



France & Colonies Phîlatelist



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UPDATE ON USE OF THE GROUP TYPE FROM MAURITANIA
by Edward J.J. Grabowski (FCPS #1469)

Relative to my article on the use of the Group Type from Senegal, etc. in FCP #236 (April 1994), Alain Millet has kindly forwarded additional information on the use of Group Type issues from Mauritania prior to its receiving its first stamps in 1906. Two Senegalese "Offices Abroad" were opened prior to that date. These were Kaedi and Rosso. Alain forwarded a copy of a military correspondence letter franked with a 15c Group Type issue of Senegal posted from Kaedi on 27 February 1897 to Paris (Figure 1). Additionally, he sent a



Figure 1

copy of a letter franked with a 15c Group Type at the French Community rate effective after 1899 posted from the same office on 21 July 1901 (Figure 2). Differing date stamps are used on the two letters.

Alain also notes the use of Senegal Group Types from the Sudan in 1894 due to a shortage of stamps there. The Group Type issue became available in the Sudan in May 1894. In August there was a shortage of stamps and use of a paid handstamp was authorized (see Yvert, Tome II, 1936). Apparently the shortage still existed in September 1894, and Alain forwarded a copy of a registered letter franked with a pair of the 15c Group Types of Senegal posted from Kayes, Soudan Français on 13 September 1894 (Figure 3).

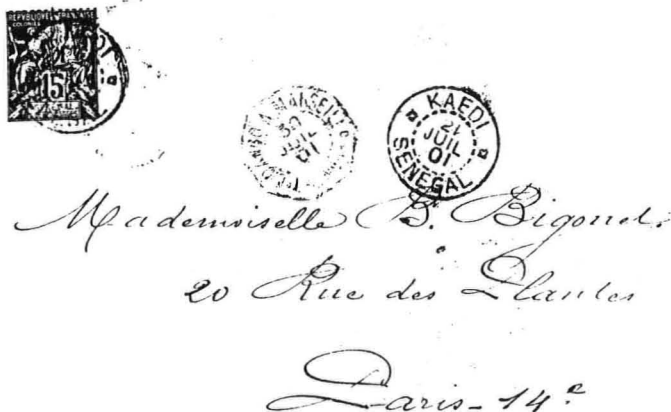


Figure 2



Figure 3

AMAZING 1870/1871 WONDER STORIES - 7

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

A European friend, member of a philatelic academy, author of internationally acknowledged philatelic research articles, international gold-medal exhibitor and organizer of philatelic group activities of all sorts got an offer in his field of specialization from a U.S. firm that is worth writing about.

He was sent a photostat of the front and back of an unused postcard showing massed French flags, French and German slogans against the 1870/1871 war, and postal information regarding the use of cards for unmanned balloon mail. The back of the card is blank except for an imprint at the lower right corner of a stamp reading S.G.&Co. The card was offered at \$185 plus \$15 postage.



Some thirty years ago, I made the rounds of Paris looking for 1870 material for my collection. At one store, having bought several items, I was offered a complete unused set of the newspaper-letter *Gazette des Absents*. When I hesitated to buy it, the owner threw in a handful of letter sheets and postcards, in all colors of the rainbow, each showing the massed flags and the bilingual slogans. I couldn't resist. At home, I distributed the stationery gratis until I happened to see an offer for the same thing at \$10 per piece. At that point, I sold the last remaining ones at the going price in the U.S.

Meanwhile, I learned from several sources, some published shortly after the Franco-German War of 1870/1871, that only one single type of this stationery was printed (privately) during the Siege of Paris. Maury at that time sold pads of these **dark blue** folded letter forms. Even the medium blue folded letters and all other colors, as well as the cards in all their varied shades and colors, were printed **after** the war. Used folded letters in various colors exist and are sometimes offered at fancy prices. All are forgeries, though the private stationery is genuine, of course. If there are used cards, the same holds true for them.

It goes without saying that souvenirs are collected; and each collectible has its price. But, is \$185 a reasonable price for a souvenir now selling in France at the equivalent of about \$15 - \$20? If not, was the dealer aware of the discrepancy between prices? Would he have offered that sort of souvenir to this type of philatelist? Will the next potential customer pay his price? Do you know how to protect yourself against that kind of deal, which may be proposed out of simple ignorance?

A NEW MONACO VARIETY by Jose Martin Massler (FCPS #1829)

Recently I was fortunate to be allowed to examine the collection of S.A.S. the Prince of Monaco. In doing so, an old question was finally answered. Those of us who study varieties always wonder if we're observing a constant variety or a freak occurrence. On both the 5c and 75c Albert I stamps, overprinted **28/DECEMBRE/1920** for the baptism of Princess Antoinette (Scott 30-31), there exists a slanted basal serif on the 2 of 28. While at the Palace, I saw three complete post office sheets of the 5c and one of the 75c, and now can state with certainty that this variety is constant, occurs but once in a sheet of 150 stamps, and always in position 114. Hopefully, one day this will gain catalog acceptance and listing.



OUR FRONT PAGE GEMS

Multiple of the 10c imperforate Empire (Scott 14, Yvert 13), upper right corner of sheet, with blue printer's control marking above position 7, sold for 17,500Fr in the June 1987 SOLUPHIL auction (Lot 1730). Multiple of the 40c imperforate Empire (Scott 18, Yvert 16), shown at bottom, same sheet positions but with diminished margins, went for 35,000Fr (Lot 1731, same sale). Neither is likely to go that low again!

POSTMARKS OF THE "OTHER" CALENDAR¹ by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)

The calendar as we know and apply it today is generally believed to have been the only calendar used by Christian civilization throughout the lifetime of dated postmarks; e.g., different languages may spell the months differently, but the 4th of July was always the 4th of July. Not so! At one period in time, the 4th of July was 16 Messidor; and yes, there are postmarks of that "other" calendar.

The calendar is a system of reckoning time based on the natural cycles of the sun and moon. Necessary monthly divisions of thirty and thirty-one days (and twenty-nine for February) were established by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C. However, that calendar was not completely accurate and was "adjusted" by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 by the simple expedient of eliminating ten days in October.

A few countries elected to be astronomically wrong rather than join with the Pope; some, such as China, Russia, and Greece, did not adopt the change until the early 1900's. Great Britain and her American colonies did not accept the adjustment until 1752, when eleven days in September vanished (and New Year's Day shifted from March 24 to January 1).

Benjamin Franklin is supposed to have written in his *Almanack* at the time: "What an indulgence for those who love their pillow to lie down on the second of this month and not awaken till the morning of the fourteenth." And George Washington, who we all know was born on February 11, 1732, quickly announced that his birthday would henceforth be celebrated on February 22.

This generally esteemed Gregorian calendar nevertheless was totally discarded by one of the world's great powers. The official calendar of France, adopted following the end of the bloody revolution in the fall of 1792, was a strange revival of the ancient Egyptian calendar as part of an effort to denote a natural order of things and replace those of old religious associations.

The revolt against the excesses of the privileged under the monarchy of Louis XVI included considerable violence against the church and clergy; anything with religious connotation became unacceptable. The new calendar, known as the Republican calendar, was never popular and survived less than fourteen years, during the period of Napoleon's phenomenal rise to power and resultant restoration of the church in France. Postmarks of this "other" calendar are not common, and can be interpreted only by knowing how the dates compare to the conventional calendar.

The bottom of the postmark identifies the "Year of the Republic" which is cross-referenced in Table 1. The top of the postmark shows an abbreviation of one of the months as described in the second table, and in the middle of the marking is, of course, the day.

Each year had twelve months and each month had thirty days, and every tenth day was a day of rest. The sharp reduction in the number of non-working days did not help to endear the calendar to the people.

Table 1	
Year of Republic	Gregorian Year
1	1792-1793
2	1793-1794
3	1794-1795
4	1795-1796
5	1796-1797
6	1797-1798
7	1798-1799
8	1799-1800
9	1800-1801
10	1801-1802
11	1802-1803
12	1803-1804
13	1804-1805
14	1805

And what about the other five days in our 365-day year? They were days of celebrating and feasting called *sansculottides*, occurring just before the new year in the month we know as September. The elegant knee breeches of the aristocracy were known as *culottes*, and one of the groups of Parisian revolutionaries, distinguished at least in drawings by a red bonnet and striped pants, was known as the *Sansculottes* (without breeches), whence it is assumed the holidays drew their names. And what about that extra leap year day? ... every fourth year an additional holiday was added called "Revolution Day."

Table 2		
	From	To
Autumn Months:		
Vendemiaire (Vintage)	September 22	October 21
Brumaire (Foggy)	October 22	November 20
Frimaire (Sleety)	November 21	December 20
Winter Months:		
Nivose (Snowy)	December 21	January 19
Pluviose (Rainy)	January 20	February 18
Ventose (Windy)	February 19	March 20
Spring Months:		
Germinal (Budding)	March 21	April 19
Floreal (Blooming)	April 20	May 19
Prairial (Pastoral)	May 20	June 18
Summer Months:		
Messidor (Harvest)	June 19	July 18
Thermidor (Heat)	July 19	August 17
Fructidor (Fruit)	August 18	September 16
Festival Days:	September 17	September 21

Postmarks of these extra days are identified as *Jours Complémentaires* (Table 3)², and those showing Day 6 (the extra leap year day) are very scarce.

We close this article with copies of some official correspondence which typically used Republican calendar datelines, and translate a portion of the Lyon, 23 Frimaire, Yr. IX [14 December 1800] letter: "I have received, Citizen, your letter of the 12th of this month [3 December], relative to the accusation of murder brought against one Rollin, upon which you had written me the first Frimaire [22 November]."

Endnotes

1. Reprinted with permission from *The American Philatelist*, June 1983, with some later additions and changes in illustrations.
2. *Catalogue des Estampilles et Oblitérations Postales de France et des Colonies Françaises*, Yvert & Cie., Amiens, 1929.
3. Dr. Carroll Chase, "Why Collect Early France?," Temple University Centennial Stamp Exhibition Catalog, 1949.

JOURS COMPLÉMENTAIRES. — SEPTEMBRE

Jours complément.	AN II	AN III	AN IV	AN V	AN VI	AN VII	AN VIII	AN IX	AN X	AN XI	AN XII	AN XIII
	Sept. 1794	Sept. 1795	Sept. 1796	Sept. 1797	Sept. 1798	Sept. 1799	Sept. 1800	Sept. 1801	Sept. 1802	Sept. 1803	Sept. 1804	Sept. 1805
1	17	17	17	17	17	17	18	18	18	18	18	18
2	18	18	18	18	18	18	19	19	19	19	19	19
3	19	19	19	19	19	19	20	20	20	20	20	20
4	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	21
5	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	22	22	22	22
6		22				22				23		

Table 3. The "Complementary Days," for the former month of September (*Catalogue des Estampilles...*, 1929). The Republican era ended with Nivose, Year XIV, that is, in December 1805.



Typical dated postmarks showing the use of the Revolutionary calendar (from Chase, 1949)³. The cursive style (upper left) was used as a receiving

backstamp in Turin, Italy; straight-line abbreviated style (top and upper left) used as receiving backstamps at Nantes; circular styles used primarily as receiving backstamps at Paris and elsewhere. The three at bottom right show Complementary Day markings. Straight-line non-abbreviated month backstamp (upper right) is not common, and is given a current valuation by Pothion of 1650 Fr.

LIBERTÉ.



ÉGALITÉ.

Bruges ce 19 ~~Ventose~~ quatrième 5^{me}
année Républicaine.

C. D. Brumaux JUGE-DE-PAIX DE LA
 COMMUNE ET CANTON DE BRUGES,
 SECTION C ET D.

A. La municipalité du canton et commune de S. Nicolas
 département de L'Escaut,

Bruges (Belgium), 19 Ventose, Yr. V (9 March 1797)

Arrêté le 4^e Brumaire

ÉGALITÉ.

LIBERTÉ.

Paris, ce 22 Brumaire,
 an 3.^e de la République Française,
 une et indivisible.

L'Agence de l'envoi des Lois,
 Aux Agens nationaux près les Districts.

Paris, 22 Brumaire, Yr. III
 (12 November 1794)

CITOYENS, le Comité des Décrets de la Convention nationale se concerta avec celui des Finances pour examiner la question de savoir si le Rapport et les Lois des 23 Floréal & 8 Messidor, sur les Rentes viagères, doivent être réimprimés par les Départemens, par les Districts, ou par les Communes. Nous vous invitons en conséquence à suspendre la réimpression de ces

PRÉFECTURE
du
RHÔNE.

LIBERTÉ.



ÉGALITÉ.

LYON, le 23^e frimaire an 9. de la
République française, une et indivisible.

LE PRÉFET DU DÉPARTEMENT DU RHÔNE.

*Alu Citoyen Riou, Capitaine-rapporteur
près le Conseil de guerre de la 17^e Division,
à Paris.*

*J'ai reçu, Citoyen, votre lettre du 12 de ce mois,
relative à la prévention d'assassinat qui s'est
élevée contre le nommé Rollin, au sujet
duquel vous m'avez écrit le premier frimaire.*

*J'ai communiqué l'objet de cette lettre
au Commissaire Général de Police dans la
Commune de Lyon, le quel me marque
aujourd'hui qu'il vous fera passer les nouveaux
renseignements qui lui auront été fournis
sur Rollin. Je vous salue.*

A. VETTER

Lyon, 23 Frimaire, Yr. IX (14 December 1800); see final paragraph of text of this article.

THE CARNET CORNER

by Bob Seeke (FCPS #1334)

Carnet is French for stamp booklet, and that's what this column will be all about. Please don't expect any method to this madness, for the column is intended to be a *potpourri* of interesting tidbits about collecting French booklets.

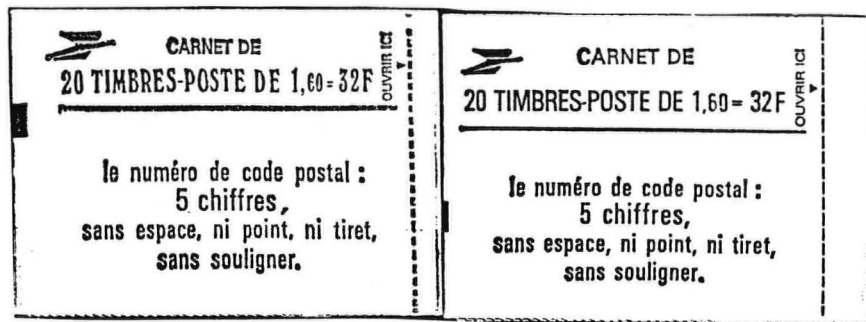
My favorite booklets are those from the Marianne de Bequet period (1970s) to the present (and future), so the *Corner* will be somewhat heavy in these booklets.

Shown below are covers from two booklets of the 1,60F green Liberté stamps (Scott 1796a, Yvert 1058). Yvert numbers refer to those in the "*Carnet*" section of the Yvert catalogue. If the covers photocopy well, you will notice that their lettering differs. This is most noticeable in the "3" of "32". In addition, letters on the cover on the left, with the flat top on the "3", have serifs whereas those on the "normal" one do not.

The "flat 3" cover was used for the last day of the 3rd *tirage* (press run) and for all three days of the succeeding, or 4th *tirage*. The study of *tirages* can get a little hairy; perhaps we'll cover that in a future *Corner*. I doubt that this cover type (or variety) has any extra value, but it seems odd that neither Yvert nor Cérès list it in their *Carnet* sections.

The *Corner* is at the disposal of you--the readers. If there is something you would like to see covered, please let me know. You can write to me at RD1 Box 137, Nassau, NY 12123. 'Til next time, good luck and good bookleting.

(Editor's note: We welcome a new and hopefully regular contribution in this number of *FCP*. We hope that the column or feature will eventually become a fixture, for booklets are an increasingly popular and important format for postage stamps, in France as well as in the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, and elsewhere. Bob is a specialist collector of modern French booklets, and we know he'll be up to the challenge of making "The Carnet Corner" both interesting and instructive).



"GREETINGS" 1993-1994!

The twelve "Greetings," or *Plaisir d'Ecrire* stamps, issued 21 (25) October 1993 in booklets of 12 and in sheets of 48 stamps, are fast becoming a modern specialty unto themselves.

Stamps for sheets do not appear to present any problem at this time. Sheets form four district panes (separated by vertical gutters) of 12 stamps each, and are perforated 20 holes (horizontally) by 23 holes (vertically), which gauges 13.3x12.9.

The booklet of 12 stamps was issued simultaneously with the sheets. It has 19 by 22 perforations per stamp, which gauges 12.7x12.4. Quantity printed or issued were 700,000 booklets.

A second press run of the booklet stamps was made--or more likely issued--in November 1993. Perforations are essentially the same as for the sheet stamps: 20 holes by 23, or 13.3x12.9 gauge. Quantity printed or issued was supposedly one-third of that of the first printing (SO.CO.DA.MI. Bull. 94, January 1994) or perhaps ca. 230,000 booklets. This printing was available for only a short time from the Service Philatélique de la Poste. As we have not seen this booklet, we have no clue on how it may differ from the first printing, other than in the size of the perforations.

A third printing was made or issued in April 1994. Perforations match those of the first printing, but some of the shades differ markedly. This time, 1,200,000 booklets were prepared, making the "Greetings" booklet an item for long-term use. The 1994-printed right-hand *Joyeux Anniversaire!* stamp is almost uniformly dark brownish; greens on the 1994 *Bonne Chance* stamp are considerably duller, as are the blue-greens on the 1994 right-hand *Meilleurs Voeux*; blues are also duller and deeper in the left-hand (cat on cake) 1994 *Joyeux Anniversaire* and the 1994 St. Nicholas *Joyeux Noël*. Other differences exist but not anywhere as markedly.

We understand that later impressions from the first press run are of somewhat deeper tonalities than stamps of the first days of printing and from the stamps from sheets. Really too bad that *coins datés* (printing dates in margins) do not exist!

Obviously, this is not the last word on these stamps, which are still available in sheet form and the third printing (or version) of the booklet, at French post offices as we write. We thank Chicago new-issues dealer and friend Julian Braun for his early and continued interest in these stamps, and for his painstaking measurements and calculations of their perforations.--SJLuft.

THE ENIGMATIC LION OF LYON

by R. T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180) and S. J. Luft (FCPS #915)

A short article by Andre Leralle in a January 1943 or 1944 issue of *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* describes his examination of an 18th Century banker's voluminous correspondence. In a group of about one hundred letters bound as "Lyon 1749," Leralle discovered two letters bearing neat strikes of a rampant lion (Figure 1), hitherto unrecorded, on letters dated 27 and 30 January 1749. This was during a very brief period when the usual departure marking DE LION (Figure 2) was not in use¹, probably because of deterioration and subsequent replacement of that device. He later discovered a third example, dated 21 January 1749, in a packet labelled "from Venice 1749."



Figure 1

18. DELYON 1743 à 1749 29.5x3.5 mm
20. DE LYON 1749 30.5x3.5 mm
21. DE LYON 1749 à 1752 30x3.5 mm

Figure 2

Leralle speculated that this "provisional" marking was quickly replaced because it did not exactly represent the heraldic lion of Lyon, as depicted in 1943 on Yvert 572 (Scott 460) (Figure 3). He concluded it was a departure marking of "great rarity," and inquired whether anyone had knowledge of this marking.



Figure 3

We don't know whether anyone did then and reported it to Leralle, nor do we have complete records as to what transpired next. But, in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* N° 1374, June 1968, Louis Lenain referred to an article in the September 1967 *L'Echo*, written by his good friend and excellent colleague, Georges Chapier. In that 1967 article, Chapier had apparently taken exception to the inclusion of the Lion of Lyon in Lenain's great 1965 work, *La Poste de l'Ancienne France des Origines à 1791*. In this 1968 reply, Lenain cites four letters: Lyon, 31 January 1749 to Grenoble; Lyon 27 January to M. Roux at Marseille; Lyon 31 January to same address; and Venice 11 January, also to same address. He states that it took about two weeks for letters to reach Lyon from Venice, indicating that the lion was probably applied (as a transit marking) at Lyon ca. 25-26 January. He further states DE LION departure markings apparently were not in use between 25 January and 1 February².

Curiously enough, Lenain continues by denigrating Leralle, stating the latter did not discover the original archive, but only purchased the three covers in 1942 from their true discoverer³.

We don't know if Chapier immediately took up his pen in reply. Leralle had died in 1963, according to Lenain's article. We do hear from Chapier, in *Feuilles Marcophiles* N° 200 *Spécial "ARPHILA 75"* (1975), p. 81-82.

In this short article, Chapier advises there are now five letters known, all sent unpaid, and with the Lion of Lyon as the only handstamped marking. The oldest is the Venice 11 January to M. Roux, and Chapier is in total agreement with Lenain in that the lion was applied at Lyon ca. 26 January. Then, there are the other two *Archives Roux* items, Lyon 27 and 31 January, and the other Lyon 31 January, to Grenoble. The fifth is a Lyon, 29 January to Carcassonne. Additionally, there is a Lyon 28 January cover, written in the same hand as the letter to Grenoble, but with the "ordinary" DE LYON instead of a lion. That is proof positive that the two markings did serve simultaneously during that brief late January 1749 episode.

Chapier concludes that the Lion de Lyon was probably an essay that was not accepted because the lion wasn't sufficiently recognizable as a marking of Lyon, and that the more commonplace DE LYON device was retained (or replaced by a fresher one—the authors).

The second edition of L. Dubus' *La Poste dans le Rhone et la Loire des origines à 1876*, revised and augmented by Dr. A. Camboulives, appeared as the January 1980 number (N° 45) of *Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile*. Therein, the Lion of Lyon is accepted unconditionally as unpaid marking N° 22 (black, rare), five examples known, used 26-31 January 1749. Examples of the DE LION marking of the times, shown in Figure 2, are from this work.

Based upon the above evidence, we tend to agree that this marking is (1) very rare, (2) served at Lyon the last week of January 1749, and (3) that it was withdrawn for being either not indicative enough of the city of use or for being too fragile for sustained use (the linework is very fine and presumably delicate as well). Only five covers seem to be known, and none may have ever been offered on the open market until fairly recently (Figure 4).



Figure 4

Now we come to Baudot's April 1993 auction sale, which introduces a strange coincidence. In a section consisting of stamps and covers with the lion as a topical theme, Lot 197 is a 1769 letter from Sienna to Bologna (both being in Italy and having no postal connection with Lyon). It bears (Figure 5) a very similar lion rampant as the sole handstamp, described as symbolizing the heraldic marking of the Grand Dukes of Tuscany. Despite the similar time period, we don't believe there is any connection between this Italian marking and those on the letters of Lyon.

Endnotes

1. From 19 January to 1 February, according to Leralle.
2. Though, at the same time, Lenain states that Lyon, then being second only to Paris in producing postal revenue, should have had as many as five different DE LYON handstamps, viz. Figure 2.
3. Note the discrepancy in dates for this *Archives Roux* between Leralle (Lyon 27 and 30 January, Venice 21 January) and Lenain (Lyon 27 and 31 January, Venice 11 January).



Figure 5

FRENCH MARCOPHILY - SOME UNUSUAL ARRIVAL MARKINGS
by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)

There were many departure markings used in the pre-stamp period in addition to date and location markings. In sharp contrast, there were very few arrival markings, if we ignore date and location backstamps. We arbitrarily exclude (as arrival markings) collection or postage due markings which, although struck upon arrival, belong in their own separate categories. In fact, Yvert originally listed only one *marque d'arrivée* in an early edition of its catalogue of markings, that of a *petite lyre* in a circle within an octagon (Figures 1 and 2), used only at Aix, the ancient capital of Provence and a major town in the Bouches-du-Rhone Dept. This marking was used only during the Revolutionary period and the example shown in Figure 1 is on a folded letter of 4 Germinal XII (25 March 1804).

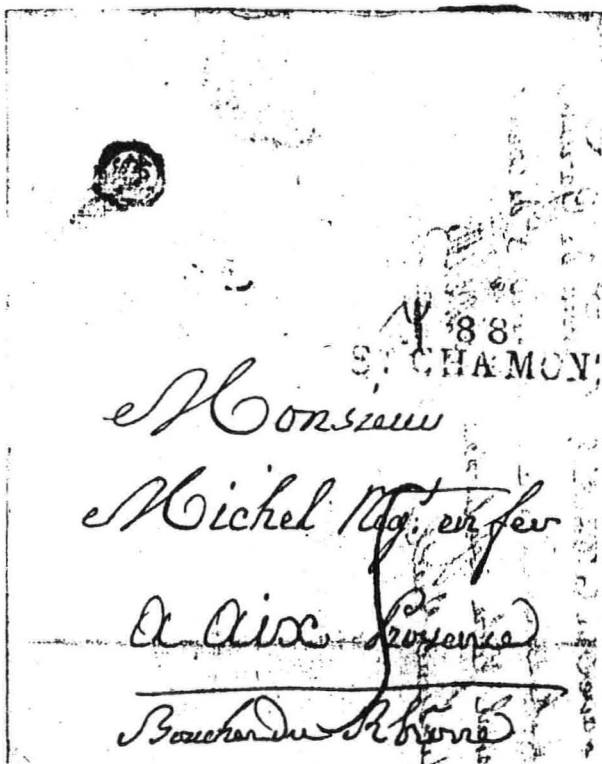


Figure 1

Does any reader know the significance of the selection of a ribboned lyre by the postal authorities of Aix?

Yvert, in a later edition of the catalogue,¹ added two additional examples of arrival markings: a star in a circle (Figure 3) attributed to Toulon and also used only in the Revolutionary period; and a manuscript style "m" (Figure 4), identified to Perpignan in 1820 and speculated in the catalogue as "perhaps a mail-car mark." I have



not seen either marking offered at auction nor in Vincent Pothion's monthly lists², an excellent source of postal-history material. There is a slight resemblance between the Perpignan receiving (Figure 3) marking and those used for franchise verification, also manuscript style "m"s (Nos. 2072 and 2073³) (Figure 5). However, I believe there is more logic in that the Perpignan marking is simply another version of a scrawl seen ca. 1801 in Paris and representing confirmation of payment of postage (No. 2901³) (Figure 6).



Figure 2



Figure 4

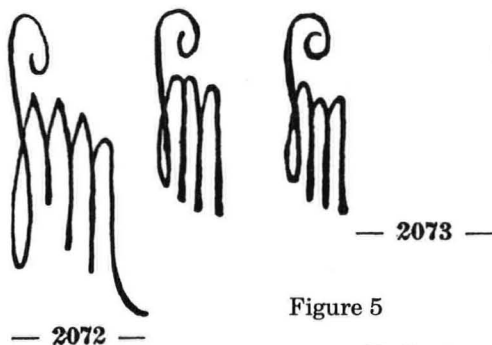


Figure 5



Figure 6

Endnotes

1. *Catalogue des Estampilles et Oblitérations Postales de France et des Colonies Françaises*; Yvert & Cie., 1929, pp. 120, 126 and 128.
2. La Poste aux Lettres, 17 Faubourg Montmartre, F 75009 Paris.
3. A. Rochette and J. Pothion, *Catalogue des Marques Postales et Oblitérations de Paris, 1700-1876*, 1958, pp. 223 and 295.

THE 1879-1883 SENEGAL & DEPENDENCIES DATE STAMPS

In *For the Record* #593 (FCP #227, January, 1992, p. 23), we touched upon the types of date stamps with fleurons from Sénégal et Dépendences. H. Montpellier has now studied the later date stamps (*Feuilles Marcophiles*, #277, 1994) and here are his findings:

Gorée: same 23mm diameter, inner circle of 30 points, inscription reads SENEGAL ET DEPEND. * GOREE *, with stars replacing fleurons; known used 1880-1883.

St. Louis: smaller (21mm) diameter, probably solid-line inner circle; reads SENEGAL ET DEP * St LOUIS *, with two stars replacing fleurons; known used 1880-1883. (Most date stamps are poorly struck and rather illegible).

Bakel: unchanged during this period of Senegal & Dependencies usage (to 1883).

Dakar: now with addition of "and Dependencies": 23mm diameter, 30 points inner circle, reads SENEGAL ET DEPEND. * DAKAR *, with two stars replacing fleurons; known used 1879-1883.

Rufisque: also with addition of "and Dependencies";

Type I: 25mm, inner circle of small dashes, inscription SENEGAL ET DEP. • RUFISQUE • in plain letters; known used 1881-1883.

Type II: 25.5mm diameter, inner circle of 46 points, reads SENEGAL ET DEPEND. RUFISQUE (no stars nor dots); known used 1881-1883.

New date stamps, without "and Dependencies" appeared in 1883, and replaced those described here in short order.

MORE ACRONYMS ON RECENT FRENCH DATE STAMPS

(Continued from #225, July 1991, p. 93)

ATAM = **A**telier de **T**ri **A**utomatique et **M**anuel

BO = **B**ureau d'**O**rdre

CD = **C**ontrôle **D**ouanier

CGSP = **C**entre de **G**estion de **S**acs **P**ostaux (where empty mail sacks are brought and transferred)

CPA = **C**olis **P**ostaux **A**von

CRSF = **C**entre **R**égional des **S**ervices **F**inanciers (formerly Centre de Cheques Postaux)

CTC [as in CTC de Paris Louvre CTC] = Centre de **T**ri **C**entral, **or** Centre de de **T**raitement du **C**ourrier

SCI = **S**ervice **C**omptable **I**nterdépartemental, which from 1992-on, has been replacing:

SCR = **S**ervice **C**omptable **R**égional

SDI = **S**ervice de **D**éveloppement de l'**I**nformatique

SLR = **S**ervice **L**ogistique du **R**éseau

SM = **S**ervice du **M**atin (morning handling)

Again, we have few ideas as to what most of these services represent.

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

I've been elevated to Editor of our journal, and I promise to you to maintain the high standards set by my predecessors, particularly Bob Stone, who now becomes Editor Emeritus. Bob, by the way, would be very pleased to hear from his old friends, at (717) 749-7053 (in Quincy, PA).

This journal will continue to publish quality articles of interest and usefulness to our readers, and to keep the membership aware of what's going on in the world of France and Colonies philately and within the circle of our members. Of course, this really means that we expect you to offer to contribute to these pages--anywhere from learned studies to notes to social tidbits.

Permit me to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me. I'm a 67-year-old retired geologist (degrees from Syracuse and Penn State), who decided to specialize in France in the early 1960s and joined the Society in 1964 (Member #915). I've authored or co-authored a whole mess of articles and handbooks, many of them published by our Society. I've been singularly successful and lucky--on a limited budget--at exhibiting. I'm an accredited phi-

latelic and literature judge. I belong to numerous philatelic societies, on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, as well as some local ones. And, as many of you know, I'm a fervent booster of ROMPEX, my "local" World Series of Philately exhibition, and hope to see more and more of you here, enjoying "springtime in the Rockies." As you can see, philately has, to me, become pretty much a way of life, and there's next to no time available now for geological musings. Finally, I'm here to help you, as we used to say in the government (and we meant it then and I mean it now). My address is on the second page of every number of this journal and, if you'd rather call than write, I can be reached at (303) 279-8587.

This is a very good time, having talked about my past, to reflect upon the past of our Society, which was founded back in November 1941 as the France & Colonies Group. Very few members living today know or knew of, or may even have heard of who the leaders were who have kept our Society going. As a means of reaching into the past and of paying tribute to them (lest we forget...)--and also for the continued record--we are herewith listing the FCPS Presidents:

1942-44	Stephen G. Rich	1960-62	William Connelly
1945	Brainerd Kremer	1963	Eric Spiegel
1946-48	Raoul Lesgor	1964-65	Charles Bretagne
1949	George Weiler	1966-69	Ira Zweifach
1950-51	Alan R. Fernald	1970-71	Marc W. Martin
1952	Louise Clemenson	1972-74	John E. Lievsay
1953	Brainerd Kremer	1975-78	Dr. Martin F. Stempien Jr.
1954-55	Paul Baudry	1979-80	Ira Seebacher
1956	Gus Wittenberg	1981-84	Dr. Edward J.J. Grabrowski
1957-59	Ira Zweifach	1985-	Richard M. Stevens

Many of them served the Society, and continue to do so, in other capacities as well.

We also wish to extend sincere appreciation to two current or recent officers who have toiled for us for a goodly number of years. Beatrice Berner was our Treasurer from 1963 until obtaining a well-deserved rest in 1992. Many Board meetings were held in her hospitable New York City apartment. Walter Parshall has been our unflappable, highly efficient, and self-effacing Corresponding Secretary ever since 1966. Before that, he was Recording Secretary in 1964 and 1965.

Our journal Editors have been noted in recent numbers of this journal, but we are happy to list them once again, and perhaps correct any discrepancies in dates:

1942-44	Dr. A.J. Charles Vaurie	1958-63	Ira Zweifach
1945-57	Stephen G. Rich	1964-94	Robert G. Stone

For now anyway, I intend to continue writing occasional Random Jottings, when the mood strikes me and when there's urgent need to communicate with you members. This may be preferable to you, and to me, than having to prepare regular and more formal Editorials. Besides, why waste valuable page space when you'd much rather be reading something else.

Articles to be published in future numbers

The First Post Offices of the Algerian Sahara.

Amazing 1870/1871 Wonder Stories -- 11, 13.

French Marcophily--An Arrival Marking; Postage Paid Markings; Postage Due Markings.

A Traveller in Rural France in 1830.

Why I Collect the Sower Issues of Roty and Mouchon.

(If you'd like to see a greater variety in what we publish, here's your chance to contribute something different!)

-- Stanley J. Luft

THE TEN RAREST FRENCH STAMPS?

According to *Timbroscopie's* Spring 1994 special edition, on the occasion of the magazine's ten years of publication, the ten rarest stamps of France are, in order:

	Yvert	Scott	Remarks
1. 1F vermilion	7	8a	387,302 stamps sold
2. 10c Presidency (unused)	9	10	8,226,600 printed; most were used
3. 20c blue Sage (Type 1)	73	71	quantity sold unknown; stocks destroyed Jan. 1880
4. 10c lithographed square due (unused)	Taxe 1	J1	quantity printed/issued unknown
5. 15c green Cérés (unused)	2	2	2,385,000 printed
6. 20c Bordeaux (Type I, unused)	44A,B	44b	1,700,000 printed
7. 5c Newspaper (imperf.)	Jour. 4	--	quantity printed/issued unknown
8. 1c Prussian blue Sage	84	87	id.
9. 25c ultra. Sage (Type I, unused)	73	72	id.
10. 30c orange Sower, ovptd. POSTES/FRANCE/1921	Préo 35	--	id.

Do any readers care to suggest some changes in the above listing?

AMAZING 1870/1871 WONDER STORIES - 9 by Ernest M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

This is the story of the sudden creation of a standard format and of the fable that originated from it. It all happened in September 1870 during the Siege of Metz.

The second airmail of besieged Metz - by unmanned balloons - started on September 16 and ended on October 3. It was operated with the approval of the commander of the 5th Military District of France (5^e Division) for the benefit of everyone present in town and carried out by the free corps of the Eastern Railway, who built and launched the balloons; and by the troops of the 5th District, who censored the mail (i.e., read and, if necessary, destroyed the slips of paper that had to be handed in without envelopes). On September 17, the *Journal de Metz* had the following:

"Avis important -

To profit from the aerostatic expedition, the correspondences must be established on 'onion paper,' carry the address on one side and must not exceed 10 centimeters in length and 5 centimeters in width.

All those that do not meet these conditions as well as those that include information other than personal news will be discarded.

One can see the regulation model which is found on the mail box of the division."

Based on this "Important Notice," the standard size of the *Papillons de Metz* was established as 5x10 cm (about 2x4 inches). Most of the *papillons* surviving today are from this second balloon mail, and some of them are even smaller than required (i.e., about 2x3 inches). This appears to be neither by accident nor by ignorance. The reason for this deviation must be sought in the operation of the first Metz balloon mail, which functioned from September 5 to 15.

It was organized by Marshal Bazaine's chief pharmacist, Dr. Julien François Jeannel, and run by his friends and co-workers. It was therefore under the command of Bazaine and had nothing to do with the 5^e District. Also, there was no censorship. Originally planned as a purely military means of communication and provisionally approved as such, it was then rejected for that purpose by Bazaine, who however allowed it to be used for personal messages. Because it was run on a small scale and more or less "within the family," as Louis Lutz put it, very little material survives in comparison with that from the second Metz balloon mail, and not too much is known about it either. But the facts are still available.

In Jeannel's report about the operation, which is published, he mentions that Bazaine's officers gave him notes to send by balloon, consisting of whatever paper was at hand. When he realized that the news about this means of breaching the enemy lines was spreading, he decided to limit the weight of a letter to 0.1 gram and distributed himself very thin paper. The message was to be simply folded to save the weight of envelopes, which had been used initially.

The Jeannel *papillons* with the oldest dates are about 10x14 cm, i.e., quarter sheets (of French format) and folded more than once. Later ones are eighth sheets and the last ones 1/16th sheets, i.e., 5x7 cm. When Jeannel's service ceased on the 15th, he clearly turned over some of the *papillons* to the 5^e District's airmail; people who may still have had some 1/16th sheets could, of course, use them up. That is how they got on the District balloons.

Just as Jeannel published a report about his operations (which does contain minor errors, as proven partly by Jeannel's own words and partly by the material still extant), George Robinson, the reporter for the *Manchester Guardian* who was shut up in Metz during the siege and who helped build the larger District balloons, also published a report about the operation of the second Metz balloon mail. He, however, had an axe to grind, so he deliberately faked the earliest day on which they tried out a balloon - to show their priority over the pharmacists' mail - and he also planted the false statement that Jeannel's operation was forbidden, which it never was.

These *canards*, deliberate falsehoods or simple errors, are not easy to get out of the philatelic literature, most of which is filled with the products of scissors-and-paste artists who do not take the time and trouble to inform

themselves by using authentic sources and by studying the actual philatelic material that may be too rare now to come by easily.

But, as if that were not bad enough, we find new errors committed frequently whenever someone writes about this relatively little known subject. So, perhaps it is not too surprising to learn in a 1994 account that the 5x10 cm format was obligatory even for the first airmail, which, in fact, never contained a single *papillon* of that size.

The same story perpetuates an error that is only about 50 years old, made by Chaintrier, who first tried to explain why a small Metz balloon was found late in October. He "theorized" that it was a secret balloon, sent up against military orders just before Metz surrendered. Had Chaintrier ever tried to think about what was involved in such an operation, he would have realized that that was sheer nonsense. The answer is, quite simply, that this was one of Jeannel's early balloons that was found weeks after it had landed in a relatively inaccessible place. All the facts that he enumerated about the contents agree with this simpler assumption. We need only to look at a date on one of those *papillons* - but neither Chaintrier nor anyone else who ever saw one apparently bothered to check that out...

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

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New Issues and Withdrawals

(continued from FCP #238, October 1994, p. 120)

France

- > 15 (17) October 1994: 2,80F Drug-abuse Prevention Day;
- > 15 (25) October: 2,80F Georges Simenon (joint issue with Belgium and Switzerland); Salon du Timbre sheetlet of two 2,80F stamps (sold at 16F);
- > 5 (7) November: 2,80F Grand Lodge (Scottish Rite) of France;
- > 19 (21) November: 3,70F Alain Colas; 6,70F Contemporary European Art (G. Bazelitiz work);
- > 26 (28) November: 2,80F + 0,60F Red Cross (Arras tapestry design); same in 34F booklet;
- > 1 December: 2,80F AIDS (SIDA) EUROPA 94 stamp reprinted by intaglio and offset, + label for World Day against AIDS;
- > 9 (12) December: 2,80F 50th Anniv. of French National Press Federation;
- > December: booklet of ten self-adhesive permanent value stamps with changed text on cover;
- > 31 December (2 January 1995): 4,40F Champs-Élysées + New Year greeting label;
- > 14 (16) January 1995: First Century of the Cinema sheetlet of four x 2,80F, set-tenant;
- > 20 (23) January: 4,40F Bridge of Normandy;
- > 21 (24) January: 2,80F the European notariat;
- > January 1995: 20F Sterners vending-machine booklet (seven permanent value + one at 0,70F) with new text on cover.

Withdrawals: 9 September: 1993 Red Cross stamps and booklets; 3,70F Service de Santé, Val-de Grâce; Decorative Arts 2,80F (x2) and 4,40F (x2); 2,80F European Parliament elections; 4,40F Bastia;
 7 October: 2,80F Postal employees circumnavigating the globe; 2,80F L. Mourguet and Guignol;
 30 October: Precancels: 1,82F, 2,34F, 3,86F, 5,93F;
 10 November: 2,80F Ecole Polytechnique; 2,80F + 0,60F Marianne de Dulac (Stamp Day 1994); Channel Tunnel (all four stamps); 6,70F Le Mans Cathedral

stained glass; 18F60 booklet, cultural relations with Sweden; 5F postal card for postmen circumnavigating the globe;

9 December 1994: 2F light green M. de Briat; 2,80F G. Pompidou; 2,80F Hommage to the Maquis; 2,80F Philex Jeunes 94, Grenoble; 2,80F Asiatic Development Bank; 2,80F Philatelic Congress, Martigues; 2,80F Court of Appeals; 2,80F Mont Ste.-Victoire; 2,80F Cent. of Inter. Olympic Committee; 2,80F and 3,70F EUROPA 94; 4,40F Argentat (Corrèze).

Andorra:

- > 5 September 1994: Butterflies, 2,80F and 4,40F;
- > 22 (24) October: 2,80F Meeting of the Co-Princes.

French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF):

- > 1 January 1995: 0,50F heraldic arms; 1F olivine; 2,40F Antarctic *mancoglosse*; 2,80F M. et Mme. Aubert de la Rue; 2,80F Sodar station; 3,70F Mt. Alsace; 4,30F Erebus mission; 15F awakening of the hibernating; 23F rorqual whale; 25,80F adventure of the "Tamaris"; 27,30F the "Heroine"; 28F M. Lesquin.

French Polynesia:

- > 2 July 1994: 136F 20th Anniv. of the Tahitian Academy;
- > 10 August: Tahiti of Yesteryear--Outer districts: 22F, 26F, 51F;
- > 14 September: 1000F Gauguin painting;
- > 15 October: 51F Salon du Timbre;
- > 10 November: Hawaiki Nui Va'a 94, 52F, 76F, 80F, 94F se-tenant (canoes racing).

Monaco:

- > 22 August 1994: 2,80F 1903 DeDion-Bouton auto; 3F Int. Assoc. of Catalogue Editors; 4,40F 21st UPU Congress (at Seoul)--not 17 October as reported in previous number;
- > 17 October: (previously listed in #238, October 1994, p. 119).

New Caledonia:

- > 6 (7) July 1994: Melanesian clay pottery 95F airmail;
- > 11 (12) July: World Cup soccer 105F airmail;
- > 13 (14) August: 150F Bourail Fair;
- > 16 (17) August: PhilaKorea 94 60F, 140F block;
- > 25 (26) August: research vessel "L'Atalante" 120F airmail;
- > 14 (15) September: 175F Jacques Nervat (writer);
- > 15 (16) September: 125th Anniv. of Masonic Order in New Caledonia 350F airmail;
- > 7 October: naval vessel "Nivôse" in 1080F booklet of 24 stamps;
- > 14 (15) October: Salon du Timbre sheetlet of two 90F airmail stamps + label;
- > 4 November: 30F Philately at school;
- > 15 November: 50th Anniv. of ORSTROM 95F airmail;
- > 16 (19) November: 90F 50th Anniv. of periodical *Le Monde*.
Withdrawals: 20 September 1994: 50F Cagou bird (sheets and booklets); 60F World of the Deep; 60F fish; 110F Navigators; 400F Tourism landscape.

St. Pierre & Miquelon:

- > 22 August 1994: 2F deep ultramarine Marianne de Briat, overprinted for local use;
- > 5 (10) October: 3,70F Communal school;
- > 15 (17) October: 3,70F Salon du Timbre;
- > 28 November: 2,80F Noel;
- > 16 January 1995: 2,80F Death Cent. of Louis Pasteur.
Withdrawals: (late 1994): 2,80F Anniv. of Women's Vote; 3,20F Prefect's residence.

Wallis & Futuna:

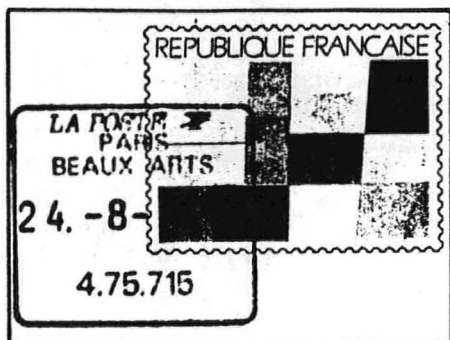
- > 22 September 1994: Salon du Timbre 300F airmail;
- > 13 October: 36F coconut;
- > 27 October: 50th Anniv. of disappearance of Saint-Exupéry.

- > The horizontal se-tenant Louvre Museum strip, issued November 1993, was voted France's favorite 1993 stamp, according to a poll conducted by La Poste.
- > The March 1994 permanent-value imprinted postal card's indicia was printed by offset lithography of a flat-bed press. It shows the name of stamp designer Briat, but not that of the engraver. The June 1994 envelopes, also with permanent-value indi-

cia, were printed by typography on a rotary press. Should more than one firm be contracted for envelope stock, slight distinctions could appear in the products, resulting in collectible varieties.

- BPM (Military Postal Bureau) 654 at Glina in Serb-occupied Croatia, which served a French infantry battalion, closed upon withdrawal of that unit on 15 June 1994.
- French participation in the naval surveillance of Iraqi waters (Mission Artimon) was suspended on 7 May 1994. Nevertheless, the French Navy continues to maintain a presence in the region, via the frigate "Commandant Ducey."
- A copy of the 75c rose Sage (Type II), hitherto known only as a Granet 1887 reprint, was discovered recently. The mint copy has oversized margins and appears to come from the right-hand (10th) vertical row of a pane. At least nine other copies must have existed at one time, if this example came from a horizontal row that had missed getting perforated.
- The eminent Russian-born French philatelist, Michel Liphchutz (1910-1994) died September 5th. He was a specialist in the posts of Russia, Poland, and Finland, a past president of the Académie de Philatelie, and a signer of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.
- The French military mission to protect the inhabitants of Hutu-controlled Southwestern Rwanda (Operation Turquoise) had a very short lived *Bureau Postal Militaire*, BPM 614, located in Goma, Zaire. Opened 1 July 1994, it closed with the departure of the French in late August.
- A detailed, illustrated study, by Bertrand Sinais, of the postal markings of the 1944-1945 French Forces of the Interior (F.F.I.) is being serialized in the *Coll. Phil. et Marco.*, #100-on (October 1993-on).
- We must commend Derek Richardson, editor of *The Jour. of the France & Colonies Phil. Soc.* [of Great Britain] for a particularly interesting Vol. 44, #3 (September 1994) number. Among the highlights are a good summary of the philately of the 1937 Paris Exposition (John Hammonds); a well illustrated study of the Marianne de Dulac, including proofs, special printings, and unissued material (David Lamb); an additional sampling of how the mail was handled at the main Paris P.O. in the early 1890s (transl. by Roy Reader); and, of course, installment N° 6 of Ernst Cohn's Amazing 1870/1871 Stories (N° 7 & 9 are printed here in this number of our journal).
- Michel Melot advises (*Timbroscopie*, October 1994) that the 1925 Paris Exposition souvenir sheet of four 5F Sage-design stamps (Scott 226, Yvert Bloc #1) has become quite fragile with time. Complete sheets should be kept in mylar protectors in a sun-free and low-humidity environment, and handled only as absolutely necessary.
- Keith Wagner (FCSP #2184), who retired in June 1994 as Executive Director of the APS, has been named the 1994 recipient of the ASDA's Man of the Year Award.
- The Collectors Club of No-Value-Identified (*N.V.I. Club*) postage stamps, booklets, and stationery, has been formed in France, and accredited there as a Law of 1 July 1901 association. Its aim is to study and disseminate information on these no-face-value items, which are being issued with ever increasing frequency by many postal administrations, and not just the U.S. and France. The Club will also offer an international new-issues service for these items to its members. Dues are 60Fr/year, payable by international money order to the President (from whom additional information should be available): M. Albert Sauvanet, Le Clos Royal B., Blvd. des Pas Enchantés, F-44230 St.-Sébastien-sur-Loire, France.
- Cheryl Ganz, who was the 1992-1993 American Air Mail Society (AAMS) President, has received that society's George W. Angers Award.
- The oceanographic research and supply ship "Marion Dufresne," well-known for its many years of Antarctic service and even more so for its numerous illustrated cachets, will be replaced in 1995. A modern, *dernier cri* "Marion Dufresne II" was launched at Le Havre in June 1994 and is expected to be commissioned in April 1995.
- BPM 600, serving the French Zone of Berlin ever since 3 September 1945, was officially terminated 30 September 1994 after the last French troops left unified Berlin.

- We didn't show examples of the nearly square financial-services cachets doing occasional postal use since late 1993 (#237, July 1994, p. 86) because we had no legible ones. Here's one that is.



- Strongly suggesting that BPM *vaguemestres* (mail clerks) and military unit commanders overseas are spending too much time servicing requests for souvenir covers, the *Poste aux Armées* at Vincennes has ordered a halt to the practice. Some of the covers have been returned unserviced, others have been stockpiled or even destroyed. The situation may be a temporary one, if there's enough of a public outcry.

SOME SHOW REPORTS

- SESCOAL '94 (Los Angeles, September): Lewis Bussey won a Gold medal and the Marcus White Showcase Grand for his U.S. stationery exhibit; Gene Tinsley won a Gold medal and the show Reserve Grand for his "Tasmania Postal Stationery." Steve Washburne received a Silver medal for the "Postal History Journal Cumulative Index 1957-1993." Unfortunately, there were no F&C exhibits to be seen. Among those present were Lew Bussey, Mel Feiner (Classic Philatelics), Stan Luft (Lit. judge), Gordon Torrey, and Ralph Wilson.
- PHILAKOREA 94 (Seoul, August): A Large Vermeil medal to Gene Tinsley for "Tasmania--Postal Stationery."
- BALPEX '94 (Hunt Valley, MD, September): Gold medals to Cheryl Ganz, new member Eliot Landau, and Steve Washburne; Vermeil medal to Wallace Dean; unfortunately, and as is too often the case nowadays, none of the above were for F&C exhibits. However, we do congratulate George Mayer for the Silver medal received for "French India (1864-1954)."
- Apple Harvest 94 (Spokane, WA, September): Gold medal and Reserve Grand Award to Bob Kinsley for his French Somaliland exhibit.
- INDIPEX '94 (Indianapolis, September): Gold medal and the Reserve Grand to Cheryl Ganz for "Zeppelins and the United States"; Vermeil medal to Paul Larsen for "German Caroline Islands 1899-1914."
- CHICAGOPEX '94 (Chicago, October): Gold medal and the Grand Award to Paul Larsen for "German Togo 1885-1914"; two Gold medals to Eliot Landau for U.S. exhibits; Vermeil medal to Stan Jersey for "1941 U.S. 6-cent Airmail," which included use of this stamp by French Navy personnel. Marty Bratzel received a Vermeil medal for his recent publication, "The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons under British Administration 1916-1961," co-authored with R.J. Maddocks. There were several good French expeditionary corps covers in Alfred Kugel's "Allied Postal History of the Boxer Uprising," which won a Gold medal. Among members present were Cheryl Ganz, Dave Grossblatt, Stan Jersey, Eliot Landau, Paul Larsen, Stan Luft (Lit. judge, again!), and Alain Millet, all the way from Paris.
- AIRPEX '94 (Dayton, OH, September): Silver-bronze medal to Charles LaBlonde for "Swiss Machine Cancels"; one-frame exhibit Gold award to Scott Gallagher for "Camp Dennison during the Civil War."

- Philadelphia National Stamp Exhib. 94 (October): Gold medal to Paul Larsen for his Leeward Islands stationery exhibit. Another Gold was awarded to non-member Alfred Kugel for his 1893-1939 French military exhibit.
- St. Louis Expo 94 (October): Gold medal to Eliot Landau for one of his U.S. exhibits; Vermeil medal to Kenneth Nilsestuen for "Algerian Mails 1830 to 1876"; Silver medal to Charles LaBlonde for "Swiss Priority Mail."
- Mega-Event (New York City, November): Gold medal to Steve Washburne for "Portugal Classics"; Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "The French Pacification of Tonkin, 1884-1904." We assume that there was an abundance of FCPS members in attendance.

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FOR THE RECORD

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(continued from *FCP* #238, October 1994, p. 123)

- 716.) Between 1 August 1856 and 31 August 1871, an author could return printed page proofs, corrected by hand, to the printer or publisher at the cheaper printed-matter rate, provided they were enclosed within a wrapper which stated that the mailing had been authorized in advance by letter of such-and-such a date from the local postmaster. A. de La Mettrie (*Le Monde des Philatélistes*, October 1994) assumes tongue-in-cheek that this was a sop tossed to the usually penurious writer class of the times. Unfortunately, we who write for *FCP* and other journals or publishers have to resort to using first class mail, and even registered or Express mail.
- 717.) Rare examples of French Classic stamps exist on "double paper" (as "paste-ups") on joined paper, printed on paper joins so as to produce complete sheets. If the sheet was to be perforated after printing, no offset of the perforations would occur. In other instances, printed sheets showing imperfections could be salvaged by cutting out the faulty printed area, then gluing parts of other stamps (of same color and value) in their stead. This process could result in a slight offset of the perforations between the sheet and its replacement stamps. (from Gérard Gauduchon, in *Coll. Phil. et Marco.*, #102, 1994.)
- 718.) In a useful review article in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* for September 1994, Gérard Fabrègue explains the French military franchise, as practiced since 1870. Exceptions to the free franchise, requiring use of postage stamps or subject to taxation upon arrival, are worth repeating and recording here. (1) letters, printed matter, packages, exceeding the single-weight free-franchise rate; (2) international mail; (3) registered and special-delivery mail; (4) airmail (but permissible in more recent years, as domestic airmail surtaxes disappeared); (5) improperly transmitted mail (e.g., no *vaguemestre* markings, dropped into a mailbox not within the B.P.M. system etc.); (6) commercial mail, rather than family or personal mail (though this commonly was allowed to pass without being taxed).

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

- > "Histoire Postale de la Loire," by Pierre Souchon; vol. I (Origins to 1876), vol. II (April 1876 to December 1992); vol. I 230Fr, vol. II 430Fr, both postpaid, from A. Duport, 1 Chemin du Sablat, F-42600 Ecotay l'Olme, France; checks payable to UP PTT de la LOIRE: or international money order payable to CCP 7466-89 S Lyon, to be sent to A. Duport at above address.
- > Catalogue Yvert et Tellier 1995; vol. I (at 80F, softbound), 368 pp., covers the stamps of France; vol. Ibis (at 50F, softbound), 240 pp., covers stamps of Monaco, Andorra, UN, and Europa. Available from the usual sources.
- > "Catalogue spécialisé des timbres fictifs," by J.-C. Gilles, G. Gomez, and D. LeBaron; 64 pp.; 96Fr postpaid, from Gérard Gomez, 17 Ave. de Sceaux, F-78000 Versailles, France. (Detailed study of the stamps prepared for use by postal employees training schools; includes historical review, dates of issue, special printings for overseas use, varieties, and essays.)
- > "The Postal History of Ethiopia During the Reign of Emperor Menelik II," by Henri Tristant, of the Académie de Philatélie; translated into English by Huguette Gagnon, president of the Ethiopian Philatelic Society; \$50.00 by check or money order, from Miss Huguette Gagnon, P.O. Box 8110-45, Blaine, WA 98231-8110, USA. (This "Bible of Ethiopian Postal History" has been out-of-print the same year as its publication, in 1977; this authorized translation has been painstakingly made by FCPS member, Miss Gagnon).
- > Catalogue Cérés 1995 France; 424 pp., 4,500 color reproductions; 95Fr + 22Fr postage, from Cérés, 23 rue du Louvre, F-75041 Paris Cedex 01, France, or from various hobby sources.

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

President's Letter

The Spring POSTAGE STAMP MEGA EVENT will be held in New York City on March 16-19, at Madison Square Garden. As usual, the France & Colonies Philatelic Society will have a booth, and, hopefully, one or more of our officers will be there most of the time. The sponsors of the Mega Event ask us to provide one or two speakers to make presentations. For this show, I will be giving a talk on Thursday, March 16, at 3:00 p.m., on the topic "The Antilles Tercentenary Issue of Martinique." The unpublished sub-title is "Many Questions, a Few Answers." If any of our other members should be interested in presenting a program at a future Mega Event, I am sure it can be arranged; just contact me at least four or five months in advance.

For the first time in many years, I was not able to be at our Society's booth on the opening day of this fall's show. I was on my way back from attending the David Feldman Auction in Switzerland. My interest in the sale related to my Balkan collections, not my French. It is a rare occasion, when three gold medal collections from my areas of interest are offered in one sale; as a result, I felt I wanted to attend the auction, even though I am no longer buying material of the type being sold. One has a much better opportunity to inspect a collection at the auction viewing than in exhibition frames. Not only does one have a comfortable seat, but one can turn over some of those multiples, and check the gauge of the perforations; sometimes the results are rather disturbing.

--Dick Stevens

Annual Meeting Notice

The annual meeting for the presentation of reports and elections of officers and directors will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, 1995, at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, N.Y.

Society Reprints Glossary

In October 1973, the Society published, as a supplement to the *France & Colonies Philatelist*, a "Glossary of English Equivalents of Terms Commonly Used in French Auctions, Catalogues and Stamp Trade" compiled by Robert G. Stone and Marc Martin. This has been unavailable for many years, but the Society recently had it reprinted. It is now available at \$4.00 per copy from the Corresponding Secretary.

Changes in Editors and Directors

In recognition of his many years of outstanding service as Editor of the *France & Colonies Philatelist*, the Board has voted unanimously to name Robert G. Stone to the position of Editor Emeritus. Stanley J. Luft, who has been completely responsible for producing the *Philatelist* for more than a year, is now its official editor.

Because, under the Bylaws, the Editor of the *Philatelist* is automatically a director *ex-officio*, and Stan was previously a director-at-large in the Class of 1996, this has created a vacancy on the Board of Directors. The Board has appointed Robert T. Kinsley of West Richland, Washington to serve as a director until the Annual Meeting in May.

The Gerard Gilbert Award

The Gerard Gilbert Memorial Award is for the best philatelic publication of the year in English related to French philately. It is presented for those years in which the Board feels there is an appropriate candidate.

For the year 1993, the Gerard Gilbert Award has been given to Stanley J. Luft for his book "Military and Postal History of the Revolutionary Armies in the West of France (1791-1802)."

The following awards were made in previous years, but were not previously reported in the *Philatelist*. For the year 1990, to Donald L. Duston, for the five volume series: "French Colonies Revenues (and Former Colonies Now Independent)." For the year 1985, to J.B. d'Humières, S. Ringström, & H.E. Tester for their book "The Suez Canal Company" which was Part 3 of "Private Ship Letter Stamps of the World."

Meeting of 13 September

Maintaining the tradition of past years, I continued the saga of the Group Type presenting material from the French Pacific at the first meeting of the new philatelic season. New Caledonia military mail was highlighted by a military-correspondence letter at the 15c rate from the small office of Koné. Since this office did not have a military date stamp, its normal circular date stamp was used to cancel the letter, and the military date stamp of Noumea was used as a transit marking. Mail from numerous small offices was shown, including Hyenghene, Houailou, Oubatche, Pam, Canala, Ile des Pins, Nepoui and Voh. A fourth-weight registered letter from the small office at Moindou highlighted this section. Group Type frankings from Wallis, New Hebrides and the Loyalty Islands were also shown.

Oceania featured a registered printed matter wrapper (15c postage and 25c registry) from Taiohae and a registered military rate from the same office (also 15c postage and 25c registry). The latter was posted on the 24th of February of 1893, a very early Group Type usage, and franked with the 25c Group Type issue and the 15c provisional overprint of 1893. The provisional cancel of Maketa was illustrated via a double-weight registered letter (3 x 25c) to Japan. Small offices included Moorea, Mangareva, Taravao and Uturoa-Raiater, the latter at a registered quadruple rate to Palermo. The presentation was concluded with a selection of packet and ship letters from the two colonies.

--Ed Grabowski

Meeting of 4 October

Tonight's meeting featured the annual Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibit, and there were five entries reflecting the diversity of French Area collecting. We were pleased to welcome Chicago-based member Mark Isaacs who was doing the American version of a "walk-about" on the east coast. Yours truly took the First Award with a developing exhibit entitled: **WHERE'S THE GROUP TYPE?** This exhibit features those covers wherein one might expect to see use of the Group Type Issue, but for various reasons it is absent. Examples include short or no payment of postage with due stamps applied on arrival (France, Colonies and foreign due stamps were featured), times of shortage of Group Type issues (Guadeloupe, Senegal, French Sudan), military franchise letters of the period, government free-franks and miscellaneous items. None other than our Editor, Stan Luft, received the Second Award for his collection entitled **FRANCE: THE RAILWAY TRANSFER OFFICES, 1864-1882**. Personally, I have always found this to be a most interesting avenue of French philately, and I was pleased to see Stan's exhibit. Huguette Gagnon took the Third Award for her postal history exhibit entitled **FREE FRENCH FORCES AT WORK**. Featured were many interesting censored covers from the Colonies, soldier's letters and liberation covers, all obviously from a much larger exhibit of this unusual material. Receiving awards of equal merit were Dick Stevens and Mark Isaacs. Dick, always seeking new Martinique venues, presented an exhibit on **THE ANTILLES TERCENTERARY ISSUE OF 1935** which featured the artist's sketches of the issue, the last with a signature and administrative seal of approval for the design. How this got out of the closet remains uncertain. Marc Isaacs concluded with his exhibit on **INDOCHINA POSTAL STATIONERY FOREFUNNERS** which featured a good collection of formula cards and Dubois stationery. This was Mark's first entry in the Rich Exhibit. Thanks to Judges John Lievsay and Marc Martin for making sense out of this diverse assemblage. --Ed Grobowski

NEW MEMBERS

- 3020 OLEVNIK, MICHAEL H., 3630 W. Bradford Dr., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301. (General Collector: 20th Century. General France: Mint - Used. Modern France: Mint - Used.)
- 3021 MEADOW, STEVEN J., 8 Brushy Hill Rd., Danbury, CT 06810. (General France: Mint.)
- 3022 KINAN, GREG CY., 2201 Filbert St., San Francisco, CA 94123. (General Collector: All Issues. Andorre. Colonies & Territories: Group Type - Omnibus Issues Used Only - Cancels & Postal History - Stamps & Covers Of Individual Colonies. Collect French Colonies Up To 1960.)
- 3023 GAETJENS, GREGOR, BP 54, 94302 Vincennes, Cedex F, France. (Specialized France: Postal History: Used Abroad. Regular Issues: 1870-1871 Issues, Commune, Ballons - Alsace-Lorraine, Locals. Monaco. Colonies General Issues: On Cover. Cancels & Postal History. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3024 BLANCHARD, ANDREW, 185 School St., Watertown, MA 02172. (General France: Mint. Plating Scott #38.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2338 GAGNON, HUGUETTE, Box 8110-45, Blaine, WA 98231-8110 (Zip Code change).
- 2343 GRANT, HUNTLY W., 4710 26th Ave., SE, Lacey, WA 98503-3622.
- 2700 RUMY, JOEL D., 2235 Hall Ave., Windsor, Ontario N8W 2L8, Canada.
- 2882 ARNOLD, COL. STANLEY, P.O. Box 144, McCordsville, IN 46055-0144.
- 2912 ROTTMAN, MILTON, 100 Worth Ave. - Apt. 403, Palm Beach, FL 33480.
- 1716 SLIFER, WILLIAM P., 284 Crow Hill Rd., Barto, PA 19504-9707.
- 2955 KARNES, JOHN P., P.O. Box 1670, New Castle, PA 16103.
- 2916 LANGSTON, J. DAVIS, Catalpa, 1858 E. Lincoln Rd. SE, Brookhaven, MS 39601.
- 1554 ABRAM, SAM L., 10 Attitash Rd., Chappaqua, NY 10514-2304.
- 2658 TORREY, DR. GORDON H., 392 Russel Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877.
- 1790 ROYE, MARILYN, 69 Taconic Rd., Greenwich, CT 06831-3452.
- 1100 CYR, HENRY BRUCE, 4178 Jasmine Hill Rd., Wetumpka, AL 36092.

- 1892 CHAPMAN, HARRY, 16 Pearson Circle, Lake Lure, NC 28756.
 2577 LUCHINI, THOMAS R., P.O. Box 191953, San Francisco, CA 94119-1953.
 1841 DRYE, HERVE, 51 rue Pierre Demours, 75017 Paris, France.
 2873 GEIGER, FRANK P., 242 West Saddle River Rd., Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458-2620, (Zip Code change).
 1364 PLYLER, EARLE F., 3600 Oak Hollow Dr., Edmond, OK 73013-6951, (Zip Code change).
 946 VOSSLER, VERNON R., 4511 East 31st St. - Apt. 25, Tulsa, OK 74135.
 1771 CARLETON, JOHN C., 1617 S. Brentwood Blvd., Suite 278, St. Louis, MO 63144-1316.
 3011 SHANKLE, BILL, 17 Dunhill Rd., Jackson, NJ 08527-2842 (Zip Code change).
 1960 MARINESCU, CONSTANTIN A., 64-34 Dieterle Crescent, Rego Park, NY 11374.
 1394 LAMBERT, LAURENCE H., P.O. Box 866, Nevada, MO 64772.
 1988 GRAY, GEORGE T., 440 Scott Parl Dr., Iowa City, IA 52245-5138.

REINSTATEMENTS

- 1257 NOSEL, RONALD M., (New Address) 55 W. Connelly Blvd. - Apt. 612, Sharon, PA 16146. (General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used - On Cover - 1870-1871: Issues - Dues - Cancellations - Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint - Used - On Cover - Blanc, Mouchon & Merson Types - Sowers - Air Mails - Coils. Special Issues: Stationery - Air Meets, First Flights, Etc. French Community: Offices Abroad. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover - All Colonies and Territories. Guadeloupe. New Caledonia. Polynesia.)
 770 NADATA, HENRY, 40-22 Kuiken Terrace, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. (General Collector: All Issues. DeLuxe Imperforates.)
 2756 BOSE, GURU P., (New Address) 203 North 23rd St., Philadelphia, PA 19103. (Topical Collector: Art. General France: Mint - On Cover. Modern France: Booklets - Maximum Cards - First Day Covers - Miniature Sheets. Special Issues: Essays (Projects, Rejected Designs) - DeLuxe Proofs; Imperforated Artist's Proofs and Color Trials.)

RESIGNED

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 1995 | BERNARD, SERGE | 2850 | NIEHOF, JOHN G. |
| 676 | TAVES, ERNEST H., MD | 2308 | BAKER, GEORGE B. |
| 1539 | PROULX, THOMAS W. | 1891 | AMON, DR. RENE |
| 2307 | NUNNELLEY, SHERRELL | 1247 | SCHIFF, JACQUES C., JR. |
| 2957 | FAURE, MIKE | 3003 | DEAN, MARY JOAN |
| 1128 | ROBICHAUD PIERRE | | |

DECEASED

- | | | | |
|------|------------------|------|-----------------|
| 14 | KAGAN, ALEXANDER | 1930 | CLERICO JOHN S. |
| 1175 | BALLUFF, BERNICE | | |

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WANTED TO FORM STUDY GROUP: Collectors of St. Pierre & Miquelon are invited to form a study group. A newsletter is contemplated. For information, please contact (SASE appreciated) David Salovey, P.O. Box 464, New York, NY 10014 (Mb. #2988).

BREAKING UP my semi-specialized collection of Classic (to 1876) France (shades, cancels, covers, etc.); also General Issues of the Colonies (no covers); also specialized collection of 20c imperforate Empire. Reasonable. Inquiries and want lists (Yvert Nos.) to Stanley J. Luft, 16291 West 56th Pl., Golden, CO 80403. (FCPS #915).



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