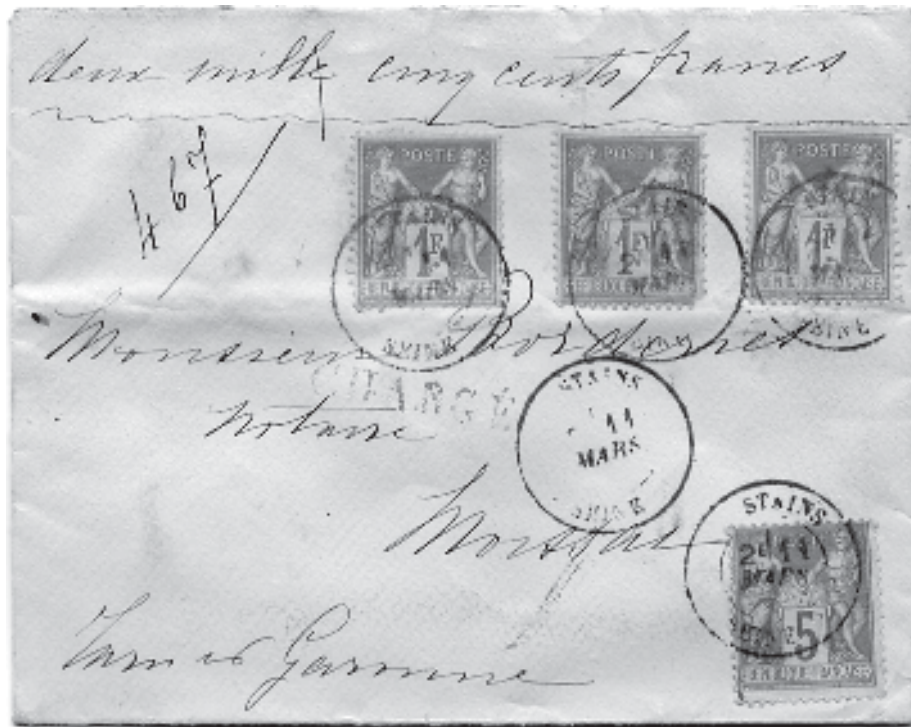


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The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



1891 *Chargé* letter franked at 3F05 rate
(an item in the November 2005 auction)

Volume 55 ● Number 3
September 2005
Whole Number 237

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.

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

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

The Journal

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The Society subscribes to two French philatelic magazines, and has circuits organised for those who wish to read them.
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Northern Group: J P Maybury

Wessex Group: P R A Kelly / A J Wood

Scottish Group: Mrs M Pavey

* * *

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

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

Editor: M S Tyler, 56 Mortons Fork, Blue Bridge, Milton Keynes MK13 0LA
E-mail: editor@fcps.org.uk

Volume 55 Number 3

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SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1256 G F Small (Worcestershire), 1257 Ian Ritchie (Oxford), 1258 Alan Cabrie (Paisley).

* * *

Members Deceased

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

1097 Philip E Abercrombie, 9 Alan G McKanna.

* * *

Northern Group Programme

Members should note that the first meeting in the new year, announced in Journal 235 (on page 14), has been moved from the original date of 21 January 2006 to the new one of 14 January 2006, because of a date clash with the York Stamp Fair.

* * *

London & Southern Group Programmes

The programmes for 2005-2006 were announced at the AGM and are reproduced in the report in this Journal on pages 122 and 123.

* * *

Wessex Group Programme

The remaining meeting for 2005, already announced for 8 October, will be Peter Kelly: "The Amazing Travels of *Type Sage*".

* * *

Exhibition Successes

Congratulations to **Colin Spong**, who was awarded a Silver Medal for his book "Madagascar Rail and Mail Services" at Autumn Stampex (September 2004) and at the 9th National Philatelic Literature Exhibition, Palmerston North, New Zealand (June 2005).

* * *

Displays by Members

The following members took part in the Royal Philatelic Society London visit to the Collectors Club in New York on 1 June 2005:

Christopher Harman - "De La Rue Postal Fiscal Issues 1853 to 1881", "The Early Years from 1694 to 1830 - Revenue Stamps" and "GB King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II Wilding Issues - Used Commercially on Cover"

Francis Kiddle - "Background to the Gulf KGVII High Value Overprints" and "Morocco Agencies - Specimen Stamps"

John Sacher - "Queen Victoria GB Stamps Used in West Africa"

The following members were invited (as members of the ABPS or of the Germany & Colonies PS) to exhibit non-competitively at NAPOSTA '05, held in Hannover 2-5 June 2005:

Mick Bister - "50c Jeanne d'Arc"

Fred Goatcher - "The Bicycle in Germany"

Robert Johnson - "Suspension of Mail Services"

* * *

Continued on page 114

OBITUARY

Alan G McKanna (1925-2005)

Old time members of our Society will be sad to learn of the death of Alan McKanna on 14 June 2005. Alan was one of the founder members of our Society, who was born in London and lived there until the War. He joined up as an under age voluntary artilleryman and served in the Far East (mainly in Burma), rising to the rank of major before he turned 23. After demobilisation and a short time in England he emigrated to the Toronto area.

In his professional life he was an accountant, but left his mark on philately in Canada where he had considerable philatelic responsibilities at different times, including Treasurer and President of the Philatelic Specialists' Society of Canada, Treasurer, Director and Financial Committee Chair of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. He was also an accredited national Canadian judge and was the financial manager of the past three CAPEX internationals and a Youth International.

Alan was also an active mason and took much pride in supervising humanitarian projects in India and Nepal for Rotary International, an activity in which he took much pride.

An astute observer of the philatelic scene, he was also an occasional exhibitor and philatelic writer. Very much like the late Ernst Cohn he enjoyed presenting humble little teaching and thought provoking collections. His collecting interests included Paris postmarks, the Sage issue and 20th century postal rates.

I know, from my own correspondence with Alan over the years, of his meticulous approach to every detail of Sage and the date stamps of that period and will miss the interesting letters we exchanged.

I am indebted to Stan Luft for the biographical details and can only finish with his closing comment, that Alan McKanna was, simply, a very nice person to know.

Peter Kelly

The 50c Jeanne d'Arc Stamp

Part I : The Marcel Marron Archive

Mick Bister

(in collaboration with Jean-Paul Fournier)

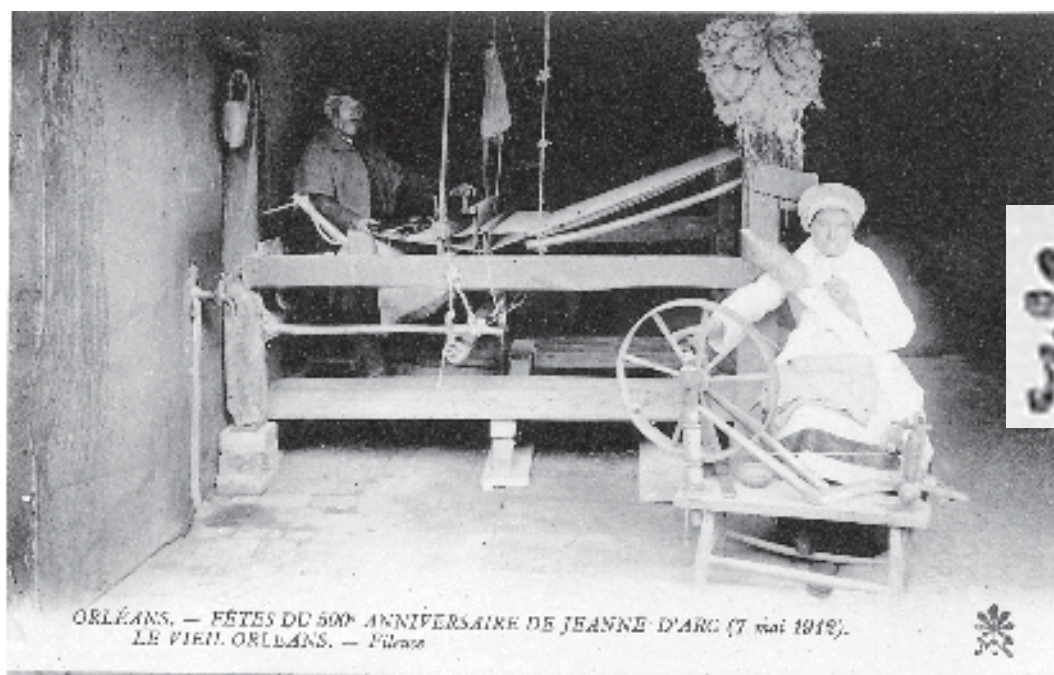


Figure 1

Postcard published by Marcel Marron in 1912 (with logo in inset)

When I wrote my first series of articles on the 50c Jeanne d'Arc issue* I referred, in my acknowledgements, to a certain Daniel Letrillard whose Jeanne d'Arc collection had won him a Large Silver at the Exposition d'Orléans in 1989 and whose advice and material had been of great use to me in my drafting of the articles. In March 2002 Daniel Letrillard's collection was split up and offered in Bertrand Sinais' auction and I was fortunate in obtaining items which, until then, I had only dreamt of owning. As in all auctions I did not win every bid, but I soon learned who had been my main adversary.

A few months after the auction I received a letter from a Monsieur Jean-Paul Fournier who had recently read the re-publication of my original articles in the American revue *The Collectors Club Philatelist* and who wished to exchange information on the issue. In the course of our correspondence it transpired that it had been his bids which had outbid some of mine in the Sinais auction.

Jean-Paul Fournier and I have continued to correspond on a fairly regular basis, exchanging snippets of information regarding the issue and often enclosing photocopies of recent purchases.

It has to be said though, with a slight degree of envy, that Jean-Paul's recent acquisitions have been considerably more important than mine - especially his recent purchase of the Marcel Marron archive. But who was Marcel Marron and what is his association with the 50c Jeanne d'Arc issue?

Marcel Marron was born in 1877 in Orléans where he spent the greater part of his life until his death in 1954. After a period in the army where he achieved in 1898 the rank of an NCO in the 31^{ème} Régiment d'Infanterie, 10^{ème} Compagnie, stationed at nearby Blois, he returned in 1901 to Orléans where at the age of 24 he took over the running of a local bookshop, the Librairie Herluison. Marcel Marron devoted his life to the promotion of Orléans, its history and its heritage and was for a time heavily involved with the activities of the local tourist office which he had helped to found. Above all he was passionate about Jeanne d'Arc and was a great supporter of the Jeanne d'Arc lobby campaigning for her beatification and canonisation, which eventually took place in 1909 and 1920 respectively. He renamed his bookshop the Librairie Jeanne d'Arc which, as the name implies, specialised in *Johannique* memorabilia, especially statuettes and medallions as well as the usual books and holy cards.

Not only was Marcel Marron the owner of a souvenir and bookshop, he was also a printer and publisher. From his presses came religious and regional literature, but he is most remembered for his prolific output of postcards and vignettes or '*timbres*' as he preferred to call them. Within a year of taking over the bookshop, not only was he printing a catalogue of his stock but he had also embarked on the publication of a postcard review entitled *Le Cartophile Orléanais*. Most of the postcards which Marcel Marron printed are easily identifiable by his logo created by a letter M attached like a tendril to a chestnut leaf (*marron* in French) (Fig 1). His postcards are much sought after by

*Journals Nos 170-175 (December 1988 - March 1990)



Figure 2 -
Jeanne d'Arc vignettes issued by Marcel Marron in 1909

collectors of Orléans and the Loiret *département* and a catalogue of them has been edited by the *Cercle des Cartophiles du Loiret*.

Marcel Marron was a great promoter of the Fêtes de Jeanne d'Arc held annually in May to celebrate the relief of Orléans in 1429. He regularly took photographs of the processions and the religious activities as subjects for his postcards, but in addition he printed 'stamps' to publicise or commemorate the event (Fig 2). In this field he was particularly prolific in the period from 1909 to 1913 and full details can be found in the last chapter of my original article.

In September 1928 the mayor of Orléans, Théophile Chollet, persuaded the PTT to issue in the following year a stamp commemorating the 500th anniversary of the relief of Orléans. The PTT agreed to hold a competition for a suitable design and Marcel Marron, being not only a fanatical supporter of the mayor's initiative but also an experienced printer of 'stamps', decided to enter the design competition. The archive which Jean-Paul Fournier has

acquired relates and illustrates the work Marcel Marron undertook to create a stamp design for the competition.

The archive contains several items of correspondence of which perhaps the most important is a typewritten letter (Fig. 3) from Maurice Moulle, Directeur Général des Beaux-Arts; the letter is undated but enclosed in an envelope dated 3 December 1928. In this letter Marcel Marron receives the instructions on how to proceed with the design. The design must incorporate the words *République Française* (or *R.F.*), *Postes*, *Orléans* and the dates *1429-1929*. The value will be 50c and the numerals must be no bigger than 4mm high. The typescript says that the stamp will be printed by recess and in the same format as the contemporary Merson issue, but these criteria have been modified in manuscript to say that the stamp will be printed by typography and in the same format as the Sower issue, ie 22 x 18mm. Marcel Marron is told he will have to present to the jury a 176 x 288mm drawing of his design together with a reduced stamp size photographic reproduction. The design can be either portrait or landscape

Ministère
de
l'Instruction Publique
et des Beaux-Arts

REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

PALAIS ROYAL, 10

BEAUX-ARTS

Monsieur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que je vous ai désigné pour prendre part au concours institué en vue de l'exécution d'un nouveau timbre-poste, commémorant le cinquantième Centenaire de la délivrance d'Orléans par Jeanne d'Arc.

Le concours sera ouvert du 10 novembre au 3 décembre. Les projets devront être déposés dans la journée du 4 décembre au Secrétariat Général des P.T.T., 99, rue de Grenelle (VII^eème).

Chaque vignette devra comprendre obligatoirement dans sa composition les lettres R.F. (République Française) les mots "POSTES" - "ORLÉANS" et les dates 1429-1929. Un emplacement devra être réservé pour l'indication de la valeur du timbre sous forme d'un cartouche détaché du dessin proprement dit. Cette valeur sera de 0 Fr 50. Le chiffre 0 Fr 50 devra être un peu plus grand que ceux des millésimes, sans dépasser cependant 4 millimètres de hauteur.

L'exécution du timbre sera faite en ^{typographie} taille d'œuvre.

Vous aurez à fournir: 1° - un dessin du timbre-poste mis au concours. Ce dessin ayant huit fois linéairement la dimension du timbre-poste actuel, soit 178 millimètres de hauteur sur 288 millimètres de largeur.

2° - une réduction par un procédé photographique ou tout autre procédé de votre dessin aux dimensions du timbre ^{à la main} "Orléans" soit 22 millimètres de hauteur sur 18 millimètres de largeur. Cette réduction devra être collée sur la marge inférieure du dessin.

Vous pourrez indifféremment exécuter votre dessin dans le sens de la hauteur ou de la largeur du timbre.

La Ville d'Orléans se rendra acquéreur aux prix respectifs de 1.500 - 1.000 et 500 francs des trois projets jugés les meilleurs, en se réservant tous droits de propriété. Elle versera, en outre, à l'auteur du projet choisi pour l'exécution du timbre, une somme de 1.000 francs comportant tous droits de reproduction.

Les projets choisis par le Jury feront l'objet d'une exposition publique d'une durée de deux jours.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération très distinguée. /.

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL, DES BEAUX-ARTS,
Membre de l'Institut: *ex p. o.*

Maurice Bouffé

Figure 3 -
Letter giving details of competition



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

format. Finally he is told about the prizes. The city of Orléans will offer prizes of 1500, 1000 and 500 francs to the top three designers; it will also pay the designer of the stamp chosen for printing a further 1000 francs for the copyright. The deadline for submitting entries is given as 4 December - which seems an impossible task but which explains why the letter is accompanied by a note hurriedly written in manuscript, also dated 3 December 1928, blaming 'un pauvre petit homme' for the delay in getting the mail out. It is to be supposed that Marcel Marron had already done all his preparatory work in anticipation of receiving the authorisation to proceed, or else the entry date was put back.

A significant part of the archive is a collection of six pencilled sketches measuring approximately 75 x 85mm (Figs 4-9) and all in a vertical, or portrait, format. The first shows Jeanne d'Arc dressed in her armour and clutching her sword and banner with, behind her, the river Loire, the Pont Royal and the skyline of the city of Orléans. In addition to the inscriptions prescribed by the competition organisers, Marron has also included the reference 'Jeanne d'Arc'. In contrast, however, he has not incorporated the designated 'République Française' or 'R.F.' but in its place the word 'France'. The next three are variations of this design but retaining, to a greater or lesser extent, the same



Figure 8



Figure 9

background. In the first, Jeanne has lowered her sword and is flanked by an arch containing on the left a pattern of *fleurs de lys* and on the right a pattern of *croix de Lorraine*. In the second variation Jeanne is mounted on horseback, and in the third we are presented with just her right profile.

The fifth and sixth sketches are quite different. One shows Jeanne d'Arc on horseback, sword in hand. Below the bottom frame is the annotation 'D'après Foyatier'. In 1853 and 1854 two lotteries were organised to raise funds to

erect a statue of Jeanne d'Arc in the Place du Matroi in Orléans. The sculptor Denis Foyatier was commissioned to design the statue which was to be cast from the metal of captured English cannon. It was erected the following year and dedicated on 8 May 1855 as part of the Fêtes de Jeanne d'Arc festivities. The Place du Matroi with Foyatier's statue is still a major point in the procession which weaves through the streets of Orléans during the Fêtes de Jeanne d'Arc and where the closing ceremony is held during which *l'hommage militaire* is paid to the statue. The sixth and



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12

final sketch also shows Jeanne on horseback but this time it is annotated 'D'après Scherrer'. Jean-Jacques Scherrer (1855-1916) was an artist whose oil painting 'l'Entrée de Jeanne d'Arc à Orléans' hangs in the Musée des Beaux Arts in Orléans. Marron had been inspired by this painting and had extracted a detail from it as the core of his stamp design.

All the above vertical, or portrait, designs were rejected by Marcel Marron in favour of a horizontal, or landscape, design which he eventually entered into the competition. The design is divided into three horizontal bands. The top band contains the value and the inscription *République Française* and *Postes*; the bottom band contains the words *Jeanne d'Arc* and *Orléans* with the dates 1429-1929. He has followed the instructions of the organisers to the letter. The centre of the stamp is devoted to a profile of Jeanne d'Arc on horseback and brandishing her sword as she seeks inspiration from heaven.

There are three attempts at this design (Figs 10-12) each measuring approximately 175 x 145mm. The first is a preliminary sketch with minimal shading. Jeanne's head is surrounded by a halo and the inscriptions are solid on a white background. The second version shows a larger cartouche for the value, the inscriptions are bolder and Jeanne has been filled out with lines and shading. Furthermore, the design is surrounded by a simulated perforation. The third version is very similar to the second except for the inscriptions which have been reversed so that they appear white on a solid background. Furthermore, Jeanne has lost her halo and the shading of her armour has been strengthened.

The artwork for the final design is not included in the archive. However there is a sheet of tracing paper on which a number of details have been sketched in indian ink which would have been the medium for the final artwork. The details appear to indicate attempts to find the most



Figure 13

effective shading on the armour and in the folds of her sleeve (Fig 13).

The final design is represented by two photographic reproductions, one reduced to 103 x 83mm and the other to a stamp sized 22 x 18mm; a copy identical to the latter would have been submitted with the original artwork as requested by the competition organisers (Figs 14 and 15).

Marcel Marron submitted his artwork together with the stamp size photographic reproduction in time for the judging which took place on 8 December. The jury assembled in the committee room of the PTT offices in the Rue de Grenelle where according to the *Républicain*

Orléanais, the decision was unanimous. The first prize was awarded to Gabriel Barlangue, aged 55, an experienced artist in many media but whose Jeanne d'Arc design was his first attempt at producing a stamp. Unfortunately, Marcel Marron was not a prize winner. He shared fourth place with Abel Mignon who was later invited to engrave Barlangue's winning design.

What is so ironical is that Barlangue's winning design was also inspired by Scherrer's painting of Jeanne d'Arc. Marcel Marron had rejected his interpretation of Scherrer's painting in favour of his own original design, a decision which he must have bitterly regretted.



Figure 14



Figure 15

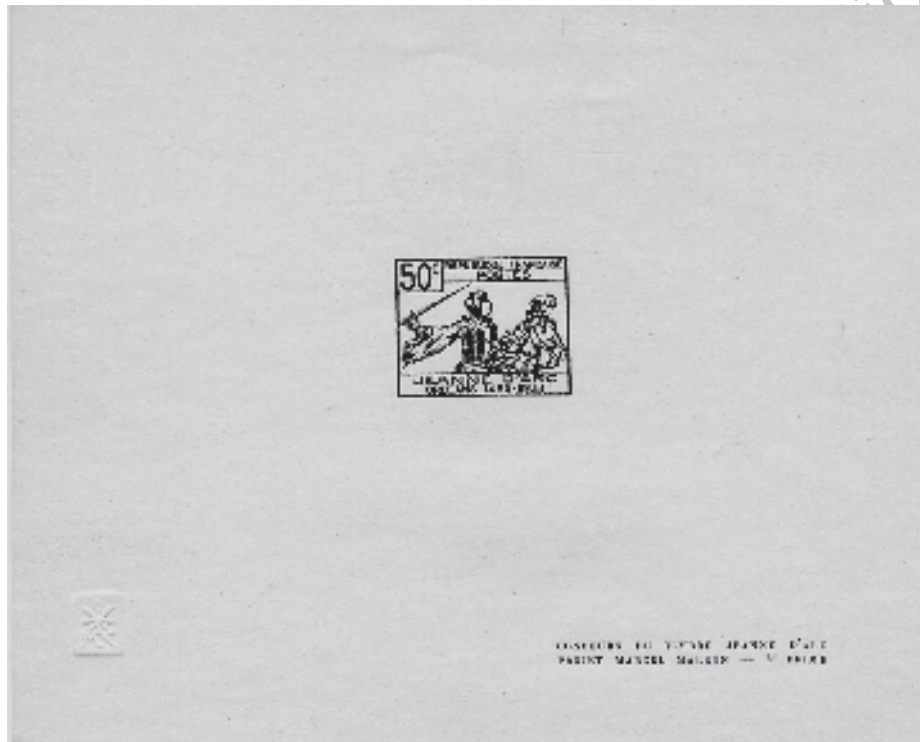


Figure 16

Despite not winning a prize, Marcel Marron was determined not to be out of pocket. In 1929, to coincide with the celebrations, he printed sets of twelve souvenir 'proofs' of his design in shades of red, blue green and purple, each one inscribed 'Concours du timbre Jeanne

d'Arc. *Projet Marcel Marron. 4^e prime*' (Fig 16). Marcel Marron may not have won a prize or enjoyed the status and prestige of seeing his design used on French mail but he made quite sure that he was the biggest winner financially.

Figures 3-15, J-PF Collection

Figures 1, 2 and 16, MLB Collection

Some illustrations have been reduced in size to fit the page, and others are only approximate

BOOKSHELF

Notes on *A Bibliography of Philatelic Literature on the French Colonies, Protectorates, and Overseas Territories* by Robert G Stone

Peter Kelly

The excellent demand shown for the *Subject Index to Four French Philatelic Magazines 1946-2000*, compiled by Derek Richardson and a number of members of our Society and published by us as Brochure N° 8, has shown that there is a great deal of interest in the articles contained in the various journals which we are fortunate to have in our library.

This provoked me into thinking about the extraordinary bibliography of French colonial philately and postal history prepared by the late Robert Stone. Sadly, this has never been published wholly as a book, and the purpose of this article is to outline where the information may be found.

Over a period of many years Robert Stone published the Bibliography in parts in the *Philatelic Literature Review*, Journal of the American Philatelic Research Library, State College, Pennsylvania. In 1981 the Research Library published a booklet entitled *A Bibliography of Philatelic Literature on the French Colonies, Protectorates, and Overseas Territories, Volume I*. This was a revised and expanded edition of the articles published in the *Philatelic Literature Review* between 1977 and 1980.

This booklet of 110 pages is now out of print, but there is a copy in the Society's library and several members will probably have one. For those looking for a copy a good source would be Stephen Holder at HH Sales.

This first volume is split into two divisions:

Division I deals with the literature of the French Colonies in general and important auction sales of French Colonies material;

Division II consists of the bibliographies of individual colonies - A Guadeloupe; B Martinique; C French Guiana and Inini; D St Pierre & Miquelon; E Tahiti and French Oceania; F New Caledonia; G Wallis & Futuna Islands; H Indochina; I French Establishments in India; J Comoro Islands etc.

The list of references is alphabetical and is numbered, and at the end of each section there is a breakdown by subject matter into such categories as general, postal history, stamps, surcharges and overprints, special issues, special topics. These sections are then further broken down and, for example, in the case of postal history include: general surveys, official publications and documents, postal services, postal markings, postal rates, covers, collections and collecting, auctions. In each section the relevant numbers are given, which saves a great deal of time in following up areas of interest.

So far so good; everything was in one book and a second volume was promised to reflect the further instalments published in the *Philatelic Literature Review*, but this never happened and the only way to access information on the remaining colonies, protectorates and overseas territories

is to go through the reviews, which are not generally available here.

This was certainly a problem for me as the colonies of particular interest all fell into this category. I was fortunate in receiving a great deal of help in this from Leonard Hartmann of Louisville, Kentucky.

The real problem lay in the fact that the index of the *Philatelic Literary Review* is unhelpful in that it only gives the title heading of the series and does not mention the specific areas covered in each instalment. This meant going through all the volumes and trying to obtain those in which there was an instalment. I give below the fruits of this search.

Division II

Vol 30 N° 1, 1st quarter 1981

K Madagascar & Dependencies including Comoros, Diego-Suarez, Nossi Bé & Sainte Marie

Vol 30 N° 3, 3rd quarter 1981

L Réunion (Ile de Bourbon) and Mauritius (Ile de France) to 1810

Vol 30 N° 4, 4th quarter 1981

M French Australian and Antarctic Territories (TAAF), Kerguelen, St Paul, Crozet, Adélie Land

Vol 31 N° 1, 1st quarter 1982

N Somali Coast (including Obock), Djibouti, Côte Française des Somalis, French Posts in Ethiopia, Territories of Afars and Issas

Vol 31 N° 2, 2nd quarter 1982

O Tunisia

Vol 31 N° 3, 3rd quarter 1982

P The Fezzan-Ghadames Territories 1943-1952

Vol 31 N° 4, 4th quarter 1982

(Q) Morocco

Vol 32 N° 1, 1st quarter 1983

R French West Africa (in general)

S Senegal (part I) including Ile de Gorée, Haute Fleuve and Rivières du Sud to 1891

Vol 32 N° 2, 2nd quarter 1983

S Senegal (part II) as above.

Vol 32 N° 3, 3rd quarter 1983

T Mauretania

Vol 32 N° 4, 4th quarter 1983

U French Soudan region (including Soudan Français, Sénégal et Niger, Haut Sénégal et Moyen Niger, Haut Sénégal et Niger, Territoire Militaire du Niger, Niger and Haute Volta.

Vol 33 N° 1, 1st quarter 1984

V Ivory Coast (including Assinie, Côte d'Or)

Vol 33 N° 2, 2nd quarter 1984

X Dahomey (including forerunners
Établissements Français du Golfe de Bénin, Bénin,
Dahomey et Dépendances.

Y Togo (Anglo-French occupation and French
Mandate)

Vol 34 N° 2, 2nd quarter 1985

AA French Equatorial Africa (AEF) including
Gabon, Gabon-Congo, Congo Français, Moyen Congo,
Oubangui-Chari-Tchad, Oubangui-Chari, and Tchad.

Vol 34 N° 3, 3rd quarter 1985

AB Saint Domingue (Haiti)

Vol 35 N° 4, 4th quarter 1986

AC Clipperton Island.

There are two inconsistencies: W and Z appear to be missing as reference numbers. It can be seen that in consecutive issues Stone skips from V to X and there is a gap of a year in which nothing was published before missing out Z and starting on AA.

Robert Stone was a great researcher and one of the most knowledgeable of people on French colonies with exceptionally wide sources of reference. I believe that this Bibliography is of the greatest value today despite the difficulties in tracking down some of the older references. The postal history, particularly, of the French colonies has not been written up in detail, and the treatment given, for example, to Indochina by J Desrousseaux is an exception, and it leaves an awful lot for the modern day postal historian to piece together. For those keen on doing this, the Bibliography is a valuable tool.

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Books Noted

Montceau-les-Mines: Histoire postale de la ville by l'Amicale philatélique montcellienne; 186 A4 pp. in colour, 302 reproductions of documents; price 65€; available from Jean Caron, APM, 24 rue du Petit-Bois, 71300 Montceau-les-Mines. [Postal, telegraphic and telephonic communications since the creation of the town in 1856.]

Cartes postales anciennes de Polynésie by Raoul Cère; 292 A4 pp. landscape format, 200 reproductions in b/w; subscription price 60€ + p&p; available from Raoul Cère, 3 allée des Jeux, 77230 Rouvres (email: raliance@wanadoo.fr). [2000 cards listed up to 1945.]

La France d'outre-mer par ses timbres by Laurent Lemerle, **Tome 1: Amériques, Océan Indien, Antarctique**; 110 A4 pp. in colour; price 18€; **Tome 2: Afrique occidentale et équatoriale, Afrique du Nord, Levant**; 176 A4 pp. in colour; price 32€; available from Timbropresse, 6 rue du Sentier, 75080 Paris Cedex 02. [The history, culture and resources of the former French colonies seen through their stamps; the first 2 of 4 volumes to be published.]

Claude Durrens ou l'art de la gravure: De l'estampe au timbre-poste by Janine Durrens; 192 pp.; price 45,50€ + p&p;

available from La Lauze, 29 rue des Jacobins, BP 7061, 24007 Périgueux Cedex. [Homage paid to a master engraver by his wife and colleague, covering 38 years' work and 400 stamps.]

Database on CD-ROM: **La Nomenclature et la classification des bureaux ayant eu une activité en France des origines à 1904, dans les Départements conquis, BFE et AFN**; runs on Access 98 and later; 8Mb required on hard disk; price 55€; available from Charles Chrétien, 1C rue du docteur Laennac, 42100 Saint Étienne (email: charleschretien@cegetel.net). [Over 14000 post offices listed, including Paris and Monaco; search alphabetically or by *Petits Chiffres* or *Grands Chiffres*; find dates of opening, development, closing and reopening where applicable; information on the *départements* during the period up to 1904.]

The Postal Issues of Syria, Lebanon and the Alouites 1919-1944 by Alexander Kaczmarczyk; 136 pp., illustrated; price £25 + £2 p&p; available from James Bendon Ltd, PO Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus (email: books@jamesbendon.com).

Maurice Tyler

Subject Index to Four French Philatelic Magazines 1946 to 2000

Derek Richardson's **Subject Index to Four French Philatelic Magazines 1946 to 2000** is available at £6 plus postage & packing. This Society Brochure N° 8 lists under more than 250 subject headings all relevant articles published over a period of 50 years in *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, *La Philatélie Française*, *L'Écho de la Timbrologie* and *Timbroscopie*. For the cost of p&p nearly all these magazines can be borrowed (UK only) or photocopied pages ordered from our Librarian George Barker, whose address is given on the inside front cover of this Journal.

UK members should send to Mr L H Barnes, 34 High Beeches, Northcray, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5NB a cheque for £6.90 made out to the France & Colonies Philatelic Society.

Members in the Eurozone can either send 15€ in banknotes to Len Barnes, or can order from John Simmons, App't 175, 10 square des Sablons, 78160 Marly-le-Roi, France, by sending him a cheque for 12€ made out to him personally. The European airmail sterling price (via L Barnes, cheques drawn on UK banks only made out to the Society) is £7.75.

For members in North America the cost will be \$17(US) in bills (from Len Barnes). The world airmail sterling price (cheques drawn on UK banks only and made out to the Society) is £8.85.

Non-sterling cheques sent to the UK need the equivalent of £7 added for bank charges

Middle Congo – an Unrecorded *Paquebot* Cancel: Your Help, Please!

Bill Mitchell

[NOTE. This article is being submitted to the editors of, in the United Kingdom, the *Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society* and *TPO* (the magazine of the TPO & Seapost Society) and, in the United States, the *France & Colonies Philatelist* (France & Colonies Philatelic Society) and *Seaposter* (Maritime Postmark Society), in the hope that this wide circulation will produce answers to the questions that follow, in which case a definitive article will be possible. Readers' comments will be welcome; please write to me at 41, Graemesdyke Avenue, East Sheen, London SW14 7BH.]

Bob Maddocks, the well-known specialist in the postal history of Cameroun, has sent me this photocopy of a cover in his collection (Figs 1a and 1b): it presents several questions to which we would both appreciate answers. The only clue to its origin are the letters "E(?) M & Co" within a box on the flap; as they are colourless and embossed they have not come out in the copy. (This company, incidentally, has not been identified – can anyone help?) The letter was franked with Great Britain stamps to the value of 3d ($\frac{1}{2}$ d and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d) and addressed to "Messrs John Holt & Co (Liverpool) Ltd, VICTORIA, W. AFRICA". At some stage someone who was apparently aware of the airmail services currently (in 1945) available has endorsed the envelope in manuscript "BY AIR MAIL / PAR AVION" (this in red ink; all the other markings are in black); the question whether or not the letter was sent by air for any part of its journey is outside the scope of this article. Victoria was the main port in British-administered Cameroon, but the letter was apparently put ashore from an unidentified vessel at Pointe-Noire in the French colony of Middle Congo on 29 June 1945. Here it was censored (CONTRÔLE POSTAL * Commission B * / AFRIQUE EQUATORIALE FRANÇAISE cachet⁽¹⁾) and sent – quite possibly, mis-sent – to Brazzaville, the capital of French Equatorial Africa, where it arrived on the following day. It finally reached its destination on 18 July, probably via Lagos in Nigeria where it was handled by a British censor⁽²⁾.

The most striking feature of the cover is the French cancel, presumably struck at Pointe-Noire, reading PAQUEBOT / POSTES with, in the centre, six stars where one would normally expect to see a date. And, since it takes the place of a dated *cachet d'origine*, one would also expect it to indicate the place of handling. The cancel is not listed in any of the standard catalogues of *paquebot* marks, most notably those of Dreschdel and Hosking⁽³⁾ and so far as is known it has not been recorded elsewhere. Although it is very similar in size to contemporary French single-ring hand-struck date stamps it is quite unlike other French or French colonial *paquebot* marks, the vast majority of which are linear. Furthermore, no *paquebot* mark of any kind is recorded for Pointe-Noire prior to 1953 (Dreschdel) or 1957 (Hosking). The following points about this cancel require an answer.

1. When was it made, why, on what authority and where?
2. Why is the port of handling not stated?
3. Why the six stars in place of date slugs?
4. This is the only example to have come to light, so far as is known, despite the lapse of 60 years. It is probable, therefore, that it was little used; it is also possible that it was of local manufacture. If that is so, why not a simple linear handstamp to be used in conjunction with the normal circular date stamp, which would have complied with UPU requirements⁽⁴⁾?
5. Alternatively, why were the stamps not simply cancelled with the Pointe-Noire date stamp on the basis that the letter was received with the stamps uncanceled?

The use of British stamps suggests posting on board a UK registered vessel on the high seas prior to entering territorial waters⁽⁴⁾; the 3d franking was correct for mail being landed in foreign territory⁽⁵⁾. Does any reader have knowledge of shipping arriving at Pointe-Noire on or shortly before 29 June 1945 which might help to identify the vessel on which the letter was posted – and perhaps to show whether the stamps were held by the purser or carried in the writer's wallet?

These are the main points of maritime mail interest suggested by this cover. Some further observations appear in the Notes which follow. Both Bob and I will be very pleased to hear from anyone who can answer any of my questions or otherwise comment on the cover or provide relevant background information.

Notes and References

- (1) Deloste, Col G — "Histoire postale et militaire de la Deuxième Guerre Mondiale 1939-1945" (Editions de l'Echangiste Universelle, Bischwiller, 1969), page 92. But could the cachet have been applied on leaving?
- (2) The very poorly struck censor cachet could be late use of a Nigerian "Crown over PP (part excised) 27" cachet, recorded between 12 July 1944 and 30 July 1945 (J Martin and F Walton, "West African Censorship", West Africa Study Circle, Dronfield, 2nd edition 1999, page 62) (Fig 2). There are of course no Nigerian postal markings to confirm that the letter transited Lagos.
- (3) Dreschdel, E — "The Paquebot Marks of Africa, the Mediterranean Countries, and their Islands" (Robson Lowe Ltd, London 1980); Hosking, R — "Paquebot Cancellations of the World", 3rd edition (Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd, Derby, 2000).
- (4) UPU requirements for the franking of maritime mail are conveniently summarised by Hosking in his Introduction. "It was in 1891 that the UPU decreed that mail posted on the high seas might be prepaid 'by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff of the country

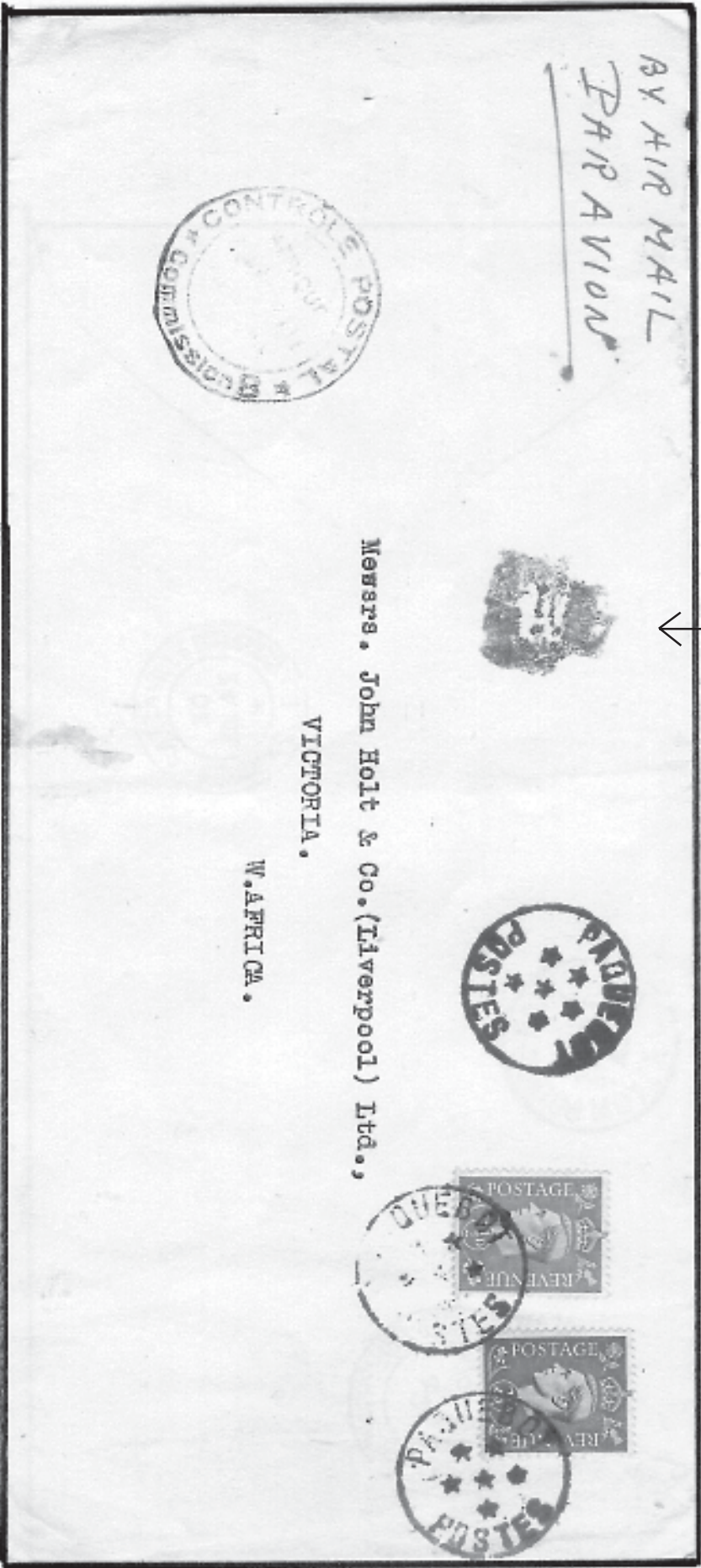


Figure 2

Figure 1a

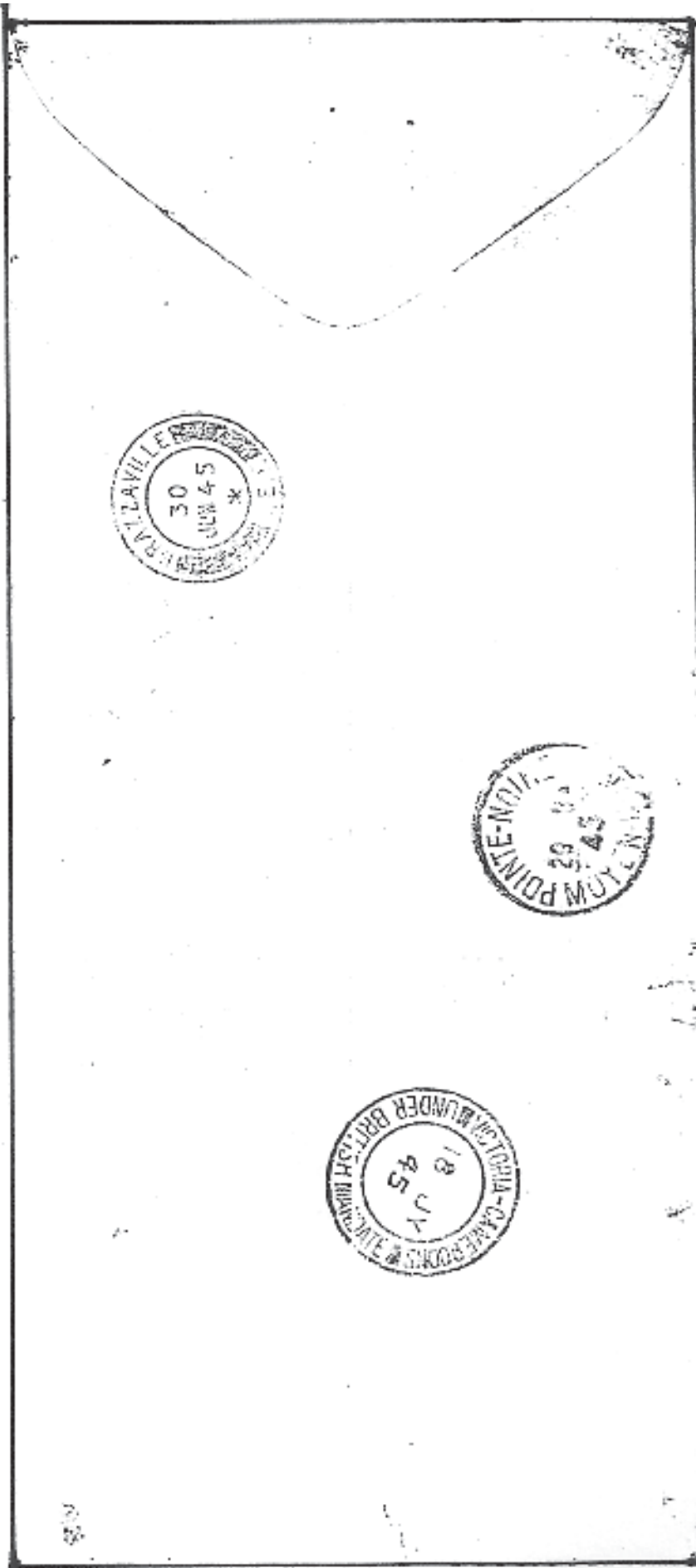


Figure 1b

to which the vessel belongs, or by which it is maintained'. If the mailing took place in territorial waters or in port, then the stamps and tariff of the territory would apply.... it was not until [1893] that the UPU issued a supplementary regulation to the effect that letters so treated should, in addition to the date stamp of the receiving office, be endorsed with the word '*paquebot*', either as a hand-stamp or in manuscript."

(5) UK surface rates at this time were – for foreign destinations, not exceeding 1 ounce, 3d and for each additional ounce, 1½d; for destinations within the British Empire (including mandated territories), not exceeding 1 ounce, 2½d and for each additional ounce, 1d (Post Office Guide, July 1945 – my thanks to Barbara Priddy for extracting these details). It is just possible that the use of ½d and 2½d stamps indicates that it was originally expected that the ship would dock in British territory and was diverted to Pointe-Noire.

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 112 2^{ème} Trim 2005: Réunion: Les surcharges Croix-Rouge de 1915-1916 (Chandanson); Zanzibar: Taxe au Type Duval – un premier jour avorté [cont/end] (Delpy); Millésimes des colonies françaises (Peter); Le savez-vous? Laos - Vignette Guynemer et vol militaire de 1925 (Hurpet); Tarif intercolonial (Hurpet); Guadeloupe, surcharge «1903» [YT N° 54] (Bessaud); Compléments aux Hors-Série: N° 14 Dahomey (Strobel); N° 10-1 Soudan Français. Essai de nomenclature des oblitérations (Strobel); N° 26-1 Laos. Lettre «PAR AVION» au départ de PHONTIOU (Tallet).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 280 (Vol 61, N° 2) Apr 2005: Airmail Letter Rates from French Equatorial Africa to France 1930-1945 [cont] (Picirilli); Be your own Expert (Luft); Occasional Fundamentals - Postal Training School and Dummy Stamps (Luft); Jerusalem - The Early French Post Offices (Luft); Memorial to and Remembrances of Ernst Cohn [1920-2004] (-); Col.Fra meeting in Paris (Herendeen); Sénégal: Prepayment of Postage in Cash during January 1902 [Addendum] (Mattei).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

Permanent features: Anomalies, Variétés, Flamme et Oblitérations, Livres, Maximaphilie, Thématique.

N° 1786 Jun 2005: Michel Bez: Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Prêt-à-poster Florilège de PÂP (-); Les postes françaises après-guerre (Hella); Oiseau de lumière (Royer); Les Jeux olympiques de 1924 [end]. (Storch).

N° 1787 Jul-Aug 2005: Prêt-à-poster Florilège de PÂP (-); le courrier intelligent (-); Marc Taraskoff, artiste de Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon (-); De Pétain à la Liberté (Hella); LISA du Louvre (Daudon); Pour un tout petit franc (Mage); Monaco: Le mariage d'un prince et d'une étoile (Storch); Si le temps le permet [Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon] (-).

La Philatélie Française

Permanent features: Étude, Collection, Actualité, À lire, Événements

N° 595 Feb-Mar 2005: C'est la teuf à Titeuf! (Mennessiez); Tem'post...ou le courrier industriel via La Poste (Albaret); Les Points Poste (Roussel).

Timbres Magazine

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

N° 58 Jun 2005: S'y retrouver dans les non dentelés (de Pellinec); Un maréchal de France peut manquer de franchise (de la Mettrie); L'Algérie: les carnets de la seconde période [1938-1955] (PJM); Les plis inédits des soldats de la paix (Sanders); La Liberté en quinze mots (Bernadet); Une belle taxation mixte... mais abusive! (Prugnon); Les marques de port payé au XVIII^e siècle (Baudot); Censure FFL au Levant (Chauvin).

N° 59 Jul-Aug 2005: Qui se souvient de «l'île de Canton»? (PJM); Quels timbres pour l'Indochine? [1945-1949] (Chauvin); La petite histoire d'un petit timbre [aviation] (Melot); Volcanique Cantal (Amiel); Papiers d'affaires au tarif lettres (de la Mettrie); Un PÂP un peu particulier (-); Z'étaient chouettes les filles du bord de mer (Zeyons); Une taxe difficile à recouvrer! (Prugnon); Les marques de port payé du XVIII^e siècle (Baudot); 1942: de Bordeaux vers l'Empire (Chauvin).

The Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 84 N° 4: Gleanings from the French Colonies: Use of the Five Franc French Colonial Allegorical Group Type Stamp (Grabowski).

Cameo (The Journal of the West Africa Study Circle)

Vol 9 N° 1 June 2005: Cameroun - Early Air Mails and the Aéromaritime Coastal Service (a Correction) (Mitchell); Togo Mail Collected by Belgian Ship SS *Anversville* July 1915 (Maddocks); Re-use of the Boxed Registration Handstamp (Spong) [a revised version of this article appears in this Journal - Ed.]; Vingt Vues de Sainte-Hélène (Deakin); Air Mail Services to the Gold Coast Prior to 1936 (Rawlins); A Second Cover to the Gold Coast via Dakar (Wingent); Grand Popo Cancel Used at Anecho (Mayne); Benin - Lagos *Vapeur* Service (Mayne) [this article also appeared in our Journal 235 - Ed.].

Forces Postal History Society Newsletter

Vol XXVII N° 4 Summer 2005: The Royal Naval Division in France 1916-18 (Swarbrick); Mission Forestière Britannique (Mark); Feedback - the [square] Visé Marking [in WWI] (Mark).

November 2005 Auction - Selected Lots on cover page iii

- ① ex accumulation of single dated corners
 - ② 10c Lined Sower stationery postcard cancelled AIX-LES-BAINS (CERCLE)
 - ③ 1790 entire from CETTE with on reverse DÉBOURSÉS DE TOULOUSE strike
 - ④ 1989 Faux de Marseille
 - ⑤ 1823 entire to Paris with ARM. D'ESPAGNE 1^{ER} CORPS strike
 - ⑥ 1917 proofs from unissued Delandres 'Aviators' series
-

Stanley Phillips' rather strait-laced coda is very much of its era. I wonder how polite the writer would have been if he had known what was still to come. Incidentally, I also wonder who the author "WWH" was.



Re-use of the Boxed Registration Handstamp

Colin Spong

In the June 2002 Newsletter (N° 15) of the Study Group for Airmail Rates in French Colonies, Michael Ensor raised a query concerning a boxed R marking. In correspondence with Michael and other France & Colonies colleagues concerning this mystery Censor handstamp that appears (so far) on covers from French West Africa and Madagascar (Fig 3), and exchanging photocopies, something else of great interest was noticed on at least eight covers (Figs 1-2, 4-9) from Roy Reader's collection (French India, New Caledonia (2), St Pierre & Miquelon (4) and Wallis & Futuna). On these covers it was noted that the marks were not a censor boxed "R" but most interestingly the "R" markings were Registration handstamps of the first type, called *griffes*. These were in service throughout the French colonies from approximately 1890-1932, struck either in black or

red ink. The various types of etiquettes or labels later replaced these handstamps in the Colonies.

It would appear that this handstamp was being used again during the period of World War II due to the shortage of Registration etiquettes in a number of post offices because of wartime conditions. They are usually struck in black ink, and from information so far recorded they have been observed for colonies in the West Indies, Pacific and Indian Ocean. Are there any from French West Africa?

I think it would be useful if we were to record these early handstamps being used once again and publish the results in our journals (i.e. *France & Colonies Journal* and *Philatelist*, *IO*, and *Cameo*, journal of the West Africa Study Circle).

1892 French Colonial Registration Handstamps Usage During WWII					
TYPE	Colony	Earliest Recorded Date	Latest Recorded Date	Colour	From
<i>Griffe</i> : Octagonal Boxed R	French India	27.04.40		Black	Pondichéry to Marseille, France
	Madagascar	01.02.45	?.?.52*	Black	Mananjary to Antsirabe
	New Caledonia	18.07.40	28.11.42	Black	Noumea to Brisbane, Australia. Noumea to London, GB
	St Pierre & Miquelon	30.04.42	11.02.43	Black	St Pierre to New York, USA St. Pierre to New York
	Wallis & Futuna	26.9.44?		Black	Wallis to New York

* latest date seen at the Paris Autumn Salon 2004; only the year slug was legible.

Note: The cover illustrated in Figure 7 is not included in the above table as its date comes between the earliest and latest dates so far discovered.

Other markings - such as censor markings - are not described for this article. The question of Censor boxed handstamps will appear in a future article.

References

Correspondence with Michael Ensor, Bill Mitchell, Barbara Priddy, & Roy Reader

Blanc, Jack - "Provisional Registration Procedures 1942-9", *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, Nov 1984 [Translation by R E Reader]

Dubois, Jean-Claude - "Marques et Étiquettes de Recommandation", *Col.Fra Bulletin* N°s 20, pp 3-16, 1982; 25, pp 2-8, 1984

Desnos, Jacques - "Madagascar: Les Marques pour Objets Recommandés des Origines à 1958", *Col.Fra Bulletin* N° 42, pp 8-15, 1988



Figure 1 -
 French India Airmail:
 Pondicherry dated 27.04.40
 to M. Paul Le Faucheur, Marseille,
 but letter returned due to wartime conditions.
 R(egistered) N° 20.
 This is also marked in French *Recommandée* [Registered].



Figure 2 -
New Caledonia
airmail:
Noumea dated
18.07.40
to Mr S.H. Sheard,
Brisbane via Panair,
R(egistered) 3/00.



Figure 3 -
Madagascar
surface mail:
Mananjary
dated 01.02.45
to M. Le Directeur
de l'Hôtel Terminus,
Antsirabe.
Boxed AR
handstamp and
R(egistered) N° 193.



Figure 4 -
New Caledonia surface mail:
Noumea dated 28.11.42
Bank of Indochina to Branch in London,
(R)egistered N° 144/448 and *Recommandé* handstamp.

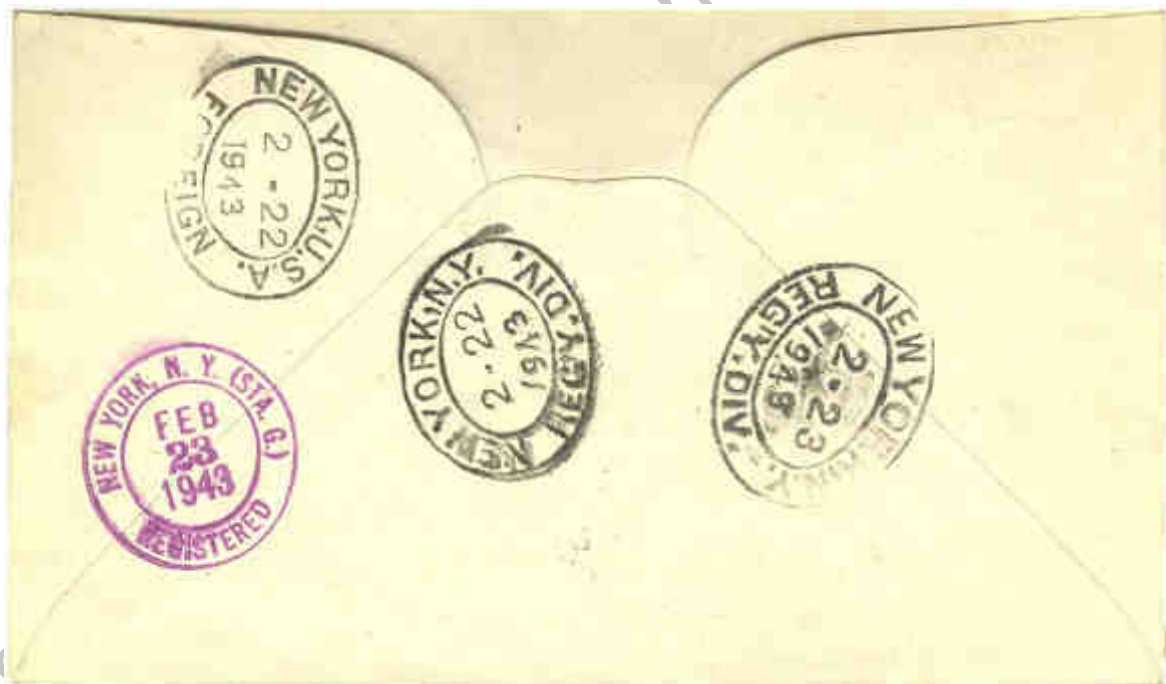


Figure 5 -
St Pierre & Miquelon surface mail:
St.Pierre dated 11.02.43
to M. Edmond Queyroy [a US philatelist/stamp dealer], New York.
R(egistered) 705.



Figure 6 -
 St Pierre & Miquelon surface mail:
 St Pierre dated 30.04.42
 to M Georges de Princival, New York
 (R)egistered N° 2. Typed *Recommandée*.

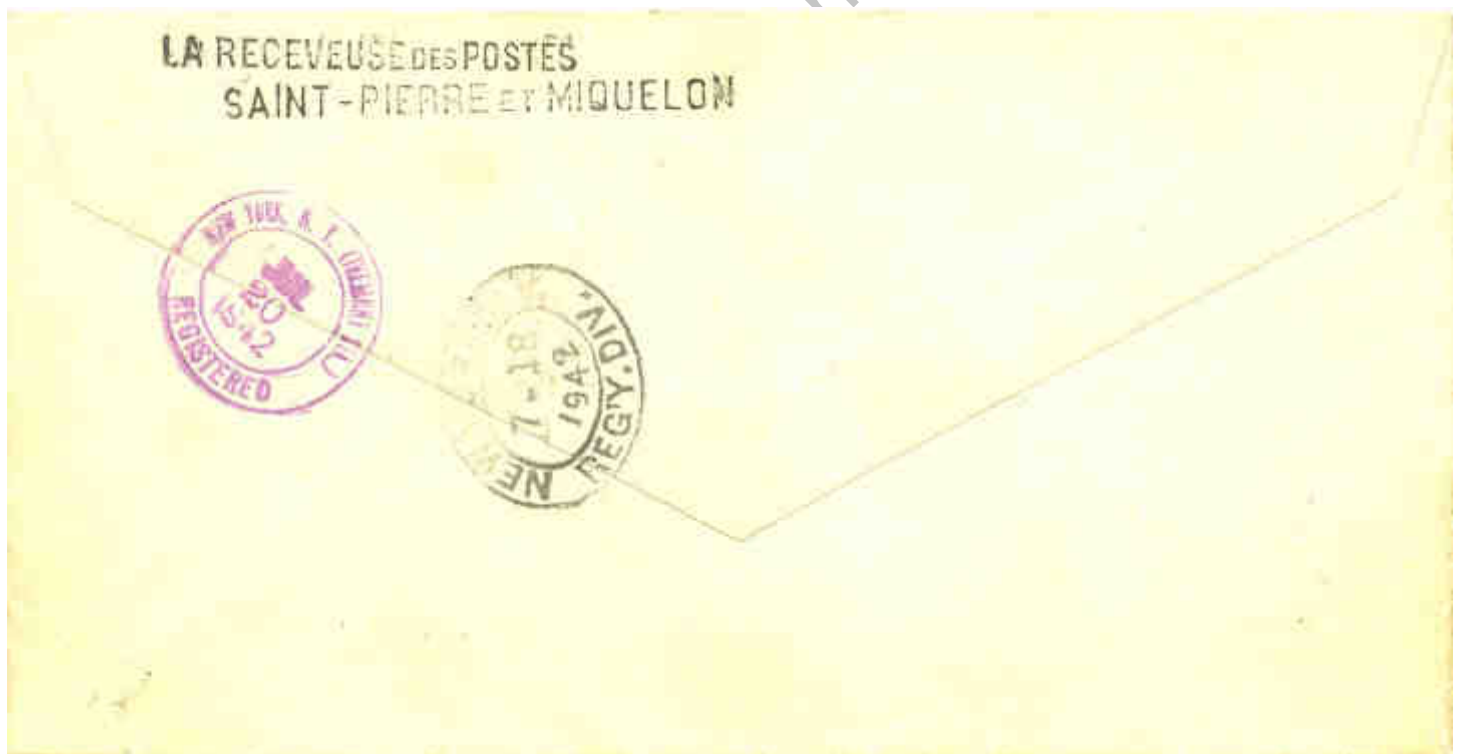


Figure 7 -
St Pierre & Miquelon surface mail;
St Pierre dated 10.07.42
to M Georges de Princival, New York
(R)egistered N° 535. Typed *Recommandée*.

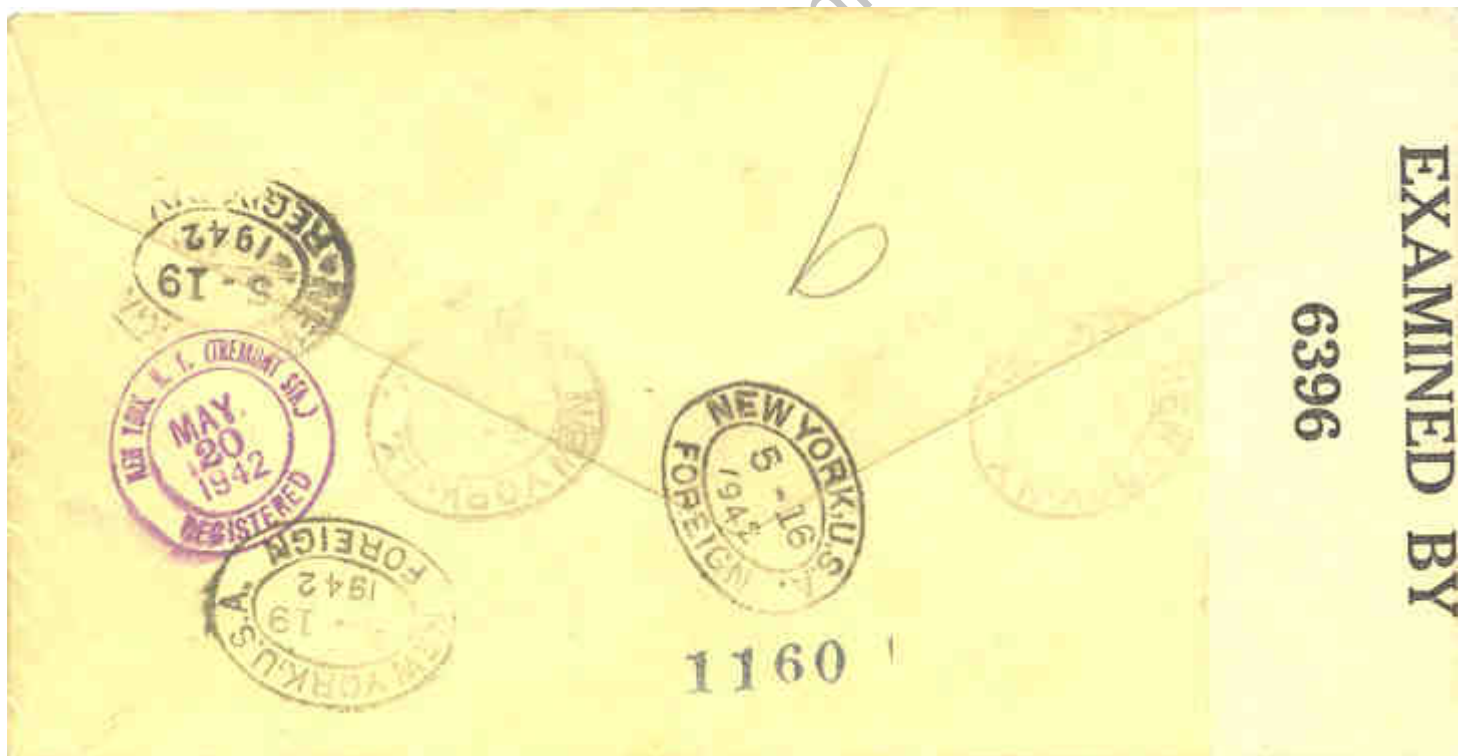


Figure 8 -
St Pierre & Miquelon surface mail:
St.Pierre dated 30.04.42
to M Georges de Princival, New York
(R)egistered 1.000 Typed *Recommandée*.



Figure 9 -

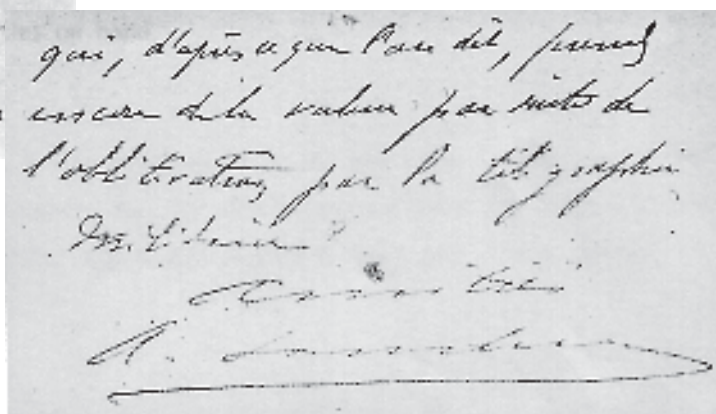
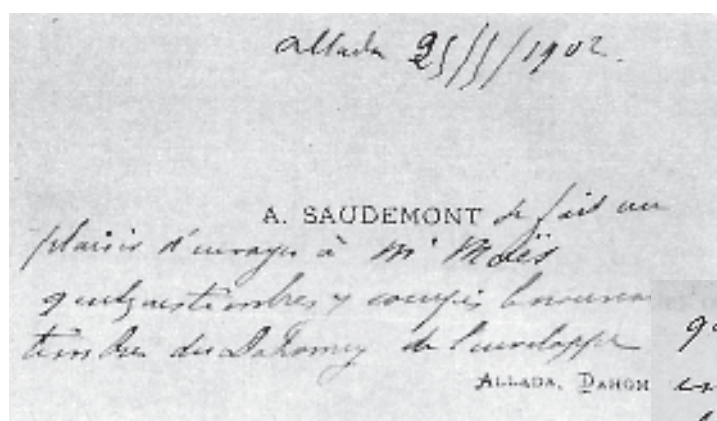
Wallis & Futuna Islands surface mail:
dated 26.09.44 to the United States Co, New York.

R(egistered) 741 - there is another figure 3297 crossed out but this could be a USA packet or bundle number?

Illustrations: Figure 3 from Colin Spong's collection; Figures 1-2 and 4-9 from Roy Reader's collection.

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mail from French Forces in Dahomey



Les Oblitérations des Bureaux de Poste – Afrique Occidentale Française by M Langlois and V Bourselet, 1937 edition, lists town and village cancels for countries in French West Africa.

Under Dahomey they include telegraph cancels used to cancel mail from soldiers, and note that six cancels numbered one to six had been seen. No mention is made as to where each cancel was employed, nor is there any information regarding the dates of usage.

Although this cancel is held on a *Dahomey et Dépendances* 15c tablet issue (Cérès 3), I had not seen it on cover until recently when my bid on eBay proved successful. The cover had the added bonus of being a *Dahomey et*

Dépendances 5c postal stationery envelope uprated with a Bénin 10c tablet (Cérès 37), both cover and additional stamp cancelled **26 MAI 02** by cancel n° 3. Endorsed *via Bordeaux* and probably collected by Rio Negro of Chargeurs Réunis, it is backstamped at Paris 28.06.1902. A further bonus was the visiting card enclosed for A Saudemont of Allada, Dahomey, upon which the writer has confirmed the use of the cancel.

It would be interesting to know if cancel n° 3 was allocated to Allada and when the six cancels were used. Perhaps Bill Mitchell and Laurence Lambert may be able to expand their article on Dahomey postmarks in Journal 215 of March 2000, which was limited to town and village cancels.

John Mayne

Togo 1921 Issue



M Langlois and V Bourselet in their work on the postmarks of French West Africa (1937) list three railway cancels for each of the three lines, all with Lomé as their terminus; these are designated by Friedemann in the German period as shore line to Anécho, 44km, interior line to (Agomé) Palimé, 119km, and far interior line to Atakpamé, 164 km.

J Martin and F Walton in their work on the Allied Occupation record that no cancels were introduced by the French for the post offices in their sector before 20 July 1922. I disregard the Grand Popo cancel amended for

brief use at Anécho. They record however that French cancels were introduced for each railway route and give an earliest usage of 1922 for all three. However to date only the Lomé à Palimé strike is known used before 20 July 1922.

Bill Mitchell in this Journal regularly updates the use of the 1921 Dahomey issues overprinted Togo, and I now report the discovery of a 25c value (Yvert 108) cancelled by the Lomé à Atakpamé *convoyeur* in June 1922. Unfortunately the date slug is incomplete and could be taken as the 10th, 12th, 13th, 18th or 19th.

John Mayne

Algeria Victory Issue of 1943



I know very little about stamps of Algeria in spite of having mint and used collections! and I am therefore unclear as to the reason for the issue of Cérès 198 and 199, which according to English and French catalogues held were released in 1943.

At a recent fair I came across two singles and a pair of 199 all cancelled with a red Swastika which was also evident on the back of the stamps; all are unmounted mint. I have not seen these issues previously in over 50 years of collecting! Members' thoughts will be welcomed please!

John Mayne

Star Perfin on 1F50 Pétain

Following the comments by Godfrey Bowden about the star-shaped perfin on my Italian Embassy cover [*Journal* 236 page 71 – where the reference to the mention in the original *Annual Weekend report* should read page 79 - *Ed.*], I should perhaps indicate that my 5 pointed star is smaller than those described by Godfrey, with a

maximum point to point measurement of only 3.5mm. Furthermore, the letter is *to* a bank (the Crédit Lyonnais at Avignon) not *from* it. I have already discussed this with Godfrey and we agree that there is a link but no real conclusion. But that is what the joy of philately and postal history is all about.

Mick Bister

Some Thoughts on the Future of Philately and Stamp Collecting

Over the last few months I have, as a result of appeals by our excellent Packet Secretaries, been filling a number of Club books with stamps from France and the French Colonies (not both in the same book!). As I have progressed through my excess stock sorting first into country order and then catalogue number within country I have had plenty of time to think, and through this short article I hope to share some of those thoughts with you. Please take a few minutes to read the rest of this piece and, if you are in a position to do so, take appropriate action.

Just like the books that I have received in the club packets, mine also contain a mixture of expensive stamps and very cheap ones – the ones of which Stanley Gibbons say that the price is a “handling charge rather than a value”. It is these cheap ones that I want to talk about. As I have been turning the pages of club books I have often wondered why people bother to put loads of common stamps on the pages only for them to come back still in place after the books have gone the rounds. Now I find that I am filling my books with similar stamps! So why am I repeating the procedure?

Now we come to the nub of my thoughts: many of the members of this Society are parents, grandparents or even great-grandparents and I feel that we have, through these books, got the chance to encourage the young ones to start a collection of their own. Oh, I know, you will be told that computer games are more exciting or that they are not interested in ‘little bits of paper’! So, we need to counter these arguments.

Stamps, particularly the pictorial ones issued by France and her Colonies, can be used to help with studies of geography, history, art, science and a host of other subjects. It's often a lot easier to refer to stamps to find the indigenous plant life of Madagascar, for example, than to spend time going through books in the library or hunting through the internet. Stamps can help with our understanding of the location of various countries. In the case of our area of interest, a fair amount of the French language can be learned by fathoming out what the inscriptions mean on the stamps!

These are just a few examples of how stamps can assist in the understanding and appreciation of life around us and I'm sure you can all think of a lot more without me listing them here. So, it's up to us. When you have the chance get your children to sit with you when you are going through the latest packet to arrive and point out the stamps with interesting subjects portrayed on them and then perhaps purchase some of the least expensive for them. This should not break the bank and might just encourage the youngsters to take more interest in our hobby. In the process it will also put more money into Society funds and the pockets of those members who filled the books in the first place.

Watching some of the so called general knowledge programmes on television I am appalled at the lack of even the basic understanding of the world about us displayed by many of the younger contestants and I feel that anything that we can do to improve the situation can only be a good thing.

Mike James

Continued from page 86

SOCIETY NOTES

Corrigendum

Colin Spong apologises for the gremlin that crept in at the end of his Southern Group Report in Journal 236 (page 82). The meeting arranged for 13 August 2005 was indeed a display by the Pacific Islands Study Circle as on the

Programme Card and not the 2004 display again! The next Southern meeting will be on Saturday 15 October 2005 when member John Yeomens will present French India and French Mauritius.

POSTAL HISTORY SALES

My postal sales lists offer wide selections of France & Colonies postal history material, including maritime, military, aviation and POW items.

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Tel. & Fax: (01629) 56293

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French India Date Stamp Problem



Figure 1

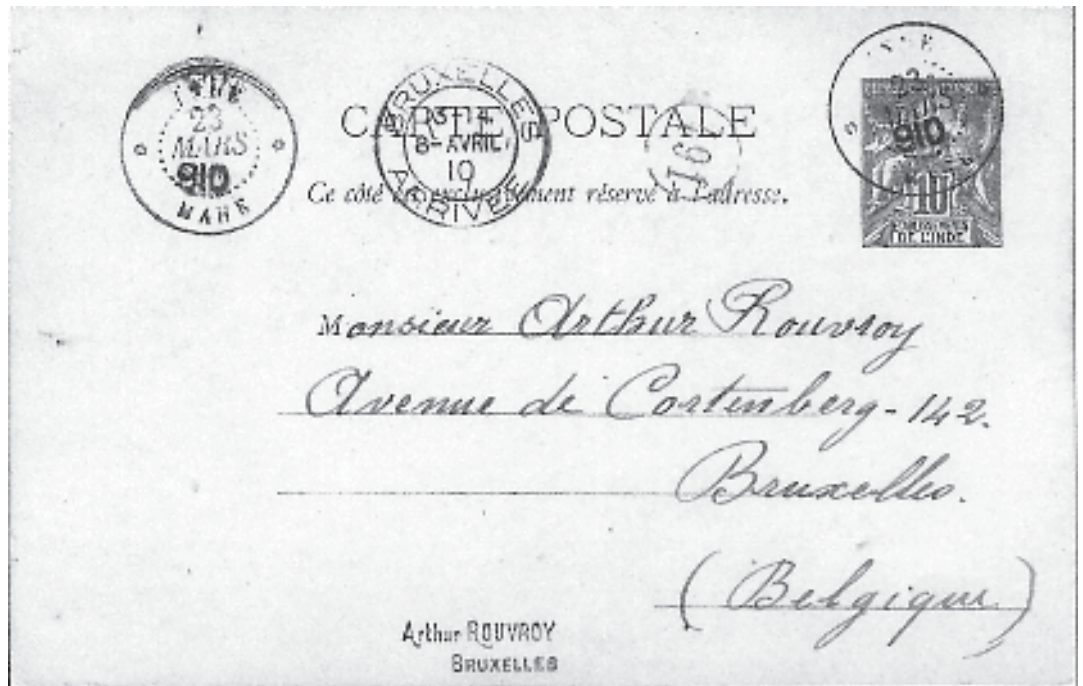


Figure 2

Reference has been made recently (Journal 235 page 35, Journal 236 page 70) to problems with date stamps on French India covers. I have recently received a photocopy of a 910 for 1910 in a cds from Jim Moffat, who found it on a single 10c red key type French Indian stamp (Fig 1).

I have a similar one (Fig 2) on a postal stationery card used from Mahé. It would seem that, not having learned from their 904 for 1904 mistake, the French Indian post office repeated it again in 1910.

Do we have a reason to include these oddities as separate cds in their own right in the cancellation listings? That they exist is not in doubt, but are they sufficiently recognised for such inclusion?

If any of our members have similar year dates to these 904 and 910 cds from these or the other French Indian enclaves, I should be grateful if they would please let me know, via the Journal Editor. A photocopy would prove of great assistance.

Ron Wood

Use of the Handstruck "3"

Figure 1 -
Extract from the 1834
Carte des services de la Poste aux Lettres



Further to Peter Kelly's most interesting article on the usage of the handstruck "3" (Journal 235 page 13), I believe it to be fair to say that the official origins of this handstamp date back to 1832 with the issue, by the Postal Authorities in Paris, of ratemark handstamps to post towns. In the case of the "3", to those towns situated between 40 and 80 kilometres from the centre of Paris.

The tariff of 1 January 1828 sets the rate of 3 *décimes* for the following categories of letter:

Distances measured in a straight line from office to office

- (a) 1st weight band - up to 7½g for a distance of 40 to 80km.
- (b) 2nd weight band from 7½ - 10g for a distance of up to and including 40km.



Figure 2 -

Letter date-lined ICHOUX [modern Ychoux] (rural box A) 10 October 1836, approximately 5.5km from the post town of LIPOSTHEY. Addressed to BROCAS, 19km north of MONT-de-MARSAN, a straight line distance of 55km. Charged 3 *décimes* with the distinctive locally made handstamp of LIPOSTHEY plus 1 *décime* (struck in red) for the collection in a rural *commune*.



Figure 3 -

Letter dated 1 July 1835 from NOYON to COMPIEGNE. Taxed at 3 *décimes*, with the locally made handstamp of Noyon, for the second weight band rate (manuscript 7½ by post clerk) and an office to office distance of 22km.

Peter Maybury

Morocco Protectorate Survivals of *Poste Aérienne* Cachet



An airmail cachet in Ian McQueen's collection,
illustrated in the *F&C Philatelist* 280 of April 2005 (page 67)
and reproduced here by permission of the Editor Stan Luft and of Ian himself

I was interested to read Jim Moffat's note under this title on page 72 of Journal 236 (June 2005); I suspect that in times to come survivals of colonial postal practices into the post-independence era will attract the attention of postal historians, and with this in mind examples should be recorded as and when they come to light.

These *Poste Aérienne* cachets are similar to the ones denoting payment of airmail surtaxes, typically inscribed *SURTAXE AERIENNE PERÇUE*, which were applied to postal stationery cards during the Vichy period, but it will be noted that they read *POSTE AERIENNE ... AFFRANCHISSEMENT PERÇU* – airmail postage paid – so they cover both the basic postage (if not sent *en franchise*) and the airmail surtax. (Postal stationery cards were the only means of communication permitted between the Occupied and Unoccupied zones of France; the latter included those colonies and other territories loyal to Vichy. The use of adhesives was forbidden, hence the need for the *SURTAXE AERIENNE* cachets.)

Like Jim, I believe that these *POSTE AERIENNE* cachets may date from some time in World War II. Originally I thought that they may have been devised to conserve stocks of adhesive stamps when supplies could no longer be obtained from France, wholly occupied by the Germans

following the Allied invasion of North Africa in November 1942. However, a note by Ian McQueen in the *France & Colonies Philatelist* (USA) for April 2005 suggests that they probably date from much earlier than this.

In his note, Ian records and illustrates a similar, but rather more attractive, cachet of the *BUREAU D'ALGER R.P. ALGERIE* on an apparently philatelic cover bearing the cursive franchise marking of the Governor-General of Algeria and postmarked 7 March 1940; at this time there was no reason to anticipate a shortage of stamps. So it now seems likely that Jim's Moroccan cachets (and any other similar ones) date from the early days of the War. If their use was confined to official mail, the source of all three examples recorded recently, it is even possible that they date from before the War. Ian's cachet has a distinctly professional look; this, too, could be an indication of a pre-War origin.

Collectors of Morocco are asked to check their collections and report for the record full details of any examples (with a photocopy if practicable) of a *POSTE AERIENNE ... AFFRANCHISSEMENT PERÇU* cachet, from Rabat or elsewhere, dating from the War years – or, indeed, earlier or later. Obviously, details of similar cachets from other colonies or overseas territories should also be placed on record.

Bill Mitchell

Charles Blomefield

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Rates: France to Jersey 1936/7

This period is definitely not my specialist sector, being beyond 1880!! But my friend Gerald Marriner, who may well be known to many of our members, would be pleased

of any assistance that can be offered in evaluating the routes and rates of the two following items, with details of the relevant marks.



Philip Mackey

Benin - Lagos Mail Service

[This article has also been submitted to *Cameo*.]

My article in Journal 235 of March 2005 on the Benin - Lagos mail service (page 36) also appeared in the West Africa Study Circle journal *Cameo* of June 2005. No sooner had that issue of *Cameo* arrived than I was telephoned by another member of WASC to advise me that not only had he read the article but he had also outbid me to acquire the postal stationery card illustrated. He is currently researching West African shipping, but it was small comfort to learn that the item had gone to a good home!

Since the article was published I have acquired a postcard of a second *vapeur*, the *Faadji* (Figs 1a and 1b). From the picture this appears to carry the insignia of Chargeurs Réunis of Bordeaux, who jointly with Fraissinet et C^{ie} of Marseille operated the French West African mail service. I have also acquired a coloured card (Figs 2a and 2b) of a *pirogue* (dug-out canoe) on a lagoon between Cotonou and Porto-Novo, though unfortunately there is no evidence of any mail being carried!

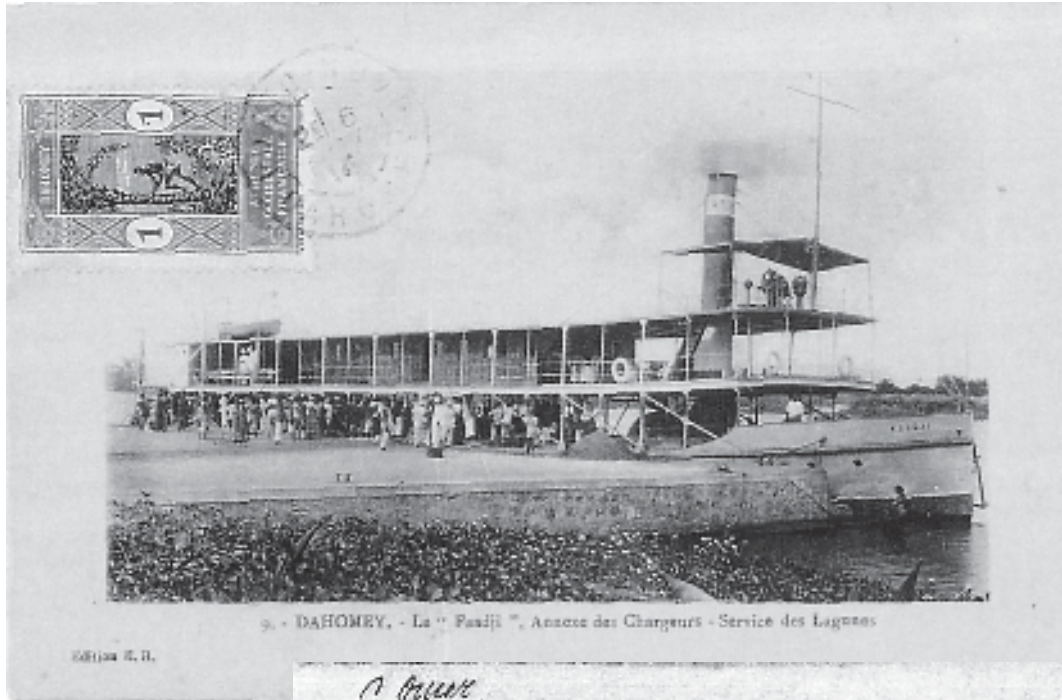


Figure 1a

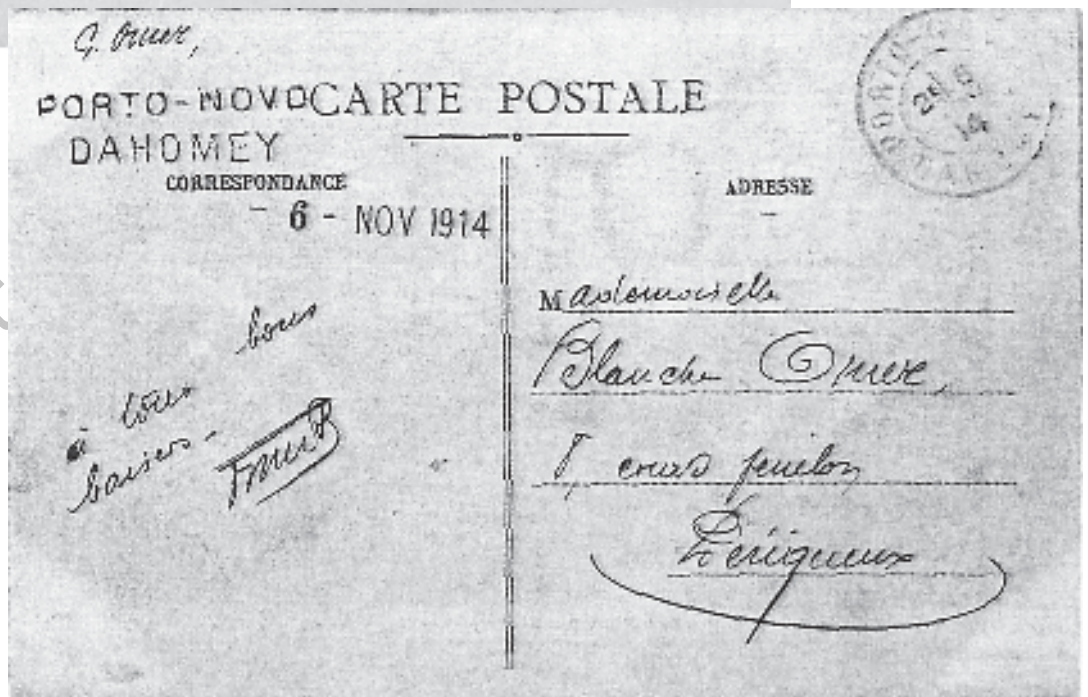


Figure 1b

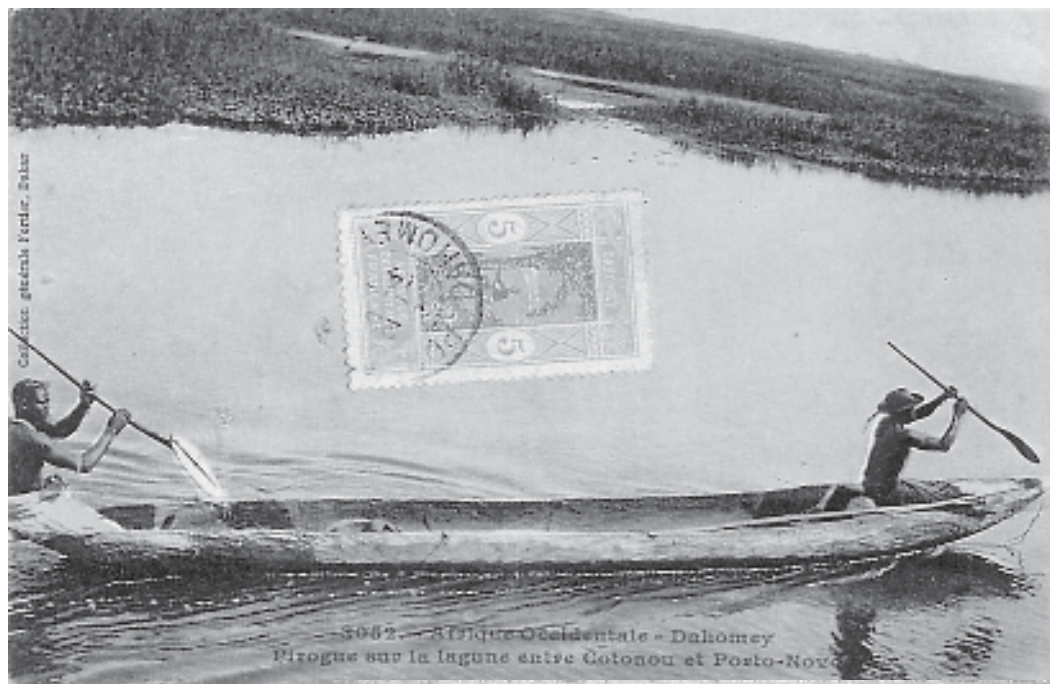


Figure 2a

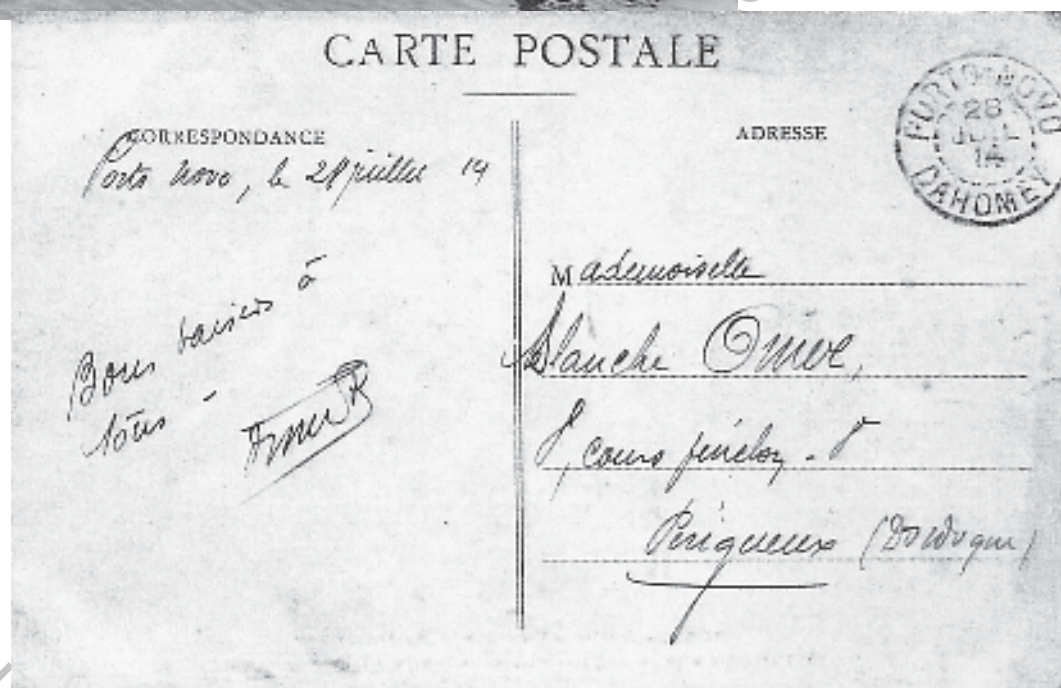


Figure 2b

John Mayne

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REPORTS OF MEETINGS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 14 MAY 2005

The President, Mr M S Tyler, opened the meeting held at the Calthorpe Arms public house, 252 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1, at 11.30am in the presence of 21 members.

(1) Apologies for absence were received from Mrs M Pavey and Messrs A Lawrence, W G Mitchell, D A Pashby, J M Simmons, J H Thorpe and J C West.

(2) Minutes of the previous AGM of 1 May 2004, published in Journal 233, were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

(3) President's Report - Maurice Tyler

"I have enjoyed my 2 year presidency, a period that has seen some very welcome developments in the Society. Meetings in London, Worthing and Leeds have continued to be held on a regular basis, but the feasibility of expanding the regional meetings has been explored, with some pleasing successes so far. The Northern Group, under the control of Peter Maybury and Stephen Holder, has investigated the possibility of meeting in different parts of the region, to accommodate those who do not live within easy reach of Leeds or Bradford; the Southern Group is still under the firm direction of Colin Spong; Peter Kelly and Alan Wood have very successfully inaugurated a new Wessex Group meeting near Salisbury; and even more recently Mavis Pavey has arranged an exploratory meeting of a new Scottish Group, to take place at Linlithgow in October. The annual philatelic weekend goes from strength to strength and, thanks in no small measure to the organising abilities of Peter Kelly and Chris Hitchen, seems to be establishing itself at the new venue near Stratford-upon-Avon – where, it must be admitted, railway connections are not ideal, although members attending by car have offered to help transport others to and from stations such as Leamington if necessary.

"Other regular activities of the Society have continued with great success. John West and Mavis Pavey have persevered with the packet schemes despite problems with the post and with the occasional member who does not adhere to the established rules and, in the case of the France packet, a dearth of material to send out. David Pashby continues to run a successful magazine scheme, despite problems with the French distributors. George Barker has given over half his home to accommodate the very impressive (as noted by one French visitor to our website) Society Library, and has recently been equipped with a photocopier so that he can offer an even better service to our members. Derek Richardson, although no longer an officer of our Society, continues to organise the distribution of our Journal, and is still working on a new expanded edition of his Rates book. Len Barnes and John Simmons have had considerable success in selling copies of our Magazine Index, compiled by Derek – though we would like to think that a much greater number of members would find it useful to have this work at their disposal when looking for articles on their favourite topics.

"The main officers of the Society have, as always, provided the backbone of services to members. Our General

Secretary Geoff Gethin, although not as mobile as he used to be, has not allowed that to prevent him from carrying out his duties thoroughly and consistently; and his major opus on forgeries has reached the stage of finishing touches, and should be published this autumn. Chris Hitchen is also a tireless worker for the Society, and keeps our finances in amazingly firm order. Alan Barrett, our Vice-President, has perhaps had little to do by way of official tasks, but showed himself willing to fill a gap when required. Ashley Lawrence has not always found the job of finding speakers for the London meetings an easy one, but again has worked hard and selflessly at filling our programme. Our Auction Secretary Mick Bister has made a very professional job of running the auctions, and thereby raising considerable sums for the Society; he has already announced his intention to step down, for personal reasons, and we are still hoping to find a member willing to take on this important role. In case this does not happen, emergency measures have been discussed by the Committee that would enable us to continue with perhaps 1 room auction and 2 postal auctions per year instead of the present total of 4. These proposals may therefore become apparent later, when officers are elected.

"Contributions from many other members in various ways have enabled our Society to progress in the right direction, with friendly cooperation the main characteristic to mark our activities. I can assure all those members who have contacted me with proposals or comments during the last two years that their suggestions have always been taken very seriously by the Committee and discussed fully, even if they have not been acted upon. Our aim in the future is to try to recognise the national character of the Society by opening up more official posts to members who are not necessarily London based. Rule changes – few in number – will facilitate this, but need to be notified to all members in good time before being put to the vote at an AGM, and this process has not proved possible this year. Even under the existing constitution, however, much can be done to go along this road, and it is our intention that this will occur.

"I am grateful to all members of the Committee and to other members as well for their active support during my term of office, and my apologies if I have omitted a key name. In conclusion, I think I can claim that the Society is in good hands, is serving the membership well, and is thriving."

(4) General Secretary's Report - Geoff Gethin

"The Society's membership at the end of the calendar year 2004 was 381, a decrease of 11 from the 2003 total. We lost 23 members, 6 of them through death. There were 16 new members and one reinstatement. Increasingly applications printed off from our website are arriving out of the blue.

"At the seven London meetings this season the average attendance was 14, the same as last year. This consistently low figure is a matter of concern and I will be preparing for the Committee a paper reviewing all the possible reasons for this state of affairs.

"Finally I would like to thank Derek Richardson for continuing to maintain the membership database and organise distribution of the Journal, and my wife Liz who actually does most of my work."

(5) Treasurer's Report - Chris Hitchen

"Expenditure increased substantially this year resulting in a deficit of some £. The main extra costs were the brochure, an Index of French stamp magazines, the twenty new display frames I mentioned last year, a new library list and the purchase of some of the late George Henderson's books for the library.

"I would just like to mention the basis on which the accounts are prepared. All expenditure is taken in the year in which it arises. If we were a commercial profit-making business, expenditure such as that on publications would be spread over a number of years. However, for a society such as ours where everything done is for the benefit of the membership and any surplus is a secondary consideration, that approach would not be appropriate. It does mean however that the accounts do need to be looked at over a period to get a fair view of our finances.

"To return to expenditure, accommodation costs are a return to normal levels. The figure for 2003 was abnormally low. Actual operating costs were little changed and kept as tight as possible. I do not anticipate significant changes next year. The welcome increase in regional activity entails some extra costs but at the moment these can be met without any problem.

"On the income side, subscription income has dipped a little. There has been a small loss of members and that is reflected in the figures. The auction and packet were very successful, though packet losses mean a continual increase in the cost of insurance. Sales of publications increased following the production of the brochure I mentioned earlier.

"Geoff Gethin's book on forgeries still nears completion and the funding of the launch of that will be taken from the reserves. When available it will be sold through the Society along with our other publications.

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

The acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and Accounts was proposed by several members, seconded by several others, and carried unanimously.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2004

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at bank	1349.06
Cash at building society	10754.23
Sundry debtors	<u>3500.43</u>
	15603.72

DEDUCT CURRENT LIABILITIES

Sundry creditors	193.97
Subscriptions in advance	<u>127.00</u>
	320.97
	<u>15282.75</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

Represented by

MEMBERS FUNDS

Uncommitted funds at 1.1.2003	16556.66
Year loss	<u>-1273.91</u>
	<u>15282.75</u>

2003

	4270.75
	10736.94
	<u>2987.15</u>
	17994.84

2003

	293.18
	<u>1145.00</u>
	1438.18
	<u>16556.66</u>

	15646.82
(surplus)	<u>909.84</u>
	<u>16556.66</u>

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2004

Expenditure

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Accommodation	949.44	205.00
Journal 4 issues	3233.25	3470.63
Postage and expenses	3376.40	2471.32
Display frames	500.00	-
Brochure publications	765.36	-
Year loss (2003 surplus)	<u>-1273.91</u>	<u>909.84</u>
	<u>7550.54</u>	<u>7056.79</u>

Income

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Auction	1249.67	1226.90
Exchange packet	1990.76	1560.25
Interest	72.25	52.58
Sale of publications	389.74	92.25
Subscriptions	<u>3848.12</u>	<u>4124.81</u>
	<u>7550.54</u>	<u>7056.79</u>

(6) Auction Secretary's Report - Mick Bister

"Availability of material during 2004 was erratic and necessitated a reduced catalogue for the August sale but nevertheless I cannot complain about the end of year results.

"A total of 1,781 lots was offered during 2004, significantly fewer than the 1,928 lots offered in 2003. The number of members participating fell also to an all time low, with an average of only 19.5% sending in bids, but fortunately for both the vendors and the Society they were keen to spend more money and buy more lots than in previous years. As a result, the number of lots sold rose last year to between 52% and 64% per auction and I was able to forward a profit of £ to the Treasurer - £ up on last year despite being 147 lots and four catalogue pages down.

"At this point I do have to express my gratitude to those members who regularly and reliably contribute material to the auction. There is a nucleus within the membership whose material is always a pleasure to receive as it is invariably of good quality, accurately described and offered at exceptionally reasonable reserves. I receive a large number of commercial auction catalogues from France and when I compare their reserves I realise how benevolent some of our vendors are being and how fortunate our members are in obtaining so many bargains.

"At the last AGM I announced my intention to retire from the post of Auction Secretary at the end of 2004 in

the hope that someone would step forward to take my place. A replacement did not materialise and so I have continued into 2005 and at the time of giving this report there is still some uncertainty about the way ahead. Although only a fifth of the membership bid in any one auction, it does provide them with an enjoyable and economical way of acquiring new material and it also provides the vendors with an uncomplicated means of disposing of their surplus material without the exorbitant fees and premiums demanded by some of the commercial auction houses.

Furthermore, the profits made by the auction are a serious contribution to the Society's income, without which increases in membership fees would have to be considered. I do hope that someone will volunteer to take over the reins, because failing that we shall be obliged to introduce an auction on a reduced scale which cannot be guaranteed to continue indefinitely.

"Before I close may I offer my thanks to those who regularly assist me with the auction, not only to Alan Wood for his auctioneering skills but also to all those who contribute as stewards and helpers in the room and those who donate packaging material and stationery, all of which helps to keep the auction expenses down. Thank you each and every one of you."

AUCTION ACCOUNT 2004					
EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
2003		2004	2003		2004
PAYMENTS TO VENDORS			SALE OF LOTS (including reimbursed Postage & Packing)		
_____	February	_____	_____	February	_____
	May			May	
	August			August	
	November			November	
PRINTING			2003 includes £ from Leamington Bookstall 2004 includes £ from Charlecote Bookstall		
_____	February	_____			
	May				
	August				
	November				
POSTAGE					
_____	February	_____			
	May				
	August				
	November				
OTHER OUTGOINGS					
	Sec. Expenses				
-	Bank Charges			Bank Interest	
_____	Profit to Society	_____			
_____		_____			
_____		_____			

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

"Last year I received 144 books with a total value of £. The figures in the attached accounts make slightly better reading than the previous year, but I am still not happy. As ever, I am in need of more material, since I was not able to get even 4 packets round to every circuit. My appeals for material seem to fall on deaf ears. If

members do not make an effort to supply me with books, what can I do about supplying them with packets? This has led to me receiving complaints that members never come to the top of the circulation list: the situation will be slow to change until I have the wherewithal to do something about it."

ACCOUNTS FOR FRANCE PACKET 2004					
INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
	2004	2003		2004	2003
	£	£		£	£
Balance b/f from previous year			Gross payments to vendors		
Receipts from members			Stationery		
Bank interest			Postage & telephone		
Commission on sales			Previous profit paid to Treasurer		
Insurance recovered			Balance in bank		
Postage recovered	_____	_____	Cash in hand	_____	_____
	_____	_____		_____	_____
PROFIT AND LOSS					
	2004	2003		2004	2003
	£	£		£	£
Commission on sales			Postage and telephone		
Postage recovered			Stationery		
Insurance recovered			Profit for previous year	_____	_____
Bank interest	_____	_____		_____	_____
	_____	_____		_____	_____

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

"A total of

more with each other – particularly to notify them that a packet is on its way. It is still disappointing to note the number of people who apologise for a delay in the movement of a packet by explaining that they “went away for a few days”. Although, I confess, I did fail to act on one member’s holiday dates and, quite justifiably, received an admonition from him!

“One packet was returned to me by the Post Office, because the member forwarding it had recycled the original packaging that he had received it in. He failed to obliterate postal markings that suggested it had not been collected after a failure to deliver. As the label clearly showed the date of posting was only two days before it was forwarded to me, we were able to successfully reclaim the bulk of the additional outlay from the Royal Mail.

“It is a heartening fact that the majority of members are grateful for, and appreciative of, the Colonies packet. I am happy to continue with my role at present but it certainly seems to be more demanding upon my time and energy than it used to be. So, please bear this in mind when you complain that your packet would have been cheaper to post if it had been 4 grams lighter!”

Full financial details of each packet are available from the Editor if required.

(9) Editor’s Report - Maurice Tyler

“I must express my gratitude to those members who, sometimes on a very regular basis, have provided articles for the Journal over the past year. I have usually found myself in the position of having enough material in hand to be confident of producing the next two issues, but would always welcome more pieces so that I could feel more assured about the long term future of the Journal. Intended contributors should bear in mind that I prefer to include illustrations – usually photocopies or scans – whenever possible, as these make the articles more attractive to readers. Any subjects will be considered for publication, but I know that many readers would like to see more on stamps rather than postal history.

“During 2004 there were the usual 4 issues, totalling 172 pages (176 last year) of which 12 were in full colour (16 last year), and 83,400 words (82,000 last year). The total cost of printing plus editorial expenses was £ less than last year. One interesting statistic: if you take these total costs and divide them by the total number of members, the result is £8.80; when annual UK postage costs are added the total per member is £11. The UK subscription is still only £10. And this takes no account of other expenses, such as those of the Secretary and other officers – or of the printing of the free Library List, which would add over £1 to the individual cost quoted. This shows how important the Auctions and Packets are to the Society.

“Derek’s Magazine Index was also published during the year and, so far, although we have sold a useful number in France to non-members, we are still about £ short of breaking even on costs. The Society website has attracted a few applications for membership, and I have tried to keep this up to date as far as information is concerned, and to

make sure there is a correct link to it from other websites. Work on Geoff’s Forgeries book is now almost complete.

“The Journal was entered into the Literature Competition at España 2004 and won a Large Silver medal. This recognition of quality is a tribute to the high standard of the contributions submitted by members, and I hope we can maintain this quality in the future.”

In the light of comments made regarding the cost of Journal printing and postage to UK addresses, it was queried whether overseas subscription rates were similarly subsidised by packet and auction income. The Treasurer promised that a review of the overseas rates would be undertaken.

(10) Librarian’s Report - George Barker

“Things are happily back to normal at the Society Library, both in terms of the number of requests and of my ability to service them in a reasonable time. In 2004 I received some 80 requests (many for photocopies) which is well up on the disturbed previous year (no comparable figure retrievable) and in the period from January 2005 to date I have handled 25 requests.

“The biggest news is on two allied fronts: I have received a large number of additions to the Library (including some purchases we were able to make at reserve prices for items offered in Stephen Holder’s sales during the year) and will try to make a big effort after the month is over [I am away for much of it] to produce a listing for the Journal. The second news item is that the Society has enabled me to purchase an Epson CX6600 photocopier/scanner/etc machine, which is most impressive. It is not an electrostatic copier, and hence is not so quick as those, but has the advantage that the cost of renewing the ink-jet reservoir is a fraction of the cost of an electrostatic toner cartridge. Moreover, it can produce colour copies, and all copies and all scanned items can be produced in the range 50% to 200% size of the original. I think that I could probably scan items and send the results by e-mail, but I am not sure of that! Pro tem, I propose to offer the b/w copies (using recycled paper, ie one side with previous use) at 2p (plus post); copies with fresh paper 5p per copy; colour copies 10p per item (fresh paper). These rates may be modified by our Treasurer in the future, when Chris and I get an idea how frequently new ink-jet cartridges are required. I am still learning with the machine, but it seems a very worthwhile purchase for the Society.”

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

“Thirteen people subscribe to both magazines, 13 to one only, mostly to *Timbres*. There have been four resignations this year, and one death. There have been a few enquiries, but no new subscribers. One sub remains unpaid, two have been paid in advance. ‘Receipts’ are down because there is less to carry forward. I am now in the situation where subs (£) do not cover expenses (£), and I will have to ask for an increase next year.

“Magazines have been arriving regularly, and the problem of inadequate packaging is largely solved. (One month the

two copies of *Timbres* again arrived held together with rubber bands – the employee dealing with them had forgotten my request for a stout envelope.)

“There have been one or two complaints about the length of time some members were taking to deal with magazines, and I appeal to everybody to read them quickly, and post

them on. It shouldn't take six months for a magazine to circulate around thirteen members, but sometimes it does. Thank you, those of you who sent me holiday dates. If given sufficient time, I can alter circulation lists.”

Some surprise was expressed at the small number of members subscribing to this excellent service.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE MAGAZINE SCHEME FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2005

RECEIPTS

Carried forward from previous year

Subs @ £6

Subs @ £3

Interest on deposit account for year

Sub overpaid

TOTAL

2004-5

2003-4

EXPENDITURE

Sub to *Timbres Magazine* (2 copies, March 2005:

Sub to *l'Écho de la Timbrologie* (2 copies, March 2005:

Postages & incidental expenses

Parcels

TOTAL

2003-4

2002-3

est.

Nil

RECEIPTS

less EXPENDITURE

CARRY FORWARD

(12) Regional Group Reports

Report of the Northern Group - Peter Maybury

“Again four meetings were scheduled in Leeds for the year, plus the well regarded annual visit to Heaton Royds for the Bastille Day celebration. Compared to the previous year, the numbers attending at Leeds show a most pleasing increase. This factor, together with the welcome provision by the main Society of display frames, has necessitated the move to a larger room. We are grateful for the co-operation of the Leeds General Infirmary in making the Board Room available to us.

“Detailed reports of the gatherings have appeared in the Journal during the year. All of the displays were presented by members and guests of the group, who continue to astonish with the breadth and depth of their collecting and knowledge. The all day meeting held in March was for us a first. The participation of fourteen members, with three “first timers” plus Nick Martin who provided a most entertaining and informative main display (all of whom had travelled good distances to be with us), plus one guest, ensured a most convivial gathering.

“As organiser I wish to thank all who have made the effort to attend our meetings, thus contributing to the success of the group.

On behalf of the Northern Group I also wish to place on record our sincere thanks to Stephen and Judith for their hospitality during the invasion of their home on 17 July 2004.”

The Northern Group programme for 2005-2006 was published in Journal 235 (page 14) with amendments to dates in Journal 236 (page 42) and this Journal (page 86).

Report of the Southern Group - Colin Spong

“Four quarterly meetings have been held during the past year and details of these have been published in the Journal. Once again I am pleased to report that we have enjoyed some good displays with an average attendance of 15 members and guests. I would like to thank those who have given displays and also the members who travel considerable distances to be with us. We are a friendly group and invite those who have not yet been to a meeting to come along. Finally I thank my wife Pat who looks after the refreshments for us.”

The new programme for 2005-2006 is as follows:

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

13 August 2005: Displays by Members of the Pacific Islands Study Circle [PACIFICA]

15 October 2005: John Yeomens: French India & French Mauritius

7 January 2006: Members' Displays / New Acquisitions

1 April 2006: Peter Maybury: “What I collect”

Report of the Wessex Group - Peter Kelly

The initial meetings of this new group were reported to be a great success, and every effort would be made to encourage increased attendances in the future.

(13) Election of Officers and Committee

Those members listed on the AGM agenda as having indicated their willingness, if elected, to serve for the 2005-2006 season were elected *en bloc*, after a proposal to this effect made by David Jennings-Bramly and seconded by Alan Barrett was carried unanimously.

With regard to the Auction Secretary vacancy, the proposition was put to the meeting that Mick Bister would run one room auction and John Hammonds would organise two postal auctions, both on an acting basis. This arrangement was approved unanimously.

The Committee for 2005-2006 is therefore:

President:	Mr P R A Kelly
Vice-President & Programme Secretary:	Mr A J Lawrence
General Secretary:	Dr R G Gethin
Treasurer:	Mr C J Hitchen
Librarian:	Mr G E Barker
Editor:	Mr M S Tyler
Acting Auction Secretaries:	Mr M L Bister Mr J N Hammonds
Packet Secretary (France):	Mrs M Pavey
Packet Secretary (Colonies):	Mr J C West
Committee Members:	Mr L H Barnes Mr A D Barrett Mr J P Maybury Mr J Parmenter Mr C W Spong Prof W I Stevenson

(14) Programme of Society Meetings in London

		Venue*
2005		
Wed 28 Sep:	Members: 12 sheets	CA
Sat 29 Oct:	President's afternoon	RHH
Sat 12 Nov:	Auction (2pm, view from 12noon)	CA
Wed 30 Nov:	Lesley Marley: Montargis	CA
2006		
Wed 25 Jan:	Michael Berry: Île de Ré postal history	CA
	Michael Annells: Railways	
Sat 25 Feb:	Mick Bister: French Somali Coast	RHH
Wed 26 Apr:	Godfrey Bowden: Internal Letter	
	Rates 1849-1949 & Tunisia	CA
Sat 13 May:	AGM (11.30am) & Auction (2pm)	CA

*** Venues**

CA = Calthorpe Arms PH, 252 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1 (Wednesday meetings commence at 6.30pm).
RHH = Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1 (Meetings are from 3pm to 5pm).

(15) Any Other Business

Members expressed their appreciation of the work undertaken by Society Officers.

The incoming President, Peter Kelly, then gave an informal inaugural address covering the following topics:

(a) He said he had become President somewhat by default in replacing Geoff who stood down because of ill health, and he took the opportunity of thanking him for all he had done and is doing for us as Secretary.

(b) He thought that each president should leave his mark in some way and that in the case of Maurice he had certainly done this, firstly by the calm and measured way in which he had run the Society for two years, and more importantly by the permanent legacy he has left in the form of our prize winning Journal, the hard work for which and the quality of which was appreciated enormously by all members. His comment was met with acclamation.

(c) The Society has an ageing membership and there was a need to find the best way to recruit new members. The development of the provincial groups was important and was bringing the Society's activities to a wider audience. The Wessex group had got off to a fine start and now that a Scottish group was being formed, he suggested that all the provincial group convenors contact local philatelic societies in their area to advertise what we do.

(d) He encouraged members to use our assets: few societies had a library, journals and in-house publications to match ours, and there was a wealth of information there from which we could all find something relevant to our areas of interest.

(e) He expressed surprise that so few members visit the French national exhibitions or Marcophilex. The Society itself cannot undertake to make all the arrangements for members to visit these but he and others could provide help and advice in a general way. These occasions were of tremendous value because they not only allowed visitors to see a wide range of important material covering every possible aspect of stamps and postal history as well as thematics, but also to investigate the boxes of the dealers present.

(f) He had received a communication from David Herendeen, president of our American sister society, expressing an interest in forging even closer ties with us, in particular with members working together on projects and sharing knowledge. With a view to implementing these ideas, an invitation had been given to us to nominate a person to join their equivalent of our Committee, and Peter undertook to develop this dialogue with them.

The President then closed the meeting at 13.00 hours.

RGG

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 16 JULY 2005

Bastille Day at Heaton Royds

Present: G Barker, R Barnes, M & M Bister, S Ellis, A Goude, C Hitchen, S & J Holder, N Martin, P Maybury, D & J Richardson, A Shepherd, P Stockton, J & V Sussex, P Watkins, Y & R Wheatley.

Apologies: K Howitt, B Lucas, M Meadowcroft, M Tyler, J Whiteside.

Once again we gathered in sunny conditions and, following coffee and biscuits in the garden, we proceeded to the Barn where **Stephen Holder** had provided a standing display of the French occupation of the Saar 1920-1924. **George Barker** gave us a 3 frame display on *Type Blanc*, **Chris Hitchen** the General Post in Paris, **Alan Goude** a *pot pourri* of Martinique, **Tony Shepherd** followed the colonial theme with a selection from Martinique, and **Robert Barnes** gave us an insight into the early issues of Gabon. Returning to metropolitan France, **Mick Bister** enthused on the *Blason de Paris* issue of 1962-65, **Derek Richardson** produced a study of the *Chânes Brisées* issue of 1944-45, **John Sussex** gave us a taster of his Corsica collection, and the morning

session concluded with **Vivien Sussex's** selection of Bordeaux postal history.

Following the usual delicious lunch produced by Judith, again consumed with relish (approval not chutney) in the garden, a later than scheduled start to the afternoon session commenced with **Peter Maybury's** *Bateaux à Vapeur*, **Derek Richardson** came up for a second helping, the internment camp at Châteaubriant this time, **Yvonne Wheatley** showed a miscellany of railway covers, **Paul Watkins** continued with a variety of covers and queries, **Nick Martin** produced Belgian *départements conquis*, **Peter Stockton** followed with French Morocco, **Tony Shepherd** reprised Guadeloupe, **Peter Maybury** displayed some recently written up covers from and to Algeria, **Steve Ellis** resurfaced with a couple of frames of foreign POs in Constantinople, and past president **Mick Bister** rounded off the day with a look at French Somali Coast 1862-1909. All in all another very agreeable meeting, and our thanks go to Stephen and especially Judith for providing a super venue and refreshments.

JPM

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 13 AUGUST 2005

Joint Meeting with the Pacific Islands Study Circle

The Organiser welcomed members and guests to the 101st meeting; following coffee, he invited **John Ray** to introduce his team. The meeting commenced with **Jim Crompton's** display showing the French influence on New Hebrides, with cancels on New Caledonia stamps issued between 1903 and 1908; among the many items on display was an internal flight cover dated 12 May 1931 with New Caledonia and New Hebrides stamps, and a wide range of stamps issued for the 10c military franchise to troops. **John Ray** then showed photocopies of an award winning display of first air flights of *Tourtoires du Pacifique Sud* 1947-89, from French Polynesia, New Caledonia, New Hebrides and Wallis & Futuna. This was the work of one of their French members, **M. Francis Zammith**.

The second session commenced with **Tony Eastgate's** display of French Polynesia, with an excellent array of covers from all six islands in the Marquesas group [recently visited] with such names as Nuka-Hiva, Fatu-Hiva, Tahuata etc. This was followed by **Peter Phillips' show** of New Hebrides stamps commencing with the 1938 definitives; then on to the commemorative issues of UPU, Red Cross, FFH, ITU and Concorde, all in both English and French. Peter mentioned [he worked out there for a number of years] that the stamps in either language were sold at the same post office counter by the same clerk and were charged for at the current day's ruling rate.

After a break for lunch at the local hostelry we reconvened and were enthralled with **Laurence Kimpton's** offering of Clipperton Island – an island 1000km from Acapulco – discovered by John Clipperton in 1704. The first 'stamps' were issued in 1895, followed by Mexican stamps

overprinted between 1897 and 1917. Two Mexican postal stationery postcards overprinted ISLA CLIPPERTON were shown, together with many other covers, mainly of visiting ships. **John Hammonds** then showed a few of his aviation covers of New Caledonia flown by Victor Roffey in *The Golden Eagle* between 1 May and 21 November 1931, and a first direct flight France to New Caledonia on 5 April 1932. Three nice censored covers were included and later first flights of TRAPAS.

The final session commenced with **John Ray** giving a wide-ranging and diverse collection of covers of French Polynesia, of the Society, Tuamotuo, Tubual and Marquesas groups; and finished with our member **George Nash** giving a display of his recently prepared inter-zone mail. Many cards were presented of the mail between Occupied France and Vichy France, covering the whole period from 1940 to the end of 1942. Colin Spong gave the vote of thanks to all those displaying, especially the members of the Pacific Islands Study Circle, some of whom had travelled from afar, including Manchester, to give all attending a most enjoyable day's entertainment.

Members present: Michael Annells, Michael Berry, Colin Clarkson, Geoff Gethin, John Hammonds*, Bob Larg, Yvonne Larg, Bill Mitchell, George Nash, John Ray*, Bob Small, Colin Spong, John Thorpe, John Yeomans*. Pacifica: Jim Crompton*, Tony Eastgate, Laurence Kimpton, Peter Phillips. Guests: Christine Annells, Helen Eastgate, Pat Spong, Kathy Yeomans. [*joint members]

Apologies received from Betty & Frank Blincow, Roy Ferguson, Michael Wilson, David Worrollo.

RDL

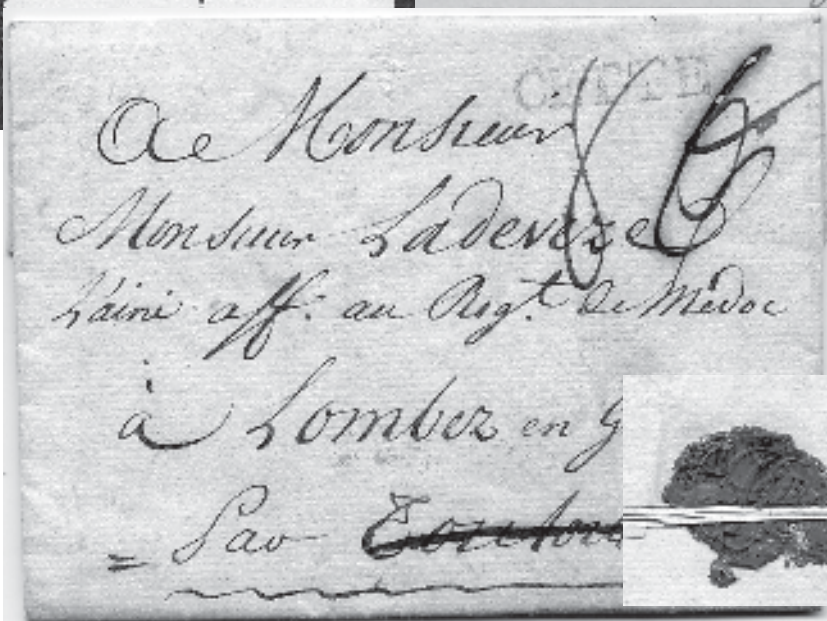
November 2005 Auction - Selected Lots

(see page 100 for descriptions)

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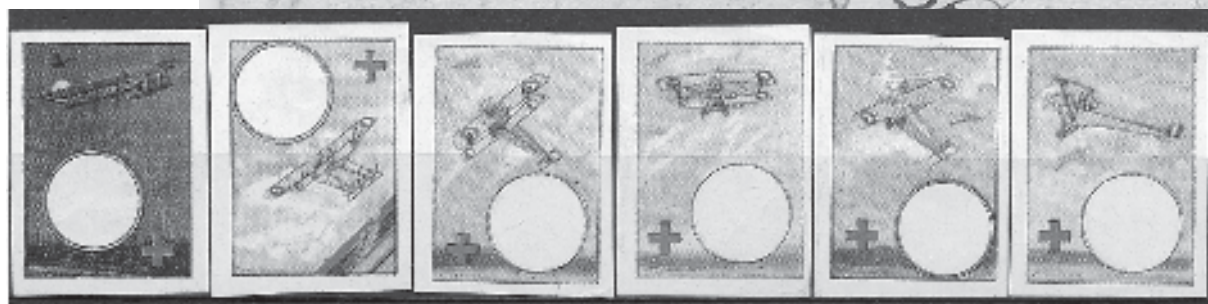
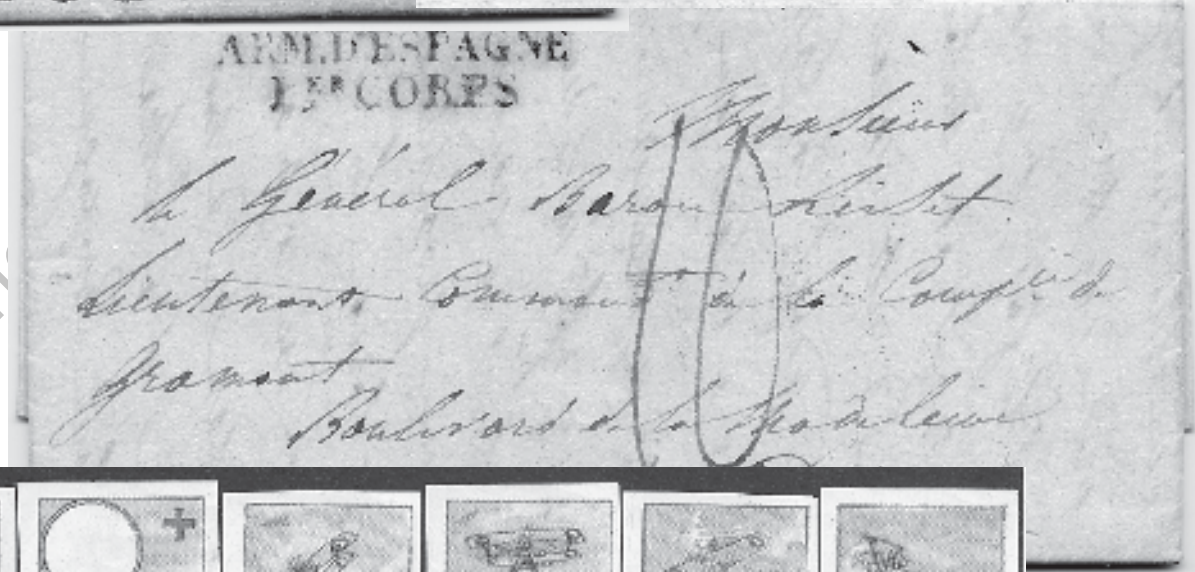
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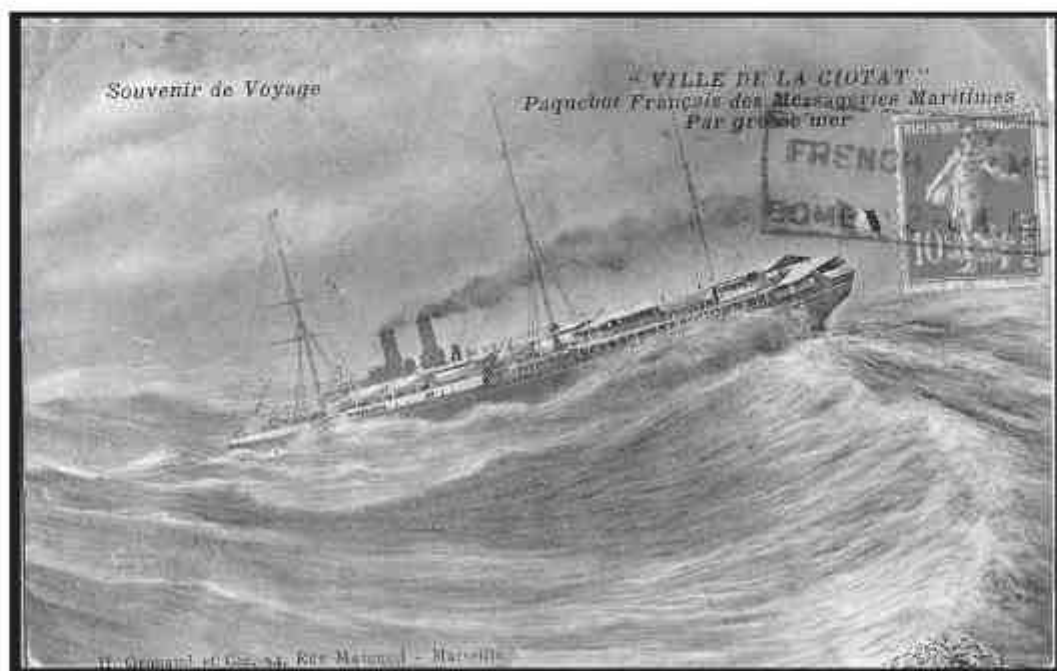
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