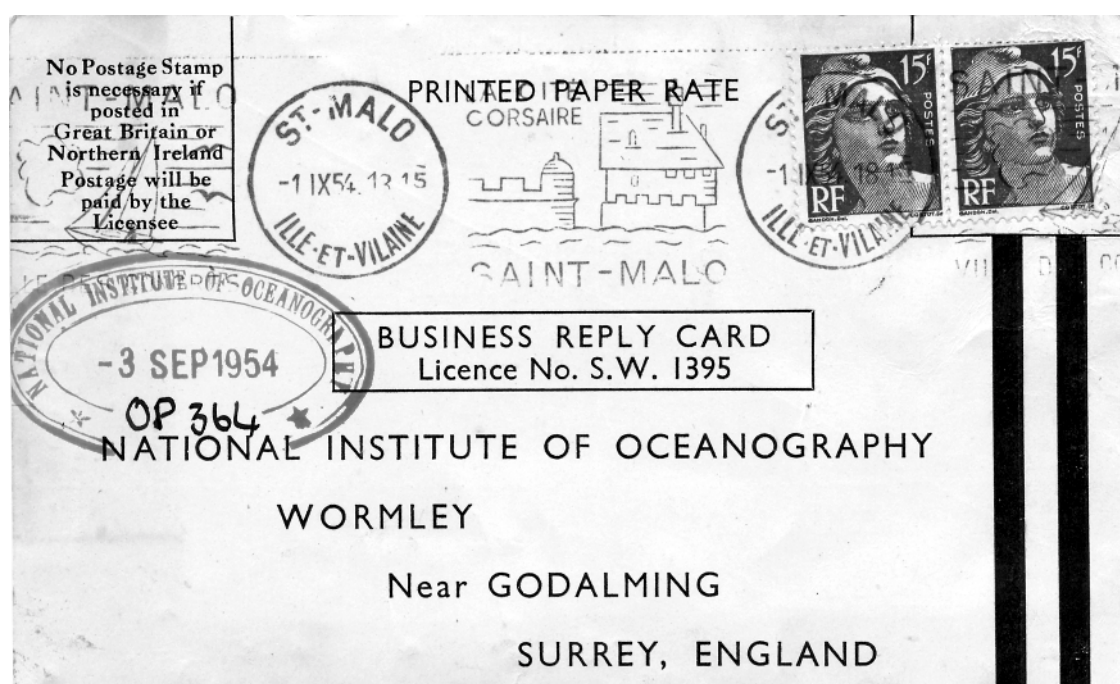


The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



1954 Oil Pollution Investigation card
retrieved from St Malo locks
during tidal survey and returned to UK

*[This item is a lot in the February 2002 Society Auction:
see pages 142 & 172 and the back cover for illustrations of other lots]*



Volume 51 ● Number 4
December 2001
Whole Number 222

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 General Secretary.

2001 Subscription Rates

United Kingdom: £10.00, Europe: £12.00, Elsewhere: £15.00.
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The Society's Girobank account number is 39 784 9001.

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Lots for sale through the Society auctions, held 3 or 4 times a year, should be sent to the Auction Secretary,
M L Bister, 7 The Slade, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2ES.
Please send material for circulation in booklet form to the appropriate Exchange Packet Secretary, viz.
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Members are invited to avail themselves of the services of the Society's substantial library, on terms set out in the Library List distributed to all Members.
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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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* * *

When writing to an officer of the Society, please do not mention the name of the Society in the address. Requests for information should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

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

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1175 M St J Wright (London), 1176 J G Harris (Gloucestershire), 1177 Gavin C Edmonds (Hampshire), 1178 Dr A J Heamon (Surrey), 1179 Mark W Swetland (USA), 1180 R C Brown (Yorkshire).

* * *

Future Displays

Two members of the Society will be giving extra displays in the coming months, and all members of the F&CPS will be welcome to attend.

George Barker will be representing us, showing French Colonials to the Dorking & District SC on Wednesday 6 February 2002 at 7.45pm. The location is the Friends' Meeting House, South Street, Dorking (near the Bull PH and the Spotted Dog PH), and the Dorking contact is D Evans (telephone 01306 883783).

Peter Kelly has agreed to give a talk to the Indian Ocean Study Circle at the Royal Horticultural Halls (Trevpex) on Saturday 2 March 2002 at 2.45pm, and the IOSC have kindly extended an invitation to any of us who may care to attend. Peter says that the display will be along similar, but not exactly the same, lines as the one he will give to our Society on 30 January ("Runion Postal History"), and will give anyone who misses it a chance to catch it again, although he cannot promise that it will be so riveting that a second viewing is required!

* * *

Exhibition Successes

The following members of the Society are to be congratulated on their achievements in recent months:

At Nashville Stamp Show 2001 (Nashville, Tennessee, March) **Bob Picirilli** was awarded a Gold Medal for "Colonial Ivory Coast: the Definitive Issues, 1892 to World War II".

At Westpex 2001 (San Francisco, April) **Steve Walske** gained a Gold Medal for "American Civil War Blockade Run Mail".

Invited exhibits at Thematica in London at the end of June included that by **Iain Stevenson** on the "Canadian Pacific Railway"; and the BTA Cup was won by **Francis Kiddle** with "The Goat", awarded a silver-gilt standard.

At Autumn Stampex in September **Peter Baker** gained a Silver Medal for "The Fighting Free French" in the National Exhibits, Foreign Postal History Class.

Also in September, at Euro-Cuprum 2001 in Lubin, Poland, **Alan Piggott** was awarded a Large Silver for "Printed Matter and Pre-cancellations of France 1868-1968"; and **Mick Bister** received a Large Vermeil for "The Life and Times of the 1F50 Pétain issue".

* * *

Northern Group

The programme of meetings for the remainder of the season will be as follows:-

26 January 2002	Arthur Dent: Entry Marks
23 March 2002	Peter Stockton & Michael Meadowcroft: Speakers' Choice
11 May 2002	Members' Meeting
13 July 2002	All Day Meeting at Heaton Royds

The meetings (with the exception of the last one) are held on Saturdays at the Leeds General Infirmary.

* * *

Programme Change

Members should note that, in order to avoid a clash with the Leamington Weekend, the Society's display to the Leytonstone, Wantage & District P S will now be on Monday 25 March 2002 (7.45pm start) and not as shown on the programme card.

* * *

Call for Volunteers

The Society proposes to publish in brochure form a cumulative subject index of articles that appeared in *Philatélie Française*, *L'Écho de la Timbrologie*, *Le Monde des Philatélistes* and *Timbroscopie* between 1946 and 2000. We believe that such an index would be of great value to students of French philately, and sales prospects are judged to be good.

With over 1700 magazines to index, the task is formidable, but it can be achieved by the combined efforts of 25 volunteers each prepared to devote 25 hours to the job over a period of, say, two months.

In order to minimise the cost of delivering and collecting magazines we would prefer to employ volunteers who live within a 100-mile radius of London.

The data sorting will be done by computer, so indexers will be required to furnish their results in floppy disk form or as e-mail attachments. Naturally, indexers will need to know enough French to grasp article content.

Are you willing to help? If so, please tell Derek Richardson, write to his postal address on cover page ii, or e-mail richardsondandj@netscapeonline.co.uk.

* * *

Publication

Our distinguished member from France, Jean-Luc Trassaert, has published a study of "La Marianne de Decaris" as a PDF file on CD-ROM that can be viewed on a PC or MAC screen via Acrobat Reader. It consists of over 180 pages with 105 colour illustrations, and profits are going to the Youth Section of the Fédération Française des Associations Philatéliques. Price 150F including p&p. A full review with further details will be found in this Journal on page 162.

* * *

The 1F75 Royal Visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to France

Mick Bister

Part III

"And now we find ourselves assembled in order to glorify the admirable Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, those irresistible Anzacs of the Fourth British Army, who in April, May, July, and August, 1918, took such a heavy part in the operations before Amiens. Twenty years have gone by; once again the wheat ripens upon this earth, drenched in their blood. The tortured grass grows green once more upon these fields. Before the indifference of these inanimate things it is only right to recall in human memory the heroic martyrdom of all these soldiers who came to bring their unselfish aid and to die for liberty and right."

President Albert Lebrun

The major event and finale of the State Visit was the unveiling of the War Memorial to Australia's dead at Villers-Bretonneux, a village on the banks of the Somme just seventeen kilometres east of Amiens. Originally, the ceremony had been scheduled for 1st July but had now been postponed until the 22nd, the last day of the visit and the concluding and perhaps most politically significant engagement of the royal programme.

The event would require meticulous planning, not only by the military responsible for the ceremony and for security but particularly for the *Directeur des PTT de la Somme* whose task it was to organise and oversee the postal arrangements required to handle the increase in volume of mail. By 8 June, the *Directeur* had acquainted himself with the programme of the visit, had calculated his requirements and had drawn up four pages of proposals which he submitted to the *Ministre des Postes et Télégraphes* in Paris.

Upon learning from the Préfecture that there would be between 5000 and 6000 official guests plus an estimated 10,000 spectators, the *Directeur* expressed his concern about the approach roads through the villages of Fouilloy and Corbie suffering from traffic congestion and parked cars. A solution to this problem, however, was neither offered nor invited. On the other hand, the effect of such huge numbers on the postal operations required action and his proposals were expressed in some detail.

Firstly, two uniformed postmen, one equipped with a bicycle, would be on duty at Villers-Bretonneux railway station from 12.45 to 14.30 which were the times of arrival and departure of the royal and presidential trains (later changed to 13.50 and 15.15 respectively). Their responsibility would be to receive mail handed to them by passengers on these and other trains and to empty the temporary collection box which would be located in a prominent position on the platform. The mail would then be transported by bicycle to the post office in Villers-Bretonneux.

Within the confines of the Memorial cemetery a temporary post office would be set up and managed from 9.00 to 19.00 with facilities for buying stamps, sending telegrams and making telephone calls. Staffing would consist of one supervisor, four counter clerks and three postmen in uniform, and five collection boxes would be strategically positioned. Mail would be cancelled by hand on the site, although bundles of postcards might be taken to Villers-

Bretonneux for machine cancellation. If need be, a second temporary post office could be set up under canvas outside the cemetery to provide facilities to those unable to get in.

At Villers-Bretonneux, the local post office would receive reinforcements including three counter clerks including one conversant in English and a technician to operate the RBV cancelling machine. Two handstamps would be provided for cancelling packets, printed matter and registered items. In addition to receiving mail brought by bicycle from the railway station, the post office would receive mail by van from the Memorial office on three occasions during the day at mid-day, 15.00 and 19.00. Sorting of mail would begin at Villers-Bretonneux and be completed at Amiens-Gare.

Post offices in nearby villages would also receive assistance. The office at Albert would be provided with extra stocks of stamps but not extra personnel, a temporary collection box would be installed near the garage at the Fouilloy-Aubigny crossroads and a clerk would be seconded to Corbie.

While the *Directeur Départemental de la Somme* was calculating the logistics of the occasion, his counterparts in Paris were concentrating on matters more philatelic. A decision had been reached to produce a set of souvenir stationery postcards to commemorate the unveiling, but their production would not be the responsibility of the *Atelier*. The contract would go to a private company capable of producing them quickly and cheaply by the photogravure process which the Boulevard Brune had yet to embrace. For several years the PTT had been entrusting the printing of its commemorative postal stationery to the private sector and had subcontracted to such companies as Editions d'Art Yvon, E. Desfossés Néogravure, Hélios Aulard and Imprimerie Crété of Paris and even G L Arnaud in Lyon. Following the relatively successful printing of the 1F50 *Les Races* stamp in 1931 by Hélios Vaugirard, the latter had won a lucrative contract to print many of the stamps issued in the Colonies during the 1930s, but it was the Imprimerie Crété that was awarded the contract to print the Villers-Bretonneux stationery.

The stationery produced consisted of a set of five postcards each with a different view of the cemetery or memorial printed in sepia. Two versions of the set were issued, one with a 55c stamp in green representing the Inland Postcard Rate and one with a 1F stamp in red representing the Overseas Postcard Rate. The design of the stamp was an adaptation of Cheffer's 1F75 Royal Visit but with the value

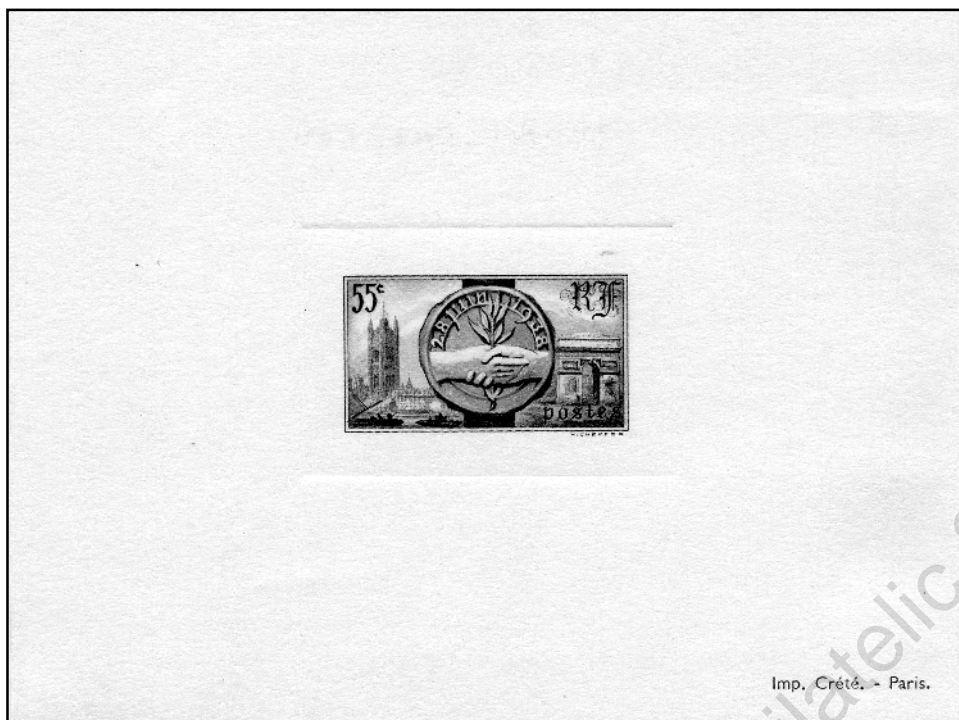


Figure 1 - *Epreuve de luxe* of the 55c postal stationery value

changed and with minor differences such as the size of the lettering of the word *POSTES*. Crété produced an *épreuve de luxe* of each value printed on sheetlets measuring 125 x 95 mm (Fig 1).

The postcards were sold at face value in *pochettes* containing the set of five. The inscription on the *pochette* was printed in the same colour as the stamp, green for the 55c and red for the 1F, with the insignia of the Australian Imperial Forces highlighted in each case in deep yellow. Unfortunately, as a result of having printed the *pochettes* before

the postponement of the visit, the inscription includes the original and hence incorrect inauguration date of 1st July 1938 (Fig 2).

All the current catalogues state the date of issue of the cards as being the day of the unveiling itself. This conclusion is no doubt based on the fact that the earliest cancellation date seen on used cards is 22 July 1938. However, the following press statement issued on 18 July proves this date to be incorrect.

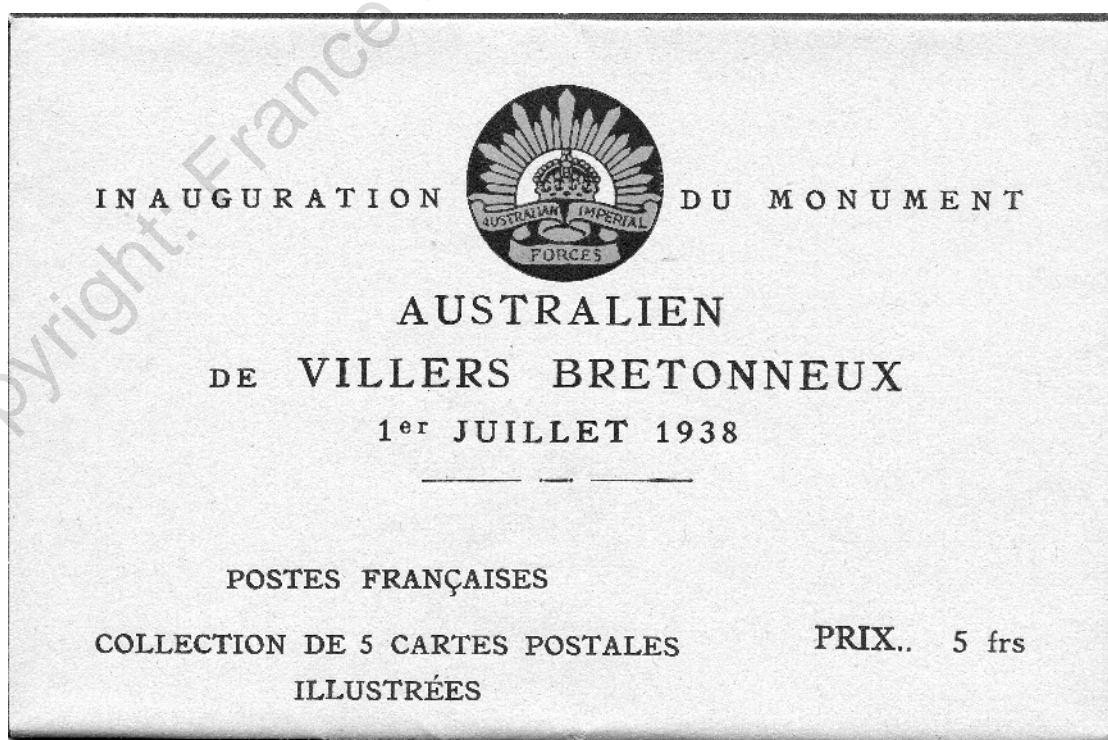


Figure 2 - Stationery *pochette* with incorrect date of 1 July 1938

The *Ministère des PTT* wishes to announce that on the occasion of the inauguration on 22 July of the memorial at Villers-Bretonneux erected in memory of the Australian soldiers who have no known grave, the *Administration des Postes* will be issuing postcards printed in heliogravure and illustrating various views of the Memorial.

These cards will be stamped at 1F for the foreign rate and at 55c for the internal rate and sold at face value. They will be offered in *pochettes* each containing a set of five different views and priced at 5F or 2F75.

They will be available from midday on 21 July in post offices at Arras, Boulogne-sur-Mer, Villers-Bretonneux, Amiens and neighbouring towns.

The Head Post Office in the Rue de Louvre, Paris, will also hold stocks.



Figure 3 -
Postcard written
on day of issue
21 July 1938



Figure 4 -
Cover with
Memorial post office
handstamp and
Villers-Bretonneux
RBV machine
cancellation

21 July can be confirmed as the day of issue by such a postcard sent by one of the military personnel on duty at the Memorial (Fig 3). The card is clearly dated by the sender as having been written on the eve of the ceremony, *le 21 juillet 1938*. He talks about his participation in rehearsals for the following day's parade - *nous venons de faire la répétition du défilé de demain* - and forecasts that *leurs majestés seront bien gardés*.

The occasion attended the following day by the above mentioned soldier was a moving and solemn event. In contrast to the previous day's display of pageantry and armed might at Versailles, the military presence at Villers-Bretonneux was only 'as evidence of respect and solicitude for the royal guests'. Constant references were made during

the ceremony to the solidarity of the Anglo-French alliance. Sir Earle Page in summoning the King to unveil the monument spoke of 'the days when the armies of France and the British Empire fought side by side for great ideals'. The King in his address talked of the events which 'have bound us with ties that the passing years can never weaken' and in his response President Lebrun referred again to 'the common Anglo-French ideals'. Ironically, back in England at 10 Downing Street, those very ideals must have been uppermost in the mind of Mr Chamberlain who, a few hours earlier, had met with the German Ambassador to discuss 'Czechoslovakia in relation to wider European problems of appeasement'; according to some sources, discussions had also broached the question of 'a German guarantee of non-aggression'.

ooooo000ooooo



Figure 5 - 1F stationery card with Amiens-Gare International machine cancellation

The King and Queen returned to the station at Villers-Bretonneux where they boarded the Royal Train for their return journey to Calais. Shortly after 5 o'clock they arrived at their destination where the *Enchantress* awaited them in the harbour. For the Royal couple the State Visit was almost over but back in the Somme the PTT worked feverishly to complete the cancelling and sorting of mail. In all, three different cancellations were used on souvenir mail. A circular date handstamp was used at the temporary post office at the site of the Memorial and only during the day of the inauguration itself. It was occasionally employed to

cancel mail but more often served as a souvenir cachet and applied away from the stamp. Mail processed at the Villers-Bretonneux post office was cancelled by an RBV machine and received a continuous slogan postmark; such mail is known dated from 22 to 24 July. Quite often one encounters mail which has received both the handstamp at the Memorial post office and the RBV cancellation at Villers-Bretonneux (Fig 4). Mail that was not processed until arriving at Amiens was cancelled by an International machine and received a single strike slogan postmark (Fig 5) which continued to be in service until 26 July.

ooooo000ooooo

The State Visit was an enormous success and such was the popularity of this issue, in both its adhesive and stationery format, that most examples encountered on today's philatelic market are cancelled on the first day of issue. Indeed, considering the vast quantity of first day and souvenir covers that must exist, it is surprising how much some dealers are demanding for them. What is more

interesting and more worthwhile to look out for is contemporary correspondence sent by a British visitor or ex-patriot with which is enclosed a few examples of the stamps with personal observations (Fig 6). Better still, and more difficult to find, are commercial covers sent from offices other than Paris to destinations other than Great Britain (Fig 7) and covers bearing multiples (Fig 8).

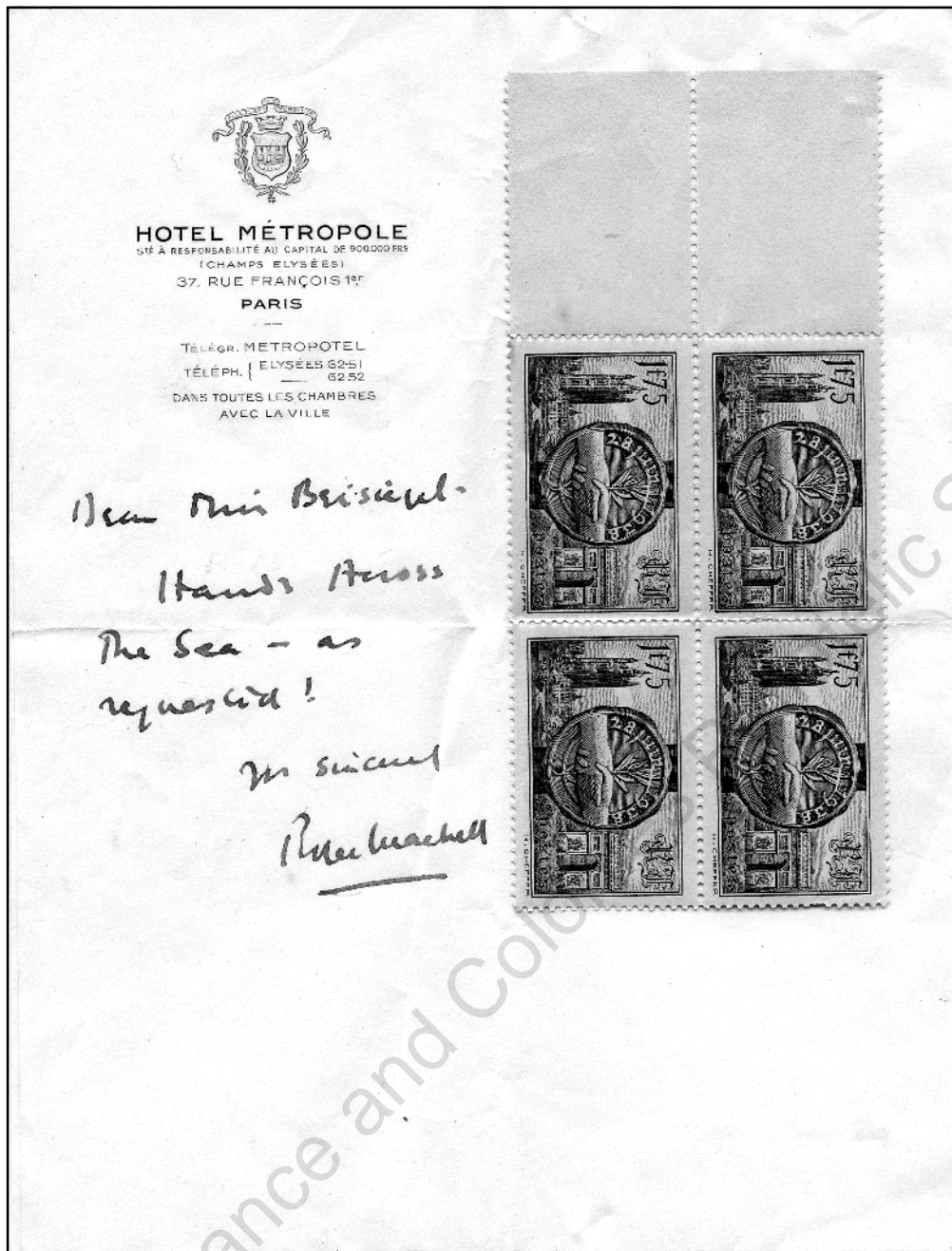


Figure 6 - "Hands across the sea"

As a result of the increase in internal postal rates on 17 November and in foreign rates on 1 December 1938, the postal usage of the stamp and the stationery was short-lived and the *Bulletin Officiel* subsequently announced that the stamp would be withdrawn from sale with effect from 20 March 1939. Rather curiously though and with a certain

irony, cachets applied to the *bon à tirer* and the *feuille-modèle* held in the *Musée de la Poste* state *supprimé le 1^{er} juin 1940*. This date records a somewhat ignominious end to a stamp depicting friendship, solidarity and hope for peace as it was on this very day that British troops were being evacuated from French soil at Dunkirk.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to express his gratitude to M. Pascal Rabier, M. Georges Torrence and Mme. Danielle Oster of the *Musée de la Poste* for their assistance in providing access

to material and documents held in the archives. Reports and quotations relating to the State Visit are from editions of *'The Times'* published between 24 June and 23 July 1938.

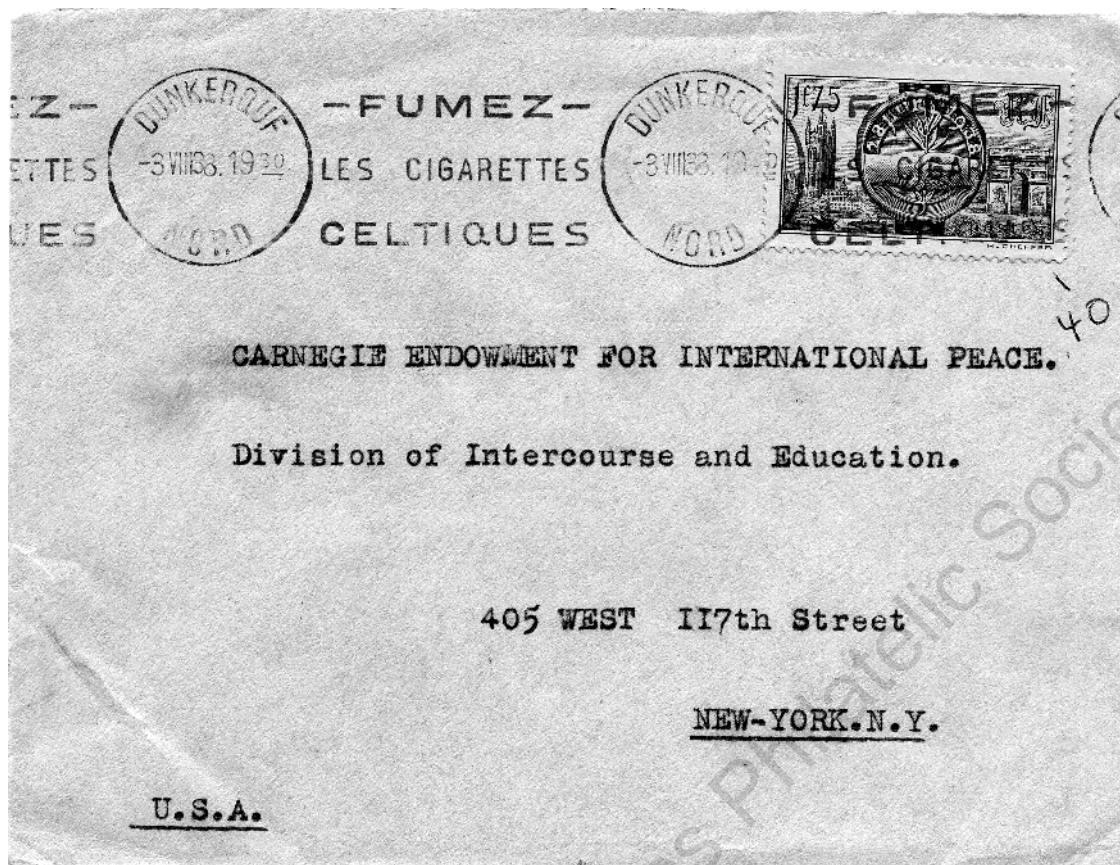


Figure 7 - Commercial usage of 1F75 on cover from Dunkirk to USA

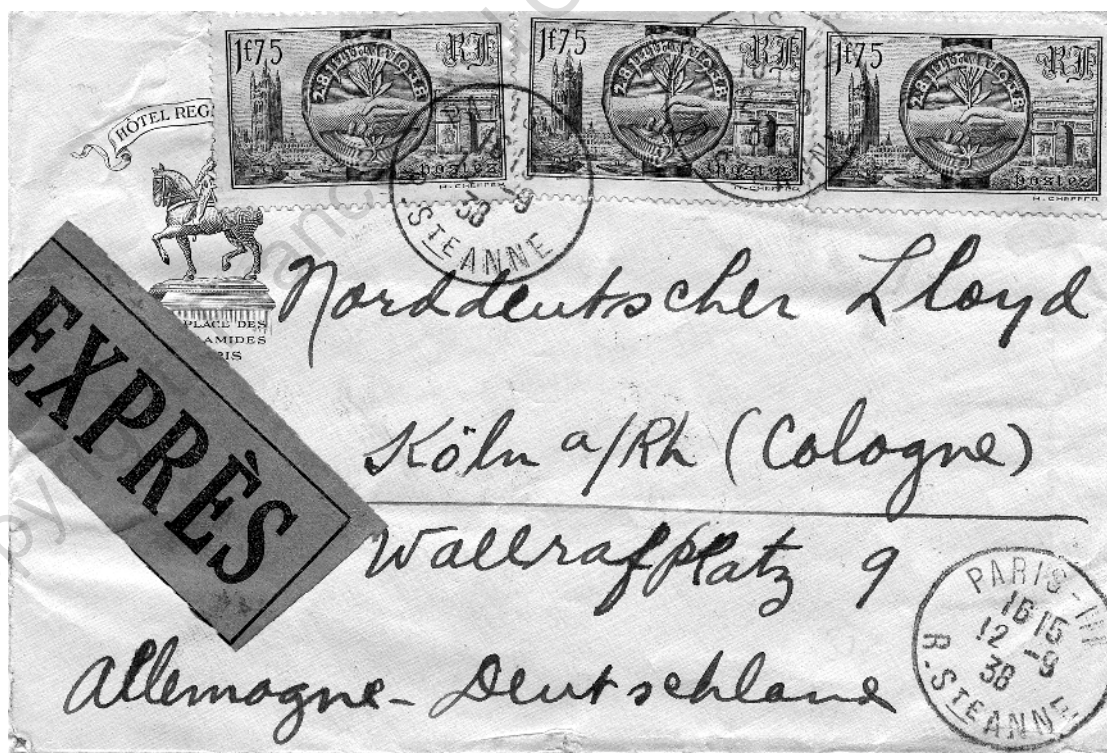


Figure 8 - Three copies of 1F75 to pay 5F25 Overseas Express Letter Rate
(1 August – 30 November 1938) to Germany

French Internment Camps (continued)

Derek Richardson

CHAPTER 16

Septfonds (Tarn-et-Garonne)

Phase 1 – internment of Spanish refugees

By the middle of February 1939, the Mediterranean beach camps at Argelès-sur-Mer, Saint-Cyprien Plage and Le Barcarès had become seriously overcrowded with Spanish Civil War refugees and some redistribution was urgently needed. Amongst the refugees were many thousands of skilled craftsmen who could be deployed for the benefit of the French economy. The Prefect of the Tarn-et-Garonne *département* received an order to accept fifteen thousand of these and his Regional Commander chose a site at Judes, an area of flat pastureland 2 kilometres north of the small town of Septfonds. He appointed civilian contractors to build a hutted camp there. On 5 March 1939 the Spaniards began to arrive at the rate of two trainloads (about 2½ thousand men) per day at the railway station at Borredon. To reach the camp, they had to travel the remaining 6½ kilometres on foot, escorted by Senegalese *tirailleurs*. The rate of construction of barrack huts could not keep pace with the rate of arrival of the Spaniards and most of them had to sleep rough for a while after their arrival.

The new camp was called “Le Camp de Judes à Septfonds”, or “Le Camp de Septfonds” for short. **Figure 1** shows the geography. Rumour and press comment made the citizens of Septfonds apprehensive at the sudden arrival nearby of so many foreigners. However, the erection of barbed wire fencing around the camp and the presence of about a thousand soldiers to guard the internees helped to reassure the local populace.

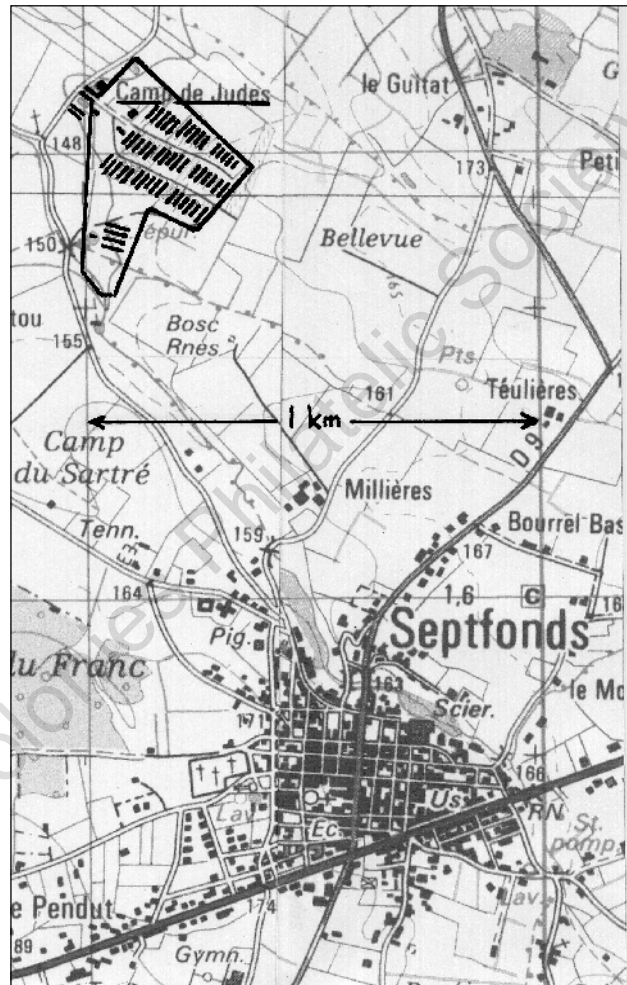


Figure 1



8. Camp de JUDES, à Septfonds (Tarn-et-Garonne)

Figure 2

Figure 3

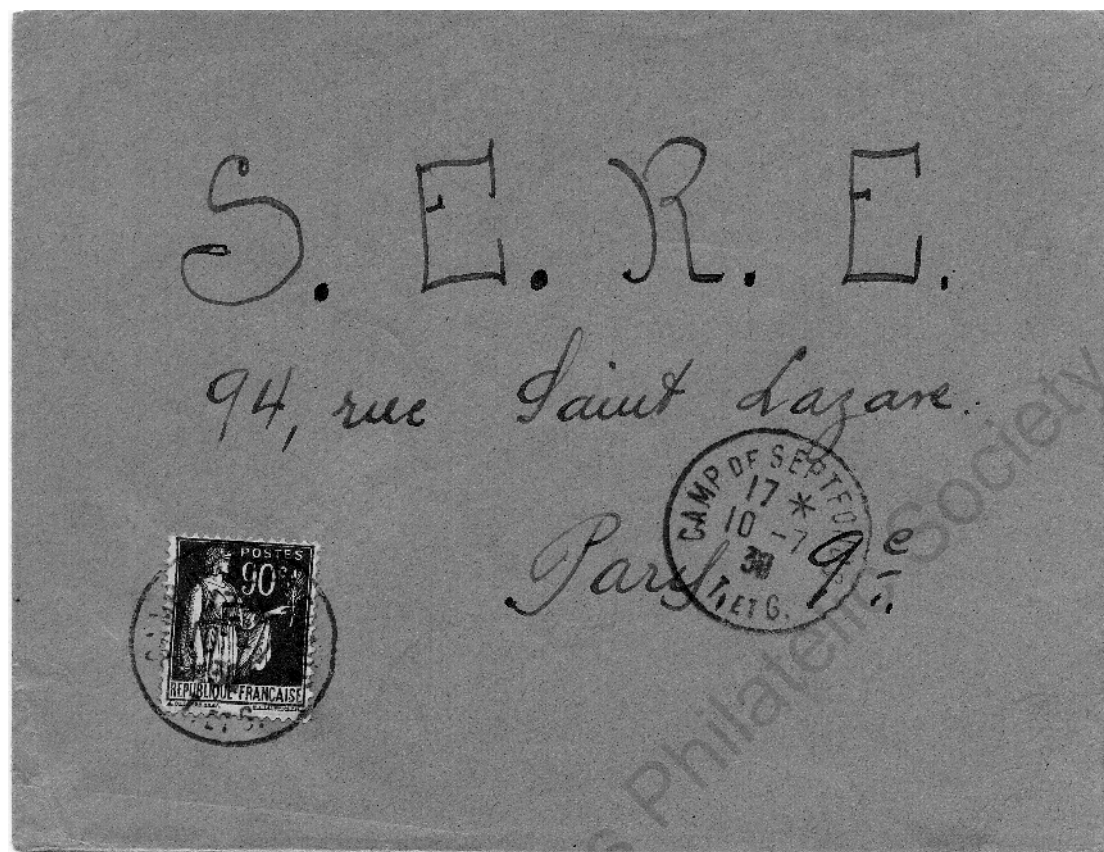


Figure 2 is one of a series of view cards of the camp. The finished camp had 45 wooden barrack huts with tiled roofs, each 28 metres long by 7 metres wide and intended for 350 men. There were a dozen other buildings including a hospital block, guards' quarters and administration. The camp also had its own post office. The postal arrangements at Septfonds camp followed the same pattern as at the other main camps for Spaniards. A circular date stamp with the words *CAMP DE SEPTFONDS* was first used as a franchise stamp on unfranked letters leaving the camp. Then, when the monthly free issue of adhesive stamps surcharged "F" began in June 1939, the handstamp was used to obliterate

the adhesive and was also applied nearby so that the date of posting could be clearly seen. **Figure 3** is an example.

Figure 4 shows a cachet once seen alongside the "F" stamp on a letter from the camp. The date is not readable, as there is no second strike nearby. This cover is almost certainly a philatelic creation, the cachet having probably been "borrowed" from the Commandant's office. Another item that is likely to have been philatelically inspired is the Braille postcard shown in **Figure 5** with the two adhesive stamps "cancelled" with a cachet *CAMP DE JUDES / Le Vague-mestre / SEPTFONDS* but no date.



Figure 4

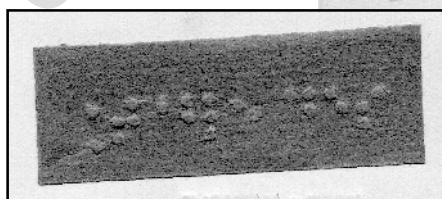


Figure 5 -
Inset is the braille
label on reverse



INCONNU au Camp de SEPTFONDS

Figure 6

The camp population began to fall from April 1939 onwards as men volunteered for service in Spanish Workers' Companies, *Compagnies de Travailleurs Espagnols* or CTEs, 200 to 250 strong, which were employed on Maginot Line fortifications, agriculture and public works. The pace of

CTE recruitment increased after the outbreak of hostilities in September 1939 and by the end of the year the camp was almost empty. So many letters were arriving addressed to men who had left that the post office had a handstamp made up to mark such letters – see [Figure 6](#).

Phase 2 – a training camp for foreign workers

The departure of the Spaniards meant that the presence of French army personnel to guard them ceased. Camp security thereafter became the responsibility of the Police, exercised by a Special Commissariat. [REDACTED] is a headed envelope of this *Commissariat Spécial* postmarked February 1940. The size of this operation no longer justified a separate post office in the camp, and all camp mail from February 1940 onwards was handled by the post office in the village of Septfonds itself. [Figure 8](#) is a flag type military franchise card, correctly franked at 1F50 for the foreign rate, postmarked 7 March 1940 and addressed to Hungary, though the language in which it is written is Polish with some words in German Yiddish. Prophetically, the writer fears for the safety of Poles [in France] in the event of

invasion. It is recorded in manuscript that the card was received on 20 March and replied to on 24 March 1940.

On 15 March 1940 Septfonds camp became a mobilisation centre for foreigners desirous of enlisting in *Régiments de Marche de Volontaires Étrangers*. [Figure 9](#) depicts a cover dated 30 April 1940 with a cachet worded *Groupe d'Instruction des Bataillons de Pionniers de Volontaires Étrangers*. No details are available regarding the numbers of men involved or their nationalities but they would have included a significant number of Germans who had entered France as refugees before the war. 'Jude' being the German word for Jew, the term 'Camp de Judes' ceased to be used from this time onwards.

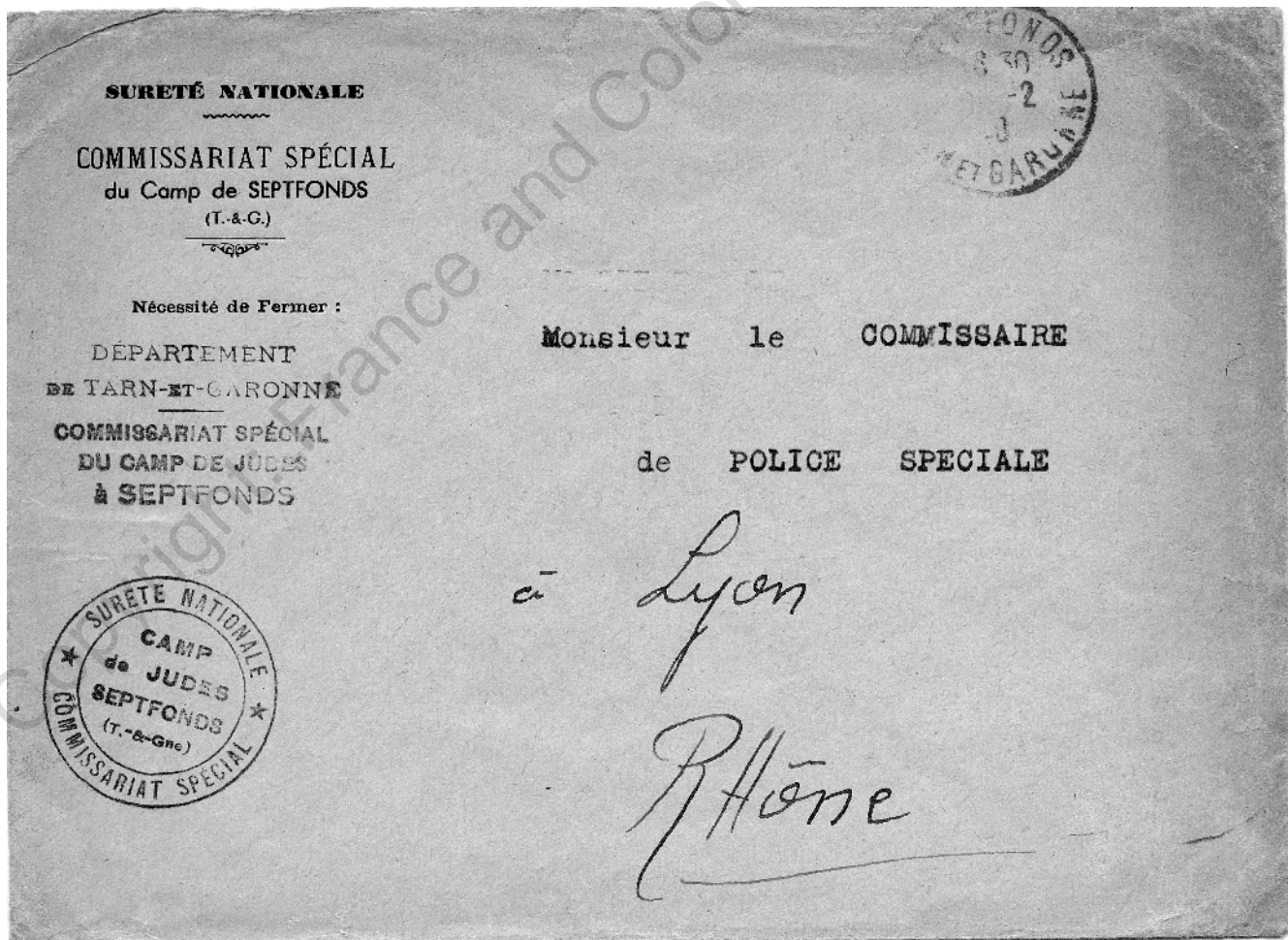


Figure 7



Figure 8

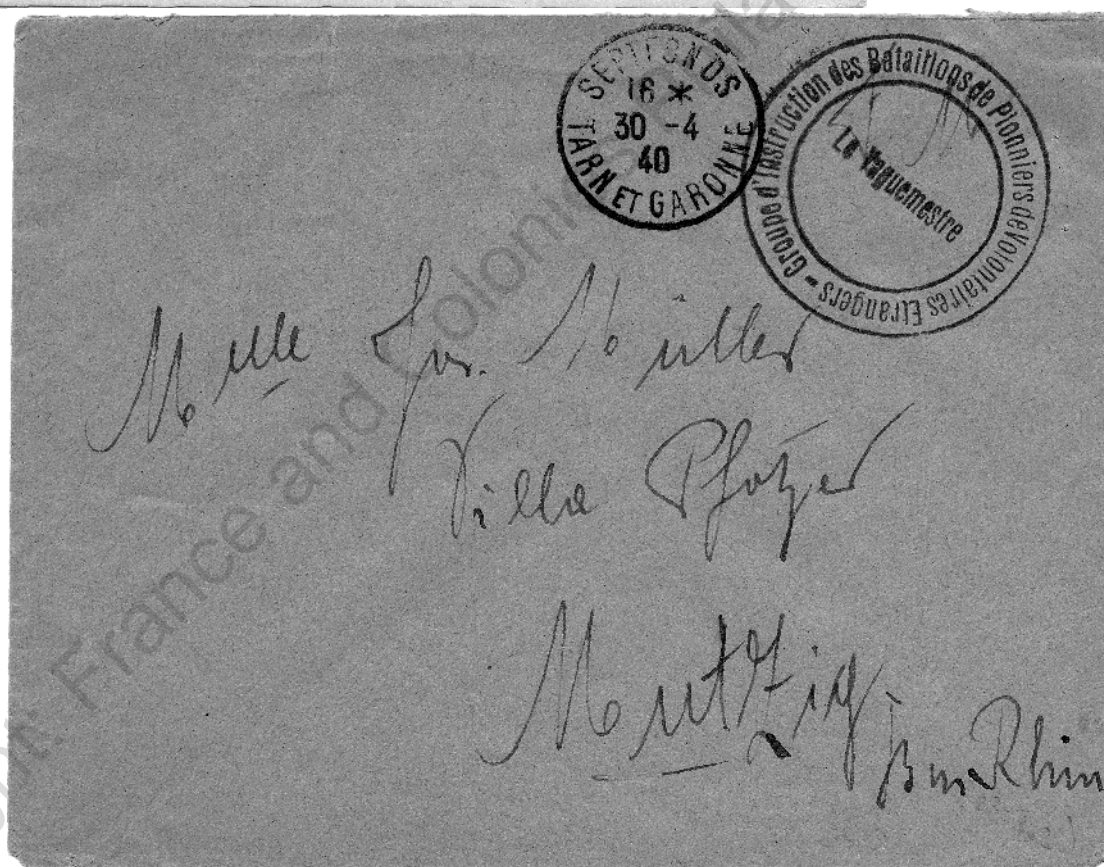


Figure 9

Phase 3 – June 1940 to summer of 1942, demobilisation and internment

After the Armistice, Septfonds camp became the demobilisation centre for foreign volunteers' groups that had so recently been created there. The Ministry of Works under the Vichy government ordered the demobilised men to join Foreign Workers' Groups, *Groupes de Travailleurs Étrangers* or GTEs. One of them, GTE n° 302, which was composed mainly of Jewish men, was located at Septfonds camp, where it would remain until the Liberation. The number of demobilised volunteers held at Septfonds in November 1940 stood at 1000 [Weill, p.114].

2 January 1941 saw the creation of a "camp within a camp", six barrack huts closed off from the rest and known as *un camp de triage et d'hébergement* (sorting and sheltering camp) under the Ministry of the Interior. It authorised the Prefect of the Department to intern in this camp, without trial, what were officially termed *étrangers en surnombre dans l'économie départementale* (foreigners surplus to the economic requirements of the Department). On 28 May 1941 the sorting process was complete and internees were either released or moved to camps elsewhere, except for a

number of suspect individuals who were kept in custody at Septfonds camp. The camp population in June 1941 was 500 including some children [Weill, p.53].

The Ministry of Works continued to be responsible for GTEs, and [Figure 10](#) is a poorly struck *MINISTÈRE DU TRAVAIL* cachet found on a “free-post” letter postmarked Septfonds 13.12.41 and addressed to the International Committee of the Red Cross (CIC-R) in Geneva. In

February 1942, there were about a hundred foreign “suspects” in the camp, plus the personnel of GTE n° 302, considerably augmented by the arrival of more foreign Jews. [Figure 11](#) is a different *MINISTÈRE DU TRAVAIL* cachet found on a “free-post” letter from someone in GTE n° 302 postmarked Septfonds 27.4.42 to the CIC-R. [Figures 12 & 13](#) are cachets on the front and back of a letter from an internee to the CIC-R franked at 4F50 and postmarked Septfonds 30.5.42.



Figure 10



Figure 12

MINISTÈRE DU TRAVAIL
Camp de SEPTFONDS
(Tarn-&-Garonne)

Figure 11



Figure 13

Phase 4 – summer 1942 to the Liberation

During August and September 1942, 295 individuals from Septfonds were put on trains leaving Caussade station bound for Drancy camp near Paris and thence to Auschwitz. Of these 295, 84 were men of GTE n° 302 and the remaining 211 were foreign Jews, men, women and children recently rounded up in the Tarn-et-Garonne and Lot *départements* and brought to Septfonds in lorries. A further 45 Jews from Septfonds were deported to Drancy via Gurs camp in February-March 1943 [Laharie, p.178].

In March 1943, GTE n° 302 comprised 70 men only. It remained in existence until the Liberation. A censor mark



Figure 14

found on a letter with a 30.12.43 circular date stamp of Septfonds and addressed to the CIC-R is illustrated in [Figure 14](#).

Phase 5 – post-Liberation

Septfonds camp was used for the last time after the Liberation for the internment of Frenchmen accused of collaboration with the forces of occupation. [Figure 15](#) is a censor mark on the front of an outgoing letter (postmarked -1.45) from an internee at the camp, and [Figure 16](#) is a different censor mark on the front of an incoming letter (postmarked 9.4.45) to the sender of the first letter. The camp closed for the last time later in 1945.

References

Jean-Claude FAU, “Le camp des réfugiés espagnols de Septfonds (1939-1940)” in *Les Camps du sud-ouest de la France 1939-1944*, Editions Privat, Toulouse 1994.

Claude LAHARIE, *Le Camp de Gurs 1939-1945*, Infocompo, Pau 1985.

Dr Joseph WEILL, *Contribution à l'histoire des camps d'internement dans l'Anti-France*, CDJC, Paris 1946.

A dossier of documents relating to the Camp de Judes kindly supplied by Monsieur Jacques TABARLY, Maire de Septfonds.



Figure 15

Centre d'Internement
CENSURE
de SEPTFONDS

Figure 16

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 265 (Vol 57, N° 3) Jul 2001: The Rights of Man (Kinsley); The Unissued Vichy Colonial Stamps of 1942-44 (Anderson III); Monaco Bisects - a trap for the unwary (Massler); Some unusual travelled covers (Morvay); Foreign Rates from the French Post Offices in Egypt (Smith); American Expeditionary Force Message, World War II (Luft).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1744 Sep 2001: Une datation sans carbone (de la Mettrie); 1830, les premiers facteurs ruraux (Prugnon); Décodage: Le prix d'un débordement (Prugnon); Fiscaux: Libellés en dollars [usage of fiscals in Occupation Zones 1947-51] (Danan); Jean Mermoz, pionnier de l'Aéropostale (Fox).

N° 1745 Oct 2001: Les machines à affranchir d'entreprise [MA] (-); Poste automobile rurale: Au service de tous (Mayeur); Pour qui vive Le France [paquebot] (Trassaert).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

Supplément au N° 306: Marcophilix XXV La Baule 13-14 Octobre 2001: promenade marcophile en Presqu'île guérandaise (-); La Loire Inférieure: quelques aspects de son histoire postale (Uzereau); Voyage en Loire Inférieure (Alexandre); La Presqu'île de Guérande (Alexandre); Histoire Postale de La Rochelle du 17^e au 19^e siècle (Picard); Les courriers-convoyeurs Lignes d'Ouest (Bougue); La Petite Poste de Bordeaux (Abensur); Raretés et Beautés du XVIII^e siècle (Baudot); La Marine Nationale pendant la seconde guerre mondiale (Ablard); Usage et diversité de l'oblitération mécanique (Lemoigne); Lille en Flandre (Senet); Télégraphie électro-sémaphorique (Narjoux); Le tarif postal de la loi du 6 Nivôse an 4 (Abensur); Une introduction à l'histoire postale maritime de l'Île Bourbon, devenue La Réunion [1750-1912] (Kelly); Marques postales de Vendée (Brecquehaïs); Les Rebutés (Levern); La Commune de Paris de 1871 (Cappart); Historique de la Gendarmerie Nationale: Franchises et contresesings de 1791 à 1848 (Vannson); Plis aériens

accidentés [1928-1988] (Albaret); Les mandats des pays ayant fait partie de l'Union Française (Reynaud et Sené); La guerre de Succession d'Autriche 1741-1748 (Dubus); Les abonnements aux journaux (Sené); La fin des Gros Chiffres (Berger); Les Commissions exécutives [12 et 29 floréal an 2 - 12 brumaire an 4] / [1^{er} et 18 avril 1794 - 3 novembre 1795] (Lescoat); Messagers et Poste aux Lettres à Poitiers [17^e et début 18^e siècle] (Tixier); Les résidences impériales: Le service de l'Empereur et des Altesses sous Le Second Empire (Sénéchal); Les Bureaux Ambulants des Pay-Bas (Raynal); Les chiffres taxe au type « Banderole » de couleur noire [utilisation Postale] (Bernier); A propos des mandats: Les réclamations (Sené); La Poste Sarde et Italienne en Tunisie (Dutau); Lettres chargées et recommandées pour l'étranger [1849-1880] (Berger); Convoyeurs-Stations (Gautier); L'Indochine française dans la tourmente 1940-1945 (Goanvic); Les relations postales entre le Chili et la France: Des origines à 1886 (Dutau); Préoblitérés Monnaie Gauloise: Travaux Préparatoires (Trassaert); Affranchissements mécaniques en Euros (Bonnetoy); Courrier militaire pour l'étranger: Les utilisations postales dans les affranchissements gratuits des lettres et cartes postales (Ollivier); Courrier France/USA (1876-1900) [UGP/UPU] (Fouillet); Exposition internationale, Paris 1937 (Gautier); France - Royaume Uni [1711-1854] (Renollaud); Relations Aéropostales entre l'Europe et l'Amérique du Sud 1919-1942 (Bergier).

Timbres magazine

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

N° 15 Jul-Aug 2001: Les Français dans la guerre des Boers (Groenewald); La série des «Mouchon B.F.E.» 4^e pt (de Pellinec); A la découverte des îles anglo-normandes (Michaud); Les «simili-Daguin» des colonies (-); La série des « Pasteur 2^e pt (Melot); La Corse (Baudot).

N° 16 Sep 2001: Iris: la remise en cause (Melot); Les artistes du timbre et le mail (Julien); Le prince Rainier III et la philatélie (Michaud); Indo-Chine 1945-47 [4^e partie] (Michaud); Carnets: les bateaux postaux (-); La poste à tire d'ailes (-); La série des «Mouchon » en Chine 5^e pt (de Pellinec).

Auction Lots

The following two lots will be offered in the February 2002 Society Auction, as will those illustrated on the front and back cover and on page 172.



(left) 20c Napoleon, blue on green, cancelled PC3672

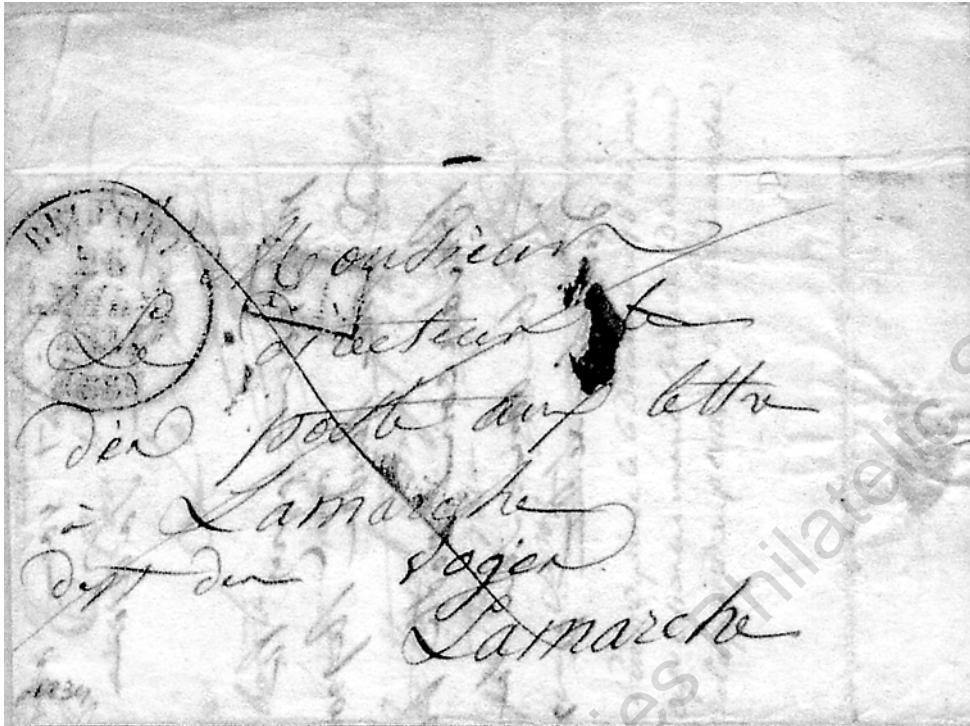
(right) 1941 French Equatorial Africa Free French Issue overprinted RÉSISTANCE and LIBÉRATION



A Precursor of *Recouvrement Postal*

Robert Abensur (trans. Maurice Tyler)

[This article first appeared in *Les Feuilles Marcophiles* in 1995, and is reproduced by permission of the Union Marcophile.]



We were pleased to discover this letter dated 1834 which describes, 45 years before the establishment of the service, a *recouvrement* (COD or payment of taxes etc through collection by postman) carried out in a rural area. It demonstrates the existence of the service, which until now had been merely presumed. Here is the complete text(*):

Belfort, 25 March 1834

To the Director of the letter post
at Lamarche (Vosges)

[Dear Sir,] Excuse the liberty that I am taking in writing this letter to you. It is to request you to be kind enough to get me a draft cashed by the parish priest at Isches for 55 francs. After collection will you be good enough to send me a draft to the post office at Besançon, Le Doubs département, and deduct your expenses. I think that you can have it delivered by a letter carrier on foot in the countryside and you will deduct your expenses[;] by doing this you will oblige one who has the honour of greeting you with esteem.

Louis Lion

P.S. Will you be kind enough to send me your reply to Besançon, poste restante, le Doubs département, and the draft on the Post Office will you put it in the letter [and] I shall be very obliged to you.

Letter filed 6 December 1834, for Dr Charles-Marie Burel, Director of the Letter Post at Lamarche.

[On back of cover]

Replied 6 May 1834, not to Belfort but to Dijon (Côte d'Or).

This letter raises several questions. The *recouvrement* postal service was only created in 1879: how does it come about that a post office director is being asked to entrust the cashing of a bill of exchange to his rural postman (here called a carrier on foot as it was before the creation of the rural service) when this service is not provided for by the

regulations? How is it possible also that a Director of the Post Office, a civil servant, can intervene in a wholly private affair, all the more so since an equally private payment will play a part and avoid inspection by the state authorities?

So let us refer back to the official documents which, as always, allow us to understand these mysteries.

The Act of 5 April 1879 created the *recouvrement postal* service in order to facilitate the payment of debts, particularly in rural areas. In fact there already existed some private *recouvrement* services. It is precisely in order not to compete officially with them that the *recouvrement postal* service initially excluded from its sphere of activity most of the large towns in France. Now two details of this act assumed the prior unofficial existence of this service.

It provides in fact for postmen being banned from conducting *recouvrement* collections on their own behalf, and moreover for a payment to the postman and to the postmaster for each sum received. Provision is even made for the immediate payment of this amount to the postman on returning from his round, an unusual indulgence in favour of government agents.

Prior to 1879, however, these practices were strictly forbidden. The General Directive of 1856 (section 1487) recalls an order of Year VIII taken up again by ministerial decisions of 1820 and 1842, specifying that "any Post Office employee who involves himself directly or indirectly in receipt of money or in managing a private business affair can be considered as having resigned." This same General Directive of 1856 is still more precise in section 1317: "No Post Office employee can carry out, even unofficially and without remuneration, the payment of any accounts, the determining and settling of any business, or the collection of any sum of money."

Belfort le 26 Mars 1834
 Monsieur le Directeur des post. aux
 Prov. de Lamarche (région)
 pardonnez la liberté que je prend de vous
 écrire la présente c'est pour vous prier d'envoyer
 la somme de me faire encaisser un bon sur
 Mr. le Com. d'Esche de 55^{fr} après la rentrée
 vous avez la somme de rembourser un bon sur
 la poste de Bedancourt de 55^{fr} + de Doubs
 et vous deduirez vos déboursés que je vous
 en pourrai faire présenter par
 un prochain porteur de la lettre dans la
 Campagne et vous deduirez vos déboursés
 le faisant vous obligeant celui qui a l'honneur
 de vous saluer avec considération
 L'écriturier
 M. S. vous envoie la somme
 de me rendre le compte à
 Bedancourt poste de 55^{fr} de Doubs
 et le bon sur la poste vous le mettrai
 dans la lettre et vous serez bien obligé

L'écriturier le 6 Décembre 1834, par
 M. Charles Marie Borel Directeur
 des postes aux lettres de Lamarche.

Letter sent post paid from Belfort (cachet type 13 of 26 March 1834) to Lamarche

It is a Circular of 1860 (n° 166 BM n° 55) which provides the solution. It makes provision for rural postmen being able to undertake "errands" in a private capacity for the inhabitants of the localities that they serve. This circular specifies that it is recognising and making official pre-existing practices. Thus it authorises the rural postman to receive sums of money in order to make out a money order or to cash one, to carry value declared articles, but not exactly to collect *recouvrements*. However, according to the circular, these "errands are not limited to particular items." The collection of sums of money by the rural postman is therefore quite probably authorised in this way, and this circular confirms that these customs are longstanding. No remuneration is provided for in this text but the term "in a private capacity" recognises also its probable existence.

All this proves that the service existed already in 1879 and that the act merely came to make official what were established practices. Certain people had obviously quickly realised that the rural postman, the only person to enter the furthest corners of our countryside, could be useful for tasks other than collecting and delivering mail. Do we have any pertinent knowledge of written evidence of these obscure jobs?

In conclusion, let us read the letters addressed to the Directors of the Post Office. These letters, too often, unfortunately, stripped of some of their text, surely contain a few fragments of postal history.

My thanks to MM Pingard and Strohl for having pointed this document out to me.

(*) The original letter in French reads as follows, with spelling and grammatical errors included:-

Belfort le 25 mars 1834
 Monsieur le Directeur des postes aux
 lettres à Lamarche (Vosges)
 pardons la liberté que je prends de vous
 écrire la présente. C'est pour vous prier d'avoir
 la bonté de me faire encaisser un bon sur
 Mr le curé d'Isches de 55 fr. Après la rentrée
 vous aurez la bonté de m'envoyer un bon sur
 la poste de Besançon dept du (doubts)
 et vous déduirez vos déboursé. Je pense
 que vous pouvez le faire présenter par
 un pietton porteur des lettres dans les
 Campagnes et vous déduirez vos déboursé en
 le faisant vous obligerez celui qui a l'honneur
 de vous saluer avec considération

Louis Lion

p.s. vous aurez la bonté
 de me rendre réponse à
 Besançon poste Restante dept du doubts
 et le bon sur la poste vous le mettrez
 dans la lettre je vous serai bien obligé

Lettre déposée le 6 décembre 1834, pour
 le Dr Charles Marie Burel Directeur
 de la poste aux Lettres de Lamarche.

[Back of cover]

Rep. le 6 mai 1834 non pas à Belfort
 mais à Dijon (Cote d'or)

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Amazing 1870-71 Wonder Stories - 64

Ernst Cohn

Have you ever stood in front of an 1870 exhibit and said to yourself, "that cover never flew out of Paris, it's smuggled"? Or, as happened to a friend of mine at a stamp show, seen that one item was not a balloon cover but that it went by US diplomatic pouch, as he wrote to me later, with some of his excitement still lingering? Such finds are much more pleasant all around than spotting the perennial pseudo-*Armand-Barbès* or pseudo-*Uhrich* covers, probably sold at considerable premiums that they did not deserve. In short, the number of wrongly ascribed 1870 covers is still relatively large, considering that better information has been available in several languages and for quite a long time now.

Recently I received the copy of an amazing certificate of authenticity for a *ballon monté* (see next page). The expertizer claims special competence in French philately. He certified not just the genuine nature of the envelope but furthermore opined that the postmarks identify its carrier as the *Neptune*. These markings are 18 September inside Paris and 25 September at Pau, its destination.

As a matter of fact, the Paris marking is from the 7th collection period, meaning that it was not sorted until the next day, so there is absolutely no doubt that the siege of Paris had begun by the time the letter was ready to leave town.

Whereas Amici had already wondered whether the *Neptune* had carried letters in its mail bags, more recent studies, of the mail itself and of contemporary sources, have strengthened the conviction that Duruof's only letter mail aboard the *Neptune* was what had been entrusted to him personally. The mail bags aboard his balloon contained printed matter and such, rather than written messages.

Furthermore, Professor Jacquot has shown that even some letters traditionally ascribed to the second manned balloon, the *Ville de Florence*, must have traveled by other means, because they arrived demonstrably too early for mail from that balloon. How was such early siege mail, postmarked at Paris, expedited out of town? (Clearly, mail not postmarked in Paris was smuggled out privately.)

The fact that postal employees of Paris had volunteered to smuggle mail officially through the lines in both directions has also been known for a long time but does not seem to have interested most philatelists until recent years. Only a few mailmen succeeded in this dangerous task. Covers documenting their success are quite as rare as Neptune covers and much rarer than *Ville de Florence* covers. The available information has been published in French and English and is repeated in the following annotated table for ease of reference.

Official Mail Smuggling for Paris, Sept.-Oct. 1870

From Paris, Sept.	Mailmen	Destination	To Paris, Sept./Oct.	Load for Paris
20	Létoile, Simon-Charles ^a	Evreux	27 or 28	150+ letters
21	Brare, Armand, and Gême, Charles-Cyrille ^b	St. Germain (on 22 nd)	23	1,000 letters together(?)
24	Brare and Gême ^c	Triel	25	446 letters from St. Germain
27	Brare and Gême	Triel	28	853 letters
30	Loyet, François and Chour(r)ier, Louis ^d	Triel	5 or 6?	714 letters
?	Chour(r)ier	Carrières	?	1,200 letters to Carrières

^a This mailman, from Fontenay-aux-Roses, took out 14 letter packages, and received 150 francs and congratulations from Minister Picard upon his return, as well as the military medal on 13 March 1873.

^b Each carried a N° 5 mailbag (Mallet) or 3,000 letters (Amici) out of Paris. Brare was shot dead on 14 December by Germans while crossing the Seine towards Paris. [François Mallet, *Les Aéroneutes, les Colombophiles du Siège de Paris*, Paris 1909, F. Louis Vivien, vi + 153 pp; and Raphaël Amici, *La Ville de Florence*, in *Revue des PTT de France*, N° 6 (1954) p.23]

^c Each carried 10 kilos (Mallet) or 3,000 letters (*Le Temps*).

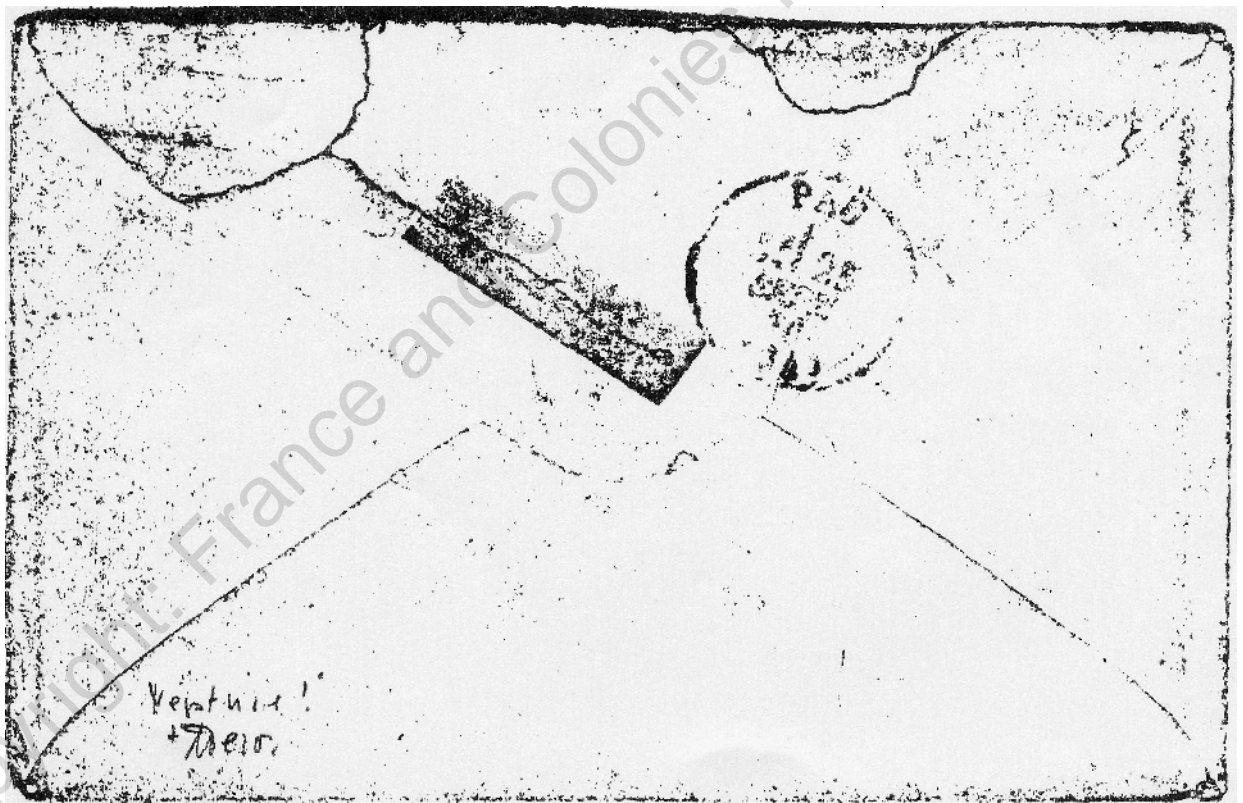
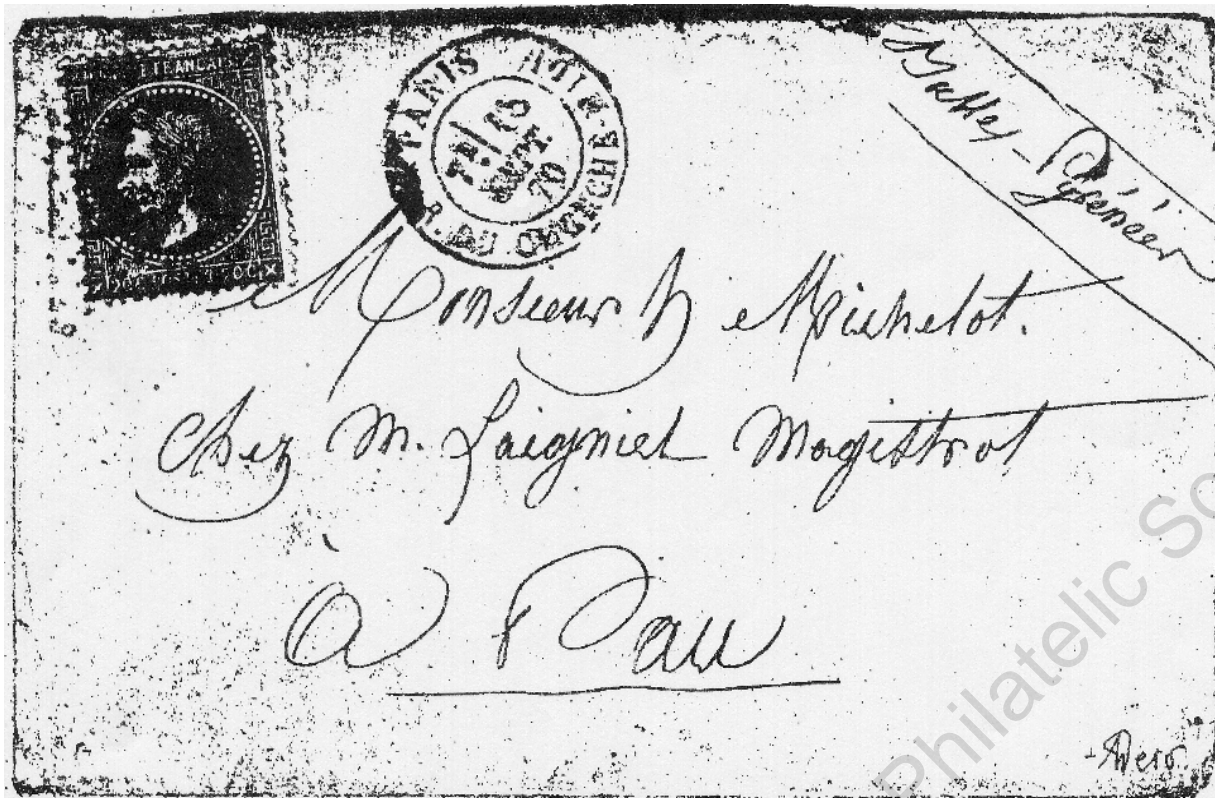
^d They took out 24,000 letters weighing 90 kilos(?) and brought back 1,200 letters, but see next entry in table.

No dates being established for the last trip listed above, mailmen are known to have crossed the opposing lines of troops in the direction *from* Paris at least between 20 and 30 September, and *towards* Paris between 23 September and 6 October. No other successful crossing during the hostilities is known, by post-office employees carrying private mail.

Note, by the way, that the footnotes permit equating the contents of a N° 5 mailbag to 10 kg, thought to be equivalent

to 3,000 letters, so the assumption was that a light-weight siege letter weighed about 3¹/₃ grams. Actually, it weighed closer to 1 gram at the start and most likely less than 3 grams at the end.

The reader may wish to use the above table to see who of these smugglers might have taken the letter in question out of Paris and where it might have made its first outside stop, before being taken onward to Pau. It is certainly a rare piece and just as certainly not what the expert certified it to be.



Note that this is something more subtle than an expert certifying a fake or a forgery as being authentic. The expert's customer is getting the wrong answer, even if the piece is genuine as well as rare. If the customer is missing a *Neptune* from an otherwise 'complete' collection of Paris siege balloon mail, this piece will not complete that collection. (We leave open the question as to whether such a collection can ever be complete.) The expertizer clearly does not have the expertise needed to properly identify this rare, genuine item.

This is yet another example of the difference between expertizing stamps and postmarks as such and documents representing postal history, especially postal history of a difficult period that is still being explored. Anyone claiming to be able to expertize these items should be required to show some sort of proof that he is subscribing to as well as *reading* periodicals likely to contain new information about the field in question, that he knows the contents of pertinent books, and that he does not take descriptions in catalogues and of auction lots too seriously. Putting 'Neptune!' on the

back of a cover does not make it such and simply means that, in this case, the owner who knows what he has may wish to remove that silly notice without harming the cover.

Expertizers will realize that their wisdom is not forever, particularly in postal history. Being a true expertizer requires constant learning and revisions of knowledge about one's specialty. Once philatelists correct the launch date of a balloon, learn that mailbags were captured, figure out the real time for mail to reach its destination, realize that mailbags were split among men on a certain balloon - to cite only some principal factors affecting Paris balloon mail and its delivery - experts must revise their knowledge in conformance with true facts. The more specific the claims

made on a certificate, the greater is the likelihood that it may have to be revised in time or else will lose some of its significance.

In the case of this cover, e.g., a certificate calling it a genuine document from the siege of Paris is unlikely to be questioned for any valid reason. Identifying it as mail from the *Neptune* is wrong in the light of the best available, recent facts. Ascribing it to one specific mail smuggler is impossible as long as more specific information is lacking. Ascribing it to one of three mailmen has to be correct.

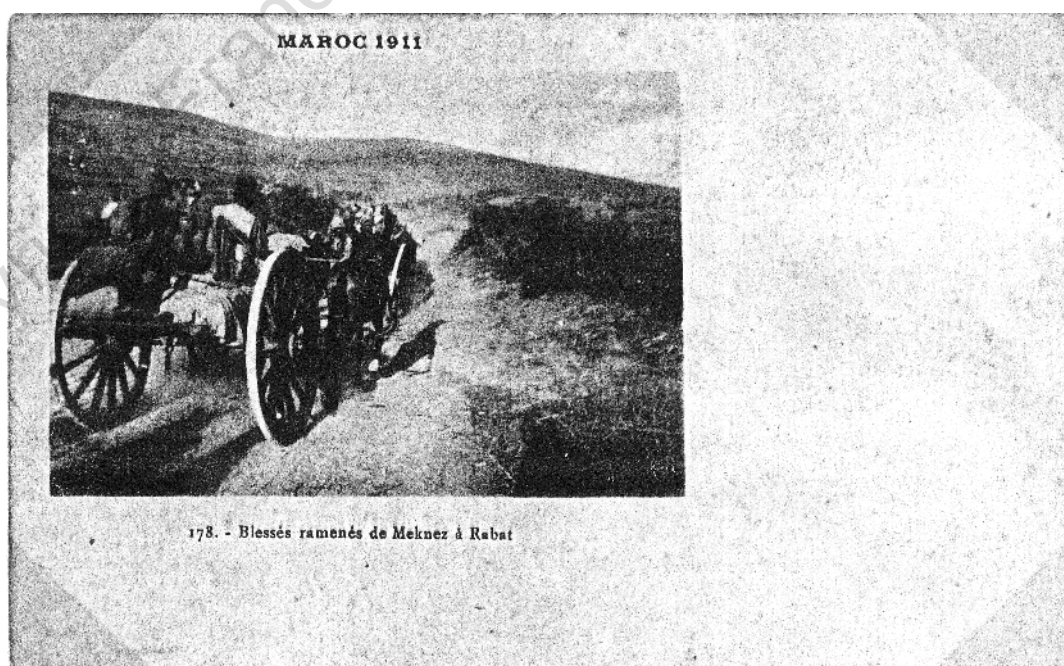
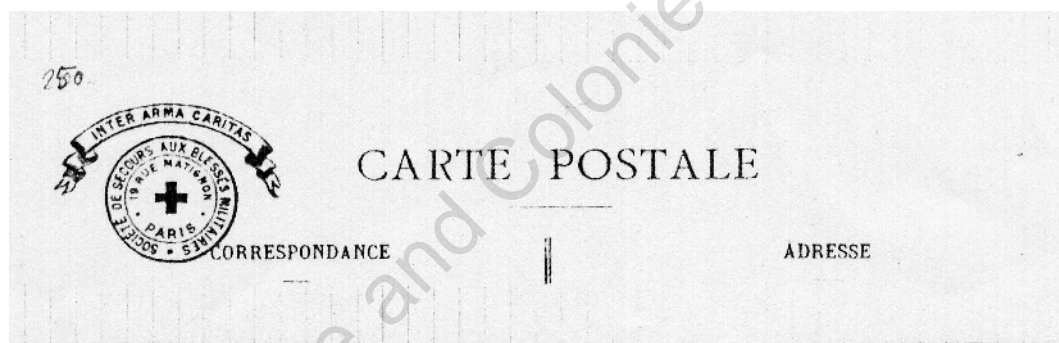
Any knowledgeable collector looking for a piece of officially smuggled mail from besieged Paris would be delighted to possess this cover.

PAGES FROM MY COLLECTION

(16) 1911 Red Cross Card from Morocco

Bob Deakin

This rare Red Cross card of the Society for Aid to the Military Wounded shows injured soldiers being transported by 'ambulance' on the road from Meknès to Rabat - 138km.



Togo: The 1921 “Mandate” Issue — an Outstanding Perforation Variety and a Request for Information

Jeremy Martin⁽¹⁾ and Bill Mitchell



Figure 1 - Front of cover showing *piquage à cheval* on 2 x 5c stamps

As was reported briefly in the Journal for June 2001, Jeremy had the pleasure of showing some of his Togo collection to the Southern Group at Worthing on 24 March. His display included a study of the “Mandate” issue — stamps of Dahomey printed in distinctive colours and overprinted TOGO — which replaced the “*Occupation franco-anglaise*” series following the establishment of a French mandate over the greater part of the former German colony in 1919. The catalogues vary as to the date of issue of this “Mandate” series (although they agree as to the year 1921 for the “postage due” set), as will be seen later.

One of the items on display featured a major *piquage à cheval* perforation variety on a pair of the 5c “postage” value (Yvert/Cérès 104, SG 40) which not only eluded the vigilance of the checkers at the Boulevard Brune but found its way into the post office at Anecho and from there onto a registered letter destined for France on 14 March 1923. It should, we think, be placed on permanent record in these pages and is illustrated. As is shown by the arrow, the vertical perforations are misplaced some 6mm to the left so that the second “O” of TOGO is just affected. There is also a less spectacular but still noticeable misplacement of the horizontal perforations, leaving a gap of some 3mm between the top frame line and the perforations. These were

the first two stamps in, probably, the top row of the counter sheet of 25.

Now to the request for information. As has previously been mentioned in these pages⁽²⁾, the West Africa Study Circle has published a study of the postal history of the Anglo-French Occupation of Togo, 1914-1922, and it has in preparation a companion volume which will deal with the stamps of this period. In this connection, an unknown factor about this “Mandate” issue is, when was it first released in Togo?⁽³⁾

The catalogues are not in agreement about this, and none of them accord with the known facts. Yvert and Cérès both say “1921-22” for the “postage” stamps and “1921” for the “dues”, Gibbons are very specific with “15 July 1921” for all but the 60c/75c “postage” stamp, which (by inference) they ascribe to “September 1922”, while Scott contents itself with “1921” for both sets except for the 60c/75c which is dated “1922-25”. To date only one value (the 10c “postage”) has been recorded as having been used in 1921, with an earliest date of 27 July, while two (the 35c and 45c “postage”) have not been reported before November 1924, well over three years later. The earliest date for the 1F “due”, cancelled to order, is later still (13 January 1926). The complete list is as follows —

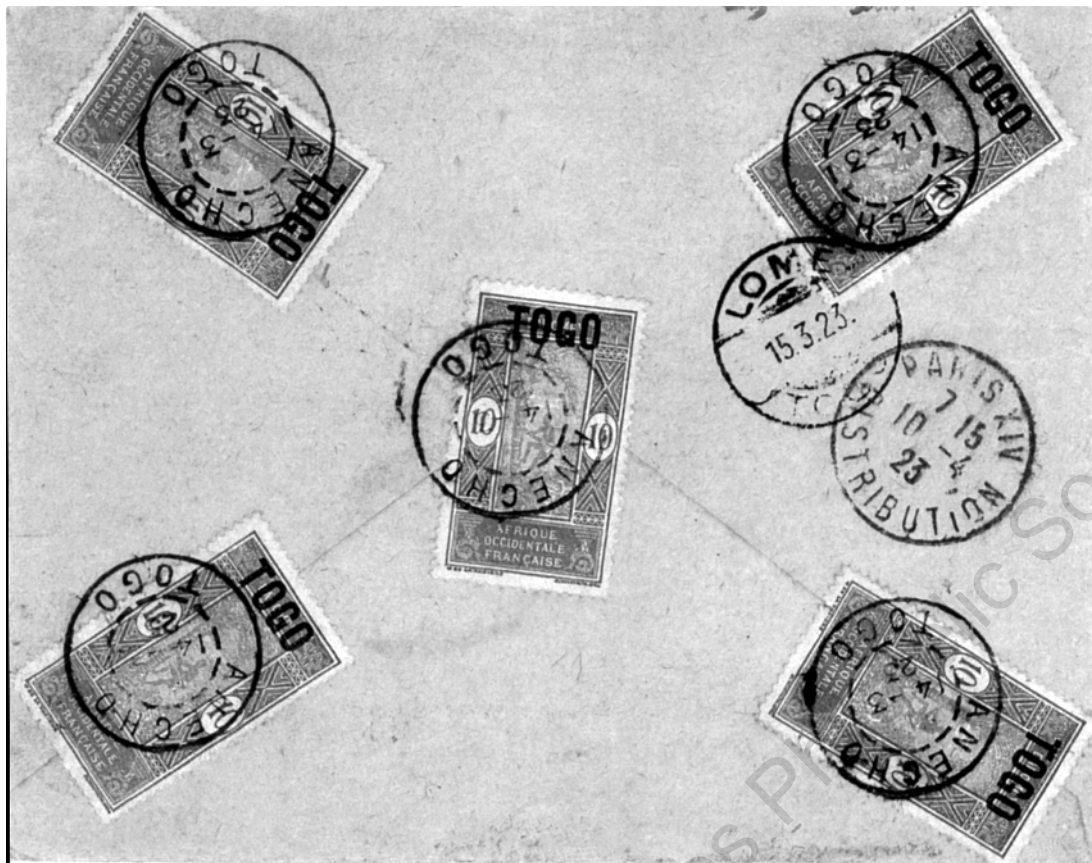


Figure 2 - Back of cover showing 5 x 10c stamps paying balance of 60c postage (25c basic plus 35c registration)

	Yvert/Cérès	SG	Value	Earliest date
<u>Postage</u>	101	37	1c	5 October 1922
	102	38	2c	19 August 1922
	103	39	4c	19 August 1922
	104	40	5c	3 February 1922
	105	41	10c	27 July 1921
	106	42	15c	29 April 1922
	107	43	20c	25 November 1922
	108	44	25c	24 January 1922
	109	45	30c	31 August 1923
	110	46	35c	27 November 1924
	111	47	40c	7 November 1923
	112	48	45c	24 November 1924
	113	49	50c	1 August 1922
	114	57	60c/75c	28 April 1924
	115	50	75c	15 ??? 1923
	116	51	1F	10 ??? 1922
	117	52	2F	— — —
	118	53	5F	— — —
<u>Dues</u>	Taxe 1	D54	5c	6 August 1923
	2	D55	10c	29 August 1922
	3	D56	15c	6 August 1923
	4	D57	20c	? August 1923
	5	D58	30c	26 July 1924
	6	D59	50c	? ??? 1923
	7	D60	60c	6 August 1923
	8	D61	1F	13 January 1926 (CTO)

We would be very grateful if readers will check used stamps of this series in their collections and let Bill have a note of any earlier dates. Please send details to him at 41, Graemesdyke Avenue, East Sheen, London SW14 7BH. Photocopies, if practicable, will be appreciated.

It will be noted that, for the “postage” stamps, the earliest dates are spread over a period of well over three years (27 July 1921 to 27 November 1924) and this, together with the fact that after 80 years only one value has been recorded as used in 1921, suggests that — except for the 60c/75c provisional of September 1922 — the stamps were sent to Togo as and when stocks of the preceding “Occupation” issue approached exhaustion. They were, however, apparently placed on sale in Paris (probably on 15 July 1921, the date quoted by Gibbons) as soon as they were delivered from the printer. The complete set is listed and priced (unused only) in the main part of the Gibbons “Foreign” catalogue for 1922-23, which had been completed “before Christmas” (i.e. Christmas 1921 — the Addenda include “all stamps received up to the end of March 1922”). So it seems that by the end of 1921 dealers could supply all stamps of this issue (except the 60c) even though post offices in Togo could not. As for the “dues”, they are also listed and priced (unused) in the 1922-23 Gibbons and so were apparently available to collectors by the end of 1921. There was no “Occupation” issue to be replaced, so at the moment the date of issue in Togo must be a matter of speculation. It could have been some time in the late summer of 1921 but, as will be seen from the table, at present the earliest recorded date is a year later than this.

Notes

- (1) Member of the West Africa Study Circle.
- (2) See the articles by John Mayne in Journal 211 (March 1999) and by Bill Mitchell in Journal 218 (December 2000).
- (3) According to Stanley Gibbons, the mandate was originally granted by the Supreme Council of the Allies and was not formalised by the League of Nations until 20 July 1922. This explains why the “Mandate” issue falls within the “Occupation” period.

Postal Tariff Information at the Centre des Archives d'Outre-Mer (CAOM) [at Aix-en-Provence]

Marty Bratzel

The CAOM's holdings are organized into several groupings reflecting, in part, different collections brought together under one roof. These include, but are not limited to:

- AOM (*Archives d'Outre-Mer*)
 - SOM (*Section d'Outre-Mer*)
 - FM. Each section is assigned a number. Relevant for my purposes are FM 66 (*Affaires politiques*), FM 68, and FM 85 (*Agence F.O.M.*)
 - *Séries géographiques*
 - Separate listings for Algeria, Martinique, and other overseas territories which were (or are) an integral part of France.
- The holdings include books, periodicals, photographs, maps, and other materials.

The primary purpose for visits to CAOM was to locate information related to Cameroun postal history, including postal tariff information. Visits in 1993 and 1997 focussed on the *Journal officiel du Cameroun*, the FM section (well organized and the cards in the catalogue are well annotated), the *Séries géographiques* (ditto), and other series. The visit in May 2000 focussed on a thorough search of the CAOM holdings under the headings AOM and SOM. The FM and *séries géographiques* sections were re-checked, to confirm that nothing relevant was missed on previous visits. The notes below focus on Cameroun but are also relevant to other French territories, including equatorial and west Africa. More detailed notes and information are available on request.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE AOM

The Bibliothèque AOM is organized into several sections. The search was organized around various key words, including permutations and combinations, primarily related to Cameroun but applicable to other territories as well. These included but were not limited to:

- Cameroun
- Colonies françaises
 - Postes (see also *Périodique*)
- Communications
- France
 - Agence de la France d'Outre-Mer
 - Agence des Colonies
 - Colonies
 - Office colonial
 - Outre-Mer
 - Renseignements
- Ministère des Colonies. See:
 - France. Agence des Colonies
 - France. Colonies (Ministère)
 - France. Office colonial.
- Ministère de la France d'Outre-Mer
- Port (for shipping and navigation information)
- Poste et télégraphes
- Timbre
- Timbre poste

The results of the search, as they pertain to postal tariffs, are summarized below. The holdings are cross-referenced, thus, many documents and files appear under more than one heading, giving greater confidence that documents were not missed.

Many of the headings and key words turned up nothing directly relevant. I am reasonably certain that all relevant postal tariff information for Cameroun held by CAOM has been accessed, and that virtually all of this information is contained in the *Journal officiel du Cameroun*. Similarly, the JOs for other territories contain detailed postal tariff information. Further, I am reasonably certain that the CAOM has no holding or listing exclusively for PTT (France or otherwise) or for *Ministère des Colonies*. Specifics are presented below. Some potentially useful titles were checked out, but others were not, either for lack of time or because they did not appear promising. They are nonetheless listed here, as others may spot a potentially useful lead.

A. The section "*Publications officielles*" lists official publications from throughout the French community. Each and every card in this drawer was checked. In summary:

- *Journal officiel du Cameroun*. Essentially complete, 1916 to date.
- *Journaux officiels* for other territories also listed.
- *Assemblée territoriale du Cameroun*. Holdings for 1947-1951, 1957 incomplete. Not checked. The Library of Congress has a few copies, and these are basically summaries of legislative deliberations.
- *Budget local du Cameroun*. Holdings for 1922-1939, 1942-1961, 1968-1969. Not checked.
- *Bulletin Administratif* (heading). No entry for Cameroun.
- *Bulletin d'information et de documentation du Cameroun*. Holdings for 1951, 1952, 1955, 1956 — incomplete. Not checked.
- *Bulletin hebdomadaire du ministère des colonies*. See: *Chroniques de la communauté*. Not checked.
- *Bulletin mensuel* (heading). No relevant entries except as noted below.
- *Bulletin officiel de l'administration des colonies*. Holdings for 1887-1963. Potentially useful and checked further. See below.
- *Bulletin officiel du ministère de la Guerre*. Holdings: various years. Not checked.
- *Bulletin officiel du ministère de la Guerre – édition méthodique*. Holdings: 1913-1938 — incomplete. Not checked.
- *Rapport annuel du gouvernement français sur l'administration sous mandat des territoires du Cameroun*. Holdings: 1922-1938, 1947-1957 (this is complete). Copies held by the Detroit Public Library and in the Wilson Collection at the United Nations, New York were previously checked and photocopies of relevant pages made.

B. Under the heading of "Cameroun," the following entries were found:

- *Bulletin mensuel de statistique de la République du Cameroun*. Holdings: 1968-1970. Not checked.

- *Bulletin de la statistique générale du Cameroun oriental*. Holdings: 1958-1962. Not checked.

- *L'Éveil du Cameroun. Journal bimensuel d'information et de publicité. Douala (Cameroun). Fondé en 1928*. Holdings: selected issues for 1932-1934. This newspaper contains sporadic tariff information lifted, for the most part, from the *JO du Cameroun*. Detailed notes were taken but no new tariff information came to light.

C. The heading "Colonies françaises" contains a cross reference to the heading, "Périodique." There is one entry relevant to postal transport:

- *Tableau indiquant le mode d'expédition des correspondances à destination des colonies*. Cote: 20299. Not checked. The Library of Congress has a similar publication and the UPU in Berne has a number.

D. There is no heading or entry for *PTT* and only one entry for telecommunications, dated 1955, which was not checked.

E. CAOM has a complete run, from 1887 to 1963, of the *Bulletin officiel de l'administration des colonies*. Knowing that there were postal tariff changes during 1938, the issue for that year was checked.

- Length = 1332 pages, plus a chronological table of contents bound in the front, followed by an alphabetical table of contents. The headings in the latter were scanned in their entirety, with specific attention to:

- *Afrique équatoriale française*.

- *Cameroun et Togo*. The table of contents

contains a cross reference to other headings, but not to *PTT*.

- *Ports et rades*. See: *Travaux publics*.

- *Postes télégraphes et téléphones*.

- *Travaux publics*.

- There are three entries under *PTT*, nothing for *Cameroun*.

- One entry (on page 69) for IndoChina has a report from *le ministre des colonies, T. Steeg, au président de la République française*, datelined *Paris, le 31 janvier 1938*. In effect, the report asks for ratification of an *arrêté du gouverneur général de l'Indochine* of 19 novembre 1937 for a rate change for *imprimés périodiques des régimes intérieur, franco-colonial et intercolonial*. The president issued a decree, *fait à Paris, le 31 janvier 1938*, ratifying the governor's *arrêté*. To be published in the *Journal officiel de la République française*, the *Journal officiel de l'Indochine*, and the *Bulletin officiel du ministère des colonies*.

- Another entry (pages 299-300), ratifies the 9-10 December 1932 Madrid convention for application to all overseas French territories.

- From this limited examination of one year only, it appears from the sparse listing that the *BO* contains considerably less postal information than the *JO* for a given territory, and that what little it does contain is already contained in the *JO*. The *BO* appears to contain only reports, orders, decrees, and the like that originated with the ministry rather than in a colony, unless a colonial action required some sort of ministerial or higher approval.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE SOM

The *Bibliothèque SOM* was searched, using the key words noted above for AOM. Nothing relevant was identified. Under "timbre" there are some articles by Bouvet, Pomiers, and others that appear to be clippings from journal publications. These are extremely sparse and certainly not comprehensive.

FM SERIES AND SÉRIES GÉOGRAPHIQUES

FM 66 (*Affaires politiques*). In the section, *Cameroun*, there are entries under *PTT*, leading to a number of interesting documents. The section, *Forces Armées*, contains, for instance, information about postal censorship arrangements, developed prior to World War II and implemented in August 1939.

FM 85 (Agency FOM). The section, *Cameroun*, contains some postal history information, including some tariffs presented in the context of a broader issue, but nothing not contained in the *JO*.

Séries géographiques. Under the heading *Togo-Cameroun*, there is some postal history information, but no tariffs.

Altogether, although there is a wealth of postal history information in these holdings, there is essentially no postal tariff information.

REPRODUCTION POLICY

CAOM's reproduction policy has become stricter with time. In 1993, although there was a daily limit, it was reasonably easy to obtain photocopies. In 1997, photo-reproduction was severely restricted and, in 2000, essentially out of the question. In 1997, it was possible to request microfilm copies of selected pages and documents but, in 2000, if I understood correctly, microfilm requests had to be for an entire document (such as a given year of a periodical) or for an entire carton. A carton may contain several dossiers, and each dossier one or more documents. For example, I wanted a copy of one document, about 20 pages in length, but the document was but one of six in the dossier, and the dossier, in turn, was but one of six in the carton. To obtain a copy of the desired document would have meant requesting copies of about 2,000 pages, in this case.

Hand-held electronic scanners are not permitted. Before leaving for Europe, I tried a digital camera on a typical page of the *Journal officiel du Cameroun*, but the text was not fully legible with the camera available. The cost of cameras will probably decrease and the image quality increase so that, in the not-too-distant future, this means of reproduction will be viable.

The change in policy is due to two reasons. First, notwithstanding a reasonable charge, is the lack of time on the part of the staff to make microfilm copies. Second is the condition of the documents themselves. Many, such as the *JO*, are printed on low-grade, acid-containing paper and the documents are disintegrating. Physical handling, such as bending the spine of a bound volume flat onto the bed of a photocopier, coupled with the damage caused by the copier light source, only contribute to the degradation.

Although regrettable, the policy is fully understandable.

A visit to Paris in May 2000 led to a meeting with Monsieur Abouchar, who said that the various ministries, including the PTT, in France have a *Bulletin officiel*, but the sheer mass of the PTT volumes would mean a lot of time to locate information specific to postal tariffs. And the information is likely to be for France, not for an overseas territory.

As noted above, the CAOM does not have this publication for the Metropolitan PTT nor, if such existed, for any of the overseas territories.

Where does this leave us?

- The CAOM has various *JOs*, which we can mine, with increasing difficulty.

- We can investigate the *Bulletin officiel* for Metropolitan France, perhaps for a given year, to see if there is any information for an overseas territory.

- We can visit the UPU's library and archives in Berne. I have been in e-mail contact with one of their staff. We are most welcome.

- Other options?

Alexandre, in his book, *Les tarifs postaux français 1627-1969*, 2nd edition, published in 1989, under *Sources*, includes the

Bulletins Mensuels des Postes (1855 à 1969) and under *Remerciements*, he thanks personnel at:

- la *Bibliothèque et le Service Documentation du Musée de la Poste*

- la *Bibliothèque de l'Administration Centrale des PTT*. Richardson, in his book, *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to Date*, published in 1992, includes, among other sources:

- Journal officiel*

- Bulletin officiel des PTT*.

The former is the Metropolitan French counterpart to the colonies' *JOs* that have proved relevant for Cameroun, Ivory Coast, and other overseas territories. The latter is the same one that M. Abouchar referred to.

We have an address and telephone number for the *Bibliothèque* of the *Musée de la Poste*, but what is the *Bibliothèque de l'Administration Centrale des PTT*? It seems quite possible that colonial PTT records are housed here. Does it still exist, or have its records been folded into the *Musée de la Poste*?

I am still investigating Derek Richardson's two references, as well as Alexandre's *Bulletin Mensuel* and the two French postal libraries.

TARIFFS

Colin Spong has provided copies of various postal tariff lists for French Colonies originally published in *Bulletin Col.Fra*, and it is hoped to publish these over the next year. This first one was compiled by J Desnos in *Bulletin Col.Fra* n° 90, and is reproduced here in English by kind permission of Col.Fra.

Madagascar Air Tariffs

<i>Journal officiel Madagascar</i>	Page	Decree	Applicable	Tariff	France (Europe)
1929		2 Oct.	17 Oct.	12F per 10g	Boat Mombasa - Plane Nairobi to Brindisi The line continues for several years with the same tariff Every plane: Tana/Broken Hill/Brindisi Becomes Tana/Paris or Brussels Nov. 1935
24.09.1932	1090	17 Sept.	20 Sept.	6F per 10g	
2.07.1933	739	25 June	1 July	2F per 5g	
26.06.1934		8 June	1 July	4F	
28.08.1937	726	29 Aug.	1 Sept.	3F	Not applied to France – Seen to Algiers 1943 To Algiers
11.11.1939	1400	7 Nov.	1 Dec.	4F75	
1941		9 May	11 June	10F	
16.11.1943	744	16 Nov.	1 Dec.	9F	
5.08.1944	537	27 July	1 Sept.	6F	Not seen - Error rectified by following entry
28.10.1944	758	19 Oct.	1 Nov.	7F	
18.11.1944	814	10 Nov.	10 Nov.	9F	
8.09.1945	557	31 Aug.	1 Oct.	6F	
1.05.1948	539	14 Apr.	1 May	9F	Franchise 5g, increased to 10g (<i>JO</i> 1.11.52) and to 20g after 1954
17.09.1949	1368	5 Sept.	1 Oct.	15F	
			June 1941	3F50 per 5g	Dakar - Marseille. War
					Reunion (Mauritius)
7.02.1942	126	30 Jan.	15 Feb.	1F per 10g	Franchise 5g
5.08.1944	537	27 July		1F per 5g	
8.09.1945	557	31 Aug.	30 Aug.	2F per 10g	
17.09.1949	1368	5 Sept.	1 Oct.	3F per 5g	
					Internal Madagascar Service
1934			1 Sept.	1F per 20g	Tananarive - Maintirano on the European line Free from 1936 to 1942 Resumption of internal flights beginning of 1943 With franchise 5g
1943				1F per 10g	
1945		22 Sept.	? Oct.	2F per 10g	
17.09.1949	1371	5 Sept.	1 Oct.	2F per 5g	

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

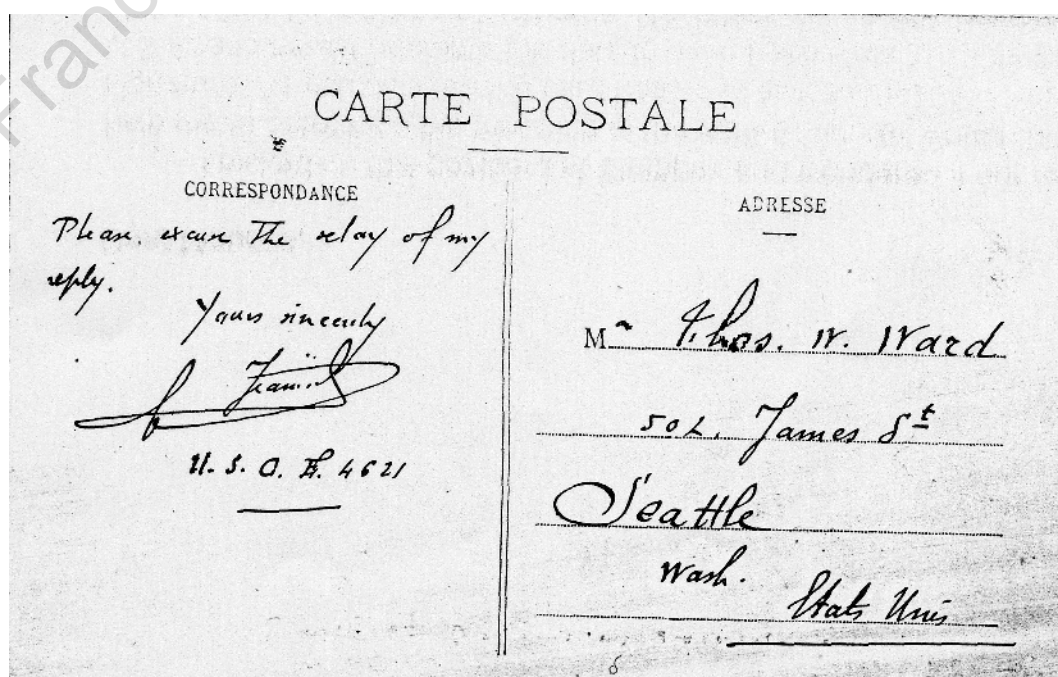
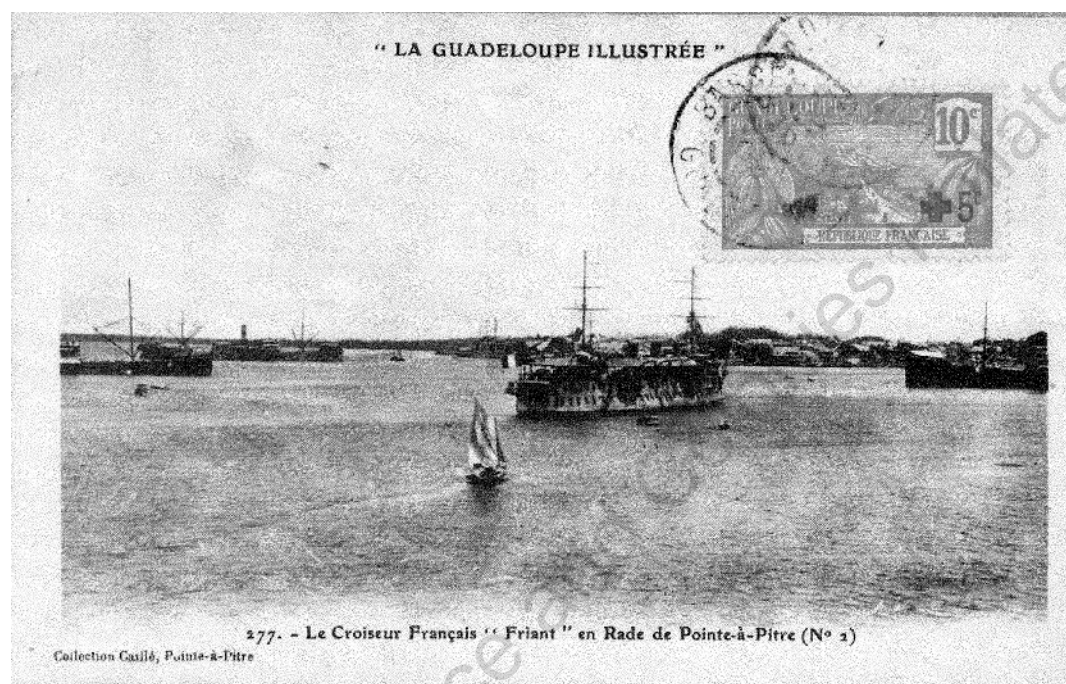
US Forces Postcard from Guadeloupe

I picked up this postcard at Stampex, and wondered if any readers could help me to determine the meaning of the letters/figures written below the signature. As can be seen, the card has been sent from Guadeloupe to Seattle, USA, and I must presume the date to have been *circa* 1915 by virtue of the use of the 10c + 5c Red Cross surcharge. Doubtless those who have all the postal rates at their fingertips will be able to confirm a likely date or dates between which the 10c rate would have been the postcard rate to the US.

My main interest, however, is to enquire whether anyone knows what the letters stand for. The figure "11" may in fact be an "H" without the central strut. The letter "O" might conceivably be a "C", so there are one or two possible combinations. In essence, therefore, I'm looking at the probable interpretation of the letters "H.S.O.E." followed by the figure "4621". Were there some American forces in Guadeloupe at that time?

I'd be grateful for any information.

John West



[The manuscript letters appear to me to be "U.S.A.F." although the last one is more uncertain than the others - Ed]

Pas de Nom / Dist. Impossible

Recently André Le Guillou confirmed the “No Name / No Delivery” rule or practice. La Poste’s position is quite simple: people are less likely to make a mistake with a name than with a B.P. number. Le Guillou tells me that he received

my note [see Journal 221 page 116] because he is a well known and eminent personage in St Briec! Nonetheless, strictly speaking, my note should have been returned to sender.

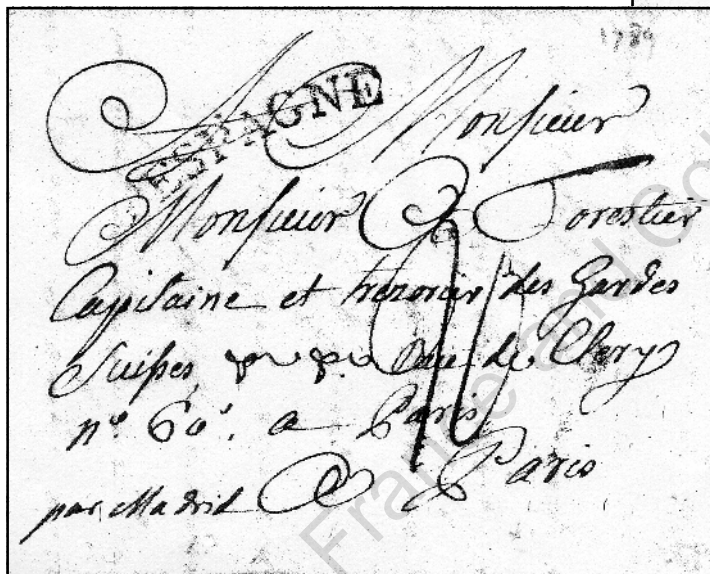
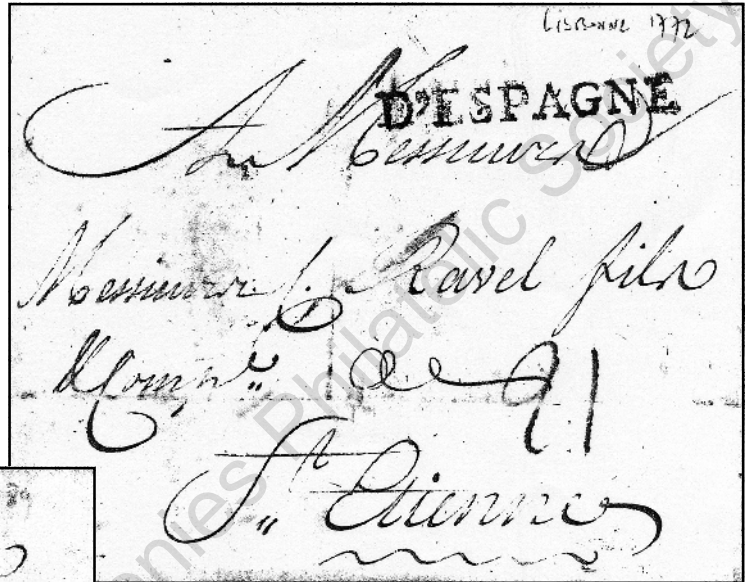
John Simmons

18th Century Pre-stamp Covers from Lisbon

I would be interested in learning more about the handstamps described below.

1772 Lisbon to St. Étienne. This letter, written in French on 17 March, appears to be a merchant’s account. It bears a *D’ESPAGNE* mark in black that is 39mm long by 5mm high.

1789 Lisbon to Paris. Also written in French, dated 20 September, and starts “I am upset not to have received a reply to my last letter”. This has a handstamp *ESPAGNE* that follows a shallow arc 33mm wide with letters 4.5mm high.



Both are too early to appear in Rupp’s book on *Cachets D’Entrée* and neither is in Van der Linden’s book *Marques de Passage* or its supplement. The latter has an *ESPAGNE* mark (1050A) for 1801, but when corrected to life size it is too small and straight.

I believe these came by the overland route to Madrid and on to Bayonne and then Paris where I presume the handstamps were added. Can any one tell me any more about these marks, duration of use, etc? Also an explanation of the charge marks would be appreciated.

David Stirrups

Two Unusual Covers

After some research I think I can answer both questions posed by Colin Spong under this heading in Journal 220 (page 77).

Figure 1

BELFOUX is a very small place some six kilometres to the West of FRIBOURG in Switzerland. The Canton of Fribourg is bilingual and is bisected north/south by the river SARINE. The territory to the east of the river is the German district, and to the west the French district, the towns of Belfoux and Payerne being in the latter. Small places in Switzerland usually did not possess a post office, therefore no handstamp, so that any letters picked up from villages on a post route were marked with a handstamp relating to that route — in this case “Rte DE PAYERNE”. The

marking “Pionnier de Belfoux” (road-mender) gave the sender free postage.

Figure 2

B0NN - This special handstamp, on the cover which was almost certainly sent in 1785, is indeed intriguing for it incorporates the double headed eagle of the Austro-Hungarian Empire! During the time that the Netherlands were under Austrian rule much of the territory in what we call the Lower Rheinland was also very much under the influence of Austria (most of Germany was then in what is rather incorrectly termed “The Holy Roman Empire”). In much of this area no doubt the Austrian influence was not exactly welcome, and this is apparent by the very brief appearance of this handstamp for, as far as I can ascertain,

it was only used in 1785. A new type of the straight line handstamp "DE BONN" also appeared in that year. The "DE BONN" handstamps in various types in fact were used from 1725 through to 1814. So it seems that some official with Austrian sympathies may have arranged for this special

handstamp to be made, but higher authority decided otherwise!

To the best of my knowledge no other German handstamp bears this motif. The double headed eagle motif is to be found, of course, in the Austrian Empire proper!

Fred Goatcher

Air France "New Night Air Mail" Label

This item came into my hands earlier this year. It is printed in blue and red. I have not yet researched it or been in touch with the airmail experts in the Society, but I would welcome help with details. For example, when was it published — my guess in January 1935 — and what is the story behind it?

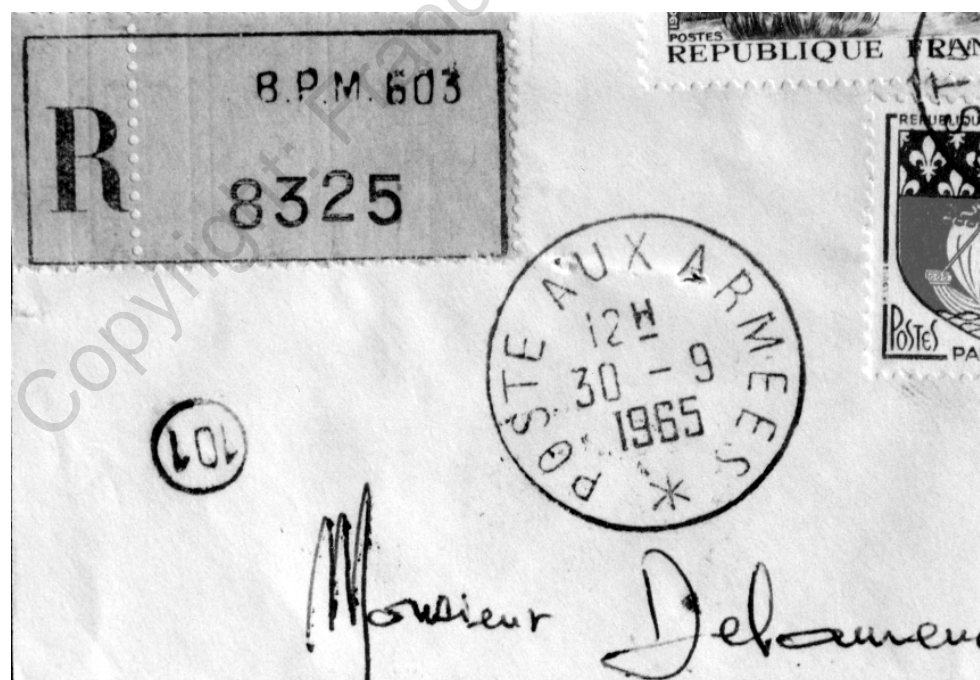
Proud's British Airmails does not give the answers as far as I can see, but I think that it is linked with the French air service to South America which started at the 3s 6d ½oz rate on 23 February 1931 and the service to Indo-China via France which started at the 1s 4d rate on 26 June 1931.

The clue may be the airmail post box (painted blue) on the label, which was introduced from 1930. However, in January 1935 a scheme for providing additional airmail blue boxes affording late posting facilities for airmail in London subdistricts was put into operation — hence my guess.

Robert Johnson



Inspectors' Marks (Small Number in Circle)



The illustration shows an enlargement of part of a recent acquisition, with an example of one of these marks to add to those already quoted in earlier articles (Journals 191 p 21, 192 p 73, 193 p 140, 194 p 197, 195 p 31, 196 p 77, 197 p 120, and 200 p 69). Previous numbers of this type quoted in these articles, however, have not been higher than 39.

David Jennings-Bramly

Le Type Sage - an 1898 Military/Maritime Cover

One of the quotations from Roger Hosking's new catalogue of *paquebot* cancellations reviewed on page 163 of this issue explains the principles behind the problem put at the end of my short article under the above heading on pages 24 and 25 of Journal 219 (March 2001). Since at this time the French treated their colonies as foreign countries for postal tariff purposes, the correct practice for civilian mail posted on board ship in international waters was, rate 15 centimes franked by a French stamp; and, for mail posted in Senegal waters or in port, rate 25 centimes franked by a Senegal stamp. My cover was handed to the post clerk (or at any rate dealt with by him) on 14 October 1898 and received at Dakar on the following day, so it was presumably "posted" while the ship was still in international waters - hence the 15 centimes rate and the Sage stamp. But in that case, as I asked in March, why did the post clerk add his "military" date stamp once he had incorrectly applied the "civil" cachet? Was it for accounting purposes?

It seems unlikely that the letter was "posted" in Senegal waters. In that case the UPU regulations required the use of a Senegal stamp, and the Senegal PTT was presumably entitled to the fee even though the concessionary rate applied. In the third volume of *"La Poste Maritime Française"*, Salles tells us that at this time there were regular fortnightly sailings between Bordeaux and Buenos Aires, calling at Dakar *en route* and also at ports in Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina on either the outward or return journey. I think it highly likely, therefore, that the post clerks on board kept stocks of Senegal stamps (and probably those of Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina as well) for use as required while the ship was still at sea. Otherwise, they would have been put to the inconvenience of going ashore to obtain the stamps that were needed, returning to the ship and franking and cancelling some of the mail in their care before it could be despatched to its destination.

Bill Mitchell

World War I Oval Censorship Marks in France

Some months ago there were several queries in the Journal regarding World War I censorship. [See, for example, *Journals* 200 p 63, 214 p 283, 215 p 33, 216 p 69, and 219 p 23.] Although somewhat old, a mine of information can be found in *Les Estampilles Postales de la Grande Guerre* by

Stéphane Strowski (1976), including a list of censorship offices and their numbers. The change from "*Ouvert*" to "*Contrôlé*" apparently stems from semantic exactitude. A postcard cannot be opened but it can be censored!

Chris Hitchen

[The following is an abbreviated and edited version of the pages in Strowski's book that deal with the oval censorship marks of the Commissions de Contrôle, translated from the original French by MST. Text and illustrations are reproduced by kind permission of the publishers, Yvert & Tellier. - Ed.]

In the spring of 1916 all postal inspection services were supplied with oval handstamps bearing a number that identified the staff responsible for applying them. Two types of mark are to be seen, the first and most frequently found being inscribed with the phrase **OUVERT Par l'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE** (Figures 1 and 2 show the two sub-types). They can be found in black, violet, blue or red, and the central numbers go up to 960 (although with gaps in the series) and also include one zero, two zeros, three zeros, and the letters A or C. These figures or letters are normally upright characters.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

The second type of cachet substituted the word **CONTRÔLÉ** for **OUVERT** (Figure 3), this being a more exact description of the process involved, and it usually had numbers in slanting characters. The numbers went up to 215, all of which exist in slanting characters, while the upright examples for this series are found only for numbers 1-18, 56, 66 and 78 — though quite frequently the centre is blank, sometimes with the number entered in pencil.

In principle, the slanting characters were used in the Censorship Offices of the war zone, by the army itself. They were an invitation to a second, more detailed, examination by the *Commission de Contrôle* (Inspection Commission) who used the upright figures. In exceptional circumstances, when the Postal Inspectors felt there was no need to open and examine letters, an oval cachet was used with the wording **CONTRÔLE MILITAIRE / ACHEMINÉ SANS CONTRÔLE** (Military Inspection / Forwarded Without Inspection) and with the central numbers 100, 300 or 450.

The *Commissions de Contrôle* had the task of examining everything — ordinary letters, registered mail or printed matter — that came from abroad or went to a foreign country. Each Commission had a geographic area in the world to deal with, like the metropolitan areas of the *secteurs postaux* in France, but had not just one identifying number but a whole series of continuous numbers. Each number would identify the individual handler (usually a woman) who resealed the envelope with a sticky label and applied

her oval cachet: any complaint of professional misconduct could thus be investigated quickly and accurately. Each large Commission had a series of 50 numbers, and the smaller ones 25 or less, though the highest numbers of each series were seldom needed.

The following table identifies the *Commissions de Contrôle*, analogous to the list of *Secteurs Postaux*:-

1-50	<i>C^{on} de Contrôle</i> ,	Dieppe
51-100	<i>ditto</i>	Belfort
101-150	<i>ditto</i>	Pontarlier, then Beaune from beginning of 1919
151-200	<i>ditto</i>	Pontarlier - Correspondence of the Prisoners of War
201-250	<i>ditto</i>	Lyon
251-300	<i>ditto</i>	Bellegarde
301-350	<i>ditto</i>	Marseille(1)
351-400	<i>ditto</i>	Bordeaux
401-450	<i>ditto</i>	Bourg-en-Bresse(2)
451-500	<i>ditto</i>	Narbonne

(From 501 to 750 the thread is broken, and identifications are missing, perhaps intentionally.)

751-775	<i>C^{on} de Contrôle</i> ,	Algiers
776-800	<i>ditto</i>	Oran
801-825	<i>ditto</i>	Constantine
826-850	<i>ditto</i>	Lalla-Marnia (on the borders of Oran & Morocco)
851-875	<i>ditto</i>	Nemours (on the borders of Oran & Morocco)
876-900	<i>ditto</i>	Tunis
901-920	<i>ditto</i>	London(3)
921-950	<i>ditto</i>	Unknown or non-existent
951-960	<i>ditto</i>	Port-Said

(1) Marseille processes, among other covers, those that come from East Africa and go to China!

(2) For correspondence from French-speaking Switzerland.

(3) Abolished in 1918.

In each office the head of the sorting operations was provided with a handstamp on which the exterior oval frame was formed of a double line and which bore the highest number in use within the series attributed to the Commission. Figure 4 shows the mark of the head of the sorting office in Tunis, just as Figure 2 showed that of Oran. The cachet with one zero (Figure 5) was reserved for the chairman of the *Commission de Contrôle* at Dieppe and applied to certain letters submitted to him for his personal inspection. It is likely that the cachets with two or three zeros also belonged to Dieppe, but the star next to the single zero has not been explained. The star also appears in red on cachet 354, although 365 has no star.



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

A similar star, but with only 5 points and hollow, appears with n° 215 in slanting figures (Figure 6): this was no doubt to attract the special attention of the second inspection team who were to examine it, but why particularly is not known.

The cachet with the letter A (with 2 unusual stars surrounding the word "Ouvert") is just as puzzling (Figure 7). It is not known whether the Commission to which it belonged was established in France or Africa (it is found on letters to Casablanca) or whether it was special to letters from POWs interned in Switzerland (it is present on an envelope from a Frenchman interned at Geneva).

As for the similar letter C, this has been seen on a French letter from a locality in the Cher *département* to a Belgian soldier interned in a Dutch camp, and accompanied by the "Ouvert" cachet n° 23 (and therefore examined in Dieppe, at least at the second inspection).

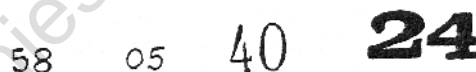


Figure 8

Next to these oval handstamps with their number in the centre can be found other, unframed, figures of various formats and types, sometimes underlined, and usually struck in blue or violet (Figure 8). These are the personal cachets of the individual readers, i.e. the censors who were responsible for opening the correspondence and examining the contents. They were more numerous than the handlers who resealed the covers and applied their oval cachet — Dieppe, for example, had over 130.



Figure 9

Finally, the Postal Inspectors had a sign, easy to apply and to recognise — a pink star in a circle (Figure 9), which was used in the whole of the war zone but particularly that of the Groupe des Armées de l'Est, and especially at Épinal. It was applied to letters and cards that were judged to be not worth examining, at either the first or the second inspection. In this way official or semi-official mail was marked by this star when collected from the inspecting agents, and thus avoided a delay of at least 24 hours.

Telegrams

Experiments made by Samuel Morse in 1835 resulted in the development of an apparatus for the sending of coded electrical signals. Further research work, funded by the American government, led to the first public telegram being transmitted by Morse on 24 May 1844. Not deemed financially viable by the government, further developments thereafter had to be funded by private enterprise, but by 1851 patented Morse telegraphs were in operation in the USA, being used by at least fifty companies⁽¹⁾.

The French National Assembly approved a law of 29 November 1850 that took effect from 1 March 1851 allowing for the electric telegraph, which hitherto had been exclusively available to the government, to be accessible to the public. Initially high costs discouraged the use of this service, but a law of 3 July 1861 fixed a uniform rate of 2F for simple messages between two bureaux other than in the same *département* and 1F for despatches within a *département*. In 1864 the rate for despatches within Paris was reduced to 50c⁽²⁾.

By 1864 one or more telegraphic offices had been opened in each of the nineteen *arrondissements* of Paris. In total twenty-seven such offices were in operation, four of them offering a 24-hour service.

The reverse of a telegram cover (Fig 1) has two wax seals of the *Administration des Lignes Télégraphiques*, a handstamp of the *Ministère de l'Intérieur Direction de l'Admin^{on} des lignes télégraphiques*, a cds *PARIS (60)* of 13 May 1864 in red and another in black of the same date *PARIS 4 Poste Restante*. Although the registered telegram (Fig 2) was sent *Poste Restante* it was not until 1920 that an additional fee was introduced by the PTT for this service⁽³⁾. Stamps to the total value of 30 centimes were

affixed to the envelope and cancelled by the mute Star of the Paris Central Bureau, and were presumably to cover the costs of registration.

The *Grille de Chargement* bears the three *fleurons* of the Bureau Central, Ministère de l'Intérieur, rue de Grenelle - St Germain 103 which offered permanent night services from 27 December 1853. It had been opened to the public from 7.0 am to 9.0 pm in summer and from 8.0 am to 9.0 pm in winter as soon as private telegrams were authorised from 1 March 1851. After 1860 this office became known as the *Direction de l'Administration de Lignes Télégraphiques*⁽⁴⁾.

A decree of 13 June 1866 authorised adhesive labels to represent the payment of telegraphic taxes for despatches entrusted for transmission in the telegraphic bureaux. These were first issued on 1 January 1868 but they were withdrawn in 1871⁽⁵⁾.

Acknowledgement

Grateful thanks to Peter Kelly for helpful discussions.

References

- (1) *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, London 1957
- (2) *Histoire des Timbres-Postes Français*, A Maury, Paris 1907
- (3) *Tables of French Postal Rates (1849 to date)*, Brochure No 7, D J Richardson, F&CPS of GB, 1996
- (4) *Télégraphie en France 1791-1881*, Fascicules I and II: Supplement to *Les Feuilles Marcophiles* 1982-83, J-L Narjoux, Le Havre
- (5) *Catalogue Spécialisé des Timbres de France*, Yvert et Tellier, Paris 1975

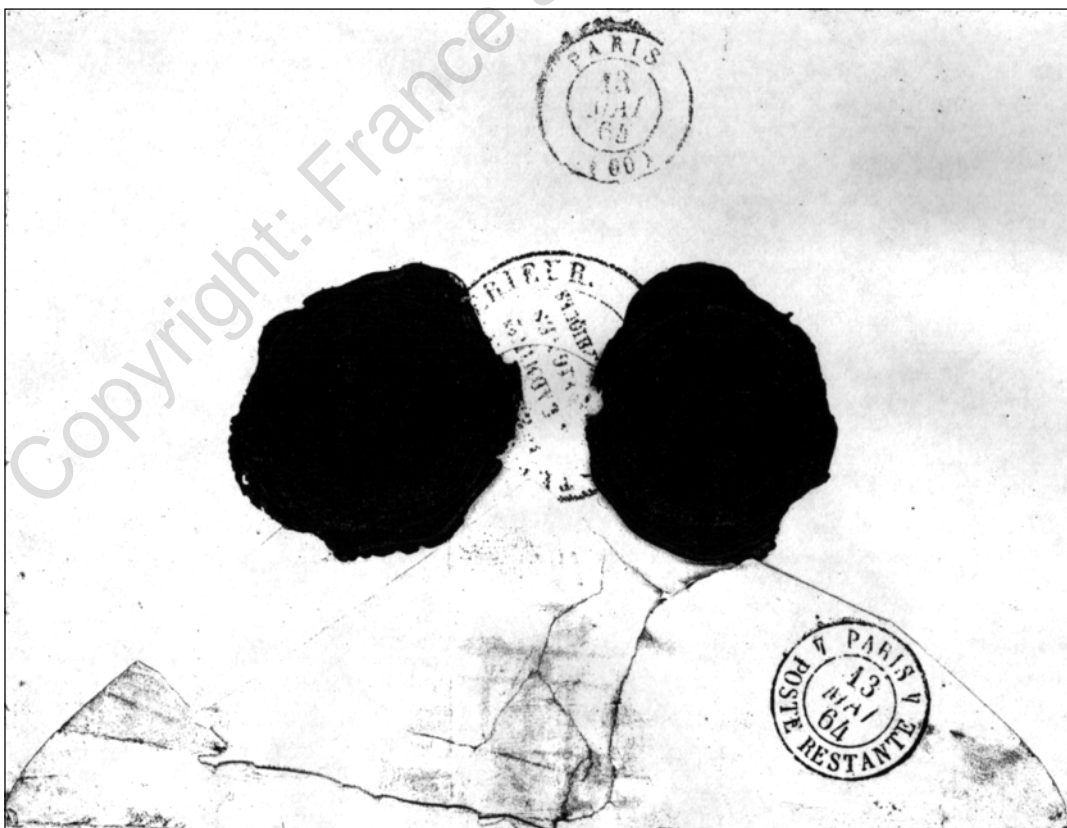


Figure 1

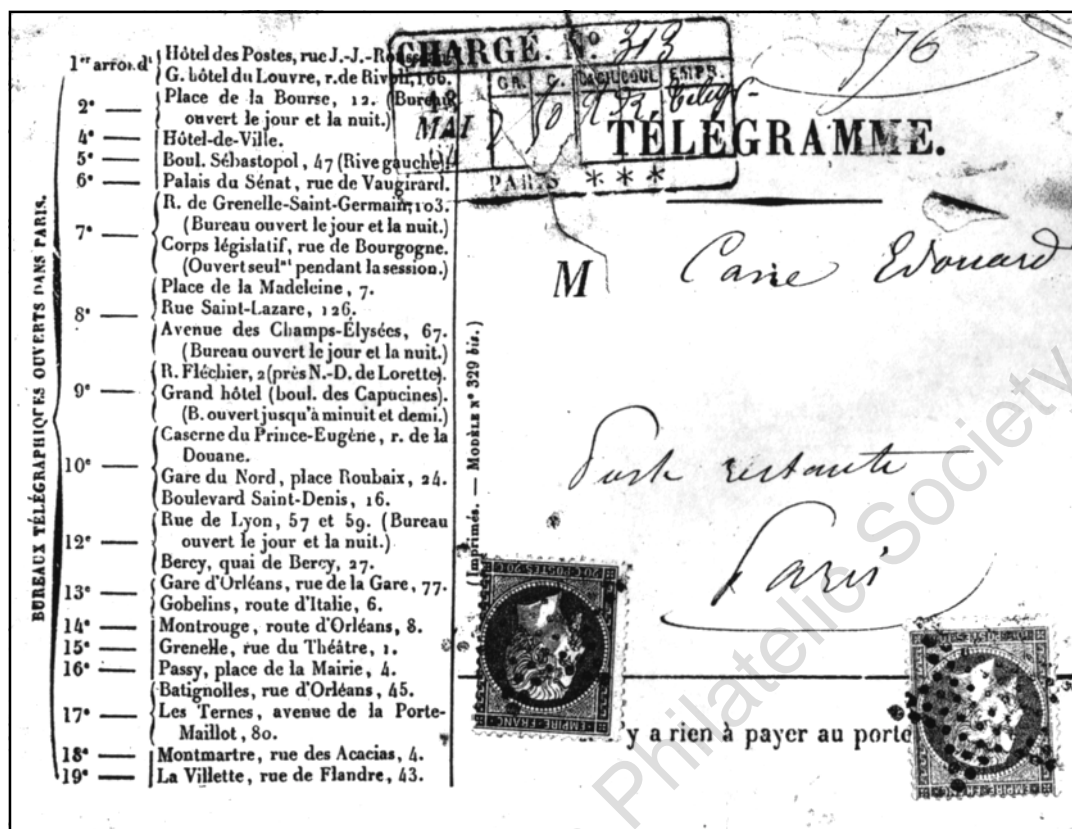


Figure 2

Alan Wood

1878 Exposition Universelle Vignette

I was giving a talk to the Devon PHS earlier this year with my 2d blues, and out popped this item. There is no particular merit in it apart from the corner vignette and the fact that

someone was using up the envelope two years after the event, but it may be of interest to exhibition buffs.

Robert Johnson



Congo Français Handwritten AR Form

Service des postes
du
Congo-Français

Bureau
de
Massabe

MASSABE
29
JUN
97
CONGO-FRANCAIS

Avis de Réception

D'une lettre recommandée enregistrée sous
le n° 154
adressée à M. Const. R. Visser
à Frankfurt Allemagne le 29 Juin 1897

263

Le soussigné déclare:

qu'une lettre recommandée à l'adresse
susmentionnée
provenant de
a été dûment lue le 31/7/1897

Signature: *Massabe*
Du destinataire Du Chef du Bureau distributeur

FRANKFURT
31.7.97.34N
MAIN

1356
/ 89

I have never seen another handwritten AR form from any country. Did they run out? The form appears to be in the correct wording and format, and served its purpose as it was dealt with in Germany [Frankfurt cds 31 July 1897].

It was drawn up at Massabe on 28 June 1897. Massabe was classified under Gabon until it passed to Moyen Congo

on 1 July 1918. It is situated below Pointe Noire and above Cabinda on the coast.

Richardson shows the 10c AR fee as current from 1 May 1878 to 31 December 1916.

Robert Johnson

BOOKSHELF

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue, Part 6, France, (5th Edition)

The first edition of the Stanley Gibbons 'France' catalogue was put on sale in 1979 and collectors had to wait only three years before the next edition appeared. A gap of five years separated the 2nd edition from the 3rd and a further six years elapsed before the 4th edition was published in 1993. The present edition has just surfaced after a gap of eight years – has the long wait been worth it?

The latest edition, now on sale at £29.95, is noticeably different in its format. It is printed on quality A4 paper and bound in such a way that it remains open with the pages flat and thus avoids the need to press on the spine with the risk of breaking it. It is a pleasure to handle and easy to refer to. (Yvert & Tellier should note that it requires two paperweights to keep their 2002 'France' catalogue open and even then for the first 150 pages it is nigh impossible to read the right hand column of the left hand page.)

The contents of the SG 'France' catalogue have been extended to include French involvement in the Levant and one can therefore now find, *inter alia*, the Free French Forces issues and the French Military Occupation of Syria. Considerable work has been done on updating the listings of the *France Libre* overprints of the French Indian Settlements and hence a proportion of the stamps have had to be renumbered. In addition, the *France Toujours* overprints have been included but one is somewhat bemused by the catalogue numbers 162a to 162za which have been allocated to the 27 stamps in the set. For some strange reason Memel has been overlooked yet again.

The Gibbons catalogue still equips the general collector with all the basic information required – names of designers and engravers, printing methods and perforation details, dates of issue etc. However, it can be extremely time consuming to locate stamps that are not illustrated and the illustrations that are provided are of a variable quality. The

time has surely come to replace them with higher resolution colour reproductions.

For the specialist collector, there are limitations and some descriptions are confusing. Whereas, for example, the catalogue recognises the two types of the 18F *Marianne de Muller* it ignores the two types of the 20F. In the listings of the 1929 *Monuments*, the 3F Type III described in Yvert is listed as Type IIA in Gibbons who then quote the Yvert Type IV as being Type III. As for the distinguishing of the flat plate and rotary printings of the *Blanc* issue with their types and sub-types – these are totally ignored. Collectors who require detailed information on booklets, coils, stationery, miniature sheets etc which the French catalogues provide in depth, will be disappointed with the sketchy or non-existent references.

The guidelines on how to use the catalogue are comprehensive and without fail everyone should consult the section on prices. Gibbons emphasises that mint prices before 1945 are for lightly hinged and that unmounted stamps will attract a premium. Conversely, their prices for post-war issues are for unmounted mint and therefore hinged copies will be cheaper. Members who price their material for the Society auctions or the packets using the Gibbons catalogue, please note. Thanks to a number of British dealers who have provided Gibbons with their retail price lists, the valuations in the catalogue are arguably more realistic than they have been in the past but there are inevitably differences between Gibbons and the French catalogues.

After waiting eight years, collectors would have expected a more dramatic improvement. The SG 'France' still looks a bit dated compared to its French technicolor cousins but at least it is built to last and both general and specialist collectors should gain something from having a copy on their bookshelf.

Mick Bister

'La Marianne de Decaris' published by Jean-Luc Trassaert on CD-ROM (PC & Mac compatible, with Acrobat Reader). Price: 150 francs, available from the author, Jean-Luc Trassaert, 'Les Gauchers', 24230 Bonneville, France. Proceeds in aid of the *Section Jeunesse de la Fédération Française des Associations Philatéliques*

Anybody who has an interest in modern French definitives will have heard of Jean-Luc Trassaert and will have read some of his literary output. For a quarter of a century he has been one of France's most prolific philatelic writers and his name has become synonymous with the '*étude monographique*'. Perhaps his most well known publications have been the studies of the various Marianne issues which were published by *Le Monde des Philatélistes* in the 1980s.

It was in 1981 that *Le Monde* published *Étude N° 243 'La Marianne de Decaris'* and such was its success that it had to be reprinted on two further occasions. Twenty years later and to mark the centenary of Albert Decaris' birth, J-L Trassaert has decided to extensively revise and republish his work and, taking advantage of the latest technology

available, has opted to 'release' the revised version on CD-Rom.

The programme is simple to navigate through and the usual Acrobat Reader functions allow one to access the contents without difficulty. The text is clear and by hiding the navigation panel and filling the screen, it becomes easier still to consult. There is, however, a slight loss of definition if one reduces the page when, for example, working on a split screen. Obviously a working knowledge of French is required but the contents are presented in an easily digestible format and are well supported by self-explanatory tables and illustrations.

The CD contains over 180 pages divided into 20 chapters and is illustrated by 105 colour images. Nothing appears to

have been overlooked. The study opens with a description of the material held in the *Musée de la Poste* archives and proceeds to cover postal usage and the biographies of Decaris and Piel before the issue is analysed in earnest. A thorough survey continues of sheet printings, booklets, coils, postal stationery, overprints (*Annulé*, CFA, EA and OAS), test labels and *fictifs*, and finally varieties – all amply illustrated with, in many cases, items from J-L Trassaert's own award winning collection. However, if one needs to seek further information (on the myriad of EA overprints for example) a comprehensive bibliography is provided.

The *Marianne de Decaris* issue is still a relatively inexpensive stamp to collect with only the occasional item (a 1965 coin

daté or a booklet overprinted *ANNULÉ*) to challenge the collector's pocket. J-L Trassaert has proved with many of his articles that the most satisfying and rewarding collections can be achieved by studying common and affordable definitives and this study is no exception.

Clearly, the one problem is that this study is only available on a CD-Rom. It is a great pity therefore that collectors who do not own computers or who prefer the printed page are going to be denied access to this commendable work.

For further details and to view extracts from the CD Rom consult the following website:

<http://site.voila.fr/mariannedecaris>.

Mick Bister

Paquebot Cancellations of the World (Third Edition, 2000) by Roger Hosking: A4 xiv + 352 pp, card cover. Available from Vera Trinder Ltd, 38 Bedford Street, Strand, London WC2 9EU: £44 plus £4 postage and packing.

PAQUEBOT - - OUISTREHAM
49° - 16N --- 00° - 21W

Have you ever heard of Ouistreham? No? Nor had I until I came across its three very distinctive *paquebot* cachets in this new edition of Hosking. They have two unusual features — details of latitude and longitude, which are not normally given, and a style of lettering which I find hard to describe so, with due acknowledgment, one of them is illustrated here. Similar marks, giving every appearance of coming from the same stable, are listed for Caen and Le Tréport.

For those who are not familiar with this aspect of maritime mail the following extract from the Introduction may be helpful: "It was in 1891 that the UPU decreed that mail posted on the high seas might be prepaid 'by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff of the country to which the vessel belongs, or by which it is maintained.' If the mailing took place in territorial waters or in port, then the stamps and tariff of the territory would apply. ... But it was not until [1893] that the UPU issued a supplementary resolution to the effect that letters so treated should, in addition to the datestamp of the receiving office, be endorsed with the word 'Paquebot', either as a handstamp or in manuscript." The first use of a *Paquebot* cachet in France was at La Rochelle in 1894, followed by Bordeaux and Marseille in 1895. As will be seen, they were to have many successors.

A pioneer world catalogue of these marks was published by M. Studd in 1953 and there are three conveniently sized little handbooks on selected areas by Edwin Dreschel dating from 1975 to 1981, but Hosking has long been the standard work on the subject. The first edition dates from 1977, the second (which consisted of a reprint of the first, now called Part 1, with a supplement called Part 2) appeared in 1987, and now we have a third in which the previous two lists together with subsequent additions have been combined into one single listing, using the same geographical areas as before. There is unfortunately no global total for the entries (some cachets, all of which are illustrated, were used in more than one port) but 1653 different cachets were shown in Part 1, there were more than 1100 new entries in Part 2, and now this new edition adds a further 1000 or so,

so there must be the best part of 4000 in all. Not all of these additions have been of contemporary material — there were 211 pre-1940 discoveries in the second edition and there are a further 150 in the third, so there may well be more classic marks still unrecorded.

In our own field I counted 74 entries for France, which has a chapter to itself, in 1977, a further 41 in 1987, making a total of 115; now in 2000 there are 155 (from 36 ports, including Monaco/Monte Carlo). These figures include those for Corsica, which come separately in a chapter on Southern Europe and the Mediterranean; this is irritating but not a serious defect, although a cross-reference would be helpful. Colonies appear in the chapter appropriate to their geographical location — from our point of view it would have been better if all French group entries appeared together, but I don't think this would be practicable in a catalogue dealing with the whole world. As an example, for the African and Indian Ocean colonies I make the totals 48 in 1977, 68 in 1987 and 97 (from 31 ports) in 2000.

The book concludes with four appendices — manuscript endorsements (there are 10 of these in the French group); *paquebot* marks used in Sea Post Offices; Ship Post Offices; and miscellaneous markings — as well as an index of ports. An innovation is 8 pages illustrating in excellent colour 24 covers from the author's collection. The cachets are well reproduced; in the Introduction to the first edition Mr Hosking says that they "are not, and are not intended to be, accurate to the last fractional part of a millimetre: and in my view many collectors are too obsessed by highly marginal apparent differences, which can usually be explained in terms of wear-and-tear on the actual handstamp, or of the same mark struck by a different official in a different mood on a different day of the week!"

This fine new catalogue is not without its faults. The numbering system used is not of the best. Each cachet is given a number, running from 1 (Avonmouth in Chapter 1, England) through to 3485 (unidentified, in Chapter 18 which deals with the Far East), which makes it difficult to

accommodate additions (and explains the form chosen for the second edition).

The index of ports only names the country concerned when the same name occurs more than once, and this causes problems with unfamiliar place-names. Where on earth, for example, is Le Port, listed under "L" in Chapter 16 (Africa and the Indian Ocean)? Only the Reunion specialist, I fancy, would know the answer, and there is nothing to show that it is Pointe des Galets re-named, as I eventually discovered from Georges Bertoni's catalogue of Reunion's cancellations reprinted in *Le Monde's* Brochure N° 219. (Incidentally, Mr Hosking, who lists Pointe des Galets separately under "P", incorrectly calls it "Pointe de Galets".) And even the gazeteer in the big Times Atlas cannot tell me where Point is. It had a cachet with a recorded use from 1905 to 1949 and very possibly has also been re-named but, if so, to what? Many of the cachets, the linears in particular, are of no help in this connection. And from a practical point of view I'm doubtful whether the binding is robust enough to stand up to constant use.

Notwithstanding these reservations, this catalogue, which is a labour of love, is essential for the collector of maritime mail and is recommended for browsing to anyone looking for a new field for study.

Oh yes, Ouistreham. Despite its curious name it is in France: it is a small port (population in 1966, 4797) in Calvados near the mouth of the River Orne. Its cachets, all of which are of recent vintage (the earliest recorded use is 1984), probably fall into the category described by Mr Hosking in the Introduction to the second edition as follows: "The last few years have seen the appearance of a number of multi-line *paquebot* cachets featuring the geographical co-ordinates (latitude and longitude) of the port concerned. It is believed that these distinctive markings have been supplied by a collector in the USA to post offices which either did not have, or claimed not to have, an official mark of their own.

A purist might well dispute the inclusion of these marks, on the grounds that they were not officially issued by a postal authority. I have however decided to list them in cases where it can be shown that they have been 'adopted' by the post office for subsequent use on ships' mail." This comment, like the earlier one quoted about accuracy, has not been reprinted but it is still relevant. Many recent *paquebot* cachets are philatelic in origin and are the only ones available, and, as Mr Hosking now says, "some of these, which may now be regarded as modern frivolities, may well be the rarities of the future."

Bill Mitchell

Books Noted

La Philatélie Thématique (2nd edition) by Robert Migoux; pub. l'Association française de philatélie thématique, 2001; 206 pp., 240 x 190mm; b/w illustrations; 160F inc. p&p Europe; available from Robert Migoux, 78 avenue Gambetta, 75020 Paris. [New improved edition of work first published in 1995.]

L'Officiel des télécartes 2002 by Jérôme Grassy; pub. Yvert & Teller; 448 pp. in colour; 5,200 illustrations; flexible cover. [Latest edition now includes *mobicartes* (France-Télécom top-up cards for mobile phones) and prices in euros.]

Catalogue spécialisé des Entiers postaux d'Algérie (2nd edition) by Pierre-Jacques Barat; 223 pages (100 in colour), A4; subscription price until end of January 2002 250F + 28F p&p; details from P-J Barat, 1 rue des Venêts, Bât. 1 Esc. n° 1, 92000 Nanterre; also available from the Librairie-Service of Timbropresse. [Postal stationery of Algeria grouped under 12 periods from 1872 to 1975, with ACEP numbering; also includes money orders, Post Office tokens, telephone tickets, reply coupons, letter-card trials, pre-stamped documents, postcards; prices are in francs and euros.]

Guide et argus des cartes postales de collection (vol. 1) by Jean-Claude Carré; pub. Carré Plus; 320 pp., A4; numerous reproductions of old postcards; 239F + 26F p&p; details from Jean-Claude Carré, 51 rue du Colonel Moli, 94400 Vitry-sur-Seine. [First of 4 volumes listing tens of thousands of postcards, giving useful addresses, themes, illustrators, indexing by *département*, by *commune* or by publisher as well as by theme, and including descriptions, comments, historical and geographical notes.]

France: les Empreintes postales, comment les identifier, les classer dans leur contexte et connaître leur valeur (2nd edition 2001) by Dr Bernard Raynaud; 727 pages and files; photocopy version 600F inc. p&p, laser version 1000F inc. reg. p&p; as supplement to 1st edition (an extra 575 pp.) 350F or 600F; details from B Raynaud, 186 rue de la Gatevinière, 79290 Argenton-l'Église. [This work attempts to identify, classify and establish the value of all classical and modern postmarks; it is available either as a stand-alone system or as an update to the first edition.]

La Poste automobile rurale en Corrèze by Serge Cochet, Henri Boudrie and Michel Auzeloux; 124 pp., A4; many illustrations and texts of official documents; 140F inc. p&p; available from Club philatélique argentacois, M. Michel Auzeloux, 24-26 avenue Foch, 19400 Argentat. [The functioning and organisation of service vehicles used in this area, and specific obliterations with values of handstamps.]

Les timbres fiscaux de la Principauté de Monaco by A Agneray, M Granero and M Boule; pub. le Musée des timbres et monnaies de Monaco; 110 pp.; 120F or 18,29€; available from l'Office d'émission des timbres-poste de Monaco, 23 avenue du Prince Héréditaire Albert, MC-98050 Monaco Cedex. [A comprehensive list of the different vignettes used in the Principality from 1887 to date, including colour reproductions, classification by usage, concise descriptions with reference to official texts, printing dates, and a separate list of valuations in francs.]

Continued on page 168

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 26 SEPTEMBER 2001

Members: 12 Sheets

Our President Mick Bister began the meeting with a few administrative announcements, as well as a welcome to our American colleague Marty Bratzel, and an invitation to those present to sign a get well card for David Jennings-Bramly, who had been admitted to hospital during the summer.

John Hammonds started the first session of the display with an aeronautical mixture that included an advertising card showing a menu with aviation references, some international destinations, and the marks *relations postales suspendues* and *transporté exceptionnellement par avion*.

Peter Grech produced some correspondence between France and the USA, both maritime mail 1857-1897 with varying rates, and airmail 1939-1950 also showing the evolution of charges.

Colin Spong concentrated on the railway lines in Madagascar, begun in 1926, with postcards and handstamps.

Michael Ensor returned to the wine-growing areas of France, this time Beaune and its *côte*, with cards and covers between 1773 and 1996.

Roy Reader also returned to his favourite theme of WWII, this time items from the time of reprisals in September 1944 and the resumption of postal services, including Liberation overprints, international destinations, and a cover from the *Richelieu*.

Iain Stephenson concluded the first session with an imaginative story illustrating social philately, and in particular the use of revenue stamps on documents to raise taxes for the government at all stages of one's life.

David Worrollo began the second session with the stamps of Tunisia leading up to independence, covering the period 1954-1958.

Derek Richardson told the story of the reprisals for a German officer being killed in 1941, involving the massacre of 27 people from the camp at Châteaubriant near Nantes; he displayed relevant POW cards from 1941-1942, and the 1981 maximum card and philatelic document commemorating the monument erected in 1951 to those martyrs.

Geoff Gethin gave us further examples of forgeries, this time of the Paris International Philatelic Exhibition of 1925, the Strasbourg 1927, and the PEXIP Paris 1937 miniature sheets.

Bill Mitchell showed items from the French Colonies, with airmails from French West Africa to Beirut, Lebanon, in the period 1933-1944, as well as queries concerning a 1944 cover to Senegal, a 1933 cover to Germany, and one to the UK in 1937.

Our visitor **Marty Bratzel** had brought some material concerning the Cameroons and other colonies in WWI, and we saw letters, covers and telegrams involving German POWs (some in Morocco and Dahomey, from Togo and Kamerun), Switzerland and the Red Cross; the items included details of a money order, a negative control mark in Duala, Cameroun (the rare Commission B), a 1940-41 airmail from Bordeaux to Cameroun that was 14 months in transit, and a 1942 postal directorate mark on a letter.

Mick Bister brought the meeting to a conclusion with such items as an *épreuve collective* of the 1931 Colonial Exhibition, and the results of different engravers for the de la Nézière designs for French West Africa, including some proofs by Mignon in typo but also one that was recess printed (cut in metal rather than the normal wood).

Mick commented that we had again been privileged to see both quantity and quality in the displays.

MST

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 27 OCTOBER 2001

President's Afternoon: Mick Bister

Introduced by Vice-President Maurice Tyler, Mick explained that his display this year would cover two distinct topics, the first part covering the 50c Jeanne d'Arc issue of 1929, and the second part being devoted to the life and times of the 1F50 Pétain stamp.

He explained that he had long ago become interested in collecting the former issue after helping his wife with a thesis on Joan of Arc and obtaining a set of colour proofs designed by Hourriez from Stephen Holder. He first outlined the historical background, concentrating on Joan's raising of the siege of Orleans on 13-14 May 1429, an event that has led in recent years to a regular religious ceremony in commemoration. The earliest philatelic items consisted of

special Sage postal stationery of 1894-5, and these were followed by mostly local (especially Orleans) celebrations in the form of vignettes and postcards.

In 1928 an approach was made by the Mayor of Orleans to the postal authorities for a special (national) issue to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the event, and we were shown some of the designs submitted for consideration - the winner being Gabriel Barlangue whose portrait was possibly inspired by a painting in the Orleans Art Gallery. The display then continued with a wide selection of dated corner blocks, 2 first day covers of 2 March 1929, booklets (with serial numbers, with initials, with *département* name, with town name, with *pubs*), flat plate printings of booklets,

sheet printings, colour trials, *épreuves de luxe*, limited production private booklets (e.g. only 3000 printed of Lux Radio, 2000 of Le Havre Philatelic Exhibition, and 1000 of the Catalogue Gallia), and the publicity for *La Vache Qui Rit* cheese (withdrawn from sale in Orleans because of the potential "Laughing Cow" slur on Joan of Arc). This first session came to a conclusion with rates of postal usage that included the stamp used alone on cover, the Savala machine cancel, pneumatic mail, overseas, registered and overseas registered mail, registered airmail to Finland, and a crash mail cover of 1929.

Mick introduced the second session with a short history of the situation in France in 1940 when Pétain was invited to become Prime Minister and signed the Armistice, founding the new French State with its capital at Vichy and the replacement motto of *Patrie-Famille-Travail*. The new constitution, *francisque* and motto were shown on the first sheet, followed by such items as a postcard of the large Vichy hotels used to house the new government, a permit allowing access to these buildings, and a photo used as the basis for the portrait on the new issues of stamps. The first Pétain stamps with the new rates of postage were shown in a wide variety of forms, including the stamp printed in black "*sur bristol*", *épreuves de luxe*, official imperfs, a part sheet of accidental imperfs, imperf offset, booklet printings with punch marks in the corner, patriotic advertising in booklets, and preprinted postal stationery. We also saw a 1942 stamped to order *L'Urbaine et la Seine* postal stationery envelope, and a *La Toile d'Avion* or *Histoire de la Chemise* booklet with a piece of sample material attached.

Pétain wanted to eliminate the *franchise postale* for government bodies, so the *Courrier Officiel* stamps were

printed, although objections by those bodies led to successive postponements and eventual rejection and the order for destruction. However, "destroyed" sheets later appeared on the philatelic market (without gum because this had been soaked off ready for incineration), and later still specimen sheets with gum. Among examples of these Mick showed us a die proof of the rejected design.

There followed a number of examples of clandestine printings of the Pétain stamp, including the British Intelligence printing, Marseille forgeries (supposedly by the Resistance, never seen on cover), Nice forgeries (one on cover but philatelic), Paris forgeries (one on cover, and a sheet of 96), Liberation overprints, Bordeaux printings and the Dräim skull on the portrait of Pétain.

Postal usage included the stamp used alone, a *recommandation d'office* addressed to Pétain, concessionary forces mail from a submarine, and the express letter rate for overseas. The final frames displayed a breathtaking (partly through lack of time to digest them all!) journey through various events during the war, involving 2 zone mail of various kinds, the Italian occupation of France, the German occupation of the Channel Islands, youth camps, POW mail, censored mail, the Liberation of Corsica, the Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur, the British invasion of Madagascar, the Desert Campaign and the Allied invasion of Normandy.

In giving the vote of thanks, Maurice commented on the amazing variety of material presented by Mick, allied to an erudite commentary that always kept our interest, through a detailed technical knowledge of his subject clearly explained, and enlivened by fascinating anecdotes.

MST

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 18 AUGUST 2001

10.30 Members: Queries etc;

14.00 Peter Kelly - French Inland Registered and Insured Mail, seen through the *Type Sage* Issue of 1876 to 1900.

The Organiser welcomed Peter Kelly, members and guests to the all-day meeting. After coffee and sociability the meeting commenced with two short displays: Frank Blincow opening with a short display of the Stamps of Memel as a foretaste of his display in October when he will be showing the Postal History of the Plebiscite. David Worrollo who followed showed stamps of the 1849 Cérès issue including the 15c green forgery.

The following queries for members' comments then followed, and those present identified several of the items on display.

Betty Blincow: the Suffragette stamp *Droits de la femme*.

Colin Clarkson: the colour of a 1c Sage, whether the 1902 issue colour?

Bob Small: *Type Iris*, a value with RF overprint on the gum side, an 1853 Napoleon with broken frame and 02c.

Michael Annels: various varieties including *Type Merson* with missing background, *Type Marianne* with a broken T.

Godfrey Bowden: asked for help in research for the usage of folded business cards, as he had been approached by Dr Robert Bell, of PO Box 3668, West Sedona, AZ 86340, USA who had rediscovered their existence. Godfrey described the cards, that were for use by small businesses. Particularly those that couldn't afford printing their announcements, by running these through a typewriter only once, with a carbon copy attached, then folding part of the card over on itself so that one side became the address and the other side for the message.

Geoff Gethin: Forgeries including those of the 1925 Paris Exhibition sheet, 5F Sage, 1927 Strasbourg Exhibition, showing both the genuine and forged sheets.

After lunch, **Peter Kelly** commenced his display with an introduction. "The first stamps of the *Type Sage* appeared in June 1876 - less than six months after the application by France of the Treaty creating the Union Générale des Postes on 1.1.1876. The harmonisation of postage rates itself was a progressive affair which took a number of years to achieve,

and this was accompanied by an ever increasing demand for postal services in terms both of volume and sophistication. The long life of the Sage issue mirrors these years of early growth and the development of the postal system post-UPU."

In some notes for a draft article, being prepared for the European Academy, Peter has written: "From 1.1.1876 until 1.5.1878 the downward changes in the tariff that commenced with the entry of France into the UPU did not include any alteration in the rates for the registration or insurance of a letter. In 1878 a single letter rate of 15c per 15g was introduced, but the fee for registered and insured mail remained at 50c although the insurance was reduced to 10c per 100F. Following complaints later on 16.1.1879 the registration fee was reduced to 25c for letters - the same rate as for reduced price items (OPR). The reduction of this fee and the sliding scale charge for insurance had a marked effect on the volume of insured mail whose value rose from 700 million F in 1877 to 1700 million in 1883."

Amongst the many items of mail illustrating the usage of registration that Peter showed, I noted the following: an insured letter dated 2.11.1882 from L'Arbah, Algeria to Doura [Algeria used name of *département* on handstamp],

franked 1F90 = post 15c, reg 25c, and ins 1F50; a registered letter from Le Havre to Liverpool dated 31.3.92, showing usage of Le Havre *Affranchissement* handstamp and franked 50c = post 25c and reg 25c; *chargement* d/s 26.10.87 from Marseille to Bordeaux franked 40c = post 15c and reg 25c [*de Beaufond* lists Marseille Bourse distributing office as being only one to use its own *chargement* handstamp]; a receipt bearing *chargement* d/s 19.3.94; noted use of Périgueux d/s. An Instruction in 1899 introduced registration *étiquettes* [labels], and they were first used from 16.2.1900.

In thanking Peter for his most instructive and comprehensive display, Colin said that this was the largest number attending a Southern Group meeting, evidence of the interest shown in Peter's subject.

Members present: Michael Annells, Michael Berry, Betty Blincow, Godfrey Bowden, Colin Clarkson, Roy Ferguson, Geoff Gethin, Chris Hitchin, Bob Larg, Bill Mitchell, Bob Small, Colin Spong, Bob Stuckey, Maurice Tyler, Michael Wilson and David Worrollo.

Guests: Christine Annells, Z Beaumont, Frank Blincow, Yvonne Larg, John Thorpe and Pat Spong. Apologies were received from John Hammonds and Barbara Priddy.

CWS

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 20 OCTOBER 2001

Frank Blincow - Memel and the Territory of Memelland

The Organiser welcomed Frank Blincow, members and guests to the afternoon meeting.

Frank began by giving members an outline of the City of Memel and its Territory, which were part of the Kingdom of Prussia until 1.1.1868 when the North German Confederation was formed. The German Empire of Wilhelm I of Prussia was established on 18.1.1871. Memel was historically an 'entry town' for mail from Russia to Central and Western Europe, first by sea and then later by road and rail.

After World War I Germany, Lithuania and Poland all laid claims to the territory - Germany on the basis that it was part of East Prussia, Lithuania because a good Baltic port was needed for a newly-independent State, and Poland because they were unhappy with the arrangements for their use of Danzig and they wanted a corridor to Memelland and for Memel to have the same Free City status. A League of Nations High Commission backed by a French military force of approximately 1800 men administered the Territory from 14.2.1920 until occupied by Lithuanian troops on 10.1.23. The final French contingent of 200 men departed on 19.2.23. In 1924 the League decided that Memelland should become an autonomous territory within Lithuania and the City of Memel was renamed Klaipeda. Other places in Memelland also were given Lithuanian names.

On 23.3.1939 Lithuania yielded to German pressure and Memelland was returned to the Third Reich. In January 1945, after a siege lasting over three months, the City of

Memel fell to the Red Army and at the end of World War II the Territory was returned to the Soviet Republic of Lithuania.

Frank said his display would cover the stamps and postal history from the following periods: 1850-67 Stamps of the Kingdom of Prussia; 1868-71 Stamps of the North German Federation; 1872-1920 Stamps of the German Empire (*Deutsches Reich*); 1920-23 Stamps of the French Administration in Memel; 1923-24 Stamps of Lithuania overprinted and special issues; 1924-39 Stamps of Lithuania; 1939-45 Stamps of the Third Reich; 1945-90 Stamps of the Soviet Union [Soviet Republic of Lithuania]; from 1990 Stamps of the Independent Republic of Lithuania.

Pašto Antspaudai - Vitas Fugalevičius 1990 - entry port for mails coming out of Russia to Bordeaux for French wines. After World War I Germans still administered the post offices under the French during the period of the Commission. Mail went through Königsberg, four German postal cards were overprinted and the French overprinted two of their postal stationery.

Amongst the varied and interesting items seen in the display:

Entire Riga to Bordeaux 18.11.1878 with s/l Memel 21/11 transit marks; French entry box PRUSSE / PAR / GIVET Post paid marks PP in red, also boxed PPPP [Port Payé Passe Paris] in red; Bordeaux s/l receiver on reverse and script charge marks appear to be 1/2 and 7.1/3.

Memel E. Prussia postcard to Pernau [German spelling] from Memel 19.6.02, for 10Pf rate to 1.10.18; Russian ПЕПХОБb (Pärnu) receiving cds with Julian calendar date 19.VI.02.

French military mail undated cover to Paris with boxed French Military Mission in Lithuania cachet.

Inland registered card to Heydekrog from Bismark/Memelgebiet 30.10.20.

Mixed franking Merson on Germania used on last day acceptance of Germania cards.

Registered label Bismark [Ostpreussen], Heydekog receiving cds 31.10.20; rate 30pf, reg rate 50Pf = 80Pf.

Colin thanked Frank on behalf of those present for a fascinating display of the postal history of a City which the French held in plebiscite from 1920-23.

Members present: Michael Annells, Michael Berry, Betty Blincow, Roy Ferguson, Geoff Gethin, John Hammonds, Bob Larg, Bill Mitchell, Barbara Priddy, Bob Small, Colin Spong, Bob Stuckey, Michael Wilson and David Worrollo.

Guests: Frank Blincow, Yvonne Larg, John Thorpe and Pat Spong.

Apologies were received from Colin Clarkson.

CWS

Continued from page 164

Books Noted (continued)

The Secrets of Air Mail Routes and Rates in South America 1928-1941 by Mario D Kurchan; 192 pp., card cover; extensively illustrated with covers, maps and tables; text in Spanish and English; £28 + £2 p&p; available from James Bendon Ltd, PO Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus. [A sequel and complement to the author's earlier "Air Mail Routes and Rates in South America 1928-1940" (now out of print); includes Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, US Airlines and the Atlantic Crossing, Routes and Rates to South America from Britain and France, and the Linee Aeree Transcontinentali Italiane.]

Maurice Tyler

The Parcel Post Stamps of the Ivory Coast by David L. Herendeen; pub. 2001 by the author; card cover, perfect bound, 7x10 inches, numerous illustrations and tables; 142 pp.; ISBN 0-9708234-0; \$24.95 (+ p&p for Europe); available from Herendeen Enterprises, 1641-D 237th Street, Harbor City, CA 97010, USA; also from Pascal Behr, 30 avenue de l'Opéra, 75002, Paris. [Stanley J Luft, reviewing this in the 3rd Quarter *Philatelic Literature Review* and in *The Collectors Club Philatelist* remarks that "in this elegantly devised *tour de force* Dave Herendeen has produced what surely must be — and perhaps for all time — the definitive study...of Ivory Coast parcel post stamps Cérès Nos 1-22.... (Whilst) this is not a book for everyone, nevertheless, I would not hesitate to recommend it, if only as an instruction manual on the best way to conduct a really serious study of some neglected or poorly understood subject." {These journals are in the Society library if anyone wishes to read the full review of this publication.}]

Colin Spong

Reference Library at the Musée de la Poste, Paris

Colin Spong has recently tried to visit this library, only to discover that it is only open Tuesday to Thursday. Members who plan to carry out research there should take note of these restrictions in order to avoid making a wasted journey.

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Southern Group Meetings

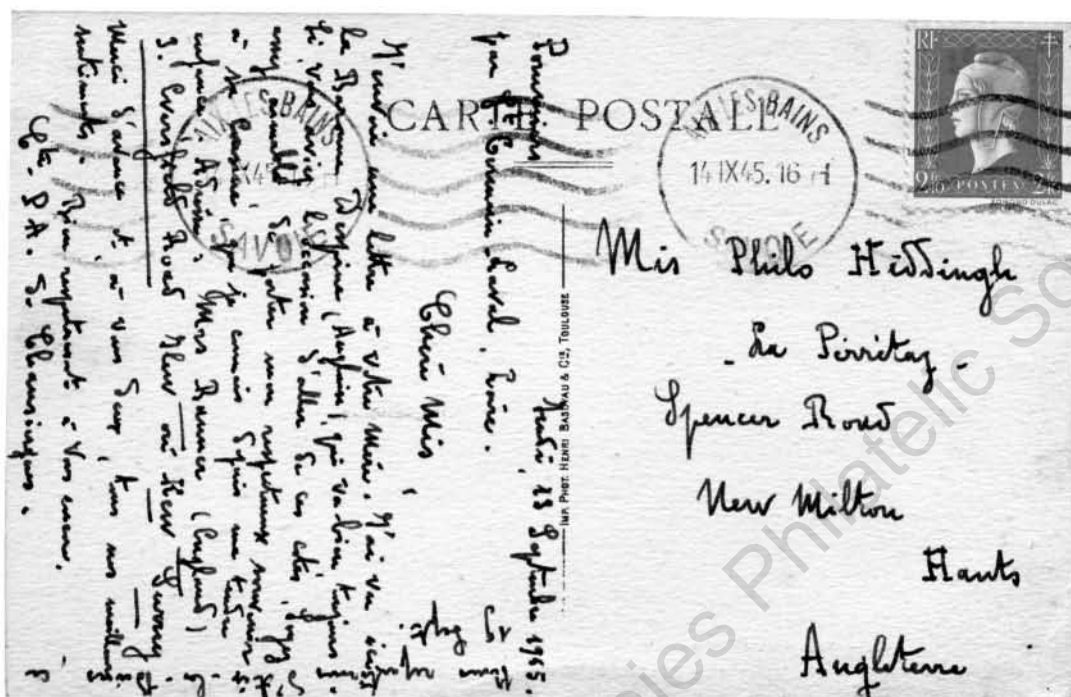
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Auction Lots

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2F40 Marianne de Dulac used alone on postcard to the UK



1941 official airmail to Beirut from the Secrétariat d'État à l'Aviation in Vichy

July 2001 Auction Realisations

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
3	5.00	78	7.50	175	12.00	243	20.00	309	2.50	409	12.00
4	8.50	79	4.00	176	5.00	244	13.00	312	4.00	410	31.00
5	6.50	82	4.00	178	4.00	245	36.00	315	4.00	411	12.00
6	3.00	83	7.50	179	5.00	246	8.00	316	1.50	412	10.00
7	6.00	89	3.00	181	13.00	248	5.50	317	5.00	417	9.50
8	4.50	95	10.00	182	6.00	249	72.00	318	7.50	418	4.00
9	5.00	96	6.00	183	8.00	250	13.00	319	4.00	422	250.00
10	3.00	97	9.00	184	12.00	251	13.00	320	13.00	423	47.00
11	7.00	100	4.50	185	7.50	252	100.00	323	3.00	425	130.00
12	6.50	102	4.50	186	4.00	253	13.00	324	5.00	427	3.00
13	4.00	105	6.00	188	6.00	254	7.50	325	4.50	428	5.50
18	13.00	110	3.50	189	4.50	255	140.00	326	1.00	429	4.00
20	3.00	111	3.00	193	7.00	256	1.50	327	6.50	430	25.00
24	1.50	115	31.00	195	20.00	258	21.00	328	2.50	431	8.50
25	5.00	117	18.00	196	13.00	259	10.00	329	3.50	432	5.00
26	6.00	119	15.00	197	6.50	261	8.50	330	4.00	433	16.00
27	8.00	120	5.00	199	7.50	262	17.00	331	3.00	434	13.00
28	3.00	121	2.50	200	14.00	263	19.00	335	7.50	435	17.00
29	5.00	123	10.00	201	10.00	264	8.00	336	6.50	438	27.00
32	10.00	124	5.00	202	35.00	265	4.50	337	5.00	439	25.00
37	30.00	126	6.00	204	20.00	266	4.50	338	3.50	440	4.00
38	5.00	128	9.00	206	62.00	267	30.00	341	3.50	441	6.50
39	5.00	129	27.00	207	17.00	271	6.00	343	10.00	442	6.00
43	10.00	130	14.00	209	22.00	272	5.50	345	8.00	444	4.00
47	10.00	131	22.00	210	15.00	273	7.00	349	6.00	445	9.00
49	1.50	132	10.00	212	25.00	274	7.00	352	5.00	446	5.00
50	2.50	133	17.00	216	19.00	275	7.50	356	5.00	448	11.00
52	2.00	134	25.00	220	7.00	276	5.50	359	2.50	449	1.00
54	4.00	137	6.00	221	4.00	277	33.00	360	2.50	450	5.50
55	6.00	138	10.00	222	5.00	278	10.00	376	2.50	451	8.50
56	5.50	139	6.00	223	7.00	280	3.50	379	9.00	454	20.00
60	25.00	140	5.00	224	12.00	282	5.50	380	3.00	455	5.00
61	21.00	141	5.00	226	9.50	283	18.00	381	5.50	456	8.00
62	36.00	142	9.00	227	4.50	284	6.50	384	7.00	457	8.00
63	4.00	143	64.00	228	32.00	285	25.00	387	7.50	461	9.00
64	4.00	144	3.00	229	5.00	286	33.00	388	5.00	464	36.00
65	4.00	153	10.00	230	5.50	287	8.00	390	5.00	465	20.00
66	4.00	156	15.00	231	8.50	288	3.00	393	5.00	467	9.00
67	4.00	157	4.00	233	52.00	291	1.50	394	22.00	468	4.00
68	3.00	160	7.00	234	12.00	294	3.50	395	6.00	469	22.00
69	2.50	163	4.50	235	5.50	296	2.50	396	5.00	470	24.00
70	5.00	167	11.00	236	2.50	297	3.00	397	10.00	471	8.00
71	5.00	168	13.00	237	4.50	298	4.00	399	7.50	477	11.00
72	4.00	169	12.00	238	3.50	299	5.00	401	8.00	478	5.00
73	3.00	171	2.50	239	4.50	300	5.00	403	5.00	479	6.50
74	2.00	172	5.00	240	12.00	302	5.00	406	12.00	480	6.00
76	3.00	173	13.00	241	28.00	303	5.00	407	12.00		
77	3.00	174	5.00	242	25.00	307	2.50	408	12.00		
										Total 3,447.00	



***The President and Committee
wish all members and their families
a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.***



Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année!



POSTES ET TÉLÉGRAPHES

A remplir par l'Agent des **DECAZEVILLE 84 411225 AVEYRON**

N° 517-2.

Timbre **AR** RÉCÉPISSÉ à remettre au déposant.

Valeur déclarée : _____ f. _____

Remboursement : _____ f. _____

Poids : _____ g. _____

(A remplir par l'Expéditeur.)

NOM ET ADRESSE DU DESTINATAIRE :

Mlle Renie Rancou

3 place des Cours n° 3

à Figeac (Lot)

(A remplir par l'Agent des Postes.)

Nature de l'objet : _____

Signature de l'Agent _____

These 3 items form one lot in the Society Auction for February 2002:

1941 registered AR letter with block of 1F/1F40 Paix together with corresponding receipt and avis de réception form

See also pages 142 and 172 and the front cover.

REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE.

POSTES, TÉLÉGRAPHES ET TÉLÉPHONES.

M. Ch. Féral

rue Cayrol n° 78

à Decazeville

département (Lot)

A DÉCHIRER.

Département (Lot)

Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur : **RECEVU PAR L'EXPÉDITEUR**

20 25