

FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

January 2015 Whole No. 319
(Vol. 71, No. 1)



Will the REAL Large 2 Variety Please Stand Up?

See page 4



Free French Forces in the Sudan

See page 6

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Editorial

Norval Rasmussen

I will start this editorial with a correction. In the last column I instructed readers to submit delinquent dues to Joel Bromberg, our corresponding secretary. This was incorrect and caused some confusion. Dues should go to our Treasurer, Jeff Ward. Mailed payments can be sent to him at:

13155 Wimberly Square, #284
San Diego, CA 92128-6004

Membership renewal in 2015 is now due. You do **NOT** have to wait for your notice. Get proactive and either renew via paypal or mail your check for \$20 to Jeff Ward today. To use paypal send \$22.00 to: ward-jeff@san.rr.com. These are renewal rates for domestic members. Residents of other countries need to send \$25 and \$27 respectively.

In This Issue

How would you like your international exhibit commemorated with a stamp? Check out the new issues section for St. Pierre & Miquelon and you'll see that event occurring.

Our reliable authors are represented again with Edward Grabowski submitting a pair of short articles and Alan Morvay finishing up his examples of postal censorship in French Africa. I have included some cover descriptions and a bit of basic information on Tunisian philately.

On pages 26 and 27 is an application for membership and a specialty questionnaire. I hope this will prompt receptive readers to get an urge to join.



Should FCPS look at our tax status?

There are members, myself included, who would like to see France and Colonies Philatelic Society pursue tax exempt status under section 501 of the tax code. The cost is \$400 to the IRS. The by-laws need re-written and the appropriate forms need filled out and submitted. I would like to see others interested in this at OKPEX. Hit your search engine and think about it.

Erosion of the Membership

In October we were looking at a total of forty-two members being dropped for nonpayment of dues. I am very pleased to note this number pared down to only sixteen. The membership rolls still declined by five from last year.

Needed

Beginning on page 10 of this issue you will see brief cover write ups from some recent acquisitions made for my Algeria and Tunisia exhibits/collections. These are examples of perfect column closers. All of you who exhibit and many of you who don't but make your own album pages because we who collect postal history know that there is not an otherwise suitable way to display our collections, generate these over and over. Share them with the rest of us please.

Members are asking for basic French area philatelic information. Take a look at the article on Tunisian first issues on page 18. Can you do something similar on stamp issues in your area of interest?

Caveat Emptor – It Always Applies

Edward Grabowski

In collecting stamps and postal history it is always best to be your own expert and carefully examine each purchase with regard to what is known about it in the literature. As collectors we often see an item as we want to see it, especially if it is unusual and adds an important element to our collections. I have already written one article on how my enthusiasm and confidence that I could explain some unusual features about an item led me to purchase a most cleverly done fake wherein a rare cover front was turned into an unusual complete cover.¹

Recently, I came across another example wherein my enthusiasm to add an unusual item to my Guadeloupe collection caused me not to pay attention to philatelic basics. The story begins in the 1880's when all of the French Colonies were instructed to overprint existing stocks of the General Issues, and make these remainders colony-specific. Thus began the wonderful Provisionals Period within the French Colonies, when exciting overprints appeared, and exciting varieties of these overprints also appeared. Often the varieties were due to the difficulties and complexities of preparing them locally with on-hand facilities. Sometimes there was a strong philatelic element to what resulted. Guadeloupe was no exception to these issues.

While working on my Guadeloupe Postal History exhibit in the 1980-2005 period, I realized that finding good postal usages of these provisional stamps was going to be very difficult, especially for the higher value stamps and those showing the important overprint varieties. In 1884 existing stocks of the 35c Type Sage stamp were over-

printed **G.P.E. 25** to conform to the new requirement of making the stamps colony-specific and to convert stocks of the 35c stamp, which no longer corresponded to an important existing rate, to the needed 25c UPU rate. Over time I had collected a series of covers showing good usage of this provisional. Shown in Figure 1 is a pair of the genuine overprint scanned from a full cover posted at the 50c registered rate. Note that both numbers share the same baseline, and that the **2** has a vertical line coming up from the end of its tail.

In late 2002 I was pleased to find an example of the large **2** variety of this stamp on a cover from Saint Claude to Paris in the catalog of one of the prominent French firms which conducted mail sales (Figure 2). It was the only on-cover example that I had ever seen, and the **2** was clearly larger than the **5** in the overprint (Figure 3). I won the lot in the sale and was pleased to add it to my collection. It came from a reputable dealer, and I never took the time to check this overprint against the existing literature that I had on hand. Recently I started selling some of the remainders from my Guadeloupe Postal History collection,



Figure 1: Pair of the genuine 25c/35c Type Sage overprint from a 50c registered rate cover.



Figure 2: Cover from Saint Claude to Paris ostensibly showing the large 2 variety of the overprint.

material that either was not consigned to the Shreves sale of December 2007 or that was unsold in that sale. This item was recently consigned to a dealer in France and was sold to a local collector.

However, it was returned by the buyer, who was concerned about the validity of the large 2 on this cover. Indeed a comparison with the illustrations in the Yvert Tome II and Dallay DOM-TOM of 2006-2007 catalogs shows the 2 on this cover to be at complete variance with the genuine overprint variety. In the genuine normal overprint both the 2 and the 5 share the same base and each number is 6 mm high (Figure 1). In the large 2 variety both numbers still share the same base, but the large 2 is 7 mm high and extends above the 5. In the example on my cover, someone has carefully added black ink to the base of the normal 2 to create a large 2 variety that goes below the baseline of the 5. In confirmation of this conclusion, a careful viewing of the base of the 2 shows the vertical line coming up from the normal tail coming out of the enlarged tail of the altered 2 as seen in Figure 3. It sits on the 3 of the 35 of the Sage printing.

All-in-all this is a very obvious attempt to create the large 2 variety, yet it escaped the notice of the dealer who sold it to me, and it escaped my attention too. Why? I was so excited about having an example of this variety and it looked so good, that



Figure 3: Close-up of the overprint from Figure 2 showing that the 2 and 5 do not share the same base line, and that the tail of the 2 has a line coming out of it.



Figure 4: Close-up of the overprint from another cover showing a genuine example of the large 5 in the overprint.

I never checked the basic literature in my own library to confirm its genuineness. We should never forget about basic philately and the information that is in our every-day catalogs. In my defense, I also purchased a copy of the large 5 variety of the same overprint on cover, and a look back at a close-up scan of the stamp in my files shows it to be genuine. It can be seen in Figure 4. The characteristics of the overprint and the 5 in particular are in accord with the information in the catalogs. So *caveat emptor* has to be the operational phrase, and we constantly have to be on-guard in purchasing unusual items.

Reference:

- E. Grabowski, "The Era of the French Colonial Group Type – Caveat Emptor", *Collectors Club Philatelist*, 2013, Vol 92, pp 155-157.

Free French Forces in the Sudan

Alan Morvay

Although centered in French Equatorial Africa, the Free French movement was spread throughout the French colonies during World war II. In British Sudan the Free French forces worked with British, Indian, and American forces.

The first cover was sent by a French soldier at FPO 174 in Sudan on March 24, 1944. It has deputy chief field censor mark, a triangle British army censor mark No. 1815, and an orange sealing

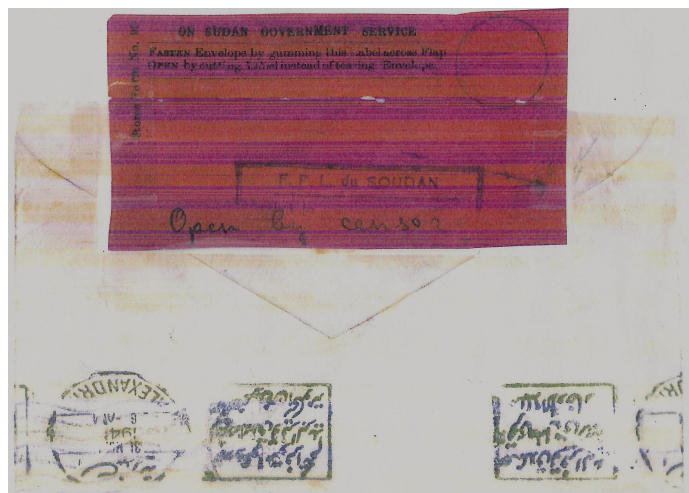


Figure 1. Sudan to Alexandria, Egypt.



Figure 2. FPO 23 to Ismailia, Egypt.

label used by French soldiers bearing a rectangular *FFL du Sudan* mark. It has a March 31, 1944 Alexandria, Egypt receiving cancel on the back (figure 1).

The FPO 23 cover dated January 11, 1941 was one of the last known usages of this cancel in

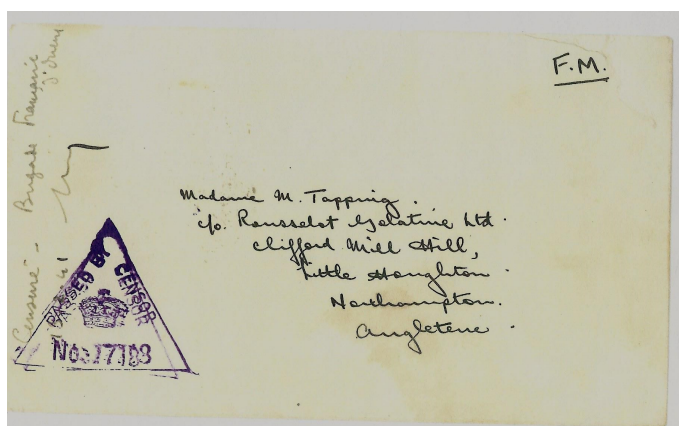


Figure 3. *French Equatorial Africa to England, via Sudan.*

Gedaref, Sudan before the British forces crossed into Eritrea taking this cancel with them. From this cover it is clear that a few Free French soldiers were active in the British military campaign into Eritrea. This cover bears a triangular British army censor mark No. 3377 on the front and an Ismailia, Egypt receiving cancel on the back (figure 2).

Free French forces mail also transited through British Sudan. The next cover (figure 3) from a member of the Free French forces crossed Sudan from French Equatorial Africa to its destination in England. The cover is endorsed F. M. and is countersigned by a censor of the *Brigade d'Orient 13-2-1941*. The cover bears a triangle British censor mark No. 1718 on the front and a February 20, 1941 transit cancel "Base Office 2" located in Kartoum, Sudan on the back.

The Free French movement went as far north as



Figure 4. French Cameroun to Egypt via the Levant.

Egypt in Africa. The routes mail travelled depended on the locations and battlefield conditions. The December 1, 1943 registered Yarounde, French Cameroun cover transited through the French Levant before it reached Cairo, Egypt, as evidenced by the December 11, 1943 F. F. L. cancel used in French Levant on the back. It has a French Cameroun circular *Controle Postale Commission B* censor cancel and a *Tresorerie Cameroun Yarounde* circular military cancel (figure 4).

I would like to thank Brian Gardner for his help in the preparation of this article.

Karikal, French India – The Boxed INDE Cancellation

Edward Grabowski

I have always been fascinated by the boxed, lozenge **INDE** cancel used at Karikal, French India. Karikal was one of the smaller of the five French enclaves in India. I am not sure how or why this cancel was created, but it reminds me of the old initialed lozenge cancels used by many of the French Colonies during the early period of the use of the General Issues. Langlois and Bourselet note that it was temporarily used from 1893, the very beginning of the Era of the Group Type. But they give no further information on its use. In my French India Group Type collection, I have examples of its use from 1896 until 1908. I would not put its use in the truly rare category, but dealers often consider it so and collectors seem to enjoy its striking nature, so covers employing it frequently command strong prices.

One of my favorite examples of the use of this cancel is shown in Figure 1. At the turn of the twentieth century the French **F.M.** military franchise stamps were provided for use to many of the colonies, and I have been happy to incorporate covers bearing these stamps into my Group Type Era collection whenever I can find one. Except for commissioned officers, each soldier in the French military was entitled to two free letters per month employing these stamps.¹ The cover shown in Figure 1 illustrates use of the first *franchise militaire* stamp from Karikal on May 30, 1904 to Pondichery where it arrived on June 1st. The striking nature of the cancel is quite evident relative to the light color of the stamp. The cover bears expert signatures of Brun and Roumet.

Figure 2 shows an even more unusual example of

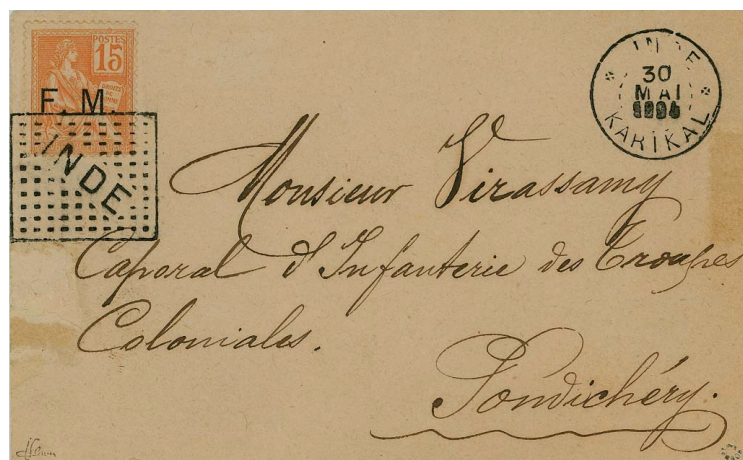


Figure 1. Military franchise letter from Karikal to Pondichery showing use of the boxed **INDE** cancel.



Figure 2. An unusual nowhere to nowhere cover from Karikal to Saint Laurent, French Guiana addressed to a local prisoner.

the use of the boxed **INDE** cancel. It is a registered letter posted from Karikal on November 1, 1905 franked at the proper 40c registered French community rate with 15c and 25c Group Type stamps. Each is nicely tied by the cancellation. Apparently the letter caused some confusion as to its proper destination, so *Guyane Française* was added at the bottom of the envelope by a second hand indicating that the letter was bound for French Guiana. The cover is signed by Calves.

Members who heard my **Philately & International Mail Order Fraud** lecture at San Diego earlier this year, know that I focus intently on the addresses on covers. This cover proved to warrant extra attention, and I had to call on Alain Millet in Paris to completely sort it out. The second line in the address appears to be *Marauvanni N° 27560* which indicated that the letter was addressed to a prisoner in French Guiana, most probably of Indian origin. The next line in the address, *a M. V. Appassamy ???*, was probably the name of a person or official to whom the letter should have been delivered to see that it got to the prisoner in question. Finally the address ends with *St Laurent, Cayenne* instead of *Guyane*, which caused some of the problems with the final destination. But it is clear that the letter was destined for Saint Laurent, the location of the most significant prison in French Guiana.

Finally the first line of the address, *Cayenne de Salourane*, caused me the greatest problem and Alain provided the solution. This is precisely the way the French would sound out *Cayenne Saint Laurent*. My guess is that the writer of this letter was also Indian, but reasonably well-educated in French and western writing. But he was not aware of the difference between Cayenne and Guyane, and ended up adding confusion to the address when he was attempting to clarify it. I must admit that I too have fallen victim to incorrect use of similar-sounding French words, which I end up incorrectly using.

Notes:

I am working on a chapter on the use of these stamps in the French Colonies during the Era of the Group Type, which should appear in the AEP's OPUS XV in 2015.

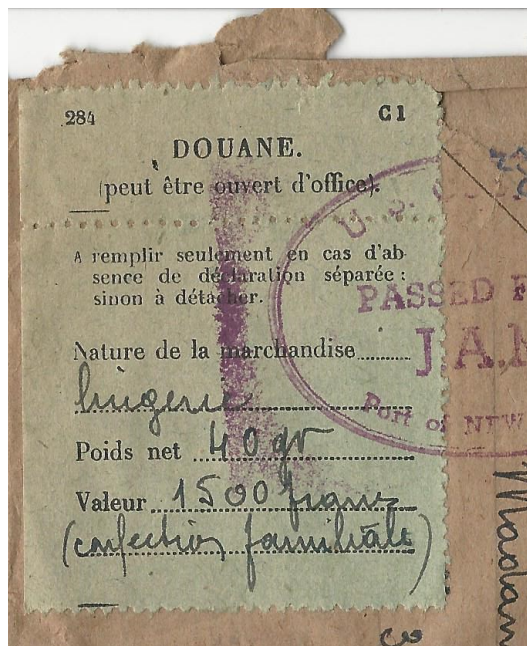


A perfect spot for your interesting philatelic gem
and a short description.

Favorite Covers



This registered airmail small parcel was sent in 1954 from Algiers to Philadelphia. The envelope was franked with 111 francs. According to the customs form enlarged at the left, this package of lingerie weighed 40 grams. The tariff for small packages was 12 francs per 50 grams however samples were rated at 6 francs per 50 grams. The airmail surcharge was 30 francs per 20 grams from France to North America for the category of "Other Objects" (as apposed to letters, postcards and journals.) The registration fee was 45 francs. The postage is correct for an airmail registered package of samples weighing 40 grams.





Two values of the Halfaouine Mosque definitive issued in 1945 were used on this wrapper sent from Beja, Tunisia to Sainte Croix aux Mines, Haut Rhin, France on an uncertain date. This is the printed matter rate for 50 to 100 grams effective January 1, 1946 or the printed matter rate for 20 to 50 grams effective January 1, 1947. The January 1, 1947 rate was effective only one day and dropped on January 2, 1947 to 2F 80c for printed matter mail in the 20 to 50 gram rate. Both of these stamps were “make up rate stamps” and had no other role in the current postal rates. They are scarce on cover.



Above is a double censored envelope sent from Algiers to Batavia, Dutch India via Singapore in July 1940. PASSED BY CENSOR 18 SINGAPORE is stamped over tape on the front and rear of the cover. CENSUR BATAVIA tape was applied over this in Batavia and tied to the envelope with the DEV. 8 in a circle. The Singapore mark is violet and the Batavia mark red. Reflecting on Edward Grabowski's admonishment in his article on page 4 of this issue, is this a legitimate printed matter rate of fifty centimes or is there a two franc stamp missing, as two francs fifty centimes was the correct single foreign rate in 1940? I fear the latter and regret paying a bit too much for this.



The cover above from Tunis to Paris on November 17, 1954 has postage paid correctly with eighty-seven francs using the two franc Carthaginian horse from the 1951 issue and three values from the 1954 series depicting Tunisian sites and monuments. The double interior letter rate was twenty-five francs and the airmail surcharge was twelve francs for the double rate. The EXPRES surcharge was fifty francs.

New Issues

France

- ◇ 2 Sep 2014: Marianne sheetlet of 20 non-denominated stamps. Priority letter rate. €13.20.
- ◇ 2 Sep 2014: Marianne booklet of ten non-denominated stamps. Priority letter rate. €6.60.
- ◇ 2 Oct 2014: Everyday life. Booklet of 12 non-denominated stamps of different designs. Green letter rate. €7.32.
- ◇ 6 Oct 2014: Douai Courthouse. €0.83.
- ◇ 13 Oct 2014: Indian sea turtle. €0.98.
- ◇ 13 Oct 2014: Stamp celebration: Salsa dancing. €0.61.
- ◇ 13 Oct 2014: Marianne booklet of 12 stamps. Twenty gram letter rate within France. €7.32.
- ◇ 13 Oct 2014: Street dancing. Sheetlet of one stamp. €2.45.
- ◇ 20 Oct 2014: Maximilien Vox 1894-1974 Commemorative stamp. €1.10.
- ◇ 6 Nov 2014: Marianne sheet of 40 stamps. Issued in 2013 but overprinted "Marianne 1944-2014" in black. €25.40.
- ◇ 10 Nov 2014: Evariste de Parney commemorative stamp. €0.83.
- ◇ 10 Nov 2014: Cornflower. €1.10.
- ◇ 10 Nov 2014: Marianne booklet. 14 stamps of 4 non-denominated designs. Green letter rate. €8.54.
- ◇ 10 Nov 2014: Cameras. Sheetlet of six €0.66 stamps. €3.96.
- ◇ 10 Nov 2014: 2013 Amiens stamp reissued without postage value. €3.20.
- ◇ 12 Nov 2014: Marianne booklet of 12 stamps. Green letter rate. €7.32.



- ◇ 15 Nov 2014: Marianne booklet of 12 non-denominated stamps. Priority letter rate foreign mail. €7.92.
- ◇ 18 Nov 2014: Father Christmas

stamp. Booklet of one non-denominated stamp. Green letter rate. €3.00.

- ◇ 21 Nov 2014: Val d'Oise sheetlet of 10 different non-denominated stamps. Green letter rate. €9.10.

- ◇ 9 Dec 2014: 70th anniversary of the Republican Security Companies (CRS). €1.10.



Official Stamps

- ◇ 6 Oct 2014: Council of Europe. 60 years of cultural cooperation. €0.98.
- ◇ 6 Oct 2014: Council of Europe. 50 years of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines. €0.83.
- ◇ 10 Nov 2014: UNESCO - Trulli d'Alberobello Italie. €0.83.
- ◇ 10 Nov 2014: UNESCO - Parrot-Ara Hya-cinthe Brazil. €0.98.



Andorra

- ◇ 27 Sep 2014: Altarpiece of Sant Miquel de Prats commemorative stamp. €1.10.
- ◇ 18 Oct 2014: Andorra skiing commemorative stamp. €0.83.
- ◇ 9 Nov 2014: Esteve Albert commemorative €0.66 stamp.
- ◇ 29 Nov 2014: Nativitat Retaule del roser de Santa Eulàlia d'Encamp commemorative stamp. €0.66.



New Caledonia

- ◇ 7 Oct 2014: Isle of Pines prison. 280F. €2.35.
- ◇ 7 Oct 2014: Bonsai Art commemorative. 150F stamp. €1.26.
- ◇ 7 Nov 2014: Kanak artisans. Basket weaving. 250F stamp. €2.10
- ◇ 7 Nov 2014: Christmas Stamp. 110F stamp. €0.92.
- ◇ 7 Nov 2014: Flower: Le niaouli. 190F stamp. €1.59.



French Polynesia

- ◇ 6 Nov 2014: Tahitian Dancer Airmail stamp. 500F. €4.09
- ◇ 12 Dec 2014: Pipira Ma Legend commemorative stamp. 75F. €0.63.



French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)



- ◇ 9 Oct 2014: Green sea turtle. €1.05.
- ◇ 16 Oct 2014: Scattered gendarmerie and the Kerguelen Islands. Two se-tenant stamps of €0.66 each. €1.32.
- ◇ 6 Nov 2014: Amateur radio operators commemorative stamp. €1.05.

Monaco

- ◇ 3 Nov 2014: Christmas stamp. €0.66.
- ◇ 3 Nov 2014: INTERPOL 83rd general assembly commemorative stamp. €0.66.



- ◇ 6 Nov 2014: Joint issue with Morocco. Sheet of 5 se-tenant stamps; €0.66 and €0.98 each. €1.64 per pair.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- ◇ 25 Sep 2014: St Pierre & Miquelon 2014 stamp exposition commemorative stamps. Two se-tenant stamps €0.66 and €0.33. €0.99.
- ◇ 15 Oct 2014: Fauna. €0.69.
- ◇ 6 Nov 2014: Landscapes of St. Pierre & Miquelon. Triptych with the center having no value. Two €2.50 stamps. €5.00.
- ◇ 11 Nov 2014: 100th Anniversary of the departure of the "Jeanette." €1.00.



Wallis & Futuna

- ◇ 3 Oct 2014: Gahi Village. 400F.
- ◇ 8 Nov 2014: Reprint of 1944 Marianne issue. Sheetlet of two designs. Six 225 F stamps and three stamps of 9, 7, and 3 Francs.
- ◇ 8 Nov 2014: Brial Benjamin Commemorative stamp. 340 F.

France and Colonies Philatelist

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Norval L. Rasmussen

PREFACE

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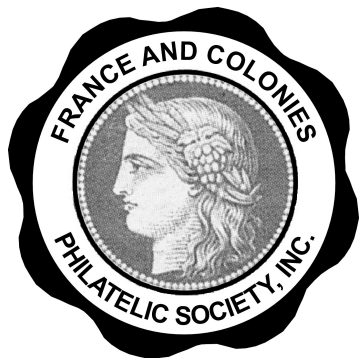
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Help Wanted

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

Sorting Out the Different Tunisian Coat of Arms Issues

Norval Rasmussen

The first Tunisian stamps depicting the Bey of Tunis's coat of arms were issued in 1888. There is some confusion about sorting through the three design types which have some subtle differences. The Scott catalog lists numbers 1-8 as design A1 and 9-27 design types A2 and A3. The catalog pictures the three types but doesn't address them otherwise. In a "bottom of the page" note the catalog states that all A1 designs have been reprinted, once with design changes showing a background of ruled lines.

Yvert & Tellier shows two design types and does observe that the first has thin figures and a solid background while the second has thick figures and a dotted background. This is a bit more helpful but I recall having an example of the 75 centime 1888, thin figured stamp (Scott design A1) with the fine horizontal lined background characteristic of the 1897 reprint returned by an auction house which specialized in mid eastern material, saying it was misidentified and was the thick figured, dotted background 1888 stamp.

Below the 1888 thin figured 5 franc stamp is on the left and figure the thick figured 5 franc



stamp is on the right. Arrows point out the three main design differences. The difference in the

numeral "5" is quite obvious, as is the differences in the background behind the coat of arms design. Not mentioned in either current catalog, Scott or Yvert & Tellier, is the fact that the thick figure design has the name "MOUCHON" in the stamp border below "TUNIS." Both designs have "CASSE" in the lower border below "REGENCE."

In 1897 the thin figure series was reprinted at the request of the philatelic community. The first printings had largely sold out with many collectors missing the boat. In this printing the background had very faint solid horizontal lines on all but the 15 and 40 centime stamps. With time these lines fade and all you have left is a minor color difference, making these stamps challenging to identify, unless one is looking at a mint stamp with gum. On this printing only, the gum is light yellow. On the 1888 and 1893 printings the gum was black. The horizontal lines can be seen easiest in the sheet margin gray in the below figure.



President's Letter

When the holidays arrive it is time once again to prepare this letter, a pleasant holiday task. So while this is arriving after the celebrations, it should still be appropriate to wish all of you a healthy and prosperous 2015. And I do.

We're now getting really close to our OKPEX meeting. You'll be glad to know that one of my fellow judges has already been asking how to get smarter about French area philately. He's learning quickly, so I expect the panel will do its job well. You can probably predict my next sentence: We rely on you to provide exhibits! You should be well along by now, unless you are one of those folks who likes to be working on their last few pages the night before they have to deliver the finished product to the show.

Please look over last quarter's column for comments, instructions and directions for making hotel reservations.

We are also still looking for presenters at our Friday meeting. It really is fun to do this, you know. I can't emphasize enough how relaxed the setting will be, contributing greatly to the genial sharing of information. What a great time to showcase part of your collection and get the encouragement and advice of your fellow French area philatelists. You can see some of our prior presentations on our website, from technical to topical. (I use those terms loosely.) Those show a wide variety of subjects and treatment, confirming my comments that you need not be highly technical to participate.

Presenters should talk to Norval Rasmussen, our vice president and editor, to get on the program.



You can find his contact information elsewhere in this journal.

There is a short matter of official business that I have overlooked all year long. It was time to have another election for officers and directors. I have not heard any objections to the current group, and past experience tells me that there aren't many members waiting to serve a term on the board.

I asked each officer and director if they would serve for another term. All of them said they would, to my relief. Therefore, unless you send an objection to me, we will consider the group re-elected.

To avoid this embarrassing situation again in 2016, if you want to nominate yourself as an officer or director of our society, please send me a message telling me so. Do it right away while you are thinking about it. We will then add you to the 2016 ballot, and we will have a real election. Feel free to raise your hand if you are in Oklahoma, too. You may also write to any of the officers or directors to discuss how much time the position requires, and so on.

Our website is still running along, but our webmaster, Ralph DeBoard, has had no time to work on it. It turns out that although he wants to be a retired person, he taught seventeen college level hours this past semester. That is the rough equivalent of working 55 hour weeks for those of us who are not academics. Ralph has refused to do that again, which we hope will allow him more time to keep our website moving along. HE WOULD LOVE SOME HELP. If you have skills at web site design and maintenance and are willing to commit a few hours a month (at the begin-

ning), it would really help our society step into the 21st century. To do this, please, please, please contact Ralph at ralph.deboard@oc.edu.

To continue a few thoughts from my letter last quarter, I have a thought about what we represent as a group of stamp collectors. Some of you may remember, may even have read, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, by Thomas Cahill (Nan A. Talese, 1995). While historians have argued that Cahill's book misrepresents history, his premise was simple. The Irish, particularly the clergy, became custodians of much of the world's knowledge during the collapse of the Roman Empire. When it was safe to do so, the monks left Ireland and reestablished western civilization.

Might we be serving a similar role? We are all custodians of philatelic items, be they stamps, postal history, related literature and other collectibles. Great knowledge resides in our collections and collateral, to say nothing of what is in our heads. In this time of an aging population, reduced disposable income for younger Americans and distractions largely the result of technology, we just might be the flickering candles of philately.

For that reason, we need to keep the candles burning. We need to share our knowledge. The best news is that it is easier than it ever has been! Nearly all of us own a computer. It provides essentially endless storage space for us, admittedly in a form that is readable only by other computers, so that we can save images and words. And when we want to share that information, there are platforms awaiting us. Our society website is one place where an article, exhibit, slide show or similar information can appear. Frajola's Philamercury site is another well-respected site with a great deal of shared content. Of course one can publish in hard copy, whether a magazine article (yes, for our journal!) or in longer form as a monograph or book.

My point is that we owe it to our future to keep track not only of our hobby's collectible artifacts, but also its knowledge. We all need to be part of that.

Get ready for Oklahoma City, too!

We Get Letters

The following is an excerpt from a letter. ED

Editor:

On 10/31/14 my membership was terminated because of not paying dues. My recommendations are:

1. Mail out a polite late subscription notice in late May
2. Mention suspension will occur after the October issue in the July Member's Notices section
3. Mention suspension of a member in the October issue, which serves as a third notice.

There is another area of confusion. One member with one mailing address should be responsible for dues collection. In the France & Colonies Philatelist there are two members with a total of three mailing addresses which is confusing.

For example: There is a New York, New York return address on the letter I received notifying me of my dues being delinquent. This letter gave an address for sending dues to Jeff Ward. In the October 2014 journal members were instructed to send dues to Joel Bromberg at a Brooklyn, New York address.

Alan Morvay

I mistakenly told delinquent dues payers to send dues to Joel Bromberg in the October issue. I addressed this in the Editorial column this issue and

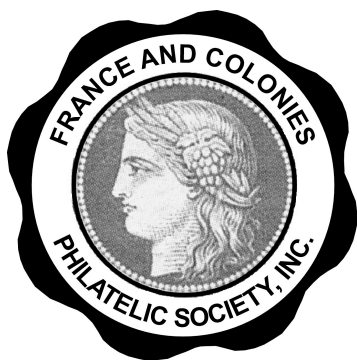
apologize for the confusion I caused. Mr. Morvay's suggestions will be entertained and discussed. ED

Kenneth & Norval:

The video below was sent to me by a friend in Paris. My French was good enough to get a good deal of it. Perhaps the membership will be interested.

http://www.francetvinfo.fr/france/video-la-saga-du-timbre_782937.html

Sid Morginstin



Treasurer's Report for 2014

As of December 31, 2014

ASSETS

Checking	27,543.47
Paypal	2,171.59
TOTAL	29,715.06

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Prepaid dues	383.00
Vaurie Fund	23,769.52
Equity	5,562.54
TOTAL	29,715.06

INCOME

Dues	1,543.76
Donations	1,402.00
Advertising	489.95
Publications	133.00
TOTAL	3,568.71

EXPENSES

Printing	5,328.38
Postage	17.13
Officer Expenses	867.35
Show Fees	254.50
TOTAL	6,467.36

Note: the lower than normal dues amount is primarily the result of the following: dues notices for 2014 were sent out on December 1, 2013 while dues notices for 2015 were sent out on January 1, 2015.

Membership Notices

NEW MEMBERS

- 3461 Boatright, Dr. Philip
PO Box 43576, Tucson, AZ 85733-3576
- 3462 Weatherl, Wayne H.
16500 SE 1st Street, Unit #76, Vancouver, WA
98684-2900
- 3463 Stumpf, Dr. Eric C.
10348 Marlou Drive, Munster, IN 46321-4342

REINSTATEMENTS:

- 3201 Abensur, Robert, MD
- 1554 Abram, Sam L.
- 1534 Beatty, Millard F.
- 1788 Boikess, Robert S.
- 2993 Camak, James N., Jr., MD
- 2725 Craig, Wallace A.
- 1318 DeVasher, William A., Jr.
- 3073 Donovan, Robert S., MD
- 2617 Englund, Dr. John F.
- 1008 Lievsay, John E.
- 3367 Lipton, Marshall C.
- 1960 Marinescu, Constantin A.
- 3380 Martin, Conrad O. II
- 3313 Moeser, Patricia
- 3167 Morvay, Alan J.
- 3197 Newville, Edward G.
- 3417 Richards, Sarah E.
- 2991 Shartsis, Jack
- 3347 Tucker, Stephen T

ADDRESS CHANGES

- 2777 Fabian, George P.
230 Fir Street, Park Forest, IL 60466-1717
- 1312 Walske, Steven C.
223 Spruce Street, San Francisco, CA
94118-1828

MAIL RETURNED

- 3373 Higgins, John P. M.
123 Free Street, Portland, ME 04101-3919
(returned--marked as moved)

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED:

- 3167 Morvay, Alan J.
- 3454 Henderson, George

DROPPED FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES

- 2941 Adams, James A., Jr.
- 1573 Bartlett, James P.
- 3256 Carriere, James
- 1073 Castor, William N.
- 3298 Davis, Alan R.
- 3129 Deusner, Charles E.
- 2761 Engblom, R. Dennis
- 3422 Fase, Koos
- 3212 Forsberg, Clifton H.
- 2616 McDermott, T.P.
- 3310 Nguyen, Cu
- 3400 Nielsen, Dana S.
- 2381 Picirilli, Robert E.
- 3447 Rueppel, David P.
- 2676 Washburne, Stephen S.
- 2995 Wulff, John L.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2013

Total Membership as of January 1, 2014 216

New Members during 2014 15

Members reinstated during 2013 3

Resignations received during 2014 4

Members deceased during 2013 3

Members dropped for
non payment of dues 16

Net Membership Gain for 2014 0

Net Membership loss for 2014 5

Total Membership as of January 1, 2015 211

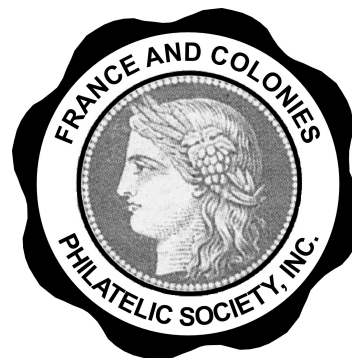
Donors for 2014

These members gave generously to the society this past year. Names and amounts are listed below. Thank you very much!

Warren J. Wolfe 120
Ken Nilsestuen 101
Steven A. Balch 100
Thomas W. Broadhead 100
Steven C. Walske 100
Paul Buchsbayew 80
Jack R. Dykhous 80
Constantin A. Marinescu 70
George Roy Elmore 60
Wallace A. Craig 50
Paul F. Edinger 50
John F. Englund 50
Robert J. Gagnier 50
Jon A. Hussey 50
Paul A. Larsen 50
Peter C. Lampen 30
Gerald F. Schroedl 30
Rolfe Wyer 30
Rollo L. Adams 20
Lloyd J. Money 20
Robert M. Teunion 20
Kenneth L. White 20
Raymond B. McGarrity 15
Robert Dunleavy 10
Carl J. Faulkner 10
Edward F. Fisher 10
Charles L. Stoddard 10
Jeffrey K. Ward 10
Pierre Roussot 10
Loic Detchevery-Vallee 6
David J. Allen 5
Jere W. Dutt III 5
Lawrence D. Haber 5
Leon J. La Chance 5
Patricia Moeser 5
George W. Perz 5
Joe Petronie 5
David J. St. Maurice 5

Members Appeals

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



Show Reports

PHILAKOREA 2014

Seoul, Korea August 7-12

Gold to **Larry Gardner** for "Morocco Foreign Post Offices and Agencies."

CHICAGOPEX

Chicago, IL November 21-23, 2014

Gold to **Alfred Kugel** "Polish Forces in Exile During & Following World War I." Single frame Vermeil to **Alfred Kugel** for "Panama Canal Zone Registered Mail 1905-1922."

Filatelic Fiesta 2014

San Jose, CA November 14-16, 2014

Gold to **Stephen Tucker** for "Pan American's Pacific Clippers 1935-1942." Also the American Philatelic Society 1940-1980 Medal of Excellence and the Steve and Cathy Schumann Award of Merit.

MILCOPEX 2014

Milwaukee, WI September 19-21, 2014

Vermeil to **Alfred Kugel** for "German World War I Military & Occupation Mail from Allied & Enemy Territory." Single frame silver to **Alfred Kugel** for "Standard Postal Markings of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe 1917-1923."

OMAHA STAMP SHOW 2013

Omaha, NE September 6-7, 2014

Vermeil to **Alfred Kugel** for "Austro-Hungarian Forces in World War I." Also Germany Philatelic Society Vermeil and the Germany Philatelic Society Special Prize Award. Single frame silver to **Alfred Kugel** for "Allied Forces in the Baltic Area in the Aftermath of World War I."

SESCAL 2013

Los Angeles, CA October 17-19, 2014

Gold to **Stephen Tucker** for "French Guinea." Also SESCAL Chairman's Merit Award.

SPM EXPO 2014

St. Pierre September 24-28, 2014

Grand Vermeil to **James Taylor** for "St-Pierre et Miquelon : Pre-stamps through first pictorial." Vermeil to **Loïc Detchevery-Vallée** for "Les entiers postaux - Saint-Pierre et Miquelon." Vermeil to **Edward Grabowsky** for "The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Saint Pierre & Miquelon and French Guiana."

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Knowledge?
Why not write an ar-
ticle for the *FCP*?
Contact the
Editor

FRANCE AND COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC.
<http://www.franceandcolps.org/>

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby apply for membership in the France and Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc., and enclose dues for the first year, as indicated below.

	Cash	PayPal
_____ <i>Resident of the United States</i>	\$20.00	\$22.00
_____ <i>Resident of any other country</i>	\$25.00	\$27.00

Signature

Please supply the following information for the Membership Committee.

NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
POSTAL CODE _____ COUNTRY _____
TELEPHONE _____ e-mail _____

Membership in other philatelic groups:

Organization _____ Membership No. _____

Organization _____ Membership No. _____

Reference (stamp dealer, other FCPS member, etc.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

How did you learn about the FCPS? _____

Residents of the United States may make payment in U.S. dollars via a check drawn on a U.S. bank, a U.S. Postal Money Order, or PayPal (PayPal account: ward-jeff@san.rr.com). Residents of all other countries may make payment via an International Money Order or PayPal. Payment in foreign currency must include the equivalent of U.S. \$10.00 extra per transaction to cover the conversion to U.S. funds.

Pay To: FRANCE AND COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC.

Mail To: Joel L. Bromberg

**P.O. Box 102
Brooklyn, New York 11209-0102, USA**

MEMBER'S NAME: _____

SPECIALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Please indicate areas in which you have a serious interest and those you consider your specialty areas. This listing will appear in the *France and Colonies Philatelist*.

I. GENERAL COLLECTOR:

If no specialties are reported below, I wish to be listed as a general collector.

☐ All Issues ☐ 19th Cent. ☐ 20th Cent.

II. TOPICAL COLLECTOR:

☐ My topics of interest are:

III. GENERAL FRANCE:

☐ Mint ☐ Used ☐ On Cover

IV. SPECIALIZED FRANCE:

A. POSTAL HISTORY:

- ☐ Stampless Covers
☐ Marques Postals
☐ Military Posts
☐ Railway Posts
☐ Used Abroad

B. REGULAR ISSUES:

- ☐ Classics 1849–1876
 ☐ Mint ☐ Used ☐ On Cover
 ☐ 1870–1871 Issues
 ☐ Alsace-Lorraine
 ☐ Dues
 ☐ Plating of Scott No. _____
 ☐ Cancellations
☐ Sage Type 1876–1900
☐ Modern France
 ☐ Mint ☐ Used ☐ On Cover
 ☐ Blanc, Mouchon & Merson Types
 ☐ Sowers
 ☐ Air Mails
 ☐ Coils
 ☐ Other _____

C. SPECIAL ISSUES:

- ☐ Telegraph
☐ Dues
☐ Newspaper
☐ Stationery
☐ Revenues
☐ Air Meets, First Flights, etc.
☐ Slogan Cancels
☐ Proofs and Color Trials
☐ Other _____
☐ _____

D. FRENCH COMMUNITY:

- ☐ Offices Abroad
☐ CFA Issues

V. FRENCH COMMUNITY

A. EUROPE

- ☐ Andorre
☐ Monaco
☐ Saar

B. COLONIES AND TERRITORIES

Colonies General Issues

- ☐ Mint ☐ Used ☐ On Cover
☐ Colonial Provisionals
☐ Group Type
☐ All Colonies and Territories
☐ Cancels and Postal History
☐ Specific Colonies

- ☐ Independent Republics

VI. DEALER

- ☐ Full Time
☐ Part Time
☐ Auctions
☐ Mail Sales
☐ New Issues
☐ Approvals

VII. OTHER

- ☐ Philatelic Literature
☐ Exchange

☐ Comments:

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.

Your favorite philatelic gem with a picture and description

What is the green letter rate in France?

Do you know something about
Type Sage varieties?

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