



# France & Colonies Phîlatelist



Vermeil Medals at COLOPEX 2002 and CHICAGOPEX 2003  
Silver Medal at 6th Canadian National Philatelic Exhibition (2002)



*Unofficial (albeit catalogued) 1916 overprints of the Montenegrin Government in Exile at Bordeaux: some accepted to contentious varieties that sold quite well at a recent Paris auction: normal, inverted, doubled, on 10c Sower; sideways, on 1F Merson; doubled, on pair 50c Merson; and unauthorized and unissued, on strip of 3c Blanc.*

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## TOGO IN WORLD WAR I - THE FRENCH OCCUPATION ISSUES (YOUR HELP PLEASE)

by Bill Mitchell (FCPS #715)

In an article published in *FCP* for October 2001 (Whole No. 266) I sought your help with an exercise to establish the earliest known dates of use of the 1921 "Mandate" issue of this small West Africa territory; a revised list of dates appeared in the issue for April 2003 (Whole No. 272). The exercise was undertaken in connection with a forthcoming book on the stamps of the occupation period in Togo (1914-1922) by Jeremy Martin and Frank Walton which is to be published by the West Africa Study Circle (WASC) as a companion volume to their 1995 book on the postal history of this period. I have now been asked to seek your help in expanding the study to the two previous issues by the French administration and (most particularly) the postage due stamps.

Within a month of the outbreak of war at the beginning of August 1914 the British and French had completed the occupation of this German territory. Initially they made use of captured stamps in the standard German "yacht" designs with suitable overprints, but these soon became exhausted and in May 1915 the British applied similar overprints to stamps of the Gold Coast. The French followed suit in 1916 with an overprint TOGO/Occupation/franco-/anglaise on the 1913 issue of Dahomey (the postage set; the dues were not overprinted). Unoverprinted stamps of both colonies were also widely used from the beginning of the occupation.

According to the records at present held by WASC, the earliest recorded dates of use of the two French issues are as follows:

### 1. Unoverprinted postage stamps of Dahomey, 1913-1917.

<u>Yvert/Cérès</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Earliest date</u>
43	42	1c	29 September 1914
44	43	2c	29 September 1914
45	44	4c	29 September 1914
46	45	5c	19 November 1914
47	47	10c	2 September 1914
48	50	15c	
49	51	20c	29 September 1914
50	54	25c	19 November 1914
51	56	30c	29 September 1914
52	60	35c	11 December 1916
53	62	40c	6 January 1917
54	63	45c	6 January 1917
55	64	50c	23 January 1917
56	70	75c	6 January 1917
57	75	1 fr	30 March 1915
58	84	2 fr	23 January 1917
59	86	5 fr	23 January 1917
60	B 1	10c + 5c (Red Cross)	18 November 1916

As is well-known, most values were printed on both ordinary and chalk-sur-faced paper (the 15c, 25c and 35c on "chalky" only). The WASC notes do not distinguish between the two, but they do provide details of the earliest dates for some post offices, namely -

Anécho 19 November 1914 (1c, 5c, 25c)

21 July 1915 (10c)

20 August 1915 (4c)

5 October 1915 (20c)

18 November 1916 (Red Cross stamp)

11 December 1916 (35c)

6 January 1917 (40c, 45c, 75c, 1 fr)

23 January 1917 (2c, 30c, 50c, 2 fr, 5 fr)

"Popo" 29 September 1914 for the 1c, 2c, 4c, 10c, 20c and 30c. (Petit Popo was a coastal town claimed by both France and Germany; the French claim was relinquished in 1885 and in 1905 Klein Popo became Anécho. Possibly because the Anécho cancel could not at first be traced the French excised the GRAND from their GRAND POPO/DAHOMÉY ET DEPENDANCES cancel. This had a short life - the latest date recorded is 8 October 1914 and a note of any later date still will be appreciated.)

Atakpamé 12 January 1916 (10c, 25c)

Lomé 30 March 1915 (1c, 2c, 10c, 20c, 30c, 1 fr)

17 March 1922 (25c)

Porto Seguro 1 January 1917 (Red Cross stamp)

Sansane-Mangu 2 September 1914 (10c)

Sokodé 30 January 1917 (5c)

17 November 1917 (20c)

## 2. Postage stamps of Dahomey overprinted TOGO/Occupation/franco-anglaise, 1916

(With this issue the notes are divided between "chalky" and ordinary papers.)

<u>Yvert/Cérès</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Earliest date</u>	
			<u>Chalky</u>	<u>Ordinary</u>
84	176	1c	5 April 1917	3 March 1917
85	177	2c	6 February 1918	2 February 1917
86	178	4c	29 November 1918	??? 1917
87	179	5c	29 November 1918	13 November 1916
88	180	10c	29 November 1918	21 November 1916
89	181	15c	26 December 1917	—
90	182	20c	2 April 1921	15 January 1917
91	183	25c	21 November 1916	—
92	184	30c		21 November 1916
93	185	35c	14 April 1917	—
94	186	40c		18 March 1917
95	187	45c		18 March 1917
96	188	50c	6 September 1918	21 August 1917
97	189	75c		28 February 1917
98	190	1 fr		19 April 1917
99	191	2 fr	26 February 1918	4 March 1917
100	192	5 fr	10 April 1922	2 February 1917



### 3. Postage due stamps

Unlike the French, who had used “taxe” stamps since very early days (1884 in the colonies), the Germans never collected unpaid (or under-paid) postal charges by means of adhesives. Consequently, at the end of August 1914 no postage due stamps were available for overprinting by the French, who normally followed their domestic postal arrangements very closely in their colonies. So, while the demand cannot have been heavy, it's surprising that they did not overprint the Dahomey “taxe” stamps of 1914 until the “Mandate” issue of 1921. This being the case, one would have expected some record of the unoverprinted stamps with Togo postmarks, but so far none have turned up. The sole example of a Togo due recorded is the 10c of the earlier, 1906, issue (Yvert/Cérès T2, Scott J2) used at Atakpamé on 27 August 1917, unfortunately off cover so it is impossible to say whether it was used correctly or cancelled by favour. It is illustrated as Figure 1. Details of any other examples are especially sought.

That is all that is shown in the WASC records. Much more, no doubt, remains to be discovered, especially perhaps about the 1916 overprints - why are so few 1916 dates recorded? If your interests include this Territory, will you please go through your collection and send details of any earlier dates than those noted here to me at 41, Graemesdyke Avenue, East Sheen, London SW14 7BH, England. If practicable, photocopies would be appreciated. Thank you.



*Figure 1. The only recorded Togo use (27 August 1917) of a Dahomey postage due stamp.*

### CORRECTIONS

We don't really have two Whole Numbers 262. Through an oversight on my part, the January 2001 issue (vol. 57, N° 1) is really N° 263. Please mark your copy as such. I caught the error in time, while assembling the Index for vol. 57 (2001), but neglected to inform the readership.

**N° 274, October 2003:** I misread Godfrey Bowden's words while editing his "A New Earliest Date for the 5c Yellow-green Sage of 1898" and changed his intent. The 23 NOV 1898 and the now earliest 16 MAI 1898 dates are for the **Type II** (U/N). What Mr. Bowden still wants to know is who has evidence for an actual date for the **Type III** (U/E) that is earlier than the recorded November 1899 ones.

**N° 275, January 2004,** middle page 23: Correct address for contacting Gene Fricks, re suggesting changes to Scott catalog editors, is 23 Murray Way, Blackwood, NJ 08012-4400.

## GOOFS ON STAMPS

*[Still awaiting someone's catchier or more "spectacular" title... This feature courtesy of Jean-Pierre Mangin and "L'Echo de la Timbrologie" -- Editor]*

*Figure 1. France (1949): The Duke de Choiseul, director-general of posts, as painted by Louis Van Loo, but portrait shown is a mirror image of the painting.*



*Figure 2. Reunion (1943): The ships are at anchor while their officers are parlaying with the natives, so why are they show at full sail?*



*Figure 3. France (2002 precancel): Correct scientific name for this orchid is "Dactylorhiza insularis."*

## 1F EMPIRE

One of our newer members asked me recently about distinguishing a genuine 1F Empire (Scott 21, Yvert 18) from the reprint and from forgeries. This is no easy task. When in doubt regarding any stamp that expensive, we definitely recommend going to a recognized expert in the field. I personally would recommend The Philatelic Foundation in New York City and Jean-François Brun in Paris. They are the real experts and it's worth it to pay their fees (and registered postage).

At no expense at all (other than registered postage), I can attempt to give an **unsigned** opinion of my own. Unsigned because my opinion offers **no guarantee** of genuineness, and because (1) I have no official standing within the corps of experts, and (2) I pride myself on my strictly amateur standing. [I have, however, authenticated all of my postal-history exhibit material-in case any judges want to ask "where's the certificate?"]. With this out in the open and out of the way, here's what I can share re the 1F Empire.

### Characteristics of the genuine stamp (Figure 1):

Printed by typography: some of the color may show on back; indentations on back of colored areas commonly present, due to pressure from plate onto paper;

Design 18.5 mm wide;

Many or most pearls about effigy touch the circle;

Effigy often shows uneven or incomplete inking (extra red or extra white);

Slight yellowish tint to paper;

Always Type I.

### Characteristics of the "Rowland Hill" reprints of 1863:

Typographed;

18.25 mm wide;

Finer, clearer, brighter impression;

Pearls generally don't touch circle;

Whiter paper or slight grayish tint;

Should be unused; cancelled copies may be construed as an attempt to pass the expensive reprints as used originals.

### Color proofs:

Not having seen any really close up, I can offer no criteria, but those of the 1F carmine should be very rare.

### First-rate forgeries:

The master forger Jean de Sperati made many reproductions of the 1F, with several different minute variations. These are covered in great detail in The Philatelic Foundation Seminar Series N° 2, "*Philatelie à la Française*,"



Figure 1. Genuine, (from G. Bertrand, "*Mémorial Philatélique*," vol. VI) [ignore numerals and faint white striations].

which is still available from the Foundation and from dealers. Sperati's creations are generally better made than the originals (smaller quantities prepared and consequently less wear on his plates). Figure 2 is an example.

### Ordinary fakes:

Most anybody can make them now, thanks to quality color printers, but the product would **not** be a typographed one. In earlier days, Fournier and others made "space fillers" with varying skills, generally by lithography, and usually very poor imitations. They also tended to specialize in making tête-bêches. It should be pointed out that cancels are far easier to fake than stamps, and that a fake cancel on a faked stamp may make the product appear "more genuine." *Caveat emptor!*

### Conclusions:

A catalog is little more than a numbered price list, which is its basic purpose. There's far more out there in the way of useful literature. And there's no substitute for learning about one's stamps, their production, and obtaining personal hands-on experience. Ours is or should be a hobby, not simply a way of accumulating catalogued items. And do remember that an expensive 1F Empire should look just like a cheap 20c Empire (type I), save for color and face value; a clearly printed, lightly cancelled type I 20c should be kept handy for comparisons. (And the same holds true for expensive and cheap stamps of any issue).

Can any of our members add any good, useful details?

-- S. J. Luft



Figure 2. A Sperati facsimile.

## DISCOVERY OF ANOTHER, MORE RECENT SCRAPED DATE STAMP FROM COCHIN-CHINA

by Florent Tricot (FCPS #3222)

[translated from the French by Florent Tricot and S. J. Luft]

Because of the late Jacques Desrousseaux's seminal studies on date stamps used in Cambodia and Tonkin, we now know that some small post offices there used, some for quite an extended period, military date stamps with the locality name partly scraped away (Cambodia) or totally removed (Tonkin). With regard to scraped Cambodia (CORR.D.ARM (*Correspondance d'Armées*)) military date stamps, their use at the following five civil post offices is well documented:

- for PNUM-PENH: all but the **C** of GOCONG removed; all but first **G** of TRANG-BANG removed;
- for BANAM: all but the **B** and second **A** of BARIA removed;
- for OUDONG: all but the **D** of GODEN removed;
- for SOAIRIENG: all but the **R** removed;
- for KOMPONG-TRABEC: all but the **R** and **B** of TRANG-BANG removed (Figure 1).

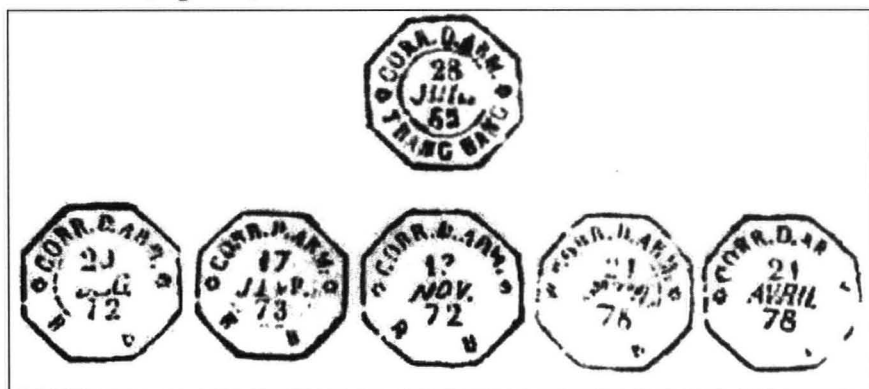


Figure 1. Evolution of the remaining (unscraped) letters of 1865's Trang Bang date stamp, from known date stamps of 1872 to 21 April 1878.

Except for Pnum [Pnom]-Penh, all these post offices were closed in late 1873 or by early 1874; the latest known Pnum-Penh cover with a scraped date stamp is dated 25 March 1874. Around April 1876 Tonkin used the first of the Saigon military date stamps with lower inscription totally removed (also used in Cambodia around July 1876 but unscraped). No later use in Indo-China than 1876 for such scraped military date stamps is known, that is **until now**.

Figure 2 shows a Colonies General Issue 25c Cérès (type III) stamp cancelled by a military date stamp of 21 April 1878. My first impression was that the date stamp was poorly struck; however, by comparing the two examples on the cover with other copies I own, I noted the resemblance (including small break at lower left of the octagon) to the scraped Trang-Bang "**RB**" (see Figure 1). I'm therefore confident that this represents the Trang-Bang device but with the **B** still present. We do know that all covers of the period from Kompong-Trabec show usage of this scraped Trang-

Bang handstamp with the remaining **R** always well printed and the **B** badly printed. We can therefore assert that this “**B** alone” cancel was made by removing the **R** (see right side of Figure 1). Finally, it appears that this “**B** alone” date stamp was made deliberately for use at some new post office or, perhaps briefly, as a replacement for an unusable date stamp in some other post office.

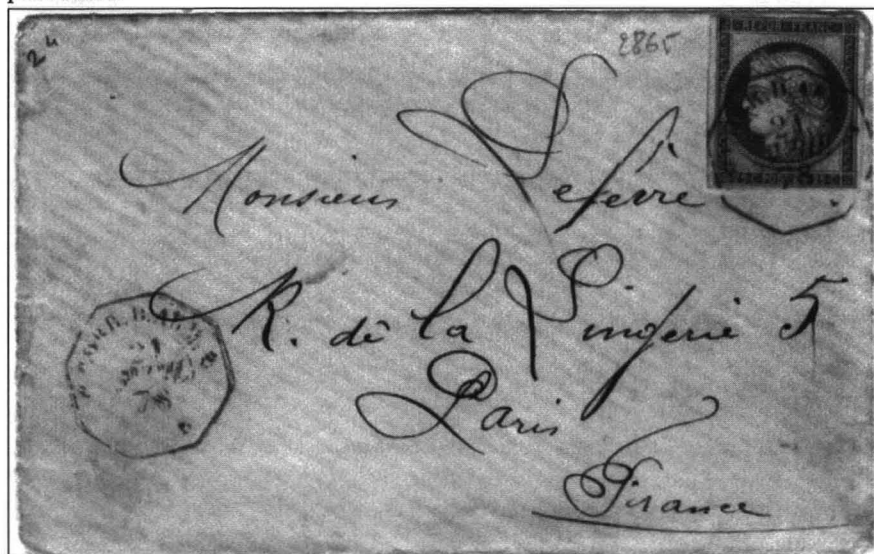


Figure 2.

The back of the cover (Figure 3) shows a very clear April 1878 [same day as the departure date stamp!] Saigon transit date stamp. We shall deal with

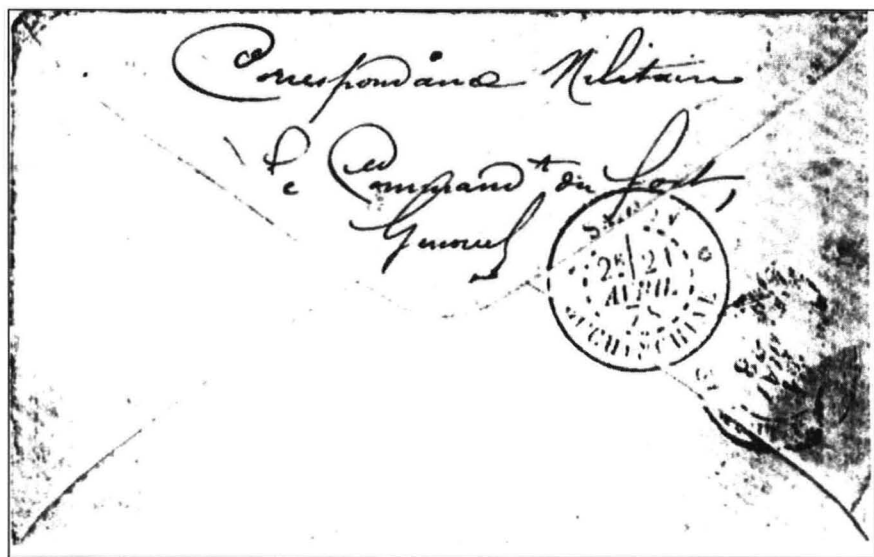


Figure 3.

that further on. It also has the manuscript identification of the sender as "Military Correspondence / The Commander of the Fort /+ signature "Genouel". This officer was already familiar to me from a 14 May 1879 cover from Long-Xuyen. From the French military archives at Vincennes, I learned that Jacques Pierre Genouel had been an infantry captain who had served in a number of Colonies (Guadeloupe, Senegal, Cochinchina, Cambodia). He arrived at Saigon 5 March 1878 and left Indo-China 20 March 1880. While there, he served in the 2nd Marine Infantry Regiment, commanded the post of Long-Xuyen during 1879, and obtained the Cambodian royal medal from the King on 17 February 1879. There was no additional information on this officer.

We may now entertain some speculations regarding my cover. It is certain that Genouel was at (and commanding) a French fort that 21 April 1878. Less certain is that the date stamp's remaining **B** was the same Trang-Bang one used in Cambodia some four years earlier. Though Genouel was in Cambodia in 1878 (receiving a royal decoration there), we can't be certain that the **B** of the scraped date stamp was applied in Cambodia, or that the cover could reach Saigon in Cochinchina that very same day it was mailed.

Yet another Genouel cover is known, mailed from Bienhoa 29 May 1878 and bearing General Issues Cérès stamps [10c large numerals and 15c small one] (Roumet June 2001 auction sale). This is barely more than a month later than my cover. Could my cover had come from some new post office in Cochinchina and not Cambodia, inasmuch as all the "ancient" military date stamps, dating from around 1878, are known used at post offices in Cochinchina?

Desrousseaux did not mention any new Cambodian post offices being opened prior to the 1882 telegraphic ones. However, he stated without any elaboration that he knew of 1878 covers from Mocaï, a small post office earlier closed in 1871 (only one cover known) and apparently reopened by 1878, that is, long before 1882.

Then, what might be the connection, if any, between the solitary **B** and Mocaï? After its closure in 1871, the post office was transferred to BENTRE, some kilometers to the north and across the Mekong River. Could the unscraped **B** therefore possibly be the first letter of BENTRE?

In conclusion, this cover remains enigmatic as to its geographic origin, but it gives me the opportunity to write about something new regarding Indo-China, a region that continues to hold on to its many secrets! Hopefully, readers may be able to furnish some information regarding the possible origin of my cover. Thanking you in advance!

### Reference

Jacques Desrousseaux, *Les Postes et Couriers français en Extrême Orient*; vol. 1 [typescript deposited in the Musée de La Poste, Paris; also see Endnotes to references 14 and 46 of the Desrousseaux bibliography, in *FCP* N° 260, April 2000, p. 41].



## THE BOXED *Corr. des armées*. MARKING

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

This scarce 30 x 9.5 mm military-franchise marking (Figure 1), shown by Waugh and Luft<sup>1</sup> (p. 45, Fig. C and p. 47, Fig. M) was, according to Raymond Salles<sup>2</sup> most likely applied at Marseille on open mail (i.e., not in closed mailbags) from certain colonial expeditions. Such loose shipletters were generally carried back to France by warships or naval transports that lacked postal facilities. Salles, at the time, had added that the cachet was used from 1875 to 1888 to confirm the right to the free franchise or to reduced rates for military mail on these campaigns.

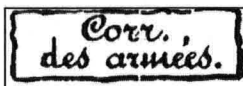


Figure 1.

However, I had been led to believe by some other writers (and I no longer recall who they might be) that the marking is a generic all-purpose cachet for late 19th Century Colonial expeditions, made available to them until their "permanent" franchise date stamps would arrive. It follows then that the boxed-marking device, of which more than one copy would have been made and used, would have been used in the early stages of the campaigns. I examine here the validity of both presumptions.

Having obtained Lot 92 of Lugdunum Philatélie's 42<sup>nd</sup> auction of March 2002, for a rather hefty sum, I now own perhaps just enough covers bearing the marking to justify writing something about its use.

Figure 2 is a free-franchise cover from the expeditionary corps of Tunisia's supporting naval units, with a 24 December 1881 French arrival backstamp. I also have a 7 May 1881 Tunisian expeditionary corps date stamp on cover, so obviously the boxed *Corr. d'armées*. continued to be used on mail from Tunisia for at least seven months.

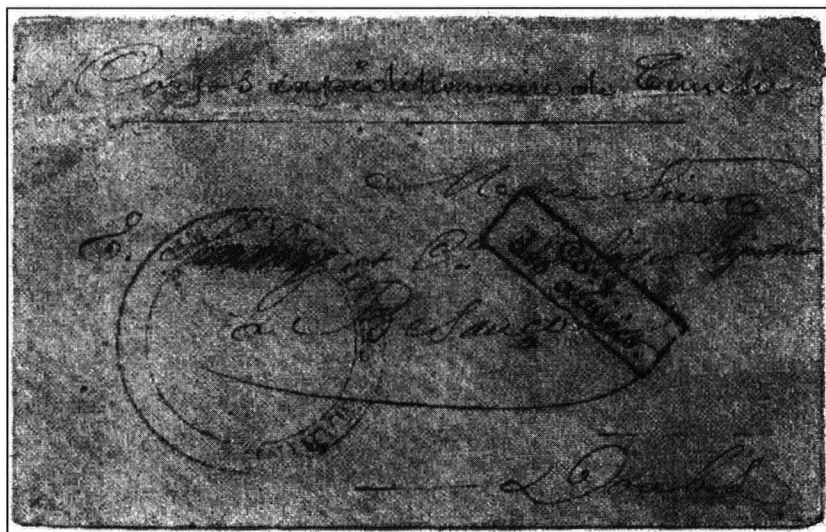


Figure 2.

Figure 3 is another free-franchise cover, but from the Tonkin expeditionary corps. It arrived in France 11 May 1885. Though this is my earliest Tonkin cover, we know of earlier ones bearing 1884 military date stamps (Waugh and



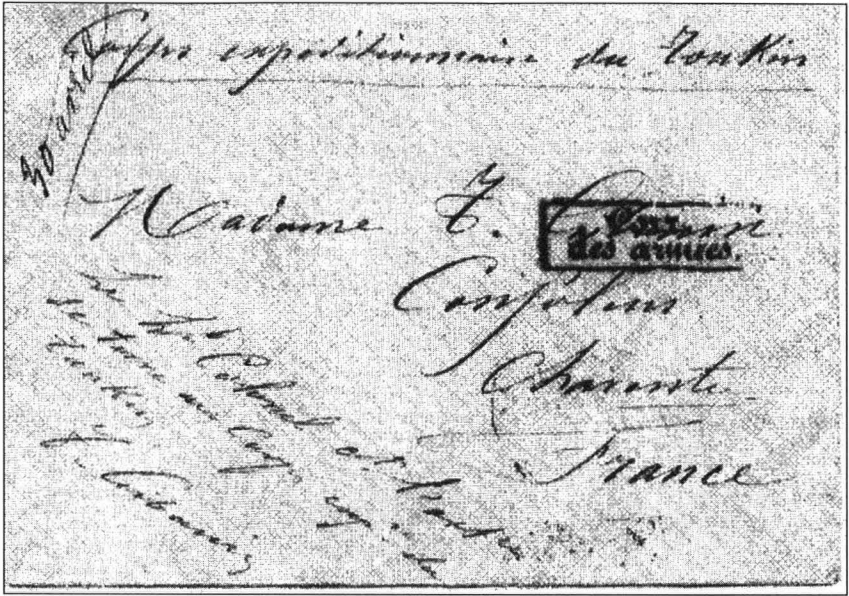


Figure 3.

Luft, p. 49). This indicates continued, although perhaps only occasional, use of the boxed marking, for well over a year, on outbound Tonkin mail.

Figure 4, my latest acquisition, is a lovely **stamped** cover bearing two strikes of the boxed **Corr. d'armées.** on a [First] Madagascar expeditionary

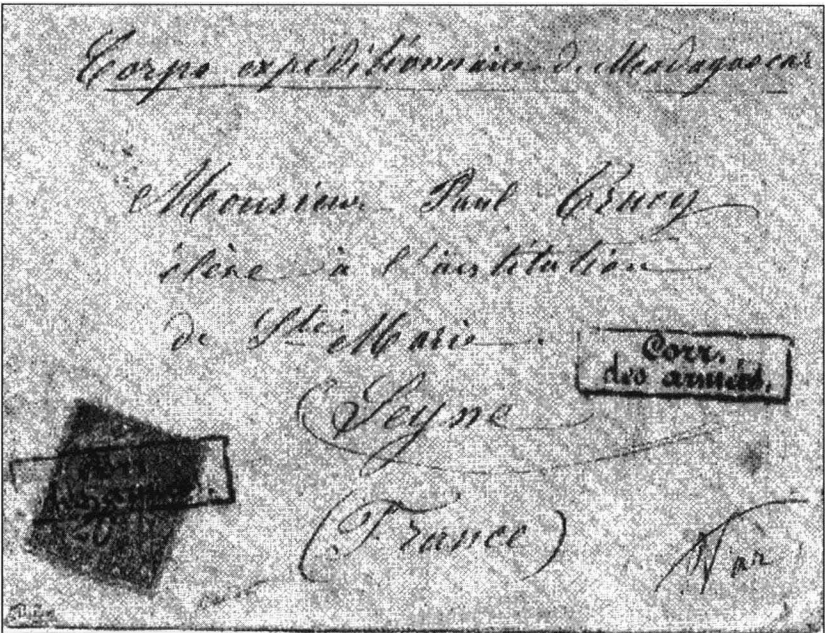


Figure 4.

corps cover, one of which ties a Colonies General Issues 20-centimes Alphée Dubois.

Why a postage stamp on a military cover? Because this one arrived in France on 1 July 1885, it must have left Madagascar before the free franchise became effective there by Decree of 24 June 1885<sup>3</sup>. And why a franchise marking on a pre-free franchise letter, unless the device was already in Madagascar awaiting the anticipated start of the franchise period, and so used prematurely to cancel the stamp? This would be likely only had such a device been sent to or accompanied the Madagascar expedition.

According to Waugh and Luft (p. 45), the boxed marking was also used before 1890 (*i.e.*, Galliéni's incursions into the west African interior) for the early Soudan expeditions. It may also exist on mail from other late 19th Century colonial expeditions.

The evidence from my three covers strongly supports Salles' contention that the marking was applied in France and specifically at Marseille, inasmuch as all campaign mail from Tunisia, Tonkin and Madagascar landed there. The Figures 2 and 3 covers were mailed months and more after campaign date stamps had arrived in, respectively, Tunisia and Tonkin; this would negate early usage only for the boxed marking. The 1885 Tonkin and Madagascar usages are far too close in time for the same device to have been used in both theaters. Therefore, either there were two (or even more--one per expedition) copies of the handstamp device at the respective departure points, or else just one at the French port of arrival.

The Figure 4 cover becomes the clincher. By the time this letter arrived in France, the First Madagascar expedition was entitled to the full franchise. It is far more reasonable to assume the marking was applied in France upon 1 July arrival than in Madagascar at some pre-franchise date, merely in anticipation that the free franchise would be forthcoming.

As a concluding comment, there's additional, albeit sketchy, information on the marking from a somewhat earlier study by Salles<sup>4</sup>. It appears that it was first applied in red on 1872-1876 stamped mail, then in black during 1881-1890 on non-franchise mail from the Far East and, also in black, during 1883-1890 on military franchise mail. Red markings on 1870s mail must be extremely rare, and I have yet to see one such cover offered. However, I'm in complete agreement with Salles' statement for the 1883-1890 period of military-franchise mail.

Photocopies of additional such covers, and general or specific comments, are highly appreciated.

## References

1. W. M. Waugh and S. J. Luft, *A Chronology of French Military Campaigns and Expeditions with their Postal Markings 1815-1883*, (1984).
2. in E. H. de Beaufond, *Catalogue des Oblitérations des Timbres de France 1876-1900...*, (1960), p. 218.
3. Raymond Salles, *La Poste Maritime Française, Tome VI: Les Paquebots de l'Océan Indien* (1968), p. 48.
4. \_\_\_\_\_, *Tome V: Les Paquebots de l'Extrême-Orient*, (1966), p. 60.

## ON DISTINGUISHING THE CERES-HEAD ISSUES OF THE CLASSIC PERIOD

by John E. Lievsay (FCPS #1008) and Stanley J. Luft (#915)

Recently JEL was shown a 40c Bordeaux and was asked whether it was correctly identified and how to distinguish it from other issues of France and the General Issues of the Colonies. This is pretty basic stuff, treated previously (FCP N° 200, April 1985, and in "First Issues" in *Philatelie à la Française*, 1991). SJL gets similar inquiries from new members, and the subject is worth reviewing.

The Cérès-head design was regularly issued (1) typographed and imperforate for the first issues of France, 1849-1852 and the General Issues of the Colonies, 1871-1876; (2) typographed and perforated for the France "Siege" and Cérès issues of 1870-1876; (3) lithographed and imperforate for the Bordeaux issue of 1870-1871. Typographed stamps commonly have partial to complete impressions of the design showing through on the back; lithographed ones do not. The curved lines within the triangular areas beyond the medallion of typographed stamps have



Figure 1. France 1849.



Figure 2. "Siege".

small dots between the lines (Figure 1). Impressions of the 1870s France and Colonies stamps tend to be coarser than those of the first issues (Figure 2). The curved lines beyond the medallion of Bordeaux stamps lack the dots and look more like curving bricks (Figure 3). The wheat sheaves extending above and left of head are shorter on the lithographed Bordeaux than on the typographed stamps. Furthermore, lithographed stamps tend to have a coarser appearance.

In a nutshell. Typographed, imperforate, dots between the lines, and generally fine

impression = France 1849-1852. Same, but perforate and generally less neatly printed = France 1870 "Siege" issue and 1871-1876 issues. Same, imperforate, with mixed quality of impression = Colonies 1871-1876 (*i.e.*, just like same time-period France, but imperforate). Lithographed, imperforate, curved "brickwork," shorter wheat sheaves, generally mediocre to poor impressions = Bordeaux 1870-1871.

Positive identification of Bordeaux stamps can be established by plating, using the charts in the Browns' 1981 book, still available from our Society. Shades are important in the Bordeaux issues. JEL prefers using the color plates in Serrane (1925), long out of print and expensive if you can find it. Bermejo & Brun use color strips that include shades of the Bordeaux and it is more readily available.



Figure 3. Bordeaux.

Distinguishing between the France First Issues and the Colonies can be challenging, in spite of the criteria given above. For used copies, cancels are of different styles and will generally positively identify the patient. They will also betray any perforated stamps that have been trimmed to pass for imperforate. Unused stamps are more difficult, and even experienced collectors can be stumped. Reference material can be helpful, both as to shades and to cancel types. Useful reference material includes the cheapest stamps in the issues as well as damaged copies. As a general test, shades of the first issues are darker (deeper) than the 1870-1876 stamps, and the Colonies issues will match the lighter shades of the perforated issues of France.

For completeness on the subject, other imperforate possibilities must be mentioned. The 1862 "Rowland Hill" special printings are in lighter shades than the First Issues and do not measure exactly the same. The 1887 Granet special printings fluoresce yellow. Proofs exist, some in the actual issued colors, usually on paper which is thinner or thicker than the issued stamps. Also remember that there are several forgeries, of which the work of Sperati is the most dangerous--see extracts in *Philatelie à la Française*. Finally, there's no substitute for experience and practice.

### References

Bermejo, G, and Brun, J. F., 1991(?), *Timbres de France - Couleurs et Nuances - Période Classique 1849-1900*; Imprimerie CBI, Brussels.

Brown, Ruth and Gardner, 1981, *The Bordeaux Issue of 1870-1871*; Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication No. 4, France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc., New York.

Lievsey, J. E., "Platers Corner," *FCP* N° 200, April 1985, p. 36.

id., editor, *Philatelie à la Française*, The Philatelic Foundation Seminar Series Textbook No. 2; The Philatelic Foundation, New York, 1991.

Serrane, Fernand, 1925, *Les Timbres-Poste de l'Emission de Bordeaux*; Brussels.

## Mers du Sud Revisited

Member Klerman Wanderley Lopes has kindly furnished a copy of one of his covers (much reduced here as Figure 3), which tells us more about the

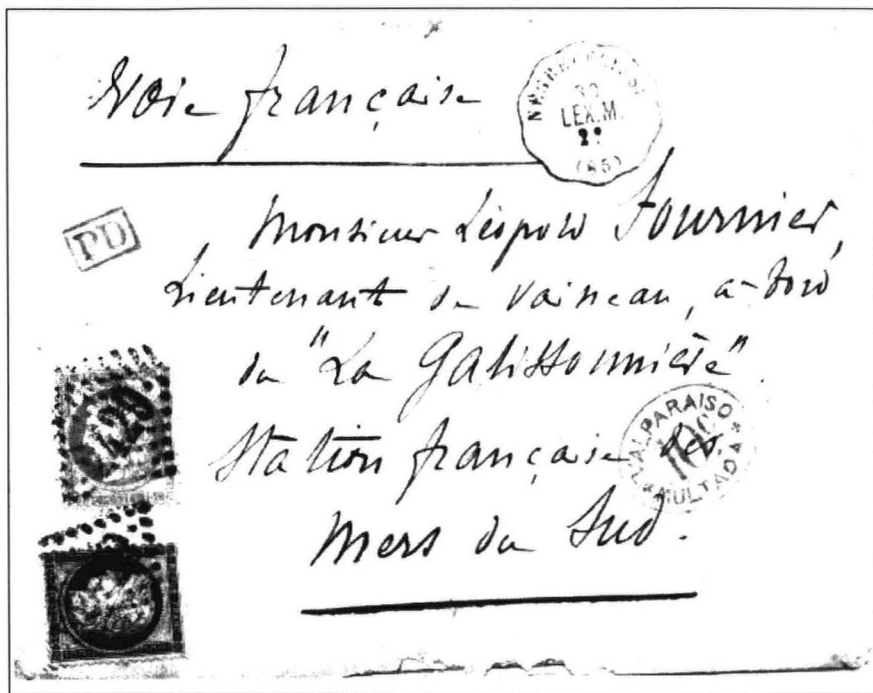


Figure 3.

voyages of First Lieutenant Léopold Fournier and his "*La Galissonnière*," after leaving the scene of the Figure 2 cover in our July 2003 issue (N° 273, pp. 83-84). The Figure 3 cover bears a very fine Négrepelisse *convoyeur* departure marking and 40c in perforated Cérès stamps, correctly cancelled by Montauban's GC 2429. Five French transit backstamps date its initial voyage as 30 January to 2 February 1875, or some months later than the Figure 2 cover. Leaving Le Havre on or after 2 February, we now have a destination for "*La Galissonnière*," namely Valparaiso, Chile, where the letter was taxed (oval, in red) 10c (Chilean) for underpayment, that in spite of the red boxed PD. Transit presumably was via the Straits of Magellan at a 1F rate (Alexandre, *et al*, p. 258). We have no idea as how this 10c tax was arrived at, with such an apparently major deficiency of postage.

If we really want to go overboard on being far-fetched, we might think that the sender might have applied the little-used 40c sailing-ship rate to the United States, shown by Alexandre, *et al* on page 275. But that's really stretching.

Dr. Lopes believes (and I semi-concur) the sender paid the 40c for a domestic-rate double-weight letter to a French-flag destination (the warship), which is how the French postal clerk who applied the PD marking saw it. Then why the Chilean tax, which certainly wasn't for any inland transit there?

Has any reader a more likely explanation for the 40c franking and especially for the 10c (in gold centimes?) tax?

### Reference

J.-P. Alexandre, *et al*, *Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969*, Editions Loisirs et Culture, Le Havre, 1982.

### Addendum

Later on (December 1876), Lieutenant Fournier and "La Galissonnière" were, or were expected at Ceylon (Figure 4, Lot 721 of the 486th Roumet Sale, January 2004; cover from France at 25c domestic rate). Philatelists should be grateful that Fournier evidently saved some or perhaps even all of his correspondence for posterity.



Figure 4.

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## SOME SHOW REPORTS

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(Continued from N° 275, January 2004, p. 19)

- OKPEX 2003 (Oklahoma City, November 2003): Vermeil medal to your editor for "Shipboard Markings of the 20th Century French Navy."
- CHICAGOPEX 2003 (Arlington Heights, IL, November): Gold medals to Eliot Landau and Paul Larsen for, respectively, U.S. Lincoln Memorial and Leeward Islands exhibits; Vermeil medals to Eliot Landau, Lewis Bussey and Roger Quinby for, respectively U.S. 5¢ Lincoln, U.S. 1¢ postal cards, and Finland postal cards exhibits; Silver medals to Paul Larsen and Steve Washburne for, respectively, Barbados and Portuguese postal card exhibits. What, all you FCPS members can't come up with a single F & C exhibit?? In the Literature Competition, our *France & Colonies Philatelist* received a Vermeil medal.
- APS AmeriStamp Expo 2004 (Norfolk, VA, January-February 2004): Single-frame Vermeil medals to John Bloor for "Georges Guynemer and the Guynemer Airmail Etiquette of France" and for another (non-French) exhibit; single-frame Silver-Bronze medal to Tom Broadhead for "Small Greetings from France." Multi-frame Vermeil medal to Steve Washburne for "Portuguese Christmas Postal Cards."
- SANDICAL 2004 (San Diego, February): Vermeil medals to Jeff Ward for "French Guiana and Inini Commemoratives" and single-frame "The Cayenne Design of French Guiana."
- ARIPEX 2004 (Mesa, AZ, February): Gold medals to Lewis Bussey for "French Naval Mail to America, 1943-1945," to Eliot Landau for "Postal History of the Ceres and Napoleon Issues of France and Colonies: 1849-1877," and to your Editor for "Alsace-Lorraine / Elsass-Lothringen, 1870 to UPU."



## AMAZING 1870/1871 WONDER STORIES--83

by Ernest M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

The 93rd SOLUPHIL sale of January 2002 had quite a few lots from the 1870 war, including a pseudo-balloon letter from Belfort and two manned balloon letters from Paris, both particularly noteworthy because of writers and recipients rather than the balloons themselves.

The Belfort cover and letter constitute **lot 533**. Front and back of the cover are shown in color here and in black-and-white on page 104 of the CENTEX catalogue (Fribourg, Switzerland, March 1970). When the Swiss commemorated the centenary of the war, the cover belonged to M. W. Liniger, then working at the Berne postal museum. The CENTEX description mentions the letter's Belfort date as 24 January 1871, whereas a partial picture of the letter in the SOLUPHIL catalogue clearly shows it as the 29<sup>th</sup>. The letter thus originated about one month after the only successful and last balloon left Belfort on 30 December. The text begins with "...I profit from a courier about to leave to quickly send these words..."

Yet in the upper left corner of the back of the cover, under the oval stamp of the Swiss fieldpost, dated 9 February 1871, is the following text in ink: "letters brought by a balloon, blue-white [striped] balloon from Belfort. To be sent FRANCO by the [post] office at Porrentruy." Indeed, the front carries the marking FRANCO and the Porrentruy cds of 10 February. There are no further postmarks, such as one from Châlon-sur-Saône, where the letter presumably arrived. With no balloon leaving Belfort after 30 December, and in view of the fact that the writer even mentions a courier, many of whom came from and went to Belfort without much problem. The notation on back of the cover must have been added later on (with a Montblanc fountain pen, as one joker told me). Raymond Pittier, who bought that Belfort correspondence from Liniger some years ago, also thought that that detailed explanation came later.

The Belfort balloons were striped blue and white, just like the Metz ones, after which they were patterned. An unused one is still shown in the museum at the fortress of Belfort. But would that fact have seemed worth mention by a Swiss soldier on fieldpost duty? And who told him that he could order the post office at Porrentruy to send this letter FRANCO? It is more likely that a faker added the 'explanations' for making the balloon story seem more authentic. Similar ex-post-facto false explanations are known for a 'packing slip' of *papillons de Metz* and for a faked cover with five 1901 Vineta provisionals. In both cases provably wrong details were in texts so as to make the fakes more convincing.

[Lot 533 was withdrawn from sale].

**Lot 479** is a *Gazette des Absents* No. 5, postmarked at Paris on 5 November, Genoa on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Nervi the 12<sup>th</sup>, and San Remo (all in Italy) on the 14<sup>th</sup>. It was thus probably taken on the balloon *Ville de Chateaudun*. None of this information is particularly unusual. What makes it so is the person to whom it was sent, the Baroness Nathaniel de Rothschild.

She was also the recipient of a letter, first postmarked at Charing Cross (London) on 22 October 1870, then Genoa 26<sup>th</sup>, Nervi 27<sup>th</sup>, and lastly San Remo 29<sup>th</sup>. This letter, however, did not leave by balloon but was taken in a US diplomatic pouch by British Lt.-Col. Robert James Loyd-Lindsay on his return from Paris (15<sup>th</sup>) to London (22<sup>nd</sup>), where he wrote his trip report on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Despite the slight difference in how both letters left Paris, they are closely related.

The last story involves **lot 478** and concerns two other balloon letters from besieged Paris, one by regular manned balloon, the other by one of a special series of private toy balloons, the *Ballons Gravilliers*, so called after the street whence they were released. They were the idea of Alfred Roseleur, a manufacturing chemist, whose wife Léonie had moved to Aubusson when the German armies approached Paris.

An amazing number of each series of his messages was still kept together when Count Edgar Huyghens de Beaufond mounted the collection of them in an album and annotated it, also publishing a brief description of that treasure in *Le Marcophile* for March 1947. Beaufond has thus done a great service to philately and may again aid later students, as he did me, to draw conclusions he never dreamed of and that would not have been possible without having this collection together.

Unfortunately, Beaufond did not look in the Paris address book, where he would have learned that Roseleur was not a military man but a civilian. Also, the state of knowledge concerning 1870/1871 siege mails was rather imperfect then, and a great deal has been learned since. Hence it is not so much his commentary but the mere fact that he preserved the correspondence together that is so valuable.

For example, the little collection contains four pairs of balloon letters and cards, each pair mailed together at the central Paris post office, the first on October 2, the last on October 17. In all four cases, the card arrived at a later date than the letter. This proves that cards, which cost half postage for France and Algiers, were separated from letters from the time they were authorized until October 16. In fact, all such cards, not mailed on the sole official balloon of September 30, had been kept at the Gare de l'Est till October 16. That was published but had been forgotten by postal history writers. Some even repeated the fable that the first Piper balloon carried bundles of such cards that were provided with bogus 'postmarks' *Trouvée à La Courneuve ...*, but only decades after the war. Another case where imaginary 'facts' helped unmask the bogus nature of a so-called official postmark.

The letter offered by SOLUPHIL is postmarked at Paris (60) on November 1 and arrived at Aubusson on the 4<sup>th</sup>, having been flown out on the balloon *Fulton*.

Though there are many holes in the collection, easily recognizable by missing dates and/or numbers, it is not clear whether missing letters were never written, never reached Aubusson, or might have been given away before Beaufond acquired the lot.

The SOLUPHIL (Beaufond) description says that this had been intended to be the 43<sup>rd</sup> *Ballon Gravilliers*. I have a collection of photocopies of Beaufond's album pages and what are probably all articles written about this correspondence, so I looked up the 43<sup>rd</sup> Gravilliers. Not only is it mentioned, its text is printed on page 94 and its outside shown in color on page 95 of Gérard Lhéritier's 1994 edition of *LES BALLONS MONTES* etc. To my surprise, it is dated "Paris le 1<sup>er</sup> Octobre 1870 - 3 H Soir." It was found near St. Xandre only on 11 November, whence it was sent via LaRoche to Aubusson. Clearly, *that* is the Gravilliers; the one in the 2002 auction was sent as described. But why the discrepancy between the dates of the two? Were they written exactly one month apart? Or did someone make a mistake in one date?

On pages 92/3 of the same book, the 41<sup>st</sup> *Gravilliers*' text is given and its picture shown. It is dated Sunday, 30 October. Furthermore, the text of the



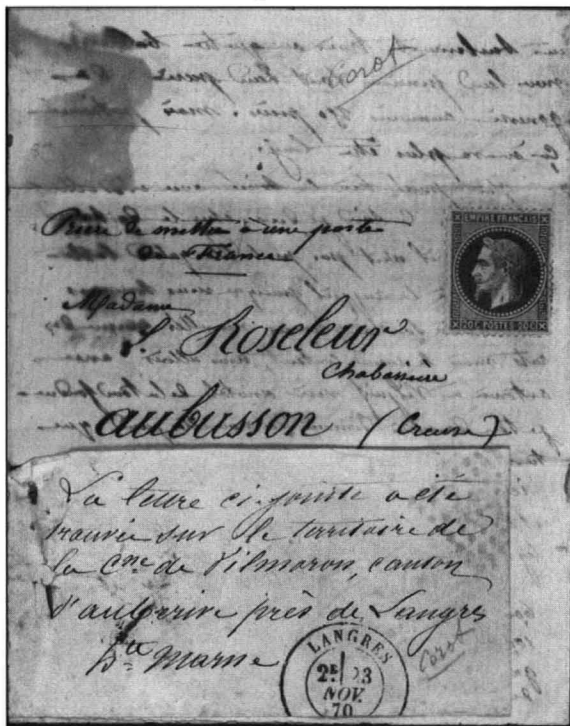
43<sup>rd</sup> starts: 'Yesterday arrived the bad news of the surrender of Metz...', which actually happened on 27 October. So the regular letter should have been dated 1 November, for both these reasons. But whose mistake was that? Roseleur's or that of the person who set the text of the book? Well, that question can be answered too:

The article by 'E.H.B.' in *Le Marcophile* No. 2 for March 1947 contains a page that illustrates two portions of *Gravilliers*, one showing the address side of the letter that went via St. Xandre. There is even a little portion of the text of that letter, showing the dateline 'Paris 1 8<sup>bre</sup> 1870 11 h matin', where that 8<sup>bre</sup> is the old-fashioned way of writing October. Clearly, Roseleur still had October in mind when it was already November. The person who transcribed the text for the book copied the mistake faithfully.

Catalogues of shows, sales, or otherwise can be very entertaining when photos and descriptions are studied carefully. In 2001 I gave a paper to a small group of postal historians on Applied Postal History, showing on hand of a dozen examples how one can uncover descriptive (deliberate?) errors, fakes, forgeries, and cinderellas sometimes without ever having seen the originals. Some expertizers don't want collectors to realize that, especially when they have signed such pieces. Two of my cases had been expertized by three expertizers each, 2 French and 4 German ones. Another one had been signed by two Italians.

When a Swiss expert phoned to accuse me of having exposed one item from its photo alone, I cheerfully admitted that and explained to him how one can do so even over the phone - i.e., without ever seeing a piece - provided only that it is a definite fraud or cinderella. One can never do that with something that may be genuine. In that particular case, I was shown the actual cover later on and discovered yet another reason for its being a fake...

The beauty of these (postal) history methods of examination, which some older philatelic experts simply don't (want to) understand, is that they also apply to souvenirs, cinderellas, and frauds that have nothing to do with postal history as such. The better you know postal history, the more entertaining are catalogues with pictures, if you just take the time to study them.



41st *Gravilliers* balloon, in which Roseleur mentions meeting the painter Corot.

## SOME NEW AND RECENT WEB SITES

An extremely detailed study of French, Colonial, Andorra and Monaco proofs, essays, etc., by Giorgio Leccese, is to be found at <http://www.dieproofs.I>. The English-language version is more than acceptable. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of all of Sig. Leccese's statements, but I certainly am impressed with his study. Check it out for yourselves!

Le Site des Entiers Postaux Français, at <http://mapage.noos.fr/entiersfr/mainsommaire.html>, should tell you all you'll ever want to know, and likely more, about French postal stationery.

And let's not forget the site of the Musée de la Poste, Paris: [http://www.la-poste.fr/musee/mu\\_corps.htm](http://www.la-poste.fr/musee/mu_corps.htm).

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## MEMBERS' APPEALS

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**WANTED:** 1924 Olympics issues from France, Lebanon and Syria: errors, varieties, perfins, unusual usages and stamps. Please send descriptions, photocopies, prices to Dale Lilljedahl, 4044 Williamsburg, Dallas, TX 75220; e-mail: [dalij@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dalij@sbcglobal.net) (Mb. #3312).

**OFFER:** Gabon envelopes with 5c Red Cross overprint (Higgins & Gage B8A), postally used (registered) to Switzerland, with correct postage; used 1918 or 1919 (similar to cover shown in Questions and Answers, page 56, this issue); at \$100 each. Alain Morvay, P.O. Box 48195, Los Angeles, CA 90048 (Mb. #3167).

**WANTED** for a projected study: photocopies of covers from France and elsewhere to or through the US, bearing **2nd DELIVERY** (and similar) US transit or arrival markings. Copies of fronts may suffice, with annotations of any pertinent backstamps. Will refund your copying and mailing costs. Dudley B. Thomas, 22 Cherokee Court East, Palm Coast, FL 32137-8938; e-mail: [ka8nny@bellsouth.net](mailto:ka8nny@bellsouth.net) (Mb. #3203).

## SOME ASPECTS OF FOREIGN MAILS DURING THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR OF 1870-1871. 2

by Robert I. Johnson (FCPS #2027)

*[Editor's Note: Mr. Johnson provided us with copies of several covers and his page writeups. I have used the latter to piece this contribution together as a serialization. The first installment was published (under a different title) in N° 274, October 2003, p. 114]*

The General Post Office in London gave notice on 8 August 1870 that, because of delay and interruption caused by the War to the route for mail to Switzerland, via Belgium and Germany, all mail for Switzerland would be sent exclusively through France. The rate for each half ounce was 5<sup>d</sup> prepaid and 10<sup>d</sup> unpaid.

After the Germans had advanced further into France, the route via Belgium and Germany was reopened, and a Notice to this effect was issued on 23 August 1870 (Figure 2).

No. 41.

## Mails for Switzerland.

Information having been received that the route to Switzerland via Belgium and Germany is now open, and free from interruption, letters for Switzerland will again be forwarded by that route, at the lower rate of postage of 3d. per half-ounce.

A Mail for Geneva, however, will continue to be made up for transmission via France, to include the correspondence for the Cantons of Geneva, Vaud, Valais and Friburg; and all letters, etc., addressed to places in those Cantons, and specially marked via France or paid at the higher rate of 5d. per half-ounce, will be forwarded in such Mail.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

23rd August, 1870.

Figure 2.



Figure 3. (reduced to 97%)

Figure 3 shows a prepaid cover from Switzerland to England, docketed "via France." Postmarked Lausanne, 22 August 1870, it arrived in London the very next day, that is, without any delay whatsoever! Inasmuch as Lausanne is in the Vaud Canton, it would have been transmitted via France regardless of any wartime conditions and restrictions.

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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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**Q. 04.2.** The 50c lined Sower with misspelled “Chausettes” tab was illustrated in N° 263, January 2001, p. 16. Cursory searches of the literature by Mick Bister, Stan Luft, and myself indicate that the error appears at the top of certain Type IIB (flat-plate) booklets and at both top and bottom of certain Type IV (rotary-press) booklets carrying the La Redoute ads. What I would like to know from other readers is (1) what was the earliest booklet date bearing this misspelling? (2) was it ever corrected and, if so, when? (3) has it been found in any Type IIA (rotary-press) booklet? Any and all information will be highly appreciated. (AL).

**A. 03.1.** AJM answers his own question, having now seen eight additional used copies of the Gabon surcharged envelope (H&G B8a). Most of these were sent registered to the same person in Switzerland at the correct 50c registered letter rate (Figure 1), and bear Libreville transit and Bern arrival backstamps. Genuinely used but still very much philatelically inspired, as no two bear the same additional required postage.



Figure 1.

## TYPES AND SUBTYPES

### 50c Paix of Laurens

**Type IA:** (early sheet stamps, including flat-plate and rotary-press F.M. overprints, stamps from early booklets, imprinted envelopes): shading below belt buckle consists of two nearly parallel lines; note shape of "c" of value.

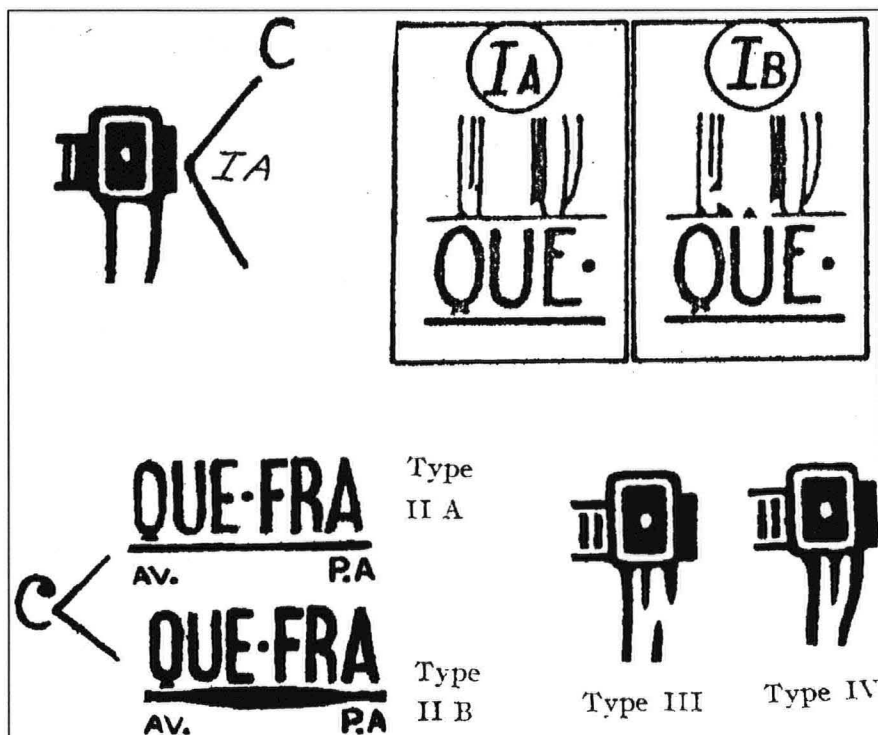
**Type IB** (commemorative and imprinted-to-order envelopes only): like IA, except that frame line above the U of REPUBLIQUE is broken.

**Type IIA** (some booklet stamps): like IA, except for shape of "c" of value.

**Type IIB** (all coil stamps and imprinted letter-cards): like IIA, but bottom line is thickened in the middle.

**Type III** (later sheet stamps, including rotary-press F.M. overprints, and last booklet stamps): shading below belt buckle consists of continuous line at left and broken lines at middle and right.

**Type IV** (booklet stamps partly overlapping in time with type III): shading below belt buckle as per Type I but with addition of a short third line in middle.



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## NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

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- *The James Bendon Listing of Philatelic Literature* (November 2003 ed.); free fr. James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 56484, 3307 Limasol, Cyprus; fax + 357.2563.2352; e-mail [books@JamesBendon.com](mailto:books@JamesBendon.com) (Philatelic literature, including some on French subjects).
- SPAL, the society devoted to postal history and postmarks of Alsace-Lorraine, has published a number of serious works on the above subjects; a self-addressed stamped legal-size envelope addressed to your Editor will bring you the priced list of titles and order form; orders to be sent prepaid to Alsace.
- *Les Relations de la France avec la Suisse*, (Part 1: Geneva 1660-1849), by Michèle Chauvet; 310 pp., 21 x 30 cm, illustrated; for price and shipping, inquire of Brun & Fils, 85 Galerie Beaujolais, Palais Royal, F-75001 Paris. VISA accepted. (Indefatigable Mme. Chauvet continues her highly documented studies of postal conventions between France and, this time, Geneva).
- *Faux & Truqués*, by Jean-François Brun; 136 pp., 16.5 x 25 cm, 30 illustrations; inquire of Brun & Fils (see above). (A reprinting of the book on fakes and forgeries; an English-language translation is still available from the American Philatelic Society).
- *Sabine de Gandon -- Historique des Poinçons de Service ou Transferts*; 18 euros (+ postage?), from Jean-Jacques Rabineau, 7 rue d'Anjou, F-03300 Cusset, France. (A detailed study of the various dies used in the production of the Sabines, including those for unissued stamps).
- The Association des Collectionneurs des Entiers Postaux (ACEP) is coming out (or has already?) with a new and improved catalogue of French postal stationery. Inquire of ACEP, at 20 av. D-Casanova, Boite Postale 25, F-91360 Villemoisson-sur-Orge, France.
- *La cote des coins datés et des millésimes 2004*; 67th edition; 130 pp., A5 format; 10 euros (+ postage beyond France?), published by SO CO CO DA MI; inquire of Jean-Claude Gagné, 18 rue Danielle-Casanova, F-77330 Ozoir-la-Ferrière, France.
- *Cours des carnets 2004*; 72 pp., published by the Association des Collectionneurs de Carnets et Publicitimbres (ACCP); detailed price list of all stamp booklets issued by France and the former Colonies; also single stamps off and on cover; 15 euros (+ postage?); inquire of ACCP, c/o M.G. Gomez, 13 rue Hardy, F-78000 Versailles, France.

## RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

As you surely have noticed, this issue has been increased by four pages, and so will the rest of our issues for 2004, thanks to a far-sighted decision of our Board of Directors. We hope that our income will allow for this to continue in 2005; January issues will remain at 32 pages, plus the annual Index.

Recent editorials in French philatelic periodicals, by Messrs. Abensur and Drye (both incidentally members of our Society), serve to remind me to remind our authors to check their facts, or "mere" opinions, prior to submitting a contributed article (or note). What we don't need are repetitions of past errors and of "old wives' tales." Member Ernst Cohn has been harping on this very subject over innumerable years. How about you? Please double check your own data and your information sources (referring to the latter fully in endnotes or footnotes). If you have trouble believing them, say so in print--and why so. Until now your editor has been almost always the only barrier

that may have kept you from making a fool of yourself in print. But I don't know it all, and I'm a mere dilettante when it comes to Colonial matters. For these last, I have on some occasions sent your manuscript to a specialist collector to obtain his comments (and more). I know I should be doing this more often, and plan to do so. The purpose of our articles should be, not only to bring varied collecting interests and possibilities to our members' attention, but also to clear the air of previous errors of fact and of incorrect assumptions and assertions. Thank you Robert Abensur and Hervé Drye!

In conjunction with the above, let's face it, it's terribly difficult for us in the Western Hemisphere (on anywhere except in Western Europe) to consult French archives in search for **primary** sources of information. Would our French, British (and other?) members inform us, through me, of active and useful Franco-Colonial historic and philatelic web sites, especially those of official archives and museums? Touts remerciements d'avance!

Several of our members (myself included) have published in other journals than this, our Society's one. I am asking them now to send me, at their convenience and if they so desire, their non-FCP bibliographies (on F & C subjects, of course), so that they can be made available to interested members. I would then publish, in these pages, authors' names and subject matter(s), and fill requests for such bibliographies. Again, thanks in advance, for the good of the order.

And now, a solid round of appreciation and a vote of thanks to our authors, who have educated us, beguiled us, perhaps even entertained us, over the years since I last remembered to bring this up. And another hearty round for our soon-to-be Past President, Dick Stevens, for his long, patient and distinguished service as President that dates way back to 1985.

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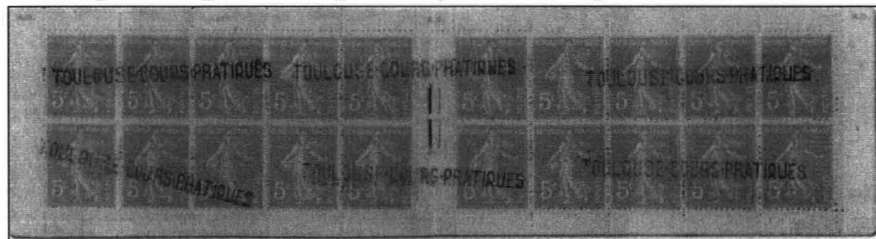
## FOR THE RECORD

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- **846.)** The Cérès catalogue lists an expensive booklet of 5c orange Sower stamps bearing handstamped overprints reading TOULOUSE - COURS



*Figure 1.*

PRATIQUES (Figure 1) -- allegedly for use at postal employees training centers. Gérard Gomez, president of the Association des Collectionneurs de Carnets et Publicitimbres, has stated in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* for December 2003 that this, and other "Cours Pratiques / Centre d'Instruction" markings on booklets are mere fabrications.

- **847.)** Ron Bentley has discovered a second type of the Indo-China 6c envelope's indicium (*The Indo-China Philatelist*, N° 160, November 2003). The original imprinted indicium is shown on the left of Figure 2; that envelope was issued in 1931. A proof of the second type was made in 1938, though regular printings of the second-type envelope may have come later; the imprinted indicium is shown on the right.



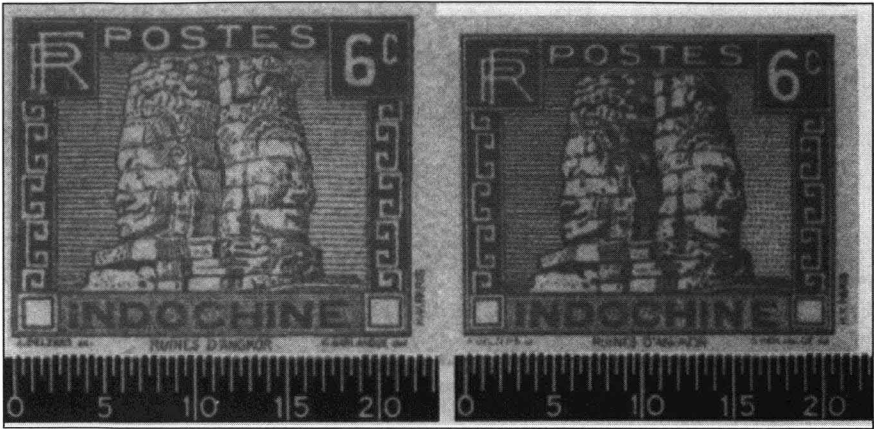


Figure 2.

Type I is just under 22 mm wide, whereas Type II is just under 21 mm wide. Type II's "6" is more rounded and, in examples seen, the color is deeper and more muddled. Ron's used examples of this second type date from 1942, and we would appreciate hearing from readers of earlier dates of use.

- **848.)** According to Stone (*French Colonies -- The General Issues*, 1961, p. 7) the 1c (and 5c) Eagles were not printed prior to September 1861 and not distributed to any colony until April 1862. The 10c (and 40c) values were the first to be made available to the Colonies, but probably did not reach Tahiti until September 1862, being placed on sale there 28 October 1862. However, these last values, available in several colonies from late July 1859 (Stone, p. 6), could have been brought to Tahiti by travelers.

Figures 3 and 4 bear identical socked-on-the-nose 1 FEVR. 1861 date stamps. The Figure 3 fragment, brought to our attention by Ed Grabowski,



Figure 3. 1c Eagle.



Figure 4. 10c Eagle.

sold on eBay for \$510 in November 2003 after spirited bidding, must therefore be spurious. The Figure 4 fragment, offered by Boule in his early December 2003 auction as Lot 2071, could theoretically be OK, but the close resemblance of the

date stamps leads one to believe otherwise. Alain Millet advises he has, on occasion, seen a number of these date stamps offered on the Rue Drouot, and considers them mere fabrications.

These items are not depicted in the Fournier Album of Philatelic Forgeries, and probably postdate his time and his work. On the other hand, and so as not to judge them unfairly, might these be "genuine" favor cancels, or some sort of official essays for the cancel?



- **849.)** After 136 years had passed, a special printing of eleven stamps has at long last been identified. Michel Melot (in *Timbres Magazine*, October 2003) reveals that these stamps were prepared for the Paris 1867 World Fair. According to contemporary documents, imperforate 4c and 30c values of the Lauré design were printed in other-than-their-issued colors (Figure 5) for the express purpose of being shown in frames to the public at this



Figure 5.

the same type of paper as the regularly issued stamps. Between five and twelve sheets of 300 stamps each were printed for this special purpose, with two sheets being retained by Hulot, master of the printing works. Those of us who have examples of these items will finally know their true purpose.

Additionally, special printings were made at the same time from the obsolete 25c Empire plate, in several colors in current use, but with "thin ink." These are true essays, printed in somewhat larger quantities than the exhibition special printings. The ink didn't take too well, and these essays were rejected.

A full set of all of the above was made specifically to accommodate Princess Charlotte, who apparently was a very astute collector.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

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- The "La Fayette" collection of Classic France tête-bêches, etc. -- mint, used, multiples, on cover -- the biggest and best holdings "anywhere" -- was sold in Paris at auction this past November. Considered the most important offering of French classics since the Ferrari sales of the 1920s, the material sold for a somewhat low total (versus estimates) of "only" US\$6.8 million (5.048 million euros) plus commissions. However, the prized unused tête-bêche block-of-four of the bright vermilion 1F Cérès (Figure 1) went for just under \$1.1 million (820,000 euros) (plus commission), the highest price ever achieved by a French item. Many other items went for record prices, setting new standards for catalog values. "La Fayette" is the pseudonym of one of our members.
- More modifications have appeared on French date stamps. Figure 2, dated 21 August 2003, has FRANCE instead of the department name, in this case Essone (Dept. N° 91).
- Red Cross ("+5") overprints on Colonial stamps, issued during the First World War, and showing doubled and triple overprints (one misplaced) (Figure 3), and inverted ones as well, are most likely the handiwork of one



Figure 1.

Jules Hermann, and therefore illegitimate (from *Bull. Col.Fra* N° 103, 2003).

- It has been stated, or at least alleged (*Timbres Magazine*, November 2003)

that some thousands copies of the Massoud stamp, issued 9-10 September 2003, were donated outright by the ministry in charge of La Poste to the Massoud Foundation, which is headed by a brother of Massoud. If this is so, then it surely opens the door to other private organizations.

- What's a poor, probably overworked and/or underpaid post office clerk to do about checking the postage on pre-stamped mail (usually received from a postbox) that is franked with old franc, new franc, semi-postal, and euro values, in any and all possible combinations? It is apparent (and from your editor's correspondence) that anything goes nowadays, inasmuch as the conversion from new francs alone, to euros, is pegged at an "easily" calculated 6.55957 francs to the euro. Even worse for revenue protection, we've received letters from France to the U.S. bearing only sufficient postage for the 2x and even the first weight band of French domestic mail.

- Poorly made République de Djibouti overprints, locally prepared in three formats, were added to 14 postage and four postage-due stamps of Afars and Issas, and appeared late June 1977. Quantities so overprinted are quite small (as little as 100 stamps); printing varieties abound (Figure 4). Covers are extremely rare, even philatelic ones. The stamps apparently are listed only in the Michel catalog. (Adapted from article by Guy Coudreau in *Timbres Magazine*, November 2003; M. Coudreau appears to be the recipient/owner of many or most extant covers...).

- The Marianne-Sower booklet, illustrated on p. 29 of N° 275, January 2004, had a press run of just 500,000 examples; very likely worth putting a few away. Furthermore, its Marianne de Luquet stamps have a clearer and finer appearance, from having been printed from soft steel dies, when compared with the sheet/booklet/coil stamps, that were computer-assisted printed. Presumably, they will be considered as a different die type.
- Current earliest date found for blue meter-postage imprints from France is now 10 October 2002. Who might have an earlier one? Bicolored ones (red and blue) seem to date only from 2003.

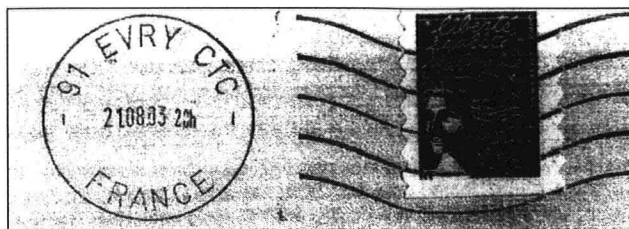


Figure 2.



Figure 3.

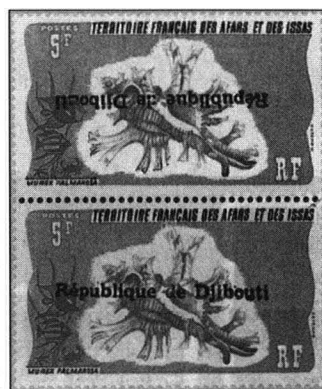


Figure 4.

- The TAAF “Gourmet” booklet (not to be confused with a stamp booklet (*carnet*) had a printing of 30,000 copies, sold at 17 euros apiece. Illustrated with TAAF stamps and pictures by their designers, the booklet’s pages hold interesting recipes. Though, for the life of me (and other critics), it’s difficult to visualize the Austral and Antarctic Territories as hotbeds of gourmet cuisine. Apparently, La Poste thinks so and hopes so.
- The 53rd Grand Prix for Philatelic Art for 2003 issues went, for France, to the Gardens of France sheetlet issued 27 (29) September and, for the DOM-TOMs, to TAAF’s 0,46€ Emperor Penguin, issued 1 January 2003.
- We can expect a new definitive series to replace the Marianne de Luquet, probably as early as January 2005. The Jacques Chirac presidency will hold an open competition (closing date, 15 March 2004) for a design on the theme of Marianne and the Environment and the Republic’s fundamental values. Apparently a tall order for a small-format engraved stamp.
- New recommendations from La Poste require there be no comma between the street number and name, that the five-digit postal code be eminently visible, and that sender’s address be on the back. This, of course, also affects those of us with correspondents in France and its overseas departments and territories.
- The second Portraits of Regions sheetlet, issued 20 September 2003, has been found with two examples of the *Mas provençal* stamp and none of the *Pont du Gard*. Might the reverse exist also?
- A sheet of the 0,02€ Marianne de Luquet has been found with phosphor bands at right, as well as at the normal left. [Press TD6-5, 04.07.03 date, first day of 9th press run].
- Algal growths of the genus *Ulva* have been choking Venetian waters. In partial remedy an Italian papermaker has produced quality pH-neutral paper that is made from recycled paper (50%) and Venetian algae (5%), the rest being chlorine-free wood pulp. Industry meeting the environment, and we’re all winners.
- The Director of the stamp printing works at Périgueux (ITVF) promises, for 2004 and beyond, the inauguration of new, more sophisticated multicolor presses and improved techniques for better color and perforation controls.
- We extend our deepest condolences to Ernst Cohn for the loss this last December of his dear and most gracious wife Doris, known to many in the hobby for her past attendance at many stamp shows.
- Our Regional Meeting at ARIPEX 2004 (in the Phoenix suburb of Mesa) was not as well attended as we had hoped, but quality people more than made up for the lack of quantity. First, we had two great judges. (Dave Herendeen [chief judge] and John Lievsay). And Ray McGarrity, who made the gathering possible, provided great support at the society’s only occasionally visited table. But great camaradery prevailed, both on and away from the show venue. Our three exhibiting members acquitted themselves well (nothing less than Gold!). (See “Some Show Reports” for the results). The Society’s medal went to non-member Melissa (Mrs. Dr. Gene) Scott, as the temporary “guardian” of Shirley Gallagher’s former “Postal History of Tahiti and French Polynesia.”

## NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 275, January 2004, p. 31)

### France

- 29 November (1 December) 2003: 0,50€ French 15th Cent. color print with Gallic Coq, and 0,90€ 19th Cent. Indian jewelry with peacock [joint issue with India]; same, in 7€ sheetlet with corresponding Indian stamps;
- 6 (8) December: UNESCO: 0,50€ Lapland reindeer and 0,75€ Church of the Resurrection (St. Petersburg, Russia);
- 12 (15) December: 0,50€ ship "Queen Mary II";
- 9 (12) January 2004: two Greetings stamps at 0,50€ each: "This is an invitation," and "Many Thanks"; two 5,00€ booklets of ten self-adhesives of "It's a Girl" and "It's a Boy" stamps; Valentine Day heart-shaped stamps: 0,50€ Chanel perfume bottle and 0,75€ woman and Eiffel Tower, and 2,50€ sheetlet of five of the 0,50€ value;
- 10 (12) January: 0,50€ Lille 2004 (this year's European cultural capital);
- 21 (23) January: 0,90€ 100th Death Anniv. of Auguste Bartholdi (and Statue of Liberty);
- 28 February (1 March): 0,50€ 800th Death Anniv. of Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine; The Colors of Marianne in Euros sheetlet of eight M. de Luquet stamps, at 6.89€.

**Withdrawals:** [all values expressed in euros = €] 12 December 2003: 0,50 Europa (Poster Art); 0,50 Fundamental rights of European Union; 0,50 aircraft carrier "Charles de Gaulle"; 0,75 Michaelangelo's *Dying Slaves*; 0,50 "Lucky Luke" booklet; the six sheetlets issued for the new Century.



### Andorra

- 1 December 2003: permanent-value coat-of-arms stamp; Legends: 0,75€ The Bagpiper (up a tree entertaining(?) wolves) and 0,90€ the Margineda Pine.

### French Austral and Antarctic Terrs. (TAAAF)

[all values expressed in euros = €]

- 1 January 2004: 0,15 chalcedony (mineral); 0,45 Mario Marret; 0,50 Col. Robert Genty; 0,50 40th Anniv. of Alfred Faure-Crozet base; 0,75 Peron dolphin; 0,90 Twin Otter plane over map of Antarctica (circular stamp); 1,30 iceberg; TAAFLand Leisure Park project 2,00€ block of four fanciful stamps at 0,50 each; 2,50 tomb of a



sailor of the "Volage"; local postal establishment 3,60€ sheetlet of four 0,90 stamps, simulating back of a cover, 4,00 krill; 4,50 "Dives" (three-masted steamer); 4,90 hydrographic surveys in Adélie Land (single stamp in corner of block representing bathymetric map).

### French Polynesia

- 1 October 2003: 60F flag of French Polynesia; 100F Tiki god;
- 6 November: 60F (x two) aerial views of Bora-Bora;
- 6 December: 190F Tiki carvings;
- 19 December: Polynesian landscapes.



**Mayotte** [all values expressed in euros = €]

- 8 September 2003: 0,45 Mtzamboro College;
- 0,82 Ziyara de Pole;
- 17 November: 0,50 basketball: 1,50 Dzaoudzi Rock;
- 5 January 2004: 0,50 the Wadaha (women at work).



**Withdrawals:** 12 December: 0,46 MAYOTTE overprint on Euro stamp; 0,46 flowers; 0,46 GSMA; 0,79 Dziani Dzaha Lake; 0,82 fruits; 1,25 La roussette; 1,52 Mayotte post office; 3,05 Dzaoudzi aero-club.

**Monaco** [all values expressed in euros = €]

- 15 December 2003: 0,50 Monacophil 2004; 0,70 28th Intl. Circus Festival;
- 5 January 2004: 0,75 100th Anniv. of Beausoleil town; 1700th Anniv. of Ste. Devote; 0,50 0,75, 0,90, 1,40;
- 29 January: 1,10 Sixth Cancer convention.

### New Caledonia

- 9 October 2003: 135F Painters of the Pacific (Tatin d'Avesnières);
- 24 October: World Cup Soccer overprint on 200F tortoise-shaped sheetlet of four stamps of April 2002;
- 6 November: 100F Owen Island landscape; 100F Noël 2003 cartoon characters.

**St. Pierre & Miquelon** [all values expressed in euros = €]

- 30 October 2003: 0,50 Anniv. of Lions Club of the islands; 0,50 strawberry preserves from Langlade;
- 7 November: 0,90 wreck of the "l'Afrique" in 1912;
- 15 January 2004: 0,50 Joseph Lehuenen;
- 11 February: Dolphins 0,50 and 1,08;
- 10 March: 0,75 artist's rendition of Rodrigue Bay;
- 7 April: 0,90 the Olivier farm.



**Withdrawals:** 12 December 2003: 0,26 and 0,30 mending nets; 0,46 SPM overprint on Euro stamp and same on 4,60 booklet; 0,46 and 0,87 seals;

0,58 apples of the meadow; 0,79 Laranaga farm; 1,00 the Archipelago and euro; 2,50 monk puffin.

### Wallis & Futuna

- 6 November 2003: 250F *Parinari insularum* (perfumed fruit) [Autumn Philatelic Salon, Paris]




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## F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

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### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I expect this to be my last President's Letter. Shortly after you receive this journal, the Society will hold its Annual Meeting, and Dave Herendeen will be elected the new President of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society. I believe this will open a new era in the history of our Society. This Society was organized in 1941 as a group based in New York City. Particularly during the tenure of Robert G. Stone as Editor of the *Philatelist*, the membership of the Society became truly national, even international. Except for the production of the *Philatelist*, the official administration of the Society has remained based in New York City. With the coming election of a President who is not from the Northeastern United States, the Society will be continuing the transition to a truly national organization. I want to extend my heartiest congratulations to my successor, and extend to him my full support and cooperation.

As I complete nineteen years as President of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, I want to recognize and thank all those who have served as Officers and Directors during that time. Foremost, I want to recognize the outstanding work of the editors of this journal: Robert G. Stone (deceased) and Stanley J. Luft. The Editor is truly the most important person in this Society, and the one who does the most work. Next I wish to thank those men who have been members of the Board throughout my term, and, in most cases, for much longer: Dr. Edward J.J. Grabowski, John E. Lievsay, Marc W. Martin, Walter E. Parshall, Dr. Martin F. Stempien, Jr., and William W. Wallis. Finally, I want to acknowledge the contributions of three outstanding Board members who have passed on during my term as President: Miss Beatrice Berner, Eric Spiegel, and Ira Zweifach.

I now wish you all "Adieu."

Richard M. Stevens

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC CASH FLOW**  
**1/1/03 THROUGH 12/31/03**

**INFLOWS**

Donation - Income .....40.00

Dues-Income:

2003 .....7,577.50

**TOTAL Dues-Income** .....7,577.50

Int. Inc. ....325.90

Publications

Back Issues.....100.10

Bordeaux .....60.00

Commune .....96.00

General Issues .....9.00

Glossary .....28.00

Index.....30.00

Lozenges .....19.00

Luft III .....5.00

Transport Marks .....25.00

**TOTAL Publications**.....372.10

**TOTAL INFLOWS**.....8,315.50

**OUTFLOWS**

Linn's Ad .....344.00

Philatelist:

Editor .....300.49

Labels .....143.91

Magazine .....7,320.02

**TOTAL Philatelist** .....7,764.42

Secretary:

Corresponding .....618.72

Recording .....13.89

**TOTAL Secretary** .....632.61

Treasurer .....37.00

**TOTAL OUTFLOWS**.....8,778.03

**OVERALL TOTAL** .....-462.53

**ASSETS (As of 12/31/03)**

Cash and Bank Accounts

F&C Saving .....21,777.90

F&C Cash .....0.00

F&C Checking .....4,466.77

**TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts** .....26,244.67

**TOTAL ASSETS** .....26,244.67

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY****LIABILITIES**

Other Liabilities

Prepaid Dues .....5,286.40

Spiegel Fund .....1,242.29

Vaurie Fund .....19,522.23



<b>TOTAL Other Liabilities</b> .....	26,050.92
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b> .....	26,050.92
<b>EQUITY</b> .....	193.75
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b> .....	26,244.67

Respectfully submitted, William W. Wallis, Treasurer.....February 20,2004

### **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2003**

Total Membership as of January 1, 2003: .....	524
Total New Members for the Year of 2003: ....	23
Total Reinstatements for the Year 2003: .....	10
	33
Resignations Received for the Year 2003: .....	14
Total Members Deceased in the Year 2003: .....	2
Members Dropped for Non Payment of Dues, 2003: .....	37
	53
Net Membership Gain for the Year of 2003: .....	0
Net Membership Loss of the Year of 2003: .....	30
Total Membership as of December 31, 2003: .....	494

### **NEW MEMBERS**

- 3317 GIBSON, NELSON, 201 Millwood Road, Abbeville, SC 29620-1553.  
(Cancels and Postal History: Annam & Tonkin, Cochinchina, Literature).
- 3318 ZIBI, FRANK, 85 Rue Saint Maur, F-75011 Paris, France. (General Collector: 19th Century. General France: Mint - Used. Regular Issues: Classics 1849-1876: Used - On Cover. 1870-1871 Issues. Dues).
- 3319 STANDEN, JACK C., 310 Roosevelt Ave., Elyria, OH 44035. (Stampless Covers).

### **ADDRESS CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS**

- 1363 HUSSEY, JON A., 760 Pineview Drive, Zionsville, IN 46077.
- 2991 SHARTSIS, JACK M., 12923 Lincoln Drive, Huntington Woods, 48070-1439.
- 3279 REDIGER, LOUIS A., 1024 Diane Ct., Springfield, IL 62702-3582.
- 1829 MASSLER, JEROLD M., 4881 Griffin Rd., Apt. 106, Dover, FL 33314.

### **RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED**

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2336 WORKER, JOHN R.       | 3294 BAEHR, GEORGE W.      |
| 1242 SWEETING, RICHARD J.  | 2938 NORDSTROM, BILL       |
| 3191 UTTER, CHRISTOPHER G. | 1286 SEREBRAKIAN, S., INC. |

### **DECEASED**

- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 602 SEIBERT, HENRI C. | 2347 RIVERS, WILLIAM WARREN |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|

### **DROPPED FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES**

Robert W. Steele; Roy C. Adams; John Benway; Carl W. Bieberdroff; Thomas W. Broadhead; Bruce Brunell; Lewis E. Bussey; Henry Chandla; John Coleman; Richard A. Collier; Charles Jarvis; Jerrold Massler; Stephen J. Powers; John L. Purvis; Robert McNichols; Pierre Stephen; Jack Urish; Bob Beaune; Douglas M. Casey; Jean-Philippe Desjeunes; Frederic Angleviel; Jean-François Baudot; Jean François Gibot; Hiro Nemoto; Maurice Katz; Dr. Walter Tuchman.