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The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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The Society's new Jubilee Salver will be awarded for the first time at the forthcoming Leamington Weekend for the Open Competition, which is intended for those entries not eligible for the existing awards.



SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome:

1140 John M Roberts (Cambridgeshire), 1141 Leonard James Bramley (Cleveland), 1142 G J Gosling (Dorset), 1143 Bryan L Lees (Berkshire), 1144 Donald L Duston (USA), 1145 Peter J Whiting (Hampshire), 1146 Philip Feakin (London), 1147 R K Collard (West Yorkshire).

* * *

French Channel Islands

Jon Aitchison would appreciate any information that other members of the Society can supply to help him with his research into the postal markings and cachets of the French Channel Islands. He is endeavouring to update and expand the listing produced by the late Bill Newport and Tim Whitney in 1981.

The extent of the geographical area of interest is from the border with Belgium in the north to the islands off the western tip of the Brest peninsular. These include Île Tatihou, Île Pelée, les Îles Chausey and Mont St Michel in Manche; Île de Cézembre in Ille-et-Vilaine; Île de Bréhat, les Sept Îles and Île Grande in Côtes-du-Nord; Île de Batz, Île de Sieck, Île d'Ouessant and Île Molène in Finistère. Jon would, however, welcome details of any other islands within these parameters that also have generated postal markings or cachets.

He is particularly interested in receiving details of the earliest and latest usage dates for currently known types, details of cachets generated by the occupation or liberation in both wars, recent postal markings and cachets of the last twenty years, including those currently in use, and details of any known markings of Île Molène from the opening of the post office in 1920 until the 1960s.

Any members with information that may be of help are asked to contact Jon direct at: Old Tithe Hall, Start Hill, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM22 7TF (telephone 01279 870488).

* * *

Genuine Surcharges of the Colonies

Non-member Glenn Benson, a dealer, has written from the USA to say that he has tried in the past to obtain any publication or pamphlet that might help in identifying genuine surcharges of the Colonies, similar to that by Schloss for German material. He says that Sam Pinchot has advised him that nothing of the kind is available, and that the only way to find out if an item was genuine or not was to send it to one of the expertising services, which he has done. He would appreciate any assistance in locating such reference material. Please contact the Editor if you are able to help.

* * *

Members Deceased

We are very sorry to hear of the death of the following member, and offer our condolences to his family:

1124 A Blackmun.

* * *

Tickets for Stamp Show 2000

Stamp Show 2000 will be held at Earls Court, London, 22-28 May 2000. Prices of admission at the door are £10 on the first day and £5 on remaining days. However, members of Societies affiliated to the ABPS can obtain tickets priced £5 for the first day and free for remaining days. This is how UK Members can order the tickets they require:

First day tickets. Write to Acting General Secretary Derek Richardson, 16 Fairford Avenue, Luton LU2 7ER enclosing a cheque for £5 made payable to A.B.P.S. and also a stamped self-addressed envelope. He will forward these requests to the ABPS for processing.

Tickets for remaining days. Write to Derek Richardson saying how many tickets are wanted (a separate ticket for each day of attendance) and enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope. He will post the tickets to Members.

Non-UK Members should follow the same procedures except their return envelopes can be unstamped but must be accompanied by an International Reply Coupon.

* * *

Exhibition Successes

The following members of the Society are to be congratulated on winning awards at China 99, in August 1999:

Barrie Jay - Large Gold for "London's Postal History"
Ed Grabowski - Gold for "French Colonial Allegorical Group Type"
George Barker - Vermeil for "France: the Pasteur Issue"
Francis Kiddle - Vermeil for "Queensland Revenues"

Apologies if any members have been omitted inadvertently.

* * *

CFA Surcharged Red Cross Pairs

John West is seeking the Reunion CFA overprinted Red Cross surcharged pair from 1974 (SG 504 & 505) in mint condition, as well as copies of the CFA surcharged Red Cross pairs on cover during the period 1966-1974 inclusive. His address is on the inside cover page ii of this Journal.

* * *

Society Notes continued at bottom of next page

Gaston R Berlemont, FRPSL

1914 - 1999

We sadly report the passing of this irrepressible enthusiast for life, French wines and French philately, and one of our most inspired members, who died on 2 November 1999.

To the world at large, he was the remarkable landlord of the public house 'The French (House)' in Dean Street, Soho, which he took over from his father, Victor, in 1946, after having started work there in 1928. Except for wartime service in the RAF, he spent the whole of his working life behind the bar there. The pub was first called 'The York Minster', but when renamed officially 'The French House' (or 'The French' for short), so *The Times* reported on Bastille day in 1981, the regulars thereupon called it 'The York Minster'! It was called 'The French' because of its being the chosen locale for members of the Free French Army in London. Gaston retired from his pub in 1989, and *The Times* reported that the day of his retirement was a day "of extraordinary expressions of devotion from those who had drunk at 'The French' over the years."

To us in the F&CPS, he was a brilliant philatelist and blessed with a remarkable and very fine collection of classic French and France Used Abroad. He joined the Royal Philatelic Society London on 5 March 1953, and was elected to Fellowship in 1964. He began a long and devoted series of displays to F&CPS in 1956 (for full details, see F&CPS Cumulative Index 1949-1997, pages 78-9), beginning with a sequence of views of French history via stamps, and in later years concentrating on various sections of his collection, by philatelic content. I remember one brilliant occasion, where all the material he showed was 'used', save one piece which (he apologised!) was mint - a proof of the 5F Napoleon! His last display to us was on 27 January 1993, with 'combination' covers from around the (French) world, and choice items such as a strip of six of the 1849 1F carmine used in Guadeloupe.

He also showed his material elsewhere, and his exhibit in the Paris 'Philatéc' International Exhibition in 1964 was also shown to the BPA. We saw it too, and the account in our Newsletter of the time mentioned "mint panes of the Bordeaux issues, a block of ten of the 1869 5F Napoleon, all the *tête-bêche* pairs, and a mint block of four of the 20F Pont du Gard perf 11." He was awarded a Gold medal (and Ebby Gerrish in the LP commented that Gaston "surely achieves the most stamps per sheet!"). He contributed eight frames (all the classic issues; the used abroad; and the maritime mail) to this Society's very successful display at the Royal Philatelic Society London on 15 March 1979, and then mounted his own full blown (624-sheet) exhibit of France 1849-1875 with maritime, consular offices, used abroad in Algeria, and foreign cancellations, which was shown to the Royal on 6 November 1980.

We shall not see his like again. Thank you, Gaston, for so many memorable occasions.

GEB

Society Notes *continued from previous page*

French Colony Revenues

New member Donald Duston, editor and publisher of the five-part catalogue of French Colony revenues, is currently revising the listings, and will re-issue the entire series. The section covering the North African colonies is presently under review. He would like to hear from any collector with items not listed in the previous works or with any information about the more recent issues of the independent governments. Photocopies or examples of new items not already illustrated would be most useful.

Information can be sent in English or French by snail mail to Donald Duston, 1314 25th Street, Peru, Illinois 61354, USA; or by e-mail to donldust@ivnet.com.

* * *

French Speaking Pacific Islands

The Philatelic Club of New Caledonia celebrated its 50th anniversary two years ago, and has recently sent details of its new newsletter, *Le Bulletin du Cagou*, dating from that time. It is apparently published 3 or 4 times a year, and comprises 40 to 50 pages, of which half give up to date information and the other half articles on the philatelic history of the French South Pacific islands — New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, and French Polynesia and New Hebrides (Vanuatu).

Members interested in this area can contact: Club Territorial, Le Cagou, BP 1902, Nouméa 98845, New Caledonia.

* * *

The Post Offices of French West Africa

Bill Mitchell and Laurence Lambert

Introduction

In 1989 Bertrand Sinais published the first part (*Les Possessions du Pacifique*) of a projected catalogue of the postmarks of the French colonies. Since then, collectors of French West Africa (who seem to be increasing in number) have been impatiently awaiting the second part, which is to be devoted to the colonies that formed that Federation. Until it arrives we have to rely on the Langlois and Bourselet catalogue, which was published in 1937 and is now hopelessly out of date, supplemented by references scattered throughout the literature (COL.FRA has produced several studies on related matters recently).

The postal history of the French colonies is becoming more and more popular and we have no doubt that the long awaited catalogue will appear in good time. This article is designed to supplement it by providing an overview of the post offices — in the broadest sense of the word — which were open from the earliest days to independence. Details have been compiled from a number of sources, which are noted in the Tables which follow. They include the UPU's periodic *"dictionnaires"* of world post offices, which are listed in strict alphabetical order regardless of country — which means that the researcher (Laurence in this case) has to spend many hours patiently extracting the details he requires. Since the dictionaries themselves are not error-free, and some offices operated for such a short period that they were not recorded by the UPU, it would hardly be surprising if there are mistakes or omissions in the Tables; anyone with information which will correct or supplement them is invited to send it to us via the Editor.

The sources for our Tables depend on the records which are available to us. Some colonies are better documented than others, so it is likely there will be some variation in the level of completeness we are able to achieve. At the time of writing the only colony for which we have a list of post offices for a later year than 1951 is Dahomey (1960) — if anyone has a more recent list for any of the others we will be delighted to hear from you.

The following brief note is taken largely from the two-volume Naval Intelligence Handbook published by H M Stationery Office for the Admiralty in 1943 and 1944. The Federation of French West Africa was established by a *décret* of 16 June 1895; initially it comprised the colonies of Senegal, French Guinea, French Sudan and Ivory Coast. The last-named was separated from the Federation by a *décret* of 27 September 1897 but was returned two years later (*décret* of 17 October 1899), when Dahomey was added. (Hurpet — see sources for Table 2 — says that this was "in 1900"; maybe the effective date of the 1899 *décret* was on or after 1 January 1900.) Mauritania was added later, most probably on 1 January 1905 when it was detached from Senegal.

The individual colonies retained a degree of administrative and financial autonomy; this included their postal services, which were not merged into one administration until 1 January 1942 by *décret* of 23 October 1941.*

PART 1. BENIN / DAHOMEY

As a study of Table 2 will show, the most appropriate starting point for our purpose is late 1886, when a rudimentary postal service (the availability of stamps) began; this was formalised on 12 November 1889 by the appointment of a *chef des postes* at Porto-Novo.[#] The protectorate over the numerous French settlements in the Bight of Benin had recently been given the name of *Établissements Français du Golfe de Bénin*; colony status under the name *Bénin* followed in 1893, with a further change of name to *Dahomey et Dépendances* in 1894. The name changes were of course reflected in the colony's definitive stamps, which were first issued in March 1893 to

replace the General Issues, and also on cancellations. BENIN was used until 1894, when it was replaced by DAHOMEY or DAHOMEY ET DEPECES; ETABLISSEMENTS (or ETABLIS^{TS}) DU BENIN can be found on military/maritime mail until 1902 and, as mentioned below, HAUT (or HT) DAHOMEY was also used in some offices.

Expansion northwards, with the intention of linking up with the French territories beyond the River Niger, led to the designation *Haut* (or *Ht*) *Dahomey* appearing on some rare cancels.[†] The 17 post offices concerned are noted in Table 1; as is shown by Table 2 several of these were

* R S Gordon, *Post Offices of Mauritania 1906-1941* (France and Colonies Philatelist, vol 21 n° 3, whole n° 120, March 1965), pp 36-38.

[#] Hervé Drye, *COL.FRA Bulletin* 66 (2^{me} trimestre 1994), pp 4-5, commenting on a cover from Kotonou [the original spelling of Cotonou] of 18 June 1888 with a Porto-Novo transit cachet of 19 June illustrated on page 13 of *Bulletin* 65.

[†] H Tristant: *Le Haut Dahomey (1898-1907)*, *Feuilles Marcophiles* n° 145 (May 1962, pp 19-39), reprinted by COL.FRA in *Bulletin Hors-série* n° 14-2, pp 36-44 (1997) and summarised by R G Stone in the *France and Colonies Philatelist* for October 1972 (vol 28 n° 4, whole n° 150), pp 73-74.

transferred to Upper Senegal and Niger, and others were closed. The only post office affected by numerous boundary treaties with Great Britain, Germany and Portugal was the transfer of Cabolé to the German colony of Togo, when it would appear to have been closed.

Dahomey became an autonomous republic within the French Community in 1958 and gained full independence in 1960. In 1975 it reverted to its old name of *Bénin*.

There follow Tables of post offices covering a period of over 70 years, and dates of opening (and closing), which together give a comprehensive picture of the development of Dahomey's postal services. One interesting point brought out by Table 1 is the large number (49) of post offices of one kind or another which were opened or re-

opened between 1951 and 1960 (it may seem surprising that a *cabine téléphonique* should provide postal services, but a hexagon for one of them — Porto-Novo Foun Foun — is illustrated by Crombez). Table 2 shows that there are many gaps in what is known about dates as well as a good deal of disagreement about them; dates of earliest known cancels are given where there is no information about dates of opening.

We have added a third Table listing alternative spellings of some place names that we have noted. Four (possibly five) of these have philatelic significance as being reflected in cancels; of the rest, several are alternative transliterations of local place names and the remainder are probably transcription errors.

Table 1 - The Post Offices over the Years

	1888	1892	1895	1899	1907	1909	1914	1926	1937	1948	1951	1960
Abomey			x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x ^a
Abomey-Calavi			x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x ^a
Adjaha ⁽¹⁾												
Adjarra												x ^d
Adjohon					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x ^a
Affamé												x ^c
Agblangandan												x ^d
Agoua ⁽¹⁾												
Agouagon						x						x ^c
Agoué			x	†	x	x	x		x	x	x	x ^c
Ahazon												x ^d
Allada				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x ^a
Allahé ⁽¹⁾			†									
Aplahoué												x ^a
[Formerly Parahoué, q v]												
Athiémé				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x ^a
Attogon									x	x	x	x ^a
Avrekété ⁽²⁾												
Ayoux					x		x					
Azaourissé												x ^d
Azové												x ^d
Banigbé												x ^f
Banikoara												x ^c
Banté										x	x	x ^d
Bassila							x	x	x	x	x	x ^d
Bimberéké										x	x	x ^a
Birni												x ^c
Bohicon							x	x	x	x	x	x ^a
Bopa							x	x	x	x	x	x ^c
Boukombé											x	x ^d
Cabolé					x	x						
Cadjehoun												x ^d
Calmina ⁽³⁾			x									
Carimama [#]					x	x						
Carnotville				x	x	x	x					
Chori ^{#(1)}												
Cococodji												x ^d

	1888	1892	1895	1899	1907	1909	1914	1926	1937	1948	1951	1960
Comé												X ^c
Cotonou	x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X ^a
Cotonou Aéroport												X ^b
Cotonou Gbgamey												X ^d
Cotonou Jérico												X ^d
Cotonou Pont												X ^f
Cové									†	x	x	X ^a
Dahoua ⁽¹⁾												
Dangbo												X ^d
Dassa-Zoumé							x	x	x	x	x	X ^a
Diapaga #				†	x							
Djerigbé												X ^d
Djigbé												X ^f
Djougu #				†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X ^a
Dogba					x		x					
Domé												X ^c
Dunkassa												X ^e
Ekpé												X ^d
Fada N'Gourma #					x							
Ganvié												X ^c
Gbessou # ⁽¹⁾												
Glazoué												X ^e
Godomey ⁽³⁾			x									X ^d
Grand-Popo	x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X ^a
Guéné							x		x			X ^c
Ifahin												X ^f
Igolo												X ^c
Kandi #					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X ^a
Kétou							x			x	x	X ^c
Kilibo												X ^e
Konkobiri #				†	x							
Kotchari # ⁽⁴⁾												
Kouandé #				†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X ^c
Kouti												X ^d
Logozohé												X ^e
Malanville										x	x	X ^c
Matiacouali # ⁽⁵⁾												
Missessinto												X ^d
Natitingou								x	x	x	x	X ^a
N'Dali												X ^c
Nikki #					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	X ^a
Ouagbo									†	x	x	X ^c
Ouangara # ⁽¹⁾												
Ouedo												X ^f
Ouessé												X ^e
Ouidah	x ⁽⁶⁾	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X ^a
Pahou												X ^d
Paouignan					x	x	x					X ^c
Parahoué ⁽⁷⁾					x	x	x		x	x	x	
Parakou #					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X ^a
Pérére # ⁽¹⁾												
Pira												X ^d
Pobé								x	x	x	x	X ^a
Porga												X ^f

	1888	1892	1895	1899	1907	1909	1914	1926	1937	1948	1951	1960
Porto-Novo	x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Porto-Novo R.P.												x ^a
Porto-Novo Foun Foun												x ^f
Porto-Novo P.A.R. (<i>poste automobile rurale</i>)												x ^c
Porto-Novo Pont												x ^f
Sagon				x	x							x ^e
Sakété					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x ^a
Savalou				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x ^a
Savé					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x ^a
Savi												x ^c
Say #					x							
Sê												x ^d
Segboroué											x	x ^c
Segboroué P.A.R. (<i>poste automobile rurale</i>) ⁽¹⁾												
Sémé												x ^d
Sinendé												x ^e
Sokponta												x ^c
Tanguieta									x	x	x	x ^c
Tchaourou							x		x	x	x	x ^c
Tori-Bossito										x	x	x ^d
Tori-Gare												x ^d
Zagnanado				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x ^d
Zivié ⁽⁸⁾									x	x	x	x ^d
Zougou #					x							

x indicates a listing in the source publication.

† indicates an office which is not in the source publication but can be presumed to have been open in the year in question.

indicates an office in Haut Dahomey.

For 1960,

a = *Bureau de plein exercice*,

b = *Guichet annexe*,

c = *Recette-distribution*,

d = *Agence postale*,

e = *Correspondant postal*,

f = *Cabine téléphonique*.

Sources

1888: E B Proud, "The Post Offices of the World (Except Germany) 1888," Proud Bailey Co Ltd, 1995.

1892: R G Stone, "An Alphabetical List of Post office names and Other Words in Postmarks Used on the General Issues of French Colonies 1860 – 1892," France and Colonies P S Inc (Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication No 1), 1978.

1895: Union Postale Universelle, "*Dictionnaire des Bureaux de Poste*," first edition.

1899: U P U, supplement to the above.

1907: Gouvernement Général de l'Afrique Occidentale Française, "*Les Postes et Télégraphes en Afrique Occidentale*," éditions Crété, 1907.

1909: U P U, "*Dictionnaire*," second edition.

1914: "*Indicateur Annuaire de l'Administration des Postes, des Télégraphes et des Téléphones - Colonies Françaises*," reprinted by COL.FRA as *Bulletin Hors-série* n° 13.

1926: U P U, "*Dictionnaire*," third edition.

1937: As above, fourth edition.

1948: P T T of Dahomey, public notice N° 3273 dated 17 July 1948, reported by Edmond Queyroy and published in *France and Colonies Philatelist*, July - August 1949 (whole n° 46).

1951: U P U, "*Dictionnaire*," fifth edition.

1960: R Crombez et al, "*Dahomey - Marcophilie, Essai de Nomenclature des Bureaux*" (COL.FRA, *Bulletin Hors-série* n° 14-6, 1997).

Notes

- (1) See Table 2, note 6.
- (2) Avrekété listed by Langlois and Bourselet, but "*simple relais du courrier*" (staging post) according to Crombez, who lists similar posts at Aurankou, Botou and Illagongui.
- (3) Calmina and Godomey - listed by the UPU for 1895 but not by any of the sources for Table 2.
- (4) Kotchari - Crombez reports as seen in list of 1901 but doubtful, possibly Kanchari in Upper Volta; possibly Chori?
- (5) Maticouali - see Table 2, note 8.
- (6) Ouidah - listed for 1888 but stated not to have a post office; this is the only office listed by the UPU for 1895 to appear also in the 1899 supplement.
- (7) Parahoué - re-named Aplahoué (*q v*) 30 September 1957.
- (8) Zivié - re-named Zinvié (date unknown).

Table 2 - Dates of Opening, Closure and Transfer

	Opened	Closed	Transferred	Earliest Cancel Reported / Illustrated	Source
Abomey	24 July 1897				2, 3, 4
Abomey-Calavi	1 June 1898 20 June 1898				2 3, 4
Adjaha				2 November 1962	4
Adjarra				11 March 1954 24 June 1954	3 4
Adjohon	2 March 1905				2, 3, 4
Affamé					
Agblangandan					
Agoua			10 October 1897 (Carnotville, <i>q v</i>)	17 July 1897	4
Agouagon	1909 (R) ?	1912		11 November 1959	4 4
Agoué	16 March 1894 1 August 1895 (R) 1950 (R) ? (R) ?	1917 1917			2, 3 4 2
				18 October 1931 17 May 1930	3 4
Ahozon				12 December 1958	4
Allada	3 March 1901				2, 3, 4
Allahé	27 May 1895		15 January 1896 (Dogba, <i>q v</i>)		4
Aplahoué	Formerly Parahoué, <i>q v</i>				3, 4
Athiémé	3 August 1900				2, 3, 4
Attogon				12 July 1942 4 September 1931	3 4
Avrekété	See Table 1, Note 2				
Ayoux					
Azaourissé				25 September 1958	3, 4
Azové	? 1954			22 November 1956 22 November 1956	3 4
Banigbé					
Banikoara				27 February 1960	3, 4
Banté				16 March 1957 7 October 1951	3 4
Bassila	February 1913				1, 3, 4

	Opened	Closed	Transferred	Earliest Cancel Reported / Illustrated	Source
Bimbéréké ⁽¹⁾	1 February 1914 1 February 1924 1 January 1914 (R) 1 January 1915	August 1914			1 3, 4 5 5
Birni				16 February 1958	4
Bohicon				10 February 1911	3, 4
Bopa				4 October 1920	3, 4
Boukombé				17 December 1956	3, 4
Cabolé ⁽²⁾	16 November 1903	27 February 1913 27 February 1913			1 2, 3, 4
Cadjehoun					
Calmina	1894 ? ⁽³⁾				
Carimama	14 April 1902 14 May 1902 18 May 1902		February 1912 (Guéné, q v) As above		3, 4 2 6
Carnotville	16 August 1897	1 November 1913 ⁽⁴⁾			2, 3, 4, 5
Chori	1901	Before 1907			4, 6
Cococodji				7 March 1960	3, 4
Comé				19 July 1955 27 June 1955	3 4
Cotonou	1 July 1890 ⁽⁵⁾				2, 3, 4
Cotonou Aéroport					
Cotonou Gbegamey					
Cotonou Jérico					
Cotonou Pont					
Cové				21 February 1929	3, 4
Dahoua ⁽⁶⁾					7
Dangbo				8 October 1959 ⁽⁷⁾	4
Dassa-Zoumé				1 November 1920	3, 4
Diapaga	4 August 1898 4 August 1898 4 October 1898		1907 (Upper Senegal & Niger) 1909 (Upper Senegal & Niger) 1907 (Upper Senegal & Niger)		4 2, 3 6
Djérigbé				30 August 1961	4
Djigbé					
Djougou	12 February 1898				2, 3, 4, 6
Dogba	1894 1894 1894	About 1900 1900 15 February 1905			2 3 4
Domé				18 November 1958	4
Dunkassa					
Ekpé					
Fada N'Gourma	24 January 1899 24 January 1899		1907 (Upper Senegal & Niger) 1909 (Upper Senegal & Niger)		4, 6 2, 3
Ganvié					
Gbessou ⁽⁸⁾				9 September 1935	7
Glazoué				18 April 1959	4

	Opened	Closed	Transferred	Earliest Cancel Reported / Illustrated	Source
Godomey	1894 ? ⁽³⁾ (R) 1 November 1954	?			4
Grand-Popo	16 May 1893 18 May 1893 ⁽⁹⁾				2, 3 4
Guéné				17 May 1928	3, 4
Ifahin					
Igolo				12 November 1955	4
Kandi	30 November 1901 20 November 1901				2, 3, 4 6
Kétou	(R) ?			10 August 1914 23 January 1951	3, 4 3, 4
Kilibo					
Konkobiri	6 September 1898	1909			2, 3, 4, 6
Kotchari ⁽¹⁰⁾					
Kouandé	12 August 1898				2, 3, 4, 6
Kouti				31 January 1958	4
Logozohé				29 November 1958	4
Malanville				24 December 1952 8 December 1953	3 4
Matiacouali ⁽¹¹⁾	12 October 1898 ? (R) 16 November 1902	26 January 1901	17 June 1903 (Upper Senegal & Niger)		3 3
	12 October 1898 ? (R) 16 November 1902	26 January 1901 17 June 1903			4, 6 4, 6
Missessinto				25 March 1960	4
Natitingou	1 March 1911 1 March 1914				3, 4 1, 5
N'Dali				22 April 1958 10 May 1955	3 4
Nikki	11 January 1904 8 February 1904				2, 3, 4 6
Ouagbo				24 December 1937	3, 4
Ouangara ⁽¹²⁾	January 1898 January 1898 (?)	?	11 February 1898 (Djougou, q v)		3, 4 6
Ouedo					
Ouessé				8 February 1957	3, 4
Ouidah	18 May 1893 ⁽¹³⁾				2, 3, 4
Pahou				23 December 1960	4
Paouignan	26 September 1902 (R) 1957 26 October 1902 (R) ?	1913 ? ⁽¹⁴⁾			2 2 3, 4 3, 4
Parahoué	12 June 1902 12 June 1902 (R) ?	1919 ⁽¹⁵⁾ 1919 ⁽¹⁵⁾			2, 3 4 4
Parakou	14 April 1899				2, 3, 4, 6
Pérére	16 January 1901		6 January 1904 (Nikki, q v) ⁽¹⁶⁾		3, 4, 6
Pira					
Pobé				11 December 1931	3, 4
Porga					

	Opened	Closed	Transferred	Earliest Cancel Reported / Illustrated	Source
Porto-Novo	1 July 1894 1 July 1894 ⁽¹⁷⁾ Late 1886				2 3 4
Porto-Novo R.P.				17 February 1955 14 September 1954	3 4
Porto-Novo Foun Foun				19 July 1958	4
Porto-Novo P.A.R.					
Porto-Novo Pont					
Sagon	20 January 1897 (R) 1960	1908			2, 3, 4 2, 3, 4
Sakété	21 June 1905				2, 3, 4
Savalou	26 April 1897				2, 3, 4
Savé	25 August 1904 25 September 1904				2, 3 4
Savi					
Say ⁽¹⁸⁾	7 June 1900 7 June 1900		2 March 1907 (Upper Senegal & Niger) 1912 (Upper Senegal & Niger)		4, 6 2, 3
Sê					
Segboroué				4 January 1954 28 November 1953	3 4
Segboroué P.A.R. ⁽⁶⁾					7
Sémé	1 October 1957				4
Sinendé					
Sokponta				4 June 1960 17 March 1955	3 4
Tanguieta				17 March 1953	3, 4
Tchaourou	(R) ?	May 1916		February 1935 February 1935	1 1 3, 4
Tori-Bossito				12 September 1951	3, 4
Tori-Gare				23 October 1958	3, 4
Zagnanado	20 January 1897				2, 3, 4
Zivié	1 January 1914 1 February 1914				5 1, 3, 4
Zougou	10 February 1902 11 February 1902	1908 1908			3, 4, 6 2

(R) indicates a re-opening of the office concerned.

Sources

1. M Langlois and V Bourselet: *“Les Oblitérations des Bureaux de Poste des Colonies et Possessions Françaises — Afrique Occidentale Française”* (Editions du Graouli, Paris, 1937).
2. C Bouerat: *“Les Origines des Postes et Télégraphes au Dahomey”* (Société Internationale d'Histoire Postale, Grenoble - *Bulletin* n° 16/17, 1970, pp 29 - 68).
3. A Hurpet: *“Les Oblitérations du Dahomey”* (COL.FRA, Paris - *Bulletins* 63, 64, 65, 66 and 69, 1993-95).
4. R Crombez et al: *“Dahomey - Marcophilie, Essai de Nomenclature des Bureaux”* (COL.FRA, *Bulletin Hors-série* n° 14-6, 1997).
5. C Bouerat, comments appended to the COL.FRA reprint of the 1914 *Annuaire*.
6. H Tristant: *“Le Haut Dahomey”* (see footnote † on page 4). Note that this study ends at 1907.
7. G Venot, unpublished list of Dahomey cancels (undated but believed to be after 1960).

Notes

- (1) Bimbéréké - not recorded in Table 1 for either 1914 or 1926.
- (2) Cabolé - apparently not re-opened after transfer to Togo.
- (3) Calmina and Godomey - listed by UPU for 1895 but not recorded in other sources.
- (4) Carnotville - "*Existerait en 1914 d'après documents officiels*" (Crombez).
- (5) Cotonou - official date of opening but operating from late 1886 (Crombez); see also footnote # on page 4.
- (6) Dahoua and Segboroué P.A.R. - presumably opened after 1960 (not listed in sources for Table 1 and no dated cancels illustrated).
- (7) Dangbo - Michael Ensor reports a cancel dated 5 May 1955.
- (8) Gbessou - This office appears only in the unpublished list of M Venot. He illustrates two cancels — one (which, as is frequently the case in his list, is shown without dater block) is inscribed HT DAHOMEY, and the other (which is dated) DAHOMEY. There is no mention of Gbessou in M Tristant's article on Haut Dahomey, but a Guessou (almost certainly an alternative spelling) is shown on the map between pages 10 and 11 of Volume 2 of the Naval Intelligence Handbook. It is on the road from Parakou to Kandi; it will be noted that both Parakou and Kandi were in Haut Dahomey.
- (9) Grand-Popo - stated to be official date of opening but cancel dated 12 August 1889 illustrated by Crombez; as with Cotonou and Porto-Novo, this office may have been opened as early as late 1886.
- (10) Kotchari - see note 4 to Table 1.
- (11) Matiacouali - no cancels known (Tristant, Hurpet). Crombez, reprinting Tristant, comments "*empreinte du T. à D. vue 1 seule fois*". Not recorded in lists for Upper Senegal and Niger.
- (12) Ouangara - Hurpet and Crombez, following Tristant, give dates of cancels seen as 25 August 1898 to 20 February 1899. In a second table, however, Tristant gives the date of closure as 11 February 1898 on transfer to Djougou (opened 12 February 1898). Since the earliest recorded cancel of Djougou is dated 25 May 1899, it is probable that the old canceller continued in use at the new location.
- (13) Ouidah - "*officiellement*" (Crombez).
- (14) Paouignan - not recorded by these sources as having been closed, but closure probable. Cancels noted for 28 June 1904 to 16 May 1927 and 16 November 1957.
- (15) Parahoué - Crombez illustrates cancels dated between 22 July 1903 and 16 May 1927, and 28 January 1951 and 27 August 1954. Re-named APLAHOUÉ on 30 September 1957 (but Crombez illustrates an Aplahoué cancel of 13 May 1957!).
- (16) Péréré - "*date officiel*".
- (17) Porto-Novo - "*selon Bouerat [source 2] mais certainement avant*".
- (18) Say - administered by French Sudan until 5 September 1900 (Tristant, Hurpet).

Table 3 - Alternative Spellings

Abomey - ABOMÉ (UPU 1895).
Abomey-Calavi - ABOMEY-CALAVY (UPU 1895).
Agoué - AGHWEH (additional spelling, UPU 1895).
Allada - ALLADAT (UPU 1899), ALLADAH (PTT 1914).
Athiémé - ATHIÈNE (variant listed by Langlois and Bourselet), ATHIÉNÉ (Crombez).
Carimama - CARIMANA (Constant Bouerat, 1970 article and comments in 1914 Annuaire reprint).
Cococodji - COCODJI (source for 1960).
Cotonou - KOTONOU (source for 1892); official change of spelling 1893.
Djerigbé - DERIGBÉ (source for 1960).
Gbessou - GUESSOU (Naval Intelligence Handbook, Volume 2).
Guéné - GHÉNÉ (variant listed by Langlois and Bourselet).
Kouandé - KUANDÉ (alternative, Tristant).
Logozohé - LOGOZOÉ (source for 1960).
Ouangara - OUANGAR (Tristant, as reprinted by Crombez).
Ouidah - WHYDAH (source for 1892, UPU 1895), WYDAH (UPU 1895), WEIDAH (source for 1888); official change of spelling 1893.
Paouignan - PAOUGNAN (PTT 1914).
Tanguieta - TANGUETA (sources for 1948 and 1951).
Tchaourou - TCHASUROU (PTT 1914).
Zagnanado - ZAGUANADO (UPU 1899).
Zivié - ZINVIÉ (re-named, date uncertain).

Cancels of ATHIÈNE, KOTONOU, WHYDAH and ZINVIÉ are known; Crombez includes a provisional listing of GHÉNÉ.

[Note: A similar article by Laurence on the post offices of Reunion will be published in a forthcoming number of the F&C Philatelist.]

PAGES FROM MY COLLECTION

(9) The Beginning of the Conquest of Morocco - Part II

Bob Deakin



Figure 1 (above) - Sailors of the *Galilée* viewing the graves of those killed in the two incidents mentioned in the text, on a card with a Gibraltar cds of 18 NOV 07.

The Algeciras Conference provided for the building of a harbour at Casablanca. The unruly Moors were against the building, and on 30 July 1907 a mob killed 9 European workers at a quarry used for the stone. This started a large uprising of pillaging and killing.

The French cruiser *Galilée* arrived on 1 August to await the arrival of 3000 troops. Before their arrival, however, an armed party of sailors landed on 5 August and fought their way to the French Consulate, where all the Europeans had gathered (see Figs 1, 2 and 3).



Figure 2 (above) - The rare violet oval cachet of the French warship *Galilée*, as seen indistinctly on the two cards on this page.



Figure 3 (right) - Sailors viewing the Moroccan camp abandoned in the above skirmish, on a card with Tangier cds of 17 DEC 07.



Figure 4 - General Drude, commander of the occupation of Casablanca, bungled the attacks on the Moroccans and was replaced by General D'Amade; here he is seen observing operations, on a card dated 21-9-07, with the black handstamp on reverse "TRÉSOR ET POSTES AUX ARMÉES / CASABLANCA."

Soon after, the army arrived under the command of General Drude (Fig 4); but he was dismissed for incompetence and replaced by General D'Amade in January 1908.

By that April 14000 troops had arrived (Fig 5) together with 2500 horses (Fig 6). To transport horses from ships to lighters would normally be impossible, but the French Army trained them and practised the exercise in Algeria.

Figure 5 (right) - Arrival of the French troops in Casablanca, January 1908; on the reverse of the card is the cachet of the 1st Regiment of Zouaves (mainly French conscripts).



The army consisted of a mixture of specialised regiments and cavalry (Figs 7, 8, 9, 10, 11).



Figure 6 - Spahis' horses disembarking in January 1908. The French trained their horses 4 or 5 times a year for such occasions. 2500 horses at 6 to a boat were landed. Between 11000 and 14000 men were landed in 24 hours.



Figure 7 - Foreign Legion after the capture of Settat, March 1908.



Figure 8 - A Segalese camp (see also Fig 11) near a camel convoy (in background of picture) in the Chaouia Campaign of 1907-1908.



Figure 9 - "Spahis": the native cavalry of the North African Army.



Figure 10 - Moroccan Riflemen.



Figure 11 - Senegalese Infantry (see also Fig 8), founded in the 1850s in Senegal, were led by Marine officers. They had a history of being tough, well behaved and loyal to their French officers. They were always accompanied by their wives, often acquired as part of the spoils of war. A unit landed with General D'Amade at Casablanca in 1908. Their uniforms consisted of dark blue jacket, balloon trousers, khaki puttees and sandals. The Fez hat was bright red; and they would often carry their pack on their heads.

Charging British Postage by Distance after 1840

Geoff Oxley

It has been a generally accepted fact that when uniform postage was introduced for letters in the United Kingdom in 1840 charging by distance ceased. However, uniform postage was an initiative for internally posted and received letters which, nevertheless, had implications for international mails.

From 5 December 1839, when internal fourpenny postage was introduced, letters addressed within the United Kingdom became prepaid or charged according to weight instead of the number of letter sheets up to an ounce, except for local post letters addressed locally. From 10 January 1840, the postage paid or unpaid became uniform throughout the UK, that is, similar amounts were prepaid whatever the destination according to weight, unpaid letters were charged double and local letters were included in the uniform system.

Foreign mails were carried by Government owned or chartered ships known as 'packets' because they carried the container known as the 'packet' in which letters were kept. Letters were also conveyed in bags by private ships. Letters carried on the 'packets' were subject to prepayment or charging of postage known as packet rates, which comprised two elements: a distance charge from London to the port of exit and sea postage to the foreign port of entrance, and vice versa. If the letter originated from or was addressed to places beyond London, then a further distance charge was applicable.

For example, the British Post Office Act of 1812 (52 Geo. III Cap. 88) introduced a packet rate of 1s 2d for letters to and from France for a basic rate of postage which was a single sheet of paper (comprising 6d sea postage from

Calais to Dover, and 8d for the distance charge of 72 miles from Dover to London). However, the circumstance which justified the title of this article began in 1833, when a cross post was established from places in Kent and East Sussex to enable letters to and from these places to be conveyed without the need for them to go via London. Francis Freeling, the Secretary of the Post Office, in writing his report recommending to the Postmaster-General the adoption of the cross post arrangement, mentioned that the amount of packet rate of 1s 2d would be unchanged when letters were carried on the cross post to or from France notwithstanding that in most cases these letters would travel less than 50 miles within the UK, which according to the inland scale of 1812 would justify a charge of less than 8d.

In practice, the packet rate of 1s 2d was not applied to letters from Tourcoing to Rye as shown in the illustrations. Instead, the sea and inland postages were treated as separate charges, not as a combined packet rate.

In 1836, the Anglo-French Postal Convention came into force, and new rates of postage were applied to letters to and from France. The packet rate for letters to and from France became 10d when to or from London. Letters to and from places beyond London were still subject to further inland postage. The 8d distance charge from Dover to London and vice versa was unchanged, but the sea postage from Calais to Dover and vice versa was reduced from 6d to 2d when addressed to or from places beyond Calais or Dover. A local sea postage charge of 3d was introduced between Calais and Dover.

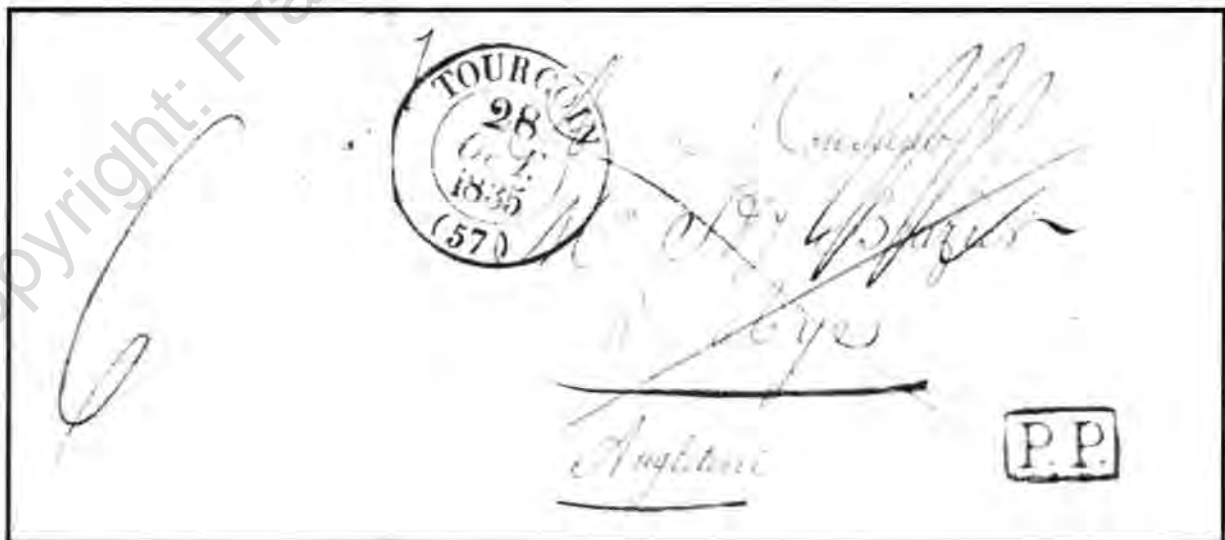


Figure 1 - 28 October 1835 from Tourcoing to Rye showing prepayment of 6 décimes (4 for conveyance to Calais and 2 for sea postage to Dover); charged 1s 1d (6d sea postage Calais to Dover; 7d for 34 miles for one sheet of paper).

Appendices to the Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1836 listed the places to which the reduced combined cross and sea post charges applied, and they were as follows:

Ashford 9d	Hastings 9d	Sandgate 6d
Broadstairs 9d	Hythe 6d	Sandwich 8d
Canterbury 7d	Margate 9d	Sheerness 9d
Chatham 9d	Queenborough 9d	Sittingbourne 9d
Deal 6d	Ramsgate 9d	Strood 9d
Dover 3d	Rochester 9d	Wingham 8d
Faversham 8d	Romney, New 8d	
Folkestone 6d	Rye 9d	

Examples from the correspondence from Tourcoing to Rye are shown to illustrate the changes in postal rates which came into force after the introduction of the cross post in 1833. The conversion rate for the Franc or 10

décimes was 9½d but for postal purposes the exchange was 1 décime = 1 penny sterling.

The alterations which affected the charging of postage in the UK after 1840 have been explained above. However, the postal rates on the cover illustrated as Figure 8 appear to show identical rates to those on Figure 5, but because of the implementation of uniform rates of postage in the UK they were to be interpreted differently, and show that postage was still charged by distance on letters from France after 1840 when they were addressed to places more than 50 and less than 80 miles from Dover.

The uniform postal arrangements for the UK were introduced under the authority of Treasury Warrants, but the changes it brought about were consolidated in an Act for the Regulation of the Duties of Postage (Cap. XCVI)

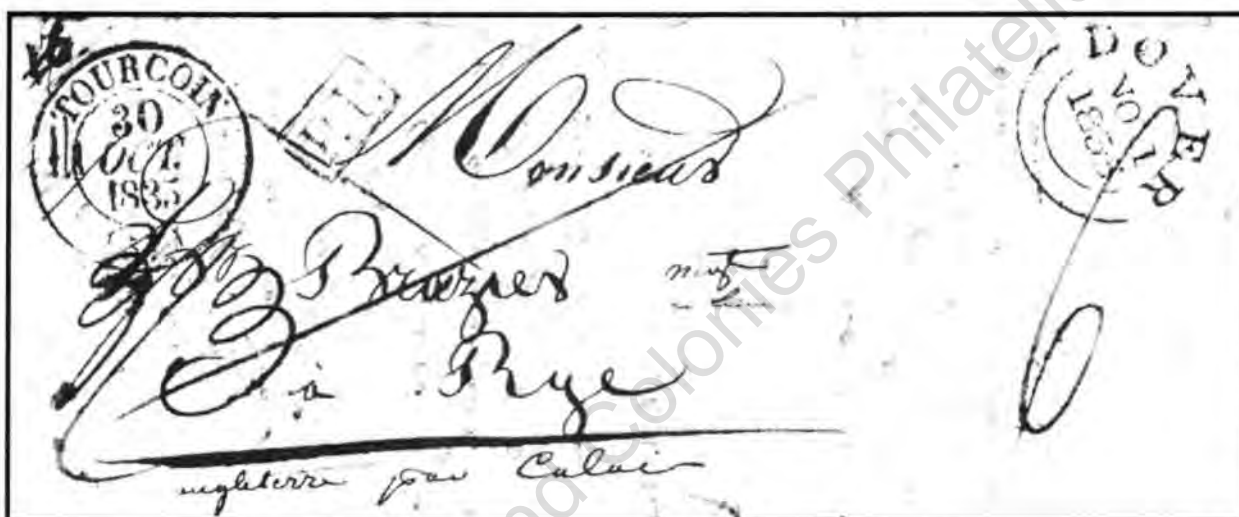


Figure 2 - 30 October 1835 from the same correspondence as Figure 1, similarly prepaid: charged 3s 3d (comprising 1s 6d [6d x 3 rates] sea postage and 1s 9d [7d x 3 rates] as the distance charge for 3 sheets of paper).



Figure 3 - 4 November 1835, same correspondence, similarly prepaid: charged 2s 2d (comprising 1s [6d x 2 rates] sea postage and 1s 2d [7d x 2 rates] for 2 sheets of paper).

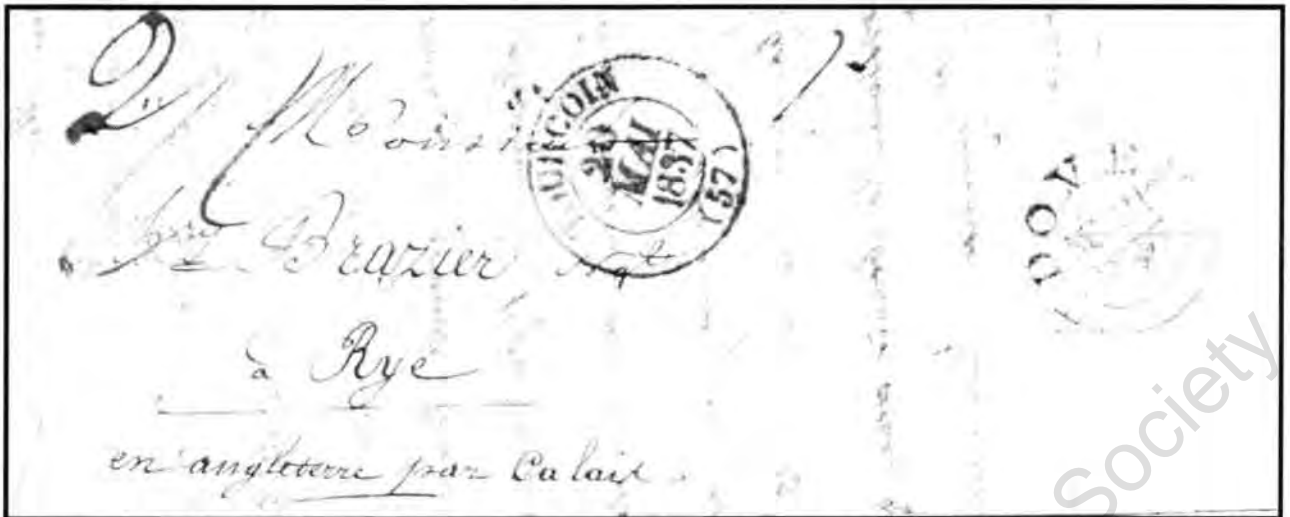


Figure 4 - 20 May 1837, same correspondence, posted unpaid: charged 2s 1d (7 décimes for France [4 for conveyance to Calais; 3 for sea postage] and 1s 6d for the UK comprising 6d [3d x 2 rates] sea postage and 1s [6d x 2 rates] inland postage Dover to Rye) because the Anglo-French Convention of 1836 now allowed unpaid posting and had introduced a local rate of 3d or 3 décimes for sea postage.



Figure 5 - 10 April 1839, same correspondence, unpaid: charged 1s 4d (7 décimes for France [as above], 9d for UK [3d sea postage, 6d inland postage - single sheet of paper]).

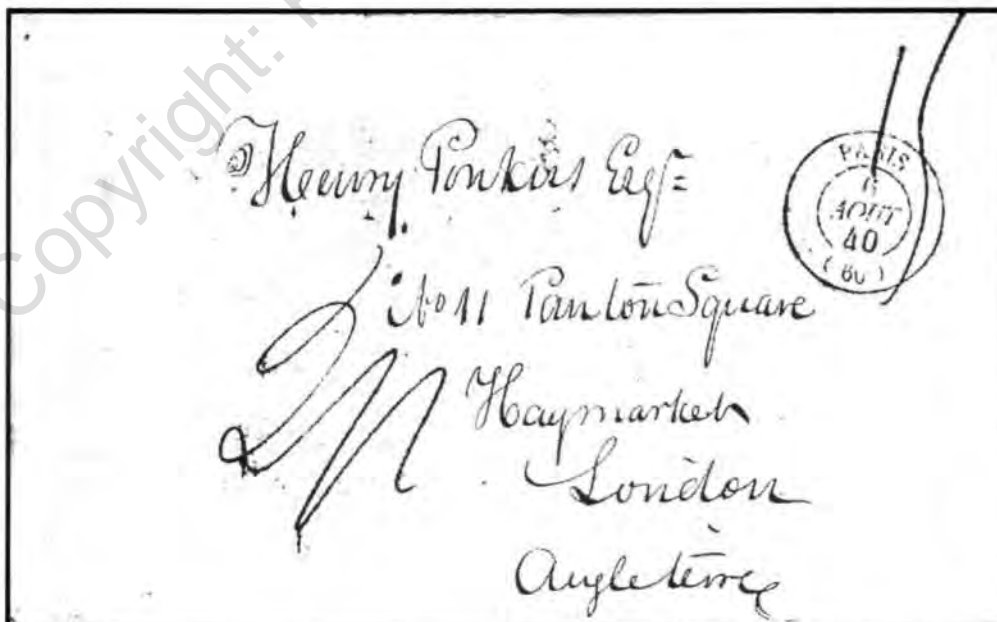


Figure 6 - 6 August 1840, Paris to London: this exemplifies the charging of British uniform postage on an unpaid letter to London. Charged 2s 1d (comprising 15 décimes, see top right, for France, for weight $7\frac{1}{2}$ -10g; and 10d for UK for weight not over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz).

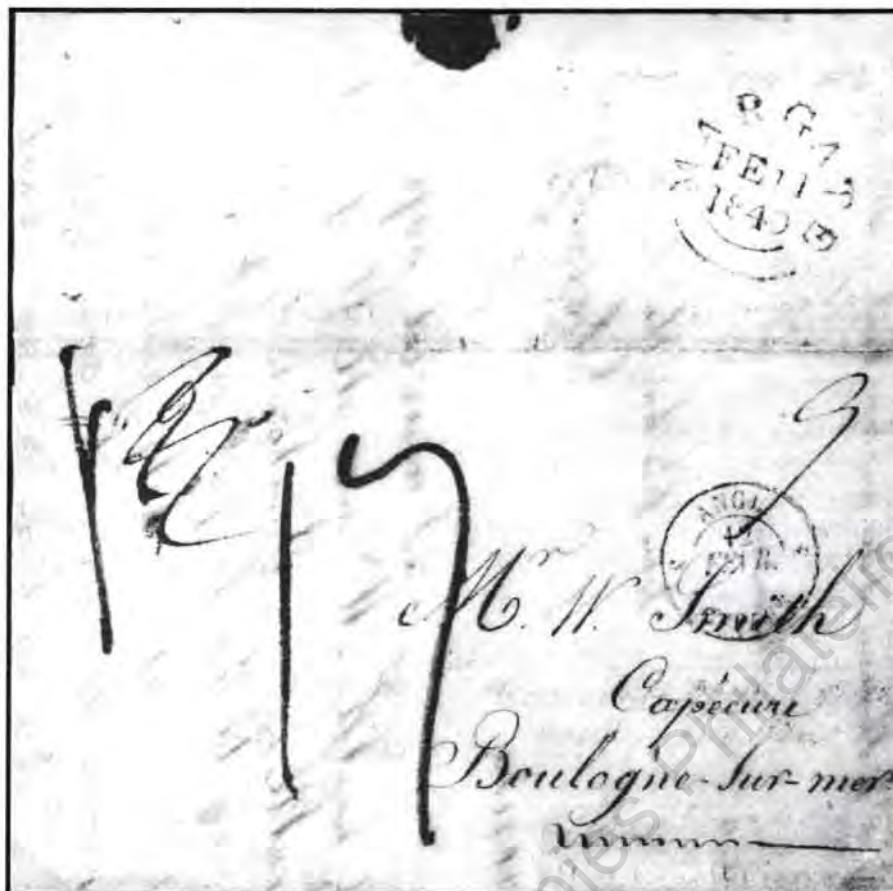


Figure 7 - 11 February 1840, Margate to Boulogne/Mer: charged 17 décimes (9 for UK, which includes 6 for inland postage to Dover & 3 for sea postage; and 8 décimes for France [5 x 1½ rates for 7½-10g, rounded up]). This shows the practice of charging postage by distance on outgoing mail after uniform postage had been introduced. Had this letter been addressed from London or beyond, the UK share would have been 10d.

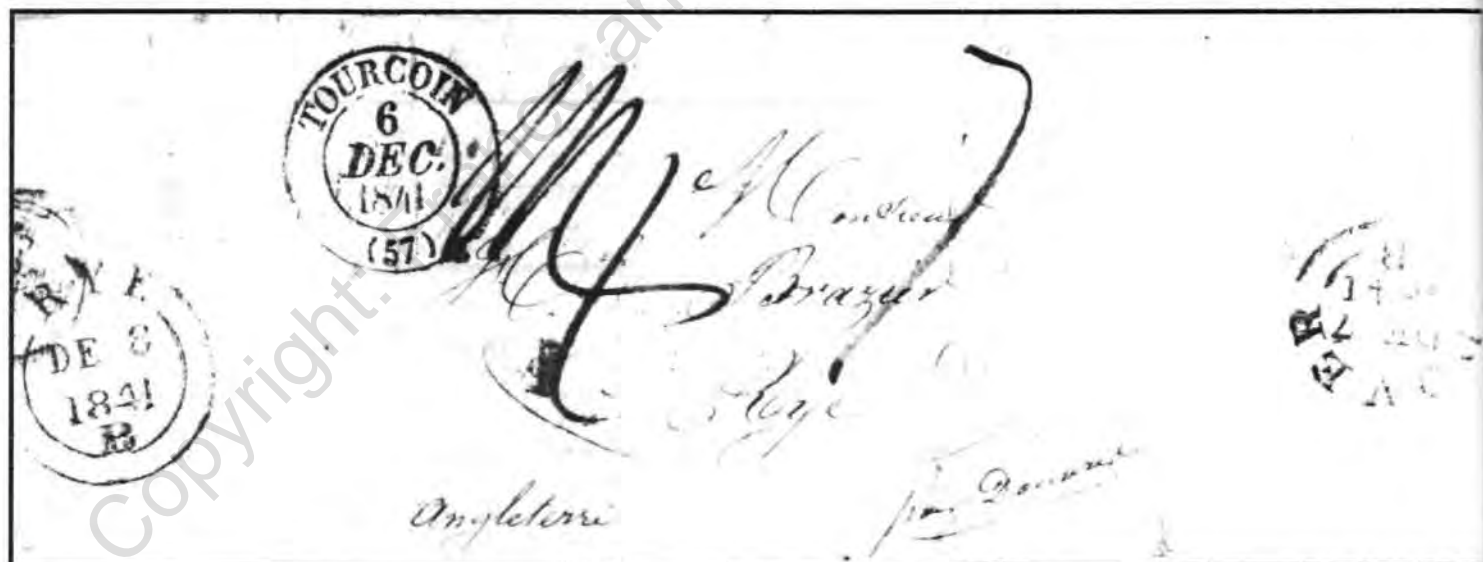
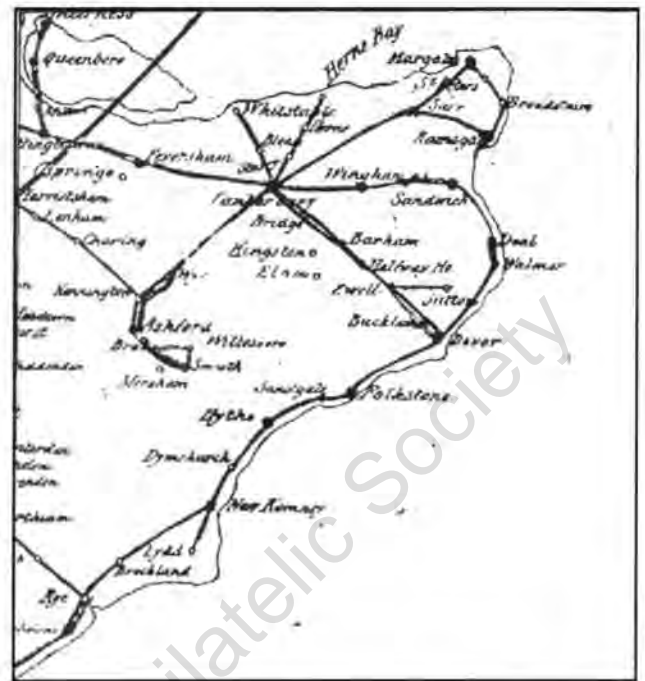


Figure 8 - 6 December 1841, from the Tourcoing correspondence to Rye. As with Figure 5, charged 1s 4d, but for a letter weighing ½oz, not for one sheet of paper. For France, 7 décimes, and 3d for sea post Calais to Dover. However, the remaining amount of 6d for inland postage illustrates the continuing charging of postage by distance when the uniform amount to London or beyond after the introduction of uniform postage was 8d.

Figure 9 - An extract from a Post Office circulation map of 1838, showing the post roads in Kent from Dover to Margate and Rye.



dated 10 August 1840, and included in Ch. 73 was a schedule of postal rates which stated the following:

'By packet boat between Dover or any other port in the United Kingdom and Calais or any other port in France, a packet rate of 3d and any place in the United Kingdom distant from Dover or other port in the United Kingdom:

*not more than 8 miles a rate of 5d
more than 8 miles and not more than 15 a rate of 6d
more than 15 miles and not more than 20 a rate of 7d
more than 20 miles and not more than 30 a rate of 8d
more than 30 miles and not more than 50 a rate of 9d.'*

These rates of postage vary slightly from those shown in the Appendices to the Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1836, because a rate of 2d for a distance of not more than 8 miles had been introduced by Treasury Warrant on 26 December 1837. During the period 1837 to 1839, there had been a number of other changes to British internal postal rates. The Post Office Act of 1837 (1 Vict. Cap. 34) had required the remeasuring of all post roads; in 1838 the charging of postage was changed from the distance actually travelled by a letter to the distance along the shortest public road between towns, and a number of reductions were brought about when the mails were transferred from the roads to the new railways.

A further illustration (Figure 7) of a letter from Margate to France shows the charging of postage by distance in the opposite direction.

The practice of charging postage by distance to those places in Kent and East Sussex which were less than 50 miles from Dover continued until the introduction of the Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1843, which reduced the rates of postage to a level below that at which distance charging could apply. The cross post arrangements with Kent, however, continued, and correspondence can be found until the 1870s showing by evidence of the postal markings that the practice was still used.

Record References

The British Post Office Act of 1812;
The French Postal Law of 1827;
The Freeling Minutes (held in Post Office Archives);
The Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1836;
The Superintendent's Order Books (held in the Post Office Archives);
British uniform postal arrangements;
The Anglo-Prussian Postal Convention of 1846.

Personal References

Mr F Goatcher, FRPSL;
Mr M Goodman.

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The Ligne de Saigon à Bangkok

John Garner

I really like the little mail-carrying shipping companies of the world, as there is so much more to study than with the great liners steadily ploughing the seas: and of all the little shipping companies, one I find most interesting is the *Ligne de Saigon à Bangkok*.

A French vessel first seems to have begun sailing between Saigon and Bangkok in 1887, but it picked up little trade. It was only after the 'Paknam Incident' of 1893 that there was any great need for a steamer at all, when French troops occupied Chantaburi pending the Thai evacuation of the east bank of the Mekong. According to the Consular Report on Siam for 1893,

"The French Colonial authorities are hoping to impart new vigour into the Bangkok - Saigon trade by the establishment of a permanent line of subsidised steamers running direct. The 'Messageries Fluviales C^{ie}' of Saigon have with this object placed an order with a firm of shipbuilders on the Clyde for the construction of two new steamers specially designed for this trade. These steamers have already commenced running, and an agency of the 'Messageries Fluviales C^{ie}' has been established: at Bangkok."

The two new Messageries Fluviales vessels were the *Mekong*, 746 tons, and the *Donai*, 792 tons, but the Bangkok - Saigon trade did not improve, and from the lack of references in the Consular Reports it appears that the *Mekong* was either never used on the route, or was removed almost immediately.

French troops occupied Chantaburi between 1893 and 1904, when a new treaty was concluded with Thailand, whereby the Laos frontier was modified to France's advantage. In return France evacuated Chantaburi. In the intervening period a fort at Chantaburi was built and occupied by about four hundred French officers and men. One of the most important duties of the Messageries Fluviales steamer was to bring supplies to the troops at Chantaburi.

"Ever since the beginning of the occupation a fortnightly steamer been subsidised to run from Saigon to Chantabun and Bangkok, but, beyond a few hundred tons of teak shipped to Saigon for the Dockyard authorities, her only cargoes have been stores for the troops at Chantabun.⁽¹⁾ She has carried a few passengers, among whom the greater number were invalided soldiers."

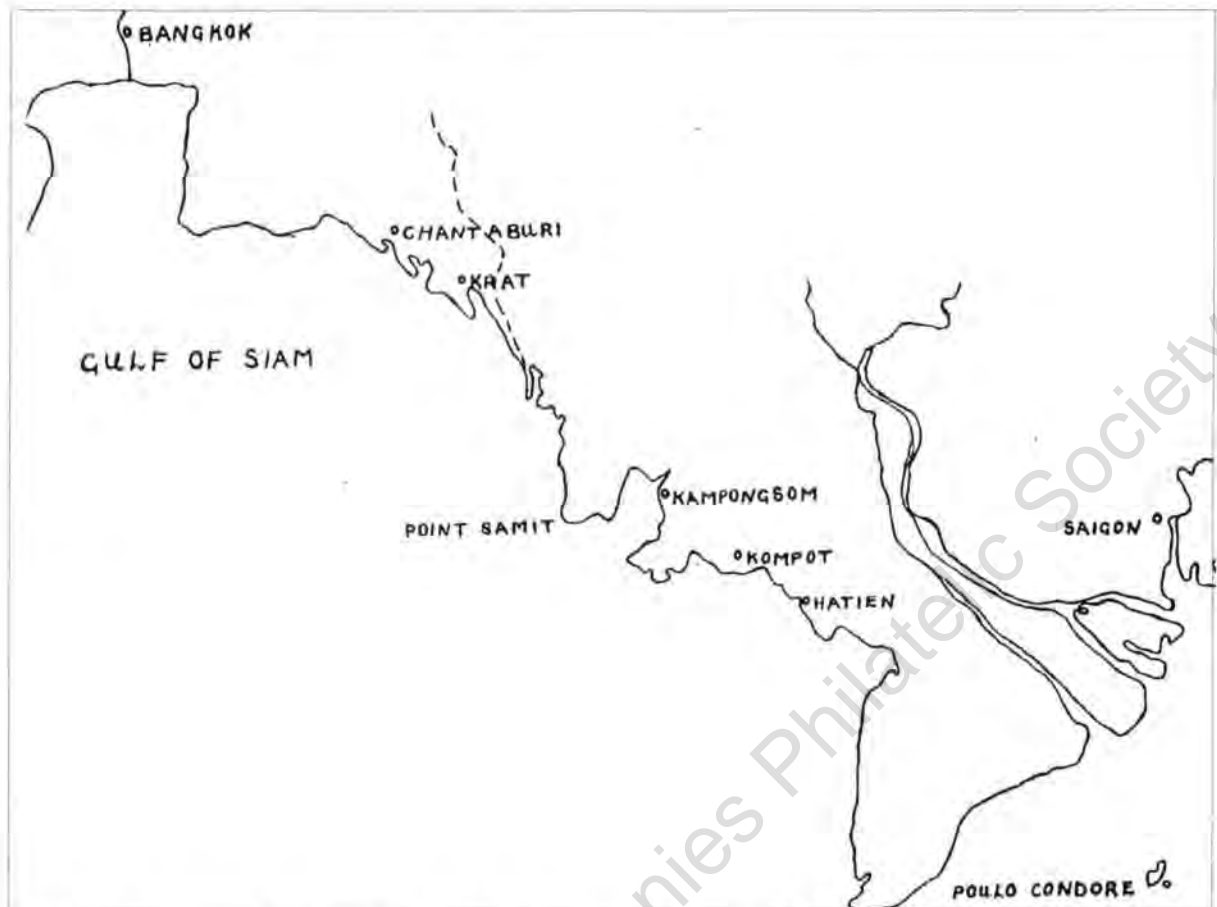
[H Warrington Smyth, *Five years in Siam* (published by John Murray, 1898).]

In fact, Warrington Smyth was not totally correct, since the *Donai* also carried mails to the French stations at Hatien and Point Samit and, during the pepper season from March to May, carried pepper from Hatien to Hong Kong.

P A Thomson, who travelled on the *Donai*, mentioned a few details about her. During his voyage the steamer stopped at Krat,⁽²⁾ which the Thais had ceded to France as a trading station after the relinquishing of Chantaburi, then at Kampongsom to take on a cargo of pepper, and reached Saigon four days after leaving Bangkok.



From my point of view, the really important point about the steamer is that mail could be posted on board and was cancelled by a special handstamp which is recorded from 1894 to 1905, struck in black or blue. The handstamp can be found used on mail sent by the soldiers at Chantaburi and on mail sent between Bangkok and Saigon, and



cancelling loose Thai stamps. As usual, the mail services of the steamer were looked after by a postal agent who kept a stock of stamps as well as the handstamp. The *LIGNE DE SAIGON A BANGKOK* handstamp is hardly known used after 1905 and seems to have been discontinued shortly after the troops left Chantaburi, although the *Donai* continued to sail, and carry mail, between Bangkok and Saigon.



The Messageries Fluviales were still running a steamer fortnightly in 1926, but the service was gradually run down and was finally discontinued in 1934, by which time aeroplanes were taking over all the main mail routes.

My card is interesting for a number of reasons: for one thing the *LIGNE DE SAIGON A BANGKOK* handstamp of 9 May 1903 in black is cancelling a 10cts stamp of Indo-China, which is in itself unusual, and for some reason, on its arrival in Saigon, the card, presumably with many others, was transferred to a ship of the *Lignes Coloniales* belonging to the Messageries Maritimes, which ran between there and Haiphong. The card was handstamped with the

SAIGON COCHINCHINE / PAQUEBOT / 12 MAI 1903 mark, and at Haiphong would have been further transferred to a vessel of the *Ligne N* for the journey to France. Whatever the reason for this awkward route, the card still arrived at its destination on 11 June 1903, only a month after despatch.

Knowing how fond the Victorians were of sending and collecting postcards, most of the surviving mail showing the *LIGNE DE SAIGON A BANGKOK* mark can at best be regarded as semi-philatelic; indeed I have only ever seen one cover bearing the cancellation which was also indisputably non-philatelic. It contained a request for stores from the fort at Chantaburi to Saigon, one of the first items on the list being butter, though how it was kept from melting in that heat, I cannot imagine. Equally, I have only seen one cover endorsed 'Per S.S. *Donai*'. Unfortunately, like the previous item, the dealer was only too aware that he had a rarity on his hands.

As usual, the technical details in this article come from that mine of information by Raymond Salles, *La Poste Maritime Française, Tome V*.

Notes

- (1) Chantaburi, also known as Chantabun, Chantaboon and Chantaboén, was occupied by French troops from 1893 to 1904.
- (2) Krat, also known as Trat, was held by France from 1904 to 1907.

Amazing 1870-71 Wonder Stories - 50

Ernst Cohn

I just came across my reprint of "*The notebook of an Amateur Collector of Early Souvenirs of the Air Post — Together with a few rarities from the Siege of Metz and the Siege of Paris*," With illustrations from a private collection. FRANCE." After that magnificent title, there is no name! However, I read somewhere that this book is about the collection of Mrs Augustine Fitzgerald, who donated it to the British Museum in 1947. I do not know whether she wrote it up herself or whether it was written up for her by someone else. The reprint, priced at 8,000 lira, dates from 1971 and was carried out at Milan.

My copy has someone's signature on the page announcing that this is a *Ristampa Anastatica*, but I can't make out the name. I have bought and retained the book because of the Metz and Paris material. That starts on page 91 with a *papillon de Metz*, postmarked at Neufchâteau on 17 September 1870, accompanied by the envelope into which it was put before delivery. It ends on page 119 with pictures of eight Cérés stamps (two perforated), all used and all overprinted B.BALLON / P.E.

Here we shall restrict ourselves to those pages and concentrate on some annotations made for material ranging from rarities to fakes, all of which have their place in a collection, of course.

The Metz *papillon*, complete with its envelope, is thought to be "perhaps the only one in existence in this condition." It is not, but that does not detract from its appeal. The address is given twice in the notes, presumably showing once what is on the top of the *papillon* and once what is on the envelope, though both seem to be identical. The postmark is said to be from Neuchateau. While the strike is partly illegible, as usual for all *papillons* sent by the first balloon of the Metz garrison, what is perfectly clear is that the name of the town starts with NEUFCH, so there was no reason to omit the "F". Also, part of the inscription on the envelope is repeated in the commentary as "France de Port," i.e. utter nonsense. What is easily read in the picture is "*franche de Port*," meaning "free of postage," which makes good sense.

On page 93 the annotator mentions the series of letters written by Pilot Vibert of the balloon *Steenackers*, English translations of which follow. He opines that "none of these letters seem ever to have been received." One wonders how he thought they were all collected together? Or why, in the case of letter 11, the "cachet of arrival [was] effaced;" letter 12 arrived on 14 October; letter 13 arrived the next day; and the last of that series arrived on 21 January?

It is not so surprising that the annotator thought part of the payload of that balloon consisted of two cases of dynamite

(page 94), the old fable that will not die. The contents of these cases were flares, not dynamite sticks, intended to act as signals, to be used by the approaching army or armies that the Parisians hoped would free them. There were also instruction booklets, explaining how these flares were to be used so as to signal messages to the Parisians. The balloon had a very rough landing, but of course the flares did not explode despite repeated shocks.

The last letter of the series, dated 9 January 1871, was personally entrusted to a pilot of the Dartois & Yon group. Vibert wrote "It is 10 pm. I have just heard that a balloon is starting." That was the *Gambetta*, launched between 3 and 4 am on 10 January, personally entrusted mail from which was posted at the railway station in Auxerre, according to Pierre Savelon's *La Poste Pendant le Siège*, Study #24 (1958), *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, page 6.

Savelon cites as an example a *Gazette des Absents* #21, written on the 9th, blue *Aéronautes* cachet on back, canceled "A à P" (*Auxerre à Paris*) and which arrived at Boulogne on 20 January. The Vibert cover is exactly analogous, blue *Aéronautes* cachet on back, stamp canceled "A à P" and arriving only one day later in the little town Villedieu-les-Poêles in the Manche département. It is hard to understand why the *Gambetta* is mentioned merely in a footnote, when the greatest sport of Paris balloon mail collectors is to identify the balloon that carried a letter.



The annotator thought that the *AÉRONAUTES* cachet is the rarest official aerial cachet in the world, of which only three examples exist in Paris today. I do not know how many are being kept in Paris, but I am sure there are more than three still in collectors' hands. It certainly is not an official cachet, however. Like the *AÉROSTIERS* cachet before it, it was bought and paid for privately.



The latter is described as the most interesting "cachet" (his quotes) in the world — I wonder why? Anyhow, it is pictured on a cover on page 109, the letter of which is dated 28 October and starts "I write to you on the occasion of the Balloon about to leave." That can only have been the *Col. Charras*, which left around noon on the 29th. Either the letter writer got the date wrong, or the balloon was delayed by a day. In any case, that is the only balloon it could have been, yet it is not mentioned by the annotator.



A number of mistakes occur in the description of the formation and operation of the airmail service during the siege of Paris, but that is not too surprising, considering that some of these fables are still being quoted as being real.

The printed texts of three rarely seen newspaper-letter combinations are shown, and more letters are translated on pages 114 - 118.

Page 119 then presents the "mystery stamps," the annotator not being sure whether they are genuine overprints, falsifications, or forgeries, nor does he know the significance of the initials cited above. If the full story of these items is still unknown, we do have some more details about them, as printed in #7 (April 1871) of volume I of the *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung*, published at Dresden in 1870/71. On pages 56-57, "G.S." writes about a balloon stamp swindle. The stamps were offered as coming from Bordeaux. He got a lithographed, imperforate 20-centimes stamp, which had been used before being overprinted. The overprint reads "Bar (*sic*) Ballon Post Expedition." This interesting mixture of faulty French (*par ballon*) and proper German (*Postexpedition*) does point to Saxonian origin, because in Saxon dialect "b" and "p" are habitually interchanged. Business appears to have been good, though one hardly sees the junk anymore today.

At the same time, Paris balloon letters were faked by taking normal letters, which were then starting to go through regular mail channels again, and removing or making illegible the dates on the covers before offering them as balloon mail.

To come back to our original story, though — when annotating stamps and covers, whether for one's own enjoyment or for that of others, it is a good idea to read

carefully what the pieces present as evidence, to use the dates and spellings as one finds them, to interpret only if one has impeccable sources of reference, preferably citing examples that are more or less exactly parallel to the items one is annotating. One must not leave out vital letters or numbers, nor imagine that one sees something that isn't there.

There was a time when American philatelists seemed deadly afraid of having to compete with professional annotators at competitive exhibitions. The argument was that it was not fair to have a professional compete with an amateur, the implication being that the professional knows so much more and can express himself so much better than the amateur. On the contrary, the real lover of his collection will know a good deal more about his accumulation both individually and overall than any professional ever has time to learn about it. After all, the dealer/auctioneer has to know about a much larger area than the collector. Also, nowadays there are a great many publications and specialty societies that can help the individual. Professionals simply don't have the time to read (and to keep in mind) everything bearing on every collection they undertake to mount and annotate.

Another lesson is to be learned from this little book. Almost 90 pages of it are devoted to heavier-than-air mail. Yet anyone studying the 20 or so pages about 1870/71 will get the impression that, if the annotator did this to about 1/6 of the book, how much faith can one have in the other 5/6? I have seen other examples, not just of philatelic subjects, where authors have added a few pages at the start or end of their works, as a bit of introduction or sequel to their main topic. Too often these "second thoughts" consist of copying unreliable material or perhaps merely incomplete material which has, however, serious gaps. Such cut-and-paste procedures cheapen what may otherwise be good texts. Anyone reading these fillers will be tempted to skip the meat, thinking it may well be just as unreliable as what he has just seen. So — don't do it!

If you are writing about the siege of Paris, don't incidentally cite some other siege(s) about which you know next-to-nothing; if about airplane mail, don't be tempted to mention LTA mail incidentally, which has its very own little traps; if your field is colonial mail systems, keep your pen off the precursors that are intricate themes all their own. Unless your title is all-encompassing, in which case you had better know it all, stick strictly to your chosen subject, regardless of how narrow it may be. Then you will not lose readers who find out all you don't know by looking at your "in the beginning" or your "and furthermore" sections, where you may be unknowingly exposing your ignorance. Of course we can't all know about everything, but do we need to explain that to every reader?

[The illustrations were originally used in DOC PHIL #139]

Result of Ernst Cohn's Quiz

A very close contest between two members who had obviously carried out some detailed research into the points raised made the decision difficult. However, the winner just shaded it by the amount of precise detail included in his answers, and the slightly more accurate information produced in two of the items.

First Prize (balloon flight commemoration cover): **Ashley Lawrence**

Runner-up (no prize, unfortunately): **Alan Wood**

The following are the answers as supplied by Ernst Cohn, with added detail where relevant from the contestants [in square brackets] — sometimes including disputed facts.

(1) The Franco-Prussian War was fought between two roughly equal powers.

A Franco-Prussian War might have involved two roughly equal powers. But, because it really was a Franco-German War, the Germans fielded some 12 divisions more than the Prussians alone could have mustered, and that may well have determined the outcome. The Germans made sure that they outnumbered the French at every key battle.

[Prussia was supported by the Kingdoms of Saxony, Württemberg and Bavaria, and the Grand Duchies of Baden and Hessen-Darmstadt. The German army totalled 1,183,000; the French had 492,000 men available and 417,000 reservists, but only a total of 420,000 could be quickly mobilised. The French were found wanting in leadership, equipment, training and organisation, and were unprepared for modern warfare.]

(2) Bazaine headed the Army of the Lorraine.

Bazaine headed the Army of the Rhine (which never saw the Rhine).

[There was no Army of the Lorraine.] [Frossard was the General of the Army of Lorraine.]

{Editor's Note. I have a 1922 edition of the "Nouvelle Histoire de France Illustrée" which states that the French army, originally commanded by Napoleon III, was divided into the Army of Alsace (67,000 men) under MacMahon and the Army of Lorraine (130,000 men) under Bazaine. Further research at the library suggests that this division took place on 2 August; that MacMahon was given 3 corps and Bazaine 5 corps; that the Army of Lorraine took part in the Battle of Spichern on 6 August, with the II Corps under the command of Frossard. On 12 August Napoleon relinquished control and Bazaine was put in command of the reorganised Army of the Rhine which fell back on the fortress of Metz, while MacMahon regrouped at Châlons.}

(3) Instead of launching manned balloons, Metz sent out unmanned balloons. Why was that?

Dr Jeannel, who organized the first of two Metz airmails, intended the little unmanned balloons merely to carry coded military messages. Bazaine refused to use balloons for that purpose, considering them too unreliable. The

second Metz airmail, run by the garrison, was meant for use by the populace as a whole.

[Metz did not have any trained balloonists, available balloons, or facilities for constructing and filling balloons large enough to carry aeronauts and payload. Metz balloons had gas bags made of paper reinforced with cheesecloth.]

(4) The Prussians arrived outside Paris late in September.

The Germans closed the ring around Paris in the late afternoon of 18 September.

[By the end of August 1870 the armies of Bismarck found themselves at the gates of Paris.]

(5) The Prussians hired an English mercenary named Cox who managed to crash his balloon while attempting a liftoff. He subsequently changed sides and served the French.

Henry Tracey Coxwell (1819-1900), a British professional balloonist, was hired to take two of his (gas) balloons to Cologne in the summer of 1870 to train two detachments, each containing some 20 men, of German military aeronauts. An American balloonist (name unknown) had also been hired, but for experiments with a hot-air balloon. When that balloon did not work, it was converted to a gas balloon as well. Coxwell and his assistant Barker made some captive ascents. Coxwell then turned over his balloons to the Germans and returned to England. Barker accompanied the newly formed corps to the siege of Strasbourg. Only one balloon was inflated near there, but due to the surrender of Strasbourg was not needed for observation. Lack of need for observation balloons led to the balloon corps being disbanded in October. (See Coxwell's *My Life and Balloon Experiences, with a Supplementary Chapter on Military Ballooning*, London 1887, W H Allen & Co, vol. 2, pp 255-6. For details of German 1870 balloon activities, see my account of *The 1870 Balloons and the Germans* in *German Postal Specialist*, August 1974, pp 285-95; September 1974, pp 327-32).

[There is no evidence that Coxwell changed sides. He would have found it impossible to enter Paris during the siege, and even if he had offered his services to the French, they would have treated this with the utmost suspicion.]

(6) The Parisians organized a regular air service, using hydrogen balloons.

While the *Liberté*, which cut loose before it was loaded and properly launched, would have been filled with hydrogen, most of the other Paris balloons were filled with coal gas.

(7) The names of the foremost aeronauts of Paris were Tornachon and Durouf.

The correct spellings of the names, real and "professional," of the best known Paris balloonists, are Tournachon ("Nadar") and Dufour ("Duruof"). {See illustrations on page 24.}

[Nadar described himself as an *aérostier*, with the term *aéronaute* being applied to a balloon's passengers and pilot alike. When he left the company, the latter term replaced the former on the company's cachet. Other notable balloonists included "Dartois" (Legrand) and Yon.]

(8) The Government paid 4,000 francs per balloon and sent about 100,000 lightweight letters on each flight, for an income of 20,000 francs. Deducting the 300 francs paid to an aeronaut, the Third Republic could expect a profit of 5,700 francs from each balloon.

The sole official unmanned balloon, loaded with cards, was bought from the Godards for 150 francs, payable immediately after ascent. The government paid the Godard family 4000 francs per manned balloon, including a 300-franc pilot's fee, though some may have received up to 1000 francs. Dartois and Yon first got 4500 francs, costs of aeronauts and gas being separate. On 4 December, the price went down to 4000 francs, gas and pilot fees still being extra. Later on, the price was still 4000 francs, but now included only 200 francs for the pilot as well as 300 francs for the gas, previously a separate cost item running up to 500 francs. Accessories were charged separately and varied from 300 to 600 francs per balloon. A 50-franc penalty resulted from each day's delay of balloon delivery. Pilots were also furnished and/or trained by the manufacturers.

Postmaster Rampont-Léchin testified at the post-war inquiry that there were 54 departures of postal balloons, costing about 6000 francs each but bringing in at least 10,000 to 15,000 francs in postage fees. This amount is way too high. Assuming an average daily load of 25 kg of 2g letters, the 12,500 letters sent daily, counting only the 20 centimes domestic postage per letter, brought 332,500 francs in 133 days of siege. Or, if distributed evenly over 54 postal balloons, each balloon netted, on average, a little over 6000 francs in postage fees, so that the operation just about broke even. The total mail weight, some 11,000 tons, includes at least 50-60%, perhaps even more, "junk" mail that was airlifted when excess lift capacity became available after mid-October 1870.

[The postal payload per balloon varied between 10kg and 460kg. Letters were not to exceed 4g and cards 3g.]

(9) Postcards provided by the postal service were imprinted with insults directed at the Prussians.

Postcards were authorized by the post office but had to be provided privately, and a variety of imprints are known, in addition to just plain cards. The peace slogans (not insults) and massed French flags, sold only on blue stationery during the siege, were reprinted on cards after the war for Maury.

[Postage was 10c for cards sent *par ballon non monté*, but the unsuccessful unmanned balloon service was soon discontinued. *Dépêche-réponse* cards, inviting replies by pigeon post, did not bear propaganda messages.]

(10) A total of about eleven tons of airmail included more than 2 million letters.

As mentioned above, fewer than 2 million letters were airlifted. Wags have estimated that of the 2 million 1870/71 airletters sent, some 3 million are still extant today - believe it or not!

[LePileur (1953) reported that a total of 11,000 kilos of airmail transported by balloons included 2.5 million letters.]

[The 66 manned balloons carried pilots; more than 100 passengers; more than 350 homing pigeons; 6 dogs; astronomical, diving, telegraphic and photographic equipment; 2 cases of signal flares; and about 10 tons of mail containing, at best estimate, some 2.5 to 3 million letters and cards.]

(11) The French invented microfilm in 1870.

Microfilm was invented by John Benjamin Dancer at Manchester in 1839, when he installed a microscope lens in a camera and made the first recorded microphotograph of a document 20 inches long. The image, $\frac{1}{8}$ " long, was perfectly legible under a 100x microscope. The best information on this topic can be found in Frederic Luther's book, *Microfilm — A History 1839-1900* (The National Microfilm Association, Annapolis, MD, USA, 1959, page 16). In fact, all the technology used in the 1870 war, and there was quite a lot, had been accessible before its start. There simply was no time to invent anything new and use it then.

[Barreswil, a chemist of Tours, was in 1854 co-author with Davanne of *La Chimie Photographique*, which described how photographs could be much reduced in size.] [Dagron saw Dancer's slides when exhibited in Paris in 1859, published a treatise on microphotography in 1864, and presented microfilm at the Exposition Universelle of 1867; Nadar put him in touch with Director of Posts Rampont when Paris was besieged, and they agreed terms for the application of his process to the pigeon post.]

(12) Of 381 pigeons sent out on 65 manned balloons, 308 were sent back towards Paris but only 59 arrived safely.

The best source of information on Paris homing pigeons is the late John Douglas Hayhurst's *The pigeon post into Paris 1870-1871* (1970, 45 pp). In brief, no precise numbers have been established. The most reliable source, according to Hayhurst, is Steenackers, who claims that 363 pigeons were flown out of Paris (it is now certain that none was brought out before the siege), 61 of which merely announced their balloon's safe arrival or could not be used (e.g., died or were captured). Steenackers authorized about 300 pigeon releases, but there were only 59 completed flights. The number of different successful pigeons was less than half the number of arrivals, because most of those that returned were taken out again, some more than once. The pigeon "Gambetta" is said to have brought news five times.

[There were 66 manned flights out of Paris.] [67 piloted balloons are listed by l'Héritier.]

[53 of the manned balloons carried between 2 and 30 pigeons. The Mangin brothers estimated that 407 pigeons

were carried out of Paris by balloon. According to Steenackers, 302 pigeons were released from Tours or Poitiers for return to Paris.] [Steenackers' cousin Blay reported the release of 248 pigeons.]

The story that the Germans brought trained falcons to kill the birds is another fable. Someone did think about it, but nothing was done. Besides, birds of prey apparently go after pigeons only when they have just started and are still spiraling upwards or when they are about to land. German falcons, had they actually been imported to France, would have been unlikely to be present for either maneuver.

[The Times correspondent reported from Tours on 19 November 1870: "The Prussians, it is said, with their usual diabolical cunning and ingenuity, have set hawks and falcons flying round Paris to strike down the feathered messengers that bear under their wings healing for anxious souls."]

As Goethe assured readers sarcastically in *Faust*, part 1, "*Denn was Du schwarz auf weiß besitzt, kannst Du getrost nach Hause tragen.*" {For what you own in black on white, you may take home in confidence.}

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SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Sowers used as Tax Stamps

I was interested to read the article by David Jennings-Bramly in Journal 114 (December 1999). I have two covers similar to those illustrated in David's article, both of which would appear to be philatelic confections (figs 1 and 2). I have not seen a genuine cover with a green 5c Sower used as a tax stamp. However, in the Yvert Specialist Catalogue, 1982, Volume 2, page 283, there is an illustration of what appears to be a genuine cover. The catalogue also

lists other occasions where postage stamps have been used in place of postage dues.

I have in my collection an example of a Sower genuinely used as a postage due. This item is a postcard sent from Loughborough to St Aubin sur Mer in 1904, with a red 10c Sower used to collect the underpaid postage (fig 3).

Tom Waterman

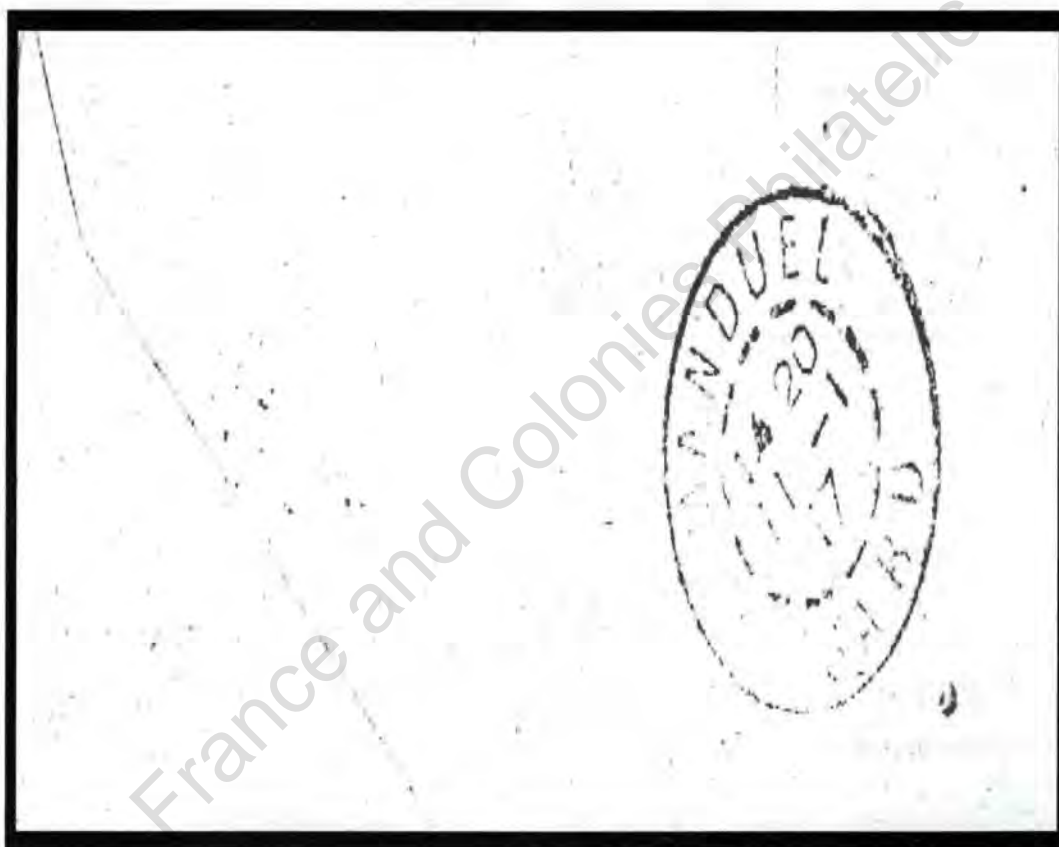


Figure 1



Figure 1a - Backstamp on flap



Figure 2

Figure 2a - Backstamp on flap

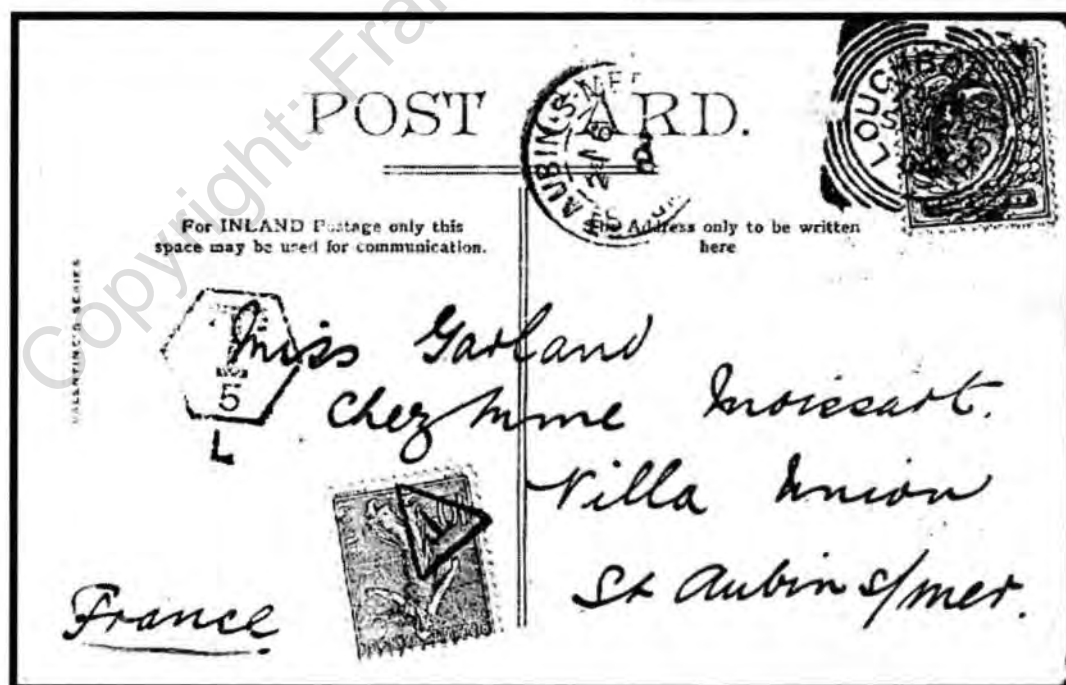


Figure 3

The Missing Centenarian

Having perforce to spend too many months each year working in "young democracies," I find that e-mail and the Internet are indispensable aids towards keeping in touch. It is not, therefore, too onerous an additional imposition to read the main philatelic newsgroups on the Worldwide Web, including the key French site, "rec.fr.philatelic." This produces various commercial offers, a fair amount of boring material, and a number of genuinely worthwhile enquiries. One recent example of the latter was the apparently simple question: "Why is there no number 100 in the Yvert & Tellier catalogue?"

On the face of it, it is a relatively easy query to answer. Embedded in the folk memory of most specialist collectors of France is the *non-émis* 20 centimes *bleu* Type Sage of 1876/77, printed to cope with a change of tariff that did not happen, and therefore destroyed in 1880, with a few sheets escaping and emerging on to the philatelic market at a very high price. An article in *Timbroscopie* (n° 37, June 1987) on this *timbre fantôme* sets out the story of this unissued stamp as if it was definitively the missing number 100.

But is it? If so, what then is currently Yvert & Tellier number 73? Indeed, the more one looks into this curiosity the more mystified one becomes. For instance, the very first Yvert catalogue, in 1897, lists this Type Sage as an *erreur*, and gives it the number 110. In this first catalogue the number 100 was the 2 centimes brown-red, now number

85. By 1932, the Yvert 100 was the current 101, ie the 15 centimes *bleu quadrillé*, and the unissued 20 centimes had become number 81. By the time of the 1939 Yvert catalogue the numbering system had changed completely and the 20 centimes had become a reluctant number 73 as a *timbre non émis* - reluctant in that it figures as a footnote rather than appearing in the main numbering sequence. The current Yvert catalogue follows this latter format, save that it lists it as a "full" 73.

This is all rather peculiar, particularly as the detailed circumstances of the unissued 20 centimes were known well before the first Yvert and Tellier catalogue. It was destroyed in 1880, seventeen years before the first catalogue. Why then the inconsistency in the early catalogues? And, if number 73 is this *non-émis*, what then was number 100?

Other early catalogues note it as a *non-émis* but give it a number: Maury - 82c, Thiaude - 76A, and Locard - 94. The Mariane catalogues list all *non-émis*, including this, on an entirely separate page. Cérès, of course, follows Yvert. Of the foreign catalogues, Scott gives it the number 71, but Gibbons and Michel put it in footnotes.

Can any member, particularly a colleague with a better collection of early catalogues, throw further light on this oddity?

Michael Meadowcroft

WWI German Field Post Office in France



Deutsches Feldpostamt in Nord-Frankreich. 1. Gruppe. Postfach 1000

This is a copy of a photograph taken from a 1915 New York German language newspaper. The sign on the shutter identifies the troops as Bavarians of the 3rd Army Korps.

The spiked helmets and the photo's appearance in a Spring issue of the newspaper suggests the original photo was probably taken in the Fall of 1914.

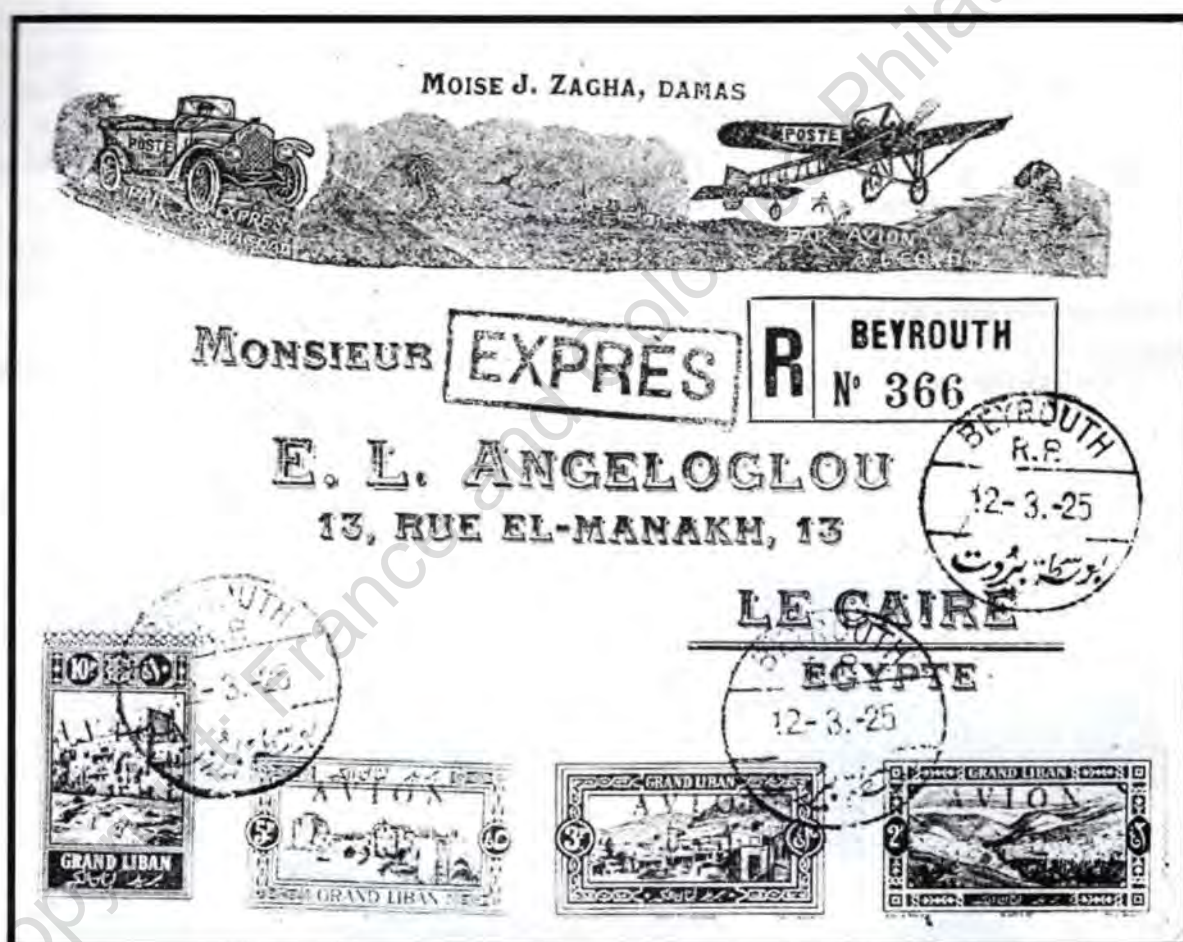
Gene Fricks

Syria and Lebanon Items

Collectors of Syria and Lebanon may be interested in these illustrations. For those who like the forerunners, or the old Turkish datestamps which continued in use during the French Occupation and Mandate periods, here is the SAIDNAIL (BEKAA) octagonal type.



Although listed in Coles & Walker (Part One, page 55), it is not illustrated there. I have it on some Turkish covers of 1913, but have never seen it used during the French administration. If such usage does exist, I should very much like to see a copy.



The second exhibit is from a souvenir envelope with a printed illustration of the surface route Beirut-Baghdad and airmail route onwards to Cairo. The datestamps are Beirut 12 March 1925, Baghdad 14 March and Cairo 20

March. Despite its philatelic origin, it is an unusual and very early combination of the Surface-to-Air and *Jusqu'à* scenes, and I hope to include it in my next book, if only as a bit of fun.

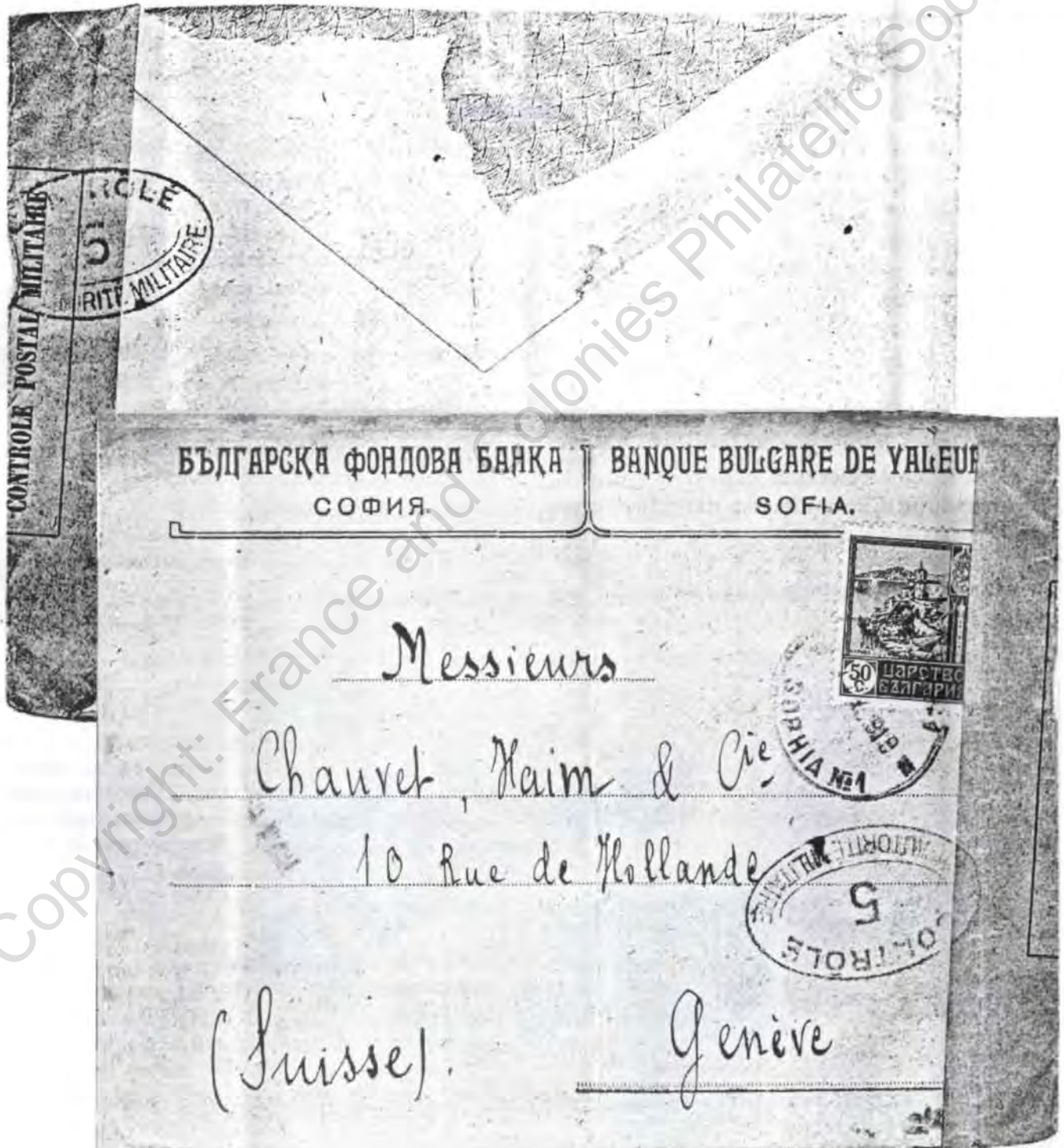
Ian McQueen

French Military Censor Marks on WWI Cover from Bulgaria

I am a longstanding collector of Bulgaria, and have recently acquired a cover posted from the Bulgarian capital Sofia to Switzerland in 1919, which shows a censor resealing label and censor cachet strikes applied by the French Military Censor — the first of this sort I have ever seen. I understand from my reading of Bulgarian history that French troops from the Army of the Orient were stationed in Bulgaria at the end of World War I, but I have no other information about the philatelic implications of this.

I would like to ask members of the Society whether any information on this topic has been made available through your Journal, or is available through the Society Library. I particularly want to know when censorship began, how the system functioned, what markings were applied (and the location of the number 5 illustrated) and when censorship ended. I would of course reimburse the cost of any photocopying required. Address: 1 Ecton Leys, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV22 5SL.

Mike Whittaker



11 x 11 Perforated Sowers

I have recently read with interest David Jennings-Bramly's article in Journal 211 (page 51), particularly with reference to the Sowers. These stamps, although completely unauthorized, were very definitely produced at the government's Boulevard Brune printing plant. They first came to my attention in 1971 when a letter surfaced, purporting to come from the PO department, and stating that the stamps had been perforated at the same time as the Pont du Gard perf 11 issue. Rather than "fake" I prefer the French term "*émissions de minuit*." The monkey-shine is supposed to happen at about midnight when the supervisors are safely ensconced in their offices digesting their late supper.

The Monaco n° 21, listed by Cérés, is genuine; but the four Sower values perforated 11 — 5c green, 10c red, 25c blue and 30c orange (Yv 137, 138, 140 & 141) — are only semi-legitimate because of where they were manufactured. Personally, I would not exhibit any of the aforementioned Sower stamps, but would own them for reference purposes.

Ray Gaillaguet

[An edited version of comments to be published in the F&C Philatelist of April 2000, included here by permission of the Editor.]

The "PAQ.ANGL.B.M. / BORDEAUX" Handstamp of 1874

New information has come to light on the use of this handstamp, which is reported in Salles Vol III Page 163 and Vol IV page 223.

Salles claims that in 1874 a "*Boîte Mobile*" or moveable box was placed near the offices of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company on the Quai des Chartrons. The object of the box was to receive paid mail addressed to South American ports served by the Pacific line vessel calling at Pauillac. These items were carried to the main Post office in Bordeaux for cancellation and were then sent on to Pauillac to catch the vessel just before it sailed.

My good friend and indomitable researcher, Monsieur H Tanter has sent me an extract from the report of the Prefect to the General Council of the Gironde, during the session of August 1874, which gives a wholly different interpretation to the manner in which the moveable box was operated.

This report says (my translation): "Since last January a moveable box has been installed on board the satellite vessel plying between Bordeaux and the British mailboat at Pauillac to facilitate the last minute delivery of mail. The mail is sorted and made up in bags during the journey between Bordeaux and Pauillac by a Postal Agent specially assigned from the main Post Office."

This seems to me a more logical explanation in any case and does explain how time is saved by cutting out the handling of the mail in the main post office.

This is a very scarce B.M. handstamp and certainly merits the index of 24 awarded by Pothion in *France Oblitérations (Sans Paris)* (1985) page 34. Members may wish to amend the entry relating to this postmark as the form is of type 15 and it is not octagonal as stated. An example is given below:-



29 June 1878 Bordeaux to Montevideo: carried by Pacific Steam Navigation vessel *Sorata* which sailed from Liverpool 26 June, calling at Pauillac 29 June and arriving Montevideo 23 July. Franked 1F for the pre-UPU rate (tariff of 1.1.1876): Uruguay did not join the UPU until 1.7.1880, which explains the absence of "P.D." and the 10c local delivery charge.

Peter Kelly

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARIAN

George Barker

The Society has recently had the privilege of acquiring books from Stan and Mavis Bidmead, who had decided to dispose of their philatelic library. The first section of this note is thus the list of items bought from the Bidmeads:

Reference numbers are given to fit with the 1998 Library List [e & oe!]:

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|---|
| 06i | Anon | Poste Européenne (Une), Les Grands Maîtres des Postes... Tour et Taxis [Musée Postal] 1978 |
| 06j | Anon | Rouen - Plan-Guide 1919-1920 |
| 06k | Anon | Route de Poste (Une), La Route d'Espagne [Musée Postal] 1971 |
| 14aa | de Bast, J | Gouvernement et l'Armée Belges au Havre durant la Guerre 1914-1918, Le [Soc Phil Belge] 1984 |
| 31-1 | Boner, P | Frankreich 1849-1900 (in German) |
| 31c-1 | Bourgeois, C | Monographie des Marques & Oblit. pour l'HP d'une Commune [Le Monde 150] 1972 |
| 37-1 | Broustine, P | Timbres des Cours d'Instruction des PTT [author] 1981 |
| 40a | Bruzeau, M (ed) | Poste durant la Révolution 1789-1799, La [MP] 1989 |
| 41aa | Carnévalé-M, M | Purification des Lettres en France et à Malte, La [author] 1960 |
| 41ab | Carnévalé-M, M | Service Postal Rural, Le [author] 1959 |
| 41ac | Carnévalé-M, M | Spécial - Poste Rurale [SIHP] 1973 |
| | <i>et alia</i> | |
| 47a | Charbon &
Nougaret, P | Le Facteur et ses Métamorphoses [J.P. Gyss] 1984 |
| 47b | Charvet, M | Timbres des Cours d'Instruction des PTT, Les [Le Monde 16] 1956 |
| 51a | Chevalier, J | Cachets à Date aux Types 11-12-13-14, Les [author] 1976 |
| 53aa | Clavreuil, R | Concordance des Calendriers Grégorien & Républicain [author] 1975 |
| 66-1 | Dedecker, R | Catalogue des Timbres Perforés France & Colonies [ANCOPER] 1984 |
| | <i>et alia</i> | |
| 69aa | Deneumostier
E & M | Sainte-Adresse: Capitale Belge 1914-18 [author] 1981 |
| 69ab | Deneumostier
E & M | Tarifs Postaux Internationaux {Belgium} 1849-1875 [author] 1987 |
| 71a | Domenech, M | Marques Postales et Oblitérations de Savoie [author] 1966 |
| 82a | Fiege, E | Vertrag ...Hauptpostamt Frankreichs ... Hauptpostamt Preussens 16 Juli 1817 [FG Berlin eV] 1987 |
| 82b | Flick, V | La Somme (Departmental Catalogue) [Yvert] 1955 |
| 112a | Herlant, L | Marques Postales Préphilatéliques de la Belgique [Pro-Post] 1982 |
| 156b | Leralle, A | Marques Postales Révolutionnaires Françaises de la République de Venise 1797, Les [author] |
| 1961 | | |
| 200a | Maury, A | Catalogue des Estampilles [Yvert] 1929 (reprint) |
| | <i>et alia</i> | |
| 220b | Narjoux, J L | Télégraphie en France, La (Vol 2) [UM] 1983 |
| 231a | Noël, G | Catalogue des Depts Conquis & des Provinces Illyriennes [author] 1973 |
| 231b | Noël, G | Catalogue des Marques d'Entrée en France 1800-1838 [author] 1961 |
| 233-1 | Nory, G <i>et alia</i> | Seine-Inférieure: Histoire Postale et Monographie des Origines à 1904 [CEMPN] (Vols 1 & 2) 1989 |
| 233-2 | Nory, G <i>et alia</i> | <i>ditto</i> , Supplements 1992 & 1993 |
| | | [The above four volumes are A4, with about 930 pages!] |
| 254a | Pothion, J | Catalogue Bureaux Ambulants 1845-1965; Cachets de Gares 1854-1960 [LPAL] 1978 |
| 256a | Pothion, J | Catalogue Cachets de Gares 1854-1860 [LPAL] 1975 |
| 260a | Pothion, J | Catalogue des Oblitérations Petits Chiffres [author] 1955 |
| 262a | Pothion, J | France Oblitérations 1849-1876 [LPAL] 1972 {2nd edn} |
| | | {263 in the Library List should now be described "Third (or later) Edition"} |
| 263aa | Pothion, J | Histoire de la Poste des Origines à 1703 [LPAL] 1983 |
| 264aa | Pothion, J | Paris Oblitérations 1849-1876 [LPAL] 1984 |
| 266a | Pothion, V | Catalogue des Oblitérations Temporaires de France (Non Illustrées) 1855-1961 [LPAL] 1972 |
| 329bb | Storch <i>et alia</i> | Timbres de France : Marianne: Catalogue Federal 1984-1985 [FSPF] 1984 |
| 340aa | Tournier, G | Timbres-Publicité, Les {Booklets} [Yvert] 1930 |
| 349-1 | Vaillé, E | Histoire des Postes Françaises depuis la Révolution [PUF] 1947 |
| 349-2 | Vaillé, E | Histoire du Timbre-Poste [PUF] 1947 |

- 349aa Van der Linden Catalogue de Marques de Passage [Baeten] 1977
 349ab Van der Linden Catalogue de Marques de Passage [Soluphil] 1993
 355-1 Wailly, Col de Affranchissements Mécaniques, Les [Le Monde 209] 1971?
 360b Yvert & Tellier Catalogue France & Colonies, 1927 [Amiens] 1927
- + 1961: *Union Marcophile* Bulletin for PHS Visit to Paris;
 + 1992: *Académie de Philatélie* Exhibition Catalogue, Paris;
 + 1993: *Académie de Philatélie* Exhibition Catalogue, Paris;
 + Catalogues for *Marcophilex* 13, 14, 17, 18 (1987-1993)
 + *Feuilles Marcophiles* N^{os}: 141, 252-275 inclusive; plus *Feuilles Marcophiles* Supplements:
 253: Boules de Moulins
 258: Poste Maritime (18th century)
 262: Les Déboursés
 263: Poste Maritime Préphilatélique
 267: Catalogue *Marcophilex* 16
 272: Cachets Manuels Paris (1876 to date)
 272: Tarifs de la Poste aux Lettres 1759-1792
 279: Recette Principale de la Seine [Paris] en 1895
 282: Petite Poste de Paris 1760-1795
 288: Lettres Classées 'Inconnu' sous l'Ancien Régime 1748-1800
 289: Différents Types de Bureaux de Poste 1980-1996
 292: Timbres à Date Manuels de la Recette Principale de Paris (1876 to date)
 293: Autour de 1848
 296: La Poste à Luxeuil 1851-1918.

Other works recently acquired by our Library comprise:

- 10a Assocn Marcoph JANVIER 49: Inventaire des Lettres de Janvier 1849 Affranchies avec Timbres-poste [Assocn] 1999
 du Val Durance
 31aa Bonneau, M Les Vignettes à Sujet 'Tour Eiffel' [Arc-en-Ciel] 1974
 53ba Cobb, D Cameroun: The 1940 Overprints [author] 1997
 (A generous donation by the author - many thanks!)
 66-1 Darrigrand, A La Poste [PUF] 1996
 & Pelissier, S
 66b Degardin, G Vignettes Touristiques de France [Arc-en-Ciel] 1978
 76h Dupont, H C Naissance des Surcharges 'RF' de la Poste Navale Française 1943-1945
 103-1 Gouvt Général Postes et Télégraphes en Afrique Occidentale [Govt] 1907
 de l'AOF
 (A kind gift of Lawrence Lambert in the USA)
 104-1 Granger, L Catalogue des Vignettes Françaises de Croix-Rouge [Arc-en-Ciel] 1964 (plus volume of photocopies)
 113a Hongla, A Personnel de la Poste aux Lettres du Sénégal de 1821 à 1884 [Revue Française d'Histoire
 d'Outre-Mer, 1987, N° 277, 499-516]
 116a Ivy Mader Inc Masterpieces of French Philately (Auction Cat) 1998
 {Very large & VERY heavy!}
 191aa Lux, P Poste Ferroviaire de 1871 à 1914 [A de P] 1998
 272a Reader, R E Czechoslovak Army in France 1939-45: Supplement [CPSGB] 1992
 301a Sinais, B Catalogue des Oblitérations Navales Françaises 1771-1986 [author] 1987
 312-1 SOCOCODAMI Collections of Society members at Autumn Salon 1997
 (A kind gift by John Simmons, as are all other SOCOCODAMI items. Thanks!)
 312-2 SOCOCODAMI L'Impression des Timbres Français par les Rotatives: 0,30 Cheffer typo [Society] 1997
 312b SOCOCODAMI Les Marianne de Briat: Printings [Society] 1998
 321b Stone, R G Notes on French Colonies Postal Stationery [Postal Stationery, 1978, Vol 20, N° 3, 78-89]
 340-1 Timbroscopie Indexes (two) to Issues 1-100 & 101-150
 (A kind gift of Geoff Gethin: thanks!)

We have also received a large number of photocopies of articles on French Philately from our Belgian member, Roland Ingels, which will be listed when bibliographic research is complete: Mr Ingels himself does not know the origin of some! Thanks!

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 89 4^{ème} Trim 99: Royaume des SEDAN 1888 (Desrousseaux); MADAGASCAR Journal Officiel 1903 (communiqué par Favrel); GUYANE FRANÇAISE compléments et précisions (Cossu); BUREAU FRANÇAISE de YOKOHAMA (Desrousseaux); MARTINIQUE La surcharge renversée du no 2 [essai de planchange] (Jouvent); VIETNAM La légende de THACH SANH (Chapuis); CHINE correspondance d'armée (Millet); RÉUNION Une erreur rare de La RÉUNION [10 MAI 1909] (Flandrin).

N° 90 1^{er} Trim 2000: Fiscaux-postaux de Syrie-Liban (Mathieu); L'Énigme du Losange CCN8 (Tricot) Bizarries Calédoniennes (Bessaud); Les surcharges de 1912 (Michon); Tarifs Aériens de Madagascar (Desnos); Le PACIFIQUE des Messageries Maritimes (Ladiesse); La Guyane continue de moudre du grain (Bouéat).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 258 (Vol 55, N° 4) Oct 99: Senegal: Prepayment of Postage in Cash during January 1902 [A not entirely resolved Philatelic Mystery] (Mattei); A Lexicon of Abbreviations [and Acronyms on French Date Stamps of 1960-1995] (Levenas); Use of the Boxed "Transportée Exceptionnellement Par Avion" on Mail from Monaco (Massler); Is there a Doctor in the House? Again (Kinsley); The Ambulant Routier Service (Luft); A Classification of Vehicular Post Date Stamps of New Caledonia (Luft); Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories - 47 (Cohn).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

Permanent features: Dossier, Variétés, Flammes et Oblitérations, Livres, Maximophilie, Thématique.

N° 1724 Nov 99: Les blasons des villes [2^e série] (Trassaert); Le Mouchon hors de France (- et Dewulf).

N° 1725 Dec 99: Les blasons des villes [3^e série] (Trassaert); Histoires de Cartes postales: Pas de faux cols dans les tramways... (-).

N° 1726 Jan 2000: Les blasons des villes [4^e série] (Trassaert); Croix-Rouge française: M Gentilini, Président (-); Les oblitérations «Jour de l'an» (-); Guerre de 1870, l'aide humanitaire belge (Bury).

N° 1727 Feb 2000: Musée de La Poste: exposition permanente (-); Les blasons des villes [5^e série] (Trassaert); Les colis-postaux d'Alsace-Lorraine (- et Dartois, Pillet); De vrais faux timbres de franchise militaire [Maroc] (Dewulf).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 299 4^{ème} Trim 99: A propos du tarif de nivôse an 4 (Abensur); Les établissements de poste ayant un numéro d'ordre de la série «5000» (Alexandre); Tournées de

facteurs en 1873 (Ibert); Recommandation des correspondances sur les Paquebots-poste de la ligne A (Pignard); Un curieux moyen d'acheminer un courrier (-); Transbordement des correspondances d'origine maritime à Colombo (Sené); Les formations sanitaires du Loiret pendant la guerre de 1914/1918 (Galicet); Agence postale communale à la Réunion (Vacher-Chicane); Curiosités, erreurs (Lux); Les bureaux temporaires de PhilexFrance 99 (Albaret); Réclamations (Brouillard); Un futur plein de poésie (Sené); Les PAP de réexpédition (Sené); Nouvelles machines oblitérantes (Marcadet); Les nouveautés en matière de guichets-annexes (Delvaux); Fausse direction (Feugas); Atelier «Histoire de la Poste» en milieu rural.

Le Monde des Philatélistes

Permanent features: Aérophilatélie (Abouchar), Cartophilie (Zeyons), Marcophilie, Polaires (Joffre), Poste Navale et aux Armées, Thématique.

N° 545 Nov 99: Le timbre fiscal et la philatélie 6^e partie et Fin (Danan); DOSSIER: Le cachet de la poste a toujours fait foi (Bridoux), Le 1 Janvier 1849 (Blanc), En force ou en douceur (de la Mettrie); Faux timbres français fabriqués en Corée (Trassaert); Le 80c Cérès surchargé «RÉUNION» (de la Mettrie); Les cent ans du métro (Buffier); L'affranchissement mécanique en France (Delmarre).

N° 546 Dec 99: DOSSIER: Le «chargement» est «recommandé» (de la Mettrie), En marge de la recommandation (Blanc).

N° 547 Jan 2000: DOSSIER: 366 questions/réponses pour l'an 2000 (Bilhaut, Blanc, Buffier, Duran, Jullien, Mangin, de la Mettrie, Prugnon, Rouy et Zeyons); Polaires - «Mammuthus 99» (Bergez).

N° 548 Feb 2000: DOSSIER: Les aventures des Avions René Couzinet, Couzinet, le maudit, L'«Arc-en-Ciel» en questions (Ferry et Abouchar); Des boîtes aux lettres qui se déplacent... [1] (Ducos); Le courrier «hors sac» (Trassaert).

Timbroscopie

Permanent features: Les variétés, Les coins datés, Les essais de couleur.

N° 173 Nov 99: Le passage à l'Euro (Melot); Madagascar: les surcharges de la France libre (Melot); Guyane: les émissions de Counani (Pecher); Le Conseil de l'Europe a 50 ans (Apaire).

N° 174 Dec 99: Une nouveauté dans la collection du type «Mercure»: [double impression de la surcharge «RF» du 40c violet (Melot); La Crête: le point sur les différentes émissions (Pecher); Le bicentenaire de la Révolution française 10 ans après (Michaud); Le Port de la Rochelle (Apaire).

N°175 Jan 2000: L'an 1000: une année comme les autres! (Michaud); Les timbres du bicentenaire de la Révolution française (Michaud); France: rétrospective de l'année 1950 (Minaux); Les timbres de la Banque de France (Melot).

N° 176 Feb 2000: L'Exposition de 1900 (Minaux); Timbres à l'effigie du roi Hassan II (Michaud); Les 10c Semeuses rouge 1^{re} Partie (Melot et Brun); Taxes d'Indochine (Brun).

BOOKSHELF

Books Noted

In the 1999 World Bibliographies booklist of ABC-CLIO, 35A Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6AT are noted the following:

- Corsica*. Grace L Hudson, 433 entries 240pp, September '99. £41.00. ISBN 1-85109-263-3
Andorra. Barry Taylor., 268 entries 136pp, 1993. £30.00. ISBN 1-85109-211-0
France. Frances Chambers, 942 entries 308pp, 1990. £43.00. ISBN 1-85109-082-7
French Guiana. Janet Crane, c500 entries c180pp, 1998. £30.00. ISBN 1-85109-241-2
Algeria. Richard Lawless, 886 entries 384pp, 1995. £58.00. ISBN 1-85109-130-0
Benin. J Enders & C Allen, 759 entries 308pp, 1996. £49.00. ISBN 1-85109-145-9
Cameroon. M DeLancey & P Schraeder, 502 entries 230pp, 1986. £34.00. ISBN 1-85109-006-1
Central African Republic. P Kalck, 538 entries 210pp, 1993. £38.00. ISBN 1-85109-172-6
Chad. E Jaffe & V Day-Viaud, 536 entries 220pp, 1995. £35.00. ISBN 1-85109-231-5
Côte d'Ivoire. M Daniels, 786 entries 262pp, 1996. £42.00. ISBN 1-85109-120-3
Djibouti. Peter Schraeder, 409 entries 282 pp, 1991. £42.00. ISBN 1-85109-084-3
Mali. Dawn Bastien, Andrew Stamm & Robt Myers, 910 entries c330pp, 1998. £56.00. ISBN 1-85109-166-1
Martinique. Janet Crane, 380 entries 174pp, 1995. £30.00. ISBN 1-85109-151-3

Colin Spong

Introduction à l'histoire postale des origines à 1849, by Michèle Chauvet. 500pp, A4 format; 130 tables and 350 illustrations; 500F; details from Brun & Fils, 85 Galerie Beaujolais, Palais Royal, 75001 Paris. [Organisation of the early postal services in France, civilian and military, with tariffs]

Doppelpporto und Doppelfrankierung 1870 bis 1872, by Friedrich Spalink. 334pp, A4; 200 illustrations; 200F; details from SPAL, BP 31004, 67381 Lingolsheim cedex. [Double franking between France and Germany 1870-72]

Catalogue 2000 - Premiers Jours, pub. Cérés éd.; 208pp in colour, 155 x 225mm; 95F + 16F p&p; details from Éditions Philatéliques de Paris, 23 rue du Louvre, 75001 Paris. [France, Andorra, Monaco and Europa FDCs]

Les plus belles enveloppes illustrées de 1750 à nos jours, by Pierre-Stéphane Proust. 3 volumes of 160pp each, to be published over 2 years; 290 x 220mm; subscription price 650F + 70F p&p for all 3. Details from Normandie Terre des Arts, BP 31, 50370 Brécey. [Decorated and illustrated covers since 18C]

Histoire de la Poste, by Georges Renoy, pub. éd. Racine. 192pp, 250 x 290mm; 250 colour illustrations; 1495 Belgian Francs; details from La Poste Direction Philatélie, Centre Monnaie B, 1000 Brussels, Belgium. [History of postal service world wide, from 16C Thurn & Taxis, via Aéropostale, to latest telecommunication techniques]

Maurice Tyler

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REPORTS OF MEETINGS

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 24 NOVEMBER 1999

John Stockley: France WWII

Introduced by President Iain Stevenson, John Stockley began by explaining that we were to see a thematic study of France in World War II, from a philatelic and not a political point of view. He gave a short historical introduction to the period concerned, covering the 1940 *Blitzkrieg*, Pétain, the capitulation of the Belgian army, Dunkirk, de Gaulle, the declaration of war by Italy, the fall of Paris and the armistice. This was followed by the Germans setting up the two main zones, and the *zone interdite* in the north-east.

A wide variety of items to illustrate this theme were then pointed out and commented on. These included postal stationery, a satirical card, a cover from the President in 1939, patriotic cards, *Punch* cartoons, temporary cancellations, a maximum card, a letter signed by Pétain before the war, censored covers, propaganda cards, and a commercial cover sent through the German *Feldpost*. Cachets noted included special marks for collectors, "return to sender" on a BEF special envelope, "detained in France," "inadmis" on private mail, "BEF somewhere in France," "durch die deutsche Feldpost," and "gesetztes Gebiet Nordfrankreich."

From the early part of the War we also saw Pétain surcharged stamps used on cards, a Stamp Bourse card of 1941 (contrasted with one of 1860), a 1941 *Bâtiment Richelieu*, various interzone cards, letters to and from France via Thomas Cook, Lisbon (Post Box 506), a letter to a forced labour corps in Germany, a specimen business card, a silk card, and a philatelic exhibition card from Cannes. The first session ended with an example of the

very unusual 2F40 rate, the Legion of Volunteers vignettes, a 1942 1F bisect, the 1942 exhibition against bolshevism, and interzone cards with "*complément de taxe perçue*."

The second part of the display covered the period from 1942 onwards, and included another rich variety of interesting items. Thus we saw a de Gaulle Christmas card, *Richelieu* stamps, pneumatic post, the philatelic exhibition at Nancy, Menton occupied by the Italians, airmail to Bulgaria and Romania returned to sender, and correspondence between a worker in Germany and his family in France. Marks of interest included the *Bateau de Ligne Richelieu* overprints, "*parti sans adresse*," "*Chef de l'État Français*," "*Office de placement allemand*" (forced labour), the *Journée Nationale du Timbre* of 1943, and then the later "RF" on both French and American stamps, "*Souvenirs de la Libération*," "FFT" on a p s envelope, "*Îlot de St Nazaire*" and "*Zone encerclée de St Nazaire*." These were followed by German soldiers' mail from Paris, p s cards from the Germans, extra tax for *poste restante*, and novelty cards. The display ended with a registered letter to Switzerland, evidence of the ability to send cards of places over 30 miles from the war zone, and a cover from Spain to Liverpool detained in France during the German occupation.

In giving the vote of thanks, Vice-president Mick Bister said that we had seen an all-encompassing display of civil and some military mail, with gems that were often passed over with minimal comment. It had been particularly interesting to hear the contents of some of the letters, an added detail which had really brought the items to life.

MST

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 8 DECEMBER 1999

Members' Short Displays

Vice-President Mick Bister welcomed Members present to the final meeting of the calendar year.

David Jennings-Bramly got proceedings under way with a collection of covers which had contained samples addressed to the USA from the Paris perfume firm of Boyer and which were all franked with coil stamps. The envelopes also bore handstamps identifying the steamship in which each item had been conveyed, and David had included, along with the covers, several picture postcards illustrating the ships so named. **Bill Mitchell** took as his subject Togo during the period of Anglo-French occupation, and several interesting covers were offered as illustrations. Next, **John Hammonds** gave us several examples of air etiquettes – the many variations of "PAR AVION" etc. – and a few 1930s covers bearing postmarks

intended to encourage the public to use air mail services then being introduced. He concluded by showing covers mailed to abroad at the surface rate but which had nevertheless been carried by air bearing added marks such as "*Lettre Transportée Exceptionnellement par Avion à Titre de Propagande*." **Derek Richardson** then showed covers franked with Sower 25c blue or brown-yellow stamps illustrating the many tariffs served by these issues in the years 1907 to 1938. He included a few out-of-the-way items such as a card with mixed USA-French franking posted at the Panama Canal office of Cristobal.

The second session began with a display by **Chris Hitchen**. He presented examples of the late collection service, introduced in Paris in 1863 initially to allow mail arriving late to still catch the last mail train in return for a fee of 20c

per 15 minutes delay, up to a limit of 45 minutes. The fees varied over the succeeding years, and the service ended in the late 1930s. **David Worrollo** took as his subject the first adhesive stamps of France, the Cérés heads of 1849, and we saw many album leaves containing used examples of all the values, including the rare 15c green and an orange 40c with an elongated numeral 4. **Geoff Gethin** then invited us to identify some non-postal labels which he had acquired.

The final session was begun by **Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith**, who told us about his newest collecting interest, namely maritime mail between France and the USA. This

subject posed many problems for the collector arising from the different charges payable according to the route taken or the particular shipping company involved. Nevertheless, he showed us no fewer than 96 covers — many bearing high-value stamps. **Mick Bister** brought the evening to a close with a study of the stamp designed by Henry Cheffer for the 1938 visit to France by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The stamp bore a visit date that was two weeks earlier than the actual visit which was unavoidably postponed. We were shown also the associated postal stationery and the scarce *épreuves de luxe* in two colours.

DJR

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 26 JANUARY 2000

Robert Johnson: Aspects of France & Colonies

Introduced by our President Iain Stevenson, Robert explained that his display would be divided into three parts, the first covering postal services suspended in time of war, riot, civil commotion and civil war. He started with the Franco-Prussian War, showing a letter from Great Britain to Paris in 1871 that had been allowed in because it was unsealed. This was followed by the 1st and 2nd Balkan Wars, with one letter of 1912 from France addressed to Turkey in Europe. World War I was represented by such items as the parcel post to Germany, Cypriot stamps on an envelope addressed to Belgium which reached France

and received French marks, a civilian internal letter with a label indicating that one page had been suppressed by the censor, and evidence of the 1916 embargo on mail into Greece in the form of the French mark "*renvoi pour cause de blocus*." We also saw mail held by the Germans and delivered after the War in about 1920, and a letter sent from France to Russia during the Russian Revolution. The withdrawal of the Germans took place in phases, with the result that mail was sometimes not controlled, and found itself unable to cross the Rhine frontier.



Figure 1 -

Cover posted in Noumea on 17 May 1940 to USA by air via Middle East and Europe. With France under German occupation, it was held by French Post Office officials until March 1945, and reached New York on 17 May 1945; 5000 labels were printed on 21 May, and the letter was put out for delivery on 29 May.

Later items of interest included a returned COD parcel card to the Saar of September 1939 (suggesting the early clearing of that region with the mark "*Gebiet geräumt - zurück*"), a cover from China to Johannesburg showing the suspension of the French air service, an October 1939 cover from Madagascar to India (*saisi par l'autorité militaire* until January 1940), and mail held in Paris during the German occupation and then released by the French authorities (one example with the very scarce American label) (Fig 1). We saw a wide variety of mail from, to and through France at this time, involving such places as Mozambique, Ireland, Yugoslavia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Australia, Spain (with a German censor at Bordeaux), Chad and Iraq.

The modern period was represented by items such as mail from the USA to Vietnam in 1975, from France to Chad in 1987, from France to Kuwait in 1990, and from France to Croatia in 1993. The marks themselves included "*acheminement impossible*," "*suspendu par l'autorité militaire*," "*retour à l'expéditeur*," "*return to sender*," "*service suspendu*," "*relations postales suspendues*," "*non admis*," "*inadmis*," "*ne peut être acheminé*," "*zone occupée*," "*inacheminable*," "*correspondance inadmise*," "*correspondance retardée*," and even "*retour à l'expéditeur étranger*."

After the usual break for viewing, the second part of the display dealt with post office services, and consisted of an

extract from Robert's collection of stamps on post office forms and papers of the world — or, as he put it, "what you got when you paid your money." This covered mainly the period 1934 to 1977, and included *AR* forms for advice of receipt, telegraph forms, value recovered forms (in Martinique and Morocco), a money order from GB for payment in France at a particular post office, a COD form from China, forms for international parcels and parcels for POWs, insured letters in West Africa, and the subscription service for stamps. Further items of interest that were noted include 1971 strike mail from France temporarily held back in the USA, a cover from Saigon to Marseilles where the Indo-Chinese post office was seeking a check on the fraudulent use of stamps, a temporary redirection form, pneumatic post bicycle service, a *déclaration de dépôt*, a demand for outstanding telephone charges, an Indo-China money order, and a "no fault" fee in a money order enquiry (see Fig 2). Robert also showed a *Lettre Missive* etiquette on cover to England (Fig 3) which alerted the postal authorities to the fact that the item had been paid at full letter rate and was not a reduced rate item [see Dumont & Sauvânet, 1984, pp 96 and 97].

At the end of this second session Robert showed as his third topic an investigation into the domestic and foreign rates for mail from the French Congo, involving internal destinations as well as France, other colonies, the UK, the USA, Switzerland and Sweden, with the development of

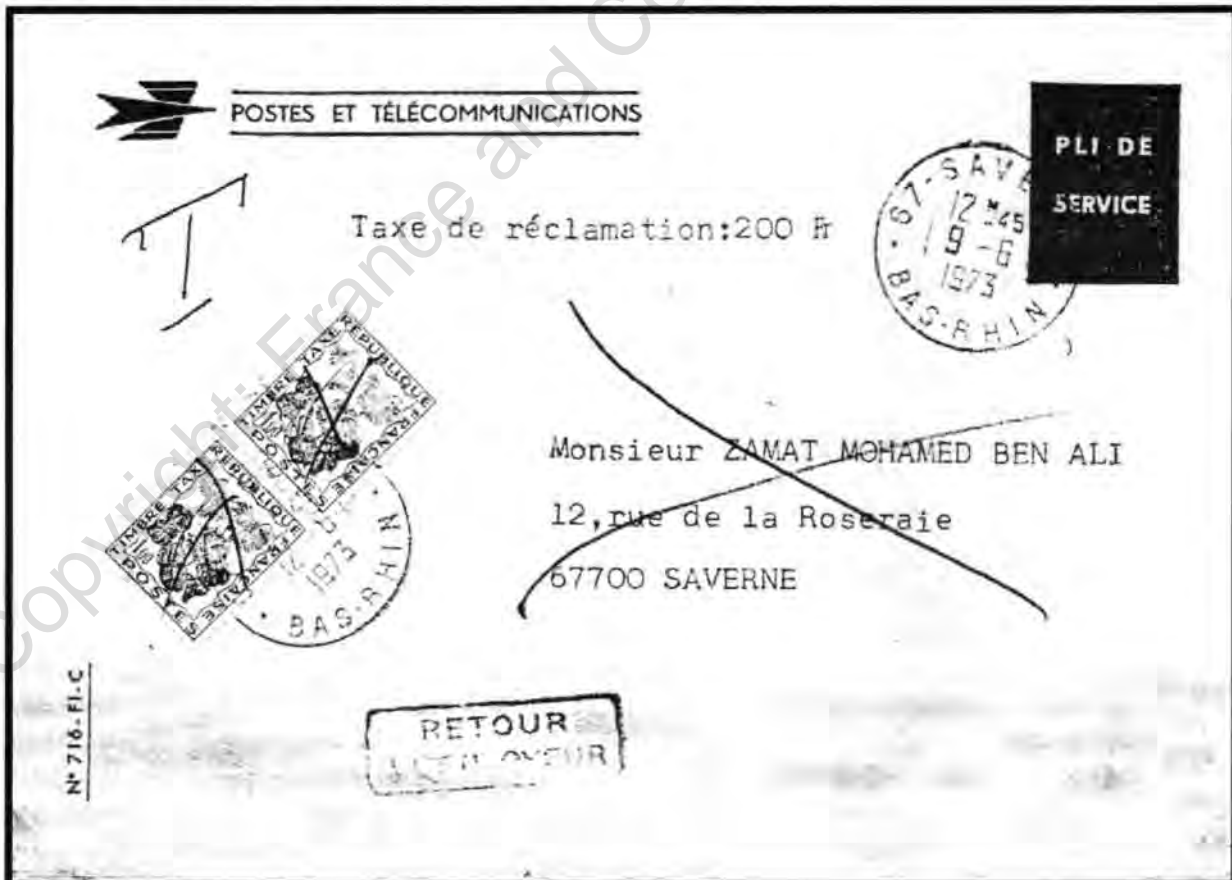


Figure 2 -

Two franc fee payable to the French PTT for an enquiry made about payment of a money order where no fault lay with the PTT (June 1973), as explained in the accompanying letter (not illustrated here).

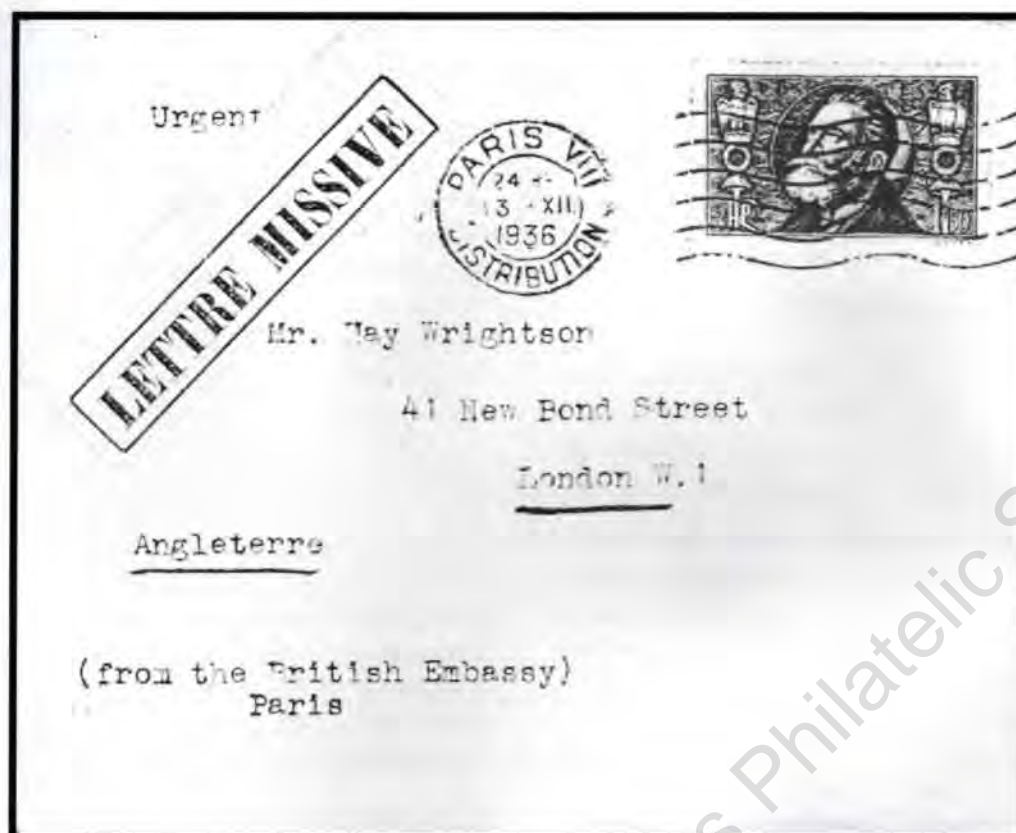


Figure 3 -

The etiquette "LETTRE MISSIVE" was used to enable fully paid letters to be distinguished from matter posted at reduced rates — in this case presumably to make the point that it was not a Christmas card (December 1936).

airmail services through Africa rather than round the coast, during the period 1935-1944. He remarked that he had learnt nothing about French Equatorial Africa at school, but had developed an interest in establishing the postal rates, and those shown were now fairly sure. Robert was in correspondence, as were other members on the question of French colonial airmail rates, with Robert Picirilli in the USA.

In giving the vote of thanks, Mick Bister acknowledged both the wide variety of valuable material that many of us would like to incorporate in our collections, displayed by someone who claimed he was not really a French collector, and the admirably clear and fascinating commentary on the items shown.

MST

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 29 JANUARY 2000

"Sheets from my Collection" by Members

The first meeting of the New Year was as usual given over to entertaining one another, also welcoming Pat Spong who was going to look after the refreshments.

Michael Annells: Early 20th century definitives - *Type Blanc*, showing the progress of this issue including the various types, coils, GC paper, precancelled, *Jour de l'an* and *imprimé* frankings. **Roy Ferguson:** The *Marianne de Briat Bicentenaire* issue, including the *TVP Briat*. **Bill Mitchell:** a few sheets of Togo from a forthcoming article. **Barbara Priddy:** Post-war airmail issues of French West Africa. Commercial mail and special flights. **John Hammonds:** Airmail commercial covers to world-wide destinations. **Michael Wilson:** The postal history of Nice from Italy to France. **Bill Mitchell:** French West Africa Military covers showing rates, censorship and destinations.

Colin Spong: Madagascar: a 1903 definitive 1c journal wrapper, registered cover to Uruguay, 1908 definitives, various postcards depicting rates and 1944 first airmail flight to Mayotte [Comores] from Tananarive by the C^{ie} Forces Aériennes Françaises Libres. **Michael Berry:** The post offices on the Île d'Oléron off La Rochelle, a holiday home of Michael's.

Colin Spong announced the next meeting would be on Saturday 25 March 2000, 14.00 until 17.00, when the President would present a display of French philately. Members present: Michael Annells, Michael Berry, Roy Ferguson, Bill Mitchell, Barbara Priddy, John Hammonds, Bob Small, Colin Spong and Michael Wilson. Apologies from Betty Blincow & Frank Blincow, Yvonne & Bob Larg.

CWS

The French Union

Colin Spong

In June 1956 the French socialist government of Guy Mollet passed the *Loi-Cadre* that established the constitutional framework by which the French African territories would evolve constitutionally as separate entities and not as parts of a larger federal structure. The Fourth Republic was coming to an end, and with the accession of Charles de Gaulle to power in 1958 the colonies were given the opportunity to vote on their future constitutional relationship with France. In 1958 Madagascar along with a number of African Colonies voted to become autonomous republics within the French Community.

- 25 November 1958: Senegal,
- 28 November 1958: Chad, Congo Republic [Middle Congo], Gabon, Mauritania, Madagascar,
- 01 December 1958: Central African Republic [Ubangi-Shari],
- 04 December 1958: Dahomey, Ivory Coast
- 10 December 1958: Upper Volta
- 18 December 1958: Niger

However, from early in 1960 and by the end of that year they had all left the French Union and changed their status to Independent Republics. Philatelically it is interesting to see how this is reflected in the stamps issued during this short period. Details additional to the information contained in the *Cérès/Yvert Colonies Catalogue 1993* edition, may be found in the *Stanley Gibbons France Part 6 1993* edition, which also covers French Overseas Territories as well as former colonies up to Independence. SG also includes details of designer/engravers.

Cameroun, French Equatorial Africa, French West Africa and Madagascar combined with the French Overseas Territories of Comoro Islands, French Afars & Issas [Somali Coast], French Polynesia, New Caledonia, St Pierre & Miquelon, and Wallis & Futuna, to take part in two omnibus issues:

- 10 December 1958: 10th Anniversary of Declaration of Human Rights
- 31 January 1959: Tropical Flora [the dates of issue varied from between 3 January and 7 July in the other territories]. Both issues were printed at the Government Printing Works, Paris.

The Trust territory of Camerouns elected a National Assembly in 1959 and became an Independent Republic on 01 January 1960:

- 10 May 1958: 1st Anniversary of First Cameroun Government 20F value.
- 23 March 1959: two definitives 20F and 25F values

Chad issued two commemoratives:

- 28 November 1959: 1st Anniversary of Republic 15F and 25F values

- 21 May 1960: 10th Anniversary of African Technical Co-operation 50F value

The Congo issued two commemoratives during this period:

- 28 November 1959: First Anniversary of Republic 25F value.
- 21 May 1960: 10th Anniversary of African Technical Co-operation 50F value

Dahomey issued three definitive values and two commemoratives:

- 01 March - 01 May 1960: postage 25F, air 100F and 500F values
- 16 May 1960: 10th Anniversary of African Technical Co-operation 5F value
- 29 May 1960: 1st Anniversary of Conseil de l'Entente 25F value

French West Africa which separated in 1958-59 issued one commemorative for use in Ivory Coast and Senegal only:

- 21 March 1959: Stamp Day inscribed Dakar-Abidjan 20F value.

Gabon issued two commemoratives and one definitive:

- 28 November 1959: 1st Anniversary of Republic 15F and 25F values
- 21 May 1960: 10th Anniversary of African Technical Co-operation 50F value
- 02 July 1960: Air 200F value

Ivory Coast issued several definitives and commemoratives until they became an independent Republic on 7 August 1960:

- 01 October 1959: postage 10F, 25F and 30F values and air 100F, 200F and 500F values
- 04 December 1959: 1st Anniversary of Republic 25F value
- 05 March 1960: Definitives Native Masks 50c, 1F, 2F, 4F, 5F, 6F, 45F, 50F and 85F values
- 05 March 1960: Postage Dues 1F, 2F, 5F, 10F and 20F values
- 16 May 1960: 10th Anniversary of African Technical Co-operation 25F value
- 29 May 1960: 1st Anniversary of Conseil de l'Entente 25F value

Madagascar issued several definitive and commemorative stamps until they became an Independent Republic on 26 June 1960:

- 28 February 1959: Proclamation of Malagasy Republic 20F, 25F and 60F values
- 16 Jan - 25 May 1960: Butterflies and Moths definitives postage 30c, 40c, 50c, 1F, 3F, 6F, 8F, 10F and 15F values; air 30F, 40F 50F, 100F, 200F and 500F values.
- 01 February 1960: Trees Festival 20F value
- 22 February 1960: 10th Anniversary of African Technical Co-operation 25F value
- 25 March 1960: President Tsiranana 20F value
- 13 April 1960: 1st Youth Games Tananarive 25F value

Mali Federation came into existence on 4 April 1959 comprising former colonies of French Sudan and Senegal, and then became independent within the French

Community on 20 June 1960, but broke up when Senegal seceded on 20 August 1960. French Sudan then declared Independence as Mali Republic on 22 September 1960:

- 07 November 1959: Establishment of Mali Federation 25F value
- 11 December 1959: 300th Anniversary of St Louis of Sénégal 85F value
- 13 February - 5 March 1960: Postage definitives 5F, 10F, 15F, 20F, 25F, 30F and 85F values and Air 100F, 200F and 500F values
- 21 May 1960: 10th Anniversary of African Technical Co-operation 25F value

Mauritania, where the stamps of French West Africa were used until 1959, was created an autonomous state within the French Community on 28 November 1958. On 28 November 1960 it declared Independence:

- 20 January 1960: Inauguration of Islamic Republic 25F value
- 16 May 1960: 10th Anniversary of African Technical Co-operation 25F value

Niger issued one definitive and two commemoratives until declaring Independence on 3 August 1960:

- 1959-62: Postage 50c, 1F, 2F, 5F, 7F, 10F, 15F, 20F, 25F, 30F, 50F, 60F, 85F and 100F values; Air 200F and 500F values
- 16 May 1960: 10th Anniversary of African Technical Co-operation 25F value
- 29 May 1960: 1st Anniversary of Conseil de l'Entente 25F value

Senegal used stamps of French West Africa until 1959, on 25 November 1958 joined the French Sudan as autonomous

state of Mali Federation within the French Community until it seceded as an Independent Republic on 5 September 1960.

The French Trust Territory of Togo became the first French Colony within the French Community from 16 April 1955 until declaration of Independence on 26 April 1960. However, as this was somewhat earlier than the issues under discussion for the French Union, I would refer those interested in this Territory to see those issues listed in the catalogue.

Ubangi-Shari became the Central African Republic within the French Community until declaration of Independence on 13 August 1960:

- 01 December 1959: 1st Anniversary of Republic 15F and 25F values
- 21 May 1960: 10th Anniversary of African Technical Co-operation 25F value

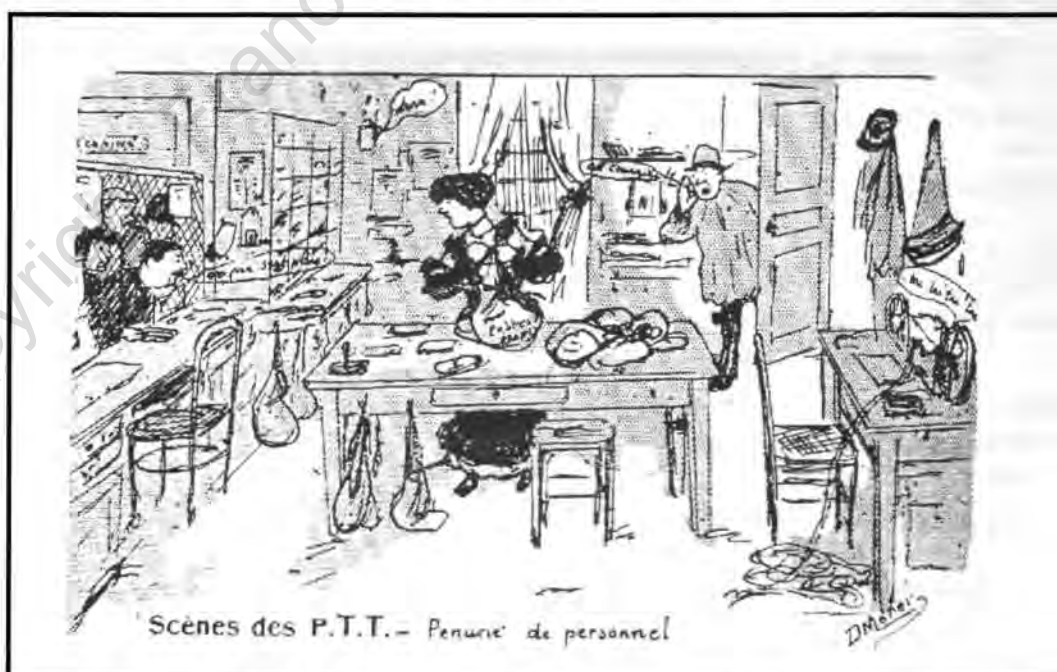
Upper Volta until declaring Independence on 5 August 1960 issued three definitives and two commemoratives during this period:

- 10 December 1959: 1st Anniversary of Republic 25F value
- 11 April 1960: Postage 30, 40c, 50c, 1F, 2F, 4F, 5F, 6F, 8F, 10F, 15F, 20F, 25F, 30F, 40F, 50F, 60F and 85F values
- 01 May 1960: President Yaméogo issue 25F value
- 16 May 1960: 10th Anniversary of African Technical Co-operation 25F value
- 29 May 1960: 1st Anniversary of Conseil de l'Entente 25F value

Postal Humour

Supplied by Robert Johnson

A further example of the Morer cartoons on postcards from 1914: "Shortage of Staff."



November 1999 Auction Realisations

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
1	16.00	81	5.00	175	5.00	246	12.00	316	14.00	397	7.00
3	5.00	83	12.00	180	4.00	247	21.00	317	8.00	398	16.00
4	15.00	84	3.00	181	18.00	248	60.00	318	7.00	399	12.00
5	14.00	85	5.00	182	50.00	249	3.00	326	2.00	400	5.50
6	7.00	87	6.00	183	4.00	252	25.00	327	8.00	401	12.00
7	6.00	90	3.00	184	5.00	254	12.00	328	16.00	402	12.00
8	3.50	93	30.00	185	5.50	255	34.00	329	7.50	403	10.00
9	11.00	94	17.00	186	9.00	256	7.00	332	4.00	405	5.00
10	10.00	96	8.00	188	6.00	258	18.00	334	2.00	407	8.00
11	20.00	99	10.00	189	25.00	259	14.00	335	7.00	408	7.00
13	3.00	100	5.00	190	17.00	260	16.00	336	4.00	409	7.00
14	6.00	101	12.00	191	6.00	261	5.50	337	7.00	410	10.00
16	8.00	104	7.00	192	19.00	262	10.00	338	9.00	411	30.00
17	3.00	106	7.00	193	25.00	267	9.00	342	3.00	412	3.00
19	10.00	107	4.00	194	15.00	268	22.00	348	5.00	413	7.50
20	14.00	108	4.00	195	5.00	269	5.00	349	68.00	414	5.00
21	9.00	109	90.00	197	6.00	270	8.50	351	2.50	415	10.00
22	4.00	110	7.50	199	7.00	272	4.00	353	14.00	416	3.00
24	2.50	112	68.00	200	6.50	273	5.50	357	3.00	417	3.00
25	3.50	113	9.00	201	9.50	274	4.00	358	3.00	419	4.50
26	3.00	114	11.00	202	20.00	275	3.50	359	3.00	420	2.00
27	17.00	115	13.00	204	7.00	277	6.00	360	3.00	421	16.00
28	4.00	124	30.00	207	3.00	278	4.00	361	5.00	422	8.50
31	5.00	129	20.00	208	22.00	279	7.00	362	5.00	423	9.00
37	7.50	131	22.00	210	8.00	280	3.00	363	11.00	424	34.00
38	5.50	132	14.00	211	2.00	281	4.50	365	3.50	425	10.00
39	45.00	136	8.00	213	10.00	282	3.00	367	8.00	426	13.00
41	3.00	137	9.00	216	25.00	285	21.00	370	9.00	427	5.00
42	10.00	138	6.00	217	15.00	287	10.00	371	15.00	428	6.00
43	13.00	139	42.00	218	3.00	289	7.00	372	52.00	431	20.00
44	10.00	140	6.00	219	3.00	290	8.00	373	8.00	433	13.00
45	11.00	141	5.00	220	24.00	293	3.00	374	12.00	435	16.00
46	16.00	143	6.50	221	4.00	294	3.00	376	6.50	444	5.50
47	13.00	145	6.00	222	5.00	295	5.00	377	15.00	445	5.50
48	13.00	146	5.50	223	10.00	297	16.00	378	10.00	446	15.00
54	40.00	149	3.00	225	2.50	298	3.00	379	13.00	E&OE	
56	20.00	151	42.00	226	5.00	299	10.00	380	26.00		
58	10.00	152	3.00	227	5.00	300	8.00	381	10.00		
59	19.00	153	10.00	228	3.00	301	5.00	382	16.00		
60	19.00	155	30.00	230	2.00	302	21.00	383	30.00		
62	26.00	158	35.00	231	3.50	303	5.50	384	14.50		
63	9.00	160	13.00	232	4.00	304	11.00	385	24.00		
65	9.50	165	10.00	233	3.50	305	5.00	386	12.00		
67	15.00	166	3.50	234	5.00	306	3.00	387	36.00		
70	6.00	167	5.00	236	2.00	307	3.00	388	78.00		
71	6.00	168	10.00	237	6.00	308	3.00	389	31.00		
72	12.00	170	6.50	238	4.00	309	3.00	390	62.00		
73	4.00	171	8.00	239	5.00	311	18.00	391	13.00		
75	3.00	172	8.50	240	3.50	313	3.00	392	14.00		
76	4.00	173	30.00	243	7.50	314	4.00	393	8.50		
78	3.00	174	4.50	244	6.50	315	9.00	394	7.00		

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