c and 1F50 values were issued. My original draft read "stamps" not "sheets."

This brings up an interesting question. Were there really but 75 stamps of each value issued? I cannot recall a single major sale in France without one or more of these stamps appearing in one.

Although I have never inventoried the number of such stamps sold, I cannot but wonder if the 75 issued is too low a figure (fakes are known but should be intercepted by the auction house) or is there a continuous reselling of these items by collectors?

Perhaps someone in our Society would have the time and be curious enough to investigate the frequency and number of these stamps sold in the course of one year.

--Raymond Gaillaguet.

►617). In a presentation on the Group Type of the Colonies given to a New Jersey stamp club, Edward Grabowski outlined and illustrated the unusual circumstances where the



►623). Ernst Cohn advises that the saga of the non-existent Grand Hotel d'Angleterre, Tours, and of the chimerical Representative of the Correspondence Générale (For the Record, N° 587, FCP N° 227, January 1992) was covered fully in his "Mail smuggling in the Siege of Paris" (part 2), *Postal History Journal* N° 69, 1985.

►624). Bertrand Sinais writes another of his many, meticulously presented studies of 20th Century militaria, this time on the use of F.M. overprinted stamps during the period of World War II ("L'emploi des timbres F.M. pendant la seconde guerre mondiale"), in *Documents Philatéliques*, N° 132, 1992.

Sinais shows us correct, incorrect, unusual, and illegal usage of these franchise stamps from the reapplication (upon mobilization) of the franchise, 26 August 1939. Incorrect usage included (apparently) adding 10c in stamps to the 90c Paix de Laurens (with "F" surcharge, for interned Spaniards) when the rate went to 1F on 1 December 1939, for the postal authorities were supposed to recognize and accept this stamp for its franchise, not its facial value. Incorrect usage also included use of old surcharged 65c stamps by the Chantiers de la Jeunesse of the Vichy régime, which correctly required additional postage and were supposed to be taxed. Unusual but correct usage included use of F.M. stamps on registered mail and on airmail from Algeria. Finally, illegal usage included affixing multiples of more than the two franchise stamps (under certain special circumstances stated by Sinais, four) allotted per month to each militaire (or Spanish refugee); and also included use of F.M. stamps by the Chantiers de Jeunesse on mail to the Occupied Zone of France.

►625). A vertical, stamp-size label showing the Reims Cathedral, with large P A X above and Veritas/Libertas/Justitia beneath was issued April 1920 by the committee to restore the cathedral, damaged during the First World War. The label, which comes in seven colors on other, rose, or green paper, was sold at post offices in France in sheets of 100 at 10 centimes per label. Other such reconstruction, etc. labels of the 1920s period exist, but probably most lacked this official support on the part of the PTT.

►626). In mid-December 1985, La Poste tried an experiment within the Bretagne region by which, for a fee of 5F, a mailer could have the addressee advised by telephone, by the destination P.O., of the arrival there of a particular item of mail.

The trial, called POSTELEC, is described by J.-C. Coulon in *Le Monde des Philatélistes* for April 1992. It required a black on red label (see reduced-size illustration) to be affixed to the item mailed. By phone, the addressee was offered a number of options, such as: come and pick it up; we'll deliver it immediately (for an added fee); we'll transfer it to a more convenient branch P.O.; we'll deliver it with your usual mail; or return to sender.

If the addressee could not be reached by phone, resulting in loss of precious time, the sender could claim his 5F expenditure, but only by presenting the properly filled-in POSTELEC label (see illustration)! The service appears to have died quickly and quietly through lack of interest and use, probably in 1986. Any such mailed documents extant are very likely quite rare and are most worthy modern postal history artifacts.



►627). The experimental postal services *Attestation de Dépôt* (using formule N° 517 ter) and *Attestation de Distribution* (using formule N° 515 bis) were tried from March 1986-on in at least three regions (Aquitaine, Bretagne, Lorraine) and three departments (Nord, Saône-et-Loire, Var). Both provided non-compensatory documentation for less than the cost of registered mail. For an added fee of 4,20F, the A. de Dépôt served a purpose apparently similar to our Certified Mail; for an added 5,20F the A. de Distribution provided the sender with a return receipt. J.-C. Coulon gives more details in *Le Monde des Philatélistes* for May 1992. Lack of public interest caused the termination of these services between December 1986 and 1990.

►628). Bertrand Sinais surveys and illustrates the postal history of Corsica for the period immediately following its 4 October 1943 liberation in "La libération de la Corse" (*Feuilles Marcophiles*, N° 269, 1992). After the Italian surrender, Corsica was liberated from the Germans by troops from French North Africa and the local Resistance, in conjunction with Allied sea and air forces.

Postal communications with the European mainland ceased between 9 September 1943 and the liberation of Paris in August 1944. Mail was therefore marked "Return to Sender," though a few painfully slow-to-arrive Red Cross letters are known from this period.

Petain-era stamps were gradually supplanted by Algerian stamps, first sold at Ajaccio 6 December 1943. Petain effigies remained in use well into 1944, and Algerian stamps into early 1945. In turn, the Marianne d'Alger stamps were introduced from Algeria, with the 1F50 value known used 31 January 1944. Perhaps by accident, some Algerian Marianne d'Alger stamps were also shipped to and used in Corsica. Coq d'Alger stamps were sold in Corsica from July 1944, in limited quantities. These and the Mariannes d'Alger were used in Corsica and then in liberated parts of mainland France until retired from sale on 12 May 1945.

--SJL

►629). Chapter II of the *Instruction Générale des Postes de 1832* lists the following items as being furnished by the postal administration to postal bureaux (main post offices) in France:

1. Instructions, circulars, registers, and formules;
2. Map of France, concentrically marked off by distances from Paris, for the application of taxes on mail to Paris;
3. List of the bureaux, with given tax on 1x letters to Paris;
4. Table showing progression (weight x distance) of rates;
5. Date stamp showing name of bureau at top and number of department at bottom;
6. Box containing an assortment of loose type;
7. (and perhaps most important to us) Seven handstamps, consisting of: Circular departure/arrival date stamp crown (apparently Type 11-SJL); P.P.; Chargé; Id (for the rural décime tax); C.L. (Correspondence Locale); R (for registry); and finally the handstamp for the décimes tax on simple letters to Paris.

In addition, those bureaux in direct correspondence with foreign countries (including those in seaports) also received the appropriate exchange-office cachets or markings (marques d'entrées, etc.). We thank C. Nory for publishing a facsimile of Chapter II of the 1832 Instructions in *Feuilles Marcophiles*, N° 269, 1992.

►630). According to *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* for May 1992, the date stamp 14-Ouistreham-Port de Caen, Calvados of the maritime-station bureau opened June 1986 at Caen to service cross-Channel mail on the Portsmouth-Caen run, has, since February 1990, been also applied on mail from England (or more commonly on covers bearing British stamps that are sold at the bureau). This is permissible because the bureau has been officially designated a ship, and mail deposited there now also received a PAQUEBOT-OUISTREHAM straight line marking.

►631). The first scheduled night mail-carrying flight in France (post-1871, that is) took place the night of 10-11 May 1939. Two Air Bleu planes were used, one departing Paris (Le Bourget) with 448.5 kg of mail; the other leaving an hour later from Pau, with 446.5 kg of mail from Pau and Tarbes; both arrived at Bordeaux and dropped off their sacks. Special rectangular cachets were applied prior to departures. Cacheted Mont-de-Marsan to Bordeaux mail was, however, carried there by land. Both planes returned almost immediately to Paris and Pau, with mail from the Bordeaux region.

Norbert Bieber (*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, May 1992) goes on to describe the special cachets and their colors; the franking (ordinary 90c letter and 70c postcard rates) for that first service; and the departure and arrival postmarks used. The service was interrupted September 1939 by the war, and was resumed 26 October 1945. It is now called la Postale de Nuit, and this year will utilize 29 jet planes with a total nightly capacity of 330 tons of mail.

► 632). An account of the French WW II battleship "Richelieu" and its postal history is given by Bertrand Sinais in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* for February and May 1992. It is illustrated with early (1940) franchise mail from Brest; several Vichy-era covers from Dakar; covers with U.S. stamps from the 1943 refitting period at the Brooklyn Navy Yard; the famous NY City boxed overprint PAR AVION/BATIMENT DE LIGNE/RICHELIEU--on and off cover, including unwarranted or phantasy overprints on unused Senegal and Mauritania stamps; brief October-November 1943 stay in Algeria (U.S. stamps); service with the Royal Navy off Scotland, then in Indian Ocean (British stamps; British or French censorship); Casablanca in Fall and Winter 1944, with the R.F. overprints on U.S. stamps and airmail stationery; brief (January-February 1945) service at Gibraltar (British censorship); and Indian Ocean and Indochina service over the rest of 1945.

In its later years, the "Richelieu" returned to France in February 1946; brought President Auriol on a 1947 African tour; served 1948-52 as flagship of the Mediterranean Fleet; became a gunnery-school ship at Toulon (1953-55); and then a floating barracks and school for reserve officers at Brest (1959-67). She was stricken from the lists January 1968 and scrapped.

► 633). The fortuitous discovery of an archival cache of the provincial weekly "Le Mellois" of Melle, Deux-Sèvres, has enabled Gilbert Noel (*Feuilles Marcophiles*, N° 268, 1992) to fix some dates of usage for some of the 1869 Newspaper stamps--to be sure, only as they were placed in use by this one weekly newspaper:

Timbre Impérial imprinted cachet at 2c: through 28 February 1869;  
2c violet imperforate Journaux (Scott P1), 7 March 1869 - 22 May 1870;  
2c violet perforate Journaux (Scott P3), 29 May - 4 September 1870;  
no fiscal stamp used from 11 September 1870 (no more Second Empire).

One inference that can be made from this chronology is that the perforated 2c violet may, in used condition, be far scarcer than the imperforate stamp, contrary to what the catalogs say.

► 634). During the German Occupation of 1940-44, heavy parcels (mainly foodstuffs) originating in a commune distant from a railway station could instead be dispatched from the nearest post office. M. Catherine (*Feuilles Marcophiles*, N° 268, 1992) has studied the parcel post (Colis Postaux) stamps issued in 1943, as used on official formules, and usually cancelled by date stamps of minor post offices (dotted outer circles) or by RR station markings. Such postal documents, though seldom encountered anymore, are nevertheless eminently collectible. Collections that would stand to benefit from their inclusion would be of cancellations, parcel-post stamps, postal tariffs and rates--and we wish to emphasize strongly and loudly--also of railroad Topicals.

► 635). Sinais and Sitarek continue their study of French markings from the late Iraq war in *Feuilles Marcophiles*, N° 268, 1992. Topics include the mine-clearing operations at Kuwait City (BPM 647) and at sea (Mission "Phèdre"); franchise and return-to-sender markings; return of troops from Yambu (Saudi Arabia) to Toulon (markings of chartered vessels, etc.); victory parades back home; aid to Kurdish refugees in Turkey via Operation "Libage" (BPMs 648, 649, 650); and finally, faked covers. Part of this material was previously published in the October 1991 *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* (see For the Record N° 588, FCP N° 227, October 1991).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

## New Issues and Withdrawals (Continued from FCP #228, April 1992, p. 55)



► France: 11 (13) April: 3,40F Marguerite d'Angoulême; French Musicians (Franck, Satie, Schmitt, Honnegar, Auric, and Tailleferre), each 2,50F + 0,50F, and also in 18F booklet of 6; 30 April (4 May): 4,00F Foundation in 1492 of Ajaccio (Art of Botticelli); 9 (11) May: EUROPA '92 2,50F and 3,40F (Disc. of America theme); May: 2,50 Marianne de Briat postal card; 30 May (1 June): 3,40F International Congress on Bread and Grains; 4,00F Canal de l'Ôureq; 6 (9) June: 2,50F Congress of Philatelic Societies, Niort; 19 (22) June: 2,50F 1922 Olympic nations (joint issue with Spain); 20 (22) June: 3,40F the Main of Tautavel; 27 (29) June: 3,40F first (1492) ascent of Mont-Aiguille (Isère); 29 June: 5,00F Art of Jacques Callot.

Withdrawals: 12 June: Protected Animals (4) of 1991; 2,50F Marcel Cerdan; 3,40F 30th Anniversary of Amnesty International.

► Andorra: 25 (27) April: EUROPA '92 2,50F and 3,40F, on Disc. of America theme; 6 (9) June: Summer Olympics triptych 2,50F + 3,40F.

Withdrawal: 15 May: 3,20F tombs of St. Vincent d'Enclar.

- ▶ **Monaco:** The four pre-cancels listed in previous number were issued 13 March.  
Withdrawals: 12 March: EUROPA '91 (2); "Joyaux de la mer" 2,20F and 2,40F; 21F and 23F booklets; the four pre-cancels for 4 seasons of the plum tree; 3F and 7F fish; Cent. of Prince Albert sheetlet of 3 x 10F; 5, 6, 7F Portraits; 4 seasons of the orange tree block of 4; Noel 1991 (3); Monegasque Red Cross 4,50F and 5,50F; Mercantour Park conifers (6); 20F Hermann tortoise sheetlet.
- ▶ **French Polynesia:** 7 April: 136F health theme.
- ▶ **New Caledonia:** 25 March: 15F Nature Protection (waterfall of the Madeleine), and same on 150F S.S.; 9 April: 25F Melanesian life (Lapita pottery); 27 April: 10F bridge over the Barqueta (Seville World's Fair).
- ▶ **St. Pierre & Miquelon:** 4 March: 3,60F Nature; 6 April: 1,50F and 1,80F caulking tools; 11 May: 20F model plane making; 13 July: Lighthouses 2,50F x 4.  
Withdrawals: 7 Feb.: 2,50F rowboat crossing; 5F Basque sports; 10 July: 2,50F Adm. Muselier.
- ▶ **Wallis & Futuna:** 15 April: 106F 1992 Summer Olympics; 17 April: 100F GRANADA '92 International Philatelic exhibition; 20 April: 200F Seville World's Fair; 18 May: 21F and 26F fish.
- ▶ **The new (April 1992) Minister of Posts and Telecommunications** is Emile Zuccarelli, replacing J.M. Raush.
- ▶ **While the recent (issued late January 1992) official reprint of the unauthorized (issued October 1991) Marseille-La Poste Colbert booklet (FCPN° 228, April 1992, p. 51-52) closely resembles the original, there exist important differences between them. In the unofficial original, the yellow cover glows yellow under UV light and the red M. de Briat "D" stamps come from sheets from RGR presses. In the case of the reprint, the cover appears dull brownish under UV light and the stamps were apparently specially printed on TD press(es). This reprinted booklet is therefore the only red "D" format using TD-press stamps; all others (sheets, coils, self-adhesive booklets) were printed on RGR presses.**
- ▶ **It is highly likely that America was first so named in April 1507, on a map included in a re-edition of Ptolemy's "Cosmographiae Introductio." Designed by Martin Waldseemüller, the map shows a "terre d' Amerigo" called "America." The publication was prepared by local cleric Vautrin Lud and others, including printer Mathias Ringmann, in St-Dié (Vosges), under the patronage of René II, Duke of Lorraine. (L'Echo de la Timbrologie, April 1992).**
- ▶ **An exposition of the works of Pierre Bequet is scheduled for 7-13 August 1992 at the Hôtel de Ville of la Rochelle. Included will be displays on stamps production and of Bequet's copperplate engravings. Sponsors include La Poste, the Musée Postal, the national printing works, and several francophile postal administrations.**
- ▶ **M-m-m good! La Poste has gone back, after a lapse of, if we're not mistaken, of some 25 years (since the 0,30 Arms of Paris booklets), to selling commercial advertising space on booklet covers. The first of undoubtedly many to come honors good old American M & M's (registered trademark) with some temptingly colored covered chocolate delights on front and back covers. And if topicalists aren't yet into sweets, they should certainly buy this booklet for its Olympic Rings and for La Poste's official patronage of the 1992 Winter Olympics. Oh yes, almost forgot the technical aspects: ten 2,50F Marianne de Briat stamps, at 25F the booklet, issued 7 February 1992; 1.2 million printed.**

### **Some occasional and incomplete show reports:**

- ▶ **ARIPEX '92 (Phoenix):** Silver to Bob Kinsley for French stampless.

► Filatelic Fiesta '92 (San Jose, CA): Vermeils to Paul Blake for Indochina 1864-1931 and for Russia: The 1914-15 Charity Issues, and to Robert Kinsley for French Somaliland 1890s-1940s.

► Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition '92: Silver to Peter Lerpiniere for France - Maritime Mail. (And another Silver at ROPEX '92 (Rochester, NY).

► Garfield-Perry March party '92 (Cleveland): Gold to Stanley Luft for France: Military Campaigns 1823-1913; silver to Robert Kinsley for The French Expeditional Corps 1861-1905 (which also received a vermeil at the York County Stamp Show); silver to George C. Mayer for French West Africa (1943-1958).

► INTERPEX '92 (New York City): Gold to Richard Stevens for The Serbs in Exile in Greece, 1916-1918; silver to Walter Brooks for Siege of Paris, 1870-71; silver to Alexander Galinos for French Censorship in Greece, 1915-1919.

► ROMPEX '92 (Denver): Gold to Stanley Luft for France: Military Campaigns 1823-1913; gold and Reserve Grand to James P. Gough's Evolution and Use of Adhesives for Postage Due, which contains some fine French material.

► *Please send your showtime reports, including which members were there, to the editor for inclusion in future issues.*

► The WORLD COLUMBIAN STAMP EXPO was run by the Chicago cadre that pulled off AMERIPEX a few years ago. They should write a book on how to run a big stamp show. This one was extremely well run and had Post Office support. Admission was by ticket, and free admission tickets could be had just about any place. For the days I was there, attendance was very good and there was a large dealer bourse. The lines to buy the new Columbian souvenir sheets were constant. All sorts of exhibits were about, and some French area material could be found. The court of honor featured much rare material (the inverted jennies seemed common), and a number of famous exhibits. In addition to the regular WSP exhibits, the Collectors Clubs of New York, Chicago and California featured a one frame competition. A number of the FCPS'ers were there including John Lievsay, Dick Stevens, Ira Zweifach, Martin Stempien, Ken Nilsestuen and yours truly. Society exhibits required a bit of hunting to find them, and so far we have had no response to ours. The only French dealer with a booth was Paul Sussman from Marseille, and it was a pleasure to see him once again and to purchase a few good items with Group Type stamps. New member, Thierry Lallevee of Lugdunum Philatelie in Ste Foy-les-Lyon, was also present and shopping for material for his mail sales.

-Ed Grabowski



## REVIEW

"*Timbres de France--Couleurs et Nuances.*" By Gérard Bermejo and Jean-François Brun with collaboration of R. Calves and J. Robineau. Editions Brun & Fils, Paris, 1992. Hardback, interior spiral bound, pp.130 of which 60 are color plates and descriptions, text in French. Available from Leonard Hartmann, Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233, \$67.50 postpaid.

Every advancing collector of Classic France comes to grips with classification of shades of color of stamps in his collection. This includes dealing with terms of intensity like *vif*, *terne*, and *foncé* or those peculiar colors called *groseille*, *vermillion*, and *modore*. Anyone who has worked with the Bordeaux issue knows that ultramarine of Scott #44 and #45 are different, and both again different than the same color listed for #81 and #100 in the Type Sage.

Your rescue is at hand. The author and team have produced a practical guide with 1"x2" chips for 120 shades of color as described in the Yvert and Cérés catalogs (with cross indexing of respective catalog numbers) for 19th Century France. I have compared them to actual stamps and find them easy to use, and, with the possible exception of the car-

mines for the first issue, accurate. It should be noted that a wise choice was made for shades of intensity--the chips for *foncé* show the borderline (lightest, not mid-range) shade that qualifies.

The physical layout is thoughtfully done, with spiral binding so that the pages lay flat; this book is meant to be used. The individual chips are secured halfway on the left so that a stamp or cover can be positioned underneath at the medallion of the design for best comparison. Each chip is identified with the Yvert catalog number of the stamp to which it uniquely applies.

The work is excellent resolution of a long-standing challenge in French philately. It will be the standard reference for questions of color in the period. When differences in shades can mean hundreds of dollars in catalog valuation, the price to have the answer can be repaid many times.

J. Lievsay

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**F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL**  
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**President's Letter**

First, I must urge all members to come to NATIONAL '92 and join our somewhat-belated celebration of the Society's 50th Anniversary. Full details will be found elsewhere in this *Philatelist*. Unlike my Greek colleagues at INTERPEX this spring, we have not invited the French ambassador, so the show should be able to open on time. Please note that this will be a five-day show, and will be the first ASDA-sponsored show to be held at the Javits Convention Center.

Two months earlier, on Sunday of Labor Day weekend, I anticipate that we will have our traditional informal lunch (or brunch) at BALPEX. Anyone who is there at the time is generally welcome to join us. Final arrangements are made that morning at the Show, since most of us only go down for the day. I did not attend last year, but hope to this year.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and productive summer.

Dick Stevens

**ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**

The Treasurer's report for 1991 was published in the January Philatelist. The Corresponding Secretary's report was in the April Philatelist.

After many years of devoted service our treasurer Beatrice M. Berner had found it increasingly difficult to get to the bank. With regret, the Board has accepted her resignation as of January 1, 1992. However, Bea was happy to remain as a director and the Board will continue to meet at her apartment. As he has moved to Spain, Jerold Masler has left the Board. Bill Wallis has agreed to serve as treasurer; for the present he will continue as vice-president.

As a result of the above changes, the slate of officers for election was: President: Richard M. Stevens; Vice President/Treasurer: William Wallis; Recording Secretary: Edward J. Grabowski; Corresponding Secretary: Walter E. Parshall; Directors (until 1995): Beatrice M. Berner, Ira Zweifach. There were no other nominations, and the slate was elected unanimously.

**Meeting of 5 May**

It was the night of the annual Rich exhibit, held in competition with the show in Granada Spain which yours truly attended. Thus, I have Dick Stevens to thank for his notes on the Rich and copies of the entered exhibits. Although we had only three exhibits, they were diverse and most interesting, and all from veteran exhibitors.

Receiving the First Award was Bob Kinsley with his new exhibit on the French Expeditionary Corps in Indochina. The focus of the exhibit is the numerous military markings

used by the French Forces in the general area through 1905 as seen on the free-frank mail available to the expeditionary forces. Anyone who regularly goes through dealers' Colonies covers stocks sees the more common of these covers, but to my knowledge, no one in the USA has recently presented a good study of the potential of this rich area. So it was a pleasure to review Bob's exhibit, and to note his award. Desrousseaux is the big reference here (see the Waugh and Luft book). Bob presented a good selection of the variety of markings that are available in this area, as he traced the movement of the French Forces. A number of better offices and administrative cachets were shown, including a rare 1894 Shanghai naval cover of the Sino-Japanese War.

Ken Nilsestuen took the Second Award for his showing of Algerian 19th Century Postal Markings. Beginning with a three line handstamp of the military forces in Algeria in 1830 (A ARMEEXPEDRE D'AFRIQUE) used within the first two weeks of service, Ken traced the development and use of various postal markings through the stampless and stamp periods. This is a developing exhibit, and undoubtedly, one we will see more of in the future. Both of our Rich exhibitors have been invited to put their full exhibits in NATIONAL '92 this fall.

Rounding out the show, was Dick Stevens' non-competitive exhibit on the Serbian Exiles in France (1916-1918). The first frame was devoted primarily to those refugee and military units which had handstamps prepared, including covers from Toulon. The Serbian University Battalion, including a field postcard printed for the Battalion at Jausiers, Marseille and Le Havre. Two different markings were shown for Commissioners for Serbian Refugees (Paris and Belgrade), and a cover from Ajaccio, Corsica with the handstamp of the Franco-Serb Commission. The exhibit concluded with mail to and from Serbs in French towns which had no organized Serbian units.

Ed Grabowski

### Meeting of 2 June

John Lievsay, with a few comments from yours truly, reviewed the recent shows held in Granada, Spain (GRANADA '92) and Chicago (WORLD COLUMBIAN STAMP EXPO). With regard to the former, John noted that Tokyo was a breeze by comparison, and for the purposes of tonight's discussion, he would emphasize the positive. As is typical for a Lievsay visit to an international, a variety of souvenirs were on display, including a number of Olympic pins that were gotten in various trades. Postally used material from GRANADA '92 was franked with the Frama labels that seem to be very popular overseas. An example of the Monaco souvenir sheet on Columbus' discovery of America was shown. The Palmars brought Granada and Spanish Federation pins, and a nice booklet to compliment the show catalog.

Ed Grabowski

## ANNOUNCEMENT

As noted in the previous *PHILATELIST*, the Society will be celebrating the completion of Fifty Years of Service to Philately by participation in NATIONAL '92, the national level show to be held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City. Because of larger facilities, the show has been expanded and it will run for five days (October 28 through November 1, 1992). In addition to our participation, the Collectors Club will be featuring an international literature exhibition, so this promises to be one of the best shows of the season. Copies of the show Prospectus are available from Ed Grabowski (Box 364, Garwood, NJ 07027), so be sure to obtain one if you wish to exhibit. As of this writing (June 1), we already have fifty frames and Ken Kutz, one of the show organizers, noted that the exhibit is filling up rapidly. John Lievsay will head the Jury, so we can count on a fair and tough review of our exhibits. We will be having a lecture on each day of the show (see *Linn's* in October for the topics and times), a gala Society dinner on October 29th, and an Awards Buffet at the Collectors Club on the 31st. We are working with the ASDA to develop a French Area theme for the show's souvenir card. It promises to be a great show, so get your exhibits ready and do join us.

## NEW MEMBERS

2923 SANDERS, REGINALD D, 414 Brockenbraugh Court, Metairie, LA 70005-3324.  
(General France: mint.)

- 2924 BARHAM, TERRY, 25020 128th Place, S.E., Kent, WA 98031. (Stamps: French Indochina: Cochin China, Annam & Tonkin - Kwang Chouan. (Laos - Cambodia - North & South Vietnam - Independent Republics through 1971.)
- 2925 DEVINE, FRANCIS H., P.O. Box 931568, Los Angeles, CA 90093-1568. (General France: mint.)
- 2926 ADAMS, JOHN W., 20 Quinine Hill, Columbia, SC 29204. (Rejected Designs - Deluxe proofs - Imperforates - Artist Proofs and Color Trials; also for the French Community complete coverage.)
- 2927 KERZEL, KARL J., 301 E. Lenox Ave., Norfolk, VA 23503. (General collector: 19 Century France: mint - used. Offices abroad. CFA Colonies General Issues: mint - used. Omnibus Issues. Collections through 1965.)
- 2928 EVAN, JOHN, P.O. Box 2533, Clearwater, FL 34617-2533. (General collector: New Caledonia.)
- 2922 DODDER, SUE, 3118 S. 2nd St., Omaha, NE 68108. (General France: mint. Monaco.)

**REINSTATEMENTS**

- 1697 SHUMSKY, ALLISON D., 9476 W. Bay Shore Rd., Traverse City, MI 49684. (Already in Philatelist.)
- 2589 LIECHTI, HANS U., Rebenstrasse 15, Birchwil CH 8309, Switzerland. (Already in Directory.)
- 1923 REINHARDT, JAMES N., 928 Pierce St., San Francisco, CA 94115. (Already in Directory.)
- 2787 WATKINS, PAUL S., 77 Cubbington Rd., Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 74Q, England. (Already in Philatelist.)

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

- 2855 WEXELBLAT, DAVID, 50 Secretariat Court, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724.
- 1841 DRYE, HERVE, 6 Place Henn Bergson, 75008 Paris, France.
- 2529 BEAUPRE, ROGER D., (zip code change) P.O. Box 3334, Ft. Pierce, FL 33448-3334.
- 2557 BRAUN, F. CARL, M.D., 14629 S.W. 104th St., Suite #349, Miami, FL 33186.
- 2729 MATILSKY, TERRY, 109 S. 4th Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904-2622.
- 2343 GRANT, HUNTLY W., P.O. Box 26133, Tampa, FL 33623-6133.
- 2751 NEWMAN, LOWELL S., 1500 Harbor Blvd., Weehawken, NJ 07087.
- 2888 ROTAR, PATRICK JOHN, 7600 W. Manchester Ave., Apt. #1201, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293.
- 1736 ARELLANO, REFUGIO, JR., 2496 Bow Circle, Placentia, CA 92670-1411.
- 2766 LINDHOLM, JOHN, 2316 Lakeview Drive, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.
- 2030 EGGEN, DONALD T., 2190 Aspenpark Court, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362-1726.
- 2440 GORRELL, JOSEPH P., 23 Sturbridge Lane, Greensboro, NC 27408-3844.

**RESIGNATIONS**

- 2463 KERNBERGER, KARL

**DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES**

Jacob Beer, Michel Porges, Henry P. Sirgue, Wm. H. Breese, Dr. John M. Buckner, Raymond C. Selby, Steven Spires.



**MEMBERS' APPEALS**



WANTED: Any Andy Warhol Cinderella stamps affixed to covers mailed from French post offices and accepted for postage prepayment, or any used such stamps off cover. Richard A. Melnick, 120 Olde Orchard Drive, Bridgeville, PA 15017 (MB #2366).

OFFER: In regard to Fournier Group Type imitations or "forgeries," I will trade any five of my duplicates for each one of yours (no overprints). Robert F. Carmody, 573 Riviera Circle, Larkspur, CA 94939 (MB #2182).