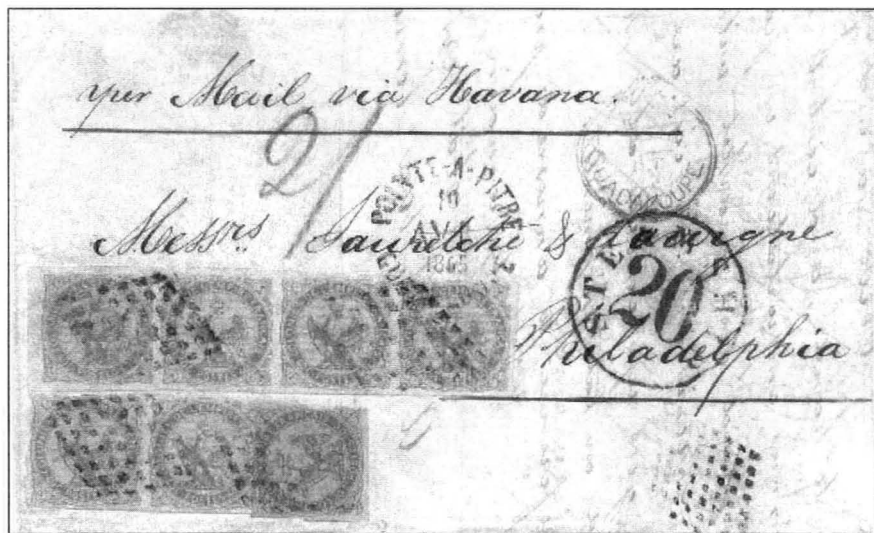




France & Colonies Philatelist

Vermeil Medals at CHICAGOPEX 2003 and NAEPEX 2004



Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, 10 April 1865, to Philadelphia, at the double 1F25 British Agency rate (2F50 for 10-20 gm); prepaid by six 40c Colonies Eagles (strip of four + pair) + 10c Eagle British Agency red PAID AT GUADELOUPE handstamp and red crayon 21 (for equivalent 2 shillings in British currency) STEAMSHIP 20 Philadelphia arrival due marking, cover not being paid to destination. Double rates via the British Agency are very seldom seen.

(EJJ Grabowski coll.)

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TOGO IN WORLD WAR I - THE FRENCH OCCUPATION ISSUES (Earliest Dates Of Use, An Update)

by Bill Mitchell (FCPS #715)

The response to my request for help in updating the data held by the West Africa Study Circle (FCP for April 2004, Whole No. 276) has, I'm afraid, been very disappointing. Although the exercise was extended to France and Great Britain I have received only two replies. M. Vincent Longin of Rezé (Loire-Atlantique) has enabled me to give a precise date for the 4c "Occupation" stamp of 1916 (Yv/Cérès 86, Scott 178) on ordinary paper - previously recorded only as "??? 1917" this now reads "3 March 1917." And Greg Cykman of San Francisco has reported a second example of the 1906 Dahomey "taxe" issue used in Togo, this time the 5c (Yv/Cérès T1, Scott J1) with a German cancel of ANECHO dated 1 January 1917. The part strike is faint but clear, unfortunately only the "O" of "ANECHO" is visible but there can be no doubt about the attribution - the only other cancel of this type ending in "O" is from PORTO SEGURO, and the position of the "O" relative to the "O" of "TOGO" makes it clear that the much shorter place-name is involved (see the examples of the two cancels (Figure 1) taken from the Martin/ Walton book on Togo Postal History 1914-1922 published by WASC in 1995). It is unfortunately impossible to say whether these two

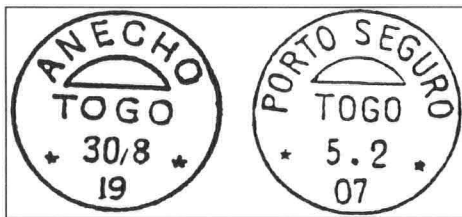


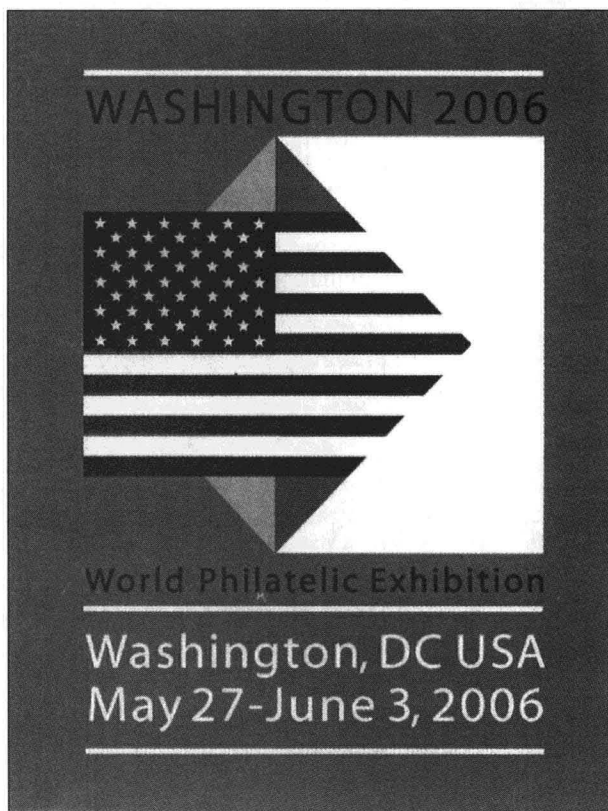
Figure 1.

stamps were postally used or cancelled by favour. Possibly sufficient stocks of these obsolete stamps were available to meet the limited use expected; a cover (or covers) would help to determine their status.

My thanks to Messrs Longin and Cykman.

John Mayne (a British specialist in the stamps of Togo from the earliest days to the end of the Anglo-French occupation who incidentally will now co-author the forthcoming WASC book on the stamps of the occupation period with Jeremy Martin) has sent me an interesting note which explains why there was a gap of a year or so between the appearance of Gold Coast stamps appropriately overprinted in May 1915 and Dahomey stamps similarly overprinted in the following year. He writes "Mail volumes in 1913 were low, only 360 Europeans, educational standards poor. Mail from Togo to Germany was less than 3% of ALL colonial mail to Germany. Volumes fell August 1914, to about 10% [of the 1913 level, presumably]. Maybe 25/30,000 letters 1915 in all. Mail from the British sector [which included Lomé] was thought to be about seven times that from the French...With the Yacht issues EQUALLY divided French stocks lasted a year longer! No need for Dahomey stamps to be overprinted earlier."

Many thanks, John!



When at WASHINGTON 2006, don't forget to stop by the France & Colonies Philatelic Society's table!

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Membership Changes will be published in the next, January 2006 issue. We apologize for any inconvenience.

FRENCH MARCOPHILY--PRE-REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY MARKINGS

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915) and Robert T. Kinsley (FCPS #2180)

Introduction

This article continues the "French Marcophily" series begun in April 1992 issue (Whole N° 228), where we uphold the tradition of being informative without overwhelming our audience with details. But a word of warning: unlike the postal markings previously described in this series, these markings range from very scarce up to exceedingly rare. Interestingly enough, the only two works that cover the entire gamut of pre-Revolutionary French military markings are the meticulous scholarship of Louis Lenain¹ and the minimalist approach of the *Catalogue des Estampilles*.²

We deal here solely with the postal markings that were used by the military prior to the French Revolution. For those readers interested in markings of other French armies, we'll mention here a few other works. A summary study of 1815-1983 markings, now out of print, was made by Waugh and Luft.³ That study appeared first (albeit uncorrected) in serialized form in our *FCP* (Whole Nos. 183-193, January 1981-July 1983), with the later, World War II years covered only in the handbook. Markings (and history) of the rightly popular Revolutionary and Napoleonic period (1792-1814) have been covered in more or less detailed studies of individual or groups of armies or of campaigns, by a number of writers.⁴ An overview of the entire period's markings may be found in Luft's exhibit pages, "French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Armies (1792-1814)."⁵

The reign of Louis XIV (1643-1715), called the great classical age of French culture, introduced significant reform whereby administrative functions were removed from the nobles and given to a prototype "civil service" of sorts. The powers of the monarchy were therefore concentrated, as epitomized by Louis' famous remark "*L'état, c'est moi*" [I am the state]. Louis' quest for supremacy in Europe began with the "wars of Devolution" 1667-1668) with Spain, which ended with the first treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle (Aachen) granting France its conquests in Flanders but giving Spain the Franche-Comté of eastern Burgundy, which Louis again conquered in 1674, though it was not formally returned to France until 1678. Possibly the first manuscript identification of an army is listed by Leralle⁶ as *L'armée de Boissy*, in 1664, though Lenain makes no mention of it.

War with Holland (1672-1678)

Written communication at this time was primarily carried by courier and evidence of a formal mail system is sparse. The first functioning *Poste aux Armées* was organized by Louvois in 1674. Maury⁷ says that the first evidence of a postal system is a manuscript notation on a folded letter from the first war against the Dutch in 1672 [but probably somewhat later] which states "*a L'armée de Mons' le prince*."⁸ Manuscript markings dating from this war and denoting an army's name appeared in 1675;⁹ and they continued to be used sporadically well into the 1760s, long after the appearance of handstamped markings. This extended war between France and allies against Holland and allies was fought in Holland, Germany, the Franche-Comté, Catalonia and Flanders. Although the French army overran the southern provinces of the Netherlands, their advance on Amsterdam was halted when the Dutch opened the dikes. The more renowned French commanders were Turenne, Condé, Duras and Créqui. The war was semi-concluded by the Peace of Nijmegen (17 August 1678), which changed a

number of national boundaries. Markings (manuscript only) are known only from Flanders and Catalonia (Figure 1)¹⁰ and are extremely rare.

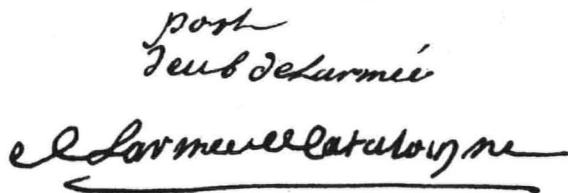


Figure 1. Flanders (1676) above and Catalonia (1675) below.

War of the League of Augsburg (1689-1697)

Louis' continued grand aspirations were of such concern that much of Europe banded against him, first as the League of Augsburg in 1686, and then as the "Grand Alliance" in 1689. Fighting took place in Flanders, Germany, Catalonia and Italy. French commanders included Luxembourg, Duras, Boufflers, Villeroi, Catinat, Lorges, Choiseul and Noailles. The war was ended by the Peace of Ryswick (20 September 1697), with little to show for France other than obtaining a part of present-day Alsace. Evidence of military mail continued to consist of manuscript notations identifying typically the commandant (e.g., *de l'armée de Bouffler*, Figure 2) or the geographic region (e.g., *De l'armée d'alle-*

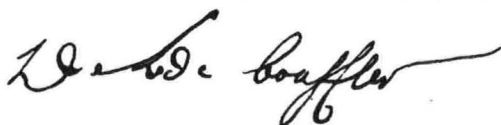
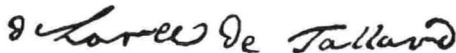


Figure 2. Flanders (1696-97).



agne, Figure 3) where the armics bivouacked for the winter. Manuscript locality markings are of interest to military specialists only if sent by the military themselves.



Figure 3. Germany (1690s).

One of the many *Armées d'Italie* of the prestamp period, this one commanded by Marshal Catinat, was the first to make use of a handstamp device (Figure 4) as early as 1696,¹¹ first during the War of the League of Augsburg, and later on during the War of the Spanish Succession.

DELARMEE·DIT.

Figure 4. Italy (1696).

War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1714)

Upon the death of the King of Spain, various royalty, including Louis XIV on behalf of his grandson, Philip V, claimed the vacant throne. England, the Low Countries, the Holy Roman Emperor, Prussia and Portugal arrayed themselves against France, Spain, Bavaria, and Savoy which later switched sides. The War of the Spanish Succession was fought in Italy, Flanders, Germany and Spain, much to the dismay and sorrow of their populace, still trying to repair the ravages of the previous decade. French commanders included Catinat, Vendôme, Villeroi, La Feuillade, Villars, Berwick and Boufflers. The war was finally terminated by the Peace of Utrecht (11 April 1713) and the Treaty of Rastatt (6 March 1714) with France losing most of her earlier conquests.

During this multi-theater war, both manuscript and handstamped markings were used. Examples of the former are shown in Figure 5 and of the latter in Figures 5 and 6. Again, the army's commander or the theater of operations is identified. Although most are rare, there is now a much greater variety than for the late 17th Century wars. Even so, a number of markings dating from the wars of Louis XIV are known by just one single example.

De l'armee Du Rhin

A. DESPAGNE

Figure 5. Rhine (1710)
and Spain (1707-09).

De l'armee de Catalogne

AR·DE VILLARS

Figure 6. Germany (1705-on).

DELARMEEDALLEMAGNE

War with Spain (1719-1720)

The period after 1714, during the infancy and reign of Louis XV, was known as a time of extravagance and corruption which laid the foundation of the Revolution to come. The Prince Regent for the young king was inveigled by England into joining her in a war with Spain. A French expedition into Spain was led by the Marshal Duc de Berwick, veteran of the previous war (and of later ones as well). Again France was required in 1720 to forfeit her 1719 conquests. Figure 7 is an example of the rare markings of this little expedition.

DE L'ARM·DESPAGNE

Figure 7. Spain (1719).

DEL'ARM·DECATALOGNE

War of the Polish Succession (1733-1738)

Even longer-lasting and more important in the course of history was the War of the Polish Succession, where France, Spain and Sardinia supported one claimant, Stanislas Lackzinski, whereas Russia and the Holy Roman Empire supported another. Fighting took place largely in Germany and in Italy. French commanders included Berwick, Noailles, Belle-Isle, Coigny, Mallebois, Broglie and Villars. The 13 November 1738 Peace of Vienna ended the war, badly for Stanislas, and with no territorial gains for France. Again, both manuscript and handstamped markings (Figures 8 and 9) appear on French mail, with the latter becoming more prevalent with time.

de l'armee d'alamoselle

ARMÉE D'ITAL.

AR·DITALIE

Figure 8. Armée de la
moselle (1734) and Armée
d'Italie (1733-36).

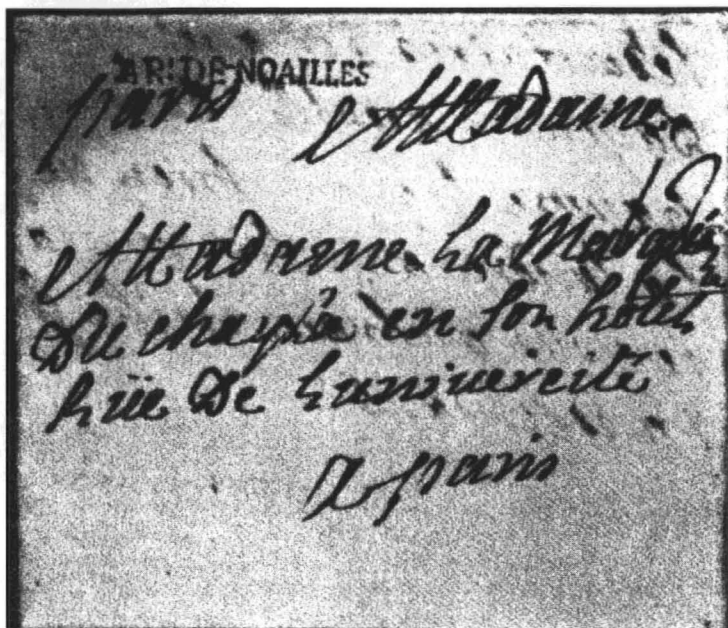


Figure 9.
ARM.DE
NOAILLES,
1734 siege of
Phillipsbourg.

War of Austrian Succession (1741-1748)

This war began as a pretext on the part of Prussia to invade Silesia in support of the Elector of Bavaria's claim to the throne. Again much of Europe west of Russia was involved. Though at first fought in Bavaria and Bohemia, it soon expanded into Germany, Italy and eventually (1744). Ever more devastation and death (mainly from starvation) resulted. French commanders included Belle-Isle, Broglie, Maillebois, Harcourt, Ségur, Noailles, Coigny, Conty and Saxe. In spite of Marshal Saxe's signal victory at Fontenoy (11 May 1745) over the British, the 28 October 1748 Treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle (Aachen) resulted in no increase in French territory.

The markings are now mainly handstamped and, for the first time more readily accessible. They still reflect the names of commanders as well as of theaters of operation. Some examples are shown in Figures 10 through 16. Once

ARMÉDELAMEUSE

ARM:DU RHIN.

ARM.DE COIGNY

Figure 10. Various markings from
Germany (1742-43).

again, the various French armies changed names and/or commanders with the passage of time, with an concomitant change in their markings. The former, if not the latter, was a practice continued well into the Revolutionary period. Again, we caution that locality names, whether manuscript or handstamped, have no military significance unless so indicated within the message.

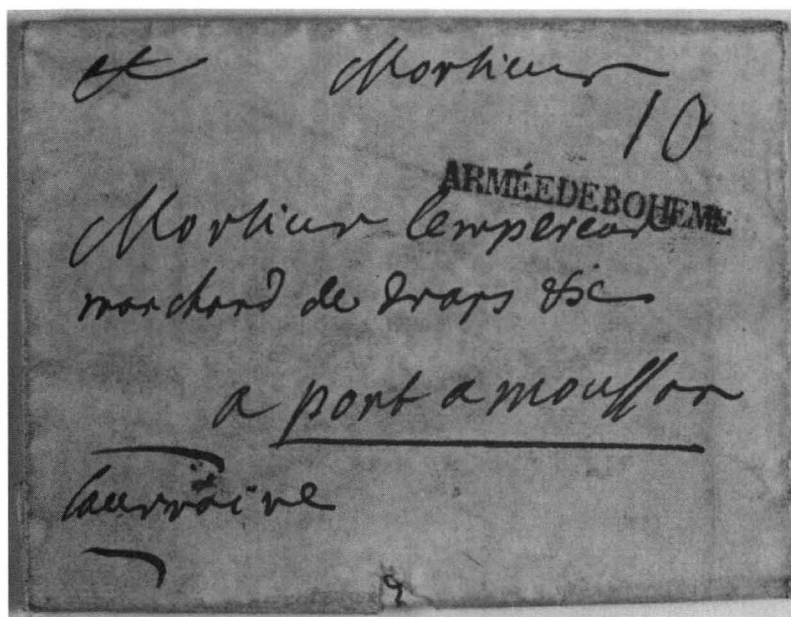


Figure 11. ARMÉE DE BOHEME (1742) [courtesy of the late Paul H. Jensen].

armée de maillebois
AR DE BAVIERE

Figure 12. Bavaria (1742).

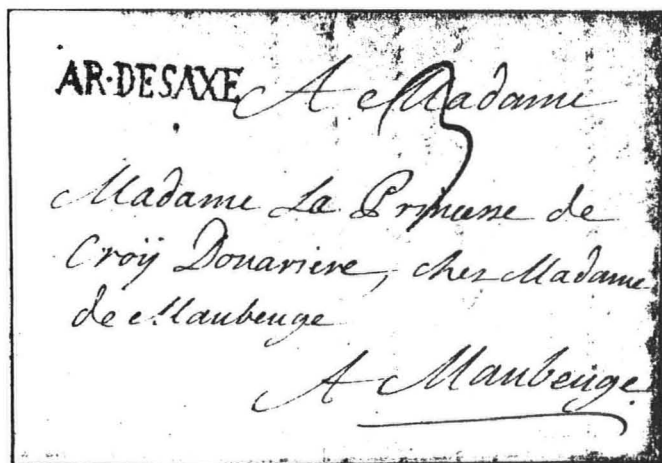


Figure 13. AR-DE SAXE, Belgium, 1744 (Dubus coll.) (slightly reduced).

The Seven Years War (1756-1763)

The most major war of all within the period of this study, insofar as numbers of both casualties and postal markings are calculated, was the Seven Years War, basically a broad conflict between France, Austria and Saxony (and others) on

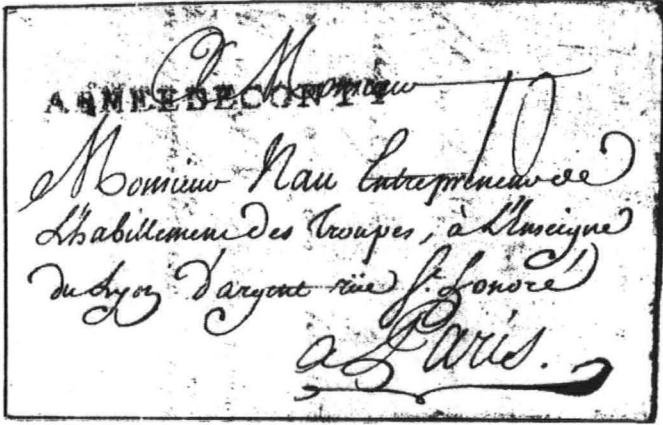


Figure 14.
ARMEE DE
CONTY, Italy
1744 (Dubus
coll.) (slightly
reduced).

ARM. DE FLANDRE ARMEE DU ROY

Figure 15. Flanders (1754-56).

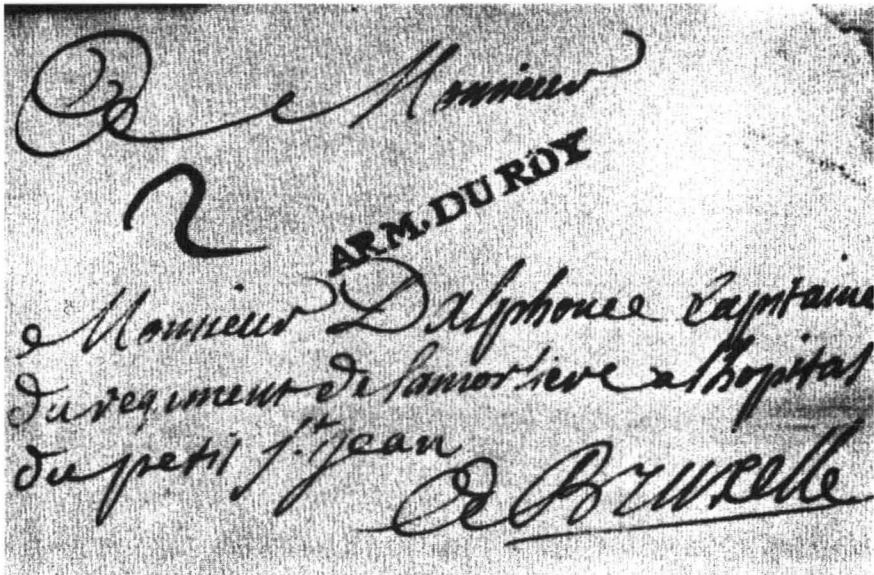


Figure 16. ARM. DU ROY, Flanders 1746.

one side, arrayed against England, Prussia and Hanover (and others). This veritable world war spilled over into North America as the French and Indian War and into the Indian subcontinent as well, though these colonial conflicts left no French military markings. In Europe, it was fought in Westphalia, Hanover, along the Rhine, Hesse and, near the end, in Spain. The war, and the preceding War of Austrian Succession, elevated both England and Prussia to the sta-

tus of world powers at the expense of France. French military commanders included D'Estrées, Soubise, Saint-Germain, Richelieu, Broglie, d'Armentières and the Prince de Condé. Under the 10 February 1763 Treaty of Paris, France lost Canada and its possession east of the Mississippi River to England, and the Louisiana Territory to Spain. She also lost most of her footholds in India.

Markings are now extremely numerous and varied, some even ornate as per Figure 18 and 21. A few manuscript markings still persist, but most now are handstamped ones, of which we show a sampling in Figures 17 to 21. "A" or "ARM" obviously stand for Armée (Figure 17); "R" or "RES" for Reserve (Figure 18); "B" for Bas (as in Bas Rhin) (Figure 19); and "H" for Haut Rhin (Figure 20). During this war, sedentary (fixed-site) postal facilities in captured towns re-

A·DE·SOUBISE

Figure 17. Germany (1759-61).

ARMEE DALLEMAGNE

✠ **RESERVE DE**
D'ARMANTIÈRE ✠

Figure 18. Germany (1759); Reserves of d'Armentière and Broglie

R:DE: BROGLIE

A DUB RHIN

A·DV B·RHIN

Figure 19. Lower Rhine (1759-60), and Reserve of Castries.

A·DU·B·RHIN

R·S·D·CASTRIES·B·RHIN

AR·D·H·RHIN

Figure 20. Upper Rhine (1761-61) [served mainly as a reserve army].

GOT. A. D. B. RHIN

✠ **ARM·D·B·RHIN** ✠
DE VESEL

Figure 21. Gottingen and Wessel sedentary bureaus of the Armée du Bas-Rhin.

WESEL·A·B·RHIN

ceived the addition of the town's name to that of the army's name (Figure 21). We also show (Figure 22) two covers of 1760-1761, with curlicue franchise (or perhaps prepaid?) markings, addressed to the Marquis de Voyes, general in the King's armies; at left when he served in the Armée de Soubise and, on the right, in the Armée de Broglie; such letters to the armies are exceedingly rare.

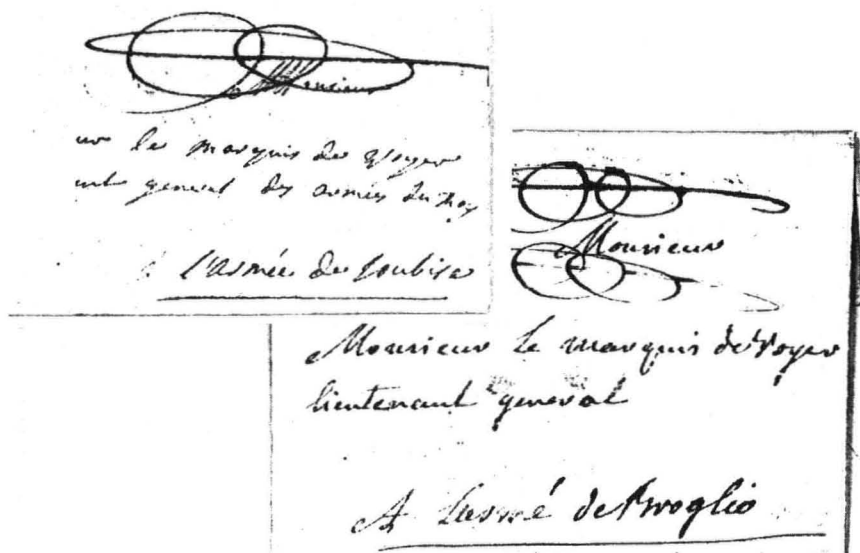


Figure 22. 1760 and 1761 covers to Armies of (respectively) Soubise and Broglie

Minor campaigns

There were some other, minor campaigns during the times of Louis XV. One objective was the acquisition of Corsica from Genoa, by way of four separate expeditions. The first (1738-1741) pacified the Corsican rebels and returned the island to Genoa. The few known markings are shown in Figure 23. Another small detachment landed in 1748, brushed aside a British blockade, then returned to France in 1752. No postal markings have surfaced. A third expedition (1756-1759) met with little organized opposition and returned to France; it used the Figure 24 marking. Following a successful fourth expedition in 1765 that faced some local opposition from *maquisards*, eventually putting them down by 1769, Corsica was ceded to France in 1768 (thereby making Napoleon Bonaparte, born in 1868, a French citizen). The markings of the third expedition had remained in use, with garrisons retaining it until 1771.

CORSE

Corse

Figure 23.

Corsica (1738-40).

ARMEE DE CORSE

Figure 24. Corsica (1757-71).

ARM. DE RICHELIEU

maison

Figure 25. Minorca (1756-63).

Finally, there were two separate expeditions to Minorca in the Balearic Islands east of Spain. The first, led by Marshal Duc de Richelieu, wrested the island in 1756 from the British, but France had to return it after the Seven Year War. It used the Figure 25 marking, plus a few manuscript ones at two locales. The second expedition took place (1781-1782) during the waning phase of the American Revolutionary War, and consisted of a mixed Spanish-French

force that attempted to divert the British from their ongoing siege of Gibraltar. The French troops departed in 1782, leaving the Spanish in charge. The Treaty of Versailles gave Minorca back to Spain. Figure 26 shows representative markings; Mahon is the island's largest town.

l'île minoryne

Figure 26. Minorca (1781-82).

ARM DE MAHON

The successor King Louis XVI (1754-1793), grandson of Louis XV, was not inclined to royal duties, and the antics of his queen, the Austrian-born Marie-Antoinette, did not help. French assistance to the American Revolution brought France close to bankruptcy. For unexplained reasons, no postal devices were provided to Rochambeau's troops, fighting on the Colonists' side. In any case, Louis XVI did not survive to involve France in another European war. Those were to come soon enough, when united Europe tried but failed to squelch the French Revolution.

Endnotes

1. Louis Lenain, *La Poste aux Armées et les Relations Postales Internationales des origines à 1791*; Arles, 1968.

2. Arthur Maury, and others, *Catalogue des Estampilles et Oblitérations Postales de France et des Colonies Françaises*; Yvert & Cie., Amiens, 1929, pp. 442-454. (Reprinted by Postilion Publications, Southfield, MI, no date).

3. W. M. Waugh and S. J. Luft, *A Chronology of French Military Campaigns and Expeditions with their Postal Markings 1815-1993*; FCPS and War Cover Club, New York, 1984.

4. A reasonably complete bibliography may be obtained from the *FCP* Editor for a simple SASE (stamped, addressed #10-size envelope).

5. Available for loan to APS members (or can be seen on the premises) from the American Philatelic Research Library, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

6. André Leralle, *A.B.C. du Collectionneur de Marques Postales*; Yvert & Cie, Amiens, 1944.

7. Maury, *op. cit.*, p. 445.

8. Presumably Philippe Due d'Orléans. Though the King and the royal princes were nominally in command, actual command was in the sometimes more capable hands of the Lieutenant-Generals and Marshals, always nobles themselves.

9. Lenain, *op. cit.*, p. 39.

10. Unless specified otherwise, all illustrations are from Lenain (1968).

11. Lenain, *op. cit.*, pp. 46 and 49.

eBay Revisited

by Ed Grabowski (FCPS #1469)

A few years ago I published a short article in *FCP (eBay: An Idea Whose Time is Coming: Whole Number 262, pp. 18-19, 2001)* on my experiences in selling material on eBay. September 2004 brought retirement, and a chance to revisit eBay and sell more material. I have been quite impressed by the changes that eBay has instituted in the interim. To sell material on eBay one still needs a good computer, a scanner and a place to store your images. There are various ways of taking care of the latter, eBay will help, but my DSL service provides web-accessible storage space as part of my account.

Since my first encounter in 2000, eBay has made numerous improvements in its seller-friendly software. Indeed, compared to some canned software packages my former company bought and instituted to facilitate purchasing and expense reporting, the eBay seller software is a joy to use. Lotting is simple and logical, and information that remains from lot to lot (payment methods accepted, counters, etc.) comes up automatically. I continue to try and provide superb scans of my material, with covers scanned at 65% of full size and stamps at 2-3 times full size for easy viewing. If you have bought on eBay, you are aware of some of the terrible scans that some sellers provide, and the strong negative impact they are likely to have on their final selling prices. As before, one has limited spaces for the title of the lot, and it is here that one wants to make every word count as all potential customers are searching titles. In deciding on a title for a lot, one wants to be careful to choose words that insure that sellers will be able to readily locate a lot. Some of my typical, titles have been:

ST PIERRE & MIQUELON #s 65 + 72 REGISTERED COVER 1904
MARTINIQUE #39 X 2 NY PAQUEBOT CANCEL 1906
UPPER SENEGAL & NIGER #10 USED REG COVER FROM NIORO
FRENCH COLONIES #14 USED VF GUADELOUPE LAMENTIN CANCEL

Hopefully, each gives a potential buyer good insight into what the lot really is. After the title, comes the description of the lot. The seller has a free hand to put all relevant information on the lot in this section, and far more space is allocated for this purpose by eBay than you will ever need. This is your chance to put every catchword and buzzword into the text which might help to locate your item. Buyers can search both titles and text. So if an item is from the General Issues I am sure to include 'French Colonies General Issues' in this section, or if it is from the Group Type I always include 'French Colonies Allegorical Group Type.' I use a standard closing section for all of my lots which includes information on special payment options (in addition to checks and money orders in US dollars, I accept cash payments in US dollars, euros and pounds, and I have a special arrangement with a friend in Paris such that I am able to accept checks in euros), packing and postal charges, and a bit of encouragement to the buyers to check my other lots. The eBay text editor allows you to build these repeated sections in the text module, and they are added with a click of the mouse. This entire section is like a mini-Word document with font, size, color, bold, etc. choices built right in. The remainder of the lotting is straight-forward, and when an item is listed you automatically get an e-mail notifying you of such.

Tracking your items during the standard one-week auction is done through **my eBay - selling or sold**. One quick click, and detailed information on all of your lots is on the screen. One of the eBay choices potential buyers have is to automatically watch a specific lot during its week of sale. In your **my eBay - sell-**

ers list you get to see how many people are tracking specific lots and how much interest a particular lot is generating. I currently have one lot that had no bids after two days, but eight people are tracking it. Some of the best eBay changes are evident once your lots sell. Invoice creation is done with a few clicks and typed entries. Most of the buyers have signed up for PayPal, an electronic method of payment to your account in your currency. Yes, there is a small charge for PayPal, but it is worth it, as about 60-70% of customers prefer to use it. With PayPal, bill a customer in the morning, receive payment at noon and have the lot at the post office in the evening. eBay even has a module that allows you to prepare shipping labels and postage! The status of your sale is tracked in **my eBay**, and you are encouraged to provide feedback on the seller (the reverse is true too!) as part of the eBay system for encouraging honesty and fair play.

Obviously, I am a fan of eBay, and recommend it strongly as a means of selling all of those items in your desks, file cabinets or boxes in the closets. Since September I have lotted about 150 items, and 95% have sold. The wonderful part about eBay is that the world is your market, and you can find at least one buyer for that special item with the small village cancel, the double dot plate variety, or whatever. Compared to my previous eBay gambit, there seems to be more buyers out there than before, and items are selling at higher prices. We Americans are stuck with the low French area values in Scott. With the more robust values in Yvert, Cérès and now Dalay, most of my material goes to France and England. A few eye-openers include: a General Issues 25c Cérès with a St. Martin cancel went for \$151; a pair of the 25c Type Sage (yellow) with a Petit Canal cancel brought \$103.50; an Indochina 1932 Poste Rural letter from Binhuy brought \$103.50; a 2c Dubois General Issue with a Désirade cancel (that's the 2c stamp) brought \$81; a damaged 5c Eagle with a **COR D' ARM TAN-AN** from Indochina realized \$111, and a Senegal post card from 1902 with an encircled **A** indicating prepayment of postage in cash brought \$153.50. Simple Madagascar military franchise letters go for \$20-\$30 a pop. Guadeloupe covers from the 1930's and 1940's are selling well with prices in the \$10-\$30 range. There seems to be a buyer for just about everything.

I have put a couple of typical (>\$150) auction items up, and they have not sold. A beautiful Eagles strip of 3 in very fine condition with *le timbré couché* and a Guadeloupe lozenge cancellation did not find a buyer. I would make the general comment that there seem to be lots of buyers out there for items in the \$5 - \$150 range, but once you go beyond that, they are in short supply. Why? I am not sure, but also not concerned. These are the items that will go, at some time, to a regular auction.

eBay is clearly part of today's philatelic scene, and is here to stay. It is a wonderful vehicle for selling material from your collections to a world market. It has not replaced the major auction houses as a place for selling major collections, and I doubt that it will. But there are more buyers, they are knowledgeable, and they have the money. I am sure that eBay will continue to grow in sales and philatelic impact in the future. Interested in items from the French Colonies? Check the eBay lots of the seller. **member_99830**. Possibly you will find something of interest.

MIDDLE-CONGO--AN UNRECORDED PAQUEBOT CANCEL (Your help, please!) by Bill Mitchell (FCPS #715)

This article has also been submitted to the editors of the Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain, the magazine of the T.P.O & Seapost Society (also of Great Britain), and of Seaposter (in the U.S.), in the hope that this wide circulation will produce answers to the questions that follow, in which case a definitive article may become possible. Readers' comments are welcome; please write to me at 41 Graemesdyke Avenue, East Sheen, London SW14 7BH, England.

Bob Maddocks, the well-known specialist in the postal history of Cameroun, has sent me this photocopy of a cover (Figures 1a, 1b) in his collection. It pre-

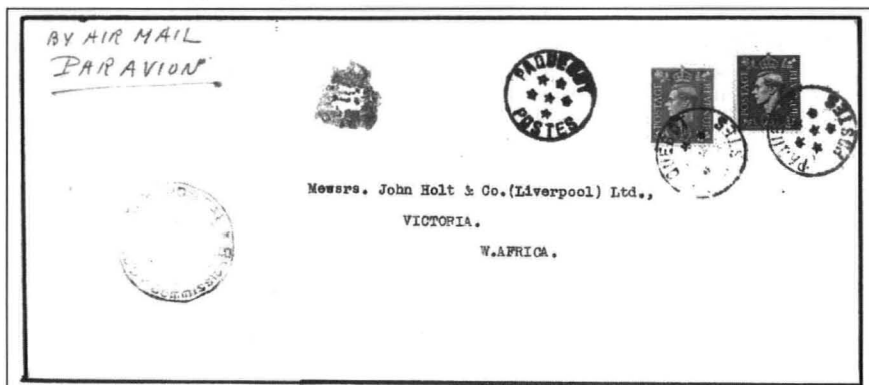


Figure 1a. (reduced to 45%)

sents several questions to which we would both appreciate answers. The only clue to its origin are the letters "E(?) M & Co" within a box on the flap; being embossed and colorless, they are not visible on Figure 1b. (This company, incident-

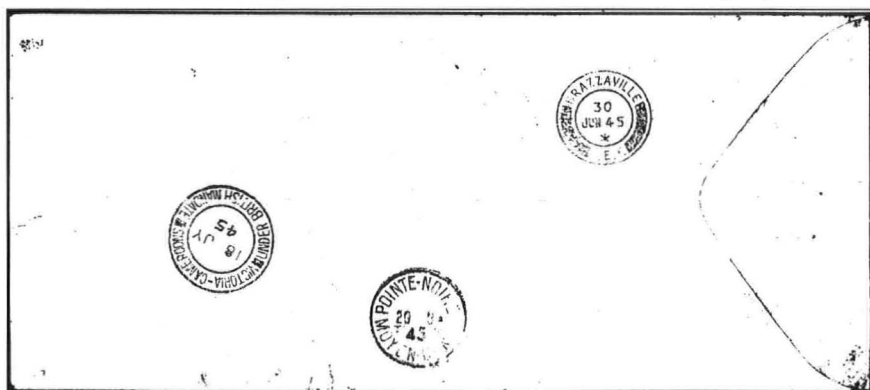


Figure 1b. (reduced to 42%)

tally, has not been identified; can anyone help?). The letter is franked with Great Britain stamps to the value of 3d ($1\frac{1}{2}$ d and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d) and was addressed to "Messrs. John Holt & Co (Liverpool) Ltd, VICTORIA. W. AFRICA." At some stage someone who was apparently aware of the airmail services currently (in

1945) available had endorsed the envelope in manuscript "BY AIR MAIL/PAR AVION" in red ink, all other typing and postal markings being in black. The question whether or not the letter was sent by air for any part of its journey is not germane to this article. Victoria was the main port in British-administered Cameroon, but the letter was apparently put ashore from an unidentified vessel at Point-Noire, in the French colony of Middle Congo, on 29 June 1945. Here it was censored (CONTROLE POSTAL * Commission B * / AFRIQUE EQUATORIALE FRANÇAISE cachet)¹ and sent or quite possibly missent to Brazzaville, the capital of French Equatorial Africa, where it arrived the following day. It finally reached its destination on 18 July, probably via Lagos in Nigeria where it was handled by a British censor.²



Figure 2.
What the
smudge in
Figure 1a
should look
like.

The most striking feature of the cover is the French cancel, presumably struck at Pointe-Noire, reading PAQUEBOT/POSTE with, in centre, six stars where one would normally expect to see a date (Figure 1). And, since it takes the place of a dated departure marking, one would also expect it to indicate the place of handling. This cancel is not listed in any of the standard catalogues of Paquebot marks, most notably those of Dreschel and Hosking³ and so far as is known has not been recorded elsewhere. Although it is very similar in size to contemporary French single-ring handstruck datestamps, it is quite unlike other French or French colonial Paquebot marks, the vast majority of which are linear. Furthermore no Paquebot mark of any kind is recorded for Pointe-Noire prior to 1953 (Dreschel) or 1957 (Hosking). The following points about this cancel beg for answers:

1. When was it made, why, on what authority and where?
2. Why is the port of handling not stated?
3. Why the six stars in lieu of date slugs?

4. This is the only example to have come to light, so far is known, in a span of now 60 years. It is probable, therefore, that it was little used. It is also possible that it may have been locally made. If that be the case, why not a simple linear handstamp to be used in conjunction with the normal circular datestamp, which would have complied with U.P.U. requirements?⁴

5. Alternately, why were the stamps not simply cancelled with the Pointe-Noire datestamp, on the basis that the letter was received with uncanceled stamps?

The use of British stamps suggests posting on board a U.K.-registered vessel on the high seas prior to entering territorial waters;⁴ the 3^d franking was correct for mail being landed in foreign territory.⁵ Does any reader have knowledge of shipping arriving at Pointe-Noire on or shortly before 29 June 1945, which might help to identify the vessel on which the letter was posted, and perhaps to show whether the stamps were held by the purser or carried in the writer's wallet?

These are the main points of maritime-mail interest suggested by this cover. Some further observations appear in the Notes which follow. Both Bob and I will be very pleased to hear from anyone who can answer any of my questions or otherwise comment on the cover, or provide relevant background information.

References and Notes

1. Deloste, Col. G., *Histoire postale et militaire de la Deuxième Guerre Mondiale 1939-1945*; Editions de l'Echangiste Universelle; Bischwiller, 1969. But could the cachet have been applied on leaving?

2. The very poorly struck censor cachet could be late use of a Nigerian "Crown over PP [part excised] 27" cachet (Figure 2), recorded between 12 July 1944 and 30 July 1945 (J. Martin and F. Walton, *West African Censorship*; West Africa

Study Circle, Dronfield, 2nd ed., 1999, p. 62). There are of course no Nigerian postal markings to confirm that the letter transited Lagos.

3. Dreschel, E., *The Paquebot Marks of Africa, the Mediterranean Countries, and their Islands*; Robson Lowe Ltd, London, 1980; Hosking, R., *Paquebot Cancellations of the World*, 3rd ed.; Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd, Derby, 2000.

4. U.P.U. requirements for the franking of maritime mail are conveniently summarized by Hosking in his Introduction. "It was in 1891 that the U.P.U. decreed that mail posted on the high seas might be prepaid 'by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff of the country to which the vessel belongs, or by which it is maintained'. If the mailing took place in territorial waters or in port, then the stamps and tariff of the territory would apply.... It was not until [1893] that the U.P.U. issued a supplementary regulation to the effect that letters so treated should, in addition to the date stamp of the receiving office, be endorsed with the word 'paquebot,' either as a hand-stamp or in manuscript."

5. U.K. surface rates at this time were: for foreign destinations, not exceeding one ounce, 3^d and for each additional ounce, 1½^d; for destinations within the British Empire (including mandated territories), not exceeding 1 ounce, 2½^d and for each additional ounce, 1^d (Post Office Guide, July 1945--my thanks to Barbara Priddy for extracting these details). It is just possible that the use of ½^d and 2½^d stamps indicates that it was originally expected that the ship would dock in British territory, but was then diverted to Pointe-Noire.

ALAN GORDON McKANNA (1925-2005)



Alan G. McKanna, F.C.A., as he appeared in the CAPEX 87 catalogue, as a member of the Execute Committee.

Alan McKanna of Ontario, Canada, FCPS Member N° 555, passed away at his home on 14 June 2005. He was born in London, England, was an underage volunteer artilleryman in the British Army, serving in the Far East (principally Burma), and rising to the rank of major before turning 23. After demobilization and return to England, he emigrated to the Toronto area.

His philatelic responsibilities, all handled skillfully and with loving care, were many and at one time or another included: Treasurer and President of the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada; Treasurer, Director, and Financial Committee Chair of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada; founding member of the British F&CPS; accredited national Canadian judge; perhaps most importantly, financial manager of the past three CAPEX Internationals and of a youth international. He was also, of course, one of our most senior FCPS members.

Alan was an active Mason and also took much pride in supervising, not too many years ago, humanitarian projects in India and Nepal for Rotary International.

An astute observer of the international philatelic scene, he also was an occasional exhibitor and philatelic writer. Very much like Ernst Cohn, he enjoyed exhibiting humble little teaching and thought-provoking collections. Alan's many collecting interests included Paris postmarks, the Sage issues, 20th Century French postal rates, and the British QE2 Machin design. I wish now that I would have had more frequent contacts--both personal and via correspondence--with him. But now, all I can do is miss his cheery and witty, often self-deprecating letters. He was, very simply, a very nice person to know.

--S. J. Luft

RE-USE OF THE BOXED REGISTRATION HANDSTAMP IN THE COLONIES

by Colin W. Spong (FCPS #1605)

In the June 2002 Newsletter [N° 15] of the Study Group for Airmail Rates in French Colonies, Michael Ensor raised a query concerning a boxed R marking. In correspondence with Michael and other France and Colonies colleagues concerning a mystery censor handstamp that appears (so far) on covers from French West Africa and Madagascar, and exchanging photocopies, something else of great interest was noticed on at least three covers in Michael's collection.

On these three covers, it was noted that boxed R markings were not censorship-related but were instead the *griffes* used to indicate Registration. These *griffes* had been in service throughout French Colonies from approximately 1890 to 1932, struck either in black or red ink. Such handstamps were later replaced in the Colonies with various formats of Registration etiquettes.

It would appear that the boxed R handstamp was reused again during World War II, due to a shortage of Registration etiquettes in a number of post offices owing to wartime conditions. The ones seen are struck in black, and we record them here, used in French India (1940), Madagascar (1945-1952), New Caledonia (1940-1942), St. Pierre & Miquelon (1942-1943) and Wallis & Futuna (1944) (see Table).

I feel it would be useful to record this reutilization of early Registration handstamps, and publish the results in this and other pertinent journals: *Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society* [of Great Britain]; *IO* (of the Indian Ocean Study Circle), and *Cameo* (of the West Africa Study Circle).

1892 French Colonial Registration Handstamps Usage During WWII					
<i>Griffe</i> type	Colony	ERD	LRD	Colour	From
Octagonal boxed R	French India	27.04.40		Black	Pondichery to Marseille
<i>Id.</i>	Madagascar	1.02.45	52*	<i>Id.</i>	Mananjary to Antsirabe
<i>Id.</i>	New Caledonia	18.07.40	28.11.42	<i>Id.</i>	Noumea to Brisbane, Australia; Noumea to London
<i>Id.</i>	St.Pierre & Miquelon	10.07.42	11.02.43	<i>Id.</i>	St.Pierre to New York; <i>Id.</i>
<i>Id.</i>	Wallis & Futuna	26.9.44		<i>Id.</i>	Wallis to New York

* latest date was seen at the Paris Autumn Salon 2004

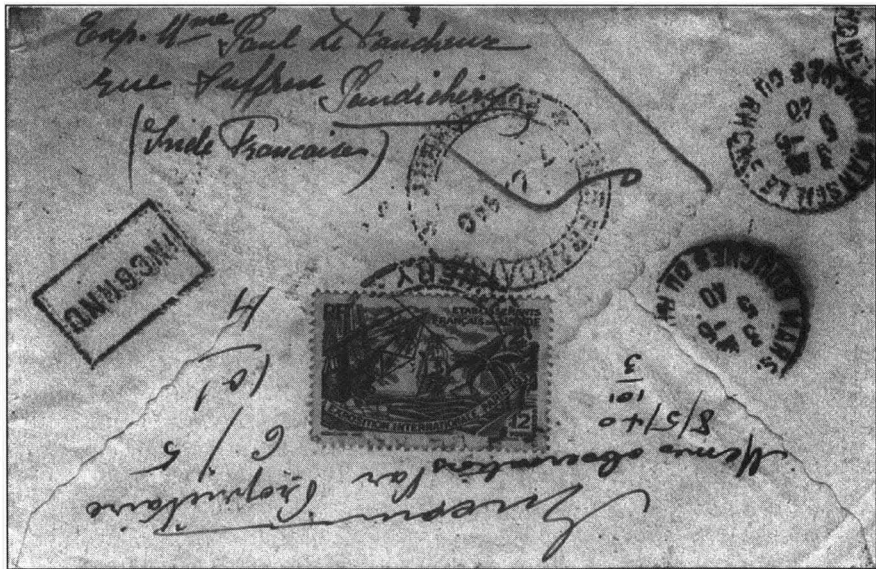
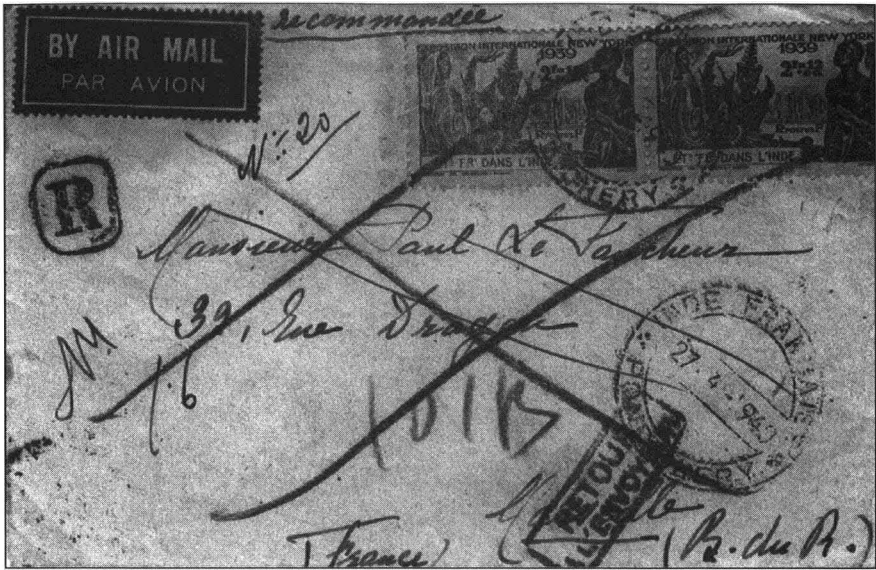


Figure 1a, b. French India, 27.4.1940, airmailed to Paul Le Taucheur at Marseille; R(egistered) N° 20; unknown at the address, and returned to sender. (reduced to 81%).



Figure 2. Madagascar, surface mailed 1 FEVR 45 to Antsirabe (Madagascar); boxed R(egistered) N° 193 and AR (return-receipt requested). (reduced to 70%).

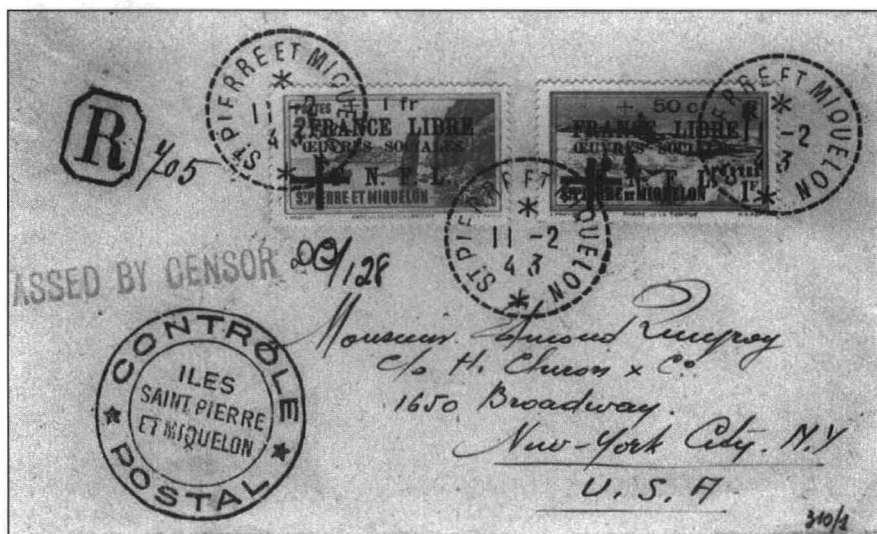


Figure 3a. St. Pierre & Miquelon, 11.2.43, boxed R(egistered) N° 705, to Edmond Queyroy (late stamp dealer and FCPS member) at New York City; censored in St.P&M and in the U.S.; [four New York Foreign and Registry back-stamps, shown in Figure 3b., of 2.22 and 2.23.1943]. (reduced to 81%).

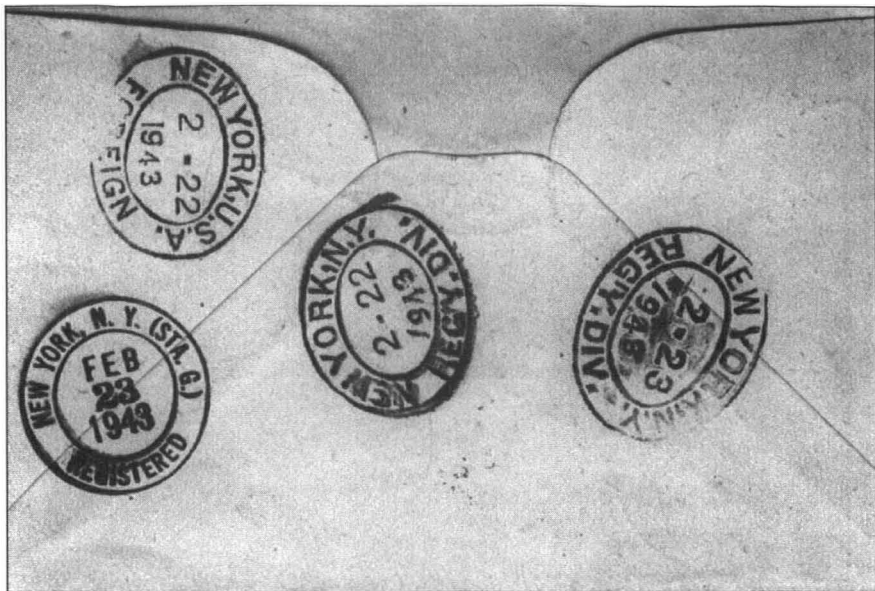


Figure 3b.



Figure 4a. b. Wallis & Futuna, 26 SEPT 44, to the United States Stamp Co., New York City; R(egistered) N° 741; other numbers, crossed out, may represent U.S. bundle or packer numbers; U.S. censor sealing tape; damaged and obviously opened then officially resealed by U.S. Post Office; passed free of customs duty; San Francisco (Nov. 8) and New York (Nov. 20-24) registered-mail back-stamps. (reduced to 75%).



Figure 4b. See figure 4a for details. (reduced to 75%)

References and Notes

Blanc, Jack, "Provisional Registration Procedures 1942-9," *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, Nov. 1984 [transl. By T. E. Reader].

Desnos, Jacques, "Madagascar: Les Marques pour objets Recommandés des origines à 1958," *Col.Fra Bull.* N° 42, pp. 8-15, 1988.

Dubois, Jean-Claude, "Marques et Etiquettes de Recommandation," *Col.Fra Bull.*, N° 20, pp. 3-16, 1982; N° 25, pp. 2-8, 1984.

Correspondence with Michael Ensor, Bill Mitchell, Barbara Priddy and Roy Reader.

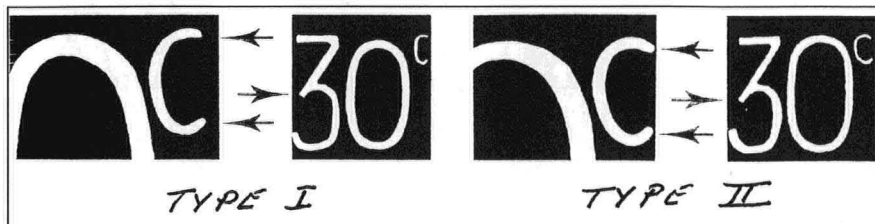
TYPES AND SUBTYPES

30c Mercure

Type I: (All sheet stamps, including precancels): downstroke of "3" of value is short; "c" of value thin, end of top stroke more-or-less horizontal

Type II: (Coil stamps [rare]): downstroke of the "3" is longer; "c" bit thicker, end of top stroke curves downward to right.

(These differences are very minute).



MARC W. MARTIN — REMEMBRANCES

I am saddened to report of the death of Marc W. Martin, one of our long-time members and one of the stalwarts of the New York chapter. I first met Marc in the early 70s when I first joined the society. At that time Eric Spiegel, the epitome of an European gentleman, Ira Seebacher, a sports writer for the old Daily Mirror who showed me what a true sports topical collection could be like, Ira Zweifach, who somehow found a speaker for every meeting for more than twenty years, and Marc were the senior members of the New York group. Marc was the scholar and teacher of this group of established French area philatelists. I remember the excitement when I first saw his presentation of his collection



of French Classics. I had simply not seen material of that depth and quality before, both stamps and postal history. His talks and exhibits on the shades of the French classics were a revelation to me. It is one thing to read a catalog and try to figure them out, but it is totally another to have them presented by an expert with all of the relevant material presented in the frames. His talks on the French Maritime Mail were the first that I had ever heard on this topic, and as a result, I was quick to buy my set of Salles. Marc was one of the few who could plate the Free French overprints from Saint Pierre & Miquelon, and served the APS for years in their expertization. Ira frequently called on Marc to present a program at our monthly chapter meetings, and he never ceased to amaze me by coming up with absolutely marvelous materials in yet another area of French philately. Over the years I learned much from Marc for which I will forever be grateful. Marc's article on the printing of the French Classics¹ is undoubtedly one of the most important French area articles in the English language.

One of my favorite memories of Marc was in 1984 when more than of a dozen of us exhibited at the national Canadian show in Quebec. We were promised a knowledgeable French area judge, but upon arrival had learned that he had taken ill, and his duties fell to a Canadian dealer who shall remain nameless for his own protection. This Canadian would have none of our French area material, and we were awarded a plethora of Bronze and Silver Awards, save one collection. I remember some of this judge's comments during the critique. I was given a Small Silver for my General Issues collection, and told my Guadeloupe and Martinique covers were cheap and common. John Lievsay got a Bronze for his possibly definitive plating study of the 1871 25c Ceres issue. He was told that this judge could never be certain about plating studies, so he always give them low level awards simply for participation. The Browns took a Silver for their study of the Aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War, also possibly a definitive study. When asked why a Silver, they were told by this judge that he knew nothing about this material, so he gave it the Silver. When offered a tour after the critique, he declined, noting that he did not want to clutter his brain with a lot of useless French area stuff. Of course the Grand Award went to Marc for his French Classics. Even this nameless judge was impressed by the quality and depth of Marc's material. I remember that the first page of Marc's exhibit featured an unused block of nine of France's first issue, the 10c Ceres with the *tête-bêche* stamp smack in the middle! That, of course, would impress just about any judge.

At ANPHILEX in 1996 I remember Marc looking at the Lafayette Collection — the most impressive array of French classics ever assembled. He was continually shaking his head, and when asked why he noted, “Thirty nine *tête-bêche* — I have never seen so many in one collection!” I was always impressed by his ability to look at any collection, and highlight the key pieces, even in exhibits of obscure postal history — like mine.

Beyond philately, I remember many meals with Marc. For years the Board met every fourth Tuesday at Bea Berner’s on East 62nd Street. Prior to those Board meetings, Marc, Ira Z. and I used to have dinner at yet another East Side restaurant. In later years Bill Wallis joined in on these diners. Philately, history and politics were the prime topics, along with martinis and wine. I am not sure how much we contributed at the Board meetings thereafter — only John Lievsay’s minutes will tell the truth about such.

In more recent times, Marc joined in on the Thursday philately luncheon group in NYC. Imagine — a group of philatelists getting together every Thursday at noon for lunch at a different restaurant — I joined in 2004. Despite having passed his ninetieth birthday, Marc was a regular attendee, taking the bus down from his West Side residence. Many times I saw him walking towards the restaurant with his hands firmly clasped behind his back, in the manner of a famous Beethoven sketch. He put up with the Thai and Indian lunches, but would always smile when we ate at one of the older French restaurants on the West Side. “This,” he would say, “was a good meal!”

Always a gentleman and always a teacher, we will all miss him dearly. Philately has lost one of its stars.

1. M. W. Martin, “The Hulot Plates of 1849-1876: A Graphic Presentation, pp. 15-25 in *Philatelie à la Française*; The Philatelic Foundation Seminar Series Textbook No. 2, J. L. Lievsay, ed., 1991.

-- Ed Grabowski

Jerusalem--The Early French Post Offices (Revisited)

This short article in the April 2005 issue (N° 280, pp. 48-50) elicited comments from Peter Kelly, the new president of our British sister society. Not expecting that anyone would have been interested in what Tolkowsky had to say about distances between the M and the E (p. 50), I neglected to mention he was referring to the farthest distance between the top of the inverted M and the bottom (lower right) of the E. Here are some observations:

Kelly:	11.75 mm, on 6 SEP 00
Tolkowsky:	12.75 mm, on 27 OCT 00
Tolkowsky:	11.75 mm, on 13 JAN 02
Kelly:	10.5 mm, on 4 FEV 02
Tolkowsky:	10+ mm, on 10? MAR? 02
Luft (Fig. 2)	10.5 mm, on 9 SEP 02

This minimal sampling suggests that two different date stamps were in essentially simultaneous use during 1900 and perhaps later; that the 11.75 mm spacing date stamp continued to be used into January 1902; and that a third (with 10.5 spacing) had appeared by 4 February 1902. Tolkowsky apparently received no readers’ advisories in or after 1957, and Peter’s much appreciated e-mail to me of 5 June 2005 may be the first attempt at establishing some sort of chronology. What we could use are more dates and more close measurements from readers out there.

-- S. J. Luft

FRENCH POSTAL RATES (1 March 2005 Tariff)

Letters (Metropolitan France)		Ecoplis¹ (Metropolitan France)	
<20 gm	0,53€	<20 gm	0,48€
20-50 gm	0,82€	20-50 gm	0,64€
50-100 gm	1,22€	50-100 gm	0,77€
100-250 gm	1,98€	100-250 gm	1,45€
250-500 gm	2,76€	Airmail to DOM-TOMs:	
500-1,000 gm	3,62€	<20 gm	0,48€
1,000-2,000 gm	4,83€	Surtax per 10 gm, to DOM ²	+0,05€
2,000-3,000 gm	5,69€	Surtax per 10 gm, to TOM ³	+0,02€
Airmail to DOM-TOMs:		¹ printed-matter rate	
<20 gm	0,53€	² Overseas Depts.	
Surtax per 10 gm, to DOM	+0,11€	³ Overseas Territories	
Surtax per 10 gm, to TOM	+0,05€		

Letters (International)

<u>Weight</u>	ZONE A ¹	ZONE B ²	ZONE C ³
<20 gm	0,55€	0,75€	0,90€
20-40 gm	1,00€	1,60€	1,80€
40-60 gm	1,20€	1,95€	2,40€
60-80 gm	1,45€	2,15€	2,80€
80-100 gm	1,75€	2,40€	3,20€

¹European Union, plus much of rest of Europe²rest of Europe (mainly Russia, Serbia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Belarus, Albania), plus Africa³Western Hemisphere, Asia, and Oceania

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- Member and well-appreciated contributor to our Journal, Peter Kelly of Bristol, England, is the new President of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society (of Great Britain). We look forward to continued collaboration between our two societies and our respective member-authors.
- The VIA ALSACE marking, found on a few underfranked letters from France to Switzerland, has been recorded on just under ten covers, all with February 1873 date stamps. Now another example has surfaced, also underfranked with a 25c Cérès, but with a much later, 14 April 1874 departure date stamp (from Périgord), and also bearing Swiss postage due (viz. *Le Trait-d'Union*, N° 119, 2004). We still don't know the story behind the VIA ALSACE marking and the corresponding underpayment of postage. Any ideas?
- The 4c Occupation stamp of 1870-1871 (so-called Alsace-Lorraine stamp) was used mainly as postage on printed matter and newspapers to local destinations. What could be considered a temporary shortage of the 4c value at Metz during December 1870 appeared at first sight to have resulted in the use of the 2c value cancelled by strikes of a boxed P.P. (Figure 1; courtesy of J. P. Bournique, in *Le*

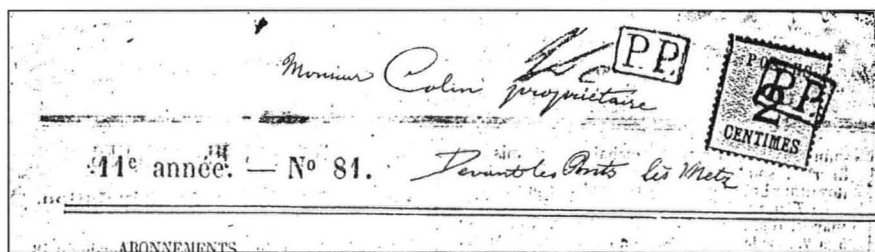


Figure 1. (reduced to 72%)

Trait-d'Union N° 119, 2004). However, the next two issues of this newspaper bear, respectively and similarly cancelled, a 2c Lauré of France and a bisected 4c Occupation! Obviously too much of a good thing. In N° 120 (2005), M. Bournique advises that Gachot, Wirth, and others considered them to be simple fakes to fool collectors. The 2c and 4c stamps were both available in December 1870 at Metz, a German date stamp was in use for well over a month beforehand, and the papers would likely have sent within wrappers. Frankly, that Figure 1 cover really had me fooled, but the use of a French stamp and then of a bisect made me begin to doubt I was seeing genuine usage; therefore, Bournique's notes in N° 120 were very well received, and there the matter should rest—stamps fancifully added to genuine newspapers, then tied with equally fanciful markings.

- On 10 March 2005, the French Senate declared that postal facilities and services must be readily accessible, and that 90% of the French population must reside within 5 kilometers and 20 minutes [this latter requirement, by car? by bicycle? by equine transportation?—unstated]. But when will that become effective?
- This was soon followed by a 2 May directive requiring government employees (including postal personnel) to be kinder, more efficient and more courteous to their clients, even to the point of listening to them and to suggesting the use of other services. Ramps for wheelchairs will be the norm at all post offices.
- *LEcho de la Timbrologie* has moved its editorial offices to 13 rue de Liège, F-75009 Paris. The subscription service remains at 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036 Amiens Cedex 1, France.

- A 0,95[F] airmail stamp was prepared for the Concorde's first flight, planned for 1968. However that first test flight was delayed until 2 March 1969, whereupon all stocks of the stamp were destroyed. **Except** for one single example now bearing trimmed-down perforations (Figure 2). It was offered in Sinais' 58th auction of June 2005 at a 7500€ starting bid. The substituted 1,00 Concorde stamp was issued on that 2 March 1969 date.



Figure 2.

- Newsletter N° 22 of the Study Group for Airmail Rates in French Colonies to 1945's editor and sparkplug, Bob Picirilli, reports that the Group's database of pertinent covers has surpassed 4500 items. Anyone wishing to benefit from--or even better, add to the database--this truly international group should contact Bob, via your Editor.
- The next annual Salon Philatélique d'Autonne de Paris will be held this coming 10-13 November, presumably again at the Porte Champerret.
- In order to maintain public interest in collecting and to reassure collectors that their [French] stamps will retain their franking value, the Syndicate of Philatelic Experts (CNEP) voted overwhelmingly against any attempt by the Service Philatélique de la Poste to demonetize franc-values stamps.
- A part of the 31.05.2005 printing of the 1,90€ Marianne des Français lacks phosphorescent bands.
- Stamp designer Marc Taraskoff has been named artistic adviser for St. Pierre & Miquelon's stamps. From his track record, we may expect greater originality and freedom of expression in the islands' stamps.
- Steve Walske, along with Richard Frajola and George Kramer, has written the definitive study on and census of the Pony Express mail. True, this has nothing to do with France or Colonies, but I feel we should heap praise upon this outstanding work by one of our good, active members.
- Long-time FCPS Director, former President (in 1970 and 1971), and one of our oldest members (#563), Marc Martin of New York closed his albums in late August. He had been a very major collector of Classic France, and had special affection for French Maritime Mail, both of which he had exhibited on occasion. He was particularly known as an expert on the FRANCE LIBRE overprints of St. Pierre & Miquelon, which he plated from full sheets that he owned. Though well past the age of 90, Marc would still ride the bus to official FCPS meetings and to the Thursday lunches. He could always be counted upon to give, even on short notice, varied and instructive programs. Though hard of hearing in his later years, Marc was ever the gentleman and never disturbed gatherings by raising his voice. But in recent years, he was hard-pressed to hide his disappointment over the decline in FCPS membership, particularly in the New York metropolitan area. He had been an active member of the pioneering group that contributed mightily to our Society and which included such now-departed luminaries as Drs. Chase and Vaurie, and Messers. Rich, Lesgor and Queyroy, among others. And now, we mourn the loss of yet another link to the early glory days of our Society. (From data gathered by Dick Stevens, Martin Stempien, Bill Wallis and Stan Luft). Fuller remembrances, by Ed Grabowski, will be found elsewhere in this issue.

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

President Dave Herendeen has provided for a table for our Society at Washington 2006 (May-June 2006), this century's first US-based international exhibition--and also see his Letter on page 138. Vice-President Ken Nilsestuen has arranged for the Society to meet in Cleveland in March 2007 at the World Series of Philately's Garfield-Perry March Party, and also at NAPEX (suburban Washington, DC in 2008) (see box on page 139). These will be great opportunities to meet some of your fellow France and Colonies collectors and Society officers, to exhibit your best collections, and to peruse, admire and envy those of others; or simply to see what the bourse dealers have to offer. Please consider attending at least one of these fine shows, and to say hello.

If you're still missing any earlier 2005 issues, please request replacements from our new Corresponding Secretary, Joel Bromberg (see Masthead for postal and e-mail addresses). Just don't ask me!

The January issue (N° 279) asked for volunteers to form study groups for Independent Cameroun and for collared date stamps in general. I don't believe there's been much if any action on those topics since then. Isn't anyone interested in sharing information? And that goes for other possible study groups other than the flourishing one on airmail rates from the French Colonies.

There will be some significant changes made to the appearance of our venerable *Philatelist*, all surely for the better, starting this coming year. Writing these words in late August, I'm not prepared to go into details. But keep watching your incoming mail!

Articles to be published in future issues

Postal issues of the 1925 Paris Decorative Arts Explosion (continuation)

The Territory Of Quang-Tcheou-Wan (1898-1945)

Progression of small-town cachets in Algeria and France--the Example of Beni-Saf, Oran

Early manifestations of the Rural Post in France

French Somali Coast censored mail (1936-1945)

Mauritania--the 1.50 franc red-brown of 1942

On Military Hospitals and Red Cross Messages

Chargement d'Office

Algerian pneumatic mail by non-pneumatic means

World War II--The Colonies "General Issues" charity stamps

Intervention in Italy: The French Brigade at Ancona (1832-1839)

Type Sage Period 1876-1900: Use of the Affranchissement, Chargements, Guichets ... handstamps

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

- *La Poste dans le département du Var -- Poste Rurale--Arrondissement Rurax*, by Robert Gregnac-Daudemard; 13,50€ postpaid for Draguignan region and 5,50 for Toulon region; inquire of author at "colline," Blvd. Des Arboussiers, F-83120 Saint-Maxime, France. [More of the marcophily of the Var Dept., this time the rural posts].
- *La France d'outremer par ses timbres*, by Laurent Lemerle; tome I: Americas, Indian Ocean, Antarctic: 116 pp., 21x30 cm, stiff cover; 18€ (postpaid in France, more elsewhere); tome II: French Equatorial and West Africa, North Africa, Levant: 180 pp., same format and cover; 32€ (same postal conditions); both are fully illustrated in color; inquire of Editions Timbropresse, 6 rue du Sentier, F-75080 Paris cedex 02. [Appear to be stories and backgrounds of the stamps; should be useful to topical collectors and others].
- *10 ans de Liberté*, by Olivier Bernadet; 76 pp, numerous illustrations; price not stated, inquire of Timbropresse (see above). [All there should be to know about the Liberté of Gandon issues, from artist's designs through production and the many varieties].
- *Catalogue Mayer Libération* (9th ed.); 116 pp.; no other details given; inquire of Librairie-Service, Timbropresse (see above) [The standard priced catalog of 1944-1945 Liberation stamps].
- *Les oblitératins des postes françaises du Maroc entre 1852 et 1956*, by Thierry Sanchez; 196 pp., A4 format; 36€ postpaid in France, more elsewhere; inquire of S.P.L.M., 206 Blvd. Péreire, F-75017 Paris. [Introductory summary of types of markings; followed by study of more than 410 postal installations and more than 1100 markings (840 of them illustrated), railway markings; valuations; bibliography].
- *La vie quotidienne dans les lazarets - Vivre ou mourir* [Daily life (and death) in pestilence-control quarantine stations], by Michèle Chauvet and Guy Duteau; 60 pp., A4 format, including 8 color pages and more than 70 illustrations; 25€ postpaid, probably more outside France, by check or money order payable to Michèle Chauvet, 36 rue de Champagne, Rentilly, F-77600 Bussy-Saint-Martin, France. [Disinfected mail, how it was done (in Marseille), contents of a number of letters, how quarantined sailors and passengers passed the time, and other details that should interest collectors of such mail; by two redoubtable members of the Académie de Philatélie].
- *La Marianne de Bèquet, témoin de son temps*, by Jean Renard; 168 pp., A4 format, illustrated in color; 42€ postpaid (more outside France); inquire of author at 24 rue Gambetta, F-17200 Royan, France. [Complete details on the issues, their production and their formats and use].
- *Dallay catalogues*: tome I, France 2005-2006, at 20€ + postage; tome II, Andorra, Monaco, TAAF, Europa 2005-2006, at 18,90€ + postage; tome IV, Africa 2005-2005, at 34,90€ + postage. Postage within European Union (+4,50€ for one copy, +6€ for two, +8€ for three); for overseas (+13€ for one or two copies); from DALLAY sarl, 31 rue de Bourdonnais, F-75001 Paris; www.philatelix.fr; checks or money orders only, no credit cards. [Probably the best, most detailed and most complete catalogs for France and Community].
- *L'occupazione italiana di Mentone (1940-1943) / L'occupazione italiana de Menton (1940-1943)* [the Italian occupation of Menton], by Giampaolo Guzzi; 2005 reprint by Vaccari srl, ISBN 88 85335 55 1; 96 pp, 29 x 21 cm, soft-bound, 25€ (+ 8€ postage & handling within Europe, 9€ overseas), from the

publisher at Via M. Buonarroti 46, 41068 Vignola (MO), Italy; pressoffice@vaccari.it. [Bilingual Italian-French reprint of the first edition].

- *Il y a 200 ans ... Napoléon, le camp de Boulogne et la Légion d'Honneur*, by J. Chauchois and M. Poulthier; 448 pp., 21 x 27 cm; black-and-white and color illustrations; 30€ + postage, from the Bibliothèque de l'Echo (Ref. PH193), 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036 Amiens Cedex 1, France. (History and postal history of the force assembled for the aborted invasion of England).
- *Opus 5*, Jean-Pierre Magne, ed.; 130 pp. A4 format, profusely illustrated, mostly in color; published by and for the Académie Européenne de Philatélie; for price to the public, inquire of Jean-Pierre Mangin, 23 rue du Paquis, F-55000 Bar-le-Duc, France; e-mail <groupe.mangin@wanadoo.fr> (Annual publication, consisting of numerous mainly short articles by specialist members of the Académie, including several on France & Colonies topics).
- *Instruction Générale sur le Service des Postes-1792*; 20€ postpaid from the Société des amis du musée de la Poste, 34 bd. de Vaugirard, F-75731 Paris Cedex 15. (A reprint of the very important 1792 national-posts instructions).

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NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 282, July 2005, p. 99)

France [First date is that of First-Day ceremonies; second (in parentheses) is that of general public sale]

- > 28 May: 5,30€ booklet of ten self-adhesive permanent-value stamps, with blue on white "Jules Verne" cover;
- > 2 (6) June: Gordon Bennett Cup sheetlet of ten oval-shaped stamps (five different designs) at 0,53€ each;
- > 4 (6) June: 0,53€ Ville-franche-sur-Mer;
- > 5 (6) June: 0,53€ Environmental Charter;
- > 18 (20) June: 0,53€ Law regarding the Handicapped; 5,30€ booklet of ten self-adhesive "It's a Girl" stamps; 5,30€ booklet of same for "It's a Boy";
- > 2 (4) July: 0,90€ François Pompon (1855-1933) [sculptor; stamp shows polar bear sculpture];
- > 15 July: 0,55€ deep blue Marianne des Français coil stamp;
- > 16 (18) July: 0,53€ "Le Haras du Pin" (Orne Dept.) [18th Cent. Military equestrian school];
- > 23 (25) July: 0,53€ La Roque-Gageac (Dordogne) [riverside village at base of cliff];
- > 29 August: 2,12€ sheetlet of four at 0,53€ showing views of Berlin (European capitals series).



Withdrawals: 27 May: 0,53€ Vaux-s-Mer; 0,75€ Van Gogh; 0,90€ Pierre Dugua de Mons; Semeuse de Roty/Marianne de Luquet booklet of ten; all of the following Marianne de Luquet issues: permanent-value green and red, 0,58€, 0,70€, 0,75€, 0,90€, 1,11€, green and red coils, all 2003 and 2004 booklets of 10 stamps: 24 June: 0,50€ Landings and Liberation; all sheetlets at 2,02€, 2,30€, 2,50€, 3,80€ and 5,00€; 5,00€ Best Wishes booklet of 2003; the following Marianne de Luquet values: 0,01€, 0,02€, 0,05€, 0,10€, 0,20€, 0,50€, 1,00€, and 2,00€; 29 July: 0,50€ Anniversary 2004; 0,50€ This is an invitation 2004; 0,50€ Many thanks 2004; 0,50€ Halloween 2004; 0,50€ Félix Eboué; 0,50€ the Ouistreham lighthouse;



0,50€ Henri Wallon; 4,60€ Napoleon and the Imperial Guard sheetlet; 5€ It's a Boy and It's a girl booklets; 5€ Vacations (Europa) booklet; Marianne des Français 0,58€, 0,70€, 1,11€, 1,90€ definitives.

Andorra

- 30 May: XIth Games of Small European Countries sheetlet of four stamps at 0,53€, 0,55€, 0,82€ and 1,00€;
- 13 June: 2,50€ borders d'Ensgur (mountain hut).
Withdrawals: 29 July: 0,50€ The Three Kings, 0,50€ Noël 2004, 1,11€ Hôtel Valira, 2,50€ Anniv. of entry of Andorra into the Council of Europe.

French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

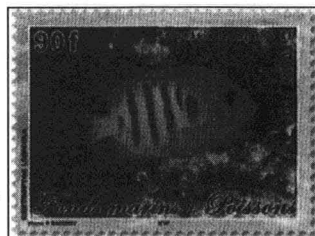
- 17 June (6 August): 18€ "prestige" booklet of 12 permanent-value international rate (to 20 gm) stamps, for 50th Anniv. of the Territory [30,000 to be printed].

French Polynesia

- 27 May: Deep-sea fish: 90F, 90F, 109F, 109F;
- 24 June: Aviation in Polynesia; two stamps at 60F and two at 100F.

Mayotte

- 16 May: Marine mammals of Mayotte sheetlet of five stamps at 0,53€ each; 0,90€ Cent. of Rotary International.



Monaco

- 3 May: Gastronomy: two se-tenant stamps at 0,53€ and two se-tenant at 0,55€ (Europa series) [correction to information given in the July 2005 issue].
- 3 June: 1,20€ Special Olympics; Monaco's first industries: 0,77€, 2,50€, 3,10€;
- 4 July: Year of Science: 1,22€ Edmund Halley, 1,98€ Gerald Kuiper, 3,80€ Clyde Tombaugh; 0,82€ Monaco Yacht Show; 3,03€ 50th Anniv. of joining the UPU;
- 12 July: Arms of the Grimaldi family, in booklet of ten self-adhesive, permanent-value stamps.

Withdrawals: Issues of 2002: 0,53€ Martyrdom of St. George, 0,61 2003 Bouquet competition. 0,91€ ASCAT 2003, 5€ Four Seasons sheetlet, 6€ Monacophil imperforate block; Issues of 2003: 0,46€ Yacht Club, 0,46€ Monte-Carlo Country Club, 0,59€ 27th Circus festival, 0,80€ 10th World Bobsled championship, 1,19€ Int'l. Peace Institute, 1,25€ AMADE, 1,30€ 2003 Monte Carlo tennis masters, 2,50€ GEBCO, 2,82€ first "ramp"(?).

New Caledonia

- 25 April: 80f Triathlon at Nouméa;
- 23 May: Marine mammals sheet of 15 stamps (three designs) at 100F each; 745 F Caledonian railway; 75F coastal vessel "Saint-Pierre."

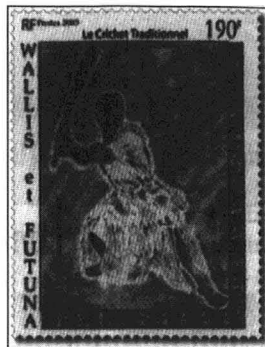


St. Pierre & Miquelon

- > 12 May: 0,30€ view in fog;
- > 22 June: 2,50€ migratory Plover.

**Wallis & Futuna**

- > 16 May: 190F traditional cricket [the game, not the insect].



F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, we have sadly lost long-time member and FCPS Director and volunteer speaker Marc Martin. As we all know, there have been a substantive number of changes in the Society officers and board, and it appears that the reorganization will be continuing into 2006. To this end, you will see the notification of the Annual Meeting and election for next year. Interested members in good standing may nominate other such members for elective posts. I met with Editor Stan Luft and VP Ken Nilsestuen at the APS Stampshow in Grand Rapids. We were able to cover a number of organizational topics relative to the membership rolls and the *FCP*.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY

At this time we wish to thank those members who generously donated extra money to FCPS in 2004 and 2005, even though we are not yet considered an organization to which donations can be tax deductible. These members are: August G. Blume, Cleo Congrady, Ronald E. Conrad, Dulio Disler, Carl J. Faulkner, Albert S. Hagan, David L. Herendeen, Jon A. Hussey, Eliot A. Landau, Leonard C. Langdon, Jr., Paul A. Larsen, Stanley J. Luft, James V. McNamara, Walter Nazarenko, David J. St. Maurice, Peter Thy, Steve P. Turchik, and Kenneth L. White. We hope we haven't forgotten anybody! Thanks again for your generosity, for every little bit helps to keep us afloat. And we hope that others may also add something extra when paying your 2006 dues.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION FOR 2006

The Annual Meeting of the FCPS will be held in May 2006 in conjunction with the Washington 2006 International Philatelic Exhibition. It is hoped that this venue will allow us to bring together as many members as possible. Per the FCPS bylaws, our officers and directors will be officially announced at this meeting. The exact date and time (which should be different than the joint meeting described in the last *FCP*) will be published later.

It is expected that the ballot for election shall appear in the January 2006 issue of *FCP*. At this writing, it is expected that all current officers and Board members up for election (the Class of 2006) will stand for reelection. The bylaws allow any interested party to nominate a candidate, by petitioning the Corresponding Secretary in writing not less than 180 days prior to the meeting. Since this is our first experience with this procedure, nominations will instead be accepted prior to publication deadline for the next *FCP*, which would be 1 December 2005. Nominations must include brief biographical (and philatelic) information and also contact (e-mail, telephone) information. It's alright to nominate yourself. The ballot will appear in the January 2006 *FCP*.

SOME SHOW REPORTS

(Continued from N° 281, July 2005, p. 91)

- From *The London Philatelist* for April 2005, we learn that Klerman Wanderley Lopes obtained a Gold medal for "France, 1849 to 1869 Issues" at the 2004 Singapore World Stamp Championship.
- PIPEX 2005 (Portland, OR, May): Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "The French Conquest, 1792-1814". Your editor served on the jury.
- NOJEX 2005 (Secaucus, NJ, May): Reserve Grand and Gold medal to Steve Washburne for "Postal History of Madeira"; also a single-frame Silver medal for "Long Branch, NJ": Vermeil medal to Lewis Bussey for his US postal card exhibit.
- French Philatelic Championship at Nancy 2005 (Nancy, France, May): a 3rd Prize in the "12/24" Class to Robert Abensur for "Le tarif de Nivôse An IV."
- INDIPEX 2005 (Indianapolis, July): Gold medals to Eliot Landau for two US Lincoln exhibits, and one to Paul Larsen for a Barbados exhibit (something different!).
- APS Stampshow 2005 (Grand Rapids, MI, August): Championship Class Prix d'Honneur to Paul Larsen and Steve Washburne for, respectively, "German Togo 1885-1914" and "Portugal classics"; in the open competition, Gold medals to Larry Gardner for "Morocco Foreign Post Offices and Agencies to 1900," to your editor for "Alsace-Lorraine/Elsass-Lothringen, 1870 to UPU," to Steve Turchik for his Swiss Classics, and to Paul Larsen for his Caroline Islands: Vermeil medals to Jay Carrigan for postwar East Saxony, to Peter Smith for "The Foreign Post Offices in Egypt," and to Chuck LaBlonde for a single-frame exhibit on US-Swiss postal relations (1942-1945); our President served on the philatelic jury. In the literature competition, Klerman Wanderley Lopes obtained a Gold medal for "Caracteristiques des Correspondances du Brésil pour la France au XIX Siecle"; your editor served on that jury. Yes, it's permissible to exhibit and judge simultaneously, but preferably in separate competitions; honest!

Call for Exhibitors!

We have accepted an invitation from the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club of Cleveland, Ohio for their March Party in 2007 (a Champion-of-Champions exhibition). That's a long way in the future, but we want FCPS to put on a good showing. The good news is that exhibits are accepted in the order received (prospectuses are far from being available at this time). There are no reserved frames that we are to fill. The question before you right now is the level of your interest. When you read this announcement, would you please send me an e-mail indicating if you would consider exhibiting at the March 2007 Garfield-Perry show. My e-mail address is <KRN1000@aol.com>. I will appreciate your prompt response and will acknowledge it.

Just so you can really plan ahead, we have also been invited to NAPEX for 2008.

--Ken Nilsestuen

FOR THE RECORD

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

- **865.)** Coils of the 1,00 Marianne de Béquet had a relatively short existence (2 August 1976-4 June 1978) for a regular issue. Previously, all recess-printed coils had been perforated the same as the equivalent sheet stamps: 12 holes plus two $\frac{1}{2}$ holes, perforated 12%. The first printing of the 1,00 Béquet coils show, instead, only 12 full holes (Figure 1). A later printing shows once again the 12 plus two $\frac{1}{2}$ holes of earlier times, still perforated 12% (Figure 2). Apparently (and as was the case with some early 20th Century U.S. coils), the 12-hole configuration was more difficult to separate without tearing. Later, post-Béquet coils all show 12 plus two $\frac{1}{2}$ holes. (Courtesy of Pierre Marion, in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, February 2005).

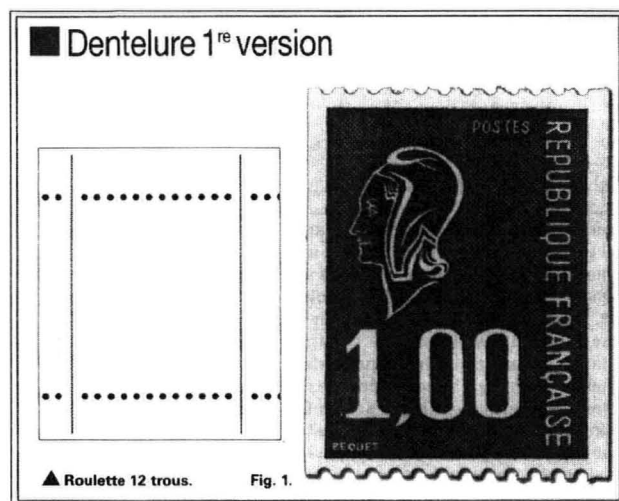


Figure 1.

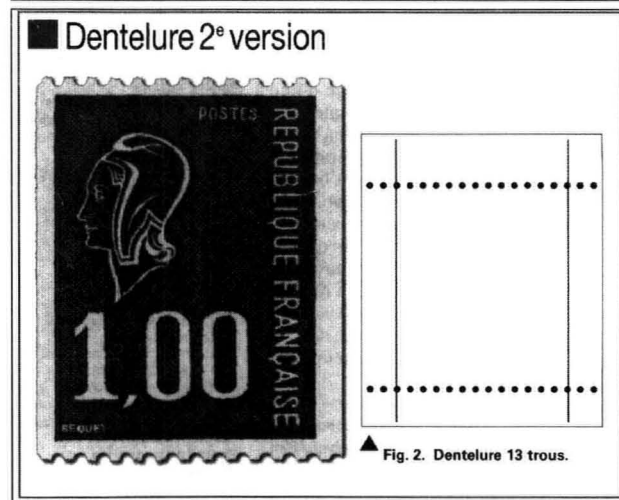


Figure 2.