Registered cover (reduced) cancelled at Porto-Novo 29 April 1944. Censored at Cotonou and Berlin. Barbara Priddy gives an account of WWII airmail routes from French West Africa to Switzerland (see pages 3-15).

THE FRANCE & COLONIES
PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

The Journal
of the
France & Colonies Philatelic Society

CONTENTS

SOCIETY NOTES

Annual Philatelic Weekend 2022

Full details of the Weekend will be published in the August Journal. A brief summary is that 15 members attended with four guests, subscription dues will remain the same as the last three years and the Committee retains the status quo.

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Society Zoom Programme

The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: The French Pacific Colonies by Ed Grabowski in January was the last of the current programme. For it to continue we do need offers for this year. It really does not take much to scan some covers or stamps, put them into PowerPoint and a add a little text. A whole session would comprise around 40 to 50 slides but smaller ones can be fitted in as appropriate. So any offer would be welcome. Please contact Chris Hitchen by email at treasurer@fcps.org.uk

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Future Events

The Northern Group intends holding meetings in 2022 at the Ravenfield Parish Hall, Birch Wood Drive, Ravenfield, Rotherham S65 4PT on 2 April and in July and October.

The Wessex Group Claire Scott has organised a meeting for 7 May at Blandford Forum. A main speaker will be arranged and members are asked to bring along up to 30 sheets to display. Coffee will be available from 10 a.m. and lunch will be around 12.30 accompanied by a glass or two of wine or beer. (£28.00). Battles will resume at 2.00 p.m. and tea will be at 4 p.m. Contact Claire at claire@historystore.ltd.uk; telephone 01258 880841. Full details are available on the website.

Yet to be confirmed are the dates for the 2023 **Charlecote Weekend**, provisionally they are booked for 10 to 12 March.

As and when future events occur they will be promoted on the website.

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New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome new members: 1509 Jill Whitten (Southampton), 1510 Michael Peddar (Bathampton).

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Members Resigned or Retired

The following members have advised us that, sadly, they will not be renewing their membership: 871 Dr Gordon Stark, 540 Stuart Geddes, 1337 Ian Mitchell, 1309 Maurice Porter, 1129 David Tress, 1353 Helen Wells.

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Members Deceased

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of four of our members: 1340 Graham Booth, 1126 David Crosthwaite, 1251 Les Konzon, 743 Dr Paul Olver.

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Forthcoming Exhibitions

HELVETIA 2022, Lugano, Switzerland (18 – 22 May 2022) Padiglione Conza Convention Centre, Lugano, Switzerland - applications closed.

CAPEX 2022 Toronto, Canada. One-Frame Stamp Championship Exhibition (9 – 12 June 2022) Metro Toronto Convention Centre - applications closed.

STAMPEX Autumn 2022 (28 September – 1 October 2022) British Design Centre, Islington, London N1 0QH There will be a competitive exhibition and the central theme of the exhibition will be "Africa".

SOUTH AFRICA 2021, Cape Town, South Africa (8-12 November 2022) Entry deadline: 15 May 2022.

LIBEREC 2022 Liberec, Czech Republic (13 – 16 October 2022) applications closed.

IPEX, SOUTH AFRICA 2021, Cape Town, South Africa (8-13 November 2022) applications closed.

IBRA 2021, Essen, Germany (25 – 28 May 2023) UK deadline for entries is September 2022.

Information correct at time of publication. Further information can be found at the APBPS website:

https://www.abps.org.uk/forthcoming-exhibitions/

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Publicity for the Journal

THE JOURNAL OF THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Volume 71 – n° 3 December 2021

Il est toujours intéressant de constater que nos amis d'Outre-Manche ont, non seulement, un intérêt mais aussi de très bonnes connaissances sur la philatélie de France et de ses colonies. Rédigés exclusivement en anglais, les articles portent sur les poches de l'Atlantique en France, en 1945 ; le 12ᵉ congrès de l'Union postale universelle (UPU) en 1947 ou encore les héros de la résistance française. Autre sujet traité : la censure des courriers civils à Madagascar durant la Deuxième Guerre mondiale (cachets manuels et étiquettes)... Ce bulletin, tout en anglais, rappelons-le, comprend aussi une série de questions-réponses pour mieux comprendre des objets postaux. **Contact :** Ch.-J. Hitchen – 36 Everton Road – Croydon CR06LA – Royaume-Uni.

The March 2022 edition of *'L'Écho de la Timbrologie'* featured the Journal again in its regular column *Bulletins de clubs* with a résumé of our December 2021 edition.

Thank you again to the editor, Sophie Bastide-Bernardin, for highlighting our revue.

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Any which way that works: WWII airmail routes from French West Africa to Switzerland

Barbara Priddy

At this summer's France & Colonies weekend I acquired an intriguing wartime airmail cover from Senegal to Switzerland, which prompted me to get together all the other airmail covers I had from AOF (*Afrique Occidentale Française*: French West Africa) to Switzerland and see what they told me about the routes they took. The following are my conclusions, based on the covers themselves, analysed with the help of Charles LaBlonde's *World War II Mail from Switzerland to Great Britain, Canada and the United States;* John Daynes' *Wartime Air Mail;* John Wilson's *Report on the Progress of Civil Aviation 1939 - 1945;* Henri Truc's articles in *L'Aviette Postale, 147-148 Jan-Feb 1946, 149-151 Mar-May* *1946, 155-156 Sep-Oct 1946,* and *157-158 Nov-Dec 1946;* and a chart of WWII censorship codes of which the source is said to be *Deloste, bulletin num 59 du CMSGM*.

From the inauguration of the Senegal - France airmail service in June 1925, mail for Switzerland was accepted and forwarded from Marseille by rail (Figure 1). From 1930 the Par Avion instruction on Swiss-bound mail was cancelled at Marseille, at first with a cross (Figure 2) later with diagonal bars (Figure 3). From the inauguration of the trans-Saharan service in February 1935, mail from the interior of AOF was flown from Algiers to Marseille and then similarly forwarded by rail.

Figure 1
Registered cover cancelled at St Louis 17 July 1928, with arrival date stamp of St Gallen 23 July
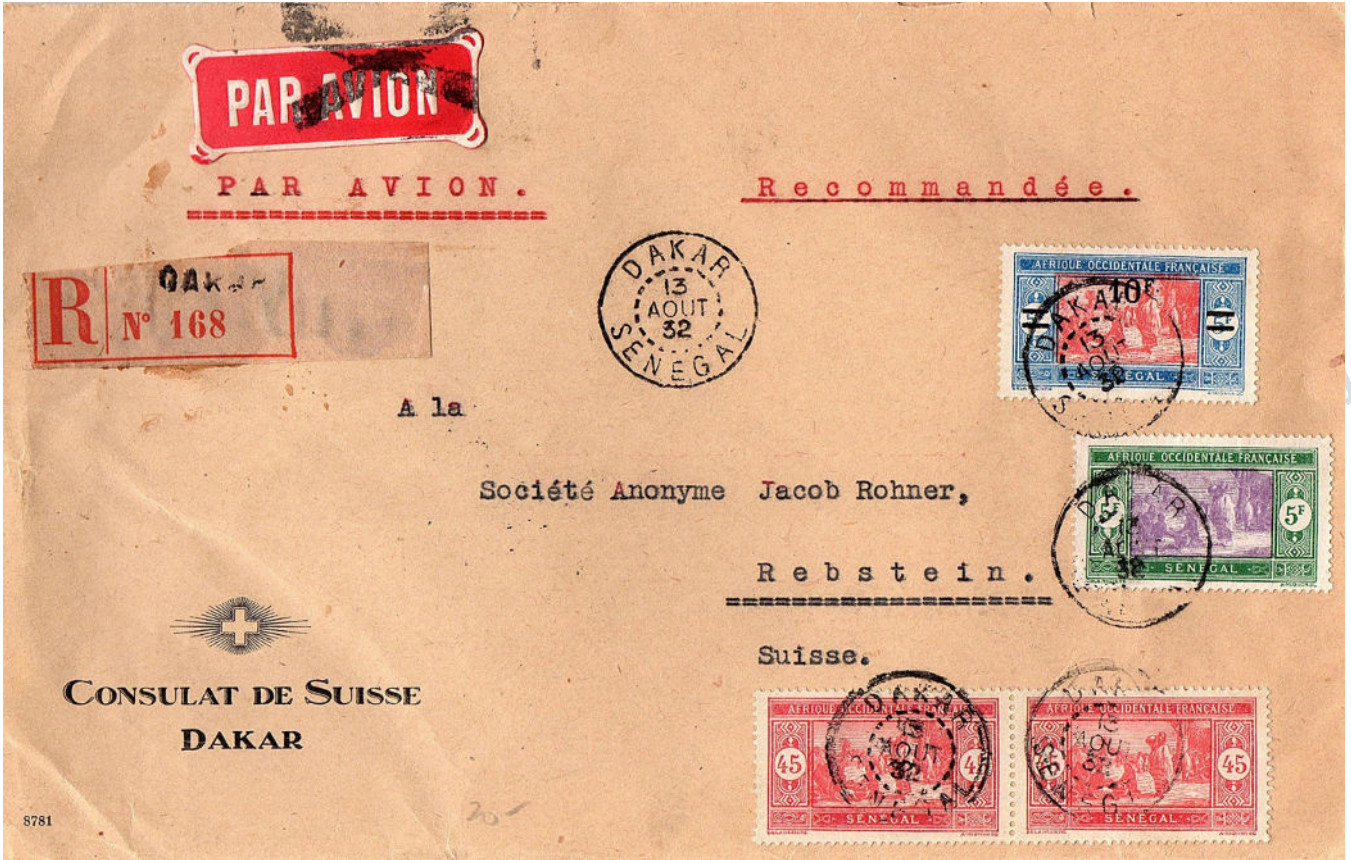
Figure 2
Registered cover (reduced to 85%)
cancelled at Dakar 13 August 1932,
with arrival date stamp of Rebstein
18 August (100%)

Figure 3
Cover from French
Sudan cancelled at
Satadougou, 22 May
1936, with indistinct
Dakar transit date
stamp and transit date
stamp of Marseille,
5 or 15 June.
(Reverse reduced to
80%)

Figure 4

Cover cancelled Chemins de fer de la Côte d'Ivoire / 7 November 1939 / Abobo, with arrival date stamp of Bevaix 22 November. This cover, which apparently escaped censorship, was underpaid and taxed '30'.

Any explanation of the cancel - ?railway parcel? - or the franking would be welcome.

Reverse reduced
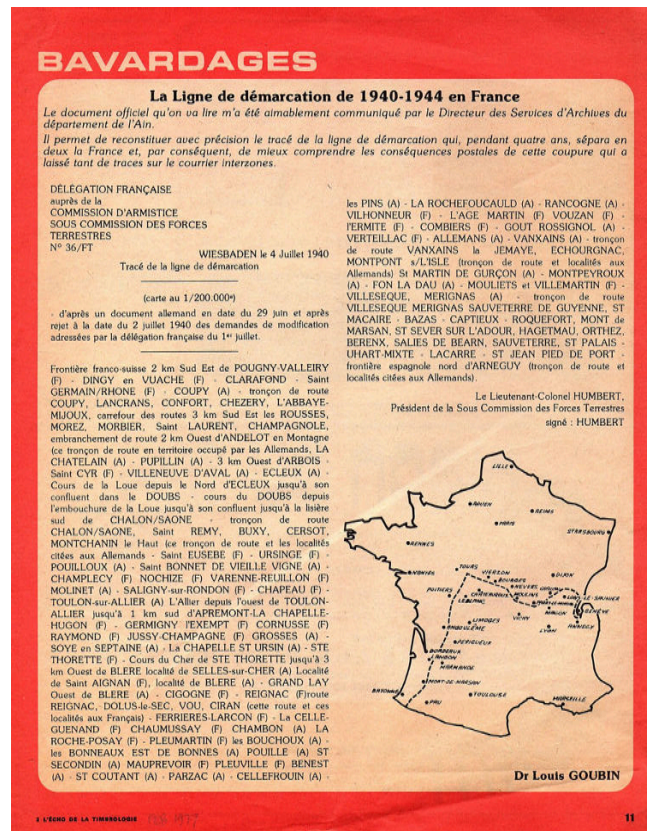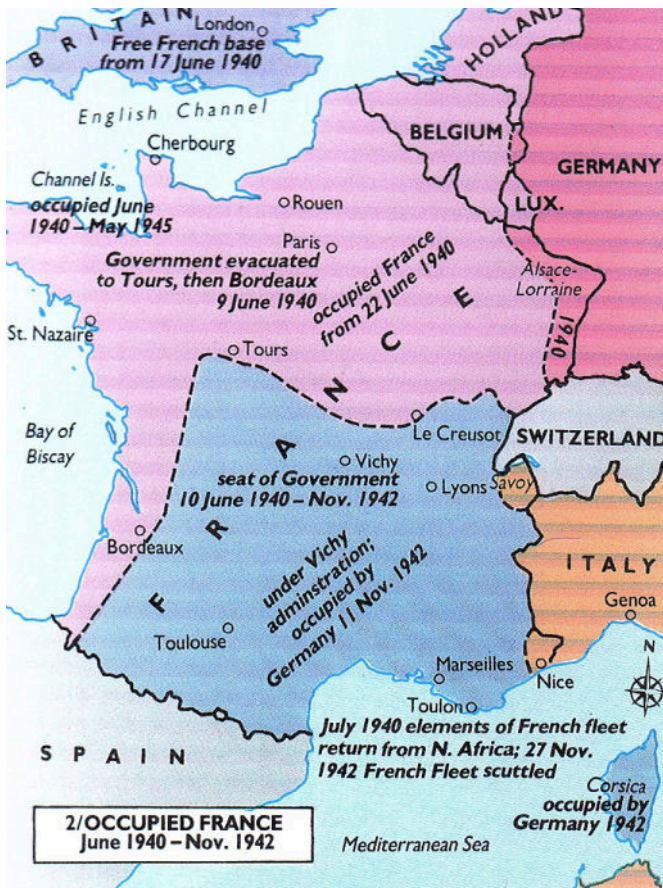
Figure 5a (left) Map of occupied and unoccupied zones, from *The Times Atlas of World War II*
5b (right) The line of demarcation between the zones, from *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*

5

After a short suspension on the outbreak of WWII in September 1939, the services resumed on the same routes (Figure 4). They were suspended again in June 1940 on the fall of France, the Armistice and the division of France into occupied and non-occupied zones (Figures 5a and 5b). AOF and ANF (*Afrique du Nord Française*: French North Africa) remained under the control of the Vichy government, so at the end of September 1940 it was again possible to resume the service, but this time on the trans-Saharan route only. The route by rail from Marseille to Geneva was still open, although the last few miles lay in the occupied zone (Figure 6). In March

1941 the coastal route resumed operation, slightly altered to avoid Spanish territory.

These services continued functioning until November 1942 (Figure 7), when the invasion of ANF by the Allies in Operation Torch cut the trans-Mediterranean link, the Germans occupied the previously non-occupied zone, and all Air France planes were grounded. Air France services between AOF and ANF resumed in December 1942, but there was no direct connection to France, and all mail services into and out of Switzerland were suspended until late January 1943.

Figure 6
Registered cover cancelled at Abidjan 26 September 1940, with arrival date stamp of Bevaix 7 October.
Endorsed for transmission by air *'jusqu'à Lyon'*, but airmail instruction cancelled at Marseille. Censored at Abidjan

Figure 7
Cover cancelled at Koutiala 27 October 1942, with arrival machine stamp of Marseille 5 November.
Carried by last flight out of Algiers before the Allied invasion of ANF on 8 November
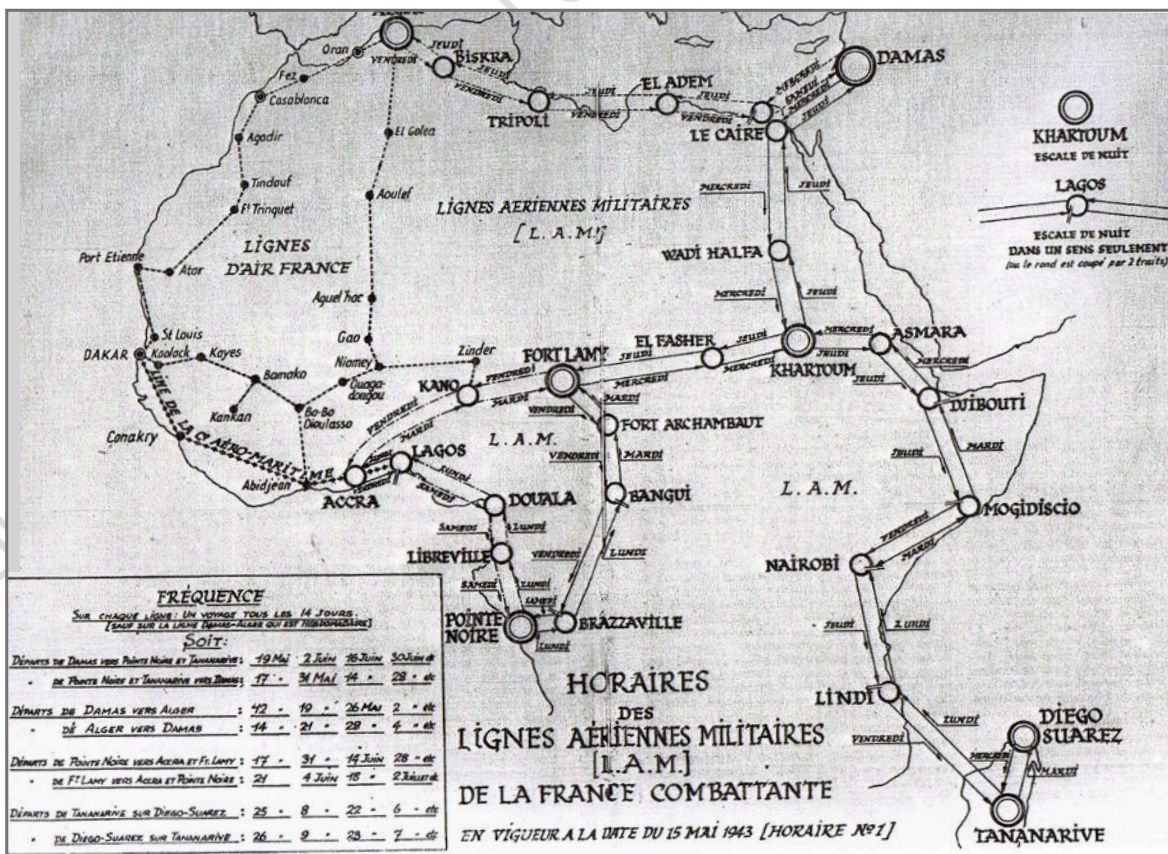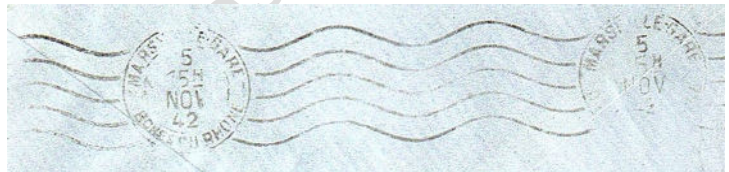
Figure 8
Route map of Free French services in May 1943

Figure 9
Registered cover cancelled at Dakar 4 March
1943, with transit date stamp of British Post Office
in Tangiers 11 March and Lisbon 13 March.
Censored at Dakar and Berlin.

When services into and out of Switzerland resumed, the trans-Mediterranean air route from Algiers to Marseille was still suspended, and the rail route via Geneva was closed, but two alternative routes were available to mail from AOF and ANF: (i) by air on the Deutsche Lufthansa service Lisbon-Madrid-Barcelona-Stuttgart-Berlin and Swissair Berlin-Stuttgart-Basel (from March 1943 the Berlin-Stuttgart leg was operated by DLH); (ii) by rail Lisbon-Madrid-Irun-Paris-Belfort-Basel. Both these routes afforded the opportunity for German censorship, at Berlin or Paris. The problem for AOF was of course how to get the mail across the Mediterranean. The map of Free French services in Figure 8 shows the nearest stops on the route - Casablanca, Fez, Oran and Algiers. Three covers from 1943 show the variety of routes utilised.

Figure 10
Cover cancelled at Dakar 6 May 1943,
with transit date stamp of Tangiers 20 May and Madrid 22 May. Censored at Dakar

In March 1943 the cover in Figure 9 (illustrated by kind permission of Peter Richards) was carried probably from Casablanca or Fez by rail to Tangiers, then via the British Post Office in Tangiers to Lisbon, and was censored in Berlin. The only air service possibly operating between Tangiers and Lisbon at this period was Aero Portuguesa (this service appears in the Swiss PTT guides from April 1943). From Lisbon it was carried by Deutsche Lufthansa to Berlin and thence to Stuttgart, and finally to Switzerland by

Swissair. Two months later, in May 1943 the cover in Figure 10 took a route via the Spanish Post Office in Tangiers and Madrid, somehow avoiding Spanish and German censorship. Its probable route was again from Casablanca or Fez by rail to Tangiers, then by Iberia from Tangiers to Madrid and DLH from Madrid. Three months after this, in August 1943, the cover in Figure 11 took a route via Gibraltar, and was censored by the Germans in Paris. Its probable route was by a BOAC service which had been
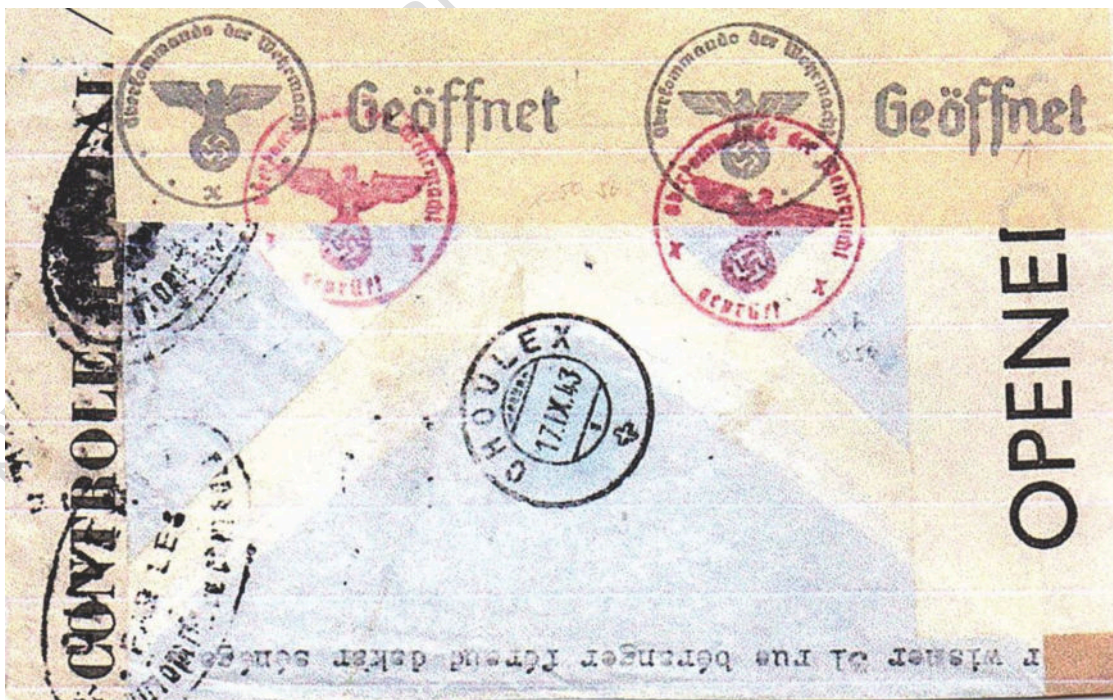
Figure 11
Cover cancelled at Dakar 27 August 1943, with arrival date stamp of
Choulex 17 September. Censored at Dakar, Gibraltar and Paris

inaugurated in June, from Fez to Lisbon, being off-loaded en route at Gibraltar for censoring, then by rail from Lisbon to Basel, being off-loaded en route at Paris for censoring. (This is the cover I acquired from Stephen Holder at the summer meeting, and I apologise to those present for misleading remarks I then made about its probable route.)

Although the Allies were making steady advances, the routes from Lisbon to Switzerland remained the same. In November 1943 the cover in Figure 12, although showing no

evidence of how it crossed the Mediterranean, was almost certainly flown from Lisbon to Berlin by DLH. Here it received the *Ab 'pass censorship'* mark, but was not opened. The Red Cross messages cover in Figure 13 took over a month in transit, from April to June 1944. The delay may have been caused by the difficulty in crossing the Mediterranean, or by being held by the censor at Berlin. All suggestions warmly welcomed.

Figure 12
Cover cancelled on Lome to Palime TPO 27 November 1943. Censored at Dakar and Berlin

Figure 13a

Reduced reverse of Figure 13b showing transit date stamp of Cotonou 30 April and arrival date stamp of Geneva 9 June.

Full size cover shown on following page

Figure 13b
Registered cover cancelled at Porto-Novo 29 April 1944.
Censored at Cotonou and Berlin. (Reverse shown on previous page)

For the cover shown in Figure 14, on the evidence of rates and dates of issue of the stamps, the year (lacking in the postmark) is probably 1944. The cover of 3 August in Figure 14, censored at Dakar and Paris, clearly reached Paris before the liberation of 24 August, presumably by train from Lisbon. The cover of 2 September in Figure 15, on the other hand, was censored at Dakar and Berlin and was presumably flown from Lisbon. How either of these reached Lisbon is open to debate.
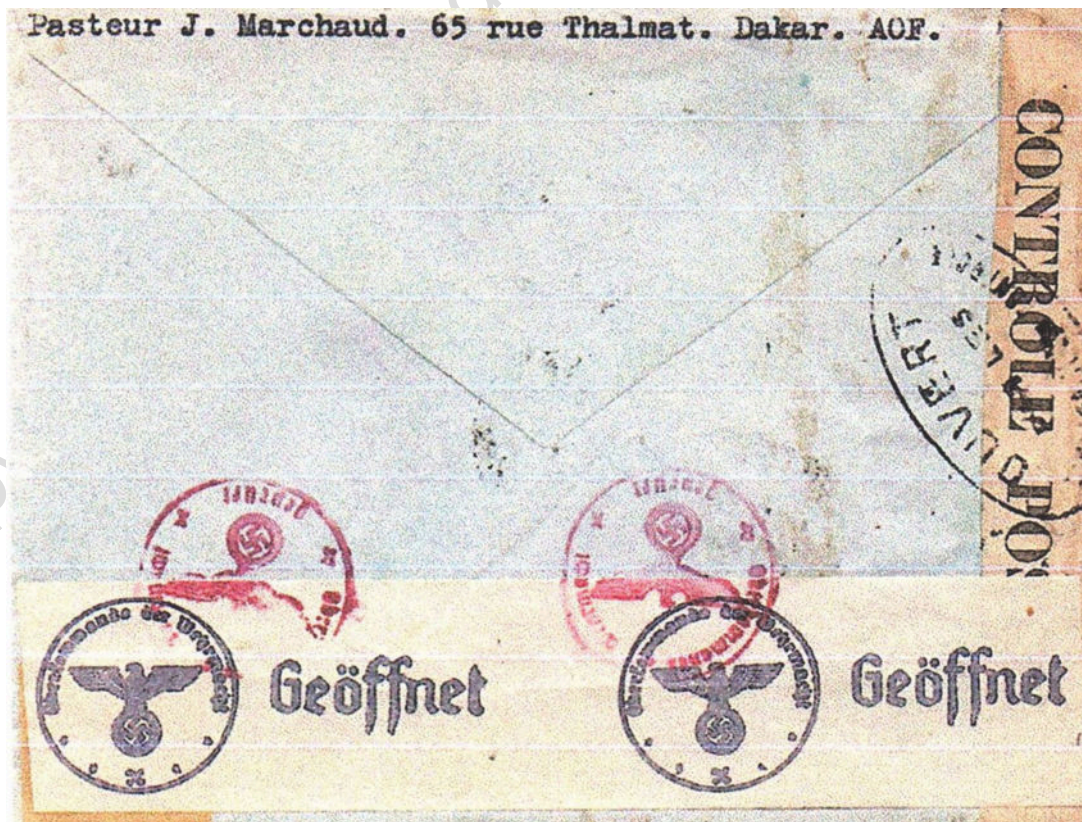
Figure 14
Cover cancelled at Thiès 3 August (probably 1944). Censored at
Dakar and Paris
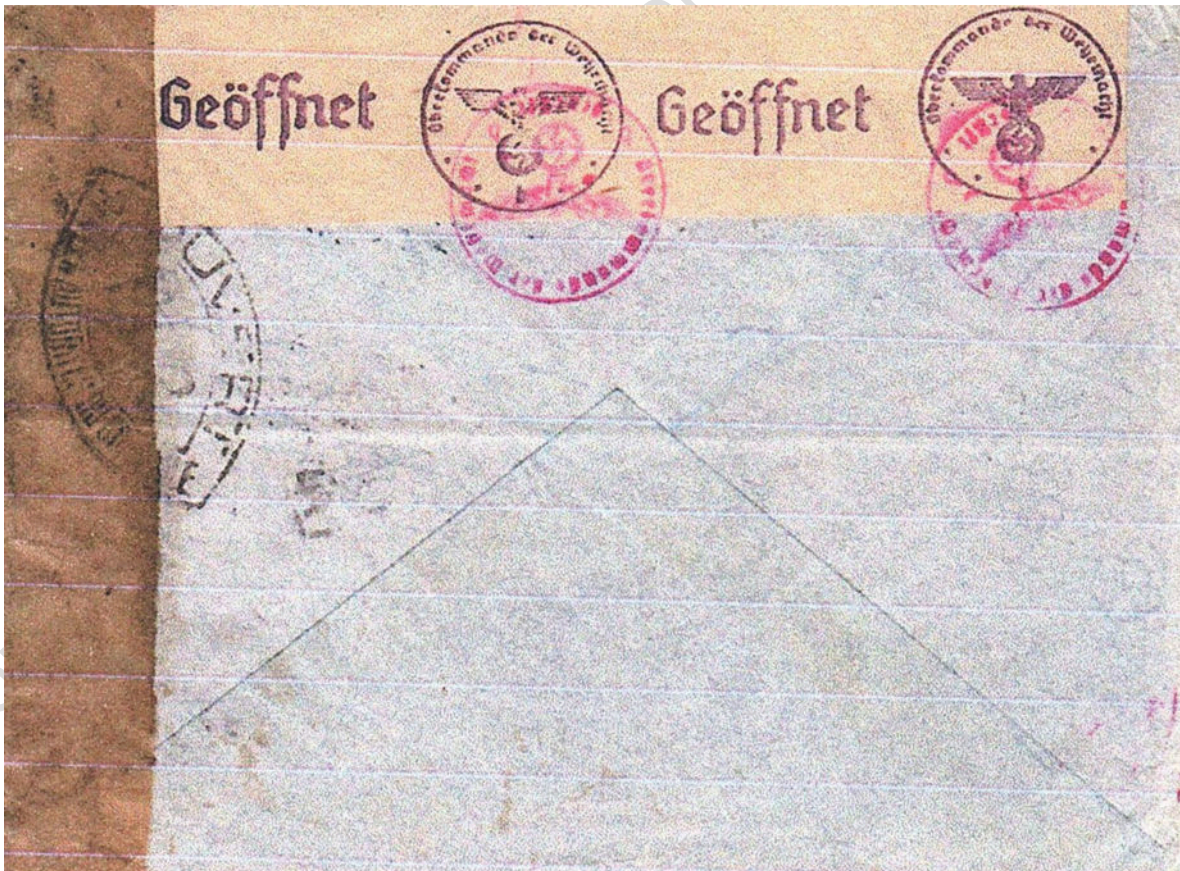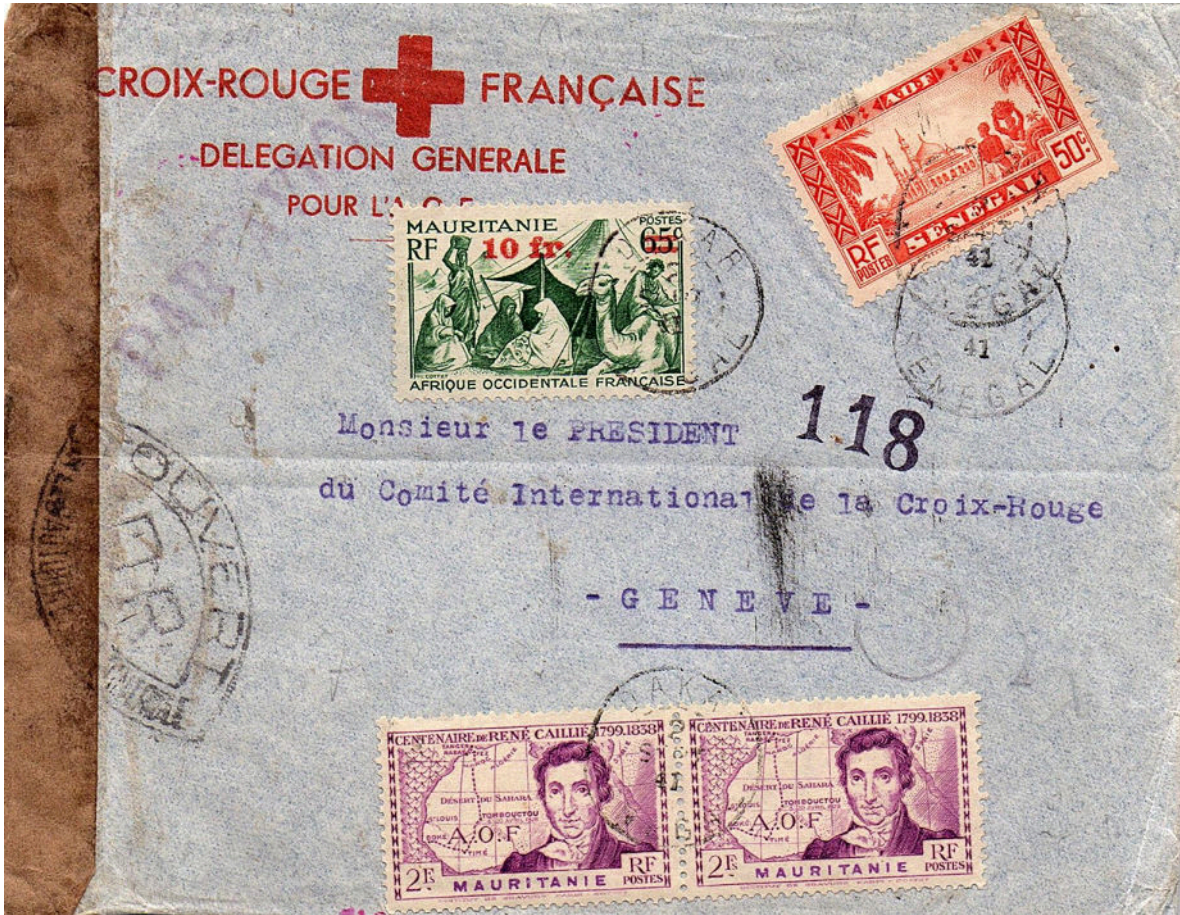
Figure 15
Cover cancelled at Dakar 2 September (probably 1944). Censored at Dakar and Berlin

Although the cancellation states 1941 the 10fr on 65c overprint stamp was not issued until 1944. The date error was very likely due to the unavailability of updated cancellers in the aftermath of Operation Torch or to the lack of appropriate year slugs.

Figure 16
Cover cancelled at Dimbokro
17 September 1945, with arrival date
stamp of Bevaix 2 October.
Censored at Dakar

From 25 October 1944 Air France services resumed a weekly service on the route Paris-Marseille-Algiers. On 1 June 1945, the various French airlines (Air France, Air Afrique, Aéromaritime) were bought by the state and air transport was nationalised, taking the old name of Air France on 1 January 1946. On 30 July 1945 Swissair and Air France inaugurated a daily service from Geneva and Zurich to Paris, thus re-establishing an all-French air service between AOF and Switzerland. But even after the surrender of Japan on 2 September 1945 and the formal end of the war some mail from AOF to Switzerland continued to be censored at Dakar (Figure16). This cover, which travelled from Dimbokro to Abidjan by rail, then from Abidjan to Dakar by Aéromaritime and on to Algiers by Air France, may have been off-loaded at Marseille and forwarded by rail, or carried on to Paris and forwarded by air.

I am most grateful to Peter Richards for permission to show the cover in Figure 9, which has added another dimension to the ingenuity shown by the postal services in getting the mail through. Any additions, clarifications and corrections to this short article, which is otherwise based entirely on covers in my possession, would be most welcome.

[*A detailed survey of the French Air Mail services serving British West Africa prior to WWII is available for purchase. Details are on page 54*] Ed.

Réunion Maritime
The Difficulties and Dangers of Maritime Travel Prior to the Opening of the Port in 1886
Part I. The Maritime Element

Peter R.A.Kelly
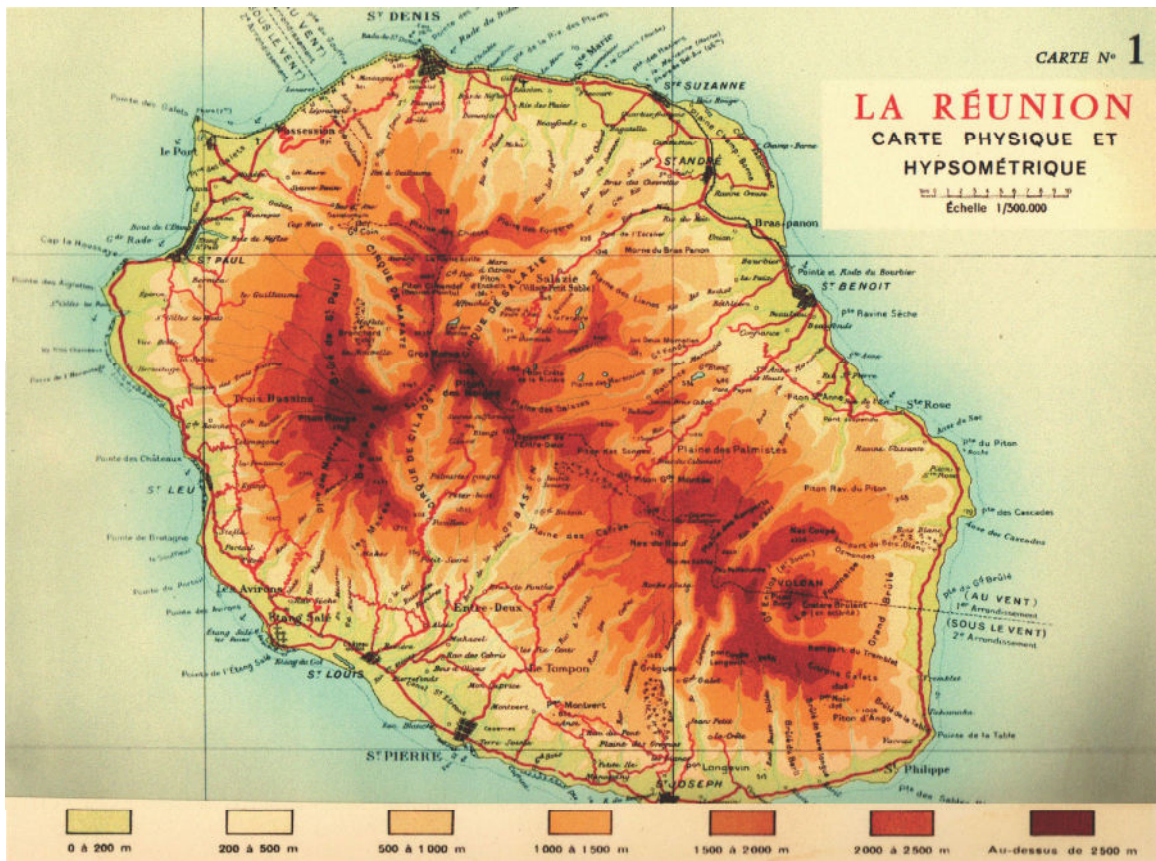
Figure 1
Physical map of the island of La Réunion

The island

The oval-shaped island of Réunion (Bourbon until 1848) lies some 400 miles east of Madagascar and a day's sailing or 140 miles from Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. It is 39 miles long and 28 miles wide at the furthest points with the central part consisting of high mountains up to 10.000 feet, high cirques and valleys. The south-eastern end of the island is dominated by an active volcano that last erupted in 2002. Most of the population and agriculture is scattered around the coastline. There are few indentations in the coastline and no natural harbours. An unsuccessful effort was made to create (i) a port at Saint-Denis, that was destroyed by a storm and abandoned, (ii) a small port at Saint-Pierre, only capable of taking in small vessels and certainly not the larger merchant shipping or mail boats and (iii) the man-made harbour at the Pointe des Galets, completed in 1883.

The ocean and climate

Up until the era of steam the winds and ocean currents determined shipping routes and much depended on the skill and experience of the seamen working the Indian Ocean and making that long journey between Réunion and France.

Navigation in the Indian Ocean was complicated. The predominant wind is from the south-east in the direction of the north-west. The year can be broken into two parts. The southern winter season runs from July to November; while the Roaring Forties flow predominantly to the east, the trade winds along the Tropic of Capricorn run from the south-east towards the north-west. In the southern summer from December to June the trade winds are often disturbed by tropical depressions and cyclones and the direction can either be to the west or north-west with the possibility of winds off the island to the south-west.

The island is in the area where cyclones occur and has, over the years, been badly affected by cyclonic storms that bring high winds and heavy rain. The cyclone season is usually between December and February. To give an example of how dangerous this can be either on land or at sea, 5.98 **feet**

of rain fell in a 12 hour period at Foc Foc, Réunion in January 1966. Over a 9-day period in February 2007 18 **feet** of rain fell on Commerson Crater, and wind speeds were calculated at a sustained 105mph gusting to 145mph (cyclone Gamede). In 2002 gusts were recorded of 172mph (cyclone Dina).

Clearly the damage and loss of life on the island was considerable but the dangers facing sailing vessels, either moored off the island or at sea, was even more so.

While the perils at sea are clear the lack of suitable port facilities in Réunion provided, at certain times, an additional and highly dangerous element of risk for merchant shipping and mail boats once a regular service was established.

Up until the opening of the railway in 1882 linking Saint-Benoit with Saint-Pierre via Saint-Denis. the movement of goods and produce around the island was difficult in view of the quality of the roads or tracks with the hillsides and, in places, the lava flows running down to the shoreline. The principal produce was sugar cane and the transport of the bulk of the processed cane was by ox-cart, difficult over unmade roads. One of the principal functions of the railway

was to transport material of all sorts to and from the port but this could not happen until 1886.

Until then, the only alternative was to ship goods from some of the bays around the coast. To achieve this, it was necessary for some kind of jetty or landing stage to be erected, normally out of wood and metal (*embarcadaires*) but these were not permanent structures and were frequently completely demolished by the high seas driven by the tropical storms. Depending on the season (cyclone risk) the ships moored as close in as they considered safe; goods were then loaded and unloaded by lighters or similar small boats and carried to the landing stage. The same applied to the mail boats and others carrying passengers that moored off Saint-Denis. They used the landing stage known as the *'barachois'* (Figure 2). Even after the opening of the port some merchant shipping still used Saint-Denis (as being cheaper) and the *Soudan,* belonging to the Compagnie Havraise is illustrated unloading cattle brought in from Madagascar that were put into the water and had to swim to shore guided by small boats. (Figures 3 and 4)

Figure 2

The *barachois* landing-stage at Saint-Denis (undated circa 1900)

SAINT-DENIS (Réunion). — Embarquement au Pont du Barachois.

Edition Léonce Salez - Cliché A. Kponou

As soon as a cyclonic storm was forecast all work stopped immediately and all ships put to sea irrespective of whether or not they were loading or unloading. The fear was to be wrecked on a lee shore as happened to many vessels including the *Michel Salustro* pictured (Figure 5) that went aground in 1905.

The power and height of the sea driven by storm-force winds can be seen in (Figure 6) with locals watching the *barachois* taking a battering.

A good example of the damage that a cyclonic storm can create is contained in a letter of 26-8 March 1829 sent from

the island of Sainte-Marie de Madagascar to Toulouse via Mauritius and Bourbon that reached Bordeaux on 12 October 1829. (Sainte-Marie was under Bourbon administration at that time). The letter is unusual, but it is the contents that are of particular interest and worth quoting (Figure 7).

The sender of the letter was sent out from France as an administrator whose job was to improve and put in order the local administration that appears (according to him) as having been abandoned. This being said, the island had a full colonial service, Governor, military hospital, school,

LA RÉUNION - St-DENIS. - Le « Soudan » en rade débarquant des bœufs de Madagascar

Figure 3 and 4

Discharge of cattle from the *Soudan* into the sea for a long swim ashore at Saint-Denis

(undated circa 1900)

12. Réunion — SAINT-DENIS - Débarquement de Bœufs

Figure 5

Shipwreck of the *Michel Salustro*, holed and unable to make it to the port having struck a reef off Champ-Borne. The ship was lost but the crew was saved.

(undated circa 1900)

RÉUNION. - Naufrage du *Michel-Salustro* sur les rives du Champ-Borne

library etc. He is unhappy with his lot, misses his wife and children but is in good health, claiming to be the only European on the island not having had malaria….

We have learned from the newspapers of the gale that devastated the bay of St Denis, Bourbon. The Barachois where one unloads the goods has been totally destroyed as well as some nearby stores and one ship sunk in the bay. The schooner 'La Turquoise' is also believed lost and we have no news of her. The merchant shipping that managed to leave the bay has returned in a pitiable state, rudderless and with broken masts. The ship 'Madagascar' whose role is to maintain communications between Sainte Marie and Bourbon has arrived at Bourbon, coming from France but left again the following day to search for the ships that scattered during the February storm. She will call at Fort Dauphin and Sainte Marie before proceeding to Bourbon…….

The *Mémorial de la Réunion* (Volume II pp 371/2) records the severe cyclonic storm of February 13 1829 that struck the island.

The effects were felt principally on the northern and western side of the island. The damage caused by the wind and rain was considerable with food crops severely damaged, although the cloves and coffee plantations were less affected and the sugarcane hardly at all. The damage caused by the height of the wind-driven waves was considerable with properties flooded, fishing-boats and other vessels overturned and some loss of life. Along the coast all the landing stages and pontoons were washed away. Inland, buildings and roofs were destroyed. Go-downs and sugar factories were not spared. Many animals were killed in their stables. It is said that the strength of the storm rivalled that of 1806 and 1807.

51 — Réunion - SAINT-DENIS, Raz de Marée pendant un Cyclone au Barachois

Figure 6

Tidal waves during a cyclonic storm. The *barachois* landing stage taking a battering.

(undated circa 1900)
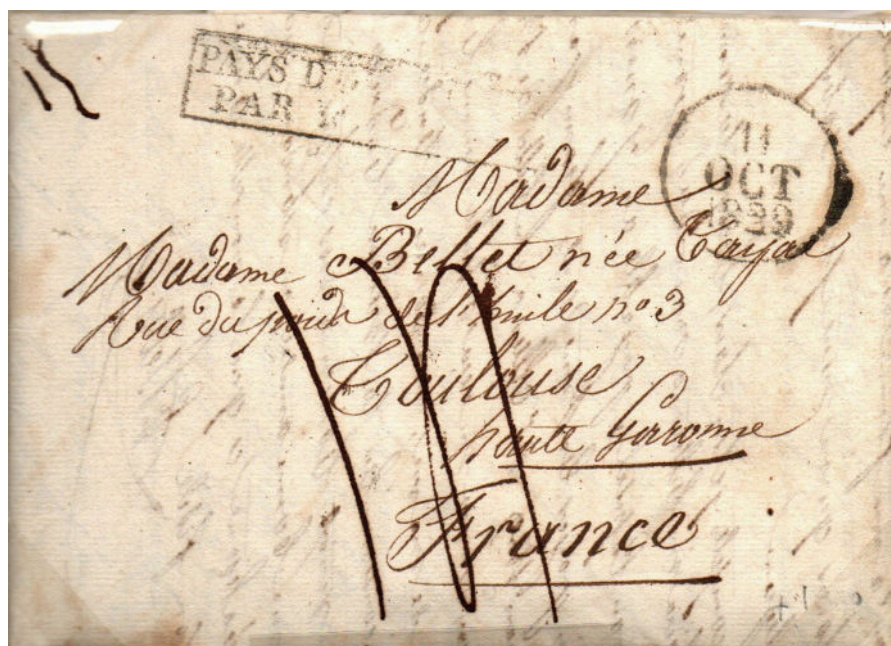
Figure 7

Sainte-Marie de Madagascar to Toulouse, France 26-28 March 1829

m/s *Par Manabar*, Maurice et Bourbon. Received at Bordeaux. '*Pays d'outremer / par Bordeaux*' 12 Oct 1829.

Taxed 14 decimes, Weight 15-20g, distance to 220km 13 decimes + 1 decime sea postage (tariff of 1828)

Most of the larger foreign vessels managed to stand off the island in time except for the *Réparateur* which sank. The local fleet suffered greatly as 19 vessels disappeared completely, lost at sea with crews totalling 259 officers and seamen. They included *La Turquoise* (crew of 53), *Messager de Bourbon* (crew of 24), *L'Apollon* (crew of 19) and *Aimable Créole* (crew of 18).

On the eastern, windward side of the island at Saint-Benoit and Sainte-Rose the storm was hardly felt at all.

Looking at Bourbon from a commercial angle, some 15 years after the British occupation, there were 57 ships ranging from three-masters to schooners and lesser vessels in Bourbon of which, at this time, there were 15 in the bay of Saint-Denis.

Despite all these difficulties let it not be said that no efforts had been made to construct port facilities. A number of projects had either been tried or proposed. As far back as 1773 the possibility of a port had been mooted for Saint-Pierre. In 1819 construction work started for a port at Saint-Denis but this was entirely demolished by the storm of 1829 which has already been referred to.

At around this time the decision was taken in France that Réunion should have facilities available for supplying and maintaining the French fleet. A study was carried out around the lake at Saint-Gilles and work started on a jetty in 1833. Further studies carried out in 1841 showed that it was not possible to maintain a clear channel through the reef and the project was abandoned. The remains of this are visible to this day.

In 1854 work started on the port of Saint-Pierre, financed by the Colony and later subsidised by the State. The financial crisis in the 1860s caused work to stop and it only restarted thanks to support from a concessionary company. This was of limited value and the work ended there. The port was judged to be too small for larger vessels under steam and silts up regularly so that the depth is not sufficient for vessels of a larger draught. (Figure 8)

Further projects were considered in the bay of Saint-Paul in 1867 and in the Baie du Butor (1869) but nothing came of them. The definitive survey was carried out by E Morlière in 1872 who also recommended the Bay of Saint-Paul and it was in the northern part of it at the Rivière des Galets that the new port was constructed. (E Morlire *Études relative à la création d'un port à la Réunion.* Saint-Denis 1872).

Part II (to follow) War in the Indian Ocean

Figure 8
The port of Saint-Pierre. Unloading goods at the quayside. (undated circa 1910)

Marianne de Muller

Mick Bister

Part 1: Introduction

Background

The origin of the *Marianne de Muller* design is uncertain and any conclusion depends on which source or author is consulted. Some sources[1] believe that the stamp's inception goes back to the last years of Vincent Auriol's presidency (1947-1954) during which Roger Duchet and Pierre Ferri were successive *Ministres des PTT*. Others[2] date it to the beginning of René Coty's presidency (1954-1959) which is the theory I support as it was not uncommon for an incoming president to request a new representation of Marianne whether in the form of a stamp, a medallion or a sculptured bust. At some time in 1954, André Bardon, Coty's new *Sous-Secrétaire d'État aux PTT* (Figure 1), is reported to have expressed a desire to see a more inspirational design for the country's definitive stamps. It would replace the post-war issue of *Marianne de Gandon* and its subject would be *"un symbole exprimant l'âme même de la France"* – "a symbol expressing the very soul of France". Stamp designers were invited to submit proposals in competition and amongst them was Louis-Charles Muller, a highly respected and successful sculptor and medallist who had created the *Mérite Postal* medal. He had already proposed a *Courrier Officiel* stamp depicting a portrait of Marianne seven years earlier in 1947 but this had been rejected (Figure 2). On his second attempt, it is reported that he prepared at least sixteen Marianne designs (Figure 3) and it was from these that Bardon made his choice. In an interview published in *'Le Monde des Philatélistes'* in November 1954, Muller informs Raymond Duxin, the editor, that he is engaged in the work but cannot reveal any further details.

Figure 1

André Bardon,
Sous-Secrétaire d'État aux PTT
19 June 1954 –
22 February 1955

The Projects

Figure 2
Muller's rejected *Courrier Officiel*
project of 1947
© Archives of the *Musée de la Poste*

Figure 3
Examples of Muller's rejected artwork for the 1955 design
© Archives of the *Musée de la Poste*

From the artwork submitted, Bardon chose Muller's design (Figure 4) depicting *"une aube nouvelle, la République regardant se lever le soleil"* – "the Republic watching the sun rise on a new dawn". It was baptised *'la République de l'Espérance'* – 'the Republic of Hope' - but in philatelic circles it became known more affectionately as the '*Marianne de Muller*' issue**.**

Figure 4
Muller's accepted artwork
for the *'type définitif'* in
Indian ink on card,
10.6 x 12.8 cm,
dated 4 December 1954

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[1] '*La Marianne de Muller - Huit timbres, deux surcharges et une myriad d'entiers*' by Michel Melot, Timbroscopie, April 1989
 '*Marianne de Muller*' unattributed and undated article, Cercle des Amis de Marianne

[2] '*La Marianne de Muller*' by Jean-Luc Trassaert, Le Monde des Philatélistes, Etude N° 253, 1983
 '*Le Patrimoine du Timbre-poste Français*' by Annette Apaire, Jean-François Brun, Michèle Chauvet, Pascal Rabier, & Bertrand Sinais, 1998
 '*Marianne de Muller non-émise*' by Jean-François Brun, *L'Écho de la Timbrologie*, May 2010

The dies

Jules Piel was employed to engrave the dies based on Muller's design. Initially a book illustrator, Piel turned later to engraving banknotes and, from 1927, added postage stamps to his portfolio.

Piel engraved two dies based on Muller's design. A signed copy of a proof pulled from the first attempt, '*le type archaïque*', is illustrated below in Figure 5. The four areas of

distinguishing features – the garland, the chignon, the value and the neck are shown on the following page.

Although his initial engraving was faithful to Muller's original artwork, Jules Piel received instructions to create a second die into which he incorporated several improvements made by Muller to the design (Figure 6).

Figure 5
The rejected '*type archaïque*'

Figure 6
The adopted '*type définitif*'

(i) Two small acorns in garland above the ear

(ii) Tight tresses in the chignon

(iii) Value comprising thin characters

(iv) No cross hatching on throat

Figure 5a (enlargement)
The rejected '*type archaïque*'

(l) One large acorn in the garland above the ear
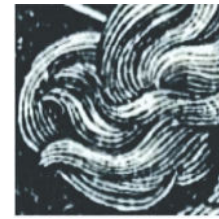
(ii) Loose tresses in the chignon

(iii) Value comprising bold characters

(iv) Four lines of crosshatching emerge from the collar

Figure 6a (enlargement)
The adopted '*type définitif*'

André Bardon approved '*le type définitif*' on 4 December 1954 and, on 4 February 1955, signed the *bon à tirer* authorising the printing of the 15F which commenced just twelve days later.

From this die several secondary dies were subsequently struck and re-engraved with new values as and when they were required viz. the 6F and 12F in May 1955, the 18F in November 1956, the 20F in May 1957 and the 25F in December 1958.

The bicoloured essays

Figure 7
Édouard Bonnefous, *Ministre des PTT*
23 February 1955 – 31 January 1956

On 23 February 1955 André Bardon, after only eight months in office, was replaced by Édouard Bonnefous in the reinstated role of *Ministre des PTT* (Figure 7), but even he survived only until January 1956. Immediately upon entering office, Bonnefous was determined to his write his own chapter in the history of the *Marianne de Muller* stamp and initiated a programme of bicoloured printing trials. The two dies were quickly prepared, one for the portrait of Marianne and one for the background and inscriptions and proofs were pulled in a number of bicoloured pairings (Figures 8 and 9).

Figure 8
The bicoloured proof in two shades of blue, Lefranc ink N°134, new blue, for the portrait and N°135, ultramarine, for the background.

The illustrated item was purchased by the author in a FCPS auction in the 1990s

Figure 9
Examples of proofs in other colours auctioned in the spring of 2017
by © Bertrand Sinais and Franck Treviso of Paris

On 17 March 1955, just three weeks after he took office, a copy of the blue proof was signed by Édouard Bonnefous as a *bon à tirer* (Figure 10). Two printing cylinders were subsequently prepared, one for the portrait and one for the frame. On 5 April 1955, a test printing of just the design's frame was made on Press 9[3] and on 18 April a printing of the complete bicoloured stamp was made on Press 8. The dated corner blocks show the printing date in black and blue respectively. Although the project was a success the concept was rejected in favour of retaining monochrome printings. Brief references to these trials were made in *Le Monde de Philatélistes* in May 1955 and in *L'Écho de la Timbrologie* in August 1955 but their existence was soon forgotten by the philatelic press and by philatelists themselves. The story resurfaced in *Timbroscopie* in September 1994 but it was only in 2010 that Jean-François Brun, Expert, Académie de Philatélie and RDP discovered the full cache of proofs and printings during his research at the *Musée de la Poste*.

---

[3] It can be assumed that this was accompanied by a printing of the portrait alone but an example has not been recorded

SUPPRIMÉ

ATELIER DES TIMBRES · POSTE
8961
☆

Non Émis

ATELIER DES TIMBRES · POSTE
☆

15ᶠ
POSTES
REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

17 MARS 1955

Bon à tirer
Edouard Bonnefous

non émis

cadre 135 fc
centre 134 R.C
J.F.B

MUSÉE
DE LA POSTE
PARIS

Bon à tirer of the bicoloured issue signed by Édouard Bonnefous on 17 March 1955.
Once the trial printings had been conducted the decision to continue printing was revoked
and the document was struck *'SUPPRIMÉ'* (cancelled) in ink and annotated *'non-émis'*
(unissued) in pencil
© Archives of the *Musée de la Poste*
[Document reduced to 82%]

n 1011
MUSÉE
DE LA POSTE
PARIS
R.C
J.F.B

Censorship of Civilian Mail in Madagascar
During World War Two - Handstamps and Labels

John Parmenter, with Alain Hurpet, Colin Spong, Joh Groenewald and Etienne Coré

Following on from Journal 297 page 143, we concentrate on the British presence in Madagascar and the Miscellaneous handstamps and labels of South Africa, Condemned Mail and Blocked Mail. The Society thanks **John Parmenter** for giving us permission to abridge this publication.

38e Année. — N. S. — No 2978.   ÉDITION SPÉCIALE.   Jeudi 3 Décembre 1942.

JOURNAL OFFICIEL
DE
MADAGASCAR ET DÉPENDANCES

ABONNEMENTS

Edition partielle / Edition complète

Madagascar { Un an ... 100 fr. 175 fr.
Six mois.. 55 90

HEBDOMADAIRE PARAISSANT LE SAMEDI

PRIX DU NUMÉRO

Edition complète : 3 fr. 50. — Edition partielle : 2 francs

POUR TOUTE PUBLICITÉ

DANS LE

JOURNAL OFFICIEL

BRITISH MILITARY JURISDICTION

IN MADAGASCAR AND ITS DEPENDENCIES.

THE CONTROL OF EXTERNAL POSTAL SERVICES PROCLAMATION, 1942.

NOTICE.

Postal and Telegraphic Regulations.

1. External Postal and Telegraphic communication will be permitted on and after 19th November 1942, between Madagascar and its Dependencies and any place not being in the occupation of an enemy of His Britannic Majesty or of his Allies which is within the territories of His Britannic Majesty's dominions, or those of his Allies or within any territory occupied by the forces of His Britannic Majesty or of his Allies. No external communication of any description will be made or attempted to be made except in accordance with the above means and to the extent permitted by these regulations.

2. The said Postal and Telegraphic Services will be subject to facilities being available and existing international rates of postage will apply.

3. Mail classed as «correspondances ordinaires» only will be accepted for external delivery until further notice. Registration of permitted mail may be made in accordance with existing Postal Regulations.

4. None of the following articles will be enclosed in any postal packet or posted separately for external delivery :
(a) Postage stamps, new or used.
(b) Mounted photographs.
(c) Photographs, mounted or unmounted, of any ship, aeroplane, military vehicle or armament, troops or military formations, aerodrome, landing ground, wireless station, dock, harbour, railway, tramway, waterway, reservoir, road, power station or transmission line, or any other photograph which is calculated to be of use to an enemy.
(d) Illustrated post-cards, or any post-card not purchased from a post-office.
(e) Printed matter and documents of a commercial nature which have not been previously approved for transmission by post by the British Military Censor.

5. The following procedure will be observed in connection with the posting of matter for external delivery :
(a) The name and address of the sender must be legibly written at the top of all correspondence and on the outside of the postal packet.
(b) If the postal packet is to be registered, the regulations issued by the Office des Changes will be observed, including the regulation requiring the postal packet to be left open on presentation at the Post-Office for checking the contents in the presence of the sender.

British Military Censor Handstamps
Marques de censure militaire britannique

The British Military Administration existed from 16 September 1942 to 30 June 1943

Military handstamps were used in Diego-Suarez on civilian mail prior to the introduction of British civilian censor handstamps and labels.

Also used later on philatelic mail, rarely genuine civilian mail.

British Crown crowned circle censor mark
Number 3576 Henning no. A500

early début	late fin	number seen quantité vue
22 APR 1942	7 AUG 1942	3
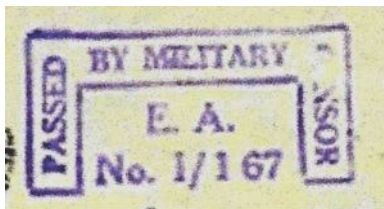
Henning EA.4A

early début	late fin	number seen quantité vue
7 AUG 1942	23 OCT 1942	12

Commercial letter from Tananarive, cancelled by APO 54 of Tananarive 9 OCT 1942. Censor's rectangular-type handstamp "PASSED BY BASE CENSOR/ E.A. No. II/03". P.C. 90 label affixed en route.

(Reduced to 75%)
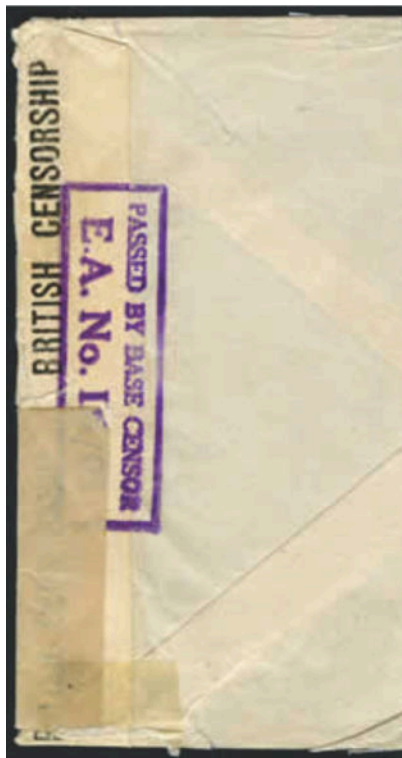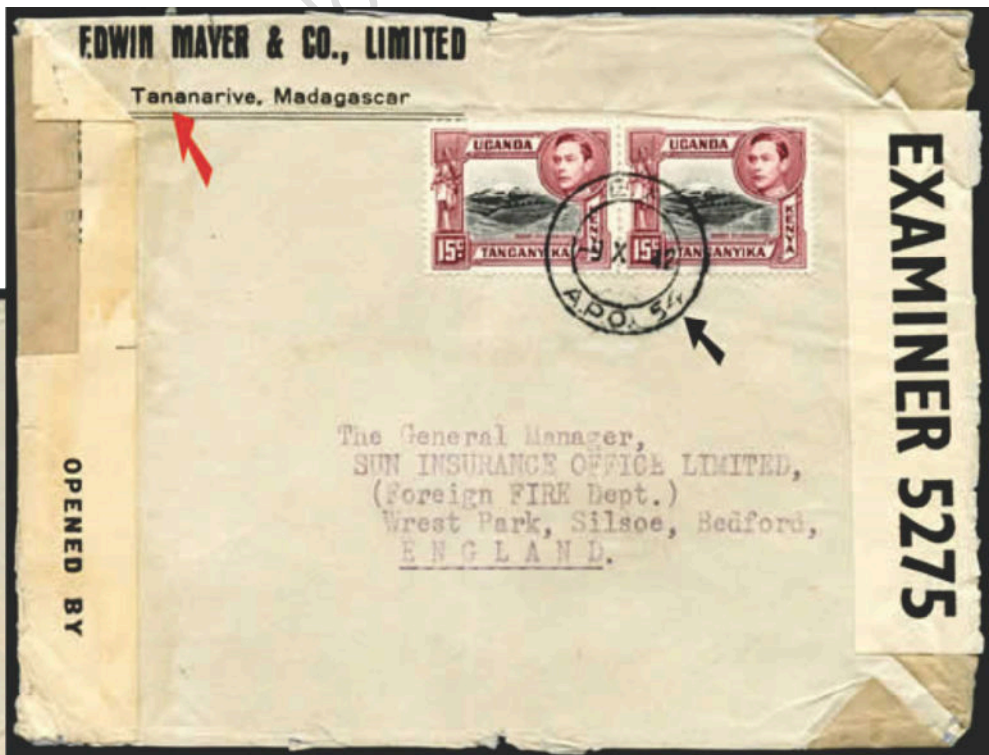
British Censor Handstamps   BH 1, 2 and 3

BH 1-1   BH 1-2   BH 1-3
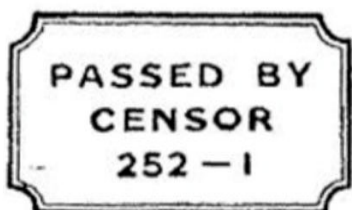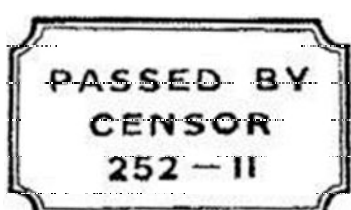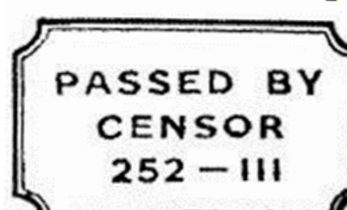
BH 2-1   BH 2-2   BH 2-3
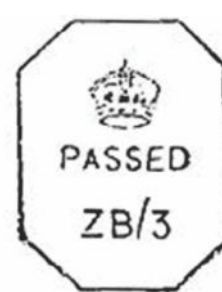
BH 3A

Two types of ZB/1
Rubber handstamps rapidly became distorted—the ink used attacked india-rubber.

OFFICE	early début	late fin	number seen quantité vue
BH 1-1 TANANARIVE	3 OCT 1942	4 FEB 1943	24
BH 1-2 TAMATAVE	18 OCT 1942	13 JAN 1943	8
BH 1-3 DIEGO SUAREZ	4 DEC 1942	4 JAN 1943	6
BH 2-1 TANANARIVE	13 JAN 1943	10 NOV 1943	50
BH 2-2 TAMATAVE	19 FEB 1943	18 AUG 1943	8
BH 2-3 DIEGO SUAREZ	10 MAY 1943	16 SEP 1943	11
BH3A			
ZB/1 TANANARIVE	24 SEP 1942	23 APR 1944	14
ZB/2 TAMATAVE	11 NOV1942	17 JUL1945	3
ZB/3 DIEGO SUAREZ	16 JAN1943	1 JUN1945	24
ZB/4 MAJUNGA	4 OCT1943	19 JUL1945	4
ZB.3.B DIEGO SUAREZ	4 APR1944	19 JUL1945	28

BH 3B

These normally show
signs of distortion

Miscellania: South Africa, Condemned Mail, Blocked Mail

To facilitate correspondence between Vichy Madagascar and France from June 1941 to March 1942, a route was established for mail to go by ship around the Cape to Dakar and then by air to Marseille.

Covers recorded on this route range from 26 June 1941 to 26 March 1942. The start of this service is recorded by the increase of the airmail surtax rate from 2f to 3f50 on 21 May 1941 back-dated in the *arrêté* of the *Journal Officiel* of 12 July 1941 page 525.

The surface route for this mail was by ship around South Africa and was thus frequently intercepted and censored there.

The South African sealing labels are large and distinctive—many types are illustrated in John Little, *British Empire Civil Censorship Devices World War II (2000)*

This cover (reduced to 75%) was posted from Diego-Suarez on 11 Feb 1941, and censored in Liverpool with sealed label type PC90 of Torrance & Moreweiser subtype M2.

It was released in Jan 1948 and arrived in Hautes Pyrénées on the 28 Jan 1948, then readdressed to Paris.

(Label - 100%)

A cover mailed in April 1942 before the British invasion and blocked until its delivery in October 1942

Censorship of Civilian Mail in Madagascar during World War Two Handstamps and Labels by John Parmenter with Alain Hurpet, Colin Spong, Joh Groenewald and Etienne Coré is available for purchase at £17 + p&p from John Parmenter, 23 Jeffreys Road, London SW4 6QU. Email: publications@fcps.org.uk

Liberating France from Fascism, the postage stamp way
Les Konzon

The Society is always in need of interesting articles for the Journal. Les Konzon was good enough to send us one last year. Dependent on what we have available it can be several months before an article is published. Very sadly Catherine Konzon had to advise us recently that Les had died. However she has generously agreed that we can still publish it. The Society therefore thanks both her and Les for this account of how some wartime stamps were produced for use in France

David Hogarth, who has written extensively on France in the Second World War, has helpfully provided some further notes on this very troubled period when France was beset by so many difficulties. The frequent political and military changes had a significant effect on the production of postage stamps for the country until the return of peace in 1945. [Ed.]

Invasion

In the latter phase of the Second World War, following D-Day, the Allied Armies swept through France. Although France had been divided into two areas, one under direct Nazi occupation (including Paris and the western coastal regions) and the other allowed to be under a French government based in the spa town of Vichy, the stamps used throughout the whole of France were those issued by the Vichy government.[1] By the time of D-Day, however, the whole of metropolitan France was under Nazi occupation. The landings in Normandy (Operation Overlord) on 6 June 1944 and subsequent breakout were repeated by the largely unopposed landings of Operation Anvil (later renamed Operation Dragoon) in Provence/Côte d'Azur, southern France, on 15 August 1944. Allied forces fanned out initially to the west from Normandy and then south and east towards Paris, and north from the Mediterranean Sea along the Rhone Valley. As life

began to return to some kind of normality, French postal services began to respond to liberation.

Mainland Europe was not the only area to be 'liberated': as the Second World War continued, French territories around the world either changed allegiance from Vichy to the Free French or succumbed to armed force. As each of those areas were liberated so postage stamps were altered to reflect the political change of circumstances. This was achieved by overprinting existing stamps (for example, such as "*Afrique Française Libre*" on the stamps of French West Africa) and some production of new issues by the French National Liberation Committee (CFLN). However, there were exceptions notably in French Indo-China where the Vichy Government officially remained in power until the end of hostilities. This was in truth an illusion as the territories were an armed base for occupying Japanese forces.

Figure 1
The first *Arc de Triomphe* series (see SG 851-860 / YT 620-629)

The Free French Government in exile had begun to make preparations for the return of civil rule in France under the Free French/Gaullist forces before D-Day and among these plans was the production of postage stamps printed in the USA and England for use in France once areas were liberated. Not until relations between de Gaulle and the Americans had significantly improved, however, was he prepared to accept stamps produced in the USA for use by

the Allied military government. In July 1944, arrangements were made for 600,000 stamps to be shipped by boat from Britain to France[2]. The first stamps were the *Arc de Triomphe* series (Figure 1) and were distributed as the Allied forces advanced. The *Arc de Triomphe* stamps were produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington. Later, the stamps first went on sale in Paris on 5 October 1944.

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[1] The exception was Alsace and Lorraine which reverted to direct German rule, as it had been between 1870 and 1918. The stamps used there were overprinted stamps of Germany.

[2] This was "Operation Borac"

One area of France had already been liberated before D-Day; this was Corsica under Vichy control from June 1940, but occupied by Italy (Operation Anton) on 11 November 1942 in response to Allied landings in North Africa (Operation Torch). The occupation force gradually reached the size of nearly 85,000 soldiers; a huge occupation force relative to the size of the local population of 220,000. With the fall of Mussolini and a lack of desire to continue hostilities, Italian forces lost control of the island to the French Resistance. As a result, Nazi troops landed in Corsica and formally took over the occupation on 9 September 1943, the day after the armistice between Italy and the Allies was signed. Fighting continued against the German troops until the liberation of Corsica on 4 October 1943[3].

A problem, therefore, emerged as to what should be done regarding postal provision on the newly liberated island. The solution was found on 6 December 1943 when it was decided to use stamps from recently liberated, former Vichy-controlled Algeria. The first stamps used were Algerian issues, before the introduction of the two new designs, the *Coq d'Alger* (design already used on Algerian stamps) and *Marianne de Fernez*. The choice of *Marianne* was significant as she epitomises the French Republic. This particular drawing of *Marianne* was designed by the French artist, Louis Fernez (1900-1984) and features *Marianne* wearing a Phrygian Cap, with the portrait being framed by olive branches at the sides. The design was chosen in November 1943 by the French Committee of National Liberation (CFLN) in Algiers.

The first stamp to go on sale at the end of January 1944 was the 1F50 *Marianne* (Figure 2), which corresponded to use for the simple letter tariff. Other values of the *Marianne de Fernez* series went on sale after 17 April 1944. The *Coq d'Alger* series utilises a drawing of the Gallic Cock, the unofficial national symbol of the French nation and was designed by Henry Razous (Figure 3). The *Coq d'Alger* series was placed on sale from the following July. All these stamps were lithographed in Algiers, a process which had not been used for French stamps since the *Bordeaux* issue in 1870.

Figure 2
Marianne de Fernez (SG 841 / YT 639)

Figure 3
Coq d'Alger (SG 842 / YT 640)

The *Marianne de Fernez* and *Coq d'Alger* series were later placed on sale in Paris on 15 November 1944. The stamps ceased to be valid from 12 May 1945, supplies of the various values having previously been exhausted.

Everyday objects such as postage stamps bearing the effigy of Pétain were indicators of the shameful memories of defeat and national humiliation. Consequently, as cities, towns and villages were liberated, their inhabitants could not wait until the supplies of official postage stamps were delivered. The hated symbols of the Nazi occupiers and their collaborators in the Vichy Government were so detested that matters were taken into their own hands by the liberated communities. They may not be able to lay a hand on Pétain but they could symbolically deface his likeness and let others see it.

Stamps bearing Pétain's image were not withdrawn immediately. They continued to be used until there were sufficient stocks of the new stamps. They were officially withdrawn by way of the proclamation of 1 November 1944. There is some evidence to suggest that using such stamps after 1 November resulted in the letter being returned to the sender. Eager to regain full control of postal services, and as a result of an official note of 3 October 1944, it was also apparently the case that similar action was taken by postal authorities with regards to letters with "stamps of the liberation" affixed to them.

When the collaborationist politicians formed the government in Vichy all symbols of the Third Republic were removed and replaced by representations in tune with the new 'French State'. Gone were references to '*Liberté, Egalité et Fraternité*' and in came '*Travail, Famille et Patrie*' and since *L'Etat Français* was not a republic the use of *République Française* (or RF) also ceased and was replaced by '*Postes Françaises*'. The cult of the leader meant that Pétain's image emblazoned the post. Stamps are politics, especially in wartime. Georges Hourriez's *Mercury* design illustrates well this example of postal politics: originally issued at end of 1938 during the Third Republic (SG 618a-629a / YT 404-416A), this series was re-issued in 1942 bearing the words '*Postes Françaises*' (SG 750-753 / YT 546-549;). On 27 September 1944, the Minister in the Provisional Government responsible for the PTT ordered that the despised Vichy "*Postes Françaises*" be removed from all French postage stamps. Bearing in mind that there were many privations during wartime, resources to produce postage stamps among them, a different (and speedier?)

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[3] The second series of the *Arc de Triomphe* stamps was issued on the 12 February 1945 but with the values printed in black (SG 936-945 / YT 702-711).

[4] The Yvert catalogue (2015) refers to Ordinance No. 45-2458 of 19 October 1945 which appeared in the Official Journal of the Republic ordering the practice of overprinting postage stamps to end.

solution was found but one that copied what was going on informally. The *Mercury* design was re-issued (September-November 1944) but in different colours (Figure 4)). Furthermore, to emphasise the removal of the Vichy Regime, the symbol RF was superimposed in black over *Postes Françaises*. The removal of hated references to the Vichy regime, both symbolically and actually, asserted the legitimacy of the new government. Whether overprinted or not, Hourriez's *Mercury* design was eventually withdrawn from use on 12 May 1945.

Figure 4
Hourriez's *Mercury* design (SG 896-899 / YT 657-660)

"Stamps of the Liberation"

But we jumped ahead of the history: the stamps issued during the period of the Vichy Government started to be 'defaced' in some way by being surcharged with letters, symbols or dates[5] indicating that the town was no longer under Nazi rule and supported the Free French, not Vichy. These are the French stamps referred to by philatelists as "Stamps of the Liberation". Sources[6] suggest that the inspiration for these '*surcharges patriotiques*' came from M. Vassilev in Montreuil-Bellay (Creuse)[7]. There were numerous series of issues produced throughout the liberated areas but only 15 were officially recognised[8]. For example, Yves Farg, commissioner for the Republic, on 6 September 1944, authorised the overprinting on Vichy stamps not only for Lyon (Figure 5) but also for use throughout seven other *départements* in the Rhône-Alpes region for a two-month period. These were Ain, Savoie, Haute-Savoie, Drôme, Loire, Ardèche and Isère[9]. Vichy stamps used in this and ordinary ways retained postal validity until 31 October 1944.

Figure 6 illustrates how local communities marked the liberation of their towns with the advance of Allied (American) troops north from the Côte d'Azur as part of Operation Dragoon. The unopposed landings took place on 15 August 1944: Annency, some 523km (325 miles) from the

Fig.5
Four examples of Pétain *Liberation* overprints from Lyon (Rhône)
(SG 718, 721, 722 & 725a / YT 514, 517, 518 & 521A)

Figure 6
Two examples of Pétain 1F50 (SG 721 / YT 517)
overprinted at Annency (Haute-Savoir) and Gex (Ain)

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5 Such as 'RF', 'V', '*Libre*' or the Cross of Lorraine.
6 *Le Patrimoine du timbre-poste français* Brun J-F (ed.) *FLOHIC* (April 1999) p.331
7 See Fig.7
8 These were the issues of: Aveyron (DECAZEVILLE), Charente-Maritime (PONS), Creuse (MEASNES), Deux-Sèvres (NIORT), Gironde (BORDEAUX), Indre (AIGURANDE), Indre-et-Loire (LOCHES/TOURS-GARE), Manche (CHERBOURG), Marne (CHALONS, REIMS), Nord (LILLE), Rhône-Alpes (LYON), Savoie (CHAMBÉRY), Vienne (CHATELLERAULT) and Vienne (POITIERS).
9 Brun J-F (ed.) op. cit. p.332

coast, was liberated on 19 August, four days later. Only 10,000 copies of the Pétain 1F50 were overprinted here. Gex is a further 77kms (48 miles) north and issued their stamps on 21 August.

Figure 7
Hourriez's *Mercury* design (SG 751 / YT 547)
overprinted in Montreuil-Bellay

Montreuil-Bellay (Maine-et-Loire) (Figure 7) with its population of about 2500 people is some 340 kms (212 miles) south-west of Paris and is on one of the breakout routes south from the Overlord beaches. Near the town is the site of a concentration camp. This camp was originally a Stalag established by the Germans on 21 June 1940 and was then managed by the Vichy regime, who from 8 November 1941 to 16 January 1945, turned the Montreuil-Bellay site into a camp for gypsies and nomads. It shamefully remained open after the liberation and was only closed in 1945. After the transfer of the "nomads" in January 1945, the camp was used for the internment of German civilians. Resentments did not end easily.

The stamps illustrated below (Figures 8-9) show stamps of the liberation from five other locations. Delle (Bourgogne-Franche-Comté) is close to the French border with Germany and Switzerland, near Basel. Its stamps were issued on 18 November 1944, nearly three months after Gex and the time difference shows how the fighting had intensified. The city of Guéret (Maquis François (Creuse)),

the capital of the department of Creuse, is 226 kms (140 miles) south-east of Montreuil-Bellay. Guéret was first liberated by the French Resistance led by Albert Fossey, aka Commander François, on 7 June 1944. Although some 500 kms (311 miles) south of the D-Day beaches, Guéret was thus the first freed metropolitan prefecture in France. The honour of being first meant your name was superimposed on Pétain's image. Lille (Nord) is 225 kms (140 miles) north of Paris close to the border with Belgium and was liberated on 1 September 1944. The overprint illustrated is inverted.

Aigurande (Indre) is 320kms (199 miles) south of Paris and was liberated on 17 August 1944. Paris itself was liberated eight days later on 25 August 1944 when the German garrison there surrendered. Thorens (Haute-Savoie) is another of those communities which could not wait for the troops to arrive. Some 19 kms (12 miles) north-east of Annecy, the citizens of Thorens issued their version of the Pétain 1F50 as early as 14 July 1944, no doubt to celebrate another famous day in French history. Nearby, the Glières Plateau was an important site of the French Resistance during the Second World War. Its mountainous terrain enabled the rise of a Maquis group of resistance fighters which was organized and led by lieutenant Théodose ("Tom") Morel, *Compagnon de la Libération*, whose doctrine was "live free or die". The plateau was chosen in January 1944 to deliver parachute drops by the British of arms to supply the local resistance. It then served as a base of operations against the German rear to take place at the moment when the awaited landings by the allies would occur. The plateau was cut off, poorly accessible by road (and therefore from the enemy) but identifiable by allied aircraft through its proximity to Lake Annecy. The "Battle of Glières" (March 1944) left 121 Maquis dead, including Morel who was killed on 10 March 1944, against almost 5000 soldiers from the Wehrmacht and the Vichy Milice.[10]

Figure 8
Delle (SG 750 & 751 / YT 546 & 547); Maquis François and
Lille (overprint inverted) (both SG 721 / YT 517)

Figure 9
Aigurande (SG 718, 721, 713 / YT 514, 517 & 509)
Thorens (SG 721 / YT 517)

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[10] The Milice was a political paramilitary organisation created, with German aid, on 30 January 1943 by the Vichy regime to help in the fight against the French Resistance. Its formal head was Prime Minister Pierre Laval, although its Chief of Operations and de facto leader was Secretary General Joseph Darnand. It participated in summary executions and assassinations, helping to round up Jewish people and *résistants* in France for deportation. The Milice was the Vichy regime's most extreme manifestation of fascism.

Figure 10
Liberation (SG 901 / YT 669)

Figure 11
Liberation (SG 951 / YT 739)

The Final Act

I believe this period in French philately is brought to an end with the PTT issuing its own 'Liberation' stamps. Two designs were eventually approved: the first (Figure 10), was controversially, perhaps, designed by Pierre Gandon (1899-1990), the designer of a 1943 Vichy issue which portrayed the image of victims of Allied bombing (SG 788 / YT 584) but who soon after was to design the Marianne stamps of 1945. Issued on 16 January 1945, it was expected to be very popular so sale was limited to five stamps per person between 12-18 January. About 7½ million stamps were printed to meet the expected demand. The liberation design shows "France" riding a winged horse urging resistance fighters to victory. The stamp was withdrawn on 12 May 1945.

The second stamp specifically commemorates the liberation of Alsace and Lorraine (Figure 11) but the official printing works was so over-burdened by work that the stamps could not be issued until 16 May 1945. The design, by Paul-Pierre Lamagny (1905-1977), shows the cathedrals of Strasbourg and Metz and two women in regional costume.[11] Again, demand was expected to be so great that sale was limited to six stamps per person between 16–22 May. Some 4,950,000 stamps were printed and it was withdrawn on 13 October 1945.

The Second World War and its aftermath continued to dominate the design of French postage stamps for some while yet but the liberation period was over. The provisional Government had affirmed its legitimacy and taken full control of *La Poste*. The nation had expressed both its joy and outrage as the hated invaders, collaborators and their symbols were removed from public life. Pétain had been captured.[12] The French postage stamp was once again printed in France and not some foreign land. And, finally, 'reconstruction' could now replace 'liberation'.

NOTES

"The first casualty when war comes is truth" was a statement made in the US Senate in 1917. It is equally true today. But so is confusion, particularly amongst those taking part and later commentators trying to make sense of what happened. So it was in many respects with the final two years of World War II in France. Les Konzon in his article describes the use of stamps in that period as one of the means of defeating "fascism" and this is a worthy theme. All I have tried to do in this note is to clarify a few points.

Comité Française de la Libération Nationale

The *Comiteé Française de la Libération Nationale* (CFLN) was formed in Algeria on 3 June 1943 by Generals de Gaulle and Giraud to provide a unified leadership from a French perspective for the campaign to liberate France from German occupation. On 9 November 1943 de Gaulle became sole leader. The CFLN acted as a provisional government for Algeria and those French colonial territories which had been liberated or had declared for the Free French. The organisation moved to London at the time of the Normandy landings and then to Paris in August 1944 after the liberation of the city. While in Algeria, the CFLN had set up a Consultative Assembly and administrative back-up, and enjoyed considerable support in France, even though the other Allies initially considered it as a wartime body with limited functions. It was finally recognised by the Allies in September 1944 as the legitimate provisional government of France.

Gouvernement Provisoire

The *Gouvernement Provisoire de la République Française* (GPRF) grew out of the CFLN when the move to Paris took place. It became the official government of a provisional French republic, linking the defunct Third Republic (in 1940) with the yet-to-be-formed Fourth Republic. The GPRF held power between August 1944 and the start of 1947.

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[11] This stamp might be compared to the one issued in 1948 (SG 1037 / YT 815) to commemorate the death of General Leclerc who led the French forces which liberated the region.

[12] On 7 September 1944, Pétain and other members of the French cabinet at Vichy were relocated by the Germans, without the privilege of choice, to the Sigmaringen enclave in Germany, where they became a government-in-exile until April 1945. Brought to trial in France for his behaviour after 1940, he was condemned to death in August 1945. The sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in solitary confinement. He died on the Ile d'Yeu on 23 July 1951.

CFLN Stamp Issues

Various stamps were issued in 1943 and 1944 mainly to raise funds for *combattants*, *patriotes* and *résistants* with varying surcharges, some in particular being eye-wateringly high (eg one stamp with a 1F50 face value had a 98F50 surcharge). These stamps were never intended for general postal usage.

Corsica

Corsica was the first *département* in metropolitan France to be liberated and the CFLN made arrangements for its administration, including the postal services. Initially Algerian stamps were used to avoid using Pétain stamps (until at least December 1943) followed by using two Algerian designs – the *Coq d'Alger* and *Marianne d'Alger* (also known as *Marianne de Fernez*) – with *RF* and the cross of Lorraine on the former and REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE on the latter. The 1F50 stamp representing the normal letter rate was the first to appear at the end of January 1944, the remainder of the *Marianne* issues in April 1944 and the *Coq* series in July/August 1944. The stamps were put on sale in Paris on 14 November 1944, which became the formal date of issue of the series.

The series is referred to as the First Provisional issue.

Pétain head stamps

Stamps showing images of Pétain were demonetised on 1 November 1944 and after that date such stamps were invalid for postage, with mail carrying these stamps being returned to the sender, stamped correctly or occasionally destroyed. However memory of the rules clearly has faded: the writer received a letter in October 2014 with the correct postage being attached, but only if a 2F50 Pétain stamp was included! It should also be noted that these stamps continued in use in the Atlantic pockets of Saint-Nazaire, Lorient and (probably) La Rochelle until they were liberated in early May 1945: since the Germans who controlled the pockets refused to accept the stamps used in the remainder of metropolitan France after liberation, there was little alternative.

The first *Arc de Triomphe* issue (the second provisional issue)

Following the Allied landings in North Africa the French State severed such links which remained with the USA, and the Allies in turn, especially the USA, began to consider France as an enemy state. Arrangements were made to put in place military government (AMGOT) when the country was occupied; these arrangements included postal services and the issuing of postage stamps. Relations with de Gaulle remained frosty. Hence possibly the lack of consultation with the French authorities which were by August 1944 establishing a provisional government in Paris and taking decisions on aspects of the postal services such as postal rates. The design of this series departed from traditional design in that FRANCE appeared on the stamps instead of RF or *République Francaise* as was previously and would be subsequently the case – though at the time there was no republic, the words *Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité* were included to give a recognisable French flavour even though these words had not previously appeared on French stamps; but the main problem was that of the 10 stamps, only two – the 50c and the 1F50 - met the new postal rates, and there was a spelling error on the 1F50 stamp. Co-operation would have helped, but de Gaulle and the Provisional Government reluctantly accepted the issue in July 1944, and the stamps were put on sale in parts of France from 11 September and throughout the country from 9 October 1944.

The second *Arc de Triomphe* issue (the fourth provisional issue)

Again 10 stamps were issued in the same design, but with different values, to meet the then current postal tariffs and to correct the spelling mistake on the 1F50 stamp. They were prepared and printed in the USA again, it appears, without consultation and were put on sale in France from 12 February 1945. The values this time were printed in black. Once again postal tariffs had been changed, from 1 March 1945, and only one of the ten stamps in the series -the 2F stamp - individually met a postal rate.

NOTES compiled by **David Hogarth.**

A snapshot in time

This cluttered entrance at Paris Reuilly post office (30 rue de Reuilly) with an entrance something of an obstacle course amused **Chris Hitchen** on a visit to Paris in 2015.

[If you have a philatelic item you think would amuse or entertain other members please send it either to the Journal Manager or Editor for inclusion in a future edition.]

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Second Fronde French Civil War 1650 – 1653

The Fronde was a series of civil wars in France between 1648 and 1653, occurring in the midst of the Franco-Spanish War, which had begun in 1635. King Louis XIV confronted the combined opposition of the princes, the nobility, the law courts (*parlements*), and most of the French people, and yet won out in the end. The dispute started when the government of France issued seven fiscal edicts, six of which were to increase taxation. The *parlements* pushed back and questioned the constitutionality of the King Louis XIV's actions and sought to check his powers.

The Fronde was divided into two campaigns, the Parliamentary Fronde and the Fronde of the Princes. The timing of the outbreak of the Parliamentary Fronde, directly after the Peace of Westphalia (1648) that ended the Thirty Years' War, was significant. The nuclei of the armed bands that terrorised parts of France under aristocratic leaders during this period had been hardened in a generation of war in Germany, where troops still tended to operate autonomously. Louis XIV, impressed as a young ruler with the experience of the Fronde, came to reorganise French fighting forces under a stricter hierarchy whose leaders ultimately could be made or unmade by the King. Cardinal Mazarin blundered into the crisis but came out well ahead at the end. The Fronde represented the final attempt of the French nobility to do battle with the king, and they were humiliated. In the long-term, the Fronde served to strengthen royal authority, but weakened the economy. The Fronde facilitated the emergence of absolute monarchy.

Michel Le Tellier (1603-85) was born in Paris to a Parisian magistrate and his wife. He entered the public service and became *maître des requêtes*, (a higher level lawyer, or *procureur*) in 1631 for Louis XIII of France. In 1640 Le Tellier was appointed Intendant of Justice for the French military stationed in Piedmont, Italy. In 1643, owing to his friendship with the head French minister Cardinal Jules Mazarin, he became Secretary of State for Military Affairs (known as "Secretary of State for War" during that era), and was known as being an efficient administrator. He was active in the troubles associated with the aristocratic Fronde uprising, remaining loyal to Cardinal Mazarin and to the state.

Le Tellier, who despised Protestantism, was one of those who influenced Louis XIV to revoke the Edict of Nantes which had previously provided religious freedoms to them. He further encouraged the persecution of the Huguenots. He died in Versailles, 15 days after the revocation had been signed by Louis XIV and himself.

Monseigneur Le Tellier

French minister
Cardinal Jules Mazarin.

Entire letter to Monseigneur Le Tellier, Representative of the King's Council of State and Secretary of his military commands, at court, from M. d'Aligre, Camp of Saint Boy, 26th March 1652, on the requirements of the Army of Catalonia.

(actual size)

My Lord,

Last Wednesday, our Generals went out with three hundred horses, after receiving information that the enemy had come out to give cover to their men who had gone out for supplies. They beat them, took ten officers, killed fifty horsemen, and took away one hundred musketeers that they had ambushed, which greatly encouraged our troops: they took prisoner two of our officers who volunteered, namely Senneville, a captain from Normandy, and a cornet from Saint André; among those who performed well were M. de Saint André and M. d'Aligre, Marechal de camp (Major General). The latter thought he had been killed after receiving a musket shot in the hilt of his sword, which broke and injured a finger. He is considered very courageous and of good judgement. This week we shall be giving half-pay to the cavalry, advance pay to the infantry, and one month's pay to the army officers; after that there is not a penny left, and you will owe the Marshal a lot of money. Our misfortune is that not one military base has a single morsel of bread. The army has not gone without. They have received deliveries from Officers of the Real (Royal) Council. But they have once again declared that they cannot deliver a grain of wheat to Barcelona or here after Easter. Therefore, if the navy does not arrive, we are finished. If we had a Munitionnaire (Commissary of Provisions) and had some money left, we would try to relieve the King's purse. What concerns me here is that if the worst happened, and there was no bread anywhere, the country would be lost at a stroke, including Rosas and Perpignan. In today's post I have again received letters from the Superintendent, who tells me that he cannot consider food provisions to anyone without having a distribution report. Therefore, there can be no supply before May. The Marshall has written so much that he will say nothing further on the matter, and if the troops leave, he will go with them. Since you say you are a friend of his, and he believes it, you can oblige him in this,

I remain your humble and obedient servant.

d'Aligre.

Translated by Catherine and Xavier Vigouroux
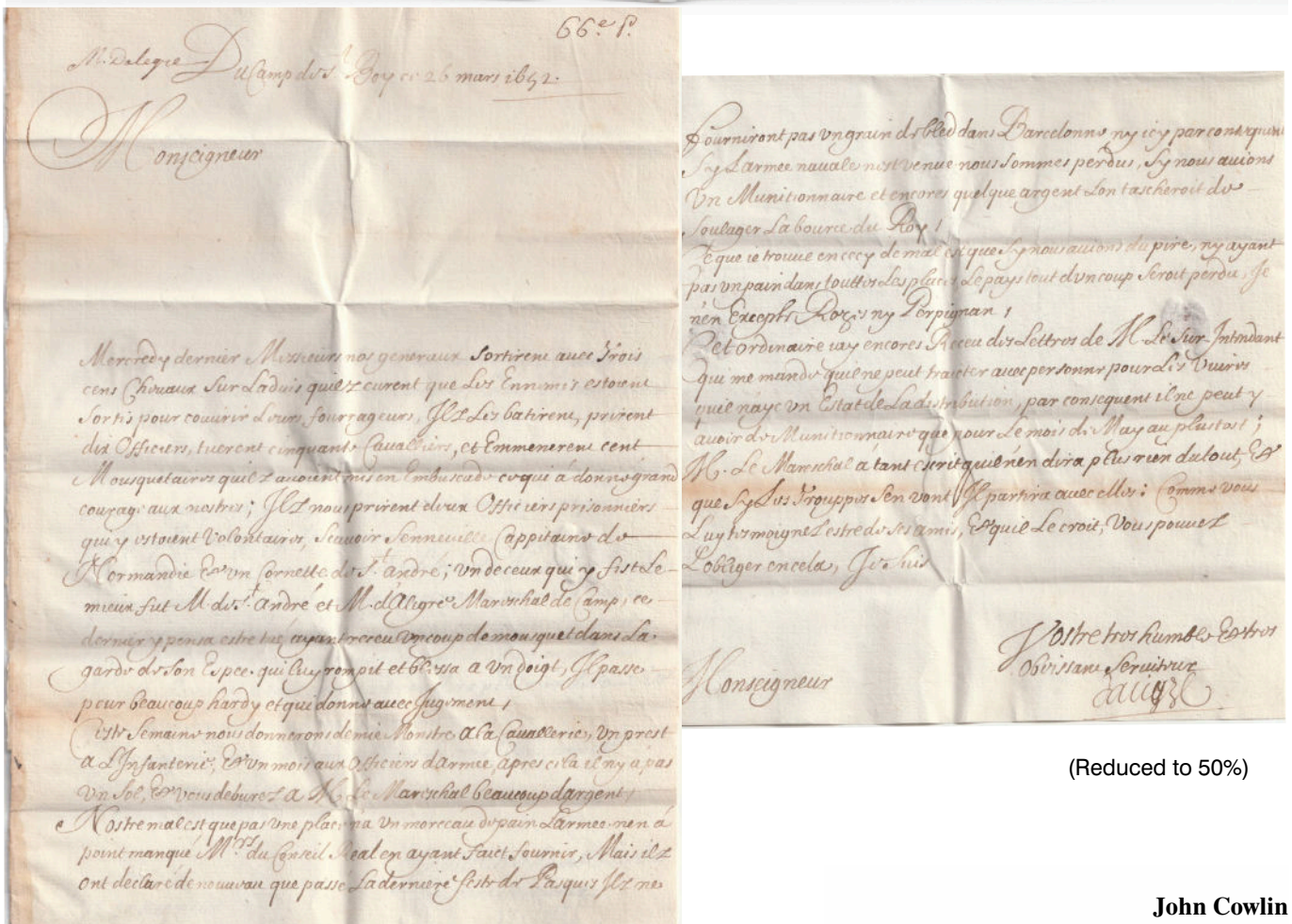
(Reduced to 50%)

John Cowlin

French King Louis-Philippe I Annual Review on 28th July 1835

The assassination attempt on Louis-Philippe I

In 1831, Fieschi met his later-to-be co-conspirator Pierre Morey, a neighbour. Morey was a 61-year-old saddler who had been involved in Republican politics. He had been arrested but released in 1816 after falling under suspicion of plotting the assassination of the Bourbons. He was later tried and acquitted of the murder of an Austrian soldier. In 1830, he took part in the July Revolution that put King Louis-Philippe in power.

The two contrived the plan for an "infernal machine", a volley gun with 25 barrels which could be fired simultaneously. Morey took the plan to Théodore Pépin, chief of the Society of the Rights of Man Section, Rome. After a meeting they decided to build the weapon, splitting the cost of 500 francs between Pépin and Morey, with the penniless Fieschi building it and being paid for it. After much drama the volley gun was completed and ready to be used. The gun was built in the place it was intended to be used – a four-room apartment on the third floor of n° 50 Boulevard du Temple. This was on the expected route the King and his entourage would take during the annual review of the Paris National Guard.

The annual review, which commemorated the 1830 July revolution, took place on 28 July 1835. At around noon, Louis-Philippe was passing along the Boulevard du Temple, which connected Place de la République to the Bastille. He was accompanied by three of his sons, the Duke of Orleans, the Duke of Nemours, and the Prince de Joinville, plus a large number of staff and senior officers.

Fieschi was waiting for them, 24 barrels of his gun each loaded with eight bullets and 15-20 buckshot. When the royal party passed in the street below, he fired the gun. Not all the barrels fired, but the gun still produced a volley of around 400 projectiles. Eighteen people were killed at the scene, or later died from their wounds, including Lieutenant Colonel Rieussec together with eight other officers of the 8th Legion, plus Marshal Mortier, Colonel Raffet, General Girard, Captain Villate, General La Chasse de Vérigny and Alexandre Labrouste, father of notable architect Henri Labrouste.

A further 22 people were injured, with at least four requiring limbs to be amputated. The King was one of the injured, but the wound was minor – a bullet or buckshot only grazed his forehead, although the horse he was riding was severely wounded, and died several days later. The King continued with the day's events and reviewed the National Guard as planned.

The Boulevard du Temple, one of the earliest photographs by Louis Daguerre. It was taken in 1838, three years after the assassination attempt

The *Machine infernale*, on display at the *Musée des Archives Nationales*, 2012

Review of the National Guard, attack of Fieschi, 28 July 1835 by Eugène Lami (Location Château de Versailles)

Four of the gun's 25 barrels burst when fired, four others did not fire, and a further one was not loaded as it lacked a touch hole. This meant the number of deaths and injuries was lower than might have been the case had all components functioned. The gun barrels that did explode caused considerable damage to the room in which the weapon was fired. Fieschi received severe head, facial and hand wounds and he was quickly captured. Two of his fingers later had to be amputated.

Trial and execution

After his capture, Fieschi gave a false name, claiming to be Jacques Girard, born in Lodève. And it was only after some days that his true identity was discovered when he was recognized by the Inspector General of Prisons, Olivier Dufresne, while he was being held in the *Conciergerie.*

Fieschi's trial became a great spectacle and Fieschi enjoyed his stardom. During the trial, he named his accomplices, displayed much bravado, and expected or pretended to expect an ultimate pardon. He was represented by the Corsican lawyer François-Marie Patorni, and Parisian lawyers Gustave Louis Chaix d'Est-Ange and Jean-Baptiste-Nicolas Parquin. He was condemned to death, and was guillotined on 19 February 1836 together with Pierre Morey and Théodore Pépin. Pépin died first, then Morey. Fieschi was the last, and used his last moments for a speech. Fieschi's head was given to a doctor at Bicêtre Hospital for study purposes.

Before his death Pépin made several confessions about revolutionary groups which led to subsequent arrests and trials. Another accomplice was sentenced to twenty years imprisonment, and one was acquitted. No fewer than seven plots against the life of Louis-Philippe had been discovered by the police within the year, and apologists were not wanting in the revolutionary press for the crime of Fieschi.

Marshal Mortier
Portrait by
Édouard Dubufe

King Louis-Philippe I
Portrait by
Franz Xaver Winterhalter

Entire letter from S. Bertrand to Monsieur Edouard Bertrand-Senn, Cercle de la Rive, Geneva, Switzerland.

Posted from Paris, 29 July 1835, with Paris departure stamp 29 July 1835 and C F.8.D. Ferney zone cachet.

Postage paid Geneva (17 kreuzer) and Geneva July 1835 arrival postmark on the back.

From 1816, after Geneva regained its sovereignty, it dropped the decimal system and used 1 florin = 12 sous and 1 sou = 12 deniers. So it went back to LSD. On letters the rate was marked in kreuzer and conveniently 1k was almost 1 sou. Decimal currency was reintroduced on 1 January 1839.

The French exchange office in Paris applied the cachet "CF 8D" (Correspondence par Ferney 8 *décimes*). Based on the 1828 French inland tariff the French portion depended on the distance to Ferney. Paris was 400 to 500 kilometres and in *Rayon* 7, so the total postage was 10 French *décimes* (8d to Ferney and 2d Ferney to Geneva). Geneva collected 17 kreuzer as the whole amount and France claimed 8 *décimes* from Geneva.

Dear Edouard,

It was an infernal machine that prevented us from setting off this morning as I announced to you in my letter yesterday. I wrote to you that the review was in progress. It ended badly happily the King was not hit; I refer you to the newspapers which give full details of this horrible attack. I was on the boulevard far from the site of this bloody ambush, where we lost as many generals as in a battle. The only one of our friends affected is Mr de Colbert uncle of Mrs de Thorigny fortunately very slightly. In a few days no sign [of injury] will remain. As is my habit, I immediately went to the scene. The house from which the coup was launched is exactly opposite the Turkish garden. We wished to stay to attend the procession for the King's visit to the Stock Exchange tomorrow, and to be sure there are no consequences from this event, though I believe not. It is a crime by a 23-year-old fanatic. We did not unload the carriage, which was ready, and we expect to leave in a few days unless there is a delay. But you should no longer expect us on the day agreed. The festivities are cancelled for today due to it having rained the first two evenings. However, it is still very hot. It is said this morning that Girard died of his wound. This is a rumour that requires confirmation. There will be a report in the House of Commons today.

All yours SBd

Translated by Catherine and Xavier Vigouroux

John Cowlin

Victoria, Cameroun Postmark Surprise

The Cameroun aerogramme depicted here might warrant only a passing glance. The *Prix de Vente 120* handstamp, which tells us that the aerogramme was revalued from 80 to 120 CFA francs prior to sale, may be of some interest, but both strikes of the Victoria postmark are rather unclear and not really "collectable" in that regard. The postmark is dated 24 September 1985 – confirmed by the dateline accompanying the message written in the aerogramme – and therein lies the interest!

As background, Victoria was renamed Limbe by presidential decree on 16 May 1982. The two Victoria handstamps then in use continued to be used until a replacement device or devices reading Limbe could be provided. The latest recorded Victoria postmark is dated 3 November 1982 and the earliest recorded Limbe handstamp postmark is 15 days later, 18 November 1982. A machine canceller was also introduced; the earliest recorded date is 30 November 1983. So, by 1985, when this aerogramme was posted, at least two different Limbe cancellers were available. In addition, a Pitney Bowes meter machine was available; the earliest recorded date is 18 October 1985.

Why, then, was a Victoria handstamp used to postmark this aerogramme almost three years after the devices were supposedly withdrawn? Perhaps the Limbe postal officials needed another device and turned to the obsolete Victoria handstamp. Or, had the handstamp remained in use between late 1982 and 1985, but postmarks in that date range have not yet been recorded?

Indeed a reason to take a close look at any item – however mundane – that crosses our path. This aerogramme was offered on eBay and acquired for a quite modest sum. What else might we discover as we cruise eBay, Delcampe, dealer's stock at stamp fairs, and elsewhere? Enjoy the hunt, and enjoy your finds!

Marty Bratzel

Homage to Jean-Luc Trassaert
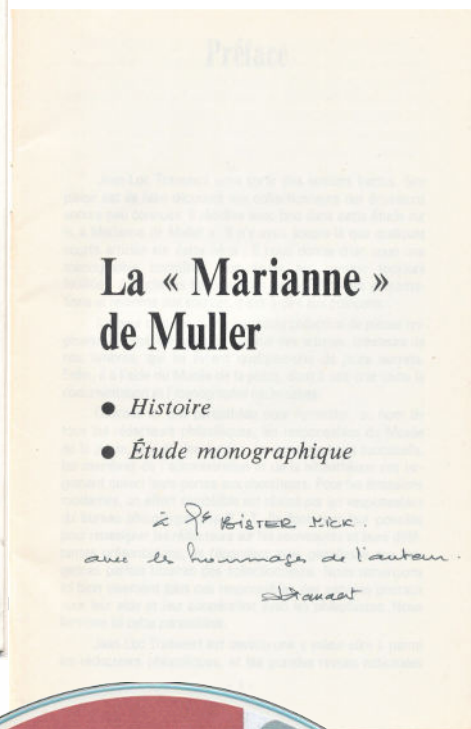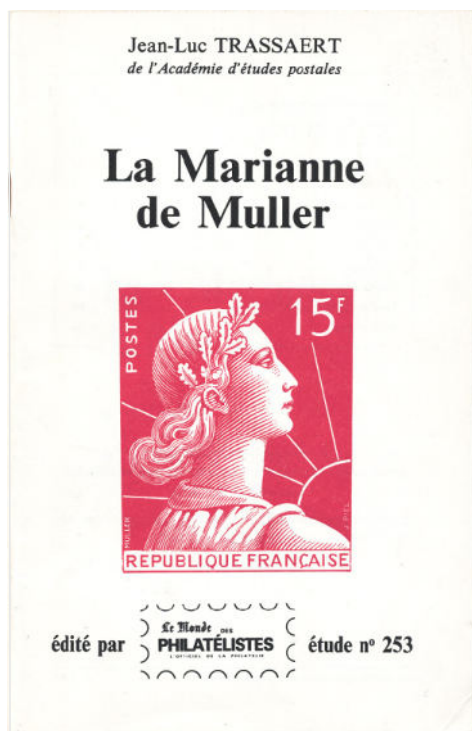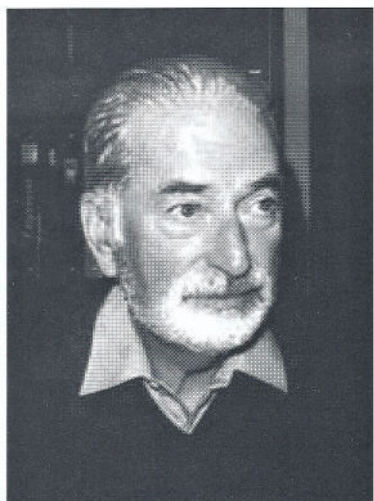
The *Marianne de Muller* issue was my first specialised collection which I started in the mid-1960s whilst a member of the Leamington & Warwick Philatelic Society. Thanks to David Lamb who was my mentor and to Georges Monteaux, the Paris stamp dealer and regular supplier of my material, I quickly established a reasonable collection which, in later years, I displayed and exhibited.

In 1983, the seminal work on the *Marianne de Muller* issue was published as *Étude No 253* by *Le Monde des Philatélistes*. The author was Jean-Luc Trassaert, the foremost collector of this issue and a prolific writer on modern French stamps. It became my prime source of information and helped me to advance my collection further. His other *étude*s included *'La Marianne de Decaris', 'La Marianne de Cocteau'* and *'La Marianne à la Nef'*.

A few years later, I had the fortune to meet Jean-Luc when George Barker invited me to a meeting at the RPSL. The three of us had lunch together during which Jean-Luc offered me a signed copy of his *Marianne de Muller* study and a second signed copy to George for the Society's library. Jean-Luc and I began corresponding and at some time in the 1990s he informed me that he was going to update and republish his four *Marianne* studies. He began with a revision of his study of the *Marianne de Decaris* issue but when he approached *Le Monde des Philatélistes* concerning its publication his offer was turned down as the magazine was going to phase out the *étude*s. In 1999, *Le Monde des Philatélistes* was bought out by *Timbroscopie* and were combined to create the new *Timbres Magazine* from April 2000.

Despite ill-health, Jean-Luc did not give up. He decided to self-publish his work digitally and in 2001 *'La Marianne de*

Decaris – monographe numérique' was issued on CD. This was subsequently followed by *'La Marianne à la Nef – monographe numérique'* which appeared in 2003. Unfortunately, his revised version of the *Marianne de Muller* study, which we had exchanged correspondence on and discussed at length, never saw light as, on 11 September 2003, he died in Bordeaux where he had been receiving treatment for cancer.

My collection of *Marianne de Muller* which is the basis of the article on page 21 would never have been achieved without the support, advice and indeed, some of the material, that I received from this great philatelist.

Mick Bister

The Avenue de Laumière in the 19th arrondissement

Tracing the history of a post office can sometimes be helped with photographs of the offices themselves. I need help with the date of the earlier one (does anyone recognise the make of cars?). Whilst the second is quite recent, both show the same corner site.

District Office 77 was elevated to *Le bureau central d'arrondissement Paris XIX* in October 1901 at 139 Rue d'Allemagne. When war broke out in 1914 the street was renamed the Avenue Jean Jaurès. 16 November 1931 saw the post office relocated to numbers 8-12 Avenue de Laumière on the corner with the rue André Dubois. Figure 1 is this office probably sometime in the 1930s, looking towards the Avenue Jean Jaurès. Can anyone suggest a more precise date?

In April 1988, when names replaced numbers for Paris post offices, it was renamed Paris 19 Buttes Chaumont, and in 1992 it was closed. The designation Buttes Chaumont was then allocated to an entirely new office at 127 rue Manin.

In 1998 another office opened in the Avenue de Laumière, at number 26, but now with the designation Paris Laumière. That would appear to be a temporary move to reinstall a post office in this busy area. In 2002 Paris Laumière moved back to the old site at 8-10 Avenue de Laumière where it remains to this day. Figure 2 shows the current office. It is quite clearly an entirely new building and I can only surmise that the entire block was redeveloped between 1992 and 2002.

Figure 1
Paris XIX Avenue de Laumières,
date unknown

Figure 2
Paris Laumière in 2014

Chris Hitchen

Indian Ocean Island (Fun and) Games

Madagascar, the 'Maki' surcharges of 1990/97

Michael Round*'s account of 'The Madagascar Hoard'[1] described a shoe-box crammed full of modern covers. Here is a story arising from them.*

Among my 'Madagascar Hoard' I found several copies of two scribbled-on stamps showing a cartoon lemur and inscribed 'III^{emes} JEUX DES ILES DE L'OCEAN INDIEN'. Some were surcharged once (Figure 1), others surcharged again, with what looked like a primitive John Bull printing outfit (Figure 2). What's their story?

The stamps were certainly new to me: so was the sporting event they commemorated. The **Indian Ocean Island Games** (IOIG for short, or in French JIOI)[2] premiered in 1979; their competing nations are currently Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar, Mayotte, Réunion and the Maldives. Intended to run every four years, they were sometimes postponed - as in 1989, when the 3rd Games, to be hosted by Madagascar, were scheduled. Two stamps showing 'Maki', the cartoon lemur mascot, were prepared but not issued. The Games were rescheduled the following

year, when two sets appeared. First (on August 7th) were the surcharged 'Maki's, soon followed (on August 24th) by a totally different issue, ingeniously if unexcitingly showing a stylised torch devised from the component characters '3 JIOI 1990' (Figure 3).

The 'Torch' issue must have taken time to prepare. Had the organisers forgotten about the year-old 'Maki's already held in stock? The 'Torch' stamps duly appeared on Games Opening Day (August 24th) – perhaps the 'Maki's were thought to be needed as a last-minute pre-publicity issue. They were certainly prepared in a hurry. Their original face-values, charity premiums included, were crossed out by hand on every single stamp(!), and increased by handstamped surcharges at lower left to match those on the 'Torch' issue. The year-date at lower right was corrected to 1990, again by handstamping ad hoc: the result looked like Figure 1, and was readily used for postage. On every example seen so far, the lower-value stamp has been altered in black, the higher value always in red.

Figure 1

Previously unissued stamps for the 3rd Indian Ocean Island Games, surcharged with new values (at lower left) and new year (at lower right)

(SG 819/20, YT 975-6, Scott B26-7, Mi 1266-7). The original face-values (at upper right) were crossed out individually on every stamp

Figure 2

The same stamps, hand-stamped with new values in 1997 (the pair, Mi 2097-8; 60Fmg alone, SG 1329f, Scott 1471; not in Yvert at all). The 1990 surcharges in their turn (at lower left) were crossed out on every stamp

Figure 3

The second issue (SG 822/3, YT 973-4, Scott 983-4) for the 3rd Indian Ocean Island Games.

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[1] 'The Madagascar Hoard', Round, M. *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* December 2021 ('Part 1: the Postal History') and January 2022 ('Part 2: the Stamps').

[2] Not to be confused with the **Indian Ocean Towns Games**, already commemorated by Madagascar in 1987 (SG 615/6, YT 796-7)

Figure 4
Domestic cover (address redacted for privacy) showing the 1997 surcharges in use.

Left-over stocks of these were in turn recycled some time in 1997 by individual handstamping – again amateurishly – with new values '40FMG' or '60FMG'. The previous surcharges were also crossed out individually, by hand (Figure 2) and always in black. These too saw postal use (Figure 4) – unexpectedly so for such low values, given that even the cheapest postage rates at the time were in hundreds of Malagasy francs. Perhaps they were make-up values, arising from a recent rise in postage rates. In any event, they look so poorly done that not all catalogues yet believe in them – oddly so, given that postally used copies turn up more often than the 1990 issue.

Notice that the original stamps before surcharging were – as usual for this time - inscribed in both Malagasy francs and *ariary* (parallel currency units: 1 *ariary* = 5 Malagasy francs). Possibly to reduce the physical labour of handstamping, both the 1990 and 1997 surcharges quoted just Malagasy francs.

Philately being what it is, it's possible that the original (unissued) 'Maki's exist (i) without surcharge at all or (ii) bearing just the surcharges '40 FMG' or '60 FMG', having somehow bypassed the 1990 handstamps. Reports, anyone?

Michael Round

Indian Settlements – a double bonus

I recently acquired these two varieties (1915 Red Cross, SG surcharge type 8, Yvert type IV: Figure 1a). It was good to see what the " 'e' for 'c' " (YT 47d, SG 50a) actually looks like: enlargement (Figure 1b) reveals it clearly despite the postmark placing. It was gratifying to see the " '0' for 'c' " awarded a pedigree in the new *Yvert Colonies Françaises catalogue* (YT 47e, not in SG). Unmentioned anywhere, the top arm of its red cross is also missing: is this constant?

The undisputed bonus was the postmarks. The 'e' variety is postmarked Yanaon, and the '0' variety Mahé. Both are infinitely scarcer than the ubiquitous Pondichery.

A double bonus indeed. **Michael Round**

Figure 1a: Varieties 'e' for 'c', and '0' for 'c'.
Figure 1b (far right): 'e' for 'c', detail

REPORTS OF MEETINGS
LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 30 OCTOBER 2021
Members' Displays

Our president, Chris Hitchen, offered a warm welcome back to members who had not met since the last meeting in February 2020 and was delighted that everyone had brought something to display.

Mick Bister opened the programme with two displays that had begun as lockdown projects in the previous year.

The first was a study of the two Chapelle de Notre-Dame du Haut, Ronchamp issues of 1964 and 1965 (1F25, YT 1394A and 40c, YT 1435).

The display commenced with contemporary postcards illustrating the chapel during the first half of the 20th century during which the fire of 1913 and the shelling in 1944 had rendered it unusable. In 1950 Le Corbusier was invited to design a completely new building which was dedicated in 1955. In 1964 Jacques Combet was commissioned to design a stamp commemorating the chapel and his choice of perspective was based on a photograph of the building taken by German photographer Hans Freytag.

Mick proceeded to show examples of Combet's artwork and, for each of the values, examples of colour trials, imperforate printings and regular printings. A selection of covers illustrating postal usage was shown with emphasis on the 40c value. This was seen paying the foreign postcard rate, the French North Africa and the French Orient letter rates, international mandate fee and various airmail and registered items.

The display closed with a study of the double format Palissy prototype coils of 1964 and the subsequent 40c Ronchamp coils which were printed in 1968 for use in counter dispensing machines. However, the project was abandoned and the coils only released in batches between 1970 and 1972. The bulk of the coils were directed to the philatelic market and are rarely seen used commercially. Mick was, nevertheless, able to show a couple of examples on cover.

For his second display Mick combined his love for philately with that for early 45 rpm records. He showed examples of the first 45rpm records pressed by RCA Victor and released in 1949. Records were pressed in different colours of wax according to the musical genre. An early French 45rpm on the Pathé label was shown followed by an explanation of the development of the lightweight flexidisc in France. A test pressing and the first Sonorama pressings from the late 1950s were displayed.

Mick proceeded to explain how manufacturers of consumer goods were quick to use the flexidiscs as a means of promoting sales. Recordings of popular and traditional

songs were made and offered to teenagers in exchange for postage costs and the coupons that were offered with the company's products. Grosjean, Banania, Paic, Cafés Maurice, France-Lait, Milliat Frères, Kemmel, Francorusse and Casino were amongst the most active companies and between them produced hundreds of flexidiscs avidly demanded by the teenagers but indirectly paid for by their parents' purchases.

Mick displayed two frames of the colourful flexidiscs and sleeves. The earliest was a Grosjean disc from 1959 in a sleeve franked by a 25F Marianne de Muller and posted from the Grosjean factory in Lons-le-Saunier. This was followed by discs posted at both single rate and double rate between 1960 and 1971, at printed matter and PNM rates between 1963 and 1971 and at bulk mailing rates between 1965 and 1971.

Rodney Gent with his Guadeloupe
overprint issues

Rodney Gent followed with a colourful display of the 1891 and 1903 Guadeloupe overprint issues, most of which were shown in spectacular part sheets of 50 in order to illustrate the overprint settings and the positions of varieties. The 1891 issue is infamous for the various misspellings of Guadeloupe, and Rodney was tempted to believe that they were not so much accidental as motivated by philatelic demand. We saw examples of the principal varieties including a splendid 1894 cover franked with seven copies of the 2c value one of which was overprinted GUADBLOUPE.

Then followed more part sheets of the 1903 G&D overprints. Among them we saw a splendid array of the five different 10c/40c settings and the colourful 40c/1F printing along with an example of the boxed *timbre-taxe* used on a

1903 cover. Rodney closed with a selection of the boxed 1903 overprints applied in both red and blue.

Michael Round showed material from Djibouti, specifically the modern Republic era (1977 to date). Djibouti (capital Djibouti, or Djibouti City) was formerly known as the French Territory of the Afars and Issas (1967-77), before that the more familiar French Somali Coast (1902-67) - and before *that*, philatelically, through separate issues from Djibouti (the town) (1893) and Obock (1892).

Michael Round showing his Djibouti material

The modern period started with overprints on Afars and Issas stamps. These should all be in upper-case lettering: items in mixed upper- and lower-case are generally reckoned as forgeries, despite the existence of a few covers posted from Djibouti Airport bearing them. Later issues were all thematics, unexciting except for the 1992-1998 period where unmounted singles are catalogued at eye-watering prices. Used, however, can be expensive but are not always rare: Michael showed plenty of these on cover, ranging from pictorial tourist envelopes to requests for supplies from an army-surplus dealer based in Biarritz and a letter to a blowpipe manufacturer!

Probably 97% of modern mail is postmarked from the town of Djibouti, unsurprisingly so given that more than half the country's population, and most businesses, are based there. Of other town postmarks, Ali-Sabieh is possibly the least rare, followed in order by Dikhil, Tadjourah and – rarest of all, and ironically so, given that it was the first place within the country to issue stamps at all – Obock.

Maurice Alder followed with *Type Sage* themed display beginning with a sample of gutta-percha, the material which would have been used by the engraver Louis-Eugène Mouchon in the die-copying process. We were then treated to an expertised strip of three copies of the 1F Colonies value unofficially perforated and briefly put on sale at the Place de la Bourse and the Place de la Madeleine offices during 1886. Next we saw a 1F bisect on a 1901 cover and finally a colourful display of 15c colour trials.

Next came a query from **Barbara Priddy** concerning a 1939 cover which had taken an inexplicably tortuous route from Senegal to Switzerland franked with a combination of Senegal and French Sudan stamps. The stamps had been cancelled in Abobo in Ivory Coast with what appeared to be a parcel cancellation. The envelope was struck on both the front and back with the letters PV – *procès-verbal* perhaps? The Sudan stamps amounting to 1F85 had been deemed invalid but the postage due levied was only 3 francs!

The morning session closed with **Chris Hitchen** giving a display of Paris stars, although he did admit that one or two other items were included. In September 1863 there were 35 post offices in Paris and they were reclassified according to the amount of revenue they received; number 1 was allocated to the Stock Exchange and 35 to the poor house at Salpêtrière. To cancel the stamps they were given obliterators in the form of a star with the number in the centre. New date stamps now accompanied these with the location of the office. A further 5 offices opened in 1866.

Whilst only in use for some 13 years until March 1876 this was a tumultuous period in the history of France. The period began with Napoleon III on the throne and in 1866 he became Emperor after military adventures in Italy to support Italian independence. The war with Prussia brought his reign to an abrupt end and Paris was besieged from September 1870 to January 1871. The armistice then saw the Third Republic ushered in.

All aspects of this period were covered and a full range of postal rates was included. Printed matter was extremely cheap beginning at just 1 centime (one tenth of a penny) for items under wrapper. Registered mail could be insured and once postage stamps could be used for the insurance charges after June 1870 letters with high frankings became more usual. Examples of unpaid and franchise mail accounted for the lack of stars on everything.

The use of balloons to carry letters during the Siege is well documented. One rather sad one was the balloon Le Jaquard which took off in November and was swept out to sea and eventually crashed just off the Isles of Scilly with the loss of the pilot. Some mail bags were recovered and a cover from office 38 with the stamp washed off was shown.

After a pint and a copious ploughman's lunch, members reassembled for the afternoon session which was opened by **Richard Broadhurst**.

Richard updated us with a display of recent 2021 Philaposte issues which never fail to amaze. We were shown the Bel Cheese miniature sheet with each stamp in the shape of the familiar triangular portion. We also saw the stunning sheets issued to commemorate the contentious Bicentenary of the death of Napoleon Bonaparte featuring gold bees and executed with a superb colour palette and exquisite engraving. Next came the sheet commemorating the 400th anniversary of the birth of Jean de la Fontaine, two *blocs*

depicting features of Notre Dame Cathedral and a sheet issued in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the first edition of Le Petit Prince by St Exupéry incorporating a reworking of the 1947 *poste aerienne* stamp.

A further sheet featuring the same design in different colours with a larger 12 euro stamp was issued in a limited edition of 8000. This was only available by telephone order by calling a special number from 8am on 17 June. lt was sold out within three hours with customers making dozens of unsuccessful calls but making a quarter-million euros profit for La Poste! This was not the first time this has happened with one of these limited-edition products. The CNEP, the French trade association similar to our PTS, made a formal complaint to La Poste with the result that they agreed to reprint the *bloc*. At the time the sheet was selling for around 200 euros on the internet. The reprint would be in an unlimited edition for one month but the *blocs* numbered after 8000. Whether the original numbered *blocs* will retain their value is anyone's guess. La Poste agreed never to use this limited edition sale method again but less than 5 months later they released another special *Marianne bloc* by exactly the same phone sale system on 4 November!!

Richard completed his display with a look at earlier issues. These included an example of the 2013 Gold *Marianne de Ciappa-Kawena* issue without face value - a gift to selected Philaposte account holders. Another gift he had received this year was Concorde miniature sheet – a reprint of the 2019 stamp but without phosphor bands which makes it a new stamp but curiously not yet listed in Yvert. Also shown was the 2011 set of Lace miniature sheets which came with the warning that if found used do not soak off as the lace separates too! Richard closed with the 2012 set of 15 *Marianne de Beaujard* stamps with gold stars - a limited issue of 6000.

Paul Miller stepped up to give a display of dated corner blocks and dated corner singles from 1941. Paul was not impressed by the first issues of the year, the two POW charity issues, due to the sombre imagery and the heavy engraving. These were followed by a range of the 50c and 1F overprints applied to remainder stock of the pre-war Sower, Peace, Cérès and commemorative issues. Particularly interesting were the varieties to be discovered including examples inverted and se-tenant pairs with and without surcharge. Following on with more commemoratives, Paul highlighted the enormous potency of Gabriel Barlangue's design of the Fight against Cancer issue and that of the 1F+2F Winter Relief Fund the product of his favourite designer, Achille Ouvré. The quality of the paper used was also brought to our attention and we saw brilliant white and azure papers and, at the other end of the spectrum, paper resembling the GC paper of the First World War. Paul closed his display with examples of the Pétain issue including specimens of the British Intelligence printings. The highlight of the Pétain collection was a large block of the 1F50 value printed on a paper join which had peeled back and displayed only partly printed stamps.

Chris thanked everyone for providing material for a thoroughly enjoyable meeting and the members in turn thanked him for organising it. Chris informed us that there would shortly be a change of management at the Calthorpe Arms and our future there was uncertain. Alternative venues would be looked into.

Members present: Maurice Alder, Mick Bister, Richard Broadhurst, Rodney Gent, Chris Hitchen, Paul Miller, Barbara Priddy and Michael Round.

Mick Bister

Exhibition Successes

The following members of the Society are to be congratulated on their achievements at **LONDON 2022**

Brigitte Abensur France: Large Gold in Postal History for *'When the Perforated Empire stamps travelled outside France'*.

Mick Bister[1] United Kingdom: Large Vermeil in One Frame Traditional for *'1F75 State visit of KGVI and Queen Elizabeth to France - July 1938 - The Discovery of Types I and II'*.

Linda Lee Australia: Large Vermeil in Thematic Philately for *'Flower magic'*.

Lesley Marley United Kingdom: Large Gold in Thematic Philately for *'A Whale's Tale'*.

Héloise Mitchell *pseudonym* Wayne Wright, Ireland: Large Vermeil in Open class for *'Coaching Ways and Coaching Days in Great Britain and Ireland'*.

Yacov Tsachor Israel: Large Gold in Postal History for *'France – The Perforated Cérès: Rates, Routes and Postmarks 1871-1878'*.

Picture credit Andrew Telfer Brunton

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[1] Read the background of Mick Bister's exhibit in Journals #220 pp 57-60, #221 pp 103-7, #222 p131-6. All Journals are available on the website at https://www.fcps.org.uk/index.php/publications/list-of-contents

FRENCH TRANSSAHARAN MAILS
AND
HISTORY, POST OFFICES AND COMMUNICATIONS IN NIGER
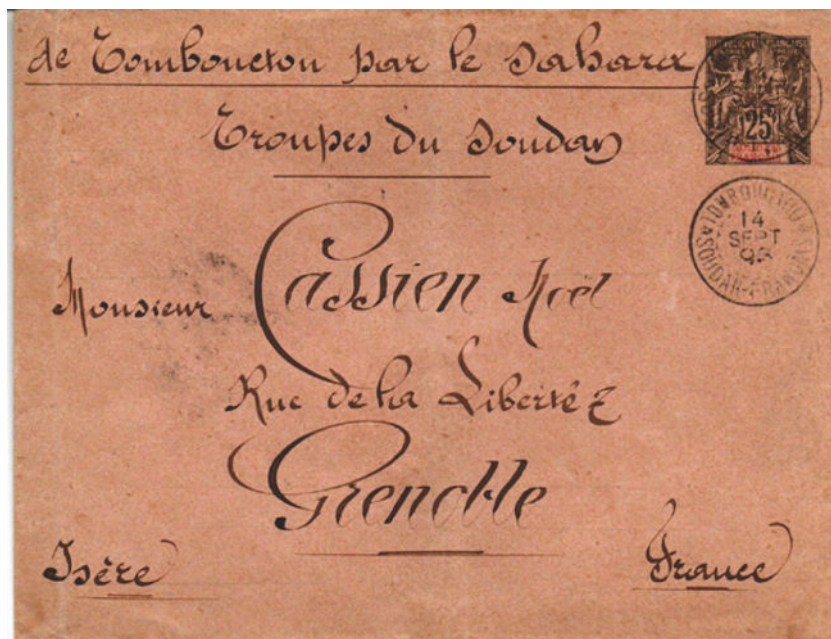
PETER R.A.KELLY FRPSL FSPH

The third book in the French West African and Saharan series.

Follows on from

"Dakar to Tombouctou; Communications and postal history in French Sudan" and

"The development of postal communications in the Algerian Sahara".

CONTENTS

BOOKSHELF

Compiled by Michael Round

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

Yvert et Tellier, Catalogue de Timbres-Poste: Colonies Françaises et Bureaux Français à l'Étranger 2022.

Reviewed by Michael Round

Back in 2002, the Yvert & Tellier (hereinafter Yvert for short) French Colonies catalogue was a handy 160x230mm 470-page softback, covering all colonies to independence plus new issues to date from the various DOM/TOMs (now COMs: *Collectivités d'Outre-Mer*): New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Mayotte, Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, TAAF and Wallis & Futuna. The scope has receded: post-independence DOM/TOMs have moved to another volume, and the 200-odd pages thus saved are by no means used up by the mere two pages required for the newly-entered British Consular and Norwegian Mission issues of **Madagascar**. Nevertheless, the catalogue has now increased to a family-bible-sized tome of over 700 pages with postage costs that alone could put a considerable dent in anyone's philatelic budget. How has this come about?

The **presentation** certainly contributes. First impressions are luxurious. The old space-saving thin paper has been supplanted by far heavier stock, well able to accommodate new illustrations – every one in colour, and boosted by mouth-watering extras like full sheets of 1891 **Guadeloupe** and **Madagascar**. The binding may be heavy, but it's made to last - and there's no chance of pages falling out.

But, as long-time editor Stanley Phillips once said, à propos a *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* front-cover make-over (I paraphrase), "There's no point in painting an eggshell if there's no meat inside." How much meat is inside this new Yvert, and how much meat is already available elsewhere? Rival butchers (to stretch the analogy beyond breaking-point) include SG, Scott, Michel, Maury (formerly Dallay), and Yvert's own "sectional" catalogues like those devoted to francophone Africa, Europe and Asia. What does this new Yvert offer that they do not?

Scope

The DOM/TOMs are out, but everything else is lavishly treated. No fewer than 28 pages are devoted to **precursors**, those (mostly French) stamps used prior to each colony's own first issues and identifiable only by their postmarks. Copious illustrations show you what to look for, even if their across-the-board reduction to 75% actual size can make them hard to decipher. The rival Maury catalogue (formerly Dallay) cossets us by showing these features

much enlarged – but with five volumes available to fill it's probably the only catalogue with enough room to do this.

Cramped illustrations apart, here is priceless back-up information aplenty. The three columns devoted to, say, **Alexandrette**'s own adhesives are prefaced by no less than five detailing French stamps used there. Similar "preludes" attach to other stamp-issuing entities like **Alexandria**, **Crete** and **Latakia**: more eye-opening to non-specialists is the similar care lavished onto those foreign P.O.s that never had their own stamps, such as **Yokohama**, **Jerusalem** and the **Dardanelles**. Owners of individual stamps will hug themselves with glee at prices averaging 300€ per item: window-shoppers and poor relations can still enjoy the handy map showing where all these places are, or were.

Millésimes abounding

Maury catalogue users will be familiar with fully illustrated listings of *millésimes*, those single digits appearing between panes of stamps that signal the year of printing. These take up a huge amount of space, possibly irritating to non-interested collectors leafing through page after page of pictures in search of another listing nearby. It's good to learn from the accompanying tables what exists – but the result is a little betwixt-and-between. Stamps only known with one *millésime* scarcely need illustrating at all, and cutting these down – or out – would save hugely on page-space: currently the listing for, say, Indo-China alone fills ten pages. Conversely, we might hope instead for those stamps frequently reprinted to be fully illustrated for shade-comparison purposes – before quickly realising that this would not only depend on guaranteed 100% accurate colour reproduction but also thrust upon us entire pages on, say, **Tunisia** YT 29 and 31 (the 1c and 5c pictorials of 1906), each of which was reprinted 15 times.

Two (omni)buses at once

We in the UK have Commonwealth omnibus commemoratives; in France they have '**Grandes Séries Coloniales**' an exact equivalent. (In this catalogue they begin not with the 1931 Expo but with the West African 1906 Faidherbe-Palms-Balay "minibus" issue known as the *Palmiers*.) As expected, each issue is listed in-situ under each colony entry (Dahomey, Ivory Coast, etc.). This new

Yvert then fills 30 more pages collating each series in a further listing which simply duplicates them all - value by value, too, not just set by set. Throw in (duplicate) illustrations of, say, all 24 1937 Expo miniature sheets and every 1938 Curie stamp (all identical, save for the colony name) and there's a strong case for grumbling at the consequent increase in catalogue page-count, weight and cost. But in this form it does provide the perfect checklist for thematic collectors assembling these sets piecemeal, and lets the rest of us pinpoint the key items in each set at a glance – the **Mauritania** *Palmiers* 30c, for instance (YT 8, SG 8), which hits 300€ UM in the '*Grandes Séries*' list or, intriguingly, 324€ under Mauritania itself. The list adds just three post-independence components – two *Satellites* (1966) and *Concorde* (1969) – for good measure.
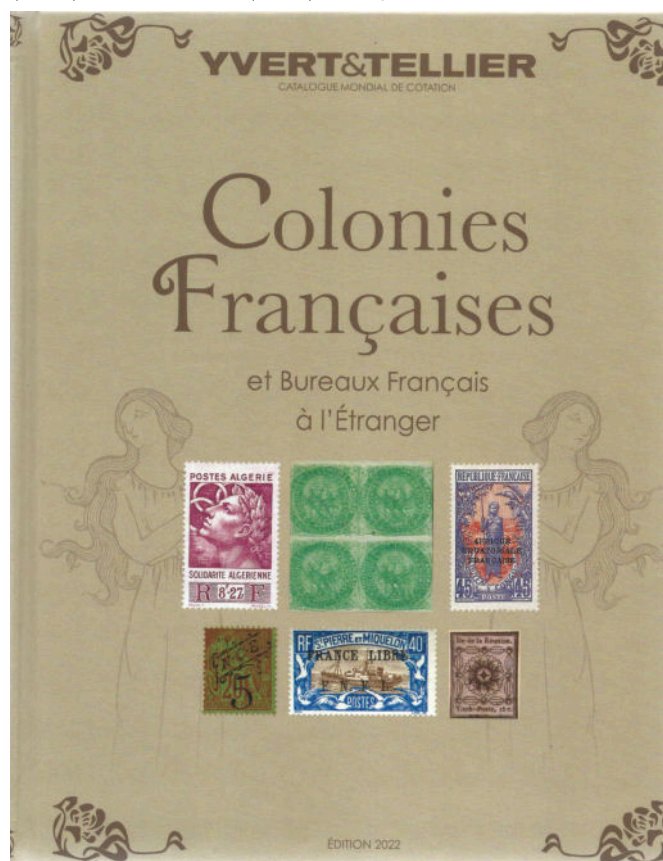
Illustrations: to scan or not to scan?

The sheer quantity of new illustrations may fill a lot of space, but they're pricelessly helpful for identifying the confusing overprints and surcharges of (Greater) **Lebanon**, the 1941-44 pictorials of **Indo-China** and - particularly – the CFA surcharges of **Réunion**. Some errors are shown on whole stamps, others in enlarged detail. In the case of misplaced or doubled overprints (or centres) they show us the amount of displacement or doubling reckoned to be collectable.

Ah, enlargements. Computer scans, as used here, are a first resource for modern editors, being quicker, easier and cheaper than hiring professional draughtsmen to hand-draw details clearly. Yet even when zoomed in, a dark variety against a dark background remains hard to see – and without explanatory captions (something Yvert are traditionally nonchalant about) it's impossible to know

what some pictures refer to – like the murky blob above **Indo-China** YT 2, or the three tiny fragments below **General Colonies** YT 18. **Algéria**'s '*cinquième arbre*' and '*arbre coupé*' varieties are similarly enlarged, but need arrows to be in any way meaningful.

Maybe the three-column page format prevented further enlargement to the size we enjoy in the Maury catalogue, or even – to look no further - among the articles of this very Journal. We already know, too, what blocks of four or imperf singles look like, and to save space the illustrations of these could be quietly dropped.

What's in, what's out

Varieties popular in France include double overprints, missing colony-names, missing face-values, essays, errors of colour and imperf colour trials. Little known, collected or even regarded in the UK, the latter form a huge range, expanding the surcharged Dulac '*Série de Londres*' for **French Somali Coast** (YT 254-61, SG 378/85), for instance, from 8 (the basic set) to 51 values! The equivalent issues for AEF and Cameroun include several similar varieties - missing values and wrong colours – priced in hundreds of euros: I could think of other ways to spend this kind of money. Other catalogued varieties (paper folds, misperfs and so on) include what many of us would probably call printer's waste. Few if any of them appear in Yvert's two volumes of *Afrique francophone* (2018), whose colonial component is slimmed down to make room for the torrent of post-independence stuff.

Shades, flaws and perf variations are much less popular in France. You will look in vain for shades among the **1892 'Groupe' type** ('Tablet' to us). Maury went overboard in listing every known shade from anywhere in every colony's listing, a physical impossibility in most cases. Yvert lists no shades at all, though the *millésime* listings hint at the scope. Some printing figures, missing accents and broken-letter varieties are included, but not all. 'BFNIN' is in (for 'BENIN') but not 'RFNIN'; 'CONGC' but not 'CUNGO'; nor 'INDF' for 'INDE'.

Easy pickings to those of us in the know, the 1946 **Madagascar** definitives include nice design flaws like the "wristwatch" on the low-value herdsman and a truncated inscription '*Gallieni*'. They are not here, though the rare se-tenant sheetlet in unissued colours makes the cut. Neither will you find shades or perforation varieties among the recess-printed 1946-7 definitives of **French Equatorial Africa**, **Cameroun** and **Togo**. The dubious **Mauritania** '*Richelieu*' overprints of 1940 are not mentioned, yet the 1915 Red Cross issues for **Ivory Coast** and **Somali Coast** include several errors, all marked "*tirage privé*". I wonder how they gained catalogue status.

Pricing

Catalogue policy takes steady annual mark-ups for granted. For the record, here are some "in our dreams" figures. **Réunion** 1 and 2 each fetch 46,000€ M, 30,000€ U. The **General Colonies** 4c grey (YT 16, SG 13) makes an oddly un-round figure of 13,750€ M; the second **Saint-Pierre et**

Miquelon 'FNFL' overprint on the 3F sepia (YT 271, SG 289) comes in at 24,750/16,500/17,500€ UM/M/U. (The complete FNFL series – YT 232-90 plus Tx 42-66, SG 215A/D319 - is so wickedly expensive you could probably buy the whole territory as real estate for the same money.) My go-to top dog item, **Ivory Coast**'s Type IX 1f *Colis Postaux* surcharge on 10c brown (YT 8C, SG P26g: only one copy ever printed!) made 60,000€ M in *Afrique francophone* but for some reason is now unpriced. More accessibly, **New Caledonia** No 1 is 350€ M (though a breathtaking 30,000-90,000€ on cover) and **Congo**'s coveted '*5f moutarde*' of 1900 (YT 41a, SG 50f), of which probably only 25 copies exist, makes 1,100€ M, 1,200€ U.

Prices for used reveal national preferences, too: arguably too high *vis-à-vis* mint in SG, Yvert have long underpriced them considering their actual (and admitted) scarcity in France, especially given their strict usage criteria that Yvert impose. Many of us would happily accept even CTO copies at full Yvert prices in order to fill all those maddening gaps. There are now encouraging signs of rethinking: practically every stamp among the **1939 Revolution** and **1941** *Secours National* omnibuses is now priced higher U than M, which is as it should be. A few postage dues (like **Cameroun**'s) follow suit too, and not before time.

Grumbles fade into insignificance beside the awesome amount of work that has gone into this volume. It offers a lifetime's study with discoveries to be made – by even the most experienced of us – on every page. Just three more examples to close with, at random.

Comoros. Each of the unissued (and costly) Folk-Dancing pair (YT 140A-B, SG 173/4) now bears two different used prices: 200€ for First Day cancels, 400€ for postal use, the latter noted as "*valide 2 heures*". I've collected Comoros for quite a while, but these were new to me.

Réunion. Generous coverage or what? The diagonal overprints of 1891 (YT 11-28A, SG 11A/28B) fill more than a page, with up to nine varieties to look for on some values.

New Caledonia. The Military Frank stamps recently queried in this very Journal are now fully listed (15 of them, who knew?) and handsomely priced. And scarcely a page away, the **New Hebrides** locals at last make an appearance, even though their M/U price ratio ignores the real rarity of U.

Other catalogues may have slight advantages, but possibly more important than any of them is the simple fact that, like SG's 2016 'French Colonies', this new Yvert is now the only coverage of the whole area in a single volume. In terms of sheer convenience alone, that's unbeatable.

■■■

Les colonies françaises **1939-1945, Volume 1.** François Chauvin. *Timbres* magazine, Hors-Série No 7, November 2021. Card-backed, pp.148. Price 9.90€ (within France) plus postage (elsewhere). Available through www.Timbro.fr or L'Echo de la Timbrologie, 2 rue de l'Étoile, CS 79013 -80094 Amiens Cedex 3.

Regular readers of *Timbres* magazine (and if you're not already one, contact Richard Broadhurst, who runs a circuit that lets us all see it) may remember this publication, which has been frequently advertised there. This is no mere reprint of previous *Timbres* articles, but is all new. This could become a long series: Volume 1 is subtitled '*L'Empire coloniale de l'apogée à juin 1940*' so devotes all its space to prewar "scene-setting". A fuller review will follow: meanwhile, members fluent in French and lovers of background artwork will much enjoy what this lavish volume has to offer.

■■■

British West Africa and the French Airmail Services to June 1940. Barbara Priddy. See order details on page 54.

■■■
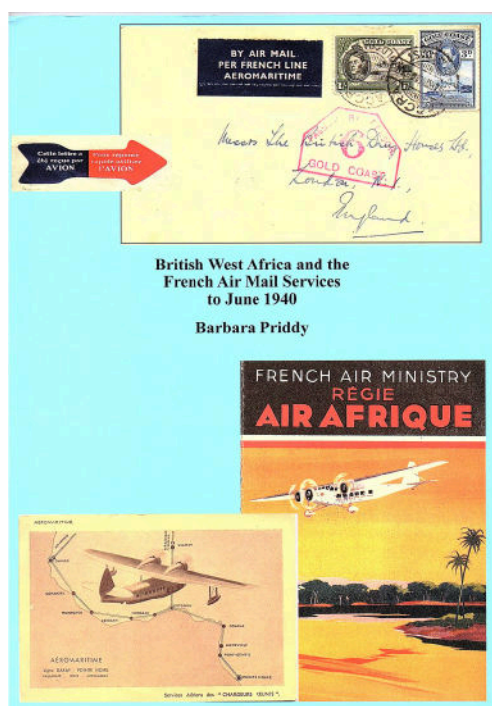
Yvert & Tellier *'Timbres De France'* Catalogue 2022

Reviewed by Richard Broadhurst

Yvert & Tellier 2022 – Timbres de France, 1562pp, 150 x 215mm format, in French.
Published by Editions Yvert & Tellier, 2 rue de l'Etoile, 80094 Amiens, Cedex 3, France.
Price 27.90€

The new catalogue published in late September contains an additional 112 pages and is sold at the same price as last year, making it exceptional value for money. The new sections on *Ballons Montés* and *Les Boules de Moulins* which were surprisingly dropped last year have now been reinstated. In addition, there is a new 33-page section on *Gros Chiffres* listing all 6449 numerical cancellations commencing in 1863. All are priced on single stamps and there are some very high prices for the more obscure towns. The *préoblitérés* section has been reworked and contains a substantial increase in the listing of varieties.

The catalogue lists stamps to June 2021 with an additional 91 gummed stamps, 12 pictorial booklets containing 140 *autoadhésifs* and 17 miniature sheets. The section on *Feuillets de France* (the new *Phil@poste* collector sheets of multiple commemoratives) has expanded considerably from the three listed in 2021 to thirty this year due to the policy of issuing every new stamp in this format. It seems quite unnecessary for Y&T to illustrate every sheet (unpriced) as within a few years this section will probably run to many hundreds!

In the past there have been very few price changes until the 21st century. This year however there has been a considerable adjustment of prices throughout the catalogue. Many of the early classic stamps (outside the scope of most of us) show significant increases in mint condition, for example: YT 7 *Ceres* 1F vermilion is up by 5,000€ to 130,000€; both YT 33 & 33A 5F Napoleon up by 500€ to 9,500€ and YT84 Sage 1c Prussian blue up by 1,000€ to 18,000€. The Colonies *émissions générales*, an under-collected group, all show increases of 10-20%. Amongst the 20th century issues notably the 1917-18 first Orphans set YT 148-155 unmounted mint increases by 440€ to 9,700€.

As usual the vast majority of increases relate to modern issues, with most mint stamps from the last few years receiving a price boost. There are across-the-board price increases for *Timbres de Service*, *Timbres Bienfaisance de PTT*, *TP Personnalisés* sheets, and *Poste Aérienne* and once again the overlooked and now discontinued *Lettre Suivie* self-adhesives.

Many of the *blocs-feuillets* rise in price again, mostly from 2012 onwards. The prime movers are: 2014 *Ceres* 1€ orange (YT F4871) up 20€ to 200€; 2014 *Coeur de Baccarat* (YT F4883) up 45€ to 225€; 2017 *Sabine de Gandon* (the first bloc to contain maxi-stamps) (YT F5179) up 25€ to 90€ and 2018 Orphans (YT F5226) up 10€ to 90€. My previously tipped unique bloc: 2012 *Le Retable d'Issenheim* (YT F4675) is once again up from 55€ to 60€, not a bad return for 5€ face value!

Almost every *Bloc Souvenir* from 2010 increases in price notably the 2018 *Marianne l'Engagée* set of four sheets (YT
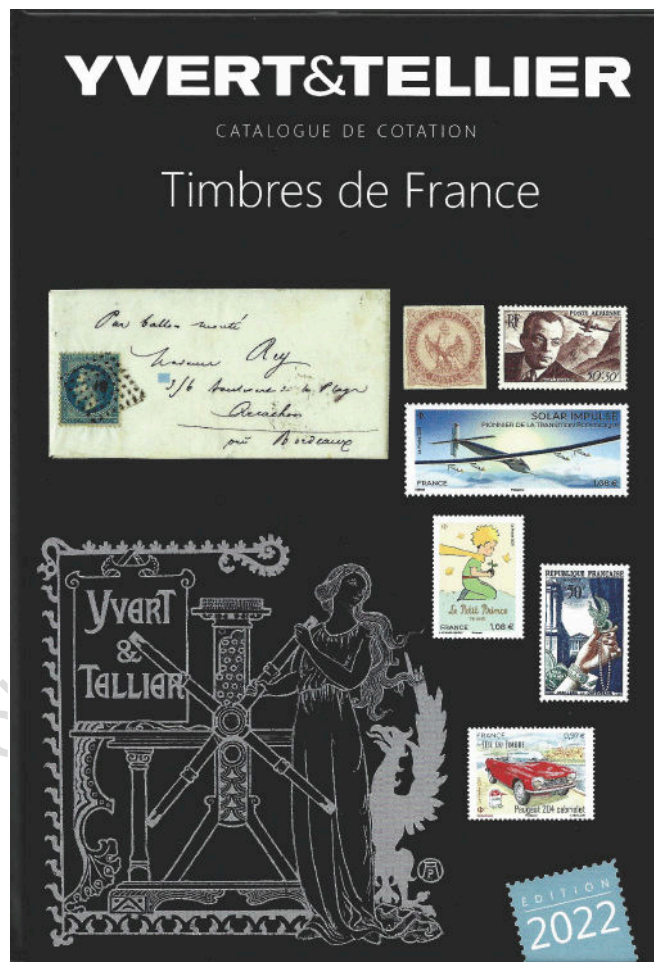
BS145A/B/C) containing all the new issues in offset printing (different from sheet printings) up from 48€ to 60€. Many of the *bloc souvenirs* from the last few years receive increases around 50 to 100%. They are issued in quantities of generally less than one tenth of normal *blocs-feuillets* and are definitely an area to keep an eye on.

Marianne issues are immensely popular. Each year various *blocs* and *carnets* are issued which contain a number of unique and low-volume stamps. For example, many of the two-page *Carnets de timbres à composition variable* featuring reprints of classic definitives (YT *Carnets* 1520A-1528) are listed at 4 to 5 times their face value. The maxi-stamps from these *carnets* are scarce (only one copy per booklet), most of which have nearly doubled in price since the last edition. I recommend snapping up any odd copies, especially used, if you are lucky enough to find them.

Many self-adhesive stamps (*autoadhésifs*) particularly the earlier issues from 1990 remain difficult to find as they were issued in very small quantities and were not generally available though post offices. The catalogue prices reflect this with some good increases again this year. The 2006

Marianne de Lamouche perforated on all four sides set of 21 values (YT 84A-84U) rises by 160€ to 780€ and the 2013 *Marianne et la Jeunesse* 3D stamp (YT 864A) rises from 20€ to 36€ mint. The incredibly scarce 2004 1.90€ brown *Marianne de Luquet* (only 390 copies issued) has had its price correctly listed this year at 1,700€ from 17€ last year!

This year I spotted a moderate increase in the price of used stamps, especially more recent commemoratives. Whilst in no way reflecting their scarcity considering that it is almost impossible to source any decent quantities of postally used stamps nowadays it is a welcome trend that will be appreciated by collectors. There still exists the anomaly that used *blocs* and *carnets* receive, in many cases, considerably lower prices than mint which makes no sense at all.

As noted last year the 2019 *"Valeurs de Cérès 1849" bloc*, the subject of much controversy (see FCPS Journal 292 – April 2020), once again appears disappointingly unpriced!

The catalogue is excellent value and is a must-have annual purchase for all collectors of both classic and modern issues. It reflects the very strong market for France from all periods.

New-issue listings from Stanley Gibbons: October 2021-February 2022

Here are details of items catalogued in supplements to *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* (*GSM*). Some of these supplement entries can be extensive, supplying much specialised information in one place.

Dates in brackets (month/year) after each country-name identify the last issue of *GSM* containing that country's previous update.

NOVEMBER 2021

Vietnam (4/2021): 2017 ASEAN – 2019 Butterflies (SG 3008/MS3069)

DECEMBER 2021

Andorra (Spanish) (6/2019): 2015 Diversity (SG 431) then 2018 'Patrimoni' – 2021 Landscapes (SG 471/511)

JANUARY 2022

Andorra (French) (6/2019): SG F796, F829 and F835 now illustrated. New issues: 2018 Pompeu Fabra – 2021 Prisunic Store (SG F843/83)

France Unesco (11/2014): 2009 Heritage (SG U26a/b)

FEBRUARY 2022

Nothing here for F&CPS members.

Michael Round

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British West Africa and the French Air Mail services to June 1940

Barbara Priddy

This detailed survey of the French Air Mail services serving British West Africa until WWII was first published in *Cameo,* the Journal of the West Africa Study Circle, in six parts. It has been consolidated into book form as a convenience to members and other readers, having been slightly edited by Rob May FRPSL.

The original Cameo articles were:

Part I	The Toulouse – Dakar Service Stage 1 1926-1934 pp 162-170	*Cameo* 105 - October 2018
Part I	The Toulouse – Dakar Service Stage 2 1926-1934 pp 31-35	*Cameo* 106 - January 2019
Part I	The Toulouse – Dakar Service Stage 3 1926-1934 pp 98-102	*Cameo* 107 - June 2019
Part II	The Transsaharan Service pp 154-169	*Cameo* 108 - October 2019
Part III	*Aéromaritime,* the Coastal Service pp 141-156	*Cameo* 111 - October 2020
Part IV	September 1939 – June 1940 pp 69-93	*Cameo* 113 - June 2021

£16.00 plus £1.50 P&P within the UK,
€19.20 plus €6.30 P&P to Europe by airmail,
US$21.70 plus US$11.30 P&P worldwide by airmail

Available in print form only. Orders can be placed by post to Rob May, Longdown Farm Cottage, Cadsden, Princes Risborough, Bucks, HP27 0NB enclosing a Sterling cheque, to include postage, payable to West Africa Study Circle. Payments by Paypal to the benefit of treasurer@wasc.org.uk, or pay by BACS transfer after contacting the Treasurer, Philip Quirk. Contact by email to robert.may@cantab.net

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LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Maurice Tyler

Please contact me (maurice@mstyler.plus.com) if you would like to see a particular article that you do not have direct access to. I can usually produce one that has appeared during the last 12 months, or point you in the right direction.
[Due to the space constraints of Journal 297 the December 'List of Recently Published Articles' was reduced - the full list from July onwards is included below.] Ed.

Timbres Magazine

Nᵒ 235 Jul/Aug 2021: Écrire aux équipages des navires des stations navales sous le Second Empire (Veglio); Qui était Roger Blachère? [la poche de Saint-Nazaire] (Sinais); Les premières machines mécaniques au Maroc (Hervé); Les timbres avions de la France Libre (2ème partie) (Chauvin); Quand Courmont fait sa pub… et ses affaires [carnets] (Gomez); Napoléon 1er, Co-prince d'Andorre (Louviau); Les courriers catapultés du paquebot *Ile-de-France* (Sinais); Vive le Tour de France! [cartes postales] (Zeyons); Chargés et chargements (de La Mettrie).

Nᵒ 236 Sep 2021: Les courriers catapultés du paquebot *Ile-de-France* (2ème partie) (Sinais); Les TD6: explications et images (Gomez); Les timbres avions de la France Libre (3ème partie) (Chauvin); Les conférences internationales de l'entre-deux guerres (1ère partie) (Emmenegger); De Baltard à Rungis [Les Halles de Paris] (Zeyons); Répertoire des départements ayant utilisé des affranchissements de fortune suite à la défaite de 1940 (Partie VII) (Sinais).

Nᵒ 237 Oct 2021: Le millésime 2020 des TAAF (Dreyfus); Une femme manœuvrant une charrue… Ce timbre de 1940 n'a pas su creuser son sillon (Hervé); Les conférences internationales de l'entre-deux guerres (2ème partie) (Emmenegger); Mécanisation et formation: Les vignettes d'affranchissement de guichet dans les Centres d'instruction (Gomez); La poste, le fisc et les articles d'argent Danan); Les courriers catapultés du paquebot *Ile-de-France* (3ème partie) (Sinais); Wallis et Futuna, les timbres de la France Libre (Chauvin); La «Grande Tache» du 25c Cérès au Type I (de La Mettrie).

Nᵒ 238 Nov 2021: Le Bloc de l'Ours (Sinais); Les surcharges «FRANCE LIBRE» de la Réunion: dans les règles de l'art (Sinais); La fabrication des carnets au fil du temps – Première partie: impression typographique des timbres (Gomez); Le millésime 2020 des TAAF (Dreyfus); Le Libonis, première carte postale de la Tour Eiffel (Zeyons); Le rétablissement des liaisons aériennes avec l'Indochine (1945-46) (Chauvin).

Nᵒ 239 Dec 2021: Le Bloc de l'Ours (2ème partie) (Sinais); La fabrication des carnets au fil du temps – Deuxième partie: un carnet unique en son genre (Gomez); Les instructions concernant les flammes de propagande (Hervé); L'Indochine sous surveillance: Le contrôle postal militaire (1939-1941) (Chauvin); Réexpéditions en port-dû et port-payé (de La Mettrie) ; Sous l'œil de l'expert: Le 20c Bordeaux (Calves, Jacquart & Beghin).

Nᵒ 240 Jan 2022: Retrospective des émissions 2021 (-); La fabrication des carnets au fil du temps – 3ème partie: passage d'une ère à l'autre avec l'impression des timbres en taille-douce (Gomez); Le Bloc de l'Ours (3ème partie) (Sinais); Les postes dans les Etats du Levant sous mandat français (1918-1930) (Chauvin); Quand les carnets fiscaux, par leur échec, devinrent des raretés majeures (Danan); Les tribulations de Mona Lisa [cartes postales] (Zeyons).

Nᵒ 241 Feb 2022: Saint-Pierre et Miquelon – Le 5/4c type 2 de 1885 (Tillard); La fabrication des carnets au fil du temps – 4ème partie: nouveau mode de fabrication avec les carnets auto-adhésifs (Gomez); Les timbres perforés WP: usage postal ou mystification? (Sinais); La longue marche de la carte postale (Zeyons); Des exemples de levées exceptionnelles (de La Mettrie).

Nᵒ 242 Mar 2022: Marcel Doret: entre exploits et drame (Sinais); Les timbres à date au type R84 (ou A 1, 2 et 3 de Lautier) (Hervé); Le blason de Saint-Lô: un problème d'encre et de papier (Gomez); Jean-Claude Mézières a rejoint les étoiles (Mennessiez); Les cartes postales présidentielles (Zeyons).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

Nᵒ 1963 Jul/Aug 2021: La collection philatélique d'Alfred Dreyfus (Jacquart & Mordente); L'extraordinaire longévité du timbre des rôles d'équipage au type Galère (Vincent); Campagne d'été en Terre Adélie (2018-2019) (3/3) (Venturini).

Nᵒ 1964 Sep 2021: Des étiquettes de fermeture de la Société russe de la Croix-Rouge sous l'Empire (Israël) ; Hiver et été 2019-2020 (1/2) (Venturini).

Nᵒ 1965 Oct 2021: Hiver et été 2019-2020 (2/2) (Venturini).

Nᵒ 1966 Nov 2021: Une LISA polaire sur le TAAF, mais pas des TAAF (Grillot); La Semeuse de M. Roty en voyage (Fortin).

Nᵒ 1967 Dec 2021: Campagne d'été 2019-2020 en Terre Adélie (Venturini); La Semeuse de M. Roty en voyage (suite)(Fortin).

Nᵒ 1968 Jan 2022: Programme 2022 des Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises (-); Ève Luquet, en lumière, par la lucarne du timbre-poste (Bastide-Bernardin); Album de l'Année 2021 (Bastide-Bernardin); La Semeuse de M. Roty en voyage (suite)(Fortin).

Nᵒ 1969 Feb 2022: Spéciale JO [10c Jeux Olympiques de 1924] (Gontier); Gaston Monnerville (1897-1991) de l'Outre-mer aux Palais de la République (Sollin); La Semeuse de M. Roty en voyage (fin)(Fortin); Courrier ramené par l'OP4-2019 du *Marion Dufresne* (Venturini).

Nᵒ 1970 Mar 2022: Transmission(s), regards sur les collections du Musée de La Poste (Bastide-Bernardin); Au temps du contrôle des officiers ministériels par les timbres de copie (Danan); Un nouveau Musée du Timbre et de la Monnaie à Saint-Marin (Bogoni); L'OP1/2020 du *Marion Dufresne* par temps de covid (Venturini).

Bulletin COL.FRA

N° 176 2ème trim 2021: Les oblitérations du bureau de Mahé en Inde française (Rohmer); Les courriers de Massabe au Congo, circa 1900 (Lindekens & Dufresne de Virel) Recensement des épreuves de couleur du Maroc (1933-1955) 1ère partie (Puech); Grande série coloniale Pétain, variété grande faciale (Buchheit); Jeu de piste marcophile de Valencia à Bassila au Dahomey (Caraud & Ayache).

N° 177 3ème trim 2021: Les colonnes à la conquête des oasis sahariennes (Baudin); Réunion – Surcharges de juin 1891 (Pelorce); Recensement des épreuves de couleur du Maroc (1933-1955) 2ème partie et fin (Puech); Complément à l'article Les oblitérations de Centrafrique après l'indépendance (Hurpet).

N° 178 4ème trim 2021: Guadeloupe 1884 premières surcharges (1ère partie) (Bonnel & Buchheit); Mayotte et protectorat des Comores – Activité et organisation de la poste aux lettres (1879-1913) (Bergossi); Deux timbres fiscaux pour colis postaux en Nouvelle Calédonie (Flotte); Les marques SECAP de la poste de Côte d'Ivoire après 1997 (Parren).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Vol 77 N° 3 (Whole N° 345) Jul 2021: British Consular Mail at Saint-Pierre & Miquelon 1906 (Taylor); Studying the 1900 French Congo Pictorial Issue – III (Nilsestuen). Saint-Pierre & Miquelon 1975 Élection AR cover to Paris (Taylor); French North Africa Pot Pourri (Rasmussen); A Message from Free French Martinique to Occupied France (Stevens); Saint-Pierre & Miquelon: 1945 Airmail Registered cover to Ethiopia via Djibouti (Taylor).

Vol 77 N° 4 (Whole N° 346) Oct 2021: Guadeloupe Mail to Saint-Barthélemy d'Agenais, France Misdirected to Saint-Barthélemy, and Other French West Indies Meanderings (Marra); Tenerife Postal History (Itzkowitz); Sénégal – Y&T No 179 (Une petite variété) (Mattei); Monaco: an Extraordinary Engraving by Jacques Combet (Leccese).

Vol 78 N° 1 (Whole N° 347) Jan 2021: Félix Éboué: "Heck, No!" – French Colonial Administrator and *France Libre* War Hero (Taylor); Studying the 1900 French Congo Pictorial Issue – IV (Nilsestuen); Further Comments n the 19th and Early 20th Century French Colonies 2c Printed Matter Rate (Marra); Addendum – Senegal: Prepayment of Postage in Cash during January 1902 (Dernier chapitre) (Mattei); The Value of Philatelic Covers (Dutt); Tunisian One Centime Postal Rate (Rasmussen).

Cameo

Vol 22 N° 2 (Whole N° 113) Jun 2021: British West Africa and the French Air Mail Services, Part IV September 1939 – June 1940 (Priddy); Update on the use of the 'Popo' cancel at Anecho, Togo (Czopek); West Germany to Cameroun 1961 – Note to Marty Bratzel's article in *Cameo* 112 (Dixon).

Vol 22 N° 3 (Whole N° 114) Sep 2021: Further update on a 'Popo' cancel at Anecho, Togo (Czopek); Cameroun – The Reunification Issue of 1 January 1962 (Bratzel, Hørlyck, Lythgoe & May).

Vol 23 N° 1 (Whole N° 115) Jan 2022: Cameroun – Forgeries of the Reunification Issue of 1 January 1962 (Bratzel); News of a Recent Cameroonian Issue (Lebourcq); Mail to the Gold Coast Detained in France (Martin).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 249 (3e trim 2021) Jul 2021: Le courrier de Carupano (1875-1876) (Carcenac); L'acheminement par avion du courrier de Nouvelle-Calédonie pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, de la déclaration de guerre (3 septembre 1939) à l'attaque de Pearl Harbor (7 décembre 1941) (2ème partie) (Ayache); Le filon philatélique de Memel. Mythe et réalité (Pineau).

N° 250 (4e trim 2021) Oct 2021: Une lettre simple, simple lettre – pas si simple: Les tribulations d'un courrier sorti de Paris pendant le siège de 1870-1871 (Walter); «Lettres-Postes-Enveloppes» de J A Pichot (suite et fin) (de La Mettrie); La malle des Indes en 1853 (Kelly); Le long chemin du Fezzan vers le «Royaume-Uni de Libye» (Goanvic).

N° 251 (1er trim 2022) Jan 2022: En marge de «La Légende des Siècles» (Porignon); La Fortune d'Anatole Hulot (Gérard) ; L'intégration postale des États romains à l'Empire français (1809-1810) 1. Les acteurs en présence (Veglio); Convention franco-britannique de 1843, marques d'échange COLONIES &C. ART. 12 et ART. 13 sur lettres des États-Unis (Treviso).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol LI N° 4 (Whole N° 249) Sep 2021: Earliest use of Navigation and Commerce Stationery (Bentley); Postal Guide of 1904 (Bentley); Thai Post Offices in Indochina during the Thai Occupation of Laos and Cambodia 1941-1946 (Saunders); More on Saigon's Botanical Garden (Bentley); Alternative Use of South Vietnam Postage Due Stamps (Gebhardt); More on Early Postal Service in North Vietnam (Wiart).

Vol LI N° 5 (Whole N° 250) Nov 2021: First Feedback on Early North Vietnam Stamp Errors (Düring); Angkor Label on Postcard (Bentley); Earliest Usages of Navigation and Commerce (Group) Stamps in Indochina (Dufresne de Virel); Forgeries of Viet-Nam First Day Covers (Dykhouse).

Vol LII N° 1 (Whole N° 251) Jan 2022: Plowman and Tower of Confucius Variety (Hubert); Vientiane – Hanoi 1957 First Flight (Aspnes); Fantasy Stamps of Indochina (Bui); Pro Chromo Advocacy (Wiart); Expedited Service Covers (Dykhouse).

Vol LII N° 2 (Whole N° 252) Mar 2022: International Mail under North Vietnam's Postal Authority (Düring); State of Vietnam Drivers Licenses (1949-1955) (Wiart).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 385 (Jun 2021): Maintenir le service postal [la Commune de Paris] (Albaret); Le bureau de poste de Paris Belvédère (Lavenas); Les machines à oblitérer obtenues par la transformation de machines à affranchir NEOPOST de la série IJ et Pitney Bowes de la série DM (Partie 2) (Guillard); Le courrier de Frau Marga Müller ou les tribulations du courrier en Chine en 1911 (Partie 2: les lettres de janvier à avril 1911) (Bonnet & Dutau); Marques de franchise des chemins de fer militaires en Rhénanie [1918-1926] (Partie 1) (Jusserand); Une ligne maritime inconnue utilisée par un achemineur bordelais… En temps de guerre [1870] (Goutay); Timbres à date d'entrée – et de sortie – après 1880. Bureaux d'échange sédentaires du Haut-Doubs (Bonnefoy); Imprimés et objets à prix réduits: le traitement des

contraventions à l'article 9 de la loi du 25 juin 1856 (Partie 1) (Chouteau & Pleinfossé).

N° 386 (Sep 2021): Une nouvelle collection pour les départementalistes: les EMA avec un nom de commune sans bureau de poste (Bonnefoy); Un cas d'école de modification de taxe (Tixier); Marques de franchise des chemins de fer militaires en Rhénanie (Partie 2) (Jusserand); Le bureau de poste du Musée du Louvre (Lavenas); Le courrier de Frau Marga Müller ou les tribulations du courrier en Chine en 1911 (Partie 3: les lettres de mai à décembre 1911) (Bonnet & Dutau); Imprimés et objets à prix réduits: le traitement des contraventions à l'article 9 de la loi du 25 juin 1856 (Partie 2) (Chouteau & Pleinfossé); Les machines à oblitérer obtenues par la transformation de machines à affranchir NEOPOST de la série IJ et Pitney Bowes de la série DM (Partie 3) (Guillard).

N° 387 (Dec 2021): Fraude pour contravention à la franchise (Hitchen); Marcophilie Moderne (Coquin); Franchise à Paris et déboursé à Belvès (23) (Carcenac); Utilisation de marques de port dû ou de port payé comme marques de déboursé dans le Var (Trinquier); Le bureau de poste du Ministère des Finances (Lavenas); Les machines à oblitérer obtenues par la transformation de machines à affranchir NEOPOST de la série IJ et Pitney Bowes de la série DM (Partie 4) (Guillard).

Le Maghrebophila

N° 34 Jun 2021: Les bureaux de poste de Fes en 1900 (Benziane); Les cartes-postales «précurseur» au Maroc (Benziane); Achetez tous le timbre Antituberculeux (Aulagnier).

N° 35 Sep 2021: Maroc: EMA Pitney Bowes type "Paragon" (Guyaux); Maroc: Analyse d'un PAP (2013-2014) (Guyaux).

N° 36 Dec 2021: Griffe manuelle du Tourisme de 1969 au Maroc (Parren); Une carte-postale banale mais… [Maroc] (Benziane).

Stamp Lover

Vol 113 Feb 2021: Albert Decaris, French engraver (Palmer).

Vol 113 Aug 2021: Avec «Les Poilus» or "The Hairy Ones" (Hill).

Vol 113 Oct 2021: Napoleon on postcards (del Giudice).

Stamp Magazine

Feb 2021: 1969 Philexafrique Omnibus Issue (Fonnick).

May 2021: Robert Cami, (French Engraver) (Keppel).

Stamp Collector

Mar 2021: Imperf Cérès Values (Fletcher).

Apr 2021: The PO at the Château de Versailles (Rosevale).

Gibbons Stamp Monthly

Dec 2021: The Madagascar Hoard – A look at modern material from the Malagasy Republic, Part 1 The Postal History (Round).

Jan 2022: The Madagascar Hoard – A look at modern material from the Malagasy Republic, Part 2 The Stamps (Round).

Books Noted

Les Bureaux Spéciaux du Seconde Empire, Tome II by Jean Sénéchal Price 40€ (+p&p); available from Académie de Philatélie, 8 rue des Fossés, 54700 Pont-à-Mousson or academie.philatelie@gmail.com

Madagascar et Dépendances – Étude des timbres coupés en 1904 by Luc Monteret Price 5.50€ for digital version; available from colfra-publications@orange.fr

La Commune de Paris – 18 mars – 28 mai 1872 by Raymond Sené & Jean-Jacques Curgy. Price 25€; 98pp A4; published by Société des Amis du Musée de La Poste; available from Dominique Bidault, 6 rue de la Croix blanche, 91490 Moigny-sur-École.

Europa 2022 – Catalogue des timbres Europa, Conseil de l'Europe, EUROMED, SEPAC et NORDEN Price 23.90€; 672pp 15x21cm; available from www.yvert.com

Catalogue Yvert et Tellier des Timbres de Monaco et des Territoires français d'Outre-mer, Andorre, Nations unies, TAAF – Tome 1 bis 2022 Price 26.90€; 1536pp 15x21cm; available from Éditions Yvert et Tellier, www.yvert.com

Cours des Carnets et des Publicitimbres 2021-2022. Price unknown; available from ACCP, 157 avenue de Saint-Augustin, 11100 Narbonne or www.accp-asso.com

French Transsaharan Mails and History, Post Offices and Communications in Niger by Peter Kelly. Price 24€ (£20) +p&p; 180pp A4. See order details on page 49 or contact peterkelly35@btinternet.com

Maurice Tyler

AU COIN DES NÉOPHYTES

This edition's contribution comes from **Chris Hitchen**. The aim is to encourage members to share items of unusual or interesting elements of philately from their collections. They do not have to be great rarities. Please submit items of for this section to **Peter Kelly** who should be contacted at peterkelly35@btinternet.com

Post office efficiency

This letter below was written on 8 December 1863 in the small hamlet of L'Habit in Normandy. Addressed to the Comte de Reiser in the village of Marcilly sur Eure some 6 kilometres distance, it was franked 10c as a local letter. On the following day it was handed to a rural postman (OR mark on the front) and he handed it in to his post office at St

André de l'Eure the same day 9 December. There the postage stamp was cancelled with a large-figure lozenge 3499 of that office.

However the Count had moved on and the letter was redirected to his Paris address in the rue de la Banque. It travelled on the night TPO from Cherbourg to Paris on 10 December and as it was now an inland letter extra postage was required. The *rayon* 2 delivery section in Paris has noted AFFR. INSUFF R.2 and marked 2 *décimes* due (30c for an unpaid letter less the 10c already paid). Postman 5 of *rayon* 2 tried to deliver it on the same day 10 December but alas the count had moved on again to Hanover.

So off it went through Belgium, part of the way on the Verviers-to-Cologne TPO (red mark on the back). On the 11th December it appears to have finally reached the Count in Hanover. The Germans charged 3 *gros* on delivery. That amount is difficult to comprehend. Whilst the Kingdom of Hanover only became part of Prussia in 1866 its postal services were controlled by the latter rather earlier. Foreign letters were included in the Prussian second *rayon*. Unpaid letters cost 5 *gros* or 60 centimes. The 10c stamp is worth just under 1 *gros* so even if one deducts that as agreed by the Convention of 21 May 1858 one struggles to see how they arrived at 3 *gros*.

The red mark partly on the postage stamp is probably the Paris dead letter office which redirected it to Germany.

With two redirections the letter arrived with the Count in just 3 days. After all that it is simply a brief message of thanks for help the Count has provided for the poor of the hamlet of L'Habit.

Post office inefficiency

The letter to the right was posted at Paris district office FS, in the rue du Petite rue du Bac, on 3 December 1848. It is addressed quite clearly to Aix – B du Rhône, that is Aix-en-Provence. Somehow it would appear to have been put in the bag for Aix-La-Chappelle, better known perhaps as Aachen, then part of Prussia. The German postal staff spotted the error and carefully noted '*en France*' on the front and returned it to the French by way of the entry point at Valenciennes. It eventually arrived on 12 December.