



France & Colonies Phîlatelist



Colonies General Issues 30c Navigation and Commerce on registered wrapper from Khong, Cambodia, 13 October 1894, to France. Date stamp obsolete, for Khong had been in Laos since 1893. Sold for 17,955Fr in April 1994 (Lugdunum Phil., Lot 233).

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 Walter E. Parshall, 103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003, USA

All contributions to and questions concerning the contents and policy of this periodical should be sent to the Editor:

Stanley J. Luft, 16291 W. 56th Place, Golden, CO 80403, USA

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to Corresponding Secretary, 103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003

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FRENCH MARCOPHILY--POSTAGE PAID MARKINGS

by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)

The chapter in the Yvert & Tellier 1975 Specialized Catalogue of French Stamps, on "*Marcophilie--Préphilatelie*," discusses the old postal markings of the departments, circular postmarks, and entry markings, and concludes by alerting the *collectionneur* to the vast field of study which exists in the area of *Port Payés* (Postage Paid). Perhaps this is why such markings are the very first to be covered in Yvert's catalogue of old markings¹--following a very short introductory chapter on old manuscript markings, and warrant Maury's comment that they rank in popularity right alongside military markings. We will cover only a few postage paid markings here, as a basic introduction to this major segment of marcophily.

The oldest of such postage paid markings are, of course, manuscript notations on the front of folded letters, first seen about 1640 at the end of Louis XIII's reign. They consist of arabic numerals indicating *sols*, or words such as "*franc*," from *affranchi* (Figure 1a), or less decipherable markings (Figures 1b and c), best interpreted by the **absence** of a manuscript due marking.

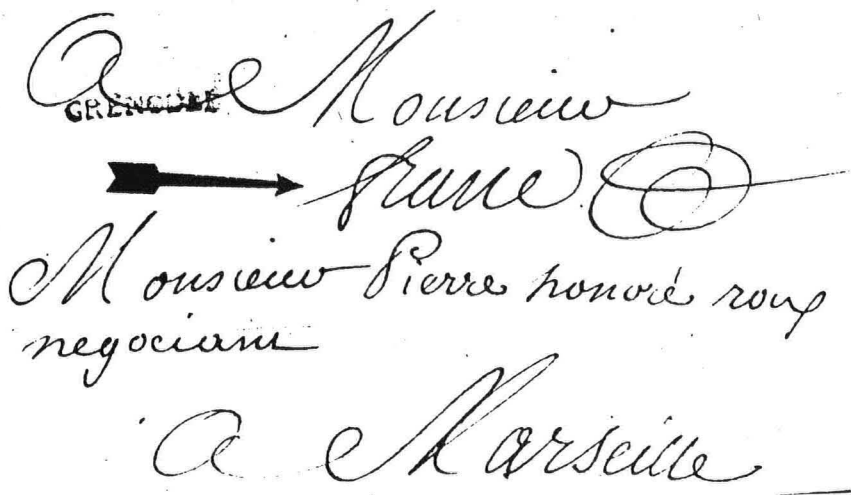
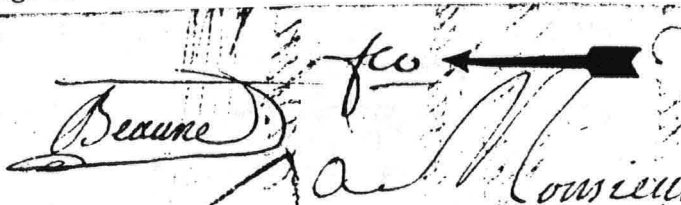
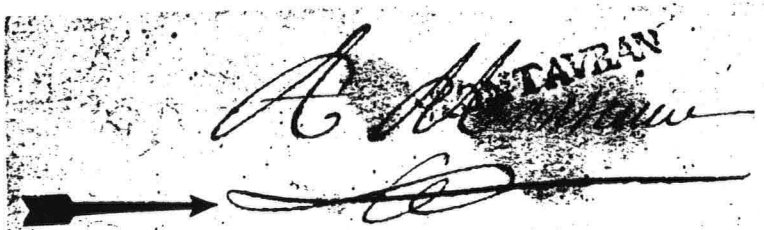


Figure 1a



Beaune
Monsieur
M. de Gemeningen
President Et Louis Sive de S. A. S. Mong
Le Margrave de Bade Durlach
par Strasbourg. A. Caussade

Figure 1b



A. Caussade
Monsieur F. Boudier aîné
Directeur de poste
A Caussade.

Figure 1c

After the middle of the 18th Century, there was a proliferation of postage paid markings that were unique for individual cities; some of the more attractive ones are shown in Figure 2. However, they are not commonplace because of the strong belief of the times that the cost of correspondence should be borne by the recipient and it would therefore be an insult to prepay for deliv-



Figure 2

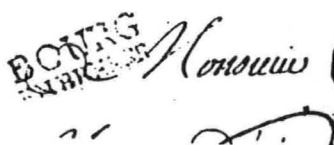
ery. It was similarly believed that greater pains would be taken to ensure delivery if payment was still due. Some of these markings don't identify the city but yet are still uniquely assigned to only one place: For example, Figure 3a = Marseille, Figure 3b = Verdun, and Figure 3c = Bourg (this last on a letter offered for 5600Fr in the *La Poste aux Lettres* circular 335 of December 1993).



(a)



(b)



(c)



Figure 3

During the Revolutionary Period, we see the typical unboxed P.P., supplemented with at first a fleur-de-lys (Figure 4) and then by the symbolic Liberty

Mondidier
 P.P. DE
 MONDIDIER
Monsieur Alexandre Notaire
rue Croix des petits champs
à Paris,

Figure 4

MEMBERS' APPEALS

OFFER: *Le Monde des Philatélistes* Etude #1, "Les Anciens Timbres Français Expliqués 1849-1876" (1000 printed) and Etude #7, "La Poste Pendant le Siege" (details of balloons released 18 September-2 November 1870) (500 printed) by Savelon. Also "Les Diverses Emissions de la Légion Tchèque en Sibérie 1918-1920" by R. Richet. Each \$10 postpaid. Bob Kinsley, 949 N. 60th Ave., W. Richland, WA 99352. (Mb. #2180).

OFFER: Unused block of six 20c Eagles printed over 5c Eagles. Printer's waste that escaped destruction nearly 150 years ago. An unusual and spectacular exhibition piece for the French Colonies specialist, priced at \$200. Ron Bentley, 2600 North 24th St., Arlington, VA 22207. (Mb. #1346).

WANTED: For personal collection. Souvenir sheets Scott 226 and 241. Make offer to Carl P. Woods, 306 Orbit Circle, Del Rio, TX 78840-2427. (Mb. #1477).

WANTED: Interesting and unusual French Colonial postage dues, on and off cover. Write first with copies and please include phone/fax. D. L. Herendeen, Universal Analytics, Inc., 3625 Del Amo Blvd., Suite 370, Torrance, CA 90503. (Mb. #2532).

or Phrygian bonnet (Figures 5 and 6).^{2, 3} During the Revolution and after the creation of the first 86 *Départements*, we find the departmental number



Figure 5. Louis XIV, wearing a Liberty cap and drinking with the Revolutionaries.

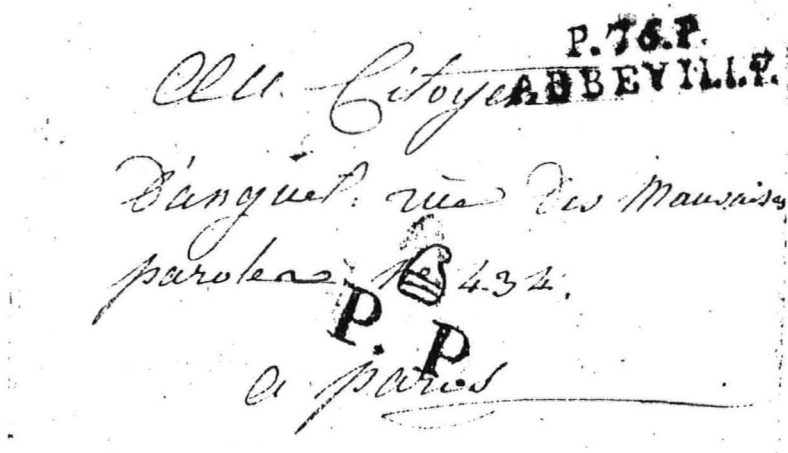


Figure 6

over the city name, with a "P" on either side of the number, to show postage paid (Figures 6-8). On some domestic letters and on letters leaving France, we occasionally see the added "AV" intertwined within a square, for *Affranchissement Vérifié* (Figure 8), for verification of prepayment, and on letters entering France we see "A.E.D.", for *Affranchie à l'Etranger jusqu'à*

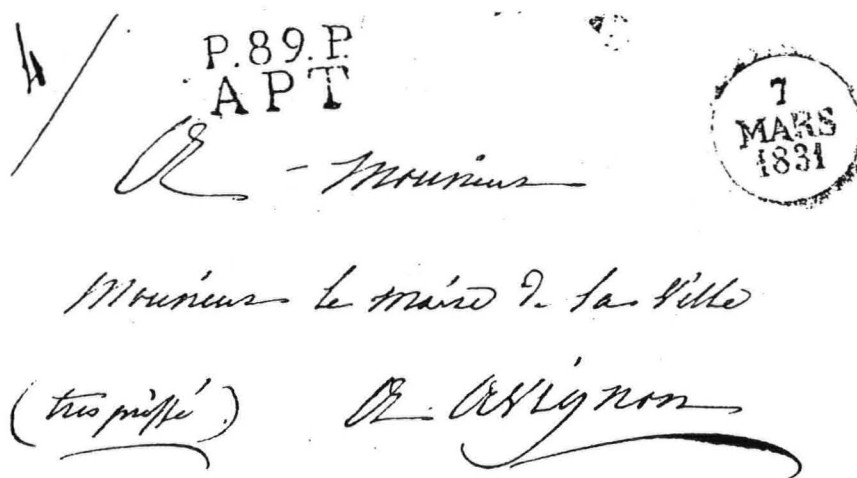


Figure 7

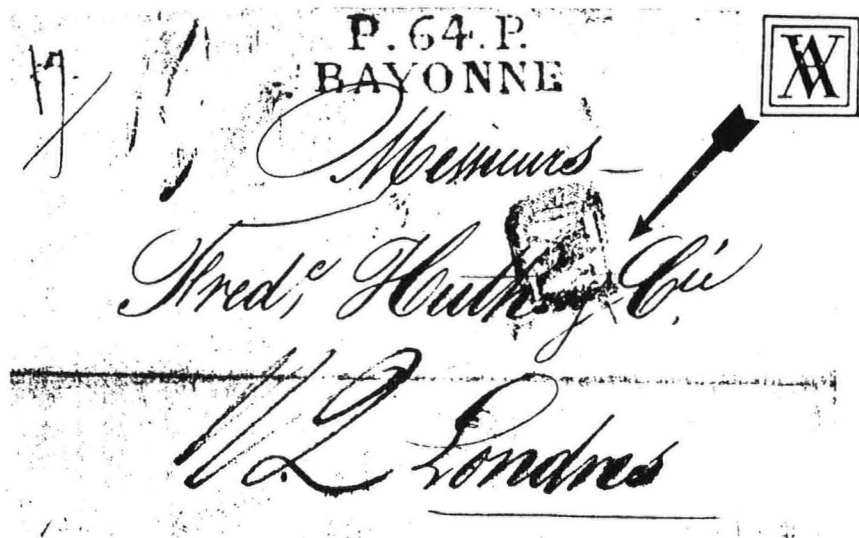


Figure 8

Destination, within an oval (for prepaid to destination abroad).⁴ Following the introduction of circular town and date postmarks in 1830 postage paid, still far from common, was shown by the simple boxed P.P. (Figure 9a) or, if the letter was going out of France, by the boxed PD, for Paid to Destination (Figure 9b), or less typically a boxed PF, for Paid to Frontier (Figure 9c). Note, however, that PD, particularly in a circle, can also indicate *Port Dû*, or Postage Due.

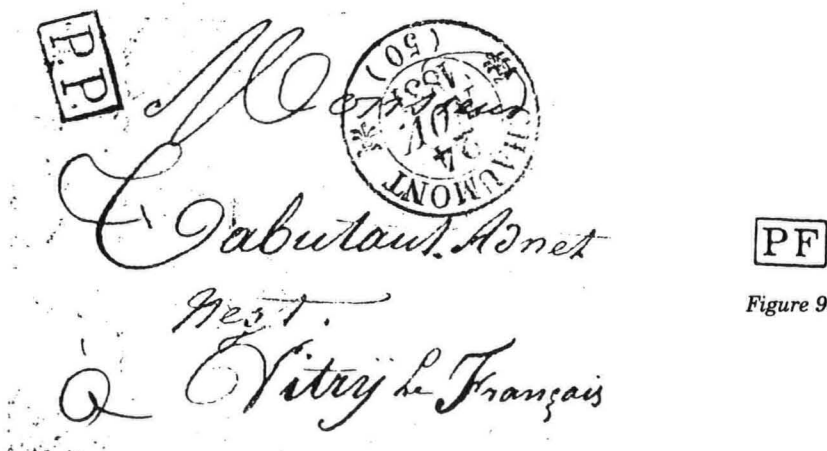


Figure 9c

Figure 9a

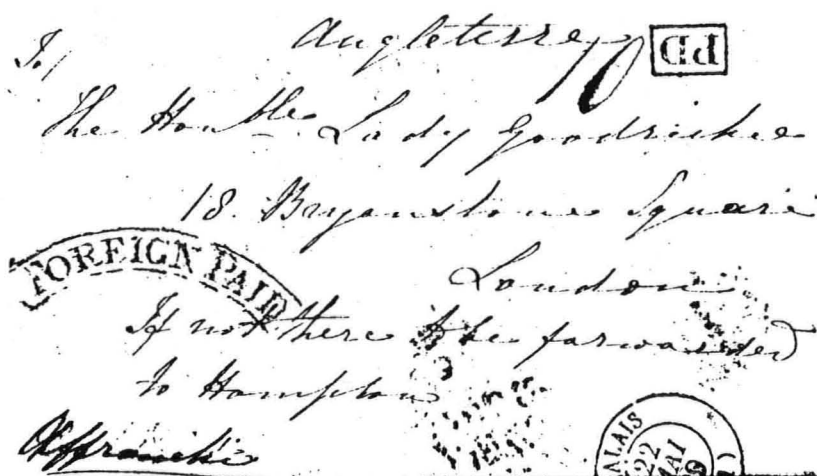


Figure 9b. Prepaid to England

Paris, of course, had an abundance of specific postage paid markings (Figures 10a and b), including identification of Paris Department 60 and its principal post office (Figure 11a), letters A to H, J, and T of the secondary bureaus (Figures 11b and c), or names of special bureaus (Figure 11d).⁵ During sorting of the mail at the main post office ("le service du tri"), the markings in

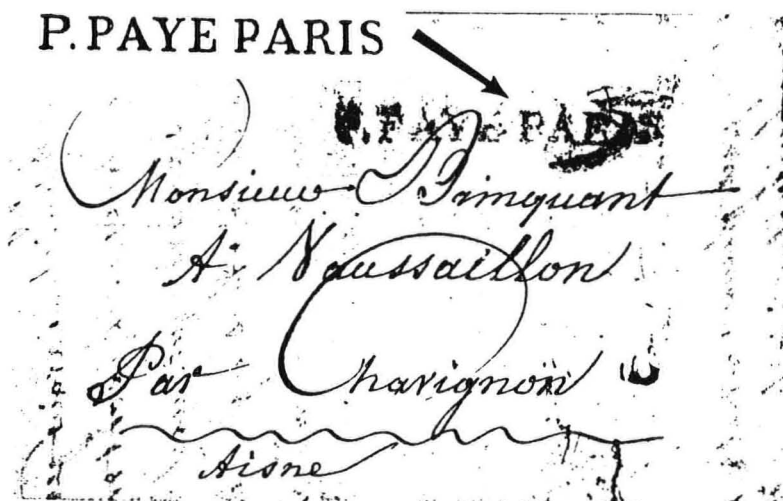


Figure 10

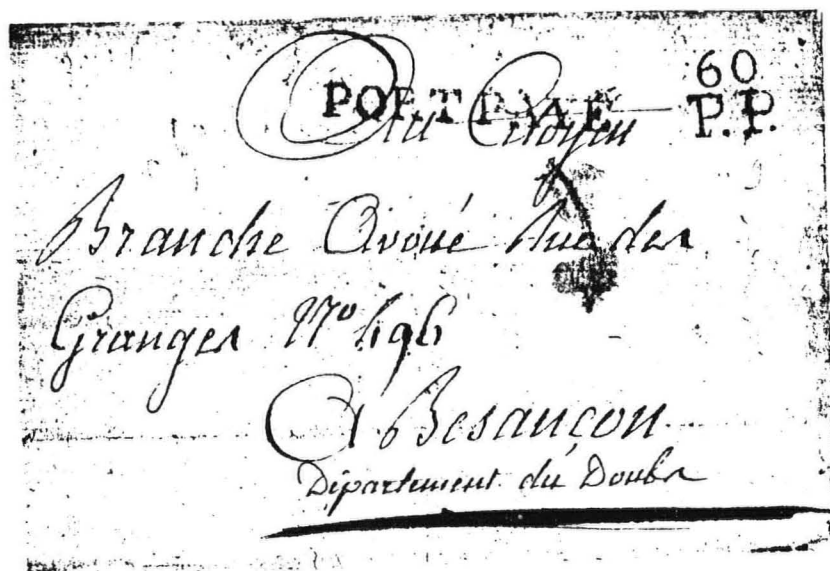


Figure 11a



Figure 11b



Figure 11c

PORT-PAYÉ-60
Beau dela Mon du ROI

Figure 11d

Figures 12a and b) were applied: **P.P.P.** (Port Payé Passe Paris) (Figure 12a) for mail going via and through Paris, and **Ps. Ps.** (Port Payé jusqu'à Paris) (Figure 12b) for mail going only as far as Paris. Again, after the advent of circular postmarks, Paris introduced in May 1837 a number of markings

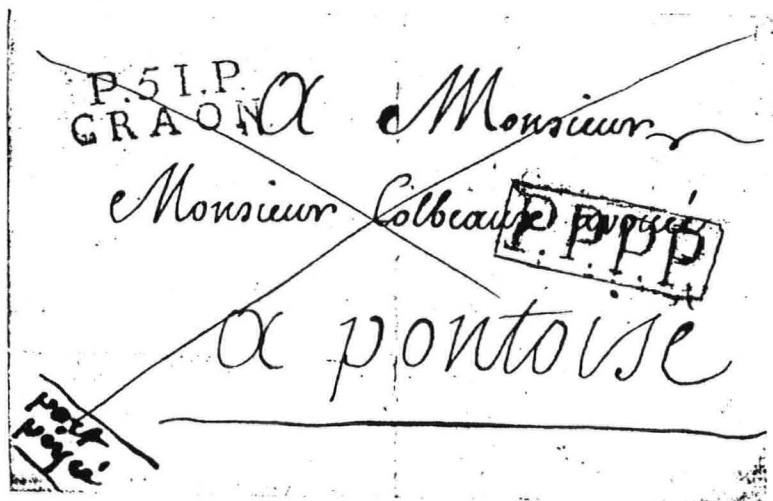


Figure 12a

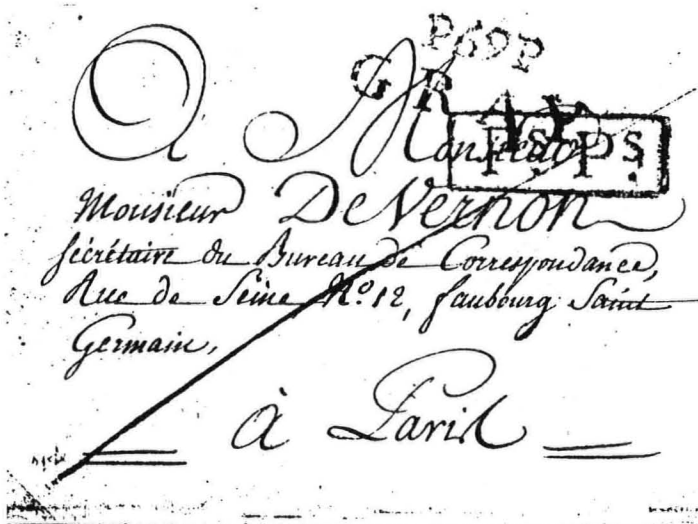


Figure 12b

indicating postage paid, shown respectively in Figure 13 for time of delivery (*Dist.*), time of collection (*Levé*), just a box and bureau designation, an official entity, or for bulk mailings of printed matter.⁶

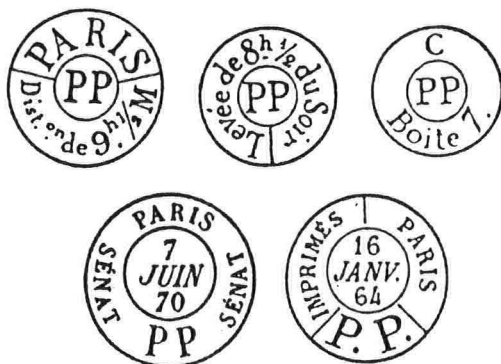


Figure 13

Relevant to printed matter, note how the *bonnet phrygien* replaced the royal crown in the 1790s circular marking attesting to postage prepaid on subscriptions, books, and works of music (Figure 14a). At the end of the century, that marking was replaced by a simple **ABs** (*Abonnements*, meaning subscriptions) in a circle (Figure 14b). Later in the 1800s is found a simple **1¢**

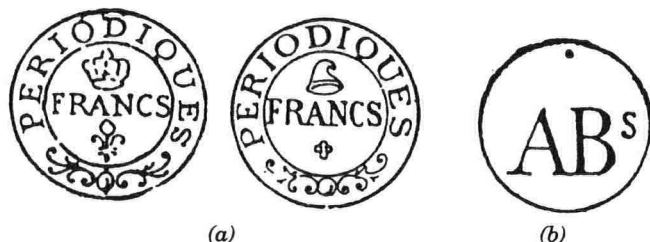


Figure 14

in circle or oval, used for periodicals. The *Catalogue des Estampilles*¹ also shows the use around 1815 of the marking "25 cent" in a large oval, to show prepayment of delivery charges, but I have never seen an example. That selfsame work shows what our editor identified to me as a "*timbre humide*," an attractive inked rate-handstamp showing a warrior with staff and fleur-de-lys shield used in the 1820s on printed matter (Figure 15a, shown on page 78). There are numerous markings after 1900 to show postage paid for newspapers and other subscriptions, such as "*Franchise Postale Par Abonnement*," usually placed next to the title of the periodical, or a circular postmark showing "*Journaux P.P.*" (Figure 15b).



Figure 15b

The mail of military personnel during various campaigns was generally given postage-paid privileges, known as the franchise, and ordinarily was

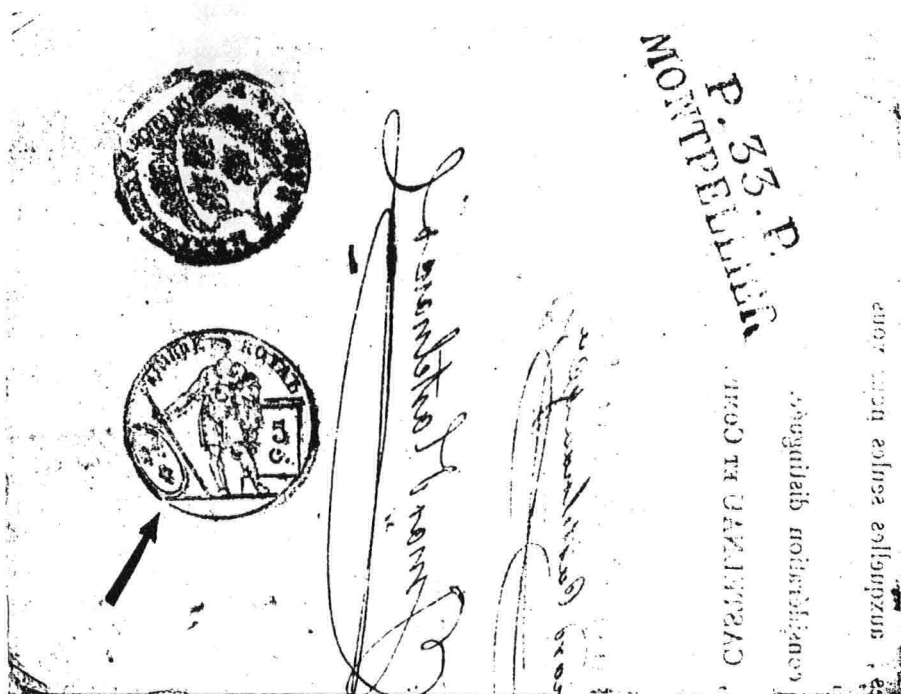


Figure 15a. 5-centimes tax paid handstamped marking, on printed matter from Montpellier.

only required to bear a manuscript identification of the military unit. However, during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, 1792-1814, there appeared many handstamps identifying that postage was prepaid, such as PORT-PAYE/ARMÉE DU RHIN, PORT-PAYE/ARMÉE DES PYRÉNÉES ORIENTALES, etc. (Figure 16). During and following the wars, a number of

P. 1^{ERE} - DIV^{ON} P. P. P. D^{ON} G.
ARMÉE DE LA MOSELLE BAU GAL DES ARM.

Figure 16

varieties of postage paid markings appeared which were used in the occupied and annexed territories (*départements conquis*) (Figure 17). The handstamps



Figure 17

of the innumerable government bureaus, national and local, which were afforded free postal service, are intentionally excluded from this review.

Few markings are recorded to show postage prepaid on Colonies mail. One of my favorites is the boxed P.P. used during a severe shortage of low-value stamps in French Somaliland in 1901 (Figure 18) and applied primarily to



Figure 18

newspaper wrappers which were seldom saved. An excellent article by Robert Stone on the use of the P.P. marking in various colonies appeared in the January 1981 number of *FCP*.⁷ From that article, we show the spectacular triangular cachet used in New Caledonia during a shortage of stamps in 1876-1877 (Figure 19). Bob cautioned that many fakes exist, particularly on

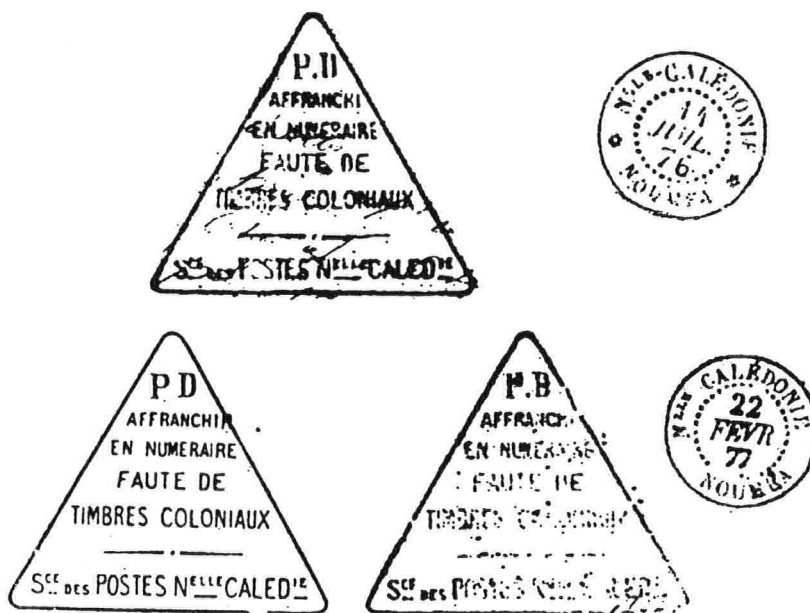


Figure 19. A genuine (top) and two fake examples of the New Caledonia triangular PP cachet with accompanying postmarks.

piece, and some can be identified by a break or breaks in the bottom right frame line. But, see *For the Record* #586, in *FCP* #227, January 1992, for another interpretation of how to identify the fakes.

Endnotes

1. *Catalogue des Estampilles et Oblitérations Postales de France et des Colonies Françaises*; Yvert & Cie., 1929.
2. *The Age of Napoleon*; Horizon Magazine Books, 1963.
3. See also *The Liberty Cap*, by J. M. Hufnal, *FCP* #206, October 1986.
4. See also *French Marcophily--Entry Markings*, *FCP* #234, October 1993.
5. *Catalogue des Marques Postales et Oblitérations de Paris 1700-1876*, by A. Rochette and J. Pothion, Paris, 1958.
6. See also *Local Letters of Paris*, *FCP* #215, January 1989.
7. The "P.P." and other Provisional Paid Handstamps of French Colonies, by R. G. Stone, *FCP* #183, January 1981.

FCPS AT CAPEX 96

While many of us are thinking ahead to PACIFIC 97, to be held late May-early June in San Francisco, we should not forget that CAPEX 96 will take place in Toronto one year sooner; more exactly June 8-16, 1996.

As he has at previous CAPEXes (1978 and 1987), FCPS member Alan McKanna will once again host an informal meeting for FCPS members and for those of the British F&CPS, to be followed by a dinner. We had the opportunity in 1987 to enjoy a most pleasant afternoon in very amiable company. For 1996, the festivities will take place on Sunday, June 9.

Alan tells us that the Musée de la Poste (at Paris) will have a "theme exhibit" at CAPEX, that will include Boule de Moulines and ballons montés covers, an original Boule de Moulines, a miniature reproduction of a ballon monté, plus many gems of French philately.

Start making your plans for a visit to Toronto in June 1996!



SOME OTHER FRENCH PHILATELIC JOURNALS AND SOCIETIES (continued from *FCP* #238, October 1994, p. 110)

- > **Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile** ("Coll. Phil. et Marco.") is the quarterly journal of the *Cercle Lyonnais d'Etudes Philatéliques et Marcophiles* (C.L.E.P.M.). About 32 pp. per quarter, 21x30 cm. Especially good for cancellation and postal markings studies. Although a regional society, centered about Lyon, scope of articles and membership are far-reaching. Dues for 1995 are 145Fr, money order or check to CLEPM CCP 1527-46B LYON, sent to Mme. Laure Messy, 33 cours Fr. D. Roosevelt, F-69006 Lyon, France. An index (Supplement to #105) has just been published for the first 100 issues of this journal.
- > **Bulletin d'Information** is the quarterly journal of *La Marcophile Navale*, a Bordeaux-based organization some 500 strong, now in its tenth year. The format is A4 size, photocopied, and 26-30 pp. in length (not including covers). Foreign subscription 150Fr, airmailed postpaid; contact Roger Lagarde, 4 rue E. Delacroix, F-33320 Eysines, France.

The journal shares members' interests in various epochs of naval history, mainly contemporary. Usually one meaty article (4-6 pp.) per issue. Single page articles are written on specialties within the organization, including naval aviation, U.S. Navy, Antarctic Territories, and recent French naval actions (e.g., Somalia, Yugoslavia). Coverage of various regional naval districts include Bordeaux, Brest, the Ile-de-

France, and Toulon, with up-to-date facts on maneuvers. Heavy coverage of naval-event cancellations and illustrated cachets, which are shown in each issue, along with event souvenir cachets produced on a subscription basis. One-line reviews of naval-oriented notices from other periodicals. Questions and answers. Advertising is confined mainly to cover pages.

--L. E. Bussey

*(Editor's Note: We hope that at least some of you found this miniseries helpful, and encouraged you to broaden your France & Colonies philatelic horizons. But the well seems to have run dry. We still hope some readers will come forth and offer short summaries of such periodicals as **La Philatélie Française**, **Relais**, **Diligence d'Alsace**, **Phil-E.A.**, etc. Please share your knowledge with your fellow members!)*



By special request from a reader, here's what the 1993-1994 se-tenant "Greetings" stamps (FCP #239, January 1995, p. 13) look like.

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Perhaps the most distasteful of the duties of the Board of Directors is to deal with complaints against members of the Society. Unfortunately, we have been faced with two such complaints in the past six months. Happily, one of the complaints has since been withdrawn: the other is still pending. I must make two observations regarding such matters. First, as I have written before, membership in our Society cannot be considered a credit reference. The Board does not have the ability to investigate an applicant's credit rating. Although we would like to think it to be more, membership in the Society is primarily a subscription to our Journal. A principal goal of every philatelic society is to increase its membership. The bylaws provide for expulsion for conduct unbecoming a member: obviously, this can only occur after at least one member has been victimized, and filed a complaint with the Board. As I said before, the Board is not happy when it receives a complaint regarding a member. Still I must encourage our members to file such complaints, when justified; hopefully, such an action will help to protect our other members.

My second observation concerns transactions between our Canadian and United States members. The implementation of Canada's Goods & Services Tax has been extremely detrimental for transactions which involve shipping material of any value from the United States into Canada. Anything mailed into Canada is subject both to a tax based on its full value, and a significant handling fee. Our Canadian members should understand the effects of this tax, and should also be sure that they give adequate directions to anyone in the U.S. with whom they do business. Also, this problem should serve as a warning to all our U.S. members: if a national sales tax is eventually imposed in this country, it must be structured so as not to destroy a legitimate business. The Canadian Goods & Services Tax has made impracticable almost any transaction involving shipment of material on approval across the Canadian border.

--Dick Stevens

STEPHEN G. RICH MEMORIAL EXHIBIT

The annual Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibit will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 1995, as the program part of the regular monthly meeting of the Society at the Collectors Club in New York. The full regulations may be found on the entry form enclosed as a supplement with this issue of the *Philatelist*.

THE GERARD GILBERT AWARD

The Gerard Gilbert Memorial Award is given annually for the best philatelic publication of the year in English related to French or Colonial philately. If no publication is deemed worthy by the Board, no award is given for that year.

The Gerard Gilbert Memorial Award for 1994 has been given to Robert G. Stone for his book, "A Caribbean Neptune: The Maritime Postal Communications of the Greater and Lesser Antilles in the 19th Century."

FALL 1995 POSTAGE STAMP MEGA-EVENT

A Postage Stamp Mega-Event will be held November 2-5, 1995 at Madison Square Garden in New York. The France & Colonies Philatelic Society will have its usual booth. Ed Grabowski has agreed to present a lecture, "Gleanings from the French Colonies - A Potpourri of the Unusual" on Thursday, November 2. Please consult the show schedule to confirm the precise time and location. Anyone interested in joining us for an informal dinner at a nearby restaurant on Thursday evening should stop at the Society booth, or contact Dick Stevens or Ed Grabowski.

Meeting of 7 March

Corresponding Secretary Walter Parshall was tonight's speaker, and he presented numerous selected pages from his extensive early Monaco collection. Rather than mount the material in the frames, we gathered around the large table in the meeting room for an informal presentation. Walter began with a variety of 18th Century letters which were charged due on receipt. These bore various manuscript markings indicating origin in Monaco. Beginning in 1792, Monaco was annexed to France and letters were presented to show various French markings. Included were **78 MONACO** and **85 MONACO** handstamps in various colors and a large multiplicity of rates.

The 1814-1860 period saw Monaco as a Sardinian protectorate, and again Walter illustrated the variety of handstamps and date stamps that are available from this period. From 1860 on, the French once again were in control and the variety of numeral and date stamp cancellations were illustrated on stamps and covers. Issues covered included the Napoleon, Cérés and Sage types. Too bad Jerry Massler couldn't make it to see what the competition is holding!

--Ed Grabowski

Meeting of 4 April

Once again it was an evening for members to bring unusual items for general discussion. Walter Parshall began with a most unusual letter posted from Monaco to Philadelphia in 1901. It was properly franked with a 50c Albert issue, but also bore numerous revenues of the period, each carefully tied to the cover with a proper date stamp. Undoubtedly philatelic, but a most interesting item, and one of the few examples of revenues seen on regular mail. Walter followed with a selection of unused revenues with dated corners, and concluded with an assortment of due covers from the 20th Century including a 1949 cover to Monaco wherein three 10F issues of Monaco were used as dues.

John Lievsay showed one of Italy's scarcest military markings. It was an 1865 letter bearing the date stamp ITAL POSTA MILE SARD No3, 6 SET 55 from the office at Constantinople. This was from the period when Sardinia sent 15,000 troops to the Crimea in 1855. Yours truly showed a number of new Group Type items including a registered cover from Guadeloupe to Cyprus, a most unusual destination; a prepaid-in-cash local letter from Vieux Habitants (January 3, 1901) when there was a shortage of low-value Group Types; and a registered military cover from Sikasso, French Sudan franked with a 25c Group Type for registration, plus a combination of the French **F.M.** overprint and a 15c Group Type to prepay the double-letter rate.

Although totally unplanned, John and I ended up in a discussion of when one should buy something and at what price. As part of his Italian collection, John is in need of an example of Italy's first postal stationery, a so-called Cavallini. In a sale of last spring 13 were grouped in one lot. John felt they are worth about \$400 each, and figured he would have to invest too much in the lot to get one. However, the prices realized indicated that the lot sold for only \$700. John has since located another interested party who would purchase one if he could, but he has not been able to contact the actual purchaser who bid through an agent. Should have gone to that sale, John!

For my Group Type collection, I have long needed a cover from Yanon, the rarest of the French India offices. About five years ago, a French dealer offered me one for 4000F. I thought the price too high, especially given that the cover was slightly damaged. But, I had to admit that I had not seen a cover from Yanon before. Recently one appeared in a French net-price sale. It was from the same correspondence as the first, but registered and the price a much more reasonable 800F. What's the bottom line? I am not sure, as one just never knows on unusual items.

--Ed Grabowski

NEW MEMBERS

- 3037 NOURSE, CHRIS., Old Mail Rd., Tamworth, NH 03886-0012. (General France: Mint - Used.)
- 3038 BRADLEY, RUSSELL, 1800 Brothers, College Station, TX 77845. (Monaco.)
- 3039 MARTIN, CRAIG, 72 Kettletown Woods Rd., Southbury, CT 06488. (General Collector: All Issues. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. Specific Colonies: Lebanon - Syria - Rouad - Latakia, etc. Any Arab Country. Independent Republics.)
- 3040 CHMARZEWSKI, CHRISTOPHER, 46 Russell St., Brooklyn, NY 11222. (France.)
- 3041 WALDECK, NANCY E., 4784 Archdale Lane #B, Columbus, OH 43214. (General Collector: All Issues. Monaco.)
- 3042 REEDY, GERALD W., 800 South East St., Fenton, MI 48430. (Dealer: Full Time - Mail Sales - Approvals.)
- 3043 DANEMAN, JEFF, 5421 Corkhill Dr., Dayton, OH 45424. (General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Special Issues: Stationery - Air Meets, First Flights, etc. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3044 BARSDELL, PAUL, P.O. Box 3475, Manuka, A.C.T. 2603, Australia. (Indochina. Post Offices In China. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3045 HOLBROOK, ALLEN J., 245 Wildwood Dr., #132, St. Augustine, FL 32086-5843. (Topical: Paintings On Stamps (MNH). Modern France: Pre-cancels. Monaco. Pre-cancels Only. St. Pierre And Miquelon. Secondary Interest In Martinique.)
- 3046 BIJON, JEAN-PIERRE A., 130 White Fawn Trail, Downers Grove, IL 60516-1513. (General France: Mint - Used. Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used. 1870-1871 Issues. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint - Used - Blanc, Mouchon & Mersons - Sowers - Air Mails - Coils - Others: Taxe, Service Pre-cancels. Pre-Stamp Period To 1900.)
- 3047 COVERT, DONN F., P.O. Box 1101, Duck Creek Village, UT 84762. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used. Andorre. St. Pierre And Miquelon.)
- 3048 McNEESE, MICHAEL WAYNE, 1279 Capistrano Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84116-1728. (Special Issues: Stationery - Slogan Cancels - Proofs & Color Trials - Other: Expeditions, Ship Cancels, Explorers, Activities at The Antarctic Past And Present. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. Cancels And Postal History Of Colonies & Territories. TAAF & All Issuing Countries For The Antarctic. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3049 JONES, RANDOLPH L., JR., 1685 Brooks Ave., Rochester, NY 14624. (General Collector: 19th Century. General France: Used - On Cover. Specialized France: Postal History: Stampless Covers - Railway Posts - Used Abroad. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Used On Cover - 1870-1871 Issues: Cancellations. Sage Type 1876-1900. French Community: Offices Abroad. Colonies General Issues: Used - On Cover - All Colonies And Territories - Cancels & Postal History.)
- 3050 DOW, WILFORD K., 3337 Cesery Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32277. (French Community: Offices Abroad. CFA. Monaco. Colonies General Issues Used - On Cover. All Colonies And Territories: (AIR MAILS). Exchange.)
- 3051 YAMASHITA, MASAFUMI, Room 201 Sky Court Tabata II, Higashiogu 4-25-2, Arakawa 116, Tokyo, Japan. (General Collector: All Issues. Topical: Paintings. General France: Mint - Used. - Modern France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Andorre. Monaco. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used. Exchange: Mint - Used S/S Postal Stationery - French Colonies & Territories - Formerly of Africa And South Pacific.)
- 3052 COMBEE, JOHN H., 1594 King St. West - Apt. 305, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1J7 Canada. (Topical: Catholic Religion. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used - On Cover. Modern France: Semi-Postals - Air Mails. Special Issues And Usages: Dues - Parcel Post - Newspaper - Stationery - Revenues - Occupation Issues Of And By France. Offices Abroad - CFA. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. All Colonies And Territories. Post & Maximum Cards. Covers & Items Of Cultural Significance Labels & Cinderellas.)
- 3053 SIMMONS, JOHN J., 37 Newton Road, Post Office Box 347, Amesbury, MA 01913. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint. Classics 1849-1876: Sage Type 1876-1900. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used. All Colonies & Territories.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2646 BROWN, BRUCE, CMR 426, Box 467, APO AE 09613 (address correction.)
 1793 RICKMAN, DR. LEONARD, 1 Bay Club Drive - Apt. 16-0, Bayside, NY 11360-2911.
 2855 WEXELBLAT, DAVID, 1811 Vance Pl., Vienna, VA 22182-2524.
 156 HOEFLE, OTTO, 425 Tee Drive, Healdsburg, CA 95448.
 2977 BEAUNE, BOB, 44 Fairway Drive, Edmonton, Alberta, T6J 2C3 Canada.
 2103 KERMAN, ARNIE, 5 West Meadow Road, Goldens Bridge, NY 10526.
 3028 FERGUSON, HOMER, General France: 19th Cent. mint, used, & on cover. Classics 1849-1876: mint & used. Sage type 1876-1900: mint & used. Modern France: Blanc, Mouchon & Mersons: mint. French Africa. (Change in specialties.)

REINSTATEMENTS

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 2877 ADAMS, BILLY M. | 2061 ANDERSON, ALLEN |
| 1988 GRAY, GEORGE T. | 2997 DODARO, PAUL E. |
| 2787 WATKINS, PAUL S. | 2681 CRABTREE, ROBERT H. |
| 3014 SHAW, DONALD, 190 Richard St., Rochester, NY 14607 (new address.) | |

REMOVE FROM MAILING LIST

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2878 BANG, SE HYUK (NPD) | 2598 GOEBEL, RAYMOND (NPD) |
| 2619 CIRAGAN, BEHCET (NPD) | 2968 PIFFRE, JEAN P., (NPD) |
| 2986 EIBEN, GERT (NPD) | 2899 YOST, MADELEINE |
| | (Undeliverable As Addressed.) |

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

We believe there is, or should be, a demand for short review articles of an elementary nature, on areas for possible specialization by our members--or, at least, to let general collectors of France & Colonies know that such areas do exist.

We began this practice with "Occasional Fundamentals" in the April 1994 number. There, in less than two full pages, we only barely touched upon C.O.D. stamps and revenues. "Occasional Fundamentals" will continue, on an occasional to regular basis, hopefully for some time. Therein, we plan to cover as many subfields of F & C collecting as members are willing to put up with and to prepare for the rest of us.

I will be responsible for covering the following: coils; pre-cancels; *fictifs*; forgeries and fakes; and modern essays, proofs, and deluxe sheetlets-- at the very least. Bob Seeke has had a fine start on booklets with his "Carnet Corner." Who else would like to take up this call, and write (with illustrations) one or more "primers" on his or her F & C specialty field? Readers will be urged to agree, or disagree with, or improve upon (in writing) these "Fundamentals," to form (or join existing) informal study groups, and (most desirably) to establish running dialogues among themselves.

When you submit material for publication, please observe the following simple rules. Type your text double-spaced, with 1-inch (2.5 cm) margins all around the page. This goes for articles, notes, fillers, announcements and news, for the record items, reviews, questions and answers, members' appeals, etc. Illustrations (if any) should be at publication scale or larger, and should be clearly reproducible in our printing plant. Best are glossy black and white photographs; next best are black and white copies made on a color laser printer. Both of these categories will be returned to you following publication. Good "ordinary" photocopies usually are acceptable also. Quality pen-and-ink sketches can add an original touch. If there are multiple illustrations, please write figure numbers on back of each in soft pencil, and type the captions on a separate sheet. If you're in doubt about anything, it would be wise to contact me first. Many thanks for your forbearance and cooperation.

We've been "prettying-up" our front pages with illustrations of seldom-seen F & C material garnered from here and there. If you have a showpiece you'd like to share with the rest of us, please consider sending a photo or first-rate copy with brief explanatory text. If you prefer to remain anonymous, we'll honor that request.

ARTICLES TO BE PUBLISHED IN FUTURE NUMBERS

Solo Usages of 1-centime Stamps

Artists' Drawings for the Antilles Tercentenary Issues of Martinique.

Why I Collect the Sower Issues of Roty and Mouchon.

Paris District Office Date Stamps during the Period of the Sage Issue.

Occasional Fundamentals (continued).

French Marcophily--Postage Due Markings; Naval Markings; Franchise Verification; Postmarks of Philatelic Exhibitions.

Amazing 1870/1871 Wonder Stories--15, 17

The "Other" Calendar in the Postal History of Geneva.

The Surcouf Mystery.

Reunion--A Study of an Overprinted Stamp.

Balloon Mail--A World Record Flight.

Saigon Municipal Tax Stamps 1958-1975.

There is no significance to the order in which these are listed. Some are ready to go to the printers, others are still "as received" and may require considerable rewriting and editing, and the rest just fall somewhere in-between.

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NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

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(continued from #240, April 1995, p. 57)

France

- > early 1995: booklets of 10 non-denominated stamps in two parallel, non-juxtaposed rows, now with undulating perforations (earliest printing date known, 5 October 1994);
- > 6 February: new-type imprinted non-denominated envelopes in two sizes and four presentations, sold at 4F each (see article, this number, p. 96);
- > 28 March: 2,80F Espace et Guyane/Ariane (redesigned version of the 1991 EUROPA stamp);
- > 8 (9) May: 2,80F VE Day (de Gaulle effigy);
- > 13 (15) May: 2,80F National Assembly; 6,70F Art of Prud'hon; 2,80F Rémiremont-Vosges; 2,80F + 0,60F Tapestry at Saumur (Red Cross semi-postal) in sheet stamps and 34F booklet of 10 stamps + labels;
- > 20 (22) May: 4,40F Bridge at Nyons (Drôme); 2,80F 50 years of humanitarian aid in France;
- > 27 (29) May: Regional semi-permanent stamps, two at 2,40F and two and 2,80F (previously scheduled--see April 1995 FCP--for 8 (10) April);
- > 3 (6) June: 4,40F Corrèze en Corrèze; 2,80F Congress of French philatelic associations (Orleans);
- > 10 (12) June: 6,70F Art of Zao Wou-Ki;
- > 24 (26) June: Fables of LaFontaine horizontal se-tenant strip of six 2,80F stamps + two labels;
- > 9 (11) July: 2,80F Raid of 16 July 1942 at Val d'Hir.

Withdrawals: 16 June: 2,80F Bicent. of Ecole Normale Supérieure; 2,80F Drug-abuse Prevention; 2,80F Cent. of the Grand Lodge; 3,70F Alain Colas; 2,80F World Day against AIDS.

Andorra

- > 22 (24) April: 2,80F 3rd World Rugby Cup;
- > 29 April (2 May): EUROPA 95 2,80F and 3,70F;
- > 13 (15) May: 2,80F 15th Anniv. of Caritas Andorre.

Withdrawals: 14 April: 3,70F World Football Cup; 2,80F + 2,80F + label triptych for fishing and riding; 2,80F + 3,70F triptych for the Constitution; 2,80F and 4,40F Butterflies.

French Polynesia

- 1 February 1995: 51F Chinese Year of the Pig;
 - 8 March: 59F Institute for the Preparation of Teachers;
 - 4 May: Protected Species of the Pacific 22F, 29F, 91F (Tortoises and black coral);
 - 8 May: 290F Louis Pasteur;
 - 19 May: 66F Marriage of Pierre Loti;
 - 7 June: Unusual birds (2)
 - 14 June: 66F and 84F Pearls of Tahiti.
- Withdrawals: 3 February: The Maohi World; Noël under the Sea (underwater scenes--three values).

New Caledonia

- 25 January 1995: 120F Louis Pasteur;
- 16 March: 90F + label + 90F diptych, "The Island Nearest to Paradise";
- 29 March: 1000F 25th Death Anniv. of Gen. de Gaulle;
- 15 April: 100F IUFG; 60F fossil;
- 25 April: 100F Institute for the Preparation of Teachers for the Pacific;
- 6 May: 60F 10th Triathlon of the Sun (cycling).

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 13 March: 3,70F mosses and lichens;
- 15 May: 10F Arctic Tern.

Wallis & Futuna

- 25 January 1995: 80F preparing a traditional meal;
- 21 February: 85F, 90F, 100F aerial views of lagoon islets;
- 21 March: 350F Cent. of death of Louis Pasteur;
- 11 April: 35F Logo of Mua District;
- 19 April: 115F IUFG of the Pacific;
- 17 May: 200F coconuts in color;
- 26 June: 55F 50th Anniv. of United Nations.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

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- The postal bureau for "Operation Turquoise" at Goma (Zaire), BPM 614, closed 26 September 1994, and not in late August as we had reported in #239 (January 1995, p. 24). This was the French military mission set up in late June 1994 to protect civilian refugees in southwestern Rwanda.
- Collectors of Southeast Asia in our society are vocal about the shortcomings of the Scott catalog for this area. Now there's an avenue for letting your feelings be known by the editors at Scott Publishing. Member Ron Bentley is assisting Scott with catalog updates. He is assured that everything is open for consideration, from descriptions to valuations to new listings. Write Ron at 2600 North 24th Street, Arlington, VA 22207, with specific recommendations about what you feel needs to be changed or improved for: Annam & Tonkin, Cochinchina, Cambodia, Indochina, Laos, and Vietnam.
- Another pitfall regarding paying for purchases via International Money Order [see "Buying by Mail (and Selling) in France," in #238, October 1994]. Earlier this year, your editor purchased an IMO to cover a smallish bill. The request wended its usual way from Colorado to St. Louis and then to Limoges. Then, instead of continuing as a *Mandat de Poste International* in francs to the dealer near Paris, it was mistakenly sent to me as the *expéditeur* rather than to the payee. After an exchange of letters, I reexpedited the *formule* to the dealer who has since received payment.
- New issues of New Caledonia and Wallis & Futuna may now be purchased from the Service Philatélique de la Poste, 18 rue F. Bonvin, F-75758 Paris Cedex 15. Those of French Polynesia might also become available from there later in the year.

- Tax deductible charitable contributions of your duplicate or excess philatelic material are always gratefully accepted by school stamp clubs, veterans hospitals, and organizations such as Boys Town--all of which do good work for our hospitalized veterans and for what we hope will be the stamp collectors of the future. For information on Stamps for the Wounded, please contact John M. Hotchner, P.O. Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041-0125. For information on donating to Father Flanagan's Boys Town, contact Stephen R. Schoening, Manager, Leon Myers Stamp Center, P.O. Box 1, Boys Town, NE 68010.
- 8 February 1995 on printings of the 2,40F green M. de Briat, on the R.G.R. press, have a fretwork in the stamp's color occupying the medial gutter (Figure 1). The same is being planned for other values, particularly lower ones. For what purpose? Apparently, to eliminate *repiquages privés*, the little propaganda messages printed in those spaces by commercial enterprises as well as by stamp shows and organizations (Figure 2).



Figure 1



Figure 2

- "The Glass Slipper," c/o The Post Office, Bishop Wilton, York YO4 1SR, England, has yet to send us information and pricing on the ARA France revenue catalogues. However, they did send a batch of other offers in the form of net-priced items and an auction catalogue. They specialize in worldwide Revenues, Locals, Cinderellas, Labels, and all sorts of Ephemerata. If you miss the wondrous offerings that used to come from Janet van den Berg and Lowell Ragatz, or if you find that Bonnie and Roger Riga don't have the oddball material you're looking for, then give The Glass Slipper a try. (They belong to PTS, the Philatelic Traders Society, which is akin to the ASDA in the U.S. and the CNEP in France, all of which vouch for their members.)
- The postal franchise accorded to governmental entities in France will terminate in 1996. Prepayment of postage should simplify the accounting system in current use. Meters and machine-printed labels will probably be used, rather than any adhesive official stamps that might be contemplated.
- Paul-Emile Victor (1907-1995), scientist-explorer of Greenland, the Arctic regions, and best known for his many expeditions of Antarctica--for which he designed several stamps and numerous and humorous cachets, died March 7 at his home in Bora-Bora.
- Perforations on Audubon stamps, issued 25 (27) February 1995, are 12¾ x 12¾ on sheet stamps and 13¼ on the sheetlet of four stamps. For the Marianne de Gandon Stamp Day issue of 4 (6) March 1995, perforations measure 13 for sheet stamps and 13¾ for booklet stamps.
- We haven't seen these ourselves, but Colin Spong, in the *Jour. of the F&CPS [GB]* (Vol. 45, #1, 1995), notes the existence of a series of historical dictionaries for a number of former French Colonies and Protectorates, and present Territories and Overseas Depts., each providing basic information on "geography, history, economy, society and culture and including major persons, events and institutions, together with bibliographies, maps and appendices." These should be very useful to collectors of individual former Colonies, etc. Contact the Scarecrow Press, P.O. Box 4167, Metuchen, NJ 08840.

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FOR THE RECORD

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(continued from *FCP* #239, January 1995, p. 26)

- 719.) The January 21, 1995 auction of the Greek firm A. Karamitsos (I. Dragoumi 4, 54624 Thessaloniki, Greece) included over 140 lots of stamps and covers from the French Occupation of Castellorizo, as well as over one hundred lots of material from the French Post Offices in Cavalle, Dedeagh, Port Lagos, and Vathy. Any of our members who are looking to purchase specialized material from the French post offices which operated in areas currently part of Greece should consider patronizing Greek auctions. Frequently the catalogs have descriptions in English: even when they don't, all significant lots are pictured. The bidding is in Greek currency, which remains relatively weak against the dollar, and the auctioneers accept payment by personal check in U.S. dollars from clients who are known to them. Most of the significant material offered has a Greek connection, although occasionally some surprises can be found in the "maritime" section. Most material is offered in small lots, with valuations as low as ten dollars. The Karamitsos firm, whose address I give above, is the most active in encouraging business from American customers. (RMS).
- 720.) Member Ron Bentley reports (*Indo-China Philatelist*, #126, 1995) on a crudely faked maritime cancel (see illustration) that he has seen on a 1931 registered cover and a 1936 airmail cover, both Saigon to India. Instead of the expected date in center, there is an incorrectly spelled "PAOBOT," and there's no indication of a Line letter before the "No. 2." Other boobos are less obvious and more technical in nature. Ron concludes the marking was probably applied in India, and served only to up the price of the covers.
- 721.) Continuing the saga of French stamps sent to be used in Madagascar in 1886 (*F the R*, #711, October 1994, p. 121), the office of the Resident-General returned the following stamps to the Minister of Foreign Affairs on 21 February 1887: 10,006 Metropolitan French 25c stamps and 2,073 ditto at 1F. In addition 194 stamps of the 25c value and 27 at 1F had already been sold (and perhaps used) at Tamatave. (Pierre Favrel, in *Colfra* #68, 1994). These two Sage stamps, with legible Madagascar cancels, should be eagerly searched for!
- 722.) One of Monaco's rarest cancels is shown here, and can be found on French perforated Cérés stamps. Postally assigned to the Alpes-Maritimes Dept., Monaco used this date stamp only from October to late November 1875. The bottom inscription was changed to PRINCIPAUTE 25 November 1875.



SOME SHOW REPORTS

- Filatelic Fiesta '95 (San Jose, CA, March): Gold medal to Paul Blake for "Indochina 1864-1931"; Vermeil medals to Blake for "French Indochina 1931-1954. End of an Era," and to Bob Kinsley for "The French Pacification of Tonkin 1884-1904." Mark Isaacs served on the jury.
- March Party '95 (Cleveland, March): Gold medal to Paul Larsen for his Leeward Islands stationery; one-frame exhibit First to Ken Nilsestuen for "Algeria Military Mail Service."
- ASDA Mega-Event '95 (New York City, March): Gold medals to Steve Washburne for two Portuguese exhibits.
- PARFOREX '95 (Park Forest, IL, April): Gold medal to Paul Larsen for "Ubangi-Shari 1915-1933."
- DELPEX '95 (Wilmington, DE, April): Bronze medal to Thomas Taylor (who may be a new exhibitor) for "French Cameroons 1916-1960."
- COLOPEX '95 (Columbus, OH, April): To Steve Washburne: Gold medal for "Portugal Classics" and Vermeil medal for "Postal History Journal Cumulative Index 1957-1993."
- WESTPEX '95 (San Francisco, April): Reserve Grand Award, Gold medal, and more! to David Herendeen for "Classification of British Commonwealth Postage Dues."
- PHILATELIC SHOW '95 (Boxborough, MA, April): Grand Award and Gold medal to Steve Walske for "1870-1871 Provisional Issue of France" (*très, très bien!*); Gold medal to Wallace Dean for "Haiti: The Issues of 1904 and Overprints." John Lievsay served on the jury.
- ROMPEX '95 (Denver, May): Vermeil medal to Paul Blake for "Indo-China: 1864-1931"; Silver medals to Bob Kinsley for "Eighteenth Century Letters of France" and to Alex Jackson for "The Classic Period of France (1849-1876)." Among those present were Lewis Bussey, Dave Grossblat, Bob Kinsley, Alain Mehl, and Dick Winter (in his capacity as President of the featured U.S. Philatelic Classics Society). Stan Luft served on the jury.
- NOJEX '95 (Secaucus, NJ, May): The show also hosted the AmeriStamp Expo national one-frame competition, wherein these FCPS members excelled: Paul Larsen (Platinum!), Ken Nilsestuen and Ed Grabowski (Golds), Jerry Massler (Vermeil--but nix on the flasher!), George Mayer and Steve Washburne (also Vermeils), and Chuck LaBlonde (Silver). Your editor made an appearance as chief judge of the regular, multi-frame exhibits (none of which were F&C) and enjoyed seeing and hardly recognizing (and vice-versa) old friends there, among them President Dick Stevens, Brad Arch, Ed Grabowski, Mark Isaacs, Jo and John Lievsay, Lowell Newman, Walter Parshall, Lou Robbins, and Martin Stempien.
- FINLANDIA 95 (Helsinki, May): Large Golds to our British members B. Berkinshaw-Smith and John H. Levett for, respectively, "The Carriage of Mail between France and the Antilles and Latin America up to 1880" and "Principal Effects on the French Mails during the Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1871"; Golds to Ernst Cohn ("Siege Mail of the 1870-1871 Franco-German War"), Dick Winter ("U.S.-France Mails by Steamship"), and Jamie Gough; Large Vermeils to Lewis Bussey ("French Naval Mail to America 1943-1946"), and to Scott Gallagher, Peter Smith, and Gene Tinsley; Vermeil to Shirley Gallagher for "Tahiti and Surrounding French Polynesia"; Silver to John Lievsay. A report on the show itself appears below.

FIDDLING AT FINLANDIA '95

Nothing spoils a good show like controversy, and unfortunately all the things the organizers did right in Helsinki will be tinged by one major problem. The idea of a show limited to just postal history and postal stationery was a huge success, with 2250 and 737 frames, respectively. The stationery section was especially strong and perhaps the largest ever. When the organizers accepted 500 additional frames, they neglected to add members to the jury, and as a result, jury sections had just two days to deal with

about 100 exhibits, and just one more day to complete their work. It wasn't enough, and at the Palmares, there was an "Addenda" page changing medals for 15 exhibits [one down three levels, one down two, three down one; one up two levels and nine plus one] and changing the point score but not medal for 15 others. It was an embarrassment to the jury and the public disclosure of adjustments which should have stayed inside the jury room.

There were 30 exhibits of postal history and five stationery exhibits showing material of France and Community, including the International Grand Prix winner, F.-X. Piat of France with "Crimean War 1853-1856." The quality of exhibits varied greatly, and I remarked to Ernst Cohn that he could write a whole year's series of columns on the obvious errors: six pages of introduction, excess collateral material, mint stamps, etc., and indeed the jury did take seven exhibits out of competition for various reasons. The expert committee examined material in several exhibits, and suggested penalties for fake and repaired items.

The exposition site was a cab (\$10) or tram (\$1.75) ride from downtown if you missed the free shuttle provided by the Post Office. Frames were secure and well lighted, although the concrete floor got to us after a couple thousand frames. Admission was free, and the fine catalog was only \$5. Attendance was less than expected, in part due to the rain and snow (in gale-force winds) on the weekend when the organizers expected more European visitors. A soft ice-cream cone at the show was \$2.50. Lectures on Thursday were sparsely attended.

Let there be praise to the organizers for an exhibitors' reception opening night. All too often exhibitors are welcome to pay their frame fees and expenses, and to collect their medals at the end of the show. This is the first time I have seen a party just for exhibitors, and it was a courtesy much appreciated and deserving of imitation. Good food, too. Privately organized by the U.S. Commissioners was a fine dinner at a first class restaurant, with local specialties such as reindeer, wild duck, or elk as entree choices.

Travel notes: Helsinki is very much part of the European community, with prices to match. Gasoline seen at \$1.30/litre; coke-glass of wine-coffee in restaurant, your choice \$5. Cigarettes in hotel machine, \$5/pack. Streets clean, and natives friendly with many of the younger folks able to help us find our way in English. Not much bicycle traffic, but those seen not locked or chained. A stiff 22% tax was included in the price of retail goods. Public toilet at the town market, 40 cents, please. A wide variety of town museums, including a fine postal museum, but more strength in diversity than collections. Price of a postcard home same as letter, 85 cents. After the show, we took a side trip to St. Petersburg, Russia, which is another story. --J&JL.

AMAZING 1870/1871 WONDER STORIES - 13

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

Some years ago I made a delightful find in a French book I had just acquired—a contemporary photo of the *Gouvernement de la Défense Nationale*, of 4 Septembre 1870. It also bears the inscription *Portrait Album*, E. AP-PERT, Phot. Expert, 24 Rue Taitbout 24, obviously at Paris. Here was an original, official photo of the original ten members of that government, I thought. Well, almost.

The men are identified as Crémieux, Gen. le Flô, E. Picard, Admiral Fourrichon, and J. Favre (from left to right, on our left of the statue); and Gen. Trochu, Gambetta, Dorian, J. Simon, and Magnin (from left to right, on our right of the statue).



One of the problems is the spelling of Fourrichon for he spelled it with only one 'r'. The next problem is that he wasn't even in Paris when he was named to the government of national defense. In his absence, Rear Admiral de Dompierre d'Hormoy had been named as acting minister of the navy and the colonies. It wasn't until the 15th that Vice Admiral Fourrichon took charge of his post officially. So the photo was taken some days after the 4th, perhaps as late as the 15th.

Totally missing from the photo, without any explanation, are Emmanuel Arago, Glais-Bizoin, Pelletan, and Rochefort. On the other hand, General Le Flô and Magnin are not mentioned in the official announcement as members of the new government.

The answers to that puzzle appears to be that the ten persons shown here were named ministers, whereas some of the other persons, who nominated themselves to constitute the government, had not assumed ministerial positions as of the 4th.

Of these people, three left Paris on official orders, shortly before the expected siege started, to set up a government delegation at Tours that was to function as long as the siege would last. They were Crémieux, Fourrichon, and Glais-Bizoin. When did they leave Paris?

One respected contemporary French history book of the war said they left together, which is obviously wrong. Clearly, the "historian" considered such information to be totally unimportant.

The decree sending Crémieux to Tours was signed on the 12th. As of that date, he still signed decrees. As of the 13th, he was officially at Tours. So he must have left Paris on one of those two days.

The orders for Fourrichon and Glais-Bizoin to go to Tours are dated the 16th. In their case, the date of travel is established as the 17th. They were on the same train as a number of ambassadors who had decided to operate from the seat of the government delegation rather than staying in the besieged capital.

All of that has little to do directly with postal history. It does illustrate, however, how difficult it can be to get to the bottom of postal historical details, when simple facts of political history are so difficult to come by. And details are sometimes highly important to postal historians, e.g., whether a letter took one means or another of transportation. When the facts are obscure, it is easy to write the wrong conclusion—and to miss a vital as well as interesting point.

Take, e.g., a cover that says PAR BALLON MONTE in print on the address side, is addressed to Brighton, carries the U.S. Despatch Agent's London oval stamp, is franked with a one-penny stamp canceled London WC, and bears a Brighton arrival mark, all of October 6. Is it any wonder that the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* for October 1938 headlined a story about this cover "A Rare Siege of Paris Balloon Cover"? And that the late Harry M. Konwiser, in an article in *The Philatelist* for January 1943 also talked of it as a balloon cover?

Though it does look like a *ballon monté* on first glance, H. Stern simply used one of those newfangled printed forms to write to Rosine Slidell, who had meanwhile moved from 23 Brunswick at Brighton. Did she ever get her letter?

Only after most of the important details about the U.S. diplomatic pouch traffic in and out of besieged Paris had been published in 1976 was it possible to properly identify this remarkable cover as having been taken out of Paris by General Burnside and Colonel Forbes in the first such pouch to leave the besieged city. Thus, despite its printed endorsement, it had never flown through the air.

This is but one of many examples from the 1870 war alone that shows that a detailed knowledge of names, dates, and places can sometimes help establish the truth of an amazing postal historical wonder story.

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REVIEWS

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Alsace-Lorraine in Two Critical Periods

Two reviews by Ernst M. Cohn

André Rupp, "Alsace-Lorraine—Elsass-Lothringen—1870/1871" (Edition internationale 1995 - Français, Deutsch, English), 8x11½", 268 pp., many ills., hardbound; 385 Fr. (+ 65Fr postage outside of Europe) from dealer/author, 16 Avenue Robert Schuman, F-68100 Mulhouse, France.

A subtitle on the inside title page specifies that the book treats philately and postmarks. The table of contents (page 9) is followed by an introduction (11), acknowledgements (13-14), remarks on prices (15-17), abbreviations (incomplete) and sizes of illustrations (18), addresses of three pertinent organizations (19), some relevant dates (21-33), the occupation stamps (35-36), and geography (37). Pages 41-99 treat some of the markings of the field posts of Baden, Bavaria, Hessen, Mecklenburg, Prussia, and Württemberg, the remainder of the book concerns the postmarks of towns in Alsace and Lorraine.

Translation into English is not always smooth, but the awkward words or phrases are still understandable. More serious is that dates are not always correct, of particular importance to postal historians. For example, the siege of Belfort began at 2 p.m. on November 3 (not on the 4th, p. 21 nor the 2nd, p. 27); and the last balloon, the *Général Cambronne*, left Paris on January 28 (not on the 27th, pp. 21 and 29.)

Postmarks of military units occur rarely on occupation stamps (traditionally called 'Alsace-Lorraine stamps', though used in the whole of occupied France) and are not all listed. Each listing includes the inscription, catalog number, type and color of marking, value when struck on the loose 10-centimes occupation stamp, on piece and on cover, as well as struck on a stampless (free-frank) cover.

Town postmarks are introduced with illustrations of 31 types of French and 21 types of German (numbered) markings. Some listings mention unexplained descriptions such as *Kreisstempel K1* (circular marking K1?) or *GC (?)*. Some town names have dates below them, others not.

It would be nice to have last-day French dates and first-day dates when post offices were reopened under German management, e.g., October 30, 1870 for Metz. What postmarks and postal markings do such first-day covers show? Ranges of dates of occupation and many sieges are not given.

The particularly rare postmark 'In Schlettstadt vorgefunden' and its even rarer variant (a misspelling) is not mentioned under *Selestat*. The rare and highly interesting censorship marks, including some officers' handwritten impromptu commentary on captured and released mail, are not mentioned, either. Though not town markings, such German wartime markings should be of prime interest to postmark collectors specializing in that area and era.

Paper and binding are good, typography and lay-out could be better (names of towns too large, details too small, much wasted space).

The similar 1972 *Schott* catalogue, though out-of-date, is much handier as a dealer's price list of postmarks from this area.

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Robert Abensur, "Alsace-Lorraine 1918-1920, de l'Effondrement de l'Empire Allemand au Rattachement à la France—Tarifs et Règlements Postaux," (Alsace-Lorraine 1918-1920, From the Collapse of the German Empire to the Re-attachment to France—Postal Rates and Regulations) 1995, 94 pp., 8x11½", many ill. and tables, softbound, 200Fr registered postpaid from S.P.A.L., Boîte Postale 4, F-67381 Lingolsheim CEDEX, France.

The photo on the front of this book shows the statue at Metz of William I of Germany, neatly separated from its pedestal and laid on the ground on November 16, 1918, two days before the armistice. That is a graphic if rather startling introduction to the postal history during another transition period for these two buffer lands between Germany and France.

On the basis of contemporary postal records as well as covers and postally used forms of many sorts, the author has compiled the rates of different classes of mail sent within and outside this territory.

Introduction remarks are followed by a historical survey (pp. 6-8) and a description of the plan of the study, i.e., simple letter mail, cards, registered mail, special delivery, etc., within Alsace-Lorraine, to France, foreign countries and lastly to Germany, as well as the free-frank privilege. Whereas some of these topics have been treated previously, many have not. A certain number of hypotheses had to be formulated accordingly, based on the known German rates and procedures, on the contemporary daily press, the *Official Bulletin of Alsace and Lorraine*, the *Monthly Bulletin of (French) Posts and Telegraphs*, documents of the Ministry of Posts, in the Departmental Archives of Strasbourg and in philatelic hands.

Each of the four destinations mentioned above is subdivided into 2 to 4 periods during the interval treated by the book. Particular attention is paid to, and warnings are given against, philatelic machinations, such as double franking, virtually always needless.

Handling and costs of the various types of mail (including, e.g., printed matter, return receipt, insured mail, packages, money orders, dead-letter office) are described in detail and illustrated with tables of rates as well as covers, at least two of which were refused and sent back, as happens so often in transition periods of this kind.

Appendixes include a reproduction (from a Metz newspaper) of the postal rates in effect in Alsace-Lorraine as of December 15, 1918; French censorship there after the armistice, with an, as yet, incomplete list of censorship offices, a subject that is apparently very imperfectly explored thus far; and post office regulations published on June 29, 1919.

The book ends with a bibliography of 64 items.

Paper, binding, printing and illustrations are excellent. Only 500 copies were printed, and each member of SPAL was sent one. Readers who know French will find the book to be an authoritative as well as fairly complete record of postal regulations and practices in this buffer zone at the end of World War I. It is the work of an accomplished postal historian and highly recommended as such.

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Ian McQueen, "Jusqu'à Airmail Markings (A Study)"; 2 vols., vi + 273 pp.; 21 x 29.6 cm; spiral-bound, 1993-1995, published by W.A. Page, 138 Chastilian Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 3LG, England. Price \$53 post-paid, including \$10 negotiating surcharge (for printed-paper airmail add \$6), payment by dollar draft. For drafts in sterling, £26.50 (add £4.00 for airmail).

The first volume of the study was written as an introduction to a subject which until then had not been comprehensively surveyed and, as the author remarked in his introductory note, "Many years must surely pass before anyone can claim to have written the last word on this very fascinating aspect of aerophilately." The first supplement (the second of the two volumes) to his preliminary study is larger than the original by over 50 percent.

The original book is divided into three main sections - an extremely comprehensive introduction to the subject, a listing of the "jusqu'à" markings indicating the point at which airmail was replaced by land or sea transport, and the markings, usually bars or crosses, used to cancel the "Par Avion" instruction. The supplement works through the original clarifying, adding and occasionally correcting as necessary and is completed by cumulative indexes of countries and towns. The study's scope is worldwide (it contains much of interest to collectors of U.S. and Canadian aerophilately); the indexes to the supplement include entries for 16 countries and 33 towns in France and the French group. Both books are copiously illustrated, though not always from perfect originals. The author, who is a member of the F&CPS of Great Britain, will welcome details of new discoveries (c/o the Editor of this journal).

French speakers will like to know that a translation by Vital Ferry of the first volume has been published by l'Amicale Aérophilatelique d'Air France and may be purchased from A.A.A.F, 1 square Max Hymans, 75741 Paris Cedex 15 for 100F, presumably plus postage. It includes a preface by Bernard Abouchar dealing at some length with aviation history. His survey contains detailed references to the part played by the Universal Postal Union and the various UPU decisions and regulations, and should surely appear in an English translation (perhaps as an appendix to a second supplement). A French translation of the supplement is in preparation; it is expected to cost in the region of 150F. - W.G.M.

GORDON H. TORREY (1919-1995)

Dr. Gordon H. Torrey, exhibitor, judge, philatelic writer, active member of numerous societies, FCPS member #2658, and friend, died on March 28.

Though small of stature and slight of build, Gordon was a bundle of energy, and it was a pleasure to run into him at philatelic functions. Which wasn't often enough for me, given the physical distances involved. He was an expert on the postal history and philately of Imperial Russia, the Ottoman Empire, and the French Offices in the Levant-amongst other areas, and he readily shared his vast knowledge with any one in need of good advice. His hobby and his former occupation blended perfectly, for he had been a Middle East analyst for the CIA. He later became a university lecturer at Johns Hopkins and an auction agent for Christie's. Gordon will be sadly missed by his many philatelic friends - S.J. Luft

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. 241-1. What might this black obliteration be, on Somali Coast Yvert 76? (RTK)



A. 241-1. It looks like a *para-obliteration*, used to deface sheets that, for one reason or another, were slated for destruction as printer's waste. However, many such stamps (French ones, at least) ended up in dealers' and then collectors' hands. (SJL)

Q. 241-2. I have an official 1954 Monaco cover, sent without postage to Nice and not taxed. It bears the following in violet: FRANCHISE POSTALE/Art. 14 de la Convention/Franco-Monegasque du 10 Avril 1912. Can anyone furnish the text or gist of this Convention? (WEP)

SOME RECENTLY ENCOUNTERED FAKES

Thanks to Pascal Marziano, editor of *Marianne* (#36, 1995) and to SO. CO. CO. DA. MI. (Bull. #98, 1995), the following tricked-up items have been noted:

(1) 2,20F (Type II) Liberté "albino" (no red, or hardly any), neatly overprinted for St-Pierre et Miquelon; probably done by chemical removal of the red ink.

(2) same "stamp," but overprinted ECU/o, 31...

(3) 4,20F rose M. de Briat, completely imperforate. As there were no official imperforates of this value, the items must have been doctored by simply cutting down to size a deluxe sheetlet (*épreuve de luxe*). By the way, and ever since the 4,20 value was issued in September 1992, such deluxe sheetlets are now printed on gummed paper.

Marziano suggests that we should be on the lookout for future imperforate albino printings (*imprimés à sec*), concocted by the simple expedient of cutting up the new formats of deluxe sheetlets. These (and I haven't seen any) seem to have the stamp in question surrounded or bordered by dry (albino) impressions of the adjoining stamp. Would a reader please send us a picture or photocopy of one such sheetlet? Thanks in advance. --SJL.

THE NEW FRENCH POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPES

Envelopes with permanent-value M. de Briat imprinted indicia, in red, were issued in June 1994. These are of "Type I," wherein a blue security background surrounds the indicia on all four sides (Figure 1). They were issued in three presentations: 114 x 162mm with self-stick flap; 110 x 220mm with self-stick flap; and 110 x 220mm with gummed flap. "Type I" envelopes had limited distribution and can be considered to have been experimental in nature.

Beginning on 6 February 1995, new "Type II" models went on sale. Here, there is no blue background above or beneath the indicia (Figure 2). They also sell for 4F apiece or 33F for a packet of ten. There were four major known presentations of the "Type II," as of March 1995:



Figure 1

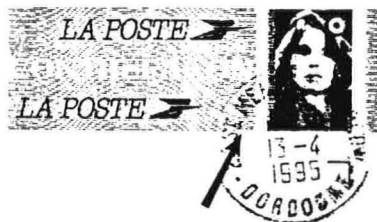


Figure 2

With ITVF (Imprimerie des Timbres-poste et Valeurs Fiduciaries) in corner of blue background at lower left of indicia (arrow, Figure 2); printed entirely by offset: 114 x 162mm (two different manufacturers) and 110 x 220mm;

Without the ITVF, printed by offset on preprinted envelopes, in brighter hues of red and blue: 114 x 162mm, and 110 x 220mm.

Other presentations and (or) variants will surely make their appearance. --SJL.

STEPHEN G. RICH MEMORIAL EXHIBIT

October 3, 1995

The annual Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibit will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 1995, at the Collectors Club in New York.

All members are encouraged to participate. All new entrants will receive free membership in the Society for 1996.

a) only members can exhibit

b) topics should be chosen from the general area of France and Colonies philately; exhibits should be entered in one of the following classes:

1. Nineteenth Century

3. Postal History

2. Twentieth Century

4. Topical and Thematic

5. Non-Competitive

c) exhibits are limited to 2 frames of 16 pages each.

d) exhibits must be submitted on this official blank, and either brought to the Collectors Club on the night of the exhibit, or mailed to Mr. Dick Stevens, P.O. Box 99, Greendell, NJ 07839.

All reasonable precautions will be taken to protect exhibits against loss or damage. However, no responsibility of any kind or character shall be attached to France and Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc, or any of its members. Submission of an application constitutes acceptance of these rules and conditions. Honors will be awarded in categories to be determined by the judges, with medals for the best in show and top exhibits in each category. Results will be published in the *Philatelist*.

Entry Application Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibit

Mail to Dick Stevens, P.O. Box 99, Greendell, NJ 07839

Please enter my exhibit, entitled _____

in the 1995 Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibit, in Class 1# _____

I will deliver and pick up my own exhibit _____ Exhibit to be shipped _____

Member's signature _____

Return Shipping Instructions:—Please return my exhibit via: _____

I am entering the Rich Exhibit for the first time _____