

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



Dijon Aviation 1910
(Lot 201 in the February 2007 Auction)

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THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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The Society

The Society was founded in 1949 and is affiliated to the ABPS. Its affairs are managed by a Committee comprising President, Officers and Committee members, elected annually.

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

2007 Subscription Rates

United Kingdom: £13.00, Europe: £17.00, Elsewhere: £20.00.

Treasurer: C J Hitchen, 36 Everton Road, Croydon CR0 6LA (email: treasurer@fcps.org.uk)..

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The Journal

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Lots for sale through the Society auctions, held 3 or 4 times a year, should be sent to the Acting Auction Secretaries, M L Bister, 7 The Slade, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2ES, or

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Please send material for circulation in booklet form to the appropriate Exchange Packet Secretary, viz.

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Colonies: J C West, 5 Highbanks Road, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4AR (Telephone 0208 428 4741).

The Library

Members are invited to avail themselves of the services of the Society's substantial library, on terms set out in the Library List distributed to all Members.

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The Magazine Circuit

The Society subscribes to two French philatelic magazines, and has circuits organised for those who wish to read them.

For further details contact the circuit organiser:

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Northern Group: J P Maybury

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Scottish Group: Mrs M Pavey

* * *

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The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1278 Michael Platt (Sheffield), 1279 K Colston-Lake (Middlesex), 1280 A T Wishart (Lanarkshire).

* * *

Members Deceased

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

1104 Peter Upson, 48 A G Leguen-de-Lacroix.

* * *

Resignations

We have not previously recorded resignations from the Society in these columns, but as a small number of longstanding members have, mainly for personal reasons such as a change of interests, tendered their resignation in recent months, the names of all those who have resigned during the past year are given here, as current members may wish to keep in touch with some of them:

955 Andrew Kerr, 350 G R Collins, 1142 G Gosling, 1232 R Wilson, 1037 A D Clitheroe, 268 Alec Swain, 715 John Whiteside, 1273 Erik Lørdahl.

* * *

Philatelic Honours

We congratulate our Treasurer, **Chris Hitchen**, on his election as a *membre associé étranger* of the Académie de Philatélie on 2 September 2006.

* * *

Exhibition Successes

The following members are to be congratulated on gaining high awards at España 2006 (Malaga, 7-13 October 2006):

Mick Bister: Gold Medal in the Traditional Class for "The Life and Times of the 1F50 Pétain"

David Stirrups: Large Vermeil Medal in the Postal History Class for "The Spanish Post Office and Gibraltar Mail 1850-1875"

And at the FFAP Bilatérale France-Allemagne (Nevers, 16 September 2006):

Michel Letailleur: Gold Medal and Special Prize in the Traditional Class for "Les 30c Semeuse Camée Métropolitains"

* * *

Displays by Members

Several of our members contributed to the displays at Villebon-sur-Yvette for Marcophilex XXX, 30 September - 1 October 2006:

Peter Kelly - "Cartes postales pendant la période au type Sage (1876-1900)"

Bertrand Sinais - "Lettres de Corse libérée 1943-1945"

Chris Hitchen - "Les lettres de Paris pour Paris 1795-1850"

Peter Maybury - "Les services postaux maritimes entre la France et l'Italie par bateaux à vapeur"

At a joint meeting of the Postal History Society with the Welsh Philatelic Society at Brecon in April 2006, the displays included one by **Barrie Jay** on the Channel Islands.

At the Taunton Stamp Club, the Aerophilately Cup was won by **Skanda Vaitilingam** with a display on Aspects of French Aerophilately.

At the 60th Salon d'Automne in Paris, 8-11 November 2006, **Bertrand Sinais** displayed "Les grandes étapes de la conquête de l'air par les Français 1870-1936".

* * *

Book Wanted

Paul Watkins has written to say that he has been looking for a copy of Mme. Chauvet's book on Anglo-French mail, which is now out of print and of which she has no access to extra copies. Paul has borrowed the Society's copy on extended loan, but would much prefer to have his own. He wonders, therefore, whether any member has a copy that they would be prepared to part with (for payment!).

The title of the book is: *Les Relations de la France avec l'Angleterre de 1670 à 1849*, written by Michèle Chauvet and published in 2001. If anyone can help with this appeal, Paul can be contacted by telephone on 01335 370472, or by email at <melmoth23@hotmail.com>, or by post at Wardgate Cottage, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne DE6 3EE. He hopes that someone out there has a copy gathering dust on their bookshelf!

* * *

Slogan Postmarks For Sale

Laurence Lambert offers for sale approximately 120 slogan postmarks on pieces with stamps of the 1955-1961 period. The majority are illustrated *flammas* and are well struck and complete. He is unwilling to submit them to one of the Society auctions because of the prohibitive cost of returning them if unsold. Cost: £4 (or \$7) including shipping by surface mail. The Editor has been handed coloured scans of 10 of them as examples if required.

Laurence can be contacted at 405 Fox Creek Road, Rolla, MO 65401, USA; or email: hosea1926@hotmail.com

* * *

French Correspondent

A Monsieur L Renollet, who is not a member of this Society but who has recently purchased a copy of Derek Richardson's book on French postal rates, has offered to supply our members with information on French stamps or possibly to exchange material. He says he is particularly interested in letters from France to Great Britain or one of its colonies.

His email address is renoluis@wanadoo.fr or he can be contacted at 17 rue Marmoutel, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand.

* * *

Stamps meeting the Basic Internal Letter (*LSI*) rate 1849-1949

Godfrey Bowden

Introduction

Last year (2005) at our Annual Weekend meeting near Stratford-on-Avon I committed myself to giving a short display based on Marianne de Gandon. This was very brave of me as this was one of our esteemed Presidents' (Mick Bister's) specialities, and I well remembered his superb coverage of the subject a year or two previously. I remembered being fascinated by the discovery that the shortest postal rate in French postal history, of only two days, occurred during the Marianne de Gandon period. Even more interesting was the fact that on reducing the postal rate for the *LSI* (*lettre simple intérieure*) from 5F to 4F50 there were no definitive stamps of the latter value and it would take the printers over three weeks to produce them. The pragmatic French immediately saw the answer and informed the public that they could buy 5F stamps at a 10% discount for this emergency period, ie 4F50. Later the 5F Stamps were demonetised to avoid the obvious possibility of a scam!

My study looked at the uses of the various values of the Marianne de Gandon issue and related them to the prevailing variety of postal rates. This for me, if not the viewers of this display, was an interesting venture into the intricacies of postal rates. With this bit between my teeth, when Peter Kelly, our present President, asked me whether I would like to give a display to the London group, it was with some trepidation I offered to give a stamp based study of the first hundred years of French stamps which would have met the basic internal rate. As a lifetime collector of stamps of this period I felt that I would have sufficient material to meet the demands of such a study.

The Extent of the Study

I made life difficult for myself in deciding to incorporate into the study all of the major definitive types. For example, in the Sage period there are five distinct types of the blue 15c – IIB, IID, IID *quadrillé*, IIE and IIG. Earlier still were the three Bordeaux types – though I decided not to include the sub-types (*Reports I, II & III*). Of these three main types I did not have a decent copy of Type I (Debourgez), but now thanks to this study I do.

As an inveterate collector of unsorted bulk lots of definitives I had great fun sorting through them to find decent copies of various Sower and Peace types to meet my requirements. Probably the most difficult varieties to find were used copies of the coil stamps. At the time of writing I have yet to find a copy of the 90c blue Peace type II: even French dealers look blankly at one when asked for a copy, but I must admit I haven't tried that hard. Others, I found, that I had in my collection were not really the best examples to put on show, so in a few cases a few coppers were expended to get better copies. Incidentally, whilst

trying to get decent used copies of pictorial or charity stamps of the pre-1949 period I was somewhat suspicious of the beautifully light partial cds's offered for sale because it was so rare to make out their origin. Could it be that the more common mint stamps have been cancelled to meet a demand? Sometimes the 'used' stamps have full gum!

Details of the Study

Which stamps qualified? During the 19th century there was little or no record of the withdrawal dates of the issues, so for that period I have assumed that old issues, say of the 1849-50 period, would not have been available for period 3 (1854-1861). In fact, late uses are not uncommonly found, but one has to draw a line somewhere. Records of the withdrawal of stamps became better documented in the 20th century, my reference source being the Marianne catalogue (1984-5). Again, one cannot be dogmatic that once a stamp is officially withdrawn it is no longer available for postage, but it does limit the study sensibly.

A detailed list of the qualifying stamps for each period, the issue date and withdrawal date are shown in the appended table. This occasionally throws up some interesting facts. For instance, during the above mentioned two day 5F tariff period, four stamps currently then on sale would have met the *LSI* rate. The Marianne catalogue gives a value of 1000 francs (1980s!) for the 5F Marianne de Gandon used on cover on either 1 or 2 January 1947, whereas greater rarity value should also apply to the three other stamps on sale on those two days, Yv 719, 759 and 768. The search is on!

Some 230 stamps met the criteria for this study, showing that in this day of Postal History, covers are not the only medium by which one can study it. It would be an almost impossible challenge to accumulate a study as wide ranging as this using appropriate covers.

Layout

To display this study is not easy, but with the help of the computer and 'Word' a layout was devised, showing the relevant date line for the tariff period with the stamps usable during that tariff period shown above or below the date line positioned closely to the actual date of issue. Figures 1, 2 and 3 show copies of the actual display sheets for the Tariff Period 14: for the definitives (50 centimes), reproduced at half size (ie the image is equivalent to two normal pages), the charity stamps or those otherwise surcharged (50c + ?), again half size, and the pictorial/commemorative stamps (50c) on a single sheet (shown full size). You will notice that the date line is not always uniform and has to be expanded or contracted to suit the layout. Fortunately, all the stamps in this study could be displayed either on a single or double page.

Statistics for the Basic Interior Letter Rate 1849-1949

Weight:-	7.5 grams max.	1/1/1849 - 31/12/1861		
	10 grams max.	1/1/1862 - 31/2/1875		
	15 grams max.	1/3/1875 - 31/4/1910		
	20 grams max.	1/5/1910 to the end of the period studied and to date?		
Charges:-	20 centimes	1/1/1849 - 30/6/1850	50 centimes	9/8/26 - 11/7/37
	25 centimes	1/7/1850 - 30/6/1854	65 centimes	12/7/37 - 16/11/38
	20 centimes	1/7/1854 - 31/8/1871	90 centimes	17/11/38 - 30/11/39
	25 centimes	1/9/1871 - 30/4/1878	1 franc	1/12/39 - 4/1/42
	15 centimes	1/5/1878 - 15/4/1906	1 franc 50c	5/1/42 - 28/2/45
	10 centimes	16/4/06 - 31/12/16	2 francs	1/3/45 - 31/12/45
	15 centimes	1/1/17 - 31/3/20	3 francs	1/1/46 - 31/12/46
	25 centimes	1/4/20 - 15/7/25	5 francs	1/1/47 - 2/1/47
	30 centimes	16/7/25 - 30/4/26	4 francs 50c	3/1/47 - 7/7/47
	40 centimes	1/5/26 - 8/8/26	6 francs	8/7/47 - 5/1/49

Note : The above gives a good inflation index for the period studied.

General Comment

All the data given here are easily available; however this consolidation might prove to be useful.

Table of LSI Rates 1849-1949

Period	Rate	Max. wt.	Type	Yv	SG	Description	Issued	Withdrawn
1 (1/1/49-30/6/50)	20c	7.5g	Def.	3	6	Cérès imperf	1/1/49	
2 (1/7/50-30/6/54)	25c	7.5g	Def.	4	10	Cérès imperf	1/7/50	-----
				10	38	Louis Napoléon President imperf	9/52	-----
				15	63	Napoléon III Emperor imperf	3/12/53	-----
3 (1/7/54-31/12/61)	20c	7.5g	Def.	14A	55	Nap. III imperf Type 1	1/7/54	-----
				14B	61	Nap. III imperf Type 2	9/60	-----
4 (1/1/62-31/8/71)	20c	10g	Def.	14B	61	Nap. III imperf Type 2	9/60	-----
				22	93	Nap. III perf.	12/8/62	-----
				29A	114	Nap. <i>Lauré</i> Type 1	4/4/67	-----
				29B	115a	Nap. <i>Lauré</i> Type 2	2/8/68	-----
				37	137	Cérès perf.	10/70	-----
				44	164	Cérès Bordeaux Type 1	13/11/70	-----
				45	167	Cérès Bordeaux Type 2	20/11/70	-----
				46	171	Cérès Bordeaux Type 3	13/12/70	-----
5 (1/9/71-31/2/75)	25c	10g	Def.	60A	198	Cérès perf. Type 1	15/9/71	-----
				60B	199	Cérès perf. Type 2	17/11/73	-----
				60C	199b	Cérès perf. Type 3	26/3/74	-----
6 (1/1/76 -30/4/78)	25c	15g	Def.	60C	199b	Cérès perf. Type 3		
				68	220	Sage Type 1 ultramarine	6/76	
				78A	234	Sage Type 2S ultramarine	21/7/76	
				78B	234	Sage Type 2A ultramarine	14/10/76	
				79	235	Sage Type 2 blue	12/7/77	

Period	Rate	Max. wt.	Type	Yv	SG	Description	Issued	Withdrawn
7 (1/5/78-15/4/06)	15c	15g	Def.	77B	232	Sage Type 2B grey	2/78	
				90A	257	Sage Type 2B blue	15/6/78	
				90B	257	Sage Type 2D blue	19/6/81	
				101A	279	Sage Type 2D <i>quadrillé</i> blue	3/92	
				101B	279	Sage Type 2E <i>quadrillé</i> blue	8/3/94	
				101C	279	Sage Type 2G <i>quadrillé</i> blue	7/99	
				117	301	Mouchon orange	12/00	12/02
				125	310	Mouchon Redrawn orange red	12/02	4/03
				130A	316	Lined Sower Type 1	2/4/03	1906
				130B	316	Lined Sower Type 2	1903	1904
				130C	316	Lined Sower Type 3	Mid 1904	1904
				130D	316	Lined Sower Type 4	Mid 1904	9/24
8 (16/4/06-31/4/10)	10c	15g	Def.	129A	314	Lined Sower Type 1	6/5/03	1907
				129B	314	Lined Sower Type 2	1904	1907
				129C	314	Lined Sower Type 3	1904	1907
				134A	325	Sower w. grnd. Type 1	13/4/06	-----
				134B	325	Sower w. grnd Type 2	17/5/06	-----
				135A	328	Sower thin figs. Type 1	28/7/06	1910
				135B	328	Sower thin figs. Type 2A	20/10/06	1910
				135C	328	Sower thin figs. Type 3	1/12/06	1910
				138A	334	Sower thick figs. Type.1A	Late 9/07	2/22
9 (1/5/10-31/12/16)	10c	20g	Def.	138A	334	Sower thick figs. Type 1A	Late 9/07	2/22
				138B	334	Sower thick figs. Type 1C	8/10	1918?
9 (1/5/10-31/12/16)	10c	20g	Char.	146	351	+5c on 10c Sower, thick figs.	8/8/14	10/18
				147 A	352	10c + 5c Sower one printing Type 1	10/9/14	-----
				147B	352	As above Type 2	1915	-----
10 (1/1/17-31/3/20)	15c	20g	Def.	130D	316	Lined Sower Type 4	1904	9/24
				130E	316	Lined Sower Type 5	1917	-----
10 (1/1/17-31/3/20)	15c	20g	Char.	150	372	Orphans 1st set 15c + 10c	8/17	31/10/22 demonetised
				156	378	Red Cross 15c + 5c	8/8/18	1/4/21 demonetised
11 (1/4/20-15/7/25)	25c	20g	Def.	140A	341	Sower Type 1a	19/6/07	1927
				140G	341	Sower Type 4	1920	-----
				140B	341	Sower Type 1b	1921	-----
				140C	341	Sower Type 2	1921	-----
				140F	341	Sower Type 3C	End 1922	-----
				140D	341	Sower Type 3A	End 1923	-----
				140E	341	Sower Type 3B	9/24	23/2/27
11 (1/4/20-15/7/25)	25c	20g	Char.	151	373	Orphans 1 st set 25c + 15c	8/17	31/10/22 demonetised
				165	391	As above s/charge changed to + 5c 1st printing	1/9/22	31/8/34
				165	391	As above 2 nd printing	12/22	31/8/34
11 (1/4/20-15/7/25)	25c	20g	Pict.	184	402	Olympics	1/4/24	31/12/24
				212	408	Mod. Dec. Art	8/12/24	31/10 25
				213	409	Mod. Dec. Art	11/4/25	31/10/25

Period	Rate	Max. wt.	Type	Yv	SG	Description	Issued	Withdrawn
12 (16/7/25-30/4/26)	30c	20g	Def.	191A	382a	Sower rose Type 1A	6/1/25	1925
				191B	382b	Sower rose Type 2A	1925	1925
				191C	382b	Sower rose Type 2B	1925	1925
				192A	416	Sower blue Type 2A	7/25	7/26
				192B	416	Sower blue Type 2B	7/25	-----
				192C	416	Sower blue Type 2C	1925	-----
13 (1/5/26-8/8/26)	40c	20g	Def.	193A	417	Sower olive Type 1	8/25	5/26
				193B	417	Sower olive Type 2	1926	-----
14 (9/8/26-11/7/37)	50c	20g	Def.	176B	399	Pasteur Type 2 ?	1924	1926
				199B	421	Lined Sower red Type 1	1926	1928?
				198B	420	Lined Sower green Type 1	1/26	9/26
				199A	421	Lined Sower red Type 2a	9/26	-----
				198B	420	Lined Sower green Type 2a	8/26	9/26
				199D	421	Lined Sower red Type 3	1926	-----
				219	438	Pasteur 50c on 75c	1926	-----
				222	442	Pasteur 50c on 1F25	1926	-----
				220	439	Lined Sower red 50c on 80c	1/27	-----
				221	440	Lined Sower red 50c on 85c	13/2/27	-----
				225	441	Sower 50c on 1F05c	15/4/27	-----
				223	436	Lined Sower purple 50c on 60c	11/7/27	-----
				224	437	Lined Sower rose 50c on 65c	18/8/27	-----
				199C	421	Lined Sower Type 2B	1928	-----
				199E	421	Lined Sower Type 4	1929	-----
				283A	508	Peace red Type 1	18/9/32	-----
				283C	508a	Peace red Type 2B	9/33	-----
				283B	508a	Peace red Type 2A	11/33	-----
				298	524	Peace brown 50c on 1F25c	12/34	10/38
				283D	508b	Peace red Type 3	6/35	-----
				283D	508c	Peace red Type 4	1935	-----
14 (9/8/26-11/7/37)	50c	20g	Char.	230	451	Orphans 2 nd series	2/27	31/8/34
				247	461	Sinking Fund 1927	26/9/27	30/9/28
				250	467	Sinking Fund 1928	1/10/28/	30/9/29
				254	477	Sinking Fund 1929	1/10/29/	30/9/30
				267	486	Sinking Fund 1930	1/10/30	30/9/31
				276	495	Sinking Fund 1931	1/10/31	30/9/32
				307	532	Unemployed Intel. Relief	9/12/35	5/6/36
				308	533	Unemployed Intel. Relief	9/12/35	17/7/36
				312	545	Children of Unemployed Fund	28/5/36	16/11/38
				329	562	Unemployed Intel. s/charge	14/10/36	16/11/38
				332	565	Unemployed Intel./ Pasteur	16/11/36	11/11/38
				347	580	Postal Workers' Sports Fund	16/6/37	16/11/38
				352	541a	Nansen's Fund for Political Refugees	1/7/37	16/11/38
14 (9/8/26-11/7/37)	50c	20g	Pict.	257A	469	Joan of Arc Type 1	11/3/29	-----
				257B	469	Joan of Arc Type 2	1929	-----
				263	479	Cent. of Conquest of Algeria	1/1/30	1/7/30
				264	481	Int. Lab. Office at Paris	23/4/30	7/5/30
				272A	490	Int. Col. Expo.	17/11/30	11/31
				272B	490a	Int. Col. Expo.	12/30	11/31
				325	558	Paris Int. Expo.	15/9/36	13/2/37
				351	MS581	PEXIP, Paris	18/6/37	-----

Period	Rate	Max. wt.	Type	Yv	SG	Description	Issued	Withdrawn
15 (12/7/37-16/11/38)	65c	20g	Def.	284	509	Peace dull purple	11/33	1937
				365 A	509a	Peace blue	9/37	28/12/40
				365B	509a	Peace blue	1937	28/12/40
				365C	509a	Peace blue	1937	28/12/40
15 (12/7/37-16/11/38)	65c	20g	Char.	356	588	Public HealthFund	1937	31/1/39
				377	593	Shipwrecked Mariners' Fund	25/3/38	-----
				383	605	Unemployed Intel., Hugo	9/5/38	3/6/39
				387	610	Infantry Monument Fund	16/5/38	16/11/38
				399	614	Reims Cath. Restoration Fund	8/7/38	31/10/38
				401	616	Fr. Refugees' Fund	8/8/38	5/5/39
				403	618	Army Fund	8/10/38	15/1/39
16 (17/11/38-30/11/39)	90c	20g	Def.	367	511a	Peace green	27/10/38	30/3/39
				368A	511b	Peace blue	29/12/38	18/2/41
				368B	511b	Peace blue	1939	18/2/41
16 (17/11/38-30/11/39)	90c	20g	Char.	418	631	Radio for the Blind	20/12/38	24/6/39
				419	528a	Public Health Fund	20/1/39	10/2/40
				420	632	Civil War Victims	1/2/39	10/2/40
				422	634	75 th Ann. Red Cross Soc.	24/3/39	-----
				424	636	Postal Workers' Orphans	8/4/39	10/2/40
				428	639	Children of Unemployed	24/4/39	9/11/40
				429	641	50 th Ann. Eiffel Tower	5/5/39	25/3/40
				438	647	Unemployed Intel. Fund/ Balzac	5/6/39	9/11/40
				441	651	Birth Rate Dev.	15/6/39	9/11/40
				377A	593a	Shipwrecked Mariners' Soc.	26/6/39	1/6/40
16 (17/11/38-30/11/39)	90c	20g	Pict.	358	590	Opening of Col d'Iseran Pass	4/10/37	3/39
				425	637	Laying keel of b/ship 'Clemenceau'	18/4/39	1/6/40
				442	649	1400 th Ann. of St. Gregory of Tours	10/6/39	5/10/40
				444	652	150 th Ann. of Fr. Revolution	20/6/39	5/10/39
				445	654	23 rd Ann. of Battle of Verdun	23/6/39	1/6/40
				449	594a	Château de Pau	25/8/39	28/11/40
17 (1/12/39-4/1/42)	1F	20g	Def.	432	643	Iris green	24/5/39	1941
				433	643a	Iris red	7/40	1941
				486	682	Cérès 1F on 1F75	2/12/40	16/8/41
				489	683	Miners 1F on 2F15	2/12/40	16/8/41
				472	692	Pétain large format	12/40	19/6/42
				487	684	Cérès 1F on 2F25	25/1/41	15/5/41
				488	685	Cérès 1F on 2F50 green	4/3/41	15/5/41
				485	681	Peace 1F on 1F50	8/3/41	15/5/41
				483	679	Peace 1F on 1F25 red	18/3/41	15/5/41
				484	680	Peace 1F on 1F40	18/3/41	15/5/41
				514	718	Pétain small format	12/8/41	1/11/44
17 (1/12/39-4/1/42)	1F	20g	Char.	452	660	Soldiers' Comfort Fund	12/2/40	28/11/40
				453	661	Fr. Colonial Propaganda	5/4/40	9/11/40
				455	663	War Charities - Foch	1/5/40	28/11/40
				460	667	Red Cross	10/6/40	28/11/40
				463	667c	Unemployed Intel./ Balzac	12/11/40	26/2/41
				465	667e	War Victims Fund	12/11/40	15/5/41

Period	Rate	Max. wt.	Type	Yv	SG	Description	Issued	Withdrawn
17 cont.	1F	20g	Char.	467	669	National Relief Fund / Sowing	2/12/40	17/8/41
				475	697	Prisoners of War Fund	1/1/41	17/8/41
				497	705	Winter Relief Fund	4/3/41	16/8/44
				494	704	National Relief Pétain, s/ch	4/3/41	1/11/44
				502	707	Seamen's Depdts. Fund/ Liner <i>Pasteur</i>	17/5/41	22/9/41 Demonetised
				503	708	Fr. Colonial Propaganda	17/7/41	30/12/41
				504	726	Seamen's Fund	23/10/41	11/3/42
				531	732	Nat. Rel. Fnd Arms/Clermont-Ferrand	15/12/41	7/42
17 (1/12/39-4/1/42)	1F	20g	Pict.	472	692	Pétain large format	12/40	1/11/44
				495	698	Mistral / Poet	20/2/41	7/42
18 (5/1/42-28/2/45)	1F50	20g	Def.	720	720	Pétain rose	17/12/41	1942
				721	721	Pétain brown	14/2/42	9/44
				841	841	Marianne de Fernez	3/44	12/5/45
				856	856	Arc de Triomphe First Type	25/7/44	12/5/45
				864	864	Iris brown	5/9/44	12/5/45
				942	942	Arc de Triomphe Second Type	12/5/45	12/5/45
18 (5/1/45-28/2/45)	1F50	20g	Char.	532	733	Arms Marseille	15/12/41	7/42
				540	742	Air Force Dependants' Relief Fund	4/4/42	29/8/42
				543	744	Empire Fortnight NRF	18/5/42	24/10/42
				544	748	Seamen's RF Jean de Vienne	16/6/42	19/12/42
				552	754	NRF Pétain o'pt	14/9/42	25/5/43
				558	762	Arms 2 nd Series Angers	5/10/42	25/5/43
				577	781	NRF strip Workers	7/6/43	20/11/43
				584	788	NRF Bombed Towns	23/8/43	24/12/43
				585	789	War Prisoners' Families RF	27/9/43	17/2/44
				589	793	NRF 16C Celebrities, Ambroise Paré	25/10/43	3/44
				595	799	NRF 'Coiffes' Île de France	27/12/43	9/6/44
				601	812	Musicians' Fund, Gounod	27/3/44	29/7/44
				606	818	NRF Pétain's 88th B'day	24/4/44	29/7/44
				615	827	NRF 17C Celebrities Prince de Condé	31/7/44	18/11/44
				666	894	NRF Cathedrals	20/11/44	3/3/45
				668	900	Stamp Day Arms of de Vilayer, Petite Poste inventor	9/12/44	3/3/45
18 (5/1/42-28/2/45)	1Fr50	20g	Pict.	609	821	Cent. of Mobile POs (<i>Ambulants</i>)	10/6/44	18/11/44
19 (1/3/45-31/12/45)	2F	20g	Def.	653	865	Iris brown	6/11/44	12/5/45
				640	842	Gallic Cock	15/11/44	12/5/45
				709	943	Arc de Triomphe 2 nd series	12/2/45	12/5/45
				713	913	Marianne de Gandon green	26/2/45	15/11/47
				692	879	Marianne de Dulac	17/3/45	17/8/46
19 (1/3/45-31/12/45)	2F	20g	Char.	736	948	Anti-TB Fund	16/5/45	12/1/46
				743	955	Stamp Day Louis XI, creator of the State Post	13/10/45	2/2/46
				745	957	Devastated Towns Fund Rouen	5/11/45	9/3/46
19 (1/3/45-31/12/45)	2F	20g	Pict.	741	953	French Colonial Propaganda	17/9/45	2/2/46

Period	Rate	Max. wt.	Type	Yv	SG	Description	Issued	Withdrawn
20 (1/1/46-31/12/46)	3F	20g	Def.	694	881	Marianne de Gandon green	17/3/45	17/8/46
				715	917	Marianne de Gandon brown	7/4/45	17/8/46
				716	918	Marianne de Gandon red	20/3/46	15/11/47
20 (1/1/46-31/12/46)	3F	20g	Char.	750	963	Anti TB Fund s/charged 3F	21/2/46	28/6/46
				754	975	Stamp Day, Fouquet de Varane, P/Master General	29/6/46	26/10/46
				766	986	15C Celebrities, Jean Fouquet, Painter	28/10/46	14/3/47
20 (1/1/46-31/12/46)	3F	20g	Pict.	761	983	Peace Conf. Paris	29/7/46	14/3/47
21 (1/1/47-2/1/47)	5F	20g	Def.	719	921	Marianne de Gandon green	7/4/45	23/8/47
				719A	1003	Marianne de Gandon rose	1/1/47	1/4/47
21 (1/1/47-2/1/47)	5F	20g	Char.	768	988	15C Hist. Figures J. of Arc	28/10/46	14/3/47
21 (1/1/47-2/1/47)	5F	20g	Pict.	759	976	Vézelay	20/7/46	15/11/47
22 (3/1/47-7/7/47)	4F50	20g	Def.	719A	1003	Marianne de Gandon, 5F rose sold at 4F50	1/1/47	1/4/47
				718A	1002	Marianne de Gandon blue	23/1/47	5/8/48
22 (3/1/47-7/7/47)	4F50	20g	Char.	779	1008	Stamp Day Marquis de Louvois, Postmaster General	15/3/47	23/8/47
22 (3/1/47-7/7/47)	4F50	20g	Pict.	781	1010	12th UPU Congress, Paris	7/5/47	23/8/47
				784	1014	Cent. of Birth of Auguste Pavie, Explorer, Laos	30/5/47	15/11/47
23 (8/7/47-5/1/49)	6F	20g	Def.	721	923	Marianne de Gandon orange red	11/4/46	18/7/47
				721A	1005	Marianne de Gandon rose red	12/7/47	1949
23 (8/7/47-5/1/49)	6F	20g	Char.	775	995	Cathedrals 2 nd series, Le Mans	6/1/47	23/8/47
				786	1016	5th Ann. Br. Commando Raid, St. Nazaire	2/8/47	17/1/48
				788	1018	Road Maintenance Fund	10/9/47	-----
				793	1023	NRF Louis Braille	19/1/48	5/6/48
				794	1027	Stamp Day, Etienne Arago, Postmaster General 1848	6/3/48	3/7/48
				799	1032	NRF Cent. of 1848 Revolution	5/4/48	19/9/48
				814	1036	1 st Int. Vaccine Congress, Dr. Calmette	18/6/48	4/12/48
23 (8/7/47-5/1/49)	6F	20g	Pict.	777	977	Cannes	10/2/47	15/11/47
				782	1011	UPU Congress, Paris 'La Cité'	7/5/47	23/8/47
				815	1037	General LeClerc	2/7/48	4/12/48

Display Sheets

Examples of the display sheets, for the period 1926-1937, are shown on the next three pages.

Stamps used to meet the Simple letter ratePeriod 14: 9th. August 1926 - 11th. July 1937

Maximum weight of letter 20 grams

Rate: 50 centimes

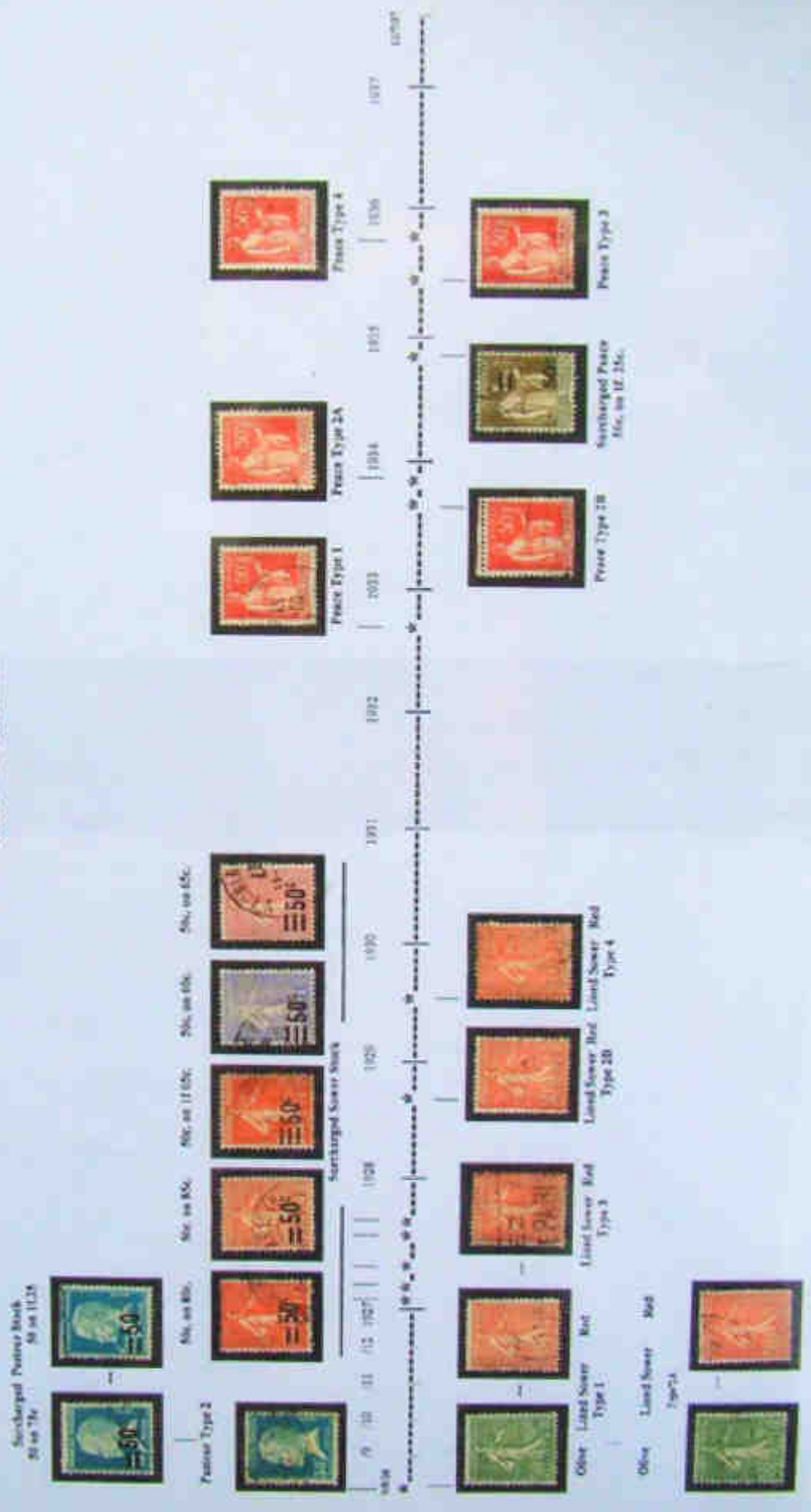


Figure 1 - Definitive stamps 1926-1937 for *LSI* rate

Stamps used to meet the Simple letter rate 1849-1949

Pictorials/Commemoratives

Period 14: 9th.August 1926 – 11th. July 1937

Maximum weight of letter 20 grams

Rate: 50 centimes

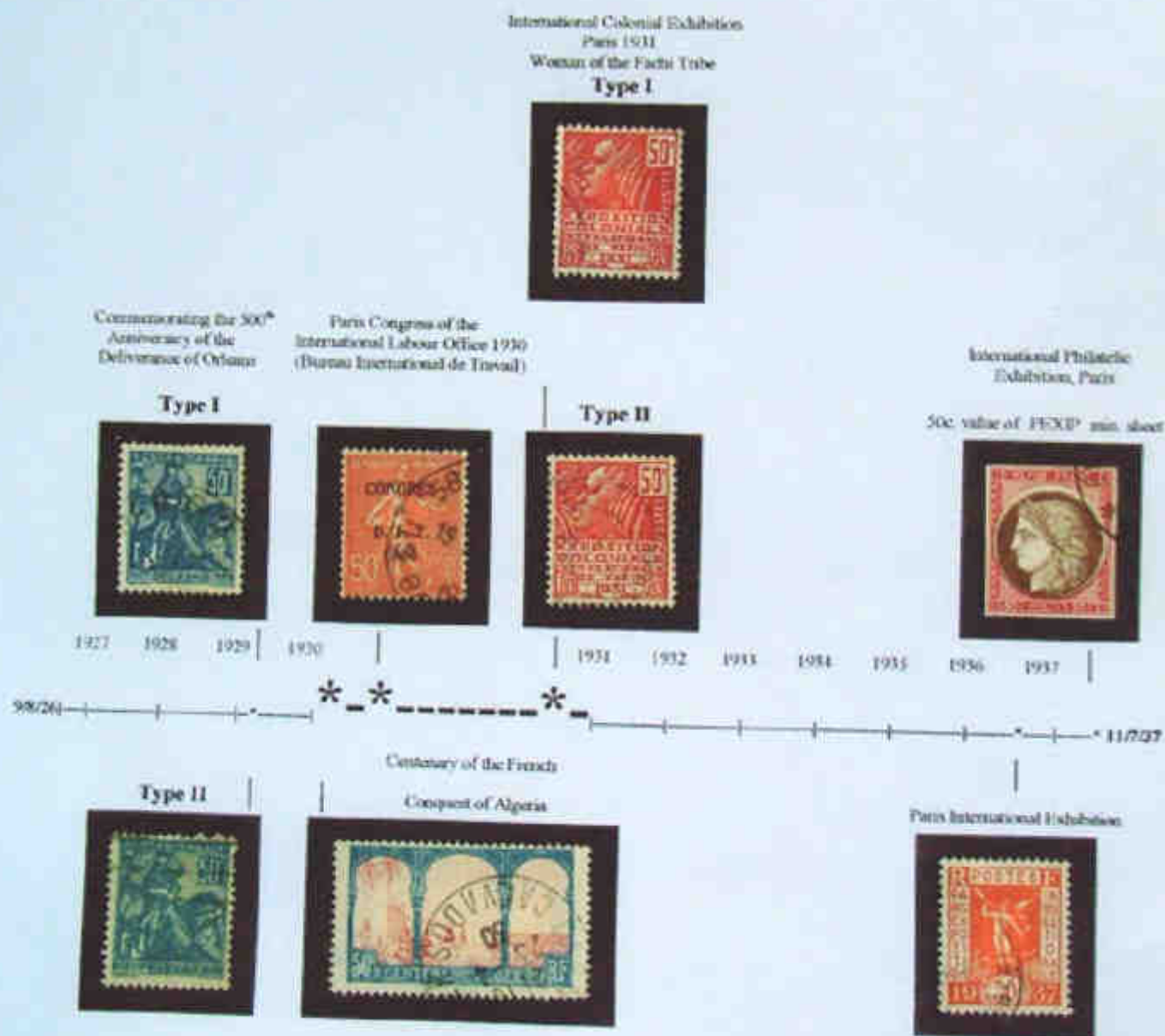


Figure 3 - Pictorial and commemorative stamps 1926-1937 for LSI rate

Senegal — the 1902 “Letter in Circle” Cachets: A New Explanation

Bill Mitchell



Figure 1 -

Front and back of a picture postcard sent to Mme Dumoulin in Paris, endorsed "par 'Nivernais'" (which seems not to have carried a post clerk).

The Dumoulin cards have an identical message to the effect that there are no 5 or 10 centime stamps in the colony, but that instead the "A in Circle" cachet is being used (10 centimes rate).

Some years ago I wrote a couple of articles about these cachets⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾, which occur on stampless covers and postcards dating from the middle of January 1902. It has long been believed that the shortage of stamps which made this makeshift arrangement necessary was caused by quarantine requirements following an outbreak of yellow fever. Since these short pieces appeared one of our members in France, Bruno Mattei of Mulhouse, has published a long article in

the magazine of our sister society in the United States⁽³⁾ in which he shows, most convincingly, that while there was undoubtedly a yellow fever epidemic in Senegal at this time, it did not cause the shortage of stamps. With his permission, and that of Stan Luft, the editor of the *France & Colonies Philatelist*, his argument is summarised here to correct any misapprehensions that may have been caused by my own two articles.



Figure 2 -
Carte de Visite envelope (5 centimes rate),
self-addressed to the "Tibet" in Dakar harbour.

For many years it was believed that the attribution to yellow fever was probably first made by Langlois & Bourselet in their 1937 catalogue of the postmarks of French West Africa⁽⁴⁾, but since his article was published M. Mattei has discovered that they repeated almost word for word remarks made almost exactly 30 years earlier in a news item headed "SÉNÉGAL / Timbre non catalogué" by a M. A Montader⁽⁵⁾. So this may be the earliest attribution, some five years after the event. The standard account in English appears in the article by Bob Stone in the *Philatelist*⁽⁶⁾ which was reprinted in the first of my two articles. So why is it now apparent that these authorities are wrong? M. Mattei's thesis is based in part on documents in his possession which were not available to his predecessors and in part on a fresh look at what actually happened.

It did not take long for the stamp shortage to be reported in the philatelic press. *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-poste* of February 1902 printed the following —

SENEGAL. — One of our correspondents in Saint-Louis writes to us under date 20 January.

"In the last few days post offices in the colony have had no stamps of the 1 to 10 centimes denominations. Payment for internal mail has been indicated by a handstruck A. Relatively few letters received this cachet as it was only used for five or six days, the *paquebot Tibet* having brought in new stocks of stamps; now we are using the 10 centimes rose."

The anonymous commentator remarked

"Our correspondent has kindly sent us two envelopes, one with a Dakar postmark of 17 January, the other postmarked Saint-Louis 18 January; the stamp is replaced by a bold cachet containing a large A in a circle in the same style as the marks which are used to indicate the *brigades* [teams] of the *ambulant service*" (the translation is my own from the second of my two Journal articles).

As will be seen, the correspondent in Saint-Louis was not entirely correct — stocks of at least the 1 and 4 centime stamps were still available for use. And it will be noted that

he does not mention yellow fever even though Saint-Louis was affected and he was presumably at risk; this came later, possibly with M. Montader. So what has led M. Mattei to believe this attribution to be wrong?

He refers first to the fact that outbreaks of yellow fever were by no means uncommon; in fact the January 1902 epidemic followed closely on the heels of another lasting from 26 April 1900 to 20 February 1901⁽⁷⁾ which was longer and far more serious than its successor. The latter is hardly mentioned in contemporary records and its precise dates are not known; perhaps its most spectacular result was the death in Saint-Louis of the Governor-General, Dr Noël-Eugène Ballay, on 25 January (no doubt later in that same year 1902, the seat of government of French West Africa was transferred to Dakar⁽⁸⁾). Yet only the lesser of the two outbreaks caused the supply of low value stamps to become exhausted — or so we have been led to believe.

Next, M. Mattei considers statements by Montader, among others, to the effect that quarantine arrangements prevented all communication between Dakar and other post offices. He shows, by reference to covers and postcards in his own and other collections as well as auction catalogues, that this was not so. These covers and cards provide evidence of the exchange of mail between various Senegal post offices — Dakar and Saint-Louis (both directions), Saint-Louis and Sakal, Rufisque and Saint-Louis, Rufisque and Dakar. Other covers are addressed to other colonies in French West Africa and to France. M. Mattei has very kindly sent me photocopies of many of these covers, and while many of them are philatelic and few have an arrival mark, at least one can be shown to have reached its destination in France within a reasonable time after posting — Rufisque 11 January, Orthez (Basses-Pyrénées) early in February, probably on the 3rd. In this connection, M. Mattei remarks that "It was not uncommon for a piece of mail, particularly one sent at a reduced rate, to be held for a week ... while awaiting the announcement of a ship leaving from Senegal."

For his third point, M. Mattei turns to Volume III of Raymond Salles' *La Poste Maritime Française* which shows that during both these epidemics communication with



Figure 3 -

Self-addressed (by Dumoulin) "Fraissinet" covers to ports in French West Africa carried on the "*Tibet*" are all endorsed "*imprimés*" (5 centimes rate).

This example, to Grand Bassam (Ivory Coast), bears the *Tibet* post clerk's octagon of 14 January 1902 and the arrival cachet of the 22nd.

All the "Dumoulins" are dated 14 January and are endorsed by the Dakar postmaster.



Figure 4 -

Postcard from Dakar to France

with the 10 centimes rate met by pairs of the 1 centime and 4 centimes stamps and cancelled **DAKAR / 14 JANV 02**, the same date as the Dumoulin productions.

[Bruno Mattei collection]



Figure 5 -
Carte de Visite envelope from Rufisque (Senegal) to France
 with the 5 centimes stamp stuck over the "A in a Circle" cachet
 and cancelled **RUFISQUE / SENEGAL / 18 [JANV] 02**.
 The envelope bears the date stamp **SENEGAL / RUFISQUE / 11 JANV 02**
 (originally alongside the now invisible "A")
 and the manuscript "*Affranchie en Numéraire*".
 [Bruno Mattei collection]

France by sea continued normally. 42 packets are recorded as arriving at Dakar during the 1900-01 outbreak and 10 more between 1 December 1901 and 30 January 1902, roughly corresponding to the period of its successor⁽⁹⁾. Salles records arrivals at Dakar only on return voyages, so the totals during these periods were probably around 80 and 20 respectively, indicating perfectly normal service. (Salles only prints details of vessels with post clerks on board; there would seem to be no reason to suppose that other shipping did not also carry on as normal.)

Fourthly, M. Mattei mentions the postcard referred to in my 1998 article. Franked with a "10 centimes rose", it was written at Rufisque, one of the towns using these cachets, on 23 January 1902, two days before the death from the disease of Dr. Ballay. Like the earlier cover from Rufisque already mentioned, it can be shown to have reached its destination, Romans in the Drôme département, without obvious delay — the arrival cachet is, unfortunately, also indistinct but it seems to be early in February.

But most convincingly of all, M. Mattei prints a Note (with translation) to the Governor-General⁽¹⁰⁾ which shows that the situation recorded under date 20 January 1902 by *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-poste* had in fact begun more than one month earlier. On 15 December 1901 the Chef du Service des Postes et des Télégraphes en maison at Saint-Louis reported that stocks of 5 and 10 centimes stamps were completely exhausted, and there were only limited numbers remaining of 1, 2 and 4 centimes stamps, which were likely to be required for the imminent holiday season. Consequently, the Governor-General was requested to order fresh supplies "of the stamps that we now lack" by cable. He – or his staff – lost no time; the Note is endorsed "*Cablé le 17 Decembre*" (sic) and, as the note in *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-poste* shows, stamps were available to the public by the following 20 January. The Note to the Governor-General and a translation by

Christopher Simons are printed in Appendix A. This was the first time that stocks of stamps ran out altogether: M. Mattei records that there was an almost continuous shortage of stamps in Senegal between 1899 and 1903. Stocks were requisitioned annually and it was difficult to estimate either future needs at a time of economic and territorial expansion or the wastage – usually considerable – due to humidity. He gives an interesting account of the method by which stamps were ordered from France and, once received, distributed throughout the colony; extracts are printed in Appendix B.

So M. Mattei's interpretation of these marks is, quite simply, that there was no connection other than coincidence between this particular shortage of stamps and the outbreak of yellow fever in January 1902. He places the period of shortage between approximately 15 December 1901 and 18 January 1902, by which time the supplies brought by the *Tibet* had been distributed through the colony. I see no reason to quarrel with this view. I do however have one reservation on a point of detail.

M. Mattei believes that it is possible that these handstamps were manufactured locally to deal with the shortage of adhesives; workshops able to make them were available in the colony. He describes and illustrates differences between the "A" of Dakar / Saint-Louis and Rufisque (and indeed notes slight variations between examples of the "A" of Dakar); he also notes more obvious differences between these "A"s and those used in France by *ambulant* teams. My difficulty here is that the latter are far from common and not much is known about them⁽¹¹⁾. His illustration comes from Alexandre, his source⁽¹²⁾, which reproduces the originating circular of 25 May 1854 but does not attribute any date to the example illustrated. There could (I emphasise the "could", more study is required) have been more than one series of handstamps made over the nearly half a century which had intervened. Can we be sure



Figure 6 -
Stampless cover from Rufisque with a date stamp of 7 January 1903
bearing a P.P. handstamp to indicate that postage has been paid.
[Bruno Mattei collection]

that they were all identical? Perhaps more to the point, the fact that two different letters, “A” and “C”, were used (the “C” was used at Gorée; M. Mattei tells me that only one cover from here is known) suggests that the inspiration for them came from above — and the powers that be must surely have known that fresh supplies of stamps had been ordered and were soon to be on their way. The earliest known date of one of these cachets, at Rufisque, is 8 January; Salles (page 201) records that the *Tibet* left Marseille on the 5th and, as will be seen from the Dumoulin correspondence referred to below, was in Dakar on the 14th. Why, then, go to the trouble and expense of manufacturing special handstamps to alleviate a temporary shortage of stamps, especially when the more appropriate “P.P.” handstamp was presumably available? (Its use in 1903 is mentioned in Bob Stone’s article.) And why use two letters? This is the “Not Entirely Resolved” mystery of M. Mattei’s title. He may be right, but I would like to know more about those *ambulant* cachets.

One last important point in M. Mattei’s article: of the 42 post offices in Senegal at the time, apparently only the four most important – Saint-Louis, Dakar, Gorée and Rufisque – accepted prepayment in cash and made use of these cachets. These were the towns where at least 80 per cent of the European population and the literate Senegalese were concentrated; to these must be added the personnel of the naval base at Gorée and passengers using the port facilities, including the post office, at Dakar. No evidence has been found of this practice having been used at Thiès, the fifth post office in order of importance, or elsewhere. Apparently, sufficient numbers of 1, 2 and 4 centime stamps remained available to enable the main basic rates – 5 and 10 centimes – to be met. M. Mattei illustrates a postcard cancelled **DAKAR 14 JANV 02** – the date of the Dumoulin productions discussed in my next paragraph – franked with pairs of the 1 centime and 4 centimes stamps to make the 10 centimes rate to France.

I have mentioned that many of the covers and cards noted by M. Mattei are philatelic. Most of them were sent by the

same person, a M. Dumoulin, to himself or his wife. M. Dumoulin may have been the postal agent on board the *Tibet* (they are all dated Dakar 14 January 1902, the date of her arrival there and of the stamped postcard just described); he certainly seems to have been philatelically minded. The most recent information in my possession lists 55 documents, 37 of them, or 67.27 per cent of the total, being “Dumoulin”. They can be divided into three categories:-

(a) Postcards addressed to Mme Dumoulin in Paris, all with the same text reading “On board the ‘Tibet’ in harbour at Dakar, 14 January 1902. 5 and 10c stamps ran out in the colony. Instead they used a handstamp with an A in a circle. Dumoulin.” They are endorsed “*Par ‘Nivernais’ via Marseille*”, or similar, and, in a different hand, “*Affranchi en numéraire*” (“prepayment in cash”) and signed by “Le Receveur de Dakar” in accordance with requirements at the time for mail going out of the colony. The *Nivernais* is not recorded by Salles; presumably she did not carry a post clerk.

(b) *Carte de visite* envelopes (10.6 x 6.7 cm) addressed to himself “à bord du ‘Tibet’ / Rade de / Dakar” (“on board the ‘Tibet’ in harbour in Dakar”) and bearing the “*Affranchi en numéraire*” endorsement even though, as M. Mattei points out, they weren’t going anywhere.

(c) Larger (14.6 x 11.4 cm) envelopes of the Fraissinet & C^{ie} *paquebot-poste* company of Marseille and addressed to Paris, Conakry (French Guinea), Grand-Bassam (Ivory Coast) and Cotonou (Dahomey). They bear the “*Affranchi en numéraire*” endorsement as well as “*Par ‘Nivernais’*” (Paris) or “*Par ‘Tibet’*” in the case of the covers addressed to other colonies in French West Africa. Several of these covers have been “clipped” in all four corners at some time; no satisfactory explanation of this has been forthcoming.

Although philatelic, these Dumoulin productions are important because they account for nearly three-quarters of the total. An example of each from my own collection is illustrated as Figures 1 to 3.

A word of warning. M. Mattei illustrates a *carte de visite* cover of 11 January from Rufisque to Bordeaux on which a 5 centimes stamp has been stuck over the "A"; apparently this item was held over pending the imminent receipt of new stocks of stamps (as he remarks, this must have caused accounting problems!). He has a record of a similar cover which has most regrettably been ruined by the removal of the stamp. So please be careful if you are contemplating the purchase of one of these covers.

M. Mattei has sent me some excellent copies of relevant items in his collection and has kindly agreed to my illustrating a few of them here. Figure 4 is the postcard already mentioned, with the 10 centimes rate to France met by pairs of the 1 centime and 4 centimes stamps and cancelled **DAKAR / 14 JANV 02**, the same day as the

Dumoulin productions. Figure 5 is the *carte de visite* envelope just mentioned, with a 5 centimes stamp over the "A". Note the manuscript "*Affranchie (sic) en Numéraire*", the **SENEGAL / RUFISQUE 11 JANV 02** date stamp alongside the now invisible "A" and the **RUFISQUE / SENEGAL 18 [JAN] 02** cancel on the stamp. And Figure 6 is a stampless cover, also from Rufisque, of 7 January 1903 with payment indicated by a "**P.P.**" handstamp.

At the end of his article M. Mattei rightly acknowledges the help given in its preparation by Constant Bouérat, whose knowledge of the history of French West Africa, postal and otherwise, is unrivalled. Fortunately for us and future students, much of it has been published. And I cannot end without expressing my own gratitude to M. Mattei, who in his turn has been most generous to me.

APPENDIX A

A translation by Christopher Simons of the note to the Governor-General of Senegal from the Chef du Service des Postes et des Télégraphes at Saint-Louis reporting the shortage of stamps in the colony in December 1901.

The original document is shown on the opposite page.

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
Liberty -- Equality -- Fraternity

DIRECTORATE
of Posts and Telegraphs
of Senegal
N° 970

NOTE for the Governor General
of French West Africa

Saint-Louis, 15 December 1901

I have the honor of informing the Governor General that the stock of stamps of 0.05 and 0.10 centimes stamps has completely run out.

There remain in the Treasury only 60,000 stamps at 0.01c; 67,000 at 0.02c, and 75,000 at 0.04c which, as the holiday [1st January] season approaches, will be rapidly used up, inasmuch as they're now being used to replace those at 0.05c and 0.10c.

The Ministry of Colonies reserves the right to supply the needs of the various colonies, in accordance with the quarterly orders provided by the Posts and Telegraphs service and countersigned by the Treasurer by automatically sending to the Colony a quantity deemed sufficient to act as a reserve for 10 months of normal consumption.

I have the honor of requesting of the Governor General, in conformity with the instructions in the Ministerial dispatch of 18 January 1895, to order by cablegram a supply of the stamps that we now lack.

With profound respect.

The CHIEF OF THE SERVICE
OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS on mission
[+ signature]

DIRECTION
POSTES & TÉLÉGRAPHES
du Sénégal.

REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

Liberté. — Egalité. — Fraternité.

N° 9

NOTE pour Monsieur le Gouverneur Général
de l'Afrique Occidentale Française

Saint-Louis, le 15 Décembre 1901.

Cablé le 17 Décembre

J'ai l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de Monsieur le Gouverneur Général que le stock de timbres à 0.05 et à 0.10 centimes est totalement épuisé.

Il me reste plus en dépôt au Trésor que 62,000 timbres à 0.01 p.; 67,500 à 0.02 p. et 75,000 à 0.04 p. qui, par les approches du 1^{er} janvier, seront épuisés très rapidement étant donné leur emploi actuel en remplacement des 0.05 et 0.10.

Le Ministère des Colonies se réserve d'approvisionner les services des différents Colonies, d'après un état annuel qu'il fournit par le service des Postes & Télégraphes et contre-signé par le Trésorier-payeur, en expédiant d'office à la Colonie les quantités suffisantes pour la constitution d'un stock de réserve pouvant faire face à une consommation normale de 10 mois.

J'ai l'honneur de prier Monsieur le Gouverneur Général de vouloir bien, conformément aux instructions contenues dans la Dépêche Ministérielle du 18 Janvier 1895, demander par câblegramme l'envoi des figurines qui nous font défaut.

Respectueux

P. CHEF DU SERVICE
DES POSTES ET DES TÉLÉGRAPHES



maître

APPENDIX B

A Note on the Distribution of New Stocks of Stamps within the Colony

M. Mattei writes with specific reference to the events of January 1902, of course, but much of the practice described would have applied to any shipment of stamps at that period. All supplies perforce went by sea. He says:

"Fresh stocks of stamps arrived from France on the packet *Tibet*. Leaving Marseille on 5 January 1902, it stopped at ports on the west coast of Africa and reached Libreville on 15 February (Salles, vol. 3, p. 201). There was no stopover in St. Louis, as the harbour was not deep enough. The text and date stamps on the mail sent by Dumoulin ... prove that the *Tibet* was in Dakar on 14 January. Liners entered harbours at sunrise in order to be able to leave by evening after passengers and cargo had disembarked. The mail was always the first to be unloaded, even before the first passenger. Taken immediately to the station, the dispatches were sent to St. Louis where they arrived some ten hours later, in mid-afternoon. Taking into account one day for the sorting of stamps by the Treasury (accounting office) and the Postmaster General in St. Louis, distribution to towns between St. Louis and Dakar could have commenced on the 16th at the earliest, for there was just one train departure per day. Therefore, the new stamps must have been available in St. Louis on the 16th" [but see a little further on] "and quite likely at Dakar, Gorée and Rufisque on the 17th. As we know from the *Collectionneur de Timbres-*

Poste, two envelopes were mailed prepaid in cash: one from Dakar, with date stamp of the 17th, the other from St. Louis of the 18th. This leads us to believe that supplies were sent first to the three peninsular post offices" [ie, Dakar, Gorée and Rufisque] "most likely because they were the ones serving the passengers and crews of ships sailing from Senegal to Europe, western Africa and South America..."

Writing about the administrative details, he adds:

"Each of the post offices in Senegal made out its monthly order of stamps, which was addressed to the Postmaster General of the colony. This order anticipated a three month requirement of standard face values." And later, "... the accounting office in France, for the Colonies' needs for stamps, could not acquiesce to demands from individual post offices. Acting on behalf of the Minister for the Colonies, that office sent the global amount requested directly to the governor of the colony or territory. Therefore, even though the stamps arrived and were unloaded at Dakar, the totality of the stock was sent, in their original sealed parcels, to St. Louis, the administrative capital. Dakar simply had to await its turn." (As we have seen, later in that same year 1902, Dakar became the administrative capital of the Federation and presumably took over responsibility for the distribution of fresh supplies of stamps.)

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- (4) Editions du Graouli, Paris, 1937.
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- (7) Mathis, C – "L'oeuvre des Pastoriens en Afrique Noire" (Presse Universitaire de France, 1946).
- (8) "Naval Intelligence Division Handbook of French West Africa, Vol 1: The Federation" (HMSO 1943), pages 250-251.
- (9) See pages 112, 175, 200 and 201.
- (10) Archives Nationales de Sénégal (A.S.N.) 0271 N° 140.
- (11) See Alec Swain's article "Railways – the Letter in Circle Cachets" in the *Journal* for September 1998, Vol 48 N° 3, Whole N° 209.
- (12) Alexandre, J-P – "Dictionnaire Historique des Timbres & Griffes 'Standard' de l'Administration Française des Postes 1792-1914" (Editions Brun et Fils, Paris, 1996), page 51.

BOOKSHELF

Les tarifs postaux de l'Île de la Réunion (1816-1900)

by Benoît Chandanson; softback with laminated card covers; 204 A4 pp; available from the author at 3 rue Poissonnière, 75002 Paris; price Europe 44€ and USA 46€ inc. p&p.

The book is divided into two parts. The first, of 48 pages, details the postal rates, logically separated into sections. These consist of inland mail, ship letter rates between Réunion and France, mail carried by British and by French mailboats, and mails to other destinations. Each section is superbly illustrated in colour with a fine selection of letters showing the rates in question. Although written in French the tables make these rates easily understandable.

The second half of the book consists of the official texts and the sources supporting these rates. Not only do these confirm the rates in the first part but also provide an immensely important insight into how the postal services

worked in Réunion and how they dealt with mail for France and other destinations.

The book is essential reading for the Réunion collector as it sheds light on many hitherto unresolved questions, and the information contained in the official texts is fascinating. To the best of my knowledge, no other French colony has been treated in this way and this book should also be of the greatest interest to those studying other French colonies.

Those who study British maritime postal history will know that Réunion was served by British mailboats directly and indirectly for long periods, and for them, too, this book will be relevant. It is superbly produced and highly recommended.

Peter Kelly

Encyclopaedia of African Airlines

by Ben R Guttery; hardback, library binding; 291 pp; pub. McFarland & Company Inc, Box 611, Jefferson, North Carolina 28640, USA, 1998; ISBN 0-7864-0495-7.

This informative and easy to use reference guide to the African Airlines, by country, is well produced with a history of the formation of the various lines, together with national name changes and two maps depicting the Colonial era and the current political map of Africa. It also contains a

number of black and white photographs of the airplanes that were in use during the period under review. A list of airports in each country and a good bibliography used by the author, together with an index, complete what I have found to be an excellent *vade mecum*.

Colin Spong

Books Noted

Poste Maritime Française: Premier Service Postal du Pacifique Sud, Consulat de France à Panama, 1843-1848 by Louis-Eugène Langlais; pub. Bibliothèque de l'Académie de Philatélie; 144 A4 pp; colour illustrations; details from Brigitte Abensur, 8 rue des Fossés, 54700 Pont-à-Mousson; price 35€ + p&p. [Based on archive sources, this work traces the history of the first French postal service to America, dealing with the various tariffs and postal agreements, the postal material used and the steamship routes and connections known to date, and is illustrated by numerous letters, cards and documents.]

Les arrondissements ruraux des bureaux de poste de Saône-et-Loire 1830-1914 by Michel Dupuis-Heitchlin; 156 pp in 2 volumes; available from the author, 28 quai Gambetta, 71100 Chalon-sur-Saône; price 50€. [Detailed synthesis of the rural postal service of this *département* through the ages.]

Catalogue de cotations des figurines et marques de grève de France by Jean-Louis Franceschi; about 200 illustrations in colour; available from the author, Poggio, 20228 Luri; price 21€. [Chronological list of French strike stamps, postal stationery and postmarks.]

Gien & le Giennois - Histoire de la Poste by Claude Gigant; 148 A4 pp in colour; details from Christian Libeau, 275 rue Armenault, 45570 Ouzouer-sur-Loire, or from the author at rue des Mésanges, 45500 Gien; price 40€ + p&p. [Reference work on postal history of Gien region; catalogue of postmarks, list of post offices, and description of machines and labels, postal stationery and stamps of the area.]

Autun - Petite histoire postale et philatélique by the Société autunoise de philatélie; 130 A4 pp; details from J-Fr Bourdillon, 10 rue de la Grille, 71400 Autun; price 40€ + p&p. [History of Autun through philately, from Poste aux Chevaux to establishment of Hôtel des Postes, from French, American and German military mail to various philatelic shows in the region, illustrated by philatelic documents.]

Chronique de la correspondance by Michel Marmin; card cover; 240 pp in colour, 230 x 295mm; available from French bookshops; price 31€. [The story of correspondence from Sumerian tablets to text messages, from the invention of printing to Aéropostale, full of anecdotes and well illustrated, with alphabetic and thematic index.]

Maurice Tyler

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

Cameo: Journal of the West Africa Study Circle

Vol 9 N° 5 (Whole N° 69) October 2006: Postal Rates between France & British WA (Kelly); AR - Detailed Regulations (Johnson); AR Postcards from AEF to USA in 1942 (Beith & Picirilli); Togo Tax Markings (Mayne).

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 117 3^{ème} Trim 2006: Les Bureaux Postaux Militaires d'Indochine (Liévin); AEF: Les Surcharges LIBRES et 24.10.1940 (Drye); Cartes d'identité du Viêt-Nam (Johnson); Mauritanie Hors-série N15-2 (Golfier).

The Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 85 N° 4 Jul-Aug 2006: 1863: Cover from Yokohama, Japan, to New York, via Europe takes 93 days (Paton).

Vol 85 N° 5 Sep-Oct 2006: Gleanings from the French Colonies: Guadeloupe - Printed Matter via the British Agency [Possible Resolution of a Standing Question] (Grabowski).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 190 4^e Trim 2006: Jérusalem Postes françaises - 1948 L'examen des critiques (Livnat); La route de Birmanie [1903-1939], 1^{ère} partie (Gautherin); La poste royale malgache [1810-1896] (Varin et Dutau); Correspondances inhabituelles d'origine maritime, 1^{ère} partie (Pingard); Utilisation des chiffres-taxe carrés (Abensur).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

Permanent features: Actualités, Prêt-à-poster Florilège de PÀP, Variétés, Anomalies, Cartes postales, Comment ça marche?, Flammes, Livres, Maximaphilie, Thématique.

N° 1799 Sep 2006: Guéorgui Chichkine, artiste, designer (-); Christophe Yvert (Ben-Moha); La difficile naissance du «chèque» postal [La genèse des services financiers VII] (Hella); Les porte-timbres de la Bretagne (Métayer); De Saint-Jacques à Bernadette (Hennekine); Fausses cartes-maximum de France 1925-1940 (Storch).

N° 1800 Oct 2006: Le succès universel du chèque postal français (Hella); Les mystérieux dessous de la Champenoise (Saintot); Les timbres de grève (Franceschi); Fausses cartes-maximum de France 1925-1940 (2) (Storch).

N° 1801 Nov 2006: La philatélie: une branche solide (Sinai/Ben-Moha); Du compte courant postal... à La Banque Postale (Hella); Porte-drapeau de l'ONU (-); Des Gandon et des tarifs (Hella); Autour de l'opération Mousquetaire [Cinquantenaire de la crise de Suez] (Liévin); Fausses cartes-maximum de France 1925-1940 (3) (Storch).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol 36 N° 3 (Whole N° 173) May 2006: Titles of articles from this issue were published in the last Journal, but the issue was wrongly numbered Vol 36 N° 2.

Vol 36 N° 4 (Whole N° 174) Sep 2006: Indochina's World War II Censor Commissions (-).

Vol 36 N° 5 (Whole N° 175) Nov 2006: Postage Due Free Military Mail (Bentley); Cambodia's Slogan Markings (Bentley); Review of *Histoire des Postes et Télécommunications de l'ex-Indochine Française* (Montague); Review of Dally Asia Catalogue (Cartafalsa); Kratie Airmail Service (Bentley).

Timbres Magazine

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

N° 71 Sep 2006: Une tournée postale du Congo au lac Tchad (Chauvin); Avec les Oiseaux des pays francophones d'Afrique noire, la Poste Aérienne s'envole (Michaud); Destination déserts (Amiel); La Tunisie [1^{re} pt] (PJM); Un crochet par Autun (de la Mettrie); 1939-1945: la Moselle pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale [1^{re} pt] (Michaud); Santos Dumont: 50kg, un poids lourd de la conquête de l'air (Zeyons); Un affranchissement «mixte» mais insuffisant... (Prugnon); Poste T.S.F. de Berberati (Chauvin).

N° 72 Oct 2006: Quand les timbres français circulaient au Proche-Orient (Michaud); Anodin le 15c Semeuse? La cote de certains exemplaires atteint pourtant les 7 000 • ! (de Pellinec); Une lettre en rade [à Mme de Mackau, Dame du palais de S.M. l'Impératrice Joséphine] (de la Mettrie); La Moselle pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale [2^e pt] (Michaud); Les aérogrammes témoins de l'histoire (Sanders); Origines et itinéraire de la carte postale (Zeyons); Marques Postales Linéaires 1792-1832: Appel aux spécialistes! (Baudot).

N° 73 Nov 2006: En Couverture: un territoire sous mandat français et de fameux timbres: Sandjak d'Alexandrette ou les origines d'une tension internationale (Moïse); Les coins datés et leur collection (Vernet); Voici le Cœur qui fait chavirer celui des collectionneurs (Melot); Le cas du bureau K (de la Mettrie); Bienvenue à bord (Zeyons); Un refus de régulariser (Prugnon); Cartes interzones d'Algérie (Chauvin).

Benin — Postal Use of Military Telegraph Date Stamps

Bill Mitchell

[This article should be read in conjunction with the short pieces “Mail from French Forces in Dahomey” by John Mayne in Journal 237 (September 2005), page 111; “Dahomey Cancells” by John Mayne (page 85) and Bill Mitchell (page 86) in Journal 241 (September 2006); and the major article by Bill Mitchell and Laurence Lambert, “The Post Offices of French West Africa – Part 1, Benin/Dahomey” in Journal 215 (March 2000), pages 4-12.]

In his interesting little article “Mail from French Forces in Dahomey” on page 111 of Journal 237 (September 2005) John Mayne asks if I can confirm that the Benin Military Telegraph cancel “Poste N° 6” (John has confirmed that it is “6”, not “3”) was used at Allada, and say when these cachets were used. I have searched through the relevant literature in my possession and have had to conclude that I don't think the whole story will become clear until the records of the French army telegraph service dating from the 1890s and 1900s have been trawled (and perhaps not even then). At present, all that can be said for sure is that three of these cachets were used, or probably used, at certain places on certain dates. Otherwise, the accounts in the literature serve only to confuse.

Of the three cases that we can be sure about (or reasonably so), John's is the best documented and the most certain. It is most fortunate that the enclosure, the sender's visiting card, has been preserved because cover and card together show two things. First, the sender was an expat living at Allada (this is printed on the card and there is no reason to suppose that he did not post it there on 26 May 1902), and second, his statement that the value of the envelope will be increased by virtue of the military telegraph cancel implies that normal post office cancels were also used there (the post office had been opened on 3 March 1901⁽¹⁾).

The only other cachets which I have seen recorded in any detail are Nos 2 and 4, both on the same telegraph line, in February 1899. In an important 1962 article “Le Haut Dahomey (1898-1907)”⁽²⁾, Henri Tristant traces the development of the military telegraph from the coast to the north-west, ending at Fada N'Gourma. He writes that, in accordance with an *arrêté* signed at Fada on 21 November 1898, both postal and telegraph services were opened on that same date but no date stamps had been received. He follows this with a detailed analysis of two letters, both posted at Fada on 29 January 1899 and transiting Kouandé on the following 17 February. “*Entre les cachets de ses deux bureaux*” are, on one letter, the military telegraph date stamp of Poste N° 4 dated 9 February and, on the other, the Poste N° 2 date stamp of 12 February. By a comparison with an earlier Poste N° 2 letter of 7 December 1898 which can apparently be shown to have originated three days' journey to the north of Kouandé, he concludes that Poste N° 2 can probably be attributed to Konkobiri, 112 km distant from Kouandé. Using the difference of three days between handling at Postes Nos 4 and 2 (9 to 12 February) he also concludes that the former can probably be attributed to Diapaga, 239 km from Kouandé. There is an inconsistency here which I cannot explain. The letter transiting Poste N° 2, which M. Tristant suggests may have been located at Konkobiri, took five days (12 to 17 February), not three, to reach Kouandé. So he quotes one

letter taking three days and another taking five days to complete the same leg of the journey. The distances from Diapaga to Konkobiri (127, ie 239 less 112, km) and Konkobiri to Kouandé (112 km) are roughly comparable, so presumably some factor which can now only be guessed at (adverse weather conditions? an injury?) hindered one of the runners — each letter was, I imagine, carried separately. Unfortunately, none of these covers is illustrated.

The following are recorded by Tristant as being the first known dates of postal cancels of these four places – Fada N'Gourma, 29 January 1899; Diapaga, 20 May 1899; Konkobiri, 23 May 1899; Kouandé, 16 August 1898. So the two covers discussed are the earliest known from Fada; the earliest from Diapaga and Konkobiri are some four months later. (Tristant writes that as a result of boundary changes, Fada and Diapaga were transferred to Upper Senegal and Niger in 1907; they are now in Burkina Faso. The post office at Konkobiri was closed in 1907.)

The other authorities do not help very much. As John says, Langlois & Bourselet writing in 1937⁽³⁾ simply record the existence of these *ondulé* cachets and say that Nos 1 to 6 have been seen by them. 30-odd years later, in 1970, Constant Bouérat wrote⁽⁴⁾ that unlike the majority of neighbouring French territories, in Dahomey (as Benin had been renamed in 1894 – John's cover is dated 26 May 1902, remember!) post offices often preceded the telegraph lines. Despite this, date stamps provided for military use were also brought into postal service in some places (“*des correspondants d'armée munis de timbre à date étaient installées dans certaines localités, faisant double emploi avec la poste*”), citing “Whydah [Ouidah], Grand Popo...” (So Ouidah and Grand Popo can probably be added to Allada, Konkobiri and Diapaga.) Bouérat adds that the telegraph line linking Cotonou and Allada was opened in 1902; in the same year it was extended to Abomey (a cover with a military telegraph cancel from there would be most interesting in the light of what had happened to the north).

The next reference to these *ondulé* military date stamps that I can find comes in a long article by Alain Hurpet. He says that the telegraph offices were progressively made permanent as the network was extended, and this made a distinctive date stamp necessary. These were used until the military telegraph offices were converted into civilian post offices. He then follows Langlois & Bourselet and Tristant in saying that six numbers are known, the only places of use recorded being Diapaga (N° 4) and Konkobiri (N° 2) – but without Tristant's cautious “probably”⁽⁵⁾.

Here we have two apparently contradictory statements – the military telegraph date stamps were used alongside the civilian ones (Bouérat), and they were used until post

office date stamps became available following a change in status (Hurpet). In a comment on the latter, Robert Crombez wrote that the *ondulé* cachets of the military telegraph accompanied its advance and can never be attributed to a particular location. He claimed that only the date of other cancellations can determine the supposed point of posting and the time the [*ondulé*] cachet was applied (possibly this qualification was inspired by Tristant)⁽⁶⁾. As I have shown, John's new acquisition supports Bouérat very well, which suggests that Hurpet is wrong. It also shows that Crombez is not correct when he says that these cachets can never be attributed to a specific location, and the fact that (as John has told me) the only other date stamp on the cover is the Paris Distribution receiver of 28 June 1902 further shows that it may not be possible to rely on "other cancellations". Tristant has shown that two different numbers were almost certainly in use at two (consecutive?) posts on the same line at the same time, and this throws doubts on Crombez's statement that the cachets accompanied the advance of the telegraph line.

That is all I've been able to glean from the literature in my possession. It would, I think, be unwise to speculate about the policy that was adopted a century or so ago, but I would make one comment. No-one seems to have remarked on the fact that only six "Postes" have been reported. There were obviously far more than six military telegraph posts in Dahomey at this time when, as Tristant tells us, the telegraph was being rapidly extended in support of the military subjection of the colony⁽⁷⁾ — Bouérat lists 29 post offices offering telegraph services which had been open between 1890 and 1904⁽⁸⁾.

Lastly, periods of use. Without much more detailed records of examples of these cachets on cover than we have at present no meaningful Tables can be compiled. I've noted the following from the literature — 30 October 1892 (N° 5,

Crombez⁽⁹⁾); 13 February 1893 (N° 4, Crombez⁽⁹⁾); 7 December 1898 (N° 2, Tristant); 9 February 1899 (N° 4, Tristant); 12 February 1899 (N° 2, Tristant); 8(?) May 1899 (N° 6, Hurpet); 8 October 0 (1900?) (N° 5, Langlois & Bourselet); 26 May 1902 (N° 6, Mayne).

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- (2) *Feuilles Marcophiles* N° 145, February 1962, pages 19-33 at pages 25-27.
- (3) "Les Oblitérations des Bureaux de Poste des Colonies et Possessions Françaises — Afrique Occidentale Française" (Editions du Graouli, Paris), page 55.
- (4) "Les Origines des Postes et Télégraphes au Dahomey (1890-1908)" (Société Internationale d'Histoire Postale, Grenoble, *Bulletin* N° 16/17, pages 28-67), at pages 34, 37.
- (5) "Les Oblitérations du Dahomey" (*COL.FRA Bulletin* 68, 4^{ème} trimestre 1994), page 6.
- (6) *COL.FRA Bulletin* 70 (2^{ème} trimestre 1995), page 5.
- (7) *Op cit*, page 23.
- (8) *Op cit*, page 41.
- (9) *COL.FRA, Bulletin Hors-série* 14-1 to 6 — "Dahomey, Propositions pour l'Etablissement d'un Catalogue d'Histoire Postale et Philatélique", edited by Robert Crombez, Paris 1997. Part 2 contains, on pages 36 to 44, a slightly edited reprint of Tristant's 1962 article: these illustrations appear on page 36. Curiously, they are not repeated in the revised single volume edition of 2004.

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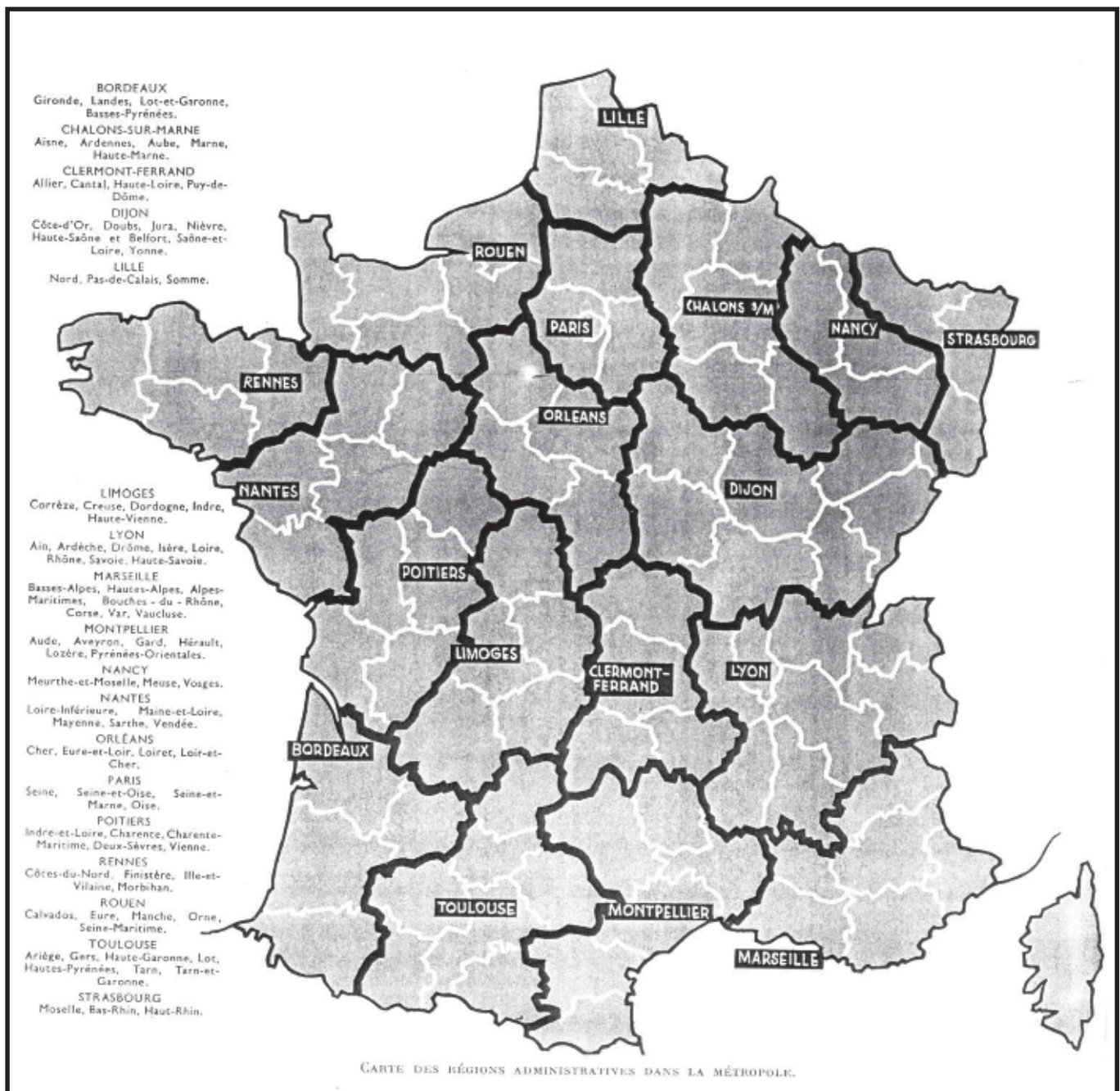
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SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Regions and More Regions



Map of the Administrative Regions in Metropolitan France

Robert Johnson's bafflement at the implications of the French "Post Office Regions 1933" (Journal 240, June 2006, page 58) is well founded. The French genius for administrative patchwork quilts is well known. The built environment extends beyond the city boundary? Reorganise local government? Of course not - instead inaugurate an "agglomeration" body. Departmental boundaries increasingly irrelevant to administrative geography? Institute a commission to redraw the map? Certainly not; instead superimpose one's own, more rational, regions on the

departmental structure. This is exactly what the Post Office has done in this case.

The wartime source of the 1933 map appeared in Britain in 1942 but, of necessity, the material was all pre-1940 and the fall of France. The answer to Robert Johnson's query is to be found in the two volume *Encyclopédie des Postes, Télégraphes et Téléphones*, published by Editions Rombaldi. This excellent reference work is not dated but from internal evidence it probably appeared in 1957.

Essentially the regional structure of the PTT dates from 1883, the year that the French state took over responsibility for the telephone service. In the absence of a regional administrative level the PTT's services were organised from each *département*. The central administration found this unsatisfactory, particularly as it wished to decentralise much of its decision making. Consequently in 1895 it created twelve regional centres – but this turned out to be no more than an interim arrangement which lasted only until 1917 when a definitive regional reorganisation took place. The 1917 reforms created regions that were based more on regional economic centres. Even so, the departmental regimes could not be ignored and they retained substantial powers. It was only in the realm of inter-departmental co-ordination that the regional directors had authority over their departmental counterparts.

The financial trough of 1926 provided the PTT administration with the excuse it needed to abolish its departmental level – thus, in the words of the *Encyclopédie*, completing the work begun in 1895, and placing authority in the hands of the seventeen regional directors. This reform, inevitably, attracted formidable opposition, not least from the prefects who had been effectively excluded from any involvement in key communication services. The PTT was forced to yield ground and in 1929 some powers were restored to the *départements* but, cleverly, the PTT got its own officials placed within the head office of each *département*, thus retaining effective control.

According to the *Encyclopédie* this de facto coup led in due course to the new law of 1934 that forced the attachment of the departmental PTT officials to the headquarters in each region. I suspect that the regional map in the 1942 Naval Intelligence handbook, and reproduced in the F&CPS Journal of June 2006, is actually the consequence

of this reform, even though it is dated 1933 in that handbook.

The next reform took place in 1941. Lest its readers might think that bothering about administrative reforms in the postal services was somewhat exotic in the circumstances of the period, the *Encyclopédie* comments that the tragic events of 1940 had caused a considerable reduction in postal traffic and that for the PTT it was an opportunity to spend time building a rational structure for postal services in preparation for the resumption of “normal and independent” services.

The reorganisation took into account the transformation in the means of transportation, including civil aviation, and in telecommunications, and it was these considerations which were the main catalysts, not only in the redrawing of regional boundaries but also in the increasing devolution of authority to regional directors. These directors were in charge of both the practical organisation of postal and telecommunication services and also of their operation. The country was reorganised into seventeen new provincial regions (see the map above) and the eighty-five departmental entities were made directly responsible to the seventeen regional directors.

It would seem that the 1941 reforms gave the regions considerable autonomy to determine the logistical means and the operational practices of the PTT in their areas. It was sufficiently efficient and accepted to be still in force in 1957 when the *Encyclopédie* was published. I leave it to others to continue this history into the following fifty years.

I will willingly supply photocopies of the relevant extracts from the *Encyclopédie* to any colleagues who would wish to receive them.

Michael Meadowcroft

Indo-China / Thailand Auction Results

During 2006 there have been three auctions including early Thai material used in what became part of Indo-China. In February the Thailand Philatelic Society included 20 lots of stamps with Indo-Chinese postmarks. Prime amongst these was a block of 4 of the 1941 definitive with 1944 wartime use cancelled Sithandon which realised £1750 – a truly remarkable price. A single stamp from the same period cancelled Lanchang sold for £520 and another cancelled Champasak for £125.

Good, but more ordinary prices were obtained for earlier material from the 1895-1905 period, with an almost complete strike of Battambang, type 2, going for £80; Pailin, with name in Thai in full, for £60; an almost complete Prachantakirikate for £125; Champasak for £85; and two virtually complete strikes of Luang Prabang for £90 and £85.

In March, Jeff Schneider at Zurich Asia in Hong Kong sold the first part of a specialist collection of Thai postmarks which included 3 collections of Indo-China. A comprehensive collection of 50 stamps with examples from 8 towns sold for £1800, including Buyer's Premium, against an estimate of £700-£900. Three used in Laos at Paklai, Luang Prabang and Champasak went for £450, whilst a single copy with a s.o.t.n. cancel of the very rare Srisophon with Thai name curved, estimated at £500-£600, was eventually knocked down for £2300.

However, the three cards offered at Spink, Singapore in July all failed to achieve a bid, from Battambang (reserve about £900), Siemrap (£1500) and Luang Prabang (£1200). Results of a strong section of the French occupation of Thai towns, Chantaboon (7) and Paknam (3) fared better with 6 lots selling (5 and 1) all at or just below bottom estimate, £800 to £1100.

Mike Roberts

Togo – the STATION PALIME cancel



In *Vorläufer* issue 36 pp 20-23 Ludwig Meyer stated that *Stationsstempel* were issued to government offices and police stations. Albert Friedemann stated that their use as cancels on mail was strictly forbidden by the Reich Postal Bureau on 23.10.1909, although examples of such use can be found before that date. Meyer added that mail from one *Station* to another did not attract postage, but in thirty years no such example has been seen and enquiries of other collectors failed to unearth one!

Meyer's article listed eleven major 'stations' and he recorded mail with *Stempel* from seven of them, noting that no *Stempel* was issued to Station Bismarckburg and he had not recorded mail from the *Stationen* at Nuatjä, Sokodé or Tokplo. Peter Vogenbeck (of German auction house Auf dem Sand) confirmed some time ago that he had not seen *Stempel* from these three stations.

Meyer listed nine further stations (though one only had a post office adjacent) but had not recorded any *Stempel* for them. He added that *Stempel* were issued to custom posts, listing twenty – but none of these he had recorded. He does not list a *Stempel* for Agomé Palimé, but the *Stempel* for Station Misahöhe established in 1890 is well known.

Agomé Palimé was the commercial centre for Misahöhe district, and Station Misahöhe the administrative centre and a hill station.

Collectors of Togo 1914-1922 are familiar with the cancel **STATION PALIME** which Jeremy Martin considered to be a German *Stationsstempel* used as a post office cancel, but to date there is no evidence to substantiate that opinion as the *Stempel* has not been recorded in the German period.

However, after 30 years collecting Togo 1884-1922 I may now have evidence that this cancel is German. In September 2006 Heinrich Köhler of Wiesbaden offered a small Togo collection of German, British and French items up to July 1922. Out of interest I sent for photocopies. There were few covers or postal stationery items included, but the last item was eye-catching! This a cover endorsed by a previous owner R.R.R. with a German Togo 10Pfg yacht cancelled **STATION ANECHO 26.5.14** (see illustration). [Please excuse the lack of quality in this copy of a black and white copy.]. The style of the cancel is very similar to the **STATION PALIME** strike and I suggest confirms that the cancel is indeed of German origin.

John Mayne

Belgian Postcard Query



I hope members may be able to help me. I had better confess I am not a member of your society but a member of The British Society of Australian Philately.

Many years ago, when I also had an interest in Belgian philately, I purchased a bundle of Belgian postcards among which was this one addressed to Francis Field. A friend suggested that it might have been sent by a French pilot to Francis Field and that I should contact your society as you may be able to provide me with more information.

On the front there is a circular date stamp

ANTWERPEN, ANVERS 18 ? 19, 18-V-1922

and a slogan strike to the stamp in three lines

DOVER ? OSTEND

THE QUICKEST ROUTE TO THE CONTINENT

2 SERVICES DAILY

Any information would be most welcome.

David Plant

Après le Départ Marks used Overseas



Colin Spong first wrote on this subject in Journal 190 of December 1993 (page 174), since when several members have submitted examples of the strike used in various colonies (see also Journals 151, 177, 191, 197, 199, 202, 230, 231, 235 and 239). As a result perhaps colonial collectors are frantically searching dealers' boxes for further examples, particularly from colonies where the cachet has yet to be reported.

In Journal 231 (page 27) I illustrated a postcard from German Togo routed via Dahomey and collected at Cotonou by Chargeurs Réunis on 4.3.1901. At that time this was the only example of the mark recorded on mail from outside the French Empire. I am now able to report a second example passing down the same route collected on 3.6.1900, this time on a Togo postal stationery card of the overprint period.

John Mayne

An Odd Meter Franking

When we were on holiday earlier this year in Boston (Mass.) we came across a stamp and coin shop in the town centre. Some uncontrollable force pushed us into the emporium. We leafed our way in vain through the stock books and in desperation we thumbed through the box of assorted covers and picture postcards. The only item to catch our eye was this one, and so five bucks changed hands.

The envelope is addressed to Berlin and is franked by five oddly placed 25c meter marks in red. These were applied in such a way that only one set of wavy lines, town name and date appeared on the envelope.

These five franks were all applied by a single denomination Francotyp meter franking machine, number A0702. Now here is another oddity. Alongside the town name of Neuilly in the postmark, the date is incomplete, for it reads **27 MARS** ■3. Now, turning the envelope over, we find that there is a printers' imprint "No. 23-11 25". Also, on the flap, there is the imprint of the sender "L.E.L.F." at Neuilly-sur-Seine.

So, in what year was the envelope posted?

- Meter franking was introduced in France on 26 May 1924.
- The envelope was printed in 1925.
- The flap of the envelope is stuck down, it being slit open at the top.
- According to Derek Richardson's "Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to 2005", the UPU letter rate up to 15g was as follows:

1 October 1925	1F00
1 February 1926	1F25
1 August 1926	1F50
1 August 1937	1F75

The envelope bears 1F25 postage. Yet with the 3 in the year of posting, it seems unlikely to have been posted

Continued on page 143

The Penalty Taxes of 1910 and 1920

André Métayer

Translated by Mick Bister

Part 2

The 1 franc penalty tax of Article 7 of the Act of 29 March 1920

The Act of 29 March 1920 repealed the contravention system of Article 9 of the Act of 25 June 1856 and replaced it with a fixed penalty tax of 1 franc. The text of the Act is as follows:

“● Internal rated newspapers, printed matter and samples for France, Algeria and Morocco mailed as items conforming to the reduced rate, as well as postcards in an unsealed envelope franked at 15 centimes, which are discovered to contain unauthorised words, messages or figures, are to receive a fixed penalty of 1 franc represented by a *chiffre-taxe* stamp of the said value. When the number of penalised items returned to the same sender in a single batch exceeds ten, the *Directeur Départemental* may, after reviewing the circumstances, authorise a reduction of the penalty provided that the total sum to pay does not fall below 10 francs.

“● Penalised items refused by addressees or which cannot be delivered for any reason are to be returned to the sender who is required to pay the amount due.

“● If the sender refuses to pay the penalties due, their recovery will be pursued in court.

“● The measures of the above Act will come into force from 1 April 1920.

Signed in Paris, 29 March 1920

The Under-Secretary of State, Posts and Telegraphs
L. Deschamps”

The application of the penalty tax was not rigorously implemented by the postal workers, probably because of the reactions they encountered from the public. This led the Administration to issue a reminder in a circular N° 1920 EP of 19 May 1923.

The penalty tax was finally abolished on 1 January 1927.

References

‘Le collectionneur de timbres-poste’ published by Arthur Maury

- N° 358, 1 August 1910
- N° 378, 1 April 1912
- N° 381, 1 July 1912
- N° 388, 1 February 1913
- N° 398, 1 November 1913

‘Bulletin officiel des Postes’

- March 1910, pp. 94-96
- N° 1, January 1913, pp. 19-21
- N° 5, 1920, pp. 203-204



Figure 4 -

Visiting card dated 31 December 1920 franked at 5c and which has been taxed 40c double deficiency, ie $(25c - 5c) \times 2 = 40c$, plus the 1F penalty tax. The straight line cachet ART. 7 de la LOI du 29 Mars 1920 has been struck in red.



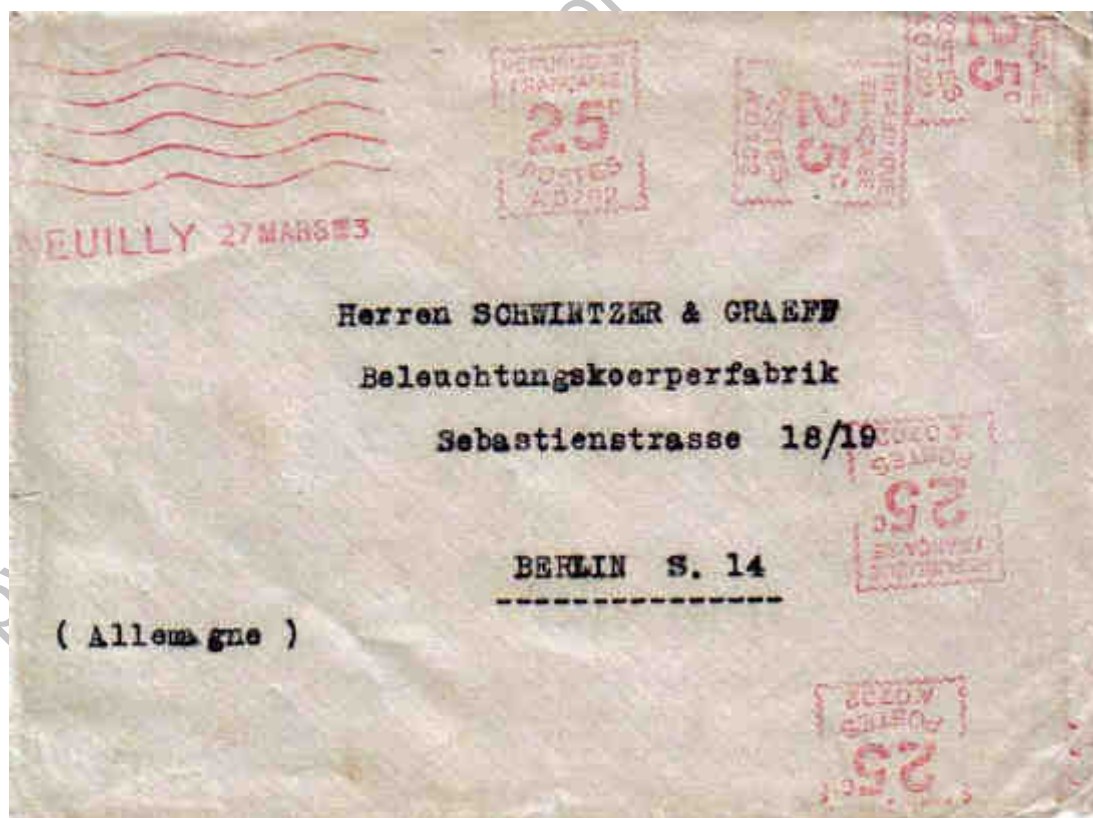
Figure 5 -
Visiting card dated 3 January 1924 franked at 15c
and which has been taxed 20c double deficiency, ie $(25c - 15c) \times 2 = 20c$, plus the 1F penalty tax.

SHORTER ITEMS: An Odd Meter Franking

Continued from page 141

during the short lived 1F25 rate period in 1926. So, was it posted earlier and overfranked? Or, was it posted later and underfranked?

My grateful thanks will go to any member who can sort this oddity out. The front of the envelope with the red meter marks is illustrated below:



Richard Wheatley

SHORTER ITEMS

Continued on cover page iii

Postal Rate changes of 1 October 2006

Derek Richardson

I have received, courtesy of our Paris correspondent John Simmons, a leaflet listing new rates which replace those in force since 1 March 2005. The main facts are summarised below. Rates are in euros.

Letters to Metropolitan France

Up to (g)	20	50	100	250	500	1000	2000	3000
Priority	0,54	0,86	1,30	2,11	2,90	3,77	4,98	5,84
Non-priority (ECOPLI)	0,49	0,70	0,84	1,57				

Letters to Overseas Departments and Territories (DOM-TOM)

Postal rates are as for France, plus an air supplement payable on letters weighing 20 grams or more.

Service	Priority		Non-priority	
	DOM	TOM	DOM	TOM
Air supplement per 10 g	+0,05	+0,11	+0,02	+0,05

Example: Rate for a 35 gram priority letter to TOM = 0,86 + 4 × 0,11 = 1,30

Registration

Indemnity (€)	16 (R1)	153 (R2)	458 (R3)
Fee	2,50	3,10	4,00
Advice of Delivery (AR)	1,30 (no change)		

For items in the value range 458€ to 5000€, use of the *Valeur Déclarée* service is suggested

Valeur Déclarée

A new charging procedure is introduced.

Up to (g)	250	500	1000	2000	3000	5000
Weight supplement (€)	10	11	12	13	14	15

Plus a supplement of 0,50€ per 100€ by which the declared value exceeds 600€.

Example: the total cost within France of a 850€ *valeur déclarée* letter weighing 750 g would be:

3,77 postage + 12,00 weight supplement + 3 × 0,50 value supplement = 17,27

Poste Restante

Correspondence = 0,54; Newspapers and periodicals = 0,27

Foreign countries

New Zone structure: Z1 = EU + Switzerland, Z2 = Rest of World. (P) = Priority, (E) = Economy

Up to (g)	20	50	100	250	500	1000	1500	2000	3000*
Z1 (P)	0,60	1,15	1,40	4,00	6,00	8,50	11,00	12,30	-
Z2 (P)	0,85	1,70	2,30	5,50	7,20	10,50	14,00	16,50	27,00
Z1 (E)	-	-	1,35	2,80	3,90	5,50	6,80	7,80	-
Z2 (E)	-	-	1,70	3,00	4,30	6,80	10,40	12,50	21,00

* only to 18 former French colonies in Africa

Registration: a fee of 4,00 for indemnity of 45,73

Advice of Delivery (AR): 1,30 (no change)

Valeur Déclarée: a fixed fee of 4,00 + a value supplement (2,29 minimum) of 0,38 per 76,22 of VD.

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REPORTS OF MEETINGS

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 16 SEPTEMBER 2006

Members' Choice

Present:- Steve Ellis, Alan Goude, Bernard Lucas, Peter Maybury, Michael Meadowcroft, Paul Watkins.

Apologies:- G E Barker, R Barnes, S & J Holder, A Shepherd, J Whiteside.

The first meeting of the new season commenced with **Peter Maybury** showing Tariffs of the Revolution 1792-1796, followed by **Bernard Lucas** who displayed another section of his Revenues collection. This time it was "copies" a tax introduced in December 1873 on copies of legal documents, the stamps being placed in the margin of an original document, so that if there were 5 copies then 5 stamps were attached to the original. Bernard took us through to 1925 when the first unified revenue stamps

were issued. **Paul Watkins** then produced a display of International Exhibitions held on the Champs de Mars, Paris, in 1855, 1867, 1878, 1889 and 1900, with engravings, a specially printed British passport, photographs and more ephemera, covers and cards. Military Mail was the theme of **Steve Ellis** with examples from the war of the Austrian succession, the American war of independence, Napoleonic campaigns, and the Peninsular war through to the Madagascar ventures, Boxer rebellion, WWI and prisoner of war letters from WWII. **Alan Goude** treated us to a trip to Africa with Dahomey/Benin, with an outline of the history of the colony followed by a selection of covers and stamps showing the various issues and handstamps in use from 1890 to 1920.

JPM

LONDON MEETING OF 27 SEPTEMBER 2006

Members: 12 Sheets

Chris Hitchen carried out a rapid survey among those present and ascertained that we had enough short displays available for two sessions. **Len Barnes** then opened proceedings by showing 12 different coloured sheets of the Prince Imperial essays. **David Jennings-Bramly** followed with a 1914 *cachet de fortune* attributed to Chantilly; a picture postcard of the *Ville d'Alger* dated 3 days after its sinking in 1909 with a letter-card recovered from the ship; coil stamps on Boyer covers 1926-1933; a 1987 cartoon about spelling; and a 4 piastres overprint on a false 1F Merson stamp. **Bill Mitchell** ended the session with French West Africa, with the de la Nézière definitives of Dahomey 1913-1927, both mint and used according to various tariffs, and a sheet of values of the Ivory Coast versions.

After the interval for viewing, **Barbara Priddy** showed a whole series of West African first flight covers, from the Comet of 1953 to the KLM Boeing 767 in 1997. These included delivery flights, a 1953 crash cover, and a 1978 first flight cover with the wrong details and an inappropriate picture. The evening concluded with **Godfrey Bowden** giving a detailed display of the Legion of French Volunteers, in which his interest had been aroused both by Roy Reader's

article published in Journals 131-134 in 1975-6 (republished as Society Brochure N° 4 "The Legion of French Volunteers 1941-44" in 1981) and by the page devoted to "The Legion of French Volunteers 'Bear' Miniature Sheet 1941" (page 95) in Geoff Gethin's recent book "Fakes and Forgeries of 20th Century French Postage Stamps". The display included the miniature sheet, sets, and *Front de l'Est / Ostfront* overprints with varieties, as well as the Tricolour Legion charity issues. The final items were devoted to Monaco, with a *Recette Auxiliaire* cancel of 1917, when the higher rate was 15c not the 10c affixed, but only an extra 5c was charged, indicated by a 5c Sower and T in Triangle mark; and some illustrative cards of the Monte Carlo casino from 1900 to 1920. Chris thanked the participants for their displays and commented that once again we had seen a wide variety of fascinating material.

Members present: Len Barnes, Godfrey Bowden, Chris Hitchen, David Jennings-Bramly, Hugh Loudon, Bill Mitchell, Barbara Priddy, John Thorpe, Maurice Tyler, Michael Wright.

Apologies were received from: Mick Bister, Geoff Gethin, Derek Richardson.

MST

WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 7 OCTOBER 2006

Ashley Lawrence: Siege of Paris; & Members' Displays

The Wessex Group met at Salisbury where the invited speaker was Ashley Lawrence who gave us a wonderful insight into the Siege of Paris in 1870 through the letters written by William Brown, who had chosen to stay in Paris,

to his family in England. This incredible archive of letters gave so many details of the daily life and privations of those left behind, and the whole story was enlarged by reason of the detailed additional research put in by Ashley.

After our usual break for lunch at the Mill Inn the afternoon was taken up by members' displays:

Lesley Marley: Souvenirs of Washington 2006;

Jeremy Martin: French airmails to West Africa;

Ian McQueen: Aéropostale letters from South America;

Edwin Rideout: Stamps of the Louis Pasteur issue;

Chris Hitchen: The Late Fee service in Paris;

Trevor Buckell: Unusual covers including early precursors from Haiti.

The following other members attended: Peter Kelly, Alan Wood, George Nash, John Foskett, Brian Weeks, Peter Lawrence.

The following dates for future meetings have now been confirmed: 3 February, 7 July and 20 October 2007.

PRAK

SCOTTISH GROUP MEETING OF 14 OCTOBER 2006

Peter Maybury: Algeria to Independence

5 members attended the meeting. Before the display **David Hogarth** was belatedly presented with the Literature Award.

Peter Maybury began his display with a brief history of Algeria, explaining why the French began to take an interest in the territory. He showed 2 covers (1787 & 1789) in and out of the country relating to slavery, one asking for money to pay the ransom demanded.

The display contained postcards showing some smaller post offices, pre-stamp entires from when France invaded the country in 1830. Between 1830 and 1870 Algeria was ruled by the military, settlers stayed along the coast and postal communication could only take place by boats which hopped along the coast from one port to the next. This means of communication had not progressed by the time of WWI.

Peter showed unpaid and prepaid letters from the military, and disinfection marks. Algeria was regarded as a *département* of France, so mail was rated as inland for the purpose of communication with metropolitan France.

Through the display we were shown the changing letter rates, examples of weight steps, postcards, registered mail, local and foreign rates etc. Peter pointed out the varieties of handstamps used in various offices, civilian and military, with shipwrecked mail from the *Ville d'Alger*. In a maritime section he showed *paquebot* marks and naval marks. There were examples from the *paquebot* routes from the coastal ports to France.

From times of conflict there were examples of Saharan Oases mail with their markings, items relating to fighting with local tribes with their military and franchise marks. The invasion of Morocco with its border dispute brought more mail with their marks and cachets.

Stamps were not omitted from the display, from overprinted French stamps to the later Algerian issues.

The display fascinated everyone present and gave much to think about, being so comprehensive. The vote of thanks was given by Jim Moffat.

MP

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 14 OCTOBER 2006

Michael Farrant: Zanzibar

On a bright sunny afternoon members gathered to enjoy a display of Zanzibar given by Michael Farrant. Michael said that although basically he was a German East Africa collector, he did try and cover all aspects of the island of Zanzibar including the British, French and German post offices and the independent sultanate.

Michael said that in the beginning the island had no formal postal arrangements, but consular mail from Europe, to and from the Seychelles for onward transmission either via Aden or Bombay, is known from 1829. In 1872 the British India Steam Navigation Co. commenced a regular packet service with Aden, and from 1875 there was a regular post office established [this was a sub-office of Aden until 1878, and then under Bombay until 1895], becoming independent from 10 November 1895 when Zanzibar joined the UPU.

The French opened a post office in January 1889, from which commercial correspondence is scarce; in 1895, following an exchange of interests, Madagascar to France and Zanzibar to Great Britain, it officially ceased but remained open for philatelic business until 1904. The German post office was opened by the arrival of Postsekretär Steinhagen in the *Reichstag*, which began the

German mailboat service (D.O.A.L.) to East Africa on 27 August 1890. They used German stamps identified by their cancellations. The PO was closed on 31 July 1891 following an exchange of interests: Heligoland to Germany and Great Britain gaining Zanzibar as a protectorate until 1963.

Amongst the many interesting and varied items seen in three separate displays were covers bearing Indian stamps, French and German mail, and finally mail from the Sultan's post. Frank Blincow gave the vote of thanks for a fascinating display of a little known territory, covering three colonial interests.

The Organiser congratulated Roy Ferguson on becoming President of the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies and reminded members that the next meeting would be a visit on Saturday 13 January 2007 from the President, Peter Kelly, who would be displaying some aspects of Réunion, and he hoped they would give it their full support.

Members present: Michael Annells, Michael Berry, Betty Blincow, Roy Ferguson, John Hammonds, George Nash, Colin Spong, John Yeomans; and Guests: Frank Blincow, Jean Hammonds and Pat Spong. Apologies from Colin Clarkson, Bob & Yvonne Larg, Bill Mitchell, John Thorpe.

CWS

NORTHERN GROUP AREA MEETING OF 21 OCTOBER 2006

Peter Maybury: Algeria to Independence; & Members' Choice

Held at Cavendish House, Derby. Convenor: Paul Watkins

Present:: S Ellis, A Goude, B Lucas, P Maybury, P Mellors (guest), J Morton, T Shepherd, D Smith (guest), P Twiddy, P Watkins, A Wood. Apologies: twenty.

Following coffee and biscuits, the morning session was devoted to a major display of Algeria to Independence presented by **Peter Maybury**. After an outline history of the development of the country, which despite being listed in philatelic catalogues in the colonial sections was never a colony, but an integral part of metropolitan France, the display commenced with two *ancien régime* letters to and from Algeria on the subject of slavery and the purchase of freedoms, and ended with the war for independence and the establishment of the fundamentalist state in 1962.

A break for a most convivial lunch at a nearby Italian restaurant preceded the afternoon session of member's choice displays. **John Morton** kicked off (Derby County were playing at home) with The Italian Frontier, dealing with the land and sea routes from France from 1795 with entry marks, and among other goodies the French POs during the revolutionary and Napoleonic periods. French Equatorial Africa to 1944 was **Alan Goude's** contribution, detailing with stamps and covers the evolution of the confederation from 1910 through the issuing of the first

dedicated stamps and stationery in 1937 and the Free French overprints following de Gaulle's visit to Brazzaville. **Bernard Lucas**, having recovered from the vagaries of Virgin trains, presented the history and methodology of *Recouvrements*, displaying documents with the stamps, the use of postage dues and postage stamps as alternatives, in his latest bid to convert the unbelievers.

Convenor **Paul Watkins** was next on with a selection of *type Sage* postal stationery, showing cancellations, overprints, private printings and a straight line **PAQUEBOT** cancel on a 10c green card. **Tony Shepherd** then showed Martinique Censored Mail 1935-1945, with items from the Vichy period (1940-1943) and the British blockade emphasizing the period of constant censorship from 1939 to 1943. The afternoon concluded with a display of the International Red Cross Tracing Service from **Steve Ellis**, who outlined the development of the organisation, explaining that there were three separate Societies based in Paris, which may have been the reason for the multitudinous printings of the enquiry cards during the second Great War.

Our very sincere thanks go to the management and staff of Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd for allowing the use of their premises and facilities, where a splendid day was enjoyed by all.

JPM

LONDON MEETING OF 28 OCTOBER 2006

Iain Stevenson: Postal Stationery of the Second World War

A good attendance, including a member from the USA, was present for Iain Stevenson's display of World War II postal history. Throughout the presentation, Iain's enthusiasm for the subject was evident, which he accounted for by saying that the postal stationery material of the period was not only extremely varied and appropriate for philatelic study but that the messages carried by the stationery were rich in historical content.

The first item displayed was, ironically, the 20th Anniversary of the 1918 Armistice postcard which was available throughout 1939 and 1940 and was the card of choice amongst the mobilised troops at the beginning of the war. This was followed by the 50c *Marseillaise de Rude* envelope, unissued at the time of printing in 1937, but uprated and put on sale in 1940; Iain's item was cancelled on 10 June 1940 – the day of France's surrender.

Iain proceeded by explaining how France was divided by the German authorities into various zones, and described the postal restrictions that were imposed on mail being sent, not only between the Northern Occupied Zone and the Southern Vichy Zone, but also to and from various buffer zones and the *Mur de l'Atlantique*. Nothing enclosed in an envelope was permitted and postcards could not be sent franked with an adhesive stamp for fear that it may conceal a hidden message.

The famous Iris *Carte Familiale Interzone* postcard was therefore introduced. The postcard rate was 80c but the

card was sold at 90c, so in order to avoid any confusion over the postal rate the value was omitted from the design. The card was available initially only in Paris from August 1940, and the instructions and text on the back left little room for personalised messages. Iain showed how the printings varied over the next year with huge differences in card (buff, cream, lemon, orange, blue and red), in the settings of the text and in the nature of the instructions which gradually became more relaxed. Iain expounded the theory that whereas the cards sold in Paris were printed in the Boulevard Brune, the cards which were later available in Vichy France must have been printed elsewhere. A papier-mâché copy, or 'flong', would have been made of the plate and sent to a printer in the south, probably in Marseille. Here the flong would have gone through an electro-plating process to create a working plate from which the cards could be printed. As a result of these intermediary processes the resolution of the Iris stamp on the Vichy printings is coarser than that of the Paris printings and quite often the name of the designer Hourriez is totally illegible.

Iain showed examples of cards that had been censored for failing to follow the instructions regarding content or for being sent to prohibited areas. A fine example was a card sent in October 1940 from Versailles to a destination in the Landes region within the *Mur de l'Atlantique* which had been returned to sender struck **NON ADMIS**.

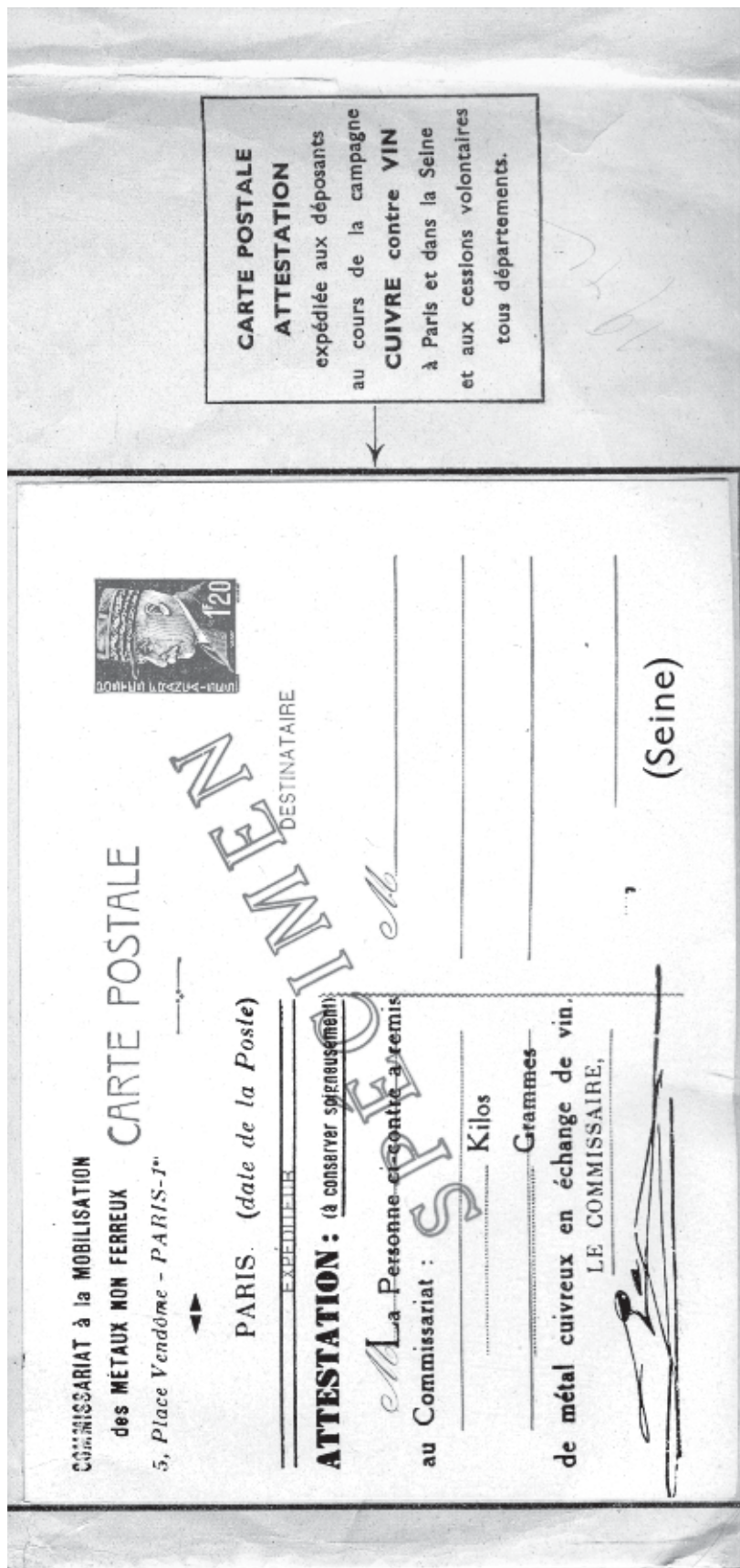


Figure 1 -
Extract from the unrecorded
Métaux Non Ferreux display board

In December 1940 the first *Carte Correspondance Commerciale Interzone* was issued. This allowed the exchange of business information, but the cards were rigorously censored and all had to pass through the Chamber of Commerce in Paris for examination. Iain showed examples of the *Chambre de Commerce* and the *PASSÉ* strikes. In 1941 the regular 80c Iris postcard was reissued and Iain showed an example from Corsica sent from Ajaccio to Paris in September 1941.

For the second half of his display Iain moved on to the 80c Pétain postcard which was issued without text restrictions and printed on predominantly buff or white card. In January 1942 the postcard rate was increased to 1F20. Officially, the 80c cards could not be uprated with adhesives so the remaining stock was overprinted '*Complément de Taxe Perçu*' showing that the sender had paid the deficiency in cash. Cards that were sent without the overprint were taxed on arrival. Iain also showed one half of the rare 80c + 80c reply-paid card and an example of wartime optimism – a wedding invitation printed on a personalised card sent from Amplepuis to London! Other overprinted cards included one surcharged *PARIS RP AVION 3f50* to Dahomey and *PAR AVION 2f30* in red from Martinique.

Iain then moved on to the 1F20 Pétain printings and showed two cards from the Camp de Gurs sent by an internee to Switzerland. In both cases the cards had been uprated with adhesives but neither had been returned or taxed. Other examples were shown of attempts to send cards by air to various destinations. Amongst the remaining 1F20 printings were items that are very rarely seen. These included the reply-paid *Cartes de Service* sent to town halls requesting details from birth and marriage certificates and '*points textiles*' cards with redeemable coupons which were given in exchange for recycled textiles.

Other items displayed included the 2F40 Pétain overseas postcard, very rarely seen commercially used, the 3F Chaplain and 3F Pétain lettercards issued for use in the *Paris Pneumatique* Post system, and the 5F Pétain *Salon du Prisonnier* postcard specifically issued for sending to POWs at Christmas 1941.

Iain apologised profusely for not being able to show an example of the 3F Pétain *Pneumatique de Caisse d'Epargne* – one of the great rarities in French postal stationery. However, he more than compensated for this by showing us two items hitherto unseen and unrecorded. The first item was a 1F Iris envelope, with '*repiquage*' for the 1942 *Journée du Timbre* at Montpellier. The official '*repiquage*' was applied to the 1F Pétain envelope of which many examples are known but the 1F Iris is but one of only

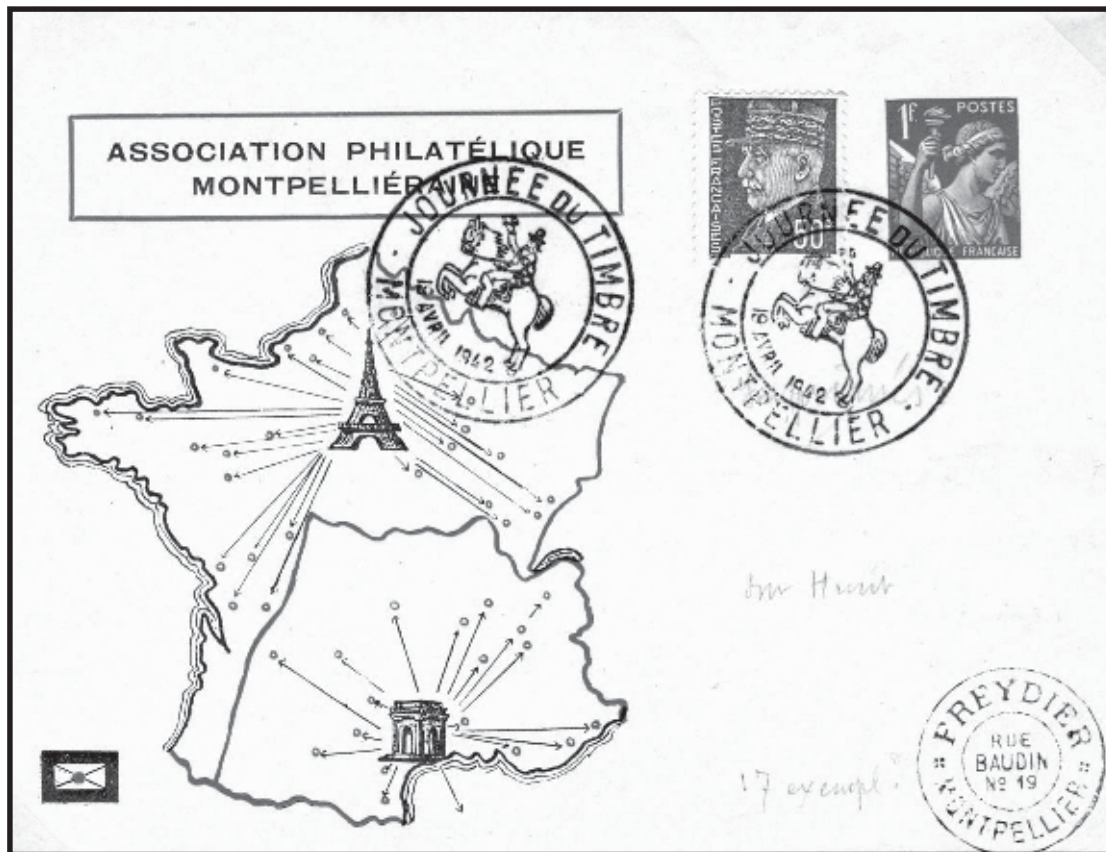


Figure 2 - 1F Iris stationery envelope with Montpellier repiquage, one of 17 printed, and unrecorded by Storch & Françon

17 that were printed and this copy could be the sole survivor (Figure 2).

The second item was even more remarkable. Iain had already shown us the undenominated Pétain postcard which was distributed to publicise the recycling of non-ferrous metals for the war effort but which was not a postally valid piece of postal stationery. Iain related how he had discovered in a market at Nice a collection of documents attached to an explanatory display board promoting the recycling of non-ferrous metals. One of the items incorporated into the display was a 1F20 Pétain *carte postale attestation* overprinted *SPECIMEN* designed for use as part of the non-ferrous metal recycling

campaign in which civilians could exchange copper for wine. Such a display board with both the specimen card and supporting documentation is the only one recorded to date (Figure 1).

The above two items provided an excellent climax to a brilliant display. In giving the vote of thanks, Chris Hitchen commented on how the members had been treated to a fascinating and well-informed display of material from what was a very difficult time for France. The members had seen unusual, rare and unique items described by someone whose love and knowledge of printing came across very clearly – and we had learned a new word to add to our daily vocabulary: the flong.

MLB

MARCOPHILEX XXX

This year Marcophilex was held at Villebon-sur-Yvette (Essonne) on 30 September and 1 October. Standing displays were given by four of our members, and these are detailed in Society Notes on page 114 of this Journal.

This was an exceptionally well run and friendly meeting with some excellent displays to look at and 11 dealers present.

On the Saturday afternoon there was an open meeting of the Académie de Philatélie when Mme Michèle Chauvet gave a quite superb PowerPoint presentation entitled "*Le Vol des Aigles*" showing the use of the Eagle issue throughout the colonies.

The social side of the convention was not overlooked, with a fine Gala Dinner on the Saturday night preceded by an unexpected cabaret when the driver of the bus taking us to the dinner managed (without us on board!) to smash the door – which resulted in all of us being taken to dinner via the bus depot. All it lacked was Louis de Funès to leap hysterically from the cab!

On the Monday we joined the traditional tourist day out, with a visit to the Château de Vaux le Vicomte where we had lunch, followed by visits to a special farm growing cress, which was something new to us, and, finally, to the pilgrim church of St Sulpice de Favière.

This was a very successful and enjoyable show.

PRAK

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**The President and Committee
wish all members and their families
a Happy Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year.
Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année!**



SHORTER ITEMS

Continued from page 143

Artwork for 1971 Laos Issues

In Journal 240 of June 2006 Mick Bister sought further details of two pieces of Laos artwork on behalf of a non-member. I like the artwork of this Laos issue. The '308' and '309' refer to the SG catalogue numbers of the set; in the same set there is the 100k "Village Track" (SG 307).

You may be interested to know there were four series of Marc Leguay's work. The first series was issued on 19 November 1969 and comprised two values, the 120k "Lao

woman being groomed" and the 150k "Village Market" (SG 277 & 278). The second series was issued on 8 April 1970 and consisted of just one stamp, the 150k "Banks of the Mekong" (SG 285). The illustrations in Journal 240 are from the third series. The fourth series was issued on 23 December 1972 and comprised two 50k values depicting "In the paddy field", two 70k values depicting "Village in the rainy season" and one 120k value depicting "Laotian mother" (SG 357-361).

David Taylor Smith

For those with access to the Internet, it is worth taking a look at the following website, entitled "Marc Leguay - The Gauguin of Laos":

<http://arthistory.heindorffhus.dk/frame-Leguay01.htm>

Interesting details of the artist and his creations are given there, with full colour illustrations of the stamps in particular, including the ones for which the artwork was published in Journal 240.

Maurice Tyler

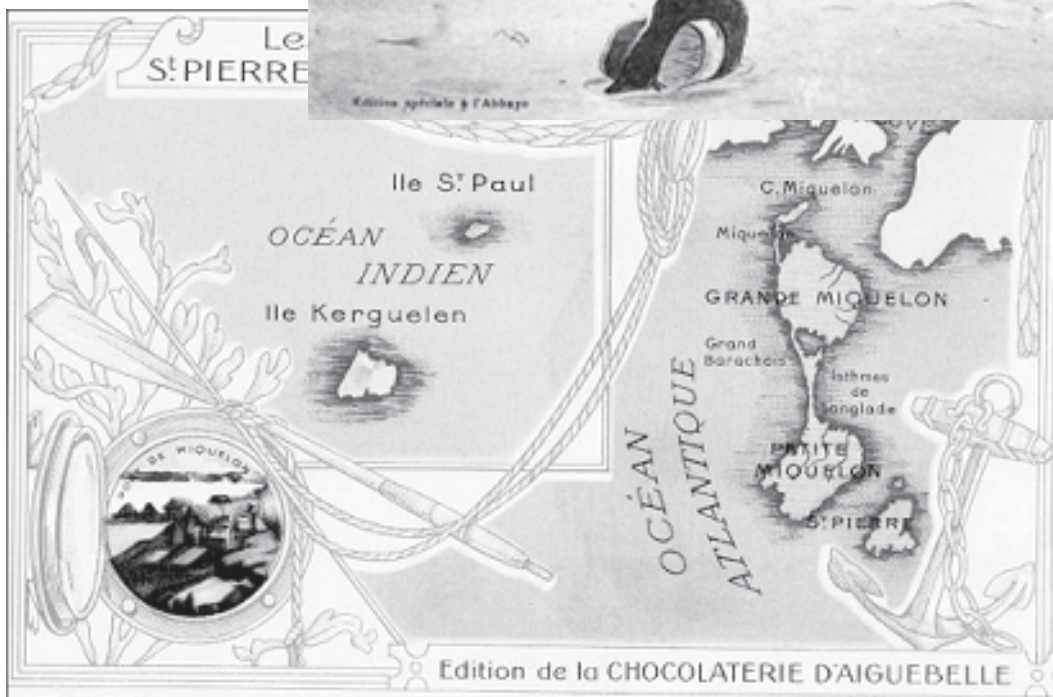
February 2007 Auction - Selected Lots



Lot 257
(above)



Lot 295
(below)



Lot 119
(above)



Lot 162
(above)

February 2007 Auction - Selected Lots



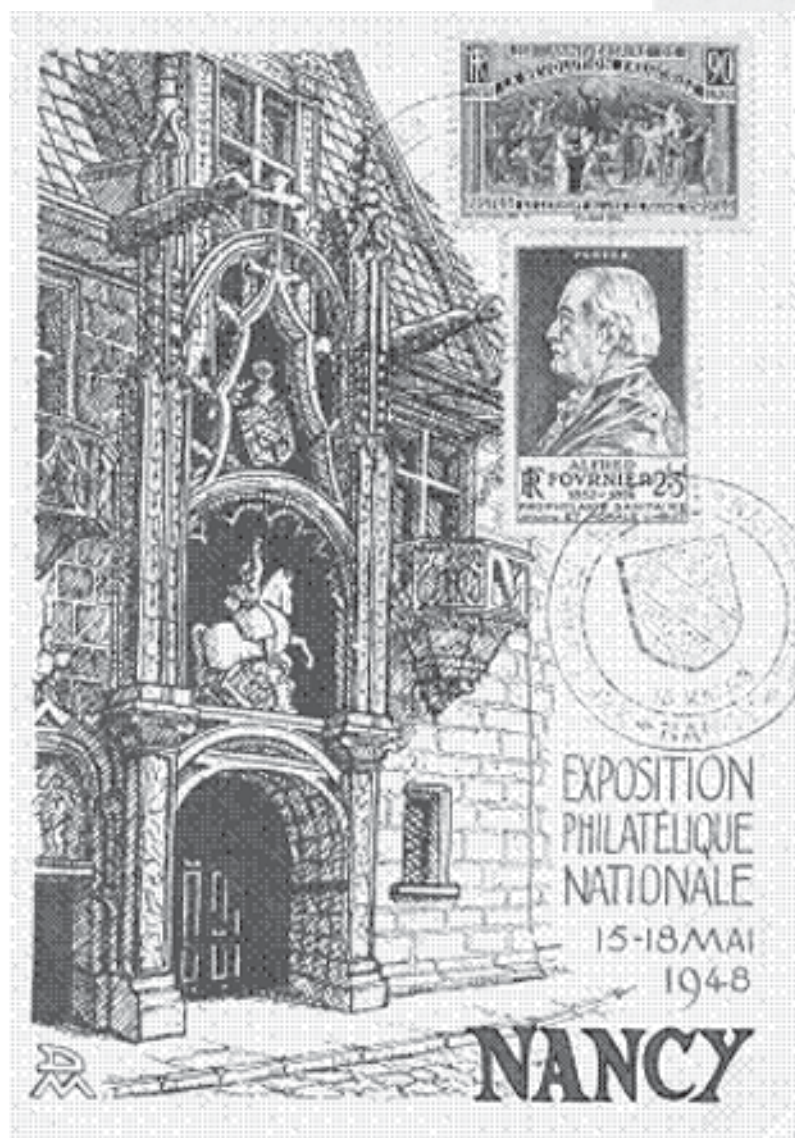
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Lot 165
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ex Lot 103
(above)



ex Lot 206
(above)

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(left)