

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

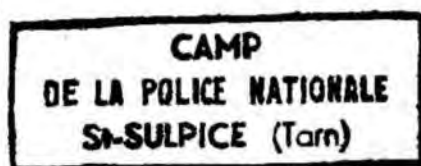


Figure 3

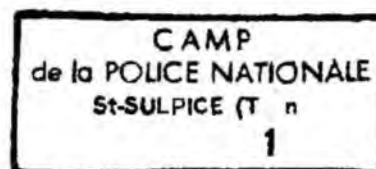


Figure 4



Figure 6

MINISTÈRE DE L'INTERIEUR
DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE
de la
POLICE NATIONALE
CAMP de St-SULPICE-la-POINTE
(TARN)
Téléphone 57

Figure 5



Figure 7



Figure 8

Censor Marks of
French Internment Camps
(see page 51)



Figure 10

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The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome:

1148 Chris Palmer (London), 1149 Edward McInnes (Middlesex), 1150 T D H Rutter (Kent), 1151 Andrew Watton (Gloucestershire), 1152 Colin P W Harding (Middlesex), 1153 Brian Laurence Weeks (Dorset), 1154 Colin Malcolm Clarkson (Kent), 1155 Kevin Austin (West Midlands), 1156 Prof Douglas Dunn (Fife), 1157 Dr M D Dixon (USA).

* * *

Exhibition Successes

"The Lambert-Nilsestuen Classification of the Date Stamps of Algeria 1835-1962" has followed its previous success at Cleveland (see Journal 214 page 254) by winning another Silver award for member Laurence Lambert and his colleague in the Literature Class at Chicagopex '99.

* * *

Marcophilex XXIV

The Union Marcophile, in association with the Amicale Philatélique de Calais, will be holding Marcophilex XXIV on 7 & 8 October 2000 at the Espace Futurum, Bonningues-les-Calais, only 5 minutes from the Eurotunnel terminal. This will be an international exhibition of postal history and philately with a large number of competitive displays. There will be a number of leading French postal history dealers present. Non-members of the Union Marcophile will be very welcome. For further details contact P R A Kelly on 0117 973 6296.

* * *

Future Exhibitions

INDONESIA 2000: 11 - 20 August 2000, Djakarta.
ESPAÑA 2000: 6 - 14 October 2000, Madrid.
BELGICA '01: 9 - 17 June 2001, Brussels.
PHILANIPPON 2001: 30 July - 5 August 2001, Tokyo.
ARMENIA 2001: 14 - 23 September 2001, Yerevan.
HAFNIA '01: October 2001, Copenhagen.

* * *

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

The following back issues are for sale, at a price to be negotiated:

N^{os} 1284-1296 (1.12.60 - 1.12.61)
N^{os} 1333-1347 (1.1.65 - 1.3.66)
N^{os} 1353-1412 (5.9.66 - Jul/Aug 71)

Members interested should contact Mr Joseph M Sursock, 68 Thiseos Paleo Faliro, Athens 17562, Greece.

* * *

Editorial

Once again I offer my apologies for the delay in publishing this issue of the Journal - not for the same reason as 12 months ago, I am pleased to say, but as a result of various activities in my private life all coming together at the same time and causing pressure in all directions. As happened last year, however, I should be able to catch up again by September.

My thanks are due to the surprisingly large number of members who have written or e-mailed to say how pleased they are with the new format. I am sorry if there are still some of you who are disappointed that we have changed from the traditional size and shape; but my own feeling is that we now have a distinct improvement with the A4 pages. We are able to accommodate articles with large tables, for example, and to reproduce nearly all illustrations in full size.

If you think that we can continue to improve the Journal by further adjustments, or if you have any opinion at all to offer on the matter, I shall be pleased to hear from you. The use of two columns on most pages, which should make for greater legibility, is something that you may like to comment on; and I should also like to know whether you find the present size of typeface the optimum one or not.

Whatever thoughts you may have on the presentation, I think we can be delighted with the quality of the articles offered by members in recent months. These are what give the Journal its prestige and distinction, and I am extremely pleased to say that I now have quite a few in hand, and will publish them as soon as possible.

* * *

F&CPS Literature Award 1999

1. 0,30 Blason de Paris, by Mick Bister.
2. = Airmail Letter Rates from French West Africa to France, by Bob Picirilli.
2. = The Anti-tuberculosis Stamps of France, by Derek Richardson.
4. Postal Service of Beausoleil France 1902-98, by Jerry Massler.

The judging panel this year comprised Messrs Michael Annells, David Crossthwaite, Steven Ellis, David Lamb and David Tress, and was convened by Colin Spong.

* * *

Stop Press

I am very pleased to be able to report that confirmation has just arrived, almost literally at the last minute before copy is dispatched to the printer, that the Journal (1999 volume) was awarded a Large Silver at the recent international exhibition (Literature Class) in Vienna - WIPA 2000. Our thanks and congratulations to those members who contributed quality articles to make this possible.

The 50c Jeanne d'Arc Stamp

Mick Bister

From December 1988 to March 1990, the Journal published a series of articles of mine examining the history and printing of the 50c Jeanne d'Arc stamp (Yvert 257) issued in 1929 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the relief of Orleans. The articles were intended to provide an in-depth study of the stamp incorporating descriptions of its precursors issued in the form of locally produced vignettes, a commentary on the proofs and documents held in the Musée de la Poste and an analysis of the sheet and booklet printings.

The article clearly aroused some reaction at the time of publication, as before I had even reached the halfway point I was beginning to receive correspondence from various sources containing new evidence, some of which was immediately published as addenda. Over the past ten years since the final chapter was written I have continued to accumulate additional snippets of information - thanks mostly to fellow members who have kindly corresponded with me. I have also been fortunate in acquiring a few new items the existence of which was unknown to me ten years ago, and I feel that I can now significantly update my original article.

Precursors of the 1929 issue

My original article referred only to the non-postal vignettes commemorating the Fêtes de Jeanne d'Arc which had been

issued in Orléans since 1899, but I feel that two items of postal stationery issued much earlier warrant a mention.

The first is a series of three 5c Sage stationery envelopes issued in 1894 to celebrate the Fêtes de Jeanne d'Arc (S&F D10a1-3). Printed in two colours, violet and red, blue-black and red or green and red, the envelope portrays Jeanne d'Arc in ceremonial dress and depicts the coat of arms presented to her by Charles VII and is inscribed *Fêtes du 8 Mai 1894 en l'honneur de Jeanne d'Arc. Délivrance d'Orléans, 8 Mai 1429* (Fig 1).

In 1895, a 15c Sage Letter Card (S&F J42a/b) was specially printed and issued by the *Gazette Timbrologique* to celebrate the Fêtes de Jeanne d'Arc. Depicting once again the coat of arms bestowed by Charles VII and various scenes from her life, the card is printed in olive green and greyish brown and is simply inscribed *JEHANNE D'ARC 1410 -1431*. 2000 copies were printed on greenish blue card and 2000 on buff card (Fig 2).

Proofs

In Journal 171 (page 5) I described a multiple proof of the unadopted Georges Demoulin design which had been awarded third prize in the 1928 competition. At the time of writing I queried the reasoning behind such a proof which

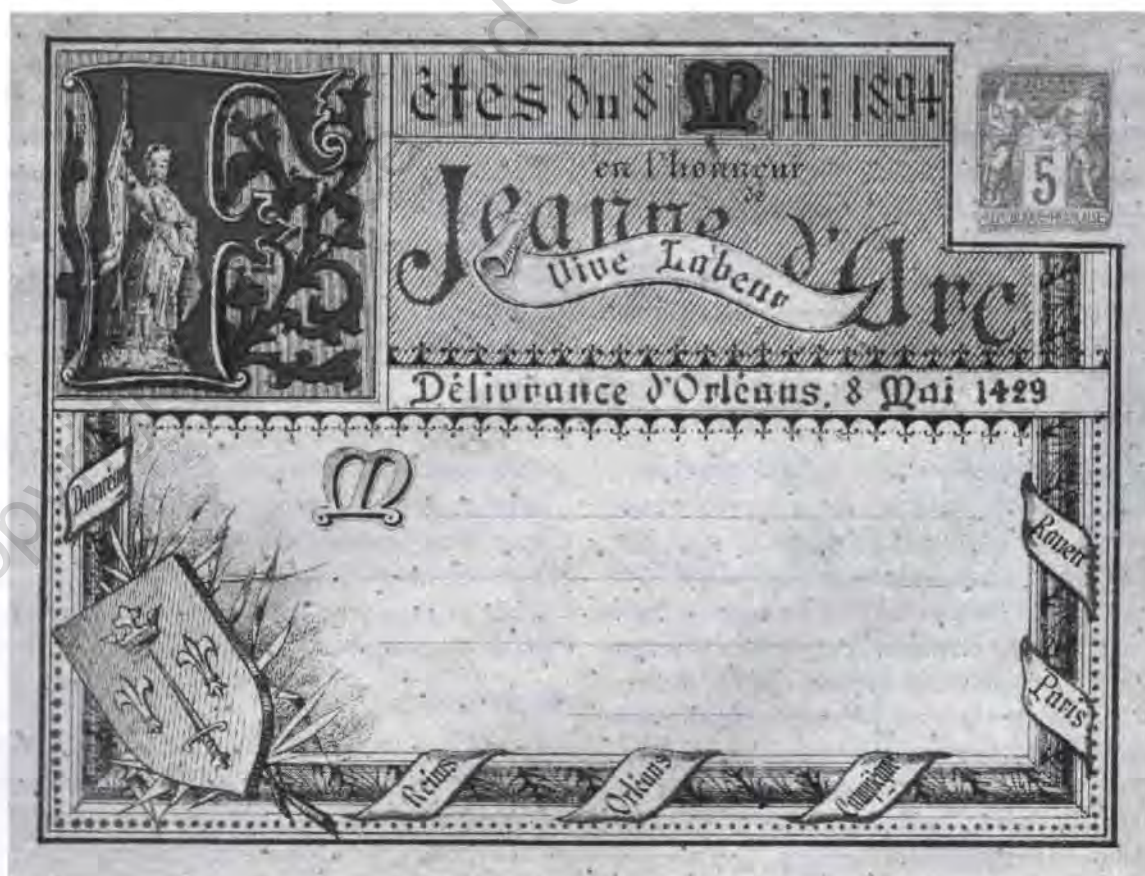


Figure 1 - 5c Sage Fêtes de Jeanne d'Arc Stationery Envelope issued in 1894



Figure 2 - 15c Sage *Fêtes de Jeanne d'Arc* Letter Card issued in 1895

was not in the standard *Atelier* format and which displayed eleven impressions of the design each printed in a different colour. The answer came four years later in a letter from Raymond Poulain, President of the *Association Philatélique du Loiret* in Orleans. Georges Demoulin was the son of Louis Demoulin, *Directeur de l'Atelier des Timbres-Poste* from 1919 to 1939, but Georges sadly died shortly after participating in the Jeanne d'Arc design competition. As a tribute to Georges, G Hourriez, one of the *Atelier's* resident engravers, decided to engrave his design in the form of a series of colour trials. Unable to locate the original artwork which had disappeared after being put on display in 1929, Hourriez was obliged to rely on reproductions of the design to complete his work. Copies of the finished multiple proof incorporating both the name of the designer Georges Demoulin and that of the engraver Hourriez were subsequently presented to Louis Demoulin in memory of his late son (Fig 3).

With regards to the adopted design by Gabriel Barlangue, I have also learned that the retouches made to the face and hair were not the only modifications requested. It appears that when the original proofs were pulled and submitted to the Under Secretary of State for the PTT for approval, they were returned with strict instructions to render the design less provocative. Elements on the Extreme Left had already been critical of a stamp which represented '*la glorification actuelle de Jeanne d'Arc comme une manifestation cléricale*' and their cries were now even louder having seen the trappings of royalty, namely the *fleurs de lys* on the standard. Louis Demoulin and the engraver of the stamp, Abel Mignon, were called to the offices of the *Directeur de l'Exploitation Postale* where it was agreed that with a few strategic taps of the *burin*, the offending details could be minimised.

Colour trials of Barlangue's design were eventually presented, and to date six colours have been recorded - black, red, green, deep orange, brown and the adopted royal blue.

First Day of Issue

As far as I am aware, the confusion over the first day of issue has not yet been resolved. Indeed, such confusion is only compounded when the author of '*L'Écho des types*' in *L'Écho de la Timbrologie* of April 1990 quotes the first day of issue in his text as 11 March 1929 and illustrates it with a cover cancelled 3 March 1929 (Fig 4)! In a later article published in *Timbroscopie* in May 1996, the date 2 March 1929 was quoted and supported by an illustration of a cover identical to mine. We can assume that the earlier date of 1 March 1929, as claimed by some sources, has yet to be proven.

With regards to the commemorative *Fêtes de Jeanne d'Arc* cancellations that were being applied to mail in Orleans, records show that whereas use of the Krag slogan was limited to the Orléans-Gare office, the Daguin slogan was being used not only at the Rue de Bourgogne office as reported originally but also at the Place Dunois and the Faubourg St Marceau.

Sheet Printings

A quantity of sheets was obtained by Huile Aiglon and advertising slogans printed privately on the margins. The side margins received the slogan *HUILE AIGLON - LUXE AUTOS* printed vertically in black and the gutter margins received the slogan *POUR - VOTRE - AUTO - EMPLOYEZ - L'HUILE - AIGLON* printed horizontally, likewise in black (Fig 5). Examples seen are from printings off Press 10.



Figure 3 [above] -
Unadopted
Georges Demoulin
design engraved
by Hourriez
(with right edge of
illustration
trimmed to fit on
page)

Figure 4 [right] -
Early philatelic use
of the 50c Jeanne
d'Arc on cover
cancelled
3 March 1929
at the *Exposition
Philatélique
Locale*, Péronne

Exposition Philatélique Locale

PÉRONNE, 3 MARS 1929





Figure 5 - Huile Agilon publicity printed on gutter margin

Booklet Printings

The dates of printing of the 50c Jeanne d'Arc in sheet format are easy to record as, being printed on rotary presses, every sheet bears its full date of printing beneath the 100th stamp. The dates of printing of the booklets however are more obscure.

In the case of the rotary booklet printings the presses were not fitted with a dating mechanism until 1932, three years after printing of the Jeanne d'Arc booklets (Series 167-169) had ceased. In the case of the flat plate booklets, however, we may be able to obtain some idea of when they were printed. The date of printing from a flat plate appears at the bottom left hand side of the uncut sheet together with other data. An uncut and imperforate *feuille-témoin* with the pubs *Falières - Bénédictins - Florent - Florent* is held in the Musée de la Poste with the inscription B 203 30 which means that the sheet was printed by operator B on 20 March on Press 30. Normally this information is lost when the sheets are mounted into their booklet covers and guillotined whereupon the unwanted selvedge, with its data, is discarded.

However, a misaligned guillotine can occasionally leave part or all of the data attached to the pane enclosed in the booklet. I possess such a booklet from Series 162 RP with the pubs *Falières - Bénédictins - La vache qui rit - Le Vin* with the inscription B 803 30 indicating that it was printed by the same operator on the same press but twelve days before the *feuille-témoin*. But more surprisingly I also possess an example of the private *Bussang* booklet with the inscription B 203 30 which is identical to that on the *feuille-témoin* (Fig 6). In other words, one operator was responsible for printing both regular and private printings on the same press on the same day.

Perhaps other members who own Jeanne d'Arc booklets in their collections could examine them to see what other dates come to light. In this way we may be able to establish a sequence in the printing of the flat plate booklets.



Figure 6 - Private Bussang booklet with inscription B 203 30

French Internment Camps (continued)

Derek Richardson

Articles under the above heading appeared in Journals 167 & 168, 170 to 174, 179 & 180, 189 & 190. Since then, a certain amount of new information has come to light and new philatelic material found, making possible a continuation of this series. Descriptions of some of the camps that were not covered in the earlier chapters will, it is hoped, appear in forthcoming issues of the Journal.

CHAPTER 14

Saint-Sulpice-la-Pointe (Tarn)

Housing Belgian refugees

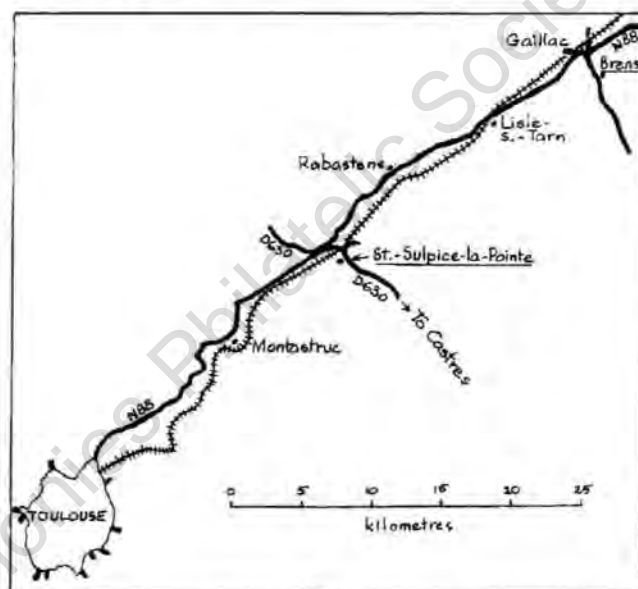
When the German invasion of Holland and Belgium started on 10 May 1940, there began a huge exodus of civilians into France. An estimated two million Belgians joined the masses of French civilians heading south to avoid the fighting. The Toulouse area was to provide accommodation for many Belgians. North-east of Toulouse, in the Tarn *département*, two camps were rapidly built for them, one at Saint-Sulpice-la-Pointe, and the other at Brens. Situated about 14 miles apart, these two small places were easily accessible by both road and rail.

At Saint-Sulpice, on 3½ hectares of requisitioned land in an area known as "Les Pescayres," twenty wooden barrack huts were constructed. Each hut could shelter up to 90 persons and 1,500 Belgians were housed there. However, as soon as hostilities ended and repatriation became possible, numbers began to fall. *The Times* of 13 July reported that Belgians were returning from France at a rate of 2,500 a day. By September, the camp was empty.

Camp conversion and first arrivals

A Vichy government decree of 3 September 1940 empowered *département* prefects to order the internment in "special establishments" of individuals they considered "dangerous to national defence and public safety." The principal groups to which this description applied were French Communist Party members and Trade Union activists. These "special establishments" - of which Saint-Sulpice-la-Pointe was to be one - would be operated by *La Police Nationale* who in turn were responsible to the Minister of the Interior. It was officially designated a *Camp Sécurité Nationale* or C.S.N for short.

During the months of October, November and December 1940, Saint-Sulpice camp underwent major conversion, becoming a high-security prison enclosed within a 3-metre high barbed-wire fence. Surveillance was effected from three watchtowers and five sentry boxes positioned around the perimeter. As well as prisoners' quarters, there was an administrative block, a hospital, a library, a chapel, a visits room and two shops. Staff and guards at Saint-Sulpice numbered 150. Between 28 January and 21 February 1941 the number of prisoners who were transferred to Saint-Sulpice from other camps totalled 1,041. Not all remained however; close on 200 men reputed to be troublemakers



The Tarn *département* camps at Saint-Sulpice-la-Pointe and Brens

were afterwards moved to the Algerian camps of Bossuet, Djelfa and Dienien Bou Rezg where conditions were hard. Further arrivals at Saint-Sulpice-la-Pointe took place during 1941, and on 18 December 1941 the camp housed 758 communists and 705 trade unionists, political prisoners who were guilty of no crime other than belonging to banned organisations.

Foreign internees

For about six months, Saint-Sulpice continued to be a camp for political internees, but after that it was used from time to time to house other categories of inmates as well.

On 22 June 1941, the day that Germany declared war on Russia, Russian nationals living in France became "suspect," as a result of which, on 29 June, 207 Russians were brought to Saint-Sulpice camp to be questioned and sorted into high- and low-risk cases. Whilst there, they were housed in the refectory, isolated from the political prisoners.

On 26 August 1942, as part of a nation-wide trawl, French police rounded up 41 entire families of foreign Jews who had been living in the Tarn *département*, 226 persons in all, and brought them to Saint-Sulpice camp. A week later they were taken by train to Drancy camp, near Paris, from where they were deported to Auschwitz.

Later occupation

During 1943-44, around 700 men from Saint-Sulpice camp were taken and used as forced labour on Atlantic fortifications.

On 28 July 1944, the Superintendent of Police at Toulouse was forced to order the evacuation and deportation of the 623 remaining internees at Saint-Sulpice. They left on 30 July and after an arduous train journey they arrived at Buchenwald concentration camp. Only half of them survived to make the return journey at the end of the war. The camp did not remain empty for long, however, as 320 French resistance fighters who had been taken prisoner by German units in the Tarn and neighbouring *départements* arrived there on 16 August 1944.

The camp was finally liberated on 23 August 1944, but the story does not end there. It is evident that for some years after the end of World War II, the camp at Saint-Sulpice continued to function as a prison, though for what categories of prisoner is not known. It seems likely that it became a satellite of the main prison of the Tarn *département* at Castres.

Postal History

There appears to be nothing to mark the short period when Belgian refugees occupied Saint-Sulpice-la-Pointe camp.

Figure 1 shows an Iris postal stationery formula card posted in Paris on 20 March 1941 from a woman to her husband interned at the camp.

Figure 2 is a Pétain 80c postal stationery card posted in the camp on 19 February 1942 and bearing an oval censor mark *CENSURE/S.N.3*, struck in black. Similar marks containing the numerals 1 and 2 are also found, probably identifying the reader.

[See front cover for Figures 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10.]

Figures 3 and 4 are reproductions of similar but not identical censor marks struck in mauve and light blue respectively and found on outgoing mail (particularly 5-word illustrated postcards) in 1943. The Figure 4 mark includes the numeral 1, probably identifying the reader. Numerals 2 and 3 also are known.

Figure 5 depicts an office handstamp applied in mauve ink to the top left-hand corner of envelopes containing mail leaving the camp commandant's office.

Figure 6 is a 2-ring cachet of the *Chef de Camp* (Camp Commandant) applied to validate the franchise on an item posted on 23-12-43. In the envelope was found a letter from the *Chef de Camp* to the town butcher telling him that his request to be allowed to increase the price of meat supplied to the camp to 22 francs per kilogram had been agreed to with effect from 1 December 1943. The letter is marked with the same 2-ring cachet, but struck in red. Significantly, perhaps, the *Chef de Camp* quotes his address as *le Centre de Séjour Surveillé* de St.-Sulpice, which was a change from the 1941-1943 title *Camp Sûreté-Nationale*.

Figure 7 is an oval censor mark in mauve found on a letter addressed to an internee and postmarked 10-9-46.

Figure 8 is a 2-ring St-Sulpice cachet applied in mauve and incorporating the words *CAMP PÉNITENCIER*. It was found on a letter addressed to an internee and dated 20-12-46.

Figure 9 is a mauve *CENSURE* mark on a letter postmarked 12-4-47. (Figures 7, 8 and 9 are all from letters sent to internee n° 623 in hut B9 at Saint-Sulpice.)



Figure 1



Figure 2

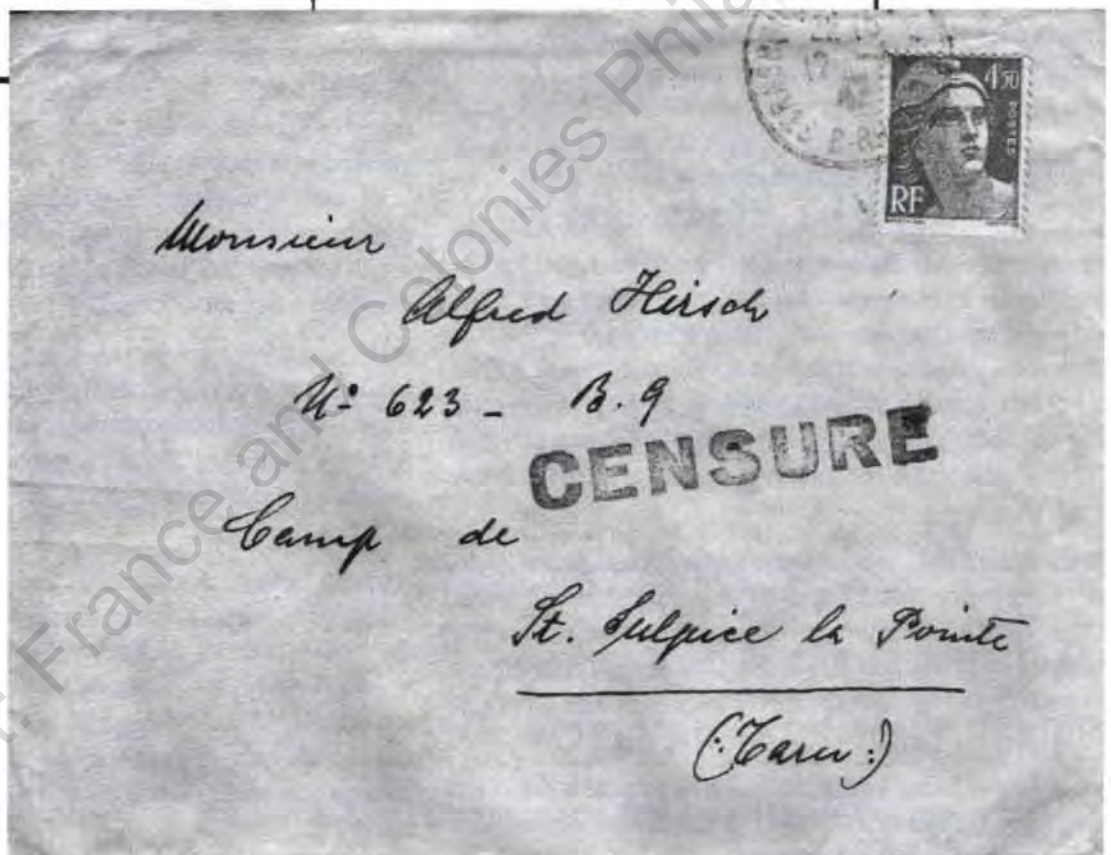


Figure 9

Figure 10 is a mauve République-type official cachet on an envelope postmarked 13-5-49 and headed *CIRCONSCRIPTION PÉNITENTIAIRE d'.....* (Roughly, "Penal Division of...")

References

Monique Lurard: "Aspects de la législation sur les camps d'internement" in *Répression: Camps d'internement en France*

pendant la seconde guerre mondiale: Aspects du phénomène concentrationnaire, Université de Saint-Etienne, 1983.

Pierre Salanne et Bertrand Sinais: "Courrier des camps d'internement en France: Les marques de la honte" in *Timbroscopie* n° 77, February 1991.

Diana Fabre: "Les camps d'internement du Tarn: Saint-Sulpice et Brens" in *Les camps du sud-ouest de la France: exclusion, internement et déportation: 1939-1944*, Editions Privat, Toulouse, 1994.

Air France Handstamps from South America

Ian McQueen

During the 1930s there was substantial competition between airlines for the carriage of airmail to, from and in South America. This generated stationery and markings in the nature of advertising. As far as the French services were concerned, one finds envelopes printed for the Compagnie Générale Aéropostale and, from late 1933, for its successor, Air France. Airmail envelopes naming the airline were also used, and from 1935 Air France issued some very attractive and colourful New Year greetings postcards which could be sent at reduced rates. Here, however, I am just attempting to show a few of the handstamps. These appear to have been used partly for publicity and partly as directions as to which airline should carry the mail.

Entièrement types were even used on airmail at the time of dispatch (as well as upon arrival), even though their language suggests that the letters upon which they were struck had already been flown. These have already been covered in the literature, so I show just two, as examples, both used in Brazil in 1934-35 on mail which was about to depart. One belonged to São Paulo (Fig 1); the other to Bahia (Fig 2), which contains the *Intierement* error.

Brazil's *CGA* and *Aéropostale* types date from about 1928, generally struck in black or violet. Two framed markings in very similar style were used at Rio de Janeiro (Figs 3 & 4); and São Paulo had one with serified lettering (Fig 5). Rio also used a straightline type with the company name set out in full (Fig 6) and a framed handstamp for *Via Aéropostale* (Fig 7). Different styles for *Via Aéropostale* were in use at Recife-Pernambuco in violet (Fig 8), and at Bahia in black (Fig 9).

There was an even greater variety of sizes and styles when the *Air France* name began to be used. Rio and Porto Alegre used a boxed type with the airline name in inverted commas (Fig 10), and Rio had a similar one, without the commas but in serified capitals for the inscription, struck in red (Fig 11).

For Buenos Aires, in Argentina, I have noted markings struck in red as early as 1934 (Fig 12); and others in blue:

used in 1936 (Fig 13) and in 1938 (Fig 14). Also in blue is an underlined variety used in Montevideo, Uruguay (Fig 15). Montevideo had another handstamp, with very large lettering, which has been noted struck in violet in 1938 (Fig 16), and yet another this time in italic capitals (Fig 17). And from Lima, Peru, comes a handstamp with a most distinctive style, struck in violet in 1936 (Fig 18).

Santiago, Chile, produced a very ordinary looking type (Fig 19), which has been seen used in both black and violet, and a massive composition which was used on official mail (Fig 20). My own example is on a cover from the Foreign Ministry in Santiago to the Embassy in London. The franking of 1 peso 80 centavos in official *Servicio del Estado* stamps pays the foreign letter rate. The air fee, at 8 pesos 50 centavos per 5g, has not been paid, and the cachet explains why payment was excused.

Finally, a real curiosity from Bolivia, used at La Paz in December 1939. This handstamp, struck in a blue-violet shade, was used so that the air surcharge paid could be inserted in manuscript (Fig 21), ordinary adhesive stamps being used in the normal way for the foreign postage. This marking is the cut down version of a much earlier handstamp which had been used in about 1930 for the former Compagnie Générale Aéropostale (Fig 22).

I feel sure there must be many other handstruck markings from South America in these styles, and if members can supply me with photocopies of covers which show them, or with any published literature about them, I shall be most grateful. (My address is 55 Albany, Bournemouth BH1 3EJ.)

Again, I believe that some of these are probably official markings of the post offices concerned, others produced by the French airlines themselves, and others obtained and used privately by commercial firms. Which belong respectively to these categories is often difficult to deduce, and I can only guess; but again, if readers have any information about this aspect, I should be delighted to receive it.



Figure 1

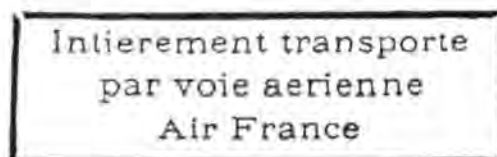


Figure 2

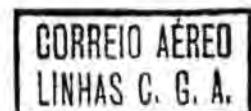


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

VIA AEROPOSTALE

Figure 7

VIA AEROPOSTALE

Figure 8

VIA AEROPOSTALE

Figure 9

VIA "AIR FRANCE"

Figure 10

VIA AIR FRANCE

Figure 11

VIA AIR FRANCE

Figure 12

**POR AVION
AIR FRANCE**

Figure 13

AIR FRANCE

Figure 14

via Air France

Figure 15

VIA "AIR FRANCE"

Figure 16

*POR AVION
AIR FRANCE*

Figure 17

Via Air France

Figure 18

VIA AIR FRANCE

Figure 19

POSTES DU CHILI

correspondence officielle en franchise
de surtaxe aérienne.

VOIE "AIR FRANCE"

Ne pas taxer à l'arrivée.

Figure 20

CORREO AEREO

SOBRETASA B^s

No. _____

Figure 21

**COMPAGNIE GENERALE
AEROPOSTALE**

CORREO AEREO

SOBRETASA B^s

No. _____

Figure 22

PAGES FROM MY COLLECTION

(10) German Stamps on Togo Mail for Europe

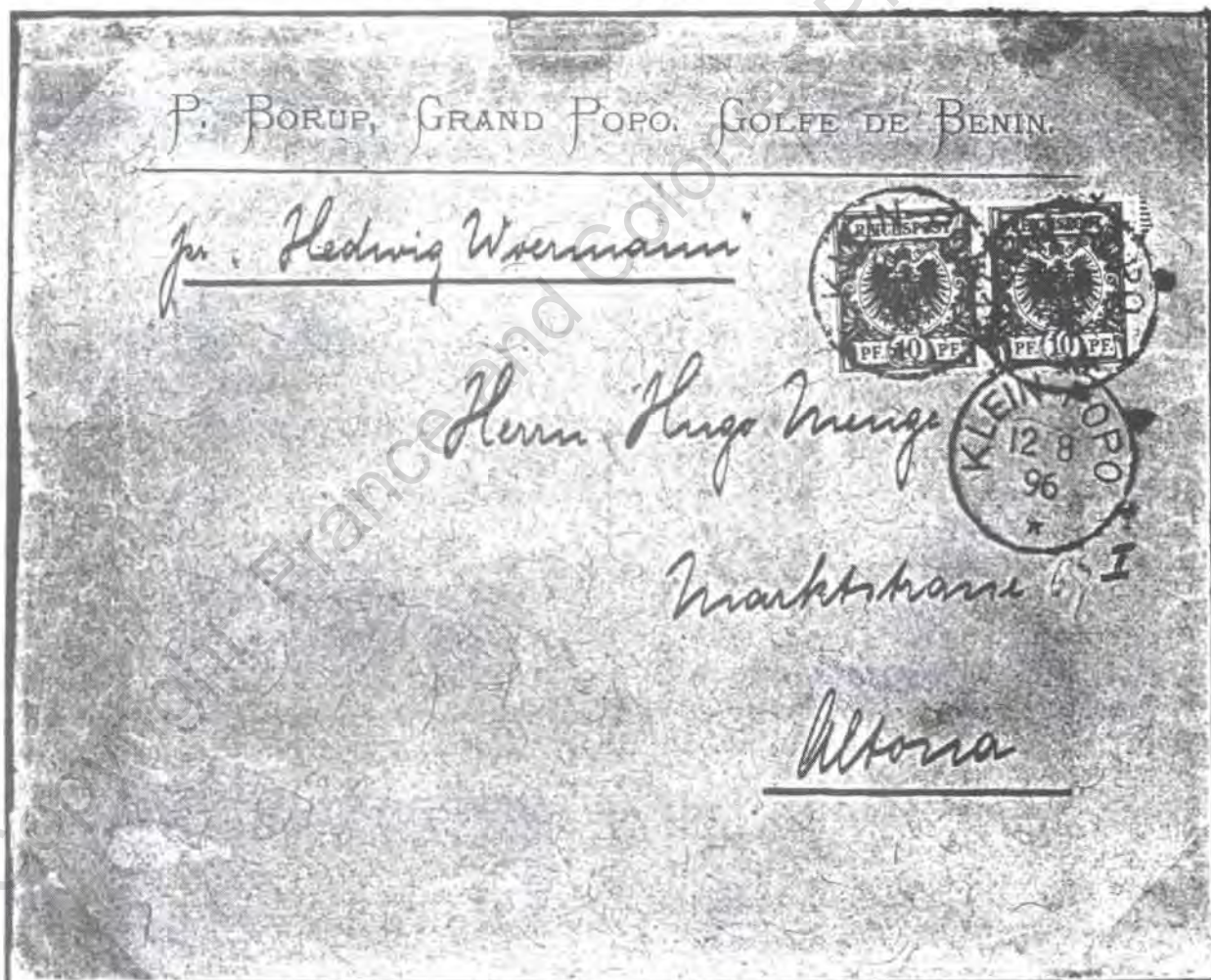
John Mayne

Mail addressed to Europe from Togo, the German Colony in West Africa, in addition to being collected at home ports, was collected by arrangement by German or British ships at Gold Coast ports and German or French ships at Benin ports. Friedemann, the recognised authority on the German Colonies, states that the Reich's Postal Bureau arranged for Togo to be admitted to the UPU on 1 June 1888.

German merchants at Addah and Accra, both in the Gold Coast, held supplies of German stamps, and the Governor of the Gold Coast complained in late 1890 that these were being added to mail for Germany posted in the Gold Coast and collected there by German ships, this practice being contrary to UPU regulations. As a result the British Colony suffered a loss of revenue. It is not known if German merchants in Benin coastal towns followed the same practice,

but a cover in my collection suggests that they may have done so.

The item in question, a pre-printed commercial cover from P Borup, a German merchant, at Grand-Popo, Golfe de Bénin, was marked for collection by Hedwig Woermann of the German shipping company, authorised German mail carriers. Postage was met by a pair of German 10Pfg issues cancelled at Klein-Popo (Petit-Popo), which was ceded by France to Germany by a treaty concluded on 24 December 1885. With the stamps cancelled at Klein-Popo 12.08.1896 it is more likely that the cover was taken across the border and posted in the German Colony rather than handed in to the German ship, which was reported in Benin waters at the time of posting. Whichever route it took, postage should have been met by current Benin issues and not German ones!



In the *Vorläufer* period (1884-1892) Woermann ships called monthly, and most outgoing mail was routed via the Gold Coast. This commercial pre-printed cover was marked for collection by Hedwig Woermann, whose ship has been listed by Czimmek at Cotonou and Klein-Popo 03.08.1896. There is an indistinct German backstamp, probably Altona.

(11) The Beginning of the Conquest of Morocco - Part III

Bob Deakin

A bridgehead was formed round Casablanca and after 8 months had control of the large plain known as the Chaouia. The district of Chaouia eastwards of Casablanca is about 70 miles in length by 50 miles wide. In January 1908 General d'Amade had an army of 10,000 men, rising to 14,000 in April. The force had an observation balloon carried on a

very heavy carriage called *Le Cafard* (Black Beetle) drawn by 8 horses. Owing to the flat plain, the enemy (the Moors) could see the balloon, which gave them ample warning of the advancing force, enabling the escape of the Moors with all their cattle and stores. The balloon proved useless, and its use ended at the end of January.



Figure 1 - The crossing of the Oued Neffigh by the French military balloon on Wednesday 22 January 1908 en route to Bouznika (15 miles from Rabat)



Figure 2 - Moroccan POWs at the Camp du Boucheron, Casablanca



Figure 3 - Moroccan soldiers in Tangiers



Figure 4 - Moroccan corpses thrown into the common pit



Figure 5

The cards illustrated show aspects of the war and Moroccan soldiers and prisoners, followed by the departure of General d'Amade. The last three examples are of mail in the early part of the campaign (not common).

Although Morocco became a French protectorate under the treaty of Fez in 1912, it was not until 1934 that pacification of the tribes had succeeded. Independence of the Kingdom returned in 1956.

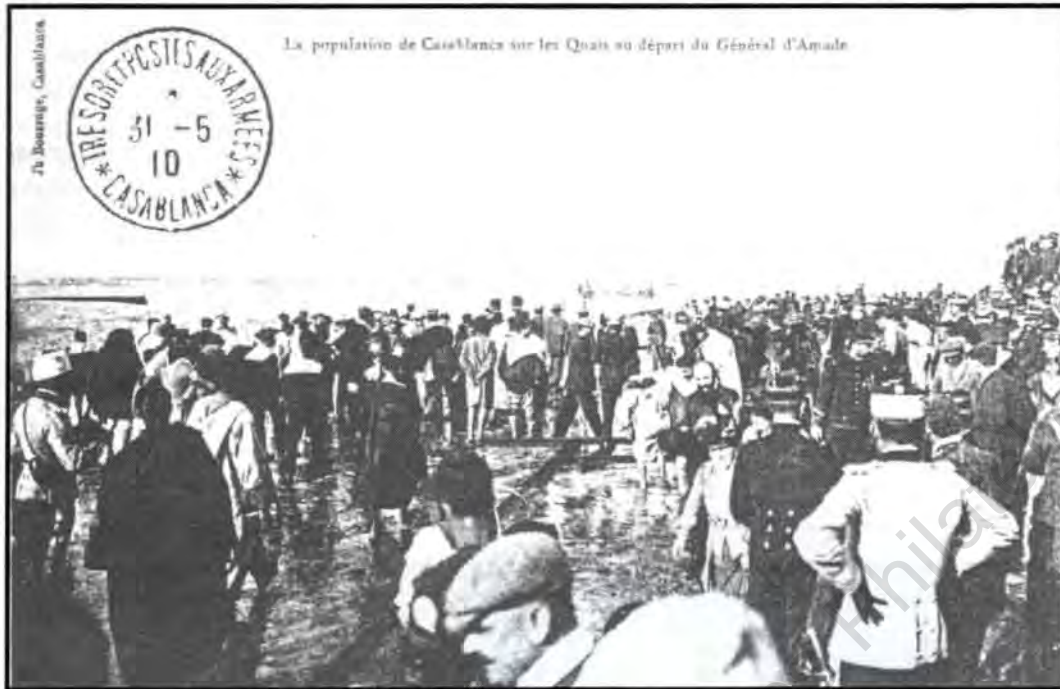


Figure 6 -
The departure of
General d'Amade
from Casablanca at
the end of the
campaign, August
1908

Figure 7 - *Franchise Militaire*
cover from Casablanca soon after
the invasion on 5 August 1907;
dated 21 October, with Postal
Sector 172 cachet and Foreign
Legion regimental cachet

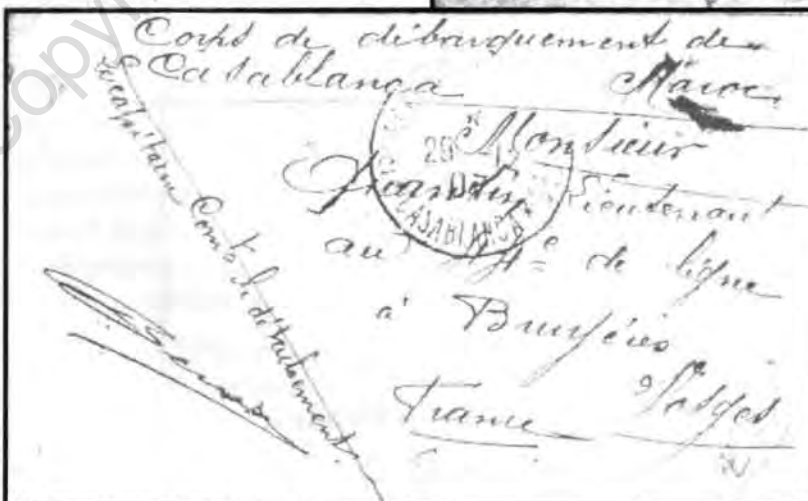


Figure 8 - Cover dated 28 December 1907,
with new type of date stamp:
TRESOR ET POSTES AUX ARMÉES



Figure 9 - Card from Casablanca to Paris, dated 30 December 1907



Figure 10 - Cover from Casablanca to Épinay sur Seine bearing *TRESOR et POSTES aux ARMEES*, CASABLANCA date stamp of 16 February 1908. The cover also bears two manuscript endorsements, as well as the unit handstamp struck in purple of the 2nd Algerian infantry: *Le Commandant du Détachement, 2e Régiment de Tirailleurs Algériens*.

FRANCE 1900 - 2000

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Colonies Booklets - Madagascar

Colin Spong

[This article will also appear in "IO" Journal of the Indian Ocean Study Circle.]

The interesting article by Bill Mitchell published in Journal 214 (December 1999) had me checking what booklets were in my own collection. I can confirm Bill's observation on the scarcity of much of this material particularly stamps from booklets used on covers, as well as the actual booklets themselves. The Sinais sale of Pierre Broustine's material was the largest holding seen so far. It has taken me many years to find those items I possess, as well as still missing two booklets for 1908 - 10c and 15c.

Madagascar received six booklets (see Figs 1 and 2) for the 1909-1932 issue of *le type Filanjana* (Transport by Filanjana) as follows:

1908 Yvert 97 (SG 56) 5c, Yv 98 (SG 57) 10c, Yv 99 (SG 58) 15c. In reissued colours for 1922 Yv 131 (SG 90) 5c, Yv 133 (SG 92) 10c and 1927 Yv 156 (SG 93) 15c.

In my collection I have the following:

1908 5c booklet of 40 stamps x 5c and 2 panes of 4 x 5c;
1908 15c 1 pane of 4 x 15c;
1922 5c booklet of 40 x 5c and 2 panes of 4 x 5c;
1922 10c booklet of 20 x 10c and 2 panes of 4 x 10c;
1927 15c booklet of 20 x 15c and 1 pane of 4 x 15c.

I also have a booklet sold on a railway station date stamped on the cover Chemins de Fer Mangoro 17 October 1928.



Figure 1

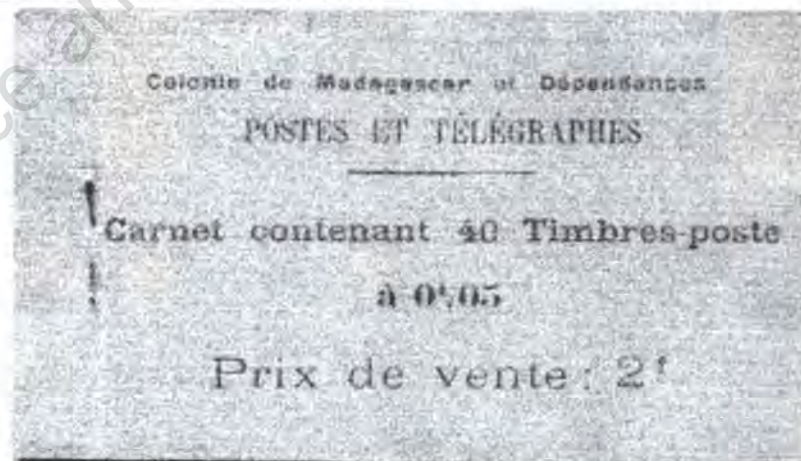


Figure 2

However, at least I can match Bill's cover illustrated on pages 280-81, with one from Antsirabe 13 April 1927, via Mananjary 16 April to Nosy Varika 19 April, with a complete pane of four x 5c issue of 1 January 1922. This is supplemented by 6 x 5c part panes, making a total of 50c for a 20-50g weight letter (tariff of 08.09.1926).

This letter (see Figs 3 and 4 on next page for front and back of envelope) was in transit seven days from Antsirabe at the end of the Antsirabe-Tananarive railway line in the central area, then on to Mananjary and Nosy Varika on the east coast.

The cover was discovered for me by the late Ken Sargeant of Eastbourne, and was from the correspondence of M Elphège Dubocq, a Schools Inspector in Madagascar from around 1908 until sometime in 1934 when he retired to Flers de l'Orne in North-west France and then finally moved to Mouen-par-Verson (Calvados). This sizeable collection of some 80 plus covers and picture postcards was sold in 1985 and dispersed, although Dr Bruce Haynes in Australia has 50 covers and I have around 25 and we exchanged photocopies. But occasionally odd items turn up in unexpected places around the world.

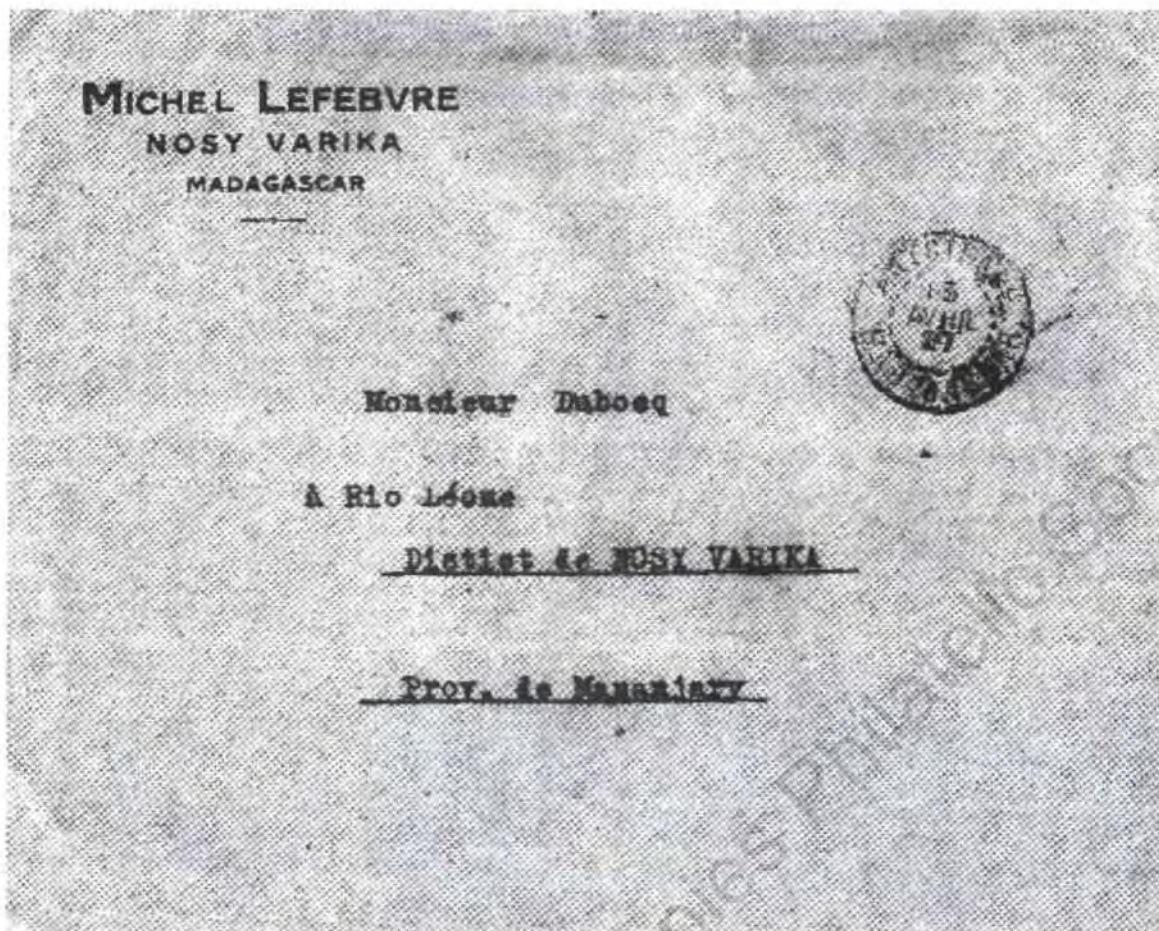


Figure 3

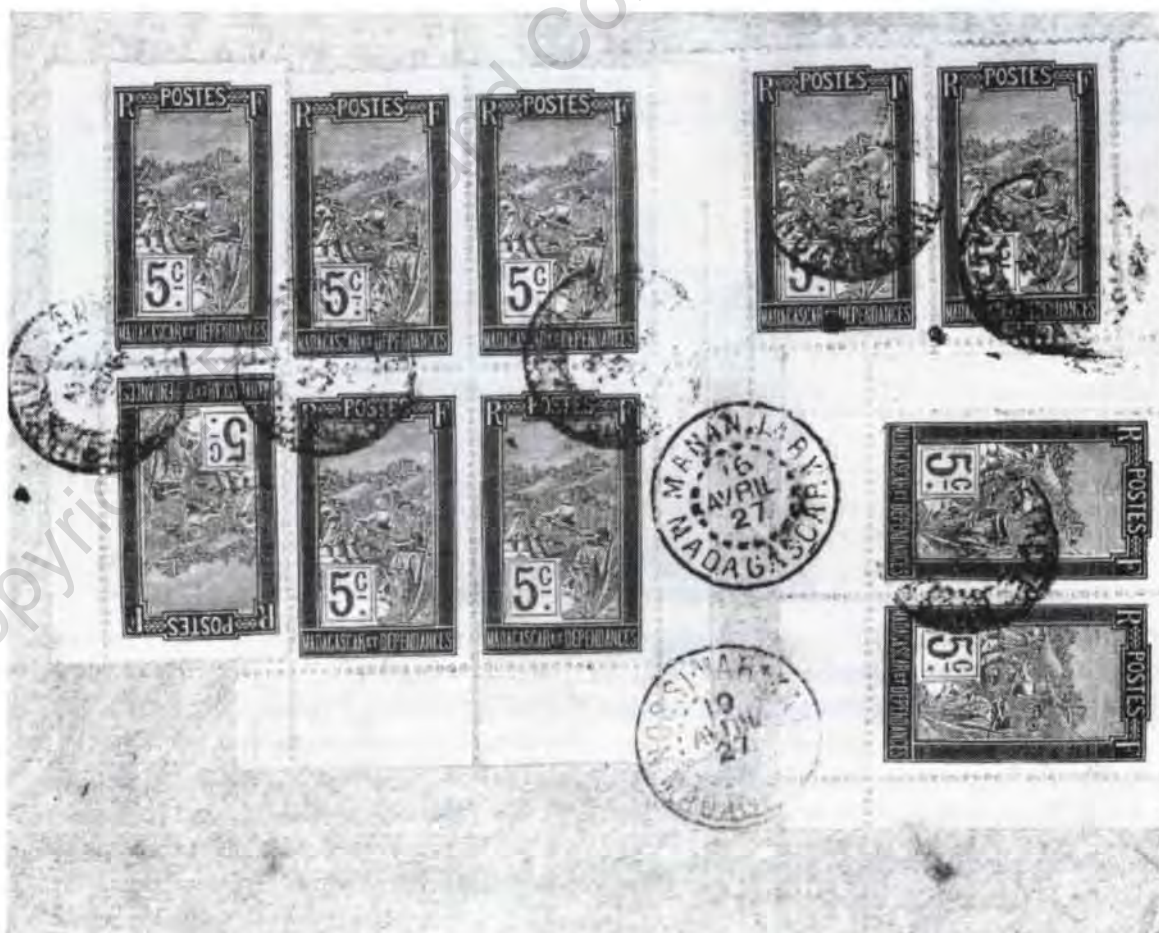


Figure 4

Amazing 1870-71 Wonder Stories - 52

Ernst Cohn

Old and new stories about the Franco-German War often have information that is totally startling even to seasoned historians.

There is, for example, the story *Les "Bourbakis" sont de retour* [The 'Bourbakis' are back] by Edouard Boeglin in an Alsatian magazine (20 March 1996) the name of which unfortunately did not get on the photocopy that a friend sent to me.

The "Bourbakis" were the soldiers of General Bourbaki's army, the commander of which had arranged to take his troops to Switzerland rather than surrendering to the Germans in February 1871. When the agreement had been signed, Bourbaki retired and shot himself in the head, but he did not succeed in his suicide attempt.

He recovered, but where? Boeglin does not answer that question. Some "historians" have reported that Bourbaki was taken to Switzerland with his troops. Variations are repeated in several works, including the 11th edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, so it surely must be true, *n'est-ce pas?* It is not.

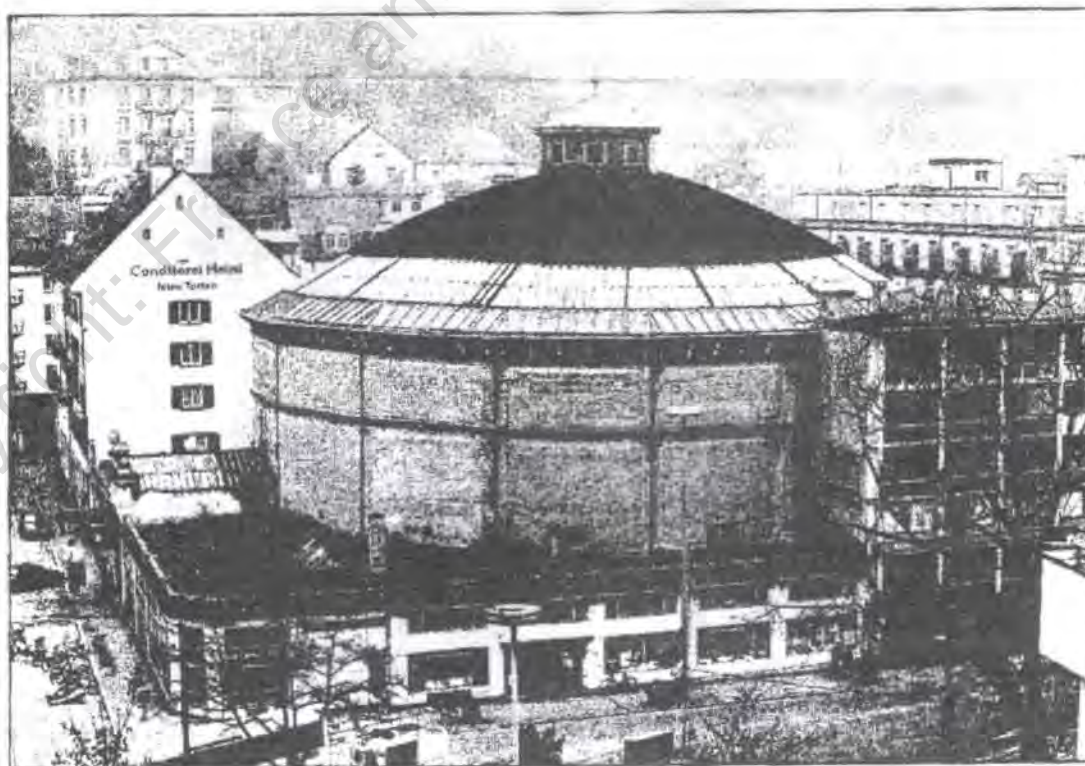
In 1989 Raymond Pittier published his findings and sent me a copy of his article. He took authoritative information from the diary of Bourbaki's orderly officer, Louis d'Eichthal, *Le Général Bourbaki* (Plon, 1885), published while Bourbaki (1816-1897) was still alive.

According to this officer's notes, Bourbaki had retired on the evening of 26 January 1871, when he shot himself in the head with a revolver. The temple bone stopped the bullet. Eichthal, who evidently heard the shot, immediately called several high officers who were nearby. Dr Mathis, a military doctor (*médecin-major 2^e classe*), removed the bullet. The general did not have to be hospitalized, but he was also unable to leave his quarters at Besançon until 20 February. He then traveled with his wife and two other persons via Neuchâtel and Geneva (Switzerland) to Lyon and - several days later - to Marseille and Cette.

In view of the fact that the interned army was not repatriated until the next month, he might have visited with some of them, had he had a mind to do so. There is no record of his having stopped over anywhere in Switzerland, however. It was simply the quickest way to get from Besançon to Lyon. He continued in the service of the French army until his retirement in 1879.

While Boeglin skirted all details of the attempted suicide of Bourbaki, he does provide some startling, new details about that war.

For one thing, I learned from that article that both the balloons *Armand-Barbès* and *Georges-Sand*, which left Paris together on 7 October 1870, belonged to Americans. I had always thought that the former belonged to the Telegraph



Home of the Bourbaki Panorama in Lucerne, Switzerland

Office, which was in the Ministry of the Interior. After the flight of the latter, Mr May, who had paid for it, donated it to the French government, possibly because he had no idea of what to do with a slightly used balloon. Gambetta was very happy to receive it.

It is doubtful that May was out any money, because he was an arms salesman and probably billed his company for that business expense, which allowed him to leave besieged Paris quickly and without any formality, thus enabling his employer to fill a large French arms order and make a nice profit. So what did May do with his *other* balloon? Never mind!

The second bit of news in that article is that Belfort was surrounded by Germans since 3 September 1870, making its siege two months longer than what both official French and German sources wrote soon after the war, viz, that the siege started on the afternoon of 3 November. They even know that it was at 2 pm that day, a degree of precision seldom, if ever, achieved in connection with any other siege

in that war. Of course, if Mr. Boeglin were right, then quite a bit of Belfort mail that we used to treat as though it had been transported before the Germans came must have been smuggled through the lines. Also amazing, but never mind about that, either!

The nonsense we get from some "historians" is not just that, it also might serve to falsify postal history and give some of the documents we collect a wrong aura, good or bad, depending upon the nature of the mistake.

The city of Lucerne in Switzerland built a special building (see picture) to house the Bourbaki Panorama that had almost gone to ruin but was restored at the last moment. It is a patented type of art, though the patent has expired since Irish painter Robert Barker executed his first one in 1787. Originally shown in Geneva in September 1881, the Bourbaki Panorama, showing the arrival of the French soldiers in Switzerland, was moved to Lucerne in August 1889. It is a "surround picture," i e, a closed ring of painting, with 3-dimensional artifacts lying in front of the canvas, giving a visual impression corresponding to the audio one of modern "surround sound."

Postal Humour

Supplied by Robert Johnson

A further example of the Morer cartoons on postcards from 1914:

"Poste Restante - A Modern Office"



SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Saigon to Calcutta by Emergency Airmail Service

I have recently acquired this cover from Saigon with the *Saigon du Calcutta Emergency Aviation Service* handstamp. I have approached the SICP (Society of Indo-China Philatelists) for information, but they can offer very little. This was posted in the last days when Vietnam was still in the French Union. Can any member help with details of the service?

David Taylor Smith

[See further information, which arrived at the last minute, on page 72 of this Journal - Ed.]



Togo Cinderellas

Reading the piece by Bob Deakin in Journal 214, my eye was caught by the Moroccan cinderellas commemorating the Algeciras Conference of 1906, illustrated in colour on page 279.

I enclose a coloured photocopy [illustrated here in black and white, unfortunately - Ed.] of five items in my Togo collection which bear a marked resemblance to those from Morocco. The colours are the same shades as the Moroccan ones of red, brown, blue, green and violet; and the two designs, albeit different, do have a very similar style.

Mine were issued, I understand, to mark an agreement over the borders between Togo and Dahomey in 1909. The date (1908-1909) appears in the design; and, while the language on the issue is French (*délimitation frontière*), I had always thought there was some German input with Togo the first named country at the top, and the names above the figures (the name of one and the same person, whatever the pictures suggest!) being given in German as Karl der Grosse and in French as the more familiar Charlemagne..

John Mayne



Sowers used as Tax Stamps

An unfortunate mistake in placing the illustrations to Tom Waterman's short piece in Journal 214 resulted in a last minute accidental transposition of Figures 1 and 1a on page

29, which also led to a serious distortion of the images. These should have appeared as they are on this page: my apologies to him and to our readers.

Maurice Tyler



Figure 1 - Front of cover; and Figure 1a - backstamp on flap

Martinique and Anjouan Overprints on Postage Dues

I was interested to see the examples shown by Michael Round of Martinique postage due overprints, with two varieties of overprint noted (Journal 214, page 283).

In my collection I have 11 copies in all. Those with the overprint top left to bottom right are 1c, 20c and 30c, all black and mint (Michael does not list a 30c value). I also have used copies of the 1c and 2c, on which both cancels could be forged, although they obviously show part of the Fort de France Martinique strike seen at the turn of the century.

While I have no used examples with the overprint reading upwards from bottom left, I have mint copies of the 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c and 5c stamps (Michael did not illustrate a 2c). Interestingly, I have a mint copy of the second print, a 2c brown, with the overprint top left to bottom right (again, no mention is made of this issue).

Recently my local society had a members' evening when we were invited to display sheets with the letter A connection

- a good place to open the new millennium! As a stamp collector of the French Colonies I found much scope here, with Annam, Arad, Algeria, Alaouites, Andorra, Antarctica, Afars, Alexandria, Alexandretta, and last but not least Anjouan. It was when extracting a few sheets of Anjouan that I came across a further selection of postage dues overprinted.

I found that I hold examples for Anjouan of the following:

ANJOUAN diagonally from top left to bottom right:

10c brown, 15c green, 30c blue, 60c brown violet, and 1F red, all mint;

50c violet, used but cancel probably forged.

In addition I hold a 5c blue with ANJOUAN reading from top right to bottom left and inverted.

When I returned the leaves to the album, I looked through my collection to see if I had examples from any other countries, and found none. It may well be, however, that there are others 'out there,' and perhaps members will come forward with their own examples.

John Mayne

The Missing Centenarian

The puzzle raised by Michael Meadowcroft in Journal 215 (page 31) about the missing Yvert & Tellier Catalogue number 100 has an interesting resolution. There are **two** separate 'unissued' Sage 20c blue stamps involved, numbers 73 and 100 - the former being a type I and the latter a type II. The sequence of events according to the Yvert & Tellier catalogues I have available seems to be as follows.

1897: 110 - type II as an *erreur*.

1919: 73 - type I as a *non émis*;
100 - type II as a *non émis*.

1922: *Timbres non émis* 3 - type I;
Timbres non émis 4 - type II.

There is a note on the 20c blue which is practically identical to the first paragraph of the note quoted below from the 1939 catalogue.

1923: 73 - type I as a *non émis*;
100 - type II as a *non émis*.

1925: 73 - type I as "not issued" (English edition of catalogue);
100 - type II as "not issued."

1931: According to *L'Écho de la Timbrologie* of April 2000 (in response to a reader's question, page 8), this was the last catalogue in which number 100 appeared. Some of these supposedly destroyed stamps, among which were some type II **imperforate** examples, had passed through the post as a result of the inattentiveness of post office officials. They were in this year recognised by Yvert & Tellier as unofficial, lost their 'full' number, and became number 73a *non émis*. [However, the catalogues above all show both 73 and 100 as perforate issues. I have not yet seen 73a used as a catalogue number by Y&T.]

1939: 73 - type I as *non émis* (listed normally in the all-world catalogue, but placed at the end of the Sage issues after number 82 and with the number 73 in brackets in the France-only catalogue). There is a note in the France catalogue attributing the above remarks (cited in *L'Écho*) to this type I issue. The full text states (in translation):

"200,000 examples of the 20c blue were printed, and these were nearly all burnt. It is untrue that they were sent to Martinique to be used there. Some, rescued from the incineration, were used by individuals and were able to pass through the post as a result of the inattentiveness of the officials, but their currency was never official.

One can fairly frequently come across a 20c blue of type II which, until 1929, was catalogued as an unissued stamp. We have decided to omit it, after establishing that all the examples that we know have incontrovertibly false perforations. In the circumstances the likelihood is that this is a Granet reprint, catalogued below. This reprint has probably been perforated and gummed by private individuals."

1975 Specialised: *Non émis* - 73 - 20c blue on blueish, type I, perforate; 20c blue on greenish, type II, imperforate (this stamp has been given forged perforations).

The note here differs slightly from the previous one:

"The 20c blue was printed in December 1876, totalling 14,179,500 examples, which were destroyed on 24 February 1880. A few, perforated type I or imperforate (unfinished), lighter in colour, type II, were saved from destruction; some of them were able to pass through the post as a result of the inattentiveness of the officials, but their currency was never official."

The reference to the lighter colour is at variance with the description of the 1887 Granet reprint in the catalogues from 1939 onwards as "dark blue" - although the 1922 catalogue has "blue on greenish" for Granet, and the probably fictitious type II *non émis* has always been just "blue," like the type I.

1990 onwards: 73 - type I as *non émis*.

Catalogues by other publishers (Cérès, Maury, Marianne, Thiaude, Fourcaut, Ward, Lesgor, Inter, Brimont, Locard, Boner) add very little, if anything. Michael has already quoted from some of them. The Andrew Clark Popular Handbook of 1922 describes the type I as blue on greenish, and mentions a type II which, it says, is the Granet reprint in dark blue on white, imperforate:

"This stamp is found perforated 13½ horizontally by 14 vertically, a forged perforation. I have a copy with the normal perforation, probably also forged. The term 'reprint' of this stamp in dark blue imperforate is said to be a misnomer. It is said to be a reproduction of Type I in Type II." [Whatever this last sentence may mean!]

Stanley Gibbons' note (1993 France catalogue) reads:

"The 20c *blue* (perf) is a stamp prepared for use in Dec. 1976 but never issued. It was reprinted in 1887 in *deep blue* (imperf). This reprint is always variety (b) [= type II] and is found with forged perforation."

Le Patrimoine du Timbre-Poste Français from Flohic Éditions (1998) gives more background details than most authorities, but seems to ignore completely the connection with the Granet reprints and the forged perforations. Their account concludes:

"The stamps were printed in both types. Time was short, and the type I stamps were perforated, but the type II stamps did not have time for this, as the tariff had not been adopted and the ministry was overthrown. The Post Office found itself with a stock of stamps that were useless for the immediate future. These precious stamps were preserved in the hope of better days which never came. On 24 February 1880 the 20c Blue were destroyed, since meanwhile the tariffs had changed and the 20c had become 'brick

red on green.' A few very rare examples of the type I 20c blue have passed into the hands of philatelists, but this is a great rarity in a collection of French stamps. Type II 20c stamps, imperforate, are encountered far more often."

So there is still a great deal of confusion about the existence or otherwise of the 20c blue in two types. The consensus is

that Y&T catalogue number 73 does exist as an unissued stamp, but that number 100 is probably an altered Granet reprint and, since considered a forgery, is no longer included (although Jean-François Brun and his colleagues in the Flohic tome appear to hold the contrary view).

Maurice Tyler

Empire Chérifien

I am writing to ask if any members can help me with what appear to be money tokens for 'work forces.' Below are full size copies, all printed on a lemon coloured card. The printing is as follows: 50c - red, 1F - blue-green, 2F - plum.I

should like to know who issued them and why, who they were issued to and when, what values were issued and in what quantity, and some idea of the value or scarcity. Any information would be welcome.

Peter Baker



Figure 1 - the front of the 3 notes:
the top reads "DAHIR DU 6 AVRIL 1944"
and the bottom "LE CONTREFACTEUR EST PUNI DES TRAVAUX FORCÉS."



Figure 2 - the back of the 3 notes:
the top reads "EMPIRE CHÉRIFIEN PROTECTORAT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE"
and the bottom is all in Arabic.

[Editor's Note. This is a series of 3 emergency notes issued in Morocco during World War II because of a shortage of small change, any metal available being needed for the war effort. A similar situation, on a much larger scale, occurred in France during World War I, when almost every town or region issued its own notes.

A "dahir" is a decree by the King, indicating that this issue had official authorisation. The legend at the bottom of the notes states that "any counterfeiter will be punished by forced labour," the usual threat printed on French banknotes.

Empire Chérifien is the traditional title for Morocco, coming from the *chérifs* who were the Muslim princes forming the

original ruling dynasty in the country. There was a Moroccan series of stamps in 1912 and 1913 issued by the *Postes Chérifiennes* - although I am no expert on Morocco and would welcome some background information on what exactly this was and how the issue arose.

The emergency notes of 1944 are not particularly scarce or valuable. They are readily available from dealers in paper money for between 10 and 20 US dollars. The 50c depicts an unnamed fortress; the 1F represents the city of Fez; and the 2F shows a house on the shore (La Menara) - though whether this is the name of a place or of the building I have yet to establish (it reappears on the later 100 Dirhams issue of the Bank of Morocco).]

Censor Marks on WWI Togo and Bulgarian Mail

Mike Whittaker has submitted a query regarding a 1919 censored cover from Bulgaria to Switzerland (Journal 215, page 33), stating that this is the first time he has seen a censor resealing label and censor cachet strikes applied by the French military censor. But is it, in fact, French?

I recently wrote (Journal 214, page 283) with a similar query concerning three covers, all from Togo at the time of the Anglo-French Occupation, bearing the strike *OUVERT Par l'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE* - this bears a marked resemblance to the Bulgarian cover's *CONTRÔLÉ par l'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE* and I can confirm the censor label or tape is identical.

Two covers (see the illustration below for one of them) are to a recognised philatelic address, both posted at Lomé in Togo in February 1917 when Lomé was in the British sector - hence the Gold Coast issues overprinted. There is no record of censorship in the French sector of Togo, although that does not mean there was none. The two covers were routed via London, and possibly via Paris.

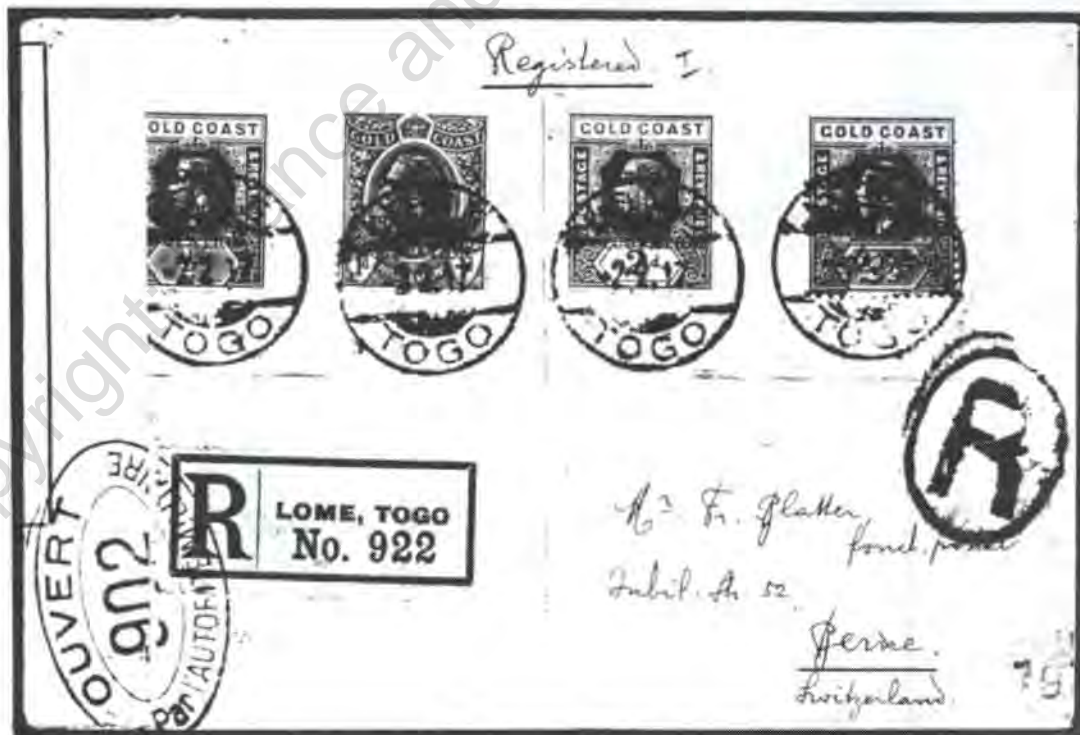
I consulted John Whiteside about the origin of the censor marks, and he agreed that they could be Swiss or French, adding that he knew of a period during World War I when there were problems between the Swiss and the French concerning mail from the latter. However, I later managed to contact the Helvetica Society at their weekend gathering, and they unanimously confirmed that they are not Swiss.

My third (1916) cover, illustrated and described in the Journal contribution mentioned above, and which has a different censor number (404 as opposed to 902), went down a different route via Dahomey, and logically was routed via France. This is the only item I have seen from the French sector of Togo passing down a French route which has been censored: it was normal for French mail to Europe to pass via Lomé and the Gold Coast, to be censored by the British before reaching Liverpool.

By chance, when I was writing up a POW cover, I turned to the recognised German book on Prisoner of War mail for the Germans in Togo and Cameroon. Illustrated was a cover from Germany via Switzerland to an internee at Pamplona, Spain, with a strike identical to that on my covers, apart from the number 203 as opposed to 404 and 902 - as well as a rectangular boxed *CONTRÔLE POSTAL MILITAIRE* mark. A second (1918) cover illustrated in the book, going in the opposite direction from an internee in Pamplona to Bavaria, also bearing strike 203, has a Swiss stamp cancelled at Bern, but the numbered censor handstamp is described as that of Lyon.

It would seem, therefore, that all these cachets, including that on the Bulgarian cover, are French, and all that remains is to establish where they were applied. I hope that some member will be able to confirm either that such mail will have passed via a military censor in France, or that these strikes were regularly used by French forces in occupied countries.

John Mayne



Registered cover from Togo to Berne, Switzerland, 2 February 1917; the R in circle cachet is similar to one seen in British Colonies and may not have been applied in Togo.

French Colonies - Stamps on Cover, Varieties, and Forged Surcharges

In Journal 215 (page 2) Glenn Benson inquired as to whether there was a publication dealing with the genuine and forged surcharges of the French Colonies. There are in fact two fantastic reference works which deal with World Wide Forgeries, including those of the early French Colonies.

The first work is *Album Weeds* by the Rev R B Earee, which is available on loan from the American Philatelic Research Library - the library arm of the American Philatelic Society (APS). The second work is even more extensive: *The Sarrane Guide*. This has been translated from the original French, and was published piece by piece throughout the years in the APS magazine. Then all the pieces were gathered and bound together and offered for sale by the APS as of last year. There may still be a set available; but if not, it is certainly available on loan from their library.

[Mr Benson has since written back to say that he already has both books, and that they only touch the surface on this subject; but that he is hoping to find additional information with actual pictures showing the differences between the originals and the reprints/forgeries. - Ed]

I am now seeking some information for myself. I have both Cérés and Yvert French Colonies catalogues, but neither prices stamps on cover, and many of the varieties are not priced (only the major ones such as inverts or duplicated overprints are covered). Can any member recommend a specialised catalogue which provides the prices for these items, much as Sassone does for the Italian area and Michel does for the German area?

Charles Hudelmaier

An Odd Thai Cover

I hold Raymond Salles' monumental work *La Poste Maritime Française* in the highest esteem and use it constantly. In my eyes it is one of the greatest pieces of philatelic research ever undertaken and richly deserved its many awards. Nevertheless, occasional anomalies seem to occur, even with a work as thorough as this.

Take this Thai miniature cover as an example. It is a pleasant enough item, clean, with the stamp in good condition and a blurred but legible Bangkok postmark of 4 September 1900 and as such, a Thailand collector might pay a few pounds for it. What interested me was the partial French paquebot mark on the top edge. As was usual at the time, the cover would have been carried down to Singapore by the first available ship, taking a week or ten days to get there. At Singapore the cover would have been transferred to the first great mail liner calling in there. According to the circular shipping mark this would have been the *Ligne N* ship N° 4, ie the 'Tonkin,' on its regular run from Yokohama to Marseille. A quick trawl through Salles' *Tome V* makes it clear that the 'Tonkin' in fact had just left Marseille at this

time and was certainly still in the Mediterranean, nowhere near Singapore. In reality the only available ship would have been the 'Yarra,' which left Saigon on 15 September and arrived at Singapore on 17 September. This meant the cover would only have waited a day or two at Singapore. So for once Salles appears to have his information wrong, but how to explain the 'Paq Fr. No. 4' mark of 24 Sept 1900? Back to Salles, and a further investigation of the next volume tells me that the most likely place for two major shipping routes to cross at the right time was the port of Colombo in Ceylon. Indeed on 24 September 1900 the steamer 'Ville de la Ciotat' called in at Colombo *en route* from Sydney to Marseille and, yes, the ship was carrying a No. 4 handstamp, that of *Ligne T*. So the No. 4 handstamp must have been applied to the cover when it was transferred from the 'Yarra' to the 'Ville de la Ciotat' in Colombo harbour. Salles is vindicated again.

The one thing his work cannot tell me, unfortunately, is why the mail was moved from one ship to another; after all, both ships were destined to arrive at Marseille?

John Garner



Avis de Réception Cachets from Former French Colonies

I was recently reading through the June 1998 Journal (208) and caught sight, on pages 90 and 91, of notes by Bill Mitchell about boxed AR cachets from former French Colonies. In Figure 2 on page 91 there is the cachet *Recommandé / Accusé de Réception* and the boxed AR.

I have no knowledge of such cachets, but the note jogged my memory about the phrase in some business letters I received from at least one firm in France when I was working in Paris as part of a Franco-British Joint Project Team in the '70s. I recall my surprise on receiving a letter to me which began "*J'accuse réception de votre lettre datée ...*" The contents were technical, factual and reassuring,

quite at odds with the opening phrase with its overtones of the famous letter in the Dreyfus affair, "*J'accuse ...*"!

I sped to my dictionary, to find the phrase was indeed a correct formal one for acknowledging receipt of important or valued correspondence on drawings, specifications or whatever. I raised the point with a French colleague, and he said it was an elegant formula not regularly used.

This merely indicates the existence of such a phrase and even its passing, for it is not, I think, common parlance; so in the Colonies it may still be in use, just as the French of Paris is not quite the same as that in Quebec.

Godfrey Pullan

Belgian (?) Cachet of 1905 on Paris Exhibition Label of 1900

I have been trying to research the background of what appears to be a French postmark, but so far without success.



Figure 1



Figure 2

I should say at the outset that I am a member of the Belgian Study Circle and that my philatelic interests relate to the exhibitions, fairs and other public events held in Belgium from 1876 to 1940. The postmark (Fig 1) is on a souvenir label for the Paris Exhibition of 1900, but relates to the world's fair held in Liège in 1905. It could, I suppose, be a Belgian cancellation or cachet, but there is no record of it and it is not Belgian in style. I know that French railway cancels had a wavy outer edge, and I am also aware that French participation at the Liège World Fair was particularly strong (see Figs 2 and 3 for photocopies of one of the vignettes and of the promotional postcard). Could it be that there was a French temporary post office at the exhibition?

I would be very grateful if any member of your Society could help me with this query. [*Preferably via the Journal - Ed.*]

My home phone number is 01494-712486.1 can also be contacted by e-mail on MIKEMOBBS@aol.com.

Mike Mobbs



Figure 3

[It is my guess that this mark was applied to items on request at the French stand of the 1905 Exhibition, but perhaps one of our members can assist. The design resembles best a Telegraph or Pneumatic Post date stamp; the railway date stamps are quite different.

Alec Swain]

Saigon to Calcutta by Emergency Airmail Service (continued from page 65)

Since writing on this subject, I have had occasion to get in touch with the Royal Aeronautical Society, who have been good enough to give me a most interesting reply, reproduced below.

David Taylor Smith

"In reply to your enquiry, since in your letter you do not state the air carrier or the actual date of the flight cover that you are researching - only the year 1955 - it is difficult to answer your specific question, but the following information may be of use to you.

Air Vietnam was formed on 1 October 1951 to take over the domestic and regional services formerly operated by Air France. Shortly after the partitioning of the country in 1954 under the Geneva ceasefire agreement, Air Vietnam suspended operations to cities north of the 17th parallel which became the boundary between the Republic of Vietnam on the south and

Communist-controlled North Vietnam. In 1955 Air Vietnam experienced a sharp boom in air traffic due to hostilities when more than one million inhabitants fled their homes in the north zone to seek refuge in the southern zone. Also during 1955 Air Vietnam's international operations were expanded, though temporarily, when French independent airline UAT opened a Paris-Saigon route in association with Air Vietnam. Two Douglas DC-6 aircraft were flown each week, one under charter to Air Vietnam. After about a year the service was withdrawn.

I suspect that your flight cover may be associated with this turbulent time in Vietnam's history, and for further research in Asian air transport suggest you consult the following book:- **Airlines of Asia since 1920**, by R E G Davies (Putnam Aeronautical Books, London, 1997)."

An Interesting 1915 Ambulant

The illustration is of an envelope, not franked, from Calais to neutral Holland in 1915. Although not endorsed 'FM' it appears to have a military origin, ie 'H. Forsans, 5^{ème} Génie - C^{ie} B.12, Calais (P-de-C), France.'

Date stamp: LILLE À PARIS 2° B / * 14 - 8 15

with arrival backstamp:

BAARLE-NASSAU / 23. VIII. 15 7-8V

However Lille was by then under German Occupation, so there was no way that this *ambulant* could be operating over its normal route. One can assume that it had not been 'trapped' in the Occupied Zone, and had been pressed into duty on the Calais to Paris service. They would hardly have bothered to obtain 'new' date stamps, hence they used what they had.

The cds is slightly odd, in that there is a wider space than usual between 'PARIS' and '2°'. Pothion lists as his number 1060 'LILLE À PARIS - 2°'. Perhaps this cds is in fact '1060' with the '-' missing/removed/not inked.

Another question arises, as to how the letter got to Holland - with the normal land routes blocked. This point has been mentioned before in the Journal, I believe, and I don't recall a response. Finally, should it have been taxed?

The envelope has been roughly opened at the back, so I don't think it is a philatelic confection; but any comments would be appreciated.

[See next page for illustrations]

Alec Swain

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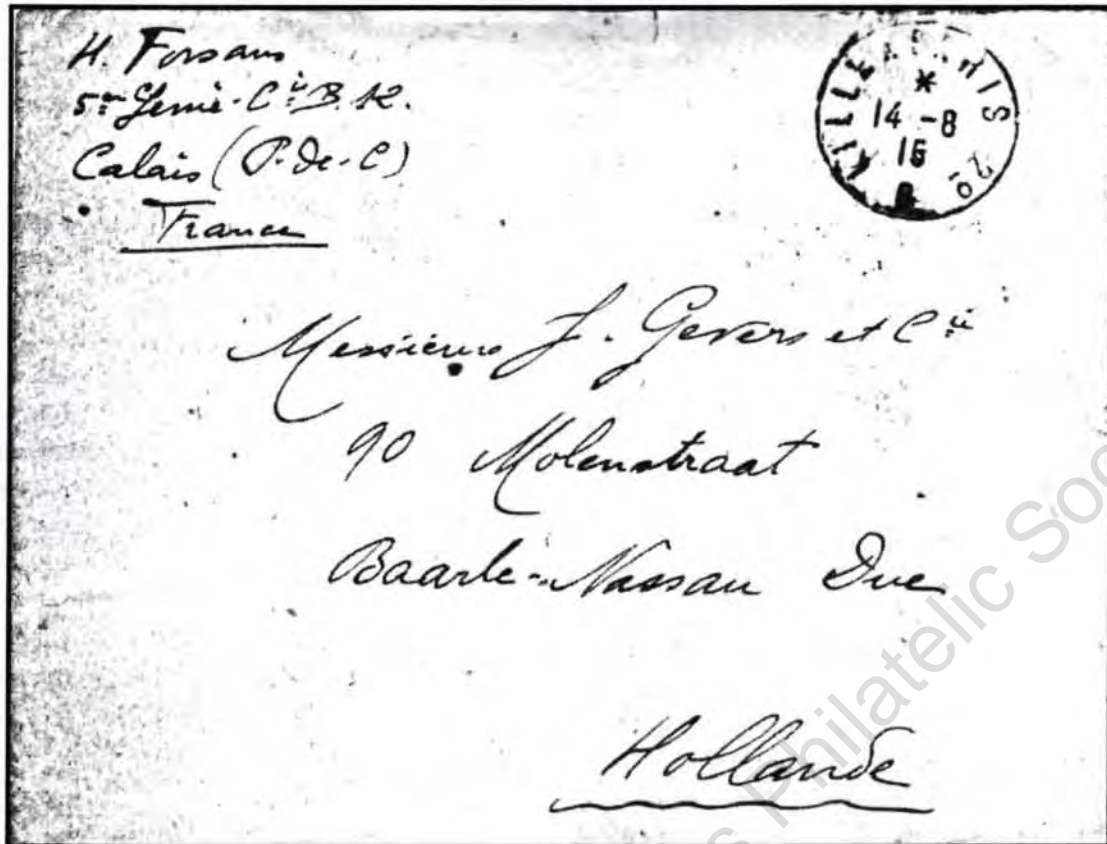


Figure 1 - Front of envelope

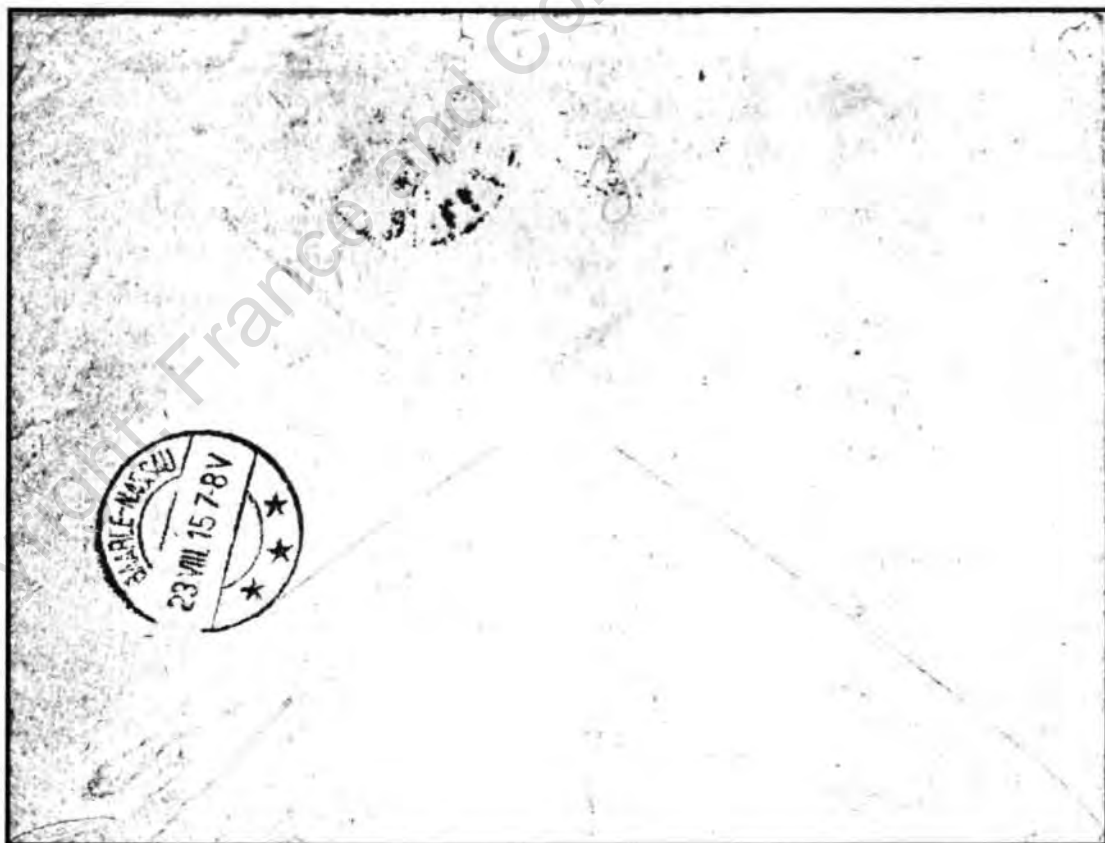


Figure 2 - Back of envelope

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 23 FEBRUARY 2000

Stephen Holder: Aspects of the War of 1870-71

President Iain Stevenson introduced Stephen Holder as someone indissolubly joined to the Siege of Paris and one of two leaders in the Society on this material.

After a short account of the historical background to the war, Stephen explained that the items to be shown were part of his most recent collection, composed of items acquired to reflect a new emphasis, different from the more conventional one in this area. His approach was to show some of the more unusual aspects of the postal history of the period, and included additionally a considerable amount of pictorial material such as documents, newspapers and ephemera.

His display would be divided into four sections, beginning in the first part with the declaration of war and its various campaigns, and followed by the Siege itself. The early items, therefore, dealt with the prelude to the war, the German *Feldpost* system and the French Army posts, the Versailles Headquarters, the supporting forces and various campaigns, and particularly the sieges of Metz, Neuf-Brisac, Belfort and Strasbourg. Items of note included a *Feldpost* mobilisation letter, a telegraph to India, a red envelope containing a newspaper report from the Front, a cover from Versailles to Italy with postage due, a cover to Versailles *poste restante* during the war, manuscript French Army franchise markings used in the civilian postal system, a Neuf-Brisac campaign cover, the first Red Cross stationery (many cards being found in sacks in a Strasbourg cellar after the Siege), envelopes from the Siege of Belfort, a letter in Corsican Italian dialect from Metz, and a subscription notice for the construction of the Lion of Belfort postally used after the War.

Material from the actual Siege of Paris covered various balloon flights, *lettres-journaux* (including one to Bradford), postcards, special services, and mail to destinations such as the UK, Germany and occupied Alsace-Lorraine. Particular items noted included very early flights, an original watercolour by the balloonist Tissandier, engravings (including an aerial view c1901), a water damaged letter that travelled on two balloons, an account to be paid after the war marked "Will Pay ...", the rarer (though usually less expensive) postcards at half tariff (and full rate for abroad), a *Dépêche-Ballon*, Havas news agency editions in French and German sent to newspaper offices, a poster advertising the *ballons-poste*, and the "More to Pay" marking. There were 500 POW camps in Germany, and mail to these travelled normally; in Alsace-Lorraine there was the double franking system; and we also saw the red SC franking for VIP mail.

After the first viewing session the third section of the display dealt with the end of the Siege and its aftermath, involving such topics as the various attempts to bring mail into Paris, ephemera from life inside the Siege, POW mail, and the Commune. Items that caught the eye here were news reports sent to *The Times*, a facsimile of a *ballon monté*, a fake of a facsimile with a Southampton *Boîte Mobile* mark on a Bordeaux stamp, letters to Paris not delivered until after the Siege, POW mail addressed into Paris during the war, a Pigeon Post *pellicule* with messages to be copied, prepaid cards asking set questions, and a *Boule de Moulins* with double franking.

Further curiosities included a map of Paris in a soldier's pocket book with numbered sectors and fortifications marked, a menu with zoo animals offered, ration cards, the Versailles *Auswechslungsstelle* mark (probably applied to the top of a batch of letters), a *laissez-passer*, a military telegram, POW mail with an unnecessary North German Confederation stamp, a ps envelope issued to the Swiss Army who were looking after French internees, the earliest colour postcard, and some rare Commune letters and a possible Commune printing of 5 x 5c stamps - as well as an anti-Communard propaganda card with a hidden image that was revealed only when held up to the light.

The final section of the display was concerned with the German occupation of Northern France 1870-72, comprising the Occupation issues and their cancellations, the various postal rates (such as the border tariff to Luxembourg), the double franking periods, and the end of the occupation. The gems in this part of the display included Alsace-Lorraine stamps and postmarks (with French and German varieties), the experimental period of double franking (with a tax mark where no valid stamp was present), an example of double double franking, the *cachet ondulé* of Meaux, temporary date stamps of Rouen, the *Feldpost* of the *Deutsches Reichpostgebiet* used in Busendorf (Alsace-Lorraine), a document listing charges for cavalry horse forage in the last weeks of the occupation, the Colmar horseshoe mark, and the 3145 Rixheim mark on a stamp used in Ecuador.

In giving the vote of thanks, John Levett, the second of our experts in this area, commented on how much he had learned from this extremely interesting and comprehensive selection of items, with the POW cachets holding a particular fascination for him.

MST

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 29 MARCH 2000

Iain Stevenson: President's Evening

Vice-President Mick Bister introduced our President, Iain Stevenson, who explained that his display would be divided into two distinct parts. The first half would be devoted to telegrams which, following Iain's previous reference to postal stationery as "stamps with large margins," he described as "stamps with even larger margins." He started by showing a 1940 wartime armband for a telegraph messenger, and a morse key, before recommending a book on telegraph history, *The Victorian Internet*.

The turn of the 18th and 19th centuries, however, was the period when telegraph history really began, with the Chappe invention of waving arms on a tower, to be used in conjunction with a code book. We therefore saw the commemorative stamp for this contraption, together with a postcard, a photo, and the rare historical document of a Chappe telegram. The electric telegraph was invented by the painter Morse, and introduced in France in about 1855: we saw a private telegram sent from Algeria in 1856. Only forms written at the office of receipt at this time are available now, and we were shown the evolution of these forms and seals.

The printing telegraph was invented in France, and telegraph stamps issued from 1869. One urgent message was popped in the post with a stamp stuck on it! From 1880 to 1940 there was a constant pattern for the forms, with yellow telegrams being the official ones. The Eastern Telegraph Company set up at Marseille with international cables: most examples are folded sheets, but some envelopes in different colours are known. A telegram from one postmaster to another was refused: 30c postage due was indicated!

We were also shown censored telegrams from WWI, advertisements on telegrams, hand-in and delivery forms (post-WWI), and "urgent" labels on telegrams. The *bellinogramme*, an early form of fax invented by Bellin in the 1930s for transmitting photos, autograph

messages, etc, was followed by the *TSF* or wireless telegraphy stamp for radio licences from the same period (although the stamp was originally intended to be stuck on the radio set!). Then came special labels, such as those for using more words, or for taking a special route, *par poste*, *priorité*, *TSF*, and *officiel*; together with a map of radio telephone stations.

We were eventually brought up to date with modern telegrams, including *pli urgent* labels for letter boxes, *telex* labels, and *télécopie* labels, until the service died in about 1987-8. The final items in this first half of the display were a *France Telecom* label (used for one year only), a greetings telegram (very scarce), some *poste enfantine* items, and postcards with telegram themes.

After viewing, we were introduced to the second theme for the night, which was the pneumatic post in Paris and Marseille. Iain explained the compressed air system that was used to shoot "bullets" through tubes, and showed pictures of the machinery, pouches, "bullets," and a posting box. The service was opened in the 1860s to '70s, and made available for public use in 1879. Sage stamps were used first, for *cartes-télégrammes* and *télégrammes*; but the initial high rates were soon reduced, and the Chaplain stamps printed on special cards. Among other items we were shown some attractive map cards, some reply paid telegrams, a savings bank card (for withdrawing money), some 1887 envelopes (the rates for which were further reduced), some



Figure 1 (above) - "Flood" rate of July 1927: when the SEGUR and VAUGIRARD telephone exchanges were flooded, subscribers were allowed to use the pneumatic service for the cost of a local call.
Figure 2 (left) - "Chambre des Députés" official stationery and cancel.

[Both illustrations are reduced in size]

repaired items, and even *BM* pneumatics (posted in boxes on trams, etc).

In 1904 the service was liberalised, and rates reduced yet again; and we saw postage dues on *pneus*, and some private stationery with various rates. In 1906-1920 the Chaplain stamp disappeared and the Sower was used instead; and from this period we saw some misdirected *pneus*, a *cachet de levée exceptionnelle*, and a *poste restante* fee in Marseille. In 1927 some floods in Paris knocked out two telephone exchanges, and for a time *pneus* could be sent at a special (telephone) rate with the Paris XIV cachet.

We then saw a *pneu* refused when sent to Switzerland, postal stationery that could be used in the pneumatic service, a *pneu* sent to the USA, and one used in the express service

outside Paris. These were followed by a *trouvé à la boîte* mark on a *pneu* found in an ordinary box, a *banlieue* cachet, and cachets for registered *pneus*. In World War II the service was not closed, but Pétain stamps were used, until they became *inadmis* after demonetisation. There was a huge increase in the rates after the war, and we were shown an example of the rarest rate of 13F50, which was used for only a short period in 1947. The display ended with some central radio labels and a "last day" item from 1984 which, although philatelic, had taken Iain 20 years to find.

Mick Bister gave the vote of thanks for the large amount of information about the telegraph service we had gained, and for a fascinating account of the pneumatic service with its incredible variety of mint and used *pneus*.

MST

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 25 MARCH 2000

M le Président: Oblitérations Mécaniques

Colin Spong welcomed Iain Stevenson on his second visit to a Southern Group meeting, and also a former member who had returned to this country, Colin Clarkson.

Iain began by saying that he had a new display which he would be trying out on the members, this was "*Oblitérations Mécaniques*" or "Machine Cancellations," a subject that was very popular in France; and he recommended the following publications: *Le Patrimoine du timbre-poste français* [Flohic Éditions]; G Dreyfuss - *Catalogue des Oblitérations Mécaniques de France sauf Secap après 1960*; and M Perry - *Les Cachets Daguin* [and see Figs 1-4 on page 80].

The display commenced with examples of the Daguin machine cancellations which were in use from 1882 until about 1940. Iain described how these marks can be distinguished, and followed these with examples of the Bickerdike in 1884 used at the Paris 5 office. Its distinctive flag cancel was used at the *Exposition Universelle* in 1900. In 1904 the postal authorities tried out a machine from the International Postal Supply Co, the so-called "Flier" - the name taken from its advertising flyer! This was quickly

followed in 1907 by the Krag machine from the Norwegian KRAG MASKIN FABRIK d'Oslo, well known to British collectors.

The second part of the display continued with examples of 1911 from the Swiss Chambon machines, and then, from 1932, the Société française R.B.F. machines. These were then succeeded by the Secap machines in 1955. The many examples seen on cover, covering such a wide field with an excellent discourse by the President, kept the members interested with many questions being asked.

Colin announced the next meeting will be on Saturday 19 August 2000, 10.30 until 16.30, when the displays will be on the theme of "Transport."

Members present: Michael Annells, Betty Blincow, Colin Clarkson, Roy Ferguson, Geoff Gethin, John Hammonds, Bill Mitchell, Bob Small, Colin Spong, Bob Stuckey and Michael Wilson. Guests: Christine Annells, Frank Blincow, John Thorpe and Pat Spong. Apologies from Michael Berry,

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SOCIETY'S 24th PHILATELIC WEEKEND, 7-9 APRIL 2000

Another record number of participants (42 members and 15 guests) gathered for the second time at our new venue, the Manor House Hotel, Leamington Spa, for our annual weekend.

After dinner on the Friday, Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith opened proceedings by inviting the traditional impromptu displays of a few sheets. Participants at this stage included **Ed Grabowski** (use of postage due stamps in Reunion and payment of cash in Guadeloupe to deal with a shortage of Group type stamps for regular postage) (*see Fig 5 on page 80*), **Iain Stevenson** (miscellany including stamped revenue documents from 1651 onwards showing evolution of *droit de timbre* and introduction of *timbre humide*), **David Lamb** (philatelic failures, or unissued designs and stamps), **Jerry Massler** (miscellany including Swiss Post International tourist stamps available in Italy, Condom covers, and genuine use of Monaco stamp in Beausoleil), **Prue Henderson** (*rayon* marks out of and entry marks into France), **John Hammonds** (poster stamp on 1910 meeting advert, and superbly illustrated balloon documents), **John West** (CFA overprints on Reunion Red Cross 1962-74), **Godfrey Bowden** (1900 Paris Exhibition labels and postcards, with enlarged photos of labels), **John Whiteside** (complications of 1759-1791 tariff for internal French mail), and **Geoff Gethin** (*poste enfantine* stamps of c1920 and full set in box of c1950).

On the Saturday morning **Derek Richardson** got proceedings under way with a display entitled "Anti-tuberculosis stamps - the later years." This covered the 55 money-raising campaigns mounted by the National Committee from 1945 to the present day. He showed us a complete run of 10-stamp booklets along with a selection of window stickers, leaflets and posters. As time went the Committee widened the scope of its appeals to include respiratory ailments such as asthma and tobacco-related illnesses, and this is reflected in the propaganda found on the stamps.

Ian McQueen then showed a selection of Air France and Aéropostale handstamps and stationery. Items of particular interest included New Year cards from South America, covers from Vietnam (especially *Saigon-Marseille* material, with the mark sometimes in red on registered letters but in green on 24 December 1932), a letter from India insufficiently paid for the India-London air service although the stamps covered the air transport from Marseille onwards, a registered 1938 letter from France to Australia (Marseille to East Indies via KLM, to Australia via Qantas, and to Sydney via rail), and marks such as the Damascus *jusqu'à*, and *Transportée exceptionnellement par avion à titre de propagande*. **Robert Johnson** then intervened briefly with one sheet showing the Pondicherry 1880 Indian Telegraph Service to Germany.

John Hammonds extended the theme of aerophilately, firstly with covers to odd destinations round the world. His

aim was to collect 1930s airmail to every country, but he admitted that he had found Australia particularly difficult. We in fact started with an early 1920 air service from France to Great Britain; and in the early days the label on the front can be found ringed in blue, and covers are often not flown because of the weather. We saw a variety of rates, and the destinations shown included Ivory Coast, Morocco, South America (by ship to New York, then flown), South Africa, Tanganyika, Afghanistan, Burma, India (Pondicherry), Indo-China via Amsterdam, Japan, Tchechoslovakia, Poland. We finally saw some propaganda handstamps to advertise airmail, and letters transported exceptionally by air.

Arthur Dent followed this with a display on the Pas de Calais. We saw the evolution of the straight line cancellation with the departmental number, of different sizes and colours; and the display covered the whole gamut of the revolutionary period, rates shown on the front (including 25c double lined postage due), PP either side of the number, lozenge cancellations (small and large numbers), registration mail, and the grill killer. Then handstamps took over from straight lines, and postcard rates were introduced. The final items included Daguin cachets, censored mail, and 8 different handstamps on the back of a redirected letter of 1868.

After a coffee break **Peter Kelly** gave us a glimpse of his new collection consisting of aspects of the postal history of French West Africa north of the Niger, from the 1880s until the end of the Second World War. The Colonies involved consisted (in 1945) of Mauritania, French Sudan, Niger, Senegal, French Guinea, Ivory Coast, Togo and Dahomey; Upper Volta was also created and dismembered during this period. The study was complicated by the changes in boundary during their history and the gradual penetration by French troops along the newly constructed railway lines. Because of seasonal floods and droughts, rapids and shoals, the main rivers were not wholly navigable, but were used to get mail to the seaports where possible. In the mid-1920s the first airmail services started from Toulouse to Dakar (and eventually across to South America), covering some coastal areas of this region only. These services were further developed in the 1930s, until halted by the Second World War, when some services from the interior continued to operate into France up to the time when the Colonies sided with de Gaulle and the Free French.

Iain Stevenson concluded the morning displays with a broad survey of French machine cancels from the Daguin to the Toshiba, covering almost 130 years of evolution (*see Figs 1-4 on page 80*). With the aid of an illustrated guide distributed to those present, Iain explained the features of the various machines and in particular the various trials conducted to establish which machines were best suited to bulk cancellation of mail. Among interesting items shown were both early and late use of Daguins, the trial Krag machines, the essays of the SECAP machines of the early 1950s, and modified French machines used in Monaco and in the French colonies. Iain told the audience

that he always liked to include covers that had some other items of interest (unusual routes, rates, markings) to augment the machine impression being shown, but that this was "waste basket" philately with a vengeance, albeit that some "waste" items did have to come from gold-rimmed baskets!

After lunch the Annual Competitions took place, judged according to recent practice by a special panel of members, and supported this year by a total of 10 entries. The topics included the French Colonies 1859-85, French colour trials, the development and history of formula cards, the Belgian Army in exile and refugees in France 1940, registration 1792-1828, French newspaper stamps, and the Red Cross in the French Colonies 1914-45; but the winning entries were:

Levett Trophy (philately): "*La Semeuse Camée 25c bleu*" by **Ashley Lawrence**.

Alvey Cup (postal history): "Other services provided by or for the French or French Colonial Post Offices" by **Robert Johnson**.

Jubilee Salver (miscellaneous): "The French Connection" (an ingenious tale related by French stamps) by **John West**.

[The Filmer Shield (adhesives) was not awarded this year.]

The Literature Competition had been judged previously by a different panel, and the award was presented to **Mick Bister** for his article on the *0,30 Blason de Paris*.

Similarly, the prize for the Ernst Cohn Quiz in the Journal (see Journal 215) was presented to **Ashley Lawrence**.

The first non-competitive display of the afternoon was by **Barrie Jay** on Prisoner of War mail 1793-1815. French POW mail was divided into three groups – from French POWs within Britain, from French POWs to France, and to French POWs from France – and examples of each group were shown. British POW mail was divided into two groups, examples of which were shown – letters from British POWs to Britain, and letters from British POWs within France. All the above usually travelled in Britain by coach from Transport Office to cartel port and in France in the post. The more uncommon civilian POW letters usually travelled from France either via Hamburg (and then by British packet) or via Paris (and then probably by cartel vessel). After November 1806 only smuggled letters have so far been seen.

Peter Maybury followed with a variety of Steamship markings. Prior to the construction of roads, bridges and railways to link coastal and riverside towns and cities, it was often more efficient to transport merchandise, people and letters by boat. The arrival, in March 1816, of the first steamship in the Seine estuary saw the inauguration of the steamer service between Le Havre, Rouen and Paris, but it was not authorised to carry the mails. Possibly by the 1820s the Postal Administration was permitting the placement of moveable boxes on board approved vessels, for the purpose of servicing "last minute mail." Such mail was not always prepaid, and was therefore taxed at its port of arrival and dated stamped with the name of the vessel's port of origin

(which was not necessarily the point of posting). The earliest *Bateau à Vapeur* handstamp markings date from 1836, but the use of straight line entry marks on mail carried on steamships is known from the 1820s, though rarely. The system lasted until c1879 when the "*Ligne de ...*" date stamps were introduced. Peter's display presented examples from services operating in the English Channel, the Atlantic Seaboard, the Mediterranean and North Africa.

The display by **Barbara Priddy** was on the subject of French West African airmail after World War II, and therefore covered the period 1945-59. She showed first a great variety of aircraft, including the 1945 trials of the great ill-fated flying-boat, the Laté-631, on the Dakar-South America route. In 1946 Air France restored full service on this route with DC-4s, and the trans-Saharan route to AEF was also resumed. UAT introduced the first jets, Comet-1s, on their West and Equatorial African routes in 1953, but had to revert to DC-6 prop aircraft after all Comets were grounded in 1954. Air France's Caravelle trials on the Dakar-South America route in the mid-'50s also carried souvenir covers. TAI had flown West and Equatorial African routes since 1947, but do not appear on the aerophilatelic record until 1959. The establishing of accurate information on rates during this period is extremely difficult, but Barbara showed covers from AOF to France, to Nigeria, and to foreign countries in Europe, trying to make sense of them as far as possible. Finally, a few FM covers showed that post-war the franchise covered the air fee, and the armed forces no longer had to add stamps to ensure airmail transmission.

After the next tea break, **Iain Boyle** tackled some postal markings from *l'Ancien Régime*. The display commenced with two privately carried letters from the 16th century Corsini correspondence illustrating the date anomalies created by England's refusal to adopt the Gregorian calendar at this time. A fine 1699 handstruck *De St Malo* was followed by other examples of town names preceded by *de* – a practice which was dropped by most towns by the mid-18th century but in the case of a few, such as Toulouse, was continued until the eve of the Revolution. Some 'fancy' handstamps were shown from Agde, Dijon and Besançon, as were some examples of the ornate handstruck initial letters of large towns such as Bordeaux and Nantes and the 1773 'crowned P' and 1778 'Par and scroll' of Paris. Then followed instances of changes such as the alteration in the spelling of 'Cette' to 'Sette' to present day 'Sète'; examples of the inverted 'N' as found at Tonneins and Perpignan; and the spelling of 'Nismes' prior to the introduction of the circumflex accent. Two final covers were 'post paid' – one *P.P. de Reims* from 1764 and the other *P. Payé Paris* from 1788.

Alan Wood covered the World War I privately printed postcards – ie those not printed by the government – of which there is a vast amount of material. He reminded us that the assassination on 28 June 1914, at Sarajevo, of a Serbian gangster was the trigger pulling that resulted in the Great War. The concession of free postage was granted

to allied troops, and privately printed postal stationery, reflecting great patriotism (especially the visual feast of flags which appeared first in monochrome then in full colour) became very popular. The display of such items traced the developments that led to the armistice of 1918. One message pointed out read: "May the skin of a gooseberry make an umbrella to cover all your troubles."

Ashley Lawrence showed what he termed "Pictorial France." He displayed a selection of the postcards which he had acquired at local fairs, including a card sent from the Eiffel Tower in 1889, the year of its construction; cards sent from the top of Mont Blanc; and a card describing the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919. Other picture postcards illustrated the towns and countryside of France, her historic buildings and beautiful scenery, and matched the designs of the stamps which had been issued to celebrate her sites and monuments.

Geoff Gethin then gave us an insight into 20th century fakes and forgeries, stimulated by the fact that many of the expensive semi-modern stamps were similar to their cheaper relations. He explained that there are, for example, at least seven different forgeries of the 1929 Le Havre overprint, and that retailing of stamps by *tabacs* has persistently stimulated the production of *faux pour servir*. There are also the WWII Intelligence Service forgeries – which are often better than the originals – to ponder over. Stamps dealt with in the presentation included also the 50F + 1F *Orphelins*, 50F airmail (altered from 85c), 1927 air overprint, 1923 Bordeaux Philatelic Exhibition, EIPA30 perfins, 1931 Sinking Fund sets, the Peace inverted overprint, Mineraline 'with tab' stamps, the Valenciennes 10c local of 1914, miniature sheets, and French Resistance forgeries. Geoff pointed out that the relevant literature suffers from poor quality illustrations; but his Canon Laser Colour 400% enlargements have solved this problem and allow a display without eye strain.

Late in the evening, after an excellent dinner, came another round of impromptu displays, involving **Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith** (postcards showing scenes of life about 100 years ago), **Skanda Vaitilingam** (Laos stamps 1951-74), **Ashley Lawrence** (*timbres-monnaie* used for small change in the aftermath of WWI), **Yvonne Newbury** (Scottish souvenir woodware bookmarks from 1871 on), **Jim Moffat** (miscellany of interesting items from 1792 to 1954), **Brian Lithgoe** (Anglo-French occupation of Cameroon 1915-17), **Maurice Tyler** (trial banknote and Post Office training school banknotes), **Alan Wood** (use of training school stamps, and great variety of more modern postal history pieces), **Bernard Lucas** (revenue stamps such as *chicorée* and *connaissances*, some on document), and **George Henderson** (1852 atlas of the *départements* of France with unusual details, and map).

At this point **Peter Kelly** took the opportunity of expressing our appreciation of the wonderful balance of displays, with our gratitude going to Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith for his efficient organisation. Peter then gave a short display of the

first trials of machine cancels in France from 1880 (and it should be recorded that Robert Johnson's attempt to sabotage his commentary by surreptitiously removing one sheet failed miserably!). The final displays of the evening were given by **Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith** himself (two 1815 letters after the Battle of Waterloo from a surgeon in the Lifeguards, with an eyewitness description of the battle and of the situation in Paris), **Mick Bister** (various interesting 1F50 Pétain items on and off cover), **Jerry Massler** (*type Sage* forgeries, and covers attacked by rat and snails), **Godfrey Bowden** (fake Fournier forgery of 35c General Colonies issue), **Geoff Gethin** ("The Falling Leaf" leaflets by Psywar Society), and **Peter Maybury** (some queries, in particular concerning an 1886 envelope with a hole for the date stamp to authenticate the contents).

Sunday morning commenced with an announcement by George Barker that the Library copy of the book by Grasset, which had been lost by the Post Office (and the loss recompensed), had later been found thrown into a hedge in Guildford! The first display of the day was by **Mavis Pavey**, and entitled "*La Famille Bernhardt*." This was a collection of covers to members of one family about which she had made up a 'family history.' It began in 1907 with a pneumatic card and ended in 1952 with a Strasbourg-Luxembourg philatelic exhibition card. In between came charity issues from the 1930s, Customs Declarations, airmails to Calcutta, postal stationery cards, charity issues of the 1940s and commemorative cancellations of the same period, with many of the cancellations being from Strasbourg.

Then followed **Bernard Lucas** with his display of Postage Dues, covering the period from 1960 when the new franc currency came into effect. The stamps used were from three designs: the sheaves of wheat, flowers, and insects. At the beginning of this period the postage due charged was double the deficiency or a minimum charge; but from 1 August 1980 it became the deficiency plus a handling charge. Bernard said that he had tried to show how the charge was computed, but that this was sometimes difficult on foreign mail. Included were some charges for *poste restante* items, with some which had both postage due and *poste restante* fee added together. Postage due stamps ceased to be used from 18 November 1988, but the last cover displayed was from 1990 and showed the use of a *TIMBRE TAXE* meter label.

Owing to an unfortunate mistake in documentation, **Claire Angier** had not been informed that her original display had been included on the programme, but she was able instead, at very short notice, to produce a collection of items relating to Charente, where she has a house. The capital of this area is Angoulême, a paper manufacturing centre, although a great deal of correspondence seemed to be about cognac! We thus saw correspondence of all kinds, covering a period that extended from 1774 to 1937, that included picture postcards (especially of local villages), entires, covers, and receipts of payment. Claire was helped out by **John Scott**, who was able to display some Post Office tampons, seals and handstamps. These *plonqueurs*, including one that

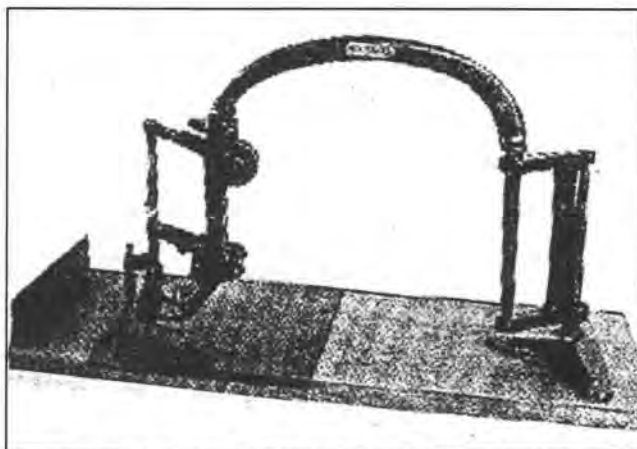


Figure 1 (see page 77 for text on Figs 1-5) - Daguin cancelling machine and example of cancellation

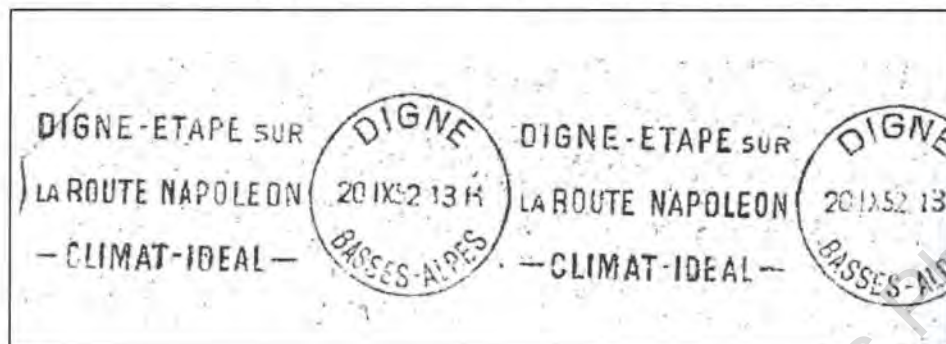


Figure 2 - Impression of Krag second generation cancel from Digne with slogan

Figure 3 - The so-called single strike "third generation" Krag used experimentally in Paris 1926-1930 and at Boulogne, Strasbourg, Fougères, is now thought to be the modified hand-operated "Savava" machine



Figure 4 - Impression of the British-made "Universal" Type G cancelling machine installed in Paris and Lille

Figure 5 (see page 77) - Exceptional use of postage due stamps on an insured (declared value) money letter posted from Saint Denis. Using a 15c large format Group Type envelope, an additional 2F45 in due stamps was used to complete the franking of 2F60. This included 20c postage, 25c registration and 2F15 for insurance on a declared value of 1500F. The letter bears a proper MS endorsement noting use of due stamps because of a shortage of regular issues, a CHARGÉ handstamp, and the stamps are tied by a RÉUNION ST DENIS, 7 JANV 01 date stamp. The letter apparently sat in the office at Saint Denis until 19 January when it was received and all the stamps restruck with the current date stamp. The exceptional use of high value due stamps suggests the shortage of regular issues, at least at Saint Denis, was greater than previously supposed. (Illustration reduced in size)



read "*section des picques d'Orléans*," raised a number of queries to tax the brains of members present.

Michael Annells then gave us a general display of the *type Sage*, or in other words the Peace and Commerce definitive issues used in France from 1876 until 1900. This showed us examples of his collecting themes, including individual stamps, printing varieties, a selection of cancellations (covering typo, coloured cds, *Jour de l'An*, used abroad, expositions, maritime and railways), postcards and examples of the various postal stationery items issued – ie wrappers, postcards, envelopes and letter-cards. Michael admitted that a book he had just bought on the Sage issue meant that he really needed to rewrite the whole display; but instead he would probably move on to Sowers!

After the final coffee break **Lesley Marley** displayed French postal markings from Montargis from 1717 to the present day. She explained that Montargis, which was brought to life with postcards and modern photos, is situated in the ancient Gâtinais region of France on the river Loing, 110km south of Paris. In the 17th century postal deliveries of letters in France put the town in the 9th Centre Region and in the province of Orléanais and the *département* of Loiret. The display started with a manuscript mark of 1717 and traced the pre-stamp marks and rates used on covers from this town. It then progressed to show stamped envelopes with different cachets used on letters from Montargis, and the rates that applied at the time. The display also included military free mail, railway *convoyeur* marks, postal stationery, registered mail, and later 20th century slogan cancels.

George and Prue Henderson then presented mail in the Département de la Nièvre 1719-1876 – where a dominant subject of the correspondence appeared to be lawyers or bankers shifting documents or arguing about money! Items were shown from 32 communities out of the 64 which had bureaux in 1870;

only half of these had populations of more than 2000 in 1850. A map was added to the first sheet of each town or village indicating its location, and the notes included details of its first post office, the population in 1850, and local industries (apart from agriculture and forestry). The one coal mine was such an unusual feature that the town around it was named 'La Machine' (post office opened 1860 – but no pre-'76 items found yet). Points of interest included some revolutionary names, an envelope home-made from newspaper, a substantial order for wine to be shipped from Nantes, a champagne order for Madame Heidsieck, and some fascinating comments in some of the letters.

In the unavoidable absence of a member who had intended to display, **Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith** stepped into the gap with a display on steamship mail between France and the USA from 1840 up to the beginning of UPU in 1878. Thus we saw examples of British and American packets via England, direct American packets from Le Havre, direct French packets similarly, French packets converted to *Ligne H*, and private ship mail. Details of rates were given, including American inland ones, French ones, and those resulting from the Anglo-French Treaty. Some interesting frankings were shown, and markings such as "due from recipient," transit rates, and charge backs between administrations.

Bernard brought matters to a close with thanks to all the contributors, and said that the general opinion seemed to suggest that we should try the same hotel again next year, when the event would take place a fortnight before Easter.

President Iain Stevenson expressed the thanks of all those present to Bernard for the (almost) smooth operation of the whole weekend. He added that we could be proud of the record number of attendees, and of the quality of the displays from which everybody had learnt a great deal.

The following is a list of members who attended part or all of the weekend:

Ms C Angier
Mr M Annells
Mr G E Barker
Mr B Berkinshaw-Smith
Mr M L Bister
Mr G H Bowden
Dr I T Boyle
Dr R J Dean
Mr A Dent
Mr H S Filipiuk
Mr R G Gethin
Mr E J Grabowski
Mr J N Hammonds
Mr G P Henderson

Mrs P Henderson
Mr C J Hitchen
Prof B S Jay
Mr R I Johnson
Mr P R A Kelly
Mr D C Lamb
Mr A Lawrence
Mr B Lucas
Mr B G Lythgoe
Mrs L Marley
Mr J M Massler
Mr J P Maybury
Mr I McQueen
Mr W G Mitchell

Mr J O Moffatt
Mrs Y Z Newbury
Mrs M Pavey
Ms B M K Priddy
Mr D J Richardson
Dr W I Stevenson
Mr P S Stockton
Mr M S Tyler
Dr S S Vaitilingam
Mr P S Watkins
Mr J West
Mr J L Whiteside
Mr A J Wood
Mr R Wood

MST

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 26 APRIL 2000

Ian Nutley: *La Ligne Mermoz*

Ian began his display on the airmail service between Europe and South America by pointing out that although Mermoz was one of the finest pilots of what became known as just "The Line," the aim to get from the west coast of France to South America in a fortnight was the dream of Latécoère. Exploratory flights from Toulouse took place in 1918, and a contract was awarded in 1919, leading to a weekly service from Toulouse to Rabat, and later in the year to Casablanca. In 1920 a total of 182,000 letters were carried by this service, and the journey from Casablanca to Paris now took 30 hours instead of up to 11 days.

By 1921 there were 4 flights per week, and the use of the Guillaumet label was often seen instead of the normal airmail one, and there later followed the development of a red envelope. Flights were gradually extended in stages down to Dakar, and by 1925 there was a regular weekly service from Casablanca to Dakar, with mail being picked up at Port-Étienne in Mauritania. British mail also went to Dakar by this route. A series of accidents, forced landings, delays and even fatal crashes were recorded during this period (in fact, over 120 men died in mail flights between 1920 and 1940), and in 1925 damaged mail was often forwarded in 'ambulance' covers.

The first non-stop flight across the South Atlantic took place in 1927, and a cover carried on this flight was one exhibit, along with examples of many other historic moments in this history, such as survey flights along the Brazilian coast. Latécoère came under new management in 1928 and the company changed its name to CGA. We saw examples from this period of covers to Paraguay, Buenos Aires to Asunción, Chile to Paris, Peru to Bolivia, and Argentina to Chile (with a cover signed by Mermoz); and also covers carried by Guillaumet (flying through the peaks of the Andes) and by Saint-Exupéry. A full service opened in 1928, but with the ocean crossing taking place by ship. Mail was accepted from Belgium and Switzerland, and we saw 2 of 3 known company etiquettes of this time. The first British service (also in 1928) was very expensive, mainly because the weight step was ½oz and not 5g. Mail from Gambia was introduced, but was carried by ship to Dakar.

Among the items shown were many first flight covers, a number of the high British rates (with some reductions), and handstamps such as mail "opened in Mauritania" (when a truer description might have been "ransacked by the Moors," as it was picked up from a crash on payment of a ransom for the crew!), and the 'delayed' label "*avion atrasado*" on an Argentine cover of 1931. The first all-air service of the line (Paris - Toulouse - St Louis (Senegal) - Natal (Brazil) - Argentina) was in a seaplane piloted by Mermoz in 1930, but the attempted return flight suffered from failures to take off and the mail was carried by sea from Brazil to Dakar.

After the usual break for viewing, the story continued with a 1932 crash in Brazil, when the mail was washed up on a beach, and envelopes addressed to such places as England, Germany and Denmark had "Do not tax" added by the French Post Office. In 1933 the Couzinet *Arc-en-Ciel* was flown by Mermoz from France to Argentina with a great deal of mail on board - although mail from the return flight is much rarer. During this period a label or cachet was often applied to covers to publicise air carriage; and a wide variety of cachets from 1934 onwards was shown as a result of the new Air France experimental flights across the Atlantic.

Flying was still very dangerous at this time, of course, and mail from numerous air crashes was shown, with cachets such as "*Raid Interrompu*." Thus we saw 1935 crash mail forwarded from Casablanca to destinations in Europe, a letter from Chile with all the stamps washed off, mail from a plane that had flown into a mountain because it was inadvertently travelling in the wrong direction, another that crashed in Peru after a successful crossing of the Atlantic and of the Andes, letters from a mailbag found by fishermen after the disappearance of a plane, and from the crash of a Dewoitine in the Pyrenees.

In 1936 the first French weekly service to South America took place, involving cooperation with the Germans who had their own separate weekly service; and an all-air service developed (though it reverted for a time to an air/sea service) that took on contract mail from countries including Britain, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Uruguay, and produced the cachet "*Entièrement transporté par avion*." The 100th crossing of the South Atlantic was commemorated first by a postmark and then by a stamp (here shown used in 1938).

In 1939 the British service by Air France was suspended for a time, and on resumption the rates were increased. In 1940 the 500th crossing of the South Atlantic took place, with the last mail from South America to Great Britain that could be delivered arriving on 8 June. Two letters shown here were sent from Argentina on 7 and 8 June 1940, but were "detained in France during German occupation" until 1945. The service was not resumed until 1946.

In giving the vote of thanks, Derek Richardson said that, although he was not an expert in airmails, he did know something about airmail rates, and he was impressed by the encyclopaedic knowledge shown by Ian, as well as the fascinating material he had accumulated - especially the crash mails and the interesting stories associated with them. We had all appreciated a very enjoyable evening.

MST

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 90 1^{er} Trim 2000: Fiscaux-postaux de Syrie-Liban (Mathieu); L'Enigme du Losange CCN8 (Tricot); Bizarreries Calédoniennes (Bessaud); Les surcharges de 1912 (Michon); Tarifs Aériens de Madagascar (Desnos); Le PACIFIQUE des Messageries Maritimes (Ladiesse); La Guyane continue de moudre du grain (Bouéat).

N° 91 2^{ème} Trim 2000: Vive La Flamme! (Artaud); Fiscaux-postaux de Syrie-Liban (Mathieu); À propos d'Arad «Occupation Française» (Cancade); Un faux d'Obock (Brun); Le retour de l'Empire Français... (Drye); Martinique N° 21 la double surcharge (Jouvent); Les négociants en timbres de Memel [1920-1923] (Pineau); La naissance de Col.Fra (-); Les timbres de Pécule [Arrêtés Indo-chine] (-); Nouveaux tarifs Postaux [Haiphong 17/6 et 5/7/1939] (-).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 259 (Vol.56, N° 1) Jan 2000: Senegal: Prepayment of Postage in Cash during January 1902 ctd [A not entirely resolved Philatelic Mystery] (Mattei & Bouerat); The Published Writings of Jacques Desrousseaux (JY Desrousseaux); Status of the Post Office at Tananarive [Madagascar] from November 1895 to April 1896 (Varin); Types and Subtypes: 20c cameo Sower (-); A Stamp modelled from a Vignette (Luft); Shortage of Stamps in Tahiti in 1884 (Hellebrekers); Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories - 49 (Cohn)..

Whole N° 260 (Vol 56, N° 2) Apr 2000: Senegal: Prepayment of Postage in Cash during January 1902 ctd [A not entirely resolved Philatelic Mystery] (Mattei & Bouerat); The Published Writings of Jacques Desrousseaux (JY Desrousseaux); A World War II - East Africa Miscellanea (Spong); A Commentary on Paul Larsen's "Slogan Cancels of Fort Lamy, Chad" in N° 254, October 1998 (Mitchell); Marianne de Luquet - New Discoveries (Luft); Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories - 51 (Cohn); Determining the dates of Rate Changes in the Colonies (Luft); French Military - Postal Bureaus in ex-Yugoslavia - Periodic update (Luft).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

Permanent features: Dossier, Variétés, Flammes et Oblitérations, Livres, Maximaphilie, Thématique.

N° 1728 Mar 2000: Les blasons des villes [6^e série] (Trassaert); Les colis et la Poste [1^{ère} Partie] Trassaert); Colonies: Paroles d'enveloppe [Nouméa-Sydney] (Delpy).

N° 1729 Apr 2000: Les blasons des villes [7^e série] (Trassaert); Le Musée de La Poste (-); Les colis et la Poste [2^e partie] (Trassaert); Chute de Saigon: 25 anniversaire (- et Chapuis); LISA, maximaphile [S Millán, le vrai] et histoire postale [Aux temps agités de la Commune] (Gengembre et Héron).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 300 1^{er} Trim 2000: L'affranchissement d'une lettre simple de Paris pour la Suisse en 1833 (Pothion); Un «bureau de poste de la cour»: Saint Cloud [1788-1815] (Thouvenin); Avis «aux fonctionnaires» comme «aux amateurs» (de la Mettrie); Quand midi sonnait à 5 heures: La décimalisation du temps sous la Révolution (Balsenc); Guerre de 1870 (Chezard); Une remise autorisée de lettre hors établissement postal? [1797-1800] (Douron); Remise, Reconnaissance, Mandat. Les articles d'argent ou du bon usage du vocabulaire (Sené); Bangor? Vous avez dit Bangor? (Gibot); Les affranchissements partiels (Chauvet); Guerre de 1870 (Chezard); L'enregistrement nominatif des «Port Payés»: Histoire d'une mention manuscrite - 1821-1875 (Abensur); Accident postal «curieux» (Pothion); Le service des Postes en Algérie après la prise d'Alger (Sauvage); Exposition Internationale de 1881 (Desarnaud); La mise en place du service des rebuts aux XVIII^e et XIX^e siècles par l'Administration des postes (Albaret); Entiers postaux utilisés à l'Office italien de Tunis (Dutau); A votre bon cœur, Mesdames et Messieurs (Bridelance); Les cachets de la boîte aux lettres du Grand Hôtel du Palais à Poitiers [1870-1882] (Tixier); La Commune de Paris [18 mars - 28 mai 1871] (Dumoutier); Marques de censure en Cilicie [1919-1920] (Parenti); Les marins et militaires français internés en Turquie à la suite de la guerre de Syrie [juin-juillet 1941] (Ablard); Un demi-siècle d'histoire de la Poste aux Armées françaises (Revolta).

N° 301 2^{ème} Trim 2000: Secret et inviolabilité des lettres (Boglione); Commune de Paris (-); La fureur de lire du Marcophile: Un curiste à Plombières en 1802 (Strohl); Atelier Histoire de la poste en milieu rural (-); A propos des boîtes urbaines et du service postal local (Douron); Pénitencier agricole de Chiavari (Leridon); Toulon du 6 fructidor an I au 8 frimaire an II (Gregnac-Daudemard); Un curieux moyen d'acheminer un courrier (Trassaert); Pénurie de timbres au Cameroun (-); YMCA (Pouchoulin); La NEC 3A de Paris 14CTC (Feuvrier); Quand Saint-André de CERNAY était le SS-AUSBILDUNGSLAGER SENNHEIM (Kauffmann); L'occupation italienne à Menton de 1940 à 1943 (Gérard); Colliers de sac (Dumoutier); Un ancêtre ou un substitut des timbres-téléphone? (Charbonnier/Sené); Flammes Daguin et pseudo Daguin des Jeux Olympiques de Colombes (Perry); Les nouveautés en matière de guichets-annexes (Delvaux).

Le Monde des Philatélistes

Permanent features: Aérophilatélie (Abouchar), Cartophilie (Zeyons), Marcophilie, Polaires (Joffre), Poste Navale et aux Armées, Thématique.

N° 549 Mar 2000: Le Musée de la Poste fait peau neuve (Buffier); Patrimoine: la Cité éternelle de

Carcassonne (Buffier); Parlement de Rennes, siège de pouvoir et lieu de culture (Buffier); L'affranchissement multiple ou composé en mécanotélie (Delmarre); Poste restante: les cartes d'abonnement (Blanc); La ligne du Havre (Bougue et Duran); Des boîtes aux lettres qui se déplacent...[2] (de la Mettrie); Le courrier «hors sac» (Trassaert).

[From Issue No 550 April 2000 *Le Monde* is incorporated into a new magazine *Timbres magazine*. Their issue numbering system is retained in the heading of the new magazine.]

Timbroscopie

Permanent features: Les variétés, Les coins datés, Les essais de couleur.

N° 177 Mar 2000: Des timbres inconnus au catalogue [République du Congo et Madagascar] Bélivier); Le musée de la Poste fait peau neuve (Minaux); L'histoire du timbre Carcassonne (Michaud); Les 10c Semeuses rouge 2^e Partie (Melot et Brun).

[From Issue No 178 April 2000 *Timbroscopie* is incorporated into a new magazine *Timbres magazine*. Their issue numbering system is retained in the heading of the new magazine.]

Timbres magazine

Permanent features: Expertise, Les nouveautés de France et des TOM, Les variétés, Manifestations, Marcophilie, Poste navale, Polaires.

N° 1 Apr 2000: L'étonnant 0,70F "Marianne du Bicentenaire" (Gangnard); Les postiers aussi ont des remords (de la Mettrie); Les timbres du siècle (Michaud); La Corrèze (Michaud); Le type "Blanc" 1900-2000 (Brun); Acheter et vendre sur Internet (Melot); Monaco: les années classiques et semi-modernes (Granier); Semi-modernes: les cours lâchent la cote (Melot); Lettre à un officier porté disparu à Guadalcanal [American bases in New Caledonia, New Hebrides and Solomon Is] (Chauvin); Cartes Postales: Comment trouver le juste prix? (Zeyons).

N° 2 May 2000: Cartes Postales: Les hommes du bois (Zeyons); Contre le «tournis» des lettres (de la Mettrie); La Polynésie au temps des Établissements français de l'Océanie: Une première série très réussie, les timbres «Lemasson» (Beslu); La Haute-Saône: Une «discretion» philatélique qui confine à l'oubli (Michaud); Le type "Blanc" 1900-2000 ctd (Melot); Monaco: les années classiques et semi-modernes (Granier); Marché: 1935-37: des timbres à aborder au coup par coup (Melot); La démonétisation est-elle philatéliquement correcte? [Les effets de l'euro] (Melot).

BOOKSHELF

Books Noted

The Paris Universal Exposition 1900, by Charles Kiddie (2000). A catalogue of 142 A4 pages, 60+ in full colour, published as a celebration of 100 years of French vignettes. 1000s of listed vignettes each having their own catalogue number and, apart from colour variants, all vignettes are illustrated in full colour at their actual size. Many vignettes and much information previously unknown to collectors. Published to celebrate 100 years of French vignettes. The catalogue gives information about the Exposition and illustrates, mainly in colour, associated items such as postcards with or depicting vignettes of the Exposition. A major work of Cinderella philately. Spiral bound. No vignettes were issued specifically for the Olympic Games in Paris in 1900 and, as a result, often collectors include the Paris 1900 Exposition vignettes as representing the Games in 1900. Price £46 post free in the UK. Available from Charles Kiddie at PO Box 13, Alton, Hants. GU34 4DW; cheques to be made payable to "World Poster Stamps."

Étude des variétés aux types des timbres du Maroc, by Jean-Philippe Desjeunes (January 2000). A4 format, 55 pages, illustrations in colour. No price given, and only a telephone number for information: 03 22 71 71 87. [Member of SPLM lists varieties of Blanc, Mouchon and Merson issues used in Morocco, with observations on the colours, paper, surcharges, perforations, *millésimes* and, occasionally, postal stationery and forgeries.]

Catalogue Libération (7^e édition, 2000), by Pierre Mayer. 120 pages, colour and b/w, format 145 x 210mm, 300F. Information from Pierre Mayer, 4 rue Drouot, 75009 Paris. [Liberation stamps listed by town, with a table of overprints; colour plates; price of stamps mint and on cover.]

Le Spécialisé volume 1, timbres de France 1849-1900, by Pascal Behr, Jean-François Brun and Michèle Chauvet, pub. Yvert & Tellier. 496 pages, all in colour, A4 format, padded cover, price 380F plus p&p. Available from *L'Écho de la Timbrologie*, 37 rue des Jacobins, 80036 Amiens Cedex 1. [The successor to the 1939 and 1975 editions, but completely reorganised; the forthcoming volume 2 will cover usage, postage due, newspaper stamps and precancels.]

La Poste, du messager à cheval au courrier électronique, by François Bertin, pub. Éditions Ouest-France. 144 pages, illustrated with 450 photographs, price 199F. Available from the shop at the Musée de la Poste, 34 boulevard de Vaugirard, 75731 Paris Cedex 15. [History of postal services through a guided visit of the Paris Postal Museum.]

Maurice Tyler

February 2000 Auction Realisations

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
1	22.00	85	8.00	189	45.00	263	10.00	323	5.00	395	15.00
3	4.50	86	6.50	191	8.00	267	32.00	324	8.00	397	15.00
4	4.00	87	6.50	193	11.00	268	7.50	325	1.50	398	17.00
5	2.50	89	11.00	196	5.00	269	16.00	326	6.50	399	21.00
7	4.50	92	6.50	197	6.50	270	6.00	327	6.50	400	10.00
8	5.00	94	4.50	198	5.50	271	9.50	329	8.00	401	5.00
9	8.00	95	3.00	199	8.50	272	6.00	330	2.50	402	30.00
10	5.50	97	9.00	200	6.00	273	5.50	331	2.50	403	5.50
11	10.00	98	10.00	201	10.00	276	6.50	332	4.00	404	4.00
12	3.00	99	4.00	203	15.00	277	12.00	334	50.00	405	11.00
13	2.50	100	4.00	205	12.00	278	5.50	349	7.50	406	11.00
14	20.00	101	27.00	206	22.00	279	2.50	350	1.50	407	4.50
15	17.00	103	6.00	207	10.00	280	4.00	351	2.50	408	4.00
16	5.00	104	11.00	208	8.00	283	13.00	353	5.00	413	5.00
17	7.50	105	5.50	210	24.00	284	10.00	354	3.00	414	5.50
18	8.00	106	6.50	213	6.00	285	5.50	356	13.00	415	25.00
20	4.00	115	2.50	214	12.00	286	4.00	358	5.50	417	7.50
21	6.50	116	28.00	216	20.00	287	5.00	359	5.00	419	14.00
22	4.50	117	6.00	217	30.00	289	3.00	360	16.00	420	10.00
23	5.00	118	6.50	219	7.00	290	5.50	361	6.50	422	10.00
28	4.00	120	7.00	226	25.00	291	14.00	362	7.00	423	25.00
29	5.00	121	7.00	229	6.00	292	6.00	363	25.00	424	16.00
32	16.00	122	8.00	230	8.00	293	5.50	365	4.50	425	13.00
39	6.50	126	6.50	231	17.00	294	24.00	366	2.50	426	5.50
40	9.50	128	6.50	232	6.00	298	1.50	367	3.00	427	4.00
44	7.00	129	6.50	233	7.50	299	8.50	368	4.50	428	9.00
46	35.00	134	17.00	235	18.00	300	1.50	369	5.00	429	9.00
47	5.00	135	7.50	237	8.00	301	2.50	370	2.00	430	6.50
49	7.00	136	7.00	238	7.50	302	6.50	371	4.00	431	7.50
51	4.00	142	10.00	239	4.50	303	6.00	372	3.00	432	12.00
53	4.50	144	25.00	241	8.00	304	5.50	373	3.00	433	130.00
54	33.00	146	19.00	242	29.00	305	6.00	375	2.00	440	5.00
55	17.00	147	7.00	243	13.00	306	2.50	376	5.00	441	8.50
68	12.00	152	74.00	244	7.50	307	9.00	377	10.00	442	21.00
71	20.00	154	25.00	245	5.50	309	30.00	378	8.00	443	10.00
72	7.50	155	12.00	246	6.50	310	25.00	380	4.00	444	10.00
73	37.00	157	15.00	247	5.00	311	22.00	381	2.00	445	7.00
74	15.00	161	6.50	248	6.00	312	7.50	382	5.00	446	9.00
75	40.00	170	7.00	249	9.50	313	5.00	384	2.00	447	5.00
76	15.00	172	8.00	250	8.50	314	5.00	385	3.50	448	6.00
77	47.00	173	18.00	251	15.00	315	6.00	386	3.50	449	8.00
78	16.00	174	21.00	253	5.00	316	4.50	387	9.00	450	4.50
79	6.50	175	13.00	255	20.00	317	3.00	388	5.50	E&OE	
80	25.00	176	16.00	256	13.00	318	40.00	389	6.00		
81	9.00	179	4.00	257	10.00	320	1.50	392	16.00		
82	5.00	183	6.00	260	20.00	321	2.50	393	15.00		
84	25.00	184	15.00	262	7.50	322	3.00	394	15.00		

Leamington Weekend 2000

