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Toulon, France “RF” Overprints

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Moroccan Daguin Cancels See page 67

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Daguin Machine Cancels in Maroc

Larry Gardner

I discovered the Daguin Cancel as I began to progress with my collection of French Morocco into the 1900's. I thought this might be an interesting subject for an article for our periodical. I then discovered a tremendous amount of information written in *Le Maghrebophile* entitled "*Nomenclature des Obliterations Daguin au Maroc (1925-1955)*" by **Khalid Benziane**, with the collaboration of Thierry Sanchez. I wish to thank them for opening a new fun aspect of Moroccan philately for me. Those of you collecting France & Colonies possibly know of the many studies that have been done with the Daguin cancellation machines. I will use the above authors article as an outline for creating this article for our France & Colonies periodical. Wikipedia also indicates many authors who studied and wrote articles regarding Daguin machines and their use throughout the world.

The Daguin machine was one of the first cancelling machines used by the French postal administration. Created by Eugene Daguin, it was first used in Paris in 1884 and had the capacity to cancel 3000 letters per hour.

The first Daguin Moroccan usage was used 1916/1918 and was stamped independent of a combination cancel but accompanied by the random date stamp "*Tresor et Postes aux Armees de Casablanca*".

This Moroccan (precursor) Daguin cancel reads *Aviation Militaire Service Postal du Parc Maroc*. It existed as one of the three types of Daguin and is referred to as the Independent type (without an adjoining date stamp). Figs.1 & 1a

The picture side of the postcard is canceled *Tresor et Postes N°2 Casablanca 24-12-18*. The postcard indicates military air flight prior to the earliest

known Morocco Latecore flight of March 12, 1919 but I have not been able to prove this even though the etiquette has been applied. The very first etiquette was issued by France on August 17, 1918, a simple boxed "**Par Avion**" on red paper. It is on a postcard carried on the first experimental flight by A. Vancaudenberghe from Paris to St. Nazaire.¹ This allows for the existence of the same etiquette (as shown) but not the verification of this being a flight.



Figure 1 (above) and Figure 1a (right)

More efficient machines were introduced worldwide in the 1900's but the Daguin made a comeback from the competition in the 1920's and was introduced in Morocco in 1925 in a few major Post Offices. The Tangier bureau of the Cherifien Post and Rabat were the first to introduce its usage. It was followed by the various other bureaus such as Casablanca, Fez, and bureaus of size that would

accommodate the upgraded efficiency of the machine in larger volume locations.

This new date stamp contained a commercial message inscribed in a round cornered quadrilateral. The messages were intended to promote touristic towns or postal services.

The new cancels for use in Morocco had text either to the right (*Texte à droite*) or to the left (*Texte à gauche*). The cancels for date applications were opposite. The angle of the degree of the date stamp was solely dependent on the whim of the postal clerks placing of the date stamp on the carrier. A third style isolated the message within the border and was independent of the date stamp as was shown in Fig. 1.



Figure 2.

Figure 2 shows the cancel developed to promote the Fair and Art Exhibition organized by the Department of Fine Arts and Monuments at the historic general residence of the French Republic in Morocco. The cancel as shown is with the promotion of the fair to the left (*Texte à gauche*) depicting the dates as the 1st through the 15th of April 1928. The date cancel appears to the right and is dated the 9th of February 1928. The cover itself is rated 2F50 the 1928 airmail rate to London.

Other cities such as Fez and Casablanca supported these fairs in their cities over a period of years, with the post office cancels promoting them. Fez had fairs in 1926 and from 1936-1940 as well as 1942. Fig. 3 depicts a Casablanca cancel May 1,

1926 promoting the fair in Fez that month, and the text applied as an independent cancel.

An interesting aspect to the airmail rate which is correct paying 1f40. The domestic basic rate from July 25, 1925 to May 10, 1926 was 40 c. This was 10 c. more than the basic surface rate and was applicable during this one year only.²



Figure 3.



Figure 4.

Fig. 4 shows the promotion of Tanger as a tourist location. The cancel reads *Tanger Son Site Son Climat* translated Tanger Its Place Its Climate. This was one of two cancels introduced in 1925

and continued in use until 1949. As noted on the bottom left, the cover was mailed at the printed matter rate to Paris.



Figure 5.

In Figure 5 tourism was promoted by creating the following slogan or phrase as part of the cancel inviting tourists to *VENEZ VISITER FEZ LA MYSTERIEUSE* (Come visit the mysterious Fez). The cancel as shown also shows how Fez was divided culturally by depicting Fez-Medina which indicated the Post Office located in the main part of the city versus Fez-Mellah the Post Office in the Jewish quarters. The X's indicate that the par avion (by air) would not apply as 1F50 underpaid by 1F the airmail rate thus creating delivery by surface mail. The X's are commonly referred to as *Jusqu'a* marks and were used to annul a portion or the total air mileage if the rate had been underpaid.

Airmail in the French Colonies at this time was a two step process. The basic rate covered the cost of surface transportation and a surtax covered the additional cost for air. The other aspect dealing with airmail was defining domestic versus foreign usage. Because the above airmail did not fly directly to London the breakdown of the rate was 2F Morocco to Paris and 50 c. Paris to London.



Figure 6.

The above cancel is related to a service rendered by the post office. "*Achetez les Timbres de Bienfaisance du Maroc*" (Buy charity stamps of Morocco). It was posted in Oujda May 17, 1928 paying the 50 c. basic domestic surface rate to France for 0-20 grams. You will notice the spelling in the cancel Oudjda. The office opened in 1907 with that spelling and changed its spelling in the mid 30's to Oujda as we know it today.



Figure 7.

From 1932 to 1940, the Daguin cancel in the office known as "*Casablanca Postes*" promoted the purchase of Anti Tuberculosis stamps as shown on the cover in Fig. 7. The French text reads *Achetez*



Figure 11.

Another special independent strike is illustrated in figure 11, “Journée Nationale Mar Foch” (The Day of Marshal Foch.) It was promoted by the issuance of the stamp by the Society of Military Medals and was in use only between May 25 and 30, 1930.



Figure 12.

As noted earlier in the article, the postal clerk was responsible for the angle or position of the cancel on the carrier and the cancel in figure 12 shows the turn of the date stamp which is out of alignment with the customary form of cancel. The 1936 Marrakech-Medina Daguin reads “Venez Hiverner A Marrakech” (Come Winter in Marrakech).

New Daguins are found from time to time and the author has been fortunate to discover an heretofore unknown Meknes-Ville-Nouvelle cancel reading “Faites Vos Paiements Par Cheque Postal” (Make Your Payments by Postal Check). (Fig. 13)



Figure 13.

As a plus to this find, I would like to point out some of the other irregularities of the canceling machine. The inking of the date stamps is affected by means of an inking roller mounted on a movable arm which is itself fixed on an axis behind the stamp holder and held in position by a flat spring and a cylindrical roller. Normally, when this roller is not subject to excessive wear, the inking roller only comes into contact with the date stamps. As the roller is worn, the movable arm can shift towards the front, and the inking roller



Figure 13a.

comes into contact with the pressure piston. This has the effect of leaving a discreet half-moon trace on the object to be obliterated, located at a little less than 35 millimeters from the axis of the date stamps.³



Figure 14.



Figure 16.



Figure 14a.

We can find another parasitic trace, this one more subtle, on the twinned imprints Daguin. This is the trace of the blocking screw of the elements of the date block, located in the south axis of the date stamp, about 5 millimeters from the circle of the crown.⁴



Figure 15 Parasitic trace below top 2 stamps

The last Daguin to be shown is from Kenitra 1930 two years before the name change to Port Lyautey which existed 1932-1956 and reverted back to Kenitra as it is known today. The Daguin reads "Kenitra Le Grand Port Du Nord Marocain" (Kenitra the grand port of North Morocco). This was meant to promote Kenitra as a grand shipping and receiving port.

Several interesting aspects regarding the cover pertain to the sending of the letter to America where the Directory Division handstamp was applied to determine the correct address of the recipient as it was addressed to Johnstown America. The Division fulfilled its duty and applied New York to complete the address.

Two other cachets appear on the envelope which determined that the person sending was part of the occupation forces in Morocco. Occupation forces assigned on station received a special rate for mail to the French community. However, this letter is addressed to America and was thus charged the Basic foreign rate 1f50 the surface letter rate established in 1926.

Protocol established the handwritten F.M (Franchise Militaire) which would have established the basis for the lesser military charge but the destination again was America.

The cachet T.O.M. meant *Troupes d'Occupation du Maroc* and was applied by the Vaguemestres office and stamped in the bottom left hand corner with his seal for validation. The Vaguemestre was generally a non commissioned officer who acted as regimental postmaster and postman.

This article was not the complete story but I would hope it gives you a broad overview of this interesting aspect of collecting these postmarks with the postal history involved.

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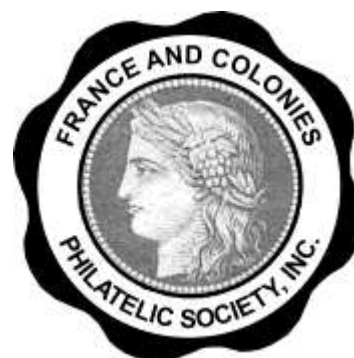
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Toulon France & Its RF Overprints During WWII

Lewis Bussey

Located on the southern coast of Mediterranean France, the area where the city of Toulon sits has a long history of habitation. Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans all found this natural anchorage attractive. Nearly destroyed multiple times, it wasn't until 1514 that France's King Louis XII ordered the military start of the "Arsenal de Toulon". Expanded several times, Louis XIV's military engineer Sebastian Vauban fortified the town and made Toulon France's great southern naval fortress, Figure 1.



Figure 1 – Red Cross Booklet Cover - Toulon, Circa 1700

In the 1800's Baron Haussmann beautified the city (prior to Paris), and Toulon claimed the second largest opera house in France. Shipyards added to the capability of maintaining the harbor activities well into the 20th century.



Figure 2 – "Le port de Toulon, le matin", (c.1908)
François Nardi (1861-1936)

World War II and Operation Torch

By 1940, Toulon was home to the largest naval fleet in the Mediterranean. Following the German invasion of France, an armistice was signed with Germany in May 1941, preserving this fleet that the Vichy government continued to use defending French interests.

On November 8, 1942, the Allies mounted Operation Torch and successfully invaded Vichy French North Africa at Casablanca, Oran and Alger. In retaliation, German troops proceeded to completely occupy France's formerly "Free Zone" in the south. Germany's "Operation Anton" was designed to secure the French ships in Toulon. On November 27th, unable to escape from Toulon, and rather than face capture, the fourth largest navy in the world scuttled probably the best half of its fleet.

A verbal exchange between French Vice Admiral Lacroix and a German officer is illustrative. Lacroix's flagship Cruiser *Algérie* was already sinking and guns destroyed. When the arriving German asked if it was going to blow up, the admiral replied at the pier "No". The German stated that he would then come aboard. Lacroix then replied, "in that case it will blow up". Fuses were lit in the magazine and the *Algérie* burned for the next two days.

While a few submarines escaped to North Africa, 77 vessels were destroyed including three battle-ships, seven cruisers, and fifteen destroyers on down to patrol boats and tugs. In Toulon, German and Italian forces requisitioned any ships left floating, and worked to raise a few others lightly damaged. Italy's fight ended on September 8, 1943

(with the Italian fleet surrendering the next day) leaving any further work to the Germans.

It didn't help that the Allies bombed Toulon's port facilities and remaining ships in November 1943, January and August 1944, Figure 3. As a result, 45% of the city was destroyed in some fashion.



Figure 3 – Cruiser Dunkurque 1944 Bomb Damage

French Naval Mail and the United States

Following Operation Torch in 1942, French warship remnants, scattered around the world, mobilized to join the Allied cause. The larger and more modern ships were sent to American ports for repairs and weapons upgrade during 1943. As French stamps were not available, mail from those ships mostly bears U.S. postage whose use continued following repairs as the ships returned to action in and around the Mediterranean.

United States stamps and stationery were formally made available to the French Naval forces by a directive of the U.S. Fleet Post Office dated March 13, 1944, for correspondence to the U.S. and Canada. Airmail from American forces was to receive priority while French mail required identification for additional censoring. This latter objective was met by specifying that the letters **“RF” (Republic Française) be placed on U.S. postage.**

Fourteen different RF handstamp types, all applied individually, have been identified. The French Navy for the most part posted, collected, handstamped, censored and bundled mail for onward delivery by the U.S. Navy.

Naval Operation “Anvil” - August 15, 1944

By July 20, 1944, preparations were well underway for a Provence invasion fleet (a portion of the overall Operation “Dragoon”). On August 11th French cruisers left Taranto, Italy and sortied with other US ships. The invasion of southern France began August 15th near St. Tropez. Naval bombardment by French Cruisers *Georges Leygues* and *Montcalm*, Light Cruisers *Le Fantasque*, *Le Terrible*, *Le Malin*, along with U.S. Battleships *Arkansas* and *Texas* blasted targets for two days until land forces moved inland beyond their range.

Toulon Liberated

The last naval shot was fired on August 26th after French fusiliers marins attacked Toulon by land. Retreating German forces dynamited various buildings and facilities in a last bit of destruction. The Vieux Port frontage had been reduced to rubble. French ship remains still littered the harbor. Oil polluted the harbor so badly that for over two years it had not been possible to swim. Marseille fared little better, having no dry dock or major facilities for warship repair.

“Although intensive minesweeping and salvage operations were necessary before Marseille and Toulon could be used, unloading of supplies in the larger port began as early as September 3rd and in Toulon on the 4th ...”¹

Even while the port of Toulon was being cleared of mines and obstructions, inland fighting continued sporadically, as *Montcalm* shelled German positions on Italy's coast.

On September 13th, *Georges Leygues*, as flagship of Rear Admiral Lemonnier, led a victory procession into Toulon harbor joined by *Montcalm* and many other French ships of the fleet. Their ‘battle pennants’, lengthened for each day of absence, flew from the ship's topmasts, Figure 4.



Figure 4 – Cruiser Emile Bertin with Pennant

Use from Toulon

By fall 1944, large quantities of French mail were being processed throughout the Mediterranean. A couple of envelopes from *Georges Leygues*, posted at Toulon in mid-September, have an Alger RF. Destroyer Escort *Hova* would call Toulon home from September 19th to the 24th, but her mail **appears with Oran's RF during that period. Battleship *Richelieu*, on route to Casablanca, Morocco from the Indian Ocean, had a propaganda stopover in Toulon (October 1-9), but no Toulon posted mail is evident.**

French Naval Cancels

The French navy, for the most part, used two types of Poste Navale date cancels. One was hexagonal for use on very large ships with embarked post offices, the second was a generic round used on shore bases. Different round cancels can be tied to a specific base use because they came in **three 'flavors'.** While the cancel center had a "star" and "day-month / year" underneath, the words "Poste Navale" were rearranged around the perimeter.

Divided into three cancel groups, 'Type I' had the words in a half arc (used in Casablanca and other locations), 'Type II' had the words in a $\frac{3}{4}$ arc (used in Algiers), and 'Type III' had the words in a full arc (used in Marseille and Toulon).

This full arc, Type III cancel, isn't recorded on RF covers until October 17, 1944. First used in Mar-

seille, its subtype can be identified because the star has a vertical bar. The use of a second subtype is recorded in Toulon by November 9, 1944, with the star rotated to a horizontal bar, Figures 5, 6.



Figure 5-Marseille cancel



Figure 6-Toulon cancel

The earliest U.S. directed Toulon postmark I've recorded is from Cruiser *Gloire*, dated September 29, 1944. Soon afterwards, Toulon postmarks start appearing on mail from Light Cruiser *Le Terrible* and Destroyer Escorts *Tunisien*, *Marocain*, and *Algérien*. These destroyer escorts, along with *Hova*, *Sénégalais*, and *Somali* crewed 185 and displaced 1240 tons. U.S. built, all six of these small ships were allocated to the French Navy in 1943 while under construction, and handed over to French crews in America upon completion in early 1944.

Toulon's RF Overprint

Toulon's RF is different than other U.S. postage stamped RF overprints, and from any of the other French "liberation" RF types used on French postage. Toulon's rubber stamp overprint, apparently created well after port liberation and start-up operations, has large, san-serif letters separated by a single period, Figure 7.



Figure 7– Toulon RF

The Toulon RF, documented on 102 covers, is seen used on mail from sixteen different ships starting from November 9, 1944 (Cruiser *Georges Leygues*)

through August 1945. Ship diversity for Toulon RF use includes cruisers, destroyer escorts, a submarine, other escorts, an auxiliary patrol vessel and a submarine chaser. There are also uses from Toulon port facilities. Many of these will be illustrated in this article.

Within the recorded Toulon RF examples, there were nearly four-dozen different sailors writing to nearly the same number of different addressees. **No individual sailor's mail amounts to more than seven covers.** Address locations range from the usual areas of New York City, Baltimore and Philadelphia to Missouri and Michigan.

Along with *Georges Leygues*, Cruiser *Montcalm* was based briefly in Toulon as flagship of the Flank Force.

While there, both ship's logs record other ships arriving and departing from the harbor. *Montcalm* mail shows its initial Toulon RF application on November 11, 1944, Figure 8.



Figure 8—Earliest Cruiser *Montcalm*'s Toulon RF Use

It may be significant that the Toulon overprint didn't appear until the volume of these two cruiser's letters increased while in port.

Stamps

The distribution of adequate postal supplies had previously been a problem. One main U.S. Navy postal depot was established at Bayonne NJ in order to supply material to various navy supply depots around the eastern theatre. It is assumed

that large French ships purchased their supplies in quantity from these Navy supply depots, as there was no single ship distribution system. Smaller French ships could purchase quantities of stamps or envelopes direct from the large ships.

While there are a couple of U.S. airmail stamped envelopes with a Toulon return address that bear other RF overprints, it is interesting that there are absolutely no U.S. stamped envelopes with the Toulon RF overprint. It is difficult to believe that a supply of stamped envelopes never reached Toulon, because of all ships having Toulon overprints, 60% of them also used stamped envelopes elsewhere in the Mediterranean as they sailed. Perhaps the supply chain for these had broken.

Cancellation Protocol

Most French naval mail was cancelled twice by the same device, i.e. one strike clear of the stamp, and a second cancelling the stamp itself. Clearly while not the case at other shore bases, in Toulon it may have been that the RF itself was seen as **cancelling the stamp** ("La surcharge RF apposée sur les timbres ... à pour but de les oblitérer")². Thus it is not uncommon to find only one Toulon cancel, and overprinted stamps not cancelled, Figure 9.



Figure 9—Typical Cancel Placement to One Side

That didn't mean envelopes and stamps didn't receive other markings as they went onward through the mail channels. Some stamps are seen with French anchor cachets (unique per ship) or censor marks. RF covers showed up occasionally with U.S. Navy cancels, especially between early September and mid-November 1944. Another early-recorded Toulon RF usage, again dated Novem-

ber 11, 1944, was cancelled by the U.S. Navy a week later, Figure 10.



Figure 10 – U.S. Navy Cancel

Several Battleship *Richelieu* covers show the same U.S. Navy cancel technique. The U.S. dates are usually one to three weeks later than the French. With such a time difference between the CAD dates, it is possible that after posting these covers were shipped to the U.S. rather than flown.

Although not determined, there may also be a relationship between the end of U.S. Navy CADs by **November 17th on the heels of Toulon's RF** coming into existence. Alternately, a portion of the (potentially overloaded) fleet post office in Casablanca may have been transferred to Toulon at that time.

Censoring

Almost all Toulon RF covers were censored in Casablanca, Morocco (1944 thru February 1945) then in Meknes, Morocco (starting March 1945) **when the censor's office was moved inland. The reverse sides usually bear the reader's personal mark. Oddly enough, there don't appear to be any RF covers censored in Toulon itself.** One reason may be the ships entering and being stationed in the city already had their postal lines of delivery thru Morocco well established.

Rotation of Ships, Cruiser Postings

Along with *Montcalm*, other large warships continued to be rotated through Toulon. Uses from the modern warships are ubiquitous from November 9th through the end of March 1945 as they

overlapped each other. This cover is from Cruiser *Emile Bertin*, posted on-board, December 2, 1944, censored at Casablanca, Figure 11.



Figure 11 – Cruiser Emile Bertin, December 2, 1944

I note that Cruiser *Montcalm* posted its last letter from Toulon in late January 1945. *Georges Leygues* covered the port through the end of March. The earliest postings from Cruiser *Gloire* occurred in early March. All of *Gloire's* covers from Toulon are censored in Meknes, Figure 12.



Figure 12 – Cruiser Gloire, March 25, 1945

As Toulon became secure from further military attacks, modern cruisers were traded out for older ships. Two covers are recorded from older 1926 cruisers that had been blockaded in Alexandria, Egypt until May 1943. The first is one of two recorded RF covers from Cruiser *Duguay Trouin* (578 crew, 7250 tons). This cover, dated in Toulon on April 25, 1945 was censored at Meknes, Figure 13.



Figure 13 – Cruiser Duguay Trouin, April 25, 1945

The other is from Cruiser *Tourville* (605 crew, 10,000 tons). Evidence of her rotation through Toulon is dated May 14, 1945. The cover bears a Paris censor that appears on some late naval mail, Figure 14.



Figure 14 – Cruiser Tourville, May 14, 1945

Coastal Escort Postings

Starting early in 1944, 32 U.S. built steel-hulled submarine chasers (63 crew, 325 tons) were allocated to the French Navy. A cover from Coastal Escort *Javelot*, posted in Toulon on December 5, 1944 and censored in Casablanca, is also the earliest small ship posting, Figure 15.

Another was mailed from Coastal Escort *Dague* on May 13, 1945, censored in Meknes and later at New York City, Figure 16.



Figure 15 – Coastal Escort Javelot

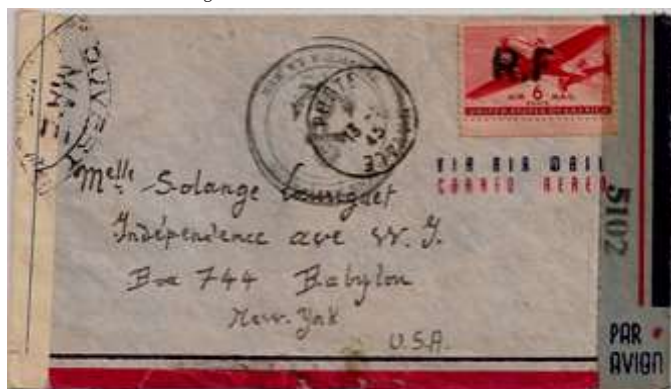


Figure 16 – Coastal Escort Dague

U.S. Submarine Chasers Added to French Fleet

While operating in Europe, fifty U.S. built wood-hulled Navy sub chasers (25 crew, 110 tons) were transferred to the French Navy during late 1944. The former U.S. SC522 ship, based in Marseille was re-designated *Chasseur 111*, and relocated to Toulon two months later. One cover, now provided with its own singular anchor cachet, was posted December 12, 1944, and censored at Casablanca, Figure 17.



Figure 17 – Chasseur 111

Doubled Weight Usages

Occasionally an envelope was too heavy for just one 6¢ stamp, and only a handful of overweight uses are recorded. Of these, the earlier of just two recorded double weight usages for the Toulon RF was posted April 17, 1945 from Auxiliary Patrol Vessel *La Toulonnaise*. U.S. airmail postage at 12 cents / 1 ounce (28 gram) is cancelled with the ship's anchor cachet and censored at Meknes, Figure 18.



Figure 18 – Double Rate Cover,
Auxiliary Patrol Vessel *La Toulonnaise*

Exceptional Uses

The apparent lack of stamped stationery and a perceived difficulty in acquiring airmail stamps may account for some exceptional uses. With only 6¢ airmail stamps and envelopes available from fleet stores, different postage was perhaps sent to the writer rather than purchased from stocks.

This unique cover was posted December 21, 1944 from Cruiser *Montcalm* in Toulon. The cover bears three U.S. 2¢ United Nations issues to make up the 6¢ rate, but is struck with only a single Toulon RF, Figure 19. It was cancelled and censored in Casablanca.

Another unique cover was posted March 31, 1945 from Destroyer Escort *Hova*, censored at Meknes. It bears a single 15¢ Transport stamp (which theoretically overpays a double weight rate), Figure 20.



Figure 19 – United Nations Issue



Figure 20 – 15¢ Transport Issue

Booklet Pane Stamps

Booklet stamps were not available to French sailors in any quantity. Auxiliary Patrol Vessel *La Toulonnaise* illustrates the earliest of five recorded Toulon RF covers that bear a single booklet pane stamp. It was posted Toulon April 29, 1945 and censored in Meknes and on arrival in New York City, Figure 21.



Figure 21 – Booklet Pane Single,
Auxiliary Patrol Vessel *La Toulonnaise*

Because two of the five covers were posted from Cruiser *Gloire*, it may be that these booklet stamps were first sent to a sailor on-board the cruiser and then found their way to a friend on this small ship.

Doubled RF Strikes

Only two covers are known with doubled Toulon RF strikes, both from *Georges Leygues*, posted on-board November 12 and December 14, 1944, Figure 22.



Figure 22 – Doubled Toulon RF, Cruiser *Georges Leygues*

Here we have a cover posted Toulon April 11, 1945, from Submarine *Le Centaure*. The mail from *Le Centaure* remains significant, as she was only one of four ships that escaped from Toulon when the Germans arrived in 1942. This is the **earliest of five covers with Toulon's RF from this ship**, Figure 23.



Figure 23 – Partial Double Toulon RF, Submarine *Le Centaure*

Worth noting is that the RF was stamped twice, probably because the first time (vertical) was less than complete. There is another partial double strike cover posted May 18, 1945 from *La Toulonnaise*. Both covers were also cancelled in Casablanca and censored at Meknes, Morocco (MA-E) and again in Washington DC.

Shore Facilities at Toulon

Besides being the anchorage for the Mediterranean fleet, Toulon had a multitude of base facilities. A number of sailors, previously on-board naval ships, were assigned to these facilities. Auto services (probably an auto pool), were located in the La Rosarie area of Toulon. This particular cover, one of the few Toulon posted stamped envelopes, was posted in Toulon February 12, 1945, and then received a Casablanca RF (1945 type) and censor, Figures 24, 25.



Figure 24 – “Centre Auto – IIIeme Region Maritime”



Figure 25 – Cachet Detail & Sketch

A second, post-war cover, posted July 21, 1945 was sent from the “Depot du Equipage” (naval base crew depot) from a sailor formerly on-board *Georges Leygues*. The envelope bears a second postmark (July 28, 1945) and RF overprint both

from Casablanca, and censored in Meknes (Casablanca continued to use this particular RF overprint until October 1, 1945), Figure 26.



Figure 26 - "Depot du Equipage"

Rather than with a shipboard anchor cachet, a third Toulon cover cancels the stamp with the cachet of the "5th Depot Vaguemestre" (ship's postman), Figure 27.



Figure 27 - Cachet Detail, "5th Depot Vaguemestre"

Posted August 4, 1945, the application of the RF was by no means precise, as this cover received one overprint off-center (perhaps as a test?), and the second finally on the stamp, Figure 28.

This early August cover is arguably the latest recorded legitimate Toulon RF posted in Toulon.

Toulon RF Handstamp in Combination

In January 1945, evidence indicates Battleship *Richelieu* used and then carried off the original



Figure 28 - "5eme Depot Vaguemestre"

Casablanca RF handstamp for its own use. As a result, not many later uses of this type were recorded from other ships. We also know that *Richelieu* again visited Toulon in late February 1945 prior to returning to the Indian Ocean.

There are two recorded covers with RF overprints bearing both Toulon and *Richelieu's* 'Casablanca' RF. One of these is posted June 15, 1945 from *Marocain*. This unusually late use of the former Casablanca RF cannot be easily explained. Were there "pre-RF" stamps left in Toulon, or was this Casablanca type re-made? The cover was censored at Meknes and later at Washington DC, Figure 29.



Figure 29 - Toulon plus Casablanca/Richelieu RFs, Destroyer Escort *Marocain*

Military Mission Received, New York City

Toulon uses also include the only recorded RF covers from Cruiser *Jeanne d'Arc*. As a training cruiser of 6500 tons, the ship could accommodate 505 crew + 200 cadets. Posted July 28, 1945, and censored in Meknes, the following envelope was sent to a cadet in the "Groupe d'Instruction", and received at the French Military Mission in New York City for onward delivery, Figure 30.



Figure 30 – Cruiser *Jeanne d'Arc*

In late summer 1945, the French NYC mission utilized a U.S. Navy "4-bar" variety CAD as a receiving mark on such incoming mail. Struck in red, it had a French inscription but 'Americanized' (i.e. month first) date, Figure 31.



Figure 31 – NYC Mission Dater

Late Uses

As the war wound down, Marseille became the major entry port for supplies destined for France, while Toulon returned to its previous military position.

This cover posted May 24, 1945, by a French sailor formerly on Submarine *Le Centaure*, illustrates another transition. Using U.S. postage but with-

out any RF overprint (and censoring apparently deemed unnecessary) a "Toulon Gare / VAR" postmark was utilized instead of ubiquitous Poste Navale. Perhaps this was directly connected with the "Gare de Toulon / Le Commissaire Militaire" in Toulon, that added its official cachet, Figure 32.



Figure 32 – Toulon Gare Cancel

A couple of destroyer escort based postings are recorded with the Toulon RF, both addressed to Miss Lynch in Baltimore MD. Covers include *Marocain* on April 17, 1945 and *Somali* on July 16, 1945. Both were censored at Meknes, with additional U.S. censors, Figures 33, 34.



Figure 33 – Destroyer Escort *Marocain*

Marseille Postmarks

Even with RF use discontinued (officially announced for October 1, 1945), French naval mail continued being carried using U.S. Navy's airmail systems. Apparently Toulon didn't get the memo, and how it came to happen is unknown. Late use



Figure 34 – Destroyer Escort Somali

oddities such as these don't appear to be "favor" items, however both were postmarked in Marseille, and well beyond the official stop date. Neither is censored. The first, from Destroyer Escort *Hova* is posted December 4, 1945, Figure 35.



Figure 35 - Destroyer Escort Hova

The second, from an unknown ship but to a known addressee, is posted January 22, 1946 (!), Figure 36.



Figure 36 – Extremely Late Use of Toulon RF

Do these covers indicate a removal of the Toulon RF handstamp to Marseille? Or are they uses hoping for faster U.S. Navy airmail delivery (versus use of French posts)? Either way these covers

bring a close to U.S. directed mail from Toulon as a port and base of operations for the "Marine Nationale" as French posts were re-established.

Fake or Real Toulon RF?

On any cover, the combinations of RF, cancel, French censor tape and censor mark (usually paired, and can be dated progressively), anchor cachet and "marque de lecteur" (reader's mark), are difficult to duplicate. Then we add the ability of ships' logs to corroborate the mailing location.

Correctly providing all the above requirements means counterfeit covers would be extraordinarily **difficult to produce**. I've found only a handful and they are very poor attempts, usually missing several key elements.

Mint stamps appeared near the end or shortly after the war with many types of RF letters on them. Almost 100% of these are on mint postage, usually with full gum, and occasionally bearing seller's handstamps on the reverse.

Since postage was affixed to the envelope first, then RF hand stamped, mint RFs cannot be considered genuine. This forgery of the Toulon RF is noted for the off-centered "period" between letters, as well as being "soft" strikes, Figure 37.



Figure 37 - Forged Toulon RF on Mint Postage.

As for any mythical Toulon RF on a stamped envelope, none are recorded. The French Maury Catalog needlessly lists a mint one priced at 875 euros. Unfortunately most French auctions continue to lot up spurious RF material and refer to Maury prices for starting bids.

Toulon Post-War and Today

After the war, there was an obvious need to clean up, not only the naval facilities but also the commercial harbor and city as a whole. A label was created by the French Red Cross to assist in this endeavor, Figure 38.



Figure 38 – 1945 Toulon Relief Local Label

I again visited Toulon in May 2016 as a member, and in conjunction with the annual convention, of “La Marcophilie Navale”, a France based philatelic group dedicated to French naval posts.



Figure 39 – Toulon and Military Harbor, 2008

We boat toured the Toulon military harbor (“rade”) where several ships, including the Porte Avions (aircraft carrier) *Charles de Gaulle* undergoing repairs, were anchored, Figure 40.

Toulon continues to be a spectacular Mediterranean setting, surrounded by mountains, containing a now re-built and vibrant city, a harbor lined with seafood restaurants (great mussels), and on the weekend a huge multi-block long market. It is



Figure 40 – Rade de Toulon, May 2016, Porte Avions Charles de Gaulle (at left)

worth a visit, not only for these attractions, but also to understand where a segment of WWII postal history occurred.

End Notes

1. Morrison, Samuel: “History of US Naval Operations in WWII, Vol XI, The Invasion of France & Germany, 1944-45”, 360 pgs.
2. Letter written to George Mary, from Marcel Bucaille, postal agent on-board Montcalm, May 19, 1945.

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- Auphan, P. & Mordal, J.: “French Navy in WWII.” U.S. Navy Institute, (1959).
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- Bussey, L.: “Marseille and the Boxed RF.” *France & Colonies Philatelist* 54.2 (Apr 1998).
- Bussey, L.: “RF Type A8 & A12: The WWII French Fleet at Normandy & Provence.” *Military PHS Bulletin* 44.2 (2005).

New Issues

France

- ◇ 27 Mar 2017: Maurice Faure, resistance combatant. **€0.85.**
- ◇ 1 Apr 2017: Michelangelo Durazzo photographs, "Masks." Booklet of 12 different forever designs valid for the green letter rate in France. **€8.76.**
- ◇ 3 Apr 2017: Ironmonger commemorative. **€0.73.**
- ◇ 10 Apr 2017: France and Canada community. Sheetlet of 2 different designs, **€0.85 and 1.30. €2.15.**
- ◇ 18 Apr 2017: Chemin Des Dames offensive commemorative. Sheetlet of 2 different **€1.10 designs. €2.20.**
- ◇ 24 Apr 2017: Jean-Baptiste Charcot, polar explorer. **€1.30.**
- ◇ 28 Apr 2017: Lepine competition commemorative. **€1.30.**
- ◇ 29 Apr 2017: Flower designs in different crafts. Booklet of 12 forever designs valid for the green letter rate in France. **€8.76.**
- ◇ 2 May 2017: 90th congress of the FFAP at Cholet. **€0.73.**
- ◇ 5 May 2017: Red Cross. Booklet of 8 forever designs valid for the green letter rate in France. **€7.84.**
- ◇ 6 May 2017: Paris-Saint-Germain soccer team 1982-1995. Sheetlet of 4 different forever designs valid for the priority letter rate in France. **€7.90.**
- ◇ 6 May 2017: Paris-Saint-Germain soccer team 1998-2006. Sheetlet of 4 different forever designs valid for the priority letter rate in France. **€7.90.**
- ◇ 6 May 2017: Paris-Saint-Germain soccer team 2010-2016. Sheetlet of 4 different forever designs valid for the priority letter rate in France. **€7.90.**
- ◇ 15 May 2017: Europa stamp. Loire valley castles. **€1.10.**
- ◇ 15 May 2017: Commemorating the candidature of Paris for the 2014 Olympics. **€0.73.**
- ◇ 22 May 2017: Abbey of Saint-Benoit-Sur-Loire - Loiret. **€0.73.**
- ◇ 22 May 2017: 100th anniversary of the French soccer cup. **€0.73.**
- ◇ 22 May 2017: Ladybug stamp. **€0.73.**
- ◇ 22 May 2017: Insects. Sheetlet of 4 different **€0.73 designs. €2.92.**
- ◇ 26 May 2017: 50th anniversary of the National Sea Lifesaving Society. **€0.85.**
- ◇ 29 May 2017: Lions International. **€0.85.**
- ◇ 1 Jun 2017: Winter gardens. Sheetlet of 6 different forever designs valid for the green letter rate in France. **€6.60.**
- ◇ 1 Jun 2017: Summer gardens. Sheetlet of 4 different forever designs valid for the international

priority letter rate. **€6.70.**

- ◇ 1 Jun 2017: Summer gardens. Sheetlet of 6 different forever designs valid for the green letter rate in France. **€6.60.**
- ◇ 1 Jun 2017: Winter gardens. Sheetlet of 4 different forever designs valid for the international priority letter rate. **€6.70.**
- ◇ 2 Jun 2017: Astronaut Thomas Pesquet. Sheetlet of 4 different forever designs valid for the green letter rate in France. **€4.60.**
- ◇ 3 Jun 2017: The fun fair. Booklet of 12 forever designs valid for the green letter rate in France. **€8.76.**
- ◇ 6 Jun 2017: 200th anniversary of the invention of artificial cement by Louis Vicat. **€1.30.**
- ◇ 6 Jun 2017: Jeann Bardey, sculptor. **€1.70.**
- ◇ 10 Jun 2017: Cats. Two sheetlets of 6 different forever designs each. Valid for the priority letter rate in France. **€13.00.**
- ◇ 15 Jun 2017: village of Rochefort-en-Terre. **€0.73.**
- ◇ 26 Jun 2017: L'hippodrome de Rambouillet. **€0.73.**
- ◇ 26 Jun 2017: 100th anniversary of the United States entering WW I. **€1.30.**
- ◇ 26 Jun 2017: 250th Anniversary of the birth of Joachim Murat. **€0.85.**
- ◇ 27 Jun 2017: Macario Vitalis, Philippine artist commemorative. Jointly issued with the Philippines. **€0.85.**
- ◇ 27 Jun 2017: Jacques Villon, French artist commemorative. Jointly issued with the Philippines. **€1.30.**



Andorra

- ◇ 8 Apr 2017: La Massana Comic 2017 commemorative. **€1.70.**
- ◇ 6 May 2017: Castell Saint Vicenç Enclar commemorative. **€1.10.**
- ◇ 27 May 2017: Els Castellars commemorative. **€0.85.**
- ◇ 22 Jun 2017: Maria Assumpta Areny-Plandolit commemorative. **€1.10.**



TAAF

- ◇ 12 May 2017: Ship Marion Dufresne. Nondenominated stamp valid for the international 20g letter. **€1.24.**



French Polynesia

- ◇ 5 May 2017: Seafloor series. Four stamps depicting different seafloor views. 100F, 80F, 20F, 10F. **€1.76. Also available in a sheetlet with one of each stamp. €1.76.**
- ◇ 23 Jun 2017: Senteur Orange (fruit)). 100F. **€0.84.**



New Caledonia

- ◇ 4 May 2017: Newborn commemorative. 110F. **€0.92.**
- ◇ 15 May 2017: Pacific New Caledonia Battalion. 120F. **€1.01.**
- ◇ 7 Jun 2017: 100 years of Lions International. Single 75F stamp. **€0.63.**



St. Pierre & Miquelon

- ◇ 22 Apr 2017: Telephone switchboard commemorative. Sheetlet of 4 different designs, €1.40, 1.20, 0.85, 0.43. **€3.88.**
- ◇ 19 May 2017: Cod slicing. **€0.85.**
- ◇ 24 Jun 2017: Nautical theme, Le Ratelier. **€0.85.**



Monaco

- ◇ 27 Feb 2017: International dog show. **€0.71.**
- ◇ 27 Feb 2017: 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Aimé Barelli, 1917-1995. **€1.42.**
- ◇ 8 Mar 2017: Formula 1 legends. Two se-tenant designs. **€1.10 and 0.85.**
- ◇ 8 Mar 2017: Race cars, Matra MS80, 1969. **€0.85.**
- ◇ 8 Mar 2017: Race cars, Ferrari 156, 1961. **€1.10.**
- ◇ 10 Mar 2017: The 200th Anniversary of the Palace Guards Corps. **€0.85.**
- ◇ 10 Mar 2017: The 100th Anniversary of the Second Battle of the Aisne. **€2.60.**
- ◇ 22 Mar 2017: Ships, Yersin. **€1.30.**
- ◇ 22 Mar 2017: Ships, Calypso. **€1.70.**

- ◇ 10 Apr 2017: The 5th Anniversary of the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation. Two stamps. **€0.85 and 0.71.**
- ◇ 10 Apr 2017: The 75th Anniversary of The Monaco Grand Prix. Sheetlet of 4 different designs, 2 **€0.85** and 1 **€1.10** and 1 **€1.30.**
- ◇ 28 Apr 2017: 50th International Bouquet Competition. Sheetlet of 3 different **€0.85** stamps.
- ◇ 2 May 2017: National flora and fauna. Red coral. **€0.05.**
- ◇ 2 May 2017: National flora and fauna. Campanula. **€5.00.**
- ◇ 9 May 2017: 10th Anniversary of Peace and Sport. **€1.10.**
- ◇ 9 May 2017: EUROPA Stamps - Palaces and Castles. **€1.10.**
- ◇ 16 May 2017: St. Martin Gardens. **€0.73.**
- ◇ 16 May 2017: ASTANA 2017 - Energy of the Future. **€1.30.**
- ◇ 1 Jun 2017: The 25th Challenge Prince Albert II. **€1.42.**
- ◇ 1 Jun 2017: SEPAC Issue - Local Handicrafts. **€0.71.**
- ◇ 1 Jun 2017: The 100th Anniversary of Lions Clubs International. **€0.85.**
- ◇ 21 Jun 2017: 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Arturo Toscanini, 1867-1957. **€2.60.**
- ◇ 21 Jun 2017: Opera singers, Titta Ruffo, 1877-1953. **€2.60.**
- ◇ 21 Jun 2017: Opera singers, Emma Calvé, 1858-1942. **€2.84.**

Wallis & Futuna

- ◇ 8 Mar 2017: 2017 Women's Day. 290F.
- ◇ 28 Apr 2017: The 175th Anniversary of the Death of Pierre Chanel of Futuna, 1803-1842. 300F.
- ◇ 26 May 2017: The Dance of Fire. 65F.
- ◇ 7 Jun 2017: World Environment Day - Protect the Whales. 400F.
- ◇



A visit to St. Pierre (but not Miquelon)

Ken Nilsestuen

The Club Philatélique de Saint-Pierre-de-Miquelon held its third international philatelic exposition in early June this year. This was the third successful stamp show they have organized, now turning into a triennial event. Plans are already underway for 2020.

The show

St. Pierre's show was under the auspices of FIAF, the Western hemisphere international philatelic organization, as it has been in the past. Seven countries provided exhibits, including the United States, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica and of course St. Pierre and Miquelon. The excellent panel of judges represented the U.S., Costa Rica, Argentina and Canada. Despite some concerns about political influence (or worse) in FIP judging, I can say that the judges behaved as they would at any U.S. World Series of Philately show. Just different accents. We applied FIP rules when judging.

There were 140 competitive frames and two court of honor exhibits. You can learn quite a bit about the exhibition at their website, spm-expo.com. To give you some idea of the quality of the multi-frame exhibits, there were three large gold medals (95 points or more), eleven gold medals, and six vermeil or large vermeil. Among the single frame exhibits there were six golds, eleven vermeils and one silver. The exhibits were excellent!

Our members did quite well, too. Ed Grabowski and Paul Larsen each earned single frame gold medals. Jean-Jacques Tillard won the Grand Prix for St.-Pierre et Miquelon – Ses surcharges au 19^{ème} siècle, and a large gold for St.-Pierre et Miquelon – Le Type Groupe 1892-1908. He has had both exhibits in the United States, so you may have already seen one or both of them.

The show was held in a meeting hall where the windows and doors look like they have perforations around them (see photo). The exhibits near-

ly filled the hall, with a little area for the judges and enough room to hold a delightful reception on the first evening. We were honored to be in the presence of Stéphane Artano, President of the Territorial Council (a French cabinet post), who is from St. Pierre, among many other friendly and interesting people. The show Commissaire-Général, Fabrice Fouchard, was the emcee, and included all of us by speaking French, English and Spanish!

Probably 150 or more people visited during the show, including school children. The committee, a group of only ten people) considered it to be quite a success.

The experience

I attended as a judge, so I was treated very well **by our hosts. But it wasn't just our hosts.** All of us were warmly welcomed by everyone we met, whether walking around the town, at restaurants or at the show.

It turns out that one can arrive in St. Pierre by air **from several Canadian cities. I chose St. John's, Newfoundland, since it was the closest.** It's a short flight, maybe 45 minutes, to St. Pierre.

Let's take a short time out to describe a few essentials about the country. St. Pierre is the southernmost of what are really three principal islands – St. Pierre, Miquelon and Langlade. Miquelon and Langlade are connected by a long sand bar, and Langlade is uninhabited. Miquelon (the town) has about 600 residents, while St. Pierre about 6,000. Thus, St. Pierre is the center of commerce and politics for the country. As usual, Wikipedia has a good history of the country. One can summarize the last several hundred years as fishing, American prohibition, less fishing, tourism.

The show hotel was the Hotel Jacques Cartier, built in the past couple of years. It is really nice – **don't expect five star treatment in a small town,** but the rooms are spacious, bathrooms conform to

American standards, and the minibar prices are about what you would expect at the grocery store.

You can walk just about everywhere from the hotel. The show, restaurants, post office, bakeries and museums were all within a mile. One afternoon we were treated to a walking tour of the old town, much of which burned in the late 1800s. Our guide entertained us with stories of the buildings as well as the history of the island.

One place you cannot walk is l'Île-aux-Marins, an island that protects the harbor. For centuries it was settled by sailors, but as fishing tapered off, the island was abandoned and the remaining structures turned into a historical site. Our afternoon on l'île was very instructive, to say the least.

The food is terrific! While the selection of restaurants is limited (only one was open on May 31, the day we arrived), the menus were very good. I found all of the food to be very tasty. By the time the show closed there were several restaurants from which to choose, and all were good.

The future

Get your plans set to visit in 2020. You'll have an experience that just isn't available anywhere else. St. Pierre and its people are delighted to have visitors, so take advantage of this by attending their next philatelic exhibition. Perhaps we can make it an official France & Colonies meeting to give added incentive. Our hosts would be only too happy to welcome us.



Left to right: Fabrice Fouchard, chairman of the show; Dr. Peter McCann, chief judge; Jean-Jacques Tillard, winner of the Grand Award; Kenneth Nilsestuen, judge; Miguel Jose Casielles, judge

Society News

Convention Schedule

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

Instructions for authors

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 but JPEG is acceptable..

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 preceding publication (December 15, March 15, June 15, September 15) but I can be reasonable.

ED

Concerns About Professor Segno and Residual Success Waves

Anonymous

Word has it that FCPS member and frequent speaker Ed Grabowski journeyed to Akron, Ohio to present his *Philately & International Mail Order Fraud* lecture to the members of the Akron Collectors Club. The focus of this talk is Professor A. Victor Segno of Los Angeles and his famous Success Waves (*FCP*, Whole No. 270, pp 142-146, 2013). These were sent twice a day in the early 1900's to members of his Success Club for \$10 per year, which is equivalent to \$200 in today's dollars. According to Professor Segno, his Success Waves would improve members' lives in the areas of love, health, wealth, ambition, influence, success, happiness and hope. Based on discussions of FCPS President Ken Nilsestuen, who organized Ed's talk, members of the Akron Club became seriously concerned about residual Success Waves, and the possibility of their concentration in the Akron area during Ed's talk with possible undesirable and dangerous side effects. To protect themselves from this possibility, members came to the talk with self-prepared protective equipment as the photo in Figure 1 shows. Ken and his special hat can be seen in the photo in the middle of the second row.

Akron Club President Tom Bieniosek, seen at the right of the photo, chose not to wear any protective gear, but did engage in a short clinical trial with the Oxydonor, a precursor of the Oxypathor. The Oxydonor can be seen in the hand of the member next to Tom, and a close-up of it can be seen in Figure 2. Via electrodes attached to the wrists, the Oxydonor and Oxypathor supposedly polarized the skin and permitted the ready entry of oxygen into the blood which cured virtually any known disease. We are pleased to report that President Bieniosek survived the trial in excellent

health, and suffered no undesired consequences from residual Success Waves because of his lack of protective equipment. For those interested in the details of Ed's talk, a version of it can be seen at the link: <https://vimeo.com/204920525>.

Figure 1: Members of the Akron Collectors Club in protection mode.

Figure 2: An Oxydonor kit as sold by Hercules Sanche.



President's Letter



Well, we had a delightful meeting at NAPEX a few weeks ago. There were about fifteen of us, mostly members, who seemed to enjoy the presentations very much. By the time you read this, all the presentations should be on our website.

Our first speaker was Thomas Marra, whose slide show about French India was great fun. Tom took a really interesting approach, presenting a fantasy collection. In addition to items in his own albums, Tom included illustrations from auction catalogs and other sources to provide a much broader view of French India postal history than he might have owned. The only difficulty was that we had to work to keep up with him. There was a lot of ground to cover, to say the least.

Ed Grabowski taught us about a three week period in Reunion when postage due stamps were used to prepay local postage. The little rock of an island ran out of stamps in December 1900, so while awaiting a new supply the postmaster authorized use of the Duval due stamps. How Ed accumulated so many uses boggles the mind.

Richard Aspnes offered some history about the contributions of French Indo Chinese to the war effort in World War I. It was a great surprise to most of us that thousands of laborers were sent to France to provide labor to help with the war effort. **Richard's story of these people was also very interesting to the group.**

Wrapping up the presentations, I offered an analysis of a really interesting piece of postal history – a fragment with over twenty francs in postage sent from Algiers to New Orleans.

After that we had open discussions, much of **which was about visiting St. Pierre. There wasn't any significant society business other than to in-**

troduce Ben Bump to the group as our new treasurer. All of that completed, we adjourned and returned to the show.

The dinner that evening was really tasty, although the accommodations were a bit crowded. We went to Gordon Biersch, a microbrewery at **Tyson's Corner Mall. Tripadvisor reviewers rate it a 4.0, which is probably about right. But we weren't there for the comestibles as much as for the fun.** Because we tagged along with the Collectors Club (NY), there were probably about 50 people in our group. There was a lot of good conversation, a few short remarks by the folks in charge, and good food and drink. Ya shudda been there! Our members also had some really good exhibits at NAPEX. Jeff Bohn, almost certainly the best American expert on the subject, presented his **"Accountancy Markings Associated with the 1857 Franco-British Postal Convention."** His exhibit earned a gold medal, and looked like a strong candidate for an article or two or three in our journal. (Got that, Jeff?) His Postal History Society award was also well deserved.

Ralph DeBoard earned a large gold medal for **"The Postal History of Tahiti through the First Pictorial Issue,"** and Ed Grabowski did just as well with **"The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: The French Pacific Colonies."** Ed's exhibit also received the Collectors Club (NY) best foreign exhibit award.

Saving the best for last, our editor, Norval Rasmussen, showed **"Tunisian First Issue: Coat of Arms."** His large gold medal was well deserved, and he also earned our society's award for the best French area exhibit at the show.

In the single frame category, Ed earned another large gold for **"The Era of the French Colonial**

Group Type: Obock,” and also took home the Best Single Frame award. As I explained to Ras, when Dave Herendeen and I first talked about an award from the society, we assigned an obligation to the winner – to provide the award for the next meeting / show. So Ras agreed to take on that responsibility.

We did very well! All exhibits were gold or better, and four of the five earned special prizes. **That’s a great result and good promotion for our collecting interests.** Our exhibitors deserve our thanks for their part in making NAPEX and our society gathering a success.

That lays the groundwork for another successful meeting in Chicago, our next gathering. As always, it will be the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 16 through 18, 2018. In addition to a great chance to exhibit as a group (and encourage others to take up the colorful and interesting world of French philately), we will have another program of interesting speakers and subjects. Tom Marra, who did so well this year, has already offered (and I have accepted) to speak on another subject. So put this in ink on your calendar and be ready to convene in Itasca, IL next fall. We should have another great time.

That’s it for the summer. I hope to see you in Richmond in August, Independence (OH) in August or at some other stamp show, even though the weather is nice. Keep your mind and body active and your stamps and covers dry!

Members Appeals

WANTED: Tunisian high value airmail stamps, Scott numbers C17-C20 on cover. Scans with asking price to Norval Rasmussen at nrasmu@gmail.com or 1029 University Ave, Apt 401, Morgantown, WV 26505.

France & Colonies Philatelic Society Study Group

With the New York Chapter as the home chapter, the France & Colonies Philatelic Society held monthly meetings at the Collectors Club for more than fifty years. In recent times there has not been sufficient local Society membership to warrant formal monthly meetings, but the Society has continued to meet at the Collectors Club on an informal basis as a Study Group under the guidance of Dr. Richard Stevens, one of our former presidents. Typically the Study Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Collectors Club library. Members of the Society and those who have a French Area interest are welcome to join us for the meeting and a dinner which follows. Typically the programs are focused around Show & Tell presentations on a variety of French Area topics. Contact Dick Stevens for information about the meetings at rms-greendell@gmail.com.

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

We Get Letters

Editor:

In response to David Salovey's letter, the Crozet bloc does not contain ink on the 2 stamps. You can see the image as it is embossed. The image on the Laposte site does show a light ink tracing for the purpose of viewing the design. I have multiple copies and they are all the same. I could provide a scan but it would not be helpful.

Jerry Zimowske

Editor:

Sorry, friend Alan Morvay, but your three attractive postal cards (on page 50) are not "precursors" but only simple regular-issue government cards, as issued from January 1873.

Stan Luft.

(This is more likely my mistake than Alan Morvay's. ED)

Norval:

I read with interest Ed Grabowsky's column PHILATELIC OR NOT?.

I often run into this issue with my collection of LUNDY ISLAND and dealing with the covers of the INTERIM PERIOD of Israel. For the uninitiated, this is about from 14 April to 14 May. The British closed their post offices in the Palestine. The Jewish Agency used overprinted Jewish National Fund stamps as postage and ran the postal system. I define three types of covers:

PURE PHILATELIC COVERS have not been in the mail stream. This includes First Day Covers, special event covers and covers without addresses.

PHILATELICALLY INSPIRED COMMERCIAL COVERS were covers made by or for philatelists. This includes First Flight Covers that have proof of being flown and FDC that did go thru the

mails paying the proper rate (or close to it). As long there is some indication that the cover did do postal duty, it can be included.

PURE COMMERCIAL COVERS are ordinary mail.

I would venture that 90% of all LUNDY mail could be called PHILATELICALLY INSPIRED COMMERCIAL COVERS. They were sent to or from the postal agency on the island.

Much of the INTERIM mail is philatelically inspired. However, these, in some cases, did seem to go thru the mail. Of course, as all collectors of INTERIM know, there is much fraudulent material.

I believe that if it were not for philatelists of the past, we would not have many of our prized covers.

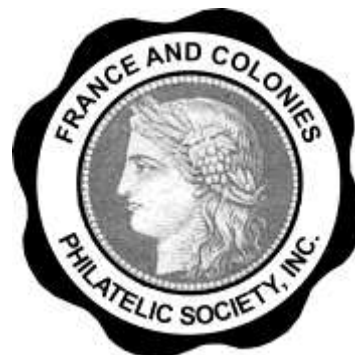
Sid Morginstin

PS See you at NAPEX – booth #33

Membership Notices

NEW MEMBERS

- 3483 Lane, Alexis
1607 Rustic Oak Lane
Seabrook, TX 77586-4555
- 3484 Setaro, Enrique
PO Box 770817
Miami, FL 33177-0014



FCPS at NAPEX 2017



Ed Grabowski receives the One Frame Grand award for "The Era of the French Colonial Group Type: Obock" from NAPEX show chair Bill Fort. Five France and Colonies Philatelic Society members entered six exhibits totaling 37 frames and earned five gold and one silver medals.



Norval Rasmussen receives the France and Colonies Society award for the best France in Colonies exhibit at NAPEX 2017 from FCPS President Ken Nilsestuen.



Ed Grabowski presenting his seminar on the use of postage due stamps for regular postage in Reunion. Other speakers and their topics: Richard Aspnes, Indochina Labor Corps in France, World War I Thomas Marra, Postal History of the French Indian Settlements during the Classic Period Ken Nilsestuen, Mystery and History–All from a Fragment

Show Reports

NAPEX 2017

McLean, VA June 9-11, 2017

Large Gold to *Edward Grabowski* for "The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: The French Pacific Colonies." Also Collector's Club of New York Best Foreign Exhibit. Large Gold to *Norval Rasmussen* for "Tunisian First Issue: Coat of Arms" Also France & Colonies Philatelic Society Award. Large Gold to *Ralph DeBoard* for "The Postal History of Tahiti Through the First Pictorial Issue." Also Collector's Club of Chicago Philatelic Exhibitor's Award. Gold to *Jeffrey Bohn* for "Accountancy Markings Associated with the 1857 Franco-British Postal Convention." Also Postal History Society Award. Silver to *Sidney Morginstin* for "Lundy Island." Single Frame Grand and Large Gold to *Edward Grabowski* for "The Era of the French Colonial Group Type: Obock."

OKPEX 2017

Midwest City, OK June 16-17, 2017

Large Gold to *Edward Grabowski* for "The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Postal History from Madagascar to Dependencies." Also The Postal History Society Post Horn Award.

PHILTELIC SHOW 2017

Boxborough, MA May 5-7 2017

Gold to *Stephen Tucker* for "Pan American's Pacific Clippers, 1935-1942." Also AAMS Gold.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW 2017

Denver, CO May 26-28, 2017

Gold to *Alfred Kugel* for "German World War I Military & Occupation Mail from Allied & Enemy Territory." Gold to *Alfred Kugel* for "A

Potpourri of Mail from American Forces in World War I." Gold to *Charles LaBlonde* for "The Rise & Fall of WWII Postal Censorship - Swiss Perspective." Vermeil to *Stanley Luft* for "French Army of the Orient (1915-1923)." Single frame Gold to *Charles LaBlonde* for "The Suspension of United States Mail to Switzerland 1942-1945." Single frame Gold to *Alfred Kugel* for "World War II Pacific Navy Location Code Names." Single frame Large Vermeil to *Stanley Luft* for "From Adversity to Achieving the American Dream." Single frame Vermeil to *Charles LaBlonde* for "The Postal History of the Goa World War II Internee Mail."

WESTPEX 2017

Burlingame, CA April 28-30 2017

Vermeil to *James R. Taylor* for "Continental Drift & Plate Tectonics." Also American Topical Association, Second Place.

SPM EXPO 2017

St. Pierre & Miquelon June 1-4 2017

Large Gold to *Jean-Jacques Tillard* for "St. Pierre et Miquelon le Type Groupe 1892-1908." Large Gold to *Jean-Jacques Tillard* for "St. Pierre et Miquelon ses surcharges au 19eme siècle." Gold to *James Taylor* for "St. Pierre & Miquelon 1932-1946." Gold to *Loic Detchevery* for "Cancellations of the Canadian province of Nova Scotia on St. Pierre and Miquelon stamps." Gold to *Jean-Jacques Tillard* for "St. Pierre et Miquelon—Le renard de 1952." Gold to *Jean-Jacques Tillard* for "St. Pierre et Miquelon—Le 20F Montagne et arbes de 1947." Gold to *Paul Larsen* for "Leeward Islands Federal Postal Stationary of the King George V Reign: Registered Envelopes."