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Alsace-Lorraine: Provisional Registry Markings (1945-1949)

Stanley J. Luft (915)

By July 1940, Germany was already printing and distributing their German-style registry markings within occupied Alsace and Lorraine [Figure 1]. By December 1944, American and French forces, almost inch by inch, had liberated parts of these ancient provinces. Although parts of the provinces had been liberated as early as September 1944, complete liberation was not achieved until Spring 1945, French postal authorities taking over from the their military counterparts. Nevertheless, some forms of military censorship, as well as restriction of civilian mail—as to form, content, and destination continued quite irregularly beyond 1945.



Figure 1. Feldpost N° 549 + sector 04691, 31 July 1940 of 888th Reserve Battalion at Nancy, registered to Vienna.

Wartime restrictions had forced the French national printing works to cease preparing gummed Registry (and other) etiquettes in autumn 1942—or just about the time of total German occupation of the rest of France. But with the total liberation of France, no effort was apparently made to print such simple and cheap etiquettes as Registry la-

bels, but which did not take place until well into 1949!. Why? Or why not?



Figure 2.

This brief article is based (OK, somewhat purloined) from Andre Peine's, definitive and highly specialized 1990 study, "Les Moyens de Recommandation Provisiores en Alsace-Lorraine 1945-1949", published by the SPAL study group; and from which I make use only of some highlights. I have other works on this genre, but I'm not sure I can locate them and, being kept in my garage, I'm not about to look for them in this cold weather...The covers shown are from my collections, except as otherwise noted.

Personal registration in Alsace-Lorraine had been re-established by June 1945 [Figure 2] though Peine shows some registered administrative (official) covers dating from earliest February [Figure 3], for some possibly still subject to enemy fire. But now it's time to note the various forms of Registration markings; just mine, as Peine has far more detailed notes on sub-varieties. We study

here only the Registration markings and not the date stamps and other associated notations.



Figure 3. Saverne/Bas-Rhin Zabern (Els.)/N° 801 German registry label from Haguenau (Bas-Rhin) to Strasbourg, 2 February 1945; German names crossed out (Peine, 1990, p. 22)

German Etiquettes

I may be fortunate in owning just a single example [Figure 4] mailed 11 July 1945 from the Mitzach town hall, but registered from the larger town of Wesserling (Haut-Rhin) to Strasbourg. Oberels has been crossed out from the German etiquette; 6F single weight registered letter, 1 March 1945 Tariff



Figure 4.

Officially Recognized Straightline Handstamps

This simply means that the post-office names shown in either a single line or two lines, and 4 mm or less in height, were officially recognized and printed. Two basic types exist: one with upright letters for major post offices [Figure 2], the other with inclined letters for secondary post offices, postal agencies, etc. [Figure 7]. If the official names were not yet available, such information was handwritten, as was also the consecutive numeral of the mailing, as received by the originating post office.

Figure 2 is from the major town of Thann (Haut-Rhin), dated 9 June 1945 to Strasbourg, with the alongside manuscript R 255; 7F double-weight letter, 1 March 1945 Tariff. Figure 5 is from the Wattwiller (Bas-Rhin) postal agency, dated 7 February 1946, over a manuscript R 0677; 45F overpaid on an airmail letter to the Swiss Red Cross.



Figure 5.

Locally-made Handstamped and Manuscript Markings

Essentially contemporaneous are these fancy or plain registry boxes, made by or for private enterprises, and also by the initiative of postal employees themselves. Varieties and variations are countless.

Many are shown by Peine, though surprisingly he largely ignores the messier forms. While black ink is the norm, they also exist in violet, and more rarely red or blue.

I hope to be a bit useful by showing a few types of locally made Registration markings. Figure 6 is an irregularly shaped (common) one from Vic-sur-Seille (Moselle), apparently personal rather than via an enterprise, dated 9 Oct. 1945, town's name underlain by numeral 100; 6F single-weight letter to the Lozere Dept., 1 March 1945 Tariff.



Figure 6.

The somehow important town of Bischwiller (Bas-Rhin) [Figure 7] bears a locally printed box and includes the numeral 1r 0437; it is overfranked at 23F. Another registry box [Figure 8] from one of the Strasbourg post offices (that at the railroad station) to Paris, bears the numeral 1605.



Figure 7.



Figure 8.

The final two examples shown here are also illustrated by Peine (pages 75 and 89) The boxed Colmar-Gare (O.P.R.) stands for Objects at Reduced Prices [Figure 9]; dated 21 March 1946 to Italy, registry number 1063; postage 20F single-weight international letter, 1 February 1946 Tariff Finally, Figure 10 is an ornate Sarreguemines (Moselle) 19 Sept. 1947 OPR to Austria, with numeral 0071; philatelically franked at 24F, overpaying 4F.

There is still a lot to be learned about French (and others too) Registry mail and markings.

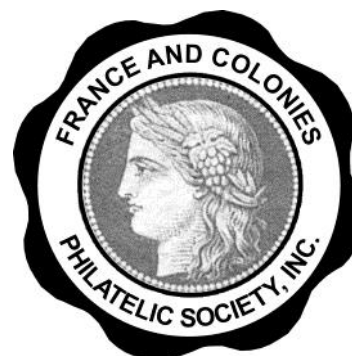
Hoping that you may be an upcoming student of this fascinating sub-specialty!



Figure 9.



Figure 10.



Come! All are invited



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St. Pierre & Miquelon: 1891 “ST -PIERRE M - on” OVERPRINTS

James R. Taylor

This article appeared in the December, 2016 London Philatelist and appears here with the permission of the author

Introduction

A May 6th, 1891 decree (*arrêté*) from the Ministry for the Colonies in Paris required all French colonial post offices, including the St. Pierre and Miquelon office, to overprint existing stocks of the French Colonies general issue postage stamps. This was a new policy to, henceforth, have separate stamps with the Colony name inscribed. The overprint was to be the colony name, or its initials or an abbreviation. These overprinted stamps were to serve as a stopgap until the Navigation and Commerce tablet or group key type stamps for each colony, inscribed with the individual colony names, could be prepared, printed and shipped from Paris. The reason for this change of policy was to prevent stamp arbitrageurs from playing on the different exchange rates which were rampant in the French Asian and Indian Ocean colonies. French Colonies general issue stamps could be bought in Indo-china Dollars in Saigon or Hue and sold in French Francs at St. Denis, Reunion for a considerable profit.

A second decree from the St. Pierre and Miquelon's Governor P. Feillet (Ref. 1), dated October 15, 1891, ordered the St. Pierre and Miquelon post office to suitably overprint the perforated, French Colonies Alphée Dubois series (named for the stamp designer) on hand and any of the imperforate Sage issues still in post office stocks. The decree also set a deadline for the first sale of

the overprinted stamps - 5 November, 1891. A suitable overprint cliché in a single line of type positioned diagonally was prepared locally in late October, 1891. Fifty of these clichés made up the Setting I in two horizontal panes of 25 (5 x 5) separated by a gutter to fit the existing stamp sheet layout. What are believed to be trial over printings on the imperforate, 1-franc olive-green value of the Sage stamp were produced at the government printer.

Trial Overprints

Controversial stamps, previously the subject of sharp disagreements among the “experts” (Ref. 2, 3, 4 and 5), are the 1891 straight-line overprint “ST- PIERRE M – on” 23.75 mm wide applied diagonally reading upwards in black ink on the imperforate, 1 franc, olive green, French Colonies general issue with the Sage design (Figure 1). The stamp was listed and described in Omer Hanier's 1900 listing (Ref. 6) of the stamps of St. Pierre with a comment on the tiny number overprinted, it's scarcity and the high price asked by Paris stamp dealers of the day. The Yvert and Tellier catalogue of 1904 (Ref. 7) lists the imperforate 1 Franc Sage stamp with a quantity overprinted of 50 copies with a high catalogue valuation. The listing of the overprinted imperforate 1 franc Sage was subsequently dropped from the Yvert and Tellier catalogue listing. The stamp gained a listing and a measure of more recent philatelic legitimacy in the 2006-2007 Dallay French-language catalogue (Ref. 8). The latest edition 2010-2011 (renamed Maury, Ref.9), further clarifies the matter by listing two varieties of the stamp with simi-



Figure 1. 31A imperforate 1-franc Sage ungummed, Type a font (enlarged). Type font not used in issued stamps.



Figure 2. 31B imperforate 1-franc Sage gummed top margin copy, Type b font (enlarged). The same type font was used on the issued Alphée Dubois stamps.

lar but slightly different overprints (Ref. 10). One, Figure 1, was issued gum less with an unadopted overprint (Maury #31A) and the other (Maury #31B) Figure 2 was issued with gum and the overprint was the same font as that adopted for eventual use on the perforate Alphée Dubois 1891 issued set. Some claim that the two overprints on the imperforate 1-franc Sage were not legitimate issues produced by postal authorities at St. Pierre, while others, including Maury, recognize them as unissued (*non émis*) official trials or overprint essays. Tillard (2002) makes an argument that for 31A that "The overprint is slightly different when applied by hand , (as a [early] trial overprint would be) and the overprint can be struck [from an individual single cliché on an individual stamp in the sheet] from bottom to top or vice-versa."

The two stamps, 31A and 31B, have appeared on the philatelic market in very small quantities. Ac-

cording to the Maury catalogue (2010-2011, Ref. 9) 10 copies of ungummed #31A, Figure 1 and 5 copies of the gummed #31B, Figure 2 (Ref. 11) are known. No cancelled or on cover copies are reported and the stamps were not sold across the post office counter at St. Pierre. The stamps appear infrequently in French dealer sales lists or auctions at high prices. Multiples have not been reported. Assuming that the overprints were applied to at least one full pane of 25 subjects, or a horizontal double pane of 50 stamps, in the trial, more copies may be lying unrecognized in collections or dealer stocks.

I am fortunate to have both of the scarce overprint trials, 31A and 31B, along with a 31A misalignment variety in my collection. All three

stamps are exceptional four-margin copies, with #31B being from the top sheet margin. The 31B overprint variety "raised second E" is Figure 3. Another variety on the imperforate 1 Franc green Sage with 23.75 mm wide overprint applied diagonally reading downwards in black ink on the imperforate, one franc, imperforate, olive green, Sage stamp has surfaced (Figure 4). It is the only one reported to date and perhaps represents an un-adopted trial of the overprint in a different position.



Figure 3. 31A imperforate 1-franc Sage misaligned diagonal overprint "raised second E". The type font and position of overprint was not used on the issued stamps. Only example of the variety reported.

The font differences in the overprints 31A and 31B appear most prominently in the letter "P" of PIERRE. A number of questions arise if the stamps are considered to be trial overprints. The actual overprinted issue, the perforated Alphée Dubois stamps, showed a seated female allegorical figure "France" seated with a flag and olive branch in her left hand, her right hand rests on



Figure 4. 31A imperforate 1-franc Sage ungummed Type a font overprint reads down. Only copy reported on the 1-f Sage stamp.

an anchor, trade goods in bales and barrels, a cornucopia of tropical fruits and a vessel in full sail. These were first overprinted in red ink on the 1, 2, 4 and 10 centime values. The stamps were unsatisfactory because the red ink was difficult to read. In spite of this defect and because of the tight deadline to produce the overprints, the red overprints were retained and subsequently issued to the public.

Additional overprints were done in black ink. Were the two stamps, 31A and 31B, trials for this second black ink overprint? Or perhaps the 31A stamp pre-dated the 31B trial that was made with the same type font used on the issued stamps. The issued initial Setting I overprinted stamps, both black and red ink, were set in two panes of 25 overprints, each with a diagonal row with inverted clichés in each pane (Figure 5). One wonders if the 31B stamp could be found with an inverted overprint? One would have thought that the two rows of inverted overprints would have been caught in a trial single setting overprint run

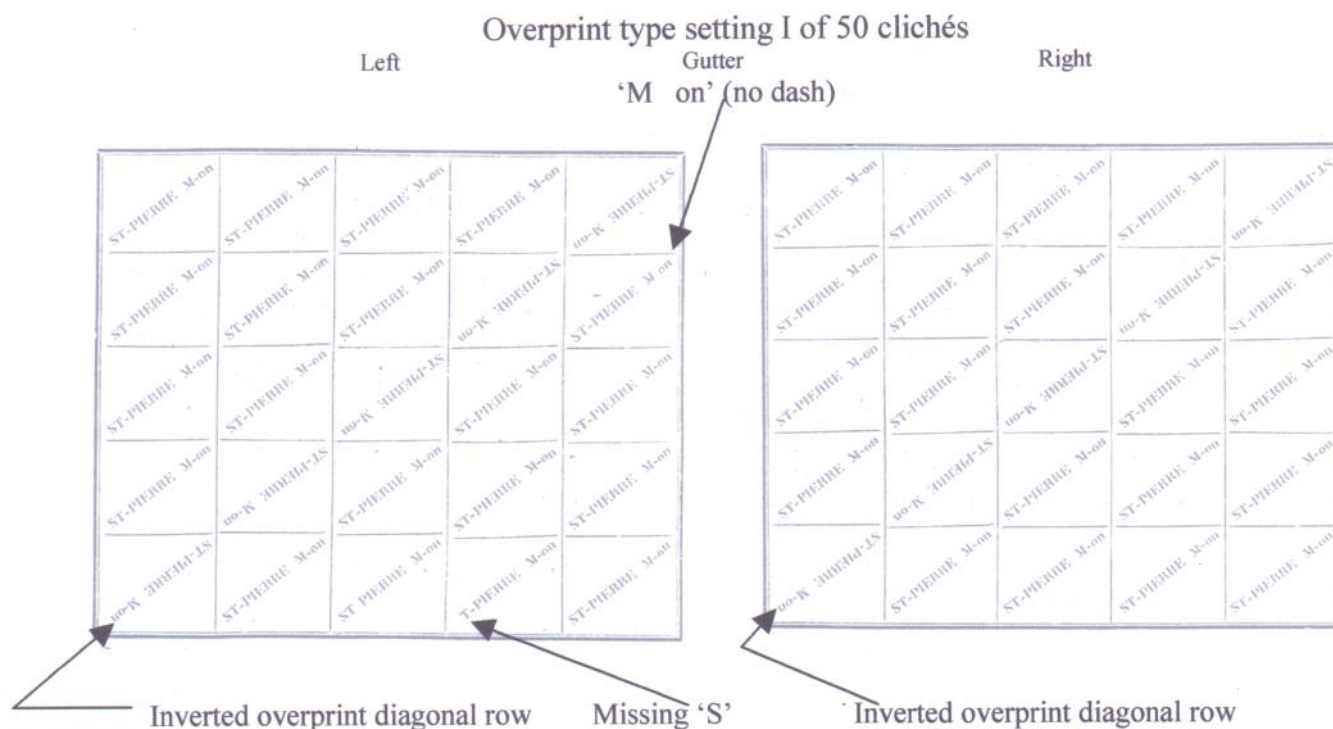


Figure 5. Overprint setting I, left and right panes after Montader 1906.

and been corrected. Perhaps the 31B is a trial pull of a corrected version without the inverted clichés, Setting II. Perhaps the two rows of inverted overprints, in Setting I, were deliberately included by an mischievous printer or postmaster.

The pedigree of the different versions of the “ST-PIERRE M – on” overprint on the French Colonies imperforate 1 franc olive Sage has been debated for over 120 years. The purpose of this article is not to solve the dilemma but to document it.

The Issued Stamps

The Alphée Dubois French Colonies general issue perforated stamps over-printed 'ST - PIERRE M - on' were issued on November 5, 1891, just 21 days after the Governor's decree. Un-overprinted French Colonies general issue stamps were invalid for pre-payment of postage on and after November 5, 1891. Commercial firms and individuals had up to one month exchange their French Colonies general issue stamps for

the new overprinted ones. The values overprinted were 1c, 2c, 4c, 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, 40c, 75c and 1 franc. Two different ink colors (black and pale red) were used for four values, the 1c, 2c, 4c and 10c.

“ST - PIERRE M - on” Overprint Setting I and II

Two different overprint settings were used for the issued stamps. Setting I (Figure 6) was used for the red overprint and early over-printings of the 1c, 2c, 4c, 10c, 35c, 75c and 1f black ink values. A second later Setting II was used for the 5c, 15c, 20c, 25c and 30c black ink values. Setting I with the 10 inverts was used for the red ink overprint and early over-printings of the 1c, 2c, 4c, 10c, 35c, 75c and 1f black ink values. Setting II, with the 10 inverted diagonal rows reset and the ten inverts corrected, was used for the 5c, 15c, 20c, 25c and 30c values. Numerous minor varieties of the overprint, missing letters and dashes, added characters and additional spaces between letters, ap-

pear in both the red and black overprint Settings I and II. These were caused by type falling out of the clichés and the addition of spacers (other characters such as blanks and |) during the overprinting operation.



Figure 6. Diagonal Overprint on the 35c Alphée Dubois stamp.

Alfred Montader (Ref. 12 and 13) made a fortunate purchase at the Paris auction house of *E. Leroy d'Etiolles*. Lot number 2502 included full panes of 50 of the 1891 St. Pierre stamps with the French Colonies general issue overprinted diagonally "ST. PIERRE M - on" in Setting I. The only Setting I value missing was the sheet of the very scarce 35c value. From this hoard, Montader was able to plate the Setting I position of inverted overprints, missing letter, missing hyphen and other overprint varieties. The overprints were composed of 50 clichés in two horizontal groups of 25 clichés (5 x5) applied to stamps in sheets of 150 which were divided into 6 panes of 25 stamps (3 panes high and 2 panes across) each separated by

unprinted gutters. This resulted in - a left setting and a right pane.

Illustrated from Montader 1906 (Ref. 12) in Figure 5 are the overprints plated from the left and the right settings of 25 subjects each. The original overprint setting was applied in pale red ink to the 1c, 2c, 4c and 10c. The red overprint was found to be difficult to see, particularly on the darker colored values. Subsequent overprints in black ink using Setting I were applied to the 1c, 2c, 4c, 10c, 35c, 75c and 1f values.

A second overprint Setting II was applied to the 5c, 15c, 20c, 25c, and the 40c values. Setting II corrected the original inverted overprints in sheet positions 5, 10, 14, 19, 23, 28, 32, 37, 41 and 46. Inverted overprints (as legitimate errors) from feeding the Setting II sheets inverted) are reported on the Setting II 5c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c and the 40c. stamps (Ref. 4).

Shades and Paper colours of the Basic Stamps

Various shades and paper colours of the basic French Colonies general issue stamps that were overprinted can be found. The stocks of the colonies stamps at St. Pierre contained sheets from several years printings. St. Pierre had likely received a re-supply of stamps in the preceding spring or summer (Ref. 14). The Alphée Dubois 25c overprint can be found on both the black on rose-coloured paper as well as the scarcer black on white-paper variety.

Pairs, Blocks and Multiples

Most sheets and large blocks of the Setting I and II issues have been broken up over the years. Today blocks of four or larger multiples are rare. *Tête bêche* pairs showing an normal with an adjacent inverted overprint or other variety are prized items. Stocks of the stamps chosen for overprint-

ing were often poorly centred; well-centred overprinted stamps command a premium.



Figure 7. Tête Bêche pair with inverted overprint on the left stamp.

Inverted Overprints

Inverted overprints occur on five clichés in a diagonal line from lower left to upper right in the middle of each pane of 25 in Setting I. This occurs in the left and the right panes of Setting I in positions 5, 10, 14, 19, 23, 28, 32, 37, 41 and 46 (Figure 6). Setting I was the initial overprint setting. It was used on the red ink overprints (1c, 2c, 4c, and 10c) and early over printings of the black ink, 1c, 2c, 4c, 10c, 35c, 75c and 1 franc. The diagonal row of inverted overprints was corrected in the middle of the print job and over printings of the 5c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c and 40c values used the corrected Setting II. Inverted overprints, true inverted overprint errors, on these Setting II values

are rarely seen in collections (Ref. 4), these varieties appear to exist as a result of whole double panes of 50 being inserted in the press upside down in error during the overprinting of corrected Setting II. Only one mint example of each of the Setting II 5c, 20c and 40c inverted overprints are known. Two examples of each of the Setting II 15c and 25c inverted overprints are known. Four copies of the Setting II 30c inverted overprints are known (Ref. 4). The authenticity of these varieties was questioned by Montader (Ref. 12). Perhaps additional discoveries may be possible of these rare inverted overprints and more can be learned about them.

Other Overprint Varieties

The double overprints on the 5c and 40c stamps are rare. Double inverted overprint varieties have not been reported. on other values. A double overprint on the 40c in the author's collection is Figure 8. An unusual "inverted-inverted" overprint (the overprint is on its back reading upward) on the 10c in black ink from a sheet from Setting I with the entire sheet of 50 fed inverted onto the overprint press is reported (Ref. 4).



Figure 8. Double diagonal overprint on Alphée Dubois 40c stamp.

In Setting I the left pane of 25: 'ST P' (missing dash between T and P) occurs on the left setting in position 23 (Figure 6). 'M on' (no dash) The striking missing 'S' in ST variety (Figures 6 and 9) is always on stamp 44 on the left of Setting I. I have seen the missing-S variety on the 1c, 2c, 4c 5c, 15c, 25c, 75c and 1f black overprints. It is not found on the red overprints at all and is not found on the other black ink overprint values according

to Montader (Ref. 12) although Maury (2011-2012, Ref. 9) lists them. The letter 'S' seems to have fallen out of the cliché on stamp 44 Setting I as overprinting proceeded.



Figure 9. Diagonal Overprint variety missing letter "S" Alphée Dubois stamps

Over the course of overprinting a number of pieces of type were dislodged or added to the clichés which resulted in minor "semi-constant" varieties. Several of the commonest are illustrated in enlargements in Figures 11 through 14. "M - o n" (space between o and n) occurs on the 5c, 10c, 15c, 40c, and the 75c. Figure 11. M -on (large 0 in on) Figure 12. 'M -|on' (vertical stroke instead of a space) on 2c, 4c, 20c and 75c black overprint Figure 13. M -:on (two dots between dash and on) Figure 14.

Many other lettering varieties have been recorded: 'Mon' (no spaces and no hyphen), 'M. on' (period instead of space and no space between

o and n) on the 25c; ST P (a space instead of a dash after ST on the 25c.); 'M - Qn' (a tail on the o looking like a letter Q). on the 40c., 'M- on' (no space between - and o) on 15c.; M - o (n omitted); M - (on omitted); ST - IERRE M - o (P and n omitted). Additional lettering varieties may exist.

The overprinting utilized the facilities of the local government print shop that also produced the local Government *Journal Officiel*. The large printing order, with the short deadline, taxed the ability of the facility and resulted in less than perfect results.



Figure 10. Variety inverted with M on (no dash)

Quantities Overprinted

The quantities of stamps overprinted varied greatly depending on the numbers of each denomination of general issues on hand at the St. Pierre post office. An article in the *Gazette Tim-*



Figure 11. Enlarged: Variety space between o and n.



Figure 12. Enlarged: Variety large o in on.

brologique 1892 (Ref. 15) gives the printing numbers for both the red and black overprints as 1c 28,650; 2c 16,650; 4c 15,150; 5c 164,400; 10c 46,950; 15c 25,350; 20c 28,300; 25c 314,100; 30c



Figure 13. Enlarged: Variety M-|on.



Figure 14. Enlarged: Variety M-:on

7,500; 35c 900; 40c 7,500; 75c 5,100 and 1franc 2,400. Stone (Ref. 14) and Tillard (Ref. 4) quote similar but slightly different numbers except that Tillard quotes the 25c at 164,100 which seems more reasonable. The 35c is the scarcest of the

overprints with 900 issued and 180 inverted of Setting I. The small quantity of the 35c overprint was in short supply further aggravated by the filling of a Bern Switzerland dealer's order for 370 stamps. The remaining post office stock of the overprinted 35c value was rationed at the St. Pierre Post Office with each patron limited to purchase of five copies each (Ref. 14).

Fakes and Forgeries

Fournier and other fakes exist for this issue. Ser-rane (Ref. 16) reports that the Fournier forgeries measure 23-23.25mm long, in black and red ink, on original stamps and on forged stamps. Forged cancellations are double circle (22.5 mm), inner broken circle, with date, ST PIERRE ET MIQUELON 12 SEPT 92, star at bottom; also 22 mm ILE AUX CHIENS 2 AOUT 92 ST PIERRE ET MIQ in black or blue ink. The scarce 35c overprint and the 35c inverted overprint variety has been well counterfeited and should be purchased with care.

Used Stamps and Covers

The postmark of St. Pierre, the largest town, is commonly found on used stamps. Genuine cancels of the smaller outer island post offices of Miquelon, Iles-aux-chiens, Langlade and the Canadian ports of North Sydney and Halifax are scarce. The mute bars and cork (*bouchon*) killer cancellations of the Canadian ports are also found on this issue. The 1891 St. Pierre overprints are on cover. The unoverprinted French Colonies general issue stamps were no longer accepted for franking after November 24, 1891. Supplies of the new Tablet type Navigation and Commerce stamps inscribed ST PIERRE/ ET MIQUELON in two lines arrived in the islands on February 13, 1893 (Ref. 4).

Collecting the Issue

Watch out for fakes and forgeries in the basic stamps, the overprints and the postmarks. A

good magnifying glass and lots of patience can reap rewards. Many of the overprint varieties can be difficult to see, particularly on the pale red ink overprints. Varieties often go unrecognized in collections, dealer stocks, auction catalogue illustrations, internet scans and probably in your own collection. High catalogue prices are for perfect copies, lesser but perfectly acceptable copies usually sell for much less. Keep an eye open for unlisted varieties rather than be a slave to the catalogue listings. Postmarks of the small island post offices and the Canadian paquebot and port cancels scarce and highly prized on stamp or cover. The November 5, 1891 overprints filled legitimate administrative and postal needs until the arrival of the new Navigation and Commerce group or tablet stamps. Subsequent overprinted and surcharged stamps issued on November 24 and December 29, 1891 and on June 26, 1892 were more philatelically inspired and are perhaps the subject of a separate article.

Epilogue

The potential for new discoveries and new information regarding these interesting 1891 overprinted issues is possible today. The world-wide internet has resulted in stamps, which may have lain hidden in forgotten old albums and dormant dealer stocks, coming out of hiding and being posted on the web on numerous collector, sales or auction sites. Dissemination of philatelic research and information with new technology is at an all time high. Please pass along any additional discoveries and opinions regarding this interesting overprinted issue and any opinions on the interpretations presented in this article. The story is still far from complete.

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16. Serrane, F., 1995, *The Serrane guide*, St. Pierre and Miquelon, reprinted in the *American Philatelist*, v. 109, n. 8, 108-109.

View of Algiers Series of 1926-1927

Norval Rasmussen

Algeria began using its own stamps in 1924, overprinting certain current French stamps "ALGERIE" in black or red. In May 1926 Algeria began issuing a series of stamps depicting views of Algiers. These illustrated Rue de la Kasbah, the Mosque Sidi Abderrahmane, the Mosque de

la Pecherie, and the Algiers Bay. The first set of the series was issued beginning in May 1926 and included the values shown in figure 1. In August 1926 changes in several postal rates resulted in many values becoming obsolete. This was addressed by revaluing stamps in April 1927 and expanding the series in July 1927 (figures 2 and 3). The series remained in use for 10 years.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

In 1927 several lower values were overprinted with a star and crescent and added value to function as semi postal stamps benefitting soldiers wounded in Morocco (figure 4).

Other than color shades and misperforations there are few known varieties on the small format stamps.

Continued on page 84

Up For Auction: A French Sudan Military Franchise Letter Where They Missed The Point

Edward Grabowski

While perusing the current European auction sales, I came across the cover shown in Figure 1. The auction description details just about every aspect of the cover, but totally misses the point of what happened to this cover enroute to its final destination. This happens with a certain painful frequency. Since the major aspect of importance with this cover is a point that I have noted before, but is still often not recognized, I thought it might be worth a note in the FCP.¹

This lot is described as follows:

1901. Stampless envelope addressed to France endorsed 'Corps d'Occupation de la Cote Occ. D'Afrique' with circular 'Corps Expeditionnaire du Soudan' cancelled by 'Bobo-Doulasso/ Soudan Francaise' double ring '29 Juin 01' sent by French paquebot with octagonal 'Soudan Francaise Ligne K No 4' double ring (Salles 1220) with octagonal 'Loango a Marseille L.M. No 1' datestamp (Salles 1252) '30/6', underpaid with 'T' hand-stamp and Poitiers arrival forwarded to Bayonne '11/8' and French postage dues Yvert 33, 30c orange (4) applied in Poitiers and Bayonne. Opened for display, tears, aged. Very fine item from the French Occupation of Sudan with postage dues applied contrary to regulations. Starting bid: 80 euros.

The auction describer has done a fair job of describing the details of the cover, save for a few mistakes, but shows no understanding of what is



Figure 1. Apparent military franchise letter from Bobo Dioulasso, French Sudan in 1901 received at 1.20f due in France.

going on with the cover and why it has 1.20f in postage dues on it. To begin, let's walk through the major aspects of the cover, correcting them and/or commenting on them as we proceed:

1. Below the manuscript endorsement appears to be a signature, and below that is a poorly struck military handstamp of a French Sudanese unit. Thus, this letter originated as a military franchise letter from the French Sudan. Troops who were engaged in combat were allowed to send single weight letters (up to 15grams) free of postage if proper validation was provided, which it was in this case.
2. The letter was posted from the small village of Bobo-Dioulasso (spelling correction) on June 29, 1901. This is a difficult small village from which to find mail. The letter originated when the village was under the administration of the French Sudan. It was later transferred to the Ivory Coast and then to Niger.
3. The letter was transported to the Loango a Marseille French Packet line, at Dakar, Senegal, where it received the octagonal cancellation of Line M, No 1 on July 30, 1901 (Salles 1252). It also received the Soudan Francais circular datestamp of Line M No 1 on the same date (Salles 1260), not that of Line K as the description notes. This datestamp was used on military franchise mail, but is crossed out with a blue crayon in this example.
4. I believe that the 'T' in triangle was applied to this letter on the French Packet.
5. The letter was posted to Poitiers where it arrived on August 11, 1901, where two 30c postage dues in red were placed on the letter and cancelled. These are not the very rare orange color of these stamps.
6. The addressee was not present at Poitiers, and the letter was forwarded to Bayonne-poste restante where the initial two due stamps were marked with a manuscript 'X', and two new ones added on August 12, 1901.
7. I would not describe this as a 'very fine' item. Possibly 'good' would be a better description of the condition.

So how does one explain all of this? The original letter was sent under the military franchise system which allowed for free letters not over 15 grams. This letter was recognized as being at the second weight level when it was processed on French Packet Line M. The franchise privilege was not valid for this letter, so the Soudan Francais datestamp which was only used on military franchise letters was crossed out, and the regular octagonal datestamp of the line added and a 'T' in triangle applied for postage due. The letter was now treated as an unpaid second weight level letter traveling within the French Community. This rate in 1901 was 15c per 15 grams, so the letter required 30c postage. Being unpaid it was charged double the postage (60c), due on arrival in Poitiers. Since the addressee could not be located there and was in Bayonne, it was reforwarded at an additional charge of a second 60c for a total of 1.20 francs due.

**A full color pdf of this
issue is available.**

**Email a request to the
Editor.**

A slightly different example of the same issue from another overseas auction is shown in Figure 2. This letter was posted on board a French Packet Line L ship on January 11, 1893 while in the harbor at Cotonou, Benin. Probably based on a military validation on the reverse, it received the shown Benin datestamp which was used on military franchise mail. It was then recognized as being at the second weight level for which the franchise was not valid. It was marked with an underlined 2 in blue crayon for the second weight level, and a manuscript 30 added for the 30c postage required for this letter. In 1893 the rate within the French Community was 25c per 15 grams. However, the clerk handling this letter recognized that it qualified for the military concession rate of 15c per 15 grams. On arrival in Paris a 60c due stamp was added for the proper amount, double the unpaid postage of 30c, now due on an unpaid double weight military concession letter.



Figure 2. Apparent Military franchise letter from Cotonou, Benin in 1893 received at 60c due in Paris.

Reference:

1. E.J.J. Grabowski, "Indochina Military Mail Between 1893 – 1905", *Collectors Club Philatelist*, 2007, Vol. 86, pp 59-75.

View of Algiers continued from page 81



Figure 3.



Figure 4.

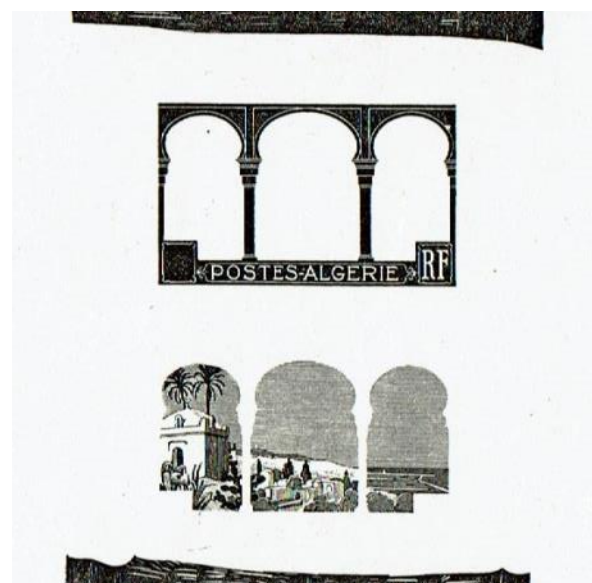


Figure 5.

The large format stamps were printed from two plates; a frame and a vignette as illustrated by the proof of the two elements in figure 5. All stamps printed from these plates were bicolored. There are several varieties for one to search for.

Fifth Tree

This variety occurs on position 69 from the first printing. The 1F, 1.25F, 2F, 3F, 5F stamps can be found with the fifth tree from this position. The fifth tree is in the center arch. Figure 6 shows this variety on the 3F stamp. Fifth trees also occur from position 53 second printing 1F 50c, 2F, 5F, 10F, and 20F stamps.



Figure 6. Normal stamp and 5th tree variety marked by arrow.

Cut Tree

Figure 7 is the 3F stamp with the cut tree variety. The first tree in the center arch has a diagonal cut

through it. This is on positions 26 and 71 first printing and position 45 second printing stamps. The cut tree can be found on all values of this stamp.



Figure 7. Cut tree variety.

Short Tree

The first tree in the center arch is shorter than the normal tree. It is from position 26, second printing. Figure 8 shows a 20F stamp with the short tree variety.



Figure 8. The short tree is marked by an arrow.

A pair of 5F stamps with the short tree on the top stamp is shown in figure 8. The lower stamp has an uncatalogued variety with the background of the left palm tree is clear.



Figure 9. The short tree is on the top stamp. The bottom stamp has missing background color lines around the palm leaves on the first tree.

White Sail

On the horizon of the right arch a plate variety creates a white sail from loss of background shading. This is from position 16 and can be found on all values except the 1F 50c, 10F, and 20F values, which were issued in 1927.



Figure 10. White sail variety.

How hard are these to find? Dorle & Perrin have self-published a monograph on Algerian stamp varieties. They rate the tree varieties on the 1927 stamps as rare to very rare. Arthur Maury agrees by pricing on the 10 and 20F stamps. A 5th tree variety on the 20F stamp changes its value from €135 to €1500. For the 1F 50c stamp the difference is €13 to €60.

For the 1926 stamps the tree varieties are considered uncommon by Dorle & Perrin. There is still a healthy premium for them in Maury. The 5F stamp goes from €24 to €250.

Yvert & Tellier have similar pricing. Neither French catalog lists the short tree or the white sail varieties.

Postal Use

Figure 11 shows the fifth tree variety on the 1F 50c stamp being used with the 25c Sidi Abderrahmane stamp paying postage to Denmark in 1933. The correct postage was 1F 50c postage and 2F registration fee. The letter was mailed in Biskra. On the reverse is the Algiers transit marking along with a handwritten endorsement reading the postage deficiency was addressed at the post office at the Algiers train station (figure 12).



Figure 11. Biskra to Denmark postage insufficiently paid with a 1F 50c fifth tree variety stamp.

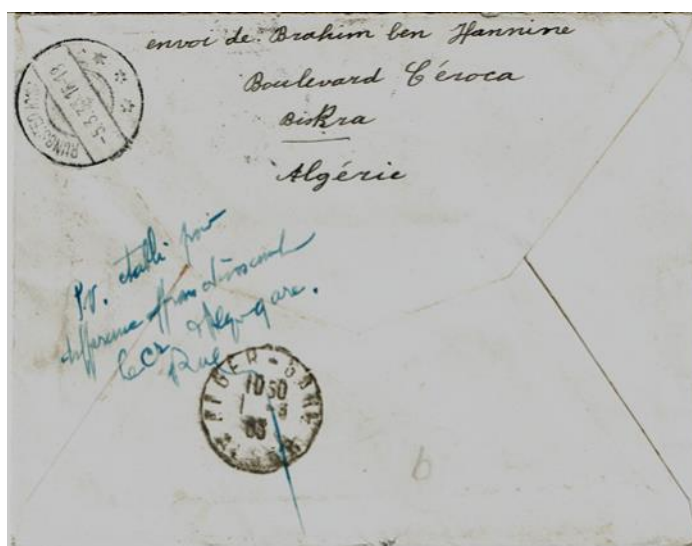


Figure 12. Reverse of the envelope in figure 11.

Preparation for this article led to the pleasant surprise shown in figure 13. The cut tree variety on the 1F 50c se-tenant with the normal stamp was used with the 50c La Pecherie and 40c Sidi Abderrahmane stamps to pay postage to Japan in 1930. This is the correct postage for a registered double weight letter (postage 1F 50c for the first 15g, 90c for the second 15g and 1F 50c registration fee).



Figure 13. Cut tree variety se-tenant to the normal stamp from Kalaa, Algeria to Japan.

I am hopeful that this article will illustrate to the audience that they can write a brief article explaining a stamp or series in their area of interest. I have received several requests for basic articles like this. Let me hear from you .

References:

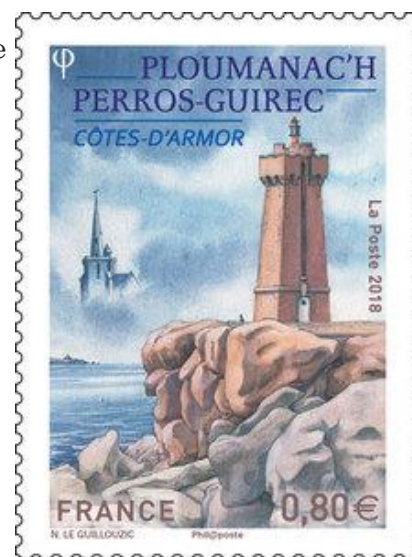
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3. Yvert & Tellier. Timbres des Colonies Françaises Tome 2, 2013.

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Why not write an
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FCP?
Contact the
Editor**

New Issues

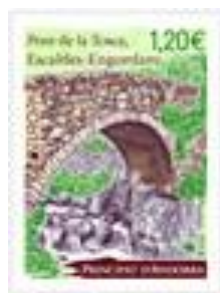
France

- ◇ 3 Apr 2018: Leather worker artisan. Single €1.30 stamp valid for the international priority letter rate.
- ◇ 9 Apr 2018: Spring Philatelic Salon at Sorgues. Single €0.95 stamp valid for the priority letter rate in France.
- ◇ 16 Apr 2018: Sosthène Mortenol commemorative. Single €1.20 stamp valid for the European priority letter rate.
- ◇ 22 Apr 2018: Tallinn (French village) commemorative. Sheetlet of 4 different €1.20 stamps valid for the European priority letter rate. €4.80.
- ◇ 7 May 2018: Red Cross semipostal. Booklet of 10 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €2.00 donated to the French red cross. €10.00.
- ◇ 14 May 2018: Bicentenary of Guignol Champs Elysees. Sheetlet of 2 designs. €2.60 each..
- ◇ 22 May 2018: Emoji's. Booklet of 12 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €9.60.
- ◇ 22 May 2018: Europa stamp. Single €1.20 stamp valid for the European letter rate with a delivery of 2-3 days.
- ◇ 28 May 2018: Lucie and Raymond Aubrac (WW II resistance) commemorative. Single €1.30 stamp valid for the international priority letter.
- ◇ 30 May 2018: Blue helmet (UN Forces) commemorative. Single €1.30 stamp valid for the international priority letter rate.
- ◇ 4 Jun 2018: Thomas Pesquet 's pictures of Earth from the international space station. Booklet of 12 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €9.60.
- ◇ 7 Jun 2018: Auto rally commemorative. Sheetlet of 4 different nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €5.00.
- ◇ 11 Jun 2018: Paris Philex 2018 souvenir. No postal value €30.00.
- ◇ 11 Jun 2018: Elysée Palace commemorative. Issued at the (1st FFAP congress. Single €0.95 stamp valid for the priority letter rate in France.
- ◇ 11 Jun 2018: Garden birds-titmouse. Single €0.80 stamp valid for the green letter rate in France. Also in a sheetlet of 4 different bird stamps. €3.20.
- ◇ 11 Jun 2018: Edouard Vuillard (artist) commemorative. Sheetlet of 9 stamps of one design valid for the international priority letter rate. €11.70.
- ◇ 11 Jun 2018: Heroes: Albert Roche - Emilienne Moreau - Roland Garros - Marie Curie - Maurice Genevoix - André Mare et Jean Bouin. 8 different designs valid for the international priority letter rate. €15.00.
- ◇ 16 Jun 2018: Eiffel Tower. Sheetlet of 4 different stamps valid for the international priority letter rate. €7.30.
- ◇ 18 Jun 2018: Abbey of the Three Fountains commemorative. Single €0.95 stamp valid for the priority letter rate in France.
- ◇ 21 Jun 2018: Kaysersberg commemorative. Single €0.80 stamp valid for the green letter rate in France. €0.80.
- ◇ 25 Jun 2018: Ploumanac'h Perros Guirec rocky coast. Single €0.80 stamp valid for the green letter rate in France. €0.80.
- ◇ 2 Jul 2018: Mickey Mouse in France. Booklet of 12 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €9.60.
- ◇ 2 Jul 2018: Ryder Cup commemorative. Single €1.30 stamp with tab valid for the priority international letter. €1.30. Also in a sheetlet of 4 stamps. €5.20.
- ◇ 2 Jul 2018: Simone Veil commemorative. Sheetlet of 4 different nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €5.00.



Andorra

- ◇ 7 Apr 2018: Joan Miro commemorative. Single €1.20 stamp.
- ◇ 21 Apr 2018: Old Catalan songs, les Caravelles. Single €0.95 stamp.
- ◇ 5 May 2018: Tosca Bridge. Single €1.20 stamp.
- ◇ 9 Jun 2018: Summer solstice fire fairs. Sheetlet of 1 €1.90 stamp.
- ◇ 15 Jun 2018: 40th anniversary of the parish of Escaldes-Engordany. Single €0.80 stamp.



TAAF

- ◇ 6 Apr 2018: District of Terre Adélie. Single €1.00 stamp.
- ◇ 6 Apr 2018: Astrolabe (ship). Single nondenominated forever stamp valid for a 20g letter overseas. €0.85.
- ◇ 20 Apr 2018: Antarctic symphony. Penguins. Single €2.00 stamp.
- ◇ 7 Jun 2018: Royal penguin. Single €0.20 stamp.
- ◇ 7 Jun 2018: Antarctic birds, Penguin. Single €0.30 stamp.
- ◇ 7 Jun 2018: Antarctic birds, Rock hopper penguin. Single €0.10 stamp.
- ◇ 7 Jun 2018: Penguins. Sheetlet of 4 different €0.85 designs. €3.40.



French Polynesia

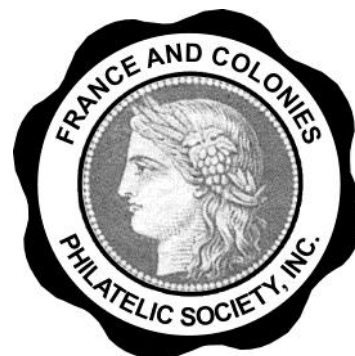
- ◇ 6 Apr 2018: 250th anniversary of the arrival of Bougainville in Tahiti. Single 250F stamp. €2.10.
- ◇ 23 Apr 2018: Point Venus lighthouse. Single 80F stamp. €0.67.
- ◇ 25 May 2018: Kites. Single 100F stamp. €0.84.
- ◇ 1 Jun 2018: Miss Tahiti - 2018. Booklet of 5 different 100F designs. €5.03.

- ◇ 22 Jun 2018: Le Miri (flora). Single 80F stamp. €0.67.



New Caledonia

- ◇ 10 Apr 2018: New Caledonians at Vessels-et-Caumont (WW I). Single 75F stamp. €0.63.
- ◇ 8 Jun 2018: Yam in different seasons. Single 110F stamp. €0.92.
- ◇ 8 Jun 2018: Legendary Ships in New Caledonia. Single 110F stamp. €0.92.
- ◇ 8 Jun 2018: New Caledonian architectural heritage - The North. Two designs se-tenant. 110F each. €1.84.



St. Pierre & Miquelon

- ◇ 18 Apr 2018: Old Saint Vincent Work Room. Single €1.40 stamp.
- ◇ 16 May 2018: Kids with cod. Single €0.46 stamp.
- ◇ 13 Jun 2018: The Bel-Espoir (ship). Single €1.30 stamp.
- ◇ 16 Jun 2018: Fulmar (bird). Sheetlet of one €2.00 stamp.
- ◇ 4 Jul 2018: Jules Verne commemorative. Sheetlet of one €2.00 stamp.



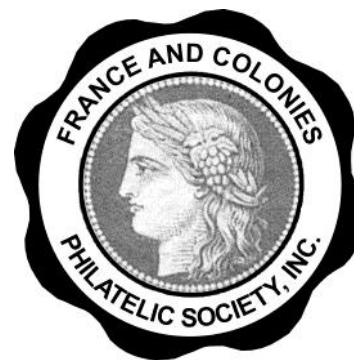
Wallis & Futuna

- ◇ 28 Apr 2018: International Dance Day-Soamako. Single 500F stamp.
- ◇ 9 May 2018: Tui-Samoa submarine cable. Two designs se-tenant with label between. 95F each.



Monaco

- ◇ 10 Apr 2018: Soccer World Cup in Russia. €1.30.
- ◇ 10 Apr 2018: 150th anniversary of the Ecole des Frères. €1.56.
- ◇ 30 Apr 2018: The new botanical center of the Exotic Garden of Monaco. €0.80.
- ◇ 9 May 2018: Europa-bridges. €1.20.
- ◇ 15 May 2018: Ancient Grimaldi strongholds-Bardi. €2.40.



Attention FCPS members:

APEX needs French area expertizers who can sort out more than Fournier forgeries of the colonies. Surcharges, overprints, Speratis, and so on. Right now Tom Horn says they are having to return some French area items without an opinion. Basic qualifications are expertise and U.S. residence. If you can help contact Tom Horn at the APS, twhorn@stamps.org.

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



Royal Collection Trust
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2018
Photographer: Ian Jones



The Golden Colour Error
3 Skilling Banco Yellow



H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden
Photographer: Anna-Lena Ahlström, royalcourt.se

WELCOME TO STOCKHOLMIA 2019

The International Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of
The Royal Philatelic Society London

- The Royal Philatelic Society London, the oldest philatelic society in the world, was established in 1869 as The Philatelic Society, London. In 1896 HRH The Duke of York, son of King Edward VII, became President of the Society, an office he continued to hold until his accession to the throne as HM King George V in 1910. Permission to use the prefix Royal was granted by His Majesty King Edward VII in 1906. Following his accession King George V acted as its Patron, and in 1924 granted the Society permission to use the Royal Arms on its stationery and publications. The Royal philatelic tradition has been maintained and today the Society is honoured by the Patronage of Her Majesty The Queen. At STOCKHOLMIA 2019, a selection from The Royal Philatelic Collection, will be presented as part of Court of Honour.
- STOCKHOLMIA 2019 is an International Philatelic Exhibition with exhibits and displays from members of the Society from all over the world.
- With capacity of 2,100 frames, the exhibition is the largest Society exhibition ever held. In addition, more than 50 Trade Stand Holders, from 13 different countries are participating.
- His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden has graciously agreed to be Patron of STOCKHOLMIA 2019 when it takes place at Stockholm Waterfront Congress Centre, Nils Ericsons Plan 4, Stockholm.
- One of the world's most famous postage stamps, The Golden Colour Error, 3 Skilling Banco Yellow, will be presented as part of the exhibition's Court of Honour.
- Tickets and all other registrations and bookings, including accommodation offers, are here-with presented in this Destination Offer.
- The exhibition opens for Early Birds with the Vernissage on 28 May at 3.00 pm, followed by five public days from 29 May until 2 June.

Tuesday	28 May 2019	3.00 pm - 7.00 pm. Vernissage
Wednesday	29 May 2019	10.00 am - 6.00 pm.
Thursday	30 May 2019	10.00 am - 6.00 pm.
Friday	31 May 2019	10.00 am - 6.00 pm.
Saturday	1 June 2019	10.00 am - 5.00 pm.
Sunday	2 June 2019	10.00 am - 3.00 pm.

The exhibition concepts,
programme and progress are
continuously presented online at
www.stockholmia2019.se.

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

ED

Think Tank Formed to Address the Apparent Decreasing Appeal of Organized Philately

Sedona, Ariz. – June, 2018 -- A group of four, mainly U.S.- based philatelists, have established an independent Philatelic Think Tank (“PTT”) organization to study and develop solutions to stem the steady decrease in philatelic association memberships, and also the rapid decrease in involvement from younger collectors.

Robert Bell, M.D., the group’s founder, points to several concerning data points as the rationale for the group’s creation: during the 17 years ending 2017, the American Philatelic Society’s overall membership fell 43%, while membership under the age of 50 dropped from 20.4% of the total in 2000 to 3.89% of the total in 2017. Bell notes similar trends, with some exceptions, in philatelic association memberships across the hobby.

“The PTT’s initial planning members, include creative, innovative and knowledgeable people – but more importantly are they are devoted to preserving the hobby of philately for generations to come,” Bell said. “These and other PTT members will apply their collective strengths to researching the issues – understanding the potential drivers facing philately, and then suggesting a wide array of solutions.”

The initial volunteer members will focus their efforts on developing the PTT’s mission, goals, and structure. Subsequent efforts will focus on study, strategy, communications, solutions and forging good relationships with organized philatelic organizations, dealers, show directors, and auctioneers, etc.

According to Bell, early research topics will include:

- *Success stories in driving membership in the US and other countries*
 - *Role of the social media and technology in philately*
 - *Health of both philatelic publications and stamp shows in the US*
 - *Methods to attract non-collectors to the hobby*
- The Think Tank planning committees are looking for other like-minded philatelists to help expand the organization further. Anyone interested in learning more may contact:*

Robert M. Bell, M.D.

E-mail: philatelicsolutions@gmail.com

President's Letter



I am so happy to say that here in Northeast Ohio we have a glorious summer. Great for outdoor activities, especially cycling, my personal favorite. I hope that you are also enjoying good weather. Hard to stay indoors and pursue philately when it is so nice outside. And to write a letter to you about our society business.

I am pleased to report that Larry Rosenblum stepped forward as a candidate for trustee. As a result, the board of directors (after consulting out by-laws) appointed him to fill the vacancy created when Steve Tucker passed away. As a result, we again have a full complement of officers and directors. Elsewhere in this issue of our journal you will find Larry's resume. He expects to join us in Chicago, so if you haven't yet met Larry, that will be an opportunity to do so.

Other than to elect Larry to the board, the board didn't meet or consider any other business since our meeting in March.

Let me repeat a couple of items from that meeting. Our board has decided to deliver our journal electronically starting in January 2019. If you do not use email or prefer a paper copy, you will receive one for a charge. The paper version will be a simple stapled document, not a stitched magazine. We just cannot afford to produce this version of our journal.

Those of us who choose the electronic version will have two advantages. First, the journal will appear on your screen in color. Right away this seems like a good result. The second advantage is that the journal should be searchable using the Ctrl-F function in Adobe Acrobat. It will make it easier for us to locate something of interest from past issues, which is important from time to time.

As I mentioned in April, the delivery method may well be an email telling you to head to our website to read and download each new journal.

Ralph DeBoard continues to work on our website. After some difficulties that apparently were unique to me, I have been happy with how things look and work. Our website is easy to use and has good content, so as we roll it out to more members, please be sure to register and take advantage of another society benefit. You will find it at www.franceandcolps.org.

As I mentioned last quarter, the American Philatelic Society would like additional French area expertizers. This is certainly a specialty that not all of us can add to our resumes, since it requires knowledge, study and good references. However, for the few of us who have these requisite assets, it would be wonderful to make your knowledge available to other philatelists. Tom Horn is our contact at the APS, twhorn@stamps.org.

So what's left? Our Chicago meeting, coming soon. We have some delightful speakers ready to entertain and inform us about French area philately. However, we can easily include a couple more to provide an even better program. You've heard this before – we are informal, inquisitive, interested, willing to share. So grab a handful of covers or prepare a short PowerPoint presentation and entertain us for a bit. You'll have at least as much fun as your audience.

That's it for July. I hope to see you in Chicago. Between now and then I hope you have a wonderful summer, philatelically and otherwise.

Welcome to the Board

I asked Larry Rosenblum to introduce himself to the members. ED.

I started collecting stamps when I was in elementary school, and when I returned to it as an adult, I concentrated on Great Britain, especially the Machin definitives. I joined the Great Britain Correspondence Club (as it was then known) soon after it was formed in 1979. What I learned from the GBCC helped support my interest in GB philately. The friendships I've made over the years with members of the club have been a very important part of my life.

I was secretary/treasurer of the GBCC for two separate four-year periods, and I started writing articles for the journal in the mid-1980s. I enjoyed writing, so in 1992 when *Linn's Stamp News* put out a request for a columnist to write about Great Britain, I gathered up my friend David Alderfer, and we jointly applied for the position. Somewhat to my surprise, we were accepted.

We wrote the monthly column for ten years, and towards the end of that time *Linn's* published an edited version of our columns as a book, *Introduction to the Stamps of Great Britain*. I decided to stop writing the column in 2002, but I continued to support David as he wrote the column for another dozen years.

Subsequently I wrote the quarterly "British Beat" column for *Scott Stamp Monthly* for three years.

All of this is relevant to how I arrived at the F&CPS. For many years I had worked on a collection of France, but it was always second to GB. In 2015, the Editorial Director of *Linn's*, Donna Houseman, invited me to return to the pages of

Linn's. I decided to write about French philately. I began building up my reference library, and I joined the F&CPS. My France collection moved up to front and center.

My bimonthly column, "Philately of France," debuted in early 2016 and has received many positive comments. At our Chicagopex meeting, I will give a brief talk about how I write for *Linn's* and why I think it is beneficial to F&CPS.

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.

We Get Letters

Dear Editor:

One of the problems in philately is locating previous literature relating to a topic of current interest. To date, there is no master database with pdf-files of everything in philately. This creates significant problems for all philatelic authors. In his recent article regarding the datestamp of the village of Langlade in Saint Pierre & Miquelon (**FCP**, 2018, No 332, pp 47-48), J.-J. Tillard illustrates a cover franked with the 30c Ceres General Issue that originated at this small village office. This cover has a most unusual story that is detailed in an article that I published almost two decades ago (**FCP**, 2000, No 261, pp 72-74: *Langlade, St. Pierre & Miquelon: A Three Part Story*). The three sections of the article relate to the cover's postal history, the letter that it still contains and the tale of its discovery. The cover now resides in the Saint Pierre & Miquelon collection of Alain Millet which is available for viewing on the Issuu web site (<https://issuu.com/codaxa/docs/spm>).

Edward Grabowski

Membership Notices

NEW MEMBERS

- 3492 Adams, Francis
PO Box 420308
San Diego, CA 92142-0308
- 3493 Parker, Douglas L.
7267 West Wethersfield Rd.
Peoria, AZ 85381-5367
- 3494 Trimble, Warren
15251 Cardinal St.
Grand Haven, MI 49417-9567
- 3495 Dow, Ruth P.
212 SW Keough Glen
Ft. White, FL 32038-8900

RESIGNATIONS

- 1612 Hellebrekers, Boudewijn
3167 Morvay, Alan J.
3440 Wolfe, Warren J.

Show Reports

I was surprised to find no society members listed in World Series of Philately shows this quarter. It's a manual (non computer) task and it's always possible I missed you. My apologies if I did.

I always welcome input and self reporting. Charles LaBlonde earned the Best in Open Division with his exhibit "The Postal History of the Goa World War II Internee Mail" at the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies 89th Annual Congress in Perth, Scotland held April 20-21, 2018. He is seen in this photograph on the right receiving his award from Richard Cuthberston, President of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies.







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