



France & Colonies Philatelist



Projects for destroying stamps to prevent their reuse. These silk threads, glued to gum side, were meant to be pulled by the postal clerk, thereby tearing the stamp in two and making its cancellation unnecessarily redundant. Nevertheless, these 1850s projects were soon forgotten, and the cancellation of stamps remains the standard to this day. (Robineau 155th auction sale, December 1994, Lots 1080 and 1127.)

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FRENCH MARCOPHILY--THE NUMERAL KILLERS

by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)

What is the commonest marking on French Classic stamps? I personally would vote for the numbers. As you look fondly at your cover whose French stamp bears a lozenge of dots containing the small numerals (*petits chiffres*) 4009, or perhaps the larger numerals (*gros chiffres*) 5087 (Figure 1), have you wondered about its origin? Those numbers assign it to the foreign post office at Ibraila. So where the dickens is Ibraila? I certainly didn't know until a small map appeared in the catalog pages of J. Robineau's 157th auction, of October 1995, and which is reproduced here (Figure 2) with his permission. Actually, I am using this map as an avenue to interject a piece of the big subject of cancellations under the general umbrella of Marcophily. Sneaky, huh!

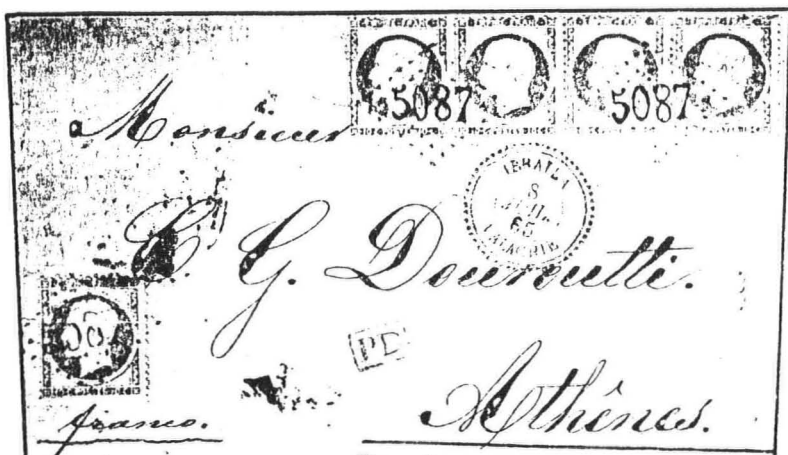


Figure 1.

Small numerals in the cancellation (Figure 3) were in use from 1 January 1852 until the end of 1862 as one means of identifying the various post offices outside of Paris.¹ Numbers from 1 to 3703 were assigned to offices in France proper in alphabetical order; 3704 to 3709 to the foreign offices which existed at the time; 3710 to 3739 to offices in Algeria; and higher numbers to offices created between 1852 and 1862. Post offices in Savoy and Nice, reunited with France in 1860, were assigned numbers between 4194 and 4306.

Small numerals were replaced by large numerals 1 January 1863, and were in use until discontinued by a decree in the Monthly Postal Bulletin No. 84 of March 1876, to be replaced exclusively by circular town and date stamps. Large numbers from 1 to 4361 were similarly assigned in alphabetical order to post offices in France proper, except Paris.² Numbers 1 to 99 may also have a short horizontal line before and after the number. Letters under the number (Figure 4) indicate a secondary post office in a large city. Numbers 4362 to 4999 were assigned to offices created between 1863 and 1869; from 5000 to 5078 to offices in Algeria; from 5079 to 5107 to foreign offices (Figure 5); from 5108 to 5169 to new offices in Algeria and abroad; and from 6000 to 6449 to new offices created in France from 1869 until March 1876.

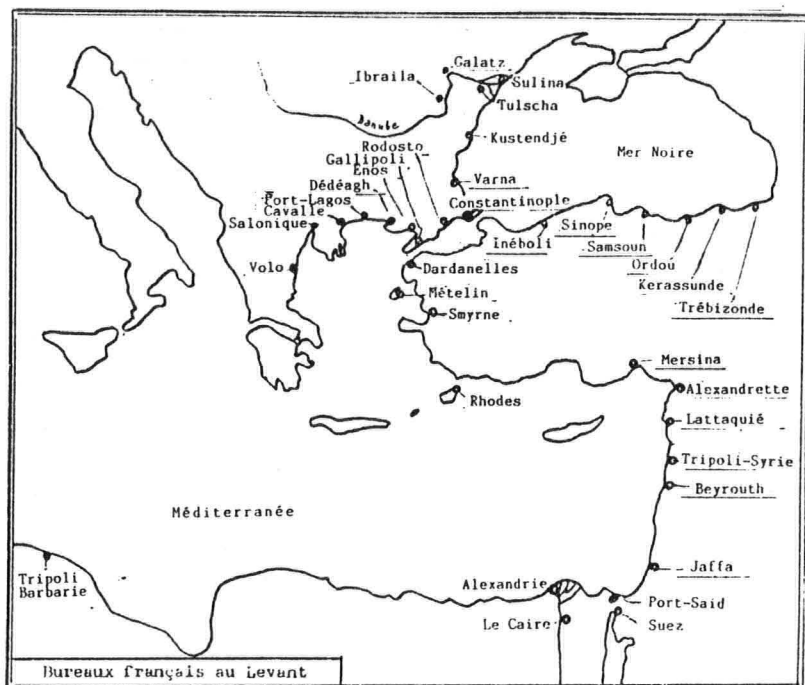


Figure 2.

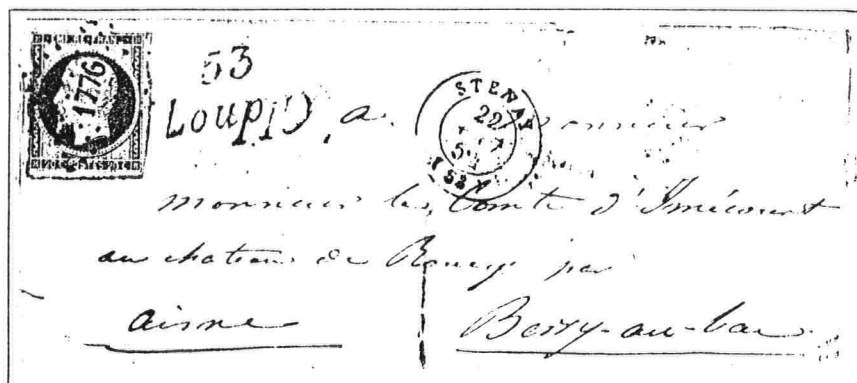


Figure 3. Small numeral 1776.

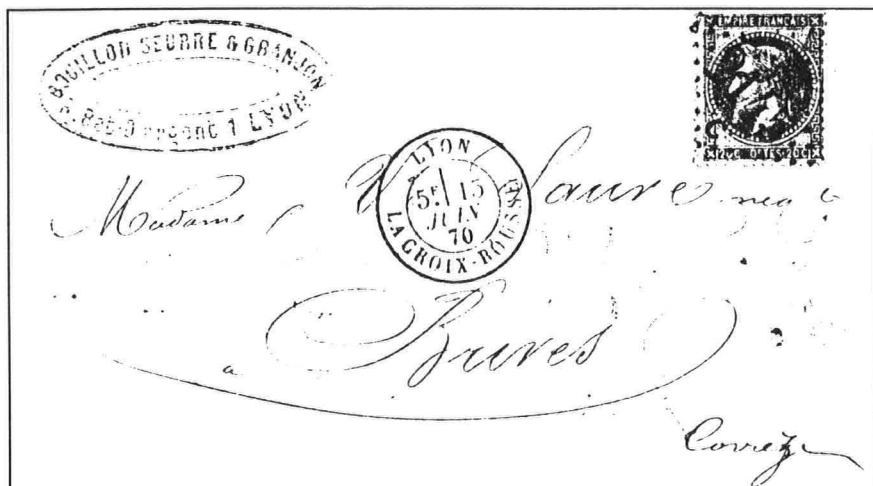


Figure 4. Large numeral 2145/c of branch office of Lyon.

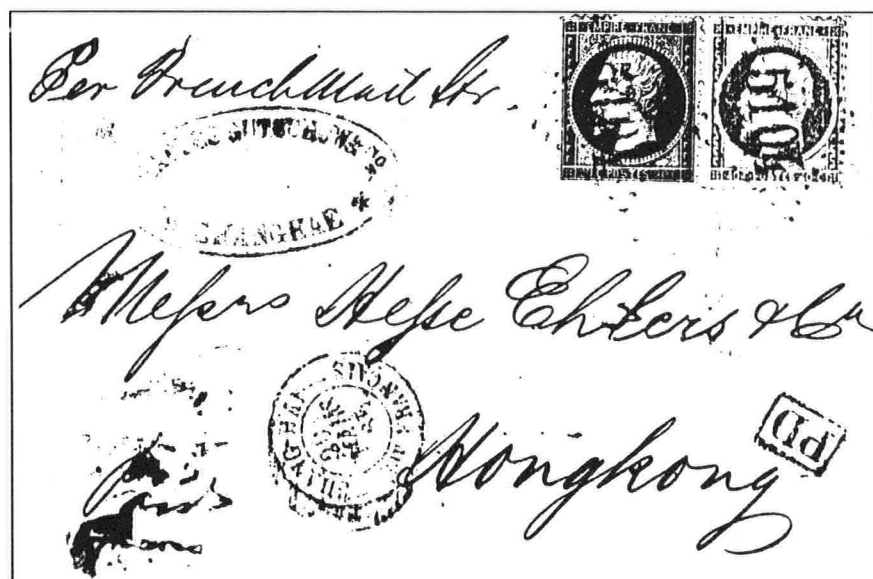


Figure 5. Large numeral 5104 of Shang-hai, 20 March 1865.

France began establishing post offices abroad as early as 1799, the earliest being at Constantinople. This was followed by Alexandria (1830), Dardanelles (1835), Beyrouth (1840), and Basel in Switzerland (1846). As a result of the chartering in 1852 of the French maritime line, the *Compagnie de Navigation des Messageries Impériales*, later the *Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes*, many more foreign offices sprang up, primarily at the ports served by the ships, first in the Mediterranean, then on and near the Black Sea, and finally in China and Japan.

Figure 6, taken from the book by Lesgor and Minnegerode,³ identifies the numbers assigned to foreign post offices. Large numeral 5106 for Tangier is indicated by the auction house Roumet as being very rare. Next in scarcity are numeral cancels on stamps used from Cavalle, Dedeagh, Ordou and Sinope. You will note that Volo, on the Aegean Sea, does not have an assigned number. Monsieur Robineau kindly provided this explanation: the bureau of Volo was opened from 1857 to 1861, then reopened in 1879 and closed permanently in 1881. Inasmuch as the bureau was closed when the *gros chiffres* were assigned, no number was given to it.

<i>Offices Abroad. Small Numerals in Lozenge</i>			
<i>1852-1863</i>			
3704	Alexandria (Egypt)	4008	Galatz (Moldavia)
3705	Basle (Switzerland)	4009	Ibraila (Valachia)
3706	Beyrouth (Syria)	4010	Inéboli (Turkey)
3707	Constantinople (Turkey)	4011	Kerassunde (Turkey)
3708	Dardanelles (Turkey)	4012	Salonica (Turkey)
3709	Smyrna (Turkey)	4013	Samsoun (Turkey)
3766	Alexandretta (Syria)	4014	Sinope (Turkey)
3767	Gallipoli (Turkey)	4015	Sulina (Turkey)
3768	Jaffa (Syria)	4016	Trebizonde (Turkey)
3769	Latakia (Syria)	4017	Tultscha (Turkey)
3770	Mersina (Turkey)	4018	Varna (Turkey)
3771	Mytilene (Turkey)	4019	Volo (Turkey)
3772	Rhodes (Turkey)	4222	Monaco
3773	Tripoli (Barbary)		
<i>Offices Abroad. Large Numeral Lozenge</i>			
2387	Monaco	5098	Smyrna (Turkey)
5079	Alexandretta (Syria)	5099	Sulina (Turkey)
5080	Alexandria (Egypt)	5100	Trebizonde (Turkey)
5081	Basle (Switzerland)	5101	Tripoli (Barbary)
5082	Beyrouth (Syria)	5102	Tultscha (Turkey)
5083	Constantinople (Turkey)	5103	Varna (Turkey)
5084	Dardanelles (Turkey)	5104	Shanghai (China)
5085	Galatz (Moldavia)	5105	Suez (Egypt)
5086	Gallipoli (Turkey)	5106	Tangiers (Morocco)
5087	Ibraila (Valachia)	5107	Tunis (Tunisia)
5088	Inéboli (Turkey)	5118	Yokohama (Japan)
5089	Jaffa (Syria)	5119	Cairo (Egypt)
5090	Kerassunde (Turkey)	5121	La Goulette (Tunisia)
5091	Latakia (Turkey)	5129	Port Said (Egypt)
5092	Mersina (Turkey)	5139	Constanza (Turkey)
5093	Mytilene (Turkey)	5153	Enos (Turkey)
5094	Rhodes (Turkey)	5154	Port Lagos (Turkey)
5095	Salonica (Turkey)	5155	Dédéagh (Turkey)
5096	Samsoun (Turkey)	5156	Cavalle (Turkey)
5097	Sinope (Turkey)		
5086 and 5097 were also used at Rodosto (Turkey) and Ordou (Turkey) respectively.			

Figure 6.

For those who would like to pursue the fascinating area of numeral cancels, they should obtain the complete listings to be found in Pothion's handbook.⁴ There is also a 1950 publication of Brainerd Kremer titled "Checklist of the Numeral Cancellations Used by the Post Offices of France," which was reviewed in an early number (Whole No. 38) of our Journal. Figure 7 illustrates page 23, which is just the beginning of the list of offices in cities and towns starting with the letter "H", so it's quite a long list.

1439	1703 Grandvilliers (58)	1469	1736 Guennon (70)
1439	1704 Granges (82)	1489	Guiche (14)
1440	1705 Granne (25)	1470	Guichen (34)
	4428 Grane (12)	1471	Guignes-Rabutin (73)
1441	1706 Granville (48)	4107	Guignicourt (2)
1442	1707 Grasse (87)	4218	Guillaumes (87)
1443	1708 Graulhet (77)	1472	Guillestre (4)
1444	1709 Grave (1a) (4)	3812	Guillon (83)
1445	1710 Gravelines (57)	1473	Guines-en-Calaisie (61)
1446	1711 Gravelle (1a) (51)	1474	Guingamp (21)
	6005 Graveson (12)	1475	Guipavas (28)
1447	Graville-Ste Honorine (supp. en 1853) (74)	1476	Guiscard (58)
		1477	Guise (2)
1448	1712 Gray (69)		6230 Guitalens (77)
	4457 Gréasque (12)	1478	Guitres (32)
1449	1713 Grenade-sur-Oaronne(30)	1479	Gujan (32)
1450	1714 Grenade-sur-l'Adour(39)	1480	Gy (69)
1451	1715 Grenelle (60)	1481	Gyé-sur-Seine (9)
1452	1716 Grenoble (37)		*****
1453	1717 Greoux (5)		
1454	1718 Grès-sous-Troyes(les)(9)		
4217	1719 Grézy (88)	4429	Habas (39)
1455	1720 Gréz-en-Bouère (51)	4587	Haboudange (52)
1456	1721 Grignan (25)	1482	Habsheim (66)
1457	1722 Grignols (32)	1483	Hagetmau (39)
	4698 Grigny (68)	1484	Haguenau (67)
1458	1723 Grisolles (85)	3863	Hallencourt (76)
	4979 Grisy-les-Plâtres (72)	1485	Halluin (57)
	6424 Griveaux (76)	1486	Ham (76)
	6020 Groix (54)		4727 Hambye (48)
	4877 Gros-Bliederstroff (55)	1487	Hangest-en-Santerre (76)
4039	1724 Gros-Tenquin (55)		6100 Hangest-sur-Somme (76)
	6243 Gruissan (10)		6408 Hannonville (53)
1459	1725 Gua (1a) (16)		4987 Karbonnières (76)
1460	1726 Guebwiller (66)	1194	Hardinghen (61)
1461	1727 Guéméné-Penfao (42)	1488	Harfleur (74)
1462	1728 Guéméné-sur-Scorff (54)	1489	Haroué (52)
1463	1729 Guer (54)		6360 Hartennes-en-Taux (2)
1464	1730 Guérande (42)		4881 Hasnon (57)
	3105 Guérard (73)	1490	Hasparren (64)
1465	1731 Guerche-de-Bretagne (1a) (34)	4178	Hatten (67)
1466	1732 Gueroche-sur- l'Aubois (1a)(17)	1491	Haubourdin (57)
1467	1733 Guéret (22)	1492	Hautefort (23)
1468	1734 Guérigny (56)	1493	Hautevives (25)
	4656 Guerlesquin (28)	1494	Hauteville (1)
4494	1735 Guétin (1a) (17)	4175	Hautmont (57)
		1495	Havre (1a) (74)

Page 23

Figure 7.

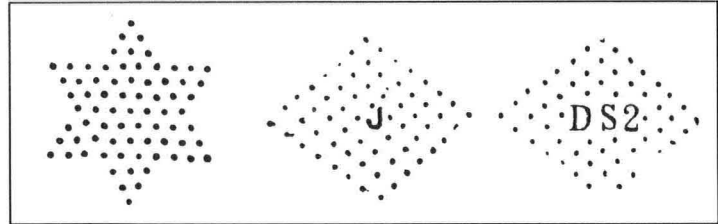


Figure 8.

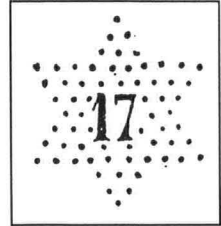


Figure 9.

Endnotes

1. Cancellations used in Paris at this time were a pattern of dots in the shape of a six-pointed star, used at the main post office (*Bureau Central*); a lozenge of dots in the shape of a diamond containing a letter, from A to N, designating the district post offices; and the same letter followed by S and a number from 1 to 3, designating a lesser office in the same district (Figure 8).
2. Cancellations used in Paris from 5 September 1863 until 28 March 1876 changed (except at the main post office) to the dotted six-pointed star containing a number from 1 to 40 (Figure 9). A cross-reference from letters to numbers, for those 35 Paris offices in existence in 1863, is provided below.
3. "The Cancellations on French Stamps of the Classic Issues, 1849-1876," by Raoul Lesgor and Meade Minniegerode, 1948.
4. "Nomenclature des Bureaux de Postes Française, 1852-1876," by Jean Pothion, 1979; available from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 Faubourg Montmartre, F-75009 Paris, France.

Letter	Postoffice Address	Number	Letter	Postoffice Address	Number
A	1 rue Tirechappe	17	F	56 rue St. Dominique	20
AS1	Hôtel de Ville	13	FS1	5 Petit rue du Rac	10
AS2	170 rue St. Antoine	21	FS2	148 rue St. Dominique	27
AS3	15 rue de la Ste. Chapelle	32	G	12 rue Mazarine	15
B	95 Blvd. Beaumarchais	12	GS	rue de la Ste. Chappelle (became AS3 in 1854)	
BS1	176 rue du Faub. St. Antoine	23	H	22 rue du Cardinal Lemoine	28
BS2	19 Blvd. Mazas	30	HS1	173 rue Mouffetard	29
C	4 rue des Vieilles Mandriettes	7	HS2	Hôpital de la Salpêtrière	35
CS1	48 rue d'Anjouleme du Temple	19	HS3	42 rue de la Harpe	25
CS2	4 rue Neuve Bourg l'Abbe	16	J	4 Place de la Bourse	1
CS3	6 Blvd. St. Martin	5	JS1	19 rue d'Antin	8
D	2 rue Ste. Cecile	4	K	5 rue Bourdaloue	2
DS1	160 rue du Faub. St. Martin	14	KS1	8 rue St. Nicholas d'Antin	22
DS2	28 rue de Clery	24	KS2	30 rue de Londres	18
DS3	Gare du Nord	26	L	16 rue de Tournon	6
E	24 rue de Seze	3	M	2 rue de Bourgoigne	31
ES1	75 rue du Faub. St. Honore	9	N	3 rue de l'Echelle	11
ES2	3 rue de Chaillot	34			

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

by Patrick Lavenas

(Continued from October 1996)

Abrév.	Signification
SRTP	Service de Recherche de Technique de la Poste
SRVM	Service Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières
St	Saint
SWI	Sanofi Winthrop Industrie
TAAF	Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises
TELEC.	TELECommunications
TELECM.	TELEComMunications
TELECOM.	TELECOMmunications
TELEGR.	TELEGRaphes
TELEGRAPH.	TELEGRAPHes
TELEPH.	TELEPHone
TELEPH.	TELEPHonique
TELEPHON.	TELEPHONique
TER	« TER »
TG	TéléGraphe
TP	Timbre-Poste
TRANSBT	TRANSBordement
TT	Télégrammes téléphonés
UP	Université de la Poste
VB	Vert Bois

VEPEX	VEPéciste cedEX
ZI	Zone Industrielle
ZUP	Zone d'Utilité Publique
(present on ancillary markings)	
x ACPT	Administration Centrale de la Poste et des Télécommunications
x ACR	Agence Comptable Régionale
x AEXDA	Agent d'EXploitation à la Distribution et Acheminement
x AO	Autres Objets
x APGG	Agence Postale à Gérance Gratuite
x APNE	Agence Postale Navale Embarquée
x AR	Avis de Réception
x BCA	Bureau Central d'Arrondissement
x BF	Bureau Frontière
x BGG	Bureau à Gérance Gratuite
x BN	Bureau Naval
x BP	Boîte Postale
x BV	Boîte en Valeur déclarée
x CAMP	Compagnie d'Automatismes et de Mécanismes de Précision
x CCL	Centre de Construction des Lignes
x CDD	Conducteur De la Distribution
x CDTx	Conducteur De Travaux
x CGA	Compagnie Générale d'Automatismes
x CIDEX	Courrier Individuel à Distribution EXceptionnelle
x CNET	Centre National d'Etudes des Télécommunications
x CP	Code Postal
x DEC	Direction d'Exploitation du Courrier
x DGP	Direction Générale de la Poste
x DIVA	Distributeur de Vignettes d'Affranchissement
x DOM	Département d'Outre-Mer
x DPNC	Direction de la Poste Navale Centrale
x DSA	Direction des Services Ambulants
x EMA	Empreintes de Machines à Affranchir
x EMD	Electronique Marcel Dassault
x F	Facteur
x GAPA	Guichet d'Affranchissement Postal Automatique
x IER	Impression d'Etiquettes Rapide
x LI	Lettre régime International
x LIAP	Lectuer Indexeur d'Adresse Postale
x LIPAP	Lecteur Indexeur Prétrieur d'Adresse Postale
x LISA	Libre Service d'Affranchissement
x LR	Lettre Recommandée
x LSA	Libre Service d'Affranchissement
x LV	Lettre en Valeur déclarée
x MOB	Micro-Ordinateur Banalisé
x MOG	Micro-Ordinateur de Guichet
x MP	Musée Postal
x NEC	Nippon Electric Company
x NHPAI	N'Habite Pas à l'Adresse Indiquée
x NPAI	N'habite Pas à l'Adresse Indiquée
x OL	Origine Locale
x OR	Origine Rurale
x P	Préposé
x PC	Poste Comptable
x PI	Paquet régime International
x PIB	Poste d'Indexation de Bureau
x PID	Poste d'Indexation Décentralisé
x PIM	Poste d'Indexation Mixte
x PIS	Poste d'Indexation Simplifié
x PR	Poste Restante

x	PR	Paquet Recommandé
x	PV	Paquet en Valeur déclarée
x	R	Recommandé
x	RAR	Recette Auxiliaire Rurale
x	RAU	Recette Auxiliaire Urbaine
x	RD	Recette-Distribution
x	RR	Recette Rurale
x	SATAS	Société d'Affranchissement et de Timbrage AutomatiqueS
x	SCIP	Service Comptable Interdépartemental de la Poste
x	SIRCA	Système Intégré de Reconnaissance et de Codage d'Adresse
x	SIVIC	Système d'Indexation par Vidéo-Codage d'adresse
x	T	Taxe
x	T	Trieur
x	TàD	Timbre A Date
x	TC	Trieur Chef
x	TOM	Territoire d'Outre-Mer
x	TOSHIBA	TOKIO SHIBAudo company
x	V	Visa
x	VD	Valeur Déclarée

THE SURCOUF MYSTERY

by Don Akerstrom (FCPS #2826)

[A contribution of the St. Pierre & Miquelon Study Group. Reprinted, with the addition of illustrations and with a few minor editorial changes, from the "St. Pierre & Miquelon Journal," with permission of the editor.]

Relations between the various French colonies and the mother country at the beginning of the second world war can at best be described as tenuous. Commencing with French Equatorial Africa in 1940 and ending with French Somali Coast in November 1942, they transferred their allegiance from Vichy to the Free French Forces led by General Charles DeGaulle.

In 1938 a very large and powerful radio transmitter was erected by the French government on the island of St. Pierre. As shipping losses in the North Atlantic mounted in 1940 and 1941, Allied authorities feared that the station was broadcasting information on convoys passing the islands at the beginning of their voyages to Britain.

After extensive discussion and agreement by Governor Robert in Martinique (under whose authority the islands fell), the Canadian and American governments decided to put monitors on St. Pierre to supervise radio traffic from the island. Prime Minister Winston Churchill became increasingly frustrated as time progressed; shipping losses continued and the Canadians and Americans continued to only talk about monitors. Churchill's solution was simple. He suggested to General DeGaulle that he liberate the tiny islands. General DeGaulle agreed and immediately appointed his deputy Admiral Muselier to assemble a task force and carry out the plan. The three Free French Navy corvettes, *Minosa*, *Aconit* and *Alysse* were freed from North Atlantic convoy duty.

They joined the giant Free French submarine *Surcouf* (Figure 1) in Halifax, Nova Scotia in mid-December 1941. The *Surcouf* was the pride of the Free French Navy with a cruising ranging of 12,000 miles and twin 8-inch guns enclosed in a watertight turret and a hangar containing a small airplane for scouting purposes. *Surcouf* was commanded by Commander Louis Blaison, a highly regarded career naval officer. Blaison had a very difficult command as a large contingent of the crew had sympathies lying with Vichy

and constantly listened to Nazi-tainted shortwave broadcasts from Vichy France.

On the morning of December 24, 1941, the small flotilla entered St. Pierre harbor and seized control of the islands administration from the Vichy administrators. The flag of Free France was raised immediately. Admiral Muselier immediately ordered a plebiscite in which over 90 percent of the islanders opposed the Vichy regime.

The end of the submarine *Surcouf* was far less certain than control of St. Pierre and Miquelon. *Surcouf* was now ordered to proceed to Tahiti and place itself under command of the Free French Pacific Fleet. Nearing the Panama Canal, the giant sub was struck and sunk on February 18, 1942, by the U.S. Army transport *Thompson Lykes*. Damage to the *Lykes* was actual but the evidence was all circumstantial that it was the *Surcouf* that was struck. A Court of Inquiry held in New Orleans finally decided the actual vessel sunk was *Surcouf* by a process of elimination.

A second theory regarding the sub's end was that it was sunk by U.S. Navy subs while trying to approach the French island of Martinique to join elements of the Vichy navy sequestered there under the protection of the Vichy Governor Admiral Robert.

The final theory regarding the disposition, and one supported by no less an authority than J. Edgar Hoover in reports to U.S. Navy Intelligence, is that *Surcouf* was sunk by a large Free Polish destroyer (probably *Piorun*) while caught in the act of rendezvousing with a surfaced U-boat off the east coast of Newfoundland.

Whatever the final end of the Free French submarine *Surcouf* and her commander, Louis Blaison, both will be remembered for their brief association with St. Pierre and Miquelon. A 1962 St. Pierre and Miquelon airmail (Scott #C25) stamp commemorates the 20th anniversary of the island joining the Free French (Figure 2). A 1993 regular issue (Scott #597) remembers Commander Louis Blaison and the giant *Surcouf* (Figure 3) which, even today, we can only speculate about how it met its end.

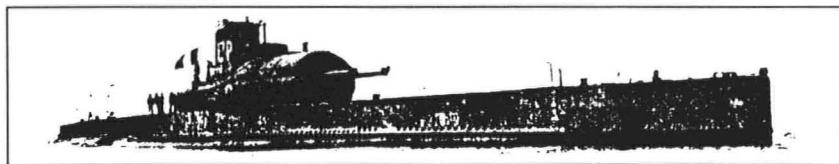


Figure 1. The 3250 ton submarine "Surcouf."

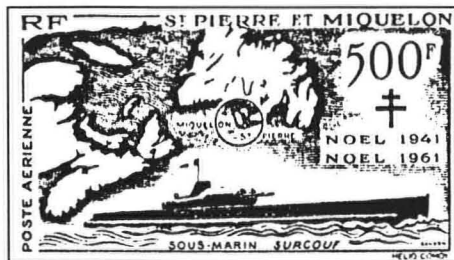


Figure 2. St. Pierre & Miquelon 1962 airmail, showing the "Surcouf" and location map of the islands.



Figure 3. 1993 St. Pierre & Miquelon stamp showing Cmdr. Blaison and the "Surcouf."

FROM ATLANTIC FRANCE TO ITALIAN SWITZERLAND IN 1836

by Harlan F. Stone

Under the postal treaties between Swiss cantons and France during 1828-1845, both sides employed a complex set of accounting marks to signify the postage to be collected at the end of a letter's journey. France used ten concentric distance zones, radiating out from its exchange offices at Huningue, Pontarlier, Delle and Ferney, as the basis for its postage rates of 2 décimes and up to 11 décimes for a 7½ gram letter. The farthest "11D" zone included only two small areas of France, the tip of Brittany where it juts into the Atlantic Ocean and the extreme southwest corner next to Spain where the Pyrenees Mountains run into the Atlantic.

In an undated publication on these treaties at least 25 years ago, the still-active Swiss postal historian Louis Vuille reproduced the postal markings on two "11D" covers but did not show the actual covers.¹ The Belgian postal historian Leo De Clercq, who published his studies of these treaties in the 1980s,² recently reported that he had never seen an "11D" cover. When the Swiss postal historian Hansuli Sieber published in 1991 his book on the 1829 Canton Basel-French treaty, he illustrated one of Vuille's two "11D" covers, but it turned out to be an incorrectly marked cover from Bordeaux in the "10D" zone.³ It follows that "11D" covers are very scarce. I began searching for an example after creating a five-frame exhibit in 1991 of letters mailed under these treaties.

Sudden success struck at a large New York stamp show early in 1995. In a dealer's box, I found the cover illustrated here (Figure 1) that had traveled across both France and Switzerland almost as far as possible within these two countries, from Lorient on the Brittany coast in France on August 6, 1836, to Promontogno in one of the Italian-speaking pockets within the most eastern Swiss canton of Grisons bordering Italy and Austria. Lying on its left side is the elusive "11D" mark, in this case a boxed "CF/11D" handstamp signifying "correspondence par Ferney, 11 décimes" due France.

Finding this cover was only the first challenge. Understanding the accumulation of postage charges as it passed through the Swiss cantons has become a second challenge. The French letter writer included a detailed route in the address: "par (via) Paris, Bâle (Basel), Coira (Chur), Canton Grisons in Bregaglia (Valley) à (to) Promontogno." The cover also bears three rate figures: 34 and 55, both in the same red ink; and 63 in black crayon.

During the Swiss-French treaties, the Canton of Zurich's postal administration held sway over seven other Swiss cantons, including Grisons. Although this letter did go through the French exchange office at Huningue and the Canton of Basel (and Aargau) to reach Zurich, France exchanged this letter directly with Zurich for forwarding to Grisons. The Paris post office carelessly applied the boxed "CF/11D" mark, intended for use on mail from France via the French exchange office at Ferney to the Fischer Post in Geneva, Switzerland. Fischer had gone out of business at the end of 1832, but the "CF" mark was still within reach of the postal clerks at Paris.

After receiving conflicting opinions on the division of postage for the delivery of this letter, I've settled on the following breakdown as the best fit, keeping in mind that letters under these treaties show inconsistencies in postage calculations.

Although this letter now seems to weigh very slightly less than $7\frac{1}{2}$ grams, the Zurich post office apparently rated it as a "double" letter weighing $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 grams, triggering charges of $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the basic rate.

The Zurich post office wrote the 34 as the Swiss kreuzer charges to that point and the 55 as the final total, including the forwarding charges to Promontogno.

At the destination the 55 kreuzers were converted into 63 blutzgers, the local currency.

The breakdown.

Lorient to Swiss border:	22 kreuzers = 11 décimes for 750-900 kilometers
Swiss border to Zurich:	12 kreuzers = 8 kruezers x $1\frac{1}{2}$ rate.
Zurich to Chur:	12 kreuzers = 8 kreuzers x $1\frac{1}{2}$ rate.
Chur to Promontogno:	9 kreuzers = 6 kreuzers x $1\frac{1}{2}$ rate.
Total:	55 kreuzers

References

1. "Frankreich Gebührenstempel nach der Schweiz 1828-1845" by Louis Vuille, a supplement to *Postgeschichte und Altbriefkunde* by the Deutschen Altbriefsammler-Vereins, no date, in German.
2. "Tarieven en Porten" by Leo de Clercq, read before the Belgium Academy of Philately, Jan. 21, 1985, in Flemish.
3. *Porti und Stempel aufgrund des Postvertrages Basel-Frankreich 1.4.1829-30.11.1845* by Hansuli Sieber, 1991, in German.

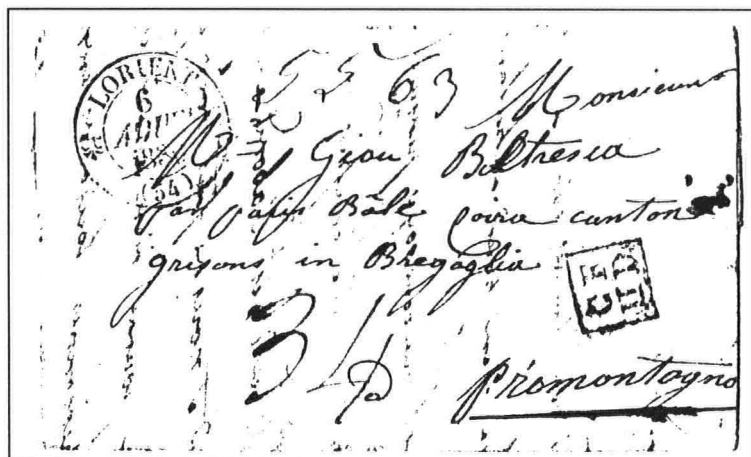


Figure 1.

CAMEROUN'S FIRST REVENUE STAMPS?

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

Forbin¹ and Duston² reported that revenue stamps for exclusive use in Cameroun were first issued in March 1927. These were prepared by applying a handstamped *ENREGISTREMENT* overprint to postage stamps of Cameroun or a handstamped *CAMEROUN* overprint to revenue stamps of French Congo (Figure 1). However, these apparently were not the first. An order, dated January 7, 1922 and duly published in the *Journal officiel du Cameroun*, authorized the surcharge of three different *timbres-tax* d'enregistrement in very limited quantities.³ The *arrêté* is reproduced in Figure 2. In summary, authorization was given to surcharge:

Eight 3-franc stamps with a new value of 10,000 francs.

Twelve 2-franc stamps at 5,000 francs.

Forty 5-franc stamps at 1,000 francs.

The *Receveur de l'Enregistrement* at Yaoundé was to provide the stamps and take delivery after revaluation. He was also to adjust his records accordingly. The *Chef du Secrétariat Général* was authorized to carry out the order.

If the 1927 issue is any indication, one can presume that revenue stamps of French Congo might have been used for the 1922 overprinting operation. One can only speculate about the intended use for such high-value stamps, but there must have been some urgent local need. Given the small quantities produced, what are the chances that any still exist today?



Figure 1. Styles of the 1927 provisional revenue stamps.

ARRÊTÉ autorisant la surcharge de timbres-taxe d'enregistrement.

LE COMMISSAIRE DE LA REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
AU CAMEROUN,
OFFICIER DE LA LÉGION D'HONNEUR.

Vu le décret du 23 mars 1921 ;
Vu l'arrêté du 8 décembre 1921 ;
Sur la proposition du Chef du Secrétariat Général.

ARRÊTE :

Article premier. — Sont autorisées les surcharges de timbre-taxe d'enregistrement suivantes :

- 1^{re} huit figurines à 3 frs. à surcharger à 10.000 frs.
- 2^{re} douze figurines à 2 frs. à surcharger à 5.000 frs.
- 3^{re} quarante timbre à 5 frs. à surcharger à 1.000 frs.

Art. 2. — Les écritures du Receveur de l'Enregistrement à Yaoundé qui fournira les timbres à surcharger, et recevra ces timbres après surcharge, seront régularisées en conséquence.

Art. 3. — Le Chef du Secrétariat Général est chargé de l'exécution du présent arrêté qui sera enregistré et communiqué partout où besoin sera.

Yaoundé, le 7 Janvier 1922.

CARDE.

Figure 2. The 1922 order authorizing the preparation of overprinted revenue stamps.

References

1. Forbin, A., *Catalogue prix courant des timbres fiscaux de France des colonies françaises et des pays de protectorat ou sous mandat*; Amiens, Imprimerie Yvert & Tellier, January 1937, pp. 124-125.
2. Duston, D. L. (ed.), *French Colonies Revenues (and Former Colonies Now Independent). Part II. Sub-Sahara African Colonies*; sponsored by The American Revenue Association. 1987-1988.
3. *Journal officiel des territoires du Cameroun*; Yaoundé, Imprimerie du Gouvernement, 1922, p. 62.

SOME BITS OF HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR COLLECTORS OF TONKIN (FRENCH INDOCHINA) POSTAL HISTORY by Jacques Desrousseaux

[Editor's Note: The following has been gleaned, translated, and reworked from a 22 August 1973 letter the late M. Desrousseaux wrote to Bert Mendelsohn; Bert and I believe they're well worth sharing with other collectors. I have generally omitted accent marks and am responsible for any misspellings and misinterpretations.]

Prior to World War II, Tonkin (Tongking) was a French protectorate in northeastern Indochina. It had an autochthonous ("native") political hierarchy, which ran thusly, from top to bottom:

1. the Viceroy, in Kadang (near Hanoi);
2. the Tang-Doc, or governor, of each Tonkin province;
3. the Quan-Huyen, or sub-prefect;
4. the Chinh-Tong, or chief of the canton;
5. the Ly-Truong, or village headman (the village was a strong autochthonous institution);
6. numerous Thon, or hamlets, dependent upon the village.

These authorities had rectangular handstamps for use on their official free-franchise mail.¹

This native hierarchy was in turn controlled by a French one. The *Résident Supérieur* of Hanoi controlled the Viceroy of Kadang. The *Résident chef de province* controlled the Tang-Doc. In general the next lower levels of the autochthonous hierarchy had no French overlords.

Five of the eight provinces on the Chinese frontier had a differing French system, whereby military officers replaced civil servants. A colonel was the chief of the military territory (instead of the *chef de province*). The commandant of each garrison or military post² was to control the local autochthonous authority. In the case of the cover shown as Figure 4 in the article referred to in Endnote 1, we can see both the native and the French franchise markings. We also note from Figure 5 of the same article that Dien-Bien-Phu was in the 4th Military Territory of Tonkin. Here follows a listing of the military territories and provinces along the Chinese frontier, reading from east to west:

- 1st Military Territory (or Province of Haininh); Mon Cay, chief town;
- Province of Langson (civil control);
- 2nd Military Territory (or Province of Cao Bang);
- 3rd Military Territory (or Province of Ha Giang);
- Province of Lao Kay (civil control);
- 4th Military Territory (or Province of Lai-Chau);
- 5th Military Territory (or Province of Phong-Saly), in Laos;
- Province of Houei-Sai (civil control), in Laos.

Endnotes

1. See Figure 2 of *Indo-China to Switzerland Airmail-1936 Covers and Rates*, by B. Mendelsohn, in *FCP* #243, January 1996, p. 16; cover bears rectangular franchise marking of the Ly-Truong of Muong-Nhie, as well as the circular franchise cachet of the chief of the French military post. The free franchise was valid only within Indochina, hence the airmail postage to Switzerland. Though an important village, Muong-Nhie did not have a post office.
2. M. Desrousseaux helpfully pointed out that *le poste* = the military post or small garrison, whereas *la poste* = the post office or postal system.

AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES - 25

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

In the February 1992 issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, I wrote some details about a team of ponies that pulled an open coupe, driven out of Paris by three diplomats, who had permission from both the French to leave Paris and the Germans to go to Versailles on their way out of the occupied zone of France. They left besieged Paris on Sunday, 11 December 1870, spent the night at Villeneuve St. Georges, and arrived at Versailles on the evening of the 12th, according to a letter written by Count Hatzfeldt (on Bismarck's staff at Versailles) to his wife at Berlin.

The reason this event is of interest to postal historians is that at least one of the three diplomats carried mail that had been personally entrusted to him, as I concluded from the marking on a cover that a Paris friend had asked me about. It received its first postmark at London on 26 December. Hence the question was, was this a cover that had traveled in the US diplomatic pouch, which was then being shuttled between London and Versailles at fairly regular intervals by a Prussian military messenger and exchanged by enemy troops facing each other at the Bridge of Sèvres by means of flags of truce. The pouch is known to have contained private letters quite often.

There are, however, two very good reasons why this cover could not have been in such a pouch:

- The London postmark was not one of the ones typical for pouch letters.
- The date of the London postmark falls between the arrival of pouches 8 and 9 out of Paris.

The only person known to have left Paris during that period and to have ended up in England was the military attaché of the British Embassy at Paris, Colonel E. S. Claremont, one of the threesome that had left in the pony-drawn open carriage. It appears that Claremont may have stayed at Versailles for some days before moving on to the Channel and beyond, reaching London around Christmas.

The cover that prompted this study was auctioned in Jamet/Baudot mail sale No. 156 in June 1992, as lot of 674, for just over 53,500 francs. That appears to have been the first time that it was offered on the open market. It carries the usual 20-centimes Napoleon stamp, which was, of course, invalid for postage under those circumstances but was canceled upon returning to France by a Calais-à-Paris daytime train postmark of 27 December to prevent its re-use. It is struck with another strike of that train mark, a "6" [pence or décimes] postage due mark, and two Trouville arrival markings of 28 December. Above the octagonal London mark is a handwritten notice *France*, with a different pen and in a different handwriting than the address.

That was the sole letter of its kind known until recently, when the Jamet/Baudot sale 168 of July 1995 contained as lot 1039 an envelope-letter combination, franked with a 20-centimes Cérés, also invalid for postage under those circumstances, also devalued by a French postmark, but this one ANGL./AMB.CALAIS E of 27 December, which is also struck on the cover itself. The London postmark is the same octagonal one, same date. There is the same "6" due mark, the same Calais-à Paris daytime train mark of 27 December and an arrival mark, apparently on back, from St. Bénin d'Azy (Nièvre) of 1 January 1871. And to top it all off, it shows the same "France" marking in the same handwriting and presumably with the same ink and pen

as the other cover. The handwritings for the addresses of the two covers are quite different from each other. It would appear that the *France* marking may have been put on these letters by Colonel Claremont, perhaps as a hint to the British post office where to direct the letters?

ISTANBUL 96

Ordinarily when visiting a new international site, I give some report on the city and greater detail on the show. Istanbul was such a badly organized show that I don't even want to think about it again. Natives were friendly, and many English-speaking. Prices outside the tourist hotels were reasonable, and it was possible to get a fine dinner with wines for about \$30. My wife, Jo, loved the Grand Bazaar.

The French Community was not heavily represented in the exhibits. There was an excellent exhibit of French Levant (Large Gold, David Franco); Sites & Monuments (Large Vermeil, Georges Tixier) and my 25c Cérès (Vermeil) in traditional; Fillinger's Grand Armée (Gold), Kraemer's Franchise markings (Large Vermeil), Sauvage's Algeria cancels (Large Vermeil), and Michel's Paris cancels (Vermeil) were the postal history entries from France. Among the U.S. postal history entries, Shirley Gallagher won Felicitations and Large Vermeil for her Tahiti, and Ed Grabowski Large Vermeil for his Guadeloupe. Tucked away in an Italian exhibit of West Indies postal history (Gold + Special prize) were an 1852 cover from Pointe-à-Pitre franked with a 1F and a tête-bêche pair of 25c France(!), and an 1872 cover from Guadeloupe franked with a tête-bêche pair of the 20c Colonies General issue. In the stationery class, Candoni showed Sage type for a Gold. That's it folks, choice but thin.

Doc Esmer led all U.S. exhibitors in other areas by taking the Grand Prix National for his Ottoman Postal History. He also arranged an interesting bus tour of western Turkey attended by 17 people after the show. The tour was better organized than the show, and our guide was a young Ph.D. candidate who had been on digs at some of the sites.

--J.E.L.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

WANTED: Nineteenth Century French passports for study by university professor. Please send information to Prof. Stephen Werner, UCLA Dept. of French, 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024-1550. (Mb. #3027).

WANTED: Copies of the 30c and 1F20 Petain WWII propaganda forgeries (as described in *Forged Stamps of Two World Wars* by the Williams brothers) for a research study. The actual forgeries would be best, but enlarged copies are acceptable. Need individual stamps and sheetlets. Will pay any reasonable charges. Edward A. Pieklo, P.O. Box 1662, North Riverside, IL 60546. (Mb. #2484).

FOR SALE: Huge stock of France and Colonies revenues, from Alouites to Vietnam, plus other worldwide revs. (including documents). Gordon Brooks, P.O. Box 396, Station N.D.G., Montreal, Quebec H4A 3P7, Canada. (Mb. #2959).

WANTED: Artist's proof or die proof of Monaco Yvert 1657, the Chirico painting. Make offer to Ron Knight, P.O. Box 34314, San Diego, CA 92163. (Mb. #2495).

REVIEWS

Jean-Paul, Alexandre, *Dictionnaire Historique des Timbres & Griffes "Standard" de l'Administration Française des Postes, 1792-1914*; 159 pp., 16 x 24 cm, clothbound; 1996; 275Fr + postage, from Edition Brun & Fils, 85 Galerie Beaujolais, Palais-Royal, F-75001 Paris, or (same pricing) from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 rue du Faub. Montmartre, F-75009 Paris.

In this nicely bound and elegant (in the French sense of the word) little work, Alexandre's intent is to obviate guesswork and sloppy reasoning, on the part of other philatelic writers and collectors, regarding the origin, function, and timespan of numerous French postal markings. By quoting from laws, decrees, instructions, deliberations, circulars, etc., he gives us the official reasons for the appearance (and disappearance) of every prescribed ("standard") postal marking (*timbre*) of the 1792-1914 period. This information is followed by earliest and latest known dates of use and by reglementary color. Each marking (or closely grouped markings) is usually covered within a single page (sometimes more, sometimes less). Those markings used specifically for and only in Paris are not covered. Interested readers are referred to the still pertinent 1958 study by A. Rochette and J. Pothion.

The only illustrations are full-size cuts of actual markings; 204 of them, by my count, in 158 separate categories or "chapters."

The author goes to some length to remind us that *timbre* was (and still is) the official term for an inked impression made from a three-dimensional handstamp. Adhesive postage stamps will just have to find themselves some other name.

This book is certainly not for everyone, except perhaps the more advanced cover collectors. It definitely would make a very attractive and thoughtful gift, for giving or receiving, and it should, at least, be present on the shelves of all major philatelic libraries. When I received my copy, I wondered to what purpose it might serve me. Soon afterwards, it proved very useful in preparing educated and correct writeups for a collection of suburban Paris letters. --S.J. Luft

Martin P. Bratzel, Jr., *The Wartime Revenue Stamps of Cameroun--A Critical Examination*; iv + 47 pp., 7 x 10", stapled, softbound; 1996; numerous color and black-and-white illustrations; \$25.00(US), postpaid in the U.S., from Leonard H. Hartmann, Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233, USA; also (\$25.00(US) postpaid in North America, or 125Fr + 15Fr airmail postage to elsewhere, by check, money order or banknotes payable to the author, at 1233 Virginia Ave., Windsor, Ontario N8S 2Z1, Canada.

Like the Alexandre work reviewed above, this slim little handbook is not for everyone. Which is a shame, but there simply aren't enough collectors of French Cameroun, much less of its revenues. But on the plus side, this is a work to be studied and emulated (at least in part) by any philatelic writer on any philatelic topic, because of its presentation, clarity of purpose, and depth of focus.

The "wartime" referred to is World War II, and the revenue stamps consist of 50+ postage stamp issues that were overprinted and surcharged for fiscal use. Everything that could be known--or that one would ever want to know--about those revenues appears to be present within these pages. Topics include the need to prepare the revenues, their authorization, overprinting operations, and the minutiae of the overprints themselves and of their varieties. The author breaks these stamps down into eight more-or-less distinct issues that date between Summer 1941 and August 1945.

In his foreword, the author states that the information used in his presentation and analysis came from official documentation, published philatelic literature, close scrutiny of the stamps, and consideration of cancellation dates. There wasn't much information available to begin with and, as the study progressed, some of it proved incorrect or spurious and had to be discarded. That's the way any sort of research should be handled. What remains is summarized in Bratzel's text, in his most useful and detailed tables, and in the depicted stamps themselves. Space is left in the various illustrations for those overprint varieties that are presumed to exist but have yet to be unearthed. Sort of like seeing printed album pages. I particularly like this treatment, for the "blanks" really stand out and beg to be filled by one collector or another. Two appen-

dices consist of reproductions of such pertinent official documents as are available. A third consists of the earlier (1987-1988) compendium of Cameroun wartime revenues by Donald Duston.

THIS IS PHILATELIC RESEARCH AT ITS VERY BEST. We already know fellow FCPS member and frequent contributor Bratzel as arguably the foremost philatelic authority on Cameroun. But more to the point we obtain a feel for how he did his research, for what his research and zeal accomplished, and also for what the rest of us should also attempt as we embark upon our very own special studies. For these reasons, this slender volume should be closely studied, even obtained as a permanent addition to one's research library, there to serve as a guide and constant reminder of what can be accomplished if one really tries.

The booklet is printed on good quality, sufficiently opaque recycled paper. Photography (actual size) of the overprinted stamps is topnotch, and the color reproductions are faithful to the originals. The \$25 price may be somewhat steep, but this resulted from the need for color, which was necessary to make the overprints stand out from their supporting postage stamps.

--S.J. Luft

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

Recently I judged the philatelic literature entries at SESCAL '96. There, I went through many fine--and not so fine--society periodicals. Though I must confess that some are "better" than ours, in that more money is spent on embellishing the product (card covers, glossy paper, lots of pages per year, lots of empty space on pages), our *France & Colonies Philatelist* is easily tops per members' dollars spend for membership dues. Nowhere else can one obtain so much good philatelic information for only \$11.00 (or \$15.00, according to where you reside) a year. Please take this to heart when it comes to renewing your membership for 1997.

And while you're at it, why not write me a letter stating your satisfaction (or dissatisfaction) with our journal, what you would like to see covered, what questions you might have regarding items in your collections, or answers to earlier-published questions, and if you are willing and able to write something for us. Letters of potential interest to the membership will be published, if you so desire. But, please, do write. I'd like to know who's out there! And I will acknowledge and answer all my incoming mail.

The first three of the "space fillers," describing types of definitive French stamps (including the "better" types), and promised in this column in the July 1996 number, appeared on pp. 121-122 of the October 1996 number. Others will appear at occasional intervals in future numbers of this Journal. Not having come up with a catchy title for this featurette, these items may be missed if you peruse only the Table of Contents rather than the whole 32-page number. Until I receive a better suggestion, the working title for these fillers will likely be "Types and Subtypes"--which, after all, is exactly what they're about.

WE GET LETTERS...

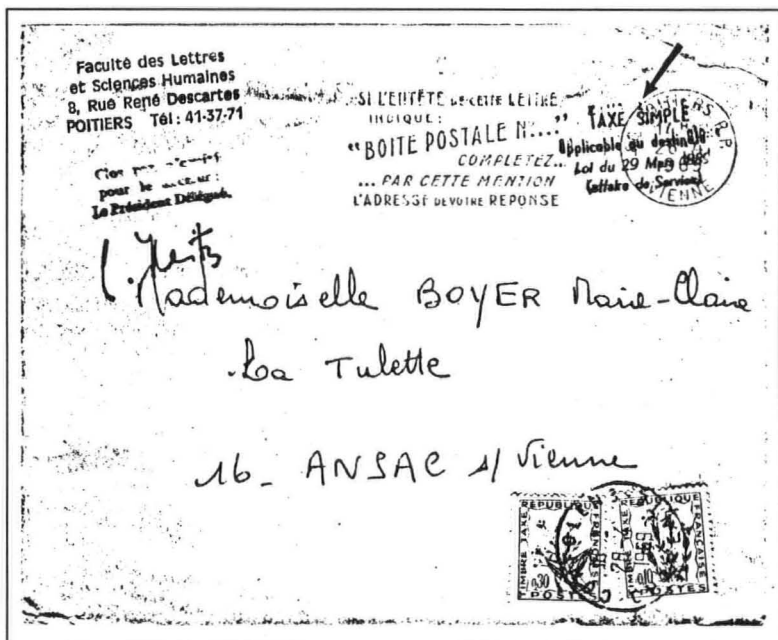
I feel compelled to tell you how much I enjoyed reading the October issue... The reason, I believe, is that most of the articles were of use to beginning and intermediate collectors of France and Colonies. The subjects were not "fly-speck esoterica," but things that an average collectors on an average budget might aspire to... Your F&CP has struck a good balance. Certainly it is expected to be the "journal of record" for everything from arcane findings to reports of new issues. But I think many people join the FCPS as amateurs hoping to expand their knowledge gradually. In the future, I'd like to see more reprints of good older articles like your lead one by A. G. McKanna. Also, translations of general-interest articles from French publications... --Benjamin Bump

Editor's reply: This letter was most warmly received! I have in the past, and will continue in the future to abstract or at least summarize (rather than go for word-for-word translating) articles of general or specialized information from French publications. I may also consider occasional reprinting of good older articles (Alan McKanna's was really an "updated and improved" version that I had repeatedly nagged him to provide for us.) However, this is a journal by and for the present membership, and I think that most of us would agree that current articles by current members (or friends) should receive precedence over earlier material that can be obtained from various libraries and other sources (including our Secretary's piles of unsold back issues of this journal). Nevertheless, and as circumstances allow, I shall always strive for well-balanced, interesting and useful journal contents.

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from #246, October 1996, p. 115)

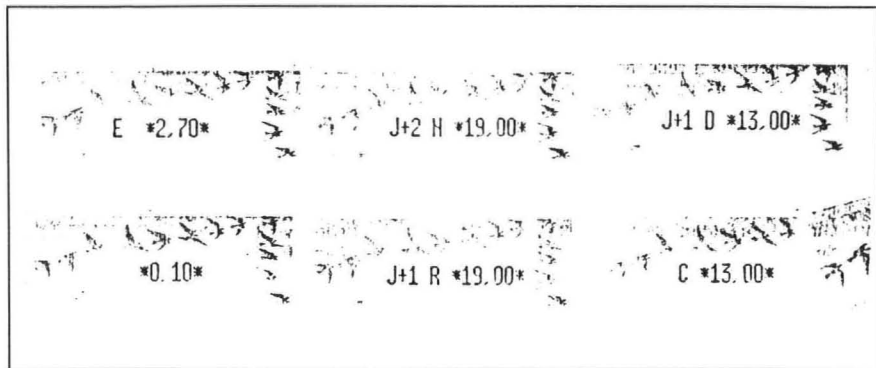
- 742.) The free franchise was terminated in France, in principle, on 1 January 1996. The following, however, continue to benefit from free franking: President of the Republic, Minister of Posts, all mail **addressed to** cabinet ministers, secretaries of State, and to certain functionaries and magistrates. And in addition, official correspondence exchanged between public administrators (whether national, regional, departmental, or local). Only the French President and the Minister of Posts (plus a few specific other lesser exceptions) will continue to have free registration of their mailings.
- 743.) For well over a hundred years, unpaid (or underpaid) mail has been taxed at twice the unpaid (or underpaid) postage. There is an exception, however, called the *taxe simple*, created by the Law of 29 March 1889 and made effective on 1 May 1889. A multitude of official and quasi-official organizations could send out mail to the public postage free. But, because these organizations did not have the right to the free franchise, this mail had to be taxed upon delivery. However, this category of mail, which bears a wide variety of handstamped or preprinted markings indicative of the *taxe simple* (see illustration of an example), was to be taxed at only the simple letter rate rather than at twice that rate, as a "favor" to the recipient.



28 April 1969, "simple tax" of 0.40F, equal to the 1x domestic letter rate (13 January 1969 Tariff) on letter from university (of Poitiers) department.

- 744.) Shortly after the latest round of postal-rate increases (18 March 1996), the format of LISA value-imprinted vending-machine vignettes was

changed to indicate (1) type of service intended, and (2) destination. Some of the letters or symbols used (shown below) include E for Ecopli, C for Colieco, LETTRE for letters weighing more than 20 gm, and J+1 or J+2 for the Colissimo services. In addition, D represents [same] Department, R = [same] Region, and N = National [or elsewhere within France]. For example, the upper right vignette shown reads "J+1 D *13,00*" which means J+1 colissimo service [delivery within 24 hours guaranteed], within the Department, and 13,00Fr postage.



> 745.) A modern philatelic rarity is shown at the top of Figure 1. For some unexplained reason, the Pitney-Bowes meter machine N° BE0162 used at Meaux (Seine-et-Oise) by the Ile-de-France agency of France Télécom to send out its bills, was changed by a technician to read PRINCIPAUTE/DE MONACO instead of the usual REPUBLIQUE/FRANÇAISE. This was discovered a bit too late and after many thousands of bills had been mailed. It's assumed that nearly all were thrown away by their unobservant recipients. Extreme known dates for this "Monaco aberration" are 8-16 September 1994. (Credit to Gérard Delmarre, in *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, May 1996).

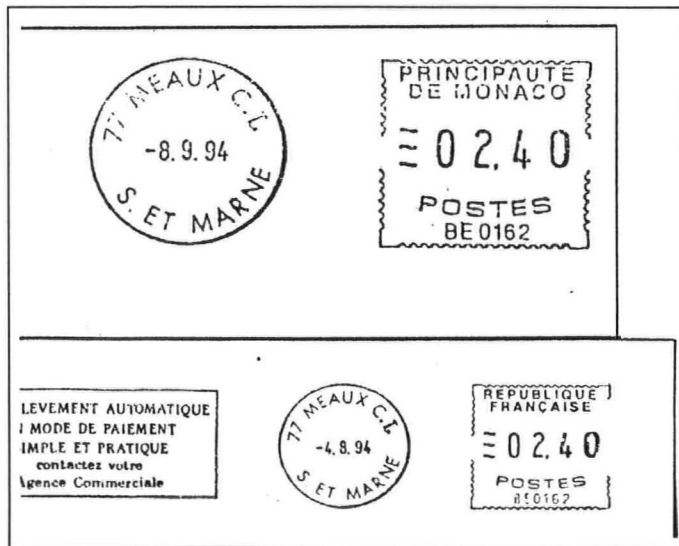


Figure 1. Monaco (above) and France (below) imprints of the Meaux C.T. meters.

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

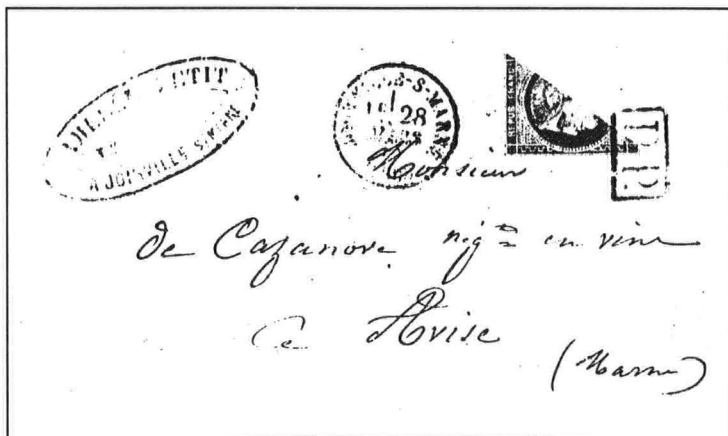
- *Le Service Postal Aérien dans les Pays d'Expression Française*, by Pierre Saulgrain; 288 pp., 21.5 x 30.5 cm, card covers; numerous illustrations of markings, documents, postal cards, with indices of rarity; 400Fr + 35Fr postage, by bank draft, or by money order payable to CCP Paris 409 30 V, to ROUMET, s.a., 17 rue Drouot, F-75009 Paris.
- *Les flammes postales accompagnant la mise en place du code postal*, by Francois Feuga; 130 pp., 21 x 30 cm; 150Fr + 24Fr postage, from Ascoflames, 6 rue des Eglantiers, F-33320 Eysines, France.
- *Cérès 1997 catalogue*; 100Fr+ postage, available from various sources.
- *Catalogue Yvert et Tellier 1997*: tome 1 (France, 448 pp., 90Fr); tome 1 bis (Monaco, Europa, United Nations, Andorra, 288 pp., 55Fr); tome 2 part 1 (French Colonies and TOM, 528 pp., now in color, 160 Fr); tome 2 part 2 (independent countries of Africa, 960 pp., 150Fr); all plus postage, from the usual sources.
- *Quand les Classiques de France et des ex-Colonies françaises nous sont contés...*; 192 pp., numerous color illustrations; 250Fr postpaid, from TIMBROPRESSE, 21 boulevard Montmartre, F-75080 Paris Cedex 02. (A popularized and colorful, but up-to-date study of 19th Century French and General Issues of the Colonies philately.)
- *Histoire des Transmissions de l'Armée de Terre - Tome I - Des origines à 1940*, by Gen. Blonde; 200Fr (postage extra?); inquire from L'Inspection des Transmissions, Fort de Bicêtre, BP 56, F-94272 Le Kremlin Bicêtre Cedex, France. (Detailed study of the military telegraph service, from the Chappe semaphore system to the 1940 Armistice.)
- *Histoire Postale du Département de la Loire Inférieure du XVII Siecle à 1876 - Tome I*, by J. Bergier; 149Fr + postage, from CAPAN (Cercle des Associations Philatéliques de l'Arrondissement Nantais), 11 rue du Prinquiau, F-44100 Nantes, France. (Detailed postal history and marcophily of an important coastal department.)
- *Le Port Local de la Lettre Ordinaire en Province, 1800-1858*, by Pascal Choisy; over 200 pp. and more than 110 illustrations relative to the local posts of the given time-frame; 385Fr postpaid within Europe (+ 65Fr to rest of the world) from Editions Philatéliques Rupp, 16 ave. Robert Schuman, D-68100 Mulhouse, France.
- *Marques et Cachets d'Entrée en France en Provenance d'Europe, 1800-1889*, by André Rupp. (Enlarged and corrected re-edition of the 1992 priced catalogue that, in turn, was a pricey update of the Noël catalogue.) From Editions Philatéliques Rupp (see above), for same prices as above.
- *Die Posttaxen der Schweiz ab 1875, Band 2 Ausland [Postal Rates of Switzerland to Foreign Countries since 1875]*; 222 pp., pocket-sized, softbound; published by Youth Commission of the Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies, P.O. Box 146, CH-3432 Lutzelfluh, Switzerland; available in the U.S. for \$15.50 postpaid, from Styne Company Ltd., P.O. Box 656647, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365-6647. (Extensive coverage of Swiss foreign postal rates since 1875, including the lesser-known and used services; illustrated and annotated to augment usefulness; text in German and French.)
- *The James Bendon Listing of Philatelic Literature / September 1996* is available, free of charge, from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 6484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus. The firm offers several works on French philately including reprints of Salles' *La Poste Maritime Française*.
- *Catalogue des Timbres de France seuls sur Lettres, 1849-1960*, by Robert Baillargeat, 375 pp.; 350Fr + 55Fr registered postage, from Editions Bertrand Sinais, 7 Rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris. (Revised and enlarged reedition of the out-of-print 1992 catalog; a priced catalog of covers bearing single stamps of the 1849-1960 period.)
- *Liberté, repertoire d'informations*, by Jean Pinck; 120 pp.; 75Fr postpaid from Jean Pinck, Boîte Postale 221, F-78410 Aubergenville, France. (Detailed study of the Liberté de Gandon stamps of 1982-1990: printings, booklets, stationery, cylinders, phosphor bands.)
- *Histoire Postale de la Principauté de Monaco des origines à 1885*, by Maurice Boule; 256 pp., numerous color illustrations, including items from the Prince Rainier III collection; 500Fr + 20Fr for registered postage, from Maurice Boule, 10 rue de la Grange Batelière, F-75009 Paris.

- *Les Entiers Postaux de Monaco*, by Jacques Guiraud-Darmais; 47 pp., color illustrations; 50Fr + 20Fr for registered postage, from Maurice Boule (see address above). (Monaco postal stationery, including precursors, varieties, *mandats et bons de poste*, telephone "tickets," reply coupons; comes with a separate valuations listing.)
- *Initiation aux Oblitérations Françaises*, by Vincent Pothion; 112 pp.; 246Fr (or 262Fr, registered) postpaid, from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 rue du Fg. Montmartre, F-75009 Paris. (1996 revised edition of this excellent introduction to French postal markings; reproductions of all French postal markings from origins to 1950; plus useful information to guide novice marcophily and postal history collectors.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- New discoveries regarding the 1969-1975 General Revenue issues of South Vietnam, and a suggested revision of the ARA/Duston catalog listing of these issues, are reported by Terry Barham in *The Indo-China Philatelist*, #130, 1996. In addition to having been printed by DeLaRue and by the Korean Govt. Printing Office, some varieties are now known to have been printed by the Japanese Govt. Printing Bureau.
- *The Congress Book 1996*, the current yearbook of the American Philatelic Congress, contains two research articles by FCPS members: "Postal Censorship and Control in Cameroun During World War II" by Marty Bratzel, and "The Armée de Sambre-et-Meuse (1794-1797)" by your editor and Victor Bullock. And the APC's Diane Boehret Award for best literature exhibited in North America during 1995-1996 went to Ernst Cohn's "Ordinary Mail by Diplomatic Means during the Siege of Paris, 1870-1871."
- Jamie Gough's "The World of Postage Dues" was judged the best article in *The American Philatelist* for 1995. That distinction comes with a \$1,000 check from the Apfelbaum firm. Now, if only some other worthy patron could come forward and offer something similar to our FCP authors!
- *La Poste* lost a judgment on 7 May 1996 and was obliged to pay the sum of 120,000Fr to the heirs of Henri Matisse for damages inflicted by the issue of a 1991 semi-postal (Scott B630, Cérés 2671). This stamp, showing a portrait by Matisse of the poet Louis Aragon, was judged an affront to the artist in that it shows only part of his work, and that part encumbered by writing, stamp value, and presumably also eventual defacing cancellations. We wonder if this sort of extortion may not be extended to certain other French stamps, and then by logic to stamps of other countries, perhaps even to their reproduction in stamp catalogs, periodicals, and albums. Something to bear in mind if you're ever invited to design a postage stamp.
- We've also learned that the reproduction of French postage stamps--and by extension we assume also of other stamps produced by the French stamp printing works at Périgueux--is authorized and permitted only for "educational" purposes (i.e., educational and promotional periodicals). Commercial usage of the designs is apparently prohibited. This no-no category may include first-day covers and other philatelic souvenirs, and most definitely includes T-shirts, coffee mugs, and playing or trading cards.
- During the past two years or so, the French *La Poste* has been flooding (gouging?) collectors with a vast array of attractive items of prestamped (mostly commemorative) postal stationery (*prêts à poster*). Very likely even more than what the U.S. Postal Service has been producing. We will not list these items in the New Issues and Withdrawals feature [with perhaps some occasional exceptions, if we consider them to be more postal than souvenir material]. Anyone interested in obtaining information on these items should write your editor who, in turn, will attempt to put them in contact with some authority in France who might be keeping track of the flood.
- Since July 1996, *La Poste* has experimented with selling vending-machine booklets from its own ATMs, through the use of *La Poste*-issued credit cards. Each booklet, produced on the new OHIO press, consists of twenty permanent-value stamps, and therefore sells at this time for 60Fr. They have the same dimensions as the 200Fr banknote disbursed by those machines. The experimental sales are (were) at Paris-Lamark- Caulaincourt, Paris-Dupleix, Paris-Littré, Paris-Austerlitz, Arcachon, Nice, and Val-Thorens.

- As commonly occurs in the U.S., a number of French postage stamp issues have been sold and cancelled in advance of the official first date of issue.
- Edouard Berck, longtime Paris stamp dealer, and producer of the Berck catalogue of varieties that was so popular in its heyday twenty and more years ago, died 16 July 1996 at age 81.
- Ever since the mid 1980s, the quantity of stamps sold by Andorra has declined significantly (while their total annual face value has increased steadily). Reasons put forward for this decline include: diminished interest in Andorra among collectors; minimal number of topical themes; general paucity of official information regarding new issues and their subjects; and the "downgrading" of Andorra by Yvert from its volume I (France only) to volume I bis (Andorra, Monaco, UN).
- Our readers are reminded that, where two different issue dates are given in the New Issues and Withdrawals feature, the first (earlier) date is that of the official First Day of issue, and the second (which is shown in parentheses) is that of the first day of general over-the-counter sale to the public at large. Where there's only one date, it **should** be that of general sale. Member Othan Gilbert advises us that the dates listed by the St. Pierre & Miquelon philatelic bureau on its order forms, and shown on that entity's first-day covers, are usually five days earlier than the general-sale ones reported in New Issues and Withdrawals.
- Our member in Tahiti, Christian Beslu, has written an article on the basically unknown-to-collectors official stamps of French Polynesia. First printed in May 1977, these stamps have seen some actual, legitimate official use. (*Le Monde des Philatélistes*, September 1996.)
- Ernst Cohn's *The Flight of the "Ville d'Orléans,"* published by the Collectors Club of Chicago in 1978, was recently made the basis for a much longer novel by two Norwegian writers. For those whose memories need refreshing, the "*Ville d'Orléans*" was a *ballon monté* which left Paris on 24 November 1870 and landed the following day in Norway. Its mail, whether staying with the balloon or dumped as ballast off the Norwegian coast in attempts to stay aloft, eventually made its way back to France, as did pilot and passenger. Ernst believes this may be the first instance whereby a factual philatelic publication was later fictionalized. The de luxe edition of his 1978 book can still be purchased for \$60 (US) postpaid, from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 6484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus.
- A cover to die for? (see below). Well, perhaps not. Jean-François Brun advises that this item, bearing his signature of authenticity, was altered (improved upon?) after it had passed through his hands. He further states that he will--and other experts should--reexamine items he has certified, at no additional charge.



- Here's a novel idea! A **fake** of the postal forgery of the 2,20F Liberté de Gandon (Scott 1884, Yvert 2376). Pascal Marziano, writing in *Marianne* (#42, July 1996), states that known "false fakes" bear genuine date stamps (a bit of collusion, perhaps, with a postal employee?) of 78-Magnanville, GA, Yvelines, of 13-9, 1989, and appear to have all been sent to the fictitious address C.P.A.M., 92 avenue de Paris,

- 78014 Versailles Cedex. Their real value is, of course, many times less than that of the rare, "true fake" on cover.
- Our members, writing in other journals: Ernst Cohn, in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, September 1996, on "Mr Worth's Capture and the Origin of International Air Law"; F. G. Worth, British subject, left besieged Paris on the "*La Bretagne*" (27 October 1870). He and three Frenchmen were captured in German-held territory and kept prisoner until after the end-of-January 1871 Armistice, in spite of being (in Worth's case) a citizen of a neutral country. That position was soon to be clarified, at an 1874 international convention on the laws and customs of war. And Bob Picirilli discusses Ivory Coast's 1913-1935 Ebre Lagoon ("river scene," Scott A5 design) issues in a well-illustrated (full color) article in *The American Philatelist*, October 1996. He discusses revaluations, stationery, proofs, specimens, papers, booklets, EFOs, use as emergency money and, in particular, domestic and foreign usages of these bicolored stamps. Bob will have an article on Colonial rates, that covers a longer time span, in a forthcoming number of our Journal.
 - The small Indian Ocean island of Mayotte, the only one of the Comoro Islands not to opt for independence from France in December 1974, has a special status (under a Law of 24 December 1976) within the French Community--somewhere between an Overseas Dept. (DOM) and an Overseas Territory (TOM). Presently using French stamps, it will issue its own postage possibly as early as January 1997, after a lapse of 85 years since its Group Type stamps were terminated.
 - Collectors of and specialists (or potential specialists) in the recent and current Liberté de Gandon and/or Marianne de Briat issues of France can obtain specific information on these issues from, and perhaps also exchange material with, a specialist in France. Write to Richard Rucklin, 34 rue de Rennes, F-68260 Kingersheim, France. M. Rucklin can correspond in English.
 - Bob Picirilli has issued the first occasional newsletter of the **Study Group for Airmail Rates in French Colonies to 1945**, which is loosely affiliated with our Society. It is loaded with interesting information on the published 1926-on rates from Cameroun, which should be generally applicable to other Colonies in Africa. If you would like to receive a copy of this first newsletter and if you would like to join and assist the Study Group, please write to Bob Picirilli, 301 Greenway Ave., Nashville, TN 37205. Enclosing 55¢ in US postage to cover mailing cost of the newsletter would be appreciated.

SOME SHOW REPORTS

- 69th Congress of French Philatelic Societies, Clermont-Ferrand, May 1996): Gold medal to B. Berkinshaw-Smith for "La Poste Française à l'Est de Suez, 1776-1900."
- Stampshow '96 (Orlando, FL, August): Prix d'Honneur to Shirley Gallagher for "Tahiti and Surrounding French Polynesia," and to Steve Washburne for his Portuguese classics. In the open Literature competition, Theo Van Dam received a Silver for "A Century of War Dates and More! 1859-1959" [reviewed in the October 1996 *F&C*, p. 114]; Cheryl Ganz received a Silver-Bronze as editor of "Collecting Airmail," and Terry Barham (also Silver-Bronze) for "Exposition, Propaganda and Charity Labels of French Indochina in Southeast Asia."
- Omaha Stamp Show '96 (Omaha, NE, August): Grand Award and Gold medal to Eliot Landau for "The 6¢ Lincoln Large Banknote Issues" plus other medals for several other U.S. exhibits; Gold medal to your editor for "Paris Postal Markings, 1863-1876" [his belated return to multi-frame exhibiting!]; Silver medal to Bob Kinsley for "Coiffurately"--which also received the AAPE Creativity Award [and creative it certainly is!]
- SESCO '96 (Los Angeles, October): Gold medals to Dave Herendeen [in absentia, for he had been forced to journey to Tahiti...] for "Postage Dues of the French Empire and Community," and to Gene Tinsley for--of course--yet another Tasmania exhibit, and to Stan Jersey for 1942-1945 Solomon Islands; Vermeil medals to Tom Siddens for "French Stamp Cancellations of the Classic Period 1849-1876," and to Stan Jersey for "The U.S. 6¢ Airmail of 1941," which has several good French naval "RF" overprints. Theo Van Dam received a Silver in the Literature competition for "A Century of War Dates and More! 1859-1959." Not many members were present at the show, but we did see Theo Van Dam and Gene Tinsley, as well as dealer members Dave Grossblat and Mel Feiner. Stan Luft served on the Literature jury.

- AIRPEX '96 (Dayton, OH, September): Grand Award and Gold medal to Scott Gallagher for his "Kentucky During the Civil War."
- Philadelphia National Stamp Exhib. (Philadelphia, September): Vermeil medal to T.O. ("Tuck") Taylor for "Washington, D.C. Postal Markings 1850-1860."
- INDIPEX '96 (Indianapolis, September): Vermeil medal to Paul Larsen for his "German Caroline Islands, 1899-1914."
- ISTANPUL 96 (Istanbul, Turkey, September-October): Gold medals to Jamie Gough for his Postage Dues, and to Steve Washburne for his Portugal postal history; Large Vermeil medals to Shirley Gallagher for her Tahiti, to Scott Gallagher for his Kentucky, and to Ed Grabowski for his Guadeloupe; Vermeil medal to John Lievsay for "France 25c Cérés 1871-1876." John's report on the show appears elsewhere in this number; it has been sanitized.
- Autumn Stampex 1996 (Great Britain): Gold medal and the Ebby Gerrish Trophy to George Barker for "France--The Pasteur Issues."
- ASDA Mega-Event (New York City, November): Grand Award and Gold medal to Shirley Gallagher for her "Tahiti and Surrounding French Polynesia"; Gold medal to Steve Washburne for "Portugal Classics."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q. 97.1.** The cover shown here was offered as Lot 2170 at the October 1996 Brun auction #63, at a princely starting bid. It bears 50c in French postage, cancelled by three Berlin, 17 August 1870 date stamps, along with a blue crayon 2 (groschen) tax and notation by sender to route it to Westphalia via Belgium. Can anyone (member Brun included?) offer an explanation of how it reached Berlin (early in the Franco-Prussian War) and before the stamps got cancelled, considering that the Dortmund destination is much nearer to Belgium than it is to Berlin? (SJJ).



- Q. 97.2.** Would appreciate any information on French Guyana Scott N° C1-C8, over-printed *France Libre*. These don't seem to be listed in Yvert, Cérés, Thiaude, Scott, Minkus, or Michel, though the 1957 Sanabria indicates they were issued in 1943 "on authority of Colonial Postmaster at Cayenne." Could someone supply more details and some other source? (EAP).

- A. 242.1. [also see #246, October 1996, p. 120.] One final(?) note. A French correspondent advises that **Nécessité de Fermer** or its initials and variants, applied to official mail that contained written messages of a confidential nature, that needed to be sent in sealed envelopes and was also not subject to censorship or examination by any others than the addressee. (LHL).

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from #246, October 1996, p. 124)

France

- July 1996: 60F booklet of 20 permanent-value M. de Briat stamps, for sale from money-dispensing machines (ATMs) (Figure 1) [see Announcements and News, p. 24 bottom];
- September: 30F booklet of 10 permanent-value M. de Briat stamps, for sale from *Sagem* electronic vending machines; covers publicize use of prestamped envelopes (Figure 2).

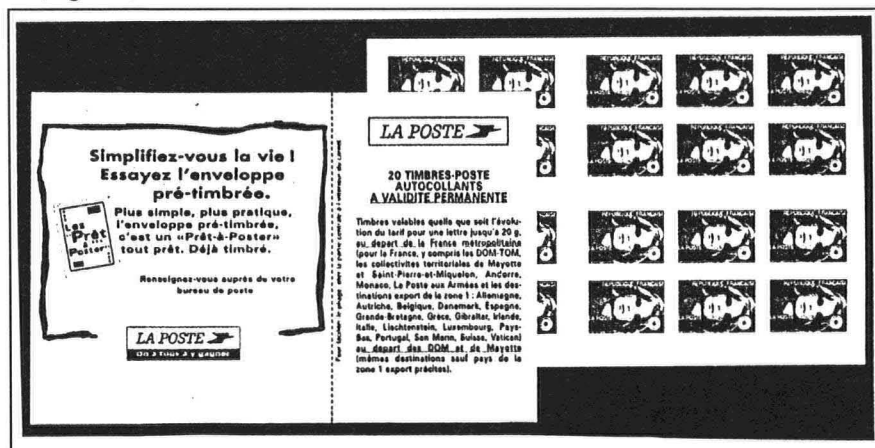


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

- 14 (16) September: 3,00F From Gaul to France (Baptism of Clovis in 496 AD);
- 5 (7) October: Heroes of French police fiction, six stamps at 3,00F + 0,60F, and same in 21,60F booklet of six stamps + two labels;
- 12 (14) October: 4,50F Bicent. of Lycée Henry IV [originally called the Ecole Centrale du Panthéon];
- 19 (21) October: 4,50F 50th Anniv. of UNICEF;
- 26 (28) October: 3,00F 50th Anniv. of Economic and Social Council;
- 2 (4) November: 3,80F 50th Anniv. of UNESCO;

- 4 November: prestamped envelopes with blue Marianne indicia, for sending documents to and from the Overseas Departments and Territories, in two sizes, at 12F and 34F;
- 7 (12) November: 3,00F Autumn Philatelic Salon;
- 16 (18) November: 3,00F 50th Anniv. of the Overseas Depts.; Red Cross (Noel 1996) 3,00F + 0,60F sheet stamps, and 36F booklet of ten stamps + 2 labels;
- 23 (25) November: 3,00F the French School at Athens; 3,00F André Malraux (1901-1976);
- 30 November 12 (2 December): 3,00F 50th Cannes International Film Festival;
- 14 (16) December: 3,00F French National Library.

Withdrawals: 31 May 1996: Precancels: 1,91F, 2,46F, 4,24F, 6,51F; 12 July [in addition to those listed in October 1996 FCP]: 2,80F and 3,70F UNESCO; 2,80F and 3,70F Council of Europe; 9 August: 2,80F "The Irish Visionary"; 2,80F Jacques Rueff; Stamp Day 1996 (Lined Sower design) 2,80F + 0,60F sheet stamps and 21,40F booklet; 18 October: 3,00F EDF-GDF; 6,70F Art of Corot; 15 November: 2,50F EUROPA 1993; and the following Contemporary European Art stamps, issued between 1992 and 1996: Tapies/Spain, Delvaux/Belgium, Bacon/Britain, Takis/Greece, da Silva/Portugal, Scully/Ireland, Baselitz/Germany, Kirkeby/Denmark, Wecollier/Luxembourg, and Dibbets/Netherlands; 13 December: 3,00F Bitche (Moselle); 3,00F Philatelic Congress (Clemont-Ferrand); 3,00F RAMOGE Accord; 3,80F INRA; 4,40F Descartes; 4,50F Birthplace of Joan of Arc.

Andorra

- 10 June 1996: the design of the permanent-value booklet stamp represents the commune of Canillo;
- 26 (28) October: 3,00F animal fair;
- 16 (18) November: 6,70F St. Roma-de-les-Bons; 6,70F Sta. Colomba (old churches).

Withdrawals: 12 July 1996: 3,70F National Auditorium at Oudino; 4,40F Virgin of Meritxell; 2,80F and 3,70F Nature series of September 1995; 9 August: 3,70F and 2,80F U.N. triptych; 2,80F Entry of Andorra into Council of Europe; 28F Arms of Andorra booklet; 2,40F and 2,80F first arms of Andorra; 18 October: 2,80F Borrufa skiing trophy; 2,80F 25th Anniv. of Notre-Dame-de-Meritxell school; 3,70F basketball.

French Polynesia

- 7 August 1996: 66F Polynesian grasshopper;
- 8 September: 70F 7th Festival of Arts of the Pacific;
- 16 September: 92F Stamp Day;
- September: reissued Queen Pomare IV booklet, w/o mention of "et preferential";
- 16 October: 92F Stamp Day (Tahitian woman, from 1913 Fr. Oceania stamp);
- 7 November: 85F 50th Autumn Philatelic Salon.

Withdrawals: 9 August 1996: 10th South Pacific Games; 50th Anniv. of the U.N.; artists and painters in Polynesia; Singapore 95.

French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

- 1 (2) January 1997: 1F amethyst; 2,70F stormy petrel; 3F explorer René Garcia; 3F ship "Marion-Dufresne"; 4F sailor Jean Turquet; 5,20F lobster; 5,20F Notre-Dame-des-Oiseaux; 8F military health service; 16F boat "Boc Challenge"; 20F shipwrecked sailor John Nunn; 24F Polar ichthyology; 27F spiny predator(?); 29,20F *Poa kerguelensis*;
- 28 February (1 March): 3F triptych for 50th Anniv. of French polar expeditions.

Monaco

- 21 June 1996: 3,00F and 3,80F International telephone code N°377;
- 8 July: 3,00F and 3,80F Prince Rainier III definitives;
- 19 July: 3,00F (x2) and 4,50F (x2) Atlantic Olympic Games;
- 16 September: Cactii, 0,10F, 1,00F, 5,00F; 36F Flowers booklet;
- 7 October: prestamped envelope for 700 years of the Grimaldi dynasty (franking value 3,00F, sold at 3,40F);
- 14 October: Museum of Stamps and Money 5F, 5F, 10F, + the three stamps in a 20F souvenir sheet; Monaco Red Cross 7F and 8F; 3,00F 50th Anniv. of UNESCO; 4F 150th Anniv. of discovery of planet Neptune; 5F 400th Birth Anniv. of Descartes; 6F 200th Birth Anniv. of J.-B. Corot; 7F 250th Birth Anniv. of Goya; 3F and 6F Noel (angels); Four Seasons of the Blackberry Bush 4F, 5F, 6F, 7F se-tenant in miniature sheetlet.

New Caledonia

- 10 July 1996: 1530F "CHINA 96" booklet of 24 stamps (four panes of six) in World of the Deep design; 1300F "CAPEX 96" booklet of Caledonian orchids stamps;
- 22 July: 130F airmail for Cent. of Indonesian presence in New Caledonia;
- 8 August: 95F airmail for Louis Brauquier (New Caledonian writer);
- 12 September: 30F School Philately (issued 1994) overprinted for UNESCO;
- 27 September: 220F Cent. of Marconi's invention of radio-telegraphy (95F + label + 125F airmail triptych);
- 10 October: various commemoratives 100F, 105F, 160F, 200F, 500F;
- 8 November: 95F + label + 95F 50th Autumn Philatelic Salon triptych;
- 26 November: 95F Noel 1996.

Withdrawals: 9 August: Singapore 95 sheet stamp and block; 10th South Pacific Games; "the lizard man"; Francis Carco; 35th South Pacific Conference; Dance of Ouare and of Pothé; 1995's World of the Deep.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 15 July 1996: Old boats of the islands, 3,00F (x four, in block of four);
- 19 August: 18,50F General view of Miquelon (3,00F + label + 15,50F triptych);
- 14 October: 3,80F Customs house;
- 19 November: 1,00F 50th Autumn Philatelic Salon;
- 25 November: 3,00F Noel 1996.

Withdrawals: 6 September 1996: Sister Césarine; 2,40F and 4,20F overprinted Marianne de Briat.

Wallis & Futuna

- 17 September 1996: 30F and 48F local flowers, se-tenant;
- 24 October: 175F 50th Anniv. of Autumn Philatelic Salon;
- 25 October: 50F Françoise Perroton (first female missionary in Wallis);
- 19 November: 260F Campaign against alcoholism.

Withdrawals: 9 August 1996: South Pacific Games; local trees (three stamps); tapa cloth designs (2 stamps); Cent. of Cinema; Singapore 95; 25th Anniv. of Death of Gen. de Gaulle.

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A couple months ago, I received another letter from the publishers of the Scott Catalog, asking for suggestions for improvements in their listing of the stamps of the French area. It has been several years now, since we last proffered them our advice. If any of our members have ideas for changes in the catalogs, they should send them to me: the Scott editors are apt to give more consideration to submittals made through the Society than to those from individuals. In any case, remember there are two basic requirements, if anything is to be changed. First, we must provide documentation to Scott to prove that any suggested change is correct. Second, we must remember that major changes are not likely to be made; rather, small clarifications and corrections are more apt to be used. As an example, several years ago I pointed out that on Martinique #116-119 the surcharge can read either up or down, but the catalog listing at that time gave no indication which was considered normal and which "inverted," even though #116a was listed as an "inverted overprint," and given a higher price. If you look at that listing in today's catalog, you will see that they now refer to the overprints as "reading up" or "reading down," specify which variety is considered normal on each stamp, and added two minor number listings for the inverted overprints.

--Dick Stevens

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 6, 1997, at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, N.Y.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PACIFIC 97

The Society will have a booth at PACIFIC 97. The booth will sell copies of the special April 1997 issue of the *Philatelist* and have samples of our other publications. It will also have membership applications and order forms for the publications. We hope to enlist many new members at this show. To obtain full benefit from the booth, and fulfill our obligations to PACIFIC 97, we should have at least one person at the booth at all times. We will plan to schedule two people for each day of the show, and let them decide how to divide up the time. Several members have already indicated their willingness to help, and I want to thank them. We still need additional volunteers. Please write me (Richard M. Stevens, P.O. Box 99, Greendell, NJ 07839) as soon as you have made firm plans. I will write to everyone next April, and hope to have a tentative schedule by the end of that month. However, I am sure we will always be able to use additional volunteers, even after the show begins.

MEETING OF 3 SEPTEMBER 1996

With a good crowd on hand, it was John and Jo Lievsay kicking things off for the opening of the fall philatelic season with a presentation entitled: **"Snooping" at Internationals**. At most people already know, John had been wearing two hats at Internationals these days: that of a Commissioner who is in charge of bringing exhibits to the given country; and also that of an FIP-sanctioned judge. Most recently he has been wearing a third hat: that of member of the FIP Team of Experts, more of which is written below.

John and Jo recently attended the Internationals at Seville and Toronto. Numerous souvenirs were acquired at each show including show catalogs and palmares booklets. Most shows have daily newspapers, and examples were shown. A most unusual item from Seville was a CD given gratis to each Spanish stamp club member who reserved one. The CD features all of the rarities of Spain. There are numerous philatelic items to be had at Internationals, both free and for purchase. Numerous stamps, FDCs and philatelic covers were shown. Items like miniature sheets, specimens, sets and souvenir cards from around the world were gathered. Jo did a full day stint running the computer at CAPEX, since no one else knew how to do it. Technology requires technologists! At the Italian dinner for MILAN '98, free watches were given out!

Relative to the philatelic side, John discussed some of his activities as a member of the FIP Team of Experts. It is the team's job to look for variances from reality at FIP shows, such as fakes, incorrect descriptions, failures to make requested changes, etc. For example, at a recent show the team questioned fourteen items in nineteen championship class exhibits! At CAPEX, 83 items were checked in 65 exhibits resulting in a few awards lowered one or two levels, and in one exhibit being removed from competition. John presented a number of examples of what was being looked at. A classic Spanish cover on exhibit was franked with blocks of eleven and four of relevant issues, but the blocks had different cancels. A certificate at the back of the page indicated that stamps were missing from the cover. Apparently, the exhibitor decided to embellish this one. Another exhibit had a cover showing stamps issued after the date of posting of the letter. A third exhibitor was told not to show a Portuguese cover with a fraudulent reissue applied in lieu of the original stamp at an earlier show, but did so anyway at CAPEX. The best examples proved to be those which the team uncovered while just perusing the exhibits, stopping to look at anything that looked "funny." Occasionally, in doing this the team adds information to the piece that the exhibitor was unaware of. Overall, their job is to level the exhibition playing field for all and to insure a fair exhibition.

--Ed Grabowski

NEW MEMBERS

- 3103 STEVNING, DONALD S., 2491 62nd St., N.W., Maple Lake, MN 55358. (Modern France: Mint - Used - On Cover. French Community: Offices Abroad. CFA Issues. Andorre. Colonies General Issues: Used - On Cover. All Colonies And Territories. Topical: Arctic.)
- 3104 HART, JOHN, P.O. Box 1162, Salt Lake City, UT 84110. (General France: On Cover. Specialized France: Postal History: Stampless Covers - Marques Postales - Military And Railway Posts - Used Abroad. Classics 1849-1876: On Cover - 1870-1871 Issues - Sage Type 1876-1900. French Community: Offices Abroad. Philatelic Literature.)

- 3105 SHAW, DONALD, 305 N. Goodman St., Rochester, NY 14607. (General France: Used. Specialized France: Postal History: Military Posts. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876. Modern France: Used. French Community: Offices Abroad. CFA Issues. Colonies General Issues: Used. Group Type. All Colonies & Territories. Algeria. Exchange.)
- 3106 WILLIAMS, J. MILLARD, P.O. Box 952, Columbia, MD 21044. (General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Postal History: Used Abroad. Modern France: Sowers. Special Issues: Newspaper - Stationery - Slogan & Cancels - Proofs & Color Trials. French Community: Offices Abroad. Andorre. Dealer: Part Time: Literature Only. Philatelic Literature. Contact With Sowers Collectors. Books On Same.)
- 3107 LAWRENCE, ASHLEY, 8 Cleveland Court, Chine Crescent Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH2 5LG - England. (Postal History: Marques Postales. Classics 1849-1876. 1870-1871 Issues. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Sowers.)
- 3018 HOPPE, RUDOLPH S., M.D., 831 Robert's Mill Road, Hixson, TN 37343. General Collector: All Issues. Topical: Antarctica. Special Issues: Proofs & Color Trials. Monaco. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. French Antarctica.)
- 3109 BRIDGE, TOM, 67 Highcourt Cres., Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1H 2L7. (Colonies General Issues: On Cover. All Areas Of St. Pierre-et-Miquelon Including Covers & Post Cards.)
- 3110 STEIN, DR. HENRY., 2541 Sweetbriar Drive, Campbell, CA 95008. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Used - On Cover. Specialized France: Postal History. Used Abroad. Regular Issues: On Cover. Cancellations. Modern France: Mint - Used - Air Meals. Special Issues: Dues. Colonies General Issues: Used - On Cover. Colonial Provisionals. All Colonies & Territories.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 1564 RAVACON, PIERRE, T., 306 Church St., Media, PA 19063-3703.
- 1267 GARRATT, WILLIAM R., 435 Hillcrest Road, San Mateo, CA 94402.
- 2970 PETROVITCH, PIERRE, 840 S. 1st St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424-2452.
- 2693 MANWELL, EDMUND R., 20 California St. - 3rd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111.
- 2898 SICKER, ROBERT L., 66 Maple Lane, Aurora, OH 44202-8817.
- 1100 CYR, HENRY BRUCE, Change of Zip Code to: 36093-8510
- 2912 ROTTMAN, MILTON, 100 Worth Avenue, Apt. 403, Palm Beach, FL 33480.
- 2945 REISMAN, CHARLES, 4 Avalon Road, Great Neck, NY 11021.
- 2151 BOULE, MAURICE, 10 rue de La Grange Balteliere, F-75009 Paris, France.
- 2180 KINSLEY, ROBERT T., 1701 Goldfinch Ct., West Richland, WA 99353.

REINSTATEMENT

- 2725 CRAIG, WALLACE A., P.O. Box 3391, Fullerton, CA 92834. (Andorre; Monaco.
- 876 GRACE, JOHN P., 734 Aspen Road, Pickering, Ontario L1V 4H2, Canada. (General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Stationery.)

REMOVED FROM THE MAILING LIST

- 2227 EDWARDS, DR. ARTHUR G. (Resigned)
- 669 GRAY, DR. STEPHEN W. (Deceased)
- 2428 STEINHART, ALLAN L. (Deceased)
- 2859 MONTGOMERY, DONALD J. (Deceased)
- 2028 KEEFE, EUGENE (Deceased)
- 3080 BURBANK, ALAN S. (Resigned)
- 3063 GIDDING, CURTIS E. (Resigned)
- 2257 CARNEY, HUGH (Resigned)
- 3055 HIGGINS, WILLIAM J., JR. (Resigned)
- 3002 BEATTY, WILLIAM E. (Resigned)
- 2055 NASCA, VINICIO H. (Resigned)
- 2013 BRUCE, A. GORDON (Resigned)
- 3034 MADELEINE, CHARLES (Unable to Forward; no Forward on File)
- 2471 HOTTINGER, R.C. (Deceased)

Our thoughts and condolences go out to the families and friends of our deceased members.