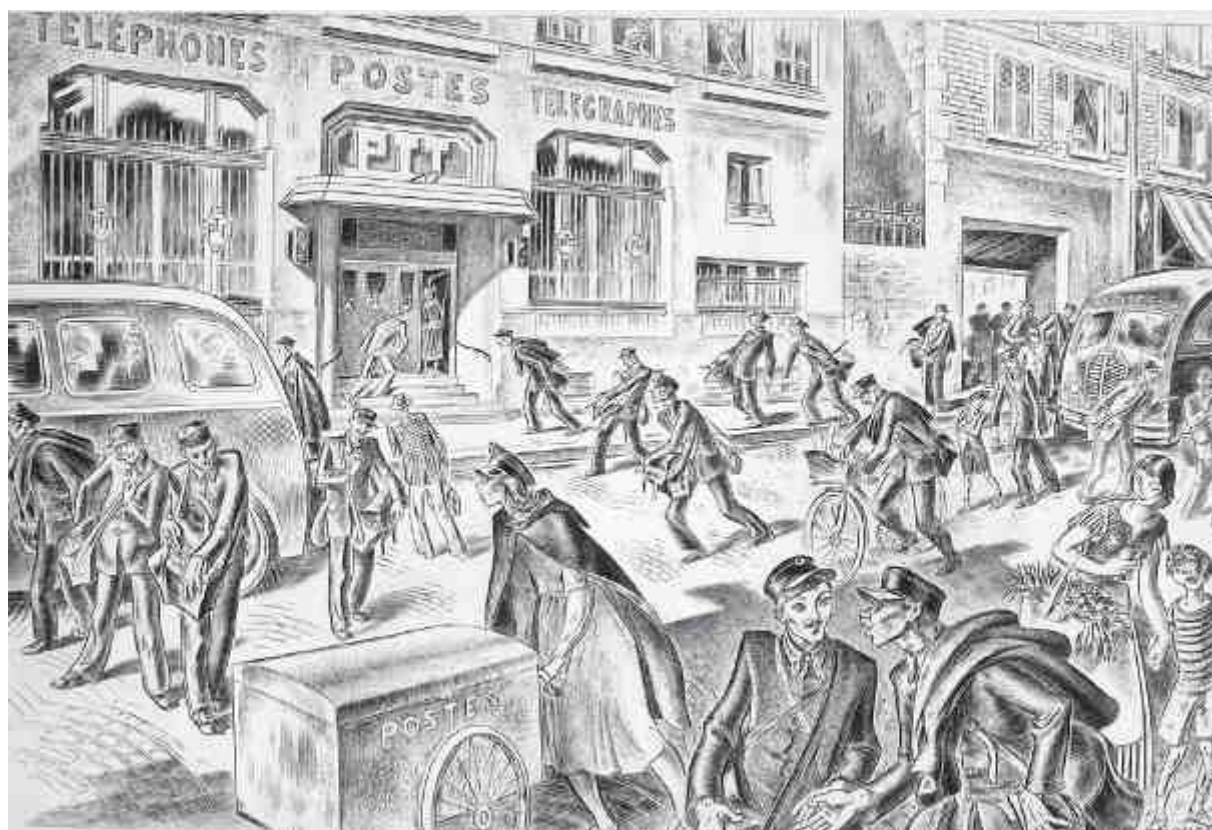


ISSN 0269-5006

# **The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society**



"Town Deliveries" - an engraving by Lemagny  
from Mick Bister's collection of French Post Office engravings  
(much reduced in size)

Volume 57 ● Number 2  
June 2007  
Whole Number 244

# THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

## Officers

President 2007-2008: A J Lawrence, 8 Cleveland Court, Chine Crescent Road, Bournemouth BH2 5LG  
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(email: secretary@fcps.org.uk).  
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## The Society

The Society was founded in 1949 and is affiliated to the ABPS. Its affairs are managed by a Committee comprising President, Officers and Committee members, elected annually.  
All inquiries about and applications for membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, all other correspondence to the General Secretary.

## 2007 and 2008 Annual 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.

## The Journal

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## Auction and Exchange Packet Sales

Lots for sale through the Society auctions, held 2 or 3 times a year, should be sent to the Auction Secretary:  
M L Bister, 7 The Slade, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2ES (email: auction1@fcps.org.uk).  
Please send material for circulation in booklet form to the appropriate Exchange Packet Secretary, viz.  
France: R G E Wood, 51 Longstomps Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9BY (Telephone 01245 267949).  
Colonies: J C West, 5 Highbanks Road, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4AR (Telephone 0208 428 4741).

## The Library

Members are invited to avail themselves of the services of the Society's substantial library, on terms set out in the Library List distributed to all Members.  
Librarian: G E Barker, 520 Halifax Road, Bradford BD6 2LP.

## The Magazine Circuit

The Society subscribes to two French philatelic magazines, and has circuits organised for those who wish to read them.  
For further details contact the circuit organiser:  
D A Pashby, 148 Glengall Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0DS.

## Journal Correspondents

Paris: J M Simmons  
Southern Group: C W Spong  
Northern Group: *to be announced*  
Wessex Group: P R A Kelly / A J Wood  
Scottish Group: Mrs M Pavey

\* \* \*

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

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

# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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**Volume 57 Number 2**

**June 2007 ● Whole No 244**

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## SOCIETY NOTES

### New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1290 J Griffith-Jones (London), 1291 D Scott (Dorset),  
1292 Simon J Gull (Northamptonshire), 1293 James Burney  
(Scottish Borders), 1294 Dr Alfred Bonnici (Malta), 1295  
Henk Slabbinck (Belgium).

\* \* \*

### Members Deceased

We are saddened to hear of the death of the following  
member, and offer his family our sincere condolences:

1093 Professor Barrie S Jay.

\* \* \*

### Resignations

1267 Mrs V Pye, 1108 Rev Bill Mash, 1238 George  
Baker (USA).

\* \* \*

### Exhibition Successes

This photo was taken by Ashley Lawrence at a meeting of  
the Wessex Group, and shows Lesley Marley displaying  
the Vermeil Medal which she won at Washington 2006 for  
her thematic entry "A Whale's Tale".



\* \* \*

### Displays by Members

**Yvonne Larg** showed Monaco to Eastbourne P S on 17  
May 2007.

**John Hammonds** was a guest speaker (on Bohemia and  
Moravia) at the North-East Philatelic Weekend in  
Gateshead 18-20 May 2007.

\* \* \*

### Future Events

On 30 June 2007 the Society will be participating, with  
displays and publicity, in Midpex at the Midlands Sports  
Centre for the Disabled, Cromwell Lane, Tile Hill,  
Coventry.

On 7 July 2007 Mick Bister will be displaying "The Life  
and Times of the 1F50 Pétain" to the Wessex Group at  
Harnham near Salisbury. Interested members should  
contact Peter Kelly or Alan Wood for further details.

\* \* \*

### Society Literature Award 2006

The Society Literature Award for 2006 was judged as  
follows:

1. **André Métayer**: "The Penalty Taxes of 1910 and 1920"
2. **Godfrey Bowden**: "Stamps meeting the Basic Internal  
Letter (*LSI*) rate 1849-1949"
3. **Bill Mitchell**: "Senegal - the 1902 'Letter in Circle'  
Cachets: a new explanation"

The judging panel, convened by Steve Ellis, consisted of  
Michael Anker, Trevor Davis, Bill Mash, Peter Maybury  
and John West.

\* \* \*

### Auction Secretary's Thanks

**Mick Bister** would like to thank all those who sent cards  
and messages during his hospitalisation. The phone calls  
to Marian were also very much appreciated. He considers  
that five weeks of hospital food and ward routine were a  
small price to pay for retrieving good health and a heart  
that's now behaving itself.

The next auction will be a postal one on 3 November 2007  
and lots should be received by him by 30 July at the latest.

\* \* \*

### Updates to Register of Interests

The email address for Michael Anker is now:

ankermike@aol.com

That for John Garton is now:

john.garton@ntlworld.com

And that for Ashley Lawrence should of course read:

ashleylawrence@btinternet.com

\* \* \*

### Scottish Group Programme

15 September 2007	Joint Meeting with Scottish Group of Germany & Colonies P S
6 October 2007	Stephen Holder
? March 2008	Bill Robertson

\* \* \*

**Continued on page 59**



## OBITUARY



### **Barrie Jay, RDP, FRPSL**

We learnt with great sadness of the sudden and quite unexpected death of Barrie on 10 March last. He had been due to attend the Charlecote weekend this year with his charming wife, Marcelle, and his absence leaves a gap in our lives which we will all much regret.

Professionally, Barrie was a consultant surgeon in ophthalmology, holding posts in London hospitals, particularly Moorfields Eye Hospital. He was a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Barbers and of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, of which he became Master in 1995.

He had in the last few years become quite interested in our French postal history topics, and some of his most recent exhibition displays have dealt with "Mail between Britain and Mainland Europe 1793-1815" (Gold: Amphilex 2003 and Bangkok 2003) and other Anglo-French connections. In 2006, he received a Gold medal for his "French Prisoner-of-War Mail 1789-1815".

However, beyond these spheres of activity, his main philatelic reputation rests deservedly on a magnificent series of publications, as a result of his collaboration with the late Martin Willcocks, RDP, the "County Postal History Catalogues of Great Britain" (some five volumes, of which Vol 3, covering London, was almost entirely his own work), and the "Postal History of Great Britain and Ireland". To these he added "Early Forces Mail" [Stuart Rossiter Trust, 1997], which followed his presentation of the inaugural Stuart Rossiter Lecture in 1995 at the National Army Museum.

He joined the Royal Philatelic Society London in 1976 (Fellow, 1986), becoming Hon. Secretary 1992-98, after which he became President 1998-2000. He was a founder member of the GB Philatelic Society, a Fellow of the Society of Postal Historians, and has edited the Postal History Journal (the journal of the Postal History Society) since 1994. He signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2005 at Derby.

We extend our sincere condolences to Marcelle, and to his two sons, in their loss. He will be long remembered, a modest and most distinguished member of our Society, with great affection.

**GEB**

## BOOKSHELF

### Books Noted

**Seine Inférieure - Seine-Maritime: Marques Postales et Oblitérations manuelles des Origines à 2006**, pub. Cercle d'Études Marcophiles et Philatéliques de Normandie; 177 pp; colour; price 29€ + p&p; available from M. Quetel, 106 boulevard Clemenceau, 76600 Le Havre. [Synthesis of *Seine Inférieure - Histoire postale et monographie des origines à 1904* (pub. 1989 by CEMPN) and *Histoire postale et oblitérations de Seine Inférieure puis Maritime du début du XXe siècle au 31 décembre 1990* (by Pierre Fallot), but also revised and brought up to date; deals with the types of marks and cancellations used in *département* 74, later 76, and has illustrations in colour catalogued by office; includes Petite Poste, maritime mail, Air Bleu.]

**Introduction à l'Histoire Postale de 1848 à 1878**, by Michèle Chauvet & Jean-François Brun; 800 A4 pp; 600 illustrations in colour; hardback; price 100€ + p&p; available from Brun & Fils, 85 galerie Beaujolais, Palais Royal, 75001 Paris. [Sequel to earlier volume by Michèle Chauvet in 2002; covers postal reform of 1848, stamps, postal structures, objects of correspondence, collection, franking, cancellation, taxation, forwarding, delivery, *poste restante*, insurance and registration, maritime mail, printed matter, periodicals, military post, the 1870-71 War.]

**Poste rurale Basses-Alpes, arrondissement de Digne**, by R Gregnac-Daudemard; 90 detachable sheets, 145 x 210mm; price 13€; available from author, "Colline", boulevard des Arbousiers, 83120 Sainte-Maxime. [Revised and updated edition of 1977 work; information on rural post in the Digne *cantons*, including 1830 and 1911 censuses, postal

organisation in these *communes* and known handstamp letters.]

**Carnets de France, Catalogue spécialisé, Volume 2**, by Lucien Coutan & Patrick Reynaud; price 99€; available from Écho de la Timbrologie - Bibliothèque, 2 rue de l'Étoile, 80094 Amiens Cedex 3. [Booklets of lined Sower, Joan of Arc and *Femme Fachi* stamps, 1926-1932; covers hundreds of different covers and combinations, and includes manufacturing details and estimates of cost.]

**Cent Ans de Coupons-Réponse en France (1907-2007)**, by André Hurtré; pub. Académie de Philatélie; 270 A4 pp; 249 illustrations, 43 in colour; 16 explanatory tables; price 40€ + p&p; available from Brigitte Abensur, 8 rue des Fossés, 54700 Pont-à-Mousson. [Covers all reply coupons bearing the word "France" wherever they were used and also foreign ones used in France; includes their creation and history, their printing, issue and development, official regulations, specimens and essays, their usage outside France.]

**Encyclo Philatélie**, edited Aude Ben-Moha; 266 pp in colour, 215 x 280mm; price 35€; available from Écho de la Timbrologie - Bibliothèque, 2 rue de l'Étoile, 80094 Amiens Cedex 3. [Philatelic encyclopaedia covering detailed history of postage stamp, including first French issue, wartime mail, French philately; shape, subject and facial value of stamp, its conception and methods of printing; philatelic documents and innovations such as perfume, fluorescence, hologram; practical hints for collecting, research and exhibiting.]

Maurice Tyler

## The Postal Tariffs of Cameroun under French Administration 1916-1959

by Marty Bratzel

224 pages (approx. A4), spiral bound hard copy plus DVD

### Contents

More than 20 years were spent to locate and assemble official background documentation. This definitive publication covers all aspects of the postal tariffs of Cameroun under French administration. Collectors of France and of other territories previously under French administration will also find information useful to their area of interest.

- Introduction and Background
- Detailed tariff tables for each class of mail and service
  - Domestic Tariffs within Cameroun, to France, and within the French Community
  - International Tariffs
  - Air Mail
  - Other Services – declared value, money orders, debt collection, COD, postal orders, reply coupons, and parcel post
- Profusely illustrated
- Fully referenced
- Searchable DVD Appendix – .pdf format – 500+ pages of detailed tariff documentation, reproducing the orders and decrees as originally published in the *Journal officiel du Cameroun*.

### To Order

Available July 2007 from M P Bratzel Jr, 1233 Virginia Avenue, Windsor, Ontario N8S 2Z1, Canada, at a price of \$83 (US) or £45 or 65€ (including global priority airmail), payable in dollar cheques or dollar, pound sterling or euro banknotes. Email: [marty\\_bratzel@yahoo.ca](mailto:marty_bratzel@yahoo.ca)

# The Postage Stamps of the French National Liberation Committee, Algiers, in WWII

Bob Maddocks

The wartime colonial stamp issues in 1943 and 1944 by the French National Liberation Committee, then headquartered in Algiers, are generally overlooked and indeed are not often found used on cover.

The stamps do not carry the name of any colony but were placed on sale in most of those colonies then under Free French control and also in Corsica. The Committee, formed

in June 1943 by Generals De Gaulle and Giraud, had brought together for the first time under one Administration all the various factions of the Free/Fighting French, including the Resistance Forces, wherever operating. The stamps, valid for postage, also carried a surcharge to raise funds for the purpose shown thereon. They are catalogued by Yvert & Tellier under "French Colonies" as follows and are illustrated (Fig 1) from my own collection:



Figure 1

8 mint stamps of the 3 issues by the Comité Français de la Libération Nationale, Algiers, in 1943 and 1944 to raise funds for the Fighting French.



Figure 2

Censored local Yaoundé cover 15.6.44 bearing 10F + 40F stamp "Au Profit des Œuvres de Solidarité Française"

- |       |                                    |              |   |
|-------|------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| 1.    | 1943 "Pour l'Aide aux Combattants" | 2.           | 1943 "Au Profit des Œuvres de Solidarité Française" |
| N° 60 | 0F50 + 4F50                        | N° 66        | 10F + 40F   |
| N° 61 | 1F50 + 8F50                        |              |   |
| N° 62 | 3F + 12F                           |              |   |
| N° 63 | 5F + 15F                           | 3.           | 1944 "L'Entr'aide de l'Aviation"                    |
| N° 64 | 9F + 41F                           | Airmail N° 1 | 10F + 40F   |
| N° 65 | 1F50 + 98F50                       |              |   |





Figure 3  
Censored registered airmail  
cover Bafoussam  
15.1.44 to USA;  
franking includes  
10F + 40F stamp  
"L'Entr'Aide de l'Aviation"

Figure 4  
[reduced 60%]  
Unaddressed  
special  
Cameroun  
philatelic cover  
"Entr'aide de  
L'Aviation"  
(N° 193/500)  
with 10F + 40F  
"L'Entr'Aide"  
stamp cancelled  
Douala 31.12.44  
and with a boxed  
"Journée de  
l'Aviation" cachet  
of same date



In the *Journal Officiel du Cameroun* of 1943 (actual date obscure in my notes) the text of an Algerian *arrêté* dated 26.10.43 was repeated advising that "5 Algerian (*sic*) stamps, 50c, 1F50, 3F, 5F and 9F surcharged at 4F50, 8F50, 12F, 15F and 41F respectively had been issued – 300,000 of each value. All Post Offices under the control of the Comité Français de la Libération Nationale were called upon to sell them. Proceeds of the sales were to be sent to Algiers, less 10% commission. The stamps were to be on sale for six months."

In the same *Journal* under date 1.2.44 there followed a further Algerian *arrêté* of 16.11.43 which cancelled the foregoing. It added, however, that, instead, 6 Algerian

(*sic*) stamps had now been issued: the five as mentioned previously plus one more, 1F50 surcharged 98F50. All proceeds of the surcharges were to be sent to the Comité Exécutif de la Résistance Française. All Post Offices under the authority of the Comité Français de la Libération were called upon to sell these "*figurines*" (*sic*).

The amount of the surcharge was to be sent to Algiers *Postes & Télégraphes* and the amount of franking was to be retained in the selling country. Unsold stamps were to be returned to Algiers. Sales were to be ended on 31.1.44. In the territories, where sold, the stamps had equal franking value to that in Algeria. The stamps were also to be sold in London.





Figure 5

Special AEF philatelic cover (N° 1646/2000) addressed to Governor Félix Éboué bearing a 10F + 40F "L'Entr'Aide de l'Aviation" stamp postmarked Brazzaville 23.12.44 and a special "Journée de l'Entr'Aide de l'Aviation" cachet of same date

A follow-up to this appeared in the *Journal Officiel du Cameroun* of 15.3.44 to the effect that the sale of these stamps had been extended to 31.3.44. I have not come across any of the stamps used in Cameroun, but then perhaps none was since the colony had on 1.12.43 issued its own set of five stamps surcharged "Valmy + 100F", also to raise funds for the French Resistance. So there would have been a surfeit of these stamps and of demands on philatelic pockets.

I have no notes or specific information on the remaining two issues as I probably overlooked any reference made to them in the *JO* of Cameroun. No doubt they were issued in Algiers also, with similar sales instructions. The last, "L'Entr'aide de L'Aviation", arose from the ending in February 1944 of the militarisation of the services of the Compagnie Aéromaritime and the need for funding of the civil aviation authority which was subsequently established.

Use of these two single stamp issues in Cameroun is seen on a cover from Yaoundé postmarked 15 June 1944 and then on one from Bafoussam dated 16 November 1944 (Figs 2 & 3).

Whilst it is noted in Figure 3 that this is the earliest usage of the "Entr'aide" stamp I have encountered, it seems that

Cameroun actually officially marked the "Journée de L'Aviation" on 31 December 1944. On that date a commemorative cover was especially prepared by the Amicale Philatélique du Cameroun. Five hundred such covers were produced. Each had an "Entr'aide" stamp postmarked Douala 31.12.44 and also carried a special appropriate boxed cachet as seen in Fig 4 (reduced 60%).

In French Equatorial Africa however, the *Journée Philatélique de l'Entr'aide-Aviation* was marked in Brazzaville a week earlier, on 23 December 1944, as seen by this philatelically inspired cover (Fig 5) addressed to the then Governor Félix Éboué. It too was a limited edition (2000) and carried a special commemorative cachet with the same date as postmarked.

Finally, as a matter of interest, can anyone please give a translation or an explanation in philatelic terms of the French word "figurine" as mentioned in the above quoted Algerian *arrêté* of November 1943? Does it equate with "cinderella"?

[See Editor's comments under the sub-heading "Definition of figurines" among the Shorter Items, on page 64.]

# LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

## *Bulletin de la COL.FRA*

N° 119 1<sup>er</sup> Trim 2007: Les Hexagonaux du Bureau de Mata-Utu [1949-1968] (Zammith); 971-Guadeloupe [Marcophilie Moderne] (Lavenas); AEF Août 1940-1944 Arrêtés relatifs aux Émissions de Timbres-Poste (Drye); Document Politique, Historique et...Généalogique (Engles et Pennacchotti); Repérés dans les ventes [Pièces Douteuses] Cameroun Français (Cobb); Nouvelle-Calédonie Yvert 65 et 66 (Bessaud); Compléments aux Hors-Série et Ouvrages: Bureaux Postaux Militaires d'Indochine et Enveloppes Dépêches (Bouérat); Haute-Volta (Kelly).

## *Documents Philatéliques*

N° 192 2<sup>ème</sup> Trim 2007: Les lettres avec valeur déclarée affranchies au type Sage dans le régime international (Castanet); La poste maritime entre la France et l'Espagne avant 1876 - Généralités, convention et timbrage (Aracil); Le tarif de 1806 pour les lettres de bureau à bureau (Trinquier).

## *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° 1805 Mar 2007: Pierette Lambert: Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Le Roy...de la philatélie [Érard Le Roy d'Étiolles] (Millet); Opération Mousquetaire [IV]: Poste aux armées (Liévin); Libourne: 40 ans d'un centre courrier bien particulier (Hella); Les Colis postaux des chemins de fer de Paris (Danan); Une exposition deux versions de LISA (Héron et Gengembre); Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban (Durand).

N° 1806 Apr 2007: Stéphanie Ghinea, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); 1927: une bonne année pour la poste aérienne [1/2] (Hella); Raymond Duxin, le magicien: 800 pièces inconnues [1] (Storch); Opération Mousquetaire [V]: les plis comme témoins (Liévin); La culture du riz au Laos (Geay).

N° 1807 May 2007: Abaka Laboratoire: Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); 1927: une bonne année pour la poste aérienne [2/2] (Hella); Raymond Duxin, le magicien: 800 pièces inconnues [2] (Storch); Opération Mousquetaire [VI & end]: la FUNU I [La première Force d'Urgence des Nations Unies] (Liévin).

## *Timbres Magazine*

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

N° 75 Mar 2007: Les îles «interdites» de la République française [2] (Julien); Carnets ex-Colonies: La Tunisie de l'après-guerre [3] (PJM); Quand le Sénégal était français [1] (Michaud); Le rouge et le noir (de la Mettrie); La Poste aux Armées des XVII<sup>e</sup> et XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècles [1] (Baudot); Un peu de mécanotélie (Prugnon); Quel Comité de la Croix-Rouge pour la France Libre? (Chauvin); Le coin des débutants: La variété : cherchez l'erreur [III] (-).

N° 76 Apr 2007: 1961 «Les peintres modernes à travers leurs œuvres» : histoire d'une série d'exception (Melot); Cartes postales du front du Pacifique (Chauvin); St Pierre et Miquelon: Découverte d'une belle variété (MM); Les Timbres «personnalisés»: nouvelle mode des administrations postales — La France: timbres avec vignettes personnalisables [1] (PJM); La France de Vauban (Amiel); Quand le Sénégal était français [2] (Michaud); Le courrier de Lyon (de la Mettrie); La Poste aux Armées des XVII<sup>e</sup> et XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècles [2] (Baudot); La République sur les bords de Loire (Chauvin).

N° 77 May 2007: Entrée des artistes: Nicholas Vial, artiste marin et rêveur (Decaux); Le type «Paix», Un florilège d'affranchissements multiples (Prugnon); René Quillivic, la finesse et la rigueur dans l'art de la gravure (-); Les flammes sur le cinéma de France (PJM); Quand un saint devient...un port! (de la Mettrie); Cartes Postales: Vive L'Expo [4.5 - 25.11.1937] (Zeyons); Les Guerres du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle et leurs marques postales (Baudot); La France au Groenland (Julien); Un timbre de taxe erroné (Prugnon); Madagascar 1945: à pied, en camion et en avion (Chauvin).

## **France & Colonies Philatelist**

Whole N° 287 (Vol 63, N° 1) Jan 2007: Guadeloupe Postal History - Reflections (Grabowski).

## **The Indo-China Philatelist**

Vol 37 N° 2 (Whole N° 177) Mar 2007: Early UPU Specimen Overprints (Bentley); Deluxe Sheets of South Viet-Nam - Part 2 (Dykhouse); Franco-British Military Postal Service Mail Transfer (Bentley).

Vol 37 N° 3 (Whole N° 178) May 2007: Three-Line Found in the Box [Trouvé à la Boîte] Marking (Bentley); Reversed "e" on First Issue of State of Viet-Nam (Aspnes); Post Boxes of Cambodia (Shaw); Advertising with Indochina's Stamps (Bentley).

## **The Collectors Club Philatelist**

Vol 86 N° 3 (May-Jun 2007): On the Hunt for Fournier Forgeries in Geneva (Walske).

# The Post Offices of French West Africa

Bill Mitchell and Laurence Lambert

## PART 4. FRENCH GUINEA (conclusion)

[The introductory section of Part 4 (French Guinea) appeared in Journal 243]

**Table 2 - Dates of Opening, Closure and Transfer**

	Opened	Closed	Transferred	Source
Bagan	June 1948	1950		1
Bagnan	28 June 1949			1
Baladougou (1)	1951			1
Bambaïa	March 1897	16 January 1916		1, 2
	1897	16 January 1916		2
	March 1897	January 1946 (2)		3
	March 1897			4
Baro (3)	June 1949			1
Bensané	January 1899	10 February 1916		1
	1899 (4)	10 February 1916		2
	January 1899	February 1916		3
	January 1899			4
Bentimodia	November 1926	May 1929		1
	(R) 20 May 1930			1
Benty (*)	seen 1886			1, 2
	1886			2, 3, 4
Beyla (5)	19 March 1905			1, 2
	March 1905			3
	1899			4
Bissandougou (#) (6)	[1894]	[late 1896]		1, 2, 6
Bissikrima	May 1911		May 1911 from Toumanéah	1
Bodie	1 December 1952			1
Boffa (*)	seen 1885			1, 2
	1885			2, 3, 4
Bofosso	July 1911	1 December 1916	July 1911 from Diorodougou	1
	July 1911	December 1916		3
	July 1911			4
Boké (*)	seen 1885			1, 2
	1885			2, 4
	1885?			3
Boola (7)	1 October 1951			1
Conakry (*)	seen 1885			1, 2
	1885			2, 3, 4
Conakry R.P. (8)				1
Conakry-Annexe	1949	(1958) (9)		1
Conakry-Banlieue	1 December 1954			1
Conakry-Chèques Postaux (10)	1 January 1928			1
Conakry-Colis-Postaux	(1958) (9)			1
Conakry-Gare	seen 1947			1
Coyah	15 March 1906		15 March 1906 from Manéah	1, 2
	March 1906			3, 4
Dabola (11)	May 1911			1, 3, 4
Dalaba	15 March 1933			1
Diéké	1 December 1952			1
Dingiraye (12)	January 1914			1
	after 1899			4
Diorodougou (13)	1 March 1904	29 July 1911	29 July 1911 (14) to Bofosso	1, 2
	March 1904	about 1912		3, 4
				5



	Opened	Closed	Transferred	Source
Dioumtoun	11 September 1926 (R) 1 January 1930	15 June 1928 1 August 1933		1 1
Ditinn	7 April 1905 (R) December 1952 7 April 1905 1905 April 1905 April 1905	1932  1932 1932 1932		1 1 2 2 3 4
Doko	1 December 1941	1952		1
Dougouguella	1 June 1906  June 1906	5 February 1910 (15)  February 1910 about 1912	5 February 1910 to Guéasso	1, 2 3 5
Dubréka (*)	seen 1886 (R) 20 May 1921 seen 1886 1886	10 September 1920		1 1 2 2, 3, 4
Fandie	1 October 1951			1
Faranah (#)	March 1897			1, 2, 3, 4
Farmoréah	late 1899 1899 1999 (16)			1, 2, 3 2 4
Forécariah (*)	1890 seen 1890 1990 (17)			1, 2, 3 2 4
Fotoba	1 December 1952			1
Fria	June 1958			1
Friguiagbé	March 1897 (R) 1934 (18)	1 June 1905		1, 2 1
Gaoual	19 October 1936		19 October 1936 from Koumbia	1
Gouecké	1 December 1952			1
Guéasso	March 1910  (R) May 1931 25 August 1910 March 1910 (19) March 1910	March 1912  February 1932 March 1912 February 1932 (19)	March 1910 from Dougouguella	1 1 2 3 4
Guéckédou	1920			1
Kaba	March 1897 March 1897 March 1897	March 1912 1915  about 1912		1, 3 2 4 5
Kadé	7 March 1899 7 March 1899 March 1899 March 1899	1920 1916 (20) 1920		1 2 3 4
Kankalabé	1 October 1951			1
Kankan (#)	[1893] after 1899 (21)			1, 2, 3, 6 4
Kankan P.A.R.	1 August 1953			1
Kankéléfa (22)	March 1899	1 June 1905	1 June 1905 to Portuguese Guinea	1, 2
Kaorané	April 1905  April 1905 April 1905 April 1905	December 1921  8 December 1921 1921 December 1921	1 June 1905 from Kankéléfa	1 2 2 3
Kassa - Île de Loos	1 December 1952			1
Kébali	1 October 1951			1
Kérouané (23)	1947			1
Kindia	27 January 1905 January 1905			1, 2 3, 4

	Opened	Closed	Transferred	Source
Kissidougou (24)	26 January 1904 February 1904 January 1904 after 1899			1, 2 2 3 4
Koin	1 January 1927	5 July 1927		1
Komodougou	1 January 1956			1
Konkouré (25)	1 January 1938			1
Koumbia (26)	January 1914	October 1936	October 1936 to Gaoual	1
Koundara	June 1955			1
Kouroussa (#)	[May 1897] [1897] after 1899 (27)			1, 2, 3, 6 2 4
Labé	May 1905			1, 2, 3, 4
La Kolenté (28)	September 1933			1
Linsan (29)	January 1933			1
Lola	1 December 1952			1
Macenta	May 1910 (R) June 1919 May 1910	June 1918		1 1 2, 3, 4
Mali	1 April 1909 (R) 1928 (30) 1909 April 1909	21 June 1916 (30)		1 1 2 3, 4
Mamou	1 August 1908 August 1908			1, 2 3, 4
Mamou P.A.R.	1 July 1955	April 1958		1
Manéah	March 1897  March 1897 1897 March 1897	15 March 1906  1906 15 March 1908 (31)	15 March 1906 to Coyah	1 2, 3 2 4
Maninian (32)	[before 1900]	1902	1902 to Ivory Coast	1
Moussaya	1 October 1951			1
Niagassola (#)	[1884] [1885] [1885]	1920 1920		1 2 6
N'Zérékoré (33)	1920			1
Ouassou	February 1927			1
Pita	October 1909			1, 2, 3, 4
Popodara	1951			1
Sampouyara (34)	1 March 1904 1904 March 1904	27 March 1909 27 May 1908		1, 2 2 3, 4
Saréboïdo	25 March 1955			1
Sérédou	1 December 1952			1
Siguiri (#)	[February 1888] [1888] after 1899 (35)			1, 2, 6 2 4
Souguéta (36)	15 November 1906 (R) 1938 16 November 1906 November 1906	1910		1 1 2 3, 4
Tamara (37)	November 1937 February 1908 February 1908	1941 1941  about 1912		1 3 4 5
Télimélé	May 1914			1
Timbo	March 1897 March 1897 March 1897 March 1897	1 March 1934 1934 March 1934		1 2 3 4
Tokonou	1950			1
Tondon	May 1927	1936		1

	Opened	Closed	Transferred	Source
Tougué	March 1914			1
Toumanéah	1903	March 1911	March 1911 to Bissikrima	1, 2, 3 4
Tugnifili	1950			1
Victoria (*) (38)	1886 seen 1886			1, 2, 3, 4 2
Yambéring (39)	November 1926			1
Yendé-Milimou	1950			1
Yomou	1 January 1950			1
Youkounkoun	9 April 1907 18 April 1907 April 1907 1907			1 2 3 4

(R) indicates a re-opening of the office concerned.

(\*) indicates an office in the old Rivières du Sud.

(#) indicates an office transferred from the French Sudan in 1893 (Faranah) or 1900.

Dates in square brackets represent pre-transfer details.

## Sources

1. C Bouérat — *Guinée Française: Essai de Nomenclature des Bureaux de Poste 1885-1958* (COL.FRA, *Bulletin Hors-série* N° 17—1), Paris 1997. This listing of all offices open during this period, with details of the services provided and dates of opening and closing, is our primary source and is referred to in the Notes which follow as “Bouérat I”. It is the only source to cover the entire period and we have given it definitive status where different dates have been recorded elsewhere.
2. C Bouérat — *Les Débuts du Service des Postes et Télégraphes en Guinée Française (1885-1910)* (Société Internationale d'Histoire Postale, *Bulletin* 28/29, *Spécial Guinée Française*), Grenoble 1974. (“Bouérat II”). It contains three lists of offices – 1885-1899, offices opened between 1903 and 1905, and a cumulative list for 1906-1910 (the final year of the study). This last may include an abbreviated entry, eg for Bambaïa “Mars 1897” becomes simply “1897”. These variants are noted separately.
3. M Melot — *Des Rivières du Sud à la Guinée Française* (Timbroscopie 168), Paris May 1999, pages 76-80.
4. Dallay SARL — *Catalogue de Cotations de Timbres de l'ex-Empire Français d'Afrique 2005-2006*, Paris 2005. This first edition of the Africa volume of the specialised catalogue of the stamps of the French colonies includes details of the post offices open at various significant dates in its listings. For French Guinea they include a rather haphazard record of dates (usually years only) of opening; there are no details of closures.
5. M Langlois & V Bourselet — *Les Oblitérations des Bureaux de Poste des Colonies et Possessions Françaises – Afrique Occidentale Française* (Éditions du Graouli), Paris 1937.
6. R Crombez (editor) — *Essai de Nomenclature des Oblitérations du Soudan Français, Territoires de la Sénégambie et du Niger, Haut-Sénégal et Niger* (COL.FRA, *Bulletin Hors-série* N° 10—1), Paris 2000.

## Notes

- (1) Baladougou. *Point de Distribution*, seen 1914-1920 (as Balandougou – see Table 1).
- (2) Bambaïa. Clearly an error for “1916”.
- (3) Baro. *Bureau Gare*, list of 1920.
- (4) Bensané. “Vannes 1899” in 1885-1899 list – meaning unclear.
- (5) Beyla. *Point de Distribution* 1893.
- (6) Bissandougou. This is something of a mystery. Bouérat I (1997) includes it in his *Nomenclature* with an opening date of 1894 and comments “possibly P [postes] from April 1891” and “French Sudan”. The Crombez *Nomenclature* for French Sudan (source 6) repeats these dates and notes “now part of Guinea” and “No date stamp known”. The earlier Bouérat II (1974), in a section headed “La Province Soudanaise” (territory transferred from French Sudan on 1 January 1900) gives the same opening and closing dates but available facilities only “T” (telegraphs). Did further information come to light between 1974 and 1997?



- (7) Boola. *Point de Distribution*, seen 1900-1901.
- (8) Conakry R.P. See Table 1, Note 11.
- (9) Conakry-Annexe, Conakry Colis-Postaux. Change of name only (see Table 1, Note 12).
- (10) Conakry-Chèques Postaux. See Table 1, Note 14.
- (11) Dabola. *Bureau Gare*, 1910.
- (12) Dinguiraye. *Point de Distribution*, seen 1900-1901.
- (13) Diorodougou. *Point de Distribution*, seen 1900-1901.
- (14) Diorodougou. Closed by *arrêté* of 20 July 1911 and transferred to Bofosso (Decision of 16 July 1911) (Constant Bouérat, notes appended to the COL.FRA reprint of the 1914 *Annuaire*).
- (15) Dougouguella. According to Bouérat (Note 14 above), 5 February 1910 was the date of the decision to close.
- (16) Farmoréah. Clearly an error for “1899”. See also Table 1, Note 21.
- (17) Forécariah. Error for “1890”.
- (18) Friguiagbé. *Bureau Gare* 1921, but in list of 1920!
- (19) Guéasso. This office was closed between 1912 and 1931 (Bouérat I)!
- (20) Kadé. Down-graded to *Agence Postale*, 1916. See also Table 1, Note 25.
- (21) Kankan. This date may reflect the fact that Kankan was transferred from French Sudan in 1900. It does not, however, appear in the list of Sudan post offices, 1894-1902 (in Dallay).
- (22) Kankéléfa. Postal services were transferred to Kaorane (opened April 1905) on cession to Portugal on 1 June 1905 (Bouérat I).
- (23) Kérouané. *Point de Distribution* 1893.
- (24) Kissidougou. *Point de Distribution* 25 March 1893.
- (25) Konkouré. *Bureau Gare* 1930.
- (26) Koumbia. Opened by *arrêté* of 22 January 1914 (Bouérat, comments on 1914 *Annuaire* (see Note 14)).
- (27) Kouroussa. Note 21 above applies equally here.
- (28) La Kolenté. *Bureau Gare* 1925.
- (29) Linsan. *Bureau Gare*, list of 1920.
- (30) Mali. Intermittent service, 1916-1927.
- (31) Manéah. Apparently an error for “1906”.
- (32) Maninian. See Table 1, Note 32.
- (33) N’Zérékoré. *Point de Distribution*, seen 1914-1920.
- (34) Sampouyara. *Point de Distribution*, seen 1900-1901. It will be noted that two different dates for closure (27 March 1909 and 27 May 1908) are given in Bouérat II. As the later date is repeated in Bouérat I the earlier is presumed to be an error.
- (35) Siguiri. Note 21 applies here also except that Siguiri does appear in the list of Sudan post offices, 1894-1902.
- (36) Souguéta. *Bureau Gare*, list of 1920.
- (37) Tamara. Bouérat I shows that a *Bureau Electro-Sémaphorique* was opened in February 1908 and a *Poste Radio* in 1915; postal and telegraph facilities were available from November 1937 until 1941. Bouérat II records “*Bureau Electro-Séma-Phorique: arrêté du 7 Mars 1908*”. Apparently a misunderstanding of the facilities opened in 1908 on the part of the writer/editor of sources 3 and 4. The entry in Langlois & Bourselet (source 5) seems to be an error – probably it was intended for Souguéta which appears immediately above.
- (38) Victoria. Bouérat II records (list for 1885-1899) “seen 1886” and (list for 1906-1910) “2886” – an obvious mis-type for “1886”, which is the date given in this list for postal services (parcels were added in 1895).
- (39) Yainbéring. Intermittent service, 1928-1948.

### Table 3 – Alternative Spellings

We have noted the following variant spellings, a few of which, as noted below, may be found on cancellations. Unfortunately we have no up-to-date printed catalogue of French Guinea cancels – Langlois & Bourselet (L&B) illustrate only types; otherwise we have only the unpublished catalogue prepared by M. Venot, whose illustrations almost always are without dater blocks. Most of the other variants are probably unnoticed compilers' or printers' errors, although as noted in Table 1 some alternative spellings and even names are recorded in Bouérat I.

Baladougou	BALANDOUGOU (Bouérat I).
Bagnan	BANIAN (illustrated by Venot as a separate office; noted in Bouérat I as an alternative name – we have no other record as a separate office).
Boffa	BOFFLA (1895 <i>Dictionnaire</i> ).
Boké	BAKE (1888 source).
Conakry	KONAKRY (illustrated by L&B and Venot; noted by Bouérat I and Dallay). CONACRY (illustrated by Venot; also L&B and Dallay).
Diéké	DIECKHE (Bouérat I). DIECKE (Venot).
Diountoun	DIOUNTOU (Bouérat I).
Ditinn	DITIAN (Dallay).
Dougouguella	DOUGOU-GUELLA (L&B, 1914 <i>Annuaire</i> and Venot – who writes “ <i>cachet inconnu</i> ”).
Farmoréah	PHARMOREAH (illustrated by Venot; noted in Bouérat I, L&B, Melot (Table 2, source 3)). PHARMOREA (L&B), PHAMOREA (illustrated by Venot; also L&B). FAMOREAH (illustrated by Venot).
Guéasso	GUESSO (Bouérat II).
Kadé	KA-DE (illustrated by Venot).
Kaorané	KOARANE (L&B).
Kindia	KNIDIA (illustrated by Venot; also L&B and Dallay – who describes this as an error).
Kissidougou	KISSIDOPUGOU (1914 <i>Annuaire</i> ).
Mamou	MANOU (Bouérat II).
Sérédou	SERENOU (Venot – who writes “ <i>cachet inconnu</i> ”).
Siguiri	SEGUIRI (illustrated by Venot and in Sudan <i>Nomenclature</i> (Table 2, source 6); also in Dallay under Sudan).
Souguéta	SOUGUETTA (1914 <i>Annuaire</i> ).
Tougué	TOUGOUE (illustrated by Venot as a separate office – possibly a drafting slip).
Toumanéah	TOUMANEA (illustrated by Venot; also L&B and Dallay).

[The next article in this series will deal with the post offices of French Sudan.]

### Charles Blomefield

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## SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Anglo-French Occupation of Togo

Within my Anglo-French Occupation of Togo collection I hold an unstamped cover endorsed 'F.M.' from Lieutenant Despeyroux to his family at 4 rue Bretonnerie, Blois (Loir et Cher) (Fig 1). Posted at Sokodé, 200 miles north of Anécho, it bears the German SOKODE cancel of 16.7.1916. Instead of being routed via Anécho and Dahomey for collection by Chargeurs Réunis at Cotonou, it passed via

Atakpamé (French post office) 18.7 to Lomé 20.7, where it was censored by the British and routed via Accra, Gold Coast, 26.7, then travelling almost certainly to England for France before arriving at Blois on 16.8.1916. There are no other backstamps. Other mail from the writer at Sokodé is known, although this is franked by unover-printed Dahomey issues.



Figure 1 - front and back of the cover



**RÉCÉPISSÉ** (Lettre recommandée / À remettre au déposant)  
 (Échantillons, imprimés, papiers, cartes, etc.)  
 à conserver et classer dans un album spécial.

POSTES ET TÉLÉGRAPHES

Nom et adresse du destinataire: *M. le Directeur du Crédit Lyonnais*  
 (Partie à remplir par l'expéditeur.)  
 à: *Belfort*

Nature de l'objet: *Lettre Recommandée*

Remboursement (2): *1*

1. Colleez cet état-partie (échantillon extraite du 510)  
 2. Si l'objet n'est pas grevé de remboursement, l'agent des Postes en fera l'application par deux fois (traités à l'encre).

Aucune nature ni surcharge n'est admise.

Signature: *J. Despeyroux*

Postmark: **SOKODÉ** 22.7.16

Figure 2 - receipt form from Sokodé

**RÉCÉPISSÉ** (Lettre recommandée / À remettre au déposant)  
 (Échantillons, imprimés, papiers, cartes, etc.)  
 à conserver et classer dans un album spécial.

POSTES ET TÉLÉGRAPHES

Nom et adresse du destinataire: *Mme Despeyroux*  
 (Partie à remplir par l'expéditeur.)  
 à: *Bretegnierie*

Nature de l'objet: *Lettre et chèque*

Remboursement (2): *1*

1. Colleez cet état-partie (échantillon extraite du 510)  
 2. Si l'objet n'est pas grevé de remboursement, l'agent des Postes en fera l'application par deux fois (traités à l'encre).

Aucune nature ni surcharge n'est admise.

Signature: *J. Despeyroux*

Postmark: **ANÉCHO** 29.7.16

Figure 3 - receipt form from Anécho

Figure 2 is a receipt for registered letter n° 91 from Sokodé 22.7.1916 to Crédit Lyonnais, Belfort. Presumably the contents were of value, hence the service used. This (pink) form is unknown to me and it would be a great help to establish whether it is a standard 'France' or French Colonial form, or both. I cannot think it was used solely in French occupied Togo.

Figure 3 is a second example of the form, with the German ANECHO cancel 29.7.1916, a week later. The journey time from Sokodé to Anécho would certainly be about a week. I cannot decipher the 'nature de l'objet' [It seems to

me to be the abbreviation "lr" which presumably could stand for the "lettre recommandée" that appeared on the first form? - Ed.] and wonder if on this occasion the form was used as a certificate of posting is today in England. Whatever the item was, it was sent to Madame Despeyroux!

Invariably tempted to jump to conclusions and adding 2 and 2 together to make 6, with all three items acquired though at different times from the same source, I conclude that the registered letter from Sokodé was sent by Lt Despeyroux ahead of his departure or transfer from Sokodé to Anécho, where he later posted a second letter home.

John Mayne

## British *Porte-Timbres*

Great Britain has had *porte-timbres*, just like her neighbouring countries, although very early on the use of them was prohibited. Arthur Maury in his *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-poste* of 1 October 1908 (page 305) comments:

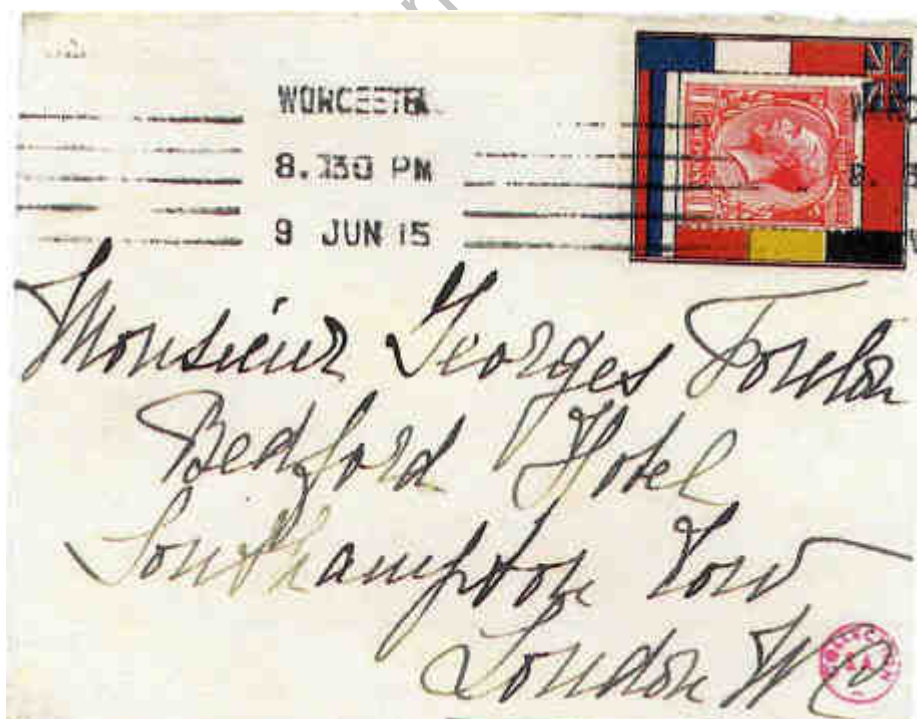
“... We remind readers that it is in their interest to avoid using these publicity stamps [*timbres-réclame*] (stamp

carriers) [(*porte-timbres*)] for international correspondence; in Germany and in Britain; in fact, letters franked in this way are not accepted by the postal service.”

However, some postcards with *porte-timbres* have been delivered in London despite this ban, as the following postcard shows.



This ban in Britain was not a total one, as they reappeared in the years 1910-1920. An example is this Allies' War Stamp, copied from the one issued in France.



This letter bearing a *porte-timbre* was sent from Worcester to London WC on 9 June 1915.

(ex collection of S Agendreau)





The full colour version of the *Timbre des Alliés* porte-timbre shown on the previous page is here used in France, on a letter dated 3 June 1915 sent from *Secteur Postal* 5 to Toulouse (Haute-Garonne).

This letter bearing a British *porte-timbre* was sent on 25 April 1920 from Sheffield to Paris.

(ex collection of S Augendre)



The British *porte-timbres* seem to be very rare. As a specialist collector of the *porte-timbres* of France and the countries on her borders, I am seeking further details about the

decision by the British Post Office to ban the use of *porte-timbres*, as well as seeking examples of British *porte-timbres*, if possible on documents.

André Métayer  
(trans. Maurice Tyler)

[See the report on André Métayer's display at Charlecote, on page 73 of this Journal.]



## Taxed Tunisian Postcard



This underpaid card (shown on the Friday night at Charlecote) sent from Switzerland to Tunis appears to have been taxed in the first months after independence from France with a 15F postage stamp issued during the prior Autonomous State period. One jumps to the conclusion that there may have been a shortage of postage due stamps and that stamps of the previous regime were used, to dispose of the remaining stock, until 1957 when the first postage dues of the independent state were issued, as the recipient's son tells me was common practice. I have not discovered any

other reference to such a procedure and wonder whether anyone else knows whether this was normal during this period.

I obtained this card as part of an exchange deal for a Tunisian booklet (recently referred to in the January edition of *Timbres*) with a certain Monsieur Maarek who is a specialist in French Colonial booklets etc. He would buy or exchange such booklets that interested him and wonders if his requirements might be made public via our Journal, his e-mail address is: [colisee@noos.fr](mailto:colisee@noos.fr).

Godfrey Bowden

## French Training Camps in Kenya

In the last issue, Journal 243 of March 2007, I published (on page 19) a query paper on the French Training Camps in Kenya.

Since then I have acquired from the "John Daynes" auction one other cover, numbered "9", addressed to Mrs Haas from her husband.

Colin Spong

## SOCIETY NOTES

### Continued from page 42

#### Southern Group Programme

- 11 Aug 2007 10.30 Members' Displays of French Definitives
- 14.00 Trevor Buckell: Cérès & 1920-40 Definitives
- 20 Oct 2007 Ray Downing: Marianne de Dulac
- 12 Jan 2008 Members' Displays
- 12 Apr 2008 John West: French Red Cross

Meetings at the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, East Worthing, 14.00-17.00 (except August). Contact the Organiser Colin Spong on 01903 709404.

\* \* \*

#### Northern Group Programme

- 20 Oct 2007 All Day Meeting in North-West  
Details to be published later
- 8 Dec 2007 Members' Choice
- 29 Mar 2008 George Barker: Gaboon
- 12 Jul 2008 "Bastille Day" at Heaton Royds

Meetings in the meeting room at the Barn, Heaton Royds, Bradford BD9 6SH, 14.00-17.00 (except the Bastille Day meeting - details to follow from Stephen & Judith Holder), and the North-West meeting in the Village Hall, Adlington, Cheshire.

\* \* \*

## Red Star Mark on 35c Sage Stamp

This letter to Venezuela from Bordeaux via Pauillac (also shown at Charlecote) bears a 35c Sage which has been defaced with a star shape in red crayon.

Was this a child's doodle, or might it have any significance? The cover is illustrated together with an enlarged copy of the crayon mark.



Godfrey Bowden

## French Sudan 1940 Airmail Stamps



↑  
The "dropping bomb" variety

In preparing a short display to the Northern Group, I took a careful look at the French Sudan 1940 airmail stamps. I was surprised with what I found.

The stamps were recess printed in Paris by the Institut de Gravure and formed a "key" plate for certain French colonial territories. I found that I had each of the 5 values in marginal blocks of 4. The decorative side margins are

most ornate, for they have the initials of the printers, IDG, intertwined in a panel running vertically.

Three of these blocks of stamps had the ornate side margin and a plain bottom margin, both margins being perforated through, so they came from the same position at the bottom right hand corner of the sheet. These 3 values are 1F90, 4F50 and 6F90, and the bottom right hand stamp on each



block has a variety where, in the lower text panel, the dot is missing from the end!

The 2F90 block comes from the top left hand corner of the sheet and I found on stamps 1 and 2 a coloured doctor blade flaw running horizontally through the left ornate margin and thence through the lower text tablet.

A further flaw was found on the bottom right hand stamp of the block of the 4F50. Here there is a large coloured dot just below the aircraft, which gives the impression that it was dropping a bomb on the poor unsuspecting natives.

One final point, the values of the 5 stamps do not seem to bear any resemblance to real postal rates! The values are: 1F90, 2F90, 4F50, 4F90 and 6F90, yet the most popular rates at the time were:

	To France	To UPU Countries
Letter up to 20g 1 Dec 1939 to 1 Jan 1942	1F	2F50
Airmail supplement up to 5g 1 Sep 1938 to 2 Apr 1941	2F50	2F50

Richard Wheatley

## Marianne de Gandon 'à la bretelle' Variety



The complete pane of 25 x 100F Marianne de Gandon missing one corner stamp that is illustrated on the previous page was another item shown informally at Charlecote.

It was bought at auction assuming that the variety “à la bretelle” would be included, as most references I had access to (Dallay, an article in “Écho” 3/95 and Wanos de Belleville’s book on the varieties of France 1900-1949) stated that the variety was to be found in position 22. The illustration shows the sheet with the three credible positions

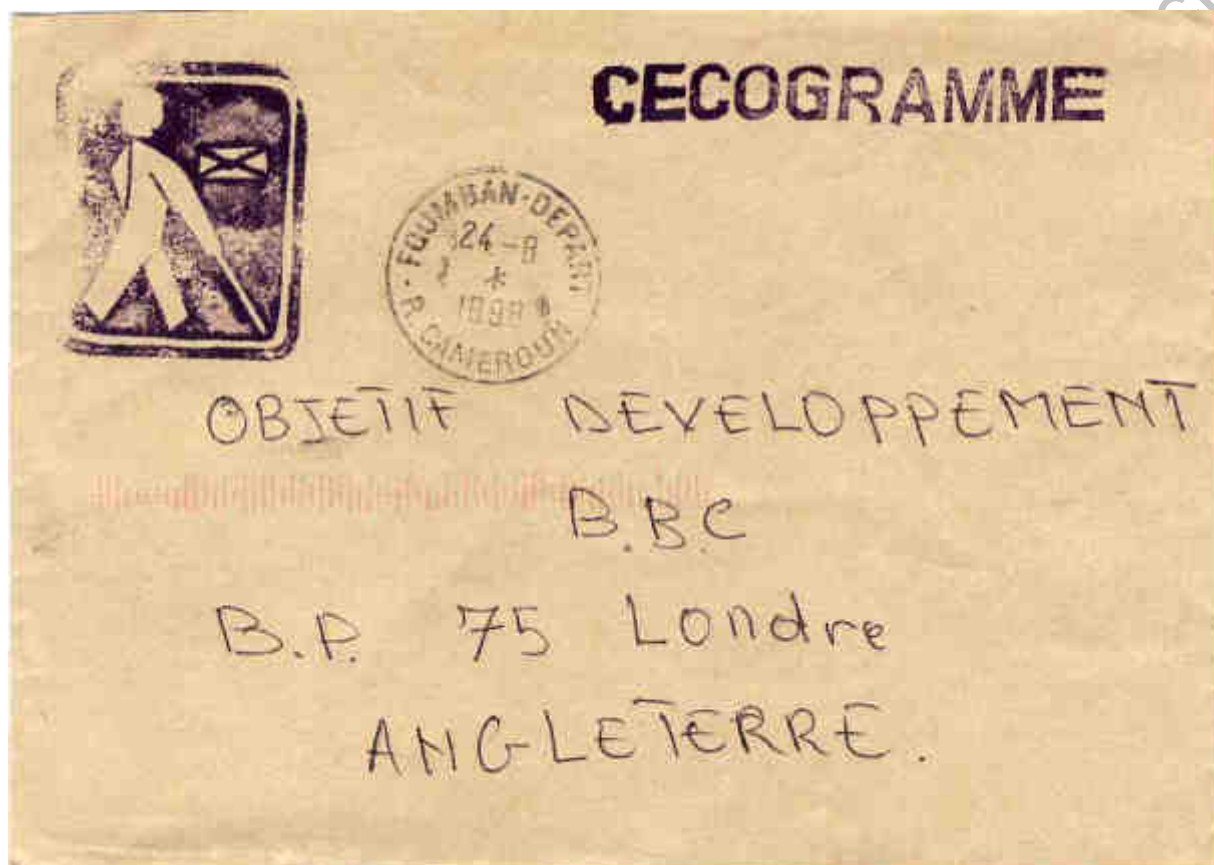
for position 22 marked with an ‘X’. None of these stamps shows the variety.

The reference in the Marianne catalogue of 1984-1985 states that the variety is to be found “au coin” and my feeling is that the missing stamp would have been that variety. So my conclusion is that it is to be found in the corner – unless it was discovered during the printing run and the error retouched. Has anyone any evidence that proves the suppositions one way or the other?

Godfrey Bowden

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## Cécogrammes in Cameroun



I have become a member of your Society just recently. I followed the exchange of information on the *cécogrammes* for the blind in recent Journals and thought I could add some flesh to the bone.

Attached you will find a scan of a Cameroonian *cécogramme* of 1998 sent for free to London. It shows that like France

they use *cécogrammes* even for foreign destinations for free and that they too use a handstamp of a man with a white stick as in France. I hope this will be of interest to our members.

In future I hope to report to you on the introduction of new postmarks in French West Africa.

Marc Parren

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## A Philatelic Poem

I recently came across this poem by Robert Service and thought it might be of some amusement to our readers. It comes from a collection of his famous ballads, “The Best of Robert Service”, first put together in a single volume in Great Britain in 1978 and published by Ernst Benn Ltd.

Robert Service was born in Lancashire in 1874, and after completing his education he emigrated to Canada. There he worked in a bank in the Yukon in the Gold Rush years.

He rose to fame, however, through writing many ballads of the life and people of those times. One of the most popular was “The Shooting of Dan McGrew”.

After some 8 years he returned to Europe to become a journalist in Paris, and then served as an ambulance driver in WWI. He remained in France until his death in 1958 – hence the “Stamp Collector” and poor Monsieur Pons!

Bob Maddocks



**STAMP COLLECTOR by Robert Service**

My worldly wealth I hoard in albums three,  
 My life collection of rare postage stamps;  
 My room is cold and bare as you can see,  
 My coat is old and shabby as a tramp's;  
 Yet more to me than balances in banks,  
 My albums three are worth a million francs.

I keep them in that box beside my bed,  
 For who would dream such treasures it could hold;  
 But every day I take them out and spread  
 Each page, to gloat like miser o'er his gold:  
 Dearer to me than could be child or wife,  
 I would defend them with my very life.

They *are* my very life, for every night  
 Over my catalogues I pore and pore;  
 I recognize rare items with delight,  
 Nothing I read but philatelic lore;  
 And when some specimen of choice I buy,  
 In all the world there's none more glad than I.

Behold my gem, my British penny black;  
 To pay its price I starved myself a year;  
 And many a night my dinner I would lack,  
 But when I bought it, oh, what radiant cheer!  
 Hitler made war that day—I did not care,  
 So long as my collection he would spare.

Look — my triangular Cape of Good Hope.  
 To purchase it I had to sell my car.  
 Now in my pocket for some *sous* I grope  
 To pay my omnibus when home is far,  
 And I am cold and hungry and footsore,  
 In haste to add some beauty to my store.

This very day, ah, what a joy was mine,  
 When in a dingy dealer's shop I found  
 This *franc* vermillion, eighteen forty-nine..  
 How painfully my heart began to pound!  
 (It's weak, they say) I paid the modest price  
 And tremblingly I vanished in a trice.

But oh, my dream is that some day of days,  
 I might discover a Mauritius blue,  
 Poking among the stamp-bins of the *quais*;  
 Who knows! They say there are but two;  
 Yet if a third one I should ever spy,  
 I think — God help me! I should faint and die.

*Poor Monsieur Pons, he's cold and dead,  
 One of those stamp-collecting cranks.  
 His garret held no crust of bread,  
 But albums worth a million francs.  
 On them his income he would spend,  
 By philatelic frenzy driven:  
 What did it profit in the end.  
 You can't take stamps to Heaven.*

**Jeu de Barres**

Maurice Tyler's comments on Bob Larg's "military" postcard in Journal 241 (page 82) reminded me of Gilberte Swann playing at "*barres*" on the Champs-Élysées ("*Barres*" is one of those words I've been intending to look up for donkeys' years). Although the explanation did indeed throw some light on the game I nonetheless had some difficulty in imagining Mlle. Swann and her friends playing at what was presumably a fairly rough exercise for grown men.

Thanks to my ten year old grandson I had access to the Internet recently, and under the heading "*Jeu de Barres*" discovered that it was a medieval team game played in France between the thirteenth and nineteenth centuries. The term "*barre*" first appeared in 1300 in a text by Jean de Garlande - referring to it as a "sort of game" peculiar to the French. This fairly brutal game is played with two teams of between six (minimum) and ten (maximum) players. So says Jean-Michel Meynes in "*Les Jeux au Royaume de France du XIII<sup>e</sup> au XVI<sup>e</sup> siècles*", Fayard, Paris 1990.

Another site gives the rules (in brief perhaps) of what is probably a softer version of the game for children. The aim of the game is to make an agreed number of prisoners. Each team has a different coloured shirt.

1. At the start of the game both teams are in their respective camps or bases. The toss of a coin decides which team

begins. One player from this team "gives some soup" (I am not really sure what "*donner de la soupe*" means, though *la soupe* can be military slang for food or a meal) to an opponent and provokes him by slapping the palm of his hand three times and saying, at the same time, "*barre, baron, barette*". At the third slap the attacking player runs away, pursued by his opponent. The latter "has the advantage" over the former and thus tries to touch and make a prisoner of him (*avoir barre sur quelqu'un* means to have the advantage or power over someone; in the present context I take it to mean that each successive player who leaves his base is the only one with the power to catch an opponent).

2. Capture: Any player who leaves his base for no-man's land has the "advantage" over all the players who have left their base. If and when he touches an opponent he shouts "*pris*" and accompanies him to the base where he joins the chain of prisoners (I gather that the prisoners do in fact hold hands and thus form a chain). Only one prisoner can be taken at a time.

3. Release of prisoners: A player can free all his partners by touching one of them. The game then comes to a halt. All the players return to their base except for the unreleased prisoners. The player who freed his companions restarts the game by provoking an opponent of his choice. If the chain of prisoners is broken no-one can be released.

**John Simmons**

## Definition of 'figurines'

At the end of his article on pages 45-47 of this Journal Bob Maddocks asks for a translation or explanation in philatelic terms of the French word 'figurine' as mentioned in an Algerian *arrêté* of 1943, and whether it equates to the English 'cinderella'.

As far as the term "figurines" is concerned, my understanding is that it is the generic term for both stamps (*timbres*) and (non-postal) labels (*vignettes*). This interpretation is supported by a paragraph I came across in a fairly recent page from *L'Écho de la Timbrologie*, in a review of the *Catalogue de cotation des figurines et marques de grève de France*. The paragraph indicated that the word

*figurines de grève* comprised all these strike productions, both those that corresponded to a genuine transport service and therefore deserved the name of *timbres*, and others that were mere *vignettes*. In this context official postage stamps were not included, but I imagine these could also be described as *figurines*.

My own personal translation of "cinderellas" in a philatelic sense would be *vignettes non-postales*. There is obviously a certain fluidity and vagueness of meaning when these three terms are used, just as there is with the English "stamps", "labels" and "figurines". Would any of our French members care to comment further?

Maurice Tyler

## Benin – Postal use of military telegraph date stamps



Bill Mitchell's article on these scarce handstamps (in Journal 242, page 135) is of considerable value in bringing together and summarising what is known about them, much of it long out of print.

I have made some studies on Upper Dahomey in its role as a conduit for mail passing from eastern Sudan and the

military territories of Niger and have come across these marks from time to time.

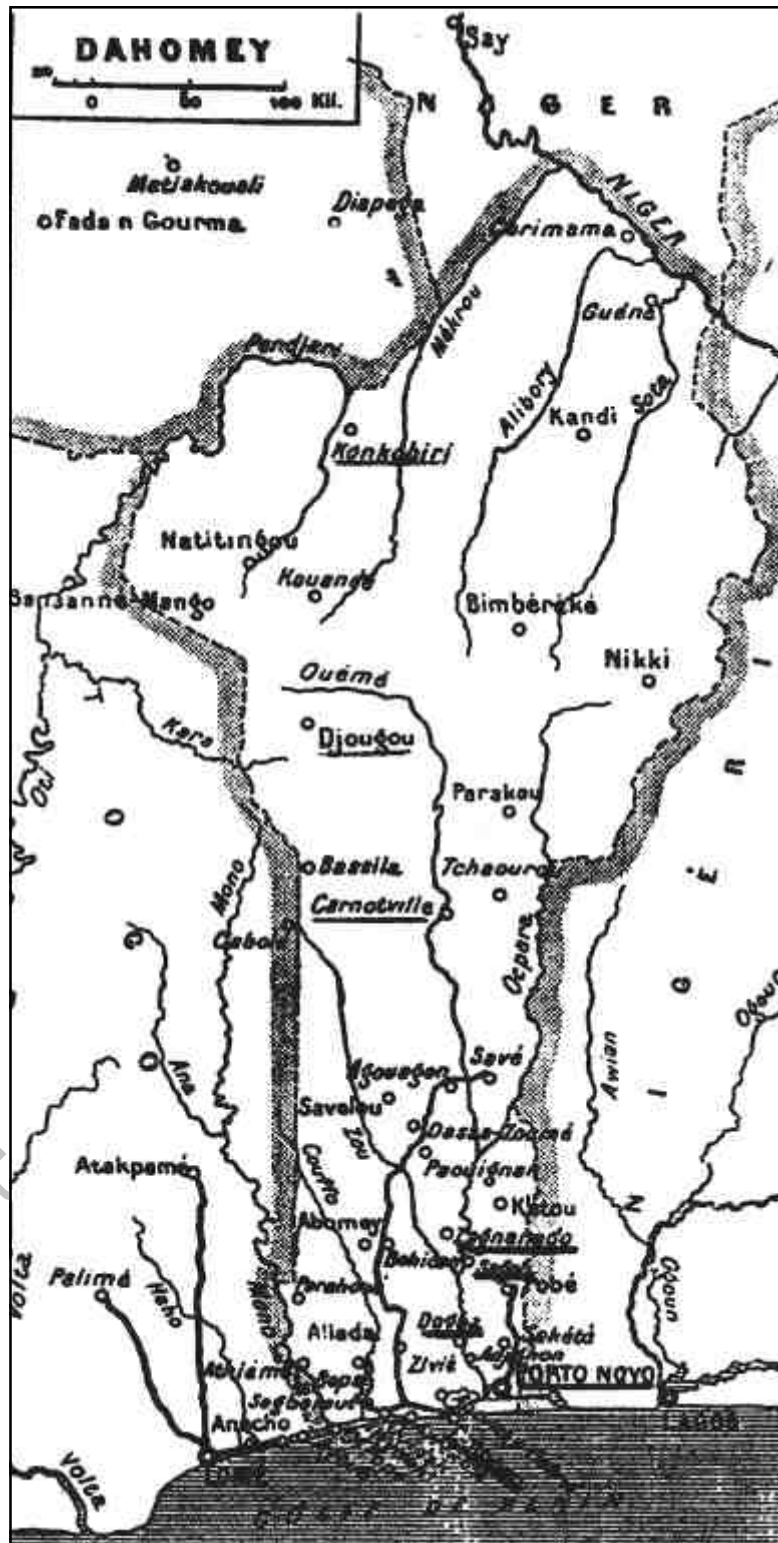
I can confirm that Post N° 2 was definitely based at Konkobiri in March 1899, and attach a copy of a letter card supporting this dated 19 March which extends the earliest date quoted by Tristant of 23.5.1899. This item bears the

cancellation of the Konkobiri office with the military telegraph stamp alongside. The contents show the card to be dated from Konkobiri on 19 March and the writer's comments about the locality are far from favourable:

"I am now in Konkobiri, Upper Dahomey, and very close to the Sudan border. This is an awful place

and I can't wait for my stay here to end so that I can put up my tent again in Algeria."

The transit marks show the route taken by the letter on its journey on foot and by pirogue to the coast at Porto Novo which took 22 days.



Peter Kelly



## The Ecological Counter Booklet



Most members will be familiar with the “counter booklet” which was first issued during the long reign (1.8.85-10.1.90) of the 2F20 Liberté de Gandon.

Since that period the only major change, until January this year, has been the introduction of self-adhesive stamps, which were only available in booklet form. The first of these was the 2F30 Marianne de Briat which was issued on 31.12.89.\*

Self-adhesive stamps proved to be an immediate success with the general public, some of whom, because the stamps had die-cut straight line “perforations”, became amateur forgers. The only requirements were discreet access to a colour photocopying machine and a reasonably steady hand with a pair of scissors. At least one of these criminals, to

my certain knowledge, also had access to self-adhesive photocopying paper, but even he was foxed by the phosphorescent bands.

All good things come to an end however – but nonetheless it was only in April 1994, more than four years later, that La Poste solved the problem with the issue of a Briat TVP booklet which had vertical die-cut zigzag “perforations”.

From then on nothing untoward seems to have affected the counter booklet’s career: the RGR2 press prints nothing else. In line with current policy the number of booklets (covers) issued annually has noticeably increased. They usually advertise philatelic issues or events with which La Poste is closely associated.



\* Ironically the Briat *Marianne du Bicentenaire* was issued to celebrate the Bicentenary of the Revolution, but it only managed to do so by the skin of its teeth thanks to the self-adhesive booklet.





John Simmons

## A postcard from the Belgian Congo via French Congo and the Sudan to France

I was interested to read the article on this topic by Robert Johnson (with information from Richard Stock) published in Journal 241 (page 79). It is difficult to find a logical

reason for the amazing route taken by this card which does not appear to have a precedent. The only information I can add is:

Journal officiel du 1 <sup>er</sup> septembre 1900.		
Service du courrier vers l'Oubangui		
Un service général de courrier bimensuel est organisé par le délégué du Commissaire Général dans le Haut-Oubangui entre Semio et Bangui desservant la région du Chari par Fort de Possel (Kémo).		
Les dates de départ et d'arrivée aux points extrêmes et aux points intermédiaires, où le service postal est établi sont fixés dans le tableau ci-annexé.		
	ALLER	RETOUR
SEMIO	8 et 23 de chaque mois	7 et 22 arrivée.
RAFAÏ	13 et 28	3 et 18
BANGOSSOU	19 et 4	27 et 12
ODANGO	22 et 7	24 et 9
MOBAYE	25 et 10 arrivée	19 et 4 départ
MOBAYE	28 et 13 départ	17 et 2 arrivée
FORT DE POSSEL	4 et 19	3 et 18
BANGUI	6 et 21	7 et 22

1. The *Journal Officiel* of 1.9.1900 announced a mail route into the Upper Ubangi as per the extract above (Source: *Bulletin Col.Fra Hors Série* 28-1, Afrique Équatoriale Française).

2. Postmarks of Semio and Rafai do exist. Our member, Alain Millet, has very kindly provided me with copies of the following letters.

i. 16 Aug(?) 1904 Rafai to France. Rafai cds. Transit Brazzaville 15/9.

ii. 5 September 1917 Semio to Paris. Transit: Bangui, Bangui-Chari-Tchad 2.10.

iii. (?) March 1918 Sultanats Haut Oubangui, Kaofema par Semio, to Paris. Transit via Soudan. Franked 10 millièmes. Cancelled at Wau. Khartoum 3.7. Shellal-Halfa TPO 7.7. Paris 30.7.

iv. 13 July 1918 Sultanats Haut Oubangui, Gouberé, Congo Français to Paris. Transit via Soudan. Franked 10 millièmes. Cancelled at Wau. Khartoum 23.9. Shellal-Halfa TPO 29.9. Cairo 1.10.

v. 12 October 1918 Sultanats, Haut Oubangui, Zemio, AEF to Paris. Transit via Soudan. Franked 10 millièmes. Cancelled at Wau. Khartoum 5.11. Shellal-Halfa TPO 10.11. Paris 6.12.

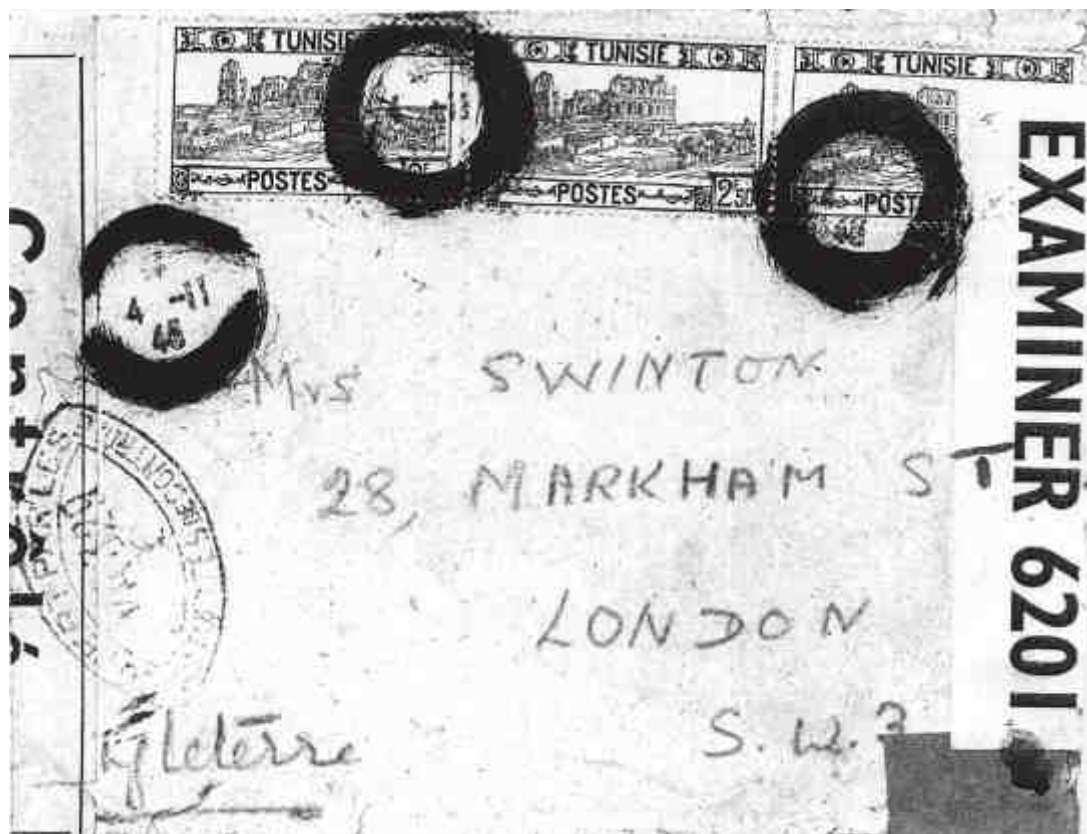
3. Postal services of a sort certainly existed in the Upper Ubangi and these are likely to have been operated by the military on an *ad hoc* basis. Robert Johnson has commented that the Marchand Expedition passed through Upper Ubangi (Haut Oubangui) on their way to Fachoda. There is recorded use of mail for France being sent back via Brazzaville in 1897 from the Abiras, Haut Oubangui, office which is adjacent.

Peter Kelly

## Unusual Tunisian Cancellation

Here is a very strange case! Can any of our members suggest why the name of the town in these cancellations

has been completely obliterated in this fashion? I have never seen anything like this before!



David Taylor Smith

## REPORTS OF MEETINGS

### LONDON MEETING OF 24 FEBRUARY 2007

#### Denis Vandervelde: Quarantine and the Disinfection of Mail

A rather disappointing number of members turned up at the Royal Horticultural Halls for this display, despite (or perhaps because of?) the attractions of Philatex at the same venue.

Denis started his display by explaining that he had founded the Disinfected Study Circle in 1973 for those collectors who were interested in mail that had been disinfected against disease of various kinds. He was therefore showing a variety of documents such as bills of health or *patentes de santé*, covering a period that reflected the transition from monarchical catholic to cleric-free France.

Many of these documents related to small ports, such as Cassis where the engraver produced a document in reverse, resulting in a poor image; but when the supply ran out, the original drawing was used. An elaborate plan of the port of Marseille was printed for an Italian, showing the *chaîne du port* that was used to keep ships out of the harbour. The ship's captain normally had to go to two islands in the Bay of Marseille for disinfection, sometimes as far as the lazaret, but one was issued while the ship waited at the *chaîne du port*. We also saw a document from Nice dated 1624 and one from Antibes dated 1632.

Mini-versions of these documents were later produced by captains for the use of passengers. Items shown for our inspection included the Marseille disinfection of mail (by soaking in vinegar) from Levant to Livorno; the interior of a 1787 letter disinfected by slitting it open and letting in vapours; and a disinfected bill of lading. In 1804-5 yellow fever broke out in Haiti, and new places in Europe engaged

in the disinfection of mail. The first part of the display ended with a letter from an American captain who had been held in the quarantine station; an 1811 letter with cloth samples soaked in vinegar; and an example of the *Purifié à Gênes* mark.

The second half of the display showed further examples of the *patentes de santé* and a good range of the much larger *passeports sanitaires* or health passports. We saw one of the latter dated 1862 giving details of the crew and passengers (especially Italians) as well as of the ship and the journey. In 1832 came the beginning of cholera and the need for yet further disinfection, and we were shown details of the machine used for puncturing letters called a rastel, and told that the actual machine displayed in the Pasteur museum outside Paris is a fake.

Other marks of note included the unusual Lazaret TR2 or Tranche 2; one from the island of Trompeloup near Bordeaux, to which ships had to travel for disinfection; the *Purifié Frioul* mark; a sanitary passport dated 1929 (and Denis reported having seen in the Philatex offerings downstairs one dated 1940); and disinfected mail from a leper colony in New Caledonia.

Chris Hitchen gave the vote of thanks for another magnificent display of his specialised material by Denis on this return visit to the Society.

Members present: Len Barnes, Jack Dykhous (from USA), John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen, John Parmenter, Barbara Priddy, Maurice Tyler, Michael Wright. Guest: Ron Bentley (from USA).

MST

### NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 3 MARCH 2007

#### The President Entertains;

#### Members' Displays

Present: R Barnes, G E Barker; S Ellis, A Goude, R High, B Lucas, P Maybury, M Meadowcroft, J Morton, A Shepherd, and guest Ronnie Shires. Apologies: R Clapham, S & J Holder, K Howitt, J Slingsby, P Stockton, P Twiddy, P Watkins, R and Y Wheatley, A Wood.

Following morning tea, as they say in New Zealand, and biscuits, the first session commenced with a major display of "The Amazing Travels of *Type Sage*", presented by Society President, **Peter Kelly**. First of all Peter gave us a comprehensive history of the origination of the issue, and then we were treated to a display of 200+ sheets of destination covers, more or less in alphabetical order, from Aden through to Zanzibar, with the intricacies of the routes and rates clearly explained. Of special note were covers from the Marchand Expedition, the Abiras provisional, and a 5c rate envelope that had taken 19 months to reach its addressee.

The afternoon session opened at 2.00pm following lunch in a nearby Italian restaurant. First off was **George Barker** who kept our attention with a superb display of the Cérès issues of 1871 to 1876, showing stamps and covers plus colour trials, and essays including examples of *découpage*. **Steve Ellis** treated us to a further part of his maritime collection, this time displaying transatlantic shipping lines with ports of call in France.

**John Morton** produced a display of modern postal history of the *département* of the Lot together with photographs and anecdotes of the area, then **Alan Goude** treated us to a lovely display of New Caledonia, commencing with the first stamp issues, followed by covers and a study of the handstamps used during periods of stamp shortage. **Tony Shepherd** used his slot to entertain us with a display of French stamps used in Guadeloupe, with many covers including letters carried by both British and French shipping



lines. Guest **Ronnie Shiers** produced a diverse selection of letters, covers and cards from the Society Islands, and followed this with items from the French Post Office in Jerusalem. **Bernard Lucas** treated us to a fine selection of

telegraph and telephone stamps and the forms upon which they were used. **Peter Maybury** provided the final display of the day with a selection of 19th century maritime mail to and from the West Indies, Central America and the United States.

JPM

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## SOCIETY'S 31st ANNUAL PHILATELIC WEEKEND 16-18 MARCH 2007

38 members together with their guests attended the Society's Annual Weekend at the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon.

### Friday

The Committee took the opportunity to meet during the afternoon, but proceedings really got under way after dinner on the first evening, when the Joint Organisers, **Peter Kelly** and **Chris Hitchen**, welcomed those attending. The sad news of the death of Barrie Jay was announced, and those attending were also told that they could sign cards intended for Mick Bister in hospital and for Inez Berkinshaw-Smith, who was still keeping in touch with some of the members she had got to know during the former weekends run by Bernard.

The traditional impromptu displays were then introduced, starting with **Trevor Davis** and his latest Lot et Garonne acquisitions, including three *ballons montés*; **Mavis Pavey** had brought some picture postcards and other illustrations by the Alsatian writer, designer and illustrator Hansi; **John Parmenter** showed some air surcharges in the form of AEF, AOF, Réunion and Madagascar post-war rates; **David Lamb** homed in on the French postal service in Andorra, with some uncommon die proofs of the second definitive issue of 1944; **Peter Stockton** produced a map of Morocco, with a glossary of terms for translating French military ranks, a Dallay catalogue, and some WWI military mail from an officer interned in Switzerland; and **Peter Maybury** pointed to some blank unoccupied frames, claiming that we were looking at unknown unissued proofs of Type Sage 1½c from Paris to the Outer Hebrides – but in his more traditional visible display showed 16th century merchants' letters between France and England.

**George Barker** continued by showing a cover with the new, all-silver (90%) 5 euro Marianne definitive, issued in 2006; **Godfrey Bowden** displayed the first issues of Tunisia showing different printings and proofs together with unrecorded varieties, Tunisian PO sheets illustrating postal markings from the 1890s, a pane of 25 x 100F Marianne de Gandon missing one stamp (*see page 61*) (explaining why the missing stamp was possibly the *à la bretelle* variety and not those marked with a cross), a letter to Venezuela from Bordeaux bearing a 35c Sage defaced with a star shape in red crayon (*see page 60*), and an underpaid card from Switzerland to Tunis soon after independence bearing a 15F 'Autonomous Régime' postage stamp as postage due (*see page 59*); **Jeremy Martin** showed an 1814 map; **Barbara Priddy** showed airmails from French West Africa (illustrating wartime problems with correspondence), and from other parts of French Africa including Cameroun; **Tony Shepherd** concentrated on the 1908 Franco-British

Exhibition held at Shepherds Bush, with views, destinations, and preparations; and **John Allison** had a query about postmarks on a 1938 card with stamps of the Australian monument at Villers-Bretonneux.

### Saturday

Saturday morning began with two presentations. Our President Peter Kelly first presented the Society's Long Service Award to **Mavis Pavey**, and then Steve Ellis, who undertook the organisation of the judging of the competition, presented the Society's Literature Award to **André Métayer**.

**Peter Kelly** then gave his Presidential Display on the stamps and postal history of the Volta region of French West Africa. He began with the geographical siting of the area and an outline of its historical development from the turn of the turn of the century in 1900, when it was considered to be part of French Sudan or Upper Dahomey. Military forces moving into the area led to post offices being opened progressively as its boundaries were gradually established, and we learnt about various changes of name including *Dahomey et Dépendances*, *Sénégalie et Niger*, *Haut Sénégal et Niger*, resulting eventually in the new colony of *Haute Volta* in 1920.

The first covers shown were sent under the franchise of the expeditionary force of French Sudan, and included a letter of 1900 sent from Bobo and received on board at Dakar after a journey of 50 days, and another in the same year sent under military franchise from Say, part of Upper Dahomey, down through Dahomey to the coast at Cotonou. The first postage stamp shown on mail was a 15c Benin stamp on a 1902 letter from Fada N'Gourma in Upper Dahomey (the inland rate applicable for France). A 1903 letter from Say bore the franchise mark of the Commission de Limitation, an international body designed to agree West African boundaries. The display continued with a good variety of the offices (some of them quite small) and date stamps used in the area during this period. The majority of mail was sent to Bamako and Kayès and down the Senegal River to the coast at St Louis.

After WWI economic activity returned to the newly formed colony, though an eastern section was transferred to Niger in 1927. Upper Volta now produced its own stamps, starting with a provisional series in 1920, overprinted stamps of *Haut Sénégal et Niger*; and we saw these stamps with errors and set-offs and shade differences. We also saw these stamps surcharged with increasing values between 1922 and 1927, together with other issues and additional values, and two pages of sample issues from the archives of Madagascar. In 1928 Upper Volta produced a pictorial





Figure 1 - UK to French Indo-China 1932

The airmail service to French Indo-China by the French service was 1s 4d for each half ounce between 26 June 1931 and 3 September 1939.

This letter was paid 6s 8d [five rates].

[see report on Robert Johnson's display on the next page]

series of its own depicting the Hausa people, and we were shown the 23 values with frame and vignette shade differences. In 1931 came a series for the Exposition Coloniale (scarce on letter) and postage due stamps. Then came a map of the offices open during the period, with a selection of covers showing the stamps, offices and postal markings used in the colony.

By 1932 the French government had decided that the colony was not viable on its own, and it was divided up among the Ivory Coast, Niger and the Sudan. After this date the stock of Upper Volta postage stamps continued to be used up both in the area transferred to the Ivory Coast and throughout the rest of the Ivory Coast and in conjunction with their stamps. The postal services were now in the hands of the Ivory Coast, whose postage stamps and date stamps were used (with the exception of the territory transferred to Sudan and Niger). The Ivory Coast had gradually extended its railway, and from 1934 mail could be sent by rail to Grand Bassam; mail to be sent by air was despatched by ship to Dakar. Once airmail services started in Sudan in 1935 it became possible to send mail to Bamako, or to Niamey in Niger via Cotonou. Examples of these routes were illustrated by Peter's collection.

The postage stamps of the individual colonies such as the Ivory Coast were replaced by the stamps of the Federation of French West Africa (AOF) in 1944, and these were used until independence. Upper Volta was reconstituted as a colony in January 1948 within the Federation, and with the same frontiers as had been in place in 1932. The CFA franc was introduced in 1948, and in the following year mail could be sent to France by air at the surface rate up to 20g. Peter admitted that he had not yet researched the rates at this period, which had become very difficult to understand, but new offices and new date stamps were shown. In 1958 the colony became a republic with internal autonomy, and in 1960 gained full independence. The display ended with the first stamps issued by the Republic of Upper Volta, with some letters up to the end of 1960, though Peter revealed that he still had an archive of nearly 200 letters from this period awaiting his attention.

After the coffee break **Steve Ellis** displayed French transatlantic mail 1800-1874, which he explained can be divided into three sections – the period prior to any postal convention existing, from 1857 as governed by the US-French convention, and from 1870 when once again no single convention existed and things became more complicated. The display looked at rates and postal



Figure 2 - Airmail services UK to Chile 1930

No combined air fee: the UPU surface postage of 2½d for the first ounce and the air fee had to be added together.

The postage paid of 8s 9½d was made up of 2½ for the surface rate and the registration fee of 3d and two rates of 4s 2d for a letter weighing ½ to 1 ounce.

This rate was in force between 1 April 1929 and 22 February 1931.

The service was by the French Post Office air service via Dakar in Senegal, leaving Toulouse on 23 March 1930.

The mail was carried across the South Atlantic by fast despatch boats.

The first air crossing of the South Atlantic [by Mermoz] was on 13 May 1930.

[see report on Robert Johnson's display on this page]

markings, which often depended upon three factors – the nationality and/or route taken by the ship, whether the mail was carried privately or by government contract, and whether the mail was sent prepaid or unpaid.

A break for viewing was followed by **Michael Annells**, who gave a display of French airmail, starting with transatlantic mail from France to both North and South America. Mail flown by air included a Zeppelin flight in 1932, and extended to the first Concorde flight in 1977. The final twelve sheets were devoted to air meetings from Rouen in 1910 to Cannes in 1947.

He was followed by **John Hammonds** with more French aviation. His first section covered New Caledonia from 1923, when a seaplane for the US cruiser Milwaukee visited Noumea, through various flights in the 1920s and 1930s, to a transpacific and transatlantic flight in 1942 from Noumea to Switzerland. The second section dealt with mail to the USA, and included catapult flights from the *Ile de France* in the 1920s, two German ships fitted with a catapult and the airship *Hindenburg*, Pan Am flights from Marseille to New York in 1939-1941 via the Azores and Lisbon, the OAT cachet in 1945, and the first direct Air France flight to New York in 1946. The final section described miscellaneous flights to various destinations such as Czechoslovakia, Macau, Cuba, Eritrea, Batavia, Pondicherry, in the period 1930 to 1941.

**Robert Johnson's** display emphasised the use of and the dependence on French airmail services by British persons in the period 1929 to 1940. The two main airmail routes relied on were first the Air Orient [later Air France] route

to Indo-China and second the route via West Africa to South America. While British interests in Malaya and Australia and New Zealand could be serviced via Singapore by KLM or Imperial Airways, the quickest route for mail to Hong Kong and China until April 1936 was the French route to Saigon with the mail then going on by sea transit. The rate was 1s 4d for each ½ oz and a cover showing this rate is illustrated (Fig 1).

The French route to South America was open to the British from 8 August 1928 at the surface rate plus an air fee of 5s 6d for each ½ oz. This was changed on 1 April 1929 to surface rate and an air fee for letters and postcards of 4s 2d for each ½ oz with printed matter going for an air fee of 3s 0d plus surface postage. On 23 February 1931 the rate was reduced to an inclusive fee of 4s 0d for each ½ oz [this being the same for the German airmail service which started to be open for British mail on 19 March 1932]. AO matter was 1s 0d for each ½ oz and three examples were shown. This rate and service continued until 3 September 1939 and was replaced by a 5s 0d inclusive ½ oz rate which lasted until the fall of France in June 1940. Postcards were 2s 6d [an example was shown] and printed matter was 1s 3d for each ½ oz. The illustration shows an example of the 4s 2d air fee period (Fig 2).

The final display of the morning was by **Ashley Lawrence** on Paris mail by Pigeon Post in 1870-71, a service that was one of the few French success stories of that war. Baskets of homing pigeons were taken out of Paris by balloon, and were used to bring messages back to the besieged capital. The efficiency of the service was improved immeasurably



when the messages were microphotographed: a process made possible after M. Dagron made the hazardous balloon flight from Paris. Ashley's display included examples of microfilmed messages; M. Dagron's own account of his adventure; and the full documentation of a message brought from England to Paris by the Pigeon Post — including the actual Pigeon, now unfortunately stuffed!

After lunch the first display of the afternoon was by **Godfrey Bowden** who, claiming that whatever he said would be accepted because this was the graveyard slot, showed his study of the stamps meeting the basic internal letter rate over the period 1849 to 1949. His study covered all 230 stamps, whether definitives (including all the major types), charity or surcharged issues, or pictorials and commemoratives, used for this purpose over 100 years. The stamps were shown against a clear dateline that simplified comprehension of the evolution of this rate, and occasionally threw up some interesting anomalies. A full and illustrated description of this display was given by Godfrey in his article in Journal 242 (page 115).

**Jeremy Martin** then displayed French Togo, covering aspects of the stamps and postal history from 1914 to 1922. Starting with stampless covers, he showed a cover of 1915 inscribed '*Correspondance Militaire*' bearing an Anécho date stamp that also received a blue 'Censor/A' cachet, and a picture postcard marked '*Franchise Militaire*' from Atakpamé in 1916. Next came two POW postal stationery covers, followed by a selection of the issued stamps. The 1921 postage due issue exists in gutter pairs, though Jeremy claims to have seen only the top two values. The display ended with a few selected covers. For Lomé and Agané Palimé the British prepared date stamps which included AM and PM slugs; subsequently these towns were given to the French, who then used the British date stamps.

Just before the tea break **Tony Shepherd** displayed the last issues of Guadeloupe in the late 19th century. These were the General Colonies issues overprinted with the name of the colony.

After tea the Marianne de Briat (officially the Marianne du Bicentenaire) stamp issue was displayed by **Derek Richardson**. This was the definitive stamp in use from 1990 to 1998 during which time four postal rates were in force. He showed *documents officiels*, adhesive stamps from sheets, coils and booklets, as well as postal stationery bearing the Marianne imprint.

**Paul Watkins**' display showed Anglo-French mail from 1698 to 1876, consisting of French covers to the UK illustrating the various postal agreements between the two countries 1660-1870. Items of note included a 1698 cover with a fine strike of the early DE S.MALO mark with an unusual '2/6' charge (the 'bundle rate' for five letters); 1829-33 Estafette mail including two examples of the elusive ESTAFETTE mark used on provincial mail to the UK by the express coach; the 1836 Agreement including 'frontier rate' mail and a cover to a London forwarding agent originally containing several letters and charged at 16F50; 1855 tariff mail in some depth including the quintuple rate (2F) paid with a strip of five 40c stamps, a 1F60 registered cover, and a scarce precursor postcard at the 8c printed

matter rate (1865); Siege of Paris including use of the experimental '*ballon non monté*' postcard, carried on a later flight by *Le Général Urich*.

**Peter Stockton** displayed some French Morocco military mail, starting with biographical details of Generals Lyautey and d'Amade. French military intervention commenced in the area around Oudjda adjacent to the Algerian border in March and April 1907. After the assassination of French railway workers in Casablanca a naval bombardment of the city preceded a landing of French troops in August 1907. Items of military mail under the franchise were shown for differing areas of the country, including items from the '*Base de Ravitaillement de Casablanca*'. A section of naval mail concluded the display with letters up to 1956, the year in which Moroccan independence was achieved.

**Bob Larg** completed the afternoon displays with what he described (tongue in cheek) as an in-depth study of military postcards. The first 18 sheets covered the *Grandes Manœuvres* with cards from 1901 to 1910, and the final 18 sheets depicted many aspects of army life from 1905 to 1916.

After a very good dinner in the evening, the second session of impromptu short displays took place. **Lesley Marley** began with military mail of Montargis; **Tony Shepherd** continued with Guadeloupe proof material; **Mavis Pavey** had selected some cards that had amused her for their comic opera-like settings, their attractiveness or their comic element; **John Hammonds** produced some picture postcards illustrating aviation events from the early 20th century; **Jeremy Martin** showed the south-west section of an 1814 postal map of France; **Prue Henderson** illustrated her record of 14 years' travel in France collecting postcards of post offices; **Paul Watkins** presented the British part of his earlier display of Anglo-French mail from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries; **Alan Wood** showed some oddments, including a charity booklet, Sowers and Mersons, registered telegrams, Afars & Issas stamps, and *assignats*; **Maurice Tyler** had brought some WWI emergency Chamber of Commerce banknotes from various towns and villages; and **Bob Larg** showed a few more military picture postcards.

## Sunday

On Sunday morning the formal displays were restarted by our French member **André Métayer** who, with the help of Ashley's printed translation of his notes, spoke in English about his collection of *porte-timbres* from the period 1900 to 1950. André described the *porte-timbre* as a little square or rectangular design bearing text for advertising, with a space for sticking a postage stamp, that can be printed or stuck on a card, envelope or newspaper wrapper. He explained that they were first used in the USA, then in Belgium and Holland, before appearing in France for the Universal Exhibition of 1900. A private company issued booklets of them, with 10c stamps, for use on ordinary mail in 1906, and sold them for less than the value of the 6 stamps. Since then, other companies followed suit, and booklets were followed by sheets of varying amounts and some *porte-timbres* being printed directly on cards and envelopes.



Little has been published on these items since 1960, and André told us he had been asked to contribute to the new Yvert et Tellier catalogue, describing the *porte-timbres* that had been discovered since the list made by Dr Braun in 1958. He can now report that there exist some 250 to 300 different designs, including the Breton ones on which he has written elsewhere. The printed advertising slogans involve such topics as the defence of religion, the conflict between republicans and monarchists, the war against alcohol, the early years of aviation, the 1914-18 War, souvenirs of Joan of Arc, the regions of France, as well as foodstuff and other goods and services. The display ended with a *porte-timbre* in favour of the Entente Cordiale and one in mourning for Edward VII in 1910.

**John Yeomans** then displayed French India, starting with the development of the internal and maritime mail routes via the Cape 1693-1837 and including a letter from the Dutch occupation period of Pondicherry and examples of mail carried by the Hon E I Co and the early P and O steamers 1839-1855. He then showed mail carried on the later P and O and Messageries Maritimes steamers in the period 1860-1876, including the early use of adhesives on mail to France 1864. Then came examples of mail at the entry to the UPU and later, and these included the development of the rates and examples of underpaid and unpaid and redirected covers and cards.

After a break for viewing **Mavis Pavey** gave a brief glimpse of Alsace and the small area recovered by France in 1915. Included were a variety of censor marks, both French and German, illustrations of bomb damage to towns and villages, and French and German patriotic postcards. There was an explanation of how civilian mail was opened up and examples of first day cancellations when French stamps became available and a few post offices were opened again for mail to the rest of France and certain foreign countries. A small section covered the fighting at Hartmannsweilerkopf and the memorial there. The display ended with postcards showing Maréchal Pétain and M. Clemenceau entering Strasbourg.

In view of the unfortunate absence of Mick Bister, **George Barker** had agreed to expand his display to fill the gap by covering two periods of French stamps, 1849-1853 and 1870-1876, which meant essentially the use of the various Cérès heads. Sections highlighted were the *tête-bêche* occurrences; the use of the 20c for other than the basic letter rate - e.g. military mail; the possibilities of plating the 20c value(s); the changes caused by the Franco-Prussian War, and the increased rate of postage thereafter; and the errors (15c bistre/rose large figures) and varieties.

The final coffee break led up to a display by **Trevor Davis** of aspects of his favoured *département* Lot et Garonne 1870-1963. We saw a wide variety of the postmarks used, with Lautier numbers enabling better recognition of the types of circular date stamps employed by the various post offices in the area.

**Peter Maybury** contributed a display of the steamship companies carrying mail between France and Italy 1835-

1900, with the routes and rates, methods of paying and types of cancellation.

**Alan Wood** showed essays and proofs of the classic issues, starting with an unadopted Pichot essay of 1848. This was followed by colour trials of the Cérès and Napoléon issues and examples of *découpage*. Coining press essays were produced by Albert Barre in 1859 in an attempt to replace the galvanoplastic method of printing stamps by taking direct impressions from the original die into a softer metal in a coining press. The Morel proposal would have resulted in each stamp being torn in half if adopted for use. Designs for stamped envelopes were proposed by M. Renard. An essay produced in 1867 by M. Bordes was printed in a vertically bonded formation. In 1878 M. Mouchon prepared an unadopted essay for the Universal Exhibition.

The final display of the day was given by **Peter Kelly**, with Réunion postcards of views of the island and showing UPU rates for items sent abroad.

The weekend ended with a short review that proved very favourable, with members expressing general satisfaction and enjoyment with both the hotel and the arrangements. As usual we had experienced a very pleasant atmosphere in which to indulge our hobby, and this was helped not only by the willing participation of members, but in particular by the efficient organisation undertaken by **Chris Hitchen** and **Peter Kelly** (to both of whom Maurice Tyler on behalf of the participants offered a sincere vote of thanks), and by the running of the bookstall by **Annette Tyler** and **Jean Hammonds**, and the sale of Society publications by **Peter Maybury** (these two activities having raised a considerable sum of money for the Society). It was agreed that we should return to the same venue next year, when the cost would have risen slightly to £63 per person per night, for the weekend 7-9 March 2008.

The following members were present at part or all of the weekend:

John Allison	Lesley Marley
Michael Annells	Jeremy Martin
George Barker	Peter Maybury
Godfrey Bowden	John Mayne
Hamish Clifton	André Métayer
Trevor Davis	John Parmenter
Steve Ellis	Bob Paterson
John Hammonds	Mavis Pavey
Prue Henderson	Barbara Priddy
Roger High	Derek Richardson
Chris Hitchen	Tony Shepherd
Robert Johnson	Gerald Small
Peter Kelly	Peter Stockton
David Lamb	Maurice Tyler
Bob Larg	Skanda Vaitilingam
Yvonne Larg	Paul Watkins
Ashley Lawrence	John West
Hugh Loudon	Alan Wood
Ian McQueen	John Yeomans

MST

## SCOTTISH GROUP MEETING OF 24 MARCH 2007

### Mavis Pavey: French Philatelic Exhibitions

The meeting was attended by 4 members, with apologies from 2. The members present were happy with the arrangements for the programme as outlined in Society Notes on page 42 of this Journal, and involving displays by Bill Robertson and Stephen Holder, and a joint meeting with the Scottish Group of the Germany and Colonies P S.

Mavis Pavey gave the afternoon's display, having changed dates with Peter Brand. Her display was from her collection of French Philatelic Exhibitions, and she said that she loved the mix of cancellations, covers, postcards, souvenir cards, blocks, cachets and vignettes, as well as the other items such as invitations to openings that can be picked up. This she regards as her 'fun' collection.

The display began in 1900 and ranged through to the 1980s, showing items from local, international and railway philatelists' exhibitions. Amongst the items shown was a letter requesting sponsorship for the 1900 exhibition; the first exhibition cancellation of 1907; with several items from exhibitions held during WWII, to raise funds from the sale of souvenir postcards etc for people made homeless by the war or for the benefit of prisoners of war.

Cancellations began as small single ring, later becoming larger with a central illustration relevant to the theme of the exhibition. Vignettes range in size from small to very large, perforated and imperforate; and were shown singly and in sheets.

MP

## SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 21 APRIL 2007

### Charles Kiddle - Cinderellas

The Southern Group were given an entertaining afternoon by Charles Kiddle who began his display by defining the poster stamp. With examples from Bournemouth, he explained that 'poster stamps' were first used to advertise tourist attractions or company products. They were in effect miniature posters. Today the term has been broadened to cover all commemorative labels.

The poster stamps in the period before WWI were more popular than postage stamps, but their popularity waned as there were no catalogues. In addition the UPU and many Post Offices would not allow them to appear on the face of an envelope.

The display continued with examples of poster stamps produced for many events, including a large number for the Paris 1900 Exhibition. Single stamps and complete sheets were shown.

Specialist societies sprang up dedicated to poster stamps such as the Arc en Ciel in France; likewise some catalogues were produced with reference being made to the 1914 Cazier & Rochas "*timbres commémoratifs*".

The second part of the display covered patriotic labels of WWI, that were produced mainly in Germany and France. Also shown were examples of the work of various printers, including that of Perkins Bacon.

The third part concentrated on the Delandre labels. Delandre was an established bookseller in Paris selling amongst other things school books and patriotic literature including "*Les Cahiers de la Guerre*".

By 1916 the firm had produced a *Catalogue Spécial de Timbres de Guerre 1914-1916*. They had expanded the business by having their own patriotic poster stamps designed and produced by French artists. These were sold in "envelopes" containing differing numbers. A potential customer could order the poster stamps with or without gum. In all 150 envelopes are known.

The proprietor Gaston Fontenelle was found guilty of defrauding the government of Red Cross money, sums which went straight to his own pocket, and he was committed to prison in April 1917 where he died in 1923.

The afternoon was rounded off by Bill Mitchell expressing the thanks of all present for a truly wonderful and educative afternoon.

Members Present: Michael Annells, Michael Berry, Betty Blincow, Roy Ferguson, John Hammonds, Bill Mitchell, Colin Spong, John Thorpe.

Guests: Fred Blincow, Jean Hammonds, Pat Spong. Apologies from Bob & Yvonne Larg, Colin Clarkson and George Nash.

JNH

# French Airline Network 1928

Robert Johnson

These are the last two pages selected from a monthly booklet published by the Librairie Chaix of Paris, acquired at auction a few years ago. The cover and several other

pages that might be of interest to members have been reproduced in Journals 240 (cover page iii) and 241 (pages 94-96).

C. G. A.

## TRANSPORT DES AÉROPAQUETS

### RENSEIGNEMENTS GÉNÉRAUX

#### Dimensions et poids maxima.

Sauf accord spécial, chaque colis ne doit pas dépasser le poids de 10 kilogrammes et ses dimensions ne doivent pas être supérieures à 100 cm  $\times$  60 cm  $\times$  30 cm. Les rendeurs sont admis lorsqu'ils n'excedent pas 1 mètre de longueur sur 0 m 20 de diamètre.

#### Emballage.

Aucun emballage spécial n'est requis. Il suffit que les colis soient emballés d'une façon soignée et suffisamment solide; la Compagnie declinera toute responsabilité en cas de dommages causés par l'insuffisance des emballages.

#### Taxation des colis encombrants et légers.

Sont considérés comme colis encombrants et légers les colis dont le poids est inférieur à 1 kilogramme par 4 décimètres cubes.

Les colis sont taxés à raison de 1 kilogramme par 4 décimètres cubes. Exemple : Un colis ayant 100  $\times$  60  $\times$  30 cm, dont le volume est donc de 180000 cm<sup>3</sup> (soit 1800 dm<sup>3</sup>) sera taxé à raison de 1 kilogramme par 4 décimètres cubes, c'est-à-dire qu'il paiera comme s'il pesait 45 kilogrammes.

#### Lieux de dépôt.

Tous les aéroports doivent être déposés 92, avenue des Champs-Élysées à Paris, ou dans les bureaux de l'une des aéroports (consulter la liste page 27).

#### Mode d'expédition.

Les colis ne sont acceptés qu'en port-payé à l'exclusion des expéditions en port dû.

Toutefois la Compagnie se charge des expéditions contre remboursement. Pour ces envois, il est perçu pour frais de recouvrement 1/100 de la valeur du remboursement (minimum de perception : 1 franc).

#### Assurance.

Les aéroports sont assurés au tarif de 2 % de leur valeur, minimum 5 francs par colis.

La Compagnie n'assume aucune responsabilité du fait de la détérioration ou de la perte des colis non assurés.

#### Déclaration pour les douanes.

Tous les aéroports doivent être munis, obligatoirement, d'une déclaration en douane précisant l'origine, le poids, la valeur et le contenu de chaque colis.

Cette déclaration devra être établie en quatre exemplaires pour le Maroc et le Sénégal.

Aucun colis ne pourra être expédié s'il n'est accompagné de cette déclaration.

C. G. A.

### Avis important.

Quelque la Compagnie s'efforce d'apporter le plus grande célérité au transport des colis qui lui sont confiés, elle ne répond en aucun cas des retards pouvant survenir dans leur achèvement, et ce pour quelque cause que ce soit.

### PRIX DE TRANSPORT DES AÉROPAQUETS ET BAGAGES

La Compagnie se charge de l'expédition des aéroports pour l'importation, quelle que soit la destination, du Maroc, du Sénégal et des autres d'Afrique. Dans les localités non desservies par ses aéroports, les colis sont réceptionnés en port dû par la voie de terre ou de mer la plus rapide jusqu'à leur destination.

De France au Maroc ou vice versa : 12 francs le kilogramme ou les 3 décimètres cubes. Minimum de taxation : 28 francs par colis.

De France à Dakar ou vice versa : 21 francs le kilogramme ou les 3 décimètres cubes, et les au-delà d'Algérie.

Minimum de taxation : 40 francs par colis.

De Paris à Toulouse le transport accéléré des aéroports par chemin de fer est assuré par commissionnaire moyennant un supplément de 2 francs le kilogramme jusqu'à 10 kilogrammes, et 2 fr. 50 c. par kilogramme supplémentaire.

Maroc interviens : 5 francs le kilogramme ou les 3 décimètres cubes.

De Maroc à Dakar ou vice versa : 14 francs

De Dakar à Port-Étienne : 12 francs

De Dakar à Saint-Louis : 5 francs

Minimum de perception : 2 kilogrammes par colis.

De Londres à Biarritz : 18 francs le kilogramme ou les 3 décimètres cubes minimum de taxation : 30 francs par colis.

De Paris à Biarritz : 12 francs le kilogramme ou les 3 décimètres cubes (minimum de taxation : 25 francs par colis).

### SERVICE POSTAL AÉRIEN

(France, Maroc, Dakar et ses au-delà d'Afrique.)

Les correspondances à transmettre par avion peuvent être déposées dans un porte quel que soit le poste de France, du Maroc ou du Sénégal.

À Paris, un service spécial est effectué dans les principaux bureaux du centre. Tous les objets ordinaires ou recommandés ainsi que les objets contre remboursement sont admis, sauf les lettres et boîtes de valeurs déclarées et les recouvrements. Le poids maximum est fixé à 200 grammes pour les paquets d'expédition.

Les lettres et paquets cils : 2 kilogrammes pour les paquets d'expédition.

L'affranchissement (taxes et surtaxes) est opéré en timbres-poste ordinaires.

Les objets de correspondance à transporter par avion doivent porter sur la suspension la mention des appariés : « Par avion de... (aéroport de départ) ». (Aéroports désignés).

Les surtaxes sont applicables aux colis officiels et à toutes les correspondances bénéficiant de la franchise postale.





## Charlecote Weekend 2007



Alan Wood listening intently



André Métayer describing his display in English



Jean Hammonds and Annette Tyler running the bookshop



David Lamb waiting patiently



John Yeomans surveying the scene in the hall



Paul Watkins viewing the display



George Barker putting Peter Kelly straight



Robert Johnson in deep thought