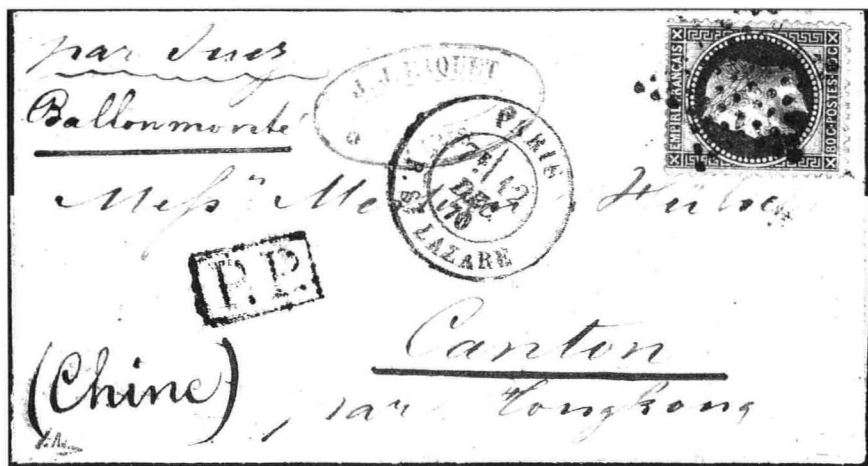




# France & Colonies Philatelist



*A very fine and perhaps "unique" ballon monté to Canton, China, mailed 12 December 1870 from besieged Paris, and bearing an 80c Lauré stamp. This cover was offered by D. Feldman of Zurich in November 1994, with an estimate of 30,000 Swiss francs.*

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**ARTIST'S DRAWINGS**  
**for the Antilles Tercentenary Issue of Martinique**  
**by Richard M. Stevens (FCPS #1867)**

Since the Second World War, essay and proof material from the French Colonies has been generally available, although the lack of any catalog listing has made it difficult to collect or evaluate. As a collector of the stamps of Martinique for more than twenty years, I have found the essays and proofs for issues before 1940 to be very difficult to find. Apparently significant quantities exist of the trial color die proofs of the Issue of 1908, but they are not widely distributed. The Holsizer collection had 22 different, but I had only seen one other offered, until the early 1995 Net Price Sale of the French dealer Behr, who is offering a choice of several of each of the three designs.

The Antilles Tercentenary Issue is the smallest of the French colonial omnibus sets, with issues for only Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Guiana. It is also distinctive, since there were separate designs for each of the three colonies. As a result, this is the only commemorative issue of Martinique which had designs made particularly for that colony. There were two designs for Martinique: one showing the landing of the French explorer Belain d'Esnambuc; and the other: Victor Schoelcher and the abolition of slavery.

The Holsizer collection included just two large autographed die proofs, both of the Schoelcher design. Therefore, I was rather surprised last year, when I was offered a group of three Artist's Drawings for this issue. The Holsizer collection included photographs of the final artist's drawings for some of the designs of the 1947 Issue of Martinique, which he had made from the originals in "official files." I had never previously seen any artist's drawings for Martinique stamps in private hands. Naturally I was happy to acquire these three items, and they are illustrated herewith, reduced to page size.

All three drawings are on tracing paper which has more or less darkened with age. There are preliminary drawings for both designs, and the final drawing for the Schoelcher design with the signature and official seal of the Ministry of the Colonies. I can understand that preliminary drawings might have been retained by the artist, and then be sold by him or his heirs, but there should be just one copy of the final drawing with the approval, and I would expect that to be held in the government files. Perhaps this one was "liberated" during World War II.

For the record, I will give a precise description of each drawing. The preliminary sketch for the Schoelcher design (Figure 1) is 213 mm x 127 mm, on an irregularly cut sheet of brownish tracing paper 250 mm x 190 mm. The design is in black ink and grey watercolor, over pencil sketch lines, with some corrections and highlights in white watercolor. The final drawing (Figure 2) is 213 mm x 132 mm, on cream tracing paper 278 mm x 210 mm. The design is in black ink and grey watercolor. The approval and official seal are on the reverse side of the tracing paper. The d'Esnambuc design (Figure 3) is 130 mm x 208 mm, on cream tracing paper, roughly cut about 173 mm x 245 mm. The design is in black and grey watercolor, over pencil sketch lines.



Figure 1.





Figure 2.



Figure 3.

## WHY I COLLECT THE SOWER ISSUES OF ROTY AND MOUCHON

by Raymond L. Gaillaguet (FCPS #621)

*(Editor's Note: Ray and/or his lovely wife Denise are long-time collectors, specialists, and successful exhibitors of the Sower issues. This article is based largely upon Ray's oral presentation to stamp clubs.)*

Almost ever since their introduction in 1903, the Sowers have been a popular collecting specialty. And they still are. For generally far less of a financial outlay, one can find many more variations in die types and subtypes, formats, papers, shades, and cancellations, and considerably more different usages and rate changes, than say in the Classic issues.

The Sower issues were in use in France from 1903 to 1944. A contest had been held to replace the unpopular Blanc, Mouchon ("Rights of Man"), and Merson issues, but none of the entries were found acceptable. Whereupon the PTT hierarchy decided to copy instead the Roty sower that was shown on silver coins of the realm. Mouchon was called upon to do the engraving. The new design (the lined Sower) was an instant success with the public. Here is an excerpt from a Paris newspaper of the time: "The picture which will embellish our future stamps will be no less than the noble, exquisite figure which already lends an artistic value to our coins. Is it simple, gracious, elegant and beautiful enough? We no longer will say that France has not at least gotten the dreamt-of stamp, signed by an illustrious artist and finally giving us the awaited model.....ideal model delicious and symbolic, which will spread and popularize throughout the world the artistic taste of our nation."<sup>1</sup>

The Sower represents the Republic wearing a phrygian cap, hair flying to the wind. The woman is sowing proudly. She scatters seeds with her right hand while holding the seed bag with her left. She symbolizes the pacific interests of the nation. Some said that she was dispensing French ideals and civilization. However, her critics contended that she scattered the seeds against the wind, and that she looked more as if she were marching than walking. Some would have preferred to see the figure of Joan of Arc represent France.

Contemporary patriotic cards compared her favorably to the German Empire's "Germania," issued at about the same time (Figure 1). The Sower promising life through her efforts to sow and thereby feed the people; Germania, in armor, promising death. The Sower was reproduced on precursors of Valentine cards, showing different ways to position the stamp and thereby send a coded message of love (Figure 2). She was also made into a plaything by the *Poste Enfantine* (Figure 3). Facsimiles were prepared for use on soldiers' mail during World War I (Figure 4). However, the stamp was not particularly popular with many postmasters. Mouchon then was forced to make numerous essays in trying to fend off the criticisms that she was too stiff, too much like a statue, that the values were hard to read, etc.

# LA FRANCE L'ALLEMAGNE

Même dans le timbre-poste  
chacune des deux nations se représente  
telle qu'elle se voit, telle qu'elle se sent.



La France semeuse, vêtue d'aimable lin, dans le grand geste ouvert des semailles, sème à tous les vents les grains de la civilisation.

Exemple de merveilleux labeur, elle sème ses épargnes fécondes, ses promptes inventions, les découvertes patientes du génie français; elle sème avec espoir afin que vous aussi, peuples de la terre, vous récoltiez tous et qu'un jour sans doute, nous fassions ensemble l'universelle moisson.

(Extrait d'une allocution prononcée par M. PAUL HERVIEU, de l'Académie Française).



L'Allemagne, à la face dure, est casquée d'une couronne massive; une main ramenée dans le sens égoïste qui est vers soi-même; gantée de mailles, cette main serre une poignée de glaive; c'est la menace. La poitrine est cuirassée et ces deux rondelles de métal bombé indiquent quel serait l'allaitement maternel pour l'humanité à naître quand celle-ci aurait à le chercher dans cette ferronnerie.

Figure 1.



Figure 2.

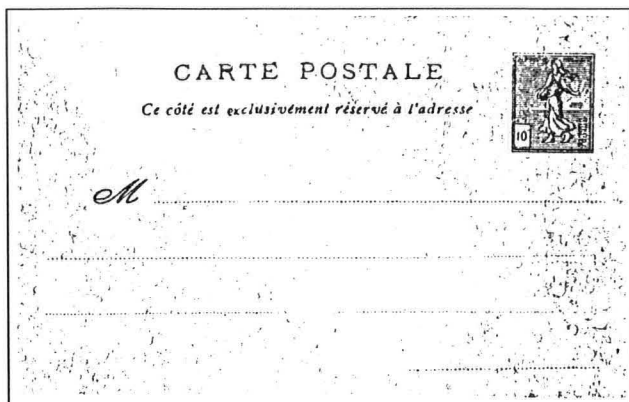


Figure 3. Miniature reproduction for children's game *Poste Enfantine*.



Figure 4. 20 November 1915 use.

But why the insistence upon an allegorical figure? From the 4 September 1870 birth of the Third Republic onward, the various issues showed Cérés, Peace and Commerce, Rights of Men, Agriculture. Simply, the French did not want to popularize a living person, and had not done so since the issue of 1863, which bore the laureated effigy of Napoleon III, or Napoleon "Le Petit" (as Victor Hugo preferred to call him).

To make matters worse, a plot to bring back the monarchy was uncovered in 1889. General Boulanger, hero of the Tonkin Campaign and of the overthrow of the 1871 Paris Commune, was its titular head. The plot had all the makings of a farce rather than that of a political *coup d'état*. The conspirators were mostly to be found in the *salons* of their various mistresses. On the day

of the scheduled coup, Boulanger was in Brussels trying to patch up a quarrel with his mistress. After the failure of the coup, quantities of essays were found, all bearing the portrait of our Lothario! Now one can easily understand the general reticence against all but allegorical figures. This fear proved to be well founded when Marshal Petain's face graced the stamps of the French State from 1941 to 1944. As a matter of fact, no portraits of actual persons were printed and issued from 1870 until the 1920s. The first of these were issued in:

- 1923: Pasteur (dead and well known);
- 1924: Ronsard (poet born 400 years earlier);
- 1927: Berthelot (chemist and sometime politician dead since 1907);
- 1929: Joan of Arc (finally!), though she looked more like an allegorical figure than a real woman.

Even so, and to this day, and with the exception of the Petain effigies of World War II, almost all regular issues of France show some version of "Marianne" as the symbol of France. The exceptions tend to be varying versions of sowers or roosters.

After this preface, it is time to return to and stay with the Sowers of Roty and Mouchon. The Sower issues were printed on both flat and rotary presses. Some, such as the 50-centimes lined Sower, were printed on both types of presses.

In the following pages, I will write about and illustrate many examples from my collection of the Sowers, to give our readers an inkling of the vast gamut of material that can be acquired by those who wish to collect--and also even specialize in--these stamps. They include numerous philatelic "firsts" that first appeared on Sower stamps.

Items that came about as a result of the First World War:

1. First overprint, for the benefit of the French Red Cross (Figure 5); same, misregistered (Figure 6).<sup>2</sup>



Figure 5. Red Cross overprint on *mil-lésime* pair of the 1914 stamp printing.



Figure 6. Misregistered (offset) Red Cross overprint.

2. Straight line POSTES SERBES handstamp, for the use of Serbian allies in exile on the island of Corfu; applied on or off (Figure 7) the stamps.

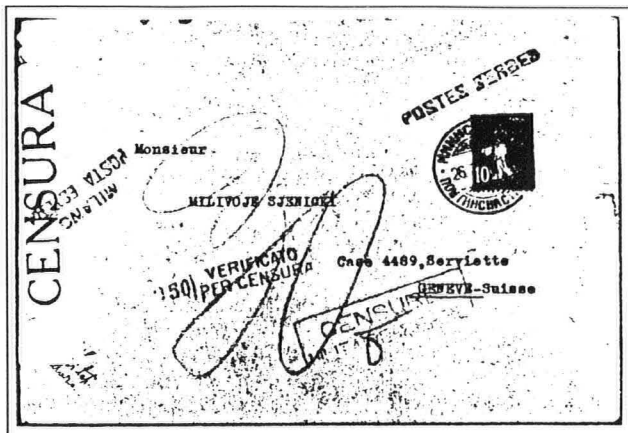


Figure 7. POSTES SERBES, not touching the 10c Sower, which is cancelled by a Serbian date stamp, on censored cover to Switzerland.

3. Postes Monténégriennes--overprints (Figure 8) for Montenegro allies in exile in Bordeaux.

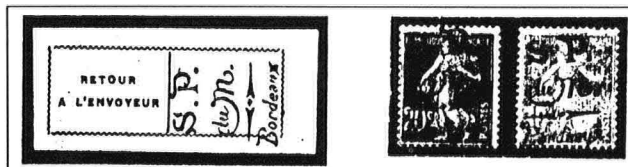


Figure 8. Montenegro overprint on two Sowers, and shown on etiquette for greater clarity.

4. Postes Belges--Belgian stamps mixed with French ones, from their provisional capital-in-exile near Le Havre (Figure 9).<sup>3</sup>

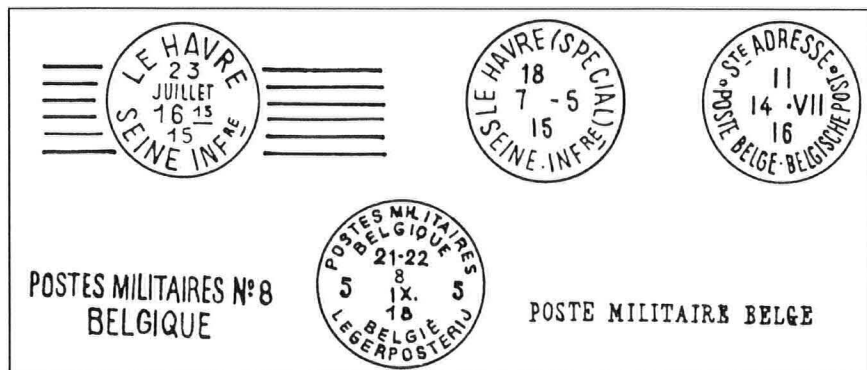


Figure 9. Some of the cancels used by the Belgian government-in-exile (from Deloste, 1968).



5. Many different types of papers used during the entire span of Sowers printing. The well-known *grande consommation* (GC) or cheap wartime papers (Figure 10) used during 1916-1920 (70 different including millésimes and paper varieties). When the various shades are taken into account, the number of different GCs that can be considered collectible comes to near 90!).<sup>4</sup>



Figure 10. 1917 printing of 5c Sower, on GC paper.

6. WWI experimental overprints (essays not approved by the authorities)
  - a. Reoccupation/Française/en/ALSACE (1915) (Figure 11);
  - b. Red Cross--GUERRE 14-16/CROIX ROUGE (1916) (Figure 11) may not be legible here); Pro Patria (1916); Guerre 14-16 Orphelins PTT (1916).<sup>5</sup>



Figure 11.

7. **FM overprints**, found used in:
  - a. Crete, 1906 (Figure 12);
  - b. Albania, 1914 (6 October 1914);
  - c. Tien-Tsin, China, from 1907 to 1929; plus many others.

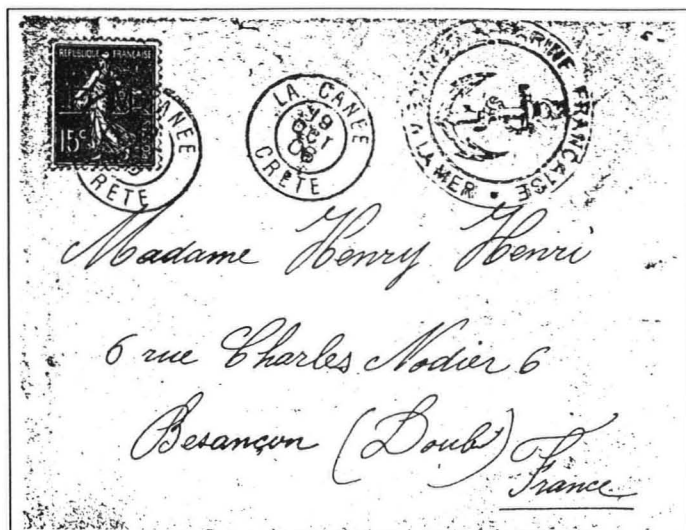


Figure 12. 15c lined Sower with FM overprint, used 19 October 1906 at La Canée, Crete.

8. Makeshift cancellations on stamps of liberated areas in the North of France, where the originals were either lost or destroyed (Figure 13).

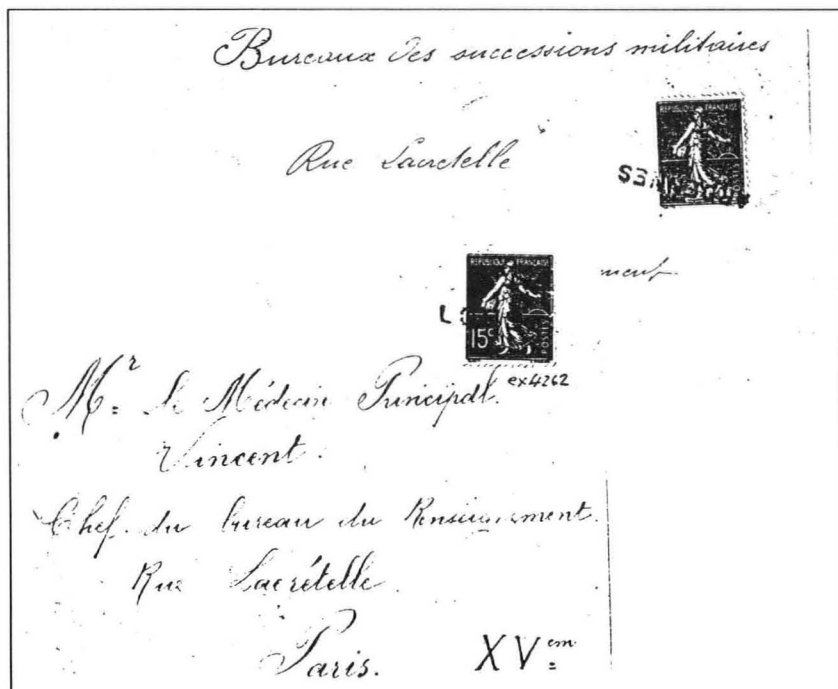


Figure 13. Provisional straightline cancellations: ARDENNES (probably from Virieux) and LOOS (Nord), both liberated in November 1918.

### References

1. L. Demoulin, "Les Timbres Poste Français"; Yvert & Tellier, 1933.
2. R. Françon, Loeuillet, and Storch, "Cérès Variétés Marianne," 1990, p. 48.
3. Col. Deloste, "Histoire Postale et Militaire de la Guerre de 1914-1918," Bischwiller, 1968.
4. R. Gallon, "Les Semeuses de 1907"; Le Mondes des Philatélistes Etude 28.
5. "Catalogue des Timbres Poste de la France," Vol. I; Yvert & Tellier, 1939.

(To Be Continued)

## GEOGRAPHY 101

by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)

Say, can you name this French possession from which there are no known postal marks? It was ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris of 1814, and poetically, it was the British who had first set foot on this land in 1609.

In 1742 the Comte de La Bourdonnais, Governor of another French possession, sent Lazare Picault to explore the area, first named Iles de Labourdonnais, and he named the largest island after that governor, B. Francois\_. Four years later a Capitaine Morphy, commanding the frigate "Le Cerf," took possession for France and the island group was then named for a Count Hérault, an officer of the East Indian fleet. It was formally annexed to France in 1756 but the first colonists did not arrive until 1768 at what is now Port Victoria.

The very precise 9th edition (1892) of the Encyclopaedia Britannica identifies this archipelago as consisting of 80 islands, the largest 2998 feet above sea level, with a population of 7179 males and 6902 females. By the 15th edition (1990s), the description identified 115 islands. They were alleged to be a favorite resting place of pirates in the 18th Century.

Of course the British wanted these islands, and during the French Revolution a British warship entered the main port on 16 May 1794 flying the French flag. This did not fool the French governor but neither was he able to resist, and the port became a "free port" flying a blue flag with white lettering. French history reports that whenever the British ships left port the French flag was again hoisted.

In Napoleon's time, some of those who plotted against him, real or imagined, were sent not to Guiana's Ile du Diable but to these islands, landing on 14 July 1801. The Napoleonic Wars resumed in 1803 but notable setbacks such as the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 foreshadowed the end of France's military preeminence. Despite the surrender of these islands to Britain in 1810, the Treaty of Paris of 1814 allowed France to keep some of its external possessions with the notable exception of Ile-de-France (Mauritius). Covers are known bearing marks "Isle De France" before Mauritius became British, but to my knowledge none are known from the colonists of these islands.

Napoleon had abdicated 6 April 1814, going to Elba, but returned to France 1 March 1815 to attempt to regain his former power. This effort, known as the 100 Days War, ended with a resounding defeat at Waterloo on 18 June 1815. The second Treaty of Paris of 20 November 1815 did, among other indemnities, grant formal possession of these islands to Great Britain which promptly respelled their name. Those of you who know their history of sea turtles and cocoanuts will have noted that the first word of this little history is the same as the first syllable of the name of this former French possession. Now can you give its name?

(Continued on page 20)

## INDO-CHINA TO SWITZERLAND AIRMAIL-- 1936 COVERS AND RATES

Bert Mendelsohn, one of our Indo-China specialist members, shows us a sequence of five airmailed 1936 envelopes to Switzerland from a French military doctor then stationed at Dien-Bien-Phu, Tonkin. The doctor travelled to a number of military posts in western Tonkin, apparently providing medical services on some sort of circuitous route.

The Figure 1 cover from the post at Tsinh-Ho entered the mail stream 21 June at Phon-Tho. It was at Lao-Kay the 24th and then at Hanoi (same day). It then went by air to Marseille, continuing to Geneva, and then by land to its Swiss destination, only to be forwarded back to France (by land), arriving at Porquerolles (Var Dept.) 7 July 1936. Postage of 54c wasn't sufficient for this letter, which was taxed apparently by an additional 1F18.

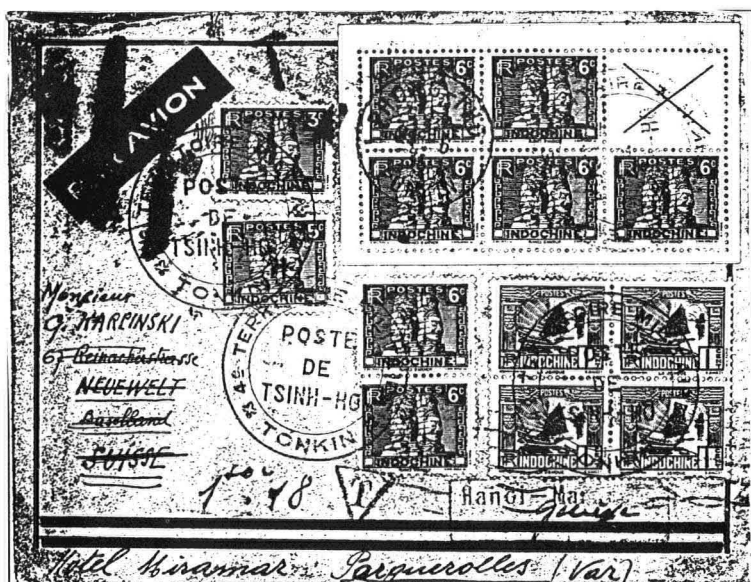


Figure 1.

The other letters followed one another in rapid succession. Figure 2 shows a cover from Muong Nhie, in the upper Tonkin, which was too minor to have its own post office. The 5c airmail stamp at left was struck by the post's circular administrative cachet and by the rectangular one of the *Le Ly Truong* (the headman). It entered the mail stream 18 October 1936 at Lai-Chau. Like all the others, it bears the Hanoi Marseille--continuing on to Geneva--routing marking. In this case, 55c was deemed sufficient postage.



Figure 2.

The Figure 3 cover from Muongte, with 55c postage (also untaxed), was posted 19 October from Lai-Chan. The Figure 4 cover, from the 1st Tonkin Rifles at Muong-Boum(?), bearing three different administrative cachets, was mailed on 24 October from Lai-Chau. Total postage 58c.



Figure 3.



Figure 4.

The last cover (Figure 5) is from Dien-Bien-Phu itself, and was posted from there 23 November 1936. It bears only 53c in stamps, which also seemed sufficient for an airmailed letter to Switzerland. We can assume that the doctor had finished making his rounds by this time.

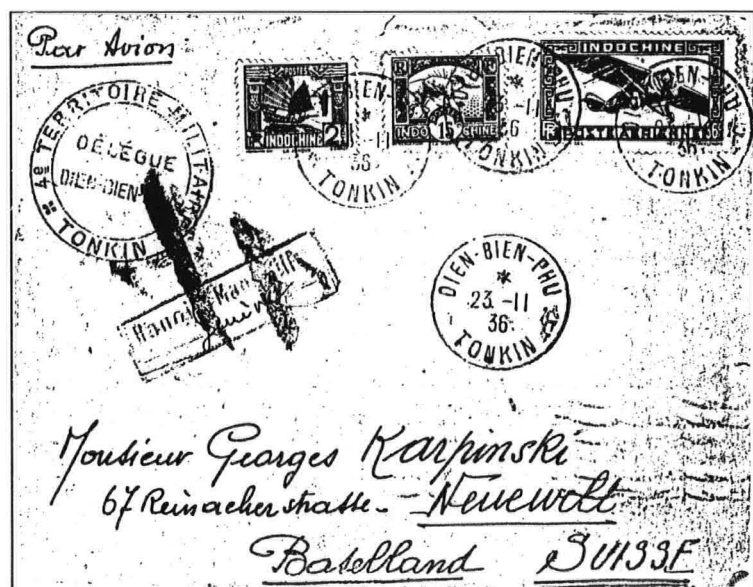


Figure 5.

What we can't assume is what should have been the correct airmail rate between Hanoi and Switzerland. Whether 53c or 55c or 58c (or 54c, but taxed), they all seem to be exceedingly low postage amounts for this service, at a time when airmail surtaxes plus international rates were measured in francs rather than in centimes. Nor was a special military rate for Indo-China in effect at the time.

Readers should note that some of the covers (Figures 1 and 2) have their PAR AVION labels barred out. This was typical in those days, when airmail service was unavailable (nor paid for) for the entire journey. In the case of Figure 5, it is the Hanoi-Marseille box that is barred out, suggesting perhaps that 53c wasn't quite sufficient for airmail, and that the cover went to Europe entirely by sea and land.

Can any reader come up with an official rate structure for these covers?

--S. J. Luft

## AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES - 17

by Ernest M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

Anyone deeply interested in any topic of postal history will discover sooner or later that searching all sorts of related and seemingly unrelated themes will pay dividends in helping to understand what really happened to a cover that is out of the ordinary in some way. One tries to get to know the VIPs, in this case, those people that wrote and sent communications—where they stayed, when they traveled whence to where, whom they met, whom they wrote to, and anything else that, though perhaps seemingly unrelated, might eventually contribute to a better understanding once one grasps the whole picture.

In retrospect it appears perfectly obvious that a thorough study of 1870 affairs would have to include the names of newspaper reporters, who were making their first historical appearance just then on battlefields and around besieged fortresses. Still, it took me a while to realize that fact. More importantly, it is quite difficult to establish the identities of many of them, because they often did not receive any bylines in the early days.

As a result, any mention of who reported where and for which paper is quite valuable information, difficult to come by and worth recording for potential future use. One such instance presented itself to me when I borrowed E.-A. Spoll's *Metz 1870-Notes et Souvenirs* (Paris, Alphonse Lemerre, 27 Passage Choiseul 29, 1873, 269 pp.) from the library of Metz. There, on pp. 18-20, I found an entry dated 29 July at the Café Parisien, Place de la Préfecture at Metz:

"It is 1 pm, the coffee house fills rapidly. The officers arrive in small groups from their *pensions* or *mess*, the old regulars enter with arrogant behavior at the end of the hall, as far as possible from the 'invaders'; the Parisian element, on the contrary, stays preferably on the terrace.

"It is there that the French and foreign reporters lounge, some in the most amusing field outfits. All of Paris from the Boulevard Montmartre is soon assembled there. One already sees Camille Pelletan of the *Rappel* with his disheveled head of locks, in company of the slim Claretie, Edgar Rodrigues and his young brother, Duchemin of the *Gaulois* nicknamed the executioner of hearts, Jehan Valter of the *Paris-Journal* clothed from top to bottom in velvet, André Gill, the spiritual designer of the *Eclipse*, with enormous blue glasses, Wachter, the strategist of the *Gaulois*, recognizable by his tall frame,



the two brothers Mortier, Ivan de Woestyne of the *Figaro*, the gloomy Legay of the *Petit Journal*, Nazet who seems to have the talent of being everywhere and who already knows the town better than do its inhabitants; d'Aunay of the *Figaro*, like a brigand in comic opera, Ebstein of the *Liberté*, the two sketch artists of *Illustration* and *Monde illustré* in vivid contrast, one tall, slim, cold, hair almost white, the other small, stocky, bubbly and near-sighted; then d'Herbenville already named, Chanloup of the *National*, like a little nitre, d'Aviau de Piolant of the *Français*, almost always with his brother, an officer of riflemen; Hyx, reporter of the *New York Herald*, La Chapelle of the *Standard*, Robinson of the *Manchester Guardian*, the Count de Sponeke, a young Danish gentleman, and a multitude of others whose names I forget.

"The local journalism is represented by the three Mayers [Edouard Mayer, editor-in-chief] and sons, editors of the *Indépendent* of the Mosel, all three as obliging as they are friendly; by Messrs. Réau of the *Courrier de la Moselle*, Collignon and Count Anatole de Montferrier, a type of *hobereau* (?) of the country."

So much for Spoll's recollections of the press represented at Metz before the siege began. Some of his information is supplemented in Firmin Maillard's *Histoire des Journaux publiés à Paris pendant le siège et sous la Commune* (Paris 1871), specifically for Spoll himself (p. 219), Pelletan (55), Gill (142), Mortier (209), and Ebstein (209).

We know, of course, that George Robinson stayed in Metz during the siege as did d'Aviau de Piolant, and that they knew each other. Both wrote books about their experiences there, the latter anonymously. The former helped in the design and construction of the second set of balloons and used the opportunity to write messages to his wife on the gas bag of at least one balloon as well as slipping at least one uncensored letter to her into the load of another. That was discovered and transmitted to Bazaine, who might have had him shot on the spot. Amazingly, however, he was not even put into jail.

George Robinson's correspondence from the Siege of Metz is a real postal history classic of that war, as are Seinguerlet's reports from the Siege of Paris to the *Frankfurter Zeitung* and to the *Neue freie Presse* (Vienna). His letters to his mother and to a banker friend in Germany are not recognized as such by most collectors. His postwar writings are not highly esteemed by *cognoscenti* (nor are his reports usually read by collectors who pay fancy prices for his siege letters). Two reporters for German papers were captured and kept in the fortress of Bitché until shortly before that invincible stronghold was surrendered weeks after the armistice. Knowing their names would help to look for (and to find) the books they may have written about their experiences after they had returned home. In general, therefore, knowing the names of reporters and the newspapers for which they worked can be quite useful for postal historians.

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## MEMBERS' APPEALS

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**WANTED:** Robert Stone's "*French Colonies--The General Issues*"; also shades, cancellations, fakes, forgeries and reprints of the General Issues of the Colonies. Michel Houde, 149 Jenny Wren Way, Willowdale, Ontario, M2H 2Z1, Canada. (Mb. #3026).

**SELLING:** Stamps of France and other European countries at 35% of Scott catalog. Write for details to Eugene Meyer, 3707 Sun Eagle Lane, Bradenton, FL 34210. (Mb. #2911).





Figure 2. 1875 Cover from Mahé, French India.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

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- Our Director, John Lievsay, is the U.S. Commissioner for ISTAMBUL 96, an FIP-sanctioned international exhibition. Travellin' man once again...
- The six semi-postal stamps featuring French performing artists, issued 17-19 September 1994, were voted the most popular French issue of 1994 according to a La Poste poll.
- As a follow-up to our earlier complaints and *caveats* re buying and selling in France, Marty Bratzel advises that purchasing foreign-currency drafts and money orders is no problem when in Canada. All banks there can issue drafts payable in French francs or many other foreign currencies. Service charge (at the Bank of Montreal, as an example) is only \$(Canada) 6.50; even this may be waived if one is on a "full service" plan. As far as your editor's recent personal experiences are concerned, more and more dealers and periodicals in France are refusing drafts in French francs (because of hefty service charges) and are indicating a preference for International Money Orders. The cost of these remains \$7.50(US), for a maximum purchase of \$700(US).
- With the establishment of a Rapid Reaction Force in ex-Yugoslavia, new BPMs 659 and 660 will be handling the mail for units of the French 6th Light Armored Division, which is slated to be transferred to Bosnia.
- Authors of articles or series of articles in this journal (or any other philatelic publication) can be considered for the American Philatelic Congress, Dorothy Colby Memorial Award. This award is given for the best published article, in one part or serialized, or for a series of articles on a common theme. The article--or at least the final part, in the case of a serialized entry--must have been published during the 18-month period preceding the convention of Congress. It may be submitted by the author or by the journal editor, to the Congress Secretary at least 90 days before the convention [usually held in late August]. Criteria for evaluation are depth of research and/or study, and the quality of the writing and illustrations, as concerns articles in the philatelic press; or popular appeal, through subject matter and treatment, in the lay press. Winner need **not** be Congress members. Please think about it!
- Faked perforation varieties (offset, doubled, etc.), generally poorly done, of some cheaper 20th Century stamps, are being offered to collectors.
- John Lievsay has been appointed by the APS to the FIP Commission Against False Issues. This is no reason, however, to send him your stamps for expertization! John will also be on the CAPEX 96 jury.
- We've been asked why FCPS doesn't have its own library. The answer is unfortunately very simple: no place to house one, no manpower to run one. However, our Society has for many years supplied the Collectors Club of New York with publications on France and Colonies philately. Because of this and other considerations, our members have access to the Collectors Club library (reading room only, no borrowing). Members who plan to visit New York City may want to make arrangements in

advance with the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York, NY 10016-3806, inasmuch as the library is open only on certain days. (There's that manpower problem, again!).

- Some 40 Greenpeace militants took over the main Paris post office last October, in protest against the resumption of French nuclear testing in the Pacific, but more to the point, to send to President Chirac, via registered mail, seven million protesting signatures collected from some 30 countries, or about 2.5 tons of mail. The entire cost of this escapade was borne by La Poste as registered mail addressed to the President of the Republic is postage-free. We understand that Chirac's office refused to accept delivery.
- French administrative units and municipalities, some of which have had the free franchise ever since the 15th Century, will have to pay postage on their official mail, beginning 1 January 1996. Postage will be required on some 700 million pieces of mail per year, for which the government hitherto had reimbursed La Poste (3.6 billion francs in 1994). Suppression of the franchise supposedly will simplify the accounting process. As we noted on p. 88 of the July 1995 *FCP*, we expect that meters and machine-printed labels will be used by these entities rather than adhesive stamps.
- Stan Jersey's book, "New Hebrides Islands: Military Postal History of the United States Forces 1942-1946," which was noted on p. 121 of the previous number of *FCP*, is completely sold out!
- We are saddened by the late-received news of the 5 August 1995 death of Henri Tristant, in his 82nd year. Tristant's legacy to philately included important published studies on the postal history of the Somali Coast and Ethiopia, on maritime postal history, on use in the Colonies of the first French postage stamps, and on the French Austral Territories. Among others who left us during 1995 were André Dupecher, treasurer of several societies, including l'Union Marcophile, and ardent collector of covers from the 1823-1828 French occupation of Spain; and H. Auriacombe, a specialist in the marcophily and postal history of the French Navy and of its terrestrial postal agencies.
- The next ASDA Postage Stamp Mega-Event will be held February 22-25, 1996 at the Jacob K. Javitz Convention Center, 655 W. 34th Street, New York City.

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## FOR THE RECORD

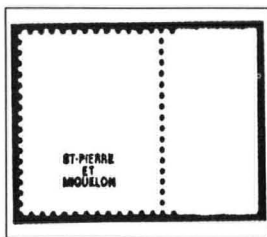
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(Continued from *FCP* #242, October 1995, p. 116)

- **731.)** Well-done faked **ECU/o,31** and **ST. PIERRE/ET/MIQUELON** overprints on "albino printings" of the 2,20F Liberté (see illustrations) have appeared on the market. Buyers beware! (Thanks to Pascal Marziano, in *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, September 1995.



- **732.)** A correction to my notes on the aftermath of Desert Storm military postal bureaus (#240, April 1995, p. 50): It was BPM 649 that closed 30 September 1991, not BPM 648 which remains open as of this writing. BPM 648, at Incirlik, Turkey, is located at the U.S. Air Force base near Adana. BPM 649 was at Silopi, near the Iraqi border, and BPM 650 at Sirsenk, inside Iraq.

- **733.)** For those unfamiliar with it, here are two examples of the boxed **P.P.** of Volo, which was usually struck in blue on French stamps of the 1861-1879 period. At that time, there was no French Office operating in Volo (European Turkey), and this killer was struck upon uncanceled mail from there upon arrival at Marseille. They are worth 1000Fr or more on VF stamps and considerably more when tying stamps to covers.
- **734.)** BPM [Bureau Postal Militaire] 646, open for only 17 days (22 April-9 May 1991) at Doha, Qatar (and **not** to 19 May, as reported in #240, April 1995, p. 50), was resurrected in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, in September 1992. The personnel served, mainly airmen of Operation "Alysse," are assigned to protect the Shiite population of southern Iraq from the Bagdad regime.

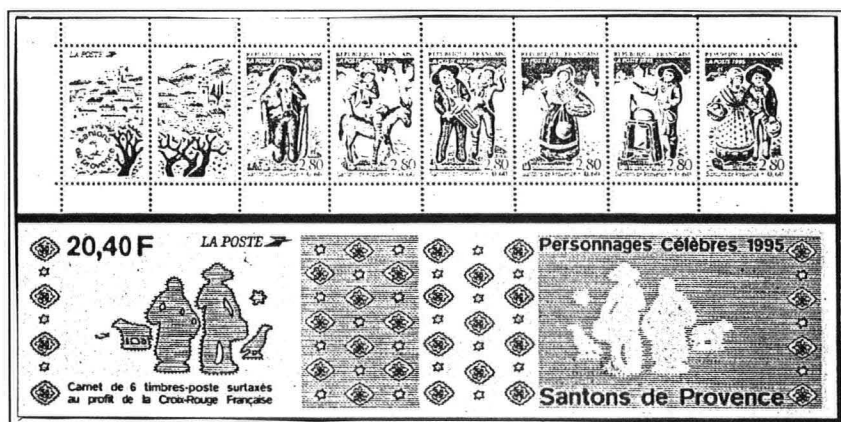


## NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from #242, October 1995, p. 123)

### France

- 6 October 1995: window envelopes imprinted with permanent-value indicia, 220x110 mm self-sealing, and 225x115 mm for automatic sealing; sold at 320F per hundred;
- 16 October: "Poste Livre" prestamped envelope (indicia w/o face value) for pocket-size books and books to 1 kg, 270x176 mm, sold at 25F;
- 4 (6) November: 2,80F Cent. of Automobile Club of France;
- 16 (20) November: 4,30F 50th Anniv. of the U.N.;
- 25 (27) November: Provençal Figurines ("santons"), six x 2,80F + 0.60F; and same as pane of six + two labels in 20,40F booklet (see illustration below);
- 2 (4) December: 3,70F Francis Jammes (1868-1938);
- 9 (11) December: 2,80F Evry Cathedral;
- 12 (14) December: 2,80F FRANCE 98 World Cup Soccer.



Withdrawals: 13 October 1995: 3,70F Louis Pasteur; 6,60F St. Taurin Reliquary; J.-J. Audubon (4 sheet stamps + sheetlet); 2,80F Stenay Malt Works; 10 November: 2,80F + 0,60F Stamp Day 1995 (Marianne de Gandon); 2,80F Enterprise committees; 2,80F School of Oriental Languages; 2,80F Lorraine metallurgy; 2,80F Guyana and Space; 3,70F Advanced school of electricity; 3,70F Jean Giono; 8 December: 2,80F and 3,70F EUROPA 95; 2,80F Remiremont; 4,40F Forest crafts; 6,70F Art of Prud'hon.

#### **Andorra**

- > 21 (23) October 1995: 50th Anniv. of U.N. diptych of 2,80F + label + 3,70F;
  - > 4 (6) November: 2,80F Admission of Andorra into Council of Europe.
- Withdrawals: 13 October 1995: 2,80F Reunion of the Co-Princes; 2,80F European Year for Nature Conservation.

#### **French Austral and Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)**

- > 7 August 1995: 30F sheetlet for 40th Anniv. of the Territories.

#### **French Polynesia**

- > 24 October 1995: 420F 50th Anniv. of U.N.
- Withdrawal: 4 October 1995: 700F Cent. of arrival of Paul Gauguin.

#### **New Caledonia**

- > 26 October 1995: 65F Pacific sculpture (lizard man); 500F 35th South Pacific Conference;
  - > 16 November: 95F Francis Carco (writer).
- Withdrawals: 17 July 1995: 130F Montouh (Pacific painter); 10F Seville EXPO '92; 120F Lagoon Protection; 25F My friend the Tourist.

#### **St. Pierre & Miquelon**

- > 9 October 1995: 3,70F Francoforum (public building);
  - > 27 November: 2,80F Noël 1995.
- Withdrawal: 6 October 1995: 3,70F Community school.

#### **Wallis & Futuna**

- > 14 November 1995: 315F 25th Anniv. of death of Gen. De Gaulle.

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## NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

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- > *Catalogue Yvert et Tellier, 1996 Tôme 1, Timbres de France*; 432 pp.; 90Fr + postage; 1996 Tôme 1bis (Europa, Monaco, UN, and Andorra); 288 pp.; 50Fr + postage; from the usual sources.
- > *Les Cachets Daguin 1880-1970*; ca. 100 pp., 21 x 29 cm; 150Fr postpaid, from Maurice Perry, 6 Cami del Cazamouret, F-09600 Tarbes, France. (Covers, in full-size illustrations, precursors, essays, Paris Départ, Paris bureaux, use in France and abroad, and the centenary of the Daguin machine).
- > *Histoire des Postes de Lorraine*, by Mme Gilberte Laumon; 180Fr + postage; from J. L. Heckler, 48 rue Stanislas, F-54000 Nancy, France. (More history than postal history, this work covers the movement of correspondence within Lorraine from its origins, prior to the Middle Ages, to the 19th Century).
- > *Catalogue des Oblitérations Temporaires de France (non illustrées) 1855-1961*, by Vincent Pothion; 62 pp.; 162Fr postpaid, from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 rue du Faubourg Montmartre, F-75009 Paris. (Catalog, with indices of scarcity, of the non-pictorial temporary and slogan postal markings of the period indicated).
- > *Catalogue des Cachets à Date (types 11-12-13-14-15 Départements français et Algérie)*, by Jean Chevalier; 550Fr postpaid registered in France; inquire for other destinations; the author, 89 rue de Charenton, F-75012 Paris, France. (The well-known catalogue, revised and augmented and with the addition of type 15 date stamps; classed alphabetically, with indices of scarcity).
- > *Voies et Routes-relais de la Poste et Maîtres de Poste des Gaulois à 1873 dans le Département de l'Aisne*; ca. 200 pp; for 90 Fr + postage (500-1000 gm rate) from Jacques Courtin, 15 rue du Curé, F-02000 Laon, France. (Study of mail routes, the mails, and the postmasters, from earliest times to 1873, in the Aisne Dept.)
- > *Reconstitution de l'Evolution des Circonscriptions des Bureaux de Poste par les Sources Officielles, Département de la Haute-Saône (1829-1922)*, by B. Augustin;



50Fr, postpaid, from the author, at 38 avenue des Fauvettes, F-95370 Montigny-les-Cormeilles, France.

- Students of recent and modern French cancellations would do well to contact Marcophilie Moderne, at Boîte Postale 21, F-77350 Le Mee-sur-Seine, and request a list of their available publications; most tend to be very reasonably priced.
- *La Poste en Basse-Normandie*, by Pierre Demangeon; 440 pp.; 280Fr (+ postage?), from Editions Charles Corlet, Boîte Postale 86, F-14110 Condé-sur-Noireau, France.
- *Les Télécommunications en Basse-Normandie*, by Le Couturier; 192 pp.; 140Fr (+ postage?), from Editions Charles Corlet, as per above.
- *1995 North Viet Nam Specialized Postage Stamps Catalogue*; 75 pp., 5½ x 8½", soft-bound; 1995; \$25.00, payable to ER Philatelics, P.O. Box 511, Kresgeville, PA 18333. (Comprehensive, illustrated catalog of the 1945-1976 stamp issues of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam (1945-1946) and of North Viet Nam (1946-1976), priced in U.S. currency).
- *Exposition, Propaganda and Charity Labels of French Indochina in Southeast Asia*, by Terry A. Barham; expanded 1996 edition; \$10.00 postpaid from author, 12615 SE 164th St., Renton, WA 98058-5548.

## RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

This time I'll attempt to unravel the mysteries of how we determine what gets published in any particular number of our *Philatelist*.

It's really all a matter of priorities. Our *Philatelist* is a Society journal, which means that your society needs to communicate with you the members via these pages. Therefore, the "F.C.P.S. Official" section, even though generally relegated to the back pages, receives top priority.

Next in line comes the material that needs to be published in a timely fashion, in order that it be useful to all readers. Obviously, it's difficult to be truly timely in a quarterly journal, whose raw material is shipped to the printer by the 10th of the month preceding the month inscribed on the cover. For example, what you are seeing in this January 1996 number went out last December 8. Timely topics include Announcements and News, New Issues and Withdrawals, For the Record, New Books (etc.), Questions and Answers, Reviews, Letters to the Editor, etc. Few would care to read these many months "after the fact," and we try to get them all in as soon as possible. However, and to conserve space, if there's only one or two books to mention, or only one or two Members' Appeals, we'll hold them for the next number. Incidentally, all members can make use of our Members' Appeals, for which service we make no charge.

We mustn't forget either our other less frequent but obligatory insertions, such as the annual report of the Treasurer (within F.C.P.S. Official), which probably few bother to read, nor mention of the ASDA's Mega Events (for ASDA provides our Society with booth space), nor the annual Statement of Ownership (etc.), which takes up a full page and could interest only the Postal Service.

Whatever space remains in our 32 pages--and only after the first two pages are reserved for the cover, table of contents, and masthead--is given over to what should be the prime cuts of the beast, so to speak, namely articles and shorter contributions. It seems a shame to work this way, but you'll understand if you've followed me down to here.

In order to give you as much material as possible in 32 pages, we use rather small type for just about everything except articles, For the Record, and at least some shorter contributions, for we consider these particular categories as being permanent contributions to the literature. For this reason, these fundamental contributions are set in larger and more easily read 9-point type.

Right now, we are blessed with a good backlog of articles. We strive, to the extent possible, for a good mix between France and the Colonies, as well as between philately and postal history (or postmarks). This is not always possible, of course. It's generally easier to write something new on postal history (or postmarks) than on stamps. Of course, if you so desire (and express those desires to me), we can always reprint or paraphrase earlier writings on Classic and more recent stamps, or on forgeries, etc., though we'd much prefer to publish original studies. Even though we have no present plans to publish anything on modern varieties (imperforates, missing phosphor, fly-specks, etc.), we'd rather not let down those members who collect this type of material. For the time being, therefore, you can send me a No. 10 SASE (legal-size stamped, self-



addressed envelope) and include a request for current French dealers' priced offers of modern varieties. While this may be a mere sop to some specialists, it may result in someone submitting an educational and interesting article at some near future date. Similarly, a No. 10 SASE can get you the quantities printed, over the past few years, of French (only) commemoratives and semi-postals; we just can't spare the space to publish this sort of information.

Additionally, we strive to strike a balance between, on the one hand, new or very occasional authors who might become impatient if not totally discouraged by waiting too long to see themselves in print and, on the other hand, our constant contributors. Of the latter, we really only have two at this time: Bob Kinsley, with at least seven contributions (several of them in the long-running "French Marcophily" series) on deck, and yours truly with three. Bob and I are very willing to defer to other authors, but not all the time, for we also want to see our own output exposed to the elements. But the final decision regarding which articles are to be printed and which are to be held over really rests with our very capable layout and typesetting people in Wisconsin. They've done wonders in cramming our pages to the fullest.

Please remember, even if you're hardly ever satisfied with the product, that few journals provide as much useful and permanent information, per unit of space, as does our *Philatelist*. And we do it at far less expense to the membership than most of the other major philatelic societies. Looking forward to your ideas and comments, and especially to your contributions large or small. --S.J. Luft

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## REVIEWS

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J. C. Delwaule, *La Petite Poste de Paris, 1760-1795* (The Little Post of Paris, 1760-1795), 1995, supplement to *Les Feuilles Marcophiles*, 55 pp. 8¼ x 11½", saddlestitched, with colored pictures on front and back of cover, many ills., free to subscribers, may also be available to others from L'Union Marcophile, 7 rue Saint Lazare, F-75009 Paris, France.

The publication is partly based on an article published in two issues of *Feuilles Marcophiles* in 1958/1959 by André Rochette, but totally refashioned and augmented by discoveries made meanwhile by, among others, G. P. Cuny and P. Nougaret, including also many different illustrations.

Among French city posts, that of Paris was clearly the largest and, though officially absorbed in the regular post office in 1780, it actually continued functioning to some extent until 1837, when official documents still mention the 'Petite Poste.' The book tells its history and organization in Part I, together with excerpts from an almanac issued by that organization in 1762. Part II concerns rates charged and postmarks, divided into five periods; bureaus K to M; the bureau of the regular post office for local mail; and how letters from the local office were sent outside of Paris, to the surroundings and farther off.

There are many clear illustrations, both of letters with various markings and of original decrees. Printing and paper are excellent. This is an outstanding example of the origins of mails in cities. It helps to know French, but the illustrations will be savored by all postal historians. --E.M. Cohn

Joseph Schallenberg, *Die Relais der Norddeutschen Feldpost im Deutsch-Französischen Kriege 1870-1871 und während der Besatzungszeit bis 1873* (The Relais of the North German Fieldpost in the Franco-German War 1870-1871 and During the Time of Occupation Until 1873), 1994, 7 x 9", 191 pp., many ills., 3 maps, DM39.50 softbound or DM54.50 hardbound (both postpaid) from author, Thieboldgasse 114, D-50676 Köln, Germany.

This is yet another example of excellent postal historical research that could have been done as much as a century and a quarter ago, when the information would undoubtedly have been much easier to obtain. No matter, the results have become available now, together with indications of what information is as yet missing.

The first 35 pages contain generalities about the operations. Part I is an introduction that mentions the advantages of different types of existing literature on the subject. Part II tells briefly about the organization and personnel of the fieldpost. Part III covers means, i.e., organization and reports, orders, surveys, marking devices and styles, postal stationery, vehicles, postal stations, mobile and stationery offices, communication lines, and end of the service. The main part, pp. 37-189, consists of a description of relais locations and whatever pertinent details are available, arranged in alphabetical order. This is followed by a brief list of publications used by the author. The text is frequently interrupted by contemporary sketches of fieldpost operations, of towns and regional views as they appeared then, equipment used, and, in back, a full-size reproduction of the third edition of a fieldpost map dated 18 January 1871, the day when the German Empire was proclaimed in the Hall of Mirrors at the palace of Versailles.

Although the book is intended as an aid for collectors of such fieldpost correspondence, I acquired it because I thought it might be useful to me for my collection of [French] siege mail from that period as well as a better understanding of the functioning of the French mails in the occupied zone and interruption of the German mails by the French as well — another example of an unintended use of a work.

Indeed, the author did not disappoint me. He mentions attacks on German mails by armed French civilians, attacks by *francs-tireurs* (free-shooters) on the field railway in France, the attack on a mail van by the population of Sens-sur-Yonne on 14 November, also friction between French and German postal employees who were expected to work together. He points out that Pont-à-Mousson was the central town through which all German telegrams to and from Berlin had to pass, so that was one place where the French would have found it particularly difficult to pass mail clandestinely. The siege and bombardment of Toul were relatively short. Immediately afterwards, the population streamed out of town and started with its grape harvest (which, according to rumor, was the reason for the quick capitulation.)

Some of the requirements for fieldpost mail are likely to have existed for normal mail of other countries as well, e.g., that bundles of mail had to be firmly tied and marked on top by the place of destination, bundles had to be further combined according to mailroutes or provinces, exceptionally bundles could be headed 'Unsorted Correspondence,' which were then to be presorted and quickly moved on by the nearest post office at the seat of an *Ober-Postdirektion* (Superior Post Office).

Paper, printing, and binding are excellent, typos are minimal. This is an excellent contribution to the literature on wartime mails. A knowledge of German is necessary.

--E. M. Cohn

## SOME SHOW REPORTS

*[Earlier (#241, July 1995), I had assumed that Thomas Taylor, who received a Bronze medal at DELPEX '95, was a new exhibitor. Perhaps new with French Cameroun, but not otherwise, for he's much better known to many of us as "Tuck" Taylor, the paper-protector man!]*

- > WISCOPEX '95 (Madison, WI, April 1995): Grand Award and Gold medal to Barbara Mueller for her Wisconsin postal history exhibit.
- > ROPEX '95 (Rochester, NY, April): Vermeil medal to Dave Herendeen for his British Commonwealth postage dues exhibit.
- > STAMPOREE '95 (Jupiter, FL, May): Gold medal to Walter Brooks for "Siege of Paris Balloon Mail."
- > PIPEX '95 (Victoria, British Columbia, June): Gold medal to Bob Heasman for "France-Prestamp to 1875."
- > NAPEX '95 (Tysons Corner, VA, June): Vermeil medal to our President, Dick Stevens, for "Bulgarian Occupation of Serbia and Yugoslavia."
- > TEXPEX '95 (Dallas, TX, June): Gold medal to Eliot Landau for one of his many U.S. exhibits.
- > A.P.S. STAMPSHOW 95 (St. Louis, MO, August): Gold medal and Postal History Society medal to Earle Plyler for "U.S. 2¢ Rates." Prix d'Honneur to Paul Larsen's "German Togo, 1885-1914" in the Champion of Champions competition. In Literature, Ernst Cohn's "Ordinary Mail by Diplomatic Means during the Siege of

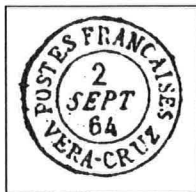
Paris 1870-1871" received a Gold medal with Felicitations; "The Postmarks and Postal History of the Cameroons Under British Administration, 1916-1961," by R. J.; Maddocks and member Marty Bratzel, received a Vermeil, as did "Postal History Journal Cumulative Index 1957-1993," edited by Steve Washburne; while our "France & Colonies Philatelist" received a Silver. Among those members we happened to see there were: Ernst Cohn (splendidly rewarded), Cheryl Ganz (Literature judge), Dave Grossblatt, Dave Herendeen (Apprentice judge), Mark Isaacs (APS 25-year membership award), Eliot Landau, Paul Larsen, John and Jo Lievsay, Stan Luft, Alain Mehl, Alain Millet (from Paris), Barbara Mueller, Lowell Newman, Earle Plyler, Stephen Schoening (representing Boys Town), Jay Smith, Steve Washburne, and Dick Winter. Hope we didn't miss anyone.

- BALPEX '95 (Baltimore, MD, September): Reserve Grand Award and Gold medal to Ed Grabowski for "Guadeloupe--The Development and Use of the French Colonies General Issues."
- Omaha Stamp Show 95 (Omaha, NE, September): Gold medal to Steve Washburne for "Portugal Classics"; Silver medals to Huguette Gagnon for "Free French Forces at Work" and to Chuck LaBlonde for "Swiss Machine Cancels"; Silver-Bronze medal to Chuck for "The Swiss deCoppet Postmarks."
- MILCOPEX '95 (Milwaukee, WI, September): Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "French Somaliland 1890-1960."
- SESCOPEX '95 (Los Angeles, CA, October): Gold medals to Dave Herendeen for "Postage Dues of the British Empire and Commonwealth," and to Eliot Landau for "U.S. Registry System to 1920"; Vermeil medal to Gene Tinsley for "Tasmania Postal Markings."
- AIRPEX '95 (Dayton, OH, October): Grand Award and Gold medal to Shirley Gallagher for "Postal History of Tahiti and Surrounding French Polynesia" (well done, Shirley!); Gold medals to Paul Larsen for "Ubangi-Shari 1900-1939" (a new exhibit!), and to Eliot Landau for "6¢ Lincoln Large Bank Notes Issues 1870-1885"; Silver medal to George Mayer for "French India 1864-1954." Scott Gallagher received a Gold medal for his one-frame exhibit on the 10¢ Knoxville Postmaster's Provisional. Mark Isaacs served on the jury.
- Peach State Stamp Show (Duluth, GA, October): Silver-Bronze medal to Bob Kinsley for "Mostly 18th Century Letters of France."
- VAPEX '95 (Virginia Beach, VA, October): Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "The French Pacification of Tonkin 1884-1904."
- Postage Stamp Mega-Event (New York City, NY, November): Gold Medal to Ed Grabowski for his Guadeloupe exhibit (see BALPEX, above, for title).

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*[Identification of Qs and As by the Whole Number of this journal having caused some confusion among readers, we will henceforth use the last two digits of the year in which the Question appears in print. But we still hope to receive As to those as-yet-unanswered previous Qs.]*

- Q. 96-1.** Does anyone have a clue as to the origin and use of this blue date stamp POSTES FRANÇAISES/VERA-CRUZ, of 2 September 1864? Struck on a stampless cover from Mexico City to Paris, via Mexican(?) PO at Vera Cruz and British Postal Agency there (latter dated 1 September 1864). then transiting London and Calais. I suspect that this, perhaps also the Mexican(?) Vera Cruz, marking are both unnecessary, and may have been added long after 1864. (SJL)



- Q. 96-2** *Gazette des Absents* No. 2, flown from besieged Paris to writer's wife or sister at Nevers; 26 October 1870 Paris date stamps. Arrived Nevers 1(?) November. Opened there with messages added in a different hand, then resealed and forwarded to Moulins-sur-Allier (arrow points to 2 November Moulins arrival backstamp, on top of Nevers 1). Was this friendly and charitable act condoned by the postal au-

thorities? Or were regulations more relaxed during those trying wartime days? Does anyone have similar examples? (RRB)




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## F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

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### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It is now just one week after the end of the Fall Philatelic Mega-Event in New York City. I believe this will be considered to have been a very successful show. The attendance was good, with reasonable numbers of customers around the dealer's booths even on the fourth day, Sunday. The facilities at the Javits Center are very nice, with carpeted floors, and a view over the Hudson River, for those who could tear their eyes away from stamps and covers. Unfortunately some of our members find the location, three long blocks west of the subways, distinctly inconvenient. The meeting rooms were excellent, with audio-visual equipment readily available; however they were located, together with the exhibit area, three floors below the hall where all the people were; most visitors probably never knew they were there. Ed Grabowski succeeded (where your President has always failed) in being able to cancel his talk since there was no audience. I was one of that vast majority that did not look at the exhibits, but I am told the light was so dim that the judges could have used flashlights.

Our Society has maintained a long record of participation in the New York shows organized by the A.S.D.A., and recently known as Philatelic Mega-Events. We were participants in the INTERPEX show from its beginning, before it was taken over by A.S.D.A. Ten years ago, when I first became president, we were able to recruit fifteen people to sit at the Society's booth. In recent years, this group has dwindled to six or so, mostly directors of our Society, and frequently several of them have had other responsibilities at the show. A booth that is empty a significant part of the time is undesirable for both the Society and the show.

The first priority of the A.S.D.A. in running its shows has always been to serve its own members, the dealers. Exhibits and society booths have always been secondary. Recently locations of the society booths have disappeared from published floor plans of the shows. When they were shown on the floor plans, they were often incorrectly placed. I was particularly unhappy this fall that the France & Colonies Philatelic

Society was also omitted from the list of participating societies published in the stamp newspapers. The A.S.D.A. management could provide no excuse for this omission since our application was one of the first they received. One of my presidential duties has been to bring the Society's banner and sample publications, and open up the booth on the first day of the show. In the past, it has frequently been necessary to search for the space allocated and then find it missing essential items like chairs. This year was the absolute worst! We were one of five societies that had been put together in a corner, with one chair and about six feet of counter space to share. Apparently the management had wanted to give the societies space near the exhibit area, but no one was prepared to accept that exile to outer Siberia. Eventually other tables were set up for some of the societies, and more chairs were brought, but the space for our Society remained less than desirable.

In view of these problems, I do not anticipate that the France & Colonies Philatelic Society will have a booth at the next Philatelic Mega-Event in New York, which is now planned for the Javits Center in February or March. All our local directors are also members of the Collectors Club of New York, and it should be possible to contact us through their booth. With the discontinuance of Society participation in the New York shows, we will look toward more frequent visits to shows in other cities.

--Dick Stevens

#### ESTELLE ROBBINS NAMED LIFE MEMBER

At its November meeting the Board elected Estelle Robbins an honorary life member. Estelle is the wife of our long-time dealer member and frequent meeting-speaker Lou Robbins. Although not a member of the Society, Estelle frequently joins us, with her husband, for dinner before our program meetings. In conferring this honor, the Board particularly wishes to recognize Estelle's efforts in faithfully and punctually preparing the cards sent to local members announcing the monthly meetings.

#### ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting for the presentation of reports and election of officers and directors will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 1996, at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, N.Y.

#### MEETING OF 2 MAY 1995

We began with our annual meeting and the current slate of Officers and Board Members were reelected by acclamation. Bob Stone was voted to receive the Gerard Gilbert Award for the best English language publication relating to French area material for his tome entitled: **A Caribbean Neptune: The Maritime Postal Communications of the Greater and Lesser Antilles in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**. This is available from Leonard Hartmann for those who have yet to purchase a copy, and is most heartily recommended.

Thereafter, Lou Robbins took to the floor to discuss one of his favorite topics - philatelic literature. Lou noted that philatelic literature is more discussed than purchased and even less used. Half of what has been published, should have never been published. Modern publication methods have resulted in an increase in philatelic literature, but have done nothing for consumption which has remained static. Lou advised that authors should strive to publish in major publications with a circulation of at least 1,000 copies, if possible, to assure the widest possible distribution. One problem with limited-edition philatelic literature in today's world is cost. A simple 24-page pamphlet could run as high as \$20, and collectors seem to be unwilling to spend this amount on literature, yet they do spend thousands on stamps. Lou felt that these people generally put together poor collections.

One area of great need is philatelic indexing by knowledgeable philatelists. We are pleased to note that President Stevens is preparing a new **INDEX** for *FCP* covering all the years since the last **INDEX**. Thereafter followed a spirited discussion of literature and indexing.

--Ed Grabowski

#### MEETING OF 5 SEPTEMBER

Instead of beginning the philatelic season with an update on my Colonial Allegorical Group Type, it was my pleasure to present this evening my developing collection of Colonies General Issues as used in Guadeloupe. Probably the many articles of Bob Stone on the subject originally piqued my interest in this area. In addition, Guadeloupe

was one of the larger Colonies and the General Issues saw much use, at least relatively. Thus, one has the hope of being able to acquire some of the rarer rates. Highlights of the collection include uses from many of the smaller offices, a broad selection of printed matter rates and examples of the military rates applicable during the period of the General Issues use. In the printed matter section, Eagles rates of 4c (via the British Agency to Demerara at 1p due), 12c and rare 13c were shown. In the 1870s period, a 12c printed matter rate franked with twelve 1c Napoleons and one franked with a 10c Cérés (p.c.) and two 1c Napoleons both canceled with the GPE lozenge were shown in addition to 4c local and 8c overseas rates franked with Cérés issues. From the Sage-Dubois period, a 2c local wrapper (two 1c Sage issues) and a 3c marriage announcement (second weight level franked with Dubois and Sage issues) highlighted the section. After a good outing at **BALPEX '95**, the collection is hopefully going with John and Jo Lievsay to Turkey in September of '96. I hope that I can go with it!

--Ed Grabowski

### THE 1995 STEPHEN G. RICH MEMORIAL EXHIBIT

The Stephen G. Rich Exhibit was held as the program for the society's regular meeting on October 3, 1995. The Jewish holidays, as well as certain personal commitments, contributed to producing a small audience for the evening's presentation of just three exhibits.

The first prize was given to our Editor, Stan Luft, for his exhibit *A Postal History of Rixheim*. The claim to fame of this small town in Alsace comes from the use of its 3154 Large Numeral postmark, during the 1870s, on mail from Quito, Ecuador. In addition to one on-cover and five off-cover examples of the usage from Ecuador, the exhibit included covers from Rixheim under the alternating French and German regimes, beginning with an 1833 pre-stamp entire and ending with a 1993 priority mail envelope.

The recipient of the second prize was our non-resident Director, Bob Kinsley, for his exhibit *The "F" Stamp*. These stamps were given to refugees from the Spanish Civil War. The exhibit showed covers using these special stamps from many of the internment camps established for them in France.

The third exhibit was from our President, Dick Stevens, and entitled *The POSTES SERBES Marking. What Stamps Were Really Used?*. This marking, which is treated by the French catalogs like an overprint, was used by the "Ministerial Post Office" of the Serbian Government-in-Exile on Corfu during 1917 and 1918. This exhibit showed examples of the 5c, 10c, 15c, 25c, 40c, and 50c on regular paper, and the 5c, 15c, 40c, & 50c on GC paper, which were all definitely sold and used at the Ministerial Office. There were also examples of the use: of the 35c, which was probably sold for a short time at the Ministerial Office; the 1 Franc, which might have been sold there; and the 45c, the 10c post card, and the 15c envelope, all of which were almost certainly not available for purchase at that office.

### MEETING OF 7 NOVEMBER

Our president was the speaker, and the topic was the Antilles Tercentenary Issue of Martinique, which was also the subject of his entry in the 1994 Rich Exhibit. This issue has the distinction of being the only commemorative issue of Martinique to have designs specifically for that colony. The exhibit featured the three artist's drawings, which are reproduced elsewhere in this journal, and an example of the color error of the 5F printed in ultramarine, one of the rarest varieties from Martinique. This stamp appears to be in the color regularly used for the 1F.50, and is listed in the Yvert catalog. Although priced both mint and used, it appears to exist only in unused condition.

The subtext of the talk was the many questions raised by this apparently simple issue. What are the circumstances of the issuance of the 5F ultramarine? When were the stamps on sale in Martinique, and how many of each value? The data published in the contemporary philatelic press only tell when the stamps were available at the Philatelic Agency in Paris. Definitely 25,000 sets were printed; the catalog pricing suggests that more were printed of the two low values. Yet your exhibitor has found these values the most difficult to find on cover. Since they matched the postcard and letter rates for mail to France, they must have all been used up rapidly, and then soaked off the cards and covers in France. The 1F.50 is the most expensive normal stamp in the set: it covered the foreign letter rate, and is the most common on cover. The 5F and 10F were unneeded on most mail, appear to have remained at the post offices in Martinique for as many as four years, long after their removal from sale in Paris, and eventually were used up on occasional airmail letters.



## NEW MEMBERS

- 3054 EVANS, JOHN J., JR., 662 W. Aldine Ave., Chicago, IL 60657-3410. (General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Special Issues: Dues - Newspaper - Stationery - Revenues - Locals - Parcel Post.)
- 3055 HIGGINS, WILLIAM J., JR., 333 Lake Avenue, #801, Racine, WI 53403. (General Collector: 19th & 20th Century. General France: Mint, Never Hinged. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint, Never Hinged - Blanc, Mouchon & Merson Types. Precancels.)
- 3056 DUNCAN, ROBERT F., 16 Woodhall Park Mount, Pudsey - West Yorkshire LS28 7HE, England. (General France: Used - On Cover. Stampless Covers. Regular Issues: Used - On Cover - Cancellations. Modern France: Used - On Cover - Sowers - Coils - Booklets. Special Issues: Stationery - Revenues - Slogan Cancels - Aerogrammes. Exchange.)
- 3057 EWING, SCOT F., 2505 McArthur St., Lakeland, FL 33801. (Specialized France: Military & Railway Posts - Used Abroad. Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used - On Cover - 1870-1871 Issues - Cancellations. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint - Sowers - Air Mails. Air Meets First Flight, Etc. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3058 QUINBY, ROGER P., P.O. Box 12606, Albany, NY 12212. (Modern France: Used - On Cover - Blanc, Mouchon & Merson Types - Sowers. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. All Colonies And Territories.)
- 3059 MONK, WILLIS, Box 1452, Collegedale, TN 37315. (Topical: The Bible. General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Modern France: Mint - Used - On Cover - Air Mails - Coils. CFA Issues. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. Togo.)
- 3060 GARFINKEL, MARTIN, 1111 Crandon Blvd., #B-502, Key Biscayne, FL 33149. (Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. St. Pierre & Miquelon; Somali Coast.)
- 3061 GARDNER, LARRY, P.O. Box 362, Roselawn, IN 46372. (French Community: Offices Abroad. French Offices In Morocco.)

## REINSTATEMENTS

- 2786 BLASER, MARK, 310 Main St., Freemansburg, PA 18017. (Already In Directory.)
- 2112 HOGLE, REID, P.O. Box 685, Lakebay, WA 98349. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint. Modern France: Mint - Blanc, Mouchon & Merson Types - Sowers - Air Mails - Coils. Colonies General Issues: Mint. French Polynesia; New Hebrides/ Vanuatu.)
- 2924 BARHAM, TERRY A., 12615 SE 164th St., Renton, WA 98058-4458 (New Address). (Special Issues: Revenues - Cinderella - Exposition, Propaganda And Charity Labels Of Laos - Cambodia - North & South Vietnam - French Indochina. Also Philatelic Literature & Exchange of these Colonies. Collects pre-1976 Annam & Tonkin, Cochinchina.)

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2739 ROBERTS, STEPHEN S., 900 N. Stafford St., Apt. 2124, Arlington, VA 22203-1850.
- 2642 REGELIN, CLINTON D., 7400 Crestway, Apt. 1016, San Antonio, TX 78239-3095.
- 2643 GAETJENS, KAY, 34, Avenue Marceau, F-75008 Paris, France.
- 2628 DESJARDINS, ROBERT, 8 De Lery, Apt. 5, Boucherville, Quebec J4B 4K6, Canada.
- 2180 KINSLEY, ROBERT T., 949 North 60th Avenue, W. Richland, WA 99353 (Zip Code Change).
- 2103 KERMAN, ARNIE, Cricket Philatelics, P.O. Box 2267, Stamford, CT 06906.
- 2829 JENNINGS, DAVID, 3812 Trailview Dr., Carrollton, TX 75007-6285 (Spelling correction of street name).
- 1736 ARELLANO, REFUGIO, 2037 Barclay Court, Santa Ana, CA 92701-3104.
- 2955 KARNES, JOHN P., P.O. Box 1670, New Castle, PA 16103-1670. (Zip Code Change).
- 2945 REISMAN, CHARLES G., 88 Cuhermill Road, Apt. 412, Great Neck, NY 11021.
- 3034 MADELEINE, CHARLES, 1315 Poplar Hill Dr., Annapolis, MD 21401.
- 1817 LAYTON, PHILLIP R., 10241 Crosscut Way, Damacus, MD 20872.
- 2108 GALLAGHER, SCOTT, Change Name Designation To Read: Scott and Shirley Gallagher, 722 Eagle View Court, Mason, OH 45040.
- 1903 NUSSBAUM, RALPH J., 5070 N. Ocean Drive, Apt. 16D, Singer Island, FL 33404.
- 1334 SEEKE, BOB, 110 Morey Park Rd., Nassau, NY 12123-9711.
- 2912 ROTTMAN, MILTON, 100 Worth Ave., #403, Palm Beach, FL 33480.
- 2373 GARNSEY, THOMAS, R.R. 1, Box 91K, Lyons Falls, NY 13368.
- 2918 LARSON, PETER S., 602 S. Adams St., Moscow, ID 83843.
- 3022 CYKMAN, GREG, P.O. Box 471360, San Francisco, CA 94147-1360 (Correction of Name Spelling & Change Of Address.)
- 3024 BLANCHARD, ANDREW, 71 Templeton Parkway, Watertown, MA 02172-3519.
- 1892 CHAPMAN, HARRY, 187 Newman St., Brentwood, NY 11717-6301.

## REMOVED FROM MAILING LIST

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1591 HOBE, ROBERT (Resigned)                               | 2936 RIDEOUT, A. EDWIN (Resigned)   |
| 3007 VALI, ALADAR (Resigned)                               | 3045 HOLBROOK, ALLEN J. (Resigned)  |
| 2958 WOODFORD, GLEN A. (Resigned)                          | 2264 ARCH, BRAD (Resigned)          |
| 2314 PINCHOT, DANIEL (Resigned)                            | 2281 BLACK, T. WAYNE (Resigned)     |
| 2902 ENGLE, ROBERT L. (Resigned)                           | 2681 CRABTREE, ROBERT H. (Resigned) |
| 2062 PARKMAN, PETER (Resigned)                             | 2182 CARMODY, ROBERT E. (Deceased)  |
| 2468 DEMERITE, GEORGE E. (Box closed; no current address)  |                                     |
| 2756 BOSE, GURU P. (Expelled; conduct unbecoming a member) |                                     |