



France & Colonies



Philatelist

THE FRENCH COLONIAL ALLEGORICAL GROUP TYPE AS USED IN AFRICA

PART I: SENEGAL, THE FRENCH SUDAN, AND SENEGAMBIA & NIGER by Ed Grabowski

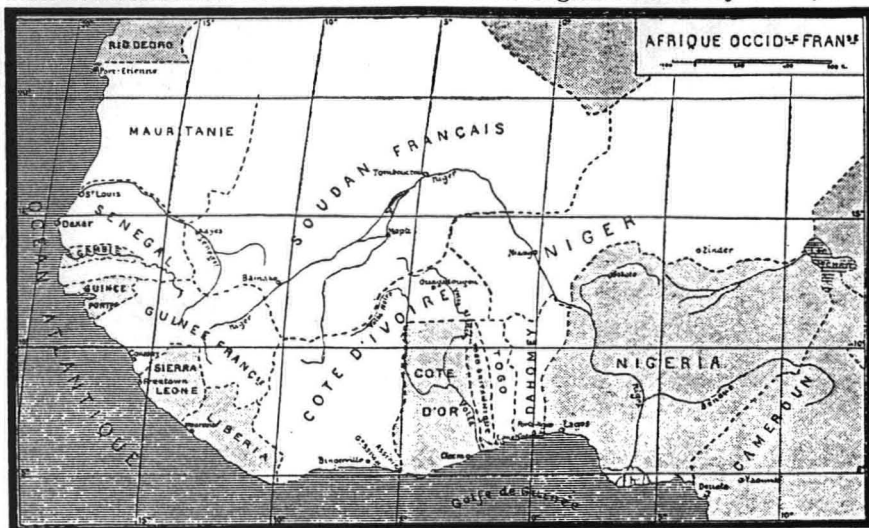
As has become somewhat of a tradition in the Society, I have begun recent *FCPS* philatelic seasons with a presentation on the Colonial Allegorical Group Type at our September meetings. Rather than just a few short paragraphs on the presentation in the meeting minutes, I have followed up on each presentation with a full article on the material discussed.^{1,2} Keeping with the tradition for 1993-1994, I have chosen to begin to look at the use of the Group Type in Africa. As with most areas of the Group Type's use, this is an extremely complex area, as the period from 1892-1915 represents a time of rapid expansion and development of the French African Colonies. All of this is reflected in the use of the Colonial stamps.

Collectively, French Occidental Africa comprised the northwestern group of the French African Colonies including Senegal, Mauritania, the French Sudan, Niger, French Guinea, the Ivory Coast, and Dahomey. These are more than can be covered at one time, so I have chosen to consider the northernmost Colonies of Senegal, the French Sudan, and Senegambia & Niger at this time. Mauritania will be only peripherally included, as it never had Group Type stamps.

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Senegal has a long and rich postal history in the French Colonial area. First commercial French interests in the area began in the early 1600s, with



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typical French and British conflicts developing over the area thereafter. By the mid-19th Century, Senegal was firmly in French hands, and the colony saw extensive use of the General Issues from 1860 onwards. By 1892, when the Group Type was first issued, numerous smaller offices had been established throughout the colony in support of French commercial and military interests.³ There was a strong French westward thrust from Senegal and northward from the Ivory Coast and Dahomey at this time to secure additional territory throughout the Niger River area, in what was to become the French Sudan, the Upper Senegal and Niger and Upper Volta (see map). Group Type stamps were issued from Senegal in 1892, from the French Sudan in 1894, and from Senegambia & Niger in 1903.

Because it was so extensively developed by 1892, Senegal affords the collector of the Group Type an excellent opportunity to develop an extensive and wide-ranging collection of material. In addition to material from the principal cities of Saint Louis and Dakar, small offices abound, and many came into existence after 1892 reflecting development of the colony. There was a strong military presence in the colony to support developing French interests in the northern and western regions, and much very interesting military mail can be found. A railroad was established between Saint Louis and Dakar in 1885, and mail carried on this line can be recognized by the undulating date stamps used. Finally, it is also possible to find the unusual and unexpected material in this area, as is typical with other Colonies during the period of the Group Type's use. As has been usual in these articles, much of this is illustrated via covers and stationery used in the period.

The earliest Group Type cover in my collection from Senegal was posted from the small office at Saldé on October 21, 1893 (Figure 1). Saldé is located



Figure 1

in the northernmost region of the colony on the Senegal River. An unusual combination of two 5c Dubois issues and a 15c Group Type issue was used to prepay the prevailing 25c French Community rate. From Saldé the letter traveled on the Senegal River to Saint Louis where it was received on the 27th. Two days later, it was at Dakar where it was placed onboard a passing vessel en route to France, this being possibly quicker than awaiting arrival of the next French packet. On the 14 of November, it arrived in northern France

at Dunkerque where the letter received a strike of the **OUTREMER DUNKERQUE** arrival handstamp for overseas mail arriving on ordinary ships. According to Salles, this is a very late use of this date stamp.

What appears to be a proper 5c printed matter rate is shown in Figure 2.

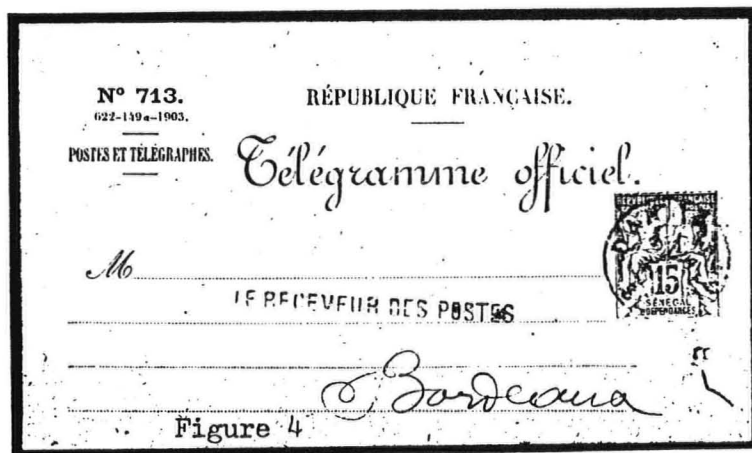


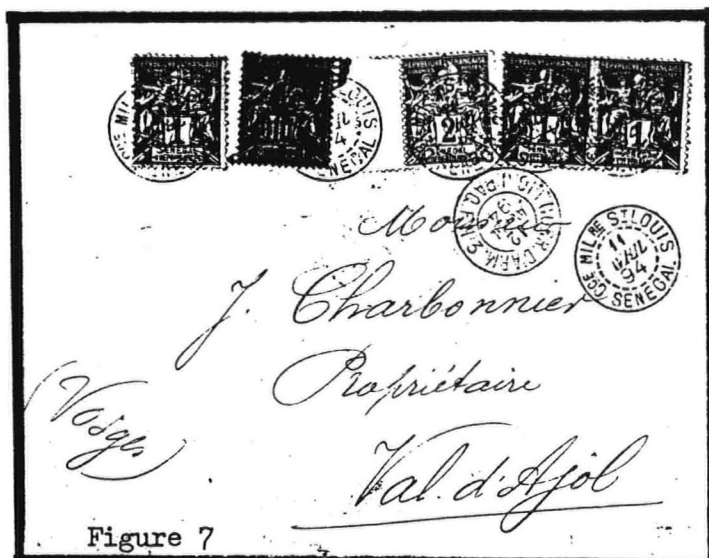
The envelope was posted in Saint Louis on April 8, 1895, to a local destination. It appears to be franked by 1c and 4c Group Type stamps prepaying the proper rate. However, a close inspection of the 4c stamp shows it to be composed to two halves of different stamps. The upper portion is that of a brown 2c stamp and the lower portion is from a claret 4c stamp. Apparently the sender, in an effort to defraud the post office, created an unused stamp by combining the unobliterated portions of used stamps. The envelope suggests that his scheme was successful, as there are no markings highlighting this fraud.

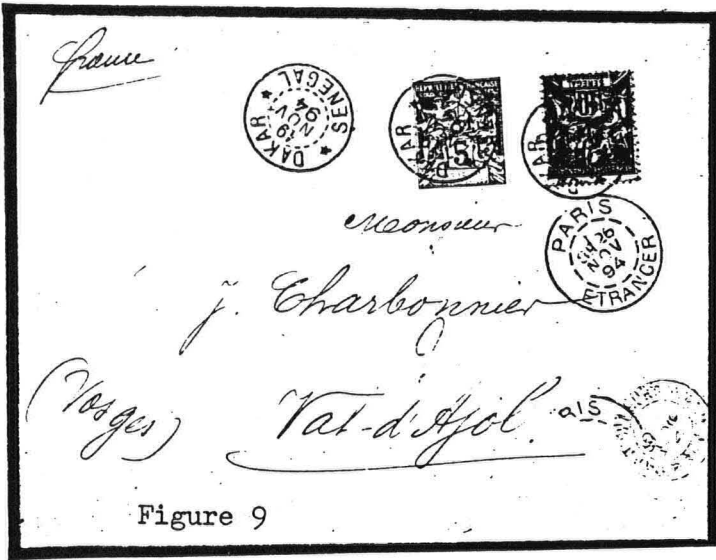
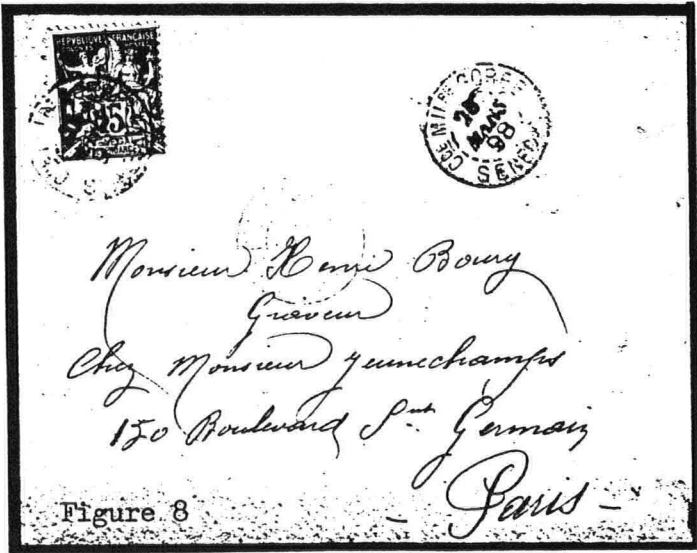
As with Indochina and Madagascar, telegram letters can be found used from Senegal. To save time on important messages from the interior of the colony to France, messages could be sent via the telegraph service, at substantial rates, to Dakar, the principal port.

Here they would be transcribed onto special telegram forms as used in France, and then sent on to French destinations via the regular posts. Examples at the three French Community rates (25c valid until 1899; 15c valid until 1907 and 10c thereafter) are shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5. The first, which was received at and posted from Dakar on May 18, 1895, via Packet Line J, bears a Matam manuscript notation suggesting origin in the village of Matam, which is even further along the Senegal River than Saldé. The origin and purpose of the **VOIE DAKAR** handstamp on the last telegram letter is still under debate.

Military mail from troops on station but not engaged in combat received a reduced 15c rate until 1899. Special date stamps from the offices at Dakar, Saint Louis and Gorée are known and illustrated in Figures 6, 7, and 8, with only the latter being difficult to find. Often military mail from this period shows no special military date stamp, with the rate validated by the commander's signature and unit cachet frequently on the reverse of the letter (see Figure 9).







As already noted, numerous smaller offices existed at this time and material can be found from them with diligent searching. The 25c letter card (Figure 10) from the small office at Foundiounne via Line J en route to London



Figure 10 Pour ouvrir la carte-lettre, déchirer en suivant le pointillé.

is a particularly nice combination, as are the insured letter from Fatick at a 60c rate (Figure 11), and the registered letter from Tivaouane bearing an AR

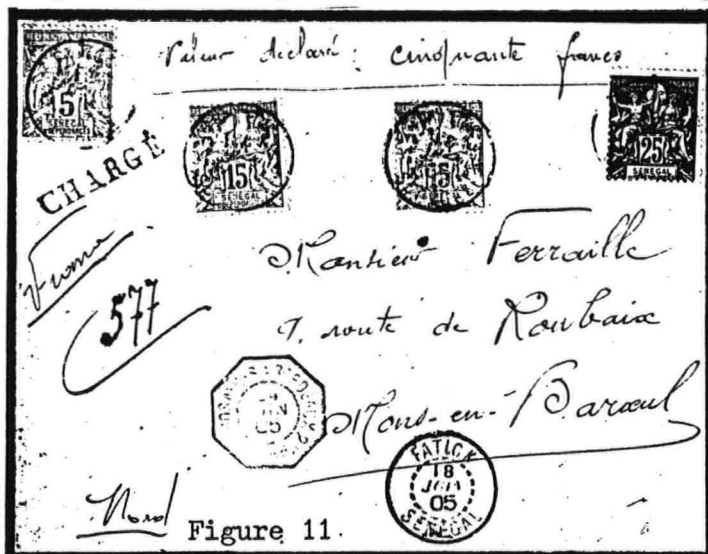


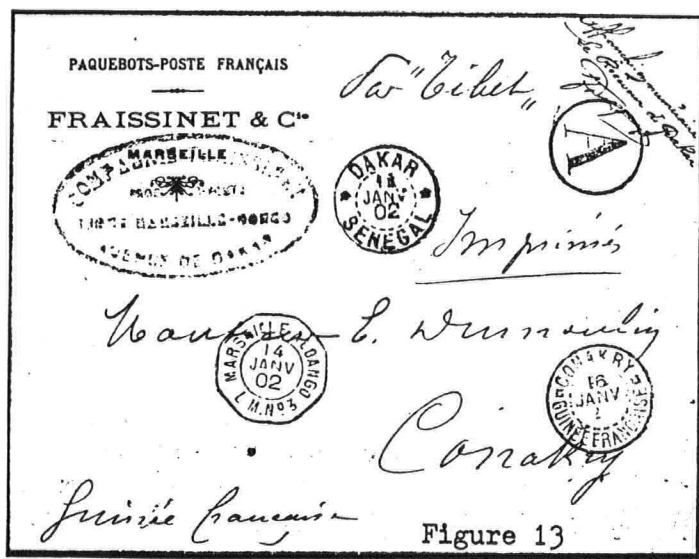
Figure 11

handstamp (Figure 12). The rate on the latter is the proper 40c registered French Community rate, so the 10c for the return receipt was prepaid in cash and not reflected in the franking in this case.

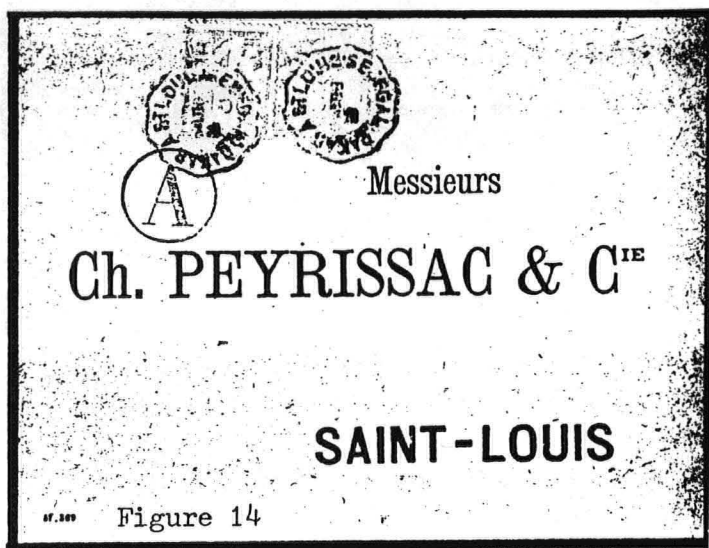
Sometimes the lack of expected Group Type stamps is as interesting as their use. There was a yellow fever quarantine in Dakar in January 1902, and a shortage of stamps resulted when the quarantine was lifted. To deal



with this shortage, it was possible to prepay the postage in cash as shown in the letter in Figure 13 to Conakry, French Guinea. To note this form of pre-



payment, an encircled **A** was handstamped on the letter. The letter in Figure 14 is even more interesting: of the 15c rate, 10c was prepaid in stamps on hand and the remaining 5c was paid in cash, so this unusual letter legitimately bears stamps and the encircled **A**. The letter also bears the undulating date stamp of the Dakar-Saint Louis rail line.



Mail from the larger village of Rufisque is not particularly difficult to obtain. Two of the more interesting letters in my collection suggest that a shortage of stamps resulted from time to time, particularly at the New Year when it was popular to send greetings to relatives and friends. What appears to be a 5c printed matter rate envelope franked with the 5c stamp of 1900 in yellow-green is shown in Figure 15. The envelope bears a **RUFISQUE-SENE-**



GAL, 11 JANV 02 date stamp, a manuscript endorsement *affranchie en Numéraire* plus signature, and the large handstamp **POSTES & TELEGRAPHES**. The 5c stamp is canceled by the Rufisque date stamp, but dated on the 18th of January. The piece was posted to and arrived in France

as indicated by the Orthez backstamp of February 2. Apparently, there was a shortage of stamps to frank this sort of mail in Rufisque on January 11, 1902, and cash was accepted as prepayment for postage. The January 11 date stamp, PT handstamp and manuscript endorsements attest to this. One week later on the 18th, a new stock of stamps must have arrived, and the post office franked the envelope with a 5c stamp, canceled it, and sent the letter on to its destination, rather than sending it directly on the 11th with the notations of prepayment in cash. Undoubtedly, having done otherwise might have caused confusion in the French Community mails. Figure 16 illustrates an

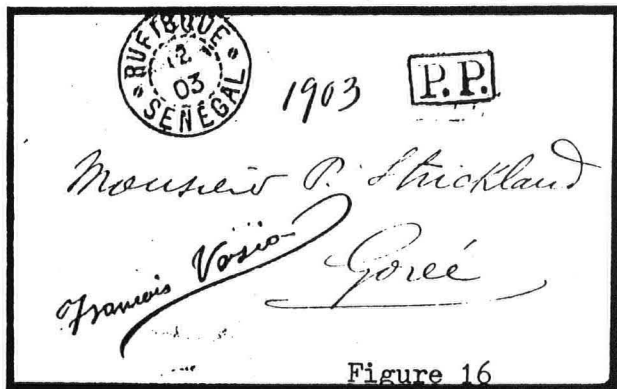


Figure 16

apparent shortage of stamps from the same office in December 1903. Since this envelope was posted locally to Gorée, a boxed P.P. served to indicate prepayment in cash. A similar situation has been noted in Guadeloupe in 1900.⁴

The Senegal overprints of October 8, 1903 are particularly difficult to find properly used on cover. The revaluations (5/40, 10/50, 10/75 and 10/1F) were properly authorized, and were presumably prepared to meet a shortage of these common values in light of an abundance of the lesser-used higher values. The 10/75 is seen on a post card sent to New Orleans (Figure 17), and

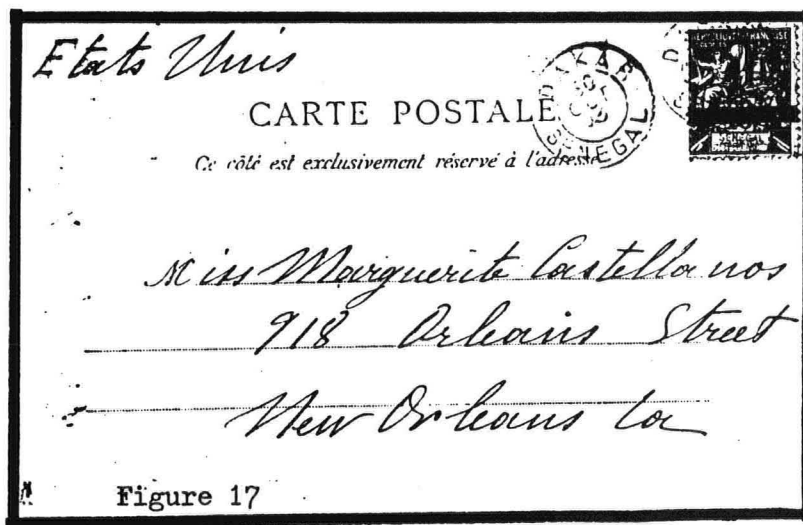


Figure 17

the 5/40 and 10/1F values are seen on a commercial letter to Bordeaux (Figure 18).

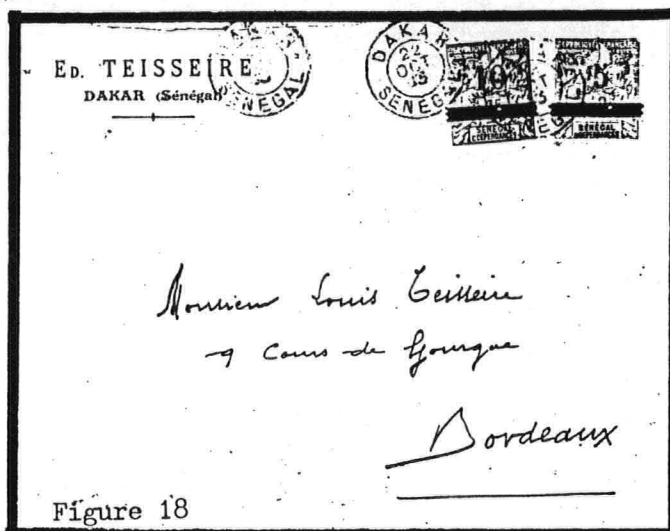


Figure 18

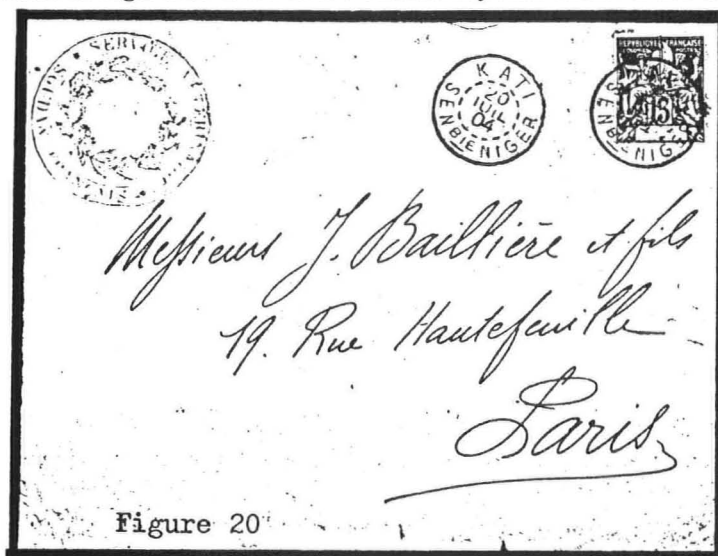
The French Sudan was an administrative unit formed from the areas east of Senegal in 1894 and subsequently, in 1902, became the **Sénégalie & Niger**. Group Type stamps were issued for the Sudan in 1894, and in 1903 stamps appeared with a new name for this Colonial unit - **Sénégalie et Niger**. In 1904 part of the area became the Upper Senegal & Niger. Thus, administratively, this is a very complex region with town date stamps bearing administrative units designated **Soudan Français**, **Sénégalie et Niger** and **Haut Sénégal et Niger**. Southern regions of the area also became part of French Guinea, the Ivory Coast and Dahomey. Shown in Figure 19 from Bamako in the French Sudan is an unusual registered military correspon-



Figure 19

dence letter (15c special military rate and 25c registry) posted in 1896. Inasmuch as no military date stamp was available at this office, the manuscript designation on the front, *Corps d'occupation du Soudan français*, and the unit cachet and signature on the reverse serve to confirm the military rate.

Shown in in Figure 20 is a French Community rate latter of 15c bearing



the date stamp, **KATI SENBIE NIGER, 20 JULIL 04**, and after it a short message post card (Figure 21) with the date stamp **NIAMEY HT SENEGAL**



ET NIGER, 17 AOUT 06, both showing proper use of stamps from the French Sudan with the date stamps reflecting the development of the area

after the turn of the century. Niamey is a village far inland along the Niger River in what was to become the colony of Niger, north of Dahomey. A most unusual piece from the same office is that shown in Figure 22. It is a double

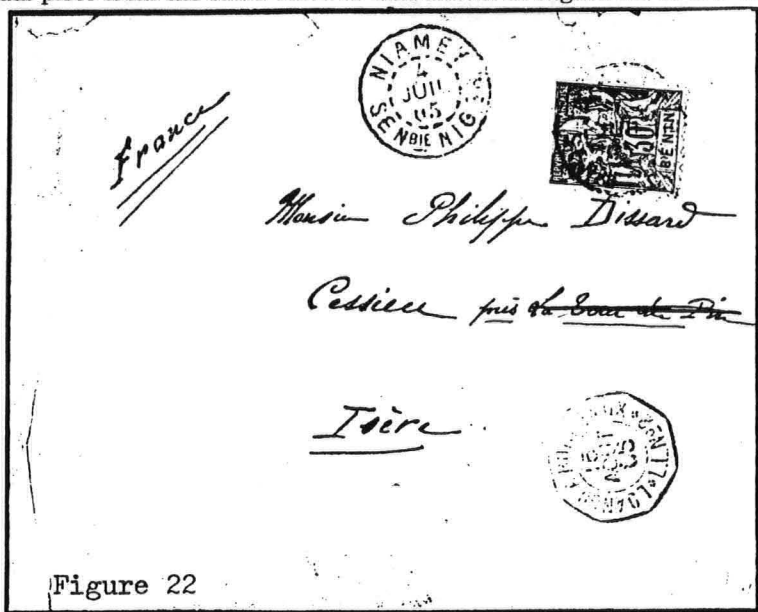


Figure 22

rate (2x15c) French Community letter posted with a single 30c issue of Benin (issues of Benin and Dahomey were commonly used from Dahomey after the turn of the century), canceled by the date stamp: **NIAMEY SENBIE NIGER, 4 JUL 05**. Why the use of a stamp from Dahomey from the village of Niamey? Bob Stone noted that telegraph lines were being installed in the Niger at this time, and this stamp was probably carried into the area by one of the workers. Given the closeness of the areas, the local post office official probably accepted the use of a stamp from the nearby colony, or possibly didn't notice it. Either way, it resulted in an interesting cover.

Possibly one of the most exciting pieces in my collection is the post card carried by camel posted from Tombouctou in the French Sudan on June 20, 1902 (Figure 23). Posted at the unusual and uncertain rate of 14c by a government official and marked (*Voie Sahara*) *par Caravane*, this card required more than seven months to reach its destination of Alger, Algeria. It remains the earliest piece of French Colonial camel mail of which I am aware. It has been previously described in detail.⁵ The Gaoua bisects also remain one of the areas most interesting aspects of postal history. These were highlighted in a recent article and will not be discussed further.⁶

Mail franked with stamps with the **Sénégal et Niger** legend is particularly difficult to find. Shown in Figure 24 is a post card franked with the 5c stamp of the issue cancelled at the small office of Medine, showing the French Sudan date stamp. In Figure 25 is a card also with a 5c stamp canceled by the **ISSA-BER HT SENEGAL ET NIGER** date stamp, one of the more difficult offices in this region.

The final episode in this look at Senegal and related areas has to do with Mauritania, a colony that was organized in 1904 along the Atlantic coast north of the Senegal River. It received its first stamps in 1906, which were

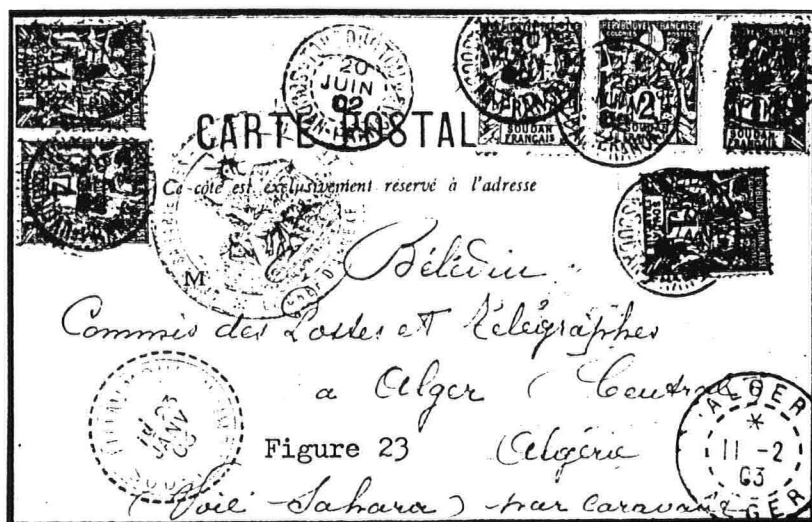


Figure 23

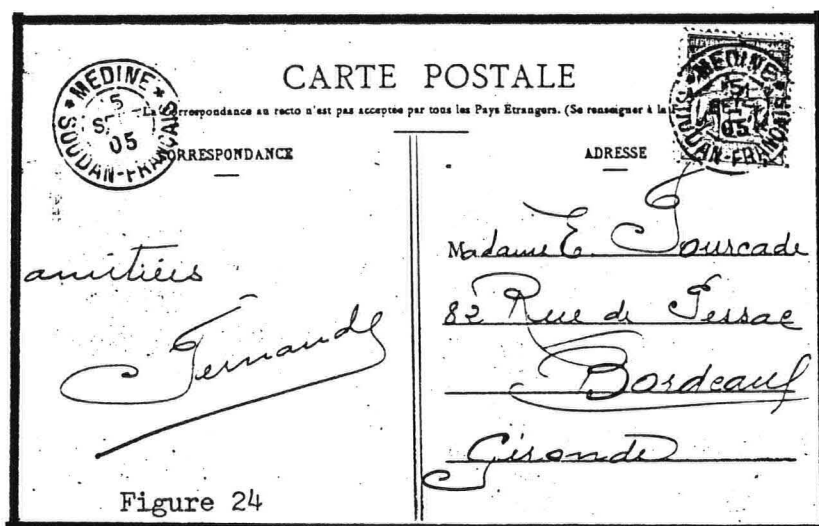
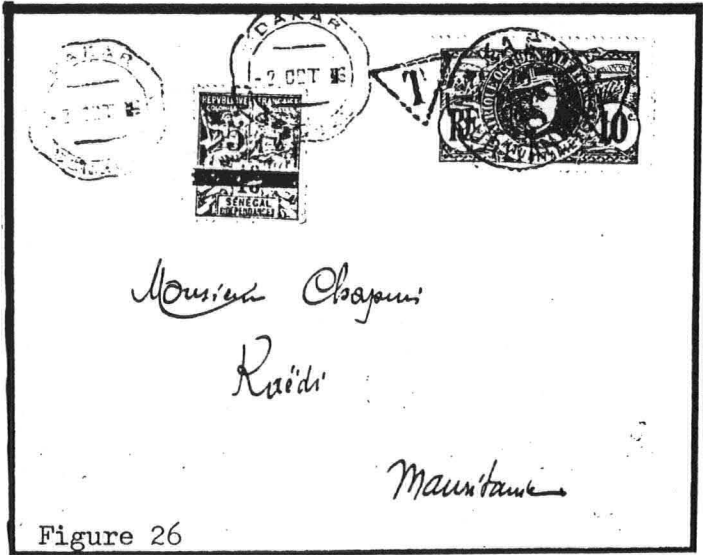
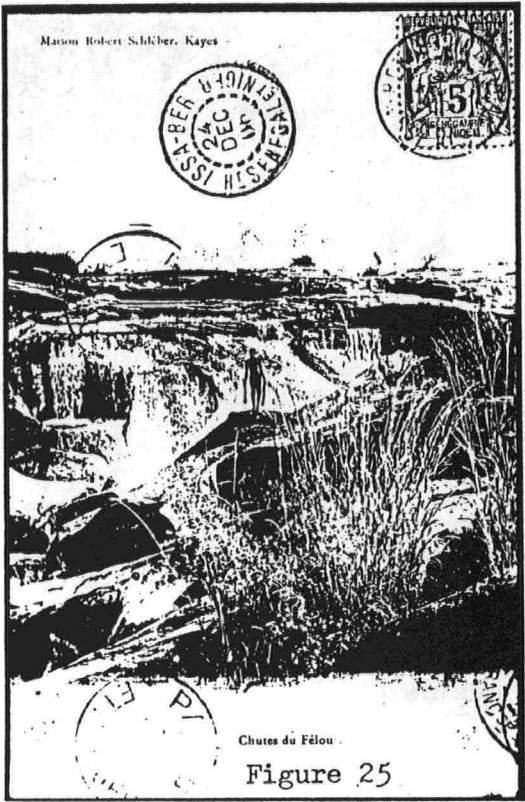
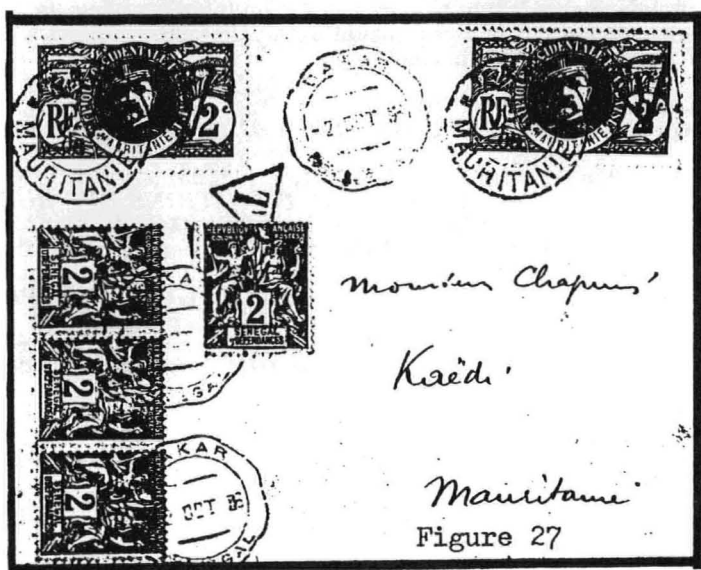


Figure 24

the Faidherbe, Palmiers and Balay Types; thus, proper Group Type use does not appear from this Colony. From September 5, 1906 until December 6 of the same year, provisional due stamps were authorized by overprinting the existing first issues with a T in triangle after they had been affixed to the due letters.⁷ The 5c, 10c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 40c, 50c and 1F values were so overprinted, and a check of the current catalogs reveals a substantial value for these stamps so used. Almost all of the covers seen are blatantly philatelic, simply showing an assortment of the issues overprinted with the T on local covers that probably never went through the mails. Shown in Figure 26 is a cover from Dakar, Senegal posted on Oct. 2, 1906 bearing the 5c/40c Senegal overprint of 1903 posted to Kaédi, Mauritania. Since the prevailing rate was probably 10c, the cover was due 10c (double the deficiency) upon arrival in Kaédi.





A 10c Faïdherbe issue is affixed, struck with a T in triangle on the face of the stamp and an additional, but different, T tying the stamp to the envelope, and canceled by the Kaédi date stamp of October 15, 1906. In a note, Bob Stone has speculated about the probable philatelic origins of this cover,⁷ but noted that it is one of the few known with these provisional due stamps that actually went through the mails at something approaching a relevant rate. Posted and arriving on the same dates is the cover shown in Figure 27 which was sent to the same person. It bears four 2c Group Type stamps of Senegal, and was thus 2c short of the 10c rate. Two 2c Faïdherbe stamps were treated in the matter of due stamps as above, to presumably collect the 4c due on this letter. Use of this value has not been previously recorded. Obviously there was collusion between the postmasters of Dakar and Kaédi. Normally the sending post office was required to strike its T on the due letter. If the larger of the two Ts on these letters were struck in Dakar as required, then the fact that the 10c Faïdherbe issue on the first envelope is tied by that T suggests that all of the stamps on these letters were applied in Dakar, and that the two postmasters were working very closely together to create these items. I have seen two other covers from this creation in French mail sales, and they

do bring handsome prices, despite the philatelic origins.

So ends this journey into Senegal and its hinterlands. I have not attempted a comprehensive review of the area, but simply an overview, to show the reader some of the exciting and unusual pieces that can be found which can form the foundation of a Colonial collection.

REFERENCES

- 1) E. Grabowski, *FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST*, Vol. 226, p. 97 (1991).
- 2) *ibid.*, Vol. 230, p. 117 (1992) and Vol. 231, p. 1 (1993)
- 3) M. Langlois and V. Bourselet, *LES OBLITERATIONS DES BUREAUX DE POSTE DES COLONIES ET POSSESSIONS FRANÇAIS - AFRIQUE OCCIDENTALE FRANÇAISE*, Editions du Graouli, Paris, 1937.
- 4) L. Dubus, P. Pannerier and A. Marchand, *LA GUADELOUPE*, p. 51 (1958), A. Marchand, Paris.
- 5) *FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST*, Vol. 210, p. 110 (1987).
- 6) E. Grabowski, *FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST*, Vol. 232, p. 33 (1993).
- 7) R. Stone, *FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST*, Vol. 195, p. 3 (1984).

* * * * *

OCCASIONAL FUNDAMENTALS

Special stamps for *recouvrements* (C.O.D. charges to be collected by the posts) were issued from 1 October 1908. This service, however, had been in effect since 15 June 1879 at many post offices in France. Prior to their issuance, postage-due stamps (*timbres-tax*) were put to this use. *Recouvrement* stamps (Scott J46-68, Yvert 43-65) were suppressed 1 December 1935. Remainders served as simple postage-due stamps.



Illustrated on the next page are a few examples of French fiscal (revenue) adhesive stamps. Most dealers have some in their back-of-the-book stock pages and will gladly let you have them for a pittance. And it's nice to have a few around, if only for the variety they have to offer. However, don't get too excited over your first (and second) acquisitions, for attempting to specialize in the fiscal field presents serious problems. One is completeness, for many

thousand major varieties exist--with the majority nearly impossible to obtain now--as would be more than a few examples on original document. Another is condition, for they tended oftentimes to be torn off the original documents--whether posters or matchbooks or bills of lading or automobile windshields or whatever. (The French tax just about everything in sight, but at least you get a little perforated souvenir with it.)

If you care to pursue the matter, you'll find there isn't much published in English or French. Forbin's pioneering *Catalogue de Timbres-Fiscaux*, published by Yvert & Tellier in 1915, covers the world; French (and local French) fiscals are covered in 18 pages, and there are several more for the Colonies. The Forbin has been reprinted and is available for \$30 from Leonard Hartmann. Brainerd Kremer compiled "A Catalogue of the Revenue Stamps of France" in 1962, as Vol. 11 of the Billig's Specialized Catalogue series, and this useful but far-from-complete 32-page paperbound catalog is occasionally offered for sale. We have not seen the American Revenue Association's 1982 French (and in French) catalog. If any of our readers have one, we'd appreciate hearing from them.

Henri Janton wrote a useful introductory survey in *FCP* for July and October 1982 (Whole Numbers 189-190). It, however, does not classify nor catalog the fiscals. And there are a few other more-or-less specialized articles in French, etc. on the subject. Interested individuals can write us for bibliographic references. (And see first listing on page 59.)



THE MARIANNES DE DULAC

Free French representatives in London, anxious to have new stamps prepared for use in some future liberated France, placed an order with Anglo-French engraver and designer Edmond Dulac. The first (and only) three values were printed and delivered in 1942 by Harrison and Sons, in the printing method (heliogravure), perforations (15 x 14), and colors (green, red-rose, and deep ultramarine) of current British George VI definitives. The original set of three (Yvert 701A-C) shows a redundant R.FRANCE.F at top (Figure 1). This was subsequently changed to the Figure 2 design (Yvert 701D-F), with all other details left unchanged. None of these were ever issued.

Prior to and after the liberation of Paris and the establishment there of the Provisional Government, a multitude of issues were placed in use. These included the Coq and Marianne of Algiers, the U.S.-produced Arch of Triumph stamps, new values in the Iris design, and the RF-overprinted Mercures. To these, and presumably so as not to offend the British, were added the Mariannes of Dulac. The issued stamps, however, now showed the RF in upper left and a Cross of Lorraine in upper right (Figure 3), were recess-printed by De La Rue & Co., London, perforated 11½ x 12½, and had face values matched to then current tariff rates. The 1F50 value was issued first (16 September 1944), inasmuch as it was needed for domestic single-weight letters. The other values, ranging from 10c to 50F (Scott 505-523A, Yvert 682-701), were issued from 17 March 1945-on. These British products are probably the most attractive definitive stamps ever issued by France. (From *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, February 1993, with additions by S.J. Luft.)



Figure 1



Figure 2



2B

THOMAS DE LA RUE & COMPANY, LIMITED, LONDON

Figure 3

SOME OTHER FRENCH PHILATELIC JOURNALS AND SOCIETIES

(Editor's Note: We stopped listing contents of French, etc. philatelic journals with the January 1991 number. This has saved us considerable space and time for hopefully better uses, and the information doesn't seem to have been missed.)

However, we believe that many members, particularly the newer ones and those working their way up the specialization ladder, may want to know about the existence of other philatelic publications and societies in France and elsewhere. For this reason, we're mentioning and briefly describing several that we receive here. This information will be published on a space-available basis, but we hope to note and review at least two journals, etc. per number. Among the ones we **don't** receive are *La Philatélie Française*, *Relais*, and *Diligence d'Alsace*. We would like to hear from those members who do, and who would care to give us the salient facts on those (and other) publications. Please contact your Associate Editor [see where on first inside page of every number], and many thanks in advance!

Le Monde des Philatélistes, a slick-paper, well-illustrated (mostly in color) magazine of about 76-84 pages per number that appears 11 times a year; contact *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, Service Abonnements, 1 Place Hubert-Beuve-Méry, F 94852 Ivry-sur-Seine Cedex, France; foreign subscriptions 340Fr, 430Fr by air to Western Hemisphere. Formerly the fount of learned but interminable serialized articles, *Le Monde* now goes for short one-time articles and rarely for more than two-part ones. Subjects include French stamps and covers, postal history, thematics, maximum cards, worldwide new issues, worldwide booklets, useful classified and display ads, etc. Has something for everyone, from beginner to advanced collector. If you want to subscribe to just one French publication, this could be the one. Or again, it might instead be either of the following.

L'Echo de la Timbrologie, a similar magazine, also 11 times a year, about 72-80 pages per number; from *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, 37 rue des Jacobins, F 80036 Amiens Cedex 1, France; foreign subscriptions 300Fr (580Fr for two years); no airmail rates given. Formerly the popular magazine to *Le Monde's* learned one, there are now few differences between the two. Coverage is quite similar, though the articles, all short and nearly always complete in a single number, are by a different stable of authors and on different topics. *L'Echo* has more classified ads. In any given year, there may be a small advantage to *L'Echo* in the total number of pages devoted to articles. I do consider *L'Echo's* coverage of worldwide new issues excessive and redundant, and using up far too much space.

Timbroscopie has become a worthy colorful and slick rival to the long-established *Le Monde* and *L'Echo*; similar in size (8+ x 11½"), generally contains 82-100 pages; appear 11 times a year; contact Timbropresse s.a., 33 rue de Chazelles, F 75850 Paris Cedex, France; foreign subscriptions 370Fr, 480Fr by air; for two years, 710Fr and 930Fr, respectively. According to member Jim Polk, who supplied the information, a recent number included coverage of new issues; a study of the 15c Lined Sower, with clear blown-up features of the good Type VI; varieties on French Community stamps; a study of the Faidherbe-Palmiers-Ballay issues of West Africa with fine illustrations; investment suggestions; slogan cancels; articles and notes on various foreign stamps; classified and display ads; columns, letters, etc. *Timbroscopie* occasionally zeroes in on specialization possibilities for inexpensive issues such as the 1945-on Cérés de Mazelin, etc. and also the same for the Colonies. Jim feels that their color reproductions are topnotch. He considers this magazine to be excellent for the not-quite-advanced collector. On the negative side, he bemoans the trend (as per *Le Monde* and *L'Echo*) towards more flash, less

substance, more topicals, and less research.

(In future numbers, we plan to similarly write up *Les Feuilles Marcophiles, Documents Philatéliques, Coll. Phil. et Marco.*, the Journal of the British F&CPS, The Indo-China Philatelist, Col Fra, SPAL and its research studies. Can you help us with any *other* journals and societies?)

AMAZING 1870/71 WONDER STORIES - I

By Ernest M. Cohn

This is the first of a new series of occasional brief items, meant to debunk fables about 1870 mail which appear in material that comes my way from here and there. In fact, many strange things happened as a result of the Franco-German War of 1870/71, so that one need not manufacture additional philatelic wonder stories out of thin air or misinterpreted facts. For various reasons, sources of these fables will remain nameless.

Recently I got an auction catalog containing a cover with the red PARIS (SC) cancel, dated 5 December 1870, ascribed to the balloon "Armée de Bretagne."

Although the flight of that balloon has been listed for 7 December 1870 for well over a century, it took place on the 5th. The error was corrected in print - in 1990 in English and 1991 in French. Further proof, from outside Paris, has been produced by another author, whose interesting findings will, I hope, be published soon; proof is also contained in an official pigeongram to Paris. With independent triple proofs now, two from outside Paris, the correct date is quite certain.



A Paris (SC)
date stamp

"Well," you might say, "that may be so, but this cover is canceled as of the 5th, so that is OK, because it was posted at the 'balloon window' of the main post office of Paris. That was open all night and presumably had that letter taken to the 'Armée de Bretagne' immediately after receipt, and after 'Le Franklin' had been launched."

This argument is false, however:

(1) Contemporary sources all agree that the "Armée de Bretagne" carried no post office mail. (That, of course, leaves open the possibility of letters entrusted directly to the aeronauts; but such mail, if it exists, carries no Paris postmark.)

(2) The "balloon window" did not have every piece of mail transported to a launching site as soon as it was processed. It handled about 3% of the total balloon mail, so a single daily delivery would appear to be normal and reasonable.

(3) Because the "Franklin" left about 1 a.m., the cover would have had to be processed just after midnight and sent to the Gare du Nord instead of the Gare de l'Est. And who knows at what time on the 5th the letter was mailed?

(4) The "balloon window" was **not** open all night, as we know from an item in the *Gazette des Absents* No. 27 of 14 January 1871:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION. - The last collection of letters for the provinces and abroad is at 5 o'clock from the mail boxes in the districts and at 6 o'clock from the offices as well as the main post office. Persons who have let this last hour pass without throwing their letters in a box can go to hand them in on Jean-Jacques-Rousseau Street at an office situated at the end of the court, opposite the little door to the right and where letters are received

during the evening ('soirée') for the night balloon.

The phrase *soirée* means "evening," not "night." We can thus be certain that all mail received at that office, before closing in the evening of 4 December, was postmarked as of that date and delivered collectively to the "Franklin."

The office opened again on the 5th, changing its handstamp to that date. By the time the day's SC mail was ready for delivery to one of the balloon railway stations, both balloons of the 5th had left.

Hence a PARIS (SC) of 5 December was put on the "Denis-Papin."

Years ago Steve Walske made a survey of SC dates and found the latest ones to be 27 January, i.e., on mail sent via the last balloon, "Général Cambronne." Meanwhile, a few SCs of the 28th have surfaced. That appears to be the last day on which the handstamp was used to cancel stamps on mail originating in Paris. Because the last balloon had left at 6 a.m., the identical argument holds here as well: All mail with a postmark of that date, SC or other, must have missed the balloon and traveled on the ground and through Versailles, arriving with some delay in free France or beyond.

Finally, there are plenty of records of delivery times for mail from the main post office to the balloon terminals. Yet none is known for special delivery of SC mail. Hence the little SC team probably never ventured outside that office with its bunch of mail. Most likely, someone simply gave the SC bundle at the very last moment to the driver who took all balloon mail from the main post office to a railway station.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

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New Issues and Withdrawals

(continued from FCP #235, January 1994, p. 23)

France

- > late 1993: 28F booklet of ten permanent-value M. de Briat stamps in two parallel, non-touching strips of five self-adhesive stamps, on yellow-buff backing paper, dispensed from experimental vending machines;
- > 12 October 1993: (new location of fold for stamps in the 20F Sterners booklets);
- > November: 5F aerogramme: Airbus A-340;
- > 11 (13) December: 5F Art of Vieira da Silva (Contemporary European Art Series);
- > 15 (17) January 1994: Council of Europe 2,80F and 4,40F;
- > 22 (24) January: Decorative Arts Series: two at 2,80F and two at 4,40F;
- > 29 (31) January: 6,70F of Sean Scully (Contemporary European Art Series);
- > 12 (14) February: 6,70 Le Mans Cathedral (stained-glass window);
- > 19 (21) February: 4,40F Bastia (Tourism Series);
- > 26 (28) February: 2,80F Elections to European Parliament (12 June 1994);
- > March: permanent-value (M. de Briat) postal card, sold at 3,50 F.

Withdrawals: 10 December 1993: 4,000F rose M. de Briat;

14 January 1994: 4,20F and 4,50F aerogrammes; 1993 Stamp Day semi-postal and 19,30F booklet; 3,40F International Masonic Order; 1993 set of Celebrated French Writers and 18F booklet; 2,50F Louise Weiss; 4,20F Django Reinhardt; 2,50F 1993 Congress of Philatelic Societies at Lille;

11 February: 2,50F Bicent. of Natural History Museum; 2,50F Chappe Telegraph; 2,80F Chaise-Dieu Abbey; 2,80F 50th Anniv. of Liberation of Corsica; 3,40F Artouste train; 4,20F Minerve (Hérault).

Andorra

- 6 (8) November 1993: Value of Art of E. Dietman stamp is 5F, not 5,60F as reported in previous number;
- 19 (21) February 1994: 3,70F 1994 Winter Olympics;
Withdrawals 10 December 1993: 2,50F and 3,40F EUROPA 93; 2,50F butterfly; 4,20F Pao de dia-Inachis; 2,50F + 3,40F Solden el tarter, Arinsal diptych; 14 January 1994: 2,50F Tour de France.

French Polynesia

- 17 November 1993: 150F Birth Cent. of Alain Gerbault;
- 3 December: Painters of the Pacific 40, 70, 80, 90F;
- 7 December: 200F 30th Anniv. of French School of the Pacific;
- 12 January 1994: Marine mammals of Polynesia 25, 68, 72F;
- 18 February: 51F Hong Kong 94/Year of the Dog.

Monaco

- 7 January 1994: Automated figures in National Museum, four at 2,80F; Flowers (watercolors) o,20, o,30, o,40, 4F; 2,80F 18th Festival of the Circus.

New Caledonia

- 16 October 1993: 250F World of the Deep (crab) airmail;
- 29 (30) November: 90F 25th Anniv. of Tontouta Chamber of Commerce;
- 9 (10) December: 120F 150th Anniv. of first Christmas Mass in New Caledonia;
- 10 December: Coats-of-arms of municipalities, sheetlet of 13 at 70F each;
- 27 (28) January 1994: permanent-value Cagou Bird definitive (current value 60F);
- 18 (19) February: Hong Kong 94: 60F airmail and sheetlet of two 105F stamps.
Withdrawals: 2 December 1993: 80F Auckland (two); 105F and 130F Caledonian flora; 125F Writers (two); 76F + 76F Fifty years of the CCE;
170F 9th South Pacific Games.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 8 (13) December 1993: 2,80F Noel 1993;
- 17 January 1994: 2,80F Commandant Louis Blaison;
- 14 February: 5F and 10F Bowling game;
- 14 March: 3,70F insect and flower.
Withdrawals: 14 January 1994: Fish (four at 2,80F).

Wallis & Futuna

- 18 October 1993: School art 28, 52, 56F;
- 6 December: 80F Noel 1993;
- 26 January 1994: 400F view of Wallis;
- 18 February: Hong Kong 94 700F airmail.
- There apparently will be no more French definitive stamps (Marianne de Briat, currently) printed specifically for the foreign 1x surface-letter rate 3,70F, currently), as letters and cards to all non-European Community countries must now be sent, pre-paid, as airmail. International rates now consist (5 July 1993 Tariff) of Priority Mail (by air and by zones, replacing the former airmail surtaxes) and Economic Mail (surface mail, though could be flown if space permits).
- The grand prix for philatelic art for 1993 was awarded to (for France) the Endangered Ducks foursome, and (for the Overseas Territories) to the *La brousse en folie* cartoon design of New Caledonia.
- The "Pleasure of Writing" booklet of twelve 2,80F stamps, issued 21-25 October 1993, also came out at that time in sheets of four vertical panes of twelve stamps separated by perforated vertical gutters. Sheet stamps are perforated ca. 13¼; booklet stamps either ca. 12¾ (early part of press run) or ca. 13¼ (later printings). Top and bottom marginal inscriptions are found only on the sheets.
- There were no significant changes in BPMs or localizations of French forces in former Yugoslavia during rest of 1993, from those shown in N° 235, January 1994, p. 19-20.
- APRONUC, the UN mission to oversee the electoral process in Cambodia, was officially terminated 20 September 1993. The French Embassy will handle mail to and from those French troops that remain in Cambodia.

- The 1000-plus French troops in Somalia were scheduled to be repatriated to France by 15 January 1994.
- As an addendum to Bob Kinsley's "Cut-out Cut-ups" in the January 1994 number (#235, p. 10-11), also see For the Record #426, in #190 (October 1982) for a reasonably similar explanation for the presence of these holes.
- It should have been mentioned in For the Record #692 (January 1994) that millesime numerals were added to the central gutters in late 1891 (see FCP #188, April 1982, p. 58). But millesime numerals were not always inserted for all printings of the Group Type, for whatever the reasons.
- Oops-Sorry-Dept. Ira Zweifach was our Journal Editor during 1958-1963, after Stephen Rich and prior to Bob Stone (see last paragraph of *Random Jottings*, p. 19 of January 1994 FCP). But that was (just) before my time.

Some Show Reports

- Saratoga National Exhibition 94 (February 1994): Gold medal to Paul Larsen for German Togo 1885-1914; Vermeil medal to Steve Washburne for Classic Stamps of Portugal; Silver medal to Jerry Massler for "Monaco Special Studies" (see Meeting of 2 February notice, p. 64).
- SANDICAL '94 (San Diego, CA, February): Gold medal to Stan Jersey for British Solomons in WWII, Vermeil medal to Gordon Torrey for "The Midnight War 1918-1922"; Silver medal to Bob Kinsley for "Postal Markings on Stampless letters of France 1589-1869."

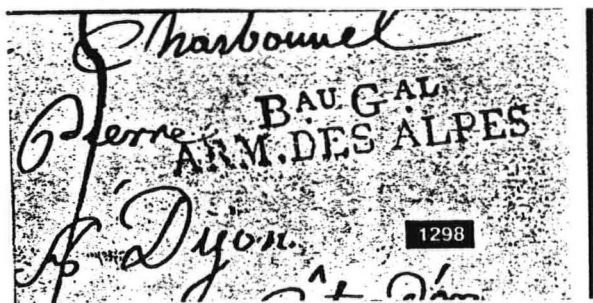
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FOR THE RECORD

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(continued from FCP #235, January 19954, p. 28)

- 696.) In our handbook, "A Chronology of French Military Campaigns and Expeditions With their Postal Markings, 1815-1983," Bill Waugh and I stated on p. 15 that we had not seen any military-postal markings on covers of the Hundred Days. Here illustrated is a Bau Gal/ARM.DES ALPES on 24 June 1815 cover from Grenoble, sent by Gen. Charbonnel (Demarest, 9 December 1993 auction, Lot 1298, sold at the bargain price of 4201Fr).



- 697.) After the 1940 fall of France, a number of machine cancels had their touristic propaganda slogans entirely or partially removed, presumably to discourage thoughts of leisure travel during those hard times.
- 698.) Robson Lowe advises, in the *Jour. of the F&CPS* [Gr. Britain], Vol. 43, N° 4, 1993, about forgeries of French Classics made in the 1980s by

The House of Stamps (Switzerland), formerly the Pro Phil Forum (West Germany). All the 1849-1850 Cérés stamps have been forged, as cancelled and uncanceled singles and/or blocks of four with tête-bêche, as has the 5F Lauré. Colors on the 15c and on some 40c Cérés are incorrect, and "the lettering is less strong than that of the genuine stamps." "The 5F imitation is fractionally smaller than the genuine." Most cancels are of the identical type 17 Beaune/3e 5 Mars/ (20) [no year date], but lozenges of dots also exist. Some **but not all** of these imitations bear "Prefabrik" or "replik" on back in very small letters. Covers reportedly exist. *Caveat emptor!*

- > 699.) During the waning days of the Vichy régime and the German occupation of southern France, a bicycle service existed for the transportation of Special Delivery (*Exprès*) mail within the Languedoc-Rousillon region. According to Joel Ibert, writing in *Feuilles Marcophiles*, N° 275 (1993), the extreme dates for this officially sanctioned service appear to be 18 July-22 August 1944, though what mail is known is dated 22 July-2(?) August 1944. Cost was 6F *Exprès* fee plus 1F50 postage for letters not to exceed 20 gm. The known covers all bear this total of 7F50 in postage stamps. Part of one such cover is illustrated here (Sinais 26th auction sale, February 1994, Lot 1583). What member might have one such envelope to show the rest of us?



- > 700.) Stocks of 30c black square postage-due stamps (and of the 60c blue) were used until terminated, which was long after the appearance of the 30c black Duval-design due stamp. According to Jack Blanc, in *Documents Philatéliques*, N° 139 (1994), the 30c square due was little used through 30 September 1882, but the 30c black Duval due was much less used. After 1 October 1882, the square stamp became very infrequently used, whereas the Duval stamp became the norm. Furthermore, the 30c square due stamp was never placed in use at Paris POs.
- > 701.) We've recently discussed the WWII airmail service between Vichy France and the Somali Coast in some detail (N° 232, April 1993, p. 40-41; N° 234, October 1993, p. 121-22). Now comes word of an ephemeral submarine service (carrying provisions and minimal mail) between Madagascar and blockaded Djibouti, prior to the May 1942 British capture of Madagascar. Although a few Vichy French submarines sailed between the two Vichy-held colonies between July 1941 and May 1942, Bertrand Sinais (*Documents Philatéliques*, N° 139, 1944) claims only three covers are known, and which are illustrated in his article. Shouldn't we be searching for more?

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NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

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- "Catalogue des timbres fiscaux et sociaux-postaux de France," 1994 edition; 152 pp.; 160Fr + 20Fr postage, from Editions Yvert et Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, F 80036 Amiens Cedex 1, France. (Revised edition of the detailed catalogue of French fiscals, with new coverage for automobiles, fishing licenses, meat products, local overprints, etc. Varieties and types are shown. Dates of laws and decrees are given.)
- "La Poste rurale dans le Gard"; 65 pp.; contact M. G. Beraud, rue P. Tailland, F 30130 Pont Saint Esprit, France, for information and pricing.
- "Histoire postale de la Principauté de Monaco des origines à 1885," by Maurice Boule; 500Fr + 35Fr registered postage, from Monaco-Collections, Boîte Postale 282, F 98005 Monaco Cedex. (A detailed study in three parts: pre-philatelic period, Sardinian and French stamps used in Monaco, and a study of postal evolution under Sardinian and French administration; concludes with a listing of 1704-1886 tariff rates.)
- "Out-Foxing the Fakers," by Jean-François Brun; translated from the French by R. L. Gaillaguet (1993); 120 pp., hardbound; \$35.00 (\$28.00 for APS members) postpaid, from American Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 8000-N, State College, PA 16803. (FCPS member Brun's remarkable 1980 book, "Faux et Truqués," on just about everything philatelic that can be faked or at least altered--and with examples mainly of France and Colonies material--has now been translated by FCPS member Ray Gaillaguet, and is readily available to non-French readers.)
- "Les Bureaux de Quartier de Paris 1852-1863," by Jean-Claude Delwaulle: Vol. 2, part 2 of the *Encyclopédie de Philatélie*; 144 pp., cardbound, numerous illustrations, 4 color plates; 220Fr postpaid, from Arnaud de La Mettrie, 47 blvd. Garibaldi, F 75015 Paris, France; checks or money orders payable to l'Académie de Philatélie. (This will be the definitive reference work on the popular lozenge killers and associated date stamps of Paris.)
- "Catalogue des Oblitérations Mécaniques de France," by Gérard Dreyfuss (1994); 420 pp., 21 x 29.7 cm, numerous illustrations, close to 17,000 described and priced machine cancellations; 380Fr postpaid from Editions Yvert et Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, F 80036 Amiens Cedex 1, France. (All French machine cancels from the Daguins onward are covered, as well as varieties and errors.)
- "Classification thématique des flammes illustrées françaises," by G. Artaud; about 120 pp.; 210Fr from Librairie-Service de "Timbroscopie," 33 rue de Chazelles, F 75850 Paris Cedex 17, France. (Some thousands of illustrated French slogan machine cancels, classed according to 97 different topics.)
- "Monographie des marques postales et oblitérations de la Somme-76 des origines à 1904," by Julien Lesaffre; 104 pp., incl. 48 pp. of nomenclature, 48 pp. of documents, and 8 introductory pages; 330Fr + 20Fr postage (in **French** Francs) from the author, 7 rue Derasse, B 7500 Tournai, Belgium. (Value indices given for all markings.)
- "Le Service Postal Rural," by Marino Carnévalé-Mauzan, et al; 144 pp., 16 x 24 cm, numerous illustrations; 325Fr postpaid; check payable to M. Carnévalé, 2 Ave. Félix Viallet, F 38000 Grenoble, France.

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F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

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President's Letter

You will find the reports of the Treasurer and the Corresponding Secretary in this issue of the *France & Colonies Philatelist*. The Society's General Fund closed 1993 almost unchanged from the previous year. This is a considerable decline from 1992, when the General Fund registered a significant increase. The trend is definitely of concern, particularly as costs such as postage are clearly going to increase. The Directors have generally not moved to raise dues until the "Equity in General Fund" has moved to a deficit, so, in the worst case, I would expect dues to remain at the current level for at least two more years. In addition, I suspect that this year's Treasurer's Report is somewhat more negative than reality. In spite of the best efforts of the Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary to allocate dues receipts to the current or to future years, our reported Dues-Income has always shown fluctuations significantly larger than can be explained by the changes in membership. For 1993 these gremlins seem to have produced a particularly low figure for Dues-Income.

In many ways the most important report for the future of the Society is that of the Corresponding Secretary. Here I am more concerned: although we had only a 3% decline during 1993, this is the fourth consecutive year that membership has dropped. Every year we will lose some members, for a variety of reasons. It is only through a continuous influx of new members that we can maintain and build the Society. This is where any member of the Society can make a contribution. Our best recruiters are always our present members. Please encourage any of your colleagues with an interest in French philately to join the Society. Membership application forms can always be obtained from the Corresponding Secretary: Walter E. Parshall, 103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003, along with information on available publications of the Society.

"The Postal History of the Commune Revolution, Paris 1871" by Gardner L. Brown is now available for sale by the Corresponding Secretary. This 108-page book now has a light blue cover. The member's price is \$16 postpaid.

We will again hold the Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibits in October. The Entry Forms will be included in the July issue of the *Philatelist*. For our new members, I would explain that this an annual competitive exhibit of French-related philatelic material, open to all members, and with each entry limited to two 16-page frames.

--Dick Stevens

Corresponding Secretary's Report For 1993

Total Membership as of January 1, 1993	715
Total New Members for the Year of 1993	44
Total Reinstatements for the Year of 1993	10
	54
Resignations Received for the Year 1993	29
Total Deceased Members for the Year 1993	8
Members Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues	37
Members Undeliverable as Addressed, 1993	3
	77
Net Membership Gain for the Year of 1993	0
Net Membership Loss for the Year of 1993	23
Total Membership as of December 31, 1993	692

Treasurer's Report
France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc.
1/1/93 through 12/31/93

INCOME:

Total 1993 Dues	\$6,642.50
Entry Error	0.03
Interest Income	699.99
Total Publications	804.50
Income - Other	70.00

TOTAL INCOME 8,217.03

EXPENSES:

Advertising	260.00
Club Meetings	251.18
Gardner Brown Book	1,168.40
<i>Philatelist:</i>	
Editor	658.47
Envelopes	133.84
Insert	57.79
Labels	167.08
Magazine	<u>4,430.09</u>

Total *Philatelist* 5,447.27

Secretary:

Corresponding	800.00
Recording	<u>117.53</u>

Total Secretary 917.53

Expenses - Other 184.49

TOTAL EXPENSES 8,228.87

TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE -11.85

ASSETS:

Cash and Bank Accounts

F&C Saving	20,285.97
F&C Checking	<u>3,824.68</u>

Total Cash and Bank Accounts 24,110.65

TOTAL ASSETS 24,110.65

LIABILITIES & EQUITY**LIABILITIES:**

Restricted Funds

Prepaid Dues	4,456.75
Spiegel Fund	1,437.58
Vaurie Fund	<u>14,808.45</u>

Total Restricted Funds 20,702.78

TOTAL LIABILITIES 20,702.78

EQUITY IN GENERAL FUND 3,407.87

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 24,110.65

Respectfully submitted,
 William W. Wallis
 Treasurer
 2/23/94

NEW MEMBERS

- 2995 WULFF'S STAMPS (John & Leland), P.O. Box 661746, Sacramento, CA 95866. (General France: Mint - Used. Classics 1849-1876: Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint - Used. French Community: Offices Abroad. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used. All Colonies And Territories. Dealer: Part-Time.)
- 2996 VAN REUTH, ED, 10722 Shingle Oak Ct., Burke, VA 22015. (No Specialty Given. France & Colonies.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2540 NYBERG, EDWARD J., JR., 101 Champions Green Dr., Madison, AL 35758.
- 1364 PLYLER, EARLE F., 3600 Oak Hollow Dr., Edmond, OK 73013.
- 2060 THEURER, JACK, Name Change to G. Jack Theurer.
- 1887 PARNIAK, MICHAEL A., 3475 Ridgewood, #402, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3V 1B4
- 2931 ANDERSON, WILLIAM MARK, III. Name change to W. Mark Anderson, III.
- 1795 HRYCAK, M.R., P.O. Box 520288, Flushing, NY 11352-0288.
- 2101 SIMON, JAMES R., P.O. Box 63, Dunn-Loring, VA 22027.
- 2855 WEXELBLAT, DAVID, 1503 Lincoln Circle, Apt. 101, McLean, VA 22102.
- 2978 MARTIN, TOM, 470 Stepp Avenue - Apt. 3-A, Hendersonville, NC 28739.
- 1228 GALARNEAU, ROLAND F. (Change of Zip Code), 545 Rimmon St., Manchester, NH 03102-3127.
- 2557 BRAUN, F. CARL., M.D., c/o Lynx Air, P.O. Box 407139, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33340.
- 2881 BRYANT, J.B., 51 Hillview Court, Woking, Surrey GU22 7QW, United Kingdom.
- 2526 KOHN, STANLEY P., 20756 Quedo Dr., Woodland Hills, CA 91364.
- 2979 TAYLOR, THOMAS O., 19 Ingleton Circle, Kennett Square, PA 19348.
- 1594 SIMONETTI, FRANK, P.O. Box 790335, Middle Village, NY 11379 (Change of box number).
- 2875 RUSSELL, DARYL A., P.O. Box 260410, Littleton, CO 80126-0410.
- 1781 SCHUMACHER, MARK, 816 Spring Garden St., Greensboro, NC 27403-2431.

REINSTATEMENT

- 2851 BURNS, DONALD L., 7032 44th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53142-1707. (General Collector: All Issues.)

RESIGNATIONS

- | | | | |
|------|---------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 2176 | Lorraine D. Hackman | 1630 | B. N. Cassem |
| 2800 | Parker C. Sams | 2789 | Albert B. Knapp, M.D. |
| 2504 | Donald W. Smith | | |

UNDELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED

- 93 PAUL BAUDRY (18 Blvd. Maillot, F 92200 Neuilly-s-Seine, France)
- 2602 Morgan W. Godwin (205 Blvd. St.-Germain, F 75007 Paris, France)

DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

Peter Balner, Lewis D. Gilbert, Robert Gittelsohn, Fernando Iglesias, Giselle Arness, Terry Barham, Glendon B. Boothe, Barbara L. Cambre, Bruce H. Carrol, Richard T. Cowan, William A. DeVasher, Jr., Kenneth F. Doig, Robert B. Edison, Ronald E. Flegler, Dale Foreman, William K. George, Marcia B. H. Greenwood, Dr. A. S. Hagan, James Hayward, Charles W. Heckroth, Herman LeRoy Jones, Jr., Roger A. Kohagen, Ron

Marsee, A. G. Miller, George Olshevsky, J. Mark Polhemus, Patrick John Rotar, Jerome Shores, Leo G. Thompson, Jr., K. E. Van Every, Herbert Woodward, John Zenz, Bill Bartlett, Zenon Drapiewski, Janice Dugas, Cam McPherson, Fred Scinto, Gregoire Teyssier, Se Hyuk Bang, Kay Gaetjens, Hirotaka Iida, Jean Peyrieux, Shoichi, Wakakuwa.

Meeting of 7 December 1993

Tonight President Stevens presented 16 frames of the 1920-1931 period issues of Martinique, with an excellent selection of stamps and postal history from this period. The 1920 surcharges of 05/1, 10/2 and 25/15 were the first created on the actual definitives of Martinique, although Dick suggested that there was not a pressing need for these issues as evidenced by their use on covers. The overprints were produced locally, with many varieties typical of Colonial overprints of the period. Some of the varieties have achieved modest catalog values and are frequently seen in French sales. A few properly franked covers were shown including two of the 05/1 overprints used on a visiting card to France and the 10/2 on a postal card. Although Dick felt the remainder of the covers had a philatelic taint, a nice combination of the 05/1 and two of the 10/2 were shown prepaying the 25c rate from Fort-de-France to Buenos Aires. Also presented was an example of the inverted variety of the 25/15 on cover.

The 1924 surcharges with *fleuron* produced on the 1908 and 1922 issues present a problem of what is the normal positioning of the surcharge. Dick was pleased to report that Scott has been following his suggestions in cataloging this issue. For the 1908 issue the surcharge normally reads up and for the 1922 issue the surcharge normally reads down. Again varieties of this issue were shown, as were covers illustrating the use of the issue. Covers are generally difficult to find. Dick highlighted a local letter posted on the 18th of February 1924 just four days after the issue became available. He questioned whether covers of this issue prepared for Holtseizer were philatelic or not.

Thereafter, the surcharges produced for Martinique were typical of those of all of the Colonies being prepared to consume existing unused stocks with numerous varieties. The three 25c surcharges (on the 15c, 2F and 5F stamps) of 1924-1927 have not been seen on covers of the period by Dick. The 60-65-85c surcharges are also rarely seen on covers from the period, except for the 60c value which is seen on post cards from the period. The same is true for the 90/75 surcharge of 1927. The 1.25 and 1.50/1F surcharges corresponded to the foreign letter rate for the period, with the 1.25 value valid for but a few months. Commercial uses of these stamps on covers from the 40s were shown in the collection. Of the high value surcharges (3F-10F-20F/5), Dick noted only the 3F on cover, with the 10F and 20F not having been seen.

The Colonial Exposition of 1931 provided four denominations, with no varieties, essays or proofs for collectors. These stamps are seen on commercial and philatelic mail.

With regard to covers and rates for all of the above issues for the 1908-1933 period, Dick noted a relative stability of rates for the 1908-1921 period, followed by a period of instability from 1921-1927, and then stable rates from 1927-1930. A survey of French Community and foreign rates for this period suggests that some of the rates were in effect for less than six months, and detailed, accurate data are lacking. Covers from the 1927-1937 period are somewhat easier to find because of the relative constancy of rates. Among the rates Dick illustrated were a variety of postal card (short and long imprinted message), printed matter, return receipt, use for COD and French Community mail, along with a number of foreign-destination covers.

This period and that which followed remain somewhat of a mystery to Colonial collectors of all Colonies, as definitive documentation of rates applicable with examples illustrating them remains to be done.

--Ed Grabowski

Meeting of 2 February 1994

Member Jerry Massler was in town tonight, all the way from Seville, Spain. He presented five frames of what he has entitled **MONACO: SPECIAL STUDIES**. The exhibit will be shown in Florida this season, and represents Jerry's attempt to bring new meaning to the area of Special Studies. He presented five frames of a seven frame exhibit, in which each frame contains a different Monaco specialty area. Each of the frames required five to ten years to put together, and it is most unlikely that any of the individual frames could grow to two. Thus, Jerry has combined them in an effort to present a variety of Monaco miscellanea that one would be most unlikely to see in a typical competitive exhibit.

The first frame dealt with Monaco fakes and forgeries. Actually many of them were from the infamous Fournier firm and were prepared and sold as facsimiles to fill spaces in collectors' albums. Over the years they have worked their way into dealers' stocks and collections. Also shown were some very crude forgeries of the first issue and the very good Speratti forgeries. Jerry suggested that in checking for fakes, one should check the paper and perforations first, as these often provide the easiest clues. Frame two contained the Monaco **OL** cancellations from the Service de Beausoleil used from 1902 through 1908. This was a special cancel and the office created for French workers in Monaco who resided in the upper reaches of the Principality. The **OLs** were struck on the stamps and used as a precancellation. Those seen on letters, etc. are fakes. Frame three consisted of a perfin study with a number of discovery copies.

Frame four dealt with letters bearing the **AR** handstamp which was used for registered mail for which a return receipt had been requested. Often the Monaco tariffs did not correspond to the French tariffs for a given period. During the 19th Century, the additional franking for the return receipt was placed on the envelope, whereas after the turn of the century, this was not the practice. Jerry showed rates and pieces up to the current period. Frame five concluded the presentation with a study of the cachets, labels and rates used for express mail. Of interest was the fact that express mail to Paris was treated as pneumatic mail once it arrived in the capital.

--Ed Grabowski

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MEMBERS' APPEALS

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

WANTED: Postally used French Africa--Colonial period and post-independence. Will buy or exchange. Pierre Robichaud, 650 rue Deguire, St.-Laurent, Quebec H4L 1L2, Canada. (Mb. #1128).

AVAILABLE ON APPROVAL: Older Baedekers and other travel guides for many countries, French regions; older picture postcards of French towns and regions. Write to Siegfried Feller, 8 Amherst Rd., Pelham, MA 01002. (Mb. #1948).

WANTED: Covers, imperforates, proofs, essays, deluxe sheet, color and perforation misregistrations, for French Art Deco Exposition of 1925. Contact T. W. Broadhead, 4404 Tazewell Pike, Knoxville, TN 37918. (Mb. #2830).

WANTED: Stamps and any historical documents concerning Senegal. Bruno Mattei, 25 rue Henriette, F 68100 Mulhouse, France. (Mb. #2952).

WANTED: Deluxe sheet (*épreuve de luxe*) of Comoro Islands Scott C68, in very fine condition. Ron Knight, P.O. Box 34314, San Diego, CA 92163. (Mb. #2495).

SELLING: French and Fr. Colonial revenues and Cinderellas. Also worldwide revenues. Gordon Brooks, P.O. Box 396, Station N.D.G., Montreal, Quebec H4A 3P7, Canada. (Mb. #2959).

OFFER: Jean Pothion's "Catalogue des Marques Postales des Bureaux de Distribution de France - Cursives - 1819-1858" (includes estimated valuations). \$20 postpaid, from Robert Kinsley, 949 North 60th Ave., W. Richland, WA 99352. (Mb. #2180).

WANTED: Fezzan-Ghadames - provisionals, proofs, deluxe sheets, covers. Especially seeking Deluxe sheets Sc. 2N15 and 2NC1. Have material to trade. Correspondence welcomed. James V. McNamara, 9 Raymond St., Allston, MA 02134. (Mb. #2984).

WANTED: Correspondents interested sharing information on cards and letters from France to US during and prior to WWI, the cards being pre-printed to US address and appear to have originated from various hospitals. Presumably thank-you's to US coordinator of a relief effort. Contact John E. Peacock, P.O. Box 1295, Coventry, RI 02816. (Mb. #2994).