

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



1955 65F Registered AR cover
(Lot 325 in November Auction)

Volume 57 ● Number 3
September 2007
Whole Number 245

THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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The Society

The Society was founded in 1949 and is affiliated to the ABPS. Its affairs are managed by a Committee comprising President, Officers and Committee members, elected annually.
All inquiries 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.
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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).
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Colonies: J C West, 5 Highbanks Road, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4AR (Telephone 0208 428 4741).

The Library

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

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Paris: J M Simmons
London Group: L H Barnes
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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SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1296 M J Ferris (Fife), 1297 David Malcolm Day (Kent), 1298 Dr Luca Lavagnino (Italy), 1299 J W Smith (Staffordshire), 1300 W H Stephens (Gloucestershire), 1301 Steven Vincent (Sussex), 1302 Gary Brown (Australia), 1303 D G Woodhouse (Essex), 1304 R E Marshall (Northampton).

* * *

Members Deceased

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

887 H Gabriels (Netherlands), 956 Bill Wood (Lincoln).

* * *

Resignations

1276 A M Marks.

* * *

Exhibition Successes

The following members are to be congratulated on gaining awards in 3 separate competitions held in June 2007.

St Petersburg World Stamp Exhibition:

Richard Wheatley: Vermeil for "Netherlands East Indies"

Mick Bister: Large Silver for "Marianne de Muller"

Iain Stevenson was one of the judges.

Poitiers 2007 - Le Championnat de France de Philatélie:

Guy Dutau: Gold and Special Prize (Postal History) for "La Martinique des origines à 1892"

Bernard Sinais: Gold (Literature) for "Les entiers postaux de France et Monaco 2005" and Large Vermeil (Literature) for "Catalogue des cartes postales précurseurs de France et des Colonies 2007"

Robert Abensur was placed 6th in the One Frame competition for "Carte postale ou lettre"

Michel Letaillieur was placed 9th in the One Frame competition for "Émission Mulready de Grande Bretagne"

Brigitte Abensur (not a member, but has accompanied her husband and displayed at our Annual Weekend): Gold (Postal History) for "Utilisation des timbres au type Siège"

At the same exhibition, the following contributed frames to the Académie de Philatélie display:

Brigitte Abensur: "La Petite Poste de Lyon"

Robert Abensur: "Lettres insuffisamment affranchies de l'étranger pour la France 1876-1907"

Guy Dutau: Les relations postales franco-chiliennes par la voie de Magellan (des origines à 1883)"

Chris Hitchen: "Les étoiles de Paris"

Peter Kelly: "Le type Sage 1876-1900: lettres recommandées et chargées dans le régime intérieur"

Michel Letaillieur: "30c Semeuse camée et poste pneumatique"

New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition:

Geoff Gethin: Large Vermeil for "Fakes & Forgeries of 20th Century French Postage Stamps"

Derek Richardson: Vermeil for "Tables of French Postal Rates 1849-2005" and Silver for "Subject Index to Four French Philatelic Magazines, 1946-2000"

Maurice Tyler (editor): Vermeil for "The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Volumes 55-56" (2005-2006)

* * *

Southern Group

Members should note that the date of the meeting in October has had to be changed from 20 to 27 October 2007. Further details are given below.

* * *

Displays by Members

Bob Larg showed "France" to Eastbourne P S on 26 July 2007.

* * *

Future Events

The London Group will be meeting at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road on Wednesday 26 September 2007 (and on the dates announced opposite) at 6.30pm, and at the Royal Horticultural Halls, Westminster on Saturday 3 November 2007 at 3.00pm.

The Northern Group will meet at Adlington, Cheshire on Saturday 20 October 2007 at 10.30am, and at Heaton Royds, Bradford on Saturday 8 December 2007 at 2.00pm.

The Southern Group will meet at the East Worthing Community Centre on Saturday 27 October 2007 at 2.00pm, when Ray Downing will display "Marianne de Dulac".

The Wessex Group will meet at Harnham, Salisbury on Saturday 20 October 2007 at 10.30am, when Robert Johnson will display "Welcome to Brazzaville".

The Scottish Group will meet at the Burgh Hall, Linlithgow on Saturday 6 October 2007 at 2.00pm, when Stephen Holder will display "A French Colony".

* * *

International Events

14-21 May 2008 - Israel 2008, Tel Aviv.

May 2008 - Taipei 08.

20-28 June 2008 - Efiro 08, Bucharest, Romania.

12-14 September 2008 - Praga 2008.

18-21 September 2008 - WIPA 2008.

6-10 May 2009 - Essen 09.

8-15 May 2010 - London 2010 - Festival of Stamps.

8-12 April 2010 - Antwerp.

1-10 October 2010 - Portugal 2010.

November 2010 - South Africa 2010.

* * *

London Meetings

Len Barnes has generously agreed to take over the organisation of the London meetings, and has produced the following revised programme:

Wednesday 26 September 2007	Members: 12 sheets	CA
Wednesday 17 October 2007	Godfrey Bowden: Some Aspects of first 100 years of French Philately	CA
	Len Barnes: Aspects of French Aviation	CA
Saturday 3 November 2007	Ashley Lawrence: Some of Ashley's Bits and Pieces	RHH
Wednesday 28 November 2007	Professor Iain Stevenson: Pneumatic Post	CA
Wednesday 23 January 2008	Mick Bister: A study of a single issue - the 1929 50c Jeanne d'Arc	CA
Saturday 23 February 2008	Steve Ellis: French Red Cross	RHH
Wednesday 19 March 2008	Sqd Ldr John Shaw: Fakes, Forgeries & Unissued	CA
Wednesday 16 April 2008	Colin Spong: Aspects of Madagascar	CA
	Barbara Priddy: French West African Airmails	CA
Saturday 10 May 2008	11.30 am: AGM 2.00 pm: Auction	CA

CA denotes Calthorpe Arms PH, 252 Grays Inn Road, London WC1 -

Wednesday meetings commence at 6.30 pm unless otherwise stated

RHH denotes Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1 (venue for Philatex)-

Meetings are from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm

Directions to The Calthorpe Arms

Points on the attached map (see overleaf)

1. Calthorpe Arms Public House
2. Russell Square Underground Station on the Piccadilly Line - Heathrow to Cockfosters which passes through Kings Cross
3. Road Junction between Grays Inn Road and Theobalds Road. This is just one bus stop from The Calthorpe Arms.

Bus routes for this area are:-

Bus 19	From Finsbury Park, Piccadilly, Knightsbridge, Chelsea
Bus 38	From Victoria, Piccadilly Circus, Tottenham Court Road Station, Clapton
Bus 55	From Oxford Circus, Old Street, Leyton
Bus 243	From Wood Green, Old Street, Clerkenwell, Aldwych

The next bus stops in Calthorpe Street – within walking distance.

Bus 63	From Kings Cross, Kings Cross Road, Farringdon Road, Blackfriars Station, Elephant & Castle Station, Honor Oak.
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The next three bus routes stop outside the Calthorpe Arms Public House.

Bus 17	From Archway Station, Kings Cross, Cannon Street Station, London Bridge Station
Bus 45	From Streatham Hill, Elephant & Castle, Blackfriars Station, Kings Cross
Bus 46	From St. Johns Wood, Hampstead Station, Kings Cross, Farringdon Street.

Telephone No: 020 8303 5326
Email: lenbarnes@btinternet.com

32 Belvedere Road
Bexleyheath
Kent
DA7 4NX

Dear Member,

Re: London Meetings

Please may I draw your attention to the programme for the London area for 2007/8. I attach a map and public transport details.

The number of Members attending meetings in London during the last five years has slipped and I have agreed to draw up an interesting set of evenings whereby members may join in a debate, bringing along their own material of relevance to the evening, asking questions and generally helping each other to build up interest and knowledge. This will enhance our involvement and place firmly in our minds that Wednesday is the night to attend France & Colonies Philatelic Society.

I am very pleased to have received so much support and encouragement from so many people in the Society. We are recruiting new and retired members and I would appreciate it if you could persuade those of your friends interested in French stamps and postal history to attend our meetings.

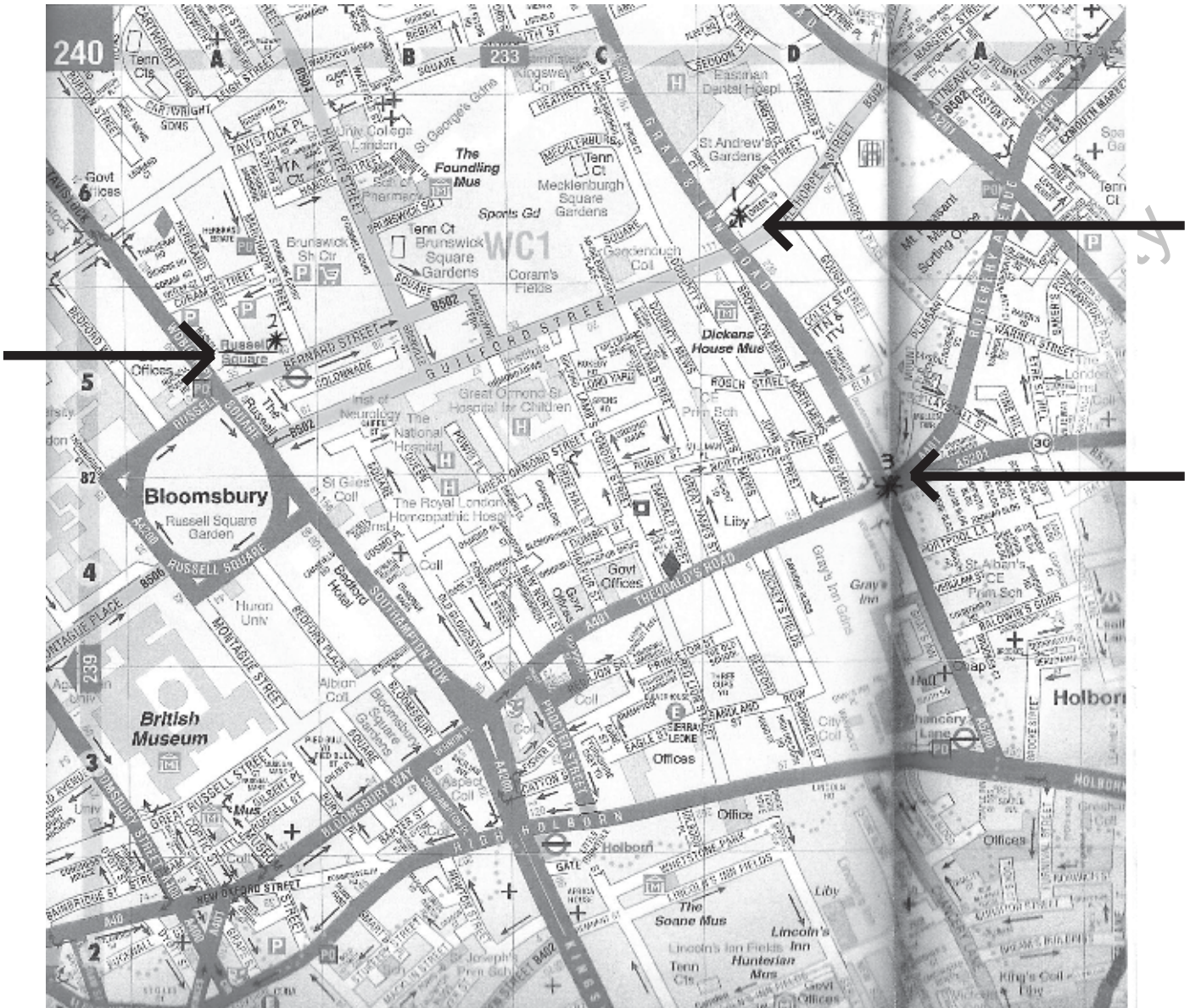
It is my intention to keep members up to date and send them regular reports. To save the Society expense, could you please send me your email address if you have one? I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Len Barnes (Hon Convenor)

Location of Calthorpe Arms

(see previous page for description of three numbered sites)



Charles Blomefield

Dealer in French Stamps and Philatelic Material
Chipping Campden Gloucestershire GL55 6PP

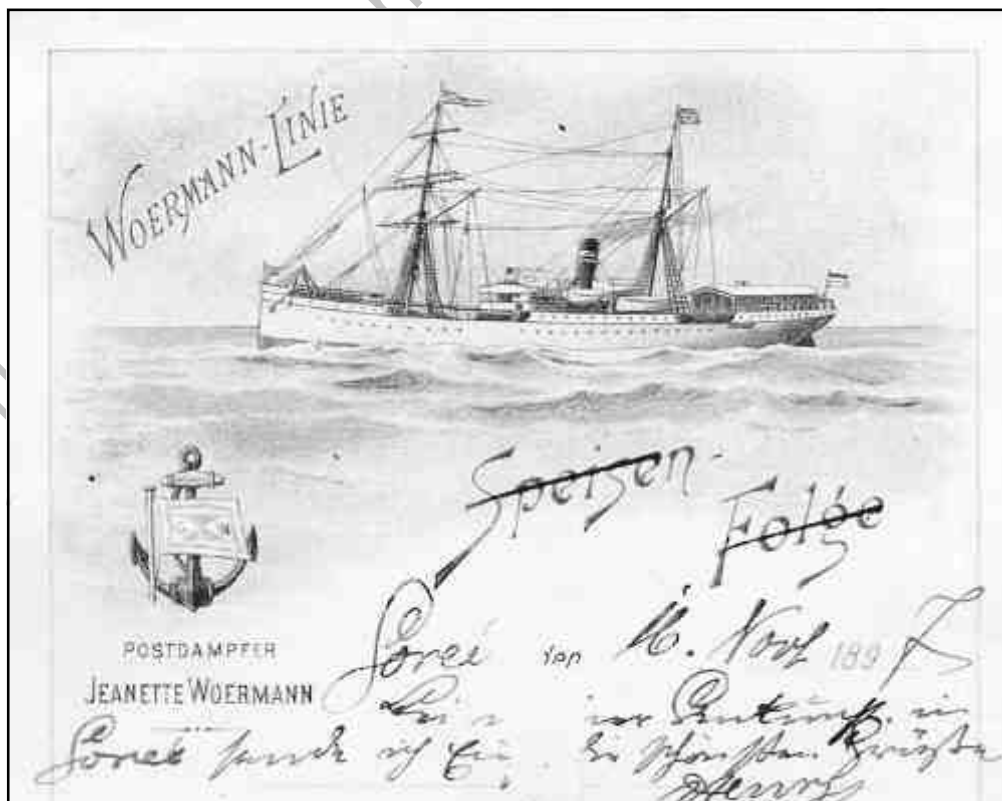
Tel: 01386 841923 Fax: 01386 841937 e-mail: blomefield@aol.com
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The 2008 Yvert France catalogue in hardback is available at £16.00 post free.**

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

An Unusual Senegal Item



The Woermann Line, Hamburg, had trading and shipping interests in West Africa. A condition of being appointed sole German mail carriers in these waters in 1882, before Germany had colonial possessions, was that the two interests should be separate.

Since I collect Togo 1884 to 1914 as well as the Occupation 1914 to 1922, an interest in mail carried by the company on West African routes has followed.

The company named ships after family or Bohlen relations. Most carried passengers, and larger vessels afforded excellent dining arrangements. *Jeanette Woermann* was a small vessel, 2,286 BRT, commencing service 11.10.1893, with 28 crew and room for 9 passengers! Gottspenn and Grimmer, authorities on Woermann mail, record 15 items from the ship.

The company printed menu cards, the top third of which, 135 x 105mm, could be used as a postcard. They are very

difficult to find. I have cards for *Adolph Woermann* 20.10.1897 at Las Palmas, and *Lothar Bohlen* at Accra, Gold Coast, 20.9.1897 but posted Lomé, Togo, 2.10.1897; and I have recorded one with menu, annotated **RRR**, posted 10.11.1900 from *Helene Woermann* at Duala to Memel — maybe the destination contributed to the price realised, which I find I failed to note!

The third card acquired is illustrated, though all of them are on very grey card which may not reproduce well. With no evidence of perforation, I conclude that this was a postcard sold on board, perhaps confirmed by the manuscript deletion of *Speisen-Folge*. Written on board *Jeanette Woermann* at Gorée 16.11.1897, it was posted there two days later, with the postage met by a 10c tablet, Yvert 12. Addressed to Bahrenfeld Altona, it arrived 28.11.1897. It was collected at Dakar by *Portugal* of Chargeurs Réunis, receiving 19.11.1897 the Buenos Aires strike, Salles 1.069 (late use), but no transit strikes.

John Mayne

Much Travelled Mail – Italy to Ivory Coast

For some years now I've sent a second copy of the Journal to Mr Joseph Geraci of Merrifield, Virginia, who compiles regular lists of "Foreign Postal History in Other Journals" for the (US) *Postal History Journal*. He has sent me these comments on John Mayne's article under the above heading in Journal 243 of March 2007 (page 120) —

"...according to the Italian Postal Decree of 1 September 1893, still in force in 1904, the postage rate for printed matter sent anywhere world-wide, was 5 centesimi. Therefore, the 5 centes. stamp prepaying postage paid the correct rate. Normally the foreign rate for a government issued post card was 10 centes., but since this card had the inscription '*Cartolina Postale Italiana/Carte Postale d'Italie*' crossed out, and '*Imprimés*' written above, it was accepted by the post office as 'printed matter'. The fact that the card was privately printed and bore an illustration was ignored as there was no special rate for illustrated cards at that time.

"One frequently comes across Italian post cards with the inscription deleted and '*Imprimés*' written above. The sender was simply taking advantage of a lower rate to send greetings, but no message. I don't know if the same practice prevailed in France."

It did, of course, and French postcards endorsed in this way are equally common. He continues —

"The confusion of routing, to Liverpool instead of Marseilles, may be due simply to an error on the part of the Italian clerk who threw the card into the wrong post bag, when the mails were sorted for dispatch."

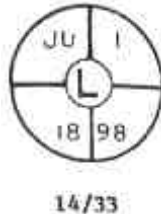
There was indeed an error, but the Italian clerk was not guilty of it. In 1899 the German Post Office published a listing of mail-carrying steamship lines⁽¹⁾ which shows that at that date, and most probably in 1904 as well, there was

no Italian service to either East or West Africa. So the most logical route for correspondence between Italy and the Ivory Coast was first to Marseille and thence to West Africa. Volume VI of Raymond Salles' study of French maritime mail⁽²⁾ shows that at this time the ports of call on the Marseille-Réunion-Marseille service (*Ligne U*) included Zanzibar so there can be no doubt that the mistake occurred at Marseille, John's postcard having been thrown into a Réunion bag, not one destined for West Africa.

Unfortunately, Salles does not give a detailed itinerary in his list of *Ligne U* sailings, but he does record the arrival of the *Melbourne* at Marseille on 14 February 1904. The journey from Zanzibar took about 19 days, so the *Melbourne* must have left there around 26 January. The Zanzibar postmark on John's card is dated 3 February, so it must have arrived too late to catch this departure and was transferred to the British post office there on the basis that this would provide a quicker service for its return to France. The next arrival at Marseille as recorded by Salles was on 15 March; the card probably reached Liverpool on the 1st so there was a saving of some 10 days (allowing for the transfer back to Marseille or Bordeaux, the other French port serving West Africa). Since the card bears no maritime MARSEILLE/BORDEAUX A LOANGO cachet it was probably carried on a vessel with no post clerk on board — in his Vol III⁽³⁾ Salles records sailings from Marseille and Bordeaux on 5 and 15 March respectively; with a sailing time to Grand Bassam of 18 or 19 days in each case these vessels would have arrived at Grand Bassam on about 23 March or 2 April, whereas the card actually reached there on 30 March. This, I think, is all that can be gleaned from this very interesting postcard.

Joe Geraci enquires whether John is sure that the circle-X marking on the address side of the card was struck at Liverpool and not London. The mark is not familiar to me, but I tracked it down in the Sixth Edition of "Collect

British Postmarks” by the late Dr J T Whitney, edited by C G Peachey and V B Crookes and published by the British Postmarks Society in 1993. It’s illustrated as type 14/33 on page 202, and the description (previous page) reads “Quartered handstamp, used in London for Liverpool packet, red or black, 1864-1902”. So John’s postcard did in fact arrive in England at Liverpool, probably on 1 March 1904, not on the 2nd which is the date on the cachet, which was applied in London. It will be noted that this is two years after the latest date recorded by Whitney; since it may be as unfamiliar to readers as it is to me, his illustration is reproduced here with due acknowledgment.



Finally, Joe has pointed out that the sender wrote his card from the Hôtel de la Ville in Florence, Italy. Certainly, in France the Hôtel de Ville would be a town hall, but in this case the writer was just a guest at a local hotel.

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I sent a copy of this Note to Joe Geraci, and in the course of a very informative letter on Italian shipping at the relevant time he commented that the 1899 German account of international mail-carrying steamship lines was not quite correct, as far as Italian services to east and west Africa are concerned. He then writes —

“Not much can be found concerning steamer lines to Italian Somaliland. The first treaty signed between Capt. Cecchi, of the Italian Royal Navy, and the Sultan of Zanzibar for the acquisition of the Benadir coast was in 1885. In 1905, the Società Commerciale Italiana del Benadir signed an accord with the Italian government agreeing to provide a monthly postal line between Aden, Benadir, Zanzibar, Massaua, and Bombay....Previous to this, it appears there was not much activity and postal communications were carried out by Italian naval vessels.”

Benadir subsequently became Italian Somaliland, and John’s postcard of course dates from 1904, the year before this formal arrangement. Joe continues, with regard to a West Africa service by Italian vessels —

“In February 1876, the Società Anonima di Navigazione a Vapore ‘Puglia’ was formed at

References and a Note

- (1) *Karte der grossen Postdampfschifflinien im Weltpostverkehr*, translated with official permission (by Philip Cockrill?) and published by him as “Listing of Mail Carrying Steamship Lines 1899” (Cockrill Series Booklet N° 59, no date).

As mentioned above, no Italian companies are included in the sections dealing with West or East Africa. Of particular interest to us, a (world-wide) total of 37 French companies are recorded. I’m very grateful to John Mayne for drawing my attention to this extremely useful little publication which details, for each line recorded, the distances in nautical miles and the lengths of voyages in days, in each case from the home port. Stopovers of one day or more are also noted.

- (2) *La Poste Maritime Française, Tome VI – Les Paquebots de l’Océan Indien* (Paris 1968) at pages 155-159.
- (3) *Ibid, Tome III – Les Paquebots de l’Atlantique Sud, Brésil-Plata, Côte Occidentale d’Afrique* (Paris 1963) at pages 199 and 201 (Marseille) and 174-175 (Bordeaux).

Bari....By the end of 1889, a monthly line had been established from Genova to South America, calling at Naples, Gibraltar, Dakar or St. Vincent (Cape Verde Islands), Rio de Janeiro....and return.”

This line became uneconomic and was discontinued “about 1904”. Another service was however opened by Navigazione Generale Italiana —

“NGI had been involved in South American lines as well, almost from the beginning....in 1908, on NGI’s express line route to South America, calls were made at Genova, Barcelona, Dakar, Rio de Janeiro....and return....I am unable to determine when the call at Dakar was inaugurated.”

He concludes —

“So while the Italian lines did not venture very far down the east or west coasts of Africa at this time, they did have more of a presence than is indicated in Cockrill’s booklet. I agree, it would not have been possible to send John Mayne’s card directly to the Ivory Coast by an Italian line in 1904. The above confirms your premise that correspondence between Italy and the Ivory Coast was first to Marseille and thence to West Africa.”

Bill Mitchell

Pierre and Marie Curie Stamp of 1938

I am researching the origin of this stamp, issued by France and 21 colonies and Cuba in 1938 on the 40th anniversary of the discovery of Radium. Is there any documentation regarding the events leading up to issuing the stamp?

The designer is identified as J de la Nézière. However, I understand there were both Joseph and Jacques de la Nézière, both artists of the period and well known for graphic arts.



And how did it happen that Cuba issued the same design (and in two values)? Any help in my search would be appreciated.

Ronald Hill

President of Denver Stamp Club, USA

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I can find no particular details about events leading up to the issue of the stamp, apart from the following extract from a French reference book:

“Issued 1 September 1938, withdrawn 5 May 1939, designed by J de la Nézière, engraved by Jules Piel, printed by line-engraving rotary press.

“Supported by the Ministry of Public Health, senator and former minister Justin Godart requested this surcharged issue, in the name of the International Union against Cancer, and on the occasion of the International Week organised in the autumn of 1938. This stamp is novel, because its issue was not purely national. It was issued not

only in France and in the principality of Monaco, but also in all the French colonies, which means over 20 surcharged stamps. 830,000 French stamps were sold, out of a print run of 1.5 million.”

However I can confirm that the artist's name was Joseph. One reference I have found states that there was only that one artist by the name of de la Nézière, although his first name was sometimes mistakenly given as Jean (and perhaps Jacques, therefore??).

The design was issued not only by the 21 French colonies, but also by Monaco, Cuba and Afghanistan - but I cannot find any reason why those latter two countries.

Maurice Tyler

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The chase itself has become perhaps more interesting than the stamps themselves.

The Monaco and Afghanistan stamps are of a different design (not by de la Nézière) as far as I know. However, since I collect Cuba as well as Chemistry and Physics on Stamps, this particular stamp has been intriguing.

The Cuba stamps are of the exact de la Nézière design. The only differences are that the Cuba stamps listed the

personal names as Pedro and Maria Curie (rather than Pierre and Marie) and added a lightning bolt piercing a crab (cancer) to the design, as well as issuing two values, the 5+1 (blue, same as the French) and a 2+1 in red.

I understand that there was also a R de la Nézière, perhaps the father, who was also a well known French artist. I can find only one other French stamp designed by J de la Nézière, but there may be others?

Ronald Hill

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There are other stamps, both in France and in the Near East (Syria) and Africa, by J de la Nézière, but I do not have a list of them.

Raymond de la Nézière was apparently Joseph's elder brother. Any further help from members would be appreciated.

Maurice Tyler

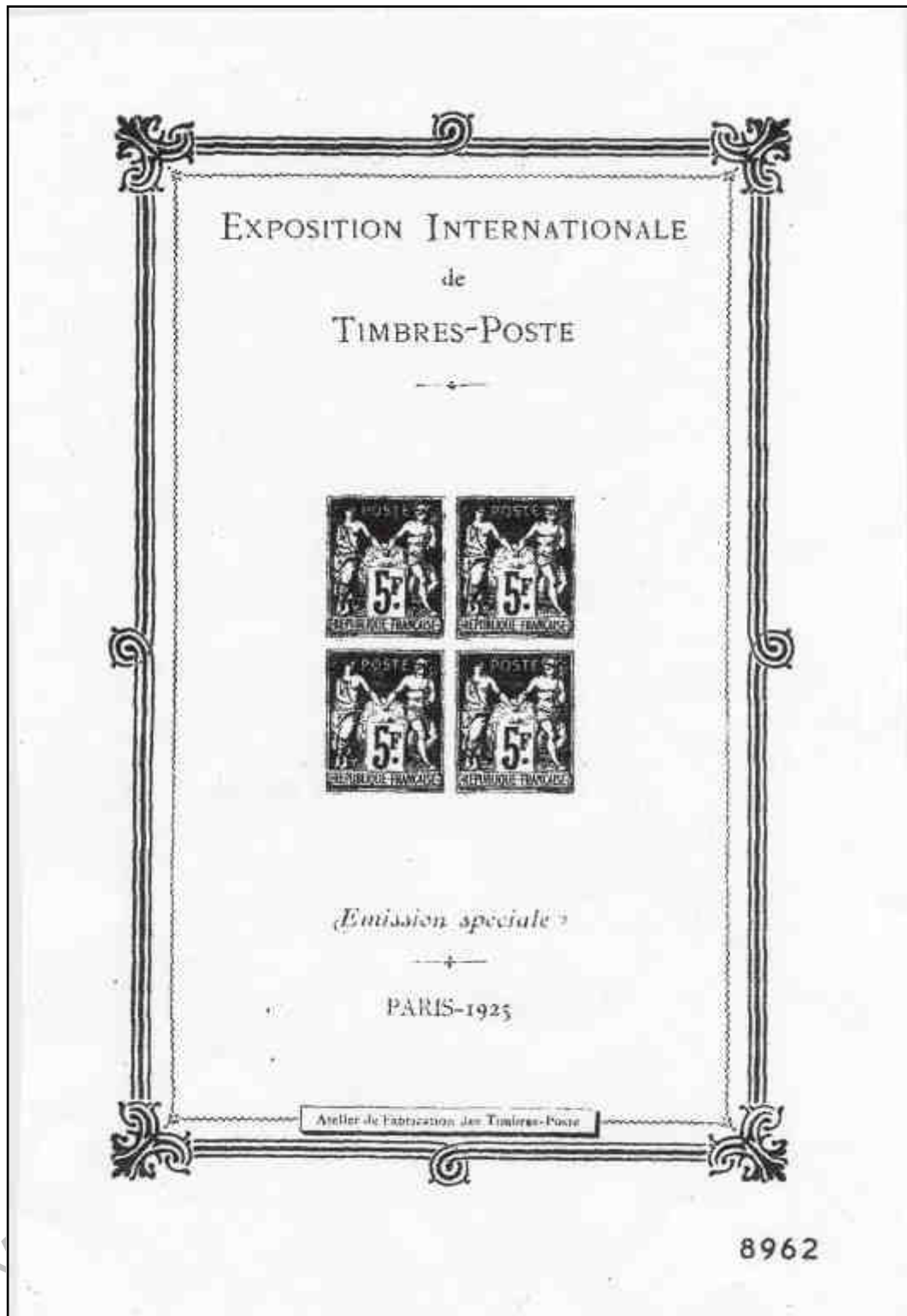
Jeu de Barres

I am reliably informed that one very important piece of information was inadvertently omitted from the piece by John Simmons on the *Jeu de Barres*, published in Journal 244 of June 2007 (page 63). The name of the grandson in question, who found the relevant website for John, is Miguel

Simmons, who collects “everyday” stamps – Mariannes, Machins, Juan Carlos heads. Perhaps we shall hear more of that name in the future?! Incidentally it was his sister Daniela who taught John how to send emails, the first of which was on the subject of the *Jeu de Barres*.

Maurice Tyler

Forged 1925 International Philatelic Exhibition Sheetlet



Some months ago, I went to a collectors' fair which included an auction of stamps, postcards and other ephemera.

Amongst the stamps was a small stock book of French material and when I inspected it, it appeared to contain (amongst other things) the sheetlet for the 1925 International Philatelic Exhibition — although the stamps were not the perforated 5F carmine, but were blue and imperforate. Not being one to resist what I hoped was a real find, I bid for, and bought the stock book.

When I got it home, I consulted Yvert, but could find no reference to an imperforate sheetlet and it was only when I looked at the back that I found the little rubber stamp which said 'Reproduction' and noticed the number printed at the bottom right hand side...

So, sadly, it's not a great rarity, but what intrigues me is that the only other reference to it being a reproduction is the fact that beneath each 'stamp' is the word '*faux*' in the tiniest of print. In addition it has been compared to the

genuine article, and in all respects – size, printing and gum – it is an exact replica.

So can any member give me any further information, as although it's not the real thing, at least it's a good space-filler and a talking point!

There was a happy ending - the stock book didn't cost me a great deal, and I've recouped my outlay by selling some of the material in it!

I hope that the photocopy of the offending item can be used as an illustration.

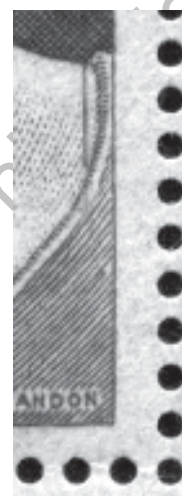
Bob Paterson

Marianne de Gandon 'à la bretelle' Variety

The June issue of the Journal (Whole N° 244, page 61) contains the illustration of an almost full sheet/pane of the 100 francs Marianne de Gandon *gravé* and an enquiry about an "à la bretelle" variety. I don't have all the reference material to make a definitive comment, but I believe that

this stamp was printed "3-up" ie 3 sheets/panes each of 25 stamps on one cylinder. Presumably the "à la bretelle" variety occurs on only one of these sheets/panes – and not this one. Without the sheet margins it is not possible to say which pane this is.

John Dickson



The curious case of the missing variety as set out by Godfrey Bowden in the June 2007 issue of the Journal is fascinating.

There appears to have been only one printing of Yvert 733 and all catalogue and article references except one suggest that it is a constant variety in position 22. The single reference, in the long lamented Marianne catalogue, to it being in the corner appears to be an aberration.

The proof of it being in position 22 comes from the illustrations above which appeared in a philatelic blog on

the internet. Clearly, given the lower sheet border and the placing of the printing reference it can only be position 22.

Why then does it not appear on Godfrey Bowden's entire sheet minus only the stamp in position 5? I considered that to be a question that perhaps a French specialist could answer, and I posted it to the Web newsgroup fr.rec.philatelie.

A correspondent there made two interesting suggestions: first, that it may only have appeared during the printing, as the cylinder wore, and second, that it is a variety of the position and not of the sheet – ie that each turn of the cylinder may well have produced three sheets, only one of which had the variety.

Michael Meadowcroft

Togo Cancellations

Togo – The Postal History of the Anglo-French Occupation by Jeremy Martin and Frank Walton details the cancels employed up to 20 July 1922 when the League of Nations Class B Mandates were confirmed.

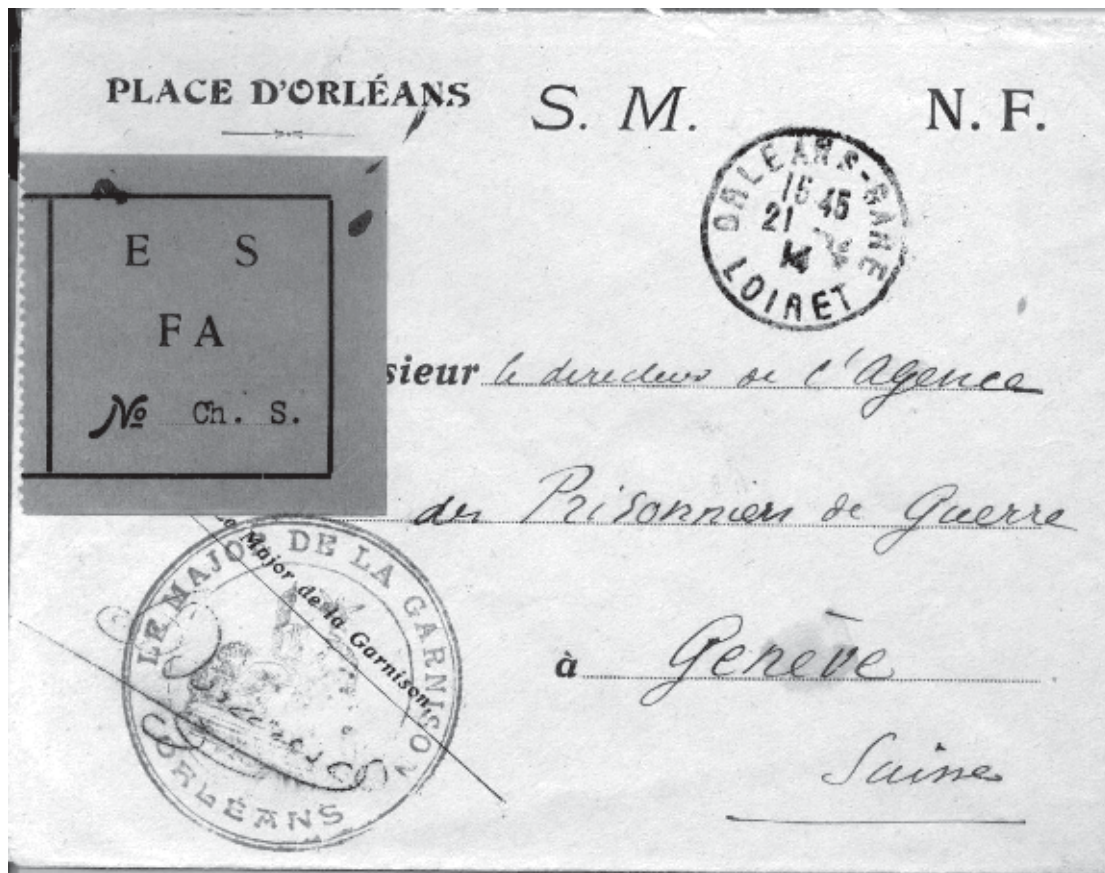
None of the examples illustrated of the French cancels employed is dated before this date, which suggests that they

were introduced after 20 July. I ignore the cancel for Grand Popo Dahomey with "Grand" excised, only recorded in 1914.

But I can now report the use of the two line Anécho date cancel M&W ref. 003.04 on Cérès 90 in June 1922 — unfortunately the day is not very clear even when enlarged, but at the earliest 10 June.

John Mayne

World War I Initials on POW Mail



This illustration is a copy of a 1914 cover, bearing the pink enquiry label, to the Prisoners of War Agency at Geneva - part of the International Red Cross Committee. But I cannot

determine what the two pairs of initials "S.M." and "N.F." mean. I have other instances of "S.M." written in manuscript on similar mail. Can any of our readers enlighten me?

John West

"S.M." is *Service Militaire*, an alternative to "F.M." indicating that postage is free. "N.F." is almost certainly the abbreviation for *Nécessité de Fermer*, indicating the

need to seal the envelope, presumably after censorship has taken place. But can any of our members add to this explanation?

Maurice Tyler

Composition of la France d'Outre-mer

In the *Bulletin Col.Fra* N° 120 (2^{ème} trimestre 2007) Jean-Jacques Sérénis reports that following the constitutional revision of 2003, the referendum of December 2004 and the law passed at the beginning of 2007, the *communes* of Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthélemy have become "*collectivités d'outre-mer*" under article 74 of the Constitution. They have therefore become separated administratively from Guadeloupe.

La France d'Outre-mer is henceforth composed of:

– *départements*: Guadeloupe, Guyane, Martinique, Réunion
These overseas départements also have the status of overseas regions (of a single *département* each).

– *collectivités d'outre-mer*: Mayotte (*collectivité départementale*), Polynésie française (*province d'outre-mer*), Saint-Barthélemy, Saint-Martin, Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon (*collectivité territoriale*), Wallis-et-Futuna (*territoire*)

– Nouvelle-Calédonie (specific status as *pays d'outre-mer*)
– uninhabited territories: Clipperton, Terres australes et antarctiques françaises: îles Saint-Paul et Amsterdam, îles Crozet, îles Kerguelen, Terre Adélie, Îles Éparses (Bassas da India, Europa, îles Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, île Tromelin)
These territories with no permanent population or local administration are outside the Republic (State possessions)

We must now get used to the new acronyms: DOM, COM, NC.

Bill Mitchell

The Ecological Counter Booklet (continued)

[A technical problem resulted in the loss of the last paragraph of John's short piece published in Journal 244 (page 66). This is how the article should have concluded. – Ed.]

The second change in the counter booklet occurred on 15.1.07 with the unexpected issue of the "Save the Planet" booklet, the main characteristics of which are:-

- Twelve stamps instead of ten which, in view of the fact that the new booklet is only 5mm longer than its predecessor, represents an annual saving of 10 metric tonnes of paper or 169 trees.
- The cover is made of "*papier kraft*" which, according to the Larousse dictionary, is a strong, generally brown,

wrapping paper. "*Kraft*" is the German word for strength.

- The recipe for the self-adhesive gum has been changed. It no longer contains solvents, ie toxic, volatile hydrocarbons.

I hardly need to add, in conclusion, that although this first "green" booklet only reached my local post office in April – according to the counter clerks – a new one has already appeared promoting the 9th issue in the "*France à vivre / France à voir*" series.

John Simmons

French Guinea Post Offices

I have read with much interest the article *The Post Offices of French West Africa, Part 4 – French Guinea* by Bill Mitchell and Laurence Lambert. (Journals 243 & 244, March & June 2007, pages 5-9 & 49-54) and would like to make some comments with regard to the role of the *Bureau Gare*.

The authors have referred to a list of the stations enabling the delivery of mails *assurant la remise du courrier* and have assumed that this must "surely mean shipping to the coast as well as to addressees inland". I believe this to be a dangerous assumption, at least as far as inland distribution is concerned, without source proof and find it very difficult to accept that a station office would be involved in the delivery of mail to addressees spread over large, remote and often inaccessible areas. In this case is it not more likely that the word *remettre* may be loosely translated as "handing over" the incoming mails in their possession to runners / messengers / vehicles / contractors carrying mails to the appropriate post offices from where letters will be collected as and when by the persons to whom they are addressed or by somebody acting for them? My understanding is that people came to their nearest post office or sent someone on their behalf to collect mail.

Going on from there, it is perhaps confusing to say that mail handled "in that way" (?) may be indicated by the use of the *Convoyeur* or BM (*Boîte Mobile*) handstamp. This implies an interchangeability between these two handstamps. This is a fundamental misunderstanding of the way in which the French postal system works, be it in the colonies or metropolitan France. The purpose of the *Convoyeur* mark is to record that the item of mail has either been handed to the *convoyeur* at the station or posted in his bag or box on the train. This is entirely different from the use of the BM mark which is applied to

justify mail that has been carried to the post office (or, possibly, the station office), by a private contractor or official source without having first passed through a post office. This may mean, for example, mail that has been collected or handed to a mail carrier between the start of his journey from a post office and his arrival at the station.

For some years I have been looking at the use of moveable box handstamps used in the colonies and I have seen nothing in print on this subject as far as French Guinea is concerned. Neither Coles, Waugh nor Stone make any reference to it at all. (*)

I have a number of examples of postcards with the BM handstamp but as yet insufficient in number to permit any firm conclusion to be drawn. Some are sent from localities far from the railway, but it seems certain that the railway is involved and all are cancelled either at Mamou or Conakry. The latest date I have recorded so far is 1927.

Studies of similar material in Madagascar, where there is much more material available, has given rise to the possibility of BM handstamps being applied at the railway terminus to mail posted in a moveable box on the train or handed to the train in some way, where there is no *convoyeur* present on it. It is stressed that this is supposition based on deduction. It is worth remembering that one of the purposes of the BM handstamp traditionally is to justify any time lapse between the date on the letter as given by the sender and entry into the postal system as shown by the postmark.

I hope these comments will give further strength to the excellent summaries presented by Messrs Mitchell and Lambert which have been successful in bringing together a whole raft of information from sources that are not always easily accessible. Keep up the good work!

Peter Kelly.

(*) Waugh. W H, *Railway mail on the French African and Indian Ocean Colonies*, France & Colonies Philatelic Society (USA), Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication N° 7, 1987.

Coles C W E, *The "Boîte Mobile" marks of France & Colonies*, F&CPS Journal 152 of June 1984.

Stone R G, *The "Boîte Mobile" in the Colonies*, France & Colonies Philatelist (USA) N° 155 (page 4), 1974.



As a coda to Bill Mitchell and Laurence Lambert's feature on French Guinea postmarks, here is a scan of a post-independence cover I bought at Philatex. Both the SIGUIRI (18.3.59) postmark and KANKAN arrival mark (on the reverse: 21.3.59) show, despite less than 100% clarity overall, that the word FRANÇAISE has been deliberately removed from the inscriptions, no doubt pending the arrival of new (post-independence) cancellers.

Michael Round

Future Articles

Articles or short pieces received and expected to be published in future issues include the following:

- "*Boules de Moulin*" by Ashley Lawrence
- "**Indo-China Directional Markings Printed on Envelopes**" by Ian McQueen
- "**Detained in France during German Occupation – update**" by Roy Reader
- "**Cameroun Taxe Marks**" by Marty Bratzel
- "*Un tarif ignoré*" by Michèle Chauvet
- "**Cameroun – Meteorological Manifestations, Publicity Cachets, and de Laurence Notations**" by Marty Bratzel
- "**French Transatlantic Mail 1800-1857**" by Steve Ellis
- "**French West Africa – the 1940 Airmail Stamps**" by Bill Mitchell
- "**Dahomey – Internal Communications at the Turn of the 19th and 20th Centuries**" by Bill Mitchell
- "**World War II – Just Another Sad Story**" by Bill Mitchell
- "**Yvert Levant 26 Cancelled Dirre-Daoua**" by David Jennings-Bramly
- "**A PRIORity Cover**" by John Simmons
- "**Where There's a Will**" by Mike Roberts
- "**Congo Pigeon Post**" by John Yeomans

Comoro Islands Display

I recently showed Comoro Islands to the Wimbledon and District Philatelic Society. This was a display “in progress” with many gaps: I could not show General Colonies used in Mayotte, pre-adhesive Anjouan markings, nor (less rare but still expensive) any 1975 Mayotte quadrisects, brought about by shortage of stamps on the island following its political separation from the rest of the group. There was, however, enough material to comfortably fill an evening, from the 1892 Tablet types (with shades, minor varieties, quantities of Fournier forgeries and a whole raft of postal stationery) through Madagascar stamps used in the Comoros from 1914-50 (scarce, with most material being swallowed up by the French market) and the DOM/TOM issues of 1950-75 (popular and much sought after, and not just in France), to as large a selection of modern commercial covers as the paucity of material allows, including (so far) seven different post offices on Mayotte. These are: Chirongui, Coconi, Combani, Mamoudzou, Mamoudzou-Kaweni, Pamandzi and Sada. No doubt other members can add to this list.

The history of the Comoros has an awful fascination, from the early days of piracy and slave-trading through to such a profusion of modern Governmental overthrows as to cause the islands to be dubbed ‘Cloud Coup-Coup Land’.

Philatelically, it is worth noting that the common ‘05’ and ‘10’ surcharges of 1912 were never used in the Comoros but only on the Madagascar mainland (Madagascar having absorbed the Comoros politically at the time), and in fact they are catalogued under that country by Michel. (The situation is analogous to the 1940s surcharges on Senegal and Mauritania, actually valid throughout French West Africa and – correctly – catalogued under that heading by Scott.) Used Comoro 1912 surcharges with Madagascar postmarks are therefore the norm, and definitely not worth the premiums some hopeful dealers ask for!

The Comoros regained political autonomy in 1950, but their postmarks were slow to follow suit, many still being designated ‘Madagascar’ for years afterwards. Exact changeover dates, post office by post office, still remain to be worked out. More recently, all the 1,240 or so Comoros stamps (including at least 117 surcharges) issued since 1978 have been boldly inscribed ‘République Fédérale Islamique des Comores’ (the first two words sometimes being abbreviated so as not to cramp the stamp design, but the third word never) – but I have so far found just three postmarks following suit (viz. ‘R.F.I. Comores’). Many town postmarks retain the plain designation ‘Comores’ to this day. There is more to discover here, too.

Michael Round

The Algerian Centenary Album of 1930

Philatelic ‘finds’ do turn up in unexpected places. I recently undertook my apprenticeship as an international philatelic judge at the FIP international exhibition in St Petersburg in the Russian Federation in June 2007. There weren’t many dealers and in any case we had been enjoined to finish our judging before visiting the philatelic trade. Such dealers as there were mainly had recent Russian thematic and local postal history. However, when the Governor of St Petersburg decided to visit the exhibition and give a long speech, our judging was suspended and while waiting to restart my eye fell on the stand of a nearby dealer. Under his glass was an oblong buckram and quarter leather bound album measuring 320 x 250 mm. It looked none too prepossessing outside but when opened what a treasure trove!

It contained 24 sumptuously printed pages in Arabic design in five colours plus gold, mounted on linen guards and with fresh mint examples of every Algerian stamp produced between 1924 and 1930 (SG 1-106) including the high values, the 1927 Moroccan soldier’s welfare fund, postage dues and pre-obliterations (not in Gibbons, but very difficult to find).

The title page (Fig 1) explained its purpose. It was prepared in a limited edition of 155 copies only to mark the visit of the French President, M. Gaston Doumergue, to Algeria in May 1930. The President was presented with copy number one, and the remaining ones were presented to

dignitaries. My copy is numbered 137. The title page bears an impression of the special date stamp to mark the presidential visit dated 10 May. To mark the centenary an international stamp exhibition was held in Algiers, beginning 4 May, and the special stamp issued for this is the final specimen in the book.

The album was designed, engraved and printed by Marcel Léon of Algiers but given the value of the stamps and the title page heading of ‘*République Française*’ it was clearly an official production of the PTT, and even at the time quite an expensive item to manufacture. The binding is hand-finished in good quality leather with silk head and tail bands and the album pages look as if they were lithographed by hand. The stamps are as fresh as the day they were issued.

I don’t believe I’ve ever seen this album recorded before and given its limitation number it must be pretty scarce. I wonder if there are any records relating to its production and to whom it was presented. What was it doing in Russia (perhaps from the estate of a Soviet diplomat in Algiers)? The dealer did not know where it had come from but he was willing to sell it to me for half SG catalogue of the stamps, discounting the *préos* which he couldn’t find in his catalogue. A tidy sum in roubles but quite a lot less than I suspect I might have paid in Paris. I’d be interested if any members have seen this or similar albums and know anything of the circumstances of its issue.

Iain Stevenson

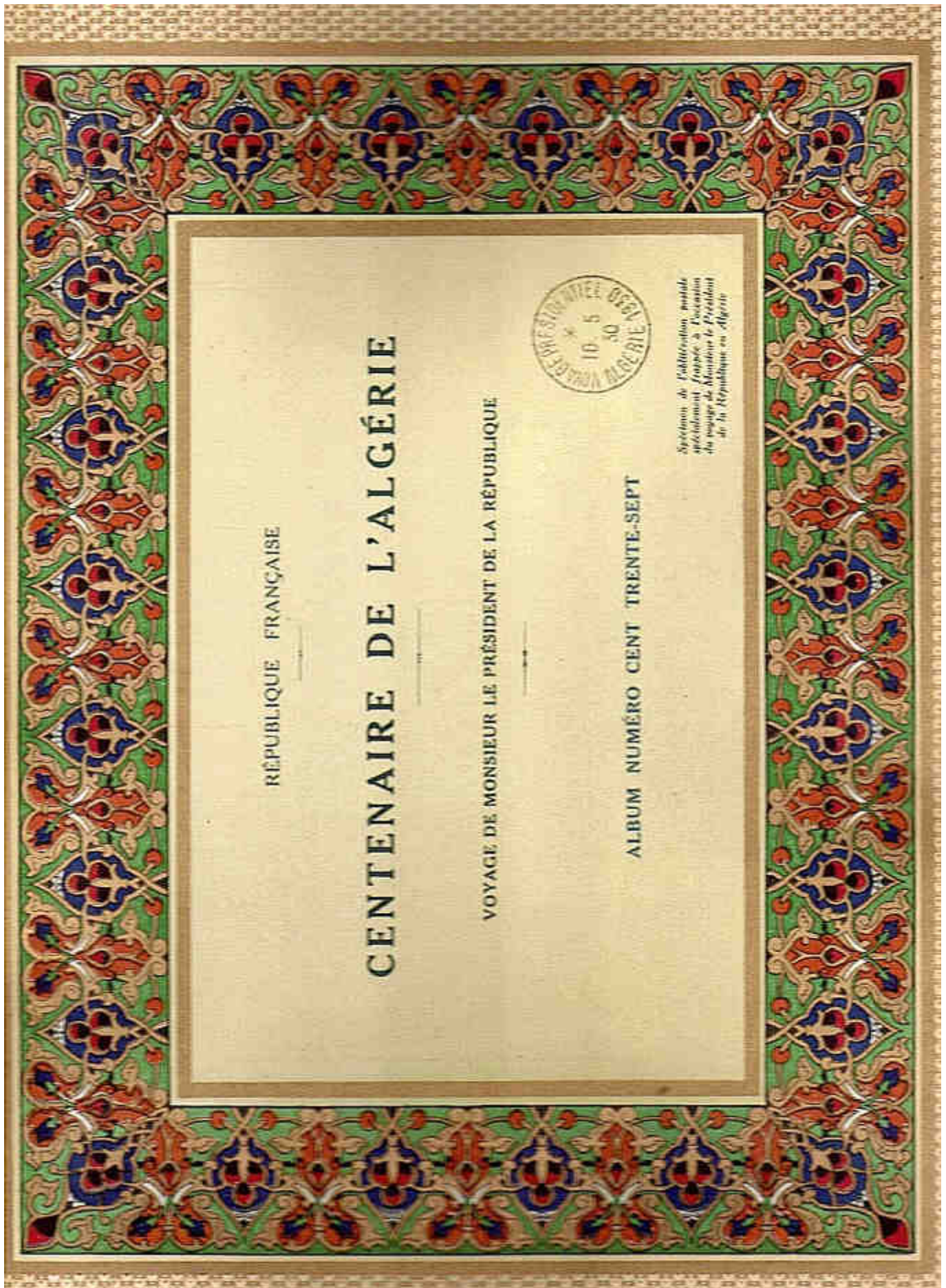


Figure 1
Title page with presidential date stamp



Figure 2
Sample page showing the pre-obliterations

French Internment Camps (continued)⁽¹⁾

Derek Richardson

CHAPTER 17

Camp de Choisel – Châteaubriant

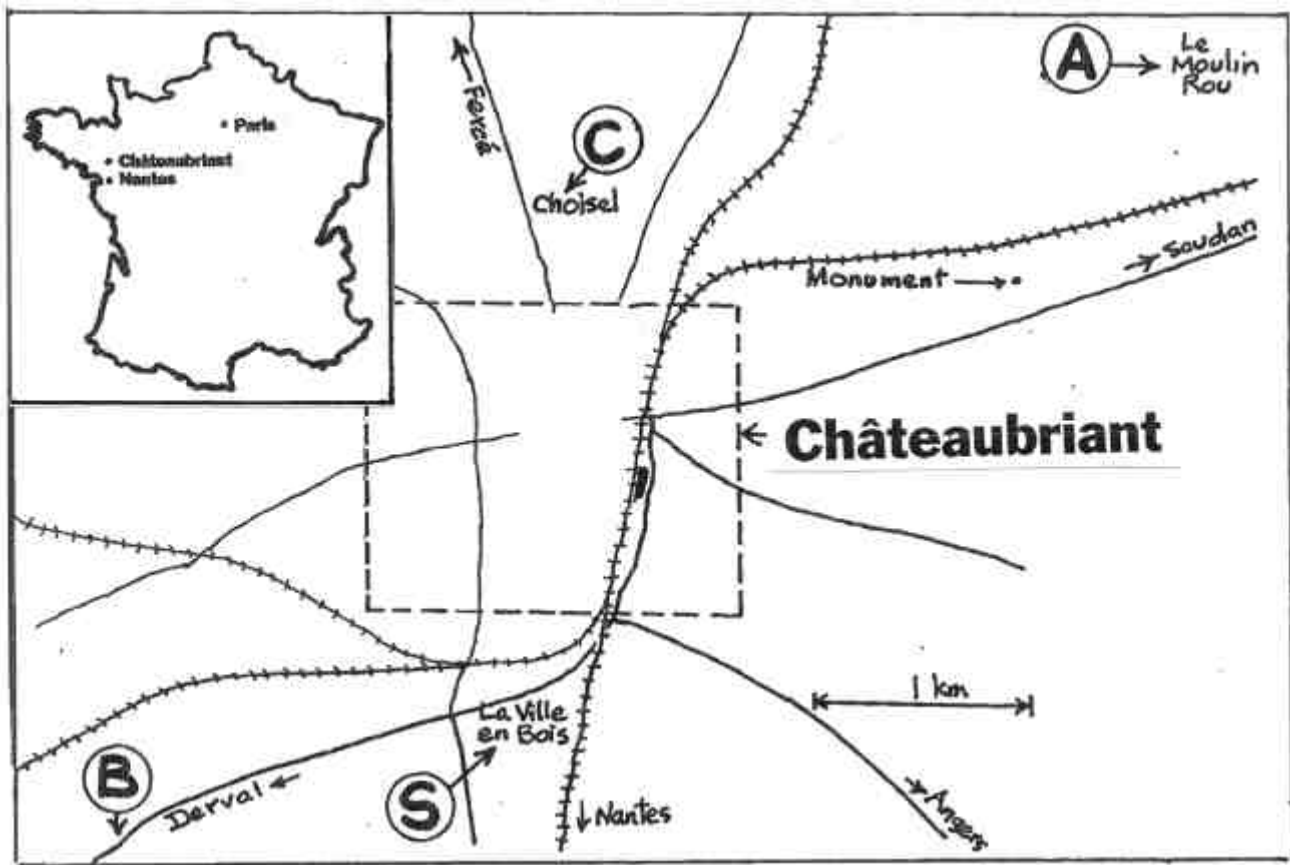


Figure 1

Before, during and for a short time after the end of the Second World War, the quiet Breton town of Châteaubriant (Loire-Inférieure) played host to a succession of refugees, prisoners of war, nomads, political prisoners and so-called French “undesirables”. This article attempts to show how events at the camp at Châteaubriant were reflected in its postal history.

Spring - summer 1939

At the end of February 1939, the French government permitted the opening of its frontier with Spain to grant asylum to over 400,000 Spanish Republican militiamen and civilian refugees of the Spanish Civil War. Châteaubriant received about 1200 civilians. They were first housed in the town itself and later in two small temporary camps in nearby villages⁽²⁾. After a few months, most had either been repatriated to Spain or been absorbed into France’s migrant population. No relevant postal history has been found

June 1940 - January 1941

The first German army units reached Châteaubriant on 17 June 1940, and soon swastikas hung from the windows of the Hôtel de Ville. The Armistice came into effect on 25 June. 45,000 Allied troops whom the Germans had taken prisoner in the Loire-Inférieure were placed in four prisoner

of war (POW) camps around the town. They were called camps A, B, C and S⁽³⁾. **Figure 1** is a sketch map showing their relative locations. They were, as from 20 July 1940, designated Frontstalag 183A⁽⁴⁾. French prisoners were led to believe they would be released under the terms of the Armistice, but in fact they were imprisoned until enough POW camps had been built in Germany to house them. Frontstalag 183A officially closed on 31 December 1940. The last of the remaining Allied troops at Châteaubriant were conveyed by train to Germany on 14 January 1941⁽⁵⁾.

Postal history. **Figure 2** is a formula card headed “*Service des Prisonniers de Guerre – Franchise Militaire*” and postmarked 12 July 1940. A French POW in Camp A writes to his wife saying he hoped soon to be liberated. The card is uncensored. The format of the card itself is interesting, having apparently been originally prepared for use by enemy prisoners captured by the French army! **Figure 3** is an envelope addressed to a French POW in Camp B. The 30-7-40 postmark is of Privas (Ardèche) in the unoccupied zone. The cover flap (on the reverse of the envelope and not shown) is slit for the contents to be removed and read. A boxed 219 censor mark is struck here in violet. Also struck in violet lettering about 1 millimetre high is the word HAMMER, significance unknown. I do not possess an example of a German language formula



Figure 2

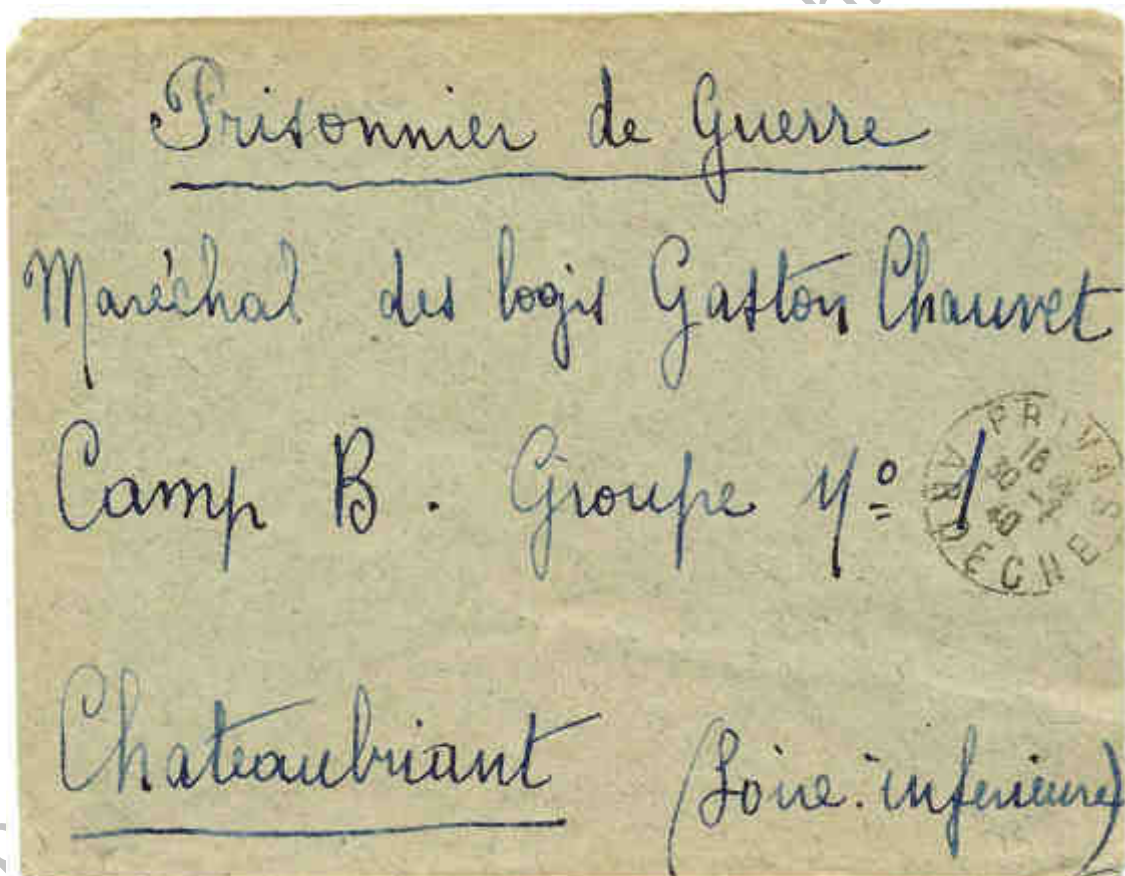


Figure 3

card used from Châteaubriant, but [Figure 4](#) depicts the Frontstalag 183A censor mark illustrated in the book by Mattiello and Vogt⁽⁶⁾.

January 1941 - May 1942

Following the removal of the POWs from Châteaubriant, Camps A, B and S were demolished. Camp C, however, which had been built on the racecourse at Choisel, just north of the town, was refurbished and converted into a

high security internment camp to hold about 600 persons. [Figure 5](#) is a plan of the camp, from which it can be seen that provision had been made for different categories of prisoners to be held in separate areas P1 and P2⁽⁷⁾. The first occupants of the camps were nomads and people sentenced for common law offences (black-market dealing, prostitution etc). They arrived in March 1941 and were followed at the end of April by the first communist activists and trade union officials. When Germany declared war on

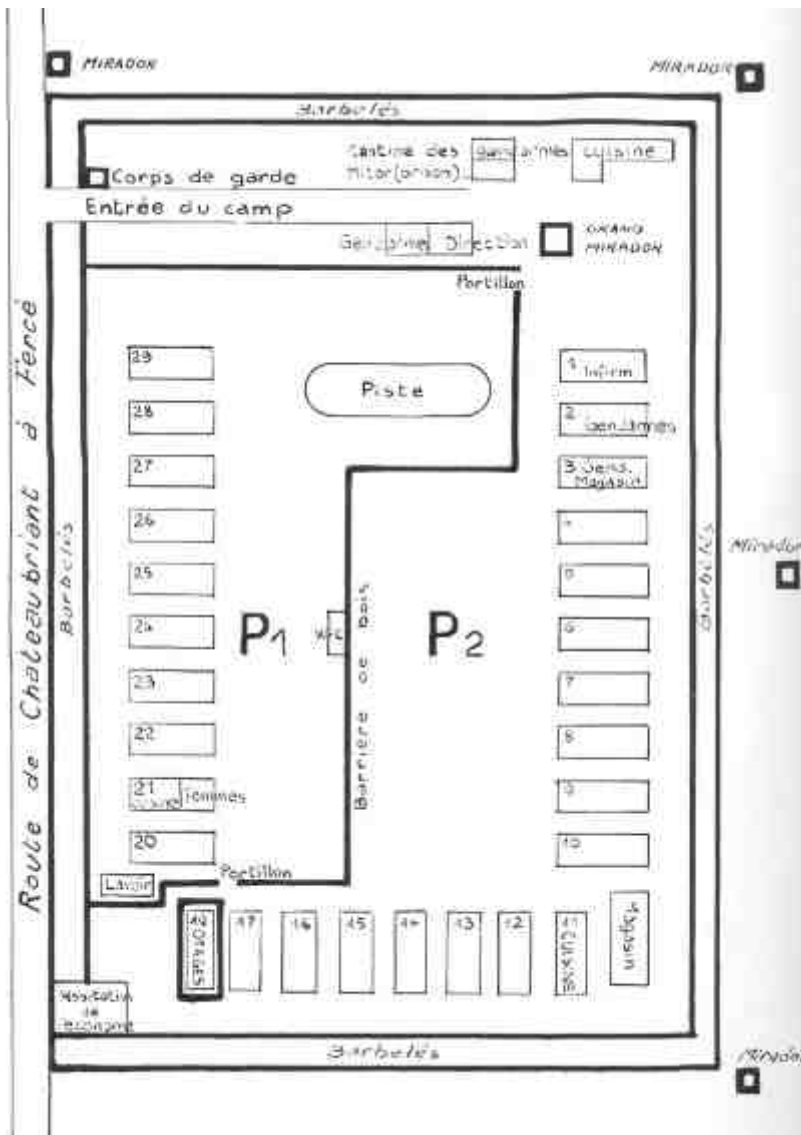


Figure 5



Figure 4



Figure 6



Figure 8



Figure 7



Figure 9



Figure 10

Russia on 22 June 1941, feelings in the camp ran high and discipline was tightened. The arrival of more communists brought the camp population close to its limits.

On 20 October 1941, at Nantes, two men belonging to a communist cell in Paris shot and killed Lieutenant-Colonel Hotz, Field Commander of the Nantes Military Region⁽⁸⁾. As an act of collective reprisal, 50 French communists, 27 of them from Choisel camp, were executed by German firing squad on 22 October. Terrorist activity continued, however, and further executions took place, including that of nine more men from Choisel camp on 15 December 1941.

The camp continued to function until May 1942 when, for strategic reasons, the closure of all camps near France's Atlantic coast, including the one at Châteaubriant, was ordered. This closure took place on 9 May 1942. The communist men (about 400) were moved to a camp at Voves (Eure-et-Loir), women to Aincourt (Seine-et-Oise) and the remainder to Pithiviers (Loiret)⁽⁹⁾.

Postal history. During this period, the earliest censor mark employed was one prepared for use prior to the fall of France. It bore the official "seated goddess" figure and the legend "Camp de Concentration - Châteaubriant - Le Commandant" – see Figure 6. (The term 'concentration



Figure 11
(Author's photo)

used for this purpose, its installations having been maintained in good order since its closure in May 1942. The Loire-Inférieure departmental archives hold full details of internees at the Camp de Choisel at this period of time. Monthly returns show internee numbers varying between 200 and 600⁽¹⁰⁾. No relevant postal history has been found.

Postscript

At La Sablière, a quarry about two kilometres east of Châteaubriant, a monument was unveiled on 22 October 1961, in memory of the 27 hostages who had been executed there twenty years earlier. The ceremony was attended by fifteen thousand people. This monument is illustrated on a French postage stamp “*Hommage aux Martyrs de Châteaubriant*” issued in 1981, forty years after the tragic event – see Figure 10. Of the camp at Choisel nothing remains, the area having been redeveloped. However, on the corner of the road that used to serve as the entrance to the camp stands a stone recording that fact – see Figure 11.

Notes

- (1) Previous articles in this series appeared in F&CPS Journals 167-174, 179, 189, 216, 218 and 222
- (2) Alfred Gernoux, *Châteaubriant et ses Martyrs*, Ouest Editions, Nantes (1971) pp 21-22
- (3) Alfred Gernoux, *op cit* p 35
- (4) G Mattello & W Vogt, *Deutsche Kriegsgefangenen – und Internierteneinrichtungen 1939-1945*, Koblenz (1987) vol 2 p 83
- (5) Alfred Gernoux, *op cit* p 53
- (6) G Mattello & W Vogt, *op cit* p 259
- (7) Fernand Grenier, *Ceux de Châteaubriant*, Editions Sociales, Paris (1963), opposite p 113
- (8) *The Times* 21 October 1941; Henri Amouroux, *La Grande Histoire des Français sous l'Occupation*, Editions Robert Laffont, Paris (1979) p 325
- (9) Fernand Grenier, *op cit* p 115
- (10) Denis Peschanski, *La France des camps. L'internement 1938-1946*, Editions Gallimard (2002) p 467

camp’ did not in those early days of the war have the sinister connotation it later acquired.) The example illustrated in Figure 7 is on a card postmarked 5.11.41 - the same POW stock card as depicted in Figure 2 but here mistakenly franked at the letter rate. A new censor handstamp was introduced shortly afterwards – see Figure 8 (earliest mark seen: 18-11-41). The term “*Centre de Séjour Surveillé*” applied to camps for French citizens whom it was deemed essential to keep under surveillance. Shortly after the introduction of the new censor mark, a new style of formula card was brought into use (earliest card seen: 5-12-41) – see Figure 9. As a rule, these cards are straw-coloured (*bulle*) but can be found in green. For some unknown reason, censorship ceased during the month of January 1942 but recommenced in February that year. I have also one uncensored card date stamped 4-4-42. Needless to say, none of the messages on the postcards examined contains any reference to the tragic events that had taken place at the camp.

January - November 1945

In the disorder that followed the liberation of France at the end of 1944, people who were known to have collaborated with the occupying forces were rounded up and placed in internment camps – sometimes for their own protection. Choisel-Châteaubriant was one of the camps

Cécogrammes

Mick Bister

First of all may I apologise for the gremlins which crept into the tariff tables in my first article on *cécogrammes* published in Journal N° 235 (March 2005). In several cases the heading 'per kilo' or 'per kilo' has slipped to the left into the adjacent cell for reasons I cannot explain. [Probably careless proof-reading by your apologetic editor!! - Ed.] Fortunately, the error does not seriously hinder one's comprehension of the tables but, for perfectionists, the following adjustments need to be made. In the first table, 'per kilo' should be to the right above '10c'. In the second table 'per kilo' should be to the right above '20c'. In the third table likewise, 'per kilo' should be to the right above '20c' and 'per kilo' should be to the right above '10c'.

Following the publication of my second article on *cécogrammes* I received a very charming letter from Franz-Karl Lindner. Franz-Karl Lindner is not a member of F&CPS but he is Vice President of the German Philatelic Association and has built up a serious collection of *cécogrammes* from all over the world. He is headmaster of the Westfälische Schule für Blinde in Soest which would account for his interest in this particular postal tariff.

Herr Lindner very kindly sent me a CD-Rom containing over twenty examples of French *cécogrammes* in his collection with permission to reproduce them in the Journal in the hope that they would shed some light on the complicated rate structure. Had space permitted, it would have been a delight to illustrate every item but I have

restricted myself to just one example of each rate or franchise strike.

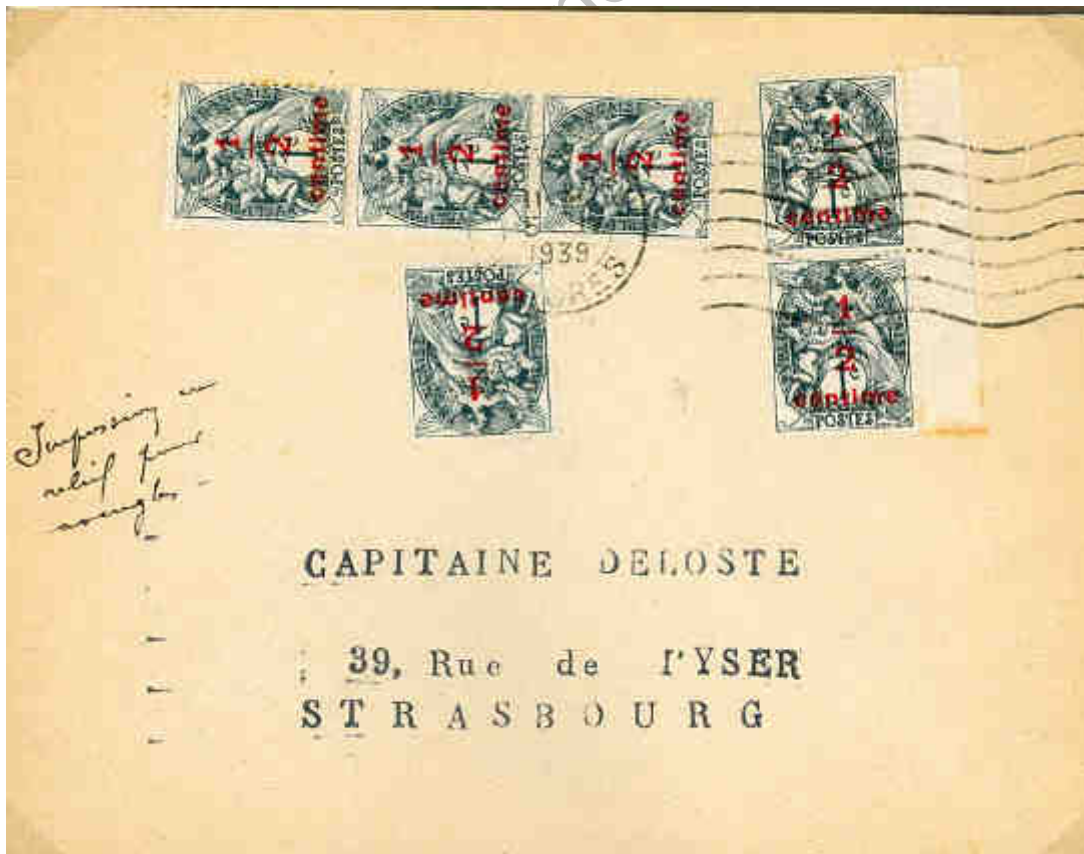
In the case of each item illustrated I have provided the following information:

- 1) a full description of the cover.
- 2) the dates of posting of any other covers in Herr Lindner's collection that are franked at the same rate.
- 3) in order to see if the cancellation dates correspond with the published tariffs I have quoted the dates given in the two major sources of *cécogramme* rates viz. 'L'affranchissement des *cécogrammes*' by Dr R Joany published in 'Documents Philatéliques' N° 68 and 'Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1672-1969' by Alexandre, Brun et al. For rates post-1969 I have quoted from Derek Richardson's 'Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to 2005'.
- 4) I have added any further comments relevant to the above.

To fully understand this article, members will need to refer back to the rate tables published in my first article in Journal N° 235 (pages 15-17).

Finally I would like to thank Franz-Karl Lindner for providing me with such a wealth of material to work with. Such is the rarity of *cécogrammes* that I doubt if any members of our Society have previously seen such a large number reproduced in one article; as I have said, it is a pity that space did not permit illustrating more.

Part A: Internal Rates



1. 6 x 1/2c Blanc franking on folded sheet of Braille from Versailles to Strasbourg cancelled 5 April 1939 and with manuscript *Impression en relief pour aveugles*.
2. —
3. J: 20-100 grams
1 April 1920 to 4 January 1942.
A&B: 20-100 grams
1 April 1920 to 8 April 1931.
4. This cover supports Joany's claim that the 3c rate did indeed continue beyond the 8 April 1931. Another interpretation could be that Alexandre & Brun are correct and that this cover is overfranked by one centime.

Figure 2

(see page opposite for Figure 1)

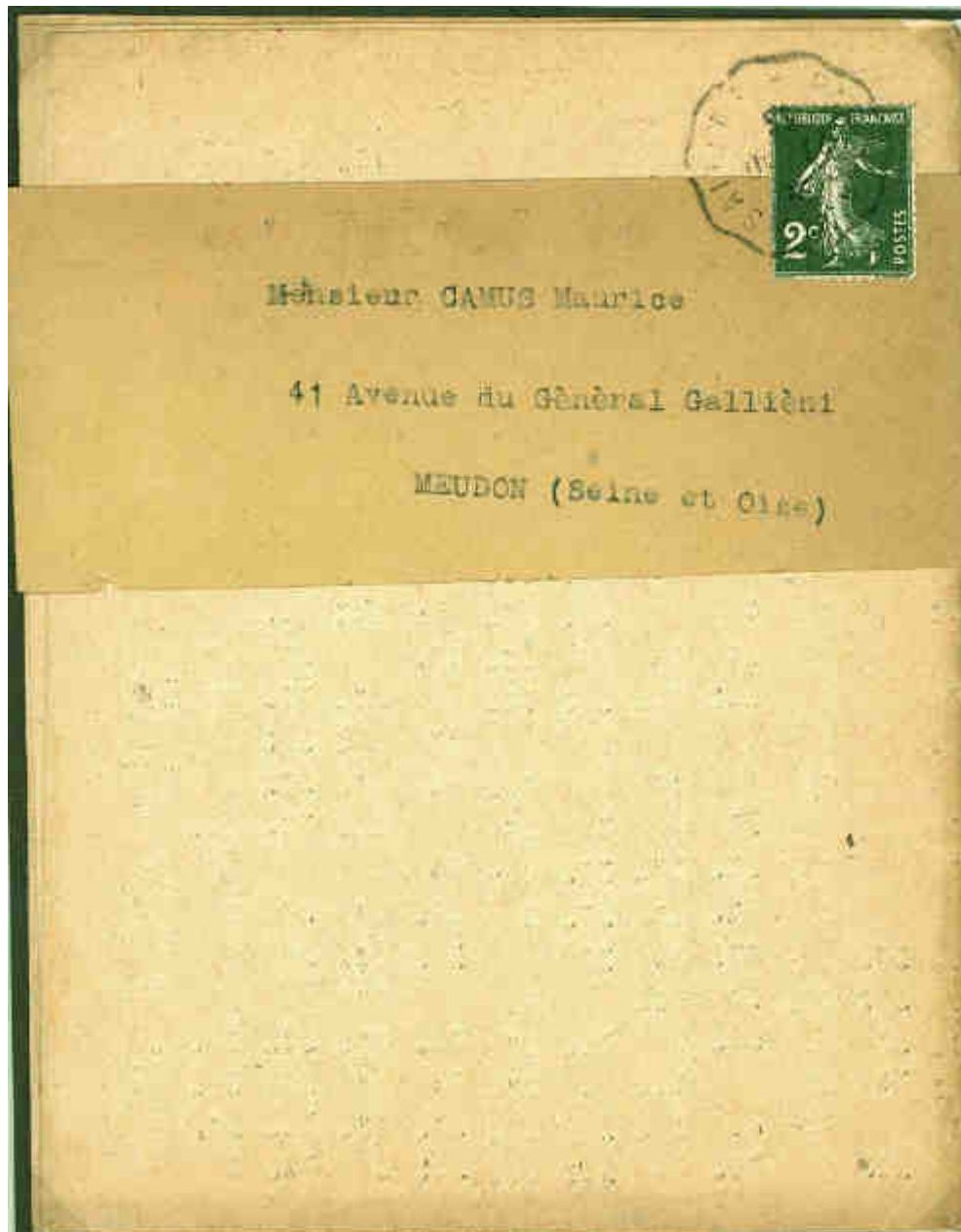


Figure 1

- 1) 2c Sower franking on wrapper enclosing Braille text from Paris to Meudon cancelled Paris à Versailles *convoyeur* 27 October 1933.
- 2) 2c Blanc canc. 11 January 1933; 2 x 1c Sower canc. 8 November 1939; 2c Sower canc. 22 June 1941; 2c Mercury canc. 25 July 1941.
- 3) J: 0-20 grams 1 April 1920 – 4 January 1942.
A&B: 0-15 grams 28 February 1912 – 31 March 1920; 0-20 grams 1 April 1930 – 8 April 1931; 0-500 grams 9 April 1931 – 4 January 1942.
- 4) All the covers correspond to the dates given in both sources. An example prior to 1 April 1920 needs to be found to support Alexandre & Brun's earlier dates.

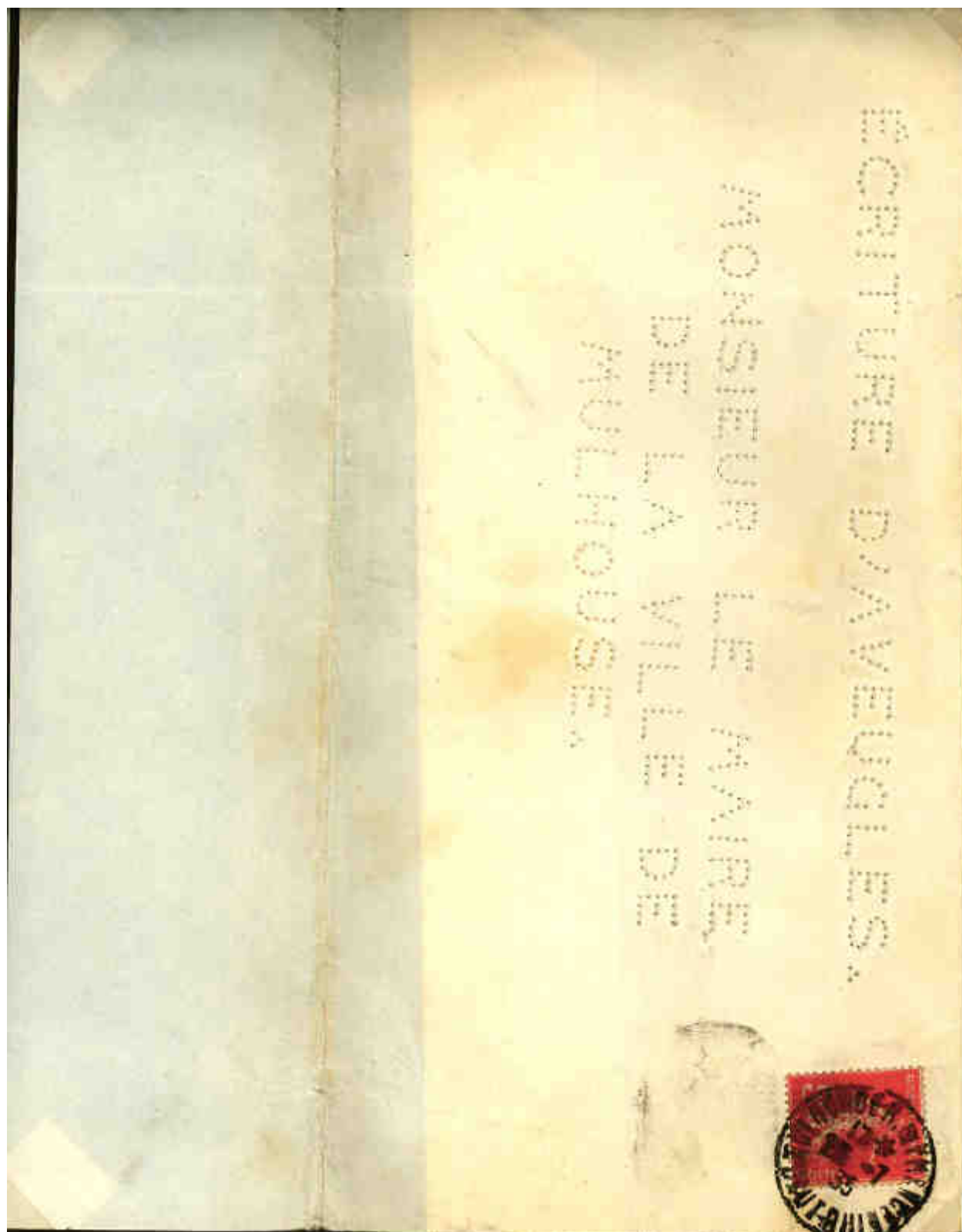


Figure 3

- 1) 5c Sower franking large wrapper from Haut-Rhin (illegible date stamp) to Mulhouse cancelled 30 July 1935 and with annotation and address punched into the wrapper ÉCRITURE D'AVEUGLES / MONSIEUR LE MAIRE / DE LA VILLE DE / MULHOUSE.
- 2) 5c Mercury canc. 23 December 19??.
- 3) J: 100-500 grams 1 April 1920 to 4 January 1942.
A&B: 100-500 grams 1 April 1920 to 8 April 1931.
- 4) This cover supports Joany's dates for a 5c rate as late as July 1935. According to Alexandre & Brun a 2c rate had been introduced on 9 April 1931 for items up to 500 grams with the next step being 7c for 500-1000 grams.



Figure 4

- 1) 10c Arms of Corsica franking folded Braille card from Laval to St Pierre-Montlimart cancelled 2 August 1948.
- 2) 10c Chaînes Brisées canc. 10 June 1945.
- 3) J : 0-1000 grams 5 January 1942 to 5 January 1949. A&B : 0-1000 grams 5 January 1942 to 30 June 1957.
- 4) The two sources differ considerably over the duration of the 10c rate but the two covers in the collection do not provide sufficient evidence to say which is correct.

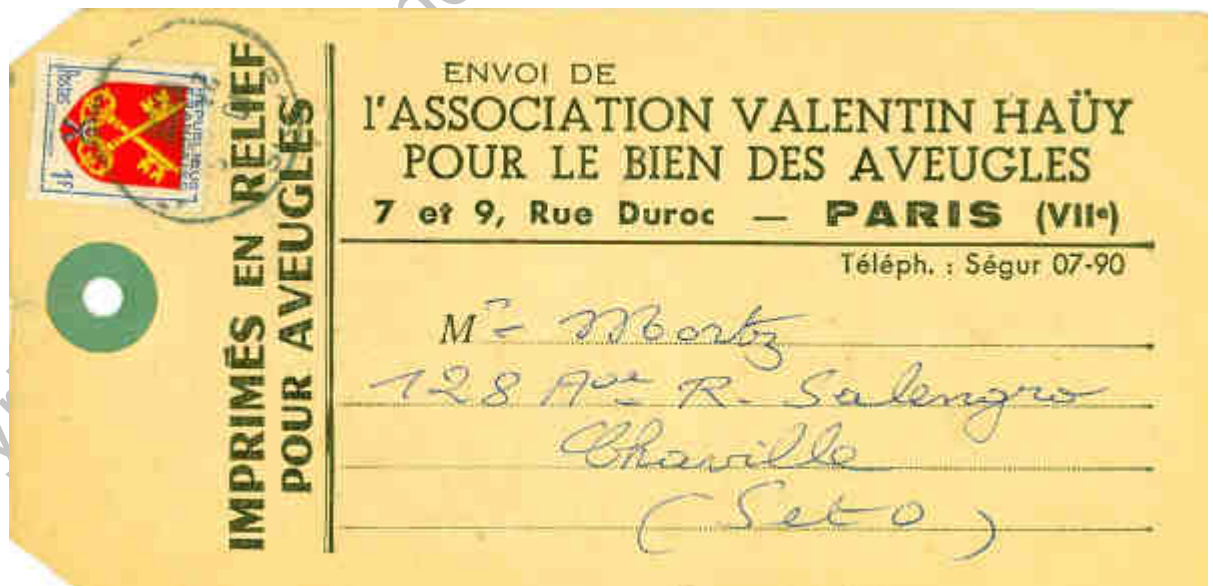


Figure 5

1. 1 franc Arms of Comtat Venaissin franking a parcel label from Paris to Chaville cancelled 22 July 1958. The label has been attached to a parcel sent by the Valentin Haüy charity for the blind and is clearly marked IMPRIMÉS EN RELIEF POUR AVEUGLES.
2. 1 franc Cérès de Mazelin canc. 4 July 1949 (see also Journal N° 235 Page 15); 1 franc Arms of Savoie canc. 15 February 1950; 1 franc Arms of Savoie canc. 30 March 1950; 2 x 50c Arms of Picardy canc. 17 February 1954; 1 franc Arms of Comtat Venaissin canc. 23 June 1956.
3. J: 0-1000 grams 6 January 1949 – 30 April 1951. A&B: 0-3000 grams 1 July 1957 – 5 January 1959.
4. The range of covers above confirm the existence of a 1 franc rate from as early as 1949 (as claimed by Joany) to mid-1956. This would negate Alexandre & Brun's claim that the 10c rate was introduced as late as 1957 but challenges Joany's claim that the 1 franc terminated as early as 1951.

Figure 6



1. Document sent post free from Paris to Hyères and cancelled 8 March 1968 by P.P. (Port Payé) date stamp
2. -
3. J: Post free from 6 January 1959. A&B: Post free from 6 January 1959.
4. An agreement at last between the two sources!

Figure 7



1. Package sent post free from Paris to Anduze and cancelled 8 November 1989 and struck with a heavy FRANCHISE POSTALE CECOGRAMMES by the sender Audimédia.
2. -
3. J: Post free from 6 January 1959. A&B: Post free from 6 January 1959.
4. The packaging is designed to contain a *magazine sonore*.

Part B: Foreign Rates



Figure 8

1. 20c Sower franking cover from Auvillars to Trieste, Italy, cancelled 9 September 1937. The letter is addressed to the *Istituto dei Ciechi*, a school for the blind.
2. -
3. J: 0-1000 grams 1 January 1938 – 31 January 1942.
A&B: 0-1000 grams 1 August 1937 – 31 January 1942
4. The cover clearly supports the earlier date of introduction given by Alexandre & Brun.

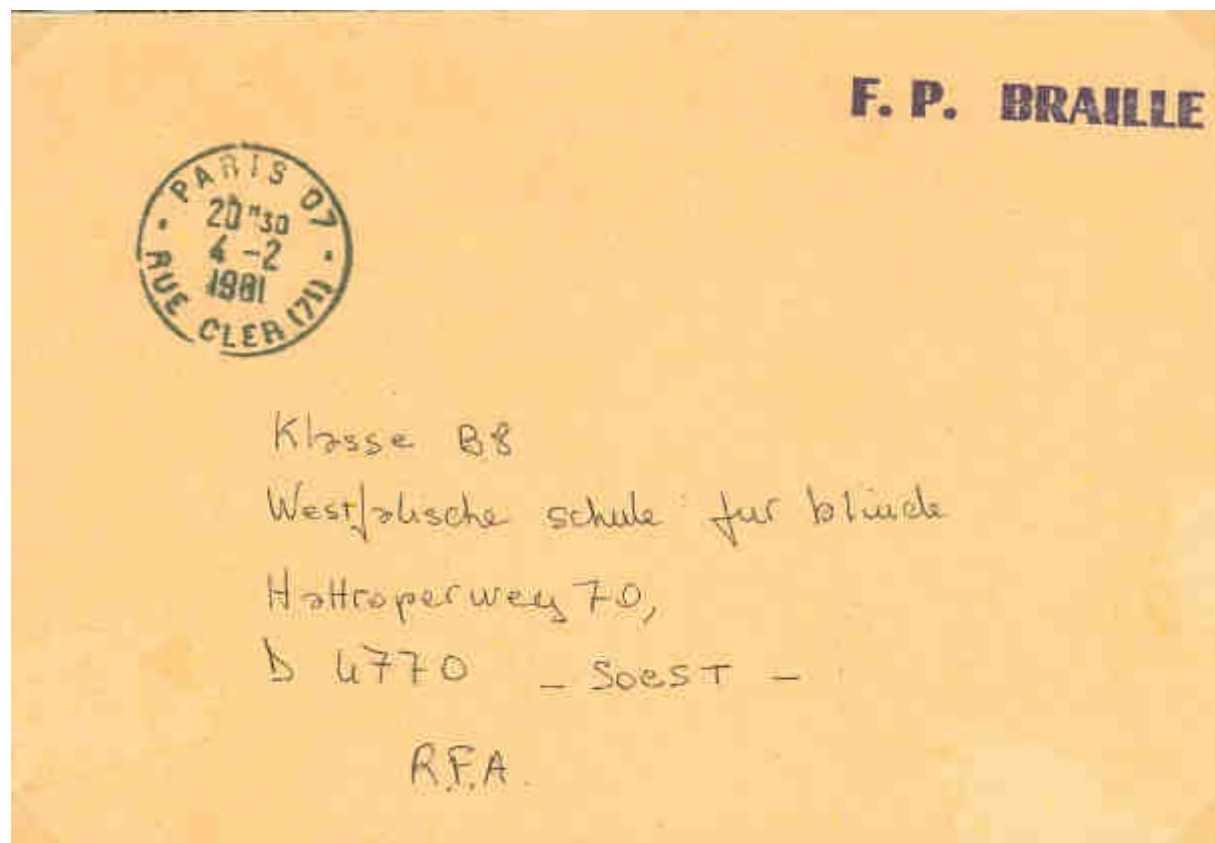


Figure 9

1. Document sent post free from Paris to Soest, Germany, cancelled 4 February 1981 and struck with F.P. BRAILLE cachet (Franchise Postale Braille).
2. 6 July 1981 with printed F.P. BRAILLE / NE PAS ÉCRASER S.V.P.
3. J: Post free from 6 January 1959. A&B: Post free from 1 July 1953.
4. We clearly need to find much earlier material to determine from which date *cécogrammes* for abroad could be sent post free.

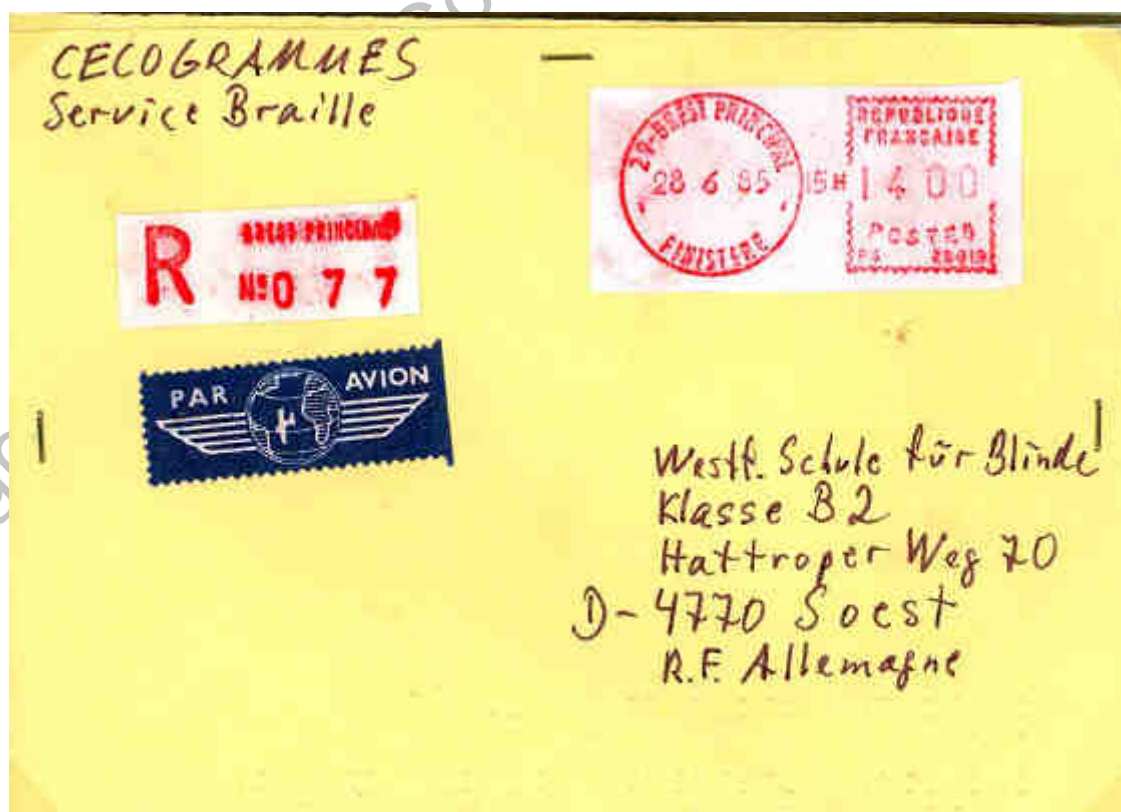


Figure 10

1. 14 franc meter franking on registered document from Brest to Soest, Germany, cancelled 28 June 1985 and with manuscript *CÉCOGRAMMES Service Braille*.
2. -
3. J: Post free from 6 January 1959. A&B: Post free from 1 July 1953.
4. With both the letter and airmail rates being free, the payment of 14 francs represents the foreign registration fee (Richardson: 14 francs from 1 July 1984 to 31 July 1985).



Figure 11

1. 17 francs 30 franking on express delivery document from Pont-l'Abbé to Soest, Germany, cancelled 20 June 1985 and with manuscript *Cécogrammes Service Braille*.
2. -
3. J: Post free from 6 January 1959. A&B: Post free from 1 July 1953.
4. The letter rate being free, the payment of 17 francs 30 represents the foreign express fee (Richardson: 17 francs 30 from 1 July 1984 to 31 July 1985).



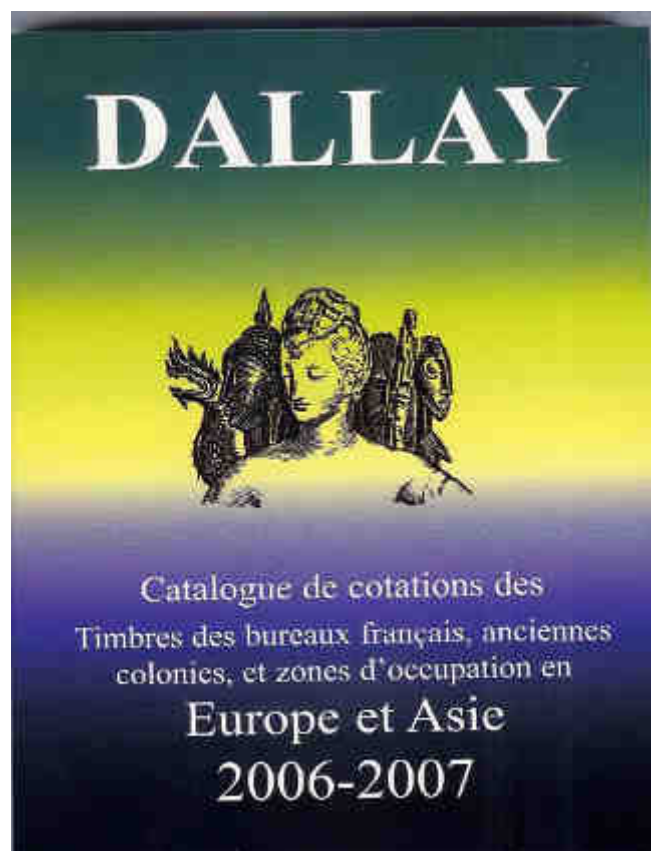
Figure 12

1. Cover from Narbonne to Soest, Germany, with post free label cancelled 7 August 1995 and manuscript *Écriture Braille*.
2. -
3. J: Post free from 6 January 1959. A&B: Post free from 1 July 1953.
4. The use of this label predates the 1999 usage illustrated in Journal N° 239 Page 13.

BOOKSHELF

DALLAY Catalogue des timbres des bureaux français, anciennes colonies, et zones d'occupation en Europe et Asie, Edition 2006-2007

Pub. Dallay SARL, 31 rue des Bourdonnais, 75001 Paris; 592pp; text only, ±1950 words; ISBN 2-9524-6273-9.



CANTON 1908
(rough) perf 11
4c, 5c, 10c, 25c,
35c, 40c, 50c, 75c
(in Yv 42-62).
Only the 5c and 10F
are catalogued thus.

With this volume (N° 5, though scarcely signalled as such) Dallay completes its coverage of French Colonies, fourteen years in the making, here presenting the long-awaited Asia components and adding French POs there and in Europe, plus Saar, Memel and the French Zone issues of Germany. Many F&CPS members will have already sampled previous Dallay catalogues and may wish to know how this volume matches up. Members specialising only in Asia may like to know more about Dallay's layout and coverage in general. Details may be found in my reviews of earlier volumes for this Journal (DOM/TOM in Whole N° 238, December 2005, and Africa in N° 240, June 2006): feel free to consult these before reading on.

Format and layout

As with previous Dallay catalogues but unlike any other, territories appear not in alphabetical order but strictly geographically, from west to east. Easily graspable in general terms, this can irritate in detail, with Alexandrette after Latakia, Grand Liban after Syria, and the Indo-China POs placing Tchong-King before Mong-Tseu and Kouang-Tcheou after Yunnan-Fou. The 'German' component throws in a political dimension too, running thus: Saar to 1934, then Memel, French Zone (Allemagne, Baden, Wurtemberg – or Württemberg in German – then Rhineland-Palatinate) and finally Saar again, from 1947. Readers hopelessly lost may consult the (thankfully alphabetical) back cover Contents listing.

Text, as before, is in French throughout. Readers fluent in it will gain much from the helpful preamble "*Définitions et abréviations*" and – as an important guide to quality, including expertising markings – the section headed "*Sur les timbres*".

Dallay bows progressively towards the art of space-saving. Maps are now few; some of them are tiny. The DOM/TOM volume illustrated every stamp much enlarged; the Africa volume reserved enlargements for pre-1900 issues. This Asia volume reduces almost every stamp to life-size (as it were), save for some enlarged cancellations on metropolitan France and General Colonies and – most helpfully – design details showing varieties. However, one can scarcely bemoan the lavish illustration of every stamp in every set, in full colour (even common-design sets like Postage Dues) when this policy so helpfully pinpoints the identity of stamps like the multitudinous **France Libre** overprints of the Indian Settlements (including those collectable **PRANCE** and **FRANOE** varieties), the 1943-6 local pictorials of Indo-China, and (with one important exception – see later) the mixed black and/or red surcharges of Grand Liban (1926-9). Despite other catalogues' best efforts, certain of these issues remain tiresomely difficult to identify, as members (particularly packet vendors and buyers) will readily confirm. Dallay's copious illustrations are bound to put its cover price up: but the time saved in locating a particular item is ample recompense – or would

be, if the catalogue numbers thus found actually matched those of Yvert, Gibbons, Scott or anyone else (see later).

Panels beneath each basic stamp illustration bear information, where known, on date and purpose of issue (e.g. postage weight-step or other tariff), and quantities printed. Airmails are placed chronologically among the Postage issues, while Postage Dues, officials, booklets and *millésime* pairs are compartmentalised separately. *Millésime* listings include those for Postage Dues, and occur – oddly perhaps – before the basic Postage Due listings themselves. Postal stationery is not covered.

Numbering

This is a contentious issue. Dallay splits definitives into sub-groups, or allots full catalogue numbers to varieties that other catalogues only give ‘a’ numbers (or vice versa), to such an extent that the resulting catalogue numbers only match Yvert’s (or anyone else’s) when there is just no scope for alternative arrangement. Some catalogue publishers fiercely protect their own numbering systems, and one wonders (though only fleetingly, given that – for instance – Cérès already shares many numbers with Yvert) whether Dallay’s policy is an enforced copyright-avoidance issue. A pity, if so, for collectors making or consulting lists will, inconveniently, have to use two or more catalogues side by side. Airmails, Officials and Dues each start from N° 1, potential confusion among the airmails (arising from their placing in and among the regular postage issues) being deflected by an aeroplane logo before each number: easy to spot, if hard to retype.

Scope

Coverage varies in depth from territory to territory, but is usually beyond – sometimes far beyond – that found in current Yvert or other general catalogues. **Saar** is hugely detailed, with copious varieties on the early overprints, notes on changing postal rates, enlarged illustrations of the varieties on the basic designs beneath the 1947 surcharges (hooray!), and – as throughout the volume – prices for UMM, MM, U and on cover. **French Zone** listings add (though without illustrating) many minor varieties omitted by other catalogues, and include (with illustrations this time) detailed coverage of the Württemberg ‘Wohnungsbau-Ausgabe’ overprints on the Steuer-marke (Obligatory Tax) stamps of Berlin. **French POs in Europe** include places identifiable only by cancellations on mainland France: double-check your apparent duplicates for potentially valuable postmarks, also used in unlikely places as far afield as Cairo and Yokohama. Check your **General Colonies** issues, too: many ‘precursors’, used in Indian Settlements, Indo-China, and so on, are copiously listed (23 Indo-Chinese cancellations on the Dubois 15c blue, for instance) and separately priced. But unlike previous volumes, there are no lists of postmarks to look for on any later issues – maybe Dallay decided this job was simply too big to tackle.

There are no surprises in **French POs** (Cavalle, Dedeagh, Levant, etc) beyond a few shades, familiar to users of the old Yvert specialised (the 1940 volume for the POs, that is, slightly easier to find second-hand than the famous and much sought-after 1936). The early surcharges for **Syria** and **Grand Liban**, manufactured by the Pères Capuchin at

Beirut (or possibly by the orphans under their care) and rich in varieties, are well listed – and great fun to collect, too, if you have stocks to rummage through. Shades for the 1892 Tablet type for **Indian Settlements** and **Indo-China** have been routinely copied from those for other colonies in previous volumes. They probably do not all exist for the former, though the copious postal traffic of Indo-China may actually provide examples of all the shades listed here (plus others well known to collectors but as yet uncatalogued). Good shades exist on the Grasset issue too, but of these there is no mention. The rare **Indo-China and POs** wide-spaced 4p on 10F of 1919 is listed but not illustrated nor described. With very few printed (only 31 for Hoi-Hao, for instance), most of us would be eager to know exactly how much this wide spacing measures, just in case we are entertaining pricy angels unawares. (The magic figure is actually 2mm between ‘4’ and ‘Piastres’, as opposed to the normal 1.5mm.)

Still with **Indo-China** (likely to be the most consulted section of the book), the thick or thin surcharges of 1922-23, footnoted in Yvert, are here separately listed and priced. So are misplaced centres on the postage issues (though the extent of acceptable misplacement is not stated) – but there is nothing for the contemporary Dues, which also exist thus. The 1927 6c booklet pane with ads all round is illustrated (and priced – in vertical pairs or strips of 5 if not the whole pane) but less helpfully described, in that all permutations, despite their varying inscriptions, are here labelled “*Poste*”. However, Dallay’s clear listing of three perforation gauges among the 1943-44 Postage Dues (far better than other catalogues’ blanket coverage) should send all of us scurrying to these hitherto ill-regarded issues in order to make up three sets instead of one. A pity the red and rose printings of the previous (1931-41) Dues are not also itemised: it would be comforting to know just which values exist in both shades. Indo-China, incidentally, stops at 1945, so there is no Cambodia, Laos or Viet-Nam, not even (another area where full illustrations will, one day, be most welcome) the 1945-48 Viet-Nam overprints on Indo-China proper.

Readers with long memories may recall my asking in previous reviews for information on a few **perf 11** varieties among post-1905 pictorials. They may be little known, being absent from the Yvert Specialised. I repeat the request now, specifically with reference to **Canton**. Dallay, like the modern Yvert, lists the 1908 5c and 10F values with this variety, but I have seven other values myself with this perf [see illustration on previous page], and – judging from adjacent spaces in the club booklet I bought them from – I expect another F&CPS member has the remainder. The perforation is rough, but the rest of the presentation (printing, paper and gum) looks too good for these items to be fraudulent or completely bogus. I’m convinced that some member can explain their provenance, and has been hitherto just too shy to write in and say so. Please help, someone.

Three cheers for Dallay’s illustrations of the different **Chine** overprints of 1902/04, badly described in other catalogues. The universally known wide spacings on **Indo-China**’s ‘05’ and ‘10’ surcharges of 1912 are illustrated, but lesser known varieties elsewhere (and thus more urgently in need of

illustration) are not: the comma variety on the **Indian Settlements** 1903 fiscal surcharge, for instance. However, whether illustrated or not, many fresh delights lurk among the listings, like the five unissued '*Traité franco-libanaise*' pictorials of **Grand Liban** (1936) here illustrated, and – at €225 each - gratifyingly priced. Not many of us may know that the same country's final (June 1928) 15p on 25p blue (Dallay 119, Yvert 121, Gibbons 150) exists in four varieties of spacing, arising from two printings; here it is, fully listed – and unfortunately snookered by a wrong illustration (maddeningly, in this most frustrating of series) which duplicates the earlier black-and-red surcharge of May 1928 (Dallay 112, Yvert 114, Gibbons 135) rather than showing the correct all-red version. The parallel 7p50 on 2p50 surcharges (D. 111/118, Yv 112/120, SG 133/149) are also wrongly illustrated: again, the earlier (lower-numbered) issue is surcharged in black and red, but the later (higher-numbered) should be in red only.

There is less here for postal historians than in other volumes. **Postage rates** (surface, not airmail) are given, clearly set out in panels, but only for the German area. Other clues are less obvious: stamps paying a specific tariff for a period of less than three months (and therefore scarce, genuinely used alone on cover) are signalled by underlining their listed dates of issue – examples are the four lowest values of the **Indo-China** 1937 International Exhibition set. This potentially valuable explanation is

buried in the introductory notes, and not even under the expected heading "*Sur lettre*". That will teach us all to read every word, and very carefully too.

Pricings

The lowest price for any item (previously €0.10, then €0.20) now seems to be €0.30. In line with the French market – and with every other catalogue but Gibbons – used stamps are priced lower than mint regardless of actual scarcity. Undoubted scarcities do exist (a large number among the lower values), but many collectors feel that Gibbons' used prices are far too high, and buyers at these levels may be disappointed if ever they come to sell their material in France. Mounted mint are generally priced at around two-thirds unmounted. All prices are arguable, of course: as a casual collector of **Indian Settlements** myself, still hoping to buy my first non-Pondichéry cancel (of any period) at anything like an affordable price, I was surprised to see Chandernagore and Mahé cancels on General Colonies issues marked up by only around 50%.

A recommendable buy

There is much here to debate, a very little to deplore (like the numbering), but an enormous amount to praise: this volume has an immense reference value to anyone with even a passing interest in the area. Hard-copy catalogues will only get scarcer: go out and buy this one now, before it disappears into cyberspace.

Michael Round

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Books Noted

Postes d'Europe XVIII^e-XXI^e siècle, Jalons d'une histoire comparée - Post offices of Europe 18th-21st century, A comparative history, edited by Muriel Le Roux, pub. Comité pour l'histoire de La Poste, 2007; 975 pp, 170 x 240mm; price 27€; details from Comité pour l'histoire de La Poste, CP F502, 44 boulevard de Vaugirard, 75757 Paris Cedex 15. [Bilingual report on international symposium of 2004 on history of European postal networks; covers postal history in Europe, museums, organisation of postal systems, evolution of means of delivery, costs (particularly of transport of letters or private parcels), and the official role of Post Offices in espionage and censorship.]

Jérusalem – Poste française 1846-1880, by Raphaël Livnat; 32 A4 pp; price 15€; available from author, 14 rue Paul Lafargue, 92800 Puteaux. [Lecture given to Académie de Philatélie in 2007, covering Santelli and Miciarelli postal service and its joining the French service at Jaffa, where a cachet bearing the Jerusalem Cross was used.]

Jérusalem – La Poste consulaire française 1948, by Raphaël Livnat; 150 pp; price 36€; available from author, 14 rue

Paul Lafargue, 92800 Puteaux. [Well documented history of this issue, with philatelic and political background.]

Taxes et modalités de taxation de la lettre ordinaire dans le régime général international (1876/1975), by Guy Prugnon; 64 A5 pp; price 11€ + p&p; available from Timbropresse, 6 rue du Sentier, 75080 Paris cedex 02. [Well researched study of different taxes applied in the course of these years to all mail exchanged between France and foreign countries.]

The Postal Issues of Syria, Lebanon and the Alouites 1919-1945, by Alexander Kaczmarczyk; pub. James Bendon, 2004; 140 pp, 190 x 280 mm; hard cover; price \$45 + p&p; available from Triad Publications LLC, 33 Liberty Street, Chester, CT 06412-1116, USA. [Gathering together of previously scattered information, with production processes, postal history, and specialised catalogue of regular issues, varieties, airmail stamps, postage dues, postal tax stamps, essays and proofs, postal stationery; covers Syria 1919-1945, Lebanon 1924-1945, Alouites - Latakia 1925-1933, Ile Rouad, Kilis, Ain Tab, Alexandretta; final section deals with forgeries.]

Maurice Tyler

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

Cameo: Journal of the West Africa Study Circle

Vol 10 N° 2 (Whole N° 71) Jun 2007: Free French in the Gold Coast (Martin); FEA: Late use of Campo, Gabon postmark (Mitchell); Cameroun 1961 6d surcharge double (Lythgoe); Developments in Cameroonian stamps 2006 ((Hauschild); Togo: Anglo-French Occupation Mail 1914-15 (Mayne); Was APO 664 set up in Pointe Noire in 1942? (Parren); Cameroun – re-use of ex-German Tax mark (Mayne & May).

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 120 2^{ème} Trim 2007: La Réunion: Deux surcharges pour un timbre (Deley); 971 Guadeloupe: Marcophilie moderne (Levanas); Bureaux Postaux Militaires d'Indochine (Gruet); Indochine: Documents Politico-Historiques et Généalogiques (Baudin, Simon *et al*).

Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 86 N° 4 Jul-Aug 2007: Cover Story: An Unusual French Connection [1851 reduced foreign rate USA - France] (Mazza).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 193 3^{ème} Trim 2007: Des bureaux «indochinois» de Guangzhou [Canton] 1901-1922 (Chane-tune); La télégraphie Madagascar [création et premiers développements] (Varin); Les marques ondulées de Djibouti et les débuts de la poste en Côte française des Somalis (Guichenduc); Des prisonniers de guerre mexicains en France [1863-1864] (Schild).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 288 (Vol 63 N° 2) Apr 2007: French Marcophily – An introduction to “Flammes” (Kinsley); Literate Flammes (Rediger); The French Military Intervention in Crete (Luft).

Whole N° 289 (Vol 63 N° 3) Jul 2007: Lebanon in World War II: A Censorship overview (Morvay); The Centennial of French Algeria (Mercia); Indochina - Finally Getting it Right (Grabowski); The Courbet Expedition to Formosa (Luft).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1808 Jun 2007: Frédéric Candon, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Le Comité pour l'histoire de La Poste (-); À la mode luxembourgeoise (-); 1927: Alsace, terre d'accueil de la philatélie mondiale (Hella); Un phare à la loupe..! (Barratin); Raymond Duxin, le magicien: 800 pièces inconnues [3] (Storch).

N° 1809 Jul-Aug 2007: Steven Briend, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Les dix ans de la

Marianne d'Ève Luquet (Hella); Duxin, le magicien: 800 pièces inconnues [4] (Storch); Une première démultipliée (Héron, Gengembre); Ces codes-barres qui nous envahissent (Emmenegger).

Timbres Magazine

Permanent features: Actualités, courrier des lecteurs, Club des clubs, Manifestations, marcophilie, Les nouveautés de France, actus Andorre, Monaco et des TOM, Pap, Expertise, Les variétés, Le Journal des nouveautés, Bibliothèque, Mon marché du mois.

N° 80 Jun 2007: Paul-Emile Victor, du Groenland à la Terre Adélie (Michaud); De bonnes surprises [carnets SAGEM en Nouvelle-Calédonie] (PJM); De la vignette de Montgeron aux LISA (Sanders); La Distribution de Jaffa et les paquebots de la Méditerranée (Livnat); René Quillivic, ou l'itinéraire d'un artiste [2] (Decaux); Connaissez-vous P.G.B.?(de la Mettrie); Les Guerres du XVIII^e siècle et leurs marques postales [4] (Baudot); Un affranchissement partiel (Prugnon); Pointe-Noire ou Léopoldville ? (Chauvin).

N° 81 Jul-Aug 2007: Entrée des artistes: Louis Briat (Decaux); Retour des premiers blocs des îles Eparses (PJ); En couverture: Promenade marcophile dans les îles du Ponant (Loëdec avec Michaud); Usage courant des tirages exceptionnels de la Marianne de Lamouche (Robineau et Martineau); Une variété sur le PA N° 1: Les TAAF apostrophées (Melot); Affranchissements composés: Napoléon et Sage (de la Mettrie); Timbres sur calendriers polynésiens: En sont-ce ou n'en sont-ce pas? (Beslu); Cartes Postales: Marions-nous! (Zeyons); Les Guerres du XVIII^e siècle et leurs marques postales [5] (Baudot); Une taxation superfétatoire (Prugnon); 1942: La poste aux armées américaine débarque en Algérie (Chauvin).

N° 82 Sep 2007: Retour des premiers blocs des îles Eparses (fin) (PJ); Entrée des artistes: Michel Durand-Mégret (Decaux); 1848-1849: l'histoire mouvementée de la première émission de France (Michaud); F Hundertwasser, un peintre qui aimait les timbres (Fasser); Le coupon-réponse international est centenaire (Sanders); La photographie sur les carnets publicitaires (PJM); Nos lettres anciennes: Ne pas se fier aux apparences! [1866 du Havre à New York] (de La Mettrie); 1920-1960 Les postes françaises au Togo (Chauvin); Cartes postales: «J'ai du bon tabac...» (Zeyons); Les Guerres du XVIII^e siècle et leurs marques postales [6] (Baudot); Un tarif peu connu (Prugnon); Madagascar: une liaison aérienne en sursis (Chauvin).

NOTE: In the last two Journals (Nos 243 of March 2007 and 244 of June 2007) [pages 40 and 48] the numbers of the *Timbres Magazine* issues for January to May 2007 were incorrectly given as 73 to 77: they should have been numbered 75 to 79. Apologies!

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 12 MAY 2007

The President, Mr P R A Kelly, opened the meeting held at the Calthorpe Arms public house, 252 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1, at 11.30am in the presence of 19 members.

(1) Apologies for absence were received from David Jennings-Bramly and Derek Richardson.

(2) Minutes of the previous AGM of 13 May 2006, published in Journal 241, were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

(3) President's Report - Peter Kelly

"I am pleased to be able to report another successful year for the Society. Since my last report we have moved forward on a number of issues that were of concern but there are still areas of weakness that need to be addressed.

The publication and sales of our two books Derek Richardson's "Rates" and Geoff Gethin's "Fakes & Forgeries", published last year, have been a success and, together, have more than covered their cost. The cost of publication has been written off in 2006 and the positive effect of the sales will be felt in the current year. In the same way, the sale of old Journals and Brochures, run by Peter Maybury has exceeded expectations and has provided a useful income in both 2006 and 2007.

Bob Wood kindly stepped forward to take over the France packet from Mavis Pavey, who stood down after many years as Secretary and whose contribution was recognised at the annual weekend by the presentation of the Long Service Award.

The reports of the various Secretaries follows. Their comments are self explanatory but it would be amiss of me not to thank them all officially for their hard work and support of our Society.

Steve Ellis was invited to become a Committee member during the year and it is hoped his position will be confirmed at this meeting together with the proposal for two new Committee members.

A year ago I emphasised the potential problem we face with regard to an ageing Committee and the reluctance of younger blood to step forward. The appointment of new Committee members as mentioned above is a first step but I have to say that my forebodings on this subject have turned out to be prophetic in that three members of our Committee, Geoff Gethin, Mick Bister and Peter Maybury have all been seriously poorly during the year and this has put pressure onto others to share the burden. Even as I write this, Mick Bister is in hospital and we hope he will be home again shortly.

Mick has agreed to carry on with two auctions a year but no-one has volunteered to take his place and without his input auctions would sadly come to an end. Think about it! Similarly, at the request of Geoff Gethin the role of General Secretary has been divided into two with Geoff continuing on as Membership Secretary and I will take over as General Secretary. Peter Maybury has resigned

from the Committee but will continue to be our Sales Organiser.

Looking at the Meetings held during the year the Southern, Northern and Wessex Groups have continued to attract active participation from members and have been very successful, but the Scottish Group, with a very low core membership has yet to prove its long term viability and Mavis Pavey needs a lot more support from Scottish members. The decline of the main London group, originally the core of the whole Society, continues and can only be considered as being on the edge of viability now and, as such, cannot attract the calibre of speakers that we would like. At the moment there is no convenor, Ashley Lawrence having resigned as Programme Secretary, and only a restricted number of meetings are envisaged for 2007.

The Philatelic Weekend at Charlecote remains the highlight of the year with good attendance and support and excellent displays. It is an occasion for old friends and new to get together and to enjoy the very best of our hobby in fine surroundings, well fed and watered. Those who have never attended should give it a try. You won't regret it! Interest in the annual competitions has fallen increasingly in recent years and in Item 15 we have proposed some changes.

So there we have it: A Society in good health, a stable membership, and a dedicated Committee concerned not only with the day to day running of it but also looking ahead to the future to head off problems and, wherever possible, to answer the needs of the Members. The Members are fortunate in this but should not take the future for granted for this in large part depends on their participation in what is on offer.

My period of two years as President ends now and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of the Officers and Committee Members for their help, support and encouragement, and especially Chris Hitchen, always at my right hand, for reminding me of all the things I had forgotten to do, Maurice Tyler, for his patience with me and punctilious approach to everything he does, and Mick Bister, always a steady hand on the tiller. I wish my successor, Ashley Lawrence, well and know that he will benefit from the same support as I have enjoyed."

(4) Membership Secretary's Report - Geoff Gethin

"During the year to 31.12.06 membership decreased slightly from 383 in 2005 by four to 379. We have welcomed 14 new members (8 UK and 6 non-UK). The Society's website and our PayPal facility have proved their worth in recruitment alongside our Regional Organisers.

Unfortunately this gain of 14 was offset by the loss of 18 members due to resignation (9), suspension (5) and death (4).

I would like to thank in no particular order, several people: my wife Liz for holding the fort on membership matters and Peter Kelly for dealing with General Secretary affairs both during and after my 10 week hospitalisation; Chris

Hitchen for chasing up the forgetful and together with Peter Kelly for recruiting eminent continental postal historians/philatelists to the Society; Maurice Tyler for maintaining the website; our Regional Organisers for their recruitment efforts, and Derek Richardson for his meticulous maintenance of the Society's database."

(5) Treasurer's Report - Chris Hitchen

"The society made a small loss in 2006 of £. Publication of two books went ahead as planned and their cost was entirely taken within the year. Future sales of publications will therefore provide a surplus for the Society. To date approximately 140 of the Fakes & Forgeries book have sold for receipts of some £ and almost 300 of the rates brochure for some £. Derek's book has therefore provided a valuable surplus and Geoff's is close to breaking even.

On the income side it should be noted that sales from the auction are still declining. The Colonial packet is doing very well and the France packet is picking up a little after a transitional period.

All debtors and creditors have now been cleared.

With the increase in subscriptions made this year and future sales of books I would anticipate that the accounts for 2007 will move into the black. I would therefore recommend that the subscriptions for 2008 remain at their current levels."

Acceptance of the Report and Accounts was proposed by Alan Barrett and seconded by Len Barnes, and carried unanimously.

(6) Auction Secretary's Report - Mick Bister

"Before I report on the 2006 auctions I would like to thank John Hammonds who took over the lion's share of last year's work by organising two of the auctions compared to my one. Despite his own diary being full of other philatelic commitments and responsibilities John's support for this Society ensured that three auctions were able to take place in 2006. The Society is indebted to his indefatigable support as without him my report would be even more depressing.

As I have just said, three auctions were held in 2006, a room auction following the AGM in May and two postal auctions in February and August. In addition there was a bourse as well as the usual bookstall held at the Annual Philatelic Weekend at Charlecote, and I am very grateful to Prue Henderson for allowing a percentage of the profits from the sale of George's material to be contributed to the Auction's funds.

The February auction was very disappointing with only fourteen members providing material and only 12.8% of the membership submitting bids. The other auctions did not fare much better and in several respects the room auction was one of the most disappointing of the past

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2006

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at bank
Cash at building society
Sundry debtors

DEDUCT CURRENT LIABILITIES

Sundry creditors
Subscriptions in advance

TOTAL ASSETS

Represented by

MEMBERS FUNDS

Uncommitted funds at 1.1.2005

Year loss

2005

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2006

Expenditure

Accommodation
Journal 4 issues
Postage and expenses
Publications (Rates book)
Publications (F&F book)
Insurance
Library
Year loss (2003 surplus)

2006

2005

Income

Auction
Exchange packet
Interest
Sale of publications

2006

2005

Subscriptions

decade. Overall the number of members bidding during 2006 followed the negative trend of the previous few years with average participation falling to only 15.9%. The number of lots sold in each auction likewise continued to fall; in the August auction for example only 46% of the lots were sold, the lowest figure for some years. Obviously this has had a detrimental effect on the profits which for 2006 amounted to only £ (of which a contribution of £ came from the Annual Weekend Bourse and Bookstall). This is by far the lowest figure since I took over the job as Auction Secretary ten years ago.

As I said in last year's report, some of the blame must be apportioned to the on-line auctions such as eBay and Delcampe which offer quicker returns to vendors and a wider choice to buyers. However, this should not detract from the fact that there is still a lot of good material being

offered by the Society and, in most cases, at prices comparable to those found on-line. However, despite this competition I feel that we should continue with the Society auction as it does provide a service to a number of members, albeit a falling proportion of the membership.

I am also grateful to John for having organised the February 2007 auction, but he has asked to relinquish his post as from today. However, as nobody has yet stepped forward to take over the position of Auction Secretary I am sorry to say that I cannot continue by myself the current pattern of three or four auctions a year. I am more than happy to continue as Auction Secretary for the foreseeable future as I find the job thoroughly enjoyable and, despite the decline in sales, very rewarding, but I will be able to offer only two auctions a year, a room auction in May and a postal auction in November.

AUCTION ACCOUNT 2006				
EXPENDITURE		INCOME		
2005	2006	2004	2005	
PAYMENTS TO VENDORS		SALE OF LOTS (including reimbursed Postage & Packing)		
	February		February	
	May		May	
-	August	-	August	
_____	November	_____	November	_____
BOOKSTALL & BOURSE		BOOKSTALL & PREVIOUS YEAR'S UNSOLDS		
<i>Incorporated into above payments</i>				
	PRINTING			
	February			
	May			
-	August			
_____	November	-		
	POSTAGE			
	February			
-	May			
_____	August			
	November	_____		
	OTHER OUTGOINGS			
	Sec. Expenses			
	Bank Charges/Errors	-	Bank Interest	
	Profit to Society		Donation	-
	Credit c/f to 2007		Credit to Buyers	
_____	Float c/f to 2007	_____	Float b/f from 2005	_____
_____		_____		_____
_____		_____		_____
RECONCILIATION OF CASH POSITION AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2006				
Balance in HSBC Current Account				
Less profit paid to Society				
Amount carried forward to 2007 (float and members' credit)				

I would like to close by thanking those who have supported the auction during 2006 whether they be vendors or buyers, stewards or general helpers – and of course a big thank you to Alan Wood for his sterling work in navigating us through last year's room auction in May."

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

Mavis Pavey handed over the France packet to our new France packet secretary, Bob Wood, on 31.8.2006. Mavis was thanked for her contribution at the Annual Weekend at Charlecote and the President presented her with the Society's Long Service Award.

As a result, two sets of accounts are presented to reflect the year as a whole. The report from Bob Wood explains why commission income has fallen this year and why it will improve in the current year. The Committee are very grateful to Bob Wood for taking on this post and appreciate the effort that he is putting into it.

(7b) Report of Packet Secretary (France) – Bob Wood

"I must begin my first report with a word of thanks to Mavis Pavey for handing on to me a well-organised and smooth-running circulation system. As an ordinary member I had valued the regular appearance of packets, and I had guessed at the amount of checking and recording that was involved, but I had not realized the complexity of the task. There are eleven circuits, each of between eight and fifteen members, with more than thirty members offering items for sale; each booklet is seen by members in three circuits; and an attempt must be made to give everyone a chance to

see material that has not been previously harvested by other members.

After reading Mavis' repeated appeals for more material, it has been a considerable relief to receive a steady supply of new booklets. 133 booklets were received during the year, with a total value of £ Unfortunately the hand-over process meant that for nearly six months no new packets were sent out, and this is the main reason for reduced income during 2006, together with the fact that only four of the fifteen packets I have sent out since August completed their journeys before the end of the year. At least that promises an increase in receipts during 2007.

At the cost of adding to the complexity of recording the progress of each booklet, I have changed the method of compiling packets. Each packet, when it starts a new circuit, includes at least three booklets that have not been previously circulated, so that members are now less likely to receive a packet from which all the most attractive items have been removed. I have also reduced the number of booklets in each packet, thus economising on postage costs. First impressions are that these changes are leading to more satisfied customers, and hence to a higher income for the Society. Watch next year's report to see if this impression is correct.

My especial thanks for the help and patience shown by the other officers of the Society to a newcomer, but also for the many messages of encouragement that have come from members. Keep up the flow of messages – and booklets – and purchases."

ACCOUNTS FOR FRANCE PACKET 1 JANUARY - 31 AUGUST 2006

INCOME

2006	2005
£	£

Balance b/f from previous year
Receipts from members
Bank interest
Commission on sales

Insurance recovered
Postage recovered

_____	_____
_____	_____

EXPENDITURE

2006	2005
£	£

Gross payments to vendors
Stationery
Postage & telephone
Previous profit paid to Treasurer
Paid to vendor re switching
Balance in bank due to vendors

Profit to pay to Treasurer _____

Cash in hand

-	_____
_____	_____

PROFIT AND LOSS

2006	2005
£	£

Commission on sales
Postage recovered

Insurance recovered
Bank interest

_____	_____
_____	_____

Postage and telephone
Stationery
Paid to vendor re switching
Profit for year

2006	2005
£	£

-	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

ACCOUNTS FOR FRANCE PACKET 14 JULY - 31 DECEMBER 2006**INCOME****EXPENDITURE**

	£	£		£
Start-up loan from Treasurer			Repayment of start-up loan	
Received from M Pavey			Expenses:	
			stationery & printing	
Receipts from members	_____		postage	_____
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <u>comprising</u> (a) completed booklets commission on sales insurance return postage balance paid to vendors _____ <u>(b) booklets still circulating</u> commission on sales insurance balance due to vendors _____ _____ </div>			Payments to vendors	
			Paid to Treasurer	_____
			Cash at bank:	
			Current a/c	
			Instant access a/c	_____
Bank interest		_____		_____

Cash at bank comprises:

money received for booklets
still circulating
surplus due to Treasurer _____

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

2006 was a good year for the Colonies packet with a healthy increase of income compared with the previous year.

During the year a total of 60 packets were in circulation at some point containing 864 books (772 in 2005) with a total insured value up from £ to £

Total sales amounted to £ (2005 £ generating commission of £. After allowing for deductions for insurance and payment of postage £ was remitted to the Society's central account.

It is to be noted that 13 packets had not completed their circulation by year end. 217 new books were received in 2006 (2005 187).

John West has stressed the importance of good discipline in forwarding on the packets. Although there has been some improvement he would like to see the Society adopt the proposal that members do make prior contact with the person to whom the packet is to be forwarded. This can avoid problems caused by death, sickness or holidays. A

phone call or an e-mail only takes a moment and can help enormously with the smooth running of the procedure. Similarly, for those going away, a call to John can indicate from whom and when the next package is likely to arrive.

It is also recommended that stamps are signed for as they are taken from the book rather than once one has reached the end of a book. Carelessness in not signing for stamps as they are removed can lead to difficulty all round. The use of Hawid strips can also lead to difficulty in that the stamps can slip out which leads to accounting problems.

John finishes with a request to use postage stamps rather than labels when posting packets. This is good for members and for the hobby.

The Committee is very grateful to John West for the immense amount of work undertaken and the care with which he runs the packet,

Full financial details are available from the Editor if required.

COLONIAL PACKET ACCOUNTS 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2006

Income

Balance b/f from 31 Dec 2005

Receipts from members

2006

Commission on sales

Insurance recovered

Postages recovered

Balance due to vendors _____

Total receipts 2006

Bank interest _____

Expenditure

Payments to vendors

Expenses

Surplus 2005 paid to treasurer

Creditors:

Money received for booklets

not brought to account

Retained interest _____

Surplus 2006 to pay to treasurer _____

Editor's Report - Maurice Tyler

"My recent reports to members seem to vary very little from year to year. Once again I have received some excellent articles, some of them beautifully illustrated in colour, but only enough to sustain the usual quality and quantity for about two issues ahead. I would be delighted if I could maintain a stockpile of material to ensure that I had sufficient to publish during the next twelve months, as happens with some other philatelic periodicals. To this end I would appeal yet again for members with interesting specialities – or even those with just something they would be happy to share with other members – to turn part of their collection or a display into an article with illustrations. I am happy to receive any such contributions in almost any format, although electronic versions will obviously make my task much easier.

Turning to the usual statistics, I can report that in 2006 there were the traditional 4 issues, totalling a smaller number of pages (152) than in the previous 2 years (172 and 168 respectively), though 22 of those pages were in full colour (compared with 12 and 8 in 2004 and 2005). My intention is to use full colour for illustrations when justified, even if that means slightly fewer pages overall in order to keep costs within reasonable bounds. According to my computer the total number of words in the text throughout the year amounted to 72,800 (compared with 83,400 and 80,880) – which is about the same as in 2000. The total cost of printing plus editorial expenses was slightly more expensive than in the previous year but still less expensive than in 2003 and 2004.

I have continued to keep the Society website up to date as far as information is concerned, and it seems to have proved extremely useful in advertising our publications – particularly the new ones by Derek Richardson and Geoff Gethin – and in attracting new members.

The Journal was entered into the Literature Class at Washington 2006 and was awarded a Vermeil Medal. During the summer of 2006 your Editor also received a certificate and £100 for the Society from the ABPS, recognising the Journal as the best specialist society periodical among those entered for their competition. These awards are not for presentation alone, and reflect very favourably on the quality of the material submitted

for publication. Constructive comments and criticisms from members will always be welcome."

(10) Librarian's Report - George Barker

"The year 2006 began very quietly but demand for loans increased steadily through the year, reaching 59 (2005: 40) with photocopies very much in demand at 120 (2005: 83). In the first four months (ie, to date) of 2006 there were 8 (6) loans and 3 (19) photocopies.

New books have continued to arrive in some quantities, and I thank the several donors in the Society's ranks, I think it may be time to suggest a new Library List for 2008 and I await the comments of the Treasurer and Editor.

I have had a few visits to the Library from Society members and remind all members of the welcome waiting in West Yorkshire."

(11) Magazine Circulation Organiser's Report - David Pashby

"As the figures show, there is a growing gap between receipts and expenditure. There are two reasons for this: an increase in postages, because I now have to post all four magazines, and a fall in the number of subscribers. In previous years the shortfall was covered by reserve funds, which had accumulated to an embarrassing level, but these are now reduced to the point where I must keep a reserve to pay renewal fees before members' subscriptions have come in. Receipts from subs this year were £; magazine renewals and postages cost £. I therefore propose to raise subscriptions by one pound per title in January 2007, and there will probably have to be a further rise in 2008, unless membership builds up again. Fourteen people take both titles, eleven take one only. There were three resignations and two deaths this year, while one new member joined.

In past years, I have had to complain to the publishers about flimsy packaging that fell apart in the post. This problem seems to be resolved, for the moment at least, and this year's problem was with the local postmistress, who on no account wanted to cash a cheque when I needed to draw money for postages. Clubs and societies are not issued with cards to withdraw money, so I couldn't use the PIN number. It took several phone calls to Alliance and Leicester, and a couple from them to the postmistress, before this was sorted out."

ACCOUNTS FOR THE MAGAZINE SCHEME FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2007

	£ 2006-7	£ 2005-6
<u>ASSETS AND RECEIPTS</u>		
Carried forward from previous year		
16 Subs @ £8 (14 @ £6 last year)		
14 Subs @ £4 (11 @ £3 last year)		
Interest on deposit account for year		
Donation		-
'TOTAL		
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	2006-7	2005-6
Sub to <i>Timbres Magazine</i> (2 copies, February 2007: 126€)		
Sub to <i>l'Écho de la Timbrologie</i> (2 copies, February 2007: 128€)		
Postages & incidental expenses		
TOTAL		
ASSETS AND RECEIPTS		
less EXPENDITURE		
CARRY FORWARD		
Current Account on 13.4.07 (tel. communication)		
Deposit Account (statement Nov. 06)		

(12) Sales Organiser's Report - Peter Maybury

"In the early part of the year a special offer to members on back numbers of the (small format) Journals produced £194.55 and £166.25 for brochures. The only disappointment has been the lack of interest in that essential research tool, Brochure no. 8: *A Subject Index to Four French Philatelic Magazines*.

The 3rd edition of Derek Richardson's *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849-2005* went on sale in March and 243 copies (print run 400) have been sold during the period, producing a net surplus for the Society.

Following some teething difficulties the long awaited *Fakes & Forgeries of 20th Century French Postage Stamps* by Geoff Gethin became available in late July. I am delighted to report that response has been well in excess of expectation and 115 copies have been sold in a period of only five months. A great deal of effort has been expended on quality control and the marketing of this book and it would be remiss if the efforts of Maurice Tyler, Mick Bister and Peter Kelly were to go unrecorded."

(13) Regional Group Reports**Southern Group - Colin Spong**

"We have held four quarterly meetings, with the 21 April meeting with Charles Kiddle displaying Cinderellas still to come and details of these will have appeared in the Society Journal. Once again I am pleased to report that we have enjoyed some good displays with an average attendance of 14 members and guests so far. I would like to thank those who have given displays and also the members who travel considerable distances to be with us. We are a friendly group and invite those who have not yet been to one of our meetings to come along. Finally I thank my wife Pat who looks after the refreshments for us.

The programme for 2007-08 is in preparation and will be published in the Journal and the Programme Card.

The August meeting as usual will commence at 1030am until Lunch and recommence at 14.00 until 16.30 hours. The other meetings will be from 14.00 until 17.00, all in the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, Worthing."

Northern Group - Peter Maybury

"Four meetings were scheduled in Leeds for the season, plus the well regarded annual visit to Heaton Royds for the Bastille Day celebration. Numbers attending at Leeds dropped slightly and the innovation of an all day meeting hosted by Paul Watkins at the premises of Cavendish Auctions in Derby attracted some new faces. The March all day meeting in Leeds proved to be not as popular as in the previous year.

Detailed reports of the gatherings have appeared in the Journal during the year. Displays were presented by members of the group, who continue to produce previously unseen and interesting material on a regular basis.

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

Once again on behalf of the Northern Group, I wish to place on record our appreciation for the hospitality shown by Stephen and Judith during the invasion of their home last July. The new meeting room is quite splendid."

Scottish Group - Mavis Pavey

"We have now had 5 meetings. These are quite informal as there is little by way of business to discuss. The inaugural meeting took place on 1 October 2005 and was attended by 7 members. This was followed by meetings on 4 March 2006 (8 attended), 3 June (4 attended) and 4 October (5

attended). One new member has been recruited. Details of these meetings have been published in the Journal.

We are concerned about the lack of support and intend to try to get more publicity through Scottish organisations. With a core group of 6 this is essential if we are to remain viable. A considerable effort has been made to get this group up and running and members living in the area are asked to try to give their support to it."

Wessex Group - Peter Kelly & Alan Wood

"In 2006 we had three meetings, all held at Harnham, Salisbury, details of which have been reported in the Journal.

Attendance ranged between 10 and 16 with an average of 13. This figure is lower than in the previous year, but there were reasons for this and it is expected that attendance will rise in 2007, added to which has been the recruitment of two new members. We have adhered to the format of the all day meeting with an invited speaker in the morning and, after an agreeable lunch together at the Old Mill Inn, members' displays and queries in the afternoon. The members have a wide range of interests and knowledge, freely exchanged in a friendly setting.

We would very much like to see more of our members resident in the area and any interested should contact the convenors."

(14) Election of Officers and Committee

Those members listed on the AGM Agenda as having indicated their willingness to serve for the 2007-8 season were elected *en bloc*, after a proposal to this effect made by Colin Spong and seconded by John Hammonds was carried unanimously.

The new Committee is therefore as follows:

President:	Mr A J Lawrence
General Secretary:	Mr P R A Kelly
Membership Secretary:	Dr R G Gethin
Treasurer:	Mr C J Hitchen
Librarian:	Mr G E Barker
Editor:	Mr M S Tyler
Auction Secretary:	Mr M L Bister
Packet Secretary (France):	Mr R G E Wood
Packet Secretary (Colonies):	Mr J C West
Committee Members:	Mr L H Barnes
	Mr H J Clifton
	Mr S R Ellis
	Mr J Parmenter
	Mr C W Spong
	Prof W I Stevenson
	Mr P S Stockton

For information, Group Convenors/Organisers for the current season are as follows:

London:	Mr L H Barnes
Southern:	Mr C W Spong
Northern:	vacant
Wessex:	Mr P R A Kelly & Mr A J Wood
Scottish:	Mrs M Pavey

(15) Competitions

An alteration to the organisation of the Society Competitions and award of Cups was proposed by the Committee, in an attempt to increase the number of members entering for them. The traditional format will be dropped, owing to lack of interest, and the cups will be awarded as follows, with judging by way of vote from those attending. The Literature Award will continue as at present, however. The Jubilee Salver will be awarded for the best postal history display at the Annual Weekend; the Filmer Shield for the best display of stamps; and the Levett Cup for the best debutant display.

These proposed changes were accepted by popular acclamation.

(16) Any Other Business

(a) Literature Award

Colin Spong expressed his thanks to Steven Ellis for taking over the organisation of the Society Literature Award.

(b) London Group

Ashley Lawrence made a further plea for a new Convenor for the London meetings, and Peter Kelly pointed out that the group must decide its own arrangements, and try to increase attendance by sending out a flier to those within reach of the capital. [This role has since been undertaken by Len Barnes.]

(c) Magazines

Bill Mitchell offered some spare US Society magazines to any members who wanted to take them.

(d) AGM Venue

Some discussion took place over the possibility of holding the AGM at Charlecote. Lack of time was the main problem. It was suggested that the Weekend might start on the Friday afternoon; but a Committee Meeting is now held at that time, and it is not certain that the meeting hall would be available, particularly as time to set it up is needed. Thought would be given to whether standing displays might be set up on the Friday afternoon if the hall is ready.

The President closed the meeting at 12.40 pm.

PRAK/MST

SCOTTISH GROUP MEETING OF 12 MAY 2007

Peter Brand: France at War

The meeting was attended by 3 members with 2 apologies, and it was noted that the next two meetings were to be held on 15 September; a joint meeting with the German and Colonies Scottish Group and on 6 October when Stephen Holder would display to members.

Peter Brand gave the afternoon's display, taking "France at War" as his theme. He began with letters from Lille at the time of the Franco-Spanish Wars of the middle of the 17th century when the present northern boundaries of France were more or less settled. Troubled years followed, with diverted mail because of the War of the Ligue d'Augsburg, the War of the Spanish Succession and so on. The ARM de FLANDRES *tampon* mark was the first of its kind shown. There followed examples of mail from French troops in other wars leading up to the great variety

of Army marks which typify the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars, plus the occupation of France after Waterloo. One would have thought that after 23 years of war peace might be sought, but there came France in Spain in 1823, Greece 1828, North Africa 1830, Crimea 1853, Italy 1859. And then came the Franco-Prussian War, with the concession of free mail for prisoners and the work of the Red Cross.

The second round covered the two World Wars and the massive increase in military mail – too much to show all of it! It included mail from plebiscites, the French presence round the world between the wars, including the Druse campaign and North Africa. The display finished with mail from Dunkirk and St Nazaire from the Second World War – a historian's joy or nightmare!

PJB

WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 7 JULY 2007

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

Members' Displays

The Wessex Group met at Harnham, Salisbury, and on a fine and bright day the sun shone down on 17 members and one guest who were treated to a fine display by Mick Bister.

In the first half Mick treated us to a significantly important display of the life and times of the 1F50 Pétain. This comprised a most beautiful presentation of a wide ranging coverage of this stamp, including overprints and forgeries followed by correspondence reflecting the different rates applying as well as events that took place during the war and different uses of the stamp.

In the second half we were shown a comprehensive display of the Marianne de Muller series. Both of these displays have been rewarded internationally and all of our members were struck by the sheer quality of the material and fascinating stories behind them.

After lunch the following members took to the floor:-

Chris Hitchen: "*La petite poste de Paris*"

Trevor Buckell: A mixed display of interesting stamps and items of postal history

Peter Adams: "Misdirected and delayed mail"

George Nash: "The Iris issue"

Colin Spong: "Civil censorship in Madagascar 1941-3"

Skanda Vaitilingam: "The stamps of Dahomey"

Ian McQueen: "Covers from German Lorraine 1871-1919"

Ashley Lawrence: A selection of entry marks

Bryan Wood: A selection of unusual maritime mail, balloon mail and other foreign mail

Edwin Rideout: "Cross-Channel Mail, France and GB"

Our next meeting will be held on 20 October when Robert Johnson will welcome us to Brazzaville with a display of French Congo.

PRAK/AJW

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 14 JULY 2007

"Bastille Day"

The usual fine welcome to the Bastille Day meeting at Heaton Royds was in evidence from Stephen and Judith Holder, and even the weather fulfilled its traditional promise. The 12 members and 2 guests who attended the meeting were not disappointed either by the wide variety of displays on offer:

10.30-11.15

George Barker - France 1849-53

Steve Ellis - French Transatlantic Mail

Yvonne Wheatley - French Night Railway Mail to UK

11.20-12.00

Chris Hitchen - *La Petite Poste de Paris*

Ronnie Shiers - The Eiffel Tower

12.20-13.00

Stephen Holder - Marianne de Dulac covers

Richard Wheatley - Mail from Dutch East Indies via France

Alan Goude - New Caledonia

George Barker - Air Mail stamps of France

14.30-15.00

Tony Shepherd - Guadeloupe

Peter Stockton - Military Mail in Morocco

Martin Cusworth - South American mail

15.15-16.00

Stephen Holder - German Military Mail in France 1870-71
+ Swiss Gratis Mail

Alan Goude - *Oubangui-Chari-Tchad*

1615-1645

Paul Watkins - Anglo-French Mail

Ronnie Shiers - Eiffel Tower part 2

George Barker - The Day of the Stamp

Apologies had been received from: DJ Richardson, ML Bister, JP Maybury, RI Johnson, PRA Kelly, RH Barnes, M Meadowcroft & JN Hammonds

Lunch and tea were taken in the garden, and our thanks go particularly to Judith for her work behind the scenes – and to Stephen for his efficient organisation of the whole day.

CSH/MST



Stephen Holder



George Barker

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 11 AUGUST 2007

Trevor Buckell: France & French Definitive Issues

Members' Displays

Trevor opened by saying that the display was of France to 1949 in three parts, two before Lunch and one afterwards.

At the beginning of the first part he showed a range of *Assignats* or promissory bonds secured by confiscating properties of the Church first issued in 1789. This led to a display of the stamp issues of 1849-52, 1852-61 and a wide range of the issue of 1853-61 with letters to foreign destinations, and the 1863 issue with, for example, a cover of special significance used in the period of the Franco-Prussian War.

The second part was dedicated to the Cérès adhesives of 1871, the issue of which followed the short notice of the increase in local and internal postal rates to 15c and 25c respectively. Examples of the resultant mixed franking on covers were shown, as was a study of the issue commercially used in and from Paris. This part concluded with examples of the misuse of a postage stamp on cover and a range of usages including TPOs and other railway cancellations – and of very special interest an unpaid cover 1871 taxed 25c by the use of a 15c P D adhesive with the 1 corrected to a 2 by a handstamp.

The third part covered the period 1919-1949. Examples of the overprinted adhesives for charity purposes were shown, and other special applications including Exhibitions and Philatelic Congresses and Airmail special events. A range

of commemorative and definitive adhesives of the 1930s was shown, together with scans of photographic and other images to provide an interesting illustration of aspects of the design and printing of the particular issue.

A vote of thanks was given by Mike Annells for an enjoyable display, and he expressed the hope that Trevor would give us another display on a future occasion.

Following Trevor's departure to journey home to Amesbury, the following members gave short displays:

Betty Blincow: 1942 Pétain, Occupied issue, Eiffel Tower, Military Franks etc.

Mike Annells: Cérès de Mazelin

George Nash: Type Iris 1944 including Algeria

Bob Small: Type Sage, Types One and Two shades.

A card was signed for Yvonne Larg who was in hospital again, and it was announced that the next meeting would now be on Saturday 27 October instead of 20th.

Members present:: Michael Annells; Betty Blincow, Colin Clarkson, Bill Mitchell, George Nash, Bob Small, Colin Spong, John Thorpe, John Yeomans.

Apologies received from Michael Berry, Roy Ferguson, John Hammonds, Bob Larg, Yvonne Larg.

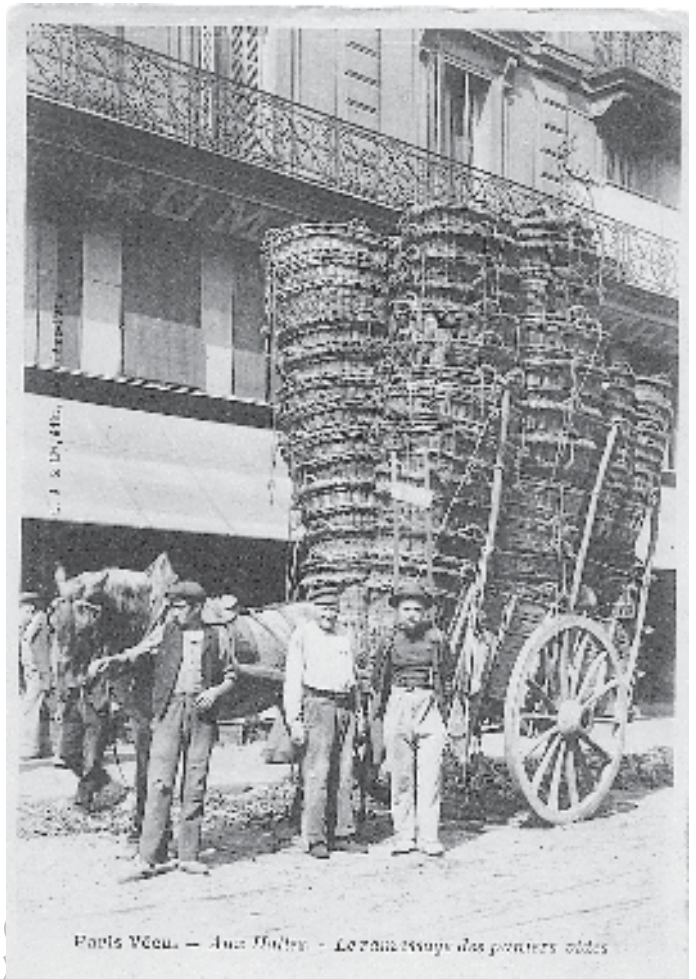
Guests: Frank Blincow & Pat Spong,

JY

November 2007 Auction - Selected Lots



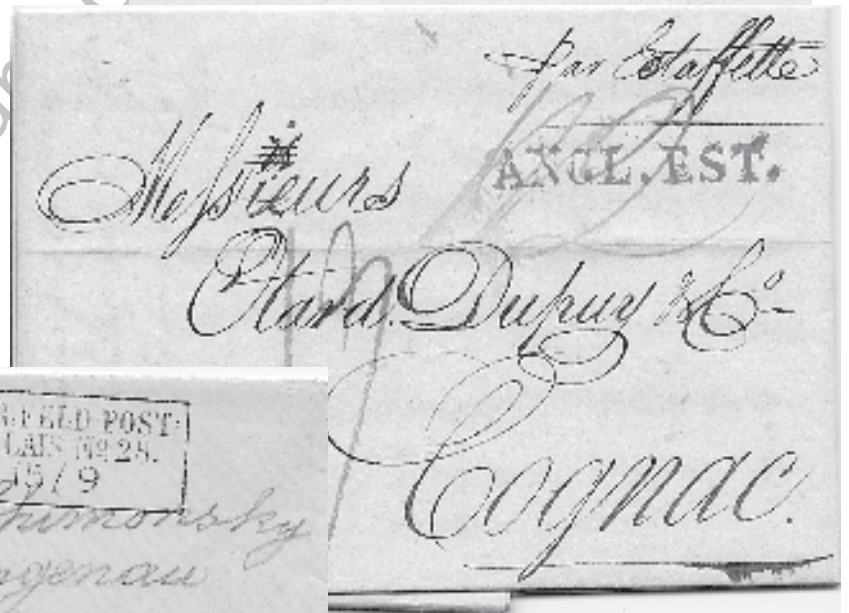
[above] Lot 429: 1874 1c Pro-monarchist vignette proof



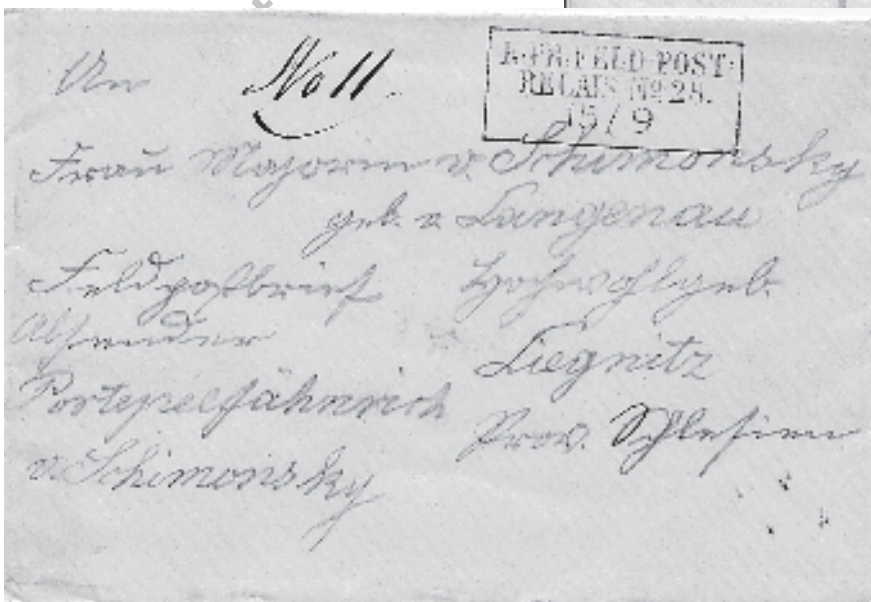
[right] ex Lot 453: Collection of *Paris Vécu* postcards



[above] ex Lot 40:
Morocco 1928
Drought & Flood Victims set



[above] ex Lot 72:
1831 entry mark on estafette mail



[left] Lot 195:
1870 Feldpost cover from Rethel or Attigny



[above] Lot 441:
1935 Anti-Tuberculosis
progressive colour proofs



[above] Lot 65:
Imperf 6F Marianne de Muller



[above] ex Lot 63:
Republic of Togo imperfs



[above] Lot 64:
5F Sage
double impression
on imperf
printer's waste



[above] Lot 231:
1942 Feldpost pc
with greetings
from France

[right] Lot 417:
1932 pc by airmail
to Hungary
via Strasbourg