

Vermeil Medals at STAMPSHOW '99 and SESCAL 2000



This issue's cover features a Somali Coast letter bearing a pair of Scott 23 (Yvert 22), the left hand stamp with inverted surcharge (Yvert 22c). Sent registered from Djibouti on 18 August 1899 to Marseille, it bears an 18 August Yokohama to Marseille Line L N° 8 maritime transit marking. The Marseille receiving backstamp is 29 August 1899. This letter was most likely carried, via Suez, on Line N's packet "Calédonien." (Alan J. Morvay coll.). A DETOT TO

CONTENTS

ARTICLES
Finding The Guiana Girl (Jeff Ward)99
"Radioscopy" Of Some Auction Offerings "Made In Tahiti" (Christian Beslu)101
SHORTER CONTRIBUTIONS
Philatelic Expositions (Robert T. Kinsley)104
A Free-Franked Card From Monaco (Jerold M. Massler)106
Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories59 (Ernst M. Cohn)
Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories61 (Ernst M. Cohn)113
Types And Subtypes
TOGO: The 1921 "Mandate" Issue - (Help Wanted) (Bill Mitchell)
Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories63 (Ernst M. Cohn)117
REGULAR AND SPECIAL FEATURES
Members' Appeals110
The Carnet Corner (Bob Seeke)111
Random Editorial Jottings
Some Show Reports
Announcements And News119
Reviews
New Books, Pamphlets & Catalogues123
New Issues And Withdrawals125
SOCIETY NEWS
President's Letter126
Membership Changes
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
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FINDING THE GUIANA GIRL by Jeff Ward (FCPS #3142)

In designing a postage stamp, the artist often uses a model of some sort. With a scenic design, the artist may work from a painting or photograph, or work from nature by traveling to a particular location. If people are included in the design, the artist may work from paintings, sculptures, photographs or live models.

In the case of United States stamps, the origin or model for the various stamp designs is known in many, if not most cases. But this is seldom true with the smaller, more remote stamp-issuing entities of the world. As a collector of French Guiana, I have been unable to find much information in the available literature regarding the origins of the designs used for this French colony. It was therefore very rewarding to recently discover the source of one of the more attractive French Guiana designs: the high value (1 franc and above) issues of the 1929 postage due series (Figure 1). (These stamps were also overprinted in 1932 for use in Inini.) The design, in vertical format, features a woman standing with arms akimbo, wearing clothing that we can assume represents typical or traditional local dress. The Scott catalog identifies the design as "Guiana Girl," in Yvert it is "Creole." The designer and engraver is identified in the bottom margin of each stamp as A. Mignon.

The discovery item is a recently acquired black-and-white picture post card (Figure 2).

The card was mailed from the French Guiana capital of Cayenne and is franked with one copy each of the one and four centime anteater stamps first issued in 1905. But the most important feature of the card is the photograph itself.

It is obvious that Mr. Mignon modeled his design from this very photograph. Almost all the detail in the photograph, down to the folds of cloth and the bracelets on the lady's wrists, are part of the stamp design. The only major difference is the background. In the photograph, there is dense, tropical foliage directly behind the woman, indicating that the photograph was probably taken outdoors. In the stamp design, the artist gives the picture a more open feel by omitting most of the plants, making the background light, and adding a couple of distant palm trees.

Another less significant difference is the checked pattern of the skirt. The pattern is less detailed in the stamp, probably because portraying the level of detail in the photograph would have required a great deal of effort without adding much to the quality of the design.

Although we now know where Mr. Mignon got his design, as with many mysteries, answering one question leads directly to new ones. In general, it would be interesting to know the circumstances under which the photograph was taken. Who is the woman identified simply as "Cayennaise" (a woman from Cayenne), when was the photograph taken, and by whom?

The postmark and stamps on the post card provide some evidence of when the photograph was taken. The postmark provides the year of mailing, but only



Figure 1. French Guiana Scott N° 121 of 1929.

the first three digits, 190, are completely legible. Because the anteater stamps were first issued in 1905, the date cannot be earlier than that. The rightmost digit is partially legible and my best guess is that it is a 9, making the year of mailing 1909.

Additional clues are available from the fact that the card is one of a numbered series of picture post cards produced by a company in Nancy, France. Each card features a different blackand-white photograph of people or scenery in French Guiana. I have a total of eight such cards, each showing (with some minor variations) the company logo and the inscription "Mme. Georges Evrard, phot."

The illustrated card is #6. I also have #s 1, 14, 41, 50, 56, 75, and 85. The earliest postmark date on any of these cards is February, 1904, for #41. If we assume that the cards were produced sequentially, #6 F&C PHILATELIST, OCTOBER 2001



Figure 2.

would have existed at least as early as the beginning of 1904 and probably well before that. A reasonable guess is that the photograph was taken around 1900. This gives adequate time for taking the photograph, producing the post card, and placing it on sale. If this is correct, the post card was first made 25-30 years before Mignon used it as a model.

The key to answering the other questions is the identify of Mme. (Mrs.) Georges Evrard. The subjects of the other photographs in my collection include the convict baths at Devil's Island, a gold mining camp in the interior, a lighthouse eight miles out at sea, and an Indian tribe near the village of Iracoubo. If she took each of these photographs, as seems to be the case, then she either spent a great deal of time in French Guiana or actually lived there. Therefore, we must at least consider the possibility that the photograph of "Cayennaise" is a self-portrait. Unfortunately, I have been unable to find out anything about Mrs. Georges Evrard so far. But the truth is out there somewhere. Stay tuned.

"RADIOSCOPY" OF SOME AUCTION OFFERINGS --"MADE IN TAHITI" by Christian Beslu (FCPS #2358) (translated from the French by S. J. Luft)

This is a slightly abridged translation, with some stylistic liberties taken, of a two-part article that was published in the "Bulletin Col.Fra," Nos. 93 (2000) and 94 (2001). Inasmuch as this translation was made from a copy of the original manuscript, it may differ slightly from the "Col.Fra." version. Because of its rather polemical tone, I first requested and received the accord of the firm that is being criticized here. A precis of the firm's reply is appended to the second part of the article. Additional appendages include generalized comments requested and received from our member-experts on Colonies overprints of the period, and finally, my own observations on the subject--SJL]

Part I

Every true collector eventually becomes, in time, a specialist within his hobby. Sometimes it becomes necessary for the specialist collector to criticize the excesses that can take place within the bounds of his specialty.

Thus, it becomes difficult to examine an auction catalogue, with major strengths within his specialty, without crying out "ha!" or "ho!", according to whether the illustrations are, respectively, agreeable or deceitful. Opening the catalogue of Roumet's 46th auction sale, of Summer 2000, I began to utter a series of enchanted "ha's" as my eyes wandered longingly over the multitude of pieces concerning TAHITI but, as I examined closely each one, more than one "ho!" of disappointment followed.

Apart from some very Classic items, the majority of used Tahiti stamps on fragment or otherwise never saw postal use. Canceled-to-order (complaisance) stamps seem to predominate in collections of the French Pacific territories, and very likely from other areas as well. Among the first covers shown, side by side, are two precursor postal cards, written by the same person and sent on the same day (21 August 1884) within Tahiti, one with Tahiti N° 5, the other with

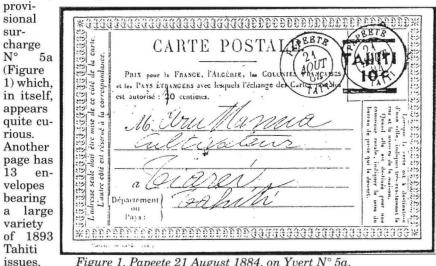


Figure 1. Papeete 21 August 1884, on Yvert N° 5a.

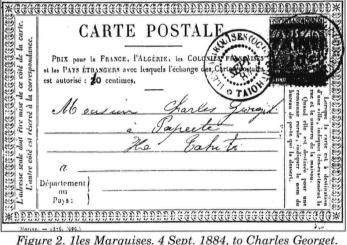
F&C PHILATELIST, OCTOBER 2001

Page 102

with little bearing on postal rates: at least six of them are addressed to a J. Gastiger, whose incoming mail appears in most collections of early Tahiti covers.

Then come two taxed Papeete local letters, dated a few days apart, bearing first and second series 20c Tahiti dues stamps [oblique TAHITI overprint], with magnificent date stamps (as usual on pieces de complaisance). These are definitely fabricated pieces, if not genuinely faked items! A little further on, we come to a fragment and a "wrapper for samples," with surcharges "5b" and "5c" which, as it should be made known, are typical fabrications of M. Vallier, the then Director of the Poste of Tahiti.

Of course, it has been a long time since these fantasies were unloaded upon the philatelic market and in spite of numerous published [emphasis mine--SJL] cautionary words. Worst, it seems to me, is that all these pieces bear expertizers' signatures. While it may be true that the philately of many places would be at a loss if it weren't for fabricated covers and cancellations, one should deeply regret the complicity of "experts," which has made these "philatelic products" extremely sought after.



To reinforce my argument. the 37th Lugdunum auction (2000) had a precursor card with a midsuperb 1880s Marquesas Islands date stamp (Figure 2), addressed by the same hand as for the August 1884 and the taxed "1893" envelopes noted above.

addressed to a

M. Charles Georget and offered at 22,500Fr starting bid. We note that, some years back, a Demarest sale included a precursor card to Georget, canceled 1884 with the rare OCEANIE MOOREA 1 date stamp (Figure 3).

Decidedly it is interesting (or distressing, according to which side one's on) to analyze addresses and handwriting. What seems to be more and more certain is that nearly all the



Figure 3. Océanie / Moorea, 10 August 1884 to Charles Georget.

"good pieces" of French Oceania, of the Vallier time frame, are fabricated, if not completely faked, and that the "experts" and the dealers should reconsider how they sign and sell such dubious items.

Mention should also be made of the Tahiti 1893 postage dues offered on fragments. All were produced by Vallier on envelopes that never went anywhere, not even to local accomplices (Figure 4). These were offered in quantity to dealers, who subsequently cut them up, as per Figure 5, and sold them to the unsuspecting public.

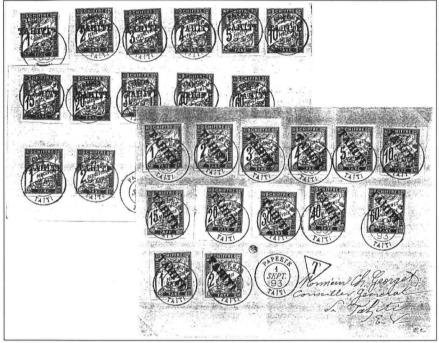


Figure 4. Magnificent CTO postage-due covers of 1893, addressed (as usual) to Georget [and signed by expert].



Figure 5. 1893 postage-due on 9 Sept. 1893 fragment.

(Continued in January 2002 issue)

F&C PHILATELIST, OCTOBER 2001

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PHILATELIC EXPOSITIONS by Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)

The first philatelic exposition can be traced to the Exposition Universelle of 1867 in Paris where a section was set aside to display postage stamps. The first exclusively philatelic exposition was held in September 1892 at the Palais des Arts Libéraux du Champ de Mars in Paris. Another international exposition was

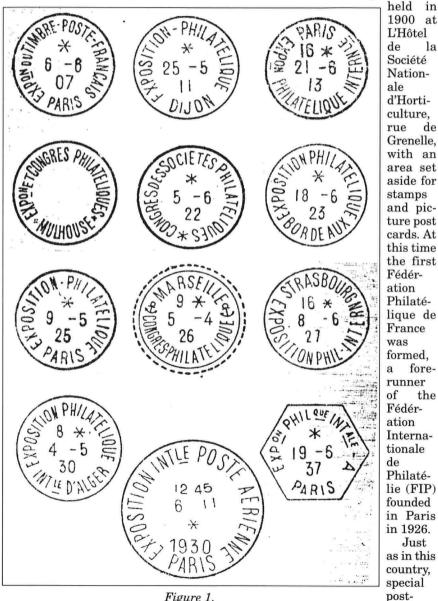


Figure 1.

marks are prepared in France for all the many philatelic expositions. We show in Figure 1 a few of the earlier postmarks of such stamp shows beginning with the Exposition du Timbre-Poste-Francaise of 1907 at the Hotel des Agents de Change (the stockmarket), followed by another show at Dijon in 1911. The newly-founded Congrès des Sociétiés Philatéliques Françaises met at Mulhouse in 1921, and after that there appeared to be a major show every year. In addition to postmarks, overprints on stamps commemorated the expositions in Bordeaux in 1923 (Scott #197, Yvert #182) and in Le Havre in 1929 (Scott #246, Yvert #257A). Other expositions were held in Algiers in 1930; Lille 1933; Grenoble 1934, etc. And the well-known early souvenir sheets were released at the 1925 exposition in Paris (Scott #226, Yvert #1), at the 1927 exposition in Strasbourg (Scott #241, Yvert #2) and at the 1937 exposition in Paris (Scott #329, Yvert #3).

Soon after the end of World War II stamp collectors who were prisoners of war formed an association and, during 15 - 19 Feb. 1946, held a special exposition at "La Maison Prisonnier" at 1 Place Clichy in Paris. Figure 2 shows a souvenir



Figure 2.

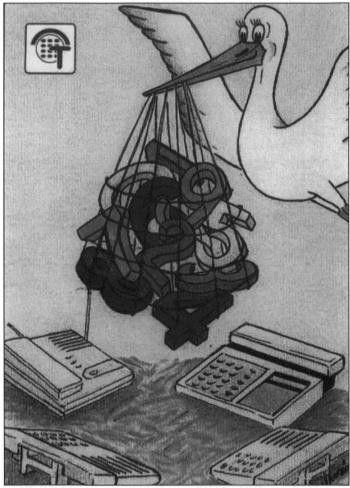
cover prepared for this exposition with a cachet commemorating a planned special flight from Paris to Alger and return, with covers like this being dropped by parachute as an experiment. The special exposition postmark shows a scene from a German enlisted mens' prison camp (*stalag*), and there are additional special handstamps applied in red. It was reported¹ that the flight did not take place and that very few of these covers were actually prepared. This is simply one example of the many exposition covers that exist.

1. Personal correspondence from Claude Vernette, President, Club Marcophile de la 2e Guerre Mondiale, dated 5 July 1997.

F&C PHILATELIST, OCTOBER 2001

A FREE-FRANKED CARD FROM MONACO by Jerold M. Massler (FCPS #1829)

Most free-franked mail coming from the Principality of Monaco emanates from either the Palace, the *Office des Emissions de Timbres Poste*, the *Mairie*, or some other governmental or official office, with the free-frank privilege being indicated by the use of a handstamp. Distribution of this type of mail is limited to official business and the items are normally not printed. A notable exception is the *Service de Postes* as holders of subscriptions with the Monegasque



post office can readily attest.

In 1995 the telephone dialing codes in Monaco were changed due to Monaco having received its own country code of 377. As a direct result. free-frank а postal card was printed for complimentary distribution (Figure 1) so that telephone users could notify others of their new telephone numbers. Inscribed OFFICE / DES TELE-PHONES / DE MONACO, and having the SERlegend VICE / DE LA POSTE / POUR MONA-CO / NE PAS / AFFRAN-CHIR where a stamp would

normally

go

Figure 1. Front of the card.

(Figure 2), these card were intended for **internal** circulation only. This Figure 2 international usage, just across the border to Beausoleil, France, without adhesive or penalty assessment, is my favorite example of this card. One can only wonder how many other cards arrived at their international destinations with apparent loss of postal revenue to the country of destination.

OFFICE DES TELEPHONES DE MONACO	CARTE POSTALE SERVICE DE A POSTA 1995. Annue curapconne de 17 H				
M BIAGGI Alaur Lond lanorance av de forelufus 1918/0/0/01 MONACO	PourfAchado de lancico Artes Frenzielo PourfAchado Artes Are				
VOUS INFORME QUE SES NOUVEAUX N° DE TELEPHONES SONT :	M" ERIC. MEL				
Tél 9 3 3 0 5 2 0 0	6 Gregnauer				
Tél	1 Pro prynemes				
FAX	06240 BEAUSOLEIL				
Figure 2.					

BEATRICE MATILDA BERNER (#703), 1907-2001

Miss Berner (never Ms., thank you) joined FCPS in 1957, served as our Treasurer 1963-1992, and was on the Board of Directors 1992-2001. Her dedicated service as Treasurer is among the longest tenures in the history of the Society.

Bea was born in Brooklyn, lived a while in Boston and East Orange NJ, and then moved to New York after graduating from Douglass College, part of Rutgers. She was an executive secretary at Mobil Oil Company until her retirement in 1969. If you will recall the flying horse logo of Mobil, then you won't be surprised that her major stamp collecting interest and award-winning collection was Pegasus. She was one of the founders (1955) of the Fine Art Philatelists. She also maintained an active membership in the Daughters of the British Empire.

One of the regular pleasures of the Society's Board was our meeting at Bea's midtown apartment. My meeting notes only go back to the fall of 1970, but I see some memorable sessions—qualifying as an IRS non-profit corporation, not joining COPO, affiliating with APS, selling the Vaurie donation, in addition to the agonizing sessions considering a dues increase, or where (if) to hold an annual banquet. Through all of these sometimes animated discussions, Bea kept her cool and required the rest of us to maintain civil debate. We have had precious few women members in our Society; let it be always and fondly remembered that this one was in every way a Lady.

J. E. Lievsay.

AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--59 by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

A major rarity of the Paris siege balloon mail was lot 441 in the September 1997 auction of Roumet (Figure 1) described as follows: The *Neptune*, person-



Figure 1.

ally entrusted cover. Letter dated 21 September with text "I profit from the expedition of a first balloon...," taxed "30," train mark "Paris to Caen 23 Sept. 70," arrived La Délivrande 24 Sept. Superb and very rare piece etc. To be precise, this folded letter is dated Wednesday, 21 September, 3 p.m. (Figure 2)

It is remarkable similar to lot 1 in the May 1979 sale by Vincent and Robineau of the Pierre Courtois collection: Written in the same hand to the same address, bearing exactly the same postmarks, though in slightly different positions, the earlier cover was folded vertically, whereas the present one was folded horizontally. Also, the earlier one had "par Ballon monté" written on it, evidently later and in a different handwriting, an absurd "improvement," considering that that phrase was not published in the *Journal Officiel* until 27 September. The text of the Courtois letter is quoted as "This letter having to leave by balloon, I cannot write longer to you today." Since the text is not shown, it is impossible to tell whether it was written at the same or at another time. The latter seems more plausible.

La Délivrande is not listed in either of my postal code books from the 1970s. It is, in fact, according to Mme. Garcin, Douvres-la-Délivrande, northeast of Caen and not far from the English Channel. Both covers are addressed to, but not postmarked at, Lion-sur-Mer (Calvados).

Given the text cited above, the writer must have been part of the inner circle, with access to the plans of the post-office and balloon people. When he wrote that letter on Wednesday, which balloon was he thinking of? Or, to put the question another way, when was it decided to cut the *Neptune* loose and convert it from being an observation balloon to an aerial transport device?

Paul Maincent gave the answer in his *Genèse de la Poste Aérienne du Siège de Paris* (1951). Let us recall first that the *National* could not be inflated on 20 September, nor the *Union* on the next day. The director general of the post office, Germain Rampont-Léchin, wrote a note to the governor of Paris, General Trochu, on Wednesday morning 21 September (pp. 91-2):

"...Today the administration will try notably an expedition by means of an aerostat that will leave around 3 o'clock.

If you have, Governor, letters of the smallest size possible to send by this

chen an ree zaman

Figure 2.

means, I ask you to please have them brought to the main post office by 2:30 p.m. at the latest..."

Notice that Rampont used the word *expedition*, just as did the writer of the letter. Was the writer perhaps a postal official?

W. de Fonvielle described the attempted balloon launch as follows (pp. 92-3): "...of all the aerial vehicles remaining at Paris, they had certainly chosen the worst.

An hour before the moment indicated for the departure, I saw arriving, from one side, the postmaster general, and from the other, the carriages of the administration. They brought a heap of letters, the left-overs from the mail boxes that they tried to dispose of. They had, it seems, carried along a weight of 600 kilograms...

The mailmen had rapidly emptied the bags from the carriage and set them on the sand in the courtyard of the gasometers of the La Villette gasworks..."

[de Fonvielle cites his vain intervention to stop the procedure.]

That second attempt, too, ended in failure because the old fabric did not hold the gas. Rampont asked the aeronauts present to meet with him at the main post office at 2 p.m. the next day, Thursday the 22nd.

On that occasion, he told them about the plans he had developed for starting a balloon mail service to Tours, seat of the Government Delegation. The

F&C PHILATELIST, OCTOBER 2001

Page 110

price and time for building balloons were then discussed. Though the wheels had been set in motion, the question remained of what to do between the time of that meeting and the moment when the first new balloon would be finished. All the remaining balloons that were in storage appeared to be questionable, to say the least, concerning their flight worthiness. Maincent continues (pp. 98-9):

"Yet Nadar did not hesitate and took it upon himself to propose that Duruof should leave. Although his presence was very useful in Paris, Nadar thought that the exceptional qualities of his friend qualified him quite naturally to effect an attempt with the *Neptune*, risky and hazardous as it was.

As for the legitimate interests that might retain Duruof at Paris, Nadar declared himself convinced that they would not hold his colleague back for an instant because of his patriotism."

Nadar had not been mistaken. Duruof accepted without hesitation, even with enthusiasm. And the departure was decided upon for the next day, Friday the 23rd. As soon as he was informed about Duruof's acceptance, Rampont advised the principal authorities:

"...Tomorrow, Friday, at an early hour, a new attempt appears to offer more chances of success than the first did." He therefore asked that "to please have taken to the main post office, by 6 a.m. at the latest, urgent letters, as small as possible, to be sent..."

Evidently, the departure of the *Neptune* was first considered on the 22nd after 2 p.m. No one, not even Duruof himself, could have guessed on the day before that his observation balloon would become the first manned mail balloon of the siege.

The writer of the letter may have given it to Gabriel Mangin to take with him on the *Union*. When the gas bag would not inflate, Mangin may have returned the letter, then given to Duruof, who mailed it as soon as possible after landing at Cracouville.

Mangin piloted the second manned balloon of the siege of Paris, *Ville de Florence*, the first to have aboard a passenger, homing pigeons, and first-class mail in the post-office bags.

Paul Maincent has performed a valuable service with his *Genèse*, by bringing together pertinent historical facts. Lot 441 is evidently an important document of the history of airmail as well as the siege of Paris.

I wish to thank Mr. Alexandre Roumet for letting me have photocopies of lot 441 and for permitting their publication.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

WANTED to buy, sell and trade used France Scott N°^s 15, 26, 33 and 58. Also perfins on French stamps, and any French stamps with Pubs (advertising tabs) attached. Gilbert R. Loisel, 13 rue des Sources, le Grand Vau, F-89500 Villeneuve-sur-Yonne, France; e-mail: gilbert.loisel@worldonline.fr (Mb. N° 877).

WANTED: The following World War II items: (1) St. Pierre & Miquelon regular issues with 1942 surcharges "Oeuvres de Mer" [90c + 10fr and 1,40fr + 10fr (Cérès 311A, B)]; (2) France: Paris 1944 Liberation unofficial boxed overprint [Cross of Lorraine over 1fr50] on 1,50 red-brown Petain; (3) France label:

> "Post Speciale" F.F.I. (picture of De Gaulle)

M.L.N.

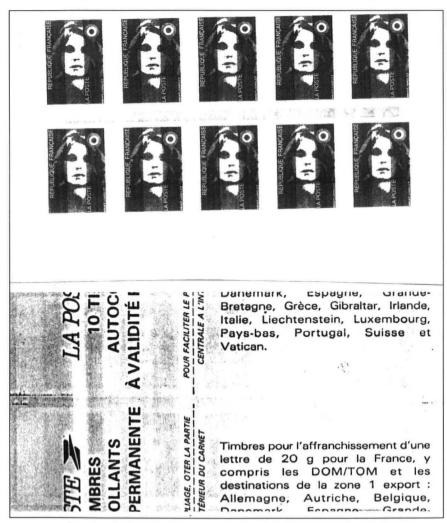
Ethan Mazaraki, 807 Maxine Street, Flint, MI 48503. (Mb. N° 2953).

THE CARNET CORNER by Bob Seeke (FCPS #1334)

A new variety of booklet recently came to my attention, courtesy of eBay. Let's take a look at it.

It's an open booklet of 10 Marianne de Briat non-denominated (TVP) stamps, Yvert 1102/Cérès 508. It was printed in a roll of 500 booklets, just like a roll of toilet paper. They are sold from vending machines, the machine cutting each booklet off of the roll as it is dispensed.

Apparently, there was a misalignment of the machinery that puts the strips of 5 stamps on the backing paper (or cover), resulting in the stamps being affixed to the paper one row off. I've examined this "error" closely, since it oc-



Face and offset backing paper of vending-machine booklet.

curred to me that it might be possible to take a roll of these booklets and manually move each strip of 5 to a new position. No sign of such movement is present that I could see.

Yes, La Poste has stringent quality standards, just as the USA does. Every now and then a mistake slips by, and we collectors are always glad to add a new variety to our collections. I welcome the chance to spread the word about French booklets, and am happy to correspond with anyone sharing this interest. Please feel free to write to me: Bob Seeke, 866 La Costa Lane, N. Fort Myers, FL 33917.

Until next time, bonne philatélie.

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

Unexpected pleasures--or at least printable material--can fall into a fortunate editor's lap. We recently have had possibly more than enough on the subject of *Entrepôts*. Now we seem to have a "special" continuing symposium (so to speak) on **contrived** Colonies stamps and covers. To appreciate the complete "package," which will be concluded in the next issue(s), read Christian Beslu's polemical article, which will be followed by Alexandre Roumet's [paraphrased] reply, then by comments from our "Board of Experts on Colonial Matters," and finally by my personal reflections on the whole affair.

Not just "senior moments," perhaps more like galloping senility. My apologies to Ernst Cohn and to our readers. Not only did I forget to include "Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories" N° 59 in the April isue (and did anyone notice?), I did it again in the July issue. Now this time we get to see N°⁵ 59, 61 **and** 63, which brings us back in step with the British Journal of the F&CPS, wherein the even-numbered Wonder Stories are to be found, and Ernst has forgiven my lapses.

In addition to the potential benefits of the Society's new web site, noted here in the President's Letter, I'd like to remind our members of the "Member's Appeals" service, whereby you can place, gratis, up to two short ads in any calendar year. And also the "Questions & Answers," where our specialists will attempt to clarify your puzzlements.

Although we have a generous backlog of articles, both short and long, for at least the first half of 2002, there's always need for near-future contributions from the membership. True, the reward is a mere five extra copies of the issue(s) which carry your article [less than five if only a very brief and minor one], the real reward is in having shared of your knowledge and expertise, or even just plain curiosity, with many appreciative readers. Suggestions to future authors were published in N° 260, April 2000 and will be reprinted, or revised slightly, at irregular occasions. If you anticipate potential problems regarding text, translations, illustrations, etc., please contact me first.

In the past two years or so, there's been a very minor dialogue regarding bylines and the proper way of having oneself so addressed. For instance, let's take the case of our three Bobs. Whenever Messers Kinsley, Picirilli and Seeke write short, informal items, they tend to prefer being Bob, and that's good within the context of the more informal confines of our Journal. However, when they write articles of a more "serious" nature (degree of seriousness being used determined by length), I encourage them to become, respectively, Robert T., Robert E. and Robert J. The same seems to work for Peter Smith, also ("seriously") known as Peter A. S. Smith. And I'm S. J. for short notes and reviews, preferably Stanley J. in other instances. Which brings up the possible use of prefixes, such as Dr. or Prof. or Rev. or Judge (or even *Maitre*). Such titles have absolutely no bearWhole No. 266 (Vol. 57, No. 4)

ing upon your ability to write with clarity, wit and/or scholastic authority on philatelic subjects but, should not insist, I could be persuaded to follow your wishes (though not necessarily always very graciously). Fortunately, the vast majority of prefixed phlatelists are sufficiently endowed with a good sense of humor, and will accept equality with their untitled philatelic brethren. This simple request does not apply, however, to those of exalted **philatelic** status, who are hereby encouraged to affix, if they so desire, their earned philatelic suffixes of RDP, A de P, AEP, FRPSL, and the like.

I'm writing this closing paragraph immediately after returning from the APS Stampshow [see "Some Show Reports." The other Literature judges unanimously agreed (I somewhat grudgingly) that, with a picture being "worth a thousand words," the quality of illustrations in far too many philatelic journals needs to be upgraded, and I know this very much applies to ours. Henceforth, and unless there are compelling excuses, all illustrations submitted to this Journal [original maps and black-and-white cuts excluded] **must** be either halftones, or color prints from color laser printers, or black-and-white prints from color laser printers. Or, you may wish to send me the originals and I can reproduce them for you. Sorry, but we have a rather classy Journal, as far as textual content is concerned, and it would be great if picture quality could equal that of the prose.

AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--61 by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

This amazing news comes to you courtesy of a German friend who sent me a cutting from his TV magazine, which - wondrously enough - is called "Hör' zu!", meaning "Listen!" When I asked him why, he explained to me that that used to



Figure 1.

be the radio magazine years ago, which never changed its title. Now there's tradition for you!

Anyhow, "Hör' zu!" had a brief illustrated item about stamps on its program page for 17 July 1997:

Children's Mail. — Multi-colored balloons carry letters to friends in the whole world — that is the nice idea for the new children's stamp of the German Post. The first airmail by balloon took place in 1870. 125 kg of despatches were thus taken out of besieged Paris (Figure 1).

Each of those last two sentences contains a small error: (1) The first airmail balloon, i.e., a balloon carrying airmail exclusively, flew in 1793 from the fortress of Condé in northern France. Not long afterwards, a similar mail balloon was launched from the neighboring fort of Valenciennes. Both unmanned balloons fell into the hands of the Austrian besiegers, who destroyed the mail of the former but saved the latter, which is still kept at the Vienna war archive.

Even in the Franco-German War of 1870-1871, Paris was not the first to have balloon mails. That honor belongs to Metz, where the pharmacists of Bazaine's army organized the first one and the garrison ran the second one, both with unmanned balloons. Attempts were also made during the siege of Belfort, but only a single unmanned balloon managed to cross the lines, coming down close to the Franco-Swiss border, where it appears to have lain for sever-

al days before being found. The fabeled Neuf-Brisach balloons have been punctured in a previous story of this series.

(2) As for the weight of letters taken out of Paris by its mostly manned balloons, it certainly was not as high as some philatelic writers have claimed in the past, nor as ridiculously low as stated in this little announcement. The best we can do today is to estimate it between 20 and 30 kg daily or about 44 to 66 pounds (in round numbers). But then again, perhaps the writer meant that the first of the manned Paris balloons carried 125 kg of mail. That would have been the *Neptune*, and that figure for mail is, indeed, sometimes associated with it by earlier writers. Today we know that all post-office mail bags of the *Neptune* contained only second- or lower-class mail.

Weight of *collected* first-class mail as well as *transported* mail fluctuated, the former because of post-office rules and regulations, passed near the start of the siege; gradual relaxation of self-imposed restrictions by letter writers and the appearance of airmail newspaper-letters; as well as weekends, holidays, and political events that stimulated writing.

Transport depended upon how much mail had been collected, how many balloons were ready for it, and what the weather conditions were. There is still doubt whether some mail was delayed by military order, just before attempts at break-outs, to avoid giving them enemy early warning, which he probably got by other means anyhow.

The siege of Paris lasted from the afternoon of 18 September 1870 until the signing of the armistice on 28 January 1871, a total of 19 weeks or 133 days, somewhat over $\frac{1}{2}$ year. Mail did not start moving immediately upon signing the armistice, but the last balloon flew on the 28th, and given the average daily load of collected letters and the total number of days, it is not difficult to figure a probable total weight of first-class mail flown out of Paris. Depending upon what you wish to assume for the average weight per letter — and that, too, fluctuated — you arrive at perhaps 2½ million pieces of first-class mail. (It must be emphasized that a considerable weight of printed matter, samples and the like was also air transported, though that had not been realized for almost a century after the war.) One wag has claimed that of these 2½ million letters, 3 million are still extant today...

Philately is amusing for many reasons, not merely as an avocation but also, e.g., because it helps us to recognize printed absurdities about events when we know its *real* history.

TYPES AND SUBTYPES 30c cameo Sower

Type I (flat-plate violet sheet stamps and precancels): lower curve of first **S** of **POSTES** short and fairly open; its two extremities are nearly horizontal.

Type II (violet and then green rotary-press sheet stamps, precancels, and later surcharges): lower curve of that first S is longer and somewhat closed; its upper extremity is shorter than in Type I and heads slightly upward.

NOTE: This stamp is not the same as the earlier 35c Sower with Thin Inscriptions.



Type II

TOGO: THE 1921 "MANDATE" ISSUE - (HELP WANTED) by Bill Mitchell (FCPS #715)

In 1995 the West Africa Study Circle (WASC) published a study of the postal history of the Anglo-French Occupation of Togo, 1914-1922, by Jeremy Martin and Frank Walton. It now has in preparation a companion volume which will deal with the stamps of this period, which ends with the "Mandate" issue stamps of Dahomey printed in distinctive colors and overprinted TOGO. This issue had replaced the "Occupation franco-anglaise" series, following the establishment of a French mandate in 1919 over the greater part of the former German colony. [According to the Gibbons catalog, this mandate was originally granted by the Supreme Council of the Allies and was not formalised by the League of Nations until 20 July 1922, which is why the "Mandate" issue falls within the "occupation" period].

A problem relating to this series is the date (or, more likely, dates) on which it was first placed on sale in Togo. The catalogs do not agree on this point, and what they do say does not accord with the details assembled by WASC of the earliest recorded dates of use. Scott says "1921" for both the postage and postage due sets ("1922-1925" for the 60c/75c value); Yvert and Cérès agree on "1921-1922" for all the postage stamps and "1921" for the postage dues, while Gibbons commits itself to 15 July 1921 for all but the 60c/75c surcharge, to which they ascribe a date of September 1922. After a span of 80 years only one value (the 10c postage) has been recorded used in 1921 (earliest date, 27 July) and two (the 35c and 45c postage) have not been reported before November 1924, well over three years later. The earliest date for the 1 Fr due, cancelled to order, is later still (13 January 1926). The complete list is as follows —

Yv	<u>ert/Cérès</u>	Scott	Value	Date
Postage	101	193	1c	5 October 1922
			2c	19 August 1922
	103	195	4c	19 August 1922
	104	196	5c	3 February 1922
	105	197	10c	27 July 1921
	106	198	15c	29 April 1922
	107	199	20c	25 November 1922
	108	200	25c	24 January 1922
	109	201	30c	31 August 1923
	110	202	35c	27 November 1924
	111	203	40c	7 November 1923
	112	204	45c	24 November 1924
	113	205	50c	1 August 1922
	114	213	60c	28 April 1924
	115	206	75c	15 ??? 1923
	116	207	1fr	10 ??? 1922
	117	208	2fr	
	118	209	5fr	
Dues Tax	xe 1	J1	5c	6 August 1923
	2	J2	10c	29 August 1922
	2 3 4 5 6 7	J 3	15c	6 August 1923
	4	J4	20c	? August 1923
	5	J5	30c	26 July 1924
	6	J6	50c	? ??? 1923
	7	J7	60c	6 August 1923
	8	$\mathbf{J8}$	1fr	13 January 1926 (CTO)

I will be very grateful if collectors of this territory will check their used stamps of this series and let me have a note of any earlier dates which I can pass on to WASC. Please write to me at 41, Graemesdyke Avenue, East Sheen, London SW14 7BH, England. Photocopies, if practicable, will be appreciated.

The spread of dates brought out by the table suggests that - except for the 60c/75c stamp — individual values of the postage series were sent out to Togo as and when required by dwindling stocks of the previous "occupation" issue. They were, however, apparently printed in advance and placed on sale in Paris (probably on 15 July 1921, the date quoted by Gibbons) as soon as they were delivered from the printers. The complete set is listed and priced (unused only) in the main part of the Gibbons "Foreign" catalog for 1922-1923, which had been completed "before Christmas" (that is, Christmas 1921 - the Addenda include "all stamps received up to the end of March 1922"). So it seems that by the end of 1921 dealers could supply all stamps of this issue (except for the 60c/75c surcharge) even though post offices in Togo could not. As for the dues, they are also listed and priced (unused) in the 1922-1923 Gibbons and so were apparently available to collectors by the end of 1921. There was no "occupation" issue to be replaced, so at the moment the date of issue in Togo for the dues must be a matter of speculation. It could have been some time in the late summer of 1921, but as will be seen from the table, at present the earliest recorded date is a good vear later.

SOME SHOW REPORTS

(Continued from N° 265, July 2001, p. 80)

- NOJEX 2001 (Secaucus, NJ, May): Grand Award and Gold medal to Ed Grabowski for "Guadeloupe The Development and Use of Stamps for Regular Postage" Well done, Ed!
- NAPEX 2001 (McLean, VA, June): Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "The Annam-Tonkin Expeditionary Corps."
- PIPEX 2001 (Spokane, WA, June): Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "Swiss Internment Camps -- WWII."
- 74th Congress of Federation of French Philatelic Associations (Tours, June): Large Vermeil medal to Jean-Luc Trassaert for his exhibit of the Marianne de Décaris stamp; it is very unusual in France for an exhibit of modern material to receive so high an award!
- BELGICA 2001 (Brussels, June, **FIP**): In the Championship Class, a Prix d'Honneur to Steve Walske for "Balloon Mail of the 1870/1871 Siege of Paris." In open competition (and our members did extremely well): Large Gold medals to Dick Winter for "U.S.-France Mail by Steamship," to Jeff Bohn for "Accountancy Markings Associated with the 1857 France-British Convention," and to Ed Grabowski for his NOJEX 2001 exhibit [title given above] of Guadeloupe; Gold medal to Frederick Mayer for his US 5¢ 1856 exhibit; Large Vermeil medals to Klerman Wanderley Lopes for his exhibit of Brazil-Portugal steamship routes and rates, and to Alain Millet for his New Caledonia Postal History exhibit; Vermeil medal to Roger Quinby for a First Finland Republic Postal Cards exhibit. John Lievsay served on the philatelic jury. In the Literature Class: Large Silver medals to editor Maurice Tyler for the Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society [of Great Britain], and to Dave Herendeen for The Parcel Post Stamps of the Ivory Coast. Congratulations to all these FCPS members!
- INDYPEX 2001 (Indianapolis, July): Reserve Grand Award and Gold medal to Paul Larsen for "German Caroline Islands"; Gold medal to Bob Picirilli for "Colonial Ivory Coast: The Definitive Issues, 1892-World War II."

Whole No. 266 (Vol. 57, No. 4)

- Minnesota Stamp Expo 2001 (Crystal, MN, July): Grand Award and Gold medal to Paul Larsen for "Ubangi-Shari-Chad 1900-1938"; Gold medal to Eliot Landau for his U.S. Registered Mail exhibit; Silver medal to Steve Washburne for "Portuguese Postal Cards"; your editor chaired the jury.
- APS Stampshow 2001 (Rosemont, IL, August): During the course of this, the top US non-International exhibition, the prestigious Cryer Award of the American Philatelic Research Library was awarded to Dick Winter, for meritorious writings in the field of U.S. maritime postal history [to which we wish to add mention of the Franco-American "subfield"]. In the Champion of Champion class, Ed Grabowski obtained a Prix d'Honneur for his Guadeloupe exhibit. In the Open Competition, Cheryl Ganz received a Gold medal (and Best Display Class award) for her fascinating Hindenburg exhibit. Other Gold medal winners were Tom Broadhead, for "France : Post Cards 1870-1900," Paul Larsen, for "German Togo 1885-1914," Peter Smith, for "Official Stamps and Mails of Egypt," and Steve Washburne, for "Portugal Classics." Steve also received a Vermeil medal for "A Trip to Madeira." In the Single Frame competition, Cheryl Ganz received another Gold medal for yet another Zeppelin exhibit. In the Literature competition, Dave Herendeen received a Gold medal for "The Parcel Post Stamps of the Ivory Coast." Splendid work, all you guys and gal! Your editor served on the Literature jury. We saw a lot of our members out there.

AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--63 by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

Following is an exercise in mental gymnastics of the postal historical variety, inspired by the photocopy of a cover kindly sent to me by Jean Kauffmann (Figure 1). It is apparently an empty envelope with what may be an expertizer's mark in the extreme upper left corner and just below that the oval business cachet of Frédéric Lambling(?) of Bischwiller (Bas-Rhin). There is a note to the top right of it, 25-11-71, meaning 25 November 1871. To the right of that is the



Figure 1.

handwritten Bischweiller, the almost proper German spelling (Bischweiler) of Bischwiller, which had become a German town as a result of the peace treaty of Frankfurt on 10 May 1871 that marked the end of the Franco-German War. According to Mr. Kauffmann, the written name of the town indicates that the letter was mailed at the railway station.

In the upper right corner is 20 centimes occupation stamp, still valid at that time in Alsace-Lorraine. It is canceled by a train marking Mainz-Worms of 25 November. The address is Messieurs Pichot Jeune & C^{ie}, Lyon, and over it is the French "25" postage due. Mr. Kauffmann wrote that the back shows a Paris/Gare de Lyon of the 26th and a Lyon arrival of the 27th.

One can ask at least two questions about this cover: Why does the stamp cover up the last letter of the originating town? And how does a train marking from the Grand Duchy of Hesse get on a letter that should have stayed well south of there on its travels?

The first question is easily answered: The stamp must have been affixed by the writer or someone working for him. The fact that it covers the last letter of the town name simply means that the writer had started too far to the right and taken too much space, while the persons who stuck the stamp there (whether the same or a different one) did not put it far enough towards the right edge. If the stamp had been absent when the letter was put into the mail, only a postal employee could have seen that. And only an Alsatian — neither a Hessian nor a French one - would have had easy access to that stamp. But why should any postal employee frank a letter for a perfect stranger? Whoever mailed the letter must have put it into the wrong container, or else a mailman emptied that container into the wrong train. So, instead of being taken south to Strasbourg and from there west to Paris, the letter traveled north into Hesse. There, somewhere along the way the error was discovered and it was routed to a southbound train towards Worms (and back towards Strasbourg). On the way back, the stamp was struck by the train date cancel. The cancel makes it obvious that the letter was originally misrouted.

The cover thus tells the story of how it was put on the wrong train, discovered, sent back, and after being postmarked on the detour, completed the remainder of the journey to Lyon quickly and without mishap.

But let us now assume that some stamp collector had soaked the stamp off the cover and put it into his album. Many years later, we find it and wonder what had happened. We might reason thus:

(1) A person from Alsace-Lorraine had gone to Hesse and taken along this stamp by mistake. He got rid of it by pasting it on a letter addressed to home.

(2) Said person, who often traveled between Alsace-Lorraine and Hesse and who wrote lots of letters, had along stamps from both areas at all times and grabbed the wrong stamp accidentally.

(3) A friend or relative living in Alsace-Lorraine had sent to some indigent person in Hesse locally available stamps, thinking that, now that Alsace-Lorraine was German, these stamps — still valid there — would be valid all over Germany. Thus, the poor friend or relative in Hesse at least did not have to pay for postage.

(4) A letter mailed in Alsace-Lorraine was not postmarked by mistake. The mailman on the train in Germany grabbed the canceler for the wrong direction by mistake and struck the stamp with it.

(5) A philatelist wanted to create a "rarity" and pasted this stamp next to the normal one that was valid and sufficient for postage. A postman canceled both stamps.

(6). The stamp is genuine but the postmark is forged and was used simply to make a virtually worthless stamp more presentable and hence more valuable.

The interested reader is encouraged to think up other, possibly more com-

plicated explanations for the existence of a loose 1870 occupation stamp canceled in one of the German states. After all is said and done, how much of a premium would *you* pay for such a freak? And if you were an expertizer, would *you* sign it as being genuine in all respects? Finally, if the expertizer told you one of these stories, would you believe him or make up one of your own?

As the philosopher said: Postal history can be more fun than a barrel of monkeys.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- ➤ In preparation for the complete changeover from francs to euros, 1 January 2002, the production of certain less-used values of the Marianne de Luquet issue has been halted. Antoine Di Maggio, director of the national postage-stamp service, promises no immediate rate changes, though some euro values may be rounded off [upward, I would imagine]. It's now likely that French stamps bearing values in both currencies, and the permanent-value definitive stamps and booklets, could remain postally valid for some time after the first of next year.
- Christian Beslu has sent us some examples of what can happen to international correspondence when it is completely at the mercy of American electronic sorting machines. A letter from Oakland, CA to Moorea, French Polynesia and a card from Golden, CO (mine!) to M. Beslu in Tahiti both received boxed "Missent to Bangkok / Thailand" markings before being delivered. Another, from Las Vegas, received a Warsaw (Poland) backstamp. Tahiti = Thailand? Polynesia = Poland? Please save us from the caprices of inanimate machines!
- Near-future postal possibilities will probably include personalized computer-vended postage and meter imprints bearing one's photo or personalized message. Neopost appears to be spearheading these efforts throughout the Western world.
- Ralph Barracano, fresh into post-Saudi Arabia retirement, has joined the stamp club of his small town in southeasternmost France, and almost immediately exhibited (non-competitively) nothing less than early markings on mail from the Pyrénées Orientales Dept. A visiting dignitary from Paris, serving as a judge, was sufficiently impressed to suggest to Ralph that he consider moving up to more rarified competition.
- If you collect LISA (computer-vended postage) imprints, whether on cover or on piece [they don't soak off any too well], you should refrain from keeping them in plastic mounts for the ink can transfer onto the plastic. They should also be protected from light and heat.
- The French Open Class was inaugurated officially at the 74th Congress of the French Federation of Philatelic Associations, meeting at Tours in early June 2001. Up to 50 percent (against 33 percent in the equivalent U.S. Display Class) can be of a non-philatelic nature. Exhibits are judged, by a mixed jury of philatelists and non-philatelists, on five criteria, each worth up to 20 percent of the total: originality and creativity, knowledge of subject, research on the philatelic material, research on the non-philatelic material, and presentation.
- Large quantities of contrived or purely philatelic mail was addressed to a number of German collectors and dealers during the Second World War. A Dutch philatelist has listed some 35 such names and addresses, and it has

been reprinted in *Trait-d'Union* N° 104 (2001), the organ of the study society for Alsace-Lorraine philately (SPAL). I can send the list to any interested reader who sends me a stamped self-addressed envelope. This could help you cull less-than-authentic wartime covers from your collections.

➤ As an addendum to Bob Kinsley's "Port de la Rochelle" (N° 264, April 2001), we present a seldom-seen collective trial color proof(?) in brown of the La Rochelle stamp, se-tenant with the 20F Pont du Gard (Figure 1). I've searched my literature without success for any information regarding this curiosity. Can anyone help?



George Barker (FCPS N° 1332) has retired from the editorship of the world-class The London Philatelist after 18 vears at the helm. George is also known for his internationallv acclaimed Pasteur issue exhibit and writings on the subject. Enjoy your leisure time, George!

Figure 1.

An open-face booklet of ten self-adhesive, 2,30F Marianne de Briat stamps has been found completely lacking phosphor bands. The cover design is that for the XVI Olympic Games. A few incomplete booklets and used singles are also known. (From article in *Marianne* Bull. 56, April 2001,

by Yves Lacote and François Guilbaud). Check your examples!

- Faked 3,70F rose Libertés showing major offsets, such as four partial impressions within one set of stamp-size perforations (Figure 2), have appeared on the market, as have numerous other seriously offset stamps. Buyer beware! (From article in *Marianne* Bull. 56, April 2001, by Pascal Marziano).
- The Périgueux stamp printing works is clearing out its stock, in preparation for the January 2002 changeover to euros. Older sheets of stamps (such as 1998 printings) are appearing in post offices.



Figure 2.

In a short article (*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, N° 1743, July-August 2001), member J.-L. Trassaert reminds us that the postmark date is a legal indication of when the document therein (be it check, bill, summons, will, etc.) was in the possession of an official entity, namely La Poste [making the envelope an official document]. Many of us knew that already. But what I (for one) didn't realize is that the asterisk above the dater (Figure 3) signifies that the item was received at the post office of origin after the day's last mail had already departed [therefore, that asterisk is the modern equivalent of the olden, boxed *Après le Départ*]. A piece of mail arriving at, as per Figure 3, the Vélines P.O. after it closes on Saturday noon (the March 31 hand cancel) will not go out until Monday morning (the 2 April machine cancel)--which may

Whole No. 266 (Vol. 57, No. 4)

therefore be risky to the sender's credit or ability to report to a court proceeding, or ?





- Earlier this year, two major figures in French philately passed away in their ninth decades. They were Alexandre Varga, a former owner of the Théodore Champion firm and an organizer of REINATEX 52 and ARPHILA 75; and Gonzague de La Ferté, eminent pioneer maximaphilatelist and exhibitor and writer on this subject.
- > We understand that there will be no Sterners booklets (those consisting of two panes of five stamps each, mounted one row high within a cardboard cover) printed in Euros, inasmuch as their vending machines have been or are being retired from service.
- An exhaustive article, illustrated in full color, by J. D. Ladiesse, on the N.-C.E./10c. surcharges on New Caledonia stamps (Yvert and Scott 11-16) and their numerous varieties, plateable and otherwise, was published in *Le Bulletin du Cagou* N° 14 (2001). M. Ladiesse also presents, in a shorter second article, evidence that the "Boupari" [New Caledonia] telegraphic date stamp is a fabrication, concocted by altering letters of the Bourake cancel. This is turn is followed by his detailed study (illustrated in color) of the 1903 Jubilee overprint on Navigation and Commerce stamps of New Caledonia, including the essays and color trials. All three are highly recommended to the New Caledonia specialist! Contact the Groupement Philatélique "Le Cagou," at Boite Postale 1902, 98846 Nouméa Cedex, New Caledonia. Their fax is +28.25.14, but I was unable to get through to this number.
- Regarding Bob Kinsley's "The Rights of Man," in the July 2001 issue (N° 265, pp. 70-73), George Barker reminds us that the most important reference of all, Storch & Françon's Les Types "Droits de l'Homme" de J.-E. Mouchon (1988) had been ignored. Unfortunately, Bob does not have a copy of this book, and I had completely forgotten about it. Thanks, George.

REVIEWS

David L. Herendeen, *The Parcel Post Stamps of the Ivory Coast*, (2001); viii + 142 pp., 7 x 10", perfect bound, card cover, numerous illustrations and tables; ISBN 0-9708234-0-1; postpaid in the US for \$24.95 from (and inquire for foreign rates) Herendeen Enterprises, 1641-D 237th Street, Harbor City, CA 97010, USA; also from Pascal Behr, 30 avenue de l'Opéra, F-75002, Paris, France.

In this elegantly devised *tour de force*, member Dave Herendeen has produced what surely must be--and perhaps for all time--the definitive study of what at first glance appears to be a most unimportant backwater of French colonial collecting.

But, if the subject matter (Ivory Coast parcel post stamps Cérès N°^s 1-22) may not be of prime importance to most collectors, the dedutive processes by which the author has created order out of chaos are certainly worthy of praise and emulation. He most convincingly shows us the order in which the many series of overprints **must** have been printed, which were merely trials or essays, and which saw actual parcel-post use within the colony rather than being produced primarily for collectors.

Introductory chapters 1 through 3 set the scene; one important purpose being to show that very few towns in the Ivory Coast could legitimately have had opportunities to use parcel post stamps. The inference is, of course, that many date stamps from small, inland post offices could only be favor cancels. They are followed by a chapter on the "underlying" dues stamps that served as vehicles for the parcel-post overprints.

The meaty part which follows consists of eleven mostly short chapters, covering each of the 1903-1905 overprintings, in the author's carefully deduced chronological sequence of production. Dave also explains most convincingly the reasons for the almost constant change in overprint formats. He has made exceedingly good use of his own vast collection, plus that of others, notably that of Paris dealer Pascal Behr. Combinations of multiples (mint or used) and of date stamps were used to determine not only the printings but also served to plate the many varieties (inverts, missing accents, replaced fonts, etc.) that appear in all of these issues.

Final chapters justify the author's methods and conclusions. They are followed by a detailed catalog with valuations, a three-plus pages bibliography, and an index. All illustrations, except those on the front cover, are in black-andwhite and are first rate for clearly showing the overprints, their location on individual stamps, and their varieties. Tables and flow sheets are uniformly excellent, informative, and easy to follow.

About my only qualms are that the book does not lie quite flat when opened and (more importantly), that valuations and perhaps also the classification may require some modification, should hitherto unknown pieces appear on the market. But then, that can happen with any other definitive study.

This, of course, is not a book for everyone. Nevertheless, I would never hesitate to recommend it, if only as an instruction manual on how best to conduct a really serious study of some neglected or poorly understood subject.

-- S. J. Luft

C. Marsanoux, *L'Ambulance du Midi*, pp. 154-164 of 26th Mail Auction Catalogue, 8x11", 17 color ills., Lahitte & Marsanoux, 7 place Gailleton, F-69002 Lyon, France (phone +33 472 775 444, Fax +33 478 378 822).

Whole No. 266 (Vol. 57, No. 4)

When I received this auction catalogue, I was impressed by the wealth of colored photos of old documents. Even more impressive was publication of an original study and research concerning Dr. Albert Pizot's notes to his mother, written while he served with that ambulance.

He was chief of a section of 25 people, out of a total 40, constituting the Ambulance du Midi [Ambulance of the South]. The correspondence covers the end of October 1870 to 13 February 1871, from the time they left Montpellier until they had returned there. Many cards and letters are imprinted with the title of the ambulance, together with a Red Cross. Others show red handstamps used by the ambulance, sometimes circular, sometimes rectangular, even side by side or one atop the other. With one exception, they were free franked.

The exception, on unmarked stationery, is hand dated 28 January, franked with a Swiss 30-centimes stamp, postmarked the next day at Porrentruy, Switzerland, and with a Switzerland-Marseilles train cancel the day after. The text starts with 'I profit from an occasion, my dear Mother, ...' We don't know what that occasion was, only that the ambulance had been held prisoners by the Germans. Indeed, two earlier cards, both with the ambulance imprints, bear circular date stamps FELD-POST-EXPED./4. RESERVE-DIVISION. [Fieldpost Expedition, 4th Reserve Division] and date. One is hand dated 26 Jan. 1871 with the cds date illegible, the other is not hand dated, the cds reading 27 Jan.

Except for Strasbourg Red Cross cards, such French cards, envelopes, and handstamps from the 1870 war are hardly known. I have not seen them catalogued except only in Pierre Monot's *Les Précurseurs de la Thématique Croix-Rouge* [the Precursors of the Theme Red Cross]. As a result, they have been almost completely neglected by postal historians, who are now given a first chance to study a whole correspondence from France's Ambulance of the South. This is truly a rare opportunity for students of Red Cross and related activities and those interested in the Franco-German War of 1870/1871.

-- E. M. Cohn

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

- Russ Carter, Army & Air Force Locations, vol. I: BPOs, PRSs and Regular APOs 1941-1964 (2001); 321 pp., (8½ x 11"), 3-hole punched, no binder; illustrations and charts; by check or money order in US funds to Publications, Military Postal History Society, P.O. Box 32, Cypress, TX 77410-0032; \$25 postpaid to MPHS members in US and Canada, \$35 (\$50 by air) elsewhere; for non-members, \$40 postpaid in US and Canada, \$55 elsewhere. (The newly updated prime source for, say, locating US APO numbers used in liberated areas of North Africa and France--also bases on French territories and, of course, elsewhere in the world--during and after the Second World War).
- Daniel Georgel, Tarif des lettres de France pour l'Amérique latine; 32 pp.; price not communicated; inquire of author, 17 rue Jules-Ferry, F-54130 Saint-Max, France. (A study, covering the 1854-1963 period, of the rates, ships, and pertinent documents regarding mail to Latin America, with 20 illustrations of pertinent covers).
- Opus 1, by members of the Académie Européenne de Philatélie (2001); 124 pp., A4 format soft cover, numerous color illustrations; 200 Fr postpaid (probably more outside France); inquire of Jean-Pierre Mangin [AEP President], 23 rue Paquis, F-55000 Bar-le-Duc, France. (Short [mainly] studies on a variety of philatelic subjects, French and otherwise, by numerous experts in their fields).

- Jacques Perruchon, Réfugiés Epagnols en Charente-Maritime (et Deux-Sèvres) 1936-1945; 150 Fr (+ postage?), from Le Croît Vif, 83 rue Michel-Ange, F-75016 Paris. (An historical study of the Spanish refugees before and during WWII, based upon departmental archives).
- François Feuga, Marques postales et oblitérations de l'ile de la Réunion; 200 Fr, postpaid in France, more elsewhere?), from the author at 20 rue des Clercs, F-57000 Metz, France. (Postal markings of Reunion from origins to July 1994, including temporary and first day stations, machine cancels and slogans, and meters).
- Pierre Souchon, Histoire postale du Département du Rhône (Des origines à 1996), tome 2 [540 pp. on the evolution of the posts surrounding Lyon (except Lyon-Ville and Villefranche-sur Saõne)]; and tome 3 [560 pp. on the posts of Lyon, the two World Wars, perfins, railway post, and telecards]; 350 Fr each (+ postage?), from UPT de La Poste et de France Télécom, 39 avenue Jean-Jaurès, Boite Postale 7084, F-69301 Lyon Cedex 07, France. (Continuation and conclusion of the prize-winning study of the history of the posts in the Rhône Dept.; tome 1 is out-of-print).
- Roland Legrand, et al, Histoire philatélique, maximaphile et marcophile de la Bourgogne; 160 pp., A4 format, illustrated; 200 Fr (+ 30 Fr postage); published by l'Association Sénonaise de Philatélie et d'Histoire Postale, as its dossier N° 4; from Roland Legrand, 8 rue Pierre-Lavergne, F-89100 Sens, France.
- Courries convoyeurs et chemins de fer des Landes, edited by the Association des Collectionneurs de Flammes et d'Estampilles [As.co.flam.es]; 74 pp., A4 format; 100 Fr (+ 8 Fr postage, more outside France?); information from Bernard Bougue, 20 rue du Tronc-du-Pinson, F-33320 Eysines, France. (Reproductions of more than 80 cachets and more than 80 date stamps of the rail service in Landes, plus numerous copies of postcards, train schedules, and tables showing earliest and latest dates known for the markings).
- Bernard Augustin, et al, La Poste en Haute-Saône; 2001; 206 illustrated pages, A4 format; published by the Cercle Philatélique Vésulien; 150 Fr (+ 21 Fr postage or 36,50F by registered mail; more outside France?); from J.-C. Roussel, Cercle Philatélique Vésulien, F-70000 Vellefaux, France. (Study of the handstamps of the department's 177 present and former post offices and their manuscript precursors (some 2800 markings in all), with dates of service; more than 600 illustrations of markings, postal cards showing post offices).
- Alain Trinquier, La Poste dans le Var au milieu du XIX Siècle; about 90 pp., A4 format; 100 Fr (+ 25 Fr ordinary postage, more outside France?); inquire of author, 1274 Chemin du Partégal, F-83160 La Valette-du-Var, France. (The mails in the Var Dept. after the detailed Postal Administration's November 1847 request for a full census of the mails carried there. The brochure consists of the 1847 request, the economic-social status of the Var at that time, the mails, the mail traffic after 1847, plus colored map, 17 other maps, illustrations of 15 pertinent covers, and a bibliography. Obviously a very specialized study).
- ➤ Jean Chevalier, Catalogue des cachets à date types 22-23-24-25; 370 pp., 21 x 30 cm, bound in cloth; thousands of markings of these secondary post offices, many reproduced; known dates, colors, and indices of value; 650 Fr (registered and packed, in France, more elsewhere; 600 Fr by rendezvous), from the author, 89, rue de Charenton, F-75012 Paris. (The companion work, for France and Algeria, to Chevalier's earlier catalogue of the bureaux de direction [principal post offices], types 11 to 15).

Whole No. 266 (Vol. 57, No. 4)

- Jean-Pierre Duval, Les boites rurales et urbaines du Lot et Garonne; 200 Fr (postpaid within France, more elsewhere), from the author at 21 rue St.-Laurent, F-33000 Bordeaux, France; e-mail <duval.jeanpierre@wanadoo,fr> (Over 1600 rural and urban boxes identified for this department, with known dates of opening and closing: some illustrations and documentation).
- DALLAY Catalogue de cotization de Timbres de France 2001-2002, 576 pp., 6000 all-color illustrations, 40,000 prices in euros; 135 Fr (+ postage), from Dallay SARL, 31 rue des Bourdonnais, F-75001 Paris. (A new catalog for the stamps of France, that includes specialized information on millésimes, booklets, unissued stamps, precursors of precancels, etc. Time may tell if it's an improvement over Yvert and Cérès and whether it can survive against its competition).
- Jean-François Brun, Robert Françon and Jean Storch, Catalogue encyclopédique MARIANNE des timbres de France, Période 1900-1940 (2001); 260 pp., all illustrations in color, priced in euros; 150 Fr (+ 16 Fr postage in France, more elsewhere, from Timbropresse S. A., 21 boulevard Montmarte, F-75080 Paris Cedex 02. (The first new edition since 1989 of this specialized catalog of the 1900-1940 issues of France, containing much more information than the less specialized catalogs, and prepared by three experts on the subject).

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 265, July 2001, p. 92)

France

- > 10 (11) June: 3,00F/0,46€ Vacations; same in self-adhesive booklet of ten at 30F;
- > 16 June: 3,00F/0, 46€ Calais;
- > 23 (25) June: 3,00F/0, 46€ coming of the Euro;
- > 30 June (2 July): 4,50F/0,69€ Albert Caquot (1881-1976);
- > 1 (2) July: 3,00F/0, 46€ Cent. of Law of 1 July 1901 creating free Associations;
- > 6 (9) July: 1,50F/0,23€ se-tenant sheetlet of ten stamps @ 15F) showing legendary trains;
- > 7 (9) July: 3,00F/0,46€ Chateau de Grignan (Drôme);
- > 28 July: 4,50F/0,69€ Geneva Convention regarding Refugees;
- > 18 (20) August: 4,50F/0,69€ Pierre de Fermat (1601-1665).
 - Withdrawals: 8 June: 3,00F Peynet's gazebo for lovers; 3,00F + 0,60F Red Cross 2000 and 36F booklet of same.

Andorra

- > 12 (14) May: 4,40F/o, 67€ Jackdaw or Jay; 3,00F/o, 46€ raspberries;
- > 16 June: 3,80F/0,58€ European Year of Languages;
- > 7 July: 3,00F/0 46€ Escaldes-Engordany Jazz Festival;
- > 10 August: 5,00F/0, 76€ Kitchen of General Council.





Withdrawals: 11 May: 3,80F International Song Competition, 3,00F World Tourism Day, 3,00F Hannover 2000 Expo.

French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

- > 23 June: 5,20F/o, 80€ 40th Anniv. of Antarctic Treaty. French Polynesia
- > 28 April: 85F Volunteers of the Pacific Batallion;
- > 4 May: 120F The Wave of Teahupoo. Mayotte
- > 28 April: 10,00F/1,52€ Pajama fish; 3,00F/0, 46€ football (soccer);
- > 7 July: Sheetlet of two stamps (3,00F/0, 46€ and 5,20F/0, 79€) showing Bats; 20F/3,05€ Aero Club of Dzaoudzi.

Monaco

- \succ 7 May: 3,00F/o, 46€ EUROPA 2001 (two stamps);
- > 14 May: 2,70F/o, 41€ Rainier III Literary Prize; 10,00F/I,52€ André Malraux (1901-1976);
- > 9 June: 4,00F/0,61€ BELGICA 2001. New Caledonia
- ➢ 22 May: Noumea Aquarium (Nautilus shells) three at 100F se-tenant;
- > 14 June: 70F Caledonian raven;
- > 18 July: Humpback whale triptych of two at 100F + central label [joint issue with Vanuatu].





St. Pierre & Miquelon

- > 23 (28) April: 15F/2,29€ Greater Heron;
- > 20 (25) June: Autumn and Winter, two at 3,00F/0,46€;
- > 25 July: Tambour (covered entryway) houses, four stamps at 3,00F/0, 46€ setenant.

Withdrawals: 15 June: 3,00F Noël 2000; 22 June: block of ten at 3,00F for events of the 20th Century.

Wallis & Futuna

> 31 May: Children's designs (flowers) 50F, 55F, 95F, 100F.

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

One of our members has offered to contribute his collection of French philatelic literature to the Society. It has been suggested that this could serve as the nucleus for a Society Library. In the past, the Society has made contributions of books and magazines to the library at the Collectors Club in New York. This was done both because the Collectors Club provided a room for our monthly meetings, and so that the material could be available for use by our members when they visited New York. As a result, to some degree, the Collectors Club library has been the France & Colonies Philatelic Society library. For some years now, the Collectors Club has had no paid librarian, even part-time, and its library has only been open very limited hours, or by special arrangement. Like all libraries, the one at the Collectors Club has been faced with an expanding collection in a fixed space. Recent renovations, although providing improvements in ambiance, have apparently actually reduced the available shelf space. The foreign literature, particularly that not written in English, has generally been little used, and has been the subject of rumblings that it might be a target for movement off-site. In any case, the Collectors Club library does not per-

Whole No. 266 (Vol. 57, No. 4)

mit the use of its materials except in the building, which is impractical for most of our members.

If the France & Colonies Philatelic Society is to establish its own library, it would have to have a place to store the material and also a volunteer to act as librarian. The duties of the librarian would both involve preparation of a catalog of the library's holdings, and implementation of a system to make those materials available to the members. The library's actual location is probably not significant, as most business would be done by mail, or through the Internet. If the Society is to accept the material currently offered, we must have a volunteer to serve as librarian within the next couple months. Anyone who might be willing should contact the President. I would also like to hear how much desire there is among the members for a Society library? Remember that anyone who is an A.P.S. member can utilize the American Philatelic Research Library, with its professional staff.

I wish you all the best for the coming holidays.

RMS

F.C.P.S. IS NOW ON THE INTERNET

I am pleased to announce that the France & Colonies Philatelic Society now has an official website. I want to thank our member Kris Haggblom for designing and implementing the site. Kris will be the Society's first webmaster. The website may be accessed under the name www.FCPSonline.org. (Note that capitalization is not significant in Internet addresses. We have chosen to capitalize FCPS in order to facilitate pronunciation, and to make the name easy to remember.) Kris is currently hosting the Society on his server www.drunkenboat.net, and you will automatically be transferred there.

I would also like to thank Tracy Barber, who volunteered shortly after the Board had accepted Kris' proposal, and who has been providing suggestions and assistance. Our current website is admittedly only a beginning. All members are urged to assist, particularly through contributions to the Exhibit section, and suggestions for inclusion in the Links. Our webmaster may be reached by email at kris@spvral.net. RMS

NEW MEMBERS

- 3245 HOFF, GEORGE R., SR., 291 Windsor Lane, St. Paul, MN 55112-3313. (General Collector, all issues.)
- 3246 RAPHAEL, DAVID, 2311 S.E. 58th Ave., Portland, OR 97215. (General Collector, all issues. Colonies General Issues: Mint-Used. All Colonies and Territories. Exchange: pre-Independence only.)
- 3247 BAUDOT, JEAN-FRANÇOIS, 24 rue de Gramont, F-75002 Paris, France. (Postal History: all categories. Regular Issues: all categories. Modern France: all categories. Special Issues: all categories. French Community: Offices Abroad-CFA issues. Dealer: full time - auctions.
- 3248 JOHNSON, MICHAEL H., 109 Rolling Green Drive, Stauton, VA 24401. (Postal History: Used Abroad. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France: Mint-Used. Sowers-Others: Cancellations. Special Issues: Revenues. Delandre WWI labels - Military vignettes. Colonies General Issues: Mint-Used-on Cover. Cancels & Postal History. French Indo-China. Morocco. French Africa. Literature. Exchange.
- 3249 HOFHEIMER, HENRY, A. & H. Stamp Co., P.O. Box 595, Tarrytown, NY 10591. (General Collector: all issues. Dealer: full-time.

REINSTATEMENTS

- 2060 THEURER, JACK, 215 West 92nd St., New York, NY 10025. (Already in *Philatelist.*)
- 2373 GARNSEY, THOMAS, R.R. 1 Box 91K, Lyons Falls, NY 13368. (Already in *Philatelist*.)

- 2487 RASMUSSEN, NORVAL, 1526 Mileground Road, Morgantown, WV 26505-3745. (Already in *Philatelist.*)
- 2492 WALPOW, NATHAN, P.O. Box 2279, Culver City, CA 90231. (Modern France: Mint. Proofs and Color Trials. All Colonies and Territories. Independent Republics.
- 3200 ANGLEVIEL, FREDERIC, 9 rue Charleroi, B.P. 920, 98875 Noumea, New Caledonia. (Already in *Philatelist*.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 3232 CALLANAN, MICHAEL J., Mike's Stamps, P.O. Box 881026, Stellacoom, WA 98388.
- 3240 DAVID, KENNETH J., P.O. Box 1405, Boston, MA 02205-1404.
- 3056 DUNCAN, ROBERT F., 1 Topsfield Close, Wolseley Road, Crouch End, London N8 8DW, England.
- 978 PETERS, DONALD J., P.O. Box 512481, Punta Gorda, FL 35951-2481.
- 1761 PETRI, ERWIN A., P.O. Box 2241, Union, NJ 07083.
- 2371 SCHLÉUTER, RICHARD, 2849 Jamie Rose St., Las Vegas, NV 89135-2047.
- 406 VENGROVE, CHARLES F., P.O. Box 673, Wells, VT 05774.
- 602 SEIBERT, HENRI C., 427 Bayberry Lane, West Grove, PA 19390.
- 1364 PLYLER, EARLE F., 1608 Mission Road, Edmond, OK 73034-6570.
- 592 MYERS, NAT C., JR., 718 Crowfields Lane, Asheville, NC 28803.
- 1314 LABLONDE, CHARLES J., 15091 Ridgefield Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80921.
- 3026 HOUDE, MICHEL, 33 Hahn Place Suite 616, Toronto, Ontario M5A 4G2, Canada.
- 2874 HARTLEY, SANDRA, 38 Henning Drive, Orchard Park, NY 14127.
- 1795 HRYCAK, M. R., 142-28 60th Ave., Flushing, NY 11355.
- 2159 PARMENTER, WILLIAM K., 1400 N.E. Second Avenue #1611, Portland, OR 97232-1147.
- 1534 BEATTY, MILLARD F., P.O. Box 910215, Lexington, KY 40591-0215.

DECEASED

703 BERNER, BEATRICE M. (See Obituary Notice in this Issue).

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