

ISSN 0269-5006

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



'The Mail Train' – an engraving by Decaris
from Mick Bister's collection of French Post Office engravings
(much reduced in size)

Volume 54 ● Number 2
June 2004
Whole Number 232

THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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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.

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

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The Society's Girobank account number is 39 784 9001.

The Journal

The Society's *Journal* is published in March, June, September and December.

It is printed by Direct Offset, 27c High Street, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9DD from the Editor's camera ready copy.

Distribution: D J Richardson and M S Tyler.

The price is included in members' subscriptions.

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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.

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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:

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* * *

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

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

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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Volume 54 Number 2

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SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1233 D S Robertson (Lincoln), 1234 T E Oldham (Essex), 1235 A P O Vidler (London).

* * *

Members Deceased

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

60 Gp/Capt J C Ainsworth, 324 J G Peet, 519 P W Palmer, 954 D Byford.

* * *

London Programme

Members should note that the date of the first meeting for the new season in London, as given on the Programme Card for last year, should read Wednesday 29 (and NOT 24) September 2004.

* * *

Southern Group Programme

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 7 August 2004 | a.m. Members: Censored Mail p.m. Chris Miller, Civil Censorship Study Circle |
| 16 October 2004 | Chris Hitchen: Postal Rates etc. |
| 8 January 2005 | Members' Displays/New Acquisitions |
| 9 April 2005 | The President, Maurice Tyler: World War I |

Meetings take place at the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, East Worthing, from 14.00 until 17.00 except August which is 10.30 to 16.30 with a break for lunch. Details from Colin Spong, tel. 01903 709404.

* * *

Library List

Overseas members may like to know that the new Library List for the Society has been published, and was distributed to all UK members with the last issue of the Journal. Because of weight and insurance restrictions, the books may only be borrowed by UK residents, but other members may wish to obtain a copy of the Library List for reference, and in that case they should apply to the General Secretary, preferably offering to pay postage if that is possible.

* * *

Society Website

Those members with access to the Internet will be pleased to hear that the Society website is now on line. It will be gradually developed and made more professional in appearance over the coming year(s), but even in its present form it will hopefully provide an extra means of publicity for the Society. It may not yet be recognised by the search engines such as Google, but this should come about in a month or so. The URL for the Society is: www.fcps.org.uk.

* * *

New Wessex Group

Following on from the success of the Southern and Northern Group meetings, Alan Wood and Peter Kelly are keen to develop a Wessex Group which will have regular meetings at Salisbury. It is hoped that this opportunity will encourage those members living in the Wessex and South West of England areas and, indeed, those living in London who would like a day out in a very attractive area, to participate more fully in what the France & Colonies PS has to offer.

The first meeting will take place on 28 August at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham, Salisbury. The flier contains a location map and how to get there by rail and road. Salisbury is a most attractive city and the cathedral and shopping areas can be reached easily on foot for those accompanied by the non-philatelically minded.

The general idea is that the meetings will start at 10.00 for 10.30 and will finish after tea and not later than 5pm with a break for lunch at the pub nearby. The format of the meetings will consist of an invited display in the morning and members' individual contributions of up to 3 frames in the afternoon.

Those members who would like to come along are invited to complete the section contained in the flier and return it to Alan Wood. Guests are very welcome. Those requiring further information may contact Alan Wood on 01722 328474 or Peter Kelly on 0117973 6296.

* * *

French Magazines Index

The new "Subject Index to Four French Philatelic Magazines 1946-2000" (covering articles in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, *La Philatélie Française* and *Timroscopie*) has been published by the Society and is available for the price of £6 plus postage. Members of the Society may obtain a copy from committee member Len Barnes (please see the enclosed flier for details) at the special price of £5 plus postage (£5.90 for UK members) until the end of December 2004. For prices abroad in sterling, euros or US dollars, please see the flier or contact Len Barnes. Members in France can contact John Simmons, App't 175, 10 square des Sablons, 78160 Marly-le-Roi.

* * *

American Philatelic Research Society Library

The new address of this library is now:

100 Match Factory PI
Bellefonte PA 16823-1367
USA

* * *

Continued on page 84

The Post Offices of French West Africa

Bill Mitchell and Laurence Lambert

Note

The first part (Benin/Dahomey) of this article was published in Journal 215 (March 2000) with amendments in Journal 221 (September 2001); readers are also referred to articles by John Mayne and John Sacher in Journals 225 and 226 (September and December 2002) and ourselves in Journal 230 (December 2003). The second part, dealing with Ivory Coast, appeared in Journals 220 and 221 (June and September 2001). After a rather long delay, here is part 3.

As we explain in the Introduction (printed in Journal 215), our aim is to produce a comprehensive overview of the post offices — in the broadest sense of the term — which

were open to the public in the Federation of French West Africa from the earliest days to independence. It is intended to complement the catalogue of French West Africa postmarks which we hope and believe will one day be published. Most of the sources in our possession for the Tables which follow cover all of the colonies in the Federation, but details in the most recent year column will come from studies of individual colonies and will vary.

We will of course be very pleased to hear from anyone who can correct or add to the information in the Part which follows, or provide relevant information on any of the other colonies.

PART 3. MAURITANIA

Mauritania was the last of the West African colonies to come under French control. The reasons for this are not hard to find. Its coast lacks good harbours and estuaries and the hinterland consists of desert steppe in the south and plain desert in the north; moreover it had no minerals or other resources worth exploiting (or so it was thought — since independence a railway, the country's first, has been built to link iron mines at F Dérick near Zouérate with the coast at Nouâdhibou, better known as Port-Etienne). Consequently it was both poor and sparsely populated by frequently hostile nomadic tribes, so at the beginning of the 20th Century there was little call for postal services. In 1905 it had an area of 9,936 square miles and a population of only 225,000, mainly along the comparatively fertile land on the north bank of the Senegal River and around Port-Etienne in the extreme north-west. Expansion northwards and the extension of its eastern boundary at the expense of French Sudan (now Mali) in 1913 and again in January 1945 have considerably increased the country's size. The total area is now 397,955 square miles and the population 2,529,000 — a considerable increase; at independence in 1960 it was approximately 630,000. But even so there are only 6.35 persons per square mile (there are 114.79 in Ivory Coast, 132.95 in Benin and 279.40 in France).

Consequently the political and postal history of the colony did not really begin in earnest until the early years of the 20th Century. In a note published in COL.FRA Bulletin 32 (4^{ème} trimestre 1985) Constant Bouérat says that in 1899 the Minister for the Colonies created an abortive Territory of "*Mauritanie Occidentale*" and this area was sometimes known as the "*protectorat du pays maure*". A civil Territory, detached from Senegal, was created as from 1 January 1905 by *décret* of 18 October 1904, this from lands on the north bank of the Senegal River. As mentioned above, it was extended northwards (in 1909) and by the cession of territory from French Sudan (in 1913). Colony status was granted as from 1 January 1921 by *décret* of 4 December 1920; more territory was acquired from French Sudan on 1 January 1945. After World War II an autonomous Republic was created on 28 November 1958 and full independence

as the Islamic Republic of Mauritania followed on 28 November 1960.

Because of the constant danger from hostile tribesmen, for some considerable time such postal arrangements as existed were run by military personnel. We think that we cannot do better than quote from an important article by Bob Stone (Table 2, source 8) which gives a succinct account of the situation. He writes —

"French 'pacification' was long delayed and did not begin until around 1903-4. The 'frontier' ... was not at the coast but along the north side of the Senegal River plains — the river zone had been occupied by the French since the 1870s-80s both as a communication corridor to the Soudan and for its agricultural resources (more rainfall) supporting more stable populations. This zone was administered as part of Senegal colony....

"To secure the posts on the bank of the Senegal from bandit raids, General Faïdherbe of Senegal had made treaties with the fractious Trarza Moorish chiefs of Mauritania from 1858 on. A telegraph line had been strung along the River in 1891.

"It was not until about 1903 that the French considered a telegraph line from Dakar to Port-Etienne and the probable need for a military control and security over at least the southern half of present Mauritania. This was the reason for the French *décret* of 18 October 1904 creating a Civil Territory of Mauritania extending from the Senegal River to Spanish Rio de Oro and Morocco. In so doing the existing post offices of Senegal on the north bank of the Senegal River ... were incorporated into the new Territory: Boghé, Kaédi, Sélibaby.

"But the Posts and Telegraph service was not formally organised until the *arrêté* of 3 July 1906 and the opening of further POs depended on the military posts being set up along newly-strung telegraph lines. In 1906 the new telegraph stations [details will be found in Table 2] were added....

“There was some military handling of mails in 1903-05 before the POs were opened. By 1908 16 POs were operating. But until 1910 all except Boghé, Boutilimit, Kaédi, and Port-Etienne were still only ‘Postal Agencies’ giving limited services and as of 1910 only Kaédi had a civil service postmaster, the rest being manned by military sub-officers, military telegraphers, line surveyors, or administrators of native affairs....”

“The military personnel manning the POs were only gradually replaced by civilians; in 1940 10 out of 17 POs were still run by military.”

Further extracts from this article will be found in the notes to Tables 1 and 2. Stone’s source was the 1969 article by Bouérat listed as source 3 in Table 2; as its title suggests, it is much more comprehensive than his 1997 study of post offices (our primary source 1 in the same Table). It will be noted that many of the 14 postal agencies created in 1906 had very short lives — it is hardly surprising that when a military post was abandoned its post clerk left and the postal agency was closed down. Nevertheless, there was a rather unspectacular increase in the number of offices. We list 19 in 1937; this had risen to 23 by 1951 and more than doubled to 50 in 1975. Bouérat’s 1997 study mentions two further offices briefly operated by Mauritania between 26 February 1976 and 4 October 1978 in territory forming part of the former Spanish colony of Rio de Oro: Villa Cisneros and La Güera, which were renamed Dakhla and Lagouera respectively. Mauritania’s claim to this area seems to have been abandoned or at any rate put in abeyance. Villa Cisneros became important in the 1920s and 1930s as a refuelling point on the hazardous air route from France to Dakar and — eventually — South America, which claimed the lives of more than one aviator.

Mauritania’s first stamps — the Faïdherbe, Palms and Ballay omnibus issue for each of the French West Africa colonies — were issued when its postal administration was set up in 1906; they were succeeded by two more definitive issues and various commemoratives until World War II when they were gradually replaced by the general issues for the Federation of French West Africa. They reappeared in 1960 with the advent of the autonomous Republic.

Before 1906, stamps of Senegal can be found with Kaédi cancellations; none of our sources record a Senegal cancel for Boghé, Cansado or Sélibaby, which also briefly had post offices before 3 July 1906 (the Sélibaby attribution, given only by Stone, is doubtful). Nor is there a record of an Upper Senegal and Niger cancel for Kiffa, opened in

1910 and transferred to Mauritania in 1913. On the other hand, pre-transfer cancels of Senegal for Rosso (transferred in 1926) and of Upper Senegal and Niger and/or French Sudan for Néma, Oualâta and Timbedra (transferred in 1945) do exist. Simplified spelling of some place names (Akjoujt, Nouackchott and Tidjikdja) has been reflected in their cancellations. Kaédi, Mauritania’s first true post office, was sometimes spelt Kaëdi (for example, in the 1914 *Annuaire*); in the literature it is usually spelt Kaédi, and this may now be the official spelling. Recent road maps and the Times Atlas of 2000 use this form and we have adopted this possibly more modern approach. Quite apart from deciding precisely how to spell Kaédi, accents in general have given us some trouble. Our only source for offices opened after 1951 (Bouérat *et al* — see Table 1) uses capital letters — in accordance with normal French practice, without accents — in its list of offices. As we use lower case letters in our Tables, accents are required and we have regarded the Times Atlas of 2000 as definitive in this respect. Not all place-names can be found there and in such cases we have in general left well alone. There are a few exceptions. Baie/Poste du Lévrier goes back to earlier sources, and we have gone by the “feel” of the words in Fassala-Néré and Tekané. We have used the actual spelling of Bouérat *et al* in our Tables 1 and 2; variant spellings will be found in Table 3.

In a note published in the *France and Colonies Philatelist* for June 1965 (Whole N° 121) Stone describes a large double-circle cachet reading GOUVERNEMENT GENERAL DE L’AFRIQUE OCCIDENTALE FRANÇAISE with in the centre MAURITANIE/SAHARIENNE on a postcard to France bearing a 5c yellow-green *Type Groupe* of Senegal. Unfortunately, although the front is illustrated in N° 126 (October 1966), he neither illustrates nor prints the message so we do not know its place of origin or its date, but he assumes it to be a precursor. In 1985 the front of the card was again reproduced, by Bouérat in the COL.FRA Bulletin 32 referred to above; he tentatively dates it to 1906 or early 1907 at the latest, just possibly to as early as 1903. Subsequently, in the 1997 COL.FRA study of cancels (Table 2, source 2) he inclines to 1903-04 and suggests a possible use at Saint-Louis.

To ensure that this survey gives a complete picture of Mauritania post offices, we have included pre-transfer details in our Tables; in Table 2 these are indicated by square brackets. In addition to the references quoted in the Notes we have taken data relating to recent population figures and details of the new railway from the 2000 edition of the Times Atlas.

Table 1 - The Post Offices over the Years

| | 1892 | 1895 | 1899 | 1907 | 1909 | 1912 | 1914 | 1926 | 1937 | 1948 | 1951 | 1975 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Adel-Bagrou (1) | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Aéré (2) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aguiourt | | | | †(c) | x(b) | # | x (3) | | | | | |
| Aïoun el Atrouss | | | | | | | | | | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Akjoujt (4) | | | | | | | | | x(b) | x(b) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Akjout (4) = a more recent spelling of the above | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aleg | | | | †(c) | x(a) | †(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Amourj | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |

| | 1892 | 1895 | 1899 | 1907 | 1909 | 1912 | 1914 | 1926 | 1937 | 1948 | 1951 | 1975 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|--------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Atâr (5) | | | | | ?(d) | ? | †(c) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Bababé | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Bagrou (1) | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Baie du Lévrier (6) | | | | | | | x(b) | | | | | |
| Bassikounou | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Bîr-Moghrein - formerly Fort Trinquet (qv) | | | | | | | | | | | †(a) | x(a) |
| Boghé | | | | †(a) | x(a) | †(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Boutilimit | | | | †(c) | x(a) | †(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Cansado (6) - re-named Port-Etienne (qv) | | | | †(c) | | | | | | | | |
| Chinguetti | | | | | | †(d) | †(c) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Fassala-Néré | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| F Dérick - formerly Fort Gouraud (below) | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Fort Gouraud - re-named F Dérick (above) | | | | | | | | | x(c) | x(b) | x(a) | |
| Fort Trinquet (7) - re-named Bîr-Moghrein (qv) | | | | | | | | | | ?(d) | | |
| Gouraye | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Guérou | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Guimi (8) | | | | †(c) | x(b) | # | | | | | | |
| Jider el Mohgen | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Kaédi | x(b) | x(b) | †(b) | x(b) | x(b) | †(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Kankossa | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Khroufa | | | | †(c) | | | | | | | | |
| Kiffa (9) | | | | | | x(c) | †(c) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Kronfa (10) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lexeidra (Lexeiba?) (11) | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Maghama | | | | | | | | | | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Makta-Lahjar (12) | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Mal | | | | †(c) | | | | | | | | |
| Matam-Rao | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| M'Bagne | | | | | | | | | | x(e) | x(e) | x(a) |
| M'Bout | | | | †(c) | x(c) | †(c) | x(c) | x(c) | | †(b) | x(b) | x(a) |
| Mederdra | | | | | | x(c) | x(c) | x(b) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Mônguel or Môngueul (13) | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Moudjéria | | | | †(c) | x(b) | †(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| N'Diogo | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Néma (14) | | | | | | | | x(b) | x(b) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Nouackchott (15) - an earlier spelling of Nouakchott (qv) | | | | †(c) | x(c) | †(c) | x (15) | †(c) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | |
| Nouâdhibou - formerly Port-Etienne (qv) | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Nouakchott (15) - a more recent spelling of Nouakchott (qv) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nouakchott R.P. | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Nouakchott Chèques Postaux (16) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nouakchott Ksar | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Nouakchott 1 ^{er} Arrondissement | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Nouakchott 5 ^{ème} Arrondissement | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Oualâta (17) | | | | | | | † | | x | ? | ? | x(a) |
| Ould-Yandzé (18) - re-named Ould-Yengé (below) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ould-Yengé (18) - formerly Ould-Yandzé (above) | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Port Etienne (19) - re-named Nouâdhibou (qv) | | | | | x(a) | †(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | |
| Poste du Lévrier | | | | †(c) | | | | | | | | |
| Regba | | | | †(c) | | | | | | | | |
| R'Kiz | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Rosso (20) | | | | | | | | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Saint-Louis (21) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Saint-Louis N'Dar Toute (22) | | | | | | | | †(c) | | | | |
| Saint-Louis Transit (23) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sélibaby (24) | | | | †(c) | x(c) | †(c) | x(c) | | †(c) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Souet el Ma | | | | †(c) | | | | | | | | |
| Tâmchakett | | | | | | | | | x(b) | x(c) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Tekané | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Tichitt | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Tidjikdja (25) or Tidjikja (26) | | | | †(c) | x(c) | † (25) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Timbedra (27) | | | | | | | | | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) | x(a) |
| Tintâne | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Touil | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |
| Zouérate | | | | | | | | | | | | x(a) |

See next page for an explanation of the symbols and figures.

x indicates a listing in the source publication.

† indicates an office which is not in the source publication but can be presumed to have been open in the year in question.

indicates a deletion in the source publication.

a = *Recette / Recette principale*.

b = *Recette auxiliaire*.

c = *Agence postale*.

d = *Vaguemestre militaire*.

e = *Cabine téléphonique publique*.

It will be noted that by 1975 all offices open enjoyed full *Recette / Recette principale* status.

Sources

- 1892: R G Stone, "An Alphabetical List of Post Office names and Other Words in Postmarks Used on the General Issues of French Colonies 1860-1892", France and Colonies P S Inc (Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication N° 1), 1978.
- 1895: Union Postale Universelle, "*Dictionnaire des Bureaux de Poste*", first edition.
- 1899: UPU, Supplement to the above.
- 1907: Gouvernement Générale de l'Afrique Occidentale Française, "*Les Postes et Télégraphes en Afrique Occidentale*", Editions Crété, 1907. Although published in 1907, internal evidence shows that this was prepared in 1906 in connection with the Marseille Colonial Exhibition of that year, which was opened on 15 April and closed in November. It contains no reference to the creation of postal services in Mauritania in 1906 and the new offices opened at that time are not listed.
- 1909: UPU, "*Dictionnaire*", second edition.
- 1912: UPU, Supplement to the above.
- 1914: "*Indicateur Annuaire de l'Administration des Postes, des Télégraphes et des Téléphones — Colonies Françaises*", reprinted by COL.FRA as *Bulletin Hors-série N° 13*, 1996.
- 1926: UPU, "*Dictionnaire*", third edition.
- 1937: As above, fourth edition.
- 1948: PTT of French West Africa, Public Notice N° 3273 dated 17 July 1948, reported by Edmond Queyroy and published in *France & Colonies Philatelist*, January/February 1950 (Whole N° 49).
- 1951: UPU, "*Dictionnaire*", fifth edition.
- 1975: C Bouérat *et al*, "*Mauritanie — Essai de Nomenclature des Bureaux de poste 1890 à 1975*", COL.FRA — *Bulletin Hors-série 15 - 1*, 1997), referred to in the Notes to Tables 1 and 2 as "Bouérat I".

Notes

- (1) Adel-Bagrou, Bagrou. Apparently alternative names for the same place, but listed separately in Bouérat I. No cancel under either name is illustrated in Table 2, source 2 (referred to as "Bouérat II").
- (2) Aéré. A small town in Senegal some 10 miles from the border with Mauritania. It is however listed by Venot (Table 2, source 9), both in his "*Nomenclature*" and in his catalogue where he shows a cancel (without dater block) inscribed **AERE/MAURITANIE**. It is also listed by Stone (Table 2, source 8), who is clearly sceptical and suggests that usage may be accidental. We share his doubts (Laurence's notes for Senegal show that Aéré had a post office as far back as 1888) but have included it for the record.
- (3) Aguiert. This office closed in 1911! See Table 2.
- (4) Akjoujt, Akjout. Bouérat II illustrates cancels reading **AKJOUJT 14 JUIL 39** and the more modern form **AKJOUT 7 -3/1966**. See also Table 2 Note 3.
- (5) Atâr. See Table 2 Note 4.
- (6) Baie du Lévrier, Cansado. Baie du Lévrler but not Cansado is included in the official list published in the 1914 *Annuaire*. In comments appended to the COL.FRA reprint, Bouérat says that the administration of Baie du Lévrier was set up in the village of Cansado but was habitually called Poste du Lévrier or Baie du Lévrier. The *arrêté* of 3 July 1906 which established the PTT services in Mauritania mentioned the postal agency of Cansado (opened in 1905 — see Table 2) which was re-named Port-Etienne on 15 August 1907. Bouérat I says, for Baie du Lévrier, "*Recette auxiliaire*, seen in 1913-1914". See also Note 19.
- (7) Fort Trinquet. See Table 2 Note 10.
- (8) Guimi. Bouérat I suggests that this may now be called Makta-Lahjar, where an office was opened on 1 January 1966.
- (9) Kiffa. An office in Upper Senegal and Niger transferred to Mauritania in 1913. See Table 2.

- (10) Kronfa. A bogus cancel reading **MAURITANIE/KRONFA**, always dated **2 OCT 06**, is recorded by Gordon (Table 2, source 7) and Stone and is included here for reference purposes only. The faker may have mis-spelt **KHROUFA**.
- (11) Lexeidra (Lexeiba?). The name of this location is apparently uncertain. No cancel is illustrated in any of our sources.
- (12) Makta-Lahjar. See Note 8 above.
- (13) Mônguel or Môngueul. Apparently alternative spellings. No cancel is illustrated in any of our sources.
- (14) Néma. An office in French Sudan (formerly Upper Senegal and Niger), transferred to Mauritania in 1945. See Table 2.
- (15) Nouackchott, Nouakchott. This office was closed between July 1912 and 1925 (see Table 2). Bouérat II illustrates cancels reading **NOUACKCHOT 12 -4/55** and **NOUAKCHOTT 29 NOV. 58** and later.
- (16) Nouakchott Chèques postaux. Recorded only in Venot's "*Nomenclature*" (see Note 2 above) and probably a special service cancel of the main Nouakchott office. Included here for the record.
- (17) Oualâta. An office in French Sudan with an uncertain history (see Table 2 Note 25), transferred to Mauritania in 1945.
- (18) Ould-Yandzé, Ould-Yengé. No cancels are illustrated in any of our sources.
- (19) Port-Etienne, Poste du Lévrier. See Note 6 above. Bouérat continues his note on the 1914 *Annuaire*: "Langlois and Bourselet mention the existence of a date stamp **POSTE DU LEVRIER** in 1906-1908. However that may be, in 1913 and 1914 there was only one post office in the administrative circle of Baie du Lévrier, that of Port-Etienne." Gordon records that "**POSTE DU LEVRIER** was the wording on the postmark used at Cansado from July 1906. The name of the settlement was changed officially to 'Port-Etienne' on August 15, 1907; the postmark was changed soon after."
- (20) Rosso. "... a post office originally in Senegal on the south side of the Senegal River in 1922. On February 1, 1926, it was moved across the river into Mauritania, and has functioned there ever since" (Gordon). According to Bouérat I, a post office was opened on the Senegal side of the river in 1953.
- (21) Saint-Louis. "From 1908 to 1960 the postal service was directed by a Chief located at Saint-Louis, Senegal, and for many years there was a Mauritanian postoffice at Saint-Louis (in addition to the Senegal one)" (Stone). "A decree of August 24, 1914, authorised the sale of stamps of Mauritania in Saint-Louis ... because the government offices of Mauritania were located in Saint-Louis at the time" (Gordon). A **SAINT-LOUIS/MAURITANIE** cancel, without dater block, is illustrated in Venot's catalogue. Except as noted below, no other Saint-Louis post offices appear in our sources.
- (22) Saint-Louis N'Dar Toute. The suburb where the Mauritania government office was situated (Gordon).
- (23) Saint-Louis Transit. Notwithstanding Mauritania's independence in 1960, Bouérat II illustrates a cancel **SAINT-LOUIS TRANSIT/MAURITANIE** dated **19 5/1961**. This office is also mentioned and a cancel (without dater block) illustrated by Venot but does not appear in any of our other sources. It was probably not open to the public, but is included here for the record.
- (24) Sélibaby. Opened 1 July 1906 when the separate Mauritania postal administration began. As noted in our historical notes, Stone says that it was already in existence, but none of our other sources mention an existing office so this may be an error.
- (25) Tidjikdja. Deleted from an unspecified date in the 1912 Supplement. This closure is not confirmed by Bouérat I. A brief closure (1909-10) is noted by Gordon and repeated by Stone. Service may have been intermittent. See also Note 26 below.
- (26) Tidjikja. Gordon dates this modern spelling from "the 1918-20 period", but Bouérat II illustrates **TIDJIKDJA 16 MAI 33** and **TIDJIKJA 5 DEC 34** with comments "*Agence postale 1906, Recette auxiliaire 1910, Recette 1.12.1912*" and adds (in I) that both spellings appear in lists and official documents.
- (27) Timbedra. An office in French Sudan transferred to Mauritania in 1945. See also Table 2.

[The second and concluding section of Part 3 of this series of articles on "The Post Offices of French West Africa", including Table 2 (dates of opening, closure and transfer of the offices of Mauritania) with associated notes and sources, and Table 3 (alternative spellings), will be published in the next issue of the Journal in September 2004.]

The One Centime Picture Postcard Rate

Derek Richardson

The postal rate for postcards in France and Algeria was set at 10 centimes on 1 May 1878 and it remained at that figure for over 38 years. During the 1890s, however, a new product emerged – the picture postcard (or PPC for short).

No doubt taking account of the fact that half the surface area of a PPC is not available for correspondence, the postal authorities ordered that with effect from September 1899 senders of PPCs could, if they wished and subject to certain conditions, choose to pay one of the “up to 5 grams” printed matter rates instead.⁽¹⁾

The full portfolio of PPC rates was therefore as follows:

(1) 10 centimes (the regular postcard rate) with no restriction on what could be written,

(2) 5 centimes, provided the sender crossed out the imprinted words “CARTE POSTALE” and wrote the word “Imprimé” alongside. Furthermore, what he was permitted to write on the picture side was limited to his name, title, profession, address and signature, plus the date. (The addition of up to 5 words of text was permitted after January 1901⁽²⁾.)

(3) 1 centime, provided the PPC was sent under wrapper masking the imprinted words “CARTE POSTALE”. What the sender was permitted to write on the picture side was the same as what was permitted on cards sent at the 5 centime rate. The price of a pre-franked newspaper wrapper was one third of a centime plus the value of the imprinted stamp, so three 1 centime wrappers could be bought for 4 centimes at any post office.

The advantageous 1 centime service was little used at first. We know this because cards bearing single 1 centime stamps with 1900 or 1901 postmarks are hard to find. Early examples franked with Sage type stamps are very scarce. A possible explanation for this is that the service might not have been sufficiently well advertised at first. Another possibility is that people regarded having to enclose the

card in a wrapper as too inconvenient. Or perhaps it was simply because PPCs had yet to gain the popularity they would later enjoy.

Whatever the reason or reasons for its earlier neglect, the 1 centime service appears to have gained in favour during the years 1902 and 1903, as witnessed by the number of examples found postmarked with those dates. This increase in use, however, came too late to ensure its continuation, and it was announced on 24 July 1903 that the 1 centime rate for PPCs would be abolished with effect from September of that year (later amended to 1 December 1903).

It might be thought that the somewhat strange occurrence of postcards passing through the post with pieces of paper wrapped round them would give rise to some comment in the philatelic press – but not so. In the five years from 1899 to 1903, the pages of the magazine *L’Echo de la Timbrologie* contain not one reference to the fact.

Senders often did not follow the correct procedure. For example, one comes across cards where only a part of a wrapper is used, stuck on with gum or stamp edging (e.g. Figure 1). One also finds cards with the stamp affixed to the picture side instead of to the part-wrapper (e.g. Figure 2). A serious misuse is on cards to abroad (e.g. Figure 3). In all the examples illustrated⁽³⁾, the cards arrived untaxed, suggesting that such misuses were sometimes tolerated. What was not tolerated was the attempted use of the 1 centime service after it was withdrawn; such items were taxed at 8 centimes (twice the underpayment)⁽⁴⁾.

(1) J-P Alexandre *et al*, *Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969*, (1982), p.85

(2) *Ibid*

(3) Kindly supplied by David Jennings-Bramly

(4) Alain Chabanel, “L’heureux temps des cartes postales timbrées à 1 centime!” in *Timbroscopie* n°.114, June 1994

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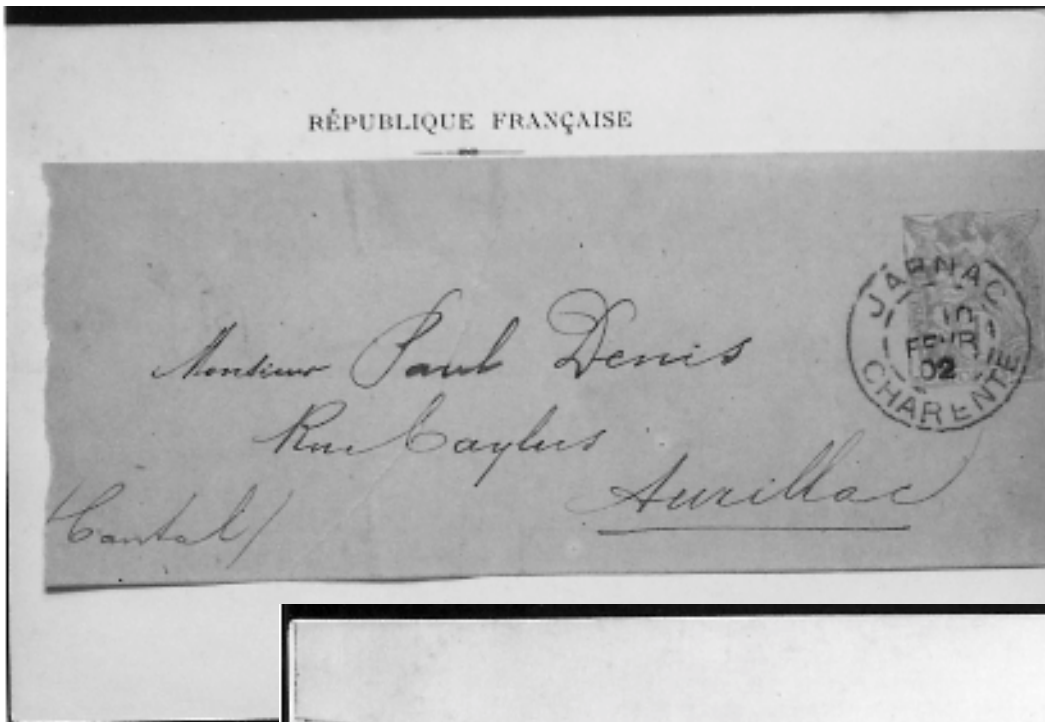


Figure 1

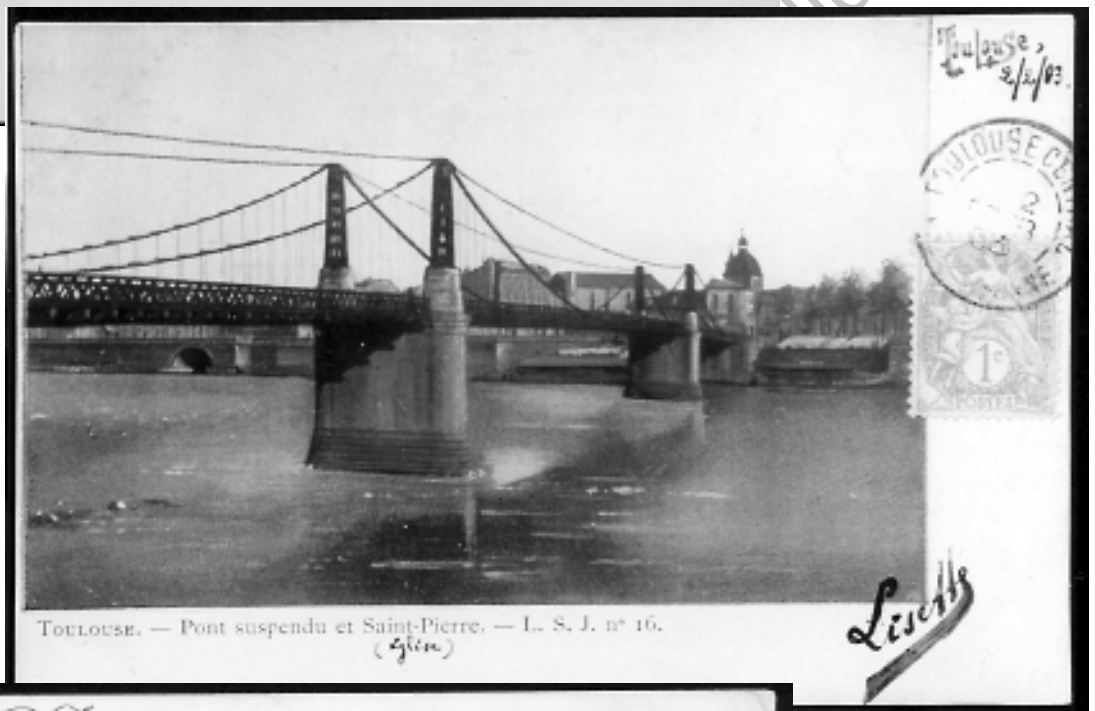


Figure 2

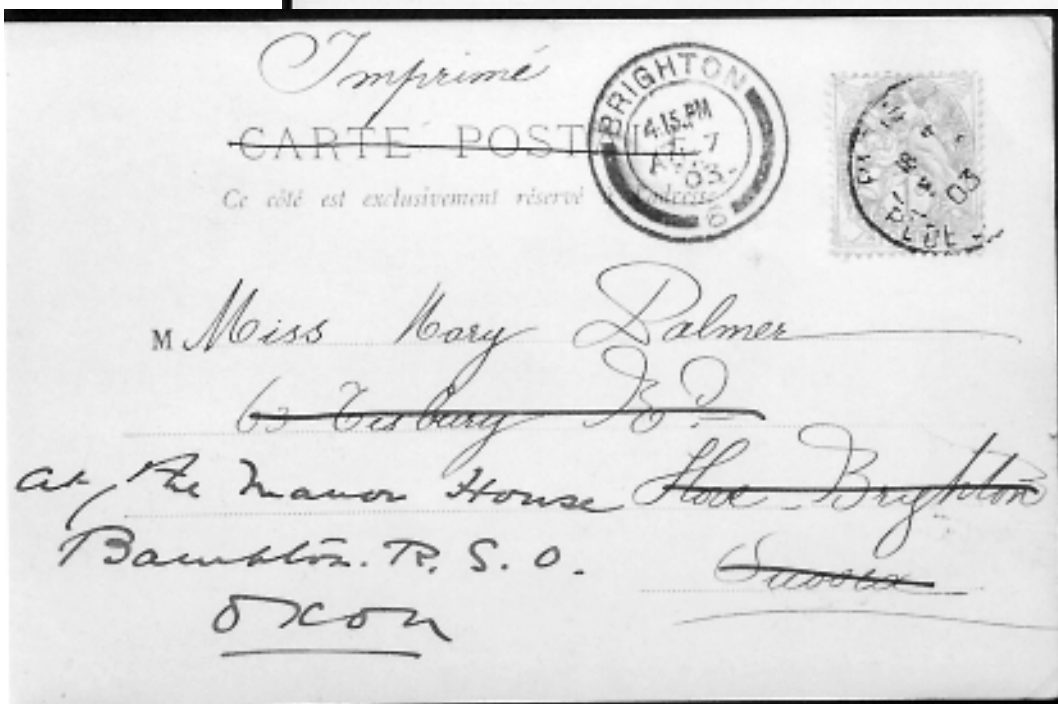


Figure 3

Amazing 1870-71 Wonder Stories - 84

Ernst Cohn

In reviewing information concerning Paris siege balloons, collected over more than 30 years, I found one balloon for which I have loads of doubtful statements.

It is the *Monge*, as it is known among philatelists, or *Monde Industriel* among some numismatists. One of my correspondents learned of a 19th century numismatic dealer, C van Peteghem, who published a book at Paris in 1889, *Médailles, Monnaies, Jetons, Livres et Documents divers Collectionnés pendant la Guerre Franco-Allemande et le Double Siège de Paris, 1870-1871* [Medals, Money, Tokens, Books and Various Documents Collected During the Franco-German War and Double Siege of Paris, 1870-71], in which the name *Monde Industriel* occurs.

Among all the medallions struck for the Paris manned siege balloons, neither name is listed in Evelyn Malpas' *Lighter than Air — Two hundred years of ballooning in numismatics*, 1989, British Art Medal Society, London, pp. 33-37. She was aware of the two names but does not consider either medal 'genuine', i.e., part of any original series.

First question then — which is the proper name of the balloon?

Everyone is agreed that it left from the Gare d'Orléans, but when is uncertain — probably around midnight of January 12/13, but perhaps 24 hours earlier or later?

Only the last names are known of the three aeronauts, and two of those not exactly:

The pilot's name was Raoul.

The balloon's owner was Guinier or Guignié, thought to have been an industrialist. His companion on the balloon was a merchant named Garnaud or Carnot. Can their names still be ascertained and is something more specific known about their professions, perhaps in the *Almanac Bottin*, the Paris directory for 1870?

LePileur and other philatelists thought the flight had a scientific purpose, apparently because of the balloon's name: Gaspard Monge was a French mathematician in the time of Napoleon I. Monge was the creator of descriptive geometry. But could the balloon's name simply be a misunderstood 'Industrial World', i.e., *Le Monde Industriel*, so named by the owner [Monde ≠ Monge]? Anyhow, nothing is known about the scientific purpose, if any, nor about whether such was achieved.

The balloon is generally thought to have carried no post office mail nor any pigeons — except that some sources think two pigeons were aboard. No mail entrusted to the

balloonists personally nor any soldiers' mail, sent via Lévillé who handled it free of postage for them, has become known. Destinations and plans of both passengers after landing are unknown.

Two British readers of this series became interested in two personalities involved in the war and have been quite successful in digging up more information about those men. Perhaps broadcasting this mystery in the *Journal* will tickle the imagination of someone to try answering at least some of the questions raised above, despite the fact that this particular flight seems uninteresting from the philatelic point of view. As usual, sometimes a sideline looks fascinating.

For example, I became particularly interested in a fluorescent electric safety lamp, developed for coal miners a few years before it was used on some of the night balloons in the siege of Paris; as well as in the development of international air law that appears to have begun with the capture of the *Bretagne*. Neither topic is philatelic, but I had fun tracing both of them and publishing my findings while I was still working at Washington DC.

Incidentally, some readers may be interested in knowing that this can of worms was opened in preparation for my next, and last, book on the 1870 war. This one will deal with the four official balloon mails, two of Metz, one of Paris, and one of Belfort, as well as with some of the postally related fables. It will emphasize postal history, leaving aside much other information that has been covered elsewhere, such as about ballooning itself (done particularly well in *Icare*), privately printed matter, and unusual destinations. Proper means of characterizing letters by balloon, unresolved uncertainties (ignored in slipshod methods used by some merchants), little known rarity of certain balloon mail, identification of known fakes and forgeries, will constitute the main topics of part I.

Similarly, in part II, knowing fables and hoaxes referring to the 1870 mails might help to explain what really happened and why. History should always be treated scholarly, such as a proper perspective on 1870 flying. On the other hand, certain aspects of history may be treated lightheartedly — like cartoons presented in wartime literature and fables created for various unhistorical purposes. The important thing is to recognize and report them: a flight that never took place, sad endings of two balloons in places they could never have reached, a balloon chased by a German soldier riding a canon ball, or postwar microphotographic souvenirs.

Postcards from Dieppe

Peter Hartland-Swann

Commencing in 1922 the Hartland-Swann family (parents plus 3 boys) spent five consecutive Augusts in Dieppe. They stayed at a large hotel on the Plage Promenade owned by their friend the Mayor. He also owned a fishing trawler which was a huge attraction for the elder boys (14 & 15) whilst the youngest (me aged 5) was enrolled with the Beach Children building sand castles and ravines, later to be flooded by the incoming tide. Each Thursday a large market was held in the town square which the three boys eagerly attended. To keep me happy while they played the games on offer I was encouraged to search for early postcards of Dieppe. I responded enthusiastically, searching keenly for pictures of the cross-channel mailboats.

However, amongst my earliest finds was a double postcard (Figure 1) showing the Western Beach with Victorian ladies all in black sitting on the shingle. It was addressed to Banbury in England, franked with a 10c stamp cancelled on 25 August 1899 (Figure 2) which showed the town to be part of the Seine Inférieure *département*. It was delivered the next day.



Figure 2 (above)

Figure 1 (right) -
Panoramic view of beach below the Casino at Dieppe



My next find was even better – a triple postcard showing the reverse view of the same stretch of beach (Figure 3). It was franked with a 25c stamp with the same date stamp but dated 6 August 1899. Also addressed to Banbury, it arrived on 8th and was immediately forwarded to Lakinch in Ireland where it arrived the next day (See Figure 2 for postmarks).

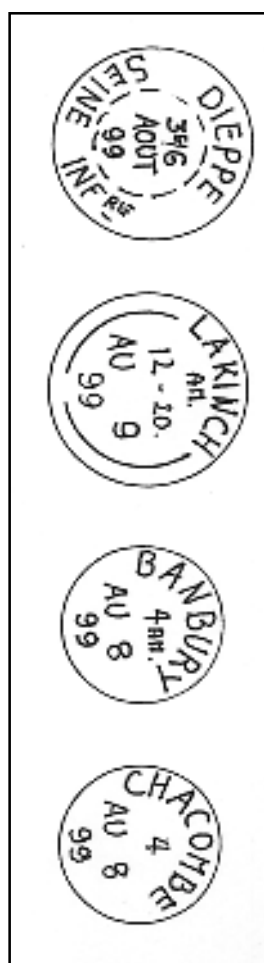
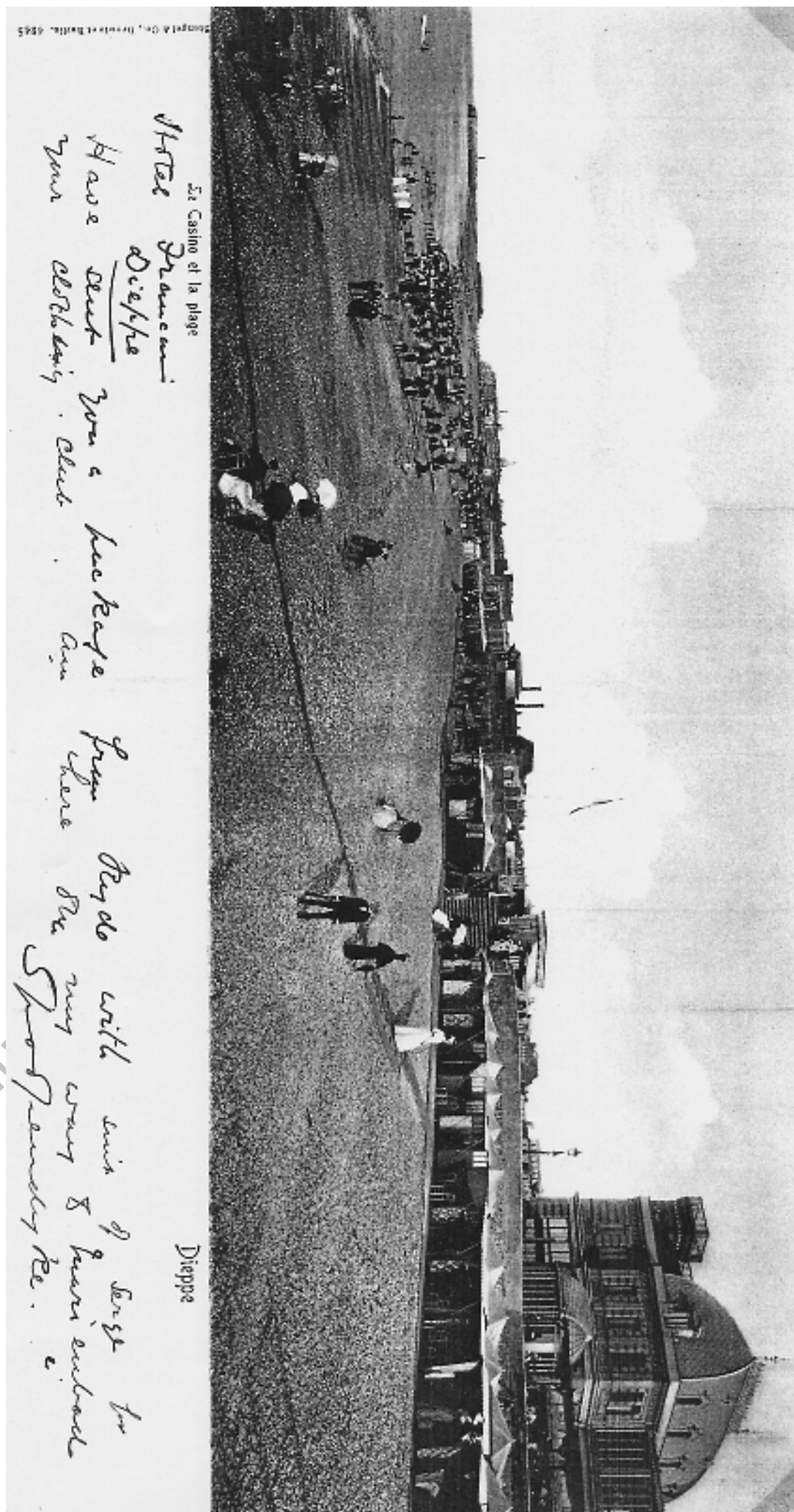


Figure 4 (above) -
Postmarks on this
triple card

Figure 3 (*right*) - Panoramic view of beach from Casino towards harbour entrance, with tall chimneys of tobacco factory very evident



When I discovered my first steamer postcard it was of the cross-channel steamer *Dieppe* entering harbour at high tide (Figure 5). It was written on board on 2 September 1906, and handed to the Purser, who

franked it with a 1d King Edward VII stamp, posting it after the return trip in the Newhaven post office. It was addressed to Lucknow in India and then forwarded to Naini Tal on 24 September (Figure 6).

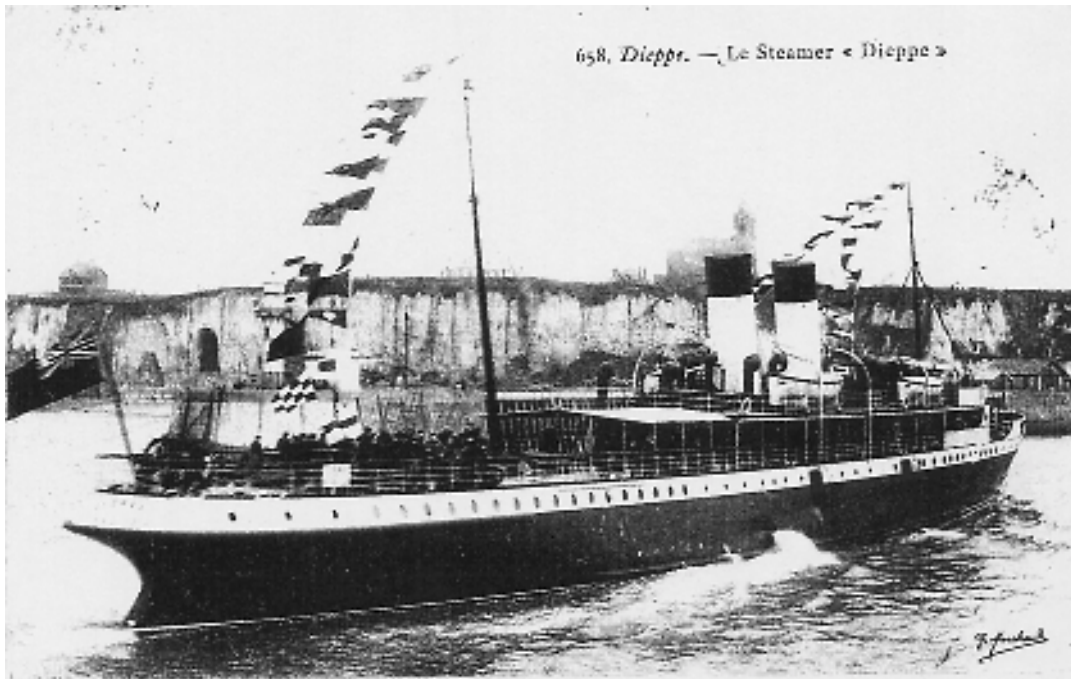


Figure 5

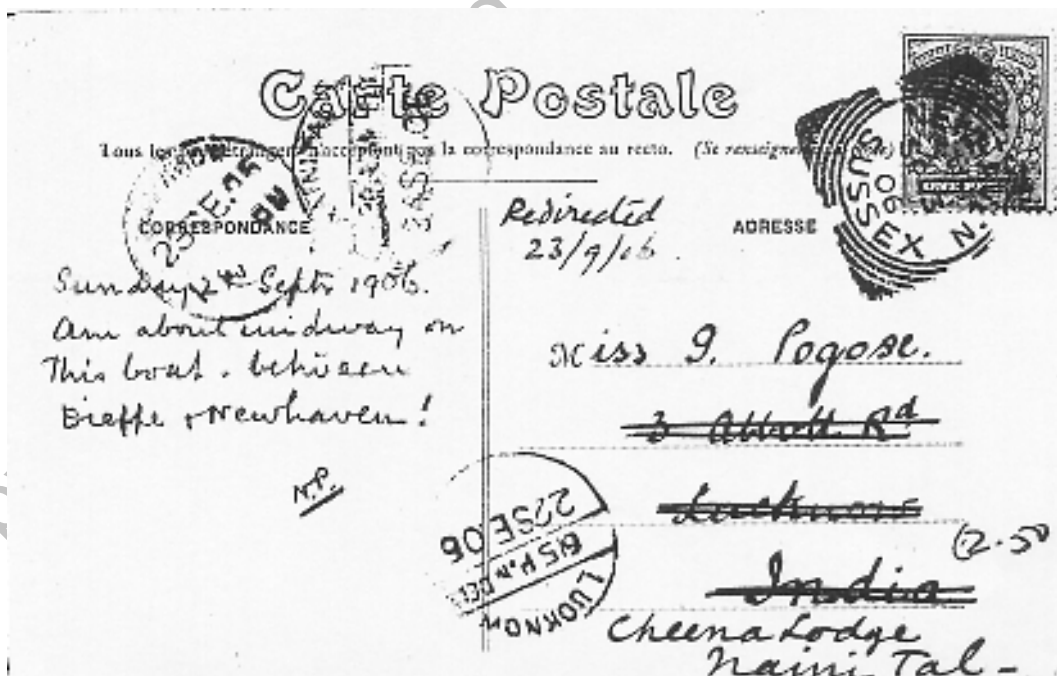


Figure 6

I now concentrated on my search for the mailboats, managing to find examples of seven steamers — *Tamise*, *Manche*, *Paris*, *France*, *Brighton*, *Dieppe* and *Newhaven*. I travelled on four of them. I show views of *Manche* at the quayside railway station (Figure 7) — note the railway line

ran through the streets, with an an official walking in front and blowing a whistle, to the main town station. This postcard, like many others of the mailboats, was posted aboard the steamer in the box provided, unloaded on arrival and cancelled **LONDON MB MR 23 07**.



Figure 7 - with the postmark shown to one side

By 1927 I was just about starting to look for TPOs, and had found one wavy line **DIEPPE A ROUEN 7~7.06** (Figure 8)

when our family holidays in Dieppe ceased, and my philatelic curiosity wandered into other fields.

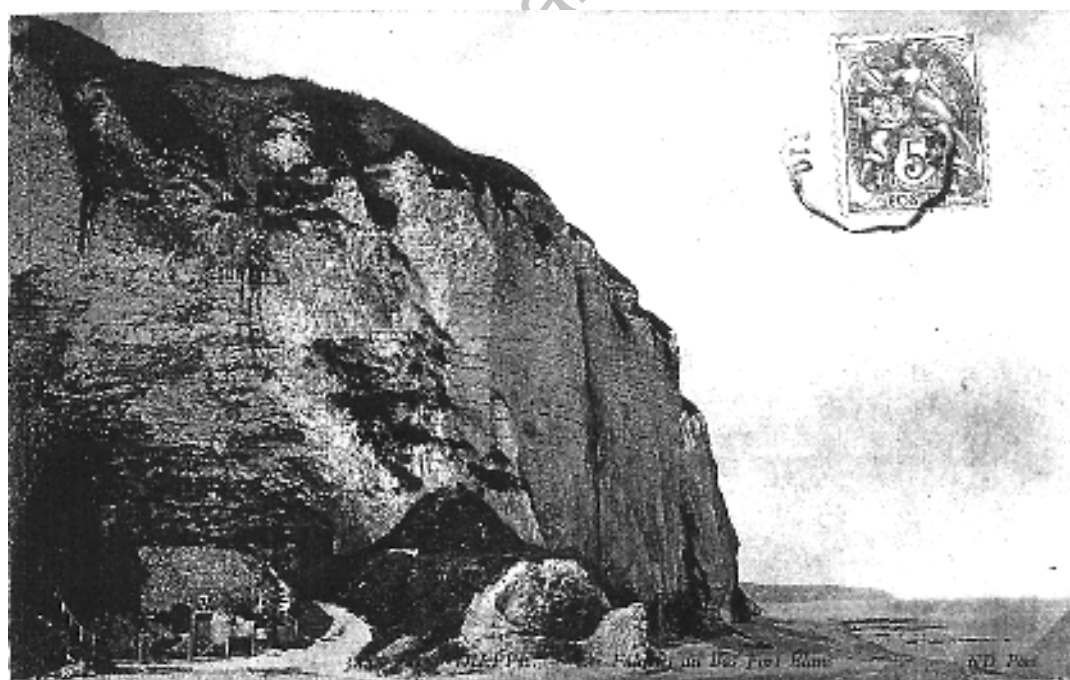


Figure 8 - with the postmark shown to one side

Visiting Cards

a brief history of rates, regulations and postal stationery

Mick Bister

Back in March 2001 the Journal published an article of mine on the concessionary Franco-Canadian Rates created in 1929. I commented at the time that the material that I was describing in my article was not from a specific collection *per se* but extracted from various albums devoted to divers topics which just happened to include an example of the Franco-Canadian rate. The present article has been resourced in a very similar way.

A couple of years ago I was invited to the Northern Group's Bastille Day at Bradford where I gave a display which included a few examples of visiting card envelopes and inserts. A discussion ensued concerning the regulations and rates appertaining to such mail and at the end it dawned on me that this could be a collecting area worthy of some pursuit. I therefore added it to my ever-increasing list of material to look out for in dealers' boxes, and I have now accumulated sufficient items to create a small but meaningful collection and to provide the basis for this article which I hope will provide a framework for anyone wishing to pursue this or a similar study.

Part 1: 1852 – 1916

The concept of sending printed matter in an unsealed envelope as an alternative to a wrapper had been considered by the postal authorities early in 1827, and on 1 January

1828 a specific category was created. The size (not the weight) of the enclosed document determined the fee; the enclosure was limited to 11 dm² and it could only carry printed announcements related to births, marriages and deaths. The office-to-office rate was established at 10c but local items, i.e. those handed in and delivered from the same office, benefited from a reduced rate of 5c.

From 31 December 1852 visiting cards were added to the list of items defined as printed matter and charged as such provided that the envelope in which they were enclosed remained unsealed and nothing was added to the enclosure in manuscript. The rates remained unchanged although it was decreed that up to two visiting cards could be enclosed in the one envelope without incurring a surcharge. If more than two cards were enclosed each one would be charged *pro rata* up to a maximum equivalent to the basic Letter Rate whose scale of charges would thereafter be applied.

On 25 June 1856 a law was passed replacing all content and size related Printed Matter Rates with a scale of charges to be applied according to weight. This was brought into force on 1 August 1856 and stipulated that printed matter, including visiting cards, would be charged at 10c per 10 grams office-to-office and 5c per 10 grams for local items (Figure 1).

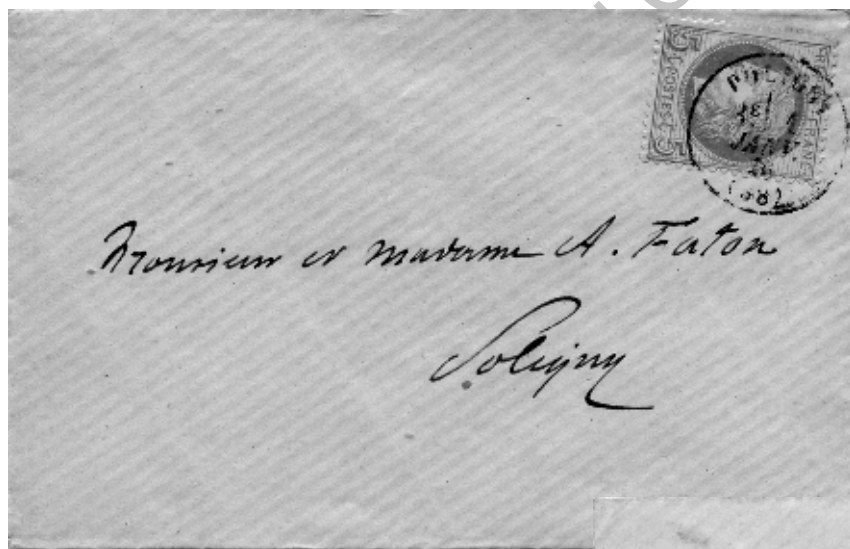


Figure 1a -
5c Cérés on 1 January 1876 Visiting Card envelope for local delivery within Poligny



Figure 1b -
10c Cérés on 4 January 1876 Visiting Card envelope from Boulogne to Abbeville

The two rates remained in force until 1 May 1878 when the distinction between office-to-office and local rates was abolished. In their place, a uniform charge of 5c per 50 grams would be made, irrespective of the distance, for any printed matter of any nature placed in an unsealed envelope.

Before the uniform 5c rate was introduced, certain senders of visiting cards had been reluctant to pay the required tariff for the luxury of sending them in an envelope. Even though, according to the Post Office regulations, the sending of visiting cards appeared to be permitted only in envelopes, a number of senders had realised by a somewhat unilateral interpretation of the rules, that if a visiting card were sent under a wrapper it would benefit from the same preferential rate as when other printed matter was sent under a wrapper. Securing a small visiting card inside an even smaller band of paper required some ingenuity but the most common procedure was to straddle the stamp

across both wrapper and card thereby 'tying' one item to the other.

The post office had been aware of this unorthodox practice which might infringe the conditions of what could be sent under a wrapper. Therefore, in February 1877, the Post Office reminded its clients that if they chose to send visiting cards in this way they should adhere strictly to the printed matter restrictions and ensure that no handwritten or printed text of a personal nature appeared on the card. Just over a year later, on 1 May 1878, the Post Office confirmed the status of the visiting card and declared that like all other printed matter it too could be sent under wrapper at the newly reduced rate of 1c per 5 grams.

Two Visiting Card Rates were at last unambiguously established, viz. 5c per 5 grams when enclosed in an unsealed envelope and 1c per 5 grams when enclosed in a wrapper (Figure 2).

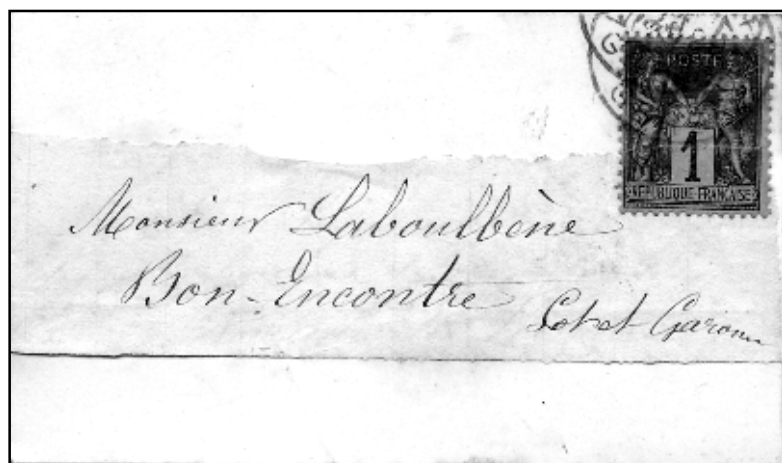
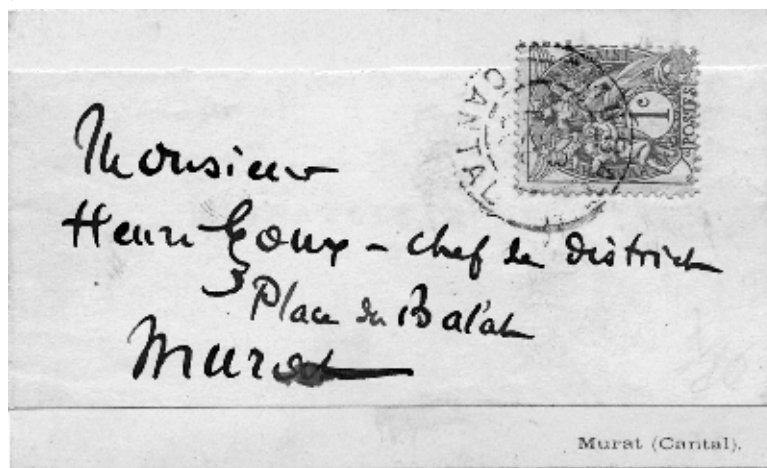


Figure 2a -
1c Sage on 1885 Visiting Card
sent under wrapper

Figure 2b -
1c Blanc on 1900 Visiting Card
sent under wrapper



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The Post Office had been producing postal stationery in the form of postcards since 1878, but on 20 April 1882 authorisation was given to extend production to other formats. As a result, a 5c Sage Visiting Card Envelope⁽¹⁾ which was printed in sheets of 20 before cutting and folding, was issued on 1 October.. The first printing of the visiting card envelope was on green paper (Figure 3).

It measured 116 x 76 mm and the rounded flap was ungummed. They were promoted as '*enveloppes timbrées*' and priced at 5½ c each (until 1919 when they went up to 6½ c each), but it is reported that they were sold only in pairs. Two years later the paper was replaced by a cream version, no doubt in an attempt to create a better contrast for the green stamp.

⁽¹⁾ Small format envelopes, whether postal stationery or plain, are often referred to in the philatelic trade as '*mignonnettes*'.

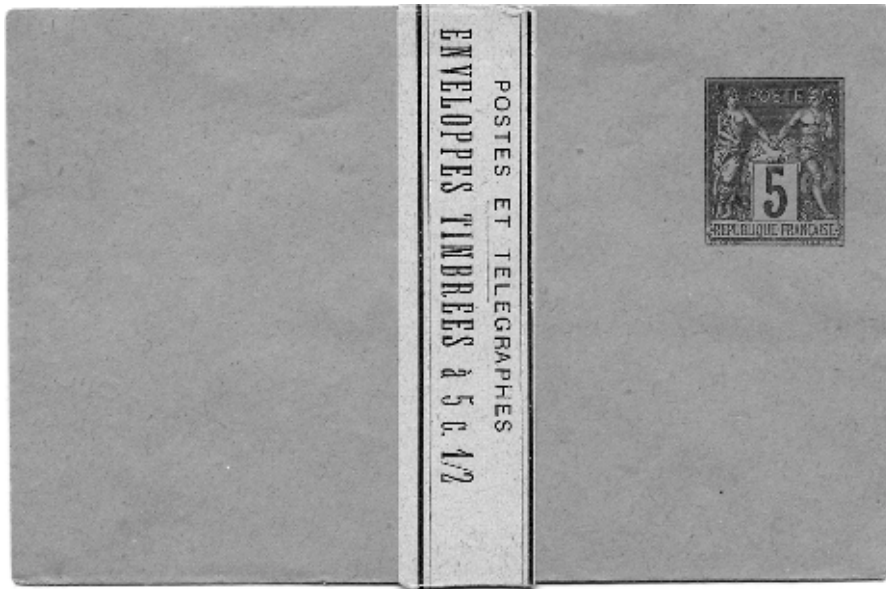


Figure 3 -
5c Sage Visiting Card
stationery envelope,
1st Printing, with sales band

The next significant change was made in 1895 when the size of the envelope was reduced to 107 x 70 mm. Furthermore, the original rounded flap was replaced by one with an extended tab in the form of a shield (Figure 4). This modification made it much easier for the sender to tuck the ungummed flap into the bottom fold of the envelope thus keeping the enclosure more secure during transit. This design however was soon replaced in the same

year by a less ornate flap with a simple point. From 1898 the dates of printing were added on the reverse of the envelope in the form of a three-figure code between 809 and 835 (Figure 5). The first figure represented the last digit of the year, 1898, and the remaining two the week in which the envelopes were printed, week 09 being the start of the printing in March and week 35 being the last printing in August.



Figure 4 -
5c Sage Visiting Card with tab



Figure 5 -
Printing code on reverse of envelope

Up to this point the 5c Sage had been printed in dull green, of varying intensities and occasionally with a leaning towards bluish green. In 1898, in line with the reissuing of the 5c Sage adhesive in yellow green, a similar shade was used for the printing of the stationery. The new colour was printed from September 1898 until February 1901, which means it was still on sale two months after the 5c Blanc had replaced the 5c Sage adhesive.

The 5c Blanc Visiting Card envelope was printed from March 1901 to December 1906, during which period the

shade of green ink was changed three times to correspond with that employed in the printing of the adhesives. Initially the stamp was printed in the same yellow green as the previous Sage issue (113 to 226) and later in dull green (237 to 252), blue green (301 to 617) and finally deep green (635 to 649). In 1907 the Blanc design was replaced by the Sower (Figure 9), and envelopes were printed from August 1907 until October 1914 (736 to 419).

Covers exist customised for use by various government bodies including the Sénat, Chambre des Députés (Figure 6) and various ministries.

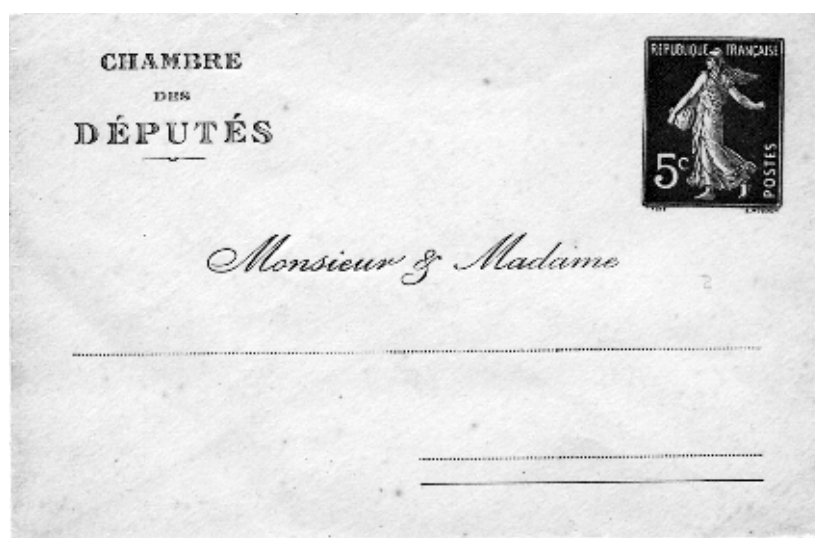


Figure 6 -

5c Sower Visiting Card envelope printed for use by the Chambre des Députés (dated 226)

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From the very beginning, the Post Office had stipulated that visiting cards should not display any text added in manuscript, although from April 1886 the abbreviation P.P.C. (*pour prendre congé*)⁽²⁾ was tolerated. This restriction was relaxed further in February 1895 when the Post Office permitted up to five words of additional text provided that they were expressing only '*souhaits, compliments, condoléances, félicitations, remerciements ou autres formules de politesse*'. This ruling was further modified in December 1909 when the nature of the five words was extended to any subject. It was also stated that any number of cards could be placed in the envelope up to a weight limit of 100 grams but that only one of the cards could be written on.

As a result of these concessions, visiting cards became an increasingly popular medium for exchanging New Year's greetings, although such a practice had been in existence on a lesser scale for over half a century. Over the festive season the largest offices were overwhelmed with items to cancel and found themselves with insufficient circular date stamps with which to cancel the mail. The solution was to bring into use every possible canceller available, including *cachets de facteur*, *cachets de bureau* and even defunct GC and Paris Star cancellers. Marks applied in these circumstances have become known as *jour de l'an* cancellations (Figure 7) and are most commonly found on the 5c Sage and the 5c Blanc adhesives and postal stationery.



Figure 7 -
Examples of provisional
jour de l'an cancellations
on the 5c Blanc

⁽²⁾ "The P.P.C. card is merely a visiting card, whether of a lady or a gentleman, on which the initials P. P. C. (*pour prendre congé* - to take leave) are written in ink in the lower left corner. This is usually left at the door, or sent by mail to acquaintances, when one is leaving for the season, or for good. It never takes the place of a farewell visit when one has received especial courtesy, nor is it in any sense a message of thanks for especial kindness. In either of these instances, a visit should be paid or a note of farewell and thanks written." [extract from "Etiquette - Cards and Visits" by Emily Post]

NB. The initials P.P.C. have sometimes been transcribed into English as Paid Parting Call.

The 1909 5-words restriction naturally led to some abuse. Senders of visiting cards would attempt to add longer messages, hoping that the card would escape the scrutiny of the postal workers and still reach its destination at the 5c rate. However, if such items were intercepted by the postal authorities they were automatically taxed as being an underpaid letter and the recipient was obliged to pay 10c representing twice the deficiency.

Later, the authorities began to consider such underpayment as less of an ignorant mistake and more of a calculated and fraudulent attempt to deprive the Post Office of its revenue. As a result, Article 50 was passed on 8 April 1910 and brought into force on 1 May 1910, which authorised the Post Office to not only charge the double deficiency but

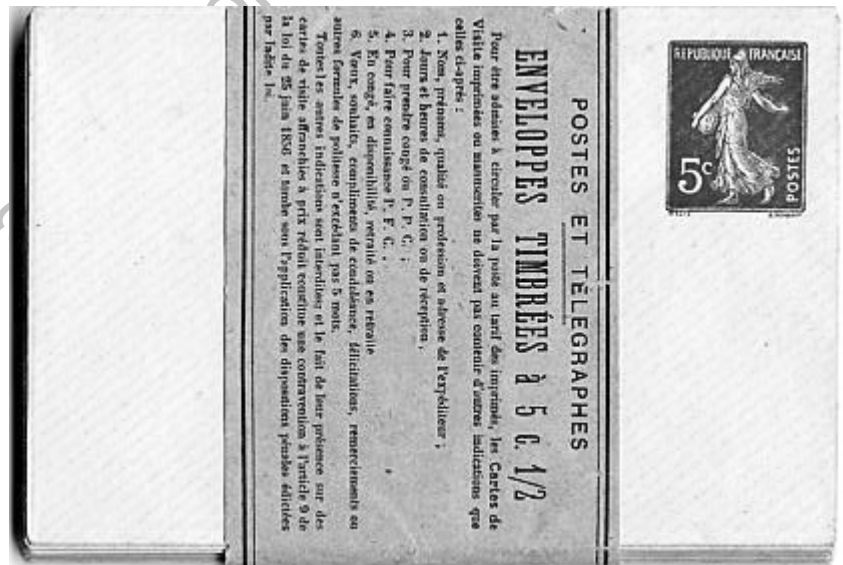
also to impose a fixed penalty of two francs (Figure 8). A special 2F Tax stamp was printed for this purpose, Yvert Taxe N° 41, which was issued two months later.

The scheme was not particularly successful in one respect, as most recipients refused to accept delivery of the law-breaking item and it became the Post Office's responsibility to return it to the sender. On the other hand, the Post Office had the right to apply the charges again for reimbursement by the defaulting sender. Whether it was because the strategy was successful in deterring fraudsters from underpaying or whether it was the procedure which was too complicated to manage is uncertain, but the measure did not last long and the practice ceased in January 1913.



Figure 8 -
Reverse of Visiting Card sent on 3 January 1912 at 5c rate,
discovered to have more than 5 words
of New Year's greetings
and hence charged 10c deficiency and 2F penalty.
The explanatory and mandatory annotation
Article 50, loi du 8 avril 1910
has been added in manuscript
by the postal worker applying the penalty.

Figure 9 -
Packet of 5c Sower stationery envelopes
enclosed in wrapper listing regulations
for sending of visiting cards



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No further rate changes were introduced until 1 January 1917 when a three-tier tariff system came into force. This will be discussed in Part II of this article

[It is hoped to publish the second part of this article in the next issue of the Journal in September 2004. - Ed.]

References:

- A.C.E.P. website:
<http://mapage.noos.fr/entiersfr/mainsommaire.html>
 'Etiquette' by Emily Post
 'Les Entiers Postaux de France et de Monaco' by Jean Storch & Robert Françon
 'Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969' by Alexandre, Barbey, Brun, Desarnaud & Joany
 'Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to date' by Derek J Richardson

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

Cameo: Journal of the West Africa Study Circle

Vol 8 N° 2 Whole N° 61 January 2004: Benin and Mail from Togoland (Sacher); Benin and Mail from Togo (Mayne); Benin - the early years (Mitchell & Lambert); 1898 Woermann Line Mail (Mayne); En route to the Cameroons in WWI (Bratzel & Maddocks); Cameroun Airmails up to 1939 (Maddocks); Cameroun: notes on the 1928 'Airmail' (May); French Censorship in London during WWI (Mark); The train for Bo (Maddocks); Cameroons French Contingent Cover (Maddocks).

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 107 1^{er} Trim 2004: Territoire de Memel [1920-1922]: Les vraies raretés de Memel (Pineau); Classement rationnel des émissions communes de timbres-poste, d'entiers postaux et de timbres taxe pour l'ensemble de nos colonies de 1859 à 1892, dites des "colonies générales" [cont. Bulletin 105] Second Period 1870 - 30 June 1876 [cont. & finish]; Third Period 1 July 1876-1881 (Drye); Madagascar: Coupé sur lettre (Brun).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 180 2^{ème} Trim 2004: Hommage à Jean-Claude Coulon (Abensur); "Ville de Florence": un pli confié inédit (Rouchy); La poste militaire mensuelle FFL au Levant - 1941/1946 (Varin); Le service mensuel de paquebots à voiles entre Callao et Panama - 1844/1846 (Langlais); Un timbre taxe inhabituel (Vuille); La poste militaire serbe sur le front d'Orient [1916/1918] (Bourguignat); Conférence de l'Académie de Philatélie - Le Type Pasteur (Sinai).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1771 Feb 2004: L'actualité du Prêt-à-poster avec des inédits (-); Courriers de siège ((-); Histoire: Avant la Poste rurale (Prugnon); Des 25c Cérès qui vont à bons ports (de la Mettrie); Décodage: Au dernier jour de validité (Prugnon); Alger, capitale de la France [1943-1944] 3^e partie (Danan); La Liberté dans tous ses états (-); Les guerres d'Indochine à travers les timbres fiscaux (Danan); Une première en Nouvelle-Calédonie (Gengembre et Héron); Cartophilie: La carte qui tue (Storch).

N° 1772 Mar 2004: Les Pigeons-facteurs du siège de Paris (-); Ces nouveaux produits philatéliques très spéciaux [Semeuse bloc rouge-gorge] (Jamet); Messages à tire-d'Aile (Hella); Alger, capitale de la France [1943-1944] 4^e partie (Danan); Cartes, roulettes et préos du Second Empire (Storch).

N° 1773 Apr 2004: Prêt-à-poster Florilège de PÂP (-); Les ballons-poste du siège de Paris (-); Décodage: Un double refus d'acquitter la taxe (Prugnon); Quand poste rime avec politique (Hella); Alger, capitale de la France [1943-1944] 5^e partie (Danan); Les cotes des raretés fiscales (Danan); Les précurseurs de 1873 (Storch).

N° 1774 May 2004: Prêt-à-poster Florilège de PÂP (-); Les Boules de Moulins (-); Un carré de passionnés [de

Marigny] (-); L'histoire méconnue des «rouleaux des morts» (Hella); Les guerres d'Indochine à travers les timbres fiscaux... (Danan); Les précurseurs de 1873 cont. (Storch).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol 34 N° 1 Jan 2004: Three-day Convention on Chinese Philately; My "John Wayne" Cover; Lao 1974 UPU Colour Variety; Taxe Perçue Handstamp; Mekong River Expedition; More discoveries of Lao: 1982 Overprint varieties and new major listings; More on two interesting South Vietnam covers.

Vol 34 N° 3 May 2004: Cross-Border Postal Service (Bentley); Saigon Patriot [Delandre label] (Bentley); Cambodia's 50th Anniversary of Independence (Shaw); Lao Royal Ballet Printer's Waste or Proof? (Thompson); Lao Parcel Post Stamps (Carroll); Ville de Saigon Coat of Arms (Aspnes).

Author and Keyword/Title Indexes 1971-2003.

La Philatélie Française

Permanent features: Étude, Collection, Actualité, à lire, Événement.

N° 584 Jan 2004: 30c Semeuse camée et poste pneumatique (Letailleur); 1853 Gauguin et van Gogh, destins tragiques (Deroy).

N° 585 Feb-Mar 2004: Du poinçon au fichier «Marianne de Luquet 'RF' et Marianne du 14 Juillet» [cont] (Rabineau); Une association qui a le vent en poupe! [Tarification régime intérieur] (Nineven et Glémarec).

Timbres Magazine

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

N° 44 Mar 2004: Carnets de colonies: II L'Afrique sub-saharienne (PJM); Le courrier des soldats de la SDN en Sarre (Sanders); Allez les bleus! (Bernadet); Messages d'Indochine (Chauvin); La France...vue d'Angleterre (Michaud); Les départements conquis par la France [100, 101, 102, 127.] (Baudot); Un célèbre centenaire: La Foire de Paris (Zeyons); Surtaxe aérienne pour les prisonniers de guerre (Chauvin).

N° 45 Apr 2004: Ils permettent aux soldats d'écrire des messages personnels (Sanders); Carnets: en petite tenue (PJM); L'A.O.F. cœur de l'Empire 1^{re} partie: 1940-1942 (Chauvin); Les variétés sur bleus (Bernadet); L'Aube [9] - Champagne (Baudot); Picasso: comme un vol de colombes (Zeyons); Surtaxes avion en Martinique (Chauvin).

N° 46 May 2004: Pour venir en aide aux chômeurs intellectuels (Melot); Carnets de colonies: III L'Afrique sub-saharienne. cont. (PJM); Des plis très spéciaux (Sanders); L'A.O.F. cœur de l'Empire 2^e partie: 1942-1945 (Chauvin); Îles de la France d'Outre-Mer: Comores (Pellinec); «Lutte contre le paludisme» La surprenante série du Mali (Melot); 1946: quels timbres pour le Togo (Chauvin)

Some Early Machine Cancels - 6

Bill Mitchell



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3 -
enlarged photograph by courtesy of DJ-B

As promised last time, here are some notes on the Daguins to complete this series of articles. Interested readers will find a more detailed account in the article "The Daguin Postmarks of France" by John Hayhurst in the issue of the Journal numbered 129 & 130 dated January - June 1975, but in brief this is what happened. At the time of their first appearance in 1884 postal sorters were required to apply two strikes of their date stamp on the letters they were handling, one to cancel the stamp and the other (alongside) to show clearly the place, date and time of posting. This cumbersome practice was clearly very time-consuming, and the machine which was eventually adopted to enable both strikes to be applied in a single operation was patented by Eugène Daguin (1849-1888). John Hayhurst explains it thus —

"The Daguin machine contained an articulated arm at one end of which was a head on which were mounted two circular date stamps. As the head came down to the letter so there was simultaneously applied the obliteration and the time and place of posting."

So the Daguins were not automatic machines, and it may be more helpful to think of them as gadgets enabling two

manual operations to be performed at the same time. This may be the reason why Nouazé does not mention them. Hayhurst continues —

"Hundreds of machines were constructed and used, in all of them ... the centres of the date stamps were the same distance apart. With the diameters of the date stamps changing as the years went by, the distance between the outlines of the date stamps naturally changed, but the centres themselves remained an invariable 28 millimetres apart."

It was of course possible that two handstruck date stamps were fortuitously 28 mm apart, so to be sure that one is indeed looking at a Daguin (except where one date stamp is replaced by a slogan) one must be able to spot differences between the two strikes. At their simplest these differences can be quite subtle — note the position of the "R" in "VAR" in relation to the dash immediately above it in this 1889 cover from Hyères (Fig 1, Dreyfuss HYE 101), for example⁽¹⁾. There is a similar difference in the relative positions of the "Z" and the dash in the postcard from Biarritz, but more interestingly the operator was apparently unsure of the date — 15 May 1889 to the left, 16 May to the right (Fig 2, Dreyfuss BIA 102)⁽²⁾. In Fig 3 there were even



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6 -
enlarged photograph by courtesy of DJ-B

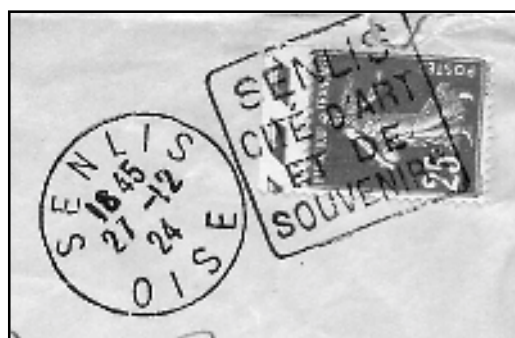


Figure 7



Figure 8

doubts about the year at Menton — was it 1908 or 1907? (And it was in April, not early January!) This is Dreyfuss MEN 301.

Sometimes the two date stamps are inscribed differently, as in Fig 4 (1911 – NANTES and NANTES R.P., Dreyfuss NAN 502) and Fig 5 (1913 – LILLE · Q^{ER} PL. S^T MARTIN and LILLE PL. S^T MARTIN, unlisted by Dreyfuss). Even more immediately noticeable are the use of two totally different types of date stamp such as occurs on the 1909 postcard from Troyes (Fig 6 – Dreyfuss TRO 201) with, on the left, the new (1904) single-circle date stamp and, on the right, its immediate predecessor in the old style with an inner circle of dashes (1901). These are classified as types A4 and A3c respectively in André Lautier's "*Nomenclature des Cachets à Date Manuels 1884-1969*".

According to Dreyfuss, slogans were first used in Daguin machines in 1923. A Daguin slogan can easily be identified

as it is more or less square whereas other machines normally used oblongs; in view of the requirement that the details of posting should be clearly visible on the envelope or postcard, one would expect the date stamp to be on the left and the slogan on the right, but the opposite is possible and indeed in practice it seems to have been preferred. The 1924 cover from Senlis and the 1927 postcard from St Lunaire (Figs 7 and 8 – Dreyfuss SEN 102, 1923-1937, and ST-LU 101, 1925-1939) are good examples of both.

By now Daguius had been replaced in many of the busier post offices by more sophisticated and faster machines such as those discussed in previous instalments of this article, but they continued in use in smaller offices for many years and can be found with the circle of dashes used in the *Bureaux de Distribution* such as Saint Aygulf (Fig 9 – Lautier's type B4, Dreyfuss ST-AY 103, 1932-1939) and even with the octagon of the postal agency on board trans-

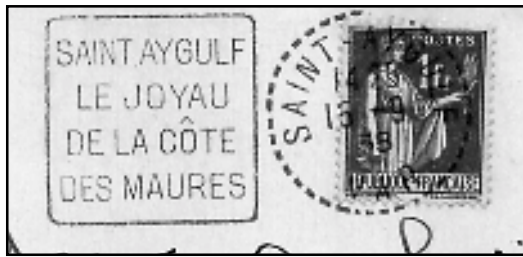


Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11 -
enlarged photograph by courtesy of DJ-B



Figure 12 -
enlarged photograph by courtesy of DJ-B

Atlantic liners (Fig 10). This cancel, with *Brigade* letter “D”, is Dreyfuss LE-HA 306, which he ascribes to 1937-1939. Salles, however, in *Tome IV* of “*La Poste Maritime Française*” (page 260) records its use in 1938 and 1939 only⁽³⁾. The impression, unfortunately, is smudged, but it seems probable, from the table on page 279 of Salles, that the date is “15-4 39” and that the letter was written and posted on board the *Île de France*, which left Le Havre on 12 April and arrived at New York on the 18th. The cancel is Salles’ n° 1745 bis.

Illustrated Daguin slogans are uncommon prior to World War II. Some attempt to make them look more attractive was made quite early by adding decorative scrolls as at Sanary sur Mer (Fig 11). This cancel had a long life – Dreyfuss records its use from 1927 to 1951 (SAN 121), overlapping with and then replacing a similar cancel inscribed **SANARY** only (SAN 101, 1924-1930). The date

on this example appears to be 28-8 1951, a little late for “early” perhaps, but at least the strikes of both date stamp and slogan are good, which is by no means always the case. I have been unable to trace the date of the first true illustrated Daguin slogan, but Fig 12 is an early example, from Avon in the *département* of Seine et Marne; it is Dreyfuss AVO 101, recorded only in 1952 and 1953.

The Daguiens had a very long life. Dating from 1884, the last machine in regular use was at Epine in the *département* of Marne, withdrawn in 1970. They have occasionally been brought out of retirement, most notably for the centenary in 1984.*

* David Jennings-Bramly has reminded me that the *Journée du timbre* stamp for 1985 (Yv 2362) illustrates a Daguin machine. Look out, too, for the maximum card.

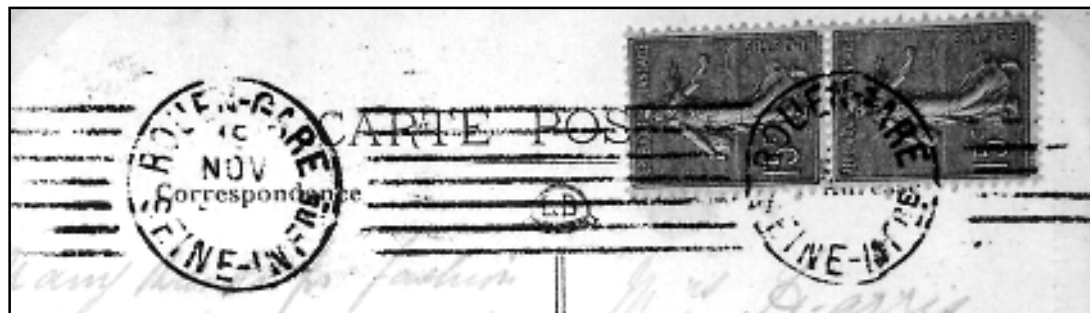


Figure 13 - photograph by courtesy of DJ-B



Figure 14 - enlarged photograph by courtesy of DJ-B

In Part 5 of this article I mentioned that I had received some comments on cancels illustrated in previous instalments. They have been seen by Marty Bratzel, who writes —

“In the June 2003 issue, page 52, Figure 3, you illustrate 1 or 2 black circles in the hubs. I do not know how the devices were constructed or held together but, to me, they look like screw heads (complete with slot) that are a bit proud of the surface. If properly positioned, then they would not be inked. If improperly positioned (as they might be here), then they could pick up ink. Hence 0, 1 or 2 black circles. An analogy are postmarks that have recurring smudges due to dirt or improperly fitting date slugs.

“In the September 2003 issue, page 99, Figure 3, you illustrate an apparent fifth line for the cancel. This is nothing more than the gripper that moved the envelope through the canceller. It appears that the tension has been adjusted a bit too tight and also the gripper has inadvertently acquired some ink. I have several examples of such marks on covers postmarked with the Douala machine canceller, mostly embossed, some quite strongly so, on either or both the front and the back of covers. These are occasionally inked: more sloppiness and improper cleaning, in my view.”

This seems a suitable point to mention that occasionally one finds freak strikes where the date stamp is either compressed or elongated (Figs 13 and 14, both from Krag machines). This is mentioned only by Nouazé (page 15), who contents himself with the comment that these

anomalies are no more than simple curiosities, which is true enough.

In conclusion, I should repeat the details of my two main sources (Gérard Dreyfuss, *Catalogue des Oblitérations Mécaniques de France*, first edition, Editions Yvert et Tellier 1994; and Yvon Nouazé, *Le Guide de l'Oblitération Mécanique*, Editions G.I.P. 1990); and thank David Jennings-Bramly once again for his excellent photography which has enabled me to describe and illustrate some particularly interesting cancels that do not appear in my collection.

Notes

- ⁽¹⁾ I have not quoted the dates of use as reported by Dreyfuss in Figs 1 to 6. Except possibly for Hyères these cancels were in use for many years and it is very likely that the date stamp types used varied from time to time and were not always the same as the ones shown here. Not surprisingly, Dreyfuss does not go into that much detail.
- ⁽²⁾ This Biarritz cancel is interesting for another reason. Dreyfuss cites three early Daguins – BIA 101 with date stamps inscribed **BASSES PYRENEES** and **BSES PYRENEES**, 1898 only; BIA 102, **BASSES PYRENEES** only (i.e. Fig 2), 1904 only; BIA 103, **BSES PYRENEES** only, 1904-1918. Since my example of BIA 102 is dated 1889, it now seems probable that it was used from time to time over a period of at least 15 years, possibly concurrently with BIA 101 – a fact not known to Dreyfuss when he prepared the first edition of his catalogue in 1994.
- ⁽³⁾ Both Dreyfuss and Salles list separately this cancel with *Brigade* letters “A”, “C” and “D”; Salles adds an “E”. They differ slightly over the overall periods of use (Dreyfuss 1936-1939, Salles 1935-1939).

BOOKSHELF

AR — Avis de réception (Volume 1)?

by David Handelman, with sections by Peter A S Smith and Henrik Mouritsen; published by Postal History Society of Canada, 2002; 158 + vi pages, 6 x 9", wire-O binding; price \$25.69 Canadian plus p&p; available from the author at Mathematics Department, University of Ottawa, Ottawa ON K1N 6N5, Canada; e-mail: dehsg@uottawa.ca.

As will be seen, the question mark in the title of this introduction to an almost unstudied subject is important. Professor Handelman begins his study thus, in the opening paragraph of his Introduction —

“AR refers to the official Universal Postal Union (UPU) term *avis de réception*. This is a service available for registered mail (and on non-registered mail in some jurisdictions) which provides that the receiver of the registered item sign a form or card (known as an AR form or AR card) which is returned to the sender. This is evidence that the registered letter has been duly delivered.”

The Introduction includes a brief history of the service, which may have been available in some form in the medieval Venetian postal system. More recently, in the 18th Century (and until well into the 20th), it was available in the Austrian Empire under the name “*retour récépissé*”. Internal AR schemes were adopted by France in 1859 (registration was not required until 1878), Italy in 1861 and the United States in 1863; in 1851 Prussia negotiated several bilateral AR treaties. International services, however, did not really take off until the Paris UPU Convention of June 1878 came into force on 1 April 1879, and (because of lack of information on earlier arrangements) this is really the starting point of the book.

The UPU requirements were intended primarily for international mail and can be divided into three periods, each of which has its own chapter — 1879 to 1892 (designated “Very early AR”), the period of the UPU Treaty of Vienna (1892 to 1898) (“Early AR”) and 1 January 1899 onwards (“post-Vienna”); each had its own variation on a basically similar scheme where the item was accompanied (sometimes followed) by paperwork enabling the receiving office to certify delivery to the sending office (or sender). Normally the AR paperwork was the responsibility of the office of origin, but during the short-lived “early AR” period it was placed in the hands of the office of destination. This led to the requirement that covers intended for the AR service should be marked by means of an appropriate cachet (most frequently this has been a boxed AR), a practice which long out-lived the end of the Vienna period.

Other chapters deal with AR stamps and the paperwork — forms, cards and covering envelopes — and there are specialised chapters dealing with Canada and the United States as well as Egypt and Denmark (these being the contributions from Messrs Smith and Mouritsen respectively). Finally come a chapter (“Weird AR”) on unusual items, an afterword tying up loose ends and an Appendix on after-posting enquiries as to the delivery or other fate of the item.

The book covers the whole world insofar as practice is known to Professor Handelman and his colleagues. As its modest size indicates, and as he is the first to acknowledge, it is far from complete for the simple reason that for many countries information is just not to hand. France, and by extension the colonies, receives what seems to be the most detailed treatment (apart, of course, from the four countries given specialised attention); nevertheless Professor Handelman hopes one day to be able to add a contribution from an expert. Meanwhile, in his afterword called “Final(?) words” he requests collectors’ assistance in preparing a second volume, on which he expects to start work this summer (2004) — it will, he tells me, include a section on the French colonies. He has been sent copies of what has been published in the Journal (the article by Ted Coles and Derek Richardson in No 181, with subsequent corrections and additions, and a few later pieces on the colonies); readers can help with this project by sending Professor Handelman photocopies of any colonial (pre- and post-independence) AR material in their possession which has not been published in these pages. And if anyone can add to the Coles/Richardson article or feels able to contribute the specialised study that is sought, I’m sure that Professor Handelman will be delighted to hear from you.

Despite its limitations, this is an important study which opens up a whole new field for research. It’s attractive to the eye, although a more robust binding would be an advantage, as would a larger page size — many of the black and white illustrations, which are otherwise quite adequate, have been reduced. It is to be hoped that eventually a definitive study will be produced, when these disadvantages can be corrected.

Bill Mitchell

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Aleksander Stocki: Enigmatic Philatelist

By Roy E Reader & George K Kay; paperback with illustrated laminated covers and plastic clip binding; ISBN 0-9547115-0-5; A4, 64pp published 2004 by Roy E Reader, 3 Stanhope Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 7HA (UK); price £9.50 +p&p [UK £1.50; Europe £2.50 and other destinations £4.00; the sum of £10 must be added to cheques from abroad to cover bank charges; cheques payable to R.E.Reader; order will normally be sent within 10 days of receipt].

It was whilst the author was researching for his third book covering the Polish Forces in France [previous publications *The Legion of French Volunteers 1941-44*, FCPS brochure

N° 4 and *Czechoslovak Army in France WWII & Supplement*, Czech PS, Monograph N° 5]; that Aleksander Stocki came to his attention. Roy was intrigued by the character of this

army officer, philatelist and stamp dealer, who was involved with the perforation of French stamps with the initials of 'WP', and later with other colourful labels. He decided to research further, putting on one side temporarily his main subject, and sought the advice of the doyen of Polish philately, George Kay. They joined forces to seek out information on the activities of Stocki, not only in pre-war Poland, but wartime France and Great Britain, and after the war in Scotland.

The research has not been easy either in the United Kingdom or Poland, and possibly there are still one or two questions in Stocki's life that remain unanswered; one I would like to know is what happened to his wife Marja, after he was recalled from Army reserve in 1939; but both Reader and Kay have come up with a most readable publication, containing as it does numerous illustrations, and a catalogue of Stocki's labels produced in Scotland.

They have examined many documents - difficult or impossible to find in this country - on this former army officer who seemed to court controversy throughout his life, from Warsaw in 1926 over the Warsaw-Tokyo flight, the 'WP' overprints in France, the labels and date stamps produced for the Polish and other Allied forces, his partnership with the stamp dealer Mildred Hodson, and finally the mystery over his supposed disappearance abroad.

The bibliography of Sources and References both published and unpublished is excellent. It has been my privilege to proof-read this book, which I found so fascinating and I have no hesitation in fully recommending this impartial survey of Stocki's life to all philatelists, postal historians and those interested in the events that began to take place over some sixty years ago. My congratulations to the authors on this excellent publication.

Colin Spong

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Updates

Col.Fra have pointed out that the price indicated in the review of their publications in Journal 230 (page 144) is for members of Col.Fra. Non-members of Col.Fra wishing to purchase publications are requested to write to M. Alain Hurpet, BP 5, 10230 Mailly le Camp, France for indication of their cost including postage. M. Hervé Drye also advises that they hope to commence publication soon of Dr Jacques

Desnos's work on the postal history and philately of Madagascar, some 800 pages [in several volumes].

Colin Spong

Poste rurale du Var - Arrondissements ruraux by Robert Gregnac-Daudemard (noted in Journal 231 page 40): 100 A5 sheets; new edition of work first published 1977; price 13,50€ inc. p&p and updates.

Maurice Tyler

Books Noted

Tranches de vie à Mururoa by Christian Beslu; pub. Éditions La Motu, BP 326, 98713 Papeete, Tahiti; price 34€. [Story of daily life of the inhabitants of this Pacific Ocean atoll.]

Les cachets de la Poste française au Maroc entre 1891 et 1917 by Solly Laredo; special issue of *Le Rekkas*, pub. SPLM, 206 bd Péreire, 75017 Paris, France; price 18E + p&p; e-mail: SPLM206@aol.com [List of Moroccan date stamps.]

Colin Spong

Les boîtes mobiles de la voie de terre by J Lissarague & H Tanter; special issue of *Feuilles Marcophiles*; 100 pp.; price 15€; available from L Bridelance, 19 avenue du Châtelet, 77150 Lésigny.

La France paysanne by Rosine Lagier; price 30€; pub. Éd. Ouest France. [History of rural France through 350 old postcards and documents.]

La Poste aux lettres dans le département du Var, tome V - 1876-1904 by Robert Gregnac-Daudemard with Alain Trinquier; 46 photocopied pp.; price 7,50€ + p&p; available from Cercle d'histoire postale, Musée régional du Timbre et de la philatélie, Le Château, BP 51, 83340 Le Luc-en-Provence. [Lists all offices that used date stamps.]

Les timbres fiscaux et socio-postaux, France et Monaco by Société de philatélie fiscale; 224 pp. in colour; 6000 entries; price 29€ + p&p; pub. Éditions Yvert & Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, 80036 Amiens cedex 1. [New edition of catalogue.]

Maurice Tyler

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SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Indo-China First Flight Covers

I have recently acquired two rather intriguing first flight covers: The first is First Flight "Canton / Hanoi / Bangkok" dated 5.9.40 – this only went to Hanoi. The second is First Flight "Canton / Hanoi" dated 25.2.41 – this reached Hanoi 6.3.41.

Both of these intrigued me as, while Canton post office was in Chinese hands, the Japanese had occupied it some years before. Hanoi was under Vichy control. Any comments from members would be welcome.

David Taylor Smith

Tientsin C.P.O.

Following on Ian McQueen's "A French cds from Shanghai" in Journal 230 of December 2003 which referred to a Parcel Advice Note illustrated in the August 2003 issue of the *Journal of Chinese Philately*, I had had published in the April 2004 issue of *JCP* an article concerning another *Bulletin d'Expédition*.

The *Bulletin* relates to a packet sent from Mulhouse in Alsace and Lorraine (hence it being in German as well as French) to Messrs. Hall & Holtz Ltd., Victoria Road, Tientsin. It bears French postage stamps totalling 40F75, the two 20F stamps plus a 1F fiscal stamp being on the reverse. All four stamps are perfined DMC of the senders Dollfus-Mieg & C^{ie}, S.A. of Mulhouse. The stamps are cancelled Mulhouse-Gare on 9 May 1928. Hall & Holtz

Ltd. of Tientsin are described as a furniture factory company in *The China Year Book 1924*.

The *Bulletin* is marked in red ink:-

"Voie direct des paq. français / Via Marseille - Joliette."

There are two interesting marks, both of which must have been applied at the Tientsin Post Office. The first is a violet boxed cachet "Received Damaged / B. de V. sent"; and the second is the more interesting mark, being a 62mm black double ringed "TIENTSIN C.P.O. / PARCEL DEPARTMENT" with in the centre "DETAINED" and underneath Chinese writing.

I would welcome any information on these two marks and on the reference to "Joliette".

Dennis Collins

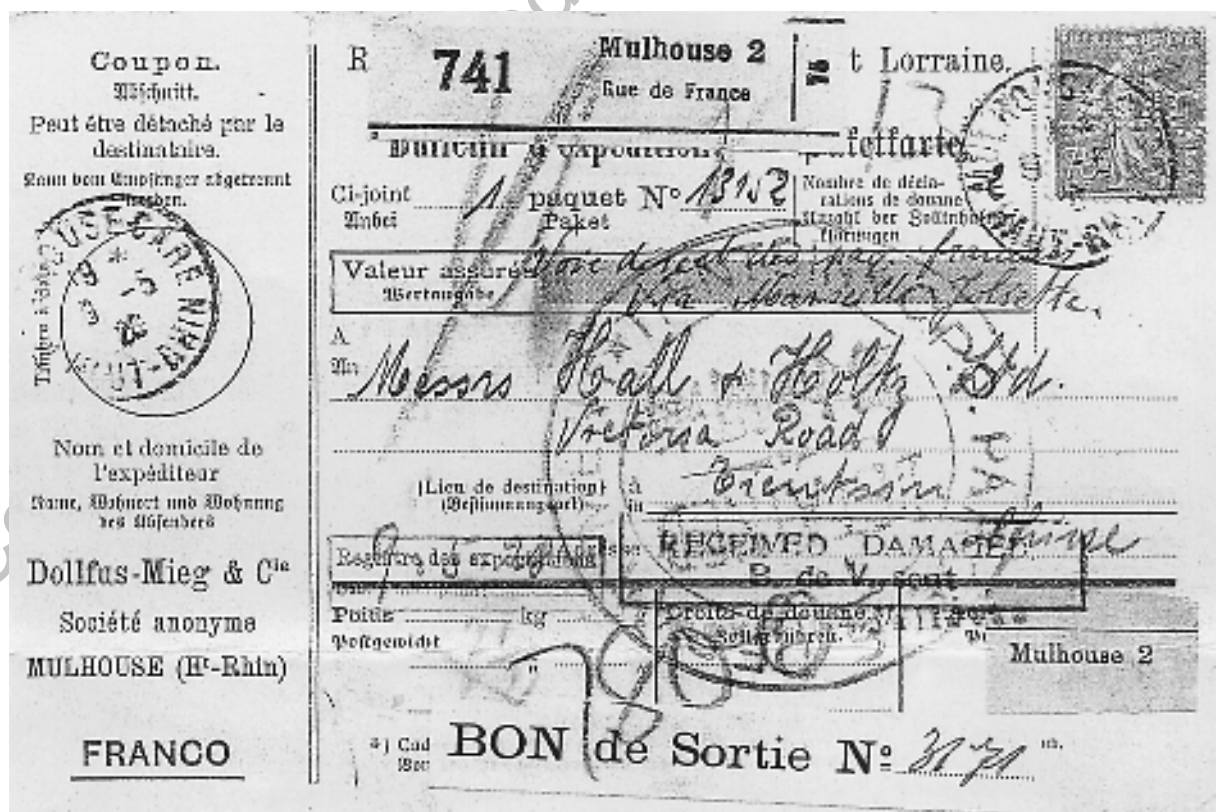


Figure 1 -
Front of the *Bulletin*



Figure 2 -
Reverse of the *Bulletin*

Czechs in the French Foreign Legion

Further reading enables me to add a little to my note in Journal 230 for December 2003. COL.FRA is reprinting "*Les Postes et Courriers Français en Extrême-Orient*" by Jacques Desrousseaux. I have recently acquired Book 4 which deals with 20th Century military mail; Chapter 6 covers the post-World War II period. It includes a short section headed "*B.P.M. et S.P.*", but although the *Bureaux postaux militaires* have already been described in detail there is no listing of the *Secteurs postaux*. So we are no further forward as regards the mysterious five-figure S.P. number 71.174 (the *Vaguemestre* cachet on the 1949 cover illustrated on page 113 of Journal 229 for September 2003 omits the dot) — except that a later (1953) cachet of S.P. 78811 is illustrated a bit further on, indicating that there was probably a whole series of such numbers. Does anyone know if they are listed anywhere?

M. Desrousseaux adds a point which is not mentioned by Bertrand Sinais — the use of B.P.M. numbers in correspondence was quickly forbidden on security grounds; only the S.P. number was permitted. (M. Sinais does however illustrate a 1954 T.O.E. machine cancel with slogan "*L'indication / du N° du B.P.M. / ou d'un lieu géographique / est interdite / dans les adresses militaires*").

In another section, "*Plis des légionnaires*", M. Desrousseaux adds a little to what M. Sinais says about their mail back home. The free franking arrangements entitled legionnaires to free airmail as far as France, but if they required onward transmission by air the airmail surtax from France to the home country had to be paid for.

Curiously, he illustrates this by a cover to Canada franked by a strip of three 15F Marianne de Gandon (probably Yv 813) and a 1F Arms of Savoy (Yv 836) meeting the 46F France/Canada surtax, cancelled (notwithstanding security considerations) by the **POSTE AUX ARMEES** c.d.s. of the B.P.M. 406 (Haiphong) dated 26 September 1950, plus a further 15F Marianne cancelled in Paris at the B.P.M. 222 on 29 September (15 francs was the then "frontier rate" for surface mail to Canada — see page 42 of Derek Richardson's "*Tables of French Postal Rates*", second edition).

Since the Haiphong B.P.M. cancelled the stamps paying the airmail surtax, it seems to follow that letters intended for onward transmission by surface mail were franked by the legionnaires (were the stamps supplied free?), but for some the stamp was not actually cancelled until the letter reached Paris.

Bill Mitchell

Unlisted Ivory Coast Stamps

Only very rarely is any assistance offered to those of us who collect the new issues of the African former French colonies, which are very difficult to obtain at the best. I am on the mailing list of 3 new issue dealers, but still miss some. Stanley Gibbons is currently 2-3 years behind in

their supplementary listings, and I feel it would be very helpful to publish in the Journal a list showing what has been issued, where this is possible. I therefore offer a copy of my list for the Ivory Coast, and I am sure other members would wish to make their contributions.

Peter Upson

Ivory Coast Stamps not yet listed in Supplements by S.G. as at 5-4-2004

1994 The "woman with hoe" definitives [SG 1105-16] have a 10F value (dark green frame) and a 20F (red frame) in addition to the values shown.

14-2-2002 St Valentine's Day 180F + 20F. There is also a printed postcard.

2002 40th Anniversary of Jean Mermoz International College 400F + 20F*.

Earliest known postmark 12-8-2002 [Gagnoa]. There are 2 values. What is the other one?

2002 Booklet of 10 – 400F + 20F commemorating the Football World Cup in Japan and Korea.

2002 180F + 20F, 300F + 20F, 400F + 20F, & 600F + 20F stamps commemorating the Football World Cup in Japan and Korea. Earliest known postmark 7-7-2003 [San Pedro].

2002 MS 500F commemorating the Football World Cup in Japan and Korea.

4-11-2002 Decentralisation of central government 180F + 20F, 400F + 20F.

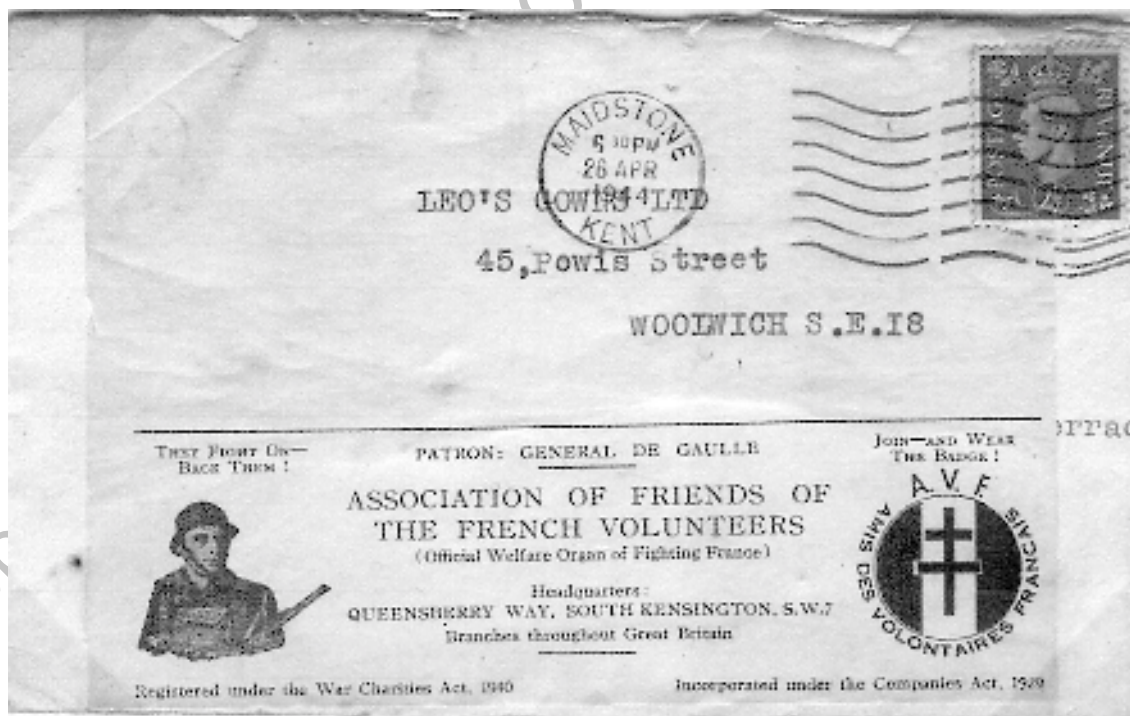
9-7-2003 20th Anniversary of Chinese- Ivorian relations 180F, 400F & 650F.

2003 Sculptures 20F, 100F, 180F + 20F, & 300F + 20F

*Only known from samples received on mail from the Ivory Coast.

Where the year of issue is shown only, this is the imprint date printed on the stamp[s].

De Gaulle in Britain



In Journal 231 David Hogarth was enquiring, on behalf of somebody else, about special stamp issues or cancellations covering General de Gaulle's time in the UK during World

War II. I do not have anything directly relevant, but the enclosed might be of interest. It is an economy label used in April 1944, and at least it does refer to Mon ver' tall General!

Robert Johnson

Red Cross Postcard from the Ivory Coast



I have recently acquired an interesting postcard, originating from the Ivory Coast, which features a block of four of the 1F75 blue, first issued on 5 December, 1938. As you can see from the illustration, the block has been stuck in a pre-drawn square on printed stationery, produced by the "Croix Rouge Française de la Côte d'Ivoire".

I conclude, however, that the Red Cross, which has been printed onto all four stamps, was printed after the stamps were stuck on the envelope. It is, in my humble opinion, certainly printed (as opposed to having been drawn) and seems to be number 1475 of a limited edition issue of 2,000.

Evidently this card was issued – I presume at a cost of 50 francs – on 13 July 1945, by a decree, numbered 2060, signed by the governor of the Ivory Coast, on 13 June 1945. The card has been franked at Abidjan on both 13

and 14 July 1945, and also bears a red cachet of the "Délégation Coloniale de la C.R.F." of the Côte d'Ivoire. The large arrow containing the word "Donnez!" is also in red.

The reverse side is blank with the exception of the address, "Deka", 27, rue des Martyrs, Paris.

So, I wonder if anyone can assist by identifying the circumstances in which this card came to be printed, produced and issued? Furthermore, as the cross was deliberately printed across the four stamps it is, understandably, not to be found in any of the catalogues as a surcharge. Am I to assume, therefore, that this is just an unusual confection, conjured up to raise funds for the local Red Cross? Would the decree described have given the Red Cross, or anyone else, authority to desecrate the legal postage stamps of the time, in this way?

John West

Military Initials in Indo-China

In an editorial note added to the query by David Taylor Smith about the identification of certain sets of military initials, published in Journal 231 of March 2004 (page 31), I indicated what two of the four examples probably represented. Since then I have thought again about another of the sets enquired about – C.C.B. – which David said had

something to do with motorised transport. It is a pure guess, but I would not be surprised if those initials represented "Compagnie de Chars Blindés" or Company of Armoured Cars/Vehicles. Those last two words (*chars blindés*) certainly form a well known phrase for armoured vehicles or even tanks.

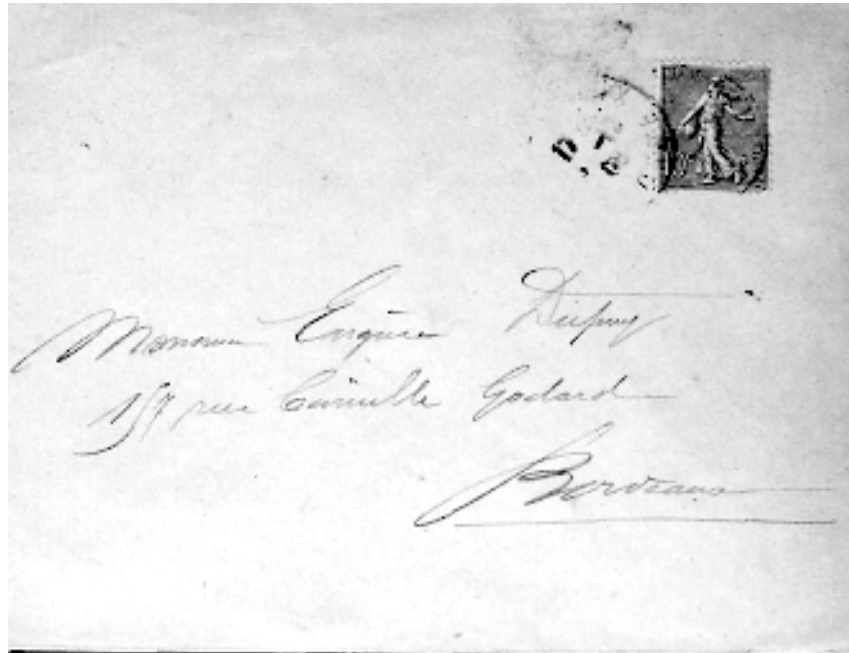
Maurice Tyler

A Successful Fraud on the *Postes*

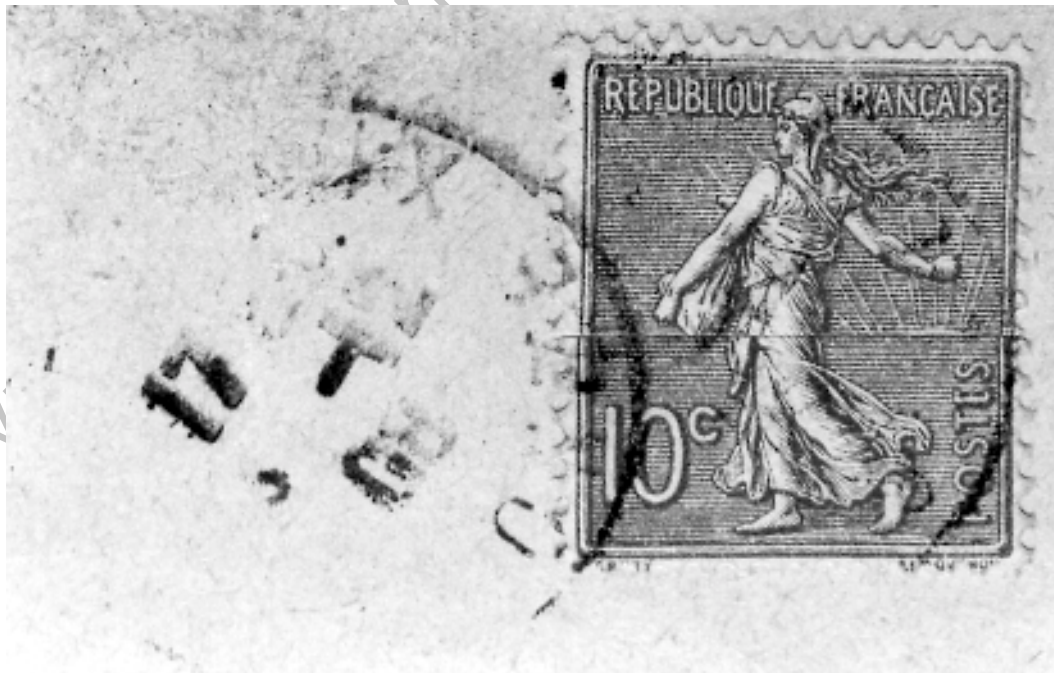
During March 1997 I was looking through a dealer's box of French covers when this one stopped me dead in my tracks. There was a Sower I had never seen before – indeed, one I never knew existed. Look in any catalogue issued since 1903, search Serrane, Barrier, Storch & Françon or whom you will, but you will not find any record of the official production or trial or essay of a near square format Sower.

Here is one, however, which a fraudster has made very simply by slicing two used Sowers horizontally and using the unpostmarked parts of each one to make what is on this cover, which has been used in Bordeaux. Had the *escroc* sliced along the same line of each stamp before joining the halves together, the fraud would not have been so noticeable to me.

David Jennings-Bramly



Cover with the "square" Sower



Enlargement of the
fraudulent stamp

Madagascar: *Taxe Perçue* Handstamps 1944-46

MADAGASCAR ET DÉPENDANCES
 POSTE AÉRIENNE — MORONDAVA
 Taxe perçue : Fr. C.

MADAGASCAR ET DÉPENDANCES
 POSTE AÉRIENNE — FIANARANTSOA
 Taxe perçue : Fr. d.

MADAGASCAR ET DÉPENDANCES
 POSTE AÉRIENNE — DIÉGO-SUAREZ
 Taxe perçue : Fr. d.

Many years ago an article of mine appeared in the Journal about the *Taxe Perçue* handstamps of Tananarive, Madagascar (Journal 202 of December 1996). These handstamps were used at the very end of the wartime period and for a short while afterwards. This was found to be necessary because of a shortage of ordinary postage stamps. Cohn Spong was kind enough to give me a great deal of help, providing me with copies of several published studies, among them one in English by Ted Coles and others which had appeared in the French literature.

These articles mentioned other places in Madagascar which had used these *cachets d'affranchissement en numéraire* in a similar way, recording the postage and air fees which had been paid in cash. However, most of the illustrations were unsuitable for reproduction, so I limited my piece to those used at Tananarive. And when I came to preparing my *Airmail Directional Handstamps* books for publication in 2003, I limited my illustrations to some Tananarive types, plus one from Majunga and another from Tamatave.

However, having recently managed to acquire covers with reasonable strikes of handstamps used at three other places, I have produced illustrations which are as accurate as I can make them. These are from Morondava in 1944 (red) and Diégo-Suarez (violet) and Fianarantsoa (reddish violet), both used in 1945. Other places mentioned in the literature include Antsirabé (blue), Fort Dauphin (violet), Moramanga (blue), Maranjary (violet), Tuléar (violet) and the Tananarive sub-offices of Analakely, Antanimena and Tsaralana. Overall, according to usages reported, these *cachets* appear to have been used from about October

1944 to June 1946, though normal frankings with ordinary postage stamps were in use at some places during this period.

There are also several variations in the handstamps, some being framed and others unframed, and there seems to have been no insistence on exact uniformity. This gives the impression that they were made individually, according to a given style of wording, and there was clearly no uniformity in the colours of ink.

I do feel that these markings deserve rather more detailed attention than they have so far received. What I believe would be really worthwhile is to produce some sort of catalogue, fully and accurately illustrated, with details of the colours of strikes and the range of known dates of use for the different types and sub-types. Production of such a comprehensive listing would seem to be a suitable project for a society such as this, and I would hope to obtain help through other societies, such as the Indian Ocean Study Circle, the British Aerophilatelic Federation, their counterparts in France and America, and the French Colonial study group on rates up to 1945.

In order to explore what might be achieved I should be most grateful if members would please send me clear, accurate, black & white photocopies in full size of covers which they have, with details of the colours of strikes and dates of posting. It would also be helpful to know whether any recently published articles which I may not have seen contain relevant information or complete and accurate illustrations. We might then start to build up a fuller picture of what exists, in the hope that it might develop into a complete reference. My address: 55 Albany, Bournemouth BH1 3EJ.

Ian McQueen

Œuvre du Pain

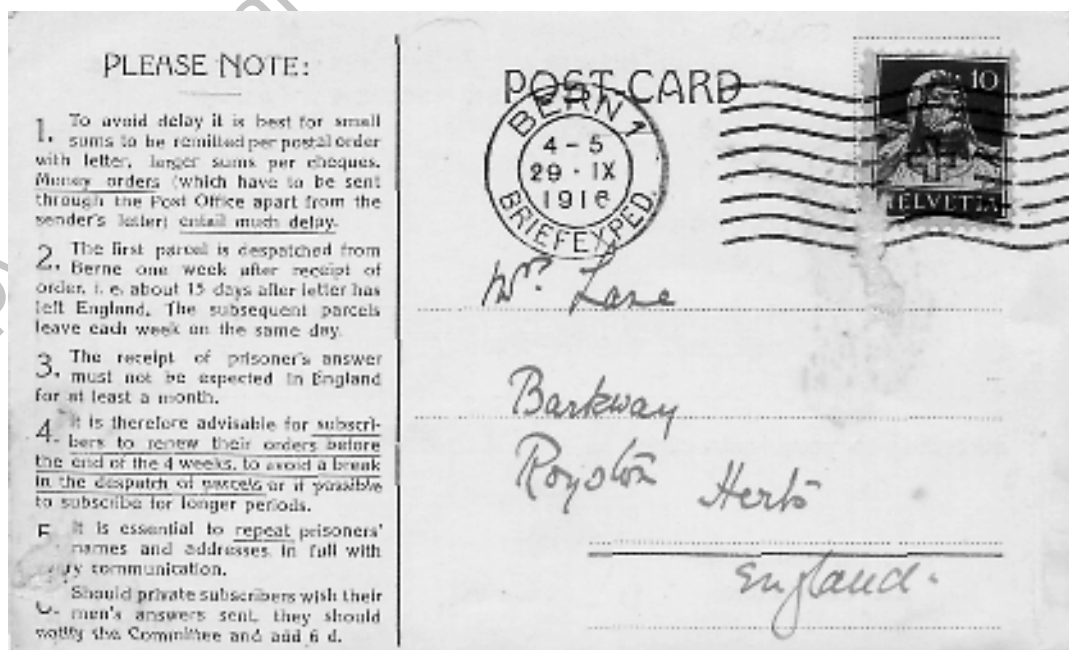
In Journal 229 Michael Wilson sought further information about two covers from outside France with a printed address to the *Œuvre du Pain des Prisonniers* in Paris. I followed this up in Journal 231 with the illustration of a card to the *Service du Pain* in Berne, Switzerland, establishing a subscription to this service, which sent bread regularly to prisoners of war.

I have now acquired two further items of interest in this connection. The first is a cover sent from the *Œuvre du*

Pain in Paris – but with a different address from that on Michael Wilson's cards – to a POW in Germany. This cover, date stamped 28.8.15, is illustrated above.

The second is a card, date stamped 29.9.16, sent from Berne to Royston (Herts) from the *Bureau de Secours aux Prisonniers de Guerre, Berne / British Section*, acknowledging receipt of 8 shillings for bread. Both sides of this card are illustrated below.

Maurice Tyler



Front of card

N^o 51533 Bureau de Secours aux Prisonniers de Guerre, Berne.
BRITISH SECTION
 BERNE, 29 SEPT. 1916. £ 8/-
 Received from Mr. Lane the sum of
 £ Eight shillings Bead will be sent
 according to your instructions to No 2. prisoners returned.
 With the thanks of
 the Committee Nesta Sawyer.
 Hon.-Sec.

Back of card

Vie et Santé

Illustration from 'Catalogue des Oblitérations Mécaniques à Flamme Illustrée ou Stylisée' by Arthur Lafon

In the last edition of the Journal Bill Mitchell referred to the early illustrated slogan postmarks of the 1920s and gave as an example the charming **PROPAGANDE DE 'SAUVONS LES MÈRES ET LES BÉBÉS'** which was applied by a Second Generation Krag machine at the Paris 61 office.

There was in fact a series of four slogan postmarks in this campaign, used at various intervals between 1926 and 1930, but each with a different text and image. The first depicted a nurse weighing a baby, the second a mother weeping over a child's coffin, the third a mother breast-feeding and finally one depicting a child brushing its teeth.

The last one of these created an unforeseen problem however, as it included in very bold capitals the words **VIE ET SANTÉ** which some people took exception to, i.e. those who were receiving correspondence inside black-edged mourning envelopes. Clearly it appeared unsympathetic of the post office if it were seen to be promoting life and good health on correspondence containing a death announcement.

In order to prevent such an incongruous cancellation, the following instruction to sorting offices was published on

the 20 June 1929 in the 'Bulletin Officiel des Postes, des Télégraphes et des Téléphones' N° 9, page 444.

The presence on mourning envelopes of certain slogan postmarks applied by machine cancellers can appear out of place to addressees.

*This is why the printing on a mourning envelope of the words **VIE ET SANTÉ** within a slogan postmark has justifiably provoked complaints.*

In order to avoid hurting the feelings of bereaved families, the Directeurs Régionaux are requested to inform their staff of the importance of extracting mourning covers from mail intended for machine cancellation and to put them aside for cancelling by hand.

However, in no way should this operation be allowed to delay the dispatch and delivery of such items.

At the time this instruction was issued the campaign had been running for over three years and had only a further eighteen months to go. It was a kind thought though!

Mick Bister

Continued on inside cover page (iii)

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 28 FEBRUARY 2004

Alan Wood: French Military Mail

Introduced by President Maurice Tyler, Alan explained that his display would be concentrating mainly on Napoleonic mail, and would not reach as far as World War I. As a general principle he advised us that the clearer the mark was, the rarer the material turned out to be. As an example he pointed to a Corsican cover of which only 3 or 4 similar instances were in existence.

He started in fact with a pre-Napoleonic cavalry regiment mark of 1695, but soon moved on to Napoleon himself, whose armies were stretched all over Europe, the Mediterranean islands and Africa. He included some items from the Illyrian Provinces and Egypt that he had not shown in his previous display to the Forces Postal History Society, in addition to the capture and fall of Amsterdam. A wide variety of covers illustrated Napoleon's many campaigns, and Alan pointed out that he had even raised an army for the conquest of England. In fact, the French were the last army to invade Great Britain, when they penetrated into Pembrokeshire, but they took fright at some Welsh women in red cloaks whom they took to be Grenadier Guards.

In 1801 came the French army's expedition to Egypt, and despite the fact that there was a very limited amount of mail from this campaign, it produced some marks from some unusual places, including not only the more familiar Alexandrie and Le Caire, but also Damiette, Siouth and Rosette. Some men withdrew from the battlefield, and we were shown one letter about a man wanted for desertion. Other items of interest included a letter of 1807 following a disaster on the voyage to Corfu, a mark from the *Estaffettes* service established by Napoleon, and a POW cover of 1810 from Porchester Castle to a camp at Chesterfield via London. The extensive display of military marks covered

the Armée d'Hanovre, Armée de Hollande, Grande Armée, Armée du Nord, Armée d'Allemagne, Armée d'Italie, Armée du Rhin, Armée de Suisse, Armée d'Angleterre, Armée des Pyrénées Orientales, Armée du Nord, Armée de Corse (1767), Armée de la Moselle, Armée de l'Ouest and many others!

The display continued with POW mail from Rotterdam, various postcards and some engravings, marks from the French occupation of the Illyrian Provinces (which were never given departmental numbers although the administration assigned them Roman numerals), and the Peninsular War. Thus we saw a POW smuggled letter, correspondence from a French general in Derbyshire, and further marks that included the Armée d'Espagne, Armée de Portugal, Armée de Catalogne and Armée Expéditionnaire d'Afrique.

The final session dealt with such topics as the French army in Spain (especially a *déboursé* marking), and a French POW writing from Tiverton, Devon, where he was billeted, asking for further funds. In 1816, after the Napoleonic Wars, we set up an army of occupation with the Austrians and others, but little British mail was known before the 1830s (and it is uncertain why this was so). In 1831 there was French involvement in Greece during that country's attempt to gain independence from the Turks, and in 1848 the French were policing Rome. The display came to a close with mail from such places as Madagascar and Indo-China (including a "red letter" that contained greetings, good news and some money).

In his vote of thanks Maurice pointed out that Alan had shown so much interesting and often rare material that it had needed 4 sessions to complete. We had been privileged to view such a variety of military marks.

MST

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 17 MARCH 2004

Ashley Lawrence: The Siege of Paris 1870-71

Ashley began by outlining the background to the War and the events that led to Paris being encircled and unable to communicate with the outside world. He then concentrated on the postal history aspects of the conflict, particularly balloon mail coming out of the capital – the world's first regular airmail service – and various devices for getting information into Paris.

It was soon realised that balloons could be used for carrying post, with restrictions on the weight of letters - although there was no guarantee that they would arrive, as everything depended on the wind, and the Prussians even started shooting at balloons and set up telegraph services to track them. Eventually it was decided that balloons had to ascend at night, making all the arrangements much more hazardous. Two balloons were swept out to sea, and some landed in Germany or Holland, and one in Norway. At

first there were both manned and unmanned balloons, but it was not long before the service continued with just *ballons montés* piloted by balloonists, to whom *plis confiés* could also be entrusted personally. Balloons can sometimes be identified by departure dates and arrival markings, but there are difficulties where more than one balloon departed on the same day, and there are many forgeries.

The *Armand Barbès* carried Léon Gambetta out of Paris to join the provisional government in Tours. The balloon service was facilitated by the photographer Nadar who, with two others, formed the *Compagnie des Aéroliers* (whose cachet was shown by Ashley), and by the Godard family; and factories for manufacturing the balloons took over railway stations. An anti-aircraft gun was developed to shoot down the balloons. The *Ville d'Orléans* landed in the mountains in Norway, having jettisoned one mailbag in

the sea, and examples of letters from this balloon were shown. Regular newsletters were sent by balloon, together with newspapers such as the *Gazette des Absents*. Within the capital cats and rats were eaten when people were near starvation, and one letter referred to a Christmas lunch of stewed horsemeat whose flavour was enhanced by a good bottle of wine!

Many aspects of this history were illustrated by Ashley's display, including such items as the 1870 postal privilege for army mail, German army correspondence, detouring Paris by rail in 1870, the resumption of the Paris postal service after the Siege, POW mail, the Letts/Simpson *ballon monté* souvenir facsimile, Paris Commune mail of 1871, and a photo of French POWs held at Minden.

The second half of the display started with stamps: the Paris Siege issue, including the elongated 4 and a *tête-bêche*, and the Bordeaux printing using lithography, including the three types of the 20c. Then followed a letter bearing a logo of the Château de Nainville that had led to 4 years of research by Ashley, and was from a Prussian officer giving an account of his adventures in the Siege of Paris.

For dispatches going into the capital carrier pigeons were used, serviced by l'Espérance, the Society of Pigeon Fanciers in Paris. M. Dagron, an expert in micro-

photography, agreed to be flown out of Paris with his equipment (some of which was damaged in a crash landing) so that this could be used for miniaturising the messages carried by the pigeons, and in time the service was opened to the public as well as the government. Microfilms carried this way into Paris were projected onto a white wall where they could be read and the messages transcribed onto telegraph forms. Issues of the London *Times* of December 1870 and January 1871 were filled with messages to be taken into Paris: although the paper itself was never flown, a souvenir of this was produced later. The success of the pigeon post, allied to microphotography, was noted by other governments, and was used in later wars. The display ended with details of commemorative medals issued after the War, Bartholdi's monument to the aeronauts and carrier pigeons, and the famous *Boules de Moulins*.

President Maurice Tyler gave the vote of thanks, and commended Ashley on the wide variety of items on show, including *ballons montés*, engravings, newspapers, maps, cards and the contents of letters. Great depth of research had been evident in the display itself and in his commentary on individual items, and we had not only learnt the detailed postal history of the period, but heard some fascinating stories of real people.

MST

MAIN SOCIETY MEETING OF 21 APRIL 2004

Colin Spong: French Railways in Madagascar

When introduced by President Maurice Tyler, Colin confessed that it was back in 1984, at another society, that he had been urged to write a book on the railways in Madagascar, and his display would illustrate the eventual result [see reviews in *Journal* 230, page 145].

He started by explaining that Madagascar had been an independent kingdom until 1896. In 1883-5 the French, over a breakdown in the agreement concerning territories on the north-west coast, made it a protectorate and ran its foreign affairs, and following further disputes a second French campaign in 1894 led to a Second Protectorate in 1895. A military road was built from Majunga down to the capital; but it was soon decided that there should be a railway, and several schemes were initiated, though after political unrest the French Parliament declared Madagascar a French Colony. General Gallieni was appointed military governor, arriving on 28 January 1896, and the island was divided into military regions. Gallieni organised another survey by army engineers, obtaining approval from France for a loan of 60,000F, and the railway towards Tananarive was commenced in 1900. Many foreigners were imported to supply the labour force, but the Italians went on strike and were sent home; local workers proved the most efficient, in combination with the army engineers.

Provisional date stamps were provided for the post offices that opened up along the route, which finally reached the capital in 1909 and opened in 1910. The mail was carried by *courriers convoyeurs* with three types of railway

handstamps, of which the straight line ones are the most difficult to find; but Colin showed us examples of these, either numbered or lettered in order, and also included those representing stations, *convoyeurs* and medical services. We were shown postcards with photos of scenes of construction, some illustrating marvellous feats of engineering or views of railway stations, and we noted in particular some interesting correspondence to a teacher and some wartime mail.

In the second half of the display Colin illustrated the remainder of the line from Tamatave that had begun in 1912 to the capital, and some stations at the end of the line. In 1914 a line was built from Tananarive to Lake Aloatra, and we saw the mark of the MLA Line from Moramanga to Lake Aloatra, and Tananarive to Antsirabe, although World War I held up these two spurs. The final line, from Fianarantsoa to Manakara, was opened in 1936; recently the Canadians became interested in upgrading the line. A reasonable amount of mail could be found going up to the rice district, but there was much less on the TA southern spur and the FCE. The display was completed with examples of mobile boxes, photographs of old trains, marks of the military railway at Diego Suarez, and a postcard illustrating the Nossi Bé sugar railway.

In his vote of thanks Maurice commented on the extensive variety of items we had seen, including many picture postcards, cancellations on colourful stamps, some beautiful maps and photographs, all adding up to a fascinating display on an exotic and unfamiliar part of the world.

MST

SOCIETY'S 28th ANNUAL PHILATELIC WEEKEND 26-28 MARCH 2004

43 members together with their guests attended the Society's annual weekend at the new venue of the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Friday

After dinner on the first evening Maurice Tyler, president, welcomed those attending, and Chris Hitchen and Peter Kelly, joint organisers, introduced the traditional short displays. **Mick Bister** set things rolling with the liberation of Montreuil-Bellay and a decree from the Maire for an overprinted 1F Pétain; **David Lamb** followed with three 1945 proofs of the Centenary of the Birth of Sarah Bernhardt, together with some souvenir sheets and stamps; then came **John Mayne**, with the Dahomey stamps used in Anglo-French Occupation of Togo, unoverprinted and overprinted, and the cancels recorded to date; **Bob Larg** had a query about a postcard from the 1907 Colonial Exhibition (where was it held?); **Lesley Marley** had some further queries about the blue lines on a 1943 cover and about an 1809 cover to the Hautes-Alpes.

Bob Paterson had brought some odds and ends including some much travelled censored covers, some POW covers, military cancellations and an Air France crash cover; **Skanda Vaitilingam** showed some colourful advertising cards (depicting maps, comic scenes, people of the French *départements* and the Colonies) and a panorama of the stamps of France; **Ron Wood** had three covers from Pondicherry to Mauritius from 1865-9 with the stamps cut off, and including the unrecorded strike (7) PAQ (7) LIGNE AN CALCUTTA; **Alan Wood** showed issues from the Free French forces in Levant, the portrait of Arthur Maury on a cinderella label, Vichy issues from Reunion and Senegal and a 1918 card from Constantine addressed to Norway; **Peter Kelly** displayed a variety of Type Sage, including a much travelled cover, some forgeries, a tobacco tax stamp, and a 1900 Paris Exhibition Type Sage reproduction; and proceedings were drawn to a close by **Paul Watkins** with various items, including an 1867 Exhibition Committee letter, 1878 and 1889 Exhibition cards, registration blocks, and *petits chiffres*.

Saturday

For the first display on Saturday morning, **Mick Bister** showed what he described as his uncomplicated but satisfying collection of Marianne de Gandon printings and postal usage, consisting of a dated corner block for each year of printing for every value issued and an example on cover of its postal usage when used alone. Some very short printings were highlighted, such as the 4 days of the 1F50 in 1944 and the 5 days of the 2F40 in 1945; although in contrast some printings extended for several years when a single value would be printed in successive colours as rates changed but using the same cylinders, e.g. the 3F. Other points covered included the post-war difficulties in maintaining paper and ink consistency, particularly with the 4F violet, and the change in colours dictated by UPU regulations. The Marianne de Gandon issue served a multitude of rates, the higher values incorporating registration and/or airmail fees. Mick apologised for not

possessing the one day 5F letter rate of 1.1.47, but was able to show usage of the 1F50 invoice rate and the much sought after 2F40 overseas postcard rate, together with some less frequently encountered ones such as the 6F France-Canada letter rate, the 6F urgent printed matter rate, the 10F *hors sac*, the 12F France-Corsica airmail *autres objets* rate and the 12F France-Luxembourg postcard rate.

Michael Annells then gave a brief survey of the early use of French railways for transporting mail, covering routes and *lignes*, travelling post offices and *bureaux de passe* markings. We saw maps for stagecoach routes and a network of railways in the 1850s which suggested that some journeys must have combined both means of travel. Doubts were expressed as to whether some of the earlier mail - and, indeed, some of the mail passing through a *bureau de passe* office - ever went on a train, despite receiving railway markings. The reluctance to use adhesive stamps for several years after their introduction on 1.1.1845 was noted.

With **George Barker** we had a brief look at the stamps and mail of the territory of Gaboon from the 1880s to about 1935. Part of French Congo, Gaboon was swallowed up in the general table of "*Congo Français*" in 1888, but reappeared in 1904. It retained then a style of postal independence until 1936, as in 1910 the overall territory of French Equatorial Africa was split into Gaboon, Middle Congo and Ubangi-Shari-Chad. However, in 1936 not only was the F.E.A. reconstituted, but the constituent parts were abolished. Thus we saw the General Colonies issue of 1871-76 with the name overprinted, and 1892 Groupe stamps, some with the label Gabon in 1902; French Congo issues were shown where these were valid issues for Gaboon, e.g. in 1900-1910, the 'Leopard' and associated stamps, with various surcharges, watermarks and varieties.

Fred Goatcher outlined the story of mail carried over the Mont Cenis Pass by the "Fell" Railway and the Fréjus Tunnel in the latter part of the 19th century. The "Fell" system was in fact a temporary measure to speed the mails while the tunnel was being built, and regular trains ran from 1868 for Italian correspondence and from 1869 for the Indian mails. The tunnel was inaugurated in 1871, was used for Indian mails only from January 1872, but for political reasons did not carry general European mail until 1874. We were shown photocopies of the approval by King Victor Emmanuel of Sardinia dated 1857 for the construction of the tunnel, and other documents concerning the Fell line or the tunnel, together with contemporary engravings from magazines, Fred's photographs of surviving structures, various letters 1818-1868 via the Pass and 1868-1871 by Fell railway, including the only recorded registered letter London to Naples and a very rare letter to Greece "via Brindisi", and Fréjus Tunnel letters including one from Australia with an unrecorded "Not via Brindisi" handstamp. The final but separate part of the display dealt with cross-border mail involving Spain or Portugal before the UPU, and included items illustrating delays and diversions, sea routes to England, French mail boats, unpaid or insufficiently paid letters, and more exotic transit letters.

After the coffee break **Godfrey Bowden** tried to denigrate his study of the various types of the 25c blue Cameo Sower (Yv 140) on used stamps by describing it as “chests full of old rubbish” turned into “blue wallpaper”. However, over 3000 of these stamps had been closely studied by dividing them first into dated (25%) and undated copies and then, based on the periods of use of the various types, their identification was simplified and the rarer types such as Ib, IIIa and IV were more easily recognised. Godfrey produced an outline procedure for sorting an accumulation of dated copies of this stamp into the seven known types.

Chris Hitchen displayed the late fee service in Paris 1863-1936, with items laid out in order of tariffs. In June 1863 the first 3 offices to offer a Late Fee service commenced operations. The primary intention was to allow commercial letters to catch the night trains for next day delivery in the provinces and neighbouring countries. The postmarks were initially octagonal, then hexagonal, but finally circular, with just one late fee applying from 1887. All Paris offices probably offered this service by the end of the 19th century. Some postcards are occasionally seen, though not until 1904 were postcards and printed matter explicitly authorised to make use of it. One rare item noted was the “*Gare du Nord délai*” mark. The service was little used in World War I, and never recovered its former success. It stopped appearing among the tariffs around 1936.

Bob Larg then showed his new mini-display of Exhibitions, starting with two postal stationery items for the 1889 Universal Exhibition Paris and a nice letter card of the International & Colonial Exhibition Lyon 1894. 15 postcards for the Lille Exhibition 1902 were followed by Exhibitions held in 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1913, 1914, 1922, 1925, 1931, finishing with the Paris Exhibition of 1937. other Exhibitions shown were: Tourcoing 1906, Amiens 1906, Marseille 1906, Bordeaux 1907, Marseille 1908 (International Electricity), Toulouse 1908, Nancy 1909, Lyon 1914 (Hygiene - Arts & Industry), Philatelic Paris 1913, Marseille Colonial 1922, Modern Decorative Arts Paris 1925, Philatelic Paris 1925, Colonial Paris 1931.

“Fun à la Française” was the title which **Ashley Lawrence** gave to his display of cartoons from the Siege of Paris of 1870-71. In spite of, or perhaps inspired by, the shortages of food and fuel, military reverses, the Prussian bombardment and other hardships, Parisian artists saw humour in these dangerous and terrible events. Their cartoons brightened the lives of their compatriots, brought welcome relief to their suffering, and helped to stiffen morale. The works of three artists were displayed: Amadée de Noé known as Cham (1819-1879), Faustin Betheder (1847-c.1914) and Jules Renard known as Draner (1833-1926). Ashley's personal favourite depicts the master explaining to his dog Médor how the latter must make the ultimate sacrifice in order to keep his beloved master alive: the expressions on the faces of the distressed master, his weeping wife, and the faithful dog, are tenderly and brilliantly drawn.

During the lunch period the judges assessed the 10 entries for the Society competitions, which included topics such as Anglo-French mail prior to the 1836 Convention from the resumption of the Dover-Calais packet service, the Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1836 itself, the postal history

of the period 1923-1932 via the Pasteur issue, *bureaux ambulants* in France, Red Cross stamps in the French colonies 1914-18, and a tale from the Siege of Paris 1870-71. The winners were:

Levett Trophy (philately): “Guadeloupe” by **Skanda Vaitilingam**.

Alvey Cup (postal history): “The last invasion of Britain - the French invasion of Ireland” by **Barrie Jay**.

Filmer Shield (adhesives and their usages: “France 1870-76 - the Cérés head issue” by **George Barker**.

Jubilee Salver (miscellaneous): “Unusual items sent through the French postal system” by **Godfrey Bowden**.

Judging of the Literature Competition for 2003 had been delayed, and the trophy would be awarded at a later date.

The afternoon session began with **John Hammonds** displaying French airmails up to 1914, part of his history of aviation from 1783 when the first manned flight by balloon was made by Pilâtre de Rozier and the Marquis d'Arlandes. Some years later, in the Siege of Paris of 1870-71, manned balloons were used regularly for transporting mail out of the capital, and carrier pigeons with their *pigeongrammes* for messages going in the opposite direction. We were shown items illustrating the early days of flight including gliders and airships, and then some of the more illustrious pioneers such as Clément Ader (1890 test flight), Santos-Dumont (who last flew in 1909), Wilbur Wright (who promoted his aeroplanes in France in 1908) and Louis Blériot (who flew the Channel in 1909). We then saw a series of vignettes, postcards and postmarks illustrating many early aviation meetings that instituted races (many of which led to disasters) such as the Circuit de l'Est 1910, Paris-Madrid 1911, Paris-Rome-Turin 1911, the Circuit de l'Europe 1911, the Circuit d'Anjou 1912 and the Monaco Air Rally 1914 (won by Garros).

Claire Angier displayed the French Red Cross in World War I, giving an overview of the system in place to remove the injured from the Front to a place of safety where the necessary treatment could be provided. Three organisations combined to form the Red Cross, and staff had the right to free postage. The display covered the 3rd and 4th Military Regions with their stretcher bearers (with their individual cachets), ambulances (maintained by different organisations and nationalities), hospital barges, hospital trains (permanent, semi-permanent and temporary being described) and hospital ships (both stationary and troop carriers).

John West continued the same theme with Red Cross vignettes issued in France, mainly from the World War I period, including Delandre ones, but also some from World War II and after. Some particularly interesting included a collection of the stamps issued to members of the Red Cross every year, and charity labels in booklets.

Alan Wood showed some forgeries of the classic issues of France. He pointed out that the word “forgeries” should strictly be reserved for those issues intended to defraud the revenue or deceive the collector, whereas fakes are items that have been changed in some way to deceive the unwary; and facsimiles, which are by far the most numerous, are those that are produced as reproductions for the benefit of collectors. To illustrate these latter categories, works by the Spiro brothers of Hamburg, François Fournier, Jean

de Sperati and Peter Winter were shown in comparison with the originals.

Geoff Gethin completed this slot by displaying four pages from his forthcoming book on forgeries of 20th century French stamps, with details of postal forgeries of the Marianne de Briat issue.

After a break for tea, **Peter Kelly** entertained us with an unusual aspect of his Type Sage collection: the development of post office services post-UPU to 1900. Thus we were privileged to comprehend the gradual introduction of postal stationery products such as postcards (1878), reply paid postcards (1879), newspaper wrappers (1882), envelopes of different sizes and colours (1882), and lettercards (1886). These were followed in the display by the first express mail (1892), international payment orders or *mandats* (1879), inland payment orders and postal orders (1882), the *service de recouvrements* (1879), *envois contre remboursement* and the *livret d'identité postal* (1892). The show ended with the opening to the public of pneumatic mail in Paris in 1879, when Sage stationery was used initially for a short time, and the 1885 telephone service with special tickets for use in telephone cabins.

John Mayne followed with Togo - the French Occupation 6.8.1914 to 20.7.1922. A display of covers and postcards, but no postal stationery, included mail with overprinted German issues and Dahomey stamps unoverprinted and overprinted from 1916 to 1921. Noted was one example of the amended Grand-Popo cancel, along with unfranked mail, a postcard from Captain Maroix the French CO, and the scarce 40Pf Yacht alongside 10c on 5c - this with added oblique overprinting. A range of 1916 issues, one with the 1921 issues in tandem, was shown with, currently, the only cover with a single 1921 issue. Finally came censored mail - these the only items recorded to date proving censorship within Togo.

In the final session before dinner **Ian McQueen** began with a selection of folded business cards, which include one imprinted by a Saint-Dié firm, a 40c French internal usage in 1932 from Saarbrücken, an all-up airmail to England in 1939, and one from the French Zone in Germany in 1949. Among the 'new' airmail markings were a 1937 Gold Coast handstamp (used as an etiquette) for the Aéromaritime service from Takoradi, two Jerusalem covers handstamped for *Par Avion Jusqu'à Marseille* in 1939, and a *Feldpost* cover to Vienna in late 1940 with the Nazi air post office handstamp of Paris.

Further impromptu displays late in the evening were offered by **Lesley Marley** with postcards of Montargis, **Skanda Vaitilingam** with health slogan cancels, advertising vignettes and the 1964 Philatelic sheet together with the entrance tickets, **Graham Lenton** with anti-TB charity stamps, **Prue Henderson** with *villes d'eau* slogan postmarks and postcards, Peter Stackton with items of WWI correspondence concerning the GVC or French Home Guard, **Godfrey Bowden** with two examples of the 5c yellow/green Sage bearing a postmark predating the supposed issue date of Type II, and **Paul Watkins** with the French occupation of Western Austria 1945-55.

The session continued later into the night with further offerings from **Peter Kelly** with mixed frankings and changes

of rates in the Type Sage period, including various cancellations, stamps and items; **Maurice Tyler** with the earliest French banknotes (a John Law note of 1720, an *emprunt forcé*, *assignats*, *promesses de mandats territoriaux*, *billets de confiance* and a Siege of Lyon note - all from the Revolutionary period - and early notes from the banks at Rouen, Caen and the Société Générale in Paris); **Ashley Lawrence** with a remarkable cover from Pépin Fils & Bruin; **Ian McQueen** with the reverse of a cover between France and Morocco marked Casablanca-Nice 1933 and a query about the handstamp; **Ian Stevenson** with some covers offering nothing but aesthetic pleasure; **Steve Ellis** with transatlantic mail rates in the 19th century; **Bob Paterson** with cartoons illustrating life on board ship; and **Derek Richardson** with examples on cover of the "broken chains" issue of 1945.

Sunday

The first display on the Sunday morning was given by **John Scott**, illustrating the French paper and parchment tax 1673-1798. This covered various designs and charges for different papers used by bailiffs, procurators and others for legal documents, for which there were over 1000 paper and tax marks, 305 of them in the years 1653-4. Thus we saw *paraphes* and *extraordinaires* marks indicating that no tax was to be paid, together with some primitive illustrated woodcuts used as stamps; and we learnt that more than 7600 different marks were listed in the catalogue.

John Sussex told us he had started his collection of the postal history of Corsica when his daughter and her husband moved there 4 years ago. He started with the handstamps that had been produced with the French invasion of the island in 1770, from the rare marks **ARMÉE DE CORSE** and **DEB DE CORSE** to a whole range of 18th century cachets from lesser known towns. The main part of the display was a section of the smaller towns and villages of the island, including Cauro, Erbalunça, Piedicroce and Serra di Scopamene. The last three pages consisted of items connected with the railway on Corsica.

On behalf of his wife **Vivian Sussex** he then commented on her collection of Bordeaux which she had started 10 years ago, covering aspects of the postal history of mail both from and to the city. The earliest item she had on display was dated 1579 to London, and this was followed by the earliest recorded manuscript markings of the 17th century. The 18th century marks included the *Déboursé* handstamp and a 1798 letter from a POW in Porchester Castle addressed to Bordeaux. The stamp period showed a range of frankings including early postage dues and an item carried by government courier/smuggler Barthe in 1871. Two Government in Exile at Bordeaux items caused most interest, but there were also four covers showing the Bordeaux issue used in Bordeaux.

Skanda Vaitilingam then showed French Guinea, starting with the history of the territory from the 19th century French settlement on the Nunez River (West Africa) that became a French Protectorate called Rivières du Sud, to the separate colony of Guinée Française from 1890, becoming part of the Federation of French West Africa in 1895. Stamps of the French colonial series were used first, and then the Tablet Colonial key-type was released with



Figure 1 -

Cover from Courbeyre to Washington DC dated 10.3.1906;
franked at 15c, prepaid at the current domestic rate of 15c for a 15g letter to France and within the French Empire,
but letter to a foreign destination at this time was 25c per 15g, so letter was underpaid 10c;
T mark applied whilst in transit at Pointe-à-Pitre.
Letter charged 4 cents postage due on arrival at Washington DC;
rate of exchange at this date was 1 cent USA = 5c French currency; double charge or fine = 4 cents US currency.

the inscription 'Guinée Française'. A distinctive design featuring a Fulas shepherd was introduced in 1904, and in 1906 the FWA Omnibus designs (known to collectors as Faidherbe, Palm and Balay designs) were issued with appropriate inscriptions, though a shortage of 5c and 10c stamps led to the provisional surcharging of the 1892 and 1904 stamps. Between 1913 and 1917 a pictorial definitive series was introduced featuring the river ford at Kitim; new values, colour changes, and provisional surcharged stamps appeared between 1932 and 1933. A new pictorial definitive series was issued between 1938 and 1940, and a number of postage due sets were issued between 1908 and 1938. French Guinea took part in the various French Colonial Omnibus issues, and the Vichy Government issues, after which issues of French West Africa were used. In 1958 Guinea voted for immediate independence, and formed the Republic of Guinea.

Iain Stevenson displayed some new items from Montpellier, commemorating the 30th anniversary of his first visit to the town as a student. His themes (not being a straight story of postal history) included early letters from 1674, a 1671 2 sous mark which was the earliest postal rating, early straight line marks, a letter from the Revolutionary calendar period, P.P. marks especially in red, déboursé marks, chargé letters, cursive marks, a ballon monté, cachets d'essai, telegrams, postal stationery, an advertising lettercard, a Philopode ps card, and 3 fun items to finish - with the promise of a query to be published in the Journal.

Derek Richardson gave a potted history of the French express service from its origin in 1892 to its gradual demise in the 1980s, and illustrated it with letters to France and abroad bearing a variety of express marks and labels. As a postscript, **Peter Kelly** showed a colour photocopy of a very rare express letter belonging to an American collector, which illustrated the 2F express fee charged from 1892 to 1902 for a letter addressed to a remote commune not served by a post office.

After the final coffee break, **Colin Spong** displayed Madagascar, concentrating on the civil censorship handstamps of 1942-5 (promising an article for the Journal in due course). Among the items shown we saw the early registration griffe used instead of modern etiquettes (which led to further queries); and we learnt that there was British censorship in Diego Suarez, but a mixed commission from 1943 for the rest of the island, leading to the Service de Contrôle Technique in 1944.

Tony Shepherd showed the use of the first pictorial issues of Guadeloupe, illustrating the use of these adhesives in combination with the previous "Tablet" type. Covers were shown franked to various destinations, the period in question 1905 to 1930 being a turbulent time for France and her West Indian Colonies. The use of World War I Red Cross issues was shown on cover to several destinations, and military mail from the island included a picture postcard from Martinique to a Sergeant in Guadeloupe training local troops for the conflict in Europe. New colours of

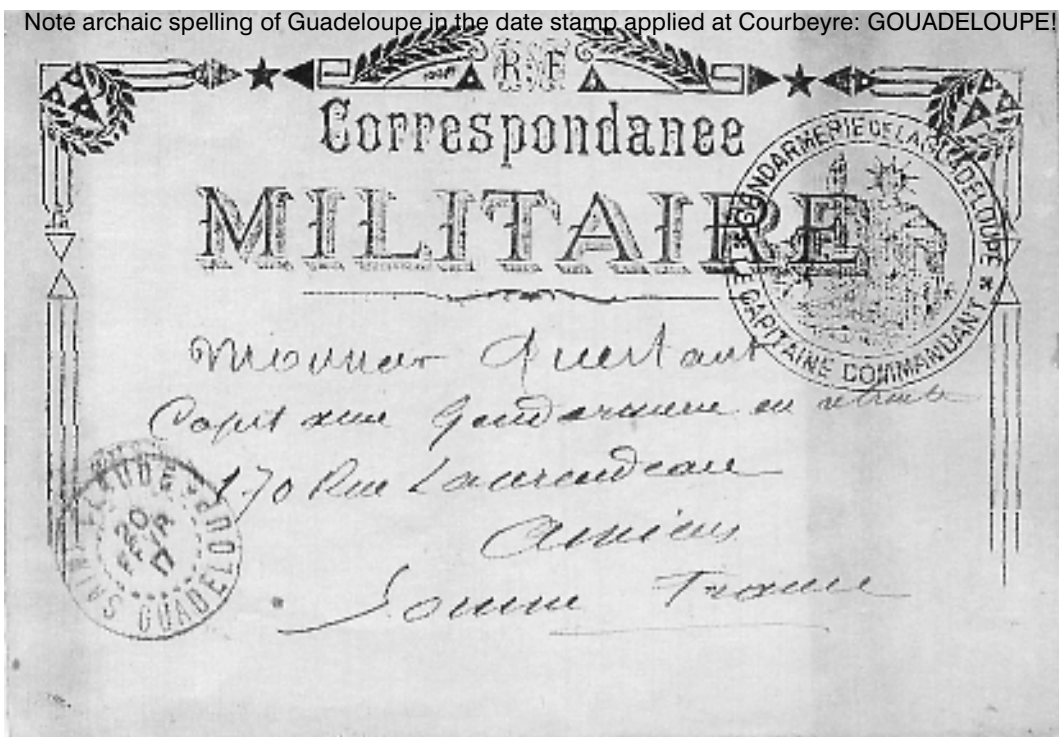


Figure 2 -
Military Correspondence letter dated 20.2.1917 to Amiens, France;
postmarked St Claude, Guadeloupe, 20.2.1917;
endorsed with the "Gendarmerie de Guadeloupe, Le Capitaine Commandant" handstamp.

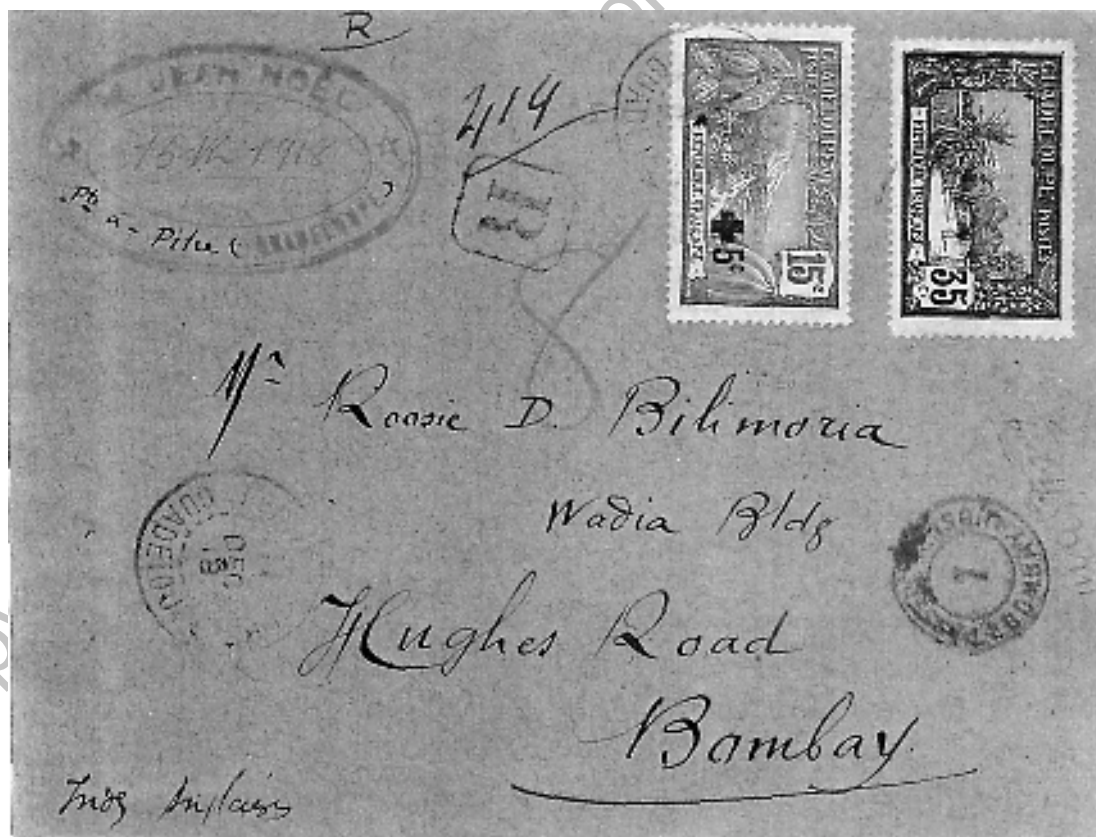


Figure 3 -
Registered cover Pointe-à-Pitre to Bombay, India, postmarked Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, 15.12.1918;
rated at 50c: 25c postage and 25c registration fee;
franked with 35c stamp and 15c + 5c Red Cross charity stamp;
cover censored on arrival in Bombay, and backstamped New York, USA, in transit.



Figure 4 -

Registered cover Basse-Terre to Buenos Aires, Argentina, postmark de Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe, 16.9.1924; rated at 1F50: foreign destination rate of 75c per 15g letter plus 75c registration fee, the rate introduced on 1.4.1924.

adhesives were issued in 1921 and surcharged issues in 1924, and these were seen on cover to interesting destinations including one from Terre-de-Haute (a small Saintes island dependency of Guadeloupe) to China. The final section of the display contained a selection of picture postcards depicting aspects of life in the Colony during 1904-30, with views of the G.P.O. at Pointe-à-Pitre, a sugar train with locomotive, and finally hurricane damage in Pointe-à-Pitre along with a cover to Belgium with the temporary cancellation that had to be used on mail after this calamity because of the damage sustained to the G.P.O. and loss of the normal cancellation devices. Illustrated here (Figs 1-4) are a few of the more interesting items from this period in which inflation devalued the franc against the pound and in which there were 11 changes in postal rates.

Ron Wood told us that over the past few years he had shown stamps and postal history from the French Establishments in India - Pondicherry, Karikal, Mahé, Yanaon and Chandernagore. His more recent collection, however, has involved a search for incoming mail, starting with the easier ones to find from Kottaiyur in neighbouring India. He also displayed a cover from Hungary redirected to Meerut, part of a trial flight from England to Australia covering the section from Delhi to Calcutta and on to Chandernagore, a Red Cross item from London to Pondicherry, various FM and TOE mails, and mails from Madagascar, France, Burma, Cuba, Argentina, Indochina, West Africa, Somalia, New Caledonia and the UPU in Switzerland, spanning the years 1920 to 1955. His final showing was a 1944 commercial item, a registered letter from Karikal to Morocco, which was passed by the French censor at Pondicherry but failed to pass the customs at Madras, who returned it as no export licence had been obtained; it had

been franked with the correct 66 cash for registered mail colony to colony using the London printing stylised lotus stamps.

Barbara Priddy brought the displays to a close with the airmail services of French West Africa during the period June 1940 to November 1942: i.e. the fall of France to the Allied landings in North Africa. During this period, both FWA and FNA were Vichy, so the civil air services could continue to fly to France without going near unfriendly territory. Local services appear to have been considerably reduced, and Aéromaritime no longer called in the British territories; and the South Atlantic service was completely suspended. Mail could go via France to Lebanon, and there is one blockade-running cover from Djibouti, while thanks to the co-operative attitude of the British colonial authorities mail could be exchanged between Accra and Lomé; alternatively, it could be sent to Lisbon. Sometimes, however, it was rejected with a *service suspendu* cachet. Different censorship centres are distinguished by letters such as A for Dakar and C for Conakry, although some are quite scarce. During this period the routes varied quite considerably, and rates are often difficult to make sense of. Planes continued to crash, and one cover illustrates a disaster shortly after take-off, fortunately without loss of life. Two covers shown must have been on the last plane out of Algiers before the Allied landings on 8 November 1942: after this of course the Nazis invaded unoccupied France and suspended postal relations with Africa.

The weekend closed with a review of the arrangements, and concluded with general agreement that the hotel had proved a very suitable venue and that we should return

there next year. The two organisers were thanked for their hard work in preparation and supervision of the proceedings, and it was also agreed to send a card signed by those present to convey their good wishes to Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith, who had been unable to attend through ill health.

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

Michael Annells
George Barker
Len Barnes
Mick Bister
Godfrey Bowden
Peter Brookman

Rodney Dean
Peter Denning
Steve Ellis
Geoff Gethin
Fred Goatcher
John Hammonds
John Harris

Prue Henderson
Roger High
Chris Hitchen
Barrie Jay
Peter Kelly
David Lamb
Bob Larg
Yvonne Larg
Ashley Lawrence
Graham Lenton
Ian McQueen
Lesley Marley
John Mayne
Bob Paterson
Barbara Priddy

Derek Richardson
John Scott
Tony Shepherd
Colin Spong
Iain Stevenson
Peter Stockton
John Sussex
Maurice Tyler
Skanda Vaitilingam
Paul Watkins
Gareth Williams
John West
Alan Wood
Ron Wood

MST

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 3 APRIL 2004

Mrs Lesley Marley: The Town of Montargis

Michael Annells: French Railways

The Organiser introduced the two speakers, members **Lesley Marley** and **Michael Annells**, and especially welcomed Lesley to the Southern Group.

Lesley decided to "bat" first and outlined why she collected the town of Montargis, situated in the ancient Gâtinais region of France on the river Loing 110 km from Paris. In the 17th century postal deliveries of letters put Montargis in the 9th Region, at the centre of the province of Orleans and in the *département* of Loiret. In 1604 in the reign of King Henry IV the Briare canal was started, the first canal in Europe to link two rivers together, the Loire with the Seine; this canal flows through Montargis and with it brought prosperity to the town.

The important industries included tanning from the 16th century, housed straight onto the waterways to take full advantage of the river and the canal. Paper was also manufactured, and in the 19th century Montargis was in the forefront of agricultural research. There were also charcoal burners, fishermen and construction works on the docks.

The earliest item showed was a manuscript letter to Paris dated 15 Oct. 1789 with the first type of cancellation, followed by an 8 Nov. 1789 letter from Sr Gertrude at the Benedictine Convent to her brother the Hon. Robert Clifford in Paris. Other letters included a letter to Melun (Seine-et-Marne) with the salutation *Au Citoyen* and using the Republican calendar 14 Pluviôse year 7 (= 1798-1799). Pluviôse is the rainy winter month, 20 January - 18 February. We saw a Montargis to Orleans cover, 2.9.1808 with single-line black Postage Due Montargis mark, with Dép. N° 43 handmark 3 Dec distributed up to 50 km; a letter dated 10.12.1857 to Paris; a type 15 Montargis rubber cancellation introduced for 25c paid tax to coincide with a rise in the postal rate 1.7.1850; military free mail; and a recruit's call-up papers for André Pacault of Montcresson for 20.1.1916, to 4 Infantry Regt Auxerre, 70 km ESE of Montargis.

These were followed by postal stationery cards, free post, railway covers, *flammas*, and philatelic exhibitions.

Michael Annells said that he was continuing with the display that he showed at the F&CPS Weekend in March. He gave a brief history of the railways, outlined with maps depicting both the stagecoach routes of 1858 and the railways of 1850 and 1856. Michael had also prepared some notes for those who wished to follow the various covers and routes that he was showing of the different TPOs. The display covered items from 1843 until 1908, and included a section on the *bureaux de passe* illustrated by a map of 1871.

Amongst items noted were a 31.5.1848 *Ligne* of Boulogne-Paris-London; 13.3.1849 Abbeyville Route 10 Paris-Toulouse, to Cognac; 19.10.49 TPO **ANG 2 CALAIS 2**, London to Cognac arriving 22 October; 3.5.1856 TPO Aumale Quievlain à Paris to Rouen arriving 4 May; 18.3.1856 TPO Angoulême-Paris-Bordeaux 2; 4.10.68 Nancy TPO Strasbourg à Paris 2; 18.12.1865, a *bureau de passe* on the Dijon-Vichy route.

Organiser Colin gave a vote of thanks on behalf of members present, thanking Lesley and Michael for an excellent afternoon of interesting material.

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

The next meeting will be on 7 August 2004 and as usual will commence at 10.30am until lunch, and recommence at 14.00 until 16.30 hours. The programme arranged until lunchtime: Censored Mail by Members. After Lunch from 14.00 until 16.30: Chris Miller of the Civil Censorship Study Circle will give a talk and display. The other meetings during the season will be from 14.00 until 17.00, all in the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, Worthing.

CWS

Continued from page 42

Philatelic Honours

Ernst Cohn is to be congratulated on receiving the 2004 Alfred Lichtenstein Memorial Award at the CC Annual Awards Dinner at Cornell Club on 12 May 2004. He is, of course, well known for his books and articles on the Franco-German War of 1970-71 and the Siege of Paris, and is an expert on *ballons montés*, pigeon mail, smuggled and diplomatic mail, and associated topics, and writes regularly for this Journal. He already holds the FIP Research Medal, the Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research (1995), and is a corresponding member of both French Académies and the Belgian Academy.

* * *

Exhibition Successes

Ed Grabowski displayed "Guadeloupe Postal History" in the Championship Class at Bangkok 2003 (October 2003).

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Displays by Members

During last winter **John Mayne** displayed "Togo Yachts 1900- 1920" to WASC, "Stamps of French Colonies" to Shropshire PS, and "The Anglo-French Occupation of Togo 1914-1922" to Streetley PS and Nottingham.

On 22 May 2004 **John Levett** and his son displayed "Aspects of the Franco-Prussian War 1870-1871 and the Aftermath" to the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

Colin Spong showed "Madagascar Rail & Mail" to the Indian Ocean SC on 28 February, to Worthing PS on 2 March, to the National PS on 29 April, and to East Worthing PS on 10 May 2004; he showed "Madagascar" to Maidstone & Mid-Kent PS on 27 May 2004.

* * *

New Books by Members

Rodney Dean has written *L'Église Constitutionnelle, Napoléon et le Concordat de 1801* (in French), with a preface by Jean Tulard. This book of 752 pages, 160 x 240mm, delves into historical documents and discusses the religious, theological and political ideas involved in the Concordat negotiations. It is published by Picard Diffuseur, 82 rue Bonaparte, 75006 Paris; credit card payments are possible, and the price is 42€.

Derek Richardson's *Subject Index to Four French Philatelic Magazines 1946-2000* and **Roy Reader's** *Aleksander Stocki: Enigmatic Philatelist* are detailed elsewhere in this Journal (pages 42 and 65).

* * *

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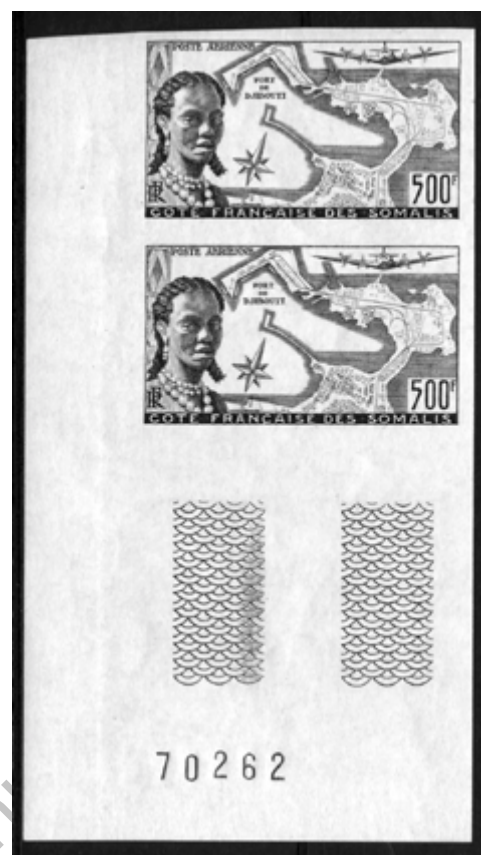
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August 2004 Auction - Selected Lots



PARIS-BAGDAD airmail etiquettes



Côte des Somalis, imperf. pair of colour trials



ex collection of mint French Southern & Antarctic Territories

Shorter Items

Continued from page 75

Île de France Catapult Mail

Whilst in hospital recovering from an operation recently, I was brought a couple of copies of the Journal to read, and noticed the query in Journal 231 on the *Île de France* catapult mail. At this stage I can add a comment or two on the cover to Canada illustrated on page 30. Although posted at Camden Town it has a registration label of Gosport 3 which is near Portsmouth. Somewhat strange? But the additional manuscript label probably on brown paper tape solves that query. It is the handiwork of a gentleman, Capt. T A Smyth(e), who 'manufactured' special flight covers in the late 1920-30 era. The handwriting is his as far as I can see, and the address appears to be in the same hand. He often sent airmail items for philatelic

purposes: in 1929 many items had the UPU stamps, including the watermark varieties.

John Lea

[Not only is the registration label "Gosport 3" but even the postmark is "Camden Town / Gosport". Further research on the Web has revealed that Camden Town is the name of a district (named after that in London in the 1860s) which is part of or near to Gosport (Hants.), a district which is apparently famous locally for being the site of the official allotments for the area! So Capt. Smyth may still be suspected of having manufactured the cover, but the postmark itself appears to be genuine. - Ed.]

August 2004 Auction - Selected Lots

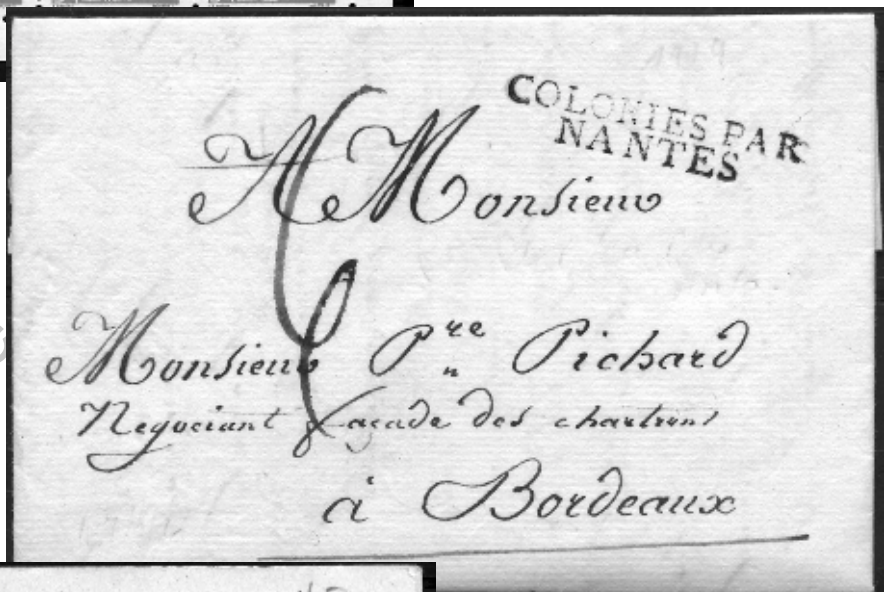


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