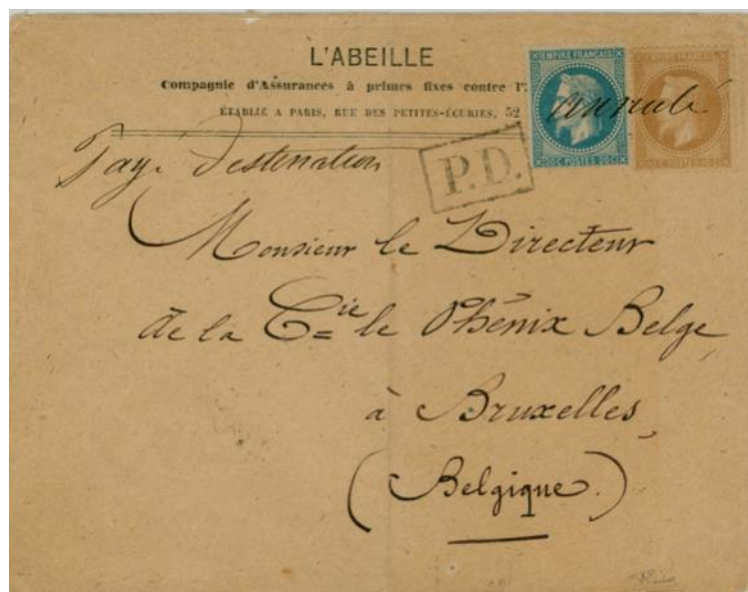


FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

October 2016 Whole No. 326
(Vol. 72, No. 4)



President Roosevelt's Mail (See page 99)



Paris Commune Cover (See page 109)

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Remit to: Jeff Ward
13155 Wimberly Square, #284
San Diego, CA 92128-6004
Paypal: ward-jeff@san.rr.com

All communication about membership, subscriptions, publica-
tions, back issues, activities and services of the Society should
be sent to the Corresponding Secretary:

Joel L. Bromberg
P.O. Box 17
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0017, USA

All contributions to and questions concerning the contents and
policy of this periodical should be sent to the Editor:

Norval Rasmussen
1029 University Ave, Apt 401
Morgantown, WV 26505
Phone: 304-290-6117, e-mail: nrasmu@gmail.com

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French Covers Sent to FDR: Postal History from 1932-1939

Paul M. Holland

Collecting worldwide postal history without a theme can be overwhelming. As a specialist collector of FDR-related items, my focus in postal history collecting is on covers that were sent to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. What makes this approach feasible is the fact that FDR was an avid worldwide stamp collector who received mail from around the world, then preserved many of these covers as part of his personal stamp collection. Following his death, his collection was sold in 1946 in a series of H. R. Harmer auctions, thus making these covers available to collectors.

French postal history of the 1930s, with its rate changes, assortment of artistically designed stamps and variety of postal cancellations can be a fascinating area to collect. For the 1930s era covers sent to FDR that are included in this article, there were three different rate regimes. From July 20, 1932 the international (surface) postal rate from France to the USA for a letter under 20 grams was 1.5 F (F = franc, 1 F = 100 centimes) with 2 F added for registration.[1] On August 1, 1937 the rate then increased to 1.75 F while the registration fee remained the same. Finally, on December 1, 1938 the rate increased to 2.25 F with the registration fee becoming 2.5 F.

The covers shown here include ordinary surface mail, airmail, and registered mail. Some of these even arrived postage due! A variety of different cancellation types were used such as single circular date stamp (CDS) cancels, CDS with either killer bars or slogans, and repetitive (endless) inline CDS cancellations displaying either slogans or killer bars between them. While Paris cancels

often provide the street name, others show Depart in place of the street name and were apparently used at mailing terminals. Also, the various salutations used in addressing these covers to FDR provide some cultural flavor and perhaps a glimpse into the lives of people motivated to write to the President of the United States during the worldwide economic depression of the 1930s.

The first cover in Figure 1, was mailed shortly after the election on 16 November 1932 from Avenue Wagram in Paris as shown by the International machine cancel with 5 horizontal lines extending from the boxed advertisement. It is franked by 1.50 Peace and addressed to "His Excellency, Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, Executive Mansion, Albany, New York". This was correct, since FDR remained Governor of New York until his term ended on the 1st of January 1933.

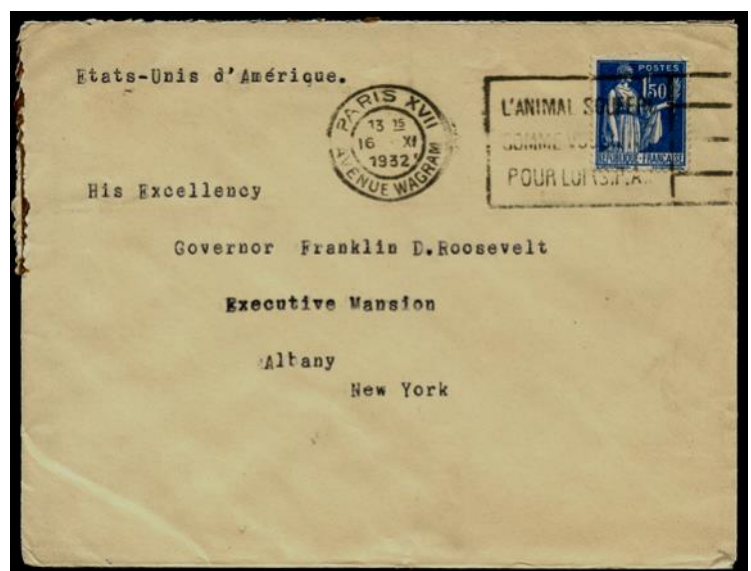


Figure 1. Ordinary mail cover sent to FDR from Paris on 16 November 1932.

Another, also sent on 16 November 1932, and attractively franked by a pair and single of the 50c red lined Sower was sent from Cherbourg, where an unusual machine cancel with repetitive (endless) in-line circular date stamps displaying different slogans was employed. Shown in Figure 2, it is addressed in French to “Monsieur Le President Roosevelt” in Washington. Since FDR did not actually become President until March 4, 1933, the US Post Office crossed out Washington and forwarded it to Warm Springs, Georgia where FDR was relaxing after the election.

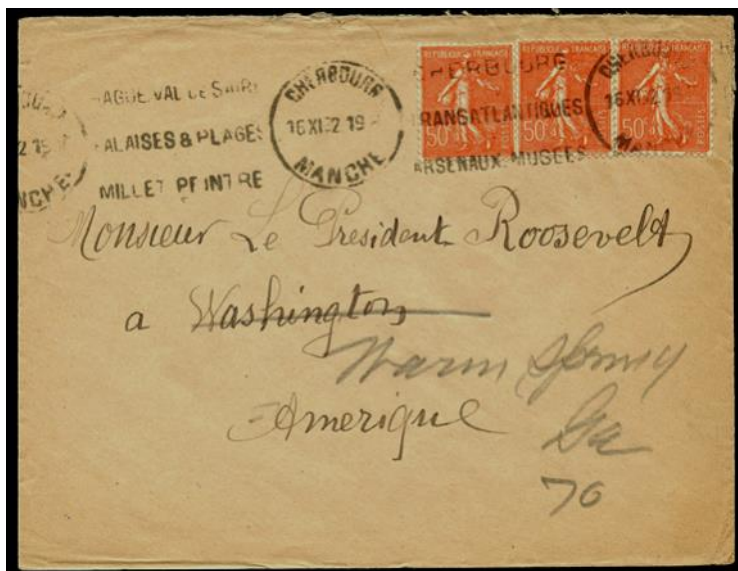


Figure 2. Redirected cover sent to FDR from Cherbourg on 16 November 1932.

The next cover, franked by 1.50 Peace was mailed a few days later from Rue Hippolyte Lebas in Paris on 22 Nov 1932 using an International machine cancel. While this was correctly addressed to “President-elect Franklin Delano Roosevelt” it was sent to Washington DC, and so again this was redirected by the Post Office to Warm Springs, Georgia as shown in Figure 3.

A cover sent on 14 March 1933, ten days after FDR’s inauguration, and addressed to the “Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt” in Washington is shown in Figure 4. This is from Avenue D’Orleans in Paris cancelled by a repetitive Krag machine cancel with 5 undulating lines of unequal



Figure 3. Redirected cover sent to FDR from Paris on 22 November 1932.

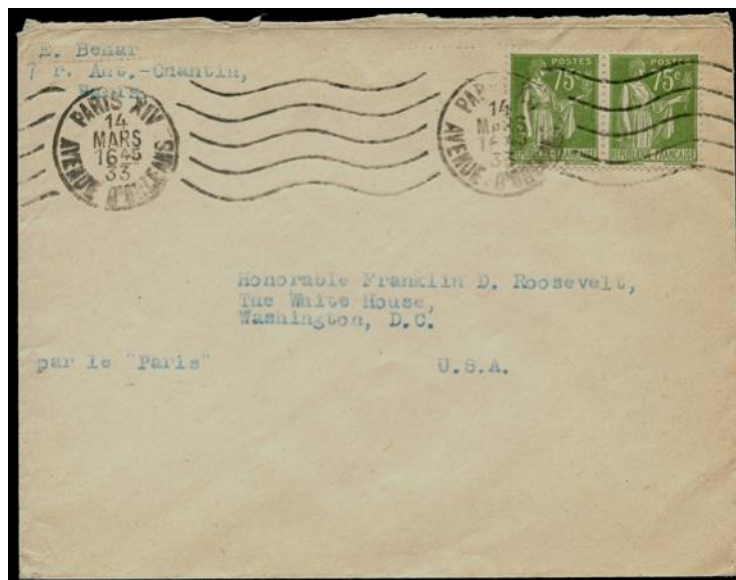


Figure 4. Ordinary mail cover sent to FDR from Paris on 14 March 1933.

length between circular date stamps, and is attractively franked with a pair of 75c Peace to make up the 1.5 F rate.

The registered cover from Paris in Figure 5a, is franked with a vertical pair of the 1.75 Peace, to meet the 3.5 F rate. The typewritten address is in French to “Monsieur le President” in Wachinton (sic) U.S.A., with an S lightly hand written over the C in an attempt to correct the misspelling. It was mailed on 18 March 1933, and registration

backstamps (Figure 5b) show it arrived in Washington on the 29th. Its Harmer auction authenticating backstamp is also shown in Figure 5c. Note that this backstamp showing it to be from the Franklin D. Roosevelt collection is present on all of the covers shown in this article.



Figure 5. Registered mail cover sent to FDR from Paris on 18 March 1933, with registration and Harmer Auction backstamps shown separately.



Figure 5b. Washington DC receiver postmarks on reverse of cover in figure 5.

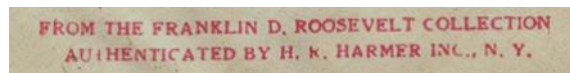


Figure 5c. Backstamp indicating the provenance of items in Roosevelt's stamp collection.

The next cover (Figure 6) shows the use of a 1.50 Plane over Marseille airmail stamp to pay the 1.5 F surface rate to the USA. This cover sent on 27 April 1933 from Rue du Caemin-Vert, is addressed to FDR in French. A repetitive Krag machine cancel with 5 undulating lines of equal length with the date on a single line has been employed.

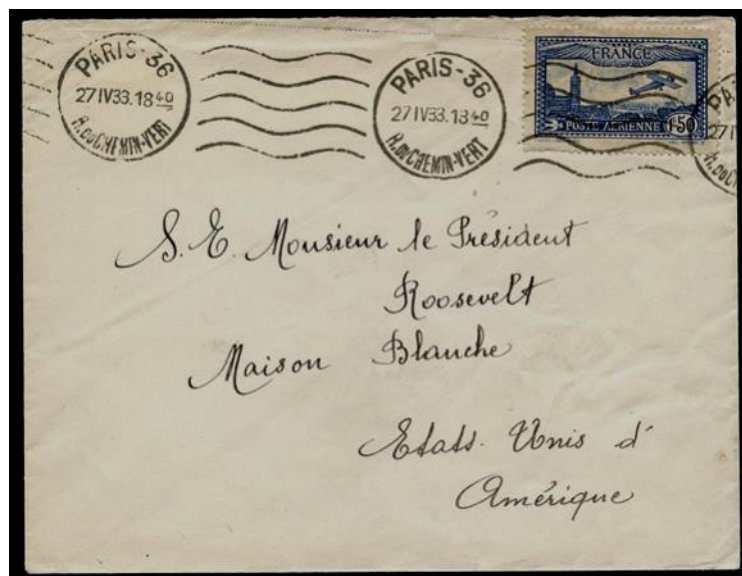


Figure 6. Ordinary mail cover sent to FDR from Paris on 27 April 1933 using airmail stamp.

Figure 7 shows a very unusual airmail cover sent postage due from Marseille on 5 May 1933. A strip of 3 and slightly overlapping pair of 50c Peace, for a total franking of 2.5 F has been applied. There is an airmail etiquette, and multiple Due 10 Cents stamps that were applied in New York. On the reverse is an airmail cancellation showing it was processed in Marseille on May 6th, which would have been the point of departure, with arrival in New York. The Harmer auction backstamp shows that FDR received it, and that the postage due fees must have been paid.



Figure 7. Postage due airmail cover sent to FDR from Marseille on 5 May 1933, with next day departure airmail cancellation and Harmer Auction stamp on back of cover shown separately.

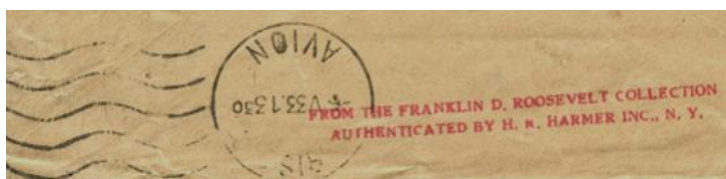


Figure 7b. Harmer Auction backstamp showing provenance of the cover in figure 7.

Another cover addressed in French paying the surface rate with a 1.50 Plane over Marseille air-mail stamp is shown in Figure 8. The postmark shows it was mailed on 21 May 1933 from Paris F, Depart, apparently a postal terminal of some sort, perhaps directly from the event shown in the International slogan cancel, which calls for visiting “Foire de Paris” in May. This is a major fair displaying a wide range of products, held annually at Porte de Versailles the largest exhibition center in Paris.

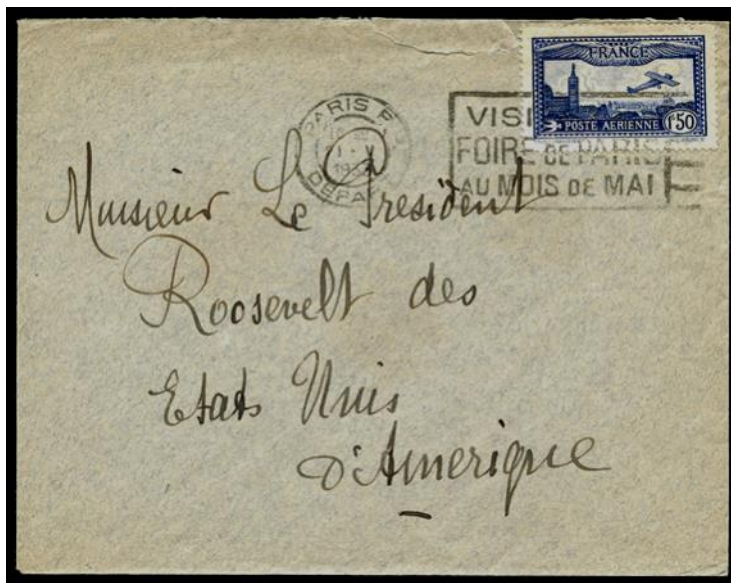


Figure 8. Ordinary mail cover sent to FDR from Paris on 21 May 1933 using airmail stamp.

Shown in Figure 9 is a cover from Paris franked with three singles of 50c Peace, addressed simply to “Monsieur le President Roosevelt, Etats Unis”. This was clearly not a problem, since the Harmer backstamp demonstrates that it was successfully delivered to FDR. The machine cancellation, which may be a Frankers/Sécap with 7 wavy kill-er lines, shows it was sent on 7 June 1934, from Paris XV, Depart.

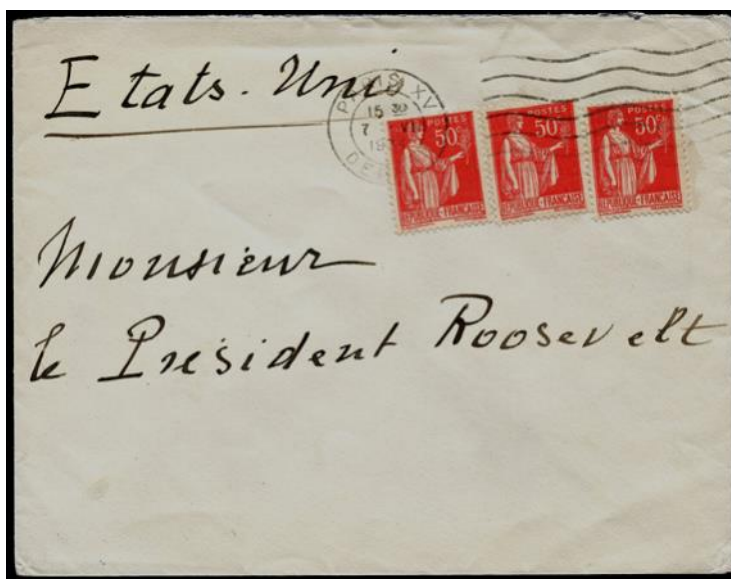


Figure 9. Ordinary mail cover sent to FDR from Paris on 7 June 1934.

The next cover in Figure 10, from Bouches-du-Rhône, Marseille, is franked with a vertical strip of 50c Peace. It is addressed simply to “Monsieur Roosevelt”, and was posted 2 May 1936. The International machine cancel has an advertising slogan “Fumez des Cigarettes Gitanes” urging people to smoke Gitanes, the black tobacco cigarettes I can still remember from my student travel days.

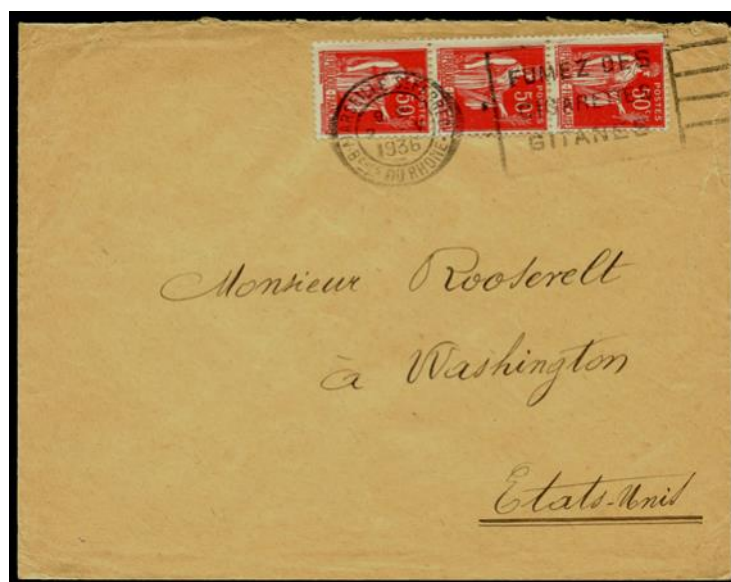


Figure 10. Ordinary mail cover sent to FDR from Marseille on 2 May 1936.

One of the more unusual French covers sent to FDR is that sent from Tarbes in the Hautes-

Pyrénées on 18 December 1936, shown in Figure 11. This is a postage due cover franked with a single 50c Peace, underpaying the 1.5 F rate by two thirds! It is cancelled by a repetitive Krug machine cancel with 5 undulating lines of equal length, and addressed in a large cursive hand only to "Monsieur Roswelt (sic), Etats Unis." The Harmer backstamp shows that it was successfully delivered to FDR. What is perhaps especially poignant about this cover is the combination of its severe underpayment of postage shortly before Christmas, coupled with the misspelling of Roosevelt name. To me this suggests it may have been sent by someone desperately reaching out to the President of the United States during the worldwide economic depression of the 1930s.



Figure 11. Postage due ordinary mail cover sent to FDR from Tarbes in the Hautes-Pyrénées on 18 December, 1936.

Another unusual cover is that of Figure 12, sent to FDR from "Le Chevesne Pontenois" in Nantes on 2 April 1937. Mailed using their official stationery and marked "Personelle," this is from a social organization started in 1927 by a group of fishermen devoted fishing from the bridges in Nantes for Chub, a thick-bodied European river fish popular with anglers. The printed cachet on this cover clearly depicts one the bridges in Nantes with the image of a Chub underneath. FDR, among other things, was well known as an enthusiastic fisherman, and perhaps this was invitation for him to join their organization. The

cover itself is franked with a strip of three 50c peace before the July rate change, and has an International machine type cancel with slogan for Nationale cigarettes and seven horizontal bars.

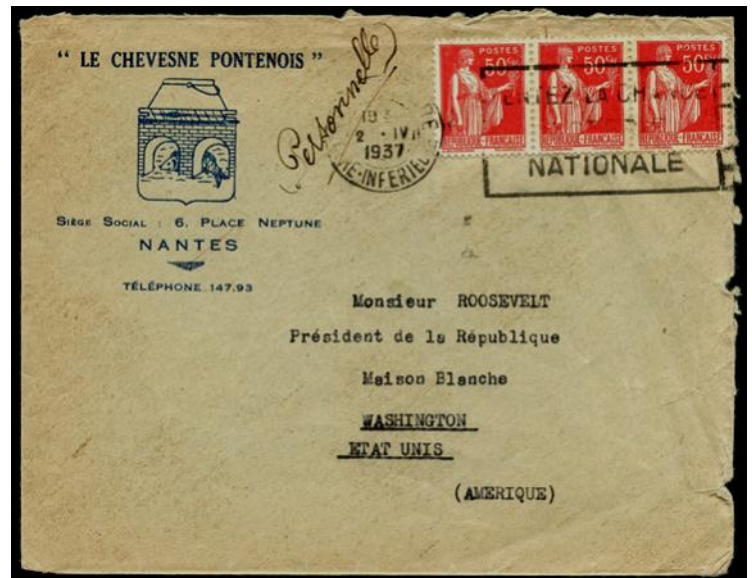


Figure 12. Ordinary mail cover sent to FDR from Nantes on 2 April 1937.

Shown in Figure 13 is a cover from Beziers in Herault from 1939, following the rate change to 2.25 F for surface mail to the United States. It is franked with the 2 F stamp depicting the Arc de Triomphe d'Orange and an added 25c Mercury from the new regular issue to make up the new 2.25 F rate. The month of the mailing date of this cover is difficult to make out, but it appears to have been sent on 21 Jan 1939. Herault is known for its wine, and so the International machine cancel with slogan referring to wine seems appropriate. Also note the misspelling of Wasington (sic) in the address.

The next cover, sent on 17 April 1939 from Bouches-du-Rhône, Marseille is shown in Figure 14. This is over-franked with pairs of the 90c Peace and of the 30c Mercury, for a total of 2.4 F, 15 centimes over the required rate. The over-postage seems to be accidental or careless, not philatelic, and the machine cancel appears to be a Frankers/Sécap type G, with seven undulating lines of equal length. The typewritten addressee on the cover is "Monsieur F; Roosevelt."



Figure 13. Ordinary mail cover sent to FDR from Beziers on 21 January 1939.



Figure 15. Ordinary mail cover sent to FDR from Paris on 19 April 1939.

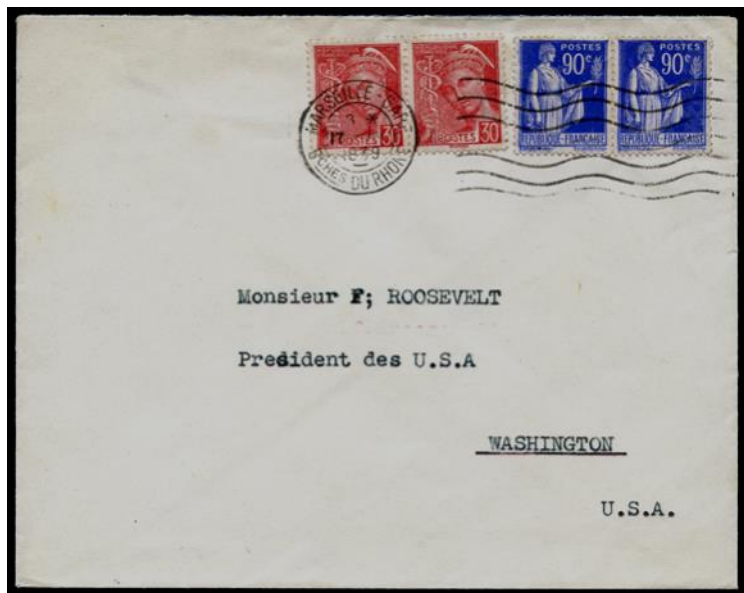


Figure 14. Ordinary mail cover sent to FDR from Marseille on 17 April 1939.

A cover from Paris on 19 April 1939 is shown in Figure 15. This is correctly franked by a single of the ultramarine 2.25F Ceres. The hand written address is in French to Roosevelt at “la Maison Blanche.” There is also an International machine cancel with slogan urging the smoking of yet another brand of cigarettes, this time Celtiques.

The final example of French covers sent to FDR in the 1930s is shown in Figure 16. It is franked with a 2.25F Cézanne commemorative, and mailed from Rue Danton in Paris on 28 April 1939. The International machine cancel with slogan also advertises Celtiques cigarettes. On the front of the cover, the blue pencil notation of “May 6” almost certainly shows the date of receipt at the White House mailroom based on similar pencilled notations on other FDR covers in my collection. Interestingly, the back of this covers bears a printed return address showing it came from the “Foyer International des Etudiantes” at the University of Paris on the Boulevard Saint-Michel.

The selection of sixteen French covers presented here, all mailed to FDR and saved as part of his personal stamp collection, provide an illustration of French postal history from 1932-1939. They show contemporary usage for overseas mail of twelve different French postage stamps of this era on cover, including six pairs (one vertical) and three strips of three (one vertical), two different commemoratives, and the unusual use of airmail stamps for surface mail. While Paris and Marseilles are especially well represented, with nine and three covers each, other more remote areas are also represented. This includes Cherbourg,



Figure 16. Ordinary mail cover sent to FDR from Paris on 28 April 1939, with printed return address on back shown below.



Nantes, Beziers, and Tarbes in the Hautes-Pyrénées. Taken together, these suggest how widely FDR touched the lives of people around the world, and provide a glimpse back in time to the era between the two World Wars and the struggles of the Great Depression.

Acknowledgements

The Author acknowledges Stanley Luft, former editor of this journal, for his helpful comments and suggestions.

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Derek Richardson, *Table of French Postal Rates 1849 to 2011*; Brochure No. 7 (4th ed.), publ. by The France & Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain, 2011.

Cameroun Français 27.8.40 – the 50 centimes Stamp with inverted Overprint – Bogus

Marty Bratzel

In the July 2015 issue of our journal, I described a used 50-centimes stamp with an inverted Cameroun français 27.8.40 overprint (Ref. 1). The stamp had been offered as part of a large lot, and the vendor was only able to provide a digital photo of the stamp. Speculation can be dangerous, especially when it ends up in print! And so it was for this stamp.

The lot was sold and, eventually, the stamp was sent to me for examination. The Garoua postmark is genuine but dated 10 Juin 34, well within the recorded date of use. But the inverted overprint is completely bogus!

Caveat emptor.

Reference

1. Bratzel, Marty. Cameroun Français 27.8.40 – the 50 centimes Stamp with Inverted Overprint. *France and Colonies Philatelist*, Vol. 71, No. 3, July 2015, pages 71-72.

Mystery Solved – Non-Postal Cameroun Datestamp Identified

Michel Collet and Marty Bratzel

In 2014 and 2015, Marty asked for help to identify a previously unreported Cameroun postmark on a loose postage stamp (Ref. 1, 2). Only a portion of the wording and the date could be deciphered – * Yaounde Cameroun * 8.4.27. The wording at the bottom was an abbreviation, but what?

The mystery is now solved. Both of us spotted on eBay nine loose stamps with the same datestamp. Because eBay encrypts bidders' names, we did not know that we were bidding against each other! Michel was successful. He had the stamps and Marty had the scans. Independently, we each determined the wording at the bottom. Full credit goes to Michel for concluding that TR. PR. = Trésorier Payeur. No other postal or fiscal terminology fits. Michel's reconstructed datestamp is shown in Figure 1.



1. Reconstructed Yaounde Cameroun TR. PR. datestamp.

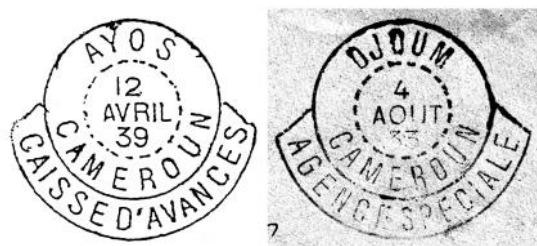
Trésorier Payeur translates as paymaster or, perhaps more broadly, the government revenue or finance department which, for Cameroun, was headquartered at Yaoundé, the territorial capital. It makes sense that the headquarters would have its own datestamp. So, the datestamp was intended for revenue and not postal purposes. How, then, could the cancel be on postage stamps?

The nine stamps offered on eBay (Figure 2) are all from the same series of stamps (Yvert 92-100, Scott 155-163) and all have the same cancellation date – 2.12.24. The strikes are probably philatelic souvenirs. No conclusion can be drawn about Marty's original example (on Yvert 117, Scott 185), but postal or other non-revenue use cannot be excluded.



2. Cameroun postage stamps (Yvert 92-100, Scott 155-163) with a Trésorier Payeur cancel.

Consider the use of non-postal datestamps for postal purposes in various administrative centres throughout Cameroun. Representatives of the Trésorier Payeur had their own datestamps. These resembled then-current postal datestamps but the devices had a collar at the bottom with the wording *caisse d'avances* or *agence speciale* (Figure 3). Numerous examples of postal use of



3. Cameroun *caisse d'avances* and *agence speciale* datestamps.

such non-postal datestamps have been recorded; see, for example, Figure 4. Others are shown and discussed in Ref. 3. To summarize, the regional representatives of the Trésorier Payeur were authorized to handle mail at locations that did not have a post office or postal agency and they used their devices to cancel stamps (Ref. 4). Also, the devices were often used after a postal agency was opened but before arrival of a permanent postal datestamp. In the case of Yagoua, the devices were used between mid-1944 and the mid-1950s, after the postal datestamp was apparently damaged or lost. At Ebolowa, in 1926 and 1927, the *agence speciale* datestamp was used postally, concurrently with the postal datestamp.

The regional representatives also issued and cashed money orders (*mandats*) at locales where there was no post office or where the postal agent was not authorized to do so (Ref. 4). However, for Cameroun, no money orders or money order receipts have been recorded with postage stamps affixed and / or cancelled with non-postal datestamps.

In 1927, Cameroun postage stamps were hand-stamped *Enregistrement* for revenue use; the



4. Postal use of the non-postal Nanga-Eboko *Caisse d'Avances* datestamp on a registered cover to France. The cancel date, 5 avril 28, is subsequent to the opening of a postal agency at Nanga-Eboko, on 27 February 1925, and prior to the receipt of a permanent postal datestamp, for which the earliest recorded date is 8 March 1930.

earliest confirmed date of use is 3.5.1927. The first general-purpose revenue stamps (*timbres fiscaux*) for Cameroun were also issued that year; the earliest confirmed date of use is 29.5.1927. Prior to 1927, postage stamps were probably used to show that a revenue fee had been collected. Documents with Cameroun postage stamps affixed to collect revenue have been recorded as early as 1929 (Ref. 5).

To return to Yaoundé, in the 1920s, the Yaoundé post office had at least five postal cancellers, and the use of a fiscal datestamp on mail does not seem justified. The fiscal datestamp shown in Figure 1 was probably used primarily for collection of revenue and to datestamp official documents but, prior to 1927, absent revenue stamps, postage stamps would have been affixed and cancelled. In addition to the post office, the Trésorier Payeur at Yaoundé also could have issued money orders. And, specifically regarding the stamps in Figure 2, the cancels are probably philatelic. Definitive answers can only be found if / when the fiscal datestamp is found on documents, letters, money orders, or used for other purposes.

Non-postal caisse d'avances and agence speciale datestamps were used for postal purposes in several regional administrative centres in Cameroun and are therefore included in the listing of Cameroun postal datestamps. The Yaoundé fiscal datestamp has been found on postage stamps, and postage stamps may well have been used to collect revenue or on money orders issued by the Trésorier Payeur. Strictly postal use is unlikely. Therefore, should the Yaoundé fiscal datestamp also be included? Given its occurrence on postage stamps, we say yes.

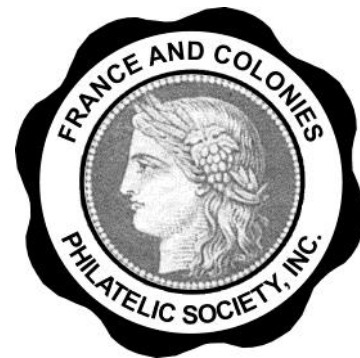
To conclude, fiscal handstamps with the text Trésorier Payeur exist in other French colonies during the same general time period. For example, shown in Figure 5 is a collared Trésorier-Payeur datestamp for Noumea, New Caledonia, used on money order receipts.



5. Noumea New Caledonia Trésorier-Payeur datestamp, 27 Mai 11.

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Two Early Paris Commune Covers And Beyond

Edward Grabowski

In the mid-1980's I was still collecting classic French postal history along with that of the colonies. While at a local show in New Jersey I purchased the cover shown in Figure 1 from a local dealer. The cover was franked at 30 centimes with 10c and 20c Laureated Napoleon issues and sent by an insurance company in Paris to a business in Brussels. The stamps were cancelled with an annulé pen cancel, and the manuscript *Payé Destination* at the left suggested that the cover was correctly paid to its destination in Belgium, which it indeed was. The only postal marking is the encased P.D. handstamp which just ties a corner of the 20c stamp. (Figure 2) No date of posting of this cover was present on the front. The reverse showed an arrival in Brussels on April 5, 1871 (Figure 3).

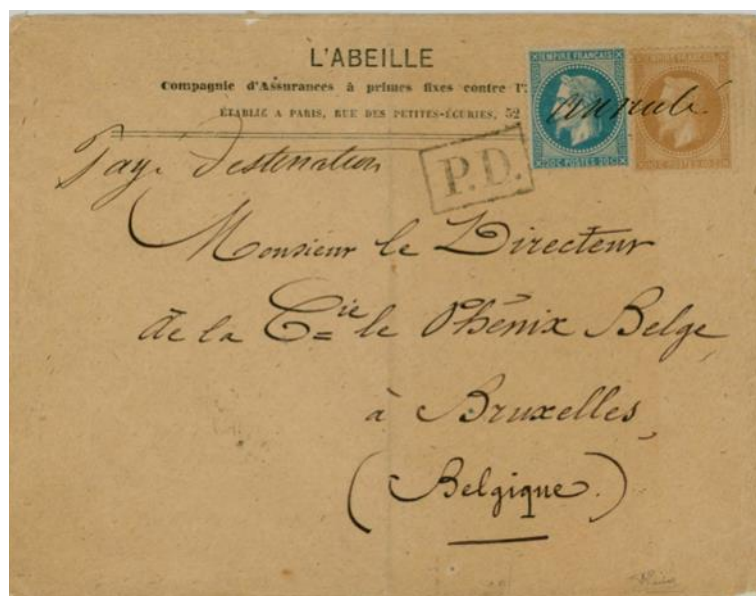


Figure 1: Letter posted from Paris to Brussels, Belgium during the early part of the Paris Commune.



Figure 2: Close-up of the stamps in Figure 1 showing the boxed P.D. handstamp just tying the 20c Laureated Napoleon.



Figure 3: Arrival backstamp of April 5, 1871 on the cover in Figure 1.

I had no idea what to make of this cover, but thought it a worthy item to add to my fledging collection of the time. Martin Stempien suggested that I consult with Gardner Brown, who, along with his wife Ruth, were the resident American experts on the Franco-Prussian War and its aftermath. They were delighted to learn of this cover, and suggested that it originated during the beginning of the Paris Commune in early April 1871. At this time the Republican Government had moved to Versailles, having taken with it as much paraphernalia as was necessary to the functioning of regular government services as possible. The Communards were working hard to reestablish regular government services within Paris, including the post office. The postal service was quite disorganized with divisional offices closed and with regular processing equipment either carried off or hidden in storage. This letter was most likely handled at the Bureau Central which would have been the likely office at which to try to reestablish services. Apparently the boxed P.D. handstamp had not been carried off, and was being used at least to process mail to foreign destinations. Possibly regular transportation services were operating out of Paris at this time, or the letter clandestinely made its way out of Paris. Re-

ardless, it reached the regular French mails. The arrival in Brussels on April 5th confirms its origin at the beginning of April. I was delighted to add this unusual cover to my collection, and published a short article about it entitled *An Early Commune Cover in the France & Colonies Philatelist*.¹

I ended up selling the cover to Ruth and Gardner, turning my interests fully to French Colonial postal history. They added it to their magnificent collection entitled *The Aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War*. With their passing, the collection was sold by Keith Harmer. I was pleased to learn from member Albert Schneider that he purchased the cover for his private collection, where it remained for many years. In April 2014 I noted this cover in a Roumet sale. It had become a special cover for me, as it was my first serious postal history discovery item. I decided to buy it back, and was able to do so. Once again this item is in my collection.

boxed P.D. handstamp. No city datestamps are present to indicate the point of origin. The correctly franked cover, posted to New York City, is part of the established Hartung correspondence. A red LONDON PAID A, 6 AP 71 transit is on the front, and a PARIS A CALAIS railroad transit from April 5, 1871 is on the reverse (Figure 5). The full description in the Roumet catalog reads as follows:

Lot 146. Siege. Lettre probablement de Paris remise à l'ambulant (au verso, Céd PARIS A CALAIS 5 AVRIL 71). PD encadré / N° 29 (3) + N° 46 sur lettre pour New-York. Au recto, Céd de transit LONDON 6 AVRIL 71. Extraordinaire combinaison. (Ex collection Loeuillet et Walske). Unique. - SUP. - RRR. Prix de départ: 10000€.

I was immediately struck by two points relating to this cover and my cover: the use of the boxed P.D. handstamp used to cancel the stamps on



Figure 4: Letter posted from Paris to New York during the early part of the Paris Commune from the May 2016 Roumet sale.

So matters stood until the cover shown in Figure 4 was offered in the May 2016 Roumet postal history sale.² The cover was posted to the United States and is properly franked at 80c with three 20c Laureated Napoleons and a single 20c Bordeaux issue (Type III, Report 2, Position 2). The stamps have been cancelled by bold strikes of a

both, and the coincidence of the April 5, 1871 Paris-Calais transit on the reverse of the Roumet cover and my cover's arrival in Brussels on the same date. An overlay of both P.D. handstamps shows them to be identical. It seems quite likely that both covers originated in Paris at about the same time, and were initially processed with the boxed P.D. handstamp, probably the only available device left in the post office, possibly the Bureau Central as suggested by the Browns. With the respective April 5th arrival in Brussels and transit to Calais, it seems proba-

ble that both covers left Paris at the same time, either directly on the Paris-Calais train which might have been still running at the time, or joining it at a later stop after being smuggled out of Paris. I should note that the Roumet cover sold for 11301€. Both covers illustrate the handling of foreign mails at the very beginning of the Paris Commune.

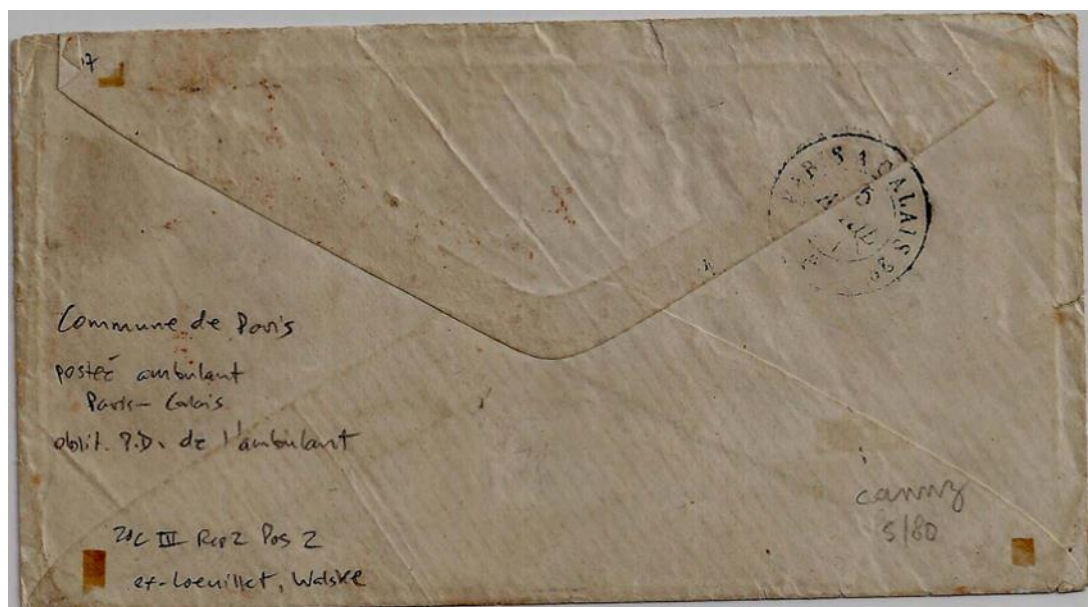


Figure 5: Reverse of the letter in Figure 4 showing the April 5, 1871 Paris-Calais railroad transit.

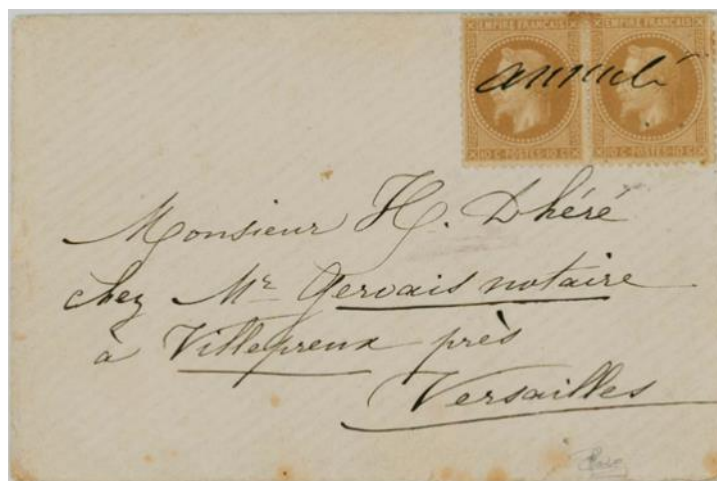


Figure 6: Letter written in Paris on April 13, 1871 with an annulé cancel.



Figure 7: Letter from Paris to Versailles with an annulé cancel and an April 25, 1871 transit.

Two additional items that I have noted suggest that the practice of cancelling stamps on mail posted within Paris with a manuscript annulé continued for most of April 1871. The first (Figure 6) is a folded letter sheet dated from Paris on April 13, 1871 and posted at the local 20c rate to Cholet in western France where it was received on April 17th. The 20c

Laureated Napoleon is cancelled with a manuscript annulé, similar to that previously seen in Figure 1, and there are no other Paris markings on the letter. The second, seen in Figure 7, is an envelope posted also at the 20c rate with two 10c Laured Napoleons to Versailles. The stamps also bear the annulé pen cancel. It shows no Versailles arrival, but it does show the transit: VILLEPREUX (72), 25 AVRIL 71 a village twelve miles west of Versailles on the Paris-Versailles route.

Taken together these four letters suggest that mail from Paris continued to be processed during April 1871 making use of an available P.D. hand-stamp or an annulé manuscript cancel.

References and Notes:

1. E.J.J. Grabowski, "An Early Commune Cover", *France & Colonies Philatelist*, 1986, pp 51-52.
2. The author wishes to express his sincerest thanks to members of the Roumet firm in Paris for their permission to use the cover from Paris to the United States in this article, and for providing the requisite scans of the cover.

SAINT-PIERRE ET MIQUELON

Le « 4x4 » serait arrivé dans l'archipel en 1892 !

Jean-Jacques Tillard

En 1885, Saint-Pierre et Miquelon a réalisé ses premières surcharges sur les timbres des colonies générales. En 1891, des frappes « 1 », « 2 » et « 4 » centimes ont transformé des « Alphée Dubois » pour créer une première série de sept timbres. Puis, l'année suivante, le 26 juin 1892, l'imprimerie du gouvernement a frappé les 25c. noir/rose avec à nouveau ces trois surcharges typographiques.

Le timbre à 4/25c. (Yvert 42 / Maury 45) possède la variété de la double et de la triple surcharge.

Les exemplaires présentés ci-dessous, à l'unité ou en paires, affichent différentes anomalies. Mais la plus spectaculaire de ces variétés demeure la double frappe mettant côte à côte les deux surcharges. Le résultat : **une surcharge 44 tenant à une surcharge 4**. C'est le seul timbre qui présente un 44.



D'autres exemplaires dévoilent les différents positionnements causés par ces surcharges multiples. La quintuple frappe dans une paire est également remarquable.



Double surcharge
superposée.
Neuf.



Double surcharge
dont une très décalée.
Neuf.



Triple surcharge
Neuf.



Quadruple surcharge
dans une paire inter-panneau.
Neufs.



Les classiques de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, timbres très réputés des anciennes colonies françaises, réservent toujours d'agréables surprises. Pour preuve, cette surcharge 44, méconnue, est arrivée entre mes mains en... mai 2016 !

In 1885 SPM overprinted the general colony issues of France for use in SPM. In 1891 the Alpheé Dubois series of 1881 was revalued with overprints of 1, 2, and 4 centimes. The following year the 25 centime black on rose paper stamp was revalued with the same 1, 2, and 4 centime overprints.

The 4/25 centime stamp (Yvert 42 / Maury 45) has double and triple surcharges.

The examples shown below singly or in pairs have different abnormalities but the most spectacular is the side by side double overprint producing a surcharge of "44" next to a surcharge of "4".

Other examples reveal the different positions caused by multiple surcharges. The five-time strike in a pair is also remarkable.

Classical SPM overprinted French general colony stamps always produce pleasant surprises. As proof the surcharge "44," previously unknown, came into my hands in May 2016.

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

Marque postale utilisee en Algerie a la fin de la 2e guerre mondiale par les " Forces Francaises Libres du Levant"

Alan Morvay

Pendant la 2e guerre mondiale, les Forces Francaises Libres du Levant ont utilise un cachet circulaire " Poste aux Armees, FFL, BCM #" pour les courriers militaires.

Au printemps 1944, ces moyens d'obliteration furent transferes en Algerie pour l'usage des F.F.L. en Afrique du Nord.

Les timbres-poste d'Algerie pour les courriers quittant l'Algerie etaient oblitteres avec ces cachets. Un exemple est montre sur le devant du document ci-joint :

- Adhesif, marque de censure triangulaire et cachet rond "Chief Deputy Censor"
- 2 timbres-poste d'Algerie a 4 Frs oblitteres par le cachet rond decrit en debut de texte
Date illisible (5 juin 1944)

Au verso:

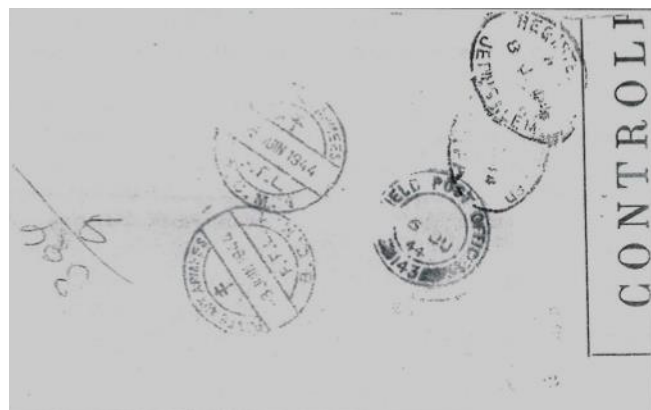
- Cachet rond depart "Poste aux Armees, FFL, BCM" date : 5 juin 1944
- Cachet de transit "Field Post Office 143" date : 6 juin 1944
- Cachet ovale de transit a Haifa 8 juin 1944
- Cachet ovale d'arrivee a Jerusalem date : 8 juin 1944

Bibliographie :

- E.E.Keys "Algerian stamps and Free French Forces- date stamps of the Levant 1944-1945" The "American Philatelist" V082, n°12 December 1968 PP1071-74
- Alan Morvay "Lebanon in WWII, a censor-

ship overview ", France & Colonies Philatelist V.G3, N°3 June 2007 . PP 55-60

- Norval Rasmussen "Free French Military Cover" France & Colonies Philatelist V.64 N°4 October 2013 PP 104-105



Reprinted with consent of the author from PHIL—EA Journal, Vol 78, December 2015.

Translation on page 126. ED

FOR THE RECORD

1. Submitted by Alan Morvay. A pair of censored letters from Algeria to the Red Cross in Switzerland in early 1943. His observation is that German censor tape is about as common as U. S. Army censor marks from the same period.



New Issues

France

- ◇ 20 June 2016: Quimperlé - Church. €0.70.
- ◇ June 2016: 150th anniversary of the Education League. €1.00.
- ◇ 27 June 2016: Pierre Mauroy commemorative. €0.80.
- ◇ 29 June 2016: 350th anniversary of the Academy of Sciences commemorative. €2.50.
- ◇ 4 July 2016: Battle of Somme, WW I. Sheetlet of one €0.80 and one €1.00 stamps. €1.80.
- ◇ 4 July 2016: Vacation activities of summer. Booklet of 12 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €8.40.
- ◇ 11 July 2016: Mediterranean fish. €1.00.
- ◇ 1 August 2016: Flowers> Booklet of 12 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the priority letter rate in France. €9.60.
- ◇ 5 September 2016: Being the butt of the joke. Booklet of 12 different cartoon nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €8.40.
- ◇ 5 September 2016: Resistance fighters and the dam at L'Aigle. €3.20.



- ◇ 9 September 2016: Jean Jaurès commemoratives. Sheetlet of 4 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €4.50.
- ◇ 12 September 2016: Léo Ferré commemorative. €1.40.
- ◇ 12 September 2016: Françoise Giroud commemorative. €0.80.
- ◇ 15 September 2016: Exposition "Temps Suspendu" commemoratives. Booklet of 4 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the priority letter rate in France. €5.30.

- ◇ 16 September 2016: Fountains and Plazas of Paris (1). Sheetlet of 6 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €6.50.
- ◇ 16 September 2016: Fountains and Plazas of Paris (2). Sheetlet of 6 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €6.50.
- ◇ 16 September 2016: Fountains and plazas of Paris in summer. Booklet of 4 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the foreign priority letter rate. €6.20.
- ◇ 16 September 2016: Fountains and plazas of Paris in winter. Booklet of 4 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the foreign priority letter rate. €6.20.
- ◇ 19 September 2016: French comic superheroes. Sheetlet of three se-tenant pairs of nondenominated €0.70 stamps valid for the green letter rate. €1.40.
- ◇ 23 September 2016: Philatelic treasures. Ten French stamps reprinted in booklet format. No postage value. €90.00.

Andorra

- ◇ 16 July 2016: La Sardana Canillo commemorative. €1.60.
- ◇ 30 July 2016: Joan Xandri commemorative. €3.20.
- ◇ 3 September 2016: CliPol commemorative. €1.25.



French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

- ◇ 1 October 2016: Bernard Dubois commemorative. Two €0.80 stamps. €1.60.

French Polynesia

- ◇ 17 June 2016: Sandalwood. 100F. €0.84.
- ◇ 24 June 2016: Miss Tahiti. Booklet of six 100F stamps. €5.03.
- ◇ 11 July 2016: Heiva series. One 100F and one 80 franc stamp. €1.51.
- ◇ 12 August 2016: Medicinal plants. 80F. €0.67.



Monaco

- ◇ 24 June: SEPAC. €1.00.
- ◇ 24 June 2016: The 100th Anniversary of the Excavations at the Observatory Cave in Monaco's Exotic Garden. €1.60.
- ◇ 30 June 2016: The 10th Anniversary of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. €0.70.
- ◇ 30 June 2016: The 10th Anniversary of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. Sheetlet of four €1.25 stamps.
- ◇ 5 July 2016: The 50th Anniversary of NGO AMADE Monaco. €0.68.
- ◇ 5 July 2016: World Rowing Coastal Championships - Monaco. €2.00.
- ◇ 5 July 2016: Monte Carlo Ballet. €2.72.
- ◇ 24 August 2016: 24th coin and map bourse. €0.80.



- ◇ 24 August 2016: The 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Léo Ferré. €1.36.

New Caledonia

- ◇ 8 August 2016: Astronomy in New Caledonia. 450F. €3.77.
- ◇ 13 September 2016: Dr. René Catala commemorative. 120F. €1.01.
- ◇ 13 September 2016: Janisel à Pouébo home. 110F. €0.92.



St. Pierre & Miquelon

- ◇ 25 June 2016: 200th anniversary of being French. Two different stamps se tenant; €1.10 and 1.40. €2.50.
- ◇ 9 July 2016: Ambulances. Sheetlet of four different €0.80 stamps. €3.20.
- ◇ 10 September 2016: Sister Pierre Fontaine commemorative. Nondenominated stamp valid for the green letter rate. €0.40.
- ◇ 10 October 2016: Pointe Plat Lighthouse. €0.80.



Wallis & Futuna

- ◇ 21 September 2016: Butterflies. Sheetlet of 3 different 115F stamps.



Society News

Convention Schedule

June 2, 2017 NAPEX
McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner
7920 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, Virginia

November 2018 CHICAGOPEX
Westin Chicago Northwest
400 Park Boulevard
Itasca, Illinois 60143

January 2020 Southeastern Stamp Expo
Hilton Hotel Atlanta Northeast
5993 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
Norcross, GA 30092

Dues are

DUE!

Send yours to Jeff Ward
13155 Wimberly Square, #284
San Diego, CA 92128-6004
or
Paypal: ward-jeff@san.rr.com.

\$20 domestic (\$22 if using paypal)

\$25 foreign (\$27 for paypal)

As this goes to press we have 26 domestic
and 4 foreign members with 2016 dues still
delinquent.

Check the list in
Membership Notices on page 123.

We Get Letters

Bon jour mom Ami --

I received my July F&CP today. Thanks to all of you who were able to straighten my membership out. I hope all goes well with the next issue.

Attached is an Indochine cover I recently acquired. What can y'all tell me about it? I bought it because I like nice cancellations. Can any of your read French? Please feel free to pass this along to anyone you think might know more about the cover.

I was thinking the other day that it would sure be nice if you would publish the email address for each article author. It would make follow-up questions so much easier and faster to make.

Merci et Adieu --

Carl Barna



Hello Norval,

Just wanted to pass on my 2 Bits' worth re the July 2016 FCP; one of the very best of your official administration! I suspect that you are starting to enjoy your editorship. I did, for a number of years.

I am very glad to note your willingness to return to "For the Record". That was easy for me then, as I was receiving no less than 4 French philatelic journals plus letters and e-mails from eminent collectors in the Continent--now mostly departed from the earthly scene. If I may, I like to suggest that you ask our readers if (1) they receive "Feuilles Marcophiles", "Le Collectionneur Philateliciste et Marcophile", or other French philatelic journals or handouts, and (2) would be willing to abstract items of interest to them (and to us!) for FCP--and be rewarded as "correspondents to the FCP"--or something of that order.

I would be agreeable to become a "correspondent"--merely for what it may help me in keeping my mind reasonably active. I now receive only "Documents Philatéliques", "Le Trait-d'Union" (for Alsace-Lorraine only), the British F&C Journal, and "Col.Fra" (most of the time). NO, not as any sort of Asst. Ed. Am too old and too undependable for that!
Cheers, Stan

Hi, Norv --

I read your comment about re-running some older F&CP articles in the July journal.

I think that is a GREAT idea!! It seems that I devour the journal in the blink of an eye and then have wait months for a re-supply, so anything that can treat me to more info would be wonderful.

Some material oriented towards new collectors like me would hit the spot.

Adieu --

Carl Barna

Peter R.A.Kelly
Malmsy House, Church Road,
Leigh Woods,

Bristol BS8 3PG
peterkelly35@btinternet.com

The Editor

Dear Sir,

I was interested by the letter from our member, Sam Abram, concerning the use of a BM handstamp on a French metropolitan stamp accompanied by the date stamp of Conakry (French Guinea) in Journal 325 that he did well to bring to our attention.

It may be useful to examine the different components within the letter.

The letter is franked with a 50c Sower with the advertising tab attached. It is contra to French postal regulations and consequently very unusual, for metropolitan French stamps to be used in the colonies. If it had been used in Guinea it should have been taxed. The presence of the advertising tab may be considered as an element of improvement.

The stamp is cancelled by the application of a "BM" in oval handstamp. This is the standard moveable box handstamp first introduced in 1867 and officially withdrawn on 1 January 1912 although there was some use thereafter but not, I believe, at this late date. These handstamps were never permitted to be used as a canceller. There was also no military connotation.

The Conakry date stamp of 4 March 1931 is alongside and does not tie the adhesive.

We have no idea of what is on the back of the envelope and therefore no confirmation that the letter was carried.

My personal conclusion is that the letter is a fabrication although I am aware that moveable boxes were carried on the trains operating between Conakry and Kankan on occasions when the con-

voyeur service was not operating or where the convoyeurs were not empowered to sort and cancel mail. The boxes were cleared by the offices at the terminals at Conakry and Kankan and presumably at the change of train terminals at Mamou and Kouroussa and were stamped by them (I have only seen BMs from Conakry and Kankan). From memory, the BM handstamps they used were different.

As a general warning there are a great number of BM, rural and urban boxes and local and rural origin handstamps easily available and some of these do fall into the wrong hands.....and in dealing with them it is always advisable to be sure of the actual origin of the letter.

Thanks to Mr Abram for sharing this with us.

Dear Editor,

I believe that Charles LaBlonde had a large enough sample to draw accurate conclusions in his interesting article, "U.S. Army 1943 Censorship of Algerian Mail." Laurence Lambert collected Algerian town cancels by the type of cancel and its period of use. He had about the same number of WW II censored covers to the Red Cross in Switzerland as was used in the LaBlonde study and similar conclusions can be drawn. Laurence had 49 covers with the U. S. Army circular censor mark of which 47 were sent in January 1943. Of the other two covers, one was sent February 4, 1943 and the other on February 23, 1943. Only censor numbers 1107, 1108, and 1109 were found with the most of 1107. 1108 was the least common number, with only 5 examples. One cover also had U. S. Army examiner tape applied, indicating that the U. S. Army opened a few letters as well as applying censor marks.

The February to March 1943 period for Algeria was an interesting transitional censorship period.

Alan Morvay

Membership Notices

NEW MEMBERS

3480 Stan Pech
1104 North Staghorn Lane
Greer, SC 29650-4066

REINSTATEMENTS

ADDRESS CHANGES

1008 Lievsay, John E.
1239 Continental Avenue
Melbourne, FL 32940-7979

2487 Rasmussen, Norval
1029 University Ave, Apt 401
Morgantown, WV 26505

DECEASED

2225 Eck, Jean-Pierre

2016 DUES NONPAYMENT

Domestic

Bentley
Blackledge
Boat
Broadhead !
Bump
Carithers
Case
Darby
Devore
Dutt
Henderson
Hodas
Leslie
Lipton
Mannescu
McElroy
Morehouse
O'Brien
Peterman
Petri
Rasmussen, E

Schultz
Segal
Steele
Stoddard
U. of Texas
Zender

Foreign

Durand
Resseguier
Tyler

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 1029 University Ave, Apt. 401, Morgantown, WV 26505.

WANTED: I would like to obtain a copy of the Dally catalog 2005-06 or thereabouts. I'd like it to cover French colonies in China, Indo-China, etc. I prefer a color copy. Carl Barna 610-421-8788. cbarna@hotmail.com.

President's Letter



Greetings from MILCOPEX, where we had our 2016 society gathering. It was a lot of fun so far (this is still Saturday morning of the show), and should be more fun today. (It turned out to be a lot of fun, looking at a developing exhibit of Mauritius maritime mail, mostly written in French.)

It's hard for me to judge my own presentation on Algerian postal history, since of course I am a big fan of the subject matter and what I say about it. Our audience seemed interested throughout and stayed awake for the whole thing. Paul Larsen then took us through the 1936-1946 history of French Equatorial Africa. I can say that I learned a lot and enjoyed both the history and the philately he showed us. Even better, his AEF exhibit was at the show, so we could see more and learn more. The rest of the group was also pleased with Paul.

Believe it or not, the two of us together talked for nearly three hours (including a break). I don't think either one of us expected to hold the floor as long as we did, but it was just too much fun to stop. You should have been there!

Paul also won our society's Grand Prix for his "Evolution of French Sudan and Niger" exhibit. It was excellent, to say the least. Early in the first frame Paul has both a French Sudan Scott No. 1 on a cover and on the next page, a pair of Scott No. 2 on cover. Those are seldom seen rarities in our specialty.

In fact, our exhibitors all did well. Paul earned a gold medal for the Sudan and Niger exhibit as well as a vermeil for "French Equatorial Africa: Issues of 1936-1946." Thomas Marra showed a gold medal exhibit of "The French Colonies Gen-

eral Issues: The Eagle Era." It's too bad that Tom only shows his material every couple of decades. The last French area exhibit was a single frame vermeil exhibit, "French Consular Postal Service in Jerusalem, 1948-1949," by long time Chicago collector and exhibitor, Al Kugel.

Another "local" member, John St. Onge, picked the restaurant for our Friday night dinner. Coquette Café served us delightful food and drink, and the conversation was also great. Turns out it is on the main floor of the same building where Rob and Ellen Henak have their law office. Rob was our host for much of the weekend in Milwaukee, having several important show responsibilities. If you are in Milwaukee and looking for a good restaurant, Coquette Café will please you.

Tom Marra gets a special thank you for bringing a selection of articles (all colorful) to give away at our society table. That provided a lot of eye appeal for us.

In addition to our society, the show committee invited Alliance Française, a Milwaukee group that promotes French culture and language. They set up a table next to ours, which greatly improved the French atmosphere at the show.

The American Topical Association was also present, promoting their national show for next June. More importantly, their "Topical Tidbits" was devoted to France, with a bingo game, fun facts and more. You should be able to see them on the ATA website (youth area). They also prepared a vocabulary game matching French words with stamp images and a "fortune teller" with French stamps on it. All of that made us feel very welcome in Milwaukee. (If you cannot find these

resources on the ATA website, please let me know and I will forward them to you.)

We always want to look forward, too. We are going to meet again at NApEX, June 9 through 11, 2017. The show is at the Hilton McLean Tyson Corners in northern Virginia. It's a great show, one of the top in the country (ranks with Westpex, Chicagopex, New York). There will be dealers and exhibits, lots of entertainment, and when you get tired of stamps (can that ever happen?) Washington, DC, is close by. I am among the worst at getting my exhibit ready, but this is the time to be in the show. Let's return to our 100+ frame participation and keep our reputation strong! Visit the website at www.napex.org/future.html. It will be here soon.

We are always looking for new candidates for officer and director. If you are interested, please email or call me to discuss. New blood is the key to any organization's longevity, so please consider becoming one of our leaders. At some point it is time for a change, and it would be better if it is gradual than all at once. We welcome new ideas and volunteers.

I also want to plug the Institute for Analytical Philately, an organization devoted to using science to answer philatelic questions. Its main purpose is to fund travel costs to visit places where the scientific equipment sits so that you can perform research on some aspect of philately. The IAP also has sponsored two symposia and is planning a third in London next October. The IAP is seeking papers to be presented at the London symposium (to be held at the Royal Philatelic Society of London). You can find examples of previous research and papers on the IAP website (analyticalphilately.org), which might prod you into your own research. Let me emphasize that you do not need to be a scientist to do this. So give it some thought – explore ink differences in multiple printings of French stamps, perhaps a way to determine if a stamp is a coil when not in a strip of 11 stamps, or paper differences that are

now catalog varieties in the first issue. The field is broad, limited by your imagination.

That's it for this quarter. I hope you enjoy the upcoming holidays and find time for our great hobby among all the wonderful time we spend with family. Please remember to pay your dues, too.

Ken Nilsestuen
President

Editorial



Norval Rasmussen

This issue is only a little behind schedule much to my amazement. It has been a hectic fall.

I am pleased to welcome Paul Holland to our cadre of authors. His article on French postal history is welcome as a French metropole piece. Ed Grabowski has a knowledgeable and important investigatory article on the Paris Commune. Marty Bratzel and Michel Collet have solved the mystery of an unusual Cameroun postmark. Peter R. A. Kelly's letter to the editor on page 120 in response to Sam Abram's query in an earlier issue of this journal really belongs in the educational area of "France and Colonies Philatelist." Don't miss it.

Response to my intention of reinstituting the "For the Record" journal feature has been positive. I've begun it with some submissions by Alan Morvay. As you can see, submissions will be easy and everyone would rather look at a cover than white space!

A plea for correspondents to submit interesting snippets from other journals publishing in the area of French philately has produced a first volunteer-non other than previous editor Stanley Luft. Thank you Stan and hopefully I can welcome some more volunteers soon. Do you receive "Feuilles Marcophiles", "Le Collectionneur Philatelist et Marcophile", or another French journal? Help.

Enjoy the coming season and I look forward to several volunteers.

Norval Rasmussen, Editor

Translation of Alan Morvay's article presented on page 114.

During the second world war, the Free French Forces in the Levant used a circular postmark "Poste aux Armées, FFL, BCM #" for military mail.

In the spring of 1944 this postmark device was transferred to Algeria for the use of the F. F. L. in North Africa.

Algeria stamps for letters leaving Algeria were cancelled with this postmark. An example is shown on the front of the attached document:

- Adhesive, triangular censorship mark and round stamp "Deputy Chief Censor"

- 2 Algerian 4F stamps obliterated by the round postmark described in the beginning of text. date illegible (5 June 1944)

On the back side:

- Round postmark departure "the Post Armies, FFL, BCM" Date: June 5, 1944

- Transit postmark "Field Post Office 143" Date: June 6, 1944

- Oval transit postmark of Haifa June 8, 1944

- oval arrival postmark in Jerusalem Date: June 8, 1944.

SHOW REPORTS

COLOPEX 2016

Columbus, Ohio June 10-11, 2016

Vermeil to **Kathryn Johnson** for “Senegal: French Colonial Africa 1914-1940 .” Also American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award of Honor and American Philatelic Society 1900-1940 Medal of Excellence .

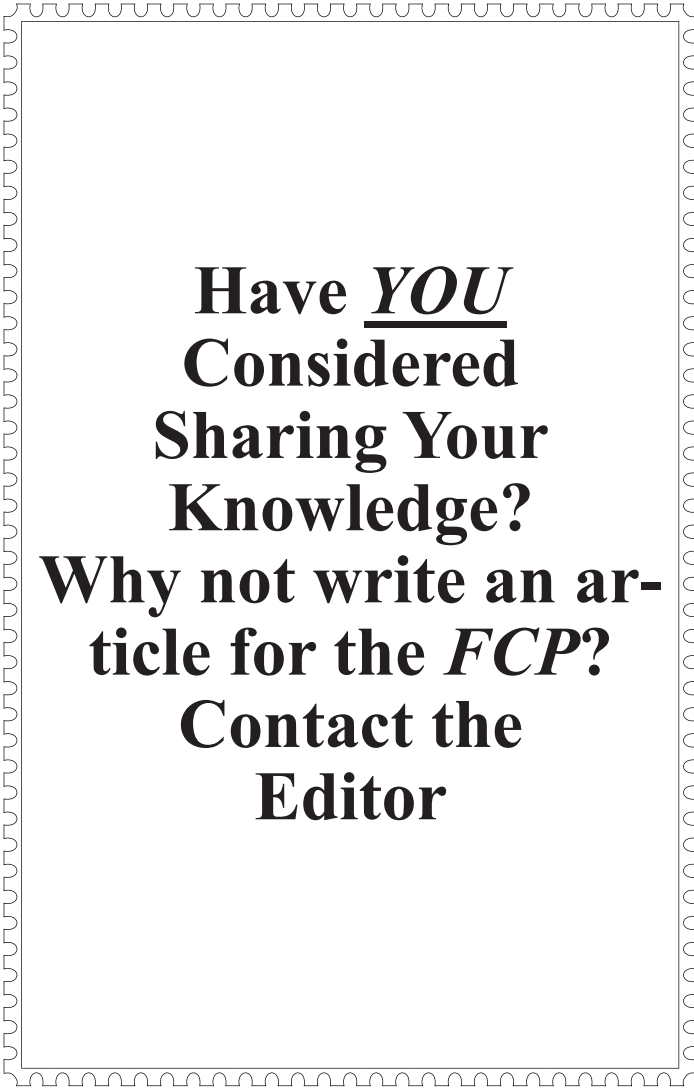
MILCOPEX 2016

Milwaukee, WI, September 16-18, 2016

Gold to **Paul Larsen** for “The Evolution of French Sudan & Niger.” Also France and Colonies Philatelic Society Grand Prix Award . Gold to **Thomas Marra** for “The French Colonies General Issues: The Eagle Era.” Gold to **Alfred F. Kugel** for “ Postal History of the American Forces in China 1900 -1941.” Also the American Philatelic Congress award. Vermeil to **Paul Larsen** for “French Equatorial Africa: Issues of 1936-1946.” Single frame vermeil to **Alfred F. Kugel** for “French Consular Postal Service in Jerusalem 1948 -1949.”

STAMPSHOW 2016

In the World Series of Philately show: **Ralph DeBoard** for “The Postal History of Tahiti through the First Pictorial Issue.” **Jean-Jaques Tillard** for “ St-Pierre et Miquelon, Ses surcharges au 19^{ème} Siècle.” Open competition gold to **Charles LaBlonde** for “ The Rise & Fall of WWII Postal Censorship.” Gold to **Stephen Tucker** for “Suez-Aden-Bombay Sea Post Office Service.” Also the Lighthouse Stamp Society Award and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum Award.



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Editor

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**Norval L. Rasmussen
1029 University Avenue, Apt. 401, Morgantown, WV 26505-5586**

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**Norval L. Rasmussen
1029 University Avenue, Apt. 401, Morgantown, WV 26505-5586**

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g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers #4 (page 83))		37	39
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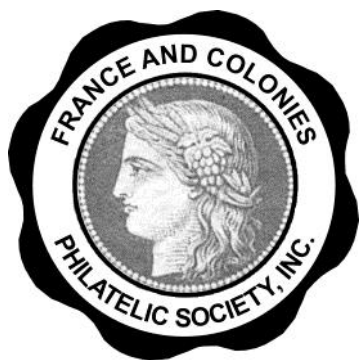
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Joe L. Bromberg, Corresponding Secretary Date: **10/1/16**

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