



France & Colonies Philatelist



Vermeil Medals at CHICAGOPEX 2003 and NAPEX 2004



Some missing colors and face values on recent French stamps; normal stamps are on the left.

CONTENTS

ARTICLES

Algeria To Collioure -- An Enigma (<i>Kenneth R. Nilsestuen</i>)	71
New Caledonia In 1876 And The Creation Of Special Postal Devices	73
Postal Issues Of The 1925 Paris Decorative Arts Exposition - III - "Le Pot De Fleurs" (<i>Thomas W. Broadhead</i>)	76

SHORTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Madagascar: Taxe Perçue Handstamps, 1944-1946 (<i>Ian McQueen</i>)	82
"Phantom Postal History" -- Cyprus 1940 (<i>Stanley J. Luft</i>)	84
1925 Paris Exposition Internationale de Timbres-Poste - Modern Reproductions of the Stamps and a Spurious Exposition Cancel (<i>Thomas W. Broadhead</i>)	86
Walter E. Parshall (1920-2005)	88
Ernst M. Cohn -- An Appreciation	88
Dunant's Own Red Cross Cachet (<i>Ernst M. Cohn</i>)	90
Some Aspects Of Foreign Mails During The Franco-German War Of 1870-1871. 4 (<i>Robert I. Johnson</i>)	103

REGULAR AND SPECIAL FEATURES

Members' Appeals	89
Some Show Reports	91
Review	92
Some New And Recent Web Sites & For The Record	93
Announcements And News	95
Random Editorial Jottings	97
New Issues And Withdrawals	98
Goofs On Stamps	104

SOCIETY NEWS

President's Letter	100
Membership Changes	101

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ALGERIA TO COLLIOURE -- AN ENIGMA

by Kenneth R. Nilsestuen (FCPS #1990)

Regular mail service between Algeria and France started a few days after the French invasion in June 1830. From that point forward, mail that originated in Algeria and destined for France (and often for other countries) arrived in either Marseille, Toulon or Cette. Maritime markings and route markings support this.¹ Over the next two decades letters show disinfection markings at Marseille and Toulon. Arrival markings are also plentiful for those two cities as well as Cette. Algerian mail destined for other French towns generally has a routing mark that indicates the mail went through one of those three cities.

As usual, there is an exception. At least three letters left Algeria and arrived in France at Port-Vendres, a small town less than 20 km north of the Spanish border. They were disinfected at Port-Vendres and presumably traveled a couple hundred meters from there to Collioure. There the letters received a transit marking and were put in the mail stream for delivery in France.

This mail handling procedure was followed for all mail routed through Collioure. During this period, Port-Vendres used a football-shaped oval marking with the legend "Purifié à Port-Vendres" in script. Salles notes that the marking was always applied on the face of the letter and only during 1837 and 1838. He added that it is always accompanied by the rectangular boxed marking "PAYS D'OUTREMER PAR COLLIOURE" in block letters. He priced the disinfection marking at 200 francs, among the more expensive items in this book. Since Salles didn't actually inventory markings, prices are our best indication of rarity from his work. Port-Vendres and Collioure together were the French port for incoming Spanish mail in the late 1830s. Salles indicates that letters with markings applied in these towns originated in Barcelona, Alicante, Valence, Malaga, Seville and other Spanish towns. He does not mention Algerian origins.² However, there are at least three letters from Algeria, each from a different city, with the Port-Vendres disinfection marking and Collioure route marking.

Two of the letters were lots 30 and 31 in the 1978 Jamet auction of M. Honnorat's Algerian postal history collection.³ There are photographs of both in the catalog. To address them in chronological order, Lot 31 originated in Constantine, Algeria and bears a January 31, 1838 postmark. It is rated seven décimes to reflect the distance to a town in Vaucluse plus a one *décime voie de mer*.⁴ This extra *décime* was the fee for carrying the letter across the Mediterranean Sea. There is also a *décime rural* marking, "1 D" in an oval. This is the fee for rural pick-up or delivery, a surcharge over the cost of mailing or retrieving a letter at the post office. As with all three letters, there is a Port-Vendres disinfection mark and a Collioure entry mark.

The second is Lot 30 in the Honnorat sale. It originated in Bône and was marked with the normal double circle cancel in use at the time. Fortunately, the lot is illustrated in the catalog; the date is not very clear, but is most likely February 5, 1838. It is addressed to a proprietor in a town near Clermont-Ferrand, France. This letter is rated eight décimes reflecting the distance to the town. The letter has the Port-Vendres and Collioure markings on the face.

The third letter (Figure 1) bears a Bône, February 4, 1838, legend inside. Yet it was postmarked in Algiers on February 8, 1838. Originally, the post office rated the letter at seven décimes but checked again and re-rated the letter to eight décimes to get it all the way to Brive, France. Whether this was to

correct a mistaken distance measurement or to add the *voie de mer* is not clear. It is possible that the rating clerk at first overlooked the distance from Constantine to the coast of north Africa and corrected his mistake. The letter has a backstamp applied at Brive on February 16, 1838.

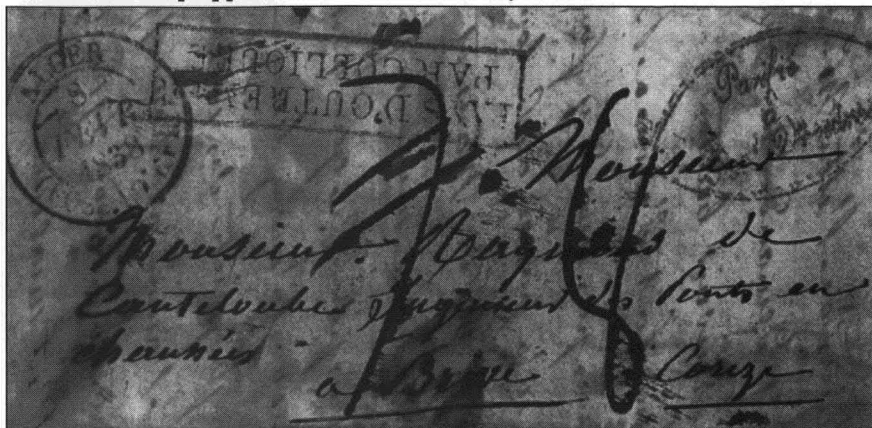


Figure 1. (reduced to 90%)

In my search of auction catalogs I have not seen any other Port-Vendres disinfection markings on Algerian mail. What is curious to me is that all three of these letters were canceled within nine days of each other. Given the order of the dates and the geography of North Africa, it would seem likely that one ship carried all three letters. That ship could have stopped in Philippeville, picked up the Constantine letter, traveled 100 or so kilometers to the east,⁵ taking on the letter postmarked Bône, and then headed west, where a few days later it called on Algiers and left with the third letter. It is also possible that both the Constantine and Bône letters were waiting at one place. Of course, there may well have been more mail than these three letters.

The mystery is why the ship then arrived in Port-Vendres. Was it blown off course? Did it intend to and make other stops along the African and Spanish coasts before dropping off mail in Port-Vendres? How did these three letters end up in Collioure instead of Marseille, Toulon or Cette? The arrival date for the third letter, February 16, would indicate that the trip was not out of the ordinary. Salles notes that beginning in 1833 there was regular, weekly service between Toulon and Alger. Later this extended to ten day round trips across the Mediterranean.⁶ A ship departing Algiers on February 8 carrying a letter that was delivered eight days later in Brive would be within reason.

The rates on the three letters are based on distance from their point of origin to final destination, disregarding the trip across the Mediterranean Sea. (The *voie de mer* was a flat one décime regardless of distance.) The ratings are consistent with the distances from Collioure to the three destinations. The letter addressed to Vaucluse would have been rated much less if it had been delivered to Marseille or Toulon. The rate would have been about one décime lower on the other two if they had gone via the normal routes.

The route taken by these three letters is interesting because it is so exceptional. Perhaps in the French maritime archives there is an answer. It is also possible that the contents of the Constantine and Bône letters may have clues. However, the Algiers letter does not, so for now the mystery remains.

Endnotes

¹See, for example, Salles, Raymond, *La Poste Maritime Française, Tome I, Les Entrées Maritimes et les Bateaux à Vapeur*, Paris, 1961 (Reprinted by James Bendon, Limasson, Cyprus, 1992), pp. 49-53, 126 ff.

²*Ibid.*, p. 48.

³Baudot, Jean-François, *Jamet, Collection Honnorat, 114e Vente sur Offres*, Paris, 1978.

⁴All rates based on Alexandre, J.-P., et al., *Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969*, Paris, 1989, pp. 31-34.

⁵It is about 70 km overland, but presumably further by water because the coastline juts north between the two towns.

⁶*Op. cit.*, p. 127.

NEW CALEDONIA IN 1876 AND THE CREATION OF SPECIAL POSTAL DEVICES

NDLR: This is a slightly altered summary of an article by J. D. Ladiesse entitled "1876, une année qui ne manque pas ... de cachets!" [1876, a year that lacks not for cachets!] in Le Bulletin du Cagou, N° 23, 2003, and written with the permission of the author and of the president of the Groupement Philatélique Le Cagou. The illustrations come from the article. I consider the article to be the last word on the subject matter.¹

The famous (or infamous) large triangular marking of New Caledonia (Figure 1), indicating a lack of stamps in the colony, was used only at



Figure 1.

Nouméa, the capital. A stamp shortage was noted in January 1876, whereupon stamps were ordered from France. They apparently were shipped to New Caledonia in early April and probably arrived no earlier than July 1876. The earliest known date of use is 25 March 1876. M. Ladiesse [and earlier students] indicate that no less than two such markings were fabricated local-

ly. Differences among them include the length and location of breaks in the bottom line below the **See** (for Service) or below the **AL** of CALED., and whether the upper point is whole or broken. The marking(s) was temporarily retired before the end of July 1876, once the stamp stock had been replenished. However, another shortage occurred early in 1877 and the triangle(s) was once again pressed into service. Known range of dates for this period is 22 January - 18 April 1877.

In both 1876 and 1877 the sole date stamp used and that could have been used was the one shown in Figure 2, with fleurons separating name of colony from name of the capital. This was the date stamp between 1867 and 1885. The triangular marking was always struck in black.

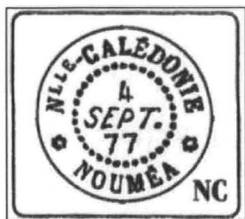


Figure 2.

Spurious covers and markings, whether completely or partially fabricated or simply prepared with the connivance of postal employees, tend to vary from the above norms. The triangle might be in colors other than black, or be unbroken [also see "For the Record 586" in *FCP* N° 227, January 1992, p. 21] or bear entirely new dates than the ranges given above, or be associated with date stamps introduced after 1885. Additionally, M. Ladiesse states (and I wonder why) that **all** genuine covers went to destinations outside New Caledonia.

But, there's an exception to all this. The triangle(s) was officially resurrected early in 1907, for lack of 1c stamps for use on newspaper wrappers. The local post retained the device until 1983 when it mysteriously disappeared. Presumably it may at this very moment be in the hands of some unscrupulous forger of covers...

In a continuation of his article, M. Ladiesse addresses the round dotted single circle POSTES / ART.46 / 10^c CACHET (Figure 3), which is also depicted by Bob Stone at the bottom of page 10 of *FCP* N° 183, January 1981. Unlike the triangular marking, this much rarer one was used primarily within the colony, for certain books, brochures and notices which had to contain some handwritten text (dedications, invitations, etc.), and were mailable at 10c per. The purported reason given for this locally produced cachet was to avoid wasting a limited stock of 10c stamps. Few such covers, of course, would have survived, even though the marking was in sporadic use from perhaps as early as 1876 to [latest recorded date] 1892. Genuine usage (Figure 4) requires that the cachet be in black and that the departure date stamp be one from Nouméa. Stone (page 10) stated "fakes are numerous, usually on small pieces in odd colors (red, blue)."



Figure 3.

Finally, Ladiesse discusses the 1876 (again!) date stamp of Nouméa's maritime bureau, applied on mail sent (or also received from) abroad via Sydney, Australia (Figure 5). It was applied to mail left in a mobile box and brought at the moment of a ship's departure to the postal agent on board. This also is a rare marking, with known



Figure 5.

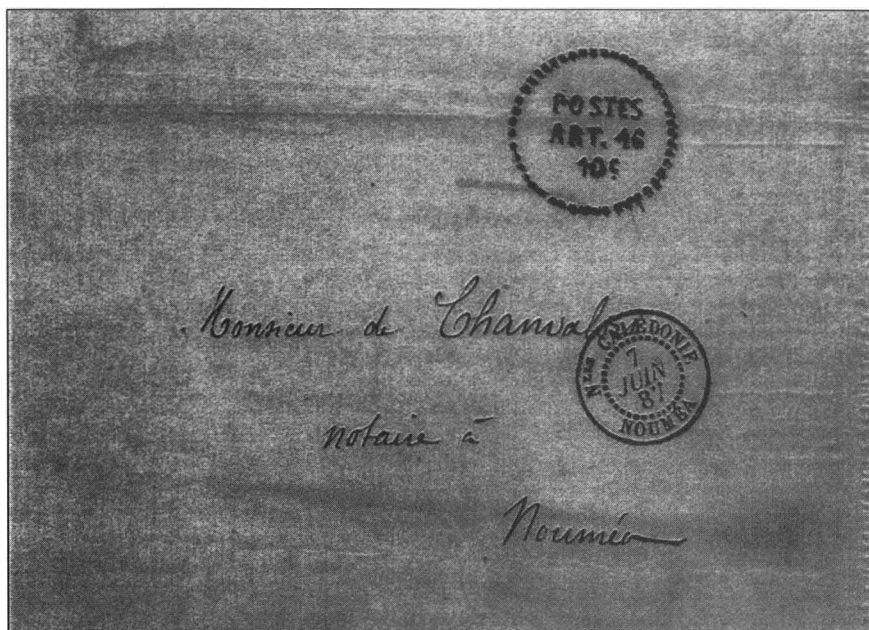


Figure 4. (reduced to 80%)

dates of use being 1881 and 1882, with an exceptionally early recorded 29 August 1876. The hiatus could be due to minimal maritime service between 1876 and 1881, or to the date stamp having been mislaid and forgotten. In 1882, the *Messageries Maritimes* took over the service and the date stamp was summarily replaced.

In summation 1876 proved to be a most fertile year in the annals of New Caledonia's posts and the source of much enjoyment (and frustration?) for specialists in its marcophily and postal history. Fakes of the rather well known and documented triangular marking and of the rare dotted circle one perhaps vastly outnumber genuine examples. The maritime bureau / *boîte mobile* date stamp seems to be quite free (for now) from *chicanerie*.

Endnote

1. Also see Bob Stone's article in *FCP* N° 183, January 1981, pp. 5-6, 10, and "For the Record N° 227, January 1992, p. 21. Except for differentiating the genuine and the fakes of the triangular marking, Stone (1981) remains perfectly valid; the 1992 note correctly identifies some of the criteria.

-- S. J. Luft

POSTAL ISSUES OF THE 1925 PARIS DECORATIVE ARTS EXPOSITION - III "LE POT DE FLEURS"

by Thomas W. Broadhead (FCPS #2830)

When originally conceived in 1923, the low value of the Decorative Arts issue was to be 10c, the rate at that time for (1) international postcards with fewer than 5 word messages, (2) foreign-destined printed matter weighing less than 50 g, and (3) domestic illustrated postcards with fewer than 5 word messages.¹ However, the increase in postal rates of 1 April 1924 raised the first two to 15c, and a letter from the Director of the Exploitation of Posts (hereafter, Director) to the Subsecretary of State (hereafter, Subsecretary) proposed this and other new values for subsequent stamps in the series.² Soon after, in a memo to Exposition Commissioner General Fernand David, the Director asks whether stamp designs other than *Le Potier* are planned, with particular reference to the lower values.³

Plans by the administration of the Exposition for additional designs apparently had been underway for some time, and in a letter of 30 October 1924 to the Subsecretary, the Director reviewed the official laws and the 17 May - 10 June competition leading to the selection of the single *Le Potier* design. However, he relates how on 22 October, the Sub-Director and Chief of the Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres-Poste was summoned by phone to the Grand Palais to view additional designs!⁴ Those, selected by a committee presided over by Commissioner General Fernand David included a torch (*Le Flambeau*) for the 10c, a pot of flowers (*Le Pot de Fleurs*) for the 15c, a woman and deer (*La Femme et la Biche*) for the 45c postal card and a second design for the 25c, and a scene of buildings (*l'Architecture*) as a second design for the 75c.⁵ The Director suggests that these would not be difficult to prepare, but questions whether the new designs stamps would win favor with the public.

By the time the Exposition opened, other world affairs had captured the interest and concerns of the French press. Contemporary issues of Parisian daily papers, *Le Figaro* and *Les Temps*, gave extensive coverage to the election of Paul von Hindenburg as president of Germany on April 28, and armed conflicts in Morocco and Syria continued beyond the duration of the Exposition. The official opening took place April 28 at 3:00 in the great hall of the Grand Palais,⁶ and the Exposition was opened to the public the following morning at 11:00.⁷ Matthias reports an attendance of 14,000,000 during the Exposition, but that figure may be incorrect as are the opening and closing dates (April 30, October 15) reported by that author.⁸ Exposition date stamps, however, suggest that it remained open until or even after 7 November. Other statements of attendance range from a precise 5,852,783⁹ to an approximated "more than 10,000,000."¹⁰

The 15c "*Pot de Fleurs*," was the work of Maurice Berdon, a Parisian illustrator and lithographer.¹¹ Approval of the final design and colors by the Commissioner General took place 13 March.¹² Although it is reported in all of the specialty catalogs (at least since the 1929 Yvert & Tellier catalog) to have been issued April 30, the second day of the Exposition, Melot reports that it was issued on 22 April.¹²

The new stamp was greeted with scathing commentary in the philatelic press. "Conception, design, coloring, paper - nothing is lacking to make a horror of this stamp." The above words, expressing the indignation of one of our readers, refer to the 15-centime stamp of the Decorative Arts series. We

heartily agree! French philatelists unanimously deplore the bad taste that reigned in the choice of this turnip, which is neither stamp, nor artistic, nor decorative."¹³ A further quote published from the satirical journal, *Loup-Garou*, challenged any person who could comprehend the meaning of the design to inform the Ministry of Public Instruction, where the minister, M. de Monzie "will bestow upon him the academic palms."¹⁴ In *Scott's Monthly Journal* (v. 6, no. 4, p. 74), John Luff concluded his attack on the design by saying, "If this absurd flower-pot thing is the best the French can do, it is time they had their stamps made in some country where art has not entirely gone to seed." Perhaps too avant garde, the design earned only occasional, faint praise, such as the brief characterization in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* (v. 39, No. 22, p. 283) that it was "very artistic in design."

Production

Sheet format and production were identical to those of the 25c and 75c Potier - three panes of 25 stamps in each severed half sheet. As this was the only vertically-formatted stamp in the Arts Décoratifs series, the stamps were oriented horizontally, with the top of the design at the left. The archives of the Musée de La Poste indicate that 29,032,800 stamps were printed (1,161,312 panes - 387,104 half sheets).

Proofs and Essays

Proofs of the final design are listed by Françon and Storch to be of diverse colors (Figure 1). Moreover, they help to establish the intended approximately 0.7 mm space between the pot and the lower frameline. A



Figure 1. Trial color proof in colors similar to the final choices, but reversed: frame light green and vignette dark green.

proof from the archives of the Musée de La Poste showing signature approval of Commissioner General Fernand David dated 13 March is illustrated by Melot.¹²

Reports and descriptions of essays for this design have not been found. However, a partly hand-colored essay (Figure 2) of a 25c denomination utilizing the Pot de Fleurs design



Figure 2. Essay of the Pot de Fleurs design denominated 25c. Minor differences exist in details of the vignette that are colored in contrast to the final design. Handpainted green background and dark blue vignette and printing.

sheds light on nuances rejected in the final design. Printed in dark blue, the background and four areas within the mid part of the pot are hand-painted green. The two slender curved horizontal regions above "exposition" were colored the same as the pot in the final version. The two vertically-oriented areas, which appear to define two handles on the pot, are uncolored in the final state, but the tips of the flower buds projecting into them are colored in the final. Other distinctions are the smaller "POSTES FRANCE" at the base of the design, a small dot of color in the downward extending middle flower petal, and three points of color in the upward extending top element of the flower. Also noteworthy is the painted background extending to the margins of the vignette, whereas in the final version, there is an uncolored narrow space between the center and the frame.

Varieties

As is true of most designs in the Arts Décoratifs series constant design variations are not conclusively documented. Dubost reported that a white spot may occur at the opening of the "c" in 15c,¹⁵ but this has not been seen and is not listed in the specialty catalogs.

Color shades show subtle variation, and some examples exhibit almost no contrast between the frame and the vignette. The typical colors are blue-green (frame) and green (vignette). Shades reported for the frame include dark gray-green, gray-green, green, and dark yellow green. The vignette characteristically is lighter: green, bright green, olive green, yellow green, or pale yellow green. Françon and Storch (1974, p. 315)¹⁶ list as a variety, bright and dark se-tenant, but do not indicate if this refers to the frame or vignette.

Misregistration of colors during the two-color printing resulted in shifts in the vignette (*centres déplacés*). A shift in the frame (*cadre déplacé*), which partly obscured the value, is reported by Wanos and Belleville (1946, p. 41)¹⁷ but not by them or others in later catalogs. Additionally, recto-verso offsets of both the frame and the vignette are listed by those and later authors, including Loeuillet and Françon (1994).¹⁸

Paper is white wove, and a thick paper variety if reported.¹⁸

Imperfect centering from side-to-side in the design reflects vertical misregistry of the sheets with the perforator. Well-centered examples are common. Perforation varieties include imperforate (Figure 3), across the design (*à cheval*) or oblique, and "*variété de piquage*" (unspecified).^{16,18} The most scarce perforation variety is that in which the perforator missed the top row of stamps, leaving them imperforate on three sides - perforated only at the bottom (*non dentelé tenant à dentelé*).

The most distinctive perforation variety for *Le Pot de Fleurs*, however, was one caused by a 2 mm upward shift by the perforator that resulted in an intersection of the design that precisely obliterated the "1" of the value, making the misperforated stamp appear to be denominated at 5 centimes (Figure 4). Uses of this distinct variety, in which the stamp was misinterpreted by postal workers as 5c and charged postage due, are rare. An example on a letter with the 5c



Figure 3. Imperforate stamp with selvage of upper sheet margin.



Figure 4. Misperforated pair showing the "5c" variety caused by a 2mm shift in the perforator.

tions (Figure 5) until the 16 July

Semeuse and 10c Pasteur - intended to pay the 30c domestic rate for a letter not weighing more than 20 grams - is shown by Dutau and Jimenez (although they misidentify the stamp in the text of the article).¹⁹ That letter, sent from Paris 26 November 1925 to Bois-Collombes, was taxed 20c (double the *alleged* deficiency) at its destination.

Postal History

The 15c Pot de Fleurs received extensive use, and during its time served seven different, singly franked usages. It paid the 0-50g printed matter rate for domestic mail throughout its time and for foreign destinations (Figure 5) until the 16 July rate changes. Domestic illustrated postcards

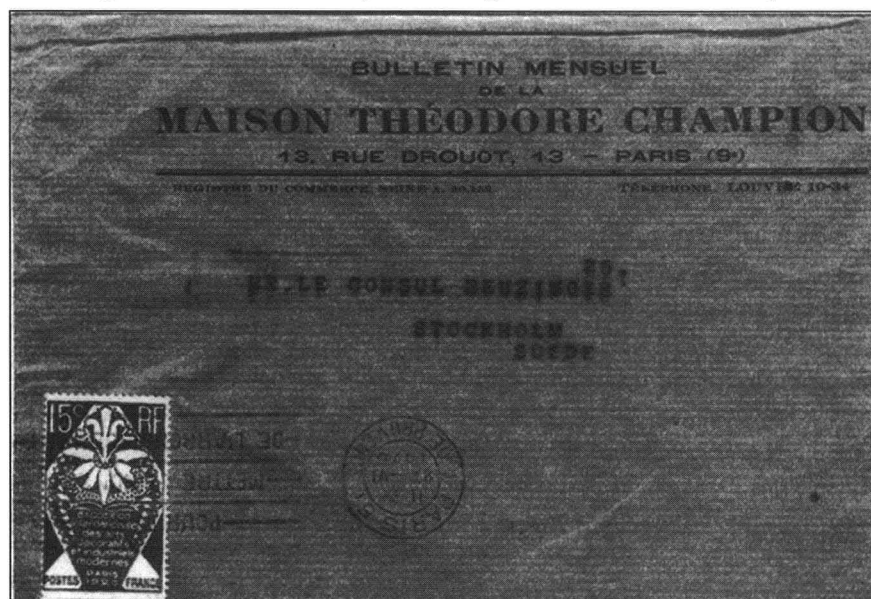


Figure 5. Single use on international printed matter weighing less than 50g. Rate of 1 April 1924. (reduced to 88%)

were 15c until 16 July, and after that date 15c paid for a domestic illustrated card with five word message. Illustrated cards with only a five word message could be sent to other countries for 15c until 16 July. Two less frequently encountered uses during the entire time were the 15c rate for visiting cards with five word message in unsealed envelopes and the additional charge for late posting (*levée exceptionnelle*).

Multiples of the 15c easily lent themselves to a wider range of other uses. Two would pay the 0-10g domestic letter rate of 30c beginning 16 July and also the 30c minimum fee for samples sent to other countries prior to 16 July. Larger multiples are infrequently encountered, but the 45c and 60c foreign

postcard rates prior to and after 16 July exist with the appropriate multiples of the 15c.

As with most low-denominated stamps, the 15c saw considerable use to make-up rates in combination with other stamps. These are among the most common uses for this stamp, but a particularly unusual use is to make the 45c minimum postage due rate for foreign mail (rate of 1 April 1924 - 16 July 1925) (Figure 6). At that time, a 30c postage due stamp existed, but there was no 15c to complement it or a 45c for the full minimum.

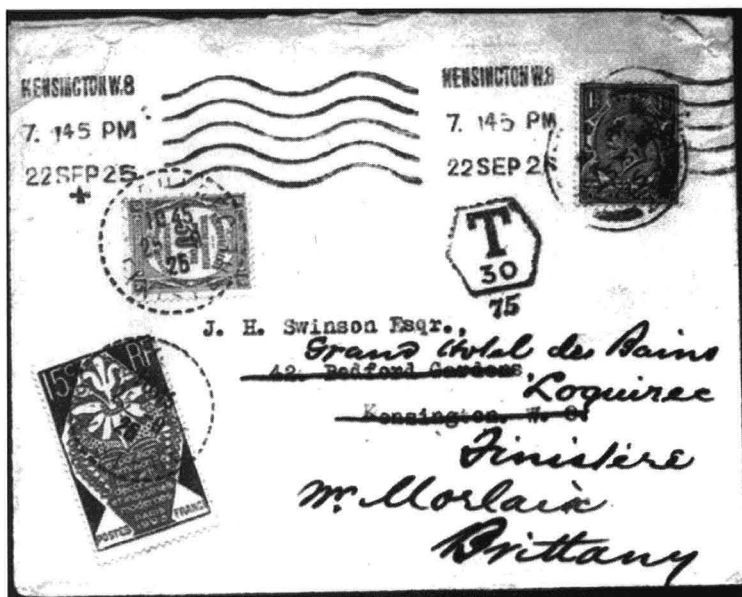


Figure 6. Use as partial payment of postage due with 30c postage due stamp of 1908. Minimum 45c postage due fee of 1 April 1924.

Conclusions

The concerns of the Director of the Exploitation of Posts regarding the popularity of designs selected without public competition rang true in the firestorm of criticism, which greeted *Le Pot de Fleurs*. Nonetheless, during its slightly more than eight month period of issue, it achieved extensive use - perhaps proportionally more so on international mail than other stamps of the Arts Décoratifs issue.

Endnotes

¹Richardson, D. 1996. *Tables of French Postal Rates, 1849 to date*, The France & Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain, Brochure No. 7, second edition, 66 p.

²"Suivant l'accord intervenu entre Monsieur le Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat et le Commissariat Général de l'Exposition, et conformément aux avis formulés par les Rapporteurs du projet de loi au Parlement, les valeurs mises en vente seront les suivantes:

timbres de 10 c., 15 c., 25 c., et 75 c.,
carte postale de 45 c.,
correspondant aux taxes nouvelles intérieures et internationales." Letter dated 20 October 1924 with signed approval by the Subsecretary on 27 October.

³"Je vous serai obligé de me faire connaître si les timbres de 10c et de 15c et la carte postale de 45c doivent être émis avec le type "Le Potier", ou avec un autre type, en vue des instructions à donner à l'Atelier au moment opportun." 29 October 1924.

⁴"A la date du 22 octobre courant, le S/-Directeur, Chef de l'Atelier de fabrication des timbres poste, a été convoqué téléphoniquement au Grand Palais 'en vue d'examiner de nouveaux dessins destinés à l'émission des timbres des Arts Décoratifs'."

⁵"Un comité, reuni sous la présidence du Commissaire Général de l'Exposition, a adopté 4 nouveaux types, dont ci-joint 4 réductions et M. Fernand David a demandé l'affectation de ces types ainsi qu'il est indiqué ci-après:"

⁶*Le Figaro*, 26 April 1925, page 2

⁷*op cit.*, 30 April 1925, page 2

⁸Mathias, S.M. 1990. "Paris 1925 - Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs [sic] et Industriels Modernes," p. 239-243. *Historical Dictionary of World's Fairs and Expositions, 1851-1988*. John E. Findling, editor. Greenwood Press.

⁹Robertson, A.P. undated. Exposition Des Arts Décoratifs Modernes Paris 1925.

www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~aprobert/paris251.htm<<http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~aprobert/paris251.htm>>

¹⁰Savelon, P. 1972. Histoire et Marcophilie, volume 1: Les cachets de Congrès et d'Expositions Internationales. *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, Etude No. 148, page 19.

¹¹Bénézit, E. 1999. *Dictionnaire critique et documentaire des Peintres, Sculpteurs, Dessinateurs et Graveurs*, Nouvelle Édition, Tome 2, p. 138.

¹²Melot, M. 2002. Arts Décoratifs: Un série à 200 000 francs. *Timbres Magazine*, No. 27, September 2002.

¹³"France," "Invention, dessin, coloris, papier, rien ne manque pour faire une horreur de ce timbre. C'est du 15 c. des Arts décoratifs qu'il s'agit, et c'est un de nos lecteurs qui témoigne son indignation per let mots ci-dessus. Nous nous y associons pleinement et tous les philatélistes français seront d'accord pour deplorer le mauvais gout qui a présidé au choix de ce navet, qui n'est ni timbre, ni artistique, ni décoratif." *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, No. 704, page 623, 30 April 1925.

¹⁴*Ibid.*, "La personne qui a pu comprendre ce qui représentait le nouveau timbre de 0,15 de l'Exposition des Arts Décoratifs est priée de se presenter au ministère de l'Instruction Publique, où M. de Monzie lui remettra les palmes académiques."

¹⁵Dubost, C. L. 1951. "Pictorial Varieties, Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs Modernes - 1925." *France & Colonies Philatelic Society Newsletter*, vol. 1, no. 9, January, 1951.

¹⁶"Clair et foncé se tenant" Françon, Ro. and Storch, Jo. 1973. *Catalogue Spécialisé des Timbres-Poste de France 1900-1940*. Cercle Lyonnais d'Études Philatéliques et Marcophiles. Annonay.

¹⁷Wanos, L. and de Belleville, J. 1946. *Catalogue des Variétés de France 1900-1946*. Office Philatélique de Paris, 166p.

¹⁸Loeuillet, R. and Françon, R. 1994. *Cérès France Variétés*. 2nd edition. Cérès, Paris.

¹⁹Dutau, G. and Jimenez, B. 2003. "Lorsque le compte n'y est pas..." *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, February 2003, No. 1760, p. 60. In the second paragraph of the text, they misidentify this stamp as the "Torch" design, issued on June 15. "En ce 27 novembre 1925, l'employé des postes de Bois-Colombes était-il devenu amnésique au point d'ignorer que le timbre-poste "Symbole de la lumière", de la série des Arts décoratifs, émis le 15 juin de la même année, avait une valeur faciale de 15 et non de 5 centimes?"

Acknowledgments

My appreciation goes to M. Pascal Rabier of the Musée de La Poste, Paris and to the exceptional staff of the museum's library, for access to archived correspondence. Additional thanks go to Diane Castle, for translations of several articles, Stanley Luft (FCPS editor) for providing a copy of Melot's article and of Dutau's and Jimenez' recent work, George Barker (FCPS GB) for transcribing Dubost's paper, and to the American Philatelic Research Library and its superb staff.

MADAGASCAR: TAXE PERÇUE HANDSTAMPS, 1944-46 by Ian McQueen

As long ago as 1996 an article of mine appeared in the British *France & Colonies Journal* about the *Taxe Perçue* handstamps of Tananarive, Madagascar (Vol. 46, No. 4, December 1996, Whole No. 202). These handstamps were used at the very end of the wartime period and for a short while afterwards. This was found to be necessary because of a shortage of ordinary postage stamps. Colin Spong was kind enough to give me a great deal of help, providing me with copies of several published studies, among them one in English by Ted Coles and others which had appeared in the French literature. These articles mentioned other places in Madagascar which had used these *cachets d'affranchissement en numéraire* in a similar way, recording the postage and air fees which had been paid in cash. However, most of the illustrations were unsuitable for reproduction, so I limited my piece to those used at Tananarive. And when I came to preparing my *Airmail Directional Handstamps* books for publication in 2003 I limited my illustrations to some Tananarive types (Figure 1), plus one from Majunga and another from Tamatave (Figure 2).

However, having recently managed to acquire covers with reasonable strikes of handstamps used at three other places, I have produced illustrations which are as accurate as I

can make them. These are from Morondava in 1944 (red) and Diégo-Suarez (violet) and Fianarantsoa (reddish violet), both used in 1945 (Figure 3). Other places mentioned in the literature include Antsirabé (blue), Fort Dauphin (violet), Moramanga (blue), Maranjary (violet), Tuléar (violet) and the Tananarive sub-offices of Analakely, Antanimena and Tsaralana. Overall, according to usages reported, these *cachets* appear to have been used from

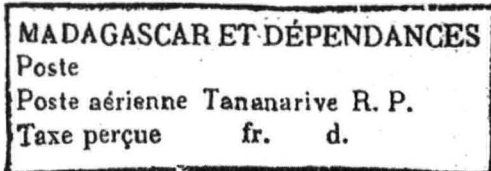


Figure 1.

MADAGASCAR ET DÉPENDANCES

POSTE AÉRIENNE — MAJUNGA

Taxe perçue : Fr. d.

MADAGASCAR ET DÉPENDANCES

POSTE -

POSTE AÉRIENNE — TAMATAVE

Taxe perçue : Fr. d.

Figure 2.

MADAGASCAR ET DÉPENDANCES

POSTE AÉRIENNE — MORONDAVA

Taxe perçue : Fr. C.

MADAGASCAR ET DÉPENDANCES

POSTE -

POSTE AÉRIENNE — DIÉGO-SUAÏRE

Taxe perçue : Fr. d.

MADAGASCAR ET DÉPENDANCES

POSTE -

POSTE AÉRIENNE — FIANARANTSOA

Taxe perçue : Fr. d.

Figure 3.

about October 1944 to June 1946, though normal frankings with ordinary postage stamps were in use at some places during this period.

There are also several variations in the handstamps, some being framed and others unframed, and there seems to have been no insistence on exact uniformity. This gives the impression that they were made individually, according to a given style of wording, and there was clearly no uniformity in the colours of ink.

I do feel that these markings deserve rather more detailed attention than they have so far received. What I believe would be really worthwhile is to produce some sort of catalogue, fully and accurately illustrated, with details of the colours of strikes and range of known dates of use for the different types and subtypes. Production of such a complete listing would seem to be a suitable project for this society, and I would hope to obtain help also through others, such as the British Aerophilatelic Federation, the American Air Mail Society, the Indian Ocean Study Circle and Bob Picirilli's study group on French Colonial rates up to 1945. (One advantage of these Taxe Percue handstamps is that they need to be completed and the postage and air fees paid over the counter in cash, so they seem always to be correct!)

In order to explore what might be achieved I should be most grateful if members would please

send me clear, accurate photocopies, full size and in black-&-white, of covers which they have, with details of the colours of strikes and dates of posting. It would also be helpful to know whether any recently published articles which I may not have seen contain relevant information or complete and accurate illustrations. We might then start to build up a fuller picture of what exists, in the hope that this might develop into a complete reference.

Ian McQueen, 55 Albany, Bournemouth BH1 3EJ, England.

"PHANTOM POSTAL HISTORY" -- CYPRUS 1940

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

Phantom postal history, as defined by Ernst Cohn, covers the possibility that real-life events could have left postal traces of their existence, even if none have ever been found - or identified.

While rummaging through the Cyprus Government Archives at Nicosia, my good friend Alex Ioannides unearthed several pages of documents pertaining to the unheralded presence of French troops there during June-July 1940. We present here abstracts of these documents.

On 13 June 1940 (decoded the 14th) British Mideast Command, Cairo sent a secret telegram to the Governor of Cyprus to the effect that French General Mittelhauser, Commander of French forces in the Eastern Mediterranean Theatre, was anxious to send a French battalion to Cyprus to serve under British command. The battalion arrived at Famagusta the 17th at 3 p.m. Greenwich time. From another telegram to the Governor, we learn that the battalion (of Colonial infantry) under Lt.-Col. Lenglet, consisted of 17 officers, 800 men, 164 animals (apparently mostly or entirely mules), plus assorted carts, vans and lorries, tents, five-days supplies, and purchase orders for local supplies.

On 18 June [the day of de Gaulle's rallying cry from London to the French people] the Governor and senior French officers (including a Major Muller) toured Lefkoniko as a possible station there for the Battalion HQ and Reserve Companies. The boys' and girls' schools would provide suitable quarters for the troops once adequate water supplies were established. Some ten officers and the Battalion office were to be housed at the close by Othello Hotel, for which a requisition order was necessitated. Some 30 lorries and 160 animals would be kept under trees. And all this came to pass in all haste.

Meanwhile (16 June) Gen. Mittelhauser, wrote to the Governor of Cyprus thanking him profusely for the hospitality extended, also stating that the addition of French troops would help in covering the Nile Delta and the Levant sector closest to the Dodecanese Islands.

This most agreeable situation soon deteriorated almost beyond repair. Animosity developed between British and French soldiers. The proprietor of the Othello Hotel complained of pilfering and property damage. The French battalion shipped out (prematurely? we don't know) for Syria on 13 July. On 19 September, £17.16.4 compensation was paid to the hotel proprietor from funds of the British Commissioner's office at Famagusta. This was in addition to earlier payments of £35 for use of the hotel and 10/- for "structural damage" (Figure 1).

And that's the saga of the French Colonial battalion in Cyprus during June-July 1940. But what about "Phantom Postal History"? To date, we know of no French military mail out of Cyprus during those scant four weeks. Of course, it was impossible then to write to France. But, might there be some official mail, perhaps even some personal mail that went to Syria to Lebanon, or even Egypt? Or French Africa? Collectors, check your covers!

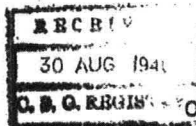
Tel. No. 3.

THE OFFICE OF THE

No. 199 / 40.

CORRESPONDENT'S
NUMBER

SUBJECT:



COMMISSIONER, FAMAGUSTA.

CYPRUS, 29th August, 1940.

Honourable Colonial Secretary,

With reference to the recent billeting in Famagusta of French troops I have the honour to state that the Officer's Mess was accommodated in Mr. Marangos' Othello Hotel. Mr. Marangos has accepted my assessment of £35 as compensation for one month's use of his hotel including furniture and equipment plus 10/- for damage to the structure of the building but there remains outstanding an amount of £17.16.4 which Mr. Marangos claims for articles of equipment missing or destroyed. This claim should have been met by the Officers themselves but when the troops left for Syria on the 13th July I was told by the Battalion Commander that application should be made to the "Chef de Popotte", Sous-Lieutenant Vétérinaire Troquereau, who was then with the Free French Volunteers in Nicosia. Letters from Mr. Marangos to this Officer remained unanswered and now that there appears to be no hope of getting payment from the Officers' "Popotte" Mr. Marangos has again appealed to me for settlement.

2. I enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Marangos to the Sous-Lieutenant Troquereau covering a list of missing articles and a list of damaged articles and suggest that the best course now would be to pay the claim and include it as an item in the account which this Government will render to the Government of Syria for expenses in connection with the stay of French troops in Cyprus.

Commissioner.

Figure 1.

1925 PARIS EXPOSITION INTERNATIONALE DE TIMBRES-POSTE — MODERN REPRODUCTIONS OF THE STAMPS AND A SPURIOUS EXPOSITION CANCEL

by Thomas W. Broadhead (FCPS #2830)

The article "When is a Forgery Not a Forgery?"¹ by David Davies draws attention to recent reproductions of stamps, produced by color laser printing and offered recently on eBay. I purchased an imperforate block of four of the 5 franc Sage design commemorating the 1925 Exposition Internationale de Timbres-Poste. The cost was a meager \$4.00 plus shipping. Soon thereafter, I received an e-mail from Davies inquiring as to why I had purchased this item — advertised as a recent copy for "reference" purposes only. Davies shared with me his views that the purchase of such copies, even at appropriately low prices, encouraged a bad practice. Will these and other reproductions reach the "prestige" in the collecting community that Sperati and Fournier forgeries currently hold?

My goal in this note is to draw attention to differences between genuine stamps and cancels and two different recent reproductions. The 1925 souvenir sheet (Yvert Bloc Feuillet No. 1), one of the world's first,² was produced in a printing of 50,000 that sold out before the Exposition closed on 12 May 1925. Many copies survived, mint or favor cancelled. It is difficult to find a catalog from major auction houses in France or the United States that does not have at least one for sale, and copies occasionally appear on eBay.

In 2003, I noticed an eBay lot that showed a copy of an entire sheet used on an envelope, but there was something unusual about the sheet. The perforations did not intersect perfectly at the corners of the stamps as they do on genuine copies, and there was an unusual hexagonal philatelic exposition cancel. This example sold for more than \$200 — still a fraction of the cost for a genuine, postally used sheet on cover. When another appeared on eBay — a cancelled sheet, off cover, advertised as a reproduction — I bid and won. Since that time, I have not seen many of these offered on eBay, but in 2004 a dealer in Portugal sold one for more than \$400. This reproduction type is hereinafter referred to as Type I.

Key differences among the genuine sheet and the two recent reproductions focus on the lower right stamp. In authentic examples and Type I reproductions, there is a break in the inner frameline to the left of the 5 in the value tablet (Figure 1). This flaw does not appear in the computer printed example

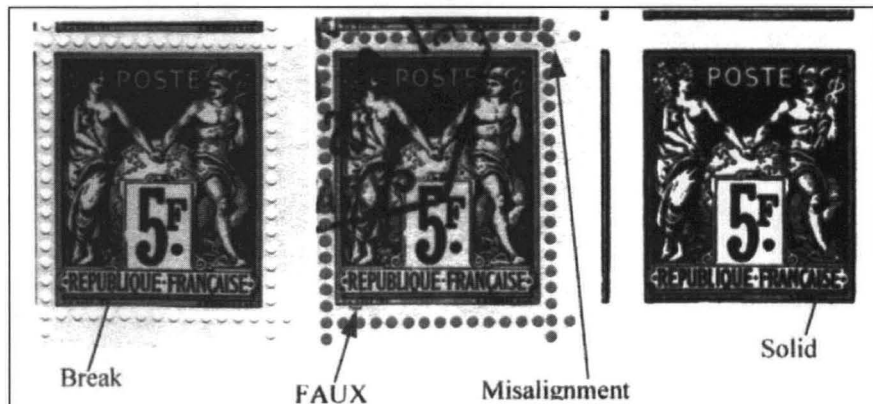


Figure 1. (left to right): Authentic stamp, Type I reproduction, Type II reproduction. Arrows indicate key design features.

(hereinafter Type II). Davies notes that in similarly produced copies of classic Portuguese stamps, all examples are identical and lack positional varieties.

Genuine examples are perforated 13.5 x 14, whereas my Type I reproduction sheet is perforated 14 x 14. Perforation alignment is perfect in genuine examples, most likely due to the fact that the block of stamps was perforated in one strike, rather than by the usual comb perforator, which typically leaves a row of descending vertical perforations in the lower selvage. Alignment at corners of stamps typically is poor in the line-perforated examples and is a good indication of the Type I reproduction. Type I reproductions also are printed on rough paper of the same color as the originals. Type II reproductions are imperforate, printed on white, thick paper and also exhibit a crude, "overinked" appearance, which produces a solid rather than finely lined background.

Type I reproductions shows a very small, printed "FAUX" at the lower left of each stamp in the sheet. Although this is an appropriate marking, it could be overlooked by an unsuspecting buyer or worse yet, skillfully removed.

Of additional interest are the exposition cancellations seen on genuine copies and on Type I reproductions (Figure 2). The authentic exposition can-



Figure 2. (left to right): Authentic Exposition cancel, spurious hexagonal cancel seen on Type I reproductions, possible authentic stamp with spurious cancel.

cellation, a 27 mm diameter single-ring circular date stamp was in use at French philatelic expositions from 1907 until 1937.³ In contrast, the hexagonal hand stamp seen on Type I reproductions is of a type not used until the 1937 Exposition Philatélique Internationale.³ Moreover, my example shows a date of 10 June 1925, nearly one month after the close of the Exposition. In late 2004, a single stamp with a partial imprint of this marking was offered on eBay for \$49.50, but was unsold. That stamp, shown in Figure 2, lacks the "FAUX" imprint and appears to be properly perforated 13.5 x 14. Although it may be a dangerously altered example of Type I, in the absence of close examination of the paper, it appears to be an authentic stamp with spurious cancellation.

All readers are encouraged to take heed of the warnings raised in Davies's article and to be ever watchful for nuances that may signal reproductions or outright forgeries. Today's "harmless reproductions" are likely to become tomorrow's deceptive forgeries.

REFERENCES

¹David J. Davies, 2004. "When is a Forgery Not a Forgery?" *American Philatelist*, v. 118, No. 11, p. 950-951.

²Thomas W. Broadhead, 2003. "Paris 1925 - The Exposition Internationale de Timbres-Poste"; *American Philatelist*, v. 117, No. 8, p. 728-732.

³Pierre Savelon, 1972. "Les Cachets de Congrès et d'Expositions Internationales, Histoire et Marcophilie," v. 1. *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, Etude No. 148.

WALTER E. PARSHALL (1920-2005)

It grieves us to relate that our long-time Corresponding Secretary, Walter Parshall, has closed his albums. He had most diligently held that position ever since June 1966, having succeeded Gilbert Loisel. Failing eyesight last year and then a succession of heart attacks early this year ended his selfless service to our Society on 21 March 2005. He was 84 years old.

Walter worked for the U.S. Postal Service in his home town of Bloomfield, NJ for some 40 years before retiring 12 years ago. Previously, he served (1942-1945) in the U.S. Army. Arriving in France in September 1944, he was assigned to the 94th Infantry Division and participated in many battles across France and into Germany, as part of Patton's 3rd Army, reaching as far into the Third Reich as Czechoslovakia. He was a life member of the 94th Division Association (and always looked forward to participating in their annual reunions) and of the Disabled American Veterans.

Walter was a specialist collector of Monaco philately; also of books, records, videos, etc. In other words, he was a true pack rat of a collector. The one time I visited him in Bloomfield, he showed me portions of his Monaco collection, including a number of covers still on Albert Gold's approval cards. For those of you who never dealt with the late Mr. Gold, he sold pristine covers, always correctly annotated, bearing very fine cheaper Classic stamps and good, clear postal markings, at ridiculously low prices; just what the embryonic postal-history collector needed for starters.

Walter was, to put it simply, a very nice guy, and he'll be very much missed.

-- S. J. Luft

Pat and I have happy memories of Walter driving us and Bob Stone around the last time we were Stateside. He was very proud to have been one of Patton's boys. He was stationed at Cheltenham when in the United Kingdom and, when sent over to Europe, reached almost to the outskirts of Prague. He worked in the Post Office after demobilization. He had a lovely house full of books, videos, records and stamps. He was a great lover of British films, swing bands and [Bing] Crosby. Pat and I are glad we had met him. He had a nice collection of Monaco, but always felt overshadowed [in that specialty] by Jerry Massler.

-- Colin Spong

ERNST M. COHN -- AN APPRECIATION

There will be no more Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories. Perhaps the most amazing of them all has no number, for it's Ernst himself. His enthusiasm for the subject is, of course, legendary; in fact "passion" would be a better word, a passion which led him to extensive researches which can perhaps best be described in his own words. In an article "The Balloon 'La Ville d'Orléans' in Norway" published in the *Postal History Journal* for January 1966 he wrote -

"Late in 1962, I started a systematic search to assemble as many primary and secondary references as possible [about the 'La Ville d'Orléans'], to obtain an accurate time table of these events, and to uncover as many details as might still be available more than 90 years later. I have been corresponding with museums, libraries, other private and public institutions, and with private individuals in

the U.S. and in eight Western European countries for this purpose. I have also combed the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Archives, the library of the National War College, and the Army Map Service. The harvest has been phenomenal, thanks to the generous cooperation of dozens of people, only very few of them known personally to me..."

That article, which consists largely of translations of extracts from contemporary Norwegian newspapers and periodicals, appeared after three years' research and runs to 27 pages; subsequently the book *The Flight of the "Ville d'Orléans"* was published in 1978, so it represents 15-odd years of gestation. Even then he could say, in his Introduction -

"... some of [my] data [are] incomplete and questionable. Despite its venerable age, the subject has lost none of its interest, and the search goes on."

As readers of the Wonder Stories will know, anything and everything relating to the War was grist to Ernst's mill. The Wonder Stories also show that Ernst did not accept received wisdom uncritically, and many an accepted belief has been effectively demolished in these articles.

Ernst and I never met, and we only had one exchange of correspondence. It was far from philatelic - although it concerned one of his 1870-1871 covers which puzzled him, it actually involved an obscure point of Nineteenth century Irish history. Otherwise, our brief correspondence was confined to British Christmas Airletters - new, and therefore interesting to Ernst - and reminiscences of concerts at London's Wigmore Hall.

I shall miss those Wonder Stories...

-- Bill Mitchell

MEMBERS' APPEALS

WANTED: Postally used picture postcards from French Indo-China; also from Siamese occupation of Cambodia and from Japanese-occupied Indo-China. Please send copies and price wanted, to Joel Montague, 24 Maugus Ave., Wellesley, MA 02481, USA. (Mb. #3340).

WANTED: The following Benin stamps (listed by Scott catalog) are needed. Unused (lightly hinged OK) and in good condition without defects: #3 type I, #4 types I and IV, #5 type II, #6 type II, #8 type II, #10 type I, #18 type III. (Type I has the open R, Type II has the open N, type III has all letters closed, type IV has an accent on the "e"). Please contact J. Peter Hinterkopf, 12116 Blue Ridge Court, Waynesboro, PA 17268, USA; e-mail: jhinterkopf@pa.net (Mb. #2070).

WANTED: Cover with good, legible strike of a N° 126 Conquered Dept. marking. Please send copy and asking price to Robert Kinsley, 5410 Fern Loop, West Richland, WA 99353, USA. (Mb. #2180).

[NDLR: With the almost simultaneous passing of Ernst Cohn and of our backlog of his contributions, I felt the need to publish just one more of his writings. I searched my files for something brief, able to stand by itself, still very much valid, and probably unbeknown to most of our readers. Here it is, from the S.P.A. Journal, v. 39, N° 2, October 1976.]

DUNANT'S OWN RED CROSS CACHET

by Ernst M. Cohn

Most collectors interested in Switzerland or in the Red Cross know that Henry Dunant of Geneva is credited with having founded the international Red Cross. What is not nearly as well known is that he devised his own, personal Red Cross cachet, which occurs on a few of his letters from 1870. At that time he was in Paris, cut off from the rest of the world like its other two million inhabitants by the besieging German armies.

He was aware of the Paris decree of 21 September, stating that, as a result of the difficulties in expediting letters destined for the provinces and abroad, the public was asked to use only very thin paper and to fold each letter in such a way that an envelope would not be necessary. That was several days before the decree of September 26, establishing the balloon mails.

Shown here is his folded letter No. 2 — another wartime habit adopted by many correspondents, to keep track of their mail, since delivery had become so uncertain — to his sister Marie. This stampless cover was mailed on September 24 at the Place de la Bourse, later receiving a Swiss "50" (centimes) postage due mark and a Geneva arrival date stamp of 23 October. In view of the delay between posting and arrival, the balloon that carried the letter cannot be determined. Note that the French mails did not tax the letter.



Most important, however, is the magnificent Red Cross cachet in the upper left corner of the address side. The inscription reads "International Universal Work of Humanity in Favor of the Armies of Land and Sea." The text of No. 2 (there is no No. 1 in the files) includes the statement, in French, "If the present letter falls into the hands of the general staff of his majesty the king of Prussia, they are requested to let it go through to Switzerland, to its ad-

dress." An almost identical sentence occurs in No. 3 of September 29. In No. 6 of October 17, he says, "If the present letter comes into the hands of some officer of Prussia or Germany, please to replace it in an envelope and to send it to Switzerland to the following address:

Mademoiselle Marie Dunant — Colladon
a Champel, près Genève, Suisse".

Gradually, he gave up using the seal, the phrase, and folded letters. Even an airlift can become routine.

The copy of Dunant's letter was obtained from the Manuscript Department of the Library of Geneva, Switzerland, reference Ms fr 2110 et 2115c.

SOME SHOW REPORTS

(Continued from N° 280, April 2005, p. 41)

- Ameristamp Expo 2005 (Atlanta, February): Tom Broadhead showed three single-frame exhibits: "Imprimé Mail from France to the U.S. 1926-1937" and "Paris 1925: The Exposition Internationale..." obtained Vermeil medals, and "Small Greetings from France 1856-1899" received a Silver medal.
- LINPEX 2005 (Lincoln, NE, February): Gold medal to your editor for "France: Marianne de Décaris (1960-1968)"; single-frame Gold medals to John Bloor for "Georges Guynemer and the Guynemer Airmail Etiquette of France" and for his Portuguese Africa provisional airmails.
- St. Louis Stamp Expo 2005 (St. Louis, February): Gold medals to Larry Gardner for "Morocco Foreign Post Offices and Agencies" and to Paul Larsen for the Leeward Islands exhibit; Silver medal to Louis Rediger for "When the Flamme Became Literate"; in the single-frame competition, Eliot Landau received two Gold medals (and one Grand Award) for his Abe Lincoln exhibits.
- Spring Postage Stamps Mega Event (New York City, March): Gold medals to Chuck LaBlonde and to Steve Turchik for their Swiss exhibits; John Lievsay served on the jury.
- Garfield-Perry March Party 2005 (Cleveland, March): Gold medal to Paul Larsen for his Caroline Islands.
- TEXPEX 2005 (Dallas, April): Gold medal to Dale Lilljedahl for "France's Olympic Philately of 1924"; Silver medal to Ralph DeBoard for "Original Artwork, Proofs and Essays of the French Area"; Lilljedahl also received a single-frame Silver medal for another Olympic exhibit.
- WESTPEX 2005 (Burlingame/San Francisco, April): Vermeil medals to non-member Peter Baker [somebody please recruit him!] for "Censor Marks, Cachets & Postal Markings of the Free French 1940-1945" and to longtime but now former member Stan Jersey for a World War II exhibit.
- PLYMOUTH SHOW 2005 (Plymouth, MI, April): Grand Award and Gold medal to Paul Larsen for his German Togo exhibit; Vermeil medal to Larry Gardner for "Morocco Foreign Post Offices and Agencies"; single-frame Silver medal to Peter Smith for "Napoleon's Conquest of Egypt."
- Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2005 (Denver, May): Gold medals to Eliot Landau for one of his several great A. Lincoln exhibits, to Paul Larsen for his Leeward Islands, and to your Editor for "Post Offices of the Annexed Paris Suburbs to the 1880s"; Vermeil medals to Bob Kinsley for "French Occupation of 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-Bronze medal to Louis Rediger for "When the Flamme Became Literate."

REVIEW

La Poste en Moselle 1940-1945: Tome 1 - Catalogue des Marques Postales et Oblitérations, by Alain Demereaux and Stéphane Demereaux, (2004), xliii + 313 pp., A4 format, card cover, spiral bound; abundantly illustrated in black and white; published by SPAL [the society for Alsace-Lorraine philately]; 30€ for SPAL members, 36€ for others, but best to first contact André Lader, 52 rue de Monsviller, F-67700 Saverne, France; fax + (0) 388 71 08 76.

The preliminary (and cream-colored) pages consist of an interesting summary of the military and political happenings in Alsace-Moselle from the June 1940 Fall of France, and the region's rapid incorporation and assimilation into the Third Reich, with its younger men pressed into service on the Russian Front, and the final liberation by Gen. Patton's troops.

This historical summary is followed by a very detailed key to the catalogue of the postal markings. All known markings (including registry labels) are shown full size, and catalogued by color, dimensions, earliest and latest dates found. Value indices are given for (if known to exist) French 1940 cancels, Lorraine provisional ones, later German ones, and French 1944-1945 ones. The indices range from 1 (= 0, 75€) to 22 (= 800€) and are for clear markings on postally used covers in good condition. Markings on legitimate high-value franking or out-of-the-ordinary usage merit higher prices. A list is given (page xviii) of persons known to have received large quantities of contrived mail; such covers are of lesser interest, as are those with overly high and unjustifiable postage. The entire key (pp. xi-xlii) is in itself a very worthy and easy to follow, almost monographic treatment on what is important in **any detailed study** of postal markings. It concludes with an alphabetical index of French names and German equivalents, followed by another of German names and French equivalents, to facilitate searching.

The main body of this catalogue (pp. 1-313) is entirely in alphabetical (French wording) order from Aboncourt sur Seille [for which there are no 1944-1945 French markings] to Zoufftgen. Most occupy a single page. Metz, of course, obtains 14 pages (without counting its suburbs); Sarrebourg and Thionville have three each. The authors (father and son) and their numerous collaborators are the first to admit that more markings and earlier and later dates will appear, and hope to be able to publish any such finds. (Philatelists, check your covers!).

This tremendously detailed catalogue would be useful only to specialist collectors of 1940-1945 Moselle. Owners of just a few pieces would be better off trying to locate a library copy. However, Volume 2, to appear shortly(?), should have far greater general appeal as it will cover, among other topics, ambulants, meters, Dienstpost, German postal rates, prisoner mail, franchise markings, censor markings, US Army APOs, and Liberation stamps.

-- S. J. Luft

SOME NEW AND RECENT WEB SITES

Giorgio Leccese of Tarento, Italy has prepared a wonderfully detailed, authoritative and colorful web site on French and French Area proofs. Included are Unadopted Projects, Progressive Die Proofs, Sepia Die Proofs, Artists' and Engravers' Proofs, Acceptance and Presentation Proofs, Color Proofs and Trials, and Deluxe Proof Sheets. Language options at present are English and Italian, though French may be attempted at some future date. [Http://www.dieproofs.it](http://www.dieproofs.it)

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from N° 280, April 2005, p. 68)

- **861.)** Lots 1083 and 1085 (Figure 1) of Sinais' 57th auction sale of March 2005 sold for 378€ and 240€, respectively. These covers bear superb strikes, highly philatelic strikes of the rarely seen World War I provisional killers of Montdidier (Somme Dept.), and were addressed to the eminent early 20th Century philatelist, Monsieur Dœ.

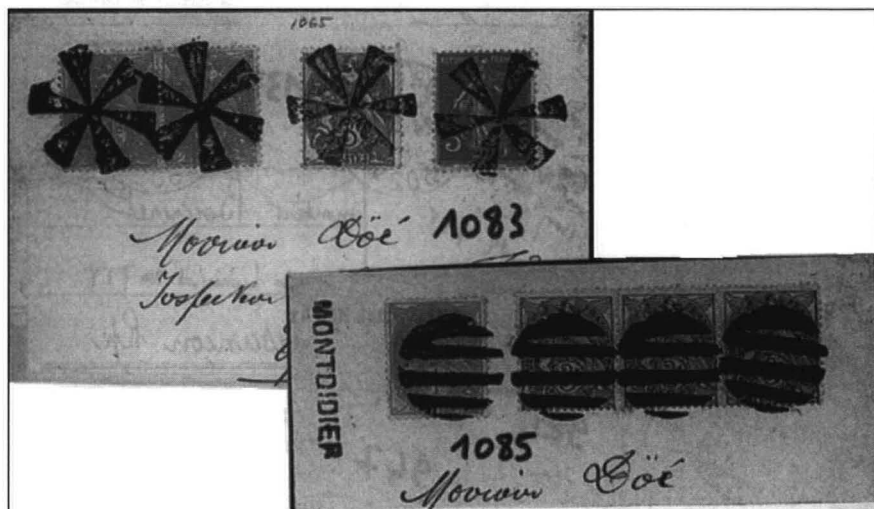


Figure 1.

- **862.)** There are subtle differences between the Mariannes de Luquet in the joint Luquet-Lined Sower booklet of 2003 and the more recent joint Luquet-Marianne d'Alger booklet of 2004. The earlier "+ Sower" version was engraved by hand and the line work is clearer and lighter colored than the later ("+ M. d'Alger"), which was engraved by computer. Note the difference in Figure 2, which we hope will be noticeable when printed here.

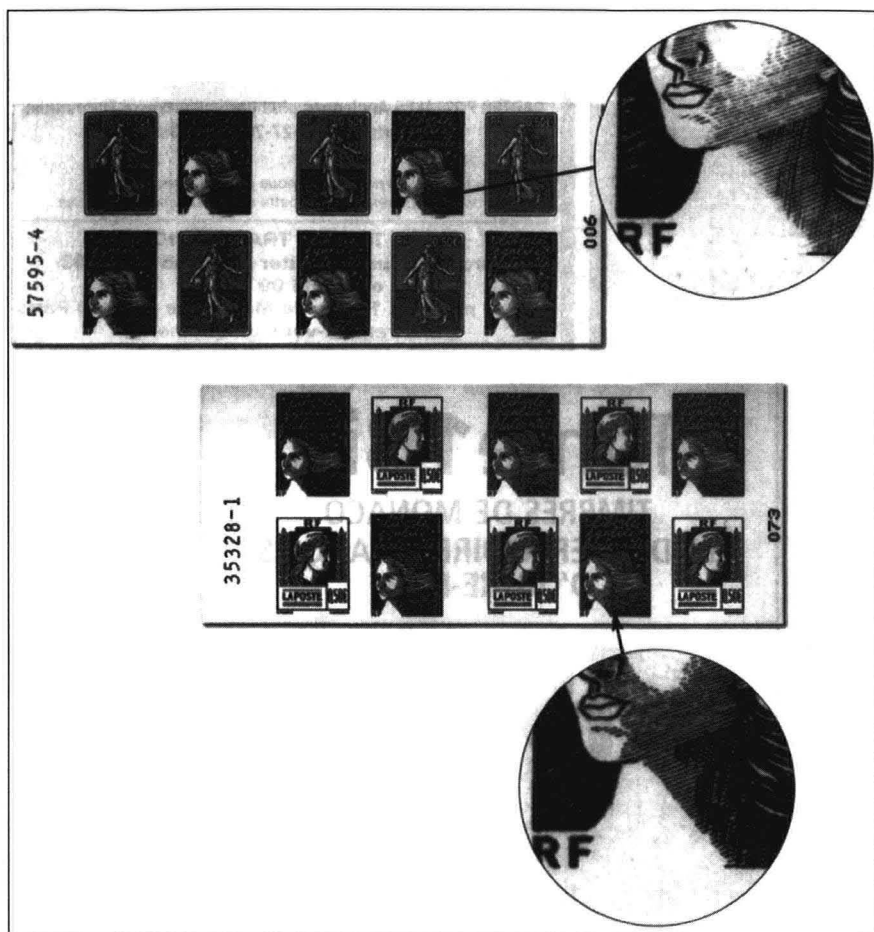


Figure 2.

- > **863.)** As an addendum to our article in the April 2005 issue, "Jerusalem -- the Early French Post Offices," we illustrate here (Figure 3) Lot 85 of Lugdunum Philatélie's 53rd auction sale of April 2005: a 25c Sage cover bearing the Templar Cross of Jerusalem, with fine strikes of the Jaffa *recette* date stamp, dated 18 May 1878. This usage may be even scarcer than that of the Jaffa *distribution* on French Classic stamps.
- > **864.)** TOGO: the 1921 "MANDATE" Issue - More Earliest Recorded Dates: I published an updated list of the earliest recorded dates of use for these stamps in an article on page 45 of the April 2003 issue (Whole N° 272). A correspondent, Dr. William Owen Nixon Scott of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has now reported two new dates as follows:
 40c (Yvert/Cérès 111, Scott 203), ?2 December 1921 (previously 2 September 1923);
 50c (Yv/Cs 113, Sc 205), 2 February 1922 (previously 24? July 1922).

Readers may wish to amend my previous list of dates accordingly. I am grateful to Dr. Scott for this additional information.

-- Bill Mitchell



Figure 3.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- As of 28 February 2005, it costs more to send mail from France to the European Union. The first weight band letter within France now costs 0,53€: that to the EU is now 0,55€.
- The 0,50€ heart-shaped Valentine Day stamp designed by the House of Chanel, and issued in January of 2004, came with water-soluble gum. However, a special printing was made for the Maison Chanel with self-adhesive gum, for its extensive in-house mailings. These apparently are not being offered to the public by La Poste.
- The proper terminology for the new (as of January 2005) Mariannes is not "Environmental Marianne" but *Marianne des Français* (Marianne of the French). But now, with this most patriotic appellation, what will be left for future Marianne designs?
- In his 82nd net-priced sale of March 2005, Patrick Codron offered a cover bearing a fake of the postal-forgery fake of the 2,30 Marianne de Briat!
- Paul Albright, editor of *The Posthorn*, sent us a copy of Otto Hornung's "The World Scene" column from the May 4th 1972 issue of *Stamp Collecting*. According to Mr. Hornung's information, *Boules de Moulins* that might still be fished from the Seine, but cannot be delivered by La Poste to the descendants of the addressees, become the property of the finder. However, the finder must hold them for 30 years from the date of the find. Can anyone tell us if this is a fact or just assumptions?
- The next five items come courtesy of that fine quarterly, *Le Bulletin Philatélique Le Cagou* (N° 27, 2004):

- The New Caledonian commune of Moindou celebrated, 4-6 July 2004, the 125th anniversary of its founding by Alsatians and Lorrainers who had left their homelands after the Franco-German War of 1870-1871. Souvenir covers were prepared for the occasion. Though small, Moindou is an important agricultural and shrimp-farming center northwest of Bourail on the island's west coast.
- The first printing (27 August 2003) of French Polynesia's booklets of ten permanent-value stamps, with design in blue, reads "POSTES 2003" on stamps' right side: the stamps were printed on yellowish paper. The 30 June 2004 reprinting is on white paper and reads only "POSTES" (as do the red stamps from booklets for international mail).
- The last of New Caledonia's mounted rural carriers, Pierre Paimboa-Ayouma, retired with honors in 2002 (see *FCP* N° 274, October 2003, p. 121) Figure 1 is a representation of the postman in his heyday.
- Wallis & Futuna is the only DOM-TOM that lacks meter franking, mostly because its low volume of mail doesn't warrant the expense of acquiring a meter machine.
- J. D. Ladiesse has written a beautifully illustrated, authoritative study of New Caledonia's Free-French stamps (*Les timbres de la France-Libre*), as Supplement N° 2 to *Le Cagou* N° 27. It begins with the FRANCE LIBRE overprints, followed by the London Cagou-Bird printings and the Marianne de Dulac ones, with authorizing documents, detailed classifications, and examples of their postal use on covers. Recommended for the specialist!
- The mail-tracing service (*lettre suivie*), noted in N° 262 (October 2000, p. 117) and N° 265 (July 2001, p. 85), was discontinued as of 1 March 2005, apparently for its feeble use by mailers. Any associated formulas should be quite scarce and worth searching for by collectors of modern postal ephemera.
- Coils of the 0,80 green Marianne de Bequet come with only 12 perforation holes. Any offered for sale with 13 holes (actually 12 + 2 half holes at corners) have been doctored. Only the 1,00 red Bequet value comes with both types of perforations.



Figure 1.

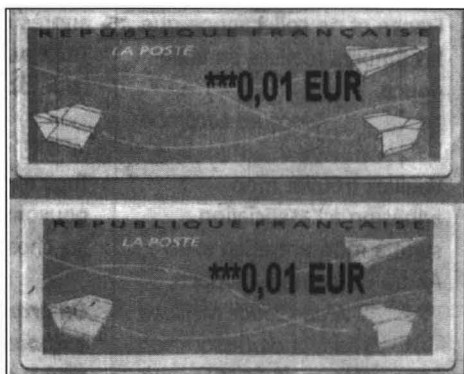


Figure 2.

- Since some time in the latter part of 2004, LISA computer-generated postage have appeared with a new length of 71 mm (instead of 76 mm as before), and with the letters REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE closer together (Figure 2; new LISA shown at bottom). This was done to give these vignettes wider vertical edges so that the phosphor bands would be more likely to show on the vignettes rather than miss one or both sides.
- The well-known and reputable firm of Henry Gitner Philatelists, Inc. (P.O. Box 3077, Middletown, NY 10940, phone 800-947-8267) has released a 26-page net-priced list of France, Colonies, and others' 19th and 20th Century Artists' Die Proofs, Artists' Designs, Plate Proofs, etc. The majority of the F&C material dates from the post-World War II period. The list may also be viewed at www.hgitner@hgitner.com

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

Dick Stevens, Bill Wallis and Ed Grabowski have done an outstanding job of picking up the pieces after the death of our long-time Corresponding Secretary, Walter Parshall. Separately and together they were able to rescue and safeguard the large stock of back issues of our *Philatelist* and of our handbooks, and perhaps most importantly, the Society's membership records. Not an easy task, in view of courts, probate, and all that's involved, but Walter's tenants and neighbors cooperated beautifully. We all owe them our gratitude for enabling our Society's business to continue flowing almost seamlessly.

By the time this July issue appears on your desks, we shall have a new Corresponding Secretary and we may also have a full complement of Directors. President Herendeen will make the announcement just before this issue goes to press.

More good news (and we do need good news...) We still have a solid backlog (or stockpile) of articles at hand. But it needs to be constantly replenished with new contributions for you, our members. Again, "Shorter Contributions," "For the Record" items, and "just plain" Letters and notes are most welcome, and will be printed--to fill page spaces--before longer Articles can be. Reviews of new and pertinent handbooks are also most welcome; but contact me first to ensure there'll be no multiple reviews of the same work!

I'm writing this the day after we closed and took down the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show. You can see in "Some Show Reports" how well our exhibiting members did. We encourage FCPS member-exhibitors to continue to show at this fine (which I say with much paternal pride) National-level show, where you shall receive special attention from our outstanding Committee, myself included.

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 280, April 2005, p. 61)

France [first date is that of First-Day ceremonies; second date is that of general sale to the public]

- 10 January (or later?) 2005: open-face booklets of the red permanent-value Marianne des Français, both with "La Boutique Web du Timbre" publicity on covers: booklet of ten with yellow cover and booklet of 20 with white cover.
- 1 (2) March: new Marianne values for the new rates: 0,05€, 0,55€, 0,64€, 0,82€, 1,22€, 1,98€; semi-permanent stamps: 0,53€ "Thanks" and 0,53€ "This is an Invitation;"
- 5 (7) March: 1,22€ Art of Nicolas de Staël (1914-1955);
- 11 March (25 April): Orchids [Nature series]: two at 0,53€, 0,55€, 0,82€, and sheetlet of the four stamps at 2,43€;
- 19 (21) March: Regional Pleasures [things to see and things to eat] sheetlet of ten 0,53€ stamps at 5,30€;
- 21 March: Booklet of ten permanent-value stamps, sold at 5,30€, with cover publicity in blue for the Regional Pleasures stamps;
- 1 (4) April: 0,53 Aix-en-Provence;
- 2 (4) April: Bécassine [letter rate to 20 gm] (beloved figure in children's books and cartoons), also in sheetlet of five stamps at 2,65€;
- 16 (18) April: 0,53€ Albert Einstein;
- 23 (24) April: 0,90€ Alexis de Toqueville;
- 24 (25) April: 0,53€ 50th Anniv. of Liberation of the Camps;
- 4 (6) May: 0,55€ 200th Anniv. of Battle of Austerlitz [joint issue with Czech Republic];
- 5 (6) May: 0,53€ Gulf of Morbihan;
- 5 (9) May: 0,53€ 78th Congress of French Federation of Philatelic Associations (at Nancy), w. se-tenant label;
- 8 (9) May: 0,53€ Gastronomy [EUROPA series];
- 15 (17) May: sheetlet of two 1,98€ stamps @ 3,96€, for the Garden of the Fountain at Nîmes;
- 21 (23) May: 5,30€ booklet of ten "Vacation" self-adhesive stamps;
- 28 (30) May: Jules Verne novels; six 0,53€ stamps, and 4,80€ booklet of the six stamps, with balance going to the French Red Cross.



Withdrawals: 18 February 2005: Marianne de Luquet: 6,89€ sheetlet showing the values used for mail; 5€ open-face booklets of ten stamps, with cover publicity for the Euro, for the stamp boutique, for Transportation, for Daily Life, for the web boutique; 5€ Sagem booklet [should be all the remaining 5€ booklets]; and 10€ ATM-dispensed booklet; 25 March: 0,45 rabbit, 0,50 cow, 0,50 hen, 0,75 donkey, 0,50 Mickey Mouse, 0,50 vacations [EUROPA], 0,50 and 1,00 "Blake and Mortimer," 4,60 booklet of ten with "Lucky Luke" publicity on cover, 5,90€ Walt Disney booklet for Stamp Day 2004; 22 April: the six 0,50€ stamps commemorating Napoleon I's coronation and the Grand Army, 0,50 77th Congress of the Philatelic Associations Federation; 1,11 Salvador Dali.

Andorra

- 7 January 2005: 0,50€ The Three Kings;
- 24 January: 0,50€ Madriu Perafita Clarol valley;
- 14 February: 0,45€ Legend of the Rat's entryway;
- 7 April: 0,90€ Tengmal Owl;
- 9 May: 0,55€ Gastronomy (EUROPA).

Withdrawals: 28 January: 0,50€ Encants of St. Anthony; 18 February: 0,50€ children of the world; 25 March: 0,45€ Legend of the St. Vincent chateau, 0,50€ Fontaneda village; 22 April: 0,90€ Athens Olympic Games.

French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

- 3 January 2005: 0,50€ Franco-Italian Station "Concordia";
- 4 March: 4,50€ Cent. of the return of the *Français* + label;
- 7 March: 0,50€ 10th Death Anniv. of Paul-Emile Victor.

French Polynesia

- 9 February 2005: 130F Bamboo (Chinese New Year);
- 25 February: 90F scene of daily life;
- 8 March: 60F and 90F Polynesian women;
- 14 March: 5F Tifaifai;
- 22 April: 250F Le Tapa.

Mayotte

- 4 January 2005: 0,50€ Field of ylang-ylang;
- 14 March: 0,53€ traditional female dress; 0,64€ breadfruit tree.

Monaco

- 1 March 2005: 0,53€ Albert Einstein; 0,48€ Fine Arts committee; 0,64€ Fine Arts School; 0,82 2005 int'l. dog show;
- 1 April: 0,55€ Cent. of Int'l. Automobile Federation; 0,75€ and 1,30€ World congress of electric vehicles; 0,90€ Xth int'l. Monte Carlo horse jumping;
- 3 May: two at 0,53€ se-tenant Gastronomy (EUROPA).

**New Caledonia**

- 10 February: 2005: Chinese Year of the Rooster: 100F and sheetlet at 200F;
- 24 February: 110F Cent. of Rotary Int'l.;
- 18 March: 135F 20 years of the francophone Champlain alliance [joint issue with Wallis & Futuna].

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 10 March 2005: 0,53€ and 1,15€ dolphins [not 0,50 and 1,08, as reported in the April 2005 issue];
- 23 March: Marianne des Français, with ovpt. for the islands: 0,05€, 0,55€, 0,64€, 0,82€, 1,22€, 1,98€.

**Wallis & Futuna**

- 26 January 2005: 220F sheetlet of four se-tenant *Conus* sp. from Wallis & F.;
- 31 January: 280F sheetlet of two diptychs showing stories and legends of Wallis & F.;
- 25 February: 330F traditional dugout canoe;
- 17 March: 135F Francophone alliance [joint issue with New Caledonia];
- 31 March: 205F family budgeting (round stamp);
- 19 April: mural showing warriors with spears: 5F, 10F, 20F, 30F, 50F.

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

As you will see, your Society had a very busy Quarter. It is most unfortunate that we lost our Corresponding Secretary, Walter Parshall, who had given 48 years of faithful service to the FCPS. He will be missed. A number of important items were addressed by the Board, and these are summarized in the following sections.

Board Meets in New York

Your Board of Directors met in New York at the Collectors Club on 31 May 2005. Six directors were in attendance. A number of important issues were covered at the meeting. Perhaps most importantly, the appointments of Joel Bromberg (NY) as the FCPS Corresponding Secretary, and John H. Bloor (CO) as a Director (resumes of these gentlemen are provided below.) This was a very busy meeting, and additional items discussed included: the approval by the membership of the changes to our Bylaws; a proposal to place one or two overseas members on our Board; the status of our late secretary's records and our publication archive; the group meeting and Exhibition to be held at the Garfield-Perry show (Cleveland) in March 2007; the FCPS Meeting at Washington 2006; and the approval of Dudley Cobb's handbook on Cameroun to be the recipient of the Gerard Gilbert Memorial Award.

Bylaw Changes Approved

The changes to the FCPS Bylaws published in the January 2005 FCP were approved unanimously by the 27 members choosing to vote.

New Corresponding Secretary - Joel L. Bromberg

My father, a 40-year postal supervisor, introduced me to the hobby when I was about five years old. I accumulated worldwide issues for a few years, then concentrated on U.S. until I gave up collecting as a teenager. In 1982 I returned to philately, intrigued by a dealer's offer of Falkland Islands while the war there was still going on. Since then my interests have broadened to include French and British Pacific islands, especially Solomon Is., Fr. Polynesia, New Hebrides, and Gilbert & Ellice Is. Plus many other specialties, including postal history of Pacific flights, military-postal history of U.S. forces in the Solomons, and U.S. naval covers. I also collect the philatelic literature of my areas of interest.

I have published articles in *The Informer*, *Pacifica*, and *The Collectors Club Philatelist*. I am a member of many organizations, including FCPS, APS, APRL, AAMS, USPPS, SAS/Oceania, APS, AAPE, New Zealand Society of Great Britain, and the Universal Ship Cancellation Society. I am a former president of SAS/Oceania, as well as that society's editor for the Solomon Is. For almost 15 years I served as editor for the Pacific Islands Study Circle's projected philatelic handbook on the Solomon Islands.

Currently, I am a legal editor for the International Trademark Association, a nonprofit organization in New York, and have about 35 years of editorial experience. My academic background is in Ancient History and Classical Archeology (NYU and Princeton); in addition, I hold a paralegal certificate from Baruch College.

New Director - John H. Bloor

At our Board meeting, we approved the appointment of a new Director to fill the current vacancy. He is John H. Bloor of Englewood, CO. I have met John, and I feel he will make a fine addition to our team. A brief resume of his interests and background, given in his own words, is presented below:

I have collected stamps since junior high school with a hiatus from 1963 to 1973, during which I did part of my education and married my wife (Anita). She had collected stamps and liked French stamps, so I began a collection of this fascinating country which continues to grow to this day. I have branched out into many other areas including Canada, United States, United Nations, early airmails of the world (currently my main interest), and cinderellas. I have large collections of air- and airmail-related cinderellas including Canadian and French semiofficial airmails. I also collect philatelic literature in my areas of interest.

I have published articles in *Global Stamp News*, *France & Colonies Philatelist*, the BNAPS Airmail Study Group Newsletter, and *Scribblings* (the newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library). I belong to a number of societies including the APS (life member), APRL, AAMS, FCPS, USSS, BNAPS, the British Aerophilatelic Federation (BAeF), and the Cinderella Stamp Club (Great Britain). About five years ago I was elected to membership in the Collectors Club of Denver.

For about five years I have been on the organizing committee for the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (formerly ROMPEX), in charge of volunteers and recruitment. I have exhibited nationally and have won gold medals for my one frame exhibits on "The Guynemer Etiquette of France" and "Provisional Airmails of Portuguese Africa." I am submitting these to Washington 2006 and, with good fortune, may become an international exhibitor.

I received degrees from Michigan State University, Cornell University, and S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo, from which I received my M.D. I currently am self-employed as a gastroenterologist and hepatologist.

Gerard Gilbert Memorial Award for 2004

The Board has approved the presentation of the Gerard Gilbert Award to Mr. Dudley Cobb for his work "*Cameroun in the Great War*" (Vol. I). Members can find a review of this book in the *FCP* of April 2005. This is the first time this prize has been awarded since 2001.

WASHINGTON 2006 Meeting Scheduled

The Washington 2006 decennial International Stamp Exhibition is in the process of making final arrangements to the schedule of events. The FCPS meeting has been scheduled for 1 June 2006 at 14:00 for 90-120 minutes. As I have mentioned before, the intent is to have a joint meeting with the members of FCPS (GB) and COLFRA. I have been in discussions with both groups and will have additional information in upcoming issues. We might also get additional room time if we decide to have a Board meeting during the show. We are taking this into consideration.

NEW MEMBERS

3336 CONRAD, RONALD E., Prescott, AZ (General France, mint and used; stampless covers, postal markings, military; Classic and Sage issues; all Colonies and Territories, mint and used, cancels and postal history; philatelic literature, exchange).

- 3337 WINTON, STANLEY J., (already listed in January 2005 issue).
 3338 SANTANIELLO, JOSEPH A., Amityville, NY (French Guiana).
 3339 SUDEVAN, DR. PADMANABHAN, Stevens Point, WI (General France: railway posts; Classics and Sage issues; Blanc, Mouchon, Merson, mint and used; French Community; all Colonies and Territories, mint and used; major interests: colonies in general and 19th Cent. Ambulants on cover).
 3340 MONTAGUE, JOEL G., Wellesley, MA (Siam/Cambodia/Indochina colonial picture postcards, especially Japanese-occupied Cambodia).
 3341 JORDAN, RICHARD B., Cambria, CA (no specialties listed).
 3342 ALLEN, JOHN W., Greensboro, NC (Colonies & Terrs., mint and on-cover: Provisional, Group Type, Gabon, AEF, Ivory Coast, Cameroun, Fr. Sudan); Philatelic Literature).
 3343 FOTTY, CECIL A., Middletown, NY (General collector, all issues; France mint, used on cover: regular issues: Classics, 1870-1871, Sage type, Blanc, Mouchon & Merson types, Sowers; St. Pierre & Miquelon mint; Auction Dealer; Philatelic Literature).

REINSTATEMENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3148 BARBER, TRACY L. | 3063 GIDDING, CURTIS E. |
| 3226 BARRETT, JAMES L. | 1182 LOTWIN, JOSEPH MARCEL |
| 2618 BERKINSHAW-SMITH, B.C. | 1802 ROTH, DAVID J. |
| 3152 DAWDY, DAVID R. | 2060 THEURER, GUNTHER E. |
| 1318 DEVASHER, WILLIAM A. | 3027 WERNER, STEPHEN D. |
| 3290 EDGERTON, MILLS F. | 3153 WINCKLER, PAUL A. |

ADDRESS CHANGES

- 2940 ARNOFF, WARREN, Portland, OR
 2596 GILBERT, OTHAN, Ozark, AL
 1182 LOTWIN, JOSEPH MARCEL, Mexico, DF. Mexico
 3096 THY, PETER, Davis, CA
 3063 GIDDING, CURTIS, Champaign, IL

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

- 2373 GARNSEY, THOMAS S.
 3282 SAFIR, FRED

DECEASED

- 1491 COHN, ERNST M.
 592 MYERS, NAT CHARLES, JR.
 643 PARSHALL, WALTER E.
 3161 SMITH, MICHAEL R.

DROPPED FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES

Donald B. Akerstrom, Gerard A. Caron, Kirtley R. Cook, Tom Thuat Dang, Kenneth J. Davis, Harold Max Fagerquist, Allen Fink, Camille Fodor, Stanley B. Fong, William Ray Garratt, William George, Keith Harmer, Kenneth Kloss, Roger LeMieux, G. E. Leonardon, Henry Nadata, National Archives of Canada, LeRoy Palmer, Barnard Polansky, William J. Shankle, Michael A. Sole, Antonie Stam, Michael P. Troubetzkoy, Martin D. Turpie, Paul Watkins, Martin P. White, Carl P. Wood, Charles Wright, Frank Zibi, John I. Zistvay.

SOME ASPECTS OF FOREIGN MAILS DURING THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR OF 1870-1871. 4

by Robert I. Johnson (FCPS #2027)

The cover illustrated in Figure 6 was posted in Mexico on the 7th August 1870, to go to southern France via London and Paris. It arrived in London and then Calais, via British packet, on the 26th September but had to detour round Amiens and Rouen because the last mail had left Paris at 7 p.m. on the 18th September, before the German siege lines were complete. The back stamp shows an extra transit time of seven days because of this rerouting.

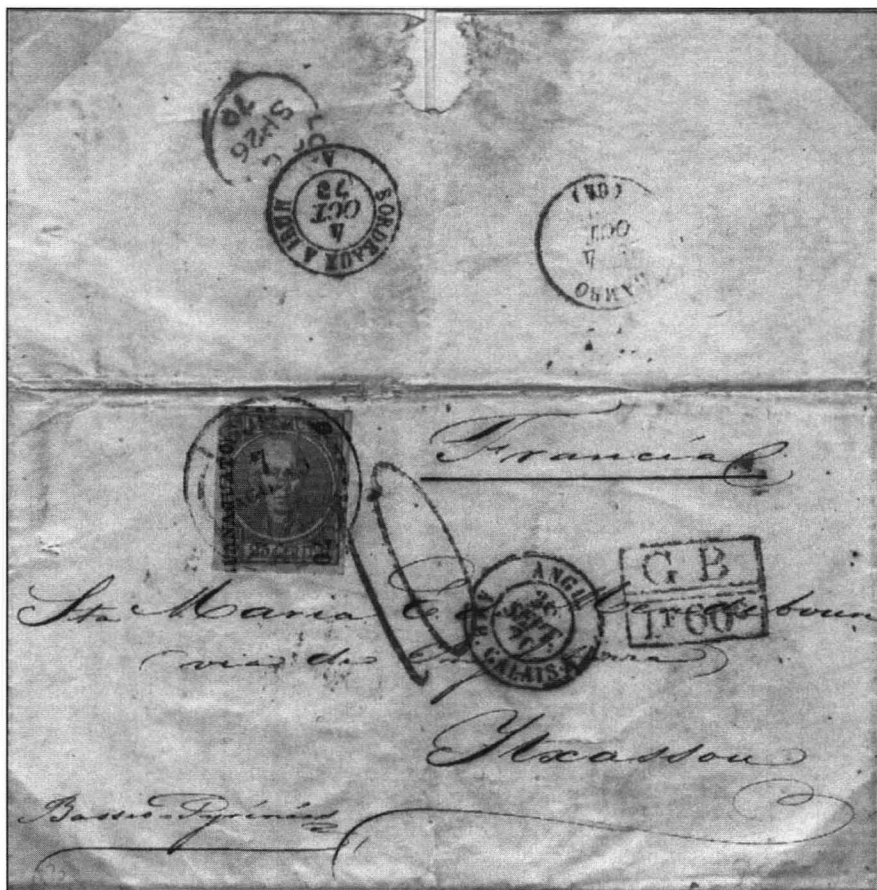


Figure 6. (reduced to 85%)

GOOFS ON STAMPS

Figure 1. TAAF 1990: the latitude shown should read $46^{\circ} 05' S.$, **not** $45^{\circ} 05'.$



Figure 2. France 1968: The writer's name should be Lesage, and **not** Le Sage.



Figure 3. Monaco 1948: The players' shadows trend in opposite directions! (though that makes for better graphic balance...)



Figure 4. Monaco 2003: The Curies received the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903 **not** for Chemistry.