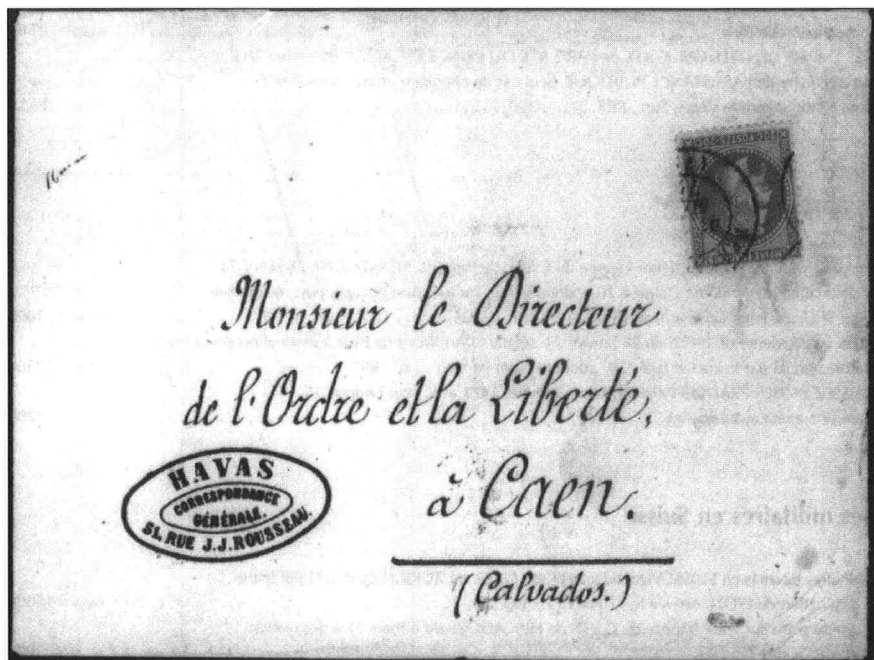




France & Colonies Philatelist

Vermeil Medals at STAMPSHOW '99 and SESCAL 2000



At first glance this appears to be a previously used stamp that went through the mail. Actually it is an early (May 1871) example of a precancelled stamp, used on an Agence Havas mailing from Versailles during the Paris Commune to one of its subscribing newspapers, and evidently a very rare usage. (reduced to 78%)

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“RADIOSCOPY” OF SOME AUCTION OFFERINGS -- “MADE IN TAHITI”

by Christian Beslu (FCPS #2358)
(translated from the French by S.J. Luft)

(Continued from N° 266, October 2001, p. 103)

[Here follows the concluding part, which was published in “Bulletin Col. Fra N° 94 (2001), and entitled “Tahiti, les surcharges de 1893: ‘Je m’inscris en faux,’” in my somewhat less than word-for-word translation--SJL]

Part II

No sooner had I thought I had completed my inquiry into the philatelic fabrications of M. Vallier, postmaster at Tahiti near the close of the 19th Century, that I obtained--not a stamp collection--but an impressive quantity of philatelic journals and especially of post-1954 auction catalogues, along with some very old (from 1899-on) priced catalogues. This extraordinary manna required that I reexamine and correct my earlier study (Part I, above). It became an enormous, veritable descent into the hell of philatelic machinations, but I am now convinced that ¾ of the “good pieces” of Tahiti were the handiwork of M. Vallier.

While preparing my book *La philatélie à Tahiti*, I had accepted the writings of some of the great names in philately, particularly on the subject of the printings of the first locally and differently overprinted and surcharge stamps. But it now seems that none of them had taken the trouble of checking an old Yvert & Tellier catalogue, wherein the subject of quantities printed was mentioned, with warnings:

- For N° 1: “The quantity of 5,350 is the official number but it is certain that the authentic handstamp was also used to prepare reprints.”
- For N° 2: “N° 2 was not authorized by any decree; only a handwritten note on the decree’s margin, in the hand of the postmaster at Papeete, **interested in legitimizing this stamp**, indicated the quantity. We are holding this number **in reserve**.”
- For N° 3: “The same hold for N° 3, not included in the decree.”
- For the first and second series of **1893 overprints**, it is stated that **“Many of these surcharges [overprints--SJL] were made to satisfy the numerous requests of dealers, and the international office at Berne has never received samples of all the values...”** [Yvert & Tellier 1915 catalogue].

As catalogues grew in size, notes of this character disappeared, causing the various authors of studies to use erroneous figures for stamp quantities printed. I’m now certain that these were eventually multiplied by a factor of at least ten! Or even closer to 100, for postage-due stamps. Regarding these last, I believed that no Tahiti letter was ever taxed with these stamps (or “vignettes” as I’d prefer) and that such letters and stamps are due to simple *complaisance* on the part of certain Tahiti postal functionaries.

Even more of a fabrication are those precursor postal cards of 1893 canceled with exotic date stamps (Moorea, Marquises...) (Figures 2 and 3) which had never seen prior service. One finds such markings on “Leralle” items of the 1920s and 1930s, though their “philatelic cuisine,” albeit exotic in nature, was far less fraudulent than that of Vallier.

What is now really inexcusable is that experts and dealers have become, hopefully unconsciously, the accomplices of this enormous chicanery. It ap-

pears obvious to me that this small pebble that I now throw into the garden of Polynesian philately could also be heaved into the garden of other ex-colonies, for they too require that same degree of close inspection.

* * * * *

[NDLR: In all fairness, we should present the "other side of the coin"]:

Your editor had asked M. Alexandre Roumet, the principal of the firm alluded to at the start of M. Beslu's polemic, for some appropriate comments. He graciously replied (personal communication, 26 December 2000) to the effect that he was quite familiar with M. Beslu's views, and that he fully agreed that the great majority of letters and canceled stamps of Tahiti are philatelically contrived. He added that one needs only to check the catalogues to see that mint and used stamps are priced the same, and that the latter are therefore not considered to be "rarities." The items offered in the firm's 46th sale were correctly described, the starting bids reasonable, and the hammer prices in line with collectors's expectations.

"MADE IN TAHITI" - General Comments

[Here are the comments received from some of our experts on turn-of-the-19th Century Colonies provisional overprints. They are: Dick Stevens, Ed Grabowski, Alain Millet, and Bill Mitchell, whose expertise lie in, respectively, Martinique, Guadeloupe, New Caledonia, and West Africa]:

There is general agreement among all four that (1) It was unfortunate that most of these overprints were made, and (2) even more so that they were more or less immediately entered into the catalogues of the time [and for all time?]. But (3) being as they are in the catalogues, they are legitimate collectibles, and (4) no one should be told what he or she may or may not collect.

Dick Stevens points out that the Martinique overprints were under attack by philatelic writers almost as soon as they appeared. "I have always felt that many of the objections were 'sour grapes' from people who were not able to garner some of the profits, and who would have happily joined in the game if they had the opportunity. My immediate reaction is that I think it is unfair to blame today's dealers and auctioneers. They are just providing the merchandise their customers demand. The catalog editors seem a more appropriate target, since most of the demand is generated because it is in the catalog. More culpable, however, are the catalog editors of 100 years ago, who agreed to list something. Once it is in the catalog, then both collectors and dealers pay substantial prices; now they all have a financial interest in seeing that the listing remains.... [*Let us*] consider the U.S. Special Printings: they were widely condemned when they appeared, which was one reason few copies were sold; now they are in the catalog; they have spaces in the albums; people have paid big prices for them; all those people now have an 'investment'; they don't want to see the issues removed from the catalog, or even banished to a separate section; that might lower the value of their material... With these various Colonial overprints, the current owners have invested many thousand dollars. They are not interested in being told that they own tainted merchandise. I always felt that their dubious provenance gave me a good excuse for not paying \$5000 or more for the two rare Martinique overprints..." [personal communication, 6 March 2001].

Ed Grabowski reminds us that, in the 1970s, Bob Stone "did a great series of articles on the French Colonies provisionals (the overprints), focusing on the justification or lack thereof for the need of each issue. These appeared in

the *Collectors Club Philatelist*. Many of the overprints...had little postal need, and they were created for the recognized philatelic market. The abuses ranged from moderate to rampant... In many cases the dealers worked hand-in-hand with the postal authorities to create material for the philatelic market. As to what to do today, that is up to the individual collector and what he or she wants to do with their collections. Dealers, after all, just sell what sells. They are not saints nor judges. As a collector, I try and avoid putting material of this type in my collection [*with a very few but very notable exceptions--S JL*].” [personal communication, 6 March 2001].

Alain Millet adds that there was at least one valid reason for overprinting the Alphée Dubois stamps with the name of the country in which they were to be used. This was to avoid profiteering by purchasing stamps in one colony and then reselling them to users in another colony, because of variances among colonies in the cost of postage. He cites purchasing in Indo-China and selling in New Caledonia as a documented example. [personal communication, 18 March 2001]. [*But what kind of profit margin could one possibly make in reselling low face-value stamps?--S JL*].

Finally, Bill Mitchell states that, assuming that overprints and postal markings are genuine, philatelic (contrived or favour) covers are acceptable if commercial use is not known. He then mentions World War I Togo occupation covers, nearly all of which were contrived, though they did go through the post. “Very often, with more remote post offices there would be no examples at all available to collectors but for the activities of the dealers and others who were responsible for what does exist. It isn’t always possible to draw a satisfactory line, of course. What does one make of a correctly franked cover with ten or more stamps sent in the course of normal correspondence ... to a stamp-collecting relative?” [personal communication, 13 April 2001].

Some Personal Reflections Regarding “Made in Tahiti” by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

Not being a collector of the Colonies (save for military-campaign covers), I was somewhat bemused by what M. Beslu had to say and by M. Roumet’s reply. Also felt quite above the fray, for no such chicanery could ever have taken place in France proper! Right?

But I don’t wish to digress. It is obvious from the Beslu article and the added comments of others that much or even most of the late 19th Century philately of Tahiti--and by inference of some or even most other colonies--is tainted by having been fabricated for other than purely postal purposes. It may of course be possible that M. Vallier was an underpaid functionary who, with plenty of time on his hands, concocted all sorts of philatelic artifacts for fun and/or profit. And it also may be highly likely that his correspondents (real or non-existent), and M. Gastier as well, were most prescient for saving their incoming correspondence for the ultimate benefit of dealers, collectors, and the future of our hobby.

I gather from the article and the appended replies and comments that, being as it is now a *fait accompli*, this *complaisance*, is not completely harmful. It has made the philately of Tahiti (etc.) far more complex, interesting and challenging, and has provided more collectors with more exotic and *recherché* material to go around. Yes, this questionable material has been listed in the catalogues for many decades and is, therefore, fair game for dealers and collectors. But no! This material should never have been accepted for listing by those early cataloguers. But yes! If it’s catalogued and desirable, no dealer in his right mind would turn down the chance to buy and sell the stuff.

And so on *ad nauseam*. I expect that we can all agree that one is permitted to collect whatever one wants and at whatever price we're willing to pay. And that's just fine with me--**when it comes to collecting and collectors.**

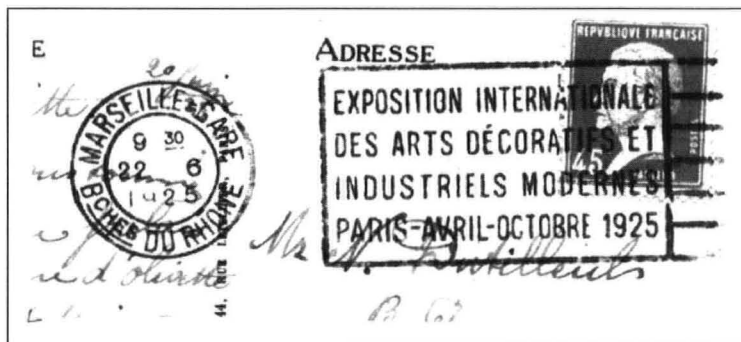
But, besides being a collector and exhibitor, I am also an accredited philatelic judge. As such, I feel I've received an education from M. Beslu. Henceforth, if and when I'm to judge an exhibit of early stamped mail and cancellations of French Colonies (very likely also of ex-German or other colonies), I intend to very closely peruse the affixed stamps, whether they satisfy the rates in effect, check for abnormally heavy use of postage-use stamps, the names of addressees, etc. No matter what the exhibitor states about rarity and/or uniqueness of the material, I expect I shall be quite loathe to consider any top award (i.e., Grand, Reserve Grand, Postal History Society medal, APS pre-1900 and Research, Marcus White, etc.) for such exhibits, when they go up against their more postally sound competitors. I also hope that other judges will take this suggestion under consideration.

SLOGAN CANCEL OF THE 1925 PARIS DECORATIVE ARTS EXPOSITION

by Thomas W. Broadhead (FCPS #2830)

The Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes, held in Paris from April 28 to October 30, 1925, is notable for giving birth to the name, representing a signature event in the artistic movement, which has come to be called "Art Deco." As unusual as the Exposition was - it left no permanent structure, yet may have produced a greater legacy than any other international exposition - it also produced many items of philatelic interest. Among those were a series of six stamps and a postal card, collectively represented by four designs - each the work of a different artist. Postal markings included a slogan cancel used outside of the Exposition, a circular date stamp used at the Exposition Post Office, and a hand-stamped registration label.

An international exposition to showcase French talents in the decorative arts had been planned prior to World War I, but approval and final plans did not take shape until 1923. The government decided to fund the Exposition through a revenue bond issue, rather than provide public funds, and the slogan cancel may have been introduced to help draw attention to the planned Exposition and to sell bonds. The focus of this study is the slogan cancel



(Figure 1), distinguished not only for its long period of use, but also by the varieties described here.

Figure 1.

The introduction of the slogan cancel nearly two years prior to the Exposition is, in itself, unusual. Its more than two years of utilization ultimately became important in attracting visitors. The following table summarizes the post offices using this cancellation and the ranges of dates from examples in my collection and other observations.

Paris - R.P. - Depart	July 18, 1923 - January 1, 1925
Paris - Saint Roch	August 17, 1923 - September 4, 1925
Paris - 47 - Rue la Boétie	May 31, 1924 - August 4, 1925
Paris - XVII - Rue Jouffroy	September 14, 1923 - August 18, 1925
Marseille Gare	February 12, 1924 - June 22, 1925
Toulon sur Mer	November 18, 1924

The Exposition slogan cancel was applied by an International Machines mechanical obliterator, and Nouazé (1990, page 46) indicates that such publicity slogans were introduced in 1922. The entire cancel, including the circular date stamp, is approximately 83 mm long and 26 mm high. The double-ring circular date stamp is 23.5 mm in diameter and is separated from the boxed slogan by approximately 9 mm (that measurement is difficult owing to a strong tendency for over-inking at both margins). The slogan is enclosed in a 44.5 mm by 26 mm rectangle, with seven horizontal lines extending 6.5 mm to the right. Although the overall dimensions and framing of the slogan do not appear to differ among these post offices, two major and several minor consistent differences exist. The first two of these are distinguished by the size of lettering. Examples from the Paris, Recette Principal Depart are characterized by lettering approximately 2.5 mm in height, whereas all others exhibit lettering that is approximately 2.8 mm.

Statés of the accent mark in **DÉCORATIF** (Figure 2) are more highly



Figure 2. The *DÉ* of, respectively, Saint Roch-Marseille Gare-Paris R.P. Depart, Rue Jouffroy, Toulon.

variable and offer the possibility of recognizing post offices from individual cancelled stamps. Most commonly (Paris R.P. Depart, Saint Roch, Marseille Gare) the accent mark is a short, inverted triangle or trapezoid that is inclined to the right. Nonetheless, examples from those post offices indicate that the accent marks in the Paris R.P. Depart and Marseille Gare cancels nearly touch the top of the E, whereas the accent in the Saint Roch examples is approximately 0.6 mm above the E. Although perceived shapes of accent marks are influenced by the frequently heavy inkings, the accent in the cancel at Rue Jouffroy is narrower and more nearly vertical than the previous three, and the single example from Toulon suggests a circular upward termination. The most distinctive variant, however is that used at Rue la Boétie, which lacks the accent mark.

There is never a guarantee that a study such as this will be exhaustive, and I invite comments from readers concerning additional dates of usage, post offices, and varieties (e-mail tomwb50@aol.com).

Reference

Nouazé, Y. 1990. *Le Guide de l'Oblitération Mécanique*; La Philatélie, Française, Etude No. 7, Editions G.I.P., Paris

HORS-SAC--MAIL SENT OUTSIDE MAIL BAGS

by Jean-Luc Trassaert (FCPS #3209; Correspondent Member of the
Académie de Philatélie)
(translated by S. J. Luft)

For many French people the morning newspaper and the breakfast croissants are their first purchases of the day. Most dailies were printed and mailed to the provinces during the night, which required that information from their correspondents be received by the editors with a minimum of delay. Nowadays, telephone, fax, and e-mail facilitate far-flung journalists' ability to rapidly communicate their messages and images via phone lines and satellites, no matter where in the world they may be. By comparison, until the middle of the XIX Century it took two days for a mail coach to reach Bordeaux from Paris.

Historical background. To become independent of the hours of mail distribution, the Librairie Hachette, the then exclusive bookseller/newspaper concession at railway stations, obtained in 1854 the right to have bundles of newspapers moved from hand to hand without having to go through the distribution post office. This was a special privilege and the debut of a long love affair between the Press and the Railroad Companies. In 1866, this privilege was extended to all periodicals. In order to benefit, newspaper bundles had to be within a green wrapper bearing the mention A LIVRER EN GARE (to deliver to the station).

The words HORS SAC (Outside the Mail Bags) [*I know of no appropriate English translation--SJJL*] first appeared around 1880, alluding to the fact that newspaper bundles traveled outside sealed mail bags. The sender paid a fee according to the number of copies, and the newspapers were bundled with a colored label (orange, red or beige) on the outside. The value in postage stamps was a function of the number of newspapers, obligatorily indicated on each bundle. "When the quantity of newspapers within the same bundle is an uneven number, the charge of a half-centime is to be indicated as '*½ centime en plus*' (*½ centime extra*) written in by hand." Such wrappers for newspaper bundles antedate the actual *hors sac* mail. Later, newspaper bundles, transit-ing unsealed so as to allow the verification of their contents, carried the mention HORS SAC in large, very apparent letters, and their wrappers are printed on colored paper, usually red (Figure 1 -- *red makes these illustrations generally too somber*) but also rose, green or orange.

Hors sac mail. Printers' proofs were accorded the same rates as printed matter by the Tariff of 28 February 1912. These rates were rapidly extended to include press impressions, articles, proofs, illustrations and--later--stereotype plates. As with bundles of newspapers, their arrival and distribution take place exclusively at railway stations.

In order to benefit from these conditions, *hors sac* mail must be franked at the printed-matter rate, augmented by a priority tax created by the Law of 22 March 1924. On that date the first weight band (<50 gm) was 0,05F and the priority tax an additional 0,05F. Thus early *hors sac* mail bears 10 centimes in postage (Figure 2). Early on, *hors sac* mail was limited to the first weight band, which was reduced to 20 gm on 31 May 1993.

Evolution of *hors sac* rates.

- From 25 March 1924 to 31 May 1933: limitation to the first weight band plus priority tax.
- After 1 January 1935: addition of higher weight bands, plus priority tax.



Figure 1. Wrapper for bundled newspapers; crayon 30 = 30 centimes for 30 newspapers, at 1c per item. (reduced to 72%)

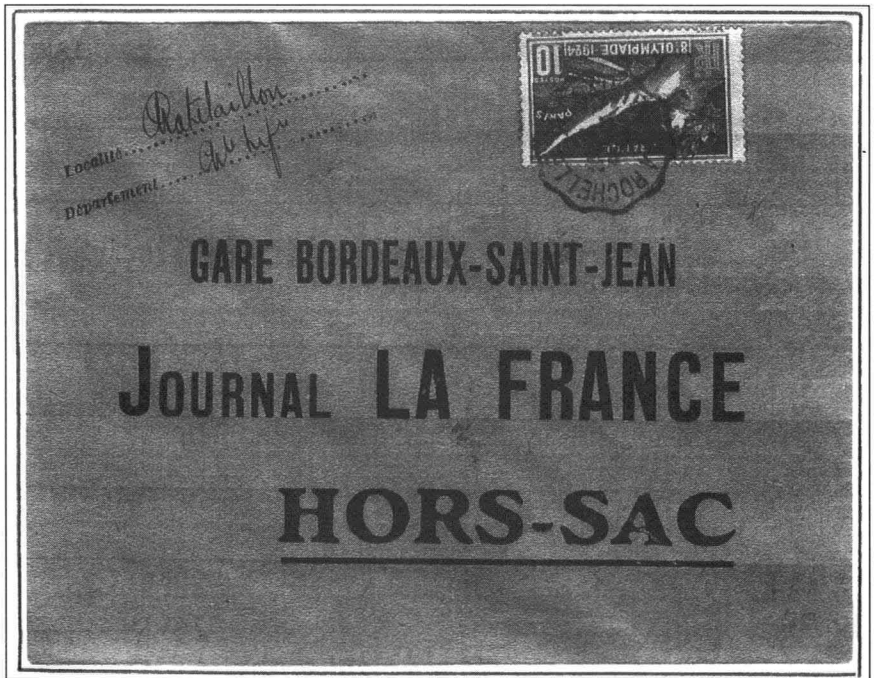


Figure 2. An early hors sac envelope; 5c postage for <50 gm + 5c priority tax = 10c affixed postage. (reduced to 75%)



Figure 3. An hors sac label, for 5 kg of newspapers carried by Transports Citroën for the Rural Post. (reduced to 72%)

- From 19 May 1964 to 18 January 1965: last tariff to include the priority tax.
- After that date, mail was to be sent at letter rates, in order to benefit from deposition and distribution outside the mail bags.
- The postal reform of 13 January 1969 inaugurated the two speed separation of mail classes into "Urgent" and "Non-urgent" [*P.N.U. in French*]. Domestic printed matter transits as P.N.U., whereas *hors sac* mail is required to bear "urgent" postage in its various weight bands.

Evolution of the envelopes. Ever since their creation, the mention HORS SAC has been obligatory.

The paper used in making envelopes is always colored; orange rose from 1924 to 1935, then true rose. The first red envelopes appeared in the 1940s, along with beige ones bearing red printing. Current envelopes are rose, with black, red or blue printing. In cases where printed envelopes are unavailable, press correspondents may use ordinary envelopes with a handwritten HORS SAC added; such envelopes are considered "*de fortune*" (provisional or emergency items).

After the 1940s, the name of the sender, date, hour, and place of mailing are added onto the envelope, along with sender's signature. As of February 1973, the mention PRESSE was to replace HORS SAC, but this directive never was rigorously enforced.

Anomalies. Anomalies occur frequently, as press correspondents aren't always well informed as to postal rates. One encounters much *hors sac* mail bearing incorrect postage. During the first period, the priority tax was often

unpaid, and the item may have been taxed. Many mailings were sent at letter

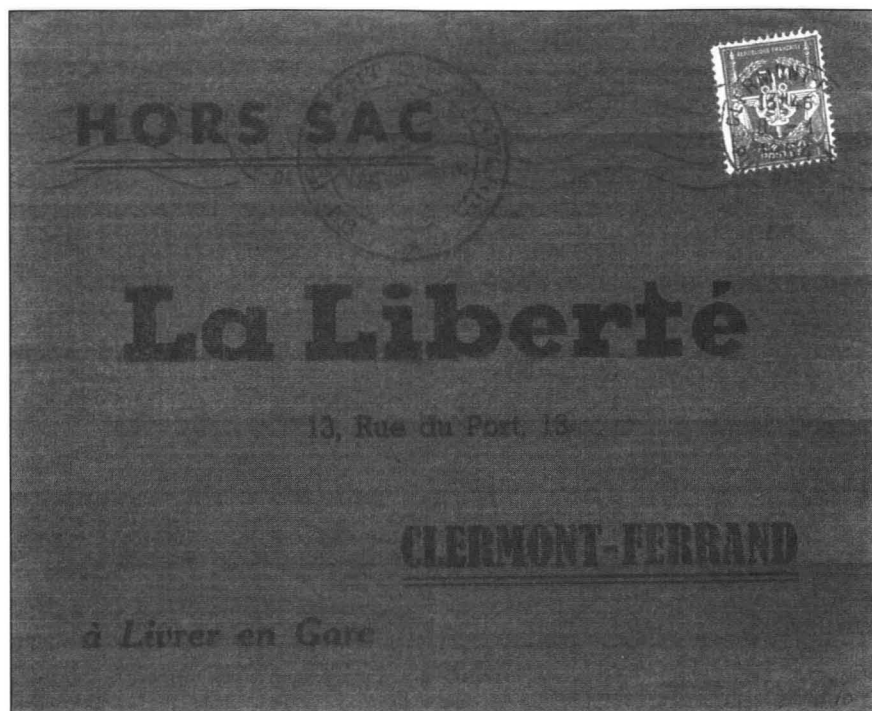


Figure 4. Free-franked hors sac sent by a military correspondent to his paper. (reduced to 75%)

rates for varying weight bands, and sometimes were even overpaid.

The Rural Post, using various means of transport, such as Citroën autocars, also carried and distributed *hors sac* mail (Figure 3). Mail sent by military correspondents on campaign benefited from the free franchise (Figure 4).

Examples for a collection.

- Wrappers for bundled newspapers are rare; those with the mention "*1/2 centime en plus*" can cost at least 1500F [US\$210 in mid-March 2001].

- For *hors sac* mail, one can try to assemble examples of the 21 successive tariffs with priority tax added, in different weight bands, with not too much difficulty.

- And also *hors sac* mail sent at letter rates, of which there are 23 successive tariffs since 1965.

Hors sac envelopes are not particularly rare, when it comes to recent tariffs and those of long duration, but some may be impossible to find. Ordinary examples run about 50 to 300F [US\$7 to \$42 in mid-March 2001].

Those carried by the Rural Post and those sent under free franchise can cost at least 1500F.

Reference

J.-L. Trassaert, "Le courrier 'hors sac,'" in *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, N° 548, February 2000. [This shows tariff tables, which are here reprinted on the next page].

Hors sac rates, 1924-1965

Tarif	Imprimé 1/	Urgent	Hors-sac 1er échelon	Hors-sac 2ième échelon	Hors-sac 3ième échelon	Hors-sac 4ième échelon	L.S.<20g 2/
25.03.1924	0.05	0.05	0.10				
16.07.1925	0.10	0.05	0.15				0.30
01.05.1926	0.15	0.10	0.25				0.40
09.08.1926	0.15	0.10	0.25				0.50
31.05.1933	0.15	0.10	0.25				0.50
01.01.1935	0.15	0.10	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.55	0.50
12.07.1937	0.20	0.15	0.35	0.40	0.50	0.75	0.65
17.11.1938	0.30	0.20	0.50	0.60	0.80	1.20	0.90
05.01.1942	0.50	0.40	0.90	1.10	1.60	2.40	1.50
01.03.1945	0.80	0.70	1.50	1.90	2.70	4.20	2.00
01.01.1946	1.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	7.00	3.00
01.01.1947	1.50	1.50	3.00	4.50	6.50	11.5	5.00
02.01.1947	1.40	1.40	2.80	4.20	6.10	10.90	4.50
01.03.1947	1.30	1.20	2.50	3.70	5.20	9.20	4.50
08.07.1947	2.00	2.00	4.00	6.00	8.00	14.0	6.00
21.09.1948	3.00	3.00	6.00	9.00	13	23.0	10.
06.01.1949	5.00	5.00	10	15.0	20.0	35.0	15
01.07.1957	6.00	10.0	16	35.0	50.0	70.0	20.
06.01.1959	10.0	10.0	20	45.0	65.0	85	25
01.01.1960	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.45	0.65	0.85	0.25
19.05.1964	0.12	0.10	0.22	0.50	0.90	1.50	0.25
18.01.1965	Suppression de la taxe d'urgence pour les "Hors sac" 3/						

1. Printed-matter rates, for comparison
- 2 1x (to 20 gm) letter-rates, for comparison
3. Suppression of the priority (*urgent*) tax for *hors sac* mail

Hors sac rates, 1965-1996

TARIFS	1er échelon	2ième échelon	3ième échelon	4ième échelon	Poids (grammes) <u>4</u>
18.01.1965	0.30	0.70	1.50	2.00	20-50-100-200
13.01.1969	0.40	0.80	2.00	2.70	20-100-250-500
14.01.1971	0.50	0.90	1.20	2.50	20-50-100-250
16.09.1974	0.80	1.40	1.90	4.00	
02.08.1976	1.00	1.70	2.40	4.80	
15.05.1978	1.20	2.10	2.90	5.80	
01.10.1979	1.30	2.10	2.90	5.80	
15.10.1979	1.30	2.30	3.20	6.40	
01.08.1980	1.40	2.50	3.50	7.20	
01.09.1981	1.60	2.90	4.00	8.50	
01.06.1982	1.80	3.30	4.50	9.60	
01.06.1983	2.00	3.60	4.90	10.40	
02.07.1984	2.10	3.70	5.00	10.70	
01.08.1985	2.20	3.90	5.00	10.70	
01.08.1986	2.20	3.70	5.40	11.70	
01.08.1987	2.20	3.70	5.60	12.30	
16.08.1988	2.20	3.70	5.60	12.30	
11.01.1990	2.30	3.80	5.70	12	
19.08.1991	2.50	4.00	6.20	11.00	
10.08.1992	2.50	4.20	6.40	11.30	
05.07.1993	2.80	4.40	6.70	11.50	
18.03.1996 <u>5</u>	3.00	4.50	6.70	11.50	

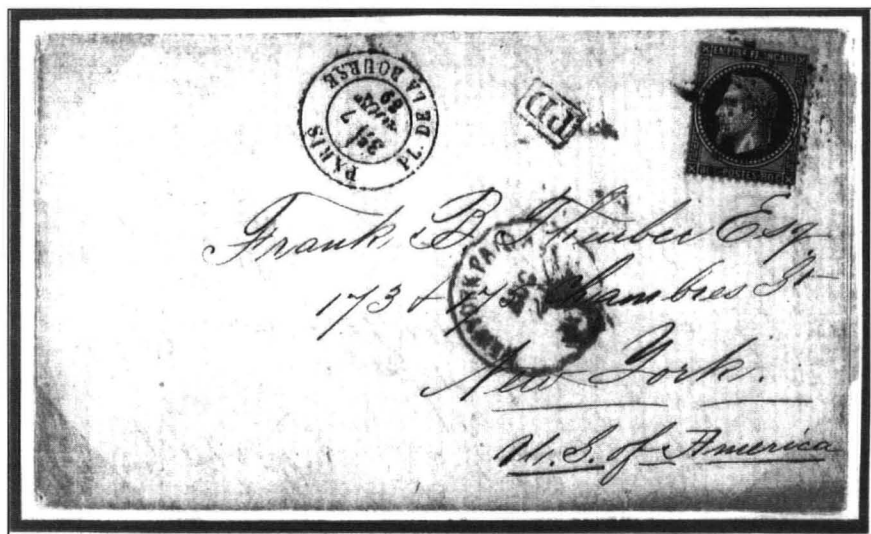
4. The four weight bands
5. Rates unchanged from 1966 to date

A SORT OF APRIL THE FIRST

by Alberich von Fafner

Dress rehearsal for the Ballon Monté. In late spring 1869 the *Postmâitre-Général* came timorously to Napoléon III. "Sire," he quavered, "I beg *le bon Dieu* all goes well with our *armées* when those damned *Boches* attack us next year. But suppose you are captured with one *armée* and M. le Maréchal Bazaine is shut in Metz with the other? We need a *methode* of spiriting the mail out of besieged Paris. What about balloons?" The Empereur laughed indulgently at the old man and said, "An *expériment* might be *drôle*."

Thus on 31 *Juillet* 1869 the gas balloon *Pamplemousse* was readied on the Place de la Bourse. Its *aéronaut* was one Monty Balone, an indentured Sicilian gardener who was granted release from his contract as pilot-fee. M. Balone lifted off inmid morning, clutching seven letters.



(reduced to 68%)

Pamplemousse flew perfectly. *Too well*. During the 1870-1871 fall-winter siège, no balloon flew farther than Norway or the *Böhmische Wald*. Summer heat hustled *Pamplemousse* to Siberia, into a field of ripe rape near Krasnoyarsk. Poor Monty Balone, still clutching the seven letters, was found frozen to death.

Luckily the parttime rape-reaper was also Assistant Postmaster, an exiled Pole named Pavel Dzershinski, who read Western alphabets. He stamped each *lettre* with his initials and tucked them in a compartment for the first Trans-Siberian train. Rail construction was delayed, reaching Krasnoyarsk only in September 1898. Cover is only reported survivor of the experiment. Paris 31 July 1869 - New York 21 August 1899.

-Sort of after Ernst M. Cohn

THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION

© 1998 Eliot A. Landau (FCPS #3010)

The following article is reprinted from "The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues," N° 180, November 1998, with permission of the author.

Collectors of 19th century U.S. postal history often seek the most remote and uncommon destinations for the stamp, issue or type of mail service they collect. Many destinations which are "scarce" in the 20th century on non-philatelic covers, e.g., Liechtenstein (especially outside of Vaduz), Sarawak, Turks & Caicos Islands, Bahrain, and St. Pierre & Miquelon Islands (all especially before World War II), are "very rare" to find in the 19th century.

Even many European destinations which are only "uncommon" in the pre-World War II portion of the 20th century can be "very scarce" to "rare" at different times in the 19th century. This was because commercial relations were not open between U.S. businesses and those towns and/or because there had been few immigrants to the United States who would be writing back to relatives in their homelands. This is especially true in Eastern Europe, where mass migration to the U.S. did not start until the last quarter of the 19th century. The same is true today for many small towns and villages in the interiors of India, China and South America whose immigrants have only recently arrived due to the new immigration policies of the last 35 years.

I have always searched hard for and specially prized such destinations in my collections of Lincoln 19th century issues and U.S. registry material. After all, how many 6¢ large Bank Notes can there be to Madeira and St. Helena? Do you know of many 4¢ small Bank Notes to Turks & Caicos Islands or Karlshamm, Finland and Roratonga, Cook Islands? How about a nice New Haven negative Star of David cancellation on 15¢ and 30¢ 1861-1866 issues to Bangkok, Siam? Will we ever see another 6¢ with late large Bank Note issues paying triple U.P.U. rates to El Biar, Algeria?

All of these destinations are extremely rare and some are unique for the stamp and period. But they all have something in common that my most recent discovery does not: *the destination had a population! Somebody was there to receive the mail!*

Anyone who collects covers from the last two decades of the 19th century knows the name of San Francisco stamp dealer George Carion. He had a large clientele and conducted world-wide correspondence. During the period 1892-1894 (it may have been longer, but those three years are all I can document) Carion wrote to many exotic places seeking to buy stamps of outlying colonies, territories and dependencies of the major powers. He also tried to have covers addressed back to him by the local postmasters of those distant places. He would then sell those covers to his clients who were seeking unusual origins for their collections. He would also ask the postmaster to return his original request covers. This is why Carion registered covers in 1880-1900 are not too scarce.

The cover illustrated here (Figure 1) is one of those original requests to a postmaster. However, this one was returned because it was undeliverable.

The Kerguelen Islands were discovered in 1772 by French Navigator Yves Joseph de Kerguelen-Tremarec and are now part of the French Southern & Antarctic Territories. They are the virtually desolate remains of a large multi-caldera and ash field volcanic system, mostly barren but with some scrub vegetation. Indeed, the British explorer Captain James Cook visited it in 1776 and named it "Desolation Island."¹ In 1894, the Kerguelen Islands

were, and until 1949 they remained, COMPLETELY UNINHABITED!² Carion was unaware that the islands did not have a postal agent, much less anybody else.

The main island is located at 70 degrees longitude east of Greenwich (almost due south of Bombay, India) and 49.5 degrees south latitude and is part of an undersea plateau stretching southeasterly to the Antarctic Circle. (Figure 2). In the 19th century, there were a few shacks for the use of whaling ships to put in during an emergency. According to one source, there were enough rations to support 30 sailors for up to four months as well as medical supplies.

Mail, especially from France, was deposited in a box. Letters addressed to sailors on the whaling ships could be picked up by them if they chanced to put in to Kerguelen. Apparently, enough ships did so that this was not an unexpected practice for European whalers working the far south Indian or north Antarctic Oceans. While French covers to Kerguelen in this period are quite scarce, they are known.

On the other hand, this cover (Figure 1), franked with 2¢ and 10¢ 1893 Columbians on 1¢ Colombian postal stationery, paying the 8¢ registry and 5¢

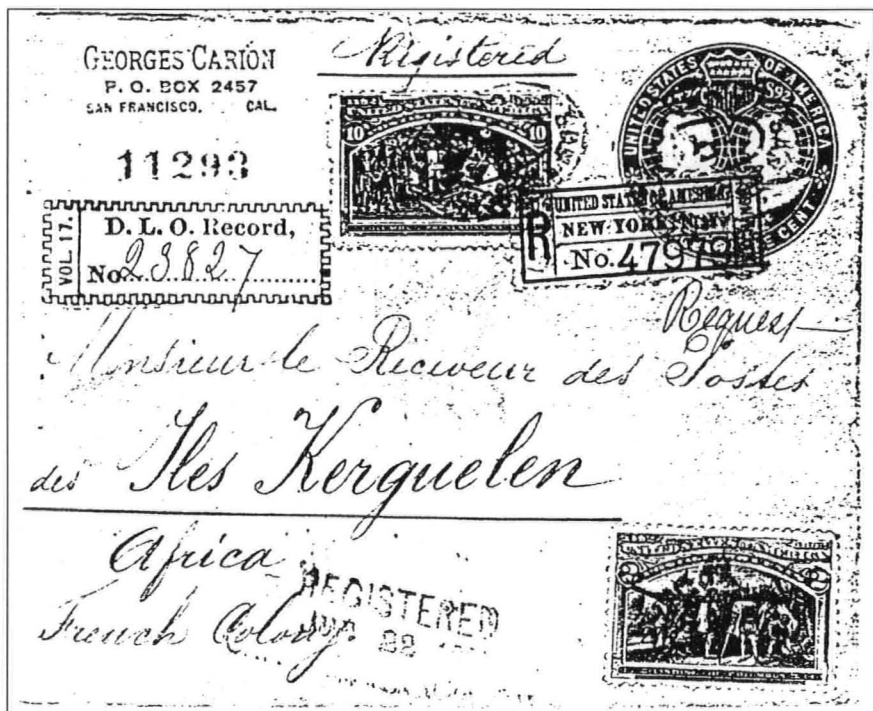


Figure 1. 1894 Cover with 1893 Colombian Issues addressed to the "pre-sumed" postmaster of the Kerguelen Islands. (reduced to 96%)

U.P.U. rate, is the only 19th century cover yet recorded from America. Mailed from San Francisco on June 22, 1894, its other date stamps are New York City 6/28/94, Paris 7/9/94, Marseille 7/10/94 and Washington, D.C. Dead Letter Office, Registry Branch 11/20/94. These mailings show its trip to

FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST

Index to Volume 57 (2001)

Stanley J. Luft, compiler

PREFACE

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N° 2	264), April 2001
N° 3	265), July 2001
N° 4	266), October 2001

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* * * * *

Kerguelen and its ultimate return as an undeliverable dead letter. There is no Kerguelen marking because there was no one there to postmark it, even if a date stamp had been available.

It is hard to imagine a more desolate, godforsaken and out-of-the-way address. For me, this cover has become the ultimate destination.



Figure 2. Map showing location of Kerguelen Island in the South Indian Ocean. (Courtesy of Paul Carroll, from his "South Atlantic and Subantarctic Islands Home Page" at <http://www.wndrland.demon.co.uk/>) (reduced to 94%)

¹"Kerguelen Islands," *Encarta 97 Encyclopedia*, copyright 1993-1996, Microsoft Corporation.

²France established a scientific mission to study meteorology and geophysics on Kerguelen Island in 1949; Marcelin Chappe, "Geography and Posts of the French Southern and Antarctic Territories," *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 80, No. 11 (August 1967), pp. 811-816.

TYPES AND SUBTYPES

40c cameo Sower

Type I (flat-plate olive-brown sheet stamps and booklets; flat-plate vermilion booklets): the ends of the **c** of value line up vertically.

Type II (rotary-press olive-brown, vermilion and then violet sheet stamps, vermilion precancels, rotary-press vermilion and violet coil stamps): lower extremity of the **c** is more horizontal and extends farther to the right than the upper one.



Type I



Type II

FURTHER USE OF AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE MESSAGE OVERPRINTED STAMPS

by Lewis E. Bussey (FCPS #2813)

As a sort of addendum to our editor's brief article on World War II American EFM's (N° 265, July 2001), I show two covers to the U.S. bearing Luft's Figure 2 overprinted Algerian stamp. Figure 1 is a registered October

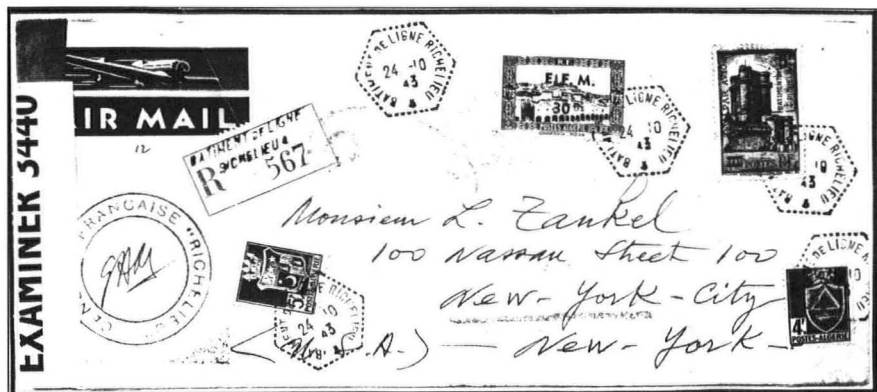


Figure 1. (reduced to 46%)

24, 1943 battleship *Richelieu* cover bearing the **E.F.M. / 30frs** overprint plus other Algerian stamps and the only recorded used copy of a "Richelieu" overprint on a French 5F on 10f Vincennes stamp. A second similarly franked cover is also known (but bearing a different "Richelieu" stamp). Both of these obviously philatelic covers (note the 100 Nassau Street address) were censored on board and in London and received in New York on November 21.

Figure 2 is a U.S. APO cover sent airmail special delivery on October 25,

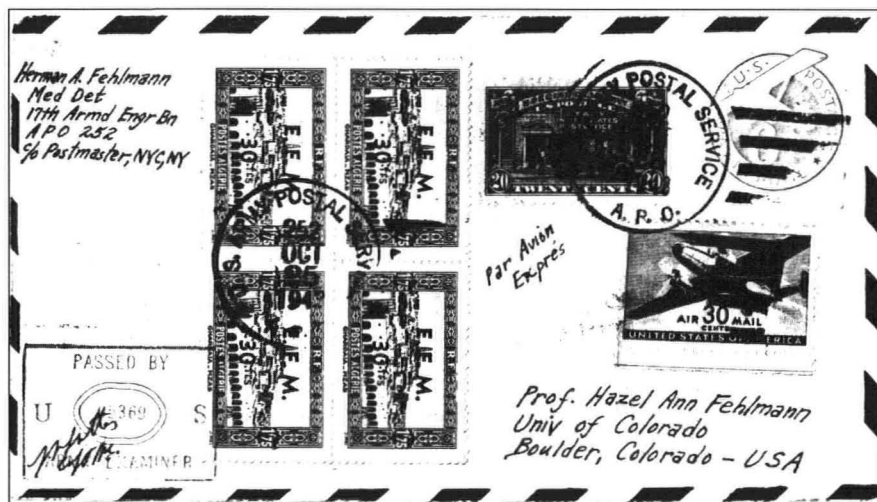


Figure 2. (reduced to 67%)

1943, bearing a **block of four** of the **E.F.M. / 30frs** and considerable (55¢) U.S. postage. It received U.S. Army censorship and was delivered to sender's relative in Colorado on November 5. It is also very likely philatelic, but certainly also very unusual if not "unique."

THE CARNET CORNER

by Bob Seeke (FCPS #1334)

Let's take a look at an interesting variety of the latest (as of this writing) Luquet open booklet of 10 TVP stamps.

This booklet is printed on white paper with blue printing on the cover, and is known by the name "La Communication" (Figure 1).

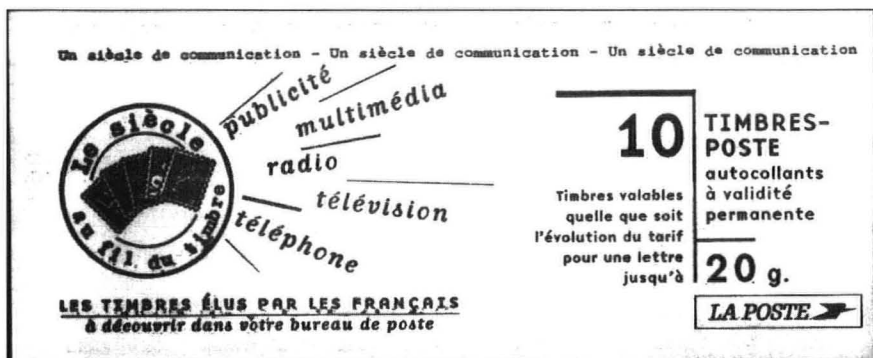


Figure 1. (reduced to 90%)

The interesting thing about this booklet is not the stamps, which are the usual red TVP stamps, but is that two different covers exist; unfortunately it can be difficult to tell them apart with the stamps still in the booklet.

One of the covers does not react to ultraviolet (UV) light. The surface of the cover where the stamps are affixed is very shiny.

The other type cover reacts moderately to UV light. On this one, the area where the stamps are affixed is very dull.

I have seen other self-stick booklets with either shiny and dull surfaces where the stamps were, but this is the first booklet for which I have seen both shiny and dull surfaces.

Only time will tell if one type of cover will be scarcer than the other. For now, be sure to check your booklet covers to see which one you have. A word of caution: while the stamps will detach easily from both covers, it is very difficult to put the stamps back in the booklet without it being obvious that they had been removed.

Any of our readers who would like more information about modern French booklets is cordially invited to contact me. Until next time, *bonne philatélie*.

Bob Seeke, 866 La Costa Lane, N. Fort Myers, FL 33917.

AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--65

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

Thanks to Georges Schild I can now report on a Paris siege balloon that landed "on a bare cliff of the desolate island Iceland," as an unsigned article expresses it in German in the *Schweizer Illustrierte Briefmarken-Zeitung* (Swiss Illustrated Stamp Newspaper) of the 1880s.

— *Terrible End of a flying Mailman*. One of those aeronauts, who were employed by the provisional government in order to take care of the traffic between the provisional government delegation in Tours and Rouen with the capital of France then besieged by German troops, was found on Iceland with the remainder of the balloon. Our correspondent writes as follows: Not far from the crater opening of the northern part of Iceland, containing mighty cracks and openings, a formless pile of ropes and pieces of sail cloth were noted for some time, but we paid no attention to them, especially since this part of the island is accessible only with difficulty because of strong sulfur vapors and continually rising fires. It is visited only occasionally by Englishmen and Americans who shoot the innumerable masses of gulls and pigeons that nest there. After four years of activity the crater gradually died down, only to start new activity in the western part of the island. Thus access to the puzzling pile became easier, and with astonishment we observed there the remains of a human body that had shrunk like a mummy among the strong ropes and torn silk fabric. Furthermore we found some metallic eating gear, bottles, letters, among other items a large, printed placard, much yellowed but still legible. It contained the following interesting appeal:

"All municipalities are ordered to acquaint the population with the new balloon mail organization. With it will be expedited letters up to 4 grams, but the post office takes no responsibility. Landed balloons are to be transmitted immediately to the nearest post office for further expedition."

Several packages of little, photographically prepared miniature letters, which contained the latest despatches, as well as news from Paris, troop organizations, reviews, as well as [the fact] that Gambetta had traveled by balloon to Amiens and via Rouen. In a weathered brass box were several printed reports on Favre's conference with Bismark (*sic*).

But man thinks and God wills! The wind rose (*sic*) carried off the balloon to a bare cliff of the desolate island Iceland, instead of taking it to the luxuriant vineyards of France.

* * * *

The gentle reader will have shaken his head while reading this poetic recital. Was it in the April issue of the paper? The writer did not know much about Paris balloon mail, which he confused with Metz balloon mail. His 'report' follows another little joke, about a person wanting to pick up mail for someone named Louder and thus obviously confusing the postman who keeps yelling louder at the customer until the misunderstanding is cleared up. That kind of joke was fashionable then and is heard to this day.

I just read one about a man who wanted to learn how to shut down his laptop and is told, "First, you point the mouse on 'Start!'", which is followed by a long dialogue about the nonsense of such advice. Well, of course, I own a laptop where you do precisely that as part of the shut-down routine. It may be a poor joke, but it's the truth.

A somewhat similar balloon story is found in *The Times* (London) of 26 November 1873, which carries a letter of 21 November by Wilfrid de Fonvielle, then at Paris, about "a parcel of letters discovered in Natal and sent by the Colonial Government to our [French] post office. Nothing had yet arrived by yesterday [i.e., 20 Nov.]" He says that must have been from a manned balloon, but could not have been the *Jacquard*, according to the report in the *Annales Maritimes & Coloniales*, therefore it must have been from the *Wallace*, "which started on the 27th of January, two or three days before the capitulation." [That event took place on 28 January.] "M. Lacaze, a private in our Infantry, who had been educated in aeronautics by Godard ..." [Lacaze had had nothing to do with the Godards but was associated with Dartois and Yon.] "The catastrophe to Prince [pilot of the *Jacquard*], having become known by pigeon, induced the Postal authorities to abolish night ascents, against which I had unsuccessfully protested ... [the *Wallace* left at 3 a.m.]. M. Jansen, the astronomer, who left Paris on the 9th of December with the *Volta* [which left on 2 December at 6 a.m.], had inaugurated the new system [most balloons left between 1 and 4 a.m. afterwards] ... The distance from Rochefort to Natal is ... far greater than from Paris to Mont Zid [he thinks he is talking to the landing place of the *Ville d'Orléans*]." Fonvielle thought that Lacaze traveled beyond the spot where the mail was found, that he was still alive then, and he wants to know what happened to the pilot.

On 4 December, *The Times* published a letter from the same author, dated at Paris on 2 December, explaining that de Fonvielle had received a letter from a Natal colonist, saying that the paragraph in the *Natal Mercury* had been merely a joke.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

WANTED Tunisian millesimes. Please make offer to Roger Lemieux, 3915 Vaughn Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76119-3527, USA; e-mail: regrog@world-net. att.net (Mb N° 3211).

OFFER: Box of complete covers and fragments with a variety of French *Flammes* [slogan cancels], free to any interested collector. Alex Krammer, 20415 Rancho Los Cerritos, Covina, CA 91724-3528 (Mb N° 3120).

CORRECTIONS

To Whole Number 266, October 2001:

Page 114: The Types and Subtypes should read **35c** cameo Sowers, and not 30c. *Mea culpa!*

Page 122: The ZIP Code for ordering Dave Herendeen's book should read 90710 and **not** 97010. *Mea* transposition...

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q. 02.1.** I have a registered French Congo cover (shown below) sent 1 March 1910 from Brazzaville to the Belgian Congo port of Matadi, received there on the 5th. There's a two-line marking (about 48 x 12 mm) across the back, reading "AFRIQUE & CONGO / FRET GRATUIT 150 K." Can any reader advise whether the cover traveled by rail or by riverboat, or both?

-- AJM



- Q. 02.2.** The 7 March 1956 Ivory Coast letter to Chicago (shown on next page) has been censored, resealed with plain white tape, and tied on back of cover with a black handstamp reading ABIDJAN / CONTROLE / ms. Vu au contrôle / initials. Why the censorship during apparent peacetime about three years prior to independence? By which agency? Was there any particular unrest at the time? Was the mail of certain persons subject to censorship? And what might the full marking read? Any and all help highly appreciated -- REP



(reduced to 71%)

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

Ever since the horrendous events of September 11 that befell lower Manhattan, the Pentagon, the four commercial airliners, and several thousand unsuspecting people, I have felt compelled to say something on this page. But as I write these words in late November, some two-and-a-half months after the fact, it's all been said much better and sooner, and I might as well desist. To the best of my knowledge, our Society has lost no one to terrorism on that day--nor since. Though the nation's and the world's economies continue to falter, though travel by air and attendance at crowd-gathering events are down, philately appears to continue on track. Perhaps it is because our hobby provides something friendly and familiar and comforting at a time of major concern for the present and the immediate future. My mail certainly continues to bring an unabated flow of auction catalogs and net-priced offers. Not to mention more junk mail than ever before. And I continue to bid and to buy.

My wife and I have willed to live our lives as before September 11, albeit perhaps a trifle more cautiously. I've had my share of "thrills" in the past (Korea, Cuba under Batista and then Castro, mapping by myself in uninhabited areas, our being tear gassed on the Paris Metro, etc.) and survived with very minimal mental and physical scars. We refuse to be terrorized, neither by the "bad guys" nor by the administration's claptrap nor by media-spread

rumors. Since September 11, we have flown two round trips, on a total of eight different planes, and we plan on flying as usual in 2002, to France and to western Canada, perhaps elsewhere as well. Life will go on for us, and philatelic pursuits shall continue, to the extent I can afford them. So, dear readers, do get on with your life and let that include continuing with your philatelic interests, which I hope are principally France and/or the Colonies.

The normal reaction to our occasional offers to provide copies at cost of articles from other periodicals, etc. has run anywhere between zero and two requests. Thus, I've been pleasantly surprised, even flabbergasted, when a total of ten requests (more or less, I failed to keep count) were received and filled for the complete 25-page manuscript on "The Unissued Vichy Colonial Stamps of 1942-1944" by Mark Anderson. I'm still amazed (and I expect that Mark would be too) to learn that there are so many collectors interested enough in that neglected subject to go to the trouble of ordering copies.

We hope that you will be pleased with this January issue, and with the previous and upcoming ones as well.

SOME SHOW REPORTS

(Continued from N° 266, October 2001, p. 117)

- Americover 2001 (Denver, August) [First-Day cover show]: Platinum medal to Eliot Landau for his one-frame "1909 Lincoln Commemoratives" exhibit.
- BALPEX 01 (Hunt Valley, MD, August-September 2001): Grand Award and Gold medal to Paul Larsen for "German Caroline Island 1899-1914."
- MILCOPEX 2001 (Milwaukee, September): Grand Award and Gold medal to Paul Larsen (what, again! Wow!) for "Federal Issues of the Leeward Islands 1890-1911"; Gold medal to Eliot Landau for "The 6¢ Lincoln Large Banknote Issues."
- SESCAL 2001 (Los Angeles, October): Silver medals all around, including to Bob Kinsley for "Swiss Internment Camps - World War II" and three to Chuck LaBlonde for three Swiss exhibits (two being single-frame); Silver also in the Literature competition to J. A. Dangler and member Klerman Wanderley Lopes for "Mute Cancellations of the Brazil Empire."
- Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition 2001 (West Chester, PA, October): Our Society was featured, and our members fared exceedingly well. Grand Award, Gold medal, and the FCPS Award to Dave Herendeen for "Evolution of Postage Due Stamps in French Community"; Gold medals to Jeff Bohn [plus a stack of other awards] for "Accountancy Markings associated with the 1857 France-British Convention," to Ed Grabowski for "French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Use, Misuse & Non-Use in Madagascar & Dependencies," Klerman Wanderley Lopes for "Letters Conveyed over Brazil-France Maritime Mail Routes up to 1890," and Dick Stevens for "France & Serbia: Allies in the Great War"; Vermeil medals to Bob Kinsley for "Spanish Civil War Refugees in France," and to Bill Robertson (member?) for "Free French Censorship in Syria & Lebanon"; Silver medal to Tom ("Tuck") Taylor for "When the Saints Went Marching In" [an exhibit of 1916-1958 French Cameroons]; John Lievsay chaired the jury.
- Redwood Empire Collectors Club (San Rafael, CA, October) [one-frame exhibits]: Gold award to Tom Siddens for "French Large Numeral Cancellations 1853-1876."
- MIDAPHIL 2001 (Lenexa, KS, October): The Reserve Grand and two Gold medals to Eliot Landau for two U.S. exhibits; Silver-Bronze medal to Michael Johnson (congratulations to our new member!) for "An Abbreviated Postal History of French Indo-China: 1888-1951."

REVIEW

Jean-Luc Trassaert, *La Marianne de Décaris*; (2001); **CD-ROM** of 181 "pages," including 105 color illustrations; 150 F postpaid in France (+ 10 F postage elsewhere), from the author at "Les Gauchers," F-24230 Bonneville, France.

A handbook on a CD-ROM rather than on printed pages one can leaf through at leisure, without resorting to staring fixedly at a monitor screen, is something that I (and others) will have to get accustomed to in this the 21st Century. Here's a start.

This is a monographic study by our member, the most authoritative exponent of post-World War II French regular issues. The only stamp issued in this particular design by Décaris, the familiar 0,25 lake and gray of 1960 (Scott 968, Yvert 1263) has been one of Trassaert's specialties. He previously had written at length on this stamp, notably in the *Le Monde des Philatélistes* Etude N° 243, and later articles, mainly in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*.

This new work is a vast improvement over Etude N° 243, in that it's entirely in color--and the illustrations can be enlarged at will, and in that the tables dealing with the various printings of sheet and booklet stamps and with the series and designs of booklet covers are now much easier to follow, as well as having been updated from the 1981 work.

In addition to the sheet stamps, booklets, coils and postal cards, the CD-ROM includes good detailed information and illustrations on markings used to obliterate printers' waste (*annulations*); the overprints of Réunion and the various official and otherwise ones for Algeria; the special coil and booklet made expressively for testing vending machines; training school stamps; varieties, errors and perforation shifts; and a solid bibliography.

This CD-ROM works on both PCs and Macs, via the Adobe Acrobat reader. Even I could handle it after only a few minutes of experimentation. Very worth having, and uses up practically no shelf space. -- S. J. Luft

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

- Gérard Collet (ed.), *La Poste Aérienne Française, Tôme I [French Airmail Services, Pt. I]*, ICARE N° 173, 2000; 168 pp. 32 x 24 cm, softbound, profusely illustrated; 120 Fr + postage, from Tour Essor 93, 14/16 rue de Scandicci, F-93508 Pantin Cedex, France. (Covers airmail services from 1870 to 1940, but with more illustrative material than text, which should be a boon to those with limited French-reading skills.)
- Louis Peter, *Boulogne-sur-Mer et la Poste (1700-2000) [The posts at Boulogne-s-Mer, 1700-2000]*, (2000); 224 pp., 27 x 21 cm, perfect bound; 149 Fr + postage; ordering details not communicated.
- Bernard Raynaud, *France. Les empreintes postales. Comment les identifier, les classer dans leur contexte et connaître leur valeur* [French postal markings. How to identify, classify and price them], 2nd edition; 727 pages, apparently unbound, for future updates; 600 F for photocopies or 1000 F for laser prints, plus registered postage (postpaid in France, for ordinary mail); inquire of author at 186 rue de la Gatevinière, F-79290 Argenton l'Eglise, France. (Apparently, all one might ever want to learn about French postal markings from the earliest to machine cancels, plus bar codes, ink-jet sprayed markings, non-postal (administrative) markings, etc.).

- Serge Cochet, Henri Boudrie, and Michel Auzeloux, *La Poste Automobile Rurale en Corrèze*; 124 pp., A4 format, numerous illustrations and official documents; 140 Fr postpaid in France (more elsewhere?), payable to Club Philatélique Argentacois, from Michel Auzeloux, 24-24 avenue Foch, F-19400 Argentat, France.
- Pierre-J. Barat, *Catalogue spécialisé des Entiers Postaux d'Algérie*, 226 pp., A4 format, numerous illustrations; 250 Fr (+ 25F postage and handling, perhaps more outside France), from Librairie-Service de Timbropresse, 21 blvd. Montmartre, F-75080 Paris cedex 02. (From the 1872 precursors to the 1975 aerogrammes, including reply coupons, etc.; with value indices).
- Jean-Luc Trassaert, *La Marianne de Décaris*, (2001), CD-ROM. See Review, in this issue.
- *Catalogue Yvert et Tellier 2002* [all illustrations in color, prices in euros]: vol. 1, France, 512 pp., soft cover, 14.94€; vol. 1bis, Monaco, Europa, UN, Andorra, 336 pp., soft cover, 9,15€ (+ postage outside France); from the usual sources. (The generally considered standard catalogue for France).

When you read this, the franc shall have been replaced by the euro. If you wish to purchase any of these items, you'll have to convert the franc prices to euros. To do so, you need to divide the francs by 6.55957 to obtain the equivalent in euros. In the specific case of Trassaert's CD-ROM on the Marianne de Decaris, the price in France is 22, 87 euros (25, 15 euros if registration) is desired, and 1, 52 euros in addition for postage beyond France.

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from #265, July 2001, p. 89)

- **815.)** The 2,20 F red Liberté of Gandon continues to show promise of becoming a late 20th Century "classic." One of its most erudite proponents, Gérard Chapot, has studied the coil stamps (*Marianne*, Bull. 56, April 2001) printed on the TD6-7 press. The first rolls consisted of 1000 stamps with a red control number, 6 mm tall (Figure 1), on the back of every tenth stamp (Cérès 2370Aa). The paper used reacts bluish under UV light. In March 1986, experimental coils were sold by some tobaccotionists and later at philatelic windows. These rolls of 100 stamps, on non-reactive to UV-light paper, bear red control numbers 8 mm high that are spread farther apart (Figure 2) and on the back of just every fifth stamp (Cérès 2370Ab).

Beginning August 1987, rolls consisted of 500 stamps otherwise identical to Cérès 2370Ab. Their gum is shiny and yellowish, though some rolls were produced with dull, uncolored gum. Dates of printing are largely undeterminable, inasmuch as dates and other marginal markings were cut away at the printing works prior to preparation of the finished rolls.

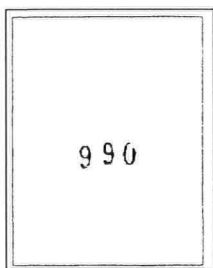


Figure 1.

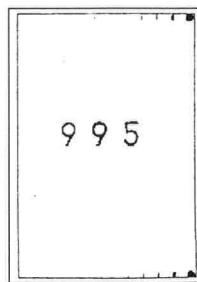


Figure 2.

- **816.)** How were the sea captains who carried the mail between France and her Colonies indemnified? Michèle Chauvet (*Documents Philatéliques*, N° 169, 2001) explains it very clearly. Between 1 January 1762 and 22 September 1800, such letters were charged the then current domestic rate plus 2 sous, which latter sum was paid to the captain when he turned over the mail to the post office of arrival. This amount was changed to the equivalent 1 décime for a single-weight letter plus one décime for each additional 30 gm. Printed matter within wrappers brought, from 10 January 1830-on, a smaller (5 centimes per sheet) compensation. The situation was changed drastically by the Law of 3 May 1853 (applicable 1 September 1853) which forced the sea captains to collect their fee only at their arrival port. While this worked reasonably well for Colonial mail to France, it didn't necessarily at first *vis-à-vis* mail to the Colonies if a colonial postmaster was unaware of the change in procedure. Mme Chauvet then pleads the case of a skipper who had been unable to collect upon his arrival at Cayenne in the Fall of 1853 and who had to make his request when he finally returned to Bordeaux in May 1854. We probably will never know whether he ever received his due.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- The new Marianne de Luquet definitive stamps are scheduled to be issued on 2 January 2002, with values solely in euros. There will be 16 new stamps (including the red permanent-value one). In addition to the removal of values in francs, there are changes in the marginal inscriptions at upper left, right and bottom left. The new values are: 0,01 0,02, 0,05, 0,10 0,20 0,50 1,00 and 2,00€, all corresponding to the new euro coins, plus the following, which correspond to the actual and at-least-for-now unchanged French domestic rates (and some international ones): 0,46 0,58 0,67 0,69 1,02€ for priority mail, and 0,41 0,53 0,64€, for *écopli* (slower) domestic mail.
- As this is being written (early November 2001), 1 euro = 6,55957 French francs. Therefore, a single-weight domestic letter at 3,00F = 0,46€ actually should cost the mailer 3,017 former francs upon the January 2002 conversion, but La Poste will make up that minimal difference.
- The new computer-vended postage, showing paper planes in flight, is printed on thermal paper. When and if canceled, this often results in smeared cancels.
- It appears that the 10F and 20F pictorial stamps prepared in Vichy France for St. Pierre & Miquelon (see page 7 of Mark Anderson's list) were done by a simple partial to complete removal of the "offending" RF monogram for the prewar issue. As shown by Roland Janniere and Jim Taylor in the *St. Pierre & Miquelon Philatelic Journal*, vol. 7 N° 2, 2001, "ghost" impressions of the RF are usually visible on the Vichy items.
- New, perhaps experimental automatic sorting and canceling machines made their appearance in mid-2000 in, respectively, the Rhône and Yvelines Depts. (Figure 1). The cancels bear FRANCE at bottom instead of the department names, though this may be just a temporary expedient. That used in Rhône (cancel 1) is from a MARS model MDPA machine; the one for Yvelines (cancel 2) is from a Siemens machine.



Figure 1.
(reduced to 82%)

- Monaco's postage stamps, whether denominated in francs only or in francs plus euros, will be accepted for postage for the foreseeable future.
- St. Pierre & Miquelon will go on the euro standard, effective 1 January 2002. We haven't yet been advised about the postal validity of its pre-2002 postage stamps.
- Salles stated that he had seen the very uncommon boxed Franco-British maritime exchange marking CANADA / ART-19 (Salles N° 3021, Figure 2) on a letter emanating from the Trinidad local post. At VAPEX 2001, we were surprised and gratified to see what could be the very same cover (assuming that only one such usage exists) in a fine exhibit of Trinidad stamps and markings.
- The Historical Library of Posts and Telecommunications (*Bibliothèque Historique des Postes et des Télécommunications*) has relocated to 51, rue Maurice-Gunsbourg, F-94200 Ivry-sur-Seine. It is open to all serious students of all aspects of France's postal system, Mondays through Fridays, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The telephone is +33-1 [or 01 within France] - 45-15-07-51.
- The Society of Indo-china Philatelists (SICP) has published a comprehensive 20th century index of its journal, *The Indo-china Philatelist*. The index cross-references all issues of the journal from 1971 through 1999. The SICP is an organization for collectors of Indo-china, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and related areas. The index is available for \$5 postage paid from Ron Bentley, Editor / Executive Secretary, 2600 North 24th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22207.
- The SICP also recently published on CD-ROM an award-winning 10-frame Vietnam Military Mail exhibit. The exhibit is arranged in two main sections, South Vietnamese military mail (1949-1975) and Communist military mail (to the present). It touches on all aspects of military mail from these areas including military postal markings. The price is \$20 postage paid in the United States, or \$24 postage paid to other countries.
- Visit the SICP web site at <http://www.imnahastamps.com/sicp/index.htm> for more information about the society, current projects, articles and membership information.



Figure 2.

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 266, October 2001, p. 126)

France

- 1 August 2001: modified permanent-value Marianne de Luquet with **RF** in lower left, instead of **LA POSTE**;
- 1 August: new cover for open-face booklets of ten: in white, showing the stamps to be issued for 20th Century Sciences;
- 8 (9) September: 6,70F/1,02€ Art of Toulouse-Lautrec (1864-1901);
- 22 (24) September: 20th Century Sciences, five at 3,00F/0,46€ each (Man in Space, DNA, electronic cards, lasers, penicillin); same in sheetlet of ten at 30F/4,57€;
- 29 September (1 October): 3,00F/0,46€ Val-de-Reuil (Eure Dept.);
- 20 (22) October: 3,00F/0,46€ Halloween, in sheets and in sheetlet of five stamps + 4 stickers at 15F;
- 27 (29) October: 6,70F/1,02€ Art of J.B. Jongking;
- early November: new blue on white cover for self-adhesive 30 Fr booklets of ten stamps, reading "La Poste vous facilite l'Euro";
- 8 (12) November: 4,50F/0,69€ Jean Pierre-Bloch (1905-1999); Red Cross (Noel 2001) semi-postal, 3,00F + 0,60F/0,46€ + 0,09€, same in 36F/5,49€ booklet of ten + two labels;
- 9 (12) November: 3,00F/0,46€ Albert Décaris (1901-1988); Happy New Year and Best Wishes, two at 3,00F/0,46€; same se-tenant in booklet of ten at 30F;
- 10 (12) November: 3,00F/0,46€ Jacques Chaban-Delmas (1915-2000); The colors of Marianne [de Luquet] in francs: two sheetlets at 18,80F/2,87€ and 32,80F/5,00€ [NDLR: a most unnecessary issue to obtain a few more francs from collectors' purses].
- 2 January 2002: Marianne de Luquet definitives solely in euros (15 values): 0,01 0,02 0,05 0,10 0,20 0,41 TVP [permanent value] 0,50 0,53 0,58 0,64 0,67 0,69 1,00 1,02 and 2,00€ [also see Announcements and News].

Withdrawals: 8 June 2001: 3,00F Gazebo of the lovers of Valence, Red Cross 2000 sheet stamps and booklets; 14 September: 3,00F World Handball Championships, Gaston Lagaffe (3,00F, 3,60F and 25,80F booklet), 6,70G Carolingien mosaics at Germigny-des-Près, 6,70F Art of Peter Bruegel the Elder; 12 October: 3,00F "Yes!", 3,00F Happy Anniversary!, 3,00F Kiwi, 5,20F Falcon, Sydney Olympics (two at 3,00F + 30F sheetlet), 30F Rugby sheetlet, 15F prized autos sheetlet.

Andorra

- 10 September 2001: 3,00F/0,46€ 25th Anniv. of Merixtell shrine;
- 15 October: 15,50F/2,36€ Hôtel Pla;
- 19 November: 2,70F/0,41€ the Grossa Cross.

Withdrawals: 12 October: 4,40F caricature of bird, 15,50F Anniv. of National Historical Archives.

French Polynesia

- 29 June 2001: 250F 17th Anniv. of Internal Autonomy: same in block at 500F;



- 12 July: Canoe Races 85F, 120F; same in block of two at 250F;
- 23 August: Fragrant plants 90F, 130F, 180F;
- 20 September: 55F AIDS solidarity.

Withdrawals: 1 October: 90F OPT and philately, 180F Year of the Dragon, 80F and 120F Ora Na and Maeva, 300F and 500F (block) Beauties of Polynesia, festival of tattooing (4 stamps), traditional robes (4 stamps).

Mayotte

- 1 (3) September 2001: 3,00F/0,46€ military service;
- 22 (24) September: 5,40F/0,82€ fruits; 3,00F/0,46€ flowers;
- 17 (19) November: 10F/1,52€ Mayotte post office; 5,20F/0,79€ Lake Dziani Dzaha.

Withdrawals: 1 October: 3,00F Year 2000, 3,00F Vanilla plant, 4,50F the Déba, 15F canoes (block).

Monaco

- 2 July 2001: 2,70F/0,41€ Bourse 2001; 4,40F/0,67€ Academy of the Dance; 4,50F/0,69€ Naval Museum; 5,00F/0,76€ 37th World bowls (*pétanque*) championships;
- 1 August: The great rooms of the Palace: 3,00F/0,46€, 4,50F/0,69€, 6,70F/1,02€, and 15F/2,29€; 4,20F/0,64€ Diderot and Littré; 9F/1,37€ Oceanographic Grand Prix Albert I; 20F/3,05€ Michelangelo's "David";
- late summer 2001: new design revenue stamps at 3F, 6F, 20F [to be retired 31 December 2001];
- 3 September: 5,00F/0,76€ Alfred Nobel/Nobel Prize; 8,00F/1,22€ Henri Dunant; 11,50F/1,75€ Enrico Fermi;
- 1 October: 3,00F/0,46€ Inter. Commission for Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean; 3,00F/0,46€ Noël 2001.

Withdrawals: 27 July 2001: EUROPA 2000 (two at 3,00F).

New Caledonia

- 23 August 2001: 70F wood sculpture; 110F modern painting [Painters of Oceania] series;
- 20 September: 265F UN Year of dialog among cultures; Cagou bird booklet of ten self-adhesive 100F offset-printed stamps; 100F Cagou bird definitive line-engraved sheet stamp.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 15 August 2001: Government Cove triptych 3,00F + label + 15F;
- 12 September: 5,40F/0,82€ 1908 shipwreck of the "Marie-Thérèse";
- 1 October: 5,00F/0,76€ new Pointe Blanche airport;
- 17 October: Seasons: Spring and Summer, two at 3,00F/0,46€ [two views of same scene];
- 14 November: 3,80F Jacques Pepin le Haleur (Free French naval officer);
- 28 November: 3,00F/0,46€ Noël 2001 (child's drawing of chimney)



Wallis & Futuna

- > 30 July 2001: 165F 40th anniv. as a TOM;
- > 26 September: 800F First Anniv. of the Delegate of the Republic's Mediator;
- > 9 October: 390F UN Year of dialog among cultures.

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In my last President's Letter, I discussed the possibility of establishing a Society Library. So far, I have received one response: which concluded the volume of French philatelic literature was impracticably large. As I indicated before, unless there is a qualified volunteer to be librarian, the idea will be dropped.

We continue to look for ways to facilitate the payment of dues by those members who live outside the U.S.A. There are slight signs of positive movement in the U.S. banking system: my local bank will now admit that I can deposit U.S. currency checks drawn on Canadian banks without any special charge. (Actually, this has been possible for some time, but, when asked, the bank would give no assurance that the check would go through.) Some of our foreign members, who have friends or associates in this country, can arrange for them to make payment. I believe the treasurer has always been willing to accommodate anyone who wishes to pay for two or three years at one time. Several systems have been established for making small payments over the Internet, particularly to facilitate eBay transactions. The Board has approved the use of one of these, called Paypal, for receiving dues from foreign members.

Paypal is one of two low-cost systems that are out-growths of eBay. The other, Billpoint, is run by eBay itself. Paypal is independent, and can be used for any payments between two Paypal members. Paypal is a rather autocratic operation, which changes its regulations frequently. Hopefully anyone reading this will have already paid his dues for 2002. Changes are more likely than not by next fall. In the meantime, I would encourage any of our foreign members to establish Paypal accounts as soon as convenient. The "verification" procedure for Paypal accounts outside the U.S. is cumbersome at best, and easiest if initiated one or two months before any payments need be made. Instructions may be found on the Internet at www.paypal.com. For the present, contact either me or the treasurer, if you want to pay the Society through Paypal. We may have to charge \$1.00 for such payments, but that is little more than the postage, if the money were sent through the mail. I continue to hope that other alternatives will appear.

RMS

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting for the presentation of reports and election of officers will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2002 at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, N.Y.

NEW MEMBERS

- 3250 PINE, ROBERT, 449 North Monroe Ave., Lindenhurst, NJ 11757. (General France: mint, used on cover. French Community: Offices Abroad, CFA issues, Saar. Colonies General Issues: mint, used, on cover.)
- 3251 PHELAN, CHARLES P., 701 Lamberton Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20902. (General collector, all issues, mint, used, on cover. Modern France: mint, used, on cover. Sowers. Airmails. Coils. Special issues: air first flights, etc.. Proofs and color trials. Monaco.)

- 3252 [to be reassigned]
 3253 ZELENAK, Dr. MICHAEL X., 4426 Larchwood Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19104-3916. (General collector: 19th Century. General France, used.)
 3254 BERTHAULT, LAURENT, 17 rue des Coudreseaux, F-45510 Neuvy-en-Sullias, France. (General collector: 19th Century. Specialized France: stampless covers, marques postales. Railway posts. Used Abroad. Dealer, part-time; auctions; mail sales. Philatelic literature.)
 3255 MOROZ, CHESTER A., 3552 Salmon Street, Philadelphia, PA 19134. (General France: mint, used. French Community. Offices Abroad. Andorra, Monaco, Saar. All Colonies and Territories.)
 3256 CARRIERE, JAMES, 2434 Potomac Drive, Houston, TX 77057. (Colonies General Issues: mint, used. All Colonies and Territories.)
 3257 COOK, KIRTLEY R., 3700 Wicklow Circle, Tallahassee, FL 32308. (General collector, all issues. Topicals (Airplanes, Butterflies, Birds, Stamps on Stamps, Red Cross). General France, used. Modern France, used. Proofs and Color Trials. CFA issues. Colonies General Issues, used. Cancels & Postal History. Flammes. Laos, Reunion, Madagascar, Cambodia, Indo-China, Senegal, Syria, Lebanon, Algeria.)
 3258 BENWAY, JOHN M., 106th Place, S.W., Everett, WA 98204. (Topicals (Air, Space, Military, Advertising). Postal History: Military posts, Railway posts. Used Abroad. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876. Alsace-Lorraine. Cancellations. Sage type 1876-1900. Modern France: Sowers, airmails, coils. Event & Advertising covers. Colonies General Issues: mint, used, on cover. All Colonies & Territories. Cancels & Postal History. New Caledonia, Algeria. Philatelic Literature. Translating to English.)
 3259 RIFE, C. DAVID, 1296 Poplar Pointe, S.E., Smyrna, GA 30082. (General collector: 19th and 20th Centuries to end of WWII Liberation issues. General France: mint, used.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2377 HUFNAL, JOHN M., 2562 School House Lane, Narvon, PA 17555.
 1887 PARNIAK, MICHAEL A., 20 Forbes Terrace, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.
 406 VENGROVE, CHARLES F., 1013 Stone Stack Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18015.
 1976 SWANSON, WILLIAM F., 5195 Rockery Road, Spring Grove, PA 17362-8041.
 2664 BECK, HENRY C., 86 County Road, Walpole, NH 03608.
 3220 DUNLEAVY, ROBERT, 12-B Randau Court, Annapolis, MD 21401.
 2856 CLARKE, WALTER S., ZIP Code change to 33558-2807.
 2988 SALOVEY, DAVID E., 320 Knights Corner, Stony Point, NY 10980.
 2316 FRICKS, ERNEST E., 25 Murray Way, Blackwood, NJ 08012-4419.
 2998 WILCOX, DAVID C., Passwang Strasse 2, CH-4070 Basel, Switzerland.
 3208 McGARRITY, RAYMOND, P.O. Box 82204, Phoenix, AZ 85071-2204.

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 435 OAKES, FRANK E. | 2418 WOOD, WILLIAM A. |
| 2495 KNIGHT, R. | 2812 SMITH, J. WESTON |
| 3068 GOULD, LEONARD | 3117 DELESPESE, THIERRY |
| 3162 EUBANKS, RUSSELL A. | 3185 GRUBB, STEPHEN C. |
| 3218 VEDROS, Prof. NEYLAN A. | |

DECEASED

- 3242 FERBER, LE ROY