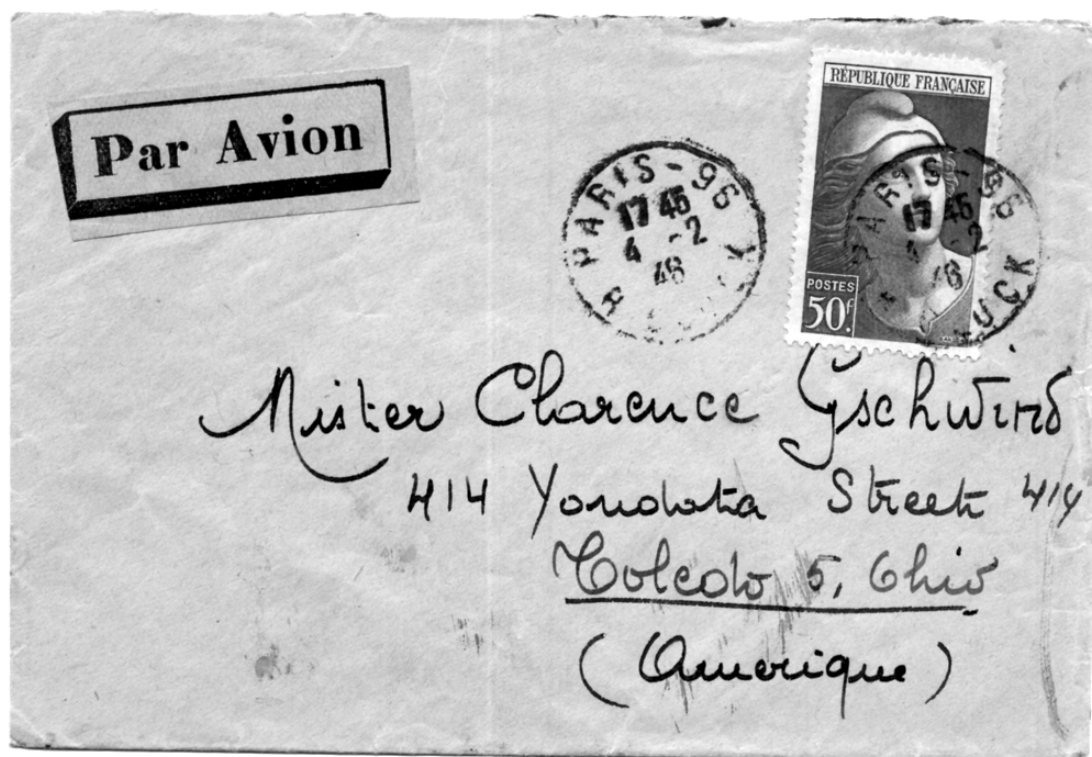


The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



50F Marianne de Gandon used alone on 1948 airmail to USA

*[This item is a lot in the November 2001 Society Auction:
see pages 85 & 110 and the inside back cover for illustrations of other lots]*



Volume 51 ● Number 3
September 2001
Whole Number 221

THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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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.
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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.
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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

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Volume 51 Number 3

September 2001 ● Whole No 221

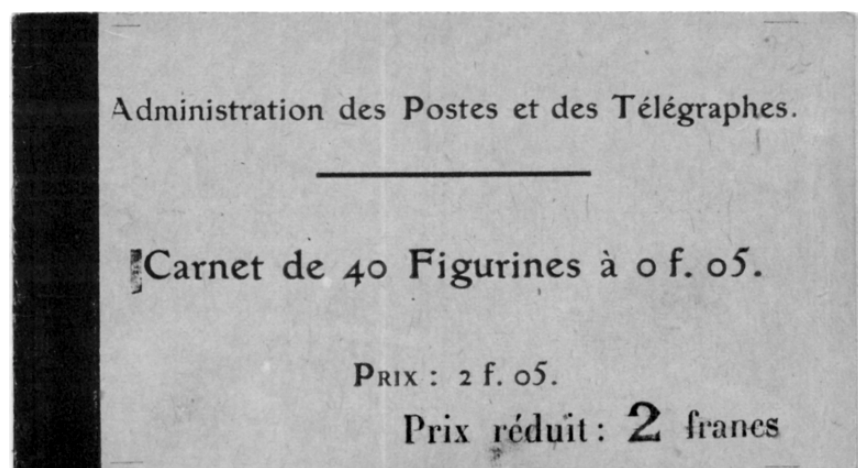
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Selected Lots in the November 2001 Auction

[See also page 110, the front cover and the inside back cover]

5c Sower booklet of 40
with cover overprinted
Prix Réduit: 2 francs



SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1173 Dr Steve Clark (Kent), 1174 L Sawton (W Yorkshire).

* * *

Future Displays

On Saturday 13 October **John Hammonds** will be giving a display to the National Philatelic Society on "100 Years of French Aviation."

* * *

Northern Group

The "Bastille Day" all day meeting was held as usual in the summer, this time on Saturday 14 July itself. Stephen and Judith Holder offered their generous hospitality as always at Heaton Royds near Bradford. No further details are available as we go to press.

* * *

Philatelic Honours

Our member in France **Robert Abensur** is to be congratulated on being elected to one of the two vacant seats in the prestigious Académie de Philatélie.

* * *

Main Society Meetings

2001

| | | Venue* |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Wed 27 Sept. | Members : 12 sheets | MC |
| Sat 28 Oct. | President's afternoon | RHH |
| Sat. 4 Nov. | Bourse (11 am) Auction (2 pm) | MC |
| Wed. 29 Nov. | G.H. Bowden: <i>The Sage period</i> | MC |
| Wed. 13 Dec. | Members: <i>Short Displays</i> | MC |

2002

| | | Venue* |
|---------------|--|--------|
| Wed. 30 Jan. | P.R.A.Kelly: <i>Réunion Postal History</i> | MC |
| Sat. 2 Mar. | <i>to be arranged</i> | RHH |
| Wed. 27 Mar. | A.D. Barrett: <i>French Islands</i> | MC |
| Wed. 24 Apr. | C.S. Holder: <i>3 Centuries of Alsace-Lorraine</i> | MC |
| Sat. 4 May | AGM (11.30am) Auction (2 pm) | MC |
| Wed. 25 Sept. | Members: 12 sheets | MC |

* Venues:

MC denotes Marymount College, 22a Brownlow Mews, London WC1.

Wednesday evening meetings commence at 6.30 pm.

RHH denotes Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1.

Saturday afternoon meetings at this venue are from 3 to 5 pm.

* * *

Southern Group

The programme for this year is as follows:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 18 August 2001: | 10.30 until lunch: <i>Members' queries on definitive issues;</i> |
| | 14.00 until 16.30: <i>Type Sage registration mail</i> by Peter Kelly |
| 20 October 2001: | <i>Memel</i> by Frank Blinkow |
| 26 January 2002: | <i>Members' displays</i> |
| 13 April 2002: | <i>The Pétain issues</i> by the President, Mick Bister |

The meetings are held on Saturdays at East Worthing Community Centre.

* * *

Exhibition Successes

The following members of the Society are to be congratulated on their achievements at Belgica 2001 in Brussels, 9-15 June 2001:

Steven Walske exhibited "Classic Errors of France 1849-1875" in the Court of Honour and "Balloon Mail of the 1870-71 Siege of Paris" in the F.I.P. Championship Class.

Gavin Fryer exhibited "Western Europe 1840-1871" in the F.I.P. Championship Class.

John Levett gained a Large Gold Medal for "Franco-Prussian War 1870-1871" in the Traditional Philately Class.

Ed Grabowski gained a Large Gold Medal for "Guadeloupe: the Development of Stamps and Regular Postal Usage" in the Traditional Philately Class.

Alain Millet gained a Large Vermeil Medal for "New Caledonia: Postal History" in the Traditional Philately Class.

[**Alain Millet** also gained a Gold Medal in the French National Exhibition at Tours, 1-4 June, for "Correspondance avec timbres au type Alphée Dubois" in the Postal History Class.]

Iain Stevenson gained a Vermeil Medal for "Canada: Federal Inspection Revenue Stamps" in the Revenue Class.

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society gained a Large Silver Medal for Volume 51 (the 4 issues of year 2000) in the Literature Class.

Stephen Holder was one of the members of the International Jury.

* * *

Association Astrophilatélique de France

A new philatelic society in France devoted to anything involved in space conquest has just been formed. There will be meetings, a quarterly bulletin, information notes, advice on forming collections, and a circulating packet service. The president of the AAF is Jean-Louis Lafon, 23 rue de Mercantour, 78810 Maurepas.

* * *

A 20F Pont du Gard Perforation 11x11 Variety

David Jennings-Bramly



Figure 1

Many years ago I bought a copy of Y&T 262B, the 20F Pont du Gard stamp, because it had an unusual perforation variety (Fig 1). As can be readily seen, there was a bent "pin" (peg) in the machine perforating this stamp. Nothing to that, you might say, but look again and you will see that in the bottom line the bent pin hole is not in line with the hole in the top line. And that is the variety.

While the four illustrations in Figures 2 to 5 show one or more pins missing, Figure 4 shows a slightly bent pin immediately to the right of the missing pin. The stamps in Figures 2 and 3 are obviously perforated by the same machine and come from the same vertical line, and that in Figure 4 may be perforated by the same machine but has to be from a different line. The stamp in Figure 1 has been perforated by a line machine and those in Figures 2-5 have been done by a stroke comb perforator, and the latter four have the variety immediately in line vertically, as one would expect.

Eventually I was able to find and buy another example of the 20F Pont du Gard stamp with the p 11x11 variety I am enquiring into at the sides of the stamp (Fig 6). I bought it because it shows that the bent pins are again not in line horizontally.

Then I showed the two stamps to a well-known RDP, who I believe was in the printing trade before his retirement, and asked him how it could happen. After careful examination and thought he told me he could not understand why the bent pin holes were not in line. There the matter rested for some years, until last year when, on a whim, I bought Winthrop S Boggs' monograph entitled "Early American perforating machines and perforations 1857-1867" published by the Collectors Club of New York in 1954.

Over the years articles written about Y&T 262B have stated that the (nominal) 11x11 perforation came about because part of the paper used on which to flat-plate print Y&T

262A and 262B had shrunk so badly that the stroke comb perforator gauging $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ (nominal) could not be used on the very shrunk sheets: that had that machine been used, too many stamps would have been so badly misperforated that they could not have been issued and a considerable loss would have ensued. So recourse was had to a single line perforator to finish the shrunk sheets. The actual gauge of the single line machine is, by Stanley Gibbons 'Instanta', 10.95; the machine or machines perforating the unshrunk sheets of Y&T 262A were newly made stroke comb perforators. The machines used to perforate the Mersons could not be used because they would not fit the 50 stamp sheets – the Pont du Gard stamps being slightly deeper.

Unfortunately for collectors there was not a line perforating machine gauging 13 or $13\frac{1}{2}$ used, supposing the Atelier had one, so as is well known many used copies of Y&T 262B have very damaged perfs. There is a suggestion that the fault of the paper was caused by the suppliers cutting some sheets with the flow (mesh) of the paper vertically, as against most sheets being cut from the paper-mill sheets horizontally: that may be so, but I feel that there is a contributory cause and that is the fact that the paper supplied to the printers may have actually varied in composition. Careful examination of my used copies of the $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ and 11x11 stamps seems to show a variation. I suspect that those that shrank 'so badly' were on pure rag paper and that those that could be perforated by the comb machines were on paper of a different composition, a paper more like that used for the rotary printed Pont du Gard stamps. Perhaps somebody would like to pursue that?

What none of the earlier writers has stated is what type of perforator was used, other than that it was a 'single line' perforator gauging 11 holes to 2 centimetres (an inexact method of measurement). Also it has been stated that the same machine was used several years earlier to perforate



Figure 2

several Monaco stamps. The particular Monaco stamps gauge 10.95 by Instanta, as related by me in an article (Journal 211, pages 51-57) on the French colonial stamps which appeared in a mysterious fashion in the 1970s and which are of very dubious origin.

I am trying to discover whether the machine used for the Monaco stamps and 20F Pont du Gard Y&T 262B was a stroke perforator or a rotary machine. Until reading and re-reading Winthrop S Boggs' monograph I was no further forward, when suddenly what appears to be the answer to my quest came to me. Until then I had assumed the line machine in question would have been a stroke machine. Now I feel sure it was a rotary machine, and I hope my readers will follow me further in a short tour of the two families of perforators, viz. the strokes and the rotaries.

The stroke perforators were the first to be invented and made. Initially all they were was a bar or plate with a row of "pins" set in it. Pins are not satisfactory for perforation, as



Figure 4



Figure 3

being tapered to the point piercing the paper, all they do is push aside the paper. The modification that was most successful was to insert solid round pegs and cut the ends across square, and to have those pegs enter a counter-bar or plate so that a disc was punched out – the counter-bar or plate being drilled through so that the discs were expelled, to fall as waste (or confetti): paper separates better when perfed thus.

Initially the work to be perforated had to be advanced by hand, but soon mechanical advance was added. The head of the stroke perforator bearing the "pins" (let's call them pins, though they are pegs) only moves up and down; it does not move sideways or forwards or backwards. Refinements were added, such as mechanical drive and adjustable advance. But a single line machine is slow working and a stroke machine the slowest because it has a reciprocal action: it starts, it stops, it starts, it stops; the head has to be raised to be able to enter the work to be perforated.

The fact that the head of the stroke perforator only moves up and down in its slides, and the sheet beneath it being perforated is fixed to the counter-plate which moves straight



Figure 5



Figure 6

through under the head, means that a bent pin will only make holes in a straight line, as shown in Figures 2-5. The stroke comb perforator, indeed any stroke perforator's head, only moves up and down, and my examples of Y&T 262B do not have the holes in a straight line. Stroke perforators require little engineering skills and therefore were easily made and relatively cheap to purchase.

The layout of a flat-plate printed sheet of the die 1 20F Pont du Gard is as in Figure 7, 50 vignettes 5x10. As can be seen, there are 2 *points de repère*. The sheet of paper would be humidified and then printed and left to dry, a process of expansion and shrinkage; after drying it was gummed, which meant another expansion and contraction; after perforation examination, if approved the control punch would be used $\diamond \curvearrowright \diamond$ signifying that that sheet was fit for issue.

If that sheet had not shrunk too badly it would have been perforated by one of the 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x13 machines. The stroke comb machines perforating the top and two sides of each stamp leave the top (beginning) margin imperforate, and in this instance would have taken 11 strokes to complete the sheet, the bottom margin of the sheet having perforations through it. Use a single line stroke perforator, and to perforate all sides of the 50 stamps would take 17 strokes – and not only that but, having completed all the rows in one direction, the sheet would have had to be turned 90° to perforate the other sides of the stamps; and worse, the advance would have had to be adjusted to fit the different measurement between each row of stamps, the stamps being of oblong format. A slow business!

Another variation on the stroke perforators is the harrow. The harrow perforates all sides of the stamp or stamps in a sheet at one stroke. The 1925 Paris Exhibition sheet and the 1927 Strasbourg sheet are examples of harrows in use in France.

The work of stroke machines can be speeded by putting more than one sheet on the counter-plate. Indeed the practice from 1862 was to put a pile of up to 7 sheets on the

machines, the thickness, toughness, etc governing how many sheets could be successfully perforated at one pass. A problem, as we have seen with Y&T 262B 11x11, is that even if all the sheets had shrunk to the same dimensions there is no way a comb head can be adjusted, wider, narrower or deeper, to fit the sheets varying from the normal.

In 1854, in England, two Englishmen, W Bemrose jnr and Henry H Bemrose, were granted Letters Patent N° 2607 for "machinery for Punching and Perforating Paper, &c." This patent was for a single line rotary perforator. The patent only covered Great Britain. The details of the patent, with its drawings, are given by Winthrop S Boggs (*op. cit.*) and are most interesting.

The Bemrose machine had 2 parallel axles situated one above the other. On the upper axle was the perforating wheel with the pegs radially inserted in the rim, pointing outwards. The lower and driven axle had the counter-wheel drilled through the rim to accept the pegs of the perforating wheel. Synchronisation of the two wheels was simply and efficiently made by intermeshing gear wheels on the axles. The drive was by treadle attached to the lower axle.

Material to be perforated was placed on a support which had a laterally adjustable guide at the left side. The gap between a row of stamps was lined up with the perforating wheels, the treadle set in motion with the upper wheel rotating towards the operator and the sheet pushed forward and drawn between the wheels, a device on the far side making sure that the sheet was separated from the pegs and not carried around on them. Once the sheet had passed through it was retrieved and the process repeated vertically until all the lines were completed, after which the sheet was turned and perforated horizontally.

A rotary motion is faster than a reciprocal one, since there is no start, stop, start, stop as in the stroke machine; because all the operator had to do was line up the material and feed it in, it was a simpler machine to use. However, it did not

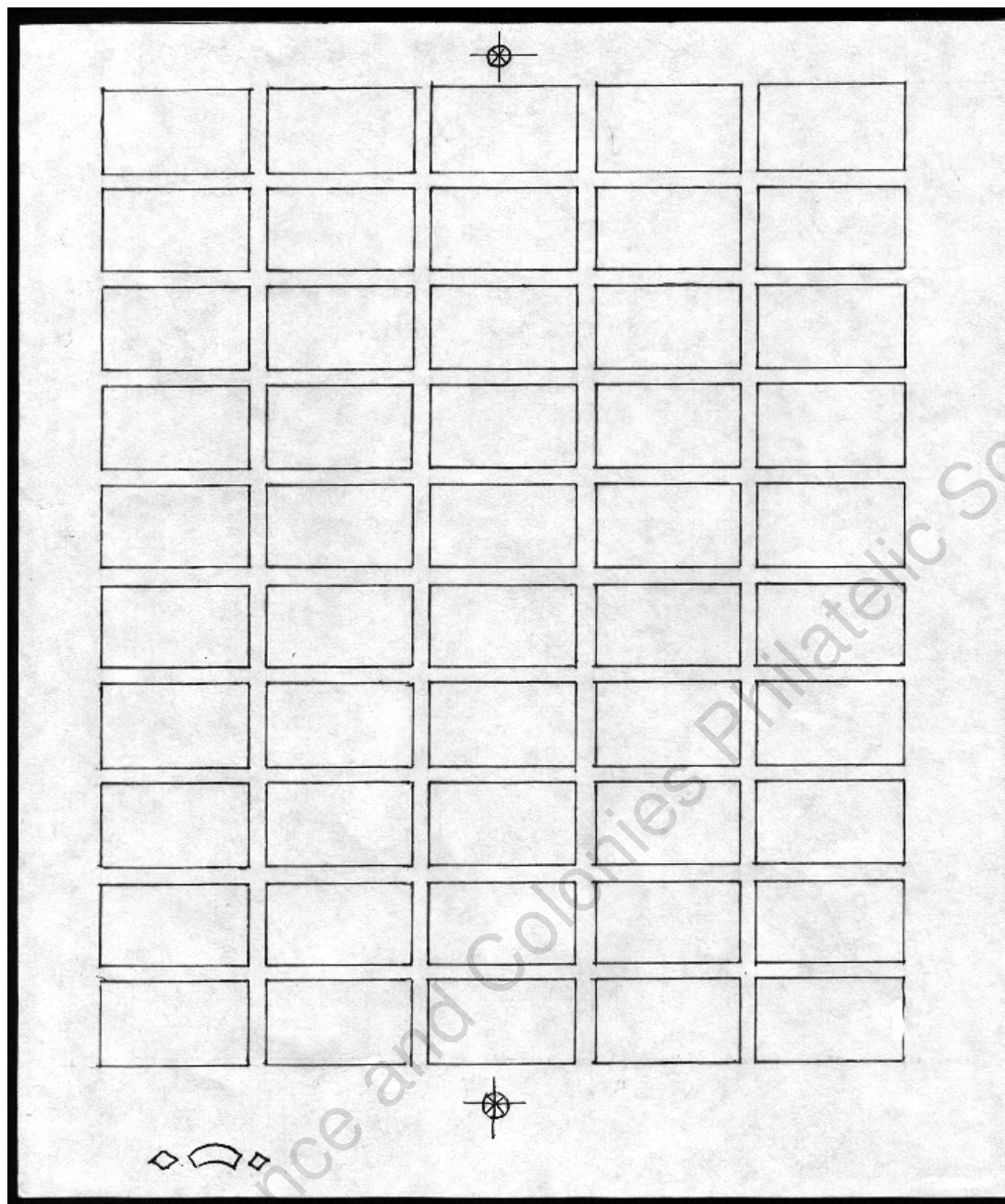


Figure 7

find favour in England, partly because of the greater cost price, partly because of the complacency of the English stamp printers who apparently could not see that greater production in a given time was an advantage, and undoubtedly as a result of the malign influence of the print unions, which would never have allowed “unskilled” operators, such as girls, to be employed. The machine quickly found favour in America, where they bought one or more.

Thanks to the patent not extending to America the Bemrose machine was rapidly copied and greatly improved by having a number of pairs of perforating wheels placed on the axles so that a sheet could be perforated in one pass in one direction and, the wheels being capable of sliding along the axles on which they were located by grub screws, could be adjusted to then perforate a sheet in the other direction – and, not having the union problems of England, could and did use girls as operators, who were cheaper than men.

Doubtless the Americans, when perforating quantities of sheets, would do all the perforating in one direction then adjust their machine to perforate in the other direction, and the larger works would doubtless have had more than one machine and have them adjusted either to work down or to work across the sheets. Time and motion came to the world from America.

So now to the 20F Pont du Gard stamp. The stamp design picked by the Administration was produced by Cheffer and is inferior to Turin’s design. As can be seen, the design which Turin submitted (Fig 8) shows the grandeur of the aqueduct bridge far more naturally than that of Cheffer. The Roman masterpiece of engineering springs from the earth of France, and is not lowered over as it is in Cheffer’s work with the upper corners filled by eye-distracting 20^{Es}.

M. Cheffer engraved 2 dies on steel, as requested: the dies 1 and 2 vary slightly. One die was used to manufacture 3 steel flat plates, each of 50 vignettes, laid out 5x10 as

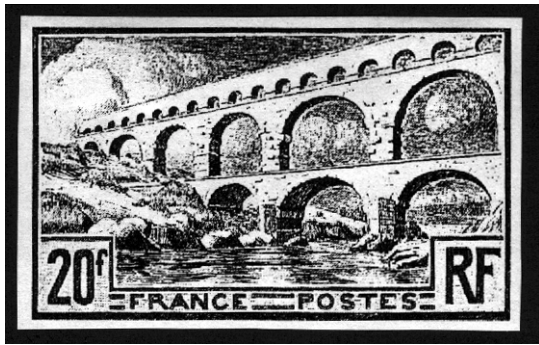


Figure 8 -
Original line drawing 21x32cm
held by le Musée de la Poste

illustrated in Figure 7. The layout is that of the first engraved stamp of France, Y&T 252 *Le Travail* – a stamp designed and engraved by M. Turin for l'Institut de Gravure, a private firm, because the Atelier did not have the necessary skills. The printing of *Le Travail* was done by the Institute under the supervision of members of B^{vd} Brune, and doubtless the supervision was primarily concerned with the security of the stamps being printed.

Cheffer's three plates have slightly differing *points de repère* and can be identified by them. The great majority of the die 1 20F Pont du Gard stamps are perforated 13½x13. The sheets have no accounting numbers, date or press operator's figures or letter. Y&T 262A was issued in 1929, Y&T 262B in 1930, and the rotary prints made in Bvd Brune appear in 1931, with more rotary printings in 1936 and 1937.

Die 2 was used exclusively for the rotary printings. The one cylinder had 3 panes of 25 stamps on it, and printed on a gummed reel of paper (a web).

The PTT had been rotary cylinder printing typo stamps since 1922, and to speed up engraved stamp printing entered into talks with the Chambon company, probably in 1927 or 1928: cost, of course, was the primary consideration. The Chambon company offered the Administration a machine of their manufacture which would do all the PTT required and enable them to go ahead with the first set of engraved stamps of France and subsequent issues at a far cheaper cost than if they used the old obsolescent flat-plate presses. They bought it.

Die 2, used to make plates for the rotary press, only held up for 9 impressions, after which from the 10th to the 75th impressions were in state 2. Two panes have die 2 state 1 stamps, 4 and 5 respectively in the top row, and the third pane is composed of 25 die 2 state 2 stamps. States 1 and 2 of die 2 are illustrated in Yvert, Cérès and other catalogues.

Re-reading Winthrop S Boggs' monograph it suddenly occurred to me how the variety must have come about, though there is an unanswered question, just the same, which I cannot explain for certain. The salient fact is that the perforation wheels and counter-wheels on the rotary machines are of different diameters, which means the wheels rotate at different speeds. The counter-wheels are the larger and therefore have more holes than there are pegs on the perforator wheels, and because of their larger size rotate more slowly.

This means if one takes the bent pin as at BDC [= *bottom dead centre*] and fully in a hole in the counter-wheel, which

hole is at TDC [= *top dead centre*] of that wheel, I designate the bent pin as BP1 and the counter-wheel hole as CW1. Mark the rim, so identifying the hole CW1, and now slowly rotate the wheels until the bent pin BP1 has arrived back at BDC, and it will be found that CW1 has not yet arrived at TDC. Continue the rotation and BP1 moves on and CW1 comes to TDC and passes it; for approximately 3½ turns the bent pin and hole CW1 diverge, but after 3½ turns they start converging until at approximately 7 turns BP1 and CW1 mate again. So long as the wheels rotate the gap will continue to increase and decrease, mating the bent pin and hole CW1 approximately every 7th rotation. This means the chances of the bent pin appearing either level if side perforation or precisely under the vertical point in the top row are very, very small indeed.

The variation in the position of the bent pin as the work is entered causes the difference in the lateral or vertical gap between the two bent pin holes. It must be possible to have one of these stamps with the bent pin showing at both top and bottom and at the sides, but I have yet to find one.

The fact that the perforating wheel and the counter-wheel rotate at different speeds is, so far as I can see, the reason for the holes being out of line vertically or horizontally. Indeed, none of the few examples of this variety that I have seen are identical, and they show greater or lesser divergence. Therefore I feel convinced that the machine gauging 10.95 by "Instanta" was a rotary line machine, bought from Bemrose, or even, possibly, a pirated copy.

However there is a little puzzle, and I am convinced in my own mind that my explanation is adequate to explain it, so that it does not derail my thesis as to the type of machine used to perforate Y&T 262B. The puzzle is the fact that I have seen a top block of 4 of Y&T 262B with a *point de repère* and also a bottom block of 4 with the *point de repère* in the bottom margin – the latter being illustrated in the Yvert & Tellier 1999 "*Livret de l'Expert: Pont du Gard*": perhaps both blocks came from a single sheet. Both blocks, referred to as being perf 11x11, show the *point de repère* having been pierced by the counter-plate locating pins for positioning the sheets to be perforated, as they would have been if placed on the counter-plate of the 13½x13 stroke machine used for 262A.

However I do not consider that this automatically rules out my thesis that a rotary machine was used, because it is quite possible that several sheets of the "shrunk" paper stamps were spoiled, and then the obvious means of finding out if successive sheets were not going to fit the comb machine was to place them on the 13½x13 counter-plate correctly, which means that the *points de repère* would be pierced, as in the 2 blocks I am quoting; then the machine operative could have lowered the perforator head to the paper and, using nature's apparatus the eyeball Mark I, could have ascertained whether or not the comb would fit. If it fitted the stroke would be completed; if the comb did not fit the sheet would be removed and passed to the line perforator operator, and would have the *points de repère* showing holes in them.

I hope readers will give this matter some thought and if anybody can, please come up with any other suggestion as to how this variety could come about.

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 96 3^{ème} Trim 2001: [A] Martinique: timbre-poste N° 7, 3^{ème} tirage, surcharge oblique (Cossu); Nouvelle Calédonie: timbres-poste N° 6, deux timbres pour une surcharge (Delpy); Soudan Français: surcharges de 1894, informations complémentaires (Bouérat et Montpellier); Erratas: information 92-01 Gabon (Huet); Couverture du Bulletin 95 Montze B (Drye); Type Groupe Allégorique: surcharges 1912 (Bessaud).

[B] Spécial Gabon-Congo: Histoire et timbres-poste utilisés de 1886-1910. (Bouérat, d'après Langlois et Bourselet, Pannetier, de Pomyers et Crombez).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1741 May 2001: La tournée mythique d'Angelo Thiburce [sur l'île de la Réunion] (-); Les automates LISA II (-); Les bureaux italiens en Tunisie [1861-1897] Pt.2 (Dutau); Ces coins qui font date (Brisson); Carnets typo pour distributeurs (Trassaert); Monaco à la loupe (SKG).

N° 1742 Jun 2001: Le timbre personnalisé (-); La Poste sarde et italienne en Tunisie Pt 3[fin] (Dutau); Nom de lieu! (de la Mettrie); Les carnets typo pour distributeurs (Trassaert); Un nouveau perforé [deux 0,25 Coq de Decaris avec perforation] (Trassaert); Petit différend postal franco-belge (Prugnon); Belgique allemande et France belge [1914-1918] (Danan).

N° 1743 Jul-Aug 2001: La lettre suivie (-); Genèse du timbre consacré à Pascal (Évin); En montant les échelons de l'échelle des poids (de la Mettrie); On ne badine pas avec la date (Trassaert); Anniversaire des émissions Arbois et Dole (Trassaert); Votre région a-t-elle eu les honneurs du timbre (SKG).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 305 2^{ème} Trim 2001: Les articles d'argent et les militaires. L'origine du paiement à vue (Sené); Atelier « Histoire de la poste en Milieu Rural » Des remises autorisées de lettres hors établissement postal [1797-1803] (Carnévalé-Mauzan et Douron); Découverte: CONSTANTINE type S bis (Lambert); Les arrondissements ruraux du département du Var en 1835, 1847 et 1859 (Trinquier); Le bureau des contreseings de l'Assemblée Nationale (Balsenc); Carte-lettre du Corps Expéditionnaire de Madagascar en 1895 (Baudin); Lettres adressées en poste restante sous initiales et chiffres (Coulon); YVELINES CTC FRANCE (Albaret); La taxation des

lettres suivies insuffisamment affranchies (Coulon); Centre de recherche du courrier des Armées (Albaret); Marques de S3C (Bonnetoy); Du nouveau dans la gamme COL-ISSIMO SUIVI (Frey); Vélocifère (Lecomte); En ces temps-là (Sené); Les nouveautés en matière de guichets-annexes (Delvaux); Les bureaux français d'échange en relation avec la Suisse [1807-1880] (Vuille); Histoire postale: les nouvelles « tendances » dans les collections (Kraemer).

N° 306 3^{ème} Trim 2001: Quelques taxes élevées dans le tarif de 1828 (Trinquier); ONNAING (Stopin); Les articles d'argent et les militaires. L'origine du paiement à vue [2^{ème} partie] (Sené); Le courrier par ballons montés (Brecquehai); Situation administrative de la région de Toulon à la fin du XVIII^e siècle (Gregnac-Daudemard); Transport du courrier par «estaffettes» (Kraemer); A propos de quelques timbres à date spécifiques du service pneumatique à Paris (Delwaulle); A propos du service postal maritime entre Marseille et la Corse (-); Marques postales insolites sur reçus d'articles d'argent (Kraemer); La colonisation de Tahiti. Correspondances des Territoires français de l'Océanie, 1843-1847 (Bonnafox); En ces temps-là...(Sené); A propos des formations sanitaires pendant la guerre 1914-1918 (Guillot); Les formations sanitaires de la Haute Garonne pendant la guerre 1914-1918 (Gallicet et Espanol); Le Frontstalag 232 de Luçon (Perruchon); Réflexions sur l'emploi du timbre représentant la taxe d'avis de réception (Géant).

Timbres magazine

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

N° 13 May 2001: Le «Pasteur» une «croisière» philatélique à plus de 200 000 francs (Melot); La série des «Mouchon B.F.E.» 3° pt (de Pellinec); Il était une fois...les postes chérifiennes (Melot); Collection les bons choix (Baudot); Vous aimez les vieilles lettres? Comment faire? - Les Alpes-Maritimes cont. (Baudot); Le courrier bravait le blocus de Djibouti (Guichenduc, Sinais et Souchard); Lorsque les flammes dérangent...(Aupiais); Napoléon dans tous ses états(Zeyons).

N° 14 Jun 2001: Mais qui a réellement gravé le type « Pasteur » (Melot); D'une guerre à l'autre Indochine [3^e partie] (Michaud); Vous avez dit « Daguin » (Artaud); Ce qu'il faut savoir sur les marques postales de 1792 à 1830 (Baudot); Les Canadiens de la Normandie au Pas-de-Calais (Chauvin).

The Post Offices of French West Africa

Bill Mitchell and Laurence Lambert

PART 2. IVORY COAST (conclusion)

[The introductory section of Part 2 (Ivory Coast) appeared in Journal 220]

Table 2 - Dates of Opening, Closure and Transfer

| | Opened | Closed | Transferred | Source |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Abengourou | 1 February 1916 (R) 1927 ? 1 February 1916 1916 | 1924 ? | | 1 1 5 7 |
| Abidjan | 1 March 1904 1904 | | | 1, 2, 5 7 |
| Abidjan R.P. | 1923 | | | 1 |
| Abidjan Adjamé | 1 May 1953 | renamed Adjamé (qv) | | 1 |
| Abidjan (Adjamé) P.A.R. | 1 April 1974 | | | 1 |
| Abidjan Aéroport | 5 October 1954 | renamed Abidjan Aviation (qv) | | 1 |
| Abidjan Aviation | 1 May 1964 | | | 1 |
| Abidjan Chèques Postaux | 1 June 1950 | | | 1 |
| Abidjan Cocody | 20 May 1963 | | | 1 |
| Abidjan Colis Postaux | 1 June 1954 | renamed Abidjan Messagerie (qv) | | 1 |
| Abidjan 220 Logements | 20 May 1963 | | | 1 |
| Abidjan Koumassi | 1 January 1965 | | | 1 |
| Abidjan Marcory | 6 March 1969 | | | 1 |
| Abidjan Messagerie | 21 May 1962 | | | 1 |
| Abidjan Plateau | 2 November 1955 (R) April 1959 | October 1958 | | 1 1 |
| Abidjan Port | 1 June 1964 | | | 1 |
| Abidjan Transbordement | 1 August 1965 | | | 1 |
| Abidjan Tri | 1 January 1972 | | | 1 |
| Abidjean - see Abidjan | | | | |
| Abobo | 1910 (bg) | ? (1) | | 1 |
| Abobo-Gare | 1 June 1975 | | | 1 |
| Aboisso | 24 May 1904 25 May 1904 1904 | | | 1 2, 5 7 |
| Abongoua | 1971 | | | 1 |
| Aboudé | 1 February 1971 | | | 1 |
| Addah | 1896 | 1913 1913 | | 1, 2 4 |
| Adiaké | 25 May 1943 | | | 1 |
| Adjakouty | 1896 | 1905 | | 1, 2 |
| Adjamé | 1953 | | | 1 |
| Adzopé | 1908 (R) 15 March 1932 | ? 1919 (4) | | 1 1 |
| Agboville | 1 June 1909 1 January 1914 1914 | | | 1 5 7 |
| Agboville P.A.R. | December 1975 | | | 1 |
| Agnibilékrou | 20 December 1915 (R) 1 April 1929 | 1916 | | 1 1 |
| Agou | 1973 | | | 1 |
| Ahuacre-Broubou | 1 February 1905 1905 (R?) ? | 1908 1916 or later? | | 1 7 8 (5) |
| Akoupé | 1 January 1961 | | | 1 |
| Akouré | 1 June 1974 | | | 1 |
| Alépé | 10 January 1899 (R) 24 June 1953 (R) 2 May 1956 10 January 1894 1894 | 1923 28 August 1955 | | 1 1 1 5 7 |

| | Opened | Closed | Transferred | Source |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Ananda | 1 May 1968 | | | 1 |
| Andé | 1 January 1970 | | | 1 |
| Anoumabo | 1910 (bg) (R) 1 June 1968 | ? (1) | | 1 1 |
| Anyama | 1910 (bg) (R) 19 June 1954 | ? (1) | | 1 1 |
| Anyama-Akoupé | 1 July 1974 | | | 1 |
| Arrah | 1 October 1959 | | | 1 |
| Assahara | 1 June 1968 | | | 1 |
| Assié-Koumassi | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Assikasso | 1 May 1900 1 May 1900 1900 | 1916 | 31 December 1915 (Agnibilékrou, qv) | 1, 2 5 7 |
| Assinie | October 1862 (R) 1880 1862 (R) 1880 1862 (R) 1887 late 1889 about 1890 | January 1871 1871 1871 | 1943 (Adiaké, qv) | 1 1 2 2 6 6 7 5 |
| Assounoué (6) | | | | |
| Assuéfry | 1 September 1968 | | | 1 |
| Atiékoua | 1 July 1974 | | | 1 |
| Ayamé | 1 September 1963 | | | 1 |
| Azaguié | 1910 (bg) (R) 8 June 1953 | ? (1) | | 1 1 |
| Bacon | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Badikaha | 1927 (R) 1 November 1934 (R) ? (R) 1946 | 1934 1941 1946 1948 | | 1 1 1 1 |
| Bako | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Bamoro | 1922 (bg) | ? (1) | | 1 |
| Banfora (#) | [8 July 1905] [8 July 1905] | | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) † | 1 3 |
| Bangolo | 1 September 1963 | | | 1 |
| Baoulé (7) | | | | |
| Bayota | 15 November 1969 | | | 1 |
| Batié (#) | [1928] [before 1906] | | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) † | 1 3 |
| Béoumi | 1 February 1952 | | | 1 |
| Béréby - see under Grand Béréby | | | | |
| Bérégadougou (#) | 1934 | ? (8) | | 1 |
| Bettie | 19 April 1899 18 April 1899 1899 | 1910 ? | | 1, 2 5 7 |
| Biankouma | 1 September 1963 | | | 1 |
| Binao | 20 Decmber 1956 | | | 1 |
| Bingerville | 25 March 1901 25 May 1901 1901 | | | 1, 5 2 7 |
| Bin-Houyé | 1 October 1967 | | | 1 |
| Bini-Barabo (9) | 15 September 1963 | | 1 May 1968 (Sandégué, qv) | 1 |
| Bliéron | 7 August 1897 | 1925 | | 1, 2 |
| Bloléquin | 1 May 1968 | | | 1 |
| Bobo-Dioulasso (#) | [6 May 1899] [6 May 1899] | | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) † | 1 3 |
| Bocanda | 1 August 1952 seen 1933 | | | 1 5 |
| Bodokro | 1 July 1972 | | | 1 |
| Boli | 1916 (bg) | ? (1) | | 1 |

| | Opened | Closed | Transferred | Source |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Bondoukou | 18 May 1900 (10) 1900 | | | 1, 2, 5 7 |
| Bondoukou P.A.R. | 3 May 1968 | | | 1 |
| Bongouanou | 1 November 1909 (R) 3 March 1954 | 1913 1913 | | 1 1 4 |
| Boniéredougou | 1 June 1968 | | | 1 |
| Bonoua | 1 March 1956 | | | 1 |
| Boromo (#) | [1920] [seen 1920] | | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) † | 1 3 |
| Borotou | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Botro | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Bouaflé | 1 October 1912 (11) | | | 1 |
| Bouaké | 15 October 1904 1904 | | | 1, 2, 5 7 |
| Bouaké P.A.R. | 1 January 1949 (R) 1 June 1963 | 1 March 1953 | | 1 1 |
| Bouandougou | 1 November 1960 | | | 1 |
| Bouapé | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Boudépé | 1 January 1970 | | | 1 |
| Bouna | 1905 (R) 1938? 1905 | 1935? 1912 (12) | | 1 1 2 4 |
| Boundiali | 1913 early 1913 | | | 1 4 |
| Boussoukro | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Brobo | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Brofodoumé | 1 July 1974 | | | 1 |
| Brou-Akpadoussou | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Buyo | 15 September 1963 | | | 1 |
| Cechi | 1910 (bg) (R) 1975 | ? (1) | | 1 1 |
| Dabakala | 1900 (13) | | | 1, 2 |
| Dabou | 1896 11 May 1903 1903 | | | 1, 2 5 7 |
| Dabou Guichet Annexe Mobile (14) | | | | 1 |
| Daloa | 1 January 1909 | | | 1 |
| Daloa P.A.R. | 23 June 1964 | | | 1 |
| Danané | 3 December 1934 | | | 1 |
| Daoukro | April 1954 | | | 1 |
| Dar Salamy (#) | 1934 (bg) | ?(1) | | 1 |
| Dédougou (#) (15) | [1912] [1912] | | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) † | 1 3 |
| Déghoré | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Diabo | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Diarrabadougou (#) | 1933 (bg) | ? (2) | | 1 |
| Dibou | 1895 | 1909 | | 1 |
| Didiévi | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Diébougou (#) | [1905] [before 1905] [(R) 1931] | [6 July 1920] | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) † | 1 3 3 |
| Diéfoula (#) (16) | [seen 1906] [?] | ? ? | | 3 5 |
| Diégonéfla | 1 January 1966 | | | 1 |
| Dignago | 1 July 1972 | | | 1 |
| Dikodougou | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Dimbokro | 5 June 1909 | | | 1 |
| Dimbokro P.A.R. | 15 January 1951 (R) 1 June 1968 | 1 October 1953 | | 1 1 |
| Dinguira | 1 July 1974 | | | 1 |
| Divo | 15 September 1915 15 December 1915 1916 | | | 1 5 7 |

| | Opened | Closed | Transferred | Source |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Djibo (#) (17) | | | | 9 |
| Djoro-Djoro | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Dolomon | 1 July 1974 | | | 1 |
| Doropo | 1 May 1968 | ? (18) | | 1 |
| Doughafla | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Drewin | 1896 | 1913 1913 1 January 1906 | | 1, 2 4 5 |
| Duékoué | 1 January 1921 seen 1933 | | | 1 5 |
| Élibou | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Ery-Makouguié | 1 February 1905 1 February 1905 1 February 1905 1905 | 1909 ? | June 1909 (Agboville, <i>qv</i>) | 1 2 5 7 |
| Facobly | 1 October 1963 | | | 1 |
| Ferkessédougou | July 1925 | | | 1 |
| Fresco | 1897 (R) 1 September 1963 | 1932 | | 1 1 |
| Gadouan | 15 November 1969 | | | 1 |
| Gagnoa | 1924 | | | 1 |
| Gangoro | 1 January 1970 | | | 1 |
| Gaoua (#) | [1905] [seen in 1905] | | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) † | 1 3 |
| G'Bon | 1 June 1968 | | | 1 |
| Goïtafla | 1 June 1968 | | | 1 |
| Gomon (6) | | | | |
| Gonaté | 1 May 1974 | | | 1 |
| Goulia | 1 June 1968 | | | 1 |
| Gouméré | 1 May 1968 | | | 1 |
| Gouroutou | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Grabo | 1 January 1970 | | | 1 |
| Grand-Aféry | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Grand Alépé | 1 January 1963 | | | 1 |
| Grand-Bassam | 1880 1885 late 1889 about 1890 | | | 1, 2 6 7 5 |
| Grand-Bassam Câbles (19) | | | | 8 |
| Grand-Béréby (20) | 1895 (R) 15 December 1972 1895 seen 1896 | 11 December 1918 | | 1 1 2, 6, 7 5 |
| Grand-Lahou (21) | 1890 late 1889 about 1895 | | | 1, 2 7 5 |
| Gregbeu | 1 July 1964 | | 1967 (Zoukougbeu, <i>qv</i>) | 1 |
| Groumania | seen 1905 (R) 1 June 1968 1905 (22) | 1916 1916 closed ? | | 1 1 2 5 |
| Guessabo | 15 November 1969 | | | 1 |
| Gueyo | 1 January 1963 | | | 1 |
| Guibéroua | 1 September 1963 | | | 1 |
| Guiborosso | 15 July 1971 | | | 1 |
| Guiglo | 15 January 1934 seen 1931 | | | 1 5 |
| Guiroutou | 1 April 1973 | | | 1 |
| Guitry | 1 September 1954 | | | 1 |
| Hermankoro | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Hirre-Watta | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Houndé (#) | [1920] [seen 1920] | ? (23) | | 1 3 |
| Hyrre | 1 January 1970 | | | 1 |
| Ingrakon | 1 June 1974 | | | 1 |
| Issia | 1 November 1909 (R) 1951 | 1940 | | 1 1 |

| | Opened | Closed | Transferred | Source |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jacqueville | 1890 (R) 1 September 1963 late 1889 1890 about 1890 | 1940 | | 1 1 7 2 5 |
| Kan | 1912 (bg) | ? (1) | | 1 |
| Kani | 1956 | | | 1 |
| Kantchari (#) | 1939 | | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) | 1 |
| Katiola | seen August 1924 (R) 1 February 1929 (R) 20 April 1936 1922 about 1923 | 1926 (24) December 1930 (24) | Niangbo, <i>qv</i> | 1 1 1 7 5 |
| Kaya (#) | [1902] | | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) | 1 |
| | [1902] | | † | 3 |
| Kimoukadou | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Kiohan | 1925 (bg) | ? (1) | | 1 |
| Kodiokoffi | 1903 15 September 1904 | 1916 (25) closed ? | | 1, 2 5 |
| Kodiossou | 1 July 1974 | | | 1 |
| Kokumbo | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Kolia | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Kong | 9 May 1900 (R) 1 November 1966 | 1922 | | 1, 2 1 |
| Korhogo | 25 May 1905 1905 | | | 1, 2, 5 7 |
| Korhogo P.A.R. | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Koro (26) | | | | 8 |
| Kossandji | 1 July 1974 | | | 1 |
| Kotobi | 20 June 1965 | | | 1 |
| Kotrou | seen 1905 | ? after 1910 | | 1 |
| Kouassi Datekro | 1 July 1972 | | | 1 |
| Kouassi-Kouassikro | 1 June 1968 | | | 1 |
| Koudougou (#) | [1920] | | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) | 1 |
| | [1920] | | † | 3 |
| Kouibly | 1 September 1963 | | | 1 |
| Koun-Fao | 1 May 1968 | | | 1 |
| Kouroukoukoha | 1929 (bg) | ? (2) | | 1 |
| Kouto | 1 June 1956 (R) 1 June 1963 | 30 April 1961 | | 1 1 |
| Krinjabo (27) | 1 July 1972 | | | 1 |
| Lakota | 1925 seen 1933 | | | 1 5 |
| La Mê | 1 June 1974 | | | 1 |
| Lenguedougou | 1 March 1960 | | | 1 |
| Léo (#) | [1928] | | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) | 1 |
| | seen since 1928 | | † | 3 |
| Logoualé | March 1914 (R) 1 January 1956 early 1914 1914 | 1926 | | 1 1 4 5, 7 |
| Louïgué | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Madinani | 1 June 1956 | | | 1 |
| Mafféré | 1975 | | | 1 |
| Man | August 1910 | | | 1 |
| Man P.A.R. | 1 May 1968 | | | 1 |
| Mankono (28) | 1905 1903 1912 | | | 1 2 5, 7 |
| M'Bahiakro | October 1953 seen 1933 | | | 1 5 |
| M'Batto | 1 January 1960 | | | 1 |
| M'Bengué | 1 June 1968 | | | 1 |
| Memni | 1 July 1974 | | | 1 |

| | Opened | Closed | Transferred | Source |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Monga | 1 July 1974 | | | 1 |
| Montezo | 1 July 1974 | | | 1 |
| Moossou | 15 March 1914 | 1923 | | 1 |
| Morondo (29) | 6 October 1969 | | | 1 |
| Moyen Béréby - see Grand-Béréby (20) | | | | |
| Naniefonogo | 1932 (bg) | ? (2) | | 1 |
| Napieolédougou | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Nassian | 15 February 1964 | | | 1 |
| N'Dokouassikro | 1916 (bg) (R) 1 June 1968 | ? (1) | | 1 1 |
| N'Douci | 1955 | | | 1 |
| N'Gakron | 1 April 1974 | | | 1 |
| Niakaramandougou | 1 July 1963 | | | 1 |
| Niangbo (30) | 1926 1928 (bg) | 1928 ? | | 1 1 |
| Niangoloko (#) | 1933 (bg) | | 1 January 1948 (31) (Upper Volta) | 1 |
| Niedekaha | 1926 (bg) | ? (1) | | 1 |
| Nielle (32) | 1933 | ? | | 1 |
| Nofou | 1916 (bg) | ? (1) | | 1 |
| N'Zinoua | 1975 | | | 1 |
| N'Zoghi | 1 July 1974 | | | 1 |
| Obhogo (33) | | | | 8 |
| Odienné | 1902 1910 seen 1911 | | | 1, 2 7 5 |
| Odienné P.A.R. | 1 June 1968 | | | 1 |
| Ono | 1 September 1969 | | | 1 |
| Onossou (34) | | | | |
| Ouagadougou (#) | [12 February 1898] [12 February 1898] | | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) † | 1 3 |
| Ouagadougou R.P. (#) (35) | | | | |
| Ouagadougou Auxiliaire (#) (35) | | | | |
| Ouangofitini | 1 March 1969 | | | 1 |
| Ouangolodougou | 1933 (bg) (R) 2 May 1961 | ? (1) | | 1, 5 1 |
| Ouellé | 1930 | | | 1 |
| Oumé | June 1929 | | | 1 |
| Ouossou (34) | 30 July 1904 30 July 1904 1904 | December 1912 1912 | | 1, 2 4 5 7 |
| Ouragahio | 1 September 1963 | | | 1 |
| Pacobo (36) | May 1965 | | | 1 |
| Péni (#) | 1934 (bg) | ? (1) | | 1 |
| Po (#) | [1928] [seen from 1928] | | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) † | 1 3 |
| Port-Bouët | 1905 (R) 2 November 1953 1905 | ? (3) | | 1 1 2 |
| Prikro | 1 June 1968 | | | 1 |
| Raviart | 1910 (bg) | ? (1) | | 1 |
| Rubino | 1910 (bg) (R) 1 August 1965 | ? (1) | | 1 1 |
| Saïoua | 1 May 1965 | | | 1 |
| Sakasso | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Sandégué | 1 May 1968 | | | 1 |
| San Pedro | 7 July 1897 (R) 1 August 1965 5 July 1897 1897 | February 1937 | | 1 1 2, 5 7 |
| Sassandra | December 1896 1896 seen 1901 1901 | | | 1 2 5 7 |
| Satama Sokoura | 1 June 1968 | | | 1 |

| | Opened | Closed | Transferred | Source |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Séguéla | 1902 1912 seen 1913 | | | 1, 2 7 5 |
| Séguéla P.A.R. | 1 May 1968 | | | 1 |
| Séguelon | 1 June 1968 | | | 1 |
| Seïzra | 1 January 1970 | | | 1 |
| Sifié | 1 January 1964 | | | 1 |
| Sikensi | 1 September 1963 | | | 1 |
| Sinématiali | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Sinfra | 6 July 1907 (R) 18 April 1955 | 1912 (37) | | 1 1 |
| Singrobo | 30 July 1904 30 July 1904 30 July 1904 1904 | 17 March 1905 13 March 1905 ? | | 1 2 5 7 |
| Sipilou | 1972 | | | 1 |
| Sirasso | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Soubré | 26 August 1907 (R) 1 January 1952 (R) seen 1933 | 1927 (38) 10 May 1916 | | 1 1 5 5 |
| Tabagné | 1 July 1968 | | | 1 |
| Tabou (39) | 1 August 1897 1897 | | | 1, 2, 5 7 |
| Tafiré | 1927 (40) (R) 3 July 1954 seen 1932 | 15 November 1934 | | 1 1 5 |
| Taï | 15 September 1963 | | | 1 |
| Tanda | 15 June 1954 | | | 1 |
| Téhini | 1 May 1968 | | | 1 |
| Tenkodogo (#) | [1898] [1898] | | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) † | 1 3 |
| Tiassalé | 1902 1903 11 May 1903 (R) ? - seen 1931 | 10 May 1916 | | 1, 2 7 5 5 |
| Tiassalé P.A.R. | December 1975 | | | 1 |
| Tiébissou | January 1952 | | | 1 |
| Tiémélékro | 1913 (bg) (R) 1 June 1968 | ? (1) | | 1 1 |
| Tienfaya | 1936 (bg) | ? (1) | | 1 |
| Tieningboué | 1 May 1968 | | | 1 |
| Tienko | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Tiény-Siably | 1 January 1970 | | | 1 |
| Tingrela | 1 June 1963 | | | 1 |
| Tombougou | 1 May 1905 1 May 1905 8 May 1905 | early 1913 early 1913 1913 ? | Boundiali, qv Boundiali, qv | 1 4 2 5 |
| Tortiya | 8 July 1957 | | | 1 |
| Touba | 1900 28 June 1907 1907 | | | 1, 2 5 7 |
| Toubaboukro | 1973 | | | 1 |
| Toukouzou | 1 March 1968 | | | 1 |
| Toulepleu | 1 April 1953 | | | 1 |
| Toumodi | 15 August 1904 (41) 15 August 1904 August 1904 1904 | | | 1 5 2 7 |
| Toupa | 15 June 1907 16 April 1908 1908 | 1919 | | 1 5 7 |
| Touro | 1922 (bg) | ? (1) | | 1 |
| Tousiana (#) | 1934 (bg) | ? (1) | | 1 |
| Transua | 1 May 1968 | | | 1 |
| Treichville | 1 January 1939 | | | 1 |

| | Opened | Closed | Transferred | Source |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Vavoua | 1 September 1954 | | | 1 |
| Vridi | 1 June 1950 | 31 August 1963 (42) | | 1 |
| Wappou | 1897 | ? (43) | | 1 |
| | 1897 | 1912 | | 2 |
| Worofla | 1 May 1968 | | | 1 |
| Yakassé | 1 March 1956 | | | 1 |
| Yako (#) | [June 1897] | | 1 January 1948 (Upper Volta) | 1 |
| | [June 1897] | | † | 3 |
| Yamoussoukro | 18 October 1956 | | | 1 |
| Yapo | 1910 (bg) | ? (1) | | 1 |
| Yassap | 1964 | | | 1 |
| Yendéré (#) | 1933 (bg) | ? (1) | 1 January 1948 (44) (Upper Volta) | 1 |
| Zagné | 1 May 1966 | | | 1 |
| Zaranou | 19 March 1900 | 1 February 1916 | 1 February 1916 (Abengourou, qv) | 1 |
| | 19 March 1900 | | | 2, 5 |
| | 1900 | | | 7 |
| Zikisso | 1 July 1974 | | | 1 |
| Zokolilié (45) | 1 September 1968 | | | 1 |
| Zouan-Hounien | 1 November 1963 | | | 1 |
| Zoukougbeu | 1 May 1968 | | | 1 |
| Zuénoula | October 1953 | | | 1 |

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

(#) indicates an office in Upper Volta. Dates in square brackets are prior to its incorporation in Ivory Coast; a † in the “transferred” column indicates that the source (n° 3) ends with the 1933 partition.

(bg) indicates a “bureau gare.”

Sources

1. C Bouérat: “*Essai de Nomenclature des Etablissements de Poste et de Télécommunications de Côte d’Ivoire*” (COL.FRA, Paris, *Bulletin Hors-série* N° 16-2, 1999). This consists of a listing of all offices open over the period 1862 to 1 January 1970 (the “*Nomenclature*”), with details of the services provided and dates of opening and closing for practically every one, with an *Annexe* containing a complete list of the offices open as at 30 June 1975 grouped according to status. Despite one or two apparent slips it is the definitive account from a former Principal Inspector in the PTT in Ivory Coast. It is the only source to cover the entire period, and we have given it priority where (occasionally) another source gives an earlier date of opening.
2. 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).
3. C Bouérat: “*Les Postes et Télégraphes en Haute-Volta (1920-1932)*” (Société Internationale d’Histoire Postale, Grenoble - *Bulletin* N° 15, 1969, pp 56-84).
4. C Bouérat: Comments appended to the COL.FRA reprint of the 1914 *Annuaire*.
5. M Langlois and V Bourselet: “*Les Oblitérations des Bureaux de Poste des Colonies et Possessions Françaises - Afrique Occidentale Française*” (Editions de Graouli, Paris, 1937).
6. Comte O de Pomyers: “*Les Timbres du Gabon et du Congo Français*” (published by the author, no date but about 1960).
7. A Michon: “*Côte d’Ivoire - 1892-1944, un Demi-siècle de Variétés*” (*Le Monde des Philatélistes* N° 401, October 1986, pp 76-78).
8. G Venot: Unpublished list of Ivory Coast cancels (undated, but believed to be after 1960).
9. G Venot: As above, list of Upper Volta cancels.

Notes

- (1) Seen 1937.
- (2) Seen 1936.
- (3) Seen 1931.
- (4) Adzopé. Intermittent service 1919-32.
- (5) See Table 1, Note (1).
- (6) Assounoué, Gomon. Not included in Bouérat’s “*Nomenclature*”; no date of opening shown in 1975 list.

- (7) Baoulé. See Table 1, Note (2).
- (8) Bérégadougou. Date of closure unknown; "seen 1937." Not included in Upper Volta lists for 1948 or 1951.
- (9) Bini-Barabo. Never actually functioned.
- (10) Bondoukou. Intermittent service 1920-29.
- (11) Bouaflé. Intermittent service 1915-26.
- (12) Bouna. This closure is not mentioned in Source 1.
- (13) Dabakala. Intermittent service 1922-36.
- (14) Dabou Guichet Annexe Mobile. See Table 1, Note (6).
- (15) Dédougou. The details are taken from Bouérat's most recent (1999) account. His 1969 article reads: "seen 1897 - definitely open since 1912". We have assumed that since 1969 doubts have arisen over the 1897 attribution.
- (16) Diéfoula. Included by Langlois & Bourselet among the offices transferred to Ivory Coast in 1933. Bouérat's entry (source 3) reads: "seen 1906; not included in the lists for Upper Volta"; this office does not appear in his 1999 list (source 1). It was included in the 1909 UPU dictionary but deleted in the 1912 supplement.
- (17) Djibo. A *DJIBO COTE D'IVOIRE* cancel (no dater block) is illustrated by Venot. This office is not mentioned by Bouérat in his 1999 list; in the Table 1 sources it appears under Upper Senegal and Niger for 1907, 1909 and 1914 and under Upper Volta for 1926. Langlois & Bourselet record (pp 32 and 35) that on the partition of Upper Volta in 1933 it was transferred to French Sudan, but it does not appear in the 1937 UPU list for that colony. Venot's illustrations suggest that it was returned to Upper Volta when that colony was reconstituted in 1948, but no office of this name is recorded in the sources for 1948 or 1951.
- (18) Doropo. See Table 1, Note (10).
- (19) Grand Bassam Câbles. See Table 1, Note (11).
- (20) Grand Béréby, Moyen Béréby. Bouérat records (source 1) a postal service by Customs in 1895, and gives the date of opening of the post office as 27 July 1897. In his earlier account (source 2) he calls the 1895 service a postal agency. The dates for sources 1, 5, 6 and 7 are under "Moyen Béréby" (see Table 1, Note (12)).
- (21) Grand-Lahou. See Table 1, Note (13).
- (22) Groumania. The year of opening is given as 1900 but this was as a telegraph office; postal facilities were added in 1905.
- (23) Houndé. Apparently closed; not shown in Upper Volta lists for 1948 and 1951.
- (24) Katiola. A *bureau gare* service was retained after the 1926 and 1930 closures.
- (25) Kodiokoffi. Intermittent service from 1911 to 1916, when closed.
- (26) Koro. See Table 1, Note (14).
- (27) Krinjabo. Bouérat (1999) records that in May, June and July 1904 "*matériel de timbrage*" for this office was used at Aboisso; Venot illustrates a double-ring cachet with a continuous inner circle and without dater block.
- (28) Mankono. Periodic interruptions to services between 1922 and 1953 (Bouérat, 1999). The "1903" entry in source 2 may be a typing error for "1905".
- (29) Morondo. There is a discrepancy in the source (Bouérat, 1999). The date quoted, 6 October 1969, appears in the "*Nomenclature*"; in the list of offices in 1975 the date of opening is recorded as "1975".
- (30) Niangbo. Reduced to a *bureau gare* after 1928, seen 1936.
- (31) Niangoloko. A *bureau gare* apparently transferred to Upper Volta in 1948, as "seen 1958." Not included in the Upper Volta sources for 1948 or 1951.
- (32) Nielle. "*Vu Poste en 1933*". Apparently closed; not recorded in any of the sources for Table 1.
- (33) Obhogo. See Table 1, Note (20).
- (34) Onossou, Ouossou. See Table 1, Note (21).
- (35) Ouagadougou R.P., Ouagadougou Auxiliaire. See Table 1, Note (22). Examples dated 13 June 1929 and 29 April 1926 respectively are in the collection of WGM.
- (36) Pacobo. "1965" is possibly an error for "1966", the year in which it became a "*cabine téléphonique*". Promotion to *Correspondant Postal* status came in 1975.
- (37) Sinfra. Intermittent service 1912-55.
- (38) Soubré. The administrator of the surviving telegraph office retained a postal agency after closure in 1927.
- (39) Tabou. See Table 1, Note (23).
- (40) Tafiré. A *bureau gare* in 1927, service formalised in 1928.
- (41) Toumodi. Intermittent service 1920-44.
- (42) Vridi. Status reduced to *Cabine Téléphonique*, 1 March 1952.
- (43) Wappou. Seen 1911.
- (44) Yendéré. Transfer to Upper Volta doubtful - not included in subsequent sources for that colony.
- (45) Zokolilié. There is a discrepancy in the source (Bouérat 1999). The date quoted, 1 September 1968, comes from the "*Nomenclature*"; in the 1975 list he gives the date as "1975".

Table 3 - Alternative Spellings

We have noted a significant number of alternative spellings of post office names for this colony, many of them in M. Venot's unpublished list of cancels (the only variant which is likely to be met with at all frequently is ABIDJEAN for Abidjan, and this is really an old spelling rather than a variant). Many of these are no doubt alternative transliterations of local place names; others are probably transcription errors. In the list which follows spellings extracted from M. Venot's list are indicated by an asterisk.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Abidjan - | *ABIDJEAN (also source for 1907, Langlois & Bourselet and mentioned in Bouérat 1999). |
| Aboisso - | *ABOISSE (also Langlois & Bourselet). |
| Adiaké - | *ADDIAKE |
| Adjakouty - | *ADJACOUTI; ADJACOUTY (Bouérat 1972). |
| Agnibilékrou - | AGNEBILEKROU (source for 1937); *AGNIBILEKRO; AGNIEBILEKROU (Bouérat 1999 - cancels reported). |
| Ahuacre-Broubou - | *AHUACRE BROU-BROU; *AHUACRE (also source for 1907). |
| Anoumabo - | *ANOUMABA. |
| Bini-Barabo - | BIRNI-BARABO (Bouérat 1999 - under Sandgug on p 17). |
| Bocanda - | *BOCANDE (also Langlois & Bourselet). |
| Bondoukou - | *BONDOUGOU; BOUDOUKO (source for 1914). |
| Bouaflé - | *BOUAFFLE. |
| Cechi - | CECHY (source for 1926). |
| Dabou - | DABOUT (Michon). |
| Ery-Makouguie - | ERY MACOUGUIE (source for 1907). |
| Grand/Moyen Béréby - | *(MOYEN) BEREBI (also Langlois & Bourselet). |
| Grand Lahou - | GRAND LAHON (source for 1895); *LAHOU. |
| Jacqueville - | *JACQUEVILLE. |
| Kodiokoffi - | KODIOKOFI (source for 1907); *KOUADIOKOFI (also Langlois & Bourselet). |
| Korhogo - | KORHOHO, KORHOKO (Bouérat 1999); *KOROKO (also source for 1907, 1909, 1926, 1937, Michon and Bouérat 1999). KORHOGO seems to be the currently accepted spelling. |
| Madiniani - | *MADINANI. |
| M'Bahiakro - | *M'BAIAKRO (also Langlois & Bourselet; *M'BAIKRO (this reads M'BAI KRO and may be from a damaged M'Baiakro handstamp); *M'BAMAKRO. |
| Ouangolodougou - | OUANGOLONDOUGOU (Langlois & Bourselet). |
| Ouossou - | ONOSSOU (source for 1914 - see Table 1, note (20)); OUESSOU (Langlois & Bourselet, Michon); *OUOSSO. |
| Singrobo - | SINGOROBO (Langlois & Bourselet). |
| Tabou - | *GRAND TABOU. |
| Yako - | YAKA (Bouérat, 1969 Upper Volta article). |
| Yamoussoukro - | *YAMOSSOUKRO. |

[The next part of this article will deal with Mauritania.]

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

Mick Bister

Part II

"In view of the bereavement of Her Majesty the Queen the President of the French Republic has enquired whether it would be more agreeable to Their Majesties to postpone their visit to Paris until July 19-22. Their Majesties, deeply appreciating the motives underlying Monsieur Lebrun's suggestion, have gladly accepted it. The unveiling of the Australian National War Memorial will therefore take place on Friday, July 22."

Statement from Buckingham Palace

The Queen's mother, Countess of Strathmore and Kinghorne, had died at 2 o'clock in the morning of Thursday 23 June 1938. In Britain the later editions of some papers were able to report it the same day but in France it was not announced until the following morning when "evidence of very real public sympathy was apparent among Frenchmen of every class." Anxiety grew on both sides of the Channel as it became apparent that the state visit to France scheduled to commence in four days' time would have to be postponed. No commands were issued for Court Mourning as the King and Queen "were anxious to cause as little disturbance as possible to arrangements for social events already made in view of the fact that it is the height of the London season."

With no formal period of mourning it would have been possible to rearrange the visit for the week after the funeral but it would have fallen during the preparations for the Fête Nationale on 14 July when most Parisians would have had other priorities. Postponing it until August would have found a capital empty of Parisians. After consultations

involving Lord Halifax, the Foreign Secretary and Lord Cromer, the Lord Chamberlain, the French President's proposal to postpone the visit until 19 July was accepted. The delay would have been particularly aggravating for Halifax who was keen to be in Paris to discuss the deteriorating European scene with his French counterpart. In Prague the Czechoslovakian cabinet was holding its first discussions with representatives of the Sudeten Germans and in Berlin Field-Marshal Göring had issued a decree giving him powers to compel Reich citizens to work on any tasks assigned to them, particularly in heavy industry. In Breslau the first one hundred public loudspeakers intended for propaganda purposes had just been put into operation. Talks between Britain and France were becoming more essential by the hour.

The day after President Lebrun's proposal had been accepted, the PTT was contacting its regional and *départemental* postmasters with new instructions regarding the revised date of issue of Cheffer's stamp. The directive, N° 607 bis/38 C and dated 24 June 1938, stated:

The issue of the postage stamp commemorating the state visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Great Britain has been postponed until 19 July.

You are requested to advise without delay all the services concerned in your *département* and in particular to instruct the post offices to inform the public by means of suitably positioned temporary signs.

Inevitably, with two conflicting directives regarding the same issue being dispatched to post offices within four days of one another, there was some confusion. The Mayor of Puteaux who was also *Député de la Seine* wondered if there were to be two different stamps issued, one on 28 June and the other on 19 July and wrote to the PTT for clarification. The response he received simply reiterated the second directive.

At the *Atelier des Timbres-Poste* in the Boulevard Brune in Paris, printing of the 1F75 Royal Visit stamp was approaching completion but with the postponement having been confirmed the date incorporated into the design was now no longer correct. Could a solution be found in time for the new date of issue? One answer would have been to overprint the sheets immediately with the new date but such drastic action would have ruined an otherwise tasteful design. Another solution would have been to discard the current printings altogether, authorise Cheffer to modify the die and start printing all over again. This procedure, however, had all the inherent problems that the PTT had

experienced only one year earlier with another of Cheffer's designs, the 90c René Descartes issue. On that occasion Cheffer had incorrectly engraved the title of Descartes' work as *Discours sur la Méthode* but the error had remained unnoticed until after the stamp had been printed but, fortunately, before it had been issued. In response to cries of outrage from the press, Cheffer was instructed to correct the inscription to read *Discours de la Méthode* and from this a second printing took place. Initially, it had been decided to issue only the second printing but fear of the first printing finding its way onto a speculative philatelic market forced the PTT to put similar quantities of both printings on sale.

The PTT concluded very quickly that it would be preferable to retain the original design and issue the stamp as it was, despite the contradiction in dates. Material held in the archives of the *Musée de la Poste* suggests that this decision was made within four days of the postponement being announced. The *feuille-modèle*, a complete sheet of 50 from the first day of printing, 9 June, displays the violet oval

cachet of the *Atelier* in which has been written in red ink the stamp's reference number 6752 and the date 28 June 1938 (Fig 1). In the same file a dated corner block from the same printing bears the manuscript annotation *date émis le 19 juillet 1938*.

Figure 1 -
Detail of the *feuille-modèle*
held at the *Musée de la Poste*



ooooo000ooooo

"As the Enchantress, with their Majesties on board, loomed out of the mist to-day from between the long lines of French warships the King and the Queen could be seen on the after-bridge. On the mole a large number of French War veterans and members of the Old Contemptibles were gathered with Marshal Pétain and Field-Marshal Lord Cavan before the still veiled statue of Britannia which French ex-service men have raised in gratitude to their British comrades who landed there. As the Enchantress passed the monument the flag covering the figure fell and the King stood at the salute."

The Times Special Correspondent

The day of the State Visit, 19 July 1938, had at last arrived and within minutes of entering Boulogne harbour the King had undertaken, *en passant*, his first engagement. Once the *Enchantress* had docked, the King and Queen were officially welcomed to France by M. Bonnet, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and then escorted through the streets of Boulogne to the railway station for the remainder of the journey to Paris. A few hours later, the King and Queen were stepping out of the royal carriage at the Bois de Boulogne station to be welcomed by President Lebrun and the Prime Minister, Edouard Daladier.

Elsewhere in Paris and throughout France, the sale of the Royal Visit stamp was underway. Although a special First Day of Issue cancellation was not available, there was a plethora of souvenir cards which could be purchased by dealers or collectors to create a first day cover. The problem of the conflicting dates, however, did not go away. Many cards had been printed well in advance of the postponement and bore the original date. One tastefully produced card, portraying the King in the uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet, had on the reverse a photogravure print of the Arc de Triomphe with the inscription *Souvenir de la Visite des Souverains Anglais, Paris, Juin 1938*. Another *Carte-Souvenir*, promoted by the Union Nationale des Anciens Chasseurs Cyclistes to raise funds for British charities in Paris, displayed portraits of the King, Queen and President over the national flags and with the date *28.VI.1938*. An attempt was made to correct this by the application on the address side of a three line cachet reading *19 Juillet 1938* -

Visite de LL MM Britanniques - Paris (Fig 2). Yet another card, displaying portraits of the royal couple, draped flags and the date *28 Juin 1938* had been modified by a rectangular date stamp applied by the dealer G. Renon.

The King's first public engagement on the following day, 20 July, was to lay a wreath of Flanders poppies on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier under the Arc de Triomphe. Later on the King and Queen boarded a motor launch which took them with the President and his wife up the river to the Hôtel de Ville where their arrival was met by a 'welcoming cheer that went up from the crowd in the heart of the working class and traditionally revolutionary Paris' (Fig 3). The King and Queen then proceeded to the British Embassy where after lunch they met members of the French Red Cross including 'various ladies engaged in ex-service men's relief work including Mme. Foch. Mme. Lyautey and Mme. Joffre, wives of the late Marshals of France.' Marshal Pétain was also presented. The day concluded with a visit to the Opéra to see an extract from Camille du Locle's version of *Salammbô*.

On the same day, Halifax and Daladier had a two hour meeting where the Czechoslovak and Spanish questions were discussed and after which they declared 'their common determination to pursue their action of appeasement and conciliation.' Meanwhile 'The Times' newspaper had learned that its editions had been confiscated for a second time in Berlin for 'further atrocity reports' on the treatment of Jews in Austria.

ooooo000ooooo



Figure 2a -
Front of first day of issue
souvenir card showing
original date



Figure 2b -
Reverse of the same card
showing corrected date

"In the seventeenth-century atmosphere of Versailles the King today received a glimpse of the modern military might of France, no fewer than 50,000 troops of all arms, with full equipment, passing before him in review.

..... as their footsteps died away there came the throbbing of engines to announce the Machine. It was machinery all the time, now motor-drawn "75s", beautifully simple and clean in outward line, now spiteful-looking anti-aircraft guns pointing their lean muzzles into the sky, now heavy guns mounted on wheeled carriages. Light machine-guns, heavy machine-guns, all motor-drawn, next paved the way for the tanks, light, medium, and heavy, the first two types in large numbers, so that even the cobble-protected highway began to tremble under their tread while the air was heavy with the throb and rumble of their progress. Just as the last few tanks clattered by low-flying aeroplanes roared overhead."

The Times Royal Correspondent

While Monsieur Bonnet, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, was discussing with his Czechoslovak counterpart, M. Osusky, "the prospects for a satisfactory solution of the Sudeten German problem" President Lebrun was taking advantage of the third day of the royal visit to back his minister's diplomacy with a display of France's military might before his British allies. The military review lasted

almost one and a half hours, after which the King and the President departed for the château where they were joined by the Queen for luncheon in the Hall of Mirrors. Here, everything had been done to reproduce the atmosphere of the time of Louis XIV to whom the château owes its existence. The 125 waiters, lackeys and footmen were dressed in the costume of the period - white wigs, royal



Figure 3 -

Security pass for residents living along the route of the royal procession. Note that the original June dates of the visit entered in manuscript have been corrected by a single line **JUILLET** handstamp

(George Barker collection)

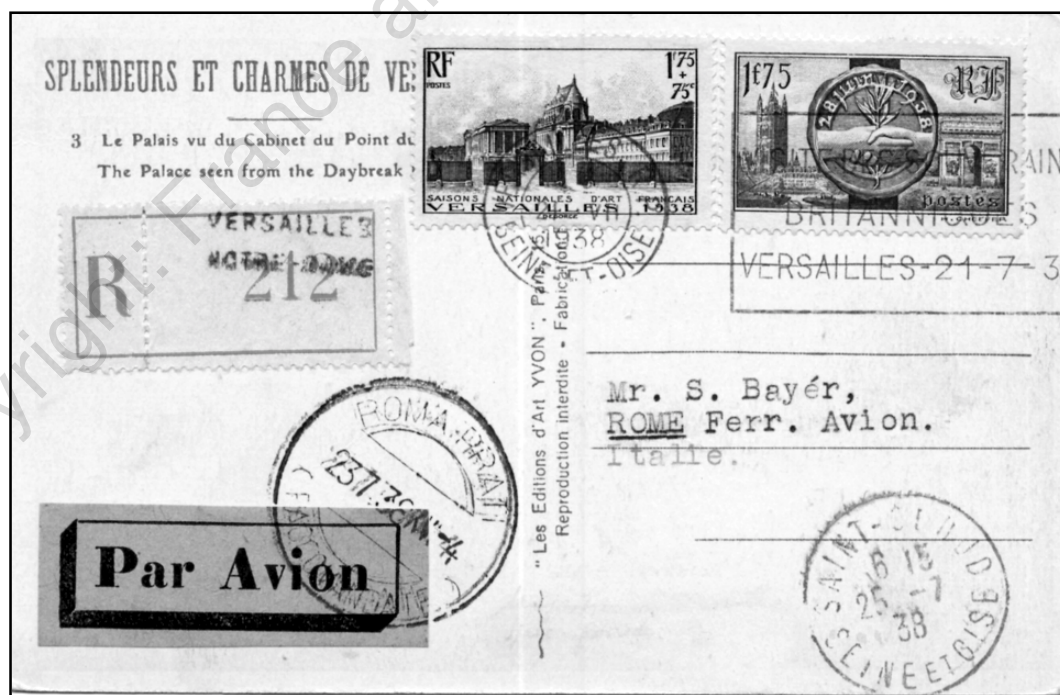
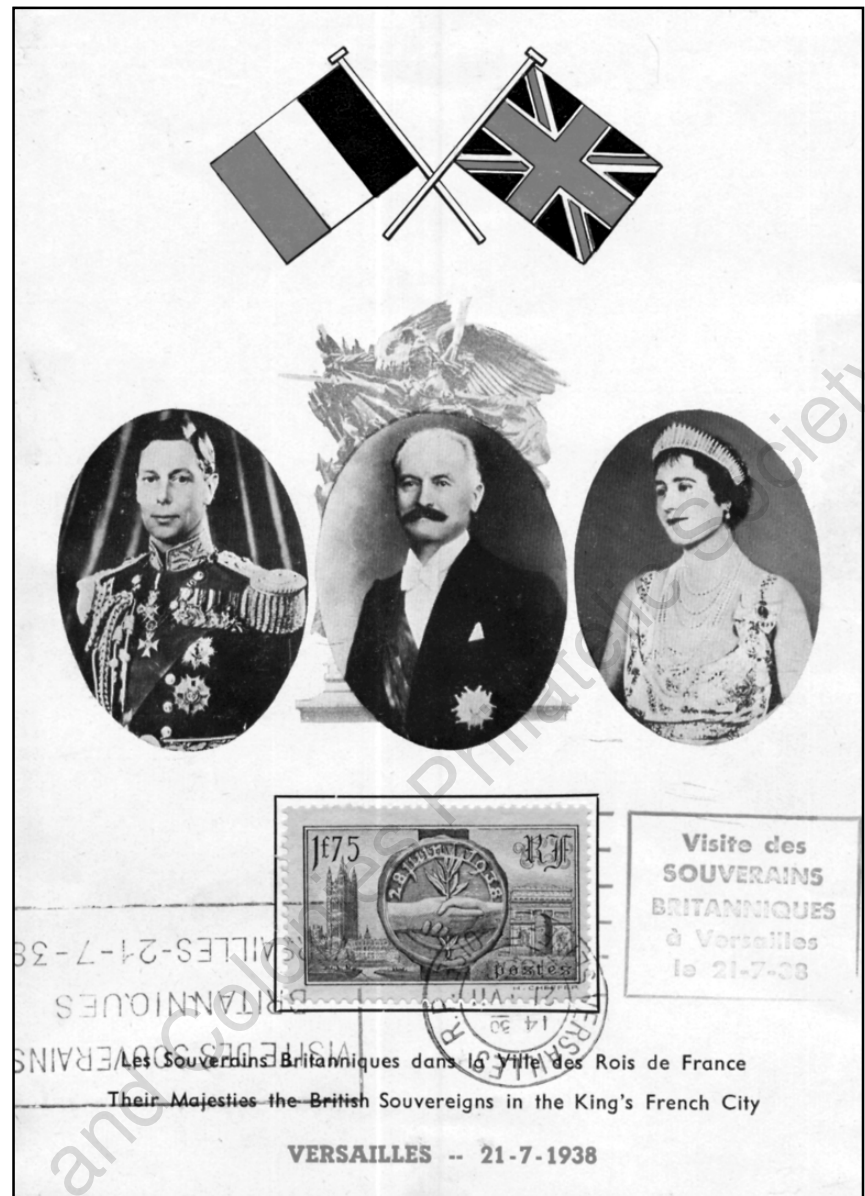


Figure 4 -

Versailles souvenir card with 1F75 Royal Visit stamp and 1F75 + 75c Château de Versailles

Figure 5 -
Souvenir sheet
with both International
and pseudo cancellations



blue coats heavily braided in white and scarlet, scarlet breeches and white stockings and the musicians performed works of seventeenth-century composers.

The visit of the King and Queen to Versailles was not ignored by the PTT. Arrangements had been made for it to be commemorated by a special slogan cancellation applied to mail by an International cancelling machine operating at the Versailles R.P. office. Although the visit to Versailles had been originally planned for 30 June, the design of the *flamme* was sufficiently simple for the text to be recomposed to accommodate the new date. Reading *VISITE DES SOUVERAINS BRITANNIQUES VERSAILLES 21-7-38* the framed slogan is extended to the right by seven horizontal lines.

A number of philatelic souvenirs appeared franked with the 1F75 Royal Visit accompanied by the 1F75 + 75c Château de Versailles which had been issued in May of the same year to fund the Société des Concerts de Versailles and to promote the Saisons Nationales d'Art Français (Fig 4). Ironically the latter had been designed and engraved by Georges Léo Degorce whose submissions for the later Royal Visit issue had been rejected.

The most frequently seen philatelic item though is a souvenir sheet displaying the portraits of Lebrun and the

royal visitors under the national flags (Fig 5). Correctly dated 21-7-1938 the bottom of the sheet bears the inscription 'Les Souverains Britanniques dans la Ville des Rois de France' which has been curiously translated as 'Their Majesties the British Sovereigns in the King's French City.' Below the portraits is affixed the 1F75 Royal Visit stamp cancelled by the International slogan cancellation. Unfortunately, the positioning of the stamp has necessitated the inversion of the sheet before cancellation and hence the cancellation appears upside down. In an apparent attempt to compensate for this, the publisher of the sheet has added a pseudo cancellation to the right of the stamp, designed in the format of the International *flamme* (complete with six horizontal extension lines) and which reads *Visite des SOUVERAINS BRITANNIQUES à Versailles le 21.7.38*. This cachet has been applied in the same violet ink as his *poste restante* address handstamp which appears on the back of the sheet and which reads RIVIÈRE (note the acute accent) P.R. Versailles.

All the sheets seen bear the time of cancellation as 14³⁰ and were presumably collected by the publisher from the *poste restante* counter, the 1F75 paid being more than enough to meet the combined inland letter rate and *poste restante* collection fee.

PAGES FROM MY COLLECTION

(15) Development of Air Routes: France to Dakar (Senegal) via Port-Étienne (Mauritania)

Peter Kelly



The letter which is illustrated above was sent from Port-Étienne, Mauritania to Paris by air on 21 July 1927. Port-Étienne was a staging post along the route from France to Dakar (Senegal). It was franked 3F10 (postage 50c + air mail fee of 2F60 (tariff of 16,5.26).

I purchased this letter at the Marigny market and it was not until I got home that I found the contents were still intact. They are carbon copies of reports sent by M Simon, Chef de l'Aéroplice at St Étienne, to Paris concerning an attack on the installations at Port-Étienne and the action that was taken.

"During the night of 12-13 June from midnight to 0400 Port-Étienne was attacked by a Rezzou (formation) of around 100 armed Moors, coming from Rio de Oro and led by Ould, the murderer of Goup and Érable. (The previous year these two pilots had made a forced landing on a routine flight and were captured and murdered.)

The defence was well organised and did not allow them to do too much damage. We ourselves with the help of the blockhouse managed to protect the buildings and equipment ..."

The following morning, on instructions received from the Commandant du Cercle militaire, they put up a plane to check up on these insurgents. The report that follows is addressed to Capitaine Bousquet, Officer commanding the Cercle de la Baie du Lévrier at Port-Étienne, and is dated 13.6.1927.

"Captain,

Following your request I took out a plane this morning in search of the Rezzou.

I took off at around 0630 with two passengers, M. Chief mechanic and M. Bertaud, mechanic, and followed them at low altitude in order not to draw attention to us, along the track leading from Port-Étienne to the wells of El Aloudj.

After ten minutes flight I discovered two groups of mounted camels about 12km north of Port-Étienne.

Each of these groups comprised around 35-40 camels. They merged into a single group on my arrival 3km south-east of Baie de l'Étoile.

Continued on page 110

Amazing 1870-71 Wonder Stories - 62

Ernst Cohn

SOLUPHIL's sale 83 of 9 December 1997 contained an abundance of interesting material pertaining to the Franco-German War of 1870. I have the feeling, though no proof of any kind, that these were mostly from the late Paul Maincent's documentation, which does not appear to have been offered on the open market after his death.

In any case, lot 977 was a folded letter on hotel stationery, no stamp nor postmark, addressed to Monsieur Roux, Notaire, at Nemours. The contents refer to the mail balloon *Garibaldi*, the mail of which still holds some unexplained mysteries. I had hoped that the text of this letter might help to clear them up. It did not; instead, it posed its own problems.

The stationery is that of the

HÔTEL DE L'ÉCU DE FRANCE
E. Drouet, Fils,
À NEMOURS
(SEINE & MARNE).

The letter is dated Tuesday [25 October], 11 o'clock.

"My dear Roux, A balloon that left Paris last Saturday at 11:20, piloted by Mr. Iglésia with Mr. [Paul] de Jouvencel, former deputy from Meaux, fell [i.e., landed] at 1:30 at Ury-Quincy near Meaux. 600 kg mail and the two men saved from the Prussians.
Perfect order at Paris.
Nothing is wanting there.
Defence to the utmost.

Simone.

I leave for Tours with the aerostat.
You must have received my letter. If you need plomb-lead Simone would furnish it."

The French text contains 'plomb-lead'. Why would a notary public need lead? For special seals, presumably. So Simone may have been a carriage driver, who peddled and transported merchandise, including that of the *Garibaldi*. Her note to Roux was presumably hand delivered.

* * *

But let us take a look at the mail from the *Garibaldi*.

The sub-prefect at Sens sent a telegram at 1 pm on 23 October, announcing that the *Garibaldi* had been hit the day before by a supposedly new German projectile. The sheriff of Crécy found eight holes in the gas bag. That news came via Sens from de Jouvencel, who had traveled with his homing pigeons that way. Mail with the Sens lozenge 3379 on at least some personally entrusted mail is known and must have been carried by him personally.

According to LePileur (1953 edition), the balloon, though leaking gas through holes, had landed smoothly in occupied country. The eight bags of mail were rapidly loaded on a cart and, having crossed the lines, were taken to the post office at Provins on 23 October. (According to three Paris papers, the mail weighed between 300 and 450 kg.

Nevertheless, at most some 80 kg could have been letters, the remainder being printed matter and similar material, held up at Paris when the siege began.)

Maincent's *Textes et Documents* mentions, on page 41, a telegram from Provins (S & M), dated 27 October, announcing receipt by the postmaster that *morning* of five mail bags weighing 400 kg, coming from Coulommiers, plus miscellaneous official mail. That is four days later than what LePileur reported.

Some mail apparently was processed at Coulommiers as it carries a transit postmark from there dated 24 October.

Also in *Textes et Documents* is a telegram from Brolles, dated 30 October, 4:30 pm, by the postmaster of Melun, sent to Tours: "I receive from Provins the following details concerning 2 balloons. Received on the 25th five packages and on the 27th a total of about 800 kg from balloons that left Paris on the 22nd." But there was only one balloon that left Paris on that date...

According to the diary of Mr. Veyseron of Meaux, the mail had been processed at Quincy; a large bag of it had been taken to Meaux and distributed secretly, the remainder sent to Coulommiers, then from there to Provins on 23 October. [Judging by the Coulommiers postmark, the mail could not have reached Provins that early.]

Most of the mail, including personally confided mail that normally got through earlier than regular mail, arrived in the first days of November, indicating that late arrival and processing at Provins was more or less standard for all types of mail from that balloon.

According to Chaintrier, the mail was delivered on 23 October to Mr. Mouchot of the post office at Coulommiers (5 bags) and to Miss Blavot of the post office of La Ferté Gaucher (3 bags), thanks to the help of two courageous farmers whose names are not known. These two offices sent the 8 bags to Mr. Barbé of the Provins post office on 25 and 27 October.

From de Jouvencel's own account, we know that he went via Sens, Joigny, Nevers, and Bourges to Tours, where he arrived about 5 pm on 24 October and, as his first official action, handed the 6 homing pigeons to Steenackers.

It is possible that more details about routing and handling of mail from this balloon may yet be found in local records of the area where the balloon landed and where its mail was transported.

Glais-Bizoin told de Jouvencel that a British journal claimed that Krupp had delivered an anti-aircraft cannon (its official name was *preussisches Ballongeschütz* or *Prussian balloon gun*) to the Germans at Paris. The rumor was correct except for the date, because the 'Vogelflinte' (bird musket, as soldiers soon dubbed it) was first demonstrated on 6 December at the target range of Versailles to a number of officers, including Ordnance General Prince Karl. That was

the peaceful end of all twenty guns, because by that time Paris had switched to night flights. At least one of the twenty participated in East German parades, years after World War II.

* * *

As concerns the *Garibaldi*, we evidently do not know all the details of mail routing and processing, so that still leaves a chance for someone to do more research. On the other hand, Simone's note, brief as it is, appears to have told us enough about herself and her letter to guess at the facts that, at first, seemed much more difficult to ascertain than the mystery of the *Garibaldi's* mail.

What is perhaps most amazing about the postal history of the 1870 war, is the tremendous amount of misleading imagination and the little regard for fact that have been expended on the subject by writers ever since 1870. One of the worst offenders was the balloonist Wilfrid de Fonvielle, a totally unreliable journalist whose every word must be cross-checked to make sure it is not mere propaganda. At the other extreme are people like the late Paul Maincent who, even when they make mistakes, do it in such a way that they put a warning sign next to the item in question, so that they essentially invite the reader, who needs to be absolutely sure about the fact, to check up on the details. Surprisingly, that is often possible.

Continued from page 108

I passed exactly over the centre of the group at about 100 metres altitude and immediately drew heavy fire of some 50 rounds.

Amongst others, one heavy calibre rifle bullet hit the area of the passenger seat on the left hand side, and passing between the mechanics cut one of the struts on the fuselage, making it necessary to return to base.

Gaining a little altitude to allow us to turn some 3km north of the group, I noticed on my return that the group had spread into a caravan and were continuing on their route to the north calmly and without hurry.

When we landed we were able to see that the trajectory of the round that entered the plane would have hit one of the mechanics had he not, at that moment, leaned forward to speak.

We very much regretted not having some form of projectile to drop on them.

We hope to make another reconnaissance in the evening ..."

This incident is referred to in the *Naval Intelligence Geographical Handbook series on French West Africa (Vol II - The Colonies)* page 333.

From around 1925 mail was carried by CGEA from France to Dakar, and this later became an Air France route. With a negligible road system and the consequent lack of development of postal services, Port-Étienne became an important centre for outgoing mail, although the volume was low reflecting the population.

The contents of these letters, being reports sent from the aerodrome to Paris, bring to life the dangers of early flight.

Selected Lots in the November 2001 Auction

[See also page 85, the front cover and the inside back cover]



80c Pétain die proof in blue
signed by the engraver, Hourriez



Memel 45c Merson overprinted 80 Pfennig Flugpost
in corner block with printing data

Cameroun - Spanish Guinea Postal Connections

Marty Bratzel

Four covers in my collection raise questions about the transport of mail across the frontier from Cameroun into neighboring Spanish Guinea. The answers can be teased out with a bit of detective work. The map in Figure 1 shows the towns referred to on the covers, along with connecting roads.

The letter in Figure 2 was addressed to Mrs. Browne, c/o Mr. Marles, at Ambam. It was posted at Yaoundé on Saturday 26 March 1938 and arrived in Ambam on Saturday 2 April. The postage affixed (65 centimes) corresponds to the domestic rate then in effect.¹ Checking the postal routes and timetables for 1938,² the cover would have travelled by train from Yaoundé to Éséka, thence via Lolodorf and Ebolowa to Ambam.

The letter in Figure 3 was addressed to Rev. McNeill, also c/o Mr. Marles. It was posted at Ebolowa on Thursday 21 April 1938. The direct connection with Ambam was once weekly, on Saturday, and the letter arrived there that day, 23 April. Again, the 65 centimes postage is correct for a domestic letter weighing up to 20 grams.

One mystery is that both covers bear a violet *Censura Militar* marking, which relates to the Spanish civil war of 1936-39. Clearly, neither transited Spanish territory while in the hands of the Cameroun PTT.

The letters in Figures 4 and 5, which have their own mystery, help provide the answer. The cover in Figure 3 has the notation, "Please forward Mengo." The address on the cover in Figure 4, "Mengo / Bata," places Mengo in Spanish Guinea. Although near Bata, available maps have not helped pinpoint Mengo's exact location.

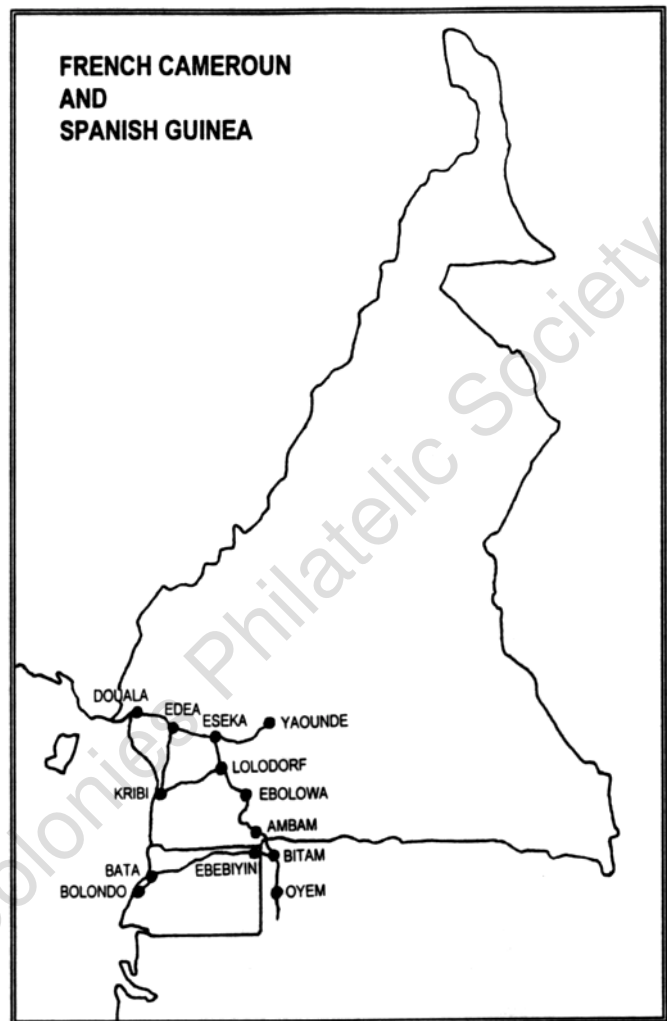


Figure 1

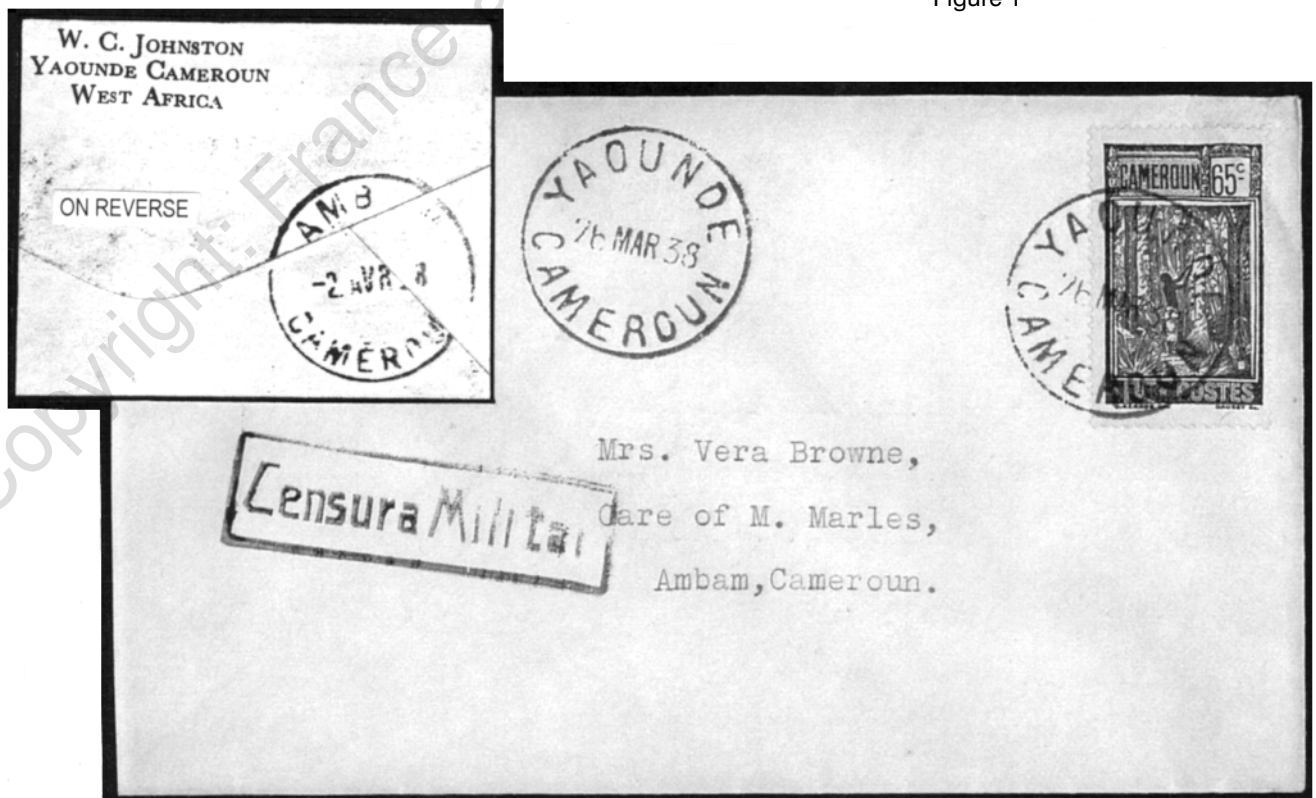


Figure 2



Figure 3

The letter in Figure 3 is addressed to Rev. McNeill, and the letter in Figure 5 places him and his wife at the evangelical mission Bolondo / Bata, also in Spanish Guinea. Bolondo is located on the sea coast south of Bata.

According to the *Journal officiel du Cameroun*, there was no official land-based postal connection between Cameroun and Spanish Guinea.³ Rather, mail was transported via coastal steamer from Douala (and probably Kribi) to Bata. Therefore, if the letters were destined for Spanish Guinea, why were they addressed to Ambam which, at the time, was a remote terminus of a Cameroun postal route?

One possible explanation was that routing via Ambam was faster. Most, if not all, of the people associated with the correspondence in this article were connected with Presbyterian mission work. In 1936, the Presbyterian church in Spanish Guinea was placed under the Cameroun Synod. Hence, there was not only a need for timely communication across the frontier, but the personnel of the church mission

stations could provide the necessary connections. There was a mission station at Ambam.

Thus, we can reasonably conclude that Mr. Marles served as an intermediary for receipt and despatch of mail destined for missions in Spanish Guinea. In all probability, both letters (Figures 2 and 3) were privately carried across the frontier, censored by the Spanish authorities as part of the traveller's personal effects, and hand-delivered to their intended recipients. Neither entered the Spanish postal system at any time.

The violet administrative marking on the envelope in Figure 4 reads, *Territorios Espanoles del Golfo de Guinea / Administracion Territorial de Ebebiyin*. There are no other markings to indicate the date of posting. However, the 5F50 corresponds to the postal rate, effective 1 February 1940, for a triple-weight international letter (i.e. between 40 and 60 grams).⁴ Porter reports that the Free French stamps that grace this cover became "available to philatelists" in London

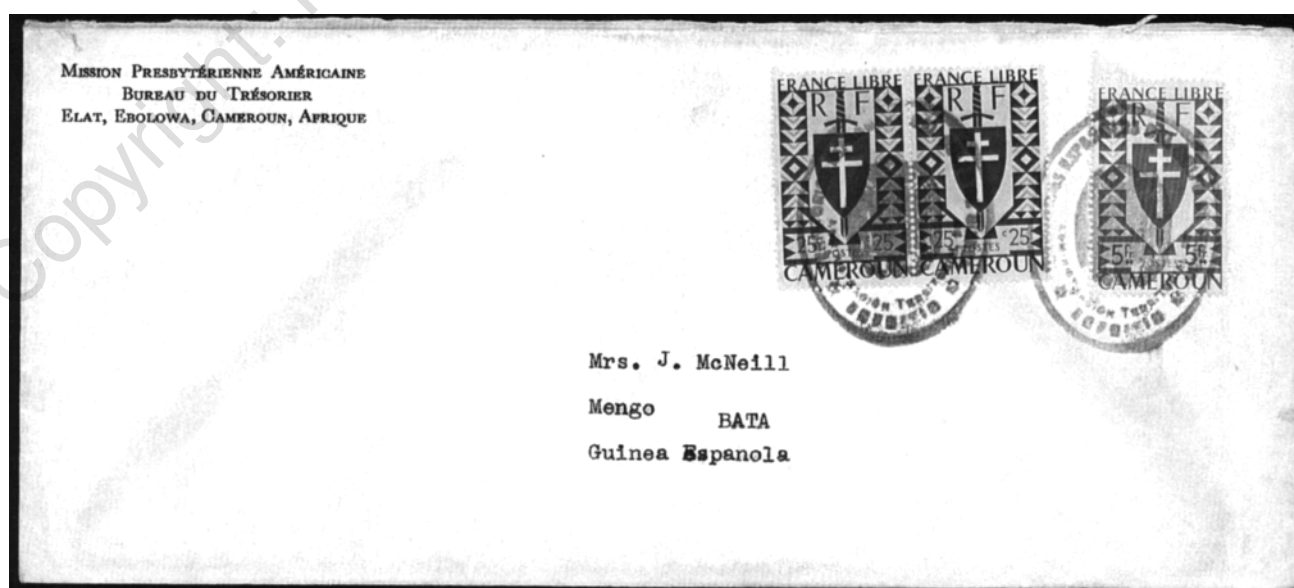


Figure 4 (reduced in size to 70%)

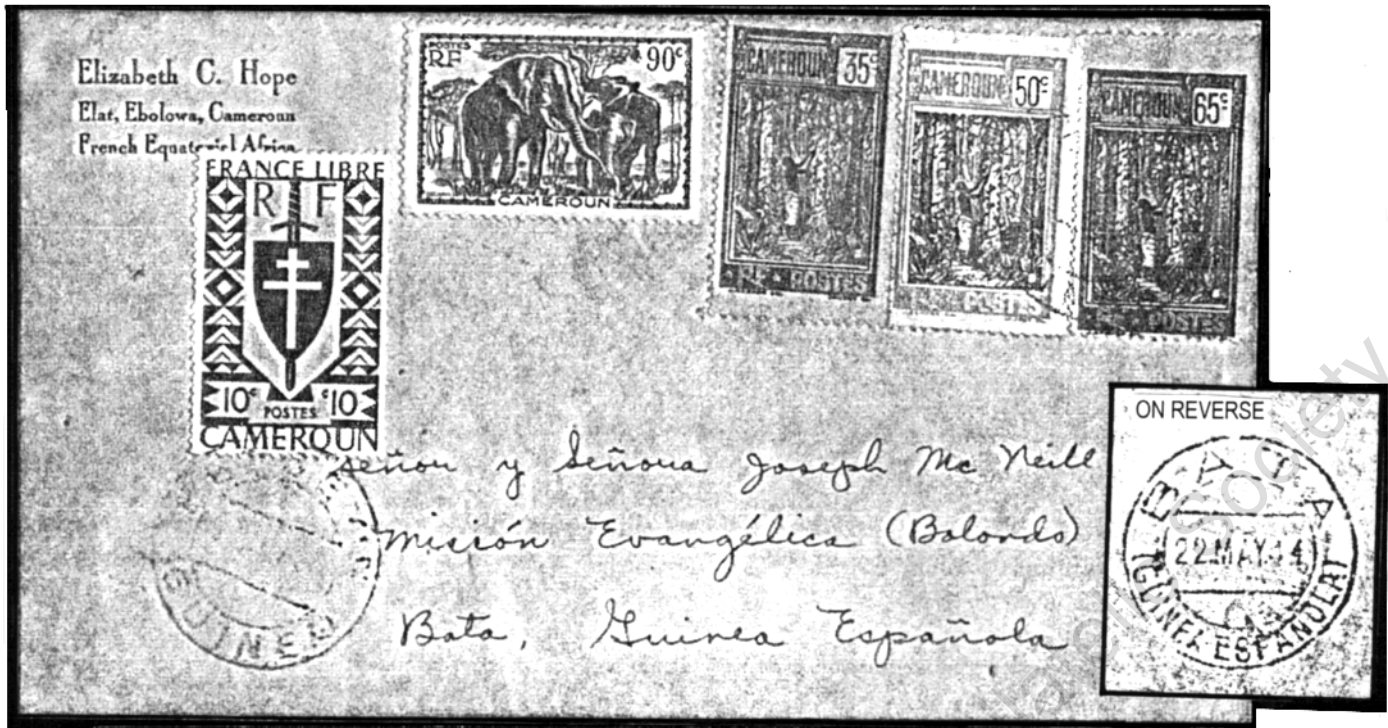


Figure 5

in late January 1942.⁵ The earliest used example in my collection is on a cover date stamped 3 January 1942. Thus, the date of posting is narrowed down a bit.

It would appear that this letter, like the first two, was privately transported across the frontier, then handed over to a Spanish official at Ebébiyin. The use of an administrative cachet rather than a postal date stamp may reflect official sanction and acceptance of the Cameroun franking and, in effect, authorize onward transmission. It may also reflect the absence of a post office there at the time; confirmatory information is not to hand. The means of transport between Ebébiyin and Bata is not known. If there were no post office, the letter could have been carried by a government courier as part of an official despatch, but this is speculation.

The envelope in Figure 5 bears five Cameroun postage stamps totalling 2F50, cancelled with two strikes of the Ebébiyin / Guinea date stamp of May 1944, confirming the existence of a post office at this somewhat later date. Two transit marks are illegible, but the Bata arrival mark clearly reads 22 May 44. This letter also appears to have transited the frontier privately. The post office accepted the letter, but it is strange that stamps of Spanish Guinea were not required.

A remotely analogous situation would be for *paquebot* mail but, in that case, there were clear UPU rules and regulations. The covers in Figures 4 and 5 must, however, reflect some local arrangement, with sanction from local Spanish Guinea government officials.

For the record, the postage on the cover in Figure 5 corresponds to the rate, effective 1 February 1940, for an international letter weighing up to 20 grams; however, the rate was raised to 4 francs, effective 1 February 1944.⁶ Perhaps the postal official at Ebébiyin, while accepting the Cameroun stamps, was not aware of the rate change and,

indeed, it would have mattered little to him. There were also special rates in effect from Cameroun to member territories of the African postal and telecommunications union (l'Union africaine des postes et des télécommunications), but Spanish Guinea was not included.

All logical explanations are subject to possible complications, and this is no exception. To say that there was no land-based postal connection between Cameroun and Spanish Guinea may not be entirely correct. An indirect connection may have existed via French Equatorial Africa (AEF).

The *Journal officiel* notwithstanding, mail was exchanged across the frontier between Cameroun and AEF in the late 1930s. The cover in Figure 6 is a case in point. Posted at Oyem, AEF on Friday 29 September 1939, the envelope was opened, the contents locally censored, and resealed at Ebolowa. The letter received a Lolodorf transit date stamp on Sunday 1 October, en route to Kribi. Transport from Ambam to Ebolowa and Lolodorf was on Sunday.⁷ The only conclusion is that the letter crossed the frontier along the motorable road between Bitam and Ambam.

Other covers from that time period support that conclusion. While there was no official postal connection between Cameroun and AEF, there may have been local arrangements to facilitate communication among towns situated in the border region. The first report in the *Journal officiel* authorizing a land-based postal connection — from Yaoundé, via Ambam, Bitam, Oyem, and points beyond in AEF — gives an effective date of 16 March 1942.⁷ Numerous covers are available to demonstrate use of that connection.

To conclude with the Cameroun - Spanish Guinea question, what route did the four letters follow in their journey from Cameroun? The road south from Ambam led to Bitam, in AEF, a distance of 57 km. There was a motorable connection west from Bitam to Ebébiyin, in Spanish Guinea, a distance



Figure 6

of 27 km, then onward to Bata, on the Atlantic coast. In the 1930s and 1940s, there was no road directly between Ambam to Ebebiyin, although there is today. In all likelihood, then, the four covers were carried via Bitam in AEF, thereby crossing two frontiers.

If there was an unofficial connection between Ambam and Bitam, was there perhaps a connection (official or otherwise) between Bitam and Ebebiyin? Perhaps the answer is to be found in the *Journal officiel de l'Afrique équatoriale française* and its Spanish Guinea equivalent, perhaps not.

Thank goodness for such mysteries to keep us stimulated.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to Bob Maddocks for his helpful comments and advice.

References

1. *Journal officiel du Cameroun*, N° 421, 1 October 1937, pages 802-805.
2. *Ibid.* N° 429, 15 January 1938, pages 100-103.
3. A search of the *Journal officiel* lists no connection.
4. *Ibid.* N° 483, 1 February 1940, pages 136-137.
5. Porter, H.G.: Cameroons. Extended series in *The Philatelist*, 1956-57. See 1957, page 64.
6. *Journal officiel du Cameroun*, *op cit.* 1 February 1944, pages 97-98.
7. *Ibid.* 15 March 1942, page 210.

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SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Boîte Rurale and Décime Rural

[Two further contributions to this question should have been included in the last Journal (page 83) but were inadvertently omitted. As they add detail to what has already been stated, we publish them here. In addition Robert Abensur has subsequently confirmed most of the details given by other contributors, and adds that the combination of the two marks is most often seen between 1.1.1836 (when the boîte rurale marks became compulsory) and 31.12.1846. He also recommends Jean-Paul Alexandre's "Dictionnaire historique des timbres et griffes de l'Administration française des postes" (Éd. J-F Brun, 1996) for details on this subject. – Ed.]

It is normal to find both marks (*décime rural* and the mark *E* in this case) on the same cover.

When the postman was on his round, and found a letter in a rural box – i.e. in a locality without a post office (the box being perhaps on the wall of a building such as a farm or church) – he used the rubber stamp which was stored in the post box to mark the envelope on the spot, thus indicating its place of origin.

Then at the end of his round, back in his office or agency, he appended the *décime rural* postmark in red, which corresponded to a sort of tax for transport costs from rural box to post office box.

In the other direction, taking the example of mail to be delivered outside the post office delivery area, the postman affixed the *décime rural* mark in black before leaving on his delivery round.

I think the choice of colours was only specified in 1834.

Georges Barot (Trans. MST)

The letter would have been collected from the rural post box in the hamlet of Landin [identified as Landin by Peter Kelly & Robert Abensur] and struck with the *E* mark by the "Boîtier" who then carried it, together with his other collections, to the main office at Bourg-Achard (26) – now *département* 27 Eure, not Bouches du Rhône – where it was taxed (tariff of 01.01.1828) at 3 *décimes* due from the recipient for the 40-80 kilometre journey to Basqueville en Caux and also struck with the 1D(*écime*) additional tax for the collection in a rural area: total postage due 4 *décimes*.

The 1^D handstamp was applied, usually in black or red – blue is also known – to mail collected or delivered in a rural commune, but not on letters delivered within the postal district of origin (*Loi du 3 juin 1829* - operative from 1 April 1830). Thus it is quite correct to find the combination of 1D and rural box mark on the same cover.

As a point of interest I have covers showing this combination plus a Cursive (Sub Office) handstamp.

Peter Maybury

French Departmental Numbers

Ian McQueen (Journal 220, p.83) rightly notes that some of the attributions listed beneath the map of the French Empire showing 130 *départements* are incorrect and he lists eleven anomalies.

The date of issue of the map is unclear although it is said to have been taken from *Historia* N° 456 of December 1984. The fact that *Départements Conquis* are included, but excluding Nos 131 - 134, suggests that it relates to *ca* 1814. However many of the numbers do not concur with those used in linear handstamps of this period.

The list of French *départements* and the numbers given to them published in Billig's Philatelic Handbook Vol. III p.78 would suggest a further 31 anomalies. "*Départements*

Conquis 1792-1815" by Albert Reinhardt confirms the Billig listings for occupied territories and these are reinforced by the numbering of linear handstamps of the period.

A map of the postal routes of the French Empire, of the Kingdom of Italy and of the Confederation of the Rhine prepared by order of the 'Conseil d'Administration des Postes et Relais' in 1814 rearranged all the 130 *départements* alphabetically so that whilst Ain retained its number 1 Zuiderzee became 130. The Italian Provinces were divided into 24 numbered *départements* and Illyria into 6 numbered provinces. With the defeat of Napoleon and the restoration of pre-war boundaries the proposed re-administration was never implemented.

Alan Wood

Private Prioritaire Label

The first of Gerald Gosling's "Three Covers" in Journal 220 of June 2001 (page 81) immediately attracted my attention but, after a closer look, I decided it could not possibly be an official La Poste label - wrong colour, text in English, etc.

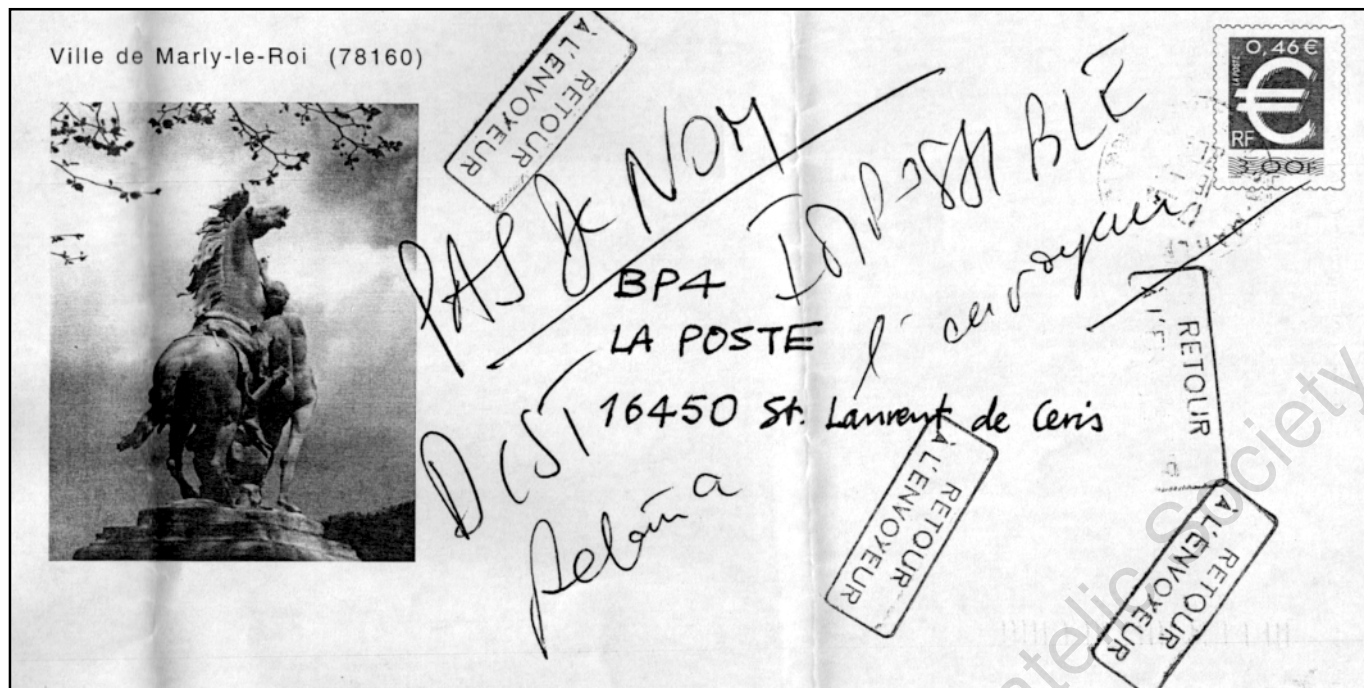
Thanks to the Register of Members' Interests I was able to contact Gerald and tell him I thought the label was "home-made" but I would try to find out whether I was right or wrong.

A brief note to Boîte Postale N° 4 was returned to sender with the remark

PAS DE NOM / DIST(RIBUTION) IMPOSSIBLE

(see illustration on next page).

A little disappointed, but undaunted, I then wrote to Monsieur le Chef d'Établissement, La Poste, 16450 St Laurent de Ceris, who very kindly replied by return confirming my opinion.



Cover returned to sender (reduced in size)

His reply reads [translated from the original French by MST]:

"Saint Laurent de Ceris, 27 July 2001.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter, the label in question had been made by the former holder of Post Box N° 4 who, being of British nationality, sent a great deal of mail all over the world.

This person terminated the contract for the Box more than three years ago and moved away without leaving any address, so I am unable to give you any further information.

Yours faithfully,

[signature]

Christian Clément,
Chef d'Établissement,
La Poste,
16450 Saint Laurent de Ceris."

I should add that I have never heard of this rule - 'No Name / No Delivery'. To check I sent a note to André Le Guillou, without mentioning his name but giving his BP number. He received it!

John Simmons

POW Camp in Kenya

I was greatly intrigued to read M Georges Barot's query in the June issue (Journal 220), because for some time I have been endeavouring to obtain an item from this POW camp, but on several occasions have been an under-bidder. However, I have managed to obtain photocopies of two covers emanating from Kenya, the first of which was illustrated in Journal 205 for September 1997 on page 152 (Figure 1).

This item was originally sent to the East Africa Study Circle for further information, and confirmation of what I had already discovered. Without realising that I was a member, the EASC sent this query to our Journal for an answer. It apparently did not receive any replies. Afterwards I published an article in our sister society's journal (USA) *France & Colonies Philatelist*, April 2000, asking how the mail was handled and whether it was despatched and delivered in both directions. This also had a nil response. I can now illustrate another cover from a POW Camp in Kenya(?), with Censor 024 and with French and East African censor tapes forwarded to Djibouti (Figure 2).

To answer Georges Barot's query it would appear that during the WWII Madagascar Campaign, French soldiers

detained were sent to Camp 358 at Makindu, Kenya, and a map illustrating various camps in East Africa from Giorgio Migliavacca's publication *Italian POWs and Internees in Africa* is shown below (Figure 3). It is also my supposition [not yet proven] that after the end of the Madagascar Campaign when the Free French took over in 1943, any soldiers that did not wish to transfer to De Gaulle's forces, were also detained in POW Camps until repatriation to France.

We know that the Vichy Governor, M Annet, and his family were sent to South Africa for eventual repatriation to France, and I have now obtained a cover from a French soldier (Figure 4) – Georges Kampf, interned in Baviaan-spoot Camp near Pretoria, South Africa to France. I am hoping that South African sources may be able to supply further information on this cover. An article published by Alec Page in the South African Collectors Society journal *The Springbok*, April-June 1997 on *South African Internment Mail, World War II*, on pages 61-2, mentions that Baviaan-spoot Camp housed mainly German nationals.

Colin Spong

Figure 1

PRISONNIER DE GUERRE.

| | |
|---|--|
| Nom..... <i>Narrant</i> | Postage Free Franc de Port |
| Prénoms..... <i>Albert</i> | |
| No. Matri..... <i>1209</i> | F/W EAST AFRICA 021 |
| Grade..... <i>Sergent-chef</i> | |
| Unité..... <i>1^{re} D. M. M.</i> | Madame et M. <i>Jean Narrant</i> <i>13 rue Lamatque</i> <i>au 1^{er} Mourillon Coulon</i> <i>(Var) France</i> |
| Date et lieu de naissance : <i>29 Décembre 1912 à Coulon Var</i> | |
| Nom du père..... <i>Jean</i> | Indication postale du Camp : <i>358</i> <i>EAST AFRICA</i> |
| Nom de la mère..... <i>Liene Garmy</i> | |
| D. P. & S. S. - 4581 - 942 - 1.800. | |

3397 40/3 150

Figure 2a

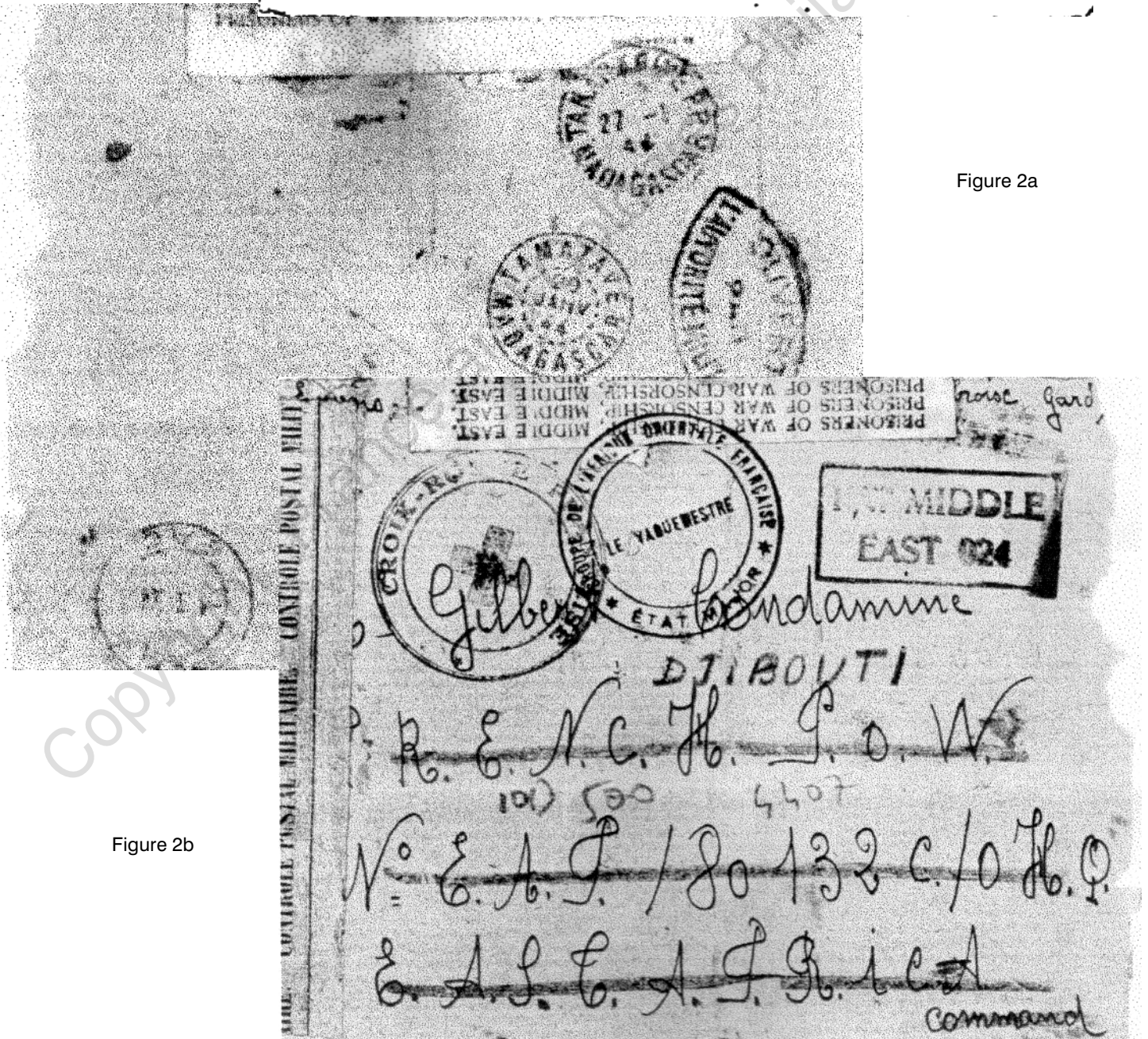


Figure 2b

Figure 3

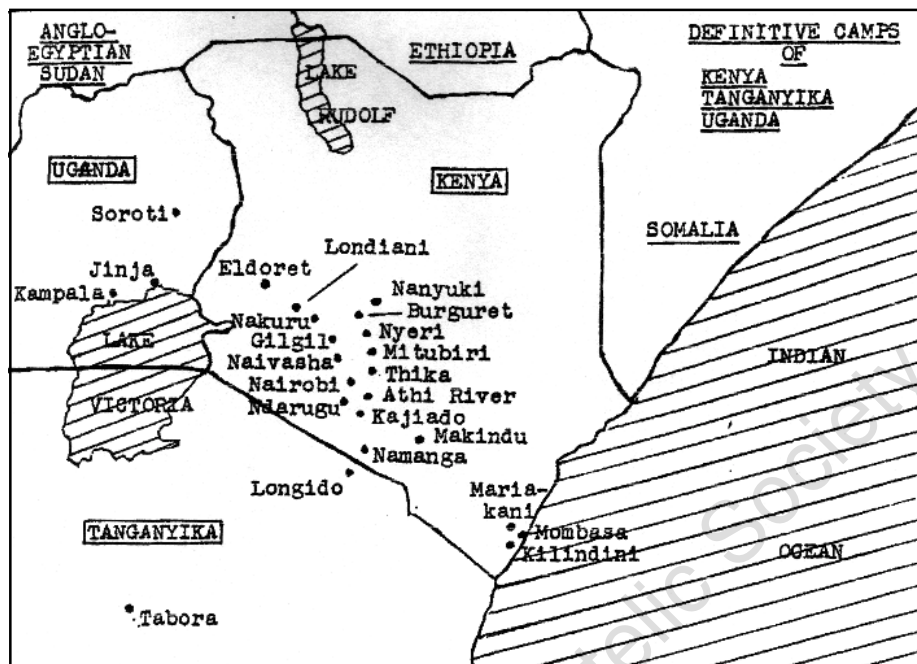


Figure 4a

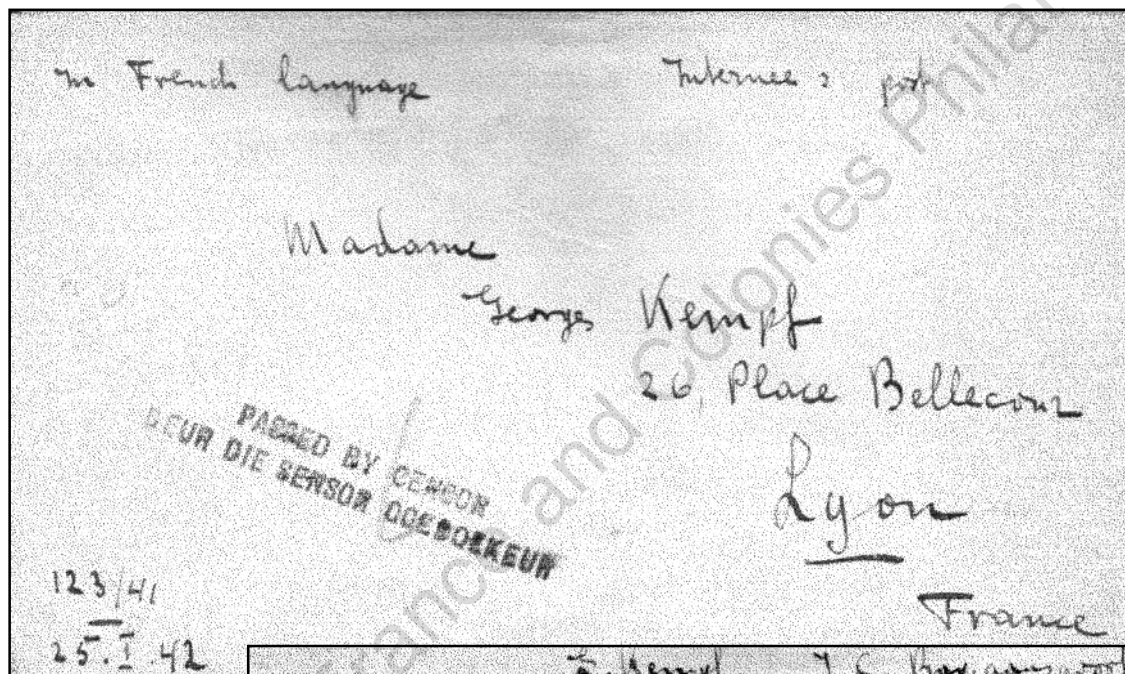
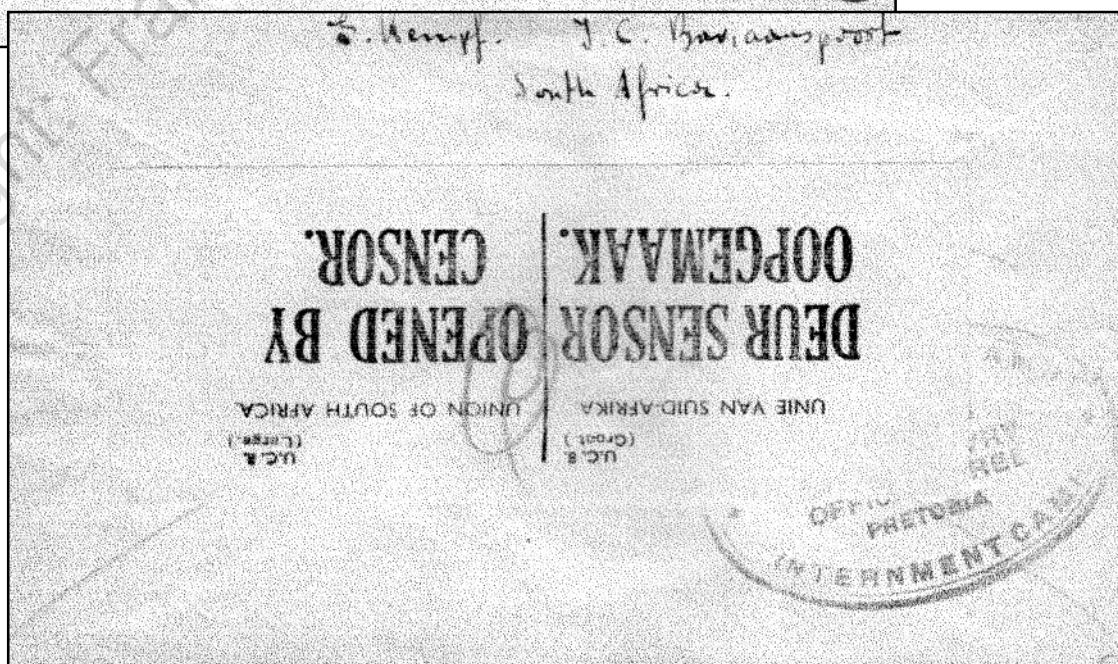


Figure 4b



“Return to Sender” Label on Unsealed Envelope

I have belatedly read the March issue of the Journal in which (Journal 219, pages 20-21) Gerald Gosling showed an open envelope from France to Great Britain dated July 1947, which was franked at 1F instead of 2F, the international printed paper rate (first weight step) of 1 February 1946. The cover had a label attached and was returned to the sender for completion of the postage.

The query was about the reason for such treatment. The answer comes from the UPU regulations for printed matter, introduced at the 1924 Stockholm Congress and still in

force: “Mail other than letters and postcards must have the postage paid in full.” [Circular of 10 September 1925 putting into effect the decisions of the Stockholm Congress - *Bulletin des Postes* N° 23/1925] Thus business papers, samples and printed matter with insufficient postage on them, as well as reply paid postcards on which postage has not been fully paid for both parts, are not permitted. This is enough to explain why the item was returned to sender for insufficient postage paid.

Robert Abensur (trans. MST)

Printed Matter Sent in Open Envelopes between 1.1.1876 and 1.5.1878

The article on this topic by Peter Kelly and Chris Hitchen (Journal 219, pages 37-38) interested and intrigued me.

The authors raise the problem of the method of sending printed matter at the inland rate. It is accepted either under wrapper or in an open envelope (or in the form of an open letter) with a different rate according to the method used. The authors explain the rarity of printed matter in open envelopes between 1876 and 1878 by the existence of a cheaper rate for the wrapper.

Since the creation on 1 January 1828 of printed matter in the form of an open letter, and until 1 April 1920, the French

inland postal rates retained an attractive tariff favouring printed matter under wrapper. The problem is therefore not specific to the period 1876-1878. So the explanation is not convincing. However it is difficult to understand why people used the open envelope rate for their announcements of births, marriages and deaths when they could send them more cheaply under wrapper well before 1876. I have no clear explanation and I have never read one anywhere. But I have a feeling that we only start encountering announcements of deaths under wrapper, recognisable by the black border, from 1871 onwards - which may explain a diminished use of the open letter rate.

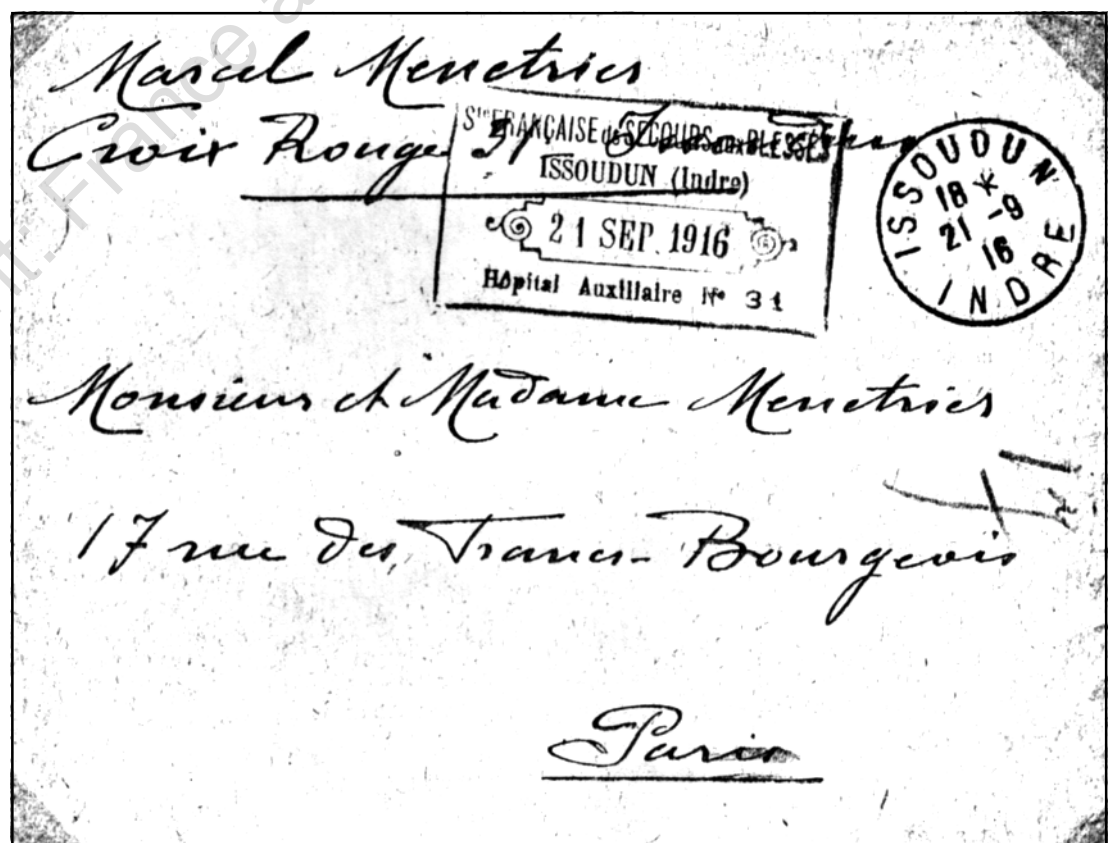
Robert Abensur (trans. MST)

Two Interesting WWI Items

The following two items from World War I may interest members and stimulate comments. The cover in Figure 1 bears an ornate *hôpital* cachet that is a little unusual in that

it includes the date and has a slightly shorter title given to this constituent of the French Red Cross: “*Sté FRANÇAISE de SECOURS aux BLESSÉS*” [no *MILITAIRES*].

Figure 1



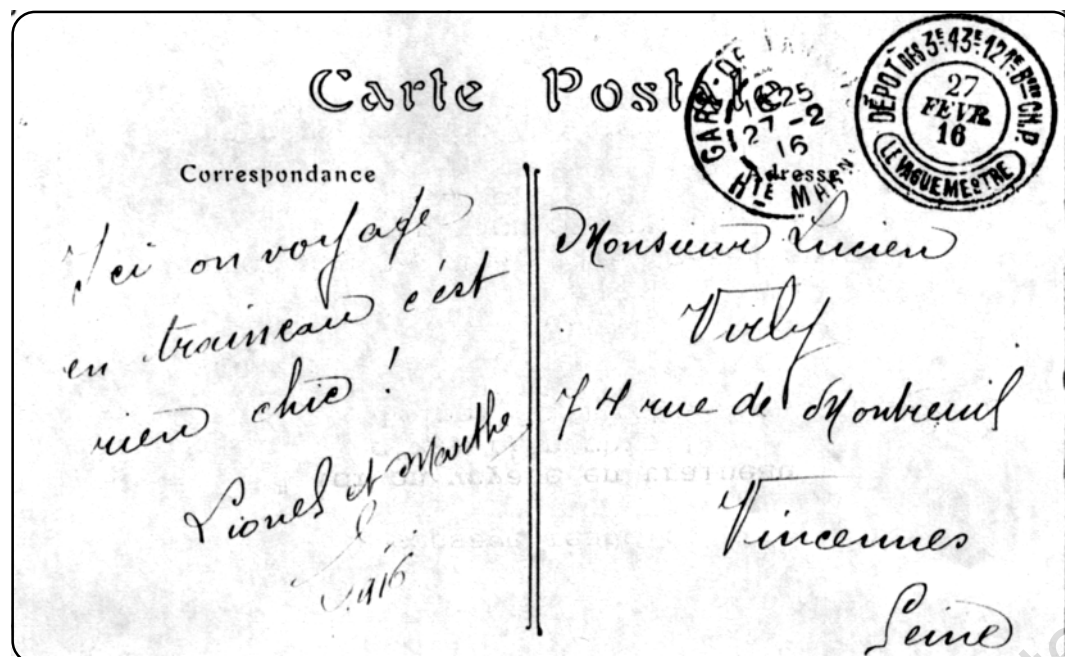


Figure 2

The really odd item, however, is the postcard shown in Figure 2 with a *GARE DE LANGRES* postmark and a *VAGUEMESTRE* (= Post Orderly) cachet where the central date plug closely resembles that used in the early date stamps of the French Post Office, with the '27' and

'FEVR.' in Roman type. *CH.P.* = Chasseurs à Pied, but I cannot identify *B^{CRS}* (if that is what it reads - the original is not very clear). The message reads (in translation): "Here we travel by sleigh, it's really smart!"

Alec Swain

The Post Offices of French West Africa - Benin/Dahomey: Supplement

In this first part of our article, published in Journal 215 for March 2000, we had to rely to a considerable extent on earliest recorded dates of use in compiling our Table 2 (Dates of Opening, Closure and Transfer) as we had no

fully comprehensive record of dates of opening. No such details have come to light since, but we can record a few amendments to the earliest dates as set out in the Table, as follows:

| | <u>Previously recorded as</u> | <u>Now</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Agoué (re-opening) | 17 May 1930 | 14 February 1927 |
| Dangbo | 8 October 1959 | 5 May 1955 |
| Pobé | 11 December 1931 | 17 May 1922 |
| Toti-Gare | 23 October 1958 | 13 June 1957 |

We are indebted to Godfrey Bowden (Agoué) and Michael Ensor (Dangbo and Tori-Gare) for information extracted from their collections; the new date for Pobé has been found by WGM on a check through his own material.

Bill Mitchell and Laurence Lambert

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Post-Independence Djibouti

Peter Upson

The French Somali Coast [Côte Française des Somalis] became the French Territory of the Afars and the Issas [Territoire Française des Afars et des Issas] on 5 June 1967, then gained independence on 27 June 1977, when it became the Republic of Djibouti [République de Djibouti]. The waning of the French influence can now be observed with the rising of the Sunni Moslems in as much that from May 1980 the stamps had the country name shown in Arabic, as well as the original French.

Philatelically Djibouti followed the usual path of newly independent states: firstly there was an independence issue followed by a long set of 21 definitive stamps, made up of a curious mixture of commemoratives and definitives from the previous administration, some going back to March 1972, overprinted with the new country name and surcharged, followed by a steady stream of issues depicting Djibouti art and wildlife, and later commemorating anything from Captain Cook's journeys to space travel and even to the birth of Prince William.

However, in March 1993, the issues slowed down, and were practically unobtainable in the western world. A few 1994 mint stamps were obtained from a fair in Bristol, and a few used ones, salvaged from the few covers which arrived in this country, filtered through, but to date I have only managed to acquire 32 out of 197 issued between 1993 and 1998. Although both SG and Michel listed the issues from 1993-8, neither was able to advise anyone where copies could be obtained, although 3 sheetlets depicting Princess Diana, Mother Teresa [printed by Questa], and Marine Wildlife [Cartor] were distributed during that last summer.

During the early part of 1999 I wrote to Courvoisier about the issues they had printed, and they kindly sent me photocopies of all they had produced from 1990 to the end of 1998, which showed up two anomalies:

(a) A set of 4 values [30F, 70F, 100F and 120F] was printed in 1991, showing the blue spotted stingray. The 70F and 100F I have used copies of; the Michel catalogue shows the 120F, but of the 30F there is no trace. I have written to several contacts, but to no avail, and we have to assume that it was received, but never issued.

(b) A set of 4 values [30F, 45F, 70F and 75F] was printed showing food preparation. The 30F and 70F were issued 9-6-1992, but the 45F and 75F were unknown until they were shown in the October 1999 supplement of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, having originally been issued 6-12-1992.

Neither of these issues was shown in either the SG or Michel catalogues until the omissions were pointed out to them, and they had borrowed my used copies for photographing, so at least I have the satisfaction that my research has produced a little fruit.

The printing contract with Courvoisier, who had been printing the Djibouti stamps since 1990, was terminated at the end of 1998. We were then given to understand that future issues would be supplied by the Inter Governmental Philatelic Corporation [IGPC] of New York, but in spite

of many enquiries by collectors, including myself, dealers and others, there was no evidence of any issues in 1999. Courvoisier had by now ceased trading.

In the spring of 2001 I was offered a number of commercial covers, among which were 3 covers bearing a 100F stamp printed in 1999, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Djibouti franc, showing a date of 25 March 1999 and printed by Cartor Security Printing (*see illustration*), though whether this is the correct issue date is unknown. We have written to Cartor, to ask if there were any other issues that year, but are still awaiting a reply. It is perhaps worth noting that this is the first stamp since 1980 which does not have the country name shown in Arabic.



In the year 2000, I received an avalanche of miniature sheets, sheetlets, and individual stamps totalling 32 issues, comprising 117 stamps [all distributed by IGPC] between 13 April and 23 August, depicting such diverse subjects as butterflies, wildlife, fish, space anniversaries and sailing ships, plus a pair for the Olympic games, although none of these items shows a year date or printer's imprints. At the time of writing there are no reports of any of these being available at local outlets, or being received on mail from the territory, nor, as yet, are Michel acknowledging the existence of any of them. SG say they will not be listing them until there is evidence of them being available locally. Scott does not consider they have sufficient information to include them.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow member Michael Round for his help with this article.

The above is the result of much research and many happy hours translating from the original French and, in a few cases, Latin. I only hope other readers find it interesting. I would love to hear from anyone who can add anything to this information and/or would like a list of the 32 issues in 2000.

BOOKSHELF

L 'Ambulance du Midi, by C. Marsanoux, pp. 154-164 of **26th Mail Auction Catalogue**, 8x11", 17 color ills., pub. **Lahitte & Marsanoux**, 7 place Gailleton, 69002 Lyon, France (phone +33 472 775444, Fax +33 478 378 822). [Red Cross stationery of a military ambulance of 1870]

When I received this auction catalogue, I was impressed by the wealth of colored photos of old documents. Even more impressive was publication of an original study and research concerning Dr Albert Pizot's notes to his mother, written while he served with that ambulance.

He was chief of a section of 25 people, out of a total of 40, constituting the Ambulance du Midi [Ambulance of the South]. The correspondence covers the end of October 1870 to 13 February 1871, from the time they left Montpellier until they had returned there. Many cards and letters are imprinted with the title of the ambulance, together with a Red Cross.

Others show red handstamps used by the ambulance, sometimes circular, sometimes rectangular, even side by side or one atop the other. With one exception, they were free franked.

The exception, on unmarked stationery, is hand dated 28 January, franked with a Swiss 30 centimes stamp, postmarked the next day at Porrentruy, Switzerland, and with a Switzerland-Marseille train cancel the day after. The

text starts with 'I profit from an occasion, my dear Mother, ...' We don't know what that occasion was, only that the ambulance had been held prisoners by the Germans. Indeed, two earlier cards, both with the ambulance imprints, bear circular date stamps FELD-POST-EXPED. / 4. RESERVE-DIVISION. [Fieldpost Expedition, 4th Reserve Division) and date. One is hand dated 26 Jan. 1871 with the cds date illegible, the other is not hand dated, the cds reading 27 Jan.

Except for Strasbourg Red Cross cards, such French cards, envelopes, and handstamps from the 1870 war are hardly known. I have not seen them catalogued except only in Pierre Monot's *Les Précurseurs de la Thématique Croix-Rouge* [the Precursors of the Theme Red Cross]. As a result, they have been almost completely neglected by postal historians, who are now given a first chance to study a whole correspondence from France's Ambulance of the South. This is truly a rare opportunity for students of Red Cross and related activities and those interested in the Franco-German War of 1870-71.

Ernst Cohn

Books Noted

The Work of Jean de Sperati II, by the late Robson Lowe and Carl Walske; pub. RPSL; 218 pp inc. 4 colour plates; £60 + p&p; available from The Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. [A sequel to "The Work of Jean de Sperati" by Robson Lowe, published by the British Philatelic Association in 1955. It describes in detail, with enlarged illustrations, 102 'new' Sperati forgeries or reproductions, 23 cancellations, 33 company cachets and a group of wax seals. Three further chapters detail textual and typographical errors in the first volume, alongside new information such as dates of 'issue'; give a biography of Jean de Sperati, with family photographs and anecdotes; and describe the events surrounding the BPA's purchase of Sperati's stock. A final chapter presents an edited translation of Sperati's own technical description of how he accomplished the complex task of making his reproductions, and yet further background information is given in five appendices, 21 pages are devoted to French items.]

50 Trésors Philatéliques Contemporains, pub. Le Cercle des Amis de Marianne; 56 pp, 210 x 210mm, b/w illustrations; 120F inc p&p; available from François Guilbaud, 65 rue Violet, 75015 Paris. [An exhibition of modern rarities by members of the Cercle des Amis de Marianne was held at Le Luc-en-Provence postal museum from 9 June to 31 August 2001, and this book illustrates and describes each of the exhibits. A CD-ROM in colour is also being prepared.]

Histoire Philatélique, Maximaphile et Marcophile de la Bourgogne, by Roland Legrand with the collaboration of Jean Belhabit and Marc de Périère; dossier n° 4 of the Association Sénonaise de Philatélie et d'Histoire Postale; 160 pp, illustrated, A4; 200F + p&p; details from R Legrand, 8 rue Pierre Lavergne, 89100 Sens. [Information about the contents was given in Journal 220, page 68]

Courriers Convoyeurs et Chemins de Fer des Landes, pub. As.co.flam.es; 74 pp, A4; 100F + p&p; details from Bernard Bougue, 20 rue du Tronc-du-Pinson, 33320 Eysines. [Brochure on *courrier convoyeur* services of Les Landes, with reproduction of over 80 cachets used by these services, new lines discovered, reproduction of over 80 date stamps used by the *convoyeurs* in this area, and many illustrations of old postcards of local stations and of former train timetables; tables establish extreme dates met so far for each line and type of cachet.]

La Poste en Haute-Saône, les timbres à date manuels et leurs précurseurs, collective work produced by 18 postal historians led by Bernard Augustin, Max Pontvieux and Claude Saunier; 2001 ed. pub. Cercle Philatélique Vésulien; 206 pp, A4; illustrations of over 600 handstamps and postcards of post offices; 150F + p&p; details from J-C Roussel, Cercle philatélique vésulien, 70000 Vellefaux. [An innovative approach to the handstamps of the 177 post offices in this *département*; precursors (manuscript dates then linear marks of 18C and 19C) are followed by an analysis of every date stamp used in each office, with their period of use, their types and varieties.]

Continued on page 127

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 5 MAY 2001

The President, Mr M L Bister, opened the meeting held at Marymount College, 22a Brownlow Mews, London WC1 at 11.30 hours in the presence of 21 members.

(1) **Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs M Pavey and Messrs O Gibson, C W Spong, A Swain, P R A Kelly, B C Berkinshaw-Smith, S Vaitilingam, A J Oldham and J West.

(2) **Minutes of the previous AGM** of 6 May 2000 as published in Journal 217 were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

(3) **President's Report – Mick Bister**

'It was a great honour for me last year when I was elected President of the Society and it is a great honour for me now to present the first of today's reports and highlight just some of the Society's achievements over the past twelve months.

My term of office began shortly before Stamp Show 2000, in which our Society was represented by eight of our members who exhibited with considerable success and by two members who were selected to serve on the jury. To coincide with the exhibition, the Society held a President's Reception at Marymount College on the Saturday afternoon, but rather disappointingly only 75% of those who had accepted the invitation actually attended. As a result, members who did come were able to consume fine wine and dine on a magnificent buffet served up in gargantuan proportions. A tremendous amount of work went into the reception and I offer my thanks once again to all those who contributed so much time and effort.

Achievements elsewhere have not gone unrecognised. Members have exhibited successfully at Vienna, Denver, Rhode Island and Madrid and, nearer to home, at Marcophilex and Stampex. One award that we should be particularly proud of is the Large Silver Medal which the Society's Journal received in the Literature Class at Vienna. Two further honours received were the Tilleard Medal bestowed by the RPSL on Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith for his display of Maritime Mail and the Rowland Hill Award for Journalistic Excellence presented to Ashley Lawrence for his article on the Sowers. Members have been active by giving displays on behalf of France and Colonies with highly successful visits made to the National Philatelic Society, the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society and the West Africa Study Circle. But one only has to glance at programmes and publications such as the ABPS News to see that all over the country members of our Society are making an enormous contribution at all levels, to our hobby in general and to promoting France and Colonies in particular.

The last season witnessed two initiatives. Firstly, as a result of a poll conducted amongst members, two Saturday afternoon meetings were included in the 2000-2001 programme to coincide with Philatex at the Royal Horticultural Hall. Unfortunately, a clash of schedules coupled with the disruption on our railways prevented many

from attending the October meeting, but the March display was rewarded by an encouraging attendance of twenty members including a few unfamiliar faces. Secondly, in response to members' requests we saw the publication of a Members' Register of Interests, which we hope will facilitate the exchange of information and material between members and even perhaps engender a few study groups. The more members we have participating in the scheme the more successful it will be so I would urge as many as possible to apply for inclusion in next year's register. A third initiative, if it can be so-called, was the transfer of the annual weekend from Leamington to Kenilworth, a manoeuvre forced upon Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith who nevertheless skilfully salvaged the event.

Clearly, there is so much more that I could report on. France and Colonies is not a society which rests on its laurels. It seeks to move forward, and by listening and responding to its membership, is always working to improve its current activities and to develop new ones. The auction, packets, magazine circuit, library, local groups and the more general matters of membership and finance will be reported on later in the proceedings by the various officers and their reports will demonstrate the energy and commitment which is at the heart of this society. It is at this point therefore that I wish to express my gratitude to my fellow officers for the adept, efficient and successful operation of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society and to all the committee members for their hard work, diligence and support over the past year. It is thanks to them that the Society is in such good health. Thank you all.'

(4) **General Secretary's and Membership Secretary's reports – Derek Richardson and Alec Swain**

'In spite of atrocious weather and disrupted rail travel, the attendance at London meetings this season has averaged 17.1 compared with last season's 15.8. Two of the meetings were held on Saturday afternoons at the Royal Horticultural Halls Westminster, giving a number of Members who cannot get to our midweek meetings the opportunity to attend. This mix of venues is booked to continue through next season.

Considerable time and effort went into preparing a 2-frame publicity display to stand at the International in London last year and again at "Glasgow 2000". One cannot measure the publicity achieved by this means, but the hoped-for recruitment of new members at these two events was certainly not realised.

As far as membership numbers for the calendar year 2000 are concerned, we lost 31 and gained 27, leaving the end-of-year total at 401, made up of 351 UK and 50 non-UK members. The membership has remained at around this level for the last six years.'

(5) **Treasurer's report – Chris Hitchen**

'The expenditure on the reception for Stampshow 2000 and associated activities was much as I anticipated and I advised the Society last year that this would produce a loss for the year 2000. However, the year turned out somewhat better

than I had expected due to two factors – the auction income increased sharply and our editor Maurice Tyler reduced the cost of the Journals that were produced.

Income from packets and auction will always fluctuate and I do not suppose that Mick would guarantee a repeat performance. At the moment, we have a very successful auction and colonial packet, and a France packet that is a little less healthy due to lack of material. Mavis Pavey has done excellent work for many years with the France packet but does urgently need offers of fresh books to circulate. Subscription income remains steady and will do so for as long as we maintain our membership figures.

Other expenditure is much in line with previous years although a rather larger amount than usual was spent on the library. This was because the Society was able to obtain some very worthwhile items from the library of the late Stan Bidmead. Discussion is under way about financing a new book under the Society's aegis and when this goes ahead it will require the use of some of our reserves.

All debtors and creditors have now been cleared and I would recommend leaving the subscription at its current level.'

The acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and Accounts was proposed by John Hammonds, seconded by Maurice Tyler and carried unanimously.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2000

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at bank
Cash at building society
Sundry debtors

| |
|-------|
| _____ |
|-------|

DEDUCT CURRENT LIABILITIES

Sundry creditors
Subscriptions in advance

TOTAL ASSETS

Represented by

MEMBERS' FUNDS

Uncommitted funds at 1.1.1998
Year loss

1999

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2000

Expenditure

Accommodation
Journal 4 issues
Postage and expenses
Stampshow 2000
Library
Year loss

Income

Auction
Exchange Packet
Interest
Sale of publications

Subscriptions

(6) Auction Secretary's Report – Mick Bister

'Last year was another very busy and successful year with four auctions each offering a twelve-page catalogue with approximately 450 lots in each. As a result, we saw a rise in profits for the Society from £ xx in 1999 to £ xx x in 2000.

One of the reasons was the richness and range of material provided by vendors and the Society was especially fortunate in receiving several fine collections to dispose of. The World War II material in particular attracted a lot of interest and I could have sold several examples of some of the lots such as the demand. Although the realisations in this section were very good they did not reach those achieved in French auctions for similar material and this emphasises the fact that real bargains can be readily found in the Society's sales. It surprises me therefore that only between 19% and 25% of the membership bid last year and therefore that up to

75% could not find anything of interest out of a total of 1787 lots offered. Next year I celebrate 40 years of collecting France and yet I can still find something to buy even if, as I explained in my recent article on Franco-Canadian Rates, it is only one of the unsolds.

Another area which provided an increased source of income was the literature. After receiving almost the entire philatelic library of one member to dispose of plus a considerable quantity of books from other members, it became quickly apparent that it would be highly impractical to transport them to and from a room sale and too costly to dispatch them after a postal sale. With the agreement of the vendors, it was therefore decided to offer them on a fixed price basis at the Annual Weekend in Leamington at prices above their reserve but below their current retail value and I am indebted to Stephen Holder who provided

me with useful information and guidelines. Items that remained unsold at Leamington were offered in subsequent auctions. This initiative proved to be most successful and very much to the satisfaction of both buyers and vendors and therefore was repeated at Kenilworth this year.

Members will have noted that I have at last caught up with the technological era and I now possess an e-mail address. From now onwards I am happy to receive both requests for postal viewing and bids by e-mail but may I remind members that any communication by e-mail must be accompanied by their postal address.

Certainly, last year was an exceptionally good year for the auction and I would like to thank everybody who has contributed in one way or another to its success, not only the vendors but other members who have assisted me, as for example, in the identification and valuation of obscure items and the distinguishing of the forged from the genuine. Thank you in particular to those who help with the running of the room sale which is very much a team effort and especially to Alan Wood and George Henderson who willingly accept the auctioneer's gavel - a responsibility that I am only too happy to delegate.'

| AUCTION ACCOUNT 2000 | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|---|-------|------------------------------|
| EXPENDITURE | | INCOME | | |
| 1999 | 2000 | 1999 | 2000 | |
| Payments to vendors | | Sale of lots (including reimbursed post & packing) | | |
| February | | February | | |
| May | | May* | | |
| July/August | | July/August | | |
| November | | November | | |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | |
| | | | | * incl. Leamington Bookstall |
| Printing | | | | |
| Postage | | | | |
| Other outgoings | | | | |
| Sec. Expenses | | | | |
| Unpaid Lot | | | | |
| Bank Charges | | | | Bank Interest |
| _____ | _____ | | | |
| Profit to Society | | | | |
| Totals | | | | |

(7) Report of Packet Secretary (France) – Mavis Pavey

'The France packet profit for the calendar year 2000 was £ x x . This compares with £ x x for 1999 and £ x x for 1998.

During the year, I did manage to send four packets round most circuits but it was a struggle as the response to my requests for new material was disappointing.'

| PROFIT AND LOSS | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|
| | 2000 | 1999 | | |
| Commission on sales | | | Postage and telephone | |
| Postage recovered | | | Stationery | |
| Insurance recovered | | | Profit for year to | |
| Bank interest | | | 31 December 2000 | |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | | | | |
| INCOME AND EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| Balance b/f from 31 Dec 1998 | | | Gross payments to vendors | |
| Receipts from members | | | Stationery | |
| Bank interest | | | Posts and telephones | |
| Commission on sales | | | Profit 1999 paid to Treasurer | |
| Insurance recovered | | | Bank balance | |
| Postages recovered | | | Cash in hand | _____ |

(8) Report of Packet Secretary (Colonies)

'I operate four circuits, geographically arranged, for the 61 members who receive the colonies packets. During the year 2000, 35 packets of average value £ x x were circulated. Average sales per packet of 15 books were £x. With total sales yielding £x, commission accrued was £x. Adding to this £xx for insurance recovered and deducting my expenses of £xxx resulted in a profit to the Society of £x.

I received 90 new books for circulation during the year. I have more than twice as many books as I can circulate at one time, which explains why it takes as long as two years for one book to travel around four circuits.'

(9) Editor's Report - Maurice Tyler

'I am pleased to be able to report that the Journal has had another successful year in that I have been supplied with plenty of interesting and significant material to fill the pages. I also have a few less original pieces (in that they have already been published elsewhere) kept in reserve in case they are needed – but so far they have not been required. The general standard of the articles published led to the award of a Large Silver Medal in the International Literature Competition at Wipa 2000 in Vienna.

The new A4 format of the Journal has been welcomed by the vast majority of members who have found time to comment, and only two or three have regretted the change. I personally now find it much easier to produce an attractive looking publication, and am gradually achieving success in preparing sharper illustrations, although I am sometimes limited in what can be done by the poor quality of some photocopies. I prefer to work from original items wherever possible, and, if not, from good full size reproductions.

Last year's Volume 50 consisted of the usual four issues, and amounted to a total of 156 pages plus the cover pages. This compares with the 232 pages in 1998 and 320 pages in 1999 – both years at the much smaller size. A more significant comparison is in noting that Journal 214 (the last one at the old size, with 68 pages) contained 15,000 words, whereas subsequent A4 Journals contained 19,000 (J215 with 44 pages), 19,000 (J216 with 40 pages), 17,000 (J217 with 36 pages) and 17,000 words (J218 with 36 pages). The first Journal of this year (40 pages) had 20,000 words.

Quantity does not, of course, equal quality, but I hope that this too has been improved. Co-operation with the printer has all but eliminated some earlier gremlins in presentation, and now what I send him on computer disk should be reproduced exactly on the printed page. We have once again experimented with colour for a few pages in one issue, and

the result is encouraging. As always, constructive comments are welcome, and I am always on the look out for new articles, new topics and new authors.'

(10) Librarian's Report – George Barker

'The past year of 2000 has seen nearly the same level of borrowings as in the previous year, with some 58 loans (1999: 66) and a rise in the year so far to 37 (1999: 28). The interest in periodicals has been maintained.

There has again been an increase in our stocks, with some fine new works on postal history. We have now an exchange of journals with the Groupement Philatélique 'Le Cagou' in New Caledonia, and 3 of their quarterly magazines have arrived – one, I think, may have been lost in the post.

Our member Nick Martin, who is actually more interested in Belgian philately than that of France, is the librarian of the Belgian SC, and has kindly presented to us a copy of the BSC library list, which makes interesting reading.

I must end by thanking all the members who help me in the furtherance of our literature coverage, and particularly thank Bill Mitchell, who supplies copies of the COLFRA Bulletin, and also arranges for neat binding the annual series. Thank you, Bill.'

(11) Magazine Circuit Organiser's Report – David Pashby

'Things are still settling down after last year's turmoil. The accounts look very different from last year, for a number of reasons. Firstly, there are now only two magazines: *Timbres* and *l'Echo*. So the most I collect from anyone is £x. But, additionally, because *Le Monde* ceased publication in March 2000 after I had collected subs for it, I gave a credit of £x to all those who had 'lost' their magazine. So '22 subs at £x' and '5 subs at £x' does not reflect the number of subscribers to each, or both magazines. These figures are: 22 people take both, 12 take *Timbres* only, 4 take *l'Echo* only.

There was just one new subscriber this year, but six have resigned. This just may be a vote on the new journal *Timbres* which seems to be pitched more downmarket. However, it is also due to circulation problems. Somebody seems to be sitting on magazines for weeks at a time, and far too many numbers have simply not come back to me (on one circuit) or to George Barker (on the other). Members must deal with the magazines swiftly, and simply post them on if they don't have time to read them. There were also problems with mailings from France.

Our thanks are due again to Mr Barker who donates one copy of *l'Echo* each month.'

Magazine Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2001 (previous year's figures in parentheses)

RECEIPTS

Carried from previous year
Subs @ £9 (taking all 3 mags)
5 subs @ £6
22 subs @ £3
Interest on deposit account for year
Donation
TOTAL

EXPENDITURE

Sub to *Le Monde* ceased
Sub to *Timbres* (2 copies) March 2001
Sub to *l'Echo de la Timbrologie**
Refund of one subscription
Postage and incidental expenses

**l'Echo*: 2nd year of a two year sub taken in March 2000

(11B) Report of the F&CPS Southern Group – Colin Spong

'Firstly, my apologies once again for being absent from the AGM. The four quarterly meetings have been held in the East Worthing Community Centre and details of the meetings and those attending have been published in the Society journal. I am delighted to report that this has been a particularly good and happy year with an average attendance (including guests) of 13, and I would like to thank those who have given a display during our season. Finally, a note of appreciation to my wife, Pat, who comes along to provide us with tea or coffee in the canteen.'

The Programme for 2001-2002 is given in Society Notes on page 86.

(12) Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following having indicated their willingness, if elected, to serve for the 2001-2002 season, and there being no other nominations, it was proposed by Alan Barrett, seconded by David Jennings-Bramly and agreed unanimously that those named below be re-elected *en bloc*.

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| President: | Mr M L Bister |
| Vice-President: | Mr M S Tyler |
| General Secretary: | Mr D J Richardson |
| Membership Secretary | Mr A Swain |

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Treasurer: | Mr C J Hitchen |
| Librarian: | Mr G E Barker |
| Editor: | Mr M S Tyler |
| Auction Secretary: | Mr M L Bister |
| Packet Secretary (France): | Mrs M Pavey |
| Packet Secretary (Colonies): | Mr J West |
| Programme Secretary: | Mr J N Hammonds |
| Committee Members: | Dr W I Stevenson, Mr B C Berkinshaw-Smith, Mr R G Gethin and Mr P R A Kelly |

(13) Main Society Meetings Programme for 2001-2002 Season

The programme in London, as printed on the cards distributed to members, is reproduced in Society Notes on page 86 for reference.

(14) Any Other Business

Mr Michael Ensor voiced Members' appreciation of the work done during the past year by the Society's officers and committee members.

There being no other business, the President closed the meeting at 1230 hours.

DJR

Continued from page 122

Catalogue Domfil, Monaco 2001, 2^e édition; 460 pp in colour; details from Écho de la Timbrologie, 37 rue des Jacobins, 80036 Amiens Cedex 1. [Stamps of Monaco, with issues of the principality listed by year and by date of issue; text in French and Spanish]

La Poste dans le Var au milieu du XIX^e Siècle d'après l'enquête postale de novembre 1847, by Alain Trinquier; 90 photocopied pages, ringbound with reinforced covers, A4; departmental colour map, 17 b/w cards, reproduction of 15 letters of 1847, bibliography; 100F + p&p; available from Alain Trinquier, 1274 Chemin du Partégal, 83160 La Valette du Var. [Analysis for the *département* of Le Var of the postal survey carried out in 1847, giving details of the amount of postal traffic, particularly the volume of mail in rural areas, together with information about the density of the population and the local economy, the siting of post boxes and the number of hamlets and localities.]

Kriegsausgaben unter deutscher Besetzung 1940-1945, by Karl Heimann; pub. Poststempelgilde, n° 148, 1997; 76 pp + 8 colour plates, 6" x 8¼"; 61 ill. inc. maps; softbound; DM24 + p&p; available from Karl Heimann, An der Turnhalle 40, 34134 Kessel, Germany. ["War Issues under German Occupation 1940-1945" - Collected articles (in German) covering among other topics unofficial local French issues of Dunkirk 1940, Lorient 1945 and St Nazaire 1945, and vignettes of foreign volunteer legions.]

Catalogue des Cachets à Date Types 22-23-24-25: Bureaux de Distribution & Facteurs-Boîtiers, Départements Français & Algérie, 1853-1938, by Jean Chevalier; 370 pp, 210 x 300 mm, cloth bound; 600F + p&p; available from Jean Chevalier, 89 rue de Charenton, 75012 Paris. [The known date stamps of the *bureaux de distribution* and *facteurs-boîtiers* are studied and valued for all the French *départements* and for Algeria; several thousand handstamps are listed with numerous reproductions, and the dates of use are noted with colours and valuation ratings. This work is a parallel study to that of the preceding catalogue devoted to Types 11-15 of the *bureaux de direction*.]

Le Catalogue Encyclopédique Marianne des timbres de France, Période 1900-1940, édition 2001, by Brun, Françon and Storch; 260 pp, ill. in colour; 150F inc. p&p; available from Timbropresse SA, 21 boulevard Montmartre, 75080 Paris Cedex 02. [New edition of this section of the traditional catalogue, with a description and valuation in euros of the issues of France in chronological order, a second section devoted to "back of the book" items such as precancels, postage due, FM, etc., and an encyclopaedia section in which are listed and valued varieties, special printings and other particularities of each stamp.]

Le Dallay; 576 pp; 6000 reproductions in colour, 40,000 valuations in euros, much technical information; 135F + p&p; available from Dallay SARL, 31 rue des Bourdonnais, 75001 Paris. [This new catalogue of France covers all periods and includes all 'back of book' rubrics such as varieties, unissued stamps, war issues, etc. and is a direct competitor for Cérés and Yvert & Tellier; it has been regarded very favourably by many philatelists.]

1876 Change in Method of Stamping Mail between France and British Colonies

Robert Johnson

[I found this document in PO Records in the early 1970s, and do not think it has ever been published. It was a restricted note to those affected in the PO; in other words it was not put into general circulation or displayed to the public. The wording suggests a restriction to those who received mail from French exchange offices and mailboats. The imprint shows a publication date of November 1875.]

“FRANCE AND BRITISH COLONIES.

Proposed altered mode of stamping Correspondence.

Translation from the French.

NOTE

on the Modifications to be introduced in the treatment of Correspondence exchanged in Closed Mails between France and certain British Colonies.

After the 1st January next (the date of the entry of France into the General Postal Union), the French Offices of Exchange and the Agents on board the French Packets on the Indo-China, the Réunion, and the West India Lines will continue, conformably to the special arrangements in force, to exchange Closed Mails with the Offices of the British Colonies or Possessions beyond Suez, by French or by British Packets, and with the Colonies of St. Lucia, Trinidad, Jamaica, and British Guiana, by French Packets only.

At the present time, use is made in these exchanges of the Stamps – *PD.* or *Paid*; *Affranchissement Insuffisant*, or *Insufficiently Prepaid*, or *Stamped*; and *Chargé*, or *Registered*.

The Stamp *PD.*, or *Paid*, is impressed upon letters paid to destination, and the Stamp *Affranchissement Insuffisant*, or *Insufficiently Prepaid*, or *Stamped*, upon letters insufficiently paid (although those letters ought to be treated as unpaid). Registered letters are impressed with the Stamp *Chargé*, or *Registered*.

The French Office proposes to suppress these different Stamps, and to adopt the following arrangements in the direct exchange of Mails between France and the British Colonies enumerated above, viz.:-

1st. The ordinary prepaid Correspondence to be no longer distinguished by any particular mark.

2ndly. The unpaid or insufficiently paid Correspondence (which forms one and the same category) to be

impressed with a stamp **T** (tax to pay on arrival), the application of which will devolve upon the Office in the Country of Origin.

3rdly. Registered letters to bear the impression of the special mark adopted for Correspondence of that kind by the Country of Origin. That mark in France is the stamp **R**.

4thly. Every article not bearing the stamp **T** to be considered as paid to destination, and treated accordingly – except in the case of evident error – that is to say, except in case where the article shall be brought to account on the Letter Bill under the Article for unpaid letters, in which case the omission should be rectified by the Exchanging Office of Destination.

5thly. Prepayment of Correspondence to be effected only by means of postage stamps. The charge on letters to be calculated according to a scale of a single rate of postage per 15 grammes or ½oz.

These modifications, referring as they do only to matters of detail, do not affect in their essential principles the arrangements in force for the direct exchange of Correspondence between France and certain British Colonies. Their adoption would offer the advantage of facilitating the operations of the Exchanging Offices, by making general the arrangements recently adopted in the exchange of Mails between European Offices.

The French Office will abstain from making any change in the arrangements now prevailing until it shall have received intimation of the concurrence of the Offices interested in the proposals which form the subject of the present Note.

Nevertheless, commencing from the 1st January, 1876, and as a general measure, the prepayment of Correspondence of every description destined for Foreign Countries can only be effected in France by means of Postage Stamps, and the tax on letters will uniformly be calculated by a scale of progression rising by steps of 15 grammes.”

Acknowledgement: Post Office Archives, London

May 2001 Auction Realisations

| Lot | Realisation | Lot | Realisation | Lot | Realisation | Lot | Realisation | Lot | Realisation | Lot | Realisation |
|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 11.00 | 70 | 3.00 | 142 | 6.00 | 216 | 11.00 | 280 | 7.00 | 379 | 18.00 |
| 2 | 2.50 | 71 | 8.00 | 145 | 7.50 | 217 | 11.00 | 281 | 15.00 | 384 | 6.00 |
| 3 | 15.00 | 72 | 11.00 | 146 | 17.00 | 219 | 76.00 | 282 | 8.50 | 385 | 3.00 |
| 4 | 8.00 | 73 | 6.00 | 147 | 17.00 | 220 | 45.00 | 283 | 4.50 | 387 | 3.00 |
| 5 | 6.50 | 75 | 3.00 | 148 | 22.00 | 222 | 5.00 | 287 | 18.00 | 390 | 3.50 |
| 6 | 6.50 | 76 | 6.00 | 149 | 20.00 | 223 | 40.00 | 288 | 34.00 | 391 | 8.00 |
| 7 | 4.00 | 77 | 33.00 | 150 | 18.00 | 225 | 6.00 | 289 | 16.00 | 393 | 5.00 |
| 8 | 7.50 | 78 | 15.00 | 151 | 15.00 | 226 | 40.00 | 296 | 3.50 | 395 | 4.00 |
| 9 | 11.00 | 79 | 10.00 | 152 | 5.00 | 227 | 5.00 | 298 | 7.50 | 400 | 8.00 |
| 10 | 3.00 | 80 | 8.50 | 153 | 9.00 | 228 | 14.00 | 299 | 8.00 | 401 | 2.50 |
| 11 | 8.00 | 82 | 6.00 | 154 | 13.00 | 229 | 6.50 | 300 | 30.00 | 404 | 5.50 |
| 12 | 8.00 | 83 | 6.00 | 155 | 11.00 | 230 | 4.00 | 301 | 21.00 | 405 | 7.50 |
| 13 | 2.00 | 84 | 9.00 | 156 | 13.00 | 231 | 16.00 | 302 | 10.00 | 407 | withdrawn |
| 14 | 5.00 | 85 | 2.50 | 157 | 11.00 | 233 | 80.00 | 304 | 8.00 | 410 | 25.00 |
| 15 | 3.00 | 87 | 6.00 | 158 | 12.00 | 234 | 35.00 | 305 | 5.00 | 413 | 3.00 |
| 16 | 26.00 | 89 | 8.00 | 159 | 4.00 | 235 | 28.00 | 306 | 15.00 | 415 | 2.00 |
| 17 | 25.00 | 92 | 8.00 | 160 | 26.00 | 236 | 9.00 | 307 | 3.00 | 416 | 13.00 |
| 19 | 20.00 | 94 | 5.00 | 161 | 6.00 | 237 | 100.00 | 310 | 8.00 | 419 | 1.50 |
| 20 | 3.00 | 95 | 2.50 | 162 | 2.50 | 238 | 48.00 | 312 | 10.00 | 422 | 10.00 |
| 21 | 2.00 | 96 | 10.00 | 163 | 3.50 | 239 | 7.00 | 315 | 6.00 | 423 | withdrawn |
| 22 | 2.00 | 97 | 5.50 | 164 | 48.00 | 240 | 10.00 | 318 | 16.00 | 424 | 10.00 |
| 24 | 6.50 | 98 | 4.00 | 165 | 18.00 | 242 | 5.00 | 321 | 6.50 | 425 | 10.00 |
| 25 | 8.00 | 99 | 3.00 | 167 | 48.00 | 243 | 13.00 | 322 | 9.00 | 426 | 10.00 |
| 32 | 6.50 | 100 | 5.00 | 168 | 5.00 | 244 | 12.00 | 327 | 4.50 | 427 | 13.00 |
| 36 | 15.00 | 101 | 5.00 | 169 | 8.50 | 245 | 21.00 | 328 | 5.00 | 429 | 16.00 |
| 37 | 16.00 | 105 | 4.00 | 173 | 11.00 | 246 | 10.00 | 332 | 4.00 | 430 | 40.00 |
| 39 | 12.00 | 106 | 3.00 | 174 | 5.00 | 247 | 9.00 | 333 | 8.00 | 434 | 10.00 |
| 41 | 25.00 | 107 | 5.00 | 175 | 16.00 | 248 | 5.00 | 334 | 5.00 | 436 | 32.00 |
| 42 | 7.50 | 108 | 20.00 | 178 | 20.00 | 249 | 9.00 | 338 | 6.00 | 437 | 5.00 |
| 43 | 5.00 | 114 | 3.00 | 180 | 6.00 | 250 | 4.50 | 341 | 3.00 | 438 | 9.00 |
| 44 | 9.00 | 115 | 4.00 | 181 | 31.00 | 251 | 5.00 | 342 | 6.50 | 439 | 13.00 |
| 46 | 25.00 | 116 | 8.50 | 183 | 10.00 | 253 | 91.00 | 343 | 5.00 | 440 | 4.00 |
| 48 | 7.00 | 117 | 4.00 | 184 | 13.00 | 254 | 45.00 | 344 | 5.00 | 442 | 10.00 |
| 49 | 10.00 | 122 | 6.00 | 185 | 41.00 | 255 | 46.00 | 348 | 3.00 | 443 | 11.00 |
| 50 | 9.00 | 123 | 3.00 | 188 | 6.50 | 256 | 82.00 | 349 | 2.00 | 444 | 15.00 |
| 51 | 8.00 | 126 | 5.50 | 189 | 5.50 | 257 | 20.00 | 352 | 10.00 | 445 | 17.00 |
| 52 | 17.00 | 127 | 15.00 | 190 | 7.00 | 258 | 21.00 | 354 | 7.00 | 446 | 27.00 |
| 53 | 50.00 | 128 | 100.00 | 191 | 12.00 | 259 | 11.00 | 355 | 5.00 | 447 | 20.00 |
| 54 | 5.50 | 129 | 11.00 | 192 | 24.00 | 260 | 13.00 | 356 | 6.50 | 448 | 70.00 |
| 55 | 5.00 | 130 | 11.00 | 193 | 36.00 | 261 | 4.00 | 357 | 10.00 | 449 | 160.00 |
| 57 | 16.00 | 131 | 12.00 | 194 | 26.00 | 262 | 5.00 | 358 | 42.00 | 452 | 5.00 |
| 58 | 26.00 | 132 | 5.00 | 197 | 15.00 | 263 | 3.00 | 359 | 32.00 | 453 | 9.00 |
| 59 | 16.00 | 133 | 5.50 | 198 | 15.00 | 264 | 11.00 | 360 | 11.00 | 454 | 22.00 |
| 60 | 16.00 | 134 | 7.50 | 200 | 18.00 | 268 | 8.00 | 363 | 16.00 | 455 | 33.00 |
| 61 | 12.00 | 135 | 13.00 | 202 | 50.00 | 269 | 7.00 | 370 | 8.00 | 456 | 90.00 |
| 62 | 4.00 | 136 | 36.00 | 204 | 4.50 | 271 | 18.00 | 371 | 16.00 | 457 | 43.00 |
| 63 | 34.00 | 137 | 25.00 | 210 | 19.00 | 274 | 18.00 | 374 | 8.00 | 463 | 60.00 |
| 65 | 10.00 | 139 | 5.00 | 211 | 4.00 | 277 | 3.50 | 375 | 6.00 | | |
| 67 | 7.50 | 140 | 5.00 | 212 | 15.00 | 278 | 16.00 | 376 | 8.00 | | |
| 69 | 10.00 | 141 | 5.50 | 214 | 2.50 | 279 | 50.00 | 377 | 5.00 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Total 4,440.00 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | E&OE | |

Selected Lots in the November 2001 Auction

[See also pages 85 & 110, and the front cover]



1949 25F Franco-American Friendship
imperf essay of unissued typo printing

TAAF 1963 20F Albatross
unmounted mint



Peter Kelly displays to the Southern Group August 2001 Meeting in East Worthing

