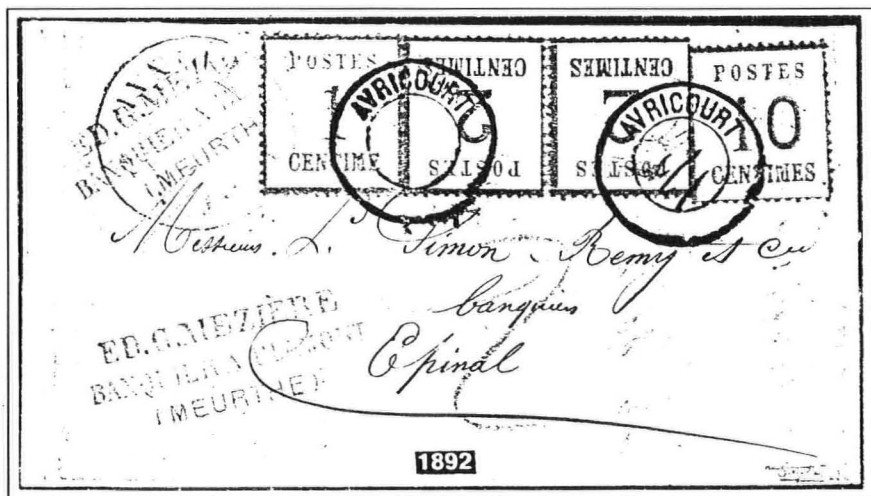




France & Colonies Philatelist



A rather well known and often resold aristocrat of a cover from the time of the Franco-Prussian War. Originating in occupied Blamont (Meurthe) and sent from occupied Avrincourt to occupied Epinal (Vosges), it is a fascinating item because of (1) the use of 1c and 2c Occupation stamps to help make up a total franking of 15c and, even more so, (2) its provisional Avrincourt cancels, wherein the date had to be inserted by hand (right-hand cancel). Finally, (3) the 2 décimes (blue crayon 2) was a special local Vosges Dept. tax to help pay the wages of the French postal employees in that department, before the posts came under German administration.

CONTENTS

ARTICLES

Reunion: A Study Of An Overprinted Stamp (*Felix Mille*).....71

The 1906 Postage Dues Of New Caledonia (*David L. Herendeen*).....76

Forgeries Of Duala Kamerun Postmarks - Addendum No. 3 (*M.P. Bratzel, Jr.*).....83

A Lexicon Of Abbreviations (And Acronyms On French Date Stamps Of 1960-1995) (*Patrick Lavenas*).....87

SHORTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories - 21 (*Ernst M. Cohn*)68

Balloon Mail - A World Record Flight (*Robert T. Kinsley*)69

A Further Use For French High-Value Stamps, 1942-1956 (*Stanley J. Luft*).....79

Why I Collect The Sowers -- Discussion (*G.E. Barker*)85

Some Other French Philatelic Journals And Societies.....90

Indo-China To Switzerland Airmail - 1936 Covers And Rates (Discussion)91

REGULAR FEATURES

The Carnet Corner (*Bob Seeke*).....67

Members' Appeals.....89

Questions And Answers89

Announcements And News89

Random Editorial Jottings.....91

Some Show Reports92

Review93

New Issues And Withdrawals.....94

SOCIETY NEWS

President's Letter.....95

Official Notices.....95

Membership Changes96

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FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST

USPS #207700

ISSN 0897-1293

Published quarterly by the
FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC. (N.Y.)
Affiliate No. 45, American Philatelic Society

The *France & Colonies Philatelist* is the official journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc. Permission to reprint material appearing in this journal is granted provided that proper credit is given the *France & Colonies Philatelist* and that the Editor is notified. The quoting or paraphrasing, in whole or in part, of any material therein should be properly attributed to its author and to this journal.

July 1996 - Vol. 52, No. 3, Whole No. 245

Second-class postage paid at Bloomfield, NJ

Office of Publication: 103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003

An additional entry office at Platteville, WI 53818

Printing arranged by: Jay Smith, P.O. Box 650, Snow Camp, NC 27349

Dues \$11.00 per year. Parent Chapter and Foreign \$15.00 (plus \$5.00 admission fee)

A subscription to the *F & C Philatelist* (at \$11.00 per year) is included in the membership dues.

All communications about membership, subscriptions, publications, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary,
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:

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THE CARNET CORNER

by Bob Seeke (FCPS #1334)

This time, let's talk about a phenomenon that began early in this century, lapsed for many years, then re-emerged five or six years ago. (I think. Can anyone help?)

This is the *carnet privé*, a privately printed booklet containing genuine stamps, but printed/issued to commemorate a person or event. Many were issued by stamp clubs to note a club-sponsored stamp show or bourse. Some honored a significant anniversary of a historic site. Still others were issued simply to promote the issuing organization.

Most of the *privées* contain a strip of four or five, or a block of eight to ten, of the 10c or 20c stamps currently in use, i.e. Liberté or Briat. The covers have printing on them ranging from very simple black text to multi-colored graphics of excellent quality. Some include, inside the front cover, a stamp which France issued relative to the theme of the booklet. Examples of this are shown in Figures 1 and 2. Figure 1 shows the front cover of a *privé* issued for a stamp show ("Expo/Bourse") put on by the Freyming-Merlebach Stamp Club. Figure 2 shows the inside of the booklet. The booklet honors Ste. Barbara, patron of artillerymen, miners and firefighters. Why Ste. Barbara? I don't know. Can anyone help?

These booklets made, for me, a fun sidelight to one of my specialties - modern booklets. I have, of course, some duplicates. If you would like one, please send a small SASE to Bob Seeke, 110 Morey Park Rd., Nassau, NY 12123.

Til next time, *bonne philatélie*.



Figure 1.

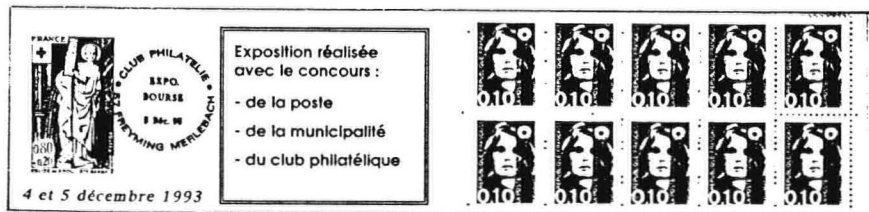


Figure 2.

AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES - 21**by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)**

In a paper that appeared in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* (November-December 1994), I explained the history of the political censorship mark that was applied only to Paris balloon mail and for less than one month in 1870. A listing of known strikes, both in German and in French, is shown there on Table 1, page 363.

Exhibit 174 at FINLANDA 95 by John H. Levett included an example of that marking, in German, on a German edition of the news by *Correspondance Havas* that was sent to Berlin. No dates were visible on the cover as displayed nor mentioned in the write-up. John agreed to let me have that information so that I might determine whether his example is included in Table 1. While waiting for his reply, I decided to check the information I had taken from his exhibit against that in the table.

A German *Havas* addressed to Berlin, with the German censorship cachet, is the fourth item in that table. It had been in the Schatzkes and Schlegel collections and is illustrated in the 1990 edition of Lhéritier's book on page 76. Considering the fact that the cover was not distributed in Berlin until 20 November, the balloon is, of course, doubtful. Everything factual appeared to agree between the notes I took about the exhibited item and the listed item, except for one major point — the listed item is addressed to the *National Zeitung*, the exhibited item to the *Volkszeitung*, both in Berlin. What, upon first glance, had appeared to be a single item turns out to be two distinct items, one of which had not been accessible to me before the show at Helsinki.

The *Volkszeitung's Havas* may have been flown out of Paris on the same balloon and to have been picked up by the Germans at the same time as the *National Zeitung's Havas*.

The present count is ten covers with the North German League's cachet in blue, of which three are struck in French and seven in German. It is not known why there should be such an excess of German over French strikes, but considering their over-all scarcity, the imbalance cannot be considered to be significant at present. Let us see how many more turn up of each in the next ten years!

* * * * *

The moral of the story (and every old-fashioned story must have a moral) is this: When making lists of covers and when taking notes about individual ones for later use, be sure to retain more information than is likely to be needed eventually so as to avoid counting one cover more than once or confusing similar pieces with each other.

If possible, note full names (and titles, if any) with addresses of both writer and recipient, handwritten date, details of earliest postmark (not just town and date but also p.o. name and time of processing, if available, color of strike if other than black, type of postmark, etc.) details of all other postmarks, filing notations, and type of contents. When making listings, err on the side of excess information, which just might come in handy for use in a totally different connection and for someone else, even years later.

It is one of the marks of good factual writing that it is reliable and useful not only at the moment but even many years later. The writing may contain

errors, usually based upon false assumptions or upon theoretical considerations that do not hold water as more details become available in time. Hence it is important to clearly show what, if any, assumptions have been made and what is as yet unproven theory. That will make it easier to correct the stories and to get at the real facts later on.

BALLOON MAIL -- A WORLD RECORD FLIGHT

by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)

The famous balloon post of the 1870-1871 Siege of Paris was, of course, not the only example of mail carried by French balloons. One of the pilots of a Siege balloon, Louis Godard of "Le Jules Favre I," was later to set two world records, unintentionally, as he attempted to carry mail by balloon from Germany to France.

France's participation at the big international exposition of 1897 in Leipzig, which began 21 April, included a captive balloon that, despite its cable attachment, thrilled its many riders. The hydrogen balloon, called the "Aug. Polich" and made at the Champ-de-Mars factory in Paris (Figure 1: Lot 1835 from Baudot's 166th mail sale, December 1994), was a major attrac-



Figure 1.

tion at the fair. After months of trouble-free operation, Godard decided to "fly" the balloon back to France. In the closing days of the exposition the winds were a favorable east-northeast, but authorities would not allow this popular attraction to leave until the fair closed. A huge crowd watched its departure at 5:15 p.m. on 19 October, with six passengers, copilot Eugene Taupin, and an impressive total weight of 3535 kilograms.

The winds increased, their direction changed, and the voyage was both difficult and demanding; it was chronicled in detail by Godard and published in 1897 by L'Imprimerie Louis Lambert, Rue Molière, Paris. It set a world record for both time aloft, 24¼ hours, reaching a height of 3240 meters, and for distance covered, 1665 kilometers, finally landing 20 October in the little Silesian village of Tarnau near the Austrian border (Figure 2).

Even in that period, any event became a philatelic opportunity, and the news that Godard would pilot his balloon from the fair back to France apparently stimulated "La Société de l'Ascension Libre" to put on board some 2400

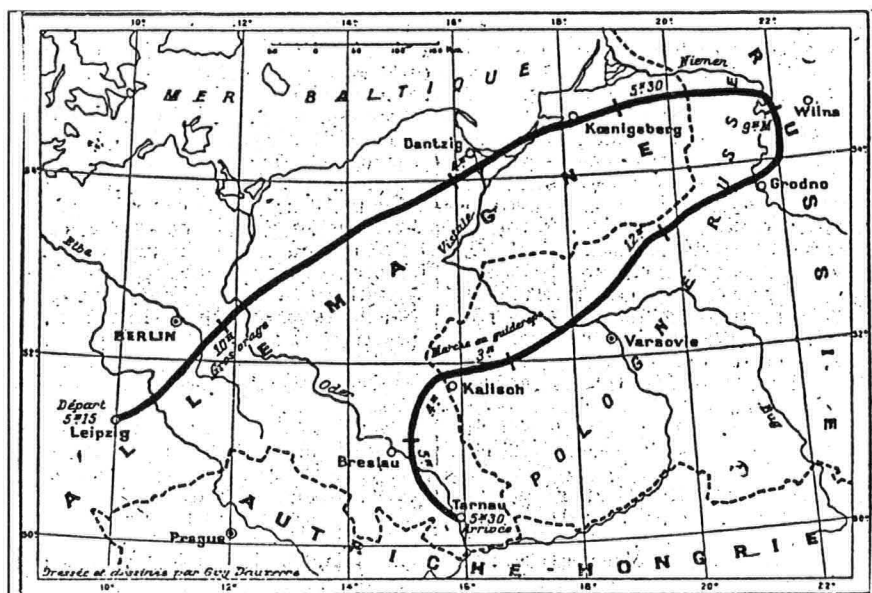


Figure 2.



Figure 3.

in a week; upon this arrival it was necessary for the Director of Posts of nearby Oppeln to dispatch two more employees to Tarnau.

It is reported that Godard carried a number of other postcards (Figure 5) as special souvenirs. These received not only the Leipzig departure handstamp and Tarnau arrival postmark, but subsequently also a special handstamp (Figure 6) identifying the route, time, distance, and maximum altitude of the trip. Examples of postcards from this balloon airmail are rare.

[Figures 2-4, and 6 are from Paul Maincent's review of Godard's chronicle, in *L'Echangiste Universel*, N° 596, December 1949. Figure 5 is Lot 567 from A. Siegel's (New York) May 23, 1995 mail auction.]

exposition postcards (1000 of which were registered) of the captive balloon addressed and bearing a special handstamp (Figure 3), and which were to be placed in the regular mails upon landing. Two varieties of postmarks were applied at Tarnau (Figure 4) bearing dates of both 21 and 22 October. Godard comments that until his balloon descended on the village, the little Tarnau postal bureau handled perhaps 12 to 20 letters

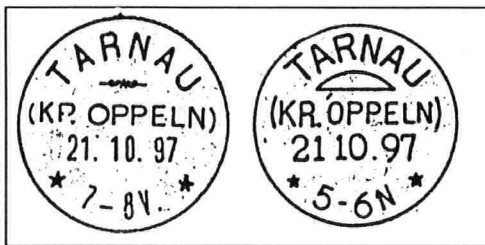


Figure 4.



Figure 5.

Figure 6.

Grande Ascension libre de 24 heures 15'
(sans escale) de Leipzig à Tarnau, Silésie,
hauteur max. 3,240 M: parcours 1,665 kil.
par Berlin, Dantzig, Königsberg, Pologne-
Russe, Wilna, Grodno, Kalisch et Breslau.
2 Records (18 h. de pluie, orages et grande
tempête). **Capne Louis GODARD.**

REUNION: A STUDY OF AN OVERPRINTED STAMP

by Felix Mille (FCPS #2907)

The first set of stamps issued exclusively for the French Colonies is known by the artist's name as the "Alphée Dubois" issues. They were printed in Paris in sheets of 150 stamps, divided horizontally into three panes of 50 stamps, with each pane subdivided vertically into two half-panes or blocks of 25 stamps--just as was the case for Metropolitan France stamps of the same period. The stamps were later extensively overprinted in many of the Colonies, as the need for certain values arose.

In the island of Reunion in the year 1893 (according to Cérès and Scott) or 1894 (according to Yvert), there was a shortage of 2c stamps and an oversupply of the 20c red on green (Scott N° 23). This resulted in an emergency overprinting of 2c values on the 20c. The printer apparently lacked sufficient clichés of one type of 2c. (Scott N° 53) slugs to cover a master block of 25 stamps, and had to resort to using two different other forms of the 2c. (Scott Nos. 54 and 55). Additionally, one example per block of the Scott 53 overprint lacked a stop after the 2c.¹ We therefore find, in each pane of 25 stamps:

1. Scott does not recognize this constant variety; I therefore informally call it "53a".

Scott

Yvert

No. of stamps

53

45

17

"53a"

45c

1

54

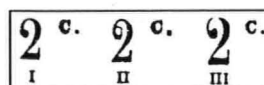
45a

6

55

45b

1



Yv 45

45a

45b

53	53	53	53	"53a"
53	53		53	54
53	53	55		
53	53	54	53	54
53	53	53	54	54
53	53	53	53	54

Figure 1. (Scott numbers shown.)

This is shown diagrammatically in Figure 1, which represents a block of 25 overprinted stamps. You will note that all four varieties can be collected in a block of as small as six stamps: positions 3-4-5 (of top row) plus 8-9-10 (of second row). This configuration was transferred six times to produce the overprinting plate for a complete sheet of 150 overprinted stamps. I will now demonstrate that the typesetting shown here is constant on every block of 25 and pane of 50 stamps from the *central* and *bottom* panes of a sheet, and suggest that the *top* pane should be no different from the rest.

Figure 2 is a reproduction of the overprints' entry in the 1929 Yvert & Tellier catalogue. The text translates as: These stamps were printed in the colony, proba-

1894 (7 Décembre). — Timbre des Colonies Françaises de 1881 surchargé.

2 c.



2 c.

	n	o	p	
45	2c sur 20 c.,	brigue sur vert (n)	1 25	1 25
	a. 2c sur 20 c. (n)		3	2 50
	b. 2c sur 20 c. (p)		20	17 50

VARIÉTÉ

45c 2 c sur 20, (sans point après le c) (a) . . . 12 50 12 50

Ces timbres ont été imprimés dans la colonie, probablement par feuilles de 150. Les 3 feuillets de 50 étaient semblables à la reproduction que nous donnons, aux pages 786 et 787, sauf que dans le bloc supérieur de 50, les 1^{er} et 10^{es} timbres n'ont pas de point après 'c' et que dans le bloc central de 50 le 5^e timbre seul n'a pas de point après le 'c'. Dans le bloc inférieur cette variété n'existe pas. Par feuille de 150, il y a donc :

3	variétés sans point
3	avec le type p
36	" " " n
108	" " " o

Figure 2.

bly in sheets of 150. The 3 panes of 50 were similar to the reproductions we show, on pages 786 and 787, except that in the upper pane of 50, the 1st and 10th stamps lack a point after the C and, in the central pane of 50, the 5th stamp alone has no dot after the C. In the bottom pane this variety does not exist. In a sheet of 150 stamps, there are

3 varieties without the dot				
3	"	with type <i>p</i>		[Yvert 45b]
36	"	"	" <i>n</i>	[Yvert 45a]
108	"	"	" <i>o</i>	[Yvert 45]

This is altogether a very different story, and the information does not agree with the panes I have seen or which are in my possession.

Upper Pane: I do not have nor have seen an upper pane of 50, but it would seem that, based upon original transfers of blocks of 25 overprint, that Yvert's text should have read 5th and 10th stamps, rather than 1st and 10th (printing error by Yvert?).

Central Pane: Yvert stated (above) that only the 5th stamp lacks a dot after the C. This contradicts the picture on pages 786-787, which is of the middle third of a sheet [*not shown here because the overprints reproduce poorly--Editor*], where both the 5th and the 10th stamps lack a stop after the C. Moreover, I have owned several central panes of 50 (which eventually split into blocks of 25 or less because of separation, with time, along the perforations). Figure 3 shows two blocks of 25 from the right side of central panes. On both blocks one can clearly see the absence of a stop after the C on the 10th stamp of the pane.

Bottom Pane: The Yvert statement that the no-dot variety does not exist is also incorrect. Figure 4 shows my bottom pane of 50, and it is clear that the 5th and 10th stamps also lack stops after the C.

Clearly, the Yvert calculations must be revised to read:

6 varieties (instead of 3) without the dot				[Yv 45c; Sc "53a"]
6	"	(")	with type <i>p</i>	[Yv 45b; Sc 55]
36	"	(no change)	with type <i>n</i>	[Yv 45a; Sc 54]
<u>102</u>	"	(instead of 108)	with type <i>o</i>	[Yv 45; Sc 53]
150 stamps				

For verification and confirmation of these findings, I would like to hear from other collectors able to shed more light on this overprinted issue, particularly from those who have the upper pane (with top margin attached) or portions thereof. I would also like to hear from those who have central or bottom panes, in whole or in part, or in any other configurations.

It is interesting to note that the 1995 Cérès catalogue prices the Scott 55 variety at 90F, whereas the no-dot variety is priced at only 50F, inasmuch as I've shown that the two varieties should be equally scarce.

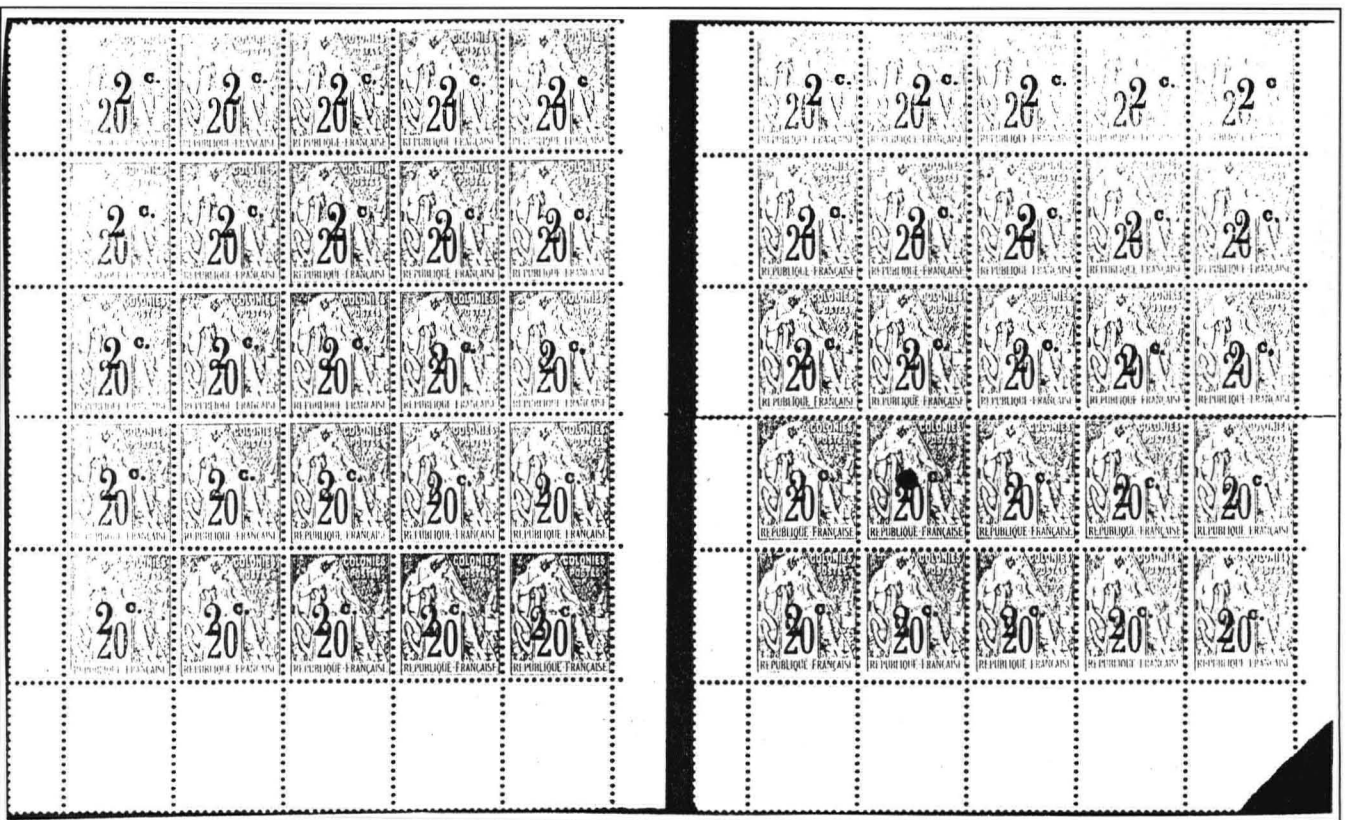


Figure 3. Blocks of 25 stamps from Central Pane.



Figure 4. Bottom pane of 50 stamps.

THE 1906 POSTAGE DUES OF NEW CALEDONIA

by David L. Herendeen (FCPS #2532)

Historical Background

Prior to 1903 when French Guiana issued the first pictorial postage due stamp in the French Empire, such stamps had been rather uninteresting. Stone¹ went so far as to say, "...postage due adhesives tend to be unpopular probably because the designs are small and unattractive..." In point of fact, with the introduction of the pictorial issues, many of France's serious artists became involved in designing and engraving Colonial stamps. This forms quite a contrast with Thomas De La Rue & Sons of London, whose house artists and designers remained almost totally anonymous during the same period.

This short article provides a record of an interesting "contest" between two such artists, Jules Jacques Puyplat and Benjamin-Louis-Auguste Damman. Both of these men had successfully created a number of Colonial pictorial issues.

Damman² was born in Dunkerque (Nord) on 26 January 1835. After studying under Charles Waltner, he made his debut as a painter at the *Salon de 1868*. Later, as an engraver, he received the Third Class Medal in 1879 and the Second Class Medal in 1883. He was awarded a Bronze medal at the Universal Exposition of 1900. His paintings still hang in the museum in Dunkerque. His first philatelic commission was to engrave the three designs used for the postage stamp issue of the French Congo in May, 1900. This series of 15 values has three different vignettes, all of which were designed by Paul Merwart. Damman's other works include postal issues for Somali Coast (1902) and Madagascar (1903).

Puyplat's specialty was engraving on wood³. I do not know if he used this technique for postage stamps. He first exhibited at the *Salon de 1877*, and he became a member of the *Société des Artistes Français* in 1893. His philatelic career was considerably more prolific than Damman's, probably due to his being (somewhat?) younger. His first work appeared in 1904 on the pictorial postage issue of French Guiana. He also executed three designs created by Merwart. He went on to design or engrave issues for 11 other colonies until 1914. During this period he engraved postage due stamps for Guadeloupe (1905), the French West African keytype (1906), Reunion (1907), and Indochina (1908).

The 1906 Design

The first regular New Caledonian postage stamps with pictorial designs appeared in 1905. They featured the popular *Cagou* Bird, the Bay of Noumea, and a sailing ship. They were designed by Vollet and engraved by Puyplat.

Although the administration appeared to be satisfied with these stamps (there were no later issues until the provisional overprints of 1912), they asked Damman to design a permanent postage due issue. A number of essays were then prepared. Figure 1 shows the essay as illustrated in *Yvert et Tellier*.³ The central design is a native spearfisherman, or *canaque*. Note that the value tablet is solid, the **F** of **RF** is clear, and, while there are a few birds and rocks, there is very little detail in the sky or water. I have one copy of



Figure 1.

22mm, and the spear is 10mm in length.

This was followed by yet a third essay, shown in Figure 3. Originally, I believed that this was a second state of the first essay because the basic elements are identical to those of Figure 1. However, significant detail had



Figure 3.

appears to have happened.

Sometime during the design cycle, Puyplat must have been asked to prepare his own design. This essay, shown in Figure 4, is such an obvious plagiarism of the Damman scheme that it defies logic. Note that the attribution to Puyplat is quite simple in that there is a large **P** at the center of the base of the design. What Puyplat did was design a new figure using all of the same frame and venue elements that Damman had created. However, a close look at the fisherman makes him appear to be Santa Claus in a loincloth! Travelers to Polynesia who are familiar with the locals can attest to the fact that there are no islanders with such an appearance. Although many artists, most notably Gauguin, had traveled extensively in Polynesia, I doubt that Damman, Vollet and Puyplat had made the sojourn to these wonderful islands. I am surprised that they did not have better photographs of the locals to use as a guide. On the other hand, I have seen some etchings and drawings dating to the 18th Century that do show heavily bearded Polynesia men. Perhaps the

this essay printed on glazed card, and a second on coarse paper. The design measures 17mm by 21mm, and the spear is 9mm long.

Damman clearly continued with the design work. In fact, I believe that he prepared a second new die, which is shown in Figure 2. Here, the value tablet has been completed for the 30c value, and the **F** in **RF** has been shaded. The sky and water have the same shading, but the face of the fisherman is considerably finer drawn. The design now measures 17mm by



Figure 2.



Figure 4.

rendition used in those essays would have been accurate at some point in history.

The Puyplat essay was also rejected, and, in my opinion, rightly so. However, I believe that the conceptual design of this stamp pleased the local

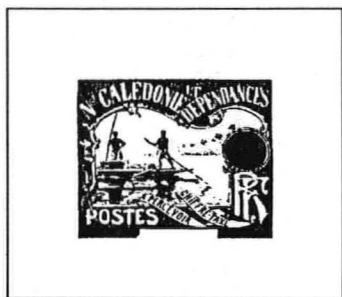


Figure 5.

authorities because it represented a very familiar scene in the islands. They commissioned Vollet and Puyplat once again to create a new design while maintaining the theme of these essays. This time, while keeping the spearfishing theme, Vollet "zoomed out," as it were, added a second fisherman and made both figures significantly smaller so that the details of their faces would not be discernible. Figure 5 shows the die proof of the new design with a blank for the bottom tablet. The names of Vollet and Puyplat were added here later. A

number of trial color proofs were run on various colored papers. Figure 6 shows one such piece that includes the endorsements for selecting the colors for each of the values.

The full set of eight values was released in 1906, and thus ended a rather strange story of stamp-design intrigue.



Figure 6.

References

1. Stone, R.G., "Postage Due Stamps and Usages in French Colonies," *The Congress Book 1970*, American Philatelic Congress, 1970.
2. *Dictionnaire des Peintres, Sculpteurs, Dessinateurs et Graveurs*, E. Bénézit (ed.), Librairie Gründ, Paris, 1976.
3. *Catalogue des Timbres-Poste de la France et des Colonies Françaises*, Tome II, Yvert & Tellier, Amiens, 1936.

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

Several recent articles¹ have brought this usage to the public's eye. The service was inaugurated 28 August 1942 (effective first year, 1 October 1942-30 September 1943), with the view of augmenting the Vichy French State's revenue. This became the only way a collector could be assured of obtaining


all stamps issued during a 12-month period. Special formules, *Cartes d'Abonnement aux Emissions de Timbres-Poste* (Figure 1) were available at post offices. At first, the collector was required to order 25 (or multiples of 25) of each stamp, and pay a fee of 50Fr, for which a 50F Pétain stamp (or multiples of lesser value, if that stamp was not available) was affixed to the formule. The collector could only purchase new issues at that specified post office. Each time he/she bought stamps, the local datestamp was struck upon an empty space on the formule (Figure 2).

Starting 1 October 1943, a lowered fee of 20Fr was charged if the collector only ordered stamps of up to 10F face value. Both fees were increased 1 March 1945 to 100Fr (Figure 3) and 50Fr, respectively (see Table²); and again on 1 January 1947, to 200Fr and 100Fr, respectively.

On 21 September 1948, only one fee was in effect, at 300Fr (Figure 4); this was raised to 500Fr (Figure 5) on 6 January 1949. The service was terminated 31 December 1956.

The original formulae was revised several times. Fourteen varieties have been reported, of which seven can be considered major ones. The formulae and their stamps and multiple cancellations are eminently collectible, and are a splendid way to show high-face-value stamps, neatly cancelled on revenue "covers."

DÉTERMINATION DES QUANTITÉS DE TIMBRES SOUSCRITES			
PRIX DE VENTE TOTAL DU TIMBRE-POSTE (y compris éventuellement la surtaxe.)	Jusqu'à	Au-dessus de 10 fr. jusqu'à	Au-dessus de
	10 francs	20 francs	30 francs
a) Personnes ou groupements demandant un nombre déterminé de timbres :			
Nombre de ces timbres pour chaque émission	25	15	10
b) Personnes ou groupements demandant des feuilles entières :			
Nombre de ces feuilles pour chaque émission			



La présente carte permet au titulaire d'obtenir,
lors de chaque émission,
les quantités de timbres désignées ci-dessus.
(Métropole seulement.)

L'abonné dispose d'une semaine franche, non
comprise celle de l'émission, pour retirer les
timbres-poste constituant son abonnement. Passé
ce délai, les figurines cessent d'être réservées.
L'abonné qui ne retire pas ses figurines à l'occa-
sion de trois émissions, consécutives ou non,
est rayé de la liste des abonnés sans pou-
voir y figurer de nouveau avant une période
d'un an.

Figure 2. -- Interior of Figure 1, 50Fr fee paid with two 25F Chenonceaux stamps; shows amount of stamps requested per issue and 1944-1945 Epinal datestamps applied after each purchase.

A 19 : STAMP ORDERING FEE

This refers to an economy measure brought in in 1942 and kept in being until 1956. It did not apply to routine stamp issues; Pétain, Marianne etc. definitives which were available without restriction. However, with effect from 1 October 1942, the only way to buy "special" stamps was by placing a year's order in advance. The subscriber was issued with a "season ticket" (carte d'abonnement aux émissions de timbres-poste) bearing a stamp or stamps showing the fee paid. The stamps ordered had to be bought from a designated post office within one week (later, two weeks) of each stamp issue date.

Year ending	Fee	Fee, if stamps of more than 10F face are excluded
30.09.1943	50.	50. (no reduction)
30.09.1944	50.	20.
30.09.1946	100.	50.
30.09.1948	200.	100.
30.09.1949	300.	300. (no reduction)
31.12.1950	500.	500. (no reduction)


No subsequent changes. The service came to an end on 31 December 1956.

Rate chart for the stamp ordering service (Richardson, 1992).

Footnotes

- Among them:
Jack Blanc, *Documents Philatéliques*, #138, 1993.
Derek Richardson, *Jour. of the F&CPS* [GB], Vol. 44, #1, 1994.
Gerard Fabrègue, *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, #1661, February 1994.
Michel di Baselga, *Timbroscopie*, #118, November 1994.
- We reprint here p. 29 of Derek Richardson's *Table of French Postal Rates 1849 to date*; F&CPS of Great Britain (1992), for a concise summary of the usage, as well as for his easily followed rate chart.

DÉTERMINATION DES QUANTITÉS DE TIMBRES SOUSCRITES				
PRIS DE VENTE TOTAL DU TIMBRE (y compris éventuellement la surtaxe.)	Jusqu'à 10 francs	Au-dessus de 10 fr. jusqu'à 20 francs	Au-dessus de 20 francs	Préoblitérés (facilités de vente)
Nombre de timbres.....	5	5	5	
Nombre de feuilles.....				




AVIS IMPORTANT

La carte d'abonnement ne peut être ni cédée ni vendue.
Les droits conférés par l'abonnement ne peuvent s'exercer qu'un mois après la date de souscription ou de renouvellement.
L'abonnement commence à courir du 1^{er} octobre ou de la date de souscription si cette dernière est postérieure au 1^{er} octobre.
Il expire le 30 septembre suivant, quelle que soit la date de souscription.
Le renouvellement n'est effectué qu'à la demande expresse de l'abonné. Pour éviter une interruption de l'abonnement il est nécessaire de présenter cette demande avant le 1^{er} septembre.
Lorsqu'il s'agit de timbres vendus par séries individuelles, la série complète est considérée comme un seul timbre d'une valeur égale à l'ensemble des figurines composant la série.
L'abonné dispose de deux semaines franches, de dimanche à dimanche, non compris celle de l'émission, pour retirer les timbres constituant son abonnement. Passé ce délai les figurines cessent d'être réservées. Toutefois, à la demande expresse de l'abonné, adressée au receveur du bureau où il a demandé à retirer ses figurines, ce délai peut, exceptionnellement, être porté à un mois à partir du jour de la mise en vente.
L'abonné qui ne retire pas ses figurines à l'occasion d'une émission est rayé de la liste des abonnés sans pouvoir y figurer de nouveau avant l'expiration d'une période d'un an à compter du 1^{er} octobre suivant.

Demande de renouvellement de l'abonnement présentée le	Timbre à elle
au bureau de	

Figure 3. 100F Gandon, for reduced 100Fr fee, 1945 use (Blanc, 1993).

DÉTERMINATION DES QUANTITÉS DE TIMBRES SOUSCRITES				
PRIS DE VENTE TOTAL DU TIMBRE (y compris éventuellement la surtaxe.)	Jusqu'à 10 francs	Au-dessus de 10 fr. jusqu'à 20 francs	Au-dessus de 20 francs	Préoblitérés (facilités de vente)
Nombre de timbres.....	20	20	20	
Nombre de feuilles.....				

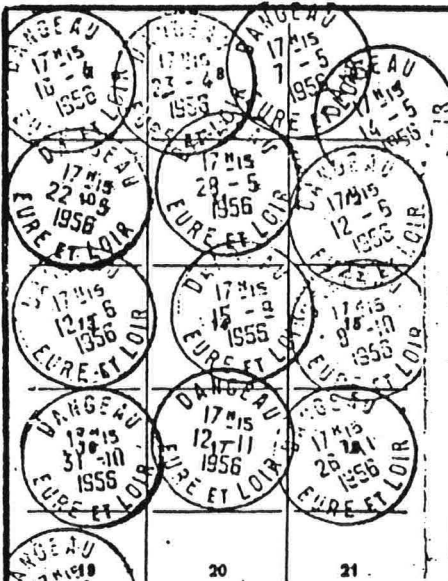


AVIS IMPORTANT

La carte d'abonnement ne peut être ni cédée ni vendue.
Les droits conférés par l'abonnement ne peuvent s'exercer qu'un mois après la date de souscription ou de renouvellement.
L'abonnement commence à courir du 1^{er} octobre ou de la date de souscription si cette dernière est postérieure au 1^{er} octobre.
Il expire le 30 septembre suivant, quelle que soit la date de souscription.
Le renouvellement n'est effectué qu'à la demande expresse de l'abonné. Pour éviter une interruption de l'abonnement il est nécessaire de présenter cette demande avant le 1^{er} septembre.
Lorsqu'il s'agit de timbres vendus par séries individuelles, la série complète est considérée comme un seul timbre d'une valeur égale à l'ensemble des figurines composant la série.
L'abonné dispose de deux semaines franches, de dimanche à dimanche, non compris celle de l'émission, pour retirer les timbres constituant son abonnement. Passé ce délai les figurines cessent d'être réservées. Toutefois, à la demande expresse de l'abonné, adressée au receveur du bureau où il a demandé à retirer ses figurines, ce délai peut, exceptionnellement, être porté à un mois à partir du jour de la mise en vente.
L'abonné qui ne retire pas ses figurines à l'occasion d'une émission est rayé de la liste des abonnés sans pouvoir y figurer de nouveau avant l'expiration d'une période d'un an à compter du 1^{er} octobre suivant.
Note. — En ce qui concerne les timbres de la série courante, l'abonné est tenu de retirer les vignettes dans les mêmes limites de quantités et pour les mêmes catégories de valeurs que celles faisant l'objet de l'abonnement aux émissions spéciales.



Demande de renouvellement de l'abonnement présentée le 29/3/1950	Timbre à elle
au bureau de Louis ALBERT	

Figure 4. 300F fee, for Paris 1949-1950 use.



20 21

N° 620.

POSTES - TÉLÉGRAPHES - TÉLÉPHONES

CARTE D'ABONNEMENT

aux émissions
de Timbres-Poste spéciaux français

(y compris, éventuellement, les timbres de la série courante
et les timbres préoblitérés)

N° 26

Valable du (1) 1.1.56 au 31 décembre 1956.

Nom et prénom de l'abonné (2): M^{lle} DELBREIL

Profession: Revue

Adresse: Dangeau

L'abonnement sera servi au bureau de (3) Dangeau

A. Chaurès le 31.12.55


Le Receveur principal

(1) Un mois après le dépôt de la demande.
(2) Renseignements portés sur la carte d'identité postale ou désignation de la Société, Association ou Groupement philatélique.
(3) Nom de bureau désigné par l'abonné.

Figure 7 (70% linear)

DETERMINATION DES QUANTITÉS DE TIMBRES SOUSCRITES

PRIX DE VENTE TOTAL DU TIMBRE (y compris éventuelle- ment, la surtaxe)	Jusqu'à 20 francs	Au-dessus de 20 francs jusqu'à 50 francs	Au-dessus de 50 francs	Préoblité- rés (facilités- vement)
Nombre de timbres	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	
Nombre de feuilles				




500F

Demande de renouvellement de l'abonnement

présentée le _____

au bureau de _____



AVIS IMPORTANT

La carte d'abonnement ne peut être ni cédée ni vendue.
Les droits conférés par l'abonnement ne peuvent s'exercer qu'un mois après la date de souscription ou de renouvellement. L'abonnement commence à courir du 1^{er} janvier ou de la date de souscription si la carte postale est postérieure au 1^{er} janvier. Il expire le 31 décembre suivant, quelle que soit la date de souscription.
Le renouvellement n'est effectué qu'à la demande expresse de l'abonné. Pour éviter une interruption de l'abonnement, il est nécessaire de présenter cette demande avant le 1^{er} décembre.
Lorsqu'il s'agit de timbres vendus par séries individuelles, la série complète est considérée comme un seul timbre d'une valeur égale à l'ensemble des figurines composant la série. L'abonné dispose de deux semaines franches, de dimanche à dimanche, non compris celle de l'émission, pour retirer les timbres constituant son abonnement. Passé ce délai, les figurines cessent d'être réservées. Toutefois, à la demande expresse de l'abonné, adressée au receveur de bureau où il a demandé de retirer ses figurines, ce délai peut, exceptionnellement, être porté à un mois à partir du jour de la mise en vente.
L'abonné qui ne retire pas ses figurines à l'occasion d'une émission est rayé de la liste des abonnés, sans préavis et sans de nouveau avant l'expiration d'une période d'un an à compter du 1^{er} janvier suivant.
Les abonnés qui ont demandé l'extension de leur abonnement aux figurines de la série courante sont soumis aux mêmes limites de tirage que les abonnés aux valeurs qui ne font pas l'objet de tirages limités sur certains sujets.


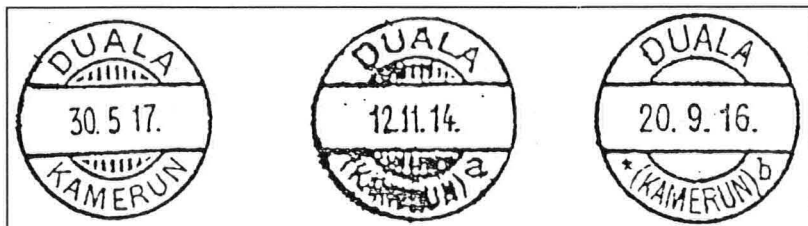


Figure 5.--500F airmail stamp, for 1956 (last year) service (Richardson, 1994).

FORGERIES OF DUALA KAMERUN POSTMARKS ADDENDUM NO. 3

by M. P. Bratzel, Jr. (FCPS #2394)

Nine forgeries of Duala/Kamerun postmarks have previously been illustrated and described.¹ Four more examples have now come to light. Each is illustrated and described below. Inasmuch as a picture is worth a thousand words, the best way to recognize these forgeries for what they are is to compare them directly with genuine strikes, depicted here:



Fr. 19

Fr. 20

Fr. 21

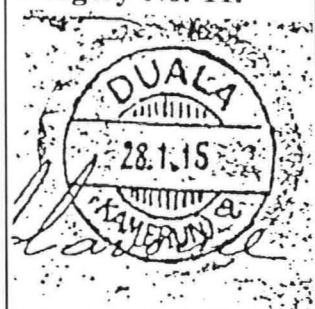
All three datestamps were used at the British post office at Duala during the Anglo-French occupation of Kamerun in World War I. The territory was divided into British- and French-administered zones, effective April 1, 1916. The first and last cancellers also saw extensive use in French-mandated Cameroun, respectively until 1923 and 1930.^{2,3}

Forgery No. 10.



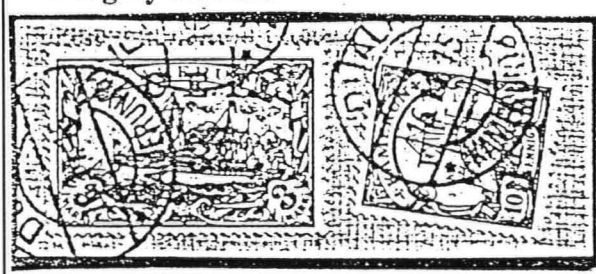
Date: 11.10.15 (or 11.10.13). This is a "Madame Joseph" forgery which resembles Fr. 19. Although well executed in zinc, when compared with a genuine example, several differences are noticeable; for example, the letters are not as crisp or sharp. The crossbar of the first A in "Duala" slopes to the left, the leg of the K in "Kamerun" is connected too far up, the vertical lines are narrower, there are no stops after the day or month and, on the right side, the lower line of the bridge does not extend to the outer circle. This forgery was illustrated in the *German Postal Specialist*.⁴

Derek Worboys and Roger West have published a fascinating book, *Madame Joseph Forged Postmarks*.⁵ Briefly summarized, in the mid-1930s, a London stamp dealer, Gordon Rhodes, commissioned a Paris forger to produce copies of cancellers used in the British Empire. This "Madame Joseph" prepared 438 "cancels," many carved in wood. The fake cancelling operation continued into the 1950s. The cancel collection, including ink pads and sample impressions, were bought by George Santo, a stamp dealer who died in 1990. With the support of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, sufficient funds were raised for Worboys to purchase all the fake cancellers. *Madame Joseph Forged Postmarks* reproduces all these forged cancels. Just who "Madame Joseph" was is unknown.

Forgery No. 11.

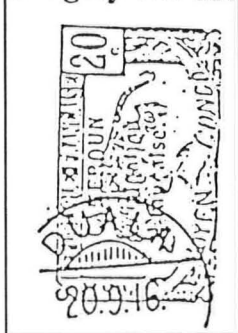
Date: 28.1.15. This forgery of Fr. 20 was first reported by Russell W. Stern.⁶ Whereas the genuine is 26mm in diameter, this forgery is not quite round, measuring about 27mm horizontally and about 27½mm vertically. The letters and numbers are rather crudely executed, notably the "a" after "Kamerun." The genuine has 9 vertical lines at the bottom that do not touch the bridge; the forgery has 10 lines that do touch. Also, on the forgery, the upper line on the right side of the bridge does not extend to the outer circle. Another observation is the greasemark around the cancel.

Stern first encountered this forgery a number of years ago. In his article, he illustrated the postmark on two stampless fieldpost covers bearing imprints of patriotic fund organizations and indicating active service with the Australian Imperial Forces. Both were addressed to the same person in Sydney, but in different handwriting. The covers also bear a small single-circle censor mark of a type used in France in 1914; the particular mark on Stern's covers is recorded as having been lost. The source of this forgery is unknown.

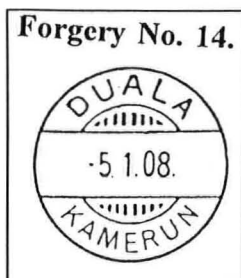
Forgery No. 12.

Date: 16.11.15. This forgery of Fr. 21 was first described by Dr. Holger Kaiser.⁷ Overall, the strikes are very clean. Compared with the genuine, the numerals of the date are somewhat high and not completely vertical. Also, the serifs on each "1" are straight on the forgery,

curved on the genuine. In addition, on the forgery, the "b" after "Kamerun" does not have a serif at the top; the "b" on the genuine does. This forgery was discovered by Dr. Kaiser, in cooperation with the expertizer, Dr. Friedrich Steuer of Vienna. The source of the forgery is unknown.

Forgery No. 13.

Date: 20.9.16. This forgery, of which only one partial example has been found, closely resembles previously reported Forgery No. 2. The date and the characteristics of the numerals are the same, but No. 13 has thin vertical lines above the bridge.



Date: 5.1.08. Previously discussed,¹ this forgery illustrated in Friedemann⁸ was not assigned a number. This oversight is hereby corrected.

Thanks are extended to Mr. Stern and Dr. Kaiser, as well as to Mr. N.J. Sheppard, former editor of *The N.S.W. Philatelist*, Dr. Klaus Detering, editor of *Berichte für Kolonialbriefmarkensammler*, and Dr. J.K. Doyle, editor of *Vorläufer*, for permission to extract information from the respective articles and to reproduce the illustrations. Thanks are also extended to the Royal Philatelic Society, London, to reproduce the "Madame Joseph" forgery, and to Marcel Zollinger for providing Forgery No. 13.

As always, additional information about forged postmarks of Cameroun is welcome.

References

1. Bratzel, M.P., Jr., "Forgeries of Duala Kamerun Postmarks"; *France & Colonies Philatelist*, Vol. 44, No. 1, January 1988, pp. 8-10. Addendum: Vol. 45, No. 2, April 1989, p. 7. Addendum No. 2: Vol. 46, No. 1, January 1990, p. 17.
2. Bratzel, M.P., Jr., H. Kraja, and R.J. Maddocks, *Les oblitérations du Cameroun 1914-1960*; MPB Canada, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 1990; ISBN 0-9694026-0-0.
3. Bratzel, M.P., Jr., "British and French Usage of Captured German Cancellers at Duala, Cameroun"; *France & Colonies Philatelist*, Vol. 44, No. 1, January 1988, pp. 5-8.
4. Bohne, W.M. Book review in *German Postal Specialist*, Vol. XLV, No. 5, May 1994, pp. 206-207.
5. Worboys, D. and R.B. West, *Madame Joseph Forged Postmarks*; London, The Royal Philatelic Society, 1994.
6. Stern, R.W., "The A.I.F. at Duala - A Figment of a Forger's Imagination"; *The N.S.W. Philatelist*, Vol. 12, No. 2, May 1990, pp., 71-73; reprinted in *Vorläufer*, No. 87, June 1992, pp. 22-24.
7. Kaiser, H., Remarks in *Berichte für Kolonialbriefmarkensammler*, No. 98, 1994, pp. 2142-2143. Reprinted in *Vorläufer*, No. 97, December 1994, p. 20. (Dr. Kaiser provided additional information in a followup letter March 16, 1995.)
8. Friedemann, A., *Die Postwertzeichen und Entwertungen der deutschen Postanstalten in der Schutzgebieten und in Ausland*, 3rd ed., rev. by H. Wittmann, 1967.

WHY I COLLECT THE SOWER ISSUES...¹

A Discussion by G. E. Barker

[In an exchange of correspondence, George Barker had taken exception to Ray Gaillaquet's page 7 assertion that a contest had been "held to replace the unpopular Blanc, Mouchon..., and Merson issues, but none of the entries were found acceptable." According to the near contemporaneous (1907) account of Maury, "Histoire des Timbres-Poste Français," p. 541, no such event was recorded; simply that the redesigned Mouchons were unacceptable, and that Minister of Commerce Trouillot asked Roty to make use of his Sower design, then in use on French coins. Ray then replied that Louis Barrier, on p. 28 of his "Essai sur 'les Semeuses'" (1951), stated that the postal administration chose the Sower design in 1903 to replace the Mouchon design, after the jury of a 1900 contest had failed to agree on any one design. Here follows George's edited and condensed reply.]

Although Barrier is clear in referring to a competition in 1900, this is apparently the only reference in the literature to such a competition, and it is quite unsupported by any documentation. This confusion, which is what I believe it is, may have arisen from Maury's statement (1907 original edition, p. 516²). Maury quotes Maurice Berteaux (*rapporteur du budget des postes*) who

had raised again with the Administration in 1898 the subject of a replacement for the Sage design, and who, the following year [presumably 1899] reported to the Chamber of Deputies that, following the desires of the commission³ that had been charged with the task of running the 1894 competition, he [the Under-Secretary of State of the PTT--according to Barker] proposed to the Minister to substitute for the single design [the Sage design--SJLuft] three new vignettes. These propositions having been accepted, Messers Chaplain, Roty and Merson "were asked to undertake the design of a set of three types of stamps. Roty and Chaplain begged to be excused⁴ and M. Merson alone agreed to do the high values from 45c to 5 francs."⁵

This, of course, led to the issue of 1900, which was so badly received, then to the revised design of Mouchon, and subsequently the choice of Roty's "Sower" by the Minister.⁶

Should additional proof be required, the following recent publications dealing with the introduction of the Sower design include *Documents Philatéliques* #148, 1996, pp. 9-20, and *Timbroscopie*, February 1996, pp. 50-57. Both refer to the Minister (Trouillot) choosing the Sower design, without benefit of any contest. While the scholarship of the staff writer for *Timbroscopie* might be open to question, that of the author of the *Documents Philatéliques* shouldnt, for Pascal Rabier heads the philatelic collections at the Paris Musée de la Poste.

Finally, it doesn't seem really possible that, at the very moment that the Administration was first printing and issuing those 1900 Blanc, Mouchon and Merson stamps, they would also be holding a 1900 competition to replace those stamps, even before they were issued!

[Editor's Notes: As a collector and exhibitor of, and occasional writer on, the Sowers, I followed this controversy with great interest. I too could find no mention, in my library, of any 1900 contest to replace the unpopular Mouchon design, aside from Barrier's work. And with his discussion of the available information laid out before me, I must now agree with George.

And, as the article's editor, I had perhaps deferred too much to Ray's standing as the foremost authority on the Sowers in North America. I had let slip by, in the last paragraph of page 7, the statement that the Sowers appeared on precursors of Valentine cards. Wrong! Perhaps on early versions of using stamp locations and positions as the "language of love" (see the article's Figure 2). On the other hand, Valentines were popular during and probably long before the U.S. Civil War. -- SJLuft]

Endnotes

1. FCP #243, January 1996, pp. 7-14.
2. And **not** the 1949 Century Edition, which was a **condensed** reprint by Emmanuel Blanc. Maury had died in December 1907.
3. *The Comité technique postal* probably referred to by Storch and Francon in their 1988 handbook on the Mouchon stamps. Therein, the writers state that, leaving aside the idea of a competition, the Minister, M. Millerand, and his Under Secretary of State of the PTT, M. Mougeot, called upon the three artists, MM. Roty, Chaplain and Mouchon. Only Mouchon accepted.
4. For they were still miffed over the failure of their designs to have been picked to replace the Sage design, in the only documented competition of that period, that of 1894.
5. S.H. Browning, in *The London Philatelist*, January 1931, pp. 12-14.
6. Arthur Maury, 1907, p. 541.

A LEXICON OF ABBREVIATIONS [AND ACRONYMS ON FRENCH DATE STAMPS OF 1960-1995] by Patrick Lavenas

[Reprinted with permission of the author and of the editor of "*Feuilles Marcophiles*," wherein this listing appeared in #282 (1995), with additions kindly supplied by M. Lavenas. The first part of this list consists exclusively of abbreviations found on date stamps (manual or machine). The second part, wherein an **X** precedes the abbreviation, consists of those present on ancillary markings of various types. This exhaustive listing should supplant my feeble attempts, such as those in #239, January 1995.--SJL]

Abrév.	Signification
ACT	Agence Commerciale des Télécommunications
ACTEL	Agence Commerciale des TELécommunications
AD	Agence Départementale
ADM	ADMinistration
AE	A(brigade) - Export
AFF.	AFFaires
AG.	AGence
AGERIP	AGence Régionale d'Information de la Poste
AI	A(brigade) - Import
AMB.	AMBulant
AN.	ANnexe
ANN.	ANNexe
AP	Agence Postale sans distribution
API	Aviation Postale Intérieure
ART.	ARTicle
ATAM	Atelier de Tri Automatique et Manuel
B & FC	Bourgogne & Franche-Comté
BA	Base Aérienne
BAP	Bâtiment Atelier Polyvalent
BCMC	Bureau Central Militaire «C»
BCR	Bureau Central Radio
BDR	Bouches Du Rhône
BE	B(brigade) - Export
BE	Bureau d'Echange
BEM	Bureau d'Echange des Mandats
BI	B(brigade) - Import
BIS	bureau d'intérêts privés dénommés «BIS», rattachés à Paris
BM	Bureau Mobile
BO	Bureau d'Ordre
BPM	Bureau Postal Militaire
BTI	Bureau Télégraphique International
C.	Centre
C/C	Courrier Convoyeur
CAB.	CABinet
CAL	CentrAL
CAMP	CAMP militaire
CAPO	Centre d'Approvisionnement des POstes
CATMI	Centre d'Acheminement et Traitement de la Messagerie Internationale
CCBE	Centre de Contrôle et de Gestion des Bureaux d'Entreprise
CCBE-B	CCBE - Bottin d'adresses (ex-Paris 15 bis)
CCBE-D	CCBE - Distrimag (ex-Paris 25 bis)
CCBE-E	CCBE - Eurotri
CÇBE-F	CCBE - France Paquets
CCBE-L	CCBE - Publi-tri

CCBE-O	CCBE - Office International de Diffusion (ex-Paris 05 bis)
CCBE-P	CCBE - Publi-tri, Publi-tran et Publi-bios
CCBE-S	CCBE - Sélection du reader digest (ex-Paris 06 bis)
CCBE-T	CCBE - Trans euro diffusion
CCM	Centre de Contrôle des Mandats
CCP	Centre de Chèques Postaux
CCTRI	Centre Comptable des Télécommunications du Réseau International
CD	Contrôle Douanier
CDE	service des Commandes
CDG	Charles De Gaulle
CDP	Centre de Diffusion Postale
CE	Comptabilité - Export
CEDEX	Courrier d'Entreprise à Distribution EXceptionnelle
CENT.	CENTrale
CENTR.	CENTRe
<u>CENTRALEUR</u>	CENTRALisatEUR
CEPAGE	Centre d'Exploitation de la PArte et de la Gestion du personnel des Télécom.
CERN	Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Nucléaires
CESA	Centre d'Exploitation des Services Ambulants
CESDOC	Centre d'Enquête et de Saisie des DOCUMENTS de la France extra-métropolitaine
CETIP	Centre d'Exploitation et de Traitement Informatique de la Poste
CFRT	Centre de Facturation et de Recouvrement des Télécommunications
CGSP	Centre de Gestion des Sacs Postaux
CHEOPS	CHèques Et OPérations postales
CI	Comptabilité - Import
CIP	Centre International de Paris
CIRC	Centre Interurbain Régional réseau Cables
CLC	Centre Local du Courrier
<u>CLE</u>	CommercialE
CMPN	Centre de la Messagerie de la Poste du Nord
CNAP	Centre National d'Approvisionnement de la Poste
CNE	Caisse Nationale d'Epargne
CNIT	Centre National des Industries et Techniques
COM.	COMMercial
<u>COMALE</u>	COMMerCiALE
COMM.	COMMercial
COMPTA.	COMPTAbilité
<u>COMPTATE</u>	COMPTAbilitéE
<u>COMPTÉ</u>	COMptabiliTE
CP	Correspondent Postal de la poste automobile rurale
CPA	Colis Postaux Avion
CPE	Centre Principal d'Exploitation des télécommunications
CPE	Comptoir Pharmaceutique Européen
CRC	Centre de Recherches du Courrier
CRE	Centre Régional d'Enseignement
CRF	Centre Régional de Formation
CRFP	Centre Régional de Formation Professionnelle
CRI	Centre Régional d'Instruction
CRIT	Centre Régional Informatique des Télécommunications
CRMT	Centre Régional de Mécanographie des Télécommunications
CRSF	Centre Régional des Services Financiers
CRT	Centre de Renseignements Téléphoniques
CRUT	Centre Réseau Urban des Télécommunications
CT	Centre de Tri
CTA	Centre de Tri Automatique
CTC	Centre de Traitement du Courrier
CTCM	Centre de Traitement des Cartes Magnétiques
<u>CTE</u>	ComptabiliTE

(To Be Continued)

MEMBERS' APPEALS

- WANTED:** Non-philatelic covers with French postage dues tied on; especially need Scott J11-25, J31-37, J46-68, J69-79, J93-97, J98-105, and J106-115. Bruce Brown, CMR 426, Box 467, APO AE 09613. (Mb. #2646).
- BREAKING UP** my semi-specialized collections of Classic (to 1876) France (shades, cancels, multiples, flaws, covers, etc.). Priced to sell. Inquiries and want lists (Yvert Nos. preferred) to Stanley J. Luft, 16291 West 56th Place, Golden, CO 80403. (Mb. #915).
- WANTED:** Any information on the postal history of Senegal (West Africa) to exchange and share. Bruno Mattei, 25 rue Henriette, F-68100 Mulhouse, France. (Mb. #2952).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- A. 242.1.** It seems likely that *Nécessité de Fermer* (or its initials **N. de F.**) was applied to World War I official military correspondence that was sent in sealed envelopes, and was of too confidential a nature to be censored. (NJB).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS


- French domestic postal rates were increased March 18. *Ecopli* (the former printed matter, slow service rate) to 2,70F; regular (to 20 gm) letters to 3,00F; letters (to 20 gm) to European destinations other than the European Union, Switzerland or Lichtenstein, to 3,80F; domestic letters of 20-50 gm to 4,50F. New Marianne de Briat stamps at 2,70F, 3,80F and 4,50F were printed and issued to reflect these increases.
- A society for the study of Morocco and Tunisia philately (S.P.L.M.) was founded late in 1993. Items of interest to the membership (some 90 members by late 1995) include local posts, Postes Chérifiennes, foreign bureaus in these two countries, military and naval posts, and aerophilately. A study of the local posts of Morocco has been published. If interested, contact the Treasurer, Mme. Rita Haik, 206 blvd. Péreire, F-75017 Paris for further information.
- While we don't normally single out or recommend commercial sources in this journal, we'd like to note that our member Frank Anderson, DBA Philateliques Français, Inc., (P.O. Box 210612, Dallas, TX 75211), (1) has a good, specialized stock of France and Colonies stamps, reasonably priced, and (2) mentions our Society in all his mailings of offers.
- Our member Jean-François Brun is the new president of the *Académie de Philatélie*. At age 52, he is the youngest ever to hold this prestigious position.
- **RESEARCH HELP NEEDED!** Tom Boyle is working on a book, for eventual publication by the American Air Mail Society, on the subject of Airmail Operations during World War II. He is seeking quality photocopies (suitable for publication) of Vichy-prepared Interzone postal cards sent to and from family members in the French Colonies, and bearing handstamps indicating prepayment of airmail fees. Contributors will be credited in the book. Please contact Thomas H. Boyle, Jr., 3750 Chatham Circle, Norfolk, VA 23513, USA.
- *The Collectors Club Philatelist* for May-June 1996 (Vol. 75, #3) has published two articles by our members. Part I of Dave Herendeen's "Postage Due Stamps of the British Empire," and Jerry Massler's "Foreign Express Mail Goes Down the Tubes" (or, special delivery from Monaco via pneumatic posts).

- LA POSTE**

ENVOI D'UN OBJET AVEC

VALEUR DÉCLARÉE

VD 9832 7543 3FR



VD 9832 7543 3FR

PREUVE DE DESTINATION

PREUVE DE DÉPÔT

DESTINATAIRE

Présentation le _____

Distribution le _____

Signature du destinataire : _____

EXPÉDITEUR

Date _____

Prix _____

Poids _____

N°5 RAYONNAGE 2 340 000 000

- ## SOME OTHER FRENCH PHILATELIC JOURNALS AND SOCIETIES

Société PHIL-EA France-Algérie is the French society devoted to the study of the philately of Algeria. The society came into existence in 1976, as a highly specialized group for the study of the overprints used on stamps of France by the newly independent Algeria in 1962. The overprints read "EA" (*Etat Algérien*), hence the name of the society. *Société PHIL-EA* has since been extended to cover all aspects of Algerian philately. There are about 150 members. The society publishes a bulletin of nearly 100 pages each year, in two parts. Additionally, PHIL-EA holds about four fixed-price mail sales each year, where members may sell or buy Algeria philatelic material. A typical sale has over 500 lots. The cost of PHIL-EA membership is 100 francs per year. Apply in French to the treasurer, Mr. Jacques Sauter, 24 rue Saint Just, F-94200 Ivry-sur-Seine, France. --L. H. Lambert

INDO-CHINA TO SWITZERLAND AIRMAIL-- 1936 Covers and Rates (Discussion)

On page 18 of *FCP* #243 (January 1996), we stated that the 1936 airmail rate of 53c to 58c between Hanoi and Switzerland appeared to be exceedingly low for the distance and service. Now, Derek Richardson advises that the Indochinese cent was one-hundredth of a piastre, and presumably (neither of us can be sure!) equivalent to 10 French centimes. On this basis, those 1936 airmail rates would be equivalent to 5,30F to 5,80F (in French currency), and apparently are in the right ballpark.

Additionally, Ian McQueen states that barring out, or X-ing out the *Par Avion* boxes on some of the covers shown was done at Marseille, with continuation of the journey to Switzerland by land, and is typical of *Jusqu'a* markings.

We next heard from Mark Isaacs, who indicates that, in 1919, the new Indochinese currency cent was worth $2\frac{1}{2}$ French centimes. Although he has no direct knowledge of mid-1930s exchange rates, he also believes that, if the French inflation was substantially greater than the Indochinese, the ratio could well have been by then something like 10 French centimes to the Indochinese cent. Any further comments from any other readers? We hope to publish an article by Mark on this subject in a near-future number of our journal. -- SJL.

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

At the suggestion of member Cheryl Ganz, we will try to fill some of the blank spaces in this journal with illustrated descriptions on how to distinguish essentially common French postage stamps from their far scarcer variants (not necessarily varieties, but rather types and subtypes). The aim of this feature would be to assist collectors in finding goodies "on the cheap" in their own collections or in dealers' stocks.

This is an appeal to all Colonies specialists. If you see anything unusual and interesting, and worthy of reporting in our pages, in auction (and other) catalogs or the specialized philatelic press--or were fortunate to have obtained any such item--please pass this information along to us, together with illustration(s). We will be glad to consider these offerings for inclusion in *For the Record*, or Announcements and News, or perhaps even as separate short contributions. Thanks in advance!

What would happen if only ten percent of the membership were to recruit one additional member into our Society? For one thing, we would be back to having 700+ members and be able to breathe more easily. Furthermore, some of these postulated new members could become very active ones, bursting forth with fresh ideas and fresher articles-in-the-making. While we hope to be recruiting at PACIFIC 97 (and hopefully have gained a few new members at CAPEX 96), there is no reason to wait that long. Know anyone with an interest in France and/or Colonies philately? Please tell him or her what a great outfit we are and how little it costs to join.

As the editor of another philatelic journal recently (and plaintively) wrote, this journal is written by its readers. We are no different, and we are now accepting articles and outlines for publication in 1997 and later. If you have an idea or an outline or even an article well under way, please let me hear about it. If you have an article approaching final typing, please follow the instructions given in #241 (July 1995), page 85. Briefly, double-spaced, one-inch margins all around, quality illustrations with figure numbers soft-pencilled on back and **not** pasted nor taped within the text.

USPS has gone ahead and endorsed recommendations to have small-circulation periodicals such as ours subsidize the mailing costs of large-circulation periodicals such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Readers Digest*, etc. This will result in financial hardships--and eventually in higher subscription and membership costs--for all educational and hobby institutions. We expect and intend to survive, of course, and even hope to delay the eventual concomitant dues increase. Looks like those heavy hitting lobbyists have won again.

High-end computers, printers and scanners are being used to an ever increasing degree for counterfeiting old and new stamps. And paper money as well. This means that collectors must become ever increasingly expert and vigilant in their collecting fields. We at FCPS have been and will continue to keep you abreast on these falsifications, as they appear on the market. But, do share your information and your advice with us.

A bit of controversy is a good thing for our hobby. Now, no less than two recent contributions have elicited questions, rebuttals, and further information. Let's look forward to more such discussions!

One is over Ray Gaillaguet's "Why I Collect the Sower Issues..." (in #243, January 1996, pp. 7-14). George Barker, the well known journal editor and student of 20th Century French definitives, has taken exception to Ray's assertion that a contest was "held to replace the unpopular Blanc, Mouchon... and Merson issues, but none of the entries were found acceptable." Ray's reply is that Louis Barrier, on p. 28 of his "Essai sur 'les Semeuses'" (1951), stated that the postal administration chose the Sower design in 1903 to replace the Mouchon design, after the jury of a 1900 contest had failed to agree upon any one replacement design. George disagrees, particularly with the existence of any 1900 or 1903 contest. His well documented discussion of the problem appears here on pp. 85-86.

And, the short contribution on 1936 Indo-China to Switzerland airmail rates (also in #243, pp. 15-18) has attracted much attention, even perhaps a modicum of excitement, mainly on the British side of the ditch. We print a brief discussion of some readers' thoughts on the preceding page. This is how, singly or collectively, progress is being made in working out the intricacies of our hobby.

--S.J. Luft

SOME SHOW REPORTS

- SANDICAL '96 (San Diego, CA, January 1996): Silver Medal to Gene Tinsley for his newest Mexico exhibit.
- FILATELIC FIESTA '96 (San Jose, CA, March): Gold Medal to Paul Blake for "Postal History of India 1807-1862"; Vermeil Medal to Tom Siddens for "French Cancellations of the Classic Period 1849-1876" (apparently a first-time effort for a newly exhibiting member!); Silver Medal to Paul Blake for "Indochina 1931-1954--End of an Era."
- 1996 GARFIELD-PERRY MARCH PARTY (Cleveland, OH, March): Gold Medal and Best Foreign to Paul Larsen for "Ubangi-Shari, 1900-1939"; Gold Medal, but we don't know to whom just yet, for "U.S.-France Mails by Steamship."
- COLOPEX '96 (Columbus, OH, April): Gold Medal and Reserve Grand Award to Stan Jersey for his World War II Solomon Islands exhibit.
- WESTPEX '96 (San Francisco, April): Vermeil Medal to Tom Siddens for "French Stamp Cancellations of the Classic Period 1849-1876."
- ROMPEX '96 (Denver, May): Silver Bronze Medal to Bob Kinsley for "World War I Franchise Handstamps of Domestic French Ground Forces." Non-member Arthur Thomas received a Vermeil Medal for his very comprehensive "Paris Pneumatic Mail." In the one-frame competition, your editor obtained a Vermeil ribbon for "A Postal History of Rixheim," and Bob Kinsley Silver ribbons for "France--A Primer" and "The F Stamp." Among the members present that weekend, besides Kinsley and yours truly, were John Bloor, Dave Grossblatt, Charlie Sandberg, Mike Schreiber, and Jay Smith.

REVIEW

Racz, Ernest, *1995 Specialized Postage Stamps Catalogue (of) North Viet Nam 1946-1976*; 76 pp.; 5¼ x 8½ in.; staple bound, first edition. Published by Nu-Line, a subsidiary of ER Philatelics, P.O. Box 511, Kresgeville, PA 18333. Price \$24.95; overseas, extra.

This, the eagerly awaited first of two editions promised by Racz, has more than met the expectations of those who both collect and (or) sell the postage stamps and postal history of French Indo-China, the Democratic Republic of North Viet Nam, the Viet Minh, or the National Liberation Front.

The format the editor has decided to use in this catalogue is difficult to argue with; i.e., present the general philatelic information that the catalogue listings are based upon, then give detailed information on how to use it correctly and, finally introduce each of the three major chapters with a concise, yet detailed political history and overview of both the stamps and the political entity which issued them.

Beginning with Chapter One, one can immediately see that this catalogue is leagues ahead of what collectors of North Vietnam's stamp issues have been forced to use as references up until now. To begin with, each of the known Viet Minh overprints on the "Vichy" issues is listed and illustrated both on and off the stamp. In addition, each overprint is translated, and all known errors are also listed. Nu-Line thoughtfully provides a detailed check list for collectors who wish to take their copy of the catalogue along with them to shows and bourses.

Chapter Two chronicles the postal issues of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam from 1946 to 1976. In this section, Nu-Line has also taken the time to list Officials and Military Frank stamps as well as the somewhat esoteric intra-country postal stationery. As was seen in the preceding comments, the illustrations are clear and first rate, leaving one to believe the photographs used in this catalogue were all taken at one time, from a single high quality reference collection of North Viet Nam stamps. Random checks with both dealers and collectors has found them in agreement that for these issues, Nu-Line has left the competition sitting on their perf gauges in terms of accuracy and consistency in both the listing, pricing and catalogueing of these interesting stamps.

The final chapter is devoted to the still controversial issues of the N.L.F. or, more popularly, the Viet Cong. The stamps, issued between 1963 and 1976, were ostensibly issued for use by postal patrons in Viet Cong controlled area. The fact that the Viet Cong never established a postal system or operated a "post office" does not diminish the fact that these stamps were legitimate emissions designed to be used when such a system, if ever, went into effect. Nu-Line (as well as a recent article in the national philatelic press) assert otherwise. It is important to note that this assertion is made in the context of a history note in the catalogue text and is not a part of the listings themselves.

Nu-Line is to be credited for having taken a major step in doing what other catalogues have so far been unable to accomplish. So, what does one finally get from Nu-Line for the not inconsiderable sum of \$25.00? One gets a clear, concise and accurate (finally!) listing of the varied, unusual and often confusing postal emissions of one of the more intriguing stamp-issuing entities around today. That Nu-Line has done so in a readable and eye-pleasing format is further testament to the fact that stamp catalogues can be more than just poorly illustrated, sometimes inaccurate and, oftentimes confusing list of stamps. In the end, this effort of Racz, more than anything, reminds this reviewer of the old saying "*Handsome is, as handsome does*"; as a result, Nu-Line's "**1995 Specialized Postage Stamps Catalogue of NORTH VIET NAM**" is indeed, lookin' good.

--R.G. Munshower

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from #244, April 1996, p. 60)

France

- 18 March: Marianne de Briat 2,70F green, 3,80F dark blue, 4,50F deep rose; 2,70F green M. de Briat coil stamp; 20F Sterners booklet of six permanent-value stamps + two at 1,00F + two labels [cost of red permanent-value stamp now 3,00F]; Precancels (Leaves) 1,87F, 2,18F, 4,66F and 7,11F;
 - 6 (9) April: 3,00F Electricity of France - Gas of France [listed in previous number as 2,80F EDF-GDF];
 - 20 (22) April: French National Parks [the Parc de Cévennes now at 3,00F instead of 2,80F; other two stamps remain at 4,40F, as previously noted];
 - 27 (29) April: 3,00F Mme. de Sévigné (EUROPA);
 - 4 (6) May: 3,70F National Institute for Agronomic Research;
 - 11 (13) May: 4,50F Joan of Arc's Domrémy home;
 - 14 (15) May: 3,00F RAMOGE Accord (1976-1996) (pollution control in Mediterranean);
 - 24 (28) May: 3,00F Philatelic Congress, Clermont-Ferrand;
 - 25 (28) May: 3,00F Bitche (Moselle);
 - 1 (3) June: World Cup Football 1998; four 3,00F for events to be held at Lens, Montpellier, St.-Etienne and Toulouse; 3,00F "The Bloody Islands";
 - 8 (10) June: 4,50F Chambéry Cathedral; 6,70F Treasure of Neuvy-en-Sullias (Loiret);
 - 15 (17) June: 4,40F Jacques Marette (1922-1984); 3,00F Cent. of Olympic Games.
- Withdrawals: 12 April: 2,80F National School for Administration; 4,40F Barbizon; 6,70F Berthe Morisot; all 20F Sterner booklets containing the 0,70F Marianne de Briat.

Andorra

- 19 February: 2,80F 25th Anniv. of the Meritxell school;
- 23 (25) March: the Nature Series previously reported consists of birds at 3,00F and 3,80F;
- March: Coat of Arms 2,70F, 3,00F.

French Polynesia

- 1 March: Queen Pomaré permanent-value stamp; same in booklet of ten self-adhesive stamps, sold at 510F;
- 7 March: 500F Hommage to Paul-Emile Victor;
- 10 April: Seashells 10F, 15F, 25F.

Monaco

- 11 March: Postal and Money Museum 10F, 15F, 20F (effigy of Rainier III);
- 18 March: Rainier III definitives 2,70F, 3,00F, 3,80F.

New Caledonia

- 24 February: the 125F "Animal Fossils" previously reported shows a prehistoric crocodilian, *Mekosochus inexpectatus*;
- 18 April: 65F and 95F Caledonian flowers.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 25 March: Marianne de Briat 2,70F, 3,80F, 4,50F overprinted *Saint Pierre-et-Miquelon*;
- 15 April: The blacksmith and his tools 1,50F, 1,80F.

Wallis & Futuna

- 14 March: 52F local tuber plant;
- 24 April: 240F World Polynesian Canoeing Championships at Nouméa.

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Unlike the past couple years, you will find no application form for the Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibit with this issue. In view of the small number of entries in last year's Exhibit, several persons suggested holding the Exhibit only once every two years. Frankly, the only point of which I am certain is that we will not be holding a Rich Exhibit this year. If we are to have a Rich Exhibit in 1997, the Board will have to make such a decision by next spring. If a few people tell us they want to participate in a Rich Exhibit, we will be happy to schedule one, otherwise it will become another of those Society functions which is now just a memory.

A close observation of the second page of this journal, will show that another Annual Meeting of the Society has been held: this year in the space of about one minute, in which the current officers were unanimously reelected. Again, I must emphasize that we would be happy to hear from anyone who might be interested in serving on the Board of Directors. Currently the Directors meet about five times per year, at the Collectors Club in New York.

--Dick Stevens

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PACIFIC 97

The France & Colonies Philatelic Society will have a society booth at Pacific 97. We hope that this will provide an excellent opportunity to recruit new members. To obtain maximum benefit from this booth (and to keep the Show management happy), we need at least one person at the booth during the hours the Exhibition is open. The Show will run for eleven days, so we will need to fill 22 slots, if we ask each volunteer to be at the booth for a half day. I do not currently have any information about admission fees, but the Society will definitely provide tickets for volunteers for the days they are in charge of the Society Booth, and perhaps for additional days. Be assured that a volunteer does not need to be an expert on French philately, just a person to sit behind the table, where we will have membership applications, sample copies of our publications, and order forms for them.

Any member who is willing to devote a half-day at the Pacific 97 booth should contact Dick Stevens. My address now appears in the list of officers on the second page of every issue of the Philatelist. We will particularly need volunteers during the latter days of the show.

GERARD GILBERT AWARD FOR 1995

We are pleased to announce that the Gerard Gilbert Award for 1995, for the best publication in English on a France or Colonies subject, has been given to Ernst M. Cohn for his book "Ordinary Mail by Diplomatic Means during the Siege of Paris 1870-1871."

NEW MEMBERS

- 3076 ANDERSON, DAVID, 6212 152nd Ave., N.E., Redmond, WA 98052-4765. (Sage Type 1876-1900. Sowers. St. Pierre & Miquelon. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3077 PHILLIPS, BRIAN R., 2002 Eden Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810-3812. (General Collector: 19th Century. General France: Used - On Cover. Special Issues: Ballons Du Siege.)
- 3078 IRBY, JOSEPH K. (GEOPUB Stamps), P.O. Box 490, Arlington, OR 97812. (Andorre. Monaco. Saar. All Colonies & Territories. Dealer: Full Time.)
- 3079 GROOM, MALCOM, 26 Stoke Street, New Town, Tasmania 7008, Australia. (Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. Colonial Provisionals. Ivory Coast. French Sudan. Guadeloupe. Philatelic Literature. Exchange. Postal History.)

- 3080 BURBANK, ALAN S., 303 - 1229 Bernard Ave., Kelowna, B.C., Canada V1Y 6R3. (General Collector: 20th Century. Modern France: Mint - Used.)
- 3081 WALKER, ROGER A., 35 "A" Street, Keyser, WV 26726. (General Collector: All Issues. Andorre. Monaco. Colonies General Issues: Mint - On Cover. Cancellations And Postal History. French Indo China. Guadeloupe. Martinique.)
- 3082 FETZER, GARY, 13608 Gates Rd., Mulliken, MI 48861. (General France: Mint. Modern France: Mint.)
- 3083 EVANS, WILLIAM M., 208 Paper Mill Rd., Oreland, PA 19075. (General France: Mint. Modern France: Mint - Used - Air Mails. Proofs & Color Trials - Imperfs. French Community: Offices Abroad. CFA. Saar. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used. Colonies & Territories: Group Type. All Colonies & Territories. Dealer: Auctions.)
- 3084 BIELENSTEIN, CARLOS, 10 County Court, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4E 2N7, Canada. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used.)
- 3085 EMMETT, JAMES L., 55 Corliss Lane - #23, Eugene, OR 97404. (Specialized France: Stampless Covers To And After 1815. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Used - On Cover. 1870-1871 Issues, Commune - Ballons. Alsace-Lorraine, Locals - Dues. Sage Type, 1876-1900. Modern France Mint - Blanc, Mouchon And Merson Types - Sowers - Semi-Postals - Air Mails - Booklets - Coils. Special Issues & Usages: Telephone & Telegraph - Dues - Parcel Post - Newspaper - Franchise Militaire - Stationery - Revenues - Liberation Issues - Specimen, Annule, Fictifs - Precancellations - Occupation Issues By France. Offices Abroad. CFA. Colonies General Issues: Used. Colonial Provisionals. All Colonies And Territories. Stamps Of FSATI.)
- 3086 MAICHEN, JOHN F., 5761 Sandalwood Dr. - Apt. 2-A, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. (General France: Used. Modern France: Used.)
- 3087 OLSON, MARK, 10511 Springwood Cresc., Richmond, B.C. V7E 1X5, Canada. (General Collector: 19th Century. Numeral Cancellations Of Early France: 1849-1900. Classics 1849-1876: Cancellations. Sage Type 1876-1900. Offices Abroad: China Only.)
- 3088 CARITHERS, RICHARD BRUCE, Box 782, Norcross, GA 30091-0782. (General Collector: 20th Century. General France: Used. Monaco.)
- 3089 WILLIAMSON, GEORGE H., Box 7131, Great Falls, MT 59406. (General Collector: All Issues. Topical: Chess On Stamps. General France: Mint - Used. Modern France: Mint - Used. Andorre. Monaco. Dealer: Full Time.)

REINSTATEMENTS

- 2997 DODARO, PAUL E., 415 Davis Ave., S.W., Leesburg, VA 22075-3431.
- 2184 WAGNER, KEITH A., Box 8087, State College, PA 16803.
- 2643 GAETJENS, KAY, 34, Avenue Marceau, F-75008 Paris, France.
- 2211 VAN HYFTE, ROGER, 130 Rue Inkermann, F-59100 Roubaix, France.
- 2787 WATKINS, PAUL S., 77 Cubbington Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 74Q, England.
- 2459 LUGO, ARNULFO MORALES, Bayamon, Puerto Rico.
- 3001 SEWALL, STEVE, Chicago, IL 60611.
- 2151 BOULE, MAURICE, La Plaine Du Roy, F-83110 Sanary, France.
- 1492 PETERS, DR. WILLIAM L., 1803 Chuli Nene, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2851 BURNS, DONALD L., 1653 Birch Road, Kenosha, WI 53140.
- 1244 STEMPIEN, DR. MARTIN F., JR., P.O. Box 328, J.A.F. Station, New York, NY 10116.
- 1023 BROOKS, WALTER, Riddle Village, 107 Jamestown, Media, PA 19063-6012

DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

- 848 BUXTON, KENNETH
- 1839 DES RIVIERES, GUY