

## FRANCE and COLONIES

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PHILATELIST



The short-lived Consular post office in Palestine in 1948. See pages 3-5.

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#### FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

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## The French Office in Palestine — 1948

Raymond McGarrity (FCPS 3208)

While the manuscript for this article was being prepared, a major new work was released in France. Entitled Jérusalem—La Poste Consulaire Française 1948,1 it was written by Raphael Livnat, a member of the Académie de Philatélie. This 152 page study covers all aspects of this interesting historical event. Mr. McGarrity gives us an overview of the area (in English) that provides an excellent basis for further study. Readers interested in persuing the topic more deeply are directed to the new book.

#### Introduction

In Palestine in April 1948 war was in the air. By 25 April, all mail services ceased in West Jerusalem. As so often happens during times of military stress, an innovative solution was found by René Neuville, the French General Consul in Jerusalem. He started a postal service between his consulate and France. His authority came from article XII of an Edict issued on 3 March 1781 by King Louis XVI.

While the French consulate was in a building the size of an embassy in a medium size country, this was not a country: it was the British Mandate of Palestine

#### The Stamps

During the short existence of the consular post office, four stamps were issued. The first three were provisional overprints that were produced by the Aziel Printing Works in Jerusalem while waiting for stamps from France.

The first two stamps (Cérès<sup>2</sup> 1) and (Cérès PA 1) were authorized by a consular ordinance on 30 April 1948. On 5 May 1948 the post office was opened to the public. Due to the then current UPU regulations, only French nationals were to use the service. However, mail was known to be accepted from non-French people if the destination was within France or her empire.

The first stamp was created by surcharging the Ministry of Foreign Affairs fiscal stamp. This stamp was "GRATIS," or free, indicating no denomination. The new value was 6 francs which was equivalent to 7 mils in local currency. The base stamp, shown in Fig. 1 is green with an orange medallion of Marianne on the left side. To create the provisional stamps, the word "GRATIS" was covered by a blue horizontal line approximately 13.25 mm long by 2 mm wide. On the left side of the stamp, the following three line surcharge was printed:

## JERUSALEM Postes françaises 6 Frs.

The second stamp was an airmail stamp which sold for 10 francs or 13 mils. Since the airmail rate was 16fr per 10 grams, both the 6fr and 10fr had to be used for a single weight letter. The air mail stamp used the same fiscal stamp as a base for the 6fr surcharge. Again, as seen in Fig. 2,3 a bar was printed over the word "GRATIS," and the surcharge applied to the medallion read:

JERUSALEM Poste aerienne 10 Frs.



Figure 1. Cérès 1.



Figure 2. Cérès PA1.



Figure 3. Cérès 2.

This time the surcharge was expressed in local currency rather than in francs: 20 millièmes. The overprinting used 80 half sheets of 25 of a different fiscal stamp for a total printing of 2,000 stamps. This time, the fiscal stamp used was yellow orange with a medallion of Marianne in brown red. On the right hand side of the stamp two bars in blue were printed over the words *Agences Consulares* in two lines, while on the left hand side the surcharge applied over the medallion was:

## JERUSALEM Postes françaises 20 millièmes

Although this stamp is not listed as an air mail stamp, it paid the airmail rate to France for letters weighing 10 grams or less. It went on sale 15 May 1948. Fig. 4 shows a "first day of issue" usage on a post card that was never sent through the mails.

In fact, because of dwindling supplies of the first two values, they began using their third stamp as early as 12 May 1948 as shown in Fig. 5. This particular cover is also interesting

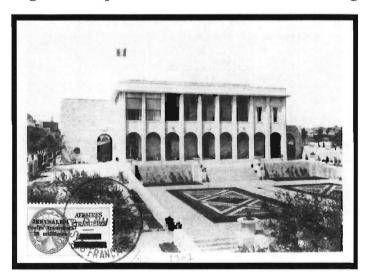


Figure 4. "First Day Cover" of Cérès 2 showing the French consulate.



Figure 5. Use of Cérès 3 on a Letter to France.



Figure 6. Arrival Backstamp and Forwarding Notation.

in that it has a Paris arrival cancellation (on 2 June 1948) on the back and a notation by the Foreign Affairs office that the letter was being forwarded. This is seen in Fig. 6. Not all such covers were backstamped in this manner.

Finally, the shipment of stamps from the PTT in France arrived. By a consular ordinance issued on 26 May 1948, the stamps were made available to the public immediately. This fourth stamp (Cérès 3) is shown in Fig. 7

Five thousand 6fr red Marianne stamps, consisting of 50 sheets of 100 stamps, were sent.



Figure 7. Cérès 3.

The 6fr Marianne was surcharged in two lines on the bottom third of the stamp normally just below the nose:

#### JERUSALEM 20 millièmes

These stamps were overprinted in Marseille. According to one reference,4 all known sheets are dated 26.2.48, and the shade of the base stamp is rose. Cérès gives the color of the 6 fr stamp as rose carminé. However, this same catalog states that the overprint was printed on number 721A which is listed as being rouge. Is this listing an editorial error, or were there two shades of the underlying stamp?. Yvert et Tellier<sup>5</sup> also lists the stamp as rose carminé, and indicate that the underlying stamp, in their numbering scheme, is the same 721A as nioted in Cérès. Finally, Berck<sup>6</sup> lists a 6fr Marianne (A276) as carmine. A usage of this stamp is shown in Fig. 7 on the cover sent to France on 25 Nov 1948.

Two types of overprint are known:

- In Type 1, there is a vertical space of 1 mm between 20 and millièmes
- In Type 2, the space is 1.5 mm.

When buying or selling this stamp, both parties should be in agreement as to the spacing because there is not complete agreement on the two types depending upon the reference sources being used.



Figure 7. The last issue on cover to France dated 25 Nov 1948. (Note that letter was down-rated from airmail service)

There are a number of alignment differences and flaws in the overprinting which result in the following collectible varieties:

- A broken "S" in JERUSALEM (positions 51 and 56)
- A cracked "A" in JERUSALEM (positions 1, 6, 13, 18, 45 and 50)
- The "2" is centered under the "JE" in positions 1 and 6
- The "2" is centered under the "ER" in positions 41 and 43

#### Conclusion

This paper has presented a summary of the story of the short-lived stamp issue from the French consular post office in Jerusalem during 1948. It shows how an issue of four stamps can be far from simple to analyze and understand. This complexity is discussed in great detail in Livnat's fine work. This newly published study has 153 large-sized (A4) pages.

I noted that Cérès 3 was used for mail to France by air, but not beyond. It would take mail at the first step to any point in the French Empire by surface. An interesting destination was to the French Zone of Germany. The cover has a Jerusalem 2 December 1948 postmark and an arrival back stamp of 18 December 1948. Also, French troops in Jerusalem had a free frank, but not the ones attached to the United Nations. Mail is illustrated with the military cancellation combined with the consulate's postmark. This postal facility was very much used. It was the only way to get mail out of Jerusalem in a secure and reliable manner.

#### Endnotes and References

- 1. Livnat, R., *Jérusalem—La Poste Consulaire Française* 1948. Published by the author. Paris, 2007.
- 2. Cérès France 2008, Cérès Philatélie, 2008, p. 578.
- 3. Figure 2 has been scanned from Livnat. It has been cropped from a figure that appears on p. 35.
- 4. Souchard, Y., "Jérusalem Émissions Consulaires de 1948", *Documents Philatéliques*, No. 147, 1996.
- 5. Catalogue de Timbres-Poste, Tome 2 (1re Partie) Colonies Françaises, Yvert & Tellier, Amiens, 2006.
- 6. Berck, E., France Spécialisé, 28th ed., 1970. p. 86.

## The Strange Case of Port Inini

Jeff Ward (FCPS 3142)

tamp collectors who started out collecting the world, as most of us did, know Inini as that palindromic French territory with overprints applied over natives shooting a bow and arrow or canoeing through roiling rapids. The base stamps were inscribed Guyane Française and the overprints Territoire de l'Inini or some variation thereof. Most were printed in two sharply contrasting colors, a few examples being lavender and blue green, brown and purple, and orange and black. They tended to be inexpensive, often obtainable in packets, and always mint. I liked the imaginative color combinations and exotic designs, which seemed so markedly different from the more conventional issues of the US, Canada, or Europe.

The Territory of Inini was created in 1930 when French colonial authorities, for reasons that are still obscure, decided to split their South American colony French Guiana (Guyane Française) into two colonies: Guyane, the Atlantic coastal strip where about 85% of the population lived, and Inini (Territoire de l'Inini), the undeveloped Amazon jungle interior. This is illustrated on the map shown in Fig. 1. With a population of less than 5,000, Inini had no roads, only one very primitive railroad, and a few landing strips. Travel into and through Inini was largely by river. Because all the streams contained many rapids — which necessitated numerous portages — river travel was mainly by canoe.

French postal authorities in Paris produced separate stamps for Inini beginning in 1932. At first, they simply overprinted the current French Guiana pictorial definitive series. There were three designs, a native archer, two natives in a canoe, and the main government administration building in Cayenne, the capital of *Guyane*. A handful of issues followed, some of which were produced specifically for Inini rather than created by overprinting other stamps. Inini ceased to exist as a separate entity on 9 March 1946, when it was folded back into French Guiana. After this date, the stamps of Inini were deemed valid throughout French

Guiana, and they can be found on covers from the coast as well as the interior until at least 1950.

Four post offices in Inini are known to have their own canceling devices during its "independent" period. They are: St. Elie, a tiny, rough mining camp that served as the territory's capital; the village of Port Inini; and two that have been described as mobile post offices. The first two are noted on the map in Fig. 1 by arrows. The mobile offices were known as Secteur de l'Ouest (Western Sector) and Secteur du Centre (Central Sector).

Covers with Inini stamps and postmarks are very scarce and most are philatelically inspired. As a collector and specialist in this area, I have seen about seventy altogether. About 70% are from St. Elie and most of the remainder are from Secteur de l'Ouest. About

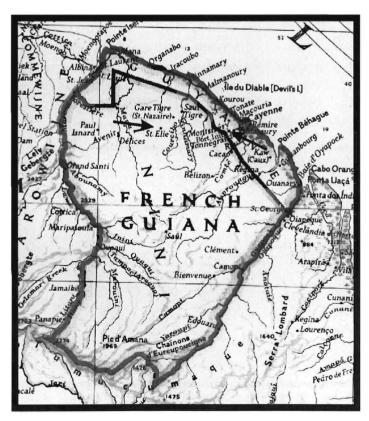


Figure 1. French Guiana, composite map showing the Guyane and Inini regions.



Figure 2. Cover from Port Inini to New York City, 17 December 1940.

10% are from the other two combined. Port Inini is the scarcest, being slightly less common than *Secteur du Centre*. I have two covers from Port Inini; one mailed 17 December 1940, shown in Fig. 2, and the other, 19 April 1946. I have seen photos of two others.

The name "Port Inini" is a bit odd. It was not a port, but rather a small river settlement founded by Indochinese immigrants sometime in the early twentieth century. Although there is an Inini River in the Inini Territory, Port Inini was not located there. Rather, the village was on the Tonnegrande River, a long way from the Inini. Even stranger is the fact that Port Inini was apparently not located in Inini. I have a map showing the location of Port Inini and a different map showing the boundary between Inini and Guyane. Unfortunately, I have not seen an "official" map containing both features. However, a careful comparison of the two maps shows that Port Inini, although close to the border, was actually located in Guyane. I have created the composite map shown in Fig. 1 to illustrate this unusual situation.

Because of its interior location, the scenery around Port Inini would have been indistinguishable from the Amazonian jungles of Inini. Also, the border was probably unmarked. Finding the exact location of the border would have been a difficult surveying task in this hostile environment. Furthermore, there was probably no compelling reason to mark the border be-

cause, from what I can determine, Inini was not treated as a separate colony in any manner except the issuance of postage stamps. So, if the inhabitants wanted to believe they lived in Inini, I suppose no one was going to object. We do know that the Port Inini post office was provided with Inini stamps and at least two canceling devices inscribed *Territoire Inini* (Figure 3). All four Port Inini covers I have seen are franked with Inini stamps. It seems clear that the postal authorities treated Port Inini as if it were located in Inini.

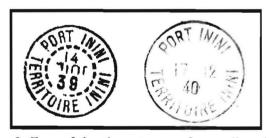


Figure 3. Two of the three types of cancellers known to have been used in Port Inini.

Another strange aspect of Port Inini philately occurred during World War II. To commemorate the overthrow of the local Vichy colonial government by the Free French, postal authorities in Cayenne decided to create a special cancellation. Cancellers inscribed *France Libre* and the town name were produced for the post office of each capital, Cayenne and St. Elie. No other town or village received these commemorative cancellers — at least that was the belief

for many years. Then, the cover shown in Fig. 4 surfaced. It shows a clear Port Inini France Libre cancel in the same style as those of Cayenne and St. Elie. I do not know if other examples have surfaced or if this cover (which is owned by a collector in England) has been expertized, but it certainly looks genuine. It also raises a question: why would the postal authorities produce a France Libre cancel for this tiniest and most out of the way post office and deny it to all other towns and villages other than the two capitals? With the passage of time, it is increasingly unlikely that this question will ever be answered.

Ultimately, the attempt to settle this patch of the Amazon jungle was unsuccessful, and the post office was closed. Today only scattered ruins remain of the village of Port Inini. About five miles away, a newer and even smaller settlement has adopted the name Port Inini, so the name itself survives although the post office has never been reestablished.

#### Conclusion

The geopolitics and philately of Inini are still not well known, and there are many facts to be discovered and mysteries to be solved in the coming years.



Figure 4. Cover from Port Inini to Long Island, 8 February 1945, illustrating the third type of canceler. It contains the phrase "France Libre."

#### We Get Letters...

#### Dear Editor:

Many thanks for Bob Picirilli's article in the latest *FCP*. Ever since I started to collect WW II Red Cross mail I have been starving for French Colony postal rates. An article like this is a gold mine.

#### Chuck Lablond (FCPS 1314)

#### Dear Editor:

I have a question that I hope you can answer. In the October edition of the France and Colonies Philatelist, on page 95, there is a notice about the *Salon du Timbre 2008* to be held 8-12 June. I have discovered on the web site of the *Musée du Timbre* the dates of 14-22 June. Do you have any more recent information about the dates? Thanks for your help. I enjoy immensely the journal.

#### Erwin Petri (FCPS 1761)

I thank Mr. Petri for his compliment and for the information. I double checked the dates he mentions, 14-22 June 2008, and they are correct.

### Candidates for Officers and Directors

Candidates for the election of officers and directors, for which ballots will appear in the next *FCP*, are given below:

President Kenneth R. Nilsestuen
Vice President Norval L. Rasmussen
Treasurer William Wallis
Corresponding Secretary Joel L. Bromberg

Directors: Class of 2012 Directors: Class of 2012 Deffrey C. Bohn

Dr. Martin F.

Stempien, Jr.

#### **BOOK REVIEW**

[This comprehensive review of the work by **Marty Bratzel** that has received the 2007 Gerard Gilbert award, was provided by long-time member **Bill Mitchell**. I think readers will see from the review itself why this book received our reward. — Ed.]

## THE POSTAL TARIFFS OF CAMEROUN UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION 1916-1959

by M. P. Bratzel Jr, vi + 215 pp, 8½ x 11 inch, spiral bound hard copy plus searchable DVD appendix, pub 2007 by MPB Canada, obtainable from the author at 1233 Virginia Avenue, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, price \$80 + \$3 media mail. For remittances in Sterling or Euros, please see the Advance Notice in the *FCP* (Whole No. 288, April 2007, p. 46).

This is not just a collection of Tables (if it was, it would be a valuable reference work if not exactly a good read); it is in fact a concise postal history of Cameroun during the 43 years of French administration in so far as it was relevant to the postal tariffs actually imposed.

of Introductory After 11 pages (Cameroun's history; postal services and tariffs; currency; the search for, presentation and organisation of information; the nature of France and the French Community; acknowledgments etc) and a list of acronyms used in the book there follows a very useful four pages of Combination Tables for Quick Reference which set out the essential basics: first-step (to 20 gms) letters plus registration plus air mail surtaxes (to 5 or 10 gms as appropriate) for both domestic - i.e. French Community - and foreign mail, the air mail surtaxes being specifically the rates for France and the United States respectively.

The bulk of the book is divided into four sections - Domestic Tariffs within Cameroun, to France and within the French Community; International Tariffs; Air Mail; and Other Services. Each section is sub-divided into accounts of the relevant services - as an example, here are the details of the shortest section, which deals with Air Mail:

#### Air Line Services

- Air Services Prior to May 1937
- Air Services to/from Douala from 1937

#### Air Mail Charges

- Published Studies
- Air Mail from Cameroun prior to and during World War II
- Air Mail from Cameroun to the United States during World War II
- Air Mail within and from Cameroun after World War II

#### Additional Air Mail Considerations

- Air Parcel Post
- Insufficiently Franked Air Mail
- Telegram Air Letter
- Special Holiday Greeting Rates
- Military Mail
- Remuneration for Air Transport

The account of the Air Parcel Post refers the reader to the thirteen-page account of the Parcel Post in the Other Services section of the book. This is a subject which is not often included in the literature on postage rates, partly because of its complexity and partly because so little material survives to find its way into collections.

The relatively short period covered by the study and the generous page size have enabled Dr. Bratzel to add interest to his Tables by expanding many of his explanatory notes into a true narrative; as already noted, a concise postal history.

The page size has also enabled Dr. Bratzel to set out his data in such a way that it is easily readable; frequently a Table is spread over two pages. Dates of orders or decrees giving effect to rate changes are included, as well as the dates on which they came into force. For domestic rates, those applicable to internal mail, Cameroun-France mail and Cameroun-French

Community mail are distinguished, although they are of course very often the same. For the researcher, a very important feature of the Tables is the number of the relevant arrêtés or other legislation; where this is not given in his source (usually the Journal Officiel du Cameroun) the entry is given a code number so that it can be identified in the Appendix. This consists of a 16-page chronological listing (following an Explanatory Note) of "the substantiating documentation for the information presented in the text and the summary tables." This list includes the Order, Decree or Law (or Code Number), its date, the effective date, the year and page number of the Journal Officiel (etc) and the title of the document.

All the documents can be consulted by means of the accompanying CD. Dr. Bratzel apologizes for the poor quality of some of the reproduced pages; I've had photocopies of many of them for some years — the quality is certainly variable, but they can be read.

I should mention one other feature of this outstanding addition to the already considerable literature on Cameroun. Dr. Bratzel has added to the interest of his Tables and narrative by a selection of illustrations, not just of covers and postcards but also of forms and other postal documents not so often seen - for example, Money Order cards and receipts, Advice of Receipt forms, International and Franco-colonial reply coupons and a registered address label for a packet of samples. Postal services are not neglected either, especially in the section devoted to air mail where notices of Air Line Schedules, General Information to the Public and Reduced Holiday Greeting Rates can be found. There are photographs, too — of post offices, ports, aircraft.

This superb work should be owned by every collector of Cameroun and will be of interest to collectors of other French colonies and indeed France itself. It is a labour of love, the result of 20 years of research, and will not be superseded for many years — if at all.

My only quibble — for a work of this importance and likely longevity, a more substantial cover would have been an advantage.

- Bill Mitchell

### NAPEX is Approaching

Remember that the *FCPS* Annual Meeting is being held in conjunction with the NAPEX exhibition which will be held in McLean, VA from 6-8 June 2008.

We are hoping to get at least as many (nine!!) exhibits in this fine show as we had last year at the Garfield-Perry show in Cleveland. The NAPEX prospectus is available and you can download it from the NAPEX web site:

http://www.Napex.org/

or you can email our president **Ken Nilses**tuen for a copy:

nilsestuen@sbcglobal.net

### Behr Missing Shipment

Our advertiser *Behr Philatélie* has suffered an apparent loss. It was a shipment of material sent by the Royal Philatelic Society of London No. RI67555413GB on 5 November 2007 to the Behr offices. As of this writing, nothing has arrived at the destination. A complaint was filed with the *Direction Generale de la Police Nationale* on 6 2007.

The total value of the missing materials is 111,200 euros.

South Australia 2d unused
South Australia 2d pair unused
New South Wales # 14 1 £.
New South Wales # 1 unused
Dattia # SG6a
Transvaal # 86 unused
BCA # 52 used
Natal # 6-1-2-3 used
Gold Coast # 34 unused
Niger Coast # 7-15-8g-8c unused
Portuguese Guinea # 5a error in pair unused
Mauritius # 3A used
Company South Africa # 73 unused
Ceylon Service # 2 surcharge black

Members having any information about these stamps are requested to please call Pascal Behr at +33 1 43 12 37 73

#### **SHOW REPORTS**

- Minnesota Stamp Expo (Jul 2007): Gold medal to *Al Kugel* for "The Postal History of Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1842-1918."
- Americover (Falls Church, VA): Very busy member *Eliot Landau* received a Gold medal and the Grand Award for "The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Series of 1945-46 and It's First Day Covers and Uses," his "The 5-Cent China War Resistance Issue of 1942" received a Vermeil, and his exhibit "Oh Freedom" appeared in the Court of Honor.
- BALPEX (Sep 2007): Gold medal and Reserve Grand to Steve Washburne for "200+Years of Madeira Postal History," Gold medal to Ed Grabowski for "Indochina and the French Offices in China: Use and Nonuse of the French Allegorical Group Type." Cheryl Ganz received a Vermeil medal for "Uruguay Zeppelin Agency Cachets"
- Omaha Stamp Show (Sep 2007): Gold medals to Al Kugel for "Postal History of the American Forces in China 1900-1941;" Roger Quinby for "The Russian Type Penni Postal Cards of Finland." In the Single-frame class, two Vermeil medals to Al Kugel for: "British Forces in Ireland 1920-1922" and "Registered Mail of the American Expeditionary Forces, 1917-1923."

#### **TYPES AND SUBTYPES**

#### o,25 Marianne à le Nef

Type I: (for sheets, coils and booklets of 20 stamps): blue vertical *hachures* near bow of

boat, southeast of hands, bear parasitic points as shown in Fig. I.





Type II: (for booklets of 8 stamps): most parasitic points are absent; some of the vertical *hachures* that would have otherwise borne these points do not reach the gunwale, as shown in Fig. II.

- S. J. Luft

## Change in French Overseas Nomenclature

Writing in the Bulletin Col.Fra, Jean-Jacque Séréni reports that major changes have been made to the nomenclature used for French territories abroad. These changes resulted from the constitutional revisions of 2003, the referendum of December 2004, and a new law passed in early 2007. Most notably, the small Caribbean islands of Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthélemy became Overseas Groups (collectivités d'outre-mer) by Article 74 of the Constitution. The laws applied to the whole overseas network. The new categories of territories are given below.

**Départements:** Guadeloupe, Guyane, Martinique and Réunion. The overseas departments also have the status of "overseas regions," each composed of a single *département*.

Collectivités d'outre-mer: Mayotte: (collectivité départementale), Polynésie française (province d'outre-mer), Saint-Barthélemy, Saint-Martin and Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon: are territorial groupings (collectivités territoriales), and Wallis-et-Futuna: (territoire).

Nouvelle-Calédonie (special status as a pays d'outre mer)

**Uninhabited territories**: Clipperton, *Terres australes et antarctiques françaises*.(including all of its small islands). Such territories with no permanent population or administration are outside of the Republic (State possessions)

We must now introduce the new acronyms DOM, COM and NC.

Our long-time member **Bill Mitchell** (see his latest book review, p. 9) provided a similar translation in the September issue of *The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society* (GB).

New Year's Resolution...
Write for the FCPS!

## France and Colonies Philatelist

Index to Volume 63 (2007)

David L Herendeen and Stanley J. Luft, compilers

#### **PREFACE**

The following numbers of the Journal are included in the present Index:

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	No. 3	(	289)	July 2007
	No. 4	(	290)	October 2007

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What an interesting year we have had, both as a society and as a hobby. If you are a typical person, all of this is almost certainly overlaid on an interesting year in many other ways.

Our society has revitalized, holding its annual meeting in Cleveland and attracting great exhibits as well as many members. We have plans for annual meetings traveling around the country for the next several years after our successful Cleveland experiment. What a great way to celebrate 2007 and look forward to 2008!

We've seen our collections grow in value, whether or not we have added any new stamps or covers, just by virtue of foreign exchange rates. For those of us improving our collections with purchases from foreign countries, we have suffered greatly from the weak dollar. I remember well when I started buying seriously for my Algerian specialty how easy it was to win material in French auctions. The euro cost 85 to 90 cents, so outbidding others was not only easier, but also a lot less expensive in U.S. dollars. Now at \$1.40+, (close to \$1.50 for those of us purchasing euros a few at a time), it is really expensive to acquire the next stamp or cover. It takes more planning as well as more resources to build our collections.

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Of course, that also raises the cost of travel outside the U.S. as well. Trips to rue Drouot (oh yes, there are other places to visit in Europe) have become more expensive. Even jaunts to Canada are no longer the bargain they were. This secondary result to *FCPS* members is no more pleasant that the cost of philatelic items.

We are also witnessing the dispersal of several great collections, *Ed Grabowski*'s Guadeloupe, *Steve Walske*'s Franco-Prussian War material, and others. It's a reminder that we are all stewards of our material, preserving it for the next generation of collectors. It is fascinating to see collections formed that illustrate great tales to owners and exhibitors, only to see the same items reappear in new hands and used to relate a different story.

As we start into a new calendar year there are great signs for our hobby and our society. Let's continue our support for both: by writing an article for our journal, by attending shows, by making an effort to be at our annual meeting, by seeking out new members, by encouraging our young family members, or in some other way adding to the enjoyment and continuation of philately.

In April you will receive the ballot for *FCPS* officers. Please vote!

## Performing Philatelic Research The Collectors Club of New York

David L. Herendeen (FCPS 2532)

This is the first in a series of articles that will provide the details for performing research at many of the best philatelic libraries and research centers in the world. It is intended to be a working document that details the specific references available for researching France and related philately. Many of the sites will, naturally, include a much broader range of materials for us all. I have chosen the venerable Collectors Club of New York for the first installment only because I have just visited the facility and was able to get the latest exciting news from Dr. Irene Bromberg, the Executive Secretary. A few of the other articles that will appear include the American Philatelic Research Library, the Royal Philatelic Society, London, the Library of Congress, and the Colonial Archives in Aix-en-Provence, France.

The Collectors Club of New York (CCNY), founded in 1896, is located at 22 East 35th Street, New York, NY 10016. The club has occupied this wonderful facility, in Manhattan's Murray Hill neighborhood, since 1937. The library was begun as early as 1911 as a labor of love, and it has grown continuously until the holdings now consume the majority of the space in the classic five-story brownstone.

#### Holdings of French-Related Material

The CCNY library has a substantial holding of French-related research materials. The library currently receives, and has excellent — usually complete — runs of: the France and Colonies Philatelist, the Journal of the France and Colonies Society (GB), l'Echo de Timbrologie, Feuilles Marcophiles, and Documents Philatéliques.

More importantly it has excellent runs of the important journals published in France during the classic and neo-classic periods. These include:

Bulletin Mensuel de Th. Champion 1915-1961 Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste 1864-1939



The Collectors Club of New York is located at 22 East 35th Street, New York

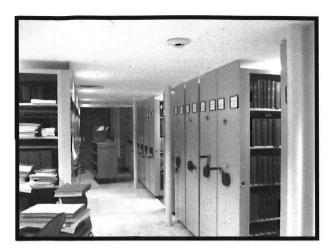
Le Timbre 1888-1893

Le Timbre-Poste 1863-1900

Le Timbre-Poste France 1907-1925

Additionally, you may find other magazines such as *Timbroscopie*, *Timbrologie*, and *Timbres Magazine*. There are other runs of short-lived and esoteric French journals.

Other sources that may be of value include newspapers such as *Linn's* and *Stamps*, which includes whole-world coverage of new issue information. Other publications, such as the *American Philatelist* and the *Congress Books*, offer a variety of articles, some of which are applicable to French area philately.



Periodical Room, Basement

#### Membership

Any philatelist is free to join the CCNY. An application may be found on their web sire:

#### www.collectorsclub.org

You will need to be sponsored by two current members of the organization. The web site includes a description of membership benefits.

#### Library Organization

The library occupies most of the floor space in the CCNY facility. The Periodical Room is located in the basement. Many thousands of bound periodicals are stored on convenient, easy-to-use, rolling shelves. On the first floor, is the Main Reading Room, where one finds catalogs, hard-bound books and monographs. These are organized geographically. On the third floor, auction catalogs are stored in the Joseph S. Rich Room. These are organized first geographically; and then by auction house. The Luff Room, found on the fourth floor, contains rare books and name sale catalogs. Material is available for study, but may not be borrowed. The Memorial Room on the fifth floor contains the archive of stamps catalogs, these are primarily Scott and Gibbons, but also include some foreign ones.

Note that there is a small elevator that is available, but as you might expect it runs slowly. Those of us who are able normally use the (rather steep) staircases.



Main Reading Room, First Floor

#### How to Use the Library

While the library facilities are open to the public, it is best to contact Dr. Bromberg before you visit. Although the CCNY is scheduled to be open from 10 AM to 5PM daily, there can be occasional unexpected closures. This will help you in two ways: first it will verify that the club will be open the days you will visit, and second it will give Irene a chance to provide the best help that you can get. Irene may be reached at:

#### Telephone: 212-683-0559

#### email: collectorsclub@verizon.net

The library has self-copying facilities at a cost of 10c per page for members, and 20c per page



Dr. Irene Bromberg, Executive Secretary. (Yes, you have heard the name before, she is the spouse of our FCPS Secretary, Joel Bromberg.)

for non-members. The building is also covered by Wi-Fi so that you can use a laptop computer to take notes directly. **WARNING**: There may not always be an electric receptacle available for your computer.

#### Other Help

The library is guided by two able Library Committee Chairmen, Mr. Miklos Pinther and Dr. Mark Banchik. Miklos is often at the library on Wednesdays, and he is happy to help out on research projects. Additionally, there are other library volunteers including Helena Maisel,

Allan Hoffman, Mike Ruggiero and John Dowd. These kind folks will always be helpful in locating material in the stacks.

#### Conclusion

The library of the CCNY is a useful venue for performing research on French-related philatelic topics. Depending on your interest, you may still need more extensive sources, but then, this is nearly always the case. Certainly if you have occasion to be in New York, a visit would definitely be worthwhile.

### Bratzel Receives 2007 Gilbert Award

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that long-time FCPS member and frequent FCP contributor **Dr. Marty Bratzel**, of Canada, has been awarded the Gerard Gilbert award for 2007. His wonderfully researched and comprehensive study is entitled **The Postal Tariffs of Cameroun under French Administration** 1916-1959.

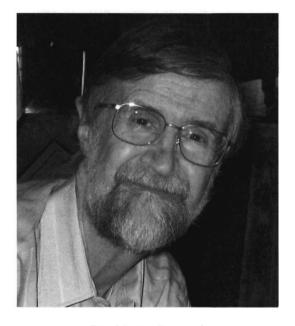
A thorough review of this wonderful work can be found on page 9.

Remember that the Gilbert Award is presented annually to the best philatelic publication, written in English, on a subject covered by the purview of the *FCPS*.

Dr. Bratzel was born in Fort Lauderdale, FL in 1945. He received a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Florida (Go Gators!) in 1971, and began his professional career with the U.S. Public Health Service in 1972. His focus shifted to environmental protection and restoration when he joined the Canada-United States International Joint Commission in 1973. Marty stayed with this organization until his retirement in 2004.

Marty has been married to Helen since 1966. They have four children and, at this writing, two grandchildren.

Marty began as a general stamp collector at an early age. His interest later was directed toward German and German Colonial philately.



Dr. Marty Bratzel

After receiving a Cameroun mystery stamp from a fellow collector — the overprint and postmark ultimately proved to be bogus — his interest was stimulated and grew to focus on all aspects of Cameroun philately and postal history.

Marty has authored or co-authored four other books and numerous articles primarily about this subject. He continues his research and writing during his retirement.

Naturally, as editor I look forward to working with Marty on *FCP* articles in the coming years.

## FCPS Heritage - II

By Ed Grabowski (FCPS 1469)

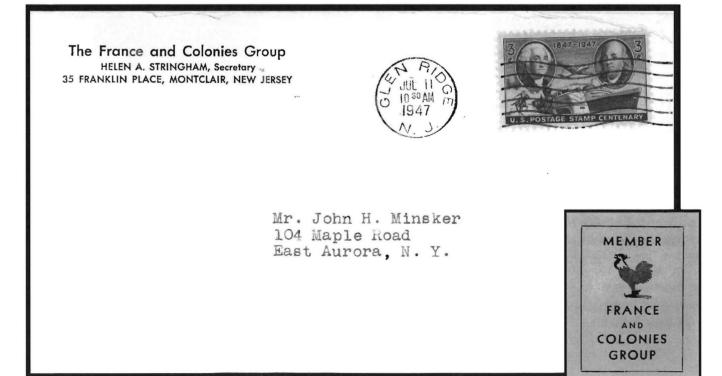
Recently I published a short note on a 1950s *FCPS* meeting notice that came up for auction at my local club in Westfield, NJ. (*FCP*, No. 289, p. 72) The same source has provided yet another item of *FCPS* memorabilia that I would like to note. It is a new member follow-up letter posted by Mrs. Helen A. Stringham of Montclair, NJ who was the Society's Secretary in the 1940s. A check of the 1945 *FCP*s shows that a Miss Helen V. Anthony of Montclair was the Secretary as noted in the May-June issue, and by the September-October issue she had become Mrs. Helen A. Stringham. None other than Stephen G. Rich was Editor.

The item in question is a small envelope shown below with a France and Colonies Group return address That shows Mrs. Stringham as Secretary. The envelope is franked with the 1947 postage stamp centenary issue, Scott number 947, which I remember buying at the post office during my early years as a fledging stamp collector. It is addressed to a Mr. John H. Minsker of East Aurora, NY. Inside is a let-

ter on Society stationery noting that the 25 cent membership application fee which Mr. Minsker had not initially paid, had been received. (We finally did away with the 50 cent application fee just a few years ago!) Mr. Minsker was offered back issues of the bulletin at a price of \$1.00 per year set of six issues.

What makes the ensemble particularly interesting is the enclosure of a blue Society label, shown below as an inset, which bears the inscription: **MEMBER FRANCE AND COLONIES GROUP**, and a sketch of a not particularly Gallic chicken. In her letter Mrs. Stringham notes that this is the label that the new member saw at CIPEX. She does not record how it was used, but suggests that should Mr. Minsker exhibit his French material, he might include this label as an unobtrusive way of advertising the Society. Maybe this is a practice that we should reinstate?

Regardless, this is another delightful item noting the life of the Society in bygone days.



## The Salon d'Automne — Major Parisian Philatelic Event

David L. Herendeen (FCPS 2532)

was recently fortunate to attend the Salon Philatélique d'Automne, one of the two major philatelic events held in Paris each year. The venue, the convention center at Porte de Champerret, while a 20-40 minute metro ride from most of central Paris, was a very accommodative location for the show. Again, like one of our major shows, the Salon lasted four days, from 8 November to 11 November. I attended the first two days and, after having a previous engagement on day three, decided I had all the standing I could take.

There were 75 dealer stands as well as 20 foreign postal administrations. The French post office, *La Poste*, had a large presence, and a special first day ceremony was held. It appeared that at least 60 of the dealers were from France. Notable exceptions included auction houses **Spink** (London) and **Soler y Llach** (Spain). The latter also had a decent retail stock from which both Ed Grabowski and I were able to find several items.

As seen in the accompanying photos, the setup of the show was similar to that of ours. However, the dealer booths were in the European, or international, style: the counters are standing height, and there are no chairs.



#### FCPS Members

There were a handful of *FCPS* members attending the show in various capacities. I was primarily there to see how a French show really functions. I felt that this would allow me to better organize the trip that some of our US members are planning to take in June for the even larger show.

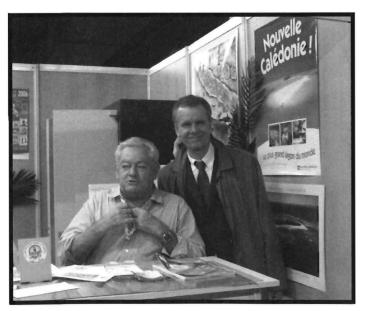




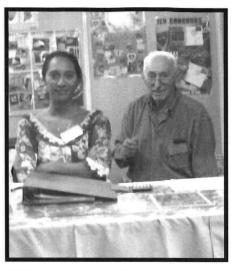
Ed Grabowski doing video interview with Timbropresse crew.

**Ed Grabowski** was attending to help publicize the upcoming auction of his Grand Prix exhibit of Guadeloupe postal history. He could be found in the Spink booth where he was schmoozing with collectors. He was interviewed by the philatelic press on video for presentation on the Timbropresse web site.

I was also able to meet with our overseas director, *Kay Gaetjens* and his brother Gregor. Kay is shown in the photo below with Mr. Roire, president of the New Caledonian stamp society. Kay specializes in the postal history of Tahiti and French Oceania.



FCPS board member Kay Gaetjens (right) at the New Caledonia stand with Mr. Alfred Roire, president of the New Caledonian stamp society.



FCPS member Christian Beslu, with island Vahine, working at the French Polynesia stand.

Another FCPS member whose attendance surprised me was *Christian Beslu* of Tahiti. I had

the good fortune of spending most of a day with Mr. Beslu at his home in 1996. (See FCP 250, p.23) A professional writer by trade, he wrote the major work La Philatélie de Tahiti in 1994.

Finally, I was able to have lunch with member **Robert Abensur** and his charming wife, Brigitte. Mr. Abensur is the current president of



Robert Abensur

the Académie de Philatélie, and Madame Abensur is the editor of the Académie's prestigious journal Documents Philatéliques. Over the best pizza I have had in Paris, Mr. Abensur showed me many of his French postage due items. I was amazed at the vast complexity of the field including the many rates and the different rules for handling various types of mail.

**Ed Grabowski** and I were also able to have dinner with Stéphane Caraud, the president of COL.FRA, our sister group in France. Among the things discussed over dinner in the vicinity of the *Arc de Triomphe* were the difficulties of getting contributions for our respective journals. Stéphane and I had discussed the possibility of publishing articles in English in their journal, and articles in French in the *FCP*. I would like to have input from members regarding this possibility.



M. Pascal Behr practicing his favorite pastime: writing up an order for stamps!

#### Our Advertisers

Both of our major advertisers from France, Behr Philatélie and Roumet S.A. had a major presence at the show.

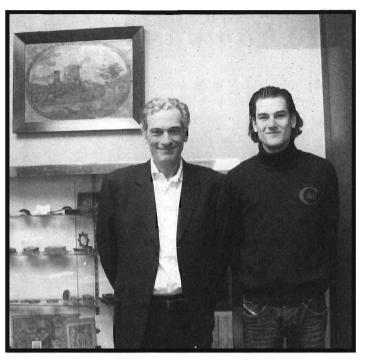
I was not only able to spend some time with **Pascal Behr**, who currently runs the operation, but I had Pascal's father, **Bernard Behr**, look at a Zanzibar postage due item I had taken with me. Most unfortunately, my schedule did not allow me to see either Pascal's lovely wife or mother.

Maison Behr, one of the most venerable dealers in Paris, specializes in Ventes sur Offres and net price sales. If you need the most difficult items to complete a collection, Behr will most likely have it in stock!

The staff manning the Roumet booth told me that the director of the firm, **Alexandre Roumet**, was not scheduled to attend the show until the weekend. Since I was not sure what my schedule would be, I decided I had better stop by the shop on Rue Drouot.

I spent the best part of an hour with M. Roumet who also looked at my interesting Zanzibar item. He then proceeded to show me some very scarce postage due items that will appear in his next sale. I was pleased to have an opportunity to view items I have not seen in my 30+ years of specializing in this area.

In closing, M. Roumet introduced me to his son, Bretagne, who is now entering the business as the fourth generation Roumet. Bravo!



M. Alexandre Roumet (right) and his son Bretagne who is just now entering the family business.

I am also pleased to announce the addition of a new advertiser, Caphila, located at 25 Rue Drouot. The proprietor, *Jean-Phillipe Kalkstein*, has a wonderful stock of essays, proofs, artist's drawings and many other unusual and hard to find items both of France and the colonies.

Caphila has both mail auctions and net price sales. I first met Mr. Kalkstein at Washington 2006 and was pleased to find a few interesting postage due items for my collection. For the convenience of overseas buyers, Mr. Kalkstein accepts both Visa and MasterCard credit cards.

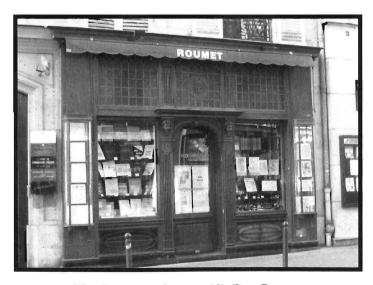


### The Famous Rue Drouot

For those of us who were too young (or too remote) to visit Nassau St. in New York, we still have a chance to experience such a thrill. Rue Drouot is the center of French philatelic commerce. Located in central Paris in the 9th Arrondissement, this two-block street is home to many of the most venerable maisons philatéliques in France. These include our three esteemed advertisers Roumet, Behr and Caphila as well as many others including François Feldman, Atout Philatélique, Bouvais and many more.

One travels to Rue Drouot on Line 8 of the *métro*, exiting at the Drouot station. One then proceeds north past the many shops. This is, in fact, an area of Paris dealing in many other collectibles such as antiques.

Shown below are the shops of two of our major advertisers. The first, Roumet S.A., is primarily an auction house specializing in *Ventes sur Offres*, which are basically mail sales. They do not maintain an extensive stock of stamps or postal history items. Roumet does, however, have a stock of philatelic literature and items such as antique stamp boxes available for immediate purchase. The second is the shop of Behr Philatélie. This office runs the *Drouot 18 Ventes sur Offres*. The main Behr facility is located at 30, avenue de l'Opéra. Here, Pascal Behr, his father Bernard, and his other staff



The Roumet shop at 17, Rue Drouot.



Looking south on Rue Druout.

are available to provide an extensive stock of stamps and postal history for France and colonies. Behr also stocks other rarities of the world and has periodical *Ventes sur Offres* as well as net price sales. Retail offerings are available immediately at the avenue de l'Opera shop. As noted in the previous article, the shop of new advertiser Caphila is also located on Rue Drouot.



The Behr office at 18, Rue Drouot. The main office is several blocks away at 30, avenue de l'Opéra.

#### **Membership Notices**

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

3384 CATALA, PIERRE, College Station, TX

#### REINSTATEMENTS

3152 DAWDY, DAVID R., San Francisco, CA 2879 NELSON, FRANK, Columbia, NC

#### ADDRESS CHANGES

3190 CHARRON, JACQUES, Longueuil, QC, Canada

2761 ENGBLOM, R. DENNIS, Austin, TX

1989 GAGNIER, ROBERT J., Beach Haven, NJ

1761 PETRI, ERWIN A., Union, NJ

2714 XITCO, MARK J., San Diego, CA

#### RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

2931 ANDERSON, W. MARK III 2276 VYVERBERG, HENRY S.

#### **DECEASED**

1455 MAYER, FREDERICK R.

#### **DONATIONS**

1034 CONGRADY, CLEO

3220 DUNLEAVY, ROBERT

2761 ENGBLOM, R. DENNIS

1601 FAGAN, JOHN R.

1727 FAULKNER, CARL J.

2596 GILBERT, OTHAN

1469 GRABOWSKI, EDWARD J.J

3311 HALL, DARRELL E.

1296 KUDZMA, THOMAS G.

1816 LA CHANCE, LEON J.

1529 LANGDON, LEONARD C., JR.

915 LUFT, STANLEY J.

2621 MANDOT, BARBARA R.

2413 MCCONNELL, E. JOSEPH

3208 MCGARRITY, RAYMOND B.

715 MITCHELL, W.G.

953 MUELLER, BARBARA R.

2896 SCHROEDL, GERALD F.

1867 STEVENS, RICHARD M.

3382 TEUNION, ROBERT M.

3231 TURCHIK, STEVE P.

2224 WYER, ROLFE

#### MAIL RETURNED

SERVICE PHILATÉLIQUE DE LA POSTE, Paris, France

#### All Roads Lead to...Paris?

#### David L. Herendeen, Editor

Since I first began collecting "foreign" stamps more than 30 years ago, I have always envied those who were able to buy stamps abroad. Later, as my envy turned to knowledge, I realized that serious collectors of material from, say, France, Spain and Germany had to buy items in those countries. It was a simple matter of supply and demand. Since local demand for the most difficult material is high, collectors in the US do not see many difficult items very frequently.

As you will see from other articles in this issue, I have just returned from Paris where I attended one of the two major annual stamp shows. Believe me, anyone collecting Frenchrelated material could find items to enhance their collections. And I'm not just talking about big bucks. As a matter of fact, someone collecting a modern topic, such as the postal history of one of the Marianne issues, could most certainly find covers and varieties not available at our shows.

Most interestingly, when I mentioned our upcoming trip in Paris, all of the French collectors and dealers expressed an enthusiastic approval. I think they share the belief that it is useful for Americans to see the vibrant, exciting philatelic world of Paris.

#### Research Sources

I decided to initiate a series of articles meant to provide members with possible sources for research materials on French-related philately. Most unfortunately, those of us living in the hinterlands are not always able to access information effectively. I have talked with other members of *FCPS* who will gladly contribute their knowledge in this effort.

Share Your Knowledge...
Write for the FCPS!



### French Colonies

Common design Types

1938 Marie Curie TypeCD80 VFNH Set of 21 Fr Colonial stamps (no France) \$245

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

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