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The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



'Sorting the Mail' - an engraving by G Barlangue
from Mick Bister's collection of French Post Office engravings
(much reduced in size)

Volume 56 ● Number 2
June 2006
Whole Number 240

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

Officers

President, 2005-2006: P R A Kelly, Malmsy House, Church Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol BS8 3PG
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Vice-President, 2005-2006: A Lawrence.

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General Secretary, 2005-2006: Dr R G Gethin, 5 Meriden Close, Bromley, Kent BR1 2UF (email: info@fcps.org.uk).

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.

2004 Subscription Rates

United Kingdom: £10.00, Europe: £12.00, Elsewhere: £15.00.

Treasurer: C J Hitchen, 36 Everton Road, Croydon CR0 6LA (email: treasurer@fcps.org.uk)..

The Society's Girobank account number is 39 784 9001.

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 Acting Auction Secretaries,
M L Bister, 7 The Slade, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2ES, or

J N Hammonds, 31 Wheatsheaf Close, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 5TH, according to instructions.

Please send material for circulation in booklet form to the appropriate Exchange Packet Secretary, viz.

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Colonies: J West, 5 Highbanks Road, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4AR (Telephone 0208 428 4741).

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.

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Southern Group: C W Spong

Northern Group: J P Maybury

Wessex Group: P R A Kelly / A J Wood

Scottish Group: Mrs M Pavey

* * *

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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SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:
1272 Johan Delbeke (Belgium), 1273 Erik Lørdahl
(Norway).

* * *

Member Deceased

We are saddened to hear of the death of the following
member, and offer our sincere condolences to his family:
604 Alan Oldham.

* * *

Society Literature Award

The Society Literature Competition for 2005 was judged
as follows:

1. **David Hogarth**: "Albert Stiefel - a Name from History"
 2. **Mick Bister**: "The 50c Jeanne d'Arc Stamp", Parts 1 & 2
 3. **John West**: "The Red Cross", Part 3
- and **Peter Kelly**: "Mail between France and La Réunion -
the *Lignes 'T', 'V' and 'U'* of the Messageries Maritimes"

The judging panel, convened by Colin Spong, comprised
Brian Brookes, John Foskett, Steven Glass, Tony Rennie
and Iain Stevenson.

* * *

George Henderson's Collection

Prue Henderson has written to say how pleased she is that
some of George's collection was offered for sale to members
at the Society's meeting at Charlecote, and she would
particularly like to thank the Committee for giving their
permission, Trevor Davis and Helen for their hard work in
the organising and accounting, and the members who
bought. She hopes the latter get as much pleasure from
their purchases as George and she did in the finding and
reading of those items.

* * *

Corrigendum

Peter Maybury confesses that in his report of the Northern
Group meeting of 5 November 2005, published in Journal
239 page 34, he inadvertently credited John Hammonds
with a collection that was actually formed by John Hayhurst.
He offers his apologies and adds that sadly he cannot lay
the blame on a dyslexic computer.

* * *

Displays by Members

Last October **Peter Kelly** presented "France" to the
Taunton Stamp Club.

In January of this year **David Stirrups** showed Christmas
issues, including artists' drawings and essays, to the
Gibraltar Study Circle.

In recent months **John Hammonds** has displayed Bohemia
and Moravia to the Twickenham and District P S.

* * *

Exhibition Successes

An oversight meant that in the last issue of the Journal we
failed to report that at Autumn Stampex 2005 the awards
included the BPT Trophy for the best One Frame exhibit
presented to Professor **Barrie Jay**, and the Ebby Gerish
Trophy for an outstanding exhibit of European material to
Professor **David Stirrups**. Congratulations to both.

Among the various competitions of the Association of
Essex Philatelic Societies, the Cinderella Competition was
won by **Iain Stevenson**.

* * *

Lecture

The 2006 Lecture for the Stuart Rossiter Trust will be
delivered at 5pm on Friday 27 October 2006 at the Royal
Philatelic Society, London, by our member **Robert Johnson**.
Entitled "The Other Side of the Counter", this will discuss
the development of Post Offices services in the period
from 1860 to 1970 in countries all over the world (other
than letter, postcard and printed paper post) and how post
offices organised systems and paperwork to deal with these
services.

Entry is free but by ticket only. Application should be
made to the Stuart Rossiter Trust, c/o D F Tett, PO Box
34, Wheathampstead, Herts. AL4 8JY, enclosing s.a.e.

* * *

Northern Group Programme

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 16 Sep 2006 | Members' Meeting,
1.30pm at Leeds General Infirmary |
| 21 Oct 2006 | Members' Meeting,
10.30am at Cavendish House, Derby |
| 18 Nov 2006 | The President Entertains
+ Members' Displays,
10.30am at Leeds G I |
| 13 Jan 2007 | Members' Meeting, 1.30pm at Leeds G I |
| 3 Mar 2007 | Members' Meeting, 1.30pm at Leeds G I |
| 14 Jul 2007 | "Bastille Day" 10.30am at Heaton Royds |

* * *

Southern Group Programme

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 5 Aug 2006 | Joint Meeting with Forces Postal Hist Soc,
10.30 to lunch (Half Brick, Brighton
Road), 14.30 until 16.30 |
| 14 Oct 2006 | Michael Farrant: Zanzibar, 14.00-17.00 |
| 13 Jan 2007 | President, Peter Kelly: Réunion, 14.00-17.00 |
| 21 Apr 2007 | Francis Kiddle: Cinderellas of France,
14.00-17.00 |

All at East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane,
Worthing

* * *

Philatelic Honours

Following recent ABPS Judging Workshops, **David Stirrups**
is now accredited to judge at Federation/Association level.

* * *

French POW Camps in Kenya

Colin Spong

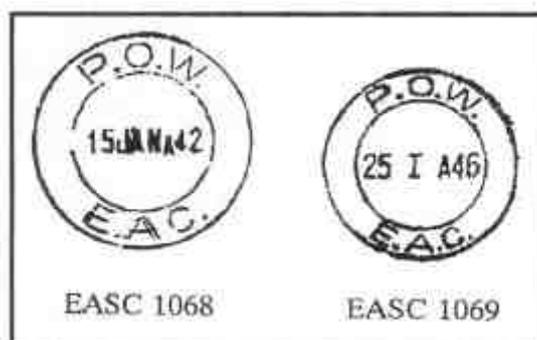


Figure 1

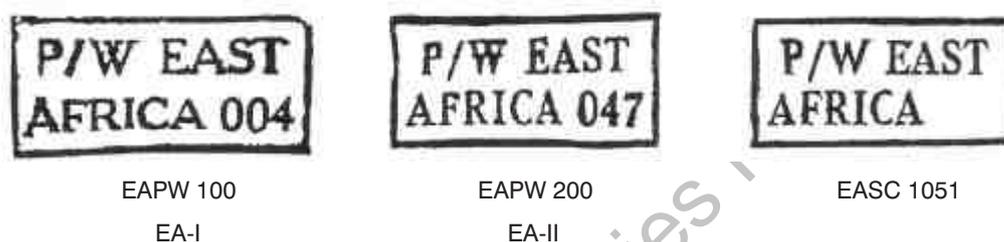


Figure 2

The subject of mail from French Prisoners of War in Kenya or South Africa during World War II is one that has until recently been very little known in this country. In fact as a student of Madagascar wartime postal history, I had limited myself to researching mail from British, East African and South African forces during the 1942 Campaign. However, I was aware that the former Governor-General M. Armand Annet, his family and his staff had been sent to South Africa following the occupation. Through the good offices of my friend Joh Groenewald and his colleagues in Pretoria, I have now received details of French internees in South African camps.

To return to Kenya, in 1997 my attention was drawn to an item from a French soldier POW in Kenya that appeared in the Paris auction house catalogue of Bertrand Sinais. Although I did not obtain this postcard, a photocopy was sent to me. Gradually since then over a number of years other items have appeared, firstly amongst French collectors who were purchasing this correspondence.

Since commencing this study, a number of covers have been appearing in the UK. Amongst those seen by Bill Colley and myself in 2003 were several on a dealer's stand (David Wrigley) at the London Philatex Exhibition. Bill O'Connell has since recorded these, twelve all dated 1943, and Peter Chantry sent photocopies to me in April 2004. I thank them both for this information. Although they are not dated in the information typed on the sheet by David Wrigley, there appears on a number of the covers a pencilled date in French.

However, to begin at the beginning: The first postcard from Camp 358 in Kenya, with a POW EAST AFRICA cancellation - Censor 021 - started off my quest for information, firstly to the East African Study Circle and then to the France and Colonies Philatelic Societies, both here and in the United States. Harry Henning of the EASC wrote to say that in the early days he had deliberately excluded Madagascar from his own studies because it seemed that the two campaigns were kept entirely separate by the stretch of open water between Madagascar and the mainland. However, until my letter arrived he had only previously seen one reference to a French POW being held in KUT. This was a reference to an unboxed cachet "*Poste de Prisonniers de Guerre*" on a cover from Lushoto, TT, with no indication of where the cachet was applied.

Harry's book *East Africa World War II* (in Chapter (A) "Camps for POW, Internees and Refugees") mentions on page 58 the POW EAST AFRICA cancellation illustrated in Figure 1. There are two types: EASC 1068, 29 & 18mm diameter, which has been seen used from 31 December 1941 to 7 January 1944, and EASC 1069, the smaller of the two at 26 & 17mm diameter, which has been observed covering a wider range of dates from 1 September 1943 to 13 May 1946.

The P/W EAST AFRICA marks are shown on page 59 of that book (see Figure 2). Of these, so far, the first series EAPW 100 EA-I [size 40 x 18mm] and EAPW 200 EA-II [size 36 x 18mm], followed by the number of the censor

officer, have been seen used on the French mail. It is not known where these were applied, and Henning remarks that it is impossible to identify these marks with specific camps. Where a camp number is quoted on a letter, these can be identified with the listing on pages 65-68, and he records Camp 358 at Makindu.

The late Alec Page of the South Africa Collectors' Society provided me with a copy of a map from *Italian POWs and Internees in Africa* by Giorgio Migliavacca, which showed where the various camps were situated (see Journal 221 page 118) and, as mentioned above, pages 65-68 in Chapter (D) "Camps for POW, Internees and Refugees" are useful for finding the whereabouts of a particular camp.

With regard to my own specialist society journals, they had until 2001 not received any response for information, until a query from a French collector appeared in the Journal for June 2001, Whole N° 220 (page 80). M. Georges Barot had a censored letter dated 3 November 1942, from a Chef de Bataillon (Major) Martin in a camp in Kenya and wished to know where camp N° 358 was situated. I was able to assist M. Barot as by then the camp had been identified as being at Makindu, and a reply was published in Journal N° 221 of September 2001 (page 116).

A second query in an article by M. Claude Ablard was seen by Roy Reader in the French postal history journal *Les Feuilles Marcophiles* N° 307, 4th Quarter 2001. Roy kindly translated this article concerning the whereabouts of Camp 365 and I replied to the editor M. Raymond Sené, confirming that Camp N° 365, from which M. Ablard's postcard had been sent, was originally at Longido, Tanganyika, then at Londiani, Kenya. However, I have not heard from M. Sené as to whether M. Ablard has any further material.

Finally, I had my first success in obtaining a cover (see Journal 226 page 143) during a visit to the French Philatelic Federation exhibition at Marseille in June 2002. On inquiring at the stand of the Marseille dealer M. Paul Sussman, I was shown some Madagascar covers amongst which were four French POW ones in Kenya Camp 365 from the same correspondent, Chef de Bataillon (Major) Martin, quoted above in Camp 358, to his wife in Majunga and later Tananarive. M. Sussman mentioned that he had bought a collection of family correspondence, which tied up with the correspondence so far observed from Messieurs Sinais and Barot. In my excitement at finding and purchasing the letter I forgot to take down details of the other three – however, no doubt some may be included in the table below.

Two further items from M. Georges Barot have appeared in the France & Colonies Journal N° 224 of June 2002, (pages 73-74). These were illustrated and details are appended below, together with some additional censorship information. 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 Camp 365 Londiani, Kenya. The second item has the POW date stamp of 15 August 1943, a red post paid cachet (top right of illustration), an arrival date stamp of Tananarive 2.9.43 with the Censor boxed G handstamp (M. Barot thinks it is GG, but it is more likely that the numeral is obscured! Tananarive censor G numbers are from 1 to approximately 22), and the same violet cachet P/W EAST AFRICA 007.

PRISONNIER DE GUERRE.	
Nom <u>MARTIN</u>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
Prénoms <u>Eugène Marie</u>	
No. Matri <u>//</u>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Postage Free Franc de Port</p> </div>
Grade <u>Chef de Bataillon</u>	
Unité <u>1^{er} R.M.M.</u>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p><u>Madame MARTIN</u> <u>Chef Madame</u> <u>à Majunga</u> <u>Tananarive</u> <u>Madagascar</u></p> </div>
Date et lieu de naissance : <u>16 Août 1899</u>	
Nom du père <u>Martin</u>	
Nom de la mère <u>Boyer</u>	
Indication postale du Camp : <u>n° 358</u> <u>Kénia</u>	
D. P. & S. S. - 4581 - 9142 - 1,000.	

Figure 3 -
Card from Bill Colley's collection

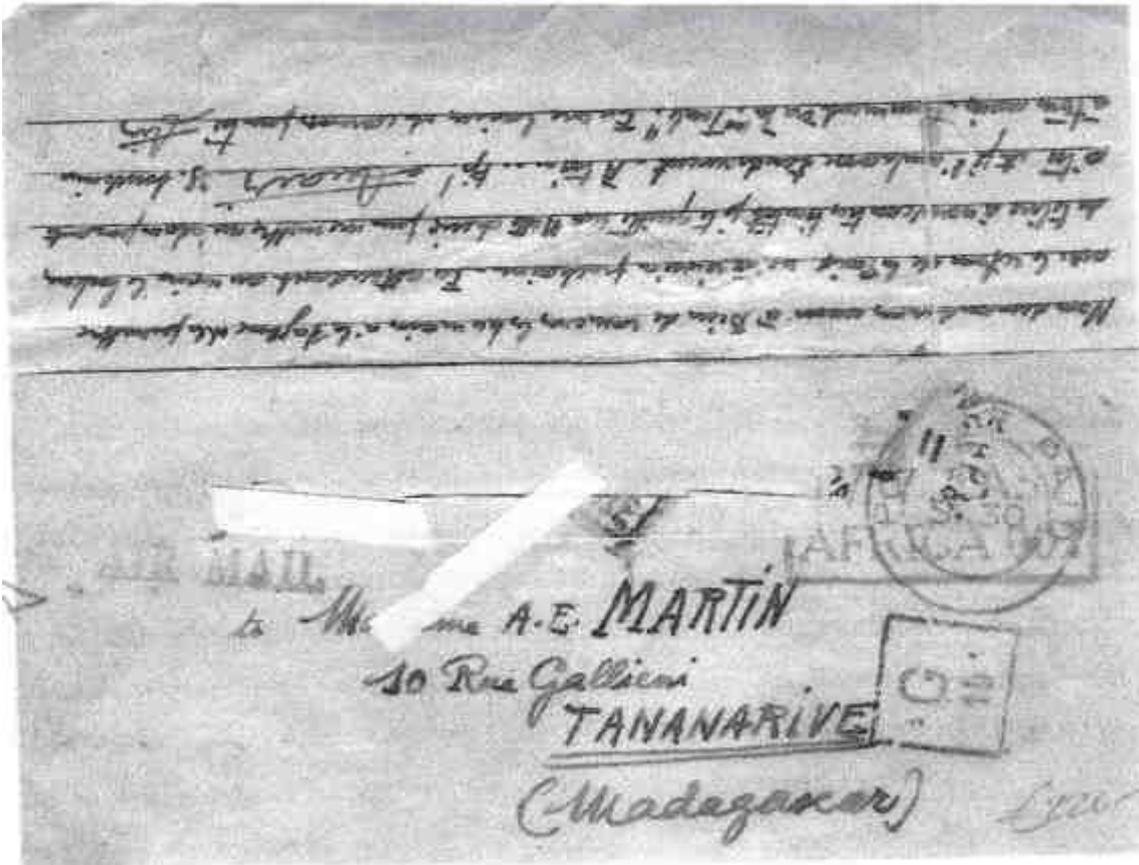


Figure 4a

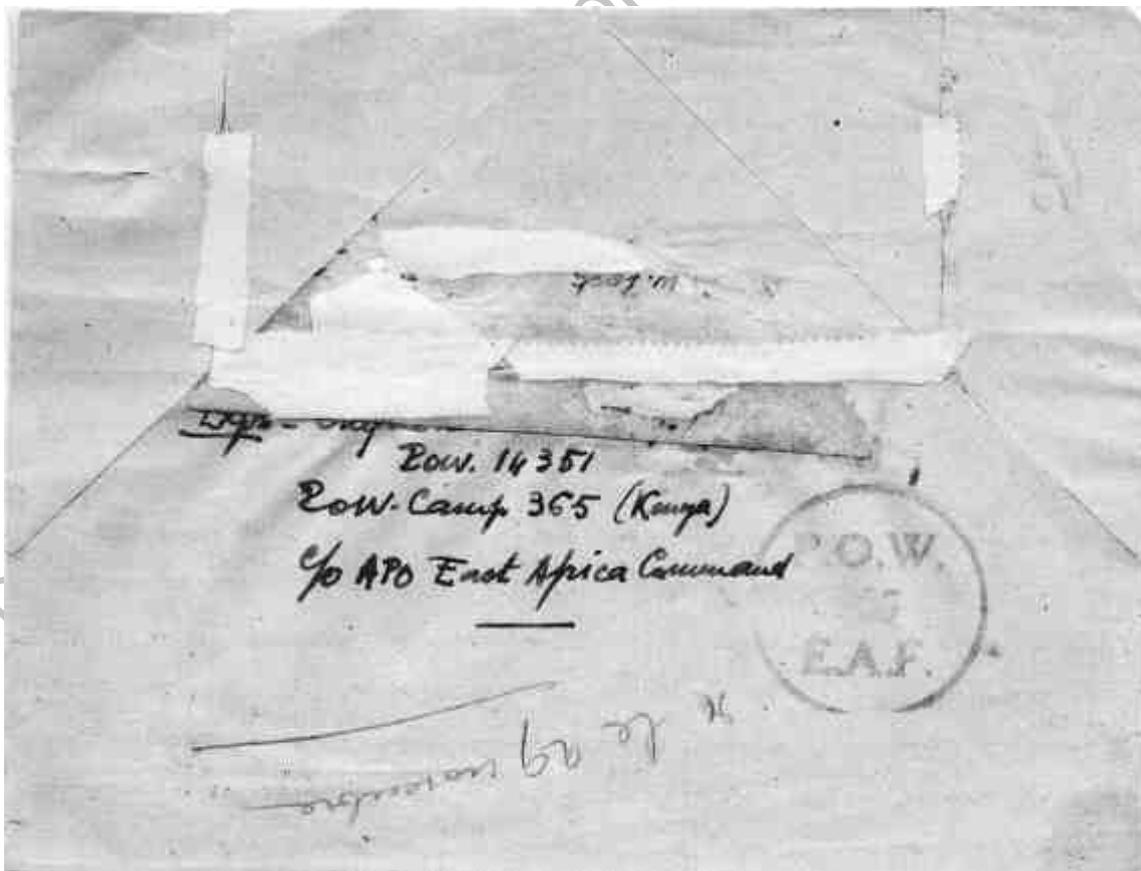


Figure 4b



Figure 5a

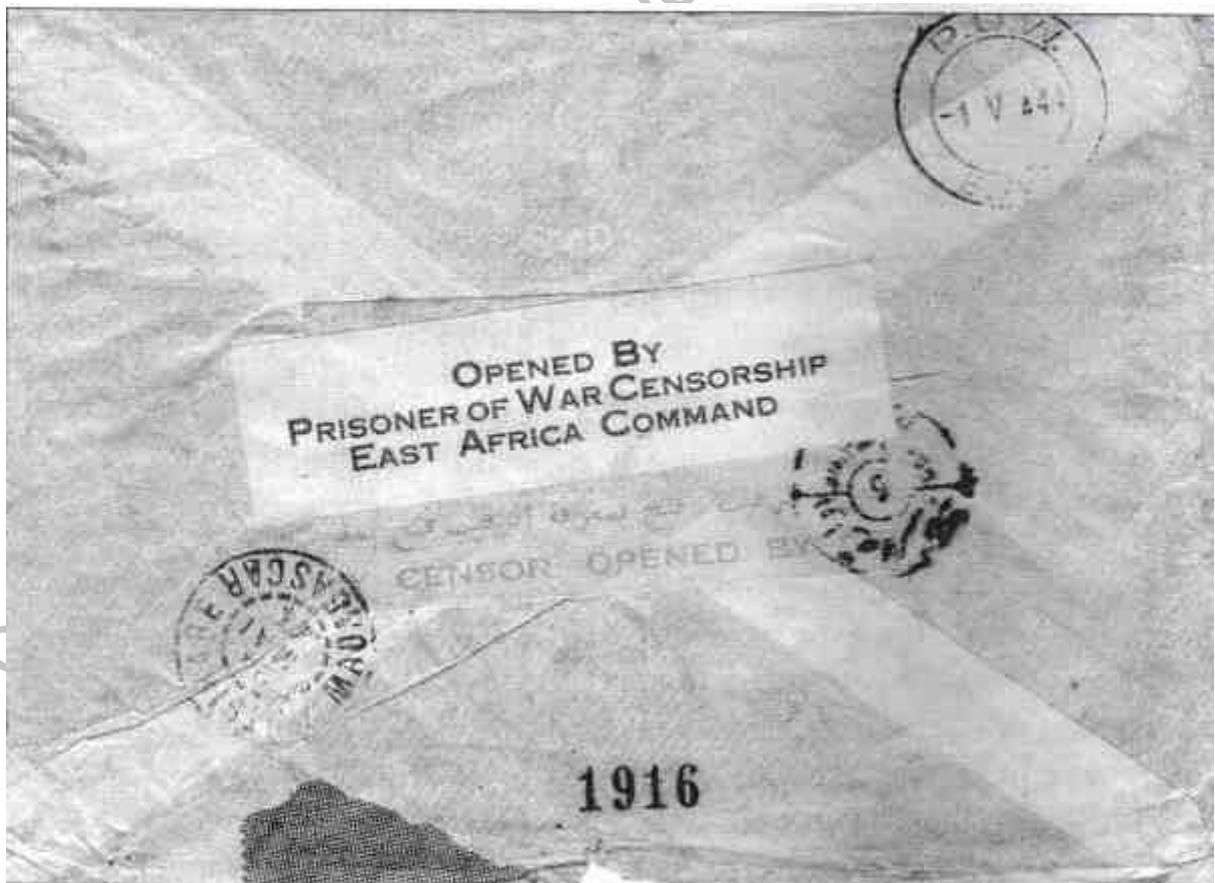


Figure 5b

Bill Colley obtained a postcard (see Figure 3) of 20 October 1942 from Chef de Bataillon (Major) Martin in Camp 358 to his wife in Tananarive. Bill's daughter has very kindly translated the message written on the postcard. In résumé, Martin writes to his wife that it is one month since their ordeal, so different from that of Diégo [so one presumes he was at Majunga.] They are without news, but attempting to improve their quarters by decorating. He is writing to her at Majunga, without knowing whether she is still there and asking her to write to him with all the news.

In late December 2004 and January 2005 two more letters from Camp 365 were acquired from Paul Sussman, one by Joh Groenewald (see Figures 4a and 4b) and the other by myself, both dated 1943. [NB: The Madagascar date slugs for 1942/3 are very badly blurred, making it difficult to

identify the year.] Finally, I have just received from Bill O'Connell a photocopy of a "Martin" cover he has purchased recently.

There are two further covers in my collection, one a Red Cross letter dated 21 April 1944 (see Figures 5a and 5b), that appears to have been sent from a camp in Kenya, via Egypt to Madagascar, to an interned civilian, presumably an official from Madagascar; the other is also a Red Cross letter dated 27 January 1944, with the P/W MIDDLE EAST boxed handstamp, forwarded to Kenya, then on to the French Somali Coast (see Journal 221 page 117). Both of these remain queries!

Illustrations of some of the POW postcards or letters discovered so far are enclosed, or references given where they have been illustrated previously in the Journal.

Table of letters from the Kenya Camps recorded to date

Ref.No	Camp No.	Date	To
P/WEA 021 Type EAPW100	358 Makindu ¹	28.09.1942	Norant, Mourillon France
P/WEA 021 Type EAPW200	358 Makindu ²	20.10.1942	Martin, Majunga –Tananarive
P/WEA 021 Type EAPW200	358 Makindu ³	03.11.1942	Martin, Majunga –Tananarive
P/WEA	358 Makindu ⁴	00.00.1943	Martin, Majunga –Tananarive
P/WEA 010 Type EAPW100	358 Makindu ⁴	19.11.1943	Martin, Majunga –Tananarive
P/WEA 021	358 Makindu ⁴	00.00.1943	Martin, Tananarive [16.12.43]?
P/WEA 007 Type EAPW200	365 Londini ⁴	00.00.1943	Martin, Tananarive G16
P/WEA 006 Type EAPW100	365 Londiani ⁴	24.06.43	Martin, Tananarive
P/WEA 007 Type EAPW100	365 Londiani ³	12.08.1943	Martin, Tananarive [18.11.43]
P/WEA 007 Type EAWP100	365 Londiani ³	15.08.1943	Martin, Tananarive [02.09.43]
P/WEA 007 Type EAPW100	365 Londiani ⁵	25.09.1943	Martin, Avignon France [21.01.44]
P/WEA 007	365 Londiani ⁴	00.00.1943	Martin, Tananarive [26.10.43]
P/WEA 007 Type EAWP100	365 Londiani ⁶	18.10.43	Martin, Tananarive [09.11.43]
P/WEA 007 Type EAWP100	365 Londiani ⁷	? 11.1943	Martin, Tananarive G16
P/WEA 007 Type EAPW100	365 Londiani ⁸	01.11.1943	Martin, Tananarive
P/WEA 007	365 Londiani ⁴	10.11.1943	Martin, Tananarive
P/WEA 007	365 Londiani ⁴	13.11.1943	Martin, Tananarive
P/WEA029	365 Londiani ⁴		Martin, Tananarive [09.10.43]
P/WEA 007	365 Londiani ⁴	13.11.1943	Martin, Tananarive [12.11.43]
P/WEA 029 Type EAPW200	365 Londiani ⁸	10.01.1944	Martin, Tananarive
P/WEA 023 Type EAWP200	⁸	21.04.1944	Le Villain, Antsirabe
P/WEA 029 Type EAWP200	365 Londiani ⁴	12.11.1944	Martin, Tananarive
P/WEA 007 Type EAWP100	365 Londiani ⁴		Martin, Tananarive

The measurements of the P/WEA handstamps as given in the text are approximate from the photocopies. The details on the items from David Wrigley's stock sheets vary: all are headed 1943 although some are 1944 and the dates of a few taken from a notation on the front may be incorrect.

¹ = Bertrand Sinais;

² = Bill Colley;

³ = Georges Barot;

⁴ = David Wrigley;

⁵ = Claude Ablard;

⁶ = Bill O'Connell;

⁷ = Joh Groenewald;

⁸ = Colin Spang

Acknowledgements

Peter A Chantry, William Colley, William O'Connell and the late Harry Henning [East Africa Study Circle].

Joh Groenewald, South Africa [Indian Ocean Study Circle]

Georges Barot, Roy E Reader, Maurice S Tyler [France & Colonies PS]

Bertrand Sinais, Paris; Paul Sussman, Marseille [dealers in France]

The late W Alec Page [South Africa Collectors' Society]

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

Documents Philatéliques

N° 188 2^{ème} Trim 2006: A la recherche des Colonies Françaises (Chauvet); Les marques de fortune de 1914 (Van Dooren); Les oblitérations insolites du bureau de Vénizel (Van Dooren); acheminement d'un pli de Sainte-Marthe pour New-York (Langlais); Via Colon – Aspinwal (Langlais); Surtaxes maritimes et pour services extraordinaires de l'Union (Abensur); Conséquences sur la taxation des correspondances (Abensur); insuffisamment affranchies pour la France 1876–1921 (Abensur).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

Permanent features: Actualités, Prêt-à-poster Florilège de PÂP, Variétés, Anomalies, Cartes postales, Comment ça marche?, Flamme, Livres, Maximaphilie, Thématique.

N° 1794 Mar 2006: apogée et déclin du mandat [III] (Hella); Aux soldats inconnus (Monaud); La série «art déco» [4 & end] (Storch); La taille-douce dans tous ses états [3] (Marion); Timbres-poste français d'assurances sociales (Danan); 1956-2006: 50 ans de timbres «EUR-OPA» (Emmenegger); Enveloppes illustrées de l'art russe contemporain (Monaud).

N° 1795 Apr 2006: Landy, c'est fini...(Benhamou); La taille-douce dans tous ses états [4] (Marion); Timbres-poste français d'assurances sociales [end] (Danan); Le temps des impressionnistes (Mohy); Collection du 3^e type (Storch).

Stamp Lover

Vol 97 N° 5, Oct 2005:: The French Hospital, Iceland (-).

Timbres Magazine

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

N° 66 Mar 2006: Les secrets du carnet du 60^e anniversaire de la Marianne de Dulac / Lamouche

(Rabineau);Le «toc» du postier (de la Mettrie); Cartes Postales: Le Samedi noir de Courrières (Zeyons); Deux présentations pour une taxe simple (Prugnon); La Seine-Inférieure [74] (Baudot); La voie du Vatican [WW2 transmission of messages by radio] (Chauvin).

N° 67 Apr 2006: Les colis postaux en Alsace-Lorraine [1st part] (Philomax, Lascombe et Bonnefoy); Cézanne ou le classicisme résolument moderne (Dupré); Quand un corbeau s'intéresse au lapin...(de la Mettrie); Taille-douce et sémantique (Rabineau); Cartes Postales: Les rochers sculptés de l'abbé Fouré (Zeyons); Un seul colis, deux modes d'exploitation (Prugnon); Bureaux français à l'étranger (Baudot); 1944: un avion vers Dzaoudzi (Chauvin).

N° 68 May 2006: Roses à foison à Lyon (PJM); Fezzan: quelques timbres nous font revivre le début de l'épopée des Français Librés (Michaud); II suffisait d'attendre 47 ans! (de la Mettrie); Les colis postaux en Alsace-Lorraine [2nd part] (Philomax, Lascombe et Bonnefoy); Cartes Postales: 1^{er} Mai des journées particulières (Zeyons); 1940: Mandat interzone d'AOF (Chauvin).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 283 (Vol 62, N° 1) Jan 2006: The Territory of Quang-Tcheou-Wan [1898-1945] (Luft); Mauritania - The 1.50 Franc Red-Brown of 1943 (Mitchell); Some Noteworthy Varieties on the Mariannes de Luquet (Luft); Type Sage Period 1876-1900: use of the Affranchissements, Chargements, Guichets and Articles d'Argent Handstamps (Kelly); On Military Hospitals and Red Cross Messages (Luft & West).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol 36 N° 2, Whole N° 172, Mar 2006: Obock Postal Card Used from Pnompenh (Bentley); Newly Discovered Booklets of Vietnam (Cartafalsa); Found in the Box [*Trouvé à la Boîte*] (Bentley); "Marc Leguay, le peintre de Laos" [book review] (Dykhouse); Monseigneur Pigneau de Béhaine (Wiar).

FRENCH STAMPS MINT & FINE USED

I specialise in very fine used stamps of France from around 1900 to date and also have good stocks of unmounted mint from around 1940 to 2000.

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Senegal – Another World War II Red Cross Postcard, and some Early Direct Airmail to the USA

Bill Mitchell



Figure 1

John West's article in Journal 232 of June 2004⁽¹⁾ reminded me that I too have a World War II Red Cross postcard from French West Africa (AOF) which poses a question requiring an answer. As will be seen from Fig 1, the card was issued on Bastille Day (14 July) 1944 by the Amicale Philatélique at Dakar in Senegal – not, as in John's case, the local Red Cross, whose cachet (struck, naturally enough, in red) nevertheless appears in a box at bottom right. Five stamp-sized spaces surround a drawing of what I take to be the Roman Catholic cathedral at Dakar; each contains one value of the set of airmail stamps of Mauritania (Yv PA 1-5) issued in 1940, cancelled DAKAR PRINCIPAL / SENEGAL 14. JUIL. 44⁽²⁾. The card was priced at 100 francs, which presumably included the face value (21F10) of the stamps affixed to it, so the profit on each card sold would have been some 75 francs. On the address side appears what seems to be the serial number of the card (01055) printed in the same brown ink as the card itself (as will be seen, the number 92310 struck in violet on the picture side was applied later).

The card was issued in support of the "*Semaine du Milliard de la Libération*", and my problem is – just what was this? The most immediately obvious explanation, that it was a series of fund-raising events hoping to raise one milliard of francs in aid of the reconstruction of France after the War, just won't hold water. One milliard translates as one thousand million (one billion in the USA); at that time the franc used in AOF was tied to the pound sterling and the exchange rate was 176 francs to the pound, so one milliard

of francs was roughly £5.5 million, a huge sum in those days⁽³⁾. The overall population of AOF in 1937 was 15,725,529 including 27,143 Europeans, only 18,188 of whom were French (these figures include the Mandated Territory of Togo, which was not officially part of AOF)⁽⁴⁾. No way could this sum have been raised in one week by perhaps 20,000 people at the most (few of the indigenous population had any appreciable earnings⁽⁵⁾). Just supposing that "milliard" was not francs but centimes to enable the indigenous population to contribute if so disposed, this would give a more likely target of 10,000,000 francs or about £55,000 – if the "*semaine*" was observed over the whole of AOF, that is, although there is nothing on the card to suggest that it was more than purely local⁽⁶⁾. Even then, if achieved it would have been a pretty impressive performance.

So my question is, what exactly was this "*Semaine du milliard de la Libération*" and how widely was it observed? Was it confined to Senegal, or even to Dakar (as seems likely from the evidence of the card), or to AOF, or was it actually wider than that and "*France-Libre*"-wide?

There is one other interesting point about this side of the card. This was a time of acute shortage of stamps and sales were strictly controlled, while sales for philatelic purposes were banned altogether⁽⁷⁾ – so how were the organisers able to obtain the considerable number of stamps they needed? The ones on my card are in pristine condition; given climatic conditions, if the organisers had held them for some time they had been very well stored.



Figure 2

The other side of the card (Fig 2) has its own story to tell. Some time after it was issued its owner sent it by registered airmail to a friend (apparently named after the seventh president of the United States) in Washington DC at a cost of 31 francs. This franking is exactly the same as that on the cover sent shortly before on the first direct Dakar-New York flight (Figs 3 and 4). Cancelled at Dakar on 14

February 1945, the backstamps on the latter show that it reached New York (its destination) four days later, but was held up by the censor and not returned to the US postal system until 25 June. The card was more fortunate – posted on 21 March it reached New York without attracting the attention of the censor on the 30th and its destination on 3 April. The number already mentioned, 9231¢, is very



Figure 3



Figure 4

similar in appearance to the 3708¢ on the cover; these must, I think, be of US origin, probably from a record of registered mail received from abroad.

The 31 francs franking can be accounted for – the basic foreign letter rate was 4 francs (for the first 20 grams), as was the registration fee; the airmail surtax was 23 francs per 10 grams⁽⁸⁾. One little question – why use the basic letter rate for a postcard, the rate for which was 2F40? My suggestion is that the stamps on the reverse converted the card to a letter with enclosure. Can anyone confirm?

PS. I have searched through Bob Picirilli's extracts from the *Ivory Coast Journal Officiel* but cannot find the *décret* n° 2060 of 13 July 1945 mentioned in John West's article. Either it was missing from the file consulted by Bob's agent, a student in Abidjan, or its significance was not recognised as it had no obvious philatelic interest.

Notes and References

Extracts from the *Journal Officiel de l'Afrique occidentale française (JO)* courtesy of Marty Bratzel and Bob Picirilli.

⁽¹⁾ "Red Cross Postcard from the Ivory Coast" (page 70).

⁽²⁾ It seems possible, even probable, that cards also exist with the corresponding airmail sets in the same design and colours for the other colonies forming the Federation of French West Africa – Dahomey, French Guinea, French Sudan, Ivory Coast, Niger and Senegal. The use of stamps of any one colony within the Federation in any of the others was permitted by the *arrêté* n° 1223 DT signed by the Governor-General on 24 March 1943 and printed on page 263 of the *JO* of 3 April; the Mandated Territory of Togo was specifically excluded from this arrangement.

⁽³⁾ See the article "The Origin of the CFA Franc" by Charles Ortolini, translated by Bob Stuckey, in *Journal* 204 (June 1997,

at page 73). Since then, Dudley Cobb has suggested to me that this statement is over-simplified, but it will do as a rough guide.

⁽⁴⁾ "French West Africa, Vol I: the Federation" (*Naval Intelligence Division Handbook*, HMSO 1943), pages 242 and 244. The overall figures are estimates.

⁽⁵⁾ *Ibid*, page 346.

⁽⁶⁾ The population of Dakar (in 1937?) was, according to Vol II of the *Handbook* (page 444), 80,052 including some 6,000 Europeans, so it is entirely credible that some 2,000 of these cards may have been sold, giving a profit of some 150,000 francs or about £850. But where are these cards? I have only seen the one, and no-one I've spoken to has seen any at all.

⁽⁷⁾ The *arrêté* n° 3474 DT of 2 October 1942, summarised only on page 891 of the *JO* of 10(?) October, provided that until further notice the sale of postage stamps of the various colonies of the Federation could only be by cash transactions over the counter, except that the Dakar branch office could accept postal applications for stamps accompanied by cash, cheques, money orders etc. These provisions were extended by a further *arrêté* (n° 1550 DT) of 31 May 1944, also summarised only on page 437 of the *JO* of 10 June which recites its predecessor (said to be relating to the sale of stamps to collectors!) and goes on to forbid the sale of stamps clearly intended for philatelic purposes, also until further notice; this applying to Togo as well as AOF. A limited stock of provisional stamps had been issued by 14 July 1944 (see my article "French West Africa – the First (Provisional) Issue of 1943-44" on page 11 of *Journal* 219 for March 2001), but the position was not to be eased until the appearance of Edmund Dulac's "*Série de Londres*" in the following year.

⁽⁸⁾ The French tariff of 1 February 1942 was effective from 1 April of that year (*arrêté* n° 834 DT of 4 March published in the *JO* for 21 March, page 275). The air surtax was imposed by *arrêté* n° 3450 DT of 26 September 1943 (no effective date given) – *JO* of 9 October, page 760.

The 3F Cathedral of Reims Stamp

David Jennings-Bramly

Seventy-five years after it was printed a complete sheet of Yvert 259 appeared — a sheet unlike any recorded known sheet of the Reims Cathedral 3 Franc stamp.

The sheet was offered for sale, *prix sur demande*, by the eminent house of M. Behr in their end of 2005 sale. It is numbered 79606, corner dated 16.6.30, and comprises stamps 1-7 and 9-25, Type III, Yv 259b and stamp 8, Type II, Yv 259a! An astonishing find.

This sheet proves die III was not used to replace unsatisfactory *clichés* as previously thought. Why die III was not used more might be answered by this sheet — *viz.*,

after 24 impressions there was a failure of the die and final position no 8 was made using the Type II die.

Nowadays Yvert lists 4 separate types of this stamp in order of their appearance. No catalogue that I know of, in current issue, gives diagrams or descriptions that are foolproof when used to attempt to decide which type is before you. So I will try to make the types' salient features clear to those who do not know the 3F too well.

The first feature is the lower bar of the F of the left-hand monogram RF. There are 3 different bars:



Block of Type I: Stamps 1-2 and 6-7

Type I has an equilateral triangle with one point lightly embedded in the down stroke of the F. The top edge of the triangle often appears somewhat humped. Types II and III both have the bar retouched, and it now has the top edge sloping slightly downwards, the end sloping diagonally from left to right, with the lower edge slanting upwards to the down stroke of the F. The Type IV bar is longer, and square ended with parallel upper and lower edges.

The next thing to mention is the inking, which can vary somewhat the lower bar of the F, particularly on Type I stamps and sub-types of I. The sub-types of I are the result of a retouching of certain impressions on the first cylinder.

All the Type I stamps I have ever seen have a feeble three-sided line capping the value tablet: sometimes Type II shows a similar line. Inking is the culprit, and Types II, III and IV normally have a strong line.

The only difference between Types II and III is the vertical line separating the 3 from the F on Type III stamps. The III is rated most highly in Yvert, but it is not rare compared to stamp 1 in my used block depicted here.

My block comprises stamps 1-2 and 6-7 of a sheet printed by the first cylinder after retouching, and stamp 1 has a strong horizontal line joining the value tablet at the bottom right to the rest of the design. The value tablet is supposed to be joined left and right only on stamps from dies II, III and IV, but stamps 2, 6 and 7 have the joins.

Only Types III and IV are supposed to have a definite vertical line dividing the 3 from the F, and yet all four in my block have it!

I have had this block and the pair illustrated here for at least forty years and more probably fifty plus.



Stamp N° 1 from Block



Stamp N° 2 from Block



Stamps 8 & 9
as se-tenant
pair,
Types II & III

This used pair are stamps 8 and 9 – Types II and III se-tenant – and are, I assume, from the same printing as that of the sheet dated 16.6.30. In conclusion, my UV lamp and x30 illuminated magnifier show no signs of adding or erasing lines – in the past or now – on the stamps illustrating this article.

Post scriptum: Type IV is a greatly retouched die, and the easiest to see distinguishing features are the number of dots added to the pavement in front of the main door of the cathedral and very prominent designer's and engraver's signatures below the bottom frame line of the stamp.

things, important dealers' terms like "*léger clair*" (= slight thin) and "*qualité ST(andard)*" (= faulty!). Brush up your history and politics: the listings, though running from Algeria to Zanzibar (French POs), are not in alphabetical order but (as with the DOM-TOM volume) geographical, travelling roughly from north-west to south-east of the continent - omitting Comoros and Réunion (catered for in the DOM-TOM volume) but including Afars and Issas (repeated from there) to continue the Somali Coast picture. Colonies within each area are listed in order of settlement: French Equatorial Africa, for instance, lists Gabon before Congo, while French West Africa starts with Senegal. Knowledge and a little patience (plus a look at the back cover Contents list!) will help you navigate the contents, though collectors in a hurry might be irritated to find, say, Cameroun more than halfway through the volume and Madagascar only just before Zanzibar.

Pre-1900 issues are illustrated enlarged, as before, but later issues are now shown slightly reduced. Even so, the illustrations still bulk out the catalogue considerably, for (as with the DOM-TOM volume) every stamp in every set - even those with multitudinous colour- and value-changes like, say, the 1928-49 Mosque/Amphitheatre definitives of Tunisia - is reproduced in full colour. Introductory pages, as before, include notes on condition, printing, sheet layout, expertisation markings, and generalised remarks on forgeries. The 8-page article 'Rise and Fall of the First French Colonial Empire' is not repeated from DOM-TOM, neither is the list of Omnibus sets, but historical notes on individual colonies are all present, correct and most helpful to the fluent French reader in sorting out, for instance, the intertwined history of Gabon, Congo and Cameroun, and the various toings and froings among Ivory Coast, Senegal and Guinea. Many maps are on the small side, with - for instance - just a third of an A5 page for the whole of AOF.

Sources

To its enduring credit, Dallay has consulted numerous and long-out-of-print French catalogues like Maury (c. 1970), the earlier and non-simplified Cérés (up to, say, 1976), and, most fruitfully of all, the Yvert Specialised of 1936 (now a collector's item in itself, either in its original form or as the short-lived Roger Koerber reprint). Michel may also have inspired the German-period listings for Cameroun and Togo. French specialist collectors were also consulted, but there seems little evidence of English-speaking participation - many varieties listed only in Gibbons or Scott have been passed over, and despite the recorded findings of Dudley Cobb and others, the only Cameroun 27-8-40 variety listed is the "comma for stop". The result is nonetheless a most valuable compendium of specialised information, including a raft of hitherto unsuspected varieties that will make all collectors scan with renewed vigour their albums, duplicate books and - until the vendors get wise - future exchange packets.

Scope

Coverage starts with the precursors, namely France or General Colonies used in each relevant territory. As with DOM-TOM, every stamp is illustrated, with (where necessary) a computer-generated postmark to remind us

what sort of thing to look for. Listings continue through to autonomy or independence: Cameroun and Togo add the German issues, and Madagascar the British and Norwegian. Airmails, whose colonial-period equivalents had been listed in DOM-TOM among the basic postage stamps, now conform to other French catalogues and are grouped after all the postage issues, followed by booklets, parcel post, precancels, *millésimes*, and postage dues (postage due *millésimes* appearing before the basic dues themselves). Miniature sheets (like the 1937 Colonial Exhibition) are listed next to the basic stamps they contain, as are de luxe proofs and *épreuves collectives*. *Blocs Spéciaux* are listed separately. There are very few Cinderellas this time, and no postal stationery. Panels beneath each basic stamp illustration bear information, where known, on date and purpose of issue, and quantities printed.

There is much here for postal historians. Every colony features periodic lists of **post offices** (with dates of opening, transfer and closure where known): those from the precursor period are priced, but (unlike the DOM-TOM volume) none later - they remain an invaluable reference, even so, for deciphering faint or incomplete strikes. Better still, **postage rates** are given in dated sequence for the whole colonial period: they are buried in the Algeria listings but seem to apply throughout the French Empire. They cover surface rates only, not airmail, but will still help you distinguish many a correctly franked cover from a philatelically inspired concoction.

Pricings

A lengthy preface claims each Dallay price to be not so much a fixed market price, more a basis for negotiation (for greater or lesser discount, depending *inter alia* on period of issue). Stamps are priced unmounted mint (from around 1892), mounted mint and used, with mark-ups for good centring and for early (used) pairs, strips and blocks. Best of all, stamps are also priced on cover. Used and on-cover prices assume contemporary cancellations (rather than philatelic usage years later): covers should be commercial, not philatelic. FDCs are not mentioned at all. There are premiums for higher values used alone on cover, while multiple frankings are calculated as in Gibbons, i.e. the quoted on-cover price for the best item, plus the normal used price for anything else. This information, though applying throughout the catalogue, is to be found, together with a single analysed example, in the Algeria listing.

The cheapest stamp price is stated to be €0.10, though nothing in this particular volume seems to be below €0.20. The cheapest covers (mostly from North Africa) are apparently €1.50 while the cheapest sub-Saharan Africa cover is probably the AOF 1947 6F, at €3. At the other extreme, the Ivory Coast Parcel Post 1F on 10c Type IX (total printed: just one!) is priced at €50,000; interestingly, the only known copy of the General Colonies Dubois 25c cancelled "Jacqueville - Côte d'Or d'Afrique" (one of many fascinating listed precursors) is priced at €5,000.

Prices, of course, reflect the French market. Only a very few issues (e.g. the Algeria 1944 CCSMPG set, and, oddly, just the top value - 10F - of Morocco's 1933 Airs) are priced higher used in Dallay than mint. (Gibbons' high

prices for even common used remain out of sync with every other stamp market and are wildly optimistic save for a minority of recognised scarcities.) Revealingly perhaps, a note on the 1893 'Tablet' issue for Bénin specifically mentions that used are much scarcer than mint but less in demand, and so are priced lower. Mounted mint are generally priced at around two-thirds unmounted: buyers and sellers on both sides of the Channel can draw their own conclusions.

Varieties

Lucky owners of the 1936 Yvert Specialised will recognise here many varieties ignored by Gibbons, Scott, Michel and the modern Yvert. Others – including, obviously, those post-1936 – may be new to everyone (try Mauritania, for instance). Selection is variable. In line with French market preferences, they favour printers' errors (double impression, printing on both sides, misplaced perfs, double or inverted overprints, unissued colours, etc) rather than later findings by philatelists (e.g. shades or changes of perf). Many varieties are illustrated, some (like the three types of Senegal 1914 pictorial centres) for the first time. Others, sadly – like the broken 'F' and narrow or inverted 'S's in Cameroun's 1916 *Occupation Française* sets, Morocco's "C" and "T" "*avec crochet*" on Blanc issues, or Mauritania's 1913 5c "*boucle fermé*" - are not.

Although the set itself is not typical of French Africa as a whole, the Congo 1900 pictorials listing is representative. The famous Panther-design "tusk" variety is listed and illustrated, but the Bakalois Woman "leaf" or "blades of grass" variety (hard to describe in words alone) is not – a great pity. Here too, given the known (and helpfully-supplied) sheet positions, it seems perverse to define and price a "normal-plus-both-varieties" se-tenant combination comprising positions 90-92 (in a sheet of 100 – work it out!), rather than the far more practical block of four (81-82+91-92) which, positions 81-2 and 90 all being "normal", would contain all the same varieties. Watermarks are shown as seen from the back of the stamp, clearly illustrated with the design showing through - but mysteriously, no two catalogues or magazine articles yet agree on the left/right tilt for "normal" vertical stamps, which makes reversed watermarks frustrating to identify. Dallay does not list them anyway, confining itself to inverted.

Still with Congo 1900, misplaced centres receive handsome mark-ups but the extent of misplacement is not specified; the later thin-paper printings are listed but the change of perf accompanying them is ignored; of the multitude of collectable shades, the only ones listed are on the 15c, 75c and 1F, plus the 4c error of colour and the rare 5F "*moutarde*" (oh, for a colour reference! – meanwhile, hang on to the pictures in your old Roumet/Behr auction catalogues). A 2F shade was known to the Yvert Specialised but is not here; neither are those on the 1c and 25c that Gibbons includes. Compliments to Dallay, however, for not only listing the total printing quantity of each variety, but also for reinstating the very good 5F "wrong watermark" which many other catalogues ignore.

The perfect catalogue?

So is Dallay already, or will it soon become, the essential French Colonies catalogue? No two collectors will ever

agree 100%, but to my mind this début edition contains an enormous amount to admire, and may – no, should – be bought without hesitation, before the march of e-technology puts an end to real books forever, and compels us philatelists to wear our eyes out staring at computer screens.

It does not yet displace all the competition. Impatient users might welcome some thumb-indexing. We appreciate that for modern catalogue-producers, extensive full-colour illustrations are the only commercial option: they certainly look attractive, but cannot always replace written colour-descriptions. This is potentially confusing in the Madagascar 1930 "*lilas ou violet*" varieties, since the "*lilas*" illustrations (the normals?) match the 1931 Expo 50c, there called "*violet*" – the truer "*violet*" 5F (without RF) only appears many pages later and is there unconfirmed in words. This particular listing could perhaps be rethought – for here as elsewhere, carefully described colours of "normal" stamps would be far more helpful to shade-seekers than simple repeats of the design caption, which is all Dallay often gives us.

Blocs spéciaux may be new to most collectors: these are not the familiar miniature sheets, nor collective proofs, but – for example – those single sheetlets combining the Tunisia 1954 100F and 200F Monastir Aïrs, or the Nature protection issues for AEF, AOF and Togo. Their listing is most welcome. They are briefly described, and a few Algerian ones illustrated - but captions for the others (lacking numbered cross-references to the component stamps) are too vague for precise identification.

In the absence of real specimens, computer-generated illustrations certainly remind you of what precursors to look for (like France used in Madagascar, 1892-5). Just occasionally, they may mislead: reproducing the same over-inked GAB-plus-dots lozenge on every General Colonies precursor may lead collectors to believe that such over-inking is a vital component of the genuine strike, and that copies without it must be faked, which I am sure is not the case. The 1902 0,01 to 0,15 surcharges of Madagascar have a misplaced comma variety at position 16, so *millésime* pairs not showing this variety, although illustrated, cannot strictly speaking exist.

Full marks to Dallay for illustrating the rare Gasfa and La Goulette Tunisia T-perfins, for its amusing comment on the Madagascar Zébus, and (still with Madagascar) for listing little-known gems like the unissued 1943-4 "*France Combattante*" surcharges, and sheetlets showing the 1946 pictorials se-tenant in alternative colours. Throughout the catalogue, Dallay is also to be congratulated for drawing attention to shades on the 1892 'Tablet' type (even though, as I remarked in my DOM-TOM review, some listed ones cannot exist and many unlisted ones most certainly do). Dallay is even more to be congratulated on listing the "half" wide as well as "fully" wide spacings on the 05 surcharges of 1912 - and here I must make an apology. In my DOM-TOM review, I deplored their omission, having stupidly looked for them only in the territories for which they do not exist (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion and New Caledonia). Where they do exist (Guyane and the component Comoros), they are in fact listed – and gratifyingly priced, too.

The treatment of other shades is variable. Somali Coast 1902 and 1903 add a sprinkling, but the 1915 set passes without comment (the ordinary and chalky printings are strikingly different, and the 1c ordinary alone exists in at least four clear shades). Dahomey's 1913 20c is listed in two shades on both papers (four varieties in all) but they may not all exist. Conversely, highly collectable shades on the AOF 1906 Faidherbe/Palms/Balay sets, which most members will have spotted and many may own, receive no mention at all. (In fact, I cannot recall any reference to them in print – anywhere, ever. Correct me, someone.) Equally good – or even better – shades can be collected on later issues like Senegal 1935 or AOF and Togo 1947 (plus perf changes for the last two), but the only ones of this era to be listed are Cameroun's 1946 reprints – possibly because they were already in Cérès.

A few oddities remain. Dallay repeats the old canard (long disproved by F&CPS members) that the 1946/7 3F60 values had no postal use, being included purely to round up the whole-set price to a convenient 100F. One unissued

item, the Mauritania 1940 1F50 red-brown, is priced mint, used and on cover! As in other catalogues, Madagascar's chalky paper 'Filanzane' varieties are listed, though since no collector seems ever to have handled one their existence must be doubted. There is no mention that the 1944 surcharges on Mauritania and Senegal were valid for use throughout AOF. Detailed description of forgeries would be impossibly lengthy – but the few generalised warnings seem arbitrarily chosen, and omit for instance the 1906 Balay high values of AOF perpetrated by Forbin. Few Cinderellas apparently exist: the 'German Occupation of Tunisia' is included, but not the Richelieu overprints on Mauritania – these might have been worth a footnote, even if not a listing.

Enough of carping. No catalogue will ever please everyone. Enough of praise, too – it would be unfair of me to extract any more plums from its well-filled pages. Go out and buy it instantly – and prepare for hours, days, weeks and months of pleasurable discovery. A splendid publication.

Michael Round

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Vichy in the Tropics: Pétain's National Revolution in Madagascar, Guadeloupe and Indochina

by Eric T Jennings; pub. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California, USA, 2001; ISBN 0-8047-4179-4 [acid-free paper]; price \$21.00.

This interesting book, written by an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Toronto, Canada, covers three case studies [albeit in academic language] of two former colonies and one *Département d'Outre-Mer*. Jennings' researches have taken him to libraries, institutes and archives in all three areas as well as in France and the United Kingdom. The consensus of this excellent study is that the rule of the Vichy regime brought about profound changes in the French colonial empire after World War II.

Their policy fostered and was instrumental in bringing nationalism to the fore, especially in the aftermath of the Second World War.

It is recommended for those members who wish to understand some of the policies that have shaped these colonies. I discovered this title amongst others on the web page of the Canadian French Historical Society, and obtained it via Abebooks.co.uk.

Colin Spong

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World War II in Colonial Africa; the Death Knell of Colonialism

by Richard E Osbourne; pub. Riebel-Roque Publishing Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, 2001; paperback with glossy cover, 8½ x 10¾ in. (American Quarto), 405 pp; ISBN 0-9628324-5-6; price \$22.95.

In the Introduction is summarized what this book covers. It tells two stories at the same time, firstly the history of the involvement of the entire continent of Africa in World War II and the build up beforehand, and secondly the beginning of the process of decolonisation after the war. For French Colonial collectors and others, the following Chapters will be of great interest:

Chapter 4: Europe goes to War: Africa goes to war (September 1939 - June 1940)

Chapter 7: The French Civil War in Africa (August 1940 - January 1941): The Vichy French vs the Free French

Chapter 8: All Africa (August 1940 - January 1941): The Other Conflicts in Africa

Chapter 12: All over the Continent (September - December 1941): Issues Aplenty

Chapter: 13: War & More War in Africa (January - September 1942): See-Saw battles in North Africa and an Allied Victory in Madagascar

Chapter 15: From Madagascar through "Torch" (September 1942 - May 1943): The End of Fighting in Africa.

Osbourne writes in a very easy style and combines history and facts and illustrates these with a number of maps and photographs within the text. A book that I am enjoying dipping into.

Colin Spong

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Lignes Africaines: Histoire aérophilatélique, Tome 1 Les défricheurs: 1911-1931

by Gérard Collot & Alain Cornu; pub. Éditions Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Châteaudun, 75009 Paris, France, 1999; hardback with laminated illustrated cover, 8½ x 12 in., 189pp.

I had the pleasure of talking over lunch with Gérard Collot at Philatex this year, as to when *Tome 2* would be published. He said that although they had completed the second volume, there were difficulties with finding a publisher, as philatelic books are not selling so well at the present time. This would be a great shame because the production of the first volume, that added flesh to the bare facts illustrated in Pierre Saulgrain's two volume work on "The 100 Years of *Poste Aérienne* in France and French Colonies" published in 1994 & 1996, has us all eagerly awaiting for the second volume.

This first volume [that incidentally is still available for those who have yet to obtain their copy] is indeed the bible for all those interested in French aerophilately. Its production is excellent with both colour and black & white illustrations printed on good paper, together with full details of each flight, including routes and details of when the mail was carried. It is a joy to use, and as a latecomer to aerophilately I have been inspired by great enthusiasm to mount up my material.

Colin Spong

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Books Noted

Histoire de la Poste dans le Morbihan, by Robert Bouvier, Bernard Le Montagner, Alain Revoy & Dominique Reynaud; 400 pp, 170 x 235mm; available from Liv'Éditions, 20 rue de Portz-en-Haie, 56320 Le Faouët; price 35€ + p&p. [Study of the cancellations of Le Morbihan up to the end of the 20th century, covering wide range of postal themes, including the creation of offices, the organisation of the forwarding and delivery of mail, staffing.]

L'Oblitération Mécanique en France, by Yvon Nouazé; pub. Fédération Française des Associations Philatéliques; 512 pp, 195 x 255mm; over 950 illustrations, nearly all full size; available from FFAP, 47 rue de Maubeuge, 75009 Paris; price 29€ + p&p. [Covers cancelling machines and their cachets from 1880 to 2005; all known machines are considered, including Daguin, International, Bickerdike, Columbia, Sylbe & Pondorf, Krag, Savava, Hansen, Pitney-Bowes; two new machines are identified, the Savava trials are recognised, dates of use have been considerably improved; three subjects are scrutinised in detail - the period 1939-1944, the Paris delivery machine marks, and the postmarking material of the postal cheque centres; technical data allows certain anomalies to be understood.]

Les guichets annexes en France, étude des timbres à date, by Patrick Lavenas; supplement to *Feuilles Marcophiles* n° 316; 153 pp; details from the Union Marcophile, 47 rue de Maubeuge, 75009 Paris; price 22,50€. [Modern postal history study of the *guichets annexes* or subsidiary post

offices in France, those dependent on a full post office; all *départements* covered except the TOM; lists the date stamps and cancelling machines of permanent and temporary subsidiary offices, as well as private subsidiary offices since their creation in the 1930s; much detailed information on the offices, and numerous reproductions of their cachets.]

Le Siège de Paris, by Jean-Claude Lettré; pub. Éditions Aramis, 18 route d'Annemasse, 74160 St Julien-en-Genevois; 256 pp in colour; available from Galerie Aramis, M. Lettré Jean-Claude, 20 bis chemin du Pessay, 74940 Annecy-le-Vieux; price 49€ + p&p. [Correspondence during the Siege of 1870-71; the story of *boules* and *ballons* and pigeons; life in Paris at the time; sacrifices made by those working for the postal services.]

Les Maîtres de Poste et le Transport Public en France 1700-1850, by Patrick Marchand; pub. Belin in the series "*Histoire et Société*"; price 24€. [Covers *poste aux chevaux*, *poste aux lettres et messageries*, *relais de poste*, in evolution of transport network; the *maître de poste*, in charge of the horses used in this transport system, disappears officially in 1873, overtaken by the railways.]

Catalogue des Timbres pour Colis Postaux d'Algérie, by Jacques Dudoy; A4 format; reproductions in colour; the price is now stated to be 43,50€. For other details see the notes on page 33 of Journal 239. [All types of stamps listed, including varieties.]

Maurice Tyler

Omission: The review of *La Poste en Moselle 1940-1945, Tome II* at the top of page 33 in the last Journal (No 239 of March 2006) should have been shown as having been submitted by Roy Reader, as indicated on the Contents page, of course. Apologies! - Ed.

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Bora Bora Post Office

In the photograph of Bora Bora Post Office on page 20 of Journal 239, the “O” of “OPT” stands for

In Bob Maddocks’ interesting article on Post Offices in Mali and French Polynesia he poses a question alongside the photograph of the Bora Bora Post Office, asking what

“Office”. OPT = Office des Postes et Télécommunications.

John Ray

the “O” in the initials “OPT” stands for. It is nothing as exotic as “Océanie” but simply “Office”, the full title of “OPT” being “l’Office des Postes et Télécommunications”.

Hilton Israelson

A Two Booklet Tale

Until recently the *Service Philatélique de la Poste* dispatched new issues - in my case definitive booklets - to subscribers every three months or so.

Some three, or maybe four, years ago La Poste decided, no doubt for sound economic reasons, that, at least as far as definitive booklets were concerned, one delivery a year was sufficient.

Although it is unlikely that specialist collectors of contemporary booklets rely on the *Service Philatélique* for their collections, those who are subscribers had a chance, with the 2005 crop, of reaping an unexpected benefit in the form of two “impossible” booklets:-

- “PARIS 2012” issued on 10.01.05. Printed between 12.10.04 and 28.02.05. Cylinder A. Dated 17.01.06.

- “JULES VERNE” issued on 28.05.05. Printed on 11.05.05 and 12.05.05. Cylinder A. Printed between

17.05.05 and 17.06.05 plus 06.10.05. Cylinder B. Dated 16.01.06.

Since La Poste opted for the annual dispatch of definitive booklets this, to my knowledge, is the first time that Périgueux has been obliged to reprint booklets and, in particular, those with covers which refer very clearly to events that took place the previous year, e.g. the centenary of Jules Verne’s death and the unsuccessful Parisian bid for the 2012 Olympic Games.

To be complete collectors will need two copies of these booklets, and since the 2006 edition will almost certainly prove to be something of a rarity the price will be somewhat higher than that of the original version.

References

SO.CO.CO.DA.MI Suppléments 103, August 2005, 104, October 2005, and 105, January 2006.



JULES VERNE
Six "Voyages
Extraordinaires"
au prix du timbre!

www.laposte.fr

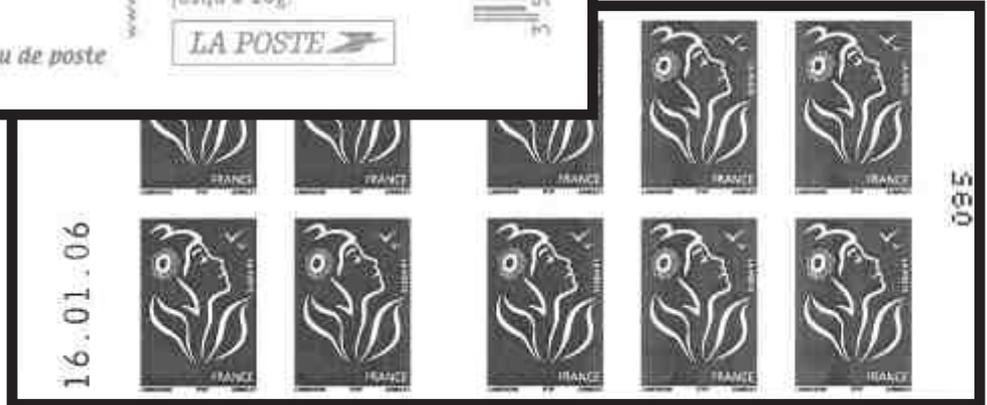
10 TIMBRES-POSTE
AUTOCOLLANTS
À VALIDITÉ
PERMANENTE

quelle que soit l'évolution
du tarif pour une lettre
jusqu'à 20g.

LA POSTE

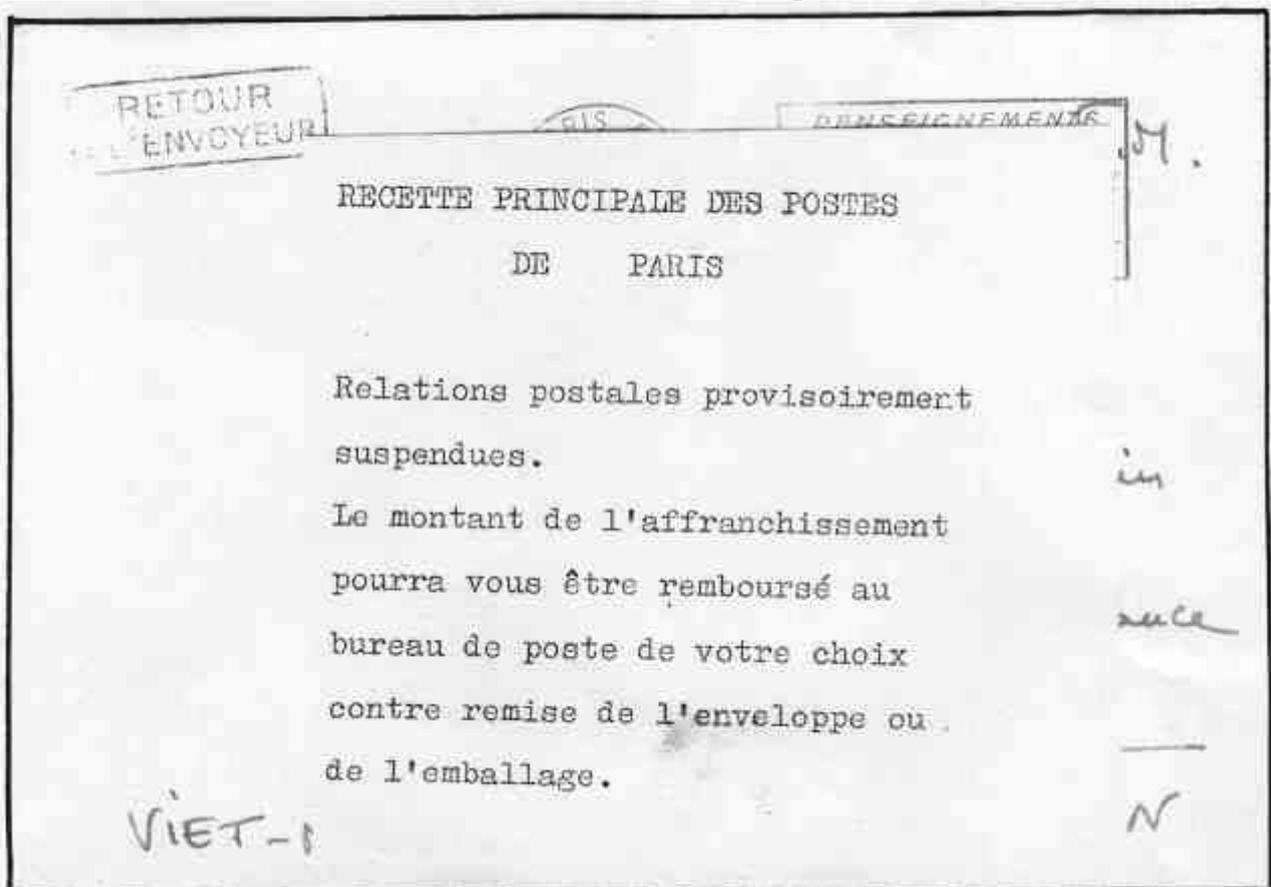
à découvrir dans votre bureau de poste

3 561 920 088 43 3



John Simmons

Service Suspended Label on Cover to Vietnam



This Vietnam item has a label that I have not seen before, in the sense that it is duplicated and not printed in the usual smaller form. This is probably because the date of posting was shortly after the North Vietnamese takeover in Saigon. The later printed label had an extra sentence of text. This label is very similar to the one issued at Libourne in connection with the problems of communicating with Chad in 1978.

The letter was posted free under military franchise in Paris in May 1975, and addressed to a person in the military mission in the French Embassy in Saigon. It did not get out of Paris as what remained of the South Vietnamese government surrendered unconditionally to North Vietnam and North Vietnamese troops entered Saigon. Postal communications were not possible with Saigon for some time afterwards.

Robert Johnson

French Post Office Regions 1933



This map appears on a page from the *Naval Intelligence Geographical Handbooks* produced by the British Government during the Second World War. France had four volumes, and this is taken from Volume 4: Ports and Communications. The map itself was, as the original caption indicates, based on one in the *Atlas de France*, published in Paris in 1933.

I know nothing of the importance or administration of French Postal Regions as compared with *Départements*, and would welcome any further information that members of the Society may be able to supply. One could guess, but that is not the same thing. I have not seen the map previously.

Robert Johnson

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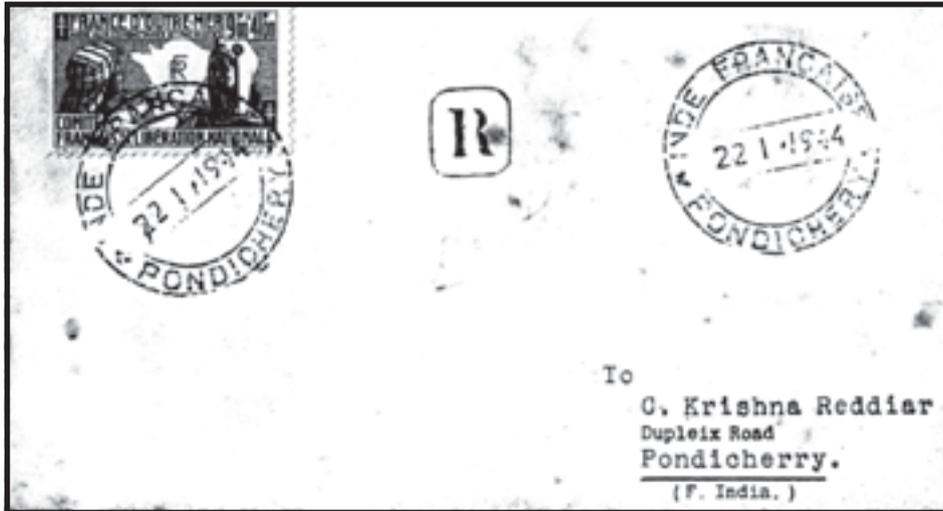
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Re-use of the Boxed Registration Handstamp



One further item (see articles in Journals 237 p 102 and 238 p 154) has been reported by our member James Moffat: Jim has a French India cover with a more rounded boxed 'R' similar, I believe, to those seen in Indo-China. What is interesting is that it is franked with a single value 9F + 41F

from the 1943 Aid to Resistance set, which shows that these stamps did eventually arrive at a number of colonies, although Jim thinks it is probably a philatelic usage.

The date is 22.01.44, the cachet is black, and the cover is from Pondicherry to a local address.

Colin Spong

Artwork for 1971 Laos Issues



Figure 1

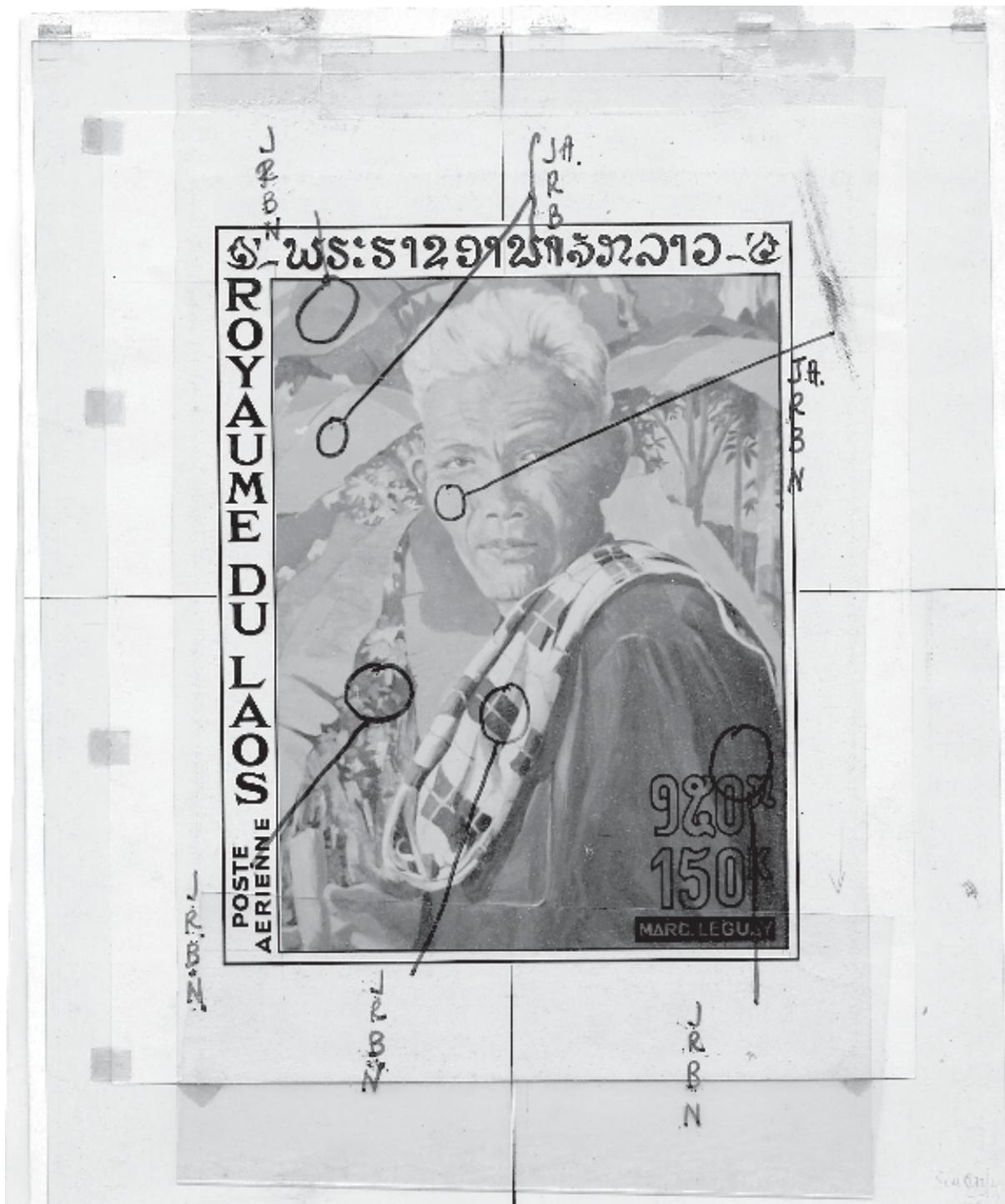


Figure 2

A non-member has enquired about items of artwork relating to two 1971 Laos issues. I have attempted to glean as much information about them as I can but would be interested to know any further details about them that members may be able to add.

The first item (Fig 1) is a coloured photograph of a watercolour depicting paddy fields painted by Marc Leguay whose signature appears in the bottom left hand corner. There is a blank paper overlay in preparation for the addition of inscriptions. Pencilled annotations on the card on which the photo is mounted state 'LAOS *Rizière en saison de pluie* 120k Marc Leguay (l'auteur) Unused design'. The back of the card also bears the annotation '1970 Dec

21 # C73, 308' (SG reference?). I believe this is the artwork for Laos SG 308 120k "Paddy Field in the Rainy Season" but, unfortunately, the catalogue which I possess does not illustrate the stamp and I cannot compare the design.

The second piece of artwork (Fig 2) consists of three parts, a coloured photograph of a painting depicting a village elder by Marc Leguay, a stuck down acetate with references J, JA, R, B and N (colour codes?) and a hinged acetate with the stamp inscriptions (name of country, value etc). The card on which the photo is mounted bears the pencilled annotation '1970 Dec 21 #C74, 309'. I assume that this relates to Laos SG 309 150k "Village Elder" but once again I do not have a catalogue illustration to refer to.

Mick Bister

A Philatelic Postcard

John Simmons



Cher ami,
 Votre envoi du 18 est arrivé à bon port. Merci beaucoup. Je
 verrai par Bollanchon avant de partir prochain. Pas de nou-
 vel envoi pour le moment car je suis à l'étranger par mon
 prochain livre sur les timbres français récents. Cette étude
 est très amusante. Plus ça va, plus y a de nouveautés - et plus
 cela! Les Français collectionnent les coins datés d'un jour
 toute une pingouine et naïve. Je leur indique le mélange
 "philatélique". Ils ont d'abord ouvert les yeux ébahis
 mais maintenant mon théorie révolutionnaire commence
 à avoir du succès. Le succès d'ailleurs l'on ne peut
 pas y voir, mais par les coins qui font la paix de l'Éti-
 lion. — Il y a déjà quelques années que j'ai "mis en
 marche" cela c'est en 1929 que j'ai commencé une première
 fois la collection B. en me basant sur les ouvrages anti-
 lection. Depuis cette année là, j'ai été en tête de la
 collection sur carte postale montrant l'évolution de l'Éti-
 lion. Mais cela sera le prochain plus complet et plus
 série.
 Sans doute que j'ai vu faire un grand nombre d'Éti-
 lionnaires.
 Bien cordialement,
 De Vinck

Between 18 September 1932⁽¹⁾ and 31 July 1937⁽²⁾ 50c *Paix* adhesives were quite often used as complementary values on 40c domestic postal stationery cards to serve the UPU ordinary postcard rate of 90c. Such cards are naturally of greater or lesser interest depending not only on their destination, postal and other marks, but also – if exceptionally – on the sender and/or addressee.

The card reproduced here – acquired in the Society's 4 February auction – is a typical example of this usage. Normally it would not merit a mention in the Journal but for the fact that the sender was the Baron de Vinck, philatelist and author of "*L'Impression des timbres français par les rotatives*"⁽³⁾ – still, 70 years later, the *coin daté* specialist's bible. Since de Vinck's correspondent, Paul de Smeth, was also a philatelist and author, it is by no means surprising that the card was "philatelic" too.

A translation of the message is given below.

"Nice 24.9.35

Dear friend,

Your missive of the 18th arrived safely. Thank you very much. I shan't see Bollanchon before next Sunday. No further missive for the time being because I'm taken up with my next book on current French stamps. This study is very amusing because everything in it is new and I like that. The French collect dated corner blocks in an utterly empirical and naïve way. I provide them with the "philatelic" method. At first they seemed very surprised, but now my revolutionary theories are beginning to have some success. The book is actually being launched not by Yvert but by friends who are covering the cost of publication. It's already

Continued on page 64

Postal Sector 390

Roy Reader

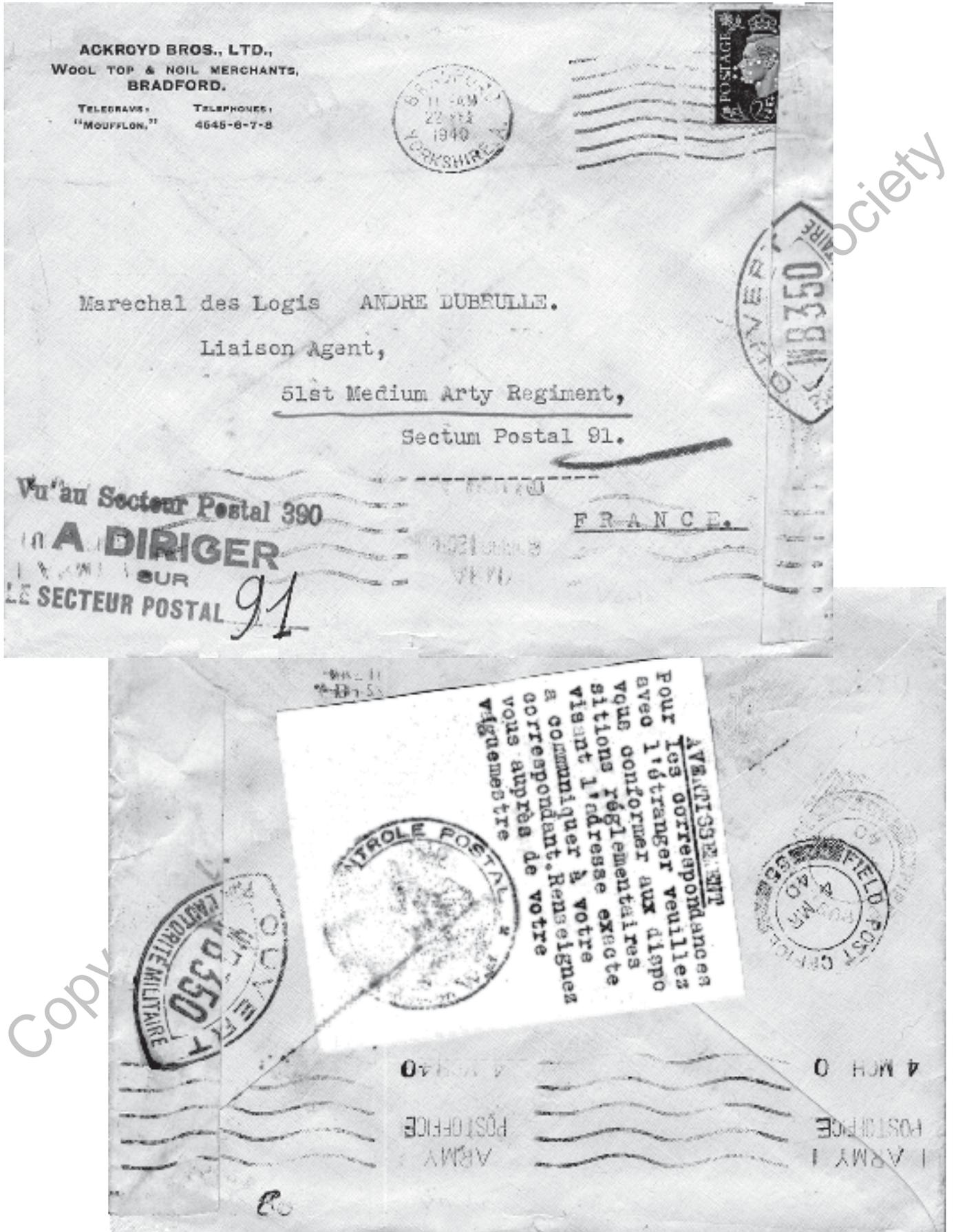


Figure 1

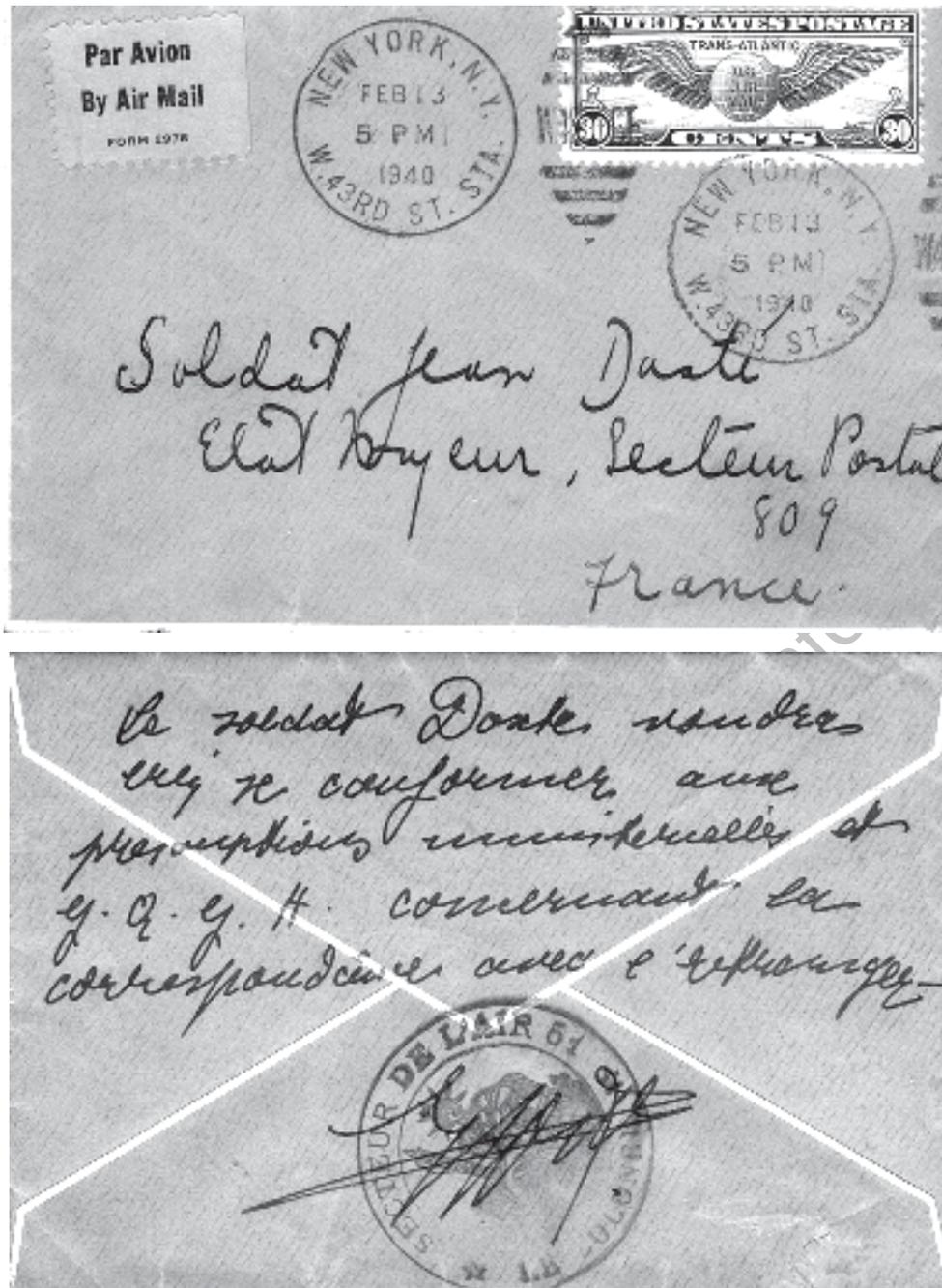


Figure 2

This is a short addendum to my articles about Postal Sector 390, which French soldiers in 1939-40 had to give their correspondents abroad as their return address (see Journal 192 page 68 and Journal 231 page 15). For security reasons they were forbidden to reveal their real postal sector numbers. Mail coming into France addressed to soldiers at their real postal sector numbers often had a warning notice stuck onto it to warn them to give Postal Sector 390 as their return address in future.

Figure 1 shows an example of one such warning notice to add to the three already illustrated in my previous articles. This one, probably duplicated rather than typed, was stuck on the back of a cover sent from Bradford in England to a sergeant at Postal Sector 91. It is headed 'AVERTISSEMENT' (WARNING) and reads (with one hyphen and one accent missing) 'Pour les correspondances avec l'étranger veuillez vous conformer aux dispositions réglementaires visant l'adresse exacte à communiquer à

vos correspondants. Renseignez vous auprès de votre vaguemestre' (For correspondence with abroad, please adhere to the prescribed arrangements relating to the correct address to give to your correspondent. See your post orderly for information'). This warning notice was applied by French Censor Office WB at Calais,* which then struck it with its circular handstamp. The cover was

* The location of Censor Office WB remains queried in listings of the French censor offices of the period. The office must, however, have been located at Calais, the port used by ships carrying cross-Channel mail to and from Dover and Folkestone. None of the other frontier censor offices could have been at Calais, as they have all been identified as located elsewhere, for example, WA at Le Havre and WC at Dunkirk. In addition, Censor Office WB could not have been at Dieppe instead of Calais, as no frontier censor office was needed at Dieppe following the suspension of the Newhaven-Dieppe mail service for the period of the war.

automatically sent to Central Army Office 1, which followed normal routine and stamped it with a redirection mark to indicate somewhat superfluously that the cover was destined for Postal Sector 91. This postal sector number was used by the French Mission attached to the British Army in France. The cover therefore travelled through British Army Post Office 1C, perhaps at Amiens, and then on to British Field Post Office 55 for final delivery to its addressee, Sergeant Dubrulle, who could then read the latest news from Yorkshire as well as the little message from Calais.

Figure 2, on the other hand, shows a cover that, though bearing the addressee's real postal sector number, did not have a warning notice stuck onto it. It came into France from the United States without being examined by any French censor office. It was addressed to a French airman at Postal Sector 809, which was used by the Headquarters of Air Cooperation Forces and Ground Anti-aircraft Forces on the North-East Front. The irregularity was not, however, to be ignored. Once the cover arrived at the Headquarters, it soon found itself the recipient of a curt note written in red ink on its back: 'Le soldat Dasté voudra bien se conformer aux prescriptions ministérielles et G.Q.G.A.

concernant la correspondance avec l'étranger' (A.C. Dasté will kindly comply with ministerial and Air Force G.H.Q. instructions concerning correspondence with abroad). Aircraftman Dasté no doubt ensured he did not err a second time.

Sources and References

- 'Les Commissions de Censure au cours des Hostilités 1939/1940', in *Bulletin* N° 24 (February 1992) of the Club Marcophile de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale [locations of censor offices excluding that of WB].
- Gould, R W, and Proud, E B, *History of the British Army Postal Service*, vol 3 (Proud Bailey, Heathfield?, 1982?) [APO 1C possibly at Amiens].
- Hosking, Roger, and Cockrill, Philip, *Cross-Channel & North Sea Shipping Services*, Part II (Cockrill, Newbury, n.d. [1990?]) [cross-Channel mail services].
- L'Huillier, A., 'La Poste Militaire aux Armées - 1939-40', in *Les Feuilles Marcophiles* N° 177, 3rd Quarter 1969 (Union Marcophile) [designations of postal sector numbers].

A Philatelic Postcard

Continued from page 61

some years since I was bitten by the Mexico bug because I first put the B collection in order, with the help of American books, in 1929. In that year I placed at the beginning of the collection a coloured map showing the position of all the offices, but your book is much more complete and clearer. I'll probably send you another missive within a week.

Regards,

de Vinck."

Notes

- (1) 18 September 1932 - 50c Paix - 1st day of issue.
- (2) 31 July 1937 - Last day of 90c UPU postcard rate.
- (3) The first edition was dated September 1935. De Vinck's card was written and posted on 24.09.35.

31 March 2006 was the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the *SOciété des Collectionneurs de COins DATés et Millésimes*. In all SO.CO.CO.DA.MI publications the Baron de Vinck is always mentioned as the *Président d'honneur*.

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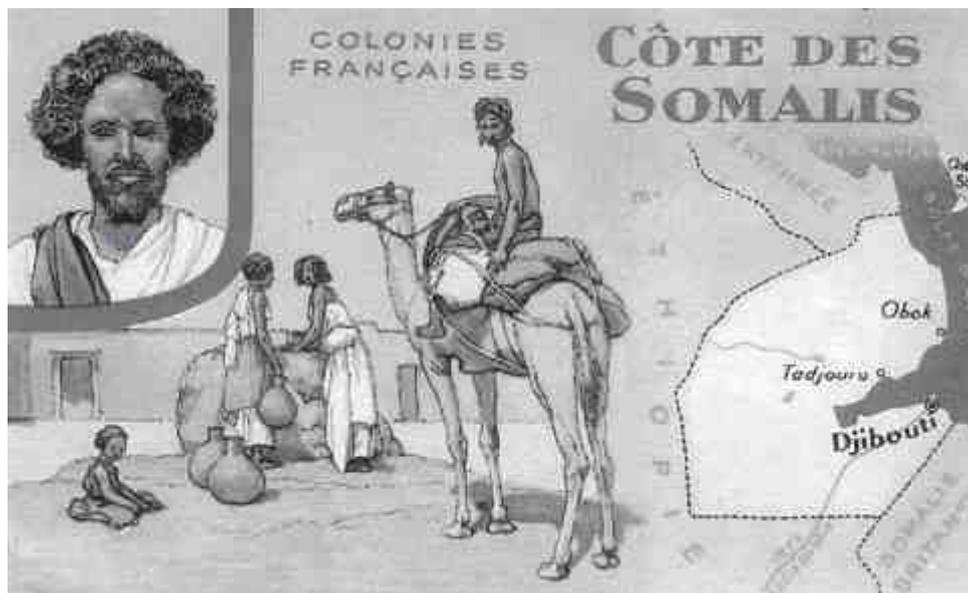
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SOCIETY MEETINGS

LONDON MEETING OF 25 FEBRUARY 2006

Mick Bister: French Somali Coast

Mick first gave a short description of the territory, and outlined its political history from the development of port facilities at Obock from 1862, its establishment as a colony in 1883, the development of the port of Djibouti from 1888, and the amalgamation of both administrations and the surrounding protectorates into the French Somali Coast in 1896. In 1958 the colony became an Overseas French Territory, and in 1967 changed its name to the French Territory of the Afars and Issas, finally obtaining full independence in 1977 as the Republic of Djibouti.



The display began with a view of Obock published in 1886, although the Obock office had opened in 1884 using Dubois' Commerce design. As a result of speculation on the differing exchange rates in the colonies, post offices had to overprint their stocks with the name of the colony, and Obock obliged in 1892. Later that year Dubois' Commerce and Navigation issue was supplied, and we saw an example of the 1F value on cover to Ethiopia and a selection of Fournier forgeries. Then came Obock's infamous imperforate pictorials of warriors and camel riders with simulated perforation in rectangular and triangular formats, and postal stationery (with a 25c envelope to Switzerland). After the transfer of administration to Djibouti, a post office opened there in 1893 and used Obock issues overprinted DJ or Djibouti. These were followed by Djibouti pictorials in similar formats (this time triangular and lozenge shaped for the higher values) that were also used for fiscal purposes. Inadequate supplies of lower values led to the frequent overprinting of stamps with new values and, following the closure of the Obock office, the use of bisects (with an example of one on a postcard to France in 1901). A new 5c value was printed in 1902, but none actually reached the colony.

A new engraved series appeared, depicting a mosque and warriors, with the new name of the Côte Française des Somalis, printed by Chassepot and later by Wittman. The stamps lacked quality control, and during 1903 and 1904 stamps even appeared on the market with inverted centres, incorrect colours, imperf etc, although these were clandestine printings by a Wittman employee. One of the most unusual was the horizontal vignette of the 15c value rotated 90° and printed within the vertical frame of the 25c value – an example was shown of a pair of 50c imperf on a registered letter to Paris. In ending the scandal, the PTT

modified the designs and printed a new typo set in 1909. A new set of pictorials came in 1915, but inflation brought a multitude of changes in postal rates and stamps had to be overprinted before new values could be supplied. Usage shown included a First Flight to Ethiopia in 1929, a 1930 letter to Aden camp, a 1931 letter from a Dutch vessel to Java, a 1934 Money Order to Corsica, and an early example of an Ala Littoria airmail to Greece.

The next series was issued in 1939, and the majority of examples are to be found on wartime airmail, especially to France during the Djibouti blockade in 1941-42, when the blockade runners flew predominantly in Amiot aircraft and a set fee of 1F was charged. Mail to Somali evacuees in Madagascar was normally flown to Marseille and then to Dakar where it was shipped to Tananarive, taking 3 months. One cover shown was taken by sea by a tanker transporting wounded to Madagascar which slipped through the blockade in just 10 days. During the war some pro-Vichy issues were printed for use in the French Somali Coast, but none was actually delivered – a few examples were shown cto. The colony declared its allegiance to the Free French movement in December 1942, and stamps were locally overprinted *France Libre*, though few copies of the 10F Djibouti Port were available. Inter-colonial flights were re-established in 1943, and we saw a cover with *France Libre* issues to Beirut flown by the Free French *Lignes Aériennes Militaires*. Printings were made in London of Edmond Dulac's design for the colony and shipped in 1943, but few values tallied with the actual rates required: we saw an example of a Dulac issue on a 1945 censored cover to Aden.

Mick was thanked for a very clear and well illustrated exposition of this interesting colony.

MST/MLB

SCOTTISH GROUP MEETING OF 4 MARCH 2006

Jim Moffat: Stamps of Madagascar and the Comoro Islands

David Hogarth: Internment Camp Mail 1939-1942

Mavis Pavey: *La Famille Bernhardt*

Jim Moffat first showed the provisional and Group definitives of Diego-Suarez, Nossi-Bé and Ste Marie (1890-94), with examples of postal stationery. The display continued with the provisional and overprinted French stamps for the 7 post offices opened on the island in the 1880s, an Expeditionary Force lettercard of 1895, some British Inland Mail stamps, and the Group definitive issues of 1896-99 and 1900-06 when Madagascar had become a French colony, including examples of the emergency surcharges of 1902 and a bisect of 1904. There followed 2 stampless covers of 1915 and 1934, the 1900 Zebu recess printed set with shades, the 1912 surcharges to liquidise stocks of earlier stamps, the 1921 provisionals and a selection of postmarks.

Then came the complete range of 1922-32 definitives, the 1930-38 pictorials with shades, the General Gallieni recess and photo. issues and the Jean Laborde series. Further frames contained Vichy definitives, *FRANCE LIBRE* overprints, Dulac London issues, the 1946 Vaugirard photo. set, the commemorative and special issues from 1915 (Red Cross) to 1957 (Native Plants), and airmail stamps of 1935-41. The final frames included Postage Due issues, the stamps of the autonomous République Malgache 1958-60, a selection of covers and stamps from the independent Madagascar, the stamp issues of Anjouan, Grande Comore, Mayotte and Mohéli 1892-1907, the Comoro Archipelago 1950-74, Comoro airmails, postage due and an advertising postcard, and some dubious *ETAT COMORIEN* overprints.

Next, **David Hogarth** showed us Internment Camp Mail 1939-1942. The display began with material from Spanish Refugee beach camps including 2 postcards from a contemporary series and mail from Argelès-sur-Mer. He told us of 6 camps, each with a variety of cachets and cancellations. The display led onto the Spanish Workers Companies (CTEs), and showed, amongst other items, a Certificate of Freedom. There was material from the Camp de Gurs: photographs, letters and cards with camp cancellations: both incoming and outgoing and censor

marks. One envelope going into the camp was turned inside out and reused, addressed to SERES in Paris, both sides have copies of the 90c 'Peace' with 'F' overprint.

There was correspondence from an Austrian internee and his declaration of death. David next explained the extensive correspondence relating to Albert Stiefel, from the Sarre, probably a merchant, later called a Jew: covering the camps of St Cyprien, Les Milles, Le Vernet, Gurs, Rivesaltes and Noé. In August 1942 he was sent on convoy n° 21 to Drancy, a holding camp before transportation to Auschwitz. The display moved on to the LVF, showing the Bear sheet, stamps, a cover from Russia censored Ae, and postcards. Then came mail from the St Nazaire Pocket showing a variety of cancellations and cachets on covers. A short section on the 'Ile de France' followed this, explaining and illustrating catapult mail, mail from the inaugural flight and other transatlantic mail from the 'Île de France'. The display ended with the 2005 Olympic Games miniature sheet from TAAF.

As time permitted, **Mavis Pavey** showed sheets entitled '*La Famille Bernhardt*' and told the story that she had assumed from the covers. Father Henri, a Swiss Jew, who lived and worked in Strasbourg, was married to a French woman, and they had a son, Eric a stamp collector, Henri had covers, mostly at correct postal rates, of the early charity issues. A couple of parcel cards put Eric studying engineering in Switzerland and, later, covers were addressed to him at work in Calcutta. 1939 saw Henri and his wife settled in Switzerland and receiving mail from, presumably, her relatives in France. These carried the then new commemorative issues or commemorative cancellations. One cover carried the censor mark 'Al', passed unopened from Lyon; another, a registered item, had been opened and it showed the relevant marks. The last letter was dated 1952.

8 members attended the meeting, with 3 apologies for absence. Members agreed to hold further meetings in October, March and May, suggesting displays from 2 members and an invited guest.

MP

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 11 MARCH 2006

Members' Choice

This All Day Meeting was held in the Board Room of the Leeds General Infirmary. Present: Robert Barnes, Steve Ellis, Alan Goude, Bernard Lucas, Peter Maybury, Tony Shepherd, Paul Watkins, and guests Martin Cusworth and Ronnie Shires. Apologies: G E Barker, K Collard, S and J Holder, K Howitt, M. Meadowcroft, J Morton, P Rooke, B Sharp, P Stockton, R and Y Wheatley, J Whiteside, A Wood.

Following a welcome cup of coffee or tea, and biscuits, the morning session commenced with a major display of Air France and the South American routes, presented by **Martin Cusworth** of the Society of Postal Historians. Following a comprehensive history of the enterprise we were treated to some rare and fascinating material relating to pioneering aviators, the early Aéropostale pilots, exploratory survey flights, routes, crash covers, and publicity

cards. With the first full airmail crossing of the Atlantic in 1936 we were shown ephemera, and unusual origin and destination mail. The first attempts to cross the Andes were well covered with the survey of June 1929, delayed mail, followed by signed covers, and a study of GB Edward VIII rates to Brazil, printed paper rates and finally the resumed services in June 1944 following WWII.

Recommencing at 1.30pm following a convivial lunch in a nearby Italian restaurant, **Steve Ellis** kept us awake with one of his new ventures, WWI Red Cross hospitals; following this with a more familiar theme, maritime mail between Portugal and England during the Napoleonic War period. **Bernard Lucas** treated us to a further part of his revenue collection, this time with stamps and documents relating to Dimensions. **Robert Barnes** produced a couple of items with queries about the rates and contents thereof, then **Ronnie Shires** treated us to a lovely display of French Oceania, commencing with three early missionary letters

to England. Then followed by the overprinted stamp issues, Fournier forgeries and facsimiles produced for the 1900 Exhibition. **Tony Shepherd** maintained the theme in his inimitable way with a display of material from the 1908 Franco-British Exhibition, typically culminating with an advertising card for Josephine Baker at the Folies Bergères.

Paul Watkins once again produced a diverse selection of letters, covers and cards from the period of WWII, and followed this with some unusual items from his Bordeaux collection, which we are told is now being written up. **Alan Goude** produced a display of Martinique with a look at the airmail routes and rates from 1935, some censored letters, stamps and covers. The final display of the day was down to **Peter Maybury** who produced a selection of 19C maritime mail from the Mediterranean area, covering the local steamship as well as the more well known *paquebot* services, culminating with the feeder lines from Greece and the Black Sea ports to Constantinople.

JPM

SOCIETY'S 30th ANNUAL PHILATELIC WEEKEND 24-26 MARCH 2006

44 members together with their guests attended the Society's Annual Weekend at the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Friday

After dinner on the first evening the joint Organisers for the weekend, **Chris Hitchen** and **Peter Kelly**, welcomed those attending and introduced the usual impromptu session of short displays. **John Mayne** started with a variety of Togo and Dahomey items; **Peter Maybury** showed some maritime mail from French mailboats on the South American routes, and items from the Crimea; **John West** had an interesting cover from Japan with a French stamp and postmarks; **Jeremy Martin** presented an 1874 map of the Gold Coast, with 1897-8 covers from expeditions exploring the Gold Coast and Ivory Coast area; **Graham Lenton** had acquired a 2005 cover from St Argentan to the UK that had been mis-sent to Thailand; **Ron Wood** showed some French India material including a Messagers Maritimes advertising poster, some letters patent of the East India Company, and some experimental flights; **Skanda Vaitilingam** displayed some French airmail items, involving air meetings, luggage labels and a postcard; **Rodney Dean** concentrated on church reforms of the Revolution, with postal information from parliamentary archives, and engravings of Upper Guinea; **John Parmenter** had some UPU books sent out to national post offices, a catalogue of post office material from 1940 onwards, and some airmail surcharges; **David Lamb** produced the Franco-US Friendship stamp issued in 1949, which had some strange features; and **Prue Henderson** showed railway marks and postcards of stations.

Saturday

On Saturday morning **Peter Kelly** gave his Presidential Display, entitled "*Un voyage hétéroclite parmi les types Sage*". The display started with an introduction to the principal date stamps used during the *Type Sage* period 1876-1900,

and included details of the dimensions and particularities of types 15, 16, 17 and 18. Mixed frankings with Sage and Cérés issues were explored, and from 1880 the trial use of duplex cancellers such as Daguin and Bickerdyke machines. Paris-1, Place de la Bourse, the largest Paris office after the *Recette Principale*, experimented with 7 different cancellers, all of a strange design, between 1880 and 1889. The marks of the *Facteurs Boîtiers*, sub-agents of the post office attached to a *Recette*, with their dotted outer ring were then detailed, and types 23, 24, 25 and Laurier type B were all illustrated; and we moved into the realm of the *Bureaux et Recettes Auxiliaires* which in 1895 developed into the *Recettes Urbaines et Rurales*, and the special treatment of local and rural mail. Railways produced the *convoyeur-station* and *convoyeur-ligne* handstamps, and different routes between the termini of secondary railway lines were illustrated, with station marks including buffets. We then moved on to *Recettes Principales* in the provinces, some of which used the alternative title of *Central* and others simply the name of the town; the occasional use here of *départ* and *arrivée* date stamps was indicated. The next frames in the display were devoted to registered mail in the provinces using handstamps such as *Guichet*, *Chargement*, *Affranchissement*, and *Articles d'Argent*; and new UPU inspired products such as the pneumatic mail service, *mandats*, *valeurs à recouvrer*, *bulletins de conversation*, *expres* mail, the *livret d'identité postal*, and *envois contre remboursement*. Rates for postcards were discussed in some detail, as they offered many opportunities for muddle and misunderstanding; and military manoeuvres and camps together with international frontier mail were the final items represented.

After a break for coffee **John Mayne** displayed Togo. Having explained that only 59,713 German issues were overprinted for French use, he showed nine covers with these issues. Included were a postcard sent by registered post, and registered mail to a French officer at Senegal

with the Sansane Mangu issues. Unstamped mail was followed by Dahomey issues used on cover and overprinted German postal stationery. Both overprinted Dahomey issues were seen on cover, followed by overprinted Dahomey postal stationery. The display closed with two items confirming that mail was censored by the military authority at Anecho.

Mick Bister displayed the French Somali Coast. His exhibit covered the first half of the material he had displayed in London at the end of February, and is described in detail in the report on that meeting given on page 65 of this Journal.

The display by **Barrie Jay** gave a British perspective on mail relating to the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815). During this time letters passed between Britain and France, and the way these letters travelled can be divided into four patterns: by private ship or smuggled (1793-1801); via Hamburg by the arrangement between France and Thurn & Taxis (1803-1806); by private ship or smuggled (1807-1813); and by a loose arrangement between ships and the French post (100 Days). Examples were shown of these various methods of carriage. The display also contained several campaign letters and letters to and from prisoners of war, with particular emphasis on those showing interesting British handstamps or contents.

The competitions were judged during the lunch interval, although there were disappointingly very few entries this year. At the beginning of the afternoon **Trevor Davis** gave a short critique of the entries and announced the following winners:

Alvey Cup (postal history): "London Waybill Markings on Mail to France 1863-56" by **Alan Wood**;

Levett Trophy (philately): "The Red Cross in the French Colonies 1914-18" by **John West**;

Jubilee Salver (miscellaneous): "The 1F50 + 50c Pétain *Secours National* issue" by **Mick Bister**.

There were no entries for the Filmer Shield (adhesives and their usages).

The Literature Competition had been judged previously (see page 38 for full details), and the trophy was awarded to **David Hogarth** for "Albert Stiefel - a Name from History".

The displays then continued with **Maurice Tyler** showing an abbreviated version of his presidential display in London from 18 months ago. This outlined many of the less usual handstamps employed by the military postal services during World War I, such as *cachets de manœuvres*, *gares de rassemblement*, the *Bureau Central Militaire* in Paris, *bureaux-frontière*, *gares régulatrices*, and *poste aux armées* marks. These are all explained in greater detail in the report of the London meeting on 30 October 2004 (Journal 234, page 166).

Robert Abensur showed Alsace-Lorraine 1918-1920. He spoke about the reintroduction of French postal rates into the province, with examples of mail within the area, mail to France, to Germany, and to other places abroad. Items displayed included registered mail, *exprès* mail, printed matter, business papers, newspapers, samples, *contre remboursement*, *déclaration de valeur*, *colis postaux*, *mandats*, and *recouvrements*.

In displaying West African airmails **Barbara Priddy** showed how Dakar continued to thrive from 1945 onwards. European airlines such as SAS and Alitalia used it as a refuelling stop, and in the jet age it was a profitable destination in its own right. The display traced the introduction of ever larger and faster aircraft up to Concorde and Airbus, including a few crashes along the way.

Brigitte Abensur displayed the *Petite Poste* of Bordeaux, where local correspondence only was received by the postmen in the town. Examples of rates and postal marks were seen for letters within Bordeaux or to and from the suburbs, and - more rarely - from the suburbs to the suburbs, as well as to and from the colonies or Portugal.

After the tea break **Peter Maybury** displayed Algeria 1830-1925, first giving a preamble of the history of the country. His exhibits started with a couple of Ancien Régime letters concerning slaves held by the Regent of Algiers, the first prepaid from Toulouse to Algiers, sent at the particular rate of Toulouse, the second a heavy letter from Algiers to Elboeuf, with a 4 sols *voie de mer*. Then came military mail to and from the French invasion forces in the early 1830s, and then the development of the system, with military mail from the expeditions to the Southern Oases, Morocco and WWI, all leading to the first issue of stamps for the territory, these being the overprinted issues of France in 1924-25.

Derek Richardson then displayed anti-TB stamps after 1945, showing a complete run of the ten-stamp booklets and large-format "window sticker" stamps put on sale annually to raise money for research into tuberculosis and, later, asthma and tobacco-related illnesses. It was interesting to trace the evolution of stamp printing from plain to multi-coloured.

Colin Spong had decided to show the Dulac issues of Madagascar, particularly as he had managed to acquire some Madagascar colour trials and *épreuve de luxe* sheets at the Paris Autumn Salon. The Dulac proof sheets are held by the British Postal Museum & Archive, and he had through their good offices obtained a magazine photograph, and copies of colonial proof sheets for Cameroun, Madagascar and Réunion, some of which he displayed together with the Madagascar 1943 postage values.

Following dinner in the evening, a second session of short impromptu displays took its traditional course. **John West** showed CFA overprints of Réunion; **George Barker** showed the 20c Napoleon imperf; **Chris Hitchen** had brought 4 newspapers of 1797 with fiscal tax, and a long letter of 1802; **Mavis Pavey** displayed some undated vignettes from the French Philatelic Association; **Peter Stockton** illustrated the *départements conquis*, WWI and the occupation of the Rhineland; **Ashley Lawrence** showed a *Type Duval* 60c *chiffre-taxe* perforated, in a bistre colour; **Ron Wood** had some stories and a query about French India from the 1920s and 1930s; **Maurice Tyler** displayed some WWI emergency paper money from different French towns; **Trevor Davis** had brought some Lot-et-Garonne material, including WWI hospital cachets and picture postcards; **Bob Paterson** illustrated the postal usage of Pétain head definitives; **John Hammonds** dealt with aviation meetings, with vignettes and essays, including 1946 and 1963; **Alan**



Figure 1
(see report of display by Trevor Davis)

Wood had a query about the Bordeaux *Petite Poste*, and publicised a book on the postal history of Salisbury; and **Skanda Vaitilingam** told a story about a man up a coconut tree.

Other members had items to display, so in a second round we continued with **Paul Watkins** and a miscellany of material including the 1855 and 1875 exhibitions, a Napoleonic letter, attempts to send mail from GB to France in WWII, and Free French items; **Peter Kelly** showed postcards with an advertising message; **Cynthia Dean** had brought some Tuck postcards with French connections; **Steve Ellis** chose the French connections of the trans-Atlantic sea post office service; **Lesley Marley** displayed cards, covers and stamps concerning Prince Albert I^{er} of Monaco and the Oceanographic Museum established by him; **Jeremy Martin** showed a selection of French postcards taken from a family collection; and **Barbara Priddy** gave us a reminder of how Dakar in the 1920s and 1930s gained its pre-eminent position as a jumping off point for the South Atlantic crossing and for routes into the hinterland.

Sunday

On the Sunday morning longer displays resumed, with **George Barker** presenting the Pasteur issue. We learnt that stamps showing the scientist Louis Pasteur first appeared on 25 May 1923 to celebrate the centenary of his birth. They were issued principally for three overseas tariffs, viz. printed matter (green stamp), postcards (red) and the basic letter rate (blue). Hence the first three stamps were 10c green, 30c red and 50c blue. Inflation was rampant and five different tariffs ensued in the period up to August 1926, after which there was relative stability until after the last Pasteur issue in 1932. Thus we saw proof material, stamps and usages from all five tariffs, during which the same ratio of 10 : 30 : 50 was maintained for the various stamps. Sheet, booklet and coil stamps, plus postal stationery, were included.

He was followed by **John Sussex** who displayed TAAF material, much of it originally from large collections bought at auction and developed into an exhibit suitable for social philately (the Open Class) in which 25-50% comprised non-philatelic subjects. The items we were shown included telephone cards, cut-outs, postcards and designs; and covered topics such as the discovery and development of the area, and the local flora and fauna (especially penguins), from the 1950s onwards.

Alan Wood displayed the Empire imperforate issue of 1853-62. He explained that, following the *coup d'état* of 2 December 1851 and the plebiscite of 21 November 1852, Louis Napoleon was proclaimed Emperor Napoleon III of the 2nd Empire. New stamps were required and, with a change of legend from *REPUB* to *EMPIRE* and the omission of Monsieur Barre's initial from beneath the neck, a new issue was typographically printed in sheets of 300 in two panes of 150. All the printings were from Die I, except that a second die was employed for printing all the 1c stamps and all plates of the 10c and 20c after December 1860. The values produced from 1853 to 1862 were 1c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 25c, 40c, 80c and 1F. The 20c, 80c and 1F occur *tête-bêche*, the 20c only being known mint.

Ashley Lawrence marked the centenary of the Sower booklet, first issued on 19 November 1906 priced at 2F05 for 20 x 10c stamps. The 5c surcharge per booklet was removed in 1910, the cover price after the Great War increased to 5F (for 20 x 25c stamps) and 10F (for 20 x 50c stamps), and the flat press typography was supplanted by rotary presses in 1929. Until 1922 the covers were provided by the P et T, but then printing was entrusted to Carlos Courmont and in 1937 to Delrieu, allowing private advertising to appear, first on the covers and later on the stamp margins. Ashley's display included an example of the first Sower booklet of 1906, GC paper during WWI,



Figure 2
(see report of display by Trevor Davis)

spécimen and *annulé* overprints, the rare booklet of 30 x 10c red Sower stamps issued in 1919, Phéna and Minéraline booklets, the privately printed *Le Philopode* booklets, and a variety of interesting advertisements. The display ended with the “Day of the Stamp” Sower booklet of 1996, and that celebrating the centenary of *La Semeuse* on stamp from 2003.

Ian McQueen showed a Revolutionary period letter of 1796 in which an inspector was requiring the availability and market prices of oats, beans and other produce. Then came airmail covers, including directional handstamps for Toulouse, some Aéropostale and Air France items, and an official German *Feldpost* envelope to Vienna from the head airpost office in Paris during the Occupation.

After the coffee break, **John Hammonds** displayed airmails from North and West Africa. He started with demonstration flights in Algeria in 1909 and experimental flights between France and Algeria after WWI that culminated in a regular service between Marseille and Algiers in 1928. Long distance flights from France to various places in Africa and Madagascar also acted as survey flights of the countries flown over. There were, however, three problems that delayed the establishment of direct flights to Madagascar: the Sahara, overflying the Belgian Congo, and lack of money. In 1929 the two companies Air Afrique and Aéropostale were brought together to form the Compagnie Transafricaine d'Aviation for this route. Financial difficulties of Aéropostale in 1931 led eventually to the reforming of Air Afrique in 1934. Mail from Madagascar to France mainly followed a sea route, but made use of the Wilson Airways service to Nairobi and the Imperial Airways South African service. The Compagnie Générale Transsaharienne started an air service between Algeria and Niger in 1934, but only until Air Afrique began a regular service in 1935. The Belgian Congo problem was solved by the Franco-Belgian Convention of 1931 under

which it was agreed that the service would be shared with Sabena, flying different routes to Brazzaville. Régie Malgache had been founded for operations within Madagascar and for the route to France, but its activities in Africa were taken over by Air Afrique in 1937. The company ceased operations in 1940, restarted them two months later but avoided Brazzaville, and was merged into Air France in 1941.

Trevor Davis then concentrated on the postal history of the Lot-et-Garonne *département* which, in the 1914-1918 war formed part of the 17th Military Region, hospitals being set up in many towns and villages to take in wounded combatants, not only French but other Allied troops as well. These hospitals were in addition to the regular military hospitals and were of varying sizes, with as few as 20 beds in the smaller villages to over 400 in larger towns, the numbers fluctuating according to need. Existing hospitals were also used with many adjacent buildings used as annexes, most being set up in schools and colleges. There were three types in the Lot-et-Garonne: complementary hospitals which were run directly by the military medical service, auxiliary hospitals which were run by Societies after inspection and approval by the military authorities, and private hospitals which were still under the control of the military authorities. Two Societies were in operation in Lot-et-Garonne, the Société de Secours aux Blessés Militaires (Fig 1) and the Union des Femmes Françaises (Fig 2). All these hospitals were given numbers for identification, and those with cachets generally incorporated these, with private hospitals adding the word *bis* after the number. A variety of cachets are recorded with more than one from some hospitals. Postcards were also produced illustrating the buildings and personnel, which were often used by the wounded soldiers. Some hospitals are only known from the postcards, no cachets as yet being recorded. A selection of items forming only a small proportion of those recorded were shown.

The final display by **Peter Stockton** was of the postal history of the Pas-de-Calais, *département* 61 in the 1792 classification, later renumbered 62 in the 1964 list. The pre-adhesive letters showed the three different methods of assessment of distance for the calculation of postal charges – the distance between the central points of the two *départements* of despatch and receipt, the distance by the shortest postal route, and the shortest distance “as the crow flies”. *Paquebot* marks of both Boulogne-sur-Mer and Calais were shown, and finally letters from *mairies* as both paid and later unpaid mail.

Before going our separate ways a general review of the weekend was held, chaired by *Ancien Président* **Maurice Tyler**. He expressed the pleasure of all those present that two French members and their wives had been able to attend, and thanked **Trevor Davis** for undertaking the sale of material from the late George Henderson (see the note from Prue Henderson on page 38) and especially non-members **Marian Bister** and **Annette Tyler** for spending the majority of the weekend running the bookstall and thus raising a considerable sum for Society funds. It seemed that the weekend had once again proved a thorough success, and this was due largely to the variety of interesting displays and the general ambiance provided by the members, as well as general satisfaction with the food and accommodation. It was decided that a provisional booking (provisional because the hotel was changing hands) should be made in the hope that we could return to the same venue next year – the dates being considered being 16-18

March 2007. Finally the two Organisers, **Chris Hitchen** and **Peter Kelly** were once again to be congratulated on their ability to keep everything running so smoothly to such a tight timetable.

The following members attended part or all of the weekend:

Robert Abensur	Lesley Marley
John Allison	Jeremy Martin
Michael Annells	Peter Maybury
George Barker	John Mayne
Len Barnes	André Métayer
Mick Bister	John Parmenter
Mike Brindle	Bob Paterson
Peter Brookman	Mavis Pavey
Hamish Clifton	Barbara Priddy
Trevor Davis	Derek Richardson
Rodney Dean	Gerald Small
Steve Ellis	Colin Spong
Geoff Gethin	Peter Stockton
John Hammonds	John Sussex
Prue Henderson	Maurice Tyler
Chris Hitchen	Skanda Vaitilingam
Barrie Jay	Paul Watkins
Peter Kelly	John West
David Lamb	Gareth Williams
Ashley Lawrence	Alan Wood
Graham Lenton	Ron Wood
Ian McQueen	David Worrollo

MST

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 1 APRIL 2006

Peter Maybury: What I Collect

The Organiser welcomed Peter Maybury, [Organiser of the Northern Group] and members to the last meeting of the season and gave details of the proposed programme for 2006-07.

Peter commenced his display by saying that he was showing three sections from his various collections. He began with the Ancien Régime, and amongst the items shown we noted a 25/10/1492 message from the Comte de Muret, from Toulouse to Beaumont, at a time when mail was carried by itinerant monks between monasteries and also private mail by messengers. From the Medici Archives there was a letter dated 20/8/1520 from an Order of St Anthony to Raffaello de Medici, and from the Corsini Archives a letter dated 19/3/1585, from the merchants Pulio & Groen in Lyon to Bartholomew Corsini, London, via the merchant service from Paris.

Mentioning that the Royal Messengers' service had red silk seals, Peter continued with a display of material showing various tariffs; of interest were the Paris-Poitiers-Bordeaux-Bayonne route of 1627 with a single letter rate of 3 sols, and a Bureau Royal cover dated 16/2/1668 sent from Paris by the King's Counsellor. This section ended with American War of Independence 1780 & 1782 correspondence from Dublin to Cognac with the dark green strike of Brussels (transit marks).

Military mail followed from various French expeditions, ie Army in Flanders, War of Austrian Succession, a Polish Succession letter dated 29/10/1734 Cremona to Paris, taxed 12 sols, and the Army in Italy correspondence. Then came foreign agents' mail: a Sardinian *PO GENOUA* transit h/s 12/10/1753 Livorno via Genoa, and the Tuscan postal system to Genoa, whence the sender's couriers carried it to Lyon for onward transmission to Marseille. Peter then showed Napoleonic revolutionary period mail including a circular letter from the artist David covering the Coronation of Napoleon in Paris, dated 12/6/1804, to the mayor & officials of the town of S Damiano d'Asti, inviting subscriptions for the engraving of the picture.

The display continued with maritime mail from 1880 between Marseille and the ports of Italy, ending with a Company Valéry commercial letter to Algeria dated 13/5/1876, Cette to Algiers, carried privately to Marseille and posted on board ship and cancelled at Algiers. The display ended with the French occupation of Rome: of interest was an item from the 1st Expedition of 1849-1866 on tissue paper, a double letter 20pp plus envelope, from an officer to Le Mans, and taxed 6 décimes [50c]. The rate for all mail was set at 25c for single letters wef 1/1/1851 and lasted until 30/6/1854. Peter's final sheets covered military franchise, including a Tonkin cover with cachet THAT-

KE 25/11/1895 to Oran, and transatlantic mail with a USA to Belgium letter to a British man on the Cunard Line, a single commercial letter dated 26/3/1859 New Orleans to Antwerp via New York 5/4, Boston 6/4, Royal Mail Steamship Niagara to Liverpool 18/4, travelling closed bag to Calais-Paris TPO, transferred to Belgian *ambulant du Midi*, delivered Antwerp 20/4/1859.

The vote of thanks was given by John Yeomans for a most interesting afternoon on some unusual material very little seen, and the members present recorded their thanks with applause.

Members present: Michael Annells, Michael Berry, Colin Clarkson, Roy Ferguson, John Hammonds, Bill Mitchell,

George Nash, Barbara Priddy Bob Small, John Thorpe, Colin Spong, John Yeomans; and guests: Christine Annells, Jean Hammonds, Pat Spong & Dr D Watson. Apologies from Betty Blincow, Geoff Gethin, Bob Larg, Yvonne Larg, Lesley Marley, Michael Wilson, & David Worrollo.

The next meeting will be on 5 August 2006 and as usual will commence at 10.30am until lunch at the Half Brick, Brighton Road, and recommence at 14.00 until 16.30 hours. The programme arranged is a joint meeting with the Forces Postal History Society.

For the other meetings during the season, see Society Notes on page 38 of this Journal.

CWS

LONDON MEETING OF 26 APRIL 2006

Godfrey Bowden: (1) French Internal Letter Rates 1849-1949; (2) Tunisia

Godfrey began his display by saying that, inspired by Mick Bister's talk on Marianne de Gandon at the 2005 Philatelic Weekend, he had decided that it would be interesting to take a closer look at the French stamps of 1849 to 1949 based on their use for the *lettre simple intérieure*. As an established collector of stamps, and having accumulated them in their thousands, he found the task of gathering the major definitive types fairly straightforward, apart from the Bordeaux Type 1 which he subsequently acquired - though he did not go so far as to list all the *reports*. For all these stamps he had drawn up a statistical table showing, for each stamp described and illustrated by a used copy, the period of use, the rate and the maximum weight allowed, as well as the date of withdrawal where known.

There were five distinct types of the 15c blue Sage, for example; and Godfrey confessed that the most difficult varieties to find were used copies of the coil stamps. He had not yet found a copy of the 90c blue Peace Type II, but was still hopeful. The range of stamps started with the 20c Cérés for a letter of 7½g (the weight limit until the end of 1861, when it rose to 10g), and followed various changes in the rate (up and down) and the first weight step through Louis Napoleon, Bordeaux, Sage, Mouchon, Sower, Pasteur, Peace, and other definitive stamps during this period in all their various forms. In 1912-13 came the first charity stamps, including the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, the Unemployed Intellectuals, and the National Relief Fund; and they were followed in 1926 by the first pictorials, although they were few in number during this period..

In the 19th century stamps were not officially withdrawn, so the period of use was more fluid. Of particular interest was the period when the LSI postal rate was reduced from 5F to 4F50 (after only two days!) but stamps at the new rate were not available, so that the Marianne de Gandon 5F stamp was sold at a 10% discount. Finding any 5F stamps correctly used during that ultra-short period is

especially difficult, of course. Godfrey noted that inflation over that whole period of 100 years was 6000%.

The second part of Godfrey's display turned to his interest in Tunisia, which arose from an attraction to the nearness of the early design to the Sage issue. Thus we saw maps, polychrome cards, and odd items from the pre-Regency period such as the expedition to Tunis of 1891. The railway system, not fully understood, brought *Transportée Exceptionnellement Par Avion* marks, and those that bore a similarity to *convoyeurs* and *ambulants*.

Among the items of interest were two Algerian covers with labels for airmail between Algiers and Tunisia (thought the return labels were never issued); early flights to Vienna; the first daylight flight Tunis to Paris; and the inaugural service to London. We saw an advertising booklet for Tunisian stamps issued in Stockholm in 1924, and further ones from 1947 and 1967. The final sheets in this part of the display illustrated underpaid rates, with the use of postage dues that came after the T perfs, and interesting reasons given for the various values.

A final brief third section was devoted to the T perfs, a particular interest of Godfrey's. He had investigated which offices they came from, and explained that the size of the hole was important in distinguishing between them, as well as the postmark and X cancel. He ended by saying that one day he hoped to find some stamps perforated by Maury.

Chris Hitchen expressed the thanks of those present for a fascinating viewpoint on topics not often seen. Though very few in number - only 9 members had been able to attend - we had all appreciated the opportunity to see this material.

MST

[Editor's Note: Godfrey has promised to produce an article for the Journal based on the first part of his display, to be published later this year.]

TARIFFS AND POSTAL REGULATIONS

[Further pages from *Bulletin Col.Fra* provided by Colin Spong, translated by Maurice Tyler, and printed here by kind permission of Col.Fra. The original official documents were obtained by Martial Boyer and published in *Bulletin Col.Fra* N° 94, 1st quarter 2001, pages 17-22.]

Cochin-China Colonial Post

Saigon Office

ORDER

CONCERNING THE ORGANISATION OF THE POSTAL SERVICE IN FRENCH COCHIN-CHINA

1. A Postal Administration has been created in Saigon;
2. M. Goubaux, assistant principal paymaster, has been appointed Provisional Director of the Saigon Office;
3. The Saigon Office will operate according to the procedures of post offices in France. It will accept ordinary letters and registered letters and will levy prepaid postage on newspapers and printed notices of all kinds;
4. Money orders issued in France will continue to be paid in compliance with the terms of the Order of the Governing Vice-Admiral, Commander-in-Chief, dated 26 June 1862;
5. A postman is attached to the Saigon Office. He carries out two deliveries each day: the first will take place from 9 to 10 am, the second from 4 to 5 pm. On Sundays and public holidays, except when the mail-boat from France arrives, there will be no second delivery;
The postman's itinerary will be drawn up by the Director and submitted for approval to the Governing Vice-Admiral. This itinerary will not be allowed to change, and correspondence will be delivered to the home address;
6. The Saigon Office will accept correspondence intended for delivery within the town and from Saigon to all points of the colony under the following conditions:

Within the town,

Letter weighing under 20 grams.....20 centimes

Newspaper and any printed matter weighing under 40 grams.....10 centimes

From Saigon to an address inland and vice versa,

Letter weighing under 10 grams.....30 centimes

Newspaper or any printed notice weighing under 40 grams.....20 centimes

Saigon, 13 January 1863
Governing Vice-Admiral.
Commander-in-Chief,
Signed: Bonard

REGULATIONS FOR POSTAL FRANCHISE IN THE COLONY

The Governing Vice-Admiral, Commander-in-Chief,
Has decreed that:

In consequence of the organisation of postal services in French Cochin-China, the civil servants who have the right to free postage in the colony are:

1. In Saigon

The Governing Vice-Admiral, Commander-in-Chief, unlimited franchise;

The General commanding the troops;

The Chief of Staff;

The Director of Civil Affairs;

The Head of the Administrative Service;

The Head of the Medical Service;

The Commanding Officer of the Engineer Corps;

The Naval Constructor;

The Officer Commanding the Artillery;

The Hydrographer;

Regimental Commanding Officers and Officers Commanding Ships of the Realm;

The Director of Telegraph Signals.

The counter-signature of the civil servants designated above, applied to any administrative letter or envelope, grants it free postage. Conversely, endorsing any letter or envelope "service" with the signature and the position or rank of the sender appended to the address on any administrative letter or envelope intended for the above mentioned civil servants, renders either of them exempt from paying duty.

Subordinate officers send any correspondence relating to the administration via their respective commanding officers or administrative heads.

2. In the Provinces

The superior officer commanding the province or the district will have the right, over the whole of the territory he commands, to free military postage;

The officers commanding warships;

The officers commanding detached posts;

The Inspector of Native Affairs will have the right to free postage for administrative letters and envelopes that he sends or receives, provided there is a counter-signature with the position or rank of the sender.

The Governing Vice-Admiral recommends that civil servants enjoying free postage limit this exclusively to administrative correspondence. Acting otherwise would be to strike a blow at one of the revenue branches of the colony.

Saigon, 13 January 1863

Governing Vice-Admiral, Commander-in-Chief,

Signed: Bonard

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

1. The Saigon Office accepts letters, newspapers and printed notices for all destinations subject to the conditions stated above in the table opposite.

2. Registered letters are allowed enclosed in an envelope and closed with at least two seals. These seals will have to bear a uniform impression reproducing a mark that is characteristic of the sender and are to be placed in such a way as to secure all the folds of the envelope. Registered letters pay a tax that is double that fixed for ordinary franked letters.

3. Newspapers, news-sheets, paperbacks, bound books, catalogues, leaflets, photographs and various printed notices, will be franked at the rate of:

13 centimes for France and countries passing in transit through France;

15 centimes for China, British and French India;

25 centimes for all French colonies.

This tax will be applied to any packet bearing a private address, this packet weighing under 40 grams.

4. Senders will have the option of sending their correspondence either by the French route, or by the British route. Postage via the French route for a letter under 7.5 grams is 50 centimes; it is 80 centimes via the British route.

5. The Saigon Office is open from 7 to 9 am and from 3 to 5 pm, except on Sundays and public holidays.

6. Recipients of letters will have to come personally to collect their correspondence, unless they prefer to have it delivered by the postman.

7. The postman effects two deliveries a day: the first from 8 to 9 am; the second from 4 to 5 pm.

8. The sale of postage stamps and the receipt of registered letters will cease at 9 am on the day the mail departs for France.

9. Officers and soldiers forming part of the occupation force in Cochin-China send or receive their correspondence via the French route, with a reduction of tax or postage fixed as follows:

Franked letters up to 10 grams.....20 centimes

Ditto from 10 to 20 grams.....40 centimes

Ditto from 20 to 100 grams.....80 centimes

Unfranked letters, tax to be borne:

France up to 10 grams.....30 centimes

Ditto from 10 to 20 grams.....60 centimes

Ditto from 20 to 100 grams.....1f. 20 centimes

This reduction in tax does not apply to correspondence sent or received via the British route.

Saigon, 13 January 1863

The Provisional Postmaster

Signed: G Goubaux

Approved:

The Governing Vice-Admiral,

Commander-in-Chief,

Signed: Bonard

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

1. As from 1st June next, letters, printed newspapers of all kinds destined for inland delivery or for sending outside the colony, will be franked by means of colonial postage stamps;
2. Colonial postage stamps are of four kinds and represent the following values:

a)	Postage stamp colour orange	0.40
b)	“ “ “ bistre	0.10
c)	“ “ “ green	0.05
d)	“ “ “ grey	0.01
3. The sale of these postage stamps will take place every day, except on Sundays and public holidays, at the Saigon Office and in all postal establishments created by the resolution of 30 May this year.
4. If necessary, the sale of these stamps can in addition be entrusted to individuals given special authorisation. These individuals will be granted a discount of 2% on the price of these stamps, on condition that they pay the value in cash.
5. Metropolitan postage stamps at present in circulation will be able to be used for franking objects of correspondence of all kinds; but in future, no more of these stamps will be issued.

Saigon, 30 May 1863

The Provisional Postmaster in Saigon

Signed: G Goubaux

Approved:
The Chief of Staff
Signed: Desmoulins

ORDER**CONCERNING THE ORGANISATION OF THE POSTAL SERVICE**

The Governing Rear Admiral, Commander-in-Chief, in compliance with the orders of HE the Navy Minister contained in his despatch of 18 April last,

Decrees:

The Order of 13 January last, concerning the organisation of the postal service in French Cochin-China and the table appended to it are and remain modified as follows:

– Saigon Office.

6. As from 1st June, correspondence from Saigon to Saigon, correspondence exchanged by the provinces with Saigon and vice versa, as well as correspondence exchanged within the provinces, circulate in the colony under the following conditions:

1. Ordinary Letters

	Franked	Unfranked
Up to 10 grams inclusive.....	0.10	0.20
From 10 to 20 g inclusive.....	0.20	0.30
From 20 to 100 g inclusive.....	0.40	0.60
From 100 to 200 g inclusive.....	0.80	1.20
From 200 to 300 g inclusive.....	1.20	1.80

and so on, adding for each extra 100 grams or fraction of 100 grams 40 centimes if it is franked mail and 60 centimes if unfranked.

2. Newspapers, Printed Notices, etc...

A newspaper or packet of newspapers bearing a private address and weighing under 40 grams will sustain a prepaid postage tax of 5 centimes. This tax will increase by 5 centimes for every 40 grams or fraction of 40 grams. These franking conditions will apply to paperbacks, bound books, engravings, lithographs, photographs, leaflets, and any other printed matter.

– Notice to the Public

4. Senders will have the option of sending their correspondence either via the French route, or via the British route. The postage for an ordinary letter, ie weighing under 7.5 grams, is 50 centimes for both routes. In the case of unfranked mail, the tax to be borne in France will be 60 centimes.
9. Officers, NCOs, sailors and soldiers forming part of the occupation force in Cochin-China, send and receive their correspondence via the French route, with a reduction in tax and postage fixed as follows:

	Franked	Unfranked
Under 10 g up to 10 g inclusive.....	0.10	0.20
Over 10 g up to 20 g inclusive.....	0.20	0.60
Over 20 g up to 100 g inclusive.....	0.80	1.20
Over 100 g up to 200 g inclusive.....	1.60	2.40
Over 200 g up to 300 g inclusive.....	2.40	3.60

and so on, adding for each extra 100 grams or fraction of 100 grams 80 centimes if it is franked mail and 1.20f. if unfranked.

Saigon, 2 June 1863
The Governing Rear Admiral,
Acting Commander-in-Chief
Signed: de La Grandière

CONDITIONS FOR FRANKING LETTERS FROM COCHIN-CHINA TO ALL COUNTRIES

Name of countries	Conditions	Carriage paid to	Price
1. Saigon to French Cochin-China and vice versa, within the provinces, Sagon to Saigon, up to 10 g.	Optional	Destination	0.10
2. France (French route and British route), French India, Réunion and the French establishments in Madagascar	“	“	0.50
3. British India, Dutch East Indies, Manilla, Macao, Hongkong and China (French route and British route)	Compulsory	Port of arrival	0.60
4. Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar	“	Behobie*	0.70
5. Belgium, Grand Duchies of Luxembourg and of Baden, Swiss Cantons	Optional	Destination	0.80
6. Bavaria, Prussia, Duchy of Anhalt, Principalities of Waldeck and of Hohenzollern, Hesse-Darmstadt, Electorate of Hesse, Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, Duchies of Nassau, of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and of Saxe-Meiningen-Hildburghausen, Principalities of Hesse-Hamburg, of Lippe, of Reuss, of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, Free City of Frankfurt, Kingdom of Italy	“	“	0.90
7. Kingdoms of Netherlands, of Hanover and of Saxony, Grand Duchies of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, of Mecklenburg-Strelitz and of Oldenburg, Duchies of Brunswick and of Saxe-Altenburg, Cities of Bremen, Hamburg, Lübeck, Tunis, Great Britain, Malta, French Colonies with each other in transit through France	“	“	1.00
8. Pontifical States, Constantinople, Gallipoli, the Dardanelles, Mitilini, Smyrna, Rhodes, Mersina, Alexandretta, Latakia, Tripoli (Syria), Beirut, Jaffa and Alexandria	“	“	1.30
9. Ionian Islands	Compulsory	Trieste	1.30
10. Austrian Provinces, Belgrade (Serbia), Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Russia, Poland, Moldavia, Wallachia and Greece	Optional	Destination	1.60

NB: The maximum weight of an ordinary letter, addressed to the countries named in articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, is 7.5 grams and the progressive increase in postage rates applies from 7.5 grams in steps of 7.5 grams or a fraction of 7.5 grams. Articles 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 include both the French route and the British route.

[* Editorial note: Behobie, a village in the Basses-Pyrénées, was an important transit and customs office.]

French Airline Network 1928
(with Connecting Foreign Airlines)



These illustrations show the front and back cover of a monthly booklet produced by the publishers Librairie Chaix of Paris, acquired at auction a few years ago by **Robert Johnson**. A selection of the inside pages containing information related to the postal system will be reproduced in the Journal later this year.

NEW SOCIETY PUBLICATION!

**FAKES AND FORGERIES OF 20TH CENTURY
FRENCH POSTAGE STAMPS**

by GEOFF GETHIN

SPECIAL OFFER TO MEMBERS ONLY

**Fakes and Forgeries
of 20th Century
French Postage Stamps**



by Geoff Gethin

France & Colonies Philatelic Society (GB)

It is with great pleasure that we announce the long awaited appearance of Geoff Gethin's book on Forgeries and Fakes.

This book provides an important introduction to the subject and will be of value to collectors at all levels.

It is a lavishly produced book of 152 pages, A4 format, with card covers and full colour illustrations, many of them magnified to a 400% enlargement of the postage stamps under discussion. The contents page and extracts can be seen on the Society's website (www.fcps.org.uk/Forgeries.htm).

This book is the fruit of many years of research and, through using enlarged photographs, provides a brilliant visual image of fakes and forgeries, presented in an original manner.

The book will be available for sale to non members at £40 plus postage and packing, but as a **special concession to members** a special price of £35 including P&P is being offered on orders received and paid for by **31 October 2006**.

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