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The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



"Sorting and Postmarking the Mail" – an engraving by Raoul Serres
from Mick Bister's collection of French Post Office engravings
(much reduced in size)

Volume 53 ● Number 3
September 2003
Whole Number 229

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 and applications for membership should be addressed to the General Secretary.

2002 Subscription Rates

United Kingdom: £10.00, Europe: £12.00, Elsewhere: £15.00.

Treasurer: C J Hitchen, 36 Everton Road, Croydon CR0 6LA.

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Auction and Exchange Packet Sales

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.

France: Mrs M Pavey, 15 St Ronan's Terrace, Innerleithen, Peeblesshire EH44 6RB;

Colonies: J West, 5 Highbanks Road, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4AR.

The Library

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.

Librarian: G E Barker, 520 Halifax Road, Bradford BD6 2LP.

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:

D A Pashby, 148 Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0DS.

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Southern Group: C W Spong

Northern Group: J P Maybury

* * *

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.

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The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1220 M J James (Lincolnshire).

* * *

Members Deceased

We are saddened to hear of the death of the following members, and offer our sincere condolences to their families:

289 A Dent, 542 G P Henderson.

* * *

Heavy Lots in the Auction

Following the Auction Secretary's annual report at the AGM (see page 118) a question was raised from the floor concerning the lotting and viewing of large items such as collections and books which can be too cumbersome for him to carry to a room auction (car transport and parking in London not being feasible) and which can demand high postage costs in a postal auction. This led to a very useful exchange of ideas and recommendations and he summarises the conclusions below:

● **If a vendor is able to attend a room auction**, heavy lots should be brought to the venue in time for the viewing period and, if not sold to a room bidder, removed by the vendor at the close of the sale. If sold to a postal bidder the vendor would be given the latter's details and would be responsible for dispatching the lot(s). The Auction Secretary would then refund the vendor's postage expenses and invoice the buyer.

● **If a vendor is unable to attend a room auction**, heavy lots can still be entered into any of the four auctions but the vendor would retain the lots at home. The vendor would then be advised of the successful bidders to whom he or she would dispatch the lots. As in the above situation, the Auction Secretary would be responsible for the invoicing and the refund of postage.

● **In the case of books, there is a third option.** The Auction Secretary currently organises a bookstall at the Annual Philatelic Weekend. A month before the event books can be sent by post or delivered by hand to the Auction Secretary's address from where they will be transported by car or, if the vendor is attending the event, they can be brought directly to the Philatelic Weekend venue (currently Leamington). At the moment, literature is sold on the bookstall at a net price slightly above the reserve set by the vendor. If the books are unsold at the end of the Philatelic Weekend they are subsequently offered in a future auction at the vendor's original reserve.

● **In all cases**, the vendor would be responsible for sending an advanced description of the collection or book for inclusion in the catalogue.

* * *

Corrigendum

The term used by Skanda Vaitilingam for "bits and pieces" at the Leamington Weekend (see page 81 of Journal 228) should read "stokkies and brokkies". He first heard it used by Richard Stroud of Burnham-on-Sea as the title for his display of South Africa, and it is thought to be Afrikaans.

* * *

Displays by Members

Skanda Vaitilingam displayed "Madagascar" on 20 March 2003 to Taw and Torridge Stamp Club at Barnstaple, and on 12 June 2003 to Blandford and District Philatelic Society at Blandford Forum.

Francis Kiddle displayed "100 Years of Poster Stamps" on 5 July 2003 at the ABPS Congress in Gateshead.

* * *

Main Society Meetings

	Venue*
2003	
Wed. 24 Sep. Members: 12 sheets	CA
Sat. 1 Nov. President's afternoon	RHH
Sat. 15 Nov. Auction 2.00: viewing from 12.00	CA
Wed. 26 Nov. C S Holder: Tunisian Postal History	CA
2004	
Wed. 28 Jan. R C Deakin: Morocco to 1956	CA
Sat. 28 Feb. A J Wood: French Military Mail	RHH
Wed. 17 Mar. A Lawrence: Siege of Paris 1870-71	CA
Wed. 21 Apr. C W Spong: Fr. Railways / Madagascar	CA
Sat. 1 May AGM (11.30) & Auction (2.00)	CA
Wed. 29 Sep. Members: 12 sheets	CA
Sat. 30 Oct. President's afternoon	RHH

*Venue

CA denotes Calthorpe Arms PH, 252 Grays Inn Road, London WC1. Wednesday meetings commence at 6.30pm.

RHH denotes Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1. Meetings are from 3.00 to 5.00.

* * *

Exhibition Successes

Steven Walske was awarded a Gold Medal and the Postal History Society Grand Prize for "Special Postal Routes Across the Lines During the American Civil War" at St Louis Stamp Expo (March 2003).

* * *

Overseas Members' Subscriptions

When paying an annual subscription or for other services, overseas members should note that £10 notes with the portrait of Charles DICKENS ceased to be legal tender after 31 July 2003, and that the current £10 notes bear a portrait of Charles DARWIN.

* * *

OBITUARIES

Arthur Dent

1924-2003

We were all saddened at the Bastille Day meeting at Heaton Royds to learn of the death of Arthur, a longstanding and enthusiastic member of our Society, who always produced something of interest, be it stamps, postal stationery or postal history, at the gatherings of the Northern Group.

Born and raised in York, Arthur served in the REME during the Second World War, and eventually became stationed for some time in the town of Münster in Germany. This spawned an interest in the postal history of that town which blossomed when it was twinned with his home town of York during his presidency of the York Philatelic Society. Following 'demob' Arthur joined the well known local firm of Rowntrees, remaining with them until his retirement some fourteen years ago.

In his youth Arthur was a keen sportsman enjoying cricket, badminton, tennis and, in later life, bowls.

As well as his extensive collections of France, which featured postal stationery and registered mail in addition to general postal history, and his particular love, the *cachets d'entrée*, Arthur also formed substantial studies of the postal history of York and Münster. In recent years he made several visits to Münster where he displayed some of his material to the local philatelic society.

A member of the Royal, the York Society and a stalwart of the Yorkshire Postal History Society, where he was Secretary for a number of years, Arthur was a popular figure in and around York, and this was reflected in the number of friends and colleagues attending the funeral.

We extend our sympathy to Margaret, his widow, and also to his son and grandchildren.

JPM

George Poland Henderson, FRPSL

1920-2003

I was greatly saddened to learn of the death, on 22 June 2003, of our much appreciated friend and colleague, George Henderson, and so soon after his presence at this year's Leamington Spa weekend. He was much respected for his great philatelic knowledge, spreading over several disciplines and a number of different countries. I knew him for his great capabilities in French postal history, and having watched him successfully bid at many of our auctions over the years, I felt sure that one day we would see a superlative all-embracing display from him. Sadly, this will not now take place, but perhaps his wife, Prue, will see this idea into reality.

I knew him not just from the philatelic side but also from the world of information, where we both worked, and long before he appeared on the F&CPS scene. Early in his professional career, he joined the staff at the famous Commercial Reference Library in London, where he worked for 17 years. He was a Fellow of the Institute of Directors, and then was, for three years, a Director of Kelly's Directories Ltd. Perhaps this was the spur to what became his life's work, because for some 37 years following, he ably directed his own company, specialising in the preparation of directories of all sorts, in the world of science particularly, and including a Directory of British Associations, and even a Directory of Directories. In other words, his business was bringing knowledge and understanding to the professional world around him, and he did this with great skill and success.

In the world of philately, he was also of great general assistance. He was a member of the Portuguese Philatelic Society, and of the British Society of Russian Philately, and produced Library Catalogues for both societies. These are perfect examples of the ways in which he put his skills to work for the good of philately as a whole. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, and possibly a member of other societies too, but of these I do not know.

We shall miss George greatly in the years to come, and send our deepest condolences to his wife, Prue, and to his family.

GEB

BOOKSHELF

Marianne à la Nef

written and published by Jean-Luc Trassaert on CD-ROM (PC & Mac compatible, with Acrobat Reader); price 20 € including postage, available directly from the author at "Les Gauchers," 24230 Bonneville, France

In 1985 Jean-Luc Trassaert's definitive work on the *Marianne à la Nef* issue was published as Étude N° 260 in the celebrated series of *Le Monde des Philatélistes* brochures. Eighteen years later the title reappears but this time in CD-Rom format and with a wealth of additional information. Compared to the original publication of just 40 pages and 40 illustrations (mostly in black and white) we now have a work consisting of 136 screen pages and 100 illustrations, mostly in full colour.

The study is the fruit of many years of further research and the uncovering of hitherto unknown documents. The main area of expansion has been the diligent recording of documents held at the Musée de la Poste. Only five pages were devoted to the artwork and the proofs in the 1985 edition. In the current study all eight projects submitted by the designer André Regagnon are reproduced together with a complete record of the final artwork, proofs and trial printings accompanied by a further fourteen illustrations. All the 25F sheet printings are fully tabulated and the history of the Fréjus + 5F overprint is explained in detail.

The author continues with the modified 0,25 value issued in 1960 to accompany the New Franc. This value offers

much more to the collector with its diversity of printings in sheet, booklet and coil format, all of which are fully explained and illustrated. The extremely detailed fly-speck analysis of the 0,25 printings to which over six pages were devoted in the 1985 edition has been dropped in the CD version and the postal usage further developed in its place. Some of the highlights illustrated are a block of 8 and a pair on a parcel label, a franking of six on a registered letter sent by pneumatic mail, a 45 rpm record sent at letter rate, and a cover intercepted and confiscated by the FNL in Constantine in 1960 and later retrieved by the French Army during Operation Turquoise.

The whole CD is easy to navigate and the Arial Bold text is crisp and legible. The illustrations are of a good size and best viewed when the navigation panel is hidden. This means that there is rarely any need to zoom in for closer viewing which would inevitably result in a loss of resolution and definition.

Not only is this a well-researched study of the stamp itself but it also offers a framework which could be adopted by philatelists wishing to collect and study other modern definitives. It is recommended reading to both specialist and novice alike.

Mick Bister

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE D'HISTOIRE POSTALE
DE LA GUERRE DE 1870-1871

NANCY, SIÈGE DE L'ADMINISTRATION PRUSSIENNE DES POSTES
DANS LES TERRITOIRES FRANÇAIS OCCUPÉS
DU 24 AOÛT AU 6 OCTOBRE 1870



GILBERT PINGARD

La Bibliothèque de la Poste

Nancy, Siège de l'Administration Prussienne des Postes dans les Territoires Français Occupés [du 24 août au 6 octobre 1870]

by Gilbert Pingard, ex-President of the Académie Lorraine de Philatélie and member of the Académie Européenne de Philatélie; published by the Association Internationale d'Histoire Postale de la Guerre de 1870-1871; 126 pp., A4, coated paper, flexible cover; price 33€ inc. p&p for France and abroad; cheques or mandates payable to the AIHP; available from Jean-Jacques Metz, 31 rue du Pré Frégoulle, 57070 Metz, France.

Between 24 August and 6 October 1870 the Prussians, led by Dr Rosshirt, installed in Nancy the Postal Administration for the occupied French territories. Hitherto unknown sources from the Lorraine archives have been explored and cross-checked with the help of information resulting from German archives and obtained thanks to the collaboration of M. Friedrich Spalink. All this enables the reader to unearth the day to day decisions of this Administration, with the help of its 12 dated circulars from Nancy, posters, extracts from the Official Monitor of the General Government of Lorraine, correspondence

addressed to the Mayors to re-establish the postal service, and the 4 long reports from Rosshirt on its operation. There are numerous new details which soundly enrich our knowledge of the functioning of the German Post Office in this part of France. Illustrated by valuable covers from this troubled period, many different subjects are tackled, in particular the reopening of post offices, the production of correspondence cards, the issue of occupation stamps, the establishment of *Feldpostrelais*, local cantonal posts, and French clandestine mail. Numerous archive documents are reproduced in full in this fascinating and high quality study.

Robert Abensur

Books Noted

La Poste à Saint-Lô, pub. l'Essor Philatélique de Saint-Lô, 1993; price 7€ inc. p&p; available from M. Houben, impasse des Goélands, 50000 Saint-Lô. [Collective monograph on local postmarks, date stamps, flammes.]

Fakes Forgeries Experts N° 6, May 2003; 212 pp. 240 x 300mm in colour; partly in English; price 45€ inc. p&p; available from *FFE Journal*, Paolo Vollmeier, PO Box 108,

6976 Castagnola, Switzerland. [Includes article by J-F Brun on a 40c postage due forgery of 1871.]

Opus N° 3, 2003; pub. Académie Européenne de Philatélie; 104 pp., A4, in colour; details from Jean-Pierre Mangin, 23 rue du Paquis, 55000 Bar-le-Duc. [Includes article by Guy Prugnon on two rare Merson types on cover.]

Maurice Tyler

France: the Tariff of 1676

Peter Maybury

François-Michel Le Tellier, Marquis de Louvois et Courtanvaux (1641-1691), the Minister of War, was appointed *Surintendant des Postes et Relais* in 1668 and instituted a programme of reforms, which included a largely unsuccessful attempt to rationalise and centralise the administration of a system controlled by a multitude of *Maîtres des Courriers*, each with an entrenched vested interest.

In 1672 the *Ferme Générale des Postes* was created, in many ways the equivalent of a franchise system, and which produced an instant revenue boost for the King's war chest. The first concessionaire was Lazare Patin, who negotiated an initial lease of five years for an immediate payment of one million livres, plus in 1676 a further million to extend the lease by two years.

This agreement only covered internal – including military – and incoming foreign mail. The benefits of all outgoing foreign mail accrued to Louvois personally.

The revised system was seen to require a more comprehensive and accountable tariff, not to mention the need to finance the funding of the 'Royal Rent,' and Royal Assent was given by Louis XIV on 12 April 1676 to the new tariff which should have been operative on 1 May. However, it would appear that, because parliamentary

approval was delayed, probably due to the radical nature of some of the proposals and the costs of the war against the Dutch Republic, it was not until June that the new tariff was implemented.

The application of the tariff was restricted, subject to the following conditions, to internal and incoming foreign mail.

a) The rates were specifically restricted to letters and packets to be carried by the *courriers ordinaires* on the post routes – i.e. not by mounted couriers or coaches.

b) Packets were packets of letters which were weighed in the presence of the sender, to determine the postage.

c) Money and valuables, which should have been carried by the *Poste aux Chevaux* (mounted couriers or carriages), were charged at 1 sol per livre of value (5%), if discovered in packets.

d) The couriers were instructed to deliver their letters and packets to Postmasters or Sub-postmasters and to no-one else.

Internal Mail

The tariff represented a significant development of the postal service. 59 offices were listed with fixed rates to and from Paris, plus special tariffs for the cities of Lille and Lyon, as detailed in the following tables:-

TO and FROM PARIS by POST ROUTE and COURIER	Single Letter sols	Letter in Envelope sols	Double Letter sols	Packet per Once sols
Amiens- Alençon- Auxerre- Caen- Châlons- Moulins- Nevers - Orléans- Rouen	3	4	5	9
Laval- Lyon- Mâcon- Metz- Nantes- Rennes- Riom- Toul- St Malo- Verdun	4	5	6	11
Calais	5	6	8	15
Aix- Avignon- Avesnes- Bordeaux- Landrecy- Marseille- Montauban- Montpellier- Le Quesnoy- La Rochelle	5	6	8	15
Binche- Charleroi- Dieuze- Douai- Hesdin- Lille- Mariembourg- Marsal- Moyen Vic- Philippeville- Thionville- Tournai- Vic	6	7	9	18
Bergues- Bourbourg- Dunkerque- Veurne- Gravelines	7	8	10	21
Pinerolo	8	10	12	24
Breisach- Colmar- Haguenau- Sélestat- Sarrebourg- Saverne	10	12	15	30
Perpignan	10	12	16	30
Strasbourg- Phalsbourg via Nancy	12	14	18	36
Strasbourg from October 1681	10	14	18	36
TO and FROM LYON by POST ROUTE and COURIER				
Dijon	3	4	5	9
Geneva	3	4	6	9
Aix- Avignon- Marseille- Montpellier	4	5	6	12
Pinerolo	5	6	8	15
Perpignan	6	8	10	18
Genoa- Milan- Rome- Venice	8	-	13	24
NON SPECIFIED TOWNS - MAIL TO and FROM LYON				
Up to and including 25 lieues	2	3	4	6
Over 25 lieues and up to and including 60 lieues	3	4	5	9
Over 60 lieues and up to and including 80 lieues	4	5	6	12
Over 80 lieues	5	6	9	15

TO and FROM LILLE by POST ROUTE and COURIER	Single Letter sols	Letter in Envelope sols	Double Letter sols	Packet per Once sols
Courtrai- Douai- Oudenaarde- Tournai.	2	3	4	6
Abbeville- Amiens.	4	5	6	12
Calais	5	6	7	15
Paris- Rouen.	6	7	9	18
Bordeaux- Nantes- La Rochelle- St. Malo.	10	11	14	30
Bayonne- Marseille.	11	12	14	33

Mail between non-specified towns was still to be taxed in accordance with the ruling of 1673 viz:

	up to & inc. 25 lieues	> 25 lieues & up to & inc. 60	> 60 lieues & up to & inc. 80	> 80 lieues
Single letter	2 sols	3 sols	4 sols	5 sols
Double letter	3 sols	4 sols	5 sols	8 sols
Packet per once	4 sols	5 sols	7 sols	10 sols

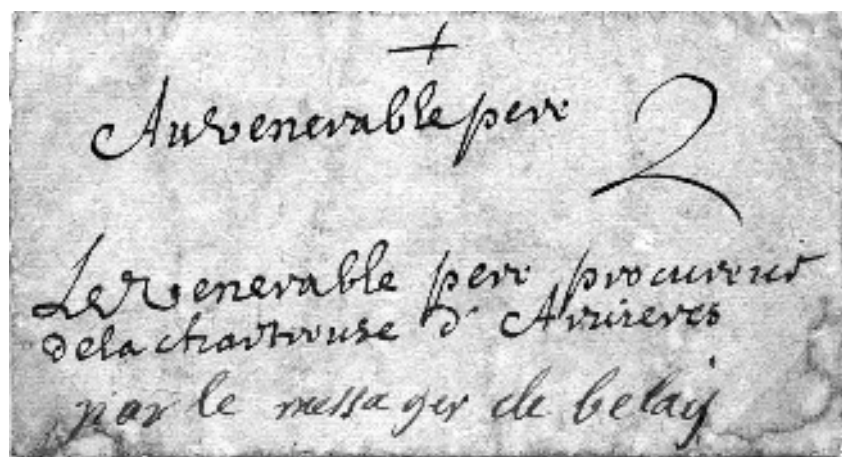


Figure 1 -
Letter dated 7 September 1694
from Dijon to the Carthusian Monastery
on the banks of the Arvières
north-east of Bellay,
a distance of 25 lieues
for the minimum rate of 2 sols;
then carried by the town messenger
of Bellay to its destination.

These rates (see Fig 1) were based upon the actual distances travelled by the local letter carriers, as calculated by the postmaster, which left the system open to abuse. As a consequence, in 1690 Louvois set out a precise tariff for all mail to and from a number of important towns and cities, e.g. Nancy, Toulouse, Strasbourg; but unfortunately there is little, if any, information as to the other towns or the rates.

Probably the most significant innovation of this tariff was the introduction of an extra rate for letters enclosed in an envelope. This being higher than the single rate but lower than the double rate, it also seems most likely to have restricted the contents to a single sheet of paper.

Composite Rates

Mail which was to be routed through certain towns and cities carried a higher than specified charge for the journey. Mail passing through these towns (known as *Bureaux de Passe* in the tariffs of 1703 and 1759) was charged from its origin to the *Bureau de Passe* at the single rate plus a further single rate from the *Bureau de Passe* to its destination, thus creating a 'double' rate. How many such offices existed at this time is not certain, but by the implementation of the Tariff of 1703 (1 January 1704) there were 20. Examination of examples passing through Paris, Toulouse and Poitiers tends to suggest that the calculation was always to the advantage of the customer rather than the state.

Pre-paid Mail

Mail could be pre-paid to destination, and was endorsed to that effect (see Fig 2),

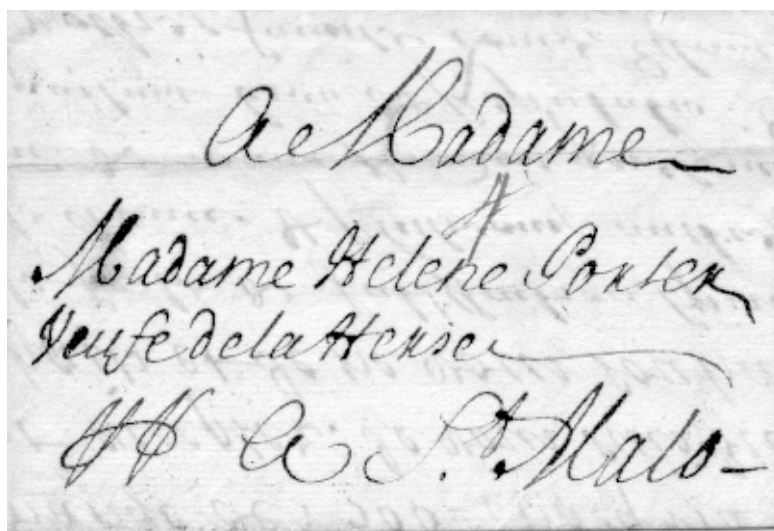
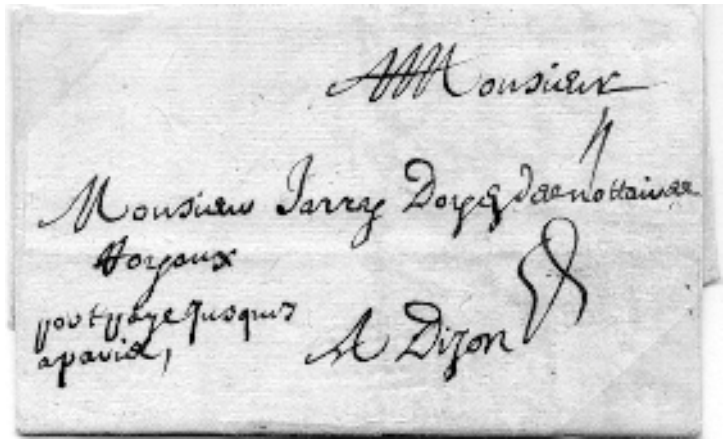


Figure 2 -
Single rate letter
dated 10 January 1685
Paris to St Malo, a named town.
Pre-paid 4 sols,
and endorsed P.P.

or partly pre-paid to a *Bureau de Passe* as in the following example (see Fig 3) from Rennes to Dijon via Paris. This was prepaid 4 sols (endorsement), the specified town rate to Paris, plus a further 4 sols for the 3rd distance band of 60 to 80 *lieues* from Paris to Dijon. Dijon was not a specified town.

Figure 3



Origin Marks

Manuscript marks (see Fig 4) began to appear far more frequently during this period, enabling the postmasters to calculate the rates more accurately and also facilitating the internal accountancy of the postal administration.

Handstamps were introduced in 1695. The LYON office was the first to use them, both as origin (Fig 5) and, due to

its status as main office for handling foreign mail, transit marks (Fig 7). There was no uniformity in design or size, and postmasters commissioned their manufacture from local artisans, as and when they were required.

Both types of markings ran in parallel, their use not being mandatory, but recognised as of mutual benefit to the postmasters and authorities.

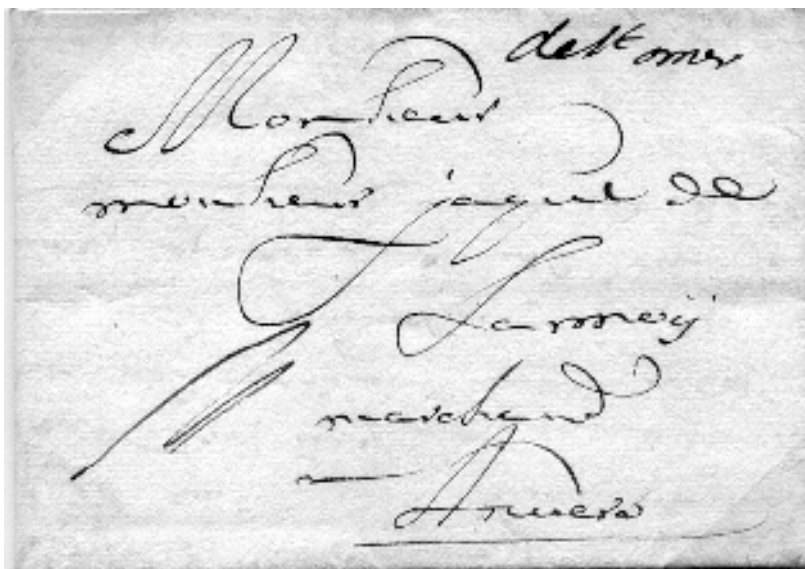
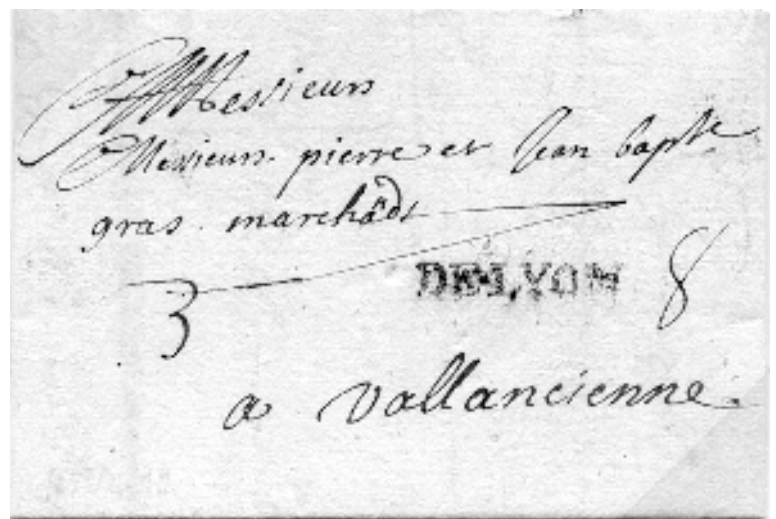


Figure 4 -
St Omer to Antwerp (Spanish Netherlands)
13 May 1687
with manuscript "de St omer" origin mark
plus local charge mark.
St Omer was annexed by France in 1678.

Figure 5 -
Unpaid 'double port' letter
dated 12 September 1695
from LYON to VALENCIENNES.
Taxed at 8 patars
being 5 patars to Paris
+ 3 patars Paris to Valenciennes.
Rates to certain Belgian border towns
were expressed in the local currency.
1 patar = < 1 sol.



International Mail

During the period of this tariff a number of agreements were in existence or were formulated with foreign postal authorities. These set out the rates and the routes for mail from and to appropriate destinations. This was also the period of the war of the League of Augsburg (1689-1697) which was the cause of significant disruption to the postal service between France and the Italian States. The French Post Office in Turin being closed from 1690 to 1696, mail had to be sent via Aix-en-Provence to Antibes and then by sea to Genoa to link with the routes to Rome and other Italian towns (see Fig 6).

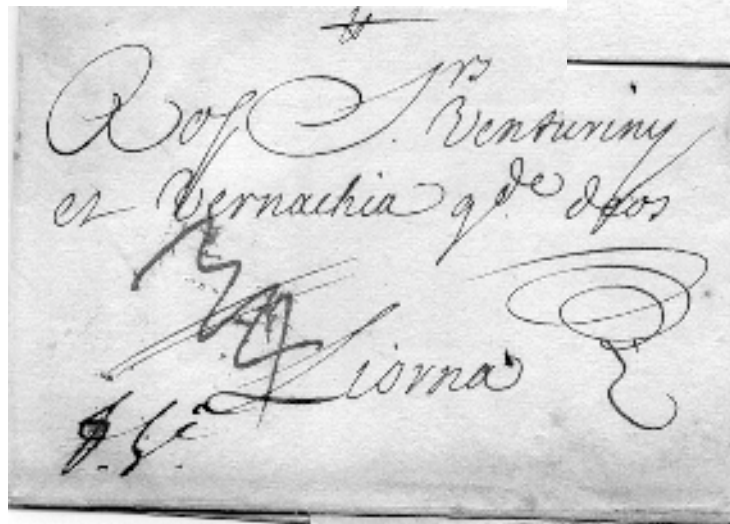


Figure 6 -

Marseille to Livorno 15 April 1693
endorsed 'f. Ge' (paid to Genoa) +
'34' quadrini charge from Genoa to Livorno

The rate from France to Genoa was 8 sols.

With the conclusion of the war, the exchange office reverted to Lyon and the French post office in Turin was re-opened. Mail transiting France was not subject to any surcharge but it did receive the Lyon handstamp (see Fig 7).



Figure 7 -

Turin to Brussels (Spanish Netherlands) 4 October 1698
'DE.LYON' transit handstamp
Taxed '11R' (11 rials) due on delivery

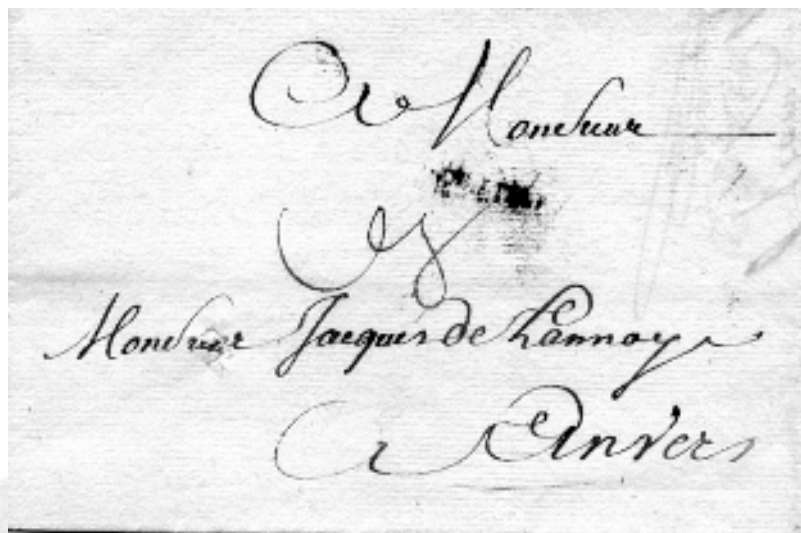


Figure 8 (above)-

Lille to Antwerp 6 July 1695

Taxed 'd8' (8 deniers)

Handstamp 'DE LILLE' (Lenain 2),
one of the first to be introduced in 1695

The Paris agreement (type 2 recipient pays all) of 28 July 1679 with the Thurn and Taxis Post, for mail to and from the Spanish Netherlands and Holland, designated Wevelgem as the exchange office for mail from the Lille and Ypres offices.

The single rate was 8 deniers or 4 stivers (see Fig 8).

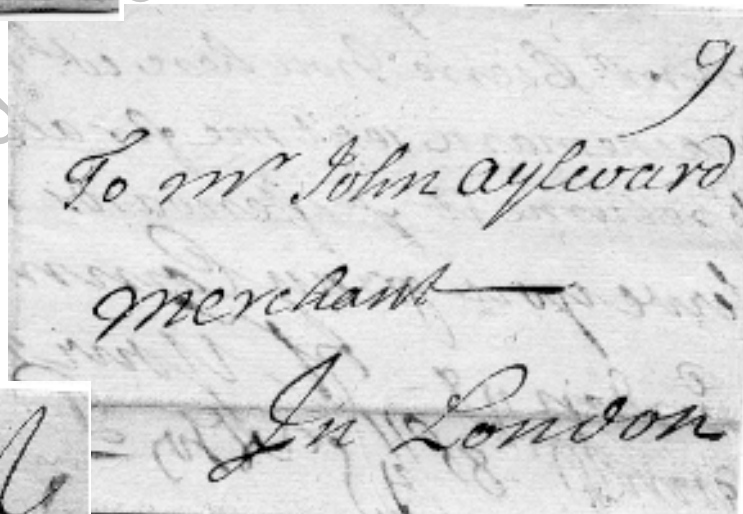


Figure 9 (above)-

Paris to London 3 August 1701

Rate '9' pence due on delivery

Route: Paris - Calais - Dover - London

A type 2 agreement with the British Post Office was implemented on 21 June 1698. Mail could not be pre-paid.

The single rate from Paris was 9 pence (see Fig 9).

Mail from Morlaix, St. Malo, Caen, Le Havre and towns of a similar distance from Rouen, was routed through that city.

The single rate was 6 pence (see Fig 10).

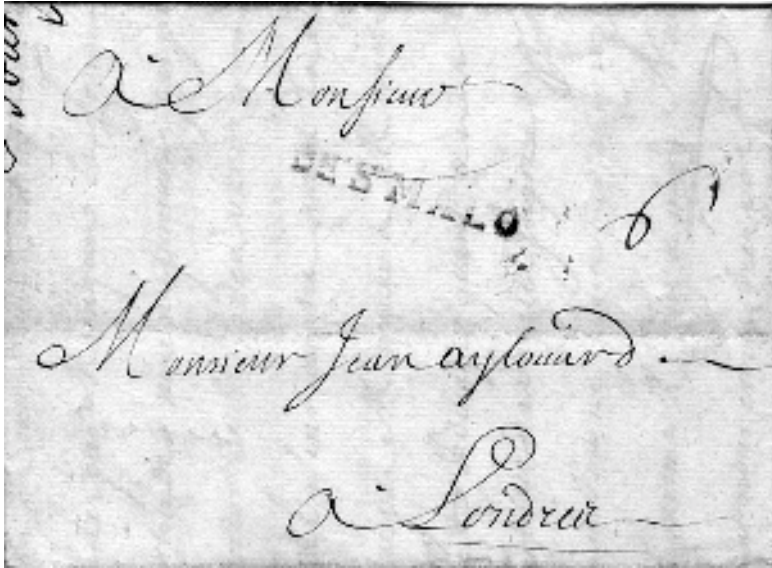


Figure 10 -
St Malo to London 22 June 1701
Taxed '6' pence due from recipient
Route: St Malo - Caen - Rouen - Calais - Dover -
London

Incoming Foreign Mail				
	Single Letter	Letter in Envelope	Double Letter	Packet per Once
To PARIS from:-	sols	sols	sols	sols
Geneva	7	9	12	21
Antwerp - Brussels - Ghent	9	10	13	27
Madrid	10	11	17	30
England	10	11	19	30
Seville	12	13	23	36
Holland: Liège: Zealand:	16	17	21	48
To CALAIS from:-				
England	5	6	9	15
To ROUEN from:-				
England	6	7	11	18
Antwerp - Brussels - Ghent	9	10	13	25
Madrid	12	13	19	36
Holland: Zealand	14	15	19	42
Seville	14	15	25	42
To LYON from:-				
Geneva	3	4	6	9
To LILLE from:-	patars	patars	patars	patars
Ghent	2.5	3.5	4	7.5
Antwerp - Cambrai - Cologne	4	5	6	12
Roermond	4	5	7	12
England: Holland: Zealand	6	7	9	18
Hamburg - Nijmegen	7	8	10	21
Italy via Switzerland and Antwerp	7	8	11	21
Madrid	10	11	14	30
Cadiz - Seville - Malaga	16	19	25	54

The tariff of 1676 remained in force until 31 December 1703.

N.B. A *lieue* where mentioned has been taken to be a *lieue de poste* or *demi-poste*, the equivalent of 3.8981 kilometres. An *once* = 31.25 *grains* (Paris) or 30 *grains* (Provinces). All the covers illustrated are from the author's collection.

A map of the main post routes is shown overleaf.

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 Eugène Vaillé, *Histoire des Postes Françaises jusqu'à la Révolution*, Presses Universitaires de France, 1948
 Georges Chapier, *Les Tarifs Postaux Français*, ex *Echo de la Timbrologie*, 1966/1967



Figure 11 -
Map of the Main Post Routes
Circa 1690

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Le Photoposte

Jean-Luc Trassaert

(Corresponding Member of the Académie de Philatélie)

Translated by Mick Bister



Figure 1 -
Fotolab Club COLISSIMO envelope

Prepaid Mail

Prepaid mail was introduced in 1936 and was identified by the presence of the letter **T** printed originally in black and subsequently in different colours. This service involving both letters and packets allowed the client to send a reply at no expense to himself as the addressee had already prepaid the postage.

Prepaid mail evolved over the years, becoming predominantly associated with the domestic *URGENT* and *ECONOMIQUE* rates. It is interesting to look out for items that have been taxed for being used after the expiration of their postal validity, for being over the weight limit or for being sent to prohibited destinations.

In 1990, the principle of prepaid mail was extended to *COLISSIMO*, a facility which was immediately used by film processing laboratories offering a mail order service. The envelopes bore the inscription *PAQUET POSTE REPONSE COLISSIMO* and a red label inscribed *COLISSIMO J + 2* – which guaranteed delivery within two days of posting (Fig 1).

Aware of the large volume of mail exchanged between customers and film processing laboratories, the Post Office decided to create a new specific product, *PHOTOPOSTE* (Fig 2).

PHOTOPOSTE

This product is classified as a postal packet within the category of special mailings and this involves special handling and sorting conditions. To benefit from the *PHOTOPOSTE* service, there must be a minimum of

100,000 items sent a year and their use is restricted to within metropolitan France. They cannot be used abroad, in the *DOM-TOMs*, or within the forces' postal service.

PHOTOPOSTE envelopes are inserted into magazines or delivered with advertising material. They clutter up letterboxes and in most cases end up in the dustbin. And yet these envelopes, often very colourful, deserve the attention of postal historians and even thematic collectors. The first printings are already extremely rare.

A Specific Logo

Envelopes designed to send films or other processing material bear the inscription *PHOTOPOSTE* in white on a red background within a standard frame as well as displaying the **T** for pre-paid mail.

Since 1 July 2002 there has been a new category called *PHOTOPOSTE SUIVI* in which the outgoing mail carrying the film is not tracked but the return mail containing the prints is. The envelope logo is similarly of a standard pattern (Fig 3).

Mail order processing laboratories which cannot achieve a sufficient number of mailings can use the *COLIECO REPONSE* service, but a delivery time is not guaranteed.

Overseas

A number of overseas companies have adopted the idea of mail order film processing and post-free envelopes can be seen in Switzerland and England, the cost of postage being paid by the addressee (Figs 4 & 5). However, only the French Post Office has created a specific product.



Figure 4 -
Swiss Belcolor PHOTOPOST envelope
(offered by Crossair to double as an air sickness bag)

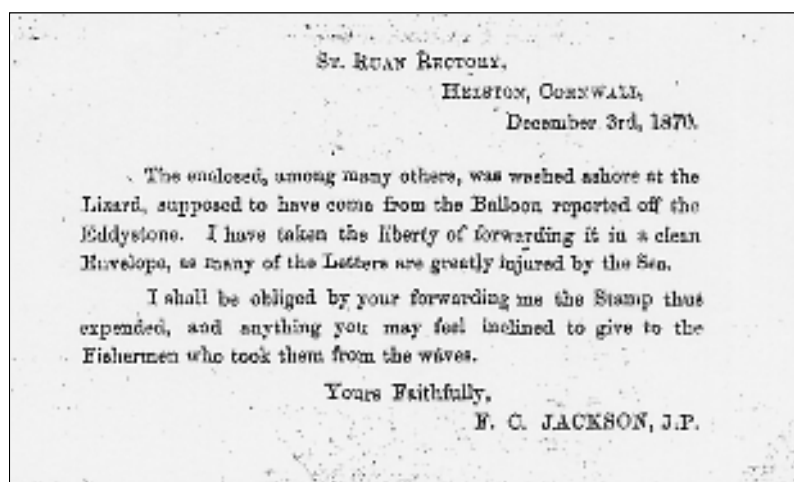


Figure 5 -
British Truprint FREEPOST envelope
available in airport lounges

Further information can be found in *l'Echo de la Timbrologie*, May 2003.

Amazing 1870-71 Wonder Stories - 78

Ernst Cohn



After years of searching the pertinent literature for information about the balloon *Le Jacquard* and the fate of its pilot (the sole human occupant) as well as its load of mail, and despite the many facts that have thus been uncovered, the story is still incomplete. Alexandre Marcel Prince, a soldier stationed at Fort Montrouge, took the balloon up shortly after 2300 hours on 28 November 1870 from the Orleans railway station. The balloon sank in the Channel on the 29th with him aboard sometime after 1800 hours, just off Lizard Point, not far from Falmouth.

His body was never discovered. Of the letter mail, presumably around 100 kg, some was washed ashore within the next few days; some was discovered at an unknown place and date, reaching the port of La Rochelle on 21 December; and a bag, which included mail personally entrusted to the pilot as well as mail postmarked with the red PARIS SC, was found on the shore of Bryher Island, one of the Scilly Islands, on 20 December.

As for the first batches of mail, washed ashore at the Lizard near Cadgwith, some was forwarded by way of Falmouth, as proven by its postmark, and some – all addressed to British towns – was sent in new, clean, stamped envelopes together with little slips of paper, explaining what had happened to the mail and asking for reimbursement. Not surprisingly, such mail is rarely found today. More peculiar is the fact that, though a few such letters and their added slips of paper survive, not a single one is known with its British envelope. The contents were saved, but these envelopes were evidently thrown away.

Now, however, an empty British cover has surfaced at a Paris auction, which, though bereft of its contents, had originally contained a salvaged letter from the *Jacquard*. It

was lot 589 in the 463rd Roumet auction, endorsed as follows on the back:

Dec. 2 Picked up at Sea off the Lizard
and forwarded by a poor Fisherman.

Any reward will be thankfully
received by

Mr W. Johns
Cadgwith

Cornwall

The address on the front is partly covered in the photo, but the town is clearly shown as Dover. A 1-penny stamp is affixed in the lower right corner, canceled with an oval bar-and-numeral cancel, part of which is also struck near the upper left corner of the face. Two circular date stamps are on the back, beneath the endorsement cited above, one *A/HELSTON/DE 3/70*, the other *A/DOVER/DE 5/70*. Helston was presumably the post office nearest Cadgwith, and its connections with other post offices were clearly not the best. The mail did reach its destination, however.

So here we have the first, and thus far sole, British envelope on record, used for remailing more or less water-soaked mail from the *Jacquard*. It is worth noting that some of the bundles of mail were packaged so tightly at Paris that even letters that had drifted to Bryher Island, found weeks after the disaster, survived without a water stain and without having postage washed off. This also is the only cover with a Helston postmark discovered thus far. In the absence of all covers sent by the Reverend F C Jackson, rector of St Ruan at Helston and also Justice of the Peace, we may safely assume that his mail also went via the Helston post office.

Some Early Machine Cancels – 3

Bill Mitchell



Figure 1

Figure 2

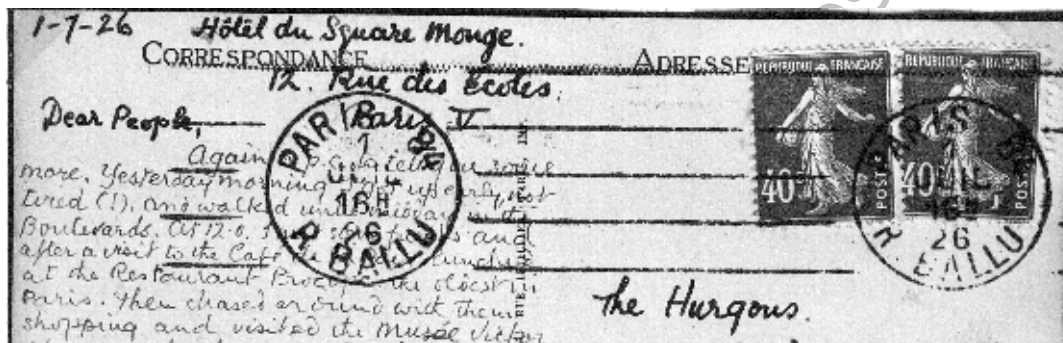
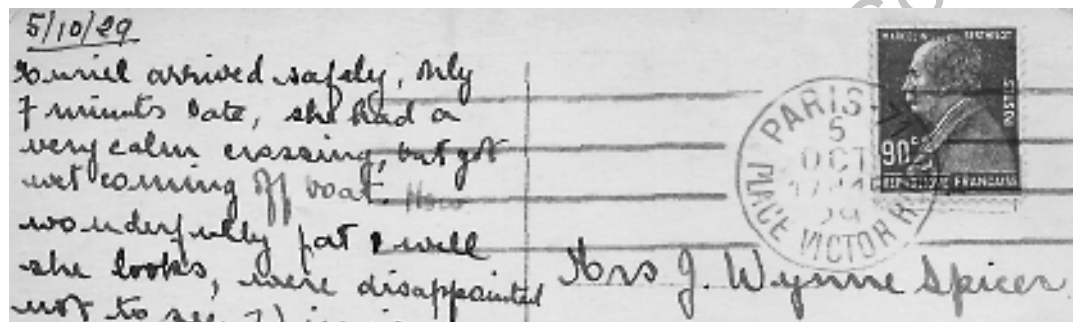


Figure 3
By courtesy of DJ-B

The two parts of this article already published, in Journals 227 and 228 for March and June 2003, have sent our good friend David Jennings-Bramly scurrying to his camera, and I now have a fine set of colour photographs of choice items from his collection. So future instalments, like this one, are likely to include some illustrations “courtesy of DJ-B.”

It will be noted that, except where they incorporate a slogan, all the cancels shown so far have one thing in common – they have seven parallel lines: sometimes wavy and sometimes straight but always seven in number. Here is a selection of straight line cancels which stand out because the number differs from the standard seven.

From 1914 until about 1936, according to Nouazé (page 59), the Krag company (Krag Maskin Fabrik A/S of Oslo) produced a series of machines with four lines only, the overall height varying from 18 to 21 mm. Fig 1 is characterised by the thickness of the lines, which measure 18 mm from top to bottom. This example, from the PARIS 26 R. DU FAUBOURG ST DENIS office, is stated by Dreyfuss to have been used from 1925 to 1927 only; he numbers 1925 as B 026203 and the other two years jointly as B 026204, presumably to reflect relative scarcity although none are

particularly pricey. Unfortunately my example cannot be dated to a particular year.

In Fig 2 the top and bottom lines are 20 mm apart; this is Dreyfuss B 071101 which was used for many years (1915 to 1935 are recorded). In Fig 3 (B 084101, 1915 to 1931) the four lines (height 19 mm) are displaced downwards, the apparent fifth line being due to a fault on the machine (*“une trace parasite laissée par le porte-timbres”*, i.e. cylinder) (Nouazé, page 59 – he gives the height as 21 mm but this may refer to the different – reduced in size – example he is illustrating).

It will be noted that all these examples have straight lines of unequal length arranged to “encircle” the circular date stamp. For a somewhat shorter period, 1925 to about 1932 (Nouazé, page 61), the four straight lines were of equal length. This example (Fig 4), with an overall height of 20 mm and lines 49 mm in length, is Dreyfuss B 124101, period of use 1927 to 1928.

Fig 5, with five lines noticeably shorter (16 mm) than those on the Krag machines, introduces us to a new manufacturer known as Garcia after the holder of the patent but manufactured by a M. Klein (Nouazé, page 92). Trials

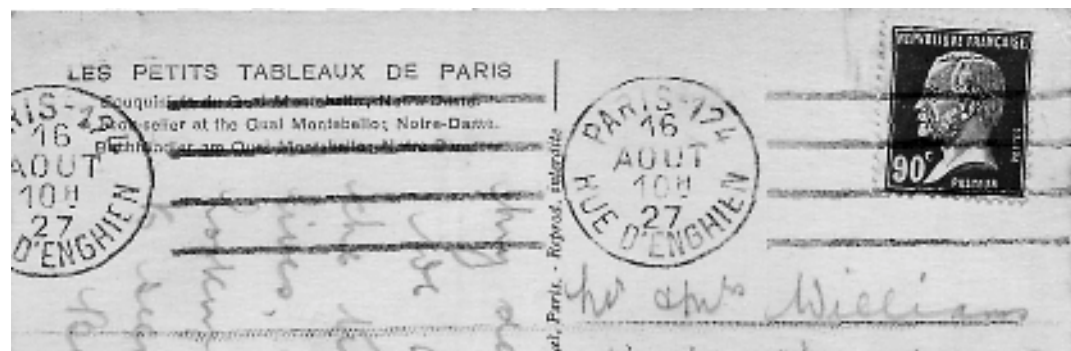


Figure 4

Figure 5

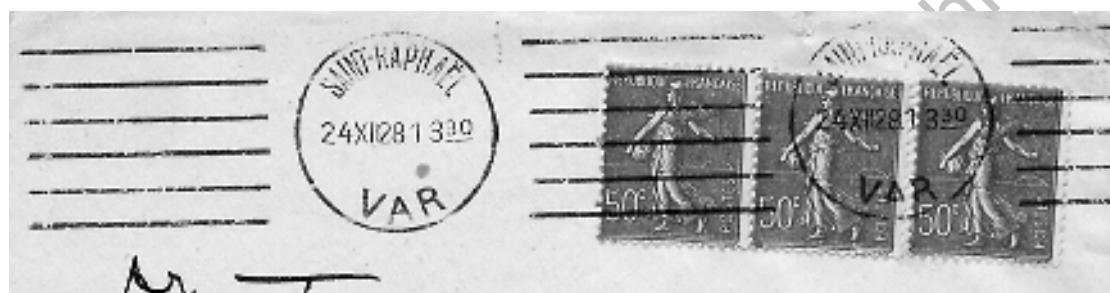
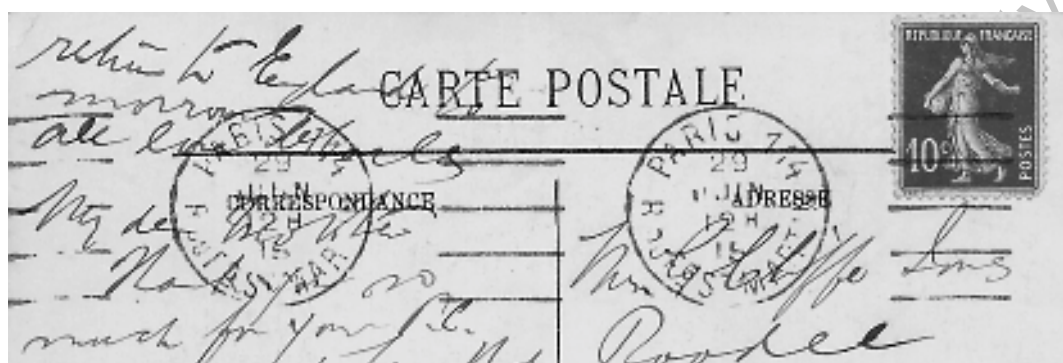


Figure 6

Figure 7
By courtesy of DJ-B



began at the Paris Louvre office (date stamps were inscribed PARIS R.P. DEPART) from May 1913, and the machines were brought into general use, mainly in Paris, between March and July 1914. Due to excessive wear and tear the quality of the strikes deteriorated rapidly and in general the machines had a short life. However, in his Introduction Dreyfuss says that one Paris office (rue Dupin) used them until as late as 1923, but in his catalogue under reference B 080201 he quotes dates of 1914 to 1927. Furthermore, he gives the dates for my example (PARIS 114 R. DU F^g ST MARTIN, B 114101) as 1914 to 1926. (In a book running to 462 pages containing goodness knows how many entries he can surely be forgiven for the odd slip! Possibly “1923” is an unnoticed printer’s error.)

To return to the Krag machines, Fig 6 has six equal parallel lines, 32 mm long. This “second generation” type was used from 1925 until at least 1936 (Nouazé, page 76); this particular example is Dreyfuss ST-RA 303, used 1928 to

1930. Collectors of World War II should look out for its brief re-appearance in 1941 to 1942 (ST-RA 304).

A very distinctive Krag type with six equal lines arranged in three sets of two came into use in 1929 for a couple of years or so in some 20 offices (Nouazé, page 78); Fig 7 is a fine example from Suresnes (Dreyfuss SUR 101, 1929 to 1931). A similar type, but with the central pair noticeably shorter than the other two, was used “abroad”, in Monte Carlo; it is listed as LF/K 1 on page 15 of Jacques Guiraud-Darmais’ study of Monaco *flammes* (*Le Monde Brochure* 127) (Fig 8).

Finally, we have three examples of experimental machine cancels quite unlike any of those discussed so far. First, there are two with diagonal straight lines. Fig 9 is a fine example of the so-called Krag “third generation” machines now known to have been manufactured by the Société Anonyme des Établissements Delachanel under the trade name Savava (see Mick Bister’s article in Journal 207 for



Figure 8
By courtesy of DJ-B



Figure 9
By courtesy of DJ-B



Figure 10
By courtesy of DJ-B



Figure 11

March 1998). It will be noted that, unlike Krag, these were single impression machines. They proved to be unsatisfactory and had a short life – at most a little over four years. This example, from the PARIS 24 RUE DE CLERY office which spanned the whole of this period (8 October 1926 to 2 January 1931), is Dreyfuss B 024206; he describes it as “10 L.D. [lignes droites] inégales en diagonale simple cercle flamme non continue” – and illustrates an example with eleven lines! Nine lines are apparent on David’s postcard.

Fig 10 is a Krag, with eight parallel lines. According to Nouazé (page 63) it came about through the fitting of a “second generation” date stamp and *flamme* on a “first generation” cylinder, although he does not illustrate a “second generation” cancel with diagonal lines. This gave three strikes with each rotation of the cylinder. It is known only from the PARIS XIX AV. JEAN-JAURES office in 1927; Dreyfuss numbers it A 19406.

And for Fig 11 here is another very unusual experimental type and another manufacturer. The parallel lines are undoubtedly horizontal as is normal and this time there are seven of them, but they consist of a series of dashes, and the date stamp, which is set at right-angles to them, is also anything but normal. Like Fig 1 in the second part of this article, it is in the “bridge” style, this time very reminiscent of contemporary Swiss hand-struck date stamps, which makes Nouazé (page 91) speculate that the manufacturer, a M. Chambon, may have been a Swiss citizen. Be that as it may, a French patent was taken out in 1909 by M. Louis Chambon “resident in France”. The machines were brought into use in 1911 but proved unreliable and by 1917 had been largely abandoned. Dreyfuss mentions a brief period of use in 1920 and 1921 and Nouazé records that they were used at Tours-Gare until 1928; Dreyfuss numbers this TOU 951 but dates it from 1912 to 1921 only. My example, from Angers, is ANG 102, 1912 to 1916.

The Incredible Journey of a 5c Sage Printed Matter Envelope – a Challenge and a Reward

Peter Kelly



Figure 1-
The front of the much travelled commercial cover

On 13 October 1891 the *Annuaire Colonial* in Paris sent a printed matter envelope to M. Henri Crouzet of the Ponts et Chaussées at San Salvador, Portuguese Congo. It reached there, via Cabinda, on 30 June. It was returned to France via Lisbon and reached Marseille on 31 August. It was then sent back to Africa, this time to French Equatorial Africa, and reached Libreville, Gabon, via Line M on 18 September. There are no instructions on the envelope as to its despatch to this destination and it was returned to the Sous-Secrétariat d'État pour les Colonies on the Line M to France, reaching Paris on 9 November, more than a year after it first left Paris. Nothing daunted, it was redirected to Nouméa, New Caledonia, and was shipped out on Line T, reaching Nouméa on 14 January 1893. Alas! Monsieur Crouzet was no longer there and it was redirected to him, this time in Algeria. It returned to Marseille and then crossed the Mediterranean for the last time to Algeria, reaching its destination at Bab el Oued on 4 March. Hopefully, after nearly 17 months it was reunited with the globe-trotting M. Crouzet. Not a bad journey for 5c!

This letter has travelled further than any I have in my collection of foreign destinations for *type Sage*.

The Challenge is to produce at next year's Society Weekend meeting in April a letter which has travelled further **excluding any philatelic use**. It would be interesting if details could also be advised to the Journal.

The Reward for the winner will be a bottle of wine.

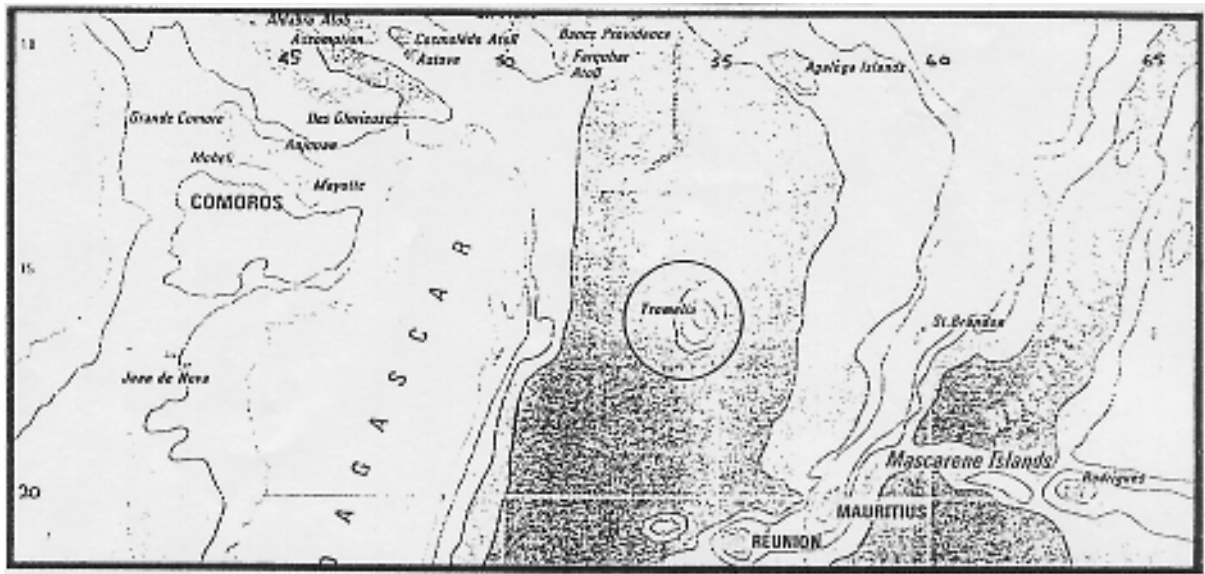
Transit marks:

....11.91	San Antonio, Angola
14.3.92	Cabinda, Angola
30.6.92	San Salvador, Angola
22.7.92	Cabinda, Angola
17.8.92	Lisbon, Portugal
31.8.92	Marseille Étranger
....8.92	Marseille à Loango
18.9.92	Libreville, Gabon
16.10.92	Loango à Marseille
8.11.92	Marseille à Lyon (<i>Rapide TPO</i>)
22.11.92	Paris, Rue Montaigne
25.11.92	Marseille Étranger
14.1.93	Nouméa, New Caledonia
19.1.93	Nouméa, New Caledonia
4.3.93	Bab-el-Oued, Alger

Continued on page 105

Stations Météorologiques Françaises - Tromelin Island

Colin Spong



Îles Éparses - Tromelin

Tromelin Island lies some 600 kilometres north-east of Madagascar and the same distance north of Réunion. 1700 metres long and 700 wide, its highest point is said to be only 7 metres above sea level. It is made up of a coral plateau with thick layers of sand in places. Devoid of water and humans, it remained completely deserted until recent

times, except between 1761 and 1776, when a few shipwrecked slaves managed to survive on it.

Its "political" situation is quite confused but, with the treaties of 1815 having ceded Mauritius and "its dependencies" to Great Britain, it was claimed by the



Figure 1 -
Front of first cover



Figure 2 -
Back of first cover

British Government. In recent times France and Madagascar have also claimed it.

Île de Tromelin or Île de Sable, following a reconnaissance in November 1953, was established as a meteorological station on 30 April 1954, with the landing from the light tender *Marius Moutet* of two French meteorologists and 19

Malagasies. An important fact contributing to its establishment was that 95% of the cyclones heading for Madagascar between November and June pass over Tromelin.

On 8 May the ship returned to Madagascar, and they set to work to build, in under two months, a landing strip 1,040 metres long and 40 metres wide. The first journey was to

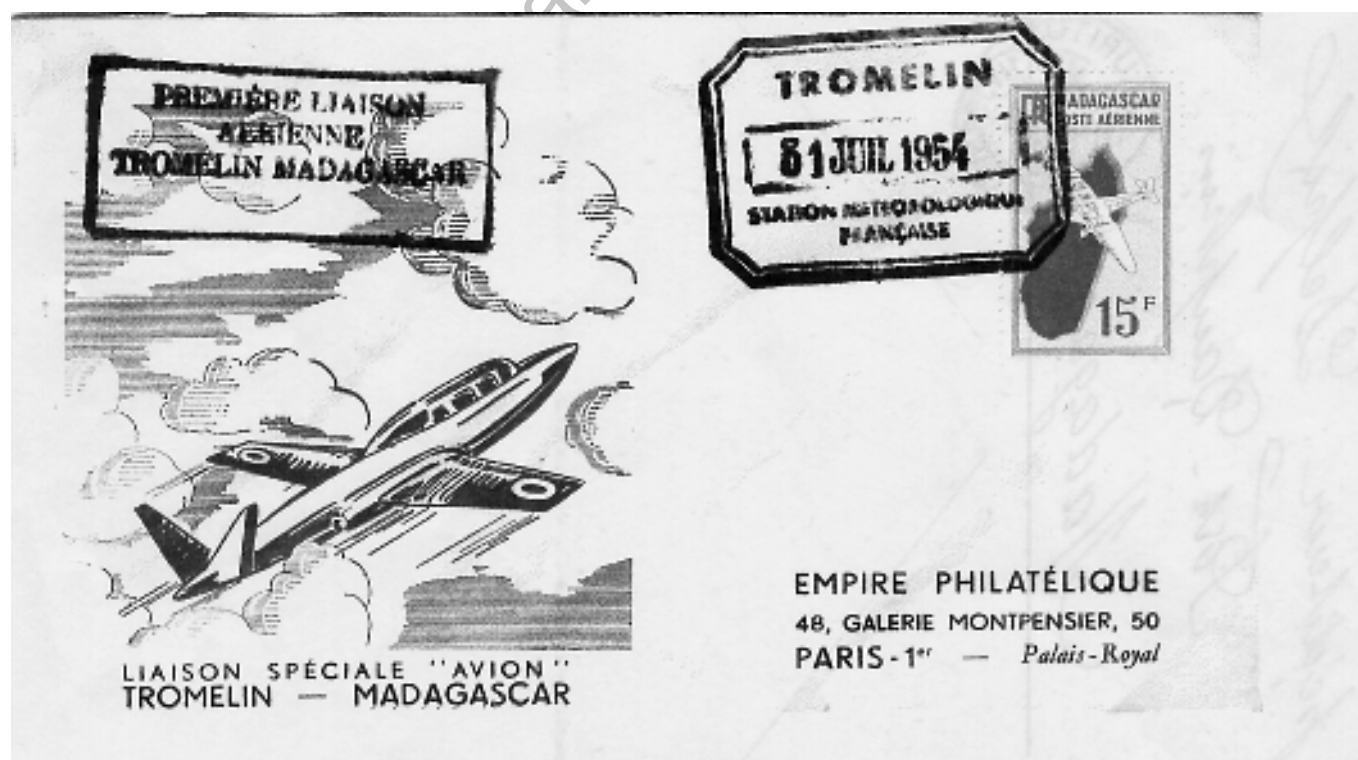


Figure 3 -
Front of second cover



Figure 4 -
Arrival date stamp of second cover

take place on about 25 June 1954 but, because no doubt the station was not finished, it was postponed until 23 July.

On that day a 'Toucon' aircraft from Air Base 181 at Ivato, Madagascar, piloted by Flight Lieutenant Pouy accompanied by the navigator, Warrant Officer Espinet, flew over Tromelin, took photos of it and landed without mishap after doing the link in 5 hours 20 minutes.

On 31 July, in another "Toucon" from the same air base, Pilot Officer Dupreuil(?) and navigator Pilot Officer Laffont] did the flight in order to evacuate one of the

meteorologists who was seriously ill. The plane carried, according to *La Philatélie Française*, 17 kilos of letters(!) "to the great happiness of philatelists."

The return journey was done in two stages, doubtless to give the sick man a short rest: TROMELIN-ANTAHALA on 31 July, ANTALAH-A-TANANARIVE the next day [ANTALAH is a port on the east coast of Madagascar south of DIÉGO-SUAREZ].

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Continued from page 102



Figure 2 -
The back
of the much travelled
commercial cover

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Fournier's Facsimiles: Supplement

Alan Wood

In Journal 228 (page 65) French and Colonial items included in one of the Fournier albums are listed. Included in the accompanying article is a reference to Fournier's 1914 price list, a copy of which I have recently gratefully received from our General Secretary. Whereas not all of

the items to be found in the album were identified in the price list, there are others that were listed, but were presumably not available for inclusion in the album. The supplementary itemisation of such should therefore provide a more complete listing of Fournier's facsimiles.

FRANCE

- 1849-52** Cérés 10c bistre
1F carmine
1F vermillion
10c *tête-bêche* pair
15c *tête-bêche* pair
- 1869** Napoleon 5F (NB second quality)
- 1859-78** Postage due 40c
60c
- 1882-92** Postage due 1c - 5F (15)
- 1868** Telegraph stamps 25c perf
2F perf
- 1868** Newspaper stamps 5c imperf.
2 - 5c perf.(3)
- 1901-06** Franchise Militaire 10c and 15c
overprint varieties (8)

COLONIES

- General Issues** **1871** Ceres 10c
ditto *tête-bêche* pair
1884-92 Postage due 1c - 5F (14)
ditto 1, 2, 5F black (3)
- Alsace Lorraine** **1870** 1 - 25c (8)
ditto background inverted
- Benin** **1892** 1c - 1F (13)
ditto surcharge inverted (13)
1894 Postage due (4)
- Diego-Suarez** **1890** 1c - 25c (4)
1890 15c on 1c - 25c
1891 5c
1891 5c on 10c
1891 ditto inverted
1891 Postage due 5c and 50c
1892 1c - 1F (12)
1892 Postage due 1c - 1F (13)
- French Congo** **1891-92** 5c - 15c (8)
1891-92 5c- 15 on 25c (10)
- French Guiana** **1886-88** 5c on 2c
1892 1c - 1F (13)
1892 5c on 15c
- French Sudan** **1894** 5c and 25c
- Gabon** **1886** 5c - 75c on 15c and 20c
1889 15c and 25c on 5c - 1F (5)
1889 Pge. due 15c and 25c on 5c - 20c (3)
- Guadeloupe** **1884** Postage due 5 - 20c (7)
1889 10 and 15c on 20 and 40c and
inverted overprints (4)
1891 1c - 1F (13)
- Indo-China** **1889** 5c on 35c and inv. overprints (4)
1902 Parcel post 10c (6)

- Madagascar** **1889** 5 and 25c and ovpt. varieties (7)
1891 5c and 15c ditto (5)
1896 15 and 25c on 1, 3 and 4c (3)
- Martinique** **1887-91** 1, 5 and 15c (5)
1887 15c on 20c and ovpt. varieties (4)
1888-9 15c (15)
- Morocco** **1893** Postage due 5 and 10c
1903 ditto
- New Caledonia** **1889-92** 10c on 30c and 40c and
inverted surcharge (4)
1890 1c - 1F (14)
- Nossi-Bé** **1889** 5, 15 and 25c (7)
1889-93 5c on 10 and 20c, and 25c (3)
1890 25 on 20c, 75c and 1F type 1 (3)
ditto type 2 (3)
ditto type 3 (3)
1893 25c - 1F and inverted overprints (6)
1893 10c - 20c diagonal surcharges (4)
- Obock** **1892** 1c - 1F (Surcharge type 1) (11)
4c - 1F (Surcharge type 2) (9)
1c - 5F (Surcharge varieties) (9)
1892 Postage due 1c - 60c (10)
- Port Said** **1899** 25c on 10c
- Reunion** **1889** Postage due 5 - 30c (5)
ditto on yellow paper 5 - 30c (4)
1890 Parcel post 10c
1891 1c - 1F (13)
- St Pierre et Miquelon** **1885-91** 5c type 1 all states (4)
1885-91 5c on 4c and 20c all states (3)
1885-91 15c - 30c, 35c and 40c all states (6)
1891 1c - 1F (13)
1891 ditto overprint inverted (13)
1891 1c-10c overprint in red (4)
1891 ditto overprint inverted (4)
1892 10c - 5F (TP) (8)
1892 Postage due 5c - 2F (9)
- Senegal** **1887** 5c, all types (9)
1887 10c ditto (12)
1887 15c ditto (10)
1892 75c and 1F, surcharges in red
and black (4)
- Tunisia** **1888-98** Postage due 1 - 25c (7)

It should be noted that where the facsimiles listed are those of overprinted stamps, specimens of the actual overprints are often included in the Fournier album and these have been included in the relevant list.

Reference: *Fournier 1914 Price List of Philatelic Forgeries*, 1949. printed by H Garratt-Adams & Co, Birmingham, and Edwards Brothers Inc, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

[See also page 116 for comment on the original article.]

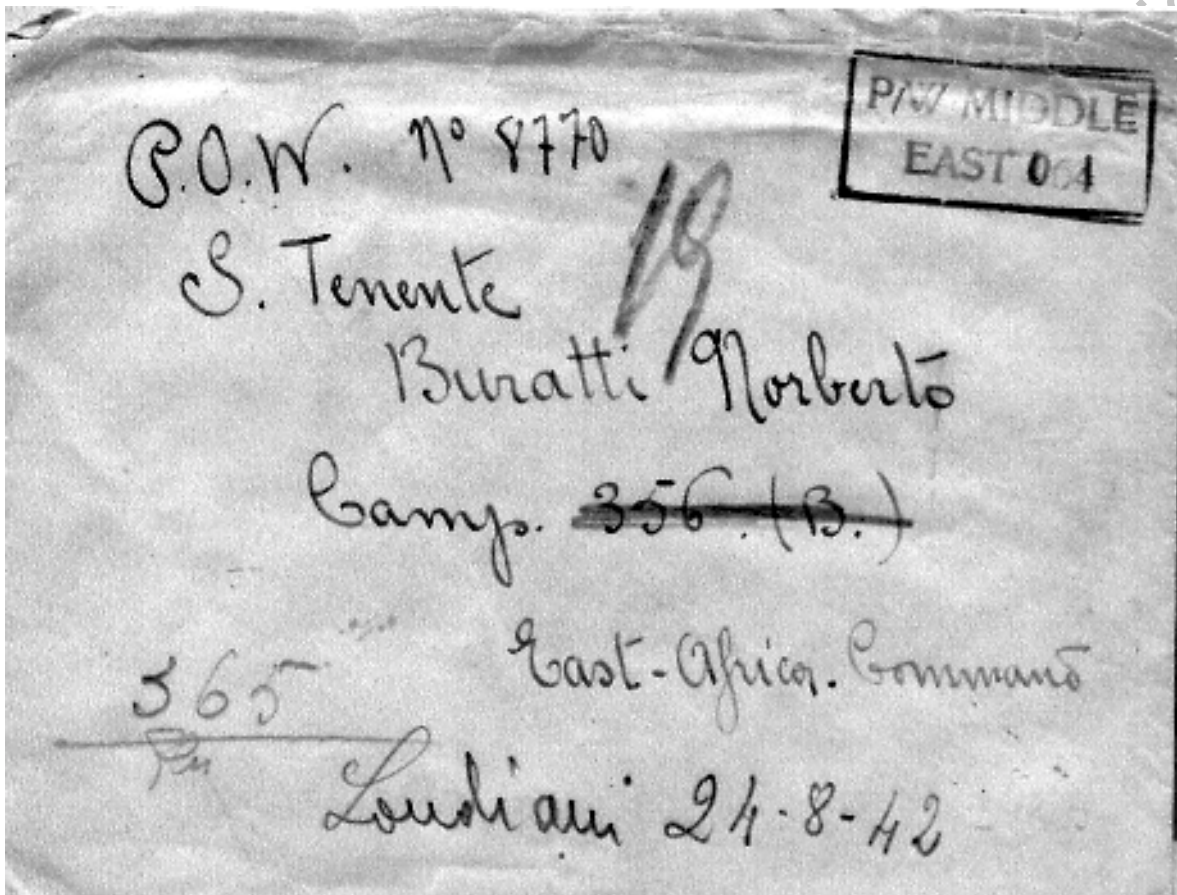
SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

POW Camp in Kenya

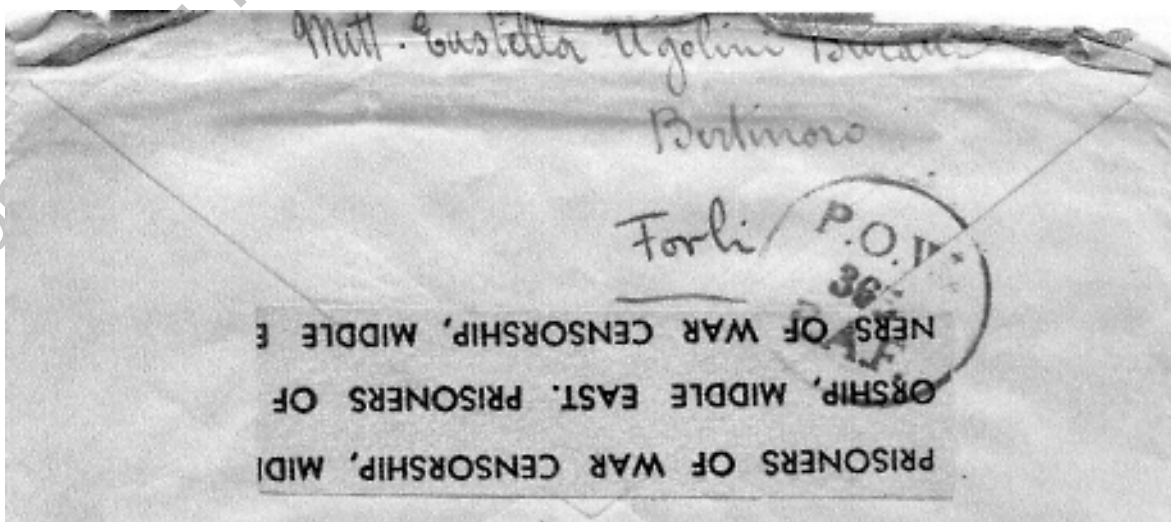
Some interesting correspondence has taken place over the past two years concerning POW Camp 265 in Africa (Journal 220 page 80, Journal 221 page 116, Journal 224 page 72, Journal 226 page 143), culminating in Colin

Spong's list of recorded dates. I have acquired two covers addressed to an Italian POW at the camp, containing letters in Italian, that add to the information about the dates of operation of the camp.

Georges Barot



Front of first cover forwarded to 2nd Lieutenant Buratti at Camp 365
with violet rectangular cachet **P/W MIDDLE EAST 064**



Top part of back of first cover showing sender's address
and with violet circular cachet **P.O.W. 365 E.A.F.** over British censor label

P.O.W. - N° 8790. S. Clemente Buratti Norberto
Camp 356 (B) - P.O.W.
East Africa Command

Postino 26 aprile 1942

Caro Norberto

Anche dalla tua ultima mi data
20 gennaio ho appreso con molto
dolore che non ti giungano nostre
notizie, mentre per ore diverse ti
ho sempre tanto scritto. Mi
tutti bene. Riguardo a quanto mi
chiedi ora ciò che vuoi, non ho nul-
la a ridire. Sta calmo e auguri
saluti e baci carissimi.

Alma Mammina

Letter dated 26.4.42,
written in Italian
and with violet circular Italian cachet

POSTA PER PRIGIONIERO DI GUERRA

London 24-12-42

P.O.W.

220- SOTTO TENENTE. BURATTI NORBERTO

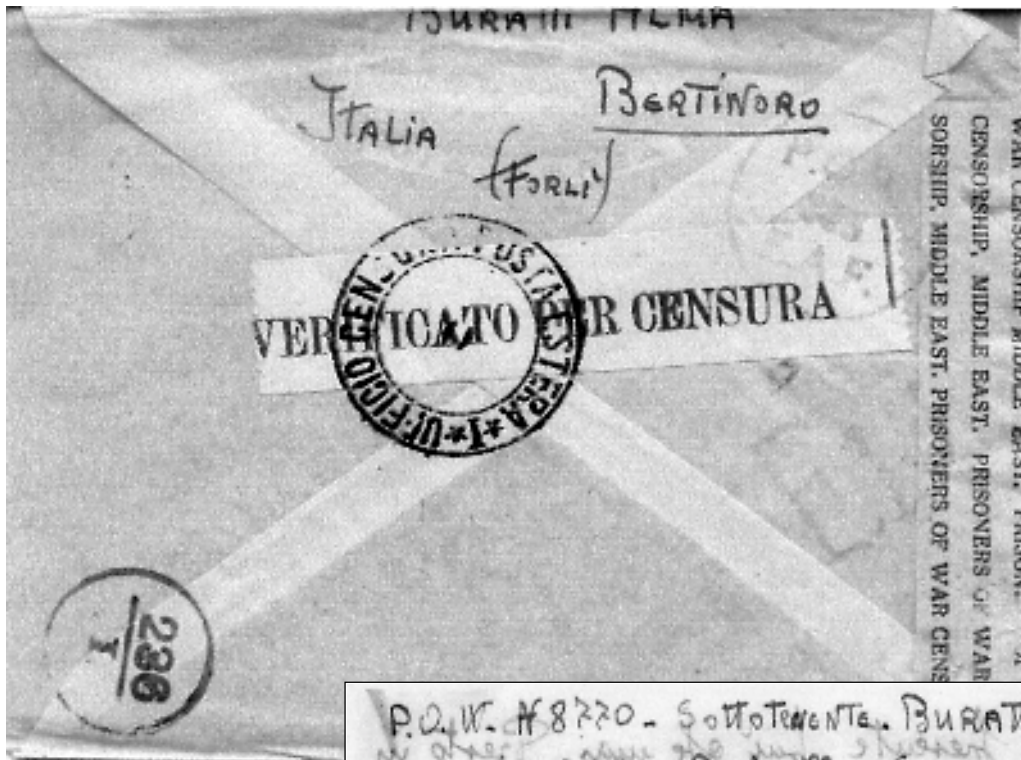
Camp. 365 - P.O.W. Section B

EAST AFRICA COMMAND

NEEDS OF WAR CENSORSHIP, MIDDLE EAST. PRISONERS
OF WAR CENSORSHIP, MIDDLE EAST. PRISONERS

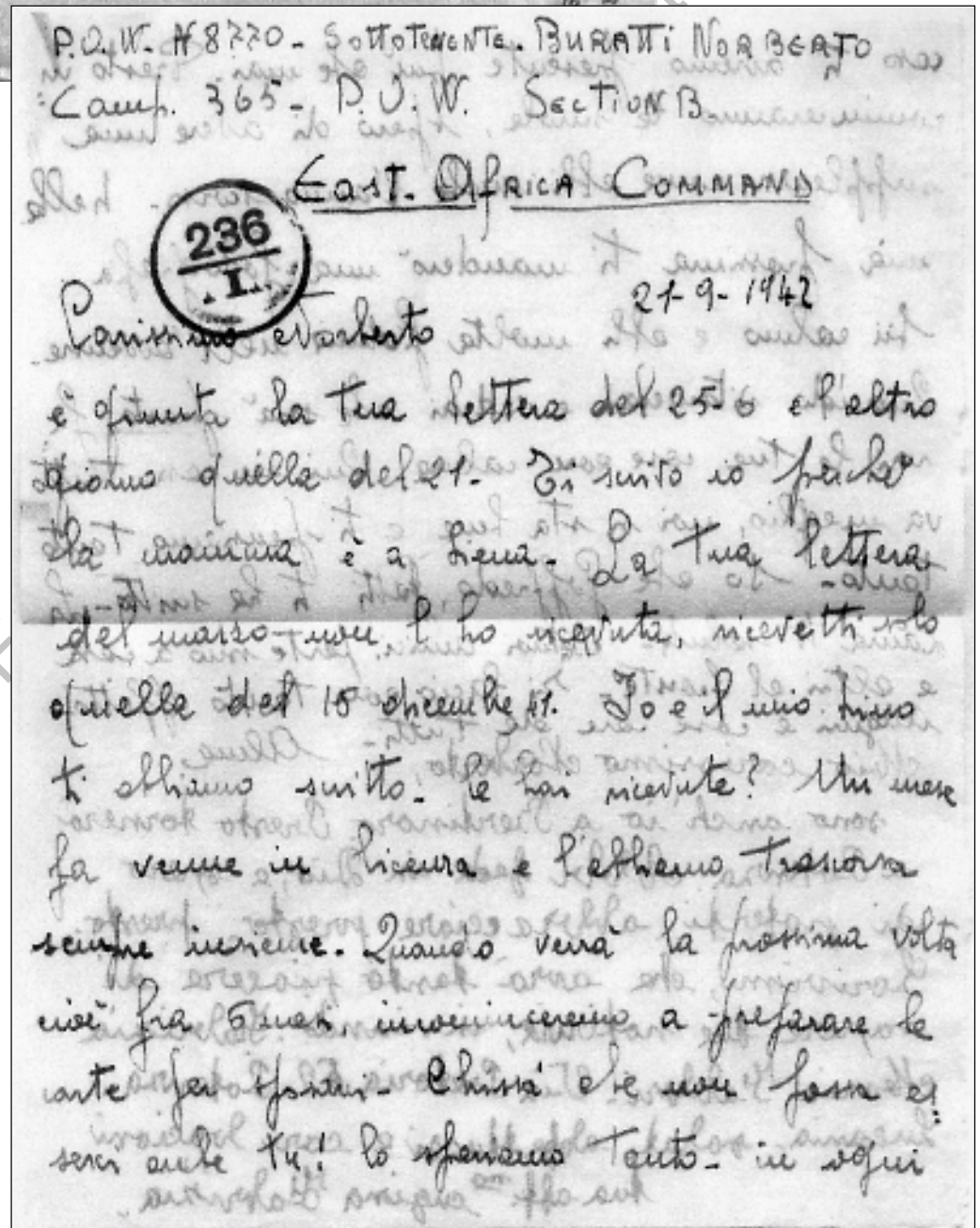
P/W MIDDLE EAST 028

Front of second cover to Italian POW at Camp 365
with violet boxed British cachet P/W MIDDLE EAST 028
and 2 illegible cachets, the large circular one being Italian



Back of second cover with sender's address, black Italian double circle cachet **UFFICIO CENSURA POSTA ESTERA *I*** covering Italian censor label **VERIFICATO PER CENSURA**, violet circular Italian cachet (bottom left) and violet circular British cachet **P.O.W. 365 E.A.F.** covering both Italian and British censor labels (top right), together with the faint trace of a violet rectangular cachet (bottom right)

Second letter to POW Buratti, dated 21.9.42, with violet circular Italian cachet



WWII Gabon Cover with *Croix de Lorraine*

This cover was sent in 1941 from Gabon to Khartoum in British Sudan, but why was the *Croix de Lorraine* cachet applied? I thought that this type of cachet was only used on mail having some contact with French Levant. Is it possible

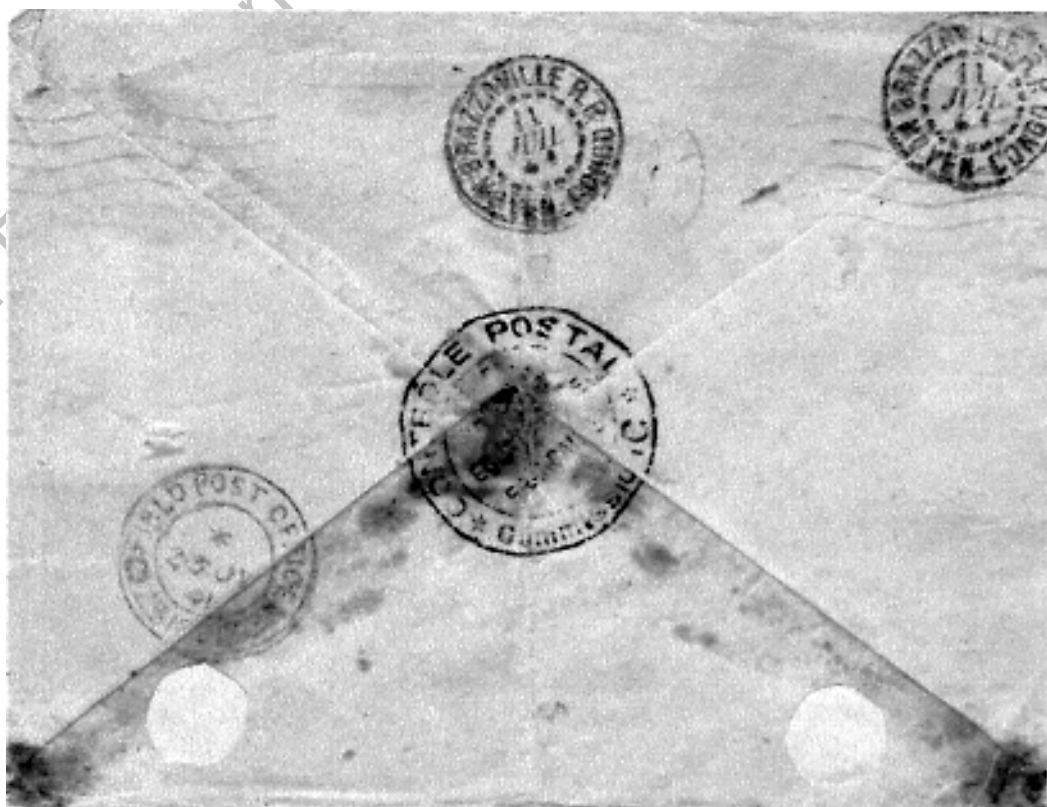
that the phrase added in pencil "Hôpital Henri de ?" indicates a hospital situated in Syria? I would also like to know why the T in a triangle tax cachet was applied – was the franking insufficient?

Georges Barot



Front of cover
with date stamp
**LIBREVILLE / 4 JUL 41 /
GABON,**
violet single circle cachet with
Croix de Lorraine over 4,
black T in a triangle mark,
a 2F AEF stamp,
and a 10F AEF stamp
overprinted **LIBRE** in red

Back of cover with cachets
BRAZZAVILLE R.P.
11 JUL 41
MOYEN CONGO,
CONTRÔLE POSTAL
AFRIQUE
ÉQUATORIALE
FRANÇAISE
Commission C,
and FIELD POST OFFICE
23 NOV 41
?



Prize Court

Regarding the enquiry by Len Rowe in Journal 228 (page 73) about Prize Court:

Torence & Morenweiser report in "British Empire Civil Censorship Devices" that after the entry of Italy into World War II censorship shifted from Gibraltar to Bermuda and other West Indian islands. Most "Detained" and "Condemned" mail that could not be returned to sender

was held by the Chief Censor in Bermuda. After the censor operation was wound down on 24 March 1944 most mail was transferred to London, but a considerable quantity of material, particularly of philatelic interest, was left in Bermuda and sold in the Prize Court Auctions after the end of the war.

It does seem unusual for mail to be held for so long.

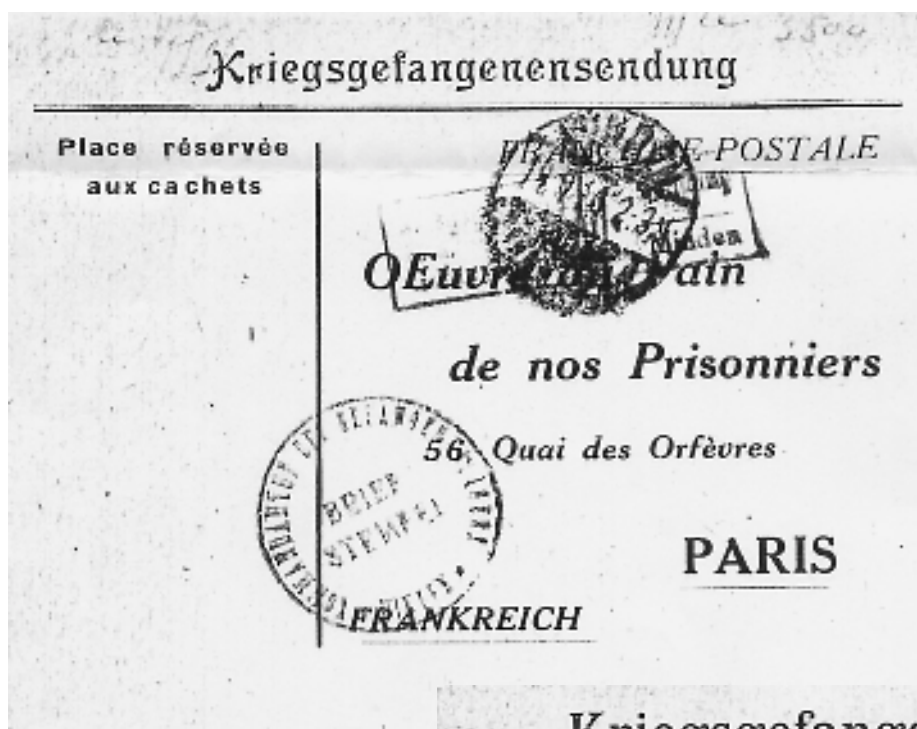
Ingrid Swinburn

Œuvre du Pain

Some years ago I purchased from the packet two covers which seemed to relate to the production of bread. Both covers are illustrated below. As a Master Baker I purchased these with a view to finding out a little more of their story.

I have not succeeded in finding any answers and wonder if any of our Members might have some knowledge of just what did happen at 56 Quai des Orfèvres.

Michael Wilson



Mail Addressed to French India

Regarding Ron Wood's query in Journal 228 (page 75) about marks on two covers sent to French India:

On the first cover the 'RM in double circle' is of Egyptian origin. The '5' in the Indian censor mark is the actual censor, who sealed the envelope. There were 13 censors at that station, numbered from 3 to 14 and 66. It was in use

from March 1942 until 1945. Perhaps number 66 had a knowledge of French? The majority of censors in the sub-continent would only know various languages of India and other places in south-east Asia – and of course English.

As for the second cover, I feel that the boxed 'G over 22' is of French origin, probably from Madagascar?

David Taylor Smith

In reply to Ron Wood's query in Journal 228 (page 75), concerning the second cover, the 'G22' is the Censor and Control Commission for the capital Tananarive. These Commissions are numbered from 1 to 22.

If any members are checking Censor marks, they would do well to consult a copy of the Civil Censorship Study Circle Handbooks for Africa and Asia [I have no copies as yet for other areas, nor am I a member of the CSC, but have contributed to the Africa handbook]. These include censor

marks from those territories alongside the British Colonies. The handbooks are: "*British Empire Civil Censorship Devices: World War II Colonies and Occupied Territories in Africa*" by John Little, 2000 (ISBN: 0-9517444-0-2) and "*British Empire Civil Censorship Devices: World War II Colonies and Occupied Territories in British Asia*" by Konrad Morenweiser, 1997 (ISBN: 0-9517444-3-7), and they are obtainable from Chris Miller, 161 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7JR

Colin Spong

Guadeloupe 1917 Red Cross Issue Cover

I can answer John West's remaining query on his 1917 Guadeloupe Red Cross issue cover (in Journal 228, page 63) — it was carried on the *Niagara*.

The *Ligne D* Bordeaux-Colon and return service is dealt with on pages 118-143 of Part IV of Salles; his year-by-year details of sailings shows that his records for 1937 were incomplete, but they do show that it was a monthly service taking a little over 3 weeks in each direction. The *Niagara* left Bordeaux on 3 June, returning on 22 July. Salles had no details of the next sailing, but the *Niagara* undertook the August trip, leaving Bordeaux on the 8th and arriving back on 5 October. The date on which she left Colon on the return journey is another unknown, but in his "*Antilles*" column Salles enters "19.20" [September].

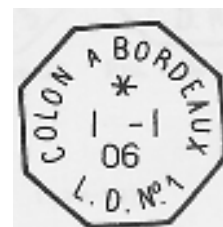
In the short time available I haven't mastered his method of dealing with ships' calls at various ports in the Antilles, but it seems that mails were collected at 8 ports *en route*, including Fort-de-France in Martinique and Pointe-à-Pitre in Guadeloupe (in that order); they did not include St. Thomas. This "19.20" fits in nicely with the "21 -9" of the octagon on the reverse of John's cover. 8 days seems a long time for the journey between Bordeaux and Bern, but this can probably be explained by the fact that this was war-

time. (Could the absence of any evidence of censoring be due to the fact that the envelope — clearly philatelic even though correctly franked — had no enclosures?)

But the most interesting point about the cover is — the COLON A BORDEAUX datestamp is not recorded by Salles. He illustrates four outward and five return "single-ring" octagons with the month in figures, all with the usual



From John West's cover



One of Salles' illustrations

"L.D. N°1" etc at the foot; this is lacking on the cachet on John's cover.

I don't think that this departure from the norm can be a war-time security device — if it was, it would surely have been on record by the time Salles was writing. This is a most important cover.

Bill Mitchell

Having read John West's article regarding his 1917 letter from Guadeloupe to Switzerland and remembering vaguely him showing it to me, I have tried to research it via Salles and come up with a little information which may be of assistance.

By 1917 Line D no longer called at the islands of the Greater Antilles (including St. Thomas) but at Fort-de-France (Martinique) and Pointe-à-Pitre in Guadeloupe; therefore it would seem probable that the letter was actually posted and shipped from Guadeloupe.

According to Salles, in 1917 it took 24 days or so for the voyage from Colon to Bordeaux. The only possible voyage for the transit of his cover is listed for the *paquebot* "*Niagara*", but there is no departure date from Colon given. It is however listed as having arrived at Bordeaux on 5 October after calling at Guadeloupe on 19/20 September. For some reason there are four itineraries during 1917 which Salles could not confirm, this being one.

[See on the next page two sketch maps ex Salles vol IV.]

Peter Maybury

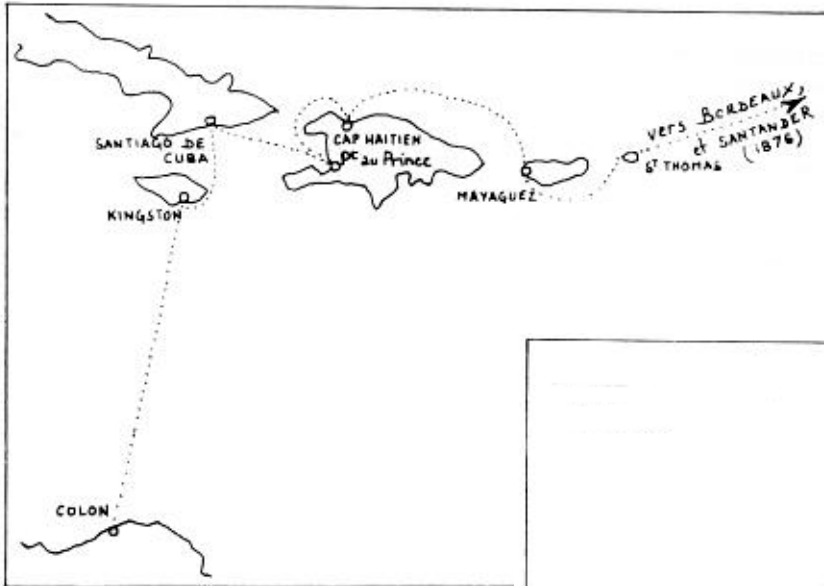


Figure 1 (left) -
adapted from sketch map 80 in Salles Vol. IV:
Line D (main route) from Bordeaux to Colon
1st alternative: via the Greater Antilles

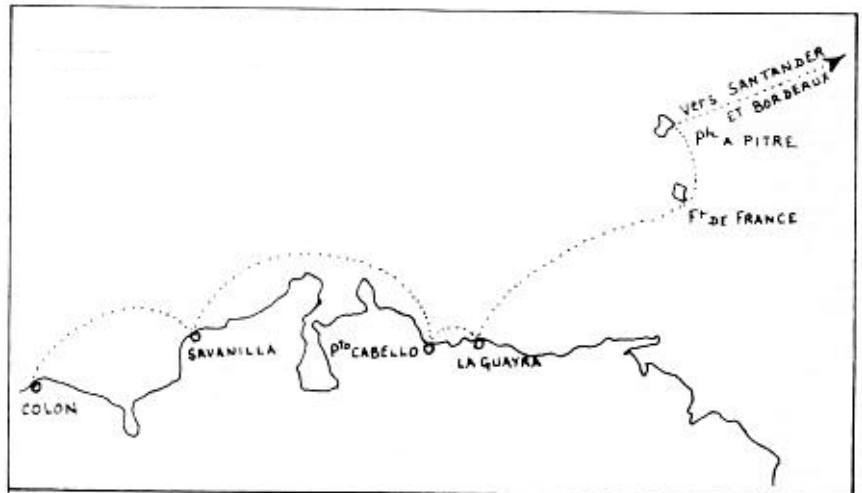


Figure 2 (right) -
adapted from sketch map 81 in Salles Vol. IV:
Line D (main route) from Bordeaux to Colon
2nd alternative: via Venezuela
and the French Antilles

Czechs in the French Foreign Legion

I have come across three items to Bratislava which look as though they are from Czechs serving in the French Foreign Legion, perhaps in Vietnam. I have illustrated one of them

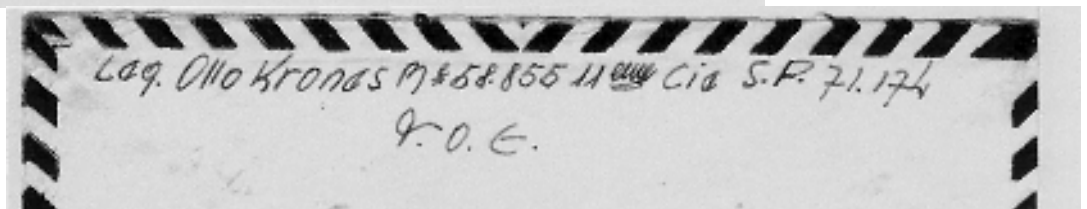
in the hope that a member of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society will be able to help by giving me further details.

Brian Day
(Czech P S)



Front of cover
with date stamp
POSTE AUX ARMEES
9-9
1949
T.O.E.
and violet cachet
S. P. 71174
LE VAGUEMESTRE
EXTREME-ORIENT

Top portion of
back of cover
giving sender's address

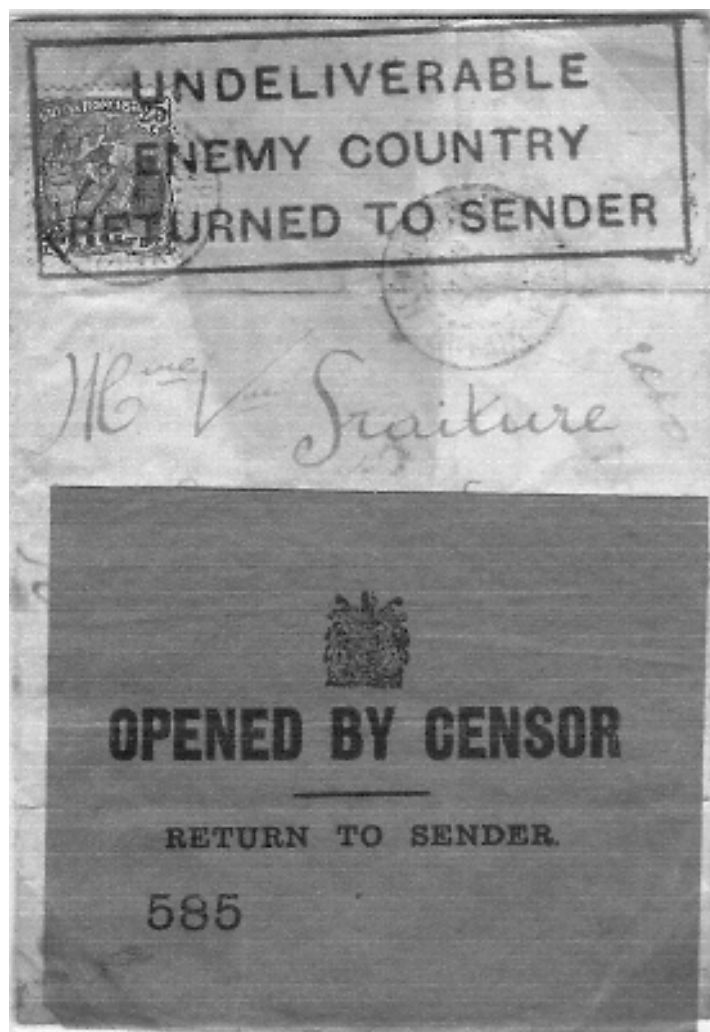


WWI Service Suspended from French Guiana to Belgium

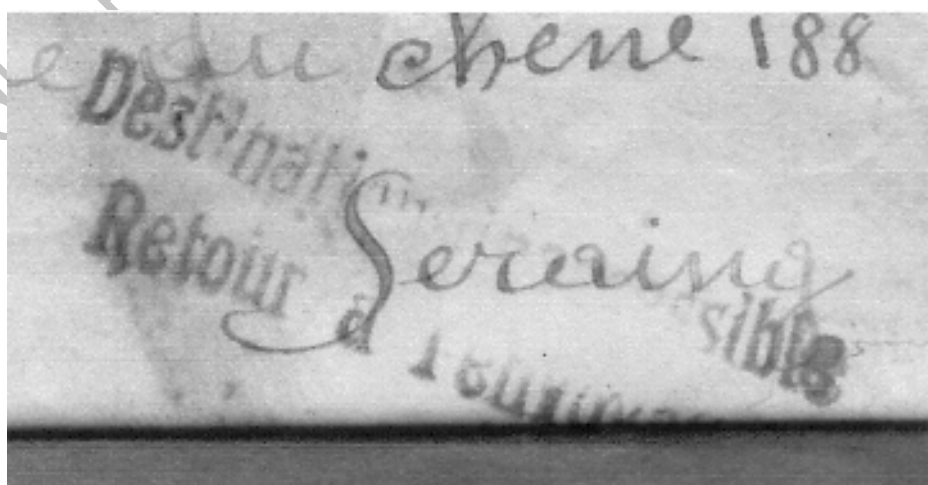
This letter was posted in French Guiana in November 1916, and was addressed to Seraing, a place in Belgium west-south-west of Liège. Liège was behind German lines when this letter arrived in London. It was censored in London after it had been in France where the violet mark

underneath the blue label '*Destination inaccessible / Retour à l'expéditeur*' was applied. The mark '**UNDELIVERABLE / ENEMY COUNTRY / RETURNED TO SENDER**' was applied in London also before the letter was returned to French Guiana.

Robert Johnson



Front of cover
with blue censor's label



200% enlargement
of the violet cachet
underneath the blue label

Cover Posted at Sea

I have an item of which I can make neither head nor tail, although I am confident that a fair number of fellow-members will be able to help out!

On the assumption that this cover (Fig 1), addressed to Toulon, cancelled with a SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE cds on 7.6.36, was indeed posted at sea on board a French ship (Fig 2):

Why, since the missive was addressed to France, is the franking at 1F50?

Why is there no "paquebot" mark?

Why is there a boxed "T" mark (deleted by two pencil lines)?

And is it French or Spanish?

John Simmons

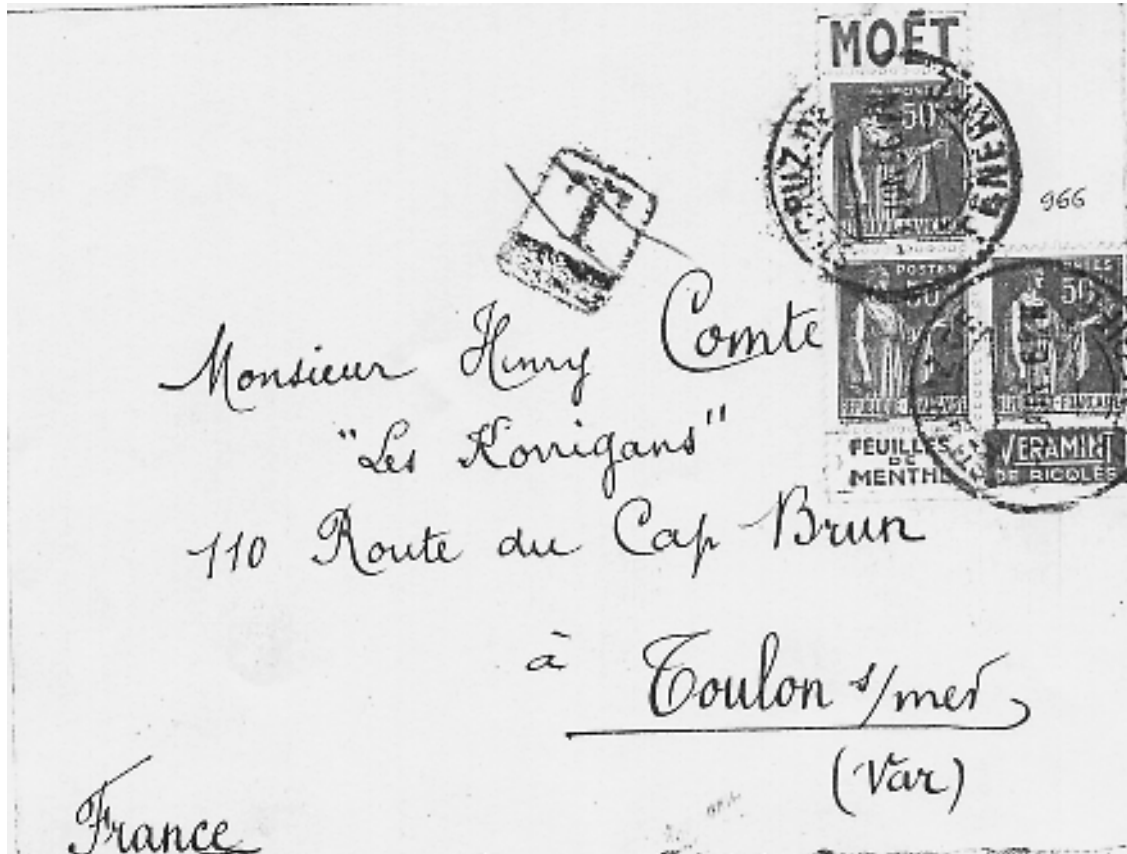


Figure 1 -
Front of cover

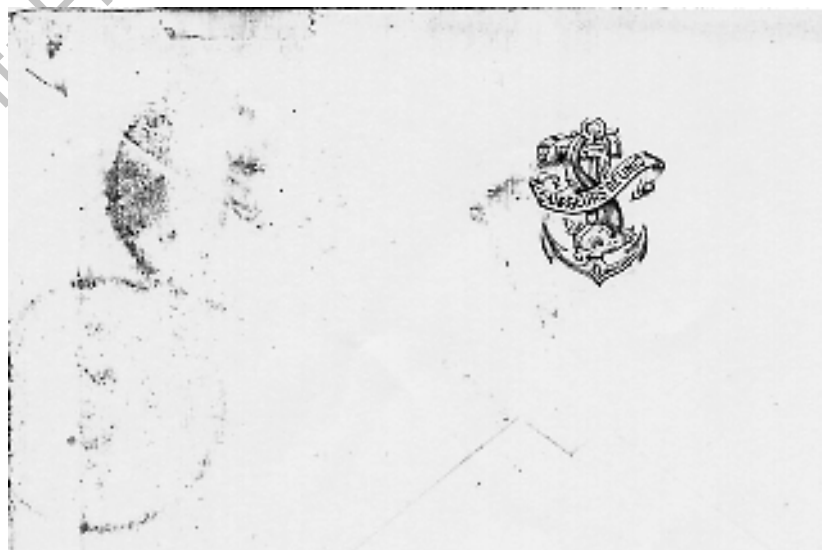


Figure 2 -
Part of back of cover

Fournier's Facsimiles

I am a little confused by Alan Wood's article on Fournier's Facsimiles that appeared in Journal 228 (page 65), and particularly by the last section entitled "OVERPRINTS". What is meant by this, and what is overprinted on what?

Taking 'Reunion' as an example, he says there are 12: what are they? The only section with 12 items that Fournier might have produced is the 'Tablet' issue of 1892 (Fournier did both 50c items). Is this the 'overprint' section that is

meant? The only overprints that I know Fournier did are the surcharges of 1912 **05** and **10** on Tablet types, but there are only EIGHT of these!

Perhaps I haven't grasped this properly, but I should appreciate a further comment from Alan.

George Barker

[See also Alan's supplementary article on this topic, page 106.]

A French Slogan Postmark



One of the advantages of attending as a guest the northern meetings of the France & Colonies P S is that you can ask the experts simple questions. These sometimes turn out to be downright awkward questions. This happened at the gathering in the "Barn" on 12 July when I posed the simple question, could anyone tell me the meaning of this particular slogan postmark:

VALENCE - SUR - RHONE
SES POGNES
SES SUISSES

All the experts, George, Maurice, Mick, Stephen, John, shook their heads and claimed that was an awkward question!

This slogan postmark was struck at Valence-Gare, Drôme, 11 March 1935 on an under-franked envelope addressed to Egypt. The deficient postage was collected with Egyptian postage due stamps at Port Said on 20 March 1935.

The UPU letter rate was then 1F50, but as only 50c was prepaid (the basic inland letter rate) double deficiency was levied = 2F due. This has been converted correctly and 26 mills paid in the 1927 issue of Egyptian postage due stamps.

A week or so after the meeting I received an e-mail from Mick, saying that he and Maurice had discovered the meaning of the slogan!! Then followed two pages that had been downloaded from the English version Web page of Boulangerie Nivon who specialise in these delicacies.

The *Pognes* have been made since the Middle Ages. They are a cake with very good keeping qualities. It is described as a brioche or bun, in the shape of a large circle. It is made on a pure leaven base, with dairy butter and flavoured with rum, lemon essence and orange blossom.

The *Suisse* is a shortbread man, made with dairy butter and finely chopped candied orange peel. It has the same flavourings as the *Pogne*. This is a reminder of Pope Pius VI being held captive in Valence from 1798 until his death there on 29 August 1799.

A simple question. The envelope is addressed to a boy on board the ship *Bernardin de St Pierre*, but can anyone tell me what sort of ship this was? I do hope that this does not turn into an awkward question!

Richard Wheatley

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 3 MAY 2003

The President, Mr M L Bister, opened the meeting held at The Calthorpe Arms public house, 252 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1 at 11.30 hours in the presence of 17 members.

(1) Apologies for absence were received from Mrs M Pavey and Messrs B C Berkinshaw-Smith, R Broadhurst, J N Hammonds, P R A Kelly, A Lawrence, J W Norton, J M Simmons, C W Spong, W I Stevenson, P S Stockton, A Swain, J West, A J Wood.

(2) Minutes of the previous AGM of 4 May 2002 published in Journal 225 were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

(3) President's Report - Mick Bister

After last year's upheaval I am delighted that we are able to hold our AGM once again in the Calthorpe Arms where we appear to have found an extremely comfortable and congenial location for our meetings. Indeed, such is the hospitality of this establishment that some members have been seen to arrive for the Wednesday meetings as early as 4.30 and not depart until just before their last bus or train.

The Committee has been working particularly hard this year in ensuring the continued success of the Society and I am very grateful to George Henderson and John Parmenter for joining us in our deliberations. With the retirement of three officers last year and with our Librarian George Barker affiliating himself to the Northern Group we have only just been able to raise a quorum.

We were extremely sorry to receive during the year the resignation of Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith as the Leamington Weekend Convenor. This is a job he has done single-handed since 1985, when he undertook to organise the Society's ninth philatelic weekend at Norwich until last year when he organised the 26th event in Leamington Spa. The Philatelic Weekend has become unquestionably the highlight of the F&CPS programme and this is in no small way due to the indefatigable efforts of Bernard to ensure value for money accommodation and high quality displays. The appreciation of his dedicated service was demonstrated by the attendees at this year's event but I would like to reiterate our thanks not only on behalf of those present at this AGM but also on behalf of all the membership and particularly those who have attended the weekends over the past seventeen years.

The Society is now indebted to Peter Kelly and Chris Hitchen who took on the responsibility of organising the 2003 weekend and have also agreed to continue in this joint role.

The Members' Register of Interests continues to grow and now lists 46% of the membership compared to only 28% in the first edition. I would be delighted if by this time next year over half of the membership was registered. Derek Richardson is making considerable progress with the French Philatelic Magazine Indexing Project despite the fact that his call for twenty-five volunteers only produced

ten. Nevertheless, *Le Monde des Philatélistes* has now been fully dissected and a pilot index was published in December and issued to the working party, which has since turned its attention to indexing *La Philatélie Française*. Geoff Gethin continues to enlarge and perfect his pending publication on *Fakes and Forgeries* and Maurice Tyler takes the Journal to greater literary heights each year. Continuing on from its earlier successes in Vienna and at Belgica the Journal was awarded a vermeil medal at Chester 2002 and also won the trophy for the best entry in the periodicals section of the Literature Competition. More medals have been gained by members at exhibitions including those at Korea, Amsterdam, Marcophilex and Stampex, and Robert Abensur was elected to the presidency of the Académie de Philatélie.

With regards to all the other functions and activities of the Society you will be hearing the reports from the respective officers. I know that you will wish to thank them all in your own way, but I would like to offer my own personal thanks to all my fellow officers and committee members, not only for the support they have given the Society but also the support and advice they have given to me. As President of the Society it is my responsibility to have the steering wheel firmly in my grasp, but it has been reassuring to have the occasional backseat driver whose experience has ensured a safe and smooth ride. It has been a most enjoyable three years' presidency and a role which I have been delighted and proud to have played. I now hand over the steering wheel to Maurice and wish him good luck on the next stage of the Society's journey.

(4) General Secretary's Report - Geoff Gethin

The number of members attending the seven Society meetings held in London this season averaged 13, four lower than last year's average of 17. The travel difficulties mentioned last year as the probable reason for low attendances may now have been ameliorated somewhat. The N° 17 bus connecting Archway, King's Cross, and London Bridge stations, which stops outside the Calthorpe Arms, has now started to run more frequently, and also to operate over its full route on Saturdays.

The Society's membership at the end of the calendar year 2002 was 398, an increase of 5 over the 2001 total. This small increase masks quite a flux in the membership. 25 members were lost through resignations, non-payment of subscriptions, and deaths. Counterbalancing this was the gain of 30 new members.

I would like to thank my predecessor Derek Richardson for easing me into the post. Thankfully he continues to maintain the membership database and, with the help of Alec Swain, stuffs the envelopes and gets our Journals etc to us.

(5) Treasurer's Report - Chris Hitchen

Expenditure this year was broadly similar to previous years and so a reasonable surplus resulted. Postage and expenses have been slightly increased with the annual production of

the Members' Register of Interests, and a start has been made on indexing French stamp magazines. This will mean a modest expenditure until completed. Room costs for meetings have however been reduced.

The auction again had a reasonable year and, yet again, the packets increased their income. Mavis Pavey had a better year with the France packet but is still in need of new material. John West has more than enough material at present on the Colonial packet, but that of course could always change. Subscription income dropped slightly with a small dip in membership figures.

Some of our reserves will be used for the forthcoming book on forgeries, mentioned last year, and some for new frames. I made a proposal at Leamington that the Society should purchase new portable frames for meetings outside

London. This is necessary because the Society can no longer rely on borrowing frames from other societies. The source I have in mind can make lightweight frames with clip on supports. Each frame would hold nine sheets in 3 rows of 3. Transport in most cars would be quite easy and storage between willing members should present no problem. Cost is in the region of £250 to £300 for ten frames, and I shall use a small amount of the reserves to purchase an appropriate number.

All debtors and creditors have now been cleared and I would recommend leaving the subscription at its current level.

The acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and Accounts was proposed by David Jennings-Bramly, seconded by Alan Barrett and carried unanimously.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2002					
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			<u>2001</u>		
Cash at bank					
Cash at building society					
Sundry debtors					
<u>DEDUCT CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>					
Sundry creditors					
Subscriptions in advance					
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>					
Represented by					
<u>MEMBERS FUNDS</u>					
Uncommitted funds at 1.1.2001					
Year surplus					
INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2002					
<u>Expenditure</u>			<u>Income</u>		
	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>		<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Accommodation			Auction		
Journal 4 issues			Exchange packet		
Postage and expenses			Interest		
			Sale of publications		
Year surplus			Subscriptions		

(6) Auction Secretary's Report - Mick Bister

The Year 2002 began with the first of the Society's auction catalogues quoting valuations in Euros, a situation forced upon us not by any desire to make a precursory adoption of the common currency in the UK but by the need to be in compliance with the prices of French dealers and catalogue publishers.

Once again we were able to offer four auctions but as a result of a reduction in material received from vendors, the November catalogue contained only eight pages instead of the usual twelve. A total of 1720 lots was offered during 2002, a fall of 170 compared to the previous year.

The percentage of the membership who bid remained the same for the larger auctions, either 22% or 23% although

the November auction attracted only 69 bidders representing a mere 17% of the membership. Of the material offered, the number of lots sold varied between 54% and 66% which is the normal range.

The major problem last year was the sudden depletion of stock during the summer. The material from the estates of two late members had almost all been sold and the plea for new material had not received a sufficient response. The November sale, therefore, was not only smaller but was composed of a higher percentage than usual of re-offered material, which inevitably did not attract as much interest or as many bids. It was fortunate that this had not been a room sale as in previous years for it made a loss of £18.36

which would have only been exacerbated had we been obliged to pay room hire as well. The profit to the Society was therefore considerably down in 2002 being £ less than the previous year.

Certainly, if I suffer a similar fall in profits this year I shall have to consider increasing the commission to vendors from 10% to 12½%. Whereas most of the costs of the auction have increased over the years, particularly printing and postage, the commission fee has remained unchanged for decades. Indeed, the last time an increase was mooted was at the 1981 AGM, although it never materialised. Alternatively, I may have to start charging a contribution towards the cost of postage when returning unsolds. There have been recent cases where the cost of returning unsolds to a vendor has been greater than the commission claimed from his sales. If a decision is made to implement either of these measures an announcement will be made in the Journal.

I am optimistic that we can continue with four auctions a year although I cannot guarantee that I will have sufficient material to fill twelve page catalogues. Nevertheless, because of the favourable terms of room hire at the current premises I am glad to report that we shall be reinstating the November Room Auction this year. I ask you therefore to send me your material to ensure that it is a success with the usual reminder to **enclose descriptions and reserves** which a few members are still reluctant to do.

Finally, may I thank everyone who has contributed to the operation of the auctions over the past year and that includes not only our gavel toting Alan Wood, the vendors, the buyers and the stewards but also those who have generously provided me with an endless supply of stiffeners, envelopes and stock cards. I am eternally grateful to all of you.

AUCTION ACCOUNT 2002				
EXPENDITURE		INCOME		
2001	2002	2001	2002	
PAYMENTS TO VENDORS		SALE OF LOTS (including reimbursed Postage & Packing)		
	February		February	
	May		May	
	July		July	
_____	November	_____	November	_____
PRINTING		includes 491.10 from Leamington Bookstall and Autumn Bourse		
	February	2002 includes 597.10 from Leamington Bookstall		
	May			
	July			
_____	November			
POSTAGE				
	February			
	May			
	July			
_____	November			
OTHER OUTGOINGS				
	Sec. Expenses			
	Bank Charges	Bank Interest		
_____	Profit to Society	_____		_____
_____		_____		_____
_____		_____		_____

(7) Report of Packet Secretary (France) - Mavis Pavey

The France packet profit for the calendar year 2002 was £. This compares with £ for 2001, and £ for 2000. The level of profit belies the year's actual activity. The amount of new material received sadly dropped over the year, leaving me with nothing in hand at times, this in spite of numerous requests for material. I suspect that at the end of 2003 when there will have been fewer books to return to their owners, the crunch will be seen.

Since I started producing stationery on my own computer as and when I need a few sheets, the cost has gone down. Because I have sent out fewer packets, postage is also down slightly. The only saving grace I can think of for the slow year is that it coincided with my hospitalisation and recuperation. However, I'm fit again and chafing at the bit for a little more action. Please get those booklets coming once again.

ACCOUNTS FOR FRANCE PACKET 2002					
INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
	2002	2001		2002	2001
	£	£		£	£
Balance b/f from 31 Dec 2001			Gross payments to vendors		
Receipts from members			Stationery		
Bank interest			Postage & telephone		
Commission on sales			Previous profit paid to Treasurer		
Insurance recovered			Balance in bank		
Postage recovered	_____	_____	Cash in hand	_____	_____
	_____	_____		_____	_____
PROFIT AND LOSS					
	2002	2001		2002	2001
	£	£		£	£
Commission on sales			Postage and telephone		
Postage recovered			Stationery		
Insurance recovered			Profit for year	_____	_____
Bank interest	_____	_____		_____	_____

(8) Report of Packet Secretary (Colonies) - John West

The Colonies packet section is able to report a successful calendar year to 31 December 2002. Receipts amounted to £ (made up of £ in sales plus £ insurance paid by vendors), while expenses amounted to £ (made up of £ in postage, £ in stationery and telephone charges, and £ retained to cover the cost of a lost book). I was able therefore to pay the Society the sum of £. This was higher than the corresponding figure of £ for the year ended 31 December 2001.

The year ending 31 December 2002 saw a total of 46 packets circulating, 11 of which had been sent out in 2001, and 9 which were in circulation into 2003. A total of 37 packets were received back during the year. A total of 700 books were circulated to members (at an average of 15.21 per packet). The average insured value of each book was £ and the average packet value was £. The average sales per packet amounted to £, with a high of £ and a low of £. The total sales figure was £.

Full financial details of all the packets have been sent to the Editor, and may be seen by any member on request to him.

(9) Editor's Report - Maurice Tyler

Last year proved another successful one for the Journal, and produced a wide variety of new articles on metropolitan France and its colonies. The usual 4 issues amounted to a total of 172 pages, the same number as in the previous year, and an average 21,000 words per issue. We were delighted to be awarded a Vermeil Medal at Chester 2002, and to receive the trophy for the best entry in the periodicals section of the Literature Competition. The overall cost of the Journal rose by approximately £300 over that of the previous year, but most of this increase can be accounted for by the 4 pages of colour in the June issue. One word of caution, however: I no longer hold a large stockpile of

articles, and I am relying on a steady stream of contributions from members to maintain the quality and quantity of our publication. Several new authors have come forward in recent months, and I hope that this trend will continue in the future.

As far as other activities are concerned, I have continued to edit and typeset finished pages from our Secretary's coming volume on 20th century forgeries of France. Geoff's work is still progressing well, but the amount of detailed study involved in this project means that the completed book is unlikely to be published before next year. Portions of it have been made available to Committee members on CD-ROM, or in the form of a few printed pages, and other pages have been displayed at Society meetings, and comments received so far have been very favourable.

The Society website mentioned at the last AGM requires more time devoted to it than I can easily spare at the moment. Nevertheless, I have produced and circulated to Committee members some outline pages that I expect to develop and publish on the Web by the end of this year. The Committee has already authorised a modest annual sum to cover the hosting and publicising of our site as soon as that can be implemented.

Full retirement from paid employment should have led to more time being available for Society activities. Yet, as always seems to happen, that time is quickly filled by so many spheres of interest that the spare time is never sufficient for all that needs to be done. My hope and intention, therefore, is that in the coming year much more of these projects undertaken will be brought to fruition.

(10) Librarian's Report - George Barker

In place of my customary account of numbers of items borrowed (which is virtually negligible), I report that the Library began to be packed up in 30 archive - and numerous other - boxes in June/July 2002 in readiness for my move to Bradford. Excluded were the 17 stout containers in which

"Le Monde des Philatélistes" were housed, which were collected by Derek Richardson shortly before my move north, for his indexing project. The Library was in fact transferred to Stephen Holder's premises in Bradford separately from and before my own move. With the inevitable delay overcome, the Library was transferred to my new premises (originally two houses but now a single dwelling). Much shelving has been erected, and the Library is now on view in more space than it had before. One loan has so far been made.

A new Library List is being prepared, which is not an instant job, as approximately 117 new books have been acquired (many from the Bidmead estate) and they have to be integrated and indexed. It will be published as soon as possible.

(11) Magazine Circuit Organiser's Report - David Pashby

There are currently 33 people subscribing to the magazines; 6 people take *l'Echo* only, 12 *Timbres* only, while 15 take both. One member has resigned, but two have joined. At the moment, five people have not yet paid their sub for the new season, but this is probably because I was overseas for

two months from mid-November, and did not begin to collect subs until after my return in January.

I was unable to present accounts last year because of an injury, and also because of a missing bank statement. This statement has never turned up, and the figure for *Timbres* for 2002 is therefore an approximation in Sterling to the cost in Euros, which was 105€.

After a dozen letters or so to the editorial staff of *Timbres* magazine, I think we have licked the problem of the magazines that failed to arrive. The forwarding agents had been sending the magazines with a cardboard backing, the package being held together by two very inadequate rubber bands. The package rarely arrived intact. I had repeatedly to write to the editors for replacement copies. *Timbres* has at last instructed the forwarding agents to send the magazines in a stout envelope, since which they have arrived regularly.

One member has asked if one magazine could be held back for a few days if two of the same title arrived together. Yes, I am quite happy with this, but why did they bunch up in the first place? Please deal with magazines promptly, when they arrive.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE MAGAZINE SCHEME FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003

RECEIPTS

Carried forward from previous year

Subs @ £

Subs @ £

Interest on deposit account for year

Sub overpaid

TOTAL

EXPENDITURE

Sub to *Timbres* Magazine (2 copies) (Jan 2003: 105€)

Sub to *l'Écho de la Timbrologie* (2 copies, 2 yrs)

Postages & incidental expenses

TOTAL

RECEIPTS

less EXPENDITURE

CARRY FORWARD

2002-3

2001-2

nil

2002-3

2001-2

nil

(12) Regional Group Reports

None had been received by the time of the meeting, but the following report was subsequently received for publication:

Report of the Southern Group 2002-2003 - Colin Spong

Firstly my apologies for not sending this in for the AGM due to my concentration on completing my handbook on Madagascar Rail & Mail for the Indian Ocean Study Circle.

The four quarterly meetings have been held during the past year and details of the meetings have been published in the Society journal. Once again I am pleased to report that we have enjoyed some good displays with an average attendance of 15 members and guests. I would like to thank those who have given displays and also the members who travel distances to be with us. We are a friendly group and invite those who have never been to come along. Finally I thank my wife Pat who looks after the refreshments for us.

The new programme for 2003-2004 has already been published, in the Society Notes on page 46 of Journal 228.

The August meeting as usual will commence at 10.30am until Lunch and recommence at 14.00 until 16.30 hours. The other meetings will be from 14.00 until 17.00, all in the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, Worthing.

(13) Election of Officers and Committee Members

Those members listed on the AGM agenda as having indicated their willingness, if elected, to serve for the 2003-2004 season were elected *en bloc* after a proposal to this effect was made by David Jennings-Bramly, seconded by Bill Mitchell, and carried unanimously. Subsequently Paul Runacres was proposed for membership of the Committee by Alan Barrett, seconded by Len Barnes, and elected unanimously. Similarly Len Barnes was nominated by Paul Runacres, seconded by Alan Barrett, and elected unanimously. The Committee for 2003-2004 is therefore as follows:

President and Editor:	Mr M S Tyler
Vice-President and Secretary:	Dr R G Gethin
Programme Secretary:	Mr A Lawrence
Treasurer:	Mr C J Hitchen
Librarian:	Mr G E Barker
Auction Secretary:	Mr M L Bister
Packet Secretary (France):	Mrs M Pavey
Packet Secretary (Colonies):	Mr J West
Committee Members:	Dr W I Stevenson
	Mr P R A Kelly Mr L H Barnes
	Mr J Parmenter Mr P Runacres
	Mr G P Henderson (<i>now deceased</i>)

(14) The Programme of Main Society Meetings in London:

This is reproduced in the Society Notes on page 130 of this Journal.

(15) Any Other Business

This was marked by the first awarding of the Society's Dedicated Service Awards, in the form of professionally calligraphed A4 certificates identifying the services which the recipients were so unstinting in providing to the Society.

Production of the Awards had been actively sponsored by the late George Henderson, who wished to make a contribution to the Society in appreciation for the benefits which he felt that he had received through membership of the Society. His name will always be associated with these Awards as a fitting tribute to his memory.

The 2003 Awards went to John Hammonds, Derek Richardson, and Alec Swain.

The President closed the meeting at 12.50 hours.

12TH "BASTILLE DAY" MEETING IN BRADFORD OF 12 JULY 2003

Following coffee and much socialising on yet another glorious July morning, our leader Stephen Holder welcomed to his home the gathered throng of 26 with his usual bonhomie, and gave details of the geography of the building for first timers. Stephen also remarked that it was, he believed, a record number, but we managed to fit in without too much difficulty, albeit snugly and without the cats.

Those present stood for a minute of remembrance and respect for members George Henderson and Arthur Dent, who had recently passed on.

The morning session commenced with Librarian **George Barker** showing a fascinating display of the 1 franc "Clos-Lucé" issue of 1973, featuring colour trials, *épreuves de luxe* and various papers and printings. **John Whiteside** followed with, wait for it.....*Bureaux de Passe*, a most comprehensive study of the 23 offices covered by DIJON 1307, before finally posing the question: did TPO marks change at midnight? **Stephen Holder** then produced two frames of Anglo-French rates 1890-1939, adroitly demonstrating that "ordinary" mail can make a pleasing and interesting display. The second round was opened by **Chris Hitchen** with 32 sheets of Paris mail during WWII with, as he said, the final 4 sheets having nothing to do with it at all.

Paul Watkins batted at n° 5 with a one frame show of official mail from 1795, followed by **Derek Richardson's** anti-TB labels 1925-1939, which included a good variety of promotional material. Then mail to and from Switzerland / France including transits, showing entry and accountancy marks was the choice of **Steve Ellis**. The n° 8 slot was amply filled by **Bernard Lucas** with pneumatic mail from the 12th *arrondissement* PARIS-REUILLY, for which he produced a ppc of the office, a map of the district with details of the offices and a variety of markings. *Ancien Président* **Mick Bister** followed with a learned discourse on the introduction of the euro, with a fascinating range of material from dual value stamps to computerised machine marks. Last person in for the session was **Mavis Pavey**, who whetted our appetites for the excellent lunch provided by Judith, with Alsace - *la Route du Vin* - a journey via

postcards and ephemera collected on some enviable holidays in the area.

The post-lunch session commenced with **Alan Goude** showing Oubangui-Chari, "a small display because it is all I have", nevertheless a most interesting presentation. Still on the Colonies theme **Tony Shepherd** then gave an erudite talk on Lebanon the French Protectorate from 1924, featuring material from the Vichy regime and the British invasion, with rates, routes and destinations. **Peter Maybury** followed with Algeria, the conquest and occupation of the Saharan oases 1891-1913, a display of FM mail featuring locally made Army Postmasters' cachets. The African theme continued with **Robert Johnson** (who was on his way back to Bristol from Nottingham) showing air rates from colonies 1942 to 1946, demonstrating the gradual divergence of the Free French colonies of Oubangui-Chari, Congo and Moyen Congo from the established French air and surface rates, and **Peter Stockton** with military marks of the units sent to quell the Madagascar uprising of 1947 plus the use of FM after the restoration of order. Guest **Richard Wheatley** then produced a *pot pourri* of 5 French related items from his collection of Dutch East Indies, including one of the 3 known covers from the French occupation of Java (1808-1811).

Tony Shepherd popped up again with 11 covers of Guadeloupe including Red Cross covers; as did **Mick Bister** with the examples of the *Le Monde* brochures used to illustrate his Journal article; **Paul Watkins** followed with French COD mail; **Stephen Holder** produced a lovely assortment of the advertising envelopes and cards of French stamp dealers, and **George Barker** brought the show to a close with specimen overprints 1862-1995 and *épreuves* and *épreuves de luxe* of the 1920s and 1930s. Stephen was roundly thanked for the organisation and the availability of the meeting room and President **Maurice Tyler** echoed everyone's sentiments with his thanks to Judith for the use of chez Holder and the excellent catering. (Judith - NB for next time - Lucas would like some hotter chilli peppers, please.)

Also present: Robert Barnes, Marianne Bister, Janet Richardson and Yvonne Wheatley. Apologies were received from Messrs. M Meadowcroft; C Spong; J Hammonds and R Brown.

JPM

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 18 AUGUST 2001

10.30 Members Displays

14.00 The French in Africa by Michael Round

Members were welcomed by the Organiser and his wife Pat, with coffee, to the summer all-day meeting on a fine warm day.

The morning meeting commenced with Members' short displays, queries or latest acquisitions:

Colin Spong -	Madagascar: Airmails - Early Flights
Betty Blincow -	Eiffel Tower
David Worrollo -	Tunisia
Yvonne Larg -	Monaco
Bob Larg -	Revenues and Almanachs for 1918 and 1932
John Hammonds -	Vignettes and Poster Stamps with Air Themes
Geoff Gethin -	<i>Portraits de Régions</i> Prestige Stamp Booklets
Michael Wilson -	Cross-border Mail

After Lunch at the Half Brick, members re-assembled for the afternoon display. Colin welcomed Michael Round on his first visit to the F&CPS Southern Group: as a professional pianist he did not often have a free day, so it was with pleasure that we managed to arrange this occasion to see Michael's display on the French Congo region.

Michael's display, billed as 'The French in Africa,' traced the history of the French Congo region through its numerous name-changes: Gabon, Gabon-Congo, Congo Français, Moyen Congo, A.E.F. [Afrique Equatoriale Française], Congo Republic, Congo People's Republic and (most recently) just Congo! These changes were mirrored, though not always punctually, by its stamps and postmarks.

Philatelically, the display focused on items not fully catalogued, while a "thematic" commentary underlined famous names in Congo history from Bouet-Willaumez and Pierre Savorgan de Brazza (founder of Brazzaville and Governor of the Congo until 1898) through to General de Gaulle and Felix Eboué, not forgetting visitors like Mary Kingsley, Trader Horn, Sir Richard Burton and André Gide –nor the 1900s-30s trading companies whose atrocities (inflicted on an underpopulated and unprotected native workforce) rivalled those of the other Congo, across the river.

Starting with an "Etablissements du Gabon" cover of 1863, the display continued with the 1891 surcharges (scarce, but hard to tell apart at a glance on basically black stamps let alone expertise), the 1892 'Tablet' type, with unlisted shades and broken letters - and the 1900 pictorials with their wide

range of more-or-less legitimate shades, perfs, watermarks (collectable normal, reversed, inverted, or inverted and reversed!), design errors, essays and proofs. A comparison of the ordinary and chalky papers of 1907-16 was followed by colour changes brought about by the fall of the metropolitan franc and attempted compliance with UPU colour-coding.

The second half opened with Congo as part of AEF, with many varieties on the 'LIBRE' overprints of 1940 and speculation that those inscribed '24-10-40', commemorating de Gaulle's arrival in Brazzaville, could not have been issued on that date (as most catalogues claim) since they were only sold affixed to picture postcards showing the actual event, which could scarcely have been photographed, prepared, printed (in South Africa) and returned for use within a day! WW2 censored covers were followed by uncatalogued shades on the 1947 definitives.

Independent Congo (stylistically almost identical at first to the French-produced AEF pictorials they replaced) revealed philatelic interest amid the maze of thematics: shades and a semi-official airmail overprint (for use in Leopoldville) on the 1959 First Anniversary 25F commemorative, reprinted and used as a definitive for at least ten years; inter-territory usage 1960-64 (including Gabon, Tchad and Centrafricaine stamps used in Congo, Centrafricaine used in Tchad and vice versa); the short-lived 100F 'Pres. Youlou and Brazzaville Town Hall' airmail of 1963, withdrawn after a fortnight when Youlou was deposed by rebellion; 1980s undelivered mail from Zaire to Congo and back - and finally the 'Woman and Child' definitives of 1996 on covers, inscribed either 'République du Congo' or just 'Congo' and with or without an anti-pilfering security overprint 'LEGAL'.

The vote of thanks was given by Bill Mitchell and the Organiser for a most enjoyable display of a region and material we had not seen before.

Members present: Michael Berry, Betty Blincow, Colin Clarkson, Geoff Gethin, John Hammonds, Bob Larg, Yvonne Larg, Bill Mitchell, Barbara Priddy, Bob Small, Colin Spong, John Thorpe, Michael Wilson, David Worrollo and Michael Wright. Apologies received from Michael Annells. Guests: Frank Blincow and Pat Spong.

The next meeting was arranged for Saturday 25 October: Anthony Eastgate - New Caledonia.

CWS/MR

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

Cameo: Journal of the West Africa Study Circle

Vol 7 N° 6 (Whole N° 59) May 2003: AEF - "Petits Bureaux" (Mitchell); Togo - Censorship in the French Sector (Mayne); Nigeria Censor 11 - what specialty? (May); CEF O'prints on Kamerun - another update (Bratzel); More on the opening of Buea Post Office (Maddocks); Perfin on Postage Stamps from Cameroons (Carter, Wright & Bratzel); Cameroons Mail Censored in N. Ireland (Maddocks); Cameroun/Gabon "Par Pirogue Postale" (May).

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 104 2^{ème} Trim 2003: Dahomey: Le service postes et télégraphes au Dahomey en 1900 (Sérén); Colonies Générales: Les émissions de l'état français [1940-44] dans et pour l'empire colonial français (Drye); Nouvelle Calédonie: Les vignettes de Franchise Militaire [1893] (Crombez); Réflexions et compléments sur les textes parus: Établissements français de l'Inde (Venot); Colonies Générales: Le classement rationnel des émissions communes de timbres-poste et d'entiers pour l'ensemble des colonies françaises [1859-1892] (Drye).

Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 82 N° 2 Mar-Apr 2003: Gleanings from the French Colonies: The Corr d'Armées Roches Military Datestamp of French Guiana (Grabowski).

Vol 82 N° 4 Jul-Aug 2003: Mail of German Prisoners of War at Paris [1870-71] (Cohn).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 177 3^{ème} Trim 2003: Recettes auxiliaires, distributions auxiliaires, agences postales (Fouillet); La taxe de protêt (Desarnaud); Suppléments réguliers apposés sur des articles postaux distribués par exprès en Suisse (Barnier); Le deuxième type de Châtillon (de la Mettrie).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 273 (Vol.59, N° 3) Jul 2003: Algerian Registration Mail 1844-1876 (Nilsestuen); Cameroun 27.8.40 - The Second Trial Printing (Bratzel Jr); Dahomey: The Bisects of 1920 [Your help please] (Mitchell); Mekong River Expedition (Bentley); 1F Iris - The Green and the Red (Luft); The Siege of Paris Correspondence of William James Brown (Lawrence); Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories - 77 (Cohn); Message from the Front (Shumsky); Balloon Post of the 1871 Paris Commune (Luft).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1763 May 2003: Les nouveaux tarifs postaux (-); La surtaxe Croix-Rouge; Jacob Baal-Teshuva, grand ami de Chagall (Connan); L'année des Semeuses [2^e partie] (Jamet); Décodage: Un exemple de démonétisation (Prugnon); Planchage SOS! [25c Cérès] (de la Mettrie); Tous les projets de la Marianne du 14 juillet [3^e partie - end] (Ben-Moha, Connan et Jamet); Tout sur la Foire de Paris [5^e partie] (Trassaert); L'univers de Chagall (Connan); Photoposte: c'est dans l'enveloppe (Trassaert).

N° 1764 Jun 2003: L'année des Semeuses [3^e partie] (Jamet); Décodage: Un acheminement retardé mais sauvé du rebut (Prugnon); Les surcharges du paquebot *Île-de-France* (Prugnon); Thématique: mariage: un amour de timbre (Connan); Le mystérieux timbre du «Trésor central» (Danan); Philatélistes, à vos aiguilles! (Trassaert).

N° 1765 Jul-Aug 2003: Réexpédition et poste restante (-); L'année des Semeuses [4^e partie] (Jamet); Jean Delpech, artiste (Trassaert); Décodage: Une odyssée aérienne de 40 jours (Prugnon); Le carnet: «Mulhouse» dix ans après (Rucklin); Tour de France: gloire aux forçats de la route (Jamet); Il y a 50 ans: la guerre de Corée s'achevait (Emmenegger).

Timbres Magazine

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

N° 36 Jun 2003: Le Centenaire de la Grande Boucle [Le Tour de France] (Michaud); Les grands magasins spécialisés [Pub sur carnets] (PJM); Décollage au pays du Soleil-Levant (Aboucher et Ferry); Légendaire Sarah Bernhardt (Nowacka); Contrôle postal en Afrique du Nord (Chauvin); Route du Thé: Classiques de France à Trébizonde [Type Sage] (Desert et de Pellinec); Corps d'occupation en Chine (Chauvin).

N° 37 Jul-Aug 2003: Courrier d'Indochine via Lydda (Chauvin); Les Pingouins et manchots (Bauchot); Timbres pour touristes (Vailly); BFE: Alexandrie et Port Said: les vrais chiffres (Melot); Coups de tampon à Cotonou (Coudreau); Napoléon: «Retraite»? Vous avez dit «Retraite»? [8^e partie] Michaud); Polaire: Curiosités des extrêmes [Bouvet] (de Pellinec); Les cachets d'essais datés de février 1828 (Baudot); Les illustrateurs ont plus d'un Tour dans leur sac (Zeyons); La colère de l'Armee-feldpostmeister (Chauvin).

November 2003 Auction - Selected Lots

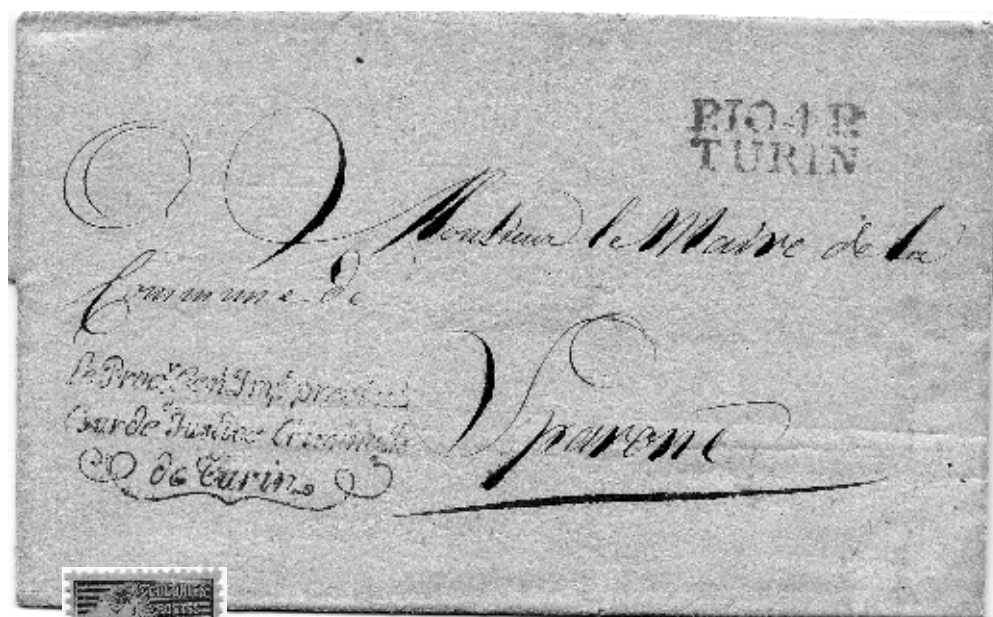


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

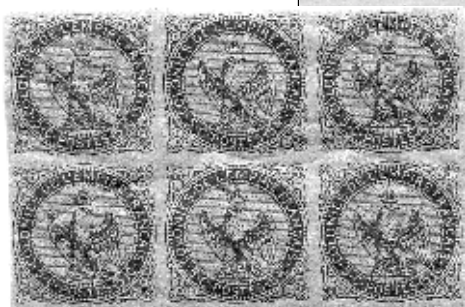


Figure 5



Figure 6

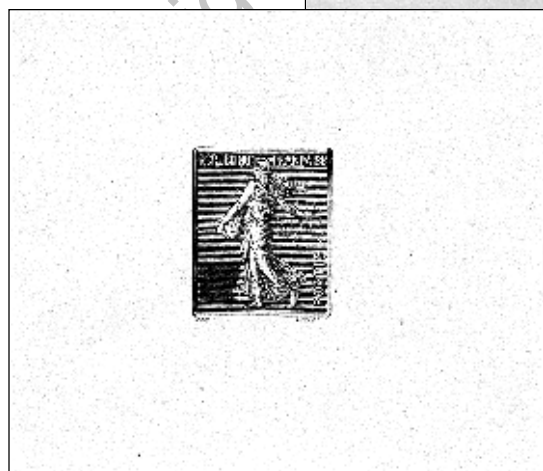


Figure 7

Figure 1 - 1807 EL with special cachet of *Le Procureur Général Impérial près la Cour de Justice de Turin*

Figure 2 - 5c Sower *timbre-monnaie*

Figure 3 - 15c Benin with overprint in blue

Figure 4 - 1900 2F Merson with *JOURNAUX PARIS PP 70* cancel

Figure 5 - 5c Eagle, block of 6 mint

Figure 6 - 1948 Palais de Chaillot *bloc spécial*

Figure 7 - Lined Sower proof in green

"Bastille Day" 2003 – Lunch at Heaton Royds, Bradford

(see report on page 122)

Photographs by Stephen Holder & Maurice Tyler

