

Vermeil Medals at CHICAGOPEX 2003 and NAPEX 2004



The three basic formats of 2004's personalized postage, shown honoring the renowned chickens of Bourg-en-Bresse.

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AIRMAIL LETTER RATES FROM FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA TO FRANCE 1930-1945

by Bob Picirilli (FCPS #2381) (Continued from January 2005 issue)

- (9) This is listed as the "current" rate in the *JOAEF* for 15 Nov 1944, not an effective date. Alexandre dates it on 10 Mar 1945, but cover evidence (Figure 8) shows that it was applied in late 1944, probably as early as the 16 Sep 1944 cover mentioned in note (8).
- (10) Alexandre dates this change in basic as of 1 Mar. I could not confirm it in the *JOAEF*, but cover evidence tends to say that it did not apply in AEF until at least 1 Apr. The earliest cover that is clearly at 2f basic is dated 10 June, but covers for this period are sparse (Figure 9).

Special Circumstances

There are some special circumstances that affect the franking on a number of covers. Four, in particular, need to be mentioned here.

- 1. The first refers to covers sent without an airmail surtax charged, apparently to promote use of airmail. Most of these are stamped *Transportée Exceptionellement* and are characterized by the fact that the franking pays only the basic rate (Figure 10). We have noted more of these from AEF to France than from other colonies, and they are especially prominent during the early period. Among the covers in the database, 16 are franked either 50c (which was the basic rate) or 60c, obviously paying no airmail surtax. These range in date from December 1934 to February 1936; interestingly, nearly all of these were sent by or to Monsieur Leralle, a French dealer and philatelic finagler. This may explain the fact that many of these were franked at 60c instead of the 50c basic.
- 2. Franchise Militaire, usually indicated by "F.M.," involved waiver of basic for those on military duty. Thus covers will occasionally appear that pay only the airmail surtax (Figure 7) (or airmail plus registry). They will often, but not always, have F.M. written in manuscript and/or some written identification of their status and unit. A few covers show that official mail from government agencies sometimes enjoyed such a franchise.
- 3. Another special circumstance arises in the fact that airmail flights between Leopoldville and Boma, both in Belgian Congo, were established early. Leopoldville lay immediately across the Congo River from Brazzaville in French Congo, and Boma was near the coast and convenient for shipping. The JOAEF announced early that mail bound for France could be paid to fly that leg from Leopoldville to Boma; of course it would go the rest of the way by steamship, but presumably this would speed the letter on its way. The airmail surtax for this leg, when it was established (according to Alexandre, as of 31 Jan 1928), was 1f25/20g. By 1 Mar 1932 (date of publication in the JOAEF) an 80c/5g rate was available for this leg, but perhaps only for mail to be flown by Sabena. Alexandre does not give this rate at all, and there are two covers in the database dated in May and November of 1933 that are franked at 1f75. marked "Léo-Boma," clearly still paying the 1f25 airmail surtax for this leg (+ 50c basic, of course) (Figure 2). At any rate, all this means that some airmail covers pay basic plus this smaller airmail surtax only, and they will typically be marked "Léo-Boma."



Figure 7. 17 Apr 1940, Abeche (Chad) to St. Etienne @ 3f. Basic waived (note "F.M." and military cachet); 3f/5g airmail. Courtesy Barry Newton. (reduced to 70%)

4. As just intimated, there were apparently some different rates announced in the JOAEF for 1 May 1934 (and again on 15 Nov 1934) for airmail being carried by Sabena or Imperial Airways. This airmail surtaxe was 2f50/5g "to Europe" if dispatched from Brazzaville and taken across the river to Leopoldville for flight from there, or 1f75/5g if dispatched from Bangassou (further north in Ubangi-Chari) to be taken across the border to Buta (also in Belgian Congo) for flight from there. Whether this "Europe" could have included France as a destination is not indicated. No covers in the database during this period appear to have paid this rate, and Alexandre does not mention it (though he is listing only rates from France to AEF, we must remember). All airmail covers in the database for 1934 (and beyond) appear to have been flown by either of the three routes that involved French lines for at least part of the way: "Transsahara" from Congo to Algeria, or via Dakar, or Léo-Boma (and then surface, as just described). The first cover to indicate Sabena service is dated 4 Mar 1935, cacheted for the inauguration of regular airmail service from Brussels (via Marseille) to Belgian Congo on its return flight (5 Mar), and addressed to France (backstamped Marseille and Paris). But it paid only the established 2f/5g airmail surtax. My conclusion, then, is that this 1934 2f50 rate was little (if at all) used for mail from AEF to France.

Appeal

The study group whose work lies behind this article continues to benefit from and needs further help from collectors who have airmail covers from any French areas (not France itself) to anywhere prior to 1946. Generous-spirited

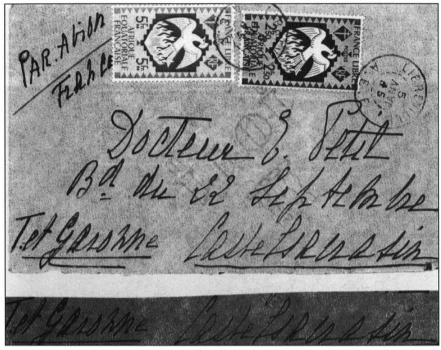


Figure 8. 5 Jan 1945, Libreville (Gabon) to Castelsarrasin @ 7f50. Basic 1f50 + 6f/5g airmail. Courtesy Tony Brooks. (reduced to 80%)

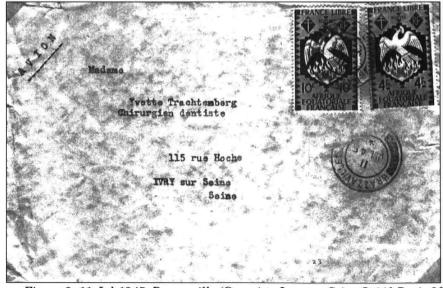


Figure 9. 11 Jul 1945, Brazzaville (Congo) to Ivry-sur-Seine @ 14f. Basic 2f + double 6f/5g airmail. Courtesy Robert Johnson. (reduced to 70%)

collectors have enabled the database to grow greatly, but there are many gaps. Please send photocopies of all such covers (front and back) to the author at 301 Greenway Ave., Nashville, TN 37205. I may also be contacted at repic@access4less.net.

I have selected a number of covers to illustrate the various rates and information given in this article; a special thanks to the collectors who have graciously provided permission and copies of their covers for use in this article, and to Marty Bratzel and Bill Mitchell for reading a draft of the article and offering a number of helpful suggestions.



Figure 10. 9 Feb 1935, Fort Lamy (Chad) to Paris @ 50c (basic). Flown exceptionnellement (at least to Alger) with no airmail surtaxe paid. Courtesy Paul Larsen. (reduced to 80%)

SOME NEW AND RECENT WEB SITES

L'Association des Collectionneurs de Carnets et de Publicitimbres [Society of booklet and pubs collectors]: www.accp-asso.com/

For local prêts-à-poster [local stamps-imprinted-to-order stationery]: www.pap-infos.net/

Timbres Magazine: www.TimbresMag.com

For what's available, including visits to the archives, at the Musée de La Poste, Paris: http://www.laposte.fr/musee/mu_corps.htm

ACEP's site, for French postal stationery [very complete]: http://mapage.noos.fr/entiersfr/mainsommaire.html

BE YOUR OWN EXPERT

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915) (Continued from January 2005 issue)

2. Fakes to Defraud Collectors

Such fakes are best described as **forgeries**. As such, they appear in many collections and are mainly to be avoided, as having minimal monetary value (with the exception, of course, of Jean de Sperati's excellent imitations). In some instances, they may be prized by specialists, and worth obtaining (as cheaply as possible) for one's "reference collections." Fakes also include genuine stamps that have been altered to appear to be more valuable varieties or given fakes of more valuable cancels.

The American Philatelic Society (APS) has reprinted the Serrane Guide of philatelic forgeries between July 1988 and December 1995, with a complete index to all forged nations' stamps in the December 1995 issue. France itself appeared in the September and October 1989 issues; the Colonies are scattered throughout. The serial is available in a single hardbound volume for \$86.25 (\$69.00 to APS members).

The Fournier Album of Philatelic Forgeries was reprinted in 1970 by Lowell Ragatz, and this softbound book is offered on occasion by dealers. As the name implies, it is just an album and lacks explanatory text and recognition characteristics, but it does show pretty much everything that François Fournier ever produced in his workshop. It is even more useful for the cuts of faked cancellations--which can be found on genuine as well as forged stamps. If yours is identical to the illustration, then yours is almost assuredly false.

Brun's Faux et Truqués (1980), was later translated by our own members as the APS's Outfoxing the Fakers, which may now be out of print. Contact Subway Stamp Shop (or other sources) for availability and price. The Brun book, now in a second edition (in French, of course) is available. The Brun and I would expect the translation as well, are difficult to follow and use, for Brun delves more into the printing and fakery methods employed than in describing actual real and faked stamps. Still this subject is a very important one when it comes to correct expertizing.

Also out of print is James Chemi's *The Yucatan Affair, the work of Raoul de Thuin....*, published by the APS. J. H. Schloss' *Distinguishing Characteris-tics of Classic Stamps - Europe, 19th Century* (originally in German, also in French and English editions) is excellent for the Classics, and does appear on occasion.

All the above are general tomes. Now we can list specific studies and accounts on French (and some Colonial) forgeries. Obviously, this is not the place to even mention repairs, filled thins, reperforations, faked imperforates, falsified experts' markings, etc. It may suffice to say that a good UV lamp can do wonders for catching some of these trickeries.

Unfortunately, only years of experience and practice, plus a sound knowledge of history, postal rates and routes, dates of usage of markings, even of papers and inks, and especially abundant common sense, will serve to expertise a cover. Even so, one can be fooled, as have many a professional expertizer.

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[Here, I'll take the easy road and list the entries alphabetically by source, rather than attempt to sort out individual forgeries. Besides, it'll familiarize the reader with these various sources].

Académie de Philatélie (Paris) printout: some fake markings on cover (Classics and pre-stamp).

J.-P. Bournique, Occupation de la France et Annexion de l'Alsace-Lorraine...., (SPAL, 1996, pp. 14-16): Alsace-Lorraine occupation issues of 1870).

Calves and Jacquart (undated inserts in catalogs): 5F Paris 1925 Exposition; 5F and 10F Strasbourg 1927 Exposition;

French State officials.

Collectionneur Lyonnais, No. 24 (1974): 1F50 Dove of Peace of 1934; Minéraline booklet.

Documents Philatéliques, No. 163 (2000): proofs of 1924 Olympics stamps.

L'Echo de la Timbrologie, Jan. 1971: 1000F "Alouette" airmail;

June 1975: French State officials;

Feb. 1980: faked color changes; various others;

April 1996: Paris 1937 PEPIX sheet.

Fakes - Forgeries - Experts, vol. 1 (1998); 1870-1871 War covers.

Jour. of the France & Colonies Phil. Soc. [GB], No. 161 (1960): Colonies "Navigation and Commerce";

No. 190-191 (1993-1994): "House of Stamps" imitations of early France;

No. 211 (1999): all 11x11 line-perforated French and Colonial stamps (except 20F Pont-du-Gard and some Monaco stamps);

No. 218 (2000): POSTE/PARIS/1921 precancels; 1927 Sinking Fund ovpts.; Minéraline booklet;

No. 227 (2003): Red Cross semi-postal ovpt. (Scott B1).

HJMR offering (no date): on Speratis.

Marianne, Bull. 54 (2000): 0,45 violet M. de Becquet (reperforated proof); Bull. 56 (2001): varia.

Le Monde des Philatélistes, May 1975: French State officials;

July-Aug. 1976: 20c Lauré, "bees" variety;

Sept. 1976: 5F Empire:

March 1977: proofs of 1924 Olympics;

May-Dec. 1977: 1F vermilion and 1F Empire (Speratis);

Jan.-March 1978: 10c Presidency (Sperati);

April-May 1978: 20c black of 1849 (Sperati);

June 1978: 1F black Postage Due:

July-Aug. 1978: 10c and 15c Cérès first issue (Speratis);

Sept. 1978: 5F Empire:

Nov. 1978: 15c green Cérès, first issue;

Feb. 1979: ANDORRE ovpts., Andorra first issue;

Feb.-May 1979: 2c and 4c Bordeaux (Speratis);

April 1979: Speratis (general); 1F Telegraph;

Nov. 1979: 20c Bordeaux type I (Sperati);

Dec. 1979: Square Dues (Speratis):

Jan. 1980: Gros chiffres 2387 of Monaco;

March 1980: 80c Bordeaux (Sperati);

??: 30c Bordeaux (Sperati):

Oct. 1980: 20c imperforate Empire tête-bêche (Sperati);

Dec. 1980: various methods of producing fakes;

Sept. 1986: Le Havre 1929 Expo ovpt. on 2F Merson; 1F Empire of 1853; 55c/60c lined Sower precancel; Alsace-Lorraine issues of 1870:

Oct. 1986: St. Nazaire issue and Bear block (World War II):

Jan. 1987: Gabon 15c provisional of 1889; Fr. Congo 10c parcel post;

Dec. 1987: Cameroun "Spitfire" ovpts.

Nov. 1988: 5F and 10F Strasbourg 1927 Expo.;

Jan. 1989: Valenciennes 1914 Chamber of Commerce;

Dec. 1989: 1F PHILATEC of 1964:

April 1990: various overprints and cancels;

May 1990: Fezzan June 1943 ovpts.;

??: anchor killers:

Feb. 1992; red and blue gros chiffres 4900;

Nov. 1994: Liberté de Gandon misperforations.

Opinions VI (1992): bogus Scott 60a (15c bistre on rose Cérès error).

Philatelic Foundation (N.Y.) Bull., Sept. 1969: Le Havre 1929 Expo. ovpt. on 2F Merson; Seminar Series book 2: Philatélie à la Française (1991, pp. 71-99): Sperati forgeries.

R.G. Stone, French Colonies - The General Issues; Coll. Club Handbook 11 (1961): Eagles (pp. 17-18); 1871 issue (pp. 47-48); 1872-76 issues (pp. 74-75); Sages (p. 93); Dubois (p. 106); and reference therein to earlier article, on the Postage Dues, in Coll. Club Philatelist, v. 25, N° 3, 1946, pp. 115-122.

Timbroscopie, Jan. 1999; 20c black of 1849.

??: a faked counterfeit 25c cameo Sower (faked "Faux de Nice") on faked cover (!).

SOME SHOW REPORTS

(Continued from N° 279, January 2005, p. 22)

- CHICAGOPEX 2004 (Arlington Heights, IL, November 2004): Gold medals to Larry Gardner for "Morocco Foreign Post Offices and Agencies," and to Paul Larsen for his Caroline Islands exhibit; Vermeil medals to Bob Kinsley for "French Occupation on West Africa 1892-1906," and to Eliot Landau for "France: The Ceres and Napoleon Issues of 1849-1875 used Abroad and in Foreign Mails," Silver medal to Bob Kinsley for "France: Pre-adhesive Postal marks 1560s-1860s." In the single-frame competition: Platinum medal to Eliot Landau for his 1909 Lincoln exhibit. A great showing by our members!
- Mid-Cities Stamp Expo 2004 (Dallas [Grapevine, TX], November): Grand Award and Gold medal to Dale Lilljedahl for "French Olympic Philately of 1924."
- ARIPEX 2005 (Tucson, AZ, January 2005): Single frame Gold medals to John Bloor for "Georges Guynemer and the Guynemer Airmail Etiquettes of France," and also for his Portuguese Africa provisional airmails.
- SANDICAL 2005 (San Diego, January): Gold medal to Jeff Ward for "French Guiana and Inini Commemoratives"; Vermeil medal to Stephen Tucker (a non-member?) for "Guinee Française: Guinea as a French Colony 1892-1959"; single-frame Silver medal to Ward for "The Cayenne Design of French Guiana."

OCCASIONAL FUNDAMENTALS--POSTAL TRAINING SCHOOL STAMPS AND DUMMY STAMPS

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

Schools to train postal employees in the art and craft of applying proper postage to mail, and its cancellation, accounting and routing were created in France in 1911. To prevent misuse or pilferage of actual postage and postagedue stamps, currently-valid ones were overprinted ANNULÉ (annulled) (Figure 1) in late 1911 (Charvet, 1956), struck once, or twice on oversize Merson stamps (Figure 2). Overprinting was changed to SPÉCIMEN in 1925 (Figure 3). As can be expected from overprinting, many varieties exist: offset,







Figure 1.

Figure 2.

Figure 3.



Figure 4.

inverted, doubled (Figure 4), etc. Espec-ially sought after by collectors are booklets with these two overprints, and precancels as well (Figure 5).



The subject of trainingschool stamps has been cov-

Figure 5.

ered very thoroughly and well by a number of authors (see Bibliography), but it may be unfamiliar to many readers, especially as most of the articles are in French.

Having saluted these predecessors, I shall try to keep this primer short, informative, weak in cumbersome details, and strong in pertinent illustrations.

Overprinted stamps were no longer issued to postal employees after 1926, presumably for economic reasons during those inflationary times, but mainly because of excessive pilferage of stocks to satisfy collectors' demands. The trainees had to make do with their own "artwork,"

scrawled directly on the envelopes, or with stickers, which included marginal and gutter blanks from sheets of stamps (Trassaert, 1993) (Figure 6). Few of these mainly unattractive products remain, and they tend to be sought after by specialists.





Figure 6.

New etiquettes, properly called "fictifs" were introduced in 1931. Bidmead (1986) reasons that "fictional stamps" would not be as attractive to collectors, but he was only partly right. These etiquettes consisted of perforated stamp paper with borders printed in the same colors as the current regular and due issues of the day, with the same face value at top and SANS VALEUR (no value) at bottom; the frame, the SANS VALEUR, and sometimes the face value being all printed in the same color by typography (Figure 7). Rotary-press printings replaced flat-plate ones in 1935.



Figure 7.

Printing and use of these etiquettes continued well after the 1960 changeover to the New Franc (Figure 8). But, until new-franc values could be printed (there not being much demand in 1960 for fresh stocks of training-school material), changes were made provisionally and usually locally with rubber stamps (Figure 9, and see Deloste, 1970).

0,70 SANS VALEUR



O O SANS VALEUR

Figure 8.

Eventually, by 1989, little more than red or green (fast or slow mail) commemorative-size

Figure 9.

etiquettes, without any indication of face value (Figure 10), remained in production. These are engraved, and were printed in June 1987 on a TD3 press (J. L. Trassaert, personal communication). Even more recently, etiquettes have been superceded by meter imprints (Figure 11) and by computer-vended postage labels from different manufacturers (Delmarre, 1997).

Now for some genuine, and for somewhat less so, items. Thanks to the ready availability



Figure 10.



Figure 11.

of excellent color copiers, some instructional schools, running low on etiquettes, concocted their own with photocopies of actual sheet stamps that they overprinted SANS VALEUR (Trassaert, 1991) (Figure 12). Items of postal stationery (envelopes, cards, wrappers, pneumatic-tube



Figure 12.



Figure 13. (reduced to 72%)

formules. aerogrammes, etc.) were also overprinted for the schools (Bidmead. 1986). There are usually on standardissue stationery stocks (Figure 13), but may also exist in monocolor

(Figure 14) and pre-printed with SPÉCIMEN or SANS VALEUR (or both). It



Figure 14.

can be quite difficult to determine, in the absence of official documentation, how really "official" some may be, especially the more recent monocolored types.

Other officially-produced or sanctioned vignettes, such as the Palissy ones, have also been used as "fictifs" by the training schools. The subject of Palissy and other vignettes may be treated here some day as yet another "Occasional Fundamental".

Cancellations and other markings

Special date stamps were prepared for use by the postal trainees. They show the name of the school's city at top (or bottom) and COURS PRATIQUES at bottom or top. Other date stamps read similarly CENTRE D'INSTRUCTION (Figure 15), CENTRE REG[ion]AL D'INST[ruct]ON, CENTRE REGIONAL DE FORMATION, and other similar indications that this was not "real" mail.

In addition to date stamps, the trainees made use of normal standard registry labels (some preprinted) (Figure 16) and instructional markings: CHARGÉ, RÉCLAMÉ, INCONNU, RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR, etc. Addresses were to fictitious persons and locales, both domestic and foreign, as practice called for. Like on any other postal document, training-school cancels have been struck on envelopes destined for the collector trade. Remember that most trainees most anywhere tend to be poorly paid!

In conclusion, *fictifs* or dummy stamps are eminently collectible, and should be incorporated in most any specialized 20th Century monographic collection or exhibit. To do so shows extra philatelic knowledge on the part of the owner.

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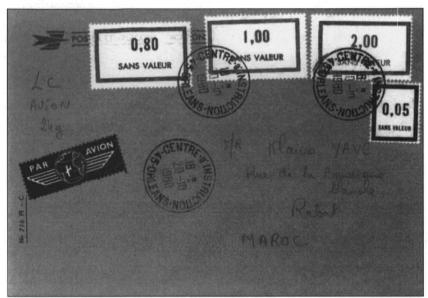


Figure 15.

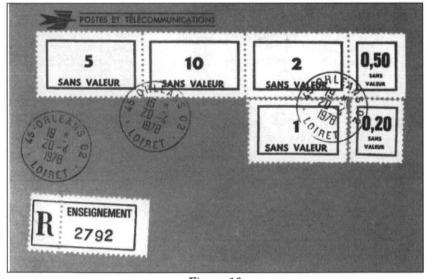


Figure 16.

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

Dr. Edward J. J. Grabowski has agreed to serve in the newly designated capacity of Associate Editor for Colonies. He needs no introduction to the membership but I'll do so anyway. Ed is **the** leading authority in North America on 19th Century French Colonies philately, and one of the top ones in the subject in the world. As such, he carries on the tradition of his mentor, the late Robert G. Stone, who was the previous Editor of our Journal. Ed's duties, as far as we've been able to consider them, would be to seek out (as well as write) suitable articles on Colonies subjects, to bring Colonies information of general interest to our readers to my attention, and perhaps most importantly, to review and correct facts and interpretations in Colonies manuscripts received by me with an eye for publication.

And now that one new position has been most capably filled, we'd like to see someone else come forth and volunteer to be the Associate Editor for -- until we come up with a better term -- Modern Philately. My own expertise of French philately, if not my appreciation and admiration for it, lags terribly from 1967 or so. This is the time when automatization of the mails, the introduction of new postal markings, of computer-generated postage, new techniques for printing and perforating stamps, etc. began to make their appearance and to leave me befuddled by rapid changes and ever-increasing complexities.

Modern stamps, covers and postmarks are what many of us collect and what many of us can best afford (even if they sometimes arrive gratis via the mails). Such artifacts may well become the Classics of the not-too-distant future, and should be of interest to most of us, especially the more novice amongst us. Articles and "mere" notes should be encouraged, and we should have an Associate Editor willing and able to write about or bring to our attention matters relating to current (and recent) French (and DOM-TOM) stamp production, varieties, errors, postal doings and postal markings, why a stamp was issued and the story of its subject, plus whatever else I have failed, for one reason or another, to bring to our readers' attention. FCPS is truly an international society, and there's no reason why the position can't be filled from abroad, by someone with e-mail. So whoever you are, if you feel you have any expertise in any facet(s) of Modern Francophile Philately, please present yourself for the good of our readers and for the betterment of our France & Colonies Philatelist.

But in the meantime, if **you** want anything published in the *Philatelist*, whether a note or an announcement or a Member's Appeal (even an article!), please send it **directly** to the Editor (or his Associate, if germane). Any roundabout way may just result in considerable delays in its publication. You may have other reasons for communicating with other Officers and Directors, but don't include any material for the *Philatelist*! The Officers and Directors do correspond with the Editor, but we may not always be on the same continent in any given week or month.

CORRECTION

Contrary to what was reported as an **Expertizing Crisis** on page 18 of the January 2005 issue, the Philatelic Foundation continues to expertise foreign as well as US philatelic material. Sorry for the misinformation.

JERUSALEM -- THE EARLY FRENCH POST OFFICES by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

Despite having been a major sovereign nation, and one of the early signatories of the U.P.U., the Ottoman Empire had for centuries acquiesced to the presence, on its territory, of postal concessions granted to a number of European countries. These included the well-known Offices in [Greater] Turkey, Jerusalem, however, was not included in these earlier post office concessions.

Even in the presence of a functioning Ottoman postal system, quite capable of handling international mail, the Western powers insisted upon manning their own mail services out of various Ottoman towns. Austria-Hungary

was the first, in 1863 (or perhaps slightly later?), to open a postal agency in Jerusalem. France, jockeving with Germany and others, vacillated until Germany opened several post offices in March 1900, including one in Jerusalem. France finally opened one in Jerusalem in August (or September) 1900, in gleeful expectation of a flood of mail from pilgrims and stamp collectors. Unlike Jaffa, a mere secondary post office (distribution) [killer of petits chiffres 3768, then from 1863, of grand chiffres 5089 (Figure 1)] upon which Jerusalem mail had depended upon for decades as its port city, and which became a 5089 grands principal post office (recette) only in 1877, the Jerusalem post chiffres Jaffa office was a recette from the moment of its 1900 creation killer. (Figure 2).



Figure 1.

The Jerusalem recette closed its doors in October 1914, on the eve of the Allies' declaration of war on Turkey. All foreign concessions in Turkish territory were abrogated by the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne; however, by then,



Figure 2. 9 Sept. 1902, on 10c Sage (card rate). (reduced to 94%)

Palestine and Jerusalem were no longer Turkish but under British military control. The timeframe for this post office is therefore only 1900 to 1914.

But this was not the first French post office in Jerusalem. Argyropoulos (1968) mentions a private post, with specified rates and services, dating from 1846. Very rare letters bearing a manuscript Jerusalem mention plus a Beyrouth recette (created in 1840) date stamp are known as early as 1847 (Melot, 2002). A non-postal **JERUSALEM** straightline handstamp, followed by date, plus a cursive Jaffa (distribution opened June 1852) is known from the early 1850s, but soon (late 1854) was replaced by a **Jerusalem** straightline plus date, alongside the dotted outer-circle distribution date stamp of Jaffa (Melot, 2002).

Straightline markings were replaced in 1858 by the not-quite-so-rare, but much admired and sought after "Jerusalem Cross" circular, consular(?) cachet POSTE FRANÇAISE * JERUSALEM with the Templar cross of Godefroy de Bouillon in center (Figures 3, 4a). The cross was removed during the winter



Figure 3.

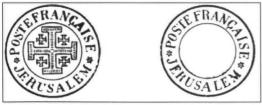


Figure 4. (a) at left, with Templar Cross; (b) at right, with Cross removed.

of 1878-1879 (Figure 4b), and this is the scarcer marking of the two. This not-quite-official bureau was shut down around 1887. None of the above-mentioned pre-1900 Jerusalem markings are true postal ones, but served only to indicate origination of letters so marked.

French stamps were used throughout the 19th Century stamp issuing period: Empire through Sage in Jaffa, Sage only for the circular Jerusalem recette date-stamp period, there being no French post office there between 1877 and 1900. In theory few covers exist with Jerusalem postmarks on unoverprinted Sage issues. Certain Sage stamps were overprinted for use in the Levant, from 1885. Shortly after the start of the 20th Century, the Sage issue was replaced by Blanc, Mouchon

and Merson issues that bear LEVANT at the bottom instead of the inscriptions used for Metropolitan France. However, stamps of France were also available, and were also used in Jerusalem and elsewhere in the Ottoman Empire.

Tolkowsky (1957) states that there must have been at least two Jerusalem date stamps in use during the 1900-1914 *recette* period. Distances between the M of JERUSALEM and the second E of PALESTINE vary from 10+ mm to 12.75 mm, the greatest distance being found mostly on pre-1902 date stamps.

Shure reported forged postmarks for both Jaffa and Jerusalem, both apparently made from rubber stamps rather than steel dies. The second E of the forged JERUSALEM has slightly longer horizontal strokes than the first, and they are not quite parallel. As for the genuine dotted outer line Jaffa distribution date stamp, a single dot appears above and exactly midway between the A and F of JAFFA, but not so on the forgery seen by him.

Ah Jerusalem -- always in the news!

[The French consular overprints of 1948 are purposely omitted from this article. Perhaps some reader may be persuaded to volunteer an article on this later subject].

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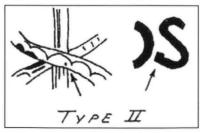
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TYPES AND SUBTYPES 20c Mercure

Type I: [not illustrated]: (All sheet stamps, including precancels): the "c" of value is very thin.

Type II: (Coil stamps, found only in precancelled form): the "c" of value is more visible; a small dot of color present in snake where it crosses the staff; protuberance at lower end of first S of POSTES.



MEMORIAL TO, AND REMEMBRANCES OF, ERNST M. COHN (1920-2004)



Ernst M. Cohn, the preeminent authority on the postal hisof the 1870-1871 Franco-German War and postal historian par excellence, died in his sleep at his Dothan, Alabama home the night of December 29-30, 2004. He was born in Mainz, Germany on March 31, 1920, escaped from Nazi oppression, served in the U.S. Army in World War II (including, justifiably, as an interpreter at the Nürnberg Trials), and eventually obtained an M. S. in chemistry from the Univ. of Pittsburgh. For many years he was a senior scientist and administrator at the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Pittsburgh (rising to Manager of Coal Research); later in Washington. D.C. as Manager of Solar and Chemical Power for NASA. His researches received several patents.

Though best known for his studies and publications on the two opposing sides of the 1870-1871 conflict he was well versed in Scandinavian postal markings and had a passion for postal history in general, balloon mail, the detection of faked and enhanced covers, mail (smuggled and otherwise) of besieged towns, early covert censorship of the mails, the vagaries of philatelic exhibiting and judging (especially of the latter!), and the waste of the world's (especially in the United States) natural resources. There were very few subjects, philatelic or otherwise, that

did not actively interest him.

He authored at least four major philatelic books; Die "Papillons" von Metz (1976), The Flight of the "Ville d'Orléans" (1978), Ordinary Mail by Diplomatic Means during the Siege of Paris 1870-1871 (1995), and Unusual Mail in Occupied France 1870-1871 (2000), as well as considerably more than 100 articles of varying length in at least four languages, most of which (in spite of some repetition) have and will stand the test of time. He also wrote articles and notes, many of a philosophical bend, for the American Chemical Society and other professional journals. He was an indefatigable visitor to libraries and archives here and abroad, and an avid reader of obscure newspapers from whatever time periods he was interested in -- which were many. Facts had to be unearthed and proven beyond little doubt, and woe to the writer who merely repeated the fallacies and errors of earlier authors!

Ernst received most of philately's highest honors, including the Writers Unit Hall of Fame (1986), the FIP research medal (1987), the APS' Luff Award (1995), and the Collectors Club of NY's Lichtenstein Award (2004).

But he did not become a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, perhaps because he was too much of a contrarian and debunker who, if he didn't quite exterminate, at least singed badly some of philately's most sacred cows. These included the Paris Siege balloon marked *Trouvé* à *La Courneuve*, the Vineta provisional, and the Buffalo balloon. He did not suffer fools lightly, and ruffled the feathers of a number of eminent authorities and "experts" on both sides of the Atlantic.

He was also an occasional international judge and exhibitor, the latter more so to educate the viewer than for the medal level he might have obtained. Although his exhibits received at least one gold medal, he was just as pleased with a "mere" certificate if the exhibit might have broken new collecting or exhibiting ground, or just created a ruckus.

Among other achievements, he was a Foreign Corresponding member of the Académies de Philatélie of Paris and of Belgium, Honorary member of the Académie Européenne de Philatélie, past president of the Washington Philatelic Society, past president and journal editor of the Postal History Society, former vice-president of the American Philatelic Congress, director of the American Academy of Philately, postal history columnist for the American Philatelic Society and chairman of its Postal History Committee, member of both the U.S. and U.K. France & Colonies Philatelic Societies (and had just completed for both societies a series of 90 short pieces related to the 1870-1871 War). He wrote the postal history judging section of three editions of the APS Manual of Philatelic Judging.

Ernst had countless friends (and some adversaries) on both sides of the Atlantic. They ranged from the most eminent philatelists to novice collectors, and he maintained a voluminous lively, and most informative correspondence via a series of battered typewriters and worn ribbons until well into the mid-1990s when he got "computerized." His quick wit and wry, understated sense of humor sometimes went over other people's heads or else rubbed them the wrong way.

He died just a year and a day after his vivacious and beloved second wife, Doris, who many of us recall from her visits to shows. There apparently are no close surviving relatives.

Most of what I've written so far has been rather dry and impersonal, so permit me (hey, I'm the Editor!) to get closer to our departed colleague. What began in 1974, by my asking Ernst a simple question regarding an article of his, turned into a constant and very voluminous correspondence that ended only in the last month of his life. What, the great man could spare so much time for little me? Bit by bit we corresponded as almost equals. He was my mentor in many ways; on helping me become a better exhibitor, on which auction lots to go for as my exhibits rose up the medal ladder, on never taking published opinions for granted, and he translated German inscriptions for me. In turn, he used me (and surely others) as a sounding board, whereby he would bounce his own beliefs and conclusions, including some seemingly outrageous ones, upon me. If I found them to be remotely plausible, he would (sometimes anyway) go ahead and use them in some forthcoming article or book -- which, of course gave me much gratification. Ernst, you are and will -- Stanley J. Luft be missed greatly by so many of us.

[My thanks go to Bonny Farmer and to Alan Warren for bringing to my attention some of Ernst's memberships and honors I would otherwise have missed noting here. And now, here follow a number of tributes from other members of our Society or "just plain friends."]

It seems like I knew Ernst forever, from the 1950s surely, He was on "my" Board of the Postal History Society in 1969 or so. Earlier, Will Reiner-Deutsch selected Ernst and me to judge with him two local shows in Long Island and central New Jersey. What I was doing in such company is a question, but they were kind to and protective of me. Both [local] societies went out of existence shortly thereafter, perhaps not because of my participation on their juries.

To say that Ernst was helpful is like saying fresh air is good for you. He was, after John Hotchner, especially generous in ideas and gifts for the second exhibit of my retirement, "How to Win a Gold Medal." If there is anything that Ernst didn't know, I never uncovered it. I thought that Ernst was probably forever, Maybe he is.

-- John L. Briggs, Jr.

I first met Ernst during the period that Yvonne Newbury was President of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society [of GB], and once at her home. We casually came across one another on a number of occasions over the years, at various gatherings of our mutual societies and at national or international shows in the UK or overseas. He was an enthusiastic researcher in his own fields of interest and, for some time, has been published in both of our journals alternatively. Ernst will be much missed in the philatelic world.

-- Colin Spong

I first met Ernst as a friend of my parents, Gardner and Ruth Brown, when they all worked separately and together on Franco-Prussian War research. He and Dad disagreed in the friendliest way possible about certain balloon flights and whether the mail could be traced to certain specific flights. Back when there was a postal history committee in the APS, Ernst was the chairman. At a show where he was introducing his wife, Doris, he made me a member of the committee. Doug [Clark] and I sat with him when he received the Luff Award in 1985. Dad, Steve Walske and Ernst co-authored New Studies of the Transport of Mails in Wartime France 1870-1871 [Vaurie Memorial Fund Publ. N° 8 of the FCPS]. Ernst published seven books as well as more research articles that I can name. He was an honoree of the Writers Unit 30 Hall of Fame.

When I judged with him, he was delightful ... until we came to thematic collections. Then he looked for the rare and expensive items and judged thematic exhibits on that basis. He was working right up to his final illness. I saw him last at Peach State Stamp Show in September [2004], where he had traveled to meet Jesse and Diane Bohret and to enjoy a show he had helped to achieve National status. He never really collected France as a country. Rather, he was fond of philatelic puzzles. When he became fascinated, he'd do research mainly to please his curiosity. By following the thread rather than collecting the material he brought a fresh eye to his work. [NDLR: But he owned a wonderful collection of Siege of Paris balloon mail and related France-German War covers, which he sold over his final years]. The breadth of his knowledge and freshness of his researcher's eye is now legend. In 1987 he was awarded the FIP Medal for Research.

He was a delightful conversationalist, which I will miss ... almost as much as I will miss the solid research on which I could depend for accurate information.

-- Nancy Clark

[Here follow excerpts from Steve Walske's introduction of Ernst as recipient of the Collectors Club's Lichtenstein Medal in May 2004]:

My own file [of Ernst clippings] is now about three feet long on my bookshelf, and I don't have nearly everything that he has written. Ever the equal opportunity writer, Ernst has placed articles in some of the most obscure journals, and sometimes in languages I don't know... Ernst has made countless significant discoveries through original source material studies. He looks for consistencies as well as discrepancies in multiple sources, and frequently uncovers surprising conclusions... he is not a fan of "fuzzy logic." or ill-founded speculations, as many lazy historians have discovered to their chagrin. The gospel according to Ernst is, "if you can't prove it conclusively, then don't print it."

... Ernst has recently begun to study and write about the application of postal history methodology in the uncovering of fakes, forgeries and philatelic fantasies; this is of great interest to us all.

... Ernst has also been extremely generous to me in time and academic collaboration. As a young collector some 30 years ago, Ernst was always there to spend time with me, even though much of the information transfer was from him to me... I thank Ernst for always being available to answer my questions and to challenge my own theories and postal history endeavors.

-- Steve Walske

[Having given permission to use as little or as much of this introduction, Steve added: I'm truly saddened by his passing. He was one of my longest-standing philatelic friends.]

My correspondence with Ernst began in 1997. I had translated one of my ballons montés, and was intrigued by its contents. The Prussians had arrested a certain M. Raynal on charges of espionage, and his family had asked U.S. Ambassador Washburne to intervene ... with Chancellor Bismarck. As the letter had been carried aboard the Ville d'Orléans, and having enjoyed Ernst's book about that flight, I wrote to Ernst to ask if he knew any more about the incident. Ernst replied immediately: not only was he aware of the case, he cited the diplomatic correspondence which was held in the Library of Congress archives..., and encouraged my further research.

Ernst was a fount of knowledge, and an inspiration to those who wanted to know more about the fascinating events of 1870-1871. Above all, he enjoyed questioning the evidence, and testing the truth of accepted wisdom. He would not rely upon the accounts or conclusions of earlier writers, but insisted upon checking the original source material and seeing if the facts were corroborated from other sources. Thus Ernst would study the reports in local newspapers, French and German (even Norwegian!), to see if their accounts of balloon flights tallied with the information emanating from Paris.

I had the pleasure of meeting Ernst and his wife Doris in 1998 during their visit to London for the Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture. Thereafter we enjoyed an extensive correspondence and exchange of news about our various research projects. Franco-German postal history apart, we delighted in gossip (of the gentlest kind!) and shared a love of wire-haired dachshunds. Along with so many others, I shall miss his wisdom and sense of fun, the generosity with which he shared his knowledge, and his fund of amazing wonder stories.

-- Ashley Lawrence

REVIEWS

Cameroun in the Great War, vol. I, The Military Handstamps and the Early Overprints / Cameroun: La Grande Guerre, Tome I, Les Cachets Militaires et les Premieres Surcharges, by Dudley Cobb; 2004; ISBN 2-9511613-1-X; 132 bilingual pages, A4 format; color and black and white illustrations; £26 (+ P & H) to Albion Bookshop, GB-BROAD-STAIRS, Kent CT 11 5GF, England; e-mail: albionbooks@hotmail.com; or 39€ (+ P & H) from Roumet, S. A., 17 rue Drouot, F-75009 Paris; e-mail: roumet@roumet.fr

This delightful study, which reads almost like a mystery novel, consists of the English text up front and the French text in the back, the two separated by two maps and 12 excellent color plates (with bilingual captions). The plates show a good number of stamps, overprints and covers in actual size. The author's debt to his predecessors, including Maddocks and Bratzel, is gratefully acknowledged, even as he parts with a number of their inferences and conclusions.

The emphasis is, of course, on the French involvement in German Kamerun during its 1914-1916 conquest by Anglo-French forces. This very readable, definitive study begins with mention of the prewar changes in Kamerun's boundaries, including the use of Ekododo, Gabon date stamps as the town shifted temporarily to German control in 1912. Though interesting as provisional usage, it was done primarily for collectors. This is followed by a very useful section on the military actions and their effect upon the mails, the mail routes (direct and indirect) to France and elsewhere, and on the stampless, military franchise mail and markings.

The early series of overprints, applied to seized Kamerun postage, and later to French Gabon stamps, are then examined in great detail. Quantities overprinted are discussed, insofar as could be determined from contemporary correspondence. The *Corps Expéditionnaire* overprints (from 25 subject panes) are identified, described, and plated to the extent possible and in painstakingly great detail. This section alone could be worth the book's price to a specialist. What doesn't fit the description is quite possibly a forgery--of which there are many. Major errors and varieties are described, and the section ends with a listing of postal rates of the period.

Next comes an exhaustive study of the postal markings, including a month-by-month census of covers, colors of markings, and attempts at locating geographically the relatively few senders of these covers. Forgeries, where known, are noted. Considering how little of worth has been written on the subject, the Bibliography is very adequate.

Throughout the book, Cobb explains his own, well-considered thoughts and interpretations regarding the available documents, letter contents, mail routing, the basis of the several overprint types, and where the various cancels may have been used. He is extremely informative on how genuine overprints and markings should look, which makes this work extremely useful for the detection of forgeries. Even so, the author does not consider this to be the last word on 1914-1916 Cameroun philately, and requests assistance from readers in the form of copies of covers, etc. This very readable handbook is well printed on quality paper.

Some minor criticisms. Text (black and white) illustrations are not numbered and therefore are not referred to in the text, requiring a bit of digging about by the reader. Perhaps this could be rectified in time for subsequent volumes. There is no Index. The binding may deteriorate with use.

In spite of Cobb's protestations that this is not really the *dernier cri* on the subject, this reviewer (and with apologies to Maddocks and to Marty Bartzel) feels it is mighty close to being so. We recommend it highly to specialists, and very much look forward to seeing the next volume.

-- S. J. Luft

Vignettes de Monaco, by Jerrold M. Massler; 2003; 161 pp., A4 format, soft cover, perfect(?) binding, numerous black and white illustrations; published by l'Arc-En-Ciel; 30€ (+ postage?), inquire of Jean-Claude Huteau, 2 allée Beaugency, F-61000 Bourg-en-Bresse, France; or contact the author at stampmanjm@bellsouth.net.

Though written in French, the book consists mostly of illustrations of the vignettes or labels (or etiquettes), with brief captions, and can be easily followed by non-French readers. Herein, Florida resident and FCPS member Jerry Massler illustrates some 650 different vignette designs, mostly from his own collections, thereby bulking up the inventories of his predecessors.

The study begins with 25 pages from the 1986 catalogue by Bonneau, followed by Massler's own additions, which include illustrations of complete sheets or panes. The vignettes are then shown alphabetically by categories, with an initial letter that's followed by consecutive numerals and then by descriptive information (if necessary or known). Please note that this is not a priced catalogue. The categories are, in order: AntiTB; Automobiles; Commerce; Chocolates (hmm, good!); de l'Etranger; Feast days, Festivals and Fairs; Hotels; Lotteries; Officials; Philatelics; Religion, Red Cross, etc.; Radio, TV, etc.; Syndicates (= Unions); Sports; Tabac (tobacco) and products; and Tourism. As an example, Hôtels = H, and there are 39 hotel vignettes—basically luggage stickers—noted (pp. 65-71). One of several different Hôtel de Paris [where my wife and I enjoyed some sinful desserts at a table on the square, on a rare sunny April afternoon] is listed as "H 31, Hôtel de Paris, polychrome, 102 x 85 mm."

The book concludes, first with a great many vignettes for pochettes that contained or served as covers for those popular (then and now) accordion-folded picture postcards, and finally with vignettes printed to be affixed to casino chips so as to validate them. The reason being simple revenue protection for Monaco's major industry, as many fake chips began to circulate after the First World War. The author shows a number of these (and other) vignettes in complete mint panes.

Jerry is to be commended for this obvious labor of love. This is obviously the last word on Monaco vignettes--admittedly a very narrow specialty field, but with at least a few serious enthusiasts--unless of course the author encounters still more material, and presents us with one or more addenda.

Illustrations range very unevenly from barely adequate to excellent, obviously because many apparently were reproduced from old-style photocopies. However, even the poorest ones can serve to identify one's own vignettes. Most are shown full size. Dates are given for many of the vignettes, but unfortunately not for all. Perhaps fellow collectors of the genre may be help the author with dates of use, as well as other bits of information. The book doesn't lie flat, and its binding will probably deteriorate with heavy use.

-- S. J. Luft

COLFRA MEETING IN PARIS

I recently attended the "Exposition COLFRA du 11 December 2004." COL.FRA is devoted to the study of the philately of the French colonies, foreign post offices, mandates, and other entities excluding France herself. The exhibition was held at the *Mairie de la 8*^{ème} Arrondisement, just north of the extensive shopping area on Boulevard Haussmann. It was a very nice room which comfortably held the nearly 200 frames. There were 26 exhibits provided by 23 exhibitors. I am thrilled to say that five of the exhibitors were members of the FCPS. Ed Grabowski, our Recording Secretary, and I were both pleased to attend. The French members showing were: Alain Millet (3 exhibits), Kay Gaetjens, and Jean Haïk.

From an American perspective, this exposition could best be described as a cross between a club show and a local show. The exhibits ranged from those provided by three or four international exhibitors to album pages by members simply showing what they were collecting. I had several immediate reactions. First, the average age of the exhibitors was probably 10-15 years younger than a similar group would be here in the U.S. Second, there were numerous attendees that generally met with the exhibitors at the frames to discuss what was being shown. Third, there was a lot of camaraderie among the COLFRA members.

I was the guest of Stéphane Caraud, the recently elected president of COLFRA. Monsieur Caraud is a young and progressive gentleman, and he and I got along well from the first moment we met. Part of our discussion focussed on the joint meeting that that I am organizing for Washington

2006. I believe that at least a half-dozen COLFRA members will be visiting the show, and I hope their schedules will allow them to get together with us and our British counterpart, the F&CPS of Great Britain.

At the end of a delightful day, I went to dinner with Stephane, his wife, Fabienne, and nine of the other COLFRA members. We went to a beautiful art deco restaurant called *La Mollard*, near *the Gare St. Lazaire*, not far from the show venue. I greatly enjoyed my visit and recommend that other members try to attend this show if they are in Paris.



Dave Herendeen and Stéphane Caraud at the frames in Paris.

RESEARCH APPEALS

[This is a new Feature, whereby members preparing research projects or articles, or exhibits, can seek to obtain information from other members. Any member in this position is encouraged to send an appeal by way of the Editor.]

Dave Herendeen is studying the use of the French Duval postage due stamps (those printed in black) in the post office in ZANZIBAR. He is working with two French philatelists on this effort. If you have any of these postage due stamps on cover, or loose cancelled copies, please contact Dave at Dherendeen@aol.com, or at his postal address (see masthead). He would like a scan (preferably) or photocopy of any items. If you have any input, please don't hesitate to share your knowledge.

Peter Kelly requests information on the use of the "BM" handstamp (Boite Mobile or Moveable Box) in FRENCH GUINEA. His present data base consists of five postcards marked with a small BM within a rectangle:

sent unknown date from Kindia; cancelled Conakry 12.5.1908 (from surveying operations at Kindia)

unknown date and place; cancelled Conakry 1.12.1909 dated 27.7.1908 from ?: cancelled Conakry 28.7.1909

dated 1.12.1919 from ?; cancelled Conakry 3.12.1919 ("en-route to Segou" [S-F])

dated 9.7.1927 from Conakry?; cancelled Conakry 11.7.1927 ("passing through Conakry")

Peter has been unable to find any references to French Guinea in articles on the use of BMs in the Colonies. Might they relate to letters posted in a moveable box on a train before the introduction of Convoyeurs, or letters handed to postal administration vehicles or to mail carriers? Any comments or details of covers in members' collections would be welcomed. Photocopies or scans of fronts and backs of covers are requested. Please contact Peter via your Editor.

MEMBERS' APPEALS

- WANTED: A dedicated collector for my well-cared-for French First-Day covers of 1970-1980. Contact Alex Kramer, 20415 Rancho Los Cerritos, Covina, CA 91724-3528. (Mb. #3120).
- OFFER: Belgium and Belgian Congo postal covers, in trade for your postal covers, postcards, and/or postal stationery of former French Colonies in Africa. Please contact Alan Morvay, P.O. Box 48195, Los Angeles, CA 90048. (Mb. #3167).
- WANTED: Enthusiastic collector of recent and modern France (of last 50 years, give or take), possibly also of the DOM-TOMs, willing and able to spread that gospel for our readers' advantage and edification by serving as our Associate Editor for "Modern Philately." See "Random Editorial Jottings," this issue, for some suggested possible topics, then contact the Editor.

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

(Continued from N° 279, January 2005, p. 25)

- > The Postal Issues of Syria, Lebanon and the Alouites 1919-1944, by Alexander Kaczmarczyk; 136 pp., illustrated; US\$ 45 (+ \$4 postage) or UK£25 (+ £2 postage), from James Bendon Ltd, P.O. Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus; fax + 357 2563 2352, e-mail: books@JamesBendon.com
- > Vignettes de Monaco, by Jerrold M. Massler (2003); 161 pp., A4 format, illustrated in black and white. [Reviewed in this issue].
- ➤ Les Entiers Postaux de France et de Monaco, by J. Storch, R. Françon and B. Sinais (7th ed., 2005); 400 pp., 700 color illustrations; 60€ (+ 8€ P & H in France, inquire for elsewhere), from Editions Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris. (The standard priced catalogue for postal stationery of France and Monaco; added to this edition are the stationery of WWII Stalags and Oflags).
- > La Poste dans le département du Var, VI: 1904-1966, by R. Gregnac-Daudemard; 54 pp., A5 format, black-and-white illustrations; 7.50€ (+ 1,11€ postage within France, inquire for elsewhere), from Cercle d'Histoire Postale, Musée Régional du Timbre, Boite Postale 51, F-83340 Le Luc-en-Provence, France. (This major departmental study is brought ever closer to the present day).
- Cameroun in the Great War, vol. I. The Military Handstamps and the Early Overprints / Cameroun: La Grande Guerre, Tome I, Les Cachets Militaires et les Premieres Surcharges, by Dudley Cobb (2004); 132 bilingual pages, A4 format, color and black and white illustrations. /Reviewed in this issuel.
- ➤ Argus des Timbres de France 1849-2005; 13€, from French dealers and newstands, or from La Bourse du Timbre, 7 rue Drouot, F-75009 Paris. (A dealer's price list; could be useful to the non-specialist collector).
- > La Côte des Coins datés et des Millésimes, 68th ed.; 10€ (+ postage outside France?) payable to SoCoCoDaMi; inquire of Jean-Claude Gagné, 18 rue Danielle-Casanova, F-77330 Ozoir-la-Ferrière, France. (The annual priced catalogue on the subject, as determined by the SoCoCoDaMi membership).
- > Sabine de Gandon: Historique des poinçons de service ou transferts, by Jean-Jacques Rabineau; no details available; 18€ (+ postage?), contact author at 7 rue d'Anjou, F-03300 Cusset, France. (A detailed study of the dies used in the production of the Sabines; should be indispensable to specialists in that issue).
- > La Poste en Moselle 1940-1945: Catalogue des Marques Postales et Oblitérations, tome 1, by Alain Demereaux and Stéphane Demereaux, (2004); 313 pp., A4 format, card cover, spiral bound; abundantly illustrated in black-and-white; published by SPAL [the society for Alsace-Lorraine philately]; 30€ postpaid for SPAL members; 36€ for others, but first best to contact André Lader, 52 rue de Monsviller, F-67700 Saverne, France. (This is basically a descriptive catalogue of all reported postal markings) French and German), in alphabetical order from A to Z, of all the 1940-1945 post offices in the Moselle Dept. Scarcity indexes and euro equivalents are given). To be reviewed in next(?) issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

> The house of Pothion père et fils, created by Jean Pothion and continued by his son Vincent, is now no more. For reasons of his health, Vincent Pothion has decided to retire from selling French postal history and publishing all those authoriative handbook-catalogs on French marcophily. We shall greatly miss spending time at the hard-to-find little shop in a quiet courtyard of otherwise bustling Paris 9°.

> Jean Sénéchal, the premier student and collector of French franchise markings, left us on 8 December 2004, after a two-year struggle with a serious illness. A great collector, a first-rate writer, and a man with a wonderful sense of humor, he will be greatly missed. Jean was one of my sponsors when I was brought into the Académie de Philatélie.

> The complete run of The Indo-China Philatelist (years 1971 through 2004) will be available for purchase by non-members of the Society of Indo-China Philatelists. Contact the Editor, Ron Bentley, 2600 North 24th Street, Arlington, VA 22207, USA; e-mail: ron.bentley@verizon.net, for availability,

price and other details.

Le Cercle des Amis de Marianne (CAM), a society specializing in the study of modern French definitives (and older ones as well), has a web site that should interest many of our members: http://amisdemarianne.free.fr/

The Chinese Year of the Cock sheetlet and stamp, issued 29 (30) January 2005 [see New Issues, p. 61] marks the beginning of a new notation, lettre 20 g [letter rate to 20 gm] -- which will replace a face value on French stamps that are intended to be semi-permanently on sale. Thus, their validity should

remain even as postal rates change.

> The simple, regular 1x letter rate in France went up from 0.50€ to 0.53€ on 1 March 2005. Other new rates include: domestic 20-50 gm = 0,82€; 50-100 gm = 1,22€; 1-00-250 gm = 1,98€; European Union to 20 gm = 0,55€. Surely some of the brand new, January 2005 Mariannes (though not the red and green permanent-value ones) will become both obsolete and scarce, particularly when correctly used as singles on cover.

> These red and green permanent-value Mariannes of January 2005 are engraved by computer, whereas those with face values are engraved, less perfectly, by hand. The differences may best be observed in the colored

cross-hatched backgrounds.

Missing and offset color varieties are present on France's 4,50F René Caillé, issued in June 1999. The yellow is absent or also offset; the orange is also ab-

sent, though not yet catalogued as such.

> Results of the 54th Grand Prix for philatelic art: for France, the joint France-India two-stamps issue; for the Overseas Territories, New Caledonia's Year of

the Monkey. Both winners were issued in November 2003.

> It pays to stay abreast of tariff changes, particularly if a rate increase leaves the public without a handy postage stamp. According to J. J. Renaudin (Amicale Philatélique l'ANCRE Bull. 99, 2004). such an instance occurred on 15 May 1978 when the domestic simple letter rate went up from 1F to 1F20. The 1F20 red Sabine de Gandon was not issued until 3 June 1978 at Paris and 5 June elsewhere. This left but one single 1F20 stamp, the commemorative-size Saint-Pol de Léon, available to meet the rate. It can be worth one's while to search for that stamp, used alone on cover between 15 May and at least mid-June 1978. Otherwise make-up stamps (1F + 0,20F) were the common norm, if one excludes from consideration any meter postage at 1F20.

The stamps of French Andorra may again become good buys, due to smaller printings in 2003 compared to earlier years. Only 34,850 copies of the 0,67€ Les Bons architectural ensemble were issued that year, and a few other 2003

stamps were issued in quantities of less than 50,000.

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 279, January 2005, p. 30)

France

> 14 December 2004 (3 January 2005): 0.50€ the viaduct at Millau:

> 8 (10) January: the new, environmental Marianne definitives: 0,01, 0,10, permanent-value green, ditto red, 0,58, 0,70, 0,75, 0,90, 1,00, 1,11, and 1,40€ [the design was shown (Figure 9) in N° 278, October 2004, top of page 134]:



> 10 January: 5€ open-face booklet of ten new Marianne permanent-value stamps, blue cover shows logo of Paris 2012 (candidacy for the Summer Olympics):

> 13? (14) January: Semi-postal for Asia tsunami relief: horizontal stamp with the new red, permanent-value Marianne at left and caption + 0,20€ at right;

> 16 (17) January: 0,50€ Rachi (1040-1105), philosopher and explainer of

Bible and Talmud:

> 29 (31) January: 5€ Chinese Year of the Cock sheetlet of ten letter-rate stamps; 0,53 and 0,82€ ornate heart stamps designed by Cacharel for Valentine Day;

> 19 (21) February: 0,53€ Rotary International 1905-2005;

≥ 26 (28) February: Day of the Stamp (cartoon characters): 0,50€ "Titeuf," 6,50€ booklet of two Ecopli-rate stamps to 20 gm ("Manu"), four at letter rate to 20 gm ("Titeuf"), and four at international rate to 20 gm ("Nadia").

Withdrawals: 10 December 2004: 0,50 and 0,90€ joint issue with India, 0,50 and 0,75€ Entente Cordiale; 28 January 2005: 0,50€ Best Wishes (rouge-gorge), 0,50€ Best Wishes (enterprise), 0,50€ organ donations, 0,50 and 0,75€ Valentine Day (Chanel design), 0,90€ Auguste Bartholdi.

Andorra

> 6 December 2004: o,50€ Noël 2004.

French Polynesia

> 10 November 2004: 60F and 250F Polynesian views; booklet of twelve se-tenant (in two panes of six) 90F stamps showing Fenua flowers:

> 17 November: 60F child's Noël drawing.

Withdrawals: 17 December 2004: 55F Women in Polynesia, 120F Year of the Goat, 330F cascades in Polynesia, Papeete of yesteryear (four stamps and sheetlet), deep-sea fish.



Mayotte

> 15 November 2004: 0,45€ Mamas brochettis (woman street vendor); 0,75€ two stylized men playing dominoes.

Withdrawals: 10 December 2004: 0,46€ Census, 0,46€ Mount Choungui, 0,46€ Ecomuseum of Ylang and vanilla 0,46€ festival mask, 0,79€ banana tree and bananas, 0, 79€ sailfish, 0,82€ vestiges of the sugar industry, 122€ the jacquier, 1,84€ birds of Mayotte block.

0.70€

Servie d'abord 1985 - 2005

MONACO

Monaco

> 3 December 2004: Palace of the Princes triptych of three at 0,50€; 0,58€ Int'l, Univ. of Paris; 0,75€ Alliance Française; 1,00€ Bicent. of metal plating; 1,11€ Birth Cent. of Jean-Paul Sartre; 1,20€ 150th Anniv. of invention of safety matches; 1,20€ Don Quixote; 1,40€ Léo Ferré; 1,60€ 150th Anniv. of invention of hypodermic needle; 1,80€ Willard Libby and Carbon 14;

> 23 February 2005; 0,55 and 0,70€ of Cent. of Rotary

International

Withdrawals: 10 December 2004: 0,50€ Noël 2002, 0.41€ 26th Int'l Circus Festival. 0.41€ asphalting

0,4€ 25th Int'l Circus Festival, 0,41€ asphalting roads, Salt Lake City Winter Olympics (two), 0,46€ Circus days, 0,46€ the circus, 0,53€ 35th Int'l bouquet festival, 0,53€ public safety, 0,58€ European Acad. of Philately, 0,64€ prehistoric anthropology museum, 0,64€ Int'l swim meet, 0,67€ works of the Navigator, 0,69€ Mazarin, 0,69€ Pelleas et Melisande, 0,70€ Legion of Honor, 0, 70€ 42nd TV Festival (2002), 0,75€ ACCOBAMS, 0,75€ World Football (soccer) Cup, 0,76€ "Voyage to the Moon" Anniv., 0,76€ Leonardo da Vinci, 0,99€ Int'l dog show (2002), Red Cross 2002, 1,07€ Victor Hugo, 1,22€ Alex. Dumas, Year of mountains, Magic Stars 2002, 0,46€ postal museum, 0,46€ MonacoPhil 2002, 0,69€ ASM.

New Caledonia

> 15 November 2004: 505F "Tradimodernition" (Painters of the Pacific series); 100F view of Walla Bay, Belep;

> 9 December: 100F Joyeux Noël 2004 (local

Nativity scene).

Withdrawals: 17 December 2004: 70F 100th Anniv. of stamps for 50th Anniv. of French presence; 70F Grand Noumea Lycée, 100F Year of the Goat, 100F



Valentine Day, 100F Paul Gauguin, XIIth South Pacific Games (3 stamps), Cagou bird (4 stamps), Turtles block (Noumea Aquarium) Dugong diptych, 700F boooklet of self-adhesive Cagou-bird stamps.

St. Pierre & Miguelon

➤ 6 November 2004: 0,75€ wreckage of the "Fulwood;"

- > 18 November: 2€ sheetlet of four at 0.50€ showing local cargo vessels;
- > 25 November: 0.44€ soccer jubilee (SIAA);
- > 9 December: 0,50€ Noël 2004;
- > 12 January 2005: the new Mariannes [see France, above] overprinted for the islands:
- > 26 January: 0,50€ Henri Claireaux;
- ➤ 16 February: 0,75€ Allumette Bay;
- > 9 March: 0,50 and 1,08€ dolphins;
- ➤ 6 April o,90€ "Pointe au cheval" farm

Withdrawals: 10 December 2004: 0,46€ Msgr. Maurer, 0,70€ Capandeguy farm, 0,46€ and 0,87€ seals. 0,75€ bluets, 0,30€ le poulieur, 4,00€ Congress on architecture triptych.

Wallis & Futuna

> 10 November 2004: 115F overprint on the 120F Nukuta'Akimoa rock

pedestal.

Withdrawals: 17 December 2004: 55F Census, 85F Valentine Day, postal art at W & F (five stamps), 125F anniv. of the euro, 130F Saint-Pierre Chanel, 135F last Lancaster flight to Wallis, coralline scenes (four stamps), 600F Alain Gerbault.

E.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

Report from the FCPS Liaison to the Scott publishing organization [abridged by the Editor]

The people at the Scott catalog see the role of the liaison primarily as a conduit to update prices, not to suggest large-scale changes to the editorial (and particularly numbering) portion of the catalog. Scott, editorially, takes a very conservative position regarding any moves that might perturb the numbering system in any significant fashion. Renumbering apparently represents the ultimate nightmare of the dealing community, a major constituency of the catalog. The editorial board has been much more receptive to footnotes, explanations, and other aids in making the catalog more useful and friendly. [Meaning, forget about moving the US-printed AMG issues of 1944-1945 into the main body of France listings-where they really belong--from the back sections - Editor].

During the past year, I solicited information and assistance from some of our leading members on the countries or areas of their expertise. Response has been quite thin, and "start over" is not an option. If we of FCPS want to continue to be seen as the English-speaking leadership of French-area collecting, we have to continue to visibly lead. Helping to maintain the catalog is one element of that leadership. We should have sufficient self-interest in the well-being of our branch of the hobby to want an accurate and representative

catalog in the language (and currency) in which most of us are most capable.

Obtaining pricing information in the US on French-community postage stamps presents more hurdles than one might anticipate. Scott aims to offer pricing for VF centered examples. Most [dealer] advertising includes pricing for other grades of centering. Assembling information from dealers' pricelists takes a fair amount of labor and some expense; dealers get testy when you continue to ask for lists and don't buy something. The majority of offerings on pricelists deal with mainly other than VF centering and therefore incorporate discounts from Scott, though some do not. My impression is that few attempt to relate their cost and pricing structures in more than a very general way, except for the Classic issues.

One member observed that European prices range mostly higher than Scott's. Some of this can be attributed to currency swings. This can be difficult to account for properly in a publication that comes out annually and with a six-months lead time. The market for French-community stamps in the US, particularly for the post-World War I issues, seems to be thin. Metropolitan France enjoys a decent following but many of the Colonies and Overseas Depts. do not. Where the market appears to be much stronger is among thematicists or topicalists, who seem to drive the pricing.

For Classic-period stamps the VF criterion proves much more elusive to achieve. Auction results provide perhaps the best indicator of pricing; however Lou Robbins has repeatedly warned of the pitfalls that too slavish a reliance upon this information can pose. The sheer volume of auction results (and cost to obtain) make tracking prices at best a rep-

resentative undertaking.

The tone of this report should not be taken as negatively as it might initially seem. The effort continues to improve the information quality in the catalog. The quality of the effort could improve with some modest help from our membership. - E. E. (Gene) Fricks

[Please offer any assistance, even if you consider it might be just barely minimal, to Gene, at 25 Murray Way, Blackwood, NJ 08012-4400, USA; e-mail: genefricks@comcast.net -- Editor].

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As I write this, I again have one foot out the door. You will find my brief report on the December COL.FRA show elsewhere in this issue. I am heartened at the response to this years dues payment. We have had an excellent response, but there are still nearly 80 members that have not responded. Please renew your membership now so you don't miss any issues of our fine journal.

I have also received a small number of ballots for the change in out Bylaws. All of those received voted in the affirmative, and I will present a final tally of the vote in the next FCP.

-- Dave Herendeen

TREASURER'S REPORT
France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc Cash Flow 1/1/04 through 12/31/03
INFLOWS
Donation - Income
Dues-Income:
2004 <u>7,267.40</u>
TOTAL Dues-Income
Int. Inc
Publications Back Issues57.50
Bordeaux70.00
Commune
Gabon-Congo5.00
General Issues37.00
Glossary33.00
Index50.00
Ink Color6.00
Lozenges31.00
Luft III
Transport Marks <u>10.00</u>
TOTAL Publications346.50
TOTAL INFLOWS
OUTFLOWS
Bad Check72.50
Gifts
Philatelist:
Editor221.94
Labels
Magazine
TOTAL Philatelist
Secretary:
Corresponding536.87
TOTAL Secretary 536.87 Treasurer 376.46
TOTAL OUTFLOWS
OVERALL TOTAL484.31
F&C BALANCE SHEET - As of 12/31/2004
(INCLUDES UNREALIZED GAINS) AS OF 12/31/2004
ASSETS (As of 12/31/04)
Cash and Bank Accounts F&C Saving20,026.75
F&C Checking
F&C Cash
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts
TOTAL ASSETS
LIABILITIES & EQUITY LIABILITIES
Other Liabilities
Prepaid Dues
Spiegel Fund
Vaurie Fund
EQUITY 20,129,52
EQUITY290.56 TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY20,838.96
20,000.30

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2004

Total Membership as of January 1, 2004:	4
Resignations Received for the Year 2004:	
Net Membership Gain for the Year of 2004: Net Membership Loss of the Year of 2004: Total Membership as of December 31, 2004: 47	4

NEW MEMBERS

Please note that we are no longer publishing members' addresses for reasons of security. If a member wishes to contact another member, do so (for the time being) via the Editor. For medical reasons, Walter Parshall is unable to continue as Corresponding Secretary.

- 3336 CONRAD, RONALD E., Prescott, AZ
- 3337 WINTON, STANLEY J., Wilmette, IL (General collector, French Community, Offices Abroad, CFA, Andorra, Monaco).
- 3338 SANTANIELLO, JOSEPH A., Amityville, NY
- 3339 SUDEVAN, DR. PADMANABHAN, Stevens Point, WI
- 3340 MONTAGUE, JOEL G., Wellesley, MA
- 3341 JORDAN, RICHARD B., Cambria, CA

ADDRESS CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

- 1136 BALCH, STEVEN A., Encinitas, CA
- 3194 CARON, MAURICE, Longueuil, Quebec
- 2355 COULBOURNE, JOSEPH C., Spotsylvania, VA
- 3323 deBOARD, RALPH, and not Robert deBoard
- 3249 HOFHEIMER, HENRY, Morhan Hill, CA
- 1829 MASSLER, JEROLD, Davie, FL
- 3313 MOESER, PATRICIA, Kinnelon, NJ
- 1080 O'HARA, JOHN B., Audubon, PÁ 3297 SCHWARTZMAN, PETER, Hudson, FL
- 1976 SWANSON, WILLIAM F., York, PA
- 3222 TRICOT, FLORENT, Niepce, France 1691 WILMARTH, RICHARD V., Normal, IL
- 2224 WYER, ROLFE, La Jolla, CA

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

2516 WARREN BIRD; 2099 J. ARMAND GELINAS; 2874 SANDRA HART-LEY; 3177 ELIZABETH HILL; 1219 WILLIAM A., HOISINGTON, JR.; 1822 PIERRE MAYER; 3321 DANIEL McADAM; 2698 WILLIAM McDONALD; 3077 BRIAN PHILLIPS; 3285 DICKSON PRESTON; 3297 PETER SCHWARTZMAN: 3287 RONALD SUMMERS: 3263 LYS ANN SHORE.

REMOVED FROM THE MAILING LIST

3020 OLEVNIK, MICHAEL N.

DECEASED

1029 JOSEPH C. AINSWORTH: 2642 LtC CLINTON D. REGELIN: 2347 WM. WARREN RIVERS

FOR THE RECORD

> 855.) Point-Poste (Figure 1) is for now and since its inauguration in Autumn(?) 2003 an experiment whereby limited postal facilities are placed within rural business establishments (tobacco shops, florists, bakeries, butcher shops, etc.) -- evidently a déjà vu back to the auxiliary bureaus of the later 19th Century. Mail is picked up on a daily basis and then posted from a full-service post office. This benefits both La Poste (which doesn't have to build or rent a post office) and the locals (who have easy access to at least fairly limited postal service during the shop's hours of operation.



Figure 1.

> 856.) A seldom-seen postage-due handstamp was introduced in France in the summer of 1873, to indicate the amount of postage due from the recipient on mail that had to be forwarded and returned to France from abroad, via frontier exchange offices. Because the marking didn't have much frequent application, and because it became totally unnecessary after a March 1879 instruction of

and because it became totally unnecessary after a March of the Union Générale des Postes, it saw limited service. Both the handstamp and the handwritten information within were to be in red ink. (From article by Jack Blanc in Feuilles Marcophiles N° 318, 2004). I've never seen it on a cover. It is shown here (Figure 2), taken from Blanc's article, and is much clearer than the illustration on page 141 of Alexandre's Dictionnaire Historique des Timbres & Griffes "Standard" ...



Figure 2.

> 857.) During the Crimean War, or at least its late stages, there was considerable cooperation between the British and the French military-postal organizations. Lots 6 and 7 of Lugdunum's 52nd auction sale, December 2004, consist of two letters from the same correspondence (of 5 and 22 January 1856) to Paris, from a member of the French Armée d'Orient based at Kertch [Kerch], Crimea. Both are franked with two 20c Empire stamps and probably weighed more than 7½ grams. The earlier one bears only French military markings on the front, plus a red POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY cachet on back, indicating that it was transferred to the British for transit to France. The second bears only British military markings, including the same red cachet on back, but the French stamps are cancelled by a British O * O (Figure 3; cancel may be too faint to show), and this may be the only cover recorded with the British killer on French stamps.

> 858.) This World War II-period provisional airmail-rate handstamp (Figure 4), in **blue ink**, submitted by Ian McQueen, does not seem to be a listed variety. Ian has it, as shown with francs and centimes left blank, on an apparently favor cover bearing the *cursive* franchise marking of the Governor General of Algeria, and postmarked Algiers R.P., 7 March 1940. Does any reader know

whether this **blue** marking is known on postally used mail?



Figure 3. (reduced to 87%)

> 859.) A cover bearings the unissued 20c blue Sage (Scott 71, Yvert 73) and other Sages, total 50c postage for the registered 1x UPU rate (Figure 5), was offered in a Dutch February 2005 sale. Mailed 2 February 1883 from Calais, it bears a London 3 February registry office transit cachet on the front. Cover appears to be genuine, even though the cancel on the 20c blue is not as pronounced as on the other three stamps.

POSTE AERIENNE BUREAU D'ALGER RP ALGERIE AFFRANCHISSEMENT PERCU Figure 4.



Figure 5. (reduced to 82%)







Figure 6.

> 860.) The three off-cover Classic French stamps pictured in Figure 6 were offered in early 2005 by a Paris auction house as "stamps surcharged and/or obliterated for use by the Carlist insurrection." [The Second Carlist War of 1872-1876 was an unsuccessful attempt to place pretender Don Carlos VII on the Spanish throne, and was fought mainly close to the French border in northern Spain.] Renowned expert on forgeries and fakes, Jean-François Brun advises us that, in his opinion, these are mere fantasies of no value, made to intrigue unsuspecting collectors. The lots found no buyers.

SENEGAL: PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE IN CASH DURING JANUARY 1902 (Addendum) by Bruno Mattei (FCPS #2952)

In my article thusly entitled, serialized in Nos. 258-260 (1999-2000), I showed in No. 259, (January 2000, p. 11) a "C" in a circle (as Figure 11), with the understanding that this "C" marking was used only on Gorée, per Granoux and Stone [see p. 37 of No. 260, April 2000, for bibliographic data]. I accepted their information on faith, not having seen the marking on cover.

But now, thanks to the kindness of M. Prinz, a stamp dealer from Andilly, we show, for the first time in any philatelic publication, a complete cover, shown below (reduced in size), postmarked Gorée, 11 June 1902, that bears the encircled "C".

However, the question still remains. Why was this circle "C" made specifically for provisional use in Gorée?

