



# France & Colonies Philatelist



## POSTAL HISTORY OF THE LAST DAYS OF FRANCE IN ALGERIA: THE NEW DEPARTMENTS, AND THE S.A.S., S.A.U., AND C.A.S. by Laurence H. Lambert

### Introduction

As the French colonial empire in Africa and Asia melted away by becoming independent, the French were determined to keep Algeria. Since the middle of the nineteenth century, Algeria had been considered by the French to be a part of France. It had used stamps of France from 1849 to 1924.

On the other hand, the native Algerians had been demanding reforms as early as the 1930's. By 1955, after 125 years of French rule, the plight of the natives had become intolerable. The French settlers, a ten percent minority, were dominating the 90 percent native majority. There was no intermarriage and very little mixing of the two societies. Few Muslims were citizens. To become citizens, they would have had to forfeit some religious and family teachings. Between the years 1919 and 1935, only 1,631 natives were naturalized as citizens. In addition, the French practiced economic and legal discrimination. Schools for natives were inadequate. Political representation was very little. There were strong cultural and religious differences.

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### Contending Forces

In May 1945, a spontaneous native uprising in Sétif had cost 97 French lives. In reprisal, some thousands of Muslims had been killed or arrested. Following the reprisals, there was a superficial peace, but the natives were clandestinely making plans for political changes. Finally, on October 31, 1954, there were 70 planned acts of violence scattered throughout Algeria. A war of violence, sabotage, and terrorism began, with the Algerians using guerilla tactics.

By the end of 1955, France had 180,000 troops in Algeria. Within another year, this number had risen to nearly a half-million. About 90 percent of these were occupation troops, to guard the settlers and maintain the peace. The remaining force hunted the guerillas.

### French Pacification Attempts

At the same time, the French instituted political reforms designed to pacify the Algerians. Three of these reforms had significant postal consequences. First, it was decided that if Algeria was to look like France, the three large departments should be broken into several smaller ones. Secondly, Algeria must use stamps of France. Thirdly, more friendly contact was needed between the Algerians and the government. This last reform was highly significant, in that an infrastructure did not exist throughout all Algeria, and many natives had no contact whatever with the French. The postal consequences of these reforms are enumerated in the following pages.

\* \* \* \* \*

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### 1. The New Departments

Since 1878 the names of the three departments, ALGER, ORAN, and CONSTANTINE had appeared on postal cancellations. These departments ranged inland from the Mediterranean coast and, in time, extended through the Sahara Desert to the southern border of Algeria. To provide a better administrative structure, and a French presence closer to the Algerians, the three original departments were subdivided. The new departments, along with the old, are listed below, in Table I, along with the beginning and ending dates of their appearance on postal cachets. A date of 1962 indicates that the department existed at the time of Algerian independence. The reader is referred to *FCP* No 224, April 1991, page 40, for a map of Algeria showing the new departments.

Table I.

Department	Beginning and Ending Dates	Notes
Alger	1878 - 1962	boundaries reduced
Aumale	1959 - 1960	short-term dept.
Batna	1959 - 1962	formed out of Constantine
Bone	1957 - 1962	first new dept. (fr. Constantine)
Bougie	1959 - 1960	short-term dept.
Constantine	1878 - 1962	boundaries reduced
Médéa	1959 - 1962	formed out of Alger
Mostaganem	1959 - 1962	formed out of Oran
Oasis	1959 - 1962	eastern Saharan dept.
Oran	1878 - 1962	boundaries reduced
Orléansville	1959 - 1962	formed out of Alger
Saïda	1959 - 1962	
Saoura	1959 - 1962	western Saharan dept.
Sétif	1959 - 1962	formed out of Constantine
Tiaret	1959 - 1962	formed out of Oran
Tizi-Ouzou	1957 - 1962	2nd new dept. (fr. Alger)
Tlemcen	1959 - 1962	formed out of Oran

The dates given above are not absolute. Some western Saharan post offices did not have cachets bearing the new Saoura department name until 1960. Also, post offices newly opened in 1958 often carried the name of the new department in advance of the 1959 date of change shown in Table I. Occasional other aberrations occurred (Figures 1 and 2).

The effect of the new departments on Algerian postal history was considerable. Two of the new departments existed for five years, ten for three years, and two for one year only. Noted in Table I above are several changes in boundaries. In particular, the two short-term departments, as well as the boundary changes, have created cancellation rarities.

### 2. French Stamps used in Algeria

The second of the postal changes, which occurred in 1958, was the discontinuation of the issuance of special stamps for Algeria and the return to stamps of France for use in Algeria. The remainders of stocks of Algerian stamps continued to be valid for franking, and were used along with French stamps. When Algeria became independent in 1962, overprinted stamps of France were used there at first (Figure 3).

### 3. S. A. S., S. A. U., and C. A. S.

The third political reform, that of establishing closer relations with the Algerians, was by far the most significant. To assist in establishing favorable relations, the French established the *Sections Administratives Spécialisées* (S. A. S.'s), and their urban counterpart, the *Sections Administratives Urbaines* (S. A. U.'s). These were a sort of military Peace Corps. The S. A. S.'s and S. A. U.'s established and taught village schools, provided medical care, provided advice to the natives on agriculture and on administrative matters, and sponsored and supervised construction and irrigation projects. If money was available, work projects could be opened and money paid for native labor. With these benefits, the natives had a social, political, and economic structure. At the same time, these establishments also gathered intelligence and watched for native intrigue. There were a total of about 770 of these establishments, scattered throughout Algeria.

The S.A.S.'s provided an administrative infrastructure by locating their headquarters in areas populated by the Arabs and Berbers. An S. A. S. might be in a native village; or, as some villages had to be cleared of natives because of subversive activities, it might be at a regroupment camp.

An S. A. S. was made up of a chief, an assistant, an interpreter, a radio operator, and a guard consisting of generally 20 to 50 Algerian volunteers, as a minimum. They were totally military, since civil employees were not available. One S. A. S., SIDI SALEM S. A. S., a regroupment center near Bone, had its own military station, post office, police station, school, social and cultural center, infirmary, and technical shops where people could learn trades.

The effect of the establishment of the S. A. S.'s and S. A. U.'s on the postal history was tremendous. Of the total number of S. A. S.'s and S. A. U.'s opened, about 225 had their own post offices. These began opening in 1956, and the last ones were opened in 1962, the year of independence. Criteria for deciding which of these would have their own post office were based upon their distance from an existing post office and the need for military security. While the daily operation of these post offices was by the French military, their administration was under the civil posts. Thus, they make up a part of both the civil and the military postal history, of both France and Algeria, in which a large number of students and collectors have an interest.

The cancellations of all these 225 post offices are of a single type. They were all of the *agence postale* class, and used dashed-line hexagonal cancels. As a part of the name of the post office, the letters S. A. S., S. A. U., or C. A. S. (see below) always appear on the cancel. A copy of a cancel for each type is shown in Figure 4. A typical cover is shown in Figure 5. See Figure 6 for an example of a S. A. S. cover with both French and Algerian stamps used in one of the short-term new departments.

Of the total number of post offices in operation at these installations, only two were S. A. U.'s. Examples of their cancels are quite rare.

Within the departments of Oasis and Saoura (the Saharan Desert), the S. A. S.'s were replaced by *Centres d'Administration Saharienne* (C. A. S.'s), on April 1, 1962. The C. A. S.'s began to be replaced in turn by ordinary post offices on May 20, though not all had been replaced by July (independence). Thus, most of the C. A. S.'s were in operation for only two or three months. They are likewise very scarce to rare.

Some of the S. A. S.'s were operational for only a short time. Some were in a particular department for a short time, then transferred to another. Therefore, cancels of some of the S. A. S.'s are also rather rare.

It has been the author's experience that covers of common S. A. S. offices may be obtained for about \$20, and those of the other two types of installa-



tions for no less than \$100. Philatelic covers are comparatively numerous, and often can be obtained for less.

The author is aware of three published philatelic works which aim at listing all the post offices of S. A. S., S. A. U., and C. A. S. These are shown below in the Bibliography under Deloste, Rachou, and Sinais.

### Epilogue

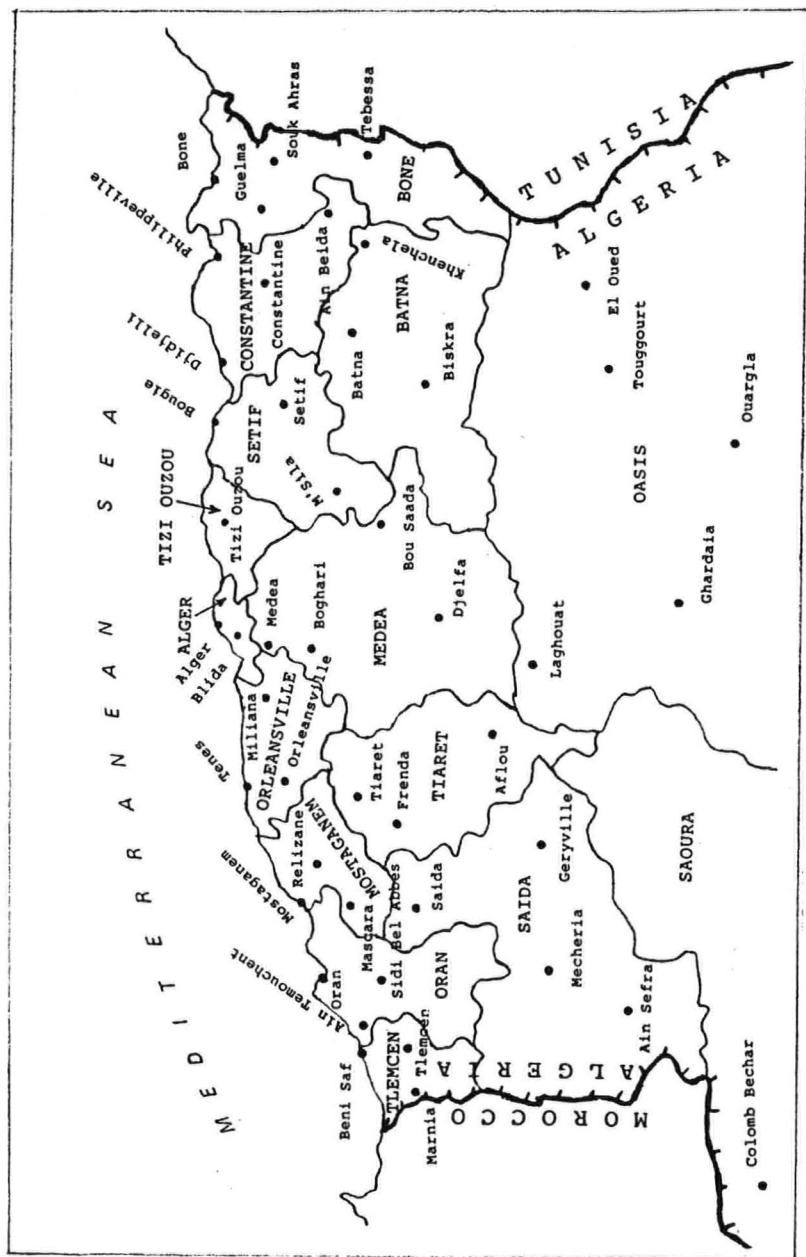
The French reforms came too late to save Algeria for France. Though many natives were won over by the programs for pacification, terrorism continued. By strong reprisals, including torture, the French military maintained the upper hand. However, the issue of torture, along with the high cost of the war, and arguments against rule by force eventually made the war unpopular in France. Finally, the Accords of Evian were signed recognizing Algerian independence. French rule came to a close on July 2, 1962.

\* \* \* \* \*

The author is still researching the S. A. S., S. A. U., and C. A. S., as well as other aspects of the post offices and cancels of Algeria. Readers are requested to send to the author photocopies of the S. A. S., S. A. U., and C. A. S. covers within their collections (if numerous, a listing with date of usage would suffice). The author will endeavor to answer the questions of every reader with regard to any of the aspects of this article. (1519 Scenic Drive, Rolla, MO 65401.)

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- W. M. Waugh and S. J. Luft: *A Chronology of French Military Campaigns and Expeditions with their Postal Markings, 1815-1983*; New York, 1984.
- J. Talbott: *The War without a Name: France in Algeria, 1954-1962*; New York, 1980.



Partial map of Algeria showing the new departments. The Sahara departments, Saoura and Oasis, extend much further southward than space here permits. The departments of Aumale and Bougie, having been abolished in 1959-1960, are not shown. Most of Aumale became the eastern half of Medea, and the rest went to Batna. Most of Bougie became the northern third of Setif, with the rest going to Constantine.

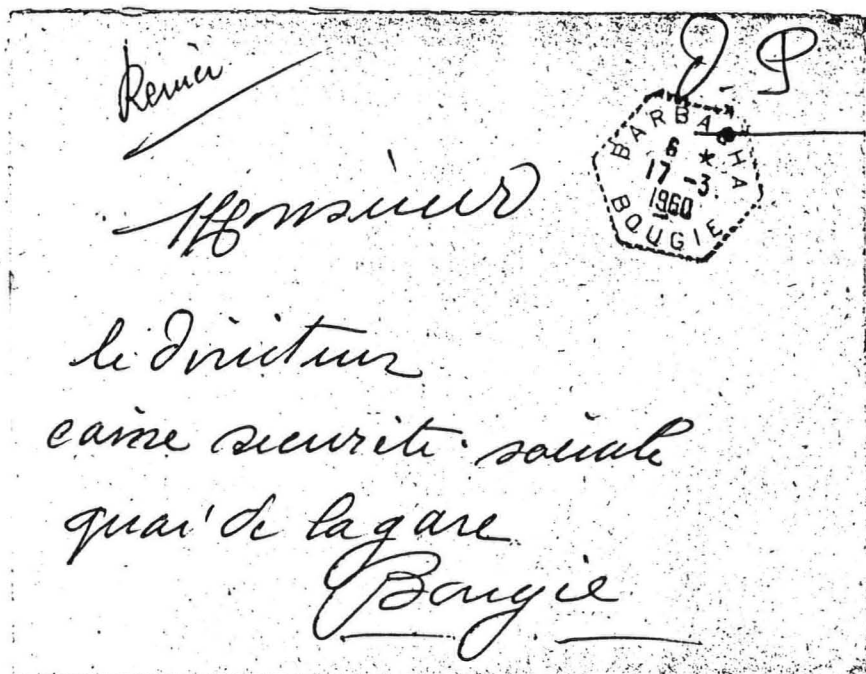


Figure 1. An unfranked official cover of one of the new short-term departments, BOUGIE. As a department name, BOUGIE appeared on cancels from about April 1959 to about April 1960 (Sinais, 1987, p. 210). This cover was canceled at BARBACHA, an *agence postale*, about a month before it was transferred to the new department of Sétif.

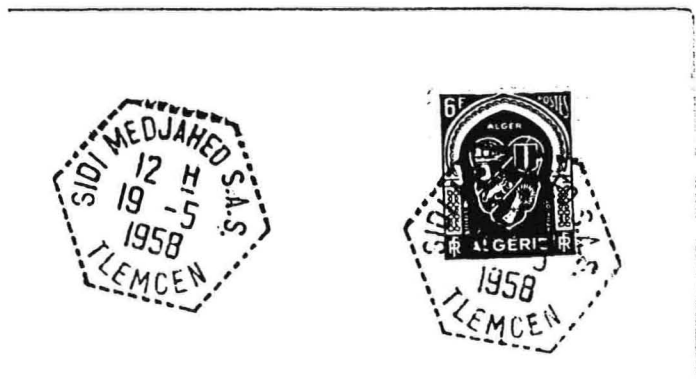


Figure 2. Upper right portion of cover shows a cancel with the new department name of TLEMCEN. Cancels of TLEMCEN as a department name were not placed in general use until 1959, but inasmuch as SIDI MEDJAHED S. A. S. was opened as a new post office in 1958, it was given cancels with the new department name before the 1959 changeover shown in Table I.



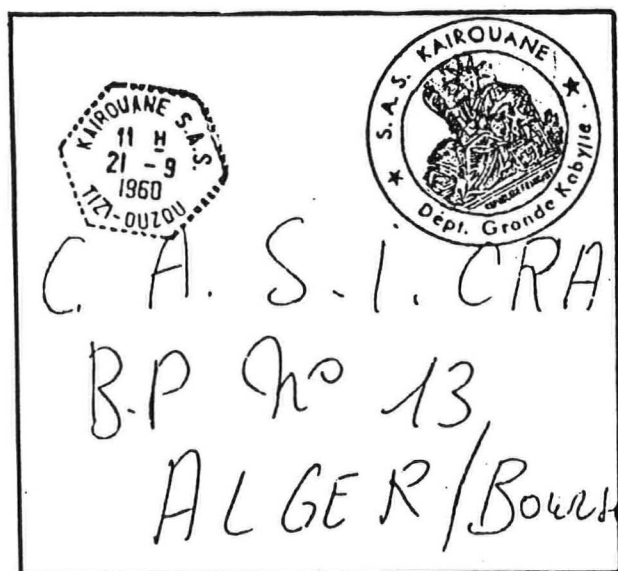


Figure 5. A typical example of an official S. A. S. cover, showing an administrative cachet and a postal cancellation. The administrative cachets, or *cachets de franchise*, are not treated in this article. (See the bibliography entry under Perrin and Saunier.)



Figure 6. S. A. S. cover bearing mixed French and Algerian franking, canceled in the new short-term department of AUMALE. Used at EDDIS S. A. S. about a month prior to abolishment from cancels of AUMALE as a department name. This is likely a philatelic cover, but serves well to illustrate the dynamism of the postal history in the last days of the French period of Algeria.

**AMAZING 1870/1871 WONDER STORIES - 5****by Ernst M. Cohn**

The term "pli confié" means "entrusted letter." In 1870/1871, a "pli confié" might have been entrusted to a smuggler, a diplomat, or a balloonist to try to get it safely out of besieged Paris into free France or beyond, and vice versa. It was a substitute for registration, which was not available for siege mails.

Just as philatelists wish, if possible, to assign a normal balloon letter to a certain balloon, so do they try to ascribe "plis confiés" to specific balloons. Naming the balloon is sometimes difficult because, say, two balloons left the same day. Even if one carried no post office mail, every balloon might have had entrusted mail abroad. Or else, there may be a long delay between the time a letter was written and when it was first postmarked, simply because the person to whom it had been entrusted changed his plans yet kept the letter until he finally did fly out.

Sometimes the place and date where a letter was postmarked is characteristic of a certain flight, whereas earliest postmarks from Tours or later from Bordeaux are not very helpful, those being the seats of the government delegation, where many balloonists reported at the end of their flight.

On the other hand, assigning covers to specific balloons is easy when postmarked at the place of landing or nearby on the date of landing or the next day, if only a single balloon flew on that date. Also, if the text says "I am giving this letter to Mr. X for getting it safely out of Paris," there can be no doubt as to the balloon that carried Mr. X and his letter.

It should be remembered that entrusting mail to balloonists and to the balloon builders was more common at the start of the siege, when balloon mail was not only a novelty, but when the public had little confidence in the post office's capability of moving mail that way. Though most Parisians did not know about the two fruitless attempts to inflate old, leaky balloons, they were aware that mail was piling up faster at first than lift capacity became available. Later, as the novelty faded and the backlog of mail had been worked off, personally entrusted mail became even scarcer than it had been at the start of the siege. Altogether, such mail amounts to perhaps 3% of the total Paris siege mail. Detailed statistics would probably indicate peaks and valleys of use, depending upon political developments, weather, and knowledge about captured balloons.

Recently, two highly unusual covers turned up (together with one that had apparently been flown on the balloon "Lavoisier"). Both are addressed to Alfred Saglis at Fourchambault (Nièvre). On both the stamp is cancelled by a lozenge with large numeral 1494. The corresponding circular date stamp (cds) reads La Ferté-Macé (59), 2E/24 DEC 70. At that time 59 was assigned to the Orne department. 2E stands for the second period of the day when mail was processed.

One of these letters contains the following note:

La Ferté Macé 24 Xbre 1870-

Dear Sir -

Having left this morning at 3 o'clock by the balloon "The Rouget Delisle" I arrived here this morning some 60 leagues from Paris at 9 o'clock in good health and without having suffered too much from the cold.

I shall get on the way immediately to (town?), and some days later I shall be with you -

Until soon, then, and truly yours

/s/E G...



The picture I got does not show the full signature, but there is little doubt that this note was written by Glachant, one of the passengers of the "Rouget de l'Isle," piloted by Franz Jahn (a sailor from Fort Montrouge, originally from Hanover, Germany). The other passenger was named Garnier. The balloon belonged either to the Telegraph Office or was privately owned. It may have carried 4 kg of purely official dispatches but had no normal mail aboard.

When this lot of three covers surfaced, it was immediately doubted whether it was genuine, though no good reason was given. One "reason" was that the entrusted letter mentioned only business matters, but that is really quite normal. The other was that it was doubtful that a balloonist would write a letter immediately after landing. Yet we know that Rolier, the pilot of the "Ville d'Orléans," wrote a letter to one Herluison while still in flight, an even more unusual situation.

Hence neither the contents of one letter nor the occasion of writing of the other throws any doubt on the authenticity of either cover. (Someone wrote on one "Par Ballon Monté" in an evidently different handwriting, so that endorsement was not on the folded letter originally, which proves nothing.) In general, a healthy amount of skepticism is needed when one is confronted with something unusual or even unique. But without valid evidence, it is as silly to condemn a cover or stamp as it is to accept it without reservation.

When I checked my files for anything from the "Rouget de l'Isle," I found but one cover, auctioned at Detroit by the late Roger Koerber in 1974. It is addressed to Monsieur Caruél Ainé, 83 Rue Geoffroy de Moutbray, à Coutances (Manche). Cancel and cds are identical with those of the new find, including the second "levée."

This additional "pli confié" certainly lends strong support to the presumed authenticity of the other two covers.

## FRENCH MARCOPHILY--RURAL MARKINGS

by Robert T. Kinsley

The *Directeur Général* for postal affairs, Baron Villeneuve de Bargemont, issued a Decree of 3 June 1829 which extended postal service to all towns, effective 1 April 1830. A portion of the administrative implementation of the Decree by the Dept. of Pyrénées-Orientales, addressed to the various mayors of the towns, is shown in Figure 1. Not only did this lawn spawn the proliferation of the circular town and date marks reported in the July 1993 *FCP*, but it also led to the birth of a few marks wholly rural in nature. The most straightforward are the markings "OR" (*origine rurale*) in a circle and "OL" (*origine locale*) in circle of dots, placed mail handed directly to a rural postman (Figures 2 and 3). Yvert<sup>1</sup> further identifies capital letters in a circle of about 10mm diameter (letters A to Y) as a handstamp identifying a rural collection point (Figure 4), and letters with a small number below (Figure 5) designate a supplemental mail box placed in a small village served by a circuit postman (*facteur*) assigned to a larger commune. These lettered handstamps first appeared around 1835, but similar markings of letters or letters with numbers, within larger circles of 15 to 20mm diameter, were used in Paris as early as 1760 to identify specific post offices (*bureaux*) there. (In 1863, the Paris letters were changed to numbers in a circle.)

Also in April 1830, there appeared one of the first handstamped postage due markings, the *décime rural*, a "1 d." in an oval (Figure 6), indicating an extra charge of one *décime* (ten centimes) to deliver (struck in black) or collect (in red)<sup>2</sup> to or from a rural area. At the same time, we find the first use of

"CL" in a hexagonal box (Figure 7) signifying *correspondence locale*, applied to letters mailed and delivered within the same village, struck usually in red but occasionally in black. Yvert also lists a "CD" in a rhomboid or lozenge (Figure 8), indicating "delivery" of local correspondence. Finally, Yvert reports on page 240 of the *Catalogue des Estampilles...* the existence of a star-like mark (Figure 9) which I have never seen in the flesh, suggesting that it may be a handstamp of a rural postman. Perhaps some member has a cover bearing such a mark.

The reader is referred to Robert G. Stone's succinct (but unillustrated) "French Postal Markings to show Rural and Local Origin," in *FCP* Vol. 29, No 4, October 1973.

1. "Catalogue des Estampilles et Oblitérations Postales de France et des Colonies Françaises," Yvert & Cie., 1929.
2. These specified uses of the colors red and black did not become official until December 1834.

Figure 1

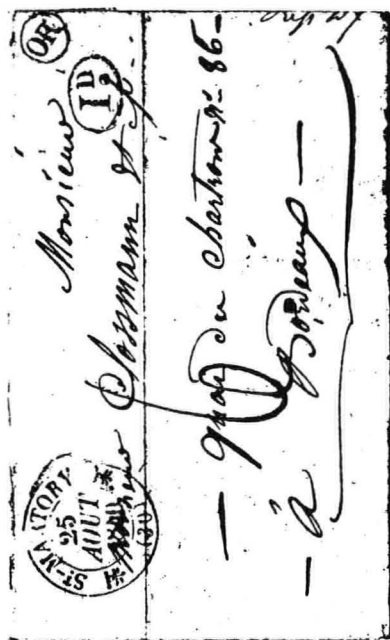


Figure 2

## CORRESPONDANCE.

Distribution des Lettres particulières et Dépêches Administratives dans toutes les Communes rurales:

Perpignan, 31 Mars 1830.  
LE PRÉFET DU DÉPARTEMENT DES PYRÉNÉES-ORIENTALES,  
A MM. les Maires du département.

Messieurs,

L'Ordonnance Royale du 3 juin 1829 a créé un nouveau service pour la distribution des lettres dans toutes les communes du Royaume. D'après les dispositions de cette ordonnance, l'Administration des Postes, à dater du premier avril prochain, fera transporter, à domicile, et recueillir, de deux jours l'un au moins, dans les communes où il n'existe point d'établissement de poste, les correspondances administratives et particulières.

Les facteurs ruraux seront ainsi chargés du transport des dépêches qui vous sont parvenues jusqu'à ce jour par les piétons des sous-préfectures. Cette partie très-importante de leur service leur a été spécialement recommandée, et j'espère que votre correspondance, avec MM. les Sous-Préfets et avec moi, n'éprouvera jamais de retard. S'il en arrivait autrement, je vous serais très-obligé de me signaler les abus qui pourraient exister.

Une boîte aux lettres sera placée dans toutes les communes où il n'existe point d'établissement de poste. Ces boîtes, garnies de leurs serrures et même des branches de fer qui doivent servir à les attacher, vous seront incessamment adressées. C'est à vous à déterminer la place où elles seront fixées; et à donner vos soins à ce qu'elles soient placées, autant que possible, dans un endroit central, à l'abri du soleil et de la pluie, et vous serez surtout, Messieurs, la nécessité de choisir un lieu sûr, où les tentatives des malfaiteurs pourraient être facilement déjouées. J'appelle particulièrement votre attention sur cette opération essentielle.

Quoique vous puissiez mettre votre correspondance administrative dans les boîtes aux lettres, il est recommandé cependant aux facteurs ruraux de se présenter, à chaque voyage, dans votre domicile ou à la Mairie, afin d'y recueillir les paquets dont le volume serait trop considérable pour entrer dans ces boîtes. Ces agens vous remettront alors les paquets qui vous seront adressés. Mais, dans toutes les communes où il existerait un bureau de distribution, vous devez, Messieurs, déposer vos dépêches entre les mains du Distributeur, dont le bureau doit être ouvert, en été, depuis sept heures du matin du soir; en hiver, depuis huit heures du matin jusqu'à midi, et depuis trois heures jusqu'à sept heures du soir. Dans ces divers cas, vos dépêches doivent être sous-bandes croisées et contre-signées. Je vous prie de rappeler cette formalité à MM. les Receveurs municipaux.

Les facteurs ruraux étant considérés comme des agens directs de l'Administration, sont exempts de péage pour tout passage d'eau dans l'étendue du département.

Je ne terminerai point cette instruction, Messieurs, sans vous recommander de nouveau le placement des boîtes, de veiller surtout à leur conservation, et de coopérer, autant qu'il dépendra de vous, à l'exécution des mesures prises en vertu de l'Ordonnance du 3 juin 1829.

Recevez, Messieurs, l'assurance de mon sincère attachement et de ma considération très-distinguée,

Pour le Préfet absent :

Le Secrétaire-Général, délégué, DELON.



Figure 3



*Monsieur*  
*M. de Saint André*  
*Paris*

Figure 4



Figure 5

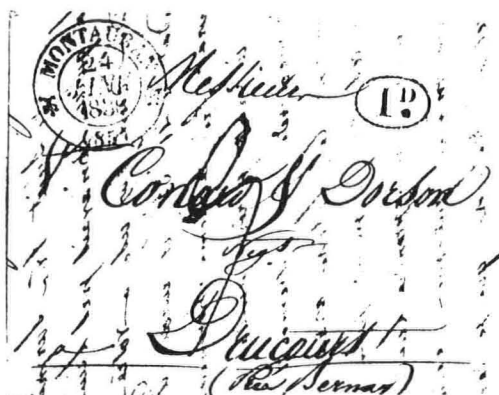


Figure 6

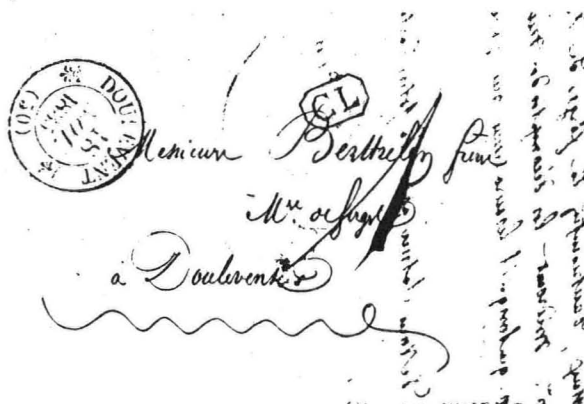


Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

## SOME OTHER FRENCH PHILATELIC JOURNALS AND SOCIETIES (continued from FCP #236, April 1994, p. 54)

*The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, edited by Derek J. Richardson; 4 issues/year, 32-50 pp. each, approx. 5½ x 8". Available with membership in the France & Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain; apply to Treasurer C. J. Hitchen, 36 Everton Road, Croydon CRO 6LA, England; annual rates 8 Pounds (United Kingdom), 11 Pounds (Europe), 13 Pounds (rest of world). This fine publication of our "sister society" contains much information not available in other publications--and in English, of course--though we sometimes abstract articles and notes of what may be of more general interest to our FCP readers.

**SPAL** is the acronym for *Association des SPécialistes en Marques Postales et Oblitérations d'Alsace-Lorraine*, which is quite a mouthful in any language. This extremely user-friendly and erudite society deals exclusively with Alsace-Lorraine philately and postal history, from origins to the present. It has no journal. Instead, it publishes an occasional (currently 4/year) newsletter, *Le Trait-d'Union*, and a long ongoing series of definitive studies on all aspects of A-L philately. The newsletter includes new discoveries, Qs and As, members' appeals, etc. Highly recommended for the specialist. Dues for 1993-1994 are 120Fr, payable to SPAL by check, or by international money order to C.C.P. Strasbourg 1747-40-V. Send checks to Alfred Frantz, 4 rue des Bonnes Gents, F 67000 Strasbourg, France. I, personally, have had questions answered, added new correspondents, and obtained help via appeals, through this society.

*Les Feuilles Marcophiles* ("F.M.") is the quarterly journal of the *Union Marcophile*. It specializes in postal history of France and pre-independence Colonies, with numerous good articles, usually very advanced in their scope and content. Other features include a Q and A section that generally brings a high rate of return, as well as members' appeals, etc. Longer articles are issued from time to time as supplements, some gratis to members and others not. On the occasion of Arphila 75 and PhilexFrance 82 and 89, it published (at extra cost) wonderful compendiums of articles on postal history and marcophily. Four numbers/year, 40 pp. each, 22 x 29.5 cm; 1994 dues 160Fr (plus one-time 50Fr initiation fee), check payable to André Dupecher, la Sonayrole, Route des Sonneries, F 46770 Bagnac-sur-Cele, France; or international money order (also send to Dupecher) payable to C.C.P. "Union Marcophile" Paris 8681-63L.

*Documents Philatéliques* ("Docs. Phil.") is the quarterly journal of the prestigious *Académie de Philatélie*. Each 48 pp. 16 x 24 cm number contains several articles written by members of the Academy, on French, Colonies, and occasionally worldwide philatelic subjects, usually highly illustrated. Nonmembers may subscribe for 210Fr (1994 rate), payable by check to "Académie de Philatélie" or by international money order to C.C.P. "Académie de Philatélie" Paris 143663L; mail to Jean-Paul Schroeder, 7 ave. Beaucour, F 75008 Paris.

*Colfra* is the quarterly organ of the society of the same name, dedicated to the study of stamps, postmarks, and postal history of former French Colonies and present-day overseas territories and departments; of territories temporarily occupied or administered from France; and of French Offices Abroad. Usually 18-24 pp., 22 x 29.5 cm, per quarter, including Qs and As, new issues, etc., as well as articles (some of them by FCPS members). Current dues 145Fr, payable to COLFRA, B. P. 628, F 75367 Paris Cedex 08.

*The Indochina Philatelist* is a bimonthly issued by the Society of Indochina Philatelists. About 16-18 pp., 8½ x 11", per issue, devoted to short articles, notes and news, new issues, reviews, letters, occasionally one longer article; especially useful for modern Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Many members/contributors are also FCPS members. Membership \$15/year (North America), \$18 (elsewhere); information from Executive Secretary George DeMeritte, P.O. Box 865, Largo, FL 34649-0865.

## FRENCH TROOPS UNDER UN COMMAND--MISSIONS WITHOUT FRENCH MILITARY POSTMARKS

*Le Monde des Philatélistes* for March 1994 covers a number of 1948-on missions where French troops were deployed, albeit in too minimal numbers to warrant having their own *Bureaux Postal Militaires* (BPMs). For the most part, UN mail services and postal markings have been used instead. (Also see short review articles in *FCP* for April and July 1993). These missions include or included:

**ONUST**, supervising the 1948 truce in the Near East, with UN observers stationed in Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Syria.

**MINURSO**, assisting in self-determination efforts, from 29 April 1991-on, in the western Sahara.

**ONUSAL**, observing the application of terms for the cease-fire in Salvador.

**FINUL**, in South Lebanon since 1978, where French troops at Naquora have been using UNIFIL (UN Interim Force in Lebanon) stationery and markings, as well as the services of BPM 125.

**MONUIK (UNICOM)**, observing the truce zone between Iraq and Kuwait since April 1991.

**ACONIT**, surveying Iraq north of the 36th Parallel, to prevent actions against Iraqi Kurds, from NATO base at Incirlik, Turkey (BPM 648 also serves there).

**ALYSSE**, based at Dahrhan, Saudi Arabia, observes flights along Iraqi border, and is served by BPM 646 as well as by UN postal facilities.

**SINAL**, observing the peace in the Sinai Peninsula.

**APRONUC**, in Cambodia (BPM 212) to supervise free elections, was terminated late September 1993; UN postal facilities at Phnom-Penh closed 25 October 1993; last soldiers left 15 November 1993.

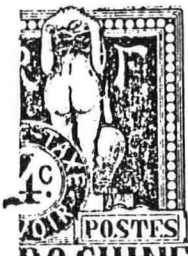
**MINUAR** attempted to maintain peace and assure an orderly change in regime in Rwanda, prior to the Spring 1994 civil war. Its status is unclear as of this writing.

**ONUZOM**, in Mozambique, was terminated 5 November 1993, after working for peaceful elections then scheduled for October 1994.

We have since learned, however, from the May 1994 number of *Le Monde*, that APRONUC's BPM 212, at Sihanoukville, did close 5 November 1993; BPM 211, for the French military staff, at Phnong-Penh, closed on 9 November.

## THE DRAGON OR THE LADY?

We recall being shown years ago a certain stamp design and being regaled with an associated scatological (for kids back then) story. For those not in the know, here is an enlargement of much of a 1908 Indochina postage-due stamp showing a Dragon from the Steps of Angkor Wat. Member Bert Mendelsohn kindly sent us a witty, albeit long-winded account, by "*Le Sagittaire de Verdun*," from the long-since defunct *La Circulaire Philatélique* of December 1908. Therein, "*Le Sagittaire*" spins for his long-suffering disciple a most fanciful explanation for the French PTT's (bad) choice of this design. And, if you haven't figured it out by now, the "Dragon" could just as easily be a rear view of a headless nude female. OK, so it *was* amusing back in 1908.



### OUR FEATURED COVER

Lot 282 of Lugdunum Philatélie's 12th auction, March 1994, shows a Paris, 6 Feb. 1871 cover addressed to Cairo, with added Egyptian stamps for 23 February forwarding (Figure 1). This is undoubtedly one of the few covers of this at most 6-16 February 1871 period to be recognized for what it is: permissible mailing, at underfranked 20c rate, from Paris to foreign destinations, through the offices of the German censor at Versailles and **not** receiving the additional, very scarce blue boxed marking VERSAILLES/AUSWECHSELUNGS STELLE. This is also further proof that the boxed censor marking was applied only to one cover (top one or bottom one) per bundle of letters and not, of course, to each and every Paris-Etranger cover of that brief period.



(Figure 1)

### LEAMINGTON SPA - MARCH 1994

It was indeed a pleasure to attend the Annual Philatelic Weekend and Competition of our sister Society, The France & Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain, at the end of our March holiday in England. In recent years, this weekend has been held at the Regent Hotel in Leamington Spa, near Coventry and Stratford-on-Avon and conveniently located to provide activities for family members not interested in philatelic doings. With such a central location, more than thirty members of the Society attended the weekend, coming from as far away as the south coast of England and Scotland. Jerry Massler and yours truly represented the "Colonial" contingent. The Regent Hotel is worthy of note also. Besides being an attractive, comfortable and relatively inexpensive place to hold a weekend meeting, the hotel has much historic interest because of the many famous guests that have resided there. Among these were none other than Napoleon III himself, whose stay is commemorated in a stained glass window along the hotel's main staircase.

The weekend itself is an opportunity to experience some very diverse, intense and scholarly French-area philately while having a wonderful time.



After dinner on Friday evening, the members assembled in the meeting room which was outfitted with six display frames along the two longer walls. The purpose was to present recent acquisitions, unusual materials, and problems in an informal atmosphere guaranteed to generate much discussion. Things became more formal on Saturday and Sunday, with more than fifteen presentations from the frames highlighting various aspects of French area philately. Topics ranged from overviews of Metropolitan French collecting to Colonial collections, to the more exotic which included Official Mail of the Revolution and Empire, Entry Markings, Postal Stationery, Pneumatic Post, Interment Camps, The Red Cross, Maritime Mail, Convoyeur-Stations, Madagascar BM Markings, Syria, The Cameroon and The Paris Postal Museum. Organizer Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith noted no lack of volunteer speakers this year. Jerry Massler presented his seven frames of Monaco Special Studies, and yours truly did a slide program on the Group Type issue. About an hour on Saturday afternoon was devoted to the annual competition, and the approach was quite novel. There were entries in three categories, and everyone who was not an exhibitor automatically became a judge. Member Steve Holder, an international judge, gave a crash course in judging, and then we headed for the frames with official score sheets. This proved a formidable experience for most of the judges, since we were on the line to provide a fair judging of material of which we had little knowledge. Overall, the results seemed to come out about right.

After another session on recent acquisitions on Saturday night, Sunday was followed by more talks and displays. I found the weekend to be a tremendous event. It was an opportunity to make many new friends, to learn much in many areas (including my own!), and to have a truly delightful time. I strongly urge members here to join the UK Society if they are not already members. In addition to an excellent journal and much in the way of regional activities, the Society offers this excellent philatelic weekend each year for those who can schedule a March holiday or business trip. Contact Society President J.N. Hammonds (31 Wheatsheaf Close, Horsham, W. Sussex RH12 5TH, England) for further information.

Ed Grabowski

## BUYING BY MAIL (AND SELLING) IN FRANCE

(This is a compendium of replies to my "Random Jottings" in the January 1994 number. Thanks to Ernst Cohn, Bob Kinsley, Steve Kleene, Larry Lambert, John Lievsay, Bob Seeke, and Dick Stevens for their invaluable aid. I've tried to fill some gaps with my own rather varied and not always happy experiences--S.J. Luft).

### Buying

The first principle regarding buying from dealers in France is: think twice. If you can get the same material in the U.S. (or your own country), you'll probably get it cheaper. You'll also save yourself many potential headaches. This principle applies to such "straightforward items as mint and used singles, first-day covers, "modern" imperforates, deluxe sheetlets, etc. But, France is naturally the place for *specialized* material of France and the Colonies, and so we hope this little guide will be of some assistance.

It's extremely important to read and understand the terms and conditions of sale. This is a "given" anywhere in the world, not just for France. Larger auction houses (and many smaller ones) repeat the conditions in other languages, English among them. And, of course, you must accept lot descriptions

as they are written--usually terse one-liners. It's pretty much "buyer beware." Note whether items can be returned if not as described. Photographed items usually are not returnable. Don't bid on a cover front (*devant*) as if it were a complete cover. Older (*prestamp*) covers without inside datelines (*LSD* or *PSD*) (*lettre* or *pli sans date*) or without contents (*st*) (*sans texte*) are not as desirable as those *avec date* or *texte*.

Returning material--for not being as described--is pretty chancy inasmuch as liability coverage on registered mail is ridiculously low.

Most French public auctions are called *ventes sur offres*. You place a bid at some amount over the starting bid (*prix de départ*). For how you might fare, please see a bit further along. There is also a *vente aux enchères publiques*, wherein a variable commission is added to the hammer price. I do not recommend this type of auction to the novice.

Catalogues mailed from France often arrive too late. Fortunately, there is no charge (at this time) for catalogues, even with immense amounts of air-mail postage. By placing a bid, you will also receive the list of prices realized--something very useful to have when you try again later on for some similar lot.

Almost without exception, *B* (*beau*) and *TB* (*très beau*) are poorer in quality than one would expect in the U.S. *B* is definitely not "Fine," and *TB* not "Very Fine." *B* is closer to Average and *TB* to Fine. While *TB* is generally good enough to collect and even exhibit, particularly for older material, one should strive to purchase *TTB* (*très très beau*) or *Sup* (*Superbe*) or even better. Moreover, a large, well-established firm's *TB* can be another man's *Sup*. Then, some dealers also mention *deluxe*, *1er choix*, and the like.

How badly do you want a particular item? Obviously, it is not readily available in your home country. And it may not reappear for sale *anywhere* for another 10-20 years. Use your judgment and your budget. Twice opening bid (*prix de départ*) usually will get you the lot. If you simply must have that item, bid three or more times *prix de départ*. Bid with confidence. The vast majority of auction houses are very reputable and very well regulated. If they say (in the terms and conditions) you'll get your lot for just a few francs above the underbid, you will. And (for now) there is no commission nor VAT charged to the buyer at the more usual type of auction, the *vente sur offres*; just postage, insurance, and the inevitable bank charges in France (see following Section).

Bids on auction lots and net-priced items can be phoned in, though written confirmation is usually required anyway. Fortunately, many if not most dealers in France now have Fax machines, and that's the way to beat slow mail service or to grab that one desirable item. Some dealers (or their office personnel) will understand English, but don't count on it. Buying from France is a lovely opportunity to practice your knowledge--good or poor--of the language.

For more expensive items (usually 1000F and up), dealers who are also recognized (court-appointed) experts will sign the item. Photocertificates are also available for a small fee, or gratis on really expensive pieces.

I don't feel it's proper to recommend dealers--or mention shadier ones--in these pages. A number of French, etc. dealers are members of our Society, and they are all dependable and reliable. But, if you need to know, I'll be glad to recommend some if you'll send me a SASE to the address on the inside of the front page of this number, and if you'll specify interest in stamp dealers or cover dealers (or both).

### Paying

By far the easiest and most economical method of payment is by VISA (*Carte Bleu*), MasterCard, or American Express card. Unfortunately, the only firm I know who accepts plastic in France is the monthly journal, *Le Monde des Philatélistes*. Some dealers in French material in Switzerland and Belgium do, however, accept credit cards. Perhaps the situation will ameliorate in the future.

Another means is to purchase an International Money Order (IMO), available at some post offices. Current charges are \$7.50 per IMO, and the current maximum amount permitted is \$700. Drawbacks are that only some post offices sell IMOs, delivery time to Europe is slow, only cash is accepted at the post office for payment, and that you must determine in advance how many dollars you must spend (in addition to the \$7.50 fee) for the IMO so that the French dealer can collect his due. This last can be a real bummer.

This may be as good a place as any to discuss converting U.S. dollars to French francs, no matter the method of payment used. What French dealers seem to prefer are IMOs, payable in francs to their numbered CCP accounts in their city. Secondly are drafts payable in French francs to their numbered bank accounts in France. And a poor also-ran would be what would seem the simplest and most logical, namely, drafts in French francs payable to the firm's (or individual's) name.

Then, you go to the trouble and expense of purchasing drafts in French francs, payable upon a French bank (oftentimes in the same Paris *arrondissement* as the firm), and the bank there slaps on an extra *frais d'encaissement* of some 50F, up to 120F, to cover their paperwork. Some dealers will forego charging you for these *frais*, others will add that sum (up to 120F at this time) to the invoice. Still others will not add any such charge to the invoice, then complain to you that they did not receive the full amount from the bank, and may withhold sending your material until you've made up the difference. Ah, the joys connected with our hobby!

Dollars to francs? Some people take the weekly exchange rates from Linn's, others the daily ones from their newspapers. Be aware that these rates are for large inter-bank transactions and that your specific amount will be at a less favorable rate. If you work on the basis of the above charts, you should add 1.5-2 percent to the dollar amount, for "retail" rates, and perhaps also round it to the next higher dollar.

I prefer to call a central bank (in my case, in Denver) and obtain their actual exchange rate for that day. Unfortunately, their service charge for foreign drafts is now exorbitant (\$20 per). For a somewhat less favorable exchange rate, one can order a draft by phone from Reusch International (1-800-424-2923) in Washington, D.C. They charge only \$2 per draft sent to you, or \$5 if sent directly to the payee. But, time is lost as they need to receive your payment and have that clear, before they will proceed with the transaction. And they do not maintain numbered accounts for individuals. For usually a slightly poorer exchange rate than via Reusch, I can phone in an order to the Denver branch of Thomas Cook Currency Services. I have an account there, so all they need to do is await my check, whereupon they'll immediately cut theirs to me. The Thomas Cook service charge is \$5.

For smallish purchases, one can wrap some dollar bills (preferably in denominations of \$20 or less) so that they're not conspicuous, and mail them directly to the dealer, avoiding use of Registered mail—which might make some postal people at either end (on in the middle) unduly curious. This method entails a certain amount of trust. With the dealer—who could claim never to have received the cash—and with the postal systems of the countries involved.

Also, sending currency unregistered may be a violation of French postal regulations. But, registered or otherwise, it's wise to wrap currency *and* bank drafts, to make them less visible to prying eyes en route.

Some of our members have used traveller's checks. Paying without travelling is frowned upon by issuers of such checks, but it does work. You again need to have trust in the recipient in that he'll advise you that he received and collected the funds.

Having "pen pals" in France can be very handy, particularly for smallish amounts, and preferably on an exchange basis (stamps, covers, journal subscriptions, etc.) rather than on a cash basis.

Opening, maintaining, and replenishing a bank account in Europe is an expensive undertaking, what with quarterly service charges, etc. But this can be handy if one travels widely and frequently in Europe, and can therefore make use of the account for local expenses, and not just philatelic ones.

Just in case that, by now, you feel terribly discouraged, here's an actual case from some months ago, and it is very typical of the savings that can occur:

<u>Bid</u>	<u>Sold</u>	
7020F	6930F	
<u>3260</u>	<u>2730</u>	
10,290F	9660F	
	44	registered postage & handling
	<u>70</u>	French bank charge, as billed by dealer
	9774F	

Which means that I paid 9774F, plus a \$2 fee to Reusch International for their draft, plus \$1.29 in total postage (50¢ to bid, 29¢ to pay Reusch, 50¢ to send draft to France), for two lots I would have been willing to buy for 10,290F plus the U.S. costs--items I could have obtained only in France. It really can be worth the effort!

### Selling

We are admittedly weak on information regarding selling in France. It's probably simpler and safer to sell in the British Isles, Switzerland, Germany, and Luxembourg, and your material could be carried there by trusted agents of the dealerships. Check with them first; many have buy offers in the philatelic press. Selling in France may require you to handcarry the material there--no great hardship if you are planning a business or pleasure trip there. Getting through customs could be chancy, and we have no set formulae on how to go about it.

Stick with the bigger and established firms. Ask for their printed conditions for dealing with you. For auction houses, always ask about their lotting practices, whether they will consult you about lot descriptions and starting bids, and what they propose to do with unsold lots. See whether they come up with solutions you can live with. "Run-of-the-mill" stuff should best be sold in your own country. You can also sell to a friendly correspondent in France, thereby eliminating the middleman. But first, arrange for mutually advantageous methods of payment.

When you do sell, a value-added tax (VAT, TVA in French) may be subtracted from the proceeds. Any form of payment other than by U.S. funds on a U.S. bank (complete with U.S. clearinghouse numbers) will result in collection charges and in delays in receiving payment. Some French firms may have a U.S. office, or a correspondent who can arrange payment, and one

should be sure to inquire first.

*(This is what we know from our varied experiences. While we've concentrated on the difficulties and pitfalls, France is the source and the market, and many of us have successfully and enjoyably bought from (and sold) there. If you can add or amend from your own experiences, please do so "for the good of the order.")*

## THE 1902 TCHONG-KING OVERPRINT <sup>1</sup>

by Jacques Desrousseaux

*(Editor's Note: This short article was transcribed by us from unpublished notes written in 1979--or perhaps earlier--by M. Desrousseaux, who wanted them to remain confidential. The notes were sent to us by a society member who wishes to remain anonymous, but feels that, with the author's passing, they should now be shared with other collectors).*

**First Issue:** A local printer, friend of a Bordeaux stamp dealer, suggested to the [Tchong-King] postmaster that he would overprint "TCHONG-KING" on current postage stamps. Indeed, an official circular from the General Postmaster at Hanoi had announced new postage stamps with overprints for Tchong-King (and also Pak-Hoi, Mong-Tseu, etc.), to replace Indochina stamps, owing to speculation caused by varying exchange rates in centimes currency of various places in China and Indochina.

When the Hanoi postmaster first saw covers with this "local" overprint, he considered the overprint an "irregular" one. However and at the same time, the chief postal inspector, working with the Tchong-King postmaster, had given that issue official recognition. This issue was extremely limited, generally only one sheet of each value, on Indochina stamps and on new CHINE-overprinted stamps. Some weeks later, French dealers began to learn of this overprint, and saw the prices that were being asked by the Bordeaux dealer who had, of course, cornered almost all of the issue, and was selling the stamps at elevated prices. Upon writing the Tchong-King postmaster, they learned to their sorrow that he had no more copies of the overprinted stamps.

**Second Issue:** The First Issue's printer bought mint sheets of Indochina and French China stamps and overprinted them once again. The local postmaster accepted them for cancellation, along with remainders of the First Issue, on large sheets of paper, but refused to cancel them on covers. However, some covers were sent bearing these stamps but without the local postmark, and were cancelled upon reaching departure points for France (e.g., the 5104-in-lozenge of Shanghai). This was a larger printing than the First, but still very limited.

**Third Issue:** The printer sold what he still held of the Second Issue to philatelists. His stock soon exhausted, he prepared a Third Issue, this time with a very regular and much neater overprint. This time, the postmaster refused to cancel the stamps.

1. According to the Scott catalog listings for French Offices in China/Tchongking, "Stamps of Indochina and French China, issued in 1902 with similar overprint, but without Chinese characters, were not officially authorized."

### Characteristics of the Issues

First Issue: TCHONG-KING, hyphen is lower than horizontal line of the G, and G is relatively narrow.

Second Issue: the hyphen is higher than the line of the G, and the G is wider than in First Issue.

Third Issue: very regular appearance; hyphen high; TCHONG 7.0mm long, instead of 6.9mm in earlier issues (not terribly easy to measure-SJL); sides of the C and the O are somewhat more vertical and less rounded; no genuine postmarks.

**Postmarks:** All date between 12 and 31 October 1902, for stamps sold to philatelists by the post office and the printer, and only found on First and Second Issues. Other dates are very rare, and are generally found only on posted pieces.

**Undisputed Fakes:** In a ten-year period, many imitations were made locally and in France. They are generally typographed, come in various sizes, and are generally uniform in appearance. All overprints with one missing letter are fakes. I also noted forged postmarks, which are easily recognized.

### "POSTAL PRACTICES" REVISITED

Member Bob Picirilli finds Jerry Massler's notes on "Postal Practices" (January 1994 *FCP*) most instructive and thought-provoking. However, he feels that Jerry's definition of "postal practices" as relating to "those occurrences that are not necessarily covered by postal regulations or conventions" is not quite correct, when applied to postcards sent within wrappers at a reduced 1c printed-matter rate. This practice **was** sanctioned by the PTT, beginning with the 1 May 1878 Tariff and until September 1903. It certainly was *unusual usage*, for this practice was poorly known to the general public and almost certainly not well advertised by the PTT. It did serve "the knowledgeable and penurious of the time," as Jerry so aptly puts it.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

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### New Issues and Withdrawals

(continued from *FCP* #237, July 1994, p. 87)

#### France

- > 3 (6) June: 2,80F Court of Appeals;
- > 4 (6) June: 4,30F Normandy Landings; 4,30F Hommage to the Liberators;
- > 18 (20) June: 2,80F Mont Ste.-Victoire (from Cézanne painting); 4,40F Argentat (Corrèze);
- > 23 (24) June: 2,80F Cent. of Inter. Olympic Committee;
- > June: envelopes imprinted with permanent-value M. de Briat, 16x11.5 cm and 21.5x11 cm, each sold at 4F;
- > 2 (4) July: 4,40F Organ of Poitiers Cathedral; 2,80F Meuse: Pays de la Saulx;
- > 13 (16) July: 2,80F Anniv. of 1944 Provence Landings;
- > July: 2,00F deep ultramarine M. de Briat (replacing the green stamp);
- > July: open-face booklets of 10 self-adhesive stamps with undulating perforations; new format with medial gutter for easier folding (see illustration); gutter to be removed prior to folding;





- August: Tree Leaf precancels 1,91 2,46 4,24 6,51F;
- 10 (12) September: 4,40F Art of Poussin (400th Anniv. of his birth);
- 17 (19) September: Movie Stars semi-postals, 2,80F + o,60F (x6), Yvonne Printemps, Bouvril, Fernandel, Yves Montand, Josephine Baker, Coluche; also in 20,40F booklet of six se-tenant stamps;
- 24 (26) September: 2,80F 200th Anniv. of National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts;
- 3,70F Bicent. of Parc de St.-Cloud;
- 8 (10) October: 2,80F Bicent. of Ecole Normale Supérieure.

Withdrawal: 10 June: 15F Salon du Timbre sheetlet.

#### **Andorra**

- 18 (20) June: 3,70F World Cup Soccer;
- 9 (11) July: Tourism and Sports triptychs (two), each 2,80F + label + 2,80F.

Withdrawal: 13 May: 2,50F Ten Years of the Andorran School.

#### **Monaco**

- 5 May: EUROPA 94 21,90F sheetlet of three stamps at 2,80F and three at 4,50F (not 17 May, as announced in April *FCP*);
- 10 June: 8F Inter. Fed. of Amateur Athletics;
- 17 October: Inauguration of Postal Museum (coins on stamps) 3F, 4F, 7F; same designs on souvenir sheet of three 10F stamps; 2,80F 1903 De Dion Bouton auto; 3F Monte Carlo view, for Int. Assoc. of Catalogue Editors; 4,40F 21st UPU Congress; 50th Anniv. of Int. Civil Aviation Org. 5F, 7F; Stamp Salon (the 4 Seasons of the Apricot Tree) 6F, 7F, 8F, 9F in se-tenant block; Noël 2,80F, 4,50F, 6F; Monaguesque Red Cross 6F, 8F; 5F 300th Anniv. of birth of Voltaire; 6F 150th Anniv. of birth of Sarah Bernhardt; 7F 275th Anniv. of publication of Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe"; 9F 150th Anniv. of birth of Henri Rousseau (painting); Cacti, o,50F, o,60F, o,70F, o,80F, 2,00F.

Withdrawals: 18 April: 30F Monaco in the UN sheetlet; 5F and 6F 1993 Red Cross; 4F, 5F, 6F Grieg, Miro, de La Tour; 2,40F Cent. of Philatelic Union; 2,80F, 3,70F, 4,40F Nativity figurines; 2,50F and 4,20F EUROPA 93.

#### **French Polynesia**

- 30 April: 154F 150th Anniv. of Church of Latter-Day Saints in Tahiti;
- 25 May: 316F Bicent. of CNAM and 15th Anniv. of Regional Associated Center, Papeete;
- 29 June: 500F airmail, for 10th Anniv. of Internal Autonomy;
- 2 July: 136F 20th Anniv. of the Tahitian Academy.

#### **New Caledonia**

- 30 March: 90F airmail, for First Flight Paris-Nouméa by Airbus A340 (self-adhesive);
- April: 5F Cagou bird self-adhesive definitive (sold in strips of 16);
- 22 April: 25F Philately at School, overprinted "PhilexJeunes '94-Grenoble";
- 27 April: 15F First Nouméa-Canala vehicular postal link;
- 9 May: 70F airmail, for Geographical Journeys 1994 in the Overseas Terrs.;
- 24 June: 120F airmail, Painters of the Pacific; 60F Marc Deha sculpture; Overseas Postal Admin. buildings (1859 to 1993) 30F, 60F, 90F, 120F, in se-tenant strips of four;

- 6 (7) July: 90F airmail, Caledonian palm tree.  
**St. Pierre & Miquelon**
- 2 (4) July: 2,80F Cent. of Society of Works of the Sea;
- 6 (11) July: Commercial boats 2,80F (two) and 3,70F (two) in se-tenant 13F block of four;
- 17 (22) August: Mirande Pond, 18,80F triptych of two stamps + label.  
**Wallis & Futuna**
- 21 April: 110F 50th Anniv. of Liberation of Paris;
- 4 May: 85F airmail, for Geographical Journeys in the Pacific;
- 23 June: 105F World Cup Soccer; 10F Communications via satellite;
- 21 July: 90F Ouveennes Princesses;
- 25 August: 40F Bridge at Wallis; 5F ULM (air service) to Wallis.
- Alan McKanna corrects some assumptions made in the April 1994 *FCP* (p. 52) regarding the Mariannes de Dulac. Only the first-issued 1F50 value matched a normal postal rate. The other values were indeed released to placate the British Allies. Alan feels that, except for the 1F50 value, few Dulacs were correctly and legitimately used on non-philatelic correspondence. (Nevertheless, the later issued 50F value was very legitimately used for overseas airmail destinations--S.JL.)
- In a letter in the July-August 1994 *Timbroscopie*, our good member Ray Gaillaguet chides the publication for giving way to such impure French terms and words as "flashback," "Hit Parade," and "Top Ten." The editor promised to mend his ways, though there appear to be no concise French equivalents to these terms.

### Some Show Reports

- PIPEX 94 (Eugene, OR, May): Silver award to Bill Bartlett for his one-frame "Type Merson Issue of France."
- NOJEX 94 (Secaucus, NJ, May): Gold medal to Lewis Bussey for his U.S. stationery exhibit; Vermeil medal to John Lievsay for "Italy--Postal History 1792-1871."
- NAEPEX 94 (Washington, DC, June): Gold medal to Mark Isaacs for "Indochina Navigation and Commerce Issue of 1892-1900."
- Ameristamp Expo 94 (Indianapolis, IN, June--one-frame exhibits): The following F&C-themed exhibits received awards: Platinum to Howard Arnould's "The DWI-French Connection"; Vermeil to Walter Brooks' "Siege of Paris Balloon Mail," and Stan Luft's "French Offshore Military Expeditions to 1850"; Silver to Thomas Broadhead's "France: The 1925 Decorative Arts Issue."
- Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum Philatelic Fair 1994 (Weston, MA, June): Gold award to "Military and Postal History of the Revolutionary Armies in the West of France (1791-1802)" by S. J. Luft (reviewed in October 1993 *FCP*); Silver-Bronze award to "French Somali Coast - The Postal History 1939-1945" by A. R. Torrance (reviewed in July 1994 *FCP*).
- STAMPSHOW 94 (Pittsburgh, PA, August): This is the first APS Annual Meeting show attended by your Associate Editor in nearly 20 years, and I'm sorry to have missed so many previous ones; must have been qualms over humidity plus heat. Highly recommended in all respects--and great fun too. Among those members seen or reported were Brad Arch, Jeff Bohn, Wallace Dean, Carl Faulkner, Shirley and Scott Gallagher, Ed and Lorene Grabowski, Mark Isaacs, John and Jo Lievsay, John and Maria Marsh, Barbara Mueller, Lowell Newman, Jay Smith, Peter Smith, Gordon Torrey, Keith Wagner (newly designated Luff Awardee), Steve Washburne, and Dick Winter. Dealer Armin Toutghalian and his wife Aida came over from France. Prix d'Honneur were awarded in the World Series of Philately to Ed Grabowski for "The French Colonial Allegorical Group Type" and to Steve Washburne for "Portugal: Mouchon Head Issues of 1882-1889." In the open competition, a Gold medal went to Peter Smith for "Egyptian Consular and Territorial Post Offices"; Vermeil medals to Bob Kinsley for "French Somaliland 1890's-1960's" and to John Lievsay for "Unconventional Classic France." The Journal of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society [of Great Britain] received a Vermeil medal in the Literature competition.

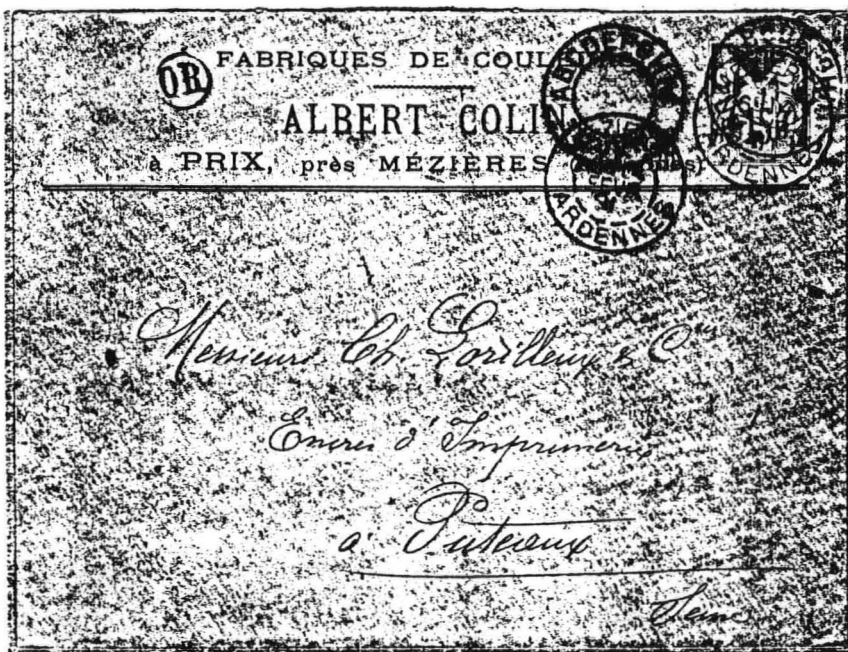
\* \* \* \* \*

## FOR THE RECORD

\* \* \* \* \*

(continued from *FCP* #237, April 1994, p. 90)

- 710.) Another 15c Sage cover bearing the Lorilleux ink test-essay cachet ABCDE-FGHIJ / TUVXYZ (see *F the R* #677, July 1993, p. 87) has appeared. It is posted to the Lorilleux firm at Puteaux, Seine, 14 Feb. 1891, from Mézières, Ardennes, on a letterhead envelope of the Albert Colin color works. It now appears that Lorilleux applied the (duplex?) cachets onto their incoming mail, to show the PTT the superiority of its ink. Which, from what we see on 1890s and later covers, failed to sway the postal authorities.



- 711.) Although France had tried, from at least 1883, to make a protectorate of Madagascar, this status was not formalized until August 1890. The Malgache posts being in a normal state of confusion, disarray, and semi-existence in the 1880s, the French Resident General organized a provisional service in Spring 1886 between Tananarive and Tamatave and with France, with contemplated extension to Majunga. Some 4,000F's worth of French postage stamps were made available to the Resident General by French PTT Minister Granet. Thusly, French stamps were sent to and used in Madagascar in 1886, and this was no mistake, for colonies stamps could not, of course, be politically correct there. This interference in internal affairs and national sovereignty was taken dimly by the Hova prime minister. (Adapted from *Colfra*, N° 65, 1994).
- 712.) Prior to the June 1940 fall of France, soldiers writing to (and receiving mail from) foreign countries had to use *Secteur Postal* N° 390 as their address. We know this from Col. Deloste's handbook on this period. But, how did the French military posts know where to deliver mail from abroad to an addressee at S.P. 390? Roy Reader, in the *Jour. of the F&CPS* [G.B.], #192, 1994, has discovered that a standard form was prepared, to be attached to the first letter being sent abroad by mili-

tary personnel. This form, which indicated sender's actual sector number, was sent to and retained by one (or more?) of the four *Bureaux Centraux Militaires* in France, thereby making it possible for an addressee to receive his mail. (It goes without saying that the presence of this 390 number must have greatly facilitated censorship of such mail, outbound as well as inbound--SJJL).

- 713.) During World War II, Transatlantic mail usually had to transit Bermuda. While there, it became subject to British censorship. Michel Forand, in the *British Caribbean Phil. Jour.* for December 1993, shows that censors there used a letter code *I.C.* (with or without periods) (Figure 1), most commonly handstamped or handwritten on the resealing tape (Figure 2), less commonly directly on the envelope. More rarely, the initials were printed directly on the tapes. (Though these initials are by no means rare, some varieties certainly must be). Check your 1939-1945 censored covers for this added lagniappe for your writeups.

**IC IC IC IC IC IC IC IC IC IC**

*Without stops*

**IC IC IC IC IC**

*With one stop*

**IC IC IC IC**

*With two stops*

Figure 1

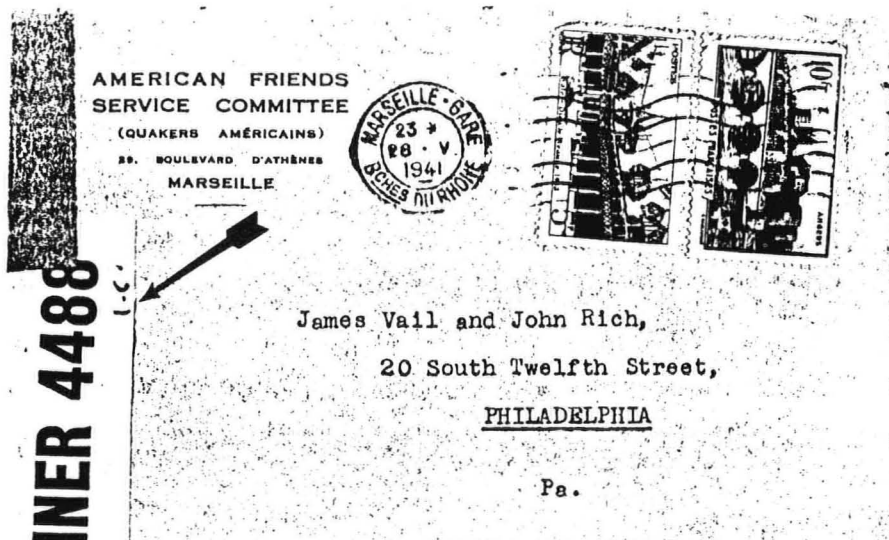
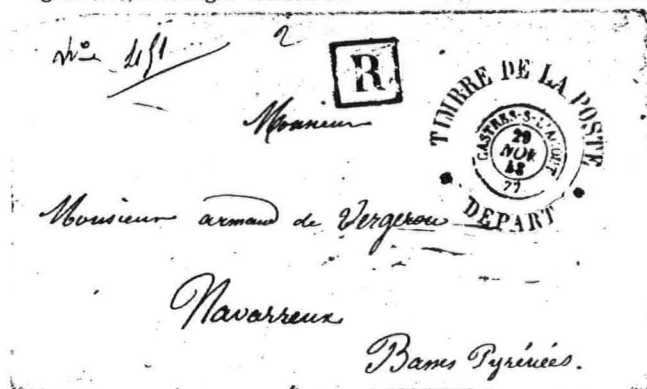
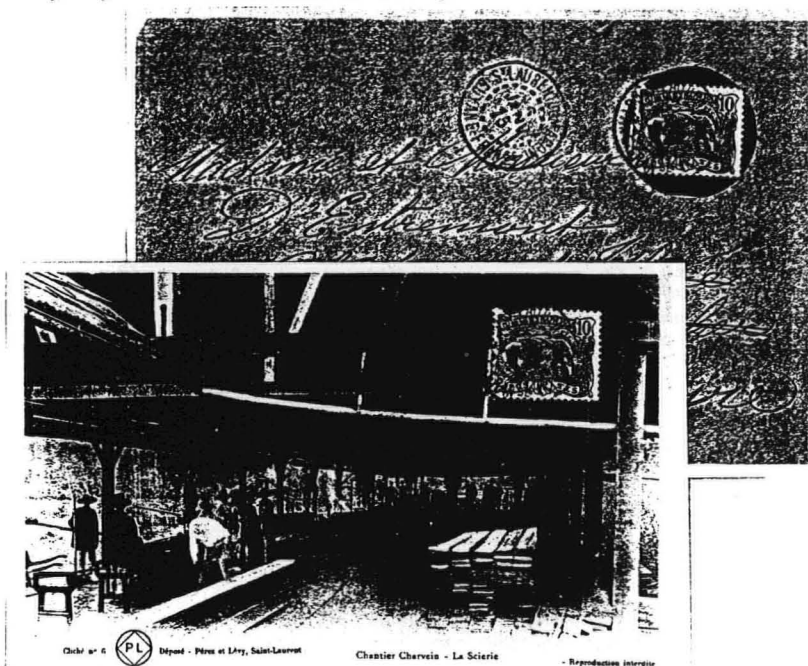


Figure 2

- 714.) Shown here is a particularly fine example of a Marion envelope (see "Cut-Out Cut-Ups" in FCP #235 (January 1994, pp. 10-11). Used 29 November 1848 from Castres-s-l'Agout (77), it brought 4538Fr back in 1986 (Monaco Colls. auction).



- 715.) And, to exhaust the subject of "cut-outs," and in support of the postcard-protection viewpoint, Alain Millet provided copies (shown below) of a postcard from St. Laurent du Maroni, French Guiana, and the envelope in which it traveled to keep it in pristine condition. At the turn of the century, the fashion in postcard collecting was to paste the stamp on the picture side of the card. Since collectors wanted clean cards, they were placed in special envelopes such that the stamp received the cancellation, but the rest of the card remained protected. Alain notes that this is the reason that so many postcards are not backstamped, since the envelopes were destroyed by the card collectors. Little did they know....



Cliché n° 6



Dépot - Paris et Lézay, Saint-Laurent

Châtelier Charveix - La Scierie

- Reproductions interdites

\* \* \* \* \*

## NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

\* \* \* \* \*

"The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons under British Administration, 1916-1961," by R. J. Maddocks and M.P. Bratzel, Jr.; 136+ pp., laminated cover; more than 225 postmarks illustrated, with dates of use; 17 figs., 2 maps, 41 covers; mail routes; \$37.50 (Canadian) or \$27.50 (U.S.), postpaid, from M. P. Bratzel, Jr., 1233 Virginia Ave., Windsor, Ontario N8S 2Z1, Canada. (Co-authored by FCPS member and Cameroons expert Marty Bratzel, this work should be the definitive study of the British side of the Cameroons during, between, and after two World Wars. This work completes the trilogy of the Friedemann work on the German area to 1916, and the Maddocks, Kraja, and Bratzel work on the French administration, "Les Oblitérations du Cameroun 1914-1960," published in 1990).

Catalogue "Cérès" France 1995; 400 pp., card cover; all stamps shown in color; stamps priced as mint, hinged, used, and on cover; available from Theo Van Dam (include SASE for pricing information and lists), P.O. Box 8809, Anaheim, CA 92812; (or your usual sources).

Catalogue "Cérès" Pays d'Expression Française 1995; 496 pp., card cover; covers Andorra, Monaco, Saar, Overseas Territories, and ancient Colonies; see above for ordering information or, 100Fr postpaid, from Cérès, 23 rue du Louvre, F-75041 Paris Cedex 01.

"Les carnets de timbres au type Liberté," by Robert Alteriet; publ. by Cercle des Amis de Marianne; send SASE for ordering information and information on the society to Robert Seeke, RD1, Box 137, Nassau, NY 12123. (Detailed study of the Liberté de Gandon booklets: printings, covers, gum, characteristics, etc.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## REVIEW

\* \* \* \* \*

Marino Carnévalé-Mauzan, "Histoire de la Poste en Milieu Rural"; 164 pp., 16x24 cm, softbound, 1994; 325F, postpaid, by check to the author, at 2 av. Félix Viallet, F-38000 Grenoble, France, or by money order to CCP Grenoble 2 425 46 V (directed to same address).

With the aid of several collaborating specialists, M. Carnévalé-Mauzan, one of the leading lights of French postal history, has published a new and definitive study on the French rural mail system and its development since pre-Revolutionary times.

Although most of the documentation and case histories come from the author's Grenoble region (Isère Dept.), they are readily applicable elsewhere in rural France. The book is well illustrated with examples of postal documents, markings on and off covers, maps showing (typical) itineraries for rural circuit carriers, and their reports as they travelled their rounds from Box A to Box "X". A folded copy of an 1855 postal map of Isère is pasted to the inside back cover.

I found particularly useful the short chapter (pp. 101-107) on the rural automobile post and its hexagonal *circuit postal* (C.P. N°) markings. The complete text of the April 1830 *Instruction sur le Service Rural* is reproduced as an appendix, followed by two exhaustive bibliographies.

---S.JL.

## CORRECTION

\*In the "Aérostiers and Aéronautes" article by Ernst Cohn (No. 237, July 1994, p. 81), the captions for Figures 2 and 3 were inadvertently transposed.



\* \* \* \* \*

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

\* \* \* \* \*

- Q. 238-1.** The right-hand "4" of this 40c Cérés is wider than normal, but is obviously not a retouched die from the bottom row of the sheet (the so-called Type II). Because value slugs were hand-made, no two are quite alike, and many variations exist in their shape. Has anyone attempted to plate this stamp, and with any degree of success? The two galvanos, perhaps even an entire sheet, should be preserved at the Musée Postal in Paris. (JWS)



*(The last time we had any questions was in the January 1994 number, p. 10. Answers would be highly appreciated. More questions too!)*

\* \* \* \* \*

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**President's Letter**

I recently sent in the Society's application for a booth at the Postage Stamp Mega-Event to be held at Madison Square Garden in New York City on November 3-6, 1994. We have not scheduled any formal meeting or talk at the Show, but will be happy to meet you at our booth. As this show has returned to its previous four-day length, we will plan to have our traditional informal dinner together at a nearby restaurant on Thursday evening. Anyone interested in joining us should either contact me ahead of time, or stop at the booth early in the day, so we can make reservations. You will find no further publicity for the Mega-Event in this journal, since recent experience suggests you are not likely to receive it until very close to the dates of the show.

An era will come to an end in September when the Society's Directors Meetings will move to the Collectors Club. When I arrived in the New York area fourteen years ago, and became active in the Society, the practise was already established of holding the Directors Meetings at the apartment of our long-time Treasurer Beatrice Berner. Two years ago her difficulty in getting out to the bank forced Bea to relinquish her position as Treasurer; however, she remained a Director, and we continued to meet at her apartment. Now her long-anticipated move to a retirement home in New Jersey is imminent,

and the board is losing one of its most faithful members. I, and all the other Directors, want to thank Bea for her long and devoted service, and wish her happiness in her new home.

This summer the suggestion has been heard from several quarters that we are overdue to publish a supplement to the previous Index to the *France & Colonies Philatelist*. The last Index covered the issues to the end of 1980. It seems logical now, to plan to cover fifteen years in the next index, and hope to publish it in 1996. Between now and the end of 1994, we will have to decide who will prepare the new index, what computer program will be used, and what classifications will be included. We will probably try to maintain continuity with the existing Index for the first forty years of the *Philatelist*. I would appreciate hearing from any members who are interested in this project, and also anyone who has changes to suggest from what was done in the last Index.

Dick Stevens

### Meeting of 2 May

The slate of officers for the 1994 Annual Meeting was unanimously elected, with Messrs. Lievsay and Martin elected as Society Directors for the Class of 1997.

John Lievsay then took to the frames and presented a talk on Italy: 1792-1871 - A Postal History Chronicle from the French Revolution to the Unified Kingdom. Using material originally assembled by our late member Bill Waugh, John traced the postal history until the Unified Kingdom. Of the 150 changes in government that occurred during this period, 110 were covered in the frames! Bill started this collection about 20 years ago. He was one of the few at that time to collect postal history for all Italy. Much of the collection was purchased in Italy, either at auction or by direct purchase. It is a difficult period to get quality material illustrating the complex political proceedings of the times. Bill originally showed eight frames and received a Gold medal for this collection.

The presentation began with 1792 when French troops took Savoy and Nice, and concluded with Rome being named the capital in 1871. The early part of the collection covered the French doings in Italy and is detailed in Waugh's booklet, "The French 'Départments Conquis' 1791-1815," which was published by the Society in 1980. Thereafter, it traced the complex developments which led to the formation of the Italian nation by 1872.

--Ed Grabowski

*(Ed having gone to visit Japan, there was no Meeting Notice for June).*

### NEW MEMBERS

- 3009 LEAKE, FRANK., M.D., 2021 Cedar Point Rdwy., Sandusky, OH 44870. (Covers Of: Indochina - Annam-Tonkin.)
- 3010 LANDAU, ELIOT A., 5329 Main St. - Suite 105, Downers Grove, IL 60515. (Postal History: Cérés & Napoleon Issues. Marques Postales 1849-1876. Military Posts: 1849-1876. Railway Posts: 1849-1876. Used Abroad 1849-1876. Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used - On Cover: - 1870-1871 Issues - Cancellations. Colonies General Issues. Cérés & Napoleon Issues - Mint - Used - On Cover. Colonies & Territories: Cancels & Postal History - Specific Colonies: Only Cérés & Napoleon Issues of the 19th Century.)
- 3011 SHANKLE, BILL, 17 Dunhill Rd., Jackson, NJ 08527. (Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. All Colonies & Territories - Cancels & Postal History - Stamps.)
- 3012 DONZE, DONALD, P.O. Box 440, Snow Mass, CO 81654. (General Collector: All Issues. Military Posts. Occupation Issues: (By France). Colonies General Issues: Mint - On Cover. Colonial Provisionals. All Colonies & Territories. Stamps. Dealer: Part-time. Primarily French in Indochina.)
- 3013 TRAN, ANH TUAN, P.O. Box 1413, Alameda, CA 94501. (General Collector: All Issues. Postal History: Used Abroad. Colonies General Issues: On Cover. Postal History: Indochina - Laos - Cambodia - Vietnam. Philatelic Literature. Exchange.)
- 3014 SHAW, DONALD, P.O. Box 577, Clarkson, NY 14430-0577. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Used. Railway Posts. Classics: 1849-1876: Used. Modern France: Used. Paris Bullees. Fancy Cancels. French Community: Used Abroad. Monaco. Cancels & Postal History: Early Colonies/Pre-Independence.)

- 3015 YOUNGBLOOD, HENRI R., Route 1 - Box 192, Lovettsville, VA 22080. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Mint. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint - Blanc, Mouchon & Merson Types - Sowers - Air Mails - Coils. Independent Republics. Dealer: New Issues - Approvals.)
- 3016 BUCHANAN, DANIEL, 2005 SW 154th, Seattle, WA 98166. (Indochina Revenues. Essays (projects, rejected designs) DeLuxe Proofs - Imperforates - Artist's Proofs & Color Trials - Perfins of Laos, Cambodia & Indochina. French Offices in China. Cancells & Postal History of Indochina (FOC). Stamps, Covers, Picture Postcards (Indochina - French Offices in China.) Dealer: Part-time. Philatelic Literature. Postal History of Thailand Strait & Indonesia. Covers-Revenues-P.P.C.'s.)
- 3017 WHITE, HALBERT, 2214 El Amigo Rd., Del Mar, CA 92014. (General Collector: All Issues.)
- 3018 DRUCKER, BENJAMIN B., 10225 Kensington Parkway #812, Kensington, MD 20895. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Used. Classics 1849-1876: Used. Modern France: Used.)
- 3019 FORSYTH, GERALD M., 13031 Admiralty Pl., Anchorage, AK 99515-3727. (French Southern & Antarctic Territories.)

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2030 EGGEN, DONALD T., 263 Highland Dr., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405.
- 2632 WRIGHT, STEVEN J., 1205 Devonshire Rd., Hauppauge, NY 11788.
- 2759 DORIN, PHILIP M., 10537 Rountree Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90064-3303.
- 2936 RIDEOUT, A. EDWIN, 29 Fleet Rd., Beaminstor, Dorset DT8 3EF - England.
- 2628 DESJARDINS, ROBERT, 39 Labonte - Apt. 3, Longueuil, Quebec, Canada.
- 2710 CHLANDA, HENRY, 8964 Cinnabar Dr., Brecksville, OH 44141.
- 1175 BALLUFF, BERNICE. (MRS. LEO F.), 1830 W 300 N, Warsaw, IN 46580-8594.
- 1136 BALCH, STEVEN A., M.D., 549 Rimini Rd., Del Mar, CA 92014-2538.
- 2857 OLSHEVSKY, GEORGE, P.O. Box 543, Buffalo, NY 14215-0543.
- 1788 BOIKESS, ROBERT S., 51 St. Annes Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1SO England.
- 2997 DODARO, PAUL E., 415 Davis Ave., SW, Leesburg, VA 22075-3431.

### REINSTATEMENTS

- 2855 WEXELBLAT, DAVID, 1503 Lincoln Circle - Apt. 101, McLean, VA 22102.
- 1318 DEVASHER, WILLIAM A., JR., 49 Sheridan Rd., Wellesley, MA 02181-5418.

### DECEASED

- 1933 DAVIS, RICHARD T.

\* \* \* \* \*

### MEMBERS' APPEALS

\* \* \* \* \*

- 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).
- SELLING: Revenues of France. Write for list based on 1994 Yvert cat. numbers and values. William T. McDonald, P.O. Box 1287, Coupeville, WA 98239. (Mb. #2698).
- NEEDED: Photocopies (preferably in color) of wartime revenue stamps of Cameroun, for study in progress. Martin P. Bratzel, Jr., 1233 Virginia Ave., Windsor, Ontario N8S 2Z1, Canada. (Mb. #2394).
- WANTED: 5c green Peace & Commerce, and 10c red Sowers, for study of city uses; on & off cover. Don Shaw, P.O. Box 577, Clarkson, NY 14430-0577. (Mb. #3014).
- WANTED: Signed artist's proofs of Yvert Poste Aérienne Nos. 20, 28, 29 (the three large-format views). David A. Mills, 479 Rockport Circle, Folsom, CA 95630. (Mb. #2411).
- WANTED: To correspond and trade with, perhaps also buy from, other collectors of St. Pierre & Miquelon stamps and covers. I am also interested in any information available on plating the F.N.F.L. surcharges and Noël overprints. Bob Beaune, 11346 - 101 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5G 2A7, Canada. (Mb. #2977).

## FRANCE &amp; COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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1. THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE COMMUNE REVOLUTION, PARIS 1871, by Gardner L. Brown, 107pp, 1992, Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication No. 9. \$20.00 (Members' Special - \$16.00). \_\_\_\_\_
2. THE DIVERSE WORLD OF POSTAL MARKINGS OF GABON/CONGO/A.E.F. by Robert G. Stone, 50pp, 1987, Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication No. 8. \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_
3. RAILWAY MAILS IN THE FRENCH AFRICAN AND INDIAN OCEAN COLONIES by William M. Waugh, 40pp, 1987, Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication No. 7. \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_
4. NEW STUDIES OF THE TRANSPORT OF MAIL IN WARTIME FRANCE - 1870-1871 by Gardner L. Brown, Ernst M. Cohn and Steven C. Waiske, 72pp, 1986, Vaurie Fund Publication No. 6. \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_
5. THE REGULAR ISSUES OF FRANCE, VOL III 1960-1977, ACCORDING TO THEIR NORMAL POSTAL USE by Stanley J. Luft, 80pp, 1984, Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication No. 5. \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_
6. THE BORDEAUX ISSUE by Ruth and Gardner Brown, Edited by Robert G. Stone and John Lievsay, 144pp, 1981, Hardbound, Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication No. 4. \$20.00 plus postage (US postage \$1.50; foreign postage \$3.00). (Members' Special - \$10.00 plus postage). \_\_\_\_\_
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8. THE FRENCH "DEPARTEMENTS CONQUIS" 1791-1815, THEIR CHRONOLOGY, CIVIL POST OFFICES HAVING POSTMARKS, AND TYPICAL POSTMARKS, by William M. Waugh, 32pp, 1980, Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication No. 3. \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_
9. A KEY TO THE INK-COLOR NUMBERS ON 'FRENCH PROOFS' by Robert G. Stone, 12pp, 1979, Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication No. 2. \$3.00 \_\_\_\_\_
10. A KEY TO THE LOZENGE OBLITERATORS OF FRENCH COLONIES 1860-1892 by Robert G. Stone, 12pp, 1977, Reprinted 1989. \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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