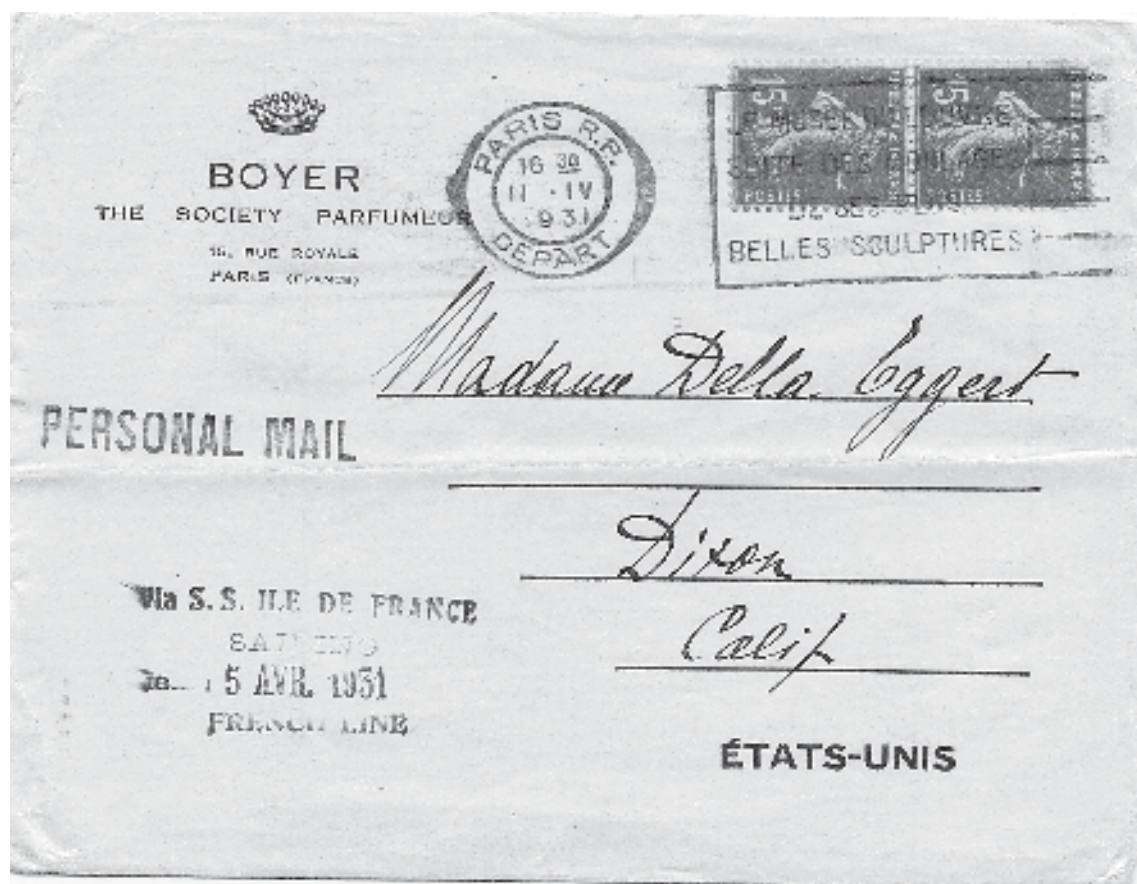


# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



Lot 372 in May Auction  
Boyer cover with pair of 15c Sower coil issue

Volume 57 ● Number 1  
March 2007  
Whole Number 243

**THE FRANCE & COLONIES  
PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN**

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President, 2006-2007: P R A Kelly, Malmsy House, Church Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol BS8 3PG  
(email: president@fcps.org.uk)..

Vice-President, 2006-2007: A J Lawrence.

Programme Secretary, 2006-2007: A J Lawrence.

General Secretary, 2006-2007: Dr R G Gethin, 5 Meriden Close, Bromley, Kent BR1 2UF (email: info@fcps.org.uk).

**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)..

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

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

**Journal Correspondents**

Paris: J M Simmons

Southern Group: C W Spong

Northern Group: J P Maybury

Wessex Group: P R A Kelly / A J Wood

Scottish Group: Mrs M Pavey

\* \* \*

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

# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

Editor: M S Tyler, 56 Mortons Fork, Blue Bridge, Milton Keynes MK13 0LA

E-mail: editor@fcps.org.uk

Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

**Volume 57 Number 1**

**March 2006 ● Whole No 243**

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## SOCIETY NOTES

### New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1281 Dr Marc Parren (Ghana), 1282 Lt Col (Retd) George D S Truell (Devon), 1283 Guy Dutau (France), 1284 Dr Annabelle S J Baughan (France), 1285 J Bourne (Wiltshire), 1286 D Mabbs (Liverpool), 1287 E Bryan Wood (Wiltshire), 1288 Mme Michèle Chauvet (France), 1289 J T Mercer (Lancs.).

\* \* \*

### Resignations

The following members have resigned from the Society for personal reasons:

631 Dr C Watson, 642 Keith Bywood, 648 P A Jordan, 831 R W Johnston, 914 K Harrison, 1146 P Feakin, 1226 G B Morgan.

\* \* \*

### Philatelic Honours

We congratulate **Ron Wood** on qualifying recently as a new judge in Hampshire.

The Somerset & Dorset Philatelic Federation has presented the annually awarded Philip Cattell Salver to **Skanda Vaitilingam** in recognition of his work preparing the Taunton Stamp Club programme for the past 22 years.

At the Postal History Society conference at Portsmouth in September 2006 **John Yeomens** won the Society Cup competition (one frame of postal history) with a display of French India.

At the same conference the Gilbert Cup for the best article in *Postal History* was awarded to **Barrie Jay** for "The War of 1812".

On 21 October 2006 **John Levett** was guest of honour at the first ever awards banquet held in Colchester by the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies; he had taken part in the first AEPS Convention held in 1945.

At the Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies to be held in Perth on 20-21 April 2007 **David Stirrups** will be invited to sign the Book of Scottish Philatelists.

\* \* \*

### Displays by Members

At the Forces Postal History Society Weekend in Peterborough 6-8 October 2006 **Barrie Jay** contributed a display of war items, including letters, from the 15th to the 18th centuries. He had also displayed "Campaign Mail 1440-1783" to the Postal History Society in Portsmouth at the end of September 2006.

During the past year **Mike Brindle** has displayed the stamps and postal history of Belgium to Chelmsford & District P S.

Also during the past year **Ashley Lawrence** has displayed the Siege of Paris to Salisbury P S.

On 20 May 2007 **John Hammonds** will be displaying Bohemia and Moravia at the North East Philatelic Weekend in Gateshead.

\* \* \*

### Exhibition Successes

The following members are to be congratulated on gaining awards at Belgica 2006 (16-20 November 2006, Brussels):-

**Barrie Jay**: Gold (One Frame) for "French Prisoner of War Mail 1798-1815"

**Lesley Marley**: Vermeil (Thematic) for "A Whale's Tale"

**Francis Kiddle**: Large Silver (Thematic) for "Goats"

The following members are to be congratulated on gaining awards at Torquay 2006 (24-25 November 2006):-

**Barrie Jay**: Gold, Graeme K Harrison Trophy and Torquay 2006 Award (One Frame) for "Channel Islands to France 1815-1843, French Entry Handstamps and Charges"

**Francis Kiddle**: Gold (Revenue - International) for "Tasmania Revenues"

**John Levett**: Gold (Postal History - International) for "Postal History of *La Commune de Paris*"

**Lesley Marley**: Large Vermeil (Thematic - International) for "A Whale's Tale"

**Steve Ellis**: Vermeil (Postal History - International) for "French Transatlantic Mail 1800-1875"

**John Mayne**: Vermeil (Postal History - International) both for "The Anglo-French Occupation of Togo 1914-1922" and for "Togo 1884-1914"

**Alan Piggott**: Vermeil (Postal History - International) for "Postal History of British and Allied Hospitals in France during World War I"

**Peter Baker**: Large Silver (Postal History - International) for "Censor marks, cachets and postal markings of the Free French 1940-45"

**Francis Kiddle**: Large Vermeil (Cinderella - National) for "UK and USA Stamp Dealers"

**Richard Wheatley**: Large Vermeil (Postal History - National) for "Netherlands East Indies pre-stamp mails"

**John Yeomens**: Large Vermeil (Postal History - National) for "French India"

**John Hammonds**: Vermeil (Aerophilatelic - National) for "French Air Mail to Madagascar"

**Francis Kiddle**: Vermeil (Postal Stationery - National) both for "Copenhagen Local Postal Stationery" and for "Mexico - The Wells Fargo Story"

**Francis Kiddle**: Silver (Thematic - National) for "Golf"

The Jury included Chris Harman, Stephen Holder and John Sussex.

\* \* \*

### Wessex Group Programme 2007

3 Feb 2007 Trevor Buckell: Postage Stamps of France  
Part I 1871-1876 Part II 1920-1949

7 Jul 2007 Mick Bister: The Life and Times of the  
1F50 Pétain

20 Oct 2007 Robert Johnson: Welcome to Brazzaville

Meetings are held on Saturdays in the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham, Salisbury, at 10.00 for 10.30. The invited display is in the morning, and members are invited to bring a display of up to 24 sheets for the afternoon. Contact Peter Kelly or Alan Wood for further details.

\* \* \*

## Marcophilex XXXI - Dunkerque

6 & 7 Oct 2007

I am pleased to confirm that arrangements have been agreed for a joint participation at Marcophilex this year by members of SPH and France & Colonies Philatelic Society. We have been allocated provisionally 50 frames (each holding 12 sheets) between the two societies.

Arrangements have not yet been finalised but those who wish to display should register their interest with me now. Displays should be limited to a maximum of 3 frames. It is likely that we shall be oversubscribed but it may be possible, nearer the time, to get more frames.

The show will take place at the Kursaal which is on the sea front and is open to the public. Members who are not displaying are very welcome to attend. There will be a number of dealers present and exhibits from the postal museum in Paris as well as from the archives of the town and the Chamber of Commerce. There will also be a meeting of the Académie de Philatélie of France which will be open to visitors. There will be a gala dinner at the Kursaal on the Saturday night. On the Monday there will be a day of tourism as was the case when we visited Rouen, but I have no details of this yet.

Those displaying will have to arrange either themselves or through other members to put up their displays on the Friday afternoon (4 October). They will have to provide me with a two paragraph description of their display along with a couple of illustrations. I will need these probably in early May. I will deal with the translations into French. My involvement will be to deal with your displays, bookings for the dinner and coach outing only. Travel arrangements are down to you as are hotel bookings. The organisers will give us a list of hotels nearer the time and may have obtained a better rate for participants.

Those wishing to display and/or attend the functions should advise me now by letter or e-mail.

Peter Kelly

\* \* \*

## Croydon 2007

This year's ABPS National Exhibition and Competitions, to be held at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, provide one of the last opportunities in the UK for exhibitors to gain the necessary qualification to enter the LONDON 2010 FESTIVAL OF STAMPS International.

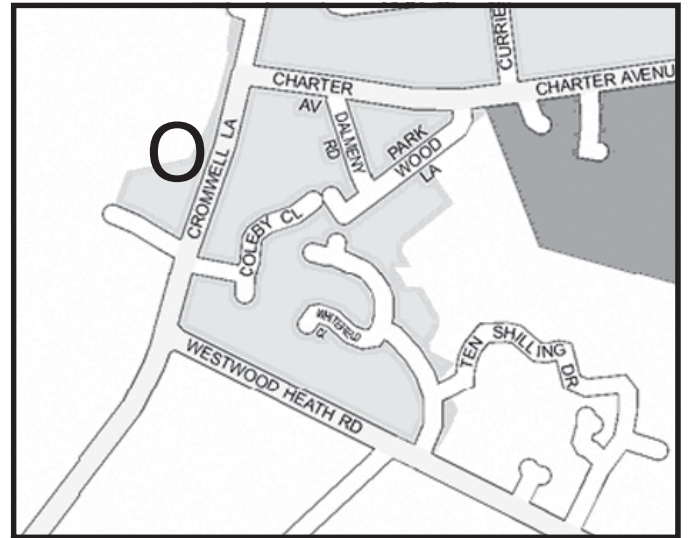
Croydon 2007 will take place on 23-24 November 2007. Entries for all competitive classes, both National and International, are invited, and must be received by 31 July 2007. Please note that 8-frame entries will NOT be accepted on this occasion. Full details and entry forms can be downloaded from [www.croydon2007.org.uk](http://www.croydon2007.org.uk) or obtained by post from Allan Jones, 21 Parkhill Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 1HF (A4 sae required). Telephone 01322 522916 for queries. All thematic entries for Croydon 2007 will be displayed and judged at THEMATICA II, which will take place on 24-25 November 2007 at the Carisbrooke Hall, 63 Seymour Street, London W2.

\* \* \*

## Midpex 2007

The Society will be participating this year in Midpex 2007, which takes place at the Midland Sports Centre for the Disabled, Cromwell Lane, Tile Hill, Coventry CV4 8AS, on Saturday 30 June.

We shall have 6 frames for displays, each holding 16 sheets, with a table and seating for members.



Plan showing the approximate position of the Midland Sports Centre at Tile Hill, Coventry

Any members willing either to provide a display or to help man the table for a period during the day should in the first instance contact our President Peter Kelly.

\* \* \*

## London Meetings

Members may or may not have noticed that meetings in London have over the past year or so no longer been reported as "Main Society Meetings". This is principally because the numbers of those attending have dropped rather sharply in recent times, and the meetings can no longer lay claim to such an exalted title. However, numbers still justify their continuation, and it is likely that a proposal will be made at the AGM in May to adopt formally the new status of a Regional Group.

This announcement is just a means of giving formal notice to the membership that such a reorganisation will probably take place. If it does, then it will certainly be necessary to find a member willing to take on the role of organiser – somebody who will seek out speakers to display to the group (3 or 4 per year), arrange the dates of meetings for the next year, and if possible chair the meetings.

This will really need to be a member who is not already heavily involved in other Society duties, and any members who attend London meetings and might like to help in this way are asked to give careful consideration to the idea. Generous help from London based Officers and Committee will of course be available.

\* \* \*

## BOOKSHELF

**Undercover Addresses of World War II, Third Edition**, by Charles Entwistle; 46 A5 pp, pb with card cover; pub. 2006 by Chavril Press, Bloomfield, Perth Road, Abernethy, Perth PH2 9LW; price £13.50 incl p&p.

This is the third edition of Charles Entwistle's excellent publication of wartime addresses for communication to and from Europe. Since this publication first appeared in 1990 the information received from collectors and dealers has grown to a considerable extent, resulting in this latest edition. It has been divided into two sections, one for external addresses, covering communications between the

Axis powers and the areas they had occupied and the Allies; and the second section for internal addresses, those designed to conceal the identity and location of military establishments etc.

I strongly recommend this aide-mémoire to anyone interested in the period 1939 to 1945.

Colin Spong

### Books Noted

*Catalogue des Enveloppes Premier Jour d'Afrique du Nord*, pub. Editions Farcigny; 148 x 210mm; price 8€ + p&p; available from Editions Farcigny, 36 avenue de la République, 92400 Courbevoie. [500 items included in priced list of First Day Covers from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.]

*Les Carnets, du Coq à la Marianne de Briat*, by Bernard Fréchet & Richard Rucklin; CD-ROM of 120 PDF pages; price 20€ + p&p; available from Bernard Fréchet, 6 rue Grignard, 25000 Besançon. [Lists all French booklets issued 1962-1993, with printing details, inks and papers, phosphorescence, covers, folding systems, varieties, training school stamps, essays, manufacturing processes; as well as anecdotes from the printing works and many photographic illustrations.]

*Les étiquettes P.P. des bulletins d'expédition de colis postaux déposés en nombre en Alsace-Moselle*, by Laurent Bonnefoy & Michel Frick; 61 A4 pp, 4 in colour; pub. Editions SPAL; price 20€ + p&p; available from André Lader, 52 rue de Monswiller, 67700 Saverne. [250 étiquettes are described and shown.]

*Les boîtes mobiles de la voie de terre*, by Jean Lissarrague & Hervé Tanter; supplement to *Feuilles Marcophiles* n° 314 (2003); 96 A4 pp, many illustrations; price 15€ + p&p; available from l'Union Marcophile, 47 rue de Maubeuge, 75009 Paris. [Detailed study of terrestrial mobile boxes, their markings and function.]

**Understanding Transatlantic Mail, Volume 1**, by Richard F Winter; 495 pp + CD-Rom; hardbound; richly illustrated (b/w in book, colour on CD-ROM); price \$95 for non-APS members + \$35 airmail to UK; available from American Philatelic Society, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823, USA. [Details of mail exchanged under first four postal conventions including USA - France; 240 pp in ch 5 devoted to mails exchanged with France, dealing also with pre-1857 treaty mail with detailed descriptions of various rate periods involved, the interim non-treaty period

after 1869, and the short-lived 1874 US-French Convention.]

*Catalogue des Cartes Postales Précurseurs de France et des Colonies*, by Jean Storch & Bertrand Sinais; 350 pp 160 x 240mm; 600 illustrations in colour; price 60€ + p&p; available from Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Châteaudun, 75009 Paris. [Includes individual values, and chapters on official cards, essays, cards from the colonies, private cards, advertisement cards, taxed cards, rates, and even Monaco and French offices abroad.]

*Les boîtes rurales des Bouches du Rhône de 1835 à 1912*, by Jean Demenge; 102 A4 pp; price 20€ + p&p; available from the author, 2 traverse de la Libération, 13650 Meyrargues. [Catalogue of the handstamp letters from rural boxes in this département.]

*Les Trains Sanitaires en 1914-18*, by Michel Carroy; 32 A4 photocopied pp; price 10€ inc. p&p; available from the author, 13 allée Boissy d'Anglas, 91000 Evry. [Short illustrated manual (some illustrations poorly reproduced) describing the system of hospital trains in WWI.]

*Marcas postales de los ejércitos franceses en España (1673-1828)*; 160 pp 160 x 240mm; price 75€ + p&p; available from Écho de la Timbrologie - Bibliothèque, 2 rue de l'Étoile, 80094 Amiens Cedex 3. [Bilingual work in French and Spanish covering French postal markings in wars of 17th to 19th centuries, including much on postal organisation of Napoleonic armies.]

*Oblitérations des Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises*, by Gilles Troispoux & Serge Delsaux; pub. Club de Philatélie Polaire de France; 64 b/w pp 207 x 297mm; price for non-members 18€; details from M. Gilles Troispoux, 2 rue Turbil, 69003 Lyon. [Brief introduction to TAAF and its first stamp in 1955, followed by detailed list of the cancels used in all 4 areas. whether manual, mechanical, First Day or temporary, with their text, size, dates of use and observations, including many anecdotes; the rules governing *paquebot* marks are a bonus.]

Maurice Tyler

# The Post Offices of French West Africa

Bill Mitchell and Laurence Lambert

## Note

In recent years there has been a most welcome increase of interest in the stamps and postal history of the French colonies, and we have no doubt that in due course catalogues of their cancellations will be published (Bertrand Sinais has made a start with the cancels of the Pacific islands and COL.FRA has published several monographs in their series of *Bulletins Hors-série*).

This series of articles is designed to complement the anticipated catalogue of the cancels of the colonies which formed the Federation of French West Africa. Our Tables have been compiled from the sources in our possession, most of which cover all the participating colonies, but details of the offices open in the final (most recent year) column in our first Tables will come from studies of individual colonies so the year will vary. Dates of opening, closing and transfer (our second Tables) obviously also come from studies of individual colonies.

For many years in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries communications in this vast and often inhospitable area were very difficult, and for this reason we have treated the expression "post office" in the broadest possible sense of the term.

Previous articles in this series appeared in Journals 215 (March 2000, Benin/ Dahomey), 220 and 221 (June and September 2001, Ivory Coast) and 232 and 233 (June and September 2004, Mauritania). Further information may be found in articles in Journals 225, 226 and 230 (September 2001, September and December 2002, Benin/Dahomey) and 236 and 239 (June 2005 and March 2006, Mauritania). This part marks the halfway point in the series, and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking our editor, Maurice Tyler, for the excellent work he has done with our Tables, some of which have involved cramming a great deal of information into a comparatively small space.

## PART 4. FRENCH GUINEA

By *décret* of 12 October 1882 the French coastal trading posts on the Gulf of Guinea were brought together, as from 1 January 1883, in the colony of Rivières du Sud, a dependency of Senegal. Four years later a *décret* of 16 June 1886 divided the colony into three parts — Rivières du Sud between Portuguese Guinea and Sierra Leone, Côte d'Or between Liberia and the Gold Coast, and Benin between the German territory of Togo and Nigeria. The administrative headquarters were at Conakry. The colony became autonomous, following a *décret* of 1 August 1889, on 1 January 1890; two years later it was renamed Guinée Française et Dépendances, the part hitherto known as Rivières du Sud becoming Guinée Française. Finally, by *décret* of 10 March 1893 each part became a colony in its own right — respectively Guinée Française, Côte d'Ivoire and Dahomey et Dépendances.

As noted in earlier articles in this series, by this time both the Ivory Coast and Dahomey had had postal services for some time. This was also true of French Guinea, where the existence of post offices from as early as 1886 is recorded in our Table 2. In these early years the stamps on sale were the General Issues for the French colonies; when they were replaced in French Guinea in 1892 it was by stamps in the *Type Groupe* inscribed GUINEE FRANÇAISE, so (perhaps fortunately for collectors) Rivières du Sud never became a stamp-issuing country. Postmarks, of course, predate 1892 and RIVIERES DU SUD and SENEGAL both appear on early cancels of French Guinea.

As with other colonies in West Africa, French influence was soon extended away from the coast at Conakry and into the interior. The area known as Fouta Djallon was annexed to French Guinea in 1898; the post office in its chief town, Labé, was not opened until 1904. The colony was also considerably increased in size by the transfer of territory from French Sudan. First, Faranah, with its

post office, was added in 1893. Later, a large area in the east was added on 1 January 1900 when French Sudan ceased to exist under the terms of a *décret* of 17 October 1899 (the rump became Upper Senegal and Niger). This added five post offices to Guinea's tally. This area was particularly remote and, as will be seen, unusual arrangements for the handling of the mails existed at this time.

By and large, during the first half of the twentieth century the stamps of French Guinea followed the normal pattern of the French colonies — two typographed pictorial issues followed in 1938 by a far superior recess printed series — until the colony ceased to exist as a stamp-issuing entity with the establishment of a unified postal system for French West Africa as a whole on 1 January 1942. There were, of course, the usual postage due and commemorative issues — and one exception. The change from the *Type Groupe* to the omnibus issue of the French West Africa colonies in 1906-07 was preceded in French Guinea by an issue depicting a Pulas shepherd, to which was added in the following year, 1905, a postage due set — the first for any colony within the Federation — showing a woman of Fouta Djallon. These small-sized pictorial stamps were unique within the Federation.

As the 1950s progressed the question of the future independence of the French colonies became increasingly important. A French Community was proposed: rejection meant secession. All the colonies within the Federation but one voted "Yes"; the exception was French Guinea where 95.2 per cent of those voting said "No". This meant independence for Guinea as from 28 September 1958 and led to the break-up of the Federation and, eventually, to independence for its remaining members. Regrettably, we have no information about the post-independence post offices of the Republic of Guinea.

We have briefly drawn attention to the remoteness of much of inland French Guinea. This obviously led to difficulties for the postal services, which solved them (or at any rate reduced their impact) in two ways. First, station-masters on the colony's one railway (from Conakry on the coast to Kankan 400 miles to the north-east, completed in 1914) provided rudimentary postal services (*bureaux gare*). A list of the stations enabling the delivery of mails (*assurant la remise du courrier*), which must surely mean delivery to shipping at the coast as well as to addressees inland, dates from 1920; there is also a further list of 1936 — in all, 23 stations are recorded. Mail handled in this way may, we believe, be indicated by either the *ondulé* cachets of the *courrier-convoyeur* service or by a BM (*boîte mobile*) cachet with, most probably, a Conakry postmark, but without details of the sender's address a certain identification is not possible.

At least the railway provided a regular, if not very frequent, service. Elsewhere mail was frequently carried by porters. In the *région forestière* (ex- French Sudan), where communication was particularly difficult, administrative or military posts without a post office received letters and parcels which might be carried by regular messengers, or under special arrangements set up by *vaguemestres* or by civil or military porters. Two lists — “seen 1900-1901 (before 1900)” and “seen 1914-1920” — have been recorded in the documentation that we have. In all, 16 “*points de distribution du courrier*” are listed; in a few cases a year, presumably of commencement and always 1893, is noted. As with the *bureaux gare*, such mail can only be identified if

the sender's address is known; it, too, probably carries a Conakry postmark.

Since identification of this mail is difficult we have confined ourselves to noting in our Tables the existence of those *bureaux gare* and *points de distribution* where post offices were subsequently opened.

We end with a couple of oddities. The new Dallay catalogue of the ex-French Empire in Africa reviewed by Michael Round in Journal 240 (June 2006) includes in its lists of post offices of French Guinea, FOUGERES. A diligent search through the gazetteers of several large atlases has failed to reveal any town of that name other than the one in the *département* of Ile-et-Vilaine, so this must be an error — possibly a transit mark has been misinterpreted at some time. And Guy Venot's unpublished catalogue of French Guinea postmarks illustrates a cancel of PORT— (the rest of the place name is left blank). We have been unable to trace anywhere in French Guinea beginning in this way and presume that this is based on a misunderstanding of some kind. Neither of these places is included in our Tables.

These notes have been compiled from Constant Bouérat's study of the post offices of French Guinea published by COL.FRA (see Table 1, source for 1958, and Table 2, source 1). The details of the events leading up to independence come from “The End of Empire in French West Africa: France's Successful Decolonisation?” by Tony Chafer published by Berg of Oxford in 2002, at pages 173-180.

**Table 1 - The Post Offices over the Years**

|   | 1888  | 1892   | 1895  | 1899  | 1907 | 1909 | 1910  | 1912 | 1914  | 1926  | 1937  | 1948  | 1951 | 1958  |
|---|-------|--------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Bagan (1)   |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |       |       |      |       |
| Bagnan  |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |       |       | x    | x(RD) |
| Baladougou  |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      | ?(pd) |       |       |       | †    | x(CP) |
| Balandougou (alternative spelling of the above)     |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |       |       |      |       |
| Bambaïa (2)   |       |        |       | †     | x    | x    | x     | #†   | †     |       |       |       |      |       |
| Banian (alternative spelling of Bagnan, <i>qv</i> ) |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |       |       |      |       |
| Baro  |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       | †(bg) | †(bg) | †(bg) | †    | x(CP) |
| Bensané   |       |        |       |       | x    | x    | x     | †    | x     |       |       |       |      |       |
| Bentimodia  |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       | †     | x     | x     | x    | x(RD) |
| Benty   | x (3) | x (4)  | x     | †     | x    | x    | x     | †    | x     | x     | x     | x     | x    | x(R)  |
| Beyla   |       |        | ?(pd) | ?(pd) | x    | x    | x     | †    | x     | x     | x     | x     | x    | x(R)  |
| Bissandougou  |       | ?(6)   | x (5) |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |       |       |      |       |
| Bissikrima (7)                                      |       |        |       |       |      |      | †(bg) | x    | x     | x     | x     | x     | x    | x(R)  |
| Bodie   |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |       |       |      | x(CP) |
| Boffa   | x (3) | x (4)  | x     | †     | x    | x    | x     | †    | x     | x     | x     | x     | x    | x(R)  |
| Bofosso (8)   |       |        |       |       |      |      |       | †    | x     |       |       |       |      |       |
| Boké (9)  | x (3) | x (4)  | x     | †     | x    | x    | x     | †    | x     | x     | x     | x     | x    | x(R)  |
| Boola   |       |        |       | ?(pd) |      |      |       |      |       |       |       |       | †    | x(CP) |
| Conakry   | x (3) | † (10) | x     | †     | x    | x    | x     | †    | x     | x     | x     | x     | x    |       |
| Conakry R.P. (11)                                   |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |       |       |      | x(RP) |
| Conakry-Annexe (12)                                 |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |       |       | †    |       |
| Conakry-Banlieue (13)                               |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |       |       |      | x(RD) |
| Conakry-Chèques Postaux (14)                        |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |       |       |      | x     |
| Conakry Colis-Postaux (15)                          |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |       |       |      | x     |
| Conakry Gare  |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |       | †     | †    | x     |
| Coyah (16)  |       |        |       |       | x    | x    | x     | †    | x     | x     | x     | x     | x    | x(R)  |
| Dabola  |       |        |       |       |      |      |       | x    | x     | x     | x     | x     | x    | x(R)  |
| Dalaba  |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       |       | x     | x     | x    | x(R)  |
| Diéckhé (alternative spelling of Diéké, below)      |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |       |       |      |       |
| Diéké   |       |        |       |       |      |      |       |      |       |       |       |       |      | x(CP) |
| Dinguiraye  |       |        |       | ?(pd) |      |      |       |      | †     | x     | x     | x     | x    | x(RD) |

|   | 1888  | 1892  | 1895  | 1899  | 1907   | 1909 | 1910 | 1912   | 1914   | 1926   | 1937   | 1948   | 1951   | 1958  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Diorodougou   |       |       |       | ?(pd) | x      | x    | x    |        | x (17) |        |        |        |        |       |
| Diountoun   |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        | †(18)  |        |        |        |       |
| Diountou (alternative spelling of the above)                    |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |
| Ditinn  |       |       |       |       | x      | x    | x    | †      | x      | x      |        |        |        | x(CP) |
| Doko  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        | †(19)  | †(19)  |       |
| Dougouguella  |       |       |       |       | †      | x    | x    |        | x (20) |        |        |        |        |       |
| Dubrêka   | †     | x (4) | x     | †     | x      | x    | x    | †      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Fandie  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        | †      | x(CP) |
| Faranah   |       |       |       | †     | x      | x    | x    | †      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Farmoréah (21)  |       |       |       | †     | x      | x    | x    | †      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(RD) |
| Forécariah  |       | x (4) | †     | †     | †      | x    | x    | †      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Fotoba  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        | x(CP) |
| Fria  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        | x(R)  |
| Friguiagbé  |       |       |       | †(22) |        |      |      |        |        | †(bg)  | x      | x      | x      | x(RD) |
| Gallo-Kadé (also known as Kadé, <i>qv</i> )                     |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |
| Gaoual (23)   |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Gouecké   |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        | x(CP) |
| Guéasso (20)  |       |       |       |       |        |      | x    | x      |        |        |        |        |        |       |
| Guéckédou   |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Kaba  |       |       |       |       | x      | x    | x    | # (24) |        |        |        |        |        |       |
| Kadé  |       |       |       | †     | x      | x    | x    | †      | x      |        | x (25) | † (25) |        |       |
| Kankalabé   |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        | x(CP) |
| Kankan  |       |       | x (5) | †     | x      | x    | x    | †      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Kankan P.A.R. (Poste Automobile Rurale)                         |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        | x      |       |
| Kankéléfa   |       |       |       | †(26) |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |
| Kaorané   |       |       |       |       | x      | x    | x    | †      | x      |        |        |        |        |       |
| Kassa - Ile de Loos   |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        | x(RD) |
| Kébali  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        | †      | x(CP) |
| Kérouané  |       |       | ?(pd) | ?(pd) |        |      |      |        |        |        |        | †      | †      | x(RD) |
| Kindia  |       |       |       |       | x      | x    | x    | †      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Kissidougou   |       |       | ?(pd) | ?(pd) | x      | x    | x    | †      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Koïn (27)   |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |
| Komodougou  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        | x(CP) |
| Konakry (old spelling of Conakry, <i>qv</i> )                   |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |
| Konkouré  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        | †(bg)  | x      | x      | x(AP) |
| Koumbia (28)  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        | †      | x      |        |        |        |       |
| Koundara  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        | x(AP) |
| Kouroussa   |       |       |       | †     | x      | x    | x    | †      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Labé  |       |       |       |       | x      | x    | x    | †      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| La Kolenté  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        | †(bg)  | x      | x      | x      | x(RD) |
| Linsan  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        | x      | x      | x      | x(AP) |
| Lola  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        | x(CP) |
| Macenta   |       |       |       |       |        |      | x    | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Mali  |       |       |       |       |        | †    | x    | x      | x      | x (29) | x      | x      | x      | x(RD) |
| Mamou   |       |       |       |       |        | x    | x    | †      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Mamou P.A.R. (Poste Automobile Rurale)                          |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        | x (30) |       |
| Manéah  |       |       |       | †     | x (31) |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |
| Maninian  |       |       |       | †(32) |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |
| Moussaya  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        | †      | x(AP) |
| Niagassola  | x (3) | †     | x (5) | †     | x      | x    | x    | †      | x      |        |        |        |        |       |
| N'Zérékoré  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        | ?(pd)  | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Ouassou   |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        | x      | x      | x      | x(RD) |
| Pharmoréah (21) (alternative spelling of Farmoréah, <i>qv</i> ) |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |
| Pita  |       |       |       |       |        | †    | x    | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Popodara  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        | †      | x(CP) |
| Sampouyara  |       |       |       | ?(pd) | x      | x    |      | #      |        |        |        |        |        |       |
| Saréboïdo   |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        | x(AP) |
| Sérédou   |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |        | x(AP) |
| Sigui   | x (3) | †     | x (5) | †     | x      | x    | x    | †      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Souguéta (33)   |       |       |       |       | †      | x    | x    | #      | x      | †(bg)  | †(bg)  | x      | x      | x(AP) |
| Tamara  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        | †(34)  |        |        |       |
| Télimélé  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        | †      | x      | x      | x      | x      | x(R)  |
| Timbo   |       |       |       | †     | x      | x    | x    | †      | x      | x      |        |        |        |       |
| Tokonou   |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        |        |        | †      | x(CP) |
| Tondon  |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        |        |        | x (35) |        |        |       |
| Tougué (36)   |       |       |       |       |        |      |      |        | †      | x      | x      | †      | †      | x(RD) |
| Toumanéah   |       |       |       |       | x      | x    | x    | # (37) |        |        |        |        |        |       |

|                | 1888  | 1892  | 1895 | 1899 | 1907 | 1909 | 1910 | 1912 | 1914 | 1926 | 1937 | 1948 | 1951 | 1958  |
|----------------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Tugnifili      |       |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | †    | x(CP) |
| Victoria       | x (3) | x (4) | x    | †    | x    | x    | x    | †    | x    | x    | x    | x    | x    | x(RD) |
| Yambéring (38) |       |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | †    | †    | x    | x    | x(RD) |
| Yendé-Milimou  |       |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | †    | x(CP) |
| Yomou          |       |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | †    | x(CP) |
| Youkounkoun    |       |       |      |      | †    | x    | x    | †    | †    | x    | x    | x    | x    | x(R)  |

x indicates a listing in the source publication.

† indicates an office which is not in the source publication but which can be presumed to have been open in the year in question. Note that the sources for 1899 and 1912 are supplemental and only list additions to and deletions from the sources for 1895 and 1909 respectively. In other cases an explanation will be found in the Notes below or in Table 2 or its Notes; usually the office was opened too late for inclusion in our source, but occasionally there was a delay which cannot be explained. In a few cases service was intermittent at the time in question, and we have given the benefit of the doubt to the *bureaux gare* where the information we have is very scanty. In view of the even greater uncertainty about the *points de distribution* we have preferred to use a “?” in these cases.

# indicates a deletion in the source publication.

pd indicates a *Point de Distribution du Courrier*.

bg indicates a *Bureau Gare*.

For 1958 RP = *Recette Principale*.

R = *Recette*.

GA = *Guichet Annexe*.

AP = *Agence Postale*.

CP = *Correspondant Postal*.

## Sources

1888: E B Proud, “The Post Offices of the World (Except Germany) 1888”, Proud Bailey Co Ltd, 1995.

1892: R G Stone, “An Alphabetical List of Post Office Names and Other Words in Postmarks used on the General Issues of French Colonies 1860-1892”, France & Colonies Philatelic Society Inc (Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication N° 1), 1978.

1895: Union Postale Universelle, “*Dictionnaire des Bureaux de Poste*”, first edition.

1899: UPU, Supplement to the above.

1907: Gouvernement Générale de l’Afrique Occidentale Française, “*Les Postes et Télégraphes en Afrique Occidentale*”, Editions Crété, 1907 (actually prepared in 1906).

1909: UPU, “*Dictionnaire*”, second edition.

1910: C Bouérat, “*Les Débuts du Service des Postes et Télégraphes en Guinée Française (1885-1910)*”, Société Internationale d’Histoire Postale, Grenoble — Bulletin 28/29, Spéciale Guinée Française, 1974.

1912: UPU, Supplement to the second edition of the *Dictionnaire*.

1914: “Indicateur Annuaire de l’Administration des Postes, des Télégraphes et des Téléphones — Colonies Françaises”, reprinted by COL.FRA as *Bulletin Hors-série* N° 13, 1996.

1926: UPU, “*Dictionnaire*”, third edition.

1937: As above, fourth edition.

1948: PTT of French West Africa, Public Notice N° 3273 dated 17 July 1948, reported by Edmond Queyroy and published in *France & Colonies Philatelist*, November/December 1949, Whole N° 48.

1951: UPU, “*Dictionnaire*”, fifth edition.

1958: C Bouérat, “*Guinée Française — Essai de Nomenclature des Bureaux de Poste 1885-1958*”, COL.FRA *Bulletin Hors-série* N° 17—1, Paris 1997.

As noted in more detail in our list of sources for Table 2, the above sources for 1910 and 1958 are referred to as Bouérat II and Bouérat I respectively in the Notes that follow.

## Notes

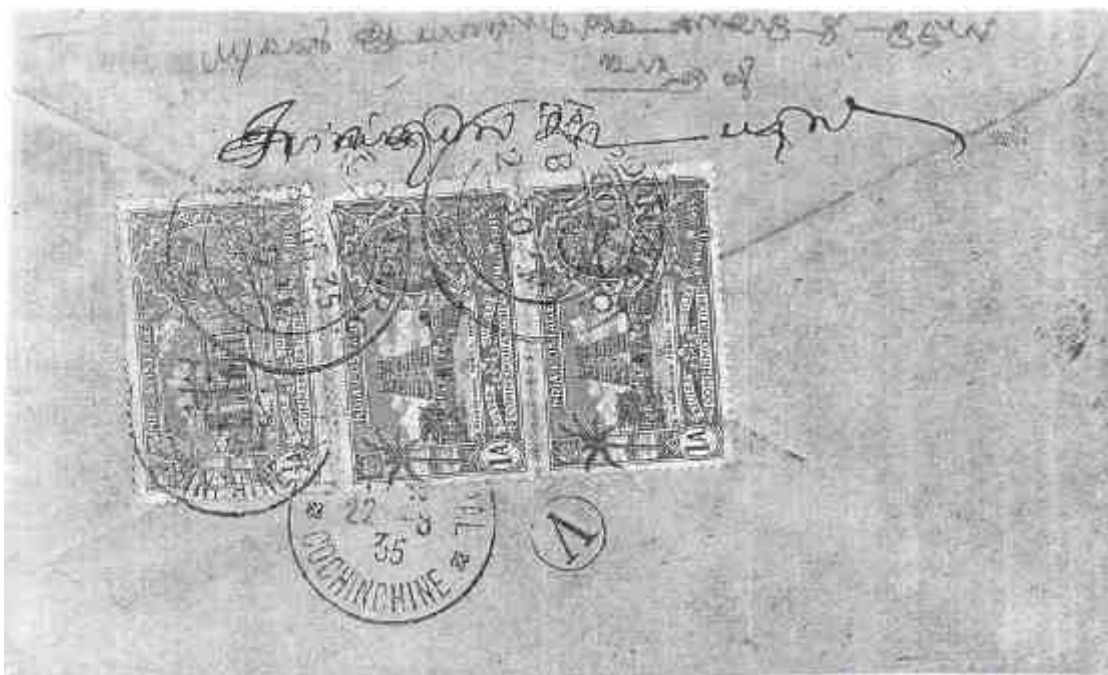
- (1) Bagan. Open only from June 1949 to 1950 (see Table 2).
- (2) Bambaïa. This office was deleted in the 1912 Supplement to the 1909 edition of the UPU *Dictionnaire* but, as Table 2 shows, it was apparently closed on 16 January 1916. Possibly it was closed at some time after 1909 and reopened.
- (3) This office appears under Senegal in the source for this year.
- (4) This office appears under Rivières du Sud in the source for this year.
- (5) This office appears under French Sudan in the source for this year.
- (6) Bissandougou. Bouérat I records “opened 1894 but may have had postal services since April 1891”.

- (7) Bissikrima. Transferred from Toumanéah in 1911. Bouérat I records “*Gare en 1910*”.
- (8) Bofosso. Transferred from Diorodougou in 1911.
- (9) Boké. Misspelt BAKÉ in 1888 source.
- (10) Conakry. Listed in this source (Stone), but only as CONAKRY / SENEGAL 1885-89? No entry under Rivières du Sud.
- (11) Conakry R.P. Apparently the same office as Conakry, whose function in 1958 is quoted as “RP”, but although noted “seen in 1930” it seems unlikely that these were two different offices. See also Note 14.
- (12) Conakry-Annexe. Specialist section of Conakry R.P. dealing with parcels, opened in 1949. Renamed Conakry Colis-Postaux in 1958.
- (13) Conakry-Banlieue. *Recette Distribution*, sub-office of Conakry R.P.
- (14) Conakry-Chèques Postaux. Specialist section of Conakry R.P. 1 January 1928, *Bureau Autonome* 1 January 1956.
- (15) Conakry Colis-Postaux. See Note 12.
- (16) Coyah. Transferred from Manéah in 1906.
- (17) Diorodougou. This office had been transferred to Bofosso on 29 July 1911! See Note 8.
- (18) Dioumtoun. Open 11 September 1926 to 15 June 1928 and 1 January 1930 to 1 August 1933 only (see Table 2).
- (19) Doko. Although open from 1 December 1941 until some time in 1952 (see Table 2) this sub-office of Siguiri does not appear in the official lists for 1948 or 1951.
- (20) Dougouguella. This office had been transferred to Guéasso on 5 February 1910! Guéasso, in turn, was closed in 1912.
- (21) Farmoréah. All entries up to and including 1937 use an alternative spelling, PHARMORÉAH, attributed to 1930-1955 by Bouérat I.
- (22) Friguigbé. Open from March 1897 to 1 June 1905 and again from 1934 (see Table 2), but not included in the source for 1899.
- (23) Gaoual. Transferred from Koumbia in 1936.
- (24) Kaba. The date of closure is said to be “1915” in Bouérat II and is corrected to “3.1912” in Bouérat I.
- (25) Kadé. According to Bouérat I, this office was closed in 1920 after which an intermittent service was provided at the Customs; he adds “seen in 1948 as GALLO-KADÉ”. This last name, however, appears in the 1937 *Dictionnaire* (the office was apparently functioning when the *Dictionnaire* was being compiled).
- (26) Kankéléfa. Opened in March 1899 and closed on 1 June 1905 when the town was ceded to Portuguese Guinea.
- (27) Koïn. Open only from 1 January to 5 July 1927 — see Table 2.
- (28) Koumbia. Transferred to Gaoual in October 1936.
- (29) Mali. According to Bouérat I, this office was opened on 1 April 1909 and closed on 21 June 1916, after which there was an intermittent service until 1927, when an office was opened on a permanent basis.
- (30) Mamou P.A.R. This service, opened in 1955, was closed in April 1958 (see Table 2).
- (31) Manéah. This office had been closed on transfer to Coyah in 1906, the year in which the source for 1907 was actually compiled — see list of sources.
- (32) Maninian. This office, transferred from French Sudan where it had been opened “before 1900”, was closed in 1902 when the town was transferred to the Ivory Coast. It was never reopened; no office of that name is listed in the Ivory Coast part of this article in Journals 220 and 221. There is no record under French Sudan.
- (33) Souguéta. Although closed in 1910 and deleted in the 1912 *Dictionnaire* supplement, still recorded by the PTT in 1914. Limited service (*Bureau Gare*) between 1910 and reopening as *Agence Postale* in 1938 (Bouérat I).
- (34) Tamara. Open only from November 1937, too late for inclusion in the *Dictionnaire* for that year, until some time in 1941 (see Table 2, Note 37).
- (35) Tondon. This office, opened in May 1927, had been closed in 1936 (see Table 2).
- (36) Tougué. Intermittent service 1921-1940 (Bouérat I).
- (37) Toumanéah. Transferred to Bissikrima, 1911.
- (38) Yambéring. Intermittent service 1928-1948 (Bouérat I).

[The second and concluding section of Part 4 of this series of articles on “The Post Offices of French West Africa”, including Table 2 (dates of opening, closure and transfer of the offices of French Guinea) with associated notes and sources, and Table 3 (alternative spellings) will be published in the next issue of the Journal in June 2007.]

## SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### V in Circle on Indian Cover to Indo-China



This Indian item, date stamped 22.8.35 and sent to Indo-China, has an Indo-Chinese postage due on the address side of the cover. But can anybody suggest what the

significance of the V in a circle is? I have sent a photocopy to the the Indian and Indo-Chinese Society in the USA to see if anyone there can help.

David Taylor Smith

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### 1905 Official Indo-China Cover

I have recently acquired this 1905 cover from the Treasury of Annam to Tonkin, and find that it has a normal postage stamp applied, the 15c provisional. As this surely must be

an official item, I wonder whether anyone can explain why it has an adhesive stamp on it when it was only travelling internally.



David Taylor Smith

## Forged Cameroun Français Overprints



The American expertiser Dr Martin Bratzel has kindly drawn my attention<sup>(1)</sup> to some forged CAMEROUN FRANÇAIS 27—8-40 overprints, in black, counterfeiting the 2c trial (Yvert & Tellier 208A, Dallay 166a). Fourteen stamps, two blocks of four and one of six, were sold via eBay last autumn.

One characteristic of this setting is easy to observe on a reproduction. The length and shape of each dash or hyphen in the historic date has to be considered, and its position in relation to the numeral 8. On these forgeries, the dashes:

- do not correspond exactly to any position in the true overprint setting;
- are identical from one stamp to another (see illustration above), which is never the case with the true surcharges.

My book *Cameroun: The 1940 Overprints*<sup>(2)</sup> discusses these stamps in detail. It illustrates full sheets of the values issued at the post office counter, and identifies numerous features of the overprint: “each position is unique, each stamp is different”. It also describes the trials for this series, including the 2c which these forgeries seek to imitate.

I emphasise that these comments concern only the stamps lately shown, and sold, on the Internet. I do not refer to blocks or single examples of the 2c trial offered in French postal auctions in recent months; indeed, those I have had the opportunity to examine seemed good.

When these forgeries are examined, rather than simply viewed on screen, the overprints will probably have other clear defects. They are nevertheless a danger as single

items, once the blocks have been broken up. Collectors, now forewarned, would do well to seek an expert opinion. (Dr Bratzel notes that a number of other Cameroun stamps and covers with forged overprints and postmarks, apparently from the same source, have found eBay buyers too.)

In connection with this 2c trial – the true one – I wrote in 1997: “For various positions, I have seen two copies which incontrovertibly have the same overprint. A hundred copies of the 2c trial can thus be presumed; there may just possibly have been more”. Quite a number of fresh examples have appeared since my book. I have with certainty identified a third sheet, and I cannot rule out the possibility of yet another sheet. As for the less common 4c trial, I hold to what I wrote in 1997: “The copies I have seen so far all seem to come from the same sheet”.

The Musée de la Poste in Paris now has in its library a curious memoir<sup>(3)</sup>, *Histoire et Philatélie au Cameroun Français de 1940 à 1945* by Jean Goetz. It is an obsessed and in its way amusing account – in French – of the philatelic adventures of a policeman/collector in Cameroun in World War II. In due course I hope, if my leisure permits, to write about it at more length. For the time being, I simply point out that the memoirist’s “solution” to the riddle of these 1940 trials would not stand up in any court.

### Notes

- (1) private communication
- (2) available from Roumet, 17 rue Drouot, 75009 Paris  
– roumet@roumet.fr
- (3) library reference Quarto 2995

Dudley Cobb

[This piece has also been submitted (in French) to COL.FRA.]

## Charles Blomefield

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## Re-use of the Boxed Registration Handstamp

The final word on this subject (see Journals 237 page 102, 238 page 154 and 240 page 59) can now be written. Roy Reader has kindly sent me a copy of a translation

by Jack Blanc listing the regulations published by the French Post Office covering the usage of the former handstamps.

Colin Spong

### Provisional Registration Procedures (1942-9)

*Écho de la Timbrologie*, November 1984.

A note of 23 October 42, published in the *Bulletin Officiel des Postes* N° 30 (Oct. 42) talks of the introduction of new registers 510 and 510bis without, for reasons of economy, their detachable gummed labels that the postal clerks stuck to mail up till then.

It stated that, through paper shortage, new registers would be used with 1,920 spaces but no gummed labels. The old type of registers would be used as long as possible. The new types of registers were to be kept in the first place for the less important offices. (510 was black on white paper, 510bis was red on white paper.)

With the absence of labels, care had to be taken to ensure two items were not given the same number and to ensure that the clerk should tick off each box (or space) as it was used. The registration number was to be entered on form 517. The counter clerk had to write very clearly, preferably above the address on the item of mail, one of the following:

- ChL = *Chargement lettre* (Registered letter)
- ChB = *Chargement boîte* (Box registration)
- ChF = *Chargement franchise* (Free-carriage registration)
- LR = *Lettre recommandée* (Registered letter)
- PLR = *Paquet-lettre recommandé* (Registered. Letter-packet)
- OPR = *Objet à prix réduit ou en franchise* (Reduced-carriage or free-carriage)

For the first three 'Chargé' will be marked on the mail item. For *Valeurs déclarées*, 'PVD' will be marked on it, plus a 'Valeur déclarée' label stuck on. To ensure the item can be traced back to the office of origin, the clerk had to add the post office straight line name cachet. Items of mail that could not be easily marked or written on (coloured paper or oilcloth) could have stuck on them the gummed borders of sheets of stamps with the relevant information on.

The majority of post offices conformed to the above regulations and on the mail one finds the registration number and item code in manuscript and the post office straight line name cachet. Many offices, however, made special cachets to save manuscript inscriptions on the mail.

The use of the borders and guttering of sheets of stamps was rather rare. They mainly appeared in 1944-45. The handstamps were used from 1942 to 1949 when they disappeared, the last ones in about May.

The above arrangements were for inland and franco-colonial mail but, from 1943, labels 510 practically disappeared except in very big offices. In 1944-45, the registration label is rarer than provisional handstamps.

An addendum to the above regulation was made on 26 January 43 extending provisional registration markings to international mail. The counter clerk had to mark an 'R' with a cachet on the mail and then ink in the registration number; the office name cachet would then be added above this number. The 'R' stamps also had to be applied to the top left-hand side of the address. With an item entitled to reduced carriage, the letters 'OPR' had to be added so as to help the check on correct postage. Offices were soon to receive their 'R' stamp. 'Valeurs déclarées' would still have a label stuck on – with name of office and registration number.

The only difference was therefore in the use of the 'R' cachet. In fact, most mail was treated as though it was internal and the 'R' cachet not used.

Jack Blanc

## Much Travelled Mail – Italy to Ivory Coast

I recall a society competition, perhaps at a weekend event, for mail travelling the greatest distance. This item (illustrated on the next page), acquired at Philatex in October 2005, would have been a contender.

It is a picture postcard of Florence, Italy, with 5 cents value on the face. Unfortunately the cancel on the face is unclear, but it was addressed by B Carel at the Town Hall, Florence, to Grand Bassam, Ivory Coast, West Africa. With no message and endorsed *Imprimés* 5c postage may have been correct, but I have no knowledge of Italian rates. It should

have been sent to France for Marseille and direct delivery to the Ivory Coast by Fraissinet et Cie.

Confusion reigned at Florence as the first strike is 3.2.1904 at Zanzibar, well known at the time for its ivory trade – or perhaps *Occidentale* was confused with *Orientale*.

Next the card is at Liverpool 2.3.1904, perhaps on arrival. There is a faint Grand Bassam strike of 30.3.1904, followed by Bingerville, just inland from Grand Bassam, on 31.3.1904. Quite a journey for Italian 5c!



John Mayne

### Cameroun Tax Marks

With reference to the article on Togo *taxe* marks in Journal 241 (page 83), I report the discovery of the German *taxe* mark on a cover from Ayos, Cameroun, date stamped 28.3.1956. I no longer collect German

Kamerun, but cannot recall the strike on mail from the German period. I would be interested to learn from collectors of French Cameroun of any example of the *taxe* mark from 1914 onwards.



John Mayne

## Printed Envelopes from Saigon

Directional handstamps from Indo-China to indicate airmail routings ('Hanoi-Marseille', 'Saigon-Marseille' and so on) are well known and have been extensively listed and illustrated in the aerophilatelic and French literature. A few are not commonly seen, but the majority seem to have been used in abundance. However, there are some similar

items which are not handstamps but have the airmail direction printed on the envelope. Quite easily found are some attractive types in red and blue inscribed 'SAIGON A CALCUTTA-MADRAS' (sometimes with 'Via Air France' added) and these belong to the later periods of about 1951-54 (Figs 1 & 2).



Figure 1



Figure 2

But I have recently acquired two covers, in styles which I have never seen before, directing airmail from Saigon to Marseille. These belong to the pre-war period, one of 1933 with printing in blue and black (Fig 3), and the other of

1937 with its printing entirely in black (Fig 4). Both are the private stationery of commercial companies in Saigon. If members have information about either of these, or know of other similar types, I should be most interested to hear.



Figure 3



Figure 4

Ian McQueen

## French Boycott: 1973 Courier Mail



Both sides of the same envelope

Many years ago, when Lloyds Bank had branches in northern France and I was part of their international inspection team, I was in Lille during a period in July 1973 when the French Post Office was being boycotted by the Royal Mail. This was because France insisted on continuing with her atom bomb testing in the Pacific Ocean. Our team mail to Head Office in London had to be taken by hand by bank personnel either going home on leave or officially taking bank mail to Head Office, either by air or on cross-Channel ferries. I took advantage of these officers to get personal mail to English addresses and set up a small courier service which continued from about 1 to 10 July 1973.

The central collection point was the Hôtel Bellevue in Lille, and letters were sent there from neighbouring towns where my colleagues were working. Mail was sent from Roubaix, Tourcoing, Calais and Lille itself. This mail had a special courier label applied to each cover which was cancelled with the courier service handstamp. The UK address was usually written on the reverse.

When the items had been carried to the UK, the French hotel address was crossed out, a 3p UK stamp affixed on the reverse above or near the UK address, and the mail posted in the normal way. Most of the mail was sent out from Uckfield in Sussex, though some, which had been carried on the cross-Channel ferry *Compiègne*, were posted from Dover, after being left on the ship to receive a ship's mark. One of these was sent to Bob Jory on Lundy and received a Lundy 1 puffin stamp and cancellation, compliments of Felix Gade, on arrival. Others were sent to



Courier stamp  
se-tenant with variety  
(b/w photocopy)

Jersey where they were lucky enough to receive a Jersey backstamp.

The label had to be produced in double quick time. I am a collector of South American Cinderellas, and my last assignment had been to Lima. I had come straight to France from Peru and had two sheets of 1 cent (of a Sol) Peruvian social security stamps with me. There were 100 of these orange-coloured stamps per sheet and both sheets were now overprinted for use on the courier service. The overprint simply read 'ACS 15p', the initials standing for "Allen Courier Service". One row of one sheet had the "p" of "15p" omitted, because the printer more or less did this tiny order individually by hand and forgot the "p" on this one row. The original intention was to collect the 15p to cover the cost of postage once the item had reached the UK, but in fact most of the labels were given away free. A pair of the courier stamps with and without the "p" are illustrated above, together with the front and back of a cover used in this way (opposite).

**Roger Allen**

*[This article originally appeared in The Cinderella Philatelist of October 2006, and is reproduced here by kind permission of the author and the editor of that journal. The cover is from the collection of Geoff Gethin.]*

## The French Franc Lives!

These 3 labels all appeared on one envelope addressed to me only a few months ago. It is interesting to note that on the *vignettes de guichet* the equivalent in francs to the postage in euros is still being shown. It is also interesting to

note that the postman in this country does not seem to have much of a clue about a simple instruction like "Signature Required" even though it appears on the other two labels (one French and one British) three times!



**Geoff Gethin**

## The First Interzone Cards

FRANCE

PRIX DE VENTE  
0,90

CARTE POSTALE

EXPÉDITEUR

DESTINATAIRE

Après avoir complété cette carte strictement réservée à la correspondance d'ordre familial, biffer les indications inutiles. — Ne rien écrire en dehors des lignes.

ATTENTION. — Toute carte dont le libellé ne sera pas uniquement d'ordre familial ne sera pas acheminée et sera probablement détruite.

194

en bonne santé... fatigué.

légèrement, gravement malade, blessé.

tué... prisonnier.

décédé... sans nouvelles.

de... La famille... va bien.

besoin de provisions... d'argent.

nouvelles bagages... est de retour à...

travaille à... va entrer

à l'école de... a été reçu

aller à... le...

Affectueuses pensées. Baisers.

Signature.

It is well known that the first interzone cards were put on sale in the Paris area on 26 September 1940. What is not so clear is when the cards were put on sale elsewhere. One man's diary indicates that it was none too soon in the case of the village where he was living in the south of France. The diary was published in New York in 1942 under the pseudonym of Louis Le François and with the title of *J'ai Faim!* (I'm Hungry!). In it we find the following entry:

4 October

The Germans have just authorised the resumption of mail between the two zones. Nothing overmuch: cards on which all the questions are printed in advance and to which you are entitled to add a few strictly personal words. It seems they have already been put on sale in Paris. At the post office, which I went to at once, the good woman had not heard of these cards. 'News to me,' she said.

A week and a half later Louis received his first interzone card. It had been sent to him by a friend in Paris. Louis recorded the event in his diary:

15 October

A card from René, the first 'family card' I have seen. The front is divided into two: the sender on the left, the addressee on the right. On the back, first of all this caution: 'After completing this card reserved strictly for correspondence of a family nature, cross out the irrelevant words. — Do not write anything outside the lines. — WARNING. — All cards with wording not of a solely family nature will not be forwarded and will probably be destroyed'. Then come printed words separated by dotted lines. It is the whole story of our defeat. 'In good health... tired... slightly, seriously ill, wounded... prisoner... deceased... without news... need of food... of money...' etc., etc. 'Fondest love/Love and kisses.'

René 'completed' only four of the comments. 'I am in good health.' 'Jean seriously wounded.' 'François killed.' 'Michel, Paul, Robert prisoners.'

Thus was how people learnt about the fate of their friends and relatives in a few cold phrases.

Roy Reader

# Forces Françaises Libération Training Camp Kenya



Figure 1  
Photocopy of letter  
going to Madame Haas  
from Staff Sergeant Haas  
c/o French Delegation Nairobi  
dated 15 June 1944.



Figure 2  
23 January 1944  
Nairobi, Kenya - Tuléar, Madagascar  
Letter N° 11 from S/Sgt Julian Haas  
dated 22.1.44  
with Kenya censor tape type Xa 124  
sent airmail to Mme Georgette Haas, Tuléar.  
A weekly service flown by Short S.3, S.30  
and S.33 flying boats  
from Kisumu-Mombasa-  
Dar-es-Salaam (westbound only)-Lindi-  
Pamanzi Island-Diégo Suarez;  
then to Tananarive 16.2.44  
and Tuléar 17.2.44.  
Franked 1/- 30c.

I have three covers addressed to a Madame Georgette Haas living in Tuléar, Madagascar, from her husband Staff Sergeant Julian Haas. From the numbers written on the letters in blue pencil [and mine are numbered 11, 12 and

13] it would appear that there are quite a number of letters. Inside the envelopes are the original letters written on very thin paper making it difficult to obtain a reasonable translation.



Figure 3  
3 February 1944 EA APO No 2  
Nairobi, Kenya - Tuléar, Madagascar  
Letter N° 12 from S/Sgt J Haas  
dated 1.2.44  
with EA censor handstamp N° 415 Nairobi,  
type EA3D  
and Tananarive censor Boxed G22  
and French censor tape type FLIVa/b  
and on reverse  
elliptical French handstamp type FHIV.  
Airmail letter to Madame Georgette Haas,  
Tuléar, flown by military plane from  
Mombasa to Diégo Suarez.  
EA censor handstamp fourth series  
401-500, supplied by September 1941.  
Franked 1/- 30c.  
Backstamped Tananarive 18H 16.2.44  
and Tuléar 17 FEB 44.

Figure 4  
9 February 1944  
EA APO No 2 Nairobi, Kenya  
- Tuléar, Madagascar.  
Letter N° 13 from S/Sgt J Haas  
with EA censor handstamp No 415 Nairobi  
type EA3D  
and Tananarive censor Boxed G5  
and French censor tape FLIVa/b  
and on reverse  
French handstamp type FHIV.  
Airmail letter to  
Mme Georgette Haas, Tuléar,  
flown by military plane  
from Mombasa to Diégo Suarez.  
EA censor handstamp  
fourth series 401-500  
supplied by September 1941.  
Franked 1/- 30c.  
Backstamped Diégo Suarez cds 16 FEB 44,  
Tananarive 18H 16.2.44  
and Tuléar 17 FEB 44.



It was Roy Reader who first drew my attention to this correspondence with a photocopy of a letter N° 8 (Fig 1) that he was unsuccessful in obtaining to offer to me. However, he attempted to translate one of the letters for me, and it would appear that Sergeant Haas could speak English but was finding it difficult to understand some of the technical language; it appeared he was also waiting for news from home.

Interestingly, it was letters N° 8 and N° 11 (Fig 2) that had the address of the French Delegation Nairobi on the

reverse, whilst the others (Figs 3 & 4) just have the name of the sender..

These raise a number of queries:

Was Sergeant Haas a member of the Free French Forces that took over in Madagascar in 1943 and were sent to Nairobi for technical training?

The French Delegation in Nairobi was presumably the official representative for Free France?

Does anyone know anything of the FFL Training Camps?

Colin Spong

**ESPAÑA 2006 - Malaga 7-13 October 2006**

From 7 to 13 October Malaga hosted a World Philatelic Exhibition 'SPAIN 2006'. Public spots, streets and plazas in Malaga became open exhibition spaces for stamps and philately, both National and International. Malaga's historic centre played host to 3,120 philatelic frames from 68 countries and 801 collections, together with 44 stands for dealers and postal administrations. A court of honour contained some of the best collections of philatelic material in the world. In all 25,000 square metres were taken up by the exhibition.

All classes of philately were represented and the FIP held meetings as well as the 69<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress. It was good to see Mick Bister's entry, 'France: the Life and Times of the 1F50 Pétain Issue', which received a Gold Medal with 93 points. Well done, Mick! Unfortunately he and I were like ships that pass in the night, as neither of us knew the other was there.

The weather was gorgeous, well in the high 80s, but as the marquees were spacious and air conditioned they were cool. We found plenty of people on hand to direct and advise us, and there was an English version of the guide. The areas were well policed and secure. Malaga also offered plenty of restaurants, cafes and bars. The whole venue was in easy walking distance, and of course with lovely weather it was a joy to see all the sights.



Malaga was very different to 'Washington 2006' but still showed good organisation and a variety of different venues to attract the non-philatelic person. The streets were hung with a great many large eye-catching yellow banners to indicate where the events were being held, and I saw many groups of children and families attracted to and looking in the marquees.

Well done, Malaga!

**Lesley Marley.**

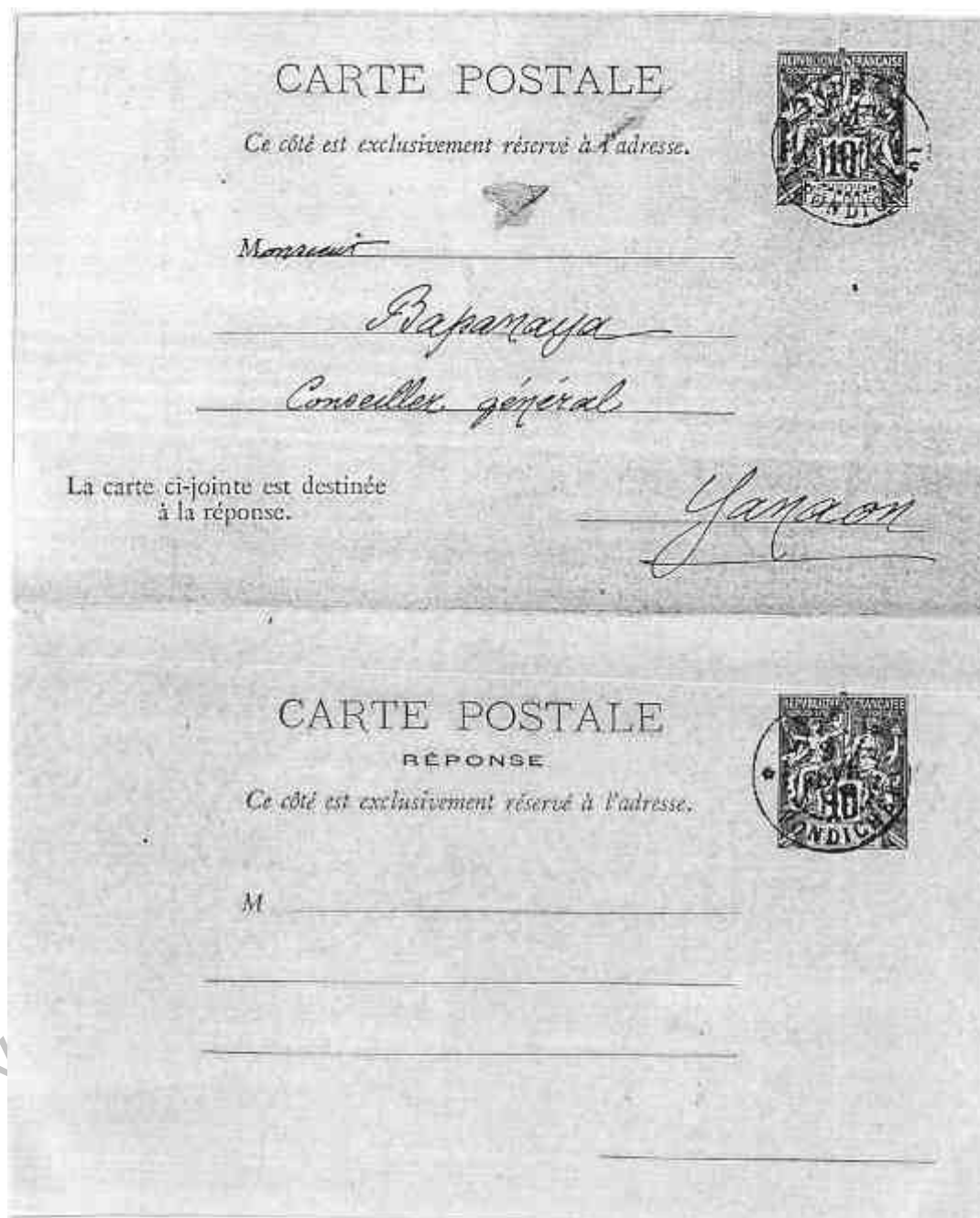
## *Jeu de Barres*

In trying to interpret the caption "*La barre prisonnière*" printed on a picture postcard belonging to Bob Larg and showing a military activity of some kind, the game "*jeu de barres*" was mentioned (Journal 241 page 82). The nearest

I can get to this term is as the equivalent of our game of rounders. "*La pose*" is the changeover of sides [though wouldn't this be more likely "*la pause*"? - Ed.], and in a military sense it is the changeover of sentries.

Peter Kelly

## French Indian Postal Stationery Query



This French Indian reply card has been sent from Pondicherry (Pondichéry in French) to Yanam (Yanaon

in French). The reply half is unused, but it bears a postmark of Pondicherry. Is this perhaps some kind of pre-cancel?

David Taylor Smith

## Dahomey — An Unrecorded Cotonou Cancel

AIS



CABI

One of my correspondents in France, M. Etienne Coré of Belfort, has sent me this copy of some examples of an unrecorded single ring Cotonou cancel on postage due stamps issued for the French colonies in 1945 which appear under Colonies' General Issues in the catalogues.

It's very likely that the four stamps were cancelled by favour on the same day, 13 - 9 - 1948; the question M. Coré would like to see answered is, what is the inscription in the lower half of the cancel? All that can be seen is CABI — — — AIS, which presumably represents a specialist section

of some kind. Has anyone a complete strike of the cancel on a CTO block of four, or even a single stamp which can help to fill in the gaps? All that I can suggest which might fit is *CABINE RELAIS* — there is a dictionary translation of “*relais de poste*” as “post house, coaching inn” so there may be some postal connotation, but I can't recall ever seeing a reference to a “*cabine relais*” (is it even good French?). Or is the cancel simply bogus?

If anyone can help, please let the Editor know so that (hopefully) the cancel can be recorded accurately.

Bill Mitchell

[*Cabinet* would seem to me to be more likely than *cabine*. *Cabinet Relais* possibly could mean something like “intermediary/transitional office”. But could the missing phrase not also be something simpler like *Cabinet Français*? - Ed.]

## 1925 Paris Exhibition Labels Overprinted for Strasbourg 1927



I have acquired a set of four perforate labels for the 1925 Paris Exhibition overprinted “*APRÈS PARIS venez tous à STRASBOURG le 4 JUIN 1927*”.

Does anyone have any idea who produced these overprinted labels, and when? These labels also exist imperforate. Does anyone have any of them overprinted as above?

Geoff Gethin

## Censorship of WWII Covers from Senegal to Morocco

Can anybody help with this problem cover (Fig 1), which I acquired recently at Torquay, opened up as shown? It was sent by air by Chef de Bataillon Salbat of the Bataillon Autonome d'Infanterie Coloniale du Maroc (address and cachet in the front lower left-hand corner) in Dakar to Mme Salbat in Meknès, Morocco. The basic postage is paid by the *Franchise Militaire* initials and the airmail fee of 2F is paid by Senegalese stamps cancelled by the cds of Dakar dated, as far as I can make out, 14 March 1941.

(This is based on a faint but clear 14 and MA on the 1F75 stamp and a clear S on the 25c stamp, but I have to admit the year is not visible.) It was censored in Dakar (*Contrôle Postal* tape with *Militaire* excised, oval cachet *Ouvert par les Autorités de Contrôle*, and A over 2 in a circle). The Air France service flew north from Dakar keeping to Vichy territory, via Atar, Tindouf and Agadir to Marseille. Neither the Swiss PTT guides nor the *L'Aviette* articles give a precise routing between Agadir and Marseille, but



Figure 1



Figure 2

presumably it went via Casablanca and Algiers. On arrival in Meknès the cover was backstamped on 21 March 1941. So far so good.

However, it also bears a South African censor tape with a pencilled A, the cross-bar ending in a z. I cannot think of any way in which in 1941 the South Africans could have got their hands on mail going from Senegal to Morocco by air, especially given the short time between posting and delivery. Is this tape a fanciful addition by some misguided faker to a perfectly normal wartime cover, or was there some episode in West or North Africa in March 1941? I have been

unable to find anything in the literature, so any information – and all suggestions – would be warmly welcomed.

Even more recently I came across another cover (Fig 2) from Dakar to Casablanca, Morocco, date stamped 7 April 1941 and backstamped 31 August, with a British PC90 censor mark. It seems to be kin to the one mentioned above, except that it is not airmail and it has a British censor mark rather than South African. Whatever was going on? Were people really devoting time and effort to intercepting correspondence between Senegal and Morocco?

Barbara Priddy

#### SHORTER ITEMS

Continued on page 29

## POSTAL HISTORY SALES

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# Mail Order Manifestations

Bob Maddocks



Figure 1 -  
From French Cameroun, Douala 8 MAR 1934

1. "Mail Order" *per se* does not feature in the lexicon of philately, notwithstanding a cause and effect association with the more familiar "Parcel Post". Yet, without the proliferation of "Mail Order" covers seen to have emanated, for example, from Nigeria and the Cameroons in British West Africa, particularly increasing after WWII, postal historians would have been hard put to finding postmarks, registration and other postal markings etc from the lesser known up country towns and villages. Direct mail ordering by West Africans of such items as shoes and personal clothing from catalogues supplied for the most part by British companies was commonplace because of limited or no choice in local shops in the hinterland.

Seldom noted were transactions with similar concerns in the USA. However one other firm, apart from the well known Montgomery Ward American mail order company, has been found in particular to have been doing considerable business with clients in both French and British Cameroons. This was the De Laurence Company of Chicago, to whom numerous covers have been seen addressed over a 40 and more year period dating from the early 1930s to the late 1970s (Figs 1 & 2). But finding out what was being ordered and supplied has not been possible from the covers alone.

Quite unexpectedly I found a rather droll answer to my quest when I chanced to read a book entitled "Lords of the Equator". It was written by Patrick Balfour and published

by Hutchinson, London, in 1937. *Inter alia*, it concerned his then recent travels through both of the mandated territories of British and French Cameroons. Mr Balfour, in his account of his visit to British Cameroons, mentioned his stay there with an unnamed German planter near Victoria. The latter's wife, referred to as Frau G, had had to apologise to her guest for the quality of the dinner she had provided him — her reason being that her cook had that very afternoon suddenly left them: he had gone to be a Messiah! The writer then elaborated:

"The boy had been a model faithful servant to the Gs for eight years. A few months ago, when they returned from leave, they had found him changed. They suspected that some Communist influence had been at work on him.

"One day he said to her: 'Missus, I no salute you any more. You and me, black and white, are de same.'

"He began to exert a sinister influence over the house boy, who had been with G since before the war. Twice the boy went suddenly crazy, tore off his clothes and ran raving into the forest. A Catholic priest at Buea calmed the boy and now had him in his charge at the mission.

"Frau G discovered in the cook's possession a catalogue, issued by a Mr L W Laurence of Chicago, of books which dealt with occultism, necromancy,



Figure 2 -  
From British Cameroons, Kumba 20 AU 51

hypnotism, black magic and primitive religion in every part of the world. It also advertised charms, talismans and other magic objects, and was clearly designed for the market of American negroes, Indians and Africans. The cook had bought, from the catalogue, a book called *The Immanence of Christ*, which seemed to influence him greatly, though he could barely read — far less, with his limited education, understand it.

“He refused to take money from his employers (though they insisted on paying him), but worked as

well as he had always done, until that morning, when he came to his mistress and said: ‘My skin no fit for work to-day.’

“In the afternoon he came to her, dressed in a long black-and-white robe, and said: ‘Missus, I no serve you any more. I serve only God.’

“And he went out into the wilderness, leaving his wages behind him.”

Perhaps the American expression “going postal” has a certain congruity here in one of the strangest known outcomes of a mail order!!





Figures 3a (bottom of previous page) and 3b -  
Front of cover with World Meteorological Day cachet  
and back of cover showing arrival date stamps

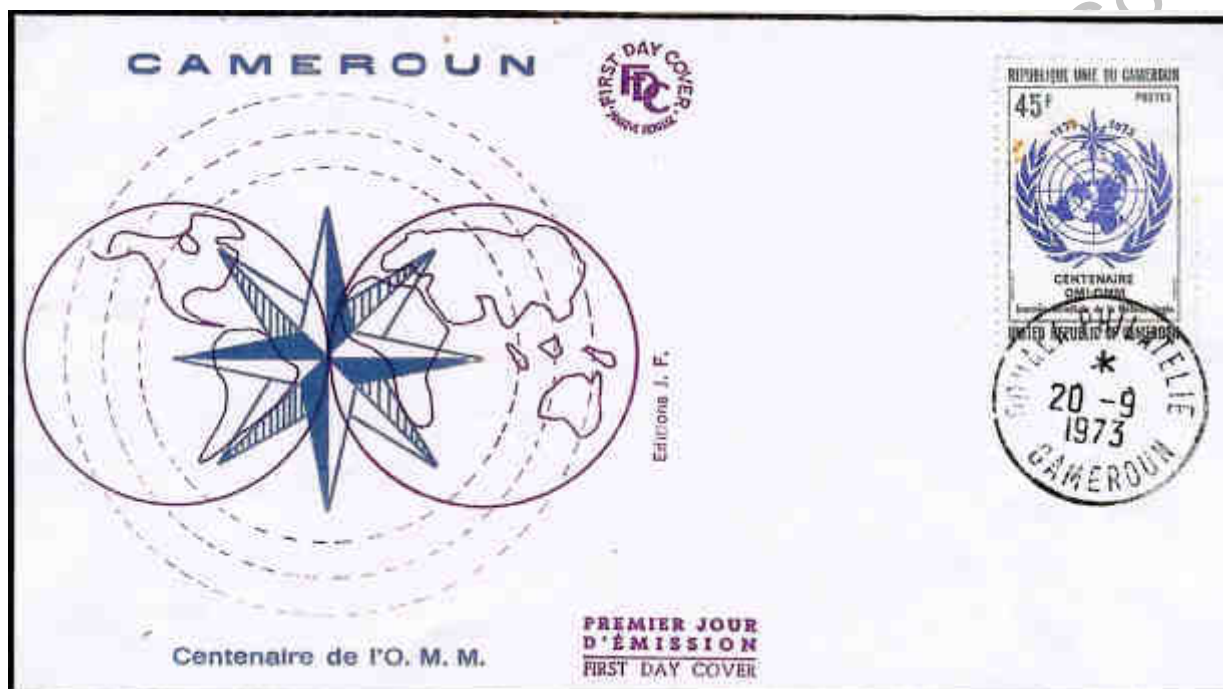


Figure 4 -  
FDC 26 SEPT 1973  
with Cameroun 45F stamp  
commemorating Journée Mondiale de la Météorologie

2. By surprising coincidence, when searching through my covers for relevant “De Laurence” material to illustrate the first part of this topic, I happened upon one other which, perhaps, may be said to have been characterised by “spirit” possession at its point of mailing because of an unusual cachet thereon. This registered cover (Fig 3) (front and reverse) was airmailed at Douala on 17 March 1973 to De Laurence and was backstamped on arrival in Chicago on 23 March 1973. On the front of the cover a Cameroun boxed cachet (60mm x 23mm) had been applied, inverted, in black; it reads in French and English -

“Journée Météorologique / MONDIALE / 23 Mars 23th March / Word Mateorological Day” (*sic*).

The English translation has obvious atrocious errors.

But note also the mentioned date 23 March: this was 6 days after the cover’s actual date of posting in Douala and

was also the same date as that it received backstamped in Chicago. The three Cameroun adhesive postage stamps affixed by the sender were the then current definitives and no commemorative stamp to mark World Meteorological Day was known issued at that time.

In fact, as is seen in Figure 4, this particular Day was only commemorated philatelically in Cameroun some six months later by a special 45F stamp which was affixed to this official First Day Cover and postmarked 20 Sept 1973 at the Douala Philatelic Bureau.

As for the inept and prematurely applied cachet, there were obviously unknown gremlins at work within the Cameroun postal service. Perhaps the country’s 1973 Stamp Issue Programme just became unhinged? Local, not imported, “magic”!

Have other similar cacheted covers been noted?

## SHORTER ITEMS

### Continued from page 25

#### French Stamp Issuing Policy

Just recently I happened to be checking how many Lamouche counter booklets (different covers) had been issued in 2006. Since the information was included in the annual résumé (published by both *L'Écho* and *Timbres Magazine* in their January issues) of stamps etc issued over the previous twelve months, I took a closer look at the Mozart issue.

Stamp issuing policy, if the poem republished in a recent edition of the Journal (Journal 237 page 101) is anything to go by, doesn't seem to have changed since the 1930s – except, perhaps, for the worse. Basically this consists of:-

- (A) The “normal” programme, announced the preceding year, which, in addition to stamps and booklets, now seems to include miniature sheets;
- (B) “*Hors programme*”, usually justified by some unforeseen event (the death of the Abbé Pierre will almost certainly result in a commemorative stamp);
- (C) Gimmicks – “personalised stamps”, “books”, “silver Mariannes”, etc. These extremely philatelic items are not, I gather, normally available over the post office counter.

However, to return to our *moutons*, as the natives are wont to say — the Mozart commemorative issue is an interesting example of La Poste current policy.

As members will probably know well enough, the series is made up of six designs. They were issued in the following forms:-

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| (1) Sheets of 50 stamps – 6 x 0.53€   | 3.18€         |
| (2) Miniature sheet with 6 stamps   | 4.80€         |
| (3) “ <i>Le Timbre voyage avec Mozart</i> ” 94 page book – 6 mini-sheets with one stamp per sheet | 19.00€        |
| (4) 6 mini-sheets with one stamp per sheet, individually packed                                   | 15.00€        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>41.98€</b> |

To be “complete” I suppose one can add the “*Document Philatélique*” and, perhaps, the Marianne de Lamouche counter booklet with the Mozart cover.

(NB Item (2) above apparently includes a 1.60€ donation to the Red Cross.)

According to *Timbres Magazine* (January 2007) the basic 2006 collection – available, in theory, over the post office counter – cost 187.00€. If one decided to purchase the whole bag of tricks then a further 300.00€ were required.

ITVF was replaced by PHIL@POSTE in June. I don't remember reading much on the subject, and what I did I seem to have forgotten. 2006 was a big shake-up year for La Poste, with the creation of La Poste bank, renewal of the logo... Presumably Phil@poste was part of the shake-up, but I'll have to dig around a bit to find out more.

**John Simmons**

#### Phil@poste

Further research has clarified the use of this new name. As part of the French ministerial department of the Post Office, the **SNTP** (Service national des timbres-poste et de la philatélie) has since 1989 been a service responsible for the designing, manufacture, sale and promotion of stamps, philatelic products and fiscal labels.

In March 2006 this service, in a new grouping with the **ITVF** (Imprimerie des timbres-poste et valeurs fiduciaires) and **SPP** (Service philatélique de la Poste) was renamed **Phil@poste**, which led to the the section known as ITVF (in existence since 1970) becoming **Phil@poste Boulazac**,

named after the industrial zone near Périgueux in the Dordogne where the printing works are situated.

The first stamp produced at Périgueux was the Marianne de Cheffer (40c red). It is stated that during the 1990s the ITVF produced annually 4,000 million stamps: 3,600 million French definitives, 431 million for the philatelic market, and 38 million for overseas postal administrations. The first stamps to bear the new imprint of Phil@poste (instead of ITVF) were the Marianne de Lamouche se-tenant with personalised vignettes, and this has gradually been extended to others of the Marianne de Lamouche series.

**Maurice Tyler**

#### Victory of Samothrace

I wonder if any members can help me out, please. I have seen a pair of maximum cards commemorating the National Museums in 1937 with the stamps depicting the Victory of Samothrace. Stanley Gibbons, Yvert and other catalogues state that these were issued on 20

August 1937, but these are postmarked at the museum on 19 August. My question is, are these cards postmarked in error and worth a premium, or were there many sets of cards like this? Any information from members would be of help.

**Peter Baker**

# The Early Posts from Polynesia – Tales of Missionaries, Cannibals and a Patron of Gauguin!

Hilton Israelson



Figure 1 -  
The 1842 Revd. Bourne missionary letter - possibly the first from Polynesia

It is recorded that early Spanish mariners first sighted the Polynesian islands and even set foot on the outlying Marquesas as early as the late 16<sup>th</sup> century; however, the first Europeans to lay claim to the islands of Polynesia were the British and not the French as many believe. Capt. Samuel Wallis in *HMS Dolphin* landed in Tahiti in June 1767 and the French Admiral de Bougainville only some 10 months later in April the following year.

Following a number of scientific voyages by Capt. James Cook in the late 1700s and the ill fated “breadfruit” expedition of Capt. William Bligh of *HMS Bounty* notoriety in 1789, the first European settlers were the English missionaries who began arriving in the early 1800s. It is at this point that we see the first items of postal history emanating from these islands.

In Christian Beslu’s authoritative “Postal History of Tahiti” he mentions the first letter he had seen being that sent by a missionary from the island of Tahaa (some 200km NW of Tahiti) to the London Missionary Society. Dated 8

November 1824, it is almost certainly the cover shown here (Fig 1). The letter took some 299 days to reach its destination, and was backstamped “Ship Letter London 1 September” and by the London Post Office double circle date stamp the next day. In this letter, the sender Revd. Robert Bourne requested that the sum of £8 17s be placed to his account for the following year. This letter seems to have taken an extraordinary length of time (even for those days) of almost 10 months in reaching its destination – the routing most probably having been via Valparaiso in Chile and then (perhaps delayed by bad weather) round Cape Horn for England.

The Revd. Charles Barff established a successful mission on the island of Huahine 170km NW of Tahiti. On 14 January 1833 he wrote a letter (Fig 2) to Mission House (Headquarters of the London Missionary Society) in London, requesting that an account be settled in favour of the ship’s captain, Captain Charles Millet, in the sum of six dollars and fifty cents for articles he had purchased from him for the mission. The letter’s routing took it via Sydney

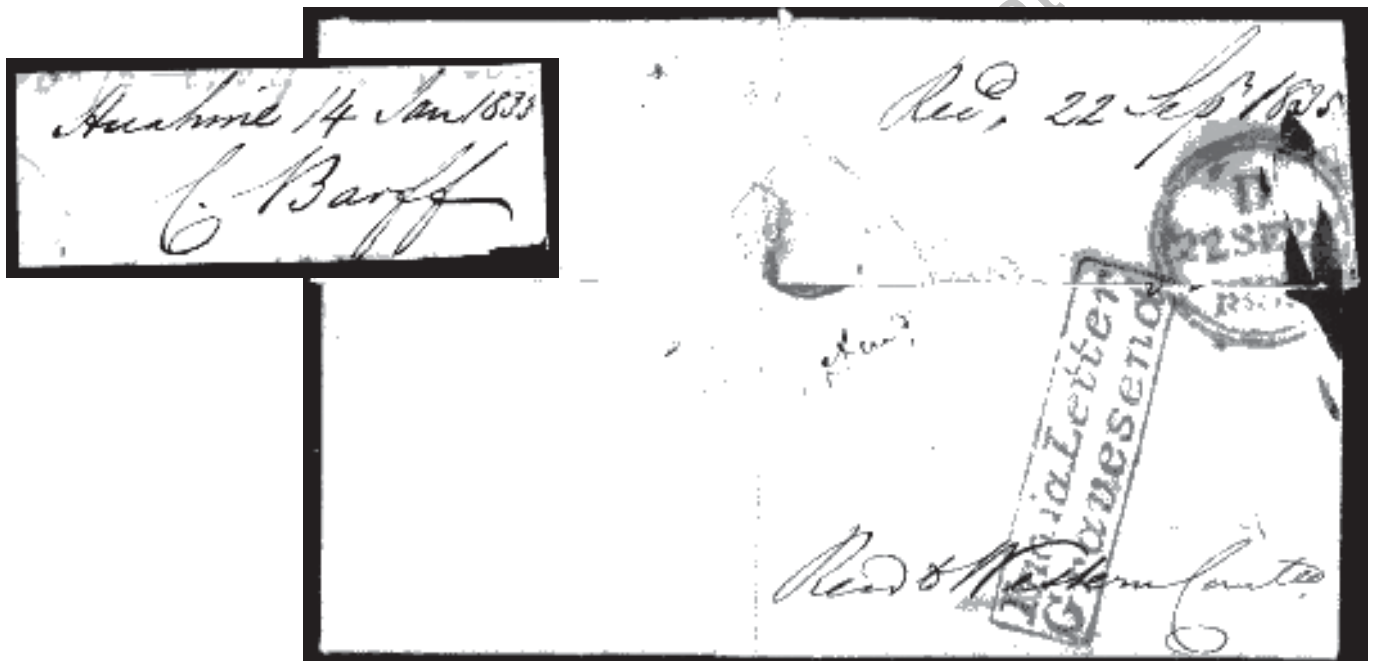
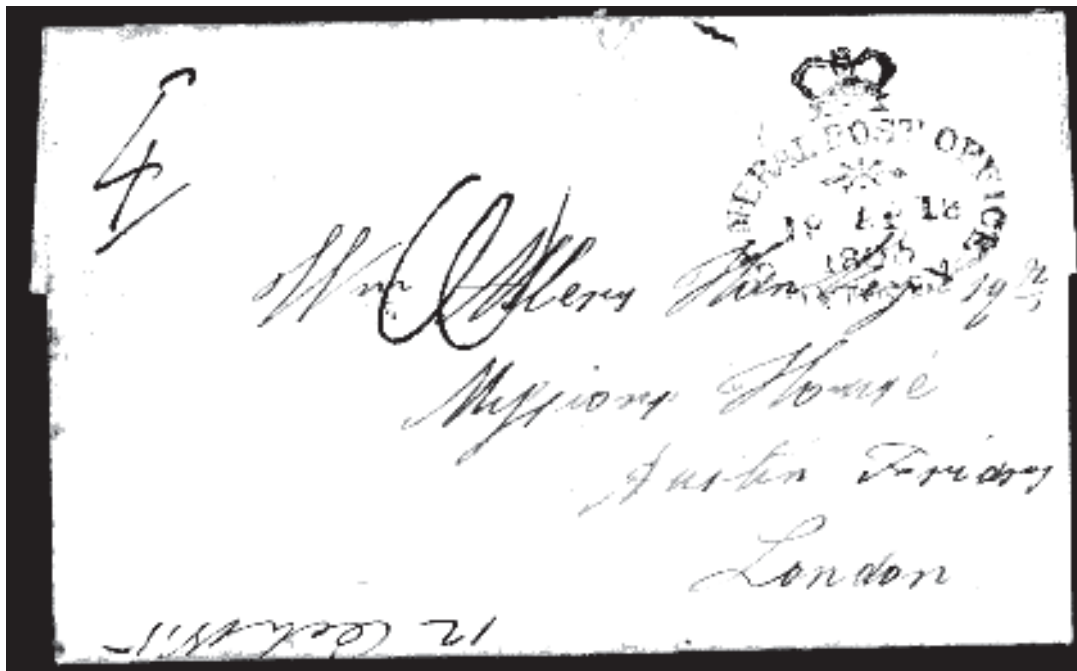


Figure 2 -

Rev. Charles Barff is reportedly eaten by cannibals after writing this letter.  
The reverse shows entry stamp into England and subsequent arrival in London.

and probably Calcutta, then round the Cape of Good Hope to London. The front cover shows the crowned "GPO Sydney 18 April 1833" date stamp. The letter entered the mails in England with the boxed "India Letter Gravesend" cachet and a London double circle date stamp. By the time this letter had reached London, however, the Revd. Barff and his compatriot the Revd. John Williams had left the Polynesian islands to set up a mission in Samoa. By all accounts they were initially successful in converting many hundred of islanders to Christianity. However, reports reaching England in 1836 indicated that these two gentlemen had subsequently "been eaten" by a number of disgruntled would-be converts and were never heard of again!!

The period from 1836 to 1846 was one of bitter rivalries between the English protestant missionaries and the French Catholic Church which had by then also been established in the Polynesian islands. The French missionaries were expelled by Tahitian Queen Pomare, but then under pressure from her chiefs as well as the threat (taken somewhat more seriously) of bombardment by the French navy, she was forced to reinstate the Catholic Church. The letter shown (Fig 3) from the Revd. Charles Stallworthy on 28 April 1846 was probably one of the last British missionary letters sent from Tahiti. In it, typical of many of the other "missionary letters", he requests funds and the settlement of various accounts. The letter was carried to England via Sydney where it was stamped with the "Paid Ship Letter"

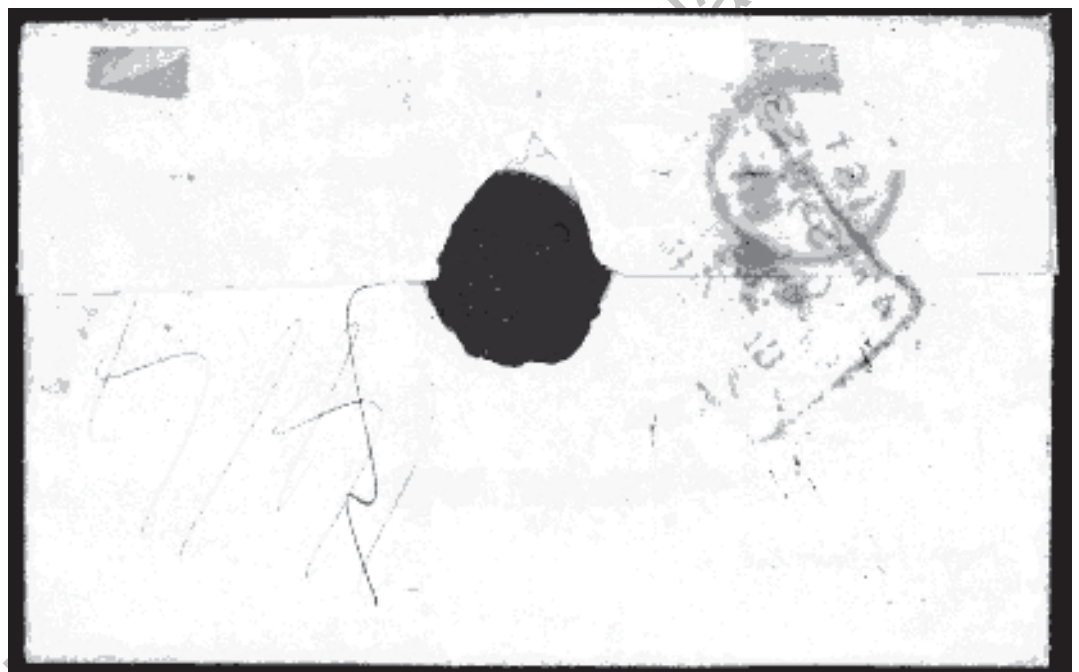
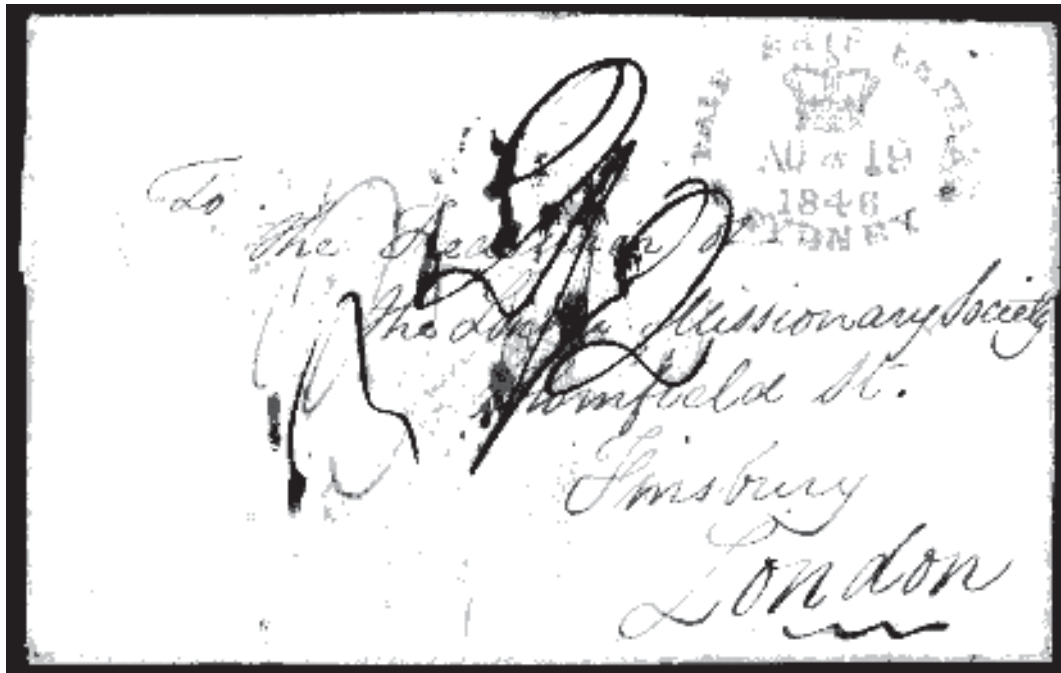


Figure 3 -  
Letter sent by the Revd. Charles Stallworthy,  
one of the last British missionaries in Tahiti.  
The reverse shows boxed Calcutta cachet  
and arrival stamp in London.

cachet on 14 August 1846, then via Calcutta where it was backstamped with a boxed Calcutta cachet and a rather indistinct date, possibly November 1846. The letter arrived in London on 23 January 1847, by which time the English missionaries had already left Tahiti for good and French influence would exist in Polynesia thereafter.

As the island had the status of a French protectorate, a garrison was established in Papeete, the principal town on Tahiti. On 22 August 1861, a young French marine wrote to his father, a Monsieur Bourgoin, the mayor of the

French town of Villeneuve-sur-Yonne (**Fig 4**). He writes of a full if uneventful time on Tahiti, spent mostly tending the garrison's gardens, cutting wood and having little time for much else! The letter was taken by a British vessel to Valparaiso in Chile and from there by French *paquebot* to Calais, thence to Paris, arriving 28 November 1861. The letter reached its final destination the following day, having taken just over 3 months to complete its journey.

Postage stamps as a means of pre-paying postage on mails were first introduced in Tahiti in October 1862. Initially

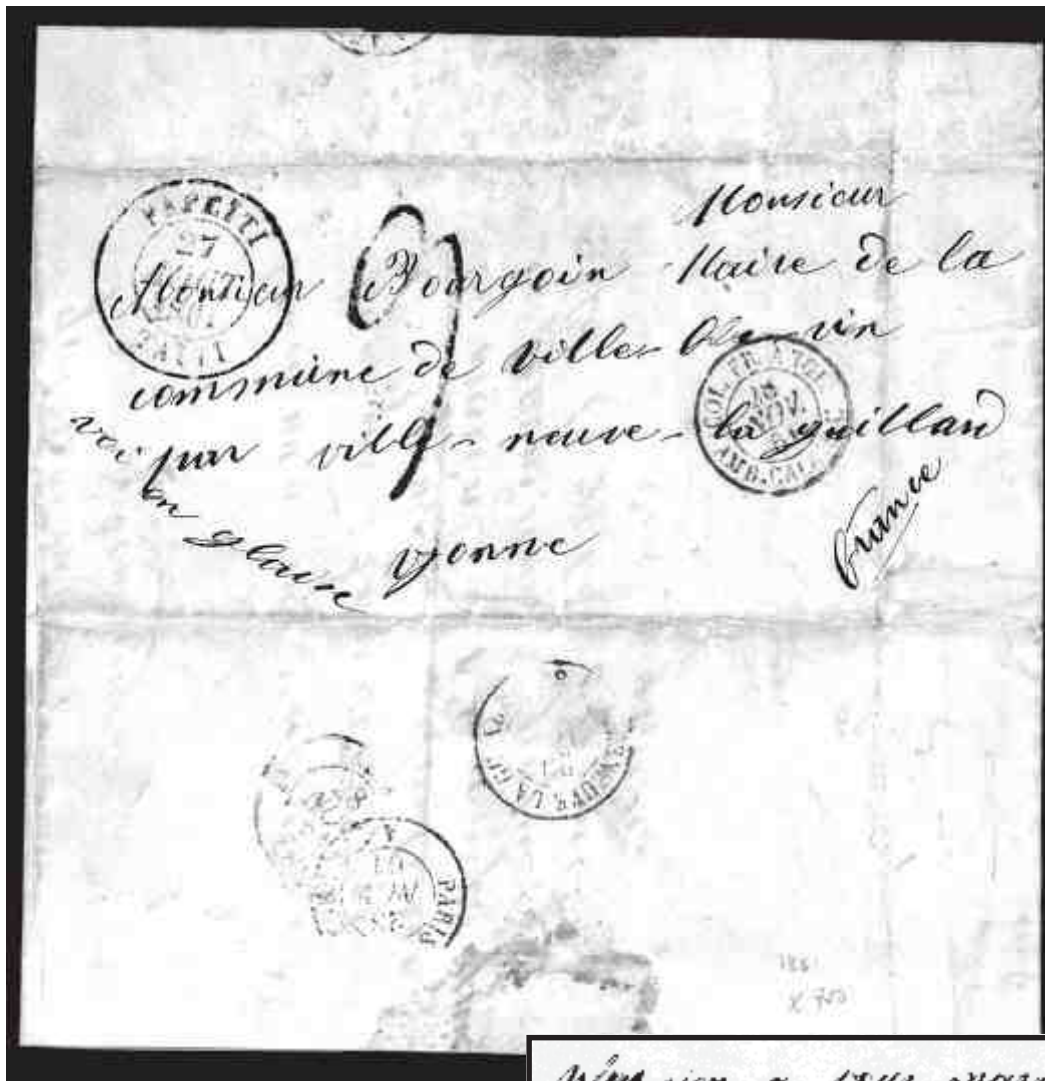


Figure 4 -  
Letter from a French marine  
stationed in Papeete 1861  
to his father,  
the mayor of Villeneuve-sur-Yonne,  
with a portion of the text.

plus rien à vous marquer pour le  
moment  
je finis ma lettre en vous  
embrassant votre petit fils  
qui vous aime  
Bourgoïn  
Voici mon adresse à  
Monsieur Bourgoïn solvat  
2<sup>e</sup> Régiment d'infanterie  
de marine 20<sup>e</sup> compagnie  
en garnison à Papeete  
île Tahiti Océanie  
N° 1 onylaire

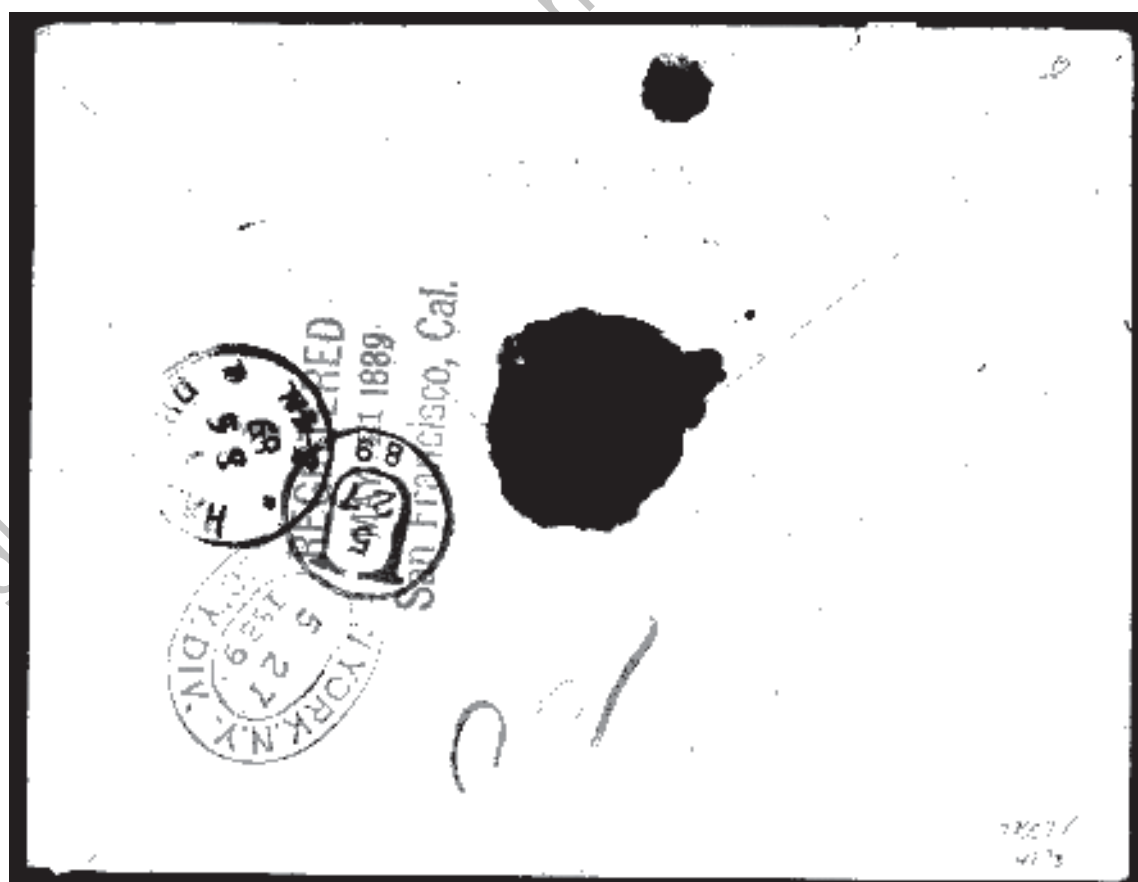


Figure 5 -  
Letter from Auguste Goupil, friend of Paul Gauguin,  
with reverse showing interesting routing  
via newly opened trans-American railroad.



Figure 6 -  
Cover carried on the 1892 Tahiti - San Francisco sea route.

the general issues of the French colonies were used, but can only be confirmed as having been used in Tahiti if they exist on cover or are clearly identifiable with a legible postmark. The following two covers are examples with interesting histories.

Auguste Goupil was an influential lawyer and successful businessman living in Tahiti who, amongst other commercial interests, established a successful copra processing industry on the island. The artist Paul Gauguin arrived in Papeete in June 1891 and the two men as well as being neighbours became friends. Goupil commissioned a number of paintings by the artist including one of his daughter, Vaite Jeanne Goupil, which now forms part of the Ordrupgaard Collection in Copenhagen. The registered cover shown (Fig 5), probably written in Auguste Goupil's own hand with his seal in red wax still intact on the reverse, is addressed to the firm H Schlubach & Co in Hamburg. The routing this letter took to Germany is interesting and is clearly shown. By this date the San Francisco - New York railroad had been completed, enabling goods and mails to cross the North American continent avoiding the dangerous Cape Horn route. Leaving Papeete on 12 April

1889 the letter crossed the Pacific to San Francisco where it was backstamped in red "Registered May 21 1889". It then travelled by rail to New York where it was backstamped six days later on 27 May as well as having a New York registered label affixed to the front cover. After crossing the Atlantic the letter arrived in Hamburg where it was backstamped 8 June 1889.

The other cover shown (Fig 6) bears two 25c black/rose "Commerce" general issue stamps with the double circle date stamp "Papeete Taiti 11 Juin 92". As shown in manuscript on the front cover, this letter travelled on the "City of Papeete", a US registered three masted square rigged vessel which at the time "shuttled" between San Francisco and Papeete the capital of Tahiti. It seems fairly certain that this letter was then relayed by rail from San Francisco to New York, and from there to France where it reached Paris on 31 July and its destination in Bordeaux the following day.

The next stage in the postal history of French Polynesia began with the first "Tahiti" overprints appearing in 1882 and this will hopefully form part of a subsequent article.

## REPORTS OF MEETINGS

### LONDON MEETING OF 2 DECEMBER 2006

**Members: 12 Sheets**

**Francis Kiddle: How to collect something different**

10 members gathered at the Calthorpe Arms for the first trial session here on a Saturday rather than the traditional Wednesday: Len Barnes, Mick Bister, Michael Ensor, Chris Hitchen, Francis Kiddle, Bill Mitchell, John Parmenter, John Thorpe, Maurice Tyler, Michael Wright.

The morning session was opened by **Len Barnes** with 16 sheets covering aspects of French aviation, particularly air meeting vignettes 1909-1934, but also including an advertisement, a Paris to Indo-China crash cover and a route map. **Michael Wright** then showed 1 sheet of a cancelled flight from French Equatorial Africa to France via Nigeria (Lagos) and the UK. **John Parmenter** displayed wartime Madagascar, with covers to the UK and South Africa, including *taxe perçue* marks.

**Mick Bister** showed 12 sheets of the WWII 1F50 Pétain issue, including some forgeries as mentioned and illustrated in Geoff Gethin's recent book: the 1942 British Intelligence printing, the Marseille propaganda stamp, the Nice propaganda issue, and the FFI Paris forgery of 1944. He then gave a second 12 sheet display of the 1931 1F50 *Femme Fachi* including various rates, express mail, and a telephone bill to Alsace; the de la Nézière cluttered design of different races was used for an unissued 50c value and for the 1F50 stamp, seen on various covers such as for the overseas samples rate.

**Chris Hitchen** gave a vote of thanks for those who had displayed so far, and then showed 36 sheets of the late fee service in Paris. He explained that at first there were only 3 offices, with very high rates, and usually octagonal cachets, and we saw some rare examples of overseas destinations. He gave a very detailed account of the variety of rates, which changed in 1887, with the final rate of 25c and the last such cover known sometime in 1936. **Maurice Tyler**

took the opportunity of a spare frame to show proof pages of the coming December Journal.

**Chris Hitchen** then gave another 36 sheet display of fine examples of the Paris local post 1795-1849. Significant items noted include the Petite Poste, the PD marks changing to PP, the 9 offices indicated by the letters A-J (omitting I), post box marks including local registered mail, and new offices as they opened up. A vote of thanks was given by Maurice Tyler.

After lunch **Francis Kiddle** gave his featured display entitled "How to collect something different". This was, in fact, the French aspect of a vast collection of poster stamps he had formed with his brother Charles. This started with WWI advertising material, especially by Delandre who sold packets of "stamps" worldwide but eventually died in prison. Poster stamps had taken off in 1900, and we were shown an extensive variety of items involving fabulous designs and brilliant colours and formats, including colour separation sheets and proofs, hand-painted illustrations, and poster stamps on cover.

In the second half of the display Francis explained that the Perkins Bacon archives reveal that a huge number of such stamps had been printed, the vast majority of which cannot now be found. Particular items noted, however, included Colman's Mustard and Malvern Water poster stamps printed in France, a series of cartoons for whose artwork the best artists had been employed, poster stamps used for advertising by stamp dealers, a reversed die proof of a colour chart stamp, key plates of the British Commonwealth classic revenue stamp produced by Forbin, Franco-Prussian War Commune stamps both genuine and forged, various Chocolat stamps, and a personalised stamp of *circa* 1900. Thanks for a magnificent display were given by Chris Hitchen.

MST

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### WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 3 FEBRUARY 2007

**Trevor Buckell: The Stamps of France;**

**Members' Choice**

At this meeting at Harnham our invited speaker, local member Trevor Buckell, gave us a fascinating display of the stamps of France. In the first half he showed the period 1871 to 1876 and in the second 1920 to 1949. This was an excellent presentation of the stamps supported by postal history and a number of very fine pieces.

After our usual lunch at the Old Mill the afternoon session consisted of members' displays as listed below:

**Peter Lawrence:** New Caledonia airmails and stamps;

**Lesley Marley:** letters from Montargis;

**Edwin Rideout:** pneumatic mail;

**George Nash:** WWII military mail;

**Bob Paterson:** recent acquisitions;

**Brian Wood** (on his first visit as a member): prephilatelic mail through the ages;

**Ashley Lawrence:** *SS Normandie*;

**Alan Ketchell:** the River Loire from its source to the sea (part 1) - a thematic journey;

**Ian McQueen:** directional marks;

**Ingrid Swinburn:** the French Revolution - letters and ephemera;

**Alan Wood:** a selection of French colonial material;

**Jeremy Martin:** WWI military mail.

The following also attended: Peter Kelly, Peter Todd, Chris Hitchen, Gavin Fryer, Brian Weeks; visitors: Tony Swinburn and John Lea. The next meeting will take place on 7 July when Mick Bister will display "The life and times of the 1F50 Pétain".

PRAK/AJW

## NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 13 JANUARY 2007

### Members' Choice

Present:: George Barker, Robert Barnes, Steve Ellis, Alan Goude, Bernard Lucas, Anthony Shepherd. Apologies: S & J Holder, P Maybury, M Meadowcroft, A Wood.

With the absence of Peter Maybury, Anthony Shepherd had been cajoled into "doing the business". The meeting opened promptly at 1.30pm, with six members in attendance. The displays, as usual, were of a varied and interesting nature, maintaining the high standard normally associated with the Northern Group's meetings. A brief description follows:

**George Barker:** 24 sheets of Gabon, a comprehensive display of the early adhesive postage stamps on and off cover;

**Robert Barnes:** French military mail, a display of 40 sheets tracing the development of the military mail service

within France and the Empire during the pre- "F.M." overprint period and followed up by a section of the use of the concessionary postage stamps;

**Bernard Lucas:** 18 sheets of French revenues on their original documents, including sale dockets, tax and licence receipts and casino documents;

**Steve Ellis:** a well researched and educational display of 18 sheets of accountancy marks on incoming and outgoing mail during the pre-adhesive period;

**Alan Goude:** 14 sheets of mail from the far flung colony of New Caledonia, including internal letters, pre-paid handstamp marks and covers showing the use of the "Group type" issue.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm. Anthony Shepherd thanked the members for turning up and for their displays.

AS

## SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 13 JANUARY 2007

### The President: Peter Kelly - Aspects of the Maritime Post of Reunion

Peter Kelly opened his display with a potted history of the island, stating that the French claimed the uninhabited island in 1638. It was named Ile de Bourbon in 1649 and renamed Reunion in 1793 (it reverted to Ile de Bourbon between 1810 and 1848). In 1640 it received its first settlers who manned the station for French ships en route to India. The Island has no natural harbour. Reunion was neglected, in favour of Ile de France (Mauritius) until 1810 when it was captured by the British, remaining in their hands for five years.

During the early period there was very little post. The first postal mark, a straight line Ile de Bourbon, was introduced in 1788. The first stamps were introduced in 1852. Early mail was carried privately by ships going around the Cape of Good Hope. Later in the 1840s, when the overland route via Suez was opened, mail was sent via India and Ceylon to connect with the P & O ships.

Examples of the various entry marks and rates applied in France, preferential rates in Reunion on unpaid mail from France and mail sent to Mauritius for connection with ships going to Ceylon for connection with ships going to Europe were shown.

The display continued with examples of mail carried by various packet services, eg General Screw SS Co (1852-1854), Lindsay Line (Falmouth to Calcutta), C<sup>ie</sup> Anglo-Française de Mer Indienne and, of course, P & O. Eventually the French organised the services to Reunion by Messageries Maritimes by creating *Lignes T, U & V* to serve Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and East Africa. These lines became, in 1912, the *Ligne de Réunion à Marseille*.

Colin Spong gave the vote of thanks, saying that it was a pleasure to see Peter again and congratulating him on a very instructive display given in a way that interested the whole audience.

Members present: Michael Annells, Michael Berry, Colin Clarkson, Roy Ferguson, John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen, Bob & Yvonne Larg, George Nash, John Parmenter, Bob Small, Colin Spong, John Yeomans; and Guests: Christine Annells and Pat Spong. Apologies from Bill Mitchell, John Thorpe and Michael Wilson.

The next meeting was arranged for 21 April 2007 when Francis Kiddle RDP, FRPSL will display "Cinderellas of France".

JNH

## STOP PRESS

We are all extremely sorry to learn that our friend and colleague **Stan Luft**, Editor of the *France & Colonies Philatelist*, the journal of our sister society in the United States, has suffered a stroke. We wish him all the very best and hope that he will soon be able to report a full recovery.

As this Journal goes to press, we also learn that our Auction Secretary **Mick Bister** has just been admitted to hospital and is facing the prospect of a heart bypass operation. Our thoughts are with him and with Marian at this difficult time — as they are with **Geoff Gethin** (and Liz) as he continues his recovery from his own major operation.

# TARIFFS AND POSTAL REGULATIONS

[In Journal 240 of June 2006 we published some original documents on the Cochin-China Colonial Post of 1863, as reproduced in the *Bulletin Col.Fra* N° 94, 1st quarter 2001, but translated into English by Maurice Tyler. In the following Bulletin, No 95, 2nd quarter 2001, an erratum was published which affected the table of rates given at the top of Journal 240 page 76, together with a further document from 1863 concerning the postal regulations of the Saigon office. These additions are given below, similarly translated from the original French.]

## Erratum

The colonial post of Cochin-China in 1863: It would seem that in practice the tariffs indicated in section 9 were interpreted rather differently; they were apparently closer to the following:

|                                       | Franked | Unfranked |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Under 10 g up to 10 g inclusive.....  | 0.20    | 0.30      |
| Over 10 g up to 20 g inclusive.....   | 0.40    | 0.60      |
| Over 20 g up to 100 g inclusive.....  | 0.80    | 1.20      |
| Over 100 g up to 200 g inclusive..... | 1.20    | 1.80      |
| Over 200 g up to 300 g inclusive..... | 1.60    | 2.40      |

and so on, adding for each extra 100 grams or fraction of 100 grams 40 centimes if it is franked mail and 60 centimes if unfranked.

[Members of Col.Fra were then asked whether they could confirm these rates or not.]

## Cochin-China Colonial Post Saigon Office

ANNEX TO DECISION N° 117 OF 12 DECEMBER 1863

PROMULGATING IN COCHIN-CHINA THE IMPERIAL DECREE DATED 7 SEPTEMBER 1863

### Basic Information

1 — The Saigon office, open from 7 to 9am and from 3 to 5 pm, accepts ordinary letters, insured letters and printed notices of all kinds for all destinations. It also accepts samples of goods sent to France by the French route.

2 — The table opposite indicates the conditions for franking ordinary letters, as well as the amount of tax to be borne if they are unfranked. The weight of an ordinary letter must not be more than 10 grams. The progressive increase in taxes applies in 10 gram stages.

3 — Insured letters require double the normal postage. No declaration of value is accepted. The loss of an insured letter entitles one to an indemnity of 50 francs.

4 — Newspapers, paperbacks and hard-bound books, catalogues, brochures and various notices are franked at a rate of:

5 centimes from Cochin-China to Cochin-China;

12 centimes to France (English and French routes);

14 centimes to the Establishments of French India, of Madagascar and the island of Reunion to final destination (French route), and to final destination (English and French route) for the countries named in articles 11, 12 and 13 in the table opposite;

14 centimes to the countries named in articles 7 and 8 in the table opposite, but only as far as the port of arrival, and for article 10 as far as the outgoing French frontier;

25 centimes to the American colonies, Senegal, the French Establishment on the Gold Coast and in Gabon to final destination;

25 centimes to the countries named in articles 9, 14 and 15 in the table opposite, but only as far as the port of arrival;

35 centimes to the Marquesas Islands, the Bass Islands and Society Islands, to final destination.

This postage tax is applicable to any packet bearing a private address and weighing less than 40 grams.

5 — Newspapers, paperbacks and hard-bound books, catalogues, brochures and various printed notices coming from abroad, either franked or unfranked by the senders and arriving in Cochin-China, are subject to a supplementary tax of:

2 centimes: printed matter coming from the countries named in articles 9, 11, 12 and 13 in the table opposite;

14 centimes: printed matter coming from the countries named in articles 7, 8 and 10 in the table opposite;

25 centimes: printed matter coming from the countries named in articles 14 and 15 in the table opposite; These supplementary taxes are collected on any packet bearing a private address and weighing less than 40 grams.

6 — Samples of goods, sent to France by the French route exclusively, will be accepted on paying postage at the rate of 12 centimes per 40 grams.

7 — Only colonial stamps will pay the postage on items of correspondence.

8 — Money orders are paid and issued every day, the piastre counting for 5F55 and French currency being accepted at its face value. Money orders, when their amount exceeds 200 francs, are paid at the piastre rate.

9 — On the day when dispatches to France are closed, the reception of insured letters and the sale of postage stamps will stop at 9am. The last collection from the supplementary box takes place 30 minutes before the time arranged for the departure of the mail-boat.

10 — The Saigon postman carries out two deliveries a day: the first from 8 to 9am, the second from 4 to 5pm. Each delivery is preceded by a collection from the supplementary box. Except when mail from France arrives, there is no delivery in the afternoon on Sundays and public holidays.

| <b>TAXES FOR FRANKED AND UNFRANKED LETTERS FROM COCHIN-CHINA TO ALL COUNTRIES</b><br>(The weight of an ordinary letter must not exceed 10 g) |  |                   |                              |                                    |                                      |                |
|--|--|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Route</b>   | <b>Names of countries</b>  | <b>Conditions</b> | <b>Limit of franking</b>     | <b>Ordinary letter<br/>franked</b> | <b>Ordinary letter<br/>unfranked</b> | <b>insured</b> |
|  | 1 – Saigon to Saigon, Saigon to French Cochin-China, provinces to and from each other  | Optional          | Destination                  | 0.10                               | 0.20                                 | 0.20           |
| French   | 2 – France   | “                 | “                            | 0.50                               | 0.60                                 | 1.00           |
| English  | 3 – France   | “                 | “                            | 0.70                               | 0.80                                 | 1.40           |
| French   | 4 – French establishments in India, Madagascar, Reunion  | “                 | “                            | 0.60                               | 0.70                                 | 1.20           |
| French & English   | 5 – French colonies in America, Senegal, Gold Coast & Gabon  | “                 | “                            | 1.40                               | 1.50                                 | 2.80           |
| French, English & Panama   | 6 – Marquesas Islands, Bass Islands, Society Islands   | “                 | “                            | 1.90                               | 2.00                                 | 3.80           |
| French   | 7 – Shanghai, British possessions in Asia  | “                 | “                            | 0.80                               | 0.80                                 | 1.60           |
| French   | 8 – China (apart from Shanghai), Java, Philippines, Borneo, Celebes, Japan, Malacca, Malaysia, Mariana Archipelago, Siam, Sumatra (insured letters not accepted) | Compulsory        | Port of arrival              | 0.80                               | —                                    | —              |
| French   | 9 – Brazil   | Optional          | Destination                  | 1.60                               | 1.60                                 | 3.20           |
| French & English   | 10 – Spain, Portugal & Gibraltar (insured letters not accepted)  | Compulsory        | Outgoing frontiers of France | 0.80                               | —                                    | —              |
| French & English   | 11 – Belgium, Netherlands, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Switzerland, German States, Austrian Empire, Belgrade (Serbia), Kingdom of Italy, Great Britain, & Malta   | Optional          | Destination                  | 1.20                               | 1.20                                 | 2.40           |
| French & English   | 12 – Papal States, Towns in Turkey and Egypt in which there are French or Austrian post offices, Moldavia, Wallachia, Denmark                                    | “                 | “                            | 1.50                               | 1.50                                 | 3.00           |
| French & English   | 13 – Sweden, Norway, Russia, Poland, Kingdom of Greece   | “                 | “                            | 1.60                               | 1.60                                 | 3.20           |
| French & English   | 14 – United States of North America (insured letters not accepted)   | “                 | “                            | 1.60                               | 1.60                                 | —              |
| French & English   | 15 – Overseas countries with no distinct region (insured letters not accepted)   | Compulsory        | Port of arrival              | 1.60                               | —                                    | —              |

# LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

## Cameo: Journal of the West Africa Study Circle

Vol 10 N° 1 2007: Togo Station Cancels (Mayne & Ensor); Cameroun AR Form (Lythgoe); China via W.Africa WW2 - Leopoldville or Lagos? (Wilson).

## Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 118 4<sup>ème</sup> Trim 2006: Les Hexagonaux du Bureau de Mata-Utu [1949-1968] (Zammith); L'Alphabet Morse, Vingt-Cinq et Ferdinand de Lessep (Delpy); Document Politico-Historique [Viet-Nam] (Engles); Les Timbres T.A.G. de Guyane (Deloffre); Tarifs Aériens de Madagascar (Desnos); A.E.F.: Les Surcharges LIBRES et 24-10-40 (Mitchell, Strobel & Drye); Compléments au Hors-Série 10-1 Soudan Français (Kelly); Madagascar: Surtaxes aériennes dans le service postal intérieur (Desnos).

## L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1802 Dec 2006: Sarah Lazarevic, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Musée de La Poste en mouvement (Ben-Moha); Du Musée postal de France au musée de La Poste (Hella); Les Malheurs de LISA (Savre); Du nouveau au niveau des Lisa (Gengembre et Héron); Opération Mousquetaire [II]: les forces maritimes françaises (Liévin); Fausses cartes-maximum de France 1925-1940 [4 & end] (Storch).

N° 1803 Jan 2007: Patrice Mérot, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Les cartes précurseurs de France illustrées [1873-1878] (Storch); Album des timbres de l'année 2006 (-).

N° 1804 Feb 2007: Martin Mörch, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); L'épopée des hélicoptères (Hella); Opération Mousquetaire [III]: les forces maritimes françaises (Liévin); Peter Rapp AG: la mélodie du succès (-); «Mon organisation en philatélie» [an interesting paper on what a collector needs in his hobby] (Augustin); Toute première fois (Geslin); Les cartes précurseurs de France illustrées [1873-1878]: les cartes annonces / les cartes postales privées (Storch); Une carte toute simple (Vivance); Timbre de l'UNESCO: Luang Prabang [Laos] (Drillien); Images à collectionner (-).

## Timbres Magazine

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

N° 74 Dec 2006: La longue marche de Monaco vers l'indépendance politique et philatélique 1<sup>re</sup> partie (Michaud); La Tunisie des années trente 2<sup>e</sup> partie (PJM); Une taxe à rebondissement (de la Mettrie); Du Territoire des Alaouites au Lattaquié: Une occupation française en

Syrie (Moïse); Sabine de Gandon: De curieux triages spéciaux (Rabineau); Un Viêt-nam peut en cacher un autre...(Michaud); La Nièvre [56] Marques postales et oblitérations (Baudot); Du Bureau flottant à l'avion (Prugnon).

N° 73 Jan 2007: Entrée des artistes: Conversation avec Pierre André Cousin (-); Franche-Comté, Le timbre pour qui la hache de guerre fut déterrée (Michaud); De la «Correspondenz-Karte» à «carte postale» (Prugnon); La longue marche de Monaco vers l'indépendance politique et philatélique 2<sup>e</sup> partie (Michaud); Carnets publicitaires Loterie Nationale et autres jeux d'argent (PJM); Marques postales: Quand l'effigie de Napoléon III remplace celle de Léopold (de la Mettrie); Régionalisme: Paris et ses étoiles chiffrées (Baudot); Une taxation particulière (Prugnon); AOF: fraude sur le café (Chauvin).

N° 74 Feb 2007: Les îles «interdites» de la République française (Julien); L'Afrique francophone le nouvel eldorado des collectionneurs? (Melot); Quand la droite est à gauche! [et inversement] 25c Cérès (de la Mettrie); Les flammes disparaissent...mais leur collection ne s'éteindra pas (Michaud); Esprit es-tu là ? [Cartes postales] (Zeyons); Régionalisme: Paris et ses étoiles chiffrées [II] (Baudot); Deux hypothèses pour une taxation (Prugnon); Blocus de Djibouti: le courrier des tirailleurs sénégalais (Chauvin); Le coin des débutants: La variété : cherchez l'erreur (-).

## The Indo-China Philatelist

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## The Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 86 N° 1 Jan-Feb 2007: French Fieldpost from Invaded Holland 1747-1748 (Adema); Gleanings from the French Colonies: Further Thoughts on French Colonial Return Receipt Forms (Grabowski).

## Documents Philatéliques

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## Stamp Lover

Vol 99 N° 1 Feb 2007: French India (Yeomans).

## F&CPS Publications

### “Fakes and Forgeries of 20th Century French Postage Stamps” by Geoff Gethin

We are delighted to report that this book is selling very well, particularly since it has received some very favourable reviews in the philatelic press of France and the USA.

*Timbres Magazine*, for example, describes the colour illustrations as “superb”, and points out how useful the 400% enlargements are for identifying “doubtful” stamps in a collection. *L'Écho de la Timbrologie* emphasises that the book covers not only forged stamps but also forged overprints, booklets and perfins, with errors of accent, perforation and centring, and speaks of an enthralling plunge into the mysteries of forged French stamps.

*The Philatelic Exporter* describes the book as “one of those volumes that you didn’t know you were missing until it appeared, and then wondered why it had not been done before... [You] wonder at the sheer number of items and issues included... Each is treated with a short history of the issue, the reason for its issue, a reason for its attraction to the forger, what to look out for, and then colour pictures of both the genuine and the forged items, the latter also being augmented, either wholly or of the significant area, at 400% magnification. Postmarks where relevant are also illustrated... The whole is a fine A4 paperback, on good quality paper, in colour throughout with 600-odd illustrations.”

Stanley J Luft in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* starts his review with the sentence “This eagerly awaited work was well worth the wait!” He goes on to say “Dr Gethin has given us wonderfully detailed, full color illustrations, nearly all enlarged to a most useful 400 percent.” The review then gives a detailed account of the “delightful ‘must-be-read’

preface”, tells us of Dr Gethin’s advice that making diligent use of his book does not necessarily qualify readers as expertizers - though he (Stan Luft) begs to differ and feels that Geoff is being far too modest. Stan admits to being amazed at such a wide variety of fake French stamps that are illustrated, and says that he was “particularly impressed (and alarmed!) by the many different fakes of, among others, the 1914 Valenciennes Chamber of Commerce provisional, of the pre-World War II precancels, and of the first airmail overprint (just to name a few).” Even in the brief section on WWII forgeries “the enlargements will greatly help novice collectors of this material.” Both philatelic fakes (to defraud collectors) and modern postal forgeries are equally well covered, and the reviewer concludes that “Dr Gethin has made a magnificent contribution to philately, particularly (in my estimation) by his study of faked overprints and surcharges.”

The book has been printed in a limited edition of 300, and potential purchasers should certainly heed the advice given in the last review summarised above to “buy your copy now, before the limited printing is sold out!” For those with Internet access, sample pages and the full contents can be seen on [www.fcps.org.uk/Forgeries%20sample.pdf](http://www.fcps.org.uk/Forgeries%20sample.pdf) - which gives a more accurate representation of the book than the older pages quoted in a couple of the above reviews ([www.fcps.org.uk/Forgeries.htm](http://www.fcps.org.uk/Forgeries.htm)). The book is still available at the price of £40 plus postage and packing: contact Peter Maybury, 18 Courtneys, Wheldrake, York YO19 6BR ([stock@fcps.org.uk](mailto:stock@fcps.org.uk)) to order or to enquire about foreign currency arrangements or PayPal.

### “Table of French Postal Rates 1849 to 2005” by Derek Richardson

This book, also published last year, is of course much more familiar to members as it has now reached its 3rd edition. It, too, has been favourably reviewed in recent months, briefly in *The London Philatelist* and in much more detail in the *France & Colonies Philatelist* (USA). It now has nearly twice the number of pages it contained in its first edition, and Stan Luft in the latter periodical has indicated that it now “uses cleaner and more legible fonts, and the numerous tables are easier to use”. The rate sections have been increased in number and rearranged “for the better”, and now include the “simple tax”, election literature, prices for postal stationery, debt and COD collection, money

transfers, rates to the overseas departments and territories, and postal service for the blind. Foreign rates begin with 1876 and UPU times, and now include mail for the blind, with newspapers, books, maps and music scores being moved from the general section for printed matter. Stan concludes that “for collectors and exhibitors of French covers of the period covered in the tables, this still modest booklet is a must!”

Details for ordering or enquiries are as above, and the book is still available for the modest price of £10 plus postage and packing.

MST

### May 2007 Auction - Selected Lots



Lot 6

1931 Exposition Coloniale issue without name of colony



Lot 90  
Ivory Coast  
Colis Postaux  
forgery



Lot 94  
Morocco 1F  
Sage  
overprinted  
1 peseta &  
SPECIMEN

## May 2007 Auction - Selected Lots



Lot 48 (left)  
Indo-China  
Poste Rurale



Lot 342 (right)  
Ile de Bréhat  
cde and strike



Lot 136 (above)  
Bordeaux Petite Poste



Lot 297 (above)  
3F Fouquet with  
bonnet à pointe variety



Lot 295 (right)  
10c Corsica with  
Provins publicity  
in gutter margin