



# Madagascar & Dependencies

**The Era of the French Colonial  
Allegorical Group Type**  
Edward Grabowski, EEFMS

Collectors Club, New York  
Postal History Live Symposium, Sindelfingen, Germany  
Collectors Club of Chicago  
Seminar on African Philately, Denver

# The French Colonial Allegorical Group Type

- Issue created in 1892 as first definitive for ALL of the French Colonies
- Allegorical figures of Navigation and Commerce
- Colony name printed in a separate printing
  - Twenty-nine different legends exist
- Values of 1c to 1F for most colonies; 1c to 5F for some
- Full grouping of postal stationery – post cards, letter cards and envelopes



# Madagascar & Dependencies which used the Group Type

- Preexisting Colonies
  - Diego Suarez (1892); Nossi-Bé (1894); Mayotte (1892); Saint Marie de Madagascar (1894)
- Comoro Islands
  - Mayotte plus Anjouan (1892); Grand Comoro (1897); Moheli (1906)
- Madagascar became a French colony in mid-1896 and received its Group Type stamps
- By 1911 all of the above entities were part of Madagascar & Dependencies



1. Diego Suarez: Military and commercial center – harbor

2. Nossi-Bé: Island commercial center

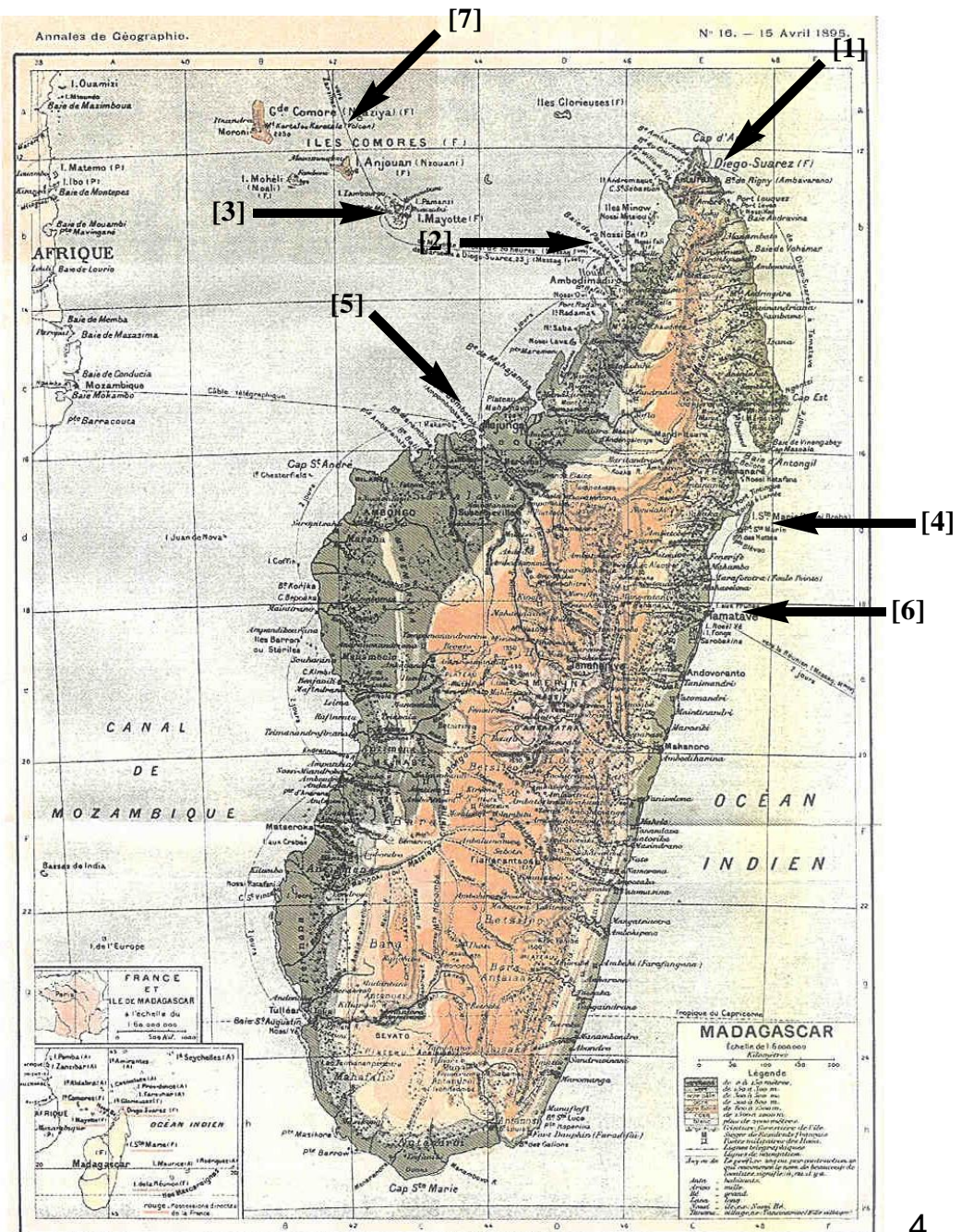
3. Mayotte: Established Comoro Islands Colony

4. Sainte Marie de Madagascar: The colony that no one wanted

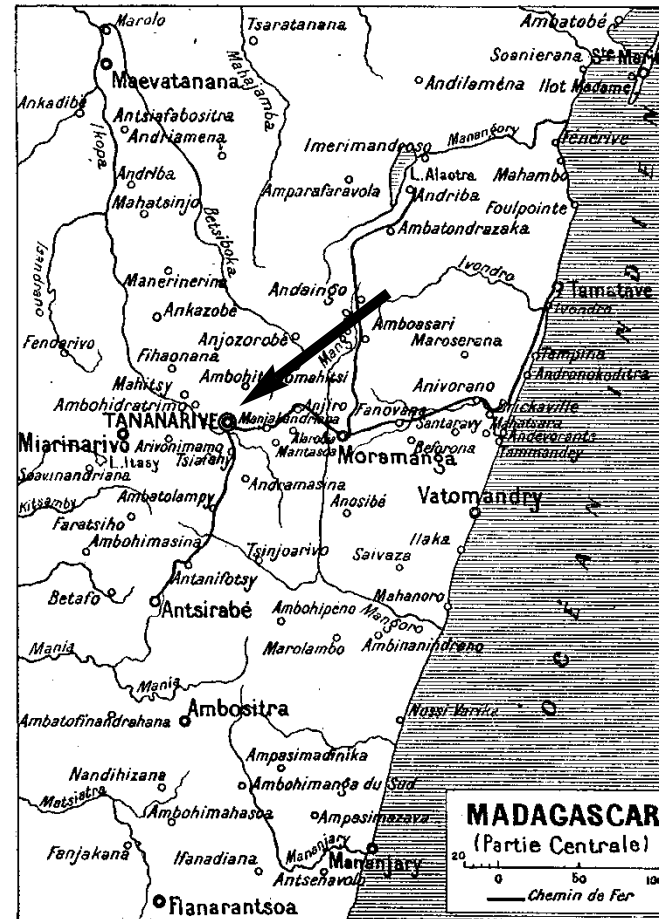
5. Majunga: Start point of the 1895 military campaign that resulted in the establishment of the colony of Madagascar

6. Tamatave: Major port of Madagascar

7. Marseille-Reunion Packet Line that provided postal service to the colony



# Tananarive - Capital



# Diego Suarez & Dependencies

- Received Group Type in late 1892
- **Diego Suarez et Dependances** legend indicating it administered other areas too
- Provisional overprint on 75c Dubois Type + 1F Group Type
- 1F75c = 6<sup>th</sup> weight (90 – 105 g) + registration: 1F50 + 25c
- Via Reunion-Marseille or Marseille Reunion French Packet which served Madagascar & Dependencies





329



Monsieur A. Lafouche

attaché au Ministère des Finances

Amoyne  
Paris



# Diego Suarez

- In 1894 legend changed to **DIEGO SUAREZ**
- Double weight letter (2 x 25c for 15 – 30 grams) + 25c registration
- To Bucharest, Rumania (Backstamped)







# Military Concession Rate

- Special concession rate of 15c per 15 grams in lieu of 25c effective for troops on station until January 1899
- Triple weight (30 – 45 grams) registered concession rate ( $3 \times 15c + 25c = 70c$ ) from 1897
- **CORRES D'ARMEES DIEGO SUAREZ** octagonal datestamp
- Validation of rate required commander's endorsement and signature and/or unit cachet
- One of the premier covers in this collection





Correspondance militaire. Recommandée.  
Le Sous-Commissaire est

311

840

*J. Bournaud*



Monsieur J. Bagniol,  
Commissaire de Direction de Travaux de la Marine,

14, Rue Duvisier, 14,



Roche fort 2/mer

(Ch. 2/mer)





# Nossi-Bé Under Diego Suarez Administration

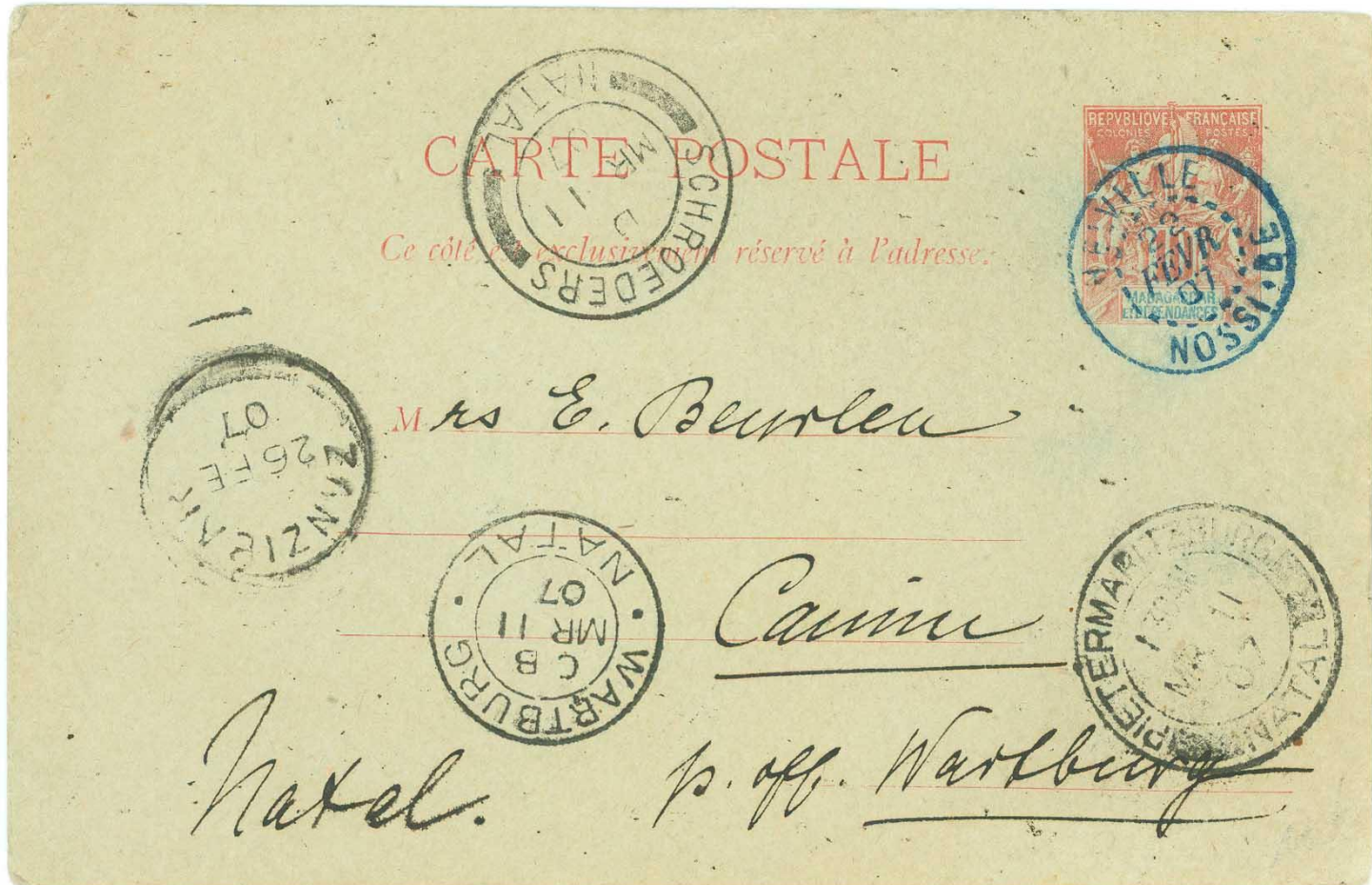
- Initially Nossi-Bé administered by Diego Suarez and Diego Suarez stamps used - RRRR
- Received its Group Type stamps in 1894
- Attached to Madagascar in 1901



# Military Concession rate of 15c with Diego Suarez et Dependences Legend



# Nossi-Bé Under Madagascar Administration





# Sainte Marie de Madagascar

## The Colony No One Wanted

- Ceded to France in 1750
- Abandoned by France 1754-1818
- Attached to Reunion 1818
- Attached to Mayotte 1843
- Separate French Colony 1853-1876
- Attached to Reunion 1876
- Attached to Diego Suarez in 1888
- Separate French Colony 1894-1896 – **Group Type Stamps**
- Attached to Madagascar 1896
- About 200 sq km with <50 (<25?) literate people in 1890



# Claim to Fame: Haven for Indian Ocean Pirates



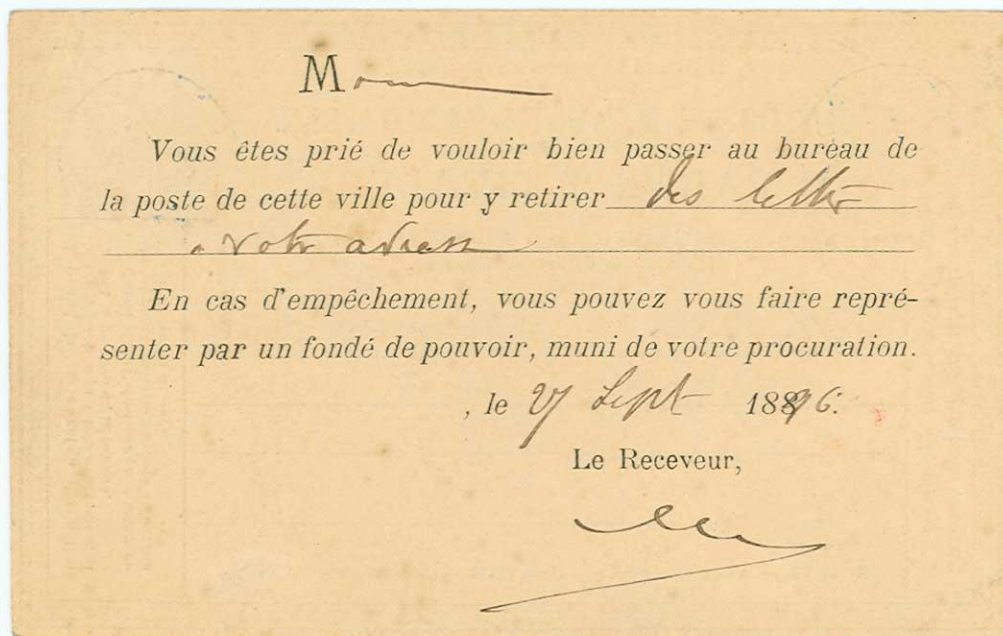
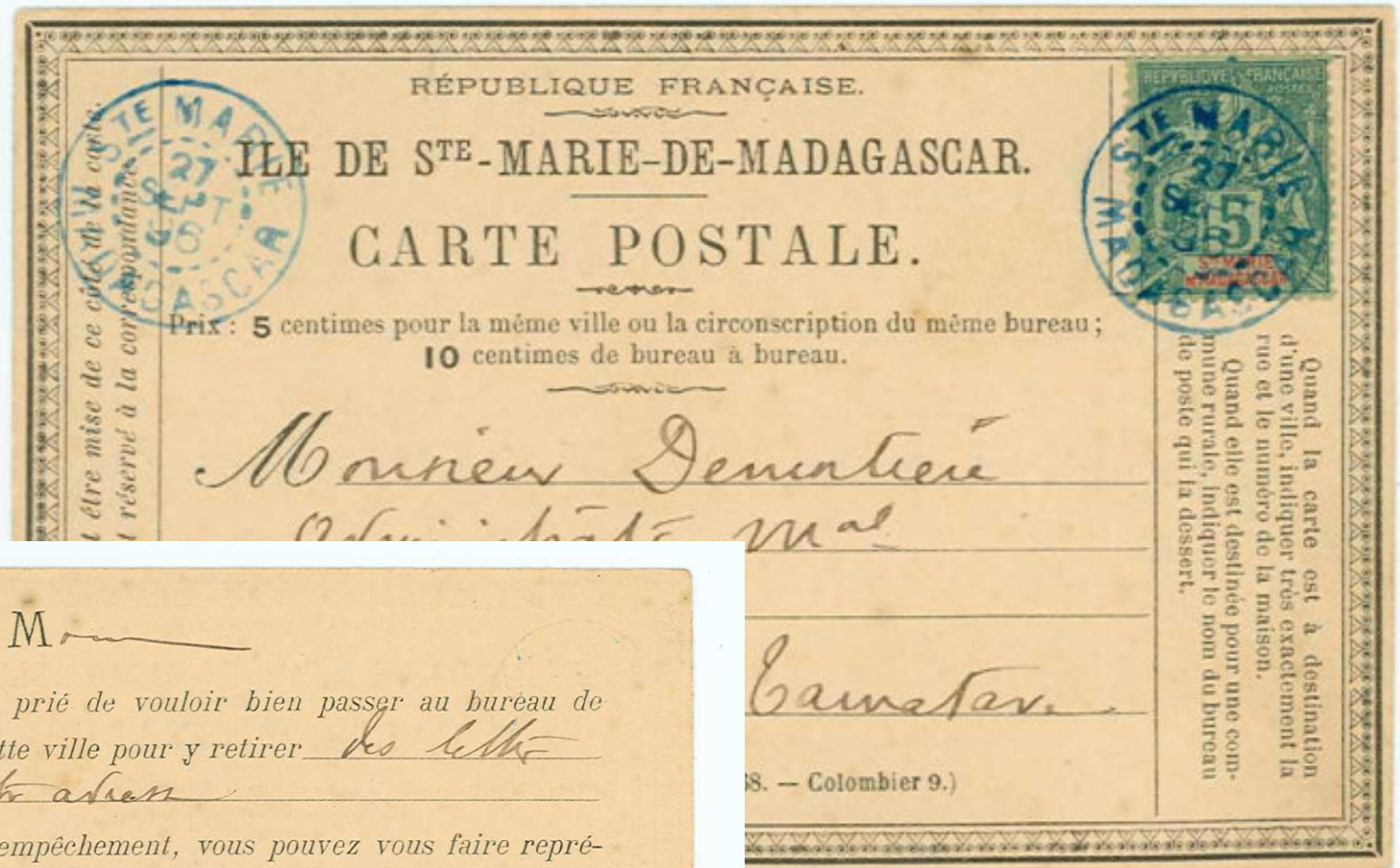
Pirate cemetery on Sainte Marie de Madagascar

# Sainte Marie Formula Card from 1888

- Reason for creation uncertain
- Use extremely rare
- A few unused examples recorded: ~\$500 per
- One used example with a 10c Type Dubois
- Three used examples with a 5c Group Type
- Used September 27, 1896 on an advisory of the arrival of a letter in Sainte Marie
- One of the major rarities of the Group Type

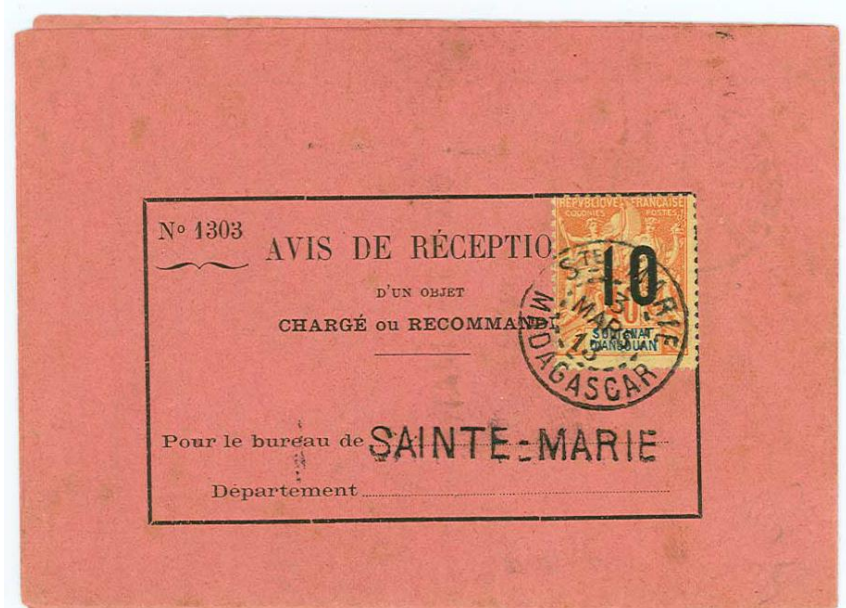






# Avis de Réception - 1913

- Rate of 10c applied to the Avis
- Use of 10c 1912 overprint of Anjouan
- Form created specifically for Madagascar rather than use of standard French form
- Possibly the only recorded example from Sainte Marie





COLONIE DE MADAGASCAR  
ET DÉPENDANCES

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

POSTES  
ET TÉLÉGRAPHES

# AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

d'un (1) *lettre* { valeur déclarée *5* } enregistré au bureau  
recommandé *x* .....  
de *SAINT-MARIE* le *3 Mars 1913*, sous le n° *297* (3)  
et adressé à (souscription complète) M. *Compagnie Messageries*

Timbre du bureau  
d'origine



à *Camurac*

(rue et n° s'il y a lieu)

Nom et adresse  
de  
l'expéditeur (A)

M. *Tiravand*  
à *Saint-Marie*  
(rue et n° s'il y a lieu)

Le soussigné déclare que l' (1) { valeur déclarée ..... } à l'adresse  
recommandée .....  
susmentionnée a été dûment livré le *14 Mars 1913*

Timbre du bureau  
distributeur



Signature (4)

du destinataire :

*L. Juge*

du chef du bureau distributeur :

*J. H. J.*

(1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, boîte, échantillon, etc.). — (2) Griffe du bureau d'origine. — (3) Date du dépôt et n° d'inscription au registre de dépôt. — (4) Dans les offices où les règlements le comportent, la signature du chef du bureau distributeur est remplacée par celle du destinataire. L'avis est ensuite renvoyé par le premier courrier.  
Dans le régime intérieur : Sous enveloppe n° 819 comme cor- à l'expéditeur ..... de l'objet.  
respondance ordinaire.  
Dans le régime international : Sous enveloppe n° 289 recom- au bureau d'origine ..... qu'il concerne.  
mandée d'office.  
(A) Dans le régime international, le nom et l'adresse de l'expéditeur ne sont consignés qu'à la rentrée de la formule n° 514 au bureau d'origine.

DE RÉCEPTION  
D'UN OBJET  
GÉ ou RECOMMANDÉ  
le *SAINT-MARIE*  
et .....





# Inclusion of Non-Group Type Items in the Collection

- Unfranked or underpaid due letters
- Military Franchise letters
  - Troops engaged in combat entitled to full franchise, i.e. free postage
- Use of French F.M. overprint stamps
- Government Franchise letters
  - Certain high officials and certain departments entitled to full franchise
- Use of illegal stamps
- Use as fiscal stamps

# Sainte Marie Postage Due Letter

- Posted September 2, 1904
- Unpaid local letter at double weight (15 – 30g) = 30c postage
- Charged 60c due
- **T 60c** applied in manuscript
- Only recorded postage due letter from Sainte Marie



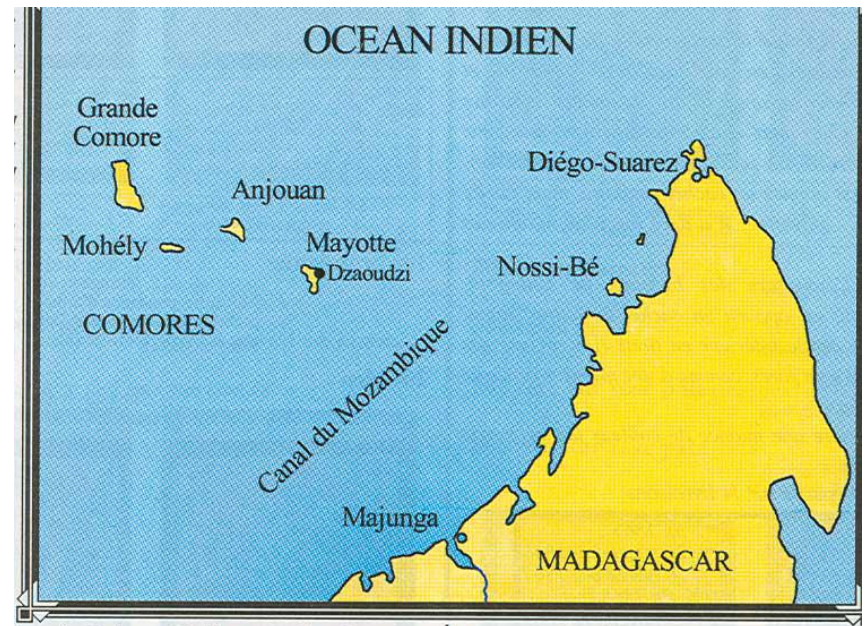


Posted to Dr. A. Voeltzkow, a famous German zoologist who gathered scientific samples (animal, plant and mineral) for fellow scientists in Europe. According to his 1905 publication, he departed Sainte Marie-de-Madagascar on the evening of September 2, 1904.



# The Comoro Islands

- Mayotte, Anjouan, Grand Comoro and Mohéli – Administered by Diego Suarez initially
- Then administered locally by Mayotte
- Attached to Madagascar in 1911



# Mayotte

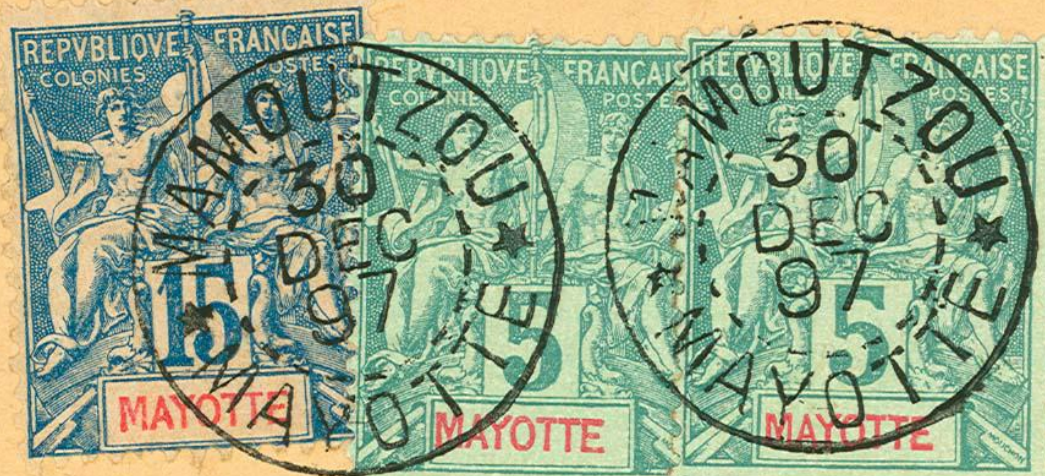
- Principal village named D'Zaoudzi from which most of the mail originates
- Letter from the tiny village of Mamoutzou in 1897
- French Community rate of 25c via Reunion-Marseille packet







*Le Très Révérend Père Supérieur*  
*des Clercs de Saint Joseph*



*Paris (Vare)*





# Anjouan

- Received Group Type stamps in 1893
- Administered as a Protectorate and then a Colony during the 1890's by Mayotte
- Rare use of **ANJOUAN PROTECTORATE FRANC.** octagonal datestamp on a registered overseas letter



3/2

Alsace-Lorraine



Monsieur A. Arnould,  
gantier et bonneterie fine,  
du petit Paris, 9<sup>bis</sup>  
à Metz.



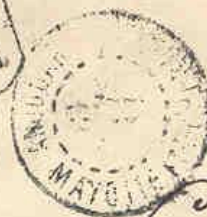
# Anjouan - Single Use of the 45c Stamp

- Eight colonies received the 45c Group Type stamp in 1906
- Others did not need it as they already had new pictorial issues with this value
- The 45c stamp prepaid the double weight (2 x 10c) registered (25c) French community rate
- Six single used examples on cover recorded from the eight colonies – four are from French Oceania
- Datestamp: **ANJOUAN MAYOTTE ET DEPENDANCES**
- Stamp of Mayotte valid as Anjouan administered by Mayotte in 1905
- **Only recorded example of single use of 45c stamp from Anjouan**





France



Monsieur Auguste Lévy  
31 Rue des Petites Ecuries

Paris

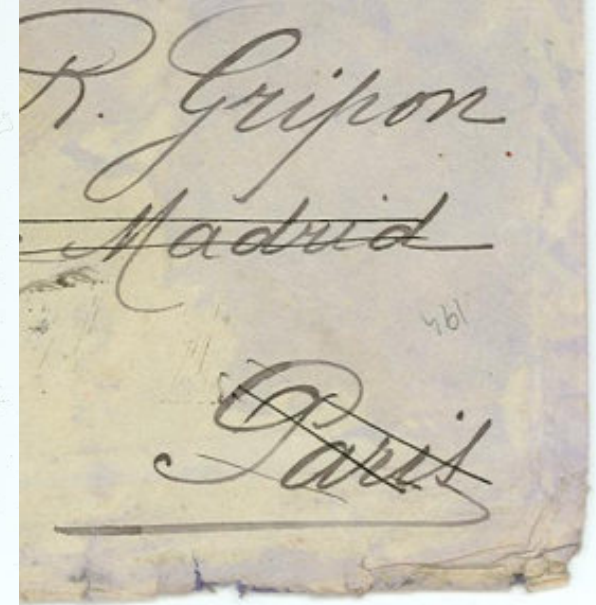
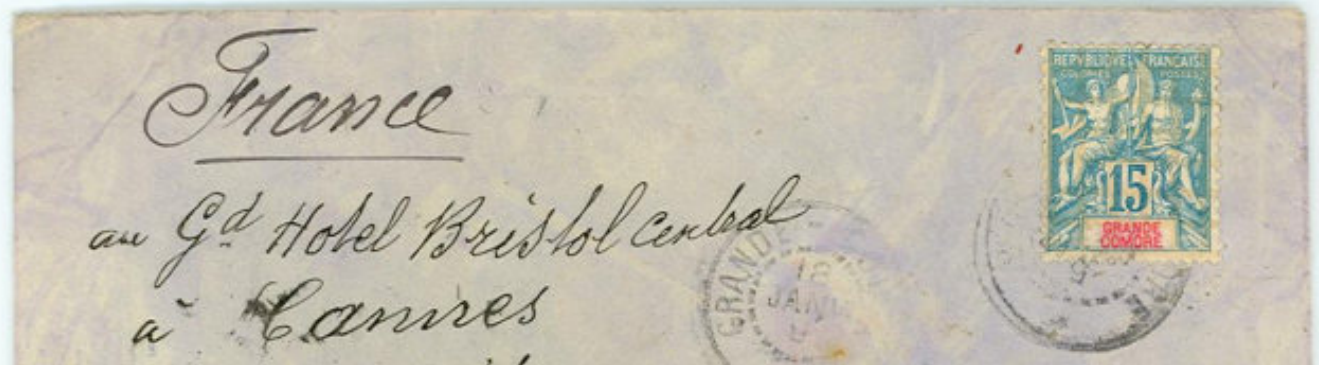
# Naufrage d'un boutre de la GRANDE COMORO

- Received Group Type stamps in 1897
- French Community rate of 15c posted during 1905
- Ratty letter to Paris
- Why show it as a premier cover from Grand Comoro?





## Shipwreck cover - Two examples recorded



Mail from Grand Comoro traveled by local fishing vessel to Mayotte to meet the French Packet. The vessel sank, but the mail was recovered.



# Mohéli

- Mohéli administered by Mayotte
- Did not receive Group Type stamps until 1906, even though its PO was open much earlier
- Stamps of the other Comoro Islands used until then
- Double weight local letter (2 x 15c) from Mohéli via Grand Comoro to Patsy (a plantation) in Anjouan



DJOUMA-DOUGNA  
18 OCT 1902  
MOHELI (ILES COMORES)



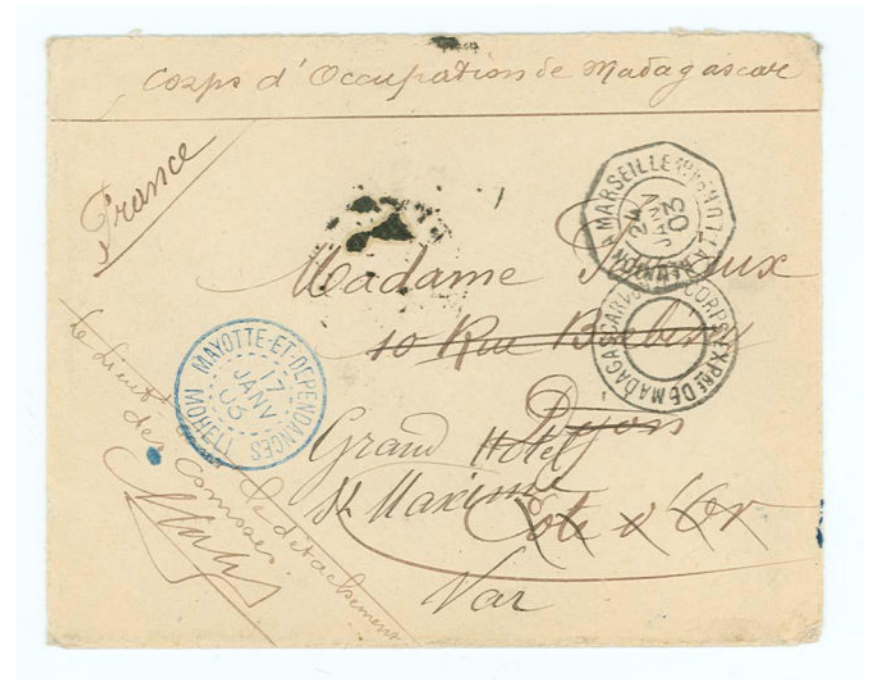
Monsieur le D<sup>e</sup>. F. Wilson

Petsy

— Anjouan —

# Mohéli

- Military franchise letter from Mohéli in 1903 – franchise applied to troops in combat
- **MAYOTTE ET DEPENDANCES**  
**MOHELI** datestamp
- Possibly the only recorded military franchise letter from Mohéli





Corps d'Occupation de Madagascar

France

Madame ~~Maxime~~

~~10 Rue Bachet~~

Grand Hotel ~~Peyron~~

M. Maxime ~~Ste x Lx~~

Var

le Directeur des Comptes de Detachement

MAYOTTE-ET-DEPENDANCES  
JANV 17 1896  
MAYOTTE

MARSEILLE  
JANV 17 1896  
CORPS D'OCCUPATION  
DE MADAGASCAR

Copyright: France and Colonies Philatelic Society

# The Colony of Madagascar & Dependencies

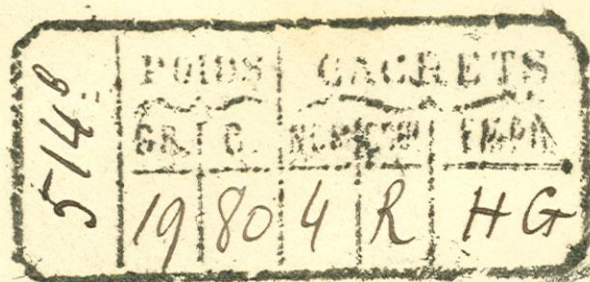
- Declared in August 1896
- French campaigns to 'pacify' remaining areas of this large colony continued for many years
- Local entities (Diego Suarez & Nossi-Bé) placed under Madagascar administration, and stamps valid for use as of 1898
- Comoro Islands added in 1911

# Tananarive - Capital

- Declared value letter: prepays postage; insurance; and registration
- Indicated by **CHARGÉ** handstamp and manuscript declared value
- Cachet on reverse is key to rate
- Posted March 27, 1900







Postage based on second weight level of 19.80 grams is 30c; registration is 25c; insurance on 6,000 F is 4.00 F for a total rate of 4F55c.

# Tananarive to Vatomandry

- Native letter posted at the 5c printed matter rate from Tananarive in April 25, 1907 to the small village of Vatomandry – the addressee could not be found at Vatomandry
- The 5c printed matter rate **DID NOT** pay for forwarding or returning to sender
- Handstamps of **INCONNU** (Unknown) and **RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR** (Return to the Sender) applied in Vatomandry
- Received **T** in triangle and **AFFRANCHISSEMENT INSUFFISANT** (Insufficient Franking) handstamps in Vatomandry
- 10c Duval postage due applied in Tananarive - treated as an unpaid printed matter rate (2 x 5c) for the return to Tananarive **6 months later!**



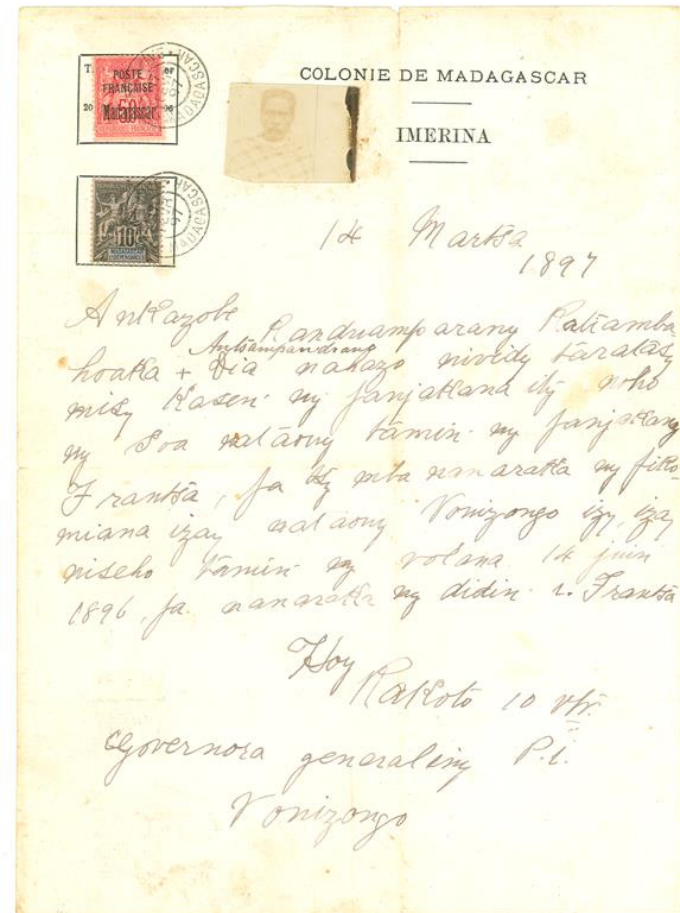






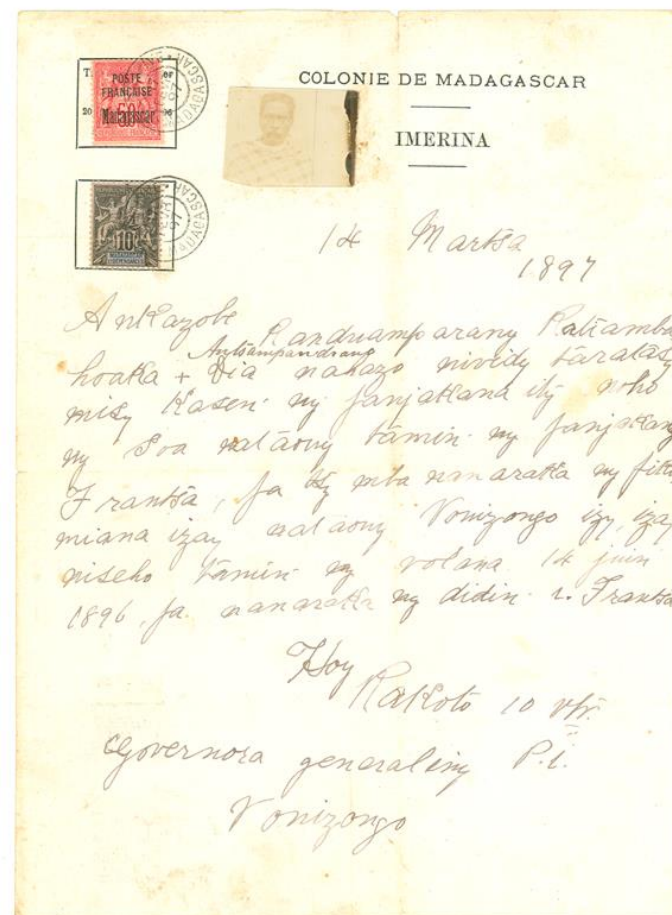
# Tananarive Fiscal Use

- Fiscal use on 1897 document of 10c Group Type issue and 50c Protectorate issue
- Duston notes, but does not record, use of postage stamps for fiscal use
- Very early example



# Tananarive Fiscal Use

- March 14, 1897 – Ankazobe: Randriamparany Ratiambahoaka Antsampsandrano was allowed to procure for himself a letter from the Administration, stamped herein, given his good deeds toward the French government, as he did not join the insurrection by the Vonizongo, which took place in the month of June 14, 1896, but followed the French's rules. Said Rakoto 10 Honors, Governor General ad interim, Vonizongo
  - Special thanks to the Embassy of the Republic of Madagascar for the translation





COLONIE DE MADAGASCAR

IMERINA



1/4

Antayobe Randa  
hoaka + dia na  
misy kasan' ny  
ny Soa maitany  
Frantsa, fa ny  
miana izay maitany  
micheo kamin' ny  
1896, fa anan' ny

Loy

Gouverneur gen  
Vonizo



COLONIE



1/4



# Tamatave - Major Port Telegram Letter

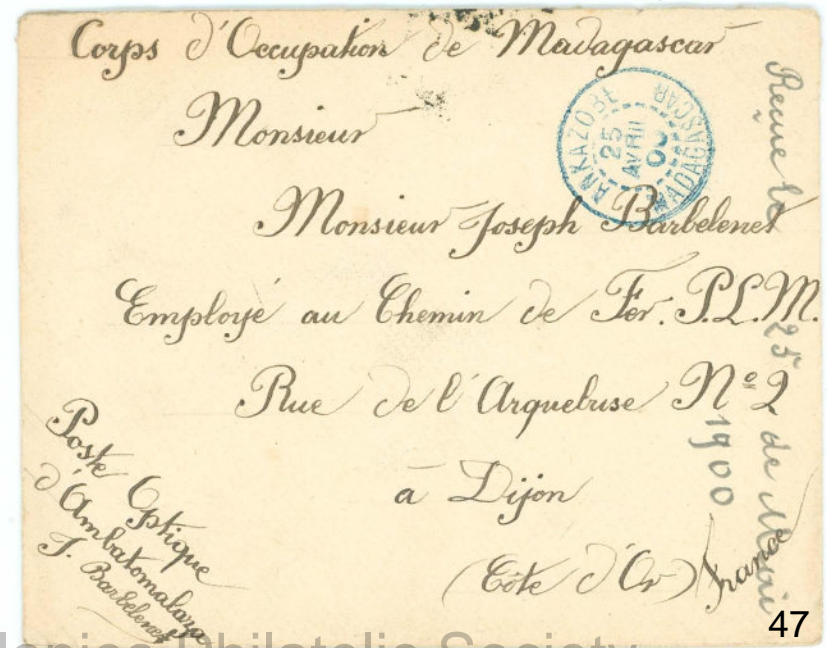
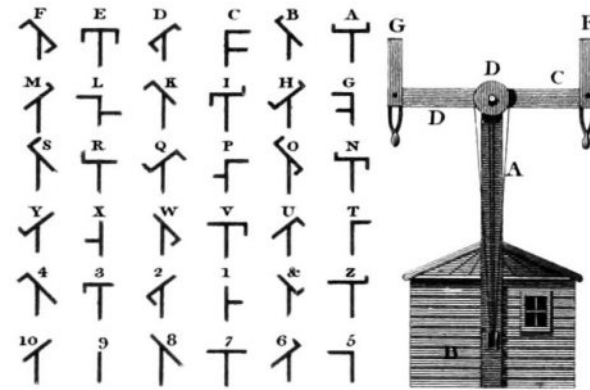
- Mail from the interior could be sent to Tamatave via telegraph to avoid slow transit
- Posted from Tamatave via the regular mail at the registered 50c rate





# Optical Telegraph

- For remote offices where telegraph lines were not possible, the Optical Telegraph was used
- Military franchise letter posted from the small village of Ambatomalaza via the optical telegraph
- Transcribed on April 25, 1900 at the Optical Telegraph receiving station at Ankazobe and placed in the regular mails





Corps d'Occupation de Madagascar

Monsieur

Monsieur Joseph Barbelenet

Employé au Chemin de Fer. P.L.M.

Rue de l'Arquebuse N° 2

a Dijon

(Cote d'Or)

Poste Optique  
d'Ambatomalaza  
J. Barbelenet



Reçu le 25 de Mai 1900



# Tamatave Parcel Tag

- Parcel tags for parcel post not normally seen as they were kept by the arrival post offices
- Example from Tamatave in 1915 posted at a 1F35c registered parcel rate (25c registration and 1F10c parcel charge)
- Use of Anjouan **05/15** 1912 overprints plus a Zébu issue







Major fault in overprint plate causing a number of varieties of this stamp





# Majunga – Telegraph Cancel

- Port on northwest coast of Madagascar
- Starting point of French 1895 campaign which conquered Madagascar
- Telegraph Cancel – card originated in Telegraph Office of Majunga PTT
- **Only recorded copy**



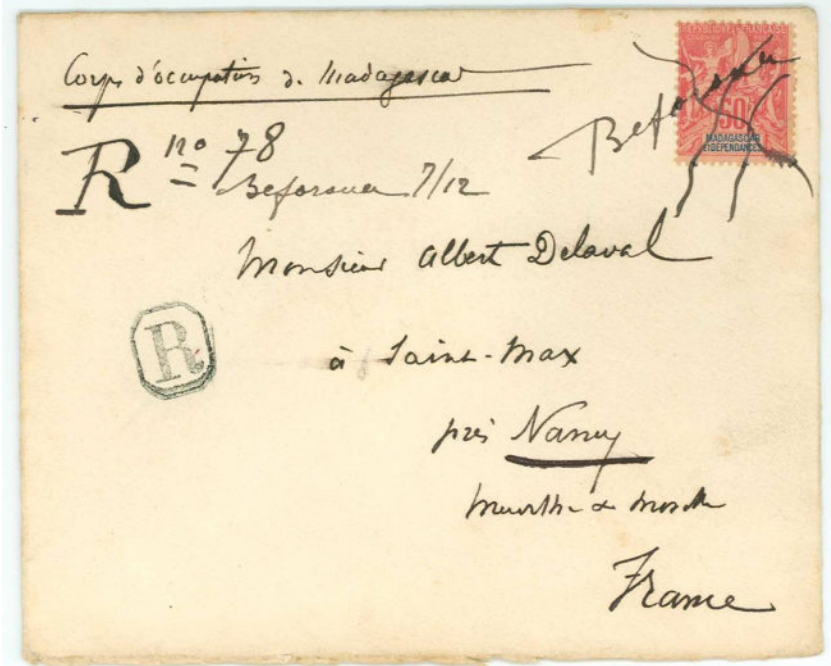


**MAJUNGA T/23 JUIL 01**



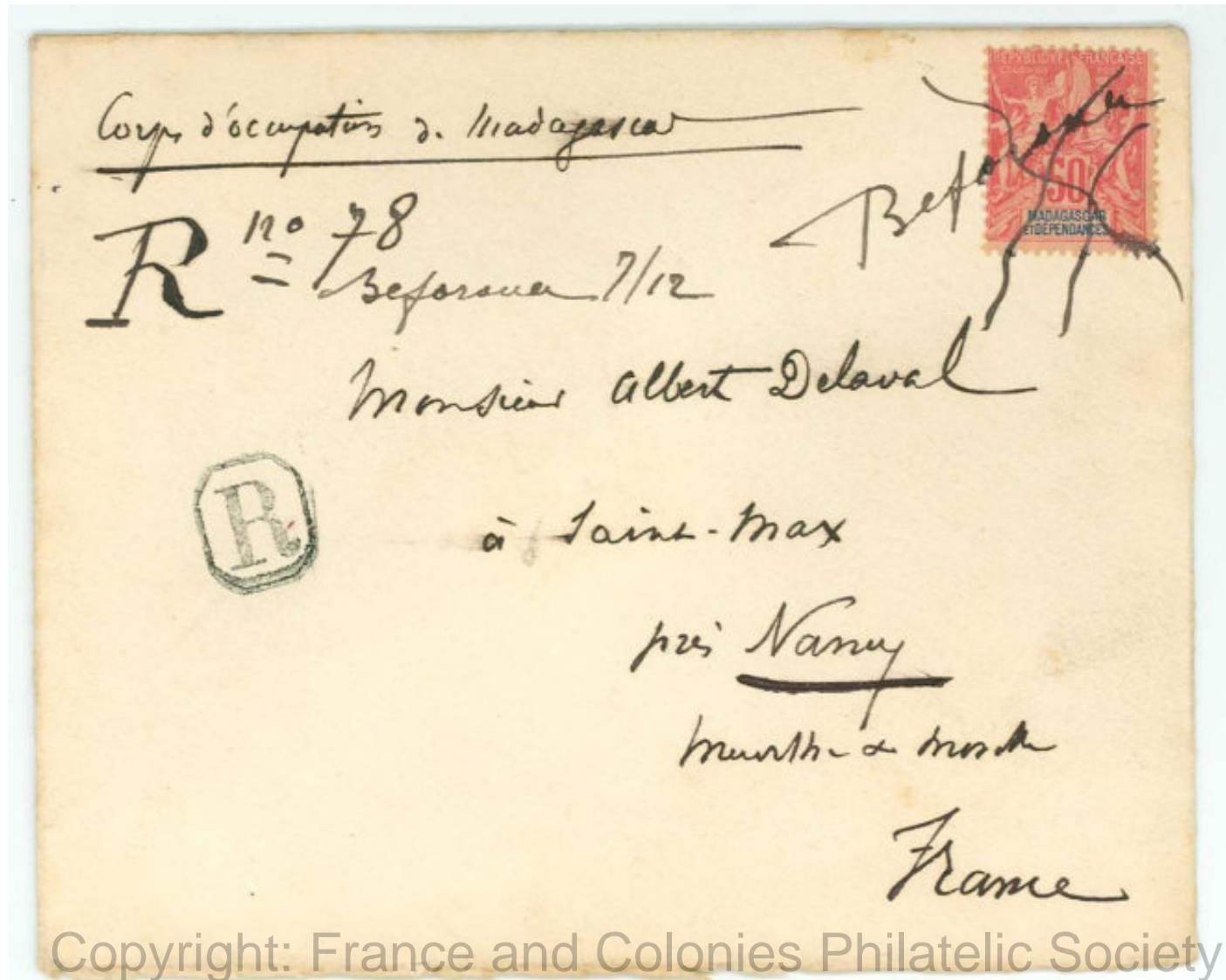
# Madagascar – Small Village Use

- Madagascar had probably ~75 small village post offices during the Group Type's use
- Many offices were opened by the military, and then converted to civilian offices
- Often the transition was not smooth
- This collection illustrates the largest holding of Madagascar small village use of Group Type ever assembled
- Beforona - office in transition from a military to a civilian PO on December 7, 1897 – postal devices not yet available





# Beforona



# Mananjary – Provisional Three-Ringed Cancellation

- Local printed matter rate of 5c from Tamatave in 1899
- Forwarded to Mananjary – forwarding not covered under printed matter
- Charged 20c due with provisional Madagascar due stamp – exceptionally rare on cover
- Stamp cancelled by Mananjary provisional three-ringed cancel – a unique combination
- Forwarding should have required only 10c due – unpaid printed matter at 2 x 5c
- Apparently contents had a written enclosure and was treated as a 15c rate, credited for the 5c and charged 2 x 10c due
- Only recorded use of Madagascar provisional due stamps



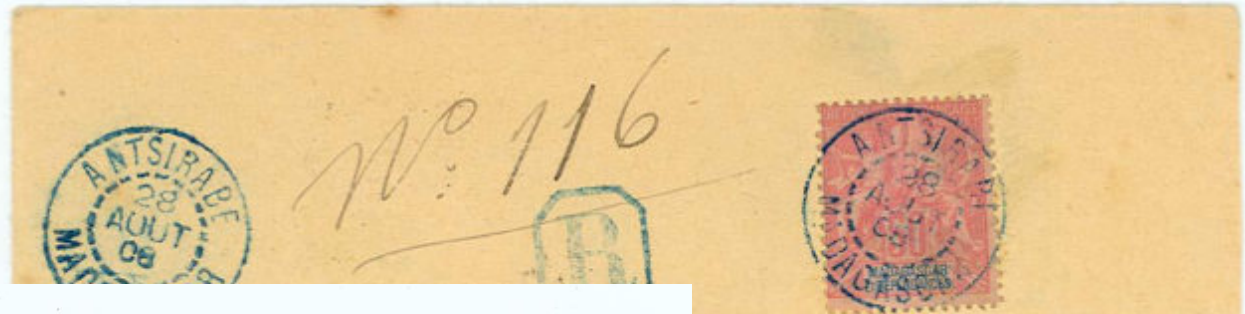




# Antsirabe to Khartoum 1908

- Posted from the small village of Antsirabe on August 28, 1908 to Khartoum
- Registered overseas rate of 50c
- Route recorded via backstamps





*Chastas, Esq<sup>ue</sup>*  
*Khartoum,*  
*dan (Anglais)*

# Madagascar Numeral Cancels

- Instituted in 1899 to aid in the set up of new post offices to provide provisional postmarks
- Numbers 1 – 99 used in two styles of datestamps until 1939!
- Challenge: Associate a number and a post office by the information contained on the item
- This collection has been the basis for much of the new data in the literature sent to and recorded by Dr. J. Desnos
- Numeral cancel 1 used on January 13, 1901 from the village of Manjakandriana at the 15c French Community rate





*l'Espresso* a Madagascar France

*R 2/19*



*Espresso*



*Sergent, Officier d'Administration*

*J. G. G. G.*

*des Bureaux de l'Industrie  
21 rue du Harbourg*

*Province de Majajandiana*

*19 rue Cheval*

*Compiègne*

*J. G. G. G.*

# Madagascar Numeral Cancells

- Numeral cancel **28** used from the small office of Betroka in 1901 based on inscription at lower left
- Declared value letter of 500 F and 95c postage
- Declared value cachet not yet available, so created in manuscript by local postmaster









# Madagascar Letter Cancells

- Used as were the numeral cancels, but extremely rare with less than 10 examples recorded
- AB, RI, TS, NT
- This is the only recorded copy for the **AB** datestamp – origin uncertain





# Provisional Postage Due Stamps

- Unpaid letter from Montmeyran, France in 1913 (10c rate) charged 20c due on arrival in Manjakandriana employing a 10c due stamp and two 5c 1912 overprints







# Paquebot Mail

- Letter from Tuléar in 1913 put on a commercial ship calling at Durban
- **PAQUEBOT** handstamp of Durban, Natal cancels stamps
- 25c rate to Switzerland



AUX NOUVEAUTÉS FRANÇAISES ET ÉTRANGÈRES

*Goulamhousen Chiffon*

TULÉAR

Commerçant



*Via Durban*



*Messieurs Mermoud Frères*

*Fabrique de Meubles*

*Europe*

*St Croix*

*Vaud  
Lucie*



Impr. Populaire — Majunga



# 1921 Overprints

- In 1921 remainders of 75c and 5F Group Types overprinted o,60c and 1F to conform to registered French Community and registered overseas rates
- Last Group Type overprints created by any of the colonies
- Most Group Type usage ceased around WWI
- Inverted o,60 illustrated on a local registered letter





# 1938 Air Mail Letter

- Late use of the 1921 overprints on a 1938 air mail letter franked at 5F50c
- Possibly the latest recorded proper use of Group Type stamps from any French colony
- Fianarantsoa (small village) to Tréport, France via air mail







M<sup>r</sup> ou M<sup>me</sup> A. Lucas  
11 Rue Jonas Lie franc  
Le Tréport

Seine Inf.

**R**ANARANTSONA  
**N° 010**



# Sunset at Sainte Marie





## SENEGAL, FRENCH SUDAN & SENEGAMBIA THE GROUP TYPE

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# SENEGAL – POSTAL FRAUD

