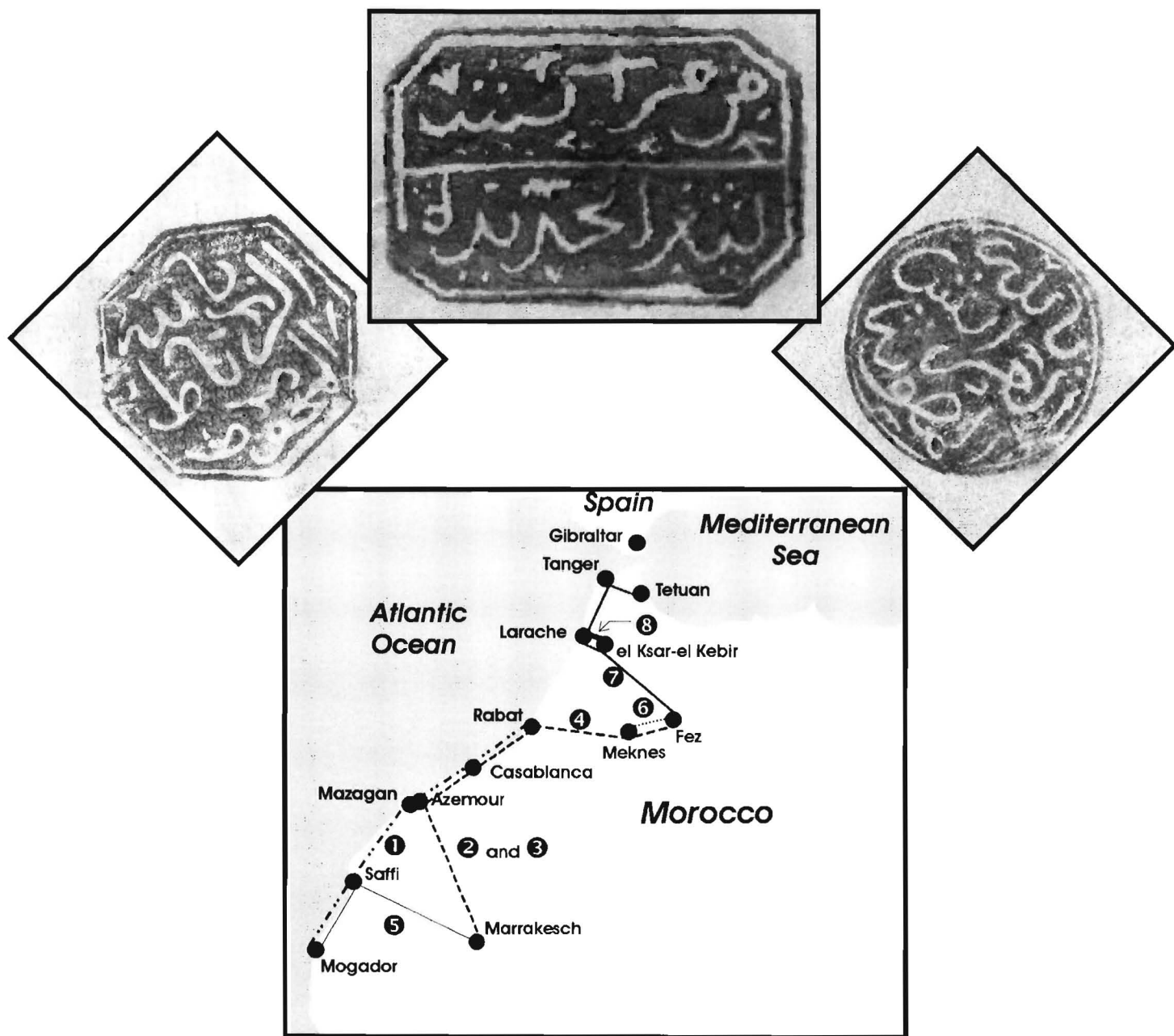




FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

January 2009
Whole No. 295 (Vol. 65, No. 1)



The Cherifien Post in Morocco
See page 3.

CONTENTS**ARTICLES**

- The Cherifien Post in Morocco
(Larry Gardner) 3
- The French Colonial Allegorical Group Type
(Ed Grabowski) 19

SHORTER CONTRIBUTIONS

- Cameroun - Additional Provisional Postmarks
(Marty Bratzel)..... 11
- A Well-Traveled Cover (Stan Luft) 15
- Diégo Suarez Military Railway
(Colin Sprong)..... 16

OTHER FEATURES

- FCP Index to Volume 64 12
- J.-F. Brun Introduces New Feature..... 14
- Maury Acquires Dallay, Ceres Catalogs 14
- Show Reports..... 17
- We Get Letters 17
- Types and Subtypes..... 18

SOCIETY NEWS

- The FCPS Grand Prix 18
- Membership Notices..... 18
- Are You Ready for Denver??? 22
- President's Letter 23
- Plan Now for the Big Show!
(David L. Herendeen)..... 23
- Advertisers 24

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The Cherifien Post in Morocco

Larry Gardner (FCPS 3061)

[Member **Larry Gardner** has a gold medal awarding winning exhibit of the postal history of the foreign post offices in Morocco. His photo has graced our pages a number of times when his wonderful exhibit wins Gold medals and Grand awards at various exhibits around the country. His exhibit naturally includes the offices of all of the European powers. As a result, only a modest percentage of the full exhibit considers the French post office. One of the areas that are very difficult to understand for non-specialists in this area is that of the Cherifien Posts organized by the Sultan in 1892. I asked Larry if he might write something about this for us, and he has graciously agreed.]

Preliminaries

North Africa in general, and Morocco in particular, is an area of complex history. As an area much coveted by the European powers, there is an undercurrent of intrigue and political rivalry. This situation, and its relation to the postal history of Morocco, is summarized in this paper. Two of the most confusing aspects to a study of Morocco for those not familiar with the area are place names and currencies. A short foundation for these is given here.

Place Names. The various town and cities in Morocco, as well as the country name itself, are different depending on the language of the foreign offices. Thus there is Maroc (French), Morocco (English), Marokko (German) and Marruecos (Spanish). Similarly towns may be Tanger, Tangiers, or Tangier. As a result, this paper may include several different spellings depending on the nationality of authors whose works may be cited.

Currencies. used included French (francs and centimes), Spanish (centimos and pesetas), British (pounds sterling, shillings and pence)

and German (marks and pfennigs). Additionally, there were several local currencies during the period of study. The first, introduced in 1881, was called the **Hassani Rial**. This rial (sometimes **real**) was in initially equivalent to five Spanish *pesetas*. In 1902, the currency was changed to the the **Hassani Peseta**, five of which were equivalent to one old Hassani Rial. Both currencies were defined in terms of silver, which resulted in different conversion rates in Morocco relative to other foreign currencies. A second fractional currency, introduced before 1912, was the **mouzounat**. The conversion rate was 400 mouzounat to the rial.¹

A Brief Geopolitical History

The history of North Africa is complex and beyond the scope of this paper. However, it is necessary to understand some of the historical setting to understand the complexities of the postal history. As a result of what the French considered an insult to the French consul in 1827, France blockaded Algiers for three years. Then, in 1830, France used a so-called diplomatic incident to invade and occupy the coastal areas of Algeria.

As the forces of colonialism grew in Europe, both Tunisia and Morocco became areas of interest to the great European powers. This was mostly due to the fact that there was proven wealth in the area, and that Morocco had an excellent strategic location at the western end of the Mediterranean Sea.

The relationship of Morocco with Algeria provided the catalyst for the first **Franco-Moroccan War**, which began on 6 August 1844. Morocco had refused to recognize the French conquest of Algeria, and they were providing refuge for an Algerian rebel leader. The French bombarded the city of Tangiers and were engaged in combat for approximately eight days. The conflict ended on 14 August at the Battle of Isly in north-

...it is necessary to understand some of the historical setting to understand the complexities of the postal history.



Figure 1. The "Peace and Commerce" issue, surcharged in centimos and pesetas, was introduced to Morocco in 1891

eastern Morocco. The vanquished Moroccans then signed the **Treaty of Tangiers** (10 September 1844) whereby they recognized French imperial sovereignty over Algeria.

This treaty paved the way for the French to establish their influence in Morocco and to increase trade with a country that had little previous communication with the outside world. In 1904, after 60 years in which Morocco was within the French sphere of influence, this fact was finally recognized by the United Kingdom. Germany did not take kindly to this, and war was threatened. This resulted in convening the **Algeciras Conference** which was held in Spain from 16 January to 7 April 1906. Among other more complicated issues, this conference agreed to authorize the policing of Morocco to France and Spain jointly.

Another international incident occurred when Germany deployed a gunboat in the harbor at Agadir, Morocco on 1 July 1911. This became known as the **Second Moroccan crisis**. Once again, the European powers went to the brink of war. Diplomacy triumphed, and the major powers signed the **Treaty of Fez** on 30 March 1912. By the main provisions of the treaty:

- ♦ Germany recognized French and Spanish territories in Morocco

- ♦ Germany received in return territories in the French Equatorial African colony of Middle Congo. These territories were integrated into the German colony of Kamerun.
- ♦ Morocco became a protectorate of France.

Postal History

Prior to the opening of the French sub post office in Tangier in 1852, the postal service was handled by the various vice-consuls located in the port cities and the mail was moved by courier or ships when available.

In addition to the French Post Office, Britain, Spain and Germany opened post offices in 1857, 1870 and 1899, respectively, to handle the requirements of their respective subjects since no postal arrangements were available through an official post of the Sultan of Morocco.

With travel to the interior being extremely difficult and dangerous and mail service being virtually non-existent, this provided the opportunity for **Isaac Brudo** (son of the French vice-consul in Mazagan) to establish the first privately run postal service in Morocco. This service was established in 1891, operating between Mazagan and Marrakesch. The **Brudo**

Post was extremely successful and was quickly copied by others in the various interior towns not serviced by the larger posts. Just prior to this, in 1890, France reorganized her postal system and the "Sage" issue (Peace and Commerce) was introduced to Morocco in 1891 surcharged in *centimos* and *pesetas*, the local currency. Tangier was established as the *Recette Principale* with nine other Agencies opened additionally. A registered letter from Tangier to Germany with the new Sage issue is shown in Fig. 1.

The Sultan eventually realized that these posts were successful and he was being deprived of a major source of revenue. Sultan Moulay Hassan first attempted to buy out the Brudo Post and when that failed he ordered his Grand Vizir to formulate a plan for a Private Post using caravans.² An experimental service was implemented in the middle of 1891 from Marrakesch to Mazagan and implemented the use of the precursor Cachet Maghzen. The hand stamp cachets developed were rectangular and roughly 32mm x 24mm, colors grey to black. The exceptions to this were a violet oval from Mogador and rectangular blue from Tangier. All are extremely rare. Fig. 2 below illustrates one of the four types known: the Marrakesch-Mazagan rectangle.

The service proved to be successful. Jarmin³ notes that "Thus in the Dahir of 2 Djoumada 1310 (22 November 1892), the Cherifien Post was created." The Dahir was a decree, the original of which is in the Moroccan Postal Museum in Rabat.

There were eight services involved as listed below with 13 cities involved.⁴



Figure 2. The scarce rectangular cachet of Marrakesch-Mazagan

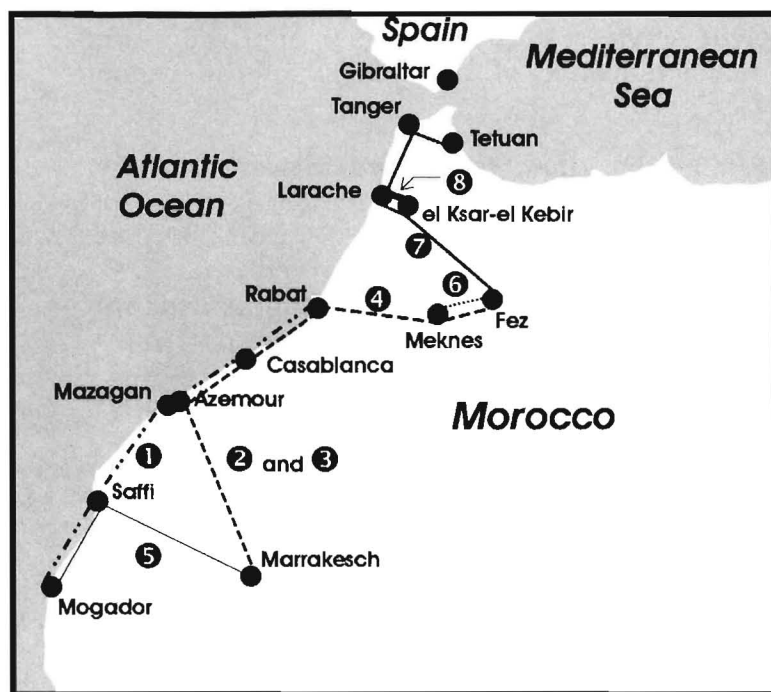


Figure 3. The eight Cherifien Posts

- ♦ Service 1: Rabat, Casablanca, Azemour, Mazagan, Saffi, Mogador
- ♦ Service 2 & 3: Rabat, Casablanca, Azemour, Marrakesch
- ♦ Service 4: Rabat, Meknes, Fez
- ♦ Service 5: Mogador, Saffi, Marrakesch
- ♦ Service 6: Meknes, Fez
- ♦ Service 7: Fez, El Ksar El Kebir, Larache, Tangier, Tetouan
- ♦ Service 8: Larache, El Ksar El Kebir

These eight routes, along with the towns they serviced, are shown on the map of Fig. 3.

Adhesives were not used and the cachet served both as payment of tax and cancel. Once established, the Sultan issued the cachets for each of the towns served. They were both round and octagonal in shape, and used various watercolored inks to cancel. There were 13 of each shape and six colors of ink were used — violet, blue, black, green, red and orange. Some of these colors tended to fade over time; therefore reference is sometimes given to off colors such as brown and ochre. The octagonal and round both read "Allah (Town Name) Mohammed has protected (Town Name)". The

eight services were for official mail only, and the significance of the shapes of the cachet was:

1. Circular Handstamps which were used on mail sent: between different branches of the Sultan's administration, or from his administration to the foreign consular services, or from the Sultan's administration to one of his subjects or to a foreign national.
2. Octagonal handstamps which were used on mail sent: from one individual to another, or from an individual to the Sultan's administration⁵

In each of the 13 towns an *Amin al Mustafad* (postmaster) was appointed to receive letters and charge a fee proportionate to the time it took to reach their destination. He then sealed them. Only in Tangier did this official distribute the mail. Elsewhere, people had to go to his office.⁶

The postmaster also was in charge of the *Rekkas* (Arabic for the pendulum of a clock; something that travels non-stop from one point to another; an object that swings back and forth) who were paid four pesetas per day in Hassani money (the local currency) to deliver the mail. These *Rekkas* or postmen, were not just applicable to the Cherifien Post but all post offices employed similar runners to move their mail. Fig. 4 shows the Rabat to Fez octagonal in yellow, and Fig. 5 the Larache to Marrakesch circular in maroon.

While the Sultan was trying to compete with the Foreign and Local Posts, the local develop-

ing politics had Britain seeing Germany as a far more dangerous rival than France in Morocco. In April 1904, in London, Britain and France resolved their existing differences and cemented the developing *Entente Cordiale*, an agreement that effectively exchanged French freedom of action in Morocco for that of Britain in Egypt. France became dominant in Morocco where before it had only been able to exert an uncertain influence along with the other Powers.⁷ This allowed Spain to develop naturally its sphere of influence in the North of Morocco.

As Britain entered into further agreements with France during 1904-1905. Germany was left in a compromised position regarding its sphere of influence in Africa, particularly Morocco. In turn, this led to a hostile visit by the German Kaiser to Tangier in 1905. The ultimate consequence of all this led to the **Conference of Algeciras** in Spain lasting from January to April 1906. The results were a diplomatic defeat for Germany, and France strengthened her hold on Morocco.

In June 1906, Germany's influence waned dramatically as the Sultan ratified the arrangements between France, England and Spain, allowing France to become influential and assume responsibility for "key internal matters such as police, customs, and port improvements, and to become shareholders in the State Bank of Morocco, the *Banque d'Etat du Maroc*, founded in Tangier in 1907."⁸

Meanwhile, the Sultan's Post continued to stumble along unprofitably whereas the French

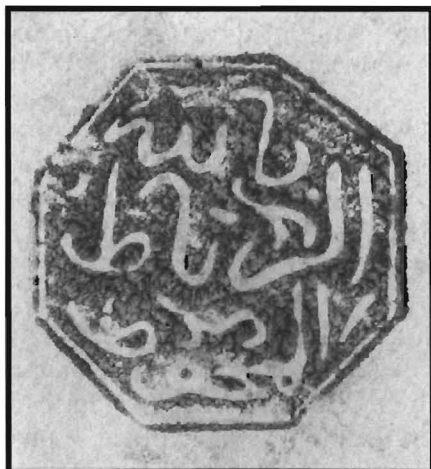


Figure 4. Rabat to Fez cachet in yellow.



Figure 5. Larache to Marrakesch cachet in maroon.

Post had initiated and implemented a budget for improvements of 18,526 francs pending the outcome of the Algeciras Conference. The reasoning behind these improvements was the quick expansion and success of the German Post Office which was causing a high degree of competition for the vice-consul run "consular-posts." In a report to the French Chamber of Deputies depicting the German Post Office as being better organized, more efficient, better located and in general more accommodating to the public. Stotter⁹ noted:

It was also ominously pointed out that all this conferred a political and commercial advantage to the Germans in Morocco, putting them in a strong position if the Cherifien government decided to create a national postal service. Unsurprisingly this damning report led to the budget being passed, allowing staff increases at Tangier, some new courier routes; a new postal agency at Azemmour near Mazagan (opened in September 1906); the upgrading of Mequinez to a bureau de recette, and small improvements to every one of the fifteen French postal agencies then open.

These events were preliminary in the continuous development of the Cherifien Post when events exploded in August 1907 as French troops landed in Casablanca to quell an uprising of native inhabitants and a small scale attack on Europeans upgrading the port facility. This small incursion eventually led to an occupying force when the Sultan was disposed and replaced by opposing forces within the country using the French incursion as justification of the overthrow. Now, the French had a civil war on their hands and an occupying force had become necessary. This created the need for mail service for the occupying force and was set up by the *Trésor et Postes aux Armées* (Army Postal Service). Naturally, the military post was independent of both the Cherifien and French Post Offices. An example of such a letter is shown in Fig. 6.

The Cherifien Adhesive Stamps

The French continued to occupy Morocco and surprisingly on 25 December 1911 the new Sultan Moulay Abd El Aziz formed the Cheri-



Figure 6. Military Post cover to Puy l'Eveque, Lot, France. 10c first weight step cover (on back) and 25c registry fee (on front).

fien Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Administration. He realized that the payment would have to change to a more satisfactory form of remuneration, thus he issued the first set of Cherifien stamps on 22 May 1912. Note that prior to the issuance of the Cherifien stamps, in 1910, the military free franchise was removed.

These stamps, designed and engraved by Paul Leyat, featured the minaret of the Aissaoua mosque in Tangier viewed through an arch. Six values were issued ranging in value from 1 to 50 mouzounat. They were printed in Paris at the Atelier in sheets of 50 comprised of two panes of 25 for all values except the 25m,

which were printed in sheets of 40, two panes of twenty. They were perforated 11.

There were a total of three printings. Stamps of the first printing were smaller than those of the second and third printings. Thus, first printing stamps have narrower margins. This is seen in Figs. 7a and 7b. Another difference is that three values (2m, 5m, and 10m) of the first printing showed the designer's name (P. Layat) in the lower left margin, whereas it appears only on the 5m and 10m of the later printings. The third printing did not include the 25m and 50m values, although proofs for them exist.



a.

b.

Figure 7. The Cherifien stamp design.

Supplies of the first issue were exhausted in a relatively short period. Before the order for the second printing, made 4 September 1912, was delivered in February 1913, two provisional overprints appeared to satisfy the need for 5m and 10m stamps. The first being an "0 5" surcharge typographed (Fig. 8a) and the second the "0 10" surcharged in manuscript (Fig. 8b). These stamps are very scarce.

Registered letters and foreign destination mail had to be prepaid at Cherifien postal rates. In addition, between 1911 and 1913 the French military and the Cherifien Post agreed to for-



a.

b.

Figure 8. The provisional overprints.

ward military mail via the Cherifien Post at the local rate. Military mail could also be posted at the existing civil French Post Offices in Morocco: 10m for letters and 2m for postcards with free franchise for letters to France.

However, mail destined for another country was not recognized by the UPU once it left the French service and became subject to taxation. Thus there was total confusion on the part of postal clerks in the handling of this mail as evidenced by the letter shown in Fig. 9. Originally, the clerk indicated that the franking was invalid (the boxing of the stamp and the 0) and applied the T-in-Triangle postage due marking. He then recognized his mistake, obliterates the T marking, and sends the letter on untaxed to its final destination.

New cancellations were introduced and are too numerous to try and enumerate here. Referring again to Fig. 9, note that one particular version of the Cherifien cancellers has been used. It has been described⁹ as the Fes-Fez Type 2 33mm bilingual cancellation, struck in black. In Ref. 9, the author indicates in his notes prior to describing the classifications, that most cancellations are circular and contain the date across the center. The term bilingual refers to French and Arabic, and measurements of cancels refer to diameter and handstamps to their length. Fig. 10 shows the use of the Meknes 57mm two-line bilingual cancellation, French letters 6mm tall, struck in violet as opposed to the alternative black. It should be pointed out that this cancellation was used in 1913. The Cherifien stamps were only valid until 1914 but continued in use until 1919 in Tangier.

Referencing back to January 1911, Mr. Biarnay, a Frenchman, was appointed to head the postal service. Benezra¹¹ notes that "The improvements which he subsequently introduced included the Rekkas receiving a regular salary, their traveling on horseback instead of on foot, and the application of concessionary rates/taxes etc. to mail carried." It was extremely successful, as more than one source indicates over 500,000 pieces carried between 1912 and 1913.

The End of the Cherifien Post

Then, according to the 1912 Treaty of Fez, the



Figure 9. Use of the first permanent adhesive stamps mailed from Fes to Paris. Originally marked postage due for using an invalid stamp, the clerk later corrected his error.

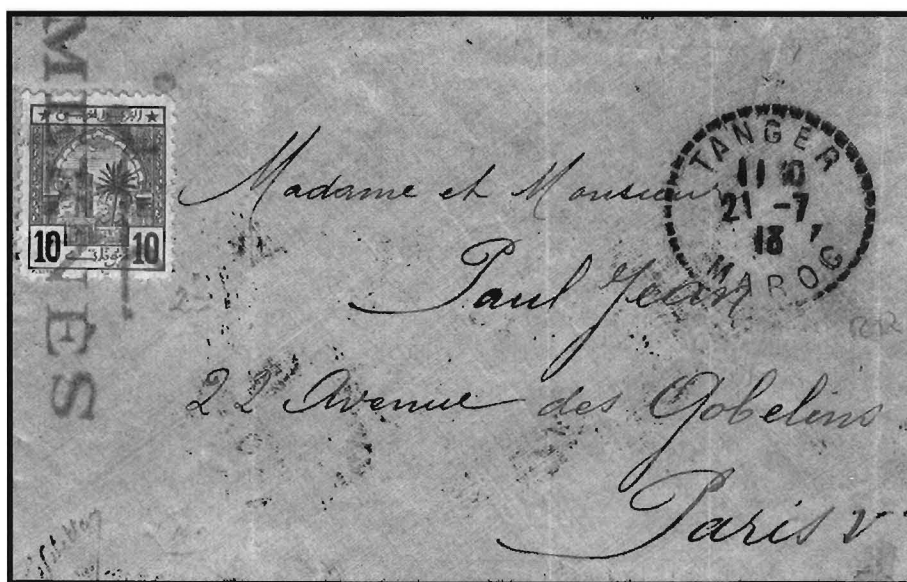


Figure 10. The MEKNES two-line bilingual cancel.

Spanish and French divided Morocco into north and south with the French establishing their protectorate to the south. Under these new conditions, the Cherifien post was no longer viable and on 1 October 1913 merged into one autonomous postal administration under the control of the French protectorate and ceased operations 1 November 1913.

Habberman in her important article¹² itemized the highlights pertaining to the new Protectorate Post in Morocco. These were:

1. Morocco joined the Universal Postal Union
2. Current rates applied to all offices in the French Zone as well as the Spanish Zone and were considered inland rates.
3. Business between offices in the French zone and Metropolitan France which included (France, Algeria, Tunisia, and French Offices abroad) were to apply French inland postage rates.
4. Business between offices in the French zone and French Colonies were to apply the French Colonial postage rate
5. The French Protectorate allowed to apply the above same rates for the Spanish zone and vice-versa according to the Spanish government
6. International rates were to be the same as in Metropolitan France
7. The Protectorate government intended to increase their scope of activity to include postal orders, telegraphic money orders, postal vouchers etc. but did raise the question to whether the Spanish government intended to provide these activities in the Spanish zone.
8. The Protectorate addressed the apportioning of postage due charges.
9. The issue of stamps was addressed with stamps overprinted distinguishing the dif-

ferent zones which did not happen as each of the post offices utilized their own countries adhesives.

10. The issue of couriers was addressed and a settlement reached for proportioning charges between offices in the two zones.

At this point in time, the French Protectorate was running the post and Morocco eventually became a sovereign nation in 1956.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank his fellow Moroccan specialist Maurice Hadida, of Paris, for his attentive review of this manuscript and also for confirming the translations of the Cherifien cachets.

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Cameroun - Additional Provisional Postmarks

Marty Bratzel (FCPS 2394)

Often, when the Cameroun PTT opened a new postal facility, a permanent postal datestamp was not yet available and interim measures were taken. In the case of Yaoundé, two straight-line rubber handstamps were used in 1916-17, frequently in conjunction with a standard circular postal datestamp on loan from Duala.¹ For numerous postal agencies newly opened during the 1920s and 1930s, non-postal datestamps inscribed *caisse d'avances* or *agence special* and normally used by representatives of the *Trésorier-Payeur des Territoires du Cameroun*, were used on an interim basis to postmark mail.² In one case, the administrative cachet of a regional government official was used.² Reported here are two additional examples that date from the early days of the French administration.

The manuscript marking on the 10-centimes stamp in Fig. 1 is "Jsi 7/3/17." If only this stamp were still on cover! We take the "Jsi" (or "Ji") to be an abbreviation of "Jabassi" the German spelling of Yabassi. A post office was opened at Yabassi on 10 September 1917, subsequent to the date on the stamp.³ As previously observed, even prior to the presence of a post office, local government officials handled mail on behalf of the PTT.² That may have been

the case here. Alternatively, the manuscript could indicate revenue or some other usage.

The 10-centimes stamp on the cover in Fig. 2 is pen cancelled with an X. The Duala postmark dated 18 Jul 16 is well removed from the stamp. There is no return address. We speculate that the cover originated at a post office that had not yet received a permanent postal datestamp. Other explanations are possible, for example, that the letter was handed over to the *chef de train* who, in turn handed it over to the PTT upon arrival at Duala.

Thanks are extended to Michael Wright for bringing the cover to my attention. Readers' insights are, as always, most welcome!

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Figure 1. Unreported manuscript cancel of Yabassi.

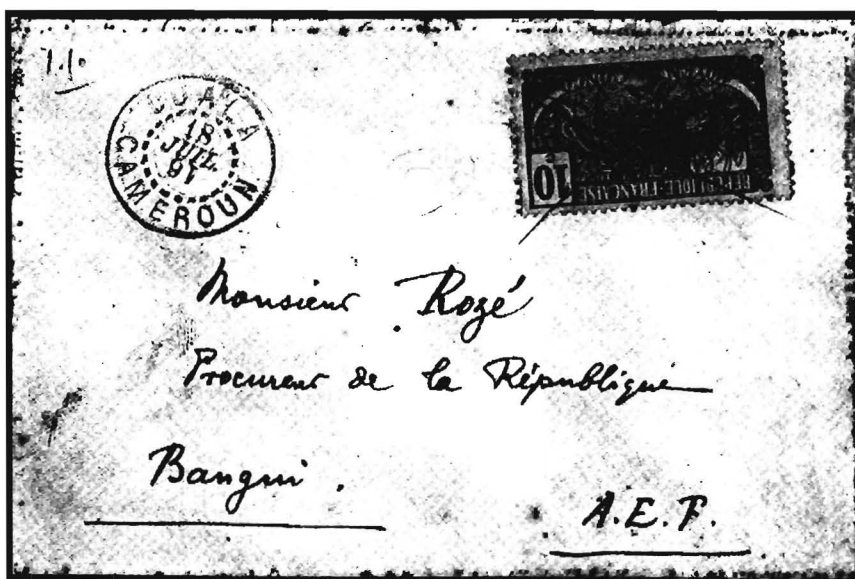


Figure 2. Another example of a manuscript cancel.

France and Colonies Philatelist

Index to Volume 64 (2008)

David L Herendeen

PREFACE

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

Vol. 64	No. 1	(Whole Number	291)	January 2008
	No. 2	(292)	April 2008
	No. 3	(293)	July 2008
	No. 4	(294)	October 2008

All citations in the Index are given as Whole Number, hyphen and page number. Suffixes used after the page number are: n for Short Notes and (Rev.) for Book Reviews, as per predecessor indexes.

SUBJECT INDEX

Airmail

Confusing New Caledonia Airmail Rates.....	294-79
--	--------

Algeria

Algeria: History and Postal History	294-95
---	--------

Awards and Honors [also see Show Reports]

Bratzel Receives 2007 Gilbert Award.....	291-17
Dave Herendeen wins FCPS Grand Prix	293-65
Dick Winter Signs RDP	294-97
Dykhouse Wins Congress Award.....	294-94
Stan Luft Receives APS Luff Award	294-98

Booklets and Booklet Stamps

PHILEXFRANCE 99 Booklet varieties.....	292-38
--	--------

Cameroun

Non-Postal Datestamps on Cameroun Postage	
Stamps and Mail.....	292-27
See also: Reviews of Books, Pamphlets and Catalogs	

Colonies, General Issues

Earliest Recorded Group Type Usage?.....	293-64
Madagascar: Vive le Type Groupe.....	294-86
Update on the Use of the Two Franc Group	
Type Stamp	293-63
World War II—The Colonies “General Issues”	
Charity Stamps: a Second Supplement.....	293-51

Dealer News

Behr Missing Shipment.....	291-10n
----------------------------	---------

Djibouti

The French Influence on the First Postal	
System of Ethiopia.....	292-32

Ethiopia

The French Influence on the First Postal	
System of Ethiopia.....	292-32

Expositions and Shows

FCPS Exhibits and Exhibitors	293-66
NAPEX is Approaching	291-10n
The Salon d'Automne—Major Parisian	
Philatelic Event	291-19
Bumper Crop of FCPS Entrants Compete	
in C of C at Hartford.....	290-94

FCP

Index to Volume 63.....	291-12
-------------------------	--------

Forgeries, Fakes, Bogus Items, Fantasies, Phantoms

Those Presky Perf. 11s	294-89
------------------------------	--------

Foreign Post Offices

Palestine	291-3
-----------------	-------

France: 19th Century Issues

Plater's Corner.....	294-94
----------------------	--------

France: 20th Century Issues

[also see individual issues, Types and Subtypes]

Marianne à le Nef, types of the o,25.....	291-11n
Marianne de Cocteau, types of the 0,20	293-62n
Marianne de Gandon	293-55
Marianne de Decaris, types of o.25.....	292-45n, 293-73n
The Place in Philately of Blum's Lowered 1947 Tariff.....	293-55

Guadeloupe

Guadeloupe Revisited.....	292-39
---------------------------	--------

Indochina

An Indochina Design Clarification	293-69
---	--------

Inini

The Strange Case of Port Inini.....	291-7
-------------------------------------	-------

Levant

The French Influence on the First Postal	
System of Ethiopia.....	292-32

Madagascar

Madagascar: Vive le Type Groupe.....	294-86
--------------------------------------	--------

Martinique

Update on the Use of the Two Franc Group	
Type Stamp	293-63

New Caledonia

- Confusing New Caledonia Airmail Rates 294-79
 Stamp Issue Notes New Caledonian Philatelic Club 292-41

Obock

- The French Influence on the First Postal
 System of Ethiopia 292-32

Other Publications

- Other Journals 293-58n
 Some Recent Papers 292-45n

Overseas Territories

- Change in French Oversea Nomenclature 291-11

Palestine

- The French Office in Palestine—1948 291-3

Performing Philatelic Research

- Le Centre des Archives d'Outre-Mer:
 Aix-en-Provence, France 292-27
 The Collectors Club of New York 291-15
 American Philatelic Research Library 294-90

Philatelic Scene

- The Famous Rue Drouot 291-22
 80th Anniversary of the Académie de Philatélie 293-59
 A Parisian Postscript 294-89
 The Philatelic Outing in Paris 293-70
 Paris Reflections 293-74

Port Said

- The French Influence on the First Postal
 System of Ethiopia 292-32

Postal Rates and Tariffs

- The Place in Philately of Blum's Lowered 1947 Tariff 293-55

Reviews of Books, Pamphlets and Catalogs

- Beslu Publishes New Book 293-54n
 Cameroun in the Great War. Volume II. The French
 Navy and the AEF Columns / Cameroun : La Grand
 Guerre. Tome II. La Marine Française et les
 Colonnes de l'AEF 292-46
 The Postal Tariffs of Cameroun under French Administration
 1916-1959 291-9

Shipwrecks

- Naufrage de la Russie (French) 292-36

Somali Coast

- The French Influence on the First Postal
 System of Ethiopia 292-32

Types and Subtypes

- o,05 Armories of Auch 294-99n
 o,25 Marianne à le Nef 291-11n

- o,20 Marianne de Cocteau 291-11n
 o,25 Marianne de Decaris 292-45n
 o,25 Marianne de Decaris (Redux) 293-73n

INDEX TO FCPS OFFICIAL and REGULAR FEATURES

- Advertisers 291-24, 292-48, 293-76, 294-104
 Corresponding Secretary's Report for 2007 292-40
 Editorials 291-23, 292-47, 293-75, 294-100
 Election Results 293-53n
 Candidates for Officers and Directors 291-8n
 Membership Notices 291-23, 292-37, 293-73, 294-99
 President's Letter 291-14, 292-47, 293-75, 294-100
 We Get Letters 291-8, 293-54
 Show Reports 291-11, 292-37, 293-53, 294-101
 Treasurer's Report for 2007 292-40

AUTHORS

- Bentley, R., "An Indochina Design Clarification" 293-69
 Bratzel, M. "Non-Postal Datestamps on Cameroun Postage
 Stamps and Mail" 292-27
 —, "Performing Philatelic Research— Le Centre des
 Archives d'Outre-Mer: Aix-en-Provence, France" 292-42
 de La Mettrie, A., "The Place in Philately of Blum's Lowered
 1947 Tariff" 293-55
 Delpy, F., "Naufrage de la Russie" (French) 292-36
 Grabowski, E.J.J. (Ed), "Update on the Use of the Two
 Franc Group Type Stamp" 293-63
 —, "FCPS Heritage – II" 291-18
 —, "Madagascar: Vive le Type Groupe" 294-86
 Herendeen, D.L., "80th Anniversary of the Académie
 de Philatélie" 293-59
 —, "Performing Philatelic Research—
 The Collectors Club of New York" 291-15
 —, "The Philatelic Outing in Paris" 293-70
 —, "The Salon d'Automne—Major Parisian
 Philatelic Event" 291-19
 Horn, G., "Performing Philatelic Research—
 American Philatelic Research Library" 294-90
 Maybury, P., "Recommandé d'Office" 292-93
 McGarrity, R., "The French Office in Palestine—1948" 291-3
 Morvay, A., "The French Influence on the First Postal
 System of Ethiopia" 292-32
 Nilsestuen, K., "Algeria: History and Postal History" 294-95
 Picirilli, R., "Confusing New Caledonia Airmail Rates" ... 294-79
 Seeke, R., "The Carnet Corner" 292-38
 Walske, S., "A Remarkable Franco-Prussian
 War Cover" 293-61
 Ward, J., "The Strange Case of Port Inini" 291-7

J.-F. Brun Web Site Introduces New Feature

One of the greatest expertizers of France and Colonies material is Jean-François Brun. M. Brun is well known not only as an expert, but also as a publisher and dealer in postal history. He has recently introduced several articles on his web site that show how an expertizer's mind works (sorry, only in French). He intends to add and update these pages on a regular basis. To see these online go to:

<http://www.brunphilatelie.fr/index.php?expertise=1>

Arthur Maury Acquires Dally, Ceres Catalogs

The Arthur Maury Corp. has acquired the French-language Dally stamp catalog line. The 2009 edition of the catalog will be published under its auspices beginning in November 2008. The Maury company had previously acquired the French-language Ceres catalog line.

The Maury catalog line was founded in Paris, France, by pioneer stamp dealer Arthur Maury (1844-1907) in 1864. Maury coined the term "philately." The Maury catalogs were published through the 1980s.

Maury continues to market existing stocks of current Dally and Ceres catalogs while publishing new editions of the Maury catalog line using much of the editorial material and resources of the other two catalog lines.

In September 2007, Arthur Maury was acquired by International Collectibles Network Corp., headed by French-born entrepreneur Marc Armand Rouso.

In the stamp-auction world, Maury companies include Matthew Bennett International, HA. Harmers SA and Zurich Asia.

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Les conseils de Jean-François Brun N° 2

25 c sur 30 c semaille blanc, n° 217, 25 c sur 35 c semaille violet, n° 218

De tous temps, les collectionneurs se méfient des surcharges. Mais, paradoxalement, ils sont friands de variétés. Surcharges décalées, renversées, doubles etc., font leurs délices.

Surcharge tenant à non surchargé, voilà une belle variété. Elle peut s'expliquer par le repliement de la feuille au moment de la surcharge ou par un décalage.

Ce genre de pièce est souvent proposé. L'acheteur ne peut se fier qu'à la compétence et à l'honnêteté du vendeur. Malheureusement, il y a beaucoup de déconvenues. Rien n'est plus facile que de faussement surcharger un timbre, en faisant celui attendant dans son état d'origine.

Les timbres ordinaires sont faciles à se procurer. Ils peuvent aisément servir pour comparer les surcharges. Attention, il est prudent de se munir de la pièce de comparaison auprès d'une autre source.

Un examen attentif montre les différences entre les deux surcharges

← surcharge authentique
surcharge fautive →

La couleur des fonds a été atténuée pour mettre en évidence les surcharges.

Même fausification que pour le n° 217

Une des deux surcharges est fautive

Surcharge authentique

← agrandissement des deux surcharges, celle du dessous est fautive.

Pour déceler ce genre de fausification, de plus en plus fréquente, il suffit d'utiliser une loupe de qualité (grossissement x 6) et de faire preuve d'un peu de bon sens...

La couleur du fond a été atténuée pour mettre en évidence les surcharges.

O. F. Brun

A Well-Traveled Cover

Stan Luft (FCPS 915)

The remarkable itinerary of the cover shown in Fig. 1 is described below:

1. Perfectly legible, and addressed to Belfort (Haut-Rhin), apparently a double-weight letter and correctly franked at domestic rate of 40c; posted 15 October 1862 in Paris.

2. Postal employee evidently had passed a bad night and, seeing the affixed 40c stamp (also used for single-weight international mail), sent it on to Belfast (Ireland), with a red boxed PD [Paid to Destination].

3. Received London, 16 Oct Paid (red) hand-stamp, and conveyed to Belfast, arriving 17 October.

4. No banker by that name known in Belfast, marked MISSENT TO/BELFAST and forwarded to Belford (England), arriving there on the 19 Oct.

5. A neat boxed MISSENT TO/BELFORD applied at top, and transshipped to London, arriving there (red cachet) 20 Oct.

6. Finally! someone noticed the right address, highlighted the Haut Rhin with Xs, and added his translation of "Upper Rhine".

7. On it's way back across the channel, this time with an Angl.-Amb. Calais entry date stamp of 20 Oct, followed by an indistinct ambulant (railway) date stamp, also of the 20th.

8. Finally, a Belfort 21 Oct 1862 arrival back-stamp!

Most surprisingly, this letter traveled through five countries [France-England-Ireland-England-France] in a span of only six days, to original destination. What might be its fate had it been addressed today!



Diégo Suarez Military Railway

Colin Sprong (FCPS 1605)

After the French occupation of Madagascar in 1895-6, the town Diégo Suarez with its natural harbor became a military and naval base and remained so until 1973 when it was handed back to the Independent Malagasy Republic. It is situated in the north of the island and was named after the Portuguese navigator Captain Diégo Diaz.

A 60cm gauge military railway linked the harbor to the camps at Sakaramy and Ambre, near the hill station at Joffreville, named after

General Joseph Joffre. The line was 25km long and reached an elevation of 500m at Ambre.

There are no wavy line or *ondulé* postmarks as found on other French railways mail, however, mail from Camp Ambre is cancelled with a circular date stamp "CAMP D'AMBRE MADAGASCAR" To-date I have not discovered any postmarks for Sakaramy Camp. Other Military mail from this port could have been carried on this railway.

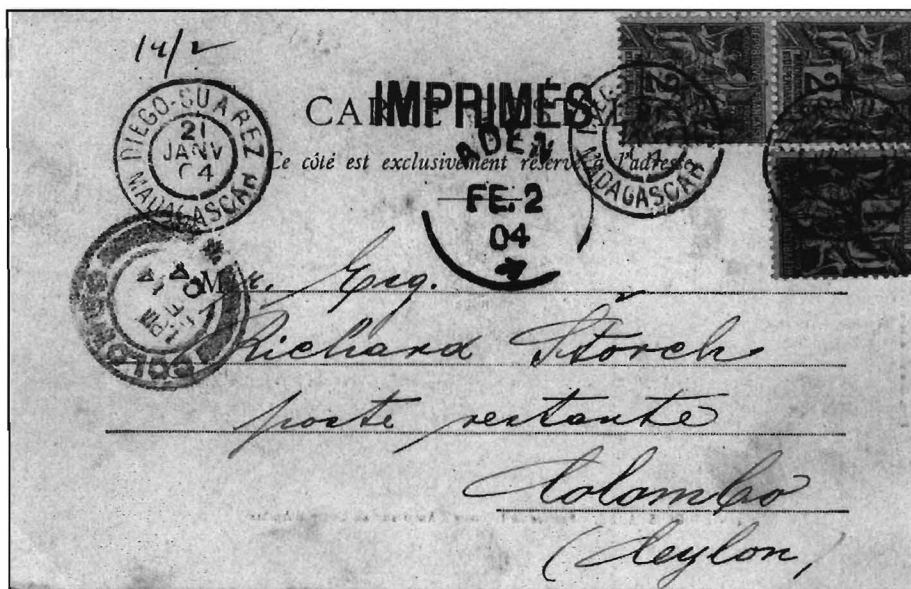
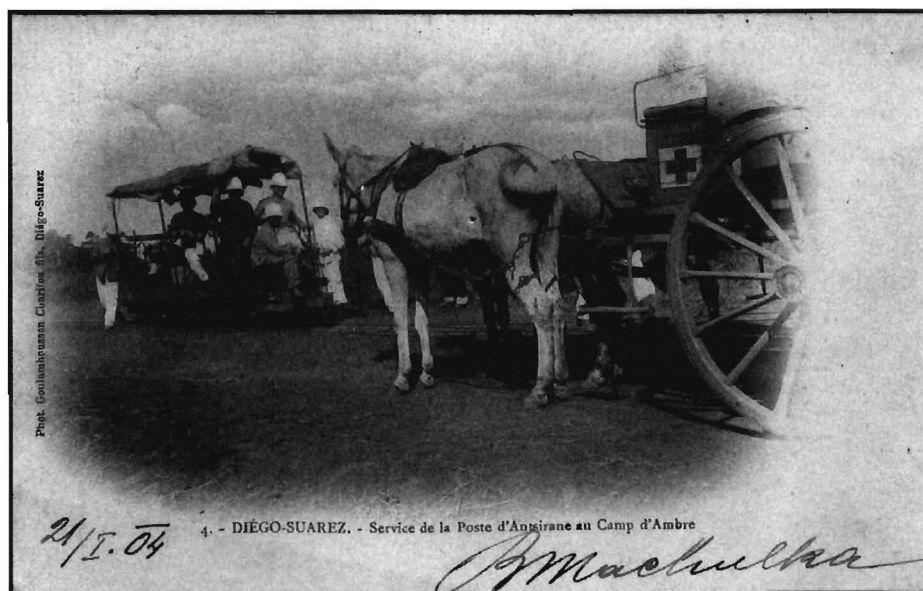


Figure 1.
Postcard sent printed matter (imprimé) 5c [Tariff 01.01.1876] to Colombo, Ceylon via Aden

Figure 2.
Service de la Poste d'Antsirane au Camp d'Ambre
Reverse of postcard showing Military mail being delivered on the Railway from Antsirane [Diégo Suarez].



We Get Letters

Dear Editor:

My *FCP* arrived this morning as usual, it was a good read.

Unfortunately the typo gremlins have been at work again. In my article *Recommandé d'Office*, paragraph 3 line 9 should read "2 gros," otherwise the calculation of the rate does not make sense, i.e. 8 gros = 1 once (1 gros = 3.82 grammes and l'once = 30.59 grammes)

With all good wishes,

Peter Maybury (FCPS 3375)

The Editor apologizes to Peter and our readers for this error and any confusion it may have caused.

Dear Editor:

I was disappointed to hear that the Directors are considering a change of delivery of the journal to e-mail format, the alternative being a single side photocopy. As far as I am concerned i consider this to be a highly retrograde step. Personally, I enjoy receiving the Journal as a brochure and I then bind them and keep them as a source of reference. I would be less likely to do that if I received the journals in e mail attachment format or single sheets of paper. I appreciate that this would represent a considerable saving to the Society in financial terms but, certainly, for overseas members, would affect the only element of society membership that encouraged them to join in the first place.

As an occasional provider of articles I would be less likely to do so in future if the format of the Journal was changed in this way.

Best regards

Peter Kelly

Dear Editor:

I have re-read Ken Nilsestuen's article on his 1870 Algerian letter (*FCP* 62(4), pp 95-96) with great interest. Being a collector of Algeria Postal History I was delighted to find this piece

as fellow collectors are something of a rare breed.

Decyphering the reproduced copy of the interior of the report is not easy, but I believe I may now be able to throw some extra light upon the contents.

The form is addressed to the firm of *Causse et Cie*, and the adjective *entrepreneurs* identifies them specifically as contractors. The day's report is headed *BALLASTAGE* and relates to the activities of a track repair crew in maintaining the levels of ballast over a 27 km. stretch of the Oran – Algiers line, centered on point 79, with *ballastièrre* Oued Ebda being the storage depot for the ballast.

Oued Ebda is findable via "Google", but there ain't much there!!

Sincerely,

Peter Maybury (FCPS 3375)

York, England, 20 November 2008

Show Reports

SESCAL/AMERICAS 2008 (Los Angeles, October 2008).

In the International Group

Grand Prix of the Exhibition and Large Gold to **Jamie Gough** who also received four(!) special awards for his new UPU exhibit. Grand Prix National and Large Gold Medal to **Steven Walske** who also received two special awards for his San Francisco exhibit. Large Vermeil to **Eliot Landau** for "Classic France: The Ceres and Napoleon Issues of 1849-78 in the Foreign Mails and **Ed Grabowski** for "Indochina and the French Offices in China: Postal History of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type."

In the National Group

Gold medals to **Jamie Gough**, **Ed Grabowski**, **Eliot Landau** and **Steven Walske** for the same exhibits noted above.

Membership Notices

NEW MEMBERS

3399 SULLIVAN, JOSEPH C., Towson, MD

REINSTATEMENTS

3323 DEBOARD, RALPH C., Edmond, OK
 2171 GUYER, JOHN O., Oak Harbor, WA
 978 PETERS, DONALD J., Punta Gorda, FL

ADDRESS CHANGE

2171 GUYER, JOHN O., Oak Harbor, WA

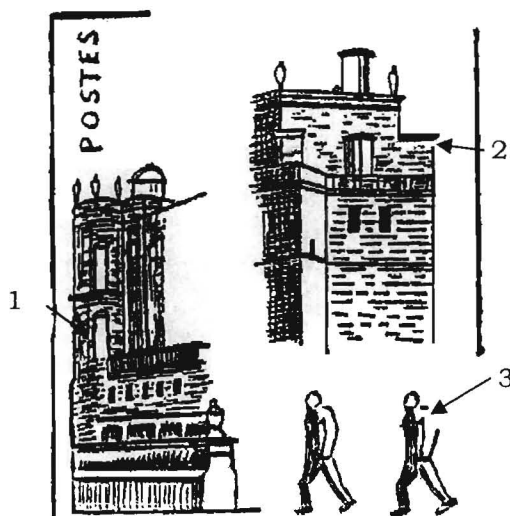
TYPES AND SUBTYPES

o,75 St. Germain-en-Laye

Type I: First seven press runs of sheet stamps, design is normal.

Type II: Eighth (last) press run of sheet stamps, constant flaws: ((1) thinned left frame line; (2) break in northeast corner of chateau; and (3) (the most readily visible) "broken shoulder" of passerby.

S. J. Luft



The FCPS Grand Prix

Readers familiar with these pages know that extensive coverage is given to the annual FCPS Grand Prix that is awarded to the best France and Colonies related exhibit at our annual meeting. In this latest, and hopefully permanent, manifestation of an annual award, the 2007 winner was **Ken Nilsestuen**, and the 2008 winner **Dave Herendeen**. As there has been no formal definition of this prize, the administration now sets forth the following criteria.

FCPS Grand Prix Criteria

- ♦ The **FCPS Grand Prix** is awarded annually at a designated WSP national level show. It is presented to the best exhibit of France and Colonies-related material, shown by an FCPS member, as determined by the show jury. The selection of the winner by the jury is final, and no types of appeals or protests can be made.
- ♦ More than 50% of the exhibit must be France and Colonies-related material.
- ♦ The exhibit must be 5 or more standard exhibition frames. The exhibit may be shown in any acceptable APS exhibiting division or class.
- ♦ The same exhibit may not win the Grand Prix in successive years. An FCPS member may win any number of Grand Prix, including those in successive years as long as substantially different exhibits are shown.

The Grand Prix Award

A tradition started in 2001 (before the current regime) has been followed over the last two years. The winner of the previous year's Grand Prix has donated a prize to the winner of the Grand Prix the current year. It may be a philatelic item or *objet d'art* valued from \$100-\$200. Should this pose a burden to any FCPS member, please notify the President when you apply to the Exhibition.

The French Colonial Allegorical Group Type Foreign Markings Add to the Soup

By Edward Grabowski

Although the New York Chapter and its regular monthly meetings ceased to exist a few years ago, a few stalwarts continue to meet a few times a year to discuss French area matters. We did so on 2 December, and I decided to bring along three new Group Type covers for my part of the program. What I did not realize when I selected the covers is that they were tied together by a common theme – the foreign postal markings made each a more exciting cover. There was enough interest in them to lead me to think that they might be worthy of more than a simple meeting presentation.

The first, shown in Fig. 1, is a simple post card sent from Saint Pierre, Saint Pierre & Miquelon to France in June 1912 which was recently purchased from Jamet/Baudot. As has been noted before,¹ mail from Saint Pierre was often posted at the dock or on board the ferry which traveled to North Sydney or Halifax in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia. Stamps were cancelled upon arrival in Canada by an un-

usual and large array of paquebot markings, many of which are recorded in the article by Bob Stone and myself.¹ Particularly for the Group Type issue, this adds an unusual side avenue to a collection. The 10c red Group Type stamp on this particular post card was cancelled by an unusual North Sydney duplex cancel consisting of an oval with eleven bars in it and a North Sydney datestamp. I had not seen an example of this cancel prior to this one, and was pleased to add it to my collection. A check with Canadian specialists indicated that the data on the history of the use of this cancel on arriving paquebot mail in North Sydney is in development, with a suggested period of use of just a few months. Both **Alain Millet** and J.-J. Tillard, two French Colonies specialists, are familiar with this cancel and each has an example of it, suggesting that its period of use may be a bit longer than currently thought. It is definitely a cancel for which specialists should keep an open eye.

The second cover is of interest from both the

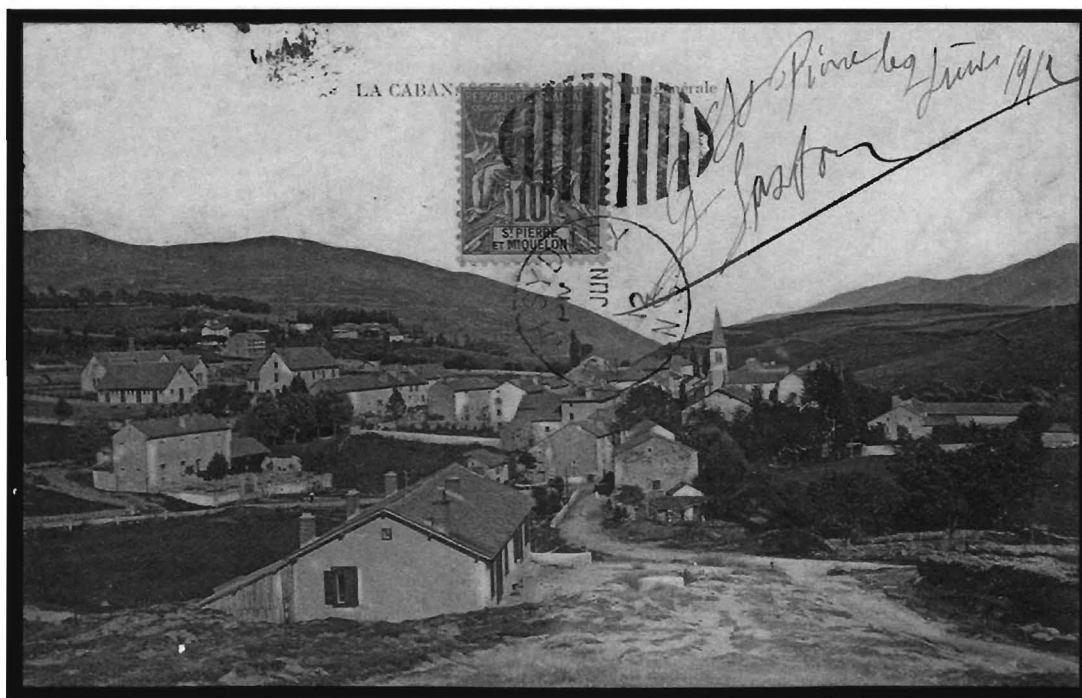


Figure 1. Post card at the 10c rate from Saint Pierre to Versailles, France with a full message on the reverse showing the duplex North Sydney paquebot handstamp used in the 1912 period.

French Colonial and the British Colonial sides, and came into my collection from the Spink firm. The cover, seen in Fig. 2, bears a rare Reunion **BM** (*boite mobile*) handstamp having been posted on a traveling postal wagon coming into the principal city of Saint Denis in November 1901. The letter is franked with the 1901 15c/1F Group Type issue overprint created to fill a shortage of lower values corresponding to the common rates of the period. At this time the 15c rate was applicable throughout the French Community. However, this letter was posted to the small village of Quatre Bornes, Mauritius – a foreign destination. Thus, the rate should have been 25c. The deficiency was noted in Saint Denis and the letter was marked with a **T** in triangle for postage due. Upon arrival in Port Louis, Mauritius the letter was struck with a **12¢ TO PAY** handstamp to indicate the amount due from the addressee. The **TO PAY** handstamps of Mauritius are an interesting side light on the handling of due mail from this British colony. Examples prior to 1876 are prized by specialists. This is my first example on Group Type mail from the end of the 19th century. The letter bears Pointe-des-Galets and Port Louis transits on the reverse, and a nice Quatre Bornes arrival on the front completing the ensemble.

We were able to work out the due charge at the meeting. In Reunion, the cover was franked with 15c, but the French Community overseas rate was 25c. The correct postage due was double the 10c deficiency, or 20c. The Mauritius currency conversion was 15¢/25c. Therefore, the correct postage due was (15¢/25c) x 20c = 12¢. All-in-all a remarkable cover with Reunion **BM** and **T** in triangle markings, a Mauritius **TO PAY** handstamp and the small village destination.

The final item, purchased from Roumet, (Fig. 3 for the front and Fig. 4 for the reverse) is probably the most interesting of the lot. It is a registered letter at the 50c overseas rate posted from the small village of Case Pilote, Martinique on 22 October 1905 to Monsieur Andre Maset in Paraiso, Colon in the Panama Canal Zone. Of the more than 175 Martinique Group Type covers in my collection, this is the only one from the village of Case Pilote, suggesting it is among the rarest of the Martinique small offices. The letter transited via Fort-de-France on 22 October, and arrived in the Panama on 29 October as indicated by a **TRANSITO COLON** datestamp on the reverse and various **RE-**

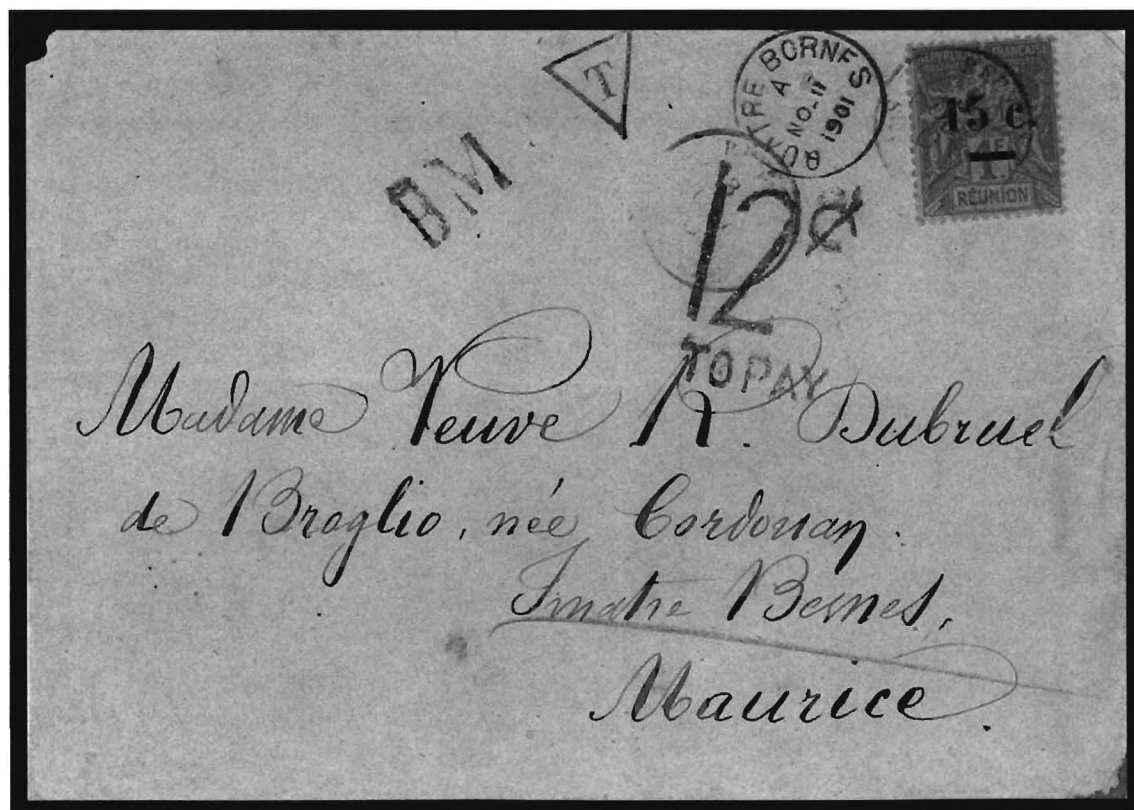


Figure 2. Underpaid letter from Reunion to Mauritius with a Reunion **BM** (*Boite Mobile*) handstamp and a Mauritius **12¢ TO PAY** due handstamp.

COMENDADOS PANAMA datestamps of October 30th on the front and back. Thereafter the letter seems to have been in limbo, as the next transits to show are those of Ancon, Canal Zone on 6 March 1906 and Paraiso, Canal Zone on 7 March 1906. Apparently, the letter took four-plus months to cross from the Panamanian postal system to the US system in the Canal Zone! The final Canal Zone datestamp to appear on the letter is that of Paraiso on 1 September 1906. The last datestamp is that of Case Pilote on 25 October 1906 on the reverse. Various US Canal Zone handstamps are present on the letter indicating a valiant effort to locate the addressee. These include a **Forwarded** handstamp, an **UNCLAIMED** handstamp, a **REGISTRY SECTION, CORRECT, SEP 17 1906, DIV DEAD LETTERS** handstamp, and a **Vol 34, D.D.L. RECORD, No. 13590** Division of Dead Letters accounting handstamp.

With a departure from Case Pilote on 22 October 1905 and a return to this office on 25 October 1906, this letter was in the mails for more than a year seeking its addressee — all to no avail. With its plethora of Canal Zone handstamps, it is difficult to tell if it is greater interest to French Colonial or Canal Zone specialists.

Despite my focus on French Colonial matters, it is clear that foreign markings can be as interesting, if not more interesting. I have taken the liberty of including the sources of these covers to indicate that they, like all of our perceived treasurers, come slowly and one at a time. Vigilance and perseverance are paramount in building any collection.

Reference

1. Stone, R.G. and E.J.J. Grabowski, "The French Colonial Allegorical Group Type as Used in Saint Pierre & Miquelon", *Collectors Club Philatelist*, 2001, Vol. 80, pp 111-132.



Figure 3. Remarkable overseas registered letter from the small village of Case Pilot, Martinique on October 22, 1905 to Paraiso, Canal Zone showing a plethora of transits and handstamps in a failed effort to locate the addressee. The letter was returned to Case Pilot about one year later.

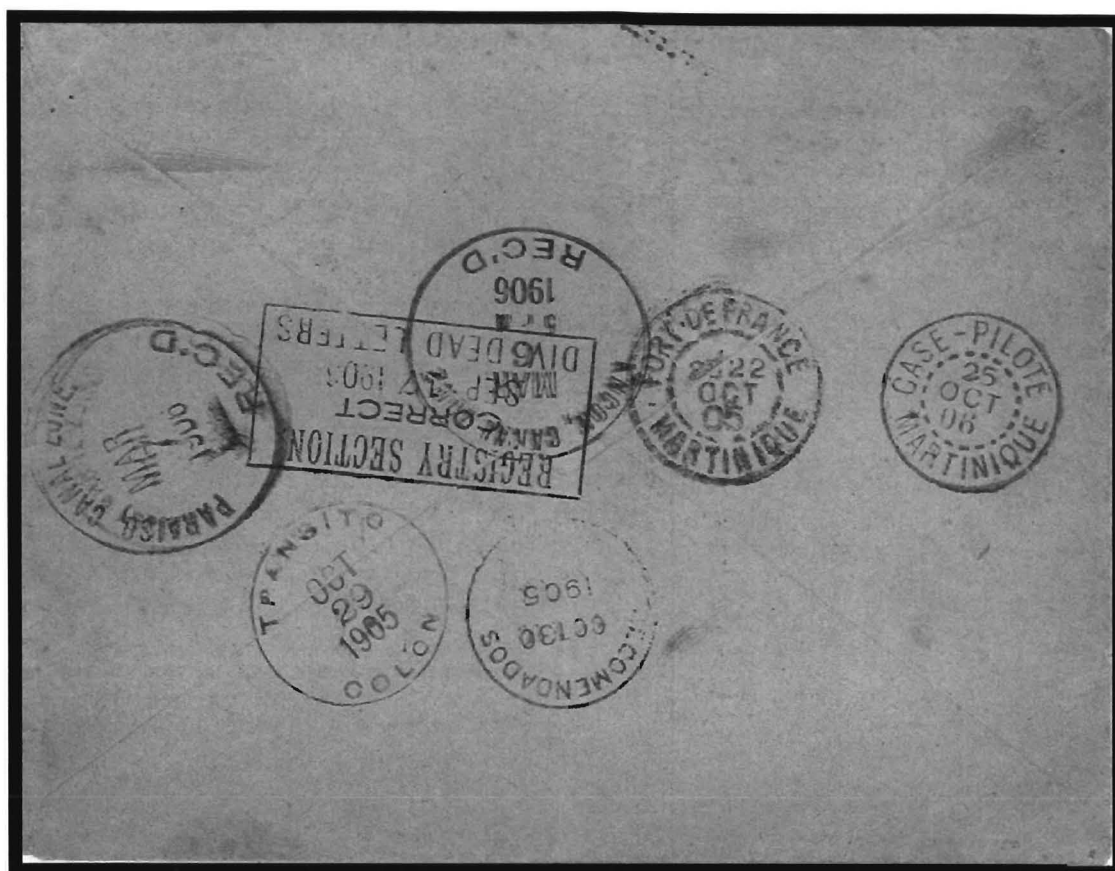


Figure 4. Reverse of the Martinique cover shown in Fig. 3.

Are You Ready for Denver???

If you haven't done so already, please mark your calendar for May 15-17 May 2009. That's the weekend the FCPS will have our annual meeting and exhibition at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, in Denver, CO. This show promises to have many exciting exhibits by the members. These will include:

- ♦ The Postal History of Tahiti
- ♦ The Group Type in Indochina
- ♦ Alsace-Lorraine/Elsass-Lothringen 1870 to UPU
- ♦ *Départements Conquis*: 1792-1814
- ♦ French Guiana
- ♦ French West Africa
- ♦ French Guinea
- ♦ Ubangi-Shari-Chad

- ♦ French Sudan and Niger
- ♦ Transatlantic Mail from France to US, 1926-37

Many of the officers and directors of the FCPS will be in attendance including President **Ken Nilsestuen**, FCP editor **Dave Herendeen**, Vice-President **Norval Rasmussen**, director **Ed Grabowski**, and former FCP editor **Stan Luft**.

Our judge this year is member **Eliot Landau** who often shows his powerful exhibit of Classic France.

For all of the details, and to get a copy of the show prospectus, visit the web site:

www.rockymountainstampshow.com

If you have any questions, please contact **Dave Herendeen** at:

702-658-8582

President's Letter

Let's open this quarter with unfinished business and good news. If you've read my letters in 2008 you'll know that we were contemplating electronic delivery of our journal for most members in exchange for a dues reduction and full color. We were evaluating this in an effort to make our journal a better overall product, even if it became more ephemeral than paper. We were concerned about losing members as dues crept upwards (reflecting mostly the costs of our journal). After a year of consideration the directors have decided to continue our present course. Our finances are sound and the majority of member responses we received were negative, so there was no driving force to change.

If you don't consider this good news, perhaps the ability to hold our dues at last year's level will be. You should have received your renewal notice by regular mail, and we certainly hope you will respond quickly.

As I look out to 2009 I am glad we don't face some of the major issues that other philatelic organizations do. We have no major projects under way (like buildings or libraries), we have a solid membership and we keep adding a few new members, our treasury is fine, and the trustees and officers are actively engaged to keep our group functioning smoothly. It's good that our specialty group is as strong as it is.

Speaking of the new year, you should know by now that we are moving our annual meeting reasonably far west for the first time in recent history (if not the first time ever). The Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (still called ROMPEX by many) will be our hosts in Denver. It looks now like we will have a wonderful group of exhibits, although we can still use more. Be sure to submit a prospectus soon to guarantee your frame space. You can find more about our meeting elsewhere in this journal. I'm looking forward to a great philatelic gathering of our group, with lots of good fun in addition to the philatelic events.

Best wishes for a great 2009! I hope to see you in May in Denver!

Plan Now for the Big Show!

David L. Herendeen, Editor

This is the time to plan on attending our annual meeting and exhibition in Denver next May. We plan to have many exhibits, a great dinner on Friday evening, Power Point slide shows, and lots of time for schmoozing with other members.

Exhibits

We already have pledges for at least 10 exhibits. Some of the exhibit subjects are noted in the article on page 22. This is certainly the greatest lineup of colonial exhibits in recent memory if not ever at a U.S. national show. If you want to exhibit, send me a quick email and I will send you the details.

Denver Program

The FCPS has blocked out three hours on Saturday morning, 16 May 2009 from 0900 to 1200. There will be two or three powerpoint slide shows that may include: Algeria Postal History (**Nilsestuen**), French Zanzibar postage dues (**Herendeen**), Indochina and the Group Type (**Grabowski**), or Indochina and the Group Type (**Grabowski**). Other volunteers are welcome! Please attend, enjoy and share your knowledge with others.

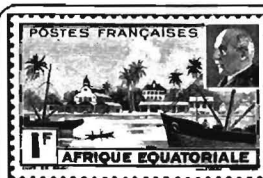
The tentative program (subject to change) is:

0900-0930: Program 1
0930-1000: Program 2
1000-1030: Program 3
1030-1100: Open forum, anything goes
1100-1200: "Official" annual meeting

FCPS Dinner

There will be an FCPS dinner Friday evening 15 May. It is being organized by our Denver members led by **Stan Luft**. More details including site and cost will be published in the next FCP.

That's it for now. More updates will appear in the next issue. **Wishing all members and their families a happy and prosperous New Year!**



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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