

SALUTATIONS A PHILEXFRANCE 99

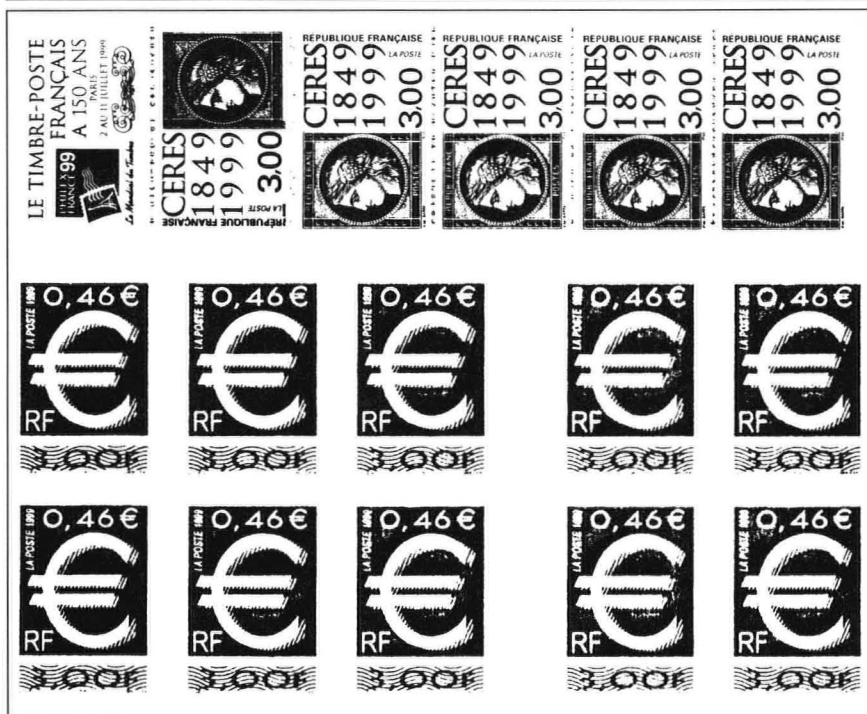
WHOLE NUMBER 256 (Vol. 55, No. 2)

April, 1999



France & Colonies Philatelist

Vermeil Medal at CHICAGOPEX '98



Two booklets issued in early 1999. Top: 150th Anniversary of first French postage stamps, with PHILEXFRANCE 99 publicity label at top (1-2 January 1999). Bottom: the first Euro / Franc value, showing the Euro logo (6-7 February 1999). They also represent the old and the new in French philately.

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FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST

USPS #207700

ISSN 0897-1293

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

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April 1999 - Vol. 55, No. 2, Whole No. 256

Second-class postage paid at Bloomfield, NJ

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

An additional entry office at Platteville, WI 53818

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

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

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

All communications about membership, subscriptions, publications, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary,
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IN-CITY MAIL SERVICE IN 18th CENTURY PARIS— THE PETITE POSTE

by John H. Minsker and John B. Morton
(edited by Stanley J. Luft)

On 18 March 1961, France issued a semi-postal stamp for the annual Day of the Stamp. This stamp (Scott B349, Yvert 1285) shows a typical mail carrier of the 1760 Petite Poste of Paris (Figure 1). What is, or rather, was this "small post"? In this article

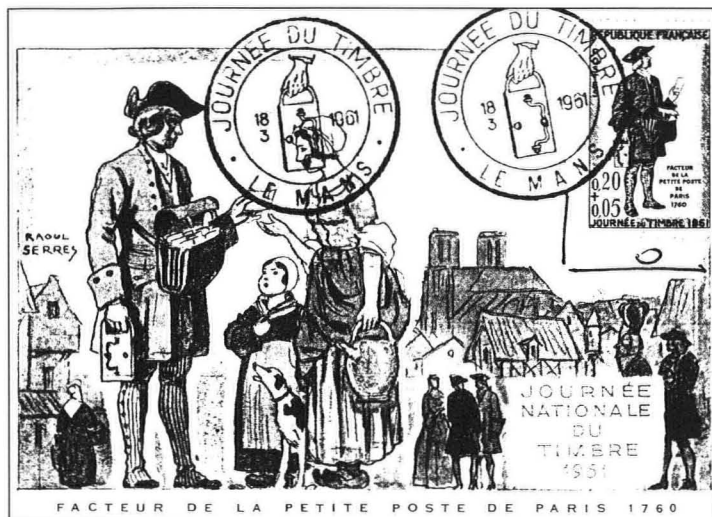


Figure 1.
1961 Day of
the Stamp
first-day cancelled card.

our authors answer the question most satisfactorily. But first, a bit on the article's background.

John Minsker purchased a small but attractive exhibit of Petite Poste material from the estate of John Morton, a longtime friend of the Editor. Then, shortly before his own death, Minsker offered a set of copies of the collection, for reworking into an article for our *Journal*. I have now touched up the short introductory text—basically the collection's title page—checked it for accuracy and for additional information worthy of inclusion, from the recent in-depth study by Delwaulle (1995),¹ all the while attempting to keep it simple, straightforward and readable. Exhibited off and on by the successive owners since at least 1949, the collection received a First Award (to Morton) at our Society's 1973 Stephen G. Rich Memorial competition. It was last shown, by Minsker, in the 1994 Buffalo Stamp Club show, receiving a Gold and Best in Show. Unless otherwise indicated, the covers shown here are from the Morton-Minsker collection, and the article is our tribute to two fine gentlemen and now-departed members of our Society.

* * * * *

In 1627, under Cardinal Richelieu, France's national postal service, hitherto operated exclusively for State mail, was opened to the public at large. The first local mail service came into being 133 years later, in Paris, and letters no longer had to be carried by servants or messengers from and to persons within the city and its near environs.

This was in 1760 when, under letters patent from King Louis XV, Piarron de Chamousset, a wealthy physician noted for his good works, set up the in-city service with (originally) nine bureaux, or offices designated by the letters

A through H, and J (Figure 2). From 20 to 30 *facteurs* (carriers) were attached to each office. Within each service area from 50 to over 80 letter boxes

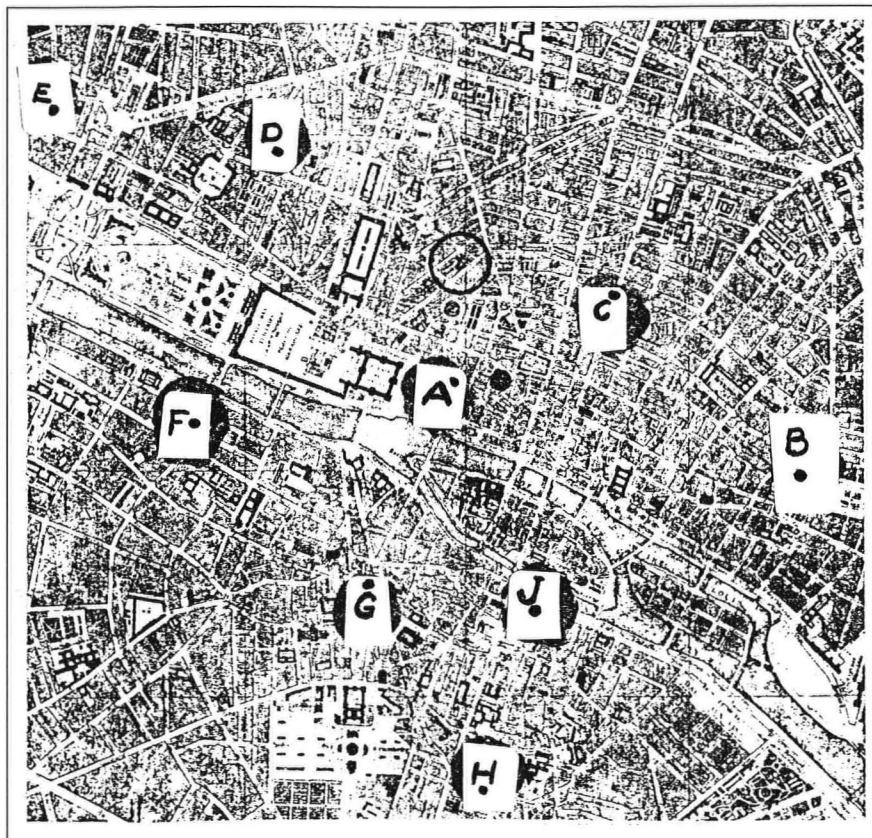


Figure 2. Location map for Bureaus A-H and J.

were located, principally in small neighborhood shops. Carriers assigned to each office were given identifying numbers, and these series of numbers were followed in the numbering of the boxes.

The offices were open from 5:15 in the morning (Figure 3) until 10 o'clock in the evening during the summer. During the winter months they opened at 6:30 a.m. There were nine (later ten) mail collections (*levées*) and two to three house-to-house deliveries daily. Letters were required to be prepaid, especially if sent to personages more likely to be of assistance than of requiring it, such as magistrates, priests, peace and health officers, etc. However, unpaid letters were accepted from persons known to be responsible. Prepaid letters were marked with the stamp of the carrier, the box number, and the day of the month. Unpaid letters were additionally stamped "P.D." (*Port Dû*), or Postage Due. Variations on these norms were caused by human error. The markings used are extensively covered in Rochette and Pothion (1958).² Examples are shown in Figure 4 and 5.

From 1760 to 1763, markings were struck in black or without ink, then



Figure 3. Sorting the mail at a *Petite Poste* bureau (from a contemporary engraving).

and until 1780, either black or red were used; unpaid letters were so indicated in red. The *levée* was noted on the front (July 1780-1791), then on the back (1791-1794). During 1794-1795, the *levée* was replaced by a *distribution* (delivery marking), struck on the back. Again, departures from these norms exist.

The entire system was developed largely on the model of William Dockwra's Penny Post in London, even sometimes to the rates. These were 2

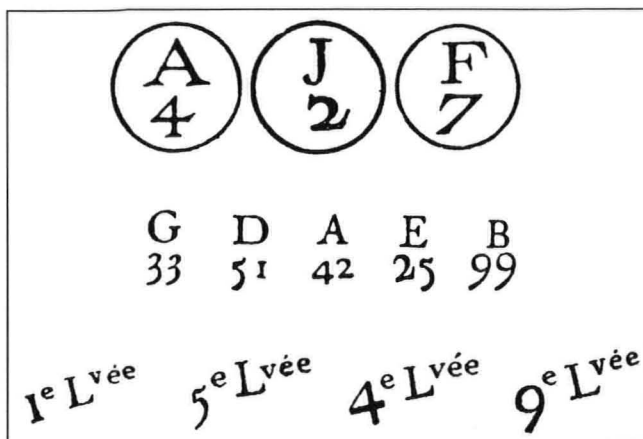


Figure 4. Some
Petite Poste carrier
markings (from
Rochette and Pothi-
on, 1958).

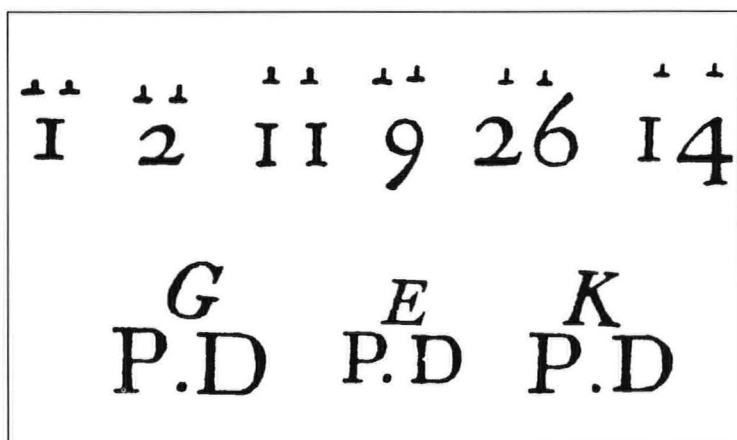


Figure 5.
Idem.

sols tournois (equivalent to 2 U.S. cents) for a letter written on a single sheet of paper, and 3 *sols* for a letter sent beyond the purlieu of the Petite Poste or sent within an envelope. Multiple sheets up to one ounce in weight were charged 4 *sols*.

Paris' Petite Poste was a huge success from the beginning, probably a major reason for it being taken away from Chamousset shortly afterwards. It continued in operation as a private concession until 1780, when it was merged into the national postal service (the Grande Poste). The basic structure developed by Chamousset was however left largely intact, until at least 1795. Even the letters identifying the offices continued to be used for decades, and disappeared only in 1852 when all French post offices received distinguishing numbers.

The popularity and prosperity of Paris' were such that, between 1766 and 1784, Lyon, Bordeaux, Marseilles, Nantes and other places also obtained their own Petites Postes.

* * * * *

Now we can examine the individual covers, one per original (A-J) *Petite Poste bureau*, in the collection. Markings have generally been enhanced by the Editor, to improve legibility.

Bureau A, the Central Bureau for the *Petite Poste*, was originally slated to be situated at the Place de l'Ecole, but opened instead on the Place du Chevalier du Guet. In 1787 or 1788, it became part of the Central Post Office in the Rue des Mauvaises Paroles, in what is now the 1st Arrondissement. Its 20 carriers serviced 58 boxes. Figure 6 is an unpaid (A / P.D. = *port-dû*) letter

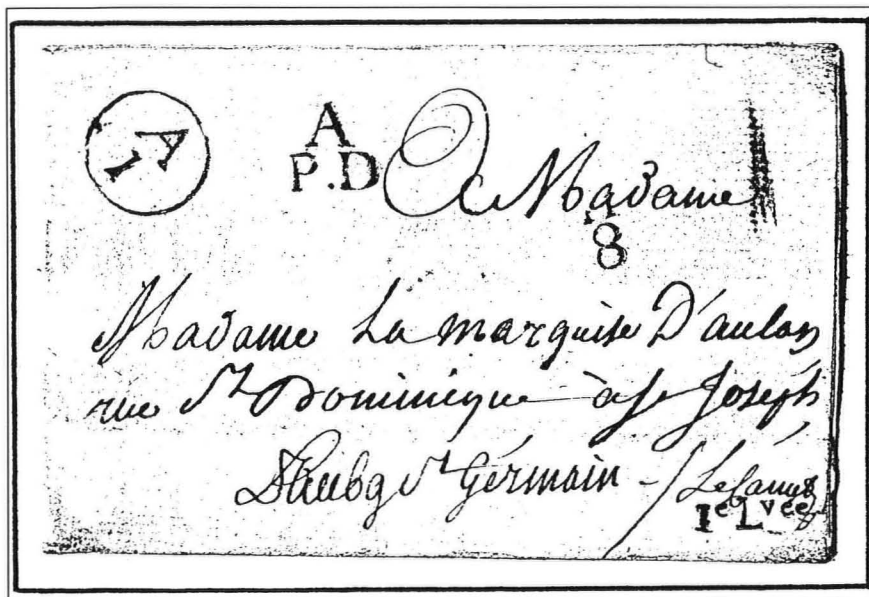


Figure 6. Bureau A cover.

of 7 March 1765, handled by carrier A/1 (in circle), the first *levée* of the day (in lower right of cover) and delivered on the 8th day of the month (marking under "A Madame").

Bureau B, serving the Saint-Antoine quarter, was located throughout the *Petite Poste* era in the Rue du Fourcy Saint Antoine, which still exists in the present 4th Arrondissement. Its 27 carriers serviced 81 boxes. Figure 7 is a prepaid letter dated 8 May 1762, handled from Box B / 61 by carrier B9 (on back), and delivered on the 1st *levée* of the 11th day of the month.

Bureau C, serving the Saint-Martin quarter, was situated in the Rue Saint Martin at the corner of the Rue de Montmorency, where it remained throughout the period of the *Petite Poste*. These streets are in the present 3rd Arrondissement. It had 22 carriers serving 60 boxes. Figure 8 is a prepaid letter dated 23 June 1762. Picked up at box C / 50, it was handled during the 4th *levée* and delivered the 23rd day of the month, that is, on the day it was written. Note that there is no carrier's marking visible on the cover.

Bureau D, for the Palais Royal quarter, was first situated on the Rue des Petits Champs, then in 1788 on the Rue des Vieux-Augustins.³ These locales are close to the Place de la Victoire, in the present 2nd Arrondissement. It became part of Bureau A in 1789. It had 26 carriers to service 75 boxes. Figure

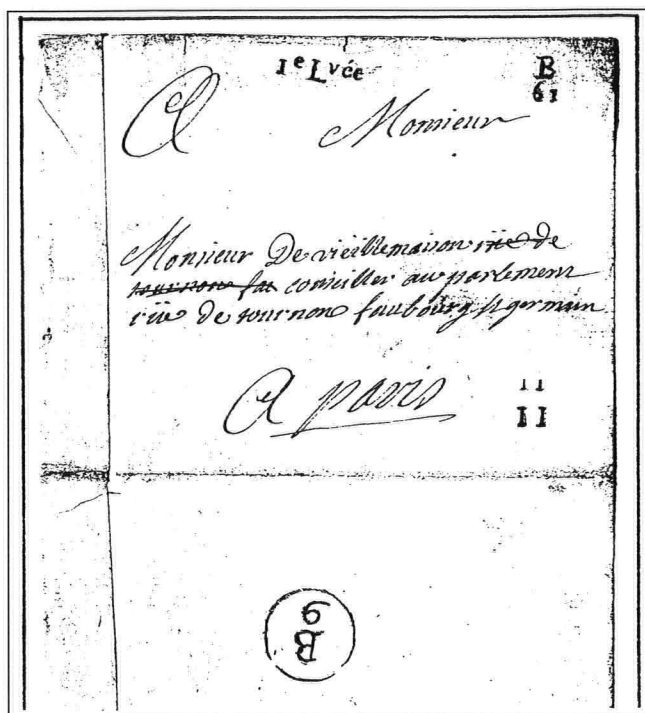


Figure 7. Bureau
B cover.



Figure 8. Bureau
C cover.

9 is a prepaid letter dated 8 May 1762. Brought from box D / 48, it was routed on the 4th *levée* and delivered that same (8th) day of the month.

Bureau E, serving the Saint-Honoré quarter, was situated in the Rue Saint-Honoré on the corner of the Rue du Luxembourg until 1788, when it moved to the Rue d'Antin. Both locales are in the present 2nd Arrondissement. The bureau originally had 20 carriers for 56 boxes. Figure 10 is an unpaid (E / P. D) letter of 2 February 1785, picked up from box E / 62 by carrier E / 13 (on back) on the 6th *levée*. Delivery date is illegible.

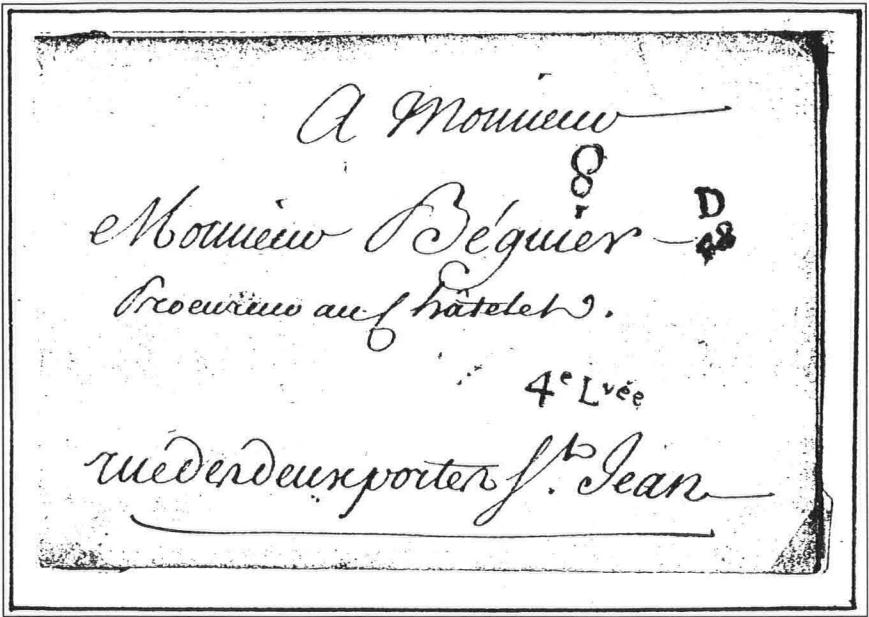


Figure 9. Bureau D cover.

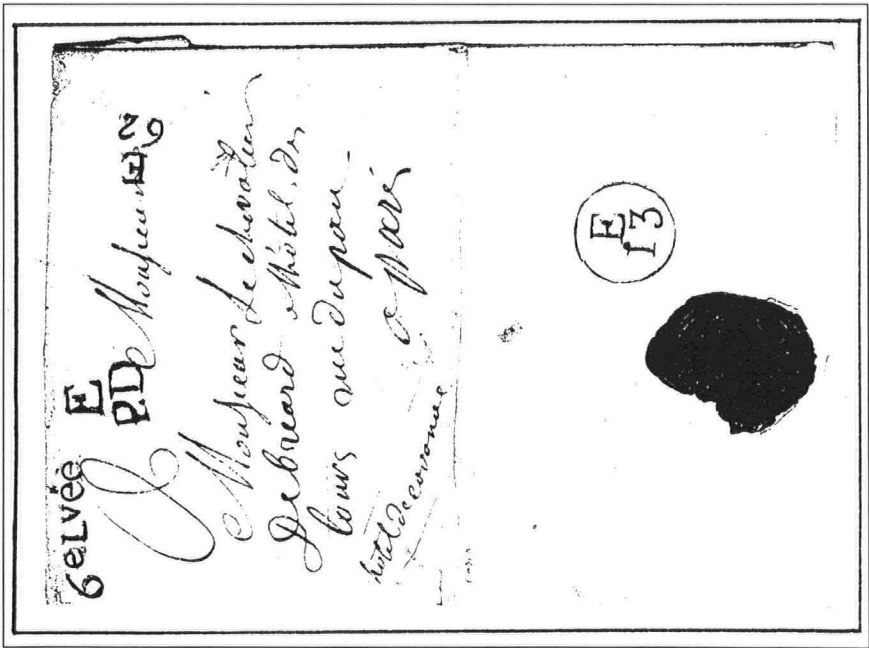


Figure 10. Bureau E cover.

(Continued in July 1999 issue)

THE GREEN ON BLUE

by Jean-François Brun

*Translation by E. E. Fricks and S. J. Luft of the author's "Le Bleu du Vert," which appeared in **Documents Philatéliques**, N° 153, 1997, and published here with the permission of the author and of **Documents Philatéliques**.*

Collectors have always been fascinated by N° 35 of the Yvert & Tellier catalogue: that a common stamp's variation in paper color—among so many others—merits a "full number," and that they need to have it for the sake of completion.

This paper variety has been known for a long time. Without belaboring the details, recall that the consumption of 5c stamps increased rapidly with the 1 September 1871 increase in the single letter rate.¹ During this period, the director of stamp production, Anatole Hulot, employed a paper tinted in the same color as the stamp. It was necessary to manage stocks of paper as a function of supplies and demands for postage stamps. Paper was ordered from a depleted private industry which, as a result of the war of 1870-1871, had little to offer. Being deprived of pale green tinted paper, Hulot requested authorization to use the paper anticipated for printing the 1c lauré.²

Thus was born the famous 5c green on bluish paper. This known history is related here only as an introduction.

Dr. Fromaigeat wrote on page 157 of his study "A variant of this N° 35 is little known and one finds it only used tardily, in July. It concerns an **intense yellow-green on blue**."³

In February 1872, there were new orders for the 5c.⁴ In fact, the 5c Cérès, whose impression began 27 May 1872, quickly appeared in June. If one examines the stamps of this design, one observes that the first printings, with the effigy of the Republic, are in the same color and on the same paper as those with the Emperor's effigy as was noted by Dr. Fromaigeat. One deduces, therefore, that some part of the paper ordered for this 5c has been tinted in blue. The mechanical press printed the 5c Empire while plates of the 5c Cérès were being prepared.

This is all familiar to the more specialized collectors.⁵ But the history of the blue paper continues.

In November 1862, an inspector, on behalf of the Minister of Finances, asked Hulot under what conditions he could undertake the engraving of dies, manufacture of plates, and printing and gumming of stamps for Romania.⁶

Nothing came of this. But in November 1869 Romania ordered the preparation of a series of postage stamps. A contract was approved in January 1870. Hulot received authorization to manufacture from the Minister of Finances on 18 February 1870. However, it was only at the end of January 1872 that the first printings were undertaken. The definitive printings ran until June 1872. The techniques employed by Hulot were exactly the same as those employed in the preparation of French stamps. This issue was placed in service around 15 October 1872 and until its depletion. Among the requested values is a 3 banni light green on blue.

If one simultaneously examines these three stamps: 5c perforated Empire from the end of its last printing, 5c Cérès of the beginning of the first printing, and the 3 banni, one immediately notices the close resemblance in the color of the stamps and of their paper. The observation of the paper from the back is symptomatic. It is highly probable that Hulot used the same paper for both of the 5c of France and for the Romanian 3 banni.

Endnotes

1. "The printing of these designs (5 and 15 centimes) will have to continue without interruption until further notice on my part." Letter of 25 September 1871 of the Director General of Posts, Delegate: Rampont to Monsieur le Directeur de l'Administration des Monnaies.
2. Letter of Barthe, controller of the Paris Mint, quoted by A. Maury (*Histoire des Timbre-Poste français*, page 315): "...the printing that has increased to 19,170,000 stamps has entirely exhausted the stock of paper that was found in the shop. ... I have the honor to inform you that the printing of this stamp is going to continue on the mechanical press on paper for the stamps of 1c, which most approximates the paper employed for the 5 centimes...".
3. Bold-face in the text.
4. Anatole Hulot documented this thusly: "You inform me of an order of 20 million of the 5c stamps and you ask me if these stamps will be printed in the design of the Republic. As I have told you, this order will be executed in the republic design, but as the provisions of 5c stamps held by the posts have been used up more rapidly than I had estimated, it appears necessary to begin printing immediately as, on the other hand, plates cannot be made immediately, the printing will begin with the old design, but that should not exceed a tenth of the order."
5. I have differentiated the two 5c Empire on blue, that of the end of 1871 and that of July 1872, in the *Marianne* catalogue.
6. Dr. Bouvet, page 34.

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Les Commandes de Timbres Etrangers à la Monnaie de Paris, Dr. Bouvet, Yvert & Tellier, 1948.
 "Nomenclature des Timbres-Poste de France," tome 2, Dr. Joany, *Bulletin Philatélique du Midi*.
Les Timbres de Roumanie des émissions de 1872 à 1879, Eduardo Cohen, Lisbonne, 1952.

A JOURNEY TO THE CROZET AND KERGUELEN ISLANDS by Paul A. Larsen (FCPS #2493)

The Crozet and Kerguelen Island groups are, as the albatross flies, respectively about 1500 and 2300 nautical miles southeasterly across the "Roaring 40s" from Port Elizabeth, South Africa. These islands haven't been popular destinations since the whaling and sealing days of the 19th and early 20th centuries and they are *not* on cruise-ship itineraries. The prevailing winds of the Indian Ocean and accompanying sea swell usually makes it *rock and roll* all the way for the 40s and 50s latitudes "roar" eastward all the way across the Pacific Ocean to South America. So why do this? To see penguins, seals, and the ice sculptures of the far south on the so-called Far Side of Antarctica; these cold, wet, and windy sub-Antarctic islands with their large populations of penguins and other wildlife were on the way to the continent. It was summertime in the southern hemisphere and plans for this adventure had been underway for 1½ years. I had not been to Antarctica for almost two years and this was to be my fourth voyage to the Southern Continent. Its stark beauty grows on some of us even though it requires some rather arduous air and sea travel to reach the ends of the earth.

We departed Port Elizabeth [33° 58' S Latitude - 25° 40' E Longitude] on November 19, 1997 and sailed to the T.A.A.F. districts of Crozet and Kerguelen, to Australian Heard Island (no human inhabitants for many

years) and then down to the ice. We expected to travel east along the Antarctic coast from about 58°E to 100°E while visiting hard-to-reach Emperor Penguins rookeries, people (scientific and support at several research stations), and a myriad of land and sea ice formations along the way. After a voyage of almost five weeks the expedition would end in Fremantle, Western Australia. The voyage was made aboard the Finnish-built Russian Icebreaker *Kapitan Khlebnikov* which is equipped with a half dozen Zodiacs and two helicopters. Icebreaker vessel design does not include a keel or stabilizers which cruise ships rely on to help minimize pitch and roll so it pays to get your sea legs fast! The 400 foot long ship has capacity for about 100 passengers. The Russian crew have a great deal of experience in ice and foul weather seamanship. Food services were orchestrated by several Austrian chefs and there was a well stocked bar. The experienced expedition staff provided many fascinating lectures about the wild life, geology, glaciology, and history of the areas we visited. One of the staff members, a French biologist, had previously spent over a year in the Kerguelen Archipelago.

We arrived off Base Alfred Faure on the eastern shore of Ile De La Possession (Figure 1) in the Crozet Group at midday on November 24 after a



Figure 1. Ile de la Possession, on T.A.A.F. Scott C20.

voyage of 1501 nautical miles. It was cool (about 39° F), cloudy and windy (10 knots) with some occasional sprinkles. We were transported to the base by helicopter. The base personnel were expecting us and provided refreshments in their community/recreation building. A large warehouse building near the 'copter pad provided some shopping opportunities from their stock of various tee and sweat shirts and their popular shoulder patches which come in three different colors (to encourage multiple purchases?). The base post office (Figure 2) is located in

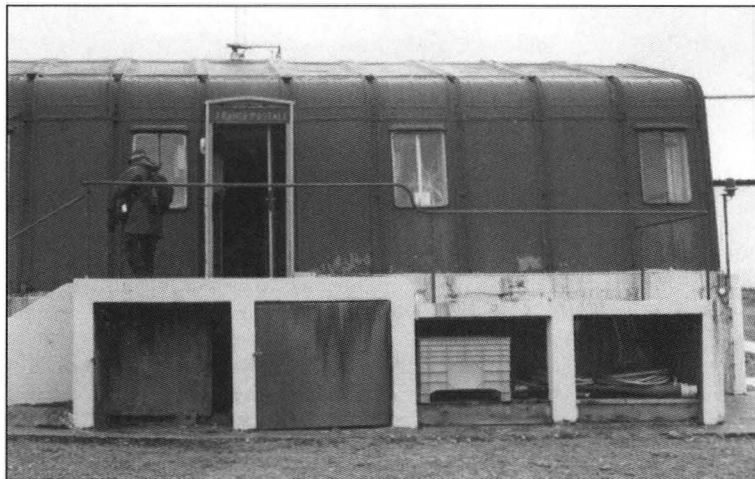


Figure 2. The post office at Base Alfred Faure, Crozet.

a long red building elevated about 6 feet above grade by a concrete structure. The covers I had deposited aboard ship were processed ashore by the Post Office. My wife received hers during the week of January 6, 1998; not bad, considering the mail was probably transported by the monthly (summer only) supply ship returning to France before actually getting air service. This cover (Figure 3) received two interesting markings in addition to the two Faure

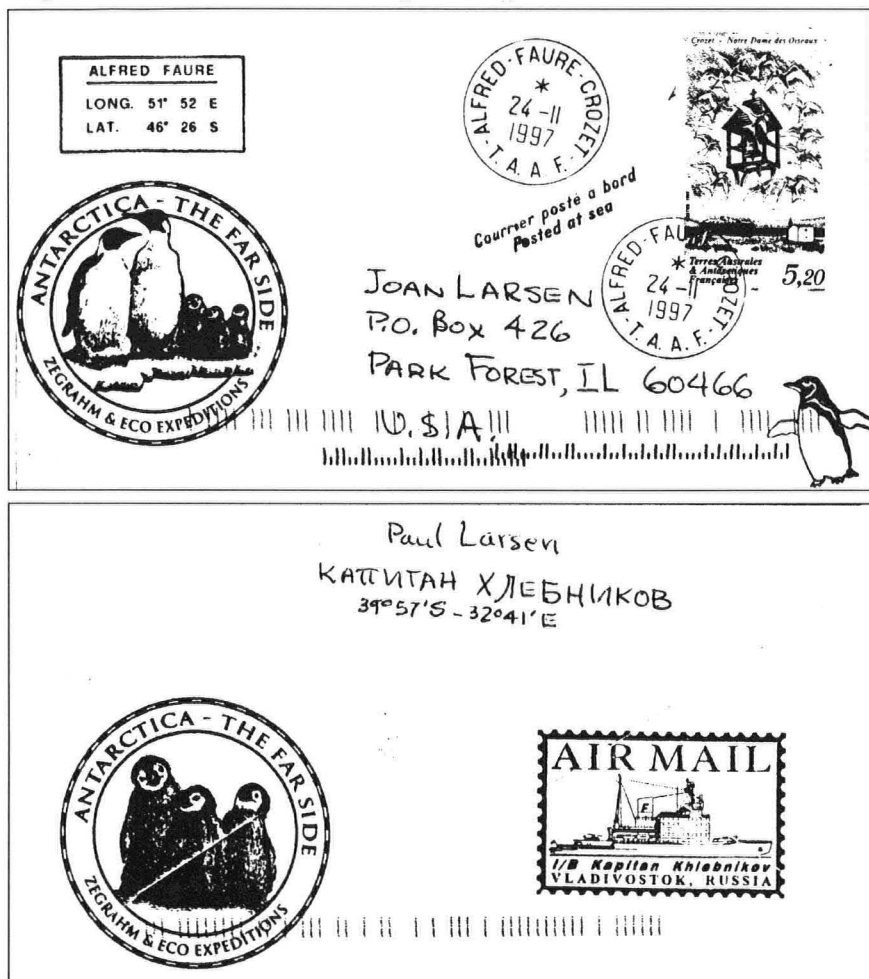


Figure 3. Front (Figure 3a) and back (Figure 3b) of cover mailed from Crozet Island.

T.A.A.F. date stamps. The latitude and longitude of the base is shown in the boxed cachet in the upper left [51° 52' E - 46° 26' S]. Note also the two-line French-English *Courrier posté a bord* / *Posted at sea* cachet. I preferred to have the *Khlebnikov* staff take my mail ashore so I could see what kind of markings and treatment the mail gets at the receiving office on the base. I applied the penguin cachets before depositing in the ship's letter box. The 5F20 T.A.A.F. stamp shows a view of *Notre Dame des Oiseaux*. Unless I am

mistaken (had not previously seen this stamp), I saw this small structure at the western edge of Base Faure. The structure size is probably similar to a small European roadside chapel with room for no more than a few people at one time. I have seen bigger chicken coops!

We visited some seaside cliffs down the hill west of Faure to observe some nesting albatross and few Rockhopper Penguins. The spongy indigenous plants on that hillside were bad for walking: climbing up was exhausting because one sank in easily to knee level with each step. East of Faure a road had (recently?) been bulldozed down hill (about a 100 meter elevation change) to a seashore fuel dump and jetty right through a colony of 30,000 King Penguins. Prior to the road, supplies must have come up to the base via some sort of cable hoist arrangement. I heard later that Faure may be closed due to French scientific budget cuts. We returned to the *Khlebnikov* by Zodiac during late afternoon.

Overnight the ship sailed another 12 miles east to Baie American. I was one of the few people who got ashore by Zodiac on the morning of November 25. The sea swells were causing a 3-4 foot elevation change and holding a Zodiac fast to the Ship's gangway platform got very dicey. Stepping from the platform over to the Zodiac requires the assistance of a Russian seaman (equipped with waders) who hands off the passenger to the Zodiac driver at exactly the correct moment during the rise and fall of the swell. A Zodiac normally holds 8-10 passengers with ease; we gave up at 3! The rest came ashore by 'copter. Landfall was on a small rock-strewn beach. This was followed by a trek up the muddy side of a nearly vertical 10-meter rise to gently rolling mushy ground. Windy and about 40°F. No trees. A dusting of snow was evident on the highest peaks. We saw a few Rockhoppers high on the nearby cliffs. Farther to the west was a wide depression with a small stream entering the sea after flowing behind and parallel to a 200-meter long sand beach. There were elephant seals all around the beach and on the adjacent hillsides. Add to this to a cast of thousands of King Penguins, both adults and chicks, and you have as much noise as the downtown in a small city.

November 26-28 were spent at sea. Winds mostly above 30 knots with temperatures hovering around 40°F. The ship was forced to use an eastward tack, zig-zagging to north and to south in order to minimize ship's rolling from an otherwise broadside wind from the south. Arrived at Cape Cotter on the



Figure 4. Kerguelen Islands, on T.A.A.F. Scott C21.

north side of Kerguelen Island [70° 19' E - 49° 02' S] (Figure 4) early on November 29. Windy and cool. Terrain is much like the Crozets but has range of higher peaks to south. 'Coptered to and from landing area adjacent to very large, noisy and stinky Macaroni Penguin rookery. Left at midday. Arrived at French base of Port-aux-Français in late afternoon after having sailed a total of 2515 nautical miles. 'Coptered ashore for a two-hour visit at about 6:00 p.m. The facility is at least twice the size of Faure. The base has many more buildings, much larger docking facilities, and extensive systems of antenna towers for satellite tracking. The cloudy sky darkened early. I managed to find the post office and take a

picture before the light failed (Figure 5). This is a shared building and the Post Office has the eastern part; the outside is painted white.



Figure 5. The post office at Port-aux-Français, Kerguelen.

Covers posted at Port-aux-Français received T.A.A.F. date stamps plus a boxed location cachet in the upper left corner [70° 13' E - 42° 21' S]. The Figure 6 cover is franked with a 5F20 Lobster stamp, the only one such at

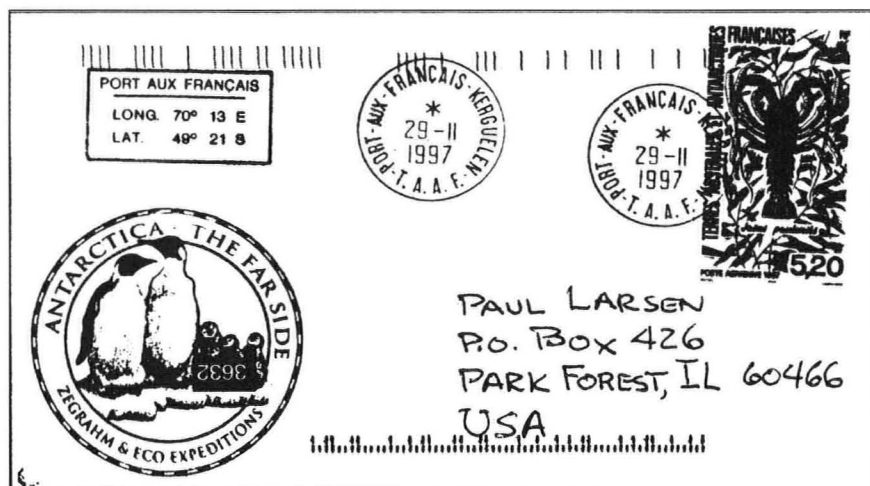


Figure 6. Cover posted from Port-aux-Français.

hand; all others seen had the Notre Dame des Oiseaux design. Most of my covers arrived in the Chicago area between January 12 and 19.

Up at 3:00 a.m. on November 30 for a 'copter flight up and over the snow-capped hills to the south to visit the "River of Macaronis" penguin rookery. The penguins were nesting, squabbling, walking to and from the ocean all up and down a steep and often slippery hillside. Figure 7 shows one of the locals. Saw my first rabbit although there many holes throughout our previous

stops. Rabbits, rats, and cats are a legacy from the whaling days. Like most introduced species, they disrupt habitat and eat birds and their eggs.



Figure 7. Macaroni Penguin on Kerguelen.

Set sail for Heard Island and the Antarctic at 8:30 a.m. Spent some fantastic days among the ice canyons along the continent while visiting Emperor Penguins between December 5 and 11. The pack ice east of the Australian Davis Station [77° 50' E - 68° 34' S] effectively blocked further progress along the coast. Pack-ice buildup has forced more than one additional over-winter stay for explorers and station personnel.

We wandered a northwesterly zigzag course for several more days through ever changing weather conditions. There was an ever changing parade of heavy overcast, blowing snow, sun and occasional complete white-out conditions. It proved impossible to find enough open water to allow penetration any farther east. By December 16, it was necessary to turn north, escape the pack ice, and make for Fremantle [113° 07' E - 34° 56' S] in order to meet our planned December 21 arrival; total travel was 7724 nautical miles.

A FRENCH GUINEA PUZZLE COVER OF 1933
by Bill Mitchell (FCPS #715)
(of the Study Group for Airmail Rates in French Colonies)

Our editor has asked for photos of interesting items from our collections, with comments, so here is a cover which poses a couple of questions. It was flown from Dakar in Senegal, the point of origin being Conakry in French Guinea, to "Madame Turnbull, bei (care of) Fürstenburg" in Berlin W50. The date stamp shows that it was posted on 17 November 1933. This, of course, was early in the Nazi period. On the reverse is an illegible transit cachet of Dakar and a manuscript endorsement "Thomas 29/11," which is presumably the date of receipt by Mrs. Turnbull. There is a large hole at the back of the cover where a seal has apparently been removed. This could have been either a stamp (a common practice in those days) or - just possibly - wax. The letter was diverted by means of a red crayon endorsement to "SW 77," which their label shows was the postal district in which the Berlin Customs was situated, and re-directed in blue crayon to the addressee. The label (and the Customs cachet, which is struck in purple) shows that no duty was found to be payable.

The two questions are: Why the high postage of 11 francs for this unregistered letter, and was there any reason, apart from its weight, for its diversion to Customs?

As Bob Picirilli has pointed out in the first part of his fine article on French Colonial postage rates,¹ in general Metropolitan French surface rates applied throughout the French Community (certain exceptions for foreign mail do not seem to apply in this particular case). This was not necessarily true with the additional charge for airmail,² but the details of flown covers that Bob has studied³ and in my own collection provide ample evidence that at this period the French rates to French West Africa also applied in the reverse direction. The 11 francs' worth of stamps surviving on the cover suggest a letter of between 20 and 30 grams, which is quite heavy for an envelope measuring $5\frac{7}{8}$ by $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches. This would have required a total charge of 11.40 francs if flown from Dakar, the nearest point from which an air service was available, as far as France only, or 12.90 francs if forwarding by air from Paris to Berlin was required.⁴ Two 40c stamps (Yvert 73 and 115) were available in French Guinea at that time, but there was no 1.90 franc stamp. The damage to the back of the cover is not large enough to have been caused by the removal of more than one stamp, so the balance of probabilities is that the total charge was 11.40 francs. I have found that it takes 9 sheets of modern non-airmail paper to bring the total weight to over 20 grams (22 grams, in fact). Assuming that pre-war paper was of better quality and so weighed heavier, this was probably a newsy letter of 7 or 8 sheets. It is highly unlikely that the envelope was sealed with wax - this would reduce the franking to 11 francs, which can't be accounted for. The point of the flap, which is surely where a wax seal would have been placed, survives and shows no trace of having received such treatment.

Why was the letter diverted to Customs on arrival in Berlin? I did wonder whether this could have been a convenient excuse for censorship of mail to Jewish, or possibly Jewish addressees, which would have added considerably to the interest of the cover. Unfortunately (from this point of view at any rate), I find on enquiry that this is almost certainly not the case. The answer is much less sinister, in fact it is quite prosaic and indeed obvious. It was

common practice in Germany even before Hitler for mail to be opened by Customs, and in this case the weight of the letter would have been enough to alert the Customs authorities in Berlin to the possibility that it contained something that was dutiable. As already mentioned, the "Zollfrei" label and cachet show that they found nothing. It is unlikely that Customs were used for censoring purposes as early as this, if at all. Nevertheless, some time before Thomas wrote his letter in November 1933 there was concern in Scandinavia and elsewhere that the Germans were tampering with mail. The explanation given was currency control (Germany had strict regulations about this), but references in newspaper reports⁵ to mail despatched from *and through* Germany, including one from Gothenburg to Africa, suggest a wider purpose. So one cannot be quite certain that Thomas's letter was not censored.

I am grateful to John Miskevich of Clifton, New Jersey, and Ian Nutley of Biggin Hill, Kent, for information about pre-World War 2 Customs and censorship practice in Germany, and to our fellow-member Marty Bratzel of Windsor, Ontario, for helpful comments.

References and Notes

(1) "Postal Rates in the French Colonies, 1892 - 1944," *FCP* N° 249, July 1994, pp. 75-78.

(2) Pierre Saulgrain, "Le Service Postal Aérien dans les Pays d'Expression Française," Editions Roumet, Paris 1996, p. 9 - "En matière de surtaxes aériennes, ce que nous connaissons sont des études au départ de la France....Au départ de nos colonies ou autres pays sous domination, les tarifs de base restaient particuliers, quoique nous connaissons des surtaxes aériennes volontairement identiques à celles de la métropole en certaines périodes." (As for airmail surcharges, what we know comes from studies of the rates applying to mail from France....There were individual rates for mail from our colonies and countries under our administration even though we know of certain airmail surcharges which are identical to those of France." If by "tarifs de base" M. Saulgrain means basic surface rates, he is surely mistaken.)

(3) Newsletter #2, January 1997, of the Study Group for Airmail Rates in French Colonies to 1945, contains details of 113 flown covers from the Ivory Coast, including 40 from the period discussed below.

(4) The only possible tariff details are: basic rate (for a letter of 20 to 40 gms under the French tariff of 1 August 1926), 2.40 frs; air surcharge France - Dakar (for letters of 20 to 30 gms under the French tariff of 1 August 1929 - 3 frs per 10 gms - applied to the reverse direction), 9 frs; total 11.40 frs. Although the "Par Avion" instruction has not been cancelled and there is no "Jusqu'à" mark, transmission by air to Berlin would have required a further 1.50 frs, the charge under the French tariff of 21 April 1931 being 75c per 20 gms; it is logical to assume that it also applied to mail from abroad passing through France. It will be seen from these details that a weight of less than 20 gms would have required significantly less than 11 frs in postage.

(5) New York Times, 3 and 6 August and 23 October 1933. See Appendix.

Appendix

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1933

Nazis Censor Mail to Sweden.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 2. - Letters and newspapers sent here from and through Germany are now subject to strict censorship, and business men who complain that letters have been opened have been informed that the German authorities are keeping close watch on the mails, as part of wider measures to prevent the illegal export of currency.

Swedish subscribers to certain Prague newspapers complain that the papers no longer reach them. These papers have been blacklisted by the Nazis, who under the postal convention refuse to handle them. The Swedish postoffice has accordingly made alternative arrangements with the Czechoslovak Government and they will come into force in October.

The above cable was reprinted with minor amendments under the heading "Reich Mail Censorship Stricter, Sweden Learns" and date of Aug. 5 in the issue for Sunday, August 6, 1933.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1933

Germans Open Letters, Scandinavians Complain

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 22 - Despite assurances by German postal authorities there is accumulating evidence that postal matter transmitted through Germany to or from Scandinavia is being tampered with.

The Swedish Postmaster General has had occasion to complain that a letter from Gothenburg to Africa was opened while in transit through Germany. The Polish Legation at Stockholm, according to the Social Demokraten, has received many complaints from Swedish and Polish business men about the slowing down of postal service between Sweden and Poland because of German censorship. The legation, it is said, has evidence to prove not only that letters have been thoroughly examined en route but that some letters have disappeared.

German censorship is causing equal concern in Denmark.

TYPES AND SUBTYPES

15c cameo Sower

Type I (rotary press sheets printed 1925-1930 and 1931-1936, flat-plate and rotary-press precancels on these sheets, coils and precancelled coils, postal stationery, booklets): 1 of value thin, upper stroke rectilinear; horizontal bar of the 5 ends in a small triangle. **Type II** (rotary press sheets printed 1935-1938, rotary-press precancels on these sheets): 1 is thicker, stroke curves slightly to left; horizontal bar of 5 ends in a small vertical bar.



Type I



Type II

AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--43

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

A Salmagundi of Beautiful History, Conclusive Truth, and Wonder Covers

Of Truth in Leather-Bound History Books

Among postal advertisements for wonderful things to buy, I received a folder praising beautiful leather-bound volumes of histories of various wars. The first book was a virtual give-away, the rest were around \$50 each. I was almost on the point of subscribing, when I noted that one of the books is entitled *The Franco-Prussian War*. The author is a certain Mr. Machiavelli, if I remember correctly.

We, of course, know that what he meant was the Franco-German War. Does he realize that the difference between 'Prussian' and 'German' in this case meant some 12 divisions of soldiers, which may have been decisive for the outcome? How well acquainted is he with the history of the 1870/1871 war? I decided to forego the privilege of buying leather-bound history books.

Some of you know that I have a great abhorrence for that wrong name of the 1870-1871 war: It gives postal historians the wrong idea of what to expect in the way of postal historical documents. There were several German postal systems operating in occupied France, with different postal rules being enforced by the countries that operated these. For example, whereas the Prussians and their North German Confederates had various types of censorship at different times, nothing of the kind was used by the Bavarians, Badensians, and Württembergers. Several of these states had their own printed postcards, not all of them easy to find.

I was able to get a particularly interesting one recently, a postcard from Baden, postmarked at Alt-Breisach on 11 November 1870 (Figure 1). It was

the day after Neuf-Brisach's surrender. Written by a French POW who was captured with the fort and addressed to the writer's relative, probably his father, it mentions that he had recently crossed the Rhine (Old Breisach is in Baden on the right bank, New Brisach is in Alsace on the left bank of the river), he and his friends were all well, and he would write again as soon as he had an address where mail could reach him. The card also carries the framed B.S.P. marking, Bade Service Publique, apparently to show that it was free of postage because it was soldier's mail. It arrived at Lyon only three days later. - Now, how would Mr. Machiavelli explain a Baden postcard's connection with the *Franco-Prussian War*?

The Illusion of Conclusive Historical Truth

A friend who keeps me supplied with highly interesting clippings from the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* (of Zürich, Switzerland) sent an article with the above title in German. My friend had marked Professor Jörg Fisch's conclusions about the illusion with his highlighter pen:

"Historical truth evades conclusive determination. Historical research is, instead, a process in which the subject is continually re-defined and always re-appears in a new light and new perspective, depending upon the circumstances of the time and on the assumptions, interests and the attitudes of the researchers."

The professor is evidently not talking about "little history," as the French would call it, but "big" history. And yet, I do not see how one can fully agree with that statement.

Of course, as the professor states, historical research must be unfettered and open. As long as there is a possibility that personal diaries may be found, secret treaties may be revealed, and other arcana might turn up, there is always the possibility that what has been said before was partly or totally wrong.

And perhaps, when it comes to "big" history, there is a very good chance that important finds may still be made at most any time. Even biblical history is changed by finds such as the Dead Sea scrolls or by new linguistic studies that throw a different light on geographical and historical conclusions, reached before someone had those bright new ideas.

I assume that the professor did not mean that one's socio-political attitudes should affect one's interpretation of political history, though that surely is often the case. To understand what Bismarck did in 1870, one must know the facts and the attitudes of the world of that time. The consequences of his policies may be evaluated with 20/20 hindsight, but that does not explain his personality, actions, and achievements. These are points, however, about which historians may argue, not philatelists.

As concerns postal history, its final truths may be a bit easier to attain. Again, historians have made their share of mistakes in describing the Franco-German War, for example. But these mistakes can, for the most part, be found and corrected. Once we know the correct dates, *e.g.*, of balloon launches, it becomes more certain to characterize covers by the balloons that carried them. When we know where the troops stood or fought at a certain time, when ship service was instituted or train service was cut, when the public was advised of this or that change in postal services, where and by whom mail was smuggled or intercepted, it becomes possible to say something substantive about the affected mail that will be the final truth — pro-

vided, again, that the "facts" on which we base our conclusions are, indeed, facts.

The Truth About Some Gratis Labels on Pieces and Covers

In the December 1996 issue of the *SBZ* (Swiss Stamp Newspaper), Raymond Pittier published an illustrated article about some Swiss Gratis labels on French internees' mail. Though genuine, those labels do not belong where they are now found.

The first illustration had already appeared in *Postal History Journal* No. 74 (October 1986, p. 53) and concerns a cover from the Swiss Military Department, originally without such a label, later with one attached, and finally with that label postmarked with a twin of the original postmark, even applied at the same angle. The Military Department had a free-franc privilege and never affixed any Gratis labels.

Figure 2 shows two Red Cross cards from Aarau, to the identical address, one with and one without the Gratis label. None was needed nor applied originally.

Figure 3 is that of a cover with a 30-centimes imprint, uncanceled, and a Gratis label attached to that envelope. No Swiss expert would declare that monster authentic, but a German one signed it.

Letters received *from* free France *to* French internees to Switzerland were stamped FRANCO and, of course, never had Gratis labels attached. But Pittier found at least one which now does sport such a label. As for occupied France, he shows a beauty to an internee, with an "F" (franco) cds from Strassburg (German for Strasbourg) and a French P.D. to boot, yet with a (needless) Gratis label attached as well. Remember that these labels were distributed to French internees for their use.

In short, it pays to know the conditions under which a Gratis label was used. That makes it less likely for a collector to fall for such "rarities."

For some of us, fun in philately, and particularly in postal history, is not only the chase after the items we need for our collections but also the chase after the truth that helps us understand what we own or wish to own.

WE GET LETTERS...

Member David Morck wishes to share these bits of information with our Colonies collectors, for philately isn't necessarily all pure, dull grungework. The first, from *Hell beyond the Seas*, by Aage Krarup-Nielson, writing about Devil's Island on French Guyana: "Everyone needed money, including guards. If the convict expected the penal camp authorities to properly feed and clothe him, he would be dead in a very short time. Nearly every person in the colony was involved in graft. This included POST OFFICE OFFICIALS who would *take stamps off letters and packages and resell them to businessmen.*"

The other, from a 1930 New York Times article, regarding French Antarctica: "A member of the Chamber of Deputies who was concerned with the health of the prisoners in French Guiana, suggested they be moved to *Kerguelen Island*, an island in the South Polar sea. He said the lowlands were fertile, the climate healthier and farm development would feed those sent there. The suggestion was quickly voted down." [And probably just as well, for the presence of convicts there might have an adverse effect upon tourism, even dissuade such as Paul Larsen!--Editor.]

PHILEXFRANCE 99--FINAL CALL

PHILEXFRANCE 99 is almost upon us. Its philatelic souvenirs have been regularly reported in this and previous "New Issues and Withdrawals." Here follows a summary of show information:

WHAT?: International (FIP-sponsored) exhibition celebrating 150 years of French postage stamps.

WHEN?: 2-11 July 1999.

WHERE?: 50,000 square meters of Hall N° 1 in the Parc des Expositions at the Porte de Versailles, Paris (same locale as for the 1989 International).

HOW TO?: Metro--Balard Station on Balard-Créteil line, or Porte de Versailles Station on Mairie d'Issy-Porte de la Chapelle line. Bus--Porte de Versailles stop on Lines 39, 49, and PC.

HOW MUCH?: We haven't seen anything definite on admission charges, but they will include a special, limited edition souvenir sheetlet, available only at the entrance. Or so we understand.

WHAT TO SEE AND DO?: 756 exhibits in 3496 frames of great material; 161 dealers, many postal administrations, numerous daily special events with new daily cachets. Lots to see and do. It should be a grand and glorious show, as only the French can stage it!

WEB SITE: www.philexfrance99.com [including an English-language version].



MARIANNE DE LUQUET -- TYPE 2

Some of the stamps of the current Marianne de Luquet ("Marianne of the 14th of July") definitives have appeared in a slightly different die type, in printings dated from 1 September 1997-on (earliest reported date thus far).

They are the 0.20F, 0.50F, 4.20F, and 6.70F values, all printed from *virolle* B (what once would have been called cylinder B), plus the Sagem booklets and a printing of the red permanent-value coil stamp. Distinguishing features of Type 2, as indicated on Figure 1, are:



Figure 1.

1. Star left of R of FRANÇAISE: lower left branch ends in a blob (Type 1) or is pointed (Type 2);
2. Signatures (upper left) of Luquet - Jumelet thinner in Type 2 than in Type 1;
3. Eyebrow hairs above right eye (that on left side) thicker in Type 2 than in Type 1;
4. Outline of ear complete in Type 1 and interrupted in Type 2;
5. Linework at base of neck just left of value figures is complete in Type 1 and ragged in Type 2.

This second type was first observed by L. Bécavin. Naturally, not all of these recognition criteria will show up clearly on any one stamp. *[Based on information in Bull. 114 of SO.CO.CO.DA.MI, July 1998, and in "Timbroscopie," N° 159, July-August 1998.]*

--S. J. Luft

SOME SHOW REPORTS

- Philadelphia National Stamp Show 1998 (October 1998): Vermeil medal to Thomas ("Tuck") Taylor for his exhibit on Washington, DC postal markings.
- VALPEX '98 (Spring City, PA, October): Vermeil medal to "Tuck" Taylor for "French Cameroun 1900-1960."
- Peach State Stamp Show '98 (Athens, GA, October): Vermeil medal to Thomas Broadhead for "French Postal Usage and Rates 1870-1900."
- ARIPEX '99 (Tucson, AZ January 1999): Reserve Grand Award and Gold medal to Paul Larsen for "German Caroline Islands 1899-1914"; Gold medal to Dick Winter for "U.S.-G.B. Mails by Steamship" (plus APS Research and PHS awards).
- SANDICAL '99 (San Diego, January): Gold medal to Stan Jersey for "New Hebrides: World War II postal history" and Vermeil medal also to Stan for "New Caledonia postal history: the War Years, 1941-1945"; Silver medal to Wallace Craig for "19th Century Brazilian Stationery."
- Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition 99 (Sarasota, FL, February): Gold medal to Paul Larsen for "Federal Issues of the Leeward Islands 1890-1911." Dave Herendeen served on the show jury.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

FOR SALE: Used French precancels, approx. 1400, of which 70 different; mixed condition; for \$50. William L. Parker, 1115 Oakwood Trail, Indianapolis, IN 46260. (Mb. #1211).

WANTED: French revenues, parcel post, perfins, Liberation, military stamps; will buy, exchange, etc. Bob Coy-Kendall, 2751 Brimhall Drive, Los Alamitos, CA 90720. (Mb. #3182).

WANTED: French Offices in China; also other French Offices Abroad. Please send information to Wayne Wedekind, 3856 Tomahawk Lane, San Diego, CA 92117-5851. (Mb. #2966).

FOR SALE: Cameroun collection, used and mint, mostly never hinged; over 4000 stamps from 1925-1978 period; includes airmails and souvenir sheets; at 20% Yvert catalog of 3860Fr. For total of \$140 (US) plus postage. I also have collections of other former French Colonies for sale at similar discounts from catalog. Inquire of Gilbert Loisel, 13 rue des Sources, Grand Vau, F-89500 Villeneuve-sur-Yonne, France. (Mb. #877).

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

The long-awaited Paris international philatelic exhibition, PHILEXFRANCE 99, is now just around the corner. It'll be the third PHILEXFRANCE I shall be attending (albeit rather briefly, for my spouse is into visiting museums and churches, and not into philately. Dommage!), and the first where I'll be merely a spectator and not an exhibitor. There'll be much to see and do while there (see the show summary on page 56), and old and new friends to greet.

While we salute PHILEXFRANCE 99 here and now, all is not as we would have desired. Our understanding is that would-be exhibitors from the United States have been short-changed by the organizing committee. Only about 6 percent of the allotted frames went to collectors from the U.S. Among those denied acceptance were our President and our Recording Secretary. Which means that the public (and especially the French) will be deprived of seeing their great collections of, respectively Martinique and Guadeloupe! A strange state of affairs indeed. I wouldn't be surprised if there might not be more frames devoted to, say Afghanistan, Paraguay, or dormouses on stamps than to 19th Century French Colonies--at a show held in France. But we shall see...

A mild (thus far) brouhaha has erupted over an ambitious publication project that didn't quite get off the ground. I refer to the proposal by a small, provincial philatelic society, that of the Val-de-Durance, to collect copies of as many covers as possible bearing the black 20c Cérés that were used during its first month of issue, January 1849. These color copies (for a black stamp...) were to have been reproduced in a luxurious book, under the auspices of *l'Union Marcophile*, to have been issued during and at PHILEXFRANCE 99. Some 200 philatelists had offered color copies of their covers before the project collapsed for a number of reasons, not all of which seem clear, though finances must have played a major part. But I must take some of the blame for the aborted project. By the time the request for cooperation reached me, one number of our quarterly Journal had gone to press and, by the time the next number would have reached the membership, the project's deadline, for reception of color copies and detailed descriptions, was just about up. Thus, many members remained unaware of this appeal. If it should ever be renewed, I'll try to keep you informed in time.

Some France & Colonies dealers are beginning to accept credit cards in lieu of the far less convenient postal money orders or national-currency bank checks. And some of them charge nothing or only 1-2 percent more for their use. Colonies dealer INDIGO (FCPS member) prices its wares in U.S. dollars, accepts VISA and MasterCard, and pays the postage and postal insurance. They're at Box 89, Orewa, Hibiscus Coast [sure sound dreamy!], New Zealand; Tel./Fax 64-9-426-7511, e-mail: ed. na@extra.co.nz Another FCPS (and APS) member, accepting VISA and MasterCard for an additional 2% charge, is Lugdunum Philatélie, at B.P. 87, F-69110 St. Foy-les-Lyon, France; Fax 33-4-78-59-21-67.

Others, who take at least VISA, include:

Boule/Monaco Collections, 10 rue de la Grange Batelière, F-75009 Paris; Fax 33-1-40-22-60-05 (2% extra);

Bernard Brunet, B.P. 103, F-73701 Bourg St.-Maurice Cedex, France;

Lahitte Philatélie, 39 rue Ste.-Hélène, F-69002, Lyon;

Demarest Histoire et Philatélie, 19 rue Drouot, F-75009 Paris; Fax 33-1-47-70-31-74; e-mail demarest@pratique.fr;

Philatélie Lyonnaise, 10 rue de Venise, F-69100 Villeurbanne, France;
 STRAPHIL, 24 rue de la 1^{ère} Armée, F-67000 Strasbourg; Fax 33-3-88-24-19-00.

Surely there are others. Please let us know and I'll publish their names and addresses as I receive them. Thanks!

Once again I need to remind authors to submit their manuscripts typed double-spaced, on one side of a sheet of paper, with ample margins all around, and that illustrations should preferably be in the form of half-tones or laser prints (or pen and ink sketches), and not be taped down. Not everyone's been listening!

-- S. J. Luft

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

- Pascal Marziano, *Le Type Liberté*; about 200 pp., 21 x 29 cm, hardbound, numerous color illustrations; (1999); 290Fr (+ 30F packing and postage), by check or money order to Editions CARTO, 51 rue de Genève, F-16000 Angoulême, France. (Up-to-date information by a leading expert on this popular definite series; includes history, manufacture, material from the archives of the Musée de La Poste, varieties, etc. Comes with a separate leaflet pricing the items described. [*Inasmuch as this book deals with a very recent series from the 1980s, some of the information therein may soon become incomplete and dated and, as such, it should be considered as a preliminary edition. Recommended only if you can't wait for the final word to come.*])
- Jean-Marie Gibiat and Gilles Troispoux, *Les trois périples du bâtiment polaire "Commandant Charcot" en Terre Adélie: 1948-1951*; 150 pp., 21 x 29.7 cm (A4), numerous photos, postcards, mail, and drawings; 100Fr (+ 20F postage within France and 30F postage elsewhere), from Gilles Troispoux, 2 rue Turbil, F-69003 Lyon, France. (The story of the "Commandant Charcot's three expeditions to Antarctica.)
- Two catalogues of the Marianne de Briat *prêts-à-poster* (pre-stamped postal stationery): 12 pages of those without imprinted cachets and 52 pages of those with; 40Fr postpaid, from l'Association Philatélique de Saint-Maur et Joinville (attention Mr. Forgacs), Mairie de Joinville, 23 rue de Paris, F-9340 Joinville-Le-Pont, France.
- *Le cote des coins datés et des millésimes 1999*; 62nd edition; 60Fr postpaid, from SOCOCODAMI, Boite Postale 4625, F-22046 Saint-Brieuc Cedex 2, France. (The annual priced catalogue.)
- Gérard Dreyfuss, *Catalogue des Oblitérations Mécaniques de France*, 2nd edition, 1998; 550 pp., 18,000 machine cancellations described and priced, with numerous illustrations; 395Fr + postage; inquiries to Editions Littéra, 18 boulevard de Strasbourg, F-62000 Arras, France. (The updated second edition of the monumental catalogue of French machine cancels.)
- Douglas Anglin, *Free French Invasion--The St. Pierre and Miquelon Affaire of 1941*; 219 pp. reprint edition of a long out-of-print work; \$25 (US) + \$4 (US) shipping, Canadian orders add 7% tax; from Penny Black Publishing, Lock Box 21132, 665-8th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2B 4H5, Canada. (A detailed account of the political and military background to the departure of St. P & M from the Vichy side to the Free French. Non-philatelic, but includes the story behind the 1941-1942 FNFL [Free French Naval Forces] overprints.)

- Jean Sénéchal, *Bureaux Spéciaux, Franchises, Contreseings, Marques Administratives, des origines à 1900. Tome 2: 1848-1900*; 540 pp., numerous illustrations, all items catalogued are priced in a separate leaflet; 500Fr + 7-Fr postage, from Editions Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris. (The companion volume to the earlier one on pre-1848 franchise and special bureaux markings. Covers markings of the Second Republic, Second Empire, National Defense Government, the Commune and its repression, the late 19th Century presidencies, the postal administration and the expositions.)
- Jacques Meriaux, *Histoire de la Poste Navale 1792-1992*; 880 pp. in two volumes, abundantly illustrated; separate leaflet quotes values of illustrated items; 400Fr + 70Fr postage; from Editions Bertrand Sinais (see above). (A detailed and erudite work that, in spite of being the author's doctoral dissertation on the History of the French naval posts, should be easily followed--if one has sufficient command of the French language.)
- F. Coetmen and L.K. Guillard, *Le Catalogue des Vignettes d'Affranchissement G.A.P.A. / M.O.G.*; 160 pp. + 30 pp. of "descriptive material," color illustrations; 200Fr + 20Fr postage, from F. Coetmen, 16 rue S. Thibault, F-91640 Fontenay-les-Bris, France. (A detailed study of the Framas--value-imprinted vending-machine stamps--computer-vended postage stamps--automats--or whatever they should be called--postage stickers of France.)
- Yves Lecouturier and P.-S. Proust, *La poste automobile et les véhicules des PTT 1897-1970*; 216 pp., 460 photos; 230Fr (+ postage?) payable to l'Union Marcophile; from Musée de la Poste et des Techniques, 52 rue St.-Pierre, F-14000 Caen, France. (A richly illustrated history of the vehicles used to sort and deliver the mails in France and the Colonies, and their support infrastructures. Mostly non-philatelic, but includes a section on the postal markings.)
- Peter A. S. Smith, *Egypt: Stamps & Postal History--A Philatelic Treatise*; 922 pp., hardbound, 16 color plates, maps, numerous illustrations; (1999); \$195 US + \$2 postage, or £115UK + £1 postage, by check or credit card, from James Bendon Ltd, P.O. Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus. (The 45 Chapters include The Napoleonic Post, The French Post Offices, The Suez Canal Company Postal Service, etc. Peter Smith is a member of FCPS, the editor of the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, and the internationally acknowledged leading authority on the stamps and postal history of Egypt.)
- *Les Etoiles de Paris (1863-1876*; 184 pp., 22 x 27 cm, softbound (1999); 8 pages in color, 176 illustrations, 41 tables, separate leaflet giving indices of values; published by the Académie de Philatélie; 325Fr postpaid, checks payable to the Académie de Philatélie; order from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 rue du Fg Montmartre, F-75009 Paris, or from Bertrand Sinais, 7 Rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris. (The latest and most detailed and complete study of the Paris star cancellations of 1863-1876.)
- L. H. Lambert and K. R. Nilsestuen, *The Lambert-Nilsestuen Classification of the date stamps of Algeria / Nouveau Classement des cachets à date utilisés en Algérie de 1835 à 1962*; ii + 41 pp., 8½ x 11" acid-free paper, plastic spiral bound; bilingual French and English, numerous illustrations; \$10 (US) + \$2.50 postage and handling in U.S., or + \$5 postage and handling for foreign orders; by check, money order, VISA or MasterCard; from Summit Auctions, P.O. Box 640, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221, USA. (Our two Algeria experts have collaborated on a comprehensive, in-depth, elegant revision of the classification of Algerian postmarks, which should become the standard to be used in describing pre-Independence postal markings. Written in French and English.)

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from #254, October 1998, p. 122)

- **775.) Sol - Sous - Décime (a primer).** *Sol* comes from the Latin *solidus*, vulgarized to "soldus" in reference to coin of solid metal. In France, it became 1/20th of a *livre*, and was popularized as *sou*. It is preferable and more correct to use *sol* prior to 1792 as the Tariff of 1 January 1792 refers to *sous* rather than *sols*. The decimal monetary system dates from 17 April 1795, though it wasn't until the Tariff of 3 July 1796 that rates were given in *sous* and *décimes* (2 *sous* = 1 *décime*). By the time the Tariff of 25 December 1796 came around, *décimes* had obtained the upper hand, and rates were expressed in *décimes*, followed parenthetically by *sous*. Finally, only *décimes* (and *centimes*), at 10 *centimes* = 1 *décime*, were to be used, from the Tariff of 22 March 1800-onward and well into and beyond the mid-19th Century. [From notes by André Peine, in SPAL's "Le Trait-d'Union," N° 92, 1998.]
- **776.)** In September 1939, during the first days of the Second World War, the civilian population of Strasbourg and its suburbs was evacuated to southwestern France and elsewhere. According to SPAL's *Le Trait d'Union* (N° 93, 1998), a few thousand persons stayed behind: employees of the gas, electricity and water and sewer enterprises, police and firemen, and those who would be feeding and caring for them and handling their mail. Apparently, only four post offices remained open. These were Strasbourg-RP, Strasbourg-Place de la Cathédrale (Figure 1), Strasbourg-Gare, and

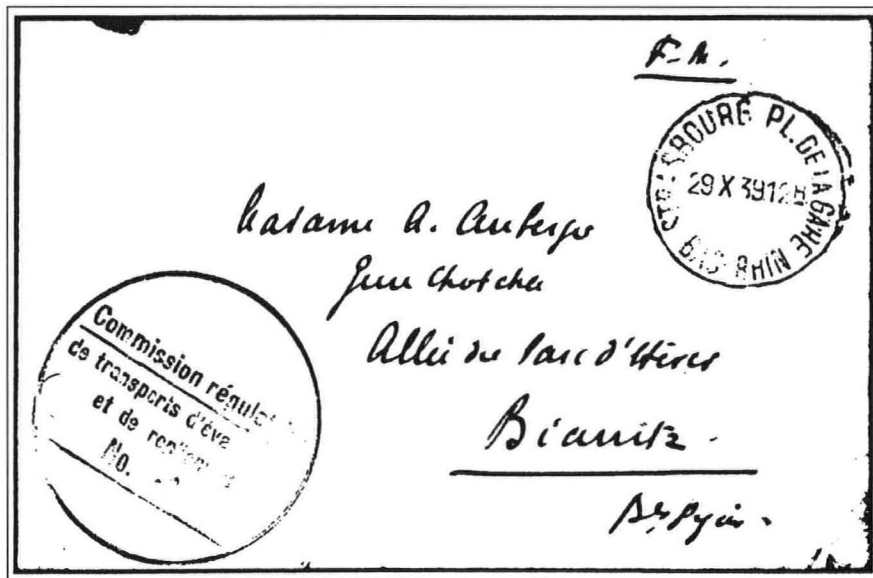
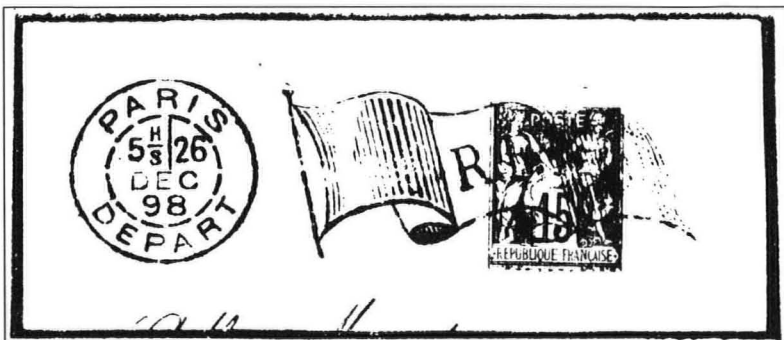


Figure 1.

Rue de Bouxwiller (newly installed in the departmental labor bureau). No examples of this last, temporary bureau have been found. It may be possible that it used the postal marking(s) of Strasbourg-Quai de Paris. Photocopies of mail sent from and to Strasbourg between September 1939 and June 1940 would be highly appreciated. Your editor will forward them to SPAL's president for that society's ongoing study.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- > Steve Walske has been elected to membership in the Académie Européenne d'Etudes Philatéliques et Postales (AEPP), joining several other FCPS members in that prestigious organization.
- > Dave Herendeen is the new second vice president of the American Philatelic Congress.
- > The first French flag (machine) cancels made their appearance on 13 December 1898 (earliest date known) at Paris / Départ (see illustration). A rented US-made Bickerdyke machine was used. The 100th anniversary is commemorated in a nicely illustrated article on the evolution of French flag cancels by Gilbert Laloy, in *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, N° 535, December 1998.



- > Something might well be rotten in the Principality of Monaco. A superabundance of so-called proofs of a number of Monaco souvenir sheetlets have, in recent years, reached the philatelic market. Certain insiders and dealers have reaped enormously obscene profits from their sale. It appears that some of these insiders may be a bit too closely associated with the princely Palace. The affair is under investigation, outside the bounds of the Principality, of course.
- > Looking for a new area of specialization? Perhaps the Heraldic Arms of the provinces (*blasons*) issues might pique your interest. These colorful stamps of the 1940s to 1960s are still relatively inexpensive and available. Less inexpensive though still quite available is a huge array of shades, papers, offset colors, missing colors, offset perforations, *coins datés*, proofs of all sorts, poor impressions, etc., and of course, modern postal history. Jean-Luc Trassaert's richly illustrated serialization in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* (1998-1999) is an attractive guide to what one might look for in these stamps.
- > The 1998 Grand Prix for Philatelic Art was awarded (for France) to the 30F Potez 25 airmail stamp issued 13-15 July and depicted on page 118 of the October 1998 number (N° 254). For the Overseas Territories, it went to the set of four French Polynesia stamps showing necklaces of flowers and seashells [on attractive young ladies, which didn't hurt one bit...] (see illustration p. 63), issued 16 July. A "lemon" award, for worst design, went to the 3,00F Assemblée Nationale stamp issued 24-26 January 1998.
- > Because the runway at Rabat's airport used to be too short for landings and takeoffs by mail-carrying trimotors flying between France and Casablanca, mail sacks had to be dropped off by parachute. According to eyewitness R.-M. Lemesle, writing in *Le Rekkas*, N° 21 (1998), this was the



case back in 1937-1938, and some parachutes failed to open in time, from his estimate of about 200 meters (and less) as the planes' altitude at moment of launching. Check your airmail to Rabat from this period for any evidence of heady air-to-ground contact.

➤ Since July 1983, all 0,20F French definitives have been printed on the RGR

press. Because of the relative stability of postal rates in recent years, this make-up value has had little use. A new printing on the slower TD6 press has recently appeared. The stamps are of the new die type 2 (see page 56, and were printed from *virole* (cylinder) B. Only printing date known thus far is 17 June 1998.

- The later press runs of the 3,50F Marianne de Briat and the first three press runs of the 3,05F Marianne de Luquet had only a single phosphor band, at the left side of the stamp. The fourth press run of the M.de Luquet, however, has two phosphor bands, one on each side. Was this done in error, and which version may eventually become the more "valuable" to collectors?
- Pascal Marziano (in *Marianne*, N° 49, 1998) has outlined a preliminary description and classification of the special papers used in certain printings of the Liberté issues. These printings are presumed to have been trials of better quality than usual stamp paper. Chalky, "Whiley" and laid papers are described, and the various printings and dates are indicated for these papers. I can supply copies of the three-page study (but will make no attempt at translating it into English) for a self-addressed legal size (#10) envelope or one International Reply Coupon (IRC).
- Marziano, in that same number of *Marianne*, describes in detail the three known "types" of counterfeit permanent-value Marianne de Briat stamps that were printed or sold in the Marseille region. This study greatly amplifies the sketchy data presented earlier in our Journal (N° 249, July 1994, p. 96). Again, I can also supply copies of these two pages for a self-addressed #10 envelope or one IRC. Or, if you want both articles, affix 55¢ in return postage or supply two IRCs.
- The 0,30F engraved green République de Cheffer, with 23.1 [January] .69 coin daté, has been found **without** a 15f CFA overprint. This item is from the second part of the first printing, from cylinder F. Have any other dates (21, 22 or 24 January 1969) from this printing also appeared without the overprint?
- A. Le Guillou (in *Bull. SO.CO.CO.DA.MI* N° 115, 1998) notes that a few printings of the current Marianne de Luquet definitives--or parts of those printings--used fluorescent inks. These are (for the time being) the 0,50F, permanent-value (in sheets), and booklets panes for open-face booklets.
- Stamp exhibition programs from 1997 receiving awards from the APS Show Program Critique were those of OKPEX '97, edited by Earle Plyler, and the 1997 Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition, edited by Steve Washburne. Well done!
- There is a small groundswell at this time for a future stamp to honor the late Albert Decaris, noted long-time designer and engraver of French stamps, for the May 2001 hundredth anniversary of his birth.

- > Pierre de Brimont has written a nice little article on the infamous "Batiment de Ligne Richelieu" overprint on the 1F50 brown Petain (and other stamps) that was created in New York during World War II. The article, in *La Marcophilie Navale*, Bull. N° 49, January 1999, is based in large part upon Raoul Lesgor's findings, published in our *FCP* of May-June 1945, and the recent article was published with our blessings. M. de Brimont (who also writes in excellent English) wishes to locate and purchase genuinely (postally) used covers bearing the *Richelieu's* naval cancel on US 3¢ and 6¢ stamps. If anyone has any such to offer, please send photocopies and price desired to him at 32, Ave. Puig del Mas, F-66650 Banyuls-s-Mer, France.
- > Ian McQueen, of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain, gave our Society and Journal a wonderful bit of good publicity in the January 1999 *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*. In reviewing our Journal numbers of July 1996-July 1998, he mentions a number of articles he enjoyed and names some of our authors. Thanks Ian!

REVIEWS

James R. Taylor, *St. Pierre & Miquelon Specialized Stamp Catalog*, 193 pp., 8½ x 11", card cover, plastic comb bound, (1998), ISBN 0-9684229-1-8; \$35 (US) + \$4 (US) packing and postage, Canadian orders add 7% GST; from Penny Black Publishing, 2335 Paliswood Road SW, Calgary, Alberta T2V 3P8, Canada.

This apparently first-ever in-depth catalog of the postage stamps of the islands is the work of a long-time specialist and exhibitor of the material, and the current editor of the *St. Pierre & Miquelon Journal*.

An excellent introductory chapter (pp. 6-15) defined the abbreviations and symbols used here, and includes definitions and explanations of such specialty items as *millésimes*, and die and plate proofs. Although the author tries to limit catalog coverage to postage stamps and booklets, postal stationery, and first day/first flight/special events covers, he includes (pp. 16-21) a handy section on Colonies General Issues that were used in St. P & M, and their cancellations. The data presented basically came from R. G. Stone's studies. Forgeries are noted.

The catalog proper begins (p. 22) with the 1885 surcharges. This, and several later sections that also deal with overprinted issues, arguably are the strongest, most detailed and most important parts of the catalog. I did find the juxtaposition of Colonies General Issues *designs* (denoted by arabic numerals) with *overprint type* (shown by lower case letters) difficult to use, though off-hand I can't think of a better shorthand method.

The order followed is chronological, whereby postage dues, airmail and semi-postal stamps are intermixed with ordinary postage stamps. This presents no real hardship once the reader becomes used to it. Prices are current retail, in US currency. The stories behind the stamps, or at least more descriptive text than can be given in a less specialized catalog, are a plus. Numerous varieties and other goodies are described and many are priced.

Illustrations are in black and white; adequate enough for the intended purpose, though some could be improved by being printed in greater contrast. The catalog ends with an extensive four-page reference and bibliographic list. The latter covers more than a hundred years of philatelic study, and Bob Stone and our Journal are well represented. Whenever possible, the author double-checked his facts with other specialists, as per the numerous references to them. A brief one-page French-English philatelic glossary is appended.

I did not check for typographical errors but they seem to be exceedingly scarce; *couleurs* is misspelled on page 13. An exemplary explanation of abbreviations and symbols occupies page 8 but, because it breaks up the text, it should have been either boxed or set in different type (or both). One more thing for the next edition: I would like to see the individual stamps' categories (i.e., Airmail, Airmail semi-postal, Postage due, etc.) shown in bold face; sort of a sop to users more comfortable with the more traditional catalog arrangements.

This has been a great and exhaustive job well done! With coverage ending in May 1998, there will be, as the author currently plans, supplements issued at intervals. Perhaps, there should also be future revised, enlarged and updated editions. In the meanwhile, Taylor's catalog is simply a must for anyone who wishes to be, or considers himself to be, a specialist collector of St. Pierre & Miquelon.

-- S. J. Luft

St. Pierre and Miquelon Philatelic Journal--The First Four Years; 68 pp., 8½ x 11", plastic comb bound, illustrated; \$10(US) + \$2(US) postage; within Canada, \$15 + \$3 postage + \$1.26 GST (= \$19.26 Canadian); elsewhere \$10 (US) + \$5(US) postage; from Penny Black Publishing, 2335 Paliswood Road SW, Calgary, Alberta T2V 3P6, Canada.

The St. Pierre & Miquelon Philatelic Society was founded in late 1993 as the St. Pierre & Miquelon Philatelic Study Group. The first issue of its *St. Pierre & Miquelon Journal* (now with *Philatelic* inserted before *Journal*) came out in late 1994, under the editorship of Everett Parker and the presidency of founder David Salovey.

This slim volume consists of very little else than reprints of the 1994-1998 back issues of the *Journal*, totaling 64 pages, and is intended for newer and potential members who would otherwise lack access to these back issues (which were apparently only printed on demand). As such, it is recommended to a rather limited audience. The booklet concludes with an application for membership to the Society, a map and an English-French glossary, both of which come from Taylor's Specialized Catalog (reviewed above), and a publications order form. Pages 42 and 44 (of the July 1997 number) are transposed in my copy.

Generally lacking in substance, the contents consist in large part of travel-ogues and World War II history. The "deeper" material consists mainly of reprints of older articles from other journals, though there are some good original, short articles by FCPS member Bob Beaune and by the present editor, Jim Taylor. True, it must be difficult to fill 16 pages per year with good, solid information, philatelic and otherwise, on these tiny islands. It appears that the society's new leadership is both willing and able to rise to the challenge.

-- S. J. Luft

Jerold M. Massler, *Revenue Stamped Paper and Fiscal Adhesives Used in the Principality of Monaco*, © 1996, x+154pp., softbound, A4 format, bilingual English and French (except catalog listings in English only), profusely illustrated, US \$40, from author, Apartado de Correos 545, 41080 Seville, Spain.

The book, resulting from over twenty years of study, starts with a brief history of the country, pp. IV-VII, particularly pertinent because it explains what other countries' revenue stamped paper was used in Monaco, and at which times. The introduction (p. X in French, p. 1 in English) justifies the arrangement and states that prices are in French francs, even though a French reviewer claimed that the author forgot to mention that.

The main part of the book consists of three parts, revenue stamped paper, fiscal adhesives (divided into 7 types, of which type 6 appears to be a catch-all, containing Miscellaneous and Non-Adopted Designs, foreign stamps used in Monaco, as well as fakes and forgeries), cancels and official handstamps. These are followed by an index, philatelic societies and sources of information, and a bibliography. Page 2 is taken up by a royal decree, said to date from 1636 even though the printed date is clearly 1637. Both might be correct, i.e., the decree is from 15 December 1636, but it was not printed until early the next year.

Part 1 is full of interesting history of the origin and uses of revenue papers from the 17th century to date, again showing the parallelism between fiscal and postal history.

An oddity in part 2 is the use of a 10-centimes fiscal stamp to pay part of the 50-centimes total postage of a registered cover sent to Shanghai in 1894, apparently both authentic and philatelic - another parallelism. Authorized postal markings are discussed on page 120.

Paper and proof-reading are good; printing is clear, the type legible and the text readable; the binding will not stand up to continued use. The author has provided a very useful work, bringing monégasque fiscal lore within the grasp of English-speaking philatelists and also appreciated by French-speaking ones. It received a gold medal at the Lisbon show in 1998. The Principality has been culturally enriched by this book, recommended to specialists and to all who wish to broaden their horizons. -- E. M. Cohn

Anon., *Le Symposium d'Histoire Postale Luxembourg 98*, 80 pp. (numbered 37-116), hardbound 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ x8 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", 15 summaries of 14 authors' presentations in English, French, or German, profusely illustrated (mostly in color), tables, lists, maps. Excerpted from exhibition catalog, sponsored by SOLUPHIL, B.P. 2675, L-1026, Luxembourg, LUXEMBOURG, which should be contacted for availability.

A committee of the International Postal History Fellowship (IPHF), Luxembourg Post & Telegraph, and SOLUPHIL S.A. organized this symposium in collaboration with JUVALUX 98, the Académie Européenne d'Études Philatéliques et Postales, and the Académie de Philatélie de Lorraine. It was chaired by James Van der Linden on 19-21 June and covered European and USA postal history up to 1910 (listing on page 39). At the same time, most of the presentors and two additional exhibitors showed in a 'salon du symposium,' with a separate section on Luxembourg postal history (details on page 103), all colored illustrations of covers here.

Authors' names, well known to postal historians, and titles of their presentations, each in the author's language of choice, are listed after a trilingual introduction. Among highlights are two presentations about insufficiently franked mail, the former sent between France and abroad, the latter between Germany and USA. One of the most detailed abstracts, on steamship mails USA-France, includes three pages of clearly reproduced postal markings. The greatest attraction of the booklet are the many color illustrations of truly rare covers, with and without stamps, some uniquely documenting exceptional means of transportation.

Truly useful philatelic reviews and original research are unusual in show catalogs, which is why the textual material, occasional containing major faults, is hardly ever worth reviewing. This is one of the positive exceptions, and such deserving sections should be reprinted more often. That is surely one of the cheapest ways of making philatelic literature available, because the major costs of printing have already been absorbed by the show itself. The externalities of this little book — proofing, paper, quality of illustrative mat-

ter, printing, binding — are tops, as is to be expected from show catalogs. (It would be useful if some European philatelic printers finally learned that serifed letters are *much* easier to read than sans-serif; it costs no more to use them.)

The book is highly recommended to postal historians — a feast for the eyes!
-- E. M. Cohn

Jean-Louis Benereau, *Les Timbres au Type Semeuse*; 96 pp., 4 x 5¾", soft-bound, (1995), numerous black-and-white illustrations; published by CARTO, 51 rue de Genève, F-16000 Angoulême, France.

At the very beginning the author states that his work is not intended to replace Pierre Marion's 1974 *Dictionnaire des Semeuses à Types Multiples*. However, for collectors who have some difficulty with French, I find that Benereau's illustrations and explanations are a little easier to follow than those of Marion. He also gives more information about the booklets of the 15c Cameo that were printed on flat-bed presses, which he calls Type I X, and of the 50c lined Sower ones (Type IIB). Benereau adds small pointing hands to illustrations in order to show new discoveries not present in Marion's work.

He further lists all the issues with their release and withdrawal dates, the Caisse d'Amortissement issues, the precancels, *cours d'instruction* (postal employees training stamps), and military franchise (FM) stamps. This simplifies finding a particular stamp. The author devotes five pages to comments about varieties and explains accidental varieties. He also illustrates the Turin and Nice counterfeits. The book concludes with a useful one-page bibliography.

I happened to pick up this book for 100 Fr on the Rue Drouot and do not know if it's still available from the publisher. If it is available (and a book published in 1995 may well be), I recommend it as a supplement to, or as a useful substitute for, the Marion work.
-- R. L. Gaillaguet

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

France

- 7 December 1998: Saint-Exupéry's "The Little Prince" se-tenant strip of five 3,00F stamps+ PHILEXFRANCE '99 labels;
- 10 (11) December: Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man, two at 3,00F;
- 15 (16) December: 3,00F Cent. Of Discovery of Radium;
- 1 (2) January 1999: 15F booklet of five 3,00F stamps in two designs, for 150 years of French stamps;
- 1 (4) January: Euro logo 0,46 € / 3,00F;
- 9 (11) January: 3,00F Cent. of Paris public-assistance hospitals;
- 24 (25) January: 4,40F 50th Anniv. of Franco-Israel diplomatic relations;
- 6 (7) February: 30F booklet of ten self-adhesive Euro (0,46 € / 3,00F) stamps;
- 6 (8) February: 30F booklet of ten self-adhesive, **heart-shaped** 3,00F (two designs) Valentine Day stamps; same two stamps in gummed sheets;
- 13 (15) February: 6,70F Art of Jean Goujon;
- 20 (22) February: 3,00F National Census;
- 27 February (1 March): 4,40F Cultural patrimony of Lebanon (mosaic of Europa and the Bull);
- 6 (8) March: Stamp Day 1999: cartoon character Astérix 3,00F + 0,60F; same in 22,80F booklet of four stamps at 3,00F and three at 3,00F + 0,60F;
- 20 (22) March: Congratulations and Thanks stamps, four at 3,00F;
- 25 (26) March: PHILEXFRANCE '99 sheetlet of three stamps showing art masterpieces at 5F, 10F and 10F, sold at 50F to benefit French philately and the exhibition;



- > 27 (29) March: 3,00F Elections (for 13 June 1999) to the European Parliament.

Withdrawals: 6 November 1998: 6,70F Delacroix, 3,00F Abolition of Slavery, 3,00F Noirmoutier, 4,40 F League of the Rights of Man, 4,50F Henri Collet; 11 December: 6,70 Art of Picasso, 3,00F Philatelic Congress at Dunkirk, 3,00F Mont St.-Michel, 3,00F EUROPA 98 (Music festivals), 3,00F Mouth of the Somme, 3,00F Chateau de Crussol; 31 December 1998: all issues relating to the World Football Cup (including the two round stamps).

Andorra

- > 14 (16) November 1998: 3,00F France winner of World Football Cup;
- > 17 (19) November: 3,00F Inauguration of the Postal Museum;
- > 5 (7) December: 3,80F 250th Anniv. of the "Manual Digest";
- > 16 (18) January 1999: Arms of Commune of La Massana permanent-value stamps in booklet of ten.

Withdrawals: 11 December 1998: triptych of St. Iscle and St. Victoria + label + St. Pierre d'Aixirival; 3,00F juggler; 12 February 1999: "Per Molt Anys"; FRANCE 98 World Cup and France winner of the Cup.



French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF):



- > January 1999: 1,00F epidote; 2,70F "jugular" penguin; 3,00F penguin colony on Crozet I.; 3,00F Pierre Sicaud; 4,00F J.-A. Martin; 5,20F stingray; 5,20F naval vessel "Floréal"; 8,00F "PopChat" program; 15,00F artificial albatross nests; 24,00F *Festuca contracta* (plant); 29,20F "Geoleta" program; 24,00F + label + 3,00F triptych for 50th Anniv. of Kerguelen and Amsterdam bases.

Withdrawals: 31 December 1998: all January 1998 issues.

French Polynesia

- > Late 1998: Reprinted 0,10F, 0,20F and 10F Official stamps;
- > 5 November: Autumn 1998 Philatelic Salon, Paris: Tahiti beach scenes 250F + label + 250F triptych;
- > 10 December 1998: Scenes of daily Polynesian life 70F, 100F, 102F, 110F.

Withdrawals: 31 December 1998: Painters of Polynesia (4 stamps), 600F Gauguin (Autumn Philatelic Salon); 118F Children's Noël in Polynesia; Heiva dance costumes (3 stamps).

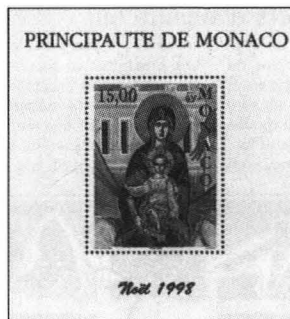
Mayotte

- > [Issue dates for Mariama Salim, Fishing at Djarifa, and Emperor fish changed to 3 October, 5 November, and 7 November 1998, respectively];
- > 18 (21) December 1998: 3,00F Le Chombo (general-purpose cutting/tilling/pruning tool);
- > 2 January 1999: M. de Luquet 0,10F, 0,20F, 0,50F, 1,00F, 2,00F, 5F and 10F overprinted MAYOTTE;

Withdrawals: 31 December 1998: 2,70F Ylong-ylang flower; 20F inauguration of airport terminal; 5,20F Dzen-dzé; 3,80F "Le Banga"; all M. de Briat stamps overprinted MAYOTTE.

Monaco

- > 23 October 1998: 4,90F ITALIA 98 Exposition, Milan;
- > 26 October: Noël 1998 3,00F 6,70F, and sheetlet with one 15F stamp;
- > 20 November: Prince Rainier permanent-value definitives: green (= 2,70F), red (= 3,00F), blue (= 3,80F); 2,70F Festival of the Circus; 10F Grimaldi Seamount (bathymetric map); 25F Prince Rainier jubilee sheetlet;
- > 18 January 1999: 3,00F MONACO 99 philatelic exposition; 3,80F 39th TV festival; 4,00F international



dog show (cocker spaniels); 4,40F Geneva Conventions (1949-1999); 4,50F international bouquet competition.

New Caledonia

- [Dates of stamps previously reported as issued 5 and 21 October and 5 November 1998 changed to 4 and 20 October and 4 November 1998, respectively];
- 6 November 1998: [revised date for the two 100F regional landscape stamps];
- 27 November: 40th Anniv. of the Posts and Telecommunications Office (OPT): two at 70F + label;
- 1 December: 130F 20th Anniv. of sinking of "La Monique"; Christmas and other Greetings, 100F (x four).



Withdrawals: 31 December 1998:

250F First Melanesian prefect; 95F and 95F First commercial airmail service; 65F and 65F horse racing; 150F Election of first Melanesians; 95F early view of Port de France; 100F and 200F seahorses; 95F and 100F Noël 1997; 100F (x three) Arts of the South Pacific.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 11 November 1998: 3,80F Monument to the Dead of the World Wars;
- 18 November: 3,00F Noël 1998;
- 6 (11) January 1999: 3,00F Prof. Emile Letournel.

Withdrawals: 31 December 1998: all M. de Briat stamps and booklet that were overprinted for the islands; 8 January 1999: The Drum and its House; 12 February: 5,20F curling; 20F "aviation et aeromodelisme" -- which I don't recall as having been issued...



Wallis & Futuna

Withdrawals: 31 December 1998: 130F Hechifo airstrip; 35F Berlin Handicapped Sports; 160F Avignon Festival; 300F sunset over lagoon; 24F karate at Wallis; Autumn Philatelic Salon 350F and 1000F sheetlet; 800F death anniv. of Marshal Leclerc; 5F campaign against AIDS; 710F Alphonse Daudet; 85F The Nativity at Wallis & Futuna.

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1998

Total Membership as of January 1, 1998:	619
Total New Members for the Year of 1998:.....	27
Total Reinstatements for the Year 1998:.....	15
	42
Resignations Received for the Year 1998:	15
Total Deceased Members for the Year 1998:	4
Members Dropped for Non Payment of Dues, 1998:	41
Members Undeliverable as Addressed, 1998:	0
	60
Net Membership Gain for the Year of 1998:	0
Net Membership Loss of the Year of 1998:.....	19
Total Membership as of December 31, 1998:	600

TREASURER'S REPORT

FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC.

1/1/98 THROUGH 12/31/98

INFLWS

Dues-Income:	
1998	7,057.00
TOTAL Dues-Income	7,057.00
Int. Inc.	774.88
Publications	
Back Issues	36.00
Bordeaux	29.00
Commune	32.00
Depts Cinquis	5.00
Gabon-Congo	15.00
General Issues	19.00
Glossary	24.00
Index	100.00
Lozenges	21.00
Luft III	10.00
Transport Marks	20.00
TOTAL Publications	311.00

TOTAL INFLWS	8,142.88
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OUTFLOWS

Ads	312.00
Bad Check	16.00
Gifts	69.50
Meetings	105.81
Obituary	327.60
Philatelist:	
Editor	423.40
Labels	306.58
Magazine	5,746.24
TOTAL Philatelist	6,476.22

Secretary:	
Corresponding	551.94
TOTAL Secretary	551.94

TOTAL OUTFLOWS	7,859.07
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OVERALL TOTAL	283.81
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ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts	
F&C Saving	23,906.33
F&C Cash	0.00
F&C Checking	3,397.90
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	27,304.23

TOTAL ASSETS	27,304.23
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES	
Other Liabilities	
Prepaid Dues	4,725.00
Spiegel Fund	1,173.29
Vaurie Fund	17,467.23
TOTAL Other Liabilities	23,365.52

TOTAL LIABILITIES	23,365.52
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EQUITY	3,938.71
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	27,304.23
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Respectfully submitted, William W. Wallis, Treasurer
3/1/1999

MEETING OF 1 DECEMBER 1998

President Stevens noted that we will be having a dinner/exhibition in Ira Zweifach's memory at our meeting on April 6, 1999. A note from Dick on the matter is in the January issue.

Tonight's program was provided by the members in attendance with everyone making a contribution. Walter Parshall began with a reprint of a 1708 engraving detailing the history and geography of the Savoy region of France, with information on the local government, an overall map and a map of the city of Turin — a walled city in the Savoy. John Lievsay followed with his collection of souvenirs of the show in Milan from earlier this year. The show featured postal history, thematics and aerophilately. A special show catalog featured color illustrations of key items from each of the exhibits. In addition, John presented the following items gathered at the show; an illustrated briefcase, a tie, a model of the cathedral, a watch, a CD-ROM of

Spanish stamps, souvenir sheets and blocks of stamps. To get many of these items, one needs to be on the jury or a commissioner. The show awards featured a \$5K computer and two Vespa motorcycles.

Other items shown included two transatlantic discoveries by Martin Stempien and some Salonica Front material by President Stevens, featuring material from the French aeronautical unit at the front from a new correspondence to a Mme Perrin de Brichambaut in St. Nicolas du Port. One of the latter items had a new type of the ESC/DRILLE F 399 handstamp on a letter franked with a 35c Sower prepaying the registered rate (10c for postage and 25c for registry). Marc Martin presented a selection of French newspaper stamps on the original newspapers, as well as some of the regular issues so used. Yours truly concluded with a Saint Pierre & Miquelon cover that will be the subject of a forthcoming article.

-- Ed Grabowski

MEETING OF 5 JANUARY 1999

A small group of the "usual suspects" greeted the New Year for an evening of Show and Tell. Marc Martin began things with a front illustrating the large triangular provisional handstamp used at Noumea, New Caledonia in April 1876. What made this one most unusual was that it was posted to Nova Scotia via London. It bore a French manuscript 15 in red, and an English 1 1/2 indicating the appropriate charges en route. He followed with a 1912 cover franked with 65 centimes in Sowers with the large octagonal cancel of the Bordeaux-Colon Packet Line. It was a registered letter, and the registry label bore the very rare **BORDEAUX-COLON** straight line handstamp. I have not seen one such before.

Dick Stevens followed with a Serbian Front post card sent from Chicago to Salonika in 1917 bearing all proper markings. It was to Postal Sector XVI, and a wonderful example of a prisoner-of-war free-frank. Walter Parshall followed with an 1873 letter franked with a total of 1F of Cérés issues posted from the office at Shanghai bearing a bold 5104 strike of that office. Yours truly concluded with a Paris letter franked in 1898 with a 15c Indochina Group Type stamp, which was rejected by the post office as invalid, and the letter was charged 30c due.

-- Ed Grabowski

MEETING OF 2 FEBRUARY 1998

Philatelic Phil saw his shadow this morning, so it looks like another six weeks of fruitless hunting for material at local bourses. The regulars gathered at this evening's meeting for another session of show-and-tell. Honors went to Marc Martin, for showing us that there is still life in stamp collecting. With all of the postal history that we have been seeing lately, Marc decided to bring the introductory pages to his Madagascar stamp collection along. This is an almost complete showing of early Madagascar, with the early overprints on the Dubois and Sage issues, a wonderful grouping of the ellipse overprints (look at those catalog values!), and a strong assembly of the overprints and their varieties on the Group Type issues. A few of the 1904 bisects were shown on piece and cover, but the cover highlight was a strip of three of Yvert N° 5 on a triple weight local letter from Tamatave posted 12 April 1894.

John Lievsay highlighted the French Classics with the discovery copy of the 25c Cérés Type III tête-bêche from the April 1873 new plate printing. John saw it in a French sale a few years ago, and placed an appropriate bid. Apparently its rarity was not really appreciated by the house, and John received a phone call questioning the amount of his bid. He noted his bid was correct, and hence he got the item somewhat under his top price. Martin "Stamplless" Stempien presented a January 1875 due transatlantic letter from the US to France from the second Franco-American treaty period. The letter was at the second weight level and bore a 1F25c red due handstamp. Neither Martin nor his correspondent Jeff Bohn had seen many examples of this before. Indeed this has proven to be only the second recorded. Both Martin and Jeff bid the same amount in the sale in which it appeared, but Martin's bid arrived first! Dick Stevens concluded by showing his first internet purchase. It was a Martinique censored cover from 1944 at the air mail rate to the USA. The censor tape used had various printed inscriptions, and was apparently from a commercial firm. The tape had been pressed into service by the post office which apparently had a shortage of such.

-- Ed Grabowski

NEW MEMBERS

- 3185 GRUBB, STEPHEN C., 8812 Lakewood Road, Baltimore, MD 21234. (General Collector: 20th Century. Topical: Cultural Pictorials - Ethnic Pictorials. General France: Used. All Colonies And Territories.)
- 3186 ARMSTRONG, R.W., 6414 129th Ave., S.E., Bellevue, WA 98006-4024. (Postally Used Semi-Postals. French Community: Offices Abroad - CFA Issues. Colonies General Issues: Used - On Cover. All Colonies And Territories. Cancels And Postal History: Independent Republics. Exchange. (Limited To Current Material Only. Postally Used.)
- 3187 MAYNE, E. J., 41 The Wheatlands, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 5BD, Endland. (Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used. Group Type. All Colonies And Territories. Cancels. Togo 1914-1924.)
- 3188 NELSON, RICHARD A., 8952 Darnel Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55347. (General France: Mint - Used. Specialized France: Postal History: Military Posts - Used Abroad. Special Issues: Dues - Revenues - Proofs And Color Trials. French Community: Offices Abroad - CFA Issues. Andore. Monaco. Colonies General Issues: Mint Used. Colonial Provisionals. All Colonies And Territories.)
- 3189 MALOUF, DR. MICHAEL W.K., 1353 Windy Hill Rd., McLean, VA 22102-2803. (Levant (Lebanon - Syria - Rouad - Alaouites - Lattakia - Alexandrette North Africa. Philatelic Literature. Revenue Aspects Of The Levant Countries.)

- 3190 CHARRON, JACQUES, 30 Boul. Quinn - Apt. 402, Longueuil, Quebec, J4H 4B3 Canada. (Stampless Covers. Marques Postales. Pre-Stamp (January 1849 Covers Only.)
- 3191 UTTER, CHRISTOPHER G., 2205 Quinn Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95051-1840. (General France: Mint - Used.)
- 3192 MATHESON, HUGH, 4770 Bethel Creek Rd., Vero Beach, FL 32963. (General Collector: All Issues General France: Mint - Used. Stampless Covers. Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used. Andorre. Monaco. All Colonies And Territories.)
- 3193 KLEMP, WALTER, 4211 Bayview Drive, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308-5811. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used.)
- 3194 CARON, MAURICE, 815 De Lorraine, Longueuil, Quebec, J4H 3R6 Canada. (Topical: Papermaking, Knights Of Malta. General France: Used. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Used - On Cover. - Cancellations. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Blanc, Mouchon & Merson Types. French Community: Offices Abroad. Dealer: Auctions. Exchange.)
- 3195 POTCHIE, LEVERN E., 2850 N. Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210. (General France: Used. Proofs And Color; Colonies General Issues: Used. All Colonies And Territories.)

REINSTATEMENT

- 3162 EUBANKS, RUSSELL A., 408 West Water Street, Pinckneyville, IL 62274. (Already In Philatelist.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 765 VAN DAM, THEODORE, 2366 Edgewater Terrace, Los Angeles, CA 90039.
- 1136 BALCH, STEVEN A., M.D., 13850 Mango Dr., Delmar, CA 92014.
- 2955 KARNES, JOHN P., P.O. Box 83, New Castle, PA 16103-0083. (Box No. Change)
- 1781 SCHUMACHER, MARK, 821 Idlewood Dr., Greensboro, NC 27408-8717.
- 3184 HARTWELL, SIR RODNEY, KtB(Y) C/O The Augustan Society, Inc., Post Office Box 75, Daggett, CA 92327-0075.
- 3111 FERGUSON, LELAND, (Change of Zip Code To 29016).
- 3046 BJON, JEAN-PIERRE A., 47 Calais Circle, Kirkland, Quebec, Canada H9H 3RZ.
- 1100 CYR, HENRY BRUCE, Wetumpka, AL 36093-3304. (New Zip Code).
- 2814 LALLEVEE, THIERRY, Lugdunum Philatélie, 39 Av. M. Jarresson - BP 87, F-69110 STE. FOY-Les-Lyon, France.
- 2041 KUNKEL, JOSEPH, 724 Greene St., Apt. 1318, Augusta, GA 30901-2345.
- 2931 ANDERSON, W. MARK III, 2068 Myrtlewood Dr., Montgomery, AL 36111.
- 1701 KAPPEL, ROBERT G.W., Post Office Box 806, Loma Linda, CA 92354.
- 1788 BOIKESS, ROBERT S. Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1SD, England (Correction Of Post Code).
- 2642 REGELIN, CLINTON D., 7400 Crestway - Apt. 1107, San Antonio, TX 78239-3095. (Apt. No. Change To #1107).
- 3122 FROHNE, BERNHARD W. 5630 Gibson Hill Road, Edinboro, PA 16412-1817 (Zip Code Change).

RESIGNATIONS

- | | | | | | |
|------|---------------------|------|------------------------|------|----------------|
| 2784 | KNUTSON, DR. PHILIP | 2696 | HULING, DUDLEY F. | 2406 | HALLER, MARTIN |
| 3159 | TAYLOR, LYNN R. | 1518 | STILLIONS, CLARENCE A. | | |

DECEASED

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|------------------|
| 3158 | EMERTON, ALVIN | 972 | FRITZ, ALBERT C. |
| 1936 | DRETZKE, DONALS A. | 2343 | GRANT, HUNTLY W. |

DROPPED FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES

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|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| BROWN, LAUREN R. | HIRSTEL, ROBERT | SAWAYA, FUAD |
| DODARO, PAUL E. | KUNKEL, JOSEPH | THEURED, G. JACK |
| DOIG, KENNETH F. | LYKES, J.T. | ANDERSON, ALLEN |
| ELIOTT, KENNETH M., JR. | MARSH, JOHN O. | ARELLANO, REFUGIO, JR. |
| EWELL, ALBERT H., JR. | MASTERS, WILLIAM D. | BALBATON, RICHARD J. |
| FERGUSON, HOMER | NAHRA, JOSEPH A. | BIELLENSTEIN, CARLOS |
| FLANAGAN, ALVA S. | NOREN, M. KEITH | BEAUNE, BOB |
| FRACHON, JEAN-CLAUDE H. | NOSEL, RONALD M. | BOUCHARD, PAUL-ANDRE |
| GOLDBERG, HUGH M. | REENSTJERNA, FREDERICK R. | BROOKS, GORDON |
| HANCOCK, MICHAEL | WILZ, KENNETH J. | KELLY, RAY |
| HEDLEY, FRANK E. | NEWMAN, LOWELL | |

REMOVED FROM MAILING LIST FOR OTHER REASONS

- 2974 SIMIONI, JEAN GEORGES (Undeliverable to P.O. Box)
- 3001 SEWALL, STEVE (Undeliverable as Addressed)
- 3164 TERRY, DAVID L. (Box Closed)