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THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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The Society

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

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The Magazine Circuit

The Society subscribes to two French philatelic magazines, and has circuits organised for those who wish to read them.
For further details contact the circuit organiser:
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* * *

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Data Protection Act. Members are advised that their details are stored electronically, for use on Society business only, e.g address label printing.

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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Examples of *ColiPoste* packages and label - see page 143

Obituary: H S H Bidmead



Stan Bidmead welcoming our French guests at BPE Hammersmith in 1983

Stanley Bidmead (Member No 39) died on 20 June 2000 aged 79 after a long and depressing illness. He was born in Shepton Mallet, Somerset, where his father worked in the post office service and was educated at the Blue School in Wells. Not long before the outbreak of war, he entered the Admiralty Scientific and Research department at Portland dockyard. His work progressed and took him into the travelling Inspectorate, and his interest in postage stamp collecting began to develop with the opportunity to visit dealers around the country. His desire to join the services led to a long struggle to be allowed to leave his reserved occupation, which was eventually successful when he was accepted for training as a pilot with the RAF. Fortunately or unfortunately, the end of the conflict put an abrupt end to this new venture just as he was on the point of qualifying, and this inability to gain his "wings" was always a source of regret.

After the war he joined the engineering company Babcock and Wilcox with whom he remained until his retirement. His interest in philately led him to become one of the early members of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society. However, a career move to Scotland throughout most of the 1970s prevented him playing a more active part in the Society's activities at that time although his personal collections were expanding considerably. Upon his return, he began to play an increasingly active role in the life of the Society. His keenest wish was to form closer links with societies and fellow collectors in France. This led to a joint society meeting with the Union Marcophile at BPE

Hammersmith in October 1983, followed by a highly successful and enjoyable participation by the Society in MARCOPHILEX X at Courbevoie in May 1984 during his term as President. Much of the success was due to Stan's hard work and determination, and this set the basis for continued and fruitful Anglo-French cooperation to this day. Shortly after this, in February 1985, he received the great honour of being elected a corresponding member of the Académie de Philatélie.

His wide collecting interests turned more and more to postal history and in particular French entry marks, of which he made a particular study. He displayed widely and encouraged others to do the same. As well as contributing so much to this society, he played an active part in the Royal Philatelic Society, The Society of Postal Historians and local societies including Caterham, Redhill and Croydon amongst others. His desire to succeed was very evident and he encouraged others to do the same. Although he could be somewhat forceful at times, he was always supportive of others and tireless in his promotion of the Society and of philately in general. After many successful entries at international exhibitions, his final achievement was a large vermeil medal at Granada in 1992.

Deteriorating health cut short his philatelic career prematurely, and his enthusiasm and knowledge will be sorely missed. His colleagues and fellow members in the Society extend their sincere condolences to his wife Mavis and his family.

CJH

SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

We welcome the following:

1161 M J Hammond (Devon), 1162 S J St George (France),
1163 D F Collins (Dundee).

* * *

Members Deceased

We are sorry to hear of the death of the following members,
and condolences have been offered to their families:

598 B E Russell of Putney, and 1112 C L Ross of Chertsey.

* * *

Family Connection

The father and son membership of the Society was unfortunately wrongly attributed in the last Journal (page 112), and should have read 1142 Gerald Gosling of Dorset and 1159 Paul Gosling of Hampshire. Apologies!

* * *

Exhibition Successes

The following members of the Society are to be congratulated on winning awards at España 2000 (Madrid 6 - 14 October):

Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith - Gold and Special Prize for
"French Mail to and from the Indian and Pacific
Oceans" (Postal History Class)

Jerry Massler - Silver for "Stamp Papers and Revenue
Stamps used in the Principality of Monaco" (Literature
Class)

Jean-François Brun was one of the experts.

And the following award was made at the Autumn Stampex
(20 - 24 September 2000):

Mick Bister - Silver for "The 50c Jeanne d'Arc Issue"
(National Exhibits)

The following members exhibited at Marcophilex XXIV
(Bonningues-lès-Calais, 7 - 8 October 2000):

Alain Millet - "La campagne de Chine et de Formose,
1884-1885"

Robert Abensur - "Affranchissements insuffisants venant
de l'étranger, de l'introduction du timbre-poste à
l'UGP"

Chris Hitchen - "Bureaux de quartiers de Paris, 1863-1876,
période de l'étoile"

Jean-Luc Trassaert - "Les plis «hors sac»"

Peter Kelly - "Le type Sage et ses voyages (chapitre II)"

And one member gained an award at APS Stampshow 2000
(Providence, Rhode Island, USA, August):

Ernst Cohn - Vermeil for "Unusual Mail in Occupied
France 1870-1871" (Literature Competition)

* * *

Register of Members' Interests

The Society has decided to publish and distribute a register of members' collecting interests which, it is hoped, will have the potential of providing the membership with additional services hitherto not offered by the Society.

A number of specialist societies already issue such a register and the benefits gained can be considerable, particularly for those members who are unable to attend meetings and are therefore less likely to meet fellow collectors with similar interests. The register will provide members with the opportunity to correspond with one another by letter, telephone or e-mail, to exchange information and material and to seek or provide solutions to problems. For members embarking on new collecting areas the register will enable them to contact experienced and specialist collectors for advice and guidance. For those with common interests, it is hoped that the register may also lead to the formation of study groups.

For those with an e-mail address, we anticipate providing an additional electronic Helpline or consultancy network which will facilitate the automatic exchange of information between clusters of members with similar interests. Member Paul Miller is currently devising the system details of which will be announced in a future edition of the Journal.

The scale of success of the register will depend on the number of members who wish to be included. We hope, therefore, that as many members as possible, whether newcomers or experienced collectors, will support this initiative by completing the enclosed application form. The Society reassures its members that they will appear in the register only if they elect to do so. For reasons of security some members may choose not to be included at all or to provide just limited information about their collecting interests with, say, a PO Box Number. Irrespective of its nature, **all the information reproduced in the register is strictly confidential and must not be made available to anyone outside the Society.** In order to accommodate changes in membership and members' interests, the register will be updated and published annually

* * *

Texas Correspondent

Mike Cherrington - not a member of the Society - has written to ask whether any member might be "interested in philatelic correspondence and exchanges with a Yank." He says that he is interested in British and Commonwealth philately, especially covers from before 1960, and also collects some French Colony common designs from the 1930s. He can provide US and Canadian stamps, thematic US postmarks (space, zeppelins, railroads, etc) and some world wide stamps. He is a member of the APS, and past president of his local stamp club, "located way out in dusty Texas." His address is M D Cherrington, 2804 Andover, Midland, Texas 79705, USA.

* * *

SPLM

The following is an edited version of details recently sent us:

The SPLM is a philatelic society for study & research, and a non-profit-making association defined under French law, specialising in **Moroccan** philately, and in particular: the stamps and postal history of the local posts of Morocco; the postal marks known as "*cachets MAGHZEN*"; the stamps and postal history of the Chérifien Posts; the stamps and postal history of Morocco (German, British, Spanish, French and Independent); the French military post of Morocco; and all matters relating to Moroccan philately.

The society is also interested in **Tunisian** philately: postal history from forerunners to the present day; Franco-Arabic cancellations; the French military post of Tunisia; and all matters relating to Tunisian philately.

SPLM has an extensive documentation relating to the above mentioned areas; and this can be sent to its members exclusively in photocopy form.

Relating to the local posts of Morocco, SPLM has published a book (222 pages, in French and in English) which covers everything actually known, as well as unpublished studies on this subject (stamps, errors, postal history, with prices). The book was awarded a Silver medal at Autumn STAMPEX 1997, at ISRAEL '98 and at

PHILEXFRANCE 1999. SPLM has also published a book (in French and in English) covering the cancellations and handstamps of the Chérifien Post.

There is a system for selling and buying stamps, covers, etc, exclusively for SPLM members, called 'Net Price Exchange' (*EPN* or *Échange à Prix Net*).

The SPLM philosophy is mutual help among all its members, so that these can take advantage of each others' research, studies and documentation.

A subscription can be offered for all new issues of Morocco, and a free quarterly bulletin is published (in French and in English) for the exclusive use of members.

The Web site can be visited at: <http://members.aol.com/jhaik5811/p1E.html> and SPLM can be contacted at the following address: 206 bld Péreire, 75017 Paris (e-mail: jhaik5814@aol.com).

* * *

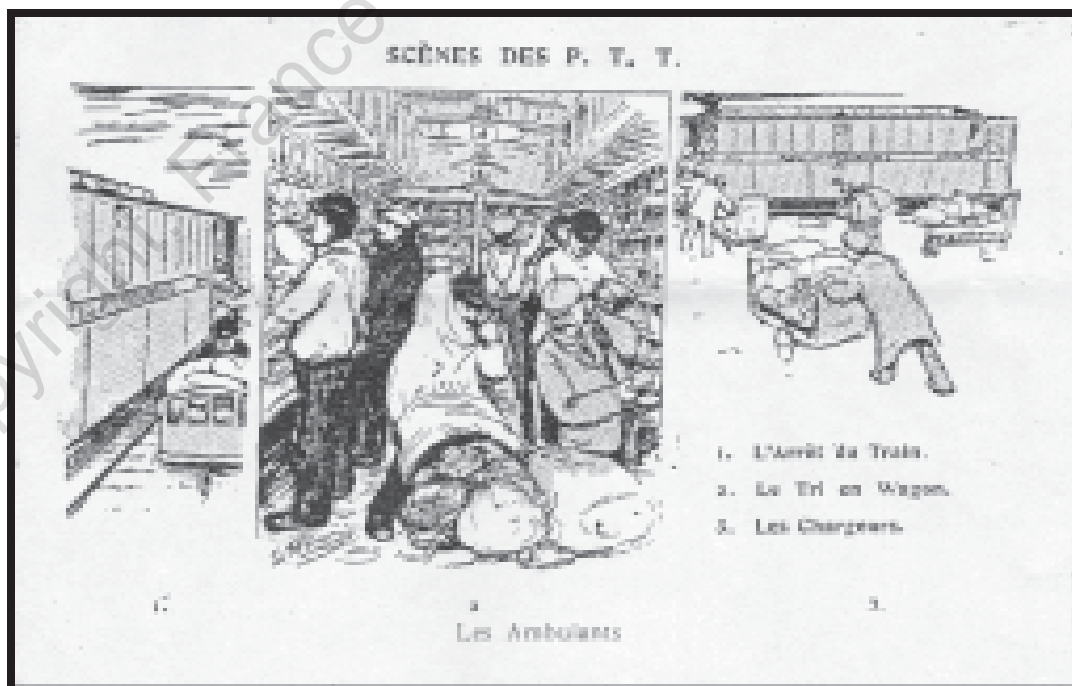
Northern Group

Owing to unforeseen difficulties and matters outside the control of the Society, the meeting that was due to take place at Pudsey Civic Hall on 25 November 2000 had to be cancelled, although it is hoped that the visit by Bill Mitchell can be re-arranged, perhaps for September 2001.

* * *

Postal Humour

Supplied by Robert Johnson



Another example of the Morer cartoons on postcards from 1914 -
see also the front cover.

Togo: the French Occupation

(6 August 1914 - 30 September 1922) – Some New Discoveries

Bill Mitchell

John Mayne's important article (Journal 211, March 1999, page 42) has led me to look again at a handful of covers purchased 40 odd years ago, written up (after a fashion) and then rather side-lined, largely because it was so difficult to find additional material. As John says, the standard work on this subject is "TOGO - The Postal History of the Anglo-French Occupation 1914-1922" by Jeremy Martin and Frank Walton ("M&W"), which was published by the West Africa Study Circle in 1995, and his article has inspired me to study my covers (and some stamps) in the light of what is recorded in the book, with some interesting results which should be put on record, together with new information taken from other sources.

These discoveries can best be set out by post office in alphabetical order; it will be helpful if I explain that Chapter 6 (Town and Village Cancellations) of the book includes a table of earliest and latest dates (in this 1914 - 1922 period) of cancels on the various stamp issues which were in use, and Chapter 8 deals with Registration (German, British and French labels, some pre-printed, some with the office name added by means of a handstamp, were used).

AGBELUVHOE. In his article John mentions, but does not illustrate, three British skeleton cancels, not recorded on French issues. Homer seems to have nodded here; M&W record an earliest date of 9 September 1921 for one of these, given type number 001.01. It is not stated whether this is on a Dahomey stamp overprinted "TOGO/Occupation/franco-anglaise" or the later "mandate" issue overprinted "TOGO" only issued on 15 July of that year, although since it is unusual to find the latter used before July 1922 it is probably on the "occupation" issue. I have a fine example, on a 25c "occupation" stamp (unfortunately off cover) which brings the earliest recorded date forward by four months, to 6 May 1921 (Fig 1)(¹).

ANECHO. I have three registered covers. The earliest, dated 18 December 1915, bears a printed German label with the post office/country name in two lines (M&W type RG 1b) (Fig 2) whose latest date is recorded as 29 October 1915, some six weeks earlier (I understand that a still later date - 7 February 1916 - has been reported elsewhere). The other two, dated 4 and 18 March 1917, have no labels; the registration numbers 227 and 542 respectively have been entered in red ink (Fig 3) - incidentally, this suggests considerable (philatelic?) activity, with 315 registered letters in a fortnight. This was presumably a temporary measure, the supply of German labels having been exhausted, pending receipt of French labels (Fig 4), the earliest recorded date for these being 6 August 1917. This practice, which is not recorded by M&W, is also reported by John Mayne for PORTO SEGURO, and may well have been adopted elsewhere.

ASSAHUN. Only one date (1 February 1921) is recorded for the German cancel, type 004.01, on overprinted Dahomey stamps. This must be on an

"occupation" stamp; I have an example of the 10c 'mandate' stamp (off cover) with this cancel (which is very similar to those illustrated on page 45 of Journal 211) dated "12 1". The year slug is either missing or hasn't registered, but it must have been 1922 or later(²).

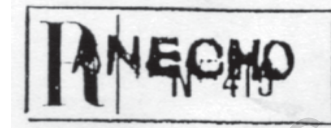


Figure 4

ATAKPAME. I have two registered covers. The earlier (19 April 1917) has a red French label type RF 1 with the office name handstamp (type RH 6) in black (Fig 5); this label is only recorded for ANECHO and from 6 August 1917(¹). My second cover (17 August 1918) bears a black French label of a type not previously recorded as having been used in Togo, at least during the occupation period, with the same handstamp (Fig 6).

NUATJA. M&W record that German postal activities ceased here about 15 August 1914 and that there was a resumption "after 1922". It is reasonable to infer from this, as John has done in his article, that it is questionable whether it was reopened before 1923. I have, however, a cover which shows that this assumption is incorrect: it is dated 29 November 1918. Although the cover is obviously philatelic it is backstamped at Lomé (also 29 November) and Accra (4 December) so it has at least been through the post; and, as the illustration (Fig 7) shows, the canceller has not been specially cleaned up for the benefit of the addressee - on the contrary, the strike suggests that it may have been in store for some considerable time (perhaps over 4 years) during which it deteriorated badly. There is no sign of wear on a postcard, also philatelic, of 5 August 1914 which is illustrated by M&W. The cancel is their type 010.01(³).

AGOME PALIME. John did not illustrate the German STATION PALIME cancel (type 011.01) discussed in his article (page 48), so here it is on a registered cover to the UK (Fig 8) which is interesting for three reasons. Its date (12 September 1921) is three months later than the previously recorded latest date of this cancel on Dahomey overprints (14 June 1921); it is a very early example of the 1921 foreign tariff increase (1 April in France, effective date in Togo unknown but in Cameroun it was 15 September, three days later than the cover); and the black on salmon French registration label, also not recorded as having been used in Togo during the occupation period. The "Palimé" handstamp is M&W's type RH 7.

John mentions that this cancel is of uncertain origin. I agree with him that it is unlikely to be British. It is much more likely that it is a German administrative cachet (not postmark), dating probably from no later than 1910 although I have been unable to trace any record of its use

for this purpose, which the occupying forces passed to the post office because the AGOME PALIME canceller could not be found. German officials, incidentally, preferred to use the small administrative station at Misahohe in the nearby hills, which was cooler; Misahohe seems never to have had a post office, but a similar administration "Station" cachet was in use there before 1900.

Postscript to John Mayne's article in Journal 211

In the course of our correspondence John has mentioned several discoveries of his own which should be recorded for the benefit of future researchers.

AGBELUVHOE. Since I completed my notes John has been fortunate enough to acquire a further example of the cancel 001.01 which brings the earliest recorded date on the "occupation" issue still further forward, by nearly six months. It is on a registered business cover to London (and so on a 50c stamp) of 16 November 1920. The registration label is of the standard German type with the post office/country name in one line, M&W RG 2b, previously reported on one date only, 19 May 1916. The spelling, however, is unusual (Agbeluohoe) and an enlargement is illustrated (Figs 9a and 9b).

[See following pages for colour illustrations]

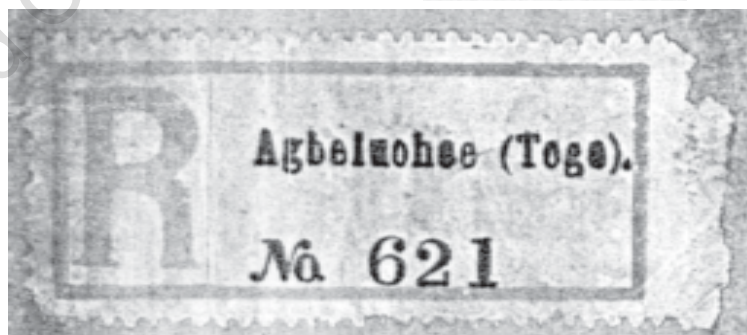


Figure 10

Most of my covers are philatelic. This does not really matter. If it were not for the industrious Mr Wilson, and others like him, we would probably have virtually no material at all to help us gradually unravel the postal history of this small country during and immediately after the First World War.

ATAKPAME. John has an earlier example - 9 January 1917 - of the RF 1/RH 6 registration label recorded in my notes and reports that a still earlier date - 21 August 1916 - has been seen.

PORTO SEGURO. The registered letter with the serial number (178) entered in red ink referred to above is on a "Wilson" cover to the UK (philatelically franked at 1F75!) on 1 July 1918.

TSEWIE. John refers in his article to three British cancels (one of which is incorrectly inscribed GOLD COAST), none of which had been recorded on French issues. He can now report that a 10c "occupation" stamp has been seen with this cancel (M&W type 015.01 - Fig 10) dated December 1920.

Figures 9a and 9b - enlargement of stamp with cancellation, and of registration label, from the same foolscap envelope

Acknowledgments

Jeremy Martin and Frank Walton for figures 4 and 10 and many incidental details.

John Mayne and Michael Ensor for more background information.

Dr Marty Bratzel for a photocopy of the *Journal Officiel du Cameroun* reprinting the *arrêté* of 17 August 1921 giving effect to the foreign tariff increase of that year.

Footnotes

(¹) But see above on this page the Postscript to John Mayne's article.

(²) An article by Michel Melot on "*Le Togo allemand*" in *Timbroscopie* for June 1999 notes the re-use of this Assahun cancel "*du ? au 30/05/21*" and adds "*vu sans millésime* [year slug]" (M&W give the overall period as 14 October 1914 to 24 August 1921). M Melot illustrates an example, on a 5c "mandate" stamp, dated "7 8"; no year is apparent, but it must be 1922 or later.

(³) In his *Timbroscopie* article M Melot notes the overall period of re-use of this Nuatja cancel as "*du ? au 18/11/24*". He illustrates an example, on a 20c "mandate" stamp, dated "11 7"; the year is indistinct but appears to be "24". The strike shows little of the wear and tear apparent on my 1918 example.



Figure 1 (above) - Agbeluvhoe:
British skeleton cancel dated
6 MY 21
(earliest date previously recorded
on French stamps,
9 September 1921)



Figure 3 (above) - Anecho: MS
endorsement of the consecutive
number (542) in red ink,
18 March 1917. German cancel.
Transit marks - Lomé 19 March,
Liverpool; 14 April (29 days).
Philatelic cover but franking
correct (25c plus 25c registration)



Figure 7 (above) - Nuatja:
German cancellation, 29 November 1918.
This office was closed by the Germans
about 15 August 1914 and is not recorded
as having been re-opened until after the
end of the occupation period. The cover
shows that it was operating very soon after
the end of the war. Philatelic cover but
correctly franked at 25c. Transit marks of
Lomé 29 November and Accra 4 December.

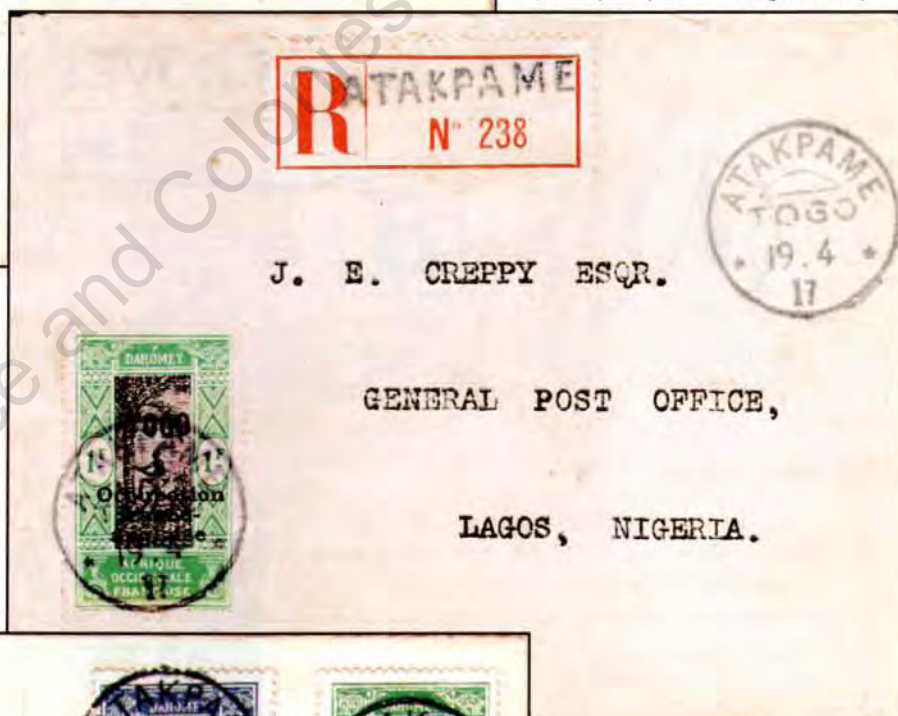


Figure 5 (above) - Atakpamé:
19 April 1917 (German
cancel). The letter reached
Lomé on 20 April and Accra
on 25 April, arriving at Lagos
14 May (transit time 25 days)



Figure 6 (left) - Atakpamé:
French registration label;
German cancel of
17 August 1918.
Lomé transit cachet of
23 August,
date of receipt unrecorded.



Figure 2 (left) - Anecho: German cancel. Lomé transit cachet of 18 December. London arrival cachet of 3 January 1916 (transit time 16 days only). Franking correct (25c basic plus 25c registration). An example of unoverprinted Dahomey stamps used in Togo.

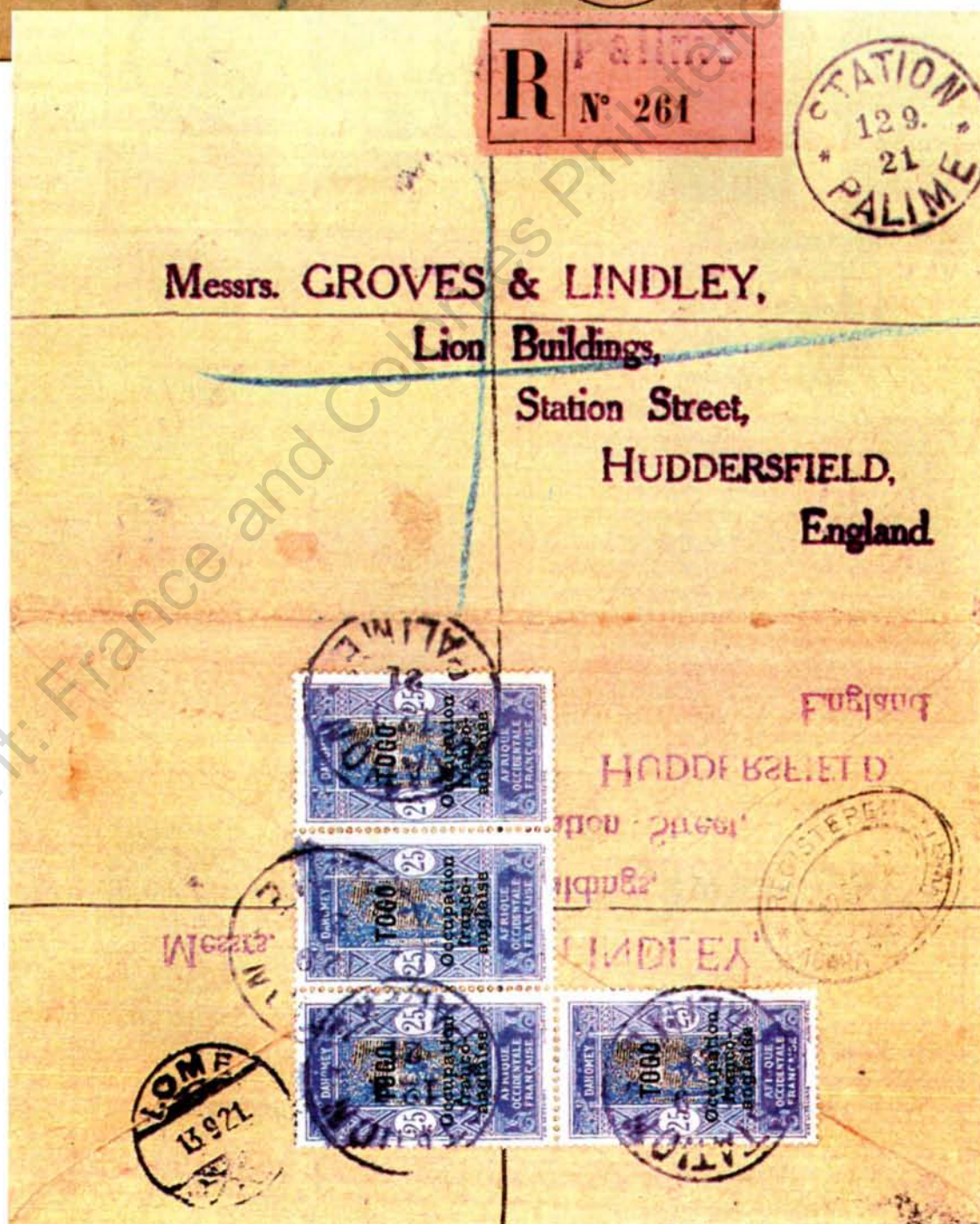


Figure 8 (right)

Introduction to the Rural and Urban Post during the *Type Sage* period 1876 - 1900

Peter Kelly

[This article is adapted from notes on a display given to the Society at Leamington Spa on 21 March 1999, and covers the relevant postmarks and postal history, including Origine Rurale, Origine Locale, Marques des Facteurs, Boîtes Rurales and Boîtes Urbaines.]

Background

In 1830 the rural and local post were completely separated and instructions were given to the effect that the rural postmen were not permitted to distribute mail in the *communes* where their office was based. Similarly the “facteur de ville” or local postman was not allowed to distribute mail outside of the *commune* where his office was based. The reasons for this, initially, were: -

- The *communes* with a post office were exempt from payment of the “*décime rural*” but paid higher contributions.
- The rural postmen often had a long journey to reach *communes* without a post office and within their circumscription and it was judged best to avoid delays in making local deliveries.
- To avoid the need for postmen to handle both categories of letter.

The *décime rural* was abolished on 3 July 1846. From this date the two services began slowly to intermix but the distinction was kept alive until 31.12.1911 when the ancillary handstamps that are the subject of this study were withdrawn. At the beginning of the Sage period the concept of local and national postage rates still existed. It was not until May 1878 that the unified tariff was introduced with one rate irrespective of destination within the country (and Algeria).

Object

This study examines the marks applied by the rural and local postmen to letters collected on their rounds and cleared from boxes and taken back to their offices for the adhesives to be cancelled by that office.

Mail collected from boxes

Urban boxes are those situated in the *commune* where the post office is based. They were lettered in alphabetical order on the postman's round. The addition of a new box would require it to be added in the correct alphabetical sequence which would require the other boxes coming after it to be re-lettered. The procedure was for a handstamp to be kept in each box, as is typified by the example shown in Fig 1, and the postman had to record his visit by stamping a *bordereau* with it. Unlike the rural boxes, there was no requirement for the postmen to stamp the letters with this handstamp, but it was often done. The handstamps of the urban boxes

can be distinguished from those of the rural ones because they are enclosed in a square (Fig 3).

Rural boxes

A rural box was one situated in a *commune* other than the one where the post office responsible for covering it was located. Each box was, again, given a letter to identify it, and the handstamps could be distinguished from the urban boxes by being contained in a circle (Fig 2). The lettering system was the same as for the urban boxes and the postman was not permitted to deviate from the strict alphabetical order of the round. He had to visit each box in turn and mark his *bordereau* with the handstamp provided in each box. Unlike the position of the urban/local postmen, the regulations required him to mark each letter with the stamp, although not on the adhesive (Fig 4).



Figure 1 -
Urban or local box



Figure 2 -
Rural box

Figure 3 (below) - 14 December 1885
Corbeilles-du-Gâtinais (Loiret) to Montargis (Loiret);
collected from urban box A of Corbeilles

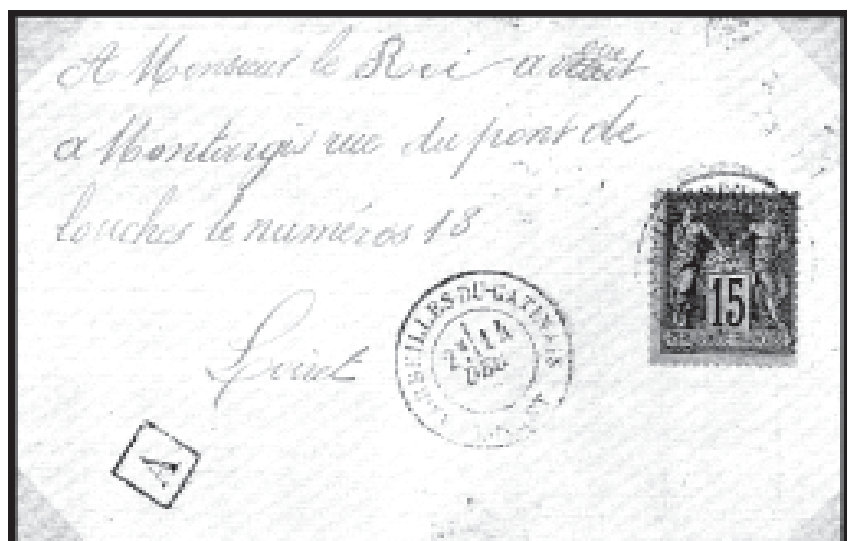




Figure 4 - 16 November 1880
Collected from rural box D of Marines (Seine et Oise)



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

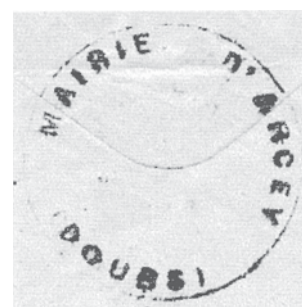
Mail handed to postmen on their rounds

The system originally introduced in 1835 obliged rural postmen to accept letters handed to them on their rounds, and these had to be marked "OR" with the handstamp provided (Fig 5). This avoided confusion with letters cleared from rural boxes. The "OR" handstamp (Fig 8) is known used with red, blue and violet ink although black is the official colour. The use of coloured inks is scarce.

The same rules applied to the town posts and the *facteurs de ville* were provided with a handstamp "OL" in a continuous circle (Fig 6). These are very scarce and seldom encountered. The reason is that the post boxes were

probably more convenient for the users and, in general, it seems that the town postmen were disinclined to use them. Alexandre makes the point that towards the end of the Sage period the "*Recettes*" to which the town postmen belonged had a system by which collection of mail and distribution were separate.

The local postmen working within the *commune* where their office is situated used an "OL" stamp in a ring of dots (Fig 7). These are more often seen (Figs 9 and 10) but considerably less so than the "OR" marks. I have never seen these used with coloured ink and as such they are not recorded by de Beaufond although they may exist.



Backstamp

Figure 8 - 26 November 1876
Arcey (Doubs) to Baume-les-Dames (Doubs)

The commune of Arcey did not have a post office and was in the circumscription of L'Isle-sur-le-Doubs. The letter was handed to a rural postman who stamped it with his "OR" handstamp and took it back with him to his office, where it was cancelled and forwarded to Baume-les-Dames.

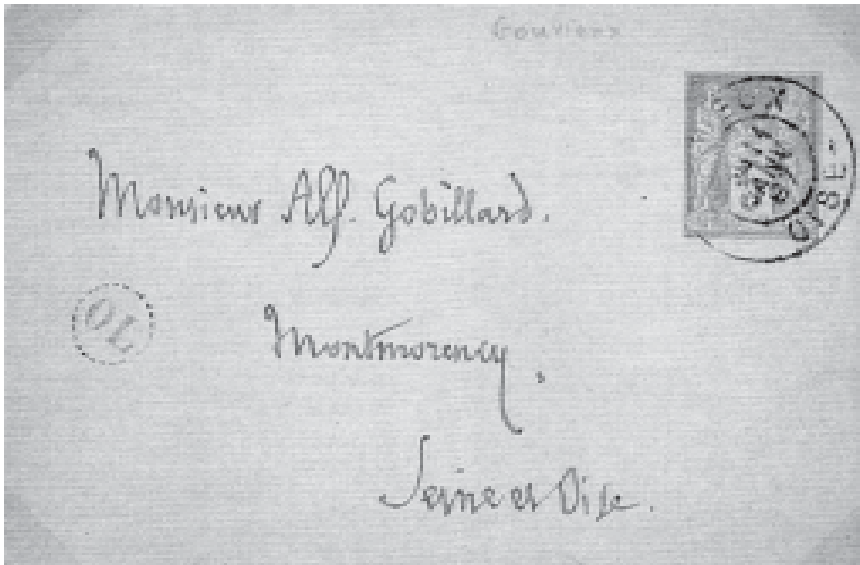


Figure 9 -
11 January 1887
Letter handed to the *facteur local*
on his rounds at Gouvieux (Oise);
handled by the *recette* at Gouvieux.

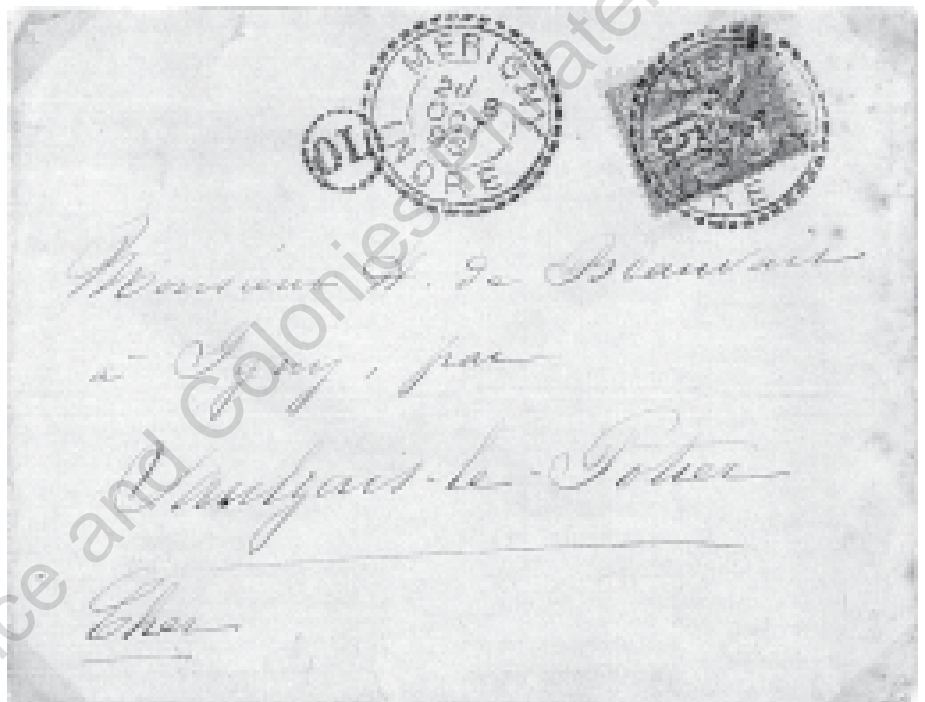


Figure 10 -
6 October 1896
Handed to a *facteur local*
on his rounds at Méry (Indre);
“OL” is less frequently seen
in conjunction with the
Bureaux de Facteurs Receveurs.

Mail cleared from a box or handed to a postman on his rounds and delivered on the same round

The possibility exists for a postman to be handed a letter which he can deliver on the same round, which means that it is not handled by the post office who would normally cancel the adhesive. This is acceptable as far as ordinary letters are concerned, but the post office needed to verify letters sent under franchise as well as “*objets à prix réduits*” (including printed matter, business papers, etc) and these had to be taken back. The post office gave instructions as to how the adhesives should be cancelled, which included a cross in ink and also the “OR” stamp which had to be applied to the corners of the adhesive in such a way as to ensure the cancellation was visible and that the adhesive could not be used again.

Letters cancelled in this way are very collectable, but while adhesives cancelled by the “OR” are met with occasionally (Fig 11 on back cover), those cancelled “OL” are very

scarce. In the larger towns where the postmen had their own personal stamps they used these to cancel any letters falling into this category whereas they could have used an “OL” stamp (if they had one). Examples of the diversity of these little handstamps are given below (Fig 12). There is an example of an undated letter received by postman 2/4 of Marseille on his rounds (Fig 13). He has added his handstamp with his number in an oval to cancel the adhesive and has delivered it.

There is also an example of a letter handed to a postman on his rounds at Baume-les-Dames (Doubs). He has added his postman’s mark F/3 in a circle instead of the “OL” one could have seen (Fig 14 on back cover). In this case the delivery of the letter within Baume is not on his round and he has taken it back to the main office to be treated there.

Combination of *Origine Rurale* and *Boîte Rurale* handstamps used together

The letter below (Fig 15) carries both the "OR" handstamp and that of the rural box "G" of Bouclans. The presence of these two stamps is not the consequence of the rules of the post office imposed on the rural postmen, but seems to be that of individual initiative taken as a result of accidental circumstances. The letter has to be considered as an extremely unusual curiosity but one which has been explained by M Denis Pinhas and supported by Messrs Choisy and Carnévalé of the Atelier "*Histoire de la poste en milieu rural*." M Pinhas has commented as follows:-

"The sender went to the rural box in his commune to post the letter. When he got there he found the rural

postman in the act of clearing the box and applying the box's handstamp "G" on the letters found inside.

The sender handed the letter to the postman. He considered himself obliged to stamp the letter with his "OR" handstamp indicating the "Origine Rurale" and that the letter had been handed to him whilst on his round as opposed to having been cleared from post boxes.

As the postman had the box "G" open in front of him at the time he also stamped the letter with the box's own handstamp and recorded it on his return as having come from that box."

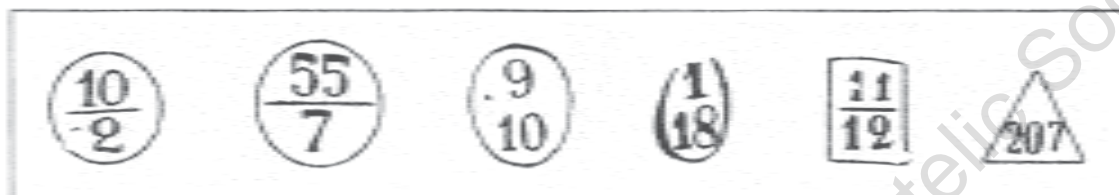


Figure 12

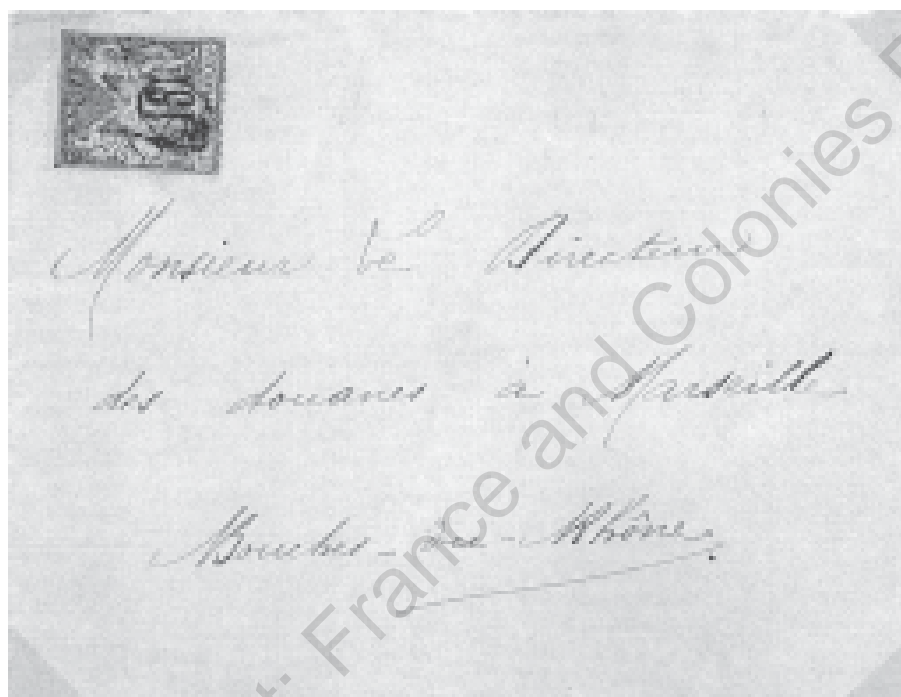
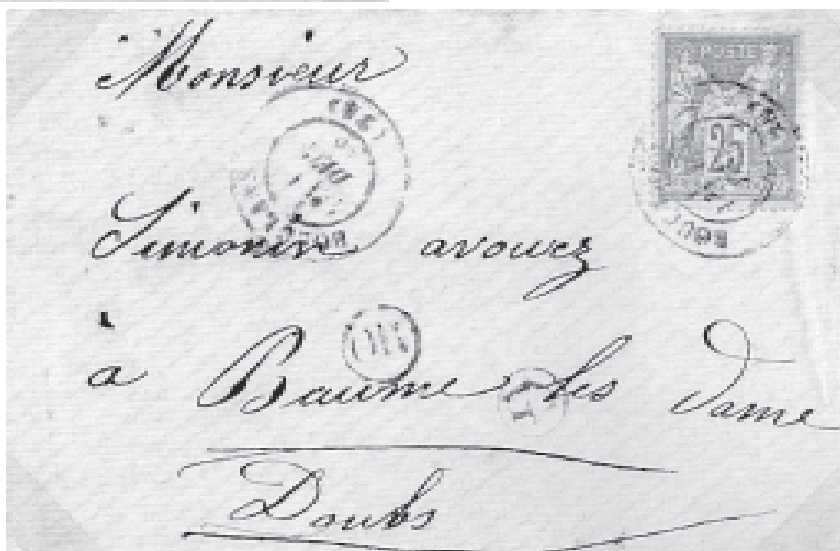


Figure 13 -
No date
Marseille to Marseille;
15c Sage cancelled
by postman's handstamp
2 over 4 in oval.

Figure 15 -
17 December 1876
Bouclans (24) (Doubs)
to Baume les Dames (Doubs)



Association between a Moveable Box and a Rural Box

How were the "BM" and rural box marks used in conjunction?

The following is a supposition.

The commune of St Laurent was attached to the Post office at Lagrasse (Aude) and the letter attributed to their rural box was "G."

The box was cleared by the rural postman who stamped the envelope with the box letter "G." He arrived late at the Lagrasse Post Office and the mails had been sealed but the Courier had not left.

The Postmaster accepted the letter; verified the franking and cancelled the adhesive with the Lagrasse cds. However, the mail bags were sealed, so, with a view to saving a day, he slipped the letter into the moveable box. This was a relatively commonplace practice although it required the authorisation of the Administration.

The route of the Courier took him to Lézignan railway station where there was no "Entreposeur de Gare," so the box was cleared by the Bordeaux to Cette ambulant who placed their stamp on the reverse and the "BM" in oval on the face of the letter.



Figure 16 -

3 July 1878

St Laurent (Aude) to Sallèles-d'Aude (Aude)

cds of Lagrasse (Aude) 3.7

"BM" in an oval and Rural Box "G" in a circle

Reverse: Bordeaux à Cette day TPO 4.7

Cuxac-d'Aude 4.7

Sallèles-d'Aude 4.7

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French Internment Camps (continued)

Derek Richardson

CHAPTER 15

Brens (Tarn)

Phase 1 – sheltering Belgian refugees

Brens was the smaller of the two camps built in the Tarn *département* immediately after the fall of France in June 1940. They were to provide shelter for some of the Belgian refugees who fled south during hostilities. Brens camp occupied an area of 2 hectares compared with the 3½

hectares of Saint-Sulpice-la-Pointe camp and its 20 wooden barrack huts accommodated 1000 Belgians. The Belgians were repatriated after the Armistice, however, so that by September 1940 the camp was unoccupied.

Phase 2 – housing Jewish refugees

Jewish refugees who could not return to their homelands which were under Nazi occupation posed a much more difficult problem for the authorities. It was decided to reopen the camp at Brens to house destitute foreign Jews from the Toulouse area. By the end of October 1940 a thousand had arrived, this total soon rising to 1200. Of the many nationalities there, Poles were the most numerous. Within the camp, a well-ordered regime quickly came into existence involving the observance of Jewish religious practices, vocational training for teenagers and the creation of a school for the children. In their free time, residents could go into the village or even visit the nearby town of Gaillac.

This satisfactory state of affairs lasted only a few months, however. Under anti-Jewish legislation passed by the Vichy government, foreign Jews became liable for internment. The liberal regime at Brens did not qualify as internment, so everybody there had to be moved to other camps. On 18 February sixty elderly people were transferred to the hospital camp of Noé (Haute-Garonne) and on 28 February 793 persons comprising children under eighteen plus their parents were evacuated to the camp at Rivesaltes (Pyrénées-Orientales) and the remaining inmates, 445 unmarried men and women, were moved to Gurs camp (Basses-Pyrénées).

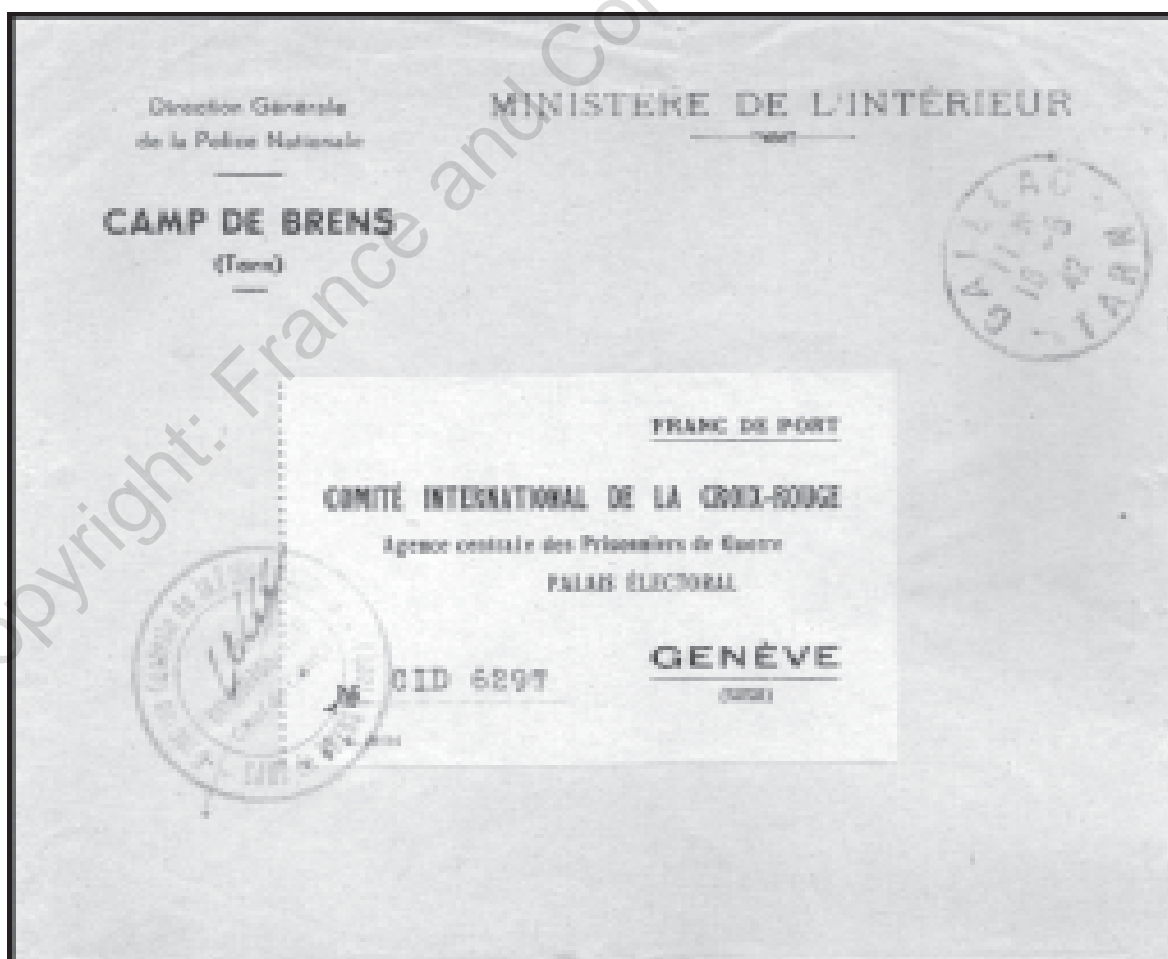


Figure 1

Phase 3 – guarding women prisoners

On 31 December 1941, the Tarn *département* Prefect announced that Brens camp would become a so-called *centre de séjour surveillé*, a secure camp in which to intern women who were shortly to arrive from the camp at Rieucros, near Mende (Lozère). The latter was overcrowded and due for closure. [Rieucros camp was discussed in Chapter 3, which appeared in Journal 168.] To achieve the appropriate level of security, work began on the erection of a surrounding 3-metre high barbed-wire fence and the construction of three watchtowers. The security measures were needed because of the presence among the internees of political prisoners – convicted communists, mostly – classified as “of danger to the security of the State.”

Four hundred women and children arrived on 15 February 1942 accompanied by the staff from Rieucros headed by a Commissioner of Police who was assisted by about a dozen inspectors or agents. A squad of 20 male guards was responsible for external security, while 15 female supervisors were employed inside the camp. The “politicals” numbered 120, 31 French and 89 foreign women. The other 280 included petty criminals, prostitutes and other undesirables, but also many unfortunates who were incarcerated for no reason at all. Spanish women and

children made up the largest foreign group, which numbered 63. The 30 Jewish women at Brens were conveyed to Drancy camp on 22 September 1942 from where they were deported to the East. As a result of these and other transfers, releases and new arrivals, camp population fluctuated, peaking at about 450 in the middle of 1942 and diminishing from then onwards.

On 5 June 1944, Brens camp closed for the last time when the staff plus the remaining 151 internees were moved to Gurs camp. On this date, the internees, 90 French and 61 foreign, comprised 78 “politicals,” 44 common law offenders, 14 prostitutes, 9 convicted of black market offences and 6 children. On their arrival at Gurs, the women from Brens (*les Brensoises*, as they came to be known) erupted with anger on seeing the bad living conditions there. They protested by setting fire to one of the barrack huts and threatening to burn the whole camp. After spending the night in the open air they were eventually allowed to occupy part of the camp hospital where conditions were relatively good. However, security in the camp hospital was lax and in the course of the next three weeks 23 of the women made their getaway. No attempt was made to recapture them.



Figure 2



Figure 4



Figure 5

Postal History

Phases 1 and 2 of Brens camp occupation were both of short duration and no censorship of mail took place. The present writer has seen no items of mail to or from the camp, either private or official, dated before the beginning of 1942. During Phase 3, however, which lasted over two years, censorship was in force and items censored at Brens can be found. However, due to the relatively small camp population, such items must be regarded as rare.

Figure 1 is an official letter from the camp commandant postmarked Gaillac / Tarn / 16-5 42 and bearing a green reply paid sticker addressed to the CID (*Civils Internés Divers*) section of the CIC-R in Geneva. The envelope is headed with the name of the camp. Such letters contained replies to enquiries concerning missing civilians. This one bears the cachet, struck in violet, of the *chef de camp* (Figure 2). In his book (see References), Sam Simon illustrates on page 63 a cachet similar to Figure 2 except

that the words “*Direction Générale*” are replaced by the word “*MINISTERE*,” no date or other details are quoted.

Figure 3 is an internee’s letter, separated from its envelope, unfortunately. It reads: “Christiane Schultes, Aviatrix, Camp de Brens, 28 Sept. 1942. Monsieur Suk, I am writing this letter to beg you to come to Brens camp where I have been since 23 September. I possess a valid German passport and I am an Aryan woman seriously injured in a flying accident [and] I can not stay at the camp. Ch. Schultes.” It bears a censor mark struck in red (Figure 4).

Figure 5 illustrates the cachet, struck in red, of the French Red Cross, which was one of the relief organisations which had a permanent office within the camp. The mark, worded “Croix Rouge Française / Permanence du [Camp] de BRENS (Tarn),” is on an official envelope of the style of Figure 1, postmarked Gaillac / Tarn / 21-11 42 and addressed to the CIC-R in Geneva.

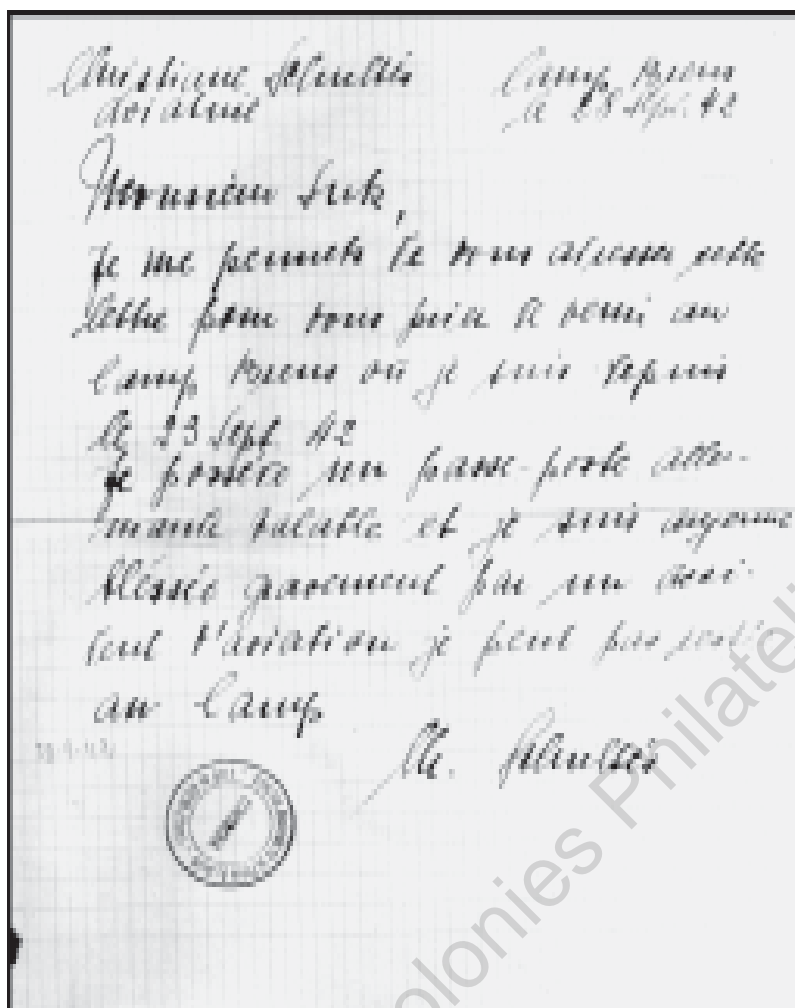


Figure 3 - letter reduced 50%

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FRANCE 1900 - 2000

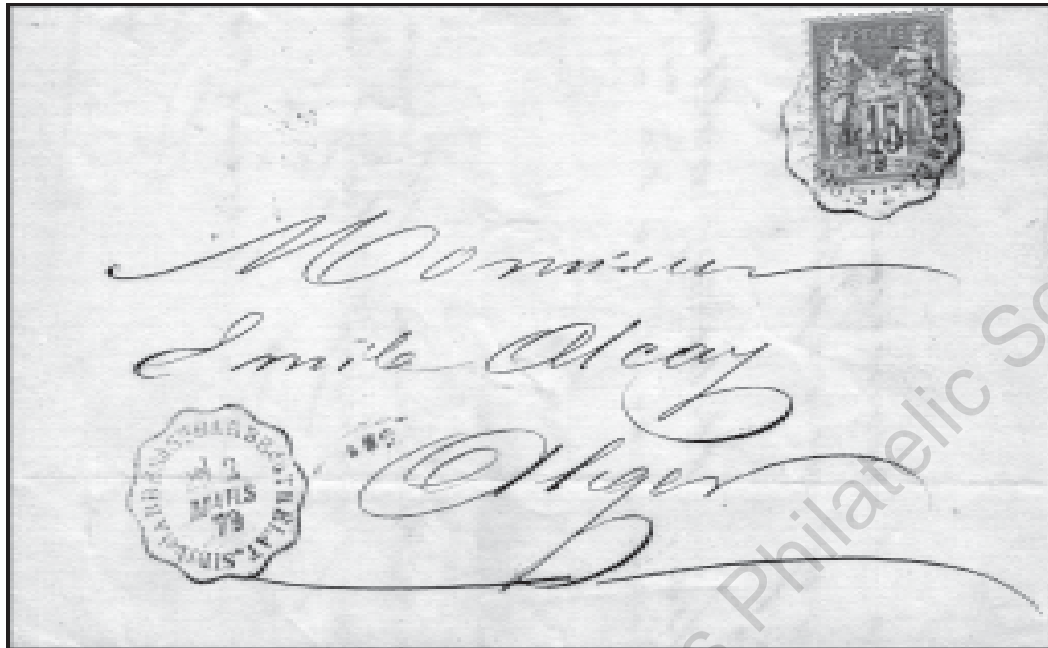
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SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

An Unrecorded *Courrier-Convoyeur-Ligne* (?)



The date stamp on this cover - SIDI bel ABBES à STE BARBE du TRELAT / 2° 2 MARS 79 - appears to be unrecorded by Pothion (1990). The nearest he has published is n° 3595, but that is listed in upper case throughout (SIDI BEL ABBES A STE BARBE DU TRELAT), although Pothion has recorded differences in case in this and other marks where they exist.

There are indistinct, and overstruck, ORAN and ALGER backstamps. The letter is written from "Bel Abbès le 2 Mars 1879," and advises of the despatch of goods by railway to a military unit, "2° Spahis," at Algiers. The date stamp is shown enlarged for greater legibility.



Alec Swain

Where has Monsieur Sinais gone?

On the whole I cannot say that, over the years, I have ever had much cause to complain about the French postal service. At least not until quite recently when I was somewhat irritated because I failed to obtain not only a couple of items in a postal auction, but also the unlucky bidder's consolation prize, the list of prices realised.

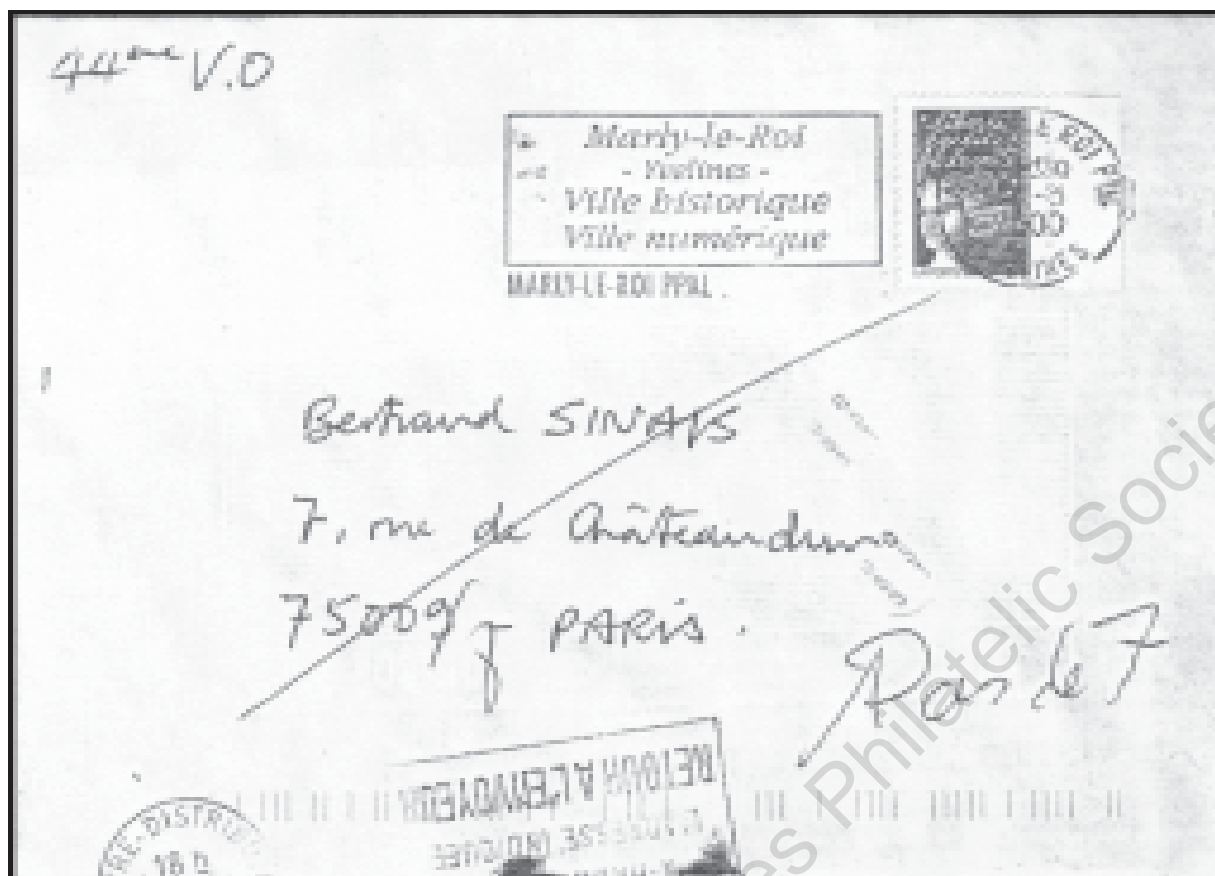
The reason? My bids never arrived at their destination, but they returned to sender some three or four weeks after the sale.

Most, if not all, members will be familiar with the name of Bertrand Sinais, eminent philatelist, dealer in postal history and publisher (member of our society to boot). I would have thought that, given the amount of mail generated by his business, he was reasonably well known in the 9th *arrondissement* of Paris too. Apparently not, however, as the cover illustrated would seem to suggest.

Now, while my writing is by no means impeccable, I still find it hard to believe that M Sinais' address - 7, rue de Châteaudun, 75009 Paris - was so illegible as to make delivery impossible. La Poste personnel evidently thought otherwise and went to some trouble to prove their point:-

- Post code 75009 changed to 75008
- *Pas le 7* - Not number 7
- Line through address
- Postman's circular cachet 85 00 31
- *N'HABITE PAS L'ADRESSE INDIQUEE - RETOUR A L' ENVOYEUR*

Whence the conclusion that, thanks to my writing, Châteaudun must have been the inoperative word.



According to my Paris street guide there are some half-dozen streets where Château figures in the name, but only two bear some resemblance to Châteaudun: namely Chateaubriand and Château d'eau, which are to be found in the 8th and 10th *arrondissements* respectively.

The choice of Chateaubriand - post code 75008 - may have been arbitrary, a postman's whim so to speak, but it is more likely to have been due to the system of classification used in section two of the Post Code Directory, where the first letter of the last word in the place/street name dictates the position in the directory:-

Page 555

CHATEAU	RUE DU CHATEAU	75014
CHATEAU	RUE DU PETIT CHATEAU	75012
CHATEAUBRIAN	RUE CHATEAUBRIAND	75008
CHATEAUDUN	RUE DE CHATEAUDUN	75009

Page 560

EAU	ALLEE DU BORD DE L EAU	75016
EAU	RUE DU CHATEAU D EAU	75010

[Code Postal 2000 is available from Post Offices for the nominal sum of 10F, or consult the official Web site - www.laposte.fr]

The missive must then have made its way from the *bureau distributeur* of the 9th to that of the 8th *arrondissement* where it presumably ended up in the hands of the postman whose regular round includes rue Chateaubriand. As far as he was concerned the name, Châteaudun or Chateaubriand, was probably of little or no importance, but of one thing he was quite certain: there was no M Sinays at number 7, rue Chateaubriand.

This being so, the fact - "Not number 7" - was duly recorded on the cover, accompanied by a line through the address and two faint strikes of the postman's circular cachet.

The postmark slogan, apart from "authorising" the return to sender, only tells us what we already know - the addressee does not live at the address indicated.

John Simmons

Issues for German Cameroon and Togo used by the French

My knowledge of the postal arrangements in Cameroon following surrender to the Allies in 1914 is limited to Togo, and I am aware there will be others who can add to the story for Cameroons.

Whilst German yacht stamps and postal stationery were overprinted in English and French for Togo, only the British overprinted German Kamerun issues, the French overprinting issues of Gabon in 1915.

In Togo, German issues of stamps and postal stationery were no longer valid after the German surrender, and no doubt similar arrangements applied in Kamerun.

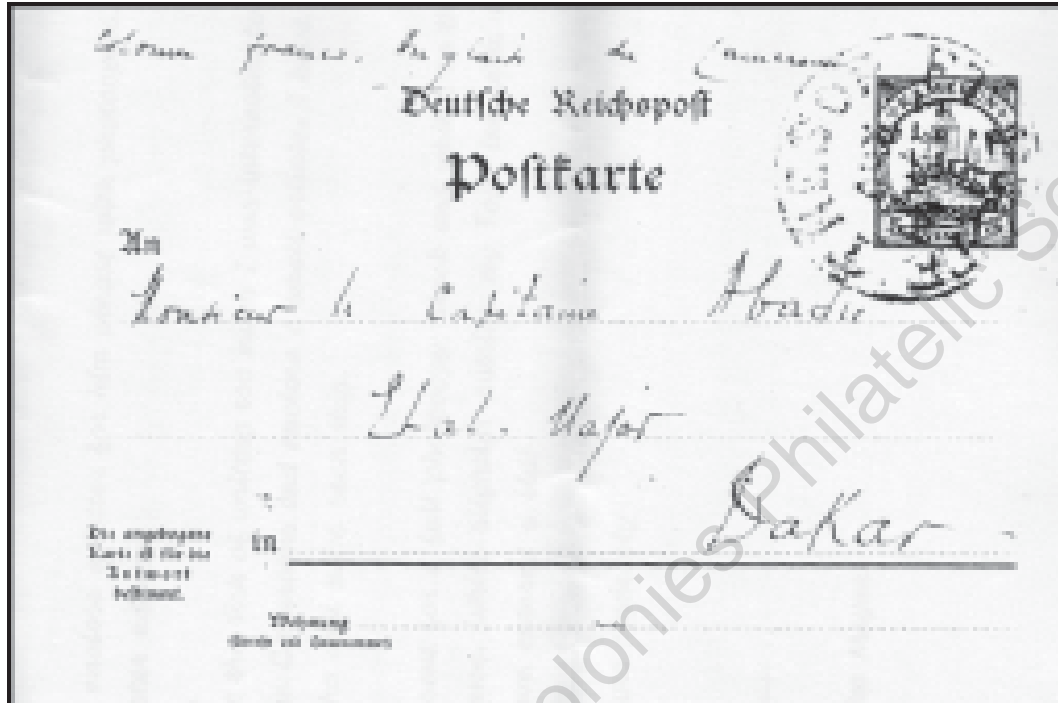
I have examples of German postal stationery used unoverprinted in the British sector of Togo, but have never seen any used in the French sector. I had never seen German Kamerun postal stationery used unoverprinted by the British or French in Cameroon after the invasion

until the following item offered by Lugdunum Philatélie in October this year caught my eye.

This standard German Kamerun reply card (open 'K' in *Karte* variety) - outward half only - was written at Edea on 18.01.1914 (many of us write the wrong year when it changes, and the writer did just that!). It is cancelled by a clear *TRÉSOR ET POSTES AUX ARMÉES* cachet, endorsed 'Colonie Franco-Anglaise du Cameroun' and

addressed to a captain in the French forces serving in Dakar, then the centre of French military operations for West Africa. The date of the Dakar arrival cancel of 1915 is unclear. The message is brief with possible philatelic overtones but, in spite of this, an interesting and unusual example of German African postal stationery used unoverprinted by the Allies in World War I.

John Mayne



French Cinderella Stamps or Labels

[Details and illustrations of these labels have been copied with permission of the Cinderella Stamp Club from their WAR2 Newsletters.]

In July 1999 I inquired of Chris Miller, Honorary Secretary of the World War II Study Group, Cinderella Stamp Club, if there were any stamps or labels issued by the Free French authorities in London during World War II for France or the French Colonies. He kindly sent me a photocopy of a short note that appeared in their Newsletter *WAR2* with the comment:

"The only labels that I know were used in the French colonies during the war were those in the series of which the picture on the top right of the attached page is one example. They are definitely known on cover from the French West African colonies (e.g. Cameroon) but also from the FFI HQ in London. We have no production details and London is the best guess. No reports yet on any other French colonial labels."

Chris also reported that there are other French labels but usually of Great Britain or US origin. However, presumably these have not been seen or published yet. If there are any members who have details of these or other designs, perhaps they would kindly inform the Editor for

passing on to Chris Miller and for publication in the *F&CPS Journal*.



Figure 1 -
"Honneur et Patrie avec le
Général de Gaulle,"
and French flag
with cross of Lorraine;
size 21 x 29.5mm, perf 11;
known used in Great Britain
on 16 May 1941.

The example illustrated (Fig 1), picturing the French flag with the cross of Lorraine, is on a British envelope addressed to Wembley. This raises the possibility that these labels were produced in England for the Free French but that some were shipped to the Free French Colonies where they have previously been recorded as used.



Figure 4 -
Printed in black, blue and red
on poor quality brown-white paper;
imperf, and the design is approximately 56 x 83mm.

Figure 2 -
"Les Français de Grande-Bretagne"
round circular Union Jack
with "Resurgam 1940"
on French flag in centre;
Red, white and blue on silver foil
irregular shape;
imperf; 26 x 21mm.



Figure 3 -
"Les Français de Grande-Bretagne"
round semi-circular Union Jack
with "Resurgam" underneath
against background of
rising sun on seascape;
printed in sheets of four, perf 12;
red, yellow and blue on white paper;
25 x 37.5mm.



There are also two labels so far seen of the French in England, as illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, and another very rare label (Fig 4) that was apparently used by the French underground, although further details are being sought.

Colin Spong

French Indian Settlements to Cochin-China

I recently re-acted to an auction catalogue which, rather disingenuously, offered a cover to Cochin-China, franked with four 10c black and carmine "Brahma-type" Red Cross surcharged stamps of the French Indian Settlements. Perhaps I am being less than kind to the vendor of this item because, strictly speaking, the description was accurate but it was what it didn't say that was somewhat misleading!

Having succeeded in acquiring the item (Fig 1), I was surprised to find that, sure enough, there was the strip of four stamps, the third and fourth separated by a gutter with a black stripe down the centre, making a strip of five in all, but despite being clearly cancelled at Pondicherry on 10 August 1915 and having a clear arrival mark on the reverse, revealing that it was received at Cholon, Cochin-China on 27 August 1915, there was no addressee! There was only one other clue, the cover was also back-stamped with a double-ringed cds of the "GOUVERNEMENT - 2ème BUREAU - INDE" effectively sealing the envelope flap closed.

The envelope had not been opened, so, I wondered, could the address have been written lightly in pencil? Perhaps an address label had been peeled off? No, there was no evidence of any paper disturbance on the front of the cover. So, how had the postal authorities succeeded in passing this cover through their system? Why had it gone to Cochin-China of all places?

Where better to start my investigation than with our own members! I am indebted to Ron Wood, who offered a

plausible, and obviously accurate, explanation of this mystery. Ron had, evidently, acquired two similar covers, one of which was addressed to Bordeaux, in France (Fig 2), and the other to Paris (Fig 3). Both of these bore similar and, in one instance, identical, markings to my cover and he had been mystified as to why they should have been routed to France via Cochin-China. It was only when he, too, had obtained a copy which was unaddressed (Fig 4) did the truth emerge.....

In 1915 government mail was carried free between the French Indian Settlements and Indo-China, utilising a sealed 'diplomatic' bag. It was evident, therefore, that a philatelist had managed to get these covers cancelled at Pondicherry and then slipped into the diplomatic bag where they were received by a fellow government official who had, like his counterpart, managed to get an arrival mark added to them at Cholon. Philatelists have much to answer for!

It became clear that the two covers that had proved so vexing to Ron Wood had actually been corrupted by the later addition of a name and address, added, most probably, by speculators trying to enhance the credibility of the covers.

Incidentally, this cover does provide clear evidence of the inaccuracy of the Gibbons Pt. 6 catalogue description (SG 45) which states that the red cross surcharge at the foot of the design was printed in November 1915 - Wrong!!

John West



Figure 1 - with backstamps inset
(from John West's collection)

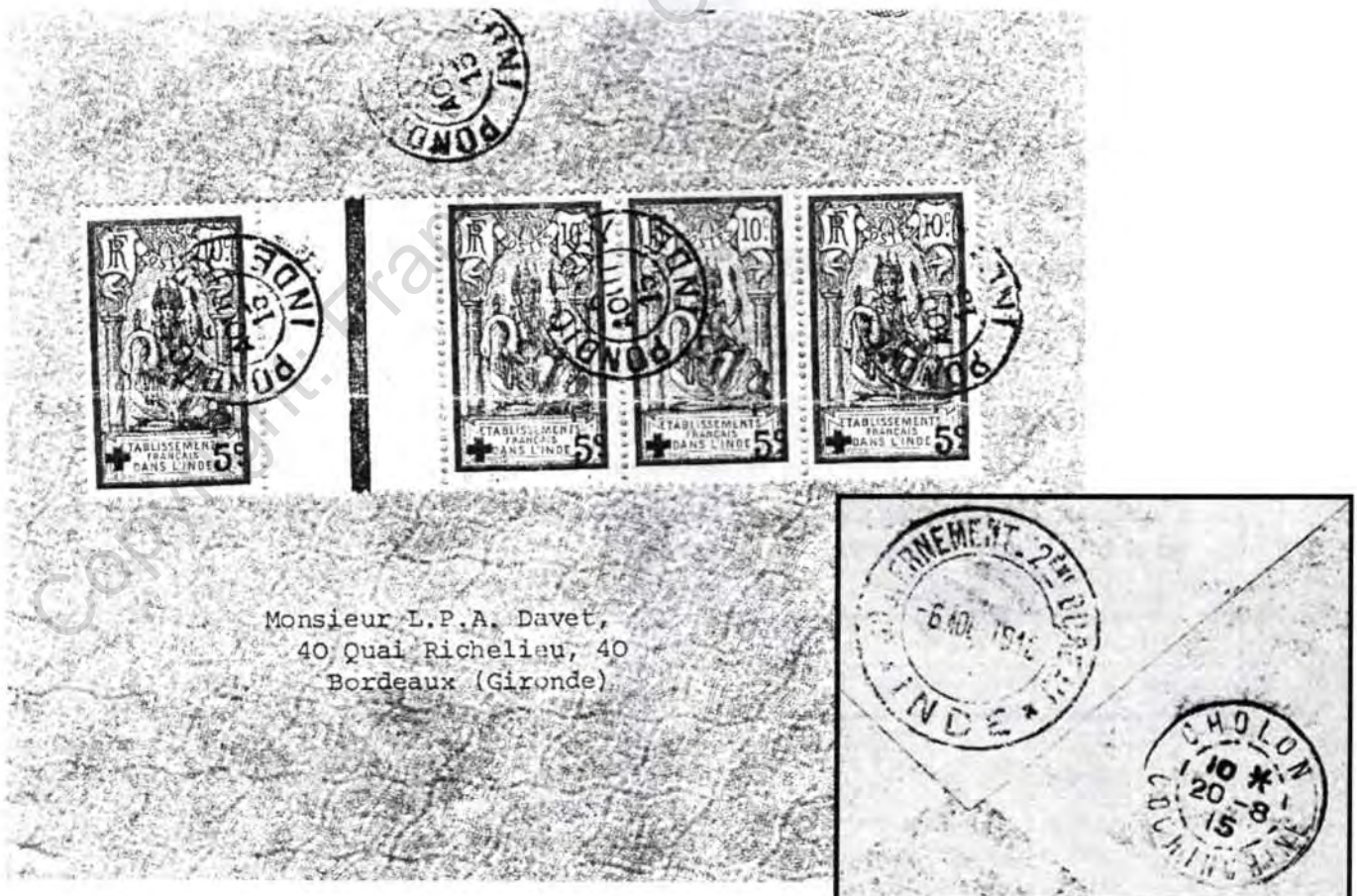


Figure 2 - with backstamps inset
(Ron Wood's collection)



Figure 3 - with backstamps inset
(Ron Wood's collection)

There seems to have been quite a lot of these items about, coming on to the market about five years ago. I have seen them offered at £15 to £150 at fairs, and they have obtained up to £55 at auction to my knowledge.

As you will see from my photocopies, I have two similar to John's cover and one from the *SECRETARIAT GENERAL*

INDE / BUREAU DES FINANCES. Two have addresses added - I am sure, after the event. I have not been able to reconcile these addresses to the route possibly taken if they are genuine. The other is, as John's, unaddressed.

The dates on them (all in 1915) are as follows:

	Gov ^t cachet	Pondicherry	Cholon	Saigon
Figure 1	9 August	10 August	27 August	
Figure 2	6 August	6 August	20 August	
Figure 3	(no date)	5 August		20 August
Figure 4	9 August	10 August	27 August	

John is right about the Gibbons dates.

I cannot add any more to John's information, but perhaps we have a French member who has investigated these in the past? I have started research in earnest regarding

French India - at the NPS, National Postal and British Libraries, and will no doubt have to go to Aix for the colonial records, which will at least be an excuse to have a holiday!

Ron Wood

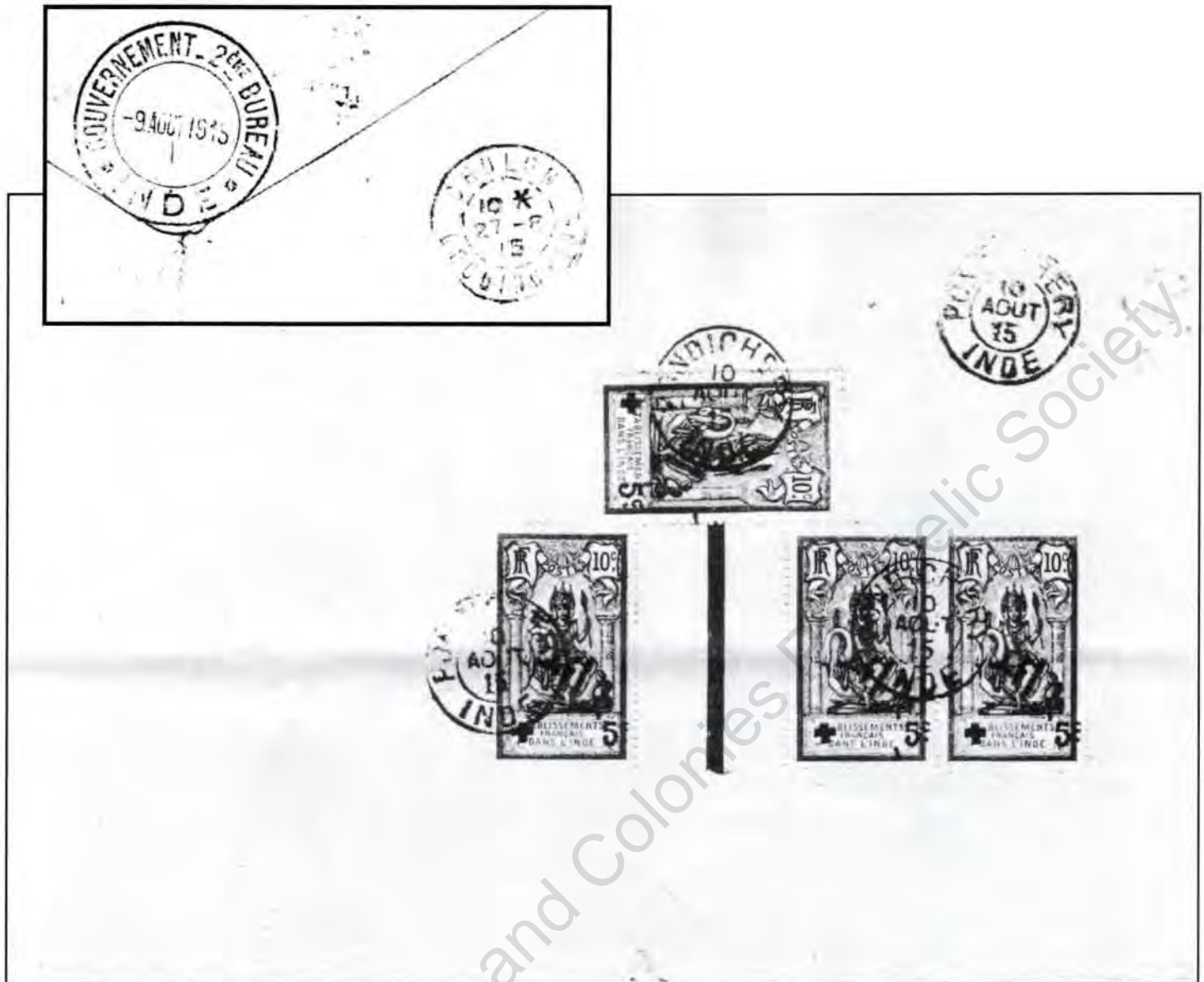


Figure 4 - with backstamps inset
(Ron Wood's collection)

ColiPoste

A year ago (November 1999) an innovation of La Poste consisted of a range of prepaid packages accompanied by a system of proof of posting in the shape of a form (signed at the post office and eventually by the recipient) on which are imprinted the date stamps of dispatch and arrival. Their journey is tracked by computers, and delivery is guaranteed within 48 hours, or a new parcel is provided as compensation. They have replaced what was known as the Diligo range, and are intended for items weighing under 30kg.

Insurance is available for loss or damage, providing for compensation of between 200 and 3000 francs. All you have to do is buy a booklet of 10 parcel labels: an 8F label is stuck on the form for extra insurance to the value of

1000 francs and two of these labels for the 3000 francs insurance. For packages sent abroad the extra cost is met by 40F (Europe) and 80F labels (rest of world), also sold in booklets of 10.

The range of packages consists of four different sizes of normal boxes, easily assembled, a special package for CDs or videos, and three special ones for one, two or three bottles. The labels are just printed with the words "*ColiPoste / Assurance*," "*ColiPoste / EUROPE MAGHREB DOM*" and "*ColiPoste / AFRIQUE AMERIQUE ASIE OCEANIE TOM*." Perhaps there are possibilities here for the relaunch of a *colis postaux* collection? [See illustrations on page 121.]

Maurice Tyler

Amazing 1870-71 Wonder Stories - 56

Ernst Cohn

The cover illustration on *The Graphic* for Saturday 5 November 1870, shows *Prussians Tapping the French Telegraph*. According to the article that appears on page 435 - the third page of that issue - it was the Civil War in America that gave rise to 'tapping,' by which an army could

"draw off the hostile messages and learn valuable information ... The system of tapping the enemy's wires has not been neglected in the present war, but the Germans go to work in a business-like way; what they do is done in secret ... Sending messages in cipher is at present the most effective way of counteracting these proceedings, and even ciphers may be read with patience and ingenuity."

It is not only amusing but also instructive to put together some of the reports made during and after the war about the discovery of the secret cable laid at the bottom of the Seine shortly before the Germans reached Paris. I have done so in *Documents Philatéliques* 82 (1979) pp.192-5, but perhaps a repetition in this series would be appropriate, the accounts being a mixture of fact and fancy.

Steenackers, whose 1883 compilation, *Les Télégraphes et les Postes* ..., is available again as a reprint, wrote on page 32 that

"The idea was so simple, offered itself so easily to the mind, that it was quite difficult not to fear that one expended much effort for nothing. The Prussians, in effect, once they were masters of the banks of the Seine, lost no time in dragging the river and, from 24 September on, the communications between Paris and Tours were interrupted..."

Then, on page 46, he says,

"To cap the misfortune, our communications with Paris were entirely interrupted on 27 September. The Prussians had discovered the cable in the Seine, of which too much had been talked, and had pulled it ashore to use it for their own profit."

Only fourteen pages later he contradicted himself with the date.

Anyhow, what was the true reason for cutting the underwater cable, which functioned to some extent until 4.30 pm on 27 September? At that time it had transmitted dispatch number 4316 from Tours to Paris, according to the *Enquête sur le 4 septembre, Dépêches télégraphiques officielles*, vol II, Versailles 1875, page 261.

According to Henri de Parville in *Causeries scientifiques* 10 (1870), p.313:

"Why had no one thought of such a simple project? That cable had, in fact, been put into the lower Seine, but the fall of a bridge, according to some, broke it some days later; according to others, a traitor revealed its existence to the enemy, who cut it."

John Fisher states in his *Airlift 1870* that two men of a small village near the Seine betrayed the cable's secret to

the German authorities. They thereupon arrested the guardian of the lock at Bougival and tried, without success, by menacing him and by blows with a stick to make him talk. Fisher does not reveal his source for that story, which has several variants, eg that a farmer betrayed the existence of the cable for a small sum and that the Prussians then mistreated him because they found him contemptible. All these are clearly French "morality tales," abundant for that war.

The German fable about the subject, on the other hand, appeared not only in many German papers but also in Switzerland and even in America and is much more detailed than the French versions. There, one speaks about a certain Joseph Lauzer, Lauser, or Lunzer, a Hungarian Jew from Pressburg (now Bratislava), a naturalized Frenchman, who was involved in laying that cable. When the task was completed, he was asked to implant electrically detonated mines under railway tracks to blow up Prussian trains driving over them. When he refused, he was imprisoned at Montereau. His wife wrote letters to Moltke, Bismarck and Prince Friedrich, but without results. On 25 (or 28) September she visited the office of Bismarck. Immediately thereafter a squad of hussars liberated her husband and asked him for the place where the cable was located.

In fact, the Germans did pull up the cable and tapped it, but apparently without being able to break the code. So they finally cut it.

Most modern writers have assumed either that the Prussians knew, through their spies, everything that happened on and under the Seine; or that they discovered the cable by chance.

During a visit to the archives of the foreign ministry at Bonn in 1977, I found a telegram (*Findbuch Oxford*, Aktengruppe IABc, volume 50, document 50):

"[sent] Brussels, 17 September, 9 pm.

[arrived] Ferrières, 22 September, 11 am.

The Ambassador to the Chancellor of the Confederacy at Ferrières.

I hear from a reliable source at Paris that a telegraph cable has been put into the Seine in case everything else will be destroyed.

/s/ BALAN."

There we finally have the factual story. It was an informer, perhaps a real spy, who communicated with German headquarters by way of Brussels!

Wachenhusen, correspondent of the *Kölnische Zeitung*, wrote a report, dated "from the Seine," 25 September, that he had seen scout troops fish the cable from the Seine with great jubilation and cut it apart. He added that the discovery of the cable was connected with the explosion of the bridge that collapsed in a great cloud. But he was clearly a bit premature in claiming that the Germans immediately cut the cable.

Official war dispatch 56 of the Prussian army, signed by von Podbielski and dated at Ferrières, 28 September, says,

“Four telegraph wires, from Paris to Rouen and southward, discovered on the bed of the Seine and underground on our side, have been destroyed. No other news.”

The sequence of dates - 17, 22, 25, 28 September - appears to be quite convincing. As happens often, a chance finding of an unexpected fact, which had not even been sought for, explains an event that had been wrapped up almost immediately after it happened in a series of amazing wonder stories, most quite unlikely and not close to the truth.



Newspaper illustration of 5 November 1870

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 93 4^{ème} Trim 2000: Y a-t-il eu Agence Postale à Akjoijt [Mauritanie] en 1908? (Bouérat); Radioscopie d'une V.O. (Beslu); Équivalents des Taxes Postales (-); Transport du courrier par automobile [Madagascar] (Favrel); Entiers Postaux de Polynésie (Beslu).

N° 94 Septembre 2000: Members List and Bibliography of Literature.

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 262 (Vol 56, N° 4) Oct 2000: French Congo Stationery - What Constitutes Uniqueness? (Nilsestuen); Occasional Fundamentals - Entrepôt Markings (Luft); A Twentieth Century Timeline (Luft); Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories - 55 (Cohn); Sterner booklets of 1944-1945 (Luft).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1733 Sep 2000: Les blasons des villes: 8^e série [2^e partie]: le 0,25 Mont-de-Marsan (Trassaert); Une poste franco-belge (Trassaert); Les filigranes (Trassaert); Polaires: Paul-Émile Victor, dessinateur et philatéliste (Élin); Les «interpostaux» d'Égypte (Nicholas); Colonies: Les entiers postaux [ctd and end] (von Scharpen); Un «joyau» à Hôtel de Ville : Le service pneumatique de la mairie de Paris (SG).

N° 1734 Oct 2000: Les blasons des villes: 8^e série [3^e partie]: 0,20 Blason de Saint-Lô (Trassaert); Les mosaïques (Raynaud); Quand le cachet de La Poste ne fait pas foi! (Élin); Quand les facteurs coloniaux n'existaient pas (-); Affranchissement Lisa: Un nouvel envol (Gengembre et Héron).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

Supplément au N° 302: Marcophiles XXIV 7-8 Oct 2000. **La Poste aux lettres en Nord-Pas-de-Calais:** Calais, marques postales et oblitérations des origines jusqu'à 1900 (Lanciaux); Déboursés du département du Nord (De-decker); La Poste dans le Pas-de-Calais sous la révolution française (Crépel); Le Pas-de-Calais au temps du 20 centimes noir (Deneuille); Étude postale de Wimille et Wimereux (Chocois). **La Poste Maritime:** Quelques aspects de la Poste maritime (Piat); Marques d'entrées par Boulogne (Poultier); Calais et les relations postales internationales (Wils). **La Poste en milieu rural:** Documents pour servir à l'étude de la Poste rurale (Carnévalé-Mauzan); La Poste automobile rurale dans le département du Lot (Bert); Les correspondants postaux de la P.A.R. dans le Pas-de-Calais (Ficheux). **La Poste ferroviaire:** Les convoyeurs-stations de l'Isère (Gautier); Les convoyeurs-stations du Pas-de-Calais, 1870-1884 (Ficheux); Les ambulants de 1950 à nos jours, brigades (Gautier). **La Poste militaire:** Le camp retranché de Calais, 1914-1918 (Wils); La campagne de Chine et de Formose, 1884-1885 (Millet);

La Poste militaire belge, 1914-1918 (Slabbinck); Vichy, la collaboration, l'anticommunisme et l'Europe (Ablard); La Poste Viet-Minh, 1945-1955 (Goanvic); Camps d'internement dans la région toulousaine, 1939-1946 (Richardson). **Histoire postale générale:** Télégrammes postalisés de la «Eastern Telegraph Company» (Narjoux); Prisons et prisonniers politiques et droits communs (Picard); Timbres à date oblitérants des levées exceptionnelles, 1864-1900 (Donnadieu); Affranchissements insuffisants venant de l'étranger, de l'introduction du timbre-poste à l'UGP (Abensur); De la linéaire de Port-Payé au timbre [PP] (Bridoux); Les premiers temps de l'Aéropostale, sélection de plis originaux et peu courants (Albaret); Valeurs déclarées au 20^{ème} siècle (Bonnefoy); La Poste restante en France (Delwaulle); Les boîtes mobiles, ce n'est pas très simple (Tanter); Bureau de quartiers de Paris, 1863-1876, période de l'étoile (Hitchen); La lettre suivie (Coulon); Les plis «hors sac» (Trassaert). **Autour du timbre:** Autour du 1,50F bleu «Marianne d'Alger» 1944 - France 1945 (Delacroix); VERT, de l'Empire à la République (Chauvet); Utilisation des chiffres-taxe carrés sur le courrier local (Abensur); Utilisation du 25c Semeuse camée bleu [sélection] (Coulon); Le type Sage et ses voyages [chapitre II] (Kelly); Le type Iris (Séné). **Histoire postale étrangère:** Les départements conquis en Belgique et aux Pays-Bas, 1792-1815 (Hendriks); La Poste au Liechtenstein, administration autrichienne et suisse (Brecquehaïs). **Divers:** Contreseings et griffes des Maires et de la Mairie de Paris, 1789-1996 (Sénéchal); La Lettre: objet historique ou objet d'art? objet utilitaire ou objet de dérision? (Dutau).

N° 303 4^{ème} Trim 2000: Service des Postes sur les chemins de fer - Bureaux Ambulants (-); Courir la poste en 1798 de Paris à Rastadt (de la Mettrie); La fureur de lire du marcophile: Les bonnes mœurs en 1817 (Séné); Les formations sanitaires de la Manche pendant la guerre 1914/1918 (Galicet); De l'inviolabilité des lettres (Balsenc); L'an 2000 et La Poste (Charbonnier); Le passage à l'Euro - Le plan de bascule de La Poste (Séné); Courrier suivi [ctd] (Séné); COURTABŒUF [Essonne] (Séné); Expérience de lettre en nombre (Albaret).

Timbres magazine

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

N° 5 Sept 2000: Eric Tabarly: celui qui réconcilia la France et la mer (Michaud); Jacques-Yves Cousteau: du bonnet rouge à l'habit vert (Michaud); Le périple africain oublié de D'Estailleur Chanteraine (Guichenduc); Quand la Poste se faisait aussi «porteuse de pain» (Duran); Le type «Blanc» 1900-2000 [5^e partie] (Melot); Nantes, la rencontre de la Loire et de l'océan (Baudet et Michaud); Maréchal, on ne passe plus! (Apaire et Sinais); Halte censure! (Chauvin).

N° 6 Oct 2000: Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon: une Marianne de Briat du 2^e type (Marziano); François Mitterrand et les prisonniers (Sinai); Emblématique et énigmatique série PEIQI (Apaire); Le type «Blanc» 1900-2000 [6^e et dernière partie] (Melot); Le paquebot

d'Alexandrie battait-il pavillon anglais? (de la Mettrie); Cartes postales: L'Algérie de papa (Zeyons); L'impossible juste prix du «Document philatélique» (Buffier); Itinéraire d'une lettre singulière (Chauvin).

BOOKSHELF

Books Noted

Fakes Forgeries Experts (N° 3), published in collaboration with the FIP (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie) and the AIEP (Association Internationale des Experts en Philatélie). 200 pages in colour; written in English and in the language of the author of each article; price 200F; details from FFE-Journal, PO Box 108, CH-6976 Castagnola, Switzerland. [Specialised study of forgeries, fakes and repairs; compiled by experts of international renown; addressed to professionals as well as collectors; includes numerous anecdotes, items of information, methods and illustrations.]

Les timbres olympiques de Monaco, by Maurice Boule, Jean Fissore, Georges Majeski and Robert Prat; published by the Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies. 112 pages in colour; 215 x 275mm; price 120F; details from Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies, Terrasses de Fontvieille, MC-98000 Monaco. [One country Olympic thematic study; includes unpublished documents from the philatelic collection of Prince Rainier III.]

Le Patrimoine du timbre-poste français, volume 2, published 1999 by Flohic Éditions, 10 bd de la Bastille, 75012 Paris. 337 pages; price 250F. [Stamps from September 1998 to September 1999, but without illustration (prevented by La Poste); alphabetical index and thematic index; index of fabrication - designers, engravers, *metteurs en page* and agencies; selection from prize-winning collections at Philexfrance 99.]

La Poste et le rail (150 ans de véhicules ferroviaires postaux), by Maurice Knepper and Claude Pochet, published by Éditions La Vie du Rail, 11 rue de Milan, 75440 Paris Cedex 09. 208 pages, 340 photos, 115 diagrams and graphs; price 250F. [History of rail transport used by Post Office.]

Les services ambulants et les courriers convoyeurs français (période de 1966 à 1995) (2^e éd), by Guy Raynal and Bernard Bougue, published by AS.CO.FLAM.ES (Association des Collectionneurs de Flamme et d'Estampilles postales), 20 rue du Tronc-du-Pinson, 33320 Eysines. 220 pages (16 in colour); 210 x 297mm; over 500 reproductions of date stamps and *griffes linéaires*; price 220F inc p&p; available from Jacques Privat, Senon n° 12, 33710 Saint-Seurin-de-Bourg. [Dates of creation, changes and withdrawal of services; numerous pieces of information and comments by these two former *ambulants* employees; chapter on *ambulants routiers*.]

Boulogne-sur-Mer et la Poste (1700-2000), by Louis Peter, published by the author. 220 pages; 210 x 270mm; 200 illustrations; price 150F (+25F p&p); available from Louis Peter, 14 boulevard Gambetta, 62200 Boulogne-sur-Mer. [The development of the Post Office at Boulogne-sur-Mer and its infrastructures, from the 'foot and horse messengers of Boulogne' to the dawn of the third millennium.]

Les Empreintes de machines à affranchir utilisées en France, by Laurent Bonnefoy and Luc Guillard, with the collaboration of Jean-Claude Delwaille, published jointly by the Union Marcophile, the Club des spécialistes de France and the Société des collectionneurs d'estampilles et d'oblitérations. 500 pages on the period 1924-1999; 210 x 297mm; 1400 illustrations; a glossary of 88 terms and an annotated bibliography of 5 pages; price 350F; details from L'Union Marcophile, Lucien Bridelance, 19 rue du Châtelet, 77150 Lésigny. [Covers about 800,000 machines developed since 1924, but deals with marks specified by the Post Office administration (though one chapter is devoted to other marks); a totally new classification system, with each machine examined in turn; deals with deliveries to metropolitan France, to Monaco, to the French *départements* of Algeria and those overseas, and to the *collectivités territoriales* of Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon and of Mayotte.]

Les Empreintes postales, France, 1^{re} éd 2000, by Dr Bernard Raynaud, published by the author. 250 pages; loose leaf photocopy version without binder or dividers 250F (inc p&p), de luxe version complete 600F; available from Bernard Raynaud, 186 rue de la Gatevine, 79290 Argenton-l'Église. [The identification, classification and evaluation of all French postmarks, classical and modern, whether from franking machines, cancellation machines, date stamps, or indexing marks, and ranging from inkjets through bar codes to computerised frankings and marks of quality of service; the loose leaf format allows updating as and when necessary.]

Catalogue des timbres à date du Bas-Rhin, 1919-1940, by Jean-Pierre Bournique, published by SPAL (Association des Spécialistes en marques postales et oblitérations d'Alsace-Lorraine). 60 pages, b&w; 65F (+10F p&p); details from SPAL, André Peine, BP 4, 67381 Lingolsheim Cedex. [The range of circular date stamps from the "Alsace-Moselle" *bureaux de recette*.]

Maurice Tyler

PAGES FROM MY COLLECTION

(13) Fakes and Forgeries of 20th Century French Postage Stamps

Geoff Gethin

Several years ago I started collecting philatelic, WWII, and postal fakes and forgeries. If I had known then what a vast journey into the unknown that I was embarking on I think that I would have stuck just to keeping up with new issues. A few minor showings led to a major display at the Leamington Weekend in April 2000. This seemed to go down well, and led to contacts with several fellow enthusiasts. My collection now stands at around 150 sheets.

Essentially I collect 400% colour photocopy enlargements of my own, and friends', material. The basic process is simple. Stick two mounts, each capable of holding two standard definitives, onto a piece of card, pop your stamps in, go to a photocopy shop which advertises Canon Laser Copying and ask for 400% colour enlargements. With a Stanley knife, safety straight edge, and cutting mat you can trim these as required. Alternatively a good quality PC scanning/printer system can be used. Either approach makes illustrating varieties and type differences a painless process.

Shown here are four sheets from my collection compressed into two Journal pages, unfortunately not leaving space for illustrations of the actual stamps. The 400% enlargements roughly correspond to what one sees using a 10x glass, but greatly facilitate rapid overall, and point to point, comparisons.

Throughout the 20th century there have been many forgeries of definitives in order to defraud the post office, with an avalanche of forged Marianne de Briat red stamps in the 1990s. Shown here (Figs 1 & 2) is the postal forgery of the 50c 1937 Paris Exhibition stamp. This is probably the only postal forgery where colour shade is one of the defining features. It illustrates the point that no artist can perfectly replicate the work of another. The lettering is crude, the herald blotchy, and the pavilions on the left have been bombed.

With so many expensive 20th century stamps being so because of the overprints or overprint errors which they bear, production of forgeries of them seems to have been

a major cottage industry. I would like to have filled this entire Journal issue with illustrations of the vast range of forged overprints on the Merson issues, but show instead (Fig 3) an example of the most frequently offered as such forged overprints in the Society auctions. This is a POSTES PARIS 1921 with heavier characters, and lacking the crisp outlines of the genuine (Fig 4). As ever there are different forgeries of the PARIS and FRANCE issues, but none matches the crisp lettering with the little white dots of the genuine.

To develop the theme of fake overprints two 40c Sowers are illustrated. The blue (Fig 6), Yv 246, from the 1st Sinking Fund set, is genuine. The ultramarine (Fig 5), Yv 237, carries a fake overprint made more desirable by the lack of the dot on the 'i' of *Caisse*. Similar fakes are likely to be found as follows:-

1st set 247 50c green / 362 50c blue-turquoise

1st set 247 50c green / 198 50c green-olive

2nd set 249 40c violet-grey / 236 40c violet

2nd set 250 50c brown-red / 199 50c red

4th set 266 40c rose / 194 40c vermillion

5th set 275 40c olive / 193 40c brown-olive

Also the entire series has been counterfeited using forged underlying stamps.

Finally, a complete philatelic forgery of the 10c green with thin letters, Yv 188A, is shown (Figs 7 & 8). Defining features of the forgery are that it is perf 14 x 14 (genuine is perf 14 by 13½), with 17 instead of 16 teeth vertically; the short 'L' of *MINERALINE*, the short 'T' and broken 'O' in *POSTES*, and the very poor frame lines. Also the shade of green is wrong. Phéna booklet stamps have also been forged with the same stamp characteristics.

If there are any forgery fans whom I have not yet been in contact with, I would most grateful if they could drop me a line via our Editor.

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50c 1937 Paris Exhibition Postal Forgery



Figure 1 - Forgery



Figure 2 - Genuine

The POSTES PARIS / POSTES FRANCE series



Figure 3 - Forgery



Figure 4 - Genuine



Figure 5 - Fake 1927 Sinking Fund 40c



Figure 6 - Genuine 1927 Sinking Fund 40c



Figure 7 - Forged Minéraline



Figure 8 - Genuine Minéraline

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

DISPLAY TO NATIONAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2000

For four of the Society's members the philatelic season began early in a very civilised and relaxed manner with an invitation to lunch with the NPS President, Frank Jones, and the Programme Secretary, Ian Nutley, followed by an opportunity to browse around the NPS library.

There was a slight diversion and consequent delay when one of the NPS members managed to get himself locked in the lift but the display eventually started with Mick Bister introducing each member of the visiting team.

David Jennings-Bramly opened the proceedings with a selection from his Sower collection. Beginning with the history behind the design and illustrated by the silver coinage of 1897, David explained that the Sower was intended to represent France spreading her culture around the world. He then traced the development of the issue with each stage highlighted by rare pieces starting with four examples of the *archaïc* die, multiple proofs of 4 x 10c and 5 x 10c lined background essays in red and a block of four of a trial printing in black on pink paper. The 15c *Semeuse Lignée* was represented by a single on cover and *millésime* pair on piece both cancelled on the first day of issue, the 15c Pernod stationery envelope and the 15c rotary coil stamp on cover and wrapper. The 10c, 20c, 25c, and 30c followed and an 80c in blue attracted attention. Further gems appeared when David moved on to the *Semeuse Camée* where we had the opportunity to see examples of the *Phéna* and *Minéraline* issues, the 10c scarlet, a complete booklet of 30 x 10c Type II, and the 1915 Red Cross booklet. The 25c was represented by some rare shades, three examples of the very rare flat plate coil printing, one of which was on cover, and several forgeries including a strip of three on a registered samples envelope. David closed with a display of the delightful little *Philopode* booklets including two containing the 15c value, one correctly inscribed *maison fondée en 1871* and one with the erroneous date 1875 and a French Red Cross cover bearing a 40c vermilion coil issue perfined with a cross.

Barbara Priddy opened her display of French West African airmails by showing what purported to be the earliest known flown cover to Senegal, namely a *ballon monté* flown out of Paris on the *Garibaldi* and addressed to St Louis. In response to the gasps of admiration Barbara had to admit that it was just a photocopy, but it adequately served to remind us that at least one item of mail destined for Senegal and carried, albeit partly, by air had reached its destination well before any dates quoted by Saulgrain. Barbara went on to show a rare 1911 PPC of the first aircraft to be shipped out to St Louis to be used by the military. A lovely example of a cover flown on the 1923 trial flight linking Dakar to Casablanca and on to Toulouse was shown as were items from the regular service. Trans-Atlantic flights were represented and further material illustrated the delays and dangers of the pioneering days. Barbara explained how the disparity between date stamps and flight schedules could be explained by the difficulties of transporting mail by road and rail from the interior to the airfield and that once aboard the plane, the mail was

not always secure. Interpreters had to accompany some flights in the case of forced landings in dissident zones where the release of crew and mail had to be negotiated. Rewards offered for the safe return of crew were not unknown and Barbara displayed several fine crash items bearing witness to these heroic days. Closing her display, Barbara showed complete booklets of *Ailes Brisées* and *Jean Mermoz* vignettes issued in the 1930s to raise funds for the dependants of lost and injured aviators.

Following a break to allow the audience to view the frames, **Mick Bister** opened the second half with a display of Marianne de Cheffer. After a brief explanation of the significance of Marianne and a résumé of Henry Cheffer's career, Mick demonstrated how Cheffer's original 1954 artwork had posthumously been modified by a series of overlays to produce the necessary format and design for the 1967 printing. The issue was then put into its political, economic and social context. During their brief existence, the four values of the Marianne de Cheffer had witnessed between them many changes including the government's decentralisation programme which had resulted in the printing presses being transferred from Paris to Périgord, the reorganisation of the metropolitan *départements*, the introduction of postal codes, first alphanumerical and then numerical, and the establishment of a two-tier tariff system. Interspersed with these initiatives were the strikes of 1968 and 1974. Mick finally indicated within the display some of the key items which reflected these events:- yellow coding desk ribbon and coded mail, colour trials for the two tier tariffs, Paris and Périgord packaging seals, Chamber of Commerce strike mail, 93 Seine-Saint-Denis postcode vignettes, mail from Clermont Ferrand during the mechanised sorting office trials, and a very recent discovery, a pane of ten green *timbres fictifs* with phosphor bands used in the aborted 0,30 typo booklet trials.

Derek Richardson closed the afternoon's session with his comprehensive and highly colourful display of the anti-tuberculosis stamps of France. Derek explained the background to the campaign and related how social conditions and poverty prevented many people in the early part of the 20th century receiving treatment from the clinics and hence the scourge remained unchecked. It was not until World War I when so many men were invalided out due to TB that the immensity of the problem was realised. The *Comité national de Défense contre la Tuberculose* was formed in 1919 but it was not until the pilot campaign of 1925 in the *département* of Meurthe-et-Moselle that the first anti-TB stamps appeared. A concession from the PTT allowed the affixing of the stamps, which had no postal validity, alongside postage stamps and Derek was able to show a rare example of the first campaign issue on cover. Derek proceeded to show a magnificent array of booklets and covers together with the occasional window poster, based on the stamp design and introduced in 1928. Further changes were made to both policies and printings and we saw examples of the *départemental* printings also introduced in 1928, the new booklet format introduced in 1945, the change of text in 1970 to incorporate all

respiratory ailments and the relinquishing of the Cross of Lorraine in 1976. Perhaps the most regrettable change was the adoption of rather garish colours for both the stamps and booklet covers after 1980, reflected unfortunately in other areas of stamp printing.

Ian Nutley gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the National Philatelic Society commending not only the diversity and quality of the material but also the way each display had been presented in its own historical context.

MLB

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 27 SEPTEMBER 2000

Members: 12 Sheets

Our President, Mick Bister, introduced the first meeting of the new season with announcements about the forthcoming Philatex and his own President's Afternoon in October, and the Auction in November. He then presented displays by 8 members.

David Worrollo had brought some covers, nearly all 19th century, including a *ballon monté*, Napoleon III stamps, Siege reprints, London to Paris in the Commune period, and a 1913 airmail; destinations and routes noted were Dresden, New York, Stettin to Bordeaux, New Orleans to Marseille, and Frankenstein to Bordeaux; there was also a postcard of the "Three Emperors' Corner" where 3 countries met in one small area.

Michael Ensor showed envelopes and cards from the wine-producing areas of Burgundy, including the recognisable names of the village of Nuits-Saint-Georges and the Château du Clos de Vougeot.

Alan Baum produced a selection of his latest acquisitions in a collection of Paris stars from the 39 offices of the period 1863-76.

Roy Reader ended the first session with some items from September 1943, during a period when France had "lost almost everything;" items noted included an airmail to Gabon, destinations such as Indo-China and the

Cameroons, a *bon de solidarité*, a letter from a German in Paris using the German *Feldpost* to Berlin, a high cost surcharged CTO issue, and an envelope made from an unused summons form intended to collect 88F.

Derek Richardson began the second session with a display of French internment camps in the Toulouse region 1939-1946, including their change of use; this enabled us to see a display destined for Marcophilex in France.

Godfrey Bowden tantalised us with some interesting queries concerning a forwarded letter, a test of the Toshiba machine canceller, the 'small number in circle' from the 1940s to 1980s (possibly applied at the airport?), a similar cachet but with the letter F in a circle, and labels of various kinds.

Geoff Gethin had brought 4 of his enlarged 50F airmails to show genuine, forged and imitated examples, and an advertising postcard for a Phéna sample with Sower and corresponding tab.

Mick Bister brought proceedings to a close with his *poste restante* material starting, amazingly, in 1785, and in which the messages were often more interesting than the marks; items noted included a season ticket of 1935, 2 telegrams to a *poste restante* address, and an *Avis de Réception* cover returned to a *poste restante* address.

MST

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 28 OCTOBER 2000

President's Afternoon: Mick Bister

Introduced by Vice-President Maurice Tyler, Mick explained that his philatelic collecting interests had followed a natural progression from used stamps, to mint stamps, to dated corner blocks, to printing details, and finally to rates of usage. His display would to some extent reflect this history, and would be divided into three distinct parts, an arrangement which was suggested to him by the more limited capacity of the frames in the Royal Horticultural Halls meeting room.

The first part of his display covered the 1931 Colonial Exhibition issue. Mick started by giving us a great deal of background information about the exhibition itself, which was a very successful one with 33½ million visitors (though, intriguingly, only 28½ million paid entries); and illustrated this with such material as official printed stationery, a plan of the exhibition, postcards, photographs, a share certificate, a sheet of entry tickets, an official "logo" card with vignettes, and promotional postmarks. The stamp design itself, featuring the "*Femme Fachi*" (it is not certain whether Fachi is the name of a village or of a whole tribe) in 4 values, was less popular and was universally decried,

not always for the best of reasons. A new design showing different races was intended for the 50c (but eventually issued only for the 1F50), though this, too, was heavily criticised as being too crowded and consisting of vague silhouettes. Apart from the development stages of these designs, we saw the various *coins datés* and an extensive range of rates on cover, including such usages as airmail, COD, redirected mail, registration, debt recovery, overseas registered express, and examples of mixed frankings. One item noted was an overseas sample from Japan (offshore) sent via Siberia to Switzerland.

The second part of the display covered the *Cérès de Mazelin* issue from just after World War II. Mick spoke of the research that he had carried out, especially at the Musée de la Poste, in relating the various printings to the rates of postage, and in evidence showed a few die proofs with subtle differences. We saw the full range of this issue, together with dated corner blocks and the rates used for the purpose intended, starting with the 60c for newspapers and the 80c for printed matter and visiting cards with no added text, via the 90c precancel, and continuing up to

the higher values of 1F, 1F20, 1F50, 2F and 2F50. Items noted in this section include an unissued 70c die proof (possibly intended to pay the urgent fee for printed matter?), a change in the number of punch holes on a dated corner block, and a mint example of the privately printed Cathedral of Quimper on the gutter pane of a triptych.

The third and final part of Mick's display dealt with the *Marianne de Cheffer* of the 1960s and 1970s, a period of changing rates and many postal innovations. Unfortunately Cheffer never saw his stamp issued, since his original design was rejected in 1954 and he died before it was resurrected and modified for use. The display covered various colour trials, the different formats produced by TD3 and TD6 presses, the development of post codes (their history being

traced both by drawn diagrams and stamps on cover), strike mail (especially the 1974 postal strike), the introduction of 2-tier mail and of phosphor bands, the moving of the printing presses (giving rise to both Paris and Périgueux printings), and the reorganisation of *départements*. One unusual item was the ribbon from a coding desk in the early post code days.

Maurice Tyler gave the vote of thanks, remarking on the wide variety of material we had seen and commenting on the fact that we had been taken back to basic philatelic research, the cornerstone of our hobby, and enlightened and entertained by a well researched display with some fascinating items, accompanied by a clear and authoritative commentary.

MST

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 19 AUGUST 2000

Members' Displays on "Transport"

In the morning **Colin Spong** opened the meeting with a Madagascar display of the 1908 Transport/*Type Filanzane*, Railway, Maritime and Airmail stamps and covers as an introduction to the theme, to be followed by **Bob Larg** with a *pot pourri* of France & Colonies depicting a cyclist, balloon mail, air postal cards and railway cancels. **Michael Annells** continued with a display of French Railway mail showing routes and including *Ambulants* and *Bureaux de Passe*.

The afternoon began with **Bob Larg** and a further display on a transport theme. **Michael Wilson** took as his subject early Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean area, as well as entry marks and French-Russian railway mail, followed by **John Hammonds** with Airmails of 1939-1943, including mail to overseas destinations and WWII censor markings.

Roy Ferguson showed Stamp Designs and booklets of French Designers and Engravers. **Barbara Priddy** continued with Crash Mail including mail that had gone all the way by air. **Bill Mitchell** concluded the meeting with a display of Maritime mail from French West Africa. The vote of thanks for a delightful and enjoyable day, combining both philately and sociability, was given by Geoff Gethin.

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

CWS

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 28 OCTOBER 2000

Christopher J Hitchen - "Paris"

The Organiser welcomed Chris to Worthing on a particularly blustery day, although the hostelry where the members had lunched beforehand had withstood the elements of the last month. The "Half Brick" was a survivor for a previous building destroyed by the seas in a past century.

The history and development of the Paris post was explained by Chris with a number of questions being asked by members present. In the first display we saw a 16th century letter carried from Paris to Rafaello de Medici in Rome, and this was followed by an April 1660 letter from the Duc de Vendôme in Paris.

Chris then explained the lack of decorative paid marks in Paris used between 1752 and 1769 both from the capital and as a verification mark on the mail in 1769; the first straight line paid mark which then became the standard format. The next display of sheets contained examples of the *Port Payé Paris*: this mark is recognised in use only in 1769. Also seen was a letter dated 2 July 69 from the

Bureau Royal de Correspondance to Auch, pre-paid 10 sols for a distance of up to 120 leagues. Other items of interest included letters from Princess Pauline, the sister of Napoleon and of Louis, then King of Holland.

The usage of the *Petite Poste* between 1760 and 1795 was explained, as well as the Revolutionary period, including the calendar, which also brought forth a number of questions. Finally, the setting up of the districts of Paris and the many offices were described, with examples of mail from these areas.

In conclusion Colin Spong thanked Chris Hitchen for a truly magnificent display which had by the number of questions being asked enthralled those members present.

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

CWS

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Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
13	11.00	88	8.00	162	3.00	214	32.00	274	7.00	357	40.00
14	5.50	89	4.50	163	7.50	215	11.00	275	5.00	360	2.00
16	2.50	90	3.50	164	6.50	216	12.00	276	8.50	361	5.00
17	4.50	91	6.50	165	6.50	217	8.00	277	31.00	362	10.00
19	2.50	92	6.50	166	5.00	218	35.00	278	6.50	365	7.50
23	3.00	93	2.50	167	6.50	219	16.00	288	3.00	366	4.00
24	4.00	94	11.00	168	4.00	221	7.50	289	5.00	369	19.00
25	4.00	95	9.00	169	4.50	223	11.00	292	10.00	376	15.00
26	3.00	97	52.00	171	4.00	224	12.00	293	8.00	378	15.00
29	2.50	98	42.00	172	8.00	229	6.00	294	9.00	387	10.00
30	12.00	99	6.50	173	16.00	231	6.50	296	3.50	390	3.00
31	4.50	100	8.00	174	3.00	232	14.00	297	3.00	396	16.00
34	5.00	101	10.00	175	8.00	233	7.00	298	25.00	397	4.50
35	13.00	102	4.50	176	6.50	234	10.00	299	18.00	399	5.00
37	12.00	106	5.00	177	4.50	235	12.00	300	11.00	400	10.00
39	9.00	108	8.00	178	7.50	236	10.00	301	4.50	401	5.00
41	5.00	109	48.00	180	19.00	238	11.00	302	3.50	402	190.00
42	5.00	110	30.00	181	30.00	239	7.00	303	5.00	403	10.00
43	8.00	111	40.00	182	6.00	240	2.50	305	11.00	404	10.00
44	8.00	112	10.00	183	13.00	241	3.50	307	3.00	409	4.00
45	12.00	114	12.00	184	5.00	242	6.00	308	4.00	411	6.00
46	7.00	115	26.00	185	9.50	243	7.00	309	5.00	412	35.00
47	8.00	122	50.00	186	14.00	244	6.00	311	29.00	414	60.00
48	4.50	123	13.00	187	17.00	246	15.00	313	4.00	417	11.00
51	30.00	128	3.00	188	29.00	249	8.50	314	4.50	418	10.00
52	12.00	130	5.50	189	4.00	250	4.50	315	20.00	424	30.00
56	6.00	136	4.00	190	8.00	251	1.50	316	12.00	426	12.00
57	6.00	137	3.00	191	8.50	252	4.00	317	2.50	427	6.50
59	15.00	138	5.00	192	10.00	253	4.00	323	8.00	428	5.00
60	16.00	139	11.00	193	10.00	254	180.00	326	7.50	429	2.50
61	3.00	142	6.00	194	13.00	255	4.00	327	6.50	430	9.00
62	5.00	143	2.50	195	7.50	256	11.00	328	7.00	431	2.50
64	21.00	144	3.00	196	5.00	257	5.50	330	8.50	433	15.00
68	5.50	145	10.00	198	15.00	259	12.00	334	9.50	436	10.00
71	15.00	146	13.00	199	14.00	262	10.00	341	5.00	438	55.00
72	15.00	147	3.50	201	3.00	263	19.00	342	5.00	439	35.00
77	15.00	148	17.00	202	3.00	264	26.00	343	7.50	441	210.00
79	14.00	149	18.00	203	6.50	265	18.00	344	8.50	442	4.50
80	42.00	150	21.00	204	4.00	267	3.00	345	7.50	443	4.00
81	47.00	152	3.50	205	4.50	268	1.50	348	11.00	444	3.50
83	3.50	153	5.00	209	3.50	269	2.00	349	7.00	445	3.50
84	2.50	154	4.00	210	15.00	270	3.50	352	5.00		
85	6.00	156	10.00	211	15.00	271	5.00	353	4.50		
86	4.00	157	4.00	212	8.50	272	7.50	354	2.00		
87	6.50	161	2.50	213	11.00	273	14.00	356	11.00		
										Total	
										£3,339.00	
										E&OE	

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France & Colonies Philatelic Society (GB)

Competition Rules for:

The Levett Trophy (Philately)

The Alvey Cup (Postal History)

The Filmer Shield (Adhesives and their usages)

The Jubilee Salver (Miscellaneous)

1. The Trophy, Cup, Shield and Salver shall be competed for annually by Members of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society of GB.
2. For each competition, Members may enter, subject to the operation of Rule 4, as many entries as they wish. Each entry shall be of 12 sheets, conforming to BPE and Stampex standards as to size of sheets.
3. An entry must be the sole property of the Member submitting it.
4. For the Levett Trophy, any Member who has not won a silver-gilt or higher medal at National or International level can compete. For the Alvey Cup, the Filmer Shield or the Jubilee Salver there is no restriction on entry.
5. Winning entries shall not again be eligible for entry in the same competition unless significantly changed.
6. Judging will be by a team of not fewer than three, chosen from Members attending the competitions.
7. For all competitions, marks will be awarded as follows:

Philatelic knowledge and personal study	35
Treatment, originality and importance	30
Relative condition and rarity	20
Presentation, write-up and arrangement	<u>15</u>
	100
8. The judges' decisions shall be final, except in so far as qualification to enter and eligibility of an entry is in dispute, in which case the Committee's decision will be final.

Joyeux Noël!

The President and Committee

wish all Members

and their families

a Happy Christmas

and every success

in the New Year.

Bonne Année!





Figure 11 - Date?

Blajan to Montmorin (Haute Garonne);

handed to a rural postman at Blajan who cancelled the stamp with an "OR" mark.

Blajan and Montmorin are both in the circumscription of the Boulogne-sur-Cesse office and on the round of the postman who received it.

[See page 131]



Figure 14 - 24 May 1884

Baume-les-Dames to Baume (Doubs)

The postman has added his personal handstamp.

[See page 131]