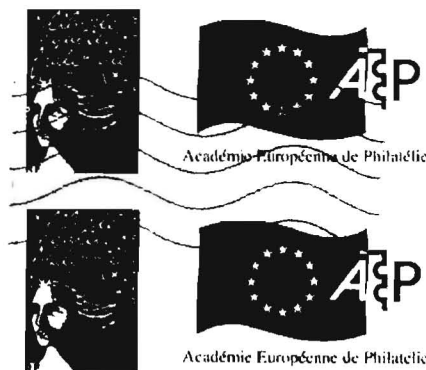




France & Colonies Philatelist

Vermeil Medals at CHICAGOPEX 2003 and NAEPEX 2004

Académie Européenne
de Philatélie



M. Stanley J. LUFT
16291 West 56th Place
80403 GOLDEN COLORADO
U.S.A.

80403+1207-91 C033



Two modern philatelic artifacts are illustrated here on one cover: "Personalized" coil stamps prepared for the Académie Européenne de Philatélie, cancelled by a light blue machine cancel bearing FRANCE in the dial, and which resembles that shown in Figure 2 of the January 2006 "Announcements and News" (page 21)

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All contributions to and questions concerning the contents and
policy of this periodical should be sent to the Editor:

Stanley J. Luft, 16291 W. 56th Place, Golden, CO 80403, USA
Phone 303-279-8587

e-mail: fcpesd@worldnet.att.net

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to Corresponding Secretary, P.O.
Box 102, Brooklyn, NY 11209-0102

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ALGERIAN PNEUMATIC MAIL BY NON-PNEUMATIC MEANS

by S. J. Luft (FCPS #915)

In For the Record N° 750 (FCP N° 250, October 1997, p. 131) we mentioned that the poorly documented [and apparently rarely used?] Algiers pneumatic post functioned only from 1910 (or 1911) until 1914. And there the matter rested.

But not for a later version of the Algiers pneumatic post. In the Jamet-Baudot 190th auction of June 2005, Lot 1813, shown here as Figure 1, shows 1934



Figure 1.

usage of an Algerian 40c letter-card, with additional stamps affixed to meet the 1F50 French pneumatic-post rate of the time, with "Pneumatique" added in the mailer's handwriting. Practically simultaneously, in Sinais' 58th auction of June 2005, Lot 2591 shows a clear 5-12-1919 date stamp, as well as a large rubber-stamped capital "A", on a French 40c pneumatic-mail letter-card, the correct rate for this service in 1919.

Now my interest was thoroughly piqued, though not to the point of starting a collection of Algerian pneumatic mail. I called upon our Algerian experts, Larry Lambert and Ken Nilsestuen and they

responded with more information that I had anticipated, hence this summary article. My heartfelt thanks to you both!

Ken advised that the Figure 1 cover appears genuine, and that Bosc¹ lists a dozen Algerian pneumatic-mail cancels, dated 1924-1938, plus one of 1947.

Larry sent not only a copy of a cover in his possession but also a long article by André Perrin², which I'm using as the information source for the rest of the present article. The 1910-1911 to 1914 "tube" period being reasonably well known, I'm concentrating here mainly on later usage.

A pneumatic mail (telegram) service for Algiers was established on 4 April 1910, following upon the Paris and Marseille models, though far more limited in scope. Rates were to be the same as for France. Until tube lines and equipment could be installed, the service was handled by special messengers. The tubes, most likely just one, probably began to function in the Spring of 1911 though, according to Perrin, no examples of tube mail are known predating 23 August 1914. However, the First World War intervened almost immediately, qualified operators were mobilized, and the service became moribund to the point of deteriorating and becoming unusable. It was replaced by, once again, special messengers (*agents spéciaux, porteurs*), but probably not before November 1924 (Perrin).

It appears that any kind of postal stationery, or ordinary (commercial) envelopes and cards, could be used, as long as correct, contemporaneous French pneumatic-post postage was affixed. A 2F pneumatic-tube card, specific for Algeria, was issued by the French PTT in 1938, but may never have seen "tube" or "porteur" use.

This local messenger service continued until the 1962 end of the French presence, and even afterwards. Perrin illustrates 1970 and 1971 use on private (non-postal stationery) envelopes. We can assume that the *porteurs* went by bicycle or automobile, though we can't discount them going also by horseback or on foot.

In addition to being cancelled by the date stamps of the bureaux listed below, the mail was generally also struck (sometimes on the stamp(s)) with crude, oversized capital letters (Figure 1), apparently rubber-stamped though some look like they were applied with carved wine corks. Perrin lists the following bureaux and their known letters:

Alger/Centre Télégraphe: A (1928-35), B (1926), D (1926);

Alger/Rue de Strasbourg: H (1914), I (1924, 1925, 1934, 1938), K (1927-1933);

Alger R.P.: A (1936), I (1936);

Alger/Bourse: N (1927)

Figure 2, in Larry's collection, is a typical example: sent from the Central Télégraphe bureau on 14

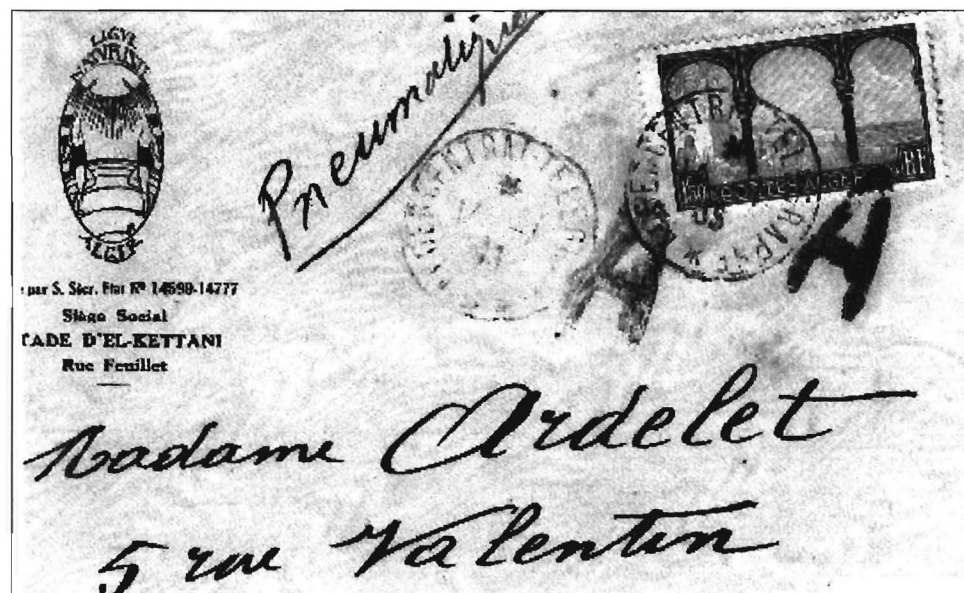


Figure 2.

January 1935 at the current 1F50 rate, with two strikes of that bureau's "A". Perrin illustrates this envelope on page 17 of his article.

Smaller and clearer letters (from type metal?) appeared in 1936 but did not completely replace the larger coarser ones.

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2. Perrin André, "La Poste pneumatique d'Alger," *Bull. Périodique - Société PHIL-EA*, N° 26, December 1989; N° 27, May 1990.

PROGRESSION OF SMALL-TOWN CACHETS IN ALGERIA AND FRANCE: THE EXAMPLE OF BENI-SAF, ORAN

by Laurence H. Lambert (FCPS #1394) and Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

Introduction

The small towns and villages of Oran, Algeria, as well as those of the Metropole, used common sequences of postal cachets. The cachets used by each village or town depended primarily upon the class of its post office

Bosc, p. 41), 13,747 in 1936 (NID, p. 39), 21,098 in 1945 (Bosc, *op. cit.*), and an estimated 23,368 in 1975 (Hammond World Atlas). Probably less than half of the population at any one time could be considered as having been sufficiently literate to send and receive mail.

Mining was and presumably still is the principal industry. In 1937, it had the fourth largest trade tonnage (via exports, of course) of any Algerian port; however, this tonnage dropped off considerably in 1938 and 1939 (NID, p. 116). Beni-Saf is connected to inland Tlemcen to the south, the region's administrative center, by a rail line and a paved highway.

Postal History

Prior to the establishment of any postal facility, Beni-Saf was served by that of nearby Aïn-Témouchent (Figures 1 and 3). A *bureau postal de distribution* (secondary post office), supervised by the Tlemcen post office, was officially opened in September 1876 according to ab der Halden and de Beaufond (p. 114). However they also state that one cover is known, dated 18 March 1876 and bearing a *Gros Chiffre* 5171

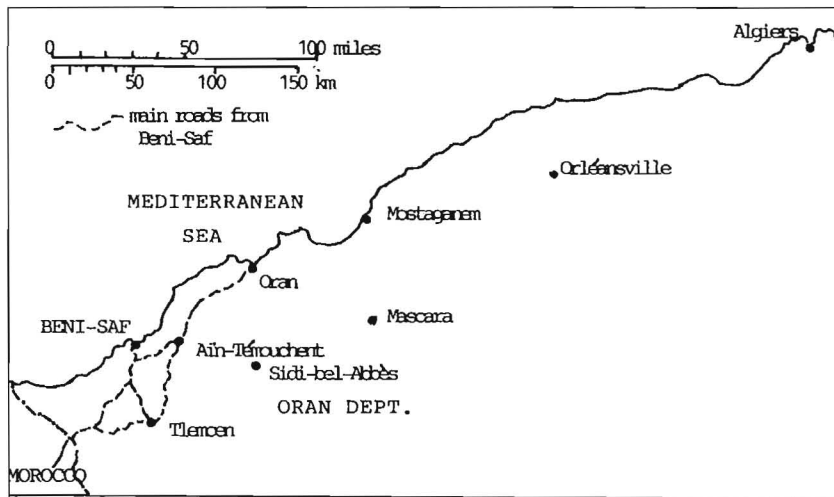


Figure 1. Northwestern Algeria Locality Map

(*recette, direction, bureau de distribution, facteur-receveur, bureau auxiliaire*) and the dates of their operation. Through the years of its existence, each postal facility was issued standard handstamp cachets that were current for the time and for its class. Beni-Saf is one such town, and we use it to illustrate its sequence of date stamps because its postal history is an interesting one and its early markings are not common. We have sufficient knowledge of Beni-Saf's markings to use them as a typical example of the sequence of the cachets used in French post offices, as well as Algerian ones, as they evolved through time and as populations expanded.

Beni-Saf is just another small town on the Mediterranean coast of Oran, Algeria (Figure 1). In existence only from the mid-19th Century and after the discovery of nearby iron ore (mainly hematite and limonite) deposits, it became a shipping point for iron-ore exports after the 1876-1881 construction of an artificial harbor (Naval Intelligence Division [henceforth NID], p. 121) (Figure 2). As a result, the population grew rapidly, from only 1114 inhabitants in 1876 (Fillias, p. 20), of which 716 were directly connected with the iron industry (Bosc, p. 41), to 3299 in 1891, 6751 in 1908, 10,795 in 1931 (all these from

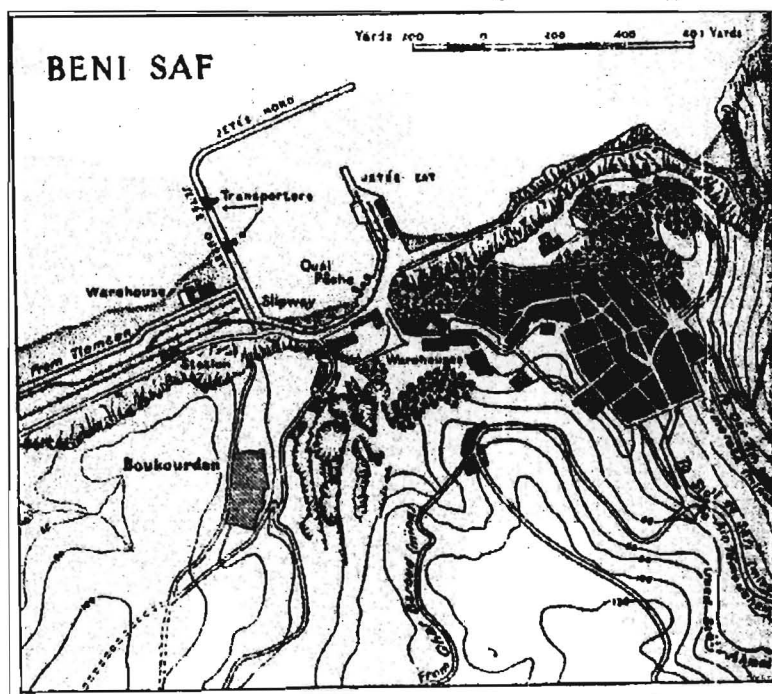


Figure 2. Map of Beni-Saf (from NID, p. 122)



Figure 3. Forerunner cover from mining company at Beni-Saf, postmarked Ain-Témouchent, 8 March 1875 (LHL coll.)

killer. Obviously this should be a very rare and very likely unique cover, inasmuch as *gros chiffres* were suppressed 31 March 1876. From April 1876 onward, postage stamps were obliterated only with the town date stamps. Pothion agrees with their discovery and lists (p. 99) Beni-Saf with a GC 5171 and a very high (=34) index of value. Del Matto (p. 15) also accepts the 1876 opening date. Though the Fillias work was published in 1878, he made no mention (p. 20) of a *distribution*, only of a customs office (*poste de douaniers*) (p. 20).

On 1 October 1882 (Langlois and Bourselet, p. 37; Lavarack, p. 214) the *distribution*, thanks to a rapid increase in the local population, was elevated to a *bureau de recette*, or full-service postal facility.

Evolution of Beni-Saf's date stamps

The first Beni-Saf date stamp was a Type 24 *distribution*, with the usual dotted outer ring, and with ALGÉRIE at the base of the crown (Figure 4). According to Pothion, Alexandre and Noël (p. 57), this was the only *distribution* date stamp used in Beni-Saf. Bosc (p. 41) illustrates a similar *distribution*, but with ORAN instead of



Figure 5. Type D5 of Bosc's nomenclature. We consider this date stamp to be illusory. The town's 1876 population was too small to justify its receiving a second *distribution* date stamp with still in six years of opening, and less



Figure 4. Beni-Saf, Algérie, 15 Aug. 1882, distribution Type D3 (similar to Type 24 of France) (SJL coll.)

than a year before the promotion to a *recette*. In proof, see the two covers (Figure 4 and 6) which very closely bracket the change in status. Figure 4 is dated 15 August 1882, therefore postdating Bosc's illustration. Figure 6, dated 19 October 1882 or less than three weeks after the change in status, if perhaps not the first letter ever mailed from the Beni-Saf *recette*, could well be the first money (CHARGÉ) letter. In any case, the Figure 6 date stamp does not sufficiently resemble Bosc's D5 to make any assumption that the *recette* date stamp was simply a D5 with the dotted outer ring scratched away. Bosc's unlikely D5 is similar to his D3, but with ALGÉRIE changed to ORAN.

Mathieu (p. 26) lists a cachet Type 17 for Beni-Saf, "17" being the type with a departmental number at bottom of the crown. This is an obvious impossibility for Algeria, which had no departmental numbers. He also lists a Type 18, which is what we show here in Figure 6.

But it's now high time to abandon, for Algeria, that traditional date-stamp nomenclature which has worked so well for France. Lambert and Nilsestuen have convincingly demonstrated that there exist many differences between contemporaneous French and Algerian date stamps. From here on in this article, we use the Lambert-Nilsestuen nomenclature exclusively.

Thus, the first and very likely only Beni-Saf *distribution* date stamp (Figure 4) is a type D3, of which we also have in 1880 example. The *recette* date stamp (Figure 6) which replaced it is a type R5 [R8 of Bosc]. We have seen R5 in use from 1882 to 1885, then a hiatus of some years during which we have no examples, after which type R6 (the "type 84" of France and Bosc's R11) appeared, of which we have seen examples dated from 1892 to 1894 (Figure 7). Type R6a, wherein only numerals appear in the dater (Bosc's type R12) (Figure 8) is known to us from 1903 to 1909. Next to appear was the single-circle 26-mm diameter type R9 (Bosc's R16), known to us used between 1925 through 1947 (Figure 9). Bosc shows variants of his R16 as R16a and b (Figure 10). A date stamp

similar to R9 but with the year shown by all four numerals (R9d, Bosc's R17 and 17a) is known used from 1949 to 1959 (Figure 11). Finally, with the appearance in 1959 of new departmental names for Algeria, Beni-Saf was reassigned from Oran to the new Tlemcen Department and received a new, appropriate date stamp (Figure 12) seen used in 1961, just before Algeria declared its independence.

Thus we show that Beni-Saf used,



Figure 6. Beni-Saf, Oran, 19 Oct. 1882, CHARGÉ (money letter); very early recette Type R5 (SJL coll.)

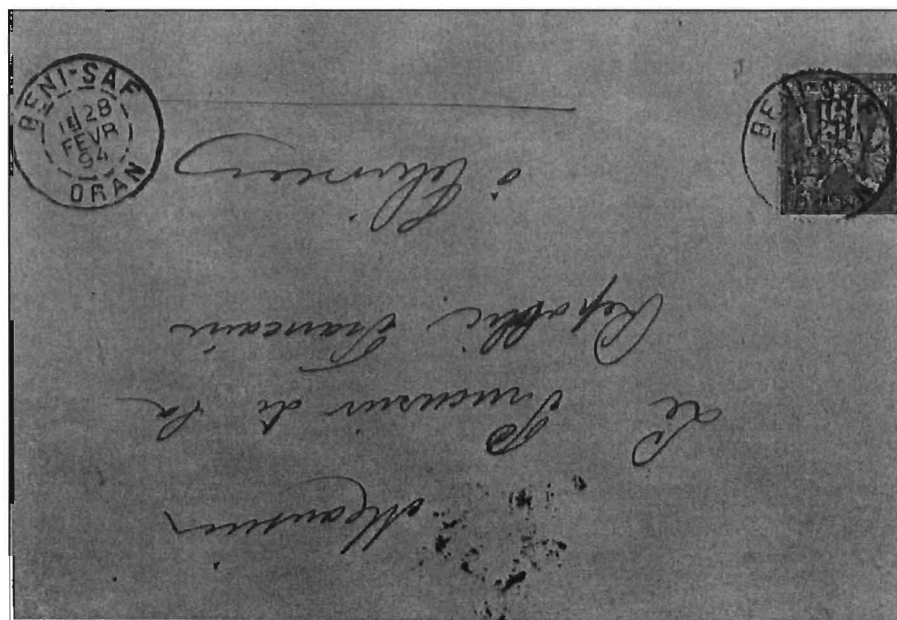


Figure 7. Beni-Saf, Oran, 28 Febr. 1894, Type R6 (LHL coll.)

with time, distribution type D3 (rare) and recette types R5 (uncommon), R6, R6a, R9, and finally R9d. The lettering at the bottom of the crown read first ALGÉRIE, then ORAN, and finally TLEMCEM. This is a very normal sequence of the date stamps used by many post offices of Algeria and the Metropole. Obviously there remain some lacunae in the dates of use of Beni-Saf date stamps after 1885, and we would greatly appreciate being shown copies of date stamps with earlier and later dates than given here.

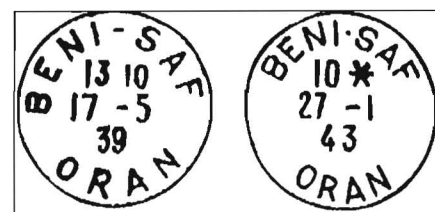


Figure 10. Types R16a and b of Bosc (These are variants of his R16, with differences in style and spacing of letters)

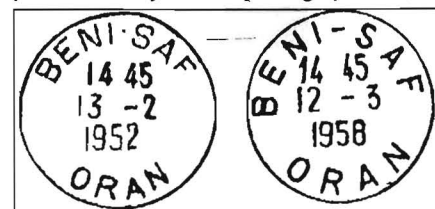


Figure 11. Types R17 and 17a of Bosc (being variants of the 4-digit year dater)

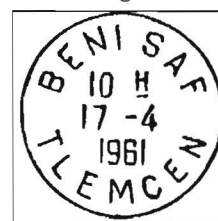


Figure 12. Beni-Saf, Tlemcen, 17-4-1961, Type R17 of Bosc (R9a of Lambert & Nilsestuen)

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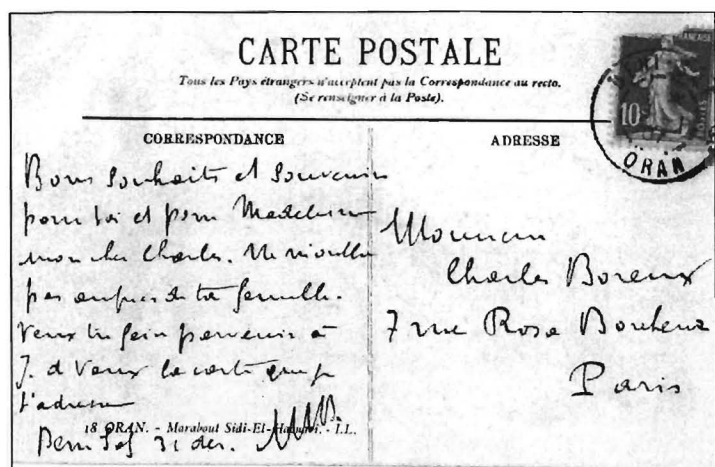


Figure 8. 2-1-1907, Type R6a (LHL coll.)

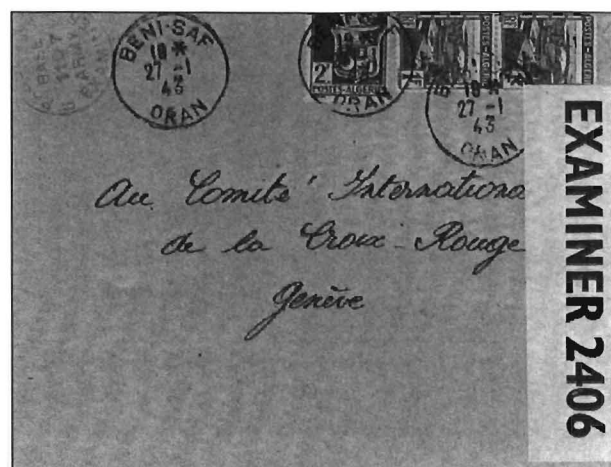


Figure 9. 27-1-1943, Type R9, with British censor tape, U.S. Army censor cachet at upper left and, on back, German censor's cachet (LHL coll.)

MADAGASCAR: SUSPENSION OF POSTAL SERVICES, 1939-1942

by Robert I Johnson (FCPS #2027)

Three covers are illustrated in this article and it is those covers that have prompted me to write these words as there are three different reasons for the suspension of postal services, all different, for the three covers.

A geographical and military background needs to be given first. Madagascar lies in the Indian Ocean to the east of the southeast coast of Africa. It came under French control in 1896, and was a French colony when our first cover was mailed in 1939. Its position was and is geographically important as it could, through its ports, and particularly the naval base at Diego Suarez [now Antseranana] at the northern tip of Madagascar, control important sea lanes between the northeast of Africa, the Persian Gulf, and India and beyond for ships transiting around the Cape of Good Hope.

When France surrendered to the Germans on the 22nd June 1940 and France was divided into Occupied and Non-Occupied France [Vichy France] Madagascar came under the control of Vichy authorities. The Vichy authorities also controlled Djibouti on the Somali Coast and the Comoro Islands. The Vichy government did not want these places to fall into the hands of de Gaulle's Free French, but it had a problem communicating with Madagascar. There were only a total of 16 flights to get mail and medical supplies into Djibouti during Vichy's tenuous hold in Africa. Some of these flights continued south to Madagascar with mail, mainly for French servicemen at the naval base at Diego Suarez and elsewhere on Madagascar.

However for the most part Madagascar was cut off from normal shipping and air communication; from 1940 to 1943 there was no airmail service to Madagascar from anywhere except the few flights from Vichy France via Djibouti.

In 1939 the following airlines operated mail services to Madagascar (Boyle, 1998): Regie Malgache between Madagascar and Mozambique from where

the Mozambique airline DETA connected with Broken Hill in Northern Rhodesia [and thus with Imperial Airways] from Beira. SABENA ran air services between Broken Hill and Elizabethville in the Belgian Congo; the French airline Air Afrique ran a service from France to Elizabethville which brought out and back Madagascar mails. Air Afrique also took out mails for French Equatorial Africa [for which Fort Lamy in Tchad was the important stop]. Air Afrique stopped operations after the June 1940 Armistice. Regie Malgache had the problem of lack of aircraft fuel and no spare parts for its aircraft.

The dangers that Madagascar posed to British forces became acute after the Japanese invasions in the Far East and Burma from December 1941. Put simply, the British [and the Americans] did not want Madagascar to be captured by the Japanese as it could then be used by both German and Japanese forces to interrupt vital lines of communication with the Middle East and India as well as South Africa. The question was, would the return to power of Laval in Vichy France mean that Madagascar would be handed over to the Axis powers? This was not a risk that could be taken.

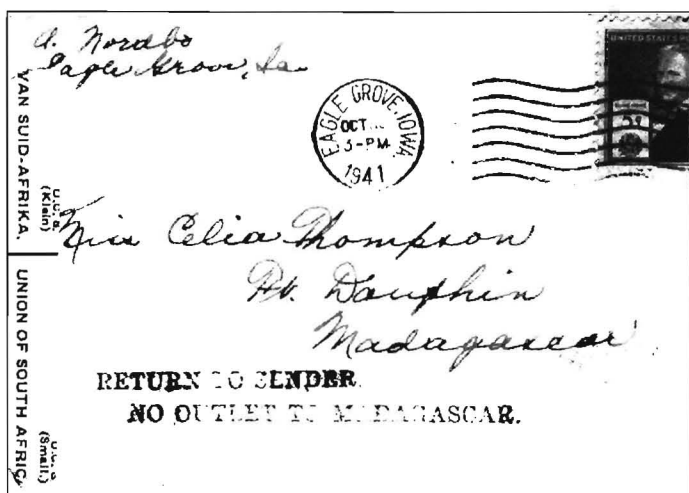
So a decision was made that the British should invade Madagascar. This happened on 5th May 1942 when British troops landed at Diego Suarez; the naval base there was captured on 7th May 1942. These events were followed by negotiations, with the Vichy French on Madagascar, to get Madagascar on the Allied side. The negotiations failed. The military campaign resumed fully in September 1942 with East African, South African and British troops landing at Majunga, Tamatave and Tulea. The capital Tananarive was captured on 23rd September 1942, and the Vichy government surrendered on 5th November 1942. The British had already occupied the Comoro Islands [Mayotte] on 2nd July 1942 reinforcing the ring of protective occupation for communication and defensive purposes.



Cover 1.



Cover 2.



Cover 3.

Madagascar was turned over to the control of the Free French on 8th January 1943 [Diego Suarez excepted] under an agreement made between the British and General de Gaulle in London on 14th December 1942. Some British forces were then released for service elsewhere though others remained until after the end of the war [until October 1945 following the Japanese surrender rather than the German surrender earlier in the year]. The British retained control of communications to and from Madagascar especially over censorship.

Once Diego Suarez and then all of Madagascar were in Allied hands it was possible to get a branch out of BOAC's Horseshoe air route from Cape Town to Cairo and beyond, to link with Diego Suarez via Lindi in Tanganyika and with the Comoro Islands. In late 1942, due to events elsewhere, it became possible to communicate with Madagascar by means of an air route from Syria via Cairo and places along and near the east coast of Africa [Damascus-Cairo-Wadi Halfa-Khartoum-Asmara-Djibouti-Mogadiscio-Nairobi and Lindi to Tananarive. Sea routes were also available as opportunity presented itself.

The three covers can now be discussed.

Cover 1 was posted 3rd October 1939 in Madagascar and was addressed to British India. It was sent surface registered AR. The route to India would have been either directly across the Indian Ocean or via East Africa and the Indian Ocean. The covers is marked 'Acheminement Suspendu/PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE' and bears four censor opening stamps [two on the back] and a censor resealing strip. A 'SAISI PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE' on the back has been deleted with ink lines. While the cds on the front of Morondava shows 3 Oct 1939, the transit cds of Tananarive on the back shows 7.11.39; there is also an Indian arrival mark for Jamnagar of 22nd January 1940.

The reason for the suspension would appear to be either economic or security, rather than communication difficulties, inasmuch as Madagascar at this time was on the Allied side. On the back is the 'Commission Centrale' administrative French handstamp for Madagascar and its dependencies.

Cover 2 posted 31st July 1942 in Vichy France and addressed to a Protestant Mission in Tananarive can be explained by the introductory text to this article: the British presence in Madagascar from May 1942 and the lack of means of communication with France.

Cover 3 was posted in the United States in October 1941 as a surface letter to a lady in Port Dauphin in Madagascar while the USA was still neutral. By the time this letter arrived in South Africa the USA probably had entered the war [in December 1941]. The fact that the letter did get to South Africa is evidenced by the censor resealing strip.

The handstruck mark 'RETURN TO SENDER / NO OUTLET TO MADAGASCAR' says it all: there was no way of getting this letter into a country run by the Vichy French when all communications by sea or air no longer existed.

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INTERVENTION IN ITALY The French Brigade at Ancona (1832-1839)

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

[This is a slightly longer and more fully illustrated version of the article bearing this same title that was published in "Postal History Journal" N° 131, June 2005. The inclusion of pertinent postal and other markings adds more "color" to the article.]

Historical Background

In the wake of the European revolutionary movements of 1830, an insurrection in the Marches of east-central Italy occupied Ancona (Figure 1) in

sisted of a naval squadron and of some 1500 men of the 66th Line Regiment, led by Col. Combes. Overall command was entrusted to the squadron's commander, *Capitaine de Vaisseau* Gallois. The expedition left Toulon 7 February 1832, sailed via the Strait of Messina, and hove to in front of Ancona 22 February.

A skillful landing was accomplished that night without a shot being fired by the French, the Austrians or the civil guard, and the Citadel and other strong points were taken during the night. The local populace lionized the French from the following evening, with a special function for them at the opera house, while an uneasy armed truce ensued. The expedition having somewhat exceeded its instructions--by taking down the Papal flag, by engaging in liaisons with the local ladies, and by interfering in the delicate local political situation--its leaders were recalled in March as a sop to Austria. Gallois, promoted to Rear Admiral and sent to Algeria, was replaced by *Capitaine de Vaisseau* Baron de la Susse. Combes was also sent to Algeria, where he was killed in the assault on Constantine; he had been replaced by Gen. de Cubières (Figure 2).

The French occupation became "legalized and authorized" in mid-April 1832 upon French acceptance of political restrictions. The troops, now consisting of a little over 2000 officers and men of or supporting the 66th Regiment, were placed under the nominal command of the French consul. They could not leave the confines of their fortified compounds for the joys of the town, nor build new fortifications, nor receive

reinforcements. This situations continued with little change until 1839, when the Austrians and French left the Marches. French troops finally left Ancona 25 October 1839.

Postal Service and Postal Markings

Henri Dupont¹ divides the French occupation into several periods, and I shall follow them here to a large extent.

During the first (February/March 1832 - January 1833) the brigade's mail lacked postal markings.

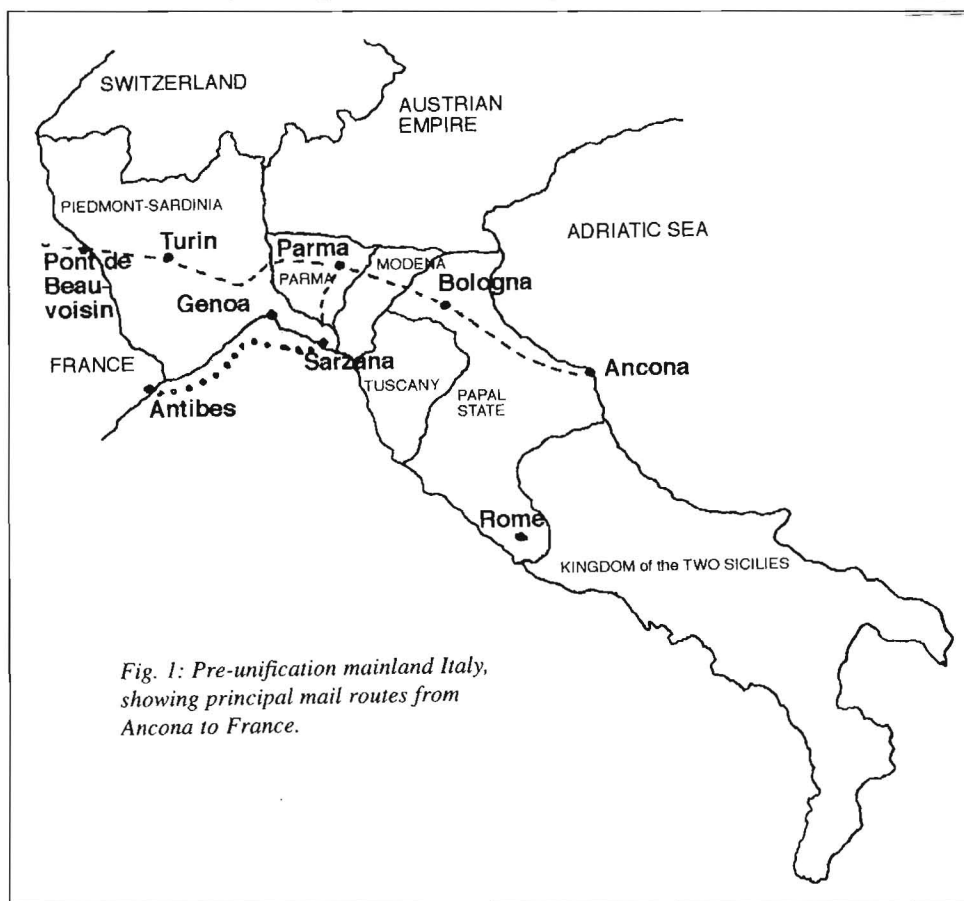


Fig. 1: Pre-unification mainland Italy, showing principal mail routes from Ancona to France.

Figure 1. Pre-unification mainland Italy, showing principal mail routes from Ancona to France.

February 1831 and held it briefly as the capital of a provisional government. Austrian troops, sent to restore order, captured Ancona 28-29 February 1831, then left in August at the request of Pope Gregory XVI. A struggle for power between the local civil guard and Swiss papal troops resulted (January 1832) in a second Austrian occupation.

The French government and Casimir Périer in particular, anxious to counterbalance this Austrian influence, organized a token force to control Ancona "in the name of the Pope." The expedition, variously labeled a Brigade and an Expeditionary Corps, con-

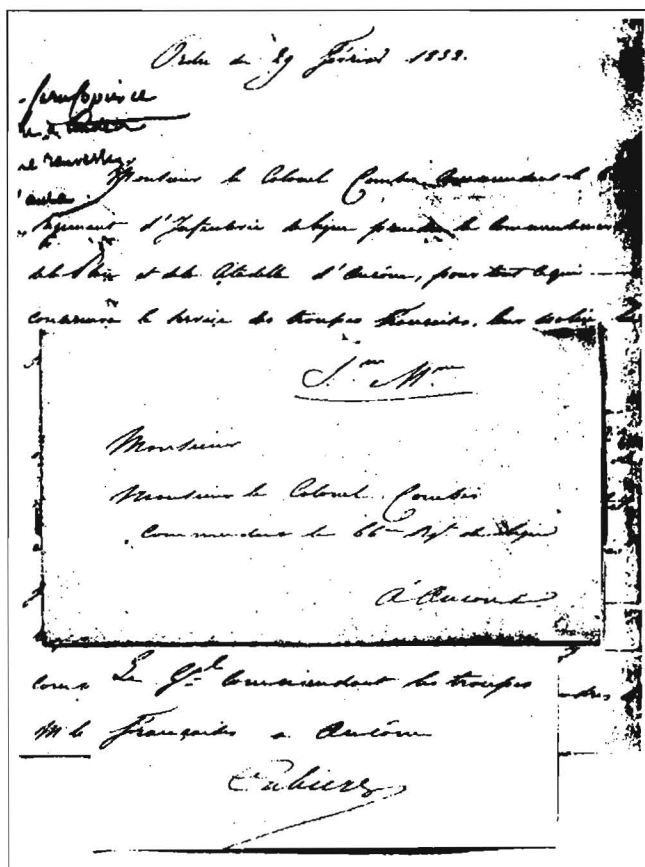


Figure 2. 29 February 1832 Order of the Day naming the commander of the 66th Regiment, Col. Combes, commandant of the town and citadel of Ancona; signed by Gen. Cubières and sent to Combes under military franchise [reduced to 50%].



Figure 3.

Transit and arrival markings in France included those from Antibes (Figure 3), for travel entirely by sea to France's southeasternmost Mediterranean coast, or across several Italian States

along the Adriatic coastal route to Parma and then Genoa, and Pont-de-Beauvoisin (Figure 4), for transit by sea and then by the Torino-Lyon postal route through the French alpine region (Figure 1). Mail from France to the brigade carried the same transit markings and, at times, Italian arrival markings. Due to an outbreak of cholera in southern France during the latter part of 1832, some of the French mail shows disinfection slits and the Figure 5 marking.



Figure 5.



Figure 4.



Figures 6. Arrival 1833-period date stamp at Ancona. (For lack of an actual example, I show a very similar, slightly smaller one that was used in France).

This date stamp is usually struck on the front of letters, more rarely on the back as an arrival marking. It was considered to be rather scarce until a collection of 27 letters from Ancona (and 25 more to Ancona) was sold as a single lot in 2004⁴. Included in the lot were no less than six Bologna purification ovals (Figure 5); also the French Consular marking, which will be discussed further on.

Dupont's fourth period runs from May 1834 to December 1836, but is distinguished mainly by the brigade's date stamp being in vermilion rather than carmine-red. During part of 1835, several other Italian markings appeared on covers, either as transit or arrival cachets, including those shown in Figure 9.

Dupont's fifth and final period covers the January 1837 - November 1838 interval. Ink colors now tend

The Pontifical posts took charge of the inland-transit mail, at great cost to recipients, until May 1832 (such mail is, perforce, very rare), when the French obtained more reasonable postal rates² through an essentially closed-mail system whereby the several Italian States no longer grabbed a share of the fees. Once this scheme was agreed upon by the parties involved, only the French domestic-letter rate (1 January 1828 Tariff in force) had to be paid.

Dupont's second period runs from January to December 1833. During this time an arrival date stamp (Figure 6), 24 mm in diameter and in various shades of red, was struck on the back of letters to the brigade.

Dupont's third period begins in December 1833, when a Type 13, c.30 mm diameter Brigade date stamp, in varying shades of red, first appeared on 8 December 1833³ (Figures 7 and 8).



Figure 7.

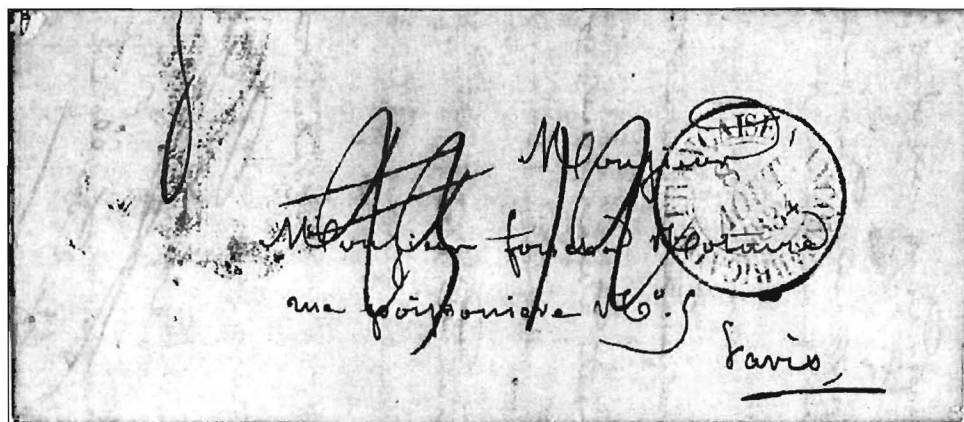


Figure 8. BRIGADE FRANÇAISE À ANCONA, 8 August 1834, to Paris. Taxed 23 décimes as 2x (8 gm) letter; tax changed to 12 décimes for the 500-600 km distance from the Italian border. 18 August arrival backstamp.

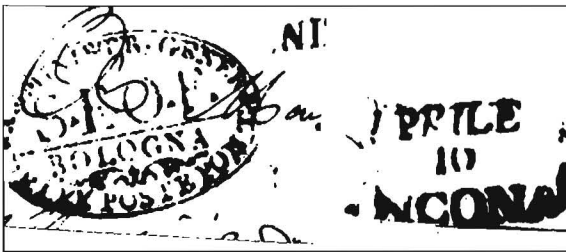


Figure 9. Italian transit and arrival cachets applied on the brigade's mail (from Foster, 1977).

to shades of salmon, ochre, grayish yellow and even brown, though this last and some others may have been caused by later oxidation. There is a return to salmon and vermillion late in 1838. No 1839 date stamps are recorded.

Ohnmeiss discerns two variants of the brigade's date stamp, with the second appearing in 1837-1838, but they are far too minor to be discussed here, and are being mentioned solely for the record.

Mainly from 1835-on Italians, who had befriended French troops who had since returned home, could write to them at a reduced rate (the military concessionary one?) by depositing their mail at the French Consulate in Ancona, where it received the very attractive 29 mm consular marking shown (much reduced) in Figure 10. Finally (Figure 11), we show



Figure 10.

an attractive administrative cachet used by the Brigade's commandant that may on occasion have also seen postal service.

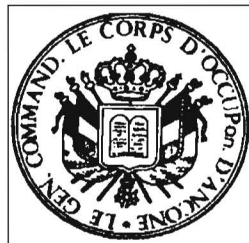


Figure 11. Commandant's administrative cachet (from Foster, 1977).

References

- ¹Henri, C. Dupont, "Les deux marques postales de la Brigade Française à Ancone (1835-1838)"; *L'Echangiste Universel* Nos. 794-95, July-August 1966.
- ²Edoardo P. Ohnmeiss, "La Brigade Française d'Ancone"; *Documents Philatéliques* N° 142, 1994.
- ³Plastiras Foster, "La Brigade Française d'Ancone"; *Les Feuilles Marcophiles* N° 209, 1977. Foster and Ohnmeiss agree on this earliest known date, and I have seen no earlier usage.
- ⁴Lahitte & Marsanoux 2004 auction sale, lot 1549.

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

The "surprise" full-size *FCP* is now a reality, thanks to President Dave Herendeen's persistence in the face of a certain reluctance on my part to stick with the *status quo*. We intend to improve its appearance as we go along, and we would appreciate your suggestions. Sorry, we can't afford the use of color, at least for the foreseeable future.

We have now totally eliminated publishing members' addresses for security and privacy reasons. Any member wishing to contact another member should do so via our Corresponding Secretary, to whom a stamped self-addressed envelope should be included as a courtesy.

Philatelic Literature Review, v. 54, No. 4 (2005) includes Part 4 of the "Index of Literature in the English Language that describes Postage Stamp Forgeries, Fakes, Reprints, Fraudulent Postal Markings and Other Obliterations," prepared by T. M. Tedesco. Twelve pages are devoted to France, Alsace-Lorraine, and a hefty portion of the Offices Abroad. Definitely more detailed and exhaustive, albeit hardly complete (nor as up-to-date as) than my recent two-part of last year. I can furnish copies of the 12 pages for a dollar bill and an address label, plus 87 cents in US postage stamps.

Another gentle reminder. Letters to the Editor should naturally be sent to the Editor. This also applies to Members Appeals, Questions and Answers, Reviews, and anything else designed to appear in our Journal (other than the FCPS official pages). If sent to anyone else (Corresponding Secretary, President, etc.) there could be some delay in timely publication. Thanks for listening!

Members who will be visiting Washington 2006 should take the time to see some or all the France and Colonies exhibits and admire them and perhaps learn from them. As I approach the publication deadline for this last pre-Washington 2006 issue, I only have the names of the exhibits (and exhibitors) coming from France (courtesy of Robert Abensur) and the U.S. (courtesy of Lew Bussey). Here they are:

(J. Blanc): Les relations postales internationales avec la France 1840-1900;

(J. Bohn): Accountancy markings associated with the 1857 Franco/British Convention;

(L. Bussey): French Naval Mail to the US 1944-1945;

(F. Carcenac): Autour de septembre 1871;

(G. Collot): Ligne Mermoz;

(J. Denys): Bayeux Tapestry;

(G. Duteau): Les relations postales franco-chilliennes des origines à 1883;

(L. Gardner): Morocco Foreign POs and Agencies;

(E. Grabowski): Guadelope postal history [Championship Class];

(D. Herendeen): The Duval Type Postage Stamps...;

(F. Iglesias): British and French POs in Cuba;

(J.-C. Lettré): Transmission du courrier durant la guerre franco-prussienne 1870-1871;

(C. Maréchal): D'Obock à Djibouti-histoire postale de la Côte de Somalis;

(F. Morin): La Liberté de Gandon 1982-1900 [Youth];

(N. Posteraro): Principauté de Monaco 1704-1900;

(J. Sauvegrain): Les Etoiles de Paris [Youth];

(M. Scott): Tahiti and French Polynesia;

(J. Ward): French Guiana and Inini.

SOME SHOW REPORTS

(Continued from N° 284, January 2006, p. 17)

- Brno 2005 (Czech Republic), May 2005): Silver medal to "Czechout," Colin Spong, editor.
- MARCOPHILEX XXIX (Villeneuve-sur-Lot, France, September): non-competitive postal history exhibits, including Robert Abensur's "Lettres pesantes du 18e Siècle" and Peter Kelly's "Le type Sage dans le Levant."
- Filatelic Fiesta 2005 (San Jose, CA, September-October): Gold medal to Roger Quinby for one of his Finland exhibits; Vermeil medal to Steve Washburne for one of his Madeira exhibits.
- 7th National Philatelic Literature Exhibition (Toronto, October): Vermeil medal to "The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society (Maurice Tyler, editor); Silver medals to Chuck LaBlonde for "World War II Mail from Switzerland..." and (with R. M. Startup) "The Postal History of World War II Mail between New Zealand and Switzerland"; Silver-Bronze medals to Jerry Massler for "Vignettes de Monaco" and to the "St. Pierre & Miquelon Philatelic Journal" (Jim Taylor, editor).
- CHICAGOPEX '05 (Arlington Heights, IL, November): Gold medal to Eliot Landau for one of his many Lincoln exhibits; Vermeil medal to Paul Larsen for a Barbados exhibit; single-frame Gold medal to Cheryl Ganz for a US 50¢ Zeppelin study; single-frame Vermeil medal to Eliot Landau for another Lincoln exhibit; Silver medal for Literature to Dudley Cobb for "Cameroun in the Great War, vol. 1).

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

- *Catalogue Yvert & Tellier 2006, tome 2, 1ere partie: Timbres des Colonies Françaises*; 576 pp. in color, 21 x 15 cm; 29€ (+postage and handling); Yvert & Tellier, 2 rue de l'Etoile, F-80094 Amiens cedex 03, France, or your usual sources.
- *Catalogue Dallay, tome II: Andorre, Monaco, TAAF, Europa (2005-2006)*; 528 pp., 28 x 15 cm; 18,90€ (+postage and handling); also *Timbres de l'ex-empire français d'Afrique*; 832 pp., 28-15 cm; 34,90€ (+ postage and handling); from usual sources [the Dallay firm did not reply to my direct order].
- *Cours des carnets 2006*; 75 pp., 30x21 cm; price not communicated, inquire of M. Gomez, 13 rue Hardy, F-78000 Versailles, France. (The ACEP priced catalog of French and Colonial booklets and pubs).
- *Catalogue spécialisé des timbres pour colis postaux d'Algérie*. By Jacques Dudoy; 52 pp.; 33€ postpaid (to anywhere?); from Jean-Pierre Lamarre, 29 rue Jacques-Louis-Bernier, F-92700 Colombes, France. (Priced specialised catalog of Algerian parcel post stamps, published by the Phil-EA society).
- *La cote coins datés et des millésimes, 2006*; 69th ed.; 121 pp., 20.5 x 14 cm, black-and-white illustrations; 10€ postpaid (to anywhere?); inquire of SO CO CO DA MI, through Jean-Claude Gagné, 18 rue Danielle-Casanova, F-77330, Ozoir-la-Ferrière, France. (The standard annual priced catalogue).
- *Les plus belles gares de France*, by Jerome Cammard and Philip Gould; 191 pp.; 40€ (probably + postage); published by Editions La Vie du Rail—can someone please send us a contact name and address? (Profusely illustrated book showing the best of old, and not quite old, French railway stations in their glory days, including postcards of the periods. Non-philatelic, but should please collectors of gares cancels).
- *La Poste en Moselle 1940-1945, tome 2*; 204 pp. in color and black-and-white; 45€ (+5€ postage and handling), from André Lader, 52 rue de Monsviller, F-67700 Saverne, France. (Covers Lothringen-overprinted stamps and stationery, postal rates, railway mail markings, franchise markings, the German mail service, machine cancels, Metz 3 pre-cancels, censorship, US APOs, and Liberation markings).
- *Histoire de la Poste dans le Morbihan*, by R. Bouvier and others; c.400 pp., 23.5 x 17 cm; 35€ (+ 5€ postage, perhaps more beyond France?), from Liv'Editions, 20 rue de Portz-en-Haie, F-56320 Le

Faouët, France. (Detailed study of the postal history and postage markings of this department, from origins to the end of the 20th Century).

- *Chronique du Timbre-poste français*; published by Editione Chronique; 240 pp., 30x23 cm; 29€ (+ postage?), from the Service Philatélique de La Poste, 28 rue de la Redoute, F-92266 Fontenay aux Roses cedex, France. (Detailed, well-illustrated historical chronicle of the French postage stamps, 1849-2005; presumably doesn't go into the details of types and varieties expected from commercial catalogs).

MEMBERS' APPEALS

FOUND: Stock card with France semi-moderns (period between the World Wars), mostly mint, high catalog values. If these are yours, provide a detailed description of the material to Tom Broadhead, tomwb50@aol.com (Mb. #2830).

WANTED: For potential article in the Journal, photocopied pages of article on Colonial collared date stamps by J. C. Dubois in Bull. COL.FRA No. 19; will gladly defray copying costs and postage. Stanley J. Luft, 16291 West 56th Place, Golden, CO 80403, USA; fcpsed@att.net (Mb. #915).

WANTED: Contact information on who in France takes care of orders for new issues of the Overseas Territories, now that apparently the Service Philatélique de La Poste no longer does. Please advise S. J. Luft (see above).

WANTED: Old copy of any of the standard catalogues of France; particularly if you are replacing yours with a new one. My interests stops at around 1980, so your discard needn't be all that new. Will offer to repay book post and any mutually satisfactory cost. Please contact Jim Toledano, 974 Modjeska Circle, Costa Mesa, CA 92627-3909; JToledano@aol.com (Mb. #3349).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- The Salon du Timbre is now the Salon du Timbre et de l'Écrit. But it is still scheduled for 17-26 June 2006 at the Parc Floral de Paris (Metro: Château de Vincennes), with a theme much expanded beyond "mere" philately and an emphasis on attracting young collectors.
- It's now official. In a letter of 6 September 2005 to a Rhône deputy, the Minister in charge of the French posts, M. François Loos, stated that there will be **no demonetization** of postage stamps, whether in old francs or new francs or euros. (Of course, this does not apply to the already demonetized stamps of yesterday).
- French revenue stamps (*fiscals*) will no longer be printed and used. Instead payments will be made via credit card and receipts will be printed electronically. So ends another vast collecting interest...
- The service of communal postal agencies, serving rural France, will be inaugurated this year. These part-time agencies, open only during certain days and hours, are designed to handle most ordinary postal functions and will be located in town halls (*mairies*).
- The very interesting and useful web site of association of collectors of booklets and *pubs* is: www.accp-assoc.com.
- It is with the utmost and profound regret that we report on the passing, in September 2005, of Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith (Member #2618), late of Surrey, England. A number of our members, including your Editor, had the pleasure of meeting this most jovial postal historian at PACIFIC 97 (see p. 118 of the October 1997 and pp. 14-15 of the January 1998 *FCP*). His major fields of interest lay in French maritime mail, especially to and from the Far East, for which he received major international awards.
- The 2005 Grand Prix for Philatelic Art were awarded to, for France, the 0,53€ Nancy panorama (Figure 1) issued in May 2005 and, for the DOM-TOMs, the TAAF's 4,50€ centennial of the return of the *Français*, issued in March 2005.

- As reported in the *American Philatelist* of December 2005, Julian H. Braun, of Chicago and later Morton Grove, IL, died, apparently in 2005. He had suffered for many years from a degenerative disease. I don't recall if he ever was a member of our Society, but this former new-issues dealer supplied your Editor, and surely many others, with French new issues at very reasonable prices.
- Cezanne's 0,85 "Card Players" of 1961 (Scott 1016, Yvert 1321) was printed in six colors and issued in panes of ten stamps. But an earlier attempt had been made to print it more cheaply and in greater quantity as panes of 25 monochrome stamps. Serious perforation problems were encountered, the trial was abandoned, and the few sheets prepared were sent to be destroyed, after being cancelled with concentric hexagons. At least one such sheet has come into collectors' hands. (Information from *Timbres magazine* of December 2005).
- To meet the increased postage rates that resulted from the 20 June 2005 change in international mail zones from four to just three, New Caledonia overprinted several of its current 100F stamps with "+10F" (Figure 2). The letter rate, to 20 gm, to Zone 2 (France, Europe, the DOMs and those TOMs outside of the Pacific) has gone up to 110F, hence the pressing need for overprinting stamps.
- Effective 1 January 2006, reservations from La Poste for French new issues have become highly formalized and restrictive. One can choose one, two or all three "collections": 1. Collection "Timbres de France" = all stamps, sheetlets and booklets, packed in a plastic pochette; 2. Collection "Carnets Marianne" = all booklets of definitive stamps; 3. Collection "Carnets de beaux timbres" = all booklets of "attractive stamps" (meaning non-definitives). The collections would be shipped on a quarterly basis. PROBLEMS: there is no way to order specialist material, such as *coin daté* blocks, full sheets, coil strips, postal stationery, etc. (though one can still try



Figure 2.



Figure 3.



Figure 1.

one's friendly neighborhood postal clerk---if you live in France). Nor can one order in bulk for one's stamp club or for resale.

- La Poste has once again changed its logo. The latest version (Figure 3) is more streamlined, resumable to show it really means business.

- Another type of French date stamp, this one rectangular in form (Figure 4), appeared mid-December

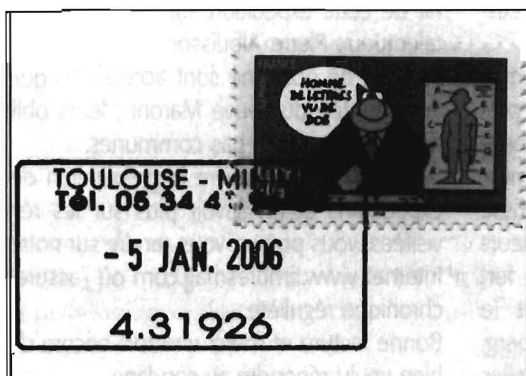


Figure 4.

2005 and perhaps earlier. The depicted 5 Jan. 2006 example is from the Toulouse-Minimes branch post office and includes their phone number and a numerical code.

- The annual MARCOPHILEX, a non-competitive first-rate showing of postal history and marcophily, will be held 30 September-1 October 2006 in Villebon-sur Yvette (Essones Dept., south of Paris). The Académie de Philatélie will again hold an open to the public meeting on the 30th.

- The Académie de Philatélie plans to celebrate its 80th anniversary in 2008 with an exposition by its members at some as yet undetermined hall in Paris.
- The cancel shown on our front-page cover was applied by an ink-jet Neopost I J 85 machine. This machine was first tested at Rennes in February 2004. It was approved by La Poste in late November 2005 for installation at the principal *centres de tri*. Unfortunately, these machines are not equipped to print illustrated slogans (*flammes*) at present time.
- Here (Figure 5) is yet another recent machine-cancel essay, this one from Nantes, via an ink-jet Toshiba apparatus.

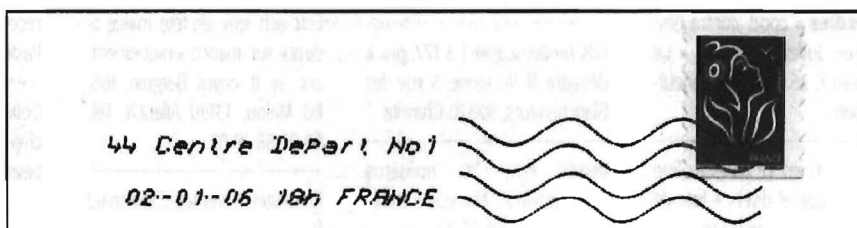


Figure 5.

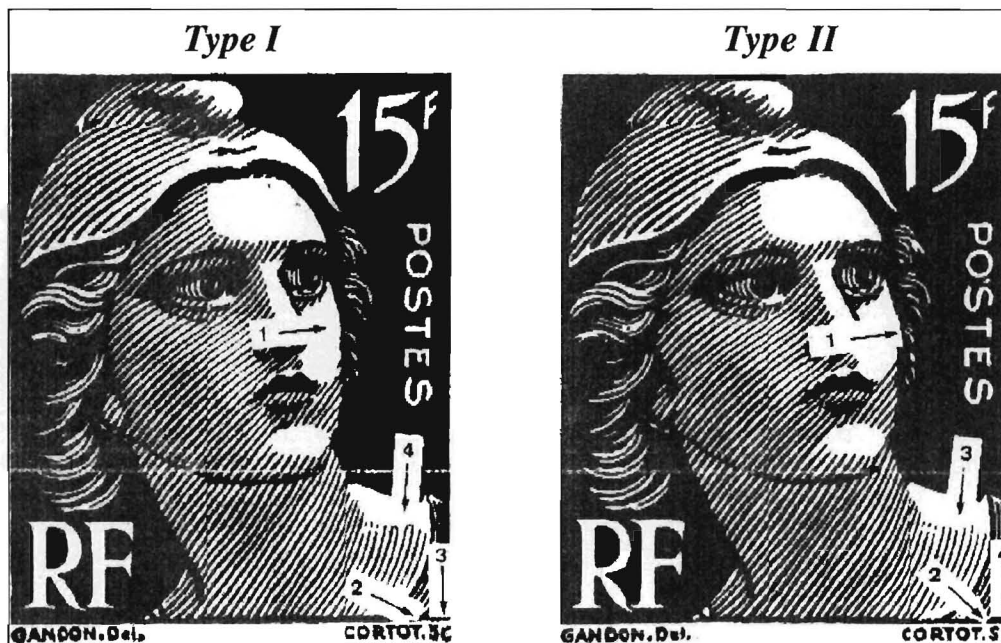
TYPES AND SUBTYPES

15F Marianne de Gandon

Type I: (All rose-lilac, carmine-rose and ultramarine sheet stamps; rose-carmine precancelled sheet stamps; and ultramarine stamps in booklets without mention "Vente au..." in central gutter): (1) just one single hair to left of "T" of POSTES; (2) "S" of CORTOT.Sc deformed, looks like a "5"; (3) final "c" of signature lies to left of a downward extension of right frame line; (4) two adjoining sets of shading lines of shoulder are joined at top.

Type II: (Rose-carmine and ultramarine stamps in booklets with, and also without, "Vente au..."): (1) three hairs to left of "T" of POSTES; (2) "S" of CORTOT.Sc normal; (3) final "c" as per Type I; (4) shading lines of shoulder not joined at top.

Type III: (Specific for ultramarine coil stamps): as per Type II, except that final "c" of CORTOT.Sc extends slightly beyond right frame line; and of course, machine-cut vertical perforations.



Illustrations reduced from Pierre Marion, "Le Dictionnaire des Types"

EARLY MANIFESTATIONS OF THE RURAL POST IN FRANCE

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

It is reasonably well known to collectors of French postal history that the Rural Post (*poste rurale*) was organized on 1 April 1830. This offered the then large-rural population of France the opportunity to send

Finding that some postal directors were unable to hire suitable personnel as carriers, the Committee of Public Safety on 3 Thermidor (21 July 1794) authorized them to requisition people in order to assure the

timely distribution of official and legal papers (Figure 2).

Under the Directory, functionaries were named, by decree of 4 Nivose, Year 5 (24 December 1796), to call on a regular basis (thrice every ten days) at the nearest postal facility and handle official mail to and from justices of the peace and other distantly located officials. Minor modifications to these statutes followed in ensuing years. Little thought continued to be given to commercial and personal (as opposed to official) mail to and from outlying villages, hamlets and farms until, finally, the 1 April 1830 creation of the Rural Post.

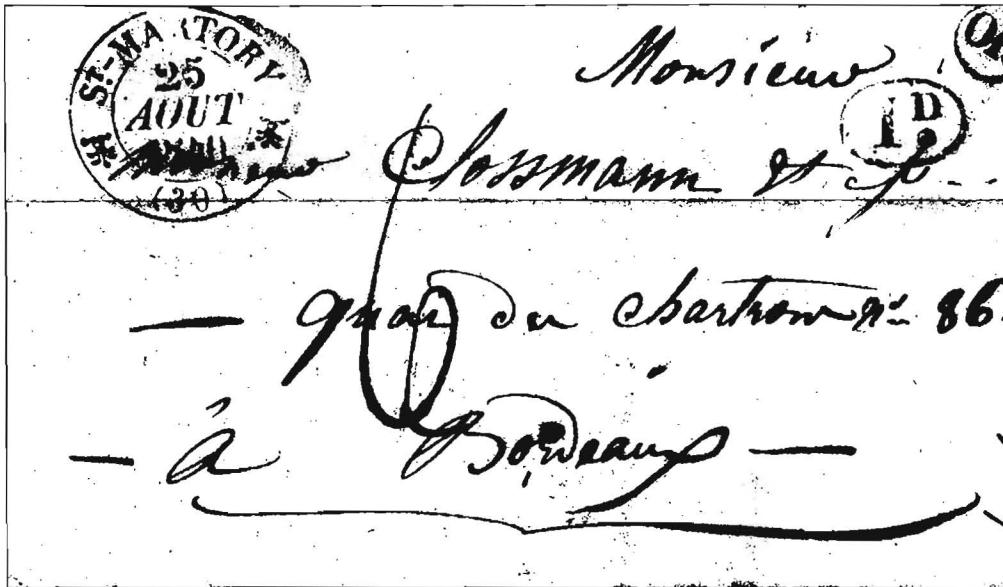


Figure 1. from hamlet of Auzas (Haute-Garonne) to Bordeaux, with orange-red OR in circle (rural origin) and 1d. in oval (the rural *décime*); via rural carrier to St.-Martory post office, where posted 25 August 1840.

and receive mail [albeit with a surtax of 1 *décime*, equal to 10 *centimes* (the *décime rurale*) (Figure 1)] without the inconvenience of making a long trip to the nearest post office.

But, what did those rural folk do before April 1830? Guy Prugnon, writing in the February 2004 *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, recounts that earlier history in a brief article that I'm abstracting here.

Oftentimes they simply failed to collect their mail before it had to be conveyed to the dead-letter office. Inasmuch as most of the mail of the times was sent unpaid, the Administration perforce was unable to collect postage (and, of course, revenue) from such addresses.

Beginning on 25 October 1792, postal directors were urged to have certain of their employees attend market days in an attempt to deliver and accept otherwise dormant mail, the opportunity to do so being clearly evident. [Even today, the population of small towns in Europe swells tremendously during their specified market days -- and I've made the mistake of attempting to drive through on at least one occasion - - Editor]. On 14 June 1794 (16 Prairial, Year 2) the Committee of Public Safety authorized the Posts to order postal directors to recruit reasonably literate mail carriers to deliver not only regular mail but also official notices. Due to a shortage of males (military duty, etc.) they were soon after (29 June) authorized to hire *citoyennes* [an early example of equal opportunity]. Also, mounted couriers, if distances to be covered were too great for normal foot travel.

EXTRAIT DU REGISTRE DES ARRÊTÉS DU COMITÉ DE SALUT PUBLIC DE LA CONVENTION NATIONALE,

*Du 3.^e jour du mois de Thermidor, l'an 2.^e de la République
Française, une et indivisible.*

Le COMITÉ DE SALUT PUBLIC arrête, que les Municipalités des chefs-lieux de canton, et celles dans l'arrondissement desquelles se trouvent situés des bureaux de la Poste aux lettres, auront, au besoin, le droit de réquisition pour assurer le service de l'Envoi du Bulletin des Lois dans toutes les Communes de la République.

Signé au registre, B. BARÈRE, COLLOT-D'HERBOIS, BILAUD-VARENNE, CARNOT, COUTHON, SAINT-JUST, ROBESPIERRE, C. A. PRIEUR, et LINDET.

Pour Extraît: Signé B. BARÈRE, SAINT-JUST, R. LINDET.

Pour Copie conforme, Signé HERMANN.

Pour Copie.

Figure 2.

INDO-CHINA: THE PETAIN FORGERIES

*[This a condensation, focusing on the characteristics of these **postal** forgeries, of an article by Ron Bentley and Jack Dykhouse (both incidentally FCPS members) in "The Indo-China Philatelist," N° 170, November 2005, published here for the benefit of our readers, with the kind permission of the authors and of editor Ron Bentley].*

The 1943 and 1944 postal forgeries, made to defraud the Indochinese postal system, of the 6c, 10c and 40c Petain stamps appear to be quite rare *[as are most postal forgeries--Editor]*. Desrousseaux had estimated about twelve 6c and about 25 each of the higher values still existed *[when he wrote about them in the 1970s]*. Most of the distinguishing characteristics, described by Bentley and Dykhouse, may be difficult to see, even under magnification, but they certainly are worth checking for.



Figure 4. Forgeries of 10 and 40-cent Petain stamps.

Characteristics of the 6c counterfeit

(Figure 1):

1. Known only used;
2. INDOCHINE not as sharp as on the genuine; "E" not uniformly shaped;
3. Second "S" of POSTES slightly smaller than other letters (Figure 2);



Figure 1. Forgery of 6-cent Petain stamp.

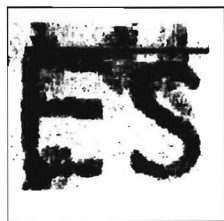


Figure 2. "ES" of "POSTES."

4. Designs of left and right panels differ "greatly" from the genuine;

5. Designed name CHUOC at base of left panel looks more like RUUOC;



Figure 3. "PE" of "PHILIPPE."

6. "E" of PHILIPPE shorter than the other letters in name (Figure 3).

Characteristics of the 10c and 40c counterfeits

(Figure 4):

1. The 10c stamp is grayish green, not green;
2. Latticework of left panel does not touch the value (10c, 40c) tablet, as it does in the genuine;
3. "E" of PHILIPPE slightly smaller and placed higher than the other letters;
4. Of the three white vertical bars in Petain's kepi, middle one is thinner and shorter; they are more uniform in the genuine;
5. Second "S" of POSTES is rotated very slightly clockwise;
6. No period after the IDEO at base of left panel.

ARMÉES ALLIÉES EN ORIENT / POSTE AÉRIENNE

[The sources for this note on distinguishing the genuine markings are the outstanding articles by Gabriel Sassower, published in the *London Philatelist* (see Bibliography). Permission to use the information therein has been granted by the author and by the journal's editor].



Figure 1.

The reasonably well-known, post-World War I rectangular boxed markings of the French Armée of the Orient's air service are rather expensive and have been extensively forged. The service existed for only somewhat a little over three months, thus allowing for "posthumous" favor use of the devices. It's highly probable that there are as many forgeries and "after-the-fact" cancels as there are genuine, "on time" ones.

The absolute time limits for this biweekly military air service would appear to have been, at least from known genuine covers, from 7 July 1919 to perhaps as late as 30 October 1919. At present, genuine usage is known only from 7 July to 16 October, with a few biweekly dates still unrecorded. The mail was flown from Constantinople to Bucharest (and usually beyond) in order to bypass war-damaged land routes within the Balkans. All genuine mail bears the date stamp TRESOR ET POSTES *506* of the then French military-postal service at Constantinople; (502, of the general headquarters there, is also possible) (Sinais, 1987).

So the first test of a cover is to see if it bears the T & P 506 (or 502) date stamp struck within the known timeframe.

Other than official correspondence sent gratis, civilian mail paid a 1F surtax, in addition to the standard French domestic (to France) and international rates current at the time. As there was an upper weight limit of 50 gm, double-weight (and more) charges are known, as well as registry and other possible fees. Interested readers should best consult the available sources of information on postal rates. Of course, philatelic and even fantastic franking does exist, even on genuine covers.

Two devices were in use. A metallic one that generally left fine impressions always struck in black, and would have been difficult to forge, though it is known used on favor covers. And a far more common rubber-stamp one that generally left coarse and oftentimes uneven impressions (Figure 1, illustrating a forgery), and has been extensively forged. Black is the usual color, though shades of the "standard" purple French administrative ink are known. Most catalog and handbook illustrations are of forgeries purporting to be the genuine article.

Sassower (2005, p. 309) describes one such forgery, as follows:

- "POSTE AERIENNE: length 50.0 mm (genuine 51.5 mm)
- "POSTE: Loop in P short; O small: S open
- "AERIENNE Last E small; length 28 mm (genuine 30 mm)"

and another as (2000, p. 134):

- "ARMÉES: Accent on first E close/touching frame at top; S small
- "ALLIÉES: First leg of A projects downward; ES touching; S large
- "EN: Second vertical line of N projects downward
- "ORIENT: O assymetrical, opening narrow; I thin; leg of N thin
- "POSTE: S tilts to right; T with cedilla; E small
- "AÉRIENNE: Distance between A and E; left leg of R short; R and I joined at foot"

It should be added that accent marks tend to be weak or missing in many forged markings. Interested readers should peruse Sassower's two articles, as well as those listed in his References.

Selected Bibliography

Sassower, G., "Allied Armies in the East — French Military Air Service — Constantinople-Bucharest"; *The London Philatelist*, v. 109, pp. 122-134, May 2000; v. 114, pp. 301-310, October 2005.

Sinais, B., *Catalogue des Oblitérations Militaires Françaises 1900-1985*, 1987, pp. 101 and 106.

REVIEW

Harlan W. Miller - Philatelic Printer, by Harlan L. Miller (2005); ii + 107 pp., 8½ x 11", printed on one side only, card covers, comb bound, color and black-and-white illustrations; published by the author at 3502 Firefly Court, Lawrence, KS 66049, e-mail: harlanmiller@sbcglobal.net; \$45 postpaid, but currently out of print; inquire of author as to future availability.

Harlan W. Miller (1914-1989) printed our *France & Colonies Philatelist* from the September 1964 issue (and possibly earlier?) through the October 1987 issue [in other words, all the 6x9" issues] when he retired mainly because of a lack of available parts for his trusty old linotype machine. His was a family printing business and he set all the type in those issues of our Journal entirely by hand.

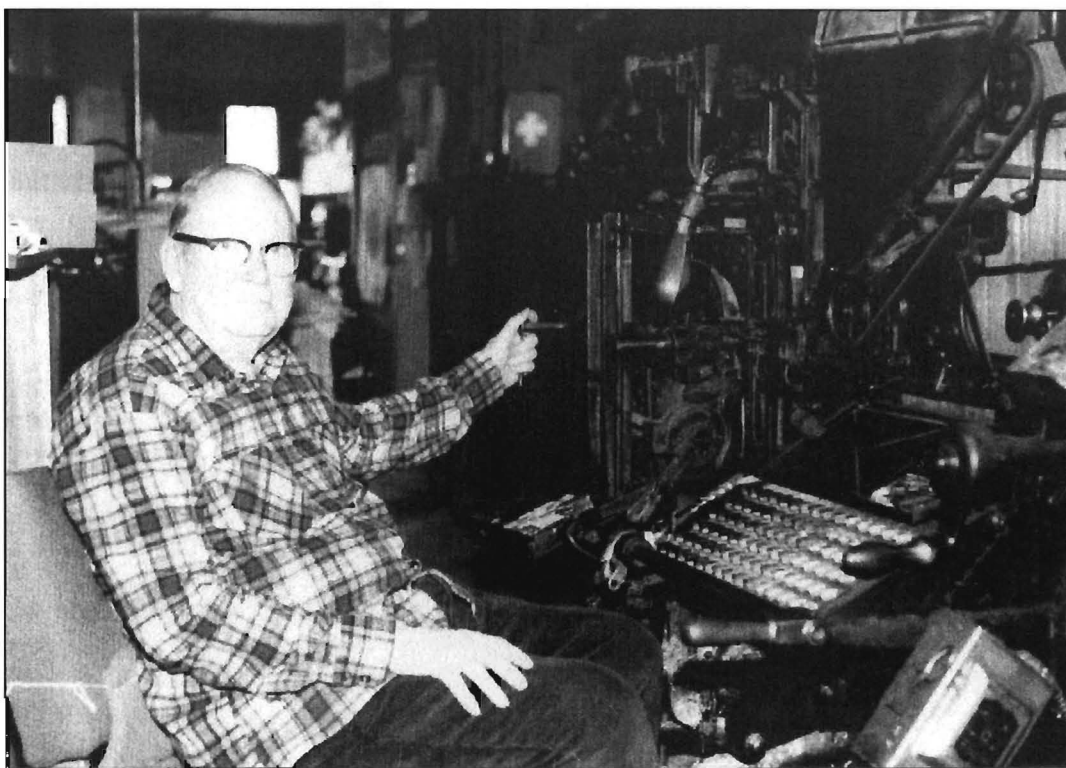
This book is a lively, loving, humorous and touching tribute from a son to his father, who was a man they don't seem to make anymore (nor his linotype equipment). It includes numerous remembrances and anecdotes by both father and son on how people lived and worked (very hard!) in the "good old days" that spanned much of the 20th Century, in the small towns of the Midwest.

Mr. Miller didn't just print our Journal (and we aren't even mentioned until page 87), but also dozens of other journals, philatelic and otherwise, as well as local newspapers, fliers and waybills. For several years, beginning in 1931, he produced U.S. cacheted first-day covers and special-event covers. He was responsible for some time for the Lawrence Kan, precancel overprints. And he also dealt in stamp packets and other collectibles.

I had the rare privilege of meeting Mr. Miller and his wife (and co-worker) Frances at their print shop, located at 821 Vermont Street, Lawrence Kansas, in the mid-1980s, while on my way to or from a mid-western stamp show. There I received the royal tour of the plant, its equipment, and its memorabilia. It is sad to relate that the building and its contents were destroyed by fire in December 1990, for they were worthy of being turned into a museum. Mr. Miller had died on March 29, 1989, fortuitously perhaps in not having to witness the fire that destroyed his pride and joy.

This is not a philatelic book. But it should interest those of us who knew Mr. Miller or simply appreciated his many years of setting type for us, or perhaps even more so, for the many glimpses we're given into now largely vanished Americana.

--S. J. Luft



Mr. Miller in 1984, at his old Model 8 Linotype (from the book). (reduced to 64%)

THE CARNET CORNER

by Bob Seeke (FCPS # 1334)

Are you a "flyspeck" collector? Do you enjoy examining many copies of a stamp looking for small differences that make for collectable varieties? Modern French booklets offer just such opportunities, so in this and future installments of the Corner we'll look at some.

When a catalog is referred to it will be done this way: C=Ceres; Y=Yvert; D=Dallay.

Let's begin with "escaliers". C515/Y2874-C8/D463 (a Marianne de Briat booklet of ten red TVP [= permanent-value] stamps) and C521/Y3085a-C1/D471 (a Marianne de Luquet booklet of the same) were both SAGEM booklets, dispensed by a vending machine of that name. The same cover was used for both booklets, as the Luquet booklet replaced the Briat booklet in short order.

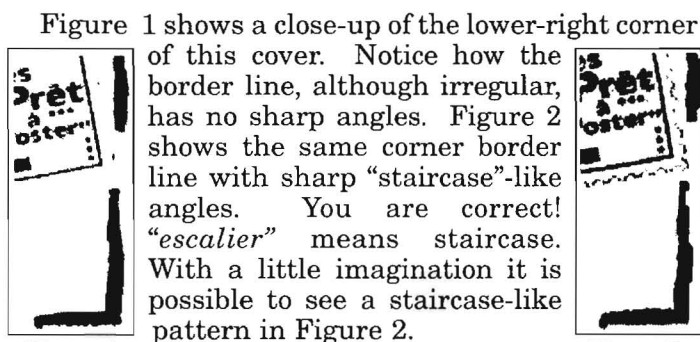


Figure 1.

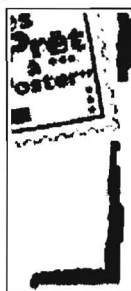


Figure 2.

Relative scarcity? Based on examples in my collection, I would surmise that the Briat booklet with the "escalier" variety is about four times scarcer than the one without, and the Luquet booklet about ten times scarcer with than one without. This is not a scientific sampling by any means and should not be taken as the final word on the subject.

A final note: in reality, the covers of these booklets are yellow with blue ink. I manipulated these and future other illustrations so that the differences are more readily visible.

Now we can look at the cover for C435/Y2187-C2/D400, the 1.60 Franc red Liberté booklet of ten stamps with "Philexfrance 82" publicity on the cover. This booklet exists with *confectionneuse* numbers 3 thru 7. The booklet with number 5 has two varieties of the "5". Figure 3 shows the 5 standing straight and tall, while Figure 4 shows it slanted to the right.



Figure 3.

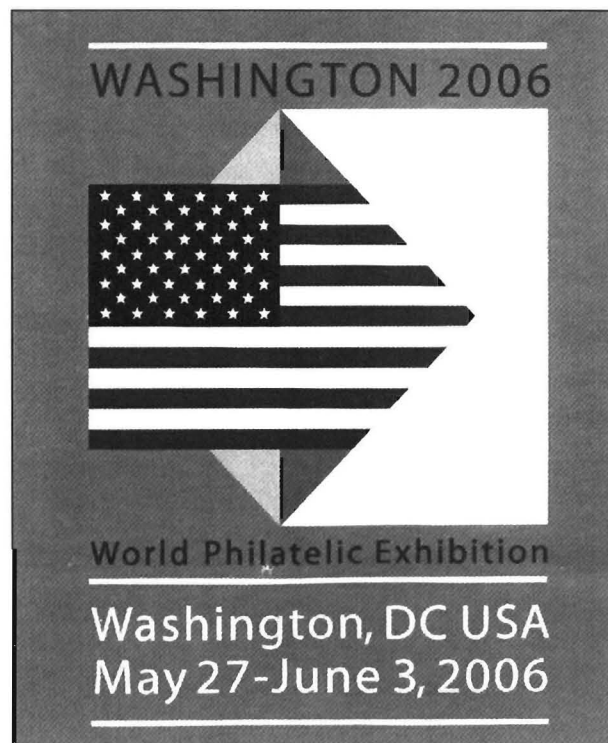


Figure 4.

Please bear in mind that I manipulated the images to make the difference more obvious. This difference is not always obvious, especially on booklets on which there is an excessive amount of ink in the text.

I'm not aware of any other booklets with this type of variety in the *confectionneuse*. If anyone has another example I would appreciate hearing about it (with a picture if possible).

Next time we'll examine a booklet that has seven varieties for us to discover. Until then, correspondence is always welcome. Bonne philatélie! Bob Seeke, 866 La Costa Lane, N. Fort Myers, FL 33917 or cwseeke2@man.com.



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

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Dave Herendeen

I write this note in haste from my hotel room in London. At the last minute, I decided to make a quick trip to England for a number of useful reasons, and because United Airlines made me an offer I couldn't refuse! One of the most important was to meet with Peter Kelly, the president of the FCPS of Great Britain. I met not only with Peter, but also with Chris Hitchen, the treasurer of their group, at the semiannual Philatex bourse held at the new Royal Horticultural Center. Peter provided me with an excellent overview of their society and its activities. I was especially impressed by the many activities held around England. There are four regional groups holding three to four meetings each year, along with the London group which meets six times. Additionally, there is an annual weekend meeting for the country which draws on the order of 60 attendees and includes over 200 frames of displays. Peter and I are in complete agreement that the most important thing is for our societies (as well as our sister society, COL.FRA, in France): to make certain that we all know the research in progress by our members. This will insure that there is no duplication of effort, and may provide members with additional resources for their studies. I also had a quick lunch with our recording secretary Ed Grabowski, and FCPS member Alain Millet from France. Later in the week, at a dinner sponsored by the British Empire Study Group (from New York), I again saw Ed Grabowski and his guests, Mr. and Mrs. Colin Spong. Colin is also a member of our group as well as the local group. I was able to spend some quality philatelic time with Colin, which was most enjoyable.

My trip was very productive, and I look forward to meeting with members of our own FCPS at Washington 2006. Those attending the show may leave messages at our society table, which is Booth 2851. Also, remember that our general meeting will be held on Thursday, 1 June from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. See you there!

Contributors for 2005

We would also like to thank those members who made contributions to the FCPS during 2005. The following gave up to \$20: David Allen, Cleo Congrady, Ronald E. Conrad, Robert Dunleavy, Carl J. Faulkner, Othan Gilbert, John O. Guyer, George T. Guzzio, Leon J. La Chance, Raymond B. McGarrity, Walter Nazarenko, Jeffrey H. Schnitzer, Gerald F. Schroedl, Steve P. Turchik, Kenneth L. White and James L. Woods; from \$20 to \$100: Edward F. Fisher and E. Joseph McConnell; more than \$100: Steven C. Walske.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2005

Balance Sheet As of 12 December 2005

ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Savings	20,026.75
Checking	7,948.70
Cash	0.00
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	27,975.45
TOTAL ASSETS	27,975.45

LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
LIABILITIES	
Other Liabilities	
Prepaid Dues	6,204.00
Spiegel Fund	1,242.29
Vaurie Fund	19,522.23
TOTAL Other Liabilities	26,968.52
TOTAL LIABILITIES	26,968.52
EQUITY	1,006.93
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	27,975.45

CASH FLOW 1/1/2005 through 12/31/2005

INFLOWS	
Donation - Income	225.00
Dues-Income: 2005	9,228.00
Dues-Prepaid	190.00
Miscellaneous	71.00
Publications	
Back Issues	43.00
Bordeaux	40.00
Commune	16.00
Glossary	14.50
Index	5.00
Lozenges	13.00
Luft III	10.00
Post Offices	10.50
Transport Marks	5.00
TOTAL Publications	157.00
Refund	-13.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	9,858.00

OUTFLOWS	
Bad Check	20.00
Linn's Ad	322.20
France and Colonies Philatelist:	
Editor	503.09
Labels	181.89
Production and Postage	6,503.94
TOTAL France and Colonies Philatelist	7,188.92
Secretary Expenses:	
Corresponding	288.36
Recording	136.60
TOTAL Secretary Expenses	424.96
Treasurer	
Postage	164.40
Printing	125.82
TOTAL Treasurer	290.22
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	8,246.30
NET CASH FLOW	1,611.70

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2005

Total Membership as of January 1, 2005:	470
New Members During 2005:	16
Members Reinstated During 2005:	12
Resignations Received During 2005:	16
Members Deceased During 2005:	15
Members Dropped for Non Payment of Dues, 2005:	42
Net Membership Gain for 2005:	0
Net Membership Loss for 2005:	(45)
Total Membership as of January 1, 2006:	425

NEW MEMBERS

- 3352 HENRIQUEZ, HARRY, New York, NY
 3353 LEE, LARRY S., San Francisco, CA
 3354 ZWOLINSKI, JOSEPH A., New Port Richey, FL
 3355 BRENNER, LARRY, Chula Vista, CA
 3356 BARNA, CARL, Arvada, CO

REINSTATEMENTS

- 1736 ARELLANO, REFUGIO, JR., Santa Ana, CA
 3315 NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA, Ottawa, Ont., Canada

NAME CHANGES

- 2459 MORALES-LUGO, ARNULFO (from Lugo, Arnulfo Morales)

ADDRESS CHANGES

- 1136 BALCH, STEVEN A., M.D., Solana Beach, CA
 3148 BARBER, TRACY A., Keeseville, NY
 2558 BUSE, RAYMOND L., JR., Newtonsville, OH
 3256 CARRIERE, JAMES, Covington, LA
 2089 DECKER, RICHARD G., Kerrville, TX (ZIP Code change)
 2761 ENGBLOM, R. DENNIS, Austin, TX
 2244 GANZ, CHERYL R., Washington, DC
 3249 HOFHEIMER, HENRY, San Jose, CA
 1327 LYMAN, R.W., Sleepy Hollow, NY
 1960 MARINESCU, CONSTANTIN A., Big Indian, NY
 1797 MILLET, ALAIN, Paris, France
 2484 PIEKLO, EDWARD A., Mundelein, IL
 2903 STANISLAW, TREVOR K., Riverview, MI (ZIP Code change)

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

- 3342 ALLEN, JOHN W.
 3307 ALLEN, JON L.
 3076 ANDERSON, DAVID N.
 2882 ARNOLD, STANLEY W.
 3304 BLUME, AUGUST G.
 2646 BROWN, BRUCE
 3276 CLAUS, CENNO T.
 3290 EDGERTON, MILLS F.
 3063 GIDDING, CURTIS E.
 1996 HASS, CHARLES F.
 3120 KRAMMER, ALEX
 1080 O'HARA, JOHN B.
 1946 SATLOFF, DR. AARON
 3319 STANDEN, JACK C.

DECEASED

- 2940 ARNOFF, WARREN L.
 2589 LIECHTI, HANS U.
 2984 McNAMARA, JAMES V.
 3279 REDIGER, LOUIS A.
 1837 SILVERMAN, ROBERT A.

DROPPED FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES

- 3044 BARSDSELL, PAUL
 2933 BISCH, ROGER
 1521 BLECHER, FRANKLIN H.
 1965 BONNEL, PATRICK
 3232 CALLANAN, MICHAEL J.
 3088 CARITHERS, BRUCE
 3334 CLARK, CHARLES TYLER
 2355 COULBOURNE, JOSEPH C.
 3323 DE BOARD, RALPH
 1052 HAGAN, A.S.
 3066 HAMBLEY, WILLIAM A.
 877 LOISEL, GILBERT
 1182 LOTWIN, JOSEPH MARCEL
 3268 McQUARRIE, H.D.
 3340 MONTAGUE, JOEL G.
 3042 REEDY, GERALD W.
 2004 ROUND, MICHAEL
 2923 SANDERS, REGINALD D.
 2101 SIMON, JAMES R.
 3339 SUDEVAN, DR. PADMANABHAN
 3027 WERNER, STEPHEN D.
 3337 WINTON, STANLEY J.

CORRECTIONS

No. 280 (April 2005, pp. 55-56): It might appear that I may have slighted Messers Maddocks and Bratzel in my review of Dudley Cobb's book. If so, that certainly was not my intention, for I have the utmost respect for these two gentlemen and for their research and publications.

No. 283 (January 2006, p. 1): the cover caption should have read CONGRÈS PHILATÉLIQUE; *id.*, (p. 18): change "For the Record" No. 861 to 871; *id.*, INDEX: change "French West Africa" to read instead "French Equatorial Africa" on p. 9 (under "Air Posts," on p. 11 (under French Colonies) and again on subject line "French West Africa."

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 283, January 2006, p. 24)

France

- Late Fall 2005: Precancelled 0,42€ orchid;
- 3 (5) December 2005: 0,53€ 100th Anniv. of Law of Separation of Church and State;
- 5 December: 1,08€ sheetlet of two stamps (0,53€ and 0,55€) showing Raphael's "Annunciation" [joint issue with the Vatican]—(new 1st Day; previously given as 10 (14) November);



- 7 (9) January 2006: two heart-shaped Valentine Day stamps honoring the Jean-Louis Scherrer fashion house: letter rate to 20 gm and letter rate to 50 gm, also 2,65€ sheetlet of five letter rate stamps to 20 gm;
- 21 (23) January: letter rate to 20 gm stamp for Chinese Year of the Dog, plus 5,30€ sheetlet of ten stamps in same design;



- 21 January (6 February): booklet of ten 20-gm rate self-adhesive stamps showing Impressionist Art;



- 4 (6) February: Turin Winter Olympics;
- 25 (27) February: 0,53€ cartoon character "Spirou," also in 6,68€ booklet of ten (three designs: four stamps at 20 gm rate, four at 20 gm international rate, and two at Ecopli rate).



Withdrawals: 25 November 2005 (continued): 5,15€ Marianne d'Alger booklet; 6,60€ Red Cross 2004 booklet; 20 January 2006: UNESCO, 0,50€ and 0,75€; 27 January: 0,55€ Battle of Austerlitz, 1,22€ Nicolas de Staël.

Andorra

- 7 November 2005: 0,55€ Cent. of Rotary Int'l.;
- 9 December: 1,22€ Adoration of the Shepherds painting.
- 16 January 2006: 0,53€ brown bear and 0,53€ izard mountain goat.



French Polynesia

- 16 December 2005: 90F Noël 2005;
- 30 January 2006: 130F lotus flowers.

Mayotte

- 14 November 2005: 0,53€ ox figure and drummer (local folklore); 0,53€ blacksmiths at work;
- 16 January 2005: 0,53€ scraping coconuts.



Monaco

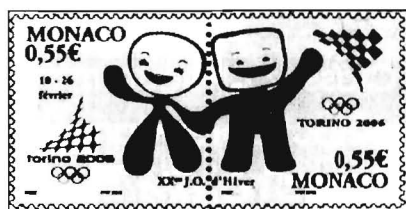
- 16 November 2005: sheetlet of six se-tenant 0,82€ stamps for the Salle Garnier opera house;



- 19 November: National Day: three se-tenant 1,10€ stamps (panorama of Monaco); Prince Albert II permanent-value definitives in green, red and blue; Homage to Prince Rainier III sheetlet of one 4€ portrait stamp by Slavia;



- 14 December: 0,64€ 30th Int'l Circus Festival, plus sheetlet of five se-tenant circus-motif 0,75€ stamps;
- 9 January 2006: Turin Winter Olympics: 0,82€ single and se-tenant pair at 0,55€ each;
- 30 January: 0,53€ 10th Anniv. of the Museum of Stamps and Money.



New Caledonia

- 22 September 2005: 85F Day for World Peace;
- 10 October: various 100F stamps surcharged "+10F" [see Announcements and News, p. 38];
- 14 November: Petroglyphs: three stamps at 120F;
- 8 December: 110F Joyeux Noël; 190F the common destiny of Ito Waïa and Adje; insects, three at 110F;
- 19 January 2006: 110F Cagou bird definitive.



St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 22 October 2005: 0,53€ the Territorial collectivity;
- 8 December: 0,53€ Noël 2005;
- 28 January 2006: 0,53€ "le poudrin de choquette."



Wallis & Futuna

- 30 October 2005: sheetlet of ten stamps (five designs) at 0,84€ each, showing orchids;
- 10 November: Salon Philatélique d'Autonne: two 150F stamps reproducing the first (1920) 5c stamp of the islands and the islands' 90c stamp for the 1931 Colonial Expo.

