



FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

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Pre-Cursors of the French Post in Morocco

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The Spanish Patrol

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Gems from the Sacher Collection

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French Post Office In Morocco: Precursors to 1893

Larry Gardner (FCPS 3061)

Most FCP readers may immediately think of French Morocco when the subject of Morocco arises in the context of France and her colonies. However, prior to the French taking over the Cherifien Post in 1912, the French established a postal agency within the French Consulate Office at Tanger in 1852. This article presents a study of the precursor cancels and covers¹ used until 1893 when the French Post Office opened nine Postal Agencies² in Morocco. At that point, Tangier became the *Recette Principale* (first class Post Office) and the stamps of France were surcharged in Spanish currency: *pesetas* and *centimos*.

As was the normal policy for these times, each of the British and French Consulates provided mail service, both incoming and outgoing, for their respective countrymen until an official Agency was subsequently opened. Fig. 1 shows the earliest known cover from the Tangier Consulate Post Office to Oran. It is dated 29 September 1852. This is one of only four known outgoing covers with the Tanger/* cancel. There is also a single discovery copy of its use as a receiver. This cover was exhibited at the International Exhibition in Malaga, Spain, in 2007.

Carried by commercial ship, the manuscript "3" represents a disembarkation charge. In addition to the consular cancel, a mobile maritime cancel Tanger/Oran-21mm double circle was in use from 1852 to 1881, and struck on unstamped letters. In all probability, the cancel was applied en route. At this time, Tangier was subordinate to the bureau at Oran. Fig. 2 shows this cancel on an unstamped letter to Oran. This cover was rated 5 *decimes* upon arrival. Cancels are in black or red, this is one of four known covers with this cancel in red. Note that this



Figure 1. Dated 29 Sep 1852, this is the earliest known cover from the Consular post office in Tangier.

cover is cancelled 21 August 1880, fully 28 years after the introduction of the cancel. Desbat³ indicates he has seen an 1879 cover with this mark and the letter within says "at that time there were only 30 French people living in Tangier." That is precisely the reason for the scarcity of covers during this period.

As mentioned above, the consular office handled both incoming and outgoing mail. Illustrated in Fig. 3 is an example of a forwarded letter written from the shipping company Pastré Frères in Marseille to



Figure 2. The Tanger cancel in red.

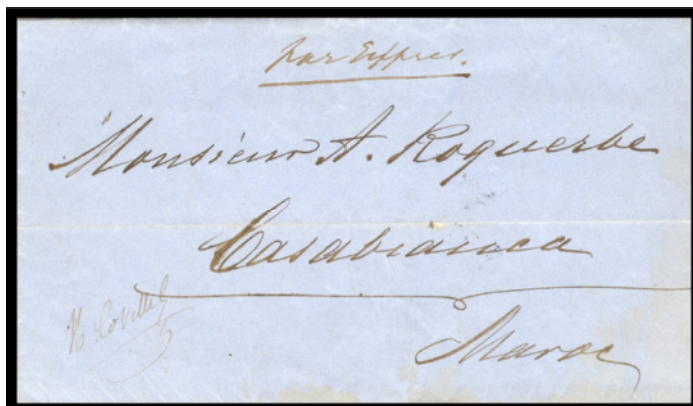


Figure 3. Forwarded letter dated 2 May 1856 from Marseilles to Casablanca via Gibraltar.



Figure 4. Letter showing the bureau de distribution cancellation of Tangiers

Casablanca. Written 2 May 1856, it was sent to Gibraltar and forwarded by Horatio Sprague to Tangier and the French consulate. It was endorsed on the front by H. Cotelle who was either the acting *Consul Général* or the acting *Chargé d'Affaires*, according to the historical text archive on the internet by C. R. Pennell.⁴

The name Charles Jaggerschmidt appears beginning in 1853 along with H. Cotelle whose name appears as acting *chargé d'affaires*. In 1855, Jaggerschmidt was replaced by Gustave de Castillon. No date of arrival for de Castillon is noted and no replacement for Cotelle is mentioned. Because of the endorsement on this letter, it has to be assumed he was still in one of the positions or both on a temporary basis until the arrival of Castillon.

The Tangier Post Office was now a *bureau de distribution* using the Tanger/Algerie *perle* cancel as seen in Fig. 4. The 24mm dotted outer circle in black was used from 1856-1884. This cover was routed via Oran which explains the use of this cancel. There are only three known copies in private hands and two in the famous Zoumeroff collection at the French Postal Museum. The cover is backstamped Oran/Algerie 15 March 1873 and Marseille 20 March 1873 and is rated 10 upon arrival.

Fig. 5 shows a letter from a French soldier to his sister relating a battle during what is known as Napoleon's third campaign, some of



Figure 5. French military letter relating a battle during what is known as Napoleon's third campaign, some of which took place in Algeria.



Figure 6. Illustration of 6 décime overland rate.

which took place in Algeria. For a few weeks the French troops crossed over the Algerian frontier to hunt down rebels who had taken refuge in the area of Oudja in Morocco. The above cancel was used by the Corps. for this short period of time. The franking has been lost but indentations on the cover indicate the killer cancel CEMA in lozenge form had been struck on the missing adhesive. The cover is backstamped Oran Algerie 5/Nov/59 and has a Paris receiver dated 14/Nov/59.

When sent overland, as in Fig. 6, the appropriate *taxe* was 6 upon arrival in France. The letter in this case was sent to Gibraltar and handled by Luis Dasol and subsequently

sent by the British Post overland to France, thus no French cancel was applied. This points out the cooperation between consuls at this time. Transit cachets are Madrid 26 September and Bordeaux F. Arrival at Marseille 28 September 1872 and 6 *decimes* payable by the recipient. France in 1795 decimalized their currency to 1 franc=10 *decimes*=100 centimes. In addition, decimes were to be marked in black and centimes in red. Thus, the amount due in black is 6 *decimes*.

The cover shown in Fig. 7 illustrates how a letter either posted at sea, posted at the docks, or handed to the ships captain was handled. It was cancelled with the maritime marking *Outre-Mer* and the port of entry. The red boxed PD indicates postage is paid to destination. Written in Tangier 8 November 1873, it is cancelled in Marseille upon arrival with the *Outre-Mer* Marseille 15 November 1873 receiver and the stamp cancelled with the *gross chiffre* (GC)2240 of Marseille. It was then entered into the regular mails with final arrival Bordeaux 17 November.

The Yvert catalogue⁵ previously reported the Tangier Agency using the GC5106 lozenge cancel until 1876. They noted the usage of this cancel on four stamps between the years 1882-1885. However, none of these were on cover.



Figure 7. Letter showing mail docketing when sent by ship.

Excelmans oldest stamped cover dated 1875 also had a Cérés No. 57 cancelled by a grid and a Tanger/Algerie cancel. "The Count refers to this cover when questioning the usage of the GC5106 lozenge, and maintains that a few loose specimens are doubtful to say the least." Today's Yvert has dropped 5106 from their catalogues. J.-F. Brun, of *l'Academie de Philatélie*, wrote an article summarizing how the cancel was ascribed to Tangier.⁶ He explains how, in 1862, the postal administration reclassified the existing offices in alphabetical order and gave each a serial number. Tangier was allocated 5106, yet only the loose stamps exist to prove the validity of the cancel itself. However this number is further proven by a *griffe descriptive de chargement* on the back of a declared value letter from Tanger to Alger in 1901.

No evidence exists that the GC5106 *griffe* was not delivered to the Tangier office nor, as Brun claims, is there any official text. The purpose of this discussion is to verify the existence of GC 5106, while allowing you to draw your own conclusions as to whether the cancel was actually in use. Based on the above subordinating declared value letter, I find it hard not to believe that the *griffe* was in use in this time period.

From 1884 to 1887 the 25mm Tanger Maroc *perle* cancel seen in Fig.8 was used. It is known struck in violet, black and blue. This cancel is also the subject of some question

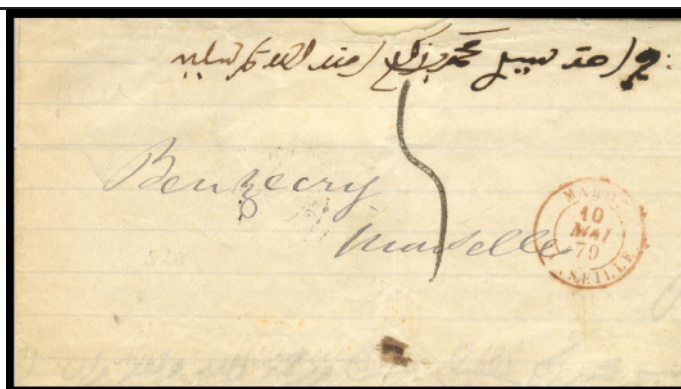


Figure 9. The Maroc/Marseille Cachet D'Entrée.

regarding the beginning dates. To avoid another lengthy discussion relative to the date of introduction, it is sufficient to note that the example shown was canceled 18 May 1885 in Tangier. The letter was sent to Héricourt, and the cancel was struck in violet.

The next cancel Maroc/Marseille Cachet D'Entrée was applied to mail arriving at Marseille, by boat from Morocco. Whether this cancel is a mobile maritime cancel or applied in Marseille I am unsure. Fig. 9 shows the letter written in Arabic with unknown dateline from Fez to Marseille. Received 10 May 1879 and taxed 5 *decimes* on arrival. The cancel is scarce as are the others and there is little written about this cancel. Of the covers the author has seen, one is franked with French Sage issues from Casablanca, the one shown in Fig. 9 is from Fez, another is of unknown origin, and the fourth, originating from Mogador and franked with type Sage issues, is also in the author's collection.

Union-Marseille is also an entry mark into France canceling covers originating from non UPU countries and entering via a maritime route. In use 1880-1893, except on post ships where a cancel was applied. This *Paquebot* not having a postal agent on board therefore required the *Union-Marseille* entry mark to be applied on arrival, thus respecting the UPU rules for franking and or due tax. Fig.10

Although known on letters emanating from other countries, only two are known from Morocco in the French Post Office. Most cancellations are known from either Le Havre or Marseille. Again, no Morocco covers are known entering Le Havre or those associated



Figure 8. The 25mm perle cancel.



Figure 10. Union-Marseille entry point.

with the other three Union marks, St Nazaire, Bordeaux, or Pauillac.

Prior to the opening of other bureaux in Morocco, the status of the *bureau de recette* was authorized 1 May 1887. In Tanger the 22mm double circle cancel was used as an obliterator. The cancel was in use 1887-91. Desbat⁷ notes: "After this it seems to have been restricted to registered mail..." Fig. 11 illustrates a 25 cent. first weight step letter from Tanger to France 15 September 1888. It is backstamped Pyrenees A Paris 18 September 1888, Irun A Bordeaux A 18 September 1888 and has a Visnet receiver 20 September 1888.

Fig. 12 shows a French type cancellation with



Figure 11. 25c rate, Tanger to France.

a hyphenated inner circle. It shows the date in letters and the collection number above the date — in this case 1 June 1891, first collection. It was in use 1891 to 1898 and three collection times are known. This is an overland first weight step registered cover Tanger to the German consul Constantinople. It traveled overland through Spain with frontal transit cancel at the French border station Irun 6 June 1891. It was then backstamped Munich 7 June and shows a Constantinople 10 June receiver. No other transits are shown, so it is assumed the letter traveled bagged by train from Munich to Berlin and on to Constantinople the standard route in 1891.

Conclusion

In 1891 the French Post Office overprinted the sage issue with values in the local currency *centimos* and *pesetas*. Tanger continued as a regular *bureau de recette* until 1893 when the French Post Office opened 14 more post offices between 1893 and 1902. Tanger also became the *recette principale* in 1893 widening its responsibility. These post offices continued to operate in this manner until 1912 when Morocco was divided into the Spanish protectorate in the north and the French protectorate in the south. In 1911 the Cherifien Post was created by Morocco to handle local mail. The Cherifien Post was operated by the Sultan Moulay Hassan and competed with the French postal service. In 1912 the first and only series of Cherifien stamps were issued. The Cherifien Post ceased



Figure 12. French date stamps showing collection time.

operations November 1, 1913 and merged with the French Postal System

Acknowledgement

The author would like to thank his fellow Moroccan specialist Maurice Hadida, of Paris, for his attentive review of this manuscript.

Notes and References

Note that *Le Rekkas* is the journal of the SPLM Philatelic Association.

1. The term "precursor," as used in this article, refers to cancels and covers which are forerunners to those beginning with the opening of the Offices in 1893.
2. 1893 as indicated by documents in possession of M. Hadida Paris
3. Desbat, A., "The French Post Office in Tangier and the Forerunners of the French Post in Morocco (1852-1891)," *Le Rekkas*, No.15, July 1997
4. This archive is a chronological listing of the French consuls for Tangier 1804-1911.
5. *Catalogue des Timbres-Poste de la France et des Colonies Françaises, Titre III, Bureaux Français à l'Etranger et Territoires Occupés*, Yvert & Cie, Amiens, France, 1940.
6. Brun, J.-F., "The GC5106 cancellation ascribed to Tangier," *Le Rekkas*, No. 27, June 2000
7. Desbat, A., "The Cancellations of the French PO in Tangier : 1852-1924," *Le Rekkas* No. 39, May 2003

Nominations Received

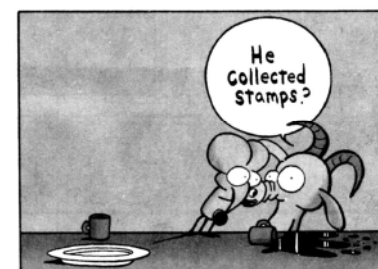
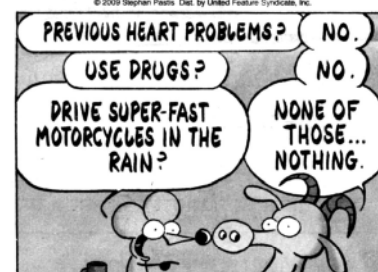
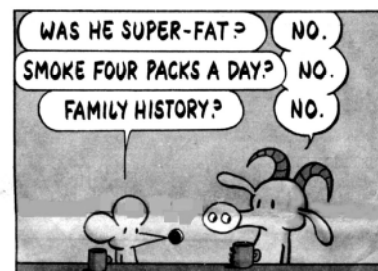
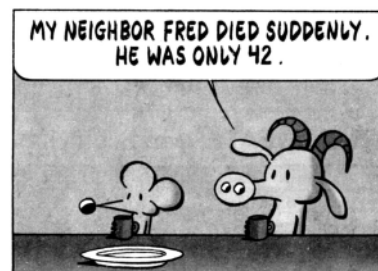
In the last *FCP* (No. 298, p. 107)) we announced that 2010 is another election year for the society. By Article VII of our bylaws, nominations for all directors and officers will be taken until 28 February 2010. To nominate a member in good standing, simply petition the Corresponding Secretary prior to the noted date. The ballot for the election will appear in the July 2010 *FCP*, and results will be announced in the October 2010 *FCP*.

At press time of this issue (with only about six weeks to go in the nomination process) the Corresponding Secretary reports the following individuals have been nominated:

President: Kenneth R. Nilsestuen (OH)
 Vice President: Dr. Norval Rasmussen (WV)
 Treasurer: Jeff Ward (CA)
 Corresponding Secretary: Joel Bromberg (NY)
 Recording Secretary: Dr. Edward Grabowski (NJ)
 Director: Stephen T. Tucker (NV)
 Director: Ralph DeBoard (OK)

email any other nominations to jbromberg@inta.org before the 28 February deadline.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



Reproduced with the kind permission of the artist.

John J. Sauer Revisited

by Jeff Ward (FCPS 3142)

In 1984, John J. Sauer published an article¹ in the *FCP* entitled “Some Guiana/Inini Varieties.” It dealt with previously unreported varieties he discovered in the French Guiana and Inini stamps of his collection. I first read the article around 2001 and found it most enlightening. In fact, I was previously unaware of any of the varieties he discussed except for the shades. So I examined my own collection and began looking at dealer stocks and internet offerings to discover what I could about these varieties. I discovered quite a bit, and I would like to share this information as an update to Sauer’s article.

His observations are limited to the 1904 and 1929 definitive issues. Regarding the former, he describes only one variety, “an apparent doubling of the right frame line” of the 15c (centimes) anteatr on a copy surcharged 0.04 (Y&T 93). I have looked for this variety on hundreds of copies of the 15c anteatr with and without surcharge. Unfortunately, I have not found this variety and have nothing to add.

The rest of his observations concern the 1929 definitives (archer, canoe, and building designs) for both French Guiana and Inini.

Archer Design

Sauer found a “broken frame line above the ‘E’ of ‘GUYANE’ ” on some of the archer stamps. He found it “on all values except the 20c, including some of the Inini overprinted stamps.” This is a subtle plate variety and easy to miss unless you are looking for it (Fig. 1). I have found it on all denominations except the 20c of French Guiana and the 1c and 25c of



Figure 1. Broken Frame Line above the “E” of a 5 Centimes Archer

Inini. I have several full sheets of the French Guiana 10c archer.² I also have a two pane partial sheet of the 2c, and single panes of the 1c and 4c. This variety occurs in position 14 (third row, second from the right) and nowhere else in every one of my panes. It is apparently a flaw in the plate used for all printings of each denomination. On average, one in every twenty-five archer stamps should show it.

Sauer “found a white spot in the left armpit of the native” on the 2c and 3c of French Guiana and the 1c, 10c, and 25c of Inini (Fig. 2). I have found it on the 1c, 3c, and 20c of Inini. It seems to be considerably less common than the broken frame line variety. How it was produced remains a mystery. I have found it on a few single copies, but not in any of the sheets and panes in my collection. Consequently, its sheet location is unknown.



Figure 2. White Spot in the Armpit of a 1 Centime Archer

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Sauer noted that on a copy of the 1c Inini, the overprint “is all of 3mm higher on the stamp than the normal copies” (Figure 3). I have researched this variety extensively and can report that it is fairly common on both the 1c and 2c. I estimate that about 10% of all 2c stamps show this high setting for the overprint. The 1c is a little less common, probably about 5% of all copies. An important feature of this variety is that there are no transitional locations of the overprint. All copies have either the regular setting or the high setting.

I have never seen a used copy of the high



Figure 3. Regular and High Settings of the 1c and 2c Inini Overprints

setting, on or off cover. This suggests that the high setting may represent a later printing for the exclusive purpose of sales to dealers. I do know that the smallest denominations of the French Guiana and Inini definitives of this period had no practical postal use³ and that mint copies were often included in stamp packets.

Do other denominations exist with the high setting? I was sure they did not. Since 2001 when I first read Sauer's article, I found many 1c and 2c stamps with the high setting but no other denominations. Then, in the summer of 2008, I purchased a lot on eBay with a 10c in the high setting (Fig. 4). To date, this is the only Inini archer stamp I have found with the high setting other than the 1c and 2c. If the



Figure 4. Regular and High Settings of the 10c Inini Overprint

high setting exists on other denominations, they must be quite rare.

Canoe Design

Sauer reports "a small projection from the frame line located under the letters 'T' and 'E' of 'POSTES' " on the 1929 French Guiana 30c (green and light green) (Y&T 117) and the 1939 30c (color change to green and brown) overprinted for Inini (Y&T 37). I have a full sheet of seventy-five of the French Guiana 30c

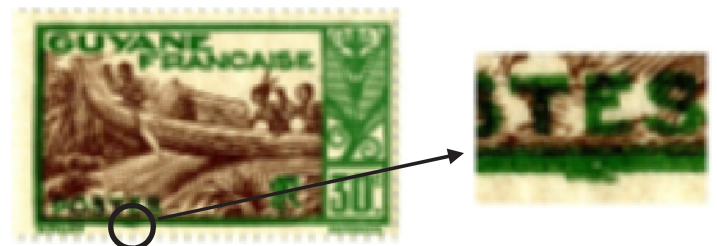


Figure 5. 30 Centimes Green and Brown and the Projection from the Lower Frame Line

green and brown (Y&T 158). It contains this variety in position 16 (fourth row, first stamp on the left) of each pane (Fig. 5).

I have full sheets or panes of several other denominations of the canoe design, but none show this variety. Presumably, this is a flaw in a plate used only to print the frame of the 30c. With two color combinations and the fact that some of each were overprinted for Inini, there should be four different stamps with this variety. On average, one in every twenty-five of the various 30c canoes should show it unless the flaw was repaired or other plates were used for the 30c frame.

The Inini overprint for the canoe design reads "Territoire de l'Inini" and is printed in serified letters. However, Sauer reports "...a variety of more than trivial interest." He illustrates a 1 franc red and carmine (Y&T 19) in which the

"l'Inini" portion of the overprint is in non-serifed letters. Sauer adds, "moreover the entire overprint of this copy is 3/4 mm wider than the normals." This is indeed of more than trivial interest, but after examining literally hundreds of Inini stamps of the canoe design, I have not found this variety.

Shades

Sauer notes that "there are distinct shades in colors of some of the lower and middle values" of the 1929 definitives, and they probably "result mainly from the frequent reprintings required for the more heavily used values." Without any more specific information about what shades he has in mind, I can only say that yes, there are shades, and the higher denominations have them as well. However, no catalog or reference lists them. Because I have no idea how many distinct shades there are, how they were created, or their relative rarity, I pay little attention to them.

Conclusion

Thanks to Mr. Sauer, several previously unknown varieties of French Guiana and Inini stamps were brought to the attention of the philatelic world. I have provided additional information regarding some of them, but others remain as much a mystery as when Sauer wrote his article. If readers have additional information, including other denominations showing these varieties, I would appreciate hearing from you at:

ward-jeff@san.rr.com.

I am interested especially in other examples of the high setting of the Inini overprint, the partially non-serifed overprint on the canoe design, and whether the archer plate varieties occur on the Vichy issues (15c French Guiana and 20c Inini). Perhaps most of all, I would like to know what happened over the years to Sauer's discovery copies and to Mr. Sauer himself.

Notes and References

1. Sauer, John J., "Some Guiana/Inini Varieties," *France and Colonies Philatelist*, No. 195, (Vol. 40, No. 1), January, 1984, pp. 8-9.
2. A full sheet of a 1929 definitive consists of seventy-five stamps divided into three panes of twenty-five.

3. In the available rate tables for this period, the lowest rate is 15 centimes for a short message (less than six words) post card sent by surface mail to a domestic (France and colonies) destination.

New Group has Mission: Solve Philatelic Mysteries

Goals will be Achieved by Applying Modern Scientific Technology

Can you identify a pigeon blood pink stamp? Do you know if your stamps have been faded by exposure to sunlight? Answering these questions, and many more, is the mission of an exciting new organization that was launched in December 2009. Called the **Institute for Analytical Philately, Inc.** (IAP), the nonprofit corporation intends to offer funding to researchers who would like to explore scientific approaches to solving open philatelic questions.

The Institute was founded by a group of dedicated philatelists who, in their "other" lives, are scientists and researchers. More importantly, they were also senior managers responsible for getting results. John Barwis, founder and Vice President at IAP notes "We are bringing structure to an incredibly talented group of philatelic scientists. We believe we can answer many unsolved philatelic questions through the application of modern technology."

IAP is building a team of Alliances with other major philatelic organizations. "The need to organize research activities at the many first-rate philatelic organizations under a cohesive plan has been recognized for years. IAP is going to try to help this happen. The time is now," says David Herendeen, founder and President of IAP.

You can help IAP with its mission by becoming a Patron, Sponsor, Supporting Member or Sustaining Member. For details, visit the IAP Web Site at:

www.AnalyticalPhilately.org

Those interested in proposing a research project may also visit the Web Site and fill out a request.

Covers from Nowhere to Nowhere

Stephen T. Tucker (FCPS 3347)

The cover shown was mailed from the famous Tombouctou (or, as we learned in English, Timbuktu), French Sudan to Ozona Falls, TX in 1945.

In 1958, French Sudan gained its independence and was renamed the Federation of Mali.



As seen in the inset map, Tombouctou is centrally located in Mali. Its importance throughout history has been as a trading post for salt. It is also famous for having what is said to be one of the first universities in the world. Even in 1998,

the reported population was less than 32,000 persons. What might it have been in 1945 as World War II was winding down?

Ozona Falls (now just plain Ozona) is a small

town in western Texas. Even today its population is 3,500, one can only imagine its size in 1945. Ozona's only apparent claim to fame is that it is the only town in Crockett County (the eighth largest in Texas with an area over 3,000 square miles), which was named for Davy Crockett. In fact, the town boasts the Crockett County Museum which tells the story of local inhabitants from 10,000 B.C. until the present. Should you ever be in the neighborhood, Ozona is about 200 miles northwest of San Antonio along the I10 freeway, a trip that takes close to 3 hours.²

References

1. See, for example:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timbuktu>
2. The town's web site is ozona.com.

[Members wishing to submit their candidate cover may email a 300dpi scan and one page of text to the Editor.]



Book Review

Seventy Years of Postal History at the French Post Office in Beirut, Semaan Bassil.

Published by The Lebanese British Friends of the National Museum, Beirut 2009. ISBN 978-9953-0-1478-4. Hardback £55. payable by check or PayPal. Order from:

www.ahlebanon.com

This superbly illustrated book combines the philately, history and social history of Beirut in its Mediterranean context. The background to the original capitulations is explained and how the position of France vis-à-vis the Ottoman Empire was privileged, and this was particularly so after France took the side of the Ottomans in the Crimea. It describes the rights accorded to French residents and the preferential duties on trade. This situation enjoyed by France enabled them to establish strong shipping links with the Levant and Beirut from the 1830s and the establishment of a disinfection station in Beirut in 1834 further strengthened the importance of the port.

The 1830s also saw substantial investment by the Lyonnais in silk production and there is considerable detail given to the companies involved and the history of this trade.

After a long and detailed introduction, profusely illustrated in color, there follows a section on the French shipping lines serving Beirut showing routes and postal markings.

Moving on to the postal system it is explained that the lack of an effective Ottoman postal service led to the authorization of postal consular activity leading to the opening of a French post office in 1845 followed by other European countries.

All the marks of the French post office are illustrated and supported by copies of relevant letters and description of the rates. This includes tax and maritime marks with a detailed analysis of the covers and the different postage stamps used. This includes both letters to France and other destinations. The post UPU period is treated in a similar manner covering the period up to WWI.

A final section covers moveable box mail (including a slight misunderstanding of Salles) and military correspondence. A useful annex illustrates the postage stamps used, ancillary marks, details about principal trading companies, a glossary and bibliography.

This is a **must have** book for those interested in Mediterranean philately and Foreign Post Offices abroad. It is beautifully produced, bilingual – French and English – and packed with splendid color illustrations. Highly recommended.

— P.R.A.Kelly

Show Reports

BALPEX 2009

Baltimore, September 2009

Vermeil and silver medals to **Steve Washburne** for two of his Portuguese exhibits. **Dave Herendeen** was on the jury.

OMAHA 2009

Omaha, NE, September 2009

Gold medal and Grand Award to **Eliot Landau** for his Lincoln 6c Bank Note Issues, and a Silver medal for a one-frame exhibit.

MILCOPEX 2009

Milwaukee, WI, September 2009

Gold medal and Reserve Grand Award to **Eliot Landau**, and a second Gold medal as well. **Al Kugel** had three awards, two of which were Gold.

OKPEX 2009

Oklahoma City, OK, October 2009

Gold medal **Eliot Landau** for "Classic France: Postal History of the Ceres & Napoleon Issues of 1849-1875." **Al Kugel** received a Vermeil.

SESCAL 2009

Los Angeles, CA, October 2009

Gold medal to **Steve Tucker** for his airmail exhibit.

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France and Colonies Philatelist

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David L Herendeen

PREFACE

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Deconstructing Catalogue Numbering

A Sometimes Useful Pursuit

David L. Herendeen (FCPS 2532)

It is common knowledge among cultural anthropologists that missionaries wrecked greater havoc on indigenous natives around the world than any army ever could. Sometimes, I feel the same about catalogues. Specifically, the manner in which long series of definitive stamps are classified, categorized and listed may look aesthetically pleasing on an album page, but it most certainly obfuscates an understanding of why stamps may have been issued, and what their purpose might have been.

This paper looks at a single issue of stamps: the provisional overprints of the *Marché Indigène* design of Senegal. This design, shown in Fig. 1, was the workhorse definitive for more than 20 years. The first values were released in 1914, and the last in 1930. However, usages may be found into the 1940s.

As commonly encountered, the major catalogues list the provisional issues differently:

Dallay:¹ One issue; 1922-27, Cat. Nos. 80-94.

Yvert & Tellier:² Three issues; 1922-25, Nos. 87-90; 1922, Nos. 91-94; and 1924-27, Nos. 95-101.

Ceres:³ Three issues identical in dates and numbers to Yvert & Tellier

Scott:⁴ Three issues; 1922-25, Nos. 123-126; 1922, Nos. 127-130; and 1924-27, Nos. 131-137.

Interestingly, the 1935 Scott⁵ shows each group of stamps numbered in the sequence they were reported to the trade. Collecting styles do change!

Postal History Problem

If one is simply “filling in the boxes” on an album page, then one might well prefer to place all of the provisional



Figure 1. *Marché Indigène* design of Senegal.

overprints together in a “single set.” This would certainly satisfy the need to classify. However, if one is building a postal history collection, or more importantly, an exhibit, then this will not do.

Deconstructing the Stamps

The first step is to **deconstruct** the catalogue listing of the stamps. This means to reorganize the stamps according to their dates of issue. To make this task simpler, both the 1936 Yvert⁶ and Dallay list issue dates for each stamp. Even better, they agree. Table 1 shows the dates of issue for each face value and the current Yvert & Tellier (Y&T) catalogue numbers.

Table 1. Basic Stamp Data

Issue Date	Face Values (New/Old)	Y & T Nos.
Sep 1922	60c/75c	87
Dec 1922	0.01/15, 0.02/15, 0.04/15, 0.05/15	91-94
Jun 1924	25c/5f	95
1 Feb 1925	65/25, 85/15, 85/75	88-90
14 Jun 1926	1f25/1f	97
28 Feb 1927	90c/75, 1f50/1f, 10f/5f, 20f/5f	96, 98, 100, 101
19 Dec 1927	3f/5f	99

Overlaying Postal Rate Structures

In order to understand the sequence of events that occurred during the creation of these provisionals, it is necessary to overlay the changing postal rate structures on the issue dates of the stamps and the values that were selected. There were three major rate changes during the five years in which these provisionals were being created. To make the situation even more complex, new values were added to the definitive series during this same period. Specifically, three values were added on 22 Jun 1925, eight more values from 1 Jan 1926 to 18 Oct 1926, and one more stamp in Jun 1927. The next permanent issues of this design did not appear until 2 Apr 1928.

Now, to the postal rates. As we know, the period following 1920 was one of post-war inflation. It was the 1920 UPU Congress of Madrid that changed the basic accounting currency to the Gold Franc. This was equivalent to the pre-war French franc rather than the current Franc which had been devalued 50%. The following rate changes, reported in Dally, occurred:

- ♦ 1 Apr 1920 (Domestic) and 1 Apr 1921 (Foreign)
- ♦ 24 Mar 1924 (Domestic) and 1 Apr 1924 (Foreign)
- ♦ 16 July 1925 (Both)
- ♦ 1 Feb 1926 (Foreign) and 1 May 1926 (Domestic)
- ♦ 1 Aug 1926 (Foreign) and 9 Aug 1926 (Domestic)

Additionally, there were changes in the airmail surcharges that were superimposed over these rate structures. In fact, for this brief span these rates were reasonably constant for domestic rates:

- ♦ 28 May 1925
- ♦ 10 Jun 1926

Rather than reproducing all of the rate tables in this article, only the changes that required new stamps will be discussed. Further, such changes will only be analyzed in the context of the introduction of the provisionals.

The Sep 1922 Printing

Only the single value 60/75 was created. This was the new rate for a registered, domestic letter. No previous 60c stamp had ever been printed in or for Senegal.

Although a permanent 60c value was issued on 1 Mar 1926, the provisionals remained in use until at least the end of that year. This is illustrated by the cover shown in Fig. 2. It was mailed after the rate change of 1 Aug 1926, and the four copies of the 60/75 conveniently pay the 2fr40 rate for a double weight foreign letter.



The Dec 1922 Printings

The new rates of 1 Apr 1920 set a tariff of 3c for *envois en nb* (bulk rate mailings) and 5c for first echelon printed matter. These rates were unchanged since those that had been set in 1917. There appears to be no specific need for the 0.01/15 and 0.02/15 values. The 0.03/15, the first and only 3c value printed, was of use. A new permanent 5c value (Y&T 72) had just appeared 1 Jan 1922, so the provisional would seem to have been unnecessary. Even the 3c printed matter rate disappeared on 16 Jul 1925, and such rates increased dramatically after that.



Figure 2. Four copies of the 60/75 provisional paying the double weight foreign letter rate effective 1 Aug 1926.

The other possibility is that the authorities were trying to use up an oversupply of the 15c values. This seems doubtful because the domestic post card rate (five word or less) had just been raised to 15c on 1 Apr 1920.

The Jun 1924 Printing

The only value overprint was the 25c/5f. Again, a new permanent 25c stamp (Y&T 76) had just been released on 1 Jan 1922, so why a provisional?



The 1 Feb 1925 Printing

Three new values appeared on this date, the 65/15, 85/15, and 85/75c. The 85c values paid the first echelon domestic, registered letter rate that had been increased on 24 Mar 1924. The 65c would apply to first echelon domestic, register printed matter. A doubtful combination.



The 14 Jun 1926 Printing

Again a single value appeared, the 1f25/1f. This was the rate introduced on 1 Feb 1926 for both domestic letters, for basic registration, and for advice of receipt.

The 28 Feb 1927 Printing

Four new values were issued. These were 90c/75, 1f50/1f, 10f/5f, and 20f/5f. The international rate changes of 1 Aug 1926 necessitated two of these values. The 90c rate was for foreign post cards, and the 1f50 rate was for foreign letters, foreign registration, and foreign advice of receipt. The 10f and 20f values are usually said to be for insured letters or parcels. However, a quick look at airmail rates to France shows that 10f could be used quickly on items weighing only 100g.



conveniently combined. This registered letter to Saint-Étienne mailed 16 Mar 1928 required 50c postage and 1f registration. Thus the 60 + 90c franking. More "perfectly" is the foreign cover from Dakar to Rebstein, Switzerland shown in Fig. 4. It weighed between 10-20 grams and, as such, required single rate postage (1f50) and double the 3f airmail surcharge for a total of 7f50. Not only does the cover show the 1f50 provisional, but also the 5f of the 1914 issue: the only stamp of that value printed in the *Marché* series.

The 19 Dec 1927 Printing

The last of the provisional overprints, 3f/5f, appeared on this date. This was a stamp needed both for foreign registered letters and the foreign express fees.



Figure 3. Combination use of provisionals.

Fig. 3 shows how the provisionals could be



Figure 4. Foreign cover from Dakar to Rebstein, Switzerland. Weighing between 10-20 grams, it required single rate postage (1f50) and double the 3f airmail surcharge for a total of 7f50.

Conclusion

As can be seen, when a definitive series is deconstructed the values selected become, for the most part, logical rather than just some arbitrary collection of stamps.

This result does not suggest that catalogues should deconstruct their listings. After all, these books are meant for stamp collectors, not postal historians. On the other hand, there is no reason to reduce the informational content of a catalogue. It would be better if the issue date were given for each stamp. This would at least alert all collectors to the fact that there was a meaningful temporal aspect to these long definitive series.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank **Paul Larsen** and **Steve Tucker**, two members of the FCPS

and leading experts on a number of French West African colonies, for taking time from their busy schedules to review this article and for making many useful suggestions.

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7. Picirilli, R. E., "French Colonial Postal Rates 1878-1945," *FCP*, **63**(4), pp. 79-83.

The John Sacher Collection of West African Postal History

On 12 November 2009, Spink had an auction sale devoted to the West African postal history collect formed by the John Sacher. Mr. Sacher, a past president of the Royal Philatelic Society London, is a serious student of west African philately he has published books and articles about the colonies comprising this important area.

This sale had more than 600 lots that included British, German, Portuguese and, of course, French colonies. The French area included nearly 150 lots of Benin, Dahomey, French Guinea, French Sudan, Ivory Coast and Senegal.

One of the greatest French colonial covers from this area is shown in Fig.1. Offered as lot 108, it is a registered cover to Vitre, France, date 18 Apr 1894. It is further endorsed "Correspondence Militaire." But it is the stamps on the cover that make this item so special. The franking includes both 1894 Bamako provisional overprints 0.15 on 75c. carmine and 0.25 on 1f. olive-green (Y&T 1 and 2) They are both tied by clear Kayes/Soudan Français cancels. Estimated at £3000-£4000, it was hammered down at an astounding £8,500, not including commissions. Possibly the highest price ever paid for a French Sudan item. *Incroyable!*



Figure 1. The French Sudan 1894
Bamako Provisionals.

Several early Senegal covers (Lots 524 and 525) showing early (1889-1890) uses of the 1881-86 General Issues sold for strong prices.

For example, lot 541, shown in Fig. 2, was a cover from Dakar to Berthoud, Switzerland. Dated 13 Sep 1891, the letter was marked "Par Jeanne Berthe" and franked with 5c and 10c (x2) French Colonies General issues of 1881-86. Stamp were cancelled "AVISO POSTAL/SENEGAL" and markings include a blue octagonal "LIGNE J PAQ. FR. NO. 2" datestamp of 18 Sep. Estimated at £800-£1,000, it went for £1,200, not including commissions.



Figure 2. 1891 letter to Switzerland showing "AVISO POSTAL/SENEGAL" cancel.

Another gem was lot 566, shown in Fig. 3. Sent from Rufisque 9 May 1887 to Transvaal, It was marked "Via Liverpool" but actually travelled via Marseilles. In either event, a lot of extra travel and not arriving in South Africa until 16 June. The cover was franked 5c. and 20c. pairs of the General issue of 1881-86 with clear "RUFISQUE/SENEGAL" cancellations, red boxed registry handstamp, and, on the reverse "REGISTERED LETTER OFFICE/CAPE TOWN" datestamp of 16 June. But, the crowning addition is the very scarce ½d local postage due label of the Bakker Express Co. cancelled with a

boxed "WATERBERG/E.C." Estimated at £4,000-£6,000, it sold at the low estimate of £4,000, not including commissions

In summary, the very rare and top quality items went for very good prices. On the other hand, the lesser material brought pedestrian prices and, in some cases, did not even sell.



Figure 3. Very scarce cover from Senegal to Transvaal with 1/2d local postage due label of the Bakker Express Co.

Membership Notices

NEW MEMBERS

- 3417 RICHARDS, SARAH E., Ripon, CA
- 3418 RICE, BEVERLY S, Marietta, GA
- 3419 DUTT, JERE W. III, Doylestown, OH
- 3420 DE JONG, HARRY H., Mooresville, NC
- 3421 LAWSON, ROGER, Almancil, Portugal
- 3422 FASE, KOOS, Gorinchem, Netherlands

ADDRESS CHANGES

- 1906 SCHNEIDER, ALBERT, Paris, France
- 1312 WALSKE, STEVEN C., San Francisco, CA
- 2998 WILCOCK, DAVID C., Corea, ME

MAIL RETURNED

- 1420 STEELE, Capt. JOHN R.
337 South Paseo Cerro Unit D,
Green Valley, AZ 85614-0943
(marked Attempted--Not Known)

Anyone who may know the whereabouts of Capt. Steele please contact the Corresponding Secretary.

SHOW REPORTS

Continued from Page 13

INDYPEX 2009

Indianapolis, IN, October 2009

Gold medals to **Al Kugel** and **Charles Lablond**. **Al Kugel** also received a Vermeil for a one-frame exhibit.

FILATELIC FIESTA 2009

San Jose, CA, November 2009

Gold medals to **Eliot Landau** for "Classic France: Postal History of the Ceres & Napoleon Issues of 1849-1875," **Al Kugel** and **Steve Washburne**. Vermeil to **Steve Tucker** for "Afrique Occidentale Francaise 1943-1960." **Eliot** and **Al** also garnered awards for their one-frame exhibits.

Book Review

Cérès 1849 Michèle Chauvet and Jean-François Brun, 198 pages, 2009, From David Feldman SA, 54 Euros postpaid.

Here is a handsome book on the first issue of France and its usages, the prize-winning collection of Joseph Hackmey. It isn't an auction catalog, but rather an offering circular; for if you are interested in purchasing any piece shown, contact the Feldman Firm. The digitized color photography is well done and the layout (right down to the suede cover and gilt-edged pages) is deluxe.

Before opening, borrow an infant's bib. The material is fabulous and the write-ups in French are exacting and informative. The collection has ten of the largest multiples known and 13 of the highest frankings or only known usages. I like the subtlety of the comment that the examples of 20c blue in philatelic hands had "escaped" from the administration. Equally sly was Feldman's inclusion on an advertising page of the 1F vermillion, tete-beche in mint block of four, previously sold by his firm.

— J.E. Lievsay

The Spanish Patrol

(Le Croisière d'Espagne) (1936-1939)

Stanley J. Luft (FCPS 915)

Whereas the Spanish Civil War (or its latest version) dates from the lifetime, if not the recollections, of some of our members, the role of the French Navy in that conflict is but little known, and I will attempt to address it here.

Historical Background

Spain became a republic on 14 April 1931 and a leftist Popular Front regime in May 1936. The immediate result was a 17 July uprising in Spanish Morocco by a Nationalist army under Gen. Francisco Franco, which took positions just a few days later in mainland Spain. By the end of the month, sympathetic (or conniving) Nazi Germany and fascist Italy had joined the Nationalist side. France, with a Popular Front of its own, unofficially lent some support to the Republican side. Several other countries provided volunteers, mainly to Republican units.

Great Britain and France increased the size of their fleets in and around Spanish waters beginning in mid-August 1936, to protect the Spanish civilian population and the stream of French and refugees into France. They also served to contain the quantity of war materiel sent to the belligerents, and to keep close watch on Italian and German warships, principally submarines. This was the start of the French *Croisière d'Espagne*. In mid-September, an international conference in Nyon resulted in Germany and Italy walking out and in minimal support from the other nations involved. Therefore, Great Britain and France shouldered the burden of “non-intervention” and patrolled and essentially

blockaded the Spanish and colonial ports. Their greater numbers largely halted any hostile action by Italian and German ships. The French portion became known as the *Dispositif Spécial en Méditerranée*, or by its initials *D.S.M.* It required the presence a large part of the French Mediterranean Fleet, and served on its mission, in ever decreasing size, until shortly after the Spanish Civil War ended on 1 April 1939 — to be followed shortly by a far larger and bloodier conflict.

The French Navy in the D.S.M.

Here I attempt to name all the larger vessels and some of the smaller ones that served at one time or another in the *D.S.M.* to encourage interested readers to check their own naval markings for this 1936-1939 period.

The French warships were: the *Béarn*, her only aircraft carrier at the time; the battle-ships *Bretagne* and *Lorraine*; the cruisers *Colbert* (Fig. 1), *Dupleix*, *Duquesne*, *Emile Bertin*, *Jean de Vienne*, *La Galissonnière*, *Suffren* (Fig. 2), and *Tourville*; and the aircraft transport *Commandant Teste* (Fig. 3). I am indebted to Dr. Mériaux (1998, p. 401) for this list. All of these larger ships had their own shipboard naval agencies bearing the familiar dashed hexagonal date stamps (Figs. 1-3) and handled mail directly in sealed mail sacks to and from France. Complete lists of the smaller vessels are difficult to find; these handed and received their mail from the larger ones, or any ship, naval or commercial, headed to or from France. One such, that handled considerable mail, was the heavy destroyer *Chevalier Paul* (Fig. 2); others but lesser



Figure 1. Embarked agency 8 Sept. 1936 date stamp of cruiser Colbert and ship's straightline marking, plus MARINE FRANÇAISE / SERVICE A LA MER administrative cachet in large letters, to Toulon from Barcelona. Mériaux states ship was docked at Barcelona 3 Sept. 1936-3 January 1937. [ex-Mériaux]

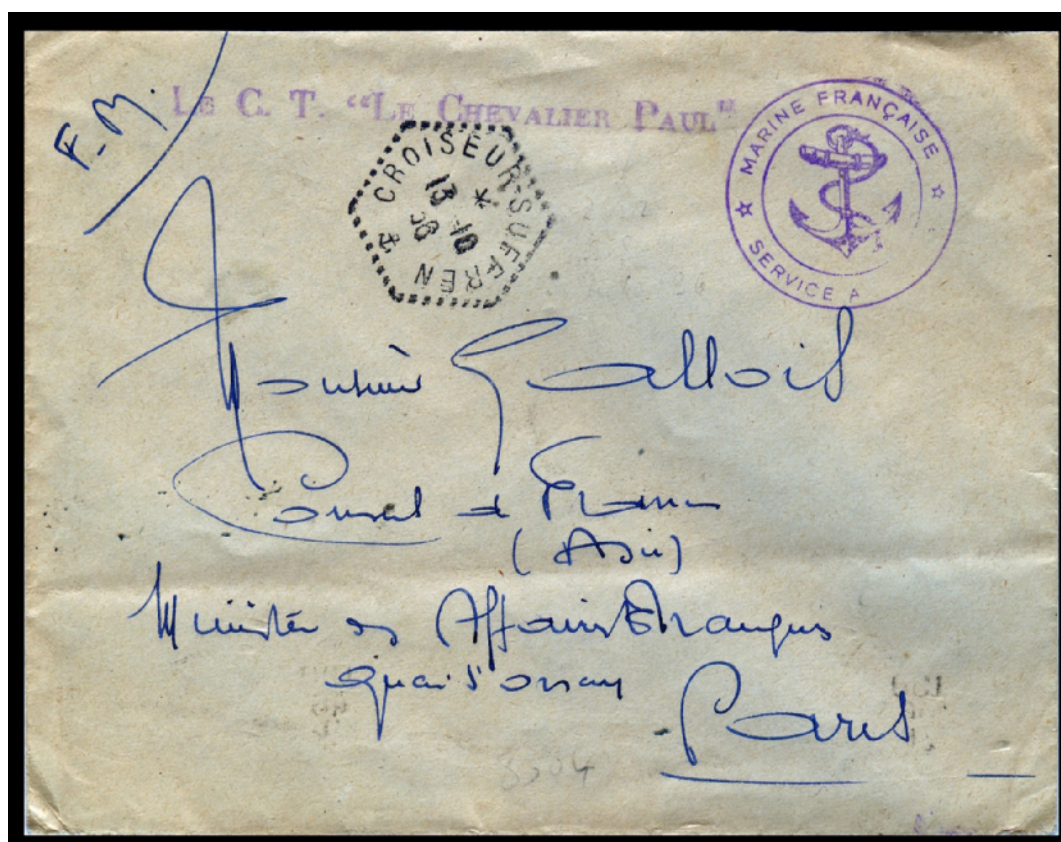


Figure 2. Embarked agency 13 Oct. 1936 date stamp of cruiser Suffren and weak strike of accompanying destroyer Le Chevalier Paul, plus the MARINE FRANÇAISE cachet in small letters, to Paris; letterhead on back of French Consulate General at Barcelona [ex-Mériaux]



Figure 3. Embarked agency 19 Dec. 1936 date stamp of aircraft transport Commandant Teste, partial naval anchor administrative cachet in large(?) letters, and boxed rubber-stamped Aircraft Transport / "Commandant TESTE", on postcard from Palma (Majorca); French surveillance of Nationalist-held Balearic island.



Figur 4. Toulon, 27 Dec. 1938 Secap machine cancel on franchise mail from destroyer Sirocco (rubber stamped TORPILLEUR/SIROCCO), and franchise notation Dispositif Spécial en Méditerranée, Toulon, where ship was based.

known philatelically, were the destroyer *Sirocco* (Fig. 4) and submarine *Tonnant*. Warships returning from mission generally dropped off their mail at Toulon or Brest.

Mail of the Spanish Patrol

From the beginning, and when engaged in evacuation or surveillance, officers and men benefited from the military franchise for cards and letters to 20 gm mailed to Metropolitan France, and at the current French domestic rate for other mail. It usually carried a handwritten *F.M. (Franchise Militaire)* in upper right, as seen in Fig. 1, occasionally upper left, shown in Fig. 2, in lieu of a postage stamp. Apparently there was no official mention in the *Bulletin Officiel*, neither of the PTT nor the Navy, authorizing this franchise. The franchise was in effect soon as a warship departed from its home port until the ship returned to it, and as late as June 1939 (late date authorized per communication of PTT Ministry of 27 April 1939). Mail to the officers and enlisted men had to carry regular French postage.

Corrections

The Editor is sorry to report that he made two errors in the last issue. Firstly, in **Ed Grabowski's** great article *A Possible New Group Type Variety* (p. 87) As Ed notes, "the caption on Figure 1 of the article is, in fact, an imperforate variety of the actual stamp as I stated in the text, not a completed proof." Secondly, I left off **Stan Luft's** name in his final Types and Subtypes column (p. 101).

At some early point in time, mail received the familiar circular cachet MARINE FRANÇAISE / SERVICE A LA MER with inner naval anchor (Figs. 1-3). At about the same time, or April 1937 and generally until September 1937, a *Contrôle Naval* marking was added, with or without the dashed hexagonal date stamp of cruisers and larger warships. And from mid-September 1937 until the April 1939 end of hostilities, the manuscript *D.S.M.* or spelled-out *Dispositif Spécial en Méditerranée* (Fig. 4) was generally applied. Locally made metal or rubber cachets (Figs. 3-4) were usually struck by the ship's *vaguemestre* or mail clerk

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3. Theo van Dam, 1996, *A Century of War Dates (and more!) 1859-1959*; Postal Covers, Anaheim, pp. 124-126
4. (Nota: Michel Parlange, 1972, in *F.M. N°190*, pp. 6-11, is the most detailed study of the *Croisière*, but I've been unable to obtain a copy)

Member to Member

Wanted: Would like to purchase nice copies of USED French P.O.'s Abroad. Need many including common. I can't seem to find good quality used material in my area. I have wantlists I can e-mail or regular mail.

I do have some duplicates which I would be willing to trade. Also looking for USED Indochina.

Gerald Smiley
316 N. 74th Street Milwaukee, WI
smiley31j@yahoo.com

Do You Have an Idea for a Regular Column?
Contact the Editor!

President's Letter

If you have been reading about the board's electronic age discussions over the past two years, you know we have been concerned mostly about providing a readable journal to our members while retaining our dues at current levels. Thanks to the efforts of **Ed Grabowski** and **Dave Herendeen** we have headed in a different direction over the past couple of months.

Our society has contracted with Philatelic Systems Associates to digitize our journals. They will create a searchable electronic library of all our past journals. The format will be a CD or DVD that we will offer for sale to recoup the costs of the project.

The directors have voted to use the Vaurie Publication Fund for this project. The fund has been dormant for years, awaiting a project with broad enough appeal that much of the production costs might be offset by sales of the published work. The directors believe that we can recover a substantial portion of the \$9,500 cost. We have tentatively set a price of \$50 for the electronic medium.

We expect that our members will consider this a tremendous bargain. Complete sets of our journal have been hard to come by. When we last offered full sets many years ago (I am thinking it was the 1980s) it was for at least \$85. Those paper journals on my shelf are fun to read and hold, but to find something published after our latest index (1980) requires significant effort. Electronic format will make the journals significantly more useful to all of us, so the price seems very reasonable.

So you then ask how we keep the electronic format current? We will receive an annual updated version. How we distribute that to previous subscribers is still under discussion, but we will be able to stay up to date.

Just to be clear – our journal will retain its present form. The annual electronic update, which we expect to be in full color, will be made available separately.

A second and related matter is our website. Part of our contract with Philatelic Systems

Associates is a redesign and maintenance of our website. They will present their proposal to the board before long, so we expect it to be up and running soon. The electronic age is here, and it is important for our society to be accessible on the web. Using professionals to do this, especially ones with philatelic knowledge, should really spice up our site.

That's the big news this quarter. Please remember to pay your dues promptly so you can remain part of our exciting organization. Keep watching for more.!

2010: Big Year for FCPS?

David L. Herendeen, Editor

This year may result in a number of great things for the FCPS. You have read in the President's Message that we will be getting a new web site and a fully digitized run of the FCP. This will make searching for past articles a snap. For example, it should take less than a minute to find all articles written that refer to a specific country or subject. Won't that be great!

New Advertisers

You will note that we have a number of new advertisers on Page 27. In subsequent issues I will have more to say about these wonderful sources of material. Please always remember to mention that you saw their ad in the FCP when ordering or bidding in their sales.

The Big Show

This is the time to plan on attending our annual meeting and exhibition in Chicago next November. As in 2009, 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. I will also be announcing several surprises that will make this year's show even more exciting!

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!**

DAVID C. WRIGLEY

Professional Philatelist
Postal Historian

Specializing in Postal History of
Indochina French Colonies Asia

I will have a stand at Chicagopex 2010. While I always have a stock of interesting France and Colonies postal history, if FCPS members will email me with their particular interests well in advance, I will try to have some special items available. Don't hesitate to contact me at any time to see if I may have items that will enhance your collection.

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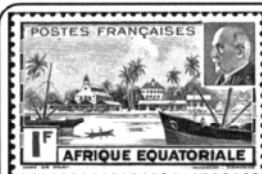
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French Colonies

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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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