



France & Colonies Philatelist

A TALE OF FOUR CITIES

by Ernst M. Cohn

Figure 1 shows a cover addressed to Edouard Schaeffer at Strasbourg. Sent by J. J. Müller & Cie., 7 rue St. Lazare, Paris, it was franked with single-weight inland postage of 20 centimes and posted at or near the Rue St. Lazare post office, where it was postmarked during the 6th collection period (afternoon) on Wednesday, 17 August 1870.

The next marking is an inconspicuous provisional handstamp

"In Schlettstadt
vorgefunden."

Along the way the cover also acquired the prominent French-type "30" due strike, indicating that the stamp was considered invalid by the German occupation forces, which ran the post offices in the areas under their control.

The last postal marking was struck by the then still extant French date stamp at the German-run post office of Strasbourg, first collection period, 30 October 1870.

All but the Paris postmark were applied by or under the supervision of German field-post personnel.

A collector apparently added the following legend:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Tale of Four Cities.....	1
Some Thoughts on "Postal Practices".....	5
The Use of Fiscals to Determine Date of Usage.....	5
The Gaoua Bisects of March 1908 - An Update.....	6
The Smiling Angel of Reims (L'ange Au Sourire).....	7
Jacques Desrousseaux (1912-1993).....	9
John B. Morton (1902-1993).....	9
Questions & Answers.....	10
Our Problem Covers.....	10
Cut-Out Cut-Ups.....	10
Basic Sources of Information on the Postal History of a Country, with a Review of the Author's Research Methods.....	11
Random Jottings From Your Associate Editor.....	19
French Contingent in Ex-Yugoslavia.....	19
The Blue, The Red & The Green - A Mystery Solved.....	20
Announcements & News.....	21
For The Record.....	25
F.C.P.S. Official.....	28

"Lettre expédiée de Paris le 17 Août 1870 par la route de Belfort encore libre. Elle n'a pu aller que jusqu'à Schlestadt qui a été investi le 11 Oct^e."

Après la capitulation du 24 Oct^e elle a continué son chemin et est arrivée le 30 Oct^e à destination."

That is - letter sent from Paris on 17 August 1870 by way of the (railway) route to Belfort that was still open. It got only as far as Sélestat (or Schlettstadt in German; the French use various spellings), which was invested on 11 October. After its capitulation on the 24th, the letter continued on its way and arrived at its destination on the 30th.

Assuming that the comments are correct, then this cover

- * left **Paris** (invested on 18 September) on 17 August;
- * passed through **Belfort** (invested on 3 November);
- * stopped over at **Sélestat** and remained there during its investment and siege, 11-24 October; and
- * arrived at **Strasbourg** after the end of its siege, 27 September.

Mail connections with Strasbourg had become irregular as early as Sunday, 7 August: Paris mail of the 6th did arrive there that day, but at 9 p.m. instead of in the morning. The mail train had had to stop at Saverne, whence mail was moved by horse-drawn vehicles. The telegraph had also been cut (Gustave Fischbach, "Le Siège et le Bombardement de Strasbourg,"

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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

January 1994 - Vol. 50, No. 1, Whole No. 235

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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Strasbourg, n.d.).

Charles Staehling ["Mission Suisse A Strasbourg," Paris n.d. (1895? new edition)] tried to reach Strasbourg from Mulhouse on 11 August but could not get through, because German soldiers were already blocking rail and road connections.

When this letter was mailed, it is unlikely that Paris was still ignorant of the start of the investment (blockade) of Strasbourg, later followed by a siege (blockade and bombardment). Was the writer hoping that the Germans would let the mail through?

In any case, the mail must have experienced considerable delay en route, because it had to traverse territory where the French army was using the rails for moving troops. For example, on 18 August the army corps of General Douay started to move by rail. Its transport was completed only at 11:20 a.m. on the 20th, when the Belfort railway station telegraphed: "We are resuming passenger traffic" (F. Jacqmin, "Les Chemins de Fer pendant la Guerre de 1870-1871," Paris 1874, pp. 142-3).

According to the late E. Gutekunst ("Etudes," No. XVI/IVC, *Courrier des Villes Assiégées*, pp. 19-28; IVD, pp. 2-4, publ. Association des SPécialistes en Marques Postales et Oblitérations d'Alsace-Lorraine - SPAL; also cites Georges Martin, 1969 yearbook of Société des Amis de la Bibliothèque de Sélestat), a German post office was opened at Sélestat on 25 October, the day after its surrender. He stated that ten horse-drawn vehicles were needed to move the piled-up mail from there and shows a cover with arrival date of 2E/31 Oct. at Strasbourg.

To explain the delay, the Germans decided to have at least two hand-stamps made for marking that mail. We know that because one misspells the German name of the town as "Slchettstadt." (The field post was quite considerate of enemy civilians, perhaps because they knew that Germany would annex those areas.)

Despite the original abundance of accumulated mail, very few examples of the strikes survive, and even fewer with arrival stamps, that shown here is the earliest one known thus far.

* * *

Finally, a word about the siege of Sélestat is in order: In contrast to the sieges of Strasbourg, Belfort and, of course, Paris, almost nothing is known about it anymore.

Gutekunst (op. cit.) quotes Martin about the bombardment starting on 23 October at 6:30 a.m. The next day at 8:30 a.m., white flags appeared on the tower of the cathedral and on bastions 29 and 30 as signs of surrender. The extent of the fires caused the French to ask for German engineers to enter the city and help fight them.

Another French account makes no mention of local problems, even fires, just before the surrender and claims that the bombardment lasted six days. It also tells of a captain who left town with 48 men on 17 August(?), fought 300 Prussians for four hours, put them to flight, and returned victoriously with seven prisoners, having had only two men wounded in the fight (M. G. Martiny de Riez, "Histoire Illustrée de la Guerre de 1870-71," Laon 1871, p. 228).

According to Wilhelm Müller ("Illustrierte Geschichte des Deutsch-Französischen Krieges 1870 und 1871," Stuttgart 1873, pp. 310-311) the second-class fortress was invested on 9 October but was not bombarded until the

23rd. Its commander, Count Reinach, thereupon had a white flag hoisted at 9 a.m. on the 24th. Even before the capitulation was signed by General von Schmeling, three Prussian battalions entered the town at the request of Count Reinach, to stop drunken French soldiers and some of the 11,000 inhabitants from plundering shops, burning houses, and threatening to blow up ammunition dumps. At 4 p.m., 2,400 French troops as well as 120 artillery pieces were taken out of the city. This story is substantiated by Gustav Höcker ("1870 und 1871 - Zwei Jahre deutschen Heldentums," Berlin n.d., p. 236) and by Field Marshal Count Helmuth von Moltke ("The Franco-German War of 1870-71," Harper & Brothers, New York and London, 1901, pp. 174-175).

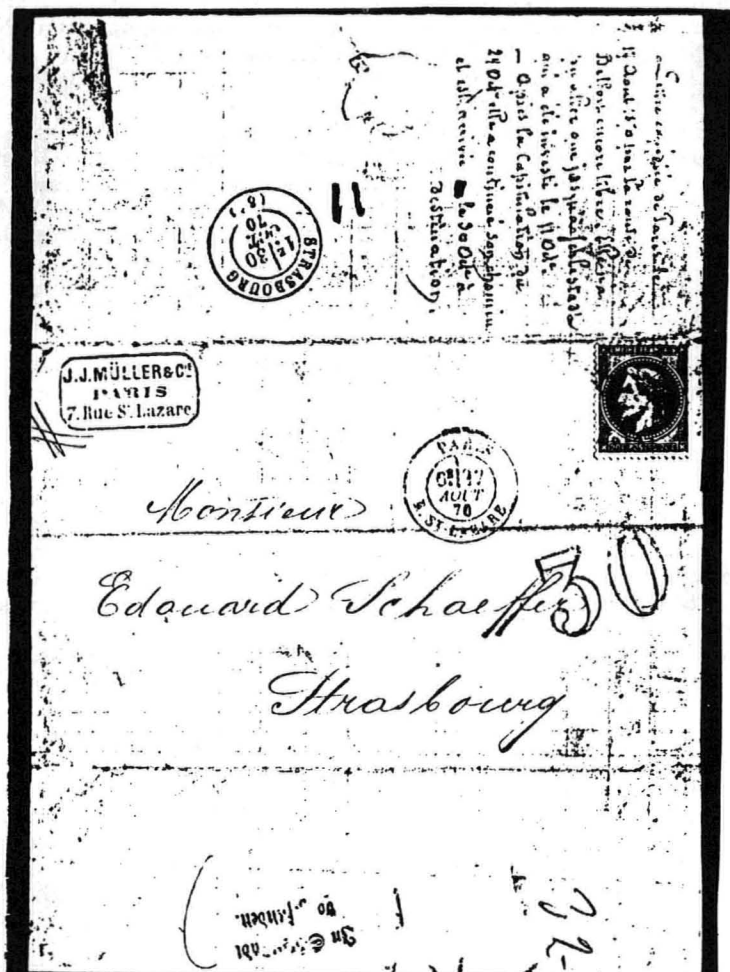


Figure 1

SOME THOUGHTS ON "POSTAL PRACTICES" by Jerry Massler

For some years now, a subject I call postal practices has given me great enjoyment. What I define as "postal practices" are those occurrences that are not necessarily covered by postal regulations or conventions. For example, there's the practice of separating all stamps on *Valeur Déclarée* letters into single copies, so that no stamp will cover a possibly illegal entry, which would require removal of contents by a postal inspector. Likewise, with regard to *Avis de Réception* mail, was the adhesive stamp reflecting this additional service requested affixed to the envelope or to the return form? Those who study this type of service know that both practices exist, and that a clear delineation of which practice was used during which time period is seldom clear or consistent.

Recently I learned the answer to a perplexing problem that also falls within the aegis of postal practices. I had a few postcards from the turn of the century franked with single 1c stamps and having the word **IMPRIME** (printed matter) either applied by handstamp or else handwritten. Surely the proper rate for a domestic postcard then was 5c. Could merely adding the word **IMPRIME** reduce this rate? While at the F&CPS of Great Britain's annual weekend at Leamington Spa, I learned the answer. This in addition to staying in a hotel that lists Sir Rowland Hill among its clients. One of the exhibitor/lecturers showed material from the Paris 1900 Exposition, which included three postcards with homemade bands about them, all bearing but a single 1c stamp. The knowledgeable and penurious of the time (*Editor's note*: May 1878 to September 1903), knew that by putting a wrapper (*bande*) around a postcard and writing the word **IMPRIME** on it, they could mail it for 1c instead of the normal 5c card rate, for a reduction of 80% in total cost. Not many examples, with bands still attached, remain today.

If any readers are perplexed by other problems that may relate to this area of postal practices, please share your questions with us. While one can never promise answers, the important thing is to investigate and to ask. In addition, I am also trying to identify other procedural routines that may fit my definition of "postal practices."

* * * * *

THE USE OF FISCALS TO DETERMINE DATE OF USAGE by Jerry Massler

One area of inquiry that fascinates many is the life and work of master forger Jean de Sperati. I recently acquired some material relating to the man, including an official copy of the statement of Edmond Locard, the police expert, in which he certified that all stamps seized while on their way from Sperati to a client in Lisbon were genuine and not imitations. This document bears a 60F fiscal handstamp and is on watermarked paper, but unfortunately is undated. Pursuant to a recent trip to England, I travelled down to Bournemouth to consult with Robson Lowe on the matter. As luck would have it, he had just given a presentation at the Royal Philatelic Society, London, of documents relating to Sperati's court case, with emphasis on the fiscal usages of the courts. He had the exact same document with, however, a 30F fiscal handstamp. As his document related to the 1944 trial and, on the assumption

that rates always seem to increase with time, we deduced that the document in my possession came from the sentencing procedure of 1948.

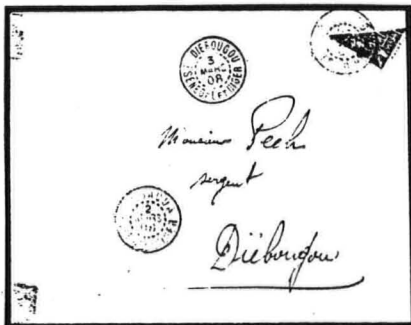
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THE GAOUA BISECTS OF MARCH 1908 - AN UPDATE by Ed Grabowski

Since the appearance of my article on the Gaoua bisects in the April 1993 issue of *F&C* (Whole Number 232), some additional information has become available which I wish to record in this note. A sixth cover has come into my collection via a recent mail sale of the firm of F. Brych. It is franked with a diagonal bisect of the 20c Group Type, and posted on March 2, 1908, the first day of use of the bisects (see illustration). The 10c rate was applicable to intra- and inter-colonial mail and mail to France at this time. The handwriting of the sender differs from the other five covers in my collection, particularly the four which were noted as coming from the same sender throughout the month. The letter was posted to a Monsieur Pech, who is designated as a sergeant in the military, in the near-by town of Dieboungou which was within 100 kilometers of Gaoua. The letter was received on March 3rd at Dieboungou, as indicated by the receiving date stamp struck on the front and back of the envelope. Certainly this appears to be another proper first-day use of the Gaoua bisect. This letter clearly shows that the village of Dieboungou could be reached in one day, and if additional supplies of Group Type stamps were available at that office, they could have been received at Gaoua within a day. In the previous article, I showed a letter posted on March 8th to the same village, yet it did not arrive until March 17th. Why the difference in delivery times (one and nine days)? This could simply be a reflection of the existing mail schedule from the village of Gaoua.

Relative to the four letters posted from Gaoua by the same sender over the period of March 2nd through March 30th, the first to the dealer Maury and the last to a Monsieur Lemaire in Paris, I received additional information on M. Lemaire from our member Alain Millet. It seems that Théophile Lemaire (1856-1943) was a stamp dealer and expert in Paris from 1885-on, who retired in 1933. He was a member of the French Academy, and purchased the Maury firm in 1912. Thus, it is quite clear that the sender of the four letters had strong philatelic connections.

Still the question of the actual length of the period of the shortage of low value Group Type stamps remains. Did the sender of the four letters have undue influence on the postmaster in Gaoua, and artificially extend the use of the bisects throughout the month? Certainly letters posted during the first week show proper use of the bisects. For the period thereafter, we will have to await the arrival of additional information.



THE SMILING ANGEL OF REIMS (L'ANGE AU SOURIRE) by Robert T. Kinsley

The enigmatic curl in the lips of the Mona Lisa cannot compare with the impish grin on the face of the angel watching over the Cathedral of Reims. That smile has been immortalized by one of the sinking-fund semi-postals of 1930 (Scott B34, Yvert 256). The stamp was designed by L. P. Rigal and engraved by A. Delzers, whose names appear in the lower border. It was the first large-format semi-postal issued in both sheet and booklet (Figures 1 and 2) formats, and maintained that status until the advent of the annual Red Cross booklets in 1952. This beautiful stamp has the distinction of having been the first to have its master die transferred to two different rotary-press plates, one for sheets of 25 stamps and the other for two booklet sheets of 8 stamps each (Figure 3), which were subsequently cut in half lengthwise. The stamp was authorized by Article 77 in the Postal Decree of 26 March 1927. Sheet stamps were printed from 2 to 22 January 1930; booklet stamps from 23 January to 4 February. They were sold only between 15 March and 15 April 1930 and became invalid for use after 15 April 1935. Of 580,000 sheet stamps printed, only 250,000 were sold; no comparable data are available for the far scarcer booklets. This stamp is frequently absent from domestic listings of offers of French stamps. Recent catalog and other valuations for mint stamps are: full sheet of 25 (21,000F), single stamp (840F; \$50 in Scott); complete booklet (6350F); booklet pane of 4 (2800F; \$325 in Scott). Paris dealer Behr has from time to time offered a deluxe proof for 1600F, black proof for 1500F, and blue *épreuve d'artiste* for 2500F. There are no reported errors, nor imperforate varieties, nor shades for this lilac-rose stamp.

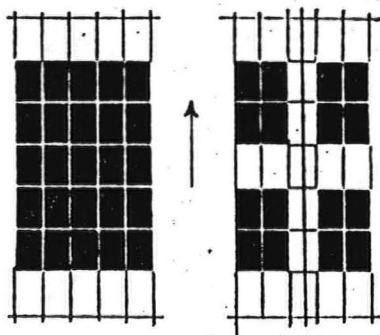


Figure 3. sheet (left) and booklet (right) layouts; arrow shows direction of rotation of cylinders; stamps shown in black, margins and selvage in white.



Figure 1. Booklet cover, printed by heliogravure



Figure 2. Complete booklet (recess printed)

JACQUES DESROUSSEAUX
(1912-1993)

At the beginning of August last we were saddened to learn of the death of Jacques Desrousseaux, the foremost specialist in the stamps and postal history of Indochina.

Born in 1912, he graduated first in his class at the world-renowned Polytechnique, and selected the Colonial Corps as his choice of governmental service. In 1935 he was appointed comptroller for the mines in Indochina. In this capacity he travelled throughout the country in the exercise of his duties.

A stamp collector even before he left France, his interests soon involved Indochina philately. When he returned to France in 1947, he began his researches into the cancellations and postal history of Indochina, regretting all along not having begun these studies while still in the country.

Through an excellent background, a superlative memory, and numerous investigations, he was able to publish, in the early 1970s, a veritable encyclopedia on "Les Postes Françaises en Extrême-Orient." This work, issued in four volumes, has since been regularly updated. The last update issued was dated 22 May 1993!

He was always ready to share his knowledge, and I was lucky enough to meet him often at the open-air stamp market in Paris, and always obtaining answers to questions regarding Indochina postal history.

His vast knowledge and kindness will be missed by all collectors of French Indochina. His passing leaves a major void, for at present, there isn't another "Jacques Desrousseaux" in our ranks.

--Alain Millet (Paris).

JOHN B. MORTON
(1902-1993)

John B. Morton, FCPS Member #79 and APS 50-year member, passed away in his sleep on 16 October 1993 at the age of 91.

Our long-time member and friend was a very eclectic but well-informed collector of most things French. As I recall, his interests included the Paris Stars and later Paris markings, departmental cancels, Alsace-Lorraine, radiodiffusion stamps (on which he wrote a short article in *FCP*, July 1969), telephone stamps, revenues, and shades of the Classic and Sage issues. He was very knowledgeable about this material and eager to share his knowledge with neophyte collectors. Among his now-long-departed correspondents were Dr. Carroll Chase, Dr. Fromageat, Art Merrick, Ray Smith, Frederik Eaton, and Harold Metzger, which made him sort of a link with our past. John was, until his declining, post-1985 years, a witty correspondent and a good source of information, and always remained a good, learned, and agreeable friend. He will be missed by many of us.

--SJLuft.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 235-1). What is the significance of these "wings" (in lieu of year date) in Brazzaville date stamp, on a non-philatelic card of March 1900 (pre-airmail, obviously) to Cumba? (JP)



Q. 235-2). Off-cover 5c Cérés of 1872-76 with negative "boxed" T41 or 141 or /4/ or ? Not from Paris 41, which didn't open until 1878. Guesses include bag seal from Paris 4, or some sort of non-postal marking, used as a New Year's cancel, or some foreign marking. Any ideas? (JEL)



A. 234-1). "Via Brindisi" was the usual 1871-on route for mail travelling by ship in the Mediterranean, to destinations in northern France and beyond (mainly Great Britain.) Mail, offloaded at Brindisi, went by train to Paris and Calais, via Ancona, Bologna, Turin, Modane, Macon, and Dijon (and return, of course), once the tunnel through the Alps at the Mont Cenis Pass was operative, beginning late 1871 (JG and RTK.) (And see "The Modane Ambulant" in a forthcoming number of this Journal.)

OUR PROBLEM COVERS

234-2). According to Salles (Vol. VI) Line V did stop at Madagascar, ship 3 being the "Oxus" and the postmark Salles N° 2316. Indian (Bengali) troops were then (1897) serving in Madagascar and Indochina, and your letter could have originated in either place. The maritime marking was applied at Djibouti, whence mail was collected for conveyance to France. This analysis may be confusing or helpful, but we hope for the latter--(RTK).

CUT-OUT CUT-UPS

by Bob Kinsley

Out of the many hundred of Indochina military covers in my collection, two envelopes bear seemingly machine-cut large-diameter holes in the upper right corners. That in the 1907 Saigon envelope (Figure 1) -- from a submariner, according to the administrative cachet on back -- is 28mm across and only goes through the front. That in the 1915 Bac Ninh envelope is 30mm in diameter and goes right through from front to back. Whatever for?

As early as 1839, there was a proposal to have holes in envelopes so that departure and arrival postmarks would show through on the enclosed letters,

thereby providing the same posting data as businessmen already enjoyed on folded letters. In 1846, the authorities approved the use of envelopes created by stationer Marion, with holes on both sides surrounded by the instructional markings *Timbre de la Poste - Départ* on front (Figure 3) and *Arrivée* on back (1). This was such a nuisance to postal employees that they were recalled after only a few years use and are probably very scarce.

Note that, on my covers, the departure postmarks did not land within the holes. While the Saigon envelope is just the right size to enclose a postcard that would then receive a postmark, a similar enclosure in the larger Bac Ninh envelope could shift many millimeters. Has anyone a logical explanation for these early 20th Century cut-outs?

(Assoc. Editor's Note: Many years ago, the late Jean Pothion explained this to me, regarding a similar French expeditionary corps to China envelope of the early 1900s. As I dimly recall now, the envelope was to protect an enclosed picture postcard, and the hole (front side only) was to receive the local cancellation so that the unaddressed, pristine enclosure would appear to have "travelled." But we'll gladly accept other alternative explanations.)

(1) Brainerd Kremer, "French Philatelic Facts," Jan.-June 1949; reprinted in Billig's Philatelic Handbook, Vol. 29, p. 10.

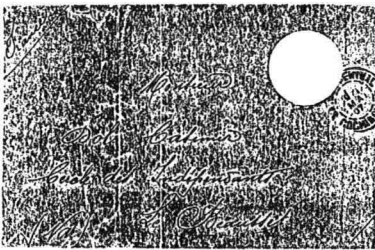


Figure 1



Figure 2

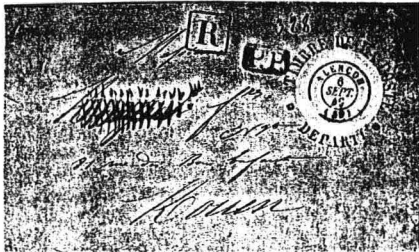


Figure 3

**BASIC SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THE POSTAL HISTORY OF
A COUNTRY, WITH A REVIEW OF THE AUTHOR'S
RESEARCH METHODS**
by Laurence H. Lambert

(Editor's Note: Some readers might at first think this is "just another Algerian article," and pass it by. It's much more than that. This is a well-considered contribution that should be read and digested by all would-be philatelic writers, exhibitors, and collectors--whether beginners or experts. Students of areas other than Algeria should, of course, consult other archives and written sources than those referred to by Larry. The basic sources, however, remain universally applicable.)

As indicated by the title, this article reviews the sources of information on the postal history of a country, and provides a personal note as to how the author goes about using these sources. It is hoped that a few readers will find this article helpful in moving ahead. Readers who already are experts may be reminded of their own struggle for knowledge.

Most of us who are students of postal history seek knowledge. In seeking this knowledge, we may explore several sources or only a few. This will depend on the level of knowledge to which we individually aspire. This author does not pretend to know all available sources of information. In this article, five basic sources will be discussed. Illustrations used will pertain to my own specialty, the post offices and hand cancels of Algeria.

The basic sources of information on the postal history of a country are (1) archives, (2) writings, (3) facts passed from one person to another orally or by mail, (4) covers, and (5) markings on loose stamps. The last two sources are closely related, and some readers may consider them as a single source; this article treats them separately.

Archival sources, in the cases of France and Algeria, consist partially of records kept by the postal administrations on the names and dates of the post offices opened. For Algeria, there is also postal information to be found among the archives on colonization. A third source are the records of the Bureau of Arab Affairs. Part of the records are in Paris, part in Aix-en-Provence, and part are in Algeria.

Records began as early as 1840 for Algeria, and continued at least until 1914. In addition to the opening dates for the post offices, the dates of change in classification are often given. Also a part of the archival records are the well-known **PC** and **GC** numbering systems, the latter of which extended until 1895, although they were not to be used on cancellations after 1876.

Archival sources may be scattered, difficult to access, and almost impossible to search personally, but it may be done by mail to some extent, if one is persistent. The author has himself recently obtained from archival sources a list of the post offices existent in Algeria in 1902 (Figure 1). Published recently is a part of an archival discovery for Algeria. The discovery consists of one page for each post office existent in Algeria in 1902. The page shows an example of the *griffe* (used on registry labels, etc.), an example of the circular date stamp, and the signatures of the postal agents. These recent informational acquisitions from archival sources have been very helpful to me.

Many of the early writings on Algerian postal history used archival sources as a primary basis for the work. Undoubtedly, the authors consulted the archives directly. (The reader is referred to a bibliography on Algerian post office names and cancel types, published in *FCP* for October 1992, p. 100-103, for an indication of some works which are heavily based on archival sources.) Archives are highly reliable sources for information on the postal history, and should not be overlooked in the search for information that is needed.

A second source for information on the postal history is the writings of others. These may be books or booklets, catalogs, pamphlets, articles in periodicals, or unpublished manuscripts. They are usually based on archival sources, works of others, or one of the other basic sources for the postal history. They often contain summarizations, reformatings, additional facts discovered, or conclusions which extend the basic postal history. Writings are the primary source of information on the postal history for most of us, and perhaps the only source for some.

Writings are usually easily available, and there is usually little excuse for us not to have the basic facts we need. Most of us belong to one or more philatelic societies and are subscribers to one or more of the major philatelic libraries. There is an abundance of written information available. Nevertheless, we often find that what we need to know is not available; and if we want to know badly enough, we must discover the answers for ourselves.

With regard to information from others, whether written in publications or information passed directly, which is considered below, one cannot be too careful. Authors and others have their own biases or their own points to make, and sometimes give out erroneous or misleading information. One should evaluate one's sources carefully, and

check information at every opportunity. Additionally, some authors will repeat the errors that are to be found in earlier writings.

Another important source for postal history are facts passed orally or by mail from one person to another. Many of us ask questions of those who have more knowledge than ourselves. Facts from others become a basic source when an author consults with other experts, learns new facts from them, and publishes these facts. For those familiar with the Charles ab der Halden and E. H. de Beaufond (see references in *FCP*, October 1990, p. 119, January 1991, p. 14, and April 1991, p. 39-41) work on Algerian postal history, it must be obvious that many people were consulted on the postal markings, and that facts from others were a primary source of the published postal history in that work.

This author has obtained, as well as given, important information by mail. An example is a letter to an author who published a list of post offices, some of which I questioned. No other person or source could have unequivocally retracted any of these post office names other than that author himself. By writing him directly, I was able to erase six post office names from a published list, and be correct beyond any doubt. Without this personal contact, these facts would have been lost to me. (See Figure 2.)

My experience has been that most authors and other experts will share their knowledge. Even though I write French poorly, I have not hesitated to contact French authors and other experts, and have always been rewarded with an answer to my inquiry. Personal contact is highly recommended as an important source of knowledge, and one that we should all use, if we can be helped.

A fourth source on postal history, and one that is highly important to many of us, are markings or rare stamp usages on the covers. Indeed, markings on the covers may be the major collecting pursuit of most of us who are interested in postal history. A study of the cancellations and other postal markings on cover has been the primary source of information for many books and articles. The books by ab der Halden and de Beaufond, and by Langlois and Bourselet, may be cited as examples of the use of information obtained from covers, and thousands of covers must have been studied in each case.¹

The author himself has been able to document from covers some very late usages of some of the pre-1904 cancel types of Algeria, and has published these late usages in *FCP* for July 1991, p. 68-69. An example of a pre-1904 cancel type used on cover in 1943 is pictured in *FCP* for January 1991, p. 12.

Probably the best example of a cover, obtained by the author, which furnished a new postal-history fact is the cover from the Bosquet post office (Figure 3), dated 1880. Archival sources, quoted by several authors, indicated that Bosquet did not become a post office name until 1883. This is an example where one source of information contradicts another, and the archival source in this case is proved wrong.

A fifth source of information on postal history are cancellations on loose stamps. Many authors, as well as other students, have used this source of information a lot, and some not at all. Again, the book by ab der Halden and de Beaufond serves as an example, as it has used all five of the sources listed by the author, and probably to the fullest extent possible. Cancels on loose (detached) stamps are specifically cited by them in some cases. We all know that **PCs** and **GCs** on loose stamps have long been used to corroborate postal history data.

A most remarkable recent work which uses cancels on loose stamps as its only source is *Catalogue des Cachets à Date de France sur SAGE Détachés du 1-4-76 au 31-12-1900 - Bureaux d'Algérie et Bureaux Français à l'Etranger*, by Armand Mathieu, published in 1985. This is a publication based on pure research, and lists every inscription and every cancel type encountered. It appears to have been based on the study of many thousands of loose stamps. I believe Monsieur Mathieu did this for France as well. The new discoveries for Algeria are most impressive.

Searching for new information on postal history by studying the cancellations on loose stamps is the favorite, as well as the primary, research method used by this author. The reasons will be obvious. Most of the written material on post offices and cancels of Algeria have been read and reread. Archives are not easily available. Most facts that are

¹One should never ignore messages that may have survived in these covers, for they may contain important information, some of which could bear upon contemporary postal history.

needed from others would have to come from specialists in France, if available at all. Covers are limited in number, availability, and applicability. They are more expensive, and most of the good covers are retained in collections. Stamps are easily available, cheap, and often unsorted or only partially sorted. Considering the fact that I search for new information, rather than to build an impressive collection, detached stamps provide the needed help more frequently, and less expensively, than any other source.

Every stamp which I can obtain that might have an Algerian cancel is searched with a magnifier. While I look at all the 1849-1962 stamps, stamps of the 1902-1962 period have been the most productive, and this time period is the least researched of any. Thus, my primary need is for French stamps of 1900-1924, Algerian stamps of 1924-1958, and again, French stamps of 1958-1962, for the last days of French Algeria.

To find something new is not the only goal. Everything identified is inserted into an analog (handmade) data base from which patterns emerge and conclusions can be drawn. Examples of useful cancellations are filed in an album, so that they can be consulted when needed. New discoveries will eventually be published.

A few examples of discoveries or new information learned from the cancels on loose stamps are shown in Figures 4 through 8. With each figure is a write-up to indicate what was learned from the cancels. In addition to the above-listed figures, see *FCP* for January 1991, p. 10 and 13, and April 1991, p. 38, for other examples of cancels of Algeria not previously published by any author, to my knowledge.

Finally, the author has made extensive use of all sources of information; but at the same time, all the sources discussed may not be applicable to the work of others. Regardless of how we go about getting the information we need, we may make the best progress possible by being fully aware of all the sources. There are always new facts being learned, and many yet to be discovered. Those who would extend their knowledge to the fullest will undoubtedly want to use all the sources of information that are applicable.

POSTES, TÉLÉGRAPHES ET TÉLÉPHONES

DÉPARTEMENT D'ALGER

Direction.

(Rue Dumont-d'Urville, 12).

De Barolet, A. J., directeur des Postes et des Télégraphes du département et de la Télégraphie militaire de la 1^{re} région. Commissaire du Gouvernement pour les services maritimes postaux.

Courty, inspecteur-ingénieur, chargé du service électrique.

Augé, sous-ingénieur.

Nicolas, inspecteur.

Genty, id.

Cadiou, S., inspecteur.

Favre, inspecteur.

Hasselot, rédacteur.

Baby, id.

Imbert, id.

Marchal, id.

Courty, id.

Rigaud, id.

Sicard, rédacteur, régisseur-comptable.

Treuil, rédacteur.

Besudron, id.

Roy, id.

Ottavi, expéditionnaire.

Kerhardy, id.

Maumus, id.

Barrau, id.

Giraud, brigadier facteur.

Lequin, id.

Cluzet, chef surveillant.

Cassabois, id.

Robin, gardien de bureau.

Blanc, facteur des télégraphes.

Sémaphores.

Bouzarén : Poher, chef guetteur.

Cap Matifou : Bouillard, chef guetteur.

Recettes des Postes et Télégraphes.

Berrouaghia : Donzey, receveur.

Birkadam : M^{me} Klein, receveuse.

Birmandreix : M^{me} Mienné, receveuse.

Birtoula : M^{me} Pietri, receveuse.

Bida : Corbière, receveur.

Boghar : Crouzet, receveur.

Boghari : Moge, receveur.

Bordj-Ménasid : Wanner, receveur.

Boufarik : Toussaint, receveur.

Bouira : Delpy, receveur.

Bou-Medja : Vincent, receveur.

Bou-Saïda : du Saillant du Luc, receveur.

Bouzarén : M^{me} Vve Leroy, receveuse.

Caracol : Touze, receveur.

Castiglione : M^{me} Willemin, receveuse.

Charon : N., receveur.

Chébi : Laguerre, receveur.

Chellala : Barbier, receveur.

Chérages : Rampini, receveur.

Cherchell : Morani, receveur.

Chiffa : Yve Arestan, receveuse.

Colda : Demorgny, receveur.

Dellys : Colnat, receveur.

Dély-Israhim : V. Baly, receveuse.

Djelfa : Nadal, receveur.

Douera : M^{me} Kappler, receveuse.

Drâ-el-Mizan : Gras, receveur.

Farès : Beaulieu, receveur.

Duperré : M^{me} Lacombe, receveuse.

El-Afroun : Sauvage, receveur.

El-Biar : M^{me} de Raffen, receveuse.

El-Golda : Freydier-Dubreuil, receveur.

Fondouk : de Maximy, receveur.

Fort-de-l'Eau : M^{me} V. Salvadini, receveuse.

Fort-National : Balard, receveur.

Fouka : Vidal, receveur.

Ghardaia : Bayonne, receveur.

Gauraya : M^{me} Guibaud, receveuse.

Guyotville : M. Riolsaci, receveur.

Hamam-Rirha : M^{me} Person, receveuse.

Hautonvillers : Port, receveur.

Hussein-Dey : M^{me} Andrieu, receveuse.

Iserville : M^{me} Kling, receveuse.

Kouba : M^{me} Accali, receveuse.

Laghouat : Alaux, receveur.

Lavigerie : M^{me} V. Faret, receveuse.

Maillet : M^{me} Roussel, receveuse.

Figure 1

An example of information recently acquired from archival sources. By writing to the French archives, the author was able to obtain a list of all the post offices existing in Algeria in 1902 (a few hundred), along with the name of the postal agent. Illustrated is part of the first page of this acquisition. It may be worthwhile to investigate archival sources, where important postal history information is still being found.

Bureau	Il exista sous l'administration française? (oui, non, inconnu)	Date d'ouvrant, si connu (l'année)	Le plus tôt date de cachet connu	Autre question
BIRMANDREIS B GA	Oui	avant 1960		
BONE-OUED KOUBA	Oui	avant 1955		C'est une recette distribution? Oui
CONSTANTINE-CITE GAILLARD	Oui	1961		
DJEBELA en enu DJEHLA AP	Oui	1910		
EL ANSER EL HANSSER AP	Oui	avant ? 1956	J'ai 3/4/1962	C'est un bureau nouveau, ou orthographe nouvelle?
EL OULDAJ-Faute de Fraffe EL OULOUJ SAS	Oui	21/7/59		
FERNANDVILLE AP	Oui	entre 1958/60		
HASSI R'MEL AP	peu par l'Administration Française mais pas en France	1962	J'ai 21/12/1962	
ICHERRADINE ICHEKRIDENE AP	Oui	après 1958	J'ai 4/7/1961	
MAALA SAS	Oui	entre 1960/62		
MECHTRAS MECHTRAS R	Oui	avant ? 1956	J'ai 23/11/1958	
OUR LAL AP OUR LAL AP	Oui	1913		C'est autrefois Oural? Oui

Figure 2

An example of postal history information passed from one person to another by mail. (Reduced from page-size.) Information was requested from an author who had published a list of post offices. I myself drew the table, typed the headings in my poor French, listed the post offices questioned, and sent the prepared table to the author, along with a letter. His replies are in a pen and ink, and are corrections to his own work.

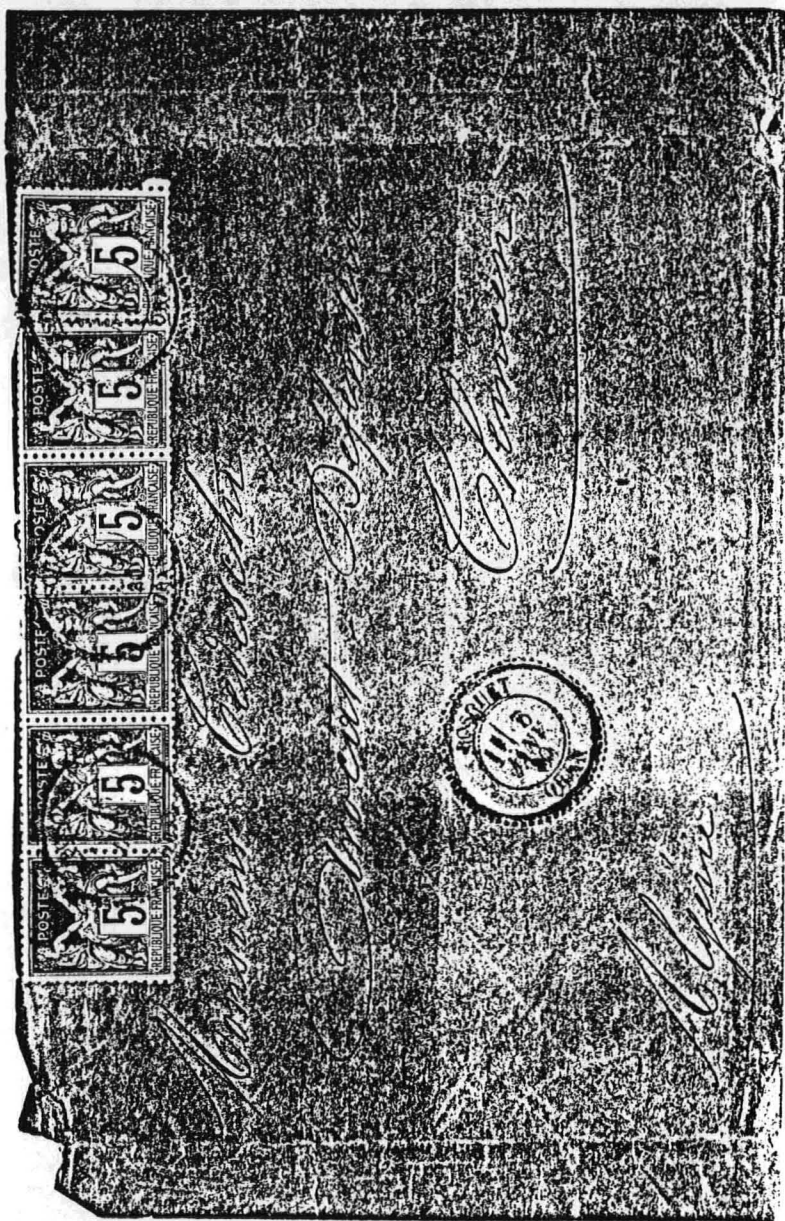


Figure 3

This cover postmarked at Bosquet in 1880 documents a change in the date of opening for that post office. All previous authors indicate that the post office at BLAD EL HADJADJ did not change its name to BOSQUET until 1883. This is an example where primary sources of information disagree. The cover is genuine, and has on the reverse a transit and a receiving cancel, both verifying the 1880 date.



Figure 4

Information from a cancel on a loose stamp.

ALGER L is a Recette Auxiliaire with a hexagonal cancel. It hitherto was not listed as a post office in any publication known to the author. Thus, the above cancel documents a new post office for Algeria. (Lettering on the illustration is enhanced, for readability.)

Figure 5

Information from cancellations on loose stamps.

Neither the composite newspaper cancel, left, or the Type M2 cancel, right, have ever been pictured before, or described and classified as cancel types, as far as the author knows. Thus, from cancels on loose stamps, we are able to discover two cancel types previously unknown. The one is a newspaper cancel unique to Oran; the other is a cancel of 1902, modified in 1948, and given a four-digit year dater. It has been used at Saida, as depicted, and at one other office.



Figure 6

Information from a cancellation on a loose stamp.

According to one author, the post office at ORAN - R. MIRAUCHAUX was opened "about 1924," and according to another, 1921. The cancel on the fragment to the left established an earlier (1919) date than previously known.



Figure 7

Information from cancellations on loose stamps.

For Algeria, the dates of changes in classification for many post offices, thus the date of change in cancel types, are often unknown. The pairs of stamps at the top show two cancels of BERARD dated 1936. From them, we learn that Berard ceased using the dashed-line cancel, and began using the solid-line cancel, in 1936. The second pair of cancels (above right and at upper left of p. 18) indicates that TROLARD-TAZA used one cancel type in 1936 and another in 1941. Thus, we can document that the change occurred between those dates. The third pair shows MARGUERITTE as a recette in 1931 (on a fragment, top middle on p. 18) but in a lower class by 1937 (upper right on p. 18). The latter two pairs are examples where cancels of intervening years are needed to narrow the gap.



Figure 7 (continued)

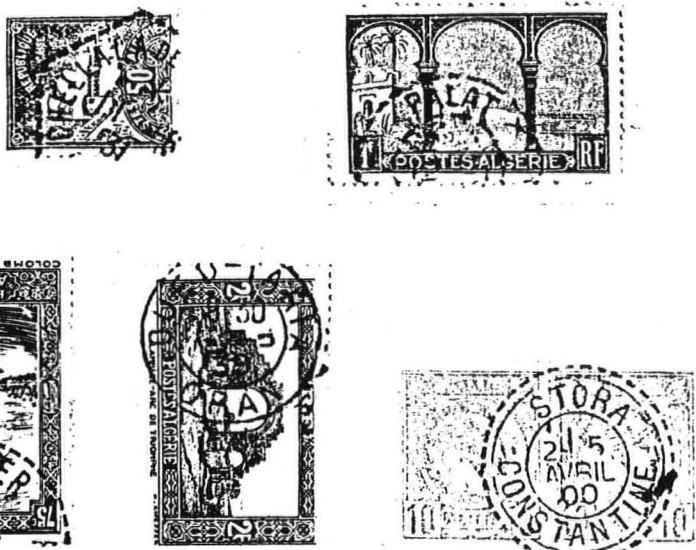


Figure 8

Other information from cancels on loose stamps. To the author's knowledge, no one has published the information as to when the post office at CHELLALA DES ADAOURAS was opened. Langlois and Bourselet did not know of it in 1930, but I have the cancel, above left, dated 1931. By 1936, it was non-existent, having been renamed. The author-experts say that the cancel type of PALAT, above right, which is unique, was used about 1910 to about 1920. Though the example above has no readable date, the stamp was issued in 1926, so the cancel was still being used that late. Again, the authors say that the post office of PAUL DOUMER used only the hexagon type cancel. The illustration, lower left, documents an earlier type. No author is aware, apparently, that the post office at OUED TARIA used the rare cancel Type K2, as shown in middle of lower row. It was a Type L canceler when Oued Taria opened in 1889, and was twice modified, and still in use in 1939. Finding Algerian cancels on stamps of Greece, as the one of STORA, lower right, is fun, but not of much significance.

RANDOM JOTTINGS FROM YOUR ASSOCIATE EDITOR

There is much need for information, by fledgling and advanced collectors alike, on how to obtain stamps and covers abroad--particularly in France--via auction and net-price sales.

We would like to have your personal input, so that we can print a joint and continuing effort from all respondents, hopefully in time for the next number of our journal. Your comments can be general or specific. Topics to be addressed should include: (1) names and addresses of recommended (*and* otherwise) dealers and firms; (2) hints regarding successful bidding; (3) the definitions, and variations-among-dealers, of *beau*, *très beau*, *très très beau*, and *superbe*; (4) the distinctions between *ventes sur offres* and *ventes aux enchères publiques*, and how mail bids and payments be made for each type of auction; (5) best (and not so good) ways, and definitely the most economical ways of paying for your purchases; (6) successful return of incorrectly described material; (7) how to *sell* in France and elsewhere--and obtain payment for your material; (8) perhaps most importantly, what we neglected to suggest here. *Toutes nos remerciements en avance!*

For those of us with advanced, specialized collections, the market--when we must come to sell--is in Europe, particularly France. What might be some safe and legal ways to get the material over there, for the majority of members who are not, of course, residents of the European Community?

A belated correction to the July 1993 number. Last line of 1st paragraph on p. 79 should read: "...to include departmental numerals."

In Bob Kinsley's October 1993 "French Marcophily--Entry Markings," one should add the following reference to his Endnote N° 4: *and J. Bergier and V. Pothion, "France--Poste Maritime Préphilatélique"; Les Feuilles Marcophiles, Suppl. to N° 263, 1990.*

Response to the July 1993 editorial has not been exactly overwhelming. Perhaps most readers are eminently satisfied with this product. However, and even if you have no articles, notes, questions, answers, or appeals to submit, we'd still like to hear from you on your likes, dislikes, and suggestions for general improvement of this journal.

This year marks the appearance of Volume 50 of our *Philatelist*, a proud record for any Society. For having endured for so long, and for having encouraged, produced, and published so much good literature, we tip our hats and our glasses (St. Emilion in mine!) to the only editors our journal has had during these 50 years, Dr. Charles J. Vaurie (only briefly), Stephen G. Rich, and Robert G. Stone.

FRENCH CONTINGENT IN EX-YUGOSLAVIA (A PERIODIC UPDATE)

French military-postal bureaus (BPMs) were localized as follows, as of late Spring 1993:

BPM 651: Zagreb (Croatia), for FORPRONU staff;

BPM 652: Belgrade (Serbia), for logistic-support detachment; closed 6 May 1993;

BPM 653: Zagreb; for HQ of French contingent, etc.;

BPM 654: Gracac (Serb-occupied Croatia), for an infantry battalion;

BPM 655: Sarajevo (Bosnia), for miscellaneous support and relief forces;

BPM 656: Bihac (Croat-occupied Bosnian pocket), for humanitarian escort battalion;

BPM 657: Split (Croatian Adriatic coast), for helicopter base;

BPM 658: Katanj (Bosnia)--opened 1 June 1993, for engineers battalion.

French forces with the UN (including in Cambodia, etc.) totalled 4,900 men. They benefit from the free franchise on mail under 20 gm; all other services are at French domestic rates.--(SJLuft)

THE BLUE, THE RED AND THE GREEN A MYSTERY SOLVED by Lawrence H. Jones

(Editor's Note: Member Larry Jones started collecting at an early age, then returned to the fold in the mid-1980s. His interests include French Classics, General Issues of the Colonies, and the Mariannes de Gandon. This is his first-ever philatelic article. He has also prepared an article on European postal rates and resultant issued stamps, for a future number of The American Philatelist.)

I remember, back when I was a kid collecting stamps, looking at the 1923 - 1926 Louis Pasteur Issue of France and thinking, "How unimaginative and boring of the French Post Office Department to print these twelve stamps honoring Louis Pasteur in just three colors -- green and red and blue!"

When I finally returned to stamp collecting a few years ago, I purchased a box full of Western European covers addressed to the Bureau of Patents in Washington, D.C., and decided to arrange the French covers in chronological order. I found, as the rates changed, that one after another of the blue Pasteur stamps could be used for the foreign letter rate, and the mystery began to unravel.

As I began to receive copies of the *France and Colonies Philatelist*, I became aware of Stanley J. Luft's excellent serial publication, "The Regular Issues of France According to their Normal Postal Usage," which was an eye-opener to me, explaining why various denominations were printed when they were. Luft's reference to "UPU blue" and "UPU red" led me to the fact that in 1878 the Universal Postal Union suggested that member countries print stamps in distinct colors for the current international rates: blue for the letter rate, red for the postal card rate, and green for the printed matter rate.

Voila! The solution of the Pasteur mystery! The issue had been printed exclusively for the international rates! Investigation into the postal rates of France showed me that, when the Pasteur stamps were first issued in 1923 to commemorate the centenary of Louis Pasteur's birth, the rate for foreign letters was 50c, the rate for foreign postal cards 30c, and the rate for foreign printed matter 10c. And so, those stamps were printed in the appropriate colors.

But, unfortunately, these were economically troubled times for France. And before a full year had elapsed since the stamps were issued, all the rates had to be raised. Rather than scuttle the Pasteur commemoratives, the Postal Service decided to re-issue them in the new denominations: 75c blue for for-

eign letters, 45c red for postal cards, and 15c green for printed matter, reflecting the rate increase which went into effect April 1, 1924.

These new rates lasted for little more than a year (fifteen and a half months), when, in July 1925, new rates were instituted: 1fr for letters, 60c for postal cards, and 20c for printed matter. The 1fr and 20c Pasteur were issued in the appropriate colors, but, for the 60c rate, the Postal Service decided that the 60c light violet lined sower stamp, issued the previous year, would fill the need.

These rates were in effect for only six and a half months before new rates were decreed for February 1, 1926: 1fr25 for letters, 75c for postal cards, and 25c for printed matter. Only the 1fr25 Pasteur was issued in blue for the letter rate, but these rates lasted for only six months.

On August 1, 1926, postal rates were instituted which would last for eleven years: 1fr50 was set for foreign letters, 90c for postal cards, and 30c for printed matter; and all three of these rates were met with new values of the Pasteur issue in the appropriate colors. Thus the Pasteur stamps could finally achieve their purpose -- to be used for several years to commemorate Louis Pasteur -- and incidentally to trip-up unwary stamp collectors.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

New Issues and Withdrawals
 (continued from FCP #234, October 1993, p. 120)

France

- 23 May 1993: red permanent value Marianne de Briat in coil form;
- 12 July: 2,40F green M. de Briat; booklet of ten red permanent value M. de Briat stamps, sold at 28F;
- 23 July: 20F booklet of seven permanent value red stamps + one 0,70F brown M. de Briat, all self-adhesive, for use in Sterners vending machines;
- 26 July: 4,40F blue M. de Briat;
- 9 August: 3,50F light green M. de Briat;
- August: 2,40F green M. de Briat coil stamp;

- 4 (6) September: 2,80F Chaise-Dieu Abbey (Haute-Loire);
- 9 (13) September: 2,80F 50th Anniv. of Liberation of Corsica; 5F Art of Georges de La Tour;
- 11 (13) September; 4,40F Montbéliard (Doubs);
- 25 (27) September: 3,70F Bicent. of Val-de-Grâce Hospital;
- 27 September: 2,80F Postal people circumnavigating the globe (same design as 2,50F stamp of February 1993);
- 2 (4) October: 5F Art of Maurice Denis; 2,80F National Center of Circus Arts;
- 9 (11) October: 4,40F Lambesc--Le Jacquemard (clock-tower figures); 5F Art of Takis (Contemporary European Art series);
- 23 (25) October: UNESCO 2,80F, 3,70F (gigantic sculpture at Angkor, Cambodia, rock painting at Tassili n'Ajjer, Algeria);
- 21 (25) October: "The Pleasures of Writing" 33,60F booklet of twelve 2,80F stamps (originally prepared as 2,50F stamps; same designs and cover--see April 1993 *FCP*, p. 58-59);
- 10 (15) November: 15F sheetlet of two 2,40F flower stamps + two labels, for Le Salon du Timbre (announcing the October 1994 event at Paris Floral Park);
- 20 (22) November: 14,40F Bicent. of the Louvre Museum horiz. strip of 4,40F + 2,80F + label + 4,40F + 2,80F;
- 27 (29) November: 2,80F + 0,60F Red Cross issue ("Image of Metz," showing St. Nicholas); the same in 34F booklet.

Withdrawals: 10 September: Year I of the Republic--Proclamation of the Republic (4 red small-format stamps at 2,50F); 2,50F Postal people circumnavigating the globe; 2,50F Mediterranean Games; 4,00F Indochina War Memorial at Fréjus;
 15 October: 1992 Red Cross issue 2,50F + 0,60F, and 31F booklet; 2, 3, 4, 5F Protected Duck species; 2,20F, 2,50F, 3,40F M. de Briat;
 30 October: Pre-cancels at 1,73F, 2,25F, 3,51F, and 5,40F;
 12 November: UNESCO 2,50F and 3,40F.

Andorra

- 7 (9) August: 2,40F, 2,80F Andorra's first escutcheon; Arms of Andorra in 28F booklet of ten x 2,80F;
- 18 (20) September: 2,80F Tenth Anniv. of the Andorran School;
- 16 (18) October: 5F Art of Michael Warren (group of columns);
- 6 (8) November: 5,60F Art of E. Dietman.

Withdrawals: 10 September: Summer Olympics;

15 October: Art of Mauro Staccioli; Art of Denis Oppenheim; 2,20F Shield of Andorra; 25F booklet.

French Polynesia

- 2 August: 140F International Symposium on Interplate Volcanism;
- 14 August: 46F TAIPEI 93 (sold at 60F);
- 27 September: World Tourism Day 14F, 20F, 29F;
- 14 October: 100F 150th Anniv. of arrival of first gendarmes in Polynesia.

French Southern & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

- 1 January 1994: 0,40F Arms; 1,00F mineral cordierite; 2,00F the Kerguelen cat; 2,40F "the 1000th falsehood"?; 2,80F Robert Pommier; 2,80F *prion de Salvin*; 3,70F *rascasse*; 4,30F ship "Le Kerguelen de Tremarec"; 15F copepods; 23F scientific management of fisheries; 26,70F CNES satellite station; 27,30F Lidar Station; 28F arrival of Emperor penguins; 2,80F + 23F C.A. Vincendon triptych.

Monaco

- 28 July: Prince Rainier III 2,40F, 2,80F, 3,70F, 40F;
- 18 (20) September: 101st session of Intern. Olympic Committee 22,40F booklet of eight x 2,80F and 36F booklet of eight x 4,50F;
- 10 November: 5F and 6F Monaco Red Cross; 4F 150th birth anniv. of Edvard Grieg; 5F birth cent. of Joan Miro; 6F 400th Anniv. of birth of Georges de La Tour; 2,40F Cent. of Philatelic Union of Monaco; Noel 1993 (Provençale Nativity figurines) 2,80F, 3,70F, 4,40F.

Withdrawals: 27 July: Rainier III 2,20F, 2,50F, 3,40F; 30F Rainier III + Prince

Albert airmail; 22F "La porte neuve" booklet.

New Caledonia

- June: 50F Cagou Bird definitive, surcharged 55F;
- 24 July: Little Train of Thio 115F airmail;
- 1 (2) October: BANGKOK 93, two airmail stamps at 30F (orchids); 140F S.S.;
- 9 (11) October: 85F airmail for 10th Anniv. of Air Caledonia;
- 15 (16) October: 100F airmail for 100th Anniv. of telephone cable between Australia and New Caledonia.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 13 September: M. de Briat 2,40F, 3,50F, 4,40F overprinted for St. Pierre-et-Miquelon; ditto on red permanent value stamps for 28F booklet;
- 6 (11) October: 3,70F Prefect's residence;
- 8 November: 20F Sterners vending-machine booklet of seven permanent value + one 0,70f brown M. de Briat imperf. self-adhesive stamps, ovpt. for St. Pierre-et-Miquelon.

Withdrawals: 8 October: 17,60F Dolisle Valley triptych;

15 October: 2,20F, 2,50F, and 25F booklet: M. de Briat overprinted for St.P et M.; 5F "Le Pou du ciel"; 10F Piper Tomahawk plane.

Wallis & Futuna

- 14 August: 435F TAIPEI 93;
- 15 August: 30F Tapa Church (Wallis) and 30F Vilamaila Church (Futuna);
- 6 September: Fish: 27F, 53F;
- 22 September: 400F airmail for Year II of the Republic.

For those interested in French fiscals, we have just run into "An Index of Revenue Articles which have appeared in Serial Publications," by Richard F. Riley; suppl. to *The American Revenuer*, Vol. 46, no. 6, June 1992. French Colonies (General) are listed on p. 32, France on p. 32-34. Most of the articles referred to were published years, even decades, ago.

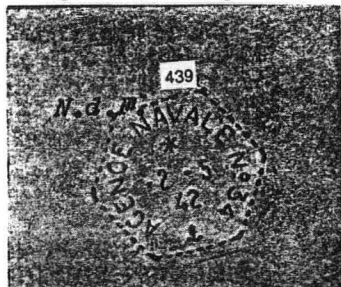
"Via Airmail: An Aerophilatelic Survey of Events, Routes, and Rates," published 1992 (but publicized to the public-at-large only in Summer 1993) by the American Air Mail Society, is full of interesting information, and includes two articles by FCPS members. Cheryl Ganz wrote on "United States Zeppelin Mail Rates," and Ernst Cohn on "World's First Night Airmail, the 1870 Paris Balloon *Le Général Urich*." Good work, guys! The book also includes another article of interest to FCPS members, "Mermoz Trans-Atlantic Flights, 1930," by E. P. Sloan.

Editor Bob Stone has been further honored by being named to the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit 30 Hall of Fame. The honor was bestowed upon Bob at STaMpsHOW '93, Houston, on 22 August.

Stamp designer and engraver Jacques Combet, born in November 1920, died 14 July 1993 at the age of 72. His first stamp endeavour was engraving the frame area of that marvellous 1000F airmail vista of Paris (Scott C27, 1950). His signature first appeared on the reconstructed cities of France set (Sc 874-77, 1958), and then upon a steady succession of stamps, up to and including a French Southern and Antarctic Terrs. item to be issued 1 January 1994.

The 25 F open-faced booklet of ten self-adhesive 2,50F M. de Briat stamps exists imperforate; that is, unsliced between stamps. Paris dealer Pagnanini is asking 475F for a Calves-signed booklet with 11.01.93 printing date.

Lot 439 of Lugdunum Philatélie's September 1993 auction, hexagonal Agence Navale N° 34, 2-5-42 (see illustration) + Poste Militaire S.P.4, on 1942 envelope to Ambositra, was withdrawn as being considered faked. Lot 382, a very attractive and rare use of the 60c blue square due stamp on 1884 unpaid, overweight military cover from Indochina, went unsold at 12,000F (see full cover illustration).





According to Guy Lormand, *chef du service national des timbres-poste*, 1994 promises include a joint issue with Great Britain (2 May?), subject "The Chunnel"; one with Sweden, consisting of several stamps on cultural relations since the 18th Century; and yet another with Belgium and Switzerland concerning Georges Simenon. The Nature Series will be replaced by one for Decorative Arts, with stamps for the 1x and 2x domestic letter rates (now 2,80F and 4.40F). The Art Series which originated in 1960 will be denominated for the 3x domestic letter rate (now 6,70F). Self-adhesive coil stamps are possibilities.

It may not be universally known, but our Society cooperates with Scott Publications so that future Scott catalogs can be made more precise and correct and more user-friendly. Improvements in 1994 catalog listings for some earlier Cameroun issues are due to the efforts of our member and Cameroon/Cameroun expert, Martin P. Bratzel, Jr.

Some Show Reports

- NAPEX '93 (Washington, DC, June 1993): Vermeil Medal and other awards to Ronald Bentley for "Navigation and Commerce-Indochina's First Definitives."
- TEXPEX '93 (Dallas, June): Gold Medal and PHS Award to Earl Plyler for his U.S. 2c Rates exhibit; Vermeil Medal to Mark Isaacs for "Indochina Forerunners." Mark also received the 2nd award for his one-frame "Destination Indochina."
- STaMpsHOW '93 (Houston, August): Gold Medals to Earl Plyler (see TEXPEX, above), and to Paul Larsen, for Leeward Is. stationery.
- Apple Harvest Show (Spokane, WA, September): Vermeil award to Bob Kinsley for Indochina military mail.
- BALPEX '93 (Hunt Valley, MD, September): Gold Medals to Steve Washburne for his 19th Century Portugal and to Gordon Torrey for "Ottoman Turkish Locals and Ship Mail"; Vermeil Medal to Fernando Iglesias for "British and French Post Offices in Cuba."
- AIRPEX '93 (Dayton, OH, September): Vermeil Medal to Scott Gallagher for "Puerto Rico Postal History 1841-1905."

- MERPEX '93 (Cherry Hill, NJ, September): Silver Medal to Brad Arch for "New Jersey, ca. 1869."
- INDIPEX '93 (Indianapolis, September): Gold Medal to Paul Larsen for Leeward Is. stationery; Silver Medal to Thomas Broadhead for "France: Postcard Usages and Rates, 1870-1900."
- Philadelphia National Stamp Exhib. (October): Grand Award and other prizes to Ed Grabowski for "The French Colonial Allegorical Group Type." Ernst Cohn chaired the jury; surely many other members were present.
- SESCOAL '93 (Los Angeles, October): Silver Medal to Felix Mille for "France--Stampless Postal History."
- Postage Stamp Mega-Event '93 (New York City, October): Vermeil Medal to Kenneth Nilsestuen for "19th Century Algerian Mail."
- BANGKOK '93 (October International): Large Gold Medal to Jamie Gough for "The Evolution of Use of Adhesives for Postage Due"; Large Vermeil to Walter Brooks for "Siege of Paris--Balloon Mail"; Vermeil Medal to Peter Smith for "Taxed in Africa."
- MIDAPHIL '93 (Kansas City, November): Gold Medal to Stan Luft for "France: Military Campaigns 1823-1913."

* * * * *

FOR THE RECORD

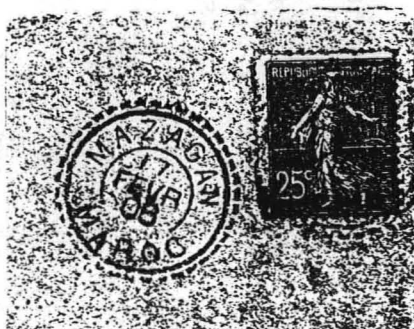
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(continued from *FCP* #234, October 1993, p. 122)

- 688.) There's always something new on selva. Shown below is what's on top of the T.V.P. (permanent-value stamp) printed on the RGR-1 press. It reads: This stamp covers the cost of a letter to 20 gm for France and the Overseas Departments and Territories.



- 689.) Ray Gaillaguet reports on a very unusual usage of the France 25c lined Sower (Scott 141, Yvert 132). It is shown here on cover (cropped) from Mazagan, Morocco, 17 February 1906; other markings include Tangier, 21 February transit and Hanover, Germany, 1 March 1906 arrival. What's unusual? Well, this stamp was never authorized for use in Morocco. Ray surmises the stamp was either reused (previously uncanceled) or



brought in from France by some individual. Ray also wants to remind readers that the Sowers, in almost constant 1903-1944 use, are a fascinating collecting area.

The following three items are courtesy of Member Bert Mendelsohn of England:

- 690.) In 1931, France printed a booklet of 25 6 centimes stamps for Indochina, consisting of five panes of five stamps each plus a blank X'd-out by a "St. Andrews Cross." *Le Monde des Philatelistes* for July-August 1992 indicated there are two forms of the cross, but provided no details. Bert shows us examples of both. In Figure 1 (military cover from Tsinh-Ho, via Phong-Tho, Tonkin, 21 June 1936, airmailed from Hanoi to Geneva), all arms are the same 11mm length. In Figure 2, only the northwest arm is 11 mm long; the southeast arm is only 9mm, and the other two 10mm long.

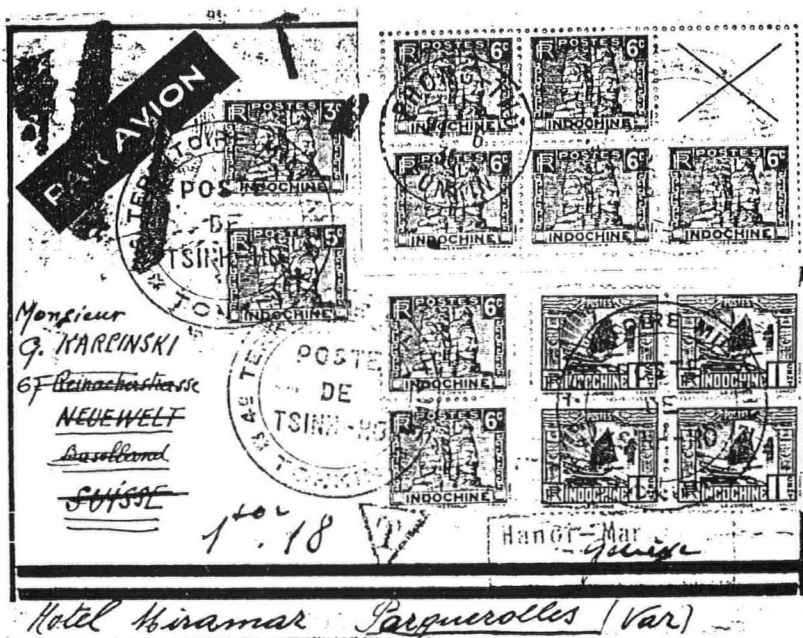
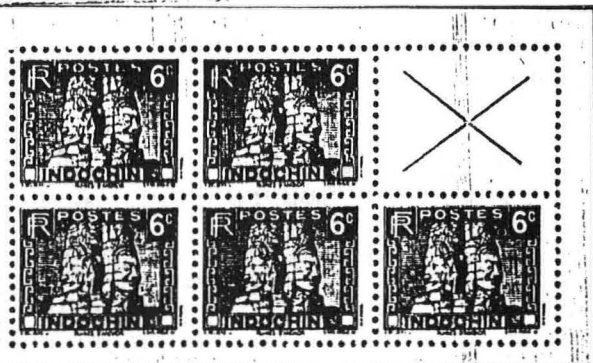


Figure 1

Figure 2



- 691.) Bert has encountered the following in an old *L'Echo de la Timbrolgie* (1911, p. 579). The 4c Annamite Girl (Scott A5) of Indochina, overprinted for use in Canton (Scott 50), exists with designer at bottom given as A. Puyplat **DSL**, rather than the correct **DEL**.
- 692.) Flat-plate printings without millesimes of French and Colonial stamps are usually collected in gutter blocks of four stamps with upper margin (Figure 1), inasmuch as the millesime would otherwise occur in the second row. However, gutter blocks of two stamps lacking either or both horizontal margins (Figure 2) also indicate a non-millesime printing, inasmuch as flat-plate printings consisted of only five rows of stamps between horizontal margins.



N° 692 Figure 1



N° 692 Figure 2

- 693.) The black marking **B.H** within an oval (see illustration), on mail from Switzerland to France, has at one time been believed to stand for "Bâle-Huningue," and therefore was an early entry marking into France. This is probably not the case. Current consensus is that **B.H** and **B.S** in ovals or circles are purely Swiss, and stand for "Bâle Helvétique" and "Bâle Suisse," respectively, and according to whether that country was, at the time (turn of 18th Century) the Helvetic Republic or the Swiss Confederation. (from *SPAL Le Trait-d'Union*, N° 74, 1993.)
- 694.) In reference to *F the R* N° 683 (October 1993), Larry Lambert kindly points out that reutilization of the old **PC** at Boucoirin is hardly an isolated phenomenon. According to Jean Pothion's 1980 "Catalogue des Cachets



Petits Chiffres des Gros Chiffres," ten other town POs plus one rail station PO plus five Algerian POs all reutilized their old PC killers after 1863. In fact, the 1870 use at Boucoirin is mentioned by Pothion in his introductory page. Still, these usages are mostly very scarce and worth seeking out.

- 695.) The Yvert catalog lists three return labels issued by the Montenegrin Government in Exile at Bordeaux in 1916. The first two labels are always found used together on covers. Two such covers were pictured in the July 1987 issue of the Philatelist. They are not particularly rare, appearing at auction about once a year. A particularly interesting example appeared as Lot 2906 in the Bertrand Sinais sale of 8 October 1993. This is a wrapper, with a small portion of a copy of *Le Figaro* attached. It was sent from Paris and addressed to Cetinje, Montenegro. No French stamp or cancellation is visible in the illustration, but the two return labels have been applied, and there is also a two-line handstamp "RETOUR / A L'ENVOYE...", which ties one of the labels to the wrapper. This is only the second example seen in which a return label has been tied to the cover, and seems more convincing than the example in the July 1987 article.

Perhaps of equal interest is the address on the wrapper: M. Andre JOLY, Sous-Officier au / III Detachment Français d'Inf. Coloniale à CETTIGNE. Official records must exist regarding these French units in Montenegro, but we have never seen anything in the philatelic press. The units must have been small, and seem not to have used any identifying handstamps. The person who bought this lot for 2% over the starting price should be quite satisfied.

* * * * *

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

* * * * *

President's Letter

The A.S.D.A. has announced that they are planning only one Mega Event in New York City next year, which will be held in the fall. I understand that there will be a commercial event in the City next March, about the same time that the INTERPEX show was traditionally held. I do not know how many days it will run, or that there will be any exhibits. You will have to find that information in the philatelic press. There are no current plans for the Society to have a booth at any such "show."

Gardner Brown's book about the Paris Commune was received in time to be available at the Mega Event in October. Unfortunately, when it was received, we discovered that, as a result of a mis-understanding between the Society and the printers, the book had no cover. As we felt this was unacceptable for a book of this size and cost, we have returned the entire shipment to the printers to have covers added. No orders will be filled until the books have come back again from the printers. I expect that we will have the books back long before you read this, but not soon enough to have a formal review in this issue of the Philatelist.

For several years now, Stan Luft has served as the Society's liaison with Scott Publishing Co. As such, he has been responsible for submitting suggested changes in the France and Colonies listings in the Scott Catalog.

Realistically, the catalog editors are very reluctant to make major revisions in the listings, and they look to other sources in determining the prices. However, we have been successful in correcting problems such as the listing of non-existent errors. The Society considers its listing as one of the contributors to the catalog to be valuable publicity. Stan has had to devote more time to the publication of the Philatelist, so he has asked us to find someone else to be the liaison with Scott Publishing. Any member who would be interested in this job should contact me at P.O. Box 99, Greendell, NJ 07839 (Tel: 201-383-7591.)

--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 3, 1994, at The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, N.Y.

Meeting of 5 October

Tonight's meeting featured the annual Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibit with five exhibitions presented in the frames. Taking the First Award was first time exhibitor Dr. Robert Boikess who showed **1850-1876 French Local Mail** in two frames. Bob presented a group of covers selected to illustrate the diversity of mail franked at the prevailing local rates. Included were examples of the **CL** handstamp used for local correspondence, of course, examples of the **OR** local origin handstamp, and the **EU** lozenge created for the Paris Exposition. Also shown was a 5c printed matter piece wherein the 5c perf Napoleon on blue paper was canceled in red. Other highlights included use of the **20** lozenge from Paris in 1865 in lieu of the **20** star and a piece of local Commune mail posted from Paris.

The Second Award went to Robert Kinsley for exhibit on **Ethiopia Before Admission Into The UPU**. In this exhibit Bob presented the development of the mail system in Ethiopia before it entered the UPU. Mixed frankings with French Somaliland postage were required for overseas destinations, and Bob showed an excellent selection of the variety of material that can be found from this area. In general this material is quite rare, and covers are difficult to find.

Receiving a Certificate was Mr. Felix Mille who presented a study entitled **French Stampless Postal History Prior to 1792**. Highlighted was a selection of stampless covers from the principal departments and cities as France began the development of its postal system. Though enjoying life in Spain, Jerry Massler mailed in an exhibit on **Monaco Special Studies: Hotels and Tampons**. Colorful hotel corner cards and special handstamps were featured throughout the exhibit. Not to let the traditional Colonies remain unheard from, yours truly showed not quite two frames of **Guadeloupe Provisionals** to close out the show.

--Ed Grabowski

Meeting of 2 November 1993

Tonight Ira Zweifach presented Lou Staub's Lebanon airmail collection, which featured covers of all of the issues through the 50s, and examples of rare varieties of stamps and souvenir sheets. Many of the stamps were shown on first flight covers to destinations such as Cairo, Damascus, Paris, Bern and Marseille. The French Mandate issues were well represented, along with covers from the Free French period. It was a most colorful and unusual display of this seldom-seen material.

--Ed Grabowski

NEW MEMBERS

- 2983 Boleat, David P., La Vilette, Gorey Village Grouville, Jersey, Channel Islands, U.K. JE3 9EP. (General Collector: All Issues.)
- 2984 McNamara, James V., 9 Raymond St. Allston, MA 02134. (DeLuxe Proofs - Imperforates - Artist's Proofs - Color Trials - Occupation Issues By France. Offices Abroad. CFA. All Colonies And Territories. Cancells & Postal History. Stamps & Covers Of Individual Colonies. Philatelic Literature. Exchange. Fezzan Ghadames. Mideast. Africa.)
- 2985 Sanders, Elizabeth, C/O Forbush High School, Route 2 - Box 944, East Bend, NC 27018. (No Specialty Given.)
- 2986 Eiben, Gert, Surick 61, 46286 Dorstern, Germany. (Topical: Flammes-Slogan Cancells "Crocodiles.")
- 2987 Matasar, Harry, P.O. Box 3022, Munster, IN 46321. (All Colonies And Territories. Dealer: Full Time.)
- 2988 Salovey, David E., 34 Hillside Ave. - Apt. 1-FF, New York, NY 10040. (Modern France: Souvenir Sheets - Booklets. Colonies General Issues: Mint - TAAF-FSAT St. Pierre Et Miquelon - French Polynesia - Omnibus Issues - Definitives - St. Pierre Plate And Date Blocks. Philatelic Literature.)
- 2989 Schulman, Michael, P.O. Box 44, Hewlett, NY 11557. (France And Colonies.)
- 2990 Tonthat, Thuyen, 3410 Annandale Rd., Falls Church, VA 22042. (Topical: Paintings. General France; Mint. Modern France: Mint. Laos. Vietnam, Cambodia.)
- 2991 Shartsis, Jack, 25565 Wareham, Huntington Woods, MI 48070. (General Collector; All Issues.)
- 2992 Padbury, Charles T., 1585 SW Marlow, Portland, OR 97225. (General Collector: 20th Century. General France: Mint. Modern France: Mint. Colonies General Issues: Mint.)
- 2993 Camak, James N., Jr., 3801 Acapulco Court, Irving, TX 75062. (General France: Used. 1870-1871 Issues, Commune - Ballons.)
- 2994 Peacock, John E., P.O. Box 1295, Coventry, RI 02816. (General Collector: 19th Century. General France: Used. Postal History: Used Abroad. Regular Issues: Cancellations. Modern France: Used - Blanc, Mouchon & Merson Types - Sowers. Dealer: Part-time. Great Interest In Mail From France To The CSA During (1860-1865) U.S. Civil War.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2016 Disler, Duilio M.F., Disler, Philatelie, B.P. No. 2212, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland.
- 2375 Lazenby, Jessica. Name Spelling Correction: "Lasenby."
- 1988 Gray, George T., 1546 Buresh Ave., Iowa City, IA 52245.
- 2438 Heasman, Robert G., 4353 Parkwood Terrace, Victoria, B.C., Canada, V8X 5B4

- 1736 Arellano, Refugio, Jr., 23146 Respit Drive, Lake Forest, CA 92630-3849.
 1903 Nussbaum, Ralph J., 5070 N. Ocean Dr. - Apt. 16-D, Singer Island, FL 33404.
 1435 Norton, Jack Harris, Dallas TX 75220-3852 (Zip Code Change).
 2343 Grant, Huntly W., 916 Vinings Parkway, Smyrna, GA 30080-3889.
 2540 Nyberg, Edward J., Jr., Huntsville, AL 35810-1233 (Change Of Zip Code).
 1771 Carleton, John C., 1617 S. Brentwood Blvd., Apt. 5278, St. Louis, MO 63144-1316.
 2836 Foreman, Dale I., 4213 Plymouth Dr., West Des Moines, IA 50266-1786.
 2632 Wright, Steven J., 393 Lloyd Avenue, Providence, RI 02906.
 2792 Truax, Pamela K., 3960 South Higuera St., #170, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.
 2657 Knee, Steven T., 412 Mitchell Dr., Los Osos, CA 93402.
 2957 Fauré, Mike, 46 Teak Run, Ocala, FL 34472.
 2088 Nicolins, Naya, P.O. Box 89 Orewa, Hibiscus Coast, New Zealand.
 2108 Gallagher, Scott, 722 Eagle View Court, Mason, OH 45040.
 435 Oakes, Frank E., 15 Washington Terrace, St. Louis, MO 63112-1913 (Correction of Zip Code.)
 2468 Demeritte, George E., P.O. Box 865, Largo, FL 34649-0865.
 2883 Kuerti, Ernst M., 1416 W. Harrison - Apt. 3-D, Chicago, IL 60607.
 2498 Tupper, William K., 4584 NW 58th St., Tamarac, FL 33319.
 512 Blinn, Christine, P.O. Box 506, Cape May Point, NJ 08212-0506.
 708 Gilgis, John R., Old German Enterprises, P.O. Box 3207, Fayville, MA 01745-0207.

REINSTATEMENTS

- 1948 Feller, Siegfried, 8 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002. (Topicals: Maps/Plans - Railroad Stations & Rolling Stock Dealer: Part-Time - Mail Sales.)
 1511 Mehl, Alain, 804 E. 10600 South, Sandy, Utah 84094. (Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Used - On Cover. Plating Flaws Of Scott #15. Cancellations. Colonies General Issues: Used - On Cover. Philatelic Literature. Exchange.

RESIGNATIONS

- | | | | |
|------|------------------------|------|--------------------|
| 2204 | Bailey, William J. | 2320 | Hill, Jim |
| 2886 | Burega, Paul M. | 2550 | Hogan, Robert C. |
| 2846 | Chandler II, George M. | 2951 | Sipfle, William K. |
| 725 | Ehrman, S. M. | | |

DECEASED

- | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|-----|--------------------|
| 1423 | Desrousseaux, Jacques | 526 | Hilton, Homer, Jr. |
| 428 | Fuhrmann, John B., MD | 79 | Morton, John B. |

FLASH--The Long-awaited "A Caribbean Neptune: The Maritime Postal Communications of the Greater and Lesser Antilles in the 19th Century," by Robert G. Stone, has just been published. Buckram bound, 357+ pages, numerous illustrations and maps. \$65.00 postpaid, from Leonard H. Hartmann, P.O. Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233.



**Statement of Ownership,
Management and
Circulation**
(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1A. Title of Publication		1B. PUBLICATION NO.						2. Date of Filing	
France And Colonies Philatelist.		2	0	7	7	0	0	9/20/93	
3. Frequency of Issue		3A. No. of Issues Published Annually						3B. Annual Subscription Price	
Quarterly.		4						\$4.50	
4. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, City, County, State and ZIP+4 Code) (Not printers)									
France And Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc., (NY)									
103 Spruce Street - Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003-3514									
5. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters of General Business Offices of the Publisher (Not printer)									
France And Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc., (NY)									
103 Spruce Street - Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003-3514									
6. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (This item MUST NOT be blank)									
Publisher (Name and Complete Mailing Address)									
France And Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc., (NY)									
103 Spruce Street - Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003-3514									
Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address) (Associate)									
Stanley J. Luft									
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7. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) (Item must be completed.)									
Full Name					Complete Mailing Address				
France And Colonies Philatelic Society					103 Spruce Street				
Inc. (NY)					Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003-3514				
8. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities (If there are none, so state)									
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None					None				
9. For Completion by Nonprofit Organizations Authorized To Mail at Special Rates (DMM Section 424.12 only)									
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(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months									
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)									
10. Extent and Nature of Circulation (See instructions on reverse side)		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months				Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date			
A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)		900				900			
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		0				0			
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales		0				0			
2. Mail Subscription (Paid and/or requested)		702				687			
C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2)		702				687			
D. Free Distribution by Mail, Carrier or Other Means Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies		40				40			
E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D)		742				727			
F. Copies Not Distributed		158				173			
1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing		158				173			
2. Return from News Agents		0				0			
G. TOTAL (Sum of E, F1 and F2—should equal net press run shown in A)		900				900			
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