



# France & Colonies Philatelist



Vermeil Medals at CHICAGOPEX 2003 and NAEPEX 2004



Registered cover (25c postage + 25c registry, at UPU rate) from Madagascar (30 Sept. 1892) to **Barbados**, franked with typeset 25c stamps of 1891. Traveled via French packet Line T (17 October) and London (3 November) en route to this most unusual destination. (EJG coll.) (picture is slightly reduced).

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## POSTAL ISSUES OF THE 1925 PARIS DECORATIVE ARTS EXPOSITION. II -- "LE POTIER"

by Thomas W. Broadhead (FCPS #2830)

The first postal issue to commemorate the Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes originally was "*le potier modelant un vase*" [potter forming a vase!] (Figure 1), the winning entry in the juried competition held 17 May - 10 June, 1924. The competitive nature of the selection of French stamp designs was noted in *The New York Times*, which reported that "...three of the four awards were won by M. E. Becker, a French artist. The design of the stamp already issued won first prize, 4,000 francs."<sup>2</sup>



Figure 1. Edmond Becker's award winning design for the first stamp to commemorate the Decorative Arts Exposition, shown enlarged.

Edmond Becker is also known for designing the 1924 Olympic issue and for his work with medals;<sup>3</sup> his design was executed by the well known engraver Abel Mignon<sup>4</sup>. Both had overcome the concerns raised previously that the slogan text of the stamp was excessively long and would detract from the design. The result was an abbreviated title - "EXPOSITION INTERNATIONALE DES ARTS DÉCORATIFS MODERNES," which combined with "POSTES - FRANCE" and the value for a total of 63 characters. Not considered a part of this issue was the subtext of the design - designer's and engraver's names.

The overly optimistic 1 October issue date had been abandoned in favor of 22 December, but then moved back to 8 December - still nearly five months prior to the Exposition's opening. Partly the postponement was due to delay in the juried competition and to the fact that the engraver, Mignon, had only delivered the original die to the Atelier de Timbres Poste on 7 October (noted in letter of 20 October to the Subsecretary of State from the Director for Postal Works). The Exposition issues were to be removed from sale on 31 October, the intended closing date for the Exposition, and demonetized after 31 December, 1925 (*ibid*, letter of 20 October).

Originally, the plan was to utilize Becker's design for all postal issues commemorating the Exposition. Printing quantities, extrapolated from the numbers of the shorter-duration Olympic issue, were to be: 10c - 30 million, 15c - 30 million, 25c - 200 million (domestic letter rate), 75c - 20 million (foreign letter rate), 45c postal card (international rate) - 50,000 (*ibid.*, letter of 20 October).

A 29 October letter of reassurance from the Director to Exposition Commissioner General, Fernand David, reiterated the plan to place the first issue of stamps on sale 8 December, despite the delays in design and color selection. He also mentioned a Committee of the Exposition having suggested additional designs for the 25c and 75c denominations, then being produced with Becker's "Le Potier" design. The 60 million 25c and 15 million 75c stamps produced in the first printing were considered to be sufficient for two or three

months following their issue, but he was concerned about the time necessary to produce stamps of other designs. Moreover, he asked if the 10c, 15c, and 45c postal card would be in the Potier design, or another type.

When the Potier stamps appeared on 8 December, 1924, reaction in the philatelic press was mixed: the initial design was complimented as a "refreshing change" that did "honor to the artist who conceived and executed its design."<sup>5</sup> However, the quality of printing was criticized as "not done at the same level as the engraving."<sup>6</sup> In fact, none of the Arts Décoratifs stamps possess the fine shading and subtle detail that characterized 19<sup>th</sup> century French issues or the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Blanc and Semeuse lignée.

## Production

The stamps and postal card were all printed by two-color typography on flat-plate presses, as were the 1924 Olympic issues and the Merson definitives in use since December 1900. Stamps were printed on white wove paper, and the layout was six panes of twenty-five stamps each. The sheets of 150 contained three panes at the right side, oriented *tête-bêche* with respect to three at the left. This arrangement was produced by two press impressions, between which the sheet of paper was rotated 180° - "*en aile de moulin*" or "windmill."<sup>7</sup>

Marginal features of each half sheet of three panes, totaling 75 stamps included the perforated arc between two diamonds used as a control on paper, a point of color at the top and color cross at the bottom for perforator alignment, and a printed code of letters and numerals at the bottom of the sheet that included the letter indicating the operator of the press, a four-digit day and month date of printing, and the number of the printing press.<sup>8</sup> (Figure 2).

Sheets were perforated using a comb-style perforator that advanced down the sheet, perforating the lower selvage, but not the upper selvage. Perforation spacing was 14 horizontally and 13½ vertically.

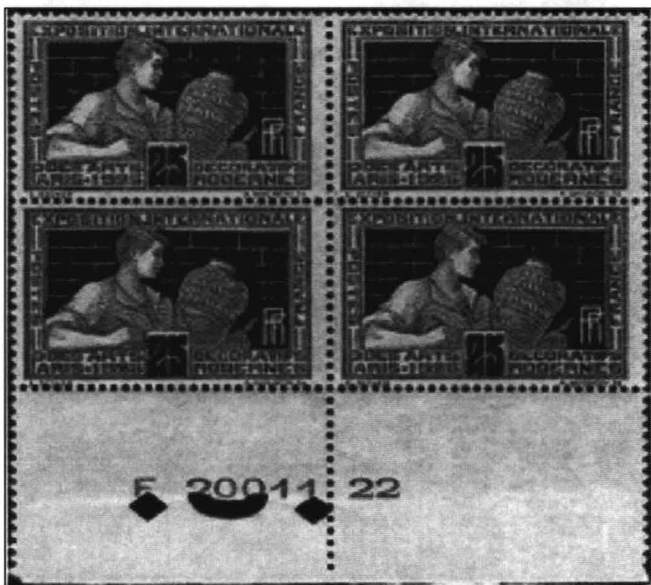


Figure 2. Inscription block from lowest pane in sheet. Printing date - 20011 indicates 20 November, a part of the initial printing. Lower left stamp has "thick numeral" variety.

## Proofs and Essays

The 25c Potier appears on proof sheets with unadopted designs, and as





typographed, engraved and heliogravure

Figure 3. Engraved (l) and heliogravure (r) proofs. Both methods were rejected in favor of more cost-effective and logistically convenient typography. The engraved proof shows a subtly vertical lined background in each block.

proofs (Figure 3). The last two printing methods had been proposed but rejected due to cost and availability of suitable printing equipment; Melot suggests that many of those were produced *a posteriori*,<sup>9</sup> rather than as advance proofs. A large (279 mm 224 mm) collective proof sheet includes all designs and denominations, including the 45c used only on the postal card (Figure 4). An essay for a message-reply postal card with the 25c Potier in blue on yellow card is reported by Storch and Françon.<sup>10</sup>



Figure 4. Collective proof sheet, showing all issues and denominations of the Decorative Arts series. (reduced)

The Chambon rotary press, which had been used since 1922<sup>11</sup> and which automatically printed, perforated, and cut sheets of stamps, was not used for the Exposition stamps. Plates of the 25c Potier design, however, were adapted to the Chambon press in 1936 for the experimental printing of bicolor essays.<sup>12</sup> (Figure 5).

## Varieties

Each of the Arts Décoratifs Exposition issues exhibits a stunning uniformity in design, which has largely defied efforts to recognize consistent variations. Thus, reported varieties have been those related to printing, and not to execution of the printing plates. Varieties listed by Wanos<sup>13</sup> that

require further investigation are the reported horizontal break in the "2" of the value (not seen) and thickened numerals in the value of the 25c (see Figure 2). His reported absence of the engraver's name is most likely due to a worn plate (Figure 6).



Figure 5. Chambon rotary press essay of 1936 showing selva markings typical of rotary press typography. Colors include: lilac and brown, blue and ultramarine, green and red, and ultramarine and red.



Figure 6. Partial imprint of engraver's name at right, due to worn plate.

A heretofore unreported constant variety, however, does exist in the form of a small dot of color above the "R" in "ARTS" in the lower frame (Figure 7). In a



Figure 7. A newly recognized constant variety is the color dot above "R" of "ARTS" characteristic of upper rows in each pane, but absent from lower rows.

partial sheet of the 75c, including two complete panes of 25 stamps, this feature is highly characteristic of all five stamps in the top row, present in varying degrees in all stamps of the second row, and present in varying degrees in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> stamps of the third row. It is entirely absent in the first two stamps of the third row and in all stamps of the fourth and fifth rows. Individual stamps exhibit this trait in approximate equal numbers to those that lack it, suggesting that it is overall a consistent character in both values.

Color varieties are numerous in both denominations and are particularly evident as contrasts between the frame and background (Figure 8). Dubost's note<sup>14</sup>



Figure 8. Contrasting frame and background shades.

that there are "marked differences in shades between this center and the value figures in certain copies" has not been observed and is surprising in light of the fact that the background of the center and the numerals of the value were printed simultaneously. Earlier listed shades<sup>14</sup> for the 25c include violet and lilac brown, with variants: violet and bright violet, bright violet and brown lilac,

bright lilac and dark brown lilac; earlier,<sup>15</sup> only violet brown and lilac had been listed, with a single color variety - pale violet and dark brown red. The 75c is dominantly gray-blue and ultramarine, with variants: pale gray blue and ultramarine, blue gray and bright ultramarine, slate and ultramarine,<sup>15</sup> but more recently listed as gray blue and ultramarine, without variants.<sup>16</sup> Overall, attributed colors are imprecise and perhaps even gradational; a correlation between shades and printings will require extensive collection and study of imprint blocks. Unusually bizarre color varieties are reported by Wanos (1975) to include the 25c with colors reversed and the 75c in a pair with differing background shades,<sup>13</sup> but those do not appear in other catalogs.



*(to be concluded in next issue)*

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## MEMBERS' APPEALS

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WANTED: Perfins of France and Colonies, off cover. Will trade or buy. Gilbert Loisel, 13 rue des Sources, Le Grand Vau, F-89500 Villeneuve-sur-Yonne, France. E-mail: gilbert.loisel@worldonline.fr (Mb. #877).

## A PIERRAIS SOLDIER WRITES HOME (1944-1945)

by David J. Allen (FCPS N° #3005)

The young men (and several young women) of the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon left to join the Free French forces in two waves. Initially, many slipped away during the period when Vichy-supporting Governor de Bournat administered the islands. Free French military were landed in St. Pierre on December 24, 1941. After the plebiscite of December 25, 1941, conducted by Free French naval forces, some 44 Pierrais volunteered to serve with the Free French. In the period January 1942 to December 1943 there were very few volunteers. On an average, about two people volunteered for service per month, despite encouragement by the new regime. In December 1943 a general mobilization order was promulgated, calling up all men of military age. Those affected were obligated to register for service and to be ready to leave the islands for active military service as soon as transportation was available. Conscription was never popular with islanders, and agitation by those opposed to this order exploded in a January 6, 1944 demonstration in front of the Administrator's office. The next few days saw a tense atmosphere develop. This was contained by the administration and, by January 10 the instigator of the troubles, a Captain Dilfoy, agreed to sign a document recommending that the mobilization order be obeyed. On January 21, the mobilized contingent left St. Pierre aboard the Canadian troopship "*Lady Rodney*" for the war.

At the time, there were two factions representing the Free French movement worldwide; one run from London by General de Gaulle and the North African faction controlled by General Giraud. An internal power struggle took place, with the de Gaulle faction eventually triumphant. French forces were instrumental in wresting Libya and retaking Tunisia from Axis control, and as the free French organization won effective control over Morocco and Algeria, other colonies rallied to de Gaulle's side. In this grand scheme of events St. Pierre soldiers found themselves in many far-flung places.

In my collection I have two covers sent by islander Maurice Derrible to his wife and widowed mother. It is amazing that these letters were able to make the journey from North Africa to St. Pierre, given the distances involved and the circumstances of the times. France was about to be liberated and the troops were deployed to ever changing theatres.

The first letter was sent by Maurice Derrible to his mother from Casablanca in July 1944. It has Moroccan stamps affixed (Figure 1) and the letters "F.M." (Franchise militaire) are written at the top right. The company quartermaster had affixed the company's identifying cachet in lower left. The letter is simply addressed to *St. Pierre via Canada*. It traveled at least partly through the U.S. military system as shown by the U.S. censorship tape *Censor 60031*. The letter arrived at St. Pierre in October 1944 as evidenced by the receiving postmark on the front. There is also a faint French censorship mark and evidence of it having been opened by French censors.

The second letter is franked with 6F in French stamps (three x 2F Iris issue) (Figure 2) and has a clear *Poste aux Armées N° 519* postmark, dated March 17, 1945. It is registered, and a blank registration label stamped with the words *Secteur postal N° 519* has been affixed. The airmail instructions have been crossed out in blue pencil. This time there is no indication of the soldier's whereabouts, just that it came from *Maurice Derrible aux armées*. Again, the letter traveled via the United States and there are back stamps to show its arrival in New York City on May 12, 1945 and transit via Boston of May 14; however there is no arrival mark from St. Pierre. By this time censorship had been eliminated on mail coming from France to St. Pierre, and it is most likely that the

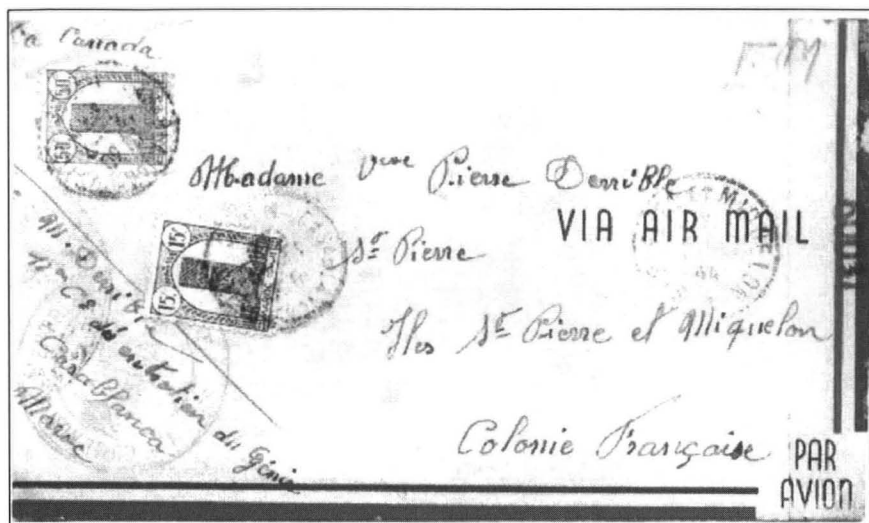


Figure 1. (reduced to 77%)



Figure 2. (reduced to 77%)

letter came from mainland France, now largely liberated, for our correspondent had been serving on the mainland prior to his repatriation to St. Pierre. Nevertheless, I still wanted to learn more about the sender.

Soon after preparing this article I received a newly published book by Gerard Rio entitled "Le Contingent St-Pierrais et Miquelonnais." Sure enough, our Maurice Derrible appears in the book. He was attached to the 12<sup>th</sup> Company of Maintenance Engineers, whose job was to maintain and repair the military hardware used in the advance through France. The soldiers had been shipped by rail from Halifax to Montreal, New York and then to Camp Patrick Henry at Norfolk, Virginia. From there they were transported to Tunisia and then by rail cars to Morocco for training. From there, they followed the armies that had liberated southern France. The advance of the French forces was very rapid and

the contingent followed the Rhone Valley north towards Colmar and then Strasbourg. After the defeat of Germany they were based in Lindau where they occupied their time, with leave breaks in France, until the time for repatriation. This took place in mid-September 1945, when they were transported by the liberty ship "*Oregon*" back to the islands. I am indebted to Mr. Rio's book for the detailed story of the contingent's movements, which help to fill out the details of the covers that have a treasured place in my collection.

[Notes added in proof: The 15F50 Moroccan postage on the Figure 1 cover **probably** represents free military franchise + an undetermined airmail surtax; the French postage on the Figure 2 cover **should** have been 4F (free franchise + 4F registry, France to colonies and dependencies) rather than 6F. Can someone help? Postal sector 519 was assigned to the First French Armored Division--Editor].

## SENEGAL - DATING A WORLD WAR II COVER

by Bill Mitchell (FCPS #715)

(of the Colonies Airmail Rates Study Group)

In response to our editor's request for something interesting from our albums for the pages of the *Philatelist* I can contribute an inexpensive cover from Senegal which has given me a lot of fun since I acquired it not so long ago (Figure 1).

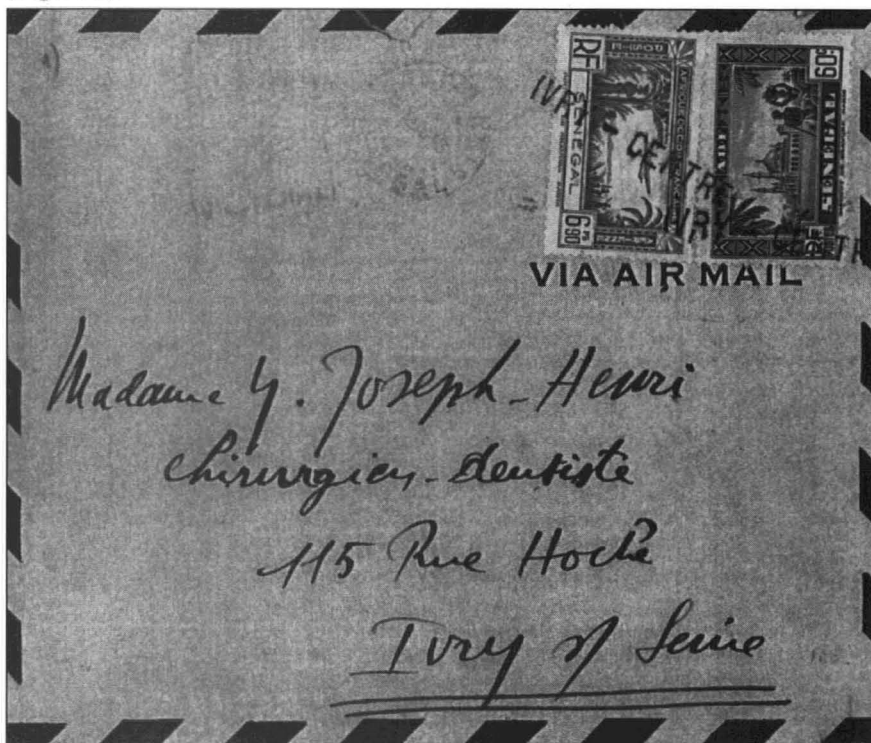


Figure 1. (reduced to 77%)

The most obvious point of interest about it is the use of the *cachet de service* of the post office at its destination (Ivry-sur-Seine, a suburb of Paris) to cancel



the stamps, which had escaped cancelling at the point of departure. But there is more to it than that. When was it posted, was the 7.50 francs franking correct and, if so, how was it arrived at? I have found the answers to these questions after much juggling with various possibilities.

The vendor ascribed it to 1950. I was doubtful about this for two reasons. A 1950 date seems late for the use of Senegal stamps, which had gradually been replaced by those of French West Africa (AOF) from 1943,<sup>1</sup> and the franking was inadequate for air mail to France at this date. I have no documentary evidence of AOF postage rates at this time, but the going rate a few years earlier (1948) seems, from covers in my possession, to have been 12 francs for a first-step air mail letter.

To the left of the stamps is a faint strike in violet of a Daguin slogan cancel of Saint Louis. The date 3 (or possibly 8) MARS can just be made out, but no year slug is apparent. There is neither arrival cachet nor endorsement by the recipient on the back of the envelope, so its precise date can only be determined by a bit of reading. The letter was not censored, but it cannot be dated to before World War II because the 6.90 francs air stamp was not issued until 1940 (Gibbons says on 8 February). So I tried 1946, but this does not fit. For a weight not exceeding 20 gms the charge was the sum of the basic letter rate and the air mail surtax of  $x$  francs per 5 gms.<sup>2</sup> On both 3 and 8 March 1946 the former was 2 francs;<sup>3</sup> this would leave 5.50 francs for the air surtax, which would have been 6 francs per 5 gms.<sup>4</sup> True, the 7.50 francs franking could indicate an un-noticed 50c under-payment, but the Daguin slogan also suggests that 1946 was not the year. The last line, VICTOIRE, is just visible so the cancel can be identified as the type (of Dakar) illustrated here as Figure 2.<sup>5</sup> The UN SEUL BUT LA VICTOIRE message is unlikely still to have been in use by 1946.



Figure 2.

So I went back a year. To check the franking on any letter sent by air from AOF before the end of 1945 one's first port of call nowadays is Bob Picirilli's article.<sup>2</sup> Both possible dates, 3 and 8 March 1945, fall in his rate period 17 which lasted only from 1 to 9 March 1945, with a basic rate of 2 francs and an air surtax of 3.50 francs per 5 gms. This gives totals of 5.50 francs and 9 francs respectively for first and second step letters, and once again 7.50 francs does not fit. But, as Bob pointed out (Note 3 on page 80), while as a general rule postage rates from France to a given colony were the same in the reverse direction, it is unwise to assume that changes took place simultaneously. Further reading demonstrated the wisdom of this caveat. The 2 francs basic rate, effective 1 March in France (see Bob's Table 1 on page 77), did not come into effect in AOF until 1 April, after my letter is assumed to have been posted.<sup>6</sup> So the basic rate was still 1.50 franc, as it had been since 1 March 1942,<sup>7</sup> leaving 6 francs for the air surtax. Bob's Tables show that 6 francs (per 5 gms) was indeed the additional charge for conveyance to France by airmail, but from 10 March 1945 - again after the assumed date of my cover. This date is taken from Joany and from Alexandre

et al,<sup>8</sup> both of whom deal with rates **from** France, but for once a rate change became effective in AOF **first**. In April 1999, after Bob's article had been finished, Ian McQueen visited the *Centre des Archives d'Outremer* at Aix-en-Provence (his report can be found in Bob's Newsletter No. 8, June 1999) and in the course of his studies there he found that the 6 francs rate was promulgated in AOF as early as 10 November 1944<sup>9</sup> This was before the liberation of France had been completed<sup>10</sup> and the rate may have been determined by local conditions rather than by imposition from Paris. Readers may care to annotate their copy of the *Philatelist* for July 1999 accordingly.

So there we have it. My cover must have been posted on 3 (or possibly 8) March 1945 and was correctly franked. But I have no idea why it was not censored. Has anyone any suggestions?

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As always when looking into the postage rates of the French sub-Saharan colonies I am greatly indebted to Bob Picirilli and Marty Bratzel for photocopies of their extracts from the *Journaux Officiels* of Ivory Coast and Cameroun. Ian McQueen has provided an invaluable supplement to these extracts.

### NOTES AND REFERENCES

(1) See my article "French West Africa - The First (Provisional) Issue of 1943-1944" in *F&C* for April 2002, Vol. 58 No. 2, pp. 35-38.

(2) Bob Picirilli, "Airmail Letter Rates from French West Africa to France to 1945," *F&C*, July 1999, Vol. 55, No. 3, pp. 75-85.

(3) Effective 1 April 1945 (*arrêté* No. 883 D. T. - D. P. of the Governor-General of AOF dated 20 March 1945 and printed in the Ivory Coast *Journal Officiel* of 15 April, pp. 131-133).

(4) Given effect by *décret* No. 3025 D. T. of the Governor-General dated 10 November 1944 printed in the *Journal Officiel* of A.O.F. of 18 November, p. 793.

(5) Taken from "Les Daguin pour la Guerre et la Victoire" by Bertrand Sinais, *Le Monde des Philatélistes* No. 484, April 1994, pp. 64-65.

(6) See Note (3) above.

(7) Given effect by *arrêté* No. 494 D. T. of the Governor-General, dated 4 February 1942, printed in an unfortunately undated Ivory Coast *Journal Officiel*, pp. 109-112.

(8) Respectively in "Les Surtaxes de la Poste Aérienne" (*Le Monde Brochure* 166, 1974, p. 18) and "Les Tarifs Postaux Français" (first edition 1982, p. 193, and second edition 1989, p. 193).

(9) See Note (4) above.

(10) Strasbourg was liberated on 23 November and Metz on 13 December 1944 (Theo van Dam, "A Century of War Dates and More! 1859 - 1959," 1966, p. 161).

## THE VALENCIENNES LOCAL POST OF 1914

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

Valenciennes, in the Nord Department, was one of the first major towns occupied (from 25 August 1914) by the Germans in the First World War. This completely disrupted the local postal service and the town's economy. The German commander quickly acquiesced to requests for a local **commercial** mail service, via the tramway system of the town and its immediate surroundings, to be handled through the Chamber of Commerce.

A simple 10c stamp, in the approximate color of the current 10c orange-red Sower, was prepared and printed locally by typography, and 8,000 (or perhaps 9100)<sup>1, 2</sup> copies, in sheets of 25 stamps, were promptly delivered to the Chamber. The first day of use was either 7 September,<sup>1</sup> or 8 September.<sup>3, 4</sup>

Only unsealed letters<sup>2</sup> of no more than 20 gm and cards could be used; "combination covers" with French stamps were forbidden, as was any military information;<sup>2, 5</sup> all mail was subject to German censorship. The only acceptable cancellation was the double oval of the Chamber, and/or a simple straightline rubber stamped date (Figure 1), for only mail brought to the Chamber's offices was accepted. Other markings, such as those of the Feldpost, are probably favor cancels.<sup>6</sup>

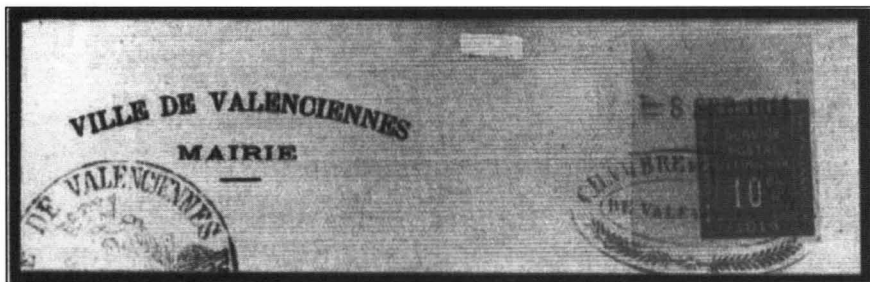


Figure 1. Fragment from the Valenciennes town hall, showing correct cancellations on stamp: 5 SEP 1914 and double oval Chamber of Commerce marking. (reduced to 77%)

Only about 3000 stamps were sold and only about 2000 were actually used<sup>3</sup> prior to 30 October 1914, when the German authorities refused to extend the service geographically for fear of espionage.<sup>6</sup> The German postal system took over on the 30th, using German stamps overprinted **Belgien**.<sup>4</sup> The Chamber of Commerce wisely and immediately took charge of the lithographic stone and defaced it so that reprints could not be made for collectors, whether French or German. However, some authors<sup>2, 3, 5</sup> indicate that the stocks and the plate were destroyed under the supervision of the German authorities. Nevertheless it appears that stamps were still being sold to local collectors as late as the end of December 1914.<sup>1</sup>

Genuine stamps are poorly perforated 11½ and generally poorly centered. Forgeries exist; the best known are Delandre "facsimiles" of 1916, perforated 13 or 13½, well-centered (Figure 2), and more red than orange-red. Herman Schloss (in Billig, 1951) has given very detailed identification characteristics for the genuine stamps.

As stated above, only double oval Valenciennes Chamber of Commerce hand-stamps and/or single line dates indicate genuine usage, if only in a relative rather than absolute way.



Figure 2. Genuine perf. 11½ stamp at left and perf. 13 imitation at right.

### References

1. Alain Cornaille, "L'étonnante affaire de la vignette de Valenciennes"; *Timbres Magazine*, December 2001.
2. Jim Czul, "Local post established during occupation"; *Linn's Stamp News*, March 12, 1984.
3. Fritz Billig, *Billig's Philatelic Handbook*, v. III, 2nd Rev. Ed., 1951, pp. 71-72.
4. Dr. Robert Joany, *Nomenclature des Timbres-Poste de France*, tome XIV; Montbéliard, 1968, pp. 58-59.
5. Anon., "le timbre de Valenciennes"; *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, October 1989.
6. "Le Timbrophile," *Le Timbre de Valenciennes*; *La circulaire philatélique*, N° 177, November 1926; reprinted in *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, November 1967.

### CLARIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS

To be more specific about the \$5.00 dues increase for Year 2005, the new dues structure will be \$20.00 to U.S., Canada and Mexico, and \$25.00 to all other destinations.

Amazing 1870/1871 Wonder Stories -- 85: The first paragraph (N° 277, July 2004, p. 84) contains an error of fact. Figure 1 is **not** the one that's the property of the Musée de la Poste, but that of Steven Walske, who had purchased it from the late Jacques Robineau.

## AMAZING 1870/1871 WONDER STORIES--87

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

Amazing wonder stories date not only from the past, they are being created from time to time even now. One of them is embedded in the auction catalogue for Soluphil's 97<sup>th</sup> sale, which took place on 23 January 2004.

It concerns lot 547, a cover addressed to Monsieur Lecuyer Sabitier(?) at Marcillé Robert, Canton de Retiers, Département d'Ille et Vilaine. At the bottom is the endorsement "aux soins de Monsieur Leveillé," apparently in the same ink and handwriting as the remainder of the address.

Having been posted without a stamp, the cover is postmarked with the "30" due cds. of the Paris post office at Rue d'Antin, 4<sup>E</sup>/21(?) DEC. 70, together with a poor imprint of the large "30" as well. According to the catalogue, an arrival cds. Poitiers 1/JANV/71 is on the back. So far, so good.

The most interesting part of the description is the following sentence, translated into English: "Cover given to the smuggler Léveillé who passed successfully through the enemy lines several times."

Actually, according to Joseph François Frédéric Steenackers' 1883 book, *Les Télégraphes et les Postes Pendant la Guerre de 1870-1871*, p. 142, Léveillé was Cabinet Chief of the Director General of the Telegraph Office. As such, Louis Jules Léveillé signed two notes to U.S. Ambassador Washburne, advising him of the impending departures of two balloons.

Being from the Bretagne himself, Léveillé made arrangements in October 1870 for mail from Breton soldiers, stationed at Paris, to be collected and packaged in post-office bags for balloon transport. Letters in these special bags went free of postage; all other Paris balloon mail, processed by a Paris post office, had to be prepaid. Most of these special bags were probably sent by balloons belonging to the Telegraph Office or, like the balloon *Bretagne*, belonging to private individuals with connections to that office. Some letters with the endorsements mentioning Léveillé are franked anyhow and were posted normally, perhaps simply because they were not given to the military postmen in time before they left with their special bags.

So much for the identity of the "smuggler." But what about the post office using smugglers to carry normally posted mail through or over the lines? The post office did have its own volunteer employees who did that, but very few were successful, and that only at the beginning of the Siege. These mailmen are known to have taken letters out of Paris between 20 and 30 September, and to have returned with mail from the outside between 23 September and 6(?) October. Thereafter, neither postal nor private smugglers were entrusted with mail processed at Paris post offices and sent to destinations outside of Paris. Hence this cover must have been taken by one of the several balloons that carried normal Paris post-office mail bags and left between 22 and 31 December 1870.

That disposes of so-called smuggled mail originating at Paris post offices towards the end of December 1870. I do not know whether anyone else discovered this amazing wonder nor whether the cover was sold, its estimated price being € 1500.00. If it was, will it be shown at a future exhibition as a rarity? Well, in a way it is, being the only unfranked piece of balloon mail with a Léveillé endorsement known to me.

## POSTAL HISTORY PROJECTS AND PROPOSALS

by MARTY BRATZEL (FCPS #2394)

This note is being published in both the *France & Colonies Philatelist* (U.S.) and the *Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society* (U.K.).

### Modern Cameroun Postal History

Members of our respective societies may wish to participate in a collaborative project to compile postal history and postmark information for Cameroun since independence in 1960 and reunification in 1961. We are following a format similar to that used to present information about the territory under the earlier German, French, and British administrations.<sup>1-3</sup> Specifically, we will:

- List all post offices, their dates of opening and closure, and their classification, e.g. full service, agency.
- Illustrate all postmarks and their observed dates of use.
- Document forged, backdated, and CTO postmarks.
- Describe postal services.
- Compile and illustrate ancillary postal markings, e.g. registration and postage due.
- And more!

Our format is open ended, in order to accommodate information about new post offices and new postmarks. The present working draft includes more than 200 post offices and 500 different postmarks. We expect these numbers to approach 300 and 1500, respectively. Among the observations thus far:

- Postmarks with letters excised, e.g. Rep. Fed. Cameroun changed to Rep. Cameroun or just Cameroun, and R.U. Cameroun altered to R. Cameroun.
- Postmarks with interesting locations, e.g. Bamenda Up Station, C.R.C.P., Foubman Poste Auto Route, Mbalmayo C.I.G.R., Poste Auto Rurale CS.
- Postmarks indicating services or function, e.g. Arrivee, Depart, Chargements, Guichet, Ouverture and Transbordement.

We welcome collaboration. Our goal is to prepare a revised draft by the end of 2005. For the cost of photocopying and postage, we can provide a copy of our working draft, or members can submit photocopies of intriguing postmarks and covers. All contributions will be acknowledged.

### Cameroun Postal History during French Administration

As a companion to the book about Cameroun post offices and postmarks during French administration,<sup>2</sup> I am also preparing companion volumes about Cameroun postal tariffs, postal routes, and maritime connections for the period 1916-1960. Much of the information is drawn from official documents such as the *Journal officiel du Cameroun*. These activities are well in hand, and only moral support and encouragement are requested.

### Postal History for other French Colonies

The compilation of Cameroun postal history information is the product of almost 20 years' research (admittedly off and on, as time dictated) at the U.S. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; the Centre des Archives d'Outre-Mer, Aix-en-Provence; the United Nations Library, New York; and a half dozen other libraries / archives on three continents. During this time, we have photocopied or microfilmed more than 3,000 pages related to French Cameroun alone.

Robert Picirilli is leading a complementary project through the **Study Group for Airmail Rates in French Colonies to 1945**, again trolling the *Journaux officiels*, postal publications, newspapers, and other documents for elusive information. Bob and his group clearly demonstrate the benefits of collaboration. They have met with considerable success, and the reports published to date are most useful, but there is still much to do.



These two projects have led to the observation that there are TONNES of postal history information for French colonies and overseas territories, just waiting to be tapped!

One cannot begin to appreciate the wealth of information available, e.g. definitive dates of post office opening / closure; postal tariffs (often different from French rates and with some rates unique for the colony); postal routes; postal organization, operations, and personnel; and so much more. Although authors of many fine publications over the years have drawn information from official documents, *these materials have never been systematically mined*. The challenge — or opportunity — that we lay out for the membership is to systematically and comprehensively review official documents and prepare definitive postal history accounts for French colonies and overseas territories (in addition to Cameroun and colonial tariffs), before the primary information sources are lost, as many are in abysmal condition.

For those interested in undertaking studies for a particular colony or territory, we would be most pleased to share information about available documents, their location, and techniques to make the research most enjoyable and rewarding. This offer also pertains to research into former colonies and territories, now independent. Some work is under way into independent Niger and other countries in Equatorial and West Africa, and interested participants are welcome.

### Terminology

In the course of our research, we have encountered a number of terms and acronyms used in a postal context. In some cases, we can make an educated guess about the acronym and the services and functions implied by the term. But too often we are at sea.

Your editor and I consulted the following: *Glossary of English Equivalents of Terms Commonly Used in French Auctions, Catalogues and Stamp Trade* (FCPS, reprinted 1994); *Lexique Philatélique / Dictionary of Philatelic Terms* (Roger Stroh, 1971); *The Philatelic Dictionary, English-French-German* (Eric Singer, 1946); *Timbrodico* (Timbropresse, 1990); and Patrick Lavenas' rendition of acronyms for modern French date stamps, republished serially in *FCP*. However, we met with only limited success. Clearly, terminology used by modern postal services worldwide is changing rapidly. This leads to the question—Is there any interest in preparing an updated glossary of postal acronyms and terminology used throughout the French community, and including an explanation of the services provided?

Please share your views or to express an interest in participating in any of these projects, please contact the journal editor.

### REFERENCES

1. Albert Friedemann. *Die Postwertzeichen und Entwertungen der deutschen Postanstalten in den Schutzgebieten und im Ausland*. 3. Auflage, Dr. Wittmann Verlag, Munich, 1967. Kamerun in Volume 2.
2. M.P. Bratzel, Jr., H. Kraja, and R.J. Maddocks. *Les oblitérations du Cameroun 1914-1960*. MPB Canada, 1990. 83 pp. ISBN 0-9694026-0-0.
3. R.J. Maddocks and M.P. Bratzel, Jr. *The Postmarks and Postal History of the Camerouns under British Administration 1916-1961*. MPB Canada, 1994. 136 pp. ISBN 0-9694026-1-9.

## RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

NAPEX 2004's first annual Philatelic Literature jury awarded our *Philatelist* a Vermeil medal. Actually 81 points, or better than a mid-range Vermeil. There's little we can do for now about making the suggested improvements, but there's much we can say in the way of appreciation to our contributing authors: Thanks for all that good work (but don't stop now)!

And thanks to the effort of Marty Bratzel, now nearly retired and itching for action, we now have another study group in formation, this one on the postal history aspects of Independent Cameroun (see p.120 for details). If you can help Marty in any way, please do so via me.

There continues to be a paucity of Questions and even more so of Answers, as well as of Letters to the Editor. Is (just about) everybody completely satisfied with their knowledge and with things as they are? Send them on!

The table of printings of Polynesia's official stamps (Second Series), as published on p. 74 of the July 2004 issue, is exceedingly small and may be difficult to read. Interested parties can obtain a full-size copy from the Editor for a stamped self-addressed legal-size envelope.

In response to my plaintive call in the July 2004 editorial, Ray McGarrity and Ray Gaillaguet have kindly suggested articles on (in no particular order): fast and slow mail service (as exemplified by the red and green definitive stamps issued ever since the late 1960s; airmail issues in general or in particular; topical stamps (a mighty tall order!); First-day covers and souvenirs; Toshiba and other experimental cancellers. Now, who wants to volunteer to write something for us on any of these, or other, subjects? Line forms behind me as my expertise on these topics is

only a short ways up the staircase. Ray McGarrity has already started researching the Jerusalem 1948 French consular-issue overprints. And,

acting upon his request for information on faked stamps, I have begun to assemble a bibliography that should cover what's available on (1) stamps to defraud the mails, and (2) stamps to defraud collectors. I'll try to have that ready for serial publication, starting with the January 2005 issue. As stated, it will be a bibliog-

### NAPEX

*McLean, Virginia*

*June 4 - 6, 2004*

The Organizers would like to express their appreciation of the contribution to the success of NAPEX 2004 made by

**Stanley J. Luft, Editor**

in displaying a philatelic literature entry

**France & Colonies Philatelist**

which was awarded a

**Vermeil Medal**

  
John M. Hotchner, Chairman of the Literature Jury

  
Stephen L. Shupeck, Chairman of NAPEX 2004

raphy, not a series of illustrated descriptions of the good and the bad. However, I will also entertain specific requests for such descriptions, for any individual fake item, if I'm competent to do so. In the meantime, don't forget that there's quite a bit on forgeries in our Journal, albeit oftentimes buried in "Announcements and News" and "For the Record."

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## SOME SHOW REPORTS

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(Continued from N° 277, July 2004, p. 87)

- ESPANA 2004 (Valencia, May) (FIP): Grand Prix d'Honneur to non-member Davit Franco for "French Post Offices in Ottoman Levant"; Prix d'Honneur to Ed Grabowski for "Guadeloupe Postal History"; Gold medals to Steve Washburne for his Madeira postal history exhibit, to Steve Walske for his U.S. Civil War across-the-lines exhibit, and to Klerman Wanderley Lopes for "France: Emissions 1849-1870." In the Literature competition, Dr. Lopes (with the late Ph. J. Damien) obtained a Large Silver for *Caractéristiques des correspondances du Brésil pour la France au XIX Siècle*, as did Maurice Tyler, as editor of the *Jour. of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*.
- NOJEX 2004 (Secaucus, NJ, May): Gold medals to Eliot Landau for two of his many U.S. exhibits.
- NAPEX 2004 (McLean, VA, June): Literature competition Vermeil medals to Steve Walske for his handbook on U.S. Civil War across-the-lines mail, to Chuck LaBlonde for his handbook on World War II Mail from Switzerland, and to our own *France & Colonies Philatelist*. No members exhibited in the philatelic competition, for which Dave Herendeen was one of the judges.
- PIPEX 2004 (Vernon, Br. Columbia, June): Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "French Occupation of West Africa 1892-1906"; Dickson Preston served on the jury.
- INDIPEX '04 (Indianapolis, July): Gold medals to Chuck LaBlonde for his Swiss WWII mail exhibit, and to Paul Larsen for a Caroline Islands exhibit.
- AMERICOVER 2004 (Indianapolis, July): Vermeil medal and single-frame Gold medal to Eliot Landau for US First-Day cover exhibits.
- APS Stampshow 2004 (Sacramento, CA, August): Prix d'Honneur in the C of C competition to Steve Walske for "Transatlantic Packet Mail between the USA and France 1840-1875"; in the open competition, Steve Washburne received the Grand Award and a Gold medal for "Portugal Classics"; Vermeil medal to Peter Smith for his exhibit of Egypt; Silver medal to Dickson Preston for a US exhibit; in the Single-frame competition, Steve Walske received the Grand Award and a Platinum medal for "Transcontinental Pony Express." In the Literature competition, Vermeil medals went to Chuck LaBlonde for his handbook on World War II Mail from Switzerland, and to our Society for the Year 2003 *France & Colonies Philatelist*.

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## REVIEW

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**ALEKSANDER STOCKI Enigmatic Philatelist**, by Roy E. Reader & George K. Kay. Paperback with illustrated cover with laminated covers and plastic clip binding. ISBN 0-9547115-0-5. A4, 64pp published 2004 by Roy E. Reader, 3 Stanhope Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 7HA (UK). Price £9.50 +p/p [UK £1.50; Europe £2.50 and other destinations £4.00]. The sum of £10 must be added to cheques from abroad to cover bank charges. Cheques payable to R.E. Reader. Order will normally be sent within 10 days of receipt.]

It was whilst the senior author was researching for his third book covering the Polish Forces in France, [previous publications *The Legion of French Volunteers 1941-1944*, F&CPS brochure No. 4 and *Czechoslovak Army in France WWII & Supplement*, Czech PS, Monograph No. 5.] that Aleksander Stocki came to his attention.

Roy was intrigued by the character of this army officer, philatelist and stamp dealer, who was involved with the perforation of French stamps with the initials of 'WP', and later with other colourful labels. He decided to research further, temporarily putting on one side his main subject, and sought the advice of the doyen of Polish philately, George Kay. They both joined forces to seek out information on the activities of Stocki, not only in pre-war Poland, but war-time France and Great Britain, and after the war in Scotland.

The research has not been easy either in the United Kingdom or Poland and possibly there are still one or two questions in Stocki's life that remain unanswered; one I would like to know is what happened to his wife Marja, after he was re-called from Army reserve in 1939; but both Reader and Kay have come up with a most readable publication, containing as it does numerous illustrations, and a catalogue of Stocki's labels produced in Scotland. They have examined many documents difficult or impossible to find in this country, on this former army officer who seemed to court controversy throughout his life, from Warsaw in 1926 over the Warsaw-Tokyo Flight, the 'WP' overprints in France, the labels and date-stamps produced for the Polish and other Allied Forces. This publication also deals with his post-war partnership with the stamp dealer Mildred Hodson, and finally the mystery over his supposed disappearance abroad.

The bibliography of Sources and References both published and unpublished is excellent. It has been my privilege to proof-read this book, which I found so fascinating and I have no hesitation in fully recommending this impartial survey of Stocki's life to all philatelists, postal historians and those interested in the events that began to take place over some sixty years ago. My congratulations to the authors on this excellent publication.

-- Colin W. Spong

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## NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

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(Continued from N° 277, July 2004, p. 92)

- *Les timbres Fiscaux et Socio-postaux*, 2004 edition; 224 pp., all-color illustrations; 35 euros (+ postage), from Editions Yvert & Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036 Amiens cedex, France. (The updated priced catalog of the revenue stamps of France and now also Monaco, including essays and proofs).
- *Catalogue Yvert & Tellier 2004*, tome 1bis: Monaco, Andorra, Overseas Terrs., UN, Europa; 694 pp. illustrated in color; 19.90 euros (+ postage); **and** tome 2, 1st part: the pre-independence Colonies and the pre-1946 Overseas Depts.; 497 pp. illustrated in color: 24 euros (+ postage); from Editions Yvert & Tellier (see above).
- *La Poste aux Lettres dans le département du Var, V - 1876-1904*, by Robert Gregnac-Daudemard with Alain Tranquier; 46 pp., illustrated; 7.50 euros (+ 1.11 euros postage within France and European Union); from Musée Régional du Timbre, "Le Château," Boite Postale 51, F-83340 Le Luc-en-Provence, France. (The author's fifth installment on the postal history of a major Department; with value indices of markings).
- *Il y à 200 ans ... Napoléon, le Camp de Boulogne et la Légion d'Honneur*, by J. Chochois and M. Poultier; no further details; 24 euros (+ postage); inquire of Michel Poultier, 132 rue de Beaurepaire, F-62200 Boulogne-sur-Mer, France. (A military and postal history of the momentous events along the English Channel two centuries ago).
- *Carnets de France*, vol. 1; 592 pp., 31 x 31cm, illustrated in color; 95 euros (+ postage); highly specialized catalog that covers just the 1906-1926 period of French booklets; from Editions Yvert & Tellier (see above).
- *Jeux Olympiques de Paris, 1924 - Les cartes postales "AN"*; 40 euros (+ postage) for cheapest (soft-cover) edition; from AFCOS, Maison du sport français, 1 avenue Pierre de Coubertin, F-75013 Paris. (Detailed reproductions of the picture postcards produced by photographer Armand Noyer for the 1924 Olympics; apparently non-philatelic).
- *Histoire postale de LaRoche-sur-Yon. Marcophilie, cartophilie, numismatique*; 29 euros (+ postage) from Amicale Philatélie Yonnaise, 49 rue du Dr Cullère, F-85000 LaRoche-sur-Yon, France. (All that one would possibly want to know about LaRoche-sur-Yon's postal history and markings, since 1804).
- *Catalogue des oblitérations mécaniques de France, sauf Sécap à partir de 1960*; 3rd edition, by Gérard Dreyfuss; 580 pp., A4 format, ca.2000 illustrations; ca.16,000 priced quotations, incl. 1500 new ones; 95 euros (+ postage), from Editions Nord Avril, 388 rue de la Lombarderie, F-59870 Bouvignies, France; e-mail: patrice.dufosse@wanadoo.fr (From title, this detailed catalog covers all machine cancels except for 1960 and later Secap-machine ones).
- *Catalogue Cérés France 2004-2005*; 61st edition; all in color; 22 euros (+ 3.50 euros postage within France): price includes a CD-ROM; from Editions Philatéliques de Paris, 4 rue du 4 Septembre, F-75002 Paris; site: [www.ceres.fr](http://www.ceres.fr); Fax: +01.40.15.02.38 (The "other" standard, highly detailed French catalog).
- *Opus 4*; 122 pp., A4 format, soft cover, all-color illustrations; published annually by the Académie Européenne de Philatélie; inquire of J.-P. Mangin, 23 rue du Paquis, F-55000 Bar-le-Duc, France. (Mainly short articles, mainly in French or English, on a variety of philatelic subjects, by leading specialists in their fields).

- *Subject Index to Four French Philatelic Magazines 1946-2000*, compiled by Derek Richardson; Brochure N° 8 of the F&CPS [GB]; 52 pp., A4 format; prices for non-members of the British F&C society are, for the rest of this year, via surface mail: £6.57 for a sterling cheque from a British bank (+ £7 bank charge if non-sterling) or \$13 in US banknotes; for airmail: £7.60 (sterling cheque, or + £7 bank charge) or \$14 in US banknotes; after December 2004, price goes up an extra £1 or \$2. Order from Len H. Barnes, 34 High Beeches, Northcray, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5NB, England. (Periodicals covered, under 250 subject headings, are *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, *Le Monde des Philatélistes* (including the *Etudes*), *La Philatélie Française*, and *Timbrologie*).

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## FOR THE RECORD

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(Continued from N° 277, July 2004, p. 93)

- **851. revisited**) It is more correct to call these Monaco variants (N° 277, pp. 92-93) States I and II, rather than Types I and II, inasmuch as the original die was reused, and only the cylinder was modified.
- **853.)** Dr. Jean Storch and colleagues have made a study of a poorly documented mailing from Second Empire days for which no tariff seems to have been established (*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, March 2004). It consists of pre-printed advertising (or at least, notices from firms) "postal cards" on heavy stock, mailed out with 1c stamps, mainly the 1c perforated Empire (Figure 1), far less commonly sent abroad with 5c postage. Some stamps show parallel-cut vertical edges, probably separated on coil-stamp prototype equipment, and some were "precancelled," inasmuch as their cancels (all town date stamps, as required for printed matter) are not tied. Known dates of usage are late 1863 - early 1868, which easily predate the appearance of postal cards in France. Although many firms from all over France are represented, very few have been found from any one single firm.

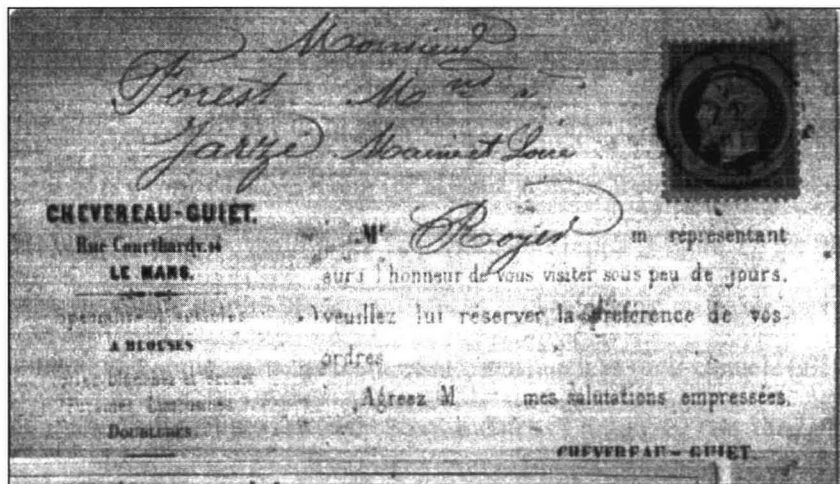


Figure 1.



## TYPES AND SUBTYPES

### 90c Paix of Laurens

**Type I:** (All sheet stamps [carmine-red, then green, then ultramarine], all overprinted [F.M., F] stamps, and all booklet stamps): L and A of LAURENS signature are touching.

**Type II:** (All coil stamps): The L and A do not touch.

**Type III:** (all stamped letter-cards): fold "c" of robe, which is absent in first two types, is present here; A. DELZERS signature is more distant from bottom frame line, and the A extends farther to the left.




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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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**Q. 04.4** I have several Colonies covers of mainly pre-Second War vintage, addressed to France and to other Colonies, usually bearing postage that only covered the airmail surtax, and also bearing Registry etiquettes (Figure 1). All originated from official sources (PTT, Navy, etc.). However, the registration fees are not prepaid. Some bear printed or written advisories such as RECOMMANDATION D'OFFICE. Does anyone know whether official mail, with or without registry advisories, was not required to pay for registration? And if so, when did this dispensation begin and perhaps end (decree or *arreté* appreciated). Also, did this apply to similar registered official mail from or within France itself? Finally, what does RECOMMANDATION D'OFFICE signify? (WGM).

**A. 04.4** It has been my understanding that certain official mail, always sent by the post office and not by the public, may be registered where deemed necessary by the post office. In some instances, this was done to protect the post office from any liability. An example would be were an official envelope to be opened in search of illegal contents (such as banknotes); if the post office decided it was alright to send it on after resealing, it would do so after marking it "Chargé (or Recommandation) d'Office, to preclude it being reopened enroute. Mail was so marked by the post office on their own initiative in circumstances where irregularities occur or could be presumed to occur which might invoke their own liability. Letters so marked were not subject to additional payment. The *Arreté* of 4 June 1859 specifically mentions securities or banknotes sent by post. Another example would be *Circulaire* N° 135, of 10 June 1859, specifying that potentially fraudulent letters could be sent by the originating post office in special envelopes

[NDLR: In addition to this Answer, Peter Kelly was easily persuaded to prepare an article for us in the near future, expanding upon this interesting and poorly known topic. Many thanks in advance, Peter! Back in my long-ago college days we used to say "Cooperation means Graduation." This can be improved upon now by stating "Cooperation means Advancement of Knowledge".]



Figure 1. (reduced to 88%)

Section of Ownership, Management, and Circulation				13 Publication Title		14 Issue Title for Circulation Data Below	
1 Publication Title				2 Publication Number		3 Date	
France And Colonies Philatelist				ISSN 0191-3413		October 2004	
France And Colonies Philatelist				S 0 1 9 1 3 4 1 3		September 1, 2004	
5 Date of Publication				6 Number of Issues Published Annually		7 Annual Subscription Price	
Quarterly				4		\$ 20.00	
8 Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, and ZIP+4)				9 Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)			
France And Colonies Philatelist Society, Inc. N.Y.				Walter E. Parashell			
103 Spruce Street - Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003-3514				3614-748-9442			
11 Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)				12 Complete Mailing Address of Publisher			
France And Colonies Philatelist Society, Inc. N.Y.				France And Colonies Philatelist Society, Inc. N.Y.			
103 Spruce Street - Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003-3514				103 Spruce Street - Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003-3514			
13 Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)				14 Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)			
Publisher: Stanley J. Luft				Editor: Stanley J. Luft			
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44 Complete Mailing Address of Publisher (Not printer)				45 Complete Mailing Address of Publisher (Not printer)			
Stanley J. Luft				Stanley J. Luft			
1529 West 56th Place - Golden, CO 80403				1529 West 56th Place - Golden, CO 80403			
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1529 West 56th Place - Golden, CO 80403				1529 West 56th Place - Golden, CO 80403			
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1529 West 56th Place - Golden, CO 80403				1529 West 56th Place - Golden, CO 80403			
52 Complete Mailing Address of Publisher (Not printer)				53 Complete Mailing Address of Publisher (Not printer)			
Stanley J. Luft							

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

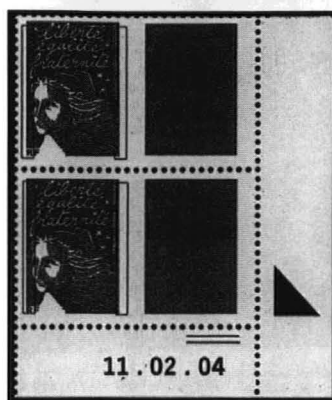


Figure 1. (reduced to 50%)

- Figure 1 is an approximation of a *coin daté* for a stamp allegedly scheduled to have been issued 1 March 2004, but never issued. The stamp design consists of a permanent-value red Marianne de Luquet on the left, with the customary two phosphor bands (indicated by the superposed rectangles) and a non-phosphor vignette for AIDS (*SIDA*) on the right, imperforate between. The apparent sole printing date was 11 February 2004, on Press TD6-5, with a limited printing of only about 50,000 stamps (ca. 1000 sheets of 50 stamps). (From *Marianne* N° 66, 2004; thanks to Bob Seeke for bringing this and the next item to our attention). Later information indicated that it'll be issued 1-5 July 2004 with the vignette dedicated to the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (see New Issues and Withdrawals).
- From that same issue, we learn from J. C. Vicart that Sagem machine-vended booklets (of ten permanent-value M. de Luquet stamps), and the vending machines themselves, are being replaced by LISA II computer-generated postage. The Sagem booklets had gone through six press runs between 10 July 2001 and 30 January 2003. The several printings are rich in varieties (errors of dates, changes in cover design and text, location of perforated strip that can be removed for folding the booklet, phosphor-band errors and missing phosphor, miscuts and misperfs, etc.)
- Between 1937 and 1947, Madagascar's mail and stamp situation was in a state of almost constant crisis, due to shortages of relevant values, bureaucratic ineptitude, and slow communications with France. Then came World War II and no more stamp shipments from France, arguments over surcharging little used values, the advent of the Free French, and British interference and insistence upon stamps being printed in the United Kingdom. And finally the return to new stamps printed once again in France. This period could make for a very interesting collection and exhibit of highly stressed postal history for anyone seeking a new collecting challenge.
- An index for the entire run of the *Indo-China Philatelist* (Whole Numbers 1-161, Years 1971-2003) has been published. Inquire of Ron Bentley, the journal's editor for pricing, at 2600 North 24th Street, Arlington, VA 22207, USA (e-mail: ron.bentley@verizon.net).
- Figure 2 shows the cover of the ten-stamp booklet of France issued 5 February 2004, as noted on page 98 of our July issue. We expect that it had a smallish press run and saw limited service, and could become relatively scarce.



Figure 2.

- Barbara Mueller is the recipient of a Smithsonian Philatelic Achievement Award for 2004.
- French Polynesia's first vending-machine booklets (Figure 3, probably won't reproduce well) and computer-generated postage (LISAs) were placed on sale



Figure 3.

25 September 2003 at Mahena. Other such vending machines entered into service from 2 March 2004-on. The booklets contain ten self-adhesive stamps, at 60F (red) (domestic) and at 90F (blue) (to Metropolitan France).

- Because of lag time between issues, we very seldom publish dates of special philatelic events, such as those held at postal museums and philatelic salons. With specific regard to these last, we did not learn the dates of the 26 June-4 July 2004 Salon being held near Vincennes until after the April issue had gone to press; and it's obviously too late to mention it now. However, it may be of general interest to know that it was at this Salon that the multitude of daily issues between 26 June and 3 July were first obtainable. It could help greatly in the future if those of you "in the know" would advise me of dates, places, etc. well in advance of the events.
- Editions Philatéliques de Paris, publisher of the *Cérès* catalogue, has moved to 4 rue du Quatre Septembre, Paris 75002. The stamp store *Cérès Philatélie* remains at 23 rue du Louvre.
- There were more than 40,000 designs submitted in the search for a new regular-issue environmentally-inspired Marianne. Eventually three will be selected by the jury from which the President of the Republic shall make his choice. The new design is expected to appear on postage stamps in January 2005.
- Air France issued, from December 1936 to December 1939, post cards for Christmas and New Year's greetings that, until 25 December of the year, could be sent by air at the illustrated card "of 5 words" rate, with a reduced surtax equal to that for objects "other than letters and cards."
- Of the 240 or so *passages* (covered walkways) of early 19th Century Paris, only about 20 remain, of which the best known to stamp and postcard collectors is the Passage des Panoramas (Figure 4) in Paris 02, a few hundred short meters from the Rue Drouot (in Paris 09). Their origin was probably influenced by the French "discovery" of Egypt and its *souks* during Bonaparte's invasion of that country. Since the early 19th Century, the *passages* have been the sites of numerous spectacles as well as being the home of numerous small

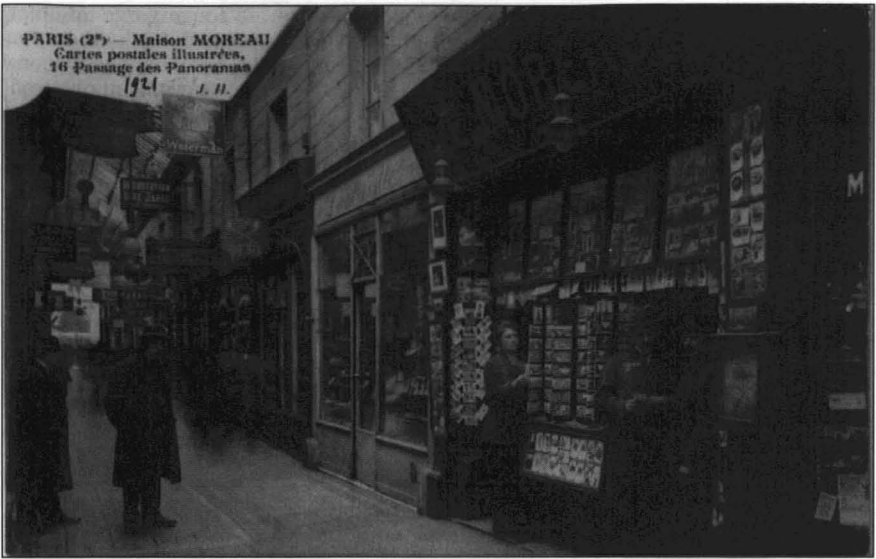


Figure 4. *The Passage des Panoramas in 1921.*

enterprises that, of course, included much more than stamp and card dealerships. From 1880-on, with the advent of sidewalks, street lighting and larger commercial establishments, the *passages'* heyday has subsided. Still, they remain vivid vestiges of a bygone era and its unique architectural style. (Adapted from article in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, June 2004).

- Another souvenir similar in format to last year's "infamous" *rouge-gorge* bird, this time honoring the Athens Summer Olympic Games (Figure 5) appeared

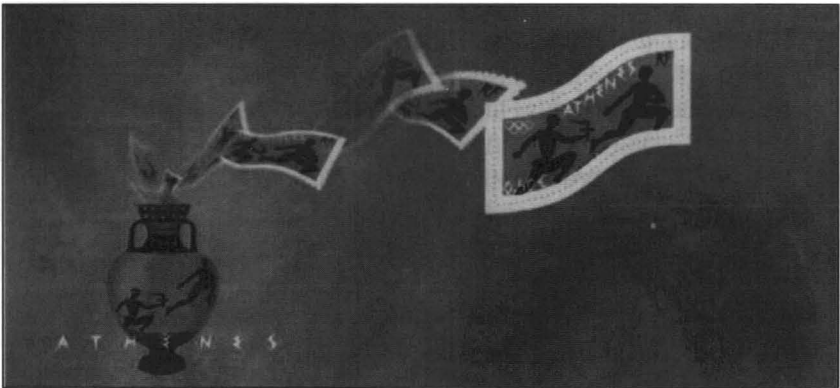


Figure 5.

on 28 June 2004 at the Salon du Timbre and elsewhere in Paris. Sold at 3 euros [face value of its single stamp 0,50 euros] its press run this time was 250,000 rather than just 50,000 for the *rouge-gorge*, to avoid the scent of speculation. This is but one of many official and otherwise souvenirs produced for the Salon and for its visitors' wallets.

- Ernst Cohn has written an extensive three-part article entitled "A Critical Guide to Balloon Mails -- Facts and Fables About 1870 War Mails" in *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, v. 82, N° 6 (2003) and v. 83, Nos. 2 and 3 (2004). If you collect *ballons montés* covers and have any doubts about attribution to specific balloons or about the authenticity of your covers--or even if you're perfectly happy with what you have--you should get hold of this instructive, even entertaining serial.
- hh Sales Ltd. usually has interesting titles to offer on French philately and postal history. T. P. McDermott has advised us of a major holding of classic and later works in the 31 July 2004 auction, unfortunately now long past, but there will be other opportunities in the future. Contact hh Sales Ltd. at The Barn, Heaton Royds, Shay Lane, Bradford BD9 6SH, England (website: [www.hhphilat.com](http://www.hhphilat.com)). Another good source of French philatelic literature is Vera Trinder Ltd., 38 Bedford Street, Strand, London WC2E 9EU, London (e-mail: [vtrinder@aol.com](mailto:vtrinder@aol.com)).
- After a false start in August 2002, a new and improved electronic registered-letter service was started 27 May 2004 by La Poste. Once clicked "send" at [www.laposte.fr/LRE](http://www.laposte.fr/LRE) (at a charge of 6,24 euros per mailing), all copying of attachments and cover letter, with the all-important date, are handled instantaneously by La Poste, 24 hours of every day of the year. The sender receives (electronically and within 15 minutes) a proof of mailing and, afterwards, proof of delivery of all contents. This proof is valid for three years in case of errors of possible litigation.
- Unhappy collectors can now join the new (June 2004) Association de la Défense de la Philatélie en France. All details from the Association, at 9 rue de Maubeuge, F-75009 Paris (e-mail: [as.def.phil.france@caramail.com](mailto:as.def.phil.france@caramail.com)).
- The British Walsall firm, specialist in heliogravure printing, and the French company Cartor, which among other products has made stamps in gold, have joined forces on 11 June 2004 as a principally British entity called International Security Printers. It plans to revive the Swiss Courvoisier brand and to return one of the Courvoisier presses to stamp production. (*Timbres Magazine*, July-August 2004).
- New pre-stamped (*prêt-à-poster*) envelopes, that became available at the late June Paris Salon du Timbre, show some of the high-value engraved airmail stamps that were issued in France between 1936 and 1951. The colors are similar to those of the actual stamps, but (fortunately) no face values appear on these "facsimiles." **Do not** confuse these modern concoctions with actual essays or proofs!
- The more than 40,000 designs submitted for a new "environmental" Marianne stamp series--noted above--have been whittled down to the "best(?) 100." These range from sublime to ridiculous (or at the most, whimsical to comical). President Chirac will be asked to make a choice from the ten finalists. Here (Figure 6) are five of my favorite amusing projects, none of which I expect to make it to the finals.
- On 18 February 2004, the Court of Appeals of Paris ordered the Dallay catalogue firm to desist from using Yvert & Tellier catalogue numbers and to pay the Yvert firm the sum of 30,000 euros for damages plus interest. The court considers that the Yvert numbering system is an original work and that therefore the Dallay firm is guilty of forgery. (That's one way to take out the competition!). I think that our own, most non-commercial publication is safe for now, inasmuch as we are very careful to prefix all mentioned catalog numbers with the names Scott, Yvert, or Cérès, and perhaps in the future, Dallay as well.





Figure 6.

➤ This past February has been a significant month in the annals of Wallis' airpost. On the 14th, Aircalin's new (and second) Airbus A320 began commercial flights between Hihifo, Wallis and New Caledonia. The following day, a Royal Air Tonga Boeing 757 made its inaugural commercial flight between Nukualofa, Tonga and Hihifo. Commemorative cachets were applied to the mail carried on these occasions (Figure 7). (From *Bull. Philatélique Le Cagou* N° 25, 2004).

➤ Date stamps on mail emanating from or within French Oceania during World War II commonly show poorly printed years of use. This is due, of



Figure 7.



Figure 8.

course, to the unavailability of "official" metal year slugs from France. As a result, provisional year slugs "41" to "47" were engraved locally on shells (mainly) and also on wood, bone or nickel-silver (Figure 8). Other markings (postal, administrative, registry, censorship, etc.) simply suffered from long-term use until they could be replaced after the war. (From article by Christian Beslu in *Bull. Philatélique Le Cagou* N° 25, 2004).

- > The new "Environmental Marianne" definitive-series design (see at right) had been selected before the issue of our Journal went to press. So, here (Figure 9) is the winning design.
- > Among the many products and services offered for sale at the June-July 2004 Paris Philatelic Salon was having one's portrait printed se-tenant with an actual postage stamp. Here (Figure 10) is our member, friend, and occasional author Lewis Bussey "se-tenant" with the 0,50€ Anniversary stamp, posted 2 July 2004 at the Charles de Gaulle airport's postal station.



Figure 9.



Figure 10.

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## NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

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(Continued from N° 277, July 2004, p. 100)

**France** (all values expressed in euros = e) (first date given is that of First Day ceremonies; second is that of general sale to public).

- > 4 (7) June: French Gardens sheetlet of two 1,90e stamps; 5,00e EUROPA/Vacations booklet of ten self-adhesive 0,50e stamps showing sailboats;
- > 5 (7) June: 0,50e 60th Anniv. of D-Day;
- > 19 (21) June: 1,11e Art of Salvador Dali (1904-1989);
- > 22 June: 0,50e organ donations;
- > late June (?): booklet of ten self-adhesive permanent-value stamps with "Le Salon du Timbre" cover (blue on white stock);
- > 26 (28) June: 0,90e Pierre Dugas de Mons [joint issue with Canada]; same in 7,00e souvenir sheet with blocks of four of the French and Canadian stamps;



4,60e sheetlet of six stamps at 0,50e showing Napoleon I and the Imperial Guard [remaining 1,60e going to the Red Cross]; 0,50e 77th Congress of French Federation of Philatelic Associations (in Paris);

- 28 June (5 July): 5,00e sheetlet of ten 0,50e stamps for Athens Summer Olympics;
- 29 June (5 July): 5,00e airmail for Marie Marvingt (1875-1963) [pioneer aviatrix];
- 30 June (5 July): 0,50e Anniversaries; also in 2,50e sheetlet of five;
- 1 (5) July: 0,50e M. de Luquet + fight against diseases [see Announcements and News p. 129 and Figure 1];
- 2 (5) July: 0,75e Art of Van Gogh;
- 3 July (10 August): 2,50e sheetlet of five stamps at 0,20e and five at 0,30 for Youth Philately (sliding sports);
- 17 (19) July: 0,50e Vaux-sur-Mer (Charente-Maritime Dept.)

**Withdrawals:** 7 May: 3F/0,46e

Felicitations 2000; 3F/0,46e Halloween 2001; 0,50e Milan Stefanik; 0,50e Ahmed Shah Massoud; 0,50e Arras; 0,50e Pontarlier; 0,69e "Oui" 2002; 11 June: European Capitals sheetlet at 1,84e; Nature sheetlet (marine animals) at 2,30e; heart sheetlet by Y.A. Bertrand at 2,30e; Marianne de Luquet sheetlet of euro-coin values, at 3,88e; sheetlet for 3rd Millenium (2000) at 4,60e; World

Football Cup (2000) champions sheetlet at 4,60e; Marianne de Luquet sheetlet

of letter euro values, at 5,00e; M. de Luquet definitives: 0,55e, 0,58e, 0,64e, 0,67e, 0,69e, 1,02e.



**Andorra** (all values expressed in euros = e)

- 10 May: 0,50e EUROPA (Vacations theme);
- 17 May: 0,45 e Legend of St. Vincent Castle;
- 28 June: 0,75e Madriu-Perafita-Clarol Valley;
- 5 July: 0,50e Fontaneda hamlet.

**French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)**

- 26 June: 4,50€ penguin holding elephant-seal mask.



**French Polynesia**

- 28 May: 300F food vendor's cart;



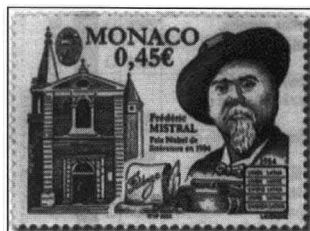
- 26 June: Local Handicrafts: two stamps at 60F and two at 90F;
- 29 June: 60F 20th Anniv. of internal autonomy.

**Mayotte** (all values expressed in euros = e)

- 17 April: relief map of Mayotte 0,05e, 0,10e, 0,20e, 1,00e and 2,00e;
- 14 June: 2,40e filigree jewelry; 0,50e papayas and papaya tree.

**Monaco** (all values expressed in euros = e)

- 26 April: 0,50e International School, Monaco;
- 28 May: 0,58e Napoleon I and two of his generals; 0,75e Imperial Eagle and bees; 1,90e Stéphanie de Beauharnais; 2,40e coronation of Napoleon I;
- 14 June: 1,60e 1909 production of Ballets Russes; 1,80e TV Festival;
- 26 June: 0,45 100th Anniv. of Nobel Prize to Frédéric Mistral; 0,50e Marco Polo; 1,00e "The Thousand and One Nights"; 0,50e UPU Congress, Bucarest; 0,75e Salon du Timbre, Paris;
- 5 July: 0,45e Monte Carlo Beach Hotel;
- 2 August: 1,60e 100th Anniv. of Int'l. Fed. of Soccer Assocs. (FIFA);
- 6 September: 0,45e Monte-Carlo Magic Stars.

**New Caledonia**

- 17 May: beaked whale of Blainville, two at 100F each in free-form 200F sheetlet;
- 18 May: 105F mounted carrier delivering mail (Stamp Day);
- 28 June: Dry forest sheetlet of three se-tenant stamps at 100F; Salon du Timbre (Paris) 200F and sheetlet of three at 100F;
- 26 July: sheetlet of six se-tenant stamps at 100F each showing cats.



**Withdrawals:** 30 November 2003: 700F Cagou booklet; 90F and 105F heads on money; Jipé Lebars; Amédée Lighthouse; 110F Aircalin (Noumea-Osaka link); 155F F. Leriche; 500F Qanono Church; 70F circus school; 100F A. Trohvae; 100F Central Highlands; 100F festive dress; 100F Year of the Goat.

**St. Pierre & Miquelon**

- 13 May: 0,30€ returning fishermen;
- June: 2,50€ rowing from St. Pierre to Newfoundland.

**Wallis & Futuna**

- 26 June: Philatelic Salon (Paris): heart-shaped sheetlet of four self-adhesive stamps at 85F plus another at 115F (flowers); algae: 105F, 155F, 175F (Philatelic Salon);
- 26 July: 100F Pili'Uli native lizard.

## THE "FAUX PÉTAIN"

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

François Chauvin has written rather convincingly, in the May 2002 *Timbres Magazine*, in support of the oft-contested contention that the "Faux Pétain" was originally printed to serve postal purposes. The clandestine organization *Défense de la France* (DF) became quite adept at surviving, and then at printing and delivering (at first non-postally) anti-German and anti-Vichy tracts and broadsides. As it grew bolder and began to use the mails to reach a larger proportion of the populace (and to cause consternation among collaborators), DF obviously could not and would not purchase the necessary large quantities of postage stamps at post offices without arousing suspicion.

Thus was created the "Faux Pétain," in the color and 1F50 denomination of the then current letter-rate stamp, at DF's "Atelier des Faux." Some 4, 147,200 copies were printed from 43,200 sheets of 96 stamps (plus gutters), clandestinely in Paris between 25 January and 30 May 1944. The latter date came three days after the French police finally raided DF's offices and printing facilities. All of the above is based in part upon recently obtained new information, made available to Chauvin. What follows is merely to re-acquaint readers with long-established facts.

Safeguarded unused stamps and sheets were sold at a substantial premium for some time after the liberation of Paris. To "authenticate" them, they were back stamped (in violet or red) *DÉFENSE DE PARIS - DIRECTION \* Atelier des Faux \** in a large circle with the Cross of Lorraine in center (Figure 1).

The stamps themselves are ungummed, coarsely printed by lithography on poor-quality paper, line perforated 11½ (Figure 2) instead of comb-perforated 14 x 13½ for the genuine 1F50 Pétain of Bersier, and are known in many shades of brown.



Figure 1. Back stamp of the "Atelier des Faux" (retouched lightly from Friedman, 1969).



Figure 2. Left to right: the authentic stamp, the very similar "British Intelligence" forgery, and the "Faux Pétain": (from Grasset, 1976; slightly enlarged).

As a stamp printed, at least at first, to defraud the mails, rather than for the purpose of titillating collectors, some rare postally used examples have sur-

vived, mainly in museum archives, possibly also in police dossiers (though the latter should be doubtful now, 60 years later).

### Suggested Additional Reading

Alan Barrett, "The World War II Resistance Forgeries," *Jour. of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society* Nos. 143-144, 1980.

H.A. (Bert) Friedman, "Propaganda Forgeries of World War II," Part 10, *Linn's Weekly Stamp News*, August 22, 1966.

\_\_\_\_\_, "World War II's Most Mistreated Postage Stamp," *S.P.A. Journal*, November 1969.

Dr. Jacques Grasset, *Les Timbres Faux pour Tromper la Poste de France*; Brussels, 1976.

L. N. and M. Williams, *Forged Stamps of Two World Wars*; London, 1954.

## F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As I mentioned in the last issue of the *FCP*, we need to make certain changes to our organizational bylaws to simplify the operation of the Society as a national and international organization. Your Board of Directors has worked hard to get these changes drafted, but, due to the vagaries of summer vacation and other commitments, we have not yet completed the task. I would especially like to thank our Immediate Past President, Dick Stevens, for his diligent help and sage advice during this process, and also Board member John Lievsay for many constructive ideas. The proposed changes, along with a ballot, will be included in the next issue.

Through a personal donation, our Society is now a "Society Sponsoring Member" of our next international show, Washington 2006. This sponsorship allows us to have a table at the show. We can use this to distribute literature to prospective members. Happily, the society tables do not have to be manned, so there is no need for us to "recruit" a lot of volunteers. It will also allow us to have a meeting room, on an "as available" basis. If we are able to find donations from our members of another \$250, we can become an "Organizers' Club Member" which I understand will guarantee us a meeting room sometime during the show. As I noted in the last issue, I hope to use the meeting room to have a joint meeting of some type with members of our sister groups from Europe. To this end, I will be attending the COLFRA exhibition in Paris in December. I hope that I will be able to meet a number of officials from the groups in Great Britain and France to get organized for Washington. This will afford FCPS members an opportunity to meet others interested in their field of study, and to exchange ideas with these researchers.

-- D. L. Herendeen

### NEW MEMBERS

- 3326 WRIGHT, CHARLES, 808 High St., Logansport, IN 46947. (General Collector: All Issues. Topical: World Wide Red Cross. General France: Mint. Colonies General Issues: Mint, All Colonies & Territories. Dealer: Part Time. French Community: Offices Abroad.)
- 3327 ZISTVAY, JOHN I., 22619 87th Ave., S.E., Woodinville, WA 98077. (Topical: Europe C.E.P.T. Council of Europe. Andorre. Colonies General Issues: Mint - On Cover.)
- 3328 OLSEN, JAMES, P.O. Box 9652, Fargo, ND 58106-9652. (France & Colonies: All Issues. General France: Mint. Andorre - Monaco - Saar.)
- 3329 NOUROK, DAVID S., M.D., P.O. Box 676348, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint. French Community.)



**CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS**

- 3265 SELLWOOD, JACKSON S., 708 Sweetwater Drive, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077.  
 1435 NORTON, JACK H., 1924 Archer Trail, Denton, TX 76209-1304.  
 3194 CARON, MAURICE, 70 Rue Lewis. #434, Longueuil, Quebec J4H 402, Canada.  
 1976 SWANSON, WILLIAM F., 2664 Chadbourne Drive, York, PA 17404-1155.  
 1136 BALCH, STEVEN A., MD, 205 Mangano Circle, Encinitas, CA 92024-2740.  
 3249 HOFHEIMER, HENRY, 16734 Audrey Drive, Morgan Hill, CA 95037.  
 2224 WYER, ROLFE, 7675 La Jolla Blvd., Unit 101, La Jolla, CA 92037-4747.  
 3297 SCHWARTZMAN, PETER, 11814 Spindrift Loop, Hudson, FL 34667-5590.  
 1691 WILLMARTH, RICHARD, 408 Warren Ave., Normal, IL 61761-1244.  
 3220 DUNLEAVY, ROBERT, 12-B Randall Court, Annapolis, MD 21401.

**DECEASED**

2994 PEACOCK, JOHN E.

## **SOME ASPECTS OF FOREIGN MAILS DURING THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR OF 1870-1871. 3**

by Robert I. Johnson (FCPS #2027)

The dispatch of mails to and from Paris had for all normal purposes stopped in mid-September 1870 because of the siege of Paris by German forces.

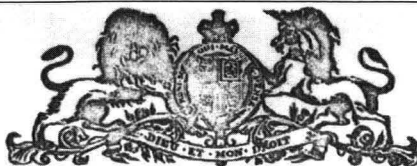
The United Kingdom's GPO's Notice No. 8 of 1871, dated the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1871, gave notice that open (*i.e.*, unsealed) letters would be made up into a mail for Paris each evening and sent by special steamer from Newhaven to Dieppe. Letters were to remain unsealed should the German authorities want to read and perhaps censor them.

Sealed letters could once again be sent from 16<sup>th</sup> February 1871 (GPO Notice No. 10, Figure 4). Figure 5 is an open letter from London to Paris date stamped FE[bruary] 7, [18]71, but which entered France only on the 12<sup>th</sup>, sent along this route during that very brief ten-day period.



Figure 5. (reduced to 85%)

No. 10.



# LETTERS for PARIS.

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**IT has been officially intimated to this Department that, henceforth, not only unsealed Letters but sealed Letters also may be forwarded to Paris in the Mails sent via Dieppe.**

**Registered Letters for Paris may also be forwarded.**

**By Command of the Postmaster-General.**

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

16th February, 1871.

*Figure 4. (trimmed to fit, and reduced to 72%)*