

FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

January 2014
Whole No. 315 (Vol. 70, No. 1)



A Special Postcard (see page 10)



Disappearing RF (see page 18)

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Editorial

Norval Rasmussen

SANDICAL looms on the horizon. I hope to see many new faces there. Although a member for several years, I only began attending the France and Colonies Philatelic Society's conventions in 2010 at CHICAOPEX. I was impressed. Our president, Ken Nilsestuen, has put together a series of presentations on Friday beginning at 1:00, which promises to entertain and educate those who attend. As of this writing, we are meeting in the conference room at the Godfather Restaurant, which is about three and a half blocks from the Hampton Inn. This is also where the France and Colonies Philatelic Society dinner will be Friday evening. If you are planning to attend the dinner please let me know (nrasmu@gmail.com or 304-292-7652 or 304-290-6117). Consult the show program for the final details.

Our society exhibits account for over half of the frames at SANDICAL 2014. We continue to fulfill the obligation of a convening society well. One of my other hats is society chair for NAPEX. I can vouch for the gratitude felt by the show when a convening society contributes this level of effort. A list of exhibits is on page 30.

In This Issue

Martin Bratzel and Ashley Lawrence have authored three of the articles in this issue of the FCP. Martin writes on French armed forces peace time mail from Cameroun and about watermarks on French colonial revenue stamps. Ashley describes a special Sower postcard from France. James Taylor has an article on St. Pierre & Miquelon stamps and Alan Morvay has submit-

ted a brief article on World War II Red Cross message sheets. Notably missing is any article from your editor. I thank these members and others who have responded to the call for papers. The journal is back to 32 pages and back in 11 point type!

Journal Content

I have restarted the volume index with this issue. Volume 67, 68, and 69 indexes begin on page 15.

There appears to be some interest in resuming the Member to Member feature in the journal. I will start it this issue and we will see where it goes. Submit requests to me via email (nrasmu@gmail.com) or snail mail (224 Wilson Ave., Morgantown, WV 26501). I propose these 'free to member' ads be submitted by the 15th day of the month for each issue. That would be December 15, March 15, June 15, and September 15. Comments are welcome.

Erosion of the Membership

The Corresponding Secretary's report on page 28 is frightening. We now have 216 members. The letters to the editor feature is encouraging. Members are responding to my requests for input on this journal's direction. Thank you.

CAMEROUN – FRENCH ARMED FORCES MAIL DURING PEACETIME

M.P. Bratzel, Jr. (#2394)

Military personnel receive free franking privileges (*franchise militaire*, F.M.) during wartime. The markings on their mail help document military campaigns. However, armed forces personnel also send mail during peacetime. This article presents selected examples of peacetime mail sent by French naval personnel aboard ships that visited Cameroun prior to independence and also French armed forces stationed in Cameroun in the years preceding and following independence. In some cases, the senders enjoyed free franking. In other cases, full postage was paid. The post cards and covers display a variety of military cachets and also the use of French F.M. stamps.

Discussion of the *franchise militaire* is beyond the

scope of this article. The reader should consult Ref. 1 and other published literature for details. The observations about free franking during peacetime are based on the material described below.

The naval sloop *Cassiopée* patrolled the coast of equatorial Africa in the years immediately following World War I. The *Cassiopée* made several visits to Douala during the early 1920s. The cover in Figure 1, with manuscript F.M. notation and naval cachet, is postmarked Matadi à Boudeaux A March 5, 1921. This canceller, a replacement for the L.L. No. 1 cancellers, lost when the *Afrique* sank in January 1920, was assigned to the paquebot *Tchad* (Ref. 2). The *Cassiopée* visited Douala on March 19-29, 1921, about two weeks after the cover was posted.



Figure 1. Cover sent by a crew member of the naval sloop *Cassiopée*, March 1921. Note the sender's Paris Etranger return address.

The Cruiser *Primauguet* (Figure 2) arrived at Douala on February 3 and departed on February 10, 1931. The post card in Figure 3, sent during the visit, was postmarked with the cruiser's dates-tamp on February 8, 1931. The sender was either among the crew of the *Primauguet* or one of two smaller accompanying na-

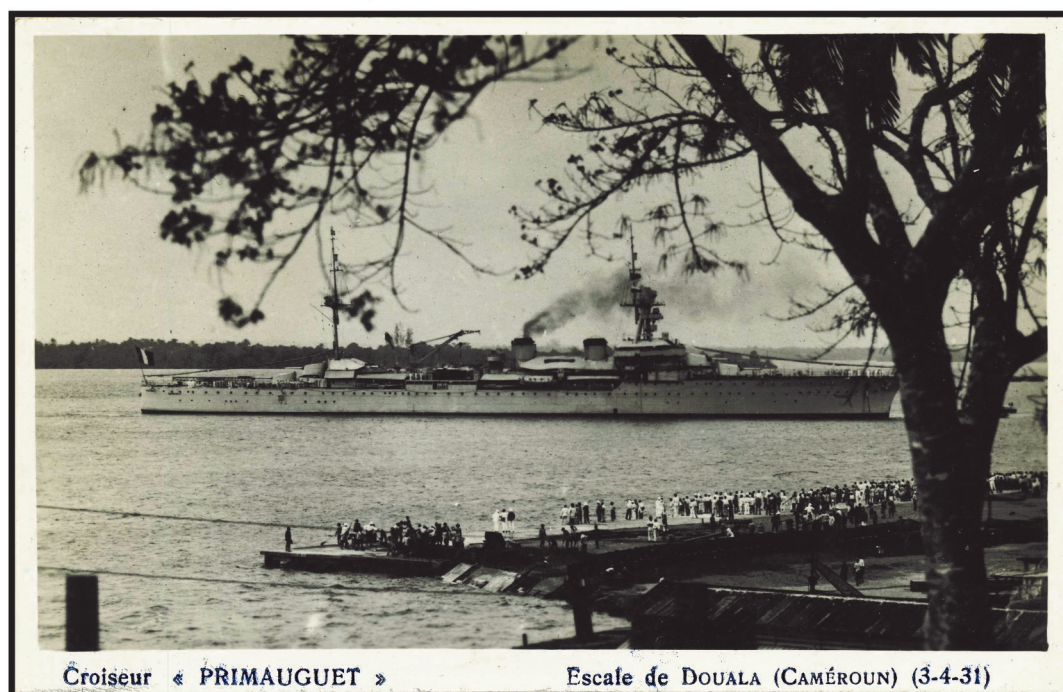


Figure 2. The Croiseur Primauguet at Douala, 1931. The date at the bottom is incorrect.

val vessels, the Tigre or the Chacal. No franchise militaire concession was available at this time. The 15 centimes Cameroun postage stamp paid the reduced tariff for printed matter bearing only the sender's signature and a short message (Ref. 3).

Free franking was apparently reinstituted, at least for some naval personnel, during the period prior to World War II. The cover in Figure 4 (on page 6) was sent by a crew member of the warship D'Entrecasteaux. There is no F.M. marking on the cover, but the naval cachet authorized free franking for letters. The 3-franc stamp paid the air mail surtax from Cameroun to France for a letter weighing less than 5 grams (Ref. 3). The cover is post-

marked Douala January 6, 1939. The D'Entrecasteaux arrived at Douala on that day and departed four days later, on January 10. The previous and the next port of call were both listed as "inconnue."

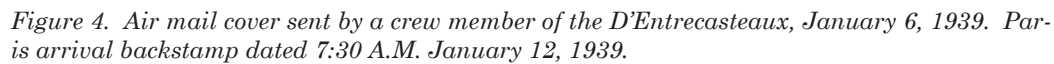
During the immediate pre-war period, a number of French submarines also called at the port of Douala, among them the Achille, Ajax, Archimede, Argo, Centaure, Monge, Pasteur, and Pegasse. The post

card in Figure 5 (on page 6), sent by a crew member of the submarine Surcouf, is annotated F.M. and sent postage free. The postmark is Douala April 27, 1939. The Surcouf had arrived at Douala on April 21 and departed on May 7. The previous and the next port of call were both listed as



Figure 3. Post card with postmark of the Croiseur Primauguet, February 8, 1931.

pre- and post-independence – franked with French Franchise Militaire stamps and cancelled with a Cameroun postmark. The earliest cover to



hand (Figure 7), sent by a crew member of the Croiseur Jeanne d'Arc, is postmarked Douala R.P. January 20, 1958. A previous port of call had been St. Helena as attested by the picture on the photo side (Figure 8) and the written message.

France continued to station troops in Cameroun after independence on January 1, 1960. The cover in Figure 9 is postmarked Douala R.P. June 17, 1960. The military cachet is for a French battalion garrisoned at Douala.

The cover in Figure 10 bears the F.M. stamp

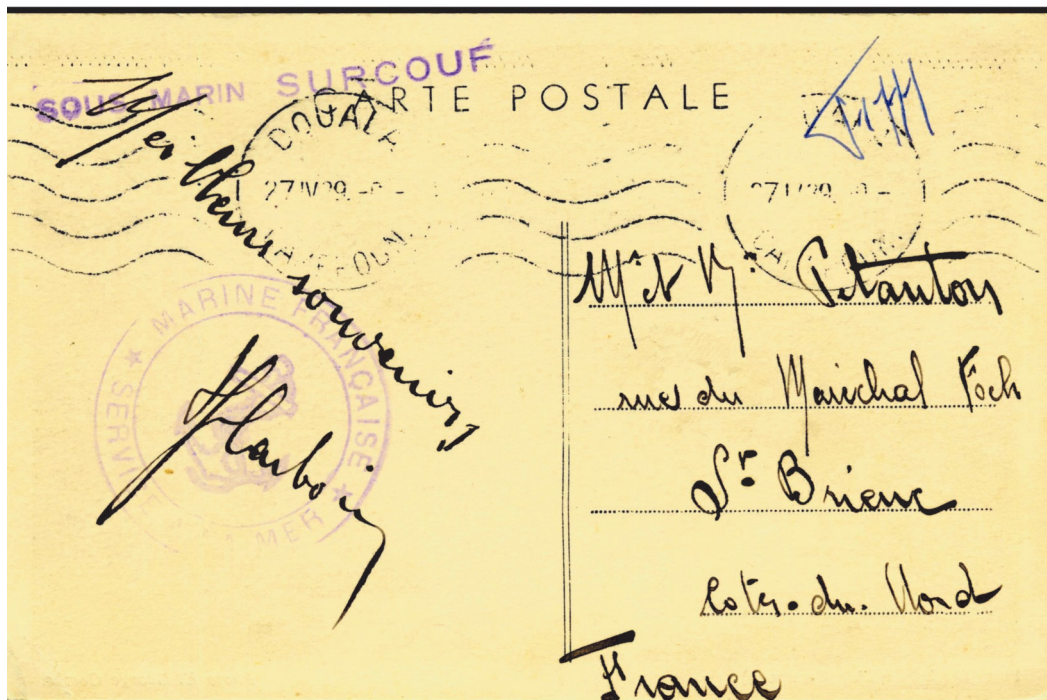


Figure 5. Post card sent by a crew member of the submarine *Surcouf*, April 27, 1939.



Figure 6. Air mail cover sent by a crew member of the *Croiseur-Ecole Jeanne d'Arc*, January 18, 1947.

with the French tricolor. The postmark is Douala R.P. Tri No. 8 August 14, 1971. Tri, in this case, is guichet or postal wicket. The Armée de l'Air military cachet is, however, not French but Cameroonian – the two stars in the center represent the République Fédérale du Cameroun.

Information about ships – including naval vessels – calling at Douala was published monthly in the *Journal officiel du Cameroun* (Ref. 4) for the period December 1918 through July 1939. Publication was in part on a space-available basis, as some months were omitted. Publication

paings and Expeditions with their Postal Markings – 1815-1983. Robert G. Stone, editor. A joint publication of the France and Colonies Philatelic

of ship traffic ceased with the outbreak of war on September 1, 1939 and was not continued again afterward.

Information about peacetime French military mail associated with Cameroun and especially covers with earlier and later use of French Franchise Militaire stamps would be most welcome.

References

1. Waugh, William M. and Stanley J. Luft. *A Chronology of French Military Cam-*

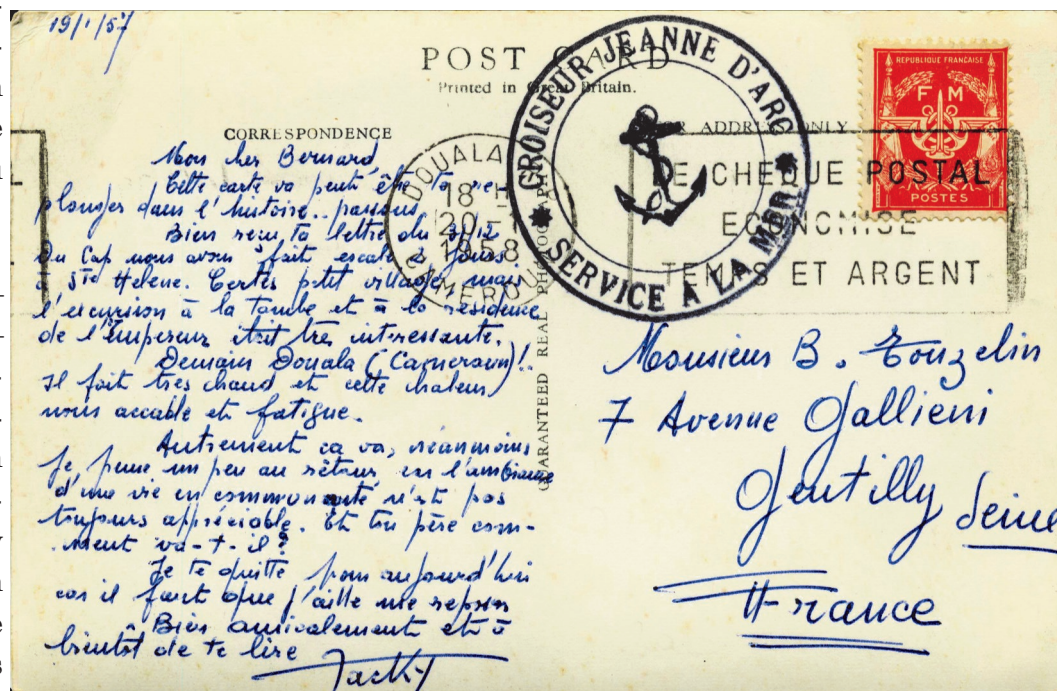


Figure. 7. Cover sent by a crew member of the Croiseur Jeanne d'Arc, Douala, January 20, 1958.



Figure 8. Photo side of cover in Figure 7, showing Longwood Old House, Napoleon's exile residence at St. Helena.

Society and the War Cover Club, 1984. 194 pages.

2. Bratzel, M.P. Jr. Maritime Postmarks and the Afrique. *France & Colonies Philatelist*, Vol. 66, No. 2, April 2010, pages 40-41.

3. Bratzel, M.P. Jr. The Postal Tariffs of Cameroun under French Administration – 1916-1959. MPB Canada, 2007, vi + 215 pages + CD appendix. ISBN 978-0-9694026-4-0.



Figure 9. Cover sent by a member of the French armed forces garrisoned at Douala shortly after independence, 1960.

4. Journal officiel du Cameroun. Imprimerie de Gouvernement, Yaoundé. Note: The title may vary slightly from one issue to another.



Figure 10. Cover with French franchise militaire stamp sent from Douala, August 14, 1971. The authorizing cachet is Cameroonian.

Wanted:

Your articles on your topics. Your input on journal content. Your ideas of where we are as a society and where we should go.

A Rather Special Postcard

© Ashley Lawrence (3107) FRPSL

My book, "The Sower, A Common Little French Stamp", was kindly reviewed by Stanley Luft in the France & Colonies Philatelist in April 2013. The postcard depicting the Sower, shown in Figure 1, is illustrated on the front cover of the book.



Figure 1 – The front of the Sower postcard

Much of this article previously appeared in the Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society in June 2013, but I thought it might also be of interest to American readers because of its New York connection.

It was thanks to eBay that I came across this postcard. Some years ago, having bought an interesting but entirely unrelated cover, I corresponded with the vendor and learned that his

name was Rida Roty. Rida had an illustrious ancestor, Louis-Oscar Roty, the designer of the Sower.

The Sower, La Semeuse, is unique in philately. Since her first appearance on silver coins in 1897,

she has graced the coins and postage stamps as the symbol of France for more than a hundred years.

When I expressed my interest in his family history, Rida Roty sent me copies of the postcard that had been written by his forebear in 1905, and autographed for the benefit of an admirer. He kindly agreed to let me display the postcard on the cover of my book, which has now been published by the Society.

We corresponded further, and to my delight I have

been able to purchase the original postcard. It now feels very much at home in my collection ! Rida has also provided me with much background information which may be of interest.

Louis-Oscar Roty

Louis-Oscar Roty was Rida's paternal great-great grandfather. Born in Paris on 11th June 1846, Roty studied art under the sculptor Augustin

Dumont and the engraver Hubert Ponscarne, and quickly gained a reputation as a sculptor of med-als and bas-reliefs. He exhibited at the Salon from 1873, and won the much-coveted Grand Prix de Rome in 1875, enabling him to further his studies in Italy. In 1885 Roty was awarded the Légion d'Honneur. In 1888 he became the youngest member of the Académie des Beaux-Arts de l'Institut Français, and in 1897 its president. That was the year in which La Semeuse, originally designed as a medallion for the Ministry of Agriculture, was selected as the motif for the new issue of French silver coins. Roty won the Grand Prix in 1889 and again in 1890 at the Exposition Universelle, and was made a Commander of the Legion of Honour. Roty died in Paris on 23rd March 1911. Many of his designs and examples of his work are preserved at the Musée Oscar Roty in Jargeau (Loiret).

Théodore Rivière

Roty wrote the postcard on 25th May 1905, and signed the illustration of the Sower with his name, Oscar Roty, in response to a request from Alice Rivière, the daughter of the sculptor Théodore Rivière. The postcard, duly franked with a 10c Sower stamp (naturally) was posted at Place Chopin (Paris 16e) and addressed to Miss Rivière at her father's home, 99, rue Mozart in Paris (Figure 2). The reverse of the handwritten postcard is illustrated in Figure 2.

Roty wrote his message to Alice with typical modesty. The transcription and my translation are as follows :-

"Quoique rentrant chez moi horriblement fatigué je



Figure 2 - The reverse of the postcard

vous envoie cette reproduction qui est par hasard supérieure à ma composition première. Je t'embrasse et je suis tout à toi si tu avais besoin d'un renseignement " O . R o t y

"Although returning home dreadfully fatigued, I send you this reproduction which is by chance superior to my first composition. I embrace you and I am all yours if you need any information. O. Roty."

Alice's father, Théodore Rivière, was an eminent sculptor who was born in Toulouse in September 1857 and died in Paris in November 1912. He sculpted the bronze statuette of Oscar Roty which is illustrated in Figure 3. Casts of this sculpture are displayed in the Musée Rodin in Paris and in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Roty's talents were appreciated by his professional colleagues and fellow artists. He was great friends with Louis-Eugène Mouchon (1843-1914) who engraved the dies for the early Sower stamps, and he and Mouchon regarded each other with great affection and respect.

Copies of my book are available, priced £39.50 plus postage and packing. Please contact me by email to ashleylawrence@btinternet.com.



Figure 3 - The statuette of Oscar Roty by Rivière

FRENCH AND FRENCH COLONIAL REVENUE STAMPS AND WATERMARKS

M.P. Bratzel, Jr. (#2394)

The idea presented below is not new – I raised it before (Ref. 1) – but perhaps the audience is.

How many of our members collect French or French colonial revenue stamps?

During the middle years of the 20th century, many revenue stamps were printed on paper watermarked multiple AT and two numbers (Figure 1). AT = Atelier du Timbre and the numbers are the last two digits of the year that the paper was

colony name, and the position of the colony name on the stamp (Ref. 2-3). This can be challenging because paper becomes toned with age and ink can fade and/or perhaps wash out when stamps are soaked.

A number of Cameroun revenue stamps saw extended use over many years and underwent multiple printings. This would account in part for the occurrence of different tints of the paper, shades in the color of the ink, and variations in the position of CAMEROUN. However, none of the cata-

logues have noted that stamps printed at different times were printed on paper with different watermark dates. As an example, I have in my collection the 10-franc

stamp shown in Figure 2 watermarked AT47, 49, 50, 52 and 57. The paper tints and/or ink shades are visibly different. The 100-franc stamp from the same series has watermark dates from AT36 to AT58, a span of 22 years, again with tint and/or color differences.

So my idea – for each revenue stamp, include the watermark date in the catalogue listing. There could well be a correlation with paper tints and ink shades. The need to focus on tints and shades could, in large part, be obviated.

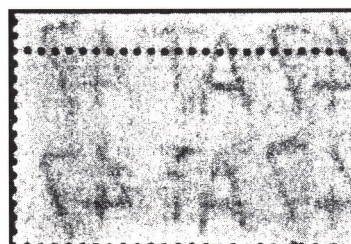
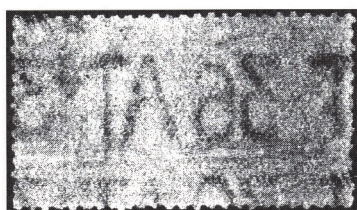


Figure 1. Watermarks AT36, AT43 and AT47.

manufactured. The numbered watermark was probably a security feature.

For Cameroun revenue stamps, I have recorded year numbers between 36 and 66. This three-decade range is probably representative for France and throughout the French community. Since France continued to supply revenue stamps for Cameroun after independence in 1960, the AT watermark is found on revenue stamps issued after the end of French administration.

Duston, for example, noted which stamps were printed on watermarked paper (Ref. 2). Some effort has been made to catalogue different color tints of the paper, the range of shades for the printed stamp, the shade of ink used to add the



10 Franc revenue stamp on watermarked paper.

Informative? – Yes. I have gained some further insight into, and appreciation for the stamps in my collection.

Practical? – Most likely not! Most revenue stamp collectors are probably not interested in such detail and, given the infrequent offering of revenue stamps by dealers and at auction, it would be virtually impossible to prepare any listing that would begin to approach completeness.

Nonetheless, for Cameroun revenue stamps, I will continue to compile watermark date information and broaden my collecting enjoyment. What about you?

References

1. Bratzel, M.P. Jr. The Revenue Stamps of French Cameroun – a Re-examination. The American Revenuer, Vol. 58, No. 6, November-December 2004, pages 146-152.

2. Duston, D.L. (ed.) French Colonies Revenues (and Former Colonies now Independent). Part II. Sub-Sahara African Colonies. Sponsored by The American Revenue Association, 1987-1988.

3. Barbero, Henri, Irène Daniel, and Guy Venot. Timbres Fiscaux des Colonies Françaises. Tome II. Afrique Équatoriale. Cercle d'Etude de la Philatélie Fiscale, Paris, 2010. ISSN 2105-3537.

SANDICAL SCHEDULE

We have three speakers and a tentative commitment to these time slots from the SANDICAL show committee. There appears to be some question about the location of the meeting room. Currently we are meeting in the Godfather restaurant's meeting space. This is about three and a half blocks from the Hampton Inn. Please make sure you confirm this information with the show program.

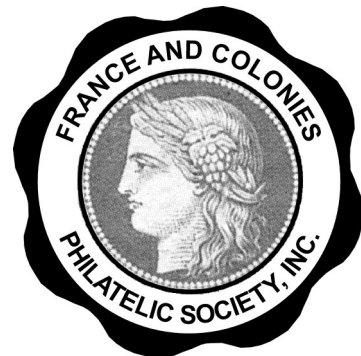
1. **Philately and International Mail Order Fraud** by Ed Grabowski, 1:00-2:00 PM.
2. **Postal History of French Newfoundland** by James Taylor, 2:00-3:00 PM.
3. **Ships sank, pilgrims moved, wars were waged, yet the French kept the mail moving in/out of the Holy Land 1852-1914** by Michael Bass, 3:00-4:00 PM.
4. **Business Meeting & Show and Tell**

Dinner is scheduled at The Godfather restaurant, 7878 Clairemont Mesa Blvd at 6:30 PM. We have an open menu. At this time I have received only five dinner requests. Please email or call me if you plan on attending. Contact information is:

nrasmu@gmail.com or
304-292-7652 or
304-290-6117.

**See you in San Diego
At
Sandical 2014**

January 24-26, 2014



France and Colonies Philatelist

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Norval L. Rasmussen

PREFACE

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St. Pierre & Miquelon

The 1942 Vichy "Ghost of RF" Varieties

©James R. Taylor

Mr. Roland Janniere of Paris, France has pointed out an interesting variety on the 10f and 20f values of the St. Pierre and Miquelon Vichy pictorial stamps issued in Paris in 1942 (Taylor, 2001). These two horizontal format values show the sea stack (rock formation) at Anse Aux Soldats (Soldier's Cove) á Langlade. They are normally without the intertwined RF monogram in the lower right corner of the design which appeared on the prewar original version of the same design.

The two original issues with the clear RF monogram in the lower right are identified in the Mau-

ry catalogue (2010-2011) as numbers 195-196 issued at St. Pierre on 17 November, 1938. The Vichy stamps without the RF monogram are Maury 302-304. The Vichy stamps were never issued on the islands. The stamps "without RF" Vichy stamps were not, until recently, listed in Scott, but mentioned in a footnote. The original with RF are Scott 203-204 while the recently listed "without RF" Vichy stamps are Scott (2013) 299D and 299E. These two stamps f with RF type are illustrated for the 10f deep blue and 20f olive green as the top illustration in Figures 1 and 2. Mr. Janniere identifies two states of the "without RF" Vichy issued stamps, the "without RF" and a



Figure 1. 10 franc Top: 1938 20f with full RF monogram in the lower right. Lower left: 1942 "ghost of RF". Lower right: 1942 RF "almost" completely absent.



Figure 2. 20 franc Top: 1938 20f with full RF monogram in the lower right. Lower left: 1942 "ghost of RF". Lower right: 1942 RF "almost" completely absent.

new variety I call "ghost of RF". A copy of the pre-war issue with the full monogram in the lower right corner is shown for comparison and the two 1942 states are illustrated below the 1938 stamp

in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 3 is an enlargement of the lower right of the 20f showing the "ghost of RF". It is interesting



Figure 3. Enlargement of 20 franc 1942 "ghost of RF". A mistake or a deliberate act?

to speculate on the origin of the two states. Perhaps early efforts to eradicate the offending RF monograph were only partially successful, before a printing of both values with the "ghost of RF" variety was made. Or perhaps a worker at the printer Héliot-Vaugirard in Paris left a "ghost of RF" as a patriotic gesture. Additional work must have been done to hide the RF monogram before more printings were made. The sans RF stamps were sold in France but were never sold at island post offices. The "without RF" stamps are fairly common but the "ghost of RF" variety takes some searching and remains unlisted in Maury or Scott.

References:

Maury, Arthur, 2010-2011, Principautés & Terres polaires, Saint Pierre & Miquelon, Cérès and Dal-lay, L'Isle Adam, France, p. 499-500

Scott Catalogue, 2013, Countries N-Sam, Volume 5, Scott Publishing Co., Amos Press, Inc., Sidney, Ohio, p. 1327-1328.

Taylor, J.R., 2001, 1942 Vichy Varieties, St. Pierre & Miquelon Philatelic Journal, April 2001, v. 7, n. 2, p.1

President's Letter

You can guess that this column is about our Sandical meeting, right? And it looks like another good one, with better weather than Akron (or Cleveland's March Party). But the weather will play a small part in our success.

I am happy to report that our society members have entered 100 frames of competitive exhibits! That's great, for a variety of reasons. San Diego is a long way from home for some of us, so it is hard to get our exhibits to the far southwest. We have a couple of exhibitors who aren't participating – Dave Herendeen, of course, and me, since I am judging, and others who have joined us in the past. But there will be some new exhibits, too, which is always good for the hobby.

We also have a wonderful schedule of speakers for our Friday program. You will find that elsewhere in our magazine, so I won't repeat it here. But I must thank those members who put forth the effort to make a presentation in San Diego. It takes time, study and effort to prepare a program, and the group who has done that deserves our thanks. Without all of them our meeting would not be what it should be.

You will also see that we have included a "show and tell" section for our meeting. This is your chance to present a piece to the group that has you stumped, that makes you proud, that demonstrates something special about your collecting area, whatever you want! Plan on spending a few minutes telling us about your stamp or cover and accepting accolades, asking questions, studying rates, applying a magnifying glass, wherever the discussion will lead. This should be a great time for all.

And there is more, of course. In addition to a business meeting that should be mercifully short, we will also be meeting for dinner on Friday night. The restaurant is a short way from the show and show hotel, and should be easy to get to. We need a good count, so please contact Norval Rasmussen, our vice president and emcee for the day to let him know you will be attending.

The deadline to take advantage of the show hotel rooms is passed, but you can still call them for reservations.

So I hope to see you in San Diego, enjoying philately, friends, food, weather, and everything else we can. To paraphrase a much younger man, let's party like it's 2014!

Our website may be on its way by the time you read this. Ralph DeBoard and I have been corresponding about this for some time. As I write this he is starting his work on it, so within a few weeks we should be back on the web. I am truly hopeful that we will be up and running with a fully developed site in the next couple of months. And whatever we select as our URL, it will no longer include "drunkenboat." As some of you will remember, last quarter I described rather expensive development proposals for a website. Several members have offered advice and time, so I am happy to report that our site development will be very inexpensive. Thanks to all of you who offered help and especially to Ralph, who is working on the site.

That's my message for this quarter. Let's have a good time in San Diego and keep enjoying our hobby. For us northerners it is the season to be inside, and I am certainly trying to spend more time on my collection. When spring arrives, and it will, the warm sun and fresh air will tempt us back outdoors again. So now is the best time of the year to be philatelists.

See you in San Diego!

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Treasurer's Report for 2013

As of December 31, 2013

ASSETS

Checking	31,332.70
Paypal	1,281.01
TOTAL	32,613.71

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

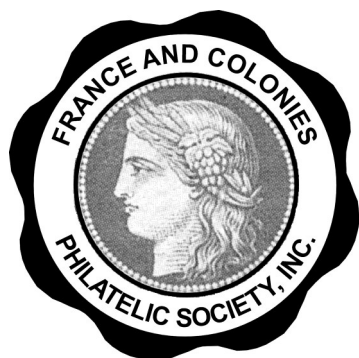
Prepaid dues	45.00
Spiegel Fund	1,242.29
Vaurie Fund	21,125.23
Equity	10,201.19

INCOME

Dues	4,244.75
Donations	441.00
Advertising	307.00
Publications	9.00

EXPENSES

Printing	5,835.74
Postage	17.80



We Get Letters

Editor:

When I read...the journal I thought you could use a few suggestions since the club lost 50 people last year.

1. it would be wonderful to mail out a list of members and if possible collecting interests to be mailed to FCPS members. To include interests a questionnaire would have to be sent to each member or included in the journal.
2. Ads for sales and want lists for free to members once or twice a year. Stan Luft had a section for this.
3. Stan Luft had a section "For the record," for individual items too small for an article. I have a number of WW II censored covers to and from French Colonies in Africa which could fit into this column over a series of issues with other contributors.
4. At one time Stan Luft had a section called "My favorite cover" where members were encouraged to make submissions.

Alan Morvay

All of these suggestions seem worthwhile. I placed an advertisement in the member to member area. I am desirous of lots of short articles. Please do send them. Ed.

Editor:

Many thanks for the article in the October 2013 issue of the France & Colonies Philatelist about your fascinating 1940 air mail cover from Martinique to Brazzaville. I particularly appreciate Dick Stevens deciphering the air mail surtax. Figuring out how the cover travelled to reach its destination is indeed a challenge. Air mail services to, from, and within Africa were indeed fluid during World War II, especially after the fall of France. However, a lot of information has recent-

ly become available, not the least of which are the Pan American Trip Summaries, based on extensive and exhaustive research by John Wilson at the Richter Library, University of Miami, Florida. The entire Trip Summary records are now available as a free download on the web site of the West Africa Study Circle, at <http://www.wasc.org.uk/>. *Cameo*, the journal of the West Africa Study Circle, has carried a number of articles in recent issues by John Wilson, Rob May, and others about air mail services during World War II. So, if you or other Society members wish to pursue the topic of African air mails during World War II, I suggest that you contact Rob May, co-editor of *Cameo*. To that end, I have copied Rob on this email.

Martin Bratzel

Editor:

Martin Bratzel has provided the following correction to my article in FCP No 314 on Elusive Items:

Thanks for your interesting and informative article in the October 2013 issue of the F&CP. One small correction regarding your cover in Figures 4 and 5 on page 109. You said that the destination was Apia, American Samoa. In 1912, Apia was German Samoa. After World War I, that part of Samoa came under New Zealand administration. The Apia arrival postmark has the European - not American - style of date and the time is 7-8 V - V being Vormittag, or 7 - 8 AM.

Edward Grabowski

Editor:

Where to begin? OK, with Dropped for Nonpayment. Disappointed that so many are major philatelists.

Don't have to apologize for writing on Tunisia. No one else does and someone may get interested. Incidentally, I wrote on the 1881-83 conquest a few years ago, in (I think) *Postal History Journal*.

Page 99: amused to see that Ed, Jim, and you welcomed Dick Stevens to the contributors. He contributed long before all of you, and was a long-time Pres. of the Society. A quiet guy; works (worked?) mainly on historical county matter back in NJ.

Nice to see New Issues once again. I kept it down to minimal space (small font) but right now, you do need space to fill. Do explain the "green letter rate" for those newcomers to the hobby.

Try again for a members' buy, sell, trade section?

OK, now for the best? part. As you may know, I write now mainly for the British F&C because they do have French collectors who can and do give me feedback. I just wrote a short article (2-3 pp. tops) plus a long, involved Table that badly needs to be set up in type (not be me...). It's not really French nor is it really Alsace. Concerns a definitive? update on a French cancel that was shipped off to Ecuador in the early 1860s, and used there on the covers I've been able to list--but many more than in the previous 1984 census (by me!) nor another 1999 census, so it's worth publishing.

I have sent it to the British F&C, but I know they won't mind if you consider it as well. Let me know.

Enough for now. Better luck with help with the January 2014 (I too at times had to write 1/2 an issue).

Warm wish to you at Christmastime

Stanley Luft

Stanley Luft has been and continues to be highly supportive. Thanks. Ed.

Editor:

I have just published the following:

FRENCH AFRICAN AIRMAILS 1932 to 1940
GÉRARD COLLOT and ALAIN CORNU, an English translation of volume two of Lignes Africaines by Gérard Collot and Alain Cornu.

Translated by John Parmenter with Colin Spong and John Hammonds.

Published by John Parmenter
23 Jeffreys Road
London SW4 6QU
October 2013

Could you please put a comment in your France and Colonies publication?

I can supply copies for \$50 each post free and I have a paypal account.

Very best wishes

John Parmenter

Editor:

Do you know my web site dedicated to the French Area Proofs and Essays ?

<http://www.dieproofs.it>

It's the only web site in the world with a very big database about issued proofs:

www.dieproofs.it/archivio/gallery2/main.php?g2_itemId=104

and unadopted proofs:

http://www.dieproofs.it/archivio/gallery2/main.php?g2_itemId=102

You can see much more:

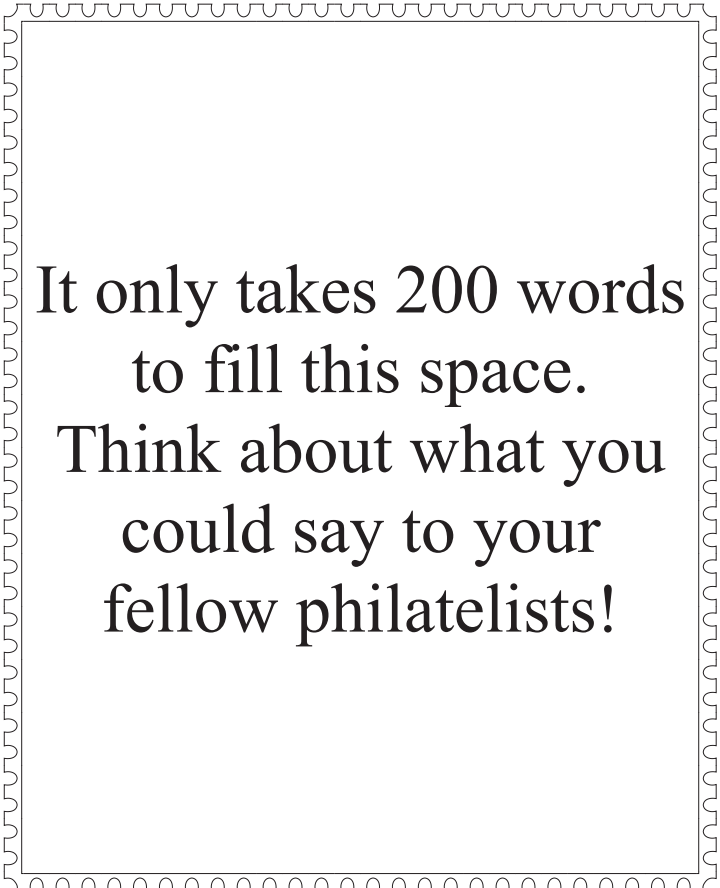
http://www.dieproofs.it/archivio/gallery2/main.php?g2_GALLERYSID=5968f7848c32530785ae025b47a38fde

I think it can useful to your readers and members.....

Best regards.

Giorgio Leccese

These website addresses don't fit the format well. The content of Giorgio Leccese is very informative about the proof area. I encourage everyone with some interest in the topic to visit. Ed.



It only takes 200 words
to fill this space.
Think about what you
could say to your
fellow philatelists!

World War II Red Cross Message Sheets

Alan Morvay


Message sheets from the Red Cross were occasionally used during World War II. This message sheet was sent from Paris, France to the Belgian Congo. On the front it has a Lisbon, Portugal July 20, 1941 transit cancel and a Red Cross Leopoldville, Belgian Congo Cachet, Croix Rouge de Congo. On the reverse there is a July 21, 1941 Lisala, Belgian Congo transit cancel.

Sometimes mail from home to a soldier at the front did not always get through or was very late.

The folks at home would worry when they did not hear from their soldier, son or husband. Thus the Red Cross undertook the task to make connections under certain circumstances. This is one of those connections undertaken by the Red Cross. This specific message is a contact between a wife in France to her husband in Belgian Congo.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank Robert Kinsley and Lawrence Lambert for their help in the preparation of this article.

Ref. B.66.

 **COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE** 61
Palais du Conseil Général
GENÈVE (Suisse)

DEMANDEUR — ANFRAGESTELLER — ENQUIRER

Nom - Name M^{lle} POUGÉUX
Prénom - Christian name - Vorname Renée
Rue - Street - Strasse Desrenaudes No 4
Localité - Locality - Ortschaft Paris 17^e
Département - County - Provinz Seine
Pays - Country - Land France

Message à transmettre — Mitteilung — Message
(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) — (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten) — (not over 25 words, family news of strictly personal character)

Tous bonne santé, espère de même
jean reçoit mes lettres il veut m'écrire
c'est long pour nous. Surtout je
travaille. Affectionnés baisers tous.
Renée.

Date - Datum 24 Avril 1941.


DESTINATAIRE — EMPFÄNGER — ADDRESSEE

Nom - Name M^{lle} et M^{lle} POUGÉUX
Prénom - Christian name - Vorname Renée
Rue - Street - Strasse Quilnia No
Localité - Locality - Ortschaft Mobila
Province - County - Provinz Congo - Belge
Pays - Country - Land

ANTWORT UNSEITIG **RÉPONSE AU VERSO** **REPLY OVERLEAF**
Bitte sehr deutlich schreiben **20 JUL 1941** **10 JUN 1941**
Prière d'écrire très lisiblement Please write very clearly

Message transmis par les soins de la
CROIX-ROUGE FRANÇAISE, 12, Rue Newton, PARIS (16^e)

RÉPONSE **ANTWORT** **REPLY**
Message à renvoyer au demandeur — Mitteilung an den Anfragesteller zurückzusenden. — Message to be returned to enquirer
(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) — (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten) — (not over 25 words, family news of strictly personal character).



Date : _____
Datum _____

Bitte sehr deutlich schreiben **10 JUN 1941** Prière d'écrire très lisiblement Please write very clearly

New Issues

France

- ◇ 7 Oct 2013: Bernard of Clairvaux commemorative stamp. €0.58.
- ◇ 7 Oct 2013: Theatrical masks. Sheetlet of six €0.58 stamps, €3.48.
- ◇ 9 Oct 2013: 18th arrondissement of Paris. Sheetlet of ten forever stamps, €8.90.
- ◇ 13 Oct 2013: Balloons. Sheetlet of ten forever stamps for Stamp Day, €9.90.
- ◇ 14 Oct 2013: Balloons and Stamp Day single souvenir sheet, €2.35.
- ◇ 14 Oct 2013: Air celebration. Booklet of twelve forever stamps. €7.56.
- ◇ 21 Oct 2013: Television pioneers. Sheetlet of six €0.58 stamps. €3.48.
- ◇ 22 Oct 2013: Eiffel tower. Sheetlet of four forever priority mail to Europe stamps. €5.20.
- ◇ 22 Oct 2013: Eiffel tower. Sheetlet of four forever world wide priority mail stamps. €5.90.
- ◇ 25 Oct 2013: Paris monuments and gardens. Three sheetlets of four forever stamps and a postcard. €12.90.
- ◇ 4 Nov 2013: French mountains: Vosges. Sheetlet of six forever stamps. €6.49.
- ◇ 4 Nov 2013: French Mountains: Jura. Sheetlet of six forever stamps. €6.49.
- ◇ 4 Nov 2013: French mountains: Le massif central. Sheetlet of six forever stamps. €6.49.
- ◇ 4 Nov 2013: French mountains: Southern Alps. Sheetlet of six forever stamps. €6.49.
- ◇ 4 Nov 2013: French Mountains: Atlantic Pyrenees. Sheetlet of six forever stamps. €6.49.
- ◇ 4 Nov 2013: Northern Alps. Sheetlet of six forever stamps. €6.49.
- ◇ 4 Nov 2013: French mountains: Eastern Pyrenees. Sheetlet of six forever stamps. €6.49.
- ◇ 4 Nov 2013: French mountains: Corsica. Sheetlet of six forever stamps. €6.49.
- ◇ 4 Nov 2013: Alsatian Christmas. Sheetlet of



- ten forever stamps. €8.90.
- ◇ 6 Nov 2013: Marianne and youth. Sheet of forty stamps printed by five different techniques. Forever stamps. €24.20.
- ◇ 6 Nov 2013: Marianne and youth. Sheet of forty pre-cancelled stamps. €24.20.
- ◇ 12 Nov 2013: Red fashion commemorative stamp. Joint issue with Singapore. €0.63.
- ◇ 12 Nov 2013: Gray fashion commemorative stamp. Joint issue with Singapore. €0.63.
- ◇ 12 Nov 2013: France and Denmark trade €0.80 commemorative. Joint issue with Denmark. €0.80.
- ◇ 12 Nov 2013: France and Denmark trade €0.63 commemorative. Joint issue with Denmark. €0.63.
- ◇ 12 Nov 2013: Fashion 1 €0.95 commemorative. Joint issue with Singapore. €0.95.
- ◇ 12 Nov 2013: Fashion 2 €0.95 commemorative. Joint issue with Singapore. €0.95.
- ◇ 12 Nov 2013: National order of merit €0.63 commemorative. €0.63.
- ◇ 12 Nov 2013: Red cross semi-postal stamp. Sheetlet of five €0.58 stamps. €4.90.
- ◇ 12 Nov 2013: Capture of Tournol and Battle of Muret commemorative stamps. Two set-tenant €1.45 stamps. €2.90.
- ◇ 12 Nov 2013: Marianne. Booklet of fourteen

- stamps; twelve €0.63 and two forever. €8.77.
- ◇ 11 Nov 2013: French republic booklet of fourteen stamps. €8.77.
- ◇ 11 Nov 2013: UNESCO service stamp. Japanese cranes. €0.77.
- ◇ 11 Nov 2013: UNESCO service stamp. Sigiriya, Sri Lanka site. €0.95.
- ◇ 11 Nov 2013: Little joys booklet of twelve forever stamps. €6.96.
- ◇ 18 Nov 2013: Savate boxing commemorative stamp. €0.95.
- ◇ 1 Dec 2013: Dogs. Two sheetlets of four stamps and a postcard. Priority letter rate. €9.80.
- ◇ 1 Dec 2013: Cats. Two sheetlets of four stamps each and a postcard. Priority letter rate. €9.80.
- ◇ 1 Dec 2013: Views of Northern France. Five sheetlets with ten stamps each. Face value €43.60 on sale for €35.38.
- ◇ 1 Dec 2013: French parks. Four sheetlets of ten stamps each. Face value €34.70 on sale for €28.00.
- ◇ 1 Dec 2013: Brittany. Five sheetlets of ten stamps each. Face value €43.00 on sale for €34.39.



- ◇ 6 Nov 2013: Old stock shares. Two stamps, 250F and 300F. €4.61.
- ◇ 12 Dec 2013: Automobiles. Two stamps, 100F and 75F. €1.47.



Monaco

- ◇ 23 Sep 2013: Centenary of Roland Garros's flight across the Mediterranean Sea. €1.00.
- ◇ 23 Sep 2013: Yachting Series. Two se-tenant stamps, €1.00 and 1.55.
- ◇ 9 Oct 2013: 150th anniversary of birth of Dr. Charles Pathé. €1.85.
- ◇ 9 Oct 2013: Centenary of the first cross word puzzle. €2.78.
- ◇ 9 Oct 2013: 150th ann. Of the birth of Dr. Jules Richard. €1.00.
- ◇ 30 Oct 2013: Christmas. €0.63.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- ◇ 2 Oct 2013: Nouvelles Marianne. €0.05, 0.10, 1.00, red 20 gram letter (€0.63), gray 20 gram letter (€0.56).
- ◇ 18 Oct 2013: Lions Club. Forever 50 gram rate. €0.47.
- ◇ 23 Oct 2013: Nouvelles Marianne. €0.01, Blue 20 gram rate (€1.13), Mauve 20 gram rate (€1.13), Rose 50 gram rate (€1.30).
- ◇ 7 Nov 2013: Anse à Ravenel. Two €2.50 se-tenant stamps with a gutter. €5.00.
- ◇ 4 Dec 2013: Noël. Single €0.63 stamp.
- ◇ 18 Dec 2013: Louisbourg. €0.90.



Andorra

- ◇ 26 Oct 2013: Véronique Bandry commemorative stamp. €1.55.
- ◇ 12 Nov 2013: Saint Joan de Àngel Sispony commemorative €0.58 stamp. €0.58.

New Caledonia

- ◇ 7 Nov 2013: Honey and bees. Two se-tenant 110F stamps. €1.84.
- ◇ 7 Nov 2013: Christmas stamps. 110F stamp. €0.92.

French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

- ◇ 6 Nov 2013: Owners of Kerguelen souvenir sheet with one €1.00 stamp. €1.00.

French Polynesia

- ◇ 17 Oct 2013: Old canoes. 2 stamps, 75F and 100F. €1.47.

Membership Notices

REINSTATEMENTS:

2482 Benjamin Bump, Hampden, MA
 1761 Erwin Petri, Union, NJ

ADDRESS CHANGES

3075 Joel C. Thompson
 PO Box 862
 Bethel, CT 06801-0862

MAIL RETURNED

2941 James A. Adams, Jr.
 PO Box 58
 Glendale, SC 29346-0358
 (returned as undeliverable)

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED:

3408 Rida A. Bazzi
 2596 Othan Gilbert
 3308 Bayard Mentrum

DECEASED:

876 John P. Grace

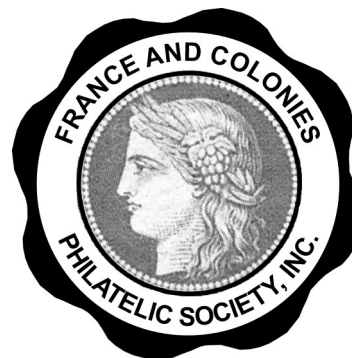
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2013

Total Membership as of January 1, 2013	261
New Members during 2013	3
Members reinstated during 2013	5
Resignations received during 2013	1
Members deceased during 2013	3
Members dropped for non payment of dues	49
Net Membership Gain for 2013	0
Net Membership loss for 2013	53

Total Membership as of January 1, 2014 216

Members Appeals

WANTED: Tunisian high value airmail stamps, Scott numbers C17-C20 on cover. Scans with asking price to Norval Rasmussen at nrasmu@gmail.com or 224 Wilson Ave, Morgantown, WV 26501.



Show Reports

CHICAGOPEX

Chicago, IL November 22-24, 2013

Gold to **Lawrence Haber** for "The Half Penny (decimal) Machin," American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Creativity Award. Gold to **Alfred F. Kugel** for "Postal History of the American Forces in China 1900-1941," also American Philatelic Society 1900-1940 Medal of Excellence, Military Postal History Society Award, United States Cancellations Club Award. Gold to **Paul Larsen** for "French Sudan and Niger." Single frame Gold to **Alfred F. Kugel** for "The Washington 2 Cent Definitive of 1919." Vermeil to **Edward Grabowski** for "The Era of the French Colonial Group Type: Obock." Silver to **Lawrence Haber** for "The Hudson Fulton Issue of 1909: First Day Covers and Early Uses," also Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award.

INDYPEX 2013

Indianapolis, Indiana September 27-29, 2013

Gold to Larry Gardner for "British Morocco Agencies, 1907-1957." Vermeil to **Alfred F. Kugel** for "The Postal History of Montenegro 1874-1922," also the Johnny Appleseed Award. Vermeil to **Alfred F. Kugel** for "The Prexies Go To War."

OMAHA STAMP SHOW 2013

Omaha, Nebraska September 7-8, 2013

Vermeil to **Paul Larsen** for "French Sudan and Niger."

SESCAL 2013

Los Angeles, California October 4-6, 2013

Vermeil to **Stephen Tucker** for "Afrique Occidentale Francaise 1943-1960."

New Literature

I have received an email from Giorgio Leccese who has five books concerning unadopted French and Monaco proofs. They are written in English and available to purchase from him. An example can be viewed at:

http://reader.ilmiolibro.kataweb.it/v/960857/France_4#!%22

His contact information is:

g.leccese@dieproofs.it or

Giorgio LECCESE
Viale Magna Grecia, 468
74121 Taranto (ITALY)

Also

FRENCH AFRICAN AIRMAILS 1932 to 1940 is

available from John Parmenter. Colin Spong (1605) assisted in the translation so perhaps this belongs in "Members Appeals." Mr. Parmeter's letter is in the "We Get Letters" section and contains his contact information.

**Have YOU
Considered
Sharing Your
Knowledge?
Why not write an ar-
ticle for the *FCP*?
Contact the
Editor**

SANDICAL EXHIBITS FROM The French Area

St. Pierre & Miquelon 1932-1946 Postal History

Algeria 1924-1958

The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type:
Part IV, Senegal & Dependencies

Afrique Occidentale Francaise 1943-1960

French Naval Mail to America, the “RF” Usage Period & Lead-up, 1943-1945

Classic France: The Ceres and Napoleon Issues of 1849-75 in the Military and
Foreign Mails

Tunisia 1888-1942

The Postal History of Tahiti Through the 1st Pictorial Issue

French Postal Operations in the Holy Land 1852-1914

Indo-China: A Philatelic Sampler

French Guiana and Inini Commemoratives

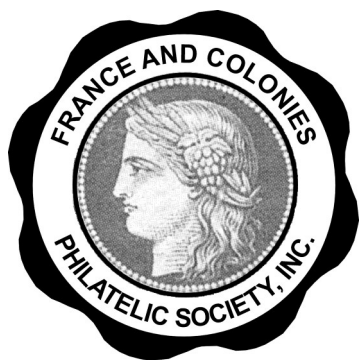
“HORS-SAC” - Urgent Dispatch Mail

The Era of the French Colonial Group Type: OBOCK

The Cayenne Airmails of French Guiana

Dahomey—Man climbing oil palm—the workhorse of Dahomey definitive

French Guiana’s First Pictorials, 1904-28



Help Wanted

Assistant editor with knowledge of modern France philately. Duties include soliciting, reviewing and critiquing articles submitted to this journal.

Contact the editor if interested.

nrasmu@gmail.com

304-292-7652 or 304-290-6117

Instructions for authors

I spent a great deal of time with the old issues before putting this one together. I found very detailed instructions for authors in the July 2007 *F&CP* volume (whole number 289). These should continue to guide you in your submissions. Electronic submission using Microsoft Word © is preferred. Pictures scanned at 300 dpi reproduce well and can be shown larger without losing clarity. The preferred format for the pictures will remain TIF. I note David Herendeen's instructions in the July 2007 issue concerning the use of JPEG scans. Some of the illustrations in the last issue lost clarity and sharpness in the final printed issue. They were in JPEG format. Although they looked fine in my document they degraded going forward.

In all cases if you need assistance in producing your article, cover write up, column closer, or other submission contact me: nrasmu@gmail.com or 224 Wilson Ave., Morgantown, WV 26501, or 304-292-7652, or 304-290-6117.

Deadlines are the 15th of the month proceeding publication (December 15, March 15, June 15, September 15) but I can be reasonable.

ED

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