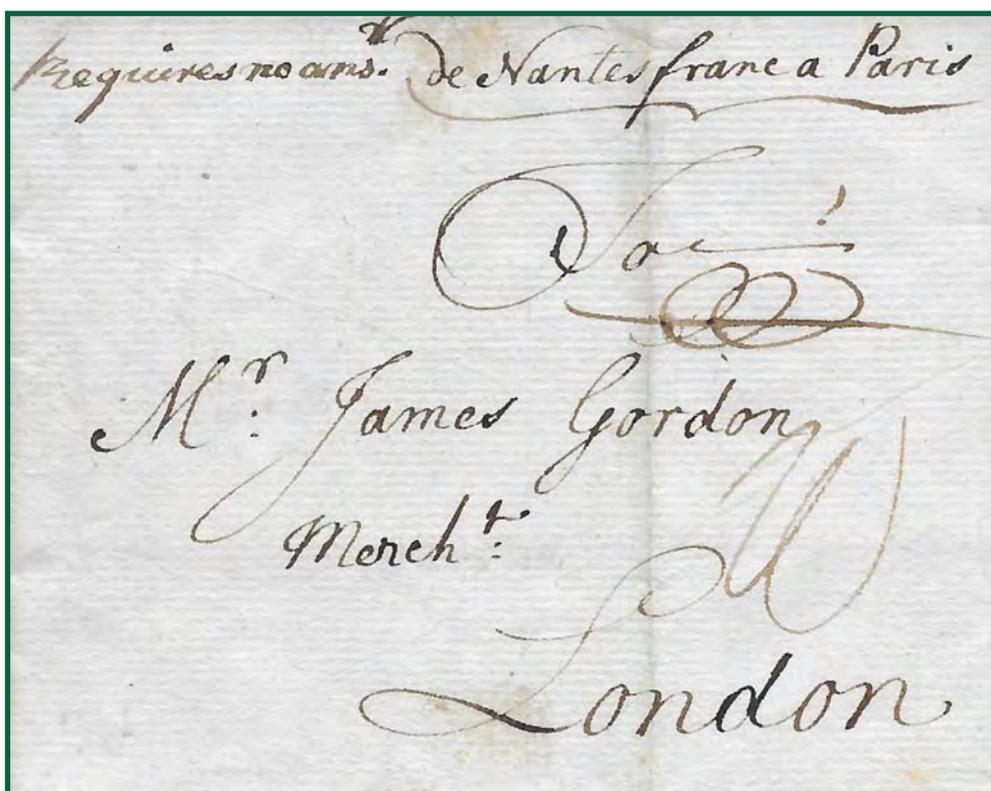


THE JOURNAL OF THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY



A letter from Nantes to London dated 27 July 1765 with manuscript 'de Nantes franc à Paris' (postage paid from Nantes to Paris). The French postage from Nantes to Paris was 8 sols being the inland tariff of 1759 and is indicated on the back of the letter. The English postage of 10d due was charged in London.

Chris Hitchen, in his article 'France and the British post office: 1660 to 1833' (Pages 115-122), guides us through the exchange of mail between the two countries, the amounts to be charged and the markings encountered on such covers.

VOLUME 70 • NUMBER 3
DECEMBER 2020
WHOLE NUMBER 294

ISSN 0269-5006

**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 about and applications for membership should be addressed to the General Secretary.

2019-20 Annual Subscription Rates

United Kingdom: £16.00, Europe: £23.00, Elsewhere: £27.00.

Overseas applicants may prefer to receive the Journal and other information in electronic format which would avoid expensive overseas postage. The reduced subscription rate would be £16.00

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Sterling, Euro and US dollar bills are accepted but overseas cheques must be drawn in Sterling. The Society has a PayPal account for the use of overseas members, but please add 4% for bank charges, and email to treasurer@fcps.org.uk

Bank transfers to HSBC account name France & Colonies Philatelic Society sort code 40-07-31 account no 71019325.

The Journal

The Society's Journal is published in April, August and December.

It is printed and distributed by Joshua Horgan Print & Design, Unit 2, Glenmore Business Centre, Range Road, Witney, Oxon OX29 0AA from the Editor's PDF copy.

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Contributions should be sent by email to Mick Bister at manager@fcps.org.uk.

Text must be submitted in Word and images attached separately as jpegs scanned at 300dpi.

Auction and Exchange Packet Sales

Lots for sale through the Society auctions, held 2 or 3 times a year, should be sent to the Auction Secretary:

D G Parmley, 40 Kenyons Lane, Lydiate, Liverpool L31 0BR (email: dparmley@jhgl.co.uk; tel: 07464 926250) according to instructions.

Material for circulation in booklet form is welcomed but please contact the appropriate secretary with details before sending items.

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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.

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* * *

When writing to an officer of the Society, please do not mention the name of the Society in the address. Postal 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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SOCIETY NOTES

Editorial

To have philatelic articles that take our minds away from the problems we are facing worldwide is most welcome indeed. As editor I'm very grateful of the diverse range of subjects in this edition. To give you an idea of article sizes, 'Central African Republic' is just over 500 words, 'Blocs-Feuillets' just over 1000, and 'France and the British post office' around 3000 words, so with added images the articles become a nice meaty read. If you have any items of interest please consider sending them to Mick Bister for inclusion in a later edition. Your contribution will ensure the well-being of our Journal.

The Christmas season and a New Year is usually a time of joy and to reflect and give thanks on the year past. This year we may have to celebrate differently, so, however you do it, and whatever your circumstances, I hope you and your loved ones can still meet and have a safe and happy time. **Jan Gane**

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome new members 1497 Conor Biggs (Belgium), 1498 Lawrence Rosenblum (USA), 1499 John Bowden (UK), 1500 Shivshankar Nair (Spain) and 1501 Gerard van der Ree (Netherlands).

Members Deceased

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of member 30 George Nash. George, you will recall, was the longest serving member of the Society having joined in the 1950s (see Journal No 289, April 2019). We offer our condolences to his wife and family.



A message from John West

I would like to thank everyone who wrote such lovely letters and sent cards, following the death of my wife Chris in August. Many of you will know that I have been diagnosed with cerebellum ataxia and I am now confined to a wheelchair. My handwriting has become so bad that even I can't read it - which was, of course, the reason, I had to discontinue my work as Packet Secretary. In an ideal world I would have been only too pleased to have written to everyone who took the trouble to write to me, so I hope that the members will understand why I am having to thank them in this unusual way.

"John"

Future Events

The situation regarding the holding of meetings remains unchanged and hence I can but repeat the advice published last time.

Regional organisers will make their own decisions regarding the holding of meetings in the light of circumstance prevailing at the time but they must note the following points:

- Travel by car should be safe but use of trains and buses will carry risks.
- Social distancing the audience can be done fairly easily but looking at frames tricky even with small numbers (currently limited to 6). Wessex and Northern meeting rooms are reasonably spacious so social distancing should be less of a problem; London though is cramped.
- Anything handled by someone else must be considered potentially contaminated. Browsing and handling magazines or material will not be allowed.
- Most meetings rely on a pub for lunch. Whether the pubs will be fully operational is not yet known but, even if they are, communal eating may still be too much of a risk.
- Most who attend are in vulnerable categories so individuals need to make their own decisions bearing that in mind.

All we can hope is that a vaccine, promised by so many countries, will become available sooner rather than later.

Annual Philatelic Weekend 2021

The Annual Weekend at the Abbey Hotel, Redditch planned for March 2021 has been cancelled. There is some possibility of reorganising it for later in the year and that is currently under discussion. The difficulties of course are that no one knows when it might be safe to conduct meetings again. Details will be published in a future edition of the Journal and/or circulated by email as appropriate.

Annual General Meeting 2021

An Annual General Meeting is a requirement for the good conduct of the Society and proper communication to members of our current position. Since we no longer have any firm date for a physical meeting at which this could be conducted it will regrettably have to be deferred until such time as circumstances allow us to proceed. Any suggestions on any other course of action should be advised to the President.

Displays by members

Prior to the lockdown some of our members were able to show to local philatelic societies. At Croydon & District PS, **Chris Hitchen** displayed 'Decorative Envelopes', mainly French, from the period 1870-1890, and at Kingston-upon-Thames & District PS, **Roger Niven** displayed 'Philatelic Aspects of France' with a substantial history of the growth of France, including its postal history, and a multitude of cultural aspects shown on the stamps. At Southampton & District PS, **Bob Small** showed 'How Britain seemed to have been at war with everyone at one time or another' and **Alan King** reviewed 'The history of French stamps'. **Mick Bister** displayed his 'France: 1929-1979' to Bedford PS, and 'Stamps of the 1960s' and 'Marianne de Cheffer' to Luton PS. **Jan Gane** showed five frames of 'Marianne de Gandon: The postal rates and usages: 1945-55' to the Western Australia Study Group in Perth, Western Australia.

Post lockdown, on 16 October, **Peter Maybury** gave a PowerPoint display by Zoom to Stockport PS entitled 'The French in Tunisia 1777 to 1900' at which there were 19 attendees and, on 20 October, to the Society of Postal Historians entitled 'Ireland - The Cashel Mail Coach' at which there were 40 attendees.

On 23 January, **Claire Scott** presented 'On the Fringes of Eastern Seas: Brunei 1895-1988' to members of the Royal Philatelic Society of London.



Richard Stock, President of the RPSL, presents Claire Scott with her certificate and the Society's 150th Anniversary Medal
Photo.© Michael Pitt-Payne FRPSL

Claire introduced her display by explaining that Brunei was the country of her birth and that it had never before formed the subject of a major display to the RPSL. The display used the stamps, postal history and ephemera of the country to relate the story of its development. It began with the concession issue of 1895, the joining with the Straits Settlements Postal Union in 1906 and with the UPU in 1916. Finally, with the advent of airmail services and the discovery

of oil, Brunei became one of the wealthiest but smallest countries in the world.

Exhibition Successes

At the Saratoga National in Florida 7-9 February 2020, **Larry Rosenblum** was awarded a Literature Gold for 'France's Sower Design Proliferated with Post-World War I Inflation' and a Literature Large Silver for 'Pneumatic Post Moved Mail in Paris for more than a Century'.

The Magazine Circuit

I am pleased to confirm that *Timbres* magazine, which went into receivership in June, has now resurfaced under the management of Yvert & Tellier. A joint issue for July and August was produced on time and distributed to the members of our magazine circuits without the loss of one single issue! A remarkable achievement for Yvert & Tellier and much appreciated by collectors worldwide. New members are always welcome to the magazine circuit; please contact me, Richard Broadhurst, at francestamps@tiscali.co.uk for further details.

Request

I am interested in obtaining very recent used France commemoratives on or off paper for purchase or exchange. I am specifically looking for any pictorial stamps from sheets, not the self-adhesive stamps sold in booklets of ten or twelve.

Anything from 2010 to date in any quantity would be suitable, I would also be interested in a regular source of this material. If you can help, please contact me, Richard Broadhurst, at francestamps@tiscali.co.uk

Errata

An eagle-eyed member has identified the following errors in the last edition of the Journal (August, No 293)

1. On page 60, at the bottom, the last illustration should be labelled as 'single circle' not 'double circle'.
2. On page 78, in the second paragraph, the 10/40, 15/40 should be listed as Maury 4 and 5 respectively.
3. On Page 79, '(Figure 3)' should be moved back slightly to just after '15.5mm' as it relates only to the illustrating of narrow spacings.
4. In the right column, on page 80, reference '9' appears after 'October' but the corresponding footnote has dropped off the page. It is : Tillard, J-J., 2014, *Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon ses surcharges au 19^{ème} siècle*, 148p, Azimuts sarl, St. Pierre & Miquelon.p.26

Apologies to the respective authors and to any members whose enjoyment of the articles was marred.

Virtual Displays

A big thank you to the following who have contributed to the initiative since its inception in May. Favourable comments about the displays have been received which is very encouraging but we do need further contributions if we are to compensate you all for the continuing lack of face-to-face meetings and presentations.

May	Mick Bister La Chapelle de Notre-Dame du Haut de Ronchamp		
June	David Trapnell Allies in the British-led Egyptian Expeditionary Force, 1916-1918		Ed Grabowski Madagascar and Dependencies
July	Peter Maybury The French Conquest of Tunisia		Steve Walske The Metz Balloon Posts
Sept	Steve Ellis France: Rail Mail		Ed Grabowski Use of the French FM Stamps from the Colonies
Oct	Alain Baum The Axis Occupation of France	Paul Grigg France – the Rural Service	Roger Niven The Regions of France in Postcards: 1902-1918
Nov	Andrew Telfer Brunton The Sabine definitives of France		Peter Maybury The Canal du Midi

Please scan your pages as jpegs at 300dpi and send them to me by DropBox or WeTransfer (or a few at a time, if you prefer, as email attachments). Please include a title page and, if you feel it is required, an explanatory introduction. Send them to Mick Bister, at manager@fcps.org.uk and please also state if you agree to have your display posted on the website afterwards. Thank you.

Society Website

JOURNALS: A sincere thank you to Maurice Tyler for scanning or preparing 25 issues of our Journals for inclusion on the website. There are now 75 issues for your enjoyment. The 2015 to 2018 issues will be uploaded after I have completed the updates of this current Journal and Auction.

VIRTUAL DISPLAYS that have been circulated by email have been uploaded to the website - there are currently six online and new ones will be uploaded each month between Journal issues. A page devoted to the displays will be created in the next couple of months.

The Website has a dedicated **NEWS** section - please check regularly for any Society updates, when information comes to hand it is updated there and on the Front page.

AUCTION: Selected images are uploaded to the Auction page, these are in full colour. A list of previous auction catalogues is available online.

Website **FORUM:** your chance to ask questions or just chat with fellow members is back after a major upgrade. My apologies if members have had difficulties with logging in, there should be no problems now. Please use it. **Jan Gane**



*The President and Committee wish
All members and their families
a Happy Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year
Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année !*

France and the British post office 1660 to 1833

Chris Hitchen

There are a number of excellent books dealing with postal arrangements between France and Britain with exhaustive detail on the rates and routes involved¹. This short article simply aims to show how the relations between France and the British post office evolved over time.

Until 1833 only letters destined for Great Britain and Ireland could be sent from France as well as mail from any other European county whose mail crossed France in transit. Whilst Britain steadily developed overseas postal routes in the early nineteenth century these were only accessible to European letter writers if they were able to use the services of a forwarding agent in England. There were no accountancy agreements between the French and British

post offices. Each office simply collected its own postage.

There were a number of treaties between the two countries in the seventeenth century which dealt with the exchange of mails. An English act of 1660 stipulated the amount to be charged in London from different principal towns in France. If they were to go beyond London then inland postage to destination from London had to be added. The French post office appeared to make no charge on such mail. **Figure 1** is dated 2 April 1699 in Paris and has a Foreign Office Bishop mark of 16 April on the reverse. The charge in London is 9d which was kept entirely by the British post office.



Figure 1

This letter dated 2 April 1699 from Paris was charged 9d postage in London.
No French postage was paid.

1711 saw the rate payable in London set at 10d from any place in France. For letters from towns beyond Paris, French postage was due from that town as far as Paris. From Paris and other towns between the capital and the coast no French postage was levied. **Figure 2** shows a letter dated 16 December 1766 from Paris simply charged 10d on arrival in London. **Figure 3**, illustrated on the front cover of the Journal, is a letter dated 27 July 1765 from Nantes. On the reverse is the French postage paid to take the letter as far as Paris, 8 *sols*; again the English charge in London is 10d.

A new French convention in August 1784 decreed that French postage must be paid as far as Calais at the inland rates of the tariff of 1759. **Figure 4** is undated but the text mentions that the king is still imprisoned in the Temple, so it

would have been written in the autumn of 1792. The reverse shows 8 *sols* prepaid from Paris to Calais. Postage due in London remained unchanged at 10d. From March 1793 the revolutionary wars halted all correspondence with England.

War between France and England lasted some 23 years with just one brief interlude in 1802 when peace was agreed at the Treaty of Amiens in March 1802. Postal communications had resumed in October 1801 on the same terms as before the outbreak of war. A new convention of 17 May 1802 (27 *floréal an X*) set French postage on mail to England at the inland rate to Calais plus 2 *décimes voie de mer* across the Channel. The British post office restated the amount of postage due, beyond the capital, in June 1802. A considerable number of travellers took advantage of this

¹The bibliography at the end of the article lists the key books.

Figure 2

A letter written 16 December 1766 from Paris charged 10d in London and no French postage paid.

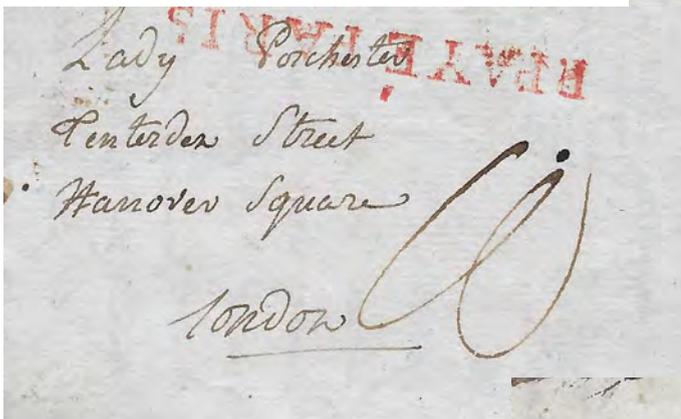
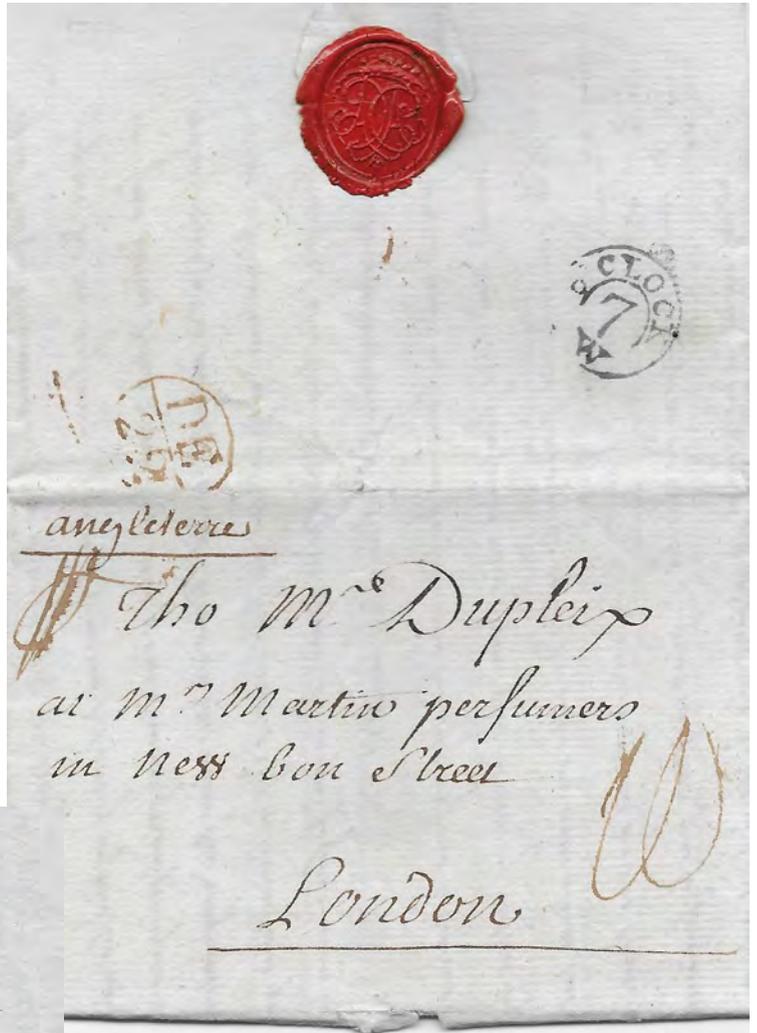
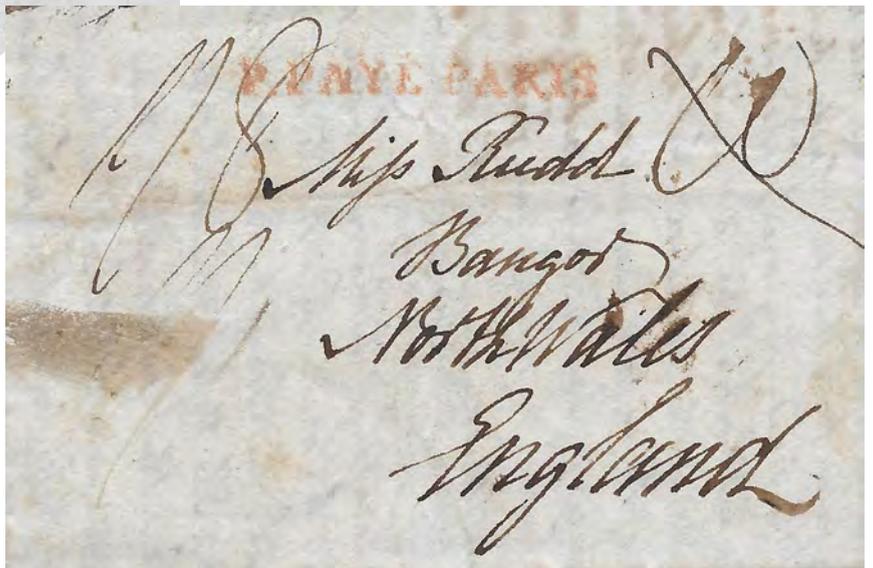


Figure 4

A letter from Paris in the early days of the revolution, prepaid 8 sols to Calais at the inland tariff of 1759. 10d charged in London as postage due.

Figure 5

5 September 1802 Paris to Bangor North Wales. Prepaid 6 *décimes* in Paris, 4 *déc* to Calais (up to 300 kilometres) at the tariff of 20 July 1802 and 2 *déc* for sea postage. Postage charged on receipt was 1/8d, 10d to London and 10d from London to Bangor (up to 300 miles at the tariff of 5 April 1801)



moment of peace. **Figure 5**, written in Paris on 5 September 1802, is an interesting letter from one such who describes in detail his journey from Dieppe via Rouen in a rather hot summer. The very heavy lumbering coach being slow and

airless, he and others sat on the roof. He notes the lack of vines but comments on the abundance of apples. Rather than corn these were apparently used to feed to the horses. His hotel in Paris is near the Palais Royal, now the Palace of

the Tribunal (as he notes in this Republican era), and close to the post office from where he can send and receive his letters.²

Both countries experienced inflation during the Napoleonic wars and postal rates inevitably increased. Once peace was restored postal traffic resumed, each side charging postage according to the tariffs then in force. Figure 6 is a typical letter of the time from Lorient to Girvan, Scotland written

in the autumn of 1822.

To improve the speed at which mail travelled a faster service between Calais and Paris began on 1 August 1829. The *estafette* service used a lighter vehicle than heavy stagecoaches and cost an extra 3 *décimes*, progressive according to weight, if required. The use of this means of transport became mandatory in October 1833. Figure 7 shows a letter from Liverpool to Paris in 1834.

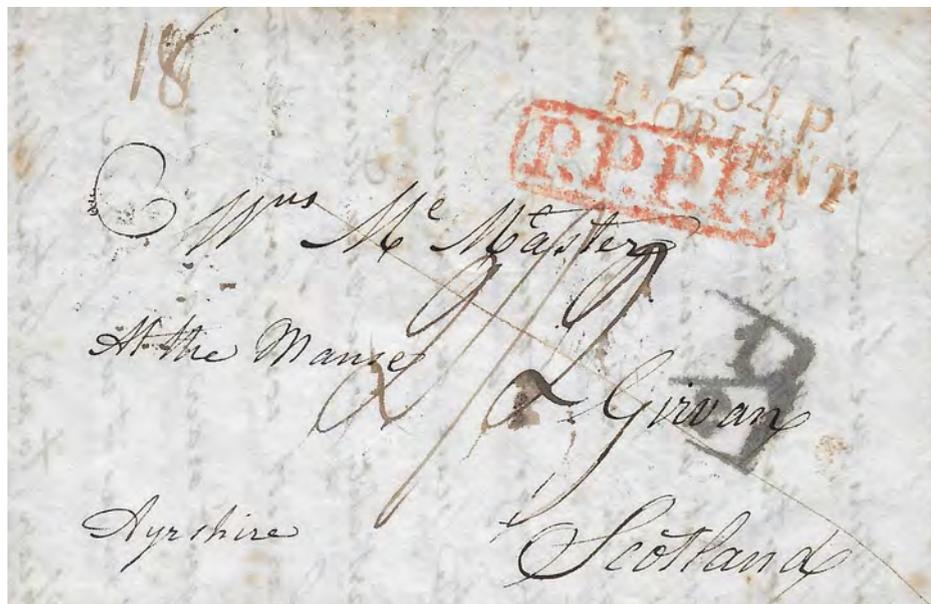


Figure 6

21 October 1822 Lorient to Girvan, Scotland. Prepaid 11 *décimes*, 9 *déc* to Calais at the tariff of 24 April 1806 (600 to 800 kilometres) and 2 *déc* for sea postage. Postage charged on receipt 2/2d, 1/2d to London (tariff of July 1812) and 1/- London to Girvan (up to 500 miles at the 1801 scale). P.P.P.P. applied in Paris in transit and an extra 1/2d for the Scottish turnpike toll.

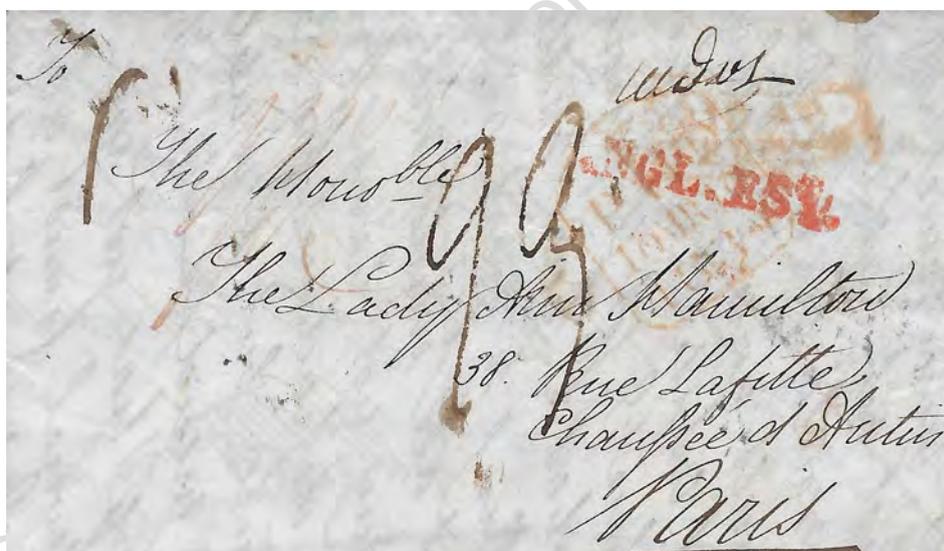


Figure 7

8 March 1834 Liverpool to Paris second French weight step up to 10 grams. ANGL. EST applied on arrival. Liverpool to London 10d (up to 300 miles at the 1801 scale) + 8d London to Dover and 6d sea postage (tariff of July 1812) = 2/- pre-paid. 23 *décimes* to pay in Paris (6 *déc* from England + 3 *déc* *estafette* + 6 *déc* Calais to Paris at the tariff of 1 January 1828 = 15 *déc* x 1½³ = 23 *décimes* rounded up).

1833 to 1855

A new postal convention between France and Great Britain was concluded in June 1833. It did not significantly affect the exchange of mails between the two countries but it introduced a crucial new element for overseas territories served by the British post office. British postage could now be paid in France and accountancy arrangements were

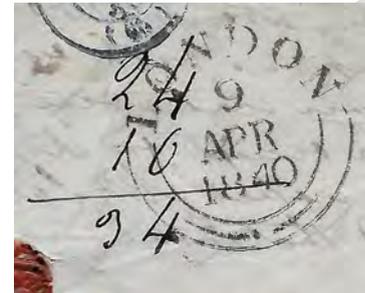
introduced to settle the amounts owed by one country to another. Until then, if a French merchant wished to send letters by British routes to overseas destinations, he had had to make use of a forwarding agent based in England who would undertake to send on his correspondence.

² See full transcript of letter at end of article.

³ French weight progression at the 1828 tariff was 1, 1½, 2, 2½ etc. So the second weight step is 1½ times.

A further Convention which went into effect on 15 July 1836 extended this principle of accountancy between the two post offices even further. Letters between France and Great Britain could now be sent fully pre-paid, partially paid to the frontier or unpaid to be fully paid by the recipient on delivery. For the postage payable for the inland postage through France a new tariff was compiled to be used in place

of that of 1828 still in force for mail within France. The calculations of the rate are often found on the back and on the front the debits and credits due to either party. Figure 8 shows a letter from Hyères in 1840 when Great Britain charged uniform foreign postage of 10d (except for some places in Kent and Sussex between London and the coast which cost less).



The calculation is on the back of the envelope

Figure 8

3 April 1840 Hyères to London. Fully prepaid 34 *décimes* for the second French weight step, 16 *décimes* to Calais (over 900 kilometres) $\times 1\frac{1}{2} = 24 \text{ déc} + 10 \text{ déc}$ to Great Britain. The 10 at the top right in red is the amount owed to Great Britain by the French post office.

By the 1830s an increasing number of regular routes were being inaugurated to all parts of the world by British ships. The transition from sail to steam was also about to unfold. Whilst the postage rates were considerably higher than on non-contract commercial vessels, they did give regular access to destinations not usually served by French shipping. Packet services to the east coast of South America, Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina had been running since 1808. August 1837 saw the Peninsular Steam Navigation Company begin operations to the Iberian Peninsula. Retitled the Peninsula and Oriental (P&O) in 1840, it now extended its operations to the Far East. The Great Western began trans-Atlantic service in April 1838 and some three years later Cunard became the principal line serving North America. 1841 saw the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company launch regular services to the West Indies. That the full postage could now be paid in France for all these services made commercial life much easier to manage for French trading companies.

A new convention applicable from 1 June 1843 extended and simplified the postal relations between the post offices of both countries and reduced the cost of postage considerably. The British share of the postage for a single

letter was halved from 10d to 5d. France reverted to the use of the 1828 tariff for its inland portion. However, the French rate to the Channel was deemed to be that to Boulogne irrespective of whether that port or Calais was used. Boulogne had been trying to oust Calais as the main route for the English mails and in 1848 when the railway reached it, it first thought it had succeeded. But when Calais also had a rail link the post reverted to that route. The tariff of 1828 set rates according to distance as the crow flies. Calais is some 235 kilometres from Paris and Boulogne 210. Up to 220 kilometres cost 5 *décimes* and 220 to 300 kilometres 6 *décimes*. The French post office seems to have taken the pragmatic decision to charge 5 *décimes* for convenience.

To most overseas destinations served by British shipping France was now charged 3/4d per ounce which, for a single letter at the French scale of $7\frac{1}{2}$ grams, amounted to 10d per letter plus French inland postage. For British North America the rate was 4/- per ounce which meant 1/- per letter plus French inland postage. Mail to India and the west coast of South America had their own specific agreements. Some examples of such destinations are shown in Figures 9, 10 and 11.

⁴ 1 ounce = 28.35 grams

Figure 9

13 October 1843 Paris to Porto. Prepaid 15 *décimes*, 5 *déc* the inland rate to Boulogne (tariff of 1828) + 10 *déc* to the British post office (1843 Convention). Portugal charged its own inland rate for incoming letters at its July 1806 tariff, 210 *reis* for the second weight step up to 1½ *oitavas* (5.379 grams)



Figure 10

2 April 1847 Paris Office DS2 to Rio de Janeiro. Prepaid 15 *décimes*, 5 *déc* the inland rate to Boulogne (tariff of 1828) + 10 *déc* to the British post office (1843 Convention). It sailed from Falmouth on 6 April on the Admiralty sailing packet Express and arrived at the British agency in Rio on 17 May.



Figure 11

28 April 1846 Paris Office C to New York. Prepaid 15 *décimes*, 5 *déc* the inland rate to Boulogne (tariff of 1828) + 10 *déc* to the British post office (1843 Convention). It sailed on 5 May 1846 from Liverpool on the Cunard liner Britannia. The United States post office charged 7 cents to the recipient, 2c ship letter plus 5c up to 300 miles at the tariff of 1 July 1845.



France introduced uniform inland postage on 1 January 1849. Foreign rates, however, remained unchanged until 1 August. For letters by British shipping the amounts payable to the British post office stayed as set in the 1843 Convention. The inland rate from anywhere in France to the Channel ports was set at 5 *décimes*, the same as had applied from Paris to Boulogne at the 1828 tariff. **Figure 12**

is a letter to the United States prepaid 1 franc 50 centimes. The rate for letters to England was set at 80 centimes, **Figure 13**. Great Britain kept its rate to France unchanged at 10d as first set in January 1840. This oddity of different rates from the two countries was corrected with a new tariff at the reduced rate of 40 centimes or 4d on 1 January 1855.



Figure 12

25 January 1850 Paris Office E to New York. Prepaid 1 franc 50 centimes, 5d French inland at the tariff of 1 August 1849 to the Channel port + 10d to the British post office (1843 Convention). It left Liverpool by the Cunard liner Europa on 26 January. The United States post office charged 5 cents at its flat inland rate of December 1848.



Figure 13

28 November 1851 Paris Office K to London. 80 centimes fully paid in Paris to England at the tariff of August 1849. The postage was checked at the head post office and the stamps cancelled there with a roller grille.

The reliance of France on British shipping for many overseas destinations began to reduce from the late 1840s. The United States and Germany launched transatlantic

services which were available to the French. In the 1860s France created more of its own shipping lines to serve most parts of the world.

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The 1836 Anglo-French Postal Convention Geoffrey Lewis FRPSL

Text of the letter illustrated in Figure 5

Paris, Hôtel de Montpellier, rue de la Loi⁵

Arrived there Sunday evening 5 September 1802. (18 Fructidor 10th Year of the Republic)

At eight o'clock Wednesday morning 1st September I set out from Dieppe for Rouen, though the distance is but 12 leagues it took us the whole day – the weather was intensely hot and the diligence (it was chock full) heavier and closer than a wagon. I was horribly annoyed and rode most of the way on the roof with 4 others. Our legs stretching at full length in a kind of basket work Imperial. An English post-chaise is certainly a pleasanter conveyance yet I assure you a single man of my turn meets a fund of amusement in these sorts of machines. One of my companions was a Swiss gentleman bringing home a lovely daughter who had had her education in England. Another was a French officer going to join his regiment in Paris. He had been taken prisoner 4 years ago by the Austrians in Italy. I found him very pleasant but laughingly vain. He talked very familiarly indeed about kings – called the King of Sardinia the King of Marmots, a little animal very frequent about the mountains of Switzerland and Savoy, his Neapolitan majesty, was in his mouth, nothing but the King of Macaroni and when I asked him what he called sa Majesté Britannique, he immediately christened him King of Roast Beef, Roi du Boeuf Roti.

Three hours of heavy roads and tedious travelling till we got to an half way village called Tôtes – here we dined at 12 o'clock - had choice fruit and a poor bottle of Burgundy, all for 3 livres (half-a-crown), about half past five we entered Rouen, this entire road is level, broad and uniform. The fields on either side are without hedges or any manner of enclosure and abound with apple trees, but I saw no vines. All Normandy is indeed famous for cider, when we stopped our driver feeds his six horses (for we were a tremendous equipage) with apples instead of corn and water. There are a few thriving cotton manufactories along this road but I looked in vain for those snug boxes and elegant little villas for the rich citizens and gentry, which are so frequent and so gratifying on our English roads. Here and there indeed I saw and lamented the decay of some huge mansion, those anciens châteaux of the Norman barons and felt of course a degree of “compatriotisme” for them but alas the Age of Chivalry is gone! and so are their roofs and window frames. The symptoms of opulence and prosperity quickly appear as you get on. The road when you get near Rouen is the most noble and picturesque I ever saw with broad walks on each side shaded by double rows of stately trees. The city of Rouen itself is opulent and populous. We stayed there from Wednesday evening till Friday morning. Went each night to the Opera of course, I saw there the famous Madame Contat⁶ from Paris. She plays just a few nights and is reckoned the first actress in France. She is just a Mrs Abington⁷. The cathedral of Rouen and the church of Saint Ouen are the 2 first churches there but I shall spare you the description of stained glass, Gothic columns etc., we had been informed that the views along the banks of the River Seine were the finest in nature and far exceed even our celebrated Wye in Monmouthshire. We therefore took that course from Rouen and need not remind you that though the Seine is the river flowing through Paris it takes its course after a thousand meanders and sinuosities through Rouen and so empties itself into the sea at Havre. I was much pleased at the varieties of this journey which took us from Friday morning till Sunday evening when we arrived in Paris. We first hired a little boat as far as Port St Ouen from thence 6 leagues by land to Rouelle, in the only vehicle we could get, viz a kind of brewer's dray without head, seats or sides to guard you from the wheels. Weather heavenly, however, and I sat on a cushion of straw clapped upon my luggage as joyous as possible filled with pleasure. At Rouelle a vile inn and a bed!!! You know I love coarse sheets but such sheets as I lay in there. Had my skin been lemon peel there was no want of a grater.

Next morning early embarked again upon the Seine in a boat which we hired to ourselves – landed at a handsome town on the right bank called Mantes where we got some excellent coffee and saw the great church

⁵ Now Rue de Richelieu

⁶ This would have been Louise-Françoise Contat (1760 – 1813) who made her début at the Comédie Française in 1766 and who achieved her major successes in the plays of Marivaux and Beaumarchais.

⁷ Frances “Fanny” Abington (1737 – 1815) was an English actress, known not only for her acting, but for her sense of fashion. She was often billed simply as ‘Mrs Abington’.

of course and sailed on to Roboise that evening. Our voyage next day was the sweetest of all in a smart canoe sitting in 2 armchairs under an awning of linen, here I was much pleased at sailing under the château de Rosny which belonged to the Duc de Sully Minister to Henry 4th. Talleyrand Périgord now lives in it, he got it by his wife and she, poor creature, was actually guillotined in his absence in the time of Robespierre. Thus passed Sunday 5th September till we landed at Poissy which is a village 5 leagues from Paris where we hired a cabriolet and saw St Germain, a fine park and palace, where our James 2 you remember kept his court so long and at last died a prisoner of Louis 14th and his own children. Nearer to Paris we saw the famous water works at Marly which supply St Cloud and Versailles Palace and near Marly we drove by the entrance of Malmaison (Bonaparte's country residence), he was there though we could not see him or his houses. All the entrances are new and beautiful Barracks filled with his own Gardes de Corps who were lounging in groups about the road. They are picked fine young men and have rather an elegant than a martial air. Bona' is building and improving his Farm (for take notice) tis no palace but belonged to Barras and drives in and out of Paris like George from Windsor. The road from thence to Paris is noble indeed and you make your entry by the Elysian Fields and along the gardens of the Tuileries eminently the most striking and finest approach to this wonderful city.

This have I by scratches endeavoured to give my beloved Sarah some idea of my journey to Paris by a route very little known or sailed by travellers in general. The straight line from Rouen to Paris I could have (done) in a day. The hotel whence I (came) I preferred because it is so near the Palais Royal that centre of everything delightful and wicked but our chambers were so hot and close that we have removed to the Hotel de l'Univers (ci-devant Hotel de Bourbon) which is equally near the Palace of the Tribunal (that is the Republican name now used for the Palais Royal). I am near the General post office which is a main point as it is only there I can receive the letters addressed to me or pay with those I send. The end of this goes into the rue St Honoré which is the Paris James Street and the great centre front of the Palais Royal is there. Ten times a day I pass this spot and never without reflecting that it is the precise spot where the cart was stopped (Humanity would hope by accident) wherein the wretched owner of all this magnificence was going to his execution. I abhorred the Duke of Orleans but this atrocious point of cruelty which he bore like a martyr almost makes him one.

I have been now 6 days in Paris going every day for the post and yet disappointed of a letter from you. I carry this now to the office where first I shall enquire for one from you and then send this at all events as the English post goes but 3 times a week. My last to you was from Dieppe which I entrusted to a Captain of the Packets. I hope you got it, write directly.

It is now the last moment. I can keep my letter out of the office until a quarter before 12. I have just enquired but no letter. I am uneasy but hope the best. God bless you, my beloved friend and sister, and keep you in every happiness and guard you from any misfortune. I seal this in a coffee house exactly at the post office. Direct to me "à la Poste Restante Paris". My love to my dear mother and tell her that I have met Mr Fox and Henry Adair.

Ever yours

Pemberton Rudd



Louise Contat in the role of Suzanne, anonymous pastel attributed to Greuze c. 1786).



Mrs Abington (c1737 - 1815) as The Comic Muse, 1764-68 Portrait by Joshua Reynolds.

Images sourced <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Post-independence postmarks of the Central African Republic

Marc Parren and Martin Bohnstedt

Part 3

BOCARANGA

Post office open at least since 1954



Bocaranga Post Office, June 2019

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 16.7.1960 Latest: 30.11.1984</p> <p>Misspelled BOGARANGA</p>	
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BODA

Post office open at least since 1952



Boda Post Office, July 2015.

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 29.7.1965 Latest: 28.11.1977</p>	
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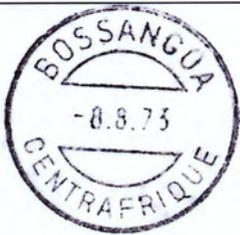
BOGUILA

Post office opened after independence

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 17.5.1975 Latest:</p>	
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BOSSANGO

Post office opened 1 June 1920

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 30 mm with bridge Earliest: 17.1.1962 Latest: 28.9.1999 B - C = 8 mm</p>	
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 <p>2</p>	<p>Double circle 30 mm with bridge Earliest: 9.10.1996 Latest: B - C = 5 mm</p>	
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BOSSEMBELE

Post office open at least since 1957

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 4.6.1960 Latest: 21.2.1987</p>	
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BOSSEMPTELE

Post office opened after independence

The postmark shows a misspelling: 'BOSENTELE' instead of 'BOSSEMPTELE'.

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 4.6.1960 Latest: 21.2.1987</p>	
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BOUAR

Post office opened 1 June 1920

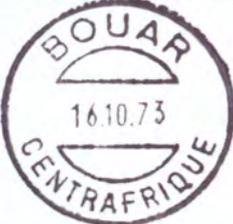


Viewcard depicting the Bouar post office in the 1960s. Collection Marc Parren



Bouar Post Office,
September 2017



<p>1</p> 	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 22.6.1960 Latest: 7.9.2000</p>	
<p>2</p>  	<p>Slogan machine cancellation circle 24 mm Earliest: 21.4.1960 Latest:</p>	<p>LE COTON / RICHESSE DE L'OUBANGUI. CENTRAFRIQUE below BOUAR. Seen earlier with OUBANGUI-CHARI instead of CENTRAFRIQUE</p>
<p>3</p> 	<p>5 wavy lines machine cancellation circle 24 mm Earliest: 29.3.1966 Latest:</p>	

	Single circle 29 mm Earliest: 20 FEB 1986 Latest: 18 SEP 1986	R.C.A. below
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Bouar Post Office, July 2019



An old postmark inscribed Niem was found inside the Bouar post office during a visit made in July 2019. We are not sure whether a post office was ever functional at Niem located some 70 km north-west of Bouar. However, we still like to present it here under Bouar.

	Double circle 30 mm with bridge Earliest: 28.5.1983 Latest:	
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BOUCA

Post office opened 1 December 1910

	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 27.11.1962 Latest: 17.2.1986</p>	
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BOUCHIA

Post office opened after independence

	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 7.3.1973 Latest: 1.8.1973</p>	
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BOUKOKO

Post office opened after independence

	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 5.7.1970 Latest: 31.8.1977</p>	
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BOZOUM

Post office opened 1 June 1920

	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 16.12.1960 Latest: 31.8.2000</p>	
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BRIA

Post office open at least since 1938

<p>1</p> 	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 18.3.1960 Latest: 11.11.1982</p> <p>Wide spacing in town and country name</p>	
<p>2</p> 	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 5.12.1963 Latest:</p> <p>Narrow spacing in town and country name</p>	

CARNOT

Post office open at least since 1908

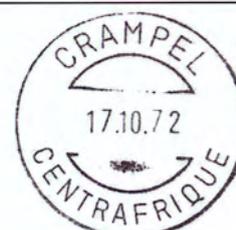
In 1894, François Joseph Clozel opened a military post close to the village of Tendira and named it in that same year after the murdered French President Sadi Carnot (1837-1894).

<p>1</p> 	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 3.1.1962 Latest: 31.7.1984</p>	
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CRAMPEL

Post office with that name open between 1961 – 1974

Until 23 December 1961 it was named Fort-Crampel and on 6 August 1974 renamed Kaga-Bandoro.

<p>1</p> 	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 3.5.1962 Latest: 17.10.1972</p>	
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DAMARA

Post office open at least since 1948

<p>1</p> 	<p>Double circle 30 mm with bridge Earliest: 3.7.1960 Latest: 25.3.1985</p>	
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DE GAULLE

Post office opened in the 1970s

Soon after the French President, Charles de Gaulle (1890-1970), died President Bokassa named this locality along the river Kouï accordingly.

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 1.6.1972 Latest: 29.7.1976</p>	
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DEDE MOKOUBA

Post office opened after independence

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 29.5.1975 Latest:</p>	
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DEKOA

Post office open at least since 1953

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 7.6.1960 Latest: 29.5.1986</p>	
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DJEMAH

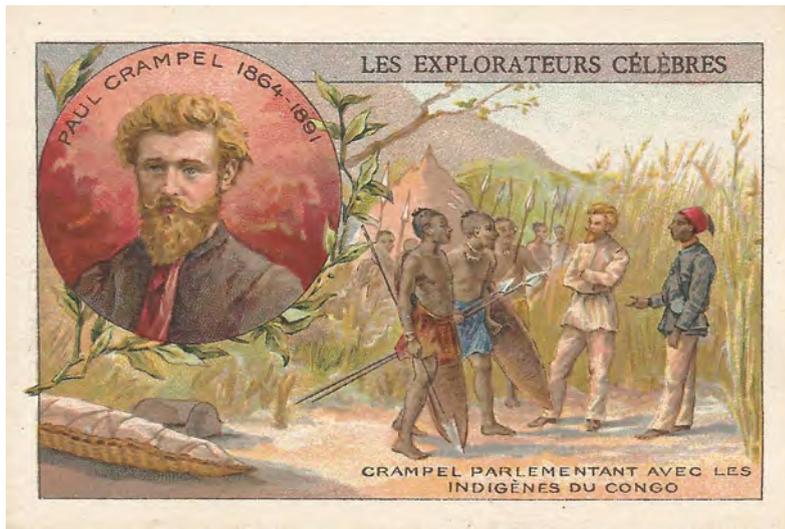
Post office opened after independence

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 10.4.1974 Latest: 3.10.1977</p>	
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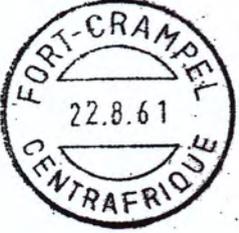
FORT-CRAMPEL

Post office opened 1 August 1905

The post office was named Crampel from 23 December 1961 and, on 6 August 1974, renamed Kaga-Bandoro



In March 1897, the French explorer Émile Gentil established a post near Gribingui, which, the next year, was named Fort-Crampel in honour of the explorer Paul Crampel.

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 10.7.1961 Latest: 27.2.1962</p>	
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FORT-SIBUT

Post office opened 1 April 1905

Named Sibut as from 23 December 1961. In 1896, the French explorer Émile Gentil opened a post in Krébédjé which, in 1900, was renamed Fort-Sibut, in honour of the military medical doctor Adolphe Pierre Sibut. He was part of the Gentil expedition who died from illness on 10 April 1899 in Libreville.

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 9.3.1960 Latest: 23.1.1962</p>	
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GADZI

Post office opened after independence

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 19.7.1972 Latest:</p>	
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GAMBO

Post office opened after independence

	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 11.11.1974 Latest:</p>	
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GAMBOULA

Post office open at least since 1937

	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 21.6.1972 Latest: 22.4.1974</p>	
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GAOUNDAYE

Post office opened after independence

Town is also known as Ngaoundaye located on the border with Cameroon and Chad

	<p>Double circle 31 mm with bridge Earliest: 2.8.1974 Latest:</p>	
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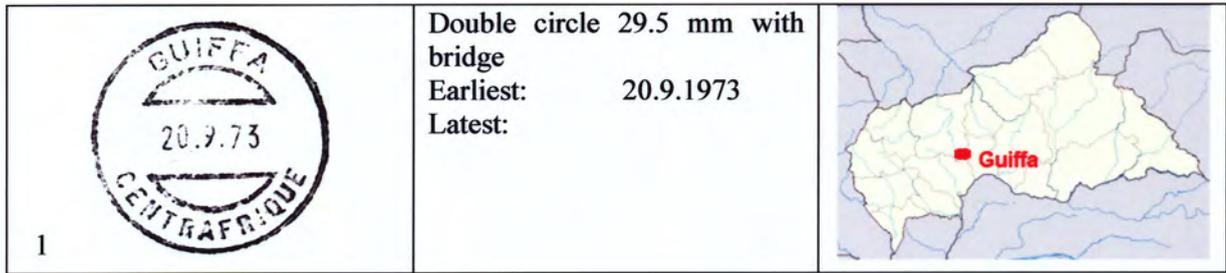
GRIMARI

Post office open at least since 1952

	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 26.3.1982 Latest: 26.3.1982</p>	
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GUIFFA

Post office opened after independence



IPPY

Post office open at least since 1950

In 1913, Louis Brustier, a French engineer discovers the first diamond of the country close to this locality



Former Ippy Post Office building with post office boxes left and counter closed, January 2018

<p>1</p> 	<p>Double circle 30 mm with bridge Earliest: 22.7.1960 Latest: 10.11.1984 I - Y = 9 mm</p>	
<p>2</p> 	<p>Double circle 30 mm with bridge Earliest: 19.8.1974 Latest: 6.7.1976 I - Y = 14 mm</p>	

KABO

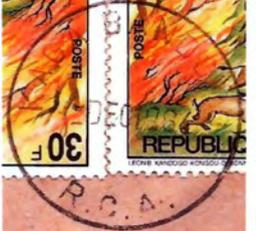
Post office opened after independence

<p>1</p> 	<p>Double circle 30 mm with bridge Earliest: 17.5.1972 Latest:</p>	
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KAGA-BANDORO

Post office with that name open since 6 August 1974

Until 23 December 1961 it was named Fort-Crampel and then, until 6 August, 1974, Crampel.
 (See references above)

<p>1</p> 	<p>Single circle 29.5 mm Earliest: 14.3.1978 Latest: 11.8.1983 Misspelled KAGA-BANDORO</p>	
<p>2</p> 	<p>Single circle 30 mm Earliest: DEC 1984 Latest:</p>	<p>R.C.A. below</p>

The final part of this article covering Kembe to Zemio will be published in the next edition of the Journal.

The International Reciprocal Concessionary Rate for Newspapers and Periodicals

Edwin Voerman

From 1876 to 1926, newspapers sent abroad did not have their own set of tariffs as they did internally; instead they were integrated into foreign printed matter. Later, from 30 June 1926 to 31 May 1980, a rule stipulated that newspapers and magazines (*écrits périodiques*) sent abroad could, under certain conditions, be franked at half the printed matter rate. Hence the term '*le demi-tarif des imprimés*'.

This provision also included paperbacks and hard-cover books (as long as there was no advertising in them) and literary and scientific publications exchanged between universities; the same applied to newspapers and other regularly published magazines. The condition was that these types of shipments had to be sent to the subscribers by the publisher himself. Moreover, there had to be reciprocal agreement between the participating countries. The promotion of social enlightenment was the basis for this concession. Dividing a rate by two does not always result in a whole number; in those unfortunate cases it was the duty of the counter clerk to round it up or down.

The concessionary scheme

As is often the case with concessionary schemes, they eventually get out of hand and become a victim of their own success. When the half-price printed matter rate available to publishers was compared to the amount that the general public had to pay for the equivalent service, the situation became unsustainable. In response to the outcry, from 1 May 1943, the concessionary rate became available to everyone. Later, from 1 July 1953, a minimum charge was set. This meant that the 50% concessionary rate for foreign *écrits périodiques* had to be at least equal to the minimum internal printed matter rate, never lower. The 50% rate rule for newspapers etc. going abroad could only be applied once that condition was met. On 19 May 1964, a fixed minimum amount to be paid was set at 12 centimes.

Sixteen years later, on 1 June 1980, newspapers and magazines and equivalent types of mail going abroad were categorised in their own right and were no longer regarded as part of printed matter; separate tables were published. The tariffs were increased almost annually just like the other postal rates but, for senders, they remained much cheaper compared to those for printed matter going abroad.

Difficulties in research

Anyone who deals with the analysis of French postal rates and tries to understand them will regularly come across some rates that are difficult to understand and some impossible. It will be no different with other countries. It helps a lot if you can find some information about a special

form of mail like the rate for printed matter abroad which will help you solve some of those puzzling items which you were not able to solve before.

What you should realise (which is very hard for some collectors) is that counter clerks are only human. They regularly make mistakes with more complex types of mail or mail that does not pass by daily, which can be very annoying for collectors, because they cannot solve the puzzle. My position on this subject (based on experience) is that when something which seems incomprehensible passes by several times, it will probably be correct, but we just have to find the proof! By studying the captions associated with **Figures 1 to 9** you will probably understand how things work with this type of mail. Finally, I would like to point out the importance of having a well-stocked library (whether online or not). Whatever you collect, it is not really possible without reference works. It starts with a catalogue and a subscription to one or more magazines, but for some collectors that is not enough.

Postal rates

Those who want to understand French postal rates can use at least five sources. Very important are the two volumes entitled *Les Tarifs Postaux Français* by J.P. Alexandre *et al.* The first volume (1982) covers the period 1627-1969 and the second volume (1989) which is not much thinner covers the period 1969-1988. You can imagine how much more complex and comprehensive the regulations have become in that last period relative to the 350 years prior. Some understanding of the French language is recommended; however, most terms are familiar. The publication of these editions was so limited at that time, that the volumes were only to be found in antiquarian bookshops, but now they are placed on sale regularly. Volume 1 will cost between 200-300 euros and volume 2 mostly between 75-125 euros. Secondly, there is also the very handy brochure written in English by Derek Richardson: *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849-2011*¹. It is a publication by the France & Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain from 2011 where it is to be obtained at a very reasonable price in view of the enormous amount of information offered. In the third place, there is the website of *La Poste* where you can find the current rates year by year. I save them each year, because they are as detailed as the overviews by Richardson. Fourthly, you can access the website Gallica, hosted by the *Bibliothèque nationale de France*², where you will find scanned copies of most of the *Bulletins Mensuels* and *Bulletins Officiels* published between 1878 to 1936. Finally, you can contact your fellow collectors at the Society. There are some advanced specialists among them.

¹ Brochure N° 7 *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849-2011* by Derek Richardson, 4th edition, published 2011. Available at £15 from <https://www.fcps.org.uk/index.php/publications/list-of-publications>

² <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cb32730626t/date.r=Bulletin%20mensuel%20des%20postes%20et%20t%C3%A9l%C3%A9graphes.langEN>

Figure 1

The philatelic magazine *L'Écho de la Timbrologie*, which still exists today, already had foreign subscribers a long time ago. The image shows a wrapper of a copy of this periodically published magazine going to Austria in 1927, so not very long after the establishment of the concessionary tariff scheme for this type of mail. The wrapper is franked by a 45 centimes *type Semeuse Lignée* (YT 197). We do not come across this stamp very often as a single franking on cover because the three existing postal applications all concern types of mail which usually end up in the wastepaper basket or are damaged on arrival, such as heavy printed matter. From 1 August 1926 to 31 July 1937, the rate for foreign printed matter was 30 centimes per 50 grams. This magazine must have been of the third weight step (100 to 150 grams) for which 90 centimes was due before discount. Because of the concession, it was allowed to be sent for half the rate which was 45 centimes.

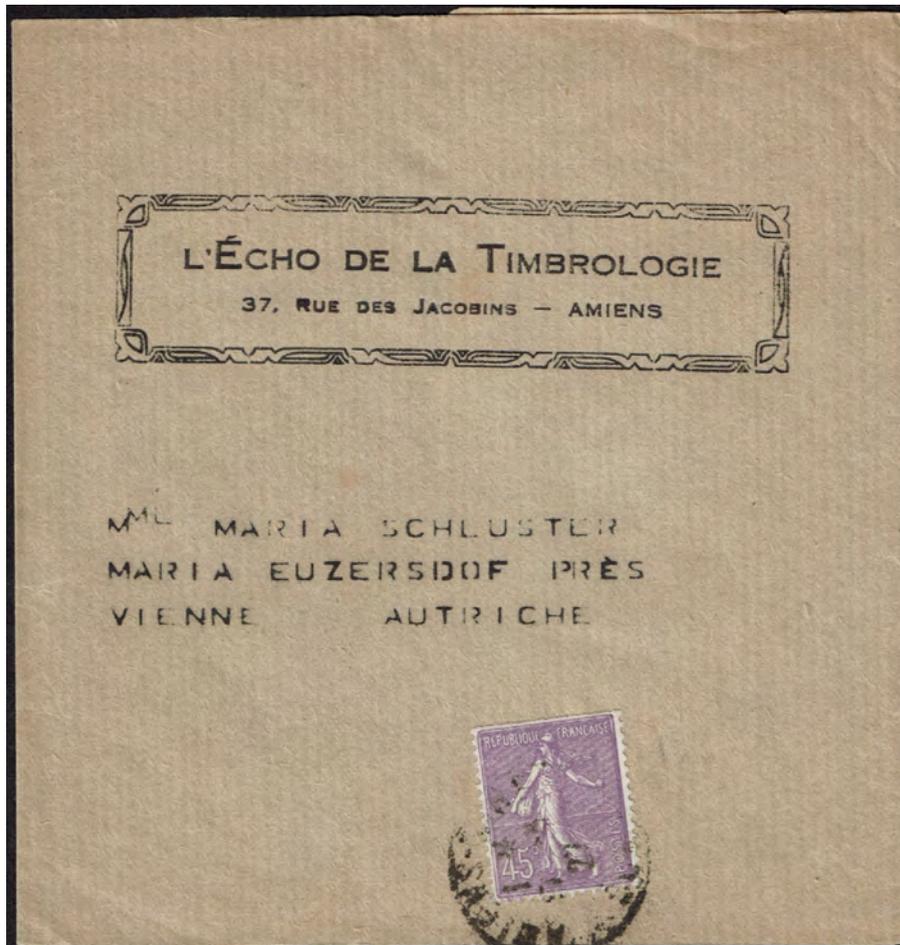


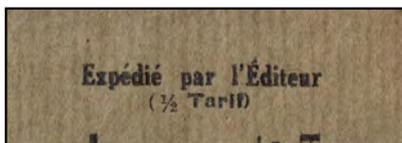
Figure 2

This picture shows a 1936 newspaper wrapper of the *Daily Mail* continental edition which was domiciled in the Rue du Sentier in Paris. The addressee is a travel agency in Tübingen (Württemberg). The wrapper is franked by a 30 centimes *type Paix de Laurens* (YT 280). From 1 August 1926 to 31 July 1937 the rate for foreign printed matter was 30 centimes per 50 grams. You could think that the full amount was paid because there possibly was no reciprocity with Germany, but that is not the case. That was my conclusion when I saw another wrapper (not shown) franked by half of 30 centimes from the same period. There was reciprocity, so we are dealing with a 60 centimes second weight step (50 to 100 grams) which, divided by two, is 30 centimes.



Figure 3

Here we see the cut-out address label of the magazine *Sports* that was sent to Charleroi in Belgium in 1938. The label has been franked by a 55 centimes stamp (YT 378) issued on the occasion of the hundredth birthday of the French statesman Léon Gambetta (1838-1882). From 1 August 1937 to 30 November 1938, the rate for foreign printed matter was 35 centimes per 50 grams. The magazine must have been of the third weight step and will have weighed between 100 and 150 grams. Without discount 1F05 would have been due for this shipment, but it was halved to 52,5 centimes and then rounded up to 55 centimes. Stamps with a nominal value of 55 centimes were used for the franking of a domestic postcard of more than 5 words in this period. We see this stamp often used that way. The above is the only example of this rate I have seen after all these years of collecting.



Printed vertically in the top left corner (see inset) the conditions on which shipping is allowed at half rate are mentioned: *Expédié par l'Éditeur (1/2 Tarif)*. With such a clue you do not have to question the rate, but you rarely come across such clear evidence.



Figure 4

This picture shows a wrapper of a monthly bulletin *Revue Economique Française*. The 80 centimes stamp type *Iris* (YT 649) on the wrapper has not been duly cancelled on departure, because the concentric circle stamp without date is of Swiss origin. Although the date is missing it is certain that this wrapper is from the rate period of 1 February 1942 to 31 January 1946, when foreign printed matter cost 80 centimes per 50 grams. The shipment must have been of the second weight step (50-100 grams). Without discount 1F60 would have been due but, with discount, the 80 centimes stamp was sufficient. This stamp was issued on September 1944, so that is exactly right.



EN CAS DE NON DISTRIBUTION DANS LES 10 JOURS
PRIERE DE FAIRE RETOUR A LA REDACTION
18.RUE SAINT NESTOR-LYON (7^E) FRANCE

Figure 5

Wrapper enclosing a copy of *L'Avenir Medical* sent from Lyon to Switzerland. The 2F franking is represented by 2 x 1 franc *Cérès de Mazelin* (YT 676) cancelled 3 June 1948. The first step rate for foreign printed matter, (0-50 grams) from 1 May to 30 November 1948 was 4 francs and hence the concessionary rate applied in this case was only 2 francs.

At the bottom of the wrapper are explicit instructions for the return of undelivered mail to the publisher in Lyon.

© Mick Bister collection

Figure 6

Here we have a newspaper wrapper of the *New York Herald Tribune*, domiciled at 21 rue du Berry in Paris, franked by two stamps totalling 11 francs cancelled 10 February 1946, going to Rotterdam. I have not seen such a rate before. We see here a combined rate for international printed matter and an airmail supplement. *Par Avion* is mentioned at the bottom of the address. Let us start with the airmail franking rule: in this category it makes no difference which type of mail is used. Only weight and destination are relevant.

From 18 March 1946 to 5 February 1948, a 5 francs per 5 grams airmail supplement was due on mail to the Netherlands³. There was no discount. The rate for foreign printed matter was 2 francs per 50 grams from 1 February 1946 to 30 April 1948. The item must have weighed between 5 and 10 grams, taking into account the airmail supplement of 10 francs for which the 10 francs orange type *Marianne de Gandon* (YT 722) has been used. A thin periodical! 2 Francs foreign printed matter divided by 2 makes 1 franc for which the 1 franc type *Cérès de Mazelin* (YT 676) has been used. This makes a total of 11 francs, a rarely observed franking. When you see a combined rate like this you have to be careful.



Figure 7

In the period from 1 May 1951 to 30 June 1957 there would have been a charge of 6 francs due for a periodical up to 50 grams such as the *Bulletin d'information de la chambre de commerce suisse en France*. In the context of the special concession this amount was reduced by 50 per cent to 3 francs, paid by using a 3 francs coat of arms of *Dauphiné* (YT 954).



Figure 8

The use of the 12 centimes coat of arms of *Agen* (YT 1353A), here applied to a *Nouvelles de La Cause* wrapper, is an example of the application of the minimum fee of 12 centimes that was introduced from 19 May 1964. The foreign printed matter rate without discount was 25 centimes from 19 May 1964 to 12 January 1969. Divided by 2 this was 12½ centimes but this was rounded down to exactly 12 centimes, the minimum fee.

Figure 9

The wrapper of the *Ligue française contre la vivisection* shows how attractive modern postal history can be. If you come across such a piece then the price usually bears no relationship to the scarcity at all. Modern frankings are generally much scarcer than classic frankings because of the frequently changing postal rates and the increasing issues of stamps compared to some 100 years ago. Modern stamps used correctly generally have a much shorter life compared to the classic period. Moreover, this type of material usually ends up in the wastepaper basket. Here we see a printed matter wrapper of a periodical of the second weight step to Belgium for which 45 centimes would have been paid without discount from 13 January 1969 to 11 January 1970, half of which is 22,5 centimes, rounded down to 22 centimes. The 2 centimes stamp coat of arms of *Guéret* (YT 1351B) is rare commercially used.



³ The date on which many airmail fees during this period became effective is not always known as they were not always published in the *Bulletin officiel des PTT*. The date given in philatelic sources is sometimes that of the decree which previously announced the application of the rate.

The 1F50 ‘tolerated’ letter rate to the *Comité International de la Croix Rouge* in Geneva

Mick Bister

In his review of David Trapnell’s book *The Postal Message Scheme of the French Red Cross in France and its African Colonies in WW2* (F&CPS Journal 292, April 2020), John West commented that mail addressed to the *C.I.C.R.* was “mostly with postage (4 francs) correctly paid - although, it is true to state that the Swiss postal authorities rarely, if ever, levied a fiscal penalty to incorrectly franchised mail addressed to the Red Cross in Geneva.” Before proceeding any further, it is important to know that 4F represented the foreign letter rate from 1 February 1942 to 31 January 1946 and 1F50 represented the internal letter rate from 5 January 1942 to 28 February 1945.

John’s comment is a fair one and is partly pre-empted by David’s caption under Figure 11 of his book which illustrates an ‘incorrect’ 1F50 franking for the internal rate instead of the correct 4F franking for the foreign rate. David

suggests that the reluctance by the Swiss to apply a postage due “may have been because of the huge quantity of Red Cross mail arriving daily”. In other words, the deficiency was ‘tolerated’ by the Swiss. But to what extent did the French authorities ‘tolerate’ this rate? Was there ever a decree or circular ratifying it?

Unfortunately, I have not been able to trace the obvious source where I would expect to find the answer, namely the *Bulletins Officiels des PTT* published during the war years. I am not even sure if the *Bibliothèque nationale de France* holds them as its website, *Gallica*, only has the *Bulletins* from 1878 to 1936 available online in digitalised form. And even among these the World War 1 editions are missing. Neither can any reference to the ‘tolerated’ rate be found in *Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969* by Alexandre, Barbey, Brun & Desarnaud. As far as I know, the only

517 1150 Pétain Bersier Brun Rouge 42.06

Dates Tarifs	Intitulé du Tarif	Type	Poids	Ech.	Emis Retrait	Dates utilisation	Nbr jour	Cole
05/01/42 28/02/45	LETTRE Intérieur et PAQUET Clos Ordinaire	F	01g 20g	1er	14/02/42 31/10/44	14/02/42 31/10/44	991	5
	LETTRE Intérieur et PAQUET Clos Ordinaire	CAR	01g 20g	1er	..08/42 31/10/44	..08/42 31/10/44	823	75
	LETTRE Intérieur et PAQUET Clos Corresp.Economiq.pour Zone Occup-Tar:Letf.Int.	F	01g 20g	1er	14/02/42 31/10/44	14/02/42 31/10/44	991	250
	ACCUSE de RECEPTION Demandé LORS de l'ENVOI de l'objet Recommdé	F			14/02/42 31/10/44	14/02/42 31/10/44	991	30
	DROIT Présentat.Règlement Compte:Val.Impay. En Timbres-Poste-par valeur impayée	F			14/02/42 31/10/44	14/02/42 31/10/44	991	175
06/09/41 10/11/42	POSTE AER.FRANCE:Marins EMBARQUES Correspnd.ENVOYEEES PAR ou AUX Equipages	F	01g 5g	1er	14/02/42 31/10/44	14/02/42 10/11/42	270	200
15/10/44 ..05/45	POSTE AER.FRANCE:Marins EMBARQUES Correspnd.ENVOYEEES PAR ou AUX Equipages	F	01g 5g	1er	14/02/42 31/10/44	15/10/44 31/10/44	17	500
23/07/42 28/02/45	POSTE AERIENNE FRANCE Franchise Militaire:Afrique du Nord	F	01g 10g	1er	14/02/42 31/10/44	23/07/42 ..11/42	110	100
	POSTE AERIENNE FRANCE Franchise Militaire:Afrique du Nord	F	01g 10g	1er	14/02/42 31/10/44	..10/44 28/02/45	151	100
05/01/42 28/02/45	ETRanger:Pour Croix Rge GENEVE(Prisonniers) Lettre Ordin.Tolérance:Tarif Intérieur	F	01g 20g	1er	14/02/42 31/10/44	14/02/42 31/10/44	991	80
23/07/42 ..11/42	AVION Afrique du Nord Autres Objets:Imprimés Ordinaires	F	01g 20g	1er	14/02/42 31/10/44	23/07/42 ..11/42	131	200

Figure 1

Table of single usage of the 1F50 Pétain extracted from page 187 of Robert Baillargeat’s book *Catalogue des timbres de France seuls sur lettre 1849-1960* with, in the penultimate row, reference to the ‘tolérance’ of the inland rate for mail to the Red Cross in Geneva.

Note that two single usages are not listed, the 1F50 internal visiting card rate with more than 5 words of text and the 1F50 *lettre recommandée d’office* rate primarily used as a concessionary registered letter rate on mail to Marshal Pétain at Vichy.

published acknowledgement to this ‘tolerated’ rate is in Robert Baillargeat’s book *Catalogue des timbres de France seuls sur lettre 1849-1960* (Figure 1).

As a collector of the 1F50 Pétain issue (YT 517), and being somewhat obsessed by its use to meet various tariffs, I have acquired over the years a number of covers to the *C.I.C.R.* bearing the said stamp. These are shown overleaf (Figures 2-9). The covers display various frankings according to the interpretation of the sender and also various reactions by

the postal authorities be they French or Swiss. Furthermore, the changes do not follow a chronological sequence; in fact, it can be concluded that both the 1F50 and 4F rates operated simultaneously for the full length of the war and beyond. I have also included, for comparison, similarly franked mail to the Red Cross in London. If anyone has any further information on this ‘tolerated’ rate and how it evolved, I will be delighted to hear from you as will, no doubt, David Trapnell and John West.



Figure 2

Letter correctly franked at the 4F foreign letter rate, 9 November 1944, with the AL *Auslandbriefprüfstelle* mark of the Lyon examiner. Figure 8 in David Trapnell's book illustrates the use of a pair of 2F Marianne de Dulac on a letter dated 21 April 1945.



Figure 3

Letter overfranked at 4F50 for the 4F foreign letter rate, 14 February 1944. As David Trapnell says in his caption to Figure 7 in his book "the excess 50c was probably paid simply to save time". This practice was commonplace in France as it was simpler to use common stamps readily available at home rather than make a journey to the post office to purchase a specific value.



Figure 4

Letter franked with 1F50 Pétain and a 3F fiscal by a sender chancing that it would be accepted as an overpaid foreign letter rate. It was not. A faint manuscript 00 in blue pencil has been written under the fiscal to denote its invalid status and a similarly faint postage due has been written over the address. But how much is the charge? (See also Figure 5). Not that it is significant to the recipient, the Red Cross, as it has been crossed out and scribbled over in purple pencil by the Swiss authorities.



Figure 5

Letter underpaid at 1F50 paying only the internal letter rate, 26 February, 1943.

Same tax markings applied as in Figure 4 (for how much?) but not deleted or charged.



Figure 6
 Post-Liberation letter underpaid at 1F50 (stamp overprinted R.F.) paying only the internal letter rate, 9 October 1944. The deficiency is 'tolerated' and no tax is marked or charged.



Figure 7

Letter underpaid at 1F50 paying only the internal letter rate, 7 May 1942. The deficiency is 'tolerated' and no tax is charged. The letter bears a Red Cross tracing service reply label. For further details on the use of these labels during WW1 and WW2 read John West's article *France – the Red Cross Part 3* in F&CPS Journal 235, March 2005, pages 19-21 and, during WW1 specifically, in his article *Tracing Service Reply Labels* in F&CPS Journal 250, December 2008, pages 128-136.

NB. Both articles can be read on the Society's website at <http://www.fcps.org.uk/index.php/publications/back-issues>



Figure 8

Letter sent on 31 October 1942 from Vichy to Great Britain via Lisbon addressed to the French Section of the British Red Cross in London but underpaid at 1F50 paying only the internal letter rate. The application of the 'tolerated' rate has not been accepted and the letter has been charged 2d.



Figure 9

Post-Liberation letter to the French Red Cross in London underpaid at 1F50 paying only the internal letter rate, 15 August 1944. No tax mark or postage due as 'tolerated' rate accepted.

A guide to *blocs-feuillets* and other miniature sheets

Richard Broadhurst

I am frequently asked questions in relation to the many types of format that modern stamps are issued in. This article attempts to shed some light on the various *blocs* now appearing and their listings in the Yvert & Tellier catalogue. (All numbers are from the 2021 Yvert & Tellier *Timbres de France* catalogue.)¹

Blocs-feuillets

The first *bloc* or miniature sheet of France was issued in 1925 on the occasion of the Paris International Stamp Exhibition (BF1). Until the mid-2000s, all *blocs* were listed and illustrated in the rear section of the catalogue under ‘*Blocs-feuillets*’² (Figure 1). The ‘BF’ prefix appears as a cross-reference alongside the individual stamps from the

blocs which are also listed and numbered in the front section, i.e. the main catalogue. Such is the frequency of newly issued *blocs* that by the late-2000s it was decided to allocate the majority of these *blocs* to the main listing to avoid duplication and to save much-needed space in the ever-expanding catalogue.



Figure 1
1999 *Philexfrance* '99
Bloc-feuillet (BF23)
(reduced to 75%)

The 2005 Chinese New Year *bloc* (F3749) is the first to appear in the main listing with an ‘F’ number and to be referred to simply as a ‘*feuillet*’. Between 2005 and 2009 only the individual stamps from the *blocs* are illustrated in the main listings - not the *bloc* itself.

However, although all similar *blocs* since 2009 are now listed in the front of the catalogue with ‘F’ numbers (Figure 2) there are exceptions with certain types, mostly in cases where the stamps in the *bloc* are all the same e.g. the *Coeur Guerlain* issue of 2020 (Figure 3) and a small number of special *blocs*. These continue to be listed in the rear section under ‘*Blocs-feuillets*’ and retain ‘BF’ numbers.

Figure 2
2019 *Sport. Couleur Passion*
First circular *bloc* of France
Feuillet (F5325) (reduced to 60%)



¹ See review on Page 162

² ‘*Blocs-feuillets*’ is the heading used in the current (2021) edition of the catalogue. ‘*Blocs et feuillets*’ or just ‘*Blocs*’ are headings which have appeared in earlier editions. The same applies to the fluctuation in use of ‘*feuille*’ and ‘*feuille*’ elsewhere in the listings.

Figure 3
2020 Cœur Guerlain Bloc-feuillet (BF148)
(reduced to 75%)



Figure 4
2003 Meilleurs Vœux - Rouge-gorge Bloc souvenir (BS1)
(reduced to 75%)

Blocs souvenirs

These sheets (200 x 95mm) first appear in 2003 with the 'Meilleurs Vœux – Rouge-gorge' issue (BS1) (Figure 4) and they either appear as single sheets or in sets of up to six per issue.

Blocs souvenirs are a source of a number of unique stamps which differ from the original types. Some have different printing methods from the sheet stamps; some are gummed versions of self-adhesive stamps; the 2005 *La place Stanislas, Nancy* issue (BS14) appears with the legend 'TTVF' in the sheet version but with 'Phil@poste' in the *bloc souvenir*.

Mini-feuillets

This is the name given by the philatelic bureau, *Phil@poste*,

to *blocs* containing multiples of the same stamp; Yvert & Tellier refer to these simply as a 'feuille'. All *Poste Aérienne* stamps from 1997 have been issued singly or in *mini-feuille* format as sheets of ten stamps with illustrated margins (Figure 5).

Since 2020 a new type of sheet aimed at collectors and called '*Feuillets à format réduit*' has appeared for certain commemorative issues. The sheet contains between nine and fifteen copies of the same stamp (depending on their size) in a regular format sheet measuring 143 x 185mm with illustrated margins (Figure 6). These are now listed by Yvert & Tellier as '*Feuillets de France*' and appear after the '*Blocs-feuillets*' section.



Figure 5 (left)
1999 Poste Aérienne - Airbus A300-B4
Mini-feuille (F63a) (reduced 60%)



Figure 6
2020 – Rodemack, Moselle
Feuille à format réduit (F3) (reduced to 60%)

Timbres Personnalisés

From 2000 to 2008 *La Poste* issued a number of sheets of current pictorial or definitive stamps with attached labels. They were available either with *La Poste* logos or printed with personalised images supplied by individuals or organisations (Figure 7).

The majority of the stamps from these sheets are different from the issued stamps being printed by other methods such as *offset* or *héliogravure*. Some are gummed versions of self-adhesive stamps and many of the definitive types are printed on brilliant white paper with a shiny veneer applied to the face of the stamp (Figure 8).

Yvert & Tellier list these under ‘*Timbres-poste personnalisés ou personnalisables*’ or ‘*Vignettes personnalisées*’. All the stamps with their attached labels are numbered in the catalogue with letter suffixes but care needs to be taken as many do not tally with their main catalogue numbers. These were last produced in 2008 when they were superseded by ‘*Les Feuilletts Collectors*’.



Figure 7
2003 - Rouge-gorge with TP logo
Timbres Personnalisés (F3621A)
(reduced to 60%)



Figure 8
2004 Marianne de Luquet with
La Poste - Cérés logo
Timbres Personnalisés (F3688B)
(reduced to 60%)



Figure 9
2019 - Napoléon Bonaparte 250th anniversary of birth
(lettre verte) with die cut perforation
Feuillet collector (unlisted)
(reduced to 60%)

Feuillets Collectors

Commencing in 2008 with an issue commemorating the Pope's visit to Lourdes, these *feuillets* are illustrated sheets containing what are referred to as 'Collectors stamps'. They are different from the normally issued commemorative stamps and do not appear in the main listings of the catalogue. The stamps are a standard format (45 x 38mm) with die-cut perforations and distinctive notches cut in the centre of each of the four sides. All 'Collectors' stamps are self-adhesive and are sold in sets of between four and ten attached to card sheets containing details of the issue (Figure 9). They are issued on a regular basis by La Poste

with popular themes or can be ordered by individuals or organisations to promote various events such as philatelic meetings. La Poste issues are mainly photographic images and are quicker and cheaper to produce as they do not have to go through all the processes connected to normal commemoratives. These are listed by Yvert & Tellier under the heading 'Les Feuillets Collectors - Collectors de la Poste' with the numbers prefixed by 'COL' but unpriced. They are only listed up to 2014 as, by this time, 268 sets had already been issued; such is the frequency at which they appear, it has been impossible to continue to list them all.

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Jeunesse & Montagne

Collectors with an interest in French World War 2 postal history will be aware of the *Chantiers de Jeunesse Française (CJF)*, established in the Unoccupied Zone of France and North Africa in July 1940 to provide an alternative to military service for young men. They were enrolled for six-month periods and lived in camps to carry out outdoor work such as forestry. What may not be so well-known was a sister organisation, *Jeunesse & Montagne*, set up by the *Armée de l'Air* in August 1940 to provide a similarly structured organisation for young men who had intended to join the air force (Figure 1).

Both *Chantiers de Jeunesse Française* and *Jeunesse & Montagne* were organisations linked to the regime in the

Unoccupied Zone, but, while both supported the Vichy government, *Jeunesse & Montagne* did not, paradoxically, support Vichy's policy of collaboration. *Jeunesse & Montagne* comprised a number of groups who operated from various locations in the Alps and the Pyrenees. Again, as for the *CJF*, the focus was on outdoor work - in the mountains - coupled with sporting and artistic activities. *JM* was eventually, in March 1943, brought under the umbrella of the *CJF*, and was finally dissolved in January 1944 under pressure from the German authorities who suspected (rightly, it is said) that the groups in the Pyrenees were assisting clandestine crossings over the border into Spain. After it was dissolved, many of the *JM* groups joined the *Maquis*.



Figure 1 (above)

The emblem of *Jeunesse & Montagne*.
Each centre and group also had its own emblem or badge.

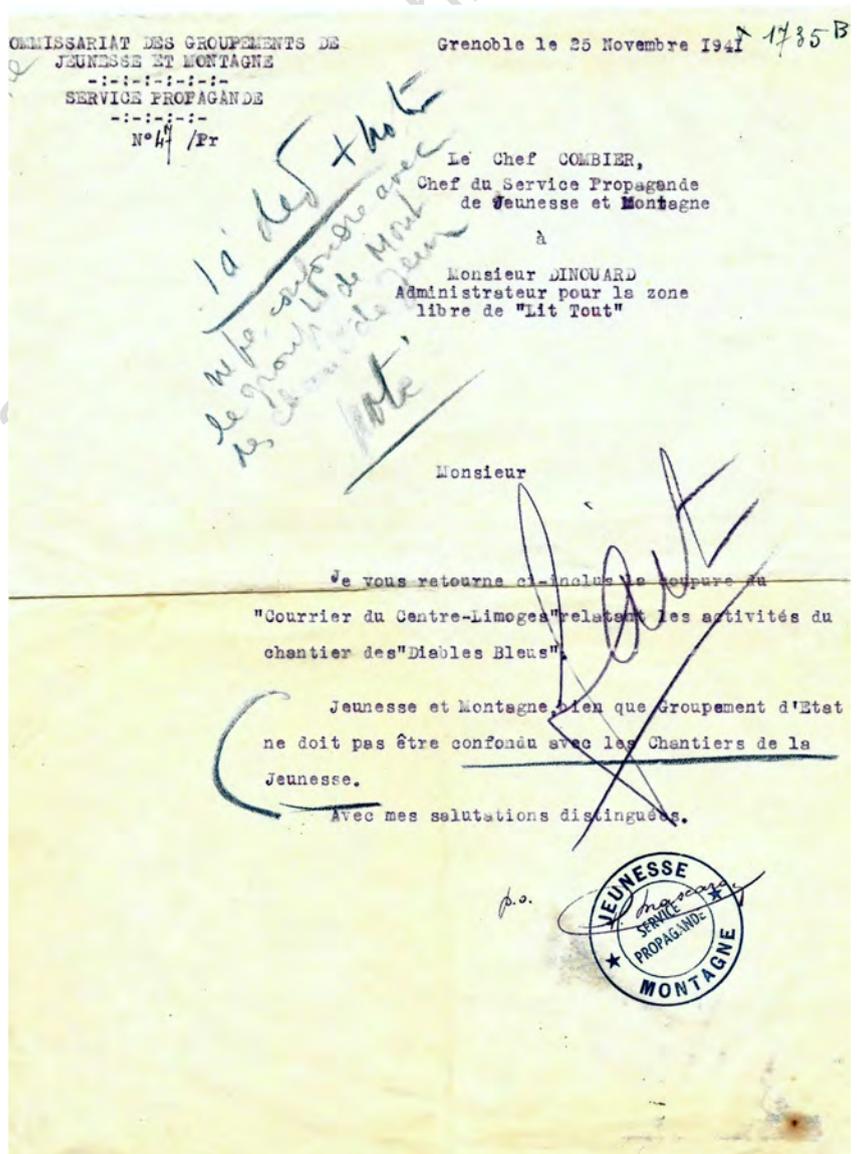


Figure 2 (right)

Letter dated 25 November 1941 emphasising that *Jeunesse et Montagne* was not to be confused with the *Chantiers de la Jeunesse*. Note that the double-ring cachet does not include the word 'et'.

Jeunesse & Montagne clearly tried to keep its distance from the *Chantiers de Jeunesse Française* as the letter in Figure 2 shows: it carries the organisation's double-ring cachet, as

does the cover in Figure 3. Mail addressed to members of *JM* is much less common than that from and to units of the *CJF*, though one cover is shown in Figure 4.



Figure 3
1941 cover
containing the above
letter (Figure 2)
with the
Jeunesse Montagne
double-ring cachet.

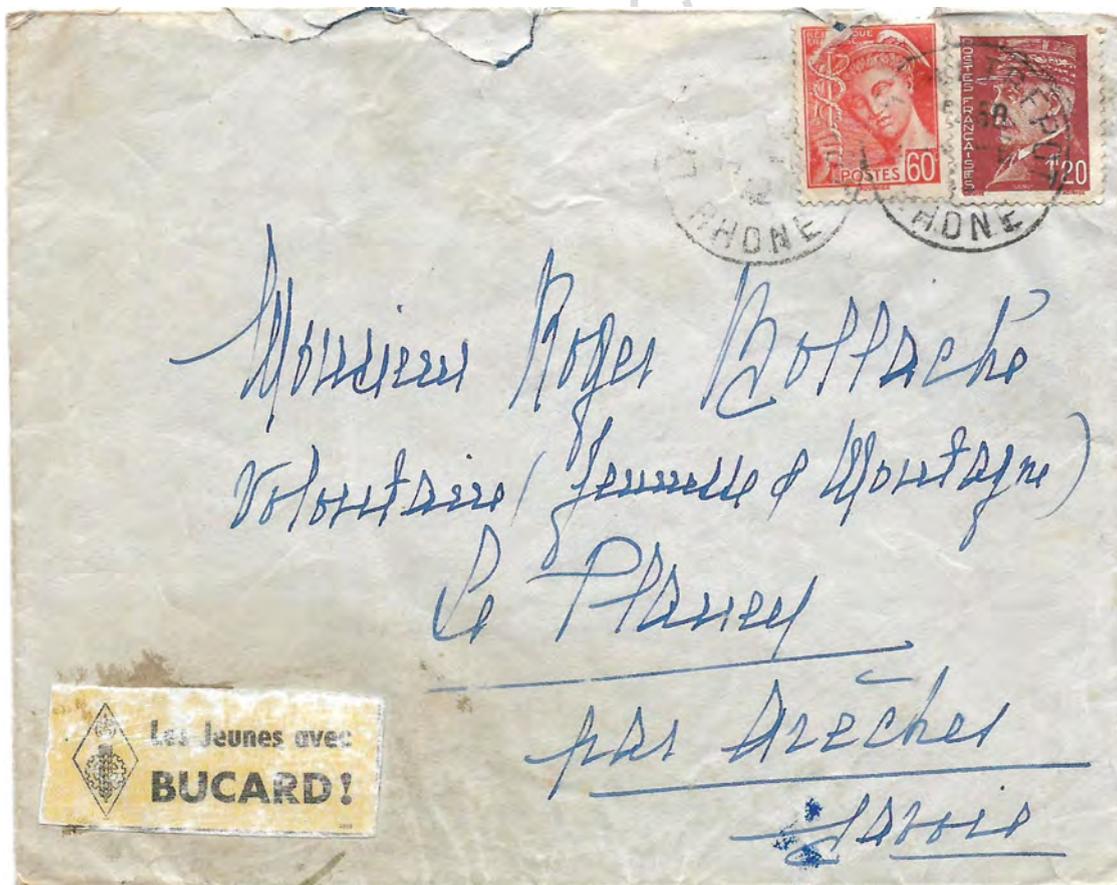


Figure 4
1942 cover to a
*Volontaire (Jeunesse
& Montagne)*. The
use by the sender of
the label *Les Jeunes
avec BUCARD!* and
his version of the
francisque is curious
since Marcel
Bucard's *Parti
Franciste* was an
extreme right-wing
party which strongly
supported
collaboration (which
Jeunesse Montagne
did not). After the
war Bucard was
convicted of high
treason and
executed by firing
squad.

David Hogarth

French Transatlantic Mail



Understanding the markings on French transatlantic mail may sometimes appear difficult!

Until 1 April 1857, mail could not be prepaid from end to end and charges (which altered regularly) and their associated markings were indicated in both France and the U.S. The charging mechanism was simplified from April 1857 with a single charge for paid and unpaid mail – in France 80 centimes and in the U.S. 15 cents. In theory then, the markings should also be simple to understand but, in reality, collectors, and even some dealers, make mistakes in explaining them. This short piece aims to shed light on this and is illustrated with a cover which enables the postal historian to become a detective by reading the clues on it.

Complications. These arise for three reasons

- (1) The cost to the sender or recipient may have been straightforward but the markings used on paid or unpaid letters differ.
- (2) There were four different ways in which a transatlantic letter could be carried, namely:
 - sent via Britain and carried on a British vessel
 - sent via Britain and carried on an American vessel
 - sent direct and carried on an American vessel
 - sent direct and carried on a French vessel

- (3) The 15 cents/80 centimes revenue had to be apportioned between the three countries in accordance with (2) above and this is generally reflected by numeral markings on the cover – sometimes mistakenly referred to as charges but in reality accountancy marks indicating the credit/debit between countries' post offices - which are marked in cents. The apportionment for each element of the overall journey was 3c U.S. inland, 6c sea transport, 2c British transit and 4c French inland (making 15c in total).

Clues to explaining the markings

Very often the name of the ship inscribed on the letter gives an indication as to who received the sea transport element, Britain, U.S. or France. Check the fleet list of the major shipping companies (of which Cunard was the largest), bearing in mind that it is not the nationality of the operator which counts here but the awarding of a contract by the post office of a country. Thus, the British Inman Line carried mail under contract to the U.S. post office and the sea transport element was considered American. Even the Cunard Line held a contract with the U.S. post office to carry eastbound mail from 1868 and these journeys were considered American packets.

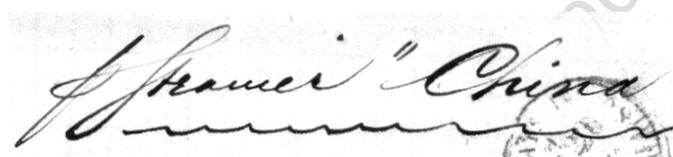
French entry markings sometimes indicated whether a British, American or French packet was involved, examples being 'ETATS-UNIS / BR. PKT' and 'ETATS-UNIS SERV AM' but sadly such markings are not always as clear as they might be!

The American post office used large circular cancellations which sometimes indicated the packet service used for that letter, for example 'N.YORK AM PKT'. Sometimes they also indicated the debit to another country, example 'NEW 3 YORK', or the credit, example 'NEW YORK / PAID / 12'. But a word of caution – the cancellations were also used to indicate the charge on unpaid letters, example 'NEW YORK / 15' or the payment made on paid letters, example 'NEW PAID YORK / 15'. A helpful guide is that paid letters normally have red cancellations, unpaid black.

The French and British post offices generally indicated debit/credit markings (as explained above) with a numeral. If you know the apportionment of revenue you can determine how the letter was carried.

Where the information above is incomplete, or where post office clerks have made an error in the cancellations or markings applied (it did happen!), a useful final clue is to check the departure, arrival and/or transit dates or, failing that, the notations within the letter. Then refer to the tables of sailings for the various steamship companies, helpfully given in Hubbard and Winter's invaluable book 'North Atlantic Mail Sailings' (I am happy to assist with information if you don't have access to the book).

So, let us have a look at this cover sent from New York to Bordeaux in 1868 and see what we can determine from the clues outlined above.



Marked for carriage on the steamer "China" – Cunard vessel so British steamer and transit via Liverpool?

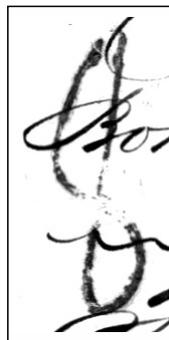


French entry mark 'ETATS-UNIS / SERV. AM. CALAIS' indicating an American transatlantic service and entry to France at Calais – American steamer and transit via Liverpool? Cunard had a contract for carrying eastbound mail from 1868 – American steamer and transit via Liverpool?

American departure cancellation 'NEW 9 YORK' indicating apportionment of 9 cents (U.S. inland plus sea transport) due to U.S. post office – confirms (3) above.



As it was an unpaid letter (8 *décimes*/80 centimes



charge upon arrival in France), the '9' cents indicates a debit to France.

Steamer sailing schedules for a letter written 8 December and arriving Calais 20 December indicate a problem! Cunard "China" didn't depart New York until 26 December and arrive Liverpool 10 January so the cover couldn't have been carried on this vessel.

Unbeknown to the letter-writer there was an earlier departure. North German Line (NGL), a German company which had a contract from the U.S. post office for the carriage of mails to Germany via Britain, had a departure with its steamer "Deutschland" from New York on 10 December, arriving at Southampton on the morning of 20 December, so now we can say - American steamer and transit via Southampton.

Onward transit via London, Dover, Calais and Paris. Night ambulant cancellation 'PARIS A BORDEAUX' 20



December and arrival cancellation 'BORDEAUX' 21 December, both on rear of letter.

Conclusion

This letter tells us it was actually carried on a German vessel, operating under contract to the American post office, transiting Britain from Southampton to Dover and travelling by rail from Calais to Bordeaux via Paris. The sender posted it unpaid: the person who received it paid 80 centimes. The equivalent amount of 15 cents was apportioned as follows: 3 plus 6 cents to the U.S. post office for inland and sea transport, 2c to the British post office and 4c retained by the French post office.

"Elementary, my dear Watson"!

Steve Ellis

A Guadeloupe Puzzle

I would just like to add a couple of comments on the Guadeloupe puzzle (Journal 291, page 139 and Journal 293, page 85). I have had another close look at the illustration in my digital copy and I endorse Michael Round's suggestion

that one obscured phrase is "Service de l'Équipement" and I can add that another is almost certainly "Subdivision Études & Travaux". I have found all these words used in proximity in other contexts.

Maurice Tyler

The Napoleonic Wars 1803 – 1815

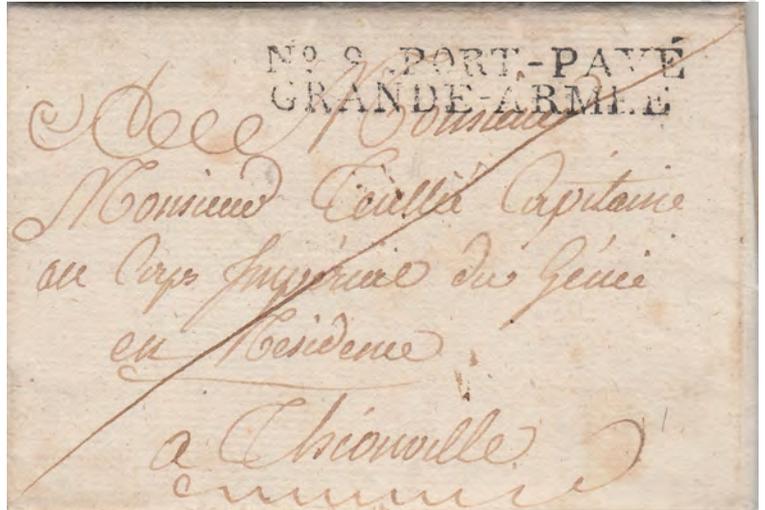
In this and future editions of the Journal, new member John Cowlin will be sharing with us pages from his collection of material from the Napoleonic Wars.

(1) The Treaties of Tilsit

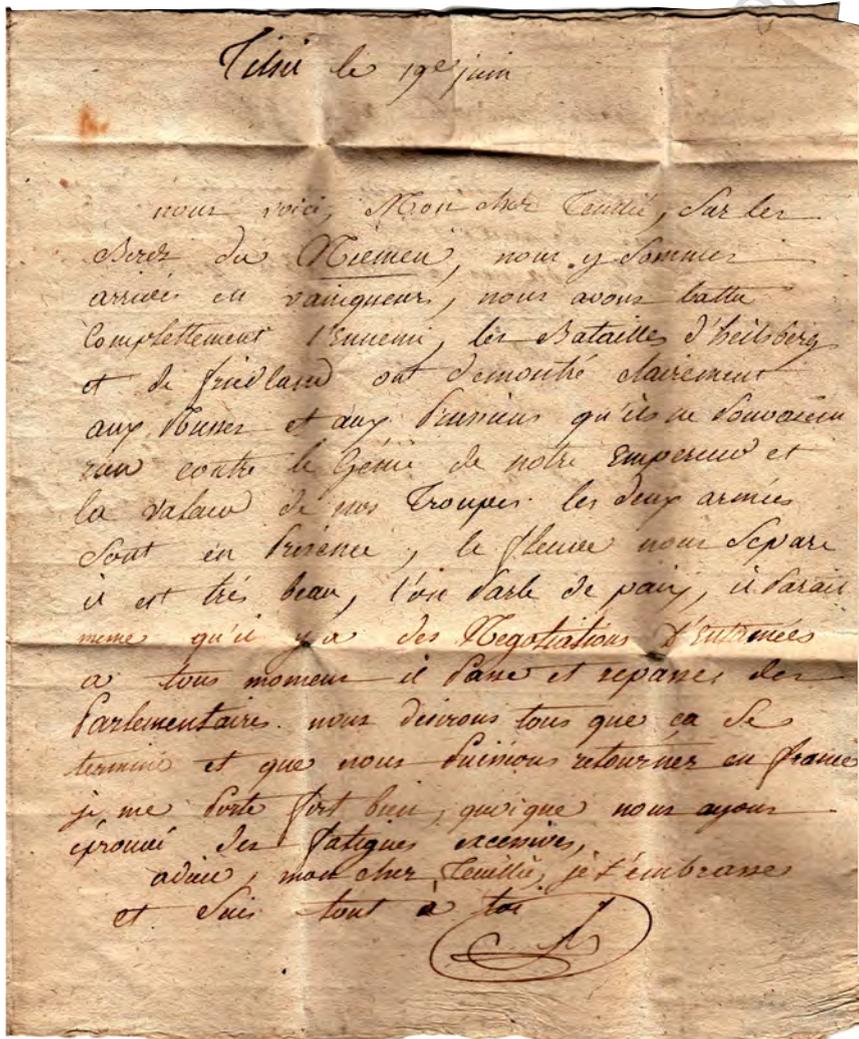
The Treaties of Tilsit were two agreements signed in July 1807 in the town of Tilsit by Emperor Napoleon I after winning the Battle of Friedland. The first treaty of Tilsit was signed in secret on 7 July 1807 by Tsar Alexander and Napoleon, at a meeting on a raft in the middle of the river

Niemen. The second treaty of Tilsit was signed on 9 July 1807 with the King of Prussia who had already accepted a truce on 25 June after being pursued by the *Grande Armée* to the eastern boundary of his kingdom.

Right: A letter written in Tilsit on 19 June 1807 to Captain Teullié (?), of the *Corps Impérial du Génie* stationed at Thionville. It is struck with a black N° 9 PORT-PAYÉ GRANDE-ARMÉE cachet.



Below: The letter has been enhanced to render the contents more legible.



Tilsit, 19 June 1807.

Here we are, my dear Teullié, on the banks of the river Nieman; we are victorious, we defeated the enemy completely, the battles of Heilsberg and Friedland showed the Russians and Prussians that they were powerless against the genius of our emperor and the valour of our troops. The two armies are here, separated by the river. It is a sight to behold. There is talk of peace. It even appears that negotiations have begun, parliamentarians are going back and forth on all sides. We all want it to end so that we can return to France. I am keeping very well, although we are extremely tired.

Farewell, my dear Teullié, and I send you my kindest regards

(signature illegible)

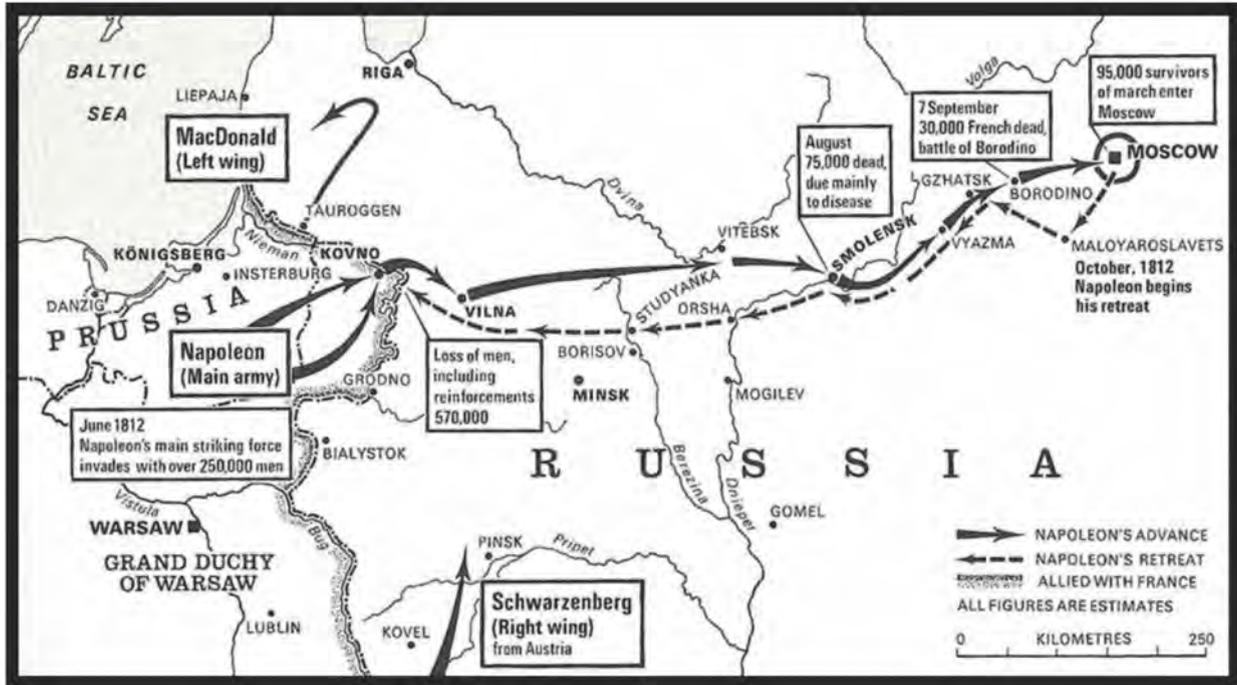
John Cowlin

The Napoleonic Wars 1803 – 1815

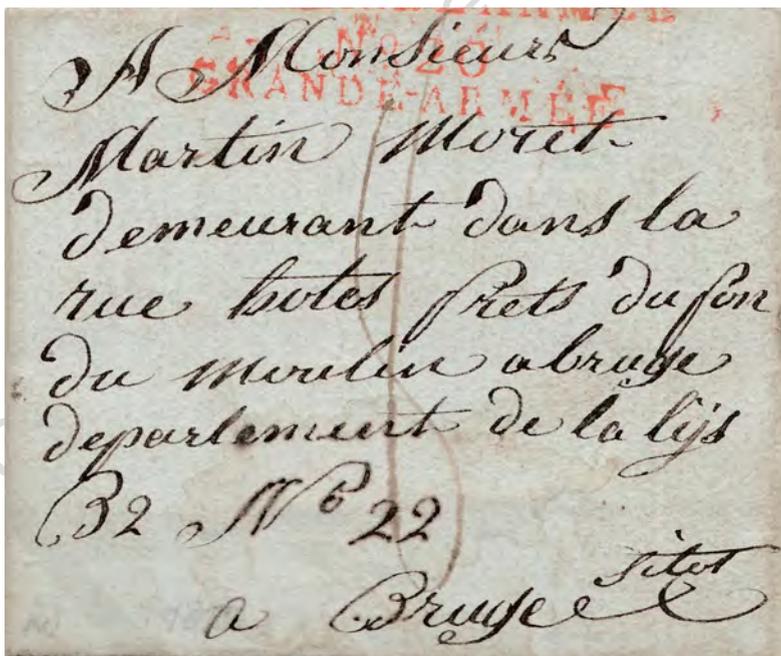
(2) The Capture of Vilna

The French invasion of Russia began on 24 June 1812 when Napoleon's *Grande Armée* crossed the river Nieman in an attempt to engage and defeat the Russian Army. With the French still trying to bring an evasive Russian army to a decisive battle, captured documents pointed Napoleon Bonaparte towards the town of Vilna. To take advantage of

the fortuitous intelligence, the Emperor ordered Marshal Murat to take two cavalry corps, backed by 60 horse-artillery pieces, and pin down any Russian force in the vicinity of the town. Despite pushing his troops to the limit, Murat arrived too late to hold the already withdrawing Russians but Vilna was now in French hands.



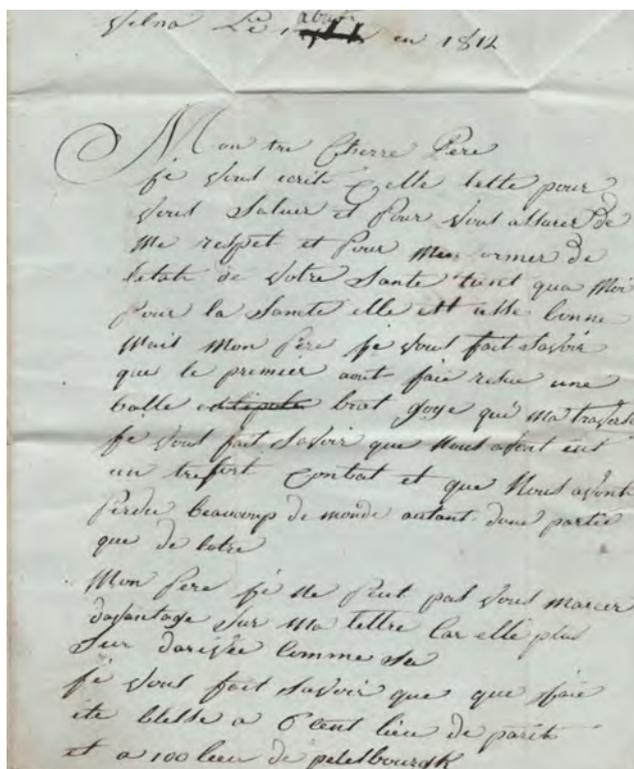
Map showing the advance and retreat of Napoleon across the river Nieman



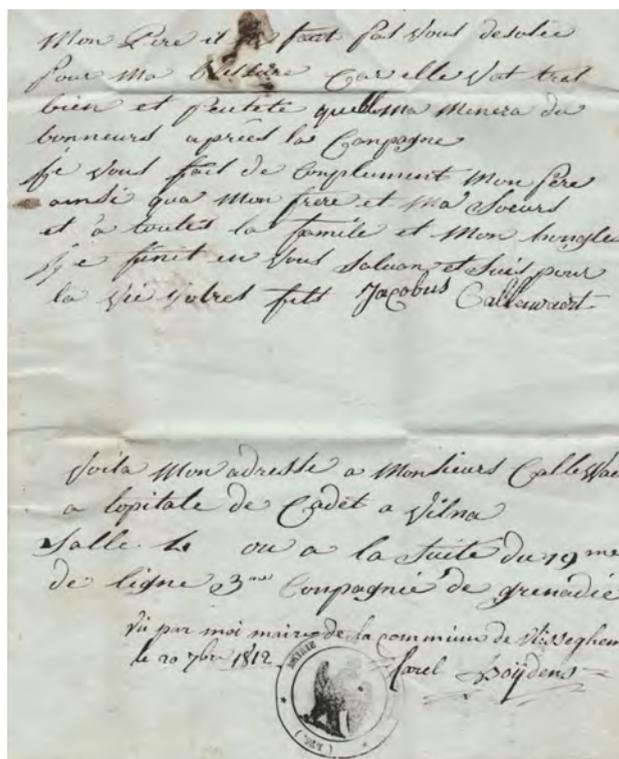
A letter from a wounded French grenadier in hospital in Vilna, Russia, written on 1 August 1812.

It is addressed to his father 'Monsieur Martin Moret, demeurant dans la rue haute près du pont du moulin à Bruges, département de la Lys, B2 N° 22 à Bruges'

It is struck with a red N° 20 GRANDÉ – ARMÉE cachet and marked with a manuscript 8 décimes charge for army correspondence carried a distance of between 600 - 800 km.



The letter is written by an uneducated hand and is sprinkled with grammatical and lexical errors. Many words are spelt phonetically¹



My dear father

I am writing you this letter to greet you and to assure you of my respects and to (ask you to) inform me of the state of your health as well. As for my health it is quite good but, father, I am letting you know that on the 1st August I was hit in the left arm by a bullet which went through me. I can tell you that we had a very tough fight and we lost a lot of men, as many on one side as on the other.

Father, I cannot reveal any more in my letter because it will be more certain to get to you as it is.

I can tell you that I was wounded six hundred leagues from Paris and 100 leagues from Saint Petersburg.

Father, you must not be upset by my injury, because it is doing very well and maybe it will bring me luck after the campaign.

I pay my respects to you all, my father and my brother and sisters and all the family.

I end by bidding you farewell and am, for ever, your son.

Jacobus Callewaert.

Here is my address: Monsieur Callewaert at the Hospital for Cadets, Vilna, Ward N° 4 or, after the 19th, Line 3rd Company of Grenadiers.

Points to note are 1) the son addresses his father with the formal 'vous' which was possibly customary at the time, 2) he signs himself off with a different surname

to that of his father and 3) the letter is countersigned on 20 September 1812 by the mayor of Vlissinghem which is 16 kilometres north-west of Bruges.

¹ Thanks are due to André Métayer for his transcription of the original French text thereby enabling an attempt at translation

FIDES vignettes

I recently acquired a small quantity of these illustrated charity labels and would like to know more about them. They were printed by the *Institut de Gravure* in Paris in sets of ten different designs (Figure 1) depicting missionaries,

probably Roman Catholic, in different countries. I have examples in five different colours (Figure 2) but there may be more and they each bear the inscription 'FIDES' i.e. faith.

Figure 1
Bottom of sheet comprising the set of ten different designs



Figure 2

The sheets are known printed in at least five colours.

Die proofs have been seen printed in black, slate blue, ultramarine, dark green and sepia



Figure 3

The 'Africa Septentrional' design

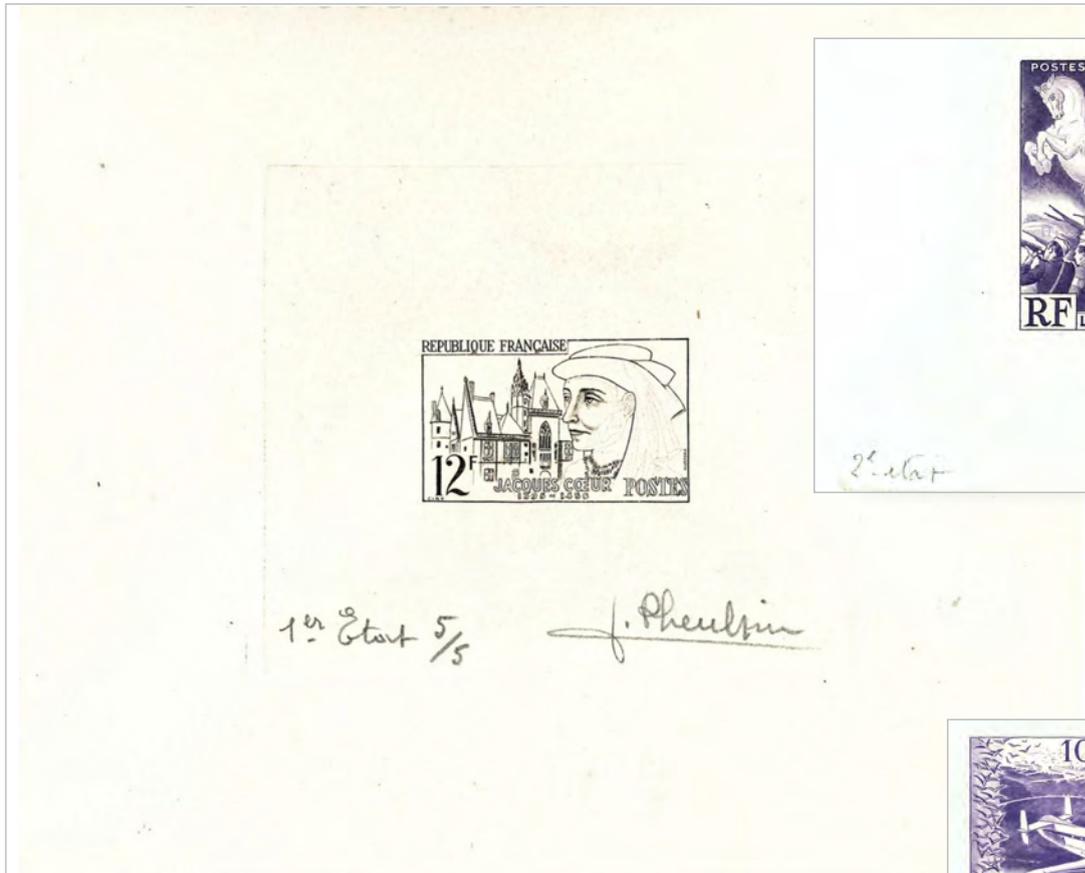
With the assistance of my good friend Mick Bister I have learnt that the inscription on one of the vignettes entitled 'Africa Septent' (Figure 3) transpires to be an abbreviation of 'Africa Septentrional' an archaic term for North Africa. Mick also discovered a set for sale on the internet from a renowned Paris dealer who has misinterpreted the inscription 'FIDES' and listed them as being associated with

'F.I.D.E.S' – a government agency operating from 1946 to 1959 under the name: *Fonds d'Investissements pour le Développement Économique et Social*. The acronym appears on a 1956 colonial omnibus issue to which 10 territories contributed, but clearly has nothing to do with these vignettes. Any further information would be gratefully received.

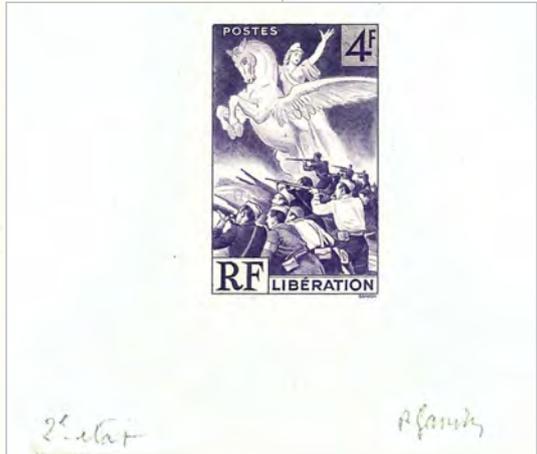
Richard Broadhurst

Die proofs of issued and unissued designs

Below are examples of die proofs in my collection. Three are progressive proofs of issued designs (denoted by *); the others are *non-émis* (unissued). The Yvert & Tellier numbers have been quoted for you to compare them with the issued design.



Above: 1955 *Jacques Cœur** designed by Michel Ciry and engraved by Jean Pheulpin (YT 1034)



Above: 1945 *Libération** designed and engraved by Pierre Gandon (YT 669)



Right: 1954 *Provence** designed by Paul Lengellé and engraved by Raoul Serres (YT PA33)



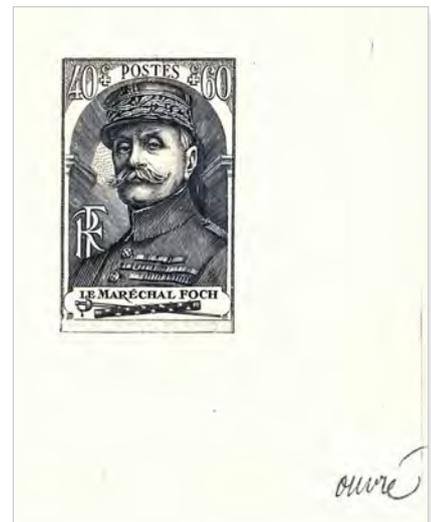
Left: 1954 *Fleuret* designed by Paul Lengellé and engraved by Pierre Gandon (YT PA32)



Above: 1949 *Vue de Paris* designed and engraved by Albert Decaris (YT PA27)



Above: 1954 *Armagnac* designed by Gabriel Barlangue and engraved by Pierre Gandon (YT PA32)



Above: 1940 *Maréchal Foch* designed and engraved by Achille Ouvré (YT 455)

Paul Miller

Spanish Civil War Refugees in France –offer of microfilm for research

Two of the main sources of information about the conditions experienced by the refugees who entered France from Spain in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War were the press and, surprisingly, enterprising postcard photographers. The press included British and American newspapers, though the local press in south-west France was used by the refugees themselves. The *Dépêche de Toulouse* was one such paper and Derek Richardson bought microfilms of the issues between January 1939 and December 1940 which I subsequently bought from him. I have disposed of my collection of covers of this period and now seek to dispose of the microfilms which give in reports and advertisements a flavour of the period and the refugees’



lives. There are 8 reels, and while prepared to negotiate, I would suggest £50 + p&p for the lot.



Citadel of Sisteron –offer of papers for research



The Citadel, rebuilt by Vauban, stands above the town of Sisteron. Between 1940 and 1942 it housed a *Centre de Séjour Surveillé* (CSS) with some 400 internees, some political but also with common law offenders. The camp continued in use until the liberation. Derek Richardson had visited the Citadel, and owned two covers with cachets from the camp, but had not been able to return to carry out research in the departmental archives, though he had intended to produce a brief history of the camp. He had gathered various papers and articles together which he passed on to me when I bought the covers (which have since been sold on to a French collector). Is there any member of the Society who would be interested in pursuing the history of the Citadel CSS? If there is, I will pass these papers on.

For either of the above, please contact me at djh720@btinternet.com

David Hogarth

Appeal for Secretary

David Hogarth is retiring from his post as Honorary Secretary with effect from next year. We are looking, therefore, for a fellow member to take on this important role and, in so doing, contribute to the smooth running of the Society. The responsibilities are listed below.

- Handle all enquiries from prospective new members, providing information as required, explaining the benefits of membership and encouraging collectors to join our Society.
- Respond to queries from non-members, seeking advice if necessary, from others appropriately qualified.
- Advise the committee of new members and changes to members’ details on a regular basis, including advice of resignations and deaths.
- Assist in the convening of committee meetings if needed, preparing an agenda as appropriate and keeping minutes of discussions. Circulation of agendas and minutes to all committee members.
- Organise and conduct an Annual General Meeting together with the President and Treasurer.
- Liaise with the Treasurer on membership matters.
- Ensure that all Society rules are complied with and that the Society actively pursues its aims.

Any member interested or requiring further information please email the President, Chris Hitchen, at treasurer@fcps.org.uk

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 3 OCTOBER 2020



They all enjoyed their fish and chips. From left to right: John Scott, Claire Scott, Tony Howgrave-Graham, Jeremy Martin and Paul Latham-Warde. Photographer Colin French.

Yes, a live meeting!!! It was all made possible thanks to the hard work and planning by **John** and **Claire Scott** to make the venue (the Library Room at their home) consistent with Government guidelines. Our thanks to them both for their efforts resulting in a brilliant philatelic day.

Five members and one guest attended the meeting which started with the traditional glass of champagne followed by our guest speaker, **Tony Howgrave-Graham**, putting up his excellent display of 'Paquebots of the Mediterranean 1842-1880' which took us round the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

81 covers on 56 sheets, having recently been improved courtesy of **Peter Maybury**, were shown. Starting with Franco-Italian mail from Marseille to Genoa, Livorno, Civitavecchia, Naples, Messina and Palermo, the various modes of sending and receipt were looked at with examples posted in offices receiving standard PC or GC numerals. Those posted in the Marseille mobile box received *Ligne* CDSs and anchor cancels whilst those posted in gangway boxes were not cancelled until receipt at the port of entry. Here, examples of the 5-bar Livorno and Civitavecchia grille were shown. These were replaced by Italian numeral cancels which were also shown including the rare (reputedly unique) Palermo boxed '1'. Some were also cancelled by the various attractive *via di mare* entry marks. There was also an 1867 *Brigade Française / Italie* cover from Rome.

Moving eastwards the *paquebot* service to Salonica and Constantinople was shown including a nice 1871 cover franked with the 40c Bordeaux provisional. Venturing into the Black Sea there was a named *paquebot* cover to Galatz. On to the Crimea, we saw an 1855 envelope from General Coulston to his wife with the 'K^HAO' lozenge of Kamiesch

and a double rate cover from an officer of the Imperial Guard where the reason for the double rate was a very large and elaborate wax seal!

Rounding the Black Sea there were covers from Samsoun and back through the Bosphorus to Brousse, Smyrna and into the Mediterranean, Volo, Mersina, Levant, Syria, Beyrout, and one from Jerusalem cancelled at Jaffa. The display ended with covers from Egypt with *petits chiffres* and *gros chiffres* cancellations.

High cuisine was the order for lunch and John collected pre-ordered fish and chips from the chippie in Blandford Forum whilst Claire stood over the stove boiling some peas (unfortunately not 'mushy!'). Lunch was washed down with wine and followed by a delicious pudding. The Grasmere Hotel certainly has competition.

The following displays were also shown:

Paul Latham-Warde (guest): Marianne definitives and Alsace Parcel Labels

Claire Scott: French military letter cards (Flags) of GB, France and Russia, 1914

Jeremy Martin: Belgian POs in France during WWI, Madame Joseph forgeries, France - the phony war and WWII Operation Dynamo

John Scott: First Day Postcards and the Paper and Parchment Revenue Stamps of France, 1673 -1690

Colin French, convenor, also attended.

An excellent day and so good getting back to normal, albeit only temporarily.

Our next meeting should be in February 2021; however, for obvious reasons no arrangements can be made at this time.

C F/T H-G

BOOKSHELF

Compiled by Michael Round

A listing in this column does not preclude the possibility of a full review later.

Les indésirables : les camps d'internés civils français et étrangers 1939 – 1946 en France et dans les Colonies

by Guy Marchot with the collaboration of Henri Neimark, Lionel Barriquand and Laurent Bonnefoy

Reviewed by David Hogarth

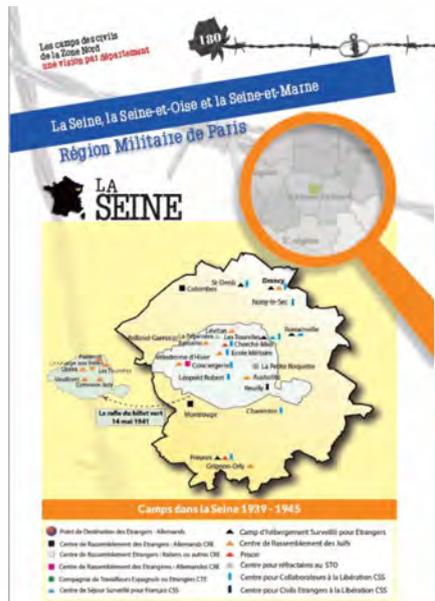
650 pages, A4, full colour with over 600 illustrations, perfect bound. Available from Amazon.Fr (though at the time of writing, they have only one copy left) or direct from the *Association Philatélique du Pays d'Aix*, Résidence Val St Jean-D, 39 avenue Jules-Ferry, 13100 Aix-en-Provence, France. Cost €29.50 + p&p. Further details from contact@philatelie-aix.fr

Members will recall the long-running series on French internment camps researched and written by Derek Richardson which started in the *Journal of March* 1988 and continued until his final contribution about the camp at Drancy in March 2013.

When the series started, there was little, if anything, in print about the vast range of internment camps in France which spanned the period from shortly before World War 2 until after the liberation and the defeat of Germany in 1945. The French Third Republic, the French State (*l'État Français*), the German occupiers, the Provisional Government and, finally, the Fourth Republic, all sought to intern various categories of civilians in various camps spread throughout metropolitan France and in its African territories. These camps often housed different categories of internee at different times and were used for different purposes.

The first refugees, estimated by early 1939 at more than half a million, crossed the border from Spain into France during and after the Spanish civil war. They were lodged in a variety of camps and other places, mainly in the south-west of France, including the so-called 'beach camps'. The first recorded information about these refugees and the conditions in which they were housed appeared in the *London Times* and *Picture Post* in early 1939. The second major incursion of refugees into France came from the Saar and Germany. The French authorities themselves sought to intern not only foreigners but also other categories of people such as gypsies and common law offenders.

Apart from the few newspaper and magazine articles and no doubt voluminous reports and papers in various government, prefectural and departmental reports, very little was made known or was known about the scope of internment and the numbers and categories of internees until well after World War 2: it was part of the hidden or at least unacknowledged history of France.



Left: Initial page to departmental chapter in Part 2 showing the location of the camps in Paris



Above: Page from the chapter on Le Finistere



Left: Illustration of cards created by British internees in the Grande Caserne de Saint Denis

As Derek Richardson said at the start of his first article, little was known about either the history or the postal history of the camps even though the latter was, in his words, an area of "legitimate interest for the collector of postal history". Amongst the first publications was Ronald Shelley's *Refugee Camps in France* published in 1974 by the Spanish Philatelic Society, and while there were other articles, the first published books on particular camps

appeared in the mid-1980s: Laharie – *Le Camp de Gurs 1939 – 1945, un aspect méconnu de l'histoire du Bearn*, and Apollaro – *Le camp de Gurs*. The late 1980s and subsequent decades, however, saw a considerable number of books focussing on the camps (but not mainly on the postal history of the camps), but this latter aspect was covered by a number of authors and organisations, in particular but at a later date by Michel Annet's *Numéros spéciaux* for the *Association Philatélique de Rouen et Agglomération* (APRA, 2002/2006).

The present book, *Les indésirables: les camps d'internés civils français et étrangers 1939-1946 en France et dans les Colonies*, seeks to cover comprehensively aspects of the history, and the postal history, of all the French camps holding civilian internees. The first volume in Part 1 presents an overview of the politics and the general situation which led to the expansion of internment throughout France in both the Occupied and Unoccupied Zones from the Third Republic to the Liberation and, in the process, depriving upwards of 650,000 civilians throughout the war years of their freedom. This provides the background to Part 2 which describes the camps in the Occupied Zone, *département by département*. (The second volume, which will deal with arrangements and camps in the Unoccupied Zone, is scheduled to appear in early 2021). Volume 1 weighs in at nearly 2.3 kilos and runs to 622 A4 pages, including appendices. This is a major work by Guy Marchot (who compiled a similar book on the Camp des Milles in 2012) in collaboration with Henri Neimark, Lionel Barriquand and Laurent Bonneroy. The preface and foreword are by Serge Klarsfeld and Robert Abensur.

Wartime France has been described as the “country of camps”, due to the number of *lieux d'internement*, which ranged from camps housing thousands of internees to what were once described and pointed out to me in Saint-Etienne as small and often temporary places of internment which might be simply a shop or a single room in a school. 813 camps in the 43 *départements* of the Occupied Zone are described in Part 2. The authors' aim is not so much to provide a history of every camp, but to review every camp including the reasons for their establishment, their designations and populations, the dates during which they functioned, and their postal history. The very considerable number of illustrations (600+) includes examples of postcards from and to internees and the special cachets and markings which were used. To achieve the aim (for both volumes) the authors researched 90 departmental archives and a number of national archives, and copied more than 200,000 documents (which will be available for future researchers); the work has taken more than 5 years to complete. For anyone interested in the period, this book would be of great value even if internment camps were not a primary interest. As the authors say they have investigated and shone the light on an area and period “*que les historiens n'examinent pas*” by studying letters and postcards from and to internees.

The authors have admirably achieved their aim, and the two volumes will remain the seminal work for anyone interested in the history, and particularly the postal history, of the camps. I warmly recommend *Les indésirables* – you will be unlikely to need any other text on internment camps in France.

Appeal for Journal Manager

Mick Bister is retiring from his post as Journal Manager with effect from the 2021 AGM. We are seeking, therefore, a replacement to work alongside our Editor, Jan Gane, during the preparatory stages of the Journal. The responsibilities are as follows:

- Act as contact for reception of articles, reports and reviews.
- Correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- Check accuracy of any French used. *
- Liaise with authors over any concerns regarding inaccuracy or lack of lucidity.
- Compile membership updates, Society information, announcements etc and write up ‘Society Notes.’*
- Send texts and images to the Editor.
- Maintain membership lists and send addresses to the printers.*

* The inclusion of these responsibilities can be negotiated.

Any member interested or requiring further information please email Mick Bister at manager@fcps.org.uk or the President Chris Hitchen at treasurer@fcps.org.uk

Yvert & Tellier Catalogue 'Timbres de France', Tome 1, 2021

Reviewed by Richard Broadhurst

Yvert & Tellier 2021 – Timbres de France, 1450pp, 150 x 215mm format, in French.

Published by Editions Yvert & Tellier, 2 rue de l'Étoile, 80094 Amiens, Cedex 3, France.

Price 27,90€

Available from Richard Broadhurst; price and carriage details from francestamps@tiscali.co.uk

This is the 125th anniversary of the catalogue first published in 1896 and it contains a new complementary Y&T *Feuillelet-Souvenir* and an eight-page stamp stock book. Despite all the problems this year, it still appeared on time in September 2020. It lists stamps to June 2020 with an additional 86 gummed stamps, 98 self-adhesives and 17 miniature sheets. Surprisingly, the brand-new sections from last year - *Ballons Montés* and *Les Boules de Moulins* covering some 87 pages - have been omitted.

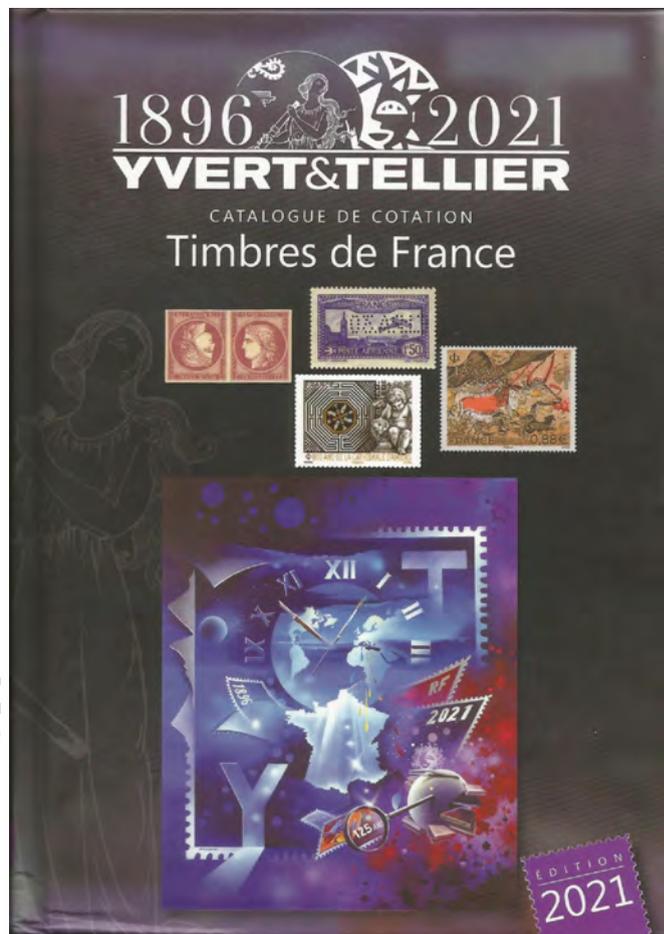
There are no new sections this year but the addition of around 1500 new varieties from 1990 to the present date is most welcome. *Feuillets de France*: the new Phil@poste collector sheets of 9 to 15 examples of selected commemoratives are listed unpriced in the *blocs-feuillets* section. The only other noticeable change is the grouping together of *Aérogrammes* and *Poste aérienne militaire* at the end of the *Poste aérienne* section. The 1944-45 "R.F" overprints on the 6c USA red airmail are now all fully listed and illustrated.

In terms of pricing there are practically no changes prior to the 21st century. Other than a handful of insignificant adjustments, I could see hardly any price reductions throughout the catalogue. This is a most welcome sign and shows the continuing strength of the France stamp market.

The vast majority of increases relate to modern issues with many mint stamps from the last few years receiving a price boost. In addition, all TVP stamps (*timbres à validité permanente*), increase in line with annual postage rate rises which can have a substantial upward effect especially on *carnets* which contain a number of these stamps. First listed last year, all the short-lived *Lettre suivie* self-adhesives continue to show good price increases

Many collectors of modern France concentrate on *blocs* (miniature sheets) and these generally benefit once again from an across-the-board increase from 2010 onwards. The series reproducing classic stamps is the prime mover: 2014 *Cérès* 1€ orange (YT F4871) up 20€ to 180€; 2015 70^c *Anniversaire de la Libération* (YT F4986) up 10€ to 160€ (this *bloc* is the only source of the much sought-after 4€ reprint of the 1945 Liberation stamp (YT 739) now catalogued at 45€ alone); 2016 *Sage* (YT F5094) up 10€ to 90€; 2017 *Sabine de Gandon* (the first *bloc* to contain maxi stamps) (YT F5179) up 25€ to 90€ and 2018 *Orphelins* (YT F5226) up 10€ to 90€. The previously tipped unique 2012 *bloc*, *Le Retable d'Issenheim* (YT F4675), (face 5€) is once again up, from 55€ to 60€.

Many *blocs souvenirs* have shown healthy increases this year, notably the 2016 *Nouvelle année chinoise* set of twelve



values on three sheets (YT BS123/A/B) up 10€ to 70€ (face 12€) This must be one of the most overlooked modern items as it contains stamps with different face values from the originals first issued in 2005. These *blocs* are difficult to find today, only having a very small print run. I expect that few collectors spotted these and I am sure that this price will continue to rise in the future. The 2018 *Marianne l'engagée* set of four sheets (YT BS145/A/B/C) containing all the new issues in offset printing increases by 100% from 24€ to 48€, another one to keep an eye on.

Definitives, especially *Marianne* issues, are immensely popular. At the *Salon de Printemps* and *Salon d'Automne* in Paris each year various *blocs* and *carnets* are issued which contain a number of unique items printed in small quantities. For example, all the recent two-page *carnets de timbres à composition variable* featuring reprints of classic definitives (YT 1520A-1525B) show very healthy increases, many of 100%. The latest carnet, *L'Affranchissement* (YT 1526), containing a single copy of the *Cérès* 2.10€ maxi-stamp issued in 2019, makes its debut at 60€ with a face value of 16.80€. The 2013 *Marianne et la Jeunesse* multi-

printing sheets (YT F4774A & B) each rise by 30€ to 140€: these are the only source of ten different unique stamps. The overprinted version '1944-2011' (YT 4774B) is four times scarcer than the non-overprinted *bloc* but is still listed at the same price. The set of nine *Marianne l'engagée* imperf stamps from special *blocs* rise by 12€ to 60€ and the scarce maxi-stamps pair (YT 5286/7) double in price to 22€.

Finally, much underrated are the self-adhesive stamps (*autoadhésifs*) especially the early issues from 1990. Many of these were issued in very small quantities and were not generally available through post offices. There are some truly amazing prices on some of these items particularly the 2005 *Anniversaire TVP 20g* (YT 52C) which increases by 20€ to

140€ whilst the gummed version (YT 3778) remains at a lowly 2.30€ and the 2006 *Marianne de Lamouche* perforated on all four sides set of 21 values (YT 84A-84U) rises by 70€ to 620€.

The one item that modern collectors were looking forward to seeing listed was the 2019 *Valeurs de Cérès 1849 bloc*, the subject of much controversy (see F&CPS Journal N°292, April 2020) which appears for the first time; however, disappointingly, it is unpriced!

Once again, the catalogue is excellent value for the ever-increasing wealth of information it contains and is a must-have for all serious collectors of both classic and modern issues.



Compléments à l'ouvrage 'La Première Série au type Iris'

Yvon Nouazé.

A4 format, 24pp, Price 4.50€. Check for further information and postage rates with the author:

Y. Nouazé, 1 rue Henri Manhès, 81000 Albi
(NB. new email address: yvon.nouaze@sfr.fr).

I reviewed the first edition of Yvon Nouazé's *Iris* handbook (illustrated left) in March 2017 (Journal No 283). The second edition passed me by, but here is the supplement to it, a slim volume which records freshly discovered information and takes the opportunity to correct errors spotted by keen-eyed readers. Contents include overtaxed *cartes familiales* and some preliminary material for which designer Hourriez, perhaps surprisingly, was not in fact responsible.

Michael Round

More from Michel

Following my review of the Michel *Westafrika* catalogues in December 2019 (Journal No 291), I can report two further titles. *Züdafrika 2018/2019* (series code 6:2) is devoted to Anglophone countries – basically Southern and Central Africa plus the South Atlantic islands - and therefore comes into direct competition with Stanley Gibbons. There is nothing there for French Colony collectors but *Zentralafrika 2018/2019* (series code 6:1) updates us on

many countries in which SG lags years behind, namely Angola, Mozambique, Congo D.R (i.e. Congo Kinshasa, the former Belgian Congo), Equatorial Guinea, St Thomas and Prince – and, of particular interest to F&CPS members, Gabon, Congo Republic (i.e. Congo Brazzaville, the former French Congo), Central African Republic and Tchad.

More details directly from Michel, or from www.prinzuk.co.uk



A Website for Algeria

Following up some Algeria queries, I was delighted to come across a website devoted to this fascinating territory. *Phil-Algérie* includes a mass of historical background and illustrates a wide variety of material, including many good shades, flaws and minor varieties not seen in catalogues since the dear old *Cérès* editions of the early 1990s. Text in French, of course. Visit <http://balbedin.free.fr> or email author Stéphane directly at balbedin@hotmail.com

Michael Round

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Maurice Tyler

Please contact me (maurice@mstyler.plus.com) if you would like to see a particular article that you do not have direct access to. I can usually produce one that has appeared during the last 12 months, or point you in the right direction.

Timbres Magazine

N° 224 Jul/Aug 2020: Surchargés défaillants au Togo (PJM); Les Forces navales d'Extrême-Orient 1927-1940 (Chauvin); Nadar et la compagnie des aéroliers (Sinais); Tintin, le timbre et la poste (Mennessiez); Carnets: conséquences d'un changement de tarif (Gomez & Nicolino); Le millésime 2019 des TAAF (Dreyfus); Fougères: La grève des chaussonniers (Zeyons); Des marques de «Déboursé» de ou pour les Armées (de La Mettrie).

N° 225 Sep 2020: Tintin, le timbre et la poste (Mennessiez); Les carnets «STERNERS»: Le temps des carnets à prix fixe (Gomez); Pointe de Galle, un carrefour maritime pour les liaisons postales vers l'Asie et l'Océanie (Veglio); Le raid Istres-Pondichéry et retour par les commandants Girier et Weiss (1930) (Sinais); Un meurtre au Figaro [cartes postales 1914] (Zeyons); Le coup de cœur de la CNEP [la conquête et l'occupation française en Libye à partir de 1941] (Kalkstein).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

N° 1953 Sep 2020: Élections Sénatoriales (Sollin); La principauté d'Andorre, pays des Pyrénées (Bandry); L'OP 3-2019 du *Marion Dufresne* (Venturini).

N° 1954 Oct 2020: Les Exprès pour l'étranger (Walter); Les timbres fiscaux des cartes d'entrée aux casinos (Vincent); Dernières escales de l'OP3-2019 (Venturini).

Bulletin COL.FRA

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Vol 76 N° 3 (Whole N° 341) July 2020: Studying the 1900 French Congo "Pictorial Issue" (Nilsestuen);

Calmette 1934 Anti-Tuberculosis – Addendum (Taylor); Single Use of 5 franc laureated Napoleon III to the United States, 1869 (Broadhead); French Congo "AR" marking changed to "R" for registration (Lindekens); Mail Fail from France to the US in the Era of the Covid-19 Spike of New York City (Marra).

Vol 76 N° 4 (Whole N° 342) Oct 2020: Modern French-Area Proofs, Part 1: Overview and Deluxe Proofs (Elliott); Free French Semi-Postals used in Martinique (Stevens); More on Axis Diplomats' Mail in WWII (Fiset); End of the Mail Fail Saga: 75 Year Old Dulac Stamps Again Accepted for Postage (Marra).

Gibbons Stamp Monthly

Vol 51 N° 4 Sep 2020: The Siege of Paris 1870-71 - 'L'affaire Raynal': The Story of a *Ballon Monté*, and *Boules de Moulins* (Lawrence); Pierre Gandon: The Marianne Master (Part 1) (Keppel).

Vol 51 N° 5 Oct 2020: Gone But Not Forgotten: Mali Federation, Malagasy Republic and Spanish West Africa (Moody); Pierre Gandon: The Marianne Master (Part 2) (Keppel).

Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile

N° 3 Sep 2020: Les cachets de Route des Malles-Poste – Première Période – Première partie (Martin); Oblitérations françaises avec mention «PAQUEBOT» (Lavenas); La Poste automobile rurale dans le Jura (Chagnon); Les Cachets des Chargements de Paris Libellé: N.A. PARIS N.A. (Martin).

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N° 245 (3^e trim 2020) July 2020: Intervention française au Mexique en 1862-67 – Découverte d'un bureau qui en cachait un autre (Walske); La première guerre franco-mexicaine (1838-1839) ou guerre de los pasteles (Abensur); Le timbre-télégraphe – La genèse et la fabrication (1865-1867) (Sollin).

N° 246 (4^e trim 2020) Oct 2020: Une base navale française aux Philippines (Lewis); Les «départements réunis» du Piémont: 1. Une intégration à la France révolutionnaire complexe mais réussie (Veglio); Redoit (Abensur); 1870: un prisonnier français à Memel (Pineau); Le camp de Cavalaire (Hardy).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol L N° 4 (Whole N° 244) Sep 2020: Booklet Pane on Cover [Indochina 1932] (Bentley); Government Airmail Label? [Indochina] (Bentley); Uprising in Tri Thien [Vietnam] (Miller); Madagascar UPU Specimens (Grabowski); Undelivered Letter to Cap Saint Jacques [Indochina] (Davies); Postal Financial Instruments (Daniel).

Vol L N° 5 (Whole N° 245) Nov 2020: Cambodian Boy Scouts Stamps (Bentley); Early Cover from Indochina using Navigation and Commerce Stamps (Dufresne de Virel); Two Stationeries from Indochina (Wiert); The Chinese and Cholon [Vietnam] (Cartafalsa).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 382 (Sep 2020): Les «Nonos» [non-oblitérés] (Bonney); Le compostage chronodateur des correspondances pneumatiques à Paris (Barbelin); 1914-1918: les paquets de la loge [Grand Orient de France] (Flotte); Contrôle postal sur le courrier des soldats alsaciens-lorrains complément d'information (Lebecque); Les timbres à date au type 1884 utilisés au bureau français d'Alexandrie (Désarnaud); Timbres à date français avec mentions «Rebuts – Recherches – Réclamations» (Lavenas & Albaret).

Hors Série 2020-01 (Sep 2020): 23 short summaries of displays at Marcophilex XLIV including the following longer articles: La Poste à Monéteau (Worobel); Les Postes à Auxerre (Mélaisne); Cartes de correspondance imprimées en français émises pendant l'occupation prussienne de

1870-1871 (Fortin); La Poste clandestine à Épernay pendant l'occupation prussienne en 1870-1871 (Melin); Les marques de l'Armée du Rhin: lettres et témoignages du siège de Belfort (Gillet); Le siège de Thionville du 6 octobre au 24 novembre 1870 (Schaff).

Cameo

Vol 21 No 3 (Whole No 111) Oct 2020: Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961: Summary (Bratzel); British West Africa and the French Airmail Services, Part III: Aéromaritime, the Coastal Service (Priddy); Air Mail services from Nigeria via Aéromaritime March-June 1940 (Richards).

Le Maghrebophila

No 31 Sep 2020: EMA: légende POSTES ALGERIE (Guyaux); Tunisie - Emission 3 timbres de Papes africains berbères (Guyaux); ALGERIE - c à d "POSTE AUX ARMEES" avec trois étoiles (Frick); Envoi Franco-Algérien (Guyaux); Belgique – Banque Chaabi du Maroc (Guyaux); CP illustrée de Meknes vers Saint-Pierre-de-Maillé (Guyaux); Les timbres de la Croix Rouge du Maroc (Vaca).

New postal rates in France 2021

The annual price increase takes place on 1st January.

Rate up to 20g	Colour	2020 price	2021 price	Increase
<i>Lettre Prioritaire</i>	Red	1.16€	1.28€	10.50%
<i>Lettre Verte</i>	Green	0.97€	1.08€	11.00%
<i>Ecopli (economy)</i>	Grey	0.95€	1.06€	11.50%
<i>International</i>	Blue	1.40€	1.50€	7.0%

It currently costs over 60% more to post a simple letter in France than in the UK.

Richard Broadhurst

The packet secretaries are regularly reminding members to obtain a certificate of posting when forwarding a packet. If asking the counter clerk for one is too onerous, here is an alternative method although we are not convinced that Royal Mail would accept it as evidence in the case of a loss.

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"If you want Proof of Postage, just ask."

The Development of French Postal Communications in the Algerian Sahara

By Peter Kelly

This is the author's second book on French African postal history following on from *Dakar to Tombouctou – Communication and postal history in French Soudan*. This new book looks at the expansion of French interests in the Algerian Sahara, outlining the postal history and development of communications and new military and civilian post offices in a difficult physical terrain and often in hostile conditions.

Attention is also given to the problems associated with the establishment of a frontier between Algeria and Morocco, another area of interest to postal historians. A large number of maps and other detailed information accompany the large selection of covers that illustrate this study which covers the period from the 1880s to WW1 with a few later examples where this is thought to be useful.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS IN THE ALGERIAN SAHARA



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