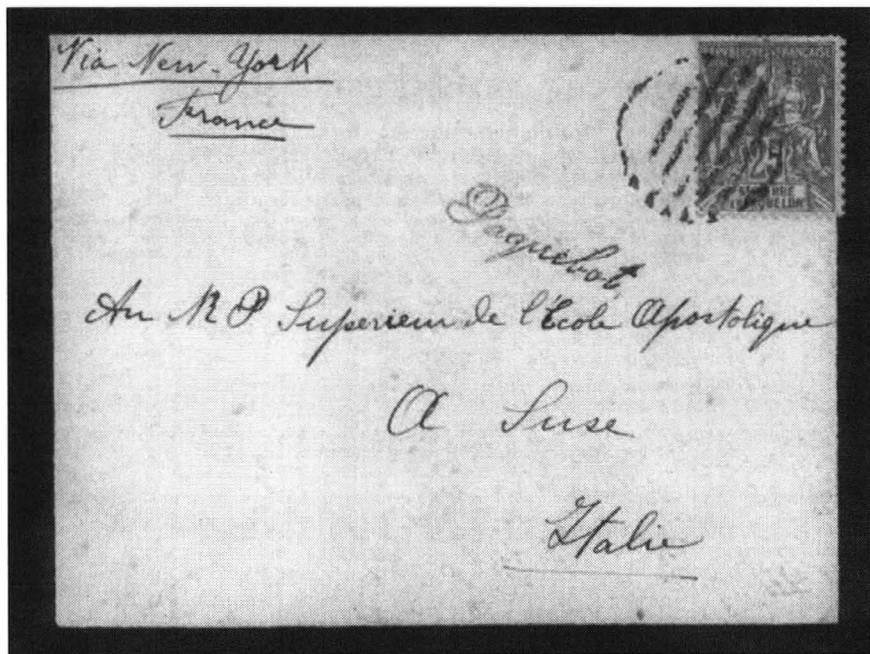




France & Colonies Philatelist

Vermeil Medals at STAMPSHOW '99 and SESCAL 2000

ROBERT G. STONE (1907-2002)



Ship letter posted on the ferry traveling from Saint Pierre (Saint Pierre & Miquelon) to Halifax, cancelled on arrival by a circular six bar killer. The manuscript *Paquebot* handstamp was also applied on the face of the envelope. The letter is franked by the 25c blue Group Type issue from the 1900 reissue conforming to UPU colors. This is a very rare stamp on cover. The letter was posted to Suse, Italy where it was received on January 20, 1907 (Ex-Stone).

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FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST

USPS #207700

ISSN 0897-1293

Published quarterly by the

FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC. (N.Y.)

Affiliate No. 45, American Philatelic Society

The *France & Colonies Philatelist* is the official journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc. Permission to reprint material appearing in this journal is granted provided that proper credit is given the *France & Colonies Philatelist* and that the Editor is notified. The quoting or paraphrasing, in whole or in part, of any material therein should be properly attributed to its author and to this journal.

April 2002 - Vol. 58, No. 2, Whole No. 268

Periodicals postage paid at Bloomfield, NJ

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

An additional entry office at Platteville, WI 53818

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

Dues \$15.00 per year. Parent Chapter and Foreign \$20.00 (plus \$0.50 admission fee)

A subscription to the *F & C Philatelist* (at \$15.00 per year) is included in the membership dues.

All communications about membership, subscriptions, publications, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary,
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FRENCH WEST AFRICA - THE FIRST (PROVISIONAL) ISSUE OF 1943-1944

by Bill Mitchell (FCPS #715)

[Author's Note: This revised version of an article I published in the Journal of the France and Colonies P.S. of Great Britain (Vol. 51 No. 1, Whole No. 219) for March 2001 appears here by kind permission of the editor. I hope that, quite apart from correcting errors in the various catalogues mentioned, it will be of interest to specialists in World War 2 postal history even though the French West African colonies may not be in their collecting field.]

Has anyone noticed that the surcharged stamps listed by Scott as N^{os} 1 to 14 of French West Africa appear in Yvert and Cérès (and, incidentally, in Stanley Gibbons) under Senegal and Mauritania, or that Scott ascribes them to 1943 and 1944 while the European catalogues agree on 1944 alone? Well, it is Scott that is correct, although it is not completely accurate as to dates.

The fact that these surcharges were actually the first issue of French West Africa has been mentioned in the past¹, but until recently detailed information about them has not been readily available. However, in 1997 an informative note on these stamps was published by COL.FRA, the French society for the study of the stamps and postal history of French colonies and other dependent territories. It appears in Part 5 of a six-part study of Dahomey edited by Robert Crombez (*Bulletins Hors-série* N^{os} 14-1 to 14-6) and shows, I think, that this is one of the most interesting of French colonial issues to appear in the mid-20th century. The facts are as follows. Following the Allied invasion of North Africa on 8 November 1942, French West Africa (which had continued to support the Vichy regime of Marshal Pétain and so had no "série de Londres" at this date) was cut off from fresh supplies of stamps from France. Consequently, stocks of some values fell dangerously low and for this reason the stamps of all the colonies, and the mandated territory of Togo, were authorised for sale and use throughout these territories without regard to their country or origin. This followed logically enough from the creation of a unified postal system for the whole of the Federation of French West Africa as from 1 January 1942 by a *décret* of 23 October 1941². Through the good offices of Ian McQueen (who kindly interrupted his researches in the *Journal Officiel de l'Indochine* during his visit to Aix-en-Provence³ to make the necessary enquiries for me) I can quote an extract from the relevant *arrêté* from Dakar (N^o 1223 DT of 24 March 1943), which reads: -

"Les figurines postales des différentes colonies de la Fédération peuvent être utilisées, quelle que soit la colonie d'origine, sur tout le territoire de l'Afrique occidentale française pour l'affranchissement des objets de correspondance...pas applicables au territoire...du Togo" ("The postage stamps of the different colonies of the Federation may be used, whatever the colony of origin, throughout all the territory of French West Africa for the franking of correspondence...[except for] the Territory of Togo").

It will be noted that the article published by COL.FRA appears to contradict the legislation as copied by Ian as regards the inclusion of Togo in these arrangements. The position of this territory, is discussed in the Appendix.

These arrangements soon proved inadequate, and furthermore as a result of tariff changes there were no stamps with the same face value as some current postage rates. Consequently a first set of provisionals was authorized by

arrêté N° 2322 DT of the Governor-General at Dakar. Dated 24 June 1943, this authorised the surcharging at Rufisque "*pour les besoins du service*" of 65 centime stamps of Senegal and Mauritania, of which substantial stocks were held, with new values as follows: -

	<u>Quantity</u>
1f50 (on Senegal)	2,000,000
3f50 (on Mauritania)	1,000,000
4f00 (on Mauritania)	500,000
5f00 (on Mauritania)	500,000
5f50 (on Senegal)	500,000
10f00 (on Mauritania)	500,000
50f00 (on Senegal)	200,000

This was quickly followed by an *arrêté* N° 3273 DT of 12 September 1943 which increased the quantity of 4 franc stamps to 530,000. This is not mentioned in the COL.FRA article, which attributes the whole 530,000 to June. (The 65c stamp had met the basic rate for letters to all destinations in the French Empire, including France itself, until late in 1938, but tariff increases had made it largely redundant.) These are Scott nos 1 to 7, although nos 4 to 7 (the surcharges on Mauritanian stamps) are incorrectly dated 1944; Yvert and Cérès both list them under Senegal and Mauritania as N°s 190, 193 and 195, and 133 to 136 respectively (and as issued in 1944) -- in the United Kingdom, Gibbons follow their lead.

Within a year stocks of some of these stamps were running out, and six entirely new values were required. The following surcharges were consequently authorised by *arrêté* N° 1864 DT of 5 July 1944:-

	<u>Quantity</u>
1f50 (on 15c Senegal)	2,500,000
4f50 (on 15c Senegal)	600,000
5f50 (on 2c Senegal)	600,000
10f00 (on 15c Senegal)	500,000
15f00 (on 90c Caillié stamp of Mauritania)	500,000
20f00 (on 90c Caillié stamp of Senegal)	500,000
50f00 (on 90c Caillié stamp of Senegal)	200,000

(the 2c and 15c stamps were supplementary values now of little or no practical use; 90c had been the basic letter rate until late in 1939 but this value too was now of little use.) These are Scott N°s 8 to 14; in Yvert and Cérès they are Senegal N°s 189, 191, 192, 194, 196 and 197, and Mauritania N° 137.

Ian notes that the *arrêté* of 5 July 1944 also says that these four stamps "*en excédent seront retirées de la vente à compter de la date de publication du présent arrêté...Les travaux de surcharge seront effectués sous le contrôle d'une commission désignée par décision du Gouverneur Général.*" ("in excess [of the quantity required for surcharging] will be withdrawn from sale as from the date of publication of this *arrêté*...The work of surcharging will be carried out under the direction of a Commission designated by the Governor-General").

So the European catalogues are wrong in assigning these stamps to Mauritania and Senegal; they are also wrong in attributing them to the year 1944 alone. As Scott has realised, they are the first stamps of French West Africa and they should be listed as such as Yvert, Cérès and Gibbons.

The postage rates corresponding to the new values at the time of authorisation follow; some subsequent changes are noted in brackets.

1f50 was the basic letter rate. This explains why, as Alan Evans remarked in the note quoted by Stephen Holder, this value seems to have been otherwise unobtainable. It will be noted that the 4,500,000 stamps that were surcharged with this value make up over 40 percent of the total 10,630,000 that were authorised.

3f50 (new value). The basic (first 5 grams) surtax for air mail to France. Perhaps of more immediate significance in the summer of 1943, the Study Group for Airmail Rates in French Colonies has reason to believe that there was a so-far untraced increase, also to 3f50 for the first 5 grams, in the air surtax to French Equatorial Africa with a possible effective date on or about 3 January 1943 when the Free French Government resumed the Aéromaritime service along the coast of West Africa.

4f00 (new value). This was the basic foreign letter rate. (Ian McQueen's researches have shown that the surcharge for air mail to French Equatorial Africa was increased to 4 francs per 5 grams on or about 15 December 1943.)

4f50 (new value). The basic rate for registered letters to all destinations in the French Empire. It was also the rate (basic plus surtax) for airmail letters of 5 grams or less to Morocco and Algeria (source, Ian McQueen again).

5f00. (a) Second step (21 to 50 grams) registered letters within the French Empire, (b) basic air rate including surtax to France and (c) possibly also to French Equatorial Africa.

5f50 (new value). I have not been able to account for this rate in 1943. (As from about 15 December 1943 it became the basic rate including surtax [to 5 grams] for air letters to French Equatorial Africa.)

The remaining values (the 15 and 50 francs were new) were supplementary values intended largely for use on parcels - the COL.FRA Bulletin reprints a note by Robert Altériet, a former resident of Dahomey, which shows that after the Liberation, expatriates were allowed to send a limited number of food parcels to their families and friends at home.

As already noted, the *arrêté* authorising the use of all the colonies' stamps throughout the Federation specifically excluded Togo, which was of course administered separately under Mandate from the League of Nations, whereas the article in the COL.FRA *Bulletin* says the opposite. It is certainly true that French West Africa stamps can be found with Togo postmarks in the mid-1940s; probably in practice whatever happened to be on hand was used.⁴ (There was a similar set of surcharges for Togo containing all the above values except the 4f50, 15f and 50f [Yvert/Céres 228-235, Scott 301-308] which I have always found very elusive.) Scott dates these "1943-1944"; all the European catalogues agree on "1944" - probably incorrectly although I have no documentary information on this.

As an interesting postscript to this issue, M. Altériet's note records the existence of a bogus 15 franc surcharge on the 90c Caillié stamp of Dahomey. In the summer of 1946 he was waiting to post parcels home and noticed a solitary local franking pile of parcels in a corner. To save time he purchased a quantity of the bogus stamps without noticing that the basic stamp was wrong. Lucky man! If by any chance someone has an example of this enterprising creation, please let me know!

¹For example, by Bob Stone in a note on page 15 of the *F&C Philatelist* for September 1964 (vol. 22 N° 1, Whole N° 118) and by Stephen Holder, quoting the late Alan Evans, in the *Journal of the France and Colonies P.S.* of Great

Britain for June 1977 (vol. 27, N^{os} 1/2, Whole N^{os} 135/6).

²Since this article was completed COL.FRA has published (in Bulletin 94, 1^{er} trimestre 2001) an article "*Les Premiers Timbres-poste de l'Afrique occidentale française*" by Constant Bouérat which makes it clear that this *décret* originated in France (Vichy, presumably); unfortunately the text is not reprinted. It was promulgated in the colony by *arrêté* of the Governor-General N° 4190 AP of 3 December 1941; administrative details were set out in an *arrêté général* N° 4210 TP of the same date.

³See his article, "A Visit to the Centre des Archives d'Outre-Mer, 13090 Aix-en-Provence," on pp 226-228 of vol. 49 N° 3 (Whole N° 213, September 1999) of the *Journal of the France and Colonies P.S.* of Great Britain.

⁴See the Appendix.

APPENDIX A Note on Togo

The position as regards Togo is uncertain. The article by Constant Bouérat already mentioned (see footnote 2) quotes the *arrêté* of 24 March 1943 but omits the words "excluding Togo." Michael Ensor, who was in the Colonial Service in Gold Coast for many years during and immediately after World War II has seen this article and has kindly commented as follows. French Togo came nominally under the Governor-General of French West Africa in 1937, but there was no integration of the two administrations. Both French and British mandates lapsed *de facto* with the War and thereafter both governments ignored the mandated status of the Togos (which was not formally brought to an end until the last meeting of the General Assembly of the League of Nations in April 1946), and Michael suspects that Dakar's control over French Togo was made much closer by the Vichy Government.

Michael has a mixed franking (Togo/French West Africa) cover sent air-mail from Cotonou to Morocco on 19 January 1944. It does not appear to be philatelic; the correct 4.50 francs postage was met by 20c and 30c stamps of Togo and the 4 francs on 65c green of French West Africa (my Scott N^{os}, ascribed by Yvert, Cérès and Gibbons to Mauritania). He comments that this means either that the provisions of the 24 March 1943 *arrêté* were subsequently extended to include Togo; or that there was an informal arrangement between the post offices of Dahomey and Togo to help the former out because of an acute shortage of low values there.

Here is another field for research!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A. 02.2. This is just conjecture on my part. Inasmuch as the letter predates independence by only about two years, and inasmuch as France relinquished her colonies only reluctantly, it would appear that (1) there was a fair amount of unrest in the Ivory Coast prior to its independence, and that (2) the local colonial administration and military would have imposed some sort of censorship, even if not necessarily sanctioned by the home country. Though the letter only went to a well-known U.S. purveyor of potions and other innocuous goods, it was sent by a student, and students were oftentimes at the forefront of rebellions against any authority.

SJL

FRANCIS GARNIER IN TONKIN (The 5 October 1873 Mission) by Florent Tricot (FCPS #3222)

A short summary of Garnier's life in Indochina

Marine lieutenant Francis Garnier took part in the French China expedition in 1860, and from 1861-on entered and criss-crossed Cochin-China. He then took part in the Mekong River expedition, from 4 June 1866 to 29 June 1868. He then returned to France until October 1872, when he accepted an assignment to return to Tonkin with 200 soldiers to quell a newly developed uprising. He left Saigon on 5 October 1873 to go to Tonkin, arriving in Hanoi on 5 November, and seized the city on 20 November. He and his men soon after occupied the area around Hanoi. On 21 December 1873, Hanoi was attacked by the "Black Flags" (*pavilions noirs*) and Francis Garnier was killed.

Garnier's correspondence

Throughout his service in Cochin-China, Cambodia, the Tonkin exploration, and during the Mekong River explorations, Garnier maintained a vigorous correspondence with his family, including his father Alexandre and his brother Leon, and occasionally with M. Perre, who owned a smelter in Avignon. It is primarily through his letters that we have been able to describe the first covers and some of the first date stamps used in those parts of Indo-China. All covers written in his hand between July 1866 and June 1868 come from the Mekong River expedition (initially from Cambodia), and those sent in November and December 1873 come from Tonkin.

A brief account of the early French philately of Tonkin

Tonkin was initially only partly occupied by the French during and shortly after the time of Garnier's October 1873 expedition. After the Treaty of 15 March 1874, two French consular post offices were opened on 2 November 1875. The first covers known coming from Tonkin were sent by soldiers of the October 1873 expedition, Garnier included. These lack specific date stamps inasmuch as no post offices had yet been opened. Postage stamps were affixed to the covers by the senders or in Saigon, and the mail was canceled in Saigon by the 3rd CCH in a diamond-shaped lozenge killer and the 2nd military date stamp of Saigon [from the Desrousseaux classification; see Sources, below]. Starting in 1876, we see Tonkin military covers with blue date stamps, used with the 3rd CCH killer of Desrousseaux's classification.

Description of a recently acquired cover

Figure 1 is a cover with two pairs of the 20 centimes Cérès (Yvert N° 12), prepaying a 75 centimes rate corresponding to the third weight band (letters between 20 and 50 grams at 25 centimes per weight band) for a total of 75 centimes, with an overpayment of 5 centimes. The stamps are canceled by a 3rd CCH lozenge killer, and the 2nd Saigon military date stamp, dated 22 November 1873, was struck alongside. The cover arrived in Toulon on 10 January 1874 and at Paris on the 11th. Finally, the addressee is Leon Garnier and the address is in Francis Garnier's hand.

Questions regarding the cover

1. The 22 November 1873 date stamp is that of Saigon. Is it possible that

the cover didn't come from Tonkin and simply originated in Saigon? No! This cover inevitably has to come from Tonkin because of the starting date (5 October 1873) of the expedition. A cover originating in Saigon before the start of the expedition would have had been put on a boat for France during October or, at worst, the beginning of November. The 22 November date stamp excludes this possibility.

2. Why does the postage total 80 centimes when Cochinchina, and above all Saigon, had a 5 centimes Cérès stamp (Yvert N° 17) available? A cover from Saigon or posted in Saigon, at the 3rd weight band for the military rate, would bear 75 centimes in postage, inasmuch as sufficient stocks of stamps were available there in November 1873. The most likely possibility is that Garnier took some stamps (probably 20 centimes and 5 centimes Empire or Cérès ones) along on the expedition, and the 5 centimes stamps had been completely used up, or damaged by humidity, or lost by the time this letter was written.

Conclusion

We show here one of the rare first covers known from Tonkin written by a French officer and one of the last letters ever written by Francis Garnier prior to his death that December.

Sources

- Jacques Desrousseaux, *Les postes et courriers français en extrême orient*
- Jean-Pierre Gomare, *L'exploration du Mékong*
- personal collection



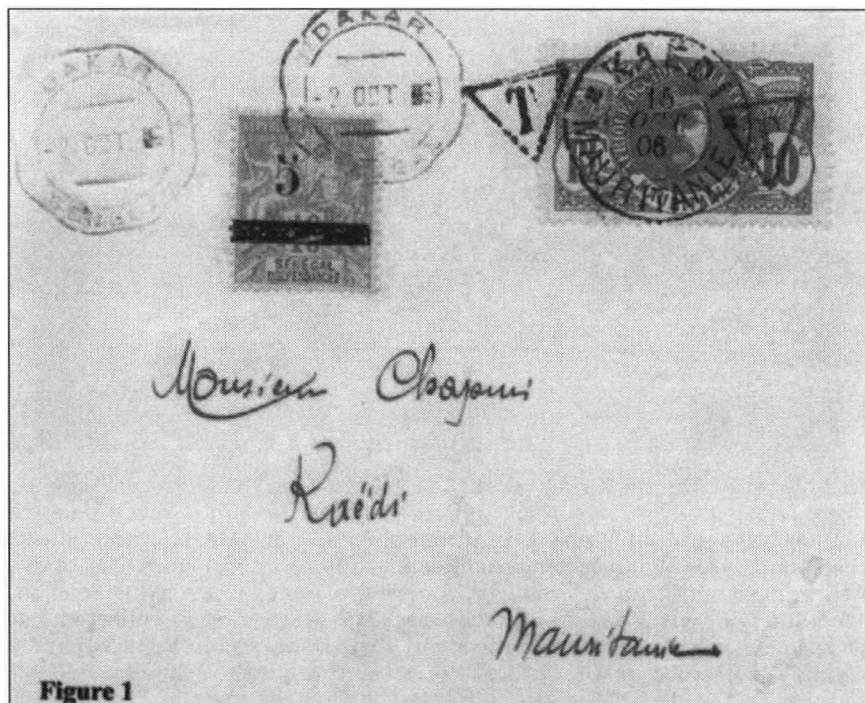
Figure 1. (reduced to 77%)

MAURITANIA - THE PROVISIONAL POSTAGE DUE ISSUES OF 1906

by Edward J. J. Grabowski (edjig@bellatlantic.net) (FCPS #1469)

More than twenty years ago Bob Stone published a comprehensive overview of the use of regular French Colonial stamps over struck with a 'T' in triangle for use as provisional postage due stamps¹. He noted that the Mauritania 1906 issue was probably the best known of this genre, with many of the Palmiers-Faidherbe-Ballay stamps appearing in the French Colonial catalogs (with relatively high catalog values) over struck with the 'T' in triangle as provisional due stamps. As Bob Stone noted, a directive to all Mauritania post offices was put out in August of 1906 authorizing the use of stamps in this way, effective on September 6th, because of the lack of regular due stamps. Although this usage was fully and properly authorized, much of the material seen today is philatelic in origin. Bob noted that covers correctly underfranked and due-charged are very rare, even if philatelic, as most of the covers offered today bear random numbers of stamps that do not correspond to any prevailing postage rates. He also noted that most of the covers seen were posted to either Kaédi or Boghé. Despite these origins, any covers bearing these provisional due stamps consistently bring strong prices at French sales.

As an example of the almost proper use of these provisional due stamps, Bob showed the cover illustrated here as Figure 1. The letter was under-



franked at Dakar with the Senegal 5/40 provisional of 1903 (itself a good value to find on cover) on October 2, 1906 prepaying 5c in lieu of the 10c rate.

On arrival in Kaédi, the 10c Faidherbe issue was applied, with the due rate being twice the 5c deficiency. The stamp was over struck with the **T** in triangle for due, and it is tied to the envelope with a Kaédi datestamp of October 15th and another **T** in triangle. The cover appears quite legitimate, and viewed alone, is possibly not philatelic. However, there are a couple of areas of concern. A **T** in triangle should have been struck on the face of the cover at Dakar, yet it clearly wasn't. The one mostly on the face of the cover could not have been applied in Dakar, as it just ties the 10c Faidherbe stamp which was applied at Kaédi. Also, the **T** fully on the stamp is smaller than the **T** which ties the stamp. This suggests that the office at Kaédi had two such **T**'s, and possibly the stamps were prestruck in bulk with the smaller **T** to provide a stock of provisional due stamps.

In more recent times I purchased the cover shown in Figure 2. Of note, it



Figure 2

was posted on the same date as that in Figure 1 and to the very same addressee, though by an apparently different hand. This pretty much puts the kibosh on the cover in Figure 1 being non-philatelic, despite the correctness of the stamps used. What is remarkable about the cover in Figure 2 is that it was franked with four 2c Group Type stamps of Senegal prepaying 8c of the 10c rate. On arrival two Faidherbe 2c stamps were used to collect the 4c postage due. Each stamp bears the small **T** in triangle as in Figure 1, and a second **T** is struck on the face of the cover tying one of the Group Type stamps. This is identical in size to the larger **T** on the cover in Figure 1 and was undoubtedly applied in Kaédi. This letter was also received on October 15th. Clearly there was a production of philatelic covers in Dakar on October

2nd designed to make use of the provisional Mauritanian due stamps. What is most interesting about the cover shown in Figure 2 is that the 2c Faidherbe stamp of Mauritania is NOT listed in any of the catalogs (including the Yvert Tôme II of 1936) as being used as a provisional due stamp, yet its use was very obvious from this cover.

While these two covers are undoubtedly philatelic, though at correct rates, the question remains: 'Are there any genuine non-philatelic used of the provisional Mauritanian due stamps?' The cover shown in Figure 3 suggests the

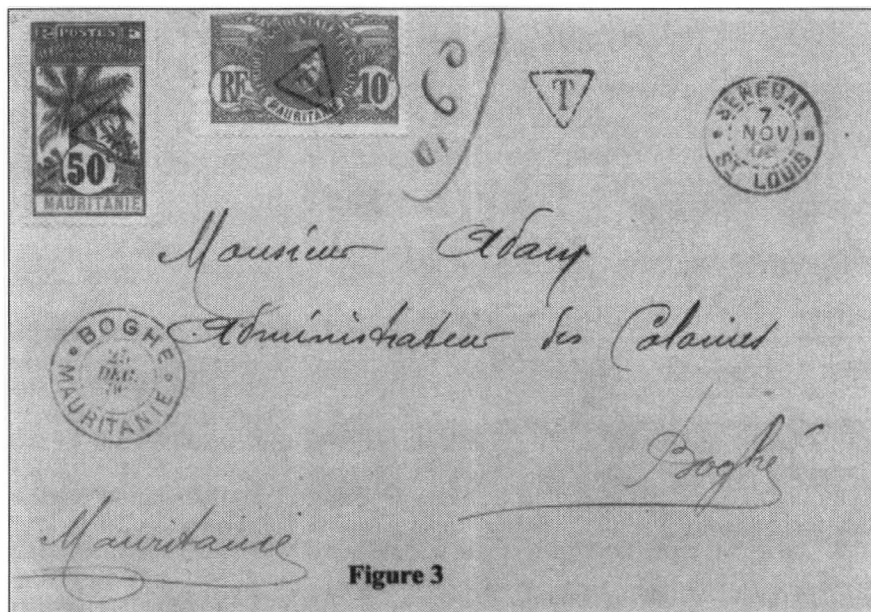
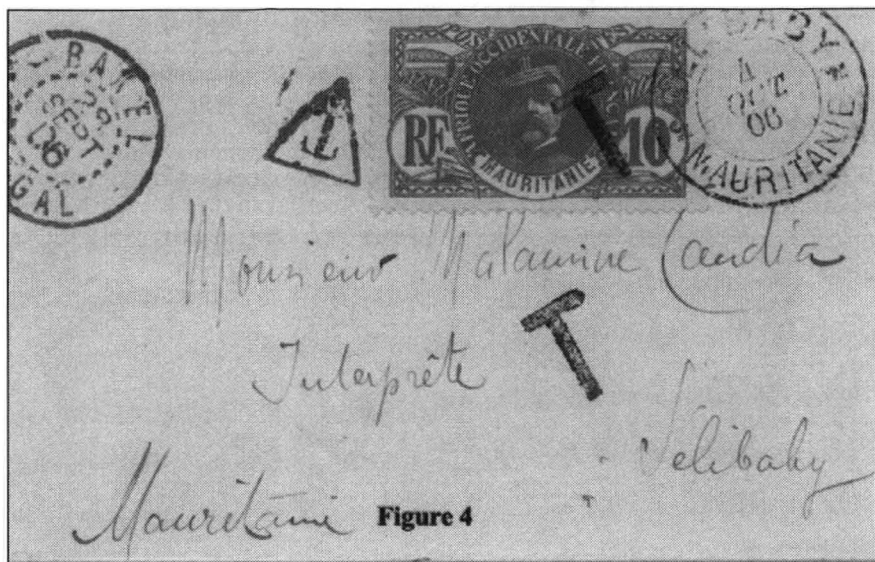


Figure 3

answer is possibly 'yes'. It was mailed unpaid from Saint Louis, Senegal on November 7, 1906 to a Colonial Administrator in Boghé. It bears a **T** in triangle indicating it was to be charged due, and a manuscript **0.60** in blue indicating 60 centimes due. With the French Community rate at 10c per weight level at this time, this would correspond to a triple rate of 30c for a letter between 20 - 50 g, thus, double the postage, 60c, due on reception. The envelope is relatively large, and could have contained as much as 20 - 50 g. Mauritania 10c and 50c stamps overstruck with blue **T**'s in triangle were applied as was the Boghé datestamp of December 25, 1906. The city of origin, late date of posting and the way it was handled in Boghé suggest a non-philatelic cover. My knowledge of recipients for these covers is limited, so I cannot identify 'Monsieur Adam' as a philatelic addressee. Overall, this could be a genuine usage of the Mauritania provisional due stamps.

A most recent purchase from Thierry Lallavée of Lugdunum Philatélie suggests that there are genuine covers to be found. Shown in Figure 4 is an envelope posted from the small village of Bakel, Senegal on September 29, 1906 to the small village of Sélibaby, Mauritania. These villages are in the deep recesses of their respective countries and about 100 kilometers apart. The letter was posted unpaid at what should have been the 5c printed matter rate (visiting cards, invitations, New Year's greetings, etc.), and the envelope



received a **T** in triangle for due at the originating office of Bakel. The letter arrived in Sélibaby on October 4th, and the insufficiency was noted with a 10c Faïdherbe stamp, double the prevailing 5c rate. The stamp was over struck with a bold, unframed **T** in black, and the same marking was struck on the face of the envelope. To my knowledge the addressee is not one of the regular recipients of philatelic mail. The envelope is unsealed, as it should be for the 5c rate, and bears a Sélibaby backstamp of October 4th. The *Yvert Tôme II* of 1936 notes that only the **T** in triangle was authorized for the provisional due stamps, yet this letter bears the open, bold **T**. Undoubtedly, not all of the Mauritanian offices were supplied with the standard **T** in triangle, particularly one such as Sélibaby, which had just opened in 1906. The Bakel and Sélibaby datestamps are genuine. It is interesting to note that all four letters in this article bear **T**'s of the arriving office on the face, suggesting this was a regular practice at the arriving offices. This Figure 4 cover appears fully genuine and non-philatelic, and represents a proper use of the Mauritanian provisional due issue.

As with most of my notes, this one is meant to be provocative and not definitive, and I would be pleased to hear from fellow collectors with related material.

Reference

1. R. G. Stone, *France & Colonies Philatelist*, Vol. 36, No. 2, pp 33-45 (1980).

MAIL FOR THE BLIND (CÉCOGRAMMES)**by Jean-Luc Trassaert (FCPS #3209)**

[Translated by S. J. Luft from articles published in French in L'Echo de la Timbrologie, N° 1739, March 2001, and Marianne Bull. 56, April 2001]

Classed as special mailings, *cécogrammes* are treated differently in domestic and international mail. By convention of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), such mail can be sent free of postage. However, in France (and dependencies), La Poste determines whether or not such mail may be sent gratis.

The following objects are considered as *cécogrammes*:

-- envelopes or cards printed in Braille (figures 1 and 2);

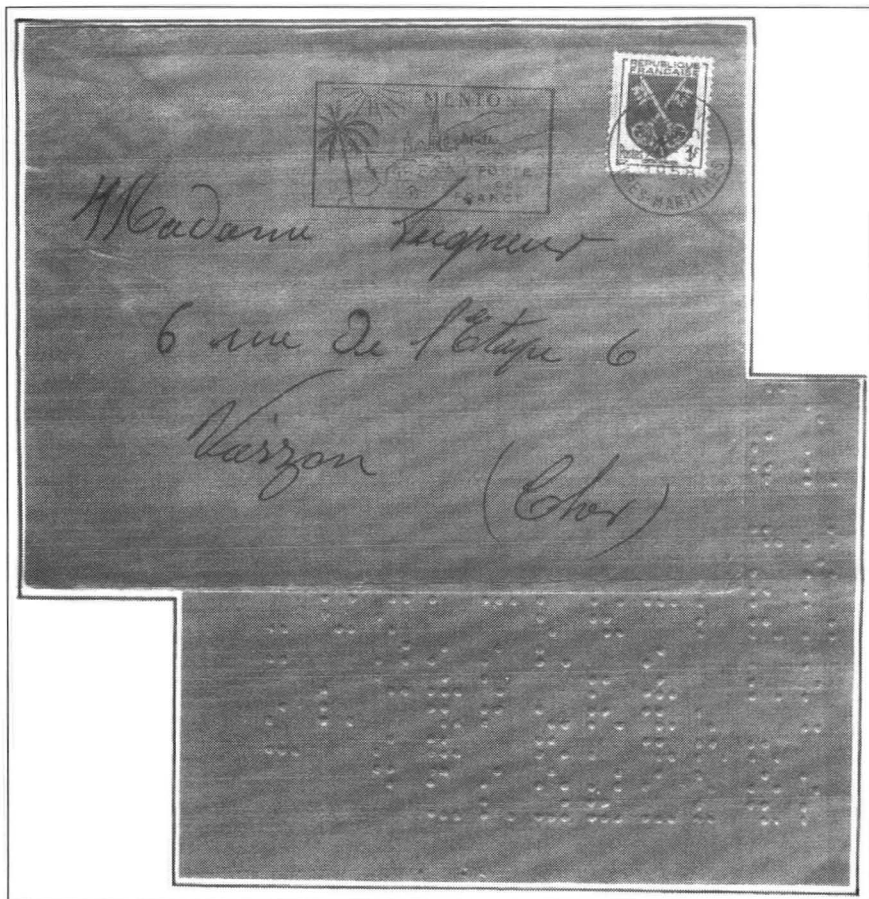


Figure 1. 1958 envelope with Braille enclosure, sent at the special 1F rate of 1 July 1957 (reduced to 68%).

- metal type destined for relief printing for the use of the blind;
- audio material sent to the blind and their aid societies;
- mailings sent to receive Braille impressions, sent by recognized societies for the blind, either directly to blind persons or to those who would transcribe such printed material.

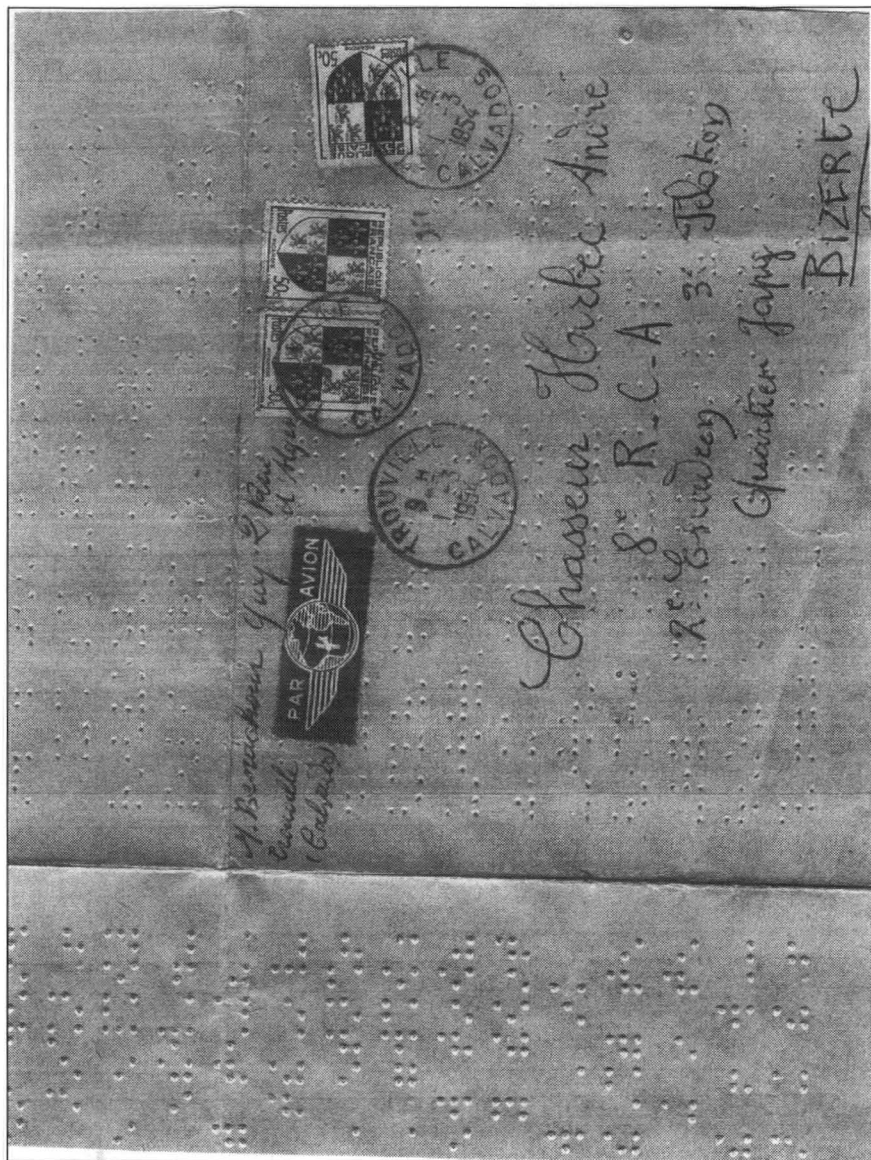


Figure 2. Braille envelope and contents, mailed 1 March 1954 to Tunisia at the special 1F50 domestic airmail rate in effect from 5 January 1942 (reduced to 71%).

The return address of the institution is mandatory. As of 1 January 1997, there were 17 associations and institutions in France that benefited from extremely reduced *cécogrammes* rates.

The postal category of *cécogrammes* was created in France by the Treasury Act of 13 July 1911. The evolution of rates is shown in the following table:

Date	Rate (per weight band)	Maximum weight
13 Nov. 1911	5c per 100 gm	none stated
28 Feb. 1912	2c per 15 gm	"
1 April 1920	2c per 20 gm	3 kg*
9 April 1931	2c per 500 gm	"
5 Jan. 1942	10c per kg	"
1 July 1957	1F per kg	"
6 Jan. 1959	gratis	"

* This is the maximum weight for any category of periodic printed matter

From 8 March 1937, phonograph disks exchanged between the blind and certain institutions also benefited from *cécogramme* rates. On the international scene, *cécogrammes* could be sent postage free from 1 July 1957.

Currently in France, the maximum weight limit is 5 kg. *Cécogrammes* receive the benefits of mail transit, registry, return-receipt requests, general delivery, change of address, special delivery, duty-free entry, etc.--all at no charge.

Internationally, the maximum weight is 7 kg; *cécogrammes* sent by "slow" (non-priority) mail are not charged but, if priority service is requested, they need to be franked at the appropriate rates for the postal zones of destination.

In order to benefit from the free franchise, *cécogrammes* must be clearly so identified. *La Poste* has issued a specific label and logo [DAPO n° 603 649M] to be attached to the address side (Figure 3).


<p>Expéditeur :</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>ASSOCIATION VALENTIN HAÛY POUR LE BIEN DES AVEUGLES 5, RUE DUROC 75343 PARIS CEDEX 07</p>	
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Figure 3. Post-office label for identifying mail to the blind (reduced to 69%).

WEST AFRICAN MAIL TO BELGIUM VIA LA ROCHELLE-PALLICE

by Alan Morvay (FCPS #3167)

Between 1905 and 1925, according to Salles¹, Belgian packets sailing from the Belgian Congo (and also the Ivory Coast, French Guinea, Senegal and other West African entities) to the Belgian port of Antwerp, would offload their mail in southwestern France at La Rochelle or nearby Pallice. The purpose was to take advantage of the shorter and faster rail connections from La Rochelle to Belgium, thereby saving at least a full day's delay in mail delivery. Examples of such French entry date stamps are shown by Salles (Figure 1). Covers generally also bear the straightline markings of Belgian ships

(Leopoldville, Elizabethville, Albertville, Anversville, etc.) on or off the stamps (Figure 2), or occasionally not at all (Figure 3).

The Abbé G. Gudenkauf of Brussels has confirmed this transfer of the mails², stating "the mail boats regularly gave their mail to the railway system at La Rochelle-Pallice, so it could arrive at least one day before the ship landed at Antwerp."

This appears to be a generally little known method of "short-stopping" the maritime mails, and I hope our readers will find it of interest, and perhaps also come forth with similar other examples of pre-destination mail transfers. [Also see N° 265, July 2001, "For the Record" N° 811].

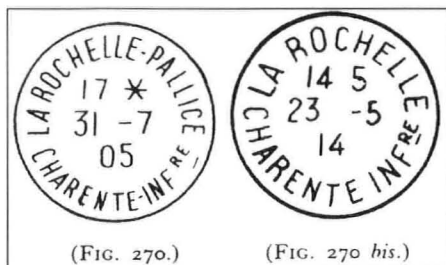


Figure 1. (from Salles, 1963)

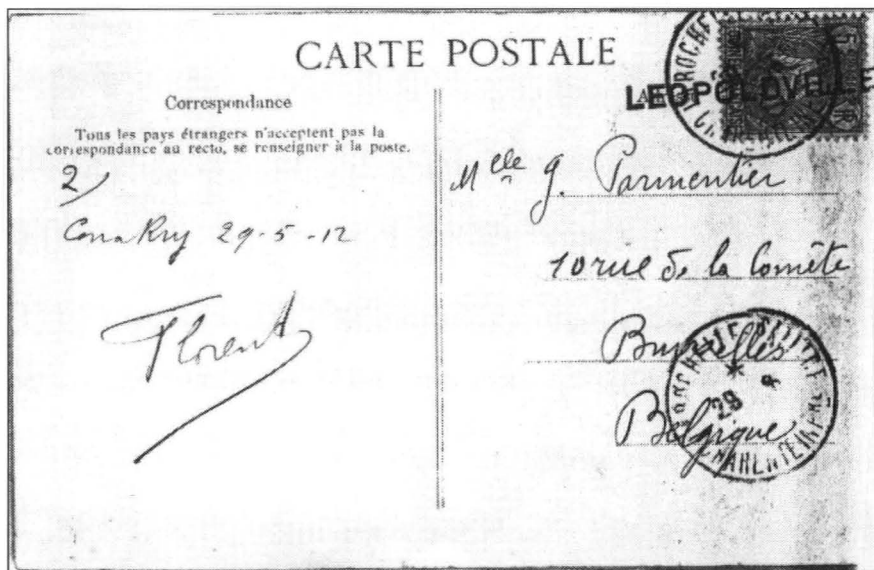


Figure 2. French Guinea, 29 May 1912, to Brussels, carried by the "Leopoldville" to La Rochelle-Pallice [Salles Fig. 270], arriving 29(?) June. (reduced to 83%).

References

1. R. Salles, *La Poste Maritime Française*, vol. III (1963), p. 209.
2. Abbé G. Gudenkauf, written communication to E. Hirdler, 30 March 1997.

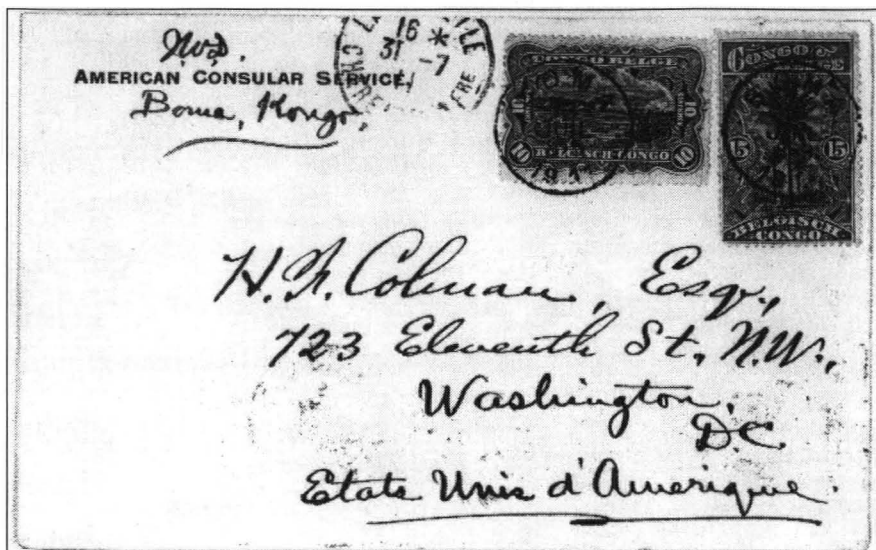


Figure 3. Boma, Belgian Congo, 8 or 9 July 1911 to the U.S.; carried by the "Elizabéthville" to La Rochelle [Salles Fig. 270bis], arriving there 31 July 1911; sent on [from back stamps] via Paris (1 August) to Washington, D.C., arriving there on the 10th. (reduced to 77%).

MEMBERS' APPEALS

WANTED: To buy, trade for, or simply receive photocopies of the following French Guiana stamps on cover: 1931 Colonial Expo., 1938 Curie (Yvert 133-136, 149; Scott 152-155, B3); also French Guiana postal stationery (mint or used): 25c Gold Washer letter card; 10c and 15c Anteater envelopes (H&G A9, unlisted, and B12). Jeff Ward, 3941 Mason Street, #4, San Diego, CA 92110, USA; phone (619)-725-0935; Fax 619-295-1686; e-mail jwjjw@concentric.net (Mb. #3142).

OFFER: 22 different French stampless (1830-1864) covers. Will trade for similar stampless. Will exchange lists. David R. Dawdy, 3055 23rd Ave., San Francisco, CA 94132, USA. (Mb. #3152).

OFFER: Have 30 good copies each of French Morocco #3a used (catalog value \$9 each) and of #176a (c.v. \$1). Will sell #3a at \$1.30 each plus postage, and #176a at 20¢ each plus postage. Also offer 150 different pre-independence French Morocco for \$3.00. Unused gummed US postage acceptable in payment. L.H. Lambert, P.O. Box 866, Nevada, MO 64772. (Mb. #1394).

ROBERT G. STONE

We were saddened to learn of the death of our long-time member Robert G. Stone (aka Bob) on February 1, 2002 after a long confinement. He was a collector and researcher since 1937, specializing in the Danish West Indies, the French Colonies, Ship and Paquebot Mails and US stamps used abroad. His exhibit of Saint Pierre & Miquelon won Gold Medals at AMERIPEX 86 and PHILEXFRANCE 89.

Bob had authored hundreds of articles, a number of handbooks and several books, most notably *The French Colonies General Issues* in 1961, *Danish West Indies Mails, Vol. 1, Postal History* in 1979, a *Bibliography on French Colonies Literature* in the 1980's and *A Caribbean Neptune* in 1993. He was recognized as the 'Dean' amongst the French Colonies collectors, based on an almost unending record of publications in the area over his philatelic lifetime. He was Editor of the *France & Colonies Philatelist* for almost thirty years beginning in 1964. He was a Corresponding Member of the Académie de Philatélie (Paris), a member of the Société des Amis du Musée Postal (Paris) and the Union Marcophile (France). Among his many US memberships were the Collectors Club, the American Philatelic Society, the Philatelic Foundation, the Postal History Society and the Scandinavian Collectors Club. He was also elected a member of the Society of Postal Historians of the United Kingdom. He prolifically published the results of his research endeavors in the journals of all of these societies.

For his extensive research, exhibits and other contributions to philately he received numerous awards, including the Collectors Club's Lichtenstein Award in 1981, the American Philatelic Society's Luff Award in 1983 and the US Philatelic Classics Society's Distinguished Philatelist Award in 1993. He signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in Great Britain in 1984 and was named to the APS Writers Hall of Fame in 1993.

Professionally, Bob was a meteorologist/climatologist. After attending Antioch College in Ohio, he graduated from Ohio State University, and pursued further studies at Grenoble, Chicago and Harvard. As a civilian with the US Air Force Air Weather Service, he engaged in research management and technical information services, and authored many technical reports of a variety of topics, including cloud physics, high altitude flight and forecasting. From 1936 until 1951 he was Editor of the *Bulletin* of the American Meteorological Society.

ROBERT GRANVILLE STONE (1907-2002) An Appreciation

Bob Stone [Schenectady, NY, June 27, 1907 - Quincy, PA, February 1, 2002], my long-time predecessor (1964-1994) as Editor of this Journal, was, though of rather slight physical stature, a giant of a man. He earned and richly deserved just about every major honor that can be bestowed in philately. Among them, I can cite from memory: signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, Alfred Lichtenstein Award of the Collectors Club of New York, the American Philatelic Society's Luff Award, the U.S. Classic Society's Distinguished Philatelist award, being the first American to be named an associate member of the Académie de Philatélie, and last and almost least our Society's Gerard Gilbert Award, plus many more I can't think of at this time.

Bob was an indefatigable **original** philatelic researcher and writer. Among his major and enduring works are *French Colonies -- The General*

Issues (1961), and *A Caribbean Neptune: The Maritime Postal Communications of the Greater and Lesser Antilles in the 19th Century* (1993). But in-between and even earlier, he wrote numerous learned articles and handbooks for our Journal, for the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, the *American Philatelist*, and other society publications. Though his main specialty was in the earlier issues of the French Colonies and their postal history, he was also an expert on the postal history of the Danish West Indies and was well versed in many facets of French philately. Many of you more recent members of FCPS (and older ones too!) who collect the Colonies (and France as well) should refer from time to time to his published works and learn much of real use from them. We mustn't forget to mention his Index of the first 40 volumes of our Journal. Bob's FCPS membership number is N° 61, which makes him an almost charter member of our Society. He then took up his pen and almost never stopped writing, until his early 1900s disabilities overcame him.

Less known to many is that Bob was also a specialist collector and sometime exhibitor of St. Pierre & Miquelon and other French colonies. When he did exhibit, he was usually well rewarded, even if judges didn't always understand and appreciate his material. (Those were the days before Synopses...).

Professionally, Bob was a well-known and highly respected meteorologist and climatologist, retiring in a civilian role from the U.S. Air Force in Illinois. He edited the American Meteorological Society's *Bulletin* for years, as well as preparing and editing scientific articles. "Renaissance Man" is a term far too often applied, but he certainly would have earned that title.

I can't recall now our first contact but it was most likely, as with so many other philatelic friends, by pre-email post. He soon had me writing for *FCP* and, for years, he had me as the most prolific scribbler of his "stable" of authors. Though my style and production were and remain mostly plodding and banal, he always encouraged me to keep on writing.

These words are being written hurriedly, in order to get something into this issue. The more measured words of other friends of Bob will surely follow

[Ed Grabowski's already have] in coming issues.

Stanley J. Luft



From left to right, Bob Stone, your Editor (with hair) and his late first wife Anita, posing at the 1976 Philadelphia Bicentennial International Exhibition.

ROBERT G. STONE - Postal Historian

Robert G. Stone's philatelic activity caught my eye after the end of World War II with an article on Danish West Indies covers in five issues of the *American Philatelist*, volume 58. That article quickly grew into volume 1 of the first edition on Danish West Indies philately some years later.

Like other early postal historians, Bob appears to have started out as a regular stamp collector, adding cover collecting that quickly turned into postal history pursuits. That aspect of philately developed in the 1930s, so that Bob was truly one of the founders of the philatelic aspects of postal history, though the claim to fame for joining that term to philately was made by Robson Lowe, first chairman of the Society of Postal Historians, founded in 1951. Bob was admitted to membership of that Society in 1976 and was my sponsor when I was admitted four years later. The French recognized his contributions to their philately by electing him to foreign corresponding membership in their Académie de Philatélie. Among other major honors are the APS Luff award, the British Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, admission to the Writers Unit Hall of Fame and the Lichtenstein Award of the NYCC.

According to No. 58 of the *Philatelic Literature Review*, his main postal history interests included West Indies, U.S. used abroad, French colonies, paquebots, and Levant countries. He was an excellent researcher and wrote in depth and breadth on these subjects, exhibiting some of his writings as well as collections nationally and internationally. In September 1964 he assumed editorship of the *France & Colonies Philatelist*, which he gradually relinquished by 1994. It was during Bob's tenure, when my interests had gradually turned from Scandinavian postal history to exploring that of the Franco-German War of 1870/1871, that I became aware of his carrying regular news about French philatelic life, which prompted me to join the F&CPS.

All of these activities were enough to keep Bob's memory alive in philatelic circles. But, in addition, he was a person to keep the big picture in mind and to express his thoughts about it. Some of these articles were published in the *Postal History Journal*, e.g., Experimental Approaches to Collecting and Exhibiting, Organization and Illustrations in Postal History Monographs, Problems Resulting from the Great Scope and Diversity of Postal History. In the *AP* he has Afterthoughts on Writing Postal History and Postal History Aids an Art Historian. He probably wrote on other general postal history topics as well. We often discussed such topics, at the occasional stamp shows where we met and more frequently over the phone. He recognized problems and proposed positive solutions to them. I do not remember a single one of these themes on which we had serious disagreements.

Bob was a great postal historian who has left enduring philatelic footprints internationally.

Ernst M. Cohn

AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--67

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

THANKSGIVING IN BESIEGED PARIS

After the exodus, on October 27, of 48 Americans, 9 children, 6 coachmen, 2 governesses, 1 courier, 1 nurse, 1 maid, 19 carriages and 1 saddle-horse from besieged Paris, several more left in November. About 150 remained thereafter, encouraged by the decision of Minister Plenipotentiary (= ambassador) Elihu Benjamin Washburne to stay to the end. Some got together to celebrate Thanksgiving, and a number of accounts were printed, describing their festivities.

The *New York Commercial Advertiser* quotes a house organ distributed by a bank headquartered at Boston, with a branch at Paris:

Thanksgiving Day in Paris

"Bowles, Brothers & Co.'s Circular says: We are in receipt of an interesting letter from our Paris house, from which the following extracts will interest the public and friends of the persons mentioned. It may also be interesting to note that, in spite of the blockade, communications have been frequent and constant, and we have acknowledgements of the receipt in Paris of the greater part of our weekly dispatches:

"No. 12 rue de la Paix, Paris, December 3, 1870. - Our American ambulance stands very high with the French Government, and I have been at every fight around Paris so far. We owe a vote of sincere thanks to Dr. Evans for his great liberality in this matter. All the distinguished French surgeons have personally visited us; and thanks to Dr. Swinburne and our other co-workers we have earned the best name in Paris, and that without friends at Court or high pretensions.

"We had a delightful Thanksgiving dinner at the Restaurant 'Baron Brisse;' present — Hon. E. B. Washburne, American Minister; Colonel Wickham Hoffman, Secretary of the Legation; J. Meredith Reed [*sic*], Esq., United States Consul General; Dr. Beyland, and Messrs. Huffer, May, Riggs, Sheppard, Durand, Hopkinson, Wingfield, Dreyer, myself [W. B. Bowles], and four ladies, viz. Mrs. Moulton, Mrs. Wm. Bowles, Mrs. Koch, and Mrs. Chander.

"The dinner was very plain, as you may imagine, but we had a charming time, and at about half-past ten o'clock all adjourned to our rooms over the bank, at No. 12 Rue de la Paix, where we kept it up with music and conversation till nearly two o'clock in the morning, in happy remembrance of our friends, and time-honored custom at home. ...

"There is, of course, little or no business doing beyond the mere supplying of funds to residents, for which purpose our Caisse is and has been open daily during the siege, from ten o'clock to one.

"We are forbidden to say anything of politics; but you can plainly see from the accounts which I have given you from time to time that, among our American community at least, no distress or external want has yet been felt. It would be well if, by some means or other, this reassurance could be communicated to those who have friends here.

I remain, very truly yours,

W[m.]. B. Bowles"

The illustration (Figure 1) [not related to our Thanksgiving tale] was scanned from an auction catalog, and shows part of a cover sent through the

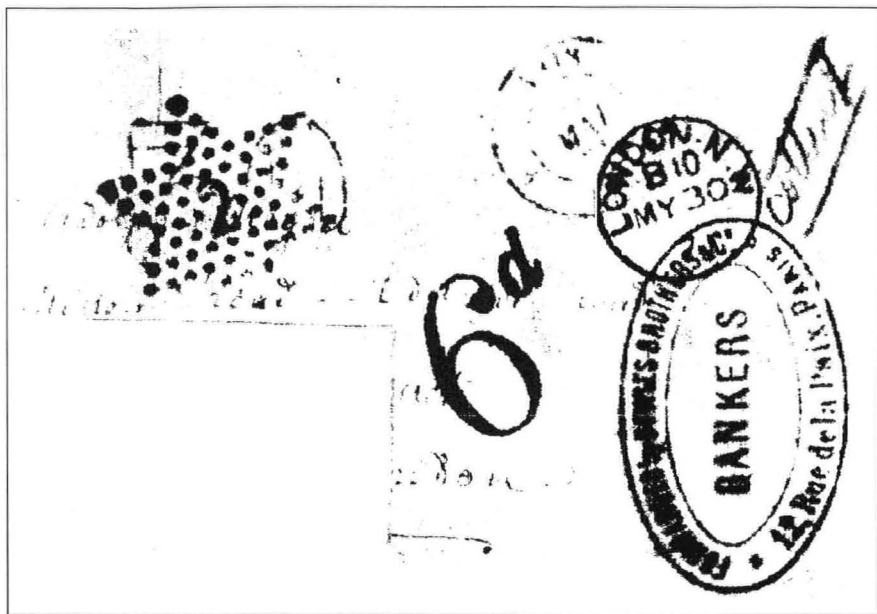


Figure 1.

regular mails on 27 May, during the Bloody Week of the Commune at Paris. It was processed at the rue St. Lazare post office, which voided a "30" due with its star "2" mark. It is struck on front with the oval FORWARDED by BOWLES BROTHERS & C^o/BANKERS/12, Rue de la Paix, PARIS. It is marked by hand "collect," apparently by the bank, has a "6d" postage due, and arrived at London NW/B10 on May 30.

Another report of Thanksgiving was made by Professor Nathan Sheppard in *The Cincinnati Daily Gazette* of December 24, p. 1, cols. 1-5. Sheppard mentions the place at the Café Restaurant of the Grand Opera. The main course was tough turkey, and the dinner cost 55 francs. For that price they also got ham, potatoes, a little sausage, an "infinitesimal item" of butter (as well as sausage), apples, pears and almonds for dessert, followed by champagne and coffee. His list of 20 persons includes Washburne, Read, Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bowles, Mrs. Kock (*sic*), Mrs. F. Riggs, Mr. Todt, Mr. Washburne Jr., Mr. May the artist, and Mr. Beyland; Mr. Durand of Chicago, Mr. Hopkinson, Hon. L. Hingfield, Mr. Dieyer (*sic* for Dreyer), Sheppard, Mr. Kock, Miss Chander (*sic*), Mr. Hoffer, and Mrs. Moulton. The semicolon, in the listing, separates the two sides of the table. Sheppard also reported summaries of the various speeches that were made.

The *New York Times* of 23 December 1870, page 6 contains a Paris letter dated November 24, which I did not copy, the other two accounts containing the most important information. Clearly, the upper crust at Paris was still able to celebrate, as illustrated by the American colony's Thanksgiving festivity.

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

Repeating an earlier suggestion. What this Society and many of its members need to "survive and prosper" are a number of informal study groups, whereby members can benefit from each others' specialized knowledge. We have but just one such, the Study Group for Airmail Rates in French Colonies in 1945, ably headed by Bob Picirilli of Tennessee. It consists of members in the U.S. and abroad, and I believe also of some non-members in Europe. This Group has published, to date, 14 informal albeit extremely informative newsletters and, most importantly, has produced a data base of nearly 3,300 covers (!) dealing with the subject matter. Yes, it entails a lot of hard work by Bob and his group, but there could be, in my estimation, or should be, study groups for such underappreciated specialties as computer-vended postage, encased postage, franchise markings of pre-1940 military aviation units, wartime detoured and/or returned mail, localization of censorship offices, etc., etc.--just to name a few off the top of my head. Positive results of any such meetings of the minds (whether by regular or e-mail or by fax) might, of course, eventually appear in our Journal--as do the findings of the Colonies Airmail Rates group--for the ultimate benefit of an even wider audience. All you have to do for the present is offer to start any sort of study group, in our gratis Members' Appeals.

Bob Stone is no longer with us. Born June 27, 1907, our Member N° 61 passed away February First, 2002 at his Pennsylvania nursing home. Rather than dwell on the final, sad-ten-plus years of his existence, we must speak of his multitude of accomplishments and celebrate his life. You can expect a number of remembrances and appreciations on the part of Bob's friends, starting in this issue; because of time constraints, more shall have to await forthcoming issues.

Some of the "Regular Features" in this issue may be skimpier than usual. The reason is that the issue will have to go to bed early so that I can correct page proofs before my wife and I head for France at the beginning of April for a month of driving about the countryside. With luck, the issue will be in the mail to you before our return. This could well be our last foray into extended driving vacations abroad (as opposed to the short ones we still contemplate doing), for I'm not getting any younger, faster. For future "exotic" vacations, we may have to leave the driving/navigating to tour guides and cruise-ship captains.

Articles to be published in future issues

Amazing 1870/1871 Wonder Stories--69, and beyond
 Airmail Letter Rates from French West Africa to the U.S. before World War II
 Detoured Alsace-Lorraine Mail--1870 and Beyond
 French Marcophily -- Mail by Rail
 Postal Censorship in St. Pierre and Miquelon 1939-1945
 Discovery of Another, More Recent Scraped Date Stamp from Cochinchina
 Algerian Registered Mail 1844-1876

[Do note the imbalance of subject matter. The Colonies are overwhelming the home country. Let's see some more contributed articles on the philately of France. A votres plumes!]

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

[to convert francs into euros, divide by 6.55957]

- *Les Surcharges "France Libre" dans les Etablissements Français en Inde 1941-1945* ["France Libre" overprints of the French Establishments in India 1941-1945]; 7.93 euros (+ postage outside France), from L'Echo de la Timbrologie, 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036 Amiens cedex 1, France. Major credit cards accepted.
- *La Côte des Coins datés et des Millésimes*; 65th edition; 9.15 euros (+ postage beyond France?), from SO CO CO DA MI, Boite Postale 4625, F-22046 St. Brieuc cedex2, France. (The annual priced catalog for coins datés and millésimes).
- *Catalogue des entiers postaux des anciennes colonies françaises, bureaux française à l'étranger et territoires occupés ou sous mandats* [Catalog of postal stationery of the former French colonies, Offices Abroad, and areas occupied or mandated]. A re-edition of the long out-of-print work, in three volumes totaling ca. 600 pages; includes added chapter on 1940-1945 Interzone cards used outside of France and a separate pamphlets with all items priced in euros; 500Fr (+ 50Fr postage and handling within France, more elsewhere), checks payable to ACEP, from André De Kerven, 16 rue de Liège, F-75009 Paris. (Indispensable, for collectors of these areas and of their stationery).
- Leonard H. Janssen, *La Parité des Monnaies et l'Histoire Postale, 1700-1875* [Parity of moneys with respect to postal history, 1700-1875]; ca. 500 pages, numerous of color illustrations of covers; 450 Fr postpaid (more outside the European Union?), from the author, at Stramproyerweg 24, B-3950 Bocholt, Belgium. (Variations in the exchange values of currencies of some 194 countries and entities during pre-UPU days. Very useful for determining international rates and taxes of the times).
- *Les timbres à date et leurs précurseurs. La poste en Haute-Saône* [Hand-stamps and precursors in Haute-Saône Dept.]; ca. 180 pp; 150Fr (+ 21F postage, more beyond France?), from Jean-Claude Roussel, Place de l'Eglise, F-70000 Vellefaux, France. (Some 20 marcophilists contributed to this work, which covers the markings of the 170 post offices in the department).
- Roland Legrand, et al., *Histoire philatélique, maximaphile et marcophile de la Bourgogne*; 160 pp., 21 x 30 cm, numerous illustrations, published by the Club Philatélique Sénonais; 200Fr (+ 30Fr postage, more outside France?), payable to the Association Sénonaise de Philatélie, from Roland Legrand, 8 rue Pierre Lavergne, F-89100 Sens, France. (The philatelic, history, marcophily and maximaphilately of the four departments of Burgundy).
- Jean Storch and Robert Françon, *Catalogue des entiers postaux de France et de Monaco* (6th edition); 280 illustrated-pages priced catalog of the postal stationery of France and Monaco, with much new information and pricing; 280Fr (+ 40Fr postage, more outside France?), from Editions Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris. (The latest edition of the standard work).
- Gérard Fiandino and René Fonnet, *Marques postales et oblitérations d'Aix-en-Provence*; 230 pp., 15 x 21 cm, numerous illustrations; contact the Association Philatélique du Pays d'Aix, Boite Postale 266, F-13602 Aix-en-Provence cedex, France. (Town's postal markings and cancellations from origins to the early 1900s).

- *Catalogue Cérès Colonies Françaises*, 52nd edition, in two volumes (480 and 232 pages), fully illustrated in color; 245 Fr (+ 35Fr postage, more outside France?), from CERES Philatélie, 23 rue du Louvre, F-75041 Paris cedex 01, or the usual sources. (Covers the colonies, Andorra, Monaco, Saar, and the DOM-TOMs).
- *Catalog Cérès France 2002*, 59th edition; 544 pages, all in color; 18 euros (+ 3,50 euros postage and handling), from CERES Philatélie [see above entry] or usual sources. (A number of added features since previous edition).
- *Cérès CD-ROM: France, Monaco, Andorra, Polynésie et Terres Australes*; 35 euros (+ 3 euros postage and handling); [see above entry for ordering].
- *Catalogue Yvert & Tellier 2002--Tôme 2, Ire partie* [French colonies and TOM], 480 pages, 16.5 x 23 cm; 190Fr, *2ème partie* [Independent Africa, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam], 1152(?) pages, 25.5 x 23 cm; 170 Fr; both probably require additional costs for shipping beyond France; from the usual sources.
- Gérard Schmidt, *Le Courrier des Casques Bleus*; 362 pages, 21 x 30 cm, profusely illustrated; 39 euros postpaid, from the author, at VillaLa Marguerite, 17 avenue de Brunet, F083100 Toulon, France (Describes and illustrates the mail from all UN military missions and engagements, from 1945 to ex-Yugoslavia).
- A. Agneret, M. Granero, and M. Boule, *Les timbres fiscaux de la Principauté de Monaco* [Revenue stamps of Monaco]; 110 pages illustrated in color; 18.29 euros, from Office d'émission des timbres-poste de Monaco, 23 avenue du Prince Héréditaire Albert, MC-98050 Monaco cedex. (Classification, descriptions, original documents, printing dates, etc.; includes a valuation pamphlet).

SOME SHOW REPORTS

(Continued from N° 267, January 2002, p. 24)

- CHICAGOPEX 01 (Rosemont, IL, November 2001): Gold medal to Peter Smith for "French Post Offices in Egypt, 1798-1900." In the Literature Class: Vermeil medal to J.A. Dingler and Klerman W. Lopes for *Mute Cancellations of the Brazil Empire*; Silver medals to Eliot Landau for two articles on 19th Century US philately.
- SANDICAL 2002 (San Diego, February 2002): Vermeil medal to Tom Siddens for his single-frame "French Large Numeral Cancellations 1863-1876"; Wallace Craig served on the jury.
- Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition 2002 (Sarasota, FL February): Gold medal to Paul Larsen for "German Togo 1885-1914."
- AmeriStamp Expo 2002 (Riverside, CA, February): Single-frame Prix d'Honneur to Roger Quinby for "Russian Postal Cards used in Finland"; single-frame Gold medal to Bob Kinsley for "Postmarks of French Ships serving French Troops in West Africa 1893-1905"; single-frame Vermeil medals to Tom Siddens for his exhibit [see SANDICAL 2002, above], and to Peter Smith for "The Sudan Campaigns, 1884-1989"; single-frame Bronze medals to Tom Broadhead for "Envelopes Petites: Printed Greetings from France 1882-1970" and to first-time exhibitor Gerald Schroedl for "A Visit to Dominica's Village Post Offices"; Display Division Gold medal to Peter Smith for "The Hotels of Egypt and their Post Offices."

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from #267, January 2002, p. 27)

- **817.)** Of what possible use would have been a single 1-centime black Duval due stamp (Scott J11, Yvert Taxe 10)? Guy Prugnon explains the one possible use for this stamp as a single in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, N° 1747, December 2001. In this particular case (Figure 1) a newspaper weighing

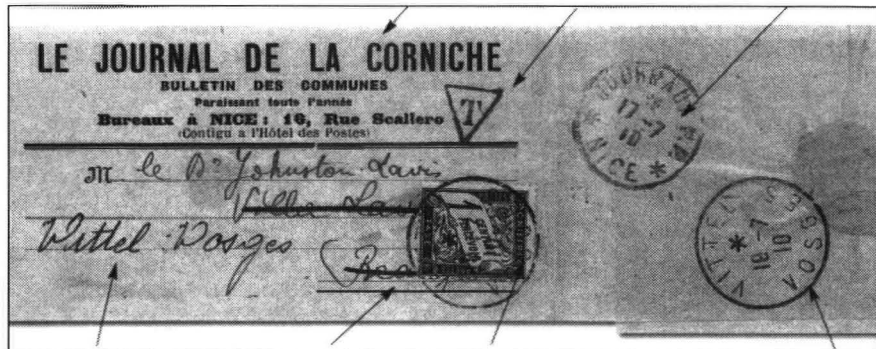


Figure 1. (reduced to 70%)

50 gm or less was sent within wrapper in 1910, prepaid [at the 1c rate in effect since 1 June 1895] within the same department. However, the addressee had left for another department, which would have meant a 2c rate. Being as there was then no penalty for forwarding, the item was simply taxed at 1c for the postage deficiency.

- **818.)** Military personnel received the free franchise on 3 August 1914, at the start of the First World War, and usually sent their mail via the auspices of their unit postal clerk. But, how did they benefit from the free franchise while on leave or on isolated missions? Simply by presenting their papers at the nearest post office, where the mail would be marked GUICHET (Counter), usually handwritten but occasionally via a variety of special handstamps, such as the one shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2. (reduced to 90%)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- Some "new" fakes have been appearing on the market, according to Jean-François Brun and others, in recent months, and most are very well made and very dangerous. They include the 1F50 carmine and the 1F50 ultramarine airmails (plane over Marseille) with faked EIPA30 perfin; the 30c green Paix of Laurens (and other Paix stamps) with fake precancel overprints; and 1941 overprint errors (missing, inverted, double) on remainder Paix stamps. Many or all may bear the faked experts' backstamps of J-F Brun, R. Calves and/or H. Thiaude. Other recent, British-made fakes, include a number of pre-World War II precancels and the wartime Dunkerque-Coudekerque handstamps. Potential buyers should consider requesting expertization certificates.
- The Grand Prix for Philatelic Art for 2001 went to (for France) the 3,00F Chateau de Nogent le Rotrou (Veret-Lemavinier designer, Larrivière engraver) issued 28 (30) April 2001; and (for the Overseas Territories) the 12F block of four stamps showing local TAAF fauna ("youth set") (Mezières designer) of 1 January 2001.
- It's on again or off again! Any French stamp bearing values in euros will be valid for postage "indefinitely." That is, all the stamps issued since 5 July 1999.
- Sète, Sette, Cette? They're all the same Mediterranean port in the Hérault Dept. According to J. Compain (*Coll. Phil. et Marco*, N° 131, 2001) the original postal marking was Sette, but it became Cette in 1790, though counter-Revolutionaries continued to prefer Sette. Both spellings, plus Sète, have appeared on postmarks from 1820 or so. Today, Sète seems to be the official geographic name. Now I'm no longer confused; hope you aren't either.
- The Marianne de Luquet definitives [values in francs] that were issued November 2001 on two souvenir sheetlets [N° 267, January 2002, p. 29] can be distinguished from regular sheet stamps in that they (1) lack phosphor bands [though some examples of the 0,10F, 2,70F and permanent-value sheet stamps also lack them] and (2) are perforated 12% rather than the normal 13 of sheet stamps. Assuming that any one would really want to separate those sheets or use them for postage.
- Monaco will again hold a show of, by, and for the elite. MonacoPhil2002, to be held 29 November-1 December 2002, will feature the "usual" 100 world philatelic rarities, 500 frames of "prestigious collections," meetings, conferences, and an "important philatelic auction." Don't look for me there; wouldn't afford the tariff.
- A booklet of 20 permanent-value Marianne de Luquet stamps, of the format for sale from an ATM, has been discovered with no printing on the cover face. In addition, the stamps lack phosphor bands and the perforations are strongly offset vertically (Figure 1). Other such booklets should exist out there.



Figure 1.

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

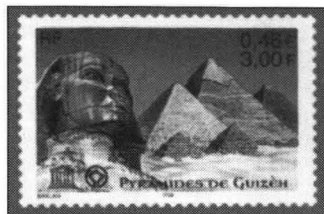
(Continued from N° 267, January 2002, p. 31)

France

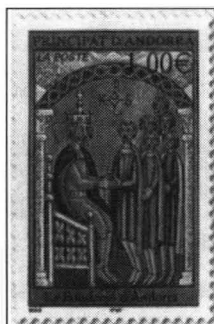
- 1 (3) December 2001: Council of Europe, 3,00F/0,46€ and 3,80F/0,58€; UNESCO 3,00F/0,46€ Pyramids and Sphinx, and 3,80F/0,58€ Komodo Natl. Park.



- 14 (17) December: 3,00F/0,46€ Nejjarine Fountain (Fez) and 3,80F/0,58€ Wallace Fountain (Paris) [joint issue with Morocco];
- 1 (2) January 2002: Marianne de Luquet definitives, in euros [see N° 267, January 2002];
- 18 (21) January: Valentine's Day, 0,46€ heart-shaped landform in New Caledonia; also in sheetlet of five stamps at 2,30€;
- 26 (28) January: 0,46€ Salt Lake City Winter Olympics (snowboarder);
- 8 (11) February: 1,02€ Art of Gustav Klimt.



Withdrawals: 31 December 2001: Marianne de Luquet, 0,10F 0,20 0,50 1,00F 2,00 2,70 3,50 3,80 4,20 4,40 5 6,70 10F definitives; air-mails: 15F Airbus A300, 20F Bréguet 14, 30F Potez 25; precancels 1,87F 2,18 4,66 7,11F; UNESCO: 3,00F Pompeii and 3,80F Easter Island; Council of Europe 3,00F and 3,80F Classical statues; 3,00F rugby sheetlet at 30F.



Andorra (all values expressed in € = euros)

- 2 January 2002: Coat of Arms definitives: 0,01 0,02, 0,05, red permanent-value; Legends definitives: 0,10 0,20, 0,50 1,00 2,00 5,00.

Withdrawals: 31 December 2001: the first Andorran coin: 0,10F 0,20F, 0,50F 1,00F 2,70F 3,00F 5,00F 10F 15F 20F (ten values).

French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

- 10 November 2001: semi-official(?) booklet (*carnet de voyage*) by Serge Marko, for a land crossing of Terre Adélie and for the arrival on rotation of the naval vessel *Astrolabe*: 14 permanent-value stamps, at 30€;
- 22 October: 5,20F/o,79€ 20th anniv. of Convention for the Conservation of the Antarctic fauna and marine flora;
- 1 January 2002 [all values expressed in € = euros]: coat of arms: 0,01 0,02 0,05 0,10 0,20; 0,15 mineral (nepheline); 0,41 timid albatross; 0,46 telepheric tower on Crozet Island; 0,46 ship *Marion Dufresne*; block of four at 0,46: Olympics ("youth collection"); 0,61 Jacques Dubois (1920-2000); 0,70 engraved stone on St. Paul Island; block of four at 0,79: immature and adult animals; 1,22 Kerguelen cabbage; 2,44 Cent. of Gauss' expedition; 3,66 deep-water crab; 4,12 diatoms of coastal ice pack; 3,66 and 0,46 triptych: geologic map of Kerguelen; 4,45 Geographic society.



Withdrawals: 9 November 2001: Coat-of-arms: 0,10F 0,20F 0,30F 0,40F 0,50F

French Polynesia

- 9 October 2001: 500F UN International Year of dialog among nations;
- 11 November: perfume flowers 35F, 50F, 85F;
- 6 December: 120F Noël (Polynesian Nativity scene).

Withdrawals: 1 October 2001: Ora Na and Maeva; Year of the Dragon; OPT and philately; Tatooing festival; Beauties of Polynesia singles and block; traditional robes.

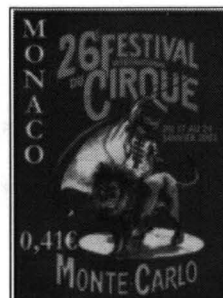
**Mayotte**

- 19 November 2001: 10,00F/1,52€ Mayotte post office.

Withdrawals: 9 November 2001: Marianne de Luquet definitives: 0,10F 0,20F 0,50F 1,00F 2,00F 2,70F, permanent value, 3,80F, 5,00F 10F; 3,00F coat-of-arms.

Monaco (all values expressed in € = euros)

- 2 January 2002: Flora and Fauna definitives: 0,01 0,02 0,05 0,10 0,20 0,50 1,00 2,00 5,00 10,00; Palace interiors: 0,41 0,46 0,58;
- 2 January: 0,41 26th Inter. Circus Festival; 0,53 35th Inter. Bouquets competition.



Withdrawals: 3 December 2001: 1984 issues (Place de la Visitation, Rue basse); 1989-1994's 10F, 15F, 20F, 25F, 40F Rainier III; 1992 issues (0,90F boat in port, 7F Oceanographic Museum); 1994 issues (cacti); 1996 issues (Rainier III, 2,70F, 3,00F, 3,80F); and a whole mess of 1996-2000 issues; I'll send the list for a self-addressed stamped envelope for it's too confusing to sort out here.

New Caledonia

- 12 October 2001: 135F underwater house; 500F Qanono Lifou church; 110F Painters of the Pacific; 110F Noumea to Osaka via Airbus;
- 9 November: 265F Olympic cycling medal; 155F Fernande Leriche;
- 17 November: 100F Kite surfing;
- 28 November: views of Lifou, two at 100F; 70F philately at school;
- 7 December: Noël and New Year, three at 100F.

Withdrawals: 1 October 2001: Amédée Lighthouse, Emile Renouf, Year of the Dragon, Gilles Subileau.



St. Pierre & Miquelon (all values expressed in € = euros)

- 1 January 2002: Marianne de Luquet definitives (in euros) overprinted for the islands: 0,01 0,02 0,05 0,10 0,20 0,41 0,50 0,53 0,58 0,64 0,67 0,69 1,00 1,02 2,00;
- 30 January: 1,00 the Archipelago and the euro.

Withdrawals: 9 November 2001: all Marianne de Luquets showing franc values, except the permanent-value stamp; 10F white-headed eagle; 20F duck; 5F buse pattue; 20F block for the new millennium; 3,00F + 15,50F Les saline; 5,40F the inger.

Wallis & Futuna

- 23 August 2001: Local fruit, se-tenant strip of four at 260F;
- 8 November: 55th Autumn Salon (at Paris): three Bird stamps at 150F each.

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Today I have a theme for this Letter: The Old and the New.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find the report of the death of Robert G. Stone. For many years, as the Editor of this Journal, Bob Stone was the most influential officer of this Society. His predominant interest in the Colonies was obvious in this Journal, and led to jokes about removing the ampersand from the Society's name. Health problems had forced his withdrawal from philatelic activities several years ago, but his death still marks the end of an era.

As for the New: last night I paid a visit to our Society's website: FCPSonline.org. It obviously remains a work-in-progress, but every good website is continuously a work-in-progress. From the website, you can download both a Membership Application, and a Publications Order Form. Remember, if you meet someone else interested in French philately, who might become a Society member, an application form is available no farther away than your computer. There is an Exhibit section, currently with two collections to view, as well as the 'Cover of the Month.' the last section is "Links," which contains links to other web pages of interest to collectors of French philately. If you might consider contributing to the Exhibit section, or have ideas about other features for the Web Site, or, more modestly, want to suggest entries for the Links section, please email our webmaster Kris Haggblom (kris@spyril.net). The home page of our web site has a "Contact Us" button which can be conveniently used to send messages to Kris. I urge all our members to visit the website, and then consider whether there is a contribution you could make.

RMS

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2001

Total Membership as of January 1, 2001:	570
Total New Members for the Year of 2001:	18
Total Reinstatements for the Year 2001:	10
	28
Resignations Received in the Year 2001:	9
Total Members Deceased in the Year 2001:	3
Members Dropped for Non Payment of Dues, 2001:	38
	50
Net Membership Gain for the Year of 2001:	0
Net Membership Loss of the Year of 2001:	22
Total Membership as of December 31, 2001:	548

NEW MEMBERS

- 3260 MADDOCK, DREW, 969 Brentnal Road, Pasadena, CA 91105. (General Collector: All Issues.)
- 3261 DEMARAY, DON F., 28596 Dolphin Road, R.R. 6. Strathroy, Ontario N7G 3H7, Canada. (Specialized France: Postal History: Stampless Covers - Marques Postales. Classics 1849-1876: Mint - Used - On Cover. 1870-1871 Issues - Cancellations - Sage Type 1876-1900.)
- 3262 KUBIAK, WILLIAM, 92 Queensway - Flat 2, London W2 3RR, United Kingdom. (Special Issues: Revenues - Proofs And Color Trials. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used - On Cover. Indo-China, Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam.)
- 3263 SHORE, LYS ANN, 1523 Sunnymede Avenue, South Bend, IN 46615. (Stampless Covers. Classics 1840-1876 - : Used - On Cover. Sage Type: 1876-1900.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 761 JOSEPH, FREDERICK M., 340 East 64th Street, Apt. 16-K, New York, NY 10021-7510.
- 2916 LANGSTON, DAVIS, 307 Natchez Avenue, Brookhaven, MS 39601.
- 2700 RUIMY, JOEL D., 237 Gowan Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4J 2K7 Canada.
- 1267 GARRATT, WILLIAM R., 50 Mounds Rd., Apt. 310, San Mateo, CA 94402-1290.
- 2998 WILCOCK, DAVID W. (Name Spelled Wrong) (Corrected Spelling).
- 3244 LOMONACO, MARK, 244 Pitney Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601-5664.
- 3150 SURACE, RONALD, 345 S. San Antonia Road, Los Altos, CA 94022-3015.

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 3132 WENZ, ERNEST C. | 3074 BLAKE, MICHAEL J. |
| 2108 GALLAGHER, SHIRLEY | 3079 GROOM, MALCOLM |

DROPPED FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES

Hrycak, M.; Andrews, Steve; Bean, Frederick S.; Bailey, Frank; Bell, Scott; Berry, Kenneth; Cohen, Michael D.; Covert, Donn F.; Daneman, Jef; Dessens, Scott A.; Eberman, Barton A.; Edison, Robert B.; Fisher, Roger R.; Fuller, Derek; Gellion, Claire; Greenwood, John S.; Hartwell, Rodney; Heliks, John M.; Kessler, Melvin M.; Krupnick, Jon E.; Larson, Peter B.; Malmgren, Ralph T.; Massler, Jerold M.; Musy, Jacques A.; Raphael, David; Schleuter, Richard; Stevning, Donald S.; Vandromme, Boudewyn; Brisebois, Michel; Forest, Paul; Kindrachuck, Mark; Sismondo, Sergio; Angleviel, Frederic; Frega, Enrique; Gaetjens, Kay; Kimmel, Alain; Preiss, Klaus.

DECEASED

- 61 STONE, ROBERT G.