





France & Colonies Philatelist

Vermeil Medals at STAMPSHOW '99 and SESCAL 2000

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See page 82. (reduced to 84%)

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MONACO BISECTS -- A TRAP FOR THE UNWARY

by Jerold M. Massler (FCPS #1829)

Many mistruths and errors have been published in the past within philately. It is with dedicated scholarship and study that some of these ancient myths can be corrected. Such is the case with the bisected stamps of Monaco.

The definitive reference for the Prince Charles III series issued in 1885 has long been the 1945 book written by Paul G. Almasy. When these curious bisect-bearing covers come on the market, invariably Almasy is cited. He states on page 34 that in January of 1893 there was a shortage of the 5c, 15c, and 40c values. He notes a registered letter franked with a 25c, a 10c, two stamps of 2c, and a 2c cut in two vertically to compose the 40c rate. It is further stated that bisects for the dates of 23, 29, and 31 January 1893 are recorded evidencing a shortage that lasted more than one week. A picture of a 2c bisect is shown by Almasy. On page 38 a 5c Charles III bisect dated 30 March 1886 is illustrated (Figure 1) with a note in italics that it is *very proba-*

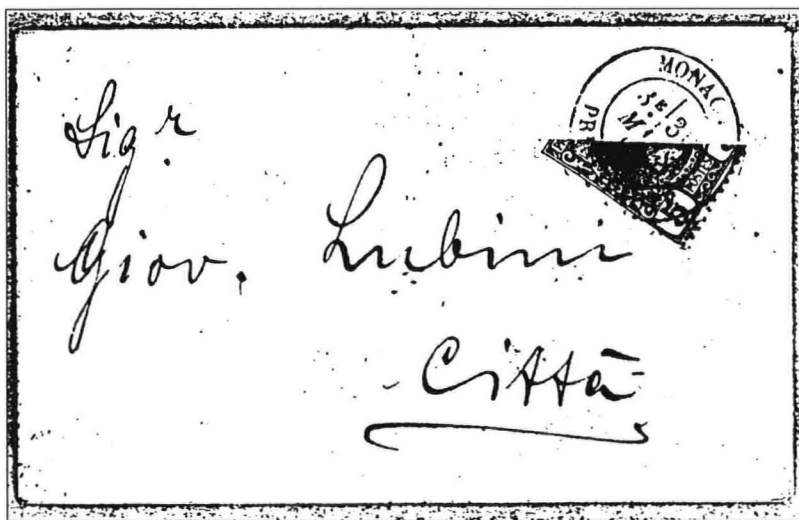


Figure 1.

bly a philatelic franking. A specialized catalog of Monaco by Pechitch published in 1986 illustrates a 2c bisect cover with convoyeur cancellation dated 12 February 1893 (Figure 2).

At the 1985 Centenary of the first postage stamp of Monaco, I was offered a cover with a 2c bisect, signed by Roger Calves, for 28,000 francs (Figure 3). When I cried out that it was no good, the signature of Monsieur Calves was cited. Later I was invited to a coffee during which I learned the significance of a vertical as opposed to horizontal Calves signature. The stamps were genuine although the usage was not attested to. I decided not to acquire the cover.

In my research of the printing years of the Prince Albert I^{er} issues of 1891-1921, I discovered that there was no shortage of the 1c or any other value in 1893. Further, nowhere in the postal regulations of the era are bisects authorized. However, the most convincing negative evidence was published by Almasy himself in an addendum to accompany his book. Very few possess this **ERRATA** sheet and most have never seen it. When at a literature sale, a



Figure 2.



Figure 3.

copy of Almsy is available, it never comes with this important addition. In an excerpt from it, he states "new research by the author after the printing of this book has determined that in every case the use of bisects was a philatelic franking not corresponding to any necessity of service."

An examination of the three bisect covers we have seen with the 2c Prince Charles III reveals that all are similarly addressed to Monsieur E. Moullé, N° 1 Rue Blanche, Paris. They are dated 29 January (Figure 4), 12 February, and 13 February 1893 while Almsy notes additional dates of 23 and 31

January. Further examination reveals that the two halves of the same stamp are not observed. This implies at least three other covers were made. Almsy had noted the 5c bisect (Figure 1) as being a philatelic creation. One other bi-



Figure 4. (reduced to 90%)

sect, a Prince Albert I^{er} 2c on wrapper to Cannes dated 7 April 1892 composing the 20-25g 5c printed matter rate of 1 May 1878 is noted (Figure 5). It most likely was tolerated by the authorities although not authorized.



Figure 5.

Mention of these observations is now made due to the fact that some of these items have been seen gracing the pages of catalogues from auction houses in France. As has always been the case, CAVEAT EMPTOR, let the buyer beware.

THE RIGHTS OF MAN

by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)

This short-lived twelve stamp issue (Figure 1) falling at the beginning of the 20th Century between the Sage and Sower issues, was never popular

with the public and the postal authorities. Unlike the Sage issues, which were the product of a design contest, and unlike the surrounding lower-value Blanc and higher-value Merson types which had separate designers and engravers, this issue were both designed and engraved by Eugène Mouchon (the engraver of the Sage plates), and these stamps are known in France as *les Mouchons*.



Figure 1.

The original design was poorly received, primarily because of the large value tablet and the large numbers therein (which, as an aside, left no room for the "c" of centimes). Of significance, however, is that the five values of the original issue (which saw the light of day on December 4, 1900), were printed in two separate steps, the overall vignette first and then the value numerals. Yvert lists four stamps, the 10, 20, 25 and 30 centimes values, as the first printing, or Type I. An early study¹, on which this short article is largely based, states that the first printing of the 15 centimes value, "if existed," perished in a fire. It is now known², however, that color trials exist of the 15c Type I.

The stamps were printed by flat-plate typography in sheets of 300 subjects divided vertically into two panes of 150 consisting of six groups of 25 impressions (Figure 2). The vertical margin between the two panes is exactly half the width of a stamp and, on this margin at the second row

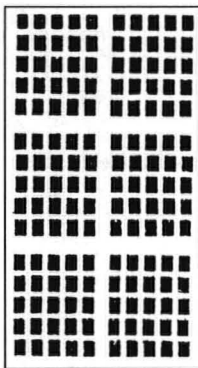


Figure 2.



Figure 3. (reduced to 79%)

from the top of each of the six groups is printed the last digit of the year of printing, called a *millésime* (Figure 3). This is the same format as was used ever since 1891 for the Sages, and continued to be used for all typographed flat-plate definitives, until the 1920s.

The first printing of the Mouchons, according to Wilfred Bentley, an early editor of the *Journal of the*

France & Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain, was as follows¹, with additional data from ³:

Yvert N°	(Scott N°)	Value	Printing Dates (1900)	Quantity Printed (in 1000s)
114	(119a)	25	Mar 3-Apr 9	25,080
112	(116a)	10	Mar 10-Apr 11	13,350
113	(118)	20	Apr 10-20	5,100
115	(120)	30	Apr 21-May 10	11,400



Figure 4. Type I.

the additional listing of these stamps with *chiffres déplacés* (displaced numbers) (Figure 5).

Let me interject here the speculation at the time of printing that perhaps these stamps were all printed from the same plate with different value numbers. Bentley concluded from his determination of the printing dates that using a single plate could not have been the case for, as we can see from the above table, different values were being printed simultaneously. In addition, there are no examples of wrong value - wrong color (as exists in the Classics); however, shade differences between design and value are not uncommon.



Figure 5. Displaced numbers.

The general dissatisfaction with the two-step printing process led to remedy even before the stamps were in general distribution to post offices, but was limited to the flagrant 10 and 25 centimes values. Single-step printing plates (Figure 6) for three values were quickly produced and placed in use. A comparison of Figures 4 and 6 helps to distinguish the two printings: note the base of the "1" in the 10 centimes tablet and, while subtle, the top of the "5" of 25 of the one-step printing leans to the left. In addition, fire or no fire, a single-step printing plate was also pre-



Figure 6. Type II.

pared for the 15 centimes value, the rate for a first-weight step domestic letter of the time. The printing in one step was reported^{1, 3} as follows:

Yvert N°	(Scott N°)	Value	Printing Dates (1900)	Quantity Printed (in 1000s)
118	(119)	25	Apr 9-Jun 6	71,250
117	(117)	15	Apr 11-Jun 8	1,425,000
116	(116)	10	May 7-Jun 25	85,500

Sheets of all values contain the *millésime* 0 (Figure 7); sheets of the 10 and 25 centimes values also bear the *millésime* 1; and the large printing of the 15 centimes shows 0, 1 and 2. The comparatively small quantity of the 20 and 30 centimes values were adequate for their needs, and no single-step plates were prepared for these values.



Figure 7. *Millésime* 0 pair.



Figure 8. *Progressive-stage proof*

Progressive-stage (Figure 8) and final die proofs, collective proofs, special printings on bristol, etc. all exist and are very rare; less rare are color trials. Typically, all values exist imperforate (Figure 9) and part-perforate, and are identified as minor varieties by both Yvert and Scott. Freak perforations (Figure 10), preprinting foldovers, etc. exist on the original and redesigned Mouchons. Some sheets of the two-step 10, 20 and 25 centimes values escaped *sans chiffres* (without numerals of value) and are listed by Yvert as additional varieties with very high valuations. Yvert also lists as a variety *impression recto-verso*, a reverse impression (Figure 11). Finally, one additional variety is listed by Yvert as N° 117a, the 15 centimes where the "1" touches the

frame line, with a fairly low valuation.

A number of postal stationery items were also produced, but these are beyond the scope of this summary article.

Nonetheless, the authorities remained dissatisfied with Mouchon's design and, even as the stamps were being printed, they ordered him to modify the design to improve the appearance of the value tablet. This led to the redesigned Mouchons (Yvert N° 124-128, Scott N° 133-137) (Figure 12), wherein the shape of the tablet was made more attractive and word POSTES was moved to the top. The redesigned 30 and 20 centimes appeared first in April and May 1902; the 10 centimes came



Figure 9.

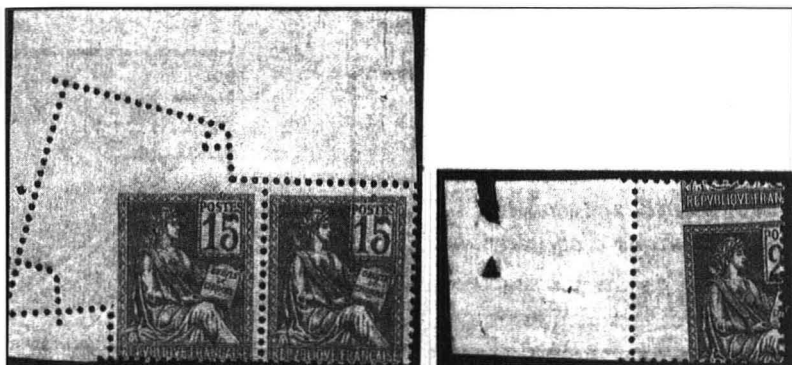


Figure 10. Freak perforations.



Figure 11.
Reverse impression

only POSTES, and the name of the French Bureau Abroad⁴ at the bottom instead of "République Française," endured until the end of such foreign offices about March 1931. That such an unpopular design remained in use for so long at the Offices Abroad was perhaps a function of the long life of the Sower design, which was entirely unsuited to be modified to identify those offices. (Or perhaps no one really cared what design was in use for those far-off offices).



Figure 12.

Endnotes

1. Wilfred Bentley, "Les Mouchons"; *Le Monde des Philatélistes* Etude N° 4, May 1954.
2. Robert Françon and Claude Jamet, "Le Meilleur du Type Mouchon," *Timbroscopie*, N° 144, March 1997.
3. Jean-Luc Trassaert, "Type Mouchon 'Moderne et républicain,'" *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, N° 1694, February 1997.
4. China, Crete, Egypt (Alexandria, Port Said), Morocco, Turkey (Levant, Cavalle, Dedeagh), and Zanibar.

SOME UNUSUAL TRAVELED COVERS

by Alan Morway (FCPS #3167)

The seven Trucial States (also known as the United Arab Emirates and more familiarly as the "Sand Dune Countries") are tucked between Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf. Their earlier, voluminous stamp issues were not recognized for international postal use. Nevertheless, I have a number of covers that did travel through the international mails, only to be returned to their sender. I am illustrating here five covers that were mailed to France and returned from there. Some have French receiving or forwarding backstamps, and all bear legitimate French ancillary markings, such as NON RÉCLAMÉ [not called for], RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR [return to sender], N'HABITE-PAS A L'ADRESSE INDIQUÉE [not at this address], etc., either as handstamps or handwritten.

Figure 1 is a registered airmail envelope of 12 September 1966 from

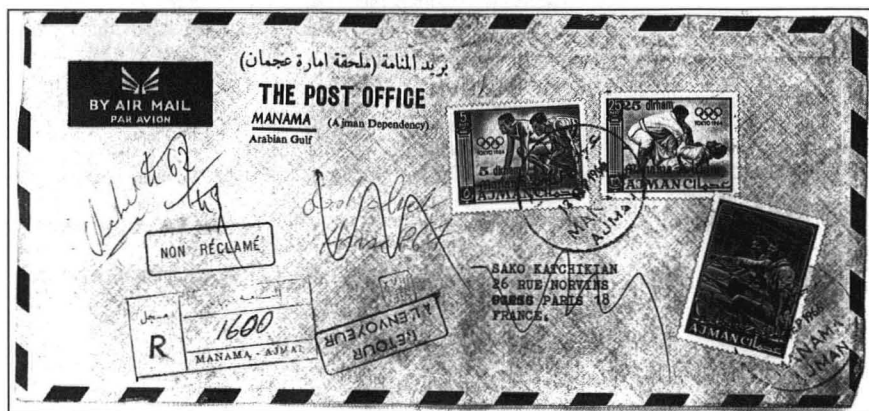


Figure 1. (reduced to 59%).

Manama, Ajman to Paris, with a Paris 67 backstamp of 17 September, *non-réclamé*, and returned to sender. Figure 2 shows an airmailed envelope of 27 January 1966 from Umm al Qiwayn to Montpellier, with a 16 February

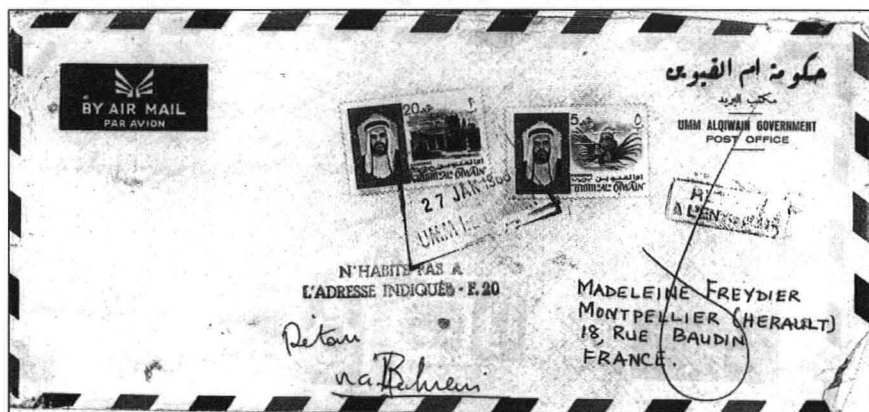


Figure 2. (reduced to 59%).

Montpellier RP backstamp. It was stamped "not at this address" and endorsed "return via Bahrain."

Figure 3 is rather similar, but dated 20 July 1967 and addressed to Evreux. Again, "not at this address," but the sole backstamp reads Safat-Kuwait, 13 August 1967. Kuwait was and is a "legitimate" stamp-issuing en-



Figure 3. (reduced to 59%).

tity, and this was probably a transit postmark, prior to re-expedition to Umm al Quiwain. The Figure 4 cover, bearing an overprinted stamp indicating a

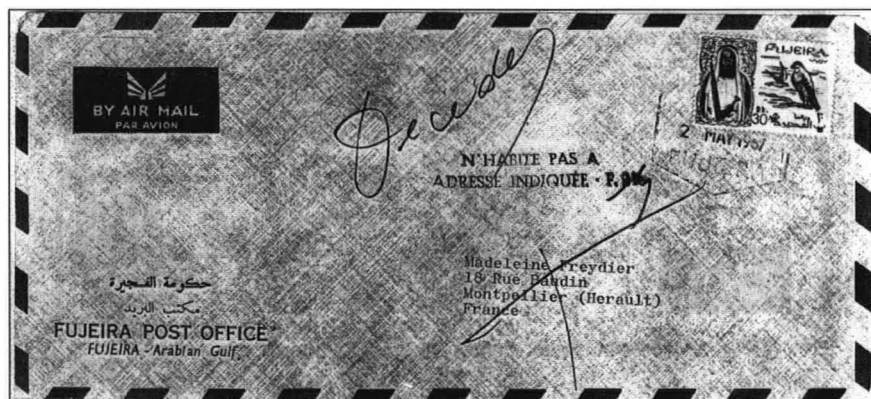


Figure 4. (reduced to 59%).

change in the local currency, went by air from Fujeira (2 May 1967) to the Figure 2 addressee. There's a 9 May 1967 Montpellier RP on the obverse side. This time, Madeleine Freydier is not only "not at the address" but "deceased" (handwritten) as well.

The last envelope (Figure 5) features a butterfly stamp, which is an example of one of the many topical stamps for which the Trucial States are famous for disseminating (mainly via their agents closer to contract printers) to collectors of varying degrees of sophistication. The cancel is barely legible here. The envelope went also to Montpellier, but to a different address. Again, a handstamped "not at this address" and a handwritten "unknown." There are no indications as to how the cover was returned.

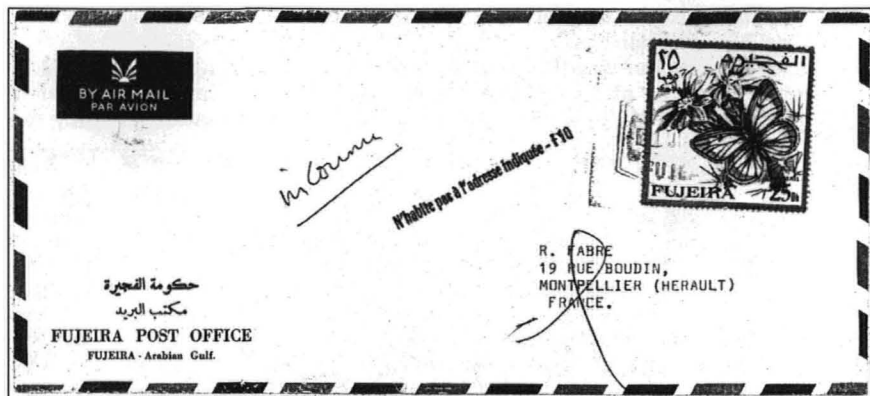


Figure 5. (reduced to 59%).

These five envelopes, as well as others in my possession sent to and returned from various countries, were obviously prepared with the senders' intention of getting them back, either for their own collections or to be offered to collectors. In order to ensure their return, it is quite apparent that the names of addressees or the addresses (or both) are very likely spurious. It is also evident from some of these and from other returned covers that the postal administrations used mailing lists from various sources, in order to (1) sell their stamps and first-day covers and (2) "prove" to the world that their stamps legitimately carried the mail to UPU countries.

Many, if not most, of the returned covers eventually were sold by the Trucial States postal administrations to one Gamil Atallah of Beirut, Lebanon, then the largest stamp dealer in the Middle East. I was fortunate when, later on, his son John Atallah gave me some of them to stimulate my interest in collecting unusual worldwide covers.

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

I've kicked this around, and more than once, in previous years, with mostly indifferent results. I (and hopefully others as well) would like to see members, especially the ones who hitherto have been reluctant to join in, send me a good photocopy or laser print of a "favorite" cover or grouping of unusual stamps that we can all share, to be shown either on the front page of our Journal, or as a featurette on the order of "A Cover Story" or "My Favorite Cover" or "Pages from My Collection." The front page of our April 2001 issue is graced by a cover from our President, and I have another proffered Colonies cover to use soon. As you may know, I like to alternate France and Colonies covers and France and Colonies stamps on our front pages for the sake of balancing our members' primary interests. Time for some of you to get your feet wet at this show-n-tell game. If nothing else, it builds confidence in one's particular field of collecting.

As Year 2002 and the imminent demonetization of many Western Europe currencies (including the French Franc) approach, we are seeing more and more "older" stamps, semi-postals included, being used up by stamps dealers and others on their philatelic and personal mail. Frankly, I'd prefer receiving the latest issues on cover, for I have more than enough duplicates of these mostly pre-1990s stamps but, of course, there's not much choice. This suggests that sound, postally used copies of 1998-2001 commemoratives should be worth obtaining now, before it's too late.

THE UNISSUED VICHY COLONIAL STAMPS OF 1942-1944

by Mark Anderson III (FCPS #2931)

My interest in this subject arose when I first noticed a colonial stamp on which the "RF" was missing. When I sought information in my *Scott* catalog and read the appropriate notes, I realized that here was an opportunity to go back through my duplicates, find these Vichy stamps and, thereby, add to my collection *at no additional cost*. But where to find a listing so as to know when my search was complete? I joined the Society to find the answer. It was not as simple as I had hoped.

In 1962, the *France & Colonies Philatelist* published the first of an expected series entitled "The Colonial Issues of the Vichy Government and the Free French Forces-1940-1944" (No. 115, Vol. 21, No. 3), by Edmond Queyroy. Unfortunately, M. Queyroy died before the series could be continued. Also, Col. Leblond wrote a series of articles (in French) for *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* during 1972-1974 (Nos. 1421, 1422, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1440, 1441 and 1442), giving a great deal of information on many of these Vichy issues.

Most of the issues are mentioned in *Scott* catalogs but only with limited information-few denominations, no colors. Last year, I obtained a *Cérès* catalog which contains all of the issues but they are scattered among the several colonies. Hence, I do not believe that there ever has been a complete listing, gathered together in one place, in *English*. This article is intended to fill that void.

I have made one trip to Paris; I speak a little high school French (Sidney Lanier High School class of 1955); but I make no claim that this article is the result of any research, in the original language, in the archives of La Poste. It is, simply, a compilation from the 1995 *Cérès* catalog. *Scott* references are to its 1996 catalog.

The issues are not particularly important nor are they particularly valuable. They are interesting, attractive stamps from a brief era in which there were two French governments. Without spending too much space on politics or history, I feel that I am on solid ground in stating that the Vichy government was the legitimate government of France, the last of the Third Republic. It was the government which the United States recognized, and with which it treated, at least until the invasion of North Africa in November 1942. When France fell in June 1940, and the Petain administration succeeded that of Reynaud, it controlled an empire second only to that of Great Britain. With the rise of De Gaulle, one by one, the colonies fell to Allied invasion or Free French *coup d'état*. These are legitimate issues which deserve more attention, even if never put into use.

Scott lists and assigns numbers to all of the regular issues picturing Marshal Petain but questions whether they were released in the colonies. It gives the same treatment to the 1941 "Défense de l'Empire" semi-postal sets picturing various colonial soldiers. It also covers many of the 1942 airmail issues [types CD88 and CD89]. Hence, these three series are excluded from this article. Finally, French Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia were so closely connected with Metropolitan France that there are no issues which fall within this article's parameters.

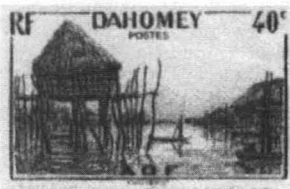
System: I have divided this list into seven sections. Within each section, the countries are listed alphabetically with the stamps in a variation of the *Scott* manner. First there is the type pictured in *Scott*; then a number which I have devised for the individual stamp; then the *Cérès* number; then the denomination in francs [except for French India, Indo-China and French Offices in Kwangchowan]; then the color. I use the same identification system for the stamps as *Scott*, by simply putting a "v" in front. Hence, v1 would be the first Vichy-issued regular stamp; vB1 the first Vichy semi-postal; etc. *Cérès* notes that some of those listed were *non émis*, i.e., not issued. Since none of the stamps seem to have been put in use, I am unsure of the significance of the statement. Nevertheless, those stamps are marked with an asterisk after the color.

{Editor's note: The complete Anderson listing consists of 25 pages, and we show here the first one-plus country entries to serve as an example of his exhaustive list. The complete list may be obtained from me for \$2.50 (in the U.S.) or \$5.00 (elsewhere, by air) to cover the costs of photocopying and postage. Here follows the beginning of the list!}

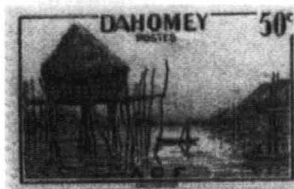
Section One

The Modified Pre-war Regular Issues

For most colonies, the Vichy government reprinted several stamps from the immediate pre-war series, omitting the "RF" (Figures 1 and 2). Generally, these issues were in the same denominations and in the same colors as before. These stamps are often mistaken in a collector's album [including several discovered in my own during the composition of this article], and even in APS circuit books, for the pre-war issues. Where my collection contains both pre-war and Vichy issues for comparison, I point out the difference.



Dahomey type A8.
RF in upper left corner.



Vichy issue. No RF.

Figure 1.



Martinique type A20.
RF in upper left corner.



Vichy issue. Numeral of value
replaces RF in upper left corner.

Figure 2.

Dahomey

(RF is missing from the upper left corner, Figure 1.)

A8	v1	151	.50 green
A8	v2	152	.60 black

France-Offices in China-Kwangchowan

(*Scott Indo-China types.* On type A20, RF is missing from the lower left tablet. On type A21, the value replaces RF in the upper left tablet. On type A22, R is missing from the upper left corner and F is missing from the upper right corner. On type A23, the value replaces RF in the upper left circle.)

A20	v1	140	2/5c red
A20	v2	141	1/2c red brown
A20	v3	142	1c sepia
* * *			
A23	v15	153	70c light blue etc.

FOREIGN RATES FROM THE FRENCH POST OFFICES IN EGYPT

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

I wrote the article published in the January 2001 *FCP* (N° 263) over a year ago, and in the interim some more information has turned up.

The 60-centime rate to European countries other than France has a much longer history than was originally presented; the earliest example that I have so far seen is dated 18 August 1860 (Figure 1), and is addressed to England. I

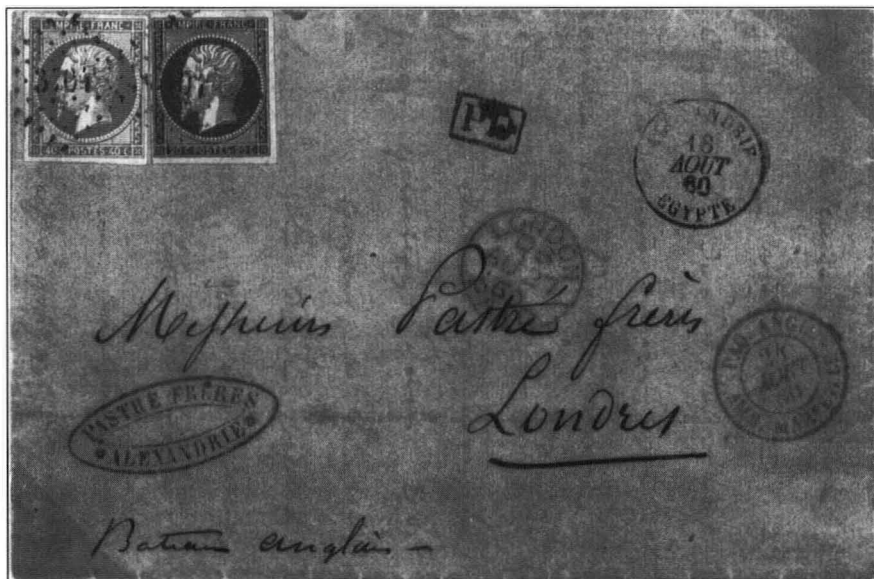


Figure 1. Early 60-centimes rate cover from Alexandria to non-French Europe, 18 August 1860. (reduced to 82%).

have other covers of the 1860s addressed to Scotland and to Switzerland. In those years, the rate for letters from Alexandria addressed to France varied from 50 c per 7.5 grams (1 January 1857) to 40 c per 10 grams (1 January 1866). The rate of 60 c to other countries was thus higher than the rate to France, a reasonable arrangement. However, the Franco-Prussian War had many different impacts on the mails, one of which was the increase of the rate between Egypt and France to 80 c per 10 grams (1 July 1871). The rate to other countries remained unchanged at 60 c, insofar as all evidence from covers I have seen reveals. Thus it became cheaper than the rate to France, not because of a deliberate reduction, but because of the 1871 increase. The reason for keeping it unchanged was presumably to meet the competition from other postal services.

Since the above remarks were written early in 2001, additional examples of the 60c rate have come in, and I report them here:

12 Jan. 1859, Alex. to Vienna: 20c + 80c -- **not** a 60c rate nor a double of it; this suggests that the 60c rate may not have been started until 1860.

27 April 1860, Alex. to England: 20c + 40c Napoleon imperf. (reported by Peter Grech).

December 1864, Alex. to Switzerland: 2 x 80c + 20c (triple weight).

21 June 1868, Port Said to Livorno: 3 x 40c Napoleon perforated (Peter Grech).

25 December 1868, Cairo to Switzerland: 2 x 10c + 40c Napoleon laureated (Peter Grech).

June, 1874, Alex. to Germany: 2 x 30c.

From all this, one can conclude that the 60c rate was in effect from 1860 to 1876, when France officially adhered to the GPU, barring the disconcerting appearance of covers that do not fit.

SOME SHOW REPORTS

- COLOPEX 2001 (Columbus, OH, March 2001): Vermeil medal in Literature competition to *Mute Cancellations of the Brazil Empire 1865-1889*, by J. A. Dinger and our member K. W. Lopes.
- FRESPEX 2001 (Fresno, CA, March): Reserve Grand Award and Gold medal to Bob Kinsley for "The Annam and Tonkin Expeditionary Corps."
- ROPEX 2001 (Rochester, NY, March): Silver medal to Steve Washburne for "Portuguese Christmas Postal Stationery."
- Nashville Stamp Show 2001 (Nashville, TN, March): Gold medal to Bob Picirilli for "Colonial Ivory Coast: The Definitive Issues, 1892 to World War II"; Vermeil medal to "Tuck" Taylor for "Cameroon Postal History 1890-1939"; Edward Nyberg, Jr. served on the jury.
- TEXPEX 2001 (Dallas, April): Gold medal with Felicitations to Paul Larsen for "Federal Issues of the Leeward Islands 1890-1911."
- MARCH PARTY 2001 (Cleveland, March): Gold medals to Paul Larsen for "German Togo 1885-1914, to Frederick Mayer for "New Caledonia, 1859-1899," and to Ken Nilsestuen for "Algeria through early 1876"; Silver medal to apparently non-member Orval Rasmussen for "Tunisia: First and Second Issues." Does any one know Mr. Rasmussen and could recruit him into our Society?
- WESTPEX 2001 (San Francisco, April): Reserve Grand Award and Gold medal to Frederick Mayer for his U.S. 5¢ 1856 exhibit; Gold medals to Steve Walske for "American Civil War Blockade Run Mail," and to your editor for "France: Military Campaigns 1823-1897"; Vermeil medal to "Tuck" Taylor for his Washington, D.C., postal markings, and to Peter Smith for and exhibit of Sudan officials, etc. Dave Herendeen served on the jury.
- Plymouth Show 2001 (Plymouth, MI, April): Reserve Grand Award and Gold medal to Paul Larsen for "German Togo 1885-1914"; Vermeil medal to Peter Smith for "French Offices in Egypt, 1837-1900."
- OKPEX 2001 (Oklahoma City, May): Vermeil medal to Connor Johnson for "France - Postal History from the First Postal Tariff to 1900."
- Philatelic Show 2001 (Boxborough, MA, May): Silver medal to Ray Gaillaguet for "Postal Stationery of Roty-Mouchon Sowers Issue 1903-1944."
- ROMPEX 2001 (Denver, May): Reserve Grand Award and Gold medal to your editor for "Alsace-Lorraine / Elsass-Lothringen, 1870 to UPU"; Gold medals to Dave Herendeen for "Postage Dues of the British Empire and Commonwealth" and to Frederick Mayer for "Nova Scotia 1767-1868"; Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "France: Stampless 1560s-1860s; Silver medal to your editor for "France: Marianne de Décaris (1960-1968)."

CORRECTIONS

Figures 1 and 6 of Bob Kinsley's "Port de La Rochelle" (N° 264, April 2001) were inadvertently cropped. Here they are in their entirety:

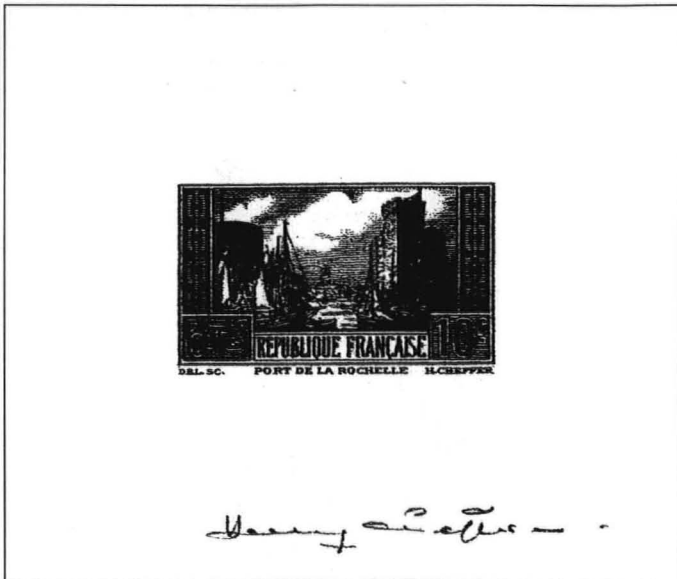


Figure 1. Black artist's proof, signed Henry Cheffer

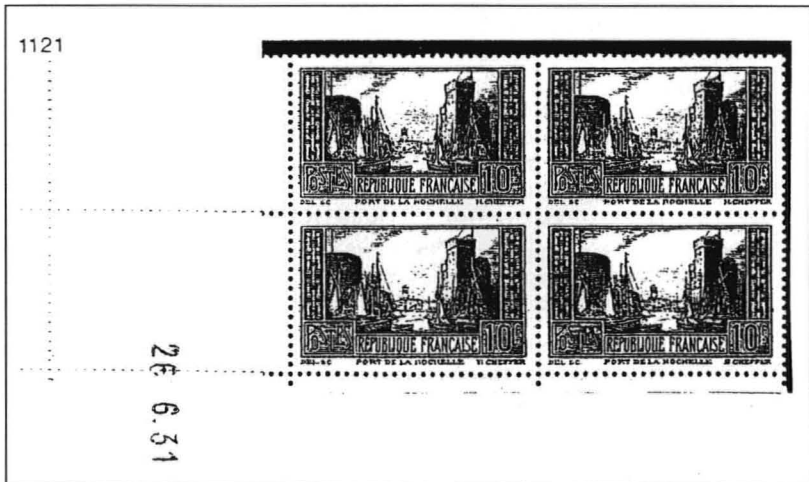


Figure 6. Coin daté block, 26 June 1931 printing

In "New Issues and Withdrawals" of that same issue (pp. 60-61), those funny little symbols that follow the Franc values for France and several other entities, are meant to stand for Euros (€). They were just fine in the page proof stage, but somehow metamorphosed in the final printing stage.

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE MESSAGES, WORLD WAR II

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

American military personnel during the Second World War had the free franchise for surface mail, and paid only the domestic 6¢ rate for airmail, but telegrams from the European Theater to the folks back home cost considerably more. As areas and countries were liberated and radio and cable(?) service reestablished, it became possible for GIs to send telegrams containing up to three short, numerically-coded messages (i.e., "I am well, I've been promoted, I need money, thanks for the letters, I love you, Merry Christmas," etc.). These Expeditionary Force Message (E.F.M.) telegrams were locally printed in various formats on poor quality, generally yellowish paper, and in English. For the most part, they also incorporated the phrases "République Française / Postes, Télégraphes, Téléphones" near or at the top (Figure 1), for they were

Figure 1. (reduced to 75%).

being transmitted via the PTT auspices of the Free French and the later French Provisional Government. The front page of our July 2001 issue shows an unusual and scarcer type, without any French headings, and with space in the upper left for the British censor marking as well as additional space for a U.S. censor.

E.F.M.s were first used in liberated Algeria in the Spring of 1943, costing the sender 30 francs. These are exceedingly scarce and I can't recall ever having seen any examples. A 30F stamp was fabricated by overprinting existing horizontal, large-format Algerian stamps with E.F.M. / 30 frs (Figure 2). It is possible that the Algerian formulas may also have been used by British Commonwealth and Free French troops.

In France after D-Day, the tariff was reduced to 25 francs, for which no French stamp existed. As a result, the 15F Château



Figure 2.

de Chenonceaux was reengraved and converted into the 25F grayish black version which was printed specifically for E.F.M. use during October and November 1944. In theory, other French stamps, totaling 25 francs in face value, could also have served. The most frequently seen cancellations on the 25F Chenonceaux are U.S. APO date stamps and bar killers (Figure 3 and cover illustra-

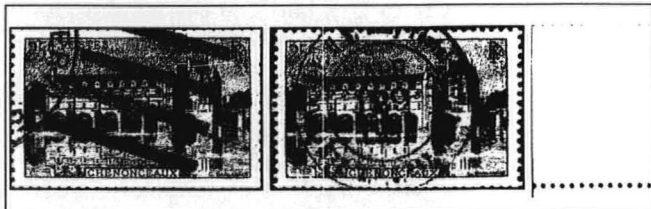


Figure 3. (reduced to 81%)

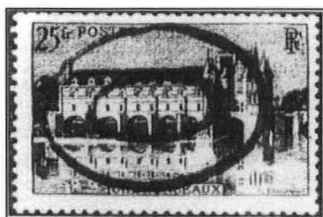


Figure 4.

tion) and mute killers of various forms (Figures 1 and 4), in black, violet or red. Off-cover stamps with these U.S. markings are still relatively common, for PTT personnel usually removed them for their own purposes or for sale to collectors once the telegrams had been sent. Conversely, the stamped and canceled forms themselves are very scarce and much sought after by American and French collectors.

Even scarcer than 25F Chenonceaux formules are the later ones bearing a large-format, engraved 25F Marianne de Gandon (Figure 5). These stamps were also at first printed specifically for E.F.M.s, at intervals between April 1945 and February 1946. Again, it's worth reminding the reader that other stamps, with a cumulative value of 25 francs, may also have been used.

AVAILABLE TEXTS AND CORRESPONDING NUMBERS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM UNIT MAIL CLERK OR APO			
N° 550 U. S. A.		RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE	
EXPÉDITION		POSTES, TÉLÉGRAPHES, TÉLÉPHONES	
EXPÉDITION		FORCE MESSAGE (E F M)	
CHARGE : 25 Fr. for a complete message to any address in U. S. A.	At : To : By :	SEN 06325	
SENDER'S CODE CABLE ADDRESS : AN 2H10	ADDRESS : E. F. M. MISS CAROLE HABERT ALCOTT HALL - Rm C-216 US POTMAC PARK, WASHINGTON, D. C.		STAMP of CENSOR
TEXT : 58-2-137 (Indicate here the numbers of any three (or less) of the phones shown below and overleaf)			
SIGNATURE : RICHARD J. HABERT (Not to exceed three words: (1) and (2) first name or initials, (3) surname)			
SENDER'S PARTICULARS : RANK PVT NAME RICHARD J. HABERT (ASN) 36212762 (APO) 227			

Figure 5. (reduced to 75%).

E.F.M.s were sent, not only from Algeria and France, but also from other liberated areas of western and central Europe and from occupied areas of Germany. Some bear U.S. censor markings, conceivably also British, French or other censor markings, but many do not.

E.F.Ms transmitted from Paris (the most frequently seen point of origin) usually bear an additional date stamp alongside (but not on the stamp) reading CENTRAL-RADIO / PARIS (other Paris date stamps exist as well) that is dated a few days later than the U.S. APO date stamps. This suggests that (1) they were brought from U.S. bases to the appropriate telegraphic bureau at intervals, or (2) that there was a bottleneck either at the bases or at the PTT facilities, or (3) that such personal telegrams had a low priority compared to official dispatches, or any combination of these factors. After all, "there's a war on!"

There should be a lot more to the story than this simple, brief account of a unique cooperative agreement between the U.S. and the French Provisional Government. I'll be looking forward to obtaining additional information--and corrections of any statements made--from our readers.

Bibliography

Col. Deloste, *Histoire Postale et Militaire de la Deuxième Guerre Mondiale*; Editions de l'Echangiste Universel, Bischwiller, 1969.

Didier Michaud, "Le 25F Château de Chenonceaux raconte son extraordinaire épopée"; *Timbrologie* N° 114, June 1994.

J.-L. Trassaert, "Chenonceaux: un timbre pour l'Amérique"; *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, N° 472, March 1993.

[The E.F.M. forms shown here were copied from the Philatel 196th (December 2000) auction catalogue]

RESEARCH HELP WANTED

This came to us by way of Ernst Cohn. Dr. Robert Bell has "rediscovered" the existence of folded business postcards that seem to have flourished from shortly after the First World War until into the 1980s, at least in Europe, Africa and the Near East. This appears to be one of the few areas that has not received much attention from philatelists. The cards were devised for the benefit of small businesses and organizations that probably couldn't afford printing their announcements but yet had enough typing to do, and so saved both time and money by running paper through the typewriter only once, with carbon copy attached, and then folding part of the card over on itself so that one side became the address and the other the message side.

Dr. Bell has found examples from France and wonders if these cards were also used in the Colonies. All cards seen are used. Was the carbon and copy paper supplied with the cards or purchased separately? There are indications that some cards came in sheets; how long or wide were the sheets, and did any come in rolls? What were the arrangements in each country for licensing their manufacture and who manufactured them? How were the cards printed? Have you seen any printed on the back? Why would some indicate "POST-CARD" and others not? Information on costs to users, royalties, patents?

What were domestic and international rates? Are there any UPU regulations discussing rates? Were all sent at postcard rates? Do you know of any literature regarding these cards? What postal regulations in each country or colony allowed these to be introduced and when? And what postal regulations in each country caused the demise of these cards from the 1960s onward?

If you can help this researcher in any way, regarding cards from France, the Colonies, or anywhere else for that matter, please direct your information to Dr. Robert M. Bell, P.O. Box 3668, West Sedona, AZ 86340, USA; fax + 520-203-4523; e-mail <rmsbell@aol.com>. Your editor would also appreciate receiving a copy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- Here's a little more information on the mail-tracing (*lettre suivie*) etiquettes mentioned in the October 2000 (N° 262, p. 117) issue. The system is only for domestic mail weighing up to 3 kg. A letter with affixed etiquette can be deposited directly in any mailbox, or brought to the post office. Once at the post office it is "registered" by a reading of the etiquette's optical bar code. When it arrives at the destination post office, the lower (smaller) of the two bar codes is peeled off and affixed upon an appropriate formule by the mail carrier; upon his return to the post office after making his rounds, that bar code is then read. Neither the sender nor the recipient signs for anything. If the sender wishes to learn if the letter has been received, he can check the website www.laposte.fr/csuiivi or phone a specified number. A similar, international service, was launched 29 May 2000 for rapid (Priority "plus") service to several European countries plus the United States, with more European countries to follow soon afterwards. Again, neither sender nor addressee has anything to sign for. We haven't been advised as yet as to the charges for this POST SUIVI/INTERNATIONAL.
- It's reasonably well-known that the French State stamps, most of them bearing the effigy of Marshal Petain, were demonetized in France after 31 October 1944 and that any such mail was to be returned to sender. Less well known is that they were no longer tolerated nor sold at post offices in Algeria shortly after 8 November 1942 (I don't have an "official" date, assuming there may have been one), nor in liberated Corsica from July-August 1944 (though still available at some Corsican post offices). French State stamps continued to be sold and used in German-controlled Atlantic pockets well into 1945.
- Member Klerman Wanderley Lopes has written, with J. A. Dingle, a book on *Mute Cancellations of the Brazil Empire 1865-1889*, published in 2000 by the Brazil Philatelic Association. It received a Vermeil medal at COLOPEX 2001.
- Although the pneumatic post of Paris was terminated on 30 March 1984, the tube system remains in constant use for the transmission of documents, memos, small packages (one containing ink exploded in the premises...) among the various locales of the administration (*Mairie*) of Paris.
- It has been common knowledge that France and



Figure 2.

Colonies stamps were printed by the Banque de France until July 1880, and afterwards by the Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres Poste. The first used a blue "Contrôle / T.P." within an oval (Figure 1) as a control marking on its printed sheets of stamps. The latter, an arc between two triangles, punched into the sheets and cut out (Figure 2). But now, Jean-François Brun reports the discovery of a lower-right corner block of four of the Colonies

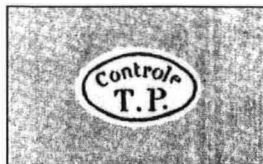


Figure 1.

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- 1c Dubois, a stamps not printed prior to 1881, bearing a very well defined *Contrôle / T.P.* within oval. What might be the reason and the story? There's always something new or contradictory waiting to be discovered!
- Members of the Society of Indo-China Philatelists have begun a Vietnam Fake and Fantasy Group web site, to study and disseminate information on fake and bogus Vietnam material. The site is at: <http://imnahastamps.com/fakes/index.htm>
 - New member Gary Brown of Australia is also the editor of *The Dhow*, the organ of the Aden/Somaliland/Yemen society. His primary FCPS interest lies in pre-Independence Tunisia. Welcome aboard, Gary!
 - For further information on *Poste Restante* (General Delivery) fees [see *FCP* N° 264, April 2001] in France and a number of other countries, we suggest that you read member Peter Smith's "Poste Restante Fees," in *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 75, N° 5 (Sept.-Oct. 1996).
 - You still have until 4 November of this year to see a fine exhibit on the past, present and future of the written letter--as well as the other usual fine exhibits there--at the Musée d'Histoire des P.T.T. d'Alsace, in the picturesque little town of Riquewihr (Haut-Rhin). Great wines and tasting rooms in town, as well.
 - Long-time postal history collector and dealer, and a good friend over several decades, Theodore (Theo.) Van Dam passed away on 2 May 2001 at his California home after a long illness. He was born in Amsterdam in 1916. Theo specialized in and wrote at length on military postal history. Among his many works are *War Dates 1911-1950*, *War Dates 1839-1859*, *1959-1979*, and *A Century of War Dates and More! 1859-1959*, all published during the past ten years, and all exceedingly useful to the postal and other historians. Theo will be sorely missed by many of us.

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from #264, April 2001, p. 59)

- **810.)** The 5 January 1942 rate increase for single-weight domestic letters, from 1F to 1F50, caused a temporary shortage of 1F50 stamps in part of the Unoccupied Zone of France during that January. This gave some philatelists (and others) the opportunity to create their own provisional franking, by bisecting readily available 1F stamps and affixing them alongside unbisected 1F stamps [1F + half of a 1F = 1F50] (Figure 1). This practice was unauthorized by the postal authorities, the bisects went "unrecognized," and most extant covers were taxed at 1F (= twice the unpaid 50c fraction). (Thanks to Bertrand Sinais, in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* for May 2000).

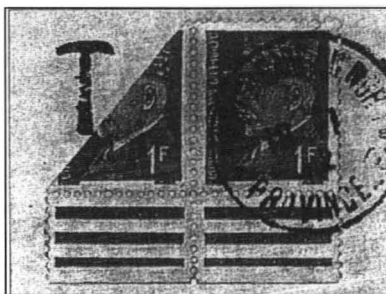


Figure 1.

- **811.)** Bertrand Sinais often packs a lot of information on little-known subjects in his auction catalogues, and I've paraphrased a number of them before for this Journal. Here's another tidbit, from his 47th sale of March 2001, regarding Lots 8930 to 8985: Passengers on the long ship voyages between Marseille and Kobe (Japan) could, starting in 1934, send mail

more rapidly by air by turning their letters over to the purser, who would then bring them to the post office at the nearest port of call. (Prior to 1934, passengers had to hand carry such mail themselves to the post office). Ports of call were Marseille, Port Said, Djibouti, Colombo, Singapore, Saigon, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Kobe. We show examples of such air-mail, from the catalogue, in Figure 2. The late Dr. Joany wrote a detailed account of these *Bateau-Avion* letters in 1979. The service ended abruptly December 1941 when Japan entered the war.



Figure 2. (reduced to 86%).

- > **812.)** At various critical times during the 20th Century, some mail in France could only be carried by bicycle. This service was usually very temporary in nature, and the mail carried, in addition to being rare, is difficult to recognize as such, though they tended to be annotated "EXPRES" (Special Delivery) in one way or another. J.-P. Mangin (currently president of the Académie Européenne de Philatélie) had a bicycle thematic collection, which was sold in June 1993 by Jamet-Baudot (auction sale N° 161, lots 199-209 for the French material). It included bicycle mail from (1) St. Quentin (Aisne) during July 2-August 1940, which bears the local Red Cross handstamp and (or) other indication that the mail had been prepaid and was not to be taxed; (2) a Paris letter of June (or later) 1940 with a violet PAR CYCLISTE handstamp; (3) April 1944 service for just a few days, along some inoperative train lines in southeastern France; (4) July 1944 [Normandy invasion] mail from Avranches to Rennes, cancelled by provisional handstamp of the cyclist service; (5) February-March 1945 service in Alsace during the period when civilian mail service had not yet been re-

stored after the Occupation. In this last instance, official (franchise) mail was brought by bicycle to Molsheim and sent from there to Strasbourg; no personal mail was allowed. Examples from the catalogue, unfortunately poorly legible, are shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3. (reduced to 59%).

- **813.)** The rarest of all French military date stamps of the TRESOR ET POSTES AUX ARMEES genre, used in Morocco, is undoubtedly that from SAFI (Figure 4). Indicated in the older literature as having served only in May 1914, it has now been shown by Janie Kyrillis (in *Le Rekkas*, N° 29, December 2000) to have been used in March and April 1914, and perhaps not at all that May.
- **814.)** This is a "preliminary" update on **F the R N° 794** (N° 261, July 2000). Mr. Laredo reports (*Le Rekkas*, N° 30, March 2001) on the following "ameliorated" dates for early French Marrakech date stamps:



Figure 4.

1. Earliest known French-type cancels on Brudo postal service stamps = 4 Oct. 1900 (Marrakech) and 6 Oct. 1900 (Mazagan);
2. Earliest known French cancel on a French Morocco stamp = 19 Jan. 1903 (Figure 5-1); same type Marrakech cancel as for #1, above;
3. Later models of Marrakech date stamps are shown in Figure 5-2 to 6; all used from 1904-on; [note the change in the post office's status from a secondary one (Figure 5-1 to 5) to a first class one (Figure 5-6), apparently in 1913];
4. Earliest known Marrakech-Mellah date is 3 May 1915 (Figure 5-7);
5. Earliest known Marrakech-Medina Figure 5-8 style date stamp = 5 Oct. 1915, and for the Figure 5-9 style, 21 March 1916.

(Our thanks for this information and for the illustrations go to Solly Laredo and to *Le Rekkas* editor, Jean Haik).

MARRAKESH



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



MARRAKESH-MEDINA

MARRAKESH-MELLAH



Fig 7



Fig 8



Fig 9



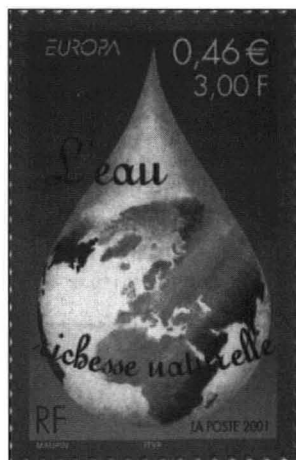
(reduced to 68%).

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 264, April 2001, p. 61)

France

- 17 (19) March 2001: 20th Century Communications: five 3,00F/0,46€ stamps se-tenant, and five more of same design repeated in a pane of ten at 30F.
- 23 (26) March: "It's a Boy" and "It's a Girl," two at 3,00F/0,46€ "Thanks"; 4,50F/0,69€ "Yes!" [entwined hearts design];
- April: New cover for booklets of ten self-adhesive permanent-value stamps: Communications theme;
- 21 (23) April: Forest Animals: 2,70F/0,41€ (squirrel), two at 3,00F/0,46€ (deer, hedgehog), 4,50F/0,69€ (ermine), + sheetlet of the four stamps at 13,20F; 6,70F/1,02€ 13th Cent. painting from the Hôtel of Knights of St. John;
- 28 (30) April: 3,00F/0, 46€ Nogent-le Rotrou chateau (Eure-et-Loir Dept.);
- 5 (7) May: 3,00F/0,46€ Fortified city of Besançon (Doubs);
- 8 (9) May: 3,00F/0, 46€ Water, a natural treasure (EUROPA);
- 12 (14) May: 4,40F/0,67€ The Gardens at Versailles;
- 19 (21) May: 3,00F/0, 46€ Old district of Lyon; Popular Singers [Léo Ferré, Serge Gainsbourg, Barbara, Dalida, Claude François, Michel Berger] at 3,00F/0,46€ each, plus "semi-postal" sheetlet of same at 28F [extra 10F going to the Red Cross];
- 1 (5) June: 3,00F/0,46€ 74th Congress of Federation of French Philatelic Associations, Tours;
- 7 (8) June: 3,00 F/0, 46€ 30th Anniv. of death of Jean Vilar;
- 16 (18) June: 3,00F/0, 46€ Calais.



Withdrawals: 9 March 2001: Nature series (four stamps + sheetlet) of 2000; 4,50F Folklores; 13 April: French Adventurers semi-postals (six at 3,00F + 0,60F and 21,60F booklet), 3,00F Alfred Stanke, 6,70F Art of Chaissac, 3,00F Best Wishes for 2000, 3,00F Hurrah for the Year 2000, 3,00F It's a Boy (1999), 3,00F It's a Girl (1999), 3,00F 1999 Good Vacations, 3,00F 1999 Hurrah for Vacations; 11 May 3,00F SOS Amitiés, 3,00F 1999 Thanks!.

Andorra

- 10 (12) February 2001: 4,50F/o,59€ Canillo Aliga Club's mountain station;
- 17 (19) February: 6,70F/1,02€ Gate of Cristo House Museum;
- 23 (26) March: Legend of Engolaters Lake and Founding of Andorra triptych of two at 3,00F/o,46€ + label.
- 23 April: 3,80F/o,58€ International Book Day.
- 24 (30) April: 3,00F/o, 46€ Water, a natural treasure (EUROPA);
- 12 (14) May: 3,00F/o,46€ raspberries; 4,40F/o,67€ jay bird on branch.



Withdrawals: 9 February 2001: 3,00F Noël 2000, 9 March: 3,00F Celebrating the Year 2000; 13 April: 3,00F EUROPA, 6,00F triptych for Feasts of Calonic and Meritxell.

French Polynesia

- 28 March 2001: 55F Year of the Polynesian Child;
- 12 April: Polynesian Singers 85F, 120F, 130F, 180F.

Withdrawals: 30 March 2001: all Philexfrance 99 issues, Fruits of Funéa (stamps and booklet), Malarde Institute, Painters of Tahiti (four stamps), Tahiti on the Eve of Year 2000, Arts Festival of the Marquesas.

Mayotte

- 12 March 2001: 3,00F/o46€ Pickup-truck bush taxi; 2,70F/o,41€ Pilgrims returning from Mecca;
- 30 April (2 May): 5,20F/o,79€ 25th Anniv. of Foreign Legion Mayotte Detachment.

Withdrawals: 30 March 2001: 3,00F Tsingoni Mosque, 3,00F isle of the lagoon, 8,00F Combani dike, fish of the lagoon (four stamps), 8,00F baobab tree, 12F Philexfrance 99 block, 5,40F the founda.

Monaco

- 5 February 2001: 3,50F/o,53€ 41st TV Festival.
- 14 April: 6,50F/o,99€ International Dog Show;
- 21 April: 6,70F/1,02€ Euroflora.

New Caledonia

- > 16 February 2001: Year of the Snake: 100F stamp and 140F sheetlet of two 70F stamps;
- > 18 April: 110F four-master "France II."

Withdrawals: 1 January 2001: 1997

Issues: 95F La Trapas, 1000F. Mitterrand; 1998 Issues: Cagou WWF 5F, 10F, 15F, 70F, Cent. of Arab presence 80F, Festivities 100F, old engraving 155F, Chief Bouquet 110F; 1999 Issues: South Pacific Games (four), musical 100F Paris-Nouméa regular flights, 105F Paul Bloc, 135F ETOM;

- > 30 March: Philexfrance 99, local Hotels and Restaurants (four stamps), Nouméa Accord, Aboriginal Danse, Hagen "chateau," Environmental Protection, Christmas and Greeting stamps (four) of December 1999.

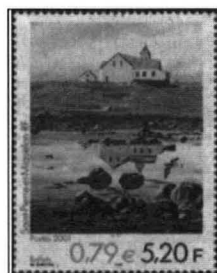


St. Pierre & Miquelon

- > 29 January 2001: 5,20F/o79€ artistic reflections;
- > 26 March: 3,80F/o,58€ La grisette (flower or mushroom?);
- > 23 April: 1,70F/o,26€ and 2.00F/o30€ gathering hay.

Withdrawals: 26 January 2001: 3,00F and 5,70F

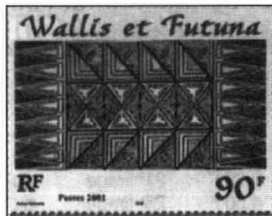
humpback whale and common rorqual; 11 February: 5,20F "Les Graves" painting; 10 March: 3,80F red berries; 7 April: 1,70F and 2,00F gathering wood, 10F La sterne arctique, 14F De Gaulle, 15F Le courlis, 3,00F announcing Philexfrance, 3,00F Chirac's Visit, 3,00F France in North America.



Wallis & Futuna

- > 26 February 2001: 225F ship "Jacques Cartier";
- > 14 March: 75F Fight against Alcohol;
- > 14 April: Tapa Cloth designs se-tenant block of four at 90F each.

Withdrawals: 30 March 2001: Philexfrance 99, Territorial Assembly, 200th Anniv. of French Senate, Pandanus tree, Tufuga, four-master "Wind Song," 150th Anniv. of postage stamp, Sunrise over the lagoon.



NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

- Michèle Chauvet, *Les Relations de la France avec l'Angleterre de 1670 à 1849*; 180 pp. 21x30 cm, numerous illustrations; limited printing, at 250F (including registry) from Brun & Fils, 85 Galerie Beaujolais, Palais Royal, F-75001 Paris. (Conventions, tariffs, postal markings, official texts, equivalence of moneys, exchange markings explained, the India Mail, Channel Islands mail, etc., all meticulously described by a noted expert in the field).
- Joseph Bergier, *Relations Aéropostales (1919-1945) Europe/Amérique du Nord*; 250 A4 pages, card cover, plastic bound; 190F (+25F postage in France, +40F in Zones 2 and 3, +50F in Zone 4 [= USA, Canada]), payable to Amicale Philatélique l' "Ancre," at 7 rue Dobrée, F-44100 Nantes, France. (8 colored maps and 175+ black and white copies of covers; documents and tables; some 120 flights plus attempts described in detail, with dates, mail carried, etc; catapult flights; precursor flights; airmail relations during WWII).
- Gabriel Dardenne, *Extrait des principaux Tarifs postaux usuels au départ des Districts des Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises de 1924 à 1997*; 33 pp.; 75F postpaid (probably more beyond France?), from the author, 45 rue de Leucate, F-31590 L'Union, France.
- *Timbres de France 1849-2000* [CD-ROM, for PCs and Macs]; 149F (+ postage), from Yvert & Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036 Amiens Cedex, France. (The catalogue, plus formulating your collection and making want lists).
- Gérard Lhéritier, *Ballons Montés, Boules de Moulins*, 4th edition, 2000; 432 pp., hardbound; numerous illustrations, many in color; text in French, English, Italian, German and Spanish; US \$52.50 (+ \$4 postage) or UK£32.00 (+ 2£ postage), from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus; Fax + 357-5-632352; e-mail <books@JamesBendon.com> (Also covers mail to Paris, Papillons de Metz, pigeongrammes, and smuggled mail; all with valuations).
- John L. DeBois, edited by J. A. Farrington and R. D. Schnell, *Danish West Indies Mails, 1754-1917: Postal History* (2nd edition, 2000); 206 pp., hardbound, extensively illustrated; US\$75.00 (+ \$4 postage) or UK£55.00 (+ 2£ postage), from James Bendon, Ltd. [as per above listing]. (Includes French mail services and much more, with price guide, bibliography, index; major revision of the out-of-print 1979 1st edition).
- Leonard Hartmann's 25th catalog of Philatelic Literature; 127 pp.; from Philatelic Bibliopole, P.O. Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233, USA; site: <http://pbbooks.com>. Fax +502-459-8538. (A huge stock of new, older, and out-of-print books).
- Michel Tixier, *Poste Rurale et Poste Urbaine dans le Département de la Vienne, 1830-1876*; 90FF + postage, from the author at 15 rue d'Anjou, F-86000 Poitiers, France. (No information on pages, illustrations, format, etc., but contents and annexes indicate this to be the definitive work on this Dept. within the timeframe).
- *Catalogue Yvert et Tellier 2001*, vol. 1 (France), 464 + 32 pp., all in color, 98F + postage for soft cover at 120F + postage for card cover; vol. 1bis (Monaco, Europa, UN, Andorra), 304 pp., all in color, 60F + postage; vol. 2, part 1 (1999) (French Colonies and Overseas Territories), 504 pp, all in

color, 170F + postage; from the publisher (see 4th entry, above) or from the usual sources.

- Emmanuel Lebeque, *Catalogue des Oblitérations Losanges petits et gros chiffres pour le Département du Nord (1852-1876)*; 142 pp., A4 format, spiral bound, numerous illustrations; 130F postpaid in France (more elsewhere?); inquire of author at 17 Ave. Henri-Barbusse, F-59970 Marly, France. (A very detailed catalogue, with dates of usage, reengraved numerals, etc., of the small and large numeral killers of the Nord Dept.).
- Jean Morat, *Tunisie: l'Histoire Postale et les Emissions de Timbres durant la Régence 1888-1955*; 146 pp., + a supplement giving valuations; 140F + 40F postage, from author at Sentier du Plateau, F-92320 Chatillon, France. (A detailed study, for the French regime in Tunisia, of the postal markings in use at some 800 postal installations; also postal rates, stationery, millesimes, coins datés, printing runs).
- André Lader, *Les Timbres de la Libération de Saverne, décembre 1944*; 26 pp., A4 format, softbound, all illustrations in color; published by SPAL; 100F + 10F postage, from André Peine, Boite Postale 31004, F-67381 Lingolsheim Cedex, France. (A detailed study of the Liberation overprints and their postal usage, along with copies of the documents that authorized these overprints; with asides on other Alsace-Lorraine Liberation overprints).
- Jean-Pierre Bournique, *Catalogue des timbres à date du Haut Rhin 1915-1940*; 40 pp., A4 format, softbound, black and white illustrations; published by SPAL; 50F + 10F postage, from André Peine (see address, above). (A detailed classification and catalogue of the postal markings of the Haut-Rhin Dept. of the 1915-1940 period).
- Michel Pierre Courtois, *Essai de Dictionnaire Isographique de la Convention Nationale 1792-1795*; 248 pp., A4 format, card cover; no price indicated; inquire of Editions La Poste d'Autrefois, 43 rue de Provence, F-75009 Paris. (This is an alphabetically arranged sequence of images of the autograph signatures of almost all the members of the National Convention, along with very brief biographical data; will be very useful to autograph collectors who wish to verify the authenticity of their autographs, at least for this very restricted field).
- *Catalogue des entiers postaux des anciennes colonies françaises, bureaux français à l'étranger et territoires occupés ou sous mandat et Etats devenues indépendants - 2001* [Catalogue of the postal stationery of former French colonies, Offices Abroad, and occupied or mandated territories, and states that are now independent - 2001]; published by the Association des Collectionneurs d'Entiers Postaux (ACEP); completely redone new edition of some 600 pages; includes the latest information on French 1940-1945 Interzone and overseas postal cards; separate pamphlet gives current valuations in euros (and francs?); 500F (+ 50F postage and packing), payable to the order of ACEP, from M. André de Kervern, 16 rue de Liège, F-75009 Paris. (The official stationery catalogue for the above-named areas).
- Robert Gregnac-Daudemard and Alain Trinquier, *La Poste aux lettres dans le département du Var (II. - Bureaux de Direction (1792-1831)*; 48 pp., A5 format; 50F (+ 6,70F postage; more outside France?), from the Cercle d'Histoire Postale - Musée Régional de Timbre et de la Philatélie du Luc, Le Château, Boite Postale 51, F-83340 Le Luc-en-Provence, France. (The evolution of postal markings of principal P.O.s of the Var Dept. is described, including déboursés, prepaids, manuscript markings, etc.)

- *La Cote des Coins datés et des Millésimes*, 64th edition, 2001; 60F (+ postage beyond France?); check payable to SoCoCoDaMi, Boite Postale 4625, F-22046 St.-Brieuc Cedex 2, France. (The annual priced catalogue of dated corner blocks and gutter-pair numerals).
- *Catalogue Cérès 2001 des Colonies Françaises [etc.]*, 52nd edition, 712 pp. in two volumes, more than 10,000 illustrations; 245F (+ 35F postage), from Editions Philatéliques de Paris, 23 rue du Louvre, F-75001 Paris, or your usual sources. (Latest edition of the priced catalogue, which also includes the DOM-TOMs, Andorra and Monaco, with specialized information on Colonies booklets and on the prestamp philately of Monaco).
- David L. Herendeen, *The Parcel Post Stamps of the Ivory Coast*; 8 + 142 pp., 7 x 10", card cover, numerous illustrations; ISBN 0-9708234-0-1\$24.95 postpaid in the US, from Herendeen Enterprises, 1641-D 237th Street, Harbor City, CA 90710, USA. (The very last word, in the form of an exhaustive treatise and priced catalog, on the subject. Author has painstakingly determined the order of printing dates for these overprinted [on postage dues] issues, which ones are only trials and essays, and which ones actually saw parcel-post-usage--as opposed to philatelic usage. A must for collectors of these issues, as well as a model for researchers planning to make intensive studies of particular stamps of any sort from anywhere).

MEMBERS' APPEALS

WANTED: Ivory Coast postal stationery (mint envelopes): Higgins & Gage 8b (1901), 10 (1915), 12 (1919); will buy or trade. Make offers to Bob Picirilli, 301 Greenway Ave., Nashville, TN 37205, USA; phone (615) 297-0183; e-mail <repic@fwbbc.edu> (Mb. N° 2381).

WANTED for a Topical collection: Paris Siege ballon monté carried on the "Garibaldi." Please send copy and price to Bob Kinsley, 5410 Fern Loop, West Richland, WA 99353; e-mail <kinsley@owt.com> (Mb. N° 2180).

FCPS National Meeting at the 2001 Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition

This World Series of Philately show, better known to us old-timers as SEPAD, will be held October 12-14, 2001 at the Fort Washington Expo Center, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania. Frame fees are \$10 for from one to ten 16-page frames per exhibit; juniors may show one frame for a \$2 fee. Entries will close August 20 unless space has been sold beforehand. Our President will have more to say in his Letters on possible Society activities during the show. For the prospectus and other information, inquire of Stephen S. Washburne, P.O. Box 43146, Philadelphia, PA 19129-3146.

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

At the Annual Meeting, we elected Jeffrey Bohn as a Director in the Class of 2004. We all must express our appreciation to Beatrice M. Berner for her many years of devoted service as the Society's treasurer, and afterwards as a Director. Unfortunately she moved to a Retirement Home several years ago, and has no longer been unable to participate. Jeffrey is a well-known collector, author, and exhibitor specializing in Transatlantic Mail and prestamp markings of Paris, and we are delighted to welcome him to the Board.

I have written previously here about the phenomenon called eBay. Their operation has presented an opportunity for selling and acquiring much unusual material. Among the items that have been frequently offered on eBay there have been a wide variety of fakes. Please, I am not speaking here about fakes offered as genuine material, but fakes offered as fakes. EBay's regulations include one prohibiting the sale of fakes, but it is rarely enforced, and I prefer it that way. Examples of fakes have always been included as part of a specialized collection, and some philatelists have built large collections entirely of fakes. The demand on eBay has been high enough that we now have a new industry: the production of fake overprints primarily, perhaps entirely, for sale as fakes on eBay. These stamps are offered under a variety of seller names, but appear to all be from one source, located in Florida. These are not dangerous fakes: in most cases they might be called "cinderellas," since these are varieties that do not exist genuine. I can give examples only from the areas I collect, but I assume they have produced similar material throughout the French area. Recently, they offered a 2 Franc stamp from the Eboue issue of Martinique adorned with a FRANCE LIBRE overprint, and also an R.F. overprint, "attributed to the French exiles in Cayenne." Since the Eboue Issue appeared in 1945, this is obvious foolishness. More recently you could bid on a 35 centimes Sower with a "fake overprint" for the Montenegro Government-in-Exile at Bordeaux. Such overprints were produced in 1916, and saw limited use for perhaps a week before suppression by the French government. The striking aspect of this offering is that the "fake overprint" is on the 35 centimes green Sower issued in 1937, rather than the 35 centimes violet, which was current in 1916. I will admit to having paid around \$2.00 each for a couple of these creations on stamps from Martinique. However, I have resolved to buy no more. I do not want to encourage this foolishness further. Buy one or two examples, if they are cheap enough, but, after that, I appeal to you, buy no more. So long as there are buyers, they will make more. Only when they cannot be sold at a profit will production stop.

RMS

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The report was not received in time, and will be postponed into the October issue.