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French Colonial Postal Rates 1878-1945
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French Colonial Postal Rates 1878-1945

Robert E. Picirilli (FCPS 2381)

In my opinion, one of the most useful articles for collectors of French colonial postal history published in the FCP in recent decades was that written by Mr. Picirilli and published in 1997. He was able to extract rate information from a variety of disparate sources and develop tables of the important French colonial postal rates. Now, 10 years later, I requested that he consider writing the brief, updated version that follows. It is being presented as a convenience to the more than 25% of our membership that have joined since 1997. Of the several goals, presenting all of the rate tables on a single, easily copied page is perhaps the most important — Ed.]

I am revisiting this subject about which I wrote in 1997.¹ Our purpose is to be sure that what we have learned during the ten years since then is included (and there are some additions) and that our readers have the information handy. (For those interested in the historical evolution of this study, see the original article cited in Ref. 1.) Additionally, representative usages are shown for various rate periods. These are not intended to be complete, but only a sampling of how the data of this article may be used to verify (or not) specific rates on covers encountered during our philatelic studies.

I will be much briefer now than then. I have continued to research postal rates used in French colonies. As indicated in other articles since 1997, I coordinate the research of a small, informal study group endeavoring to determine the airmail rates used in the colonies up to the end of 1945. (More about that at the end of this article.) This work has included researching the official journals of the various colonies for this period at the Library of Congress, in the UK, and in France. These studies have led to the discovery of both basic postal rates and airmail rates in use in the colonies. This research has enabled me to speak much more confidently about the postal rates in use. It is clear that the same rates in force in France itself were also in force in the various



Figure 1. 15c Domestic rate period (1878-1898)
Local unpaid cover (1886) within Senegal
(Postage due = $2 \times 15c = 30c$)

colonies that used French currency, though the effective dates of those rates were often different, as will be noted again below.

The basic rates fall into two categories: those used for mail to France or other French colonies and territories; and those used for mail to non-French community destinations. I call these, respectively, domestic and foreign basic. While Tables 1 and 2 present the rates in-



Figure 2. 25c Foreign rate period (1879-1907)
1897 Letter, Grand Bassam, Ivory Coast to Paris
(Postage 25c + Registration 25c = 50c)

Table 1. Domestic Rates in France and Colonies

Rate begins	0-15g	+ /15g					Post cards [5]	Registry
1 May 1878 [1,2]	15c	15c					10c	+ 50c
16 Jan 1879								+ 25c
1 Jan 1899	15c	+ 15c						+ 25c
Nov 1899							10c 5c	
Jan 1901							10c 5c 5c	
16 Apr 1906	10c	+ 10c						
	0-20g	20-50g	50-100g	+ /50g				
1 May 1910	10c	15c	20c	+ 5c				
1 Jan 1917	15c	25c	30c	+ 5c			15c 10c 5c	
				+ /100g				
1 Apr 1920	25c	40c	50c	+ 15c			20c 15c 5c	+ 35c
14 Jul 1922							20c 10c	
25 Mar 1924	25c	45c	60c	+ 20c			20c 15c 10c	+ 60c
16 Jul 1925 [3]	30c 40c	50c 70c	75c 1f	+ 20c			20c 15c 10c	+ 75c
1 May 1926	40c	65c	90c	+ 20c			30c 20c 15c	+ 1f
9 Aug 1926	50c	75c	1f	+ 30c			40c 25c 15c	
21 Apr 1930	50c	75c	1f	+ 40c			40c 15c	
18 Jul 1932							40c 20c	+ 1f25
				100-200g	+ /100g			
12 Jul 1937	65c	90c	1f30	1f80	+ 40g		55c 30c	+ 1f50
17 Nov 1938	90c	1f20	1f60	2f20	+ 50c		70c 40c	+ 1f60
					200-300g	+ /100g		
1 Dec 1939	1f	1f30	1f80	2f40	3f	+ 50c	80c 40c	+ 2f
5 Jan 1942	1f50	2f	3f	4f	5f	+ 1f	1f20 60c	+ 3f
				100-300g	300-500g			
1 Mar 1945	2f	3f	4f	7f	10f		1f50 1f	+ 4f

Table 2. Foreign Rates in France and Colonies

Rate begins	0-15g	+ /15g	Post cards [5]	Registry
1 Apr 1879 [4]	25c 35c	+ 25c 35c	10c	+ 25c
1 Oct 1881	25c	+ 25c		
1 Oct 1907	25c	+ 15c	10c 5c	
	0-20g	+ /20g		
1 May 1910	25c	+ 15c		
1 Apr 1921	50c	+ 25c	30c 10c	+ 50c
1 Apr 1924	75c	+ 40c	45c 15c	+ 75c
16 Jul 1925	1f	+ 50c	60c 20c	+ 1f
1 Oct 1925		+ 60c		
1 Feb 1926	1f25	+ 75c	75c 25c	+ 1f25
1 Aug 1926	1f50	+ 90c	90c 30c	+ 1f50
20 Jul 1932				+ 2f
1 Aug 1937	1f75	+ 1f	1f 35c	
1 Dec 1938	2f25	+ 1f25	1f25 45c	+ 2f50
1 Jan 1940	2f50	+ 1f50	1f50 50c	
1 Feb 1942	4f	+ 2f40	2f40 80c	+ 4f



Figure 3. 10c Domestic rate period (1906-1917)
Unpaid cover from France to French Guinea (1911)
(Postage due = 2 x 10c = 20c)

involved, the notes following the tables offer important qualifications. (In the tables, c = centime(s); f = franc(s); g = grams; / = per; | separates alternative rates explained in the notes. I have carried the tables only up to 500 grams; for heavier weights see the sources recommended below.)

Important Notes

There are some important general observations relative to the tables:

- ♦ In Table 1, the domestic rates are those for mail from the colonies to France (franco-colonial) or between French colonies (inter-colonial). The *interior* rates, for mail within a given colony, were at times lower than these. There is not space here to provide tables of internal rates for each of the colonies.



Figure 4. 10c Foreign rate period (1879-1921)
Unpaid card from Bingerville, Ivory Coast to Brussels
(Postage = 10c)

- ♦ These tables do not provide information about rates in use in French possessions that did not use French currency. These included the French Levant, French India, and French Indochina.
- ♦ At times there were reduced basic rates from France to certain countries—Canada and Luxembourg, for example—and “frontier rates” which applied to mail to Spain, Belgium, and Switzerland when the office to office distance was not more than 30 kilometers “as the crow flies.” It is beyond the scope of this article to give these special rates. They may be found in the sources recommended below.

Specific notes, which are indicated in the tables, follow.

1. Table 1 starts in 1878 at the inception of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). The shaded rows before 1 January 1899 are domestic rates *within* France and do not apply to other destinations within the French community. Until this date, mail from France to its colonies (and, I assume, from the colonies to France or between colonies) required the *foreign* rates as shown in Table 2) Fig. 2 shows an example of this rate. Beginning 1 January 1899, however, domestic rates applied within the entire French community of nations.

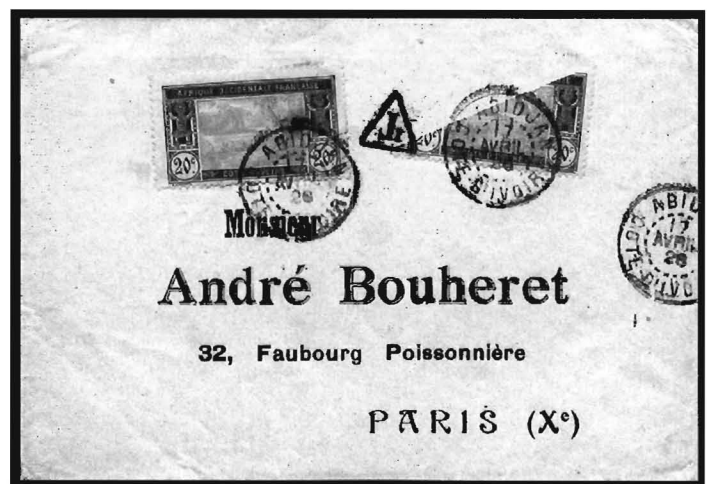


Figure 5. 30c Domestic rate period (1925-1926)
1925 letter from Abidjan, Ivory Coast to Paris.
Note bisected 20c stamp to make 30c. The postage due indication (T-in-triangle) signaled that either the letter was overweight or the bisected stamp was rejected. No postage dues were affixed in France.

2. The dates used in the tables are effective dates, or dates of decrees, *in France*. The effective dates in the various *colonies* were not always the same as those in France, nor were those dates the same from one colony to another. Often the rates were introduced at the same time as in France, or soon thereafter, but at other times there was some delay before a new rate was made effective in a given colony. The most extreme example of this (but not the only one) occurred in those colonies that did not remain aligned with the Vichy government but in 1940 declared allegiance to the Free French government of General de Gaulle in exile in London. These included French Equatorial Africa and French Cameroon, and the 1942 changes were not adopted there until 1944. The user of these tables, then, should not be surprised to find colonial covers using the rates given in the tables after a new rate had taken effect in France. There is not space here to provide tables of effective dates for all French colonies.

3. In Table 1, the row for 16 Jul 1925, shows two rates in each column. The first (lower) amount is the basic rate for *surface* letters; the second (higher) amount is the basic rate for *airmail* letters—to which the airmail surcharge still had to be added. During that one year only, basic for airmail letters was higher than for surface letters.

4. In Table 2, the row for 1 April 1879 shows two rates. The first is for letters to group 1 countries (Europe, Egypt, Turkey, Russia,

French Mediterranean offices, Canada, the U.S., and French colonies); the second is for group 2 countries (non-French colonies and countries in the Far East and Central and South America). This division continued until 1 October 1881.

5. In the columns headed "Post cards," there are usually either two or three rates. The first (higher) rate is typically for regular postal cards or picture post cards with a full message. The second rate is typically for picture post cards with a message of greeting of not more than five words. The third, if there is another, is typically for picture post cards with no message; the date, signature, and address of the sender could be given. *Exceptions*: the November 1899 5c rate is for picture post cards with no message (and with *Carte Postale* crossed out and *Imprimé* ("Printed Matter") written thereon. The July 1922 10c rate is for all picture post cards, regardless of message; and the March 1924 15c and 10c rates are for picture post cards with ordinary message and up to five words, respectively.

Recommended Sources

The rates given in this article represent a small part of the universe of postal rates in France and colonies. For detailed information on the wide variety of rates and fees, whether for other classes of mail, parcel post, money orders, journals and printed matter, and many other things. I recommend two publications, both of which represent rates as enacted for use *in France* — not in the colonies as such.

The first is *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to 2005* by Derek Richardson.² This book puts the rates in a handy, tabular format and is well organized, which makes for easy reference. The second is *Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969* by Alexandre et. al.³ This is the standard reference work. Although it is in French, it is fairly usable by those who do not read French. For most users, however, Richardson's work will be more than sufficient.

A Concluding Appeal

As noted above, I coordinate the work of a small, informal study group (collectors in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., France, and South Af-



Figure 6. 2f25 foreign rate period (1938-1940)
1939 letter from
Grand Lahou, Ivory Coast, to Switzerland
(Postage 2f25 + 2f50 registry = 4f75)



Figure 7. Complexity of airmail rates
1936 letter from

Bobo-Dioulasso, Ivory Coast, to Chicago
8f50 (3f on back) registered letter

(Postage = 1f50 basic + 2f registry + 5f air services)

Extra airmail fees include: 3f airmail from the Ivory Coast to France and 2f airmail within the U.S. Airmail between France and New York was not established until May 1939.

rica) researching airmail rates in use in all French colonies prior to 1946. That work is making excellent progress and we expect to publish a book on the subject, perhaps as early as 2009. Meanwhile, as part of our research we are building a database of French colonial airmail covers. These help us confirm the rates in use in the various colonies and will ultimately serve as a major, significant resource for research in French colonial postal history. When we have finished our work, the database and photocopies will be donated to a major philatelic library and will be available to the public. Figure 7 illustrates an airmail cover that demonstrates the complexity of the rate structures used in the earlier years, especially those around World War II.

Consequently, I appeal to every reader who has airmail covers from any part of the French community (not France itself), dated earlier than 1946, to send photocopies (front and back, please) to me at 301 Greenway Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205. I will respond by provid-

ing an analysis of the franking on the covers. (I may be contacted by email at picirillir@bellsouth.net.)

References

1. Picirilli, R.E., "Postal Rates in the French Colonies, 1892-1944," FCP, **53**(3), pp. 75-78; **53**(4), pp. 115-117.
2. Richardson, D., *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to 2005*, Brochure No. 7 (3rd edition, revised and enlarged), published by The France & Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain (2006).
3. Alexandre, J.P., C. Barbey, J.-F. Brun, G. Desarnaud, and R. Joany, *Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969*, 2nd edition, published by Brun & Fils (1989). (There is also a volume 2 for rates from 1969-1988.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ♦ **Stan Luft** reports that our member in Brazil, **Klerman Wanderley Lopes**, has been honored by his induction into the Real Academia Hispanica de Filatelia (the Royal Spanish Philatelic Academy); Klerman is the first Brazilian philatelist to be so honored.
- ♦ SPLM, the specialized society for stamps and postal history of Morocco and Tunisia, now has an illustrated data bank of over 800 annotated covers related to the Postal History of the Local Posts of Morocco and, of course, keeps looking for more. If you can help them in this effort, please send e-mail scans of your pertinent covers, with description and valuation, to their publisher, Jean Haik, 206 boulevard Pereire, F-75017 Paris, France, in either English or French. The society is also looking for volunteer team leaders in several aspects of Morocco and Tunisia philately. A chance for international cooperation and goodwill!

Help Bob Picirilli's Research Effort

**Send him scans or copies of your
French community airmail covers!!**

Genuine and Forged Postmarks of Jaunde Cameroun

Marty Bratzel (FCPS 2394)

The French opened a post office at Yaoundé, Cameroun on 1 July 1916, exactly three months after their introduction of civil administration in the former German protectorate.¹ However, a permanent datestamp was not yet available. Therefore, a single-line rubber handstamp, shown in Fig. 1, was prepared. The only recorded date of use of this handstamp is 8 July 1916.



Figure 1. Single-line Yaoundé handstamp (No. 340A). The accompanying Duala postmark (No. 75-1) was also applied at Yaoundé.

This was superseded by a three-line handstamp illustrated in Fig. 2. Recorded dates of use for this device are from 23 September 1916 to 28 July 1917. The earliest recorded date for a permanent datestamp, seen in Fig. 3, is 18 September 1917.

Until permanent datestamps were introduced, one of the Duala datestamps (there were at least four available by mid-1916) was used at Yaoundé in conjunction with the provisional handstamps. This datestamp (see Fig. 1) had earlier been used at Douala and again later, after Yaoundé received permanent datestamps.



Figure 2. Three-line Jaunde handstamp (No. 341) on a stampless Franchise Militaire cover.



Figure 3. Earliest recorded permanent Jaunde datestamp (No. 342-1).

The cover front depicted in Fig. 4 was offered on eBay. The three-line handstamp, dated 22 May 1917, is enlarged in Fig. 5. A comparison with the handstamp in Fig. 3 reveals a number of differences, in particular:



Figure 4. Cover front with forged Jaunde handstamp dated 22.5.17.

- ♦ The handstamp in Fig. 5 has an accent mark on the E in Jaunde.
- ♦ The "7" in the year date is shaped differently.
- ♦ The alignment of (Cameroun) relative to Jaunde is different.

There are other differences as well. Clearly, the postmark is forged. Comparison with the genuine postmark of the same date shown in the Fig. 5 inset confirms these differences. The forgery was sold to an unsuspecting bidder.

Conclusions

There are quite a number of inexpensive Cameroun stamps with fake and fantasy cancels. There are also a large number of stamps – especially those with a hefty catalogue value, such as Scott 101-129 – with forged overprints, some ludicrous and some dangerous! Many of these spurious cancels and overprints have been around for years; others are of more recent vintage. These have been, and continue to be, offered and sold in the philatelic marketplace. Several have previously been documented²⁻⁵ and others await formal writeup and publication.

Now, forged Cameroun stamps and fake cancels are appearing with increasing frequency on covers. The example in Fig. 4 is but one of a number seen during the past year. Likely a range of forgeries are offered on eBay for other French colonies and territories as well. *Caveat emptor!*



Figure 5. Enlargements of Jaunde handstamps. Left, the forged cancel cropped from Fig. 4, Right, the known genuine handstamp.

As an interesting historical aside, note the German spelling on the postmarks for Yaoundé and Douala. Permanent datestamps with the French spellings were subsequently introduced, but those with the German spelling continued to be used concurrently until the late 1920s and early 1930s.

References and Endnotes

1. Bratzel, M.P. Jr., H. Kraja, and R.J. Maddocks, *Les oblitérations du Cameroun 1914 - 1960*. MPB Canada, 1990. 83 pages. ISBN 0-9694026-0-0. The postmark numbers noted with the figures are taken from this publication plus subsequent additions.
2. Cobb, D., "Forged Cameroun Français Overprints," *Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, **57** (1), March 2007, p. 11. Cobb also reported this forgery in the *Bulletin Col.fra*.
3. Bratzel, M.P. Jr., "Douala, Cameroun – A Forged 1943 Postmark," *France & Colonies Philatelist*, **43**(2), April 1987, pp. 56-57.
4. Bratzel, M.P. Jr., "Forgeries of Duala Kamerun Postmarks," *France & Colonies Philatelist*, **44**(1), January 1988, pp. 8-10. Addendum, **45**(2), April 1989, p. 7. Addendum No. 2, **46**(1), January 1990, p. 17. Addendum No. 3, **52**(3), July 1996, pp. 83-85.
5. Bratzel, M.P. "Forgeries and Fakes," Letter to the editor, *American Philatelist*, **117**(7), July 2003, p. 584. The story of a registered Cameroun cover that legitimately went through the mails in 1917 but only, 85 years later, was it discovered that the affixed stamps had forged overprints.

FAM 19 — The New Caledonia Connection

Stephen T. Tucker (FCPS 3347)

Pan American Airways (PAA) pioneered overseas air routes for the transport of US mail and passengers in the 1930s. PAA had to overcome substantial political, logistical and technological barriers to accomplish the feat in the Pacific area. The airplanes and facilities needed to cover the vast distances involved did not yet exist. The distances to be spanned required island hopping to allow refueling and rest for passengers and crew. Since there were no airfields in the ocean, *flying boats* capable of taking off and landing in bays and lagoons were needed. New larger planes such as the Boeing B314, shown in Fig. 1 had to be designed and built..

PAA reached Manila and Hong Kong in 1935 and 1937 with its renowned *China Clippers*.. The next goal to be accomplished was service to the South Pacific. Only New Zealand would grant PAA landing rights. Survey, or test, flights, were conducted in late 1937 and early 1938. The new route was designated as Foreign Air Mail Contract Route number 19 (FAM-19.)

The 1937-1938 FAM-19 Route

The initial South Pacific route flew from San Francisco to Auckland, New Zealand with overnight stops at Honolulu, Kingman Reef and Pago Pago, Samoa. The route proved a dangerous one. The Kingman Reef facility was

marginal and the steep ascent and descent in and out of Pago Pago formidable. Contract Mail was actually flown from New Zealand to San Francisco at the end of 1937 but the third "experimental" flight was disastrous. Lifting off out of Pago Pago on 11 January 1938 the plane, an older Sikorsky S42, caught fire and the entire crew, including chief test pilot Edwin Musick, lost their lives. A new way to get to the South Pacific was needed: PAA put South Pacific service on hold for nearly two and a half years while finding this way.

Resumption of the New Zealand Route

By mid-1940 conditions were greatly changed, thus allowing regularly scheduled air mail between the west coast of the US and New Zealand to recommence. England and France were at war, and they were now amenable to granting landing rights to the US as a non-combatant ally. This allowed establishing island hopping bases at Canton Island (British) and Noumea, New Caledonia (French) to re-



Figure 1. The Pan American Airways Flying Boat.

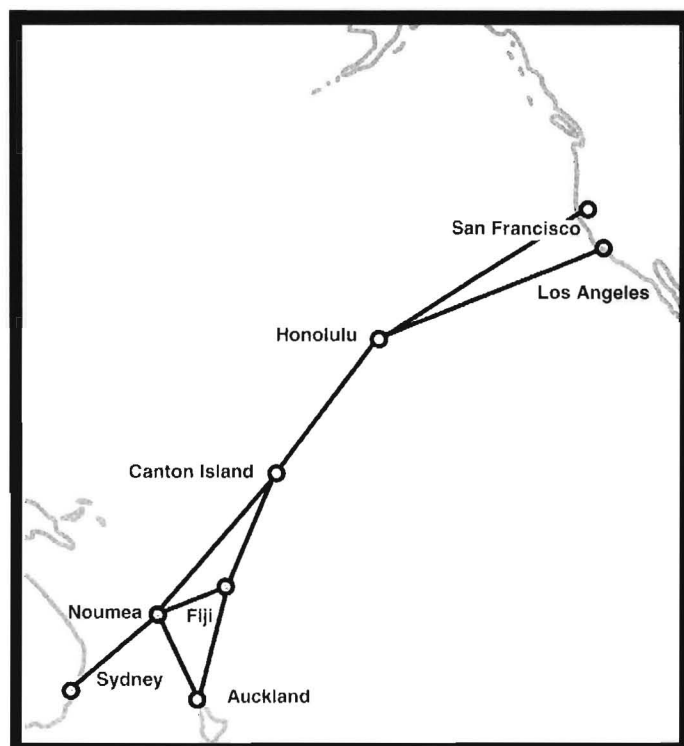


Figure 2. The FAM 19 Route 1940-1947.¹

place the dangerous Kingman Reef and Pago Pago facilities.

After the 1938 loss of the Samoan Clipper at Pago Pago, and the mysterious disappearance of the Hawaii Clipper in the North Pacific that same year, PAA was finally able to replenish its personnel and equipment. Especially important being the delivery of the new Boeing B-314 planes in 1939.

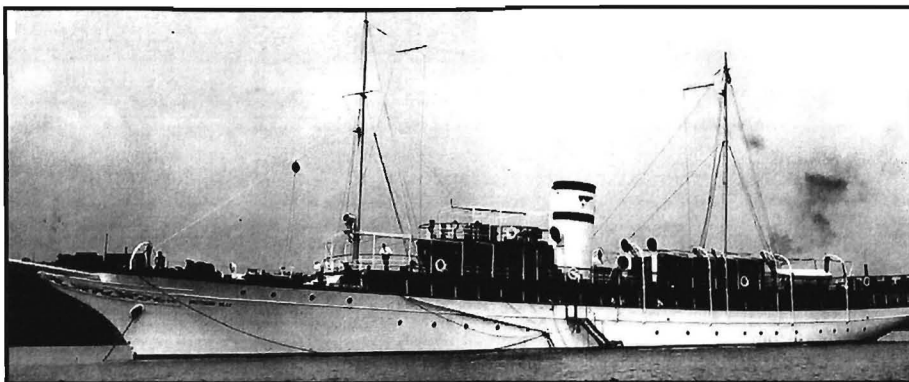


Figure 3. The "Southern Seas" Floating Hotel.²

The first South Pacific Service flight carrying mail to New Zealand took place 12-24 July 1940. It was also the first flight for the newly christened Boeing B-314 *American Clipper*. The route was now San Francisco and Los Angeles (added at the last minute) to Honolulu, Canton Island, Noumea and Auckland as seen in Fig. 2.

The New Caledonia Facility

As seen in Fig. 2, there were overnight stops at Honolulu, Canton Island, Noumea and Auckland. These were for refueling, maintenance and rest for the crew and passengers. New Caledonia was seldom visited during this period. PAA addressed a lack of overnight facilities at Noumea by purchasing and refitting a 200 foot motor yacht. This boat, shown in Fig. 3, was re-christened "Southern Seas." It became a floating hotel for passengers on the planes.

First Flight Cachets

Cachets for the FAM-19 flights were provided by the US Post Office Department for San Francisco, Los Angeles, Honolulu and Canton Island. Others were provided to the island post offices by PAA. These were Canton Island (southbound flights to Noumea and Auckland), Noumea, New Caledonia (flights northbound (Fig. 4a) and southbound (Fig. 4c), and a special cachet for Noumea, New Caledonia (northbound mail Fig. 4b). In November 1941 Suva, Fiji was added to the route. The Noumea to Suva leg was serviced with the new cachet shown in Fig. 4d. Thus, all flights originating in Noumea use PAA cachets.

First Flight Covers

First flight covers were generally philatelic creations. As such, letters were delivered to the PAA office with instructions on which flight segments were desired. This was normally noted by typewritten or manuscript notation in the upper left corner of the envelope. Such markings are seen on all of the covers illustrated in this paper.

New Caledonian Anomalies

There were two anomalies that arose on FAM19 legs originating from New Caledonia as described below.

- ♦ The inaugural flight from New Caledonia was dispatched on the morning of 21 July 1941. It completed the first leg when it arrived at Canton island the same evening. Since it had made an eastward crossing of the International Date Line, the arrival backstamp was dated 20 July: the day before the mail left New Caledonia.¹



- ♦ The post office in Noumea apparently published higher rates for FAM-19 mail on a single day: 21 July 1940. Supposedly the rates include a "service charge" on first flight mail. Figs. 6 and 7 show different rates for two covers flying the Noumea-San Francisco leg on that date.

FAM-19 First Flight Legs Originating from Noumea, New Caledonia					
AAMC No.	Noumea to:	Dates	Covers Flown	Cachets	Figure
F19-7	Auckland	18 July 1940	6332	Blue	5
F19-8	San Francisco	21-24 July 1940	11,446	Blue, Green	6,7
F19-8a	Canton Island	20-21 July 1940	5650	Purple	8
F19-8b	Honolulu	21-22 July 1940	4777	Black, Purple, Magenta, Green	9
F19-8c	Los Angeles	21-24 July 1940	2248	Black	10
F19-22	Suva	13 Nov 1941	N/A	Red	11
F19-30	Sydney	26 Feb 1947	N/A	Black	
FAM-19 First Flight Legs Terminating in Noumea, New Caledonia					
AAMC No.	From:	Dates	Covers Flown	Cachets	Figure
F19-1b	San Francisco	12-16 July 1940	5803	Blue	4
F19-2c	Los Angeles	12-16 July 1940	2841	Blue, Green	
F19-3b	Honolulu	14-16 July 1940	6734	Purple	
F19-5a	Canton Island	15-16 July 1940	4626	PAA cachet	
F19-9a	Auckland	20-20 July 1940	6590	Purple, Magenta	
F19-20a	Suva	9-10 Nov 1941	N/A	Purple, Black	
F19-34	Sydney	10-11 July 1947	N/A	Magenta	
F19-50a	Seattle	4-6 July 1949	23	None	
F19-50Fa	Seattle Airfield	4-6 July 1949	23	None	
F19-51a	Portland	4-6 July 1949	28	None	

Table 1. The FAM-19 Flights Originating from, or Terminating at, Noumea, New Caledonia.

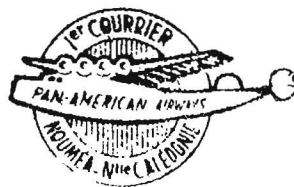
POSTE AÉRIENNE 1^{ÈRE} TRAVERSÉE



MR.
PAN AMERICAN
CLIPPER

ENTRE
NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE
ET
NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE

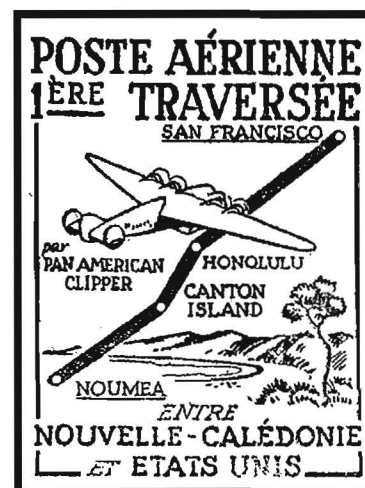
a. PAA Cachet for mail southbound from Noumea



b. Noumea cachet for northbound mail.



d. Cachet for Noumea to Fiji flight.



c. PAA Cachet for mail northbound from Noumea

Figure 4. The first cachets used to service mail from Noumea, New Caledonia on FAM-19.

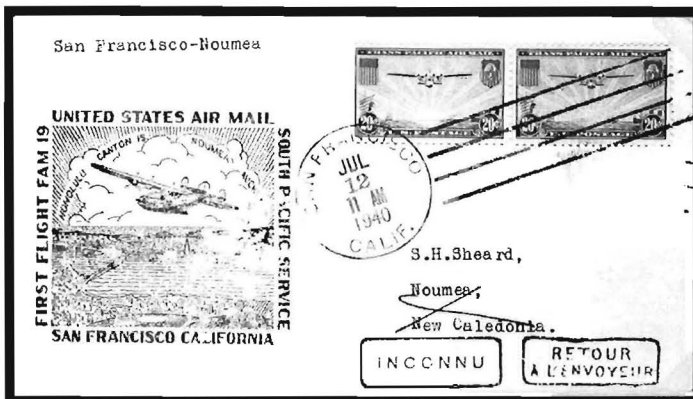


Figure 4. F19-1b: San Francisco to Noumea.



Figure 8. F19-8a: Noumea to Canton Island, 4.75fr rate.



Figure 5. F19-7: Noumea to Auckland



Figure 9. F19-8b: Noumea to Honolulu



Figure 6. F19-8: Noumea to San Francisco, 11fr rate.



Figure 10. F19-8c: Noumea to Los Angeles



Figure 7. F19-8: : Noumea to San Francisco, 19fr rate.



Figure 11. F19-22: Noumea to Fiji.

WWII Stops Service

New Caledonia played a central role in the final flight of FAM-19 before WW II shut down the service for the duration of the war. The *Pacific Clipper* landed uneventfully at Noumea on 7 December 1941. Headed south the next day the crew received radio communication announcing the attack on Pearl Harbor. The crew awaited instructions at Auckland for a week. They were directed to fly back to Noumea to evacuate the Pan American staff and pick up spare engines. From Noumea they flew to Gladstone, Australia. This was reportedly the first aerial crossing to Australia directly from New Caledonia. The epic flight continued westward around the world through India, Africa, and South America, finally arriving in New York. In saving the plane and passengers, five continents were touched. Airmail from New Caledonia 1942-1945 was carried by the military. Commercial flights through Noumea did not resume until after the war.

Post-War Resumption of FAM-19

After WWII ended, PAA resumed its routes throughout the world, including, FAM-19. In fact, the route was slowly extended to include other flights: from San Francisco to Sydney, Australia (21-26 Feb 1947) where the leg from Noumea to Sydney was serviced with the cachet shown in Fig. 12; from Sydney to Noumea (10 Jul 1947); and Sydney to other destinations (from 8 Nov 1947). Then, effective 30 Jun 1949, Seattle, WA was made an additional terminal, and Portland, OR was made a port of

call between Seattle and Honolulu. The first flights from Seattle and Portland to Honolulu and Noumea did not leave until 4 Jul 1949. There were no special cachets for these flights. Covers can only be identified by the dispatch dates and backstamps.

Another French Connection

The only other connection of the Foreign Airmail Service with the French colonies in the Pacific was FAM-40 which carried mail from Honolulu to Papeete, Tahiti. Run by South Pacific Airlines, the route was initiated on 2 April 1960. This was the first airmail service for Tahiti by a U.S. airline. Service to Pago Pago, American Samoa was added in 1962. This service was leased to PAA in December 1963 and was integrated into FAM-14.

Conclusion

This paper focuses on the important role played by New Caledonia in establishing an air link between North America and the South Pacific. The purpose of FAM-19 was to carry mail and passengers from points in the United States to Auckland, New Zealand. Since such a trip exceeded the range of the aircraft available at that time, a number of safe intermediate rest and refueling stops were needed. One critical stop was at Noumea. New Caledonia was, at the time, still a French colony. It was made a *Territoire d'Outre-Mer* (Overseas Territory) in 1959. The story of FAM-19 ended in the 1950s when the USPOD merged the exiting route with FAM-14.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank the editor for his help in organizing and laying out this article.

References

1. *The American Airmail Catalogue*, Vol. 3, 6th Edition, American Air Mail Society, 2004.
2. Krupnick, J., *Pan American Pacific Pioneers, the Rest of the Story*, Pictorial Histories Publishing, Montana. 2000. Available through the APS.
3. Boyle, Jr., T, *Airmail Operations During World War II*, American Air Mail Society, 1998.



Figure 12. Post-war cachets for Noumea to Sydney flight.

World War II — The Colonies

"General Issues" Charity Stamps: A Correction and an Addendum

Bill Mitchell (FCPS 715)

In my previous article¹ I remarked that Cameroun seemed to be indifferent to these blatant money-spinners, listed by *Yvert et Tellier* as Nos. 60-66 and *Poste Aérienne* No. 1. This was based on the fact that I could find no reference to them in my file of extracts from the *Journal officiel du Cameroun*, (JO) which were the result of extensive and painstaking enquiries on the part of FCPS member and contributor **Marty Bratzel**. However, it now seems that my file was incomplete, as since the article appeared Marty has sent me further extracts which show that authority was indeed given for their issue in Cameroun.

The *arrêté* of 26 October 1943 which first authorized the production of the stamps was printed in the JO of 15 December 1943. Its replacement, dated 16 November, which amended the terms of issue, appeared in the issue of 1 February 1944 (which was the day after the stamps were due to be withdrawn from sale). Full details of the provisions of these two *arrêtés* are given in my previous article.

Arrêté modifiant l'arrêté du 16 novembre 1943, relative à la vente des timbres-poste émis au profit de la résistance française.

LE COMMISSAIRE AUX COMMUNICATIONS ET A LA MARINE
MARCHANDE,

Arrête :

Article premier. — L'article 5 de l'arrêté du 16 novembre 1943 est modifié comme suit, en ce qui concerne la durée de la vente des timbres émis au profit du Comité exécutif de la résistance français.

« La vente sera close le 31 mars 1944 ».

Art. 2 — L'inspecteur général des postes et des télégraphes et l'agent comptable des timbres-poste de l'Algérie sont chargés de l'exécution du présent arrêté qui sera publié au Journal officiel de la République française.

Alger, le 25 janvier 1944.

Le commissaire aux communications
et à la marine marchande p. i.,

ANDRÉ LE TROQUER

Of greater interest, though, is a third *arrêté*, of 25 January 1944 (like the others, it was signed at Algiers, this time by André le Troquer, who was now the Acting Commissioner for Communications and the Merchant Marine), which extended the period of sale by two months, to 31 March (Fig. 1). It was printed in the Cameroun JO dated 15 March 1944. I have checked my files of extracts from the JOs of French West Africa and French Equatorial Africa, the sources for my previous article; this *arrêté* is not among the extracts that I hold.

I'm grateful to Marty for enabling me to correct a misapprehension on my part and to add to the details already published in these pages.

Reference

1. Mitchell, W., "World War II—The Colonies 'General Issues' Charity Stamps, FCP, 62(4), October 2006, pp. 80-84.

TYPES AND SUBTYPES

o,20 Sower of Piel

Type I: (for sheet stamps): two small, parasitic dots on the horizontal lines at base of the "o" of o,20; not always evident or present.

Type II: (for coil stamps): the dots are absent; also distinguished by machine-cut vertical perforations.

— S. J. Luft

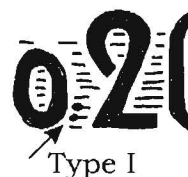


Figure 1. Text of the *arrêté* of 25 January 1944.

Correction: That was the 25F Marianne de Muller (and not a nonexistent 35F) which was described in the previous issue.

Wither Goest Research?

David L. Herendeen (FCPS 2532)

While reviewing the earlier note by Stan Luft (p. 81), I came across a real gem in the same issue of the *Bulletin COL.FRA*. It is an editorial that was written by Robert Abensur, president of the *l'Académie de Philatélie*. He has kindly agreed to allow the reproduction of his text below. The adjoining translation, and colloquialization, is mine.

It reflects my sentiments in a most uncanny way. Every one of my major research papers has run into the problems noted by M. Aben-

sur. His points about never trusting what you read without checking the source material is an excellent one. This specific problem has come back to haunt me on a number of occasions. Please think about his observations when performing your own research.

Reference

1. Abensur, R., *Documents Philatéliques, Revue de l'Académie de Philatélie*, No. 177, third quarter 2003. Also reprinted in *Bulletin COL.FRA*, No. 105, third quarter 2003, p. 1.

J'aimerais aborder ce trimestre un sujet qui me tient à cœur celui de l'analyse critique de l'information en philatélie.

Réfléchissons à la façon dont nous nous documentons. Nous disposons d'ouvrages, de revues spécialisées ou non et des ressources d'internet. Nous pouvons nous adonner à des recherches dans les archives et bibliothèques. Nos relations, des rencontres, des conférences, des réunions d'associations, les visites de musées et d'expositions viennent en complément. Aucune de ces pistes ne doit être négligée ou dédaignée. Chacune à sa façon elle contribue à améliorer notre savoir.

Mais vous posez-vous régulièrement la question de la validité voire de l'impartialité des informations que vous obtenez. Comment triez-vous ? Quels sont vos critères de sélection ?

Nous devons développer notre esprit critique mais savoir l'exercer sans animosité ni arrogance.

La philatélie que nous aimons n'est ni de la littérature ni un débat d'opinion. Elle doit être fondée sur des données certaines et aisément vérifiables. Si un ouvrage, un article ne cite à l'appui de chacune de ses assertions aucun document clairement identifié appartenant à l'époque étudiée, prudence !!!

Un ami vous donne une explication. Soyez aimablement exigeant et demandez-lui quelque preuve de ses affirmations.

Un article n'est manifestement qu'une compilation d'écrits antérieurs. Eh bien, relisez les ouvrages de la bibliographie ou sachez les retrouver si leur citation a été "oubliée" afin de forger votre opinion personnelle.

C'est ainsi que nous pourrions valablement améliorer nos connaissances.

This quarter, I would like to address a subject close to my heart: that of the critical analysis of information in philately.

Let us think of the way in which we document ourselves. We have of books, general and specialized reviews and the resources of the Internet. We can devote ourselves to research in the archives and libraries. We can obtain information from our network of philatelists, from meetings, from conferences, from society meetings, visits to museums and more. None of these sources must be neglected or scorned. Each one contributes in its own to improve our knowledge.

But, you must regularly question both the validity and the impartiality of information which you obtain. How do you do this? Which are your selection criteria?

We must develop a critical approach, but it must be applied without animosity or arrogance.

The philately that we love is neither of the literature nor a debate of opinion. It must be founded on unquestionable and easily verifiable data. If a book or an article does not support each one of its assertions by quoting a document from the time period being studied, then we should exercise prudence!!!

Suppose a friend gives you an explanation. Be pleasant, but don't hesitate to ask for to him some proof of his assertions.

A specific article is obviously only one extraction of former writings. It is best to read again the works of the bibliography to see if some of their information "was conveniently forgotten" in order to forge your personal opinion.

By doing this, we will be able to improve the validity of our knowledge

SHOW REPORTS

- ♦ Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2007 (Denver, May 2007): Vermeil medals to **Stan Luft** for "Shipboard Postal Markings of the 20th Century French Navy" and "Hors-sac — Urgent Dispatch Mail." Silver medals to **Bob Kinsley** for "Les Départements Conquis" and **Norval Rasmussen** for "Tunisia: Rates, Markings and Post Offices, 1888-1908."
- ♦ Plymouth Show (Plymouth, MI, Apr 2007): Gold medal to **Al Kugel** for "The Philatelic Effects of the Break-up of the Romanov Empire 1918-1923" and a single-frame Vermeil for "British Postal Agencies in Persia: 20th Century Postmarks."
- ♦ Minnesota Stamp Expo 2007 (Minneapolis, Jul 2007): A Gold medal to **Al Kugel** for "The Postal History of Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1842-1918."
- ♦ INDYPEX 2007 (Indianapolis, Jun 2007): Gold medals to **Bob Kinsley** for "Les Départements Conquis;" **Eliot Landau** for "The 5¢ China War Resistance Issue of 1942: It's Proof, Issue, First Day Covers, and Postal Issues," also the American First Day Cover Society Award; and **Paul Larsen** for "Caroline Islands to 1914: The Spanish and German Periods," also SAS/Oceania Society Bronze Award. Vermeil to **Chuck LaBlonde** for "Denmark - World War II Postal History."
- ♦ NAPEX 2007 (McLean, VA, Jun 2007): Gold medal to **Ed Grabowski** for "Indochina and the French Offices in China: Postal History of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type;" **Al Kugel** for "Postal History of Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1842 to 1918;" **Roger Quinby** for "Postal Censorship in Finland 1914-1918," also American Philatelic Society 1900-1940 Medal of Excellence.
- ♦ NOJEX 2007 (Secaucus, NJ, May 2007): Silver medal to **Lewis Bussey** for "German Official Postal Service in Occupied Russia: 1941-1944."
- ♦ Philatelic Show (Boxborough, MA, Jun

2007): Gold medals to **Roger Quinby** for "First Postal Cards of the Republic of Finland," also United Postal Stationery Society Marcus White Award; **Steve Walske** for "Military Postal History of the 1870-1871 Franco-Prussian War;" and **Steve Washburne** for "Portuguese Postal Cards of the Empire." A Vermeil medal to **Lewis Bussey** for "U.S. Two-Cent Postal Card, Design of 1951."

Kinsley Honored

Long-time FCPS member and frequent exhibitor **Bob Kinsley** was recently honored by the Military Postal History Society when he was presented with the outstanding service award of the MPHS.

The award was announced by **Al Kugel**, society president, at the MPSH convention at Indyex. Bob served as the secretary of the society from 2000 to 2005. His special contributions included a major revision to the bylaws, and the development and distribution of a master index to the society's Bulletin.

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from No. 288, April 2007, p. 44)

879.) On page 44 of the April 2007 issue ("For the Record" 878), we wondered if the letter's addressee, U.S. Consul James Monroe (shown at right), might have been a descendent of the President. Apparently he was not. **David Morck** (FCPS 2201) kindly led us to the Oberlin [College] Heritage website:



<http://www.oberlinheritage.org/monroe.html>

where we learned that he was an ardent abolitionist, taught at Oberlin College, served as the U.S. Consul to Brazil [right man!], and was a five-term U.S. Congressman from Ohio. We appreciate David's help, and hope that others will also offer to improve upon our scholarship and understanding.

FCPS Activity at Stampshow

David L. Herendeen (FCPS 2532)

This year, Stampshow, the annual convention of the American Philatelic Society, was held from 9-12 August 2007 in Portland, OR. Although the FCPS had no official functions, there were still a number of members who attended and exhibited. Additionally, there were a number of French-area exhibits shown by non-members.

The Jury

Member **J.P. Gough**, of Orange County, CA, was on the philatelic jury. Readers may recall that Jamie's exhibit of postage due postal history, which contained significant material from France and colonies, won not only our Champion of Champions honor in 1992, but also the *Grand Prix d'Honneur* at Philexfrance '99.

Champion of Champions

This year, we had only one member in the competition for the Nation championship of exhibiting: Al Kugel of Chicago. His exhibit "Allied Intervention in Russia 1918-1925," which won the Grand Award at Indypex, was vying with 26 other Grand Award winning exhibits for the Champion of Champions title.

FCSP Open Exhibits

Three of our members showed in the open class. We had two members show one-frame exhibits: **Tom Siddens** of CA has returned to competitive exhibiting with the exhibit *The "Algerian 5000's" - Gross Chiffre Town Canceled - 1863-76*, for which he received a Gold medal; and **Steve Washburne** showed his *Portuguese Boas Festas Cards - The Beginning Years*, also winning Gold. **Eliot Landau** of IL once again showed his *Classic France: Postal History of the Ceres and Napoleon Issues of 1849-75*, which also won a Gold, and **Bob Kinsley** displayed *The French Conquest of Europe 1792-1814* which returned to the Gold medal level. Bravo to all for a wonderful showing!

Other French-Area Exhibits

A number of St. Pierre and Miquelon exhibits were shown: *St. Pierre Miquelon 1835-1941* by James R. Taylor; *New Hebrides/Nouvelles-Hébrides* by Sheryll R. Ruecker; *La Marianne Surchargée Saint-Pierre et Miquelon* by Livie-Laure Tillard (Junior); and *La Surcharge SPM Gothique de 1885* by Jean-Jacques Tillard. Each and everyone of these exhibits received a Gold medal! *Incroyable!*

The Saint Pierre et Miquelon Philatelic Society also had a booth at the show (see picture below). I had an opportunity to meet Jim Taylor, editor of the Saint-Pierre Miquelon Philatelic Journal, FCPS member **David Allen** President of the society, and M. Tillard who lives in the islands.



FCPS Director **Ed Grabowski** in conversation with our member **David Allen** who is very active in the St.-Pierre-et-Miquelon society.

Presentations

In addition to exhibits, two of our members made presentations. **Stan Luft** gave the talk "The 7 Periods of Double Franking between France & Alsace-Lorraine." This talk discussed the complicated franking required during the Franco-German war, primarily in Alsace-Lorraine.



Stan Luft describing another of his covers.

Eliot Landau gave a talk for our group and the Military Postal History Society at the frames. He concentrated on examples of French Military Mail 1849-1875 selected from his exhibit.



Eliot Landau (left) at the frames with, among others, FCPS members **Tom Siddens** (center) and **Loïc Dufresne de Virel** (far right).

Dealers

Finally, two dealer members of our Society had booths. **David Koplar** of CA (Interstamp) and **Bayard Mentrum** of OR (Bayard's Classic Stamps).

Upcoming French Shows

There are two major shows scheduled in France that may be of interest to members. The first is the Salon de Timbres *61^e Salon Philatélique D'Automne* which will be held from 8-11 November 2007 at Paris Expo-Espace Champerret, 6 rue Jean Ostreicher, 75017 Paris. The second show, and perhaps largest of the year, will be the *Salon du Timbre 2008*

which will be held at *Parc Floral de Vincennes* in Paris from 8-12 June 2008. This major show, which has FIP Sponsorship, will be the site of the *81^e Congrès de la Fédération française des associations philatéliques*.

Voyage à France

We have had a good (and quick) response from members wishing to visit Paris (philatelically and otherwise). In fact, with six members and at least four spouses already indicating a strong interest, we are fully subscribed for a 2008 trip. We will see how arrangements proceed. Any members who have not yet contacted the editor may do so. They will be placed on a "wait list" for the trip.

Papers Needed for FCP

Our backlog of papers for the *FCP* is dwindling. For us to continue our high level of content, we must all participate. Remember, that starting with the 2008 volume of the *FCP* the new **Excellence in Research Award** is being instituted. All qualifying papers will be in contention to win this prestigious award which includes an honorarium of \$250. See the *FCP* No. 289, p. 60 for details.

Annual Meeting and Officers Nominations

Our next official **Annual Meeting** will be held in conjunction with the NAPEX show to be held in McLean, VA from 6-8 June 2008. At that time, a full set of officers, and three directors, will be installed to manage our society.

All of the present officers and the directors of the Class of 2008 will be standing for reelection. However, the position of Vice President is vacant. By Article VII of our bylaws, nominations for this office, as well as any of the other offices, will be taken until 31 December 2007. To nominate a member in good standing, simply petition the Corresponding Secretary prior to the noted date. The ballot for the election will appear in the April 2008 *FCP*.

BOOK REVIEW

[This review is longer than most, but this book is such an important work for anyone interested in French postal history, that it is well worth the space. — Ed.]

Introduction à l'Histoire Postale de 1848 à 1878, Michèle Chauvet and Jean-François Brun, 800 pp, Brun & Fils (Paris, 2007).

Let me start out by saying that this book deserves great praise. If you have any interest at all in French postal history and its development, this is an indispensable work for your library. Despite being written in French, it is not difficult to understand, even with knowledge of just "philatelic French."

Why is this such an important book? The authors, who have already provided us with the Yvert & Tellier specialized catalog of French stamps published in 2000, have now produced an equally important work focused on postal history. They remind the reader that this book is only an introduction, even though it seems that there is much more information than a true introduction might contain. But Chauvet and Brun deliver on their promise to share their knowledge.

The book is organized into four parts which have a total of twenty chapters. Its production is similar to the specialized catalog, although the pages are size A4. Nearly every cover is illustrated in color. Most of the postal documents are reproduced in black and white, but this does not diminish the book in the least. My only concern is that at nearly seven pounds, the binding may give out before I am ready to stop using the book. One should use care when handling this book.

The book's structure is logical, and I believe readers will find it easy to use as a reference. There are ample footnotes and appendices, and the final chapter is devoted to explaining their sources and how to find additional material.

Let's take a quick tour through this magnificent work. The table of contents is seven pages long, so it serves as a reasonably useable index

as well. One should be able to search for information about a particular piece of mail, rate, or similar information by starting here.

The first chapter summarizes French political history from 1830 to 1848 in just more than a page before turning to the history of French postal reform. As most of you know, France adopted the equivalent of the British penny post system in 1848, with effect from 1 January 1849. Here you can read the ten year evolution of the French approach, including arguments both in favor and opposed to this "revolutionary" idea. It ends with the decree of 24 August 1848, which declares the new postal reform.

Three quarters of the chapters have appendices, which appear immediately following the chapter. At the end of the first chapter, the appendix includes: a biography of Etienne Arago, the person credited as the principal proponent of the French postal reform; two unadopted postal reform proposals; and reproductions of both the August 1848 decree and a more detailed *arrêté ministériel* of December 1848 explaining how the reform will work in much more detail. This appendix is typical of those found throughout the book.

Chapter 2 is devoted to the stamps, a fifty page summary of the specialized catalog. Again, there are reproductions of postal decrees and bulletins, an appendix with short descriptions of the major players, unissued stamps, and discussion of the private perforations found on these stamps.

Chapter 3 tells us how the postal service worked. It includes a floor plan for a *recette simple*, about the same as a U.S. first class post office. It explains the titles and responsibilities of postal employees. It tells us how mail was handled, including maritime and railroad systems. It also introduces the cancels applied to the mail.

Chapter 4 is devoted to a general description of types of correspondence and the development of the postal monopoly. The appendix includes several official documents describing the postal monopoly.

This ends the first part, so now we turn to the functions of the postal service. The second part includes chapters on postal markings, cancels (including photos of the small and large numeral canceling handstamps), explanations of rates, official documents regarding how stamps were to be canceled, and more. By chapter eight we are reading about local letters, including postage dues (with a marvelous official document showing a hand drawing of the first postage due issue). In Chapter 9, the authors tackle letters mailed throughout France (which also included Algeria and Corsica in the same rates). These chapters illustrate due letters, prepaid letters, short paid letters, and so on. The illustrated items are excellent, and always make a point to the reader.

Chapters 10 and 11 are about carrying and delivering the mail. There is more discussion of cancels and marks, the differences between delivering to street and rural addresses, and so on. There are even sections on refused and undeliverable mail, including postal forms and notations.

Part three explains general delivery, *chargées* and *recommandées* in three chapters. Again, the illustrations and explanations are excellent, including how "registered" service was suspended for nearly twenty years.

At this point we are only half way through the book, although we are starting the final part and the 15th of 20 chapters. The remaining subjects are more complex, so the authors devote more space to them. Chapter 15 is an introduction to maritime mails among all the French colonies and possessions. Chapter 16 tackles specially rated mail other than periodicals. It starts out showing fiscal handstamps that eventually are replaced by postage stamps on printed matter, walking us through the history of these rules. From there we read about other special rates prior to the major adjustments in 1856 and the changes made in that year. The postal items include advertising circulars, legal papers, and so on. Towards the end of the period postal cards also appear.

Periodicals merit their own chapter. Again we see the evolution from fiscal handstamps to postage rates, as well as the usual stunning illustrations

to show how all of this actually developed.

Chapter 18 is about military mail, and is admittedly not a thorough study. Nonetheless, one can get a great introduction to rates, as well as to the supporting postal documents that provided special rules for mail during military campaigns.

This book could not be complete without a chapter devoted to the Franco-Prussian War [or as our late member Ernst Cohn preferred, the Franco-German War — ed.] of 1870-71. Chapter 19 again provides a good overview of the postal activities, including the postage stamps and mail of Alsace-Lorraine. And that's the end of our introduction to French postal history.

Chapter 20 provides a detailed list of sources, places to go for more information, and a short list of works to consult for further study. It is not complete, of course, but provides a jumping off point for further study.

For example, one could start with the earlier Chauvet work, *Introduction à l'Histoire Postale des origines à 1849*, also published by Brun & Fils in 2002. There are a variety of studies about the Franco-Prussian War. Raymond Salles wrote the definitive study of maritime markings in the 1960s. Students of Algerian mails have their own specialized sources, as well as those who pursue military postal history. There is much more to learn after absorbing the knowledge in this wonderful book.

So in summary, I strongly recommend this introduction to all French postal history collectors. You will find it instructive, enlightening, colorful and easy to use. It belongs in your library.

— Ken Nilsestuen

End Notes

1. Behr, Pascal, Michèle Chauvet and Jean-François Brun, *Le Spécialisé 1849-1900*, Yvert & Tellier, Paris, 2000, 496 pp. M. Behr did not participate in this new work.
2. For those not familiar with European-sized books, A4 paper is the European standard, about 8-1/4" x 11-5/8". The covers are oversize, making it about 8-1/2" x 12" x 2" overall.

We Get Letters...

Dear Editor,

The article *The French military intervention in Crete* by Stan Luft in Journal 288 was of great interest to me, sharing as I do with Stan, a passion for the Type Sage issue of France. May I add the following comments.

Firstly, it is important to emphasize that the French offices opened were strictly civilian. Those interested in greater detail in the way in which they were opened should read the excellent article by Michèle Chauvet (*Documents Philateliques* No. 167, 2001.) *L'ouverture des bureaux français en Crète*. Initially, the Head Postmaster of the important French post office in Smyrna visited the island and identified the sites for the post offices and brought the office material necessary including postage stamps for setting them up. These were all secondary "recette distribution" category offices as shown by the outer dotted ring of the date stamps. As secondary offices they depended on and reported to Smyrna. They did not all open at the same time and the archive of M. Jules Borrel, the Smyrna postmaster, shows from his letters (source: *Archives de la Musée de la Poste de Paris: carton 303, dossier Borrel*) that this happened between 27 April 1897 and 25 November 1898.

On 24 of July 1899 La Canée was upgraded to a full service "Recette" office and from that date would have taken over responsibility for the remaining secondary offices.

The second point concerns the concessions given to soldiers and seamen on active duty in Crete. The right to free mail "Franchise" was indeed given in April 1897 but was withdrawn in June 1899 (*BM no 7 6/1899*) (Source: *Les Tarifs Postaux*). From then on the soldiers and seamen would benefit from the normal concessionary rate of 15c (i.e. the equivalent of the French inland rate)

Peter R.A.Kelly (FCPS 3107)

Dear Editor,

The passing of the Editor's baton from Stan Luft to yourself in *FCP* 289 should not go without comment from one of your many overseas members.

Stan has made an enormous contribution to the study and interest in French philately in the United States and to the reputation and standing of the society worldwide.

Many of us, for many years, have enjoyed the exchange of correspondence and information with Stan which has made the submission of articles to your Journal a pleasure with Stan becoming not merely editor or correspondent but a friend. He will certainly be a hard act to follow.

In Journal 288 (page 41) Stan refers to the Award of *Mérite Philatélique Européenne* made to him by the *Académie Européenne de Philatélie*. As a Director of the *Académie*, I can say that this Award is not given as a function of time served as Stan infers but is a real reflection of his contribution to philately over a period of many years.

Peter Kelly (FCPS 3107)

General Secretary,

France & Colonies Philatelic Society of G.B.

Wanted: Member with Postal Expertise

If you have expertise in USPS regulations for permits and mailing classifications, please contact the Editor directly at 702-658-8582 or by email at FCPEd@aol.com.

Membership Notices

NEW MEMBERS

- 3380 MARTIN, CONRAD O. II, Galloway, OH
 3381 DELPY, FRANÇOIS, Saint Max, Lorraine,
 France
 3382 TEUNION, ROBERT M., Swartz Creek, MI
 3383 NOONAN, RICHARD, Oakdale, NY

ADDRESS CHANGES

- 2030 EGGEN, DONALD T., San Luis Obispo, CA
 1955 ISAACS, MARK, Sarasota, FL
 1903 NUSSBAUM, RALPH J., West Palm Beach, FL
 2540 NYBERG, EDWARD J., Jr., Somersworth, NH
 2988 SALOVEY, DAVID E., New York, NY

Research is Our Contribution

David L. Herendeen, Editor

The primary reason that many of us join specialty philatelic groups is to get the group's journal, bulletin, newsletter, or whatever they call their vehicle for communication. I would expect that most of us want this subscription because it can add to our knowledge of a subject we love.

We All Know Something

Each of us collect what turns us on. No one knows why a person falls in love with a certain philatelic specialty any more than we know why we fall in love with another person. It just happens. French-area collecting is among the most complex and varied of all philatelic subjects. Whatever you collect, you may well be one of the greatest experts on the subject in the U.S., or maybe in the world. While you may think that what you know is trivial or unimportant, rest assured that in the great majority of cases it is not.

We Need to Share

Please make a resolution for 2008 to contribute something to your journal. It could simply be a description of a strange cover found in your collecting area that showed a rate never before seen. It might be a new overprint vari-

ety that has not yet been documented. It may be information about the geopolitics of your area. Whatever it is, please share with your fellow FCPS members.

Also remember that the new **FCP Excellence in Research Award** will be awarded for the best contribution made next year! (See FCP No. 289, p. 60 for details)

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Joel L. Bromberg, Corresponding Secretary September 20, 2007

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PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 2)



French Colonies

Common design Types

1938 Marie Curie Type CD80 VFNH
Set of 21 Fr Colonial stamps (no France) \$245

1941 Petain Issue Complete NH set 48 stamps from 24 Colonies \$37

1941-5 Cross of Lorraine (Scott Type CD87) The complete Set
of 71 stamps all Mint NH \$74

1944 Petain Surcharges (Semipostals) Complete set of 48
stamps from 24 Colonies all Mint NH \$40

1945 Felix Eboue Type CD91 Complete NH set 26 stamps \$14

1946 Victory Type CD92 Set of 15 Mint NH \$12

1946 Chad to Rhine Types CD93-8 Complete set of 90 stamps
from 15 Colonies all Mint NH \$120

1950 Tropical Medicine Type CD100 Complete NH set of 10 \$55

1952 Military Medal Type CD 101 Complete NH set of 12 \$96

1954 Liberation Type CD102 Complete set all VF NH from 12
different French Colonies \$105

French Colony 24 page Price List. Free upon request.

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