

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



Senegal Visiting Card Rate: see report on President's Display, page 165



Marianne de Muller 25F Booklet of 8 *Annulé*: see report on President's Display, page 166



Volume 52 ● Number 4
December 2002
Whole Number 226

**THE FRANCE & COLONIES
PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN**

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Vice-President, 2002-2003: M S Tyler
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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 and applications for membership should be addressed to the General Secretary.

2002 Subscription Rates

United Kingdom: £10.00, Europe: £12.00, Elsewhere: £15.00.
Treasurer: C J Hitchen, 36 Everton Road, Croydon CR0 6LA.
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The Journal

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Auction and Exchange Packet Sales

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

The Library

Members are invited to avail themselves of the services of the Society's substantial library, on terms set out in the Library List distributed to all Members.
Librarian: G E Barker, 520 Halifax Road, Bradford BD6 2LP.

The Magazine Circuit

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

Journal Correspondents

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

* * *

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

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

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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The President and Committee

wish all members and their families

a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année!



SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1208 Revd W E J Mash (Staffordshire), 1209 Dr M A Robinson (Southampton), 1210 Michel Letaillieur (France), 1211 Arlene Sullivan (Canada).

* * *

Members Deceased

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

1149 Edward McInnes.

* * *

RPSL Display

Ashley Lawrence will be giving a display and talk entitled "100 Years of *la Semeuse*" at the Royal Philatelic Society, London at 5.00pm on Thursday 20 February 2003. He hopes that, in addition to readers who are fellows or members of the Royal, as many members as possible of the F&CPS will attend (subject to any limitation on the number of permitted guests).

* * *

Magazine Indexing Project

The Society proposes to publish in brochure form a subject index of articles that appeared in *Philatélie Française*, *l'Écho de la Timbrologie*, *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, and *Timbroscopie* between 1946 and 2000.

Following the call for volunteers that appeared in Journal 222 (December 2001), a team of nine indexers began work three months ago on *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, and this phase of the project should be finished by the end of 2002. We hope to index the remaining three magazines by the end of 2003, but to do this we need to increase the size of the team.

Data sorting will be done by computer, so indexers will be required to furnish their results in floppy disk form or as e-mail attachments. They will of course need to know enough French to grasp article content. And in order to minimise the cost of delivering and collecting magazines we would prefer to employ volunteers who live within a 100-mile radius of London.

Are you willing to help? If so, please write to Derek Richardson at 16 Fairford Avenue, Luton LU2 7ER or e-mail him at djr@fairfordave.fsnet.co.uk.

* * *

Philatelic Honour

We are delighted to report that our distinguished member from France, **Robert Abensur**, has, in what seems a very short time after his election to the Académie de Philatélie, now become its President. Congratulations!

* * *

Editorial

I try as far as possible to avoid inserting editorials on this page just for the sake of it, but a suggestion has been made that requires your urgent attention.

Next April marks the centenary of the first appearance of the Sower on French stamps, and in order to commemorate this we shall be publishing in the March issue of the Journal an article by Ashley Lawrence on "*La Semeuse*, the Early Years" (see also the note on this page entitled "RPSL Display"). The suggestion is that we devote as much of this issue as possible to the Sower, and if this is to be achieved, we would like members to look at any suitable material they may have in their collections and submit a piece, or a page (or two, or half), to be considered for publication, perhaps under the heading "Pages from My Collection". If enough items of interest are sent, the March issue would then become an almost exclusive "Sower Special".

I realise that time is much too short to produce anything substantial if it does not already exist, but hope that sufficient smaller items may be found to make the idea feasible. The deadline for reception of such material will be the end of January at the very latest, but it would be appreciated if members could find the time to send me photocopies or scans with text either typed or on disk much earlier in that month. This time scale may be an impossible one, but I think it is worth a try.

* * *

Forgeries

The following warning is reprinted from the *F&C Philatelist* by kind permission of the Editor, Stan Luft:

"More junk for sale. Jim Taylor, editor of the *St Pierre & Miquelon Philatelic Journal*, complains in its April 2002 issue about the abundance of forgeries, improbable fantasies (i.e., unknown inverted centers of bicolored stamps), and bogus overprints on SP&M stamps, as well as those of some other French colonies. These are showing up on eBay and, by inference, other sites. Sellers include 'atinvest,' 'futete,' 'unlimitedstamps' and 'cclan.' They're usually offered as valuable 'classic forgeries,' unrecorded varieties, or just plain 'as is.' Most are crudely made and readily detectable on one's screen, but others may be more challenging. Anyway and as usual, buyer beware!"

* * *

Corrigendum

It is hoped that no members were inconvenienced by an incorrect date given in the Journal for the President's Afternoon, which took place on Saturday 2 November 2002 and not on 26 October as announced in the Society Notes in Journal 225. The reason for the mistake was a change in dates that took place after the AGM. The correct date was shown in the Society's Programme Card. Our apologies!

* * *

Exhibition Successes

The following members of the Society are to be congratulated on awards at Autumn Stampex in September:

Prof David Stirrups - Gold Medal and Postal History Award for "The Spanish Post Office and Gibraltar Mail 1850-1875"

Mick Bister - Large Vermeil Medal and the Ebby Gerrish Trophy for "The 50c Jeanne d'Arc Issue"

Peter Baker - Vermeil Medal for "Censor Marks & Cachets of the Free French Forces 1940-45"

Tony Shepherd - Vermeil Medal for "Guadeloupe, World War II, the Mails and Postal Censorship"

Alan Piggott - Large Silver Medal for "Journal & Printed Matter of France from the Late 19th Century"

At Masevaux (Alsace) in March:

Jean-Luc Trassaert - Vermeil Medal for "Les plis Hors sac" and Large Silver Medal for "La Moissonneuse"

At PhilaKorea 2002 (Seoul) in August:

Ed Grabowski - Large Gold Medal for "Guadeloupe: the Development and Use of Stamps for Regular Postage"

And at Amphilex 2002 (Amsterdam, August/September):

Barrie Jay - Gold Medal, with Felicitations, for "Mail between Britain and Mainland Europe 1793-1815"

John Levett - Large Vermeil for "Plating study of the 25 centimes Cérés stamp of France 1850-76"

* * *

Marcophilex

The following members participated in the displays at Marcophilex XXVI in Orsay (October):

Robert Abensur - "Lettres avec Certificat de Remise"

Lucien Bridelance - "Lettres Décorées"

Chris Hitchen - "Les Bureaux de Quartier de Paris 1852-1863"

Peter Kelly - "Histoire Postale du Niger jusqu'en 1945"

* * *

Northern Group Meetings

Local members will have already received these details. The complete programme is published here for information.

14 September 2002: Members' Meeting (20-30 pages)

9 November 2002: Peter Maybury - "The French Revolutionary Era 1789-1815"

25 January 2003: Stephen Holder - "Tunisia to 1900"

22 March 2003: George Barker - the speaker's choice

12 July 2003: All day meeting at Heaton Royds, Bradford

Meetings are held on Saturdays at the Leeds Infirmary (except July), commencing at 1.30 pm. Please contact the Acting Secretary, Judith Holder, for further information (Tel. 01274 544446). Meetings are always interesting and informal, and members are always welcome to attend, whether they are experts or beginners in the subject, as we do not take ourselves too seriously.

* * *

Personal Visit

We were delighted to see that our Australian member John Lucaci recently managed a visit to Great Britain. He and his wife Dawn embarked on a long and exhausting tour of Egypt, the British Isles and mainland Europe which lasted from early August to late October. During their packed itinerary they nevertheless found time to spend one day with Bill Mitchell and another with Mick Bister. Mick comments that conversation was almost entirely about matters philatelic, and that it was great to meet someone known just by e-mail and as an auction bidder.

* * *

French Colonial Tariffs

Hervé Drye, President of COL.FRA and Editor of their *Bulletin*, has indicated some modifications that need to be made to his text on "Postal Rates for mail leaving the French Colonies", reprinted in English in our Journal 225 (page 126) from his original French article that appeared in the COL.FRA *Bulletin* n° 94 (1^{er} Trim. 2001). The text represented only the first part of the study, concerning the period 1876-1945, and the second part will be published later in the COL.FRA *Bulletin*. Consequently the following changes should be made:

In note (4) (page 126) the first line should end "until 1945" instead of "until 1960"; in the paragraph relating to postage rates after the creation of CFA and CFP francs (page 128) the second line should read "... will entail in 1946 the conversion ..."; and at the end of that paragraph the following sentence should be added - "The tariffs from 1946 to 1960 will be the subject of a later article."

There has also been some confusion over the permission to reprint this series of articles from the COL.FRA *Bulletin*. We hope this has now been clarified, and we are grateful to Hervé Drye for his understanding in this matter.

* * *

COL.FRA

COL.FRA is a French philatelic society, established in 1974, whose aim is the study of the postal history, stamps and postmarks of:

- French colonies, overseas territories, protectorates, mandated territories
- territories militarily occupied or temporarily administered by France
- French post offices abroad

COL.FRA publishes a quarterly *Bulletin* and specialised studies. For more detailed information write to:

COL.FRA, BP 628, 75367 Paris Cedex 08, France.

* * *

Librarian's New Address

Members should note that George Barker has moved to the new address indicated on the inside front cover of this Journal. His telephone number is 01274 601268, but he will be unable to deal with library requests until sometime in the New Year when he hopes to have completed relocation of the library stock.

* * *

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 101 3^{ème} Trim 2002; Bénin: Les surcharges de 1892 (Crombez d'après Pannetier); Guadeloupe: Arrêtés janvier, mars 1889 (-); All Colonies: La taxe postale douanière dans les colonies françaises (Bonnefoy); Opinion: À bâtons rompus: les surcharges locales! (Crombez); Dahomey: Conquête du Dahomey, complètement au H.S.14-1 (Crombez); All Colonies: Conservation et approvisionnement en figurines postales dans nos colonies (Bouérat); La Vie Hors-série: Les postes et courriers français en Extrême Orient (Desrousseaux).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 270 (Vol 58, N° 4) Oct 2002; Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories 71 (Cohn); Periodic update on French Military Post Offices (Luft); Jacques A Musy [FCPS N° 16] 1916-2001 (Lievsey); Types and Subtypes: The Pasteur Issues (-); A Cover Story (Gaillaguet); Recent Changes in Paris Postal Nomenclature (Luft); Reassigned Numbers of Towns ceded to Germany in 1871 (Benjamin).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1755 Sep 2002: Décryptage: Plutôt prévenir que guérir! De la prophylactie en philatélie (de la Mettrie); La saga des carnets français (-); Poste et philatélie à Saint-Marin (-); Edmond Dulac, artiste méconnu [1^{re} partie] (Trassaert); Les émissions OAS (Trassaert); Fiscaux d'Alsace-Lorraine [4^e partie] (Danan).

N° 1756 Oct 2002: Une roulette à suivre de très près (-); La maison Champion fête son centenaire (-); Un réparé par nos soins (Maraval); Edmond Dulac, artiste méconnu [2^e partie] (Trassaert); Décodage: Les conséquences d'un calcul erroné (Prugnon); Venise-Alexandrie-Venise (Dutau); Souvenirs d'un débutant (de la Mettrie).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

Supplément au N° 310: Marcophiles XXVI Orsay (Essonne) 5 et 6 Octobre 2002: Orsay (Sené); L'annexe N° 1 d'Orsay: Histoire d'un bureau de Poste Annexe (Albaret et Boutet); Les Courriers Extraordinaires (GRAPB); Le Contreseing (-); La Petite Poste de Paris (Cappart); La Petite Poste de Lyon [1778-1797] (Abensur); Les formulaires des Services Généraux de la Poste aux Lettres des origines à 1832 (Kraemer); Le Comité de Salut Public et les comités de la Convention Nationale [6.4.1791-20.10.1795] - Bureaux spéciaux, franchises, contreseings et marques administratives (Lescoat); Noms révolutionnaires et marques postales de la Nièvre (Potin); L'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur (Poultier); Entiers fiscaux au type Aigle du 1^{er} Empire (Barbero); Les 100 Jours [20.3-22.7 1815] et les armées d'occupation (Dubus); Les oblitérations provisoires du début janvier 1849 (Vlioger); Histoire postale de l'Hérault, Oblitération «Grille» (Hendriks); Note concernant la pièce de 1831 (Schleiffer); La Poche de St. Nazaire (Le Guen); Marques Postales de Sedan [1685 à 1830] (Piquart); Paris-Orléans: Histoire postale et

ferroviaire [1843-2002] (Carroy); Les Bureaux de Quartier de Paris [1852-1863] (Hitchen); L'Épopée Napoléonienne et La Légende Napoléonienne (Sénéchal); Les timbres fiscaux «Laurés» de Napoléon (Danan); Le 10 centimes chiffre-taxe noir (Couvé); Levées exceptionnelles Paris-Province [Déc. 1900 à Déc. 1937] Donnadiou); Lettres et documents de poste fluviale et lacustre du XVII^e au XX^e - Monde (Bury); Note sur le cachet circulaire Bourbon 2.8.1841 (Schleiffer); Les sections révolutionnaires de Paris (Bridelance); Les Expositions Universelles en France entre 1878 et 1900 et la Poste (Mayeur); Exposition Internationale Paris 1937 (Gautier); Bureaux temporaires des Expositions Universelles de Paris au XIX^{ème} siècle (Usclat); Lettres avec certificat de remise, affranchissements français (Abensur); Vidéo-codage du courrier et Chronomarque (Coquin et Guillard); Le contrôle des Changes (Bonnefoy); Île de Ré (Picard); La Poste Navale (Van de Weghe); Le Service Maritime Postal sur New York 1894-1920 (Pingard); Le Niger (Kelly); La censure dans les camps d'internés civils en France et Afrique du Nord [1914-1919] (Carnévalé-Mauzan); Marcophile Austro-Hongroise: Poste Maritime (Pirotte); Les Réseaux de Pneumatiques (Sené); Les entiers pneumatiques français de 1879 à 1945 (Lavigne); Entiers Postaux Cartes Postales pour l'Étranger [1874-1960] (Jorissen); L'automatisation du courrier (Ablard); Les correspondances d'armées avec les timbres-poste des colonies générales (Tricot); Les colis postaux allemands de 1876 à 1993 (Claire); Les Postes serbes à l'Armée d'Orient [1916-1918] (Bourguignat); Le courrier, témoin de l'Histoire: l'Algérie et la Seconde Guerre Mondiale (Goanvic); Parcours oblitérant en Grande-Bretagne (Coulanges); Lettres décorées (Bridelance).

La Philatélie Française

Permanent features: Événement, Multimédia, Fédération, Régions.

N° 567 May 2002: Marseille 2002 (Laurent et Vincent); Deux cents ans de Légion d'honneur (Poultier).

Timbres Magazine

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

N° 27 Sep 2002: Les Arts Décoratifs: une émission à 200 00F (Melot); Les «Arc de Triomphe» débarquent en Normandie (Apaire et Sinais); Alexandre Dumas ou la soif d'écrire (Michaud); Algérie: L'histoire d'une série culte (Melot); Les «départements conquis» [cont.] (Baudot); Cartes Postales: Allo? Qui est à l'appareil? (Zeyons).

N° 17 Oct 2002: Inde Française: des comptoirs à conter (Michaud); Océanie: Rougier, un abbé plein d'appétits (Pellinec); La double vie du 50F Ader (Melot); 1948: un PA pour le «père de l'avion» Melot); Carnets: vins et spiritueux sans modération (PJM); Antarctique, missions possibles (Pellinec); Deux trouvailles! (Baudot); Cartes Postales: visite du Sentier (Zeyons).

Interzone Mail (1940-1944) - Part 3

Roy Reader

After the German Occupation of the Southern Zone (November 1942 – September 1944)



Car Ferruccio j'ai connu toute ta nouveauté. Tu, tes misères
tes desirs, tes coups de cafard, Tu as dû apprendre toi même
par la même voie tous les renseignements sur nous tous.
aussi bien minuscule semblant. Des nouvelles que l'on peut chercher
sur ces infectes cartes. Je te conseille le résultat de ton examen
-leur (l'ami de feu M^r Bernon) et à ce moment ne pas hésiter et de
faire ce que t'as toujours suggéré: le mariage. Les fiançailles se prolongent
-gent trop et si tu attends c'est la rupture aussi prends la solution
-ton mariage dès que tu en auras la possibilité, ta femme t'en
sera que plus reconnaissante après! Gabrielle a été très affectée
peut être la + touchée par la mort de Thérèse, quant à nous
rien de nouveau. J'ai eu guy j'ai une dizaine de jours après
et analyser sa méthode de travail. Le qui me chagrine + c'est le ressort
interieur. Il pourrait travailler avec presque autant de rendement
que les autres mais le cœur n'y est pas. A 18 ans de goût de la vie,
ampli par de fallacieux et irréalisables projets, croisant l'avenir
parlant l'avenir et luttant d'attente (peut être résultant des dires et des
de sa mère et est incapable de faire un effort intellectuel prolongé
sur des matières qui il n'aime pas. Je compte aller passer de la fin du
mois à voir à Montpellier (je partais dans 10 jours et repartirai dimanche soir) des que
j'aurai mon baccalauréat et retourner à la chétive. C'est toi que tu pourrais
les trouver en même temps. Je ne pourrais mais te remercier de ton coup
peux tu avoir une permission. Affectueux

Figure 28 -

At the time this postcard was sent in January 1943, postcards were still the only permitted form of correspondence between the two zones, although the southern zone had been under German occupation for some two months. The card was sent from a man in Paris to a friend on a course for youth camp leaders in the Meyrueis area of the Lozère. In it he complains about the meagre amount of news that can be put on 'these lousy cards'.
[NB Meyrueis is spelt wrongly on the card.]

On 11 November 1942, in response to the Allied invasion of North Africa, the Germans occupied the southern zone of France. This initially changed nothing as far as interzone mail was concerned (Fig 28).

It was only on 1 March 1943 that the Germans eventually allowed ordinary letters to be sent between the two zones (Fig 29). These letters were to be channelled through the same two routes as the interzone cards. All mail posted in the northern zone for the southern zone still had to be collected together at Paris or Bordeaux. There was, however, a difference now. It no longer had to be sent to the Paris or Bordeaux censor office. Instead the censor office took some samples of the mail while it was in transit at the railway station and then, after examining them, returned them to the French postal service. The French postal service and not the German field post was now responsible for putting the mail from Paris on a train to Moulins and the mail from Bordeaux on a train to La Réole (east of Langon and in the southern zone). Similarly mail posted in the southern zone for the northern zone was collected together as before and then despatched by the French postal service either to Paris via Moulins or to Bordeaux via La Réole. When the mail arrived at Paris or Bordeaux, the German censor office took a sample of it at the station for examination. Initially at least, the censor offices took in all some ten bags of incoming or outgoing

mail each day, returning it to the French postal service the following day. The possibility of sending letters led to an immediate increase in the amount of interzone correspondence. It shot up to 1,000,000 items a day, double the number of interzone cards being sent only the month before.

From 16 June it became possible to register (but not insure) letters, postcards and serums destined for the opposite zone and also to obtain an acknowledgement of receipt if one was wanted (Fig 30). Registered items were taken, like other mail, to Paris or Bordeaux in the one direction or to Moulins or Toulouse in the other. On 12 July, it was made clear that neither ordinary nor registered mail could be sent to *poste restante* addresses in the opposite zone.

From 8 September leeches joined serums and vaccines in being allowed to travel from one zone to the other zone, though only if despatched by a designated supplier.

Interzone mail continued to be channelled through just Moulins and La Réole until December, when the Germans authorised mail to pass also through Chalon-sur-Saône on the Paris-Lyon-Marseille line, through Vierzon on the Paris-Toulouse line, through Montpon-sur-l'Isle (now Montpon-Ménésterol) on the Bordeaux-Limoges and Bordeaux-Lyon lines and through Orthez on the Bordeaux-Pau-Tarbes line. They probably restricted the mail to specified crossing points still so as to be able to take



Figure 29 -

Six days after the lifting of the ban on letters being sent across the demarcation line, a family in Paris was sent this letter by a friend at Guéret in the Creuse.

- Gérard Fabrègue, 'Timbres Fiscaux sur Cartes Interzones', in *L'Écho de la Timbrologie*, N° 1649, January 1993.
- Robert Françon and Jean Storch, *Spécialisé France: Timbres-Poste de 1900 à 1940 et de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale 1940-1945* (Françon, Lyon, 1975).
- Louis Goubin, 'La Ligne de Démarcation de 1940-1944 en France', in *L'Écho de la Timbrologie*, N° 1471, February 1977.
- Claude Jamet, 'Les Cartes Interzones: Très Surveillées Hier, À Surveiller Aujourd'hui', in *Timbroscopie*, N° 110, February 1994.
- Claude Jamet, 'Des Timbres sur les Cartes Interzones', in *L'Écho de la Timbrologie*, N° 1674, April 1995.
- Claude Jamet, 'Les Cartes Pétain, Atouts Majeurs d'Occupation', in *Timbroscopie*, N° 132, February 1996.
- Norbert Kannapin, *Die deutsche Feldpostübersicht 1929-1945* (Biblio Verlag, Osnabrück, 1981) [dependence of Chalon-sur-Saône on Dijon].
- Ministère des Postes, Télégraphes et Téléphones, *Bulletin Officiel* (1940), N° 22, 11.9.40; N° 25, 11.10.40; N° 33, 31.12.40.
- Ministère des Postes, Télégraphes et Téléphones, *Bulletin Officiel* (1941), N° 3, 11.1.41; N° 13, 10.5.41; N° 16, 10.6.41; N° 17, 20.6.41; N° 20, 20.7.41; N° 32, 20.11.41; N° 34, 10.12.41.
- Ministère des Postes, Télégraphes et Téléphones, *Bulletin Officiel* (1942), N° 7, 10.3.42; N° 13, 10.5.42; N° 28, 10.10.42; N° 33, 30.11.42.
- Ministère des Postes, Télégraphes et Téléphones, *Bulletin Officiel* (1943), N° 3, 31.1.43; N° 18, 30.6.43; N° 26, 20.9.43.
- V di Pace, 'Les Services des P.T.T. pendant l'Occupation', in Institut Hoover, *La Vie de la France sous l'Occupation 1940-1944* (Plon, 1957), vol 1.
- Marcel Paul, *Histoire des PTT pendant la Deuxième Guerre Mondiale* (Paris?, 194?).
- Remy, 'La Ligne de Démarcation', in *La France Pays Occupé 1940-1941* (Éditions Tallandier, 1979).
- Karl-Heinz Riemer, *Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch deutsche Dienststellen* ('Rhein-Donau', Düsseldorf, 1979).
- G Rougeron, *Le Département de l'Allier sous l'État Français (1940-1944)* (1969).
- Bertrand Sinais, 'Les Entiers Postaux Iris et Pétain avec Surtaxe Aérienne Métropolitaine Payée en Numéraire', in *Les Feuilles Marcophiles*, N° 270, July 1992.
- Bertrand Sinais, 'La Ligne de Démarcation et les Correspondances Interzones (1940-1943)', in *La Philatélie Française*, N° 511, January 1997.
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- Personal Collection.

Key Dates in the Story of Interzone Mail	
1.8.40	All interzone mail is banned except for a limited amount of official mail, which is channelled through Moulins on the demarcation line.
26.9.40	Family interzone cards are permitted and also channelled through Moulins.
? .10.40	Official or unofficial military interzone cards appear.
15.10.40	Commercial interzone cards are permitted.
16.12.40	Family interzone cards can now be sent from Paris to overseas territories by airmail.
20.4.41	Only family interzone cards in cream are now permitted.
12.5.41	A second type of family interzone card (with seven blank lines) is introduced.
20.5.41	The first type of family interzone card is no longer valid for use.
2.6.41	Ordinary plain postcards can now be used for all interzone correspondence.
7.6.41	Langon is added to Moulins as an exchange point for interzone mail on the demarcation line.
1.7.41	The commercial interzone cards are withdrawn from use.
25.7.41	Money orders in postcard form are accepted for interzone use.
15.8.41	The second type of family interzone card is no longer valid for use.
? .9.41	A second type of commercial interzone card (blank on the back) is introduced.
12.9.41	Commercial samples, serums and vaccines can now be sent between the two zones.
5.1.42	The postcard rate is raised to 1F20, but interzone cards still travel at the 80c rate for lack of 1F20 cards.
12.1.42	Official mail between 'frontier' departments on the demarcation line can now be sent via local exchange points at Vierzon, Moulins, Dijon, Angoulême and Bordeaux.
1.3.42	1F20 ordinary and commercial postcards go on sale. The 1F20 postcard rate now applies to interzone mail.
1.5.42	Special postcards are issued for official correspondence between the two zones.
11.11.42	The Germans occupy the southern zone of France.
17.11.42	New arrangements are introduced for sending postcards from the northern zone to overseas territories by airmail – unnecessarily so, as events have brought what will be a permanent end to all airmail services.
1.3.43	Ordinary letters can now be sent between the two zones.
16.6.43	Registered mail can now be sent between the two zones.
8.9.43	Leeches can now be sent between the two zones.
? .12.43	Mail can now cross the demarcation line not only at Moulins and Langon but also at Chalon-sur-Saône, Vierzon, Montpon-sur-l'Isle (Montpon-Ménéstérol) and Orthez.
? .1.44	Letter packets can now be sent from the northern zone to soldiers in the 1st Regiment of France stationed in the southern zone.

Hollow Star Cancellation on Pétain and other Stamps

Roy Reader



Figure 1 -

Typical commercial cover bearing the hollow star cancellation.

It was from a cognac producer at Saint-Même-les-Carières, south-east of the town of Cognac, and therefore within the northern zone, which included a band of territory along the Atlantic coast. Addressed to a representative in Zurich, it was delivered to the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Paris and then sent on to Switzerland. It went via the Lyon censor office, which did not open it but simply stamped it with an eagle handstamp bearing the code-letter 'l' (for Lyon) on either side of the wreathed swastika. It was also struck with a small round handstamp showing the censor's number.

These censor number handstamps were not introduced until April 1944.

In the June 1998 issue of the Journal (Whole Number 208), David Jennings-Bramly asked for information about the hollow star cancellation used on some covers sent from France to Switzerland during World War II. In the following issue of the Journal I mentioned that all the mail concerned was sent via the German censor office at Lyon, where it was stamped by the censor without being examined. I also mentioned that all the mail I had seen had been sent, where the place of origin was identifiable, from Paris or places which would have required the mail to go through Paris to get to its destination. All these places were in the northern zone. I also added that I seemed to remember, possibly wrongly, reading somewhere that this cancellation had been made by the application of the end of a railway carriage key, presumably on the Paris-Lyon train. Despite a lengthy search, I have been unable to find that claim again and now wonder if it was just a figment of my imagination.

On looking through the catalogue issued by Bertrand Sinais for his auction of 17 November 2000, I noted that he was (for, I think, the first time) giving these cancellations as applied at the Franco-Swiss Chamber of Commerce. Thus, for example, for lot 1934 we find '[Pétain] N° 514, block of 4 canc. makeshift star of the Franco-Swiss Chamber of Commerce on letter from Tourcoing to Switzerland'. One lot, N° 3905, states 'N° 599 canc. makeshift star on a letter headed "Swiss Chamber of Commerce in France - Paris" to Lengwil (Switzerland)'.

The idea that the hollow star might have been used at the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Paris appears to fit in with the events of the time. In February 1942 the Germans partially lifted their ban on mail of non-prisoner-of-war content between the northern zone of France and Switzerland when they authorised the exchange of mail of commercial importance (and no other). No announcement

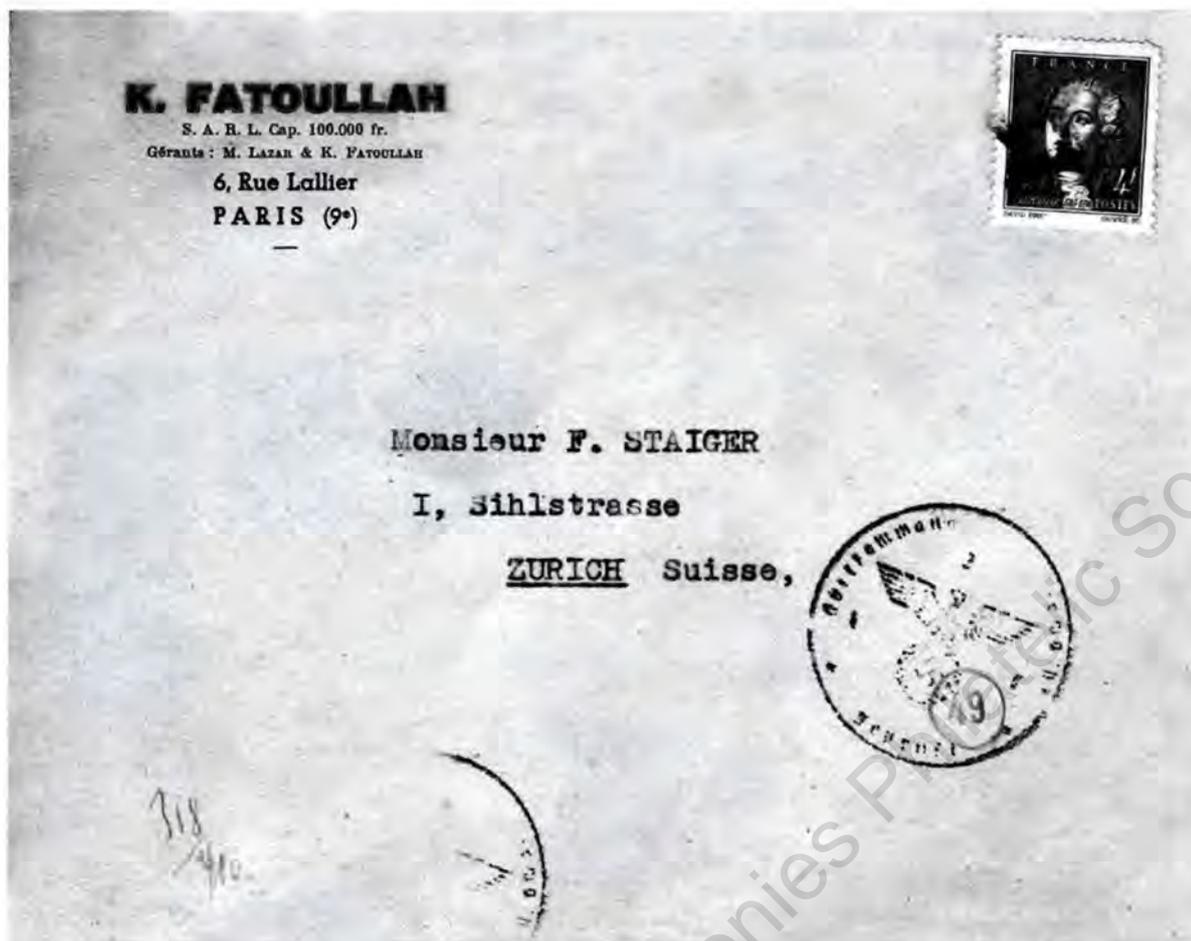


Figure 2 -

Another commercial cover from the northern zone bearing the hollow star cancellation on this time a stamp issued in July 1943 to commemorate Lavoisier. It was sent to an address in Zurich by a stamp dealer in Paris. It too bears a Lyon censor strike.

was put in the press. Interested businesses were informed directly. The first exchange probably did not take place until early May. The French Post Office was to deliver the mail concerned to the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Paris. It could therefore have been while the mail was in the Chamber of Commerce that it was struck with the hollow star cancellation. As no mail thus cancelled has yet been recorded with censor markings other than those of the German censor office at Lyon, it is reasonable to assume that the use of this star cancellation probably did not start until after early 1943, the time when the Lyon censor office came into existence. Karl-Heinz Riemer states it did not in fact start until early 1944, though he does not indicate what led him to this conclusion.

It is to be noted that the hollow star cancellation could not have been just a makeshift cancellation for mail having accidentally missed being cancelled in the post. I have seen no proper cancellation on any item of commercial mail addressed to Switzerland from the northern zone and examined at the Lyon censor office. All the mail seems to have been delivered uncanceled to wherever the star was applied. Did the French Post Office refrain from cancelling posted mail if it were addressed to Switzerland and hand it in to the Swiss Chamber of Commerce uncanceled? If so, why? Or (more likely) did the mail not initially pass through the Post Office, being first collected, for example, at local chambers of commerce, which then sent it bundled in one

envelope to the Swiss Chamber of Commerce? Or was there some other explanation? Perhaps someone will one day discover the regulations concerning the despatch of commercial mail intended for Switzerland.

We have then the seemingly likely scenario in which the hollow star cancellation was applied to commercial mail sent to Switzerland from the northern zone of France, the cancelling being carried out at the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Paris before the mail was despatched to Switzerland via the German censor office at Lyon. However, now comes something to stir up doubts. It comes in the form of a cover I recently acquired. It is illustrated in Figure 3. It bears the hollow star cancellation and censor markings of the Lyon censor office, but it originated not from the northern zone of France but from Sète on the Mediterranean coast, well and truly in the southern zone. Now at this point it should be noted that, after the Germans occupied the southern zone in November 1942, they never treated the southern zone in the same way as the northern zone in postal matters. In the southern zone they seem to have most of the time allowed all mail, whether commercial or non-commercial, to continue to travel normally into Switzerland - though, of course, it had to pass through a German censor office on its way. It seems implausible that, once the censor office at Lyon was operating, mail from the southern zone of France to Switzerland would have been routed to this censor office via Paris. Such mail was

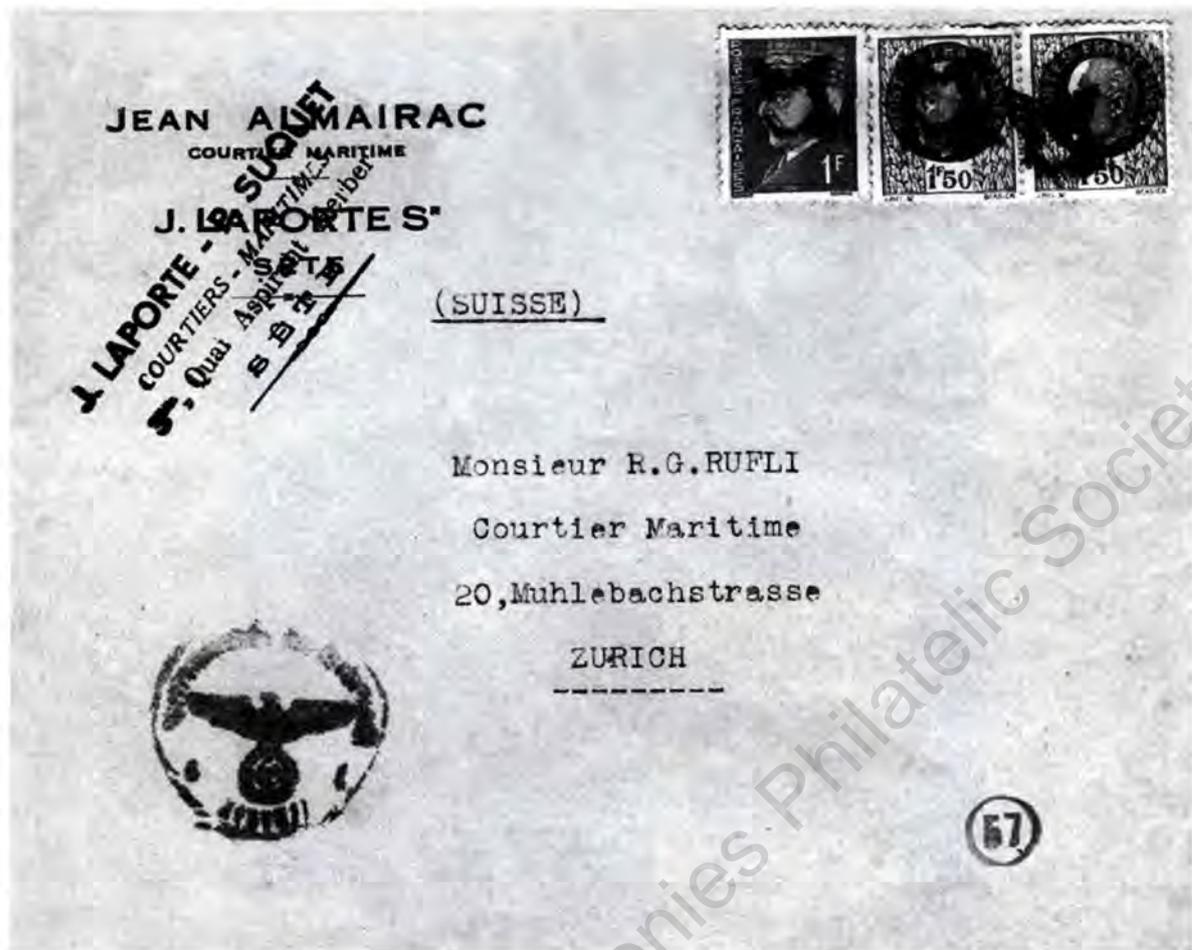


Figure 3 -

Commercial cover bearing the hollow star cancellation but originating from Sète in the southern zone. Sent by a ship-broker to another in Zurich, the cover travelled by an unknown route via the Lyon censor office. There it was not opened but simply stamped with an eagle handstamp as well as one of the round censor number handstamps not used until April 1944.

surely sent direct to Lyon. The railway normally provided good access to Lyon, and this was certainly the case from Sète. There is therefore no obvious reason why the cover that concerns us should not have travelled directly to Lyon via Nîmes. If it did travel directly to Lyon, then the star cancellation would not have been applied in Paris! It would have been applied in Lyon!

Could there be any explanation for the cover having gone to Paris instead of directly to Lyon? Well, yes, it could have been that the man at the sorting office put it in the wrong pile! Mail does sometimes get misdirected in this way. Or perhaps it was deliberately routed to Paris with other mail following some disruption in the rail service – and the railway in France was reported to have become more or less totally disorganised (no doubt in some places more than others) from the beginning of May 1944. However, in either of these two cases, one would have expected the mail to be properly cancelled before despatch. Of course, our cover could simply have missed being cancelled on despatch – but what a convenient oversight to make it fit our theory about the Swiss Chamber of Commerce! Another possibility is that, despite the address on our cover, it was never in fact sent from Sète in the southern zone at all. Perhaps it was sent from somewhere in the northern zone for some reason not obvious to us. The

cover in fact has a slight crease in it, possibly the result of having been folded for enclosing in another letter. Perhaps it was sent to someone in the northern zone for them to put some information in and then despatch to Switzerland. A possibility... but all speculation! What we need to know is whether this cover is a one-off oddity or whether there are others sent from the southern zone to Switzerland and bearing the hollow star cancellation. Perhaps any fellow members with such a cover in their possession would like to let us know. A map showing which departments of France were in the southern zone and which were in the northern zone can be found on page 51 of Journal 224 (June 2002).

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- Bertrand Sinais, *46^{ème} Vente sur Offres* (Paris, 2000).

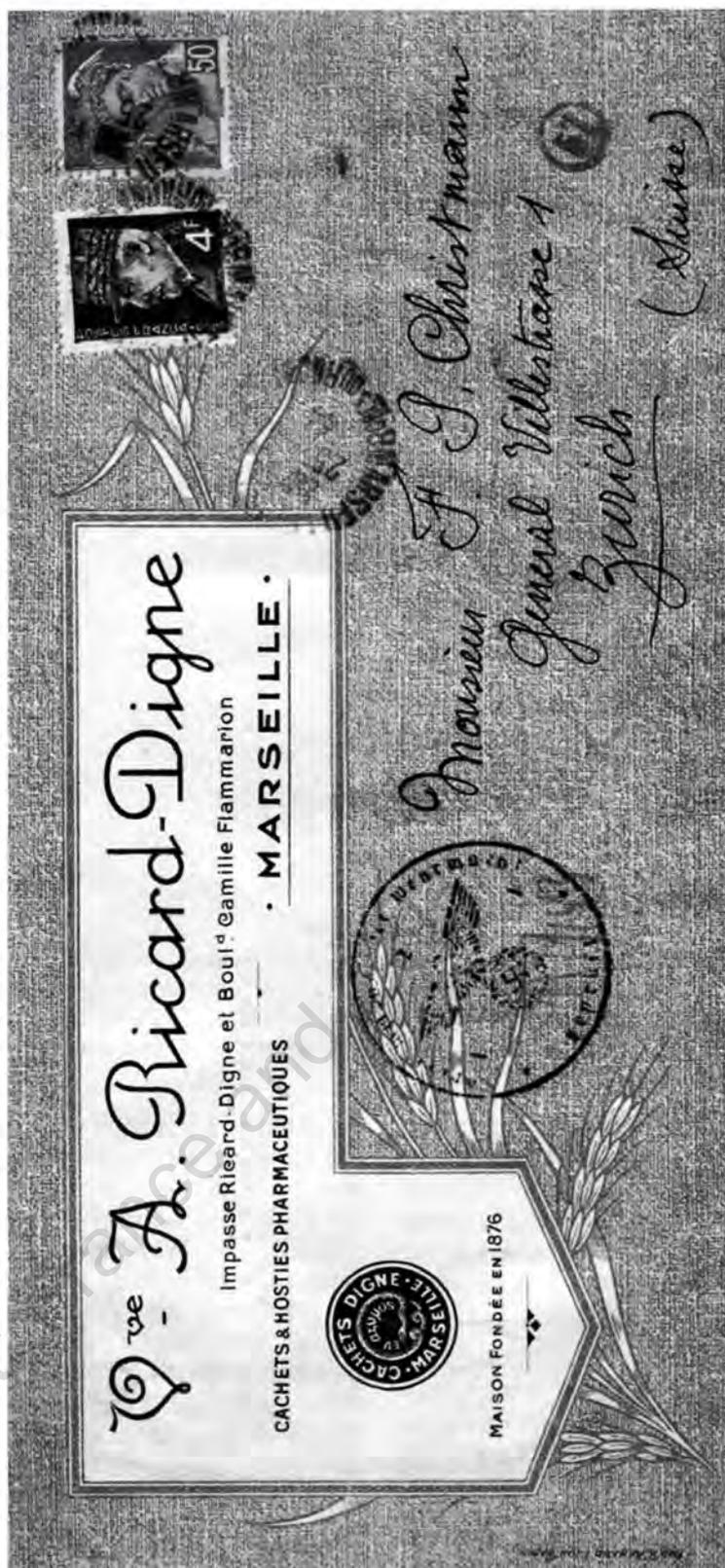


Figure 4 -

An example of commercial mail sent from the southern zone to Switzerland after the German occupation of that zone.

It is one of several covers sent to Zurich by a pharmaceutical firm in Marseille.

It was sent in 1944, though in a month that remains unknown as the cancellation is partly missing.

It most probably went direct to Lyon by a train on the Paris-Lyon-Marseille line.

At the Lyon censor office it was very exceptionally passed without being opened (unlike other mail sent by the same firm).

It was then stamped with an eagle handstamp of larger design but still incorporating the letter 'I' on either side of the wreathed swastika.

It was also stamped with a round censor number handstamp.



Figure 5 -
An example of private mail sent from the southern zone to Switzerland after the German occupation of that zone, something that would not have been possible from the northern zone.

It is a postcard from a mother in Pau to her son in Aarau and contains purely personal information. Cancelled at Pau on 20 April 1944, it was probably despatched to Lyon via Toulouse and Nimes. At Lyon it was checked at the German censor office and stamped with an eagle handstamp of larger design and a round censor number handstamp.

Pau . 19 avril 1944.

Mon cher Gustav. Après une crise de rhumatisme aiguë, j'ai profité du passage de mes 2 petites-filles à B. pour partir avec elles passer quelques jours à Lagor. Aujourd'hui nous sommes réunies chez Yellou et Maurice rue Carrirot. C'est la 1^{re} fois que je viens à Pau, depuis le décès d'oncle Albert, et c'est une sensation bizarre p^r moi de ne plus le voir. - J'ai bien reçu ta bonne lettre mon cher fils, et te remercie b^p pour ton désir de me voir auprès de toi à Aarau, mais je ne puis me décider à un si long voyage et rentrerai bientôt à B. dans ma petite maison où tout est plein du souvenir de notre cher Papa. Je repars demain à Lagor avec Henriette.

Affectueux baisers de Maman

Bons baisers d'Henriette

Nous attendons pour Noël Albert, Yellou, tu seras grand'vère

Maurice
Bis de Yellou

BOOKSHELF

Books Noted

Les Annulés de A à Z... by Bernard Fréchet and Richard Rucklin; CD-ROM format to be read via Acrobat Reader, 225 pp; price 20€ + 2€ p&p; available from Bernard Fréchet, BP 817, 25024 Besançon Cedex. [With explanations and commentaries, supported by official texts and embellished with anecdotes, by way of hundreds of illustrations in colour, the authors list all the types of *annulation* or invalidation that it is possible to meet from their origins to the recent adoption of the euro, on stamps, vignettes and letters from postal training courses with hexagonal cachets, perforations, booklets, franking vignettes (LSA and Diva), money orders, *prêts-à-poster*, e-mail tests, Caisse d'Épargne cancellations, etc. The CD has been described as a real encyclopedia dealing with nearly all specialities of philately: postal history, mail automation, techniques of printing stamps, monographs, the study of booklets, varieties, trials and defective items.]

Marques Postales et Oblitérations de Paris de 1700 au 31/12/1848 by Vincent Pothion; 80 pp b/w; 160 x 240mm; price 35€ + p&p; available from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 faubourg Montmartre, 75009 Paris; or from Librairie-Service, Timbres magazine, 6 rue du Sentier, 75080 Paris Cedex 02. [Well illustrated and supplied with numerous descriptions and valuations (by means of indices), and including *ports payés*, *chargements* and registration, special offices, *bureaux de quartier*, marks of the Petite Poste, etc.]

Répertoire FRANC.K des carnets de timbres-poste courants en nouveaux francs et en euros by Francis Kéledjian; pub. Éditions Dallay; 100 pp in colour; price 14,90€ + p&p; available from Dallay SARL, 31 rue des Bourdonnais, 75001 Paris. [Covers the production of French booklets from the *Marianne à la Nef* of 1960 to the recent *Marianne du 14 juillet*, with descriptions, large illustrations, and valuations by means of indices; but deals only with definitive issues and excludes booklets of commemoratives, Red Cross, *Journée du Timbre*, and celebrities.]

Yvert et Tellier Tome 1, Timbres de France, 2003; 148 x 210mm, in colour; price 17€ + p&p; available from Yvert et Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, 80036 Amiens Cedex 1. [The section on booklets now extends to 44 pages, and includes the number of the stamp and improved illustrations; a separate *Livret de l'Expert* is also devoted to "Les Carnets". Other changes involve the return of *LVF* stamps and of *épreuves de luxe*, and a new section on *timbres-monnaie*.]

Yvert et Tellier Tome 1^{bis}, Timbres de Monaco, Andorre française et espagnole, Europa, Nations unies, 2003; 348 pp in colour; 148 x 210mm; price 12€ + p&p; available from Yvert et Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, 80036 Amiens Cedex 1. [Contains the latest issues: note the fluctuating values of Europa stamps.]

Dallay - Catalogue des cotations de Timbres d'Andorre, Monaco, Terres Australes, Europa, 2002-2003; 440 pp in colour; price 21€ inc p&p; also exists as a CD-ROM; available from Dallay SARL, 31 rue des Bourdonnais, 75001 Paris. [Very detailed information includes value of

stamps on cover, dates of issue and withdrawal, printing figures when known, engravers and designers, *millésimes* for Andorra and Monaco, postal usage, etc. Of note are a thematic index, chapters devoted to the precursors for Monaco and TAAF, and a section on propaganda vignettes in connection with the Europa issues. There is the possibility of winning a mint Pont du Gard in a competition published in the catalogue.]

The Postal History of the International Brigades in Spain 1936-1939, 2nd ed. 2000, by Ronald G Shelley; 184 pp, A4, soft cover, perfect bound, illustrated; details inc. price from R G Shelley, 9 Chanctonbury Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 6EL. [Updated edition, includes information about personnel and dispositions of French and other volunteers.]

Les Dépôts de Prisonniers de Guerre de l'Axe en Alsace et en Moselle 1945-1948 by Michel Frick; pub. SPAL, 2000; 204 pp, A4, b/w illustrations; price 23€ + p&p; details from André Lader, 52 rue de Monswiller, 67700 Saverne, or e-mail: spal@wanadoo.fr. [Study of the mail of the camps for Axis POWs in Alsace-Lorraine after WWII.]

Catalogue des Marques Postales et Oblitérations de Forbach 1791-2001 by Alain Demeraux; pub. SPAL; price 20€ + p&p; details from André Lader, as above. [Detailed, well illustrated study.]

Cachets Postaux et Marques Illustrées des Bâtiments de la Marine Nationale by J-J Agadiche; pub. 2001; price 26€ inc. p&p in France; available from J-J Agadiche, 5 rue du Petit Moulin, 29200 Brest. [Postal handstamps and illustrated marks of the French Navy.]

Les Affranchissements Mécaniques dans la Marine Nationale, tomes 1 et 2, by Jacques Meriaux; price 10€ for both volumes; available from Roger Lagarde, 4 rue Eugène Delacroix, 33320 Eysines. [Machine cancels of the French Navy.]

Oblitérations Manuelles du Var, tât à cercle continu - 2 (1884-1959) by R Gregnac-Daudemard; price 7,50€ + p&p; available from R Gregnac-Daudemard, "Colline", boulevard des Arbousiers, 83210 Ste-Maxime. [Full circle date stamps of the Var département; earlier versions of the work have been corrected and added to.]

Essai de Répertoire des Vignettes Privées non Postales et Non Fiscales de l'Indochine Française, du Cambodge, du Laos et du Viet Nam by Maurice Lange and Dope Tariar; price 6,09€ + p&p; details from Maurice Lange, 100 avenue de Paris, 78000 Versailles, or e-mail: pvlange@aol.com. [Study of non-postal and non-fiscal vignettes, labels and marks of Indo-China, Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam.]

Timbres-Monnaie - Pochettes, Carnets, Jetons - France et Colonies by Pierre Broustine; pub. 1999; 155 x 234mm; 105 pp, b/w; price 32€ + p&p; available from Yvert & Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, 80036 Amiens Cedex 1. [An extensive if incomplete list of *timbres-monnaie*, all discovered by the author or collected by a group of keen devotees, and for each of which the author relates their history, manufacturing process and function.]

Maurice Tyler

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

French POW Camp in Kenya - a Postscript

Further to my reply in Journal 224 of June 2002, I wrote to M Claude Ablard [via the Editor of *Les Feuilles Marcophiles*] and confirmed that M Ablard's cover to Camp N° 365 was originally at Longido, Tanganyika, then at Londiani, Kenya. In Harry F Henning's book *East Africa World War II* (1996, ISBN 0-9515865-2-1) [a second revised edition is due some time from the East Africa Study Circle], the first camp is described on page 66 as "after a short period being declared inhospitable and abandoned." However, it was later transferred as Camp 365/8, to Londiani, Kenya. It was in operation by November 1941 and later became a segregation camp for POW and civilian non-co-operators. Officers and other ranks were transferred here from Camp

366 and also German seamen detained at ex-Italian East African ports. The Camp closed on 7 June 1946.

In response to the two further illustrations from M Georges Barot, I have added some additional censorship information to the details he listed.

The first item has a date stamp of POW/EAC/12 Aug 1943 with a violet cachet P/W EAST AFRICA 007. On arrival it is cancelled at Tananarive 18.11.43 top and bottom left with the boxed G [censor's handstamp of Tananarive, but numeral not clear] and the elliptical French censorship cachet [type FHIV] and French censorship tape [type FL? - this is not clear from the photocopy]. The writer was at



Front

← Plain brown paper seal

Red Postage Paid SI.30 cds

Purple boxed P/W EA 029
handstamp,
Type EAWP 500
(repeated bottom left)

Purple circular
POW 365 EAF cachet

Black Tananarive
3.7.1944 cds and
boxed black G22 censor
handstamp, Type FHVII

Black elliptical French
censor handstamp, Type
FHIV

Letter dated 10 January 1944 from Camp 365 amongst the correspondence purchased by M Sussman
(The letter on the reverse has yet to be translated)

Camp 365 situated originally at Longido, Tanganyika, then transferred to Londiani, Kenya.

The second item has the POW date stamp of 15 August 1943 and a red post paid cachet [top right of illustration], and an arrival date stamp of Tananarive 2.9.43 with the Censor boxed G handstamp [the writer thinks it is GG, but more likely the numeral is obscured! G numbers were from One to approximately Twenty-two], and the same violet cachet P/W EAST AFRICA 007.

Finally, during a visit to the French Philatelic Federation exhibition at Marseille over the Whitsun/Pentecost

weekend and still a bank holiday in France, at the stand of a Marseille dealer M Paul Sussman, I had some success. He showed me some Madagascar covers amongst which were four French POW ones from Kenya camp 365 sent by the same correspondent. M Sussman mentioned that he had bought a collection, which I presume was from a family correspondence and which tied up with the other items that have been appearing in auction or from French collectors' queries regarding the identification of where the camp[s] was or were situated. I illustrate this below and have attempted to provide a table of those items seen so far.

Table of letters from Kenya Camps recorded to date

Reference Number	Camp Number	Date	To
P/WEA 021 Type EAWP 500	358 Makindu	28.09.1942	Mourillon France
P/WEA 021 Type EAWP 500	358 Makindu	03.11.1942	Majunga-Tananarive Madagascar
P/WEA 007 Type EAWP 500	365 Londiani	12.08.1943	Tananarive Madagascar
P/WEA 007 Type EAWP 500	365 Londiani	15.08.1943	Tananarive Madagascar
P/WEA 007 Type EAWP 500	365 Londiani	25.09.1943	Avignon France
P/WEA 029 Type EAWP 500	365 Londiani	10.01.1944	Tananarive Madagascar

Colin Spong

Benin and Mail from Togoland



John Mayne writes in Journal 225 of September 2002 (page 117) about Bill Mitchell and Laurence Lambert's article in Journal 215 of March 2000 (page 4). He refers to

the earliest evidence of the establishment of a French postal service in Benin and also to German mail from the Gold Coast and Togoland.

The first French item that I have from Benin bears an ochre on yellow 25c adhesive stamp of France (SG 52) cancelled *PROTECTORAT FRANÇAIS DU GOLFE DE BÉNIN AGHWEY ET GRAND POPO LE RÉSIDENT* in purple and re-cancelled with one of two strikes of *UNION MARSEILLE 23 JUIN 88* en route to Paris. My earliest item with an 1892 BENIN overprint has a 25c stamp (SG 8) cancelled at Porto Novo on 17 October 1892 and sent via Marseille en route to Germany.

Earlier mail from Benin was sent out via Lagos and I have two examples originating in Porto Novo and dated 1870.

Later, once the French steamers started to call regularly at Cotonou, that offered an alternative route to and from Togoland in addition to the one via Quittah (Kwitta) in the Gold Coast. I have examples to and from Klein Popo dated 5 November 1895 and 17 August 1897 via Agoué, Whydah and Cotonou to Holland and in the reverse

direction. Overseas mails to and from Klein Popo and Lomé were also served via the route through Quittah and Accra which was formally established on a bi-weekly basis from 1 May 1889. There had however been an earlier private service by Haussapost and then run by Messrs F M Vietor. I have several examples from 27 December 1889 onwards and also of mail directed to places in the Gold Coast.

For the record, John Mayne also mentions German residents in the Gold Coast using German stamps to send letters via German steamers. This practice was against Colonial Post Office regulations but was apparently quite common at least from 1885 onwards. Details of this and of mail sent out via the Gold Coast will be contained in a book which I am editing for publication by the Royal Philatelic Society in the near future.

John Sacher

A Query about the British Post Office strike of 1971 and BP 300 at Calais

I acquired six covers at auction a few years back to add to a collection of mail affected by post office strikes. Three are from the USA, one is from Sweden, one is from Trinidad and one is from Canada. So far as the postmarks are legible all appear to have been posted in either February or March 1971.

One of the covers from the USA had a letter inside. It reads:

"2pm Feb 9th [1971] Los Angeles Calif.

Mrs E. Richardson Calais France

Dear Madam

I am sure the accompanying letter is self explanatory [this letter is missing]. At time of writing I assume the British Postal strike still prevails. Will you please be kind enough to do whatever you can to expedite this letter to the recipient? I am enclosing \$1 to cover, I hope, any additional charges entailed. Yours gratefully, CW Taylor."

Two of the covers are illustrated and they all look like normal correspondence rather than engineered correspondence.





The question is 'What was the service provided by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry through Boîte Postale 300 at Calais?'

The further question is 'How did its services become known to totally different people in at least four countries?'

The last question is 'Is the *Poste Restante* cds of BP 300 that of the Chamber of Commerce or that of the French Post Office?' My view is that it is a private mark of The

Export Letter Service as it is struck in the same blue ink as that used for their name, cancels the Rowland Hill stamps, is not a French style and has no date.

The British Post Office strike lasted from 19 January 1971 to 8 March 1971. The question does not cover the Rowland Hill stamps or The Export Letter Service or the Ramsgate Hovercraft whose place in postal history is recorded elsewhere.

Robert Johnson

WWI Postcard of Aeroplane and Eiffel Tower

I showed the article in Journal 225 (page 115) about the postcard of an attack on the Eiffel Tower to my friend Don Malcolm, an aerophilatelist, and this was his response. It

may be of interest to members, and particularly Gerald Gosling who submitted the original query.

Jim Moffat

* * * * *

With regard to the query about a German air attack on the Eiffel Tower, I would like to offer the following observations:

- This is - obviously - not a real photograph.
- It is doubtful whether such an incident occurred. This is a montage for propaganda purposes, attacking the symbol of Paris and of France, in which the artist exercised a considerable amount of licence.
- This is a configuration of a French monoplane of the Blériot type, in restricted use (and mainly single seat) in 1914, but effectively obsolete. German monoplanes, such as the Junkers J1 (first flight 12.12.15) and the Fokker Eindecker series, bore no resemblance to the machine on the card.

- The machine shown would not have had the engine power, and hence the range, to attack Paris, even if the nearest German position had been, say, 60 miles away.
- The plane, which has no military markings, would have been shot down long before it reached its target: note the lurking biplane.
- The gunner is in a ludicrously exposed position, and he would probably be frozen stiff!
- The plane is well outwith effective machine gun range: and what damage could it have done to such a large structure?
- This is clearly a flight of fancy. No wonder Kaiser Bill is looking askance...

Don Malcolm

A New *PRIORITAIRE* Handstamp in the Yvelines

One or two members, perhaps, will remember the few lines on Priority mail labels and handstamps which appeared in Journals 196 (June 1995, page 73) and 198 (December 1995, page 173).

Since then I have pursued my interest in these labels and marks, particularly the latter (see Fig 1), with the help of David Jennings-Bramly who, in the interval, has very kindly provided me with covers and comments, generally on the ever increasing number of Zone 1 Priority covers without the required label or mark.



Figure 1

Approximately two years ago the decline in their use became more noticeable, even affecting post offices which had hitherto ensured that a fairly high percentage of Priority mail was suitably marked.

At Marly-le-Roi Principal, within the space of a few weeks, this percentage (at least as far as Zone 1 destinations were concerned) dropped sharply to what it had been before the period commencing January 1995, ie virtually zero. In recent months, however, the figure seems to have stabilised at around 10%.

Over this period of time handstamps, the official not the local ones (they disappeared, naturally if unfortunately, in 1995), seem, in some post offices, to have been used to the very limit of legibility, and in a majority of cases blue ink has been replaced by black.

Hence, until last May or June, my collection of French Priority labels/marks had come virtually to a standstill when David sent me a cover (see Fig 2) postmarked Poissy with *PRIORITAIRE* indicated twice - one handwritten in red ink and the other a poor strike in blue of a new handstamp (ie new to me).

Despite my firm decision to find out more about this new handstamp by contacting Poissy "Mail Centre" immediately, I was only prompted into action when I received another copy of the mark applied at St Germain-en-Laye in September (see Fig 3).

In reply to my queries I only received confirmation of my assumption that, unlike the earlier ones, the new handstamp was "self-inking", whence the relative sharpness of the imprint. As to when it came into service and whether there was or would be a complete range of different sizes of the new design, I am no wiser. I was informed, however, that "Mail Centres" were at liberty to use either labels or handstamps. I had already worked that one out by myself but, curiously enough, André Le Guillou tells me that St Brieuc Principal and St Brieuc "Mail Centre" have only ever used self-adhesive labels.

To date I have only seen two copies of this new mark, both from the Yvelines *département*, but would like to hear of others, particularly with regard to date and size. The one illustrated here measures 41mm x 16mm.

John Simmons

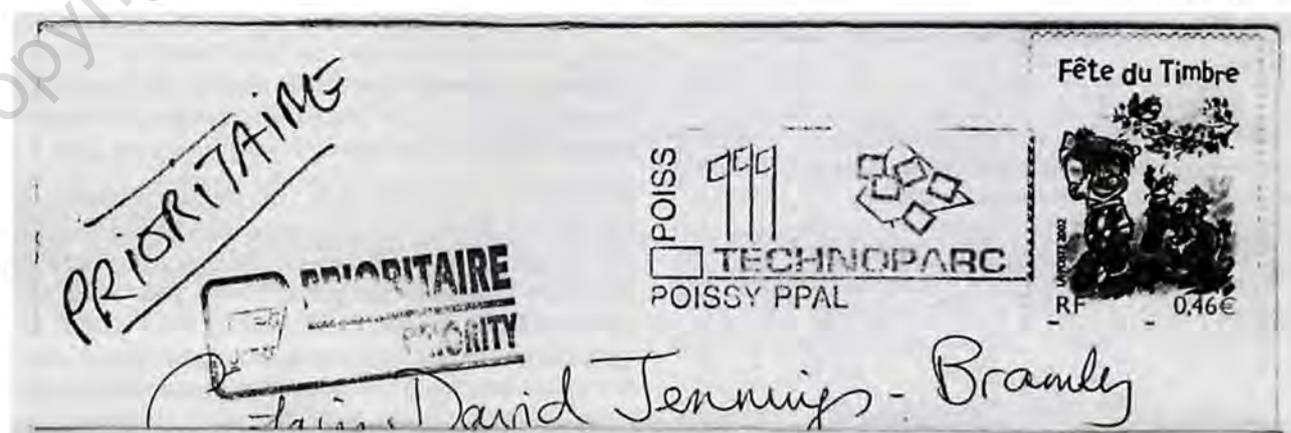


Figure 2



Figure 3

De Gaulle's Stamp Campaign

In the "Profiles in Power" series on de Gaulle the author, Andrew Shennan, states "in 1948 de Gaulle sponsored a so-called 'stamp campaign' in which citizens were invited to buy special 50F stamps and send them to the General's home in the village of Colombey-les-deux-Églises. The aim of the campaign was to raise money for the RPF; it produced 100 million francs!"

I wonder if any member could throw further light on this. I would like to know if it really was a special stamp to which

postage stamps had to be added, or was it Yv PA21 50F + 30F sepia Saint-Exupéry? The figures above would indicate at least 2 million items of mail, but Yvert states only 975,000 pairs of the January 1948 stamps were issued. Furthermore, if this was the stamp used, how could proceeds go to the RPF and not the PTT? Did any of these covers survive; has anyone an example which could be illustrated in the Journal?

Peter Whiting

New Numbers on Coil Stamps



Buying some *sans valeur* stamps in Villedieu-les-Poêles recently I noticed that they now have black numbers on the reverse. They are not the stamps from the coil machine, but ones sold over the counter that are kept on a 'loose' coil on a bar, rather like the way in which one buys ribbon in a shop. They may be of interest to members, so the front and back of a pair are illustrated here.

Mick Bister points out that the new coil has been mentioned in the French philatelic press, but says that it would be useful to know why the number is printed sideways and why on every stamp. The number serves as an accountancy aid, but why not every ten stamps as before?

Gerald Gosling

Czech-French Query on Palissy Label

[The query, posed by Bob Hill of the Czechoslovak PS and forwarded by Colin Spong, was published in Journal 223 (page 30) and in the September issue of Czechout; it was answered by Mick Bister in Journal 225 (page 112). This additional information, to be published in Czechout, is given here by permission. - Ed.]

I can tell you nothing about that stamp from a philatelic point of view, but can identify B Palissy. In France Bernard Palissy is perhaps as famous a Potter as Josiah Wedgwood is to us here in England. His dates are however much earlier, 1510-1590. He was survived by his sons Nicolas and Mathurin, who worked well into the 17th century in a similar style. The pottery was highly decorative and often

included designs in deep relief such as snakes, fruit and, most famous of all, a design of a reclining woman with children entitled *La Fécondité*.

His work was well known in 17th century England, as not only had he agents here in London but some of the moulds, including that for *La Fécondité*, were sold to the English tin-glaze earthenware potters who produced almost identical items in what is now called "delftware." In the 19th century this style of deep relief pottery with classical scenes etc was again reproduced in France and elsewhere.

Graham Slater

Postage Due Stamps and Usages of French Colonies



Robert Stone

[Bob Stone, who died in February, was a distinguished American philatelist who specialised in the French Colonies, and was editor of the *F&C Philatelist* for many years. An obituary was published in *Journal 223* (March 2002). Although not a member of this Society, he was known personally to a number of our members, and by repute – and through his published works – to many more. This article, reproduced in his memory, was originally published in the *American Philatelic Congress Book, 1970*, and is reprinted here, together with the original early photograph of him, by kind permission of the American Philatelic Congress.]

Introduction

Postage due material has two main aspects: (a) the rates or charges for unprepaid and insufficiently franked mail, and (b) the markings and adhesive stamps used to indicate these charges and the methods of their payment. For the period prior to introduction of adhesive postage stamps collectors generally accord an important place to the study of rate and due markings. This is natural, since at that time most mail was sent unpaid and due markings are so common and prominent that they force our attention. On the other hand, in the adhesive stamp period, and especially after 1876, mail is predominantly sent prepaid so that postage due marks and stamps are uncommon; but we do not believe that is the main reason collectors generally show little interest in them. Rather, postage due adhesives tend to be unpopular probably because the designs are small and unattractive, changed at infrequent intervals (compared to postage stamps), the postal administrations do not promote them nor encourage their collection, and they are difficult to obtain properly used or canceled, particularly on cover. Few postage due issues, except some early classics, have attracted the attention of specialists for study, and if they were not dutifully listed in the standard catalogs and albums, collectors probably would seldom miss them. The idea of specializing in postage due issues is practically unheard of, even as a sideline. But this situation may soon change because the increasing expense and competition of the popular lines of collecting are driving more and more collectors into neglected areas.

The Stamps

The postage dues of French colonies form an extensive field, and their variety parallels that of the French colonies' regular postage material, having general issues, definitive issues, overprints, local issues, etc. We have discussed the general issues of the postage due stamps of the colonies elsewhere⁽¹⁾ and need not comment on them further here, except to note once again that these issues are especially interesting because they were used in most of the colonies over a long period of time and a great variety of cancels can be found on them. The dues stamps of Guadeloupe (1876-84) locally printed from typeset forms are famous, and their varieties have been carefully studied⁽²⁾ (see Figs 8 and 9). A similar issue for Reunion (1889) is less

interesting (see Fig 10). The general issue dues stamps locally overprinted in 1891-94 and 1903-05 with colony name and or new values, as well as the postage stamps overprinted in several colonies to convert them to dues stamps, also have many well-known minor varieties. The overprints were not really postally necessary, but can be found legitimately used (rare) though almost entirely "philatelic."

The later definitive dues stamps for each colony, some of them "pictorials," are not very interesting as stamps, for they have practically no varieties (except a few shades), are banal in design, monotonous, and difficult to obtain properly canceled or with much variety of postmarks. But there are numbers of rare stamps among some of the above-mentioned issues which are often undervalued in the catalogs and on the market. With present low demand they are not difficult to obtain, however. Except for the study of the overprint, and type-set varieties (reconstructing the settings, etc.), the dues stamps in themselves do not offer much to the advanced collector or student.

Due Covers

We turn now to other phases of the postage dues, that of the due markings on covers and the usage of the dues stamps. Covers or entires of the colonies showing due charge by means of adhesives are in general, of course, much scarcer than dues stamps off cover, and one cannot expect to acquire easily any large quantity of such material even with patience, expense, and accepting "philatelic" items. The reason for this scarcity is partly that most commercial covers charged "due" find their way to the waste basket rather than to collectors, and partly that in the colonies the proper collecting of due charges is apt to be quite lax.

However, the scope of a collection of due covers can be meaningfully limited to such objectives as a few covers in a specialized collection of a single colony, to show each design-type of dues stamps used, or a collection of due covers from any or all colonies to show each type of due-charging and -marking procedure in historical sequence. We know from experience that these are attainable objectives, though they require a bit of time to accomplish, but the results are unusual and very interesting. A collection of covers to show the various classes of postage due rates is also possible but more ambitious and difficult. The only category of colonial due covers that is relatively plentiful is the pre-adhesive-period letters of the years 1845-1869, when most of the mail was sent unpaid and bears due-markings — at least such letters are common in those years from Guadeloupe, Martinique and Reunion.

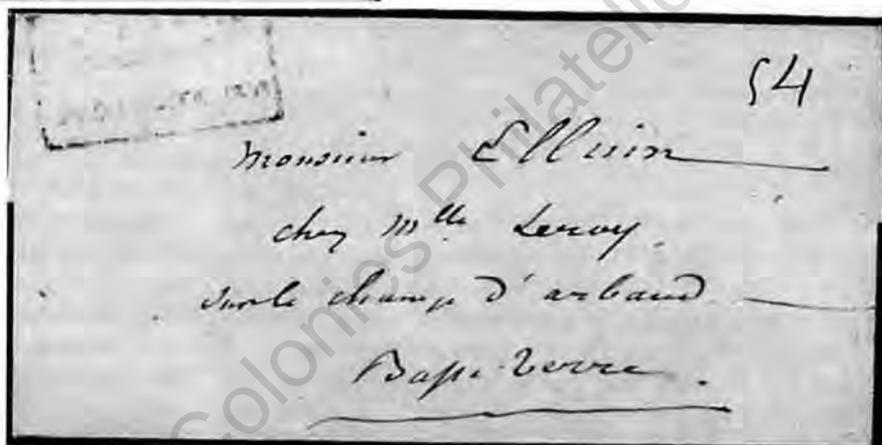
(1) R G Stone "The General Issues of Postage Due Stamps of French Colonies," *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 25. #3, 1946, pp 115-122.

(2) J Rifaux, "Étude des Premières Timbres-taxe de la Guadeloupe," *Documents Philatéliques*, N° 25, 26, July and October 1965 (published 1968), pp 200-230.



Figure 1 -
Letter of 1772 from St Pierre, Martinique,
to Nantes, with French ship-entry mark
"Colonies par la Flotte" and "14" due mark
in pen (probably for 14 sous),
in old fashioned angular style.

Figure 2 -
Internal letter of Guadeloupe, 1839,
Lamentin to Basse-Terre,
with transit postmark of Pointe-à-Pitre and
"54" due mark in the small angular style
(probably for 54 centimes).



The collection of due covers to show the evolution of due-charging and -marking procedure, and use of the dues stamps, requires an understanding of the pertinent rates, rules and regulations. Prior to the UPU (1875) these were peculiar to each country, but after 1875 were based on the UPU Conventions. For the colonies, it is sufficient to distinguish two pre-UPU periods: (a) up to 1850, and (b) 1850-1875. The UPU period is sub-divided according to changes in the UPU procedures, as follows: 1876-1879, 1879-1907, 1907-1922, 1922-. We follow the very convenient summary of the UPU procedures recently published by Dr J Stibbe in *L'Entier Postal* for December 1967, and reprinted in *La Philatélie Française* May 1968.

Before 1850

The colonial postal services were very poorly organized and much mail was handled privately, so postmarks were not numerous and not consistently used. Letters within and between colonies, and to and from France, were all supposed to be marked with the postage due by a numeral on the face of the letter, as done in France since 1640⁽³⁾. (On prepaid letters the amount of postage was marked on the back.) This type of mark, until the 1850s, was always written by pen (see Fig 1). Before 1793, the numeral indicated currency in sols (= sous) or livres. After 1793, the numeral usually represented the charge in décimes

(1 décime = 10 centimes) or francs ("fr"). But "sous" or "centimes" (numeral then followed by an "s" or "c") were often meant, especially on local letters and printed matter, on which the charge might well be less than 1 décime. The old-fashioned 17th and 18th century French style of these marks persisted in the colonies throughout this period. This was the small somewhat angular-shaped writing of the numeral (see Fig 2). They are often hard to decipher as there were peculiar individual or local styles of writing them. However, many letters seem to lack any charge mark, whether due or prepaid, postmarked or not. Many mistakes in computation and marking were made, though perhaps no more than in later times.

Throughout the French Empire the charge-due mark was, until about 1850, put on at the port of entry or office of destination. Thus unpaid colonial letters addressed to France bear French due marks (see Fig 3) which after 1793 tended more and more to a large free-flowing script ("postal style") not yet seen in the colonies. These are found on letters carried loose by ship captains and deposited in a French seaport post office, as well as on those put in sacks by a colonial post office and forwarded by French or British packets or merchant vessels. Of course, letters sent unpaid to other than a French country would bear due marks of that country.

It should be noted that for mail to non-French countries, the colonial post office had no arrangements to collect money for prepayment, except in some cases via British packets if the British had an agent in the colony. The letters sent to France

⁽³⁾ A Maury, Renault, Dévoitine, Doé and Strowski, "Catalogue des Estampilles et Obliterations Postales de France et des Colonies Françaises," Amiens, 1929, 634 pp (Chapters II, III, XV, XX).



Figure 3 -
Front of a large (and heavy!) unpaid cover from Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe, 1849 to Paris with French due mark in large script style "17 f 3" (francs and décimes) put on at Boulogne upon entry (pmk.). The boxed "Colonies & Art. 13" is a Franco-British accountancy mark - the letter went by British packet.

Figure 4 -
Unpaid letter from Moule, Guadeloupe to Havre 1864 with one of the printer's-type handstamp due marks, "8" (décimes), used at Basse-Terre for only several years (80c rate via British packet unpaid).



via British packets and transiting England have special accountancy marks to indicate the partitioning of the postage (due or prepaid) to the two countries (see Fig 3). Much has been written about these, but only the articles of Webb and Skrine, and Salles' *La Poste Maritime*, correctly interpret them,

1850-1876

This was a transitional period in due-marking and -charging procedures, starting with changes resulting from the introduction of postage stamps, followed by a trend to more general use of prepayment, and ending with the beginning of the UPU procedures. After the Revolution of 1848, about 1849-50, the colonial post offices were reorganized and by 1853 they became fiscally responsible and autonomous, retaining their postal receipts against a budget for their expenses, which facilitated collection of prepayments.

When France introduced adhesive stamps in 1849 the rates were simplified, and marking of postage due was thereafter done at point of departure rather than at destination, except for letters from abroad which were still marked at port of entry. The colonies, following the French example, then began marking unpaid letters addressed to France or other colonies with décime marks. These marks were either written by pen or handstamped (for commoner rates) and were generally in the large postal script style like the old décime marks long used in France. However, in

Guadeloupe, Martinique, Senegal and Reunion several locally made décime handstamps of the 1864-76 period were of a distinctive printer's type style (see Fig 4).

Due, on internal mail and on letters from non-French countries, continued to be written in pen or with handstamp numerals of the large postal script style in décimes and francs (see Fig 5). By the 1870s a few offices were indicating due on such mail by handstamps of a large double-lined hollow-numeral style (previously issued in France about 1830), representing centimes rather than décimes. We have seen only the "30" (centimes) in this style, 30c being the commonest due charge on unpaid local letters (20c x 1½ penalty) (see Fig 6). After adhesive stamps were introduced, insufficiently paid letters were frequently being mailed, and these were specially marked at many offices with the boxed cachet reading "Affranchissement Insuffisant," similar to those already in use in France.

A penalty of a higher rate on unpaid mail was instituted in the colonies in 1856, the unpaid rates between colonies and France, or to foreign countries, becoming generally a flat 10c higher than the prepaid rates. (However, for some special categories or routes prepayment had been mandatory even before 1856.) From 1859 on unpaid internal letters in the colonies were charged one and one-half times the paid rate. Yet in spite of these penalties the proportion of colonial mail sent unpaid was still very large as late as 1865. After 1868 the unpaid letters became rather uncommon, for by that time the



Figure 5 - Letter from Petit-Bourg to François, Martinique, September 1871, sent unpaid and charge marked in pencil "30c" due (1½ times 20c local rate). (Failure to prepay unusual at that time, stamps were sometimes scarce in late 1871 owing to Franco-Prussian War, but no penalty should have been charged.)

Figure 6 - Letter from Havana to Guadeloupe, 1871, prepaid to the port by British mail with 4d stamp but charged "30" centimes due for local delivery at Pointe-à-Pitre, marked with large hollow-numeral "30" in blue for 1½ times 20c local rate.



Figure 7 - Unpaid letter of March 1876 from Guadeloupe to Paris marked "T" (in triangle) on departure (very early use of this) and "6" décimes script-style handstamp (in blue) for 60c rate (50c + 10c penalty, via French packet) on arrival at St Nazaire (blue pmk.).

Figure 8 - Local letter St François to Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, 1878 sent unpaid and charged "4" décimes (large script-style handstamp) and franked at Pointe-à-Pitre with the rare 40c Guadeloupe dues stamp of the 1876 typeset issue. Only a few covers known with this issue.





Figure 9 -
Local cover sent unpaid from Capesterre
to Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe, 1887,
struck with the "T" at origin,
and a 30c Guadeloupe
typeset dues stamp of 1884 issue
affixed and canceled at Basse-Terre
- one of only several covers with this issue
properly used that are known.

idea of prepayment was no longer looked upon as such a gauche custom, and the availability of adhesive stamps made it easy. From 1851 on all prepaid colonial mail was supposed to bear a handstamp "PD," "PP," or "PF" (or "PAID" if via British packet) so that there is usually no question whether a piece was sent paid or unpaid. In fact, in the French postal system these marks were considered the *prima facie* evidence of prepayment, not the presence of the adhesive stamps.

1876-1879

The French colonies effectively joined the Universal Postal Union 1 July 1876, though France had joined in 1875. The first UPU Convention recommended that the basic international prepaid postage rate on ordinary letters be set at a flat 25c per 15 grams, but some deviation was allowed in different countries until they could adjust to the resulting economic dislocation. The colonies at first chose a 40c rate, reducing it to 35c in 1877-8 (whereas France adopted a 30c rate). Letters mailed unpaid or only partly paid would be marked at office of departure by a letter "T" (for "Taxe"). The unpaid letter would be charged double the prepaid rate, the "due" to be collected at destination.

In case of partly prepaid letters, the amount of any prepayment (in stamps affixed) was deducted from the double rate. The postage due was computed and marked on the face of the cover, in terms of Swiss francs and centimes or décimes, to facilitate international accounting. If a letter was part-paid, the amount of the prepayment was to be written in Swiss currency by the post office of departure on the face of the cover, along with the rubber-stamped "T." Then the office of destination could compute in Swiss currency the amount to be collected by subtracting the prepaid amount from double the normal rate.

Of course the amount due finally had to be converted back to the national currency, in order to determine how much the addressee had to pay, in terms of his own money. In collecting the dues, which were stated in fractions of a décime, each country rounded off to the nearest whole décime (10c Swiss) for convenience. Obviously, the UPU procedure was complicated and it is not surprising that collectors are often mystified by the due charges and markings of this period. It was also confusing to the postal clerks, who made quite a few mistakes.

On internal (domestic, inland) mail each country was free to use its own rates and procedures. However, for practical reasons, many countries tried to parallel their internal procedures with the UPU practices as nearly as possible. France and the colonies started using the handstamped "T in triangle" (see Fig 7) on internal "due" mail at the time they joined the UPU, although the charges on such mail were at first only one and one-half times the prepaid rate, instead of double. The amount of deficiency on unpaid letters from the various colonies to France was still often marked with the old décime handstamps; however, these seem to have been struck at the French port of entry rather than at the office of departure (see Fig 7).

In the colonies, due charges on local letters, and on letters received from non-French, non-UPU countries, were still marked by pen or script-style handstamp in centimes or francs at most offices (see Fig 8). However, the hollow-numeral style of handstamp was used for this purpose at some of the main offices.

1879-1907

The UPU in 1878 voted to change the procedure in regard to the computation of penalty for insufficient prepayment. The colonies implemented this in late 1878 or early 1879. Now the office of origin would mark the amount of deficiency on the face of the letter, and the office of destination would collect, as due, double the amount of the insufficient prepayment. At the same time the 25c per 15 grams UPU universal letter rate became fixed, and deviations from it were no longer permitted. The maritime surtax for over 300 miles sea transport, authorized by UPU in 1876, was now limited to 25c, but it was never used by the colonies.

In 1875 the UPU had set the rate on printed matter as 7c per 50 grams, but in 1879 this was lowered to 5c per 50 grams. Printed matter insufficiently franked, or not conforming to specified conditions of mailing, would be charged as letters by the rules of 1875, but from 1879 on such matter, if not prepaid, was to be returned to sender, and if partly prepaid it would be charged at destination with double the deficiency.

Except for local dues stamps in Guadeloupe (see Fig 8), the French colonies still did not have any postage due stamps in



Figure 10 -
 Piece of cover from Port Louis, Mauritius,
 to Pointe-de-Galets, Reunion, 1893,
 underpaid with 4c of Mauritius stamps and
 10c due collected at Reunion
 with a 10c typeset dues stamp of Reunion 1887 issue
 - very rare on cover.

Figure 11 -
 Cover from Dominica to Guadeloupe
 1897 part paid with a pair of the 1d
 Leeward Islands Sexagenary
 overprinted stamps (l),
 marked "T" and "1/15" centimes
 deficiency at Dominica,
 and 30c due collected (2 x 15c)
 at Pointe-à-Pitre,
 with a 30c carmine stamp of French
 Colonies general issue dues of 1893.



1879; and the general issue dues stamps were not to appear until 1884 (see Fig 11). In this interim 1879-84 period the marks previously used in the colonies to indicate the amount due were gradually phased out in favor of simple pencil or crayon writing of arabic numerals for francs and centimes. By the 1880s use of the "T in triangle" mark to indicate that franking was unpaid or insufficient had become general (as in France) at most post offices (see Fig 9).

Unpaid or part-paid mail to France no longer was marked on arrival with the old décime stamps or with the hollow-numerals, after about 1882, because French postage due adhesives had by then been authorized for use on all due letters regardless of origin. Any entires or covers of French colonies charged due are extremely rare for the early years of this period, before the general issue dues came out in 1884, and they are still rare during the period 1884 to the 1890s. The covers with the Guadeloupe and Reunion locally printed dues adhesives are of special interest and a number have survived (see Figs 8 and 10).

The Guadeloupe dues issues of 1876 and 1879, which were used until 1884, were only authorized for internal mail. After the general issue dues appeared there was no further need for these local issues, and the 1884 Guadeloupe and 1889 Reunion dues, being philatelically inspired, are seldom seen properly used — although they are not unknown (see Fig 9). Once the general issue dues in colors appeared in 1893, covers showing them properly used are much more frequent⁽⁴⁾ (see Fig 11). The overprinted dues stamps of 1891-92 and of 1903-05 were postally unnecessary, and are only found on philatelic covers, although even these are rare (see Fig 13).

Beginning in the 1890s, and continuing into the 1900s, postage stamps were sometimes used in lieu of dues stamps

(⁴) In 1905 at Saigon, the post office collected about two thousand francs per month in postage due, although the whole of Tonkin collected only about one hundred fifty francs per month. Clerks in the interior tended to be unscrupulous, not charging properly, or removing stamps before they were canceled.



Figure 12 - Cover sent by the post office at Tunis to the Austrian Consul there, who was absent and the letter forwarded to Stuttgart (backstamped) but first charged 10c due, collected with a 10c postage stamp perforated "T" and validated (as usual for this) with a pen cross.

Figure 13 - Unpaid local philatelic cover with Guadeloupe 1903 30c inverted overprint on 60c due stamp (correct for two times the 15c rate).



(see Fig 16). Sometimes the stamps were even canceled with the familiar "T in triangle" handstamp, apparently to indicate use as dues stamps when regular dues stamps were supposedly out of stock (see Fig 14). On occasion, several colonies formally sanctioned such procedure, but there is a suspicion that it was quite generally tolerated. Tunisia used postage stamps perforated with a large "T" from 1888 until 1901. These were usually pen-canceled with a large "X" (see Fig 12).

It was not until 1892 that the UPU agreed to permit unpaid postal cards to be forwarded internationally, and charged due as if they were unpaid letters. In 1899 the UPU decided to make the due on unpaid cards double the prepaid card rate. However, part paid cards were forwardable from 1879 on, charged due at double the deficiency.

After 1884 there was a tendency to no longer mark the amount due on internal mail, since the due adhesives affixed were supposed to show the amount to be collected (see Figs 9, 10, 13, and 14). However, the "T" was always struck on such

mail. The colonial internal unpaid penalty rates, with some variations from time to time, were usually one and one-half times the paid rates, but in 1885 they became double — conforming with the UPU rates.

1907-1922

In October 1907 UPU changed the manner by which the office of departure was to indicate the amount of deficient postage. The due was now to be computed and marked at point of origin at double the deficiency; the office of destination was to collect that amount. Thus the procedure was somewhat simplified. The same UPU Congress raised the weight-step for international letters from 15 grams to 20 grams, and the rate for successive higher weight-steps was reduced to 15c per 20 grams. In effect, the UPU universal letter rate was thereby considerably reduced. At the same time the colonies reduced rates between colonies and to France to 10c per 15 grams, and in 1910 further reduced the



Figure 14 - Telephone bill or message envelope delivered unpaid locally at Baie Mahault, Guadeloupe, 1903, and 30c due collected (two times the 15c rate) with postage stamps handstamped "T" in lieu of dues stamps.

Figure 15 - Cover from St Pierre, Martinique, to United States, 1927, underpaid with a 10c stamp (for 25c rate), marked "T" but no amount due, and charged 10c at NY collected at Minneapolis with a precancelled 10c US due stamp - it is not clear how the US computed the due.



increments for higher weight-steps. But in 1917 these rates had to be raised by 5c or 10c a step, because of the war inflation.

Many colonies were supplied with their own adhesive dues stamps during this period, and the rest continued to use the general issue dues. Covers bearing the definitive issues are more difficult to find than those with the general issues, but all are rare (see Fig 15).

Just before 1920, the "T in triangle" began to be replaced in some post-offices by a simple unframed "T" in non-serif style (see Fig 15), generally larger in size than the previous "T." These were not standardized, however, and varied in size. The boxed "Affranchissement Insuffisant" mark frequently accompanies the "T."

Unauthorized philatelic bisecting of dues stamps occurred in several colonies (Congo, Dahomey).

1922-date [=c1970]

After 1920 there were no essential UPU modifications in marking and computing due, except for the substitution in 1922 of the gold franc (*franc-d'or*) for the Swiss franc; each country had to fix the parity of its money to the gold franc⁽⁵⁾. This was required by the continued inflationary trend after World War I. The new conversion of currencies caused more complexity for the clerks and many mistakes were made (see Fig 15).

Postage rates in this period have been changed frequently, requiring many changes of denominations in the postage due adhesives, including some provisional surcharges for the colonies at times. By the 1930s all colonies had definitive issues of dues stamps. Non-philatelic covers with dues stamps are hardly much commoner from this period than the previous one.

⁽⁵⁾ Personal communication from Dr J Stibbe.

Figure 16 -
Cover from Montreal, 1945,
to St Pierre-et-Miquelon,
underpaid with a 2c Canadian stamp,
marked "T" and "1,80" due at St Pierre,
due collected with 1F80 in postage stamps
of St Pierre 1942-45 issues.
Canadian post office failed
to mark letter due or amount.



The "T in triangle" became unusual after 1920, though still used here and there even in recent years. The unframed non-serif "T"s, in a great variety of sizes and proportions, have become the rule. After World War II some framed and serified "T"s reappeared. Use of "T" to cancel postage stamps shows up occasionally throughout the period; and sometimes it is seen canceling dues stamps too.

Some bisected dues, apparently authorized, were used in Tahiti during 1924, and Dahomey in 1920-21.

The boxed "Affranchissement Insuffisant," uncommon for several decades, reappears often in the 1950s.

Examination of due covers of this period reveals many vagaries of procedure which appear to represent either failure to follow the rules, or variations authorized for particular circumstances but for which we have not seen the official documentation. There are for example frequent cases of the "T" on covers which show no indication of the amount of due nor that any due was ever collected at destination. After airmail was introduced a new complication arose. Letters directed by sender to go "Par Avion" were often insufficiently franked for that service but had sufficient postage for surface mail. The post office of origin could either send the letter on by air, charged due, or send it by surface mail without due. A variety of special cachets to indicate the latter procedure is seen, eg: handstamped "Voie de Surface" and "Par Avion" crossed out, and "Affranchissement Insuffisant pour être acheminée par la voie aérienne," etc, added. Other complications resulted with mail of military personnel entitled to reduced or free franking, under certain conditions. These special rates did not extend to registry, air mail, foreign destinations, etc, and many letters were marked "due" for these reasons, although this was not done consistently.

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Members may like to know that the American Philatelic Congress can be (in 2002) contacted via:

David L Straight,
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Folded Business Postcards

Iain McQueen

In Journal 219 (March 2001), on page 26, there appeared an appeal from Dr Robert Bell of Arizona for information about folded business cards. They sounded rather interesting, so I duly sent to the Editor for Robert's detailed questionnaire. Robert happens to be a very old friend of mine, and he is currently editing the *Romanian Postal*

History Bulletin, which I intend to review soon for my "Society Reviews" column in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*.

Robert's preliminary findings about these cards prompted me to try to assist his research, so he sent me his notes and provided more when I met him subsequently in London.



Figure 1 -

The flamboyant 'letterhead' on this card from the Aude is printed in blue, instead of the usual black. A prewar use in 1938, sending an urgent order for *talons*, and posted at the 55c postcard rate.

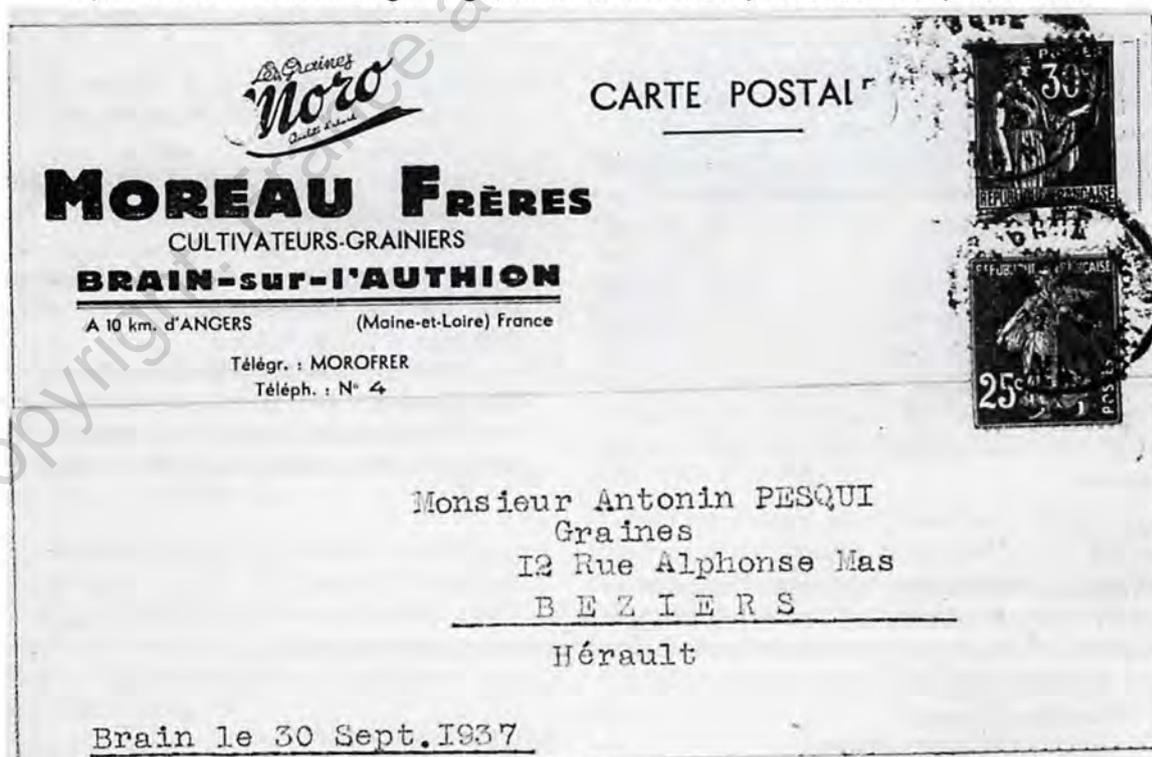


Figure 2 -

An early card, printed in the unusual colour of brown, reporting the dispatch of goods which were recently ordered, franked with a Sower and a *Paix* to make up the 55c rate.

By this time he had managed to obtain a copy of the illustrated *Brevet d'Invention* published by the Ministère de la Production Industrielle in November 1946. We are both still wondering why a registration in the nature of a patent should have been necessary, or even applicable, at such a late stage, when these cards had been used in France in prewar times. Indeed, a Paris stamp dealer was

using one which had been printed in Paris as early as May 1929. If someone can explain, I shall be most interested to hear.

All in all, this has become a fascinating sideline study, and although Robert has already published a few articles in America to explain them and to seek more information (and I myself have included a few notes for Gibbons in my

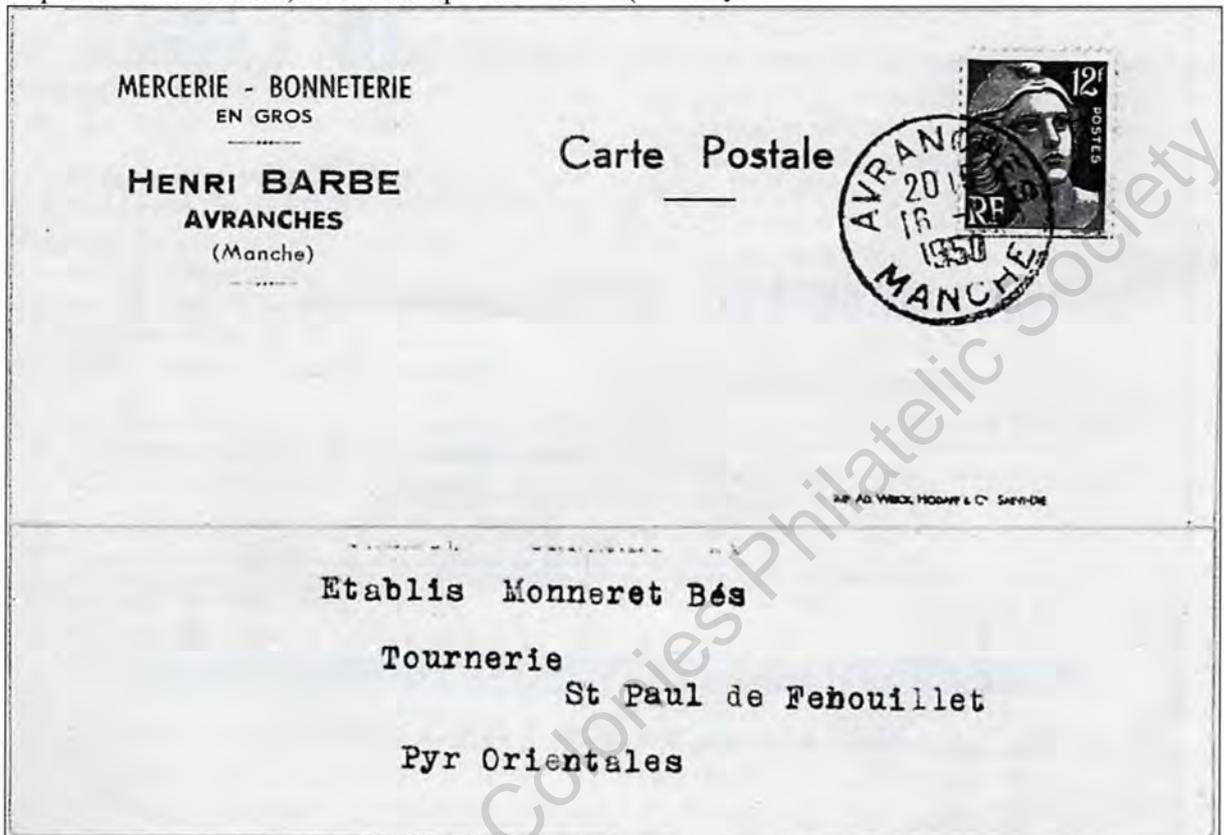


Figure 3 -
Card from Avranches in 1950, with imprint of a printer at Saint-Dié,
ordering a supply of taps and showing the common 12F postcard rate.

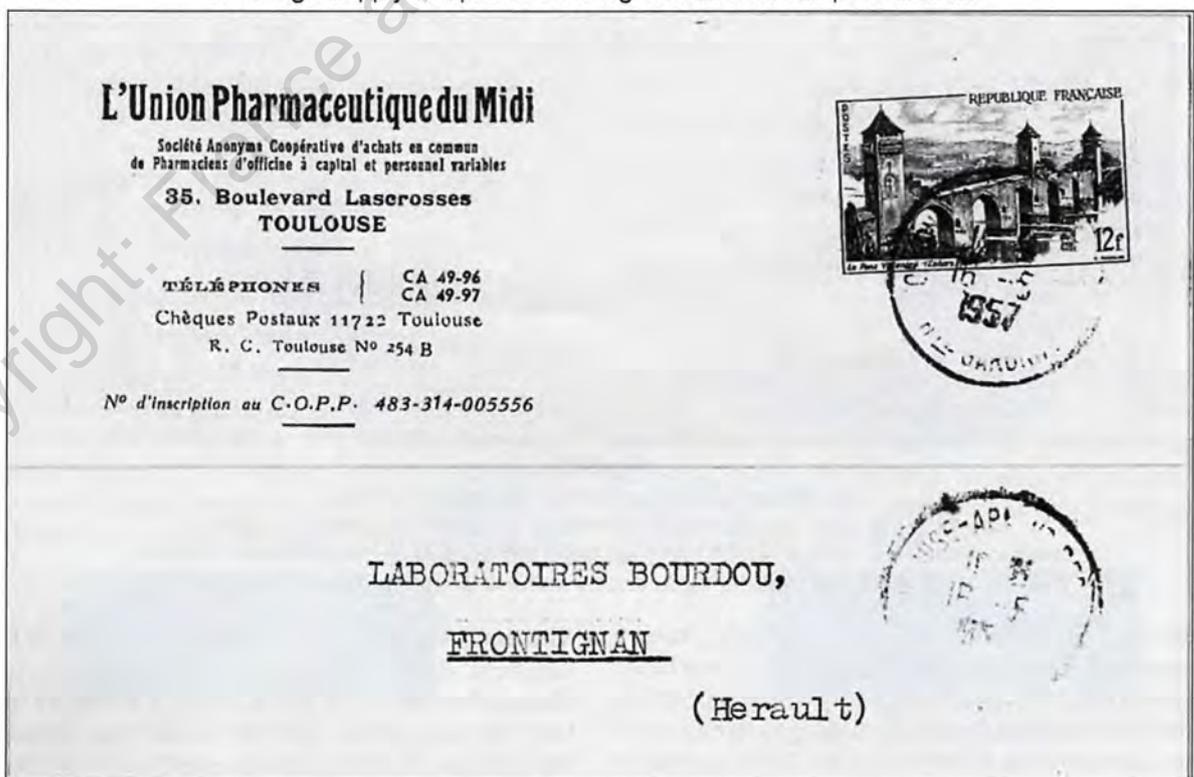


Figure 4 -
A late usage in 1957, ordering pharmaceutical supplies, and unusually with a pictorial stamp.

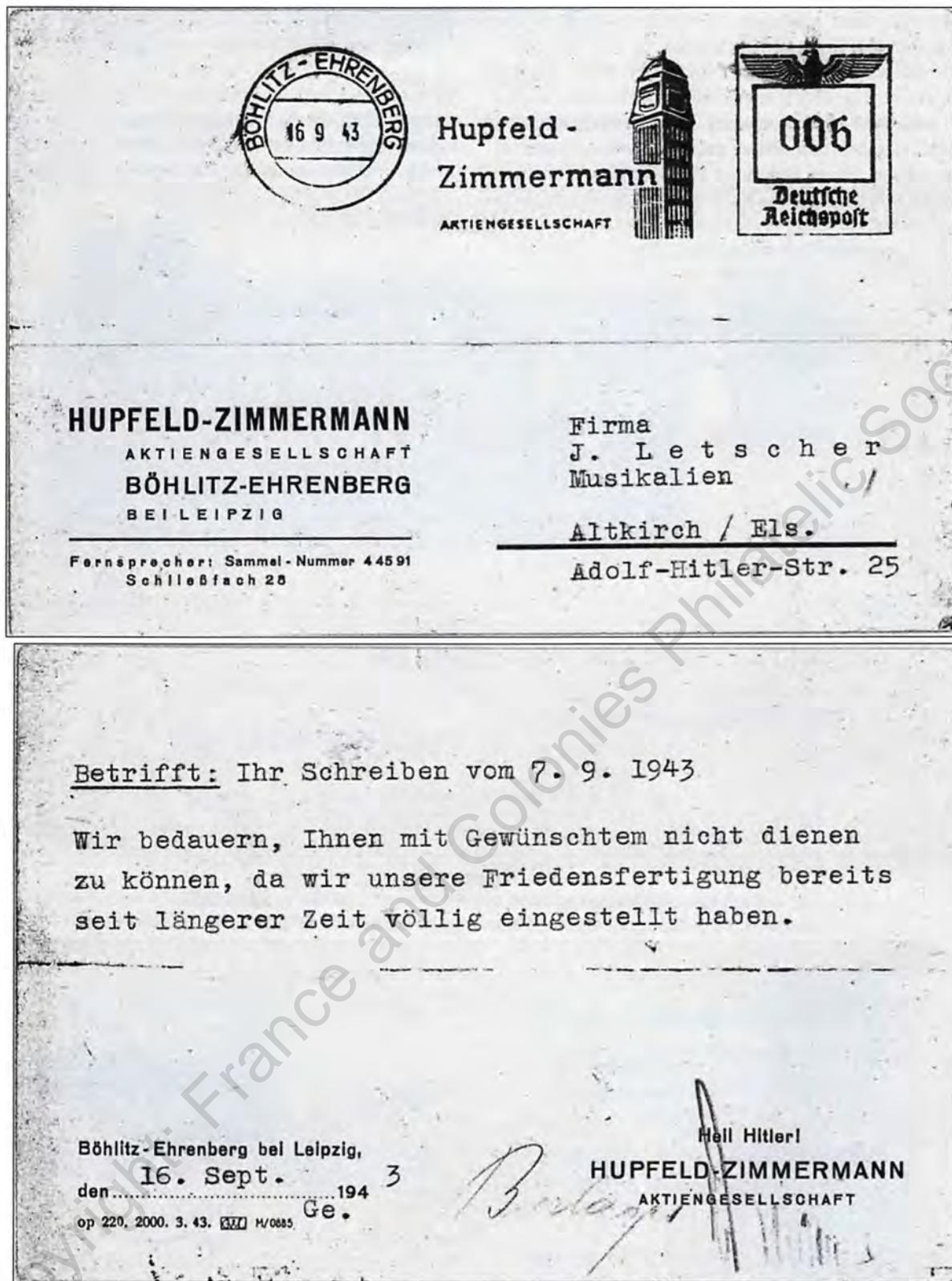


Figure 5 -

An interesting German item of the wartime period, on which the user has even had 'Heil Hitler!' printed in the message portion. Used to Altkirch, in Alsace, which had then been temporarily annexed to Nazi Germany; and one wonders which street there had its name changed to 'Adolf-Hitler-Strasse'.

"Philately for Fun" column) there has not, so far, been a huge response. It does, at least, have the merit of not being an expensive collecting area. Prices vary a little, according to condition and supposed scarcity, ranging in Britain from 50p to £6 and in France from 50 cents of a Euro to the 10 Euros which I paid for the early and very attractive Garrouste Fils card.

The *département de l'Hérault*, where I habitually spend my summers, is not a very active area for philately, but I have managed to find a few items, some of which are illustrated here. The most prolific period of use in France appears to have been around 1949-58. I shall be most grateful if any member having any of these cards would kindly send me photocopies: Ian McQueen, 55 Albany, Bournemouth BH1 3EJ.

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

Type 1 and 2 Sheet Printings

Mick Bister

Since writing my article on the 1F75 Royal Visit issue further information has come to light which requires me to revise what I said about the sheet printings.

The basic facts remain the same. The first printing of the issue was on Press 5 and ran from 9 to 17 June 1938; on the sheet corner the printed date is composed of Type IV numerals measuring 4mm in height and separated by round dots. The second printing was on Press 2 from 13 June to 5 July; the printed date is composed of Type III numerals measuring 4.5mm in height and separated by square dots. (*)

I am indebted, however, to Roger Vacheron of the SO.CO.CO.DA.MI. who has informed me that the second

printing was in fact in two parts despite the dates giving the impression that it was uninterrupted. As stated above, the second printing started on 13 June on Press 2 but on 22 June the press was stopped at some time during the day and the 1F75 Royal Visit cylinder was dismantled and replaced by the 2F15 Miners (Yvert 390). Printing of the 2F15 Miners (its third) commenced and continued for the rest of the day and into the first part of the following day, 23 June, before being replaced in turn by the 1F75 Royal Visit, printing of which then resumed until 5 July.

Roger Vacheron's explanatory diagram summarises the operation of Press 2 during the week 19-25 June as follows (Fig 1):

.....

Press N° 2						
Sunday 19 June	Monday 20 June	Tuesday 21 June	Wednesday 22 June	Thursday 23 June	Friday 24 June	Saturday 25 June
No Printing	1F75 Royal Visit ← 2 nd Printing → Part 1		2F15 Miners ← Third → Printing	1F75 Royal Visit ← 2 nd Printing → Part 2		No Printing

Figure 1 - Second Printing, Parts 1 and 2

.....

As I have already said the two printings on presses 5 and 2 can be easily identified by the types of numerals on the dated corner blocks. However, having recently added further dated corner blocks to my collection and having examined them more closely it would appear that there is a second means of identifying the two printings which is based on a distinct difference in part of the design. The advantage of the new criterion, if it is upheld, is that henceforth one will be able to determine which printing any single stamp has come from without having to refer to and rely upon a dated corner block.

The feature which I have identified and which distinguishes the two printings is to be found in the bottom left hand corner of the design. If one takes a dated corner block from the second printing and looks at the anchor chain (or mooring rope) attached to the vessel in the bottom left

hand corner, there is a distinct 'pool' of light to the left of where it enters the surface of the water just above the inner frame line (Fig 2).

The significance of this white area varies according to the intensity of the inking but it is always visible to a greater or lesser degree. In sharp contrast, if one looks at a dated corner block from the first printing, the design does not display this feature at all; the surface of the water is unbroken even in lightly inked printings (Fig 3).

I do not possess every dated corner block of this issue but I have seen a sufficient number, I believe, to convince me that the two printings can now be identified from this difference in the design alone. In other words there exists a Type 1, First Printing, without white 'pool', and a Type 2, Second Printing, with white 'pool'.



Figure 2 - 1F75 Royal Visit, Type 2



Figure 3 - 1F75 Royal Visit, Type 1

What is even more interesting is that both Types 1 and 2 are present in the various proofs which are integral to the production of the stamp. The earliest proof I have is a copy of Cheffer's progress proof (*) which, although unfinished, shows the characteristics of Type 1.

Similarly, the *Bon à tirer* held in the Musée de la Poste is represented by a proof of the Type 1 design. All the other proofs, however, are Type 2. This includes the colour trials held in the Musée de la Poste (Fig 4) which were obviously

printed before the stamp and both versions of the *épreuve de luxe* (*) which are usually printed after the stamp.

It would appear, therefore, that two dies existed during the early planning stages of the issue and that the second die was not made solely for the production of the second printing cylinder. The mystery is why there was a need to use a second die at such an early stage. I look forward to receiving from fellow members any observations or explanations which will help me to find an answer.



Figure 4 - Colour trial (Musée de la Poste)

In conclusion, I will summarise the findings so far:

Type 1: no white 'pool' on the water

- Progressive proof
- *Bon à tirer*
- First Printing on Press 5 from 9 to 17 June

Type 2: white 'pool' on the water

- Colour trials
- *Epreuve de luxe*, large format
- *Epreuve de luxe*, small format
- Second Printing on Press 2 from 13 June to 5 July

(*) For illustrations of these items see Journal 220, June 2001, pages 58-59

Congo Français - Oubangui-Chari: Concessionary Rates to Canada

Robert Johnson

I have two members of this Society to thank for this short article; they have also improved my collection and stopped me making a fundamental mistake.

In San Francisco, at the 1997 International Exhibition there, I bought three covers to one addressee in Canada. The reason for buying them was first, that Canada is a difficult destination for *Congo Français* covers, and second, two of the covers had single frankings of stamps not seen on cover as frequently as others. Instinct therefore induced the cash out of my pocket.

Four years later they had not been mounted as I did not understand them. So I sent one of them (luckily the one illustrated with two stamps on) to Mick Bister for the auction.

The telephone rang soon after with Mick Bister enquiring whether I knew what I had sent in. I confessed that I did not, and he then said he had been looking for concessionary rates to Canada from France for some time and they were difficult to find.

So not only was my cover to Canada at the correct concessionary rate of 75c for 20 grams, but it was from a French Colony. This, I think, was new to Mick, or if not, then covers from the French Colonies to Canada come seldom.

Mick makes the valid point that we have not been able to trace any document authorising use of the Canadian concessionary rate in the French Colonies. On that basis this article is written, amongst other reasons, to see if anyone does know of an authority or, failing that, whether anyone else has concessionary rate covers to Canada from any French Colony. The period to look for is from 11 September 1929.

So the next step was to look more closely at Derek Richardson's book on French Postal rates which, in Sections

B1 Phase 1 and B3 Phase 1 made things quite clear. I had been guilty of not reading what he had said.

The person writing to Thomas Millar must have been staying in Oubangui-Chari in May and June 1937 as two covers are postmarked Fort Archambault. The third is postmarked N'Dongou.

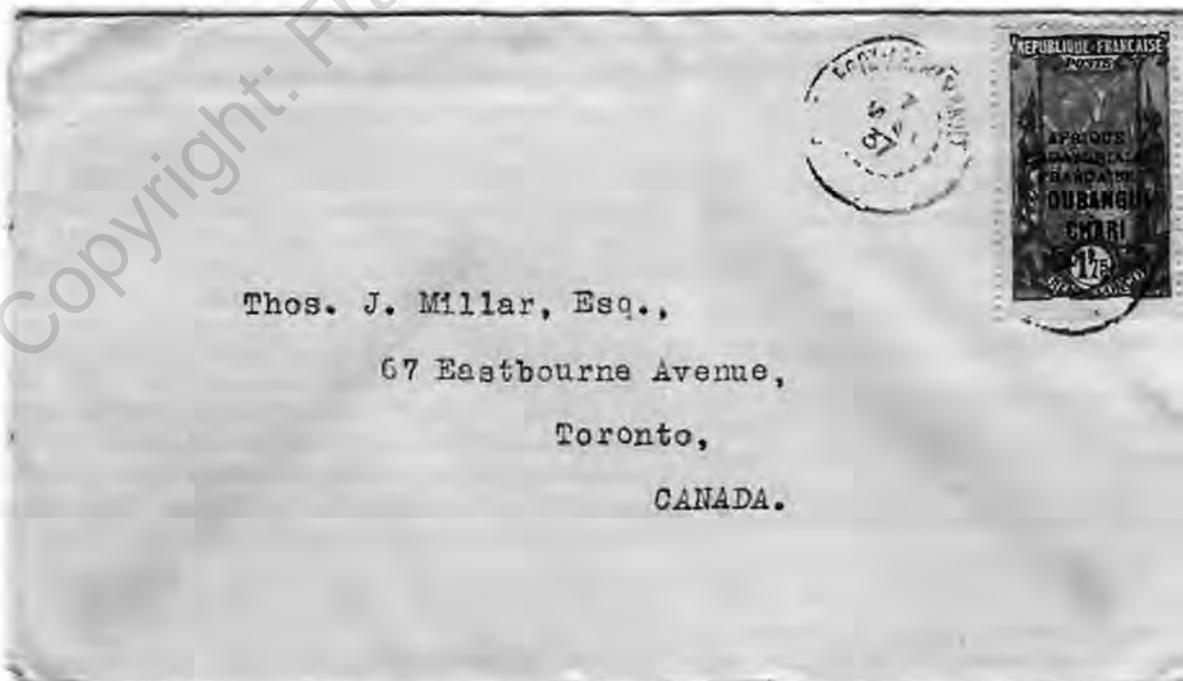
There is a problem in the sense that N'Dongou is in *Moyen Congo* on the River Bangui on the way up to Bangui in Oubangui-Chari. If these covers are not philatelic then the way to Fort Archambault is from N'Dongou to Bangui and then on to Fort Archambault via Fort Possel and Fort Sibut.

The problem is time, but if the letters were sent on or back by native messenger while the writer was on the move (quite possible) to save time, then sense can be made of the dates.

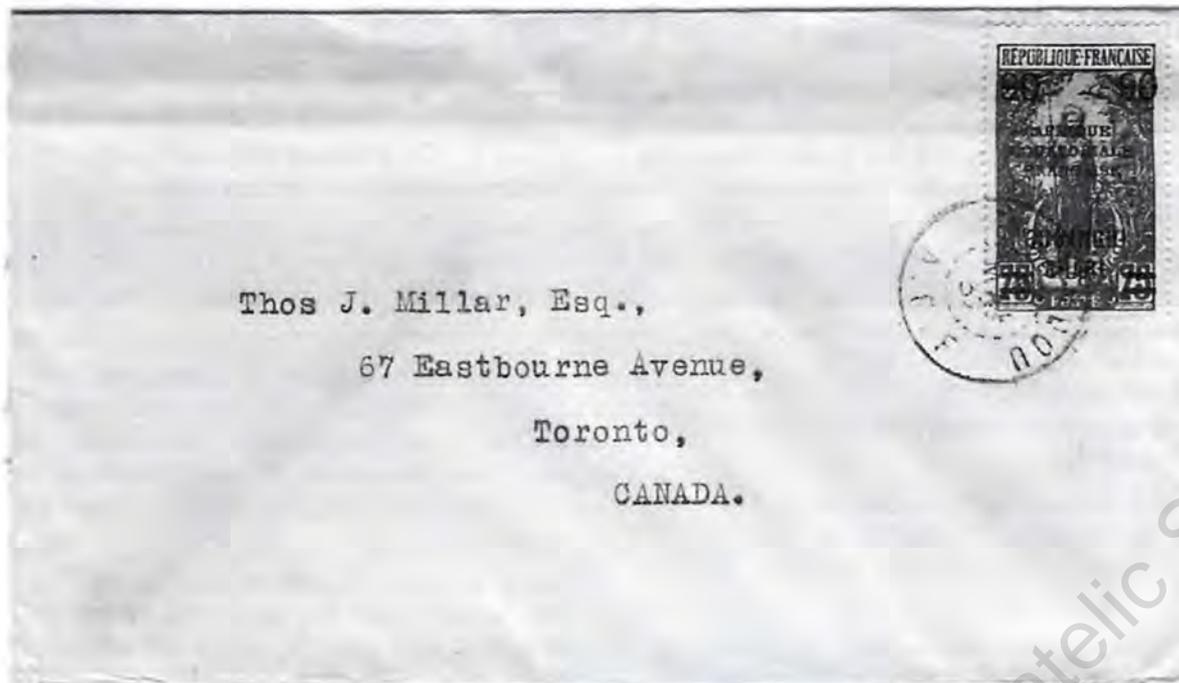
Travel by river using different boats would mean that correspondence could be sent back by returning boatmen following the same route that a letter might travel anyway if it was posted further towards Fort Archambault. (If the reader wants a good modern account of river travel in what was once French Congo then "Congo Journey" by Redmond O'Hanlon – a softback published by Penguin in 1997 – is a good book to read). However see later for evidence of actual routeing.

The readdressing of one of the covers is circumstantial evidence in favour of proper use. If these covers were philatelic it would have been difficult to get Cover 1 and Cover 2 dealt with within a day of each other, and there would then be the question of why Cover 3 is not postmarked on the same date as Cover 1. (Now roll in all those having philatelic covers addressed to Thomas Millar!)

Cover 1 was put in the post at Fort Archambault on 7 May 1937. It is prepaid 1F75. This is the correct rate (in force as



Cover 1



Cover 2



Cover 3

the concessionary rate 11 September 1929 to 31 July 1937) for a letter 40 to 60 grams — 75c for the first 20 grams and 50c for each extra 20 grams.

Cover 2 was put in the post at Dongou (N'Dongou) on 8 May 1937. The 75c surcharged 90c stamp (90c on the 75c value) paid the non concessionary triple printed paper rate of 30c for 50 grams in force between 1 August 1926 and 31 July 1937. Concessionary rates to Canada (and Luxembourg) did not apply to printed matter or to samples.

It is backstamped at Fort Archambault on 12 May 1937. This is useful to show the four day transit time for mail (and travellers) between N'Dongou and Fort Archambault in 1937. It also shows the route by which the mails were sent from N'Dongou, ie not back to Bangui and Brazzaville

Sceptics will ask what could have weighed so much in a little envelope. The envelopes have all been opened at the side (a common north American practice), so the answer could be photographs or postcards.

It is this cover that argues strongly for philatelic use, since, if the sender knew of the concessionary rates, he would have used them consistently. The argument against this is that it may have been unclear in French Congo as to whether the concessionary rate applied to printed papers. The envelope is not endorsed for printed matter.

Cover 3 was put in the post at Fort Archambault on 4 June 1937. The 75c paid the first step concessionary letter rate for 20 grams to Canada (in force from 11 September 1929 to 31 July 1937).

So are they philatelic covers or not? And has anyone concessionary rate covers from any other French colony to Canada? There ought to be covers from the West Indian colonies and St Pierre et Miquelon.

Mick has said that this article will now encourage him to think about doing a follow up with covers from Canada to France at concessionary rates.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 25 SEPTEMBER 2002

Members' Short Displays

In his introduction to the first meeting of the new season, our President Mick Bister referred to recent spells in hospital by both Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith and Geoff Gethin, expressing our hope that they will both soon be fully recovered and back in action. Our condolences were offered at the death of Oliver Gibson whose presence would be so missed at these meetings: his display of wine labels at the Christmas 2000 meeting brought back many happy memories. Mick also mentioned the new book on *La Lettre Taxée au XX^{ème} Siècle*, recently reviewed for the *London Philatelist* by David Jennings-Bramly, a few copies of which may be obtained by the Society for resale to interested members.

David Worrollo opened the displays with issues from Tunisia in the 1940s and 1950s. **Chris Hitchen** followed with WWII Paris items, especially slogan postmarks, covering various phases of the War from mobilisation to the Débat. **Mick Bister** brought the first half to an end by showing an item acquired cheaply from e-Bay: a 1F50 brown Pétain on cover with the remarkably early date of

1.2.42 (eventually explained by the enclosed letter dated 1.3.42).

The second half opened with **Barbara Priddy** showing a boxed R (not registration) from Madagascar to West Africa, a 1940 Senegal cover with P censor mark, and a number of interesting French and Algerian postcards (including fox hunting in the Pyrenees and the *langage des timbres*). **Derek Richardson** showed single and multiple usage of the 5c Sage, including late use in 1913 with the experimental Chambon machine marking). **Alan Barrett** displayed some covers and Cinderella items concerning Napoleon I and Napoleon III, including Siege of Paris material and Prince Imperial vignettes. **Mick Bister** returned at the end with 1F50 Pétain postmarks linked to WWII, reflecting both the events of the War and the policy of the Vichy government.

An underground strike had apparently restricted numbers able to attend this meeting, but the material displayed was certainly of the usual high quality and held the interest of the 9 members present.

MST

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 2 NOVEMBER 2002

President's Afternoon: Marianne de Muller and French West Africa

Vice-President Maurice Tyler introduced Mick Bister as someone who could be relied upon to produce some interesting material, and this proved to be the case. Mick divided his display into two distinct topics, the first of which was the Marianne de Muller issue. He explained that his specialised collection had started with an auction purchase in 1968, and that rather than follow the "types" described in the traditional catalogues, he had preferred to use the nomenclature adopted by our expert member Jean-Luc Trassaert. Mick's short historical introduction related how the postal authorities, in deciding on a stamp to replace the Marianne de Gandon, had approved a variation of an essay by Muller previously rejected in 1947, a design that represented a look towards a new dawn in the history of the country. A two-colour printing was decided against because of the technical difficulties, and the series we know was first issued in 1955.

The individual stamps of the series were then shown in a wide variety of forms. Thus, for the 15F we saw proofs, one signed by Muller, coil printings, booklet printings with different covers, booklets of 20 with advertisements on the selvedge, and the private booklets of Provins that took out a pane of 10 stamps for their own covers. The 6F stamp is found only as a coil, and we saw it imperforate with part of the next stamp, and in test coils for the new electronic machines – as only the Lourdes machine was working on the first day, there was initially great difficulty in obtaining a strip of 5. The 12F was found as a postal stationery item,

but the postage stamp was sold only in booklets (that did not always fold neatly).

The 18F was used for the internal invoice rate, and there was a postal stationery item that served as the overseas postcard rate. Trassaert has discovered 4 types rather than the 2 in the catalogues – Type 1 was unissued, Type 2 was used for printing postal stationery, and Types 3 and 4 were variants for sheet printings. The 20F was for the internal letter rate, and we were shown many colour trials and some test printings. There are two types, with Type 2 being used for just a few of the booklets, but also for *épreuves de luxe* (which are not necessarily printed at the start of the process). We also saw a colour trial in a Type 3, and some *timbres fictifs* used in training schools. We then saw the 25F, in particular a Type 2 used for machine booklets of 8 with cardboard covers, vignettes used for trial printings and some *annulé* stamps in a booklet sent to an advertiser for his approval (see front cover).

We learnt that in 1959 the series was replaced by the Marianne à la Nef, but they returned for use with the new franc in private stationery. The final sheets were of the 15F and 20F design used in Algeria, including a die proof, a corner block from the sheet printing and a booklet.

After an interval for viewing, Mick continued his display with the de la Nézière issues of French West Africa, of which he said there was plenty of material on cover. The series were commissioned in 1908, and the design was to

be representative of the countries and peoples for which they were printed. This was the first stamp commission for de la Nézière, who had been known for sketches and paintings until then, but he produced a set of 6 designs for each of 6 countries, with the frames also based on local designs and leatherwork.

Among the sheets displayed we saw the relationship between postcard scenes, proofs (see illustration below) and the finished design in Senegal and Dahomey; an unissued recess engraved (and not typo) die proof of Dahomey; a sheet of 3 x 25 stamps; and the full printings of Dahomey as an example of the 6 colonies.



Senegal die proof for typo printing

Rapid inflation in the '20s and '30s led to a very large number of stamps overall, some being overprinted while waiting for new values, and to some scarce booklets. In the Ivory Coast there was a shortage of metal for coins, and we were shown some examples of stamps stuck on card and overprinted with the value of a coin.

Mick illustrated a very wide range of rates and of stamps in all these countries, and we saw *inter alia* visiting cards (see front cover), postcards, Togo items, registered letters, and some very colourful covers. Unusual rates included the overseas registered letter rate, with interesting marks and stamps, a telegram from Senegal to France, a postcard sent at the printed matter rate, a money order delivery charge, and some airmail items.

Mick had commented at the beginning that, as this was his third presidential display, he was left with the remnants of his collections; but in fact this turned out to be a masterful demonstration of how to exhibit a specialised collection of a common stamp, and included some fascinating items with an unusual slant to them. It was yet another enjoyable and instructive session for the many members present.

MST

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 26 OCTOBER 2002

Godfrey Bowden: Tunisia

The Organiser welcomed Godfrey back again to the Southern Group and looked forward to us all being entertained with some North African philatelic sun! Colin also mentioned that Geoff Gethin had telephoned and was improving after hospitalisation. It was good to see Frank Blincow with us today, restored to health again and also an early member of the Society who had returned, George Nash, and he thanked Michael Berry for bringing George over from Chichester.

Godfrey began with a description of the former French protectorate of Tunisia, from the period when the hereditary Beys ruled until it became a protectorate in May 1881. He said that his interest in all things French was due to having a French uncle, who encouraged him to collect French stamps, especially the Type Sage and Tunisia. He said that the display would be divided into three halves covering stamps, postal stationery and postal history.

The first display contained stamps covering the period 1889 to 1956, beginning with two types of the first issue, one by E Casse and the second redesigned by Engraver E Mouchon. The first appeared locally in 1888 in small numbers and the second was printed in quantity, being reprinted three times in 1893 and 1899-1901. Both issues were on sale at the same time, and the colours were similar to the Sage issue.

The 1926-39 issues showed different perms, wrong values overprints and surcharges. The War years 1939-45 saw the start of the British connections, with the Algerian printings of 1944-46, and Godfrey mentioned that the 1943 Liberation issue was difficult to find used. The 1941-55 period was noted for overprints on new values, and

examples of Control (Registration) marks and French stamps overprinted *Tunisie*, also a *coin daté* in black with the overprint in red was shown. Finally the "T" perms, parcel post and airmails completed the first half of the display.

The second display showed the Postal Stationery, including letter cards, envelopes and postcards, and members were helped by Godfrey bringing along the ACEP catalogues.

The third display covered Congress booklets, UPU Specimens and Montreal Expo '67. We saw early covers with an 1850 *Tunis Par Bône* to Malta; French and Italian Post Offices and Metropolitan France stamps in use from 1903, together with examples of the 1881-83 Expedition with a 7th Brigade Re-enforcements in Africa cover dated 29 January 1882.

This was followed by examples of Railway Tunis-Algiers cancellations including a Ghadames-Tunis and reverse on covers dated 27 June 1891, cancelled at Bône and Marseille en route to Germany; also a 5c Tunis-Ghadames via the Tebessa- Bône line and ferry en route to Yorkshire.

An enthusiastic and humorous vote of thanks was given by Bob Larg, endorsed by all members for a very enjoyable afternoon. The next meeting will be a Members' 20 sheet display on Saturday 18 January 2003.

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

CWS

World War II French Naval Post - the *Bâtiment de Ligne* "Richelieu"

Bill Mitchell

1. The *PAR AVION* Overprints

In Journal 207 (March 1998) Maurice Tyler published an article, compiled from information and comments supplied by eleven members of the Society, on the bogus *PAR AVION / BÂTIMENT DE LIGNE / RICHELIEU* overprints allegedly (in the Cérés catalogue at any rate) prepared on board ship while she was in harbour in New York in 1943 (Cérés says 1942; this is an error since the *Richelieu* did not arrive at the Brooklyn Navy Yard until February 1943). Maurice's article relied heavily on articles by Michel Parlange and Bertrand Sinais; briefly to recapitulate, what actually happened was as follows.

The overprints were the brain-child of a so-called stamp dealer, who obtained a supply of 1F50 brown Pétain stamps of France (Yv 517) from the *vaguemestre* which he had overprinted by a New York printer. Most were sold to dealers in the US, some (on cover) were cancelled by the *Richelieu*'s dotted hexagon and more were distributed in North Africa after she arrived at Algiers later in the year. The number overprinted, 1500 stamps, was sufficiently low to ensure that demand exceeded supply, and some "rarities" were also created by overprinting very small numbers of various stamps of France, Senegal and Mauritania. As if this were not enough, there were some *non-émis* — the 80c brown Pétain (Yv 512), 10F Angers (Yv 500) and 5F/10F Vincennes (Yv 491); this last was not mentioned in Maurice's article, which took its details from Sinais.

The naval authorities denounced these stamps as "devoid of authenticity" (ie, bogus) in a press release in February 1945; the unfortunate *vaguemestre* was court-martialled (as he had acted under pressure and had not benefited financially, he was acquitted).

Maurice concluded his article by remarking that these stamps are accorded catalogue status (the *non-émis* are an exception), and offered for sale, at high prices. They continue to appear regularly in catalogues — there were several in Behr's February/May 2001 fixed price sale, two of which are of more than usual interest as there can be little doubt that they have been through the post. The fronts are illustrated in the catalogue; M. Behr has kindly sent me a photocopy of the back of one of them (unfortunately the other has been sold). They have many similarities and a few differences. The similarities are:-

- (i) both are on American envelopes with printed AIR MAIL instruction;
- (ii) both bear the *Richelieu*'s dotted hexagon of 24 October 1943 and registration label, with consecutive numbers;
- (iii) they are addressed to the same person in New York;
- (iv) both are struck with initialled circular *CENSURE FRANÇAISE "RICHELIEU"* cachets and cachets reading "O.A.T." in an oval;
- (v) both are stated to bear US arrival cachets on the reverse (there are five different on the photocopy in my possession, dated 20, 21, 25 and 26 November; there is also a number 1463¢ which I believe to be of US origin, probably

the letter's consecutive number in a record of registered items received from abroad);

(vi) the stamps are placed in almost identical positions on the envelopes. The differences are to be found in the British P.C. 90 censor sealing strips and the franking.

The numbers on the P.C. 90 strips are 6415 (small figures, with a crown) and 3440 (much larger figures and presumably no crown — this is the cover which has been sold). I have been unable to trace a record of the location of these two examiners, but have no reason to believe that they were based outside the UK. Evidence for this is the crown on one of the sealing strips and the "O.A.T." (Onward Air Transmission) cachets, which were applied in Britain to the top letter in bundles of mail which was not sent in a sack(!).

The franking of the two covers is also not without interest. Both include a *non-émis* — the 10F Angers and 5F/10F Vincennes respectively — together with the 4F and 5F values of the 1942 Algeria arms set (Yv 182 and 183) plus the 30F/1F75 Algeria telegraph stamp (Yv *timbres télégraphe* 2); totals 49F and 44F respectively. Neither claims to have been sent under the *franchise militaire* arrangements, and I understand that the basic civil airmail rate from North Africa to the USA at this time was 19F(?) — add 4F for registration and 23F would have sufficed. Incidentally, I doubt whether the telegraph stamp was valid for postage — does anyone know for sure?

There can, I think, be no doubt that these two letters — if, indeed, the envelopes contained anything at all — were successfully fed into the postal system with the connivance of the *vaguemestre* and possibly PTT officials at Algiers as well, and duly reached their destination. They are therefore of considerable philatelic interest and very collectable; whether they are worth the high asking price is a matter for the prospective purchaser.

In his article, Maurice refers to an example of the 1F50 Pétain overprint on an unaddressed 1F20 Pétain postal stationery card cancelled by the *Richelieu* hexagon of 22 December 1942. But, as he (quoting Parlange) points out, the *Richelieu* did not leave Dakar for New York until 30 January 1943. There can be no doubt about the date on the cancellation, which is exceptional in its clarity, so it must be presumed that this is another intentional "error" — "42" for "43".

2. Other Philatelic Shenanigans

Maurice illustrates his article with an unaddressed cover franked with Senegal stamps to a value of 3F cancelled by the *Richelieu*'s dotted hexagon of 17 March 1943. I have a similar cover, also of 17 March 1943, which was allegedly sent by air to a *poste restante* address in Marseille. It is illustrated overleaf. The envelopes are identical and the signature below the linear *BÂTIMENT DE LIGNE / RICHELIEU* handstamp is the same. There are no sender's details and the flap has never been stuck down. The stamps are different, but they also come to a total of 3F. While the



envelope is, of course, purely philatelic it does not necessarily follow that the franking is incorrect.

This 3F rate puzzled me for some time. The then current air surtax from Senegal to France was 3F50 for the first 5 grams⁽³⁾ (basic postage would have been free) and the *poste restante* fee, which could have been prepaid, was 50c⁽⁴⁾. So it could not be accounted for on the basis that the cover had been sent from Dakar, where the *Richelieu* had been stationed prior to sailing to New York. As we have seen, she had in fact arrived at Brooklyn in February, and 3F could not by any stretch of the imagination be sufficient to cover the Transatlantic air mail surtax, which under normal French *franchise militaire* practice would be payable by the sender. I found the answer in a pamphlet "*Les surcharges 'R.F.' de la Poste Navale Française (1943-1945)*" by Henry C Dupont⁽⁵⁾. It was the French equivalent of the 6 US cents (per half ounce, or 14 grams) concessionary rate from and to the United States for service personnel stationed abroad (which was also available to members of Allied armed forces serving under US naval command), and was presumably selected to give some semblance of authenticity to the cover by implying that it had been sent from New York.

But. . . Senegalese stamps? As is shown by the quotation from Roger Hosking's recent catalogue of *paquebot* cancellations on page 163 of Journal 222 (December 2001), the UPU requires that mail from ships in harbour (or dry dock) should be franked with stamps of the host country — in this case, the United States. An article by Lewis Bussey, who is the leading US specialist in the "R.F." overprints, is of interest in this connection. He says "Since

the sailors were not US military, civilian postal rates prevailed: domestic surface letters [within the US] at 3 cents per ounce. Arrangements made to supply the French ship with US postage appear to have been non-existent. Paychecks in francs could be converted on shore to dollars as required, meaning that most postal needs could be met there as well."⁽⁶⁾ He illustrates several covers from the *Richelieu* to addresses in New York and franked with US stamps. The rate for internal civilian airmail was 6 cents per ounce (not half ounce, as for the overseas forces' concession). US airmail rates were inclusive of basic (surface) postage, not surtaxes. The use on this cover of the "F.M." handstamp, to indicate free basic postage, was therefore a quite unnecessary refinement.

Two other points are of interest. Note the date — 17 March 1943 (which incidentally, as Geoff Gethin has pointed out to me, was Saint Patrick's Day, which may be relevant). Marseille was, of course, in the Unoccupied Zone and so technically neutral after the armistice of 22 June 1940, but after the Allied landings in North Africa on 8 November 1942 the Germans occupied the whole of France, and Marseille was not to be liberated until 28 August 1944. Mail from the United States to enemy-occupied territory? Surely not. And finally, note the (Anglo-)American spelling of MARSEILLES. No Frenchman, I am sure, would make this mistake.

I am quite satisfied that this cover, and others like it, are simply souvenirs manufactured in New York, never intended for the post and of no philatelic significance whatsoever. Not one of my best purchases, I'm afraid, although not entirely without interest.

Continued on inside back cover, page iii

Amazing 1870-71 Wonder Stories - 72

Ernst Cohn

I had a phone call, just before writing this, from an old friend, whose wife has been bitten by the collecting bug. She is in the process of buying very small letters and was wondering whether and, if so, how much to bid on a *ballon monté*. We discussed the matter and I suggested a maximum to him after he had peppered me with questions about the 1870 war in general and about manned Paris balloons in particular. The cover in question flew on the *Général Renault*, hence a balloon without any problems — you think. Anyhow, I thought so, until after we had hung up and I started looking up that balloon. Then memories of troubles gradually awakened...

It was named after General Hippolyte Pierre Publius, Baron Renault, born on Malta in 1807, mortally wounded at Villiers (Seine & Oise *département*) on 30 November, who died on 4 December 1870. (These dates are in question, and those listed by Savelon appear to me to be the most reliable ones.)

The 2000 m³ Charlière (= gas-filled balloon) left the Gare du Nord (North Railway Station) on 11 December 1870 at about 2.15am, piloted by National Circus of Paris employee Henri Joignerey, who was accompanied by two passengers with official missions.

The Paris *Électeur libre* for that date has the following pertinent item on page 1, col. 4:

The first balloon to leave from the Gare du Nord will be named after the brave General Renault.

Messrs. Dartois and Yon had asked General Ducrot for permission to give his name to their new balloon.

Not yet, responded General Ducrot, I don't consider myself worthy today of the honor that you want to bestow upon me. But come to see me in a few days, and perhaps, after the victories for which I hope, you can name another one of your balloons after me.

Now that is a very nice little news item — except that the first balloon to leave from that railway station was, of course, the Colonel Charras, as we all know. Did the *Électeur libre* perhaps mean “the next balloon”? Why didn't the writer say so? In any case, no-one asked General Ducrot again: He had stated that he would be back victorious or dead; he returned beaten and alive.

So much for background information and its problems. We can ignore them, but they are characteristic of what one runs into when it comes to that war.

Almost everyone agrees that the flight started about 2.15am on 11 December 1870, took place mostly above clouds and dense fog, ending at 5.30am after pursuit by Germans shooting at the balloon traveling over an estimated 25 km without being hit. Considering that gas balloons fly silently, how could the Germans see through the fog and clouds as well as shooting at an object flying in the dark of night? G de Clerval, on the other hand, wrote in 1872 that the flight lasted about 12 hours, ending at 2pm. He does not

reveal his source, but he knew better than all others. That information came from the pilot's own account, finally published in *La France aérienne* for 15 December 1898, pp. 4-5. Most events after the flight, reported by Chaintrier, fit much better to a 2pm landing.

It having been four days since the previous balloon launch, with apparently no mail held over for, or from, the *Renault*, a reported total letter weight of 102 kg corresponds well to the average daily siege load of about 25 kg. *Renault* mail is usually said to have been contained in two post office bags, but pilot Joignerey speaks of “innumerable mail bags” that he had to cut loose fast from the balloon, after being chased and landing so close to the enemy.

Victor Chanaryn wrote to Gardener Brown in 1976 that the *Renault's* contents included ‘a very heavy box taken to the Château de Smermesnil nearby’ (no source nor explanation).

Mail bags, twelve homing pigeons (also a reasonable figure) and the three aeronauts were picked up by Messrs Pollet and Louvet, who heard the pilot's horn signals (!) while passing the landing spot in the latter's cart. (Would those two have been underway at 5.30am?) They went at full speed northward towards Blangy, according to Chaintrier, where the fewest enemy troops were stationed. Arriving at Foucarmont at 9am (that should probably be 5.30pm), they left one bag of mail with its postmaster, Maisonneuve. After more detouring to avoid Germans, they arrived at Abbeville at night (probably 9pm). Having slept there for some hours, they left their second bag of mail with local postmaster Catusse.

The three aeronauts did not arrive at Bordeaux, where the Government Delegation had moved, until the afternoon of 22 December, says Chaintrier. The pilot himself claims to have gone from Abbeville by train to Calais, by boat from Calais to Cherbourg, a tiring crossing of 26 hours; then on to Caen, Mézidon, Le Mans, and Tours, whence he was redirected to Bordeaux, which he reached at 9pm on Monday 19 December. Conceivably, Chaintrier is right as concerns the two passengers.

When enemy cavalry arrived 30 minutes (or, according to Joignerey, some hours) after the balloon landing, they found a deflated gas bag (which they cut into pieces in their rage, says the pilot) and an empty basket. Everyone is agreed on that little detail, though there appear to have been no eye witnesses. Knowing the type of story told during that war, one wonders whether this one, too, was invented merely to salve French feelings. It's a harmless little detail that doesn't change the important facts, of course. The usual German reaction to such a find, however, would have been to fine the nearest community, which should have been recorded in a local archive.

According to Savelon, delivery of letters ranged from 12 to 22 December. Except where transit markings from Foucarmont or Abbeville are struck on letters, it may be impossible to distinguish among mail bags, if indeed the

mail was split between these two towns. This long stretch of delivery time must be connected with the difficulty of moving mail out of occupied France and perhaps also with fighting that interfered. Thus, more detailed knowledge about local events may explain longer delays.

It might be worth re-checking Chaintrier's details by examining relevant local and departmental files for surviving information.

The above illustrates problems arising when we wish to know details about 1870 flights. Balloon enthusiasts who put these stories together in the first place, and philatelists who got into the act later on, were mostly untrained in research methods, in distinguishing between primary and secondary sources, even in merely thinking things through to see whether the 'facts' fit together.

So how can expertizers, who are not necessarily researchers, always certify on which balloons letters were carried out of besieged Paris — if they were indeed flown out at all?

I am told that today most collectors want certificates only so they can exhibit and resell their merchandise without problems. By just collecting certificates together with covers, they risk wrong expertizations that will not hold up

if and when actual facts become known, unless expertizers honestly mention existing doubts.

Wouldn't *true* collectors care to know facts about items in their collections? Or is the only purpose of most valuable collections to amass investment property? Even in that case, however, getting facts may not be a waste of time, especially if they make an item more valuable than it had been before.

My friend and his wife are going to get a copy of this Amazing 1870-71 Wonder Story long before it gets into print, because I know that *they* care to have the facts! The main book sources for those are:

G de Clerval, *Les ballons pendant le siège de Paris*, 2nd ed., 1872 [Harvard College Library, Archival negative film on file in Houghton, FC8.C5977.871bb]

Pierre Savelon, *La poste pendant le siège*, Études 7 (1955), 18 (1957), 24 (1958), and 41 (1961), Paris, *Le Monde des Philatélistes*

Louis A Chaintrier, *Histoire documentaire et anecdotique des Ballons-Poste du Siège de Paris (1870-1871)*, in *L'Échangiste Universel* 647 (April 1954) - 753 (February 1963).

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Acknowledgements

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References

- (¹) The cachet is illustrated on page 19 of Charles Entwistle's handbook "Wartime Airmails - Great Britain, Transatlantic and Beyond" (Chavril Press, nd)
- (²) Private communication from Lewis Bussey of Denver, Colorado

- (³) Robert E Picirilli, "Airmail Letter Rates from French West Africa to France to 1945", Journal 212, June 1999, p. 91
- (⁴) Derek Richardson, "Tables of French Postal Rates, 1849 to Date", F&CPS Brochure N° 7, Second Edition 1996, p. 17
- (⁵) Published by *L'Échangiste Universel*, Bischwiller, no date but before 1969 — it was reprinted in *Feuilles Marcophiles* (N° 176) in that year
- (⁶) "Battleship *Richelieu*", War Cover Club Bulletin, Vol 29 N° 2 (1990), p. 9.

February 2003 Auction Lots



1828 entire from Memel to Paris



Armée d'Algérie



ex. collection of postmarks on Blanc issue

