

SPECIAL PACIFIC 97 NUMBER

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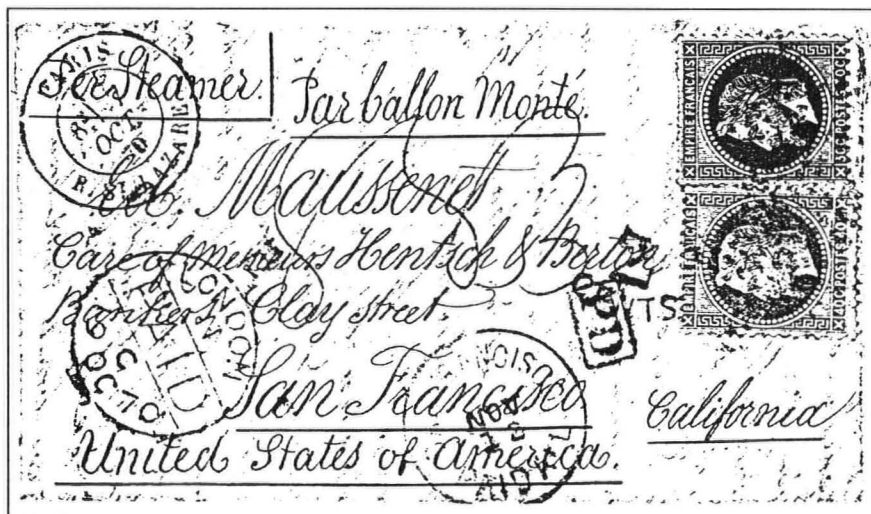
April, 1997



France & Colonies Philatelist

To PACIFIC 97 Visitors

The France & Colonies Philatelic Society is pleased to present this special enlarged number of its *Philatelist* as a salute to PACIFIC 97, and to publicize the great interest that French area philately offers and the service that the Society gives to its members. This number has been enlarged to 40 pages over the usual 32 pages in order to show a greater diversity of subject matter.



Balloon-mail letter from German-besieged Paris, 7 October 1870, to **San Francisco** (12 November arrival), after transiting Calais, London and Quebec (S.C. Walske coll.).

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OCCASIONAL FUNDAMENTALS

A Primer on Precancelled Stamps

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

If one faithfully follows the Cérès and Yvert catalogues (never mind Scott!), the first French precancels (*préos*) to appear are Sage-design stamps overprinted by means of rollers of 4 or 5 lines of type. These were placed into use in Paris on a very limited, experimental basis in 1893 (4 lines in January-March and then 5 lines in September-December) (Figures 1a, b, 2). These

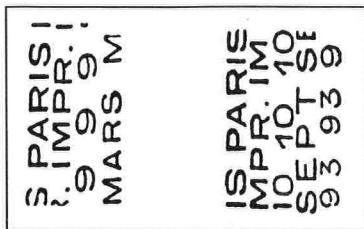


Figure 1(a).

Figure 1(b).



Figure 2.

overprints were applied vertically, far less “commonly” horizontally on many of the extant Sage values under 1F. They are now very scarce to very rare, and extremely rare on document or fragment thereof. Their function was to frank bulk mailings of what we are inclined to call “junk mail,” the precancelling process serving to save time and manpower at the post office. Junk mail is seldom saved by the recipient. This inevitably results in an eventual short supply of junk-mail stamps (i.e., of precancels) and even more so of their original envelope or wrapper.

The experimental 1893 preparation and use of *préos* was not a success, and the idea of producing specific stamps for bulk-mail use was abandoned until after the First World War.

However, and long before 1893, French stamps were being precancelled by various means, and we shall discuss them somewhat briefly at this time.

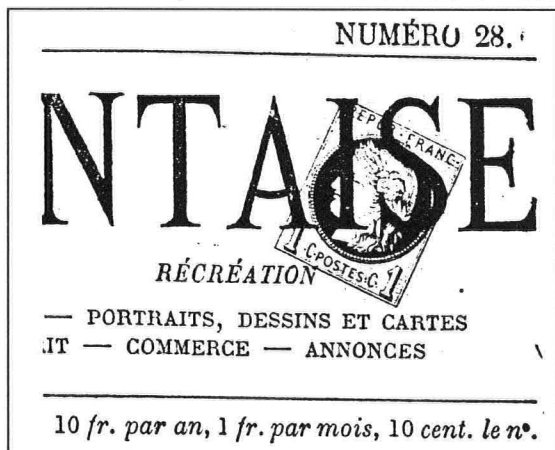


Figure 3.

First of all, we have the newspaper stamps of 1868-1869 and, a bit later, a number of Cérès and Sage regular issues. These were precancelled by being printed over after having been affixed on blank newsprint (Figure 3). Alright, they don't really make the grade of true precancels *per se*, for not having been cancelled (or precancelled) by post-office functionaries.

But honest-to-gosh precancellation did take place at post offices prior to and after 1893 and especially during the 1930s. Whole sheets, strips, and even single stamps were hand-cancelled **in advance** of being used on mail, again mainly as a time-saving gesture (and also for security reasons, in the case of some high-face-value stamps). They can be recognized on cover or fragment by the fact that the stamp is **not** "tied" to said cover or fragment, that is, the cancellation does not extend from the stamp to its supporting piece of paper. Examples are most commonly seen on postage due stamps (Figure 4)—something to be expected inasmuch as dues, which ordinarily



Figure 4.

were not sold over-the-counter, could be cancelled at any time prior to having to be utilized.

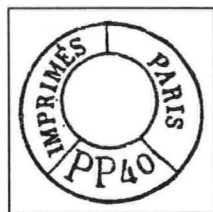


Figure 5.

Trassaert (1995) quotes from a letter he received from a M. Bles who advises us that newspaper wrappers were precancelled at the local post office prior to being returned to the publisher, who then inserted the newspapers and brought the ready-to-mail bulk pile back to the post office. In proof of this methodology, we learn that stamps so used, and cancelled **Imprimée/P.P.** or **Journaux/P.P.** (P.P. - prepaid) (Figure 5) sometimes show a mirror image of that cancel on the inside of the wrapper (Figure 6). This happened because the thinness

of unfolded newspaper wrappers allowed the wet cancelling ink to bleed from one wrapper into the next in the stack that was in the process of being precancelled.

And, as mentioned earlier, postage stamps were, on occasion during the early part of this century, cancelled in advance and therefore not "tied" to their support. These include postage stamps used provisionally as dues stamps early in 1917 and precancelled with a T in a triangle (Figure 7), when postal rates were increased and there was a shortage of the appropriate postage due values (Merrick, 1970). They also include postage stamps of the 1930s, similarly precancelled R in a triangle (Figure 8), to serve provisionally as



Figure 6.

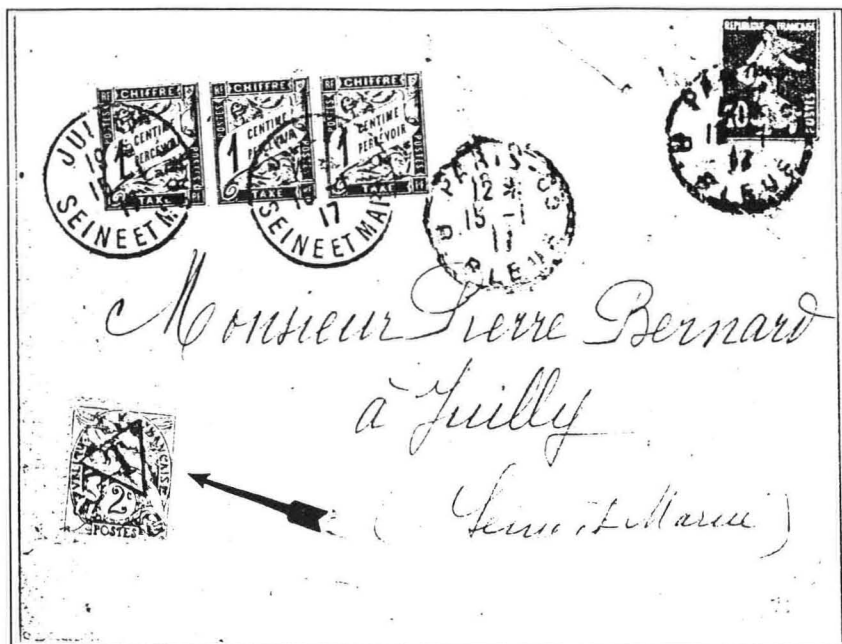


Figure 7. 15 January 1917 provisional use of 2c Blanc as a postage due stamp, to complete the 5c due on a short-paid letter at 10c, rate having just gone up to 15c that month.

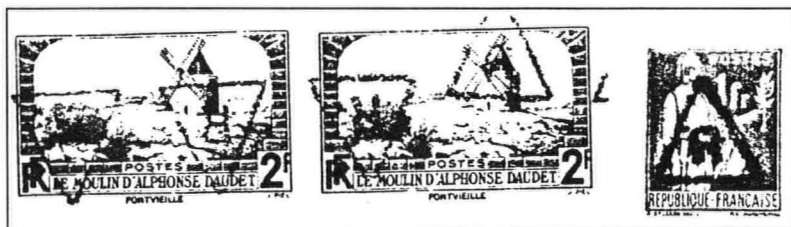


Figure 8.

Recouvrement (COD) stamps (Consejo, 1995). Less frequently, stamps of this period may be found with other precancellations (Abensur, 1995) (Figure 9).

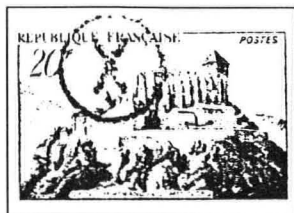


Figure 9.

These last several paragraphs should indicate that there's much more to the collecting of precancels than what the standard catalogs appear to offer. And now we can return to these more standard and reasonably well-known precancelled products.

Many years went by after the abandonment of the 1893 trials of overprinted stamps for use on bulk mailings. The next trials did not take place until 1920, when sheets of the 5c green Cameo Sower and 15c lined Sower were overprinted by flat plate with **POSTES/PARIS/1920**, and used that year by some Paris firms. The experi-

ment was continued and expanded for 1921 and 1922 (Figure 10), with the addition of other Sowers. Also, for these latter two years, the trials were extended to other parts of France, the overprint reading **POSTES/FRANCE/1921** (or 1922) (Figure 11). These precancels range from scarce to very rare—or at least very expensive—and much more so on document (Figure 12). Fakes abound, of course.



Figure 10.



Figure 11.

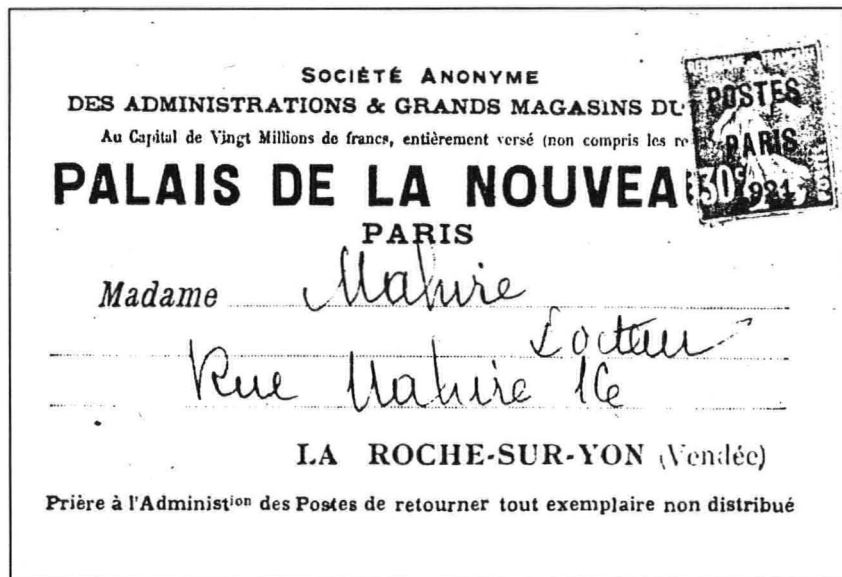


Figure 12.

The trials being considered successful, whole series of precancelled stamps (Blanc, Merson, Sowers—and later also Pasteurs, Paix of Laurens, Mercures, Pétaïns, Cérés of Mazelin, Marianne of Gandon, and finally the 4F Arms of Anjou) appeared between the latter part of 1922 and 1947. Formerly common in dealer's stockbooks, these double-arc (Figure 13) precancelled stamps are now generally difficult to almost impossible to find. The earlier ones were precancelled by flat plate at some time after the stamps were printed. These precancels are shiny, with sharply outlined impressions (Figures 13 and 14). Later ones were precancelled by a second pass through the rotary press. They tend to be somewhat dull, blurred, and less intensely black (Figure 15).

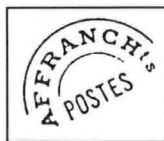


Figure 13.

The 7½c Blanc exists only as a precancelled (rotary press) stamp, as does the 90c Cérés of Mazelin. The 4c and 5c Blancs, 10c green, 15c lilac brown and 25c blue Cameo Sowers and the 4F Anjou exist with both kinds of over-



Figure 14.

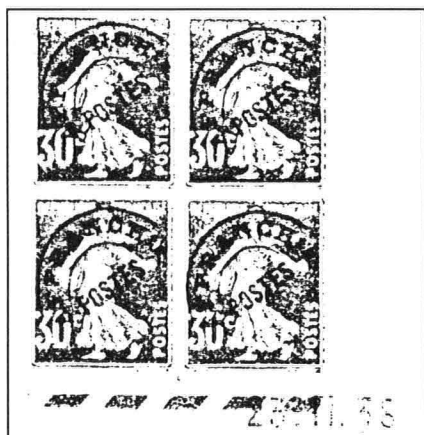


Figure 15. 23 November 1938 rotary press run of the precancelled 30c brick red Cameo Sower.

printed) familiar double-arc symbol, which makes them instantly recognizable as precancels. The Reapers and Gallic Coqs of 1953 (Figure 17) gave way to a Gallic Coin in 1964 (Figure 18); FRANCE replaced REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE in 1975. All these stamps, along with their earlier 20th Century predecessors, had been typographed. They were replaced by somewhat more attractive, line-engraved Zodiac symbols in 1977, Mushrooms in 1979, Historic Monuments also in 1979, the Four Seasons in 1983, etc. (Figure 19).

prints. Catalog value and relative scarcity can vary greatly between flat-plate and rotary-press overprints on the same stamps. Check yours!

There are a number of constant and other varieties of these double-arc overprints. The former include a short T in POSTES and the E with a serif at bottom (1.P.3 and 1.P.4, respectively, in Figure 16); the latter are typical "fleyspecks," some of which are also depicted in Figure 16. The 5c Blanc with greenish black rotary overprint is very scarce and very expensive and difficult to expertize.

Ever since 1953, precancelled stamps have had their own designs, all small-format and not terribly attractive. They continue into the present to show the (albeit not separately

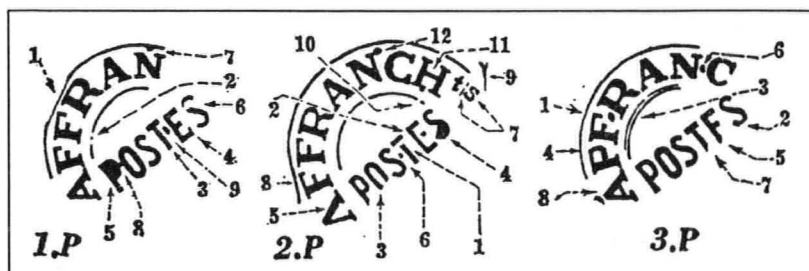


Figure 16. Constant varieties (1.P.3 and 1.P.4) and a number of flyspeck varieties from precancellation plates (from Wanos and Belleville, 1964, p. 314).

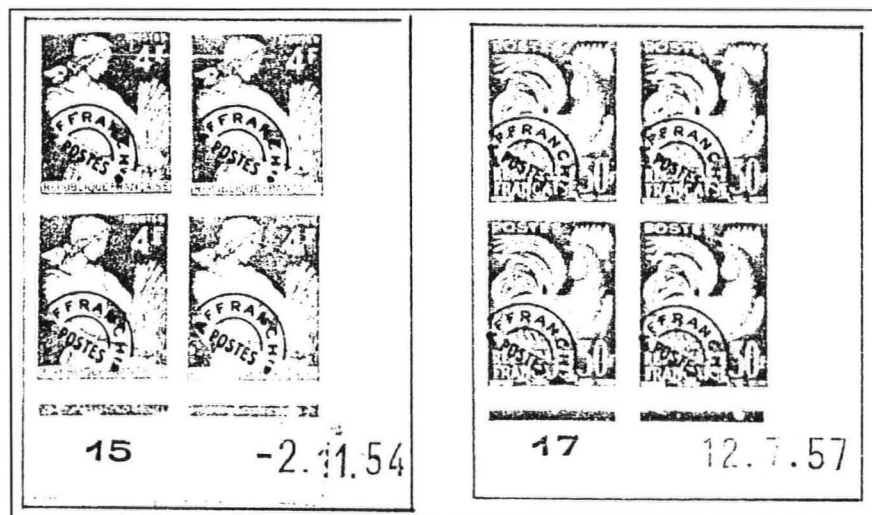


Figure 17. 4F Reaper: 2 November 1954 printing; 30F Coq: 2 November 1954 printing; both stamps printed precancelled only.

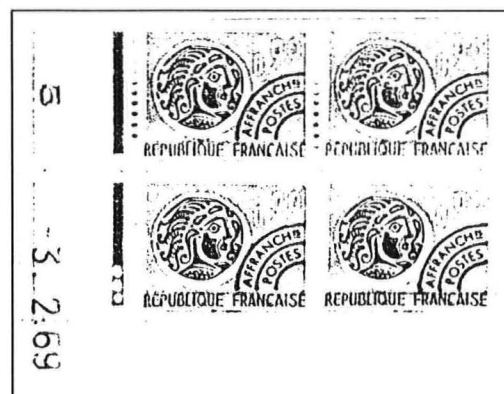


Figure 18. o,22F Gallic Coin, 3 February 1969 printing.

Cheaper-to-produce, offset-printed in vertical format Musical Instruments (Figure 20) first appeared in 1989, and this design remains in current use.

The heyday of precancels and their use (and of their being saved for posterity) appears to have been during the 1920s and 1930s. When I started collecting France during the mid-1950s, easily 10 percent of all used Blancs, Sowers and Laurens in dealer stocks were *préos*. Not so anymore. By the late 1960s very few used current or recent



Figure 19. Some of the 1977-1988 precancel designs.



Figure 20.

préos would ever appear in dealer stocks and in stamp mixtures, except perhaps for a very few of the lowest (bulk mailings of up to 50 gm) values. My thinking had long been that precancels had fallen into disfavor with bulk mailers and that, from the mid-1960s onward, many had switched to using meters. However, J.-L. Trassaert (personal communication, 26 March 1995) has assured me that all those values (239 of them, through Spring 1996, according to the French catalogs) have been and are being used, and correctly used according to weight categories

and periodic rate increases.

Collect these insignificant-appearing little rectangles as singles (even without gum!) or as *coin datés* blocks (Figures 15, 17, 18), or even better and if at all possible, on junk mail that went through the posts. There can be few more purely postal and less "philatelic" (i.e., contrived) items around in the world of stamps. Collect them as a separate specialty, or as a mere sideline, or collect the pre-1964 ones (as I do) as integral and inseparable parts of collections of the regular postal issues of the same values and designs. You'll enjoy doing so!

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FRENCH MARCOPHILY--FRANCHISE VERIFICATION

by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)

One of the longest enduring markings seen on stampless letters is the simple "VU" meaning "seen," which served for over 100 years. The free franking privilege, identified as early as 1464¹, applied initially to royal correspondence and then extended to every facet of the government, inevitably gave rise to the function of verification by postal authorities that the communication was properly entitled to free service. Numerous decrees during the revolutionary period of the 1790s applied to the franchise and its verification, primarily the Law of 25 Frimaire Year 8 (16 December 1799) by the *Conseil des Cinq-Cents*. The first usage of the handstamp "VU" is reported² to be by that august body in 1799, and the latest in 1910² in the Lot-et-Garonne Department. The marking appears in many sizes and varieties, including just "V", interpreted as an abbreviation for "VU" (Figures 1 and 2).

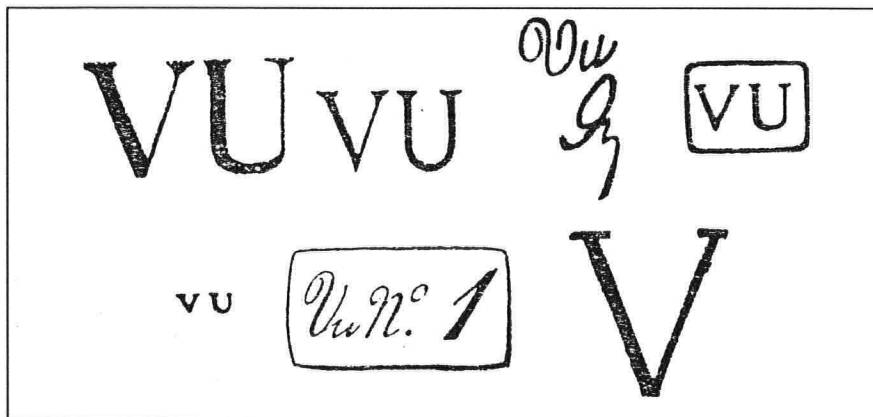


Figure 1.

The use of "VU" as a censor marking on prisoner mail occurred during and after the 1871 Commune Revolution, following the Franco-Prussian War. It is often seen as VU: BON A EXPEDIER, meaning "I have seen this letter and it is okay to deliver."³ These markings appear in many sizes and varieties, including just "V" (Figures 1 and 2).

Also used to indicate franchise verification, in Paris and elsewhere during that same time period, were various forms of flourishes (Figure 3). These, and the "VUs" were generally superseded in Paris (where most franchise mail originated) by cachets and date stamps that indicated the franchise was legitimate (Figure 4), in use from 1835 to 1856 or later. In turn these various markings were replaced by circular date stamps containing the word *Contresignés* (literal translation: countersigned) or the initials "C" "S" (Figure 5), which first appeared in 1856, according to Rochette and Pothion (1958).

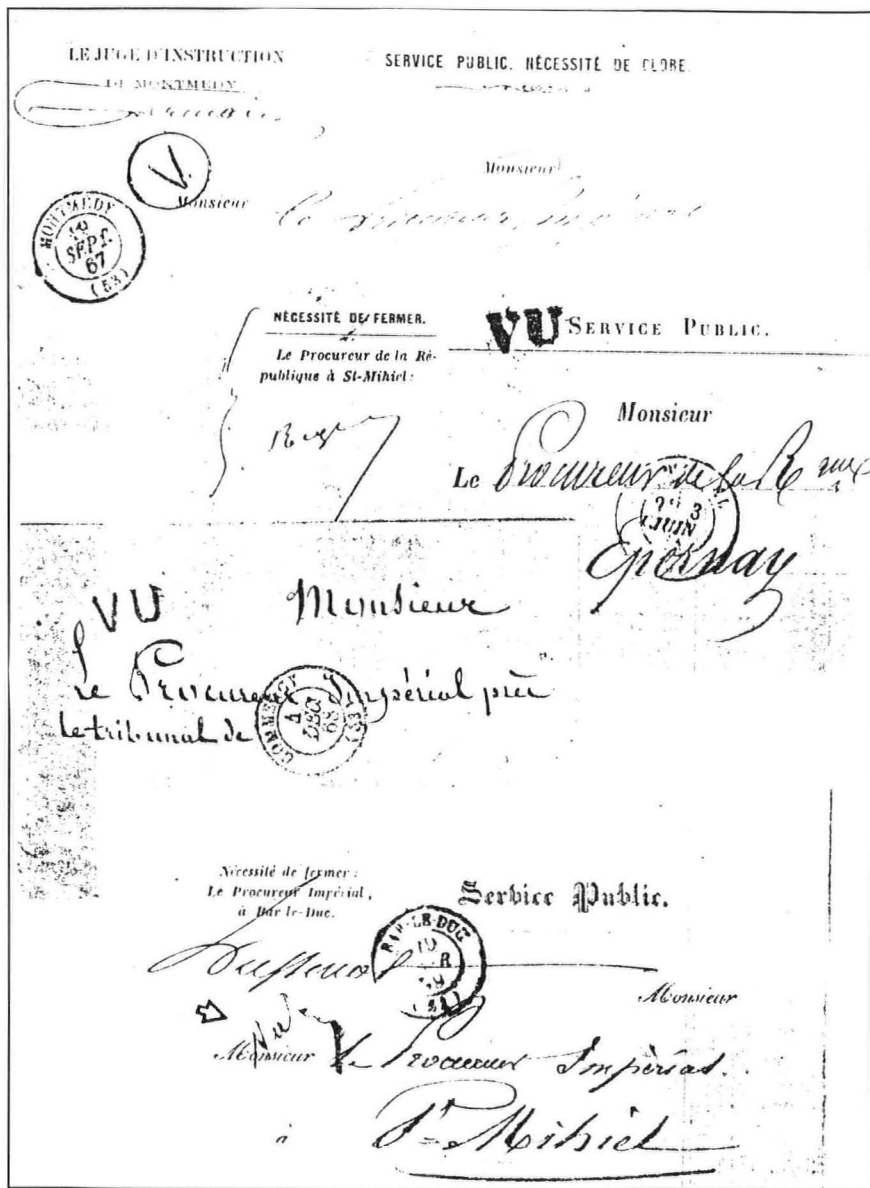


Figure 2.

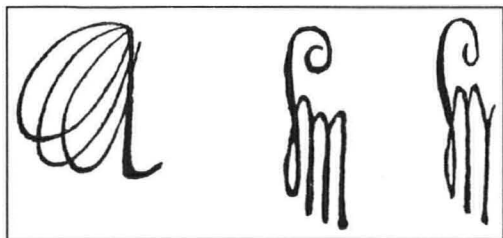


Figure 3.

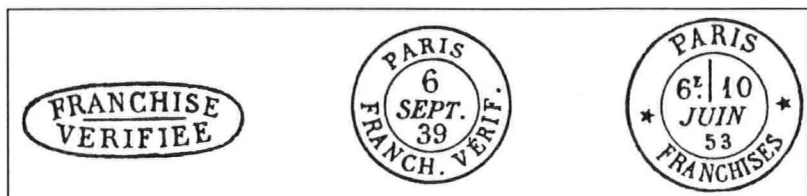


Figure 4.

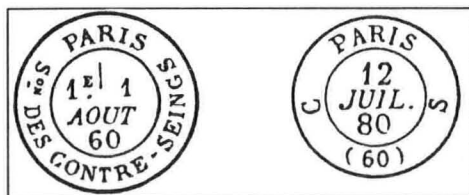


Figure 5.

Endnotes

1. Article 27 of the Edict of 19 June 1464 of Louis XI, noted in "Catalogue des Marques Postales et Oblitérations de Paris, 1700-1876," by A. Rochette and J. Pothion, 1958.
2. "Catalogue des Estampilles et Oblitérations Postales de France et des Colonies Françaises," Yvert & Cie., 1929; reprinted by Postilion Publications.
3. Quoted from "The Postal History of the Commune Revolution, Paris 1871," by Gardner L. Brown, 1992, p. 80; a Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication available from the FCPS Corresponding Secretary.

CRITERIA FOR THE PROPER IDENTIFICATION OF BALLONS MONTES

(Editor's Note: This is a summation of the points made by Ernst Cohn in *Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories--18*, which was published--as are all his even-numbered "Wonder Stories"--by our sister society's *The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society* [of Great Britain], in #199, March 1996 and is paraphrased here with the permission of its editor and of the author. We feel that the expert information conveyed in the article is too important not to be disseminated to a wider audience, including ours).

The following criteria, used individually or severally, should enable one to accurately determine which ballon carried any letter in question, if and when it is possible to do so:

1. Fast delivery. The earliest transit (or arrival) postmark on the cover must precede those known for later balloons.

2. Mail-Collection Period (Box Clearing) Marks. Different *levées* on the Paris departure date stamps can sometimes be used in conjunction with Criterion #1 to differentiate between two balloons that were launched on the same day.

3. Text of Letters. One may use a writer's notation along with the inside dateline, say *soir*, to eliminate from consideration a balloon that had left in the morning or early afternoon of that day.

4. Characteristic Paris Markings. Included are the much-sought-after private cachets of the *Aérostiers* and of the later *Aéronautes*, usually specific for certain of their balloons. The marking *Garde mobile, 62e Regiment, Le Colonel* uniquely defines *plis confiés* from the "Montgolfier." A blue date stamp "15 DECE," struck together with the blue *Aéronautes* cachet, is found only on mail from the "Ville de Paris."

5. Characteristic Earliest Outside Markings. These include Luzarches, 20 December, present only on "General Uhrich" mail, and LaRochelelle, 21 December, found only on "Jacquard" mail.

6. Geographic Location. Tricky to use, as it requires good working knowledge of train and ship schedules, areas of military action and those held by the Germans at the time in question, and where certain train postmarks were used. Because so much of that information is still missing, this method must be used with great caution.

7. Very Late Delivery. Paradoxically, very late delivery can help to pinpoint balloons, but only if the earliest outside cds is from free France or a friendly neighbor. Mail to occupied France and to or through Germany, if it carries postmarks at all, often shows delayed arrival.

The earliest outside cds on mail from the *Ville d'Orléans* is 2nd December (perhaps even 1st December) at London. Most of its mail, however, is not postmarked before 8th December in France.

Jacquard mail is postmarked either early or very late in December, depending on where it was found.

Ville de Paris mail has no backstamp, except for a number of pieces that must have been found in Germany around the middle of 1871, after the peace treaty had been signed, and were returned to Paris, where they were postmarked again on 26th and 27th July before being sent on to their destination.

Mail from the *Richard Wallace* was recovered as late as April 1871. Some of it, however, handed to bystanders during an intermediate landing, arrived so promptly that it went unrecognized and has been mistakenly ascribed to the last balloon of the siege.

In any case, there is no substitute for knowledge, which can be obtained by keeping up with the latest published scholarly information--which does not mean retreaded, incorrect and implausible interpretations. --E.M. Cohn

INDOCHINA TO SWITZERLAND AIRMAILS--MID 1930s COVERS AND RATES

by Mark Isaacs (FCPS #1955)

An article illustrating five well decorated covers that were flown from Indochina to Switzerland were shown and described in the January 1996 number (#243, pp. 15-18) of *FCP*. Postage paid on these covers varied and one of them was marked for postage due. Although the sender was probably unfamiliar with Indochinese airmail rates, he was able to send to his philatelic friend back in Switzerland some far better than average covers. They bear interesting frankings and were mailed from some very small towns where very little mail originated. In addition to the nice selection of stamps, cachets of military posts were affixed to the covers. One cover in particular bears a complete booklet pane including the blank tab, an extremely scarce and desirable item in today's philatelic market.

By the time these covers were mailed, in 1936, airmail services were well established between France and Indochina with Air France as the carrier. The two major air terminals for Indochina were in Saigon and Hanoi, and all Indochinese airmail leaving the country passed through one of these terminals. After the first flights of the late 1920s and early 1930s, flying time improved as better engines were developed for the planes. Furthermore, airmail stamps were introduced in Indochina in 1933, helping to promote the use of airmail.

Now let us look at the rate structure to understand what happened to those previously illustrated covers. Up until 1919 Indochina used French currency of centimes and francs, and the postal regulations of France were in effect in the colony. However, with the end of the First World War the French franc declined in value in world markets, inasmuch as the war had destroyed the nation's agriculture by replacing fertile fields with networks of trenches. On the other hand, Indochina had become very prosperous by exporting rice, tea, rubber, tin, and cinnamon. There being no reason for Indochina to share France's currency decline, a new currency of cents and piastres was established and initially pegged at 2.5 French francs to the Indochinese piastre. Check any stamp catalogue for Indochina, and listed there will be a 1919 set which was overprinted in the new currency from the former French currency and at the inverse of that 2.5:1 ratio. Of course over a period of time currency conversions will fluctuate, and so the initially established exchange rate would no longer be applicable. What it was in the mid-1930s will require further study.

In Indochina, letters were weighed in terms of grams. In the mid-1930s the rate for a surface letter to Switzerland up to 20 gm was 15 cents (in Indochinese currency, of course). With the establishment of airmail service, a surtax of 30c for each 5 gm was imposed¹. Using this information, Figure 1 is a correctly franked 1x letter with a total of 15c postage on it.

Figures 2 and 3 illustrate flown 5 gm letters. The rates total 45c, which represent 15c plus the 30c air surcharge. It is interesting to note that upon arrival in France, the airmail indicia was deleted in both instances, and the letters went on to Switzerland by rail. Heavier airmail letters (to 10 gm and to 15 gm, respectively) are shown in Figures 4 and 5.

1. Also see *FCP* #245, July 1996, p. 91.

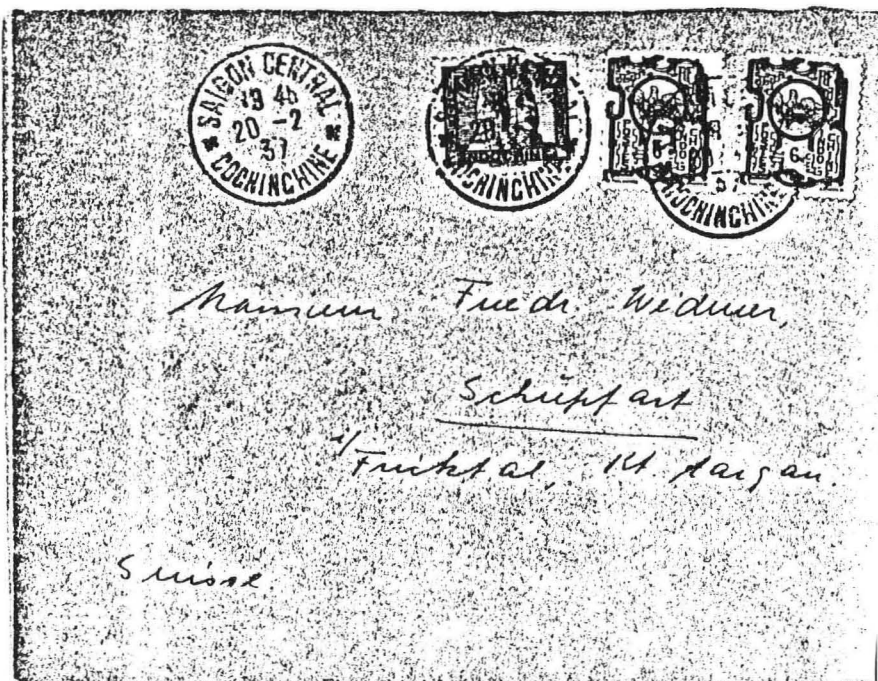


Figure 1. Saigon, 20 February 1937, to Switzerland. Paid $6c \times 2 + 3c = 15c$ = international surface rate, to 20 gm.



Figure 2. Hanoi, 11 July 1934, to Switzerland. Paid $36c + 5c + 4c = 45c$ = airmail rate for up to 5 gm (15c surface + 30c surtax). Hanoi airport not yet open; letter sent to Saigon for flight to Marseille.

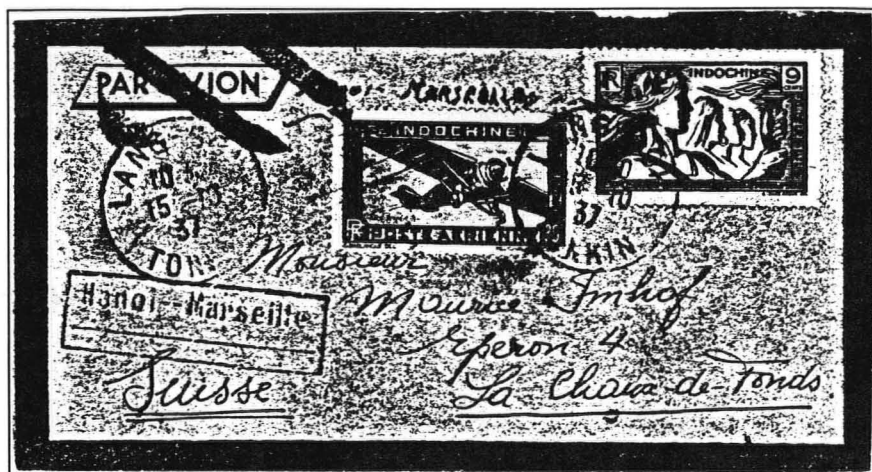


Figure 3. Lang-son, 15 October 1937, via Hanoi to Marseille, then to Switzerland. Paid $36c + 9c = 45c$ (same rate structure as for Figure 2).

Although we could go on and extend the rates in some sort of tabular form, it must be remembered that these were far from inexpensive rates and senders made every effort to keep down the weight and cost of their mail. Envelopes usually consisted of very thin paper that had to be colored so that postal clerks would not see the contents; such colored envelopes generally do not copy well for illustrative purposes.



Figure 4. Hanoi, 30 August 1935, to Switzerland (then forwarded to France). Paid $60c + 6c + 5c \times 2 = 76c$; rate = $15c$ surface + $60c$ surtax for airmail letter of 5-10 gm = $75c$ (overpaid $1c$).

As the majority of the readership of this article resides in the United States, it is unlikely that covers bearing the rates herewith discussed, on mail from Indochina to Switzerland, would be readily available at your local stamp dealer. So it should be pointed out that these are **overseas** rates, and that they apply to mail from Indochina to the U.S. as well.



Figure 5. Saigon, 7 March 1936 to Switzerland. Paid 1F + 5c = 1.05F = airmail rate for 10-15 gm letter (15c surface + 90c surtax).

To answer the key question of the previous article: why rates of 53c, 55c and 58c seemed to work whereas the 54c franking received a postage-due notation, one has to deal with the weight of their contents. Obviously only 45c worked for all of the letters, except the one which required 75c (the next increment). Short paid 21c (Indochinese currency) meant the recipient would have to pay twice that amount, or 42c. Converting this to French currency of 2.5 times, the Indochinese currency comes fairly close to the 1.18 Francs due shown on the cover (Figure 1 of the January 1996 article). Inasmuch as its final destination was France, after it had arrived in Switzerland, it can be assumed that the 1.18 is in French and not Swiss currency.

This article involves postal history, knowledge of aerophilately, a background in world history, use of a stamp catalogue, and some elementary mathematics. If you followed and understood all that was written, you are a true philatelist and can pat yourself on the back!

AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES-27

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

It is often difficult to separate fables from facts, even in postal history. One example is the story of postcards in the Siege of Paris.

We know that they were authorized by a regulation of 26 September 1870 published the next day in the *Journal Officiel*. The first (and last) official, unmanned, mail balloon for postcards left Paris on 30 September and was shot down soon after leaving. Most of the cards became booty of Silesian soldiers, a few were retrieved by the French and re-mailed later. Those are facts.

Fable has it that the balloon *Piper I* took a lot of cards along in the postal mail bag(s); i.e., in the bag(s) that contained first-class mail that had been postmarked at Paris. There is no evidence whatever for that statement. In fact, about the only cards that *might* have been in such a bag or bags would have been those addressed abroad:

Because the postage for those cards was identical to that for single-weight letters abroad, the post office transported them as promptly as letters. On the other hand, domestic (France and Algeria) cards cost half as much as letters, so the post office treated them as second-rate mail and deliberately delayed them longer than letters, as long as there was a shortage of lift power, i.e., as long as only the few old balloons were available for mail.

The first of the large, new balloons (not counting the small ones, such as the *Armand-Barbès* and the *George Sand*) took off on 12 October. A large number of cards is known to have flown on the *Jean Bart II*, which used them as ballast near Soissons on 16 October. Most of those cards were dated between 30 September and 15 October. There is no evidence whatever that any of them had been on the *Piper I* before being put on the *Jean Bart II*. Those that are water damaged - with or without loss of stamp(s) - had lain in the mud or rain puddles near the little villages where they were found days after the bags had been ejected. Those are facts.

The fact that many delayed cards were finally flown out of Paris that Sunday (16 October) indicates that someone in the post office had decided to get rid of them, presumably because no more unmanned mail balloons would be flown out of Paris by the post office. No announcement of that fact has been found thus far, however.

Now, what about cards posted after mid-October? I recently found some evidence to answer that question in a brief article by Charles A. Fricke in the September 1995 issue of *The American Philatelist*. Charles has a card in his collection that is hand dated on the 18th as well as being postmarked at Paris 7E/18 OCT, i.e., for the 7th collection period. That being the last collection period of the day, the mail from it was not sorted until early the next day, 19 October.

On 19 October, the *République Universelle* (sometimes mistakenly called *Lafayette*) left Paris shortly after 9 a.m.; the next balloon did not leave until the 22nd at about 11:30 a.m. Charles' card has a notation that it was received at Granville (Manche) on the 22nd at noon, so it could only have flown out on the 19th, hence shortly after the 7th mail of the previous day had been sorted.

This, then, is factual proof that domestic cards were flown out of Paris as promptly as possible at least on and after 19 October. That date might be pushed back further, either as proven by another card or by the discovery of a written post-office decision to that effect.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

Peter Kelly, writing from England, was most pleased by Alan McKanna's "Paris District Office Date Stamps During the Period of the Sage Issues," in the October 1996 (N° 246) number of this journal. Mr. Kelly considers this a major contribution that has built upon the foundation prepared by de Beaufond.

Apparently, Alan was not familiar with the 1956-1957 study by Caldairou in *Feuilles Marcophiles* (Nos. 103-105), wherein the writer came up with certain valid hypotheses regarding (1) the origin of the various date stamp types, and (2) which Paris post offices used them--and when.

Messers McKanna and Kelly are very cognizant of the fact that there remains much to be studied and written regarding the 1876-1901 period of Paris district-office date stamps. All collectors are therefore urged to reexamine their Paris date stamps of this period for earlier and later dates than those reported in McKanna's article, and to class them by date stamp types and by central dater styles. Your editor will gladly act as a "clearinghouse" for this information, and convey any new information to Messers Kelly and McKanna. The hoped-for result could well be a multi-authored collaboration of all parties involved in this project.

* * * * *

Harry Hayes (also from England, where so much new France and Colonies research is being conducted) is looking for covers from French Guyana of the Devil's Island penal period. Especially needed are covers and picture postcards from the penal settlements themselves (particularly from 1927 to 1940) that could help indicate the postal routes employed in those days. Please contact him at 11 Chatsworth Drive, Haxby, York YO3 3QS, Great Britain.

FRENCH OCEANIA--WORLD WAR II PROVISIONAL YEAR DATES

by Christian Beslu (FCPS #2358)

Post offices in French Oceania, like all Colonial post offices, depended entirely upon the French PTT for their stamps, stationery, formules and cancelling devices. Arrangements could be made at times, however, for adapting to unusual local conditions.

The last year-date slug, for circular date stamps, to reach Papeete prior to the total wartime interruption of maritime service with France, was that of 1940. After that year, the local postal administration asked local artisans to experiment at engraving the last two numerals of the year to fit within existing date stamps, on a variety of available mediums (steel, german silver, even wood). Postwar mail communications with France resumed very slowly, and it wasn't until 1948 that the current year-date slugs (this time showing all four numerals) finally arrived in the Pacific.

During some seven years (1941-1947), Polynesian marcophily, already well endowed, was thereby enriched by a number of decidedly "folkloric" markings (Figures 1 and 2). (*Translated by S. J. Luft*).

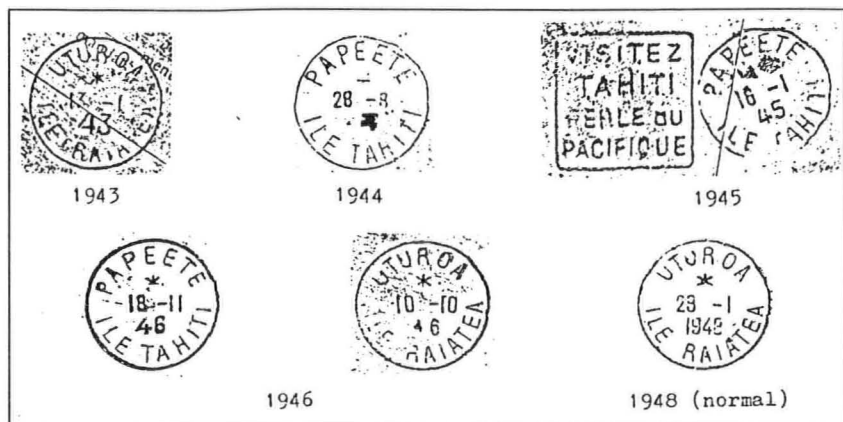


Figure 1. Examples of 1943-1946 provisional year dates on French Oceania date stamps; official (normal) 1948 dater is shown in lower right.

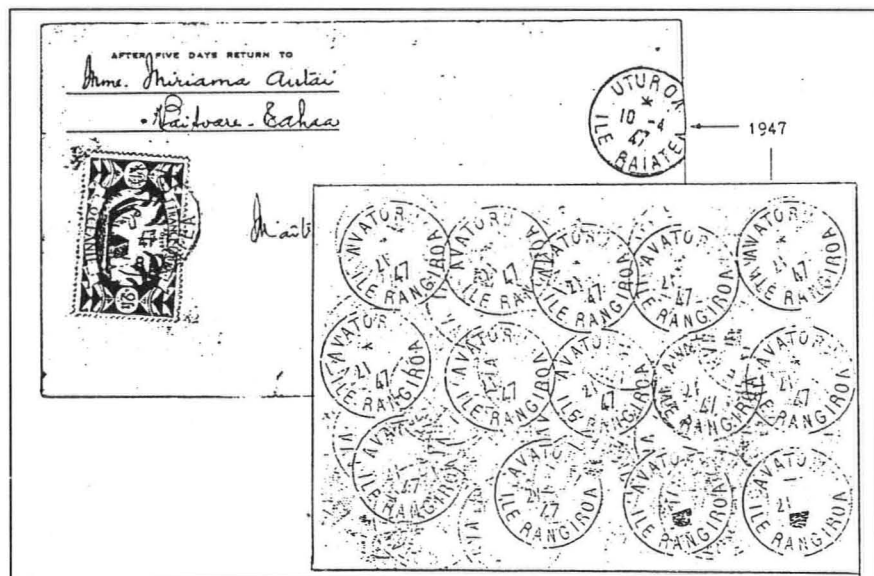


Figure 2. Provisional 1947 year date on cover from Uturoa. And, "essays" by engraver Henri Bouvier for a provisional 1947 date slug, made from a piece of german silver (mailechort), and soldered(?) within the Avatoru (Tuamotu) postmarker that had been furnished to Bouvier by the local postal authorities at Papeete.

A DAY WITH CHRISTIAN BESLU

by David L. Herendeen (FCPS #2532)

My wife and I have been vacationing in French Polynesia since 1982 on a more or less annual basis. My philatelic activities have been primarily limited to visiting the main post office in Papeete and buying any new issues I might find. During the 1983 trip, while perusing the main book store in *Centre Viam* in Papeete, I found a beautiful book entitled *La Philatélie à Tahiti* by Christian Beslu. This is a coffee-table production that covers all areas of French Polynesian philately including stamps, covers, stationery, first days, special cancels, and much more. It is profusely illustrated with many color plates. Unfortunately, because I only collect postage-due stamps, I could not justify its price.

A number of years later, I learned that M. Beslu was a member of our FCPS. A call to our editor got me M. Beslu's post-office box number, but things were far too hectic during our 1994 trip. I swore that 1996 would be different. I wrote to M. Beslu only two weeks before our scheduled departure for Paradise. Back came an immediate reply, in French, indicating that he would be happy to meet with me, perhaps for a whole day. The bad news was that he and his wife were leaving for a Hawaii vacation at the midpoint of our trip, so I would have to meet with him quickly or not at all.

I called M. Beslu on Sunday, and he generously offered to pick me up at the ferry dock in Papeete, the terminus of my 35-minute high-speed ferry ride from the nearby island of Moorea. On Wednesday, October 9, I went to Tahiti and, as promised, he met me at the dock. We proceeded inland to his residence and made small talk. It was very small talk, because this best describes my command of French! Happily the language of philately is quite universal, and I think we were able to communicate reasonably well. Christian (as I soon was able to call him) is 62 and a retired technical writer, though still very much active, and writes columns for the local newspaper, magazines, and his books. Christian and his family moved to Tahiti in 1966. He spent the next 26 years working on the small atoll of Mororua (about 1200 km from Tahiti), only returning five days a month to visit his family. He became interested in the philately of Tahiti and was surprised to discover that it was a generally unstudied area. By working with the few specialized collectors of Polynesia, and by researching the territorial archives, he was able to complete his definitive work in 1983.



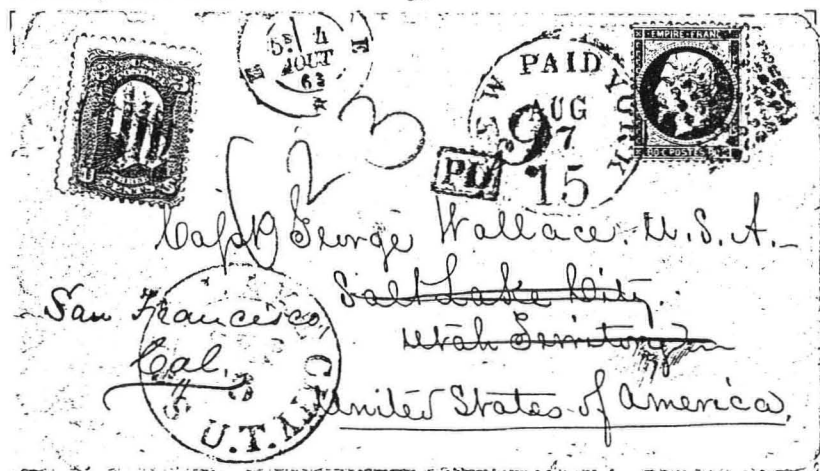
Christian Beslu (at left) and the writer at a typical Le Snack in Papeete.

Known locally as a *collectionneur des collections*, Christian's interests encompass not only philately, but also other Polynesian subjects including handicrafts, books and seashells. He was happy to show me his collections and, in the finest tradition of all collectors, items were spread out all over the house! He has completed his book on the postcards of Tahiti, and is now working on both the study of Polynesian coinage and currency and on the story of life on Moruroa. Additionally, he is involved with the Polynesian Philatelic Service in stamp design and production. As a retiree, Christian most certainly keeps his plate full!

After sharing a wonderful lunch, Christian presented me with several postage-due covers which included the latest issue. I was thrilled when he also presented me with an inscribed copy of his *La Philatélie à Tahiti*. I was only able to reciprocate with photocopies of my latest exhibit, on the postage dues of the French Empire and Community. Recent correspondence with Christian indicates that he hopes to visit PACIFIC 97. I certainly look forward to seeing him again, and urge all interested members to take the opportunity to welcome and meet this fine gentleman.

[Editor's note: Indeed it must be tough having to vacation in Tahiti! But seriously, M. Beslu contributes on occasion to our Journal, and that includes the interesting short contribution published on pages 51-52 of this Number.]

Paris, via Utah Territory, to San Francisco (1863)



Paris, 4 August 1863, via American packet "City of Washington," boarding ship in England; August 17 New York Paid transit marking; September 8 Salt Lake City, U.T. arrival/forwarding marking (forwarding postage paid by U.S. 3¢ stamp of 1861); sent on to San Francisco. (S.C. Walske coll.)

"ACCIDENTAL" MARITIME ENTRY MARKINGS

In the 171st Jamet-Baudot auction of 23 November 1996, Lots 2531 through 2550 are described as "Accidental Entry Markings." These prestamp covers show (1) in some cases, the departure marking of their overseas origin; (2) in most cases, handwritten (usually) "Colonies" or "Colonies par"; and (3) in all cases, the handstamp of the French port where they were first taken into the mailstream. A couple of examples from the auction catalogue are shown below, with markings enhanced where necessary. Such mostly 18th to early 19th Century covers are very scarce; they sold for 4885Fr to 9100Fr apiece.

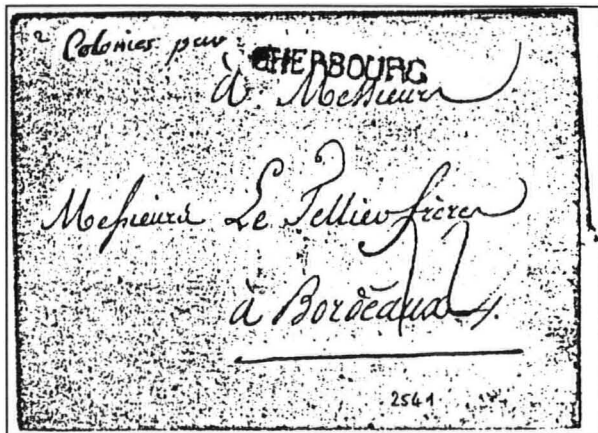


Figure 1. Colonies par CHERBOURG, on 1782 letter from Martinique.

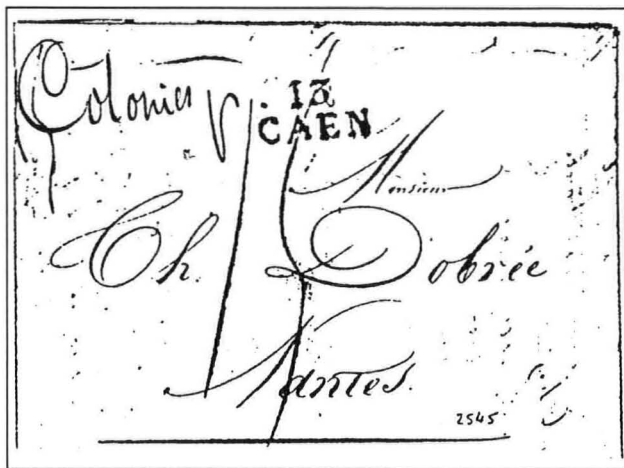


Figure 2. Colonies p. + 13/CAEN, on 1819 letter from Brazil.

The *raison d'être* for these combination of markings is given by M. Baudot, as follows. Ship captains were under strict orders by the French government to drop off any mail entrusted to them at the first French port or landfall encountered. The added French port name served mainly to determine the tax to be charged (weight times distance from the port) to the addressee. These

"accidental" entry markings served therefore, at those coastal towns which lacked official maritime entry markings such as those shown in Figure 3.

--S. J. Luft

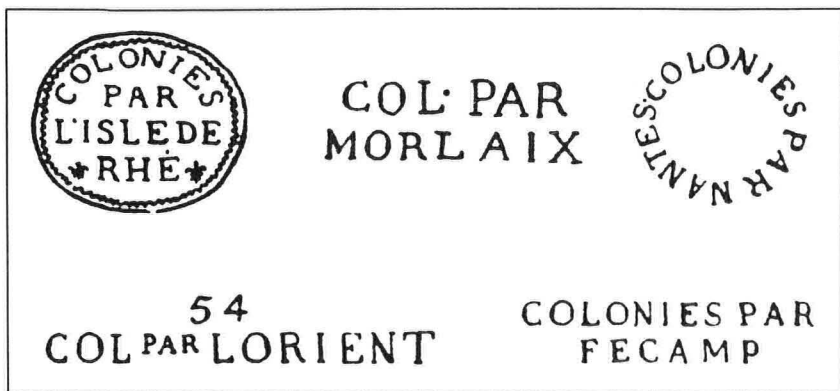


Figure 3. Some examples of official maritime entry cachets (from R. Salles, "La Poste Maritime Française," vol. I, 1961).

THE CARNET CORNER

By Bob Seeke (FCPS #1334)

The demands of my job forced me to postpone writing this column for some time, but things have settled down and I should be able to get back to a regular schedule.

A few issues back (in #245, July 1996), I mentioned the *carnets privés*--the privately printed booklets. I offered an example to our readers, and was gratified to have eight requests come in. All were filled, depleting my duplicate stock. I hope those who received them enjoyed them.

On the same subject: in that column was an illustration of a booklet dedicated to Ste. Barbe. Member Roland Boulet was in France shortly thereafter and researched Ste. Barbe. Briefly, Ste. Barbe became a Christian against her family's will. Her father had her tortured and beheaded. Her body was struck by lightning, and she was martyred and beatified. Later, fellow Christians began to pray to her for protection from thunderstorms. When black powder reached Europe, artillerymen adopted her as their patron saint to protect their stocks of explosives. To this day, Ste. Barbe is the patron saint of artillerymen, miners and firefighters, and her day is celebrated on December 14. Thank you very much, Roland.

I'm sure that, like me, you want your collection(s) to be "complete," an unattainable goal, but it's what keeps us collecting, right? With that in mind, I have calculated the number of booklets that would be needed to have "complete" collections of the recent Sabine and Liberté types: 188 for the Sabines and 499 for the Libertés. These counts include one example of each *tirage* (printing) and, for the closed booklets, one each of the different numbers on the back of the booklet (*numéro du confectionneuse*). Please feel free to disagree, as no list of this type can ever be "complete" as long as at least two people discuss it.

Well, it's time for a hot cup of something to ward off the cold here in upstate New York. Until next time, *bonne philatélie*.

Bob Seeke, 110 Morey Park Rd., Nassau, NY 12123.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

WANTED: for collection: Mint and used postal stationery from Madagascar, dependencies, and general area. Please send photocopies and prices to Peter Thy, P.O. Box 73112, Davis, CA 95616. (Mb. #3096)

WANTED: Perfins of France and Colonies; any quantities. Will trade other French material or pay cash. Please write to Robert Szymanski, 10 Clarridge Circle, Milford, MA 01757. (Mb. #2169).

OFFER: Copies of my book, *Les Oblitérations du Cameroun 1914-1960*, published in 1990. Anyone purchasing a copy will also receive, free of charge, copies of the several later articles and addenda published in our Journal and elsewhere. Contact Martin P. Bratzel, Jr., 1233 Virginia Avenue, Windsor, Ontario, N8S 2Z1, Canada. (Mb. #2394).

HEAR YE! I will have a stand at PACIFIC 97 in San Francisco, and will be offering a large stock of France and Colonies revenues. Hope to see you there. Gordon Brooks. (Mb. #2959).

REVIEW

Pierre Saulgrain, *Le Service Postal Aérien Dans Les Pays D'Expression Française—Catalogue Descriptif et Historique, 1906-1986*; 8½ x 12", hardbound, 1996; 400 francs + 35 francs s/h, from publisher ROUMET S.A., 17 Rue Drouot, F-75009 Paris. (Includes separate catalog of estimated values for the various covers listed.)

This volume details the development of air postal service in French-speaking countries through 1986. It follows Saulgrain's previous volume covering *100 Years of Air Post in France, 1870-1969* (my translation of the title). While the work is in French, most of the information is in the form of lists that can be deciphered by the English reader without much difficulty.

Nowhere in the prefatory material does the writer state his overall purpose. One is left to the lists themselves, then, to determine what they are meant to be. Country by country (40 by them), Saulgrain lists the history of new airmail flights from that country. Consequently, these lists become primarily histories of "first flights."

The lists are numbered chronologically and include (as known, applicable, or significant) the (1) dates of departure and arrival, (2) route, (3) airline, (4) crew, (5) type of aircraft, (6) number of covers or weight of mail flown, (7) special cachets or markings, and (8) information about accidents. Scattered throughout are selected photographs of actual covers as illustrations, at least one (and usually more) from each country.

For a country where the information is relatively simple, a brief history precedes the straightforward listing. Ivory Coast (in which I am especially interested), for instance, begins with a half-dozen sentences about the country itself, followed by a list of 36 different first flights. The first two are the 1933 and 1934 Graf Zeppelin flights (to South America), the rest by regular aircraft. An example is:

1937 - 03-05 Mars: **ABIDJAN-TOKORADI-LOME-COTTONOU** (Dahomey) par
 AM. CS rouge ou noir
 a) courrier Abidjan-Tokoradi
 b) courrier Abidjan-Lomé

Here 04 = fourth flight listed, leaving Abidjan March 3, 1937 and arriving in Cotonou March 5, with intermediate stops in Tokoradi (Gold Coast) and Lomé (Togo). AM = Aeromaritime (the carrier). CS = special cachet, in red or black. The two sub-points show there was mail destined for Gold Coast or Togo, important for the supplemental catalog of values. Turning there, we find that an Abidjan-Cotonou first flight cover (04) is valued at 150F, while one for Tokoradi or Lomé (04a, 04b) is valued at 200F.

For countries much more involved in airpost history (and perhaps of greater interest to Saulgrain), there is much more extensive historical information. Among these are Algeria (45 pp.), Indo-China (28 pp.), Madagascar (20 pp.), Morocco (23 pp.), Senegal (14 pp.), and Tunisia (12 pp.).

I was disappointed to find almost no information about the airmail rates (*surtaxes aériennes*) involved. The writer is content to refer to the existing studies of airmail rates, and the problem with that is that these are indeed few and limited. This lack notwithstanding, Saulgrain's work should be indispensable for aerophilatelists everywhere.

--Robert E. Picirilli

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

It pleases me enormously to welcome our members and our non-member visitors to PACIFIC 97 at the Moscone Center in downtown San Francisco. It will be a philatelic event of the first order, with many wonderful exhibits (literature as well as philatelic) and numerous dealers with much material to offer. In honor of the occasion, this number of our Journal has been expanded to 40 pages. Included in this Special Number are many hopefully interesting, certainly varied, articles and shorter communications, and depictions of several great early covers **addressed to San Francisco**, from our members' collections. If I sound excited, I truly am, and I'm ready to take off for PACIFIC, even if only for a very few days.

Once you're at the show, please don't forget your Society! We will have a general meeting of the Society on Saturday, May 31 (see program and/or show press releases for location and time), which will give us all the opportunity to meet with our President, other officers and members, and your Editor. Additionally, we will have a table in the Societies area (look for our banner!), where you can sign in, look over and purchase some of our publications, and chat with whoever is manning the table at the time. My turn at the table will be on Saturday, May 31 (but **not** during the FCPS meeting!), and I shall be dropping by daily, from May 30 to June 3, to check for messages and to help out if need be. I shall look forward to meeting our members old and new, hope to recruit a few new ones, and particularly would like to meet our writers--both current and potential.

We're now at a stage where outgo is beginning to exceed input. Which translates to we are publishing articles and other contributions faster than we are receiving new material. Please do yourselves and the rest of us a favor by contributing something to your Society's journal. Whether you run into me at PACIFIC 97 or not, please contact me regarding any forthcoming or potential articles, etc. Submitted material must be typed double-spaced on letter-size paper (one side only), with ample margins all around. Illustrations must not be pasted or taped down. They should be numbered consecutively with soft pencil in margin (preferably) or on the back.

So, if you have an idea for an article, or of what you'd like to see included in future numbers of this Journal, PACIFIC 97 would be a splendid opportunity to try them out on me. Or, just drop by to shoot the breeze or simply to say hello to whomever is manning the table on any particular day. Leave a message there if you've missed anyone in particular; several of us, myself included, will be dropping by regularly to check for our messages.

Deadlines for receipt, at Golden, Colorado, of Members' Appeals, Show

Reports, Letters, Announcements and News, corrections and discussions, "interesting stuff," and any other short items, are stated below. Anything received later will have to be carried over to a later number.

for July 1997 N°
October 1997 N°
January 1998 N°
April 1998 N°

May 25th
September 2nd
December 1st
March 2nd, 1998

(Few Society meetings were held during the past quarter. Consequently, the reports on meetings will be published in the July number).

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from #247, January 1997, p. 22)

- 746.) During a timespan of just 28 months, it was possible for registered mail to the provinces to bear both the boxed **R** (for Registry) and the **1d.** in oval rural *décime*, for local delivery to where there was no post office, as shown in Figure 1. Earliest possible date would have been 1 September 1844, when the registry system was extended nationwide; the latest date, 30 December 1846, when the rural *décime* was suppressed. Nevertheless, this duality of markings appears to be extremely rare. (Guy Prugnon, in *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, July-August 1996).

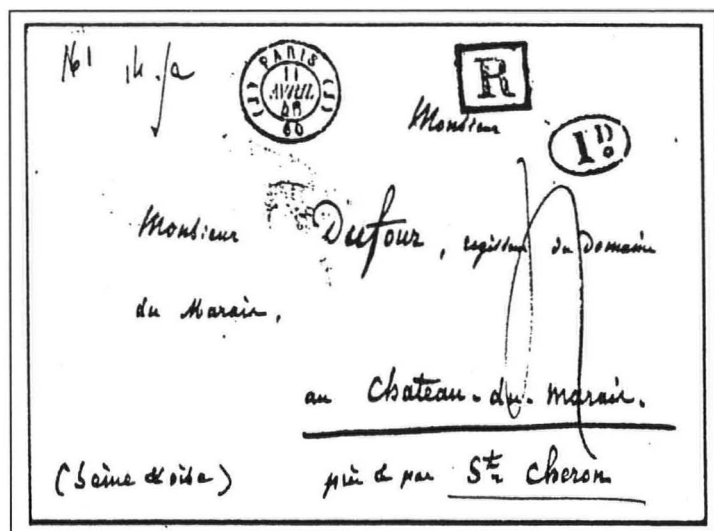


Figure 1.

- 747.) We've seen this information a number of times before, and I'm sure it was published years back in our journal, but here it is once again. In France, 158,268,000 letters were mailed during 1849 (the first year for French postage stamps), of which only 15% were prepaid (with or without the use of postage stamps). For 1850, 159,500,000 letters, 20% prepaid. For 1851, 165 million, also 20% prepaid. For 1852, 181 million, 22% prepaid. For 1853, 185,542,000 letters, 22% prepaid. And for 1854, 212,385,000 letters, of which 49% were prepaid (which is quite a jump, and

may reflect the 1 July lowered postal rates). The rest, of course, were taxed. (from *Annuaire des Postes de l'Empire Français*, January 1856, courtesy of Vincent Pothion). This should explain to beginning cover collectors why stamped mail of the first five years is so much scarcer than unpaid, taxed mail.

1887 Cover from Martinique to San Francisco

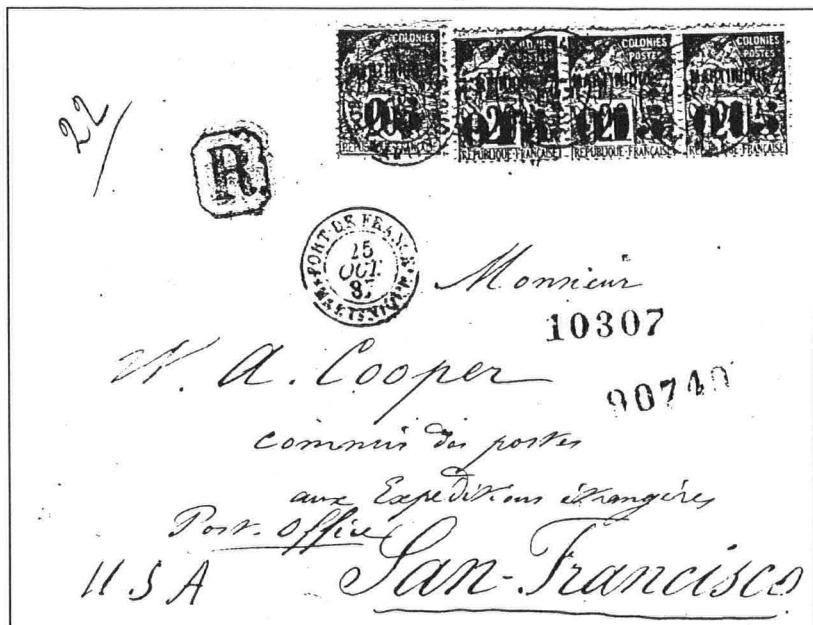


Figure 1.

Fort de France, registered to San Francisco (Figure 1). The 05 on 20c surcharge of 1886 (left stamp) is used with a strip of three of the 015 on 20c surcharge of 1887 to make up the 50 centimes rate. The left-hand stamp in the strip shows major damage to MA of MARTINIQUE (Figure 2), though this cannot yet be confirmed as a constant plate variety. The stamps were cancelled at Fort de France on 25 October 1887, and the cover was backstamped in New York on November 14 and in San Francisco on November 20, 1887. (R.M. Stevens coll.).



Figure 2.

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

- *La Poste dans l'Eure--Monographie et Histoire Postale des origines à 1995*, vol. I (1996); 630 pp.; 400Fr + 30Fr packing and shipping, payable to C.E.M.P.N., from M.D. Simeon, Secrétaire du C.E.M.P.N., 20 rue de Bizy, F-27200 Vernon, France. (Comprehensive departmental study, based on original documents, archives, the Musée de la Poste, etc.; all known Eure markings listed and illustrated; also reproductions of documents, maps, postal cards showing post offices, etc.)
- *Les Cachets Daguin 1880-1970*; 206 pp., 21 x 27 cm, softbound; 150Fr postpaid, from Maurice Perry, 6 Cami del Cazamouret, F-09600 Tabre, France. (Precursors and essays of these early duplex machine cancels; Paris Daguins; Daguins used in provinces and abroad; study of the origin of the duplex with square of 196 points; etc.; ca. 350 markings illustrated.)
- *Les Bureaux de Poste du Département de l'Aveyron*, by J. Lacassagne; vol. I: 1695-1876 (134 pp.); vol. II: 1876-1981 (387 pp.); inquire of Jean Lacassagne, 31 chemin du Sénéchal, F-12200 Villefranche-de-Rouergue, France. (M. Lacassagne has now published a 51-page supplement that includes corrections and updates of the two volumes, indices of value for the postal markings; and 500+ illustrations of newly discovered postal markings from this department; 50Fr + postage (16Fr ordinary domestic, 18Fr by Collissimo within the Dept., and 25Fr elsewhere.)
- *Les Civils Britanniques Internés en Europe entre 1939 et 1945*, by Roger Horton; ca. 320 pp., 200+ illustrations; 210Fr + 30Fr postage, payable to CCP Chalons N° 427495 U (in France), from Roger Horton, 10 Bouquette, B-4802 Heusy, Belgium. (History and postal history of World War II internment camps for British subjects in France, Belgium, and elsewhere in Europe; also deals with uninterned Britons under conditional liberty status.)
- *Le Service Postal Aérien dans les Pays d'Expression Française--1906-1986*, by Pierre Saulgrain; 1996; 228 pp., hardbound, separate 20-pp. price guide; \$90.00 (US) or 52.50 Pounds (Sterling) postpaid, from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 6484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus. (Documents and illustrates airmail services in the French Colonies and Protectorates in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Americas).
- *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to date* (2nd edition, 1996), by Derek Richardson; 72 pp., softbound; \$14.50 (US) or 8.50 Pounds (Sterling) postpaid if part of order totalling \$20 or more (10 Pounds or more), if not, add \$4 or 2 Pounds, from James Bendon Ltd. [address above]. (An updated and enlarged version of the popular 1992 work.)
- *La Poste en Ethiopie 1894-1908*, by J. J. Peyrachon; 88 pp., 21 x 30 cm, soft cover; published as a Supplement to N° 112 of "Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile," 170Fr postpaid, inquire of M. Pierre Magnard, 141 rue Duguesclin, F-69006 Lyon, France. (Listed here because of the pivotal role played by France in modernizing and advising the Ethiopian posts. Title is somewhat of a misnomer, for it applies only to the main, or first part. Other parts include: *Les débuts de la poste aérienne en Ethiopie* [1929-1932]; and a very short section on railway cancels of Ethiopia. Numerous illustrations of stamps, covers, cancels.)
- *Taille-douce et héliogravure en nouveaux francs*, vol. 2; 126 pp., 1996; 90Fr postpaid, from SO.CO.CO.DA.MI., Boite Postale 4625, F-22046 St.-Brieuc Cedex 2, France. (Printing cylinders, press runs, *coins datés* of post-1959 line-engraved and héliogravure stamps of France; vol. 1, published in 1994, covered the 1945-1959 period.)
- *La cote des coins datés et millésimes, édition 1997*; 50Fr postpaid, from SO.CO.CO.DA.MI. (See address above.) (Evaluations of all known *coins datés* and *millésimes*; prices have mostly stabilized, but the rarer printings show significant gains, as do mint, unhinged pre-1960 items.)
- *La Marianne de Cheffer*, by J.-L. Trassaert; 100 pp., all illustrations in color; 120Fr + postage, from Editions Yvert & Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036 Amiens Cedex 1, France. (The last word on the Marianne de Cheffer issues of 1967-1977, by

the foremost specialist in modern French regular issues; historical background of the design, printings, coils, booklets, postal stationery, and their characteristics; data taken from official archives, private collections, and recollections of designer and engravers.)

- *Les Télégraphes et les Postes pendant la Guerre de 1870-1871*, by F. F. Steenackers; 620 pp. (15 x 21 cm); 345Fr, including registered postage, payable to A.I.H.P., from Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris. (17 chapters of original documents concerning the French postal and telegraphic system during the Franco-Prussian War, written by the Director-General of the PTT for the Provisional Government during the war.)
- *The Local and Private Posts of Morocco*, by Jean Haik; 227 pp., 1997; 265 Fr, post-paid, payable by draft in French francs or by international money order to S.P.L.M., from S.P.L.M., 206 boulevard Péreire, F-75017 Paris. (English translation of the earlier French text; covers the postal history of the European posts, "cachets Maghzen" and Cheriffian posts from 1852 to 1912; details the numerous Local Posts of 1891-1912; stamps, varieties, reprints, forgeries; bibliography; numerous valuations of stamps and covers.)
- *The Postal Arrangements of the Anglo-French Cameroons Expeditionary Force 1914-1916*, by R. J. Maddocks; 1996; 225 pp., hard cover with dust jacket; 35 Pounds Sterling + packing and postage, from the author, at 1 Brick Kiln Cottages, Mount Road, Oswestry SY10 7PJ, United Kingdom. (Everything one might wish to know about the philately, postal history, and military history of the Anglo-French force that wrested the Cameroun from the Germans during the First World War; numerous illustrations, including four color plates; forged and spurious items, censorship; in six chapters + three appendices.)

Siege of Paris Balloon Letter to San Francisco



Besieged Paris, 7 October 1870; probably flown on the "Jean Bart N° 1"; Calais railway transit marking, 19 October; London PAID of same day; via closed mail on steamer to San Francisco, arriving November 12. (S.C. Walske coll.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- The Grand Prix for philatelic art, for a 1995 French stamp, went to the 4,40F Le Pont de Nyons (Drôme), issued 20-22 May 1995. That for the overseas territories to the TAAF's G. Lesquin and sea lions 28F airmail stamp of 1 January 1995. Both (as it should be!) are line-engraved productions.
- "Sharp Guard," the multinational operation to patrol the Adriatic and enforce the UN embargo upon the former Yugoslavia, was terminated in June 1996.
- Messrs. Gautier and Glemarec, using notes and correspondence from our late member Jacques Desrousseaux, have produced an interesting little study on the 1891-1945 ambulant and convoyeur (railway mail) services in French Indo-China (*Feuilles Marcophiles*, N° 287, 1996). It includes a useful locality map, table of the services (dates, markings used) and a page of reproduced date stamps.
- Last November's ANPHILEX was a resounding success in that it showed tremendously rare material and netted the Collectors Club of New York a handsome profit. Among our members who made it all possible were Ed Grabowski (in charge of rounding-up exhibits) and Jo and John Lievsay (in charge of social events, frame setup and takedown, and assuredly much else).
- The face value of French stamps issued during 1996 (49 stamps and booklets) was a reasonable 262,50F. However, one may need to add 43,12F for regular issues, precancels, and "service" stamps; 158F for the several variants of booklets of permanent-value Mariannes; and another 491F for all classes of prestamped postal stationery, for a grand total of 954,62F, or just under \$190(US)!
- Although the French 5-numeral postal Code has been in effect since May 1972, and in spite of the continuous campaign by La Poste to get letter writers to stick the Code in its proper place, only about 66% of letters and 40% of postcards can be read and routed correctly by automatic (optical) sorting machines. La Poste hopes to be more successful in time, as more and more people make use of envelopes with preprinted blocks for applying the postal Code (*envelopes casés*), which first appeared in 1991. (J.-L. Trassaert, in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, June 1996).
- Special prestamped "ready-to-mail" (*prêt-à-poster*) postal stationery items now include (1) a cardboard container for 750-ml wine bottles called *Diligo Bouteille!* They are sold for 39F (for one bottle), 75F (for two), and 360F (for ten); (2) *Diligo CD*, which will hold two CDs or one videocassette, at 27F per unit, 51F for two "sets," and 240F for mailings of ten units. And (3) *Diligo A4*, which will hold books and documents not exceeding 32x23x5 cm and up to 2 kg in weight, for 39F per bag, or 75F for two and 360F for ten. They can be used only within France, to Monaco, and within the overseas departments. And they are surely difficult to collect as entières, though "cut squares" may become popular--with or without wine stains.
- The new stamps of Mayotte, as well as those of other Overseas Territories, are available by mail from the French postal agency. Send inquiries to Service Philatélique de la Poste, 18 rue François-Bonvin, F-75758 Paris Cedex 15.

- Member John Bloor has written an interesting little article on the early (pre-World War I) French aviation meets, in the January 1997 *Global Stamp News*. Anyone desiring a copy can send a N° 10-size SASE to your editor.
- We were saddened to learn of the passing of Roy Newbury, of Bath, England, on 30 January. We extend our condolences to his spouse, Mrs. Yvonne Newbury, our long-time member and an internationally renowned specialist on the postal history of the 1870-1871 War period, on her great loss. My wife and I had met and stayed with the Newburys on our trip to Great Britain of some years ago, and greatly enjoyed our much too brief visit with them.
- The Meter Stamp Society indicates that it is alright to use the term "Frama" (which I believed applies only to the specific make of machine that turns them out) or "Automat" (not the one that used to supply bland snacks in exchange for coins), for what I had been calling "value-imprinted vending-machine vignettes." (See #247, January 1997, pp. 21-22 for a recent example of my hedging). I'll try to remember this for the next time I need to talk about the genre... On second thought, I think I prefer "Postage Labels," as per a number of English-speaking countries.
- Member Christian Beslu of Tahiti has written a study of the 1977-on official stamps of French Polynesia (*Le Monde des Philatélistes*, September 1996). The first series (1977-1991) shows native fruits. The second (1993-on) depicts early stamps and cancels of French Oceania.
- To date, the most valuable Marianne de Briat stamp appears to be the humble 0,70F brown self-adhesive, issued only as a "make-up" value in 20F Sterners vending-machine booklets. It comes imperforate (1993 printings) and sawtooth separated (1994-1996) printings. Paper used does not react under U-V light, with a few rare exceptions. And the stamp appears within four distinct sets of card covers. Few have seen postal usage. (From article by Claude Jamet in *Timbroscopie*, November 1996).

SOME SHOW REPORTS

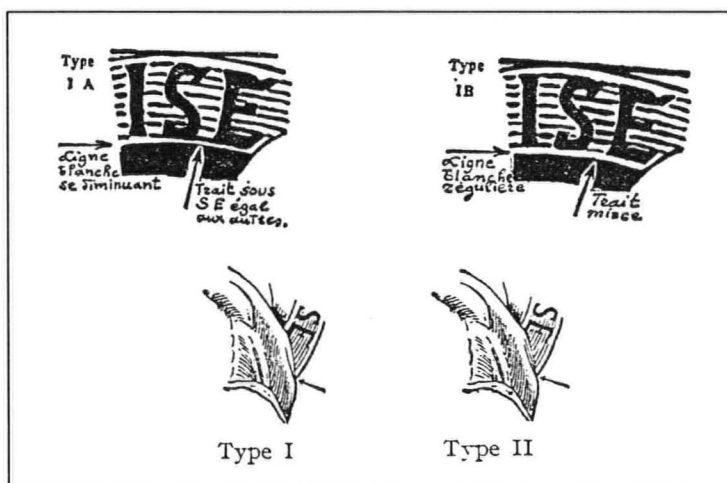
- BALPEX '96 (Maryland, August-September 1996): Grand Award, Gold medal and a host of other awards to Dick Winter for "U.S.-France Mail by Steamship, 1838 to GPU"; Gold medal to Scott Gallagher for his Kentucky exhibit; Silver medal to Bob Kinsley for a one-frame exhibit of pre-UPU Ethiopia.
- MILCOPEX '96 (Milwaukee, September): Gold medal to Bob Kinsley for "Conquest of Indo-China 1860-1901"; Silver medal to Barbara Mueller for her Wisconsin county postal history exhibit.
- VAPEX '96 (Virginia Beach, November): Gold medal to Eliot Landau for his U.S. Registry exhibit.
- FLOREX '96 (Orlando, FL, November): Silver medal to Lew Bussey for his U.S. "Franklin Two Cent Postal Card of 1951" exhibit.
- CHICAGOPEX '96 (Chicago, November): In the Literature competition, Marty Bratzel received a Silver + Felicitations for "The Wartime Revenue Stamps of Cameroun" [reviewed in the January 1997 *FCP*]; and Cheryl Ganz a Silver as editor of "Collecting Airmail."
- Minnesota Stamp Expo (Minneapolis, November-December): Gold medals to Roger Quinby and to Steve Washburne for, respectively, their Finland and Madeira exhibits; Gold medal for best APS class one-frame exhibit to Allan Wichelman (apparently not a member) for "The 1926 Provisional Postpaid Handstamps of St. Pierre & Miquelon."

- ARIPEX '97 (Tucson, AZ, January 1997): Gold medals to Earle Plyler and to Roger Quinby for, respectively, their U.S. and Finland exhibits; Gold medal to Tom Siddens for "French Stamp Cancellations of the Classic Period 1849-1876"; Vermeil medal to Paul Larsen for "Ubangi-Shari-Chad 1900-1939; Silver medal to Bob Kinsley for "Coiffurately--Keeping Abreast of Hairstyles."
- SANDICAL 97 (San Diego, January): Gold medals to Dave Herendeen for his British Empire dues, to Stan Jersey for "New Hebrides Islands, The War Years," and to Tom Siddens for his "French Stamp Cancellations of the Classic Period 1849-1876"; Vermeil medal to your editor for "Paris Postal Markings 1863-1876"; Chuck LaBlonde served on the jury. In the associated AMERISTAMPEXPO 97, the year's principal one-frame exhibition, Dave Herendeen's "Postage Due Transformations of the French Colonies" received the Grand Award; Jamie Gough chaired the one-frame competition jury. In all respects, a splendid showing by our FCPS members at both SANDICAL and ARIPEX!

(If your show or your name are not listed, it's because the information was not available to me or I didn't know you are a FCPS member. Please help us out!).

TYPES AND SUBTYPES

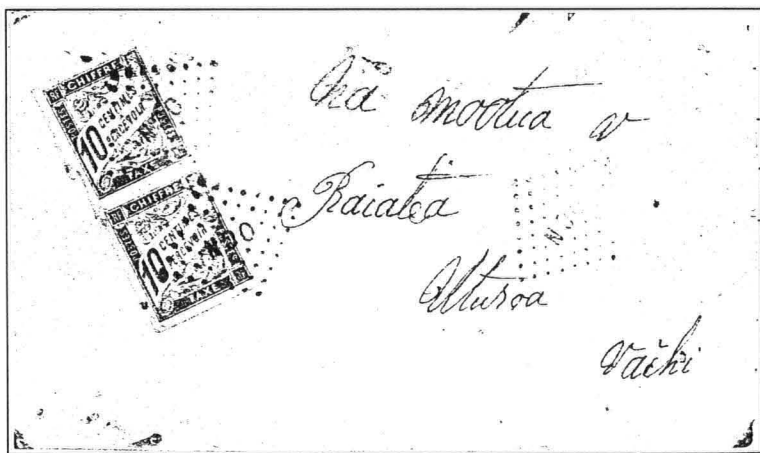
1c Blanc



Two successive subtypes used for producing flat-plate sheet stamps (gray, then the later, postwar slate stamps). In Type IA, the shading line under **ISE** of **FRANÇAISE** is of same thickness as the other nearby shading lines, and the white line beneath it thins downward towards the **E**. In Type IB, shading line is thinner, sometimes broken, and the white line is of even thickness. Both exist on GC (wartime) paper. Sheet stamps from rotary presses (all slate) are of Type II, wherein two shading lines are present in the drape under the **E** of **FRANÇAISE**. The 1/2c. overprint, added by flat plate on panes of flat-plate stamps, is 14½ mm high; that printed on rotary presses in a second pass on rotary press sheet stamps is 15 mm high. All are still common.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- A. 97.1. [Cover with French stamps, to Dortmund, Germany, cancelled Berlin, 17 August 1870 (early in Franco-German War)]. Let's run this one up the flagpole. Being addressed to a German bank during wartime, sender probably mailed the letter under separate cover to some mutual "friend," perhaps a bank in Brussels. This third party, also trying to avoid any problems or repercussions, sent it to yet another party, in Berlin (as a "safe" or "untraceable" address) with request to forward it to the bank at Dortmund. Which was done, and the letter was duly posted from Berlin and charged 2 Silbergroschen due for the postage from Berlin to Dortmund, inasmuch as the French stamps were invalid for postage within Germany. The Berlin P.E. 10 in the date stamps may stand for something like Berlin Post Expedition 10, and might be a forerunner for Post Am 10. Might anyone know where Berlin P.E. 10 was located, as that could give a clue as to the forwarder? On the other hand, the whole thing might be an interesting job of fakery. (EMC)
- Q. 97.2. Unpaid letter (or card?) addressed in Polynesian dialect to Uturoa, Taiti (see below). Only markings on either side are the OCN in lozenges (of French Oceania) struck on and alongside the two French Colonies 10c dues of 1893. Where might have the lozenge killers been applied? How does the address translate? Where might the postage dues have been affixed? (SBG and DSG).



NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from #247, January 1997, p. 30)

France

- 4 (6) January 1997: 3,00F François Mitterand (1916-1996);
- 24 (27) January: 3,00F *Innovation participative* [employee' suggestions/ participation];
- 2 (3) February: 3,00F 20th Anniv. of the Centre G. Pompidou;
- 8 (10) February: 3,00F Happy Birthday, and 3,00F Happy Anniversary;
- 14 (17) February: 3,00F 250th Anniv. of the National School for Bridges and Causeways;
- 22 (24) February: 3,00F St.-Laurent-du-Maroni (French Guyana);
- 1 (3) March: 6,70F Tavant Fresco (Indre-et-Loire Dept.);
- 15 (17) March: Stamp Day (Mouchon design of 1902) 3,00F + 0,60F; and 22,80F booklet of four stamps at 3,00F and three at 3,00F + 0,60F; 3,00F Millau (Aveyron Dept.);
- 1 April: 6,70F Art of B. Moninot;
- 14 April: Nature series: 3,00F Ecirns Park, 3,00F Guadeloupe Park, 4,50F Port-Cros Park, 4,50F Pyrenees Park;
- 28 April: 3,00F "Puss in Boots" (EUROPA 97).

Withdrawals: 11 February 1997: 3,00F "The Bloody Isles" (Corsica); 3,00F Cent. of Olympic Games; 4,40F Jacques Marette; 4,50F Chambéry Cathedral; 5F St. Exupéry aerogramme; 10F open-format booklet (old cover inscriptions).

Andorra

- 16 (18) November 1996: correct spelling for second-reported 6,70F stamp is Santa Coloma (old church tower);
- 5 (7) January 1997: 3,00F Hommage to François Mitterand;
- 7 January: 6F preprinted envelope (Pas de la Casa);
- 22 (24) February: 30F booklet of self-adhesive permanent-value stamps;
- 22 (24) March: 3,00F volleyball.

Withdrawals: 13 December 1996: 3F and 3,80F birds; 3F Cross of Sant Jaume d'Engardany; 3F EUROPA 96 (famous women).

French Austral and Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

- 1 January 1997: the previously reported 27F airmail shows a spiny fish (*Harpagifer spinosus*), and the 29,20F *Poa kerguelensis* is a plant (terrestrial? marine?);
- 28 February (1 March): 50 years of French Polar Expeditions se-tenant strip of three 1,00F stamps;
- 4 March: Death bicent. of Kerguelen de Trémarec 24F + label + 3,00F (triptych).

French Polynesia

- 1996: reprinted 10F, 100F and 200F Official stamps;
- 4 December 1996: Painters of Polynesia 70F, 85F, 92F, 96F;
- 1 January 1997: 55F 80th Anniv. of the Society for Oceanic Studies;
- 7 February: 13F Year of the Ox.

Mayotte

- 2 January 1997: current French series of ten Marianne de Briat stamps (0,10 0,20 0, 50 1,00 2,00 2,70, permanent-value, 3,80 5,00 and 10F), overprinted MAYOTTE;
- 2 January: 2,70F Flower of the ylang-ylang tree; 3,00F Arms of Mayotte;
- 1 (3) March: 20F airmail for inauguration of airport terminal.

Monaco

- 12 December 1996: 3,00F Yacht Club de Monaco;
- 19 December: 3,00F Festival of the Circus; 3,80F International Bouquet Festival; 4,40F 60th Anniv. of the Dog Show; 4,90F 37th TV Festival; 5,00F local vegetables;

- 19 December: 60th Anniv. of Office of postage-stamp issues 3,00F + 3,00F se-tenant pair; 2,70F seal of Prince Rainier III; 3,00F sport car;
- 10 January 1997: 2,80F Monte Carlo Magic Festival;
- 26 January: 4,00F Intern. Dog Show; 6F 350th Anniv. of Chapel of Notre Dame de Miséricorde;
- 1 February: 3,00F and 4,50F 100th Anniv. of Oceanographic Campaigns [joint issue with Portugal];
- 11 March: Prince Rainier III definitives: 10F, 15F, 20F;
- 29 April: 3,00F Princess Grace;
- 14 May: Famous people, in pane of eight se-tenant stamps: two at 3,00F two at 4,00F, two at 5,00F, and two at 6,00F [total 36F the pane]; souvenir sheet of two 5,00F stamps for CHINA 96

Withdrawals: 11 October 1996: 1F Monaco of Yesteryear (issued 2/1991); 5F Monaco of Yesteryears (issued 1/1986); 4F Prince Rainier III (issued 9/1991); 5F Prince Rainier III (issued 3/1989); 13 December: 3,00F RAMOGE Accord.

New Caledonia

- 10 October 1996: (previously reported denominations but not subjects): 100F airmail for 7th South Pacific Arts Festival; 105F Pacific sculpture (female figurines); 160F Ordination of first two Melanesian priests; 500F Melanesian dances;
- 8 January 1997: 95F fossil horned tortoise;
- 7 (8) February: 100F 50th Anniv. of the CPS (South Pacific Commission);
- 12 February: Hong Kong 97 95F airmail; and 150F souvenir sheet of two 75F air-mail stamps;
- 12 (13) February: 1000F François Mitterand.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 2 December 1996: prestamped envelope with permanent-value Marianne de Briat indicia, overprinted for the islands, sold at 5F [only 20,000 overprinted];
- 12 (17) March 1997: 3,80F Nature series.

Wallis & Futuna

- 4 December 1996: 25F 50th Anniv. of UNICEF.

France 1860 Cover to San Francisco



Bordeaux, 23 March 1860 to San Francisco vis private ship "Mozart" underpaid at 30c; "clamsell" SHIP 6 [cents] postage due; San Francisco September 5 arrival date stamp. (S.C. Walske coll.).

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The reports of the Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary will be found elsewhere in this issue of the *Philatelist*. Our membership decline last year was relatively small; hopefully we will be able to reverse that, and show a gain for 1997. We expect to add to our membership as a result of our participation in PACIFIC 97; still, I appeal to all our current members to encourage anyone they know who collects stamps from the French area to join the Society. We believe we offer excellent value with an outstanding Journal, and dues of only \$11.00 per year.

Comparison of this year's Treasurer's Report with the previous one shows a substantial drop in the balance in the General Fund. Fortunately, most of this drop is non-recurring, as it includes the cost of reprinting several of our older publications. The Society's accounts do not include any valuation for inventory, so the cost of these reprints flows through as a decrease in the General Fund. The costs for our more recent publications have come from the Vaurie Fund, which also receives the income as they are sold. There is still a sufficient reserve in the General Fund, so dues can be left unchanged.

I hope to see many of you at PACIFIC 97.

--Dick Stevens

PACIFIC 97

This expanded issue of the *France & Colonies Philatelist* honors PACIFIC 97, which will be held at the Moscone Center in San Francisco from 29 May to 8 June 1997. Admission will be free. Our Society will have a booth at this show, and we hope to see many of our members there. The booth will have copies of this issue of the *Philatelist*, samples of our other publications, and membership information. Order forms for the publications will be available, but none will actually be sold at the booth for that would necessitate having to collect state sales tax.

On Saturday afternoon, 31 May, at 4:00 p.m., the Society will have a General Meeting, featuring a talk and slide show by Dr. Martin F. Stempien, Jr. on the topic "Into the Union: Mail from South American Countries to G.P.U./U.P.U. Countries, 1875-1882." Following this meeting, we will adjourn to a local restaurant for an informal dinner. At this time, the location has not yet been decided, but details will be available at the Society's booth. We ask that those planning to join us for dinner sign up at the booth as early as possible, so that reservations can be made.

According to present plans, Richard Stevens, Edward Grabowski, Stanley Luft, Martin Stempien, and Robert Kinsley will be at the Show for all or part of the first six days. John Lievsay will be there for the entire show, but will be devoting his time to his duties as Commissioner and Judge.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1996

Total Membership as of January 1, 1996:	639
Total New Members for the Year of 1996:.....	49
Total Reinstatements for the Year 1996:	<u>16</u>
	65
Resignations Received for the Year 1996.....	21
Total Deceased Members for the Year 1996:	4
Members Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues:	44
Members Undeliverable As Addressed, 1996:	4
Member Expelled from Society for Cause, 1996:	<u>1</u>
	74
Net Membership Gain for the Year of 1996:	0
Net Membership Loss for the Year of 1996:	9
Total Membership as of December 31, 1996:	630

TREASURER'S REPORT

FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC.

1/1/96 THROUGH 12/31/96

INFLOWS

Dues-Income:

19967,023.50

TOTAL Dues-Income7,023.50

Int. Inc.727.10

Publications

Back Issues74.29

Bordeaux181.00

Commune.....136.00

Depts. Conquis.....5.00

Gabon-Congo40.00

Glossary20.00

Index75.00

Lozenges.....43.00

Luft II.....5.00

Luft III20.00

Railway Mails5.00

Reprints6.00

Transport Marks5.00

TOTAL Publications615.29**TOTAL INFLOWS**8,365.89**OUTFLOWS**

Bad Check63.00

Gifts.....200.00

Meetings235.02

Pacific 1997150.00

Philatelist:

Editor238.46

Labels.....232.34

Magazine.....5,430.35

TOTAL Philatelist5,901.15

Publication1,268.71

Returns16.50

Secretary:

Corresponding706.88

Recording439.20

TOTAL Secretary1,146.08**TOTAL OUTFLOWS**8,980.46**OVERALL TOTAL**-614.57**ASSETS**

Cash and Bank Accounts

F & C Saving22,381.39

F & C Checking4,244.77

TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts26,626.16**TOTAL ASSETS**26,626.16

LIABILITIES & EQUITY**LIABILITIES**

Other Liabilities

Prepaid Dues	4,942.00
Spiegel Fund	1,348.34
Vaurie Fund	16,222.55

TOTAL Other Liabilities.....22,512.89

TOTAL LIABILITIES.....22,512.89

EQUITY.....4,113.27

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY26,626.16

Approved by the Board
of Directors,
January 1997

Respectfully submitted,
William W. Wallis, Treasurer
3/3/1997

NEW MEMBERS

- 3111 FERGUSON, LELAND, 207 Graddick Rd., Blythewood, SC 24016. (Colonies General Issues: Used - On Cover. West And Equatorial Africa. West And Central Africa. Especially Intra-African Covers.)
- 3112 GUNN, THOMAS A., JR., 8336 N. 72nd Pl., Scottsdale, AZ 85258. (General France: Mint. Specialized France: Postal History: Marques Postals. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used - On Cover - 1870-1871 Issues. Dues. Cancellations. Sage Type 1876-1900. Special Issues: Dues - Newspaper. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3113 PARK, CHUL H., 466 50th St., Brooklyn, NY 11220-1913. (General France: On Cover. Regular Issues: On Cover. Modern France: On Cover. Special Issues: Air Meets - First Flights, Etc. Colonies General Issues: On Cover.)
- 3114 KIMMEL, ALAIN, 12 Rue des Goulins, F-02190 Guignicourt, France. (General France: Mint. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Used. Modern France: Mint. Andorre. Monaco. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. Colonial Provisionals. Senegal Before And After Independence. Exchange.)
- 3115 GRAHAM, PAUL, 1400 Pond Rd., Wildwood, MO 63038. (General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used - On Cover. 1870-1871 Issues. Dues. Cancellations. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint - Used - Air Mails. Philatelic Literature. Exchange.)
- 3116 BRIEN, RAYMOND C., 22 Ohio Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851. (General France. Used - On Cover. Postal History: Paris Postmarks. Regular Issues: Used - On Cover. Modern France: Used - On Cover. Dealer: Part Time.)
- 3117 DELESPESE, THIERRY, Post Office Box 30955, Tucson, AZ 85751. (General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Specialized France: Stampless Covers - Marques Postales - Military Posts. Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used - On Cover. 1870-1871 Issues. Dues. Cancellations. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint - Used - On Cover - Blanc - Mouchon & Merson Types - Sowers - Air Mails - Coils. Special Issues: Dues - Newspaper - Air Meets - First Flights, Etc. - Proofs And Color Trials. French Community: Offices Abroad. Andorre. Monaco. Colonies General Issues. Mint - Used - On Cover. All Colonies And Territories. Cancels And Postal History. Dealer: Full Time. Mail Sales.)
- 3118 BIRD, MICHAEL M., Post Office Box 1215, Riverside, CA 92502-1215. (General Collector: 19th Century. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3119 KUSKE, DONALD, 3511 Adams, Independence, MO 64055. (General Collector: All Issues. Dealer: Part Time.)
- 3120 KRAMMER, ALEX., 20415 Rancho Los Cerritos, Covina, CA 91724-3528. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used. Documents Officiels Pour Le Musée Postal.)

- ## REINSTATEMENT

- ## CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- ## RESIGNATIONS

- DECEASED**

- DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES**

Paul Barsdell; Robert W. Bean; Walter R. Beeler; Andrew Blanchard; Norman Blume; Walter Brooks; Laurance G. Chaset; Paul E. Dodaro; Floyd J. Dressel; Mark Eckman; Scot F. Ewing; Laurence Fink; Louis C. Gaborialto; Kay Gaetjens; Huguette Gagnon; Mel Garabrant; Frank P. Geiger; Walter Gradowski; Tor Hagen; Scott Harney; George L. Henderson; Sharon Hundt; Joseph K. Irby; Sylvain René Jakobovics; William E. Judnick; Bernard Jutteau; Arnie Kerman; Steven T. Knee; Thierry Lallevé; Peter C. Lampen; Michael Wayne McNeese; James E. Mambourg; Joseph G. M. Michaud; Willie Monk; Harding Nielsen; George Olshevsky; Pierre Petrovitch; James J. Rogers; Richard Schleuter; John J. Simmons; R. Bruce Simonds; Philip R. Spitzer; Robin T. Sulsona; Dr. A. C. Tait; Pamela K. Truax; Steven William Voshell; Halbert White; George H. Williamson.