



# France & Colonies Phîlatelist



Vermeil Medals at STAMPSHOW '99 and SESCAL 2000



*The Frederic Chopin stamp of October 1999, as issued at left, and with the sky blue impression completely missing (best seen in center of stamp) at right. (reduced to 67%).*

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# **MORE "TRANSPORTE EXCEPTIONNELLEMENT..." MARKINGS FROM FRENCH AFRICA**

by Paul A. Larsen (FCPS #2493)

Robert G. Stone's *The Diverse World of Postal Markings of Gabon/A.E.F.*, published by our Society back in 1987, shows and describes (pp. 24-25) a number of different "Transporté Exceptionnellement Par Avion" ancillary air-

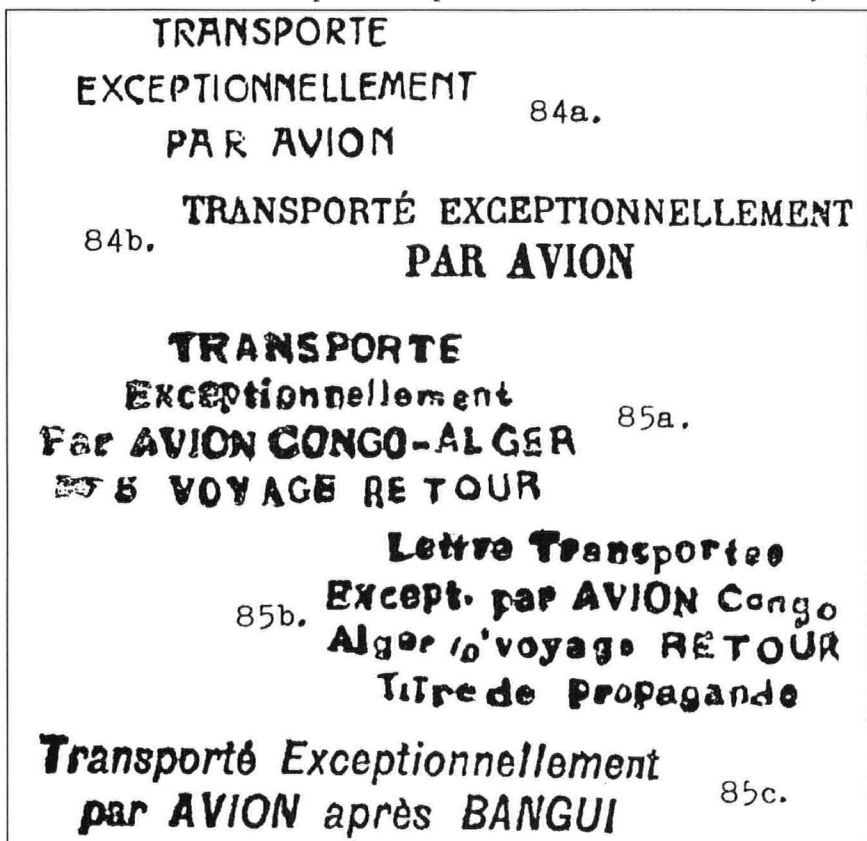


Figure 1.

mail markings (Figure 1). This marking was applied to non-airmail letters that travelled at least part ways by air, the cachet serving to advertise the fact that the developing airmail services could speed one's mail. [Also see Jerry Massler's article on the subject in *FCP*, N° 258, October 1999.]

I show here two 1935 covers, one from Tchad (Figure 2), the other from Niger (Figure 3) that bear such markings. The first (from Ft. Lamy, Tchad, 9 February 1935 to Paris) was endorsed to fly on an Algiers-Congo route. It is identical to Stone's Figure 84a, save for an added final "E" in the first line. I suspect it may be slightly earlier in time to Stone's illustration. The second (Niamey, Niger, 8 May 1935 to Algiers) differs markedly from any shown in Stone's work.

Are there any other variations on this theme out there?

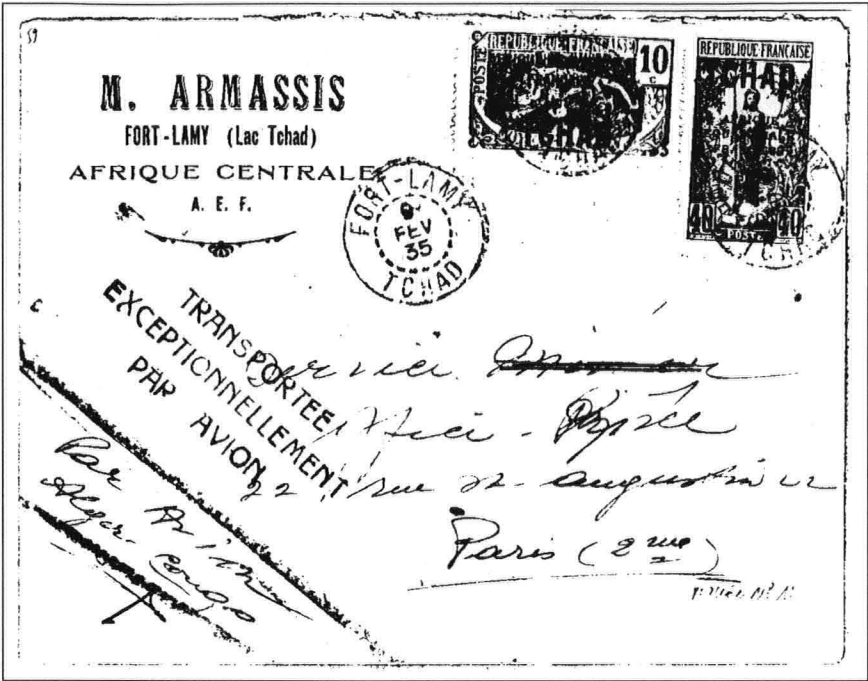


Figure 2.

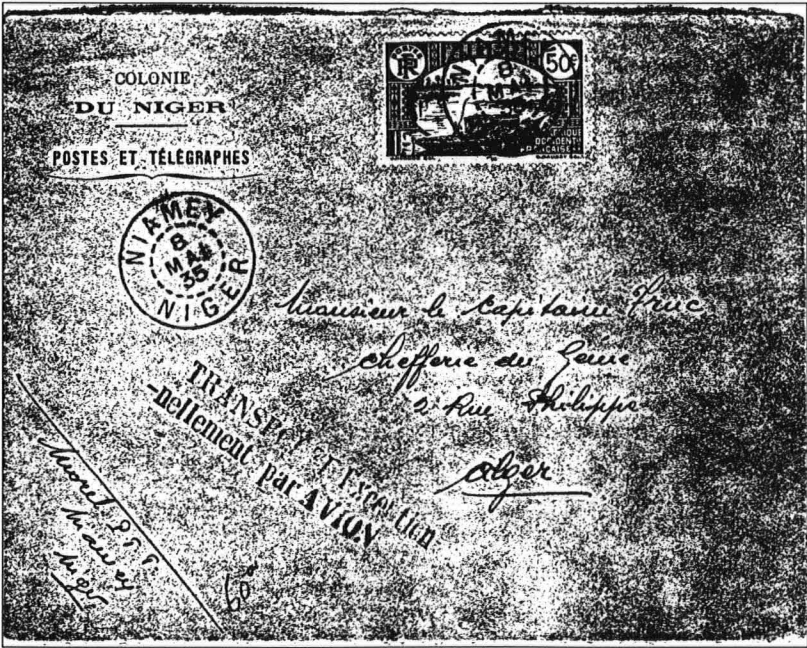


Figure 3. (reduced to 72%).



## THE FIRST FRENCH AIRMAIL STAMP

### The Nancy-Lunéville Flight of 1912

by John H. Bloor (FCPS #2880)

*[Editor's note: This article has been modified slightly from the original version that appeared in the ROMPEX 2000 Show Program.]*

**Introduction.** On the auspicious occasion of the meeting of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society and the American Air Mail Society at ROMPEX 2000, an article combining the interests of both societies seemed an appropriate addition to the Show Program. As a member of both societies, I had the honor and pleasure of being asked to write this and, as the topic, selected the semiofficial airmail (SOA) stamp issued in July, 1912 for the flight from Nancy to Lunéville in northeastern France.

In many catalogues, this adhesive is listed as the *second* SOA issued in France. The first is usually the lovely label issued for the Nantes Aviation Week in August, 1910, which (intentionally) bears a strong resemblance to the famed "Dove" adhesive issued in 1845 by the Swiss Canton of Basel. However, the "airmail flight" at the Nantes air meet consisted of two turns around the field then a return to earth. The flight in 1912 was much more substantial, leading to the opinion that the "second" French SOA was issued for the first actual airmail flight in France. Thus it can be considered France's first airmail stamp.

**Plans for the Flight.** On April 7 and 8 of 1912, over the Easter holiday, the Association of the Friends of Aviation of Nancy held an air show to raise money for *"...the purchase of hangars and ground at Villiers and to benefit military aviation."* M. Chaumet from the P.T.T. (the French postal service) attended this event. He arranged for three bags of mail to be carried from Nancy to Lunéville, a distance of 27 km (about 16.7 miles). Lieutenant Nicaud of the 39<sup>th</sup> R.A., based in the military camp at Verdun, was selected as the pilot. The aircraft to be used was a Farman biplane powered by a Gnome rotary engine. The official announcement of the flight by the Friends of Aviation, Nancy reads in part:

*"M. Chaumet, Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telegraphs, ... on the occasion of the fete in honor of MM. Poincaré, President of the Council and Lebrun, Minister of the Colonies, authorizes the Association of the Friends of Aviation, to perform a trial of air-mail..."*

**The Semiofficial Airmail Stamp.** A special vignette with a face value of 25 centimes was authorized by the P.T.T. for use on mail to be carried on the flight. It was designed by Emile Friant, an artist and member of the Academy of Lorraine. They were printed in slate blue on paper with a slightly bluish tinge in sheets of 25 or 40 (accounts differ). They were perforated 12 x 12 but imperforate essays on card stock are known. Although 50,000 vignettes were printed, only 14,700 were sold for the flight.

The stamp is shown in Figure 1. The aircraft in the center of the design appears to be one of the Antoinette monoplanes designed by Léon Levavasseur. This talented inventor and engineer, illustrated in the center of the card in Figure 2, also constructed the Antoinette aircraft engine, considered to have been a key factor in the success of early European aviation. The passenger (mailman?) seems to stand just aft of the wing, throwing the mail into the air where each letter is caught by a swallow. The birds then apparently carry the mail to the intended recipients. Presumably this is artistic license and not the method of delivery favored by the P.T.T. The largest letter, at the bottom center of the design, is addressed to *"E. Friant/Nancy."* Below the aircraft is the airfield at Jarville, with the towers of Saint-Nicholas-du-



Figure 1.

Port on the left and the Solvay Chemical Works at Varangeville-Dombasle on the right. The money raised by the sale of the vignettes was for the benefit of the scholastic colony at Gentilly.

### The Airmail and the Flight.

According to the rules laid out by the P.T.T., mail posted on July 27 and 28 bearing the special air-mail stamp together with adequate regular postage was taken to the central office in Nancy and date stamped July 28, 1912. It



Figure 2. (reduced to 85%).

was then loaded into the aircraft, carried to Lunéville, and date stamped again there to prove that it was actually flown. Although the flight was scheduled for July 28, because of bad weather it was delayed until July 31. Consequently the receiving stamp date is July 31, 1912 instead of July 28.

An example of a letter from the flight is shown in Figure 3. In addition to the SOA it is franked with a 10 centime Sower paying the internal rate for letters up to 20 grams. Note that it was postmarked at Malzeville at 10:45 a.m., July 28 then again at Nancy at 18:05 the same day. This suggests that it was carried by ground transport from Malzeville to Nancy and probably would have missed the flight if the plane had left as scheduled. The total weight of the mail carried on the flight is reported to be 50 kg (about 110 lbs). By account it consisted of "...about ten thousand letters, post cards and the *East Republican newspaper*..." If this is accurate about one third of the 14,700 vignettes sold may have been saved unused.

The plane took off from Nancy at 7:16 a.m. It landed in Lunéville at 7:33



Figure 3. (reduced to 75%).

a.m. on the Champs de Mars, the exercise field for the cavalry division, where the mail was received by the generals of the garrison. The total elapsed time was 17 minutes at an average speed of 95 kph (about 59 mph).

**The Overprinted Vignettes.** Inasmuch as only 14,700 of the SOAs were sold, there was a balance of 35,300 to be disposed of. Although published accounts state that "the majority" of these were destroyed, some were apparently put into storage. Reportedly in 1914, at the instigation of the Associations des Dames Françaises, remainders were overprinted with a red cross which obliterated the 25 centime value. The overprinted stamps were sold to benefit wounded soldiers. (WWI had begun by this time.)

As noted above some of the SOAs were used on newspaper wrappers (*bandes pour journaux*) for the flight (Figure 4A). A second wrapper, shown in Figure 4B, is franked with an example of the overprinted vignette. Although, by all accounts, this overprint was not added until 1914, the wrapper in Figure 4B has three **1912** postmarks (Nancy, July 28 and 31; and Lunéville, July 31). The postmarks certainly appear genuine (compare with Figure 4A). Unless the red cross overprint is a fake added after the fact, it is possible that some of the overprinting might have been done in 1912, prior to the flight.

**In Conclusion...**As was common with early airmail flights, the flight from Nancy to Lunéville in 1912 was not followed by the establishment of a regular airmail service over this or any other route in France until after World War I. Another pilot, Vedrines, may have carried a bag of mail over the same route in 1913, but no special cachet or cancellation was used making it almost impossible to identify a cover from that flight. France's first official airmail stamps were issued at the International Aviation Exhibition in Marseilles in June, 1927.

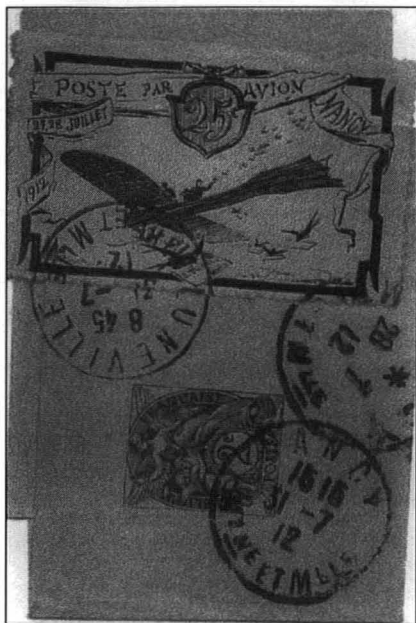


Figure 4a. (reduced to 90%).

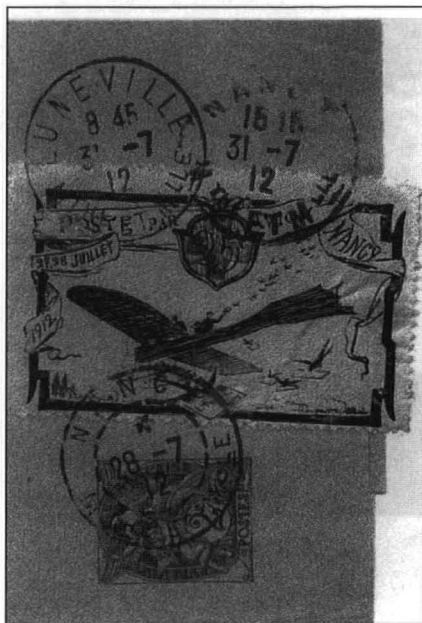


Figure 4b. (reduced to 90%).

## CHRONOLOGICAL PROFILES OF POST OFFICES OF REUNION 1892-1980

by Laurence H. Lambert (FCPS N° #1394)

Several years ago, in the absence of definitive works on the post offices of the French colonies of Africa, I combined several sources into a format useful to me. This format is a tabular one that provides profiles of the existence of each post office through a period of time.

The primary component of these time profiles is the *Dictionnaire des Bureaux de Poste*, published by the Universal Postal Union for the years 1895, 1909, 1926, 1937, and 1951. These dictionaries supposedly list all the post offices of the world, alphabetically, for each year of publication. To obtain the post offices of a single country, one must painstakingly go through the entire list of world post offices, extracting the ones needed. This task consumed untold hours.

It should be borne in mind that the information from the Dictionaries is not error-free. There are some errors and omissions in the Dictionaries themselves. The extractor, myself, probably made a small number of errors as well. It must also be kept in mind that some post offices may have opened, operated for a few years, and closed, without ever having been in existence in any of the years in which a Dictionary was published.

In addition to the UPU Dictionaries, two other sources were used for the table. The 1892 source is *An Alphabetical List of Postoffice Names and Other Words in Postmarks used on the General Issues of French Colonies 1860-1892*, by Robert G. Stone, published as a booklet by FCPS, New York, 1978. The 1980 source is the *France & Colonies Philatelist* of April 1982, p. 79.

In the table that follows, all post offices that appear in any of the seven sources are listed. The dates of the sources appear at the top of the columns.

An 'X' in the various columns indicates that the post office was listed in the source for that year.

POST OFFICE NAME	1892	1895	1909	1926	1937	1951	1980
AVIRONS			X	X	X	X	X
BASSE TERRE							X
BASSE VALLEE							X
BELLEMENE						X	X
BELLEPIERRE							X
BERNICA							X
BOIS DE NEFLES SAINT PAUL				X	X	X	X
BRAS PANON	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
CAMBUSTON			X	X	X	X	X
CILAOS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DOS D'ANE						X	X
ENTRE DEUX	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
ETANG SALE			X	X	X	X	X
ETANG SALE LES BAINS						X	X
GILLOT AEROPORT							X
GRAND BOIS				X	X	X	X
HELL BOURG	X	X		X	X	X	X
(LA) BRETAGNE							X
LA CHALOUPPE				X	X	X	X
LA MONTAGNE						X	X
LA RIVIERE			X	X	X	X	X
LA RIVIERE DU MAT							X
LA RIVIERE DES PLUIES							X
LA SALINE			X	X	X	X	X
LE BRULE				X	X	X	X
LE GUILLAUME				X	X	X	X
(LE) PLATE							X
LE PORT							X
LES LIANES				X			X
(LES) MAXES							X
MONT VERT						X	X
PALMISTE ROUGE							X
PETITE ILE				X	X	X	X
PITON SAINTE ROSE				X	X	X	X
PITON SAINT LEU				X	X	X	X

POST OFFICE NAME	1892	1895	1909	1926	1937	1951	1980
PLAINE DES CAFRES					X	X	X
PLAINE DES PALMISTES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
POINTE DES GALETS	X	X	X	X	X	X	
PONT D'YVES							X
POSSESSION	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
RAVINE DES CABRIS				X	X	X	X
RIVIERE DES GALETS						X	X
SALAZIE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SAINT ANDRE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SAINT ANNE		X	X	X	X	X	X
SAINT BENOIT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SAINT CLOTILDE					X	X	X
SAINT CLOTILDE ANNEXE 1							X
SAINT DENIS	X	X	X	X	X	X	
SAINT DENIS R.P.							X
SAINT DENIS R.P. ANNEXE 1							X
SAINT FRANCOIS						X	X
SAINT GERMAIN						X	
SAINT GILLES LES BAINS				X	X	X	X
SAINT GILLES LES HAUTS	X		X	X	X	X	X
SAINT JOSEPH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SAINT LEU	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SAINT LOUIS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SAINT MARIE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SAINT PAUL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SAINT PHILIPPE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SAINT PIERRE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SAINT ROSE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SAINT SUZANNE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TAMPON	X		X	X	X	X	X
TAN ROUGE							X
TERRE SAINTE							X
TROIS BASSINS			X	X	X	X	X
VINCENDO					X	X	X



### Notes on Variations in the Names of the Post Offices, and other pertinent Remarks

- AVIRONS --- Listed as LES AVIRONS in 1909 and 1980 references.  
 BOIS DE NEFLES SAINT PAUL --- Listed simply as BOIS DE NEFLES in 1937 reference.  
 DOS D'ANE --- Listed as (LE) DOS D'ANE in 1980 reference.  
 ETANG SALE --- Listed as L'ETANG SALE in 1980 reference.  
 ETANG SALE LES BAINS --- Listed as (L') ETANG SALE LES BAINS in 1980.  
 GRAND BOIS --- Listed as GRANDS BOIS in 1937 and 1951.  
 HELL BOURG --- This post office was omitted from the 1909 reference work.  
     This was probably due to an error, rather than to a temporary closing of the post office.  
 (LA) BRETAGNE --- The only listing, 1980, shows the first word in parenthesis.  
 LE BRULE --- Listed as (LE) BEULE in 1980 reference.  
 LE GUILLAUME --- Listed as GUILLAUME in 1937.  
 (LE) PLATE --- See note for (LA) BRETAGNE.  
 LES LIANES --- Listed as (LES) LIANES in 1980 source.  
 (LES) MAXES --- See note for (LA) BRETAGNE.  
 PETITE ILE --- Listed as PETITE ILE (SAINT PIERRE) in 1926 source.  
 PITON SAINTE ROSE --- Listed as LE PITON SAINTE ROSE in 1980.  
 PITON SAINT LEU --- Listed as LE PITON SAINT LEU in 1980 source.  
 PLAINE DES CAFRES --- Listed as LA PLAINE DES CAFRES in 1980.  
 POSSESSION --- Listed as LA POSSESSION in 1909 and 1980 sources.  
 RIVIERE DES GALETS --- Listed as LA RIVIERE DES GALETS in 1980.  
 SAINT, SAINTE --- There are many cases in which these two words appear as part of the names of post offices. The author is not able to determine when, or if, abbreviations (ST., STE.) appear on the actual postal cachets.  
 SAINT GILLES LES HAUTS --- Listed as SAINT GILLES in the 1892 and 1909 references. Its omission in 1895 is not explained. The original post office SAINT GILLES might have been located at "LES BAINS," rather than as shown in the table.  
 TAMPON --- Listed as LE TAMPON in 1980. Its omission in 1895 cannot be explained.  
 TROIS BASSINS --- Listed as LES TROIS BASSINS in 1980 reference.

*[NDLR: A similar, joint effort by members Bill Mitchell and Larry Lambert, on the post offices of French West Africa, appeared in the March 2000 "Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society" [of Great Britain]].*

## FOREIGN RATES FROM THE FRENCH POST OFFICES IN EGYPT, 1871-1875

by Peter A. S. Smith (FCPS #2348)

The work by Alexandre, et al<sup>1</sup> on French postal rates treats the subject from the standpoint of mail sent from France. Although the rates are the same in the reverse direction, from French Colonies and Offices Abroad back to France, the rates from Colonies and Offices to countries other than France are not given. Most mail from the Colonies and Offices is addressed to France, but that can vary with the point of origin. Especially with the French Offices in Egypt, a significant quantity of mail carried by the French post offices is addressed to other European countries, especially to northern Italy and Switzerland, followed by Great Britain, and then other European countries.

Although the rates to other European countries other than France must be recorded in the French postal archives, they are not available to me. This article is therefore an attempt to deduce the rates from covers. I have made an informal survey of major American and British auction catalogs of the past 50 years, looking for illustrations of covers that show the address (or for which the destination is given in the description). Inasmuch as covers from the French post office in Alexandria are fairly common, until recently they usually went unillustrated, and often in lots with more than one cover. The offices in Port Said are less common, and Suez is even rarer; such covers are more frequently illustrated in full. The list of covers with complete information for the period 1871-1875 is thus short, but I think it suffices.

Date	Franking	Routing	Destination
1 Jan. 1871	1.20 centimes		
1871	60c		to Genoa
1871?	60c		to Europe other than France
1872	60c		Port Said to London
1873	60c	via Marseille	to London
17 Mar. 1873	60c		to Livorno
Nov. 1873	60c	via Marseille	to London
Aug. 1874	60c		to Switzerland
Nov. 1874	1.20c		Port Said to Guernsey
Dec. 1874	60c	B.M.	to Switzerland
1875	60c		to Denmark
4 Jan. 1875	60c		to Livorno
6 Jan. 1875	60c	French packet	to Livorno
11 May 1875	60c	via Marseille	to Switzerland
June 1875	60c	via Marseille	to Switzerland (Figure 2)
12 Sep. 1875	60c		to Switzerland



Additionally, many other covers of the period were routed via Brindisi and British packets. These went by the train from Brindisi and over the Mont Cenis Pass (later by tunnel), at a special rate of 1.20 centimes of France. A different date stamp was used; instead of reading ALEXANDRIE / EGYPTE, it read PAQ.ANGL. / ALEXANDRIE. I mention this only because such covers might be mistaken for double-weight letters at a rate of 60c, which they are not.

Two generalizations emerge from this survey. The rate from the French post offices in Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said, and Suez appear to be the same. Letters destined for (and from) France were uniformly paid at the rate of 80 centimes per 10 grams (Figure 1), whereas letters to other European coun-



Figure 1. Cover illustrating the 80-centimes rate between France and Alexandria. Posted at Versailles on 28 Aug. 1873 to the sugar refinery at Abu Qerqas, Upper Egypt; properly franked 80c for the journey to Alexandria. An Egyptian 2 piasters stamp was applied in France and cancelled there, to prepay the inland postage to Upper Egypt. (reduced to 93%).

tries, including even Denmark, were paid at the rate of 60 centimes per 10 grams (Figure 2) (in all cases if sent via Marseille). It seems strange at first that the rate to France should be higher than to neighboring countries. The reason is perhaps that letters to France were a captive market, whereas those to other countries could be sent by Austrian, British or Italian postal services; the French rates thus had to be kept low to compete. The franking is usually 2x30c Cérès, but sometimes 4x15c, or 20c + 40c.

When did the 60c rate start? The earliest I have recorded is 1871 (month and day not legible). It ended, of course, when France ratified the General Post Union (later UPU), and, on January 1st, 1876, the rate fell to 30 centimes. Perhaps readers can tell us of earlier dates, or even tell us details of the official decree establishing the 60 centimes rate; if so, please inform the Editor.



Figure 2. Cover from Cairo to Winterthur, Switzerland, via Marseille, franked with Egypt 1 piaster to Alexandria, thence 60 centimes onward by the French post office, 29 June 1875 (the Boite Mobile handstamp, indicating mailing aboard ship or at dockside, did not affect the rate). (reduced to 76%).

### Endnote

1. J.-P. Alexandre, C. Barbey, J.-F. Brun, G. Desarnaud, and Dr. R. Joany, *Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969*, vol. I; Brun & Fils, Paris, 1989.

## Comments regarding certain Marianne de Bequet Definitives

**o,45 Bequet:** This stamp, in violet, is being offered as a perforated color trial when it more properly is a *privately perforated* imperforate color trial.

**o,80 red Bequet:** To satisfy a great postal demand for this stamp late in 1974, several press runs were made. One such, on the TD6-3 press and with Metropolitan [shiny] gum, was printed from 22 November to 23 December 1974. Due to haste, the cylinder that applies phosphor bands was inadvertently forgotten. When this lapse was discovered, and in order not to destroy the large stock at hand, the post office panes were shipped to some of the departments that still lacked automated sorting equipment. Mint, and particularly postally used examples, are scarce. They can be distinguished by the absence of Ph bands, by a deeper shade than stamps printed for the Overseas Departments, and (mint only) by their shiny "Metropolitan" gum. [Courtesy of Jean Renard.]

[Culled from "Marianne," N° 53, July 2000, which is now edited by François Guilhaud.]

-- S. J. Luft

## CHASING FLIES

by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS N° #2180)

Are you ready to try something different? Then take up fly-speck philately, which we all know is searching for small, petite may be a better word, plate variations which might be found by close inspection of an issued stamp. Nowhere is this more evident than in the examination of the Classic issues: the curl in Napoleon's forehead; the size of dots on either side of POSTES; the infinite number of plate flaws of the 20¢ blues; and these are just in the Empire issue.<sup>1</sup> And there may be just as many plate varieties among the three 20¢ Bordeaux issues.<sup>2</sup> But accumulating enough copies of the Classics to examine in order to find even a few of the plate-flaw varieties could cost you, if we use my frame of reference, a fortune.

All is not lost. I can recommend an alternate issue, not classic, not modern, but a stamp of the late 1920s which is as cheap as they come, or better stated carries the minimum catalogue value. That stamp is Scott N°146 (Figure 1)



Figure 1.

the 50c vermilion lined Sower, printed in large quantity from 52 plates between 25 August 1926 and 27 June 1932 for first-class domestic mail; overprinted F. M. in 1929 for the use of the military (Figure 2) (Scott N° M6, and there

are varieties here); and overprinted again in 1930 to commemorate the 48th assembly (Congrès) of the Bureau International du Travail (Labor) in Paris (Scott N° 256). (Figure 3). For completeness this



Figure 2.



Figure 3.

stamp was overprinted again in 1931 for the French administration of Andorra (Scott N° 12).

But those are distinct issues and we are supposed to be looking for fly specks, or rather plate varieties. One interesting constant variety is that of 50° instead of 50c (Figure 4). There are additional examples of defective printing where the color fills both a part and all of the numerals, where there are white spots and white circles (called *anneau-lune* or moon ring). The stamp is reported with the c after 50 missing, with "Mouchon" or "Roty" missing, and with a *gros pâtre d'encre* (large ink blot).



Figure 4.

cap. Actually, it's more like a tiny feather sticking straight up from the top of the cap. In addition, the upper insides of the two Rs are equal in size; the upper insides of the two As are almost equal; and (here's a tough one) the insides of the B are closer in size than on other types.

Type II is distinguished by the upper inside of the first R being bigger than that of the second R; and the upper inside of the B is smaller than the lower part; and the openings in the As, particularly the second A, are smaller than in Type I. Now you know we have gone from fly speck to flea speck, but don't forget, these are catalogue-listed varieties.

Type III is the same as Type II but without any shading under the first R; and Type IV also is without shading under the first R; the background behind REPUBLIQUE appears to have fewer white lines; and Yvert says the inside frame line on the left is thicker (but my fly-speck magnifier wasn't powerful enough to confirm).

Perhaps you can spot other differences. Specialists see variations in the thickness of the lower curl of the C of the value. Certainly there are differences in color, from bright orange to bright red and everything in between. And since this stamp was also issued in booklets (Figure 5), possibly in more



Figure 5. (reduced to 71%).

booklets than any other French stamp, at least 60, there is a great variety of different advertising in the selvage. One valuable variety that you might look for in the selvage is the misspelling of stockings and socks with only one "s" in *Bas et Chaussettes* (Figure 6).

In addition, a collection of varieties of this one stamp might include a known counterfeit of which some 40,000 copies were confiscated by postal authorities in Marseille in 1929 and thus exist only unused. They were apparently very well designed, with clear lines in the Sower's face and the sun's rays touching the semicircular sun.

Finally, if your objective is a copy of each variety, you will want an example of each of the two pieces of postal stationery which bear the imprinted stamp, a large white envelope (Figure 7) and a buff letter-card (Figure 8).



Figure 6.

# FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST

## Index to Volume 56 (2000)

Stanley J. Luft, compiler

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\* \* \* \* \*





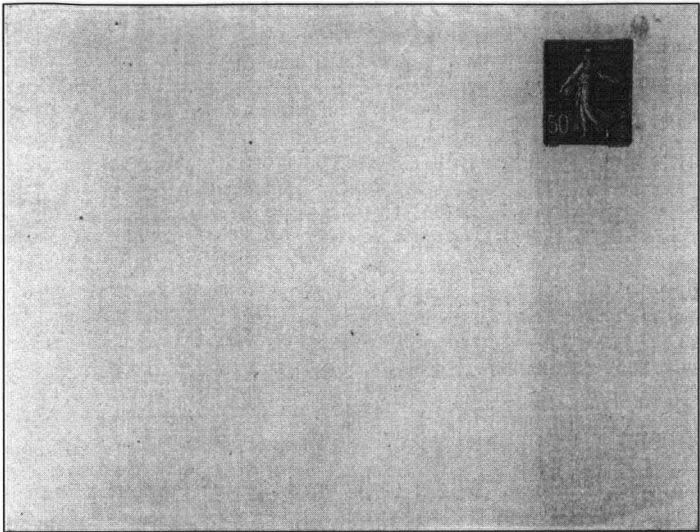


Figure 7.  
(reduced to  
75%).

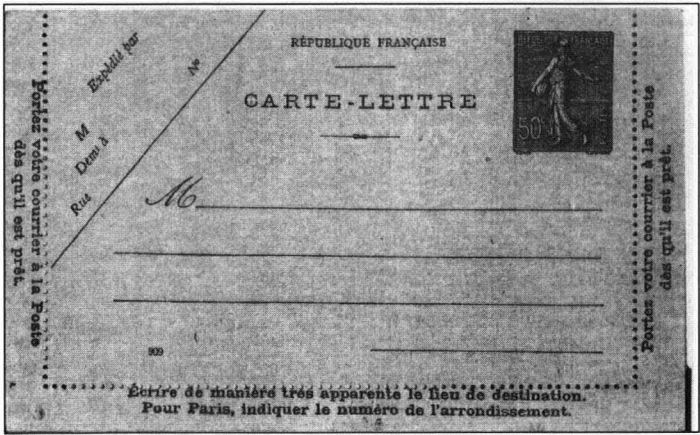


Figure 8.  
(reduced to  
74%).

**Endnotes**

- (1) See French Philatelic Facts, June 1950, by Brainerd Kremer.
- (2) See The Bordeaux Issue of 1870 - 1871, by Ruth & Gardner Brown, a Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, 1981.

## **eBay: An Idea Whose Time is Coming**

**by Ed Grabowski (FCPS #1469)**

Recently I changed eBay hats: from buyer to seller, and I thought I'd offer some comments about selling on eBay that might be of interest to the membership.

Before you can sell on eBay, you need a computer that can connect to the web (preferably with a DSL line or something comparably fast, otherwise you spend endless time looking at a monitor that doesn't do much), a scanner to capture the images of the items you want to sell, a server location to store those images where potential purchasers can access your items, and software to aid in the placement of the images on the server. Today many of us have a computer and are active on eBay. I was lucky in that my son gave me a scanner for Father's Day, and then he showed me how to transfer and access the images that we placed on a server, first a local one in New Jersey and now with Bell Atlantic.

As to using the eBay software, it is really great. It has been well written, tested and updated, and it is very simple to use, even for someone like me who is not too adept with computers. Once you are on, just click 'Sell' and follow the instructions. So far I have had over one hundred and fifty lots for sale. If you have the scanner, but not the location to store the images, eBay or third parties will help you out there. As to the eBay charges, they are very modest, especially when compared to typical auction charges. To set up your eBay seller's account you need to supply your credit card number, and all of the eBay charges are billed to it. I have been accepting payment via money orders and checks in US dollars, and getting many payments in cash. I have accepted payment in cash in French francs as I use them quite a bit, and a friend in Paris has agreed to accept checks in French francs on my behalf. eBay will also help you to set up payments to your account by credit card, something I am thinking about starting.

Most of us have items that have been gathering for years in our desks and file drawers, and in my case, I have carried many of them to shows in hope of selling some. Generally, I have had about 50 percent success in selling items to dealers, usually at very reduced prices. The nice thing about eBay is that you can lot up an item at any price - \$1.00 is fine if you want to go through the work. So I started lotting the miscellany that has been gathering for years, being careful to start the items at low enough prices that there might be some action in the bidding. Generally, most of the items I have been selling are cheaper ones (\$5-\$75 gross), but a few have gone over \$100. To date, about 85 percent of my items have sold, and I have been pleased with about 70 percent of the realizations. What's not been selling? France in general has not been selling. I have put up a few cheaper (under \$15) Napoleon covers and there just has been no action. I put a few Sage items up and a newspaper stamp on full newspaper (cataloguing about \$50 for the latter and which sold for 35 percent of catalog); otherwise there has been minimal action.

However, the Colonies seem to be another story. I have been selling General Issues stamps, Group Type stamps and others with good response. A Reunion provisional pair with a socked-on-the-nose railroad cancel generated a lot of interest before it sold. This is the type of item that would be hard to sell to a dealer, and would take forever in an APS circuit. eBay is perfectly suited for its sale. If you are careful in specifying your title for the sale of the item, you can catch all of the Reunion and TPO collectors. It's good to beef up the descriptions of your lots, as the text is fully searchable. Modern and older Colonial postal history seem to have a good following. St. Pierre & Miquelon,

New Caledonia and Indochina have a hoard of followers and lots of action. There seems to be good interest in the Group Type stamps with unusual cancels, and Fournier fakes have sold well. The other Colonies seem to have smaller followings, but the items do end up selling. I was happy to note that a St. Barts, Guadeloupe Group Type cover and an SP&M cover with Duval due stamps on it reached proper prices, despite very low starting prices. I had a couple of very good items (starting prices >\$150) up for sale, which sold at the starting price..

The scope of potential bidders is fantastic. My material has sold in the US, Canada, France, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Italy, New Caledonia, Greece and Australia to date, and I even got some bids from Singapore. I haven't been able to identify the countries of some of the other bidders. eBay sellers and bidders are rated by the bidders and sellers, and the ratings are noted with the listings that follow the progress of the sales. Generally all have solid ratings, and, so far, I have had but one problem in selling. One high bidder never paid despite e-mails from me and eBay. I offered the lot to the second bidder after three weeks at a price just below the top bid and he took it.

What could use improvement? I have already suggested to eBay that they include a Postal History category when you do your main category selection. Right now "Stamps-Europe-French & Colonies" covers everything, and it means a lot to sort through when you are looking for good postal history items. What is really missing? The vast body of collectors! That's why I have titled this note "an idea whose time is coming." I think that the body of collectors who have computers is still limited, and via eBay you have an even more limited, but growing, audience. I wonder how many of our 600+ members use eBay? Since the computer world changes so fast, this problem should be sorted out in perhaps two years. Just a look at the availability of web sites for the major auction houses and you will become a believer.

Other problems? Yes, it's a fair bit of work to list lots on eBay. With the scanning and transferring of the images, and setting up a particular listing, a lot of time is involved. But there is more. Once your lot has sold, eBay automatically (ah computers!) contacts you and the bidder. Then you have to e-mail the bidder with payment instructions, and send the lot when payment arrives. Sounds easy, but I had about 15 lots to complete in one single night, and was overwhelmed with the work. In addition, I got a copy of that worm virus from a customer in France! Norton caught it and saved the day! I hadn't worked out a good system ahead of time of keeping track of everything, and got caught up in a bit of a mess. With eBay confirmation notices, daily account updates and selling notices, followed by e-mails from the buyers, I ended up with sixty e-mail messages one evening.

As to eBay customers they are simply great! I have had many great exchanges, gotten an invitation to visit a customer in France, and sent out a few FCPS membership packets. This is very easy to do as enclosures with e-mails. As to eBay, I am running out of the items from my desk and file drawers. Since I switched completely to postal history a few years ago, I have some excellent Colonial stamps that I want to sell. I am working them into my sales too. If you haven't tried eBay, give it a look. I already note that other sellers have picked up on what I have been doing, and are offering small village cancels on stamps, oddball items and specialty items.

The APS has set up a computer-based auction for its membership to sell better items (> \$20?). Given all the work that eBay requires, I will give APS a try when the system gets going. You just send the item and they do the rest and take a fair percentage of the sale for the work. Give it a look see at [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org) and let us know what you think. (edjig@bellatlantic.net)

## AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--57

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

Careful reading of a wrong lot description can sometimes reveal what the correct description *should* have been. Not only that, once one realizes and corrects the error, the new statement may lead to information previously unpublished in philatelic works. For example:

A Paris dealer's mail auction catalog for June 1997 contained as part of one lot's description the following information — "letter [to be taken] by smuggler, dated 8 November 1870....addressed to Paris, franked with a N° 29 stamp canceled by a mute star and V° (?) circular date stamp Paris 18 July 1871...[the text says 'I am trying'] to find a way of letting you have a few words by any possible means... the campaign of courriers at Tours undertakes to get letters through to an address in Paris' " and so forth.

The original "une campagne de courriers" does not make sense and must have been a misreading of "une compagnie de courriers." As soon as I realized that, "my lantern was lit up," as we say in French. *La Compagnie des Courriers* is an organization I mentioned in a 2-part article *Mail Smuggling in the Siege of Paris*, *Postal History Journal* 68 and 69 (Oct. 1984 and Feb. 1985). Figure 6 therein is a receipt for 5 francs, showing that 5 more were to be paid upon receipt of an answer. Figure 7 is a handbill of the same company, giving details on how to get mail across the lines. Headquartered at 52 Boulevard Haussmann in Paris, the company had started operations by mid-October at the latest. Its advertisements, apparently sent out of town by balloon, appeared in both the *Progrès du Nord* (Lille) and the *Mémorial de Lille* on 3 November 1870. Mail for Paris was to be sent to the Hôtel de l'Univers at Tours.

When that article was published, I had no idea whether any letters from the provinces ever reached Paris through the intermediation of that company. This lot appears to indicate that, not only was the company unsuccessful in crossing the lines, it was uninterested in delivering mail even when letters could be sent easily through regular channels. This particular letter arrived at Paris in mid-July, well after the end of the Commune.

One can only conclude that the company had abandoned its mail and that someone had found it more or less by accident, perhaps at the Hôtel de l'Univers at Tours, where it might have lain for some time after the armistice—if there was such a hotel there at the time.

Another company of smugglers, *La Correspondence générale*, claimed to have its seat at the Grand Hôtel d'Angleterre, also at Tours. The only trouble with that was that there was no such hotel, according to a pigeongram sent by Steenackers, chief of the combined telegraph and post offices at Tours, on 24 October to Foreign Minister Jules Favre at Paris. Did the *Compagnie des Courriers* copy the scheme of its "competitor"? If so, then letters sent to its non-existent hotel would have been held at the post office, awaiting someone to claim them, finally to be forwarded to their destination after no one called for the mail.

In any case, the date of reception at Paris indicates that the operators were quite content with receiving 5 francs per letter for doing nothing. Another letter, ex-Blum, was postmarked at Bordeaux on 23 December without showing any evidence of ever having been received at Paris. That, however, is no proof of non-arrival, because it might have been delivered in person to collect another 5 francs.

Thus, this lot is the first one of which I am aware that indicates that the *Compagnie des Courriers* was fraudulent.

It evidently pays to read even faulty descriptions of unusual lots with some care, because one might draw novel conclusions, assuming valid corrections can be made. Furthermore, considering that most of us will not be able



to keep all such details in our heads for years on end, it is useful to mark (1) the fronts of catalogs or tear sheets with at least the lot numbers and their characteristics and (2) the relevant literature in one's possession with the new facts and their sources. Then, when checking back in either place, one immediately sees the information that corrects outdated statements. Last but by no means least, that kind of lot — the discovery copy — clearly has its place in collections.

Although I believe that collecting literature is an interesting and enjoyable hobby in itself, I consider my philatelic literature not only as collectibles but also as working tools, of greatest use to philatelists when properly annotated with the latest available facts.

## RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

How would you like to see your favorite cover or stamp(s) (France or Colonies only, *s'il-vous-plait!*) on the cover of our Journal? Simply send a good halftone or black-n-white laser print to me, along with a brief description of the item and why it deserves to be admired. Thanks!

It never rains but it pours (or some close approximation of the saying). After I was well along the road to post-operation recovery and after we had engaged in some fairly strenuous step- and ladder-climbing in Mesa Verde National Park (following the forest fires), my spouse determined our house required fresh paint on the walls and new wall-to-wall carpeting. We now have both [as well as new gutters, fascia, replaced roofing tiles, etc.], but at the cost [not to mention major expenses] of having to pack all my books, files, reports, bric-a-brac, furniture, et al, and moving same about the house, then back at least once again. As I write, just about everything's been unpacked and more or less stowed away, though some important papers (including unanswered correspondence, and perhaps an article manuscript or two) have yet to surface. Please bear with me; nothing's been thrown away, just moved cleverly out of sight.

### Articles to be published in future issues

Port de La Rochelle;  
General Delivery / Poste Restante;  
Philatelic Expositions;  
Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories (continued);  
The Carnet Corner (continued);  
Monaco Bisects -- A Trap for the Unwary;  
Some Unusual Traveled Covers;  
The Rights of Man;  
French West Africa -- The First (Provisional) Issue of 1943-1944;  
The Unissued Vichy Colonial Stamps of 1942-1944.

### CORRECTION

On page 124 of the October 2000 issue (N° 262), the correct title of the Sterners booklet note should have read 1994-1995 and **not** 1944-1945.

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## MEMBERS' APPEALS

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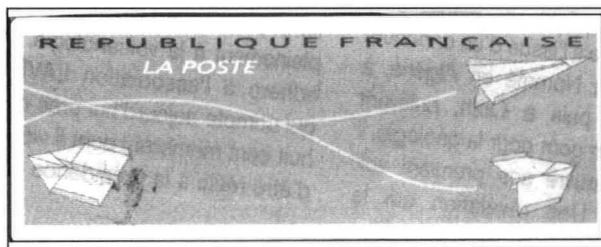
**WANTED:** Pre-1880 maritime covers between Brazil and France; also outgoing mail from Brazil to other countries, if carried by French ships. Please send photocopies and prices desired to Klerman Wanderley Lopes, Rua Constante Ramos 34, Apt. 901, 22051-010 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Fax (5521) 548-3101 / 255-8994; e-mail: klerman@uol.com.br (Mb. #3140).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

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- Please be aware, regarding the listing of specialist societies published in N° 262 (October 2000, p. 108-110), that by the time it appeared in print, some society presidents and/or their addresses may have changed. Nevertheless, they're well worth contacting if you have any interest in their specialties. In addition, the listing includes only those societies affiliated with GAPS and is far from being an exhaustive one.
- François Guilbaud is the new president of the Cercle des Amis de Marianne [specialist society for post-world War II definitives], replacing its founder, Pascal Marziano.
- We are pleased that Alan Morvay, whom we published in the July 2000 issue, has been actively contributing short notes during 2000 regarding interesting East African, Belgian Congo, etc. covers in such appropriate journals as *Fil-Italia* and *The Dhow*. We expect to publish another Morvay article later this year.
- I wish to reiterate that member Bob Picirilli and his study group continue to do important and yeoman work on airmail rates to and from the French Colonies (origins to 1945). They now have assembled a growing database of 2750+ covers. If you wish to assist in this noble endeavor of finding out all there is to know about Colonies airmail rates, contact Bob at 301 Greenway Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205, USA. You'll be glad you did!
- The white-on-sky blue flying birds depicted on LISA, GAPA, etc. computer-vended postage are being replaced, from 3 July 2000-onward, by multicolored vignettes showing pale yellow paper airplanes on a light mauve background, with REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE in blue, and their flight paths in other colors (Figure 1).



*Figure 1.*

- Our member, Hervé Drye, is the interim president of Col. Fra, the specialist society for French Colonies, protectorates and mandates, replacing Jacques Mérot.
- MONACO 2000 was scheduled to be held 1-3 December 2000 at the Club de Monte-Carlo, under the patronage of Prince Rainier III. The gala affair again featured 100 of the world's rarest stamps and covers, for which a deluxe catalogue (in French and English), was placed on sale.
- We have been advised of the death from cancer of Donald L. Duston (Mb. #3101) on 31 October 2000. Don was an indefatigable student and cataloguer of Colonial Revenue stamps, and we note we listed his latest updated edition for the revenues of colonies in North Africa and the Middle East, on page 119 of our October 2000 issue. His enthusiasm and hard work will be sorely missed. We do hope that his labors on behalf of revenue philately will be taken up and continued by other students of revenue stamps.

- Only non-commissioned officers and rankers benefitted from reduced postal rates to the military in the mid-19th Century. An 1853 within-France letter bearing 20c in postage was taxed "05" (in red ink) to bring the postage up to the 1x (25c) domestic letter rate, for simply failing to indicate the addressee's rank. Such underpaid mail must be quite scarce.
- Following the dubious (my sentiments) example of Canada and Australia, France issued a souvenir sheet of ten real stamps se-tenant with ten spaces (as no-value labels) for one's photo. [See New Issues and Withdrawals, p. 29]. The items could be obtained only in Paris during the four days (9-12 November 2000) of the Salon Philatélique d'Automne.
- La Poste has a new program called Mailev@, whereby one can use the Internet to print, seal, pay postage, register if desired, and track one's letters, faxes, etc. For one's "virtual secretary," check on <http://www.laposte.fr>
- Back in September 1896, a newspaper article quoted in part by Bernard Poyer in the October 2000 *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* stated that French postal employees are to be forbidden to collect stamps! It appears that, in Belgium and very likely also in France, postal employees have been accused of attempting to remove canceled stamps from the mail entrusted to them. One has even been accused of murdering a young collector in order to steal his collection. Additionally, some 332 letters have been stolen from the eminent stamp dealer Arthur Maury, though M. Maury considered the culprits to be common thieves rather than earnest collectors. (M. Poyer wonders if that interdiction might still be in force.)
- Members Jamie Gough and Stan Luft were elected last month to the Académie de Philatélie as foreign corresponding members, bringing the total number of current FCPS members in that esteemed category to at least eight.

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## SOME SHOW REPORTS

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- MILCOPEX 2000 (Milwaukee, September 2000): Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "Spanish Civil War Refugees in France."
- SESCAL 2000 (Los Angeles, October): In the Literature competition, Ernst Cohn received a Vermeil medal for "Unusual Mail in Occupied France 1870-1871," as did our "France & Colonies Philatelist."
- MIDAPHIL 2000 (Lenexa, KS, October): Your editor received a Vermeil medal for "Post Offices of the Annexed Paris Suburbs to the 1880s"; Frederick Mayer showed his U.S. 5¢ 1856 issue in the Court of Honor.
- Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition 2000 (Philadelphia, October): Gold medals to Tom Broadhead for "France Postcard Usages and Rates, 1870-1900" and to Klerman Wanderley Lopes for "France: Ses Emissions de Septembre 1870 à 1875"; Silver medal to Tom Taylor for "Postal French Cameroon 1915-1958"; best single-frame awards to Steve Washburne for "Southeastern Pennsylvania--Portugal Mail."
- ESPANA 2000 (Madrid, October, **FIP**): Large Gold medal to Frederick Mayer for "Costa Rica Postal History 1822-1882"; Gold medal to Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith for "French Mail to and from the Indian and Pacific Oceans"; Silver medals to Lew Bussey for "U.S. One Cent Postal Card Design of 1914," and to Jerry Massler for "Papiers, timbres et timbres fiscaux utilisés dans la principauté de Monaco."
- Peach State Stamp Show 2000 (Athens, GA, October): Bob Kinsley received a Vermeil medal for "The Conquest of Indo-China, 1861-1914" and a Silver Medal for "Interned in Switzerland."
- CHICAGOPEX 2000 (Rosemont, IL, November): Reserve Grand (for

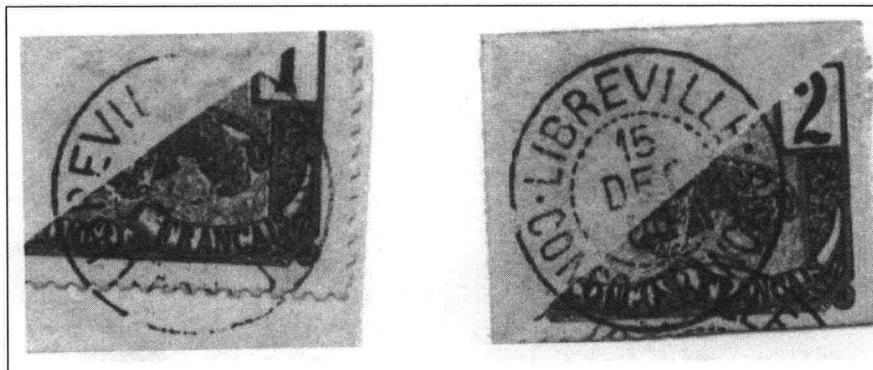
Foreign) and a Gold medal to Frederick Mayer for "Postal History of Macao 1796-1900"; Gold medal to Peter Smith for "Postal Stationery of Egypt, 1866-1922." In the Literature section, Don Duston was awarded a Gold medal for "French Colonial Revenues (North Africa and Middle East Colonies).

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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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- Q. 01.1.** --In a recently purchased lot there were two French Congo (Scott Nos. 35 and 36) bisects tied to small fragments by 1900 Libreville postmarks (Figure 1). I do not find any mention of bisects of these stamps in Scott, Yvert or Cérès. Can anyone shed some light on these pieces? (LR).



*Figure 1. (reduced to 66%).*

- A. 01.1.** --Assuming that the postmarks are genuine, and they appear to be so, these bisects most likely are fabricated-to-order souvenirs produced either by a local (French Congo) stamp dealer or by or for collectors in the area. That turn of the century period was rife with contrived material designed either to fool collectors or to make their collections more eye-appealing. Besides, why concoct a ½c value (the bisected 1c) or bisect a 2c when obviously a 1c stamp was readily available. Does anyone else wish to comment? (Ed Grabowski and Stan Luft.)

## TYPES AND SUBTYPES

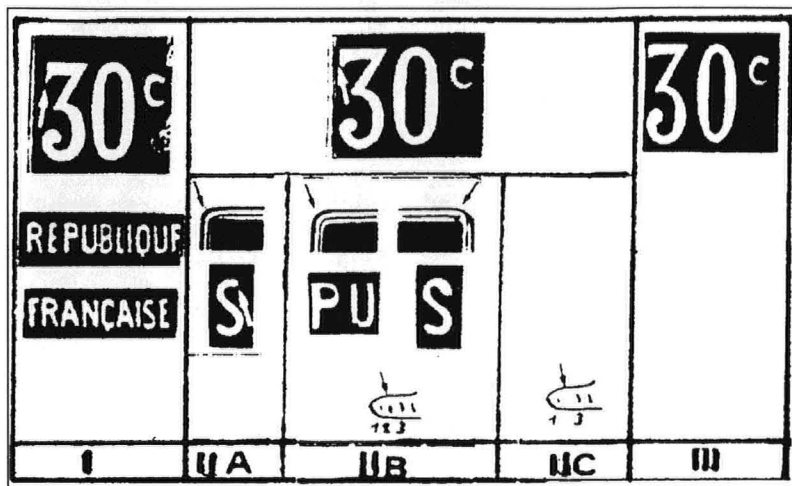
### 30c cameo Sower

**Type 1** (all orange and then red stamps [flat-plate sheets] and all precancels on same; the earlier pneumatic mail stationery [purple imprinted stamps] and postal savings forms [black imprinted stamps]; flat-plate printings of the rose stamp and precancels thereupon): horizontal bar of **3** of value is short and distant from left frame line.

**Type IIA** (rotary press sheet printings of rose and then blue and eventually brick red stamps; rotary press precancels on latter two colors; stamped envelopes with imprinted blue stamp; and stamped wrappers with imprinted brick red stamp): bar of **3** is longer and comes closer to left frame line; **0** of value large and round; upper curve of **S** of FRANÇAISE open and weak. **Type IIB** (flat plate booklets of the rose and blue stamps): similar to IIA, but upper curve of the **S** is stronger and bends downward. **Type IIC** (rotary press coils of blue stamp): similar to IIA, but one shading line is missing from toe area of forward foot. **Type IID** (stamped postal cards with imprinted blue stamp) [not shown in diagram]: similar to IIA, but base of **S** of FRANÇAISE more recurved; inner and outer white bands of bottom frame are of equal thickness.

**Type III** (rotary press booklets of the brick red stamp): **O** of value thin and elongate. **Type IV** (later purple and black stamps imprinted on stationery items) [not shown in diagram]: **B** of REPUBLIQUE larger and **I** smaller than the other letters; thick upper white band below top frame line; high-rising ball of the **3**; letters POSTES thin; signature O.ROTY is squat.

[Illustration courtesy of the 1995 Cérès catalogue].



## NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

- > Francis Zammith, *Philatélie et Aviation aux Iles Wallis et Futuna*; 144 pp. (32 in color), A4 format; 220F postpaid in France (more elsewhere); inquire of author at Allée des Amandiers B2, Résidence des Trois Moulins, F13100 Aix-en-Provence, France. (Numerous illustrations of letters, stamps, photos; postal rates.)
- > *Catálogo Enciclopédico de Selos & História Postal do Brasil (Encyclopedic Catalog of the Stamps and Postal History of Brazil)*; 1999; 435 pp., 7 x 9½," hardbound; price not communicated; inquire of RHM, Caixa Postal 3577, Agência Central, CEP 01060-970n São Paulo/SP, Brazil. (Covers the 1798-1890 period in great detail, including the French and British P.O.s. in Brazil; color illustrations; separate pamphlet includes English translation of the main text.)
- > Maurice Boule, and others, *Les Timbres Olympiques de Monaco*; 120F postpaid (credit cards accepted), from Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies, 11 Terrasse de Fontvieille, 98000 Monaco (Fax +337.93.15.41.45). (Shows and describes the stamps and their original designs, die proofs, color trials, etc.)
- > Dr. Bernard Raynaud, *Les Empreintes Postales.--Comment les classer et connaître leur valeur*; 2000; 250+ pp.; 250F (+ postage outside France?) for the unbound, photocopied version, from the author at 186 rue de la Gatevine, F-79290 Argenton l'Eglise, France. (Identification, classification, relative values, etc. of French postal markings, from Classic times up to and including ink jets and bar codes. A deluxe version, laser-printed and looseleaf bound, is available for 600F.)
- > Roger Hosking, *Paquebot Cancellations of the World*, 3rd edition (2000); 368 pp., card cover, US \$67.50 (+ \$2.00 P & H) or UK £42.50 (+ £1.00 P &

- H), by check or credit card to James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus. (Completely revised and updated from the 1987 edition, with about 1000 additions and revisions; scarcity ratings; 8 color plates.)
- *Catalogue Cérès France 2000-2001*; 58th edition; 504 pp. all in color; 109F + 20F postage, from the usual sources, or Editions Philatéliques de Paris, 23 rue du Louvre, F-75001 Paris (Fax +33.1.45.08.56.97). (The improved, semi-detailed and specialized "other" annual catalogue.)
  - Claude Bosc, *Catalogue Illustré des Marques Postales et Timbres à date d'Algérie 1749-1962*; 232 pp.; 380Fr postpaid in France, more elsewhere, from Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris. (Some 5500 date stamps illustrated and priced, with dates of opening and closing (if known) of post offices, population of localities, and class of P.O.s.)
  - Guy Raynal and Bernard Bougue, *Les services ambulants et les convoyeurs français (periode de 1966 à 1995)*, 2nd edition; 220 pp., more than 500 reproductions of date stamps and straightlines; chapter on ambulants routiers; 220F (postpaid in France), from Jacques Privat, ASCOFLAM, Senon N° 12, F-33710 St.-Seurin-de-Bourg, France. (Includes dates of opening and closing of the lines, etc.)
  - Flavio Rota, *Francobolli automatici*, 2nd edition; 286 pp., trilingual (Italian, English, French) specialized catalogue of the world's machine-vended stamps issued since 1969; price, etc. not communicated; contact author at Via B. Marcello 3, 22060 Vighizzolo Di Cantù/Co, Italy.)
  - *Catalogue Yvert et Tellier 2001, tome 1, Timbres de France*; 464 pp. + 32 pp. Supplement on the 1924 Olympic Games issue; all illustrations in color, 98F (soft cover) or 120F (card cover), + postage, from the usual sources. (The "principal" annual catalogue for France.) Also, *tome Ibis, Monaco, Europa, United Nations, Andorra*; 304 pp., illustrated in color, soft cover; 60F.
  - J. J. Tillard, *Epreuves, Essais Non-Dentelés de Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon*; information from David Allen, 2159 West 47th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6M 2M6, Canada, or #14-7 - Birch Bay Leisure Park, 7704 Birch Bay Drive, Blaine, WA 98230, USA; Fax + 604-263-3141; e-mail <dallen@axionet.com>
  - *Report of the Administrator P. Garrouste of the Territory of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon into the Postal Affairs of the islands subsequent to the invasion of Christmas 1941* (translated from the French language report prepared in 1944, by David Allen); 58 pp + 15 color illustrations; US\$20 (+ \$3 P&H), from David Allen, as per entry above. (The true story of the overprinting and marketing of the "France Libre" issues of 1941-1942, by the then administrator of the islands, including hitherto unpublished official correspondence.)
  - *Catalogue des Oblitérations Mécaniques à flammes illustrées ou stylisées -- Supplément 1998* (Catalog of the machine cancels, illustrated or stylized--1998 Supplement); *Le Monde des Philatélistes Etude N° 274*; 90F (+ 15F postage; more outside France?); from Librairie Service Timbropresse, 21 boulevard Montmartre, F-75080 Paris Cedex 02. (552 new illustrated or stylized French machine cancels during 1998, all illustrated here.)
  - Jean-Pierre Bournique, *Catalogue des timbres à date du Bas-Rhin 1919-1940*, (2000); 60 pp., A4 format, soft cover; 65F (+10F postage); published by SPAL; payable to SPAL, from André Peine, Boite Postale 4, F-67381 Lingolsheim Cedex, France. (The manual and machine date stamps of the period of the Bas-Rhin Dept., by the SPAL's president and his colleagues.)
  - The November 2000 *James Bendon Listing of Philatelic Literature* is now available, free of charge, from James Bendon Ltd., Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus, or by e-mail at books@JamesBendon.com; the whole listing may be seen on [www.JamesBendon.com](http://www.JamesBendon.com)



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## REVIEW

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Karl Heimann, *Kriegsausgaben unter deutscher Besetzung 1940-1945* [War Issues Under German Occupation 1940-1945], 1997, 76 pp. incl. 8 with unnumbered color ills.; 51 ills. incl. many maps, 6 x 8½", softbound, No. 148 (new series) of Poststempelgilde (Postmark Guild), DM 24 + 1.50 postage from author, An der Turnhalle 40, D-34134 Kassel, Germany.

A recent first exchange of letters led to the author's informing me about his publication, thus prompting me to add it to my holdings of publications about unusual philatelic topics.

In the foreword, Helmut Oeleker, head of the Postmark Guild, rephrases a quotation from Brühl's 'History of Philately' (vol. 1, p. 119): "As they get older, they become more genuine," attributed to Kurt Karl Doberer. That will show the reader what the author thinks about the issues described and discussed here.

In his own foreword, the author notes that the German post office had no connection with the stamp issues discussed in this booklet. He also doubts that authenticity can be claimed with certainty, given the possibility that [most of -- EMC] these issues were created years after the end of the war. In at least one case, the 'semipostals' of Brac (p. 28, his quotation marks), he mentions that expertizers have ceased to authenticate such material. (That is precisely what they should do as concerns Buffalo Balloon labels, with but two exceptions, and all Vineta Provisionals.)

Heimann assembled all available information of a geographic, historical, and philatelic character as well as eye witness accounts - many of which are contradictory and untrustworthy - before drawing his conclusions. Most, if not all, these products have not seen any postal service.

The collected articles cover local French issues of Dunkirk 1940, Lorient 1945, and St. Nazaire 1945; Balkan issues of Albania, "semipostals" of Brac, 1944 Macedonia; and Saloniki; Soviet Union issues of Ljady, the Ukraine, the areas of Gorochow, Lubomi and Wladimir-Wolynsk, issues with swastika imprint, map stamp of Gorochow, unissued (!) stamps; and the vignettes of the foreign volunteer legions, as listed in the Michel specialized catalogues.

As always in such cases, philatelists are free to collect whatever they wish, of course. They might wish to inform themselves about the nature of their collectibles, however. It is good to know whether an adhesive was created at the time it is claimed to have been in existence, has done postal service at that time, or is a souvenir (bogus, cinderella, or whatever) that was prepared merely to make money for its originators.

The booklet is reviewed here to remind (1) collectors that not everything for which a certificate is issued is necessarily what it purports to be; (2) expertizers that they ought to keep up with the literature about their specialties, and that not everything listed in some catalogue *must* be expertized; as well as (3) catalogue editors that listings should not be cast in concrete but be reviewed in the light of new knowledge.

Heimann clearly shows how to differentiate between postal history and souvenirs generally. The booklet is highly recommended to those who know German well.

-- E. M. Cohn

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## FOR THE RECORD

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(Continued from #262, October 2000, p. 123)

- **800.) Application of the "Minimum Tax."** For many decades, postage due on insufficiently paid mail has been determined quite simply as twice the unpaid portion. In Figure 1 we have an overweight "slow mail" letter of January 1976 bearing only 60c in postage when 85c was required. Postage due therefore should have been  $85c - 60c = 25c \times 2 = 50c$ . Right? Wrong! It seems there was something called the *minimum tax*, which at the time was 70c, hence the 70c in Flower Dues affixed by the receiving P.O. Apparently few postal officials were aware of this minimum tax, which makes its application on letters quite rare. [Thanks go to our member J.-L. Trassaert, writing in *Marianne*, N° 53, July 2000.] (Figure 1 in **next** issue)

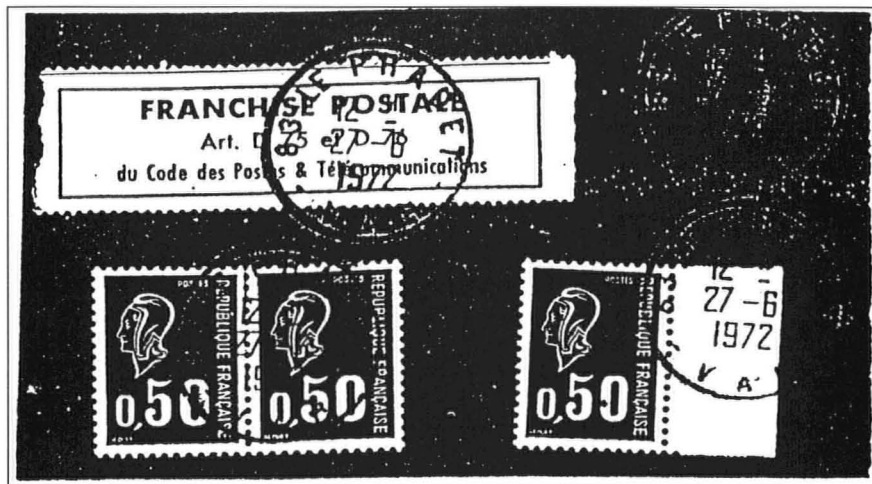


Figure 2.

- **801.)** From June 1951, military personnel could receive a monthly up-to-3 kg package post free, if it bore a special postal franchise label. In 1972 the weight limitation was raised to 5 kg, but an additional 1,50F per kilogram above 3 kg was required (Figure 2). This new rate became effective on 1 June 1972. The military franchise was very soon after (1 July 1972) suppressed. However, the labels remained valid for a period of three months from date of issue to the sender. As a result, this ephemeral rate of label + 1,50F (for 4 kg) or + 3,00F (for 5 kg) was effective from 1 June only until 30 September 1972, that is for just four months. [Courtesy of Gérard Fabrégue, in *Marianne* N° 53, July 2000].
- **802.)** After the June 1940 debacle, a "mini" Air Bleu was established in the Unoccupied [southern] Zone of France. Flights were infrequent and their activity ceased 27 November 1942 when that zone was occupied by the Germans and Italians. Airmail of this brief period is very rarely seen, and appears to consist mostly of first-flight covers dated late August and September 1940, from or to such towns as Marignane (Figure 3), Agen, Toulouse, Montpellier, Perpignan, Pau, Nice, Marseille, Ajaccio, and Vichy. [From description in the Sinais 46th auction catalogue, November 2000, p. 43, lots 2806-2815.]





Figure 3.

## NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 262, October 2000, p. 127)

### France

- 4 September 2000: 30F booklet of ten self-adhesive permanent-value Marianne de Luquet stamps, with new cover celebrating events of the 20th Century;
- 4 (6) November: 3,00F/0,46€ Peynet's gazebo for lovers; 3,00F/0,46€ kiwi and 5,20F/0,79€ falcon (joint issue with New Zealand);
- 9 (13) November: 3,00F + 0,60F/0,55€ Red Cross 2000; same in 36F booklet; 30F sheetlet of ten 3,00F/0,46€ stamps for the Third Millenium; same at 60F, se-tenant with personalized photo labels [available only at the 9-12 November Salon Philatélique d'Automne, Paris; only about 9600 sheetlets to be so prepared];



- > 11 (13) November: Best Wishes, Happy New Year: two at 3,00F/o, 46€;
  - > 9 (11) December: 4,50F/o, 69€ Metallurgy 1900-2000 (Eiffel Tower and rocket.)
- Withdrawals:** 3 October: 3,00F The lighthouse at the end of the earth [not 8 September, as previously reported], 3,00F Carcassonne, 3,00F Parliament of Brittany, 4,50F Madagascar pervenche, Stamp Day 2000 stamp at 3,00F and booklet at 22,80F [the 3,00F + 0,60F sheetlet remains on sale].

### Andorra

- > 9 (11) September 2000: 5,00F/o, 76€ Sydney Olympics;
  - > 27 (28) September: 3,00F/o, 46€ World Tourism Day;
  - > 9 October: 3,00F/o, 46€ Hanover 2000 World Fair;
  - > 6 November: 3,80F/o, 58€ Europe's common patrimony.
- Withdrawals:** 13 October: 5,00F recycling; 4,40F 50th Anniv. of the FIAP.
- French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)**
- > 6 August 2000: 27F transfer of government seat from Paris to St. Pierre, Réunion;
  - > 1 January 2001: 1,00F magnetite; 2,70F plunging petrel; 3,00F X.-C. Richert (1913-1992, naval officer); 3,00F practice military landings on Terre Adélie; 3,00F Arch of Kerguelen (also as S.S. of 8 stamps + various period depictions of the arch); 3,00F (x four) youth set; 4,00F Jean Coulombi; 5,20F (x four) old ship riggings; 8,00F astronomers' memorial at St. Paul; 16F ship *La Fayette*; 24F cuttlefish; 27F amateur radio communication between *Mir* and Crozet Island; 29,20F *Bryum laevigatum* (plant).

### French Polynesia

- > 15 September 2000: Traditional Polynesian sports [Sydney Olympics] 120F, 250F;
- > 3 October: Traditional handicrafts, two at 85F;
- > 9 November: 120F Hitimano / reo ma'ohi.

**Withdrawals:** 29 September: St. Valentine's Day in Tahiti, Year of the Rabbit, Rare marine species of Polynesia, Marquesian tattoos [IBRA 99], Good holiday, Mother.

### Mayotte

- > 25 September 2000: protected lagoon shells, sheetlet of four at 3,00F/o, 46€ each;
- > 28 October: 3,00F/o, 46€ Zéna, M'Déré memorial.

**Withdrawals:** 29 September: 2,00F traditional fishing, 2,70F Mariama Salim, 3,00F Emperor fish of the Mayotte lagoon, 3,00F the Chombo.

### Monaco [all following items issued at MONACO 2000]:

- > 1 December 2000: 3,00F/o, 46€ Noël 2000; 11,50F/1,75€ Princess Stéphanie; old automobiles and female fashions: 5,00F/o, 76€, 6,00F/o, 91€, and 8,00F/1,22€; 40F/6, 10€ imperforate sheetlet for MONACO 2000;
- > 2 December: 2,70F/o, 41€ terra-cotta warrior; 3,80F/o, 58€ Bouquets competition; 4,20F/o, 64€ A.S.C.A.T.; 6,50F/o, 99€ 150th Anniv. of Sardinian stamps [stamps on stamp]; 6,70F/1,02€ RAMOGE (accord with St. Raphaël and Genoa), 1976-2001; 30F/4,57€ booklet of ten permanent-value stamps showing arms of the Grimaldis; 3,00F/o, 46€ 50th Anniv. of the postal museum;
- > 3 December: 30F sheetlet of five 6,00F/o, 91€ stamps + label, for 25th Inter. Circus Festival; 2,70F/o, 41€ single stamp, for same; 10,00F/1,52€ National Museum; 5,20F/o, 79€ Sanctuary for marine mammals; 4,50F/o, 69€ ASM Champions of France.



**New Caledonia**

- > 11 August 2000: 100F (heart-shaped) Voh mangrove swamp;
- > 16 September: Sydney Olympic Games 10F, 30F, 80F, 100F;
- > 25 October: 500F Bernheim Library.

**Withdrawals:** 29 September: Spiders, *Megalodon* tooth, "The daughters of the Nema," Musical instruments, Pacific Games, Humanitarian missions, Professional Lycée A.-Escoffier.

**St. Pierre & Miquelon**

- > 9 October 2000: Saltworks in November 15,50F/2,36€ and 3,00F/0,46€ se-tenant, with central label.

**Withdrawals:** 23 June 2000: 3,00F Noël 1999; 13 July 3,00F Bonjour Year 2000; 20 July: 5,00F Falcon; 11 August 18,50F Place du Gen. De Gaulle; 6 October: 5,40F Archives Museum.

**Wallis & Futuna**

- > 27 July 2000: 275F "Tarodieres" [reforestation? or flood control? or?] of Futuna;
- > 24 August: 350F 30th Anniv. of flights to Futuna;
- > 15 September: Traditional Sports [Sydney Olympics] sheetlet of four stamps at 85F each.

**Withdrawals:** 29 September: Tagata Fekau, Lagoon shells, Isle of Nuku Taakimoa, Finemui, Depths of the lagoon blocks, Birds of Nuku Fotu.

## F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

For many of our members, perhaps most, this journal is the principal service which they receive from the Society. For most of its years, it has been produced in its current 5½" x 8½" page size, or one close to that. Today, most other societies print their journals in a larger format. In past years the 8½" x 11" format was disdained, because of its use for publications produced by such crude methods as the mimeograph machine. This stigma is now history, and, in fact, the perceived wisdom seems to be that a large page format is desirable. Several people, including our esteemed Editor, have asked the Board to publish this journal in 8½" x 11" format. Some of our Board members have expressed immediate opposition to any such change; as a result, it has not been given serious consideration. Personally, I have always been inclined to respect the wishes of my Editor; however, twelve years in Quaker schools have left me dubious about making changes just because "everybody else is doing it," and "they" say it will be an improvement. It has been suggested that a larger page size would permit full-size reproduction of covers: but obviously more space for larger figures would mean less space for editorial content. Currently the quality of some of the illustrations in our journal is less than desirable; I am not convinced that increasing their size is any solution. Printing on a coated paper might help a bit. Consistently high-quality figures would require not only more expensive paper and printing methods, but a photographic department, and a high degree of cooperation from the authors to provide the initial images. I would be happy to hear from other members of the Society: whether they feel the journal should be published in a larger format, and also, whether they feel the Society should spend the additional money (probably requiring a further dues increase) to "upgrade" the journal, as by using a heavier stock for the covers, and coated stock for the pages.

The Society resumed its meetings at the Collectors Club in November, although some renovation work is continuing. An "Opening Reception" for the renovated building was scheduled for December 13, 2000. Work will still continue after that date: the Library is not expected to reopen until next year.

The Board has accepted an offer to participate in PNSE 2001. This is a World Series of Philately show, to be held at Fort Washington, PA, on October 12-14, 2001. Further details will appear in the April and July issues of the Philatelist. RMS

The annual meeting for the presentation of reports and election of officers will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 2001 at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35<sup>th</sup> St., New York, N.Y.

3232 CALLANAN, MICHAEL J., P.O. Box 98629, Lakewood, WA 98498. (General Collector: All Issues - 19th and 20th Century. Dealer: Auctions).

3233 BROWN, GARY, P.O. Box 106, Briar Hill - Victoria, 3088, Australia. (Tunisia: All Areas till 1956).

3234 KRUPNICK, JON E., 1601 S.E. 7th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316.

3235 BROLLY, MICHAEL T., 286 Little Whaleneck Rd., Merrick, NY 11566. (General France: Mint and Used. Colonies General Issues: Mint and Used. Polynesia. TAAF. Mayotte. NC, SPM, WF).

3236 BRUNELL, BRUCE, 425 E. Gobbi St. - #98, Ukiah, CA 95482. (Special Issues: Newspaper Cancels. Revenues. Precancels. Other: Exchange).

3237 NAZRENKO, WALTER, 8314 West Pocohontas Ave., Tampa, FL 33615-2821. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used).

3238 FISCHBACH, WILLIAM, P.O. Box 1027, Dahlgren, VA 22448. (Colonial Provisionals. All Colonies & Territories. Collect Pre-War, WW2, Specializing In French Africa).

3239 BOURGET, ALFRED C., 136 Oakdale Avenue, Manchester, NH 03103-4624. (General France: Used. Colonies General Issues: Used. All Colonies & Territories).

3240 DAVID, KEN, P.O. Box 9, Orleans, MA 02653-0009. (General France: Mint - Used - On Cover. Colonies And Territories. French Mediterranean. North Africa And Middle East).

3241 HELIKS, WALTER, 10112 Braddock Drive, Culver City, CA 90232. (General Collector).

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3223 FONG, STANLEY B., 820 41st Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-2747.  
592 MYERS, NAT C., JR., 400 Charlotte Street, Unit 401, Asheville, NC 28801.  
2879 NELSON, FRANK, 2655 Albemarle Church Road, Columbia, NC 27925.  
2242 BECARD, MARCEL H., 583 Schoharie Turnpike, Athens, NY 12015.  
2143 PURVIS, JOHN L., 299 Moss Creek Drive, Hilton Head, SC 29928 (Change  
In Street No.).  
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1790 ROYE, MARILYN, 30600 North Pima - Lot #82, Scottsdale, AZ 85262.  
2856 CLARKE, WALTER S., 18908 Saint Laurent Dr., Lutz, FL 33549-2807.  
3192 MATHESON, HUGH, 4770 Bethel Creek Dr., Vero Beach, FL 32963-1444.  
3046 BIJON, JEAN-PIERRE, 2340 Kalamazoo Dr., Naperville, IL 60565.  
1829 MASSLER, JEROLD M., P.O. Box 11433, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33339.  
3133 GRASMICK, GARY (Correction Of Name Spelling).  
2225 ECK, JEAN-PIERRE, 6A rue de La Ceinture, F-78000 Versailles, France.  
(Correction Of Street Spelling).  
1788 BOIKESS, ROBERT S., 1 Wakefield Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854-5816.

2887	CORREL, FRANK D.	2935	TAYLOR, ROBERT F.
3157	SHRIMPTON, PETER E.	3213	GOUTAY, ROLAND

2983 BOLEAT, DAVID P. 3101 DUSTON, DONALD L.