

ISSN 0269-5006

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



Postal Humour

The last of the Morer cartoons on 1914 postcards
as supplied by Robert Johnson -
"POST OFFICE SCENES -
End of the fortnight! End of the month! End of the year!"



Volume 51 ● Number 2
June 2001
Whole Number 220

THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Officers

President, 2001-2002: M L Bister, 7 The Slade, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2ES.
Vice-President, 2001-2002: M S Tyler
Programme Secretary, 2001-2002: J N Hammonds
General Secretary, 2001-2002: D J Richardson, 16 Fairford Avenue, Luton LU2 7ER..
Membership Secretary, 2001-2002: A Swain, 2 Kings Court, Kings Road, Flitwick, Bedford MK45 1EW

The Society

The Society was founded in 1949 and is affiliated to the ABPS. Its affairs are managed by a Committee comprising President, Officers and Committee members, elected annually.

All inquiries of a general nature should be addressed to the General Secretary.

2001 Subscription Rates

United Kingdom: £10.00, Europe: £12.00, Elsewhere: £15.00.
Treasurer: C J Hitchen, 36 Everton Road, Croydon CR0 6LA.
The Society's Girobank account number is 39 784 9001.

The Journal

The Society's *Journal* is published in March, June, September and December.
It is printed by Direct Offset, 27c High Street, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9DD from the Editor's camera ready copy.
The price is included in Members' subscriptions.
The contents are copyright.

Auction and Exchange Packet Sales

Lots for sale through the Society auctions, held 3 or 4 times a year, should be sent to the Auction Secretary,
M L Bister, 7 The Slade, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2ES.
Please send material for circulation in booklet form to the appropriate Exchange Packet Secretary, viz.
France: Mrs M Pavey, 15 St Ronan's Terrace, Innerleithen, Peeblesshire EH44 6RB;
Colonies: J West, 5 Highbanks Road, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4AR.

The Library

Members are invited to avail themselves of the services of the Society's substantial library, on terms set out in the Library
List distributed to all Members.
Librarian: G E Barker, 13 Rodney Way, Guildford GU1 2NY.

The Magazine Circuit

The Society subscribes to two French philatelic magazines, and has circuits organised for those who wish to read them.
For further details contact the circuit organiser:
D A Pashby, 148 Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0DS.

Journal Correspondents

Paris: J M Simmons
Southern Group: C W Spong
Northern Group: C S Holder

* * *

When writing to an officer of the Society, please do not mention the name of the Society in the address. Requests for information should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

Data Protection Act. Members are advised that their details are stored electronically, for use on Society business only, e.g address label printing.

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

Editor: M S Tyler, 56 Mortons Fork, Blue Bridge, Milton Keynes MK13 0LA
E-mail: MSTyler@romanpark.freemove.co.uk

Volume 51 Number 2

June 2001 ● Whole No 220

CONTENTS

Society Notes	42
The Cancellations of <i>Bureaux de Recette</i> , <i>Facteurs Boîtiers</i> and <i>Bureaux Auxiliaires</i> , 1876-1900 (P R A Kelly)	43
List of Recently Published Articles (C W Spong)	48
The Post Offices of French West Africa, Part 2 - Ivory Coast (W G Mitchell & L H Lambert)	49
The 1F75 Royal Visit of King George VI and Queen Elisabeth to France, Part 1 (M L Bister)	57
The Paknam Incident (J H Garner)	61
Bookshelf (L H Lambert, M S Tyler)	67
Amazing 1870-71 Wonder Stories - 60 (E M Cohn)	69
Roland Hill Awards for 2000 - photo of Ashley Laurence receiving award	70
Reports of Meetings	71
Main Society Meeting of 3 March 2001 (D J R)	71
Main Society Meeting of 28 March 2001 (MST)	71
Southern Group Meeting of 24 March 2001 (CWS)	72
Society's 25th Philatelic Weekend, 30 March - 1 April 2001 (MLB & DJR)	73
Main Society Meeting of 25 April 2001 (MST)	76
Shorter Items - Including Questions and Answers	77
50f Guynemer (A J Wood)	77
Two Unusual Covers (C W Spong, G K Lindsey)	77
From France to South Africa in the Boer War (P R A Kelly, R Stroud)	78
POW Camp in Kenya (G Barot)	80
Three Covers (G J Gosling)	81
FWA and Togo mixed Franking (D Tress)	82
<i>Boîte Rurale</i> and <i>Décime Rural</i> (P R A Kelly, R Goutay, A C Swinburn, I McQueen) ..	83
Postal Humour (R I Johnson)	cover page i
February 2001 Auction Realisations (M L Bister)	cover page iii
Illustrations of items shown at Kenilworth (R I Johnson)	cover page iv

SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1169 B Alborough-Tregear (Swansea), 1170
S N Gardiner (Glasgow), 1171 R A Paterson
(Berkshire), 1172 Anthony Shepherd (West
Yorkshire).

* * *

Members Deceased

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

1144 Donald L Duston (USA).

* * *

Exhibition Successes

The following members of the Society are to be con-
gratulated on winning awards:

Ernst Cohn - Vermeil for "Unusual Mail in Occupied
France 1870-1871" (Literature Competition) at
SESCAL 2000 (Los Angeles, October)

The late **Don Duston** - Gold for "French Colonial Revenues
(North Africa and Middle East Colonies)" at
CHICAGOPEX 2000 (Rosemont, November)

* * *

RPSL Award

Our congratulations go to **Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith** who
has been awarded the prestigious Tilleard Medal for 2001
for his display to the Royal on "Maritime Mail: France and
the World" on 21 October 1999.

* * *

F&CPS Literature Award 2000

1. Introduction to the Rural and Urban Post 1876-1900,
by **Peter Kelly**.
- 2.= French Internment Camps - Chapters 14/15, by
Derek Richardson.
- 2.= The Year of Edmund Dulac, by Colin Spong.
- 4.= The 50c Jeanne d'Arc Stamp, by Mike Bister.
- 4.= The River Posts in Cambodia and Laos, by John
Garner.

The judging panel, which this year comprised Group
Captain Joseph C Ainsworth, Colin M Clarkson, J F Giblin,
Barbara Priddy and Paul Watkins, was convened by Colin
W Spong.

* * *

Northern Group

Although arranged too late to be advertised in the Journal,
an extra Members' Meeting (20 sheets on any topic) was
announced locally and held on Saturday 19 May at Leeds
General Infirmary.

* * *

E-mail Helpline - Erratum

Unfortunately a gremlin in the form of a redundant dot
inserted itself in the e-mail address of Paul Miller, the
Helpline coordinator, published in the last edition of the
Journal. His correct e-mail address is:

paul@millerp.fsbusiness.co.uk

as given in the Register of Members' Interests. Please accept
our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

* * *

Philatelic Honours

Among the Rowland Hill Awards for 2000 made in London
on 27 March 2001, the following two members were
honoured (*see also page 70*):

Ashley Lawrence for his article "Sowing the Seeds of Love"
in Stamp Magazine (Royal Mail Awards for Innovation
— Journalistic Excellence in the Philatelic Press)

Gavin Fryer who was a runner-up for Youth Work (The
British Philatelic Trust Awards for Initiative)

* * *

Stamp Exchange

A non-member, Monsieur Bruno Nicasy, wishes to acquire
used British stamps, and has written offering to exchange
them for those of France, Belgium and other countries. If
any member would like to contact him, his address is: Le
Marienbad, 17 avenue des Fauvettes, Cros de Cagnes, 06800
Cagnes sur Mer, France.

Another non-member from France has written in similar
vein, offering to exchange used French stamps for those of
Great Britain and enclosing a wants list of British stamps
with Y&T numbers. His details are: Monsieur Christian
Herman, 6 rue Gustave Delarve, 76770 Le Houlme, France.
The wants list is available from the Editor.

* * *

Autumn Stampex BPE 2001

Potential exhibitors should note that the deadline for entry
forms this year is 13 July 2001, and that these, with full
details, are obtainable from the Secretary of the British
Philatelic Trust Exhibition Committee:

Tony R Finlayson, 86 Clarence Road, Fleet, Hants.
GU51 3RS (Telephone 01252 682528).

The Exhibition will be held from 19 to 23 September.

The International Level classes are: Aerophilatelic, Postal
History, Postal Stationery, Traditional, Revenues,
"Experimental", and Thematic; and the National Level
includes all the above plus Special Studies, Social Philately,
and Literature (although medals will no longer be awarded
in this latter category).

* * *

The Cancellations of *Bureaux de Recette, Facteurs Boîtiers* and *Bureaux Auxiliaires*, 1876-1900

Peter Kelly

[This article, like the introductory one on this topic published in Journal 218 pages 129-133, is adapted from notes on a display given to the Society at Leamington Spa on 21 March 1999.]

Cancellations of the *Bureaux de Recette* - Provinces



Type 15



Type 16



Type 17



Type 17bis or 18

(ex de Beaufond "Catalogue des oblitérations de France 1876-1900 - émission au type Sage")

These are the main offices which were graded according to size and importance. To avoid confusion it may be worth adding that prior to the Sage period they were known as "*Bureaux de Direction*".

The classification of the standard handstamps during the period 1876 to 1900 is complicated by the fact that there are two separate systems. Traditionally the early handstamps have been classified by a numeric system and during the Sage period this extends from type 15 to type 25, and this relates, as far as we are concerned, to the 22mm stamps. Progressively from 1884 a larger 25mm handstamp was brought in both in Paris and in the Provinces as well as for the railways. These are often called the "Type 84" stamps. The writer tends to favour the classification of Monsieur André Lautier who has produced an excellent study in his "*Nomenclature des cachets à date manuels postérieurs aux types 17 bis et 24 bis 1884-1969*".

During all of this period it can be seen that the Administration of the Postes et Télégraphes worked in a very orderly fashion. As Monsieur Lautier commented in his introduction, every office of the same category used cancellers of the same form and type which makes them immediately distinguishable. This concept lasted until 1966. The other point is that where modifications to the cancellers as a whole were required this was replicated throughout the categories of offices.

The right place to start is to look at the cachets in use in 1876 when the Sage issue was born. These remained in use in various ways until 1884 and well beyond. It is important to bear in mind that the Post Office hated waste and a good reason was required for the replacement of material.

Type 15

This cachet had been in use for a long time, having been introduced in 1838. It was 21mm wide and showed the day, month in letters and year together with the number and later the name of the *département*. In 1868 there was an official announcement of the modification of the date stamps (B.M. N° 1 of July 1868) resulting from the need to have a more precise knowledge of when a letter entered the postal system. The decision was made for the collection number to be incorporated into the date slug to achieve

this. As far as the "*recette*" offices were concerned this marked the death knell for type 15 as all stamps should have been changed to the new model by April 1876. Notwithstanding it will be seen that many of the sections and departments of the *Recette Principale* in Paris and other non-typical users in the provinces continued to use this stamp certainly up to the end of the Sage period and probably beyond.

Type 15 was replaced by two new stamps. The first was type 16 and the second, type 17.

Type 16

In July 1863 there remained considerable stocks of type 15 and the Postal Administration did not wish to waste these. It was found that by removing the inner circle of a type 15 there was sufficient space to insert a date slug that incorporated the new collection number. This was the new type 16. Generally it was given to existing offices which needed to replace stamps, while newly created offices received the new type 17. It is an attractive cachet and the least common of the "*recette*" cachets. The stamps were withdrawn as and when they became worn out or broken by the type 17 until July 1875 (see below) and thereafter by the type 18.

Type 17

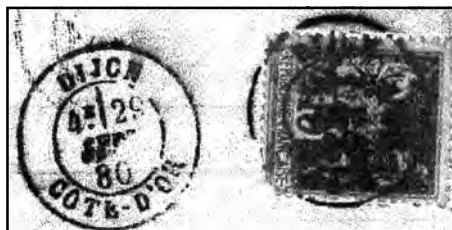
This was introduced from the end of 1868 and maintained the double ring with the date slug and collection number inside and the *département* number at the bottom. Monsieur Alexandre (*Dictionnaire historique des timbres et griffes "standard" de l'Administration Française des Postes 1792-1914*, published by Brun & Fils 1996) makes the point that the hundred or so "*Bureaux de Distribution*" that were promoted to "*recette*" in 1868 were usually given these stamps. These stamps were never withdrawn officially but were replaced progressively after June 1875 by a new stamp modified to show the name of the *département* in writing instead of the reference number. This was the type 18.

Type 18

This cachet was exactly the same as the type 17 except for the change of the *département* reference number to its name in writing. Subject to wear and tear these cachets lasted



Type 17
Dijon (20)
2 September 1880



Type 18
Dijon (Côte d'Or)
28 September 1880



22 February 1886
Guichet
Le Puy en Velay
Type 15

3 April 1879
Luxeuil (69) to
St-Loup-sur-Semousse
- an unusual example of
both receiving
and distributing
offices using
Type 16 cancellers



until the end of the century. Alexandre makes the interesting point that in 1877 the permitted life of a handstamp was reduced from six years to four. Any request for a replacement stamp before this limit was up had to be accompanied by the necessary explanation!

With the increasing volume of mail there was a need for a larger size of cancellation that would be more easily legible and in 1884 a major modification took place which incorporated a larger design. This takes us into the second classification, that of Lautier.

Cancellations of the “*Recette*” offices post 1884 – classified following the André Lautier system

The general principles by which the Post Office has ascribed different types of cancellations to different categories of office has been explained in the previous section. Starting from this it was relatively straightforward to set in place the Lautier system which gives a letter to each category of office and a number which covers the particular features of a cachet. This eases the comparison of handstamps enormously and Monsieur Lautier’s book is highly recommended to anyone wishing to have a real understanding of French postmarks. The book, mentioned above, was published by the author in 1984.

The last section closed with an examination of type 18 handstamps. By 1884 there was considered to be a need for an improvement. The Type 18s were relatively small and, because of the very heavy use they received with the continual increase in the volume of mail, they became worn and encrusted with ink, so that they became less and less legible. A number of trials were carried out by the *Recette Principale* in Paris and by the Paris, Place de la Bourse office from 1880 which highlighted the advantages of a larger handstamp. At the same time the Postal Authorities were looking at mechanical means of applying the two cancellations, on the adhesive itself and alongside. The mechanism invented by Daguin was considered to be the best and also influenced the Authorities in their decision.

The diameter of the stamps was increased to between 24 and 26mm. The cachet had a solid outer ring and a broken series of usually 12 dashes inside. The letters were larger and in block capitals as opposed to the Roman capitals used before.

The stamps were first used by Paris Départ towards the end of 1884 incorporated in a Daguin canceller, and then

were issued progressively to the larger offices often supplied with Daguin machines.

The types 16, 17 and 18 were not withdrawn specifically but were replaced by the new stamps as they became worn out. Only larger offices using Daguin machines were given new stamps where the old ones were still serviceable. There are many examples of larger offices which used both the old and new stamps simultaneously.

Initially, there was a lack of print type for the new lettering and the date slugs, and many of the earlier handstamps bear Roman type face and slugs. As and when these needed replacement or new ones became available they were changed to the new block capital type. Many of the cachets are “*mixtes*” in that they include a mixture of old and new. One of the most common “*mixte*” combination is the Roman date slug with only the two figures of the year in block capitals. The administration provided the numbers for the “*millésime*” on an annual basis, whereas the other type was replaced as and when it became necessary.

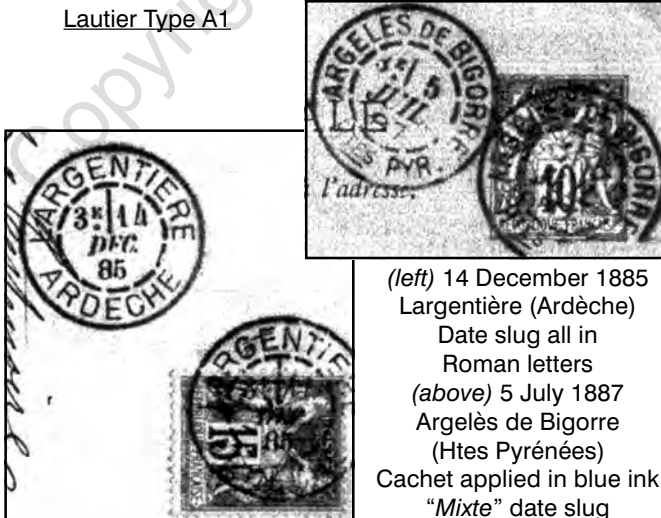
There is a large number of individual variants which make the study of these type A cachets rewarding and there is a good deal of interest in the early Daguin marks which will be covered in detail later.

In November 1899 a further change was introduced to show a different date slug in which the collection number was replaced by an indication of the time. A 12 hour clock was used with “m” for *matin* and “s” for *soir*. The date and month were shown on the middle line. These were relatively short lived and not all offices used them and, furthermore, they appeared in the last year of the Sage issue. They were replaced by Type A3 between June and October 1901 - but this falls outside this study.

Lautier Type A cancellations

There are three types of interest to us during the period 1884 to 1900.

Lautier Type A1



(left) 14 December 1885
Largentière (Ardèche)
Date slug all in
Roman letters
(above) 5 July 1887
Argelès de Bigorre
(Htes Pyrénées)
Cachet applied in blue ink
“*Mixte*” date slug



Lautier Type A2
13 June 1838
Versailles-Notre-Dame
(Seine & Oise)
Date slug all in
block capitals

Lautier Type A2^b
26 December 1900
Cannes (Alpes Maritimes)
“*Bloc horaire*”
Collection number replaced
by hours and minutes



Facteurs Boîtiers & Facteurs Receveurs

Background

In considering the *facteurs boîtiers* we need to look at the system in which they played a part. The most important offices were the *bureaux de recette*, which were graded depending on size and importance but were all able to provide a full service. (To avoid confusion it may be useful to remember that prior to December 1864 these were referred to as *bureaux de direction*.)

These were followed by the secondary offices of which the most important were the *bureaux de distribution*. The “*distributeurs*” operated offices that were open during normal working hours and could carry out the majority of post office operations although there were some constraints on financial transactions (*articles d'argent*). They were generally run by women and because of the hours they were required to remain open they did not normally deliver mail. The “*distributeur*” was a full “*agent de la poste*”.

The position as far as the *facteurs boîtiers* were concerned was different in that they ran their offices and operated as postmen at the same time. This required restricted opening hours, which was not popular. The *facteur boîtier* also had a lower grade and was classed as a “*sous-agent de la poste*”. The two ran parallel until 1874 and shared the same handstamp with the distinctive dotted outer circle.

A major upheaval in the system occurred in 1874 when the *bureaux de distribution* were converted *en masse* to full *recette* status but in a newly created fourth grade. They no longer used the “*distribution*” type handstamp and in fact had to file off the dotted outer circle from their handstamps. This left behind only a small number of *facteurs boîtiers* and initially there was little demand for new ones as the Post Office bore the cost of these offices and was reluctant to invest in new ones.

The postmarks

There were three separate cachets in use at the beginning of 1876 - Types 23, 24 and 25.

This was really a modification of the old Type 22 required to meet the new regulation (BM N° 1 July 1868) that the date slug should include a collection number so that the Post Office could establish at what time a letter entered the system. The only way it could be achieved was by removing the inner ring to accommodate a larger date slug. This procedure was carried out to use up unutilised stocks of Type 22. The Post Office hated waste! Only about 30 offices were supplied with this stamp and as they became worn out they were replaced by Type 24 up to May 1875 and then by Type 25.

By mid 1876 only three offices were still using Type 23: Appoigny, Ivoy-le-Pré and Lamonzie St Martin. It is very scarce on Sage and seldom seen.

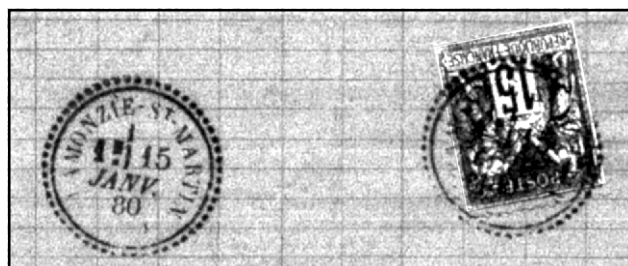
Type 24 was introduced in July 1868 as a new handstamp, slightly larger and featuring the collection number. The *département* in which the office was situated was shown in the form of the *département* number. In May 1875 (BM74) new instructions were issued to the effect that the name of the *département* was to be shown in letters, and this led to

As the Sage period dawned in 1876 the *facteurs boîtiers* were the only kind of secondary office in existence. Many of the early publications on the subject have confused the *facteurs boîtiers* with the *bureaux de distribution*. For example de Beaufond, in the leading work on the cancellations of *Type Sage*, makes no reference at all to *facteurs boîtiers*, referring to all of the cancellations of this period as belonging to *distributions* - which is incorrect. The fact is that there were no *bureaux de distribution* during the Sage period.

In the early years of the Sage issue there were only small numbers of *facteurs boîtiers* and it is difficult to find examples. There was a gradual increase particularly with the limited development of *facteurs boîtiers municipaux*, but little real growth in the country until early 1879 when the Post Office decided that the *communes* who wished to have offices could, so long as they paid a substantial part of the overheads, at least until the office was covering its costs. This announcement was welcomed widely and the number of offices began to increase substantially.

On 2nd May 1893 the *facteurs boîtiers* were renamed *facteurs receveurs* although their function was unchanged. This name was retained until 1943 when they were renamed again, this time as *receveurs distributeurs*.

The precise functions of the *facteur boîtier* consisted of the distribution of mail, clearing the boxes, keeping the office open in accordance with the amount of time available, the sale of stamps, receiving registered and insured items, the issue and payment of mandates. They were restricted as to operations involving “*articles d'argent*”. The office was not self accounting and was under the control and supervision of a “*recette*”.



Type 23
Introduced in 1868

their replacement progressively from that date with Type 25.

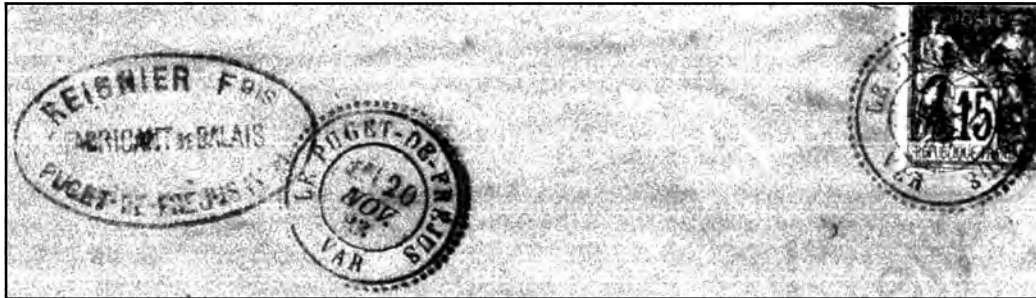
There were no further changes in the handstamps until 1886, and Type 25s were used well beyond that date and indeed well into the 20th century in a few cases.

The old numerical numbering system of cachets ends with the Type 25 and with the introduction of the larger 25mm cachets with larger block capital lettering the Lautier classification replaces it.

Although the larger “*recette*” offices and newly created ones started to use the new larger handstamps in 1884, it took the *facteurs boîtiers* until July 1886 before the first one was issued. The format remained the same, just larger and using



Type 24
Introduced in July 1868



Type 25
Introduced from July 1875



Lautier Type B2
Introduced in July 1886

block capitals instead of Roman lettering. This is the cachet that collectors will come across most regularly, and it remained in use for many years (Brun quotes that some 12 offices were still using it in 1951). The next new model which showed the date slug all in figures without any letters in it, was introduced after the end of the Sage period in 1904.

It may be noted that Lautier Type B1 has been omitted because it is extremely rare. It has the date slug in Roman letters and figures which means that only offices existing at 1886 and having kept their date slugs could have achieved this. New offices would automatically be issued with the new format in block capitals.

Bureaux Auxiliaires and Recettes Auxiliaires Rurales & Urbaines

Bureaux auxiliaires were created in 1887 to provide a range of postal services in *communes* where there was no post office. They were run by shopkeepers or local businesses and the operating costs were borne by the *commune*. The offices used a hexagonal handstamp with dotted inner circle (referred to as Lautier Type C2).

In October 1895 a new law authorised the creation of "*recettes auxiliaires rurales et urbaines*", operating

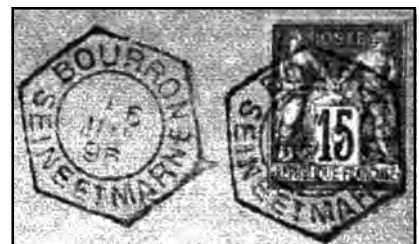
substantially in the same way but with a wider range of services available. The object was to increase the number of urban offices, and initial trials were successful. This was extended to the rural offices and existing "*bureaux auxiliaires*" were incorporated into it. The handstamp used was again hexagonal but with a continuous inner circle. The "*bureaux auxiliaires*" kept their old handstamps until these were worn out. (They are referred to as Lautier D2 for the "*urbaines*" and E2 for the "*rurales*".



Bureaux auxiliaires -
Lautier Type C2 (Date slug in capitals)
Created in 1887; used by
all auxiliary offices;
were often maintained
after conversion into
Recettes Auxiliaires Rurales & Urbaines



Recettes Auxiliaires Urbaines -
Lautier Type D2 (Date slug in capitals)
Created in 1894; generally (but not always)
has an indication letter after the name;
'urbaine' means that the office was
set up in a *commune*
already having a post office.



Recettes Auxiliaires Rurales -
Lautier Type E2 (Date slug in capitals)
Created in 1894;
no indication letter;
'rurale' means that
the office was opened
in a *commune* without a post office.

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 95 2^{ème} Trim 2001: Les surcharges du Soudan Français 1894 - Dossier (Chevassu, Crombez et Bouéat); Poste Coloniale de Cochinchine [Saigon 1863] Tarifs communiqués (Boyer); Indochine, découverte d'un timbre à date gratté... gratté? (Tricot); Quelques curiosités postales d'Indochine (Engles); Les territoires de l'AOF et le Togo de leur autonomie interne à leur indépendance (Drye et Bouéat); TAAF, carte; St Pierre et Miquelon, décret du 1^{er} août 1885 communique (Brun).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 263 (Vol 57, N° 1) Jan 2001: The First French Airmail Stamp: The Nancy-Lunéville Flight of 1912 (Bloor); Chronological Profiles of Post Offices of Réunion 1892-1980 (Lambert); eBay: An idea whose time is coming (Grabowski); More "Transport Exceptionnellement.." markings from French Africa (Larsen); Foreign Rates from the French Post Offices in Egypt, 1871-1875 (Smith); Comments regarding certain Marianne de Béquet definitives (Luft); Chasing Flies [fly-speck philately] (Kinsley); Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories (Cohn).

Whole N° 264 (Vol 57, N° 2) Apr 2001: Port de la Rochelle (Kinsley); A Gathering of Entrepôts (Hellebrekers, Kelly & Lambert); General Delivery / Poste Restante (Luft); FCPSGB Visit to The West Africa Study Circle (Mitchell); French Military Postal Bureaus in Africa - Open and Closed (Luft); Fakes and Fabrications of the Red Cross Surcharge issues of French Morocco, 1914-1915 (Parniak).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1738 Feb 2001: Des lettres à remonter le temps! (de la Mettrie); Culture pub... au cœur de la philatélie (Poth).

N° 1739 Mar 2001: Traitement des cartes postales dans l'UPU (Prugnon); Décodage: Pérégrinations d'une lettre (Blanc); Des tarifs méconnus pour la musique [ctd] (Trassaert).

N° 1740 Apr 2001: La Poste sarde et italienne en Tunisie [Pt.1] (Dutau, Blanc et Frizzi); Un papillon qui vole de Montpellier à Paris (de la Mettrie); Une pièce à loupe:

surtaxe tenace (Prugnon); Les aventures d'un «Néo-Calédoniophiliste» (Delpy); De faux timbres fiscaux pour tromper l'ennemi (Danan).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 304 1^{er} Trim 2001: Découverte en Marcophilie Ancienne (Klein); La Plus longue nuit des Marcophiles! (de la Mettrie); A propos des boîtes mobiles transportées par les courriers convoyeurs (Tanter); Convoyeurs-stations non signalés (Gautier); Le courrier entre les départements des deux zones après l'armistice de la guerre de 1870-71. L'avis de LIBON du 25 février 1871 (Gauzit); Atelier «Histoire de la Poste en milieu rural» (-); Valeur cotée «rurale» (Sené); Que ces temps étaient doux à vivre! (-); NEOPAJE: L'affranchissement à grande vitesse (Albaret); La nouvelle génération de machines de la Nippon Electric Company (Marcadet); Les nouveautés en matière de guichets-annexes (Delvaux).

Timbres magazine

Permanent features: Actus Andorre, Monaco et TOM, Cybermarché, Expertise, Les nouveautés de France, Les variétés, Manifestations, Marcophilie, Poste navale, Polaires.

N° 10 Feb 2001: Les bureaux corses à l'heure algérienne (Apaire et Sinais); Indochine: La «Perle de l'Empire» [1897-1938] (Michaud et Rawles); Congo et Gabon: pays d'exploration philatélique (de Pellinec); Escale à Nagoya (Abouchar); Strasbourg: correspondance d'une ville assiégée (Zeyons).

N° 11 Mar 2001: La collection des types «Mouchon BFE» 1^{re} pt (de Pellinec); Vous aimez les vieilles lettres? Comment faire? - Les Alpes-Maritimes (Baudot); L'alcool voilà l'ennemi (Zeyons); La saga de l'émission de l'exposition coloniale de 1931: «La Femme Fachi» la maîtresse carte de Lyautey l'Africain (Melot); Maritime: «Paq. Ang. Alexandrie» (de la Mettrie).

N° 12 Apr 2001: L'Univers Merveilleux des Carnets (de Pellinec); La «Femme Fachi» 2^e pt (Melot); La série des «Mouchon BFE» 2^e pt (de Pellinec); 1939-45 la colonie oubliée - Indochine 2^e pt (Michaud et Raulet); Les flammes secrètes sous Vichy (Apaire et Sinais); La Poste en France 1675-1791 (Baudot); 1941: un mandat-carte interzone! (Chauvin).

The Post Offices of French West Africa

Bill Mitchell and Laurence Lambert

Note

The first part of this article (Benin/Dahomey) was published in Journal 215 (March 2000). As we explain in the Introduction, our aim is to produce a comprehensive overview of the post offices - in the broadest sense of the word - which were open to the public in the Federation of French West Africa from the earliest days to independence. It is intended that it will complement the catalogue of French West Africa postmarks which we hope and believe will one day be published. Since Part 1 was completed we have obtained a considerable amount of material on other colonies of the Federation, mainly publications of

COL.FRA (the French society for the study of the stamps and postal history of the French Colonies and other territories), and full use of these will be made in forthcoming parts of this article. This means that, while most of our sources cover all of the colonies, the "latest year" column in our Tables of post offices will vary according to the information in our possession. For Benin/Dahomey it was 1960; for Ivory Coast it is 1975. We will of course be very pleased to hear from anyone who can correct or add to the information in the Part which follows, or provide relevant information on any of the other colonies.

PART 2. IVORY COAST

The first post office to be opened, in 1862, in what was to become the colony of Ivory Coast was at Assinie, now a small port some 20 kms west of the frontier of Ghana, which as a native kingdom has a history going back at least to the early years of the seventeenth century. At that time (1862) the area was known as the *Établissements de la Côte d'Or et du Gabon* and came within the jurisdiction of the *Chef de la Division Navale des Côtes Occidentales d'Afrique*, whose headquarters were at Gorée in Senegal. The other Côte d'Or settlements were at Grand-Bassam, Sassandra, Fresco, Grand-Lahou, Jacqueville and Dabou, all of which were on or near the coast and were reliant on Assinie for what postal services were available.

Notwithstanding the official name of the settlements, the post office at Assinie was of less importance than that at Libreville, which served Gabon in what became French Equatorial Africa. Both offices were administered by an agent with the title *Directeur de la Poste aux lettres*; de Pomyers remarks that the Director at Assinie was not over-burdened with work. He quotes a letter of 2 October 1863 in which the writer states that since his arrival (at Grand-Bassam) he had received only two letters, in the preceding May and on 8 September last, and comments that this 4-month gap between mails explains the great rarity of the ASI lozenge on "eagles" (I). The little mail that was handled was carried by naval vessels plying between Libreville and Gorée.

The French largely withdrew from the Côte d'Or after the débâcle of 1870-71 and the post office at Assinie was closed. Surviving interests were confided to a French merchant who in 1878 was given the formal title of Resident, responsible to the naval commander-in-chief and, later, to the Governor of the Rivières du Sud (the French coastal territories to the south of Senegal, which in 1893 were to become the colony of French Guinea) and through him to the Governor of Senegal. Any mail was carried on foot to the Gold Coast for carriage by British packets. Postal services were gradually resumed following the (re-)opening of post offices at Assinie and Grand-Bassam in 1880; in the same year the *comptoirs* of Assinie and Grand-Bassam were admitted to the UPU as dependencies of Gabon. The Côte d'Or was separated from Gabon in 1883 and in 1889 it was re-named

Côte d'Or d'Afrique. As from the same year a regular French mail-boat service from Bordeaux and Marseille served French possessions in West Africa. Colony status was attained in 1893 under the name of Côte d'Ivoire. It became a founder member of the Federation of French West Africa in 1895, was detached in 1896 and restored in 1899; in 1958 it became an autonomous republic within the French Community, and finally full independence was achieved in 1960(2)(3).

One other important change should be recorded here. On 1 January 1933 the adjacent colony of Upper Volta, created in 1919 from territory in the south-east of Upper Senegal and Niger, ceased to exist and the major part of its lands was incorporated in Ivory Coast. Upper Volta was reconstituted as from 1 January 1948, so its offices appear in the Ivory Coast tables only for the year 1937. (It is now known as Burkina Faso.)

Cancellations are recorded under the names of ETABLISSEMENTS DE LA COTE D'OR (Assinie, 1862), COTE D'OR ET GABON (Assinie, about 1867) and COTE D'OR D'AFRIQUE (Assinie, Grand-Bassam, Grand-Lahou and Jacqueville from 1890); Venot(4) illustrates a cancel, unfortunately without dater block, reading ASSINIE SENEGAL; and Bob Picirilli reports an 1893 cancel reading GRAND BASSAM COTE D'OR(5). No Ivory Coast cancels inscribed RIVIERES DU SUD seem to have been recorded. Fortunately, these name changes were not reflected in the colony's stamps, all of which were inscribed COTE D'IVOIRE. They first appeared, replacing the general issues and anticipating the name change of the following year, in 1892 and lasted until the Second World War when they were gradually replaced by stamps for use throughout French West Africa.

In the previous part of this article we commented on the considerable increase in the number of post offices in Dahomey between 1951 and 1960. The increase in Ivory Coast between 1951 and 1975, the latest year for which we have details, is even more pronounced. The sources list a mere 39 offices in 1951 and no less than 176 in 1970; this figure increased by 30%, to 232, over the next five years.

As before, we include three tables - Table 1 lists the post offices recorded in the sources consulted, Table 2 the dates of opening and closing, and Table 3 the variant spellings, most of which have no philatelic significance. In the Benin/Dahomey chapter we had to rely to a considerable extent, in Table 2, on the dates of earliest recorded cancellations

in the absence of comprehensive data on dates of opening; with Ivory Coast the opposite is the case - we know of no wholly reliable modern catalogue of cancellations but there is one study of post offices, published as recently as 1999, which is authoritative - details are given in the sources for Table 2.

Footnotes

- (1) See source **a** below, page 16.
- (2) In compiling these historical notes we have consulted:-
- Comte Olivier de Pomyers, "*Les Timbres du Gabon et du Congo Français*" (no date), pp 11-21;
 - Constant Bouérat, "*Les Postes et Télécommunications de la Côte d'Ivoire (1862-1975)*", COL.FRA Bulletin Hors-série 16-3A, 1999;
 - Naval Intelligence Handbooks published by H.M. Stationery Office - "French West Africa" vol 1 (1943), pp 199-200 and 203-204, and vol 2 (1944), pp 259-266, and "French Equatorial Africa" (1942), p 233;
 - J. Schatzkés, "*Comptoir d'Assinie (Côte d'Or) - Étapes successives dans l'affranchissement et les cachets postaux utilisés*", *Les Feuilles Marcophiles* n° 200, 1975, pp 109-111.
- (3) Schatzkés' article (source **d** above) gives the following variant details – the Côte d'Or was separated from Gabon in 1886, not 1883: in the latter year, as the Côte d'Or d'Afrique, it was included with Gabon and Benin in the Établissements Français du Golfe de Guinée. This ceased to exist in 1886 when the Côte d'Or d'Afrique became a dependency of Senegal. In 1890 it was separated from Senegal, becoming autonomous under the Governor of the Rivières du Sud. Fortunately, M. Schatzkés agrees that the final change, to Côte d'Ivoire, came in 1893!
- (4) See Table 2, source 8.
- (5) *Dernière heure* - Sinais' 30 March 2001 sale included another GRAND BASSAM COTE D'OR cancel, "*inconnu à ce jour*", of 1892.

Table 1 - The Post Offices over the Years

	1888	1892	1895	1899	1905	1907	1909	1912	1914	1926	1937	1948	1951	1970	1975
Abengourou										x	x	x	x	x	x(a2)
Abidjan					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Abidjan R.P.														x	x(ahc)
Abidjan Adjamé	renamed Adjamé (qv)														
Abidjan (Adjamé) P.A.R. (Poste Automobile Rurale)															x(c)
Abidjan Aéroport	renamed Abidjan Aviation (qv)														
Abidjan Aviation														x	x(a3)
Abidjan Chèques Postaux														x	x(ashc)
Abidjan Cocody														x	x(a2)
Abidjan Colis Postaux	renamed Abidjan Messagerie (qv)														
Abidjan 220 Logements														x	x(a3)
Abidjan Koumassi														x	x(a4)
Abidjan Marcory														x	x(a4)
Abidjan Messagerie														x	x(ashc)
Abidjan Plateau														x	x(a1)
Abidjan Port														x	x(b)
Abidjan Transbordement														x	x(as4)
Abidjan Tri															x(ashc)
Abidjean (earlier spelling, until about 1920, of Abidjan)															
Abobo								†(bg)	†(bg)	x(bg)	†(bg)				
Abobo-Gare															x(a5)
Aboisso					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a3)
Abongoua															x(e)
Aboudé															x(e)
Addah				†	x	x	x	†	x						
Adiaké												x	x	x	x(a5)
Adjakouty				†	x										
Adjamé														x	x(a2)
Adzopé							†	x	†		†	x	x	x	x(a3)
Agboville							†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a2)
Agboville P.A.R.															x(c)
Agnibilékrou											x	x	x	x	x(a4)

	1888	1892	1895	1899	1905	1907	1909	1912	1914	1926	1937	1948	1951	1970	1975
Agou															x(e)
Ahuacre-Broubou(1)						x									
Akoupé														x	x(a5)
Akouré															x(e)
Alépé				†	x	x	x	†	x					x	x(a5)
Ananda														x	x(e)
Andé														x	x(e)
Anoumabo								†(bg)	†(bg)	†(bg)	†(bg)			x	x(e)
Anyama								†(bg)	†(bg)	x(bg)	†(bg)			x	x(a4)
Anyama-Akoupé															x(e)
Arrah														x	x(a5)
Assahara														x	x(e)
Assié-Koumassi															x(e)
Assikasso					x	x	x	†	x						
Assinie	x	x	x	†	x	x	x	†	x	x	x				
Assounoué															x(e)
Assuéfry														x	x(e)
Atiékoua															x(e)
Ayamé														x	x(a5)
Azaguié								†(bg)	†(bg)	x(bg)	†(bg)			x	x(a5)
Bacon															x(e)
Badikaha											x	x	x		
Bako														x	x(d)
Bamoro										†(bg)	†(bg)				
Banfora(#)											x				
Bangolo														x	x(a5)
Baoulé(2)															
Bayota														x	x(e)
Batié(#)											x				
Béoumi														x	x(a4)
Béréby(3)															
Bérégadougou(#)											†				
Bettie					x	x	x								
Biankouma														x	x(a5)
Binao														x	x(d)
Bingerville					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a4)
Bin-Houyé														x	x(e)
Bini-Barabo(4)															
Bliéron					x	x	x	†	x						
Blolequin														x	x(e)
Bobo-Dioulasso(#)											x				
Bocanda														x	x(a5)
Bodokro															x(e)
Boli										x(bg)	†(bg)				
Bondoukou					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a3)
Bondoukou P.A.R.															x(c)
Bongouanou								x	x					x	x(a4)
Boniéredougou														x	x(e)
Bonoua														x	x(a5)
Boromo(#)											x				
Borotou														x	x(d)
Botro														x	x(a5)
Bouaflé								†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a3)
Bouaké					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(ahc)
Bouaké P.A.R.(5)													x	x	x(c)
Bouandougou														x	x(e)
Bouapé															x(e)
Boudépé														x	x(a5)
Bouna					x	x	x	†	x	†	x	x	x	x	x(a5)
Boundiali									†	†	x	x	x	x	x(a5)
Boussoukro															x(e)
Brobo														x	x(d)
Brofodoumé															x(e)
Brou-Akpadoussou															x(e)
Buyo														x	x(e)
Cechi								†(bg)	†(bg)	x(bg)	†(bg)				x(e)
Dabakala					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a5)
Dabou					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a3)

	1888	1892	1895	1899	1905	1907	1909	1912	1914	1926	1937	1948	1951	1970	1975
Dabou Guichet Annexe Mobile(6)															x(b)
Daloa								x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a1)
Daloa P.A.R.														x	x(c)
Danané											x	x	x	x	x(a4)
Daoukro														x	x(a5)
Dar Salamy(#)											†(bg)				
Dédougou(#)											x				
Déghoré															x(e)
Diabo														x	x(d)
Diarrabadougou(#)(bg)															
Dibou(1)						x	x								
Didiévi														x	x(a5)
Diébougou(#)											x				
Diéfoula(#)(7)															
Diégonéfla														x	x(a5)
Dignago															x(e)
Dikodougou														x	x(e)
Dimbokro							†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a2)
Dimbokro P.A.R.(8)													†	x	x(c)
Dinguira															x(e)
Divo											x	x	x	x	x(a3)
Djibo(#)(9)															
Djoro-Djoro															x(e)
Dolomon															x(e)
Doropo														x	?(10)
Dougbafila															x(e)
Drewin				†	x	x	x	†	x						
Duékoué											x	x	x	x	x(a4)
Élibou															x(e)
Ery-Makouguié					x	x	x								
Facobly														x	x(a5)
Ferkessédougou											x	x	x	x	x(a2)
Fresco				†	x	x	x	†	x	†				x	x(d)
Gadouan														x	x(e)
Gagnoa											x	x	x	x	x(a1)
Gangoro														x	x(e)
Gaoua(#)											x				
G'Bon														x	x(a5)
Goïtafla														x	x(e)
Gomon															x(e)
Gonate															x(e)
Goulia														x	x(e)
Gouméré														x	x(e)
Gouroutou															x(e)
Grabo														x	x(e)
Grand-Aféry															x(e)
Grand Alépé														x	x(e)
Grand-Bassam	x	x	x	†	x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a4)
Grand-Bassam Câbles(11)															
Grand-Béréby(12)				†	x	x	x	†	x						x(e)
Grand-Lahou(13)			x	†	x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a5)
Gregbeu															
Groumania					x	x								x	x(e)
Guessabo														x	x(e)
Gueyo														x	x(a5)
Guibéroua														x	x(a5)
Guiborosso															x(e)
Guiglo											x	x	x	x	x(a5)
Guiroutou															x(e)
Guitry														x	x(a5)
Hermankoro															x(e)
Hirre-Watta															x(e)
Houndé(#)											x				
Hyrre														x	x(e)
Ingrakon															x(e)
Issia								x	x	†	†			x	x(a4)
Jacquerville		x	x	†	x	x	x	†	x	x				x	x(a5)
Kan								†(bg)	†(bg)	†(bg)	†(bg)				

	1888	1892	1895	1899	1905	1907	1909	1912	1914	1926	1937	1948	1951	1970	1975
Kani														x	x(d)
Kantchari(#)															
Katiola										x	x	x	x	x	x(a4)
Kaya(#)											x				
Kimoukadou															x(e)
Kiohan										†(bg)	†(bg)				
Kodiokoffi					x	x	x								
Kodiossou															x(e)
Kokumbo															x(e)
Kolia														x	x(e)
Kong					x	x	x	†	x					x	x(e)
Korhogo					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a1)
Korhogo P.A.R.														x	x(c)
Koro(14)															
Kossandji															x(e)
Kotobi														x	x(a5)
Kotrou(1)					x										
Kouassi Datekro															x(e)
Kouassi-Kouassikro														x	x(e)
Koudougou(#)											x				
Kouibly														x	x(d)
Koun-Fao														x	x(d)
Kouroukukoha(bg)															
Kouto														x	x(e)
Krinjabo															x(e)
Lakota											x	x	x	x	x(a4)
La Mê															x(e)
Lenguedougou														x	x(e)
Léo(#)											x				
Logoualé									†	†				x	x(e)
Louïgué															x(e)
Madinani														x	x(a5)
Mafféré															x(e)
Man								†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a1)
Man P.A.R.														x	x(c)
Mankono					x	x	x	†	x					x	x(a5)
M'Bahiakro														x	x(a5)
M'Batto														x	x(a5)
M'Bengué														x	x(e)
Memni															x(e)
Monga															x(e)
Montezo															x(e)
Moossou									†						
Morondo														x(15)	x(e)
Moyen-Béréby(12)	See Grand-Béréby														
Naniefonogo(bg)															
Napieolédougou														x	x(e)
Nassian														x	x(d)
N'Dokouassikro										x(bg)	†(bg)			x	x(e)
N'Douci														x	x(a5)
N'Gakron															x(e)
Niakaramandougou														x	x(a5)
Niangbo(16)										†					
Niangoloko(#)(17)											†(bg)				
Niedekaha(18)										†(bg)	†(bg)				
Nielle(19)															
Nofou										x(bg)	†(bg)				
N'Zinoua															x(e)
N'Zoghi															x(e)
Obhogo(20)															
Odienné					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a4)
Odienné P.A.R.														x	x(c)
Ono														x	x(a5)
Onossou									x(21)						
Ouagadougou(#)											x				
Ouagadougou R.P.(#)(22)															
Ouagadougou Auxiliaire(#)(22)															
Ouangofitini														x	x(d)

	1888	1892	1895	1899	1905	1907	1909	1912	1914	1926	1937	1948	1951	1970	1975
Ouangolodougou											†(bg)			x	x(a5)
Ouellé											†	†	†	x	x(d)
Oumé											x	x	x	x	x(a4)
Ouossou					x	x	x	†	(21)						
Ouragahio														x	x(d)
Pacobo														x	x(e)
Péni(#)											†(bg)				
Po(#)											x				
Port-Bouët					x									x	x(a4)
Prikro														x	x(e)
Raviart								†(bg)	†(bg)	x(bg)	†(bg)				
Rubino								†(bg)	†(bg)	x(bg)	†(bg)			x	x(e)
Saïoua														x	x(e)
Sakasso														x	x(a5)
Sandégué														x	x(d)
San Pedro					x	x	x	†	x	x					x(a5)
Sassandra					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a3)
Satama Sokoura														x	x(e)
Séguéla					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a3)
Séguéla P.A.R.														x	x(c)
Séguelon														x	x(e)
Seïzra														x	x(e)
Sifié														x	x(e)
Sikensi														x	x(a5)
Sinématiali														x	x(d)
Sinfra							x	†	x					x	x(a5)
Singrobo					x	x									
Sipilou															x(e)
Sirasso														x	x(e)
Soubré							x	†	x					x	x(a4)
Tabagné														x	x(e)
Tabou(23)					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a5)
Tafiré														x	x(a5)
Taï														x	x(e)
Tanda														x	x(a5)
Téhini														x	x(e)
Tenkodogo(#)											x				
Tiassalé					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(a4)
Tiassalé P.A.R.															x(c)
Tiébissou														x	x(a5)
Tiémélékro									†(bg)	x(bg)	†(bg)			x	x(e)
Tienfaya											†(bg)				
Tieningboué														x	x(d)
Tienko														x	x(d)
Tiény-Siably														x	x(d)
Tingrela														x	x(a5)
Tombougou					x	x	x	†	x						
Tortiya														x	x(e)
Touba					x	x	x	†	x	x	x	x	†	x	x(a5)
Toubaboukro															x(f)
Toukouzou														x	x(d)
Toulepleu														x	x(a5)
Toumodi					x	x	x	†	x			x	x	x	x(a3)
Toupa							x								
Touro(18)										†(bg)	†(bg)				
Tousiana(#)(18)											†(bg)				
Transua														x	x(e)
Treichville												x	x	x	x(a1)
Vavoua														x	x(a5)
Vridi(24)													†		
Wappou					x	x	†								
Worofla														x	x(e)
Yakassé														x	x(a5)
Yako(#)											x				
Yamoussoukro														x	x(a3)
Yapo								†(bg)	†(bg)	x(bg)	†(bg)				
Yassap														x	x(f)
Yendéré(#)(25)											†(bg)				

	1888	1892	1895	1899	1905	1907	1909	1912	1914	1926	1937	1948	1951	1970	1975
Zagné														x	x(e)
Zaranou					x	x	x	†	x						
Zikisso															x(e)
Zokolilié														x	x(e)
Zouan-Hounien														x	x(e)
Zoukougbeu														x	x(e)
Zuénoula														x	x(a5)

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 Upper Volta.

(bg) indicates a “*bureau gare*”. While postal facilities were available, these were really post offices in the broadest sense of the term only. In areas not served by a post office proper, railway station-masters provided basic postal and telephone services; they were not supplied with postal date stamps and cancelled stamps by means of the “*cachet non dateur de la gare*” (presumably a linear “*cachet de service*”). What little mail they handled was handed to the postal clerks who sorted mail on trains. They have been included because some of them are listed in the UPU dictionary for 1926; many more are recorded by Bouérat (source 1 for Table 2). The difference between the *bureaux gare* and the *courriers convoyeurs*, which are not listed by the UPU and only mentioned in passing by Bouérat, seems to be that the former provided postal facilities of a limited kind whereas the latter did not, they merely cancelled and sorted franked mail handed to them.

For 1975, ahc = *Bureau de plein exercice hors classe*,
a1 = " " " " 1^{ère} classe,
a2 = " " " " 2^{ème} classe,
a3 = " " " " 3^{ème} classe,
a4 = " " " " 4^{ème} classe,
a5 = " " " " 5^{ème} classe,
ashc = *Bureau spécialisé hors classe*,
as4 = " " " 4^{ème} classe,
b = *Guichet annexe*, c = *Poste automobile rurale*,
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 N° 1), 1978.
1895: Union Postale Universelle, “*Dictionnaire des Bureaux de Poste*”, first edition.
1899: UPU, supplement to the above.
1905: C Bouérat, “*Les Débuts du Service des Postes et Télégraphes en Côte d’Ivoire (1880-1905)*”, Société Internationale d’Histoire Postale, Grenoble - *Bulletin* N° 19/20, 1972, pp 11-93).
1907: Gouvernement Général de l’Afrique Occidentale Française, “*Les Postes et Télégraphes en Afrique Occidentale*”, Éditions Crété, 1907.
1909: UPU, “*Dictionnaire*”, second edition.
1912: UPU, supplement to the above.
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, 1996.
1926: UPU, “*Dictionnaire*”, third edition.
1937: As above, fourth edition.
1948: PTT of French West Africa, Public Notice N° 3273 dated 17 July 1948, reported by Edmond Queyroy and published in *France and Colonies Philatelist*, March-April 1949 (Whole N° 44). (In our list of sources for Benin/Dahomey we attributed the corresponding Public Notice to the PTT of Dahomey. We note that the reference n° and date for Dahomey and Ivory Coast are identical. Further reading has shown that for all the other colonies the reference n° and date quoted in the *Philatelist* are the same except that for Niger the reference n° is 3278 - presumably a typing error - and through an editorial oversight the date is not given for Senegal. The inescapable conclusion is that there was only one notice, covering all the colonies, and that it was issued from Dakar.)
1951: UPU, “*Dictionnaire*”, fifth edition.
1970: C Bouérat, “*Essai de Nomenclature des Établissements de Poste et de Télécommunications de Côte d’Ivoire*”, COL.FRA, *Bulletin Hors-série* N° 6-2, 1999.
1975: As above.

Notes

- (1) Ahuacre-Broubou, Dibou, Kotrou: *Relais de courriers* (Bouérat 1972, 1999). Some staging posts housing administrative staff were designated postal agencies. Two cancels for Ahuacre-Broubou, one dated 20 March 1916 and inscribed AHUACRE only, and one, dated 10 October 1895, for Dibou are illustrated by Venot.
- (2) Baoulé. Listed only by Venot, who illustrates a cancel without dater block. Possibly an early name for Bouaké, the headquarters of the Baoulé tribe?
- (3) Béréby. Listed thus in the sources but no cancels recorded under this name. See under Grand and Moyen Béréby (note 12 below).
- (4) Bini-Barabo. See Table 2, note 9.
- (5) Bouaké P.A.R. Venot illustrates a 1952 cancel reading POSTE RURALE BOUAKE.
- (6) Dabou Guichet Annexe Mobile. Although included in the list of offices as at 30 June 1975 there is a note "*non encore en service*" (presumably as at 30 June).
- (7) Diéfoula. See Table 2, Note 16.
- (8) Dimbokro P.A.R. Venot illustrates a 1952 cancel reading POSTE RURALE DIMBOKRO.
- (9) Djibo. See Table 2, Note 17.
- (10) Doropo. Listed by Bouérat in his "Nomenclature" for 1862-1970 but not in his list of post offices as at 30 June 1975 - by oversight? (See Table 2, source 1.)
- (11) Grand-Bassam Câbles. Listed only by Venot, who illustrates an undated single-ring cancel.
- (12) Grand and Moyen Béréby. Name changed from Moyen Béréby to Grand Béréby in 1900. See also Table 2, Note 20.
- (13) Grand-Lahou. Cancels are known reading both GRAND-LAHOU and LAHOU.
- (14) Koro. Doubtful. Recorded only by Venot, who illustrates a double-ring (and so presumably pre-1939) cancel without dater block inscribed K RO COTE D'IVOIRE but notes "*pas rencontré??*". Koro is on the road between Touba and Odienné and it is just possible that the functions of a short-lived office were transferred to Touba, some 50km to the south-west.
- (15) Morondo. See Table 2, Note 29.
- (16) Niangbo. See Table 2, Note 30.
- (17) Niangoloko. See Table 2, Note 31.
- (18) Niedekaha, Touro, Tousiana. See Table 2, Note 1.
- (19) Nielle. See Table 2, Note 32.
- (20) Obhogo. Doubtful. Recorded only by Venot, who illustrates only a part cancel in which the town name is missing. Possibly taken from an incomplete strike of a Korhogo cancel? Or place name subsequently changed?
- (21) Onossou, Ouossou. "Onossou" appears only in the 1914 Annuaire. As this list does not include "Ouossou" this is presumed to be a mis-spelling. The office had in any event been closed in 1912!
- (22) Ouagadougou R.P., Ouagadougou Auxiliaire. Not included in any of the sources but listed as "*bureaux*" by Langlois & Bourselet (p 35).
- (23) Tabou. Cancels are known reading both TABOU and GRAND TABOU.
- (24) Vridi. See Table 2, Note 42.
- (25) Yendéré. See Table 2, Note 44.

[The second and concluding section of Part 2 of this important series of articles, including Table 2 (dates of opening, closure and transfer of the post offices of Ivory Coast) with associated notes and sources and Table 3 (alternative spellings), will be published in the next issue of the Journal in September 2001.]

Laurence's similar article on Reunion, mentioned in the note at the end of Part 1 (Journal 215 of March 2000) was duly published in the France & Colonies Philatelist (USA) for January 2001 (Vol 57 N° 1, Whole N° 262).]

The 1F75 Royal Visit of King George VI and Queen Elisabeth to France

Mick Bister

Part I

"La France est heureuse et fière d'accueillir sur son sol leurs Majestés le Roi George VI et la Reine Elisabeth. La déferente sympathie que le peuple français porte aux Souverains de la Grande Nation amie se manifestera, j'en suis sûr, avec éclat au moment où les circonstances rendent plus indispensable que jamais la collaboration si naturelle et si spontanée des deux pays." Georges Bonnet

Thus wrote the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, in his open letter (i) to the British people dated 10 June 1938. The invitation to King George VI and Queen Elisabeth had been a long standing one and initially the state visit to France was to provide an opportunity to not only reinforce Anglo-French *entente cordiale* but to commemorate in particular the united front that France, Great Britain and the British Empire had established against Germany in the 1914-18 War. Twenty years later, history was repeating itself and at the time when Georges Bonnet was writing his letter, Germany had already annexed Austria and was demanding the cessation of the Sudetenland. With the inevitability of another war in Europe, the Royal Visit would be seen as cementing the Anglo-French alliance against the common enemy.

A four day programme of events, beginning on 28 June 1938, had been planned for the royal visitors. Day 1 would begin in Boulogne with the unveiling of the statue of Britannia commemorating the landing of the first British troops in France in 1914. The King and Queen would then continue by train to Paris where they would be welcomed by President Albert Lebrun and his wife and from where they would proceed to the Elysée Palace for the evening's official banquet. Day 2 would begin with the King laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier below the Arc de Triomphe followed by luncheon at the British Embassy. The afternoon would then be spent at the British Exhibition being held at the Louvre. Dinner at the British Embassy in honour of President Lebrun was planned for the evening followed by a visit to the Opéra. Versailles would be the venue for Day 3 where the King and Queen would attend a military review, a concert and a theatrical performance with luncheon being taken in the Galerie des Glaces and served by 75 *maîtres d'hôtel* dressed in the French royal livery of 1772. The final day, 1st July, would see the King and Queen visit the Australian War Cemetery at Villers-Bretonneux where they would unveil the Australian National War Memorial before returning home in the late afternoon.

The P.T.T. likewise had been making plans. A stamp commemorating the visit to France was to be commissioned and issued on the first day of the visit. In addition, special cancellations were to be used at Versailles, Amiens and Villers-Bretonneux.

(i) A second open letter, written by the French Prime Minister Edouard Daladier three days later on 13 June 1938, was also published. In it he declares that "*ces deux nations sont aujourd'hui, dans les incertitudes d'un monde encore en devenir, deux foyers où les hommes libres qui veulent la Paix dans le travail et l'honneur, sont rassemblés autour d'une même flamme.*"

Unfortunately, the records held in the archives of the *Musée de la Poste* are not complete and we do not know how many stamp designs were tendered nor even if they were submitted by invitation or in competition. The *Musée de la Poste* does hold, however, the artwork of three of the rejected designs proposed by Georges Léo Degorce and from these we can surmise that the artist's brief was to design an issue which illustrated the political alliance between the two countries rather than portraying the royal personages. With this in mind, Great Britain and France are represented respectively by their personified forms of Britannia and Marianne, each clutching in one hand their nation's flag and attempting, in a rather unconvincing pose, to grasp the other's hand in friendship. Each design incorporates the date of the Royal Visit, 28 June 1938, and displays the value 1F75 which corresponds to the overseas letter rate. The designs have been executed in monochrome pen and wash and measure, simulated perforation excluded, either 253 x 154mm or 215 x 131mm. (Fig. 1).

The designs by Degorce were rejected in favour of one submitted by Henry Cheffer, a designer and engraver of some considerable standing who in addition to illustrating books, painting in oil and watercolour and engraving on wood and copper had been designing and engraving stamps since 1911 for such countries as Persia, Belgium, Monaco, Luxembourg, Denmark and Spain. His talents were not employed by the French *Administration* however until 1929 when he designed and engraved the 10F Port de la Rochelle and the 20F Pont du Gard. When he came to design the 1F75 Royal Visit, Cheffer's interpretation was not unlike Degorce's. The central theme is once again the clasped hands of friendship but the image is reinforced by the presence of an olive branch. The two countries are no longer represented by national *personae* but by national monuments, the Houses of Parliament and the Arc de Triomphe. Except for the presence of a date, which is incorporated into the seal of friendship, there is no indication that the stamp commemorates a royal visit; indeed, the design could be interpreted as reflecting the general concept of Anglo-French allegiance rather than a specific event.

The date when Cheffer's design was adopted is unknown but as with his previous work he was instructed to engrave the stamp himself for recess printing (Fig 2). The *bon à tirer* held by the *Musée de la Poste* is signed but undated and confirms that the ink colour to be used is N° 1103. This colour was selected from a total of six colour trials covering a range of rather reserved shades, three using Lorilleux inks - 1117 L^s *bleu de chine*, 1312 L^s *vert russe* and 1510 L^s *prune*



Figure 1 -
Rejected designs by Georges Léo Degorce
(Musée de la Poste)
All three designs have been reduced
to 25% or less of the original size -
the original dimensions are given in the text.



Figure 4 -
Printing of 15 June 1938
on Press N° 5
(Type IV numerals -
4mm high and
separated by round dots)



Figure 2 -
Unfinished die proof of accepted
design signed by Henry Cheffer



Figure 3 -
Small format *épreuve de luxe*



Figure 5 -
Printing of 15 June 1938
on Press N° 2
(Type III numerals -
4.5mm high and
separated by square dots)

foncé and three using Lefranc inks - 1101 L^s *outremer*, 1103 L^s *bleu minéral* and 1302 L^s *vert foncé* (ii). The colour trial that was selected — i.e. the one printed in ink N° 1103 L^s — has been overprinted *Duplicata du Bon à tirer*.

The *bon à tirer* and the colour trials measure approximately 140 x 110mm but when the *épreuve de luxe* was printed two different formats were adopted. One hundred and twenty *épreuves de luxe* were printed on sheets measuring 156 x 126mm, the standard format at the time. The imprint, “*Atelier de fabrication des Timbres-Poste. PARIS*”, is line engraved in the same process as the stamp. A further twenty-five *épreuves de luxe* were printed on smaller sheets measuring 125 x 94mm and with the imprint reproduced by typography (iii) (Fig 3).

Printing of the 1F75 Cérès definitive was suspended from 2 June to 4 July and in its place production of the 1F75

Royal Visit issue was completed in two distinct runs. The first printing, on Press N° 5, began on 9 June and finished on 17 June. A second printing, on Press N° 2, began on 13 June and finished on 5 July. From 13 to 17 June, therefore, printings were taking place simultaneously on both presses but identification of each is possible. On Press N° 5 the numerals on the dater and hence those on a *coin daté* are Type IV measuring 4mm in height and with round dots separating each section of the date (Fig 4). In contrast, on Press N° 2, the dater was fitted with Type III numerals and hence the figures on a *coin daté* measure 4.5mm and are separated by square dots (Fig 5).

Three days after the printings had been completed Monsieur G. Giral, *Directeur de l'Exploitation Postale* circulated a directive, N° 607/38-C dated 20 June 1938, to all the regional and *départemental* postmasters regarding the issue and sale of the new issue.

In order to commemorate the official visit to France of their Majesties, the King and Queen of Great Britain, the *Administration* will be issuing a large format line engraved postage stamp printed in blue. This stamp, with a face value of 1F75, will be put on sale in all post offices on 28 June, the day of their Majesties' arrival in Paris. The initial supplies will be sent automatically to Head Offices as well as to offices which receive their supplies directly from the *Agence Comptable des timbres-poste*. Please make all the appropriate arrangements to ensure the immediate allocation of these supplies throughout your *département*. The clerks must be in a position to meet any request for the new stamp and consequently it will be their responsibility to clearly formulate any orders for further supplies. You are reminded: 1° - that the sale of the new issue must only begin on the stated official date. 2° - that the commemorative stamps must be sold in preference to ordinary stamps of the same value until stocks from the *Agence Comptable des timbres-poste* have been exhausted.

Little did Monsieur Giral know that in only four days' time he would be hastily issuing counter-instructions to the above.

(ii) The names of these shades are those to be found in the *nuancier* or colour chart held in the *Musée de la Poste* with the one exception, ink N° 1302, the name of which I was unable to locate and to which I have ascribed the designation used by Exelmans (See ‘A Key to the Ink-Colour Numbers on French Proofs’ by Robert G Stone, published by FCPS Inc., New York, 1979). Note that the above names do not necessarily correspond with those allocated to the same shades in philatelic colour charts.

(iii) The only other previous occasion on which *épreuves de luxe* were printed in two formats was for the 75c and 1F50 Vimy Ridge issues also designed and engraved by Henry Cheffer.

[This article will be published in three parts: the remaining two sections will appear in the next two Journals, i.e. those of September and December 2001.]

ANDORRA

30 page price list, free on request

FRANCE / MONACO

essais, épreuves d'artiste, épreuves d'atelier, épreuves de couleur

- list on request

W A JACQUES

‘Ashville’, Cliffe, Selby, North Yorkshire, YO8 6NU

Telephone: 01757 638226

E-mail: jacques@chy-an-piran.demon.co.uk

Website: <http://www.chy-an-piran.demon.co.uk/jacques/>

The Paknam Incident.

John Garner

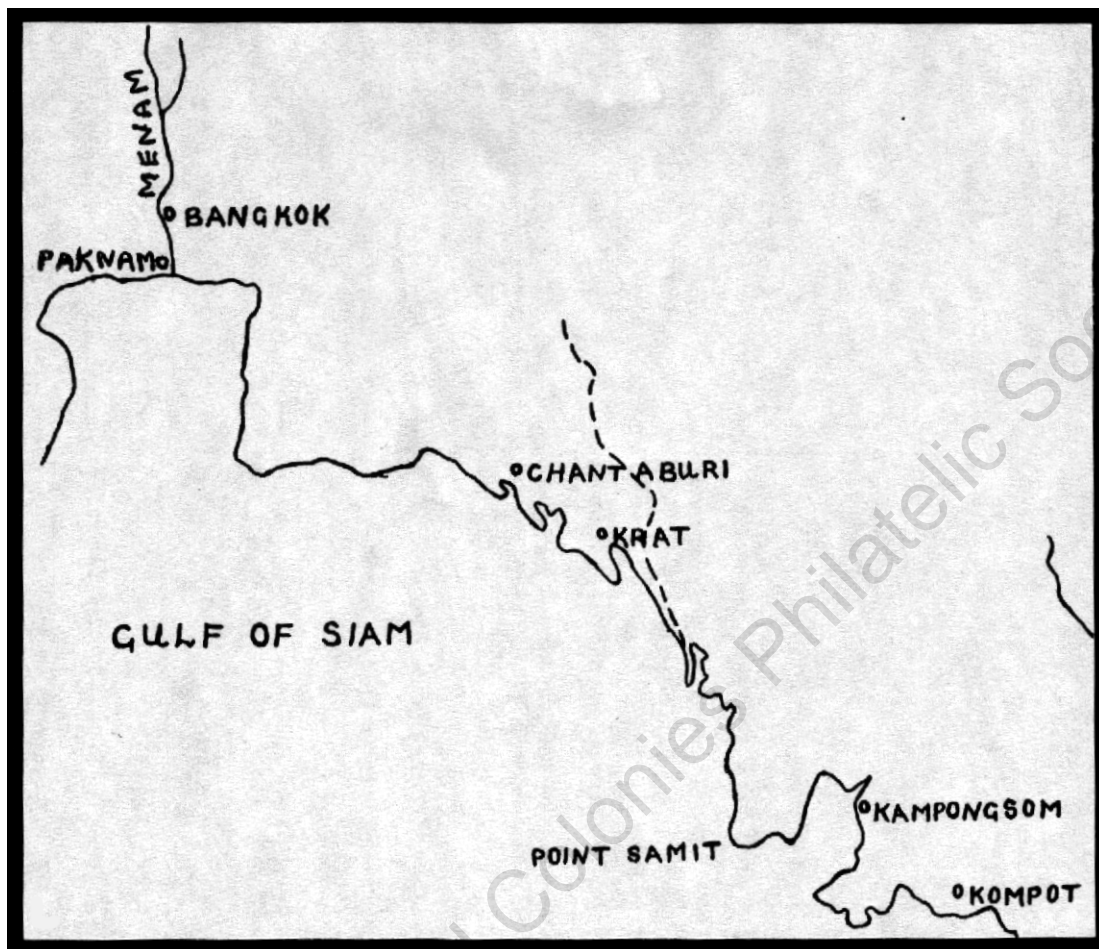


Figure 1 - Map of the area

The Paknam Incident is one of those long forgotten skirmishes that even at the time was hardly noticed by most people in late Victorian England, such as the ferment of wars bubbling up in South Africa, Burma, China and Afghanistan, but with hindsight it is possible to see that this was the beginning of the road that led to the catastrophe of the Vietnam War.

By 1893 France was thoroughly in control of much of Indo-China, including the three parts of Vietnam, i.e. Tonkin, Annam and Cochin-China, while in addition the great Cambodian rebellion had been put down and cities like Saigon and Hanoi were looking ever more French according to travellers. Nevertheless, France's ambitions in the Far East still seemed limitless, because there was a considerable hole in the jigsaw. The richest western third of Cambodia was still loosely owned by Thailand, as was that part of Laos right up to the Mekong, and indeed, most if not all of the small towns along the east bank of the river owed allegiance to Thailand. As you may imagine, there was considerable cross-river traffic between Thailand and Laos, using small flat-bottomed boats. This clearly interfered with France's grand design of using the Mekong as a highway to transport all the riches of China southward through the port of Saigon. So France set out to engineer a situation that would enable her to wrest the missing territories from Thai hands.

In April 1893 the French organised three military columns to occupy, by force if necessary, the territory on the lower Mekong which they claimed. The systematic advance of their troops brought a whole series of frontier incidents with Thailand, and the tension in Bangkok became so acute that the British sent a gunboat, the *Swift*, to protect their citizens' lives and property in case of trouble. Two months later a further British warship, the cruiser *Pallas*, was despatched from Singapore to the Gulf of Siam.

In the meantime a French gunboat, the *Lutin*, had sailed up the Menam river and anchored opposite the French Legation in Bangkok. On 13 July 1893 two more French gunboats, the *Inconstant* and the *Comète*, arrived off the mouth of the Menam and demanded free passage up the river to Bangkok. The Thais naturally objected, but in the evening the ships slipped across the sand bar at the mouth of the river. When the two vessels entered the river they were fired on by the Thai forts at Paknam, the French returned fire and there was a short engagement with casualties on both sides, twenty Thais and three Frenchmen being killed. In addition, a small French merchant steamer, the *J.-B. Say*, being used to guide the warships into the river, was holed and sunk by the Thais. The two gunboats continued up the river to Bangkok where they anchored, with the clear threat of shelling the Grand Palace, built on

the river front, and the city of Bangkok, at that time constructed mainly of wood.

On the following day, 14 July, Bangkok was in turmoil as the *Inconstant* and *Comète* dropped downstream to a better anchorage, where they remained, cleared for action. A further British gunboat, the *Linnet*, arrived off the British Legation and two more French warships, the *Forfait* and the *Vipère*, were expected to arrive at any time. Out of the confusion two significant facts emerged: the British Government had no intention of risking a war with France, and the Thais had made the disastrous blunder of firing the first shots at Paknam. As the *Débats* newspaper reported:

“the Siamese admit that they opened fire. Now, from that moment we were free to do whatever we chose.”

What the French Government chose to do was issue an ultimatum demanding the whole of the territory on the east bank of the Mekong should be ceded to them, that an indemnity of three million francs (approx. £120,000) should be paid for the casualties inflicted on the French ships, to the owners of the *J.-B. Say* and for the death, wounding or arrest of French citizens. Furthermore, the officers responsible for the firing at Paknam and the murderers of Groscurin (a French official killed in a frontier incident) should be punished. Failing a suitable response, i.e. total surrender by the Thais, the river Menam would be blockaded, thus strangling practically the entire trade of the country. The Thais attempted to negotiate, but the French were in no mood to bargain and on 25 July left for the mouth of the river and indeed began to blockade the Menam.

Two days later King Chulalongkorn accepted the terms of the ultimatum unconditionally and on 3 August the blockade was called off; but now there were further conditions. First, French troops were to occupy the forts at Paknam and Thailand's second port of Chantaburi pending the Thai evacuation of the east bank of the Mekong. Moreover, Thailand was to withdraw twenty-five kilometres

from the west bank of the Mekong and in addition evacuate the rich Cambodian provinces of Battambang, Sisophon and Siem Reap. All the French demands were agreed to by the treaty of 3 October 1893, but it was years before Thailand was really safe from the predatory ambitions of the French. In 1904 France concluded a new treaty with Thailand whereby the Laotian principality of Luang Prabang was ceded to her and French troops evacuated Chantaburi.

So much for politics: philatelically speaking the importance of these events lies in the covers and postmarks they generated.

First let us take the garrison at Chantaburi (whose name is often spelled Chantaboon on postmarks). During the French occupation of the town from August 1895 to 1904 a fort was built there and staffed with about 400 officers and men. Warrington Smyth gives a description of the garrison:

“I first called on the commandant at the French *poste*, which stands on the site of the old Siamese Rawng Law quarters above the town.

It consisted of a trench six to eight feet deep, and an earthwork of a similar height, surrounding a rectangular space with a length of about a hundred and fifty yards and a width of considerably less. Small field guns were mounted at the angles, and inside, the French garrison in occupation was quartered in the grass-thatched bungalows they found there. A tidy road connected it with the river-side, and a small clearing had been made outside for a drill and croquet ground.

The garrison consisted of Commandant Arlabosse, with the rank of *Chef de bataillon*, a *commissaire*, and a doctor, two captains, four lieutenants, and four native officers, with 300 *tirailleurs* – Annamites; one lieutenant and twenty-five men of the *Artillerie de Marine*; and a captain and subaltern and seventy-five men of the *Infanterie de Marine*.” (H Warrington

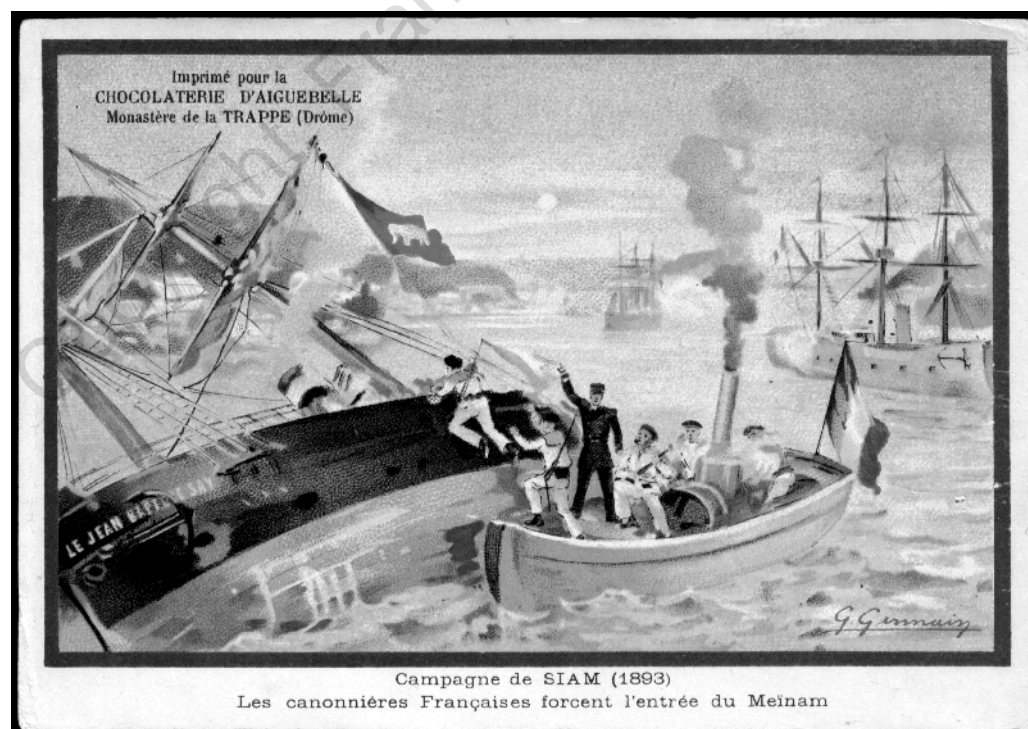


Figure 2a -
Advertising card showing
the *J.-B. Say*

N° 49. **Passage de la barre du Meinam devant Pack-Nam (Siam)**
13 Juillet 1893

Le Siam ayant fait occuper militairement en 1893 et en violation du traité de 1856, une partie des dépendances du Cambodge et de l'Annam, le gouvernement Français ordonne la reprise des territoires usurpés. En même temps il chargea le contre-amiral Humann de faire renforcer les vaisseaux que nous avions devant Bangkok.

A cet effet, le 10 Juillet 1893, un aviso et une canonnière quittent Saïgon et après trois jours de mer arrivent sur la barre du Meinam. Au moment où ils allaient la franchir les navires siamois et les forts de la ville aggravent les torts de leur gouvernement par un attentat inqualifiable, en couvrant de leurs feux nos deux vaisseaux. Alors bravant tout danger ces deux derniers franchissent les barrages et les torpilles et arrivent quand même à Bangkok.

Le lendemain un navire de commerce, le *Jean-Baptiste-Say* fut également attaqué et mis hors d'état de continuer sa route, son capitaine fut obligé de l'échouer.

Le Monastère de N.-D. d'Aiguebelle, fondé en l'an 1045, est situé dans une vallée solitaire du Canton de GRIGNAN (Drôme). La célébration de l'OFFICE DIVIN, le TRAVAIL DES MAINS et L'ÉTUDE se partagent la journée du trappiste. Le TRAVAIL MANUEL est de nos jours, pour les religieux de la Trappe, non seulement un point de règle, mais une nécessité absolue. Leurs seules ressources proviennent, en effet, de l'exploitation agricole et plus spécialement de la fabrication du **CHOCOLAT D'AIGUEBELLE**.

Figure 2b -
Back of advertising card
relating the story
of the incident
and promoting
Chocolat d'Aiguebelle,
manufactured by
trappist monks.

Smyth, *Five Years in Siam, from 1891 to 1896*,
published by John Murray, 1898.)

Incidentally, I am told that the remains of the French occupation are still visible at Chantaburi. There is a largish brick building in the fields outside the town near the mouth of the river at Laem Singh (Lion Cape). The soldiers lived there - the officers had a house in the town. During the eleven years of the occupation the French Roman Catholic Fathers were very busy, and there is a huge brick and stucco church in Chantaburi, with large stained-glass windows - a sort of miniature Notre-Dame. The church makes a startling contrast with the slovenly wooden Thai houses jutting out on pillars at the edge of the river.

The troops at Chantaburi were allowed to send mail postage free, as is the custom with troops on active service, and their letters were signed by the commanding officer to that effect. In addition, the covers bore a variety of manuscript cachets, which included 'Corps d'occupation du Siam', 'Troupes du Siam', 'Troupes d'occupation du Siam' or 'Troupes d'occupation de Chantaboon (Siam)'. Some covers I have seen bear a large circular blue, double-lined, cachet 'Detachement d'occupation de Chantaboon - Siam / Le Commandant'. There also appears to be a smaller version of this cachet used on at least one cover in 1902. Later in the occupation writers usually used Thai stamps or postal stationery, which can only be identified by means of the French messages or addresses. A steamer called the *Donai*



Figure 3a -
Another advertising card
for Chocolat d'Aiguebelle,
showing the French Fathers
building in Thailand.

Figure 3b -
Reverse of the above card,
promoting the chocolate
and pointing out that
Christian missions have found it difficult
to establish themselves in Siam, described as
"less hospitable than Tonkin."

CHOCOLAT D'AIGUEBELLE

CONSTRUCTION D'UN ÉTABLISSEMENT AU SIAM

Les missions chrétiennes ont eu beaucoup de difficultés à s'établir au Siam, pays moins hospitalier que le Tonkin. Néanmoins, il s'est fondé un grand nombre d'établissements qui sont appelés à rendre de grands services à la religion et à la civilisation.

Au consommateur qui accepte, souvent à son insu, des chocolats mélangés, additionnés de fécule ou de farine, nous recommandons d'une manière particulière le **CHOCOLAT D'AIGUEBELLE** (enveloppe papier blanc glacé) chocolat complet, garanti rigoureusement pur cacao et sucre. Exiger le nom "**AIGUEBELLE**" gravé en toutes lettres sur chaque tablette, croquette, domino, etc.

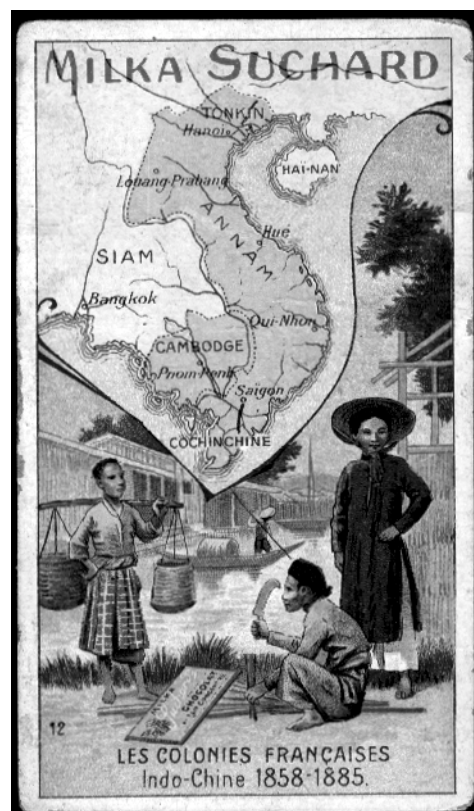


Figure 4 -
Front and back
of an advertising card
for Suchard Chocolate,
showing the boundaries
of Indo-China and
revealing that the French
were perfectly aware
that the land they were annexing
in reality belonged to Thailand.



Figure 5 -
A sadly damaged card,
carried from Chantaburi
on 15 December 1895
to Saigon and then
forwarded to France.

provided communications between the troops at Chantaburi and the outside world.

There was evidently also a French garrison at a place called Paknam, at least until August 1904, although further details are difficult to find. For many years I was under the impression that the Paknam meant was the place at the mouth or the Menam where the original 'Incident' had taken place, until I discovered that Paknam is a common Thai place name and simply means 'river mouth'. In reality, the Paknam where there was a French garrison was at the

mouth of the Chantaburi river where it entered the Gulf of Thailand, some miles downstream from the town of Chantaburi. Some mail, at least, carried a large circular blue cachet 'Poste de Paknam Siam / Command. d'Armes'. While covers from Chantaburi are scarce, those with the Paknam cachet are rare, perhaps because, as stated in one account I read, only officers were allowed to write from that garrison.

Even after the ending of the occupation, Thailand still had not quite finished with Frenchmen on her soil, since Krat, a little port further along the coast, was ceded to France as



Figure 6 -
Both sides of the military occupation cover described in the text on the next page.

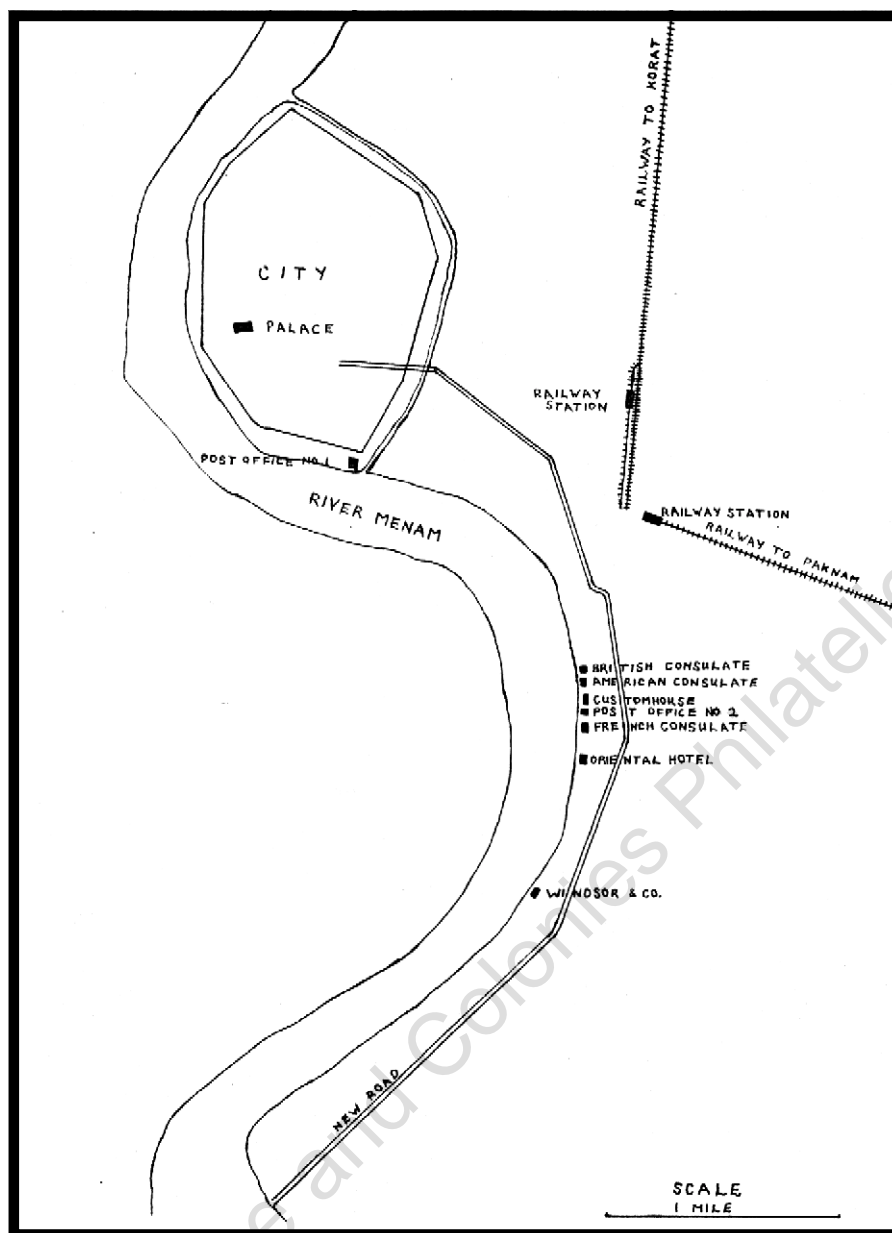


Figure 7 -
Simplified sketch map of Bangkok about the year 1900.

a trading station from 1904 to 1907. Finally, in 1907, Thailand gave up her Cambodian provinces to France and the trading station of Krat was abandoned. If you had asked me a few months ago, I would have quite confidently said that there was no known cancellation of Krat during the French occupation. Any mail the French troops sent must have gone through the normal Thai postal service or been put uncanceled on the Messageries Fluviales' steamer *Donai*, and I could have backed up this statement from the existing literature on Thailand and from all the major auction catalogues of the last forty years or so.

Now, after a visit to London 2000, I know better. In the traditional class was a lovely Gold medal collection of Cambodia and Laos by B. Wallberg, and in that was a perfect example of a Krat cancellation dated 4 April 1907, right from the end of the French occupation. The cancellation was actually spelled KRATT, of the typically French double circle type and on a clean postcard addressed to France. So

far as I am aware this is a unique survivor of the period, though unique is a dangerous word to use in philately.

The cover illustrated in figure 6 has the usual manuscript cachet '*Corps d'occupation du Siam*' and a weak strike of the '*Marine Française*' mark. The reverse of the cover has in manuscript '*Vu: L'officier en second de la Vipère*' and an illegible signature, so presumably it was sent by someone on board the gunboat *Vipère*, which was still operating in Far Eastern waters, rather than by someone from either of the garrisons. The cover bears no despatch marks, but the transit mark '*Paris 13 - Oct - 94*' suggests that it was probably posted in late August or early September 1894.

So, what about the relevance of all this to the Vietnam War? Well, after the Japanese were driven out of Indo-China in 1945 it was the clear understanding of the three countries that they would be granted independence. It was France's refusal even to contemplate this that caused the deeper and deeper drift into war and eventually America's involvement.

BOOKSHELF

Catalogue Illustré des Marques Postales et Cachets à Date Manuels d'Algérie (1749-1962),

by Claude Bosc:

xi + 223 pp. + index, 8"x11½", hardbound, illustrated; available from Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Châteaudun, 75009 Paris, France; 325F plus postage.

This is the best book to date on Algerian post offices and their hand cancellations. The book consists of a short introduction and key to the classification, followed by 223 pages of illustrations of all the available cancellations for each Algerian post office. In all, 5,500 different cancellations are represented. These are all the hand cancels that the author had or was able to locate, including those in the collection of the Musée de la Poste, and private collections accessible to him. Several people of the Société PHIL-EA provided assistance with the project, so that coverage would be the broadest possible. Killer cancels, including PCs and GCs, and secondary types of cachets are not included.

Indices of rarity for each cancel are given, and this is very useful information. Also included are some other information on individual post offices, such as date of opening and closing, PC and GC numbers, population, *département*, and class of post office. This latter information does not extend the knowledge, but is provided for convenience.

Included in the book are most of the existing cancels of Algeria, and many of such rarity that most of us have never seen them before. The book contains many cancels previously unknown to me. Nevertheless, there are some omissions, because some known cancels and some believed to exist could not be found among the available collections.

Some rare and short-lived post offices are not represented, and some are represented by only a single cancel which may have been the only type used. Other bureaux, common and long-lived, are represented by as many as twenty cancels. Where there were multiple stamping dies (canceling devices) of the same type in use, each individual canceling device might be represented by an illustration of its postmark.

The quality of the original photocopies or drawings of the individual cancels is generally excellent, but one occasionally encounters a free-hand drawing of poor quality. The quality of reproduction of the illustrations by the publisher appears to be outstanding.

I personally have studied the book very closely. As an Algerian specialist, I would not be without the book, and find it indispensable for reference. For coverage of Algeria's cancel types, and for its illustrations, it is by far the best in existence, and will perhaps always be the best. I recommend it for anyone having even a casual interest in the cancellations of Algeria.

Laurence Lambert

[This review, which has also been sent to the editor of the *France & Colonies Philatelist*, was forwarded by Bill Mitchell, who comments: "Algeria collectors will probably find it helpful to use this catalogue in conjunction with Laurence's book (with Kenneth Nilsestuen) on Algeria cancellation types, reviewed in Journal 213, which provides a simpler and more readily comprehensible classification system."]

Books Noted

De Pariteit van Munten in de Postgeschiedenis [Parity of Currencies in Postal History] **1700-1875**, by Leonard H. Janssen; 502pp hardbound, £50.00; available from James Bendon Ltd, PO Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus. [Book tabulates the parity of exchange of the currency of 194 countries or towns world-wide; many intriguing covers are depicted in colour and the manuscript postal rates are analysed in detail; whilst the body of the book is written in Dutch, the Introduction is in Dutch, English, French and German, and there is a 10-page four-language Glossary to assist the reader.]

Les timbres de la libération de Saverne, Décembre 1944, by André Lader; 30pp A4; illustrations in colour; distributed to members of SPAL (Association des Spécialistes en Marques Postales et Oblitérations d'Alsace-Lorraine) but available to interested collectors for 110F inc p&p from SPAL, M. A Peine, BP 31004, 67381 Lingolsheim, France. [Review of the situation concerning this controversial issue, with the help of official documents.]

Tunisie, L'histoire postale et les émissions de timbres durant la régence 1888-1955 (2000 edition), by Jean Morat; 150pp, ring binding, plus lists of values in euros; 160F inc p&p; available from M. Jean Morat, sentier du Plateau, 92320 Châtillon. [Deals with machine cancellations and hand stamps, railway, maritime and military marks of about 800 different offices, as well as the postage stamps issued during the period.]

Catalogue spécialisé des entiers postaux des anciennes colonies françaises, bureaux français à l'étranger et territoires occupé s ou sous mandat, y compris les émissions des États devenus indépendants (2001 edition); pub. ACEP (Association des Collecteurs d'Entiers postaux); 600pp, 3 vols; list of values in euros; ring binder allows additions; 500F plus 50F p&p; available from ACEP, M. André de Kervern, 16 rue de Liège, 75009 Paris; details from Philippe Pignon, 15 rue Pompidou, 92500 Rueil-Malmaison. [Many new discoveries; specialised chapter on interzone cards and similar used outside France 1940-45.]

La Poste aux lettres dans le département du Var - tome II: Bureaux de Direction 1792-1831, by Robert Gregnac-Daudemard and Alain Trinquier; 48pp A5; 50F + 6F70 p&p; available from le Cercle d'Histoire postale, Musée Régional du Timbre et de la Philatélie du Luc, Le Château, B.P. 51, 83340 Le Luc-en-Provence. [Postal development of the *département* through postmarks, listed by types (*déboursés*, *port payés*, MS numbers, etc.)]

Catalogue des oblitérations losanges petits et gros chiffres pour le département du Nord (1852-1876) by Emmanuel Lebecque; 142pp A4; 130F; available from E Lebecque, 17 avenue Henri-Barbusse, 59970 Marly. [Comprehensive list of cancellation lozenges used in this period, with numerous illustrations, dates of usage, combinations and types, explanatory notes.]

La Cote des coins datés et des millésimes, pub. la Société des collectionneurs de coins datés et millésimes (64th edition, 2001); 127 pp; a few offered to non-members at 60F; available from SOCOCODAMI, BP 4625, 22046 St Brieuc Cedex 2. [The last edition of this work priced in francs.]

La Cotation illustrée PTT et la Poste française, pub. Argus de la miniature; 43 pp in colour and b/w; 70F p&p inc.; available from Argus de la miniature n° 206, BP 40, 78231 Le Pecq Cedex. [The history of the French Post Office recalled by means of miniature vehicles - model cars, vans, lorries, figurines - with their valuation, together with an address list of manufacturers, craftsmen, shops, and the dates of specialist shows and fairs in 2001.]

Un siècle de communication, pub. La Poste; 129F (but contains 2 blocks of stamps worth 60F); available from le service philatélique de La Poste, 18 rue François Bonvin, 75758 Paris Cedex 15. [The third book in the series *Le Siècle au fil du timbre*; abundantly illustrated and with 2 "Communication" blocks, it recounts the epic story of television, advertising, the telephone, radio and multimedia, with places in each chapter ready to receive the stamps of each block.]

La Lettre dans tous ses états, pub. Clément & Gyss; 200 pp 290 x 250mm, 220 illustrations in colour; 248F + 29F p&p; available from Société d'histoire de La Poste et de France Télécom en Alsace, 5 rue des Clarisses, 67900 Strasbourg. [In the era of e-mails taking over from written messages on clay, wax, parchment or paper, what has La Poste done to facilitate the exchange of correspondence? This book tries to answer the question with numerous examples of letters from everyday life, literature and the arts.]

La Liaison France-Antilles et le réseau local d'Air France, by Bernard Abouchar, Robert Esperou and Vital E Ferry; 144 pp A4; 185F + 24F p&p; available from éditions Systems, 44 rue Émile Leblond, 92500 Rueil-Malmaison. [Collects together unpublished or little known documents on the history of commercial aviation, mainly to the West Indies and Guyana, and its relationship with La Poste; contains over 120 photographic reproductions of aerophilatelic covers, maps, and types of aeroplane.]

Opus 1, published by the Académie Européenne de Philatélie; 124 pp in colour; 200F inc p&p; details from Jean-Pierre Mangin, 23 rue Paquis, 55000 Bar-le-Duc. [30 articles in French or English (and summarised in the other language) on world-wide topics that include the early days of Madagascar, Sardinian issues used in Monaco, and the oldest maximum cards.]

Cérès 2001, Colonies françaises (52e édition); 155 x 225mm; 2 volumes of 480 and 232 pp; 245F + 35F p&p; details from Cérès Philatélie, 23 rue du Louvre, 75001 Paris (or Internet site www.ceres.fr). [Updated and in colour, presents all the stamps of the French colonies including Andorra, Monaco, Saarland, DOM and TOM, and also gives catalogue prices for booklets, the main varieties, *épreuves de luxe*, and DOM-TOM imperfs; in addition it details the TAAF precursors and devotes 7 pages to the postmarks of Monaco.]

Les Relations de la France avec l'Angleterre de 1670 à 1849, by Michèle Chauvet; pub. Brun & Fils; 178 pp, 210 x 297mm; 275F inclusive; details from Brun & Fils, 85 Galerie Beaujolais, Palais-Royal, 75001 Paris. [With numerous illustrations and tables, this constitutes the first volume in a series devoted to the international posts, including postal tariffs and the overseas countries served by the British Post Office (with their tariffs); it deals with exchange and entry marks, the service of the *Malle des Indes*, and relations with the Channel Islands.]

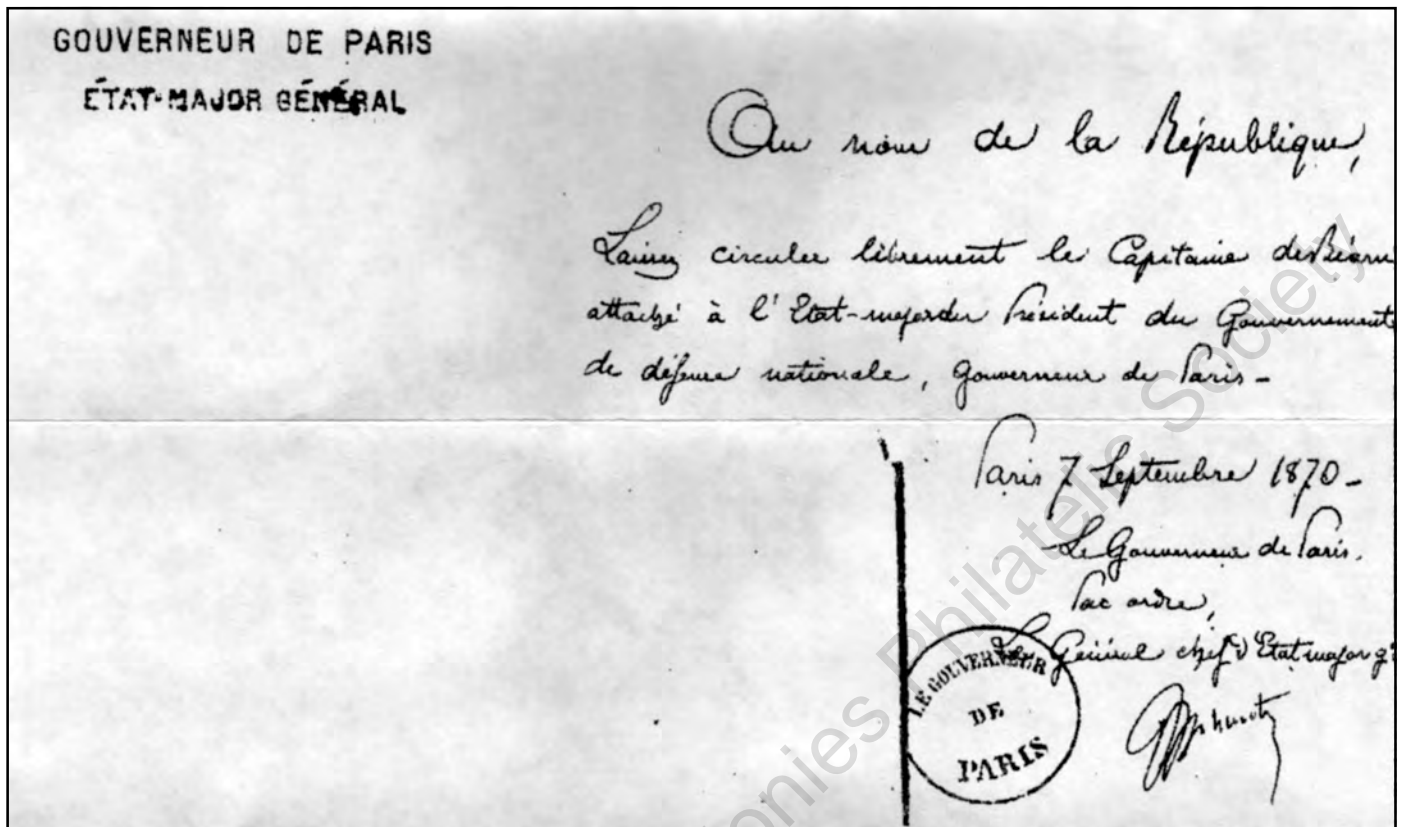
Le Tarif des lettres de France pour l'Amérique Latine, by Daniel Georgel; 32 pp covering the years 1854 to 1863; details from Daniel Georgel, 17 rue Jules-Ferry, 54130 Saint-Max. [Includes the texts of circulars and 20 illustrations of covers, the routes of commercial vessels leaving English, French, Belgian, Italian or Dutch ports, the routes from overseas countries to South America, and changes in tariffs.]

Relations Aéropostales (1919-1945) Europe → ←Amérique du Nord, by Joseph Bergier FRPSL; pub. l'Amicale Philatélique l'"Ancre"; 200 A4 pp; ring binding; 190F; available from Amicale Philatélique l'"Ancre", 7 rue Dobrée, 44100 Nantes. [Includes all flights and attempts listed from 1919 to 1945 (75 and 76 respectively), headers of main chapters translated into English, 8 coloured maps and 175 letters reproduced in b/w, numerous documents and tables; about 120 flights and attempts described in detail, with their destination, plane and crew, and mail transported, times of departure, stopovers and arrivals (among which the long-distance flights of Costes and Bellonte 1930, the *Ile de France*, the precursor flights, and the first American and British commercial routes north and south of 1939); a study of the aeropostal relations during WWII between the Allies and the USA (Lisbon route, air graph and air mail, boat, plane).]

Histoire Philatélique, Maximaphile et Marcophile de la Bourgogne (Dossier No 4 du Club Philatélique Senonais), by Roland Legrand, with the help of Jean Belhabit and Marc de Périère; 160 pp, 210 x 297mm; with numerous illustrations. [The philatelic history of the four *départements* of Burgundy, with the representation of the stamps issued for each event and more than fifty maximum cards.]

Amazing 1870-71 Wonder Stories - 60

Ernst Cohn



The front of the travel permit reads (translated from the original French):

"In the name of the Republic,
Allow Captain de Béarn who is attached to the General Staff
of the President of the Government of National Defence,
Governor of Paris, to pass freely. -
Paris 7 September 1870 - The Governor of Paris, By order,
The General commanding the General Staff
(Signature)"

Bulletin 45 of the (German) Study Group North German Mail District contains the front and back of a travel permit that now belongs to Mr Hans-Dietrich Weckener. The permit is made out for Captain de Béarn, attached to the Government of National Defense's Headquarters of the President and Governor of Paris.

The front of the slip is dated at Paris, 7 September 1870. It asks for his free passage and is signed by the general in charge of General Trochu's staff. On the back is the statement that Captain de Béarn (no accent) is returning to his post at Paris, having accomplished his mission at Dieppe. It is signed by the Sub-Prefect, A. Chambey(?), dated 17 September 1870, and shows the sub-prefect's seal.

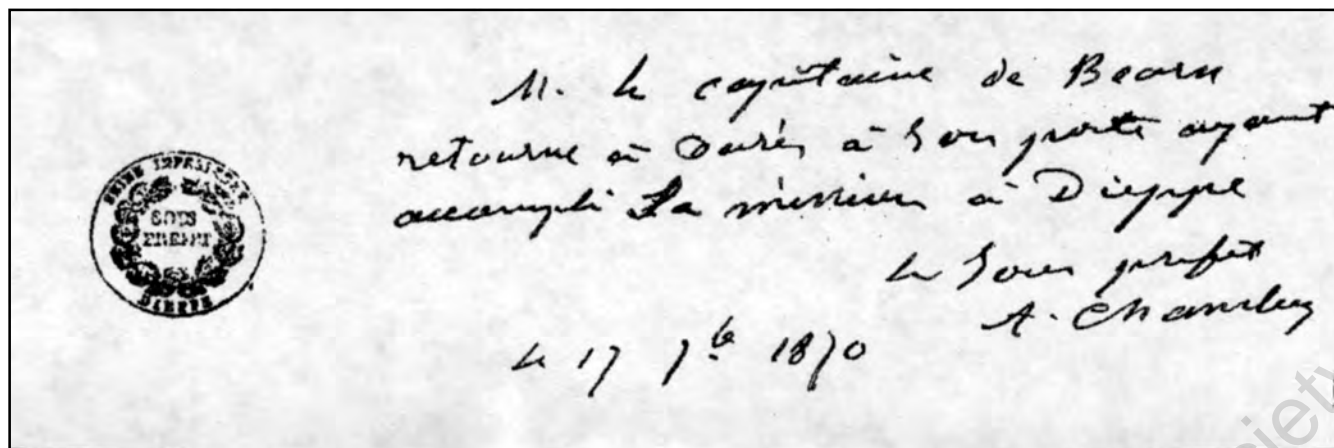
We can only speculate about the nature of the mission he had to accomplish. Since Paris was all set for an attack by the Germans, was that a last-minute arms purchase, or did they want another secret cable in the Seine to stay in touch with the Government Delegation at Tours? By the afternoon of the 18th, however, German troops closed the ring around Paris. Did de Béarn make it back into town? The last regular mail, e.g., left Paris from Gare Montparnasse via the Chemin de Fer de l'Ouest (Western Railway) at about 5 p.m., preceded by a pilot engine (to make sure all was safe).

Perhaps one or the other question may one day be answered by another document. They do have a habit of turning up unexpectedly.

Reading that pass reminded me of a five-part article by Victor Silberer in the *Neue freie Presse* that appeared in Vienna, Austria, at the time. Entitled *An Involuntary Excursion to Paris*, it appeared in the morning and evening editions of 22-27 September 1870. I never did find part IV at the Strasbourg National & University Library.

Part I is dated at Paris, 17 September, at night. Silberer had left Vienna on Sunday 11th, and arrived at Brussels on the 13th. He explains that he was a German journalist but also had along his Austrian passport, although he went as an American, based on his 1868 receipt, given in New York, that he had applied for citizenship. On Wednesday 14th he rode by fast train via Valenciennes, Douai, Arras, and Amiens to Creil. From there he went on foot with some *francs-tireurs* to Senlis, and thence by train to the Gare du Nord of Paris. Actually, he had hoped to join the Prussian troops. Did he think they had arrived inside Paris already?

Part II is dated at Paris, *Hotel du Nord*, 18 September. He mentions a large balloon above Montmartre, a tied-up *Montgolfière*, according to his layman's view. The paper



The back of yhr document: reads (similarly translated):
"Captain de Bearn is returning to his post in Paris having completed his mission to Dieppe.
The Sub-Prefect, A. Chambey, 17 Sept. 1870."

explains in a footnote that the author had been a balloon passenger in New York during the past summer, apparently to tell the readers that Silberer was not just a layman. Well, that *Montgolfière* was, in fact, the gas-filled *Neptune*, hence a *Charlière*, so perhaps the author was not too modest after all. (*Montgolfières* are lifted by hot air.) According to part III he left Paris on the 18th for Rouen and got back from there to Brussels on the 20th. If he describes how he accomplished the first leg of that journey, I did not find it. It may be in the missing part IV and could be highly

interesting, even if it turns out that he simply got on the last train at Gare Montparnasse.

Unfortunately, I have not seen any later war reports by Silberer either, even though he had called himself a journalist and had sent that series of reports to the *Neue freie Presse* indicating that he was willing to take some risk to get his stories. All the reports signed "S" in that paper were from Seinguerlet, who stayed at Paris until after the armistice.

Roland Hill Awards for 2000



Ashley Lawrence (centre) being presented with his award (see page 42) by Clarissa Dickson Wright (television celebrity) and Stuart Sweetman (Group MD, Consignia plc) at the Dorchester Hotel in London on 27 March 2001.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 3 MARCH 2001

Gérard Collot : "France to the Far East by Air"

This the second of our Main Society meetings to be held this season at the Royal Horticultural Halls, Westminster, was very well attended. In introducing the guest speaker, President Mick Bister said that this attendance reflected the reputation that the speaker had earned as an exhibitor (with a large vermeil medal at London 2000) and as an authority on the subject of aerophilately.

As Monsieur Collot explained, it was business interests in French Indochina that provided the spur to the development of a French air service to the Far East. French military airmen stationed in Indochina undertook three pioneering flights in 1923, establishing an aerial link between Saigon and Hanoi. We saw covers flown on two of these three flights.

There followed an account of the long-range reconnaissance flights made in different types of aircraft over different routes across the Middle and Far East. The purpose of these flights (called *raids* in French) was to explore the technical difficulties and prepare for the future development of the routes, not the carriage of commercial mail. Nevertheless, philatelists were quick to persuade airmen to carry (and sometimes even autograph) packets of mail, taking care to have postal cachets indicating departure and arrival dates applied to each item. We saw over two dozen examples of such philatelic souvenirs, a number of them recovered from crashed planes and most of them great rarities.

The second part of the display covered the commercial development of the route. Maurice Noguès was responsible for the formation and development of Air Orient, which started operations in 1927 as Compagnie Air Union - Lignes d'Orient. During 1927-28 survey flights were undertaken between Marseille and Beyrouth via Naples, Corfu and Athens. In 1929 the regular service for mail and passengers was inaugurated. In 1930 a merger with Compagnie Air Asie, which operated between Saigon and Bangkok Air Orient, was formed.

The first through service from Marseille to Saigon by Air Orient commenced on 17 January 1931 and followed the same route from Baghdad to Bangkok as KLM. In May 1932 a weekly service from Marseille to Saigon was opened and in May 1933 Air Orient became part of Air France. The main inspiration of the route, Maurice Noguès, was killed in a Dewoitine 332 "Émeraude" which having flown to Marseille from Saigon, continued on to Paris, crashing at Corbigny (near Lyon). All these developments – handsomely illustrated by covers from our visitor's superb collection – took the story up to 1939.

Our President thanked Gérard Collot for what had been a marvellous display that had been enjoyed by everybody present.

DJR

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 28 MARCH 2001

David Pashby: TAAF

Disappointingly few members attended this meeting, probably as a result of the tube strike and possibly because of the proximity of the Society's weekend in Kenilworth, but the subject was one that has been displayed only rarely in recent years and was therefore new to most of us.

David began by outlining the geography and history of the area which, despite the subtitle on the programme, could not really be described purely as Antarctica, since most of the islands involved are situated in the Indian Ocean and the full name is, in fact, the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises).

The islands of (New) Amsterdam and St Paul were first discovered in 1522, the Crozet Islands and Kerguelen Islands in the 18th century (the latter by Kerguelen-Trémarec), and Adelie Land (the coastal area of South Antarctica named after the explorer's wife Adèle) in 1840 by Dumont d'Urville. James Cook called in and mapped these snow- and rain-covered islands, renaming Kerguelen Desolation Island. The Bossière brothers farmed in Kerguelen for a number of years from 1890 onwards; Charcot was a visitor in the 1930s; and Paul-Émile Victor started his career as a polar explorer here, though spending

the winter in Greenland. The four areas were annexed by France in 1931, and created a TOM or Overseas Territory in 1955.

Much of the area's history and topography has been illustrated on its stamps, and David's display showed a wide selection of these, with definitives and commemoratives depicting the various explorers and expedition leaders, local views, landscapes and bases, and the associated flora and fauna of the region. Particularly noted were a coat of arms incorporating the four districts, the 1949 expedition to Antarctica commemorating the centenary (not possible in 1940!) of the 1840 discovery, the original Madagascar stamps overprinted for use in TAAF, some CTO covers, many philatelic covers sent by philatelists to TAAF and back, evidence of the 1950s campaign encouraging correspondence with the expedition members, cachets of the meteorological station on Amsterdam, very large booklets with views of the area, a postal stationery item, and a recent miniature sheet with cachets (especially Madagascar ones).

We also saw a First Day Cover for the opening of the Post Office on Crozet in 1961 (one of three produced – for the

arrival of the ship, for its departure, and for the period between!), and a wide variety of cachets – particularly when the handstamps changed from metal to plastic – showing the use of the area name, the base name, or both, and the mark of a Secap machine with variations in the position of the date; there was even a new design of 1992 with wavy lines that was withdrawn in 1994 following complaints.

The first part of the display finished with examples of the traditional midwinter party held on 21 June, with cachets that have to wait months for the next ship to collect them, and a new York greeting card drawn by Paul-Émile Victor.

After time for viewing, the second half concentrated on the supply ships and their cachets, from the first one, the *Galliéni*, that was replaced by the *Marion Dufresne*. We heard of dozens of letters sent by a lady in Italy to a non-existent address for philatelic purposes – and saw a couple of examples of these – until cachets had eventually to be limited to two per customer.

We were shown cachets of a factory ship, Russian fishing vessels, paquebot marks, a cachet that changed from Danish to French, those of an Italian round-the-world yacht, of units of the French navy (e.g. the helicopter carrier *Jeanne*

d'Arc, of the *Albatros*, of the patrol vessel *Centaure*, and of Canadian and Norwegian ships.

There were also cancellations in various foreign ports, a recent gaudy issue showing the *Marion Dufresne V* (still to be built!), a 1989 cachet to indicate that the cover had fallen in the sea (“*Courrier accidenté lors du transbordement ...*”), an airletter p.s. item, a cachet on covers sent for the first flight to a new airstrip that was at the last minute ruined by storms (“*Piste endommagée / Inauguration annulée*”), some postage due marks, and some very philatelic covers involving both Russia and the USA.

The display ended with some lovely stamps that had stimulated the collection of this area – together with some varieties – and the PhilexFrance issues of 1989 and 1999.

Our President Mick Bister gave the vote of thanks, selecting for particular comment David's neat writing up that even managed to imitate justified text, the innovative back-to-back sheets that saved time changing from part 1 to part 2, his detailed knowledge of the local geography and history, and the beauty of the stamps themselves.

MST

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 25 MARCH 2001

Jeremy Martin: Togo

The Organiser welcomed Jeremy Martin, a member of the West Africa Study Circle, to the meeting, mentioning that this was the second occasion that he had given a display to the Society. Colin also welcomed David Worrollo to his first SG meeting. Jeremy gave the background to his collecting over the years, and how he had come to an interest in West Africa.

The display included German Togo from 1893 to 1914 with covers, stamps and forgeries. This was followed by British and French Togo to 1922. Again examples of stamps and forgeries were shown, together with covers showing the various cancellations in use. The two publications, in which Jeremy was a co-author with Frank Walton, were available

for members to look at and ask questions: “*West African Censorship*” and “*Togo Postal History 1914-1922*.”

Members present: Michael Annells, Michael Berry, Colin Clarkson, Roy Ferguson, Geoff Gethin, John Hammonds, Bill Mitchell, Barbara Priddy, Bob Small, Colin Spong, Bob Stuckey and David Worrollo. Guests: John Thorpe and Pat Spong. Apologies were received from Betty and Frank Blincow, Bob and Yvonne Larg, and Michael Wilson.

The next meeting will be on Saturday 18 August 2001: 10.30am until lunch - Members' Queries on Definitive Issues; 14.00 until 16.30 the *Type Sage* Registration Mail by Peter Kelly.

CWS

POSTAL HISTORY SALES

My postal sales lists offer wide selections of France & Colonies postal history material, including maritime, military, aviation and POW items.

All lots are well described, with a free photocopy service on request.

Send for your free list to:

M D PIGGIN

Thatchers Lane, Tansley, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 5FD

Tel. & Fax: (01629) 56293

E-mail: michael@mdpiggin.fsnet.co.uk

Website: www.mdpiggin.fsnet.co.uk

SOCIETY'S 25th PHILATELIC WEEKEND 30 MARCH TO 1 APRIL 2001

The sun shone brightly to welcome thirty members and their guests as they gathered at the DeMontfort Hotel, Kenilworth, for the Society's Annual Weekend.

Friday

On the Friday evening, after dinner, our convenor, Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith, invited members to put up short displays and very quickly all the available frames were filled. **Mick Bister's** subject was Marianne de Muller, including die proofs of adopted and unadopted designs, colour trials of the 20F value and a proof of what appeared to be an unrecorded 20F Type III. **Geoff Gethin** drew our attention to features of the 1929 Le Havre exhibition stamp forgery and followed this with 3 sheets of *poste enfantine* items, while **Paul Watkins** displayed a complete set of 24 handsome colour cards of the 1887 Paris Exposition Universelle and other Expo items. Next, **Peter Kelly** showed 13 sheets devoted to military correspondence from the island of Réunion from the earliest times up to 1899. His fellow-Bristolian, **Robert Johnson**, presented some airmail covers bearing pictures of aeroplanes and 12 sheets of cards with the theme of "postal humour" plus 5 covers of decidedly dubious provenance! **Godfrey Bowden** then talked about recent additions to his Tunisia cover collection, all of them under-paid items of mail to different countries. Next, **Ashley Lawrence** spoke about letters written by balloon pilots Jules Duruof and Gabriel Mangin and by Jules Godard, co-organiser of balloon construction during the Siege of Paris; and he also showed us 3 sumptuous 1930s menus etc from the liner *Normandie*. Finally, **Alan Wood** showed some recent acquisitions including a *Département Conquis Déboursé* EL from Paris to Brussels and return with the scarce D94B mark. All the varied items mentioned were then viewed with great interest.

Saturday

On the Saturday morning the programme of major displays began. The "Marianne de Briat" stamp issue, always referred to by the French Postal Authorities as the Marianne du Bicentenaire was the subject of **Derek Richardson's** display. During the eight years that this stamp was current, the postal rates changed four times and we were shown all the stamps issued following these changes. On display too were coils, gutter pairs with privately printed advertising, *documents philatéliques*, examples of postal stationery cards and envelopes and the majority of closed and open booklets issued for the basic letter rate. We saw the change made from straight to zig-zag 'perforations' of the booklet stamps which was necessitated to avoid forgery by photocopy - an example of which was on display.

Godfrey Bowden followed on with a display of "Tunisia: a hotchpot" which he hoped would give a feel of the country from the 1850s to the 1950s. Maps and postcards illustrating the joys of Tunisia were followed by examples of maritime mail including a fine 1852 TUNIS PAR BONE strike. Godfrey continued with a selection of the 1st Regency Issues in the form of adhesives, postal stationery and the T perf postage dues which he has studied in considerable depth. The 1920s Colis Postaux cards provoked much discussion

regarding the rationale behind the cut out sections. After describing material from the 8th UPU Congress in Stockholm we were shown items from the WWII North African campaign including the rare usage of the 1F50 + 8F50 Libération de la Tunisie issue used alone on a cover from Corsica and cancelled by an FPO 706 cds. Finally we saw a selection of covers from the last issue with and without the RF monogram.

Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith closed the first half of the morning with a display of very fine items from his collection of "Transatlantic Mail to and from France" which illustrated steamship mail between France and North America and the accompanying rates and cancellations. After giving some background details about the earliest crossings Bernard proceeded to describe the key items in his collection. Of note was an 1830 Bristol Ship Letter strike on a letter carried by the *Great Western*, an 1847 New York item with a fine PAQ REG strike in blue applied at the Paris Central Post Office and a beautiful example of the short lived 1F50 rate on an 1851 cover franked with a pair of 25c Cérés and 1F carmine. Another of the many items which attracted interest was an 1857 cover from Le Havre to New Orleans franked by a pair of 40c Empire and cancelled by a PC in red.

After coffee, **Arthur Dent** re-opened the proceedings with his display of "Paris Postal History". Beginning with cancellations from the various Paris Postal Districts, Arthur then went on to point out some of the experimental types including an 1862 cover with the distinctive 'pepperpot' obliterator of the Bureau Central and an 1881 cover with the 'paddlewheel' cancellation of the Place de la Bourse. A variety of roller cancellations was shown together with a few miscellaneous but interesting items including an 1852 Ship Letter with a boxed MB. Arthur closed with a display of railway cancellations from the 1880s to 1912 and explained the meaning of the various abbreviations to be found in the date stamp.

John Hammonds concluded the morning's displays with what he called the bottom of the barrel of his "French Airmail" collection. Nothing could have been further from the truth. The display opened with letters from balloon manufacturers of the 19th Century offering demonstrations and displays. Some of the letter headings were beautifully illustrated with balloons in the shape of men and animals. John then explained his objective of finding an airmail cover to every country, franked at the correct rate and flown before the outbreak of WWII. Examples of recent acquisitions were shown including items flown to Nouméa, Burma, Ceylon and to Canada at the special Franco-Canadian rate. Of particular interest was a selection of crash mail items including a 1929 Dragon d'Annam cover with the stamps cancelled ANNULE, a cover from the 1931 Paris Tokyo flight which crashed in Siberia and a survivor of the 1936 Paris Saigon flight which crash landed in Karachi. John concluded his display with examples of the 1925 and 1945 Lemaître & Arrachart vignettes, perf, imperf and *tête-bêche* and a complete sheet of 25 of the 1945 Berck 50F Banknote vignette.

After lunch the Annual Competition took place with the entries being judged by a panel of three members. The winners were:

Levett Trophy (philately): "Revolutionary Mail: Letter Posts 1791-1799" by **Alan Wood**

Alvey Cup (postal history): "Difficulties in Communication in France during WWII" by **Robert Johnson** [see illustration on back cover].

Jubilee Salver (miscellaneous): "Formula Cards" by **Godfrey Bowden**

[For the second year running the Filmer Shield for adhesives was not awarded]

The Literature Competition had been judged by a panel prior to the weekend and the award was presented to **Peter Kelly** for his "Introduction to the Rural and Urban Post 1876-1900" [see also *Society Notes*, page 42].

Despite the low entry, the judges commented on how much they were impressed by the displays and a special mention was made of Robert Johnson who had now won the Alvey Cup for three successive years. After the trophies had been presented to the winners by the President, George Barker took the floor and announced that the RPSL had awarded the prestigious Tilleard Medal for 2001 to **Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith** for his display to the Royal on 21 October 1999 [see *Society Notes*, page 42].

The first display of the afternoon was by **Alan Wood** on aspects of "Morocco". He entertained the audience with his recollections of visits to the country and related amusing anecdotes of everyday Moroccan life. Alan then turned to the history of the country and explained how, with its advantage of coastal ports on both the Atlantic and Mediterranean seaboard, commercial interests led to France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom involving themselves in the postal affairs of the country. Alan related how French and British interests in Egypt and Morocco were negotiated and how in 1914 Morocco became a French Protectorate with Germany forfeiting all rights in 1919. The display contained fascinating items of military mail and cancellations of the occupational period and full coverage of the Maroc and Tanger overprints on French stamps. Members were treated to imperf examples of the 1922-27 airmails and the 1928 Flood Relief Fund and to a multitude of die proofs, artists' proofs and colour trials of the 1948-1955 issues. The highlight was a collective proof of the four values of the 1948 Solidarity issue.

The display on "French Equatorial Africa" given by **George Barker** was a classic example of philatelic research which is still the cornerstone of our hobby. George gave an exposé of the definitive series printed between 1937 & 1944 and later between 1947 & 1950 and issued in all the constituent parts of French Equatorial Africa. The series underwent a number of colour and value changes and was the source of some speculative overprints but George was able to demonstrate with great clarity that the true interest in these stamps did not lie in just their catalogue description. An example of this was the discovery that two types of the 50c value existed as well as the 25c. The major revelation, however, was that contrary to the catalogue description which states that the stamp is the product of a single photogravure operation, the true picture is a much more complex one. With the aid of charts, George illustrated his

findings which revealed that printing on both flat bed and rotary presses had taken place, that there were two different screens employed in the process and that the values could have been either an integrated part of the photogravure printing or a separate lithography addition; the possible permutations of these variants made the listings even more complex. George had already found ten values which were in either photo only or photo + litho versions. George was congratulated on his research and the audience were delighted to learn that his findings would be the basis of a future article.

After the tea break an unscheduled display was given by **Peter Kelly** on the "Postal History of Reunion". Peter opened with a brief history of the island and showed early items including a 1742 cover to St Malo with its pre-revolutionary name L'Isle Bourbon in manuscript and an 1813 British Occupation cover to the Cape of Good Hope with a BOURBON POST PAID mark. Peter continued with examples of maritime mail carried by both private and P&O packet services with a thorough representation of Ligne T Route 2 covers. Amongst the many items vying for attention was an 1854 cover carried by the General Screw Steam Shipping Co. service which operated via Mauritius and which only lasted a year, and an intriguing item posted in the St Denis supplementary box situated between the town and the quayside which had been found empty and endorsed by the ship's postal agent *Enveloppe vide trouvée dans la boîte supplémentaire - l'agent embarqué*.

Returning to the published programme, **John Whiteside** took us along "Railways beyond Dijon" concentrating on the line to Belfort via Besançon and its branch lines. A series of covers illustrated the various station marks encountered en route and the *convoyeur* and *ambulant* date stamps used on the lines. An 1869 cover displayed the two *convoyeur-station* marks of Talmay and Mantoche as well as two *ambulant* strikes from the Besançon à Paris and Paris à Marseille lines. Another item of special interest was an 1871 cover on which the Bureau de Passe cds had been used to cancel the stamp instead of being applied as a side stamp or back stamp. John's display closed with examples of covers which had travelled along the line which follows the southern shore of Lake Geneva from Bellegarde to Le Bouveret in Switzerland.

The afternoon closed with a display of "French Naval Mail" by **Mavis Pavey**. A rich assortment of material was on show starting with a 1901 cover from the time of the China Boxer rebellion with a Marine Nationale cachet of the Corps Expéditionnaire de Chine. This was followed by a series of postcards which illustrated the aftermath of the catastrophic explosion of the *Liberté* in Toulon harbour in 1911 and the subsequent ceremonies in memory of the 400 lives lost. Then came a number of World War II items from ships and bases in France and the Mediterranean. This included a splendid 1942 cover to Egypt franked at the 1F50 concessionary airmail rate for families writing to forces overseas. Addressed simply to Marseille Gare Etranger, the cover had been forwarded to the Croiseur *Duguay Trouin* at Alexandria where it had received an Egyptian censor mark and a FRENCH NAVY cachet. Mavis closed with a selection of later Poste Navale and Bureau Naval cancellations including hexagonal strikes from such ships as the *Jeanne d'Arc* and *Jean Bart*.

After a leisurely dinner, members returned for the evening session of short displays. **Pete Burnett** began with an amusing tale of Napoleon and his interest in chess illustrated by stamps and postcards. This was followed by **Yvonne Larg** who displayed stamps and postal stationery issued for use in the French PO in Zanzibar and included the provisional issues printed on sheet margins. Next came **Derek Richardson** with examples of mail to and from the internment camps at Saint Denis and Vittel where British men and women were held. Some of the internees were artists who produced decorative greetings cards which were much admired. **Geoff Gethin** spoke about the twenty-four miniature sheets issued by the colonies to commemorate the 1937 International Exhibition in Paris. **Bernard Lucas** followed with parcel cards of the 1941-43 period which in theory should have been destroyed by the SNCF but had survived to illustrate the changing rates indicated by the letters E and F. **Paul Watkins** showed World War I material related to Bordeaux and examples of the Type Duval postage dues on postcards from Great Britain and illustrating the sometimes conflicting interpretations of the regulations. **Skanda Vaitilingam** produced a selection of Pétain stamps with various overprints including Libération Roma, Libération Audincourt and the Cross of Lorraine of an unidentified town (now known to be from Mamers (Sarthe) – MLB) together with examples of stamps ‘cancelled’ with the end of a key. **John Whiteside** bravely attempted to define a *lieue* necessary to the understanding of the rates of 1792 and 1796 and showed items illustrating the relationship between distance and tariffs. **Mavis Pavey** then presented a miscellany of items including Joubert Prince Imperial essays, an 1870 visiting card envelope with the signature of Jules Ferry (after whom many a school has been named in France), Palissy test coils, and a reproduction of the 1938 Curie stamp signed by its designer J de la Nézière. Then came **Peter Maybury** with a synopsis of the maritime mail shipping lines to Italy, Constantinople and the Black Sea from 1837 to 1872. His hand drawn maps were much admired. Finally, **Bob Larg** closed a very intensive but highly entertaining evening with a display of cards related to the 1900 Exposition Universelle de Paris, a 1924 PTT Almanach and a superb sheet of 150 1c Sage black on *azure*.

Sunday

The first display of the Sunday morning session was “Early mail, France and Channel Islands” by **Barrie Jay**. Letters from the Channel Islands to France between 1817 and 1843 were charged at the relevant sea postage plus the French inland postal rates. As these rates changed, so did the postal markings that were applied to the mail. We were shown covers bearing the marks COLONIES PAR / [port name] (1817-23), GRANDE BRETAGNE / [port name] (1823-28), Ditto, with an additional hand-struck number 6 (1829-35), a rectangular PAYS D’OUTREMER (1836-39) and finally an OUTREMER circular date stamp (1839-43).

Under the title of “French Congo”, **Robert Johnson** showed Tchad covers, but took most of the time to introduce the background history and geography of the area after 1910. He produced maps and texts to support the covers, which showed the development of postal rates in Tchad from 1911 to 1937. Among the many interesting items on view was an

AR registered cover to France in March 1923. The franking of 60c was the 25c 20g letter rate and the 35c registration fee (tariffs of 1.4.1920), the AR fee being paid in stamps on the AR form [see illustration on back cover].

“Lyon” was the subject of **George Henderson**’s display. The straight-line marks of the *Ancien Régime*, DE LYON and the 19 varieties of the 68/LYON which followed, were sometimes less interesting than the messages found written inside, which often showed a quirk of humour. Letters in the Revolutionary period, when Lyon’s name was changed to Ville Affranchie (1794-94) are particularly interesting. We also saw some experimental *cachets à date* from the 1840s and 1850s. To conclude, George jumped 60 or more years to show a few items associated with the Exposition Internationale de Lyon.

After a coffee break, **Bob Larg** gave us “World War I, Military Mail etc.” A wide variety of postcards letter cards and envelopes were shown, many incorporating flag designs varying from one to eight flags in numerous formats. As well as these, there were some with drawings of various military personnel, others with “stamps” of General Joffre, ‘FM’ and ‘Franchise Militaire on Sower’ and also some attractive postcards and letter cards with military scenes. He was followed by **Bernard Lucas** who displayed “Revenues”. Bernard’s collection of revenue stamps on documents was a reminder of the seemingly endless ways of raising money that the French government had devised over the years. Here is a probably incomplete list of the revenue stamps noted: *viandes, vélocipède, taxe piscicole, téléphone*, birth and marriage certificates, *radiodiffusion, tabac, dimension, copies*, parking fines, *affiches* and identity cards.

After we had admired these two offerings, it was time to bring matters to a close. Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith thanked all those who had given displays and Mick Bister, in turn, thanked Bernard for once again working so hard to organise the event. Members’ comments on the running of the competitions and the choice of hotel were sought and given, and Members were assured that their comments would be borne in mind when the Committee meets to discuss these matters. The President closed the meeting at 12.45 p.m.

The following is a list of members who attended part or all of the weekend.

Mr G E Barker	Mr D C Lamb
Mr B Berkinshaw-Smith	Mr R D Larg
Mr M L Bister	Mr A Lawrence
Mr G H Bowden	Mr B Lucas
Mr P Burnett	Mr J P Maybury
Dr R J Dean	Mr W G Mitchell
Mr P H Denning	Mrs M Pavey
Mr A Dent	Ms B M K Priddy
Mr R G Gethin	Mr D J Richardson
Mr J N Hammonds	Mr P S Stockton
Mr G P Henderson	Dr S S Vaitilingam
Mrs P Henderson	Mr P S Watkins
Mr C J Hitchen	Mr J West
Prof B S Jay	Mr J L Whiteside
Mr R I Johnson	Mr A J Wood
Mr P R A Kelly	

MLB & DJR

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 25 APRIL 2001

Michael Ensor: French West Africa

Our President Mick Bister introduced Michael as someone who has described his recent displays as a "*Mischmasch*", although they have revealed some real delights.

Michael explained the wisdom of collecting only one or two colonies of the AOF, but admitted that, having set foot at least briefly in all of them, he had failed to follow his own advice, with the result that no great rarities would be on offer. He had, however, limited himself to used material (because of the humid climate in West Africa), and had avoided airmails as such.

He then gave us a brief history of the area, with particular reference to stamp issues and their usage. Thus we started with the St Louis fort, set up at the mouth of the Senegal River during the years of the slave trade in which wealthy families made their money. The early material was from three places in Senegal and Assinie in what was to become the Ivory Coast; the main centre eventually moved from St Louis to Dakar, but European settlements were confined to the coasts until the 1880s.

The start of regular posts saw the use of General Colonies stamps and postal stationery, including letter cards which can hardly ever be found genuinely used and intact. Because of the difficulties in ensuring adequate supplies of stamps, various expedients were devised, and we saw some of the surcharges for Senegal. In 1892 the omnibus issue of the allegorical type started to appear, and it eventually featured the names of 8 different West African colonies, Ivory Coast and Mauritania serving here as examples; although only Dahomey had the high 5F value.

Particular items noted include a cover from a military base at Bandiagara, the 1904 issue peculiar to Guinée, de la Nèzière issues for various individual colonies, the designs used on later postal stationery (phased out in the 1920s), various designs in sets from 1928 to 1942 (especially from the Ivory Coast), Togo stamps used in Dahomey, the AOF issues starting with the surcharges discussed by Bill Mitchell recently in the Journal [*Journal 219 page 11*], two French

metropolitan postal stationery cards used in the war, post-war printings in London, and the establishment of the French Community in 1959 shown on a stamp.

After the viewing session, the second half began in 1932 with an account of the break-up of Upper Volta, most of it being merged into the Ivory Coast where Upper Volta's stamps were made valid before the remaining stock was overprinted. On the reconstitution of Upper Volta in 1948 some strange *ondulé* cachets from before the merger (possibly for telegraph purposes?) were brought out pending the arrival of new date stamps.

Among the fascinating items shown were a number of military covers, particularly from Soudan and Benin, and including some mail from the troops of General Dodds who overran the Dahomey empire. A collection of TPOs, with examples from Senegal, Soudan, Guinée, Dahomey and Ivory Coast, included the relatively rare up train cachet Conakry to Mamou and the uncommon octagonal *Service en Lagunes* mark, not forgetting the *Poste Rurale Bouaké* cachet.

Covers of interest were shown from each of the colonies, and we saw a Dahomey bisect of 1921, the uncommon Carimana handstamp, hexagons issued to the Agences Postales, and the three successive date stamps issued to Malanville. There followed untypical marks from Senegal, Guinée, Soudan, Upper Volta, Mauritania and Niger, with some post-independence items; and then WWI censorship marks in Niger, and a comprehensive range of WWII examples with the Censorship Commission marks formed by a letter and a figure in a circle.

The display concluded with some old stamps reused to cope with a wartime shortage, a rare Dao-Timni cover, and some phoney cancellers.

Bill Mitchell gave the vote of thanks, saying that he had been collecting this material for 45 years, and that this interesting collection with – despite what Michael had said – some very rare items, proved how serious a rival he had.

MST

FRANCE 1900 - 2001

FINE USED & MINT

STAMPS : BOOKLETS : BLOCKS : ETC

COLIS POSTAUX : ANTI-TB BOOKLETS AND STAMPS : PALISSY : ETC

COMPREHENSIVE PRICE LISTS AVAILABLE

DISCOUNTS FOR F&CPS MEMBERS

GOOD QUALITY MATERIAL ALSO BOUGHT OR EXCHANGED

R BROADHURST

**Unit 10, Teddington Business Park, Station Road,
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9BQ**

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

50f Guynemer

Mick Bister draws attention (in Journal 219) to differences of opinion over the exact date of issue of this stamp. In their most recent publications Joany, Stanley Gibbons and Cérès all state the issue date to have been 12 November 1940. Storch & Françon support this date in their publication of 1973, but in a later publication of 1984-85 they use 12 October 1940, a date that is given in *Le Patrimoine du Timbre-poste Français* published in 1999.

A cover bearing the 50F Guynemer is clearly postmarked 7 Nov 1940, a date used by Stanley Gibbons in the 1968 edition of their European catalogue.

Escott E Escott compiled and edited a catalogue of the stamps of France from 1940 to 1946 which was published by H D Peverett & Co Ltd, London WC2. In this catalogue (shown by me at the Leamington weekend in 2000) the date of issue of the 50F Guynemer is shown as 7 November 1940.

It is worthy of note that of the stamps of France issued during 1940 there were six dates of issue, all being on weekdays from Monday to Friday. 7 November 1940 was a Thursday whereas 12 October 1940 was a Saturday - an improbable day for a new issue.

Alan Wood

Two Unusual Covers



Figure 1

One of my colleagues in the Worthing Society of Postal Historians, Mr Grahame Lindsey, has two covers (shown here) that he queried at a meeting earlier this year. He would appreciate it if a member of this Society could help to explain the details, particularly as he is not a collector of French material.

Figure 1 shows an entire dated inside Belfaux 8 March 1844 [though the photocopy I have been sent of the address side of this entire appears to read at the bottom "pionnier de Belfaux (or Belfaur?)"]; I have been unable to identify a place with

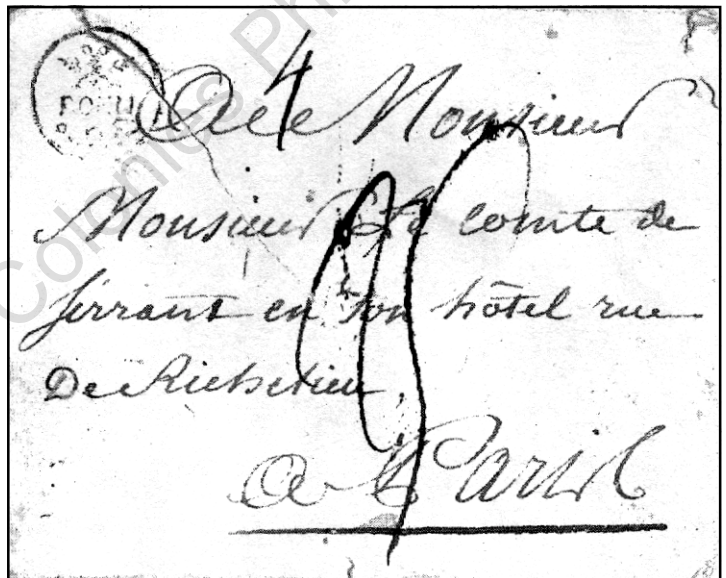


Figure 2

any of these 3 spellings - Ed.] and is addressed to Monsieur le Préfet du district français; and on the front is a red oval handstamp with the inscription inside "R^{TE} DE PAYERNE".

Figure 2 is an envelope with a red wax seal on the reverse showing a coat of arms; the front has a black circular handstamp BONN(?) with a coat of arms above and a posthorn design below(?); it is addressed to the Count of Ferrant "in his mansion (hôtel) [in the] rue de Richelieu in Paris".

Colin Spong

From France to South Africa in the Boer War

I was approached recently by the editor of the *Anglo-Boer War Philatelist* with regard to information on the carriage of letters on Messageries Maritimes vessels. There is very little mail from France into the Transvaal during the period of the 2nd Boer War (I have only one and know of only a couple of others), so I became interested in the attached article and thought it might interest our readers.

Peter Kelly

The article is reproduced here by kind permission of the author, Richard Stroud, who is also the editor of the Anglo-Boer War Philatelist, where it first appeared in June 2001, Volume 44 N° 2.

JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING, INCLUDING ORANGE RIVER!

by Richard Stroud

Stuart Duggan has sent in a photocopy of an opened-out cover in Ken Griffith's collection with the comment that your Editor would enjoy unravelling its Odyssey and interpreting it all! Always ready for a challenge, here goes! (The cover is illustrated on the next page.)

From France to an Acting Catholic Chaplain at Orange River Camp, the cover has a 25c Type Sage postmarked LA CHAPELLE-MONTLIGEON ORNE 5 MAI 00. Orange River Camp in this instance means the British military camp there, set up in the previous November to support Lord Methuen's advance to Kimberley. [It does not refer to the Refugee Camp at Orange River: this was not opened until June 1901.]

The next date stamp that was applied is MACHADODORP 27 JUN 00, which ties a Boer Type 5 censor seal (**POST-DEPARTEMENT Z.A.R. / Geopend onder Krigswet**). This indicates an arrival at Lourenço Marques of 24/25 June and, indeed, the *General* of the Deutsch Ostafrika Linie arrived at Delagoa Bay from Naples on 24 June. [The *Oxus* of Messageries Maritimes Ligne U (de Marseille à la Réunion), left Marseille on 10 May and would have arrived at Diego Suarez in Madagascar before the *General*. The mails no doubt were exchanged there.]

Machadodorp was, in late June 1900, the temporary seat of the ZAR Government (including President Kruger), and the mails could go no further as the line west to Pretoria was under British control. The mails were sent back out of the war zone to Lourenço Marques, arriving 28 JUN 00. For some reason, the letter must have been included in the next day's batch of mail from Lourenço Marques, as there is another strike of the Machadodorp date stamp, this time for 30 JUN 00. It was then returned to Lourenço Marques.

In subsequent weeks, the Boer line held by General Louis Botha was broken at Bergendal, Kruger withdrew to

Nelspruit and then to Lourenço Marques on 11 September (embarking from there on 19 October on the *Gelderland*, a warship sent by the young Queen of the Netherlands to take him to Holland). Komatipoort fell to General Pole-Carew on 24 September and General Kitchener then had the task of reorganising the railway between there and Pretoria - this took some weeks. Mails held at Lourenço Marques could then be forwarded. However, it must have been realised at Lourenço Marques that a better route for this letter was via Durban, for there is a Lourenço Marques release of 18 OUT 00, a Durban transit of OC 25 1900 and a British Army base office mark of Pietermaritzburg - the code 3 FIELD POST OFFICE date stamp for OC 26 00

The letter eventually arrived at Orange River on NO 4 00, at which time few original personnel could still have been there and the letter was annotated **Warrenton, Forward**. It arrived at Warrenton on NO 6 00, having first been sorted at Kimberley on NO 5 00. The single-circle **CENSOR WARRENTON** was struck on the reverse, perhaps because Father Cullinan could not be found there. The letter then seems to have been returned to Kimberley, arrival 17 NO 00.

At Kimberley, the letter should have been placed *advertised* for some while, although no instructional mark to this effect is visible. Eventually, Kimberley returned the letter to Warrenton. By now, the envelope must have been suffering from severe wear and tear (literally!), for the Warrenton censor attached two British Type 7 censor seals (small boxed **OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW**) and annotated one **Found open by Censor, Warrenton. Addressee untraceable**. The censor then applied three strikes of the censor cachets - two dumb triangular and one of the town circular type - and initialled each **WMG 26-2-01**. What happened to the letter after that can only be surmised. Incidentally, Warrenton has not been previously recorded as a place where the Type 7 seal was used.

[Richard adds in a note that this is, of course, his interpretation of this much travelled and censored cover. The illustration is a laser copy of a rather poor original photocopy, on which the perforated outline of the Type 7 seals has been emphasised as they are not clear on the original copy submitted.]

79

POW Camp in Kenya

This illustration is of part of a censored letter from a prisoner in a camp in Kenya. [The original consists of 24 numbered lines, although the photocopy provided is not clear enough to make out the words distinctly - Ed.] I can find no

trace of any information on this British camp in Africa for French detainees from Madagascar, and would welcome any contribution from members of the Society, together if possible with an indication of its value.

Georges Barot



Three Covers

Here are three covers that might be of interest to members and might also bring some information for me.

My interest in the first cover (Fig 1) was sparked by a recent acquisition of a number of back numbers of the journal in which there was quite a bit of interest shown in the *Prioritaire* labels. This cover has a yellow such label, seemingly official; not only has it an 'If undelivered please return to sender at: BP4 La Poste, 16450 St Laurent de Ceris', but also boxes

for the weight (20g) and the cost (3F) which is met with a Marianne du 14 Juillet *sans valeur* stamp. It is the only such label I have seen: is it peculiar to St Laurent de Ceris or have other members spotted them from elsewhere? Of passing interest and already known to Devonians like myself (and Cornish men), the 'D & C.C., Central Ticket Office' part of the address reads as Devon & Cornwall Constabulary. Someone was paying a parking ticket, perhaps?

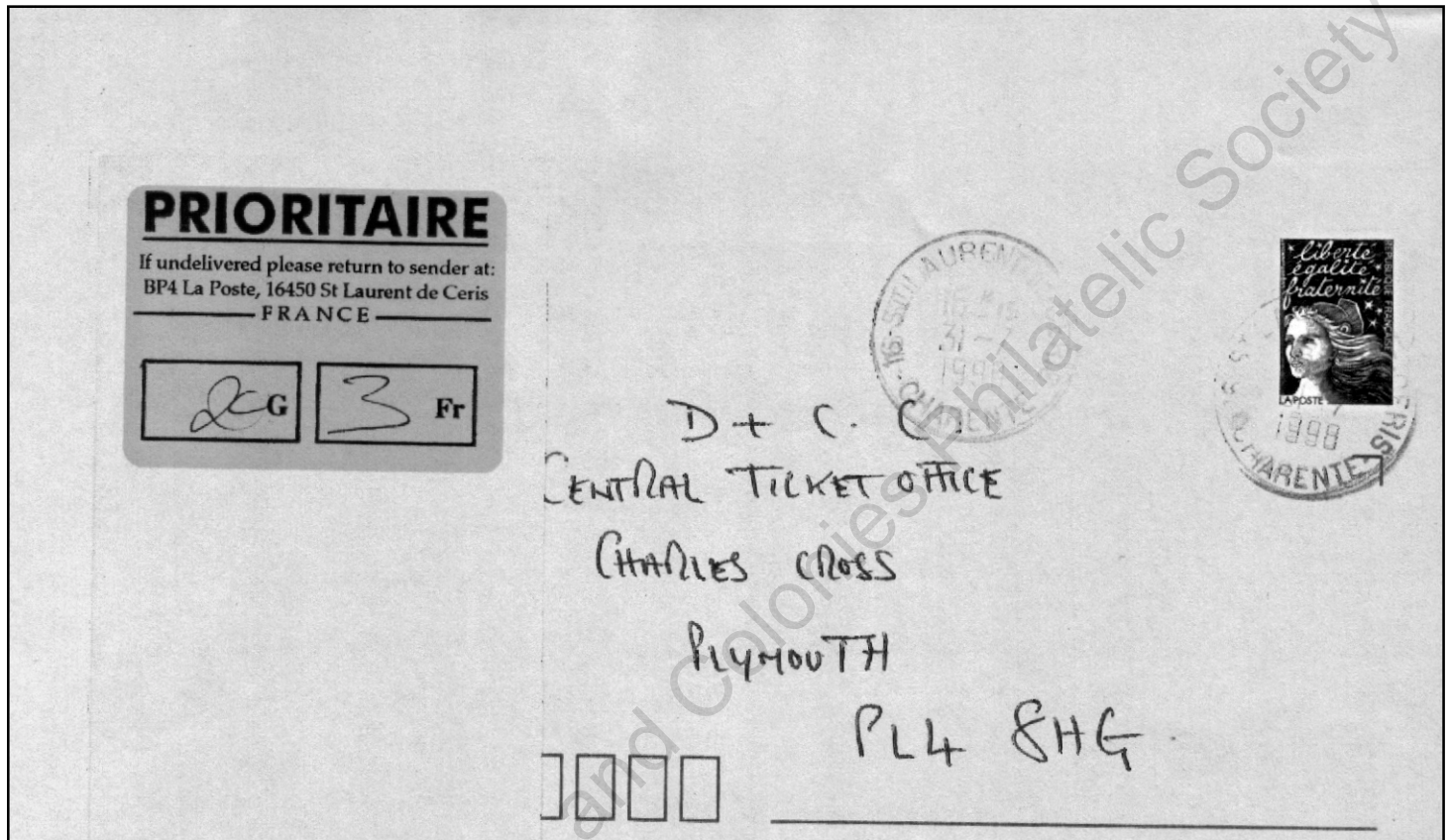


Figure 1
(above)

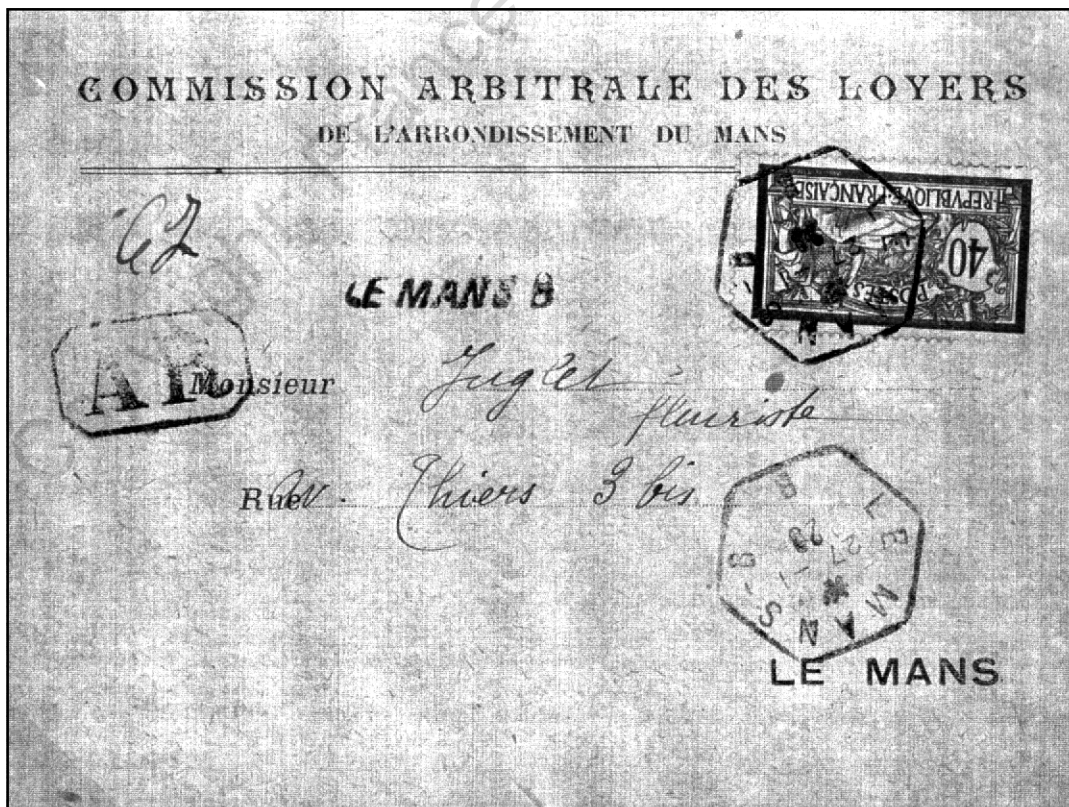


Figure 2
(left)

The second cover (Fig 2), with the boxed AR (*avis de réception*) cachet is a little above the range of my limited (two years) French collecting knowledge. The franking is correct for 27 January 1920 — the second-step internal letter rate (25c) and *avis de réception* fee (15c) is met with the 40c Merson. I understand that the *recette auxiliaire* was used, among others, at places where there was a seasonal demand for postal needs, such as a seaside pier, an annual

exhibition or, indeed, such an event as the Le Mans Grand Prix. This cover was franked with a Le Mans B mark (there is also an unboxed Le Mans B cachet), but I doubt if that Grand Prix takes place in January. In any case, why would the Arbitratory Commission of Rents take their mail there to post it? I would welcome any suggestions from members. [*Le Mans is, of course, a large industrial town in its own right, as well home to the renowned 24 hour race. - Ed.*]

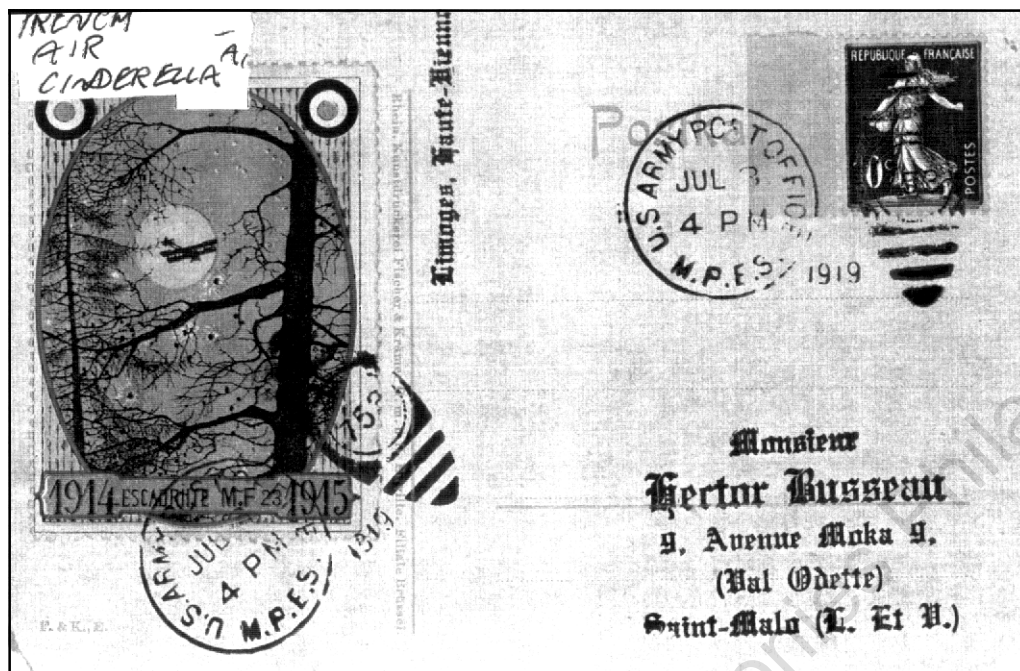


Figure 3

The third item (Fig 3) is a postcard found when rummaging through our local 'amateur' dealer's boxes at our local (Axminster) stamp club's monthly meeting. It was unpriced, and I was going to accuse him of waiting for the best offer but, as he is our immediate past chairman, I had to be respectful. The card's view is of the Festhalle at Frankfurt am Main and the card appears to have been printed in Germany. [*The card seems to indicate that it was produced by the Brussels branch. - Ed.*] The postmark is US of course, but the Cinderella label has French Air Force connections. Can anyone help?

Gerald Gosling

FWA and Togo mixed Franking

In response to the Appendix to Bill Mitchell's article on the French West Africa issue of 1943-44 - dealing with Togo - I enclose a photocopy of a cover showing mixed franking of Togo and French West Africa. It certainly (to a "layman")

seems unlikely that both administrations could have expected the overprinted issue of Togo to have lasted until the issue of a new series in 1947, which certainly suggests an official acquiescence in the use of FWA stamps in Togo.

David Tress



Boîte Rurale and Décime Rural

The query raised by Gerald Gosling in Journal 219 (March 2001) concerning the use of a *boîte rurale* mark in conjunction with a *décime rural* stamp is an interesting one in the context of postal practices and how the taxation of letters worked.

The letter was posted in rural box E - presumably Landin (not Laudin as stated) of the Bourg-Achard office. This small town is in the Eure, *département* 26, and not Bouches du Rhône as stated. The rural postman applied the box E stamp which was kept on a chain inside the box, both to the *bordereau* he carried (to prove that he had called at the box) and to all the letters he collected from it. When he returned to the post office the Bourg-Achard office applied their own date stamp and the *décime rural* stamp.

Mr Gosling expressed surprise that these two marks were used in conjunction and we need to look at the regulations to see that this application is quite correct.

1. As concerns the *boîte rurale* stamp: The 1835 regulations stipulated (Article 95) that the rural postman will apply the stamp of each box visited to his *bordereau* and **at the same time to each letter found in the box.**

2. *Décime rural* stamp: The regulations here are covered by article 19 of the 1830 Instructions Générales to the effect that the postmaster will certify the origin of letters received from his rural postmen and will apply the *décime rural* stamp to all correspondence which has to be sent to other post offices and **where the tax could not be collected at the despatching office.**

We are therefore considering two different aspects of the post: the activities of the rural postmen themselves and the way in which they handle the mail they have collected, and the ultimate collection of the *décime rural*.

The *décime rural* may relate either to the rural *commune* in which it is collected or to that in which it is delivered. A rural *commune* may be defined as one in which there is no post office established but which is served by an office established in another *commune*.

In this case we know that Landin did not have its own office and that it was in the circumscription of the Bourg-Achard office. This is where the *décime rural* arose. The letter was addressed to Bacqueville en Caux, also in the *département* of the Eure, which had its own post office.

Far from crossing the whole of France, the letter only travelled some 50 km and was taxed at 3 décimes under the tariff of 1828 for a letter weighing up to 7 ½ grams and a distance in a straight line of between 40 and 80 km. The *décime rural* had to be collected on top of this so the recipient had to pay 4 décimes in all.

Peter Kelly

When reading the last Journal issue, I was interested to see Gerald Gosling's short article, and thought I might be of some help about the first letter he mentions.

In fact, Bourg-Achard is not in the Bouches du Rhône *département*, as indicated by the "26" at the bottom of the

Type 12 cancel. "26" was the number of the Eure *département*, therefore much closer to Bacqueville en Caux in the Seine Inférieure *département* (N° 74). As a matter of interest, Bourg-Achard had a very old office that opened in the XVIIth century (according to Jean Pothion's *Dictionnaire des Bureaux de Poste*). Bacqueville was a *bureau de direction* in January 1818. I believe (though this needs to be checked on a map) that these two localities are not too far away from each other - maybe even on the same postman's round.

Now as for the 1^D in a circle, the *décime rural* was created on 1 April 1830: "*Pour assurer le financement du service rural, une taxe fixe de 1 décime à percevoir sur les lettres expédiées d'un arrondissement à un autre, d'origine ou de destination rurale, est créée*" (Michèle Chauvet, *Introduction à l'Histoire Postale*, p 163). Therefore it is very likely and logical that a *boîte rurale* E (in a circle) cancel should be found next to a 1^D (in a circle) *décime rural*, to pay for the collection of this letter in a postbox on the outskirts of Bourg-Achard.

Roland Goutay

I enclose a list of covers in my collection with similar markings to the one illustrated by Gerald Gosling in the March edition of the Journal:

11.3.1837	Podensac to Bordeaux	1 ^D	A
22.2.1839	Dié to St Étienne	1 ^D	B
12.8.1839	Cannes to ?	1 ^D	B
27.9.1840	Gernay to Guebwiller	1 ^D	C
15.2.1842	Tournon to St Étienne	1 ^D	I
18.4.1844	Fontoy to Lunéville	1 ^D	J

The 1^D and *boîte rurale* letters are all in circles. I also have a similar cover from Pauillac to Bordeaux, dated 8 April 1837, with a 1^D and a circled OR. The practice would seem to be widespread.

Tony Swinburn

I think that in Journal 219 (page 20) Gerald Gosling is puzzling himself on the geography question unnecessarily. I know Bourg-Achard quite well and have been there fairly recently - it is just south of the Forêt de Brotonne in the Eure *département* (now N° 27, formerly N° 26 as on its date stamp illustrated) and not in the Bouches du Rhône (now 13, formerly 12). So the letter never travelled very far - not beyond the Eure, anyway.

I have found my map and listing of the old *département* numbers, taken originally from the magazine *Historia*, N° 456 of December 1984, and reproduce it here. But please note that some of the attributions are incorrectly printed, and I attach in addition my corrected copy, which I hope will make the position clearer.

Ian McQueen

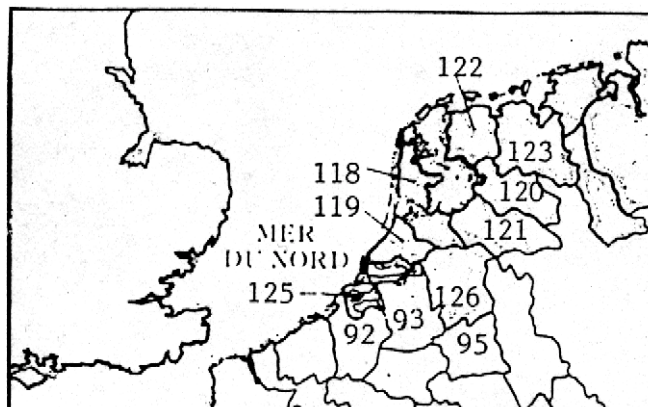
[Those members who have access to the 1973-1976 issues of the Journal should refer to the "Post Marque" pages of Stephen Holder, who deals at some length with the *Service Rural*, including the *décime rural*, *boîte rurale*, *origine rurale*, *correspondance locale*, *boîte urbaine*, *origine locale*, and *cachets (indicatifs) de facteurs*. See Journals 126 page 79, 127 page 16, 129/130 page 11, 132 page 7, 133/134 pages 7-8. - Ed.]



- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 - Ain | 28 - Finistère | 53 - Meuse | 78 - Var | 103 - Pô |
| 2 - Aisne | 29 - Gard | 54 - Morbihan | 79 - Vendée | 104 - Marengo |
| 3 - Allier | 30 - Garonne (Haute-) | 55 - Moselle | 80 - Vienne | 105 - Sesia |
| 4 - Alpes (Basses-) | 31 - Gers | 56 - Nièvre | 81 - Vienne (Haute-) | 106 - Dora |
| 5 - Alpes (Hautes-) | 32 - Gironde | 57 - Nord | 82 - Vosges | 107 - Montenotte |
| 6 - Ardèche | 33 - Hérault | 58 - Oise | 83 - Yonne | 108 - Stura |
| 7 - Ardennes | 34 - Ille-et-Vilaine | 59 - Orne | 84 - Mont-Blanc | 109 - Gènes |
| 8 - Ariège | 35 - Indre | 60 - Seine | 85 - Alpes-Maritimes | 110 - Apennins |
| 9 - Aube | 36 - Indre-et-Loire | 61 - Pas-de-Calais | 86 - Lys | 111 - Laro |
| 10 - Aude | 37 - Isère | 62 - Puy-de-Dôme | 87 - Escaut | 112 - Arno |
| 11 - Aveyron | 38 - Jura | 63 - Pyrénées (Basses-) | 88 - Deux-Nèdès | 113 - Méditerranée |
| 12 - Bouches-du-Rhône | 39 - Landes | 64 - Pyrénées (Hautes-) | 89 - Meuse-Inferieure | 114 - Ombrone |
| 13 - Calvados | 40 - Loir-et-Cher | 65 - Pyrénées-Orientales | 90 - Dyle | 115 - Tam-et-Garonne |
| 14 - Cantal | 41 - Loire (Haute-) | 66 - Rhin (Bas-) | 91 - Ourt | 116 - Trasimène |
| 15 - Charente | 42 - Loire-Inferieure | 67 - Rhin (Haut-) | 92 - Jemmapes | 117 - Rome |
| 16 - Charente Inférieure | 43 - Loiret | 68 - Rhône | 93 - Sambre-et-Meuse | 118 - Bouches-du-Rhin |
| 17 - Cher | 44 - Lot | 69 - Saône (Haute-) | 94 - Forêts | 119 - Bouches-de-l'Escaut |
| 18 - Corrèze | 45 - Lot-et-Garonne | 70 - Saône-et-Loire | 95 - Léman | 120 - Bouches-de-la-Meuse |
| 19 - Colo | 46 - Lozère | 71 - Sarthe | 96 - Mont-Tonnerre | 121 - Zuiderzee |
| 20 - Côte-d'Or | 47 - Mayenne-et-Loire | 72 - Seine-Inferieure | 97 - Rhin-et-Moselle | 122 - Yssel-Supérieur |
| 21 - Côtes-du-Nord | 48 - Manche | 73 - Seine-et-Marne | 98 - Roer | 123 - Bouches-de-l'Yssel |
| 22 - Creuse | 49 - Marne | 74 - Seine-et-Oise | 99 - Loire | 124 - Frise |
| 23 - Dordogne | 50 - Marne (Haute-) | 75 - Sèvres (Deux-) | 100 - Llamone | 125 - Ems-occidental |
| 24 - Doubs | 51 - Mayenne | 76 - Somme | 101 - Sarre | 126 - Ems-oriental |
| 25 - Drôme | 52 - Meurthe | 77 - Tarn | 102 - Vaucluse | 127 - du Simplon |
| 26 - Eure | | | | 128 - Bouches-de-l'Elbe |
| 27 - Eure-et-Loir | | | | 129 - Bouches-du-Veser |
| | | | | 130 - Ems-Supérieur |

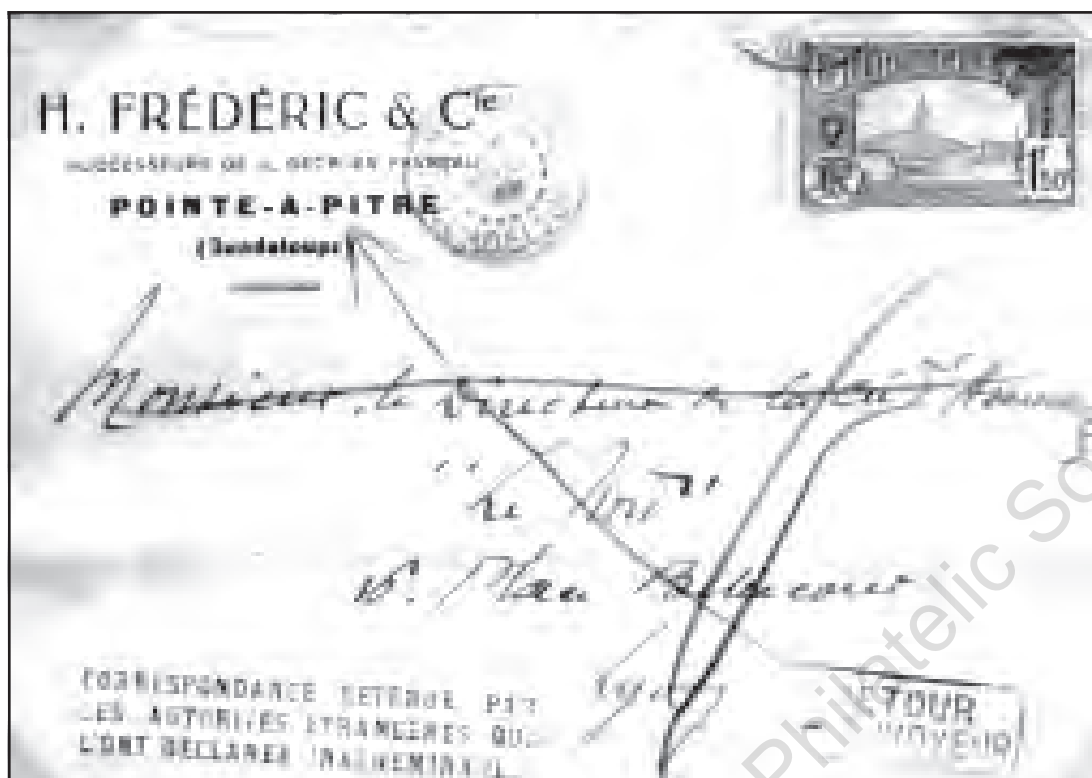
The map of the French Empire (above) shows its 130 *départements*. When the *préfectures* were first created, France had 102 *départements*. Those in existence in 1800 are shown in white, and the shaded ones are those created subsequently. Several numbers in the above list were printed incorrectly, and Ian McQueen's altered list and map are shown below and to the right. [Though there still appear to be some anomalies, such as the missing number for Ems-oriental in the smaller map - presumably 124? - Ed.]

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 92 - Escaut (Schelde) | 121 - Yssel Supérieur |
| 93 - Deux Nèthes | 122 - Frise |
| 95 - Meuse Inférieure | 123 - Ems-occidental |
| 118 - Zuiderzee | 125 - Bouches de l'Escaut |
| 119 - Bouches de la Meuse | 126 - Bouches du Rhin |
| 120 - Bouches de l'Yssel | |



February 2001 Auction Realisations

Lot	Realisat.	Lot	Realisat.	Lot	Realisat.	Lot	Realisat.	Lot	Realisat.	Lot	Realisat.
1	3.50	113	5.00	185	13.00	258	6.00	326	3.50	425	8.00
5	3.00	115	11.00	186	4.00	259	13.00	331	2.50	426	15.00
6	11.00	116	7.00	187	12.00	260	8.00	332	2.50	427	9.00
8	9.50	117	26.00	188	12.00	261	18.00	333	25.00	428	9.00
9	7.00	119	6.00	189	48.00	262	17.00	335	5.00	429	6.50
12	13.00	120	5.00	190	5.00	263	12.00	336	7.00	430	3.00
14	14.00	121	5.00	191	6.50	264	66.00	337	4.00	431	3.00
15	4.00	122	4.00	192	30.00	265	32.00	338	6.50	432	5.50
16	4.00	126	10.00	193	10.00	266	9.50	339	5.00	433	3.50
17	2.50	127	25.00	194	37.00	267	6.00	340	5.00	434	5.00
18	5.50	129	12.00	195	42.00	268	5.00	343	48.00	435	6.00
19	8.50	130	2.00	196	10.00	269	4.50	344	23.00	437	12.00
20	5.50	135	7.00	197	16.00	270	6.00	345	5.00	438	11.00
22	3.00	138	3.00	198	11.00	271	8.00	349	4.50	439	40.00
26	7.00	139	2.00	199	6.00	272	3.50	351	5.00	440	250.00
27	6.50	140	2.00	200	6.00	273	8.00	352	2.50	441	47.00
29	4.00	141	6.00	201	13.00	274	7.50	356	4.50	444	22.00
30	5.00	142	2.00	202	3.50	275	5.50	357	5.00	447	25.00
32	19.00	143	3.00	203	3.00	276	5.00	358	3.50	449	47.00
33	8.00	144	2.00	204	9.50	277	33.00	362	2.50	450	17.00
35	7.00	146	12.00	205	4.00	278	7.50	363	8.00	451	16.00
37	6.00	147	3.00	206	13.00	279	7.00	367	11.00	452	36.00
41	5.00	149	2.50	207	5.00	280	6.00	368	8.50	453	26.00
42	2.50	150	6.00	208	26.00	281	45.00	369	6.00	454	20.00
45	6.50	152	3.50	209	60.00	282	5.00	370	8.50	455	11.00
49	2.50	154	2.50	210	21.00	283	10.00	371	8.00	456	30.00
52	7.00	155	3.00	211	21.00	285	5.00	373	10.00	458	77.00
54	8.50	156	2.50	212	44.00	289	15.00	375	6.50	459	105.00
57	7.50	157	3.00	213	82.00	290	5.00	376	2.50	460	8.00
60	7.00	159	4.00	214	7.50	293	6.00	381	8.00	461	20.00
62	32.00	161	13.00	217	25.00	295	5.00	389	8.00	462	5.00
63	16.00	162	6.50	218	28.00	302	5.50	390	7.50	463	20.00
64	8.00	163	3.00	220	6.50	303	5.00	393	33.00	464	62.00
75	4.00	165	3.00	221	9.00	304	3.00	394	20.00	466	14.00
76	21.00	166	3.50	222	10.00	306	48.00	395	16.00	467	22.00
77	3.00	167	3.00	224	20.00	308	18.00	396	20.00	468	21.00
82	5.50	168	5.50	233	36.00	309	44.00	397	44.00	469	10.00
83	3.00	169	4.00	236	10.00	310	3.00	398	20.00	470	19.00
85	3.50	170	3.00	237	4.00	311	8.50	399	20.00	472	80.00
91	15.00	172	4.00	238	8.50	312	4.00	401	6.00	474	12.00
92	20.00	173	2.50	240	4.00	315	5.00	402	8.00	476	4.00
95	2.00	175	17.00	242	13.00	316	5.00	403	15.00	477	3.00
100	4.00	177	3.50	243	8.50	317	6.00	405	15.00	478	14.00
101	33.00	178	6.00	246	6.50	318	13.00	408	7.00	479	4.00
107	2.50	179	6.00	247	6.50	320	9.50	411	20.00	481	15.00
108	3.00	180	36.00	252	7.50	321	2.50	415	8.00	482	11.00
109	1.50	181	14.00	254	18.00	322	3.00	416	16.00	485	40.00
110	1.50	182	27.00	255	7.50	323	5.00	423	5.50	486	205.00
111	4.00	183	37.00	256	11.00	324	2.50	424	5.50		
112	5.50	184	20.00	257	6.00	325	2.50	425	9.00	Total	4,209.50



A letter from Guadeloupe to Lyon posted in April 1940 which was marked to the effect that it had been retained by foreign authorities who declared it not to be capable of transmission. This was code for the fact that the Germans were not permitting post from abroad to be delivered in the Occupied Zone from 22 June 1940. Lyon was in and on the edge of the Occupied Zone and became a centre for the French Resistance. A circular censor mark was applied in Guadeloupe on the back.

From the Alvey Cup entry of Robert Johnson at the Kenilworth weekend - see page 74.



An AR registered cover from Tchad to France in March 1923. The basic rate was 25c for 20g between 1 April 1920 and 15 July 1925. The registration fee was 35c between 1 April 1920 and 25 March 1924. This made up the total paid of 60c, the AR fee being paid in stamps on the AR form.

From the collection of Robert Johnson - see page 75 for the short report on his display at Kenilworth.