

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



On 1 March 1945 the basic letter rate in France was increased from 1F50 to 2F but stamps were in short supply within the St Nazaire pocket. The Chamber of Commerce was authorised to print a provisional 2F letter rate stamp and a 50c make-up value as shown alongside the 1F50 Pétain on this Red Cross cover sent from St Joachim, north-east of St Nazaire to St Brevin-les-Pins to the south.
(Mick Bister collection)

Volume 65 ● Number 1
March 2015
Whole Number 275

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

Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

Officers

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The Society

The Society was founded in 1949 and is affiliated to the ABPS. Its affairs are managed by a Committee comprising President, Officers and Committee members, elected annually.
All inquiries about and applications for membership should be addressed to the General Secretary.

2015 Annual Subscription Rates

United Kingdom: £18.00, Europe: £26.00, Elsewhere: £30.00.

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

Sterling, Euro and US dollar bills are accepted but overseas cheques must be drawn in Sterling. The Society has a PayPal account for the use of overseas members, but please add 4% for bank charges, and email to treasurer@fcps.org.uk.
Bank transfers to HSBC account name France & Colonies Philatelic Society sort code 40 07 31 account n° 71019325.

The Journal

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The price is included in members' subscriptions.

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Auction and Exchange Packet Sales

Lots for sale through the Society auctions, held 2 or 3 times a year, should be sent to the Auction Secretary:
S R Ellis, 22 Burton Crescent, Sneyd Green, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 6BT (email: auction@fcps.org.uk)
according to instructions

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

France: R G E Wood, 51 Longstombs Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9BY (Telephone 01245 267949).

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

The Library

The Society's substantial library, as detailed in the Library List (2004) originally distributed to all Members but now available in PDF format on the Society website, is being disposed of, with members having the first opportunity of acquiring certain items in an auction.

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:

R N Broadhurst, PO Box 448, Teddington TW11 1AZ (email: stock@fcps.org.uk); tel. 020 8977 9665.

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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

Editorial

On the page opposite Mick Bister explains our new arrangements for editing the Journal, involving a whole team of members to spread the load. We are extremely grateful to all those who have volunteered to help in this task.

However, I would like to add that we have nothing left in our stockpile except three articles (by David Trapnell, Ashley Lawrence and John Courtis) that I am saving for the June issue. Please consider writing something – perhaps on a cover that you find interesting, or by converting a display into an article – and sending it to Mick. Short space-fillers are always welcome as well as more substantial topics.

As a general guide to potential authors, the text of articles should be submitted as an electronic file, preferably in Word format, as indicated by Mick Bister on the next page. It is possible to scan typed text by OCR (Optical Character Recognition) though this does take extra time and may be rejected if time is short; but handwritten text should in any event be avoided. Illustrations can be included in the text document as a general indication of where they might be placed, but they should in addition be sent as separate JPG (or possibly TIF) files; photocopies can be scanned, but again this takes extra time and will cause inconvenience and delays.

* * *

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1434 A C Binmore (Staffordshire), 1435 Hella Hiemstra (Netherlands), 1436 B G Owen (Bedfordshire), 1437 Jérôme Castanet (France), 1438 Christophe Durand (France), 1439 David Scott (Dorset).

* * *

Members Deceased

We are saddened to hear of the death of the following members and offer our sincere condolences to their families:

1181 Robert Barnes, 1279 Ken Colston-Lake, 1200 J A Seeley, 1223 John Yeomans.

* * *

Resignations

The following members have recently resigned:

393 P J Adams, 1334 M G Burbage-Atter, 1433 D F Edwards, 1038 R I Johnson, 714 D Oram, 171 David A Pashby, 900 M D Piggan, 803 B A Raine, 1263 E G Richards, 1299 J W Smith, 1319 John Wilson, 1280 Alan Wishart.

* * *

Future Events

The **London Group** will meet at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 6.30pm on Wednesday 15 April 2015 when Mick Bister will display *Marianne de Muller* and *Marianne de Cheffer*.

The **Northern Group** will meet at 2.00pm on Saturday 11 July 2015 at Heaton Royds, Bradford, courtesy of Stephen & Judith Holder, when the traditional “Bastille Day” commemoration will take place, with several short displays by members.

The **Wessex Group** will meet at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham, Salisbury, at 10.30am on Saturday 27 June 2015 when the main displays in the morning will be concentrating on North Africa, with Alan Wood showing Morocco and Peter Kelly showing sub-Saharan Algeria.

* * *

: Annual General Meeting.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 11.30am on Saturday 9 April 2015 (followed by the auction at 2pm).

Any member wishing to raise any matter that will require a vote to be taken at the AGM must advise the General Secretary (Peter Kelly) in writing at least one month prior to the Meeting.

* * *

Exhibition Successes

We congratulate the following member on his award:

At SPM Expo 2014 (St Pierre, 24-28 September 2014) **Ed Grabowski** was awarded Vermeil for “The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Saint Pierre & Miquelon and French Guiana.”

* * *

Philatelic Honours

Congratulations to member **Mavis Pavey** on recently being granted the ‘Award of Merit’ from the Scottish Association of Philatelic Societies for services to the Scottish section of the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society.

Her late husband, Peter, joined the section at its inception and Mavis recalls joining it ‘at least 30 to 35 years ago’. Since then she has served as treasurer for 16 years, been chairperson on two occasions (and continues to be so), has hosted meetings and assisted with the organising of the first Germania Post weekend in Scotland.

In 2005 Mavis launched the Scottish section of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society and remained its convenor until its demise in 2011. However, in compensation the German group now holds a joint German and French meeting once a season which our members can look forward to.

* * *

The Journal's future is secure!

Mick Bister

On behalf of the committee I am delighted to report that in response to our recent appeals for sub-editors we have been able to create a team that will ensure the continuity of our Journal. The technical side of its production will henceforth be for the most part in the hands of Peter Allan while Maurice Tyler will retain the responsibility of 'putting it to bed' and liaising with the printers. Supporting them both will be a team of sub-editors who will proof-read, edit, correct and undertake basic formatting of all reports and articles submitted by members for publication.

The team is scattered across the globe from British Columbia to Tasmania and so all communications will have to be conducted electronically. Will you therefore please note the following conditions:

- From now onwards, all contributions of any size or nature, must be submitted to me at m.bister@btinternet.com by email with the text sent as a Word attachment.
- Illustrations, if interspersed in the text, can be left *in situ* in the article to indicate where the author would prefer to have them placed, although it will be up to Peter Allan to decide how best they fit the page. The images must also be attached separately as jpgs, preferably scanned at 300dpi. The Word and jpg formats will allow the team to work much more expeditiously.
- Contributions can be sent to me at any time but there will be deadlines for publication in specific editions of the Journal. These are: 12 April for the June Journal, 12 July for the September Journal, 11 October for the December Journal and 10 January for the March 2016 Journal. It would be appreciated if you do not wait until the last minute to submit.
- There will be occasions when I am in France and unable to acknowledge receipt of contributions. While ensconced in *la France profonde* I leave my technical devices at home and I will not be able to respond to emails until my return. *Merci de votre compréhension.*
- If there are any problems or queries please contact me at my email address above or on 01767-631404.

I am sure you are all relieved that our great Journal will continue in its present format and the team will endeavour to keep it at the same high standard that you have been accustomed to. If anyone else wishes to join the team please do let me know. The more help the better.

We are always looking for articles to publish so please consider what you might be able to offer. We have had some excellent items on postal history and colonial topics but only the occasional piece on stamps, especially modern ones. Perhaps there are members out there whose contributions might help redress the balance.

Furthermore, we have still not received an offer from anyone to take over as webmaster of the Society's website. If you have the necessary skills please do step forward and contact either myself or one of the officers of the Society.

Finally a big thank you to the team of volunteers; the Society is indebted to you.

BOOKSHELF

Books Noted

Montimbramoi N° 3 by Maurice Perry; 130pp A4 in colour; price of each number 28€; available from author, 6 Cami del Cazamouret, 09600 Tabre. [This work on personalised stamps for individuals produced by La Poste since 2007 lists and illustrates the different models made available and follows the first work of 112 pages on those produced for professional bodies and its supplement of 70 pages.]

Les Postes dans la guerre 1914-1918 - Cahier pour l'histoire de La Poste N° 17 by Peggy Bette, Amandine Le Ber, Nadège Schepens, Sébastien Richez & Benjamin Thierry; 156pp 170 x 240mm; price 6€; available from Comité pour l'histoire de La Poste, CP F 502, 44 boulevard de Vaugirard, 75757

Paris cedex 15. [Covers the reorganisation of the military and civilian postal services during WWI, including creation of simplified services with *secteurs postaux*, employment of women (especially military widows), censorship of mail, letters from soldiers and POWs, and establishment of reserved occupations.]

Timbres fiscaux Inde - Indochine pub. Cercle d'Etude de la Philatélie Fiscale; 146pp in colour; price 45€; available from Irène Daniel, 28 chemin des Mules, 44600 Saint Nazaire. [All types of fiscal stamps detailed for these areas, with sections on Annam, Cambodia, Cochinchina, Tonkin, Vietnam and Laos.]

Maurice Tyler

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 150 4^{ème} Trim 2014: Les Épreuves de Guyane [pt 3] (Puech); Les Marques Postales du Tchad [cont] (Venot); Bleu, Blanc, Rouge [Conquest of Tonkin] (Baudin); Les Messageries Automobiles en Nouvelle-Calédonie (Millet).

Cameo

Vol 16 N° 1 Jan 2015 (Whole N° 94): WWII Double Atlantic from Lebanon by Pan Am (Wilson & Wilcock); Cameroun: CAMPOST innovations in 2014 (Parren).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1890 Dec 2014: La Naissance de la Carte Postale [1865-1871] (Abensur); Les Vignettes à l'effigie du Maréchal Pétain (Grosse); Une année à Dumont d'Urville, en Terre Adélie [7] (Venturini); Courriers de France vers le Grand-Duché du Luxembourg 1797 à 1928 (-); La fin des émissions au type Pétain (Sinai); La Poste réorganisée en 1914 (Albaret).

N° 1891 Jan 2015: Trois belles dépêches et puis s'en va [Marion Dufresne-TAAF voyage] (Venturini).

N° 1892 Feb 2015: Émile Wegel, le postier-acquarilliste (Bastide-Bernadin); Marianne voit rouge [de Briat] (Préaux); Une kyrielle de «premier jour d'utilisation» [TAAF-Crozet et Kerguelen] (Venturini).

Timbres Magazine

Permanent features: Actualités, Courrier des lecteurs, Club des clubs, Manifestations, Marcophilie, Les nouveautés de France, Actus Andorre, Monaco et les TOM, Pâp, Expertise, Les variétés, Le Journal des nouveautés, Bibliothèque, Mon marché du mois.

N° 162 Dec 2014: Raoul Serres, entre classicisme et modernisme (Nowacka); Des usages courants pas courants (Rucklin); Ces fameuses variétés dont il nous faut encore tout apprendre (Marion); Les timbres de la Libération: un monde de surcharges pour commémorer la France libérée (Singeot); Le difficile rétablissement des liaisons maritimes [4^e partie] à la reconquête de l'Indochine (Chauvin); Quelques idées de collections (de La Mettrie); Un acheminement proportionnellement partagé (Prugnon); Levant: contrôle des informations (Chauvin); Les pionniers de la philatélie [1^{re} partie] (Baudot).

N° 163 Jan 2015: Sabine joue l'innovation (Rucklin); Robert Cami [Artist]: Blanc et noir intégral (Nowacka); Les timbres de la Libération: un monde de surcharges

pour commémorer la France libérée [Pt 2] (Singeot); Le 1^{er} avril 1871 était un samedi, et c'est vrai! (de La Mettrie); Le *Marion Dufresne* aux Terres australes françaises (Julien); Meetings et rallyes aériens français (PJM); Bonne année à tous (Zeyons); Le timbre-à-date de l'exposition universelle de 1855 (Prugnon); Les pionniers de la philatélie [Pt 2] (Baudot); Indochine: la poste rurale (Chauvin).

N° 164 Feb 2015: Le *Marion-Dufresne* aux Terres australes françaises: de Crozet aux Kerguelen (Julien); Les pseudo-entiers postaux: souvent plus rares que les vrais (Sinai); Sabine en mode taille-douce [2^e partie] (Rucklin); Petits compléments (de La Mettrie); Le difficile rétablissement des liaisons maritimes [4^e partie]; France d'Outre-mer (Chauvin); Sur les quais, les bouquinistes (Zeyons); Décodage (Prugnon); Les pionniers de la philatélie (Baudot); Mandchourie 1945: Tempête d'Août (Chauvin).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 359 (Dec 2014): Carte postale en franchise d'un soldat alsacien de l'armée française en 1914 (Gasqui); Nulle part ailleurs... sauf à Paris [parcours d'une lettre] (Chevallier); Le pigeon voyageur, premier acteur de la poste aérienne [2^e partie] (Curgy); Du timbrage des reconnaissances jusqu'en 1832 (Sené); Lettres à charger ou à recommander remises à la main à des facteurs jusqu'en 1911 [1^{ère} partie] (Blanc); Des traces d'acheminement souvent négligées avant le 1^{er} juillet 1832 [1^{ère} partie] (Douron); Timbres «APRÈS LE DÉPART» [1^{ère} partie] (Guillard & Abensur).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 223 1^{er} trim 2014 (Jan): L'envoi d'imprimés sans adresse personnelle au 19^e siècle (Hardy); Les postes locales du Maroc (1891-1911): Comment déchiffrer certains affranchissements mixtes et certaines mentions (Hadida); L'extension du service intérieur des colis postaux à la Moselle avant 1940 (Flotte); Les étiquettes de fermeture (*wafer seals*): un phénomène transitoire de l'époque victorienne ou non? [1^{ère} partie] (Dutau).

Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile

N° 170 (Nov 2014): La censure militaire des cartes postales en 1914-1918 (Van Dooren); La période du double affranchissement du 25 mars au 31 décembre 1871 (Lasserre); Les courriers insolites du camp de prisonniers d'Holzminden en 1917 et 1918 (Geubel); La canonnière n° 218 de la Marine impériale napoléonienne (Giletto); La poste civile dans les territoires de Givet et Maubeuge (III) (Ludwig & Van Dooren); Il pleut... il pleut... des Daguin (Teissier).

Continued on page 25

Tchad:

Postal Services in the Period of Military Pacification 1900-1920

John Yeomans

Tchad is the largest Territory in French Equatorial Africa, extending to 495,000 square miles. It is land-locked with a desert zone and the mountains of Tibesti to the north, an arid belt in the centre, and a more fertile Sudanese savannah zone in the south. In 1900 the population was some 675,000, living in mainly scattered remote settlements.

Historical background

In the early part of the 19th century a number of expeditions explored the Lake Tchad region, the first being in 1823 by the British-led team of Clapperton, Denham and Oudney on a journey from Tripoli to the Bornu region, their interest being mainly scientific and related to the survey of the lake and the hinterland.

In 1875 however, the exploration for France of the River Ogowe by Pierre de Brazza and the opening of the way to the River Congo led, after 1890, to significant expansion from the Atlantic coast. Pacification of the lower Oubangui and the Chari basin was completed by 1900 and finally Tchad by 1920. Tchad was under military administration from 1900 until 1920 reflecting the problems caused by the domination of warlords and armed bands, particularly in the area to the south of Lake Tchad.



Figure 1

Postal Services

The first post office opened in 1905 at Fort Lamy, followed by post offices at Abéché in 1909, at Ammet Timanin in 1910, and at Fada and Faya-Largeau in 1920. Mail was franked with adhesives of the French Congo until 1915, then those of Oubangui-Chari overprinted OUBANGUI-CHARI-TCHAD.

Mission Saharienne

A French expedition, part of a three-pronged campaign to defeat the rebel commander Rabih az-Zubayr who controlled much of the area to the south of Lake Tchad, left

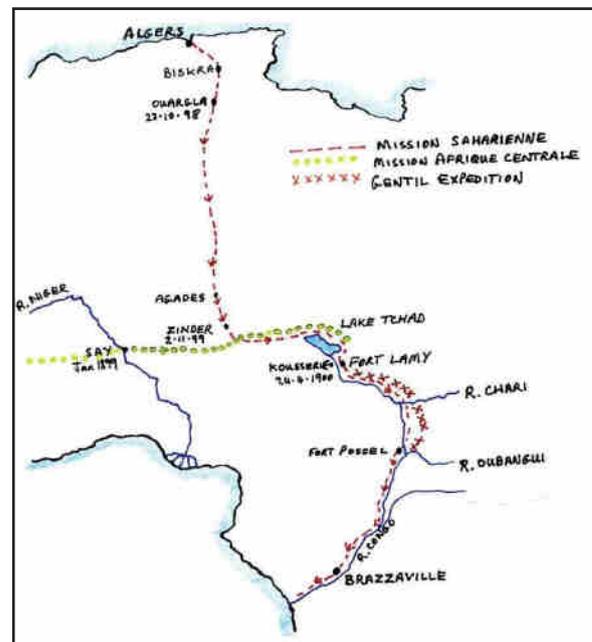


Figure 2

Ouargla in Algeria on 22 October 1898 and reached Zinder after much hardship on 2 November 1899. The expedition was led by Fernand Foreau, with an army contingent commanded by François Lamy, and consisted of 42 civilians and officers with 263 infantry and 13 Algerian cavalry troops, with supplies carried by 1000 camels with 49 drovers. On 22 April 1900 the combined force defeated the rebels and killed Rabih at the battle of Kousséri on the left bank of the River Chari, but suffered the death of Lamy. The expedition continued south to Brazzaville to return to Paris as heroes.



Figure 3
KOUSSÉRI c1904

Figure 4 is an example of mail from a member of the expedition addressed to the Governor-General of Algeria and Figure 5 is a second example addressed to Paris from Lt Rondenay, commander of the rearguard. The covers were taken to Brazzaville (backstamps of 9 July 1900). They were then carried by the steamer *Liban* which departed Libreville on 20 July and reached Marseille on 15 August. The first cover (Fig 4) was then carried by steamer service to Algiers with an arrival backstamp of 30 August 1900, and the second (Fig 5) by rail to Paris.



Figure 4

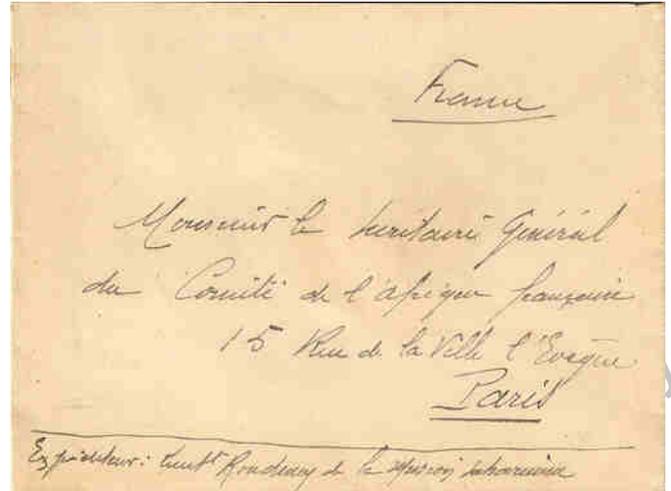


Figure 5

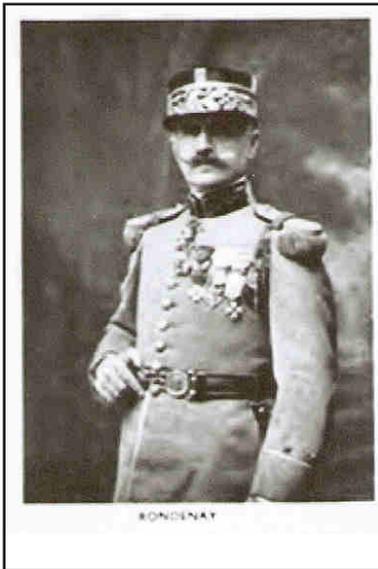


Figure 5a
LT RONDENAY



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8
AUGUSTE CHEVALIER

The 1901 cover to Sfax (Fig 6) was sent under FM franchise and was endorsed on the back in manuscript *Médecin Major du Bataillon du Tchad*. Taken to Brazzaville which it reached on 15 August 1901, the cover was carried on the steamer *Ville de Maranhao* which departed Libreville for Bordeaux, reached on 18 September, and Paris on 20 September. It was then taken by rail to Marseille and steamer service to Sfax Régence de Tunis (26 September) and Medjer-El-Eab Régence de Tunis receiving an arrival cds on 28 September 1901.

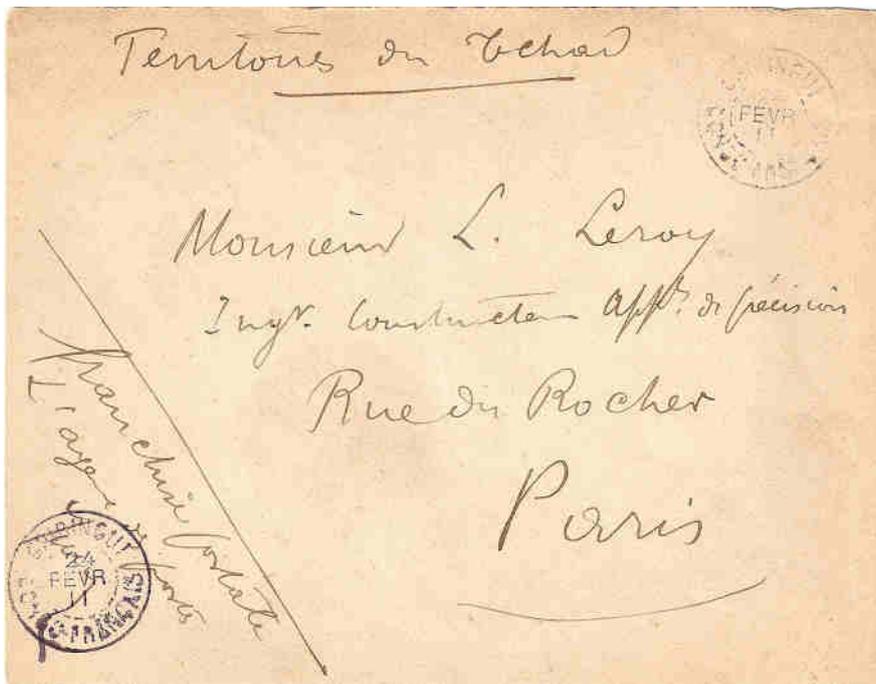


Figure 9

In July 1902 the eminent botanist Auguste Chevalier led a scientific expedition from Brazzaville to study and record the flora of the Chari basin and Lake Tchad, returning to France in February 1904. The cover shown in Figure 7 was sent under franchise as official mail and struck with the cachet *Territoire Militaire des Pays et Protectorats du Tchad* and the unrecorded two line *Mission Scientifique Chari-Lac Tchad*. Taken to Brazzaville (reached 5 November) it was carried on the steamer *Stamboul* which left Libreville on 15 November arriving in Marseille on 13 January 1903.

The cover dated 24 February 1903 shown in Figure 9 was sent under franchise with the authority of the postal agent and entered the postal system at the village of Gribingui in the

territory of Oubangui-Chari. Cancelled with Stone Type 7a with the error of block '11' for '03', it was likely to have been carried by steamer on the Oubangui and Congo rivers to Brazzaville reaching there on 21 April. The steamer *Ville de Maceio* departed Libreville for Bordeaux on 22 May.

Figure 10 illustrates a cover originating in September 1903 and sent by franchise under the authority of the head of a military detachment. It was carried to Brazzaville reaching there on 24 October. The steamer *Ville de Maceio* left Libreville on 30 October for Bordeaux and the cover was carried by rail to Paris and on to Marseille. It was then taken by steamer service to Tunis, receiving an arrival backstamp of 14 December in Sousse.



Figure 10

The registered cover in **Figure 11**, showing the use of French Congo adhesives, was sent from Fort Lamy on 8 August 1913. In terms of the Tariff of May 1910 it was franked at 35c, comprising 10c for weight < 20g plus 25c registration fee. The steamer *Europe* departed Libreville on 22 August for Bordeaux, reached on 9 September 1913.

The cover shown in **Figure 12** from Fort Lamy dated 7 September 1915 is addressed to St Etienne and sent under military authority franchise. Routed from Brazzaville to Libreville and by a contract service to Marseille, it reached St Etienne on 29 October 1915.

Figures 13 and **14** show the front and back of a cover originating in Ounianga, a military post at an oasis in northern Tchad, with a manuscript *CM* representing *Correspondance Militaire*. Arrêté N° 574 was promulgated by the Acting Governor General Estèbe in Brazzaville on 10 September 1914 and allowed mail of a weight of < 20g to be sent free of charge to or from members of the armed forces.

The cover shown in **Figure 14** entered the postal system at Mao on 6 December 1918 and was carried to N'Guigmi in Niger (11 December) and Zinder (20 December) before reaching the port of Cotonou and a French steamer contract service to France.

References

Waugh and Luft - *A Chronology of French Military Campaigns and Expeditions* (1984)
 Stone - *The Diverse World of Postal Markings of Gabon/Congo/AEF* (1987)
 Yvert and Tellier - *France and Colonies Stamp Catalogue* (1936)
 Salles - *La Poste Maritime Française Vol 3* (1963)



Figure 11



Figure 12

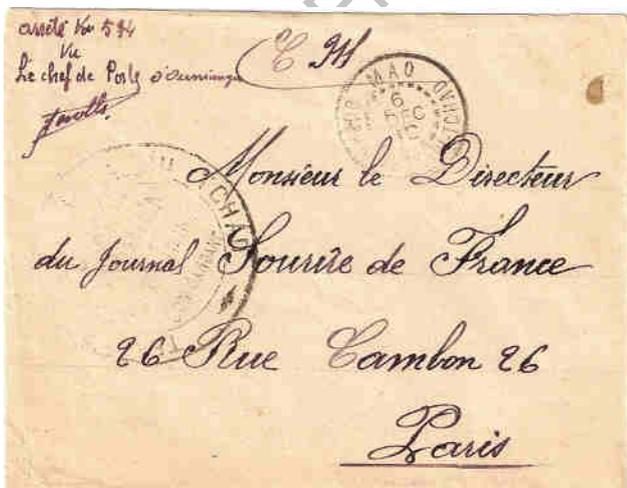


Figure 13



Figure 14

The French Connection

John West

This display has been shown at Charlecote and elsewhere. It should really be read on 1st April with a pinch of salt!



This story starts in a lonely cottage hidden deep in the countryside.



'Norman' and 'Victor' plan a criminal enterprise over a game of cards and a glass ofCognac.



Back at home, their wives 'Lorraine' and 'Anne' were looking after the baby.

**Norman and Victor worked in the Navy at Portsmouth.
They decided to go to France and see what they could steal.
They considered.....**



Tapestries



Rare Books



Porcelain



Jewellery



Perfumes



....And even postage stamps.

They had read all about the scarce material at the



Paris Postal Museum

Travel arrangements had to be made



.....A boat to Boulogne



.....A train to Paris



The 'Metro' to Montparnasse and....



.....a fast "getaway" car



**Which raised the question of drivers
- Perhaps Bizet's "CARMEN" were the answer?**

Once there, though, how were they going to get in?



They thought of using keys,



Or just drilling the locks



They would need a good climber so they found a man called "Pierre"



**Victor asked
"Have you got some ropes Pierre?"**

They found the ropes, but they were full of ...



..... huge knots!

A tunnel was suggested. Pierre said "O.K. but you can



....DeGaulle the earth out!"

Unfortunately, they only had



a small spade

They found it in the



Gardon

It was so rusty it was useless. Don't leave it in the rain - was the lesson that.....



...taught us!

Alain De L'Ourcq had a terrible record - no, not



by Maurice Chevalier!

He had convictions for robbery with



...violence



....and assault!

Victor said to Norman, "If you can't get us in....."



Can Al De L'Ourcq?

So, they phoned his mum. She said, "Sorry he left an



....Arago!"

They prepared carefully - They bought.....



Masks



Gloves



And A Torch

It wouldn't be easy to dispose of such rare material, so they set about finding.....



.....A Fence



Presumably, one who was good at fencing.

He would probably store the stamps in.....



.....a vault!

**They arrived at the museum.
Victor said, "Is this....."**



**They wondered if there
were any alarms. Norman
said, "We'll have to....."**



**.....La Place?"
(He didn't speak very good French!)**

.....check mate"

**Now, everyone knows that the best laid plans can go awry
and our small band of thieves weren't to know that**

...there was a



Grasse

**All he had to do was
pick up**



The telephone, and call



... Le CID



The Police arrived within seconds

“Watteau” they cried

Victor said.....

but they offered no



“Who have we got here?”

... “Don’t let that Copper nick us.”

Resistance

Naturally, the Police asked them why they’d done it.

They said “We’re both on the...”

“And we needed the



.....Dole”



..... Monnet!”

Norman and Victor were arrested and off to the station they.....



..... Rode in the Police Vannes

Soon they were behind.....



..... Barres

Palprints

All the gang gave samples



.....of blood



were taken



and it was all on television

**The little Court at Getting, in Rouen,
was run by the D'Angers family.....**



and, on this day, the Magistrate was David D'Angers



**Yes, it could be said that this was one of the
'D'Angers of Getting Court!'**

**Very sternly, the Magistrate said
"You call yourselves....."**

**"Sailors don't behave
like this." he added.
Norman said "Those in..."**



.....Sailors?"



....Pompey do!"

All the evidence was heard and both Norman and Victor were found "Guilty"

The Judge turned to Victor and said "Off to prison



....Victor, you go"

"I'll wait for you"



says Anne

"Be lenient with us, said Norman - after all we're only....."



.....Minors"

The Judge wouldn't listen to him and said "Die"



.....Norman, die."

Naturally, this made



Lorraine cross

So, remember , crime can be stamped out!

Monaco's Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers

John Courtis

A challenging quiz show question would be “what is the second smallest and most densely populated country in the world”? Monaco is the answer, located on the French Riviera, a tax haven, playground of the rich and famous with Monte Carlo casinos and luxury hotels. Monaco issued 14 post office postal stationery wrappers between 1886 and 1938. While they are unremarkable in the main it is a surprise to learn that so few used examples since 1925 were listed for sale on eBay.

Post Office Issues

Prior to the first issue of Monaco wrappers on 1 April 1886 the wrappers of France were used in Monaco. The first Monaco set depicted the head of Charles III facing right within a beaded circle. There were two types: 1 centime olive (E1 using the Higgins & Gage “E” type catalogue numbers) with a 1c green variety and 2c dark violet (E2) with a light violet variety. They were narrow wrappers, being 54-58mm x 318-322mm. In July 1891 a new set of two wrappers was issued bearing the new monarch Prince Albert I facing left and Liberty seated on the value tablet: 1c olive (E3) and 2c violet (E4). This issue had border lines top and bottom. The same types were issued two years later but without border lines (E5 and E6).

In 1898 another change occurred bearing the same Prince

Albert I indicia but with the addition of printing date codes which were printed to the right of and facing the indicium. There were three numbers: the first numeral represents the last digit of the year of printing, and the next two numbers represent the week of printing in that year. For example, date code 837 is 1908 (or 1918 or 1928) and printed in week 37. Without recourse to an open wrapper it is not possible to identify the presence of these date codes but they are given separate catalogue status in the H&G catalogue as E7 and E8.

A new series was issued in 1925 bearing the Coat of Arms of Monaco. There was a 1c black with date code (E9), a 2c dull red without date code (E10) and a 2c brown without date code (E11). It took 11 years before a 10c blue Arms was issued and without date code (E12). At the same time the 1c black was reissued without date code but this was not given separate catalogue status by H&G.

The final issue of two types took place in 1938: 15c violet and 20c carmine bearing Prince Louis II within an oval facing left bordered with pillars either side. These wrappers had neither border lines nor date codes. The indicia shown in Figure 1 have been copied from the forthcoming Kosniowski catalogue with his kind permission. No wrappers from Monaco are known overprinted SPECIMEN.



Figure 1
Indicia Appearing in the Post Office Wrappers of Monaco

Supply Side

As discussed in the paper on the wrappers of France (Journal 274 of December 2014, pages 150-154) the author has developed a large database of worldwide images of used post office postal stationery wrappers over more than a decade of record-keeping. There are about 37,000 images at the time of writing of which 92 are wrappers of Monaco. This number is *prima facie* evidence that the wrappers of this country are uncommon. These images have been hand-collected daily from the Internet site eBay and hence this is an eBay-based study. Other wrappers of Monaco undoubtedly were sold on other sites, by dealers and through the traditional philatelic auction houses during the period since September 2003 when images were first collected.

The number of each type is summarized in Table 1. No particular issue dominates in terms of incidence of listing. There are a handful of examples of all types between E1 and E6. However, while the presence or otherwise of border lines can be detected from Internet images, there are very few cases when scans are provided to identify the

presence of date codes.

There are only three examples of wrappers bearing Arms: one each of 1c black (E9), 2c dull red (E10) and 10c blue (E12). Likewise, there are only three examples of wrappers showing Prince Louis: one 15c (E13) and two 20c (E14). These low numbers are some evidence that these issues are elusive, bearing in mind that other copies could have been offered for sale from non-eBay sources. There was one example of E7 but examination of actual wrappers might have revealed more of the E5 examples to show date codes. The absence of an E11 example implies that this colour difference is an elusive wrapper.

The percentage of extant wrappers with local addresses is 43%. There were 11 countries noted on non-local addresses, the dominant country being France (21), followed by Germany (12), Switzerland, Belgium and Holland (3 each), USA, GB, Switzerland and Mexico (2 each), and single examples of Italy and Kenya. Some uprating was evident but the 19 examples were confined to five post office types.

H&G E #	Brief Description	Number Listed	Local Usage	Non-Monaco Destinations	Uprated
1	1886 1c olive Prince Charles III	12	4	8	6
2	1886 2c dark violet Prince Charles III	5	3	2	0
3	1891 1c olive Prince Albert, thin border lines	19	10	9	0
4	1891 2c violet Prince Albert, thin border lines	15	8	7	2
5	1893 1c olive Prince Albert, no border lines	18	11	7	3
6	1893 2c violet Prince Albert, no border lines	15	4	11	6
7	1898 1c olive Prince Albert, no border lines, printing date codes	1	0	1	1
8	1898 2c violet Prince Albert, no border lines, printing date codes	1	0	1	0
9	1925 1c black Arms	1	0	1	0
10	1925 2c dull red Arms	1	0	1	0
11	1925 2c brown Arms	0	0	0	0
12	1936 10c blue Arms	1	0	1	0
13	1938 15c violet Prince Louis	1	1	0	0
14	1938 20c carmine Prince Louis	2	1	1	1
	Totals	92	42	50	19

Table 1
Summary of PO Used Wrappers of Monaco listed on eBay since September 2003

Postal History Interest

An inspection of the 92 examples reveals that most wrappers are unremarkable. One wrapper showed a T within triangle *taxe* due marking while another wrapper has a postage due of France attached. There were no other auxiliary markings, no censor marks, no consular markings, no merchant handstamps, no registration or airmail examples, no *Via* directional markings and no Cinderellas. There are, however, at least ten wrappers bearing handwritten hotel names and addresses both in Monaco and France which might have appeal to collectors of this material.

Six wrappers have been selected for brief discussion for their postal history interest and these are shown as Figure 2. The first wrapper is the sole example of E7 showing date code 702 (difficult to read) to the right of the uprated indicium and the postmark appears to read MONTE CARLO 21.30 4-5 13 MONACO. The second wrapper, the sole example of E9 (relisted on eBay, January 2015 at \$50) is of especial interest for collectors of unusual destinations. This was addressed to Sir William Tunstall of "Clouds", Uplands, Kenya, and readdressed to him at Box 212, Nairobi.

Wrappers 3 and 4 are examples of postage due. For accurate interpretation of why postage due was levied it is necessary to know the newspaper concession rates of the period.

The first postage due wrapper was addressed to Geneva, Switzerland with the postmark reading MONTE CARLO 25 / 7 MARS 96 Prs DE MONACO. It shows a Monaco postage due triangular marking and the blue crayon 10 rating applied in Switzerland. The 10 represents underpayment of 1c (=5c) taxed double deficiency equalling 10 Swiss centimes. The tied 1884 10c olive green postage due adhesive (J24) has been removed from the wrapper immediately below and to the left of the base of the blue crayon "1". There is an arrival date-bridge cancel of Switzerland with 9 readable (two days after mailing in Monte Carlo).

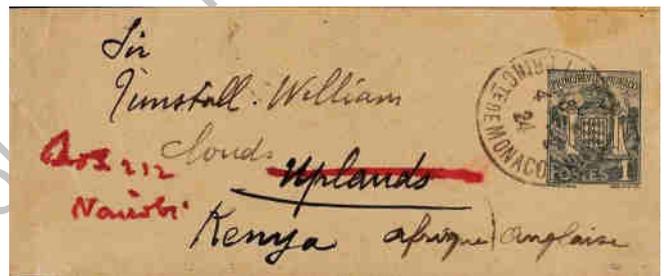
The second postage due wrapper is the sole example of E12 addressed to Moustiers-Ste-Marie. This is a commune in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence *département* in south-eastern France, a part of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region and considered one of the "most beautiful villages of France" (Wikipedia). One interpretation is that this wrapper was short paid four centimes (note for countries

with Franc monetary units as Monaco and Switzerland their currency is equivalent to UPU gold francs/centimes). Double deficiency was eight centimes in Switzerland rounded up to 10 centimes as marked. It was paid with an 1893 tied 10c brown postage due adhesive of France (J30). The postmarking details cannot be read from the internet image but is *circa* 1936 being the issue date of this E12 wrapper.

The last two wrappers are included because of their scarcity in the database. The E13 wrapper is the sole example recorded in 11 years of data-gathering on eBay. The postmark is not clear but appears to be MONTE CARLO 15 10 38 MONACO. It is addressed locally to the Hôtel des Moulins. The E14 wrapper, one of two in the database, has a similar postmark MONTE CARLO 15 10 38 MONACO. It is addressed to the Hôtel Terminus-Palace in Monte Carlo. The addresses on these last two wrappers appear to have been written by the same hand. The postmarking detail and location relative to the indicium appears to be identical. These matters are too much of a coincidence and the question can be raised whether these two wrappers might have been philatelically-inspired.



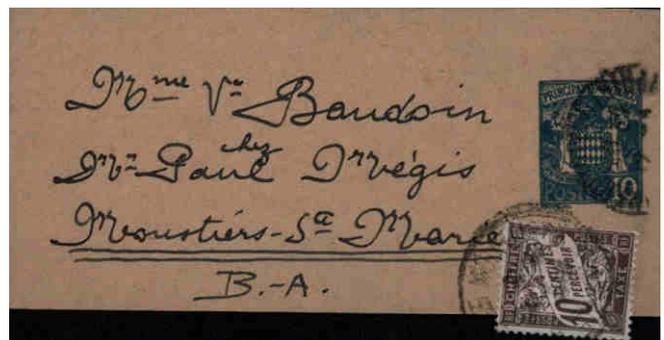
E7 showing date code 902



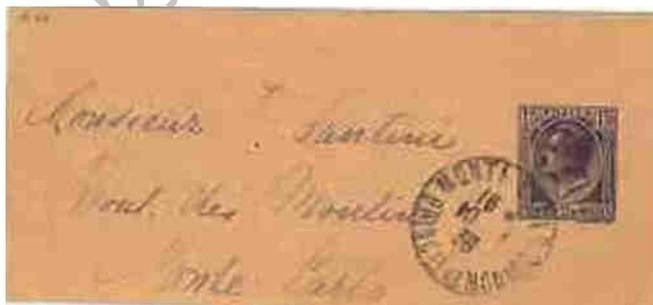
E9 readdressed from Uplands to Nairobi, Kenya



E3 with thin border lines & T within triangle



E12 with 10c postage due of France affixed (listed for sale twice but unsold)



E13, sole example, Monte Carlo hotel address



E14, one of two examples, Monte Carlo hotel address

Figure 2
Monaco Post Office Wrappers with Postal History Interest

Demand Side

Since March 2006, the author has hand-collected daily sales data of used wrappers that have taken place on eBay. As at the middle of January 2015 there have been 14,800 sales recorded in the database of which 58 sales refer to the post office wrappers of Monaco. These sales are summarized in Table 2 per "E" type from lowest to highest realized price. The number of bidders per transaction is shown in parentheses. Number of bidders is not the same as number of bids, which is usually higher. An awareness of the number of bidders is helpful in determining the strength of the collector market. A useful rule of thumb is that an average score of 2.5 bidders per type of wrapper issue is a tipping point – a score above 2.5 indicates a stronger collector interest and a score below 2.5 indicates a weaker collector interest.

The profile of all bidders shows that there were four

transactions with six bidders, one transaction with four bidders, seven transactions with three bidders, 19 transactions with two bidders and 27 sole bidder transactions. The one and two bidder transactions account for an overwhelming 78% of sales. The overall weighted average number of bidders calculated from the last column of Table 2 is 1.96. Only E9, with one sale, scored above 2.5. Eight issues scored 2.00 or less. The implication is that none of the wrapper types of Monaco have an especially strong bidder following on eBay.

The only two remarkable sales were for copies of E13 and E14 with realized prices of \$100 and \$150 respectively and these wrappers were shown in Figure 2. The next highest realized price was \$48 for a copy of E5 mailed to Mexico and uprated 3c. The 5c rate for up to 50 grams to Mexico appears to be correct. This wrapper appears as Figure 3.



Figure 3
Uprated Wrapper to Mexico

H&G E #	Sales Details (Ranked Low to High in USD) & Number of Bidders per Sale (in Parentheses)	# of Sales	Mean # of Bidders
1	0.99 (1), 1.00 (1), 2.00 (1), 2.77 (3), 24.50 (2)	5	1.60
2	2.00 (1), 2.76 (1), 3.77 (1)	3	1.00
3	0.55 (2), 0.99 (1), 0.99 (1), 1.00 (1), 1.25 (2), 1.37 (1), 1.84 (2), 2.00 (1), 2.00 (1), 2.00 (1), 3.25 (4), 3.28 (2), 4.76 (2), 5.00 (1), 5.24 (6), 6.50 (2), 7.53 (2), 7.59 (2), 8.37 (2), 10.45 (2), 15.50 (6), 16.20 (6)	22	2.27
4	0.55 (2), 0.90 (1), 1.25 (2), 1.36 (2), 1.99 (1), 2.77 (3), 2.80 (1), 5.02 (2), 5.50 (3), 5.50 (2), 6.11 (6), 9.95 (1), 10.19 (3)	13	2.23
5	3.00 (1), 4.25 (2), 9.95 (1); 48.00 (1)	4	1.25
6	2.00 (1), 2.25 (3), 2.99 (1), 4.04 (3), 5.00 (1), 30.00 (1)	6	1.67
7	No sales recorded	0	0.00
8	No sales recorded	0	0.00
9	31.02 (3)	1	3.00
10	10.50 (2), 11.59 (2)	2	2.00
11	No sales recorded	0	0.00
12	No sales recorded	0	0.00
13	100.00 (1)	1	1.00
14	150.00 (1)	1	1.00
	Total	58	1.96

Table 2
eBay Sales Transactions of Monaco Wrappers (2006-2015)

Conclusion

Between September 2003 and January 2015 – 136 consecutive months – 92 used wrappers of Monaco have been listed for sale on the eBay site. The overall worldwide database comprises 37,000 images so it is against this larger number that the wrappers of Monaco can be assessed. It must be noted, however, that more copies of Monaco wrappers could have been listed on the French eBay site and escaped the author's attention. There were 14 different post office postal stationery issues between April 1886 and 1938, a 52 year period. Expressed another way, there have been only 92 extant used examples listed on eBay from approximately 52 years of private usage of wrappers in Monaco. This low level of extant usage is some indication that the wrappers of Monaco are not common.

The relative elusiveness of some wrapper types is evident from Table 1 where the last eight post office types issued registered only eight extant cases combined, with six types

each with one example, one with none and one with two. It is likely that these hard to find wrappers have been offered for sale on non-eBay sources.

A study of the demographics of these wrappers shows that for the most part they are unremarkable. There were two cases of postage due, but there were no other auxiliary markings, no censor marks, no consular markings, no merchant handstamps, no airmail etiquettes, no registration marks and no *Via* directional markings. There was one readdressed wrapper mailed to Kenya and one to Mexico that probably qualify as exotic destinations.

With regard to sales, the 58 realizations recorded on eBay showed that overall bidder interest was modest with an overall average bidder score of 1.96, below two bidders per sale. There were few sales of interest with 90% of sales realizing less than \$20. The two outstanding sales were for copies of the last two issues E13 and E14.

References

- Furfie Michael (2010), *International Postage Rates 1890s-1957*, self-published, Middlesex, June, pp. 90.
- Higgins and Gage (1964), *Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World*, California.
- Kosniowski Jan (2015), *Newspaper Wrappers: Catalogue of Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrappers of the Whole World*, StampDomain.

Acknowledgement

Again I thank most sincerely my good friend Allan Gory for reading and commenting on an earlier draft.

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Continued from page 4

Association des Collectionneurs des Timbres de la Libération et de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale

The ACTL exists to study the stamps of the Liberation and World War 2. It publishes a regular quarterly Journal, which in recent issues has grown to 100 pages. The December 2014 issue covers Operation Overlord and, while the editor bemoans the fact that there is a disappointing lack (from his members) of contemporary material, the issue contains

a series of illustrated articles, covering the liberation issues of Alençon, Caen, Cherbourg, Morlaix, Vire and Val-de-Saire; and articles covering various aspects of the invasion and the subsequent battles illustrated mainly by issues from a variety of countries, including many unlikely ones, commemorating the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

David Hogarth is willing to lend his copy to anyone interested.

With the demise of our Library, articles noted in these columns will in future be available to read either in the Library of the Royal Philatelic Society London or by applying to certain individual members of our Society who will keep them for 12 months before disposing of them. Details of who is keeping which magazines for this purpose can be discovered by application to the Editor.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 19 NOVEMBER 2014

Bob Larg: Further Exploits

Bob opened his display with an eclectic collection of material drawn from the 1900s to the 1920s. The stamps were represented by the Blanc, Mouchon, Merson, Sower, *Taxe* and *FM* issues supported by examples of their usage on cover. The accompanying picture postcards illustrated the events of the time and included a panoramic postcard of the Camp de Mailly, a series of cards commemorating the 1903 visit of King Edward VII, the 1906 visit of the Lord Mayor of London, the 1910 floods at Choisy-le-Roi together with others illustrating regional costumes and cuisine.

Items drawing particular attention included a 1911 postcard from Ceylon to Singapore with a 10c Sower cancelled YOKOAMA A MARSEILLE, a postcard franked with 20 copies of the 1c *Type Blanc* and a striking red 1915 envelope sending copy from Paris to the *Daily Telegraph* offices in London franked with two 40c Merson to pay the registered third step letter rate.

The second part of Bob's display started with a collection of material relating to Aviation Meetings and Events between 1909 and 1930. The 1909 *Grande Semaine d'Aviation de la*

Champagne was well represented and we saw a fine example of a cover with the 1909 *Juvisy Port-Aviation* vignette and Chambon cancellation. The following year was also well represented with an array of vignettes, seals and postcards from meetings at Rouen, Troyes, Bar-le-Duc and Dijon. Covers from meetings in the early 1920s presented a diversity of vignettes and cancellations and a kaleidoscope of colour.

Bob closed his display with a collection of Eiffel Tower postcards. Over 50 examples were to be seen spanning almost 100 years from 1893 to 1990. Postcards illustrated the construction of the tower, its foundations and views from above and below of which many of the later ones were embellished with *SOMMET DE LA TOUR EIFFEL* vignettes, cachets and meter marks.

Len thanked Bob on behalf of the members for an entertaining evening which appealed to all present.

Members present: Len Barnes, Mick Bister, Michael Fairhead, Chris Hitchen, Barbara Priddy, Michael Wright

Apologies: Maurice Tyler

MLB

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 18 FEBRUARY 2015

Maurice Alder: 60 years of collecting

Maurice introduced himself as a lifelong collector of stamps, a pastime which he had shared with his love for France, in particular its food and wine, and with his interest in railways and bridges.

He recalled his introduction to stamp collecting in the 1950s when his father, who worked in the wine trade, brought home correspondence from growers in France. We saw covers from Burgundy and the Rhône valley franked with the *Marianne de Gandon* issue and various commemoratives of the period. His regular purchases of 6d packets of stamps from Woolworths were represented by one of his best finds, a fine 20F Merson, and his school stamp club days were remembered by a 1c Napoleon with an imposing flaw although unfortunately not the 'à la cigarette' variety.

His visits to Stampex and similar stamp fairs led him to starting small collections one of which was the Sabine issue. Later purchases of this design included a fine strip of ten colour trials and a proof signed by Pierre Gandon. The complete sheets on display were much admired.

During his frequent visits to France Maurice would buy items which caught his eye. One such piece was a 30c Sage on cover with a neat Daguin cancellation which would later inspire him to take a deeper interest in the Sage issue. His

interest in the works of Van Gogh were shown to overlap his philatelic pursuits when he showed us reproductions of two paintings by the artist, one entitled 'Portrait of a postman' and the other 'Still life around a plate of onions'. The latter was purchased as Maurice believed that the two stamps on the envelope depicted in the scene were *Type Sage*. As the work had been painted in 1889 and the colours of the stamps were deemed to be accurate, members were able to confirm Maurice's theory.

The first half of the display concluded with a selection of mail, postmarks and postcards which had links to his interest in railways and bridges. Amongst the items was the 2001 miniature sheet 'Les légendes du rail' featuring classical locomotives. One such locomotive was the diesel powered *autorail panoramique* depicted crossing a viaduct. Maurice explained that he had travelled on this very train on a trip entitled 'Panoramique-Gastronomique' and that the single stamp symbolised all his favourite pursuits.

The second half began with extracts from Maurice's principal collection, that of the *Type Sage*. His main interest is the 15c blue and he showed examples of his study of the plating and printings. We saw a beautiful pane of 50 with full printing inscriptions, a block of six of the rare 'sans millésime' and a magnificent block of six with the TP control cachet. Other Sage items included examples of the

3c to 30c *poste infantine* issues including a 'bon de poste', a set of documents prosecuting the sender of a letter for having applied a re-used stamp, a bundle of 5c visiting card envelopes complete with *bandelette*, a superb 15c *enveloppe annonce* and two very fresh examples of the 1900 reprints *sur bristol* in the form of a pair of the 2c and a block of 4 of the 50c.

The display ended with various items, mostly from the classical period, including a most attractive and minuscule *ballon monté* believed to have been flown on the 'Garibaldi' and an example of the notorious Mrs Simpson cover created by Letts Diaries. But not mentioned until the very end was arguably one of the finest items shown in recent years

at a London meeting namely an 1871 *boule de Moulins*. The cover, franked at the correct rate of 1F with an 80c Napoléon and a 20c Cérés had been posted in Murat for onward fluvial dispatch from Moulins to Paris. The cover had survived its journey and retained its two stamps in the process – a truly remarkable achievement and an equally remarkable piece.

Len Barnes thanked Maurice for sharing with the members such a personal and fascinating approach to his hobby and proposed that in the future other members might offer to do something similar in a future programme.

Members present: Maurice Alder, Len Barnes, Mick Bister, Chris Hitchen, Bob Larg, Hugh Loudon, Maurice Tyler.

MLB

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Comoro Islands stamps

In response to John Mayne's enquiry in Journal 274 of December 2014 (page 170), a google of 'Comoros Islands stamps' led me to a website

<http://www.comores-online.com/collections/philatelie/indexgb.htm>

that shows Comoros stamps (including those around

1975) illustrated with reference numbers under the three catalogues of Michel, Yvert & Tellier, and Scott. If I have not missed the point, a look at this website, tying John's purchases to the stamp illustrations given, would lead to the appropriate entry in one or other of these three catalogues and thereby to estimated values. I hope this helps.

Derek Atkins

I have written to thank both Derek Atkins of Sidcup and Kenneth White of Arizona (the latter very helpful) [*though his comments have not been submitted to the Editor*] for their assistance and have also written an acknowledgement

in the books sent today to John West, but as it will be some time before these are circulated I would appreciate adding a postscript in the Journal regarding their replies. I am most grateful to them both.

John Mayne

French and Flemish twin place names

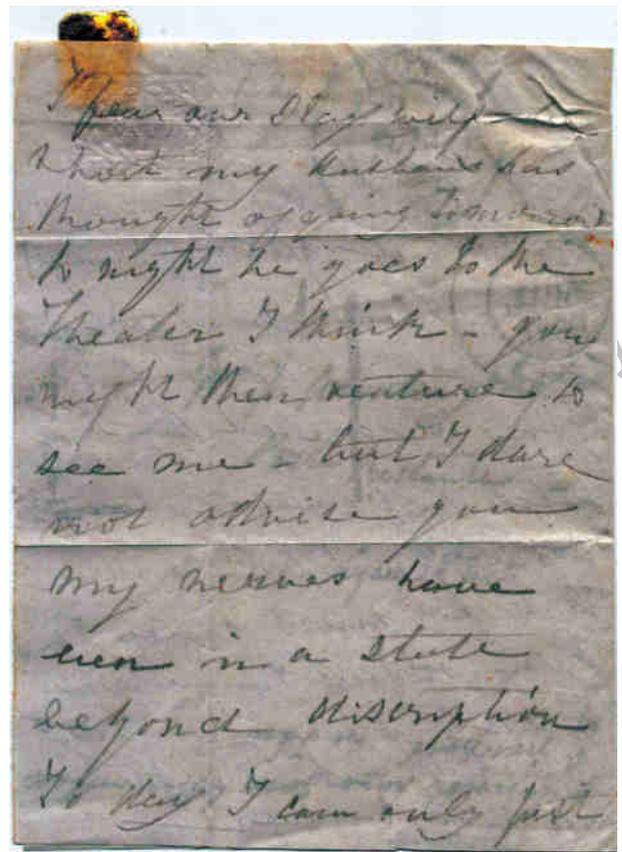
Bill Mitchell's interesting article on WWI Belgian postal services in Journal 274 of December 2014 (pages 133-139) raises the question as to whether Baarle-Hertog and Baarle-Duc were two separate villages. As was the practice at the time postmarks in 1915 bore the place names in both

French and Flemish, hence the Baarle-Hertog and Baarle-Duc for the one village.

[*According to a Wikipedia article on Belgian place names in other languages the French version of this village is spelt Baerle-Duc – Editor*]

Alan Wood

Une liaison dangereuse?



The smallest cover I own is to be found in my *Poste Restante* collection. It measures, when folded, just 40 x 80mm. From the outside it looks quite innocent. Closed by a small gilt seal indicating a feminine touch, it was posted to the *Poste Restante* counter in Lyon on 7 June 1839 where it was claimed by the addressee, Mr Armstrong on the same day. Its unprepossessing appearance though belies the nature of its contents.

Inside, a message has been written in pencil with a very light hand. Both the script and the lady's English are shaky and in parts difficult to read but there is enough to grasp the message.

We arrived yesterday night, Thursday. I send now for your letter and leave this one for you. We are at the Hôtel de Provence, Room 47.

I have suffered too much since I saw you. In fact I am almost mad. I have much to say, much to ask and perhaps we part for ever.

I fear our stay will be short. My husband has thought of going tomorrow. Tonight he goes to the theatre, I think.

You might then venture to see me but I dare not advise you. My nerves have been in a state beyond description. Today I can only just keep quiet.

There is no signature, just three initials which may be M.H.H.

We must be careful though not to misinterpret the message or be judgemental about the writer's intentions. Perhaps she is doing nothing more than discussing her mental state with her psychiatrist. Possibly, she is not Mr Armstrong's paramour - just his patient.

But wouldn't it be so satisfying to find Mr Armstrong's response? Perhaps postal historians in the Society might find it in their collections and confirm how dangerous, or innocent, this liaison turned out to be.

Mick Bister

PO Wrappers in the French Colonies

Following on my articles in the last Journal and this one about the PO wrappers of France and Monaco I considered doing something similar for the French colonies. But when I went to Wikipedia to find out the names of French Colonies I found the list a little overwhelming.

When I went to my 21 copies of French Colonies wrappers it was necessary to look at the postmarks to identify

from where the wrapper was used. I found postmarks mainly for Indo-China (Saigon), but also for Senegal and Martinique.

My question is whether there are other French Colonies that used these wrappers of which I have no examples. In other words, what's missing? Can members suggest colonies that would have used these wrappers?

John Courtis

ABPS Executive Bulletin January 2015

Benefits of Membership of ABPS

Please remember that although the Speakers List, Handbook and Directory, Leaflets, ABPS Awards and ABPS News are all tangible support for our members but much activity also takes place in the background to facilitate and support national and regional events such as Congress, competitive exhibitions, Midpex etc., all on a voluntary basis. Without the encouragement of our affiliated members, these might disappear completely. ABPS is also supporting the long term development of the hobby through the Stamp Active Network.

Finances of ABPS

If you want to find out more about what we spend your capitation fee on, the full accounts can be found on the ABPS website. There will be no change in the capitation fee in 2015.

ABPS Directory and Speakers List ****IMPORTANT****

A major update is being undertaken of both the Directory and Speakers Lists, due to be published in 2015. Any contributions, updates and additions for this should also be sent to Rev John Walden. Please check your current details and advise us of any changes.

We would also like copies of any Federation or Society Lists of Speakers.

Please send to handbook@abps.org.uk

Please note unaffiliated societies will not appear in the Directory.

New Constitution for ABPS

The new constitution was approved at the AGM in July. Details can be found on the website.

Stamp Active Network

Stamp Active Network has a continuing initiative to "Bring a Child to Stampex" to encourage the next generation of collectors.

A new website has been launched www.stampactive.co.uk. The hosting and maintenance of the site is being funded by ABPS to support future development of our great hobby.

Individuals can support Stamp Active by becoming a "Friend of Stamp Active" with an annual payment of £20. For more information contact John Davies. Email: davies1890@btinternet.com

Starter Packs are now available to new organisers of junior or school stamp clubs free of charge, sponsored by Stanley Gibbons.

Euromilex London 2015

13 to 16 May 2015 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London. Tickets can now be purchased for the first day at £10 from their website. All other days are free entry. www.London2015.net

This is expected to be the premier event in 2015 in GB with around 2000 frames of competitive displays and over 100 dealers taking part. ABPS is a major sponsor.

The special display is "Philatelic Events that changed the world".

We are looking for volunteers to assist at the event including

managing the ABPS Information Stand.

Stamp Active will have a stand at the show and will be providing free goodie packs for all young collectors with a prize draw for any adult bringing a child U18 to the stand.

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain takes place at The Queens Hotel, Leeds, from 6 to 9 August 2015. The theme of the event will be the 1890s. Full details can be found on the ABPS website or please contact Paul Gaywood for more information. Email: gaywood@hotmail.co.uk

Other National and International Events

Autumn Stampex 2015 Full National ABPS Exhibition: GB Overprints Society 45 Years

2015 Early September - joint UK/Germany national exhibition to be held in Gothe - celebrating 175th Anniversary of marriage of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. 200 frames will be available for UK exhibitors.

Singapore 2015 FIP Exhibition: 11 to 16 August: 50 years independence 2500 frames

Spring Stampex 2016: ABPS Pictorial Classes Thematic, Open and Postcards

World Stamp Show - New York 2016 28 May to 4 June: Javits Convention Center New York City

Autumn Stampex 2016: King George VI Society and Cinderella Societies throughout the world.

Spring Stampex 2017: Middle East celebrating 100 years of Iraq stamps.

Executive Centre has been booked by SWE for each Spring & Autumn.

Hiring available at £100 per 2 hours (subsidised) - contact Chrissie Baker.

Breaking the mould - Essen 2015 (European Thematic Championship) will combine with London 2015 to be a single international event held in two countries. This provides more frames for each exhibition. The top nine exhibits from Essen will be shown at London 2015, not judged, but available for candidate for 'Best in Show'. ECTP will have FEPA patronage and FIP recognition.

Please remember that the ABPS does not subsidise individual collectors' exhibition fees or the costs of Stampex.

For more information, contact: international@abps.org.uk

Seminars

Judging and Exhibition Seminars, organized by ABPS over two days, are available to Federations where demand exists locally. Thanks to Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions for their sponsorship. If you would like more information please contact events@abps.org.uk

The recent event in Hitchin, sponsored by Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, had 19 delegates and was well received. All judges are expected to attend a Seminar within a five year period to maintain their accreditation.

Other Reminders...

Updates for the ABPS Handbook & Directory

Please provide feedback and updates to handbook@abps.org.uk

Please note that information about societies non-affiliated to the ABPS no longer appears in the directory although names of societies are listed in pages at the end. Additional copies of the Directory may be obtained from the Secretary at a cost of £9 inc. p&p.

The ABPS Range of Information Leaflets

They are:

- What the ABPS does for you
- What is stamp collecting?
- Stamps Fact Sheet
- What is Social Philately?
- What is Postal History?
- What is Thematic Collecting?
- The Visiting Speaker
- ABPS Awards Scheme
- What is Postal Stationery?
- Model Constitution & Rules for Philatelic Societies
- What is Open Philately
- Organising a Society Conference Weekend

Copies can be obtained by sending a SAE to the Secretary (address below) or downloaded from the website.

Others under consideration are: How to conduct Society Auctions, What is Cinderella Collecting? What is Traditional Collecting? Post Card Collecting

Any feedback on communications and ABPS publications, should be sent to Chris Oliver. Email: communications@abps.org.uk

Information has now been collated on recommended venues/hotels for seminars and conferences. For more information contact Dane Garrod. Email: sslo@abpd.org.uk

ABPS News

The new issue of ABPS News is circulated in February. Our editor is Keith Burton.

Please remember to send in your reports to him prior to the copy deadlines. They should be sent by e-mail to: editor@abps.org.uk typed in a clear format or posted to him. He needs more photos too!

Website

You will find lots of information about Clubs around the country and their activities. Please take a look, check your local societies and tell us of any errors (including the meeting place and postcode). You will also find PDF copies of recent philatelic seminars.

A reduced resolution copy of the ABPS Bulletin is available on the ABPS website.

The Annual Accounts can now also be found on the website.

Advertising can now be taken on the ABPS website from dealers and affiliated societies.

Please send any material for inclusion or suggestions for improvement to John Baron:

Email: chair@abps.org.uk The new site is: www.abps.org.uk

Specialist Societies

Information has been collated by Dane Garrod regarding suggestions for Specialist Society meetings and events.

This includes a list of hotel venues recommended by Societies for events and conferences.

If you can help, please contact: sslo@abps.org.uk

ABPS Events and Exhibitions

Frames are available for hire from ABPS at fixed costs including erection and dismantling (which can be subsidised by The Philatelic Fund on application). These are only available to affiliated members of ABPS.

See the website for full information on costs and procedures.

The Committee has also appointed an administrator, Chrissie Baker, to maintain records of exhibitors and judges etc.

National guidelines on Judging are to be published shortly. Further details can be found on the ABPS website.

A Powerpoint presentation is now also available on the website under the Exhibition tab.

Federation Competition Rules have been re-drafted and can be obtained from Chris King.

Please contact him if you would like an event in your area.

Email: events@abps.org.uk

Communications to Federations

Members of the Executive Committee are willing to attend Federation and other regional events by invitation to talk about the role of ABPS. If you would like to know more about ABPS and its activities, please contact John Baron.

Contact: chair@abps.org.uk

Nominations Invited for ABPS Awards

If you know of anyone who deserves recognition for their support of our hobby, why not recommend them for this award. Details can be found on the ABPS website or contact Susan Oliver for more information.

Nominations for the Congress Medal and Awards of Merit must be sent to Susan Oliver by 1 March each year. Email: awards@abps.org.uk

The British Philatelic Trust has now been wound up.

Applications for funding should now be sent to **The Philatelic Fund** c/o RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY .

The office space at the Business Design Centre (Room 145E) is available for hire (suitable for committee meeting etc) on application to Tina Wilby at RPSL.

More Help Needed Urgently

In particular, we are looking for someone to act as a **Website Officer**,

This is a vital role to improve our communications to members. Can you help?

Help is also required to man the Information Stand at every Stampex.

“One volunteer is worth ten times more than a pressed man!”

If you can help ABPS in any way please contact: chair@abps.org.uk

For more information, or to give your comments, please contact those mentioned above, or the ABPS General Secretary

Willie King, ABPS, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY
E-mail: secretary@abps.org.uk

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