



France & Colonies Philatelist

A THORNY NEIGHBORHOOD-- SIAM AND FRENCH INDOCHINA (III)

By Jacques Desrousseaux
 (cont. from FCP #232, April 1993, p. 44)

*(This is very likely the last article we shall receive from the late M. Desrousseaux.
 For an appreciation of the man and his writings, please see p. 112)*

V. 1940-46--In September 1940 the Japanese imposed their military presence upon Indochina. Under their complacent eyes, the Siamese attacked Cambodia on 23 November 1940. Though the Siamese fleet was destroyed by the French, land operations were less favorable, and the Japanese forced an armistice on 22 January 1941 on the French, while offering their good offices for negotiations in Tokyo. The former protectorates were returned to Siam, with the exception of the Angkor Wat region, by treaty of 9 July 1941.

At the end of World War II, the Siamese retired from their 1941 conquests, but refused to restitute western Cambodia. For this reason, the French Far East Expeditionary Corps, which arrived in Saigon at the end of 1945, was brought to the south side of Grand Lac (now Tonle Sap), and dispersed the Siamese by 7 December 1946. It should be noted that the Japanese, as thanks to Siam for its collaboration against British Burma, gave it control

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over northern Malaysia (Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis and Trengganu) in 1943.

Postal matters--The part of Cambodia occupied by Siam received, from the Siamese posts, date stamps showing town names in European characters (Figure 12). The names were often modified (i.e., BATTAMBANG became PHRATABONG) (Figure 13). There even exist special date stamps for First Day covers. Stamps used are those of Siam.

Very few French military covers of the 1940-41 war are known. They bear civil date stamps and were sent under franchise. A unique piece has been found with a military SECTEUR POSTAL date stamp with asterisk at bottom (Figure 14). Prisoners of the Siamese could write to Saigon, the letters transiting Malaysia (Pahang) (Figure 15).

It should be noted that Siamese "acquisitions" in Malaysia received special stamps in 1943-44, which are not listed in French catalogs.

In 1940 Siam became Thailand, from the name of its people and their language (Thai). The name Siam was restored after the war, between 1946 and 1949, and is generally shown on stamps in European characters.

VI. After 1946--During the Vietnam War, Thailand sent some military units to show its adherence to the West, and also some "volunteers" and irregulars to Laos, to help anti-communist guerillas. These interventions, begun after 1965, ceased upon the "pseudo-armistice" of 1973. This was followed by communist revolutions--in Laos in December 1975, in Cambodia in April 1975 by the Khmers Rouges (and then 1979 by the "orthodox" communists of North

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FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST

USPS #207700

Published quarterly by the
FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC. (N.Y.)
Affiliate No. 45, American Philatelic Society

October 1993 - Vol. 49, No. 4, Whole No. 234

Second-class postage paid at Bloomfield, NJ

Office of Publication: 103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003

An additional entry office at Platteville, WI 53818

Printing arranged by: Jay Smith, P.O. Box 650, Snow Camp, NC 27349

Dues \$11.00 per year. Parent Chapter and Foreign \$15.00 (plus \$5.00 admission fee), \$4.50 of which is for a subscription to the F. & C. Philatelist.

All communications about membership, subscriptions, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary,
Walter E. Parshall, 103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, N.J. 07003

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Vietnam). Thailand had the wisdom to not get involved, especially as she was not being reassured by the permanent problems of its western neighbor, Burma. Multitudes of refugees fled in all directions from the territory of former French Indochina, and large camps were organized in Thailand to house them (without the need to mention here camps within ex-Indochina, which also received refugees from elsewhere!).

Postal matters--Within former Indochina, postal services were handled by various and often conflicting authorities, with resultant variable quality of service. In Thailand itself, service was normal. The Thai expeditionary corps in Indochina had the postal franchise and a very attractive date stamp (Figure 16, unfortunately poorly legible). As for the refugee camps, their mail may be recognized through manuscript inscriptions (Figures 17 and 18).

-- (transl. by R.G. Stone and S.J. Luft).



Figure 12: Siamese occupation of Paklay (Laos); (the 85 = year 1942)



Figure 13: BATTAMBANG (Cambodia), 1946



Figure 14: French military date stamp, Cambodia, 28 Feb. 1941

Figure 16: Thai expeditionary corps date stamps of 26 and 27-3-"14" (= 1971)



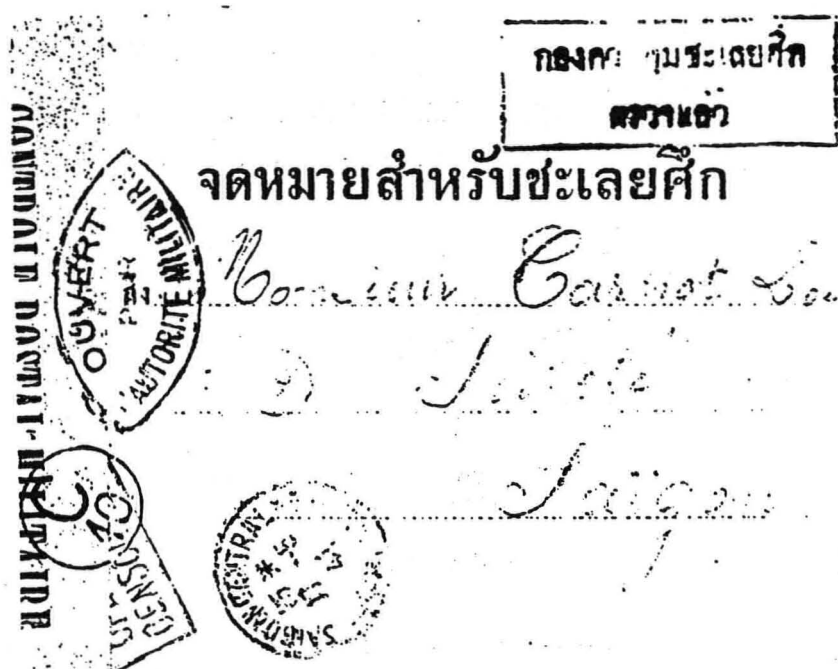


Figure 15: Cover from French prisoner of Siamese, to Saigon; received there 17 May 1941; Siamese censorship in rectangle (upper right); rectangular censor marking of Pahang (Malaysia) in lower left, partly covered by French censor band; French censor markings, including C over 10 in circle, of Saigon

de THOU SOEUNG 979B TRAI TAN KAMPUCHIA
 TINH TIEN GIANG
 VIETNAM



Figure 17: Letter of 2 August 1982 from Cambodian refugee in South Vietnam

HUYTH VAN LEN (ghe 455, Angkor)
 VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CAMP
 C/O PO BOX 3 SONGKHA
 THAILAND



Figure 18: Letter of 13-7-“24” (= 1979) from Vietnamese refugee in Thailand

“PUZZLE OF THE MONTH”

Recently I was shown this imperforate pair (Figure 1) of the 5c green Cameo Sower, printed on gray-yellow GC paper with wide margin at right. It is “overprinted” in quality type on front and back (Figure 2). What is visible on the face reads

grammes a 10 centimes;
...on de 5 centimes par 100 grammes.
...ue sous enveloppe ouverte.
ouverte et portant une mention manus-

This is all a puzzle to Ray Gaillaguet and to me. Our best guess is that the rates mentioned refer to the 1 January 1917 Tariff for packages to military personnel, and that the overprinting was done privately as a favor (free stamps?) to families of soldiers in the trenches. But why the use of scarce imperforates? Has anyone seen a larger piece (and more complete message) or have a clue as to what the item may represent? (SJL)



Figure 1

P. Les correspondances ne pesant pas
adressées aux militaires e
transmises gratuitement.

Cette gratuité ne s'applique pas au
de commerce et d'affaires.

Figure 2

BRASILIANA 93 - STEAMY!

It may have been winter on the Brazilian calendar, but it was humid, muggy, and steamy. Twelve foot breakers on the beach across the street from the hotel, and moist east wind dominated throughout the stay, with only one brief shower to condense the tropical air. We arrived with the 26 U.S. exhibits 28 July and were met by an efficient team from the Postal Service who checked us into the bin room and then took us a mile away to a luxury hotel on the famous Copacabana Beach with serpentine sidewalk.

What did we like about the show? Super effort by the local team and volunteers who managed to get the show mounted after the government released funds only 15 days before opening. At 2,500 frames, it was a modest show compared to some other recent Internationals, but efficiently organized. Bud Sellers, show coordinator, was on the spot and with cooperative staff found solutions to the only small problems which arose. We found the people eager to be helpful, and with their enthusiasm, language differences melted as quickly as we did. I wore my trademark red silk jacket on opening day and now have a pink (formerly white) dress shirt to show for it. Some of the folks who bought the handsome Bull's-Eye watch for \$60 were chagrined when they were passed out as gifts to the jury; the ladies got nice necklaces. There was a color Xerox bulletin every other day. Food in Rio was reasonable generally, and the prices in the show snack bar (sandwich \$1.50, Coke 75¢, beer \$1.25) should put Harry Stevens and others in U.S. to shame.

Was Rio really that dangerous? Yes. One Commissioner was mugged coming out of a restaurant just six blocks from the hotel. We left jewelry at home,

and wore \$5 watches instead of Rolexes. Unemployment is 30% in Rio, and the rate of inflation is so fierce that small coins are tossed aside as "pigeon feed." After very carefully controlling our frequent exchanges from dollars so as to have just the airport departure tax left, they decided that my paid ticket (jury) was also tax free and gave me back the equivalent of \$17 in Cruzeiros--which I cashed in on arrival back in the US for \$14, the rate having gone overnight from 83 to 111 to the dollar. When Jo purchased a few baubles at a jeweler, they furnished us a car to take them and us back safely to the hotel. Shops declined to take credit cards--just could not afford the 30-45 day wait to be paid; 30% discount for dollars. I got a spider(?) bite which inflamed my left leg for three days, but did not hear of any other victims.

What about the exhibits? Robert Françon's Sowers--Gold with Special Prize for material and Felicitations was the best of a paltry twelve exhibits of the French Community in traditional or postal history. The offerings of Classic material were sufficient in number to get me assigned to that section of the jury; but not of outstanding quality: 1 gold, 1 vermeil, 1 large silver, 2 silver, and 1 silver bronze. The exhibits in a section were mounted alphabetically by last name, which was a bit disconcerting if you wanted to compare entries.

What can you say about your experience on the jury? Since deliberations are confidential, I can only speak in generalities. Yes, there are some negotiations which occur after preliminary scores are posted. US exhibitors had three exhibits which were scored at 4 or 9, that is, the cusp of the next medal level. I was successful in finding one extra point for one; listening to the reasons advanced by the section leaders justified the scores of the other two. The "line" scores which were hoped to be made available were not, so I had to make notes for the exhibits involved. I was a bit surprised to be asked to act as section leader for the Revenue class, but with just ten exhibits managed to get the job done.

Sounds like all roses; were there no thorns? Just small ones. Bus transportation hotel/exhibition was dependable--you could depend on it being late. Distribution of the exhibits on several floors in four adjoining buildings was tough on the legs, especially if the elevators were not working. The Honor Court was hidden behind a coin display room on the second floor of a bank building. Show catalog was not available to visitors, and I'm hoping that by the time this is in print they will have shipped me a supply for exhibitors. The floor plan distributed to visitors had the frame numbers in tiny print that couldn't be read even with a glass. Natural lighting in one building was poor and I had to ask for the lights to be turned on to complete judging. The main building was hampered by a blackout the day before the show opened. Hang-up at customs coming in was solved when I produced inventories for all the exhibits, on forms which Jo designed.

There was a small problem when the jury awarded more special prizes than the committee had procured, and then a further hitch when the special prize list had it by frame numbers and the award's certificates were by name so that there was no common identification between them. The Palmares dinner began with entertainment at 9:30 p.m. (posted for 9:00 p.m.), and awards were not announced until midnight with speeches until after 1:00 a.m.

So when it is all said and done, how did you rate the show? Frankly my dear, I have had more time to enjoy a show when I wasn't tied up on jury and

had a chance to see more exhibits. If Paris 1989 was the ultimate at a solid 10, this one was a good 7 or 8. On setting and ambiance, including the semi-naked ladies on the beach and at the fancy nightclubs, a 9. For French Community exhibits, a weak 5. For frame layout and presentation, solid 7 which would have been 8 except for the double-sided tape used to secure pages to the frames.

Service to exhibitors and visitors, 6. I'm giving personal discount to this one because of having to stand in slow lines to learn there are no stamps to pay the (\$1) postcard rate and that it takes two windows to get a combination of three stamps to make it. Not pleased to discover, later and with no help from postal types, that there is a machine on another floor which would dispense labels with exact rates.

Good marks to organizers for youth activities, a special room with free stamps, and a fascinating deck of cards with philatelic game put out by the postal service--if you persevered to find the right booth and talked sweetly or swapped off one of the Love-stamp pins provided by our own postal service, or the maple sugar candies which we brought and used to advantage.

As for the exhibits, 7. The F.I.P. Championship Class had only four entries. I'm not sure whether potential exhibitors were siphoned off by Poland and Bangkok, or were afraid to show in Brazil, but the overall level of exhibits was weak.

--John and Jo Lievsay

FRENCH MARCOPHILY—ENTRY MARKINGS

By Robert T. Kinsley

Entry markings on old French covers are a major element of French marcophily and, as per past reviews, we will barely scratch the surface in presenting a very few examples to encourage further study by those with an interest in this area.

During the *ancien régime* (before 1792), when mail entered France from beyond its borders, it would be taken to a *bureau d'échange* (exchange office) at major seaports such as Bordeaux, Nantes, and Calais or major towns near the border, such as Valenciennes in the north or Perpignan in the south. There, custody of the mails would be exchanged from ships' captains or overland couriers to the French postal authorities. In similar fashion to the early departure markings reviewed in the April 1992 *FCP*, such mail was hand-stamped to identify its origin. Yvert¹ divides such markings into two logical categories: mail by way of the sea (*par voie de mer*) and by way of land (*par voie de terre*), along with the notable anomaly of including England among the markings illustrating mail by land. Yvert further states that such *marques d'origine* date from 1699. The earliest we have seen is that of 1726, which is Figure 2 of FCPS Director Martin Stempien, Jr.'s fine article "International Mail, 1699-1869" in the Philatelic Foundation Seminar Series Textbook N° 2 (1991)², and reproduced here as Figure 1 with the Foundation's permission. I would add that Dr. Stempien has been a tremendous source of information and inspiration in this complex area of old markings. Similar markings continued in use for over 100 years, first a simple straight-line identification of the country of origin (Figures 1 and 2), next in the first decade of the 19th Century the city of entry was added (Figure 3); after about 1820, they were enclosed in a box (Figure 4). The double-line box that ap-

peared about 1830 (Figure 5) was used at only a few entry towns. Other formats occasionally used in these times are shown in Figure 6.³

The generic entry marking **A.E.D.** (Figure 7), applied to incoming mail at the French *bureaux d'échange* appeared in the 1820s and signified *Affranchi Etranger jusqu'à Destination*, or total postage prepaid. An uncommon variety is **A.E.J.F.** (Figure 8), on mail traversing France to other countries, and which indicated postage paid only to the frontier. Numbers from 1 to 15 were added from 1827-on (Figure 9) to identify the town of entry (Figure 10 entered at Valenciennes).

Some of the earliest markings on mail arriving by sea are straight or semi-circular COLONIES markings (Figure 11), applied at major seaports such as Bordeaux, Le Havre and Nantes, first seen in the 1760s⁴, and soon amended to identify the port of entry (Figure 12). Also in this category of maritime entries are the former and present markings (Figure 13) seen on the masthead of our Journal. These markings for the "Alcatraz of France"—which is now spelled Ile de Ré—in the Bay of Biscay, are far from being common. In 1828, the "Colonies" was replaced by "*Pays D'Outre-Mer*," both with and without the name of the entry seaport (Figures 14-15). Beginning in 1837, a long-lasting marking within an oval or rectangle was applied at Marseille (Figure 16).

The first circular dated entry markings (Figure 17) also appeared about 1830, to be followed in 1839 by small (Type 15, etc.) circular date stamps (Figure 18). These replaced the earlier markings and exist in great numbers. For example, Noël⁵ lists over 1,000 different markings for mail entering France just from Europe alone. He classes them according whether they entered by way of *bureaux sédentaires* (fixed-site post offices) (Figure 19) or by *bureaux ambulants* (railway post offices) (Figure 20), with a few *boîtes mobiles des ambulants* (shipboard mailboxes) from the British Isles (Figure 21) added for good measure. There are probably an even greater number of the circular date stamps for mail by sea, which also first appeared towards the end of 1839 and identify the port of entry (Figure 22). Entry markings for mail by sea include octagonal date stamps (Figure 23), first seen about 1854 and generally not used for overland mail. The *Catalogue des Estampilles*⁵ also classifies as entry markings the many maritime markings identifying a maritime line and ship number, which were struck aboard ship (Figures 24-26). These are extensively covered in Raymond Salles' monumental nine-volume study, *Encyclopédie de la Poste Maritime Française*, published between 1961 and 1975. A separate and specialized category of maritime entry markings might also include covers of the 1840s-50s showing the Franco-British supplemental marks indicating the Article in the Letter Bill which accompanied the mail (Figure 27), or the subsequent accountancy markings (Figures 28-29); once again, we would refer the reader to Stempien's article cited above.

Finally, we include an example of the *Etranger* (foreign mail) circular date stamps (Figure 30), for they too are classified as entry markings in Yvert. These were struck at the main post office (*Bureau Central*) in Paris on mail to (Figure 31) and from (Figure 32) abroad. They are first seen in 1848⁶ and continued in use long after most other entry markings were discontinued in January 1881.

A subsequent article will focus on a single *bureau ambulant* entry marking on cover, to better illustrate just how interesting many of these covers coming in from abroad can be.

Endnotes

- 1). "Catalogue Spécialisé des Timbres de France," Vol. 1, p. 6; Yvert et Tellier, 1975.
- 2). This Textbook N° 2, *Philatelie à la Française*, is available for \$24.95 (\$18.95 to Foundation contributors) plus \$2.50 P&H, from the Philatelic Foundation, 501 Fifth Avenue, Rm. 1901, New York, NY 10016.
- 3). Gilbert Noël, "Catalogue des Marques et Cachets d'Entrée en France, 1800-1881," 1976. See p. 123 of this Number for a review and information on the 1993 re-edition of this handbook.
- 4). Joseph Bergier, "La Petite Poste Maritime - La Poste Maritime au XVIII^e siècle"; *Les Feuilles Marcophiles*, Suppl. to N° 258, 1989.
- 5). *Catalogue des Estampilles et Oblitérations Postales de France et des Colonies Françaises*; Yvert & Cie., 1929.
- 6). A. Rochette and J. Pothion, "Catalogue des Marques Postales et Oblitérations de Paris, 1700-1876," 1958.



Figure 1

<p>D'AIX LA CHAPELLE</p> <p>D'ESPAGNE</p> <p>ANGLETERRE</p>	<p>RAUNE D'ITALIE PAR LYON</p> <p>AUTRICHE PAR FORBACH</p> <p>ESPAGNE PAR ST JEAN-DE-LUZ</p>
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Figure 2

Figure 3



Figure 4

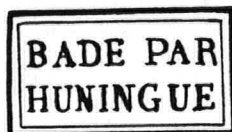


Figure 5



Figure 6



A.E.
J.F.

Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

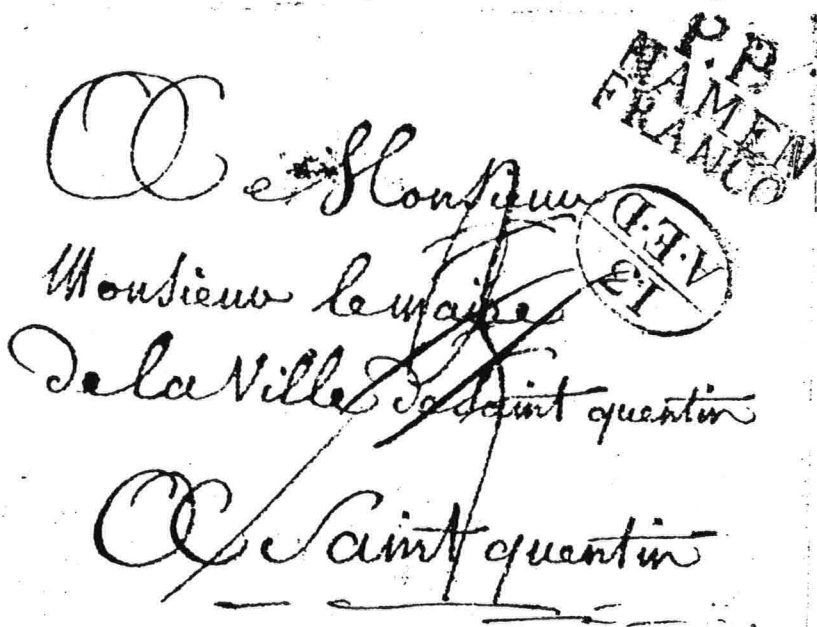


Figure 10

COLONIES

Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13

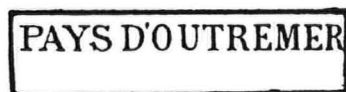


Figure 14

PAYS D'OUTREMER

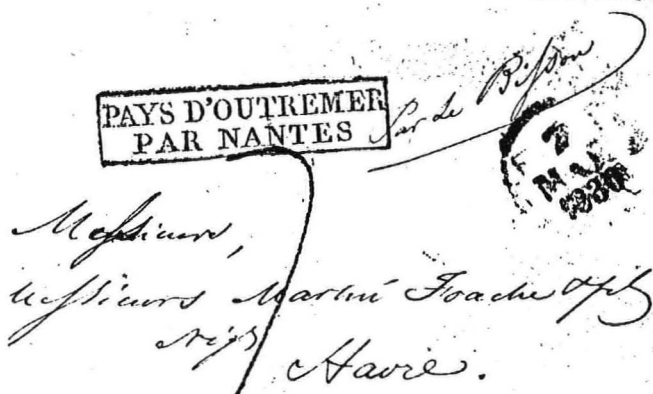
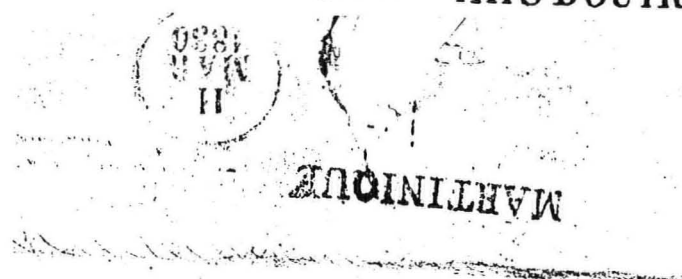


Figure 15

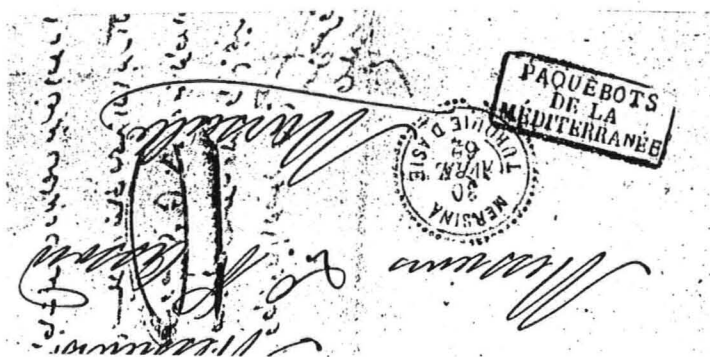


Figure 16



Figure 17

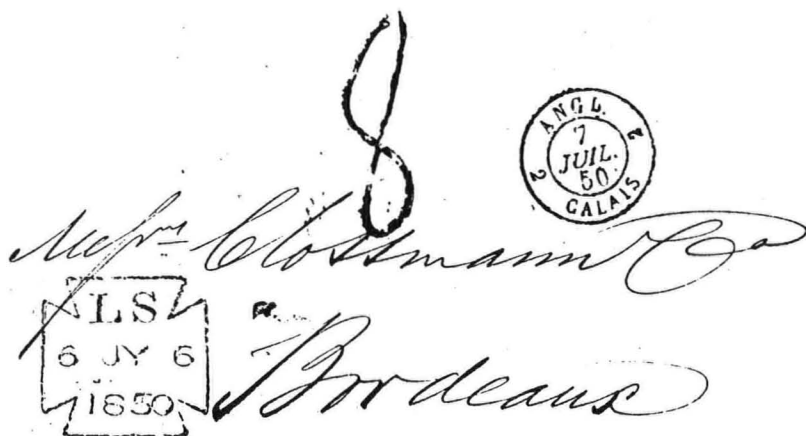


Figure 18



Figure 19



Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 24

Corps expéditionnaire du Tonkin



*Monsieur Delaunay
Colonel Directeur
d'Artillerie de la Marine*

Rochefort-sur-mer



Figure 25



Figure 26



Figure 27

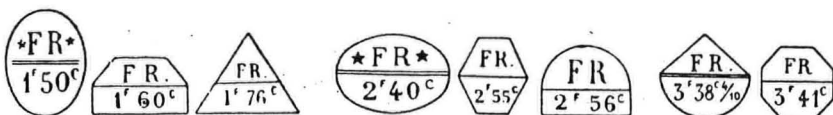


Figure 28

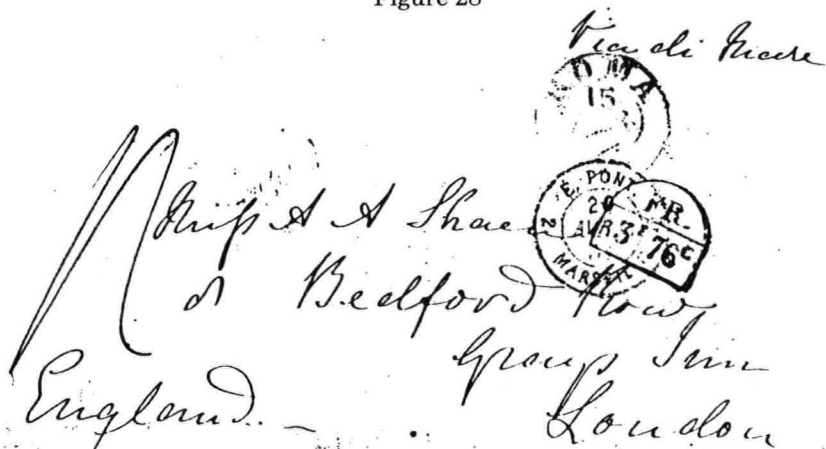


Figure 29



Figure 30

RANDOM JOTTINGS FROM YOUR ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Thanks to those members who heeded the editorial call to action in the previous number, we are inaugurating some new features, hopefully permanent ones. At this time, they include Questions and Answers, and a Problem Covers section. We hope for more of these, and hopefully some additional new features. In the meanwhile, please try to answer our first questions and resolve our problematic covers. Or, write letters to the editors, disputing statements made in articles or notes (or reviews), or simply tell us what you like and dislike about the journal, what you'd like to see added, or just to say Hi.

As a result of hurried and therefore sloppy proofreading on my part--and which should not recur--some egregious (first time I've gotten to use this buzzword) errors occurred in the previous number: Front page (p. 65) should read at top Whole Number 233 (Vol. 49, N° 3), July 1993, p. 66: the town of Bloomfield should be inserted into Corresponding Secretary's mailing address, p. 87, For the Record 677 should read, sold for 3437Fr and 2029Fr. And p. 90 (lower third), change to read Monaco issued a stamps-on-stamp sheetlet 18 September. Thank you!

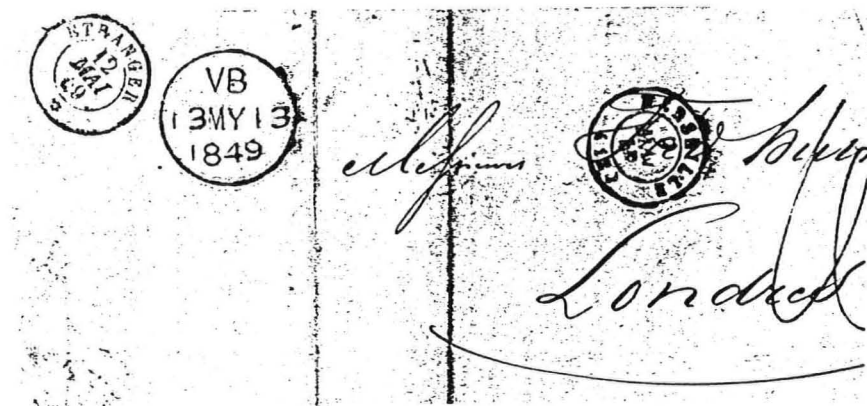


Figure 31

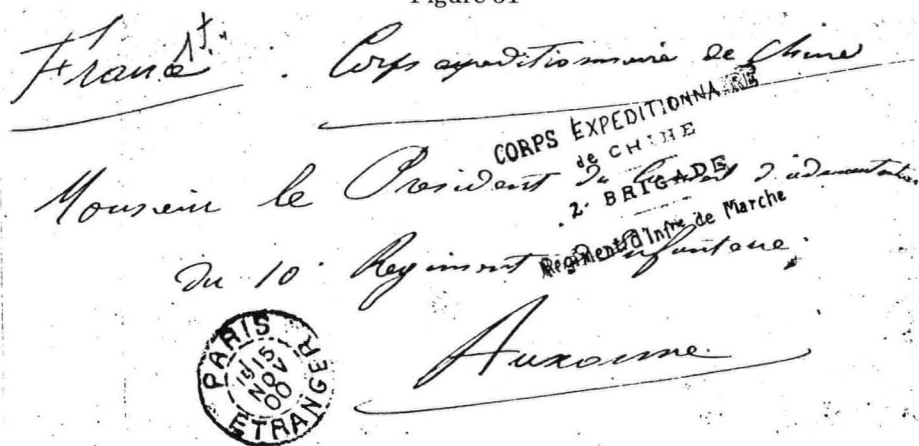


Figure 32

NEW PUBLICATION TO BE AVAILABLE

The Society is publishing a re-edited version of the series of articles by Gardner L. Brown: "The Postal History of the the Commune Revolution," which appeared in our journal between April 1989 and January 1991. We have been informed that it will be printed during September, so it should be available from the Corresponding Secretary by the time you read this. The book will be priced at \$20, with a 20% discount for members, and a 40% "trade" discount for the purchase of five or more copies.

It had been planned to publish these articles in book form when they originally appeared in the *Philatelist*. Since Gardner has now passed on and his collection has been dispersed, we hope that this book will serve, in part, as a memorial to him. There will be a more detailed description of the book after we actually have copies available.

JACQUES DESROUSSEAUX

An Appreciation by Stanley J. Luft

According to a letter from his son, Jacques Desrousseaux has left us, on 5 August 1993.

M. Desrousseaux is the latest in an illustrious line of French members of our Society to have closed their albums, but only after having written numerous erudite articles and notes for our journal. For his contributions to *FCP* alone, he will be sadly missed.

More so, this is a personal loss for me. My correspondence with M. Desrousseaux dates back to ca.1973 when I ordered a set of his typescript (apparently never published *in toto*) volumes on *Les Postes Françaises en Extrême-Orient*, still very much the standard work on the subject. We shared a mutual interest in military covers and history (he the master, I the pupil). He was, until his death, **the** authority on the postal and military history of French involvements in Indochina and China--and of many other areas as well--oftentimes as a close observer.

We finally met in 1985, when I was invited to his spacious apartment in Paris VII^e. His wife could not be present, so he apologized for the "simple" luncheon she had prepared in advance. It was really quite sumptuous. I found him to be both immensely erudite and almost painfully shy. Or at least rather reserved in the presence of a brasher and younger American. I learned he had been an engineer in Indochina in the 1930s, and had been interned there by the Japanese during the course of World War II, though he made little mention of the unpleasanties he surely had to endure in captivity.

We next met during PhilexFrance 89 (where he had a non-competitive exhibit of early French Indochina postal markings; he was not an exhibitor *per se*). Eleanor and I joined M. and Mme. Desrousseaux for an even more fabulous, many hours in the partaking, luncheon while conversing on a myriad of subjects in varying degrees of "franglais." We've corresponded since, but never found another opportunity to enjoy their company.

M. Desrousseaux took great pride in his family, which included a son, colonel in the French army who has served in a number of overseas posts. In a letter of August 1991, he proudly told us he then had 13 children (in-laws included), 21 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Being the head of his "clan" probably interested him even more, in his last years than did the postal history and markings of French Indochina or of his place of origin and summer home of St. Jean-de-Luz.

That hot July day of 1989, I asked him, almost plaintively, what it would take after all these years to get to call him by his first name and to *tutoyer* one another. His instant reply was "never." Then he noticed my discomfiture and tempered it softly with "not even with my schoolmates." I like to think this sums up the man: formal, in a larger than life sort of way, yet always generous with his time and with advice and assistance to his fellow philatelists. M. Desrousseaux--for you now see why I cannot call him Jacques--has laid down his pen for the last time. I have lost a truly *cher ami*. The philatelic world has lost a fine scholar and our society a valued contributor.

JACQUES DESROUSSEAUX

My correspondence with Jacques Desrousseaux spanned many years and subjects. He was always ready to comment on my use of his publications and letters for *FCP*, correcting my mistakes or misinterpretations, or expanding

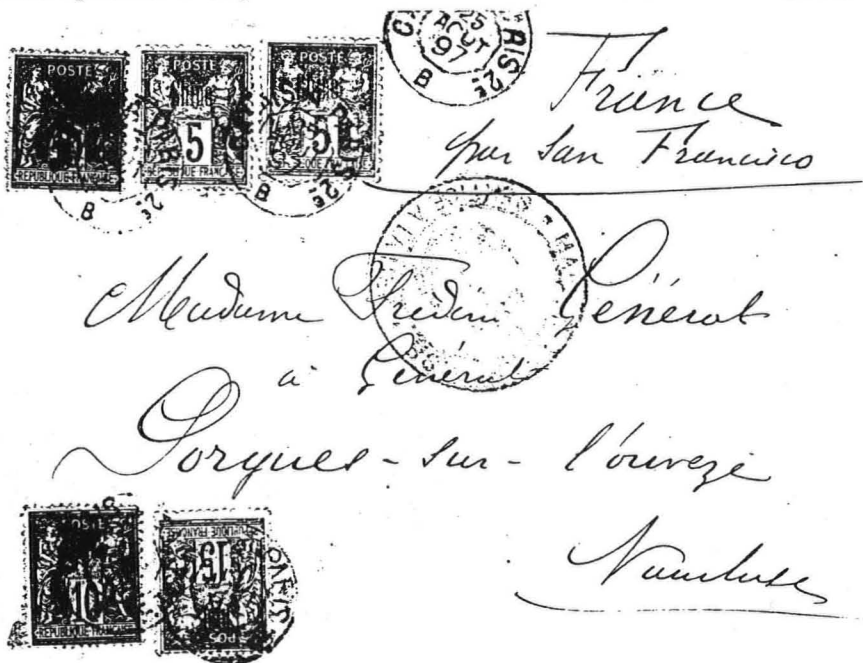
on whatever topic I brought up. An editor could hardly ask for a more useful critic. And it was our pleasure to make his work better known in the face of his great modesty. After completing his great work on the French posts in the Far East, he turned to writing about his homeland in southwestern France. Recently, his survey of the conflicting political and postal activities in the Laos-Cambodia area has been translated and published in our own journal. His style of presentation was characteristically very condensed and economical, so one had to have him check any translation we made.

--R. G. Stone

OUR PROBLEM COVERS

234.1. French Navy mail of 1897 (indistinct naval anchor cachet on front) posted outside normal French military mail facilities, thus bearing applicable 25c (5c+5c+15c) in Offices in China Sage issues (civil rate), but no departure nor maritime postmarks. Additional 20c postage (10c+10c) added for transport by non-French vessel. Addressed to Vaucluse Dept., which is not far north of Marseille, where mail from the Orient was typically landed, but annotated "France par San Francisco." An APRL search disclosed no ship of that name (until 1928), suggesting that a first ship out of China was crossing the Pacific bound for California. Or, could "San Francisco" be a Spanish vessel which, unlike British and French ones, did not transfer its mail at Port Said or Brindisi? Cover entered France at Calais, as far from Vaucluse (and Marseille) as it is possible to be. The stamps were finally cancelled on the Calais-Paris N° 2 day ambulant, 25 August 1897. The arrival backstamp reads 28 August. Could this letter have been entrusted to a ship's captain and have been overlooked at prior ports until the ship reached Calais? Can any reader speculate on why this cover entered France at Calais?

--(RTK)



234.2. Envelope to Paris with 15c in Somali Coast stamps (non-franchise military rate), and Corr. des Armées * L.V. N° 3 *, 12 September 1897. On back, naval anchor administrative cachet and written endorsement of the *vaguemestre* of the "Bengali." Did this cover originate in Madagascar, which had then a large French military presence, or in French-garrisoned Djibouti? Or, was it brought from Madagascar to Djibouti by other sea means, as no Line V ship called at the time at Madagascar? Was the "Bengali" a troop transport or commercial vessel or naval ship?—(RBG).



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Editor's Note: As a result of the editorial in the previous number, we now have the first of hopefully many questions to print. No answers yet, of course. But, if you can, do try to come up with yours for the benefit of our fellow members and readers, as these are real questions posed by real people. And if you don't have any answers now, why not send us some questions).

Q.234-1). If "Via Brindisi" was the usual routing for mail from French India to France in the late 19th Century, did the mail go overland through Italy to France, or was it transferred to another ship at Brindisi and taken to a French port to enter the French postal system? (RK)

Q.234-2). I have a registered cover sent from Karikal to Pondichery, French India, in 1951, which bears no receiving backstamp from the Pondichery P.O. Was it the usual practice not to backstamp registered mail upon arrival in French India? (RK)

Q.234-3). Shown here are overprints ENTR'AIDE FRANÇAIS/+95f25, one red the other black, on two Senegal stamps. They are noted in *Scott* as C8,



surcharged, "never issued in this colony." Other catalogs apparently do not list these items. At time of purchase, I was told this was a private issue produced by a French officer in Senegal. Can anyone advise as to what was the story behind this undertaking? A similar overprint and surcharge is catalogued by *Scott* as French Morocco CB23A (1944). (EAP)

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SPECIAL AWARD TO EDITOR ROBERT G. STONE

Earlier this year, Editor Robert Granville Stone received another major award, the Distinguished Philatelic Award of the U. S. Philatelic Classics Society. In the accompanying photo, Bob is shown signing the Scroll of Distinguished Philatelists on April 15, 1993 (Shirley Gallagher photo), in the presence of USPCS President Richard Winter, himself a distinguished member of our Society.

Bob has received this special recognition for his 50-plus years of philatelic and postal history research (much of it pioneering in nature) and publications; for his extensive studies on the maritime mails of the Caribbean; for his studies and exhibits on French Colonies; for his long-time association with our *France & Colonies Philatelist*, including the 40-year cumulative index; and for his occasional forays into philosophical aspects of philately and postal history and the interpretation of fragmentary historical information. Though he may blush at the thought and protest at the description, Bob Stone is truly one of philately's grand older figures.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

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New Issues and Withdrawals

(continued from *FCP* #233, July 1993, p. 90)

France

- late May 1993: booklet of ten self-adhesive "permanent validity" red Marianne de Briat stamps;
- 18 (21) June: Martyrs and Heroes of the Resistance 2,50 and 4,20F se-tenant pairs (and see illustration and note in *FCP*, July 1993, p. 90);
- 10 (12) July: 2,50F Bicent. of Chappe's Telegraph; 3,40F Artouste-Laruns narrow-gauge train (Pyrenees);

- 17 (19) July: 4,20F Minerve (Hérault);
 - late(?) July: Pre-cancels (Musical Instruments series): 1,82F, 2,34F, 3,86F, 5,93F;
 - 9 (13) September: 5,00F Art of Georges de La Tour;
 - September: Vending-machine booklet of ten self-adhesive 2,50F red M. de Briat in two panes of 5 stamps;
 - date not announced: Coil stamps of the "permanent validity" red M. de Briat;
 - September-October: Several commemorative stamps scheduled, but face values not divulged.
- Withdrawals: 9 July: European Marketing Union, Nancy-Lunéville Flight, *Gens du Voyage*, Marcel Paul (all at 2,50F).

Andorra

- 26 (28) June: 2,50F and 4,20F Butterflies (Nature series) [correction of July 1993 entry];
- 19 (20) July: 2,50F 1993 Tour de France.

French Polynesia

- 15 May: 30F Sports Festival;
- 1 July: 70F 15th Annual Australian Math Competition.

Monaco

- 4 May: Flowering cacti (2,50F x 4) in 20F booklet of 8 stamps; EUROPA 93 (Contemporary Art) 2,50F and 4,20F, and sheetlet at 20,10F containing three each of these stamps;
 - 28 July: Monaco's Admission into the U.N. S.S. of three 10F stamps;
 - 10 November: (Numerous issues scheduled for that day; to be listed in next installment).
- Withdrawals: 3 May: EUROPA 92: 2,50F, 3,40F, 4F; 19 May: May 1992 "La Placette Bosio" 25F booklet.

New Caledonia

- 17 June: Centenary of Old Temple, Noumea, 400F airmail;
- 8 July: Landscapes: Malabou region 85F airmail;
- 18 (19) August: Henri Rochefort 100F airmail.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 14 June: Red Marianne de Briat w/o face value ("permanent validity" stamp) overprinted for St. Pierre-et-Miquelon; 5,10F Bicent. of settling of Madeleine Islands from Miquelon;
 - 28 July (2 August): Fish: 2,80F x 4 se-tenant stamps;
 - 18 (23) August: Nature Patrimony 2,80F + label + 16F.
- Withdrawals: 9 July: 2,50F Commandant Birot; 20 August: 2,50F Christopher Columbus.

Wallis & Futuna

- 30 May: Mothers' Day (bouquets) 95F and 120F;
- 21 June: 35F and 45F fish;
- 12 July: 200th Anniv. of death of Bruni d'Entrecasteaux 170F airmail.

- A large (224 x 115mm) illustrated envelope, imprinted with the 2,50F Postal People Sailing the World stamp indicia, was issued February 1993, at about the same time as the similar adhesive stamp. It is sold at 4,00F. It purportedly exists in two versions: smooth paper with white interior, and rough paper with gray interior. My one copy, however, is smooth outside *and* gray inside.



The companion "Postal People" adhesive stamp, issued 6-8 February 1993, is expected to remain on sale into late 1994, or until "La Poste" and its crew complete their circumnavigation. Should postal rates change during that time, the stamp will be reissued with a new letter-rate face value, according to Guy Lormand, Director of the national philatelic service.

- The red Marianne de Briat without face value, issued 19 April 1993 in sheets and as self-adhesive booklet stamps, and holding "permanent validity," is expected to replace the current 2,50F M. de Briat.



- The French Congress of Philatelic Societies returned to Lille 30-31 May 1993, exactly 60 years after its previous appearance there. It was held in conjunction with Europhi Lille 93 which, apparently, did not produce any officially sanctioned postal stationery, as did the 1933 show.
- French naval vessels operating in the Adriatic (off ex-Yugoslavian waters) at one time or another during the first half of 1993 (Operation "Balbuzard" and others) are: carrier "Clemenceau," landing-ship transport "Foudre," oilers "Meuse" and "Durance," supply ship "Marne," frigates "LaMotte-Piquet," "Suffren," "Cassard," and "Duquesne," avisos "QM Anquetil," "Détrouyat," and "Jean Moulin." Cacheted covers exist from all.
- Roger North, long-time stamp dealer, died in April 1993. He had been the owner of the Maury house and name for over 30 years. He was a founder of the Chambre Syndicale Française de la Philatélie in 1938.
- Indefatigable--and now retired, so as to have the time to produce even more of his good, modern philatelic studies--Jean-Luc Trassaert, has prepared a fine in-depth work on the Coq and Peasant Woman French definitive and pre-cancelled stamps of 1954-64. The first two installments appeared in the June and the July-August 1993 *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, and it should run through at least one additional number.

Few collectors have bothered to specialize in these rather unattractive, low-face value issues. This may be the time to seek out multiples, varieties, coins datés, and particularly covers and wrappers--while they last.

- > A new press has been added at the French printing works (ITVF) at Perigeux. Called the PTD4 (for *Presse Taille Douce 4 couleurs*), it can print far larger sheets of recess-printed stamps than can the older TD-3 and TD-6 multicolor presses.
- > French domestic rates were increased 8 July. At time of writing, all we have to report is that the letter rate (to 20 gm) is now 2,80F and the 2x letter (20-50 gm) is 4,40F. The *écopli* (formerly printed matter and "slow" mail, to 250 gm) rate is 2,40F.
- > The most attractive French stamp of 1992, according to subscribers to the Philatelic Agency services and to those who reserve stamps at philatelic windows, was the Sandro Botticelli-1492-Founding of Ajaccio 4,00F.
- > Dr. Jacques Grasset, probably best known for his impressive and extremely useful book, *Les Timbres Faux pour Tromper la Poste de France*, published in 1976, died 6 May 1993 at the age of 82.
- > Covers bearing genuine Sage-design stamps with faked cancels of Monaco and Malta have recently appeared on the market. A Monaco/Principauté faked date stamp of 17 Février 98 is particularly well done, but the inner dashed lines at left and right (slightly above the FEVR, see illustration) are too short. A small single-circle Malta date stamp (duplexed with an A25 killer) is dated AU(gust) 7, (18)90; to me the letters MALTA seem too far apart.
- > BPM 613 is at Hodur (Xuudur), in the interior of southern Somalia, and not at Mogadishu, as was erroneously reported in N° 233 (July 1993), p. 71.
- > Kudos to FCPS members, Prof. Peter A.S. Smith, for his learned article on the stamps of "Egypt: The Fourth Issue," and Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith, for a fine study--and showing of some mouth-watering covers--of "The Carriage of Mail Between France and the Antilles and Latin America to 1880." Both articles appeared in "The London Philatelist," N°s 1204-05, May and June 1993.



Some Show Reports:

- > POLSKA 93 (Poznan, Poland, May 1993): Gold Medal with special prize to Jamie Gough; Large Vermeil medals to Ed Grabowski, Paul Larsen, and Steve Washburne.
- > NOJEX 93 (Secaucus, NJ, May 1993): Gold Medal to Stan Luft for "France-Military Campaigns 1823-1913"; Silver-Bronze Medal to Brad Arch for "World War I and II Military Post Offices in New Jersey."
- > BRAZILIANA 93 (Rio de Janeiro, July-August 1993): See special report by the U.S. Commissioner elsewhere in this number.

- > STaMpsHOW 93 (Houston, August 1993): Gold Medal to Paul Larsen for his exhibit of Leeward Islands stationery.
- > Omaha Stamp Show (Nebraska, September 1993): Silver Medal to Huguette Gagnon for "Free French Forces at Work," Vermeil Medal to Paul Blake for "Postal History of India 1807-1861."

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FOR THE RECORD

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(continued from *FCP* #233, July 1993, p. 88)

- > 679.) The jury is still out on the 0,45F Marianne de Bequet "*tirage spécial violet dentelé*" (special printing in violet, perforated) that carries a 3,250F valuation in the Cérès catalogue. It could be (1) a complete fabrication, or (2) a fraudulently perforated violet color trial, or least likely (3) a chemical changeling. On the other hand, it could be perfectly genuine. However, the Musée Postal's collection lacks any example of this variety.
- > 680.) Eleven pre-cancelled stamps in the Musical Instruments series were issued in January 1992. It is now known that all, save the 2,98F value, exist with two different perforations. All eleven are perforated 13. Apparently far scarcer are the ten that are also perforated 12 (or 12¼ x 12). Accountancy dates present in some sheet margins (**not** the *coins datés* or printing dates) are the same for each face value, whether perforated 13 or 12, but with one exception. The 3,08F value has an accountancy date of 25.10.91 (25 October 1991) on a perf. 12 sheet, and of 17.01.92 (17 January 1992) on the equivalent perf. 13 sheet.
- > 681.) Type II of the 0,20F Sower of Piel (Scott 941, Yvert 1233), hitherto known only on coil stamps, has been found in positions 49 and 99 of sheet stamps from printing plates A + B. Type II is recognized by the **absence** of two poorly defined parasitic dots between the 0 and 20 of the value (see illustration), that are present on Type I.

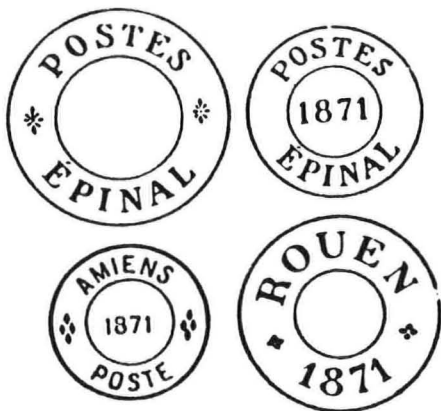


- > 682.) The perforated 1c Empire is normally olive or bronze in color. The *mordoré* color variety (usually described as golden brown) (Yvert 19b, c) catalogs several times more. Now, G. Gauduchon suggests (*Coll. Phil. et Marco*. N° 98, 1993) that this is merely a color trial using a new, thinner ink, printed 19-20 December 1865 at the order of Hulot, the Director of the French stamp printing works.
- > 683.) In the French alphanumeric system established in 1852, small numerals (*petits chiffres*; **PC**) within lozenges-of-dots killers were replaced with a greater quantity--because of the opening of many new post offices during the interval--of larger numerals (*gros chiffres*; **GC**), 1 January 1863 (December 1862 usage exists). Except for Abbeville = 1, Ablis = 2, Ablon = 3), there is no correlation between **PCs** and **GCs** in the postal nomenclature.

Most larger post offices, after receiving their GC killers end of 1862, also received at some later time the same numeral, but in PC format (either a new device or one recuperated from its previous P.O.), mainly for use on registered and money letters. These are known as **PCs of GCs**. However, we are told by François Roure (*Coll. Phil. et Marco.*, N° 98, 1993) that the small Boucoirin (Gard Dept.) P.O. reused its pre-1963 PC 4403 in December 1870. Three copies are known. It is therefore possible that some other post offices may have done the same. Keep searching!

- 684.) A synthesis of several accounts published since 1962 indicates that, on 1 December 1886, 10,200 copies of France 25c black on rose Sage stamps (Scott 100, Yvert 97) and 2,100 of France 1F Sage (Scott 84, Yvert 82) were shipped by error from Toulon to Madagascar on the "Amérique," arriving at Tamatave 29 or 30 December after having dropped off some troops at Diego Suarez. (From Pierre Favrel, in *COLFRA*, N° 62, 1993). This error was soon discovered, but some of the stamps must have been used in Madagascar prior to the 21 February 1887 arrival of Dubois-type replacements. At that time, the remainders--mostly stuck down by high humidity--were returned to France. Unaccounted for were 194 of the 25c value and 27 of the 1F value. So far, none of these perforated Sages are known with Madagascar cancellations. Collectors, check your stocks!

- 685.) The scarce provisional German-made cachets, for civilian use at Amiens, Epinal, and Rouen in the Occupied Zone (see illustrations below, from Victor Chanary's handbook), were valid there only while their territory and post offices were under German administration. The cachets became invalid 25 March 1871, upon the return of the Occupied Zone (annexed Alsace and Lorraine excepted) to French administration. Beware of any later use on faked or "improved upon," doctored covers!



- 686.) A small correction to M. Abouchar's article on airmail during the WW II British blockade of Djibouti, condensed in the April 1993 *FCP* (p. 40-41). The special blockade handstamp was applied not on arrival, but rather on mail departing Djibouti, as first stated by Henri Tristant¹. This distinction is supported by the 22 covers bearing the handstamp, offered² in Sinais' 24th auction sale of 28 May 1993. Of the 22 covers, only one was inbound (see illustration), and that was very likely handstamped as a favor to the plane's pilot, Casanova, who probably carried it back to France.

1) "Histoire Postale de la Côte des Somalis, tome III, Poste Aérienne"; *Le Monde des Philatélistes Etude* N° 175, 1975.

2) Lots Nos 4235, 7701-13, 9565-68.

SERVICES AÉRIENS SPÉCIAUX
PENDANT LE BLOCUS DE LA



Aup. Louis Fuis de

Monsieur CASANOVA

Pilote Cie AIR FRANCE

D J I B O U T I .
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687.) The Wolff Auction in Hamburg Germany, on 27 August 1993, included an unusual Martinique forerunner cover to Peru. The Stevens exhibit of Martinique forerunners had two covers to Peru, both franked at the 1.60 franc rate with Eagles. This cover, which is also addressed to Thomas, La Chambre & Co. at Lima, is later, and has been franked with five 30 centimes Napoleons and two 5 centimes Cérés, to make the same 1.60 franc rate. The catalog illustration does not show the postmark of the dispatch office, so one cannot be certain of the date. These two stamps were on sale at the same time, but this particular combination is rather unusual; normally one would expect this rate to be paid with two 80 centimes stamps, or with four 40 centimes, if the former was not available. Until the appearance of a 25 centimes stamp, the 40 centimes was almost always used in making up the common 50 centimes and 70 centimes rates to France, and it is quite surprising it was not used on this cover.

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

"De Franse Postzegels 1980 t/m 1990"; a booklet produced by and for the 25th anniversary of the Contactgroep Frankrijk Verzamelaars (the French Philatelic Society of the Netherlands); 110 pp., 23.6 x 16.8 cm, paper-bound; Amsterdam, 1992. (This is an illustrated--mostly in black-and-white--and annotated chronological listing of all French stamps issued between 1980 and 1990; written entirely in Dutch; no price or contact person communicated).

"Les oblitérations temporaires et permanentes de la Haute-Vienne," by J.-L. Dutreix and J.-J. Gibaud; 20 pp.; from ACFOLIM, 4 allée Louis de Funès, F-87100 Limoges, France; 30F postpaid. (Descriptive catalog of all the department's markings, including unissued and "pseudo" obliterations, and thematic tables).

"Catalogue des MOG de Paris sur papier Comète après la réforme de 1987-1988," by R. Charbonnier; 44 pp. and 370 illustrations; from M. Leroux, 270 rue Watteau, F 76650 Petit Couronne, France; 40F postpaid, payable to order of ACEMA. (The ultimate in modern specialization: an illustrated list of the self-adhesive, vending-machine imprints on "comet-design" labels that have been used in Paris since the 1987-88 changeover in post-office nomenclature from numbers to locales).

"La Poste en Haute-Loire--Historique, marques postales et oblitérations," by Pierre Jammes and André Bajard; from André Bajard, 32 blvd. Gambetta, F 43000 Le Puy en Velay, France; 300F, payable to A.P.V. (Association Philatélique Vellave).

"Catalogue des Oblitérations de France (1854-1876) sur timbres détachés," 1994 Edition, by Armand Mathieu; 160 pp.; from the author, 5 rue Blacas, F 06000 Nice, France; 325F postpaid. (This is a new edition of the priced catalog that covers every possible cancellation on off-cover stamps of the period).

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REVIEWS

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"Marques et Cachets d'Entrée en France en Provenance d'Europe 1800-1881"

(Numérotation G. Noël), by André Rupp; 1993; from Editions André Rupp, 16 avenue Robert Schuman, F-68100 Mulhouse, France; price 330F (including airmail postage); 295F in Europe.

This welcomed handbook/catalogue is handicapped by far too many mostly minor faults, and it is difficult for this reviewer to wholeheartedly endorse it.

In his preface, M. Rupp explains that Gilbert Noël showed little desire to update his earlier three editions of this work, but did consent, prior to his death last year, to have Rupp reproduce and update the material and prices.

Rupp fortuitously has retained Noël's numerical nomenclature, which is alphabetical by and within countries and states of origin, first for the straight-line markings, and then continuing into the circular date stamps. But he has rearranged Noël's organization so as to have only one single set of alphabetized countries and states. This is, of course, a convenience and perhaps a plus, but it also results in non-consecutive numerical listings, which could be confusing to the inexperienced collector.

The illustrations are those of the earlier editions, but photocopied from them and therefore rather muddy (just like actual markings...). One cannot tell, for example, that N° 197 (Prusse par Forbach) is really within a double-lined box. I recommend that persons owning any of Noël's earlier editions retain them for the far clearer quality of the illustrations therein.

Great advantage could have been obtained by utilizing the services of an

editor or proofreader, as translations of subheadings into English (I cannot vouch for the German translations, but M. Rupp is, after all, from Alsace) are laughable, and typographical errors also detract. On page 15, bureaux sédentaires actually should be bureaux ambulants (along with translations). On pages 23, 65, and 157, courriers-convoyeurs end up being station-attendants, rather than travelling postal clerks. On page 43, the color of N° 661B (ex-661 bis) is given as H; it should be N (Noir).

Inexplicably, for some countries, distinct ambulant brigade letters receive separate listings, even though earliest year known, color, and price are identical for all these brigade letters. For other countries, brigade letters remain lumped into one catalogue number, as per Noël's original intent.

Armand Toutghalian, postal-history dealer from suburban Paris, served as consultant on pricing, and they seem to be in line with current auction realizations--as well as with M. Toutghalian's net prices. Prices have increased about threefold to tenfold or more since my 1971 edition. Which is very nice for what one already owns but frightening regarding what one lacks. They refer to *Très Beau* quality for the cover and markings, which, from experience, tends to be less than Very Fine (by U.S. standards). Therefore, quality covers should command even higher prices.

The book is attractively bound in blue cloth. Pages are computer-printed, mostly only on one side, but pagination is numbered as if both sides were used. Consequently the 179-page enumeration "translates" into perhaps less than 100 actual, printed pages. At 30.4 x 21.5 cm, the book is no longer as portable (to stamp bourses) as the earlier, smaller, paperbound editions. But it is an attractive production, for which M. Rupp (and M. Toutghalian) should be thanked, and worth owning if only for the updated prices and the occasional (and certainly hard to find on the market) new entries.

--S.J. Luft

THE POSTAL REFORM OF 1790 - 1792

Raymond Thouvenin, "1790 - 1792, La Réforme de l'Administration des Postes," Supplement to *Relais* No. 39, September 1992; 24 illustrations, table, 8 x 12"; softbound; no price given; from Société des Amis du Musée de la Poste, 34 blvd Vaugirard, F 76737 Paris CÉDEX 15, FRANCE.

This booklet was printed in celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the postal reform of France that was crowned on 25 October 1792 by the "General Instruction About the Service of Posts." According to Pierre Nougaret's foreword, this was the transition from private exploitation to public administration of the mails. In the introduction, the author mentions that departmental "zip codes" had their origin at that time.

The six main sections concern the post office in France in the 18th Century; postal functions; the post office and the start of the Revolution, from 1789 to the decrees of August 1790; the work of the First Directorate of Posts (the section itself is divided into three parts); end of the First Directorate, May 1792; and conclusion. There are five appendixes, three of which are texts of proclamations and laws.

The extent of the enormous work to be done in reorganizing the post office, not just internally but also in its relations with foreign countries, is described

in detail in Section IV. Not long after that enormous work was essentially completed, the first directorate was fired and a second directorate installed in 1792 which, in turn, was replaced about a year later.

Forty-eight years after the French reform took effect, the British post office had another major reform that was as epoch-making for internal and external postal relations of post offices all over the world as had been this reform.

The booklet is beautifully produced and highly recommended as a source book for postal history development in general.

--E.M. Cohn

FRENCH POSTAL RATES 1759 AND 1792

Roger Wallart, "Les Tarifs de la Poste aux Lettres de 1759 et de 1792"; Supplement to *Les Feuilles Marcophiles* N° 273, 1993; 64 pp., 33 illustrations, map, tables, 8 x 12", softbound; 80Fr from L'Union Marcophile, 7 rue St. Lazare, F 75009 Paris, FRANCE.

Pierre d'Almeras signed a document on 16 October 1627 entitled "Regulation of Sieur Almeras of the postage for letters and parcels." The purpose of that regulation was to remedy the abuses of employees who overcharged as well as users who underpaid mail fees. At that time the French mails passed only between Paris and the five cities of Bordeaux, Lyon, Toulouse, Dijon and Mâcon.

In 1644 the postal net was already more complex and international connections extended into Italy. Other changes that occurred from time to time up to 1759 are indicated as well.

With the establishment of a postal system within Paris in 1759, new rates were published by royal decree, with military, colonial, and foreign mails receiving special consideration. Despite further developments of the mails, the 1759 rates were kept unchanged until 1791. Specific rates could vary, however, as new, shorter connections were established, particularly when Paris was bypassed.

A Directorate of Posts was established in the summer of 1790 though it did not begin to function until November 8. The five top administrators, all experienced in the postal system, planned to reform the rates for the newly created 83 departments of the kingdom. The republic in 1795 hiked the rates way up in view of the devaluation of money.

Several appendixes give further details, particularly on rates charged throughout the kingdom.

This is a vital source book for postal historians interested in the beginnings of the public mails. Its "externalities" are first-rate, as usual for this journal.

--E.M. Cohn

ADMINISTRATIVE HANDSTAMPED MARKINGS OF PARIS, 1876-ON

G.-P. Cuny and J.-C. Delwaulle, "Les Cachets Manuels de l'Administration des Postes apposés à Paris de Mars 1876 à nos jours"; Supplement to *Les Feuilles Marcophiles*, N° 272, 1993; see previous review, above, for address.

This 44-page softbound handbook is a corrected and augmented recompilation of the authors' serialization in Nos 248-251 (1987-88) of *Les Feuilles Marcophiles*. It covers in detail and numerous illustrations the multitude of handstamped markings employed within the Paris postal administration, from March 1876 to our times.

The order utilized is alphabetical by service, and runs the gamut from *Agence Commerciale des Télécommunications* to *Vérification du Matériel*, plus an annex of miscellaneous markings, governmental and otherwise. Although many of the markings are in-house and never (or should not) reach collectors or the public, opportunities do exist. In any case, this work is invaluable to collectors of post-Classic Paris cancellations.

No price is shown as it was sent gratis to all members of the *Union Marcophile*. Surplus copies may however be available from this society at a nominal cost. These occasional freebies are one more compelling reason for marcophilists and postal historians to join the society and receive *Les Feuilles Marcophiles*--and the supplements thereto.

--S.J. Luft

FRENCH CIVIL WAR 1791 - 1802

Stanley J. Luft, "Military and Postal History of the Revolutionary Armies in the West of France (1791-1802)," 1993; 113 pp., 89 illustrations and maps, 2 tables, 8½ x 11", softbound; \$20 + \$2 shipping from publisher, ENVISION, 625 South Ohio Avenue, Sidney OH 45365.

This appears to be the first detailed English account of the military and concomitant postal historical events in Western France, resulting from the fighting between republican armies and rebellious opponents. Considering the complexity and changes in military organization and operations, the author had to present a detailed account of these doings, about which a great deal more appears to be known than about the movement of military mails and its tangible products, the covers we like to collect and study. Only very few of them have survived.

A concise "family tree" of army names, commanders, and dates is followed by a preface, acknowledgments, introduction and brief chapter about postal matters generally. Six chapters describe (in chronological order) the formation and actions of mostly regular army units, with "Postal History Notes" and "Postal Markings" ending each of these chapters. The text closes with an epilogue and a bibliography.

Chapter II describes the organization of the military posts; movement of official and private mails; postal rates, franchise, and "contreseign"; censorship; protecting mail from rebels and brigands; state of roads; dishonesty of mail clerks; and postal markings, with scale of rarity.

The well-drawn, clear maps would be even more useful as foldouts or loose-leaf, considering the continual references to military movements and actions.

Printing, while clear and legible, is unfortunately one-sided. The occasional errors and awkward wording are not serious. The "Perfect" binding is coming apart after one reading.

Collectors of military mail generally and of 18th Century French postal history should have this work in their libraries.

--E.M. Cohn

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F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

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President's Letter

Hopefully you will receive this issue of the Philatelist at least a few days before the opening of the Mega Event in New York on October 28-31, 1993. Note that it has been moved back to Madison Square Garden, and the length reduced to four days. We expect to have the new book by Gardner Brown available for sale at the Show. As an advertisement for the book, the program at Mega Event will include a showing of the Society's slide program "The Paris Commune." Naturally, we will have a Society booth there, and our informal dinner at a nearby restaurant the first day of the Show. Any members interested in joining us for dinner should stop at the Society booth by the middle of the afternoon so we can make reservations.

With the end of the summer, I would like to remind all members of our monthly meetings at the Collectors Club in New York. The formal program begins at 8:00 p.m.; for those who wish to eat dinner together, we meet at the Club by 6:00 p.m., and go to a nearby French restaurant.

--Dick Stevens

NEW MEMBERS

- 2972 IVANAC, GAEL, 20123 Antago, Livonia, MI 48152. (General France: Mint - Used. Dealer: Mail Sales.)
- 2973 KELLEY, RONALD H., P.O. Box 1005, Neutral Bay Junction, NSW 2089 - Australia. (19th Century France.)
- 2974 SIMIONI, JEAN GEORGYS, 27 Rue Jacques Prevert, Le Passage, F 47520 Passage, France. (Postal History In General. Colonies and Territories: Cancellations and Postal History. Philatelic Literature.)
- 2975 FREGA, ENRIQUE, Av. de Mayo 982 1 "A", Capital Federal, Argentina (C.P. 1084). (General France: Used - On Cover. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Used - On Cover. Andorre. Dealer: Auction - Mail Sales. Exchange.)
- 2976 MARSEE, RON, 1303 So. Hinshaw Ave., Bloomington, IL 61701. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used. Andorre. Monaco. Europa and United Nations. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used. All Colonies and Territories.)
- 2977 BEAUNE, BOB, 11346 101 St., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5G 2A7. (Stamps and Covers Of Individual Colonies. St. Pierre and Miquelon.)
- 2978 MARTIN, TOM, 840 Forest St., Apt. 1, Hendersonville, NC 28739. (General Collector: All Issues - 19th Century - Early 20th Century. Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used - 1870-1871 Issues - Commune - Ballons. Dealer: Full-Time.)
- 2979 TAYLOR, THOMAS O., P.O. Box 406, Lima, PA 19037. (Stamps. Covers Of Individual Colonies. Camerouns.)
- 2980 GIBOT, JEAN FRANÇOIS, 6 Rue Camille Grelhier, Magnac Laval 87190, France. (Covers of Individual Colonies: Reunion 1885-1905 (Maritime-Railway), (Military-Tax).)
- 2981 SALES, MICHAEL J., 592 Chestnut St., Waban, MA 02168. (General Collector: 20th Century. General France: Mint - Used. Modern France: Air Mails.)
- 2982 PAUTARD, ALAIN, PSC 1012, Box 494, FPO AA 34058. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Used. Classics 1849-1876: Used - 1870-1871 Issues, Commune - Ballons - Cancellations. Modern France: Used - Blanc, Mouchon & Merson Types - Sowers. Perfins. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. Philatelic Literature. Exchange. Telephone Cards. Old Postcards.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS & CORRECTIONS

- 2540 NYBERG, EDWARD J., JR., 2102 Southline Dr., NW, Huntsville, AL 35810.
 2957 FAURE, MIKE, P.O. Box 6334, Augusta, GA 30916-6334.
 2910 KLUHERZ, MICHAEL K., 61 S. Holman Way, Golden, CO 80401-5108.
 676 TAVES, ERNEST H., M.D., 12 Hubbard Park Rd., Cambridge, MA 02138-4731 (correction of zip code & street name).
 2951 SIPFLE, WILLIAM K., 811 Palmer Rd., Ashland, OR 97520.
 1736 ARELLANO, REFUGIO L., JR., 4553 Grace Ave., Baldwin Park, CA 91706-2223.
 2873 GEIGER, FRANK P., 242 W. Saddle River Rd., Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458.

REINSTATEMENTS

- 2817 SMALL, RICHARD E., 1872 Chelton Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104 (new address, remove California address). (Already in Philatelist.)
 2665 BOOTHE, GLENDON, 12701 NE. Court, Vancouver, WA 98685-3054. (Already in Philatelist.)
 NOLET, JACQUES, Case Postale 558, Succursale Postale "A", Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3C 2T6. (Already in Philatelist.)

RESIGNATIONS

- 711 BRASSLER, NORMAN

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MEMBERS' APPEALS

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WANTED: Better French Colonies stamps before 1910 in F-VF condition. Also interested in buying better French Colonies covers before 1900. Top prices paid for quality material. Send Xerox copies and asking prices to: Thierry Lallevee, LUG-DUNUM PHILATELIE, 18, rue du 8 Mai, 69110 Ste Foy-lès Lyon FRANCE. (Mb. #2814).

HAVE spaces to fill. Let's trade. I have hundreds of duplicate French stamps from 1849 up to 1965. Maybe we have what the other needs. Write to Arthur Richards, P.O. Box 1101, Mattoon, IL 61938. (Mb. #2897).

WANTED: Stamps of France, 1900-1924, and 1958-1962, and stamps of Algeria 1924-1960, for research purposes. Laurence H. Lambert, 1519 Scenic Drive, Rolla, MO 65401. (Mb. #1394).

WANTED: Prices realized for Baudot's 159th/160th auction of 24 April 1993. Much appreciated. Stanley J. Luft, 16291 West 56th Place, Golden, CO 80403. (Mb. #915).

WANTED: Complete French Southern & Antarctic Terrs. collection, MNH through 1993; preferably mounted in hingeless album. Terms, cash. Contact Don Akerstrom, 5751 E. Mansfield Ave., Denver, CO 80237 (Mb. #2826).

WANTED: Information from dealers or private parties as to where (in North America or elsewhere). I can buy Cameroun 784-786 and C282-284 and Gabon C218-219--perforate, imperf., DeLuxe SS., FDC's, etc. And, are there any stamp dealers in Morocco? Postage gladly reimbursed. Zenon Drapiewski, 8 Marion St., Toronto, Ontario M6R 1E5, Canada (Mb. #2947).