



# France & Colonies Philatelist

## THE GAOUA BISECTS OF MARCH 1908

by Ed Grabowski

In our 1984 article on the French Colonial Group Type which appeared in *American Philatelist*, Bob Stone and I illustrated a cover posted in Gaoua, Upper Senegal and Niger on March 2, 1908 franked with a bisect of the 20c Group Type stamp of the French Soudan (1). The history behind this most unusual cover (see Figure 1) is detailed in part in the caption under the illustration and in a note which Bob published in our *France & Colonies Philatelist* (2), and featured in his article on French Colonial bisects in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* (3). Much of this information is based on an earlier report in the literature by the famous French stamp dealer Arthur Maury (4), and one other early literature note of which we are aware (5). A correspondent of Maury's happened to reside in Gaoua at the time, and described in a letter to Maury how this genuine provisional issue came into being. Apparently on March 2, 1908 the native postmaster found himself short of stamps in the 1-10 centimes range. These were the stamps that would normally be used to frank the current 10c French Community rate, valid within the Colony, to other

- 1) R.G. Stone and E. Grabowski, *American Philatelist*, Vol. 98, No. 6, pp. 618-632 (1984).
- 2) R.G. Stone, *France & Colonies Philatelist*, Whole No. 129, p. 72 (1967).
- 3) R.G. Stone, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 52, pp. 15 & 96 (1974).
- 4) A. Maury, *Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste*, pp. 168-169 (1908).
- 5) *L'Ami de Timbres*, p. 267 (1909).

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Colonies and to France. In the presence of the European residents of the village, the postmaster franked the mail with diagonal bisects of the 20c Group Type issue which was in supply at that time. The nearest post office which could possibly supply more stamps was more than 200km away. Maury's correspondent noted that probably less than forty or fifty stamps were bisected. In his CCP (3) article, Bob waxed truly poetic about the Gaoua bisect, and I quote from his introduction to that section:

*The Gaoua is a crown-jewel (of a virgin at that) of the bisects, unsung by catalogs, dealers or collectors; unsullied by promotion, dubious motivation or philatelic covers; unauthorized but honestly made in the presence of the whole community; unknown to the administration and undenounced by it; postally and philatelically pure as the wind-driven dusts of its savanna home.*

At the time of the 1984 *American Philatelist* article, the cover in Figure 1 belonged to Bob, and I was pleased to purchase it from him shortly thereafter. Since then I have had my eye out for similar covers, and in the intervening years, I have managed to find four more. For the record, that shown in Figure 1 appears to be a proper, non-philatelic, first day use of the provisional bisect. It was posted to a military officer in Nimes and was received there on April 20th. With a substantial number of Group Type covers in my collection, I do not have another addressed to this addressee, nor another addressed in the same hand of which I am aware.

The second cover (Figure 2) in my collection was also posted on the same day, March 2, 1908. It is a registered letter and bears a diagonal bisect of the 20c stamp and a full 25c stamp, prepaying the proper 35c registered French Community rate (10c postage and 25c registry). It also bears a manuscript number 60, which is the typical identification number for registered mail seen on letters of this time. It is addressed to **Maison Arthur Maury** in Paris, and bears a second Gaoua date stamp of March 6, 1908 on the front of the envelope. To me this suggests that from the day of its preparation on the second

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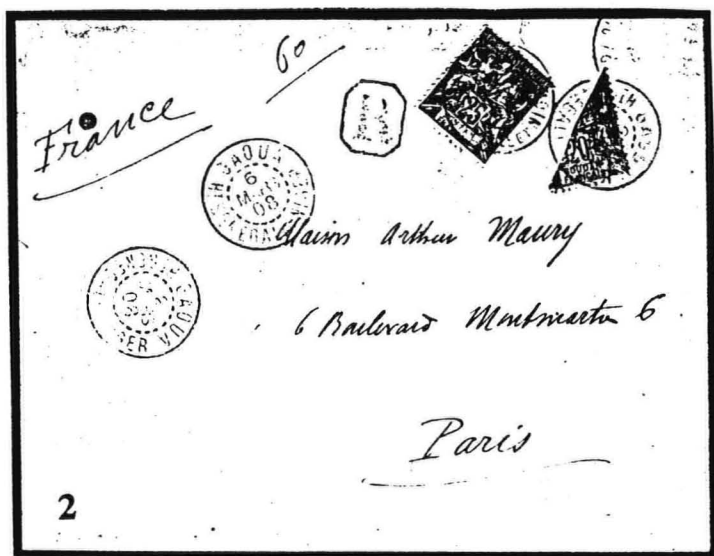
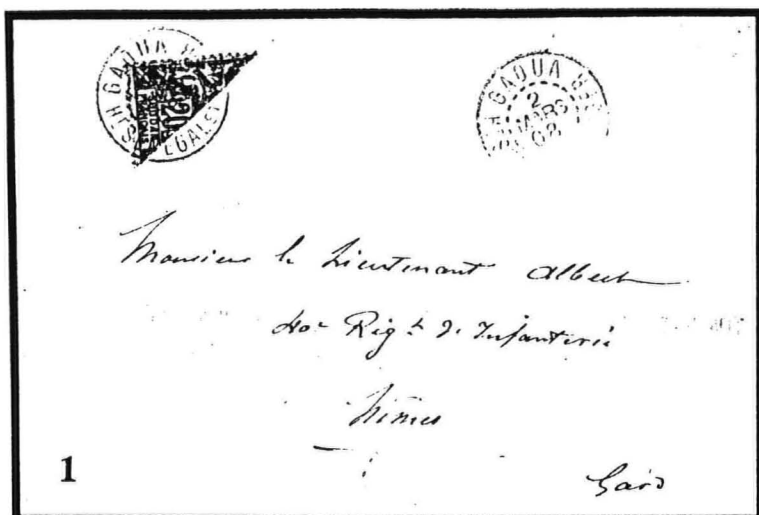
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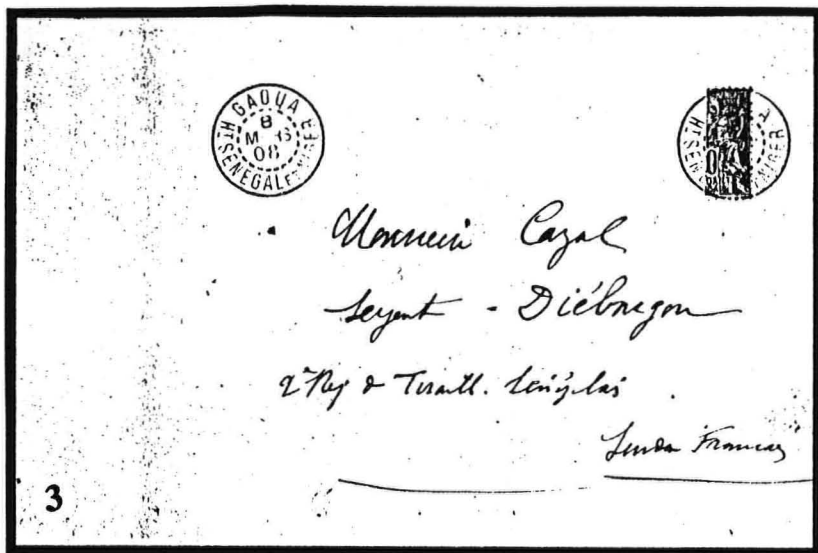
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of March, this letter and the rest of the mail posted from the second remained in the post office until the sixth, when it was dispatched. The letter bears a Kayes backstamp of early April 1908, and an unreadable Paris arrival in the upper right corner of the front of the envelope. Given the date and the addressee, this is most likely the envelope that carried the story of the origin of the Gaoua bisects to the famous dealer Maury, and was the basis of his report shortly thereafter (4). Gaoua was a small village remotely located in the southwestern portion of what was to become Upper Volta. Why someone who was interested in philatelic matters and knowledgeable about the dealer Maury in Paris lived there seems most unusual. However, the story as follows indeed suggests that he was a resident of Gaoua for at least the month of March 1908.

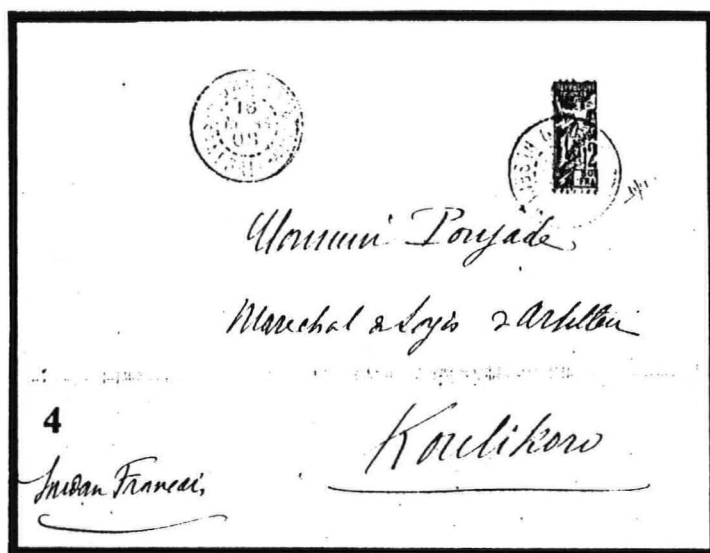
Recently I acquired the third cover of this grouping (Figure 3) posted from Gaoua on the 8th of March 1908. This one is franked with a vertical bisect of the 20c stamp and



is addressed locally to a Senegalese soldier in Diebougou, a small village about 100km north of Gaoua. The letter bears a March 17th backstamp from this village, and again appears to be a genuine usage of the Gaoua bisect. However, it is of interest to note that the **M** of **Monsieur** is quite similar to the **M** in **Maury** in the registered letter to Maury in Paris, and I would venture that both were written by the same hand.

Although we (1) have suggested that the shortage of stamps lasted about a week, there is no clear documentation of such. I do not have, nor have I seen, letters posted from Gaoua with normal frankings from either before or after this period.

The fourth letter in this assemblage (Figure 4) was posted from Gaoua on the 16th of March, two weeks after the initiation of the use of bisects. It too is franked with

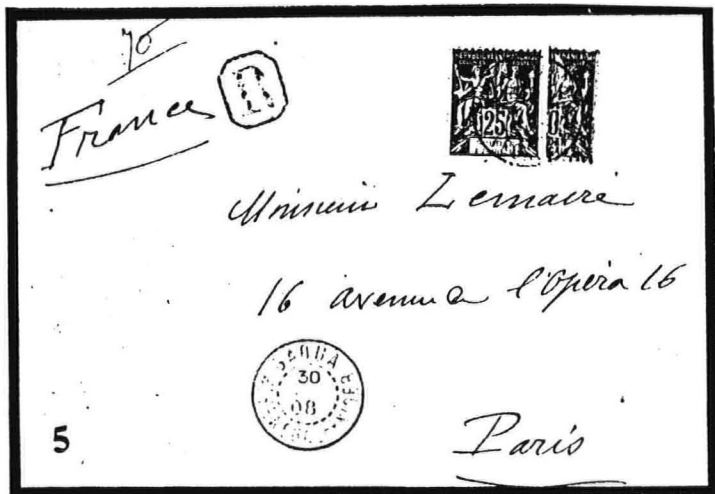




a vertical bisect of the 20c Group Type and was posted to the village of Koulikoro where it was backstamped on the 31st of March, having traveled via the village of Bobo-Dioulasso from which it bears a transit backstamp. Again this appears to be a perfectly legitimate use of the bisect, addressed to a Monsieur Poujade, a sergeant-major in the artillery, in a remote village in the Soudan. Although I am not a handwriting expert, I would again guess that the sender of this letter and that to Maury was the same person. The **M's** in **Maison** and **Monsieur** are quite similar in both letters as are the **P's** in **Poujade** and **Paris**.

The last letter (Figure 5) in my collection was posted from Gaoua on the 30th of March. It is registered at the proper 35c rate, and franked with a vertical bisect of the 20c and a 25c Group Type stamp. It bears the registry manuscript number **76**, suggesting about 16 registered letters were posted from Gaoua between the 6th and 30th of March, probably a reasonable number from such a small and distant outpost. This letter was also written in the same hand as the letters to Maury and Poujade, based again on the very characteristic **M** of **Monsieur**, although at first glance the handwriting seems to differ between the two letters. It is addressed to a Monsieur Lemaire on the Avenue de l'Opera in Paris, a stamp dealer and editor of his house organ *Amis de Timbres*. I have no other letters to the same addressee in any of my Colonial collections.

Thus, of my five letters from Gaoua during March 1908, four appear to be from the same sender, and one of those is to Maury, clearly indicating that the sender of these letters was aware of their philatelic implications. They are all properly franked, and represent intracolony, intercolony and overseas destinations. Thus, they represent all of the valid frankings wherein a 10c stamp might be used. Could the sender have had undue influence at the Gaoua post office and been able to philatelically extend the use of the bisects for the entire month? Or was there a genuine shortage of stamps for the month? It is difficult to tell from the evidence contained herein, or from what is published in the literature. It is interesting to note that the first two letters bear diagonal bisects, wherein the entire Colonial designation **French Soudan** is visible in the bisect. The remaining three employing vertical bisects and posted later in the month, only show one half of the Colonial name. Why this change? One simple conclusion is the quantity of usable stamps each bisecting method could produce. Diagonal bisects, maintaining the Colonial designation, were a one-for-one proposition. The vertical bisects, where the Colonial designation could still be determined, produce two bisects per stamp. This suggests that the shortage might have lasted longer than anticipated. Stamp delivery schedules to remote post offices most certainly had to be infrequent, and I have seen no literature as to how such were handled. Although philatelic mail has a much higher probability of being saved, I find it quite common that mail from small villages throughout this period originates from the same cor-



respondent. Possibly there is someone who has additional letters from Gaoua from this period. I would be interested in learning about them.

Whatever their ultimate status and period of use, the Gaoua bisects seem at least as genuine as those of Madagascar from the 1904 period, if not more so. We have the clear indication of a shortage of stamps in the letter to Maury. Also, there does not seem to be enough of the Gaoua bisects to indicate preparation for the philatelic market, as with the bisects of Madagascar. Possibly the next few years will bring additional covers and information. This certainly remains one of the most unusual and unsung occurrences in French Colonial postal history.

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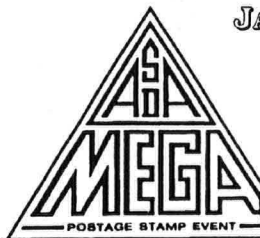
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## EARLY MILITARY DATE STAMPS FROM FRENCH SOMALILAND

One *raison d'être* for the French protectorate over the Somali Coast was to establish a supply base at the entrance to the Indian Ocean for ships in the service of the Far Eastern (chiefly Indochina) expeditionary corps, inasmuch as the British did not proffer Aden for this role.

The first military-postal date stamp (Figure 1) used there was by the small army garrison at Obock, which was to obtain the reduced military franchise (= French domestic letter rate) in July 1888. This date stamp was probably made on or shortly after the 1 September 1884 inaugural date for the Obock P.O., for the oldest known (off-cover) example dates from 15 January 1885. It was first struck in black, then in blue, then again in black, and was used as a departure, arrival and transit marking until 1895.

The Obock garrison moved in 1894 to the new and improved port of Djibouti. A new date stamp (Figure 2) was in use there, but only three examples are known, all from the Mission Marchand to the Upper Nile. These have Djibouti transit cachets of March and April 1899, and entered the mail stream in Ethiopia.

The third marking (Figure 3), struck in blue, is actually a maritime-transit marking that was not known to Salles. Perhaps first reported by Henri Tristant, little more than a half-dozen examples (all 1900-1901) may be known. It should be sought out among the maritime-transit markings that appear on mail from the military in China, Tonkin and perhaps also Madagascar, particularly of the 1900-01 period. Happy searching!

(Transcribed and condensed from "*Correspondance des armées*" by Pierre Guichenduc, "*Les Monde des Philatélistes*," November 1992, by Stanley J. Luft.)



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

## A FANTASTIC FANTASY

by Robert T. Kinsley

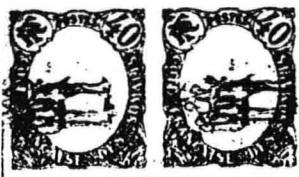
The inverted-center stamps of the 1902-03 French Somali Coast issues, which rank among the major philatelic frauds of this century, have had considerable bad press. Less well known ancillary curiosities are described below, and this writer invites your comments on the more fanciful ones. For background we rely upon the fine work of Henri Tristant, "*Histoire Postale de la Côte des Somalis*," tome II, published by *Le Monde des Philatélistes* as *Etude N° 146* (1972), and its partial translation and discussion by C. S. Holder, "French Somali Coast," in the *Journal of the France & Colonies Society* (of Great Britain), v. 27, N° 135/136 (1977).

These issues were printed in two stages, border first and central vignette second, by two private printing firms, and are among the very first engraved issues of France and the Colonies. A few sheets with inverted centers were inadvertently included in normal stock and typically found their way into the hands of a stamp dealer, who offered them at prices commensurate with desirable and legitimate errors. Shortly thereafter similar inverteds appeared for sale at a small fraction of the original dealer's price, giving rise to extensive demands for official investigation. As a result it was discovered that a worker at the printing firm of Wittman was using genuine stamp paper to make clandestine printings after normal working hours. In *La Revue Française des Collectionneurs* of February 1905, the editor opined that the unfortunate worker, already in jail, married and the father of several children, was almost certainly only a pawn in the hands of others who probably would soon be arrested.

Whereas the inverted centers are the best known of the fraudulent products, very little has been written on the other, even more outrageous but seldom-seen varieties. These include misregistrations of varying degree, central vignette printed sideways instead of fully inverted, and placement of central vignettes of low-denomination values within the borders of higher denominational designs. There also exists an even more incredible variety, wherein the central design of riders on a camel face in the opposite direction from the normal design. (Unfortunately, this is hard to see in the example shown here, "Center Reversed.") This variety was first reported by a F&CPS (Great Britain) member to C. S. Holder (op. cit.) who examined the variety and agreed with another examiner that it definitely was not an off-set from another freshly printed sheet. This writer has an example of this rare and unusual fantasy, but, being unversed in "taille-douce" engraving methods, he would appreciate learning how perhaps such a variety could be surreptitiously prepared. Please send your comments to the editors of our journal.



Misregistration



Center Sideways

Normal  
StampWrong  
CenterNormal  
StampCenter  
Reversed

## WAR TIME AIRMAIL SERVICE BETWEEN FRANCE AND FRENCH SOMALILAND (1940-1942)

This practically unknown service is the subject of an interesting two-page article by B. Abouchar in the September 1992 *"Le Monde des Philatélistes."*

Upon receiving news of the June 1940 Armistice in France, Franco-Colonial troops retired from positions along the border with Italian-occupied Ethiopia. This left unguarded a flank of British Somaliland, which fell to the Italians that August. In September, the Royal Navy in turn blockaded Djibouti, partly to protect the southern Red Sea and also Kenya from the Axis Powers.

For a while, the Italian authorities provided foodstuffs and supplies to Djibouti via the railway from Addis-Ababa (See Bob Kinsley's article in *FCP* N° 228, April 1992), but this was discontinued when a British counter-offensive cut the line. Some supplies continued to come in irregularly by way of Yemeni boats that slipped the British blockade and landed their wares at Obock -- still a difficult 200-km distance from Djibouti that was negotiated on occasion by three small planes.

Occasional hydroplane flights connected Unoccupied France with Djibouti, beginning in November 1940, when Paul Codos (Scott N° C47, 1973) piloted a Laté 522 from France (7 November) to Djibouti (11th), continuing to Madagascar (15 November). The plane returned to Djibouti 8 February 1941. We don't know if any mail was carried on either trip.

Mail, medicines, etc. were brought in by a Martin 167-F of the Vichy forces in Lebanon, 1 May 1941, returning to Lebanon on the 3rd. A similar voyage took place 6 June, returning to Lebanon just as the British and Free French invaded the French mandated territories in the Levant, thereby terminating that source of virtualization from the outside world. The next and last hydroplane (a Laté 611) from France arrived 13 May 1941, but was damaged upon landing, and hydroplanes were no longer to be risked for the long voyage.

They were replaced, beginning late July 1941, by long-range Amiot 370s and 356s, utilizing the civilian markings of Air France, and flying either directly from France or refueling at Athens. At least one of these planes suffered damage. Two flights by a Vichy Air Force Martin 167-F were made to Djibouti in July (via Tunis) and September 1942. The last flight (by the repaired Amiot 356) arrived 1 October 1942.

The situation changed drastically and rapidly upon arrival of the news of the November 1942 Allied landings in North Africa. On 27 November, many of the Vichy troops in French Somaliland deserted into Allied-held Ethiopia. On 1 January 1943, the Free French entered Djibouti and the two and one-half-year-long British blockade was lifted.

Abouchar lists a total of 17 flights that landed (from one direction or another) at Djibouti between 11 November 1940 and 1 October 1942. A black two-line handstamp, "SERVICES AÉRIENS SPÉCIAUX PENDANT LE BLOCUS DE DJIBOUTI," with thick horizontal lines above and below (Figure 1) was applied from 21 October 1941-on upon arrival, on mail carried by Air France.

While preparing this *précis*, I received the 22nd Sinais auction catalogue (2 October 1992 sale). Lot 4641: burned letter from Figeac, addressed to Djibouti, carried by Italian transport plane which was shot down over the city by a British pursuit plane, as it was about to land, 5 October 1941. No special markings known on recovered mail. Minimum bid 1,000 Fr; sold 2,681 Fr.

The amount of mail perilously carried by air to and from French Somaliland during the British blockade must have been quite small, and what has survived must be most uncommon and worth seeking out. --S.JL

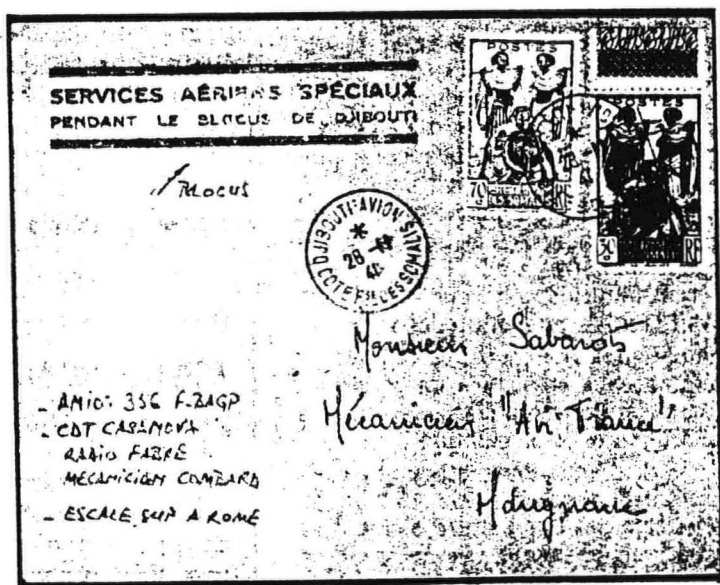


Figure 1: The special handstamp, applied 28 November 1941, on letter to France carried by an Amiot 356

## A THORNY NEIGHBORHOOD – SIAM AND FRENCH INDOCHINA (II)

By Jacques Desrousseaux  
(cont. from *FCP* #230, October 1992, p. 100)

**III. 1890-1907** -- France having in 1890 offered a protectorate to the Laotian princes, Siam decided to attack, its army crossed the Mekong at the end of 1892, invaded a part of Laos and North Cambodia, arriving even near the edge of Annam near Hue. An expeditionary corps was mobilized in Cochinchina and ascends the Mekong, some Annamite militia coming from the side aiding the army to turn back the Siamese around the Mekong, who requested an armistice which was signed 3/10/93. The east of the Mekong is evacuated thereupon, while an armistice Commission is charged to fix the frontier between Siam and Cambodia on a linguistic basis. During these efforts the French will have a garrison at Chantaboun in the SE of Siam and in its forward port of Pak-Nam.

In 1904 the parts of Laos west of the Mekong were restored to it and Cambodia received a coastal strip from Kratt to Kaskong; the troops evacuated Chantaboun and are brought back to Kratt. Finally the Commission on 23/3/07 finishes its tasks. This time the provinces of Battambang and Siemreap are given to Cambodia (the present frontier), but the west of the coastal province, Kratt being indisputably Siamese, is restored to Siam.

**Posts of the Period** -- The zones still occupied by Siam used Siamese stamps and postmarks, the cachets often carrying the name of the town in western characters (Figure 9). The Expeditionary Corps of Cambodia had the franchise and in Laos as well as Cambodia had cachets reading **CORPS EXPEDRE CAMBODGE** from 1895 to 1904 (Figure 8) and sometimes used the civil postmarks.

The mail coming from Chantaboun/Pak-Nam carried an administrative cachet; sent to Saigon by the local Bangkok-Saigon boat, it is marked by the cachet **SAIGON\*COCHIN—CHINE CORPS EXPe** and date from 1893 to 1904 (Figure 7). After the transfer of Kratt, they used a civil cachet **KRATT/CAMBODGE** (curious for a town which will become Siamese) in 1904-1907 (Figure 10). Both Siamese and Indochinese stamps are seen.

Towards 1890 the use of the telegraphic type cachets ceased in Cambodia, being replaced by round cachets in non-serifed letters; the new offices received these cachets, inscribed **CAMBODGE** or **LAOS**. There were hesitations in the frontier zone between these two territories; for example Stung-Treng is Cambodian in 1892, Laotian in 1893 to 1904, then Cambodian again, with three successful types of cachets distinguished by reference to the preceding dates on account of the duration required for fabrication of the cachets.

The passing of the Siamese to the Cambodian posts in the west of Cambodia dates from July 1907. The French postmen had arrived with stamps of Indochina, but the cachets did not come until a week later, whence a temporary use of Siamese cachets on Indochinese stamps (Figure 10).

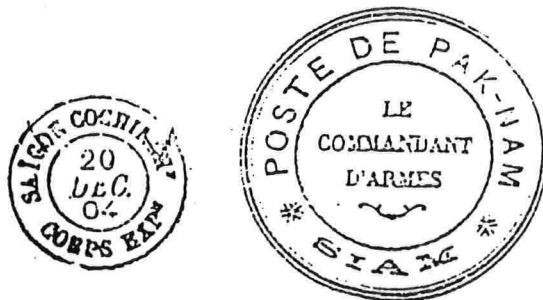


Figure 7: Cachets of Expeditionary Corps at Chantaboun and Pak-Nam, 1893-1904



Figure 8: Expeditionary Corps cachets of Cambodia: at left, Kratie, 1893; Kong (Laos), 1895



Figure 9: Siamese postmarks on a card sent from Siemreap/Angkor, 1901, with Siamese stamp and cancel; Battambang transit

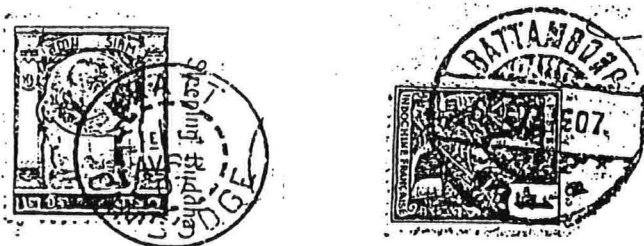


Figure 10: Occupation of Kratt 1904-1907, Siamese stamp; first days of French reoccupation of Battambang, July 1907, Indochinese stamp



Figure 11: Cover from German internee, 25/7/1917, Siamese stamp, censor-control cachets of Siam and Netherlands



**IV. 1914-1918** -- Many Germans worked in the enterprises and also in the Siamese administration. But Siam prudently held itself at a distance from the conflict until it could foresee the course of the Great War. And on 23/7/1917 Siam rallied to the Allies and the German civilians were interned.

**Post of the Internees.** -- During this brief period of Franco-Siamese alliance, the mail of the German internees was censored at Bangkok by a mixed Commission, to which French military were probably detached from Saigon or Phnom-Penh. The mail bears marks of two nationalities (Figure 11).

(to be continued)

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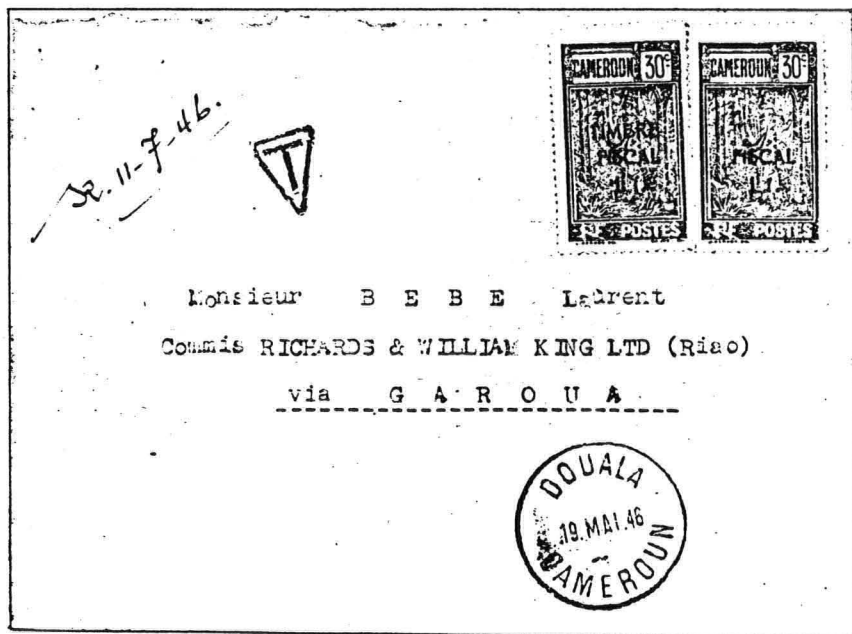
## CAMEROUN "TIMBRE FISCAL"-A MAJOR VARIETY

by M.P. Bratzel, Jr.

The collection and study of revenue stamps is an area that is often overlooked by philatelists, in part because of the difficulty in locating material and information. For French Colonial revenue stamps, Donald Duston has gone a long way toward closing the information gap, with his recent catalog on French Colonies Revenues, published in five parts, which replaces the old Forbin catalog of 1927.

The section on Cameroun revenue stamps, contained in Part II, describes the myriad number of wartime revenue stamps prepared locally by overprinting postage or postage due stamps with TIMBRE FISCAL and, generally, a new value.<sup>1</sup> A total of 37 basic revenue stamps were produced between 1940 and 1945, and minor varieties due, for example, to the use of worn type or different type fonts, probably number into the hundreds. Dr. Good provided insight into how these issues were prepared.<sup>2</sup>

One Cameroun postage stamp so transformed was Scott 182 (30 centime dark green and green), overprinted with TIMBRE FISCAL in large capital letters and a new value of 1F. The stamp is listed as N° 94 in Duston's catalog. A major variety of that revenue stamp--previously unrecorded--has now come to light.





The cover depicted here bears two fiscal stamps. One is Duston N° 94; the other lacks the word TIMBRE. Upon examination under a 30 X magnifier, there is no trace of the missing word. In Duston's opinion, this is a true error. The authorization for the preparation of all the wartime revenue stamps of Cameroun specifically stipulated that the overprint read TIMBRE FISCAL.<sup>3</sup> Likely, the type in the overprint cliché inadvertently fell out.

In the illustrated example, the sender tried to use the revenue stamps for postage. The stamps were not valid as such, so were not cancelled, and postage due was assessed. Although adjacent on the cover, the stamps are not attached to each other.

Any information or insight from fellow collectors would be appreciated.

## REFERENCES

- 1) *French Colonies Revenues (and Former Colonies now Independent). Part II. Sub-Sahara African Colonies.* Donald L. Duston, final editor and publisher. Sponsored by The American Revenue Association.
- 2) Good, A.J. [sic]. Revenues of Cameroun. *American Revenuer*, Vol. 10, N° 9, November 1956, pp. 8-10; Vol 10, N° 10, December 1956, pp. 4-6; and Vol. 11, N° 1, January 1957, p. 7.
- 3) *Journal officiel des territoires du Cameroun.* Yaounde. Imprimerie du Gouvernement. Issues for 1939-46 were consulted.

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## FRENCH U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCES, 1991-1992

France is playing an important role in these days' U.N. peacekeeping efforts, chiefly in the former Yugoslavia and in Cambodia.

The French contingent with FORPRONU (for **FOR**ce de **PRO**tection des Nations Unies en Yougoslavie) disembarked in Croatia beginning of April 1992, and speedily obtained the following functioning military-postal bureaux (BPMs): BPM 651, opened 8 April 1992 in Zagreb; BPM 652, opened 21 April in Belgrade (French U.N. command post); BPM 653, opened 21 April in Sarajevo, moved to Belgrade and then to Zagreb, for the French staff at FORPRONU headquarters; BPM 654, opened 8 April for some 1,000 French marines in the Cacak region; and BPM 655, opened 10 July 1992, for French reinforcements sent to Sarajevo. More recently, BMP 656 was opened in Veliaka. Postal sectors are of the 71,000 series. Only hand cancels are known thus far. BPM mail is centralized at Zagreb for transmission by air to and from Paris Centre de Tri Armées. The French domestic tariff is in effect. Mail bearing dated United Nations Protective Force dated cachets requires no postage.

A French detachment was sent under U.N. auspices to Cambodia in November 1991, followed by more troops in the ensuing months. This "preparatory mission" was code-named MIPRENUC, for **MISSION PRE**paratoire des Nations Unies au Cambodge. Its BPM 211 opened 4 November 1991 at Phnom-Penh. The purposes of the U.N. intervention were to prepare for free elections in 1993; control and verify a cease-fire between warring parties; supervise and verify the withdrawals of foreign troops and the reduction in armaments; clear minefields; assist the International Red Cross, etc.

A larger force was airlifted into Cambodia from the end of May 1992, as part of APRONUC (for **Autorité PRO**visoire des Nations Unies au Cambodge). The French part, consisting mainly of paratroopers, is situated in the Kompong-Som Province of coastal southwestern Cambodia. BPM 212 opened there 1 June 1992. A special U.N. dated cachet, for United Nations-Unies-UNTAC/APRONUC, granted the free franchise as of 21 July 1992. (Abstracted by S.J. Luft from article by Gerard Schmidt in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, November 1992.)

## KOREAN COMMUNIST FORGERIES OF FRENCH STAMPS

by Ken Lawrence

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This is an invited article, prepared by a non-member of our Society, who however should be well known to our readers. Ken Lawrence writes regularly for Linn's Stamp News, The American Philatelist, and other publications, and is presently a Director of the American Philatelic Society. Ken, we thank you for a most interesting and unusual contribution to French philately.*

Two stamps and one cancellation of France were counterfeited by communists in Korea during the early 1960s. Both stamps are from the 1960-1961 New Francs definitive series, the 10 centimes green Peasant Woman (Scott 939, Yvert 1231), and the 20 centimes turquoise and carmine rose Sower of Piel (Scott 941, Yvert 1233). The cancellation is a single-circle dated handstamp purportedly of Besançon, Doubs.

Only one item of these postal forgeries is known to have fallen into philatelic hands, a large piece bearing a vertical pair of the 20 centimes counterfeits tied by a very weak strike of the bogus cancel, illustrated here, formerly in the collection of Henry Stollnitz, and currently in my possession.

It is part of an apparently small grouping of faked postage stamps, meter imprints, and postmarks of several Western countries that were counterfeited in order to circulate illegal propaganda within South Korea, at a time when political agitation for Korean unification was illegal in the South, and when unification advocates were subject to severe criminal penalties. Envelopes bearing fake stamps and cancellations of the United States and France, and fake meter imprints of the United States, Great Britain, and Germany, were used to circulate this illegal propaganda, to make detection difficult. Some recipients, either out of fear or of loyalty, turned them in to the authorities.

The South Korean government issued a lengthy statement condemning the counterfeits and the political literature they carried, and blamed them on the North Korean government. To me, blaming North Korea or persons therein seems implausible. It would have been far easier for North Korean agents to buy genuine stamps in any number of foreign countries, and also to deposit the envelopes into the mailstream of those countries.

It seems more plausible to me to consider the following scenario. South Korean communists, working clandestinely, would have little likelihood of purchasing foreign stamps with impunity. But, they could have manufactured these counterfeit items in a hidden printing facility, and sympathetic postal employees could have infiltrated them directly into the South Korean mailstream. By seeming to bear postage of allied non-communist countries, they would have been virtually immune to censorship, inasmuch as the South Korean government would not have wished to offend its patrons.

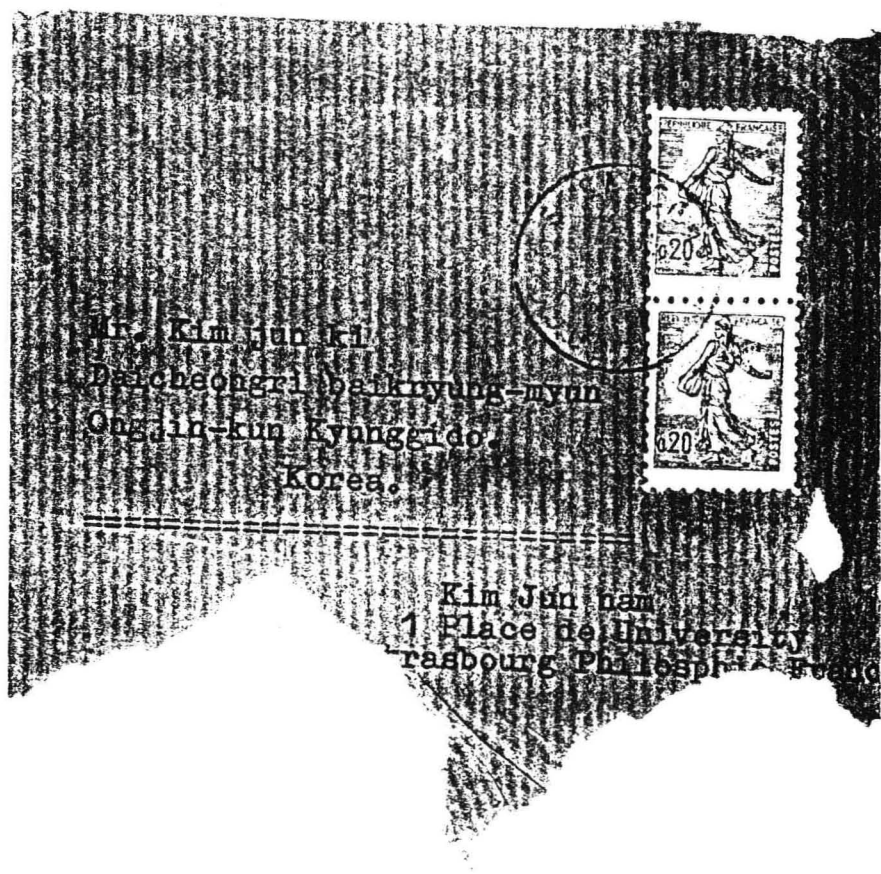
The crudeness of these reproductions tends to confirm that they were produced by amateurs using inferior equipment. Fakers with sophisticated tools and the backing of a government should have done better. Genuine 20 centimes Sowers are printed by typography, and are perforated 14x13½. The counterfeits are offset printed (with subjects misaligned), and their tiny, widely spaced perforations gauge 10. The counterfeiters were evidently unfamiliar with the French language, or with Roman lettering, or both. The "C" of "FRANCAISE" lacks a cédille, and the "Q" of "REPUBLIQUE" is reproduced as an "O". The colors, however, are quite close to the real thing.

In addition to this French item, five other covers or fragments from this interesting episode of postal history are owned by stamp collectors—three envelopes bearing counterfeit U.S. meter imprints (one New York and two of Washington, D.C.), and two bearing counterfeit U.S. stamps of the 1954-1972 Liberty series (½¢ and 30¢ denominations) tied with a phony Torrington, Connecticut circular date stamp. This cover was first mistakenly cancelled with the French Besançon date stamp intended for the counterfeit French stamps, then covered and restructured with the Torrington cancel.

The French counterfeit item may be unique (though other examples might turn up in Korea some day), and in any case it is certainly unusual. Not only is it the only known French survivor of this postal forgery group, it happens to be an item of French postal history that has never been to France.



(enlarged to show details)



(actual size)

## FRENCH MARCOPHILY — II. DEPARTURE MARKINGS

by Robert T. Kinsley

(cont. from FCP #229, July 1992, p. 83)

There are literally hundreds of franchise markings identifying the various bureaux or entities which could use the postal service without charge (Figure 23). A specialized collection of such markings, numbered in accordance with the treatise by James Legendre,<sup>12</sup> was recently offered by J.F. Baudot in his 154th auction of 21 December 1991.

Listed as a bureau marking by Rochette and Pothion<sup>13</sup> and as a departure marking by Yvert, are the ornate monograms used on mail posted at the Royal Court, that of Louis XVIII in 1815 and of Charles X in 1824 (Figure 24). Yvert likens these marks as similar to the special postage-paid marks of earlier times, a fleur de lys in 1788 and a Phrygian bonnet of 1793 (Figure 25). Yvert further lists under "marques de départ" an elongated type of Phrygian bonnet seen on a 1796 letter addressed to St. Bonnet-le-Chateau, and a fleur de lys used on letters of 1814 from or to Aix-en-Provence (Figure 26).

Finally, we include an example of the markings of the French bureaux in certain of the cities of the conquered territories of the Napoleonic wars, that of the seldom-seen marking for Rome (Figure 27). The many markings of the far-flung French armies of that time, while properly classified as departure markings, are intentionally excluded as an epic subject in its own right, and have been reviewed elsewhere.<sup>14</sup>

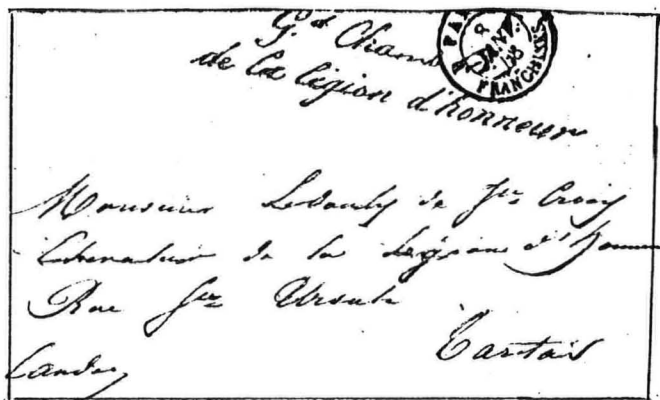
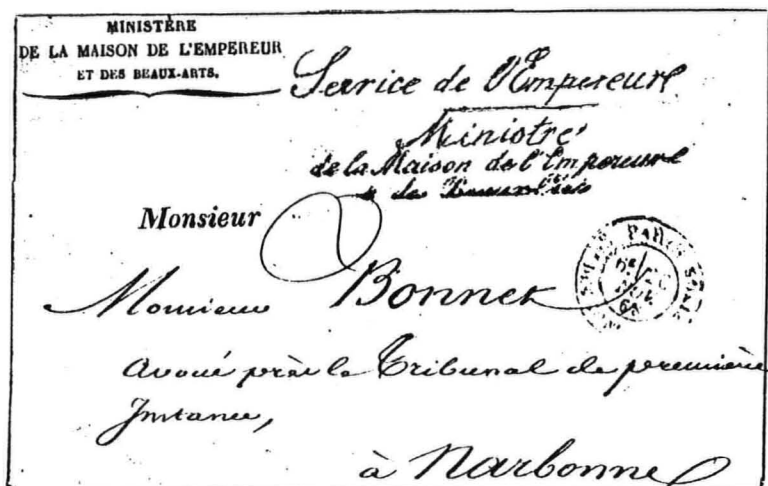


Figure 23





Monogramme de Charles X.



Monogramme de Louis XVIII



Figure 24

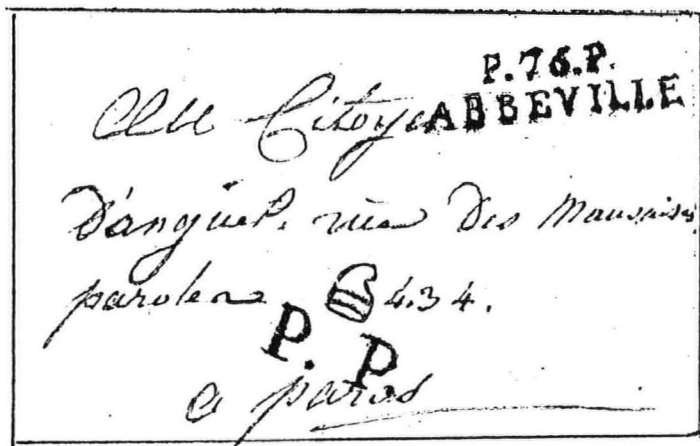


Figure 25

- 12) James Legendre, *Bureaux Spéciaux, Franchises, Contreseings...*, 1970 and 1976 suppl.
- 13) A. Rochette and J. Pothion, *Catalogue des Marques Postales et Oblitérations de Paris 1700-1876*, 1958.
- 14) For example, S.J. Luft and A.N. Luft, *The French Revolutionary Armies in the Pyrenees, 1792-1795*; 46th Am. Phil. Congress Book, 1981.

M. Messieurs  
 Michel Porte des  
 Cordeliers, nég.  
 (air)  
 Libone



Figure 26



N° 11 Empire de l'Est  
 Ld 4 Elizabeth  
 chez Mons. Peregrine  
 Banquier  
 Paris

BUREAU FRANCAIS  
 ROME

Figure 27

### NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

- "Seine Inférieure, histoire postale et monographie, des origines à 1904," by Jacques Prieur and Jack Stalain; (60 pp. supplement to the 1989 edition, with 70 new markings); Editions de Cercle d'Etudes Marcophiles et Philatéliques de Normandie; M.J. Regnaud, 122 Blvd. Clemenceau, 76600 Le Havre, France; 70Fr + 15F by surface mail.
- "L'Etude des machines à affranchir," by Dr. Raynaud; l'Union des Sociétés Philatéliques de la Moselle; 190 pp., 21x30 cm; order from J.M. Picard, 4 Impasse des Prédels, 57210 Maizières-les-Metz, France; 210Fr postpaid.

- "Ligne Noguès-Histoire aérophilatelique-Air Orient/Air France/1911-1941," by Gérard Collot and Alain Cornu; Ed. Bertrand Sinais; 262 pp., 21x30 cm; order from Bertrand Sinais, 7 Rue de Châteaudun, 75009 Paris; 400Fr + 55Fr postage (registered).
- "La Poste en Haute-Loire; historique, marques postales et oblitérations," by Pierre Jammes and André Bajard; Association Philatélique Vellave; 280 pp.; 300Fr + postage, from André Bajard, 32 Blvd. Gambetta, 43000 Le Puy-en-Velay, France.
- "Catalogue des Cartes Postales de Franchise Militaire, France 1939-1945," by Bertrand Sinais and André Weingarten; 104 pp., 1992; Philoffset Diffusion, 18 rue Elémir-Bourges, 13004 Marseille, France; 230Fr + 30Fr postage.
- "Les Entier Postaux de France et de Monaco," by Dr. Jean Storch and Robert Françon; 5th edition, 1992; 256 pp.; Imprimerie de Vivarais, Boite Postale 51, 07012 Annonay, France; 250Fr postpaid.
- "La côte des coins datés et des millésimes," 56th edition, 1993, 130 pp.; published by SOCO.CO.DA.MI.: ORDER FROM André Le Guillou, 19 rue Alsace-Lorraine, F 22000 St. Brieuc, France; 50Fr postpaid.

## REVIEWS

*"Catalogue des Cachets à Date de France sur 'Sage' détachés (du 1 Avril 1876 au 31 Décembre 1900)-Bureaux d'Algérie et Bureaux Français à l'Etranger."* By Armand Mathieu. Imprimerie ABC, Nice, 1985. Softbound, 6x8", 53 pp. Available from the author, 5 rue Blacas, 06000 NICE, at 145 francs plus postage and bank costs.

Having been frustrated in my attempts to locate a copy of this work in any of the philatelic libraries in the U.S., I wrote to the author, and was rewarded in finding this work still available from him.

This little book is a listing of all the post offices of Algeria and French Offices Abroad, along with their cancellation types that are found on Type Sage, for the indicated time period. It is very complete, and must have been based on years of research and millions of stamps reviewed.

The book is made up entirely of tables. These tables are of two types, including illustrations of all the known cancel types, and a listing of every post office, their cancel types, and estimate (valuations) in francs, for examples of each cancel type. Thirty-three pages are devoted to Algeria, and 20 pages to the offices abroad. Military and maritime postal cachets are included. The work includes a large number of rarities.

The valuations appear to be for cancellations on Type Sage alone. The same cancel on Types Mouchon or Merson could be obtained for considerably less, if usage extended to that time period. With caution, the valuations may also be applied to cancellations on covers.

This review may also serve as an addendum to my Annotated Bibliography of the Post Office Names and Cancel Types of Algeria, replacing the preliminary Mathieu entry on p. 103 of FCP N° 230 (October 1992).

Having used my own copy to further my study on Algerian cancellations, I have found that this work is more complete than any other. It documents cancel types for individual post offices that are not listed elsewhere, and these cancel types are considerable in number.

Thus, this monumental research has produced monumental results, published in this authoritative little book. Many collectors may not need a work of this detail on cancel types, but it would be well worth the price to the serious student, researcher, or author. I consider it indispensable to my own work, and will refer to it often.

L.H. Lambert

*"Cameroun Français Libre 27.8.40,"* by J. Merot. Published by COLFRA, June 1992. 11 pp.

In this 11-page booklet, the author ambitiously sorts through the myriad varieties of Free French overprints applied to 31 different Cameroun stamps in 1940. The overprint itself reads, Cameroun Français 27.8.40, but was set up in six different formats to accommodate the designs on the various stamps overprinted. Also, there were many differences in the type used to prepare each overprint cliché. Thus, theoretically, it is possible to plate each position from each cliché.



M. Merot illustrates many of the major differences, e.g. the shape of the numerals in the date, and he presents detailed tables to show their occurrence in each of the six overprint settings. Another table gives the position of the hyphens used to separate the numerals in one of the overprint settings. The author also gives the number of each stamp overprinted and the dates that the overprints were applied.

M. Merot drew much of his information from the only two references he cited, and he acknowledges complementary information from a colleague. There are at least five other articles on the subject; although, it must be acknowledged these other references contain much the same information. However, to the reviewer's knowledge, the information about the hyphens, integral to plating the one setting of this issue, has not previously been published.

The reviewer has a minor quibble with the visual quality of the publication. With the easy access to desk-top publishing equipment, the appearance could have been considerably enhanced with little effort.

All in all, this is an extremely useful booklet which presents information which is not otherwise readily accessible or previously published. The booklet will help the reviewer sort through his accumulation of Free French Cameroun stamps. Recommended.

M.P. Bratzel

"Encyclopédie des Timbres-Poste de France," tome II, fasc. I: "La Poste Ferroviaire de ses débuts à 1870"; L'Académie de Philatélie, Paris; 133+ pp., 22x27 cm. Available for 220Fr + 20F postage, payable to Académie de Philatélie; order from Capitaine A. de La Mettrie, 47 boulevard Garibaldi, F 75015 Paris, France.

The first volume of the Académie de Philatélie's "Encyclopédie des Timbres-Poste de France," in two handsome, hardbound volumes, totaling some 1,450 pages, was released Winter 1968-1969. Then we waited. And waited.

The first part of Volume II ("1853-1870") finally appeared around December 1992. It is paperbound this time, and is the work of a single author, the renowned philatelist, philatelic writer, and expert Pierre Lux.

This work is a detailed history of the development of the railway post (*ambulant* service) from its hesitant origins in the 1830s to the eve of the Franco-Prussian War. It is beautifully printed (as was the predecessor volume), and is replete with maps and with clear illustrations at full size of appropriate date stamps and some other markings. It is obviously the definitive work on the subject--within the time frame indicated. Appendices (*Annexes*) list the date stamps and their known duration in alphabetical order by types.

Only one postal document is reproduced. Many of the covers illustrated do not show clear, readable date stamps, and there is an unfortunate dearth of pre-1854 covers--the very ones we tend to see less of in collections and at auction. These are minor quibbles perhaps. We hope not to have to wait too many years for the 1871-on continuation study of the French railway post, not for other segments of this long-awaited second volume of the "Encyclopédie."

--S.J. Luft

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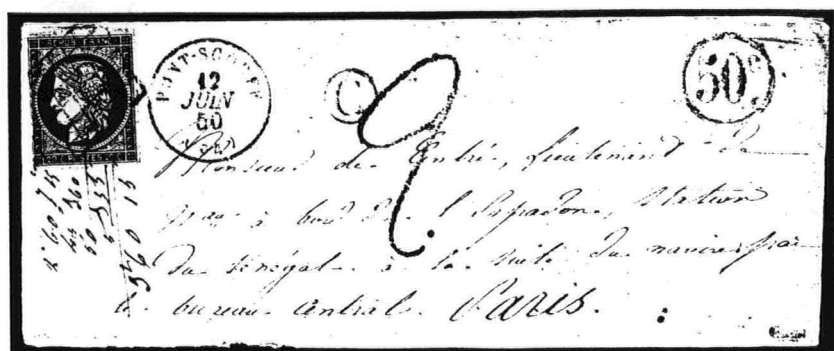
## FOR THE RECORD

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(continued from *FCP* #231, January 1993, p. 27)

►660.) According to the "Encyclopédie des Timbres-Poste de France" (Vol. I, p. 397), the only French colony to tax incoming mail from France--military as well as civilian--at any time, was Gorée. A tax of 50c on letters prepaid or otherwise, was levied. The "Encyclopédie" illustrates both types of cachets used, an earlier 50c within a circle and a later one within a rectangle. Roumet's 421st auction sale (19 January 1993) has and illustrates three such covers (Lots 76-78), all with the 50c in a circle, and all from the same 1850 correspondence from Pont-Scorff, Morbihan, to a naval officer off the Senegal coast as the cover shown in the "Encyclopédie." We reproduce Lot 77 here, for the record.





►661.) At times of increases in postal rates (and other occasions), post offices were often-times caught short of appropriate postage-due stamps. Authorizations were therefore made to accept the use of specifically marked postage stamps in lieu of dues stamps. These markings have varied from mere manuscript "T"s written on the stamps to a handstamped T-in-a-triangle (January 1917 usage). Articles on the subject of T-in-a-triangle markings which have appeared in our journal include those by Arthur Merrick in FCP N° 42, October 1970, and by Robert Stone in N° 180, April 1980.

►662.) This may be a terribly rarified subject, but interesting nevertheless, and it may resolve previously unanswered questions about that cover in your shoebox. From May (?) 1896 until the end of 1945, one could, for an additional fee, be advised of the arrival at destination of pneumatic tube messages. P.S. Proust illustrates some examples in "Documents Philatéloques," N° 135, 1993. The cheapest advisories were sent by mail; next higher by pneumatic tube; and the most expensive method was an advisory via telegram or telephone. Rates were increased several times over the years, as shown in the accompanying table prepared by Monsieur Proust, and which really requires no translation.

**ÉVOLUTION TARIFAIRE DES DIFFÉRENTS TYPES  
D'ACCUSÉS DE RÉCEPTION DES CORRESPONDANCES PNEMATIQUES  
(jusqu'au 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1946).**

	A.R. postal	A.R. pneumatique	A.R. télégraphique	A.R. téléphonique
Décret du 20/4/1896	10 c	30 c		50 c
Tarif du 1/1/1917	15 c	40 c		65 c
Tarif du 1/4/1920	25 c	60 c		1,20 F
Tarif du 25/3/1924	25 c	75 c		1,50 F
Tarif du 16/7/1925	30 c	1 F		2,50 F
Tarif du 1/5/1926	75 c	1 F 50	Taxe d'un télégramme de 10 mots pour la même destination.	Admis seulement ds les mêmes relations que les messages téléphonés : taxe d'un message téléphoné.
Décret du 13/8/1937	75 c	2 F	" "	" "
Tarif du 5/1/1942	1,50 F	3 F	" "	" "
Tarif du 1/3/1945	2 F	6 F	" "	" "

►663.) Stamps were used, most notably during the 1970s, to prepay requests for information on personal balances in CCP (Comptes de Cheques Postaux) accounts, as per the accompanying illustration. According to Gérard Fabrègue (*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, December 1992), some of the amounts charged for this service were:

3 January 1947	4,50F
20 April 1947	5F
8 July 1947	8F
*****	
1958	60F
*****	
(new francs):	
1972	2,50F (see illustration)
*****	
1986	8,30F
1991	9,70F
10 August 1992	10F

This service, generally prepaid "en numéraire" (by cash) and without the use of affixed postage stamps, was scheduled to be replaced end of 1992 or in 1993 by "Audioposte," at no charge to the requester for simple requests.

The illustration shows a French 'DEMANDE D'AVOIR' form from 1972. The form is divided into two main sections: 'DEMANDE D'AVOIR' on the left and 'RÉPONSE AVOIR' on the right. The 'DEMANDE D'AVOIR' section includes fields for 'N° du compte' (58 0228), 'Nom' (Marseille), 'Date' (24/3/1972), and 'Signature du titulaire' (signed). The 'RÉPONSE AVOIR' section includes fields for 'DATE DE LA DERNIÈRE OPÉRATION' (24-3-72) and 'Montant' (580). A circular postmark from 'VILLEFRANCHE DE ROUERGUE' dated '25-4-1992' is visible on the right side of the form.

►664.) The last of the French Highway Post Office (**Ambulant Routier**) vehicles, serving the route between Toulouse and Villefranche de Rouergue, was taken out of service 25 April 1992, according to Jean Gautier, writing in "Le Coll. Phil. et Marco," N° 96, 1992. A last-day cancel is shown here.

As was the case in the U.S. and elsewhere, specially equipped trucks and busses carried and sorted mail along roadways to connect and service small post offices in villages and towns not served by rail. They also (in the U.S. at least) offered more services (money orders, etc.) than the typical village 4th Class P.O.

The **ambulant routier** service suffered from many problems, mainly economic and administrative. First considered in the 1920s for use to the Paris suburbs, it proved unsuccessful. It was revived in October 1956 in parts of southwest France, then locally elsewhere. Postal markings are seldom seen, and are usually difficult to distinguish from those of the more usual rail ambulant service.



►665.) We're not sure whether anyone is pulling our leg, but we'll pass the following along, as reported by *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, November 1992. The statement is made therein that some French officials, desiring that Marshal Petain break with Germany and flee to Algeria, tried to convince him in November 1942 that the Germans planned to split off the northern part of France and attach it to a new and separate Flemish entity. Among their tools were a set of current French State stamps (70c to 5F values) overprinted 1 to 25 pfennigs plus "Vlaamsche Staat" (or Etat Flamand), as per this illustration. Needless to say, Petain remained at Vichy until the bitter end.



►666.) Although there were a number of important uses for the 30c value in the early 1960s, the 30 Semeuse de Piel (Scott 942A, Yvert 1234A) was issued specifically on 23 February 1961 for affixing upon postal savings accounts (C.C.P.) stubs, to validate withdrawals of funds (see illustrations below). This particular service was gratis from 1 November 1955 to 30 June 1957, then taxed from 1 July 1957, with payment at first in cash, then (from 25 July 1959) with postage stamps. The large volume of transactions made the use of stamps (and their cancellation) unwieldy, and the postal service returned to the use of cash only, on 2 January 1962. It became gratis once again, 16 September 1974. (From Gérard Fabrègue, in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, December 1992.)

AVIS DE CRÉDIT 10 CH. 1440

LYON C/C 485888

Monsieur MARTIN Georges  
9 E, Place St Bruno  
GRENOBLE Isère

VIREMENT DE 500 00 NF

BÉNÉFICIAIRE

M. le Receveur des P.T.T.  
Grenoble - Benoit

C/C N° 320395  
CENTRE Lyon

AVIS DE CRÉDIT 8 CH. 1440

TIREUR :

MARSEILLE 140741  
Monsieur COUSTATI Jean  
14 Rue Cdt Morazzani  
St-Jean du Var TOULON Var

VIREMENT DE 500 00 NF

BÉNÉFICIAIRE

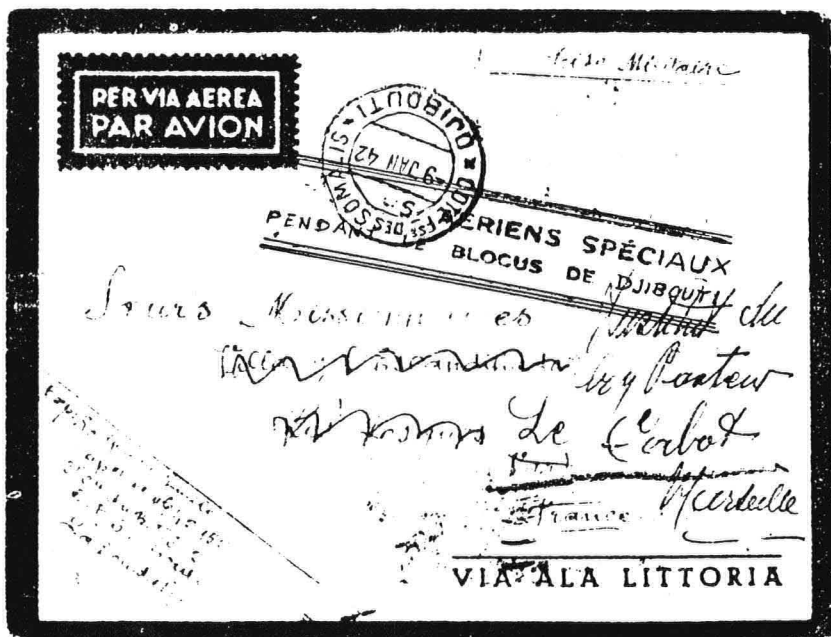
M. le Receveur P.T.T. Toulon St-Jean

C/C N° 938013  
CENTRE Marseille

►667.) In a continuation of his "GPU/UPU, 1875-1881: Mail from Outside the Union" (see *For The Record*, N° 612 and N° 638), Martin F. Stempien, Jr. shows (in *Postal History Journal*, N° 93, 1992) an 1877(?) table of various then current rates from France to many parts of the world, on pages 50-51 of that journal.

►668.) The former Dead-Letter office (Service des Rebutés), generally lodged at the Hotel des Postes of Paris, became the Centre des Recherches du Courrier (CRC) on 20 March 1967, at Libourne east of Bordeaux. The service is responsible for opening improperly addressed mail and packages that have lost their mailing labels (a very common occurrence), in search of sender or addressee; of returning refused mail (postcards are not returned); taxing underpaid mail; incinerating such mail that cannot be claimed, after 6 to 12 months, according to the class of mail, etc. Some 25,000 to 30,000 objects arrive daily at Libourne, where the CRC uses special envelopes and labels, as well as ancillary postal markings, on the mail it is able to transmit.

►669.) Bob Kinsley has sent us this military franchise cover of 9 January 1942 to further illustrate the marking written up on pp. 40-41 of this issue. Note that the sender used a "liberated" Italian airmail envelope.



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS**  
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**New Issues and Withdrawals**  
 (continued from *FCP* #231, January 1993, p. 19)

► **France:** 16 November 1992: 2,50F illustrated postal card with imprinted indicia of Nancy-Lunéville flight stamp (sold at 5F). November (?): 2,50F Marianne de Briat booklets of 10 stamps at 25F: Series 6 folded counter booklet, Series 9 vending-machine booklet, and open counter booklet with self-adhesive stamps—all with Tarif du 10 Août 1992 on covers. 5 (7) December 1992: 2,50F "Les gens du voyage" (fantasy design by Sandra Jayat). 6 (8) February 1993: Protected duck species 2F, 3F, 4F, 5F; 2,50F La Poste's sailboats circling the globe. 8 February: 2,20F Marianne de Briat definitive, in lighter green. 16 (17) February: 4,00F Indochina War Memorial and Necropolis at Frejus (originally scheduled for November 1992). 6 (8) March: Stamp Day 1993 2,50F + 0,60F; and booklet at 19,30F (four stamps at 2,50F, three at 2,50F + 0,60F, and label). 13 (15) March: 2,50F Mediterranean Games '93.

Withdrawals: 15 January 1993: EUROPA 1992 (2,50F and 3,40F); 3,40F Man of Tautavel; 5F Art of Jacques Callot; 4,00F rose Marianne de Briat; 12 February: 3,40F Ascent of Mt. Aiguille; 4,00F Ourcq Canal; 2, 3, 4, 5F Nature Series of September 1992.

► **Andorra:**

Withdrawals: 13 November 1992: 2,50F + 3,40F Winter Olympics triptych; 2,50F St. Andreu-d'Arinsal Church; 18 December: 2,50F buttercup and 3,40F vulture; 15 January 1993: 2,50F and 3,40F EUROPA 1992.

► **Monaco:** 5 January 1993: 2,50F 17th Circus Festival of Monte Carlo.

► **French Southern & Antarctic Territories:** 1 January 1993: 0,20F and 0,30F coat-of-arms; 1,00F almandine garnet; 2,00F amateur radio operators; 2,20F 20th Anniv. of the "Marion Dufresne"; 2,30F flowering plant; 2,50F bird (Skua); 2,50F Orca whale; 3,40F fish; 3,50F Italian relief vessel "Italo Marsano"; 14,00F ECOPHY program and penguin; 22,00F 1991 route of the "Astrolabe"; 25,40F biology lab. on Terre Adélie; 25,70F Base 10D and snow cat; 30,00F inauguration of airstrip on Terre Adélie; 2,50F + 22,00F + label André Prudhomme/meteorology diptych.

► **New Caledonia:** 18 November 1992: 110F airmail, d'Entrecasteaux's ships reach New Caledonia. 26 November: 30F and 50F seashells. 9 December: Four 80F airmails, "La Brousse en Folie" cartoon characters. 25 January 1993: 9F and 12F Cagou bird definitives.

► **Polynesia:** 18 November 1992: 200F Centenary of first postage stamp for French Oceania. 9 December: paintings from Polynesia 55F, 60F, 75F, 85F. 13 January 1993: Official stamps: 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 46, 70, 100, and 200F.

► **St. Pierre et Miquelon:** 18 (23) November 1992: 2,50F Baron de l'Espérance. 14 (21) December: 2,50F Noel. 13 (18) January 1993: 4,20F rose Marianne de Briat, overprinted for St. Pierre et Miquelon. 18 January: 5F underwater diving. 15 March: 3,60F insects and flowers.

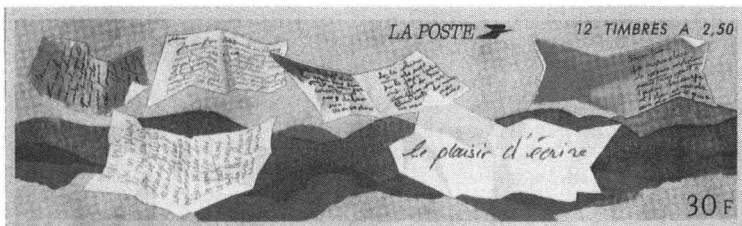
Withdrawals: 16 October 1992: Images of the Past (four at 1,70F and four at 2,50F); 15 January 1993: 4,00F rose overprinted Marianne de Briat; four 2,50F lighthouses; 12 February: 5,00F Winter Olympics skating; 12 March: 3,60F insects and flowers.

► **Wallis & Futuna:** 7 December 1992: 200F flowers. 25 January 1993: 130F Maritime forces of the Pacific.

► **During Summer 1992,** a trial run of 27,000 copies was made in Ile-de-France and Centre-Massif Central regions, of a prepaid vignette for COLISSIMO packages (shown on next page). The trials began 1 September 1992. Costs are 40F for the smaller format and 50F for the larger one; the packages need not be weighed but must weigh less than 10kg. The sender is indemnified should the package not be received "on time." (Also see "Announcements & News" in the January 1993 *FCP* #231 for earlier details.)



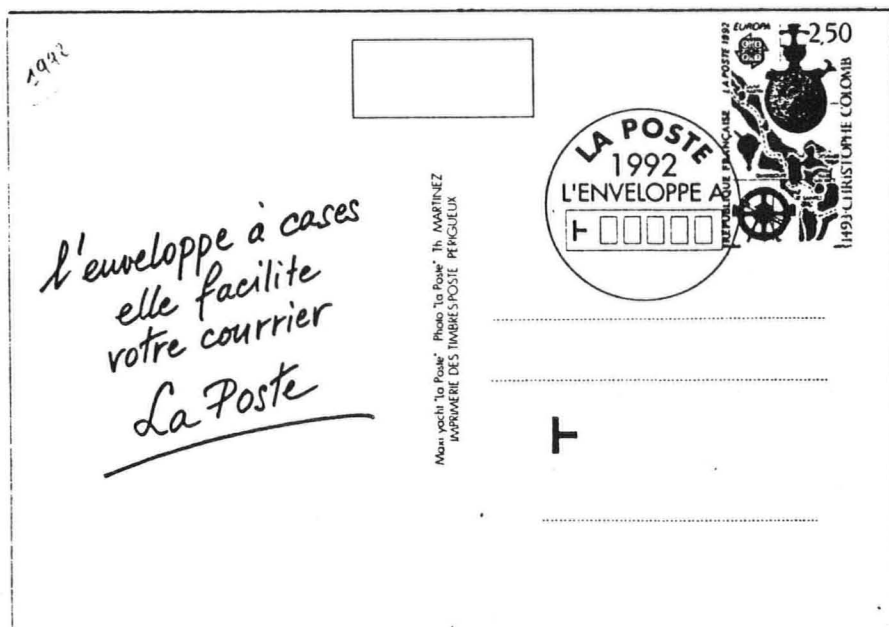
- The 42nd Grand Prix for philatelic art were awarded in November 1992 for the following 1991-1992 postal issues: 4,00F Lorient (for France); Vatican 300 + 500 + 400L triptych showing St. Peter's Square (for Europe); New Caledonia souvenir sheetlet "America and the Great Navigators" (for the Overseas Departments). No award was given, once again, in the francophone Africa/Madagascar/Comoros category.
- It appears that Madonna's coffee-table picture book "Sex" was held up for a while by customs agents at Le Havre (presumably so that the authorities could study it at leisure?). Official examination of potentially offensive incoming publications, albums, records, illustrations, etc. is governed by Article 8 of the Law of 6 March 1841 and Article 14 of the Law of 29 July 1881. A three-line handstamp is known, used 1977 at Paris, Gare de l'Est, on a journal's envelope, and reads CONTROLE LIBRAIRE ETRANGERE/Loi du 6 Mars 1841/Loi du 29 Juillet 1881.
- The 30F booklet of twelve humorous "Greetings"-design stamps at 2,50F each, originally scheduled to have been issued 12-14 December 1992, may not be issued at all and thereby remains an unissued project or essay. No reason has been given for the decision as yet, though the booklets do exist and could well "escape" into the philatelic market. For your information, front cover and the single pane are shown here.





► Shawn McIntosh reports in *Linn's Stamp News* for January 4, 1993 that the Grand Award at JAPEX'92, the 27th Japanese philatelic exhibition, held 21-23 November 1992, went to Teitoku Betsumiya, for an exhibit of the French 1849-1850 Cérès issues.

► Since 1990, La Poste has been mounting a publicity campaign to encourage the use of envelopes that bear boxes for the 5-digit Postal Code numbers in the address. Contracts have been signed with manufacturers who will preprint such boxes on their envelopes. Those that meet with La Poste's approval will be allowed to show La Poste's stylized bird in the lower left corner. Some lucky purchasers of boxes of 50 *envelopes à cases* may also receive the free "pseudo" postal card, printed and issued in 1992, illustrated below, and apparently not otherwise obtainable.





► There'll be something new in French philately when the 1993 Stamp Day booklet is released 6-8 March 1993. The single pane consists of (1) a label and (2) four stamps at 2,50F alternating with three stamps at 2,50F + 0,60F—all seven in the same design. The French Red Cross will benefit from the three times 0,60F (= 1,80F) per booklet sold (plus the surtax from all the identical sheet stamps sold at 2,50F + 0,60F. The *Association pour le Développement de la Philatélie* (ADP) will receive the value of half of the non-surcharged stamps per booklet sold, or two times 2,50F (= 5F) per booklet. The bookkeeping should really be something.

Stamps without surtax:

Stamps with surtax:

Stamp Day 1994; Celebrities: Yvonne Printemps, Fernandel, Josephine Baker, Bourvil, Yves Montand, Coluche; Red Cross (Arras).

## MEMBERS' APPEALS

WANTED: France pre-cancelled on and off cover. Also French stamps with foreign or special (numbers - new year cancels, etc.) cancels. André Boisclair, 1184 Des Fauvettes, Boucherville, Que. Canada, J4B 6M9. (Mb. #2770)

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

### Corresponding Secretary's Report For 1992

Total membership as of January 1, 1992	734
Total new members for the year of 1992	39
Total reinstatements for the year 1992	8
	<u>47</u>
Resignations received for the year 1992	15
Total deceased members for the year of 1992	6
Members dropped for non-payment of dues	43
Members undeliverable as addressed, 1992	2
	<u>66</u>
Net membership gain for the year of 1992	0
Net membership loss for the year of 1992	19
Total membership as of December 31, 1992	715



**Treasurer's Report**  
**France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc.**  
**1/1/92 through 12/31/92**

**INCOME:**

Total 1992 Dues .....	\$8,403.30
Interest .....	814.64
Mail Sales .....	207.00
Publications:	
Back Issues .....	\$ 24.00
Index .....	15.00
Lozenges .....	14.00
Luft II .....	10.00
Vaurie #2 .....	3.00
Vaurie #3 .....	5.00
Vaurie #4 .....	144.50
Vaurie #5 .....	20.00
Vaurie #6 .....	10.00
Vaurie #8 .....	5.00
Total Publications .....	<u>250.50</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b> .....	<u><b>9,675.44</b></u>

**EXPENSES:**

*Bad Check .....	11.00
*Bank Charge .....	5.00
Club Meetings .....	248.61
Donation .....	100.00
Dues - Refund .....	11.00
Exhibitions .....	381.66
F&C Membership Ad .....	228.00
Philatelist:	
Editor .....	1,164.22
Insert .....	38.54
Labels .....	201.00
Magazine .....	<u>3,877.11</u>
Total Philatelist .....	5,280.87
Secretary:	
Corresponding .....	448.15
Recording .....	<u>221.22</u>
Total Secretary .....	669.37
Treasurer's Expenses .....	<u>138.84</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> .....	<u><b>7,074.35</b></u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE</b> .....	<u><u><b>2,601.09</b></u></u>

**ASSETS**

Cash and Bank Accounts	
F&C Saving .....	19,585.95
F&C Checking .....	<u>4,489.88</u>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts .....	<u>24,075.83</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b> .....	<u><u><b>24,075.83</b></u></u>

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY****LIABILITIES**

## Restricted Funds

Prepaid Dues ..... 4,409.50

Spiegel Fund ..... 1,389.86

Vaurie Fund ..... 14,921.07

Total Restricted Funds ..... 20,720.43

TOTAL LIABILITIES ..... 20,720.43

EQUITY in General Fund ..... 3,355.40

TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY ..... 24,075.83

Respectfully submitted,  
 William W. Wallis,  
 Treasurer  
 1/13/93

**President's Letter**

I regret to report that, as I write this letter in late February, Bob Stone, the long-time editor of this journal, was in the hospital. Fortunately, we are told that his condition is improving, and he will be able to go home soon. I am sure the entire membership joins me in wishing him a speedy recovery. I also want to thank our assistant editor, Stan Luft, for assuming full responsibility for this issue, for which we have been given an early deadline by our printer, who is changing computer systems. Hopefully with this earlier deadline, this issue will reach you in April.

For the present we will continue to plan our informal dinner gatherings during the Philatelic Mega Events for Thursday evening. I anticipate that there will be a program at The Collectors Club on Wednesday night of each show.

The Rich Memorial Exhibit will be postponed until the fall, probably in October. The formal announcement and entry blank will be in the July issue of the *Philatelist*.

You will find the Treasurer's Report for 1992 elsewhere in this issue. Financially, the Society had an excellent year, adding some \$1,600 to the balance in the general account. This should guarantee that we will be able to retain the present dues for the next couple of years.

Dick Stevens

**Annual Meeting Notice**

The annual meeting for the presentation of reports and election of officers and directors will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4, 1993, at The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, New York.

**Meeting of 5 January**

It was Lou Robbins night once again. For those of you who do not know of Lou, let me note that in a career in philately that has spanned more than fifty years, Lou has worn more hats than a centipede has legs. Name it and Lou has probably done it or been part of it. Thus, he brings a perspective to philatelic doings that few can match.

During this evening's discussion, the selling of philatelic properties was amongst the features. Lou noted that it is important to keep a collection well organized with all relevant data for viewing and evaluation. Shoe boxes, cigar boxes and cartons should not be the organizational high point of your collection. If you or your heirs choose to go the auction route, Lou noted that the cost of lotting per lot is approaching \$50 for many of the

houses. So, to make money, the house needs lots with a minimum value of \$250-\$500 today. Sales costs and commissions can be negotiated with auction houses, especially for better properties. Be sure that the house you choose features a well illustrated catalog, with the possibility of color photos for the high ticket items. The house needs guidance in lotting your collection if it is anything out of the ordinary. Their tendency is to make large lots with low estimates. This appears to cause people to overbid, which looks good to unknowledgeable heirs and lawyers, but may not bring the most for your collection.

Choice of an auction house for our specialized French area collections remains difficult. France is not readily available to us, but this may change with development of the EC. Good houses are available in England, Germany and Switzerland. Should you go with an American firm, be sure it has a strong overseas clientele.

Ed Grabowski

### Meeting of 2 February

We were pleased to welcome members Charles Reisman and Philippe Laurier and their wives this evening as Marc Martin presented a talk on **Classical Varieties and Cancellations of France**. This began many years ago as a fun collection for Marc, when classical varieties could be gathered from large lots of stamps purchased at modest prices. Marc began collecting them for color and printing varieties, and then cancellations.

Each of the Classics was presented in its shade and paper varieties. No amount of written description can replace actually seeing these varieties "in the flesh" so-to-say, and Marc had an excellent presentation of the established shades and beyond. Since there was little in the way of quality control at the time of the Classics, the color varieties are almost continuous.

Many of the standard printing varieties and a number of chance varieties were also presented. The recut 4 of the 40c first issue was shown, along with the horn and bees varieties on the 20c laureated Napoleon, the latter two on covers. Highlighting this section were the tête-bêches of 10c, 20c and 25c first issues, the 1F Napoleon, the 4c laureated Napoleon and the 10c Cérés perforated issue. **WOW!**

Among the numerous cancellations which caught my eye were two varieties of the large 1818 of Lyon on cover, a beautiful CEM from the Mexican campaign, a nice strike of the grill from the adventures in Rome and a broad study of printed matter cancellations.

When it comes to classics, Marc's our man!

Ed Grabowski

### NEW MEMBERS

- 2950 IIDA, HIROTAKA, P.O. Box 11, Hayama, Kanagawa, Japan 240-01. (General Collector: All Issues.)
- 2951 SIPFLE, WILLIAM K., 811 Palmer Rd., Ashland, OR 97520. (General Collector: All Issues. All Colonies and Territories. Dealer: Full Time - Mail Sales.)
- 2952 BRUNO, MATTEI, 25 rue Henriette, Mulhouse, France 68100. (Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. Colonial Provisionals. Group Type, Cancels and Postal History, Stamps and Covers of Senegal. Dealer: Auction. Philatelic Literature. Special Issues and Usages: Entry Markings - Military - and Maritime Posts - Franchise Militaire - First Flights, etc., Only for Senegal.)
- 2953 MAZARAKI, ETHAN P., 807 Maxine Ave., Flint, MI 48503. (Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Used - On Cover. 1870-1871 Issues, Commune - Ballons. Alsace-Lorraine, Locals. Sage Type, 1876-1900. Modern France: Air Mails.)
- 2954 KARSEBOOM, GLENN, 31680 Mayfair Lane, Birmingham, MI 48025-4034. (General France: Mint - Used - On Cover.)
- 2955 KARNES, JOHN P., 806 New Castle Rd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used.)
- 2956 SHORES, JEROME, Box 1632, Warren, OH 44482. (Special Issues and Usages: Perfins - Others: Gutter Bars.)
- 2957 FAURE, MIKE, 1067 Tyler Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28314. (General Collector: 19th Century. Topical: Art Issues. General France: Used.)

- 2958 WOODFORD, GLEN A., 12 Tyler Court, Manlius, NY 13104-1702. (Classics 1849-1973. Modern France: On Cover. Air Meets, First Flights, etc. Covers of Individual Colonies.)
- 2959 BROOKS, GORDON, P.O. Box 396, Station N.D.G., Montreal, Quebec, Canada H4A 3P7. (Railway Posts. Revenues. Colonies and Territories: Cancels and Postal History - Stamps. Dealer: Full Time. Philatelic Literature. French and French Colonial Revenues.)
- 2960 BEWLEY, DAVID R., 287 McLeod St., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2P 1A1. (General Collector: All Issues.)
- 2961 ROWE, PETER, P.O. Box 6721, Lake Worth, FL 33466. (Colonies General Issues: Used - On Cover. All Colonies and Territories. Africa. Indochina.)
- 2962 BRODY, NORMAN J., 7803 Farnsworth St., Philadelphia, PA 19152-3408. (Stampless Covers To and After 1815. Modern France: Mint - Semi-Postals - Air Mails - Booklets. Stationery and Postal Cards - Red Cross Booklets.)
- 2963 COFFEY, JAMES E., 7 Barnhous Rd., Dennisport, MA 02639. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used. Classics 1849-1876: Used. Sage Type, 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint. Special Issues and Usages: Telephone and Telegraph - Dues - Parcel Post - Newspaper - Franchise Militaire - Revenues - Precancels - Occupation Issues Of and By France. Offices Abroad. CFA. Andorre. Monaco. Saar. Colonies General Issues: Mint. All Colonies and Territories.)

### REINSTATEMENTS

- 2119 EDISON, ROBERT B., 13907 Piscataway Dr., Ft. Washington, MD 20744-6639. (Military Posts. Franchise Militaire. Air Meets, First Flights, etc. Colonies and Territories: Cancels and Postal History - Stamps and Covers Of Individual Colonies: French Indochina - Vietnam - Laos - Cambodia. Philatelic Literature.)
- 2790 TEYSSIER, GREGOIRE, 988 Avenue De Manrese, Quebec, Quebec, Canada G1S 2X1. (Postal History In General. Philatelic Literature. Exchange. French Guyana Postal History To 1960.)
- 2757 GRENIER, CHRISTOPHER P., 721 Triple Oaks Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810. (Already In Philatelist.)
- 1128 ROBICHAUD, PIERRE, 650 Deguire, Saint-Laurent, Quebec, Canada H4L 1L2. (France and Overseas Territories. Former French African Colonies.)

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 1073 CASTOR, WILLIAM N., 813 Ryan Ave., Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783-1629.
- 2356 POLHEMUS, J. MARK, 68 Bridgewater Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903-1092.
- 2088 NICOLINS, NAYA, Indigo, Box 331209 Takapuna 9, Auckland, New Zealand.
- 2122 WOLFF, CHRISTOPHER J., 31 Homer St., Parsippany, NJ 07054.
- 986 WHITE, KENNETH L., P.O. Box 11376, Prescott, AZ 86304-1376.
- 2945 REISMAN, CHARLES (correction of January 1993 listing.)

### REMOVED FROM THE MAILING LIST

- 2363 MELNICK, RICHARD A., 7735 Saltsburg Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15239. Resigned.
- 1440 SCHWARTZ, MICHAEL, 29360 Queens Way, Agoura Hills, CA 91301-4441. Resigned.
- 1365 ENGSTROM, GERALD R., 562 Upper Mountain Ave., Upper Montclair, NJ 07043. Resigned.
- 1631 McNICHOLS, ROBERT A., 1016 Ascot Dr., Crystal Lake, IL 60014-8831. Resigned.
- 2716 WARNER, CLARENCE R., 3516 Lawndale Ave., Ft. Worth, TX 76133. Deceased.
- 2858 BARRY, CHARLES, 194 Santa Rosa Dr., San Jose, CA 95111. Resigned.
- 2864 GEORGE, WILLIAM K., 1518 Third St., Wenatchee, WA 98801-1737. Undeliverable as addressed. Forward expired.
- 1675 KRASSOWSKY, ALEXANDER, 34-35 76th St., Apt. 5-G, Jackson Heights, NY 11372. Undeliverable as addressed. Attempted not known.
- 2890 EVANS, MICHAEL, 50 Salisbury Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4X 1C4. Moved, no forwarding address.