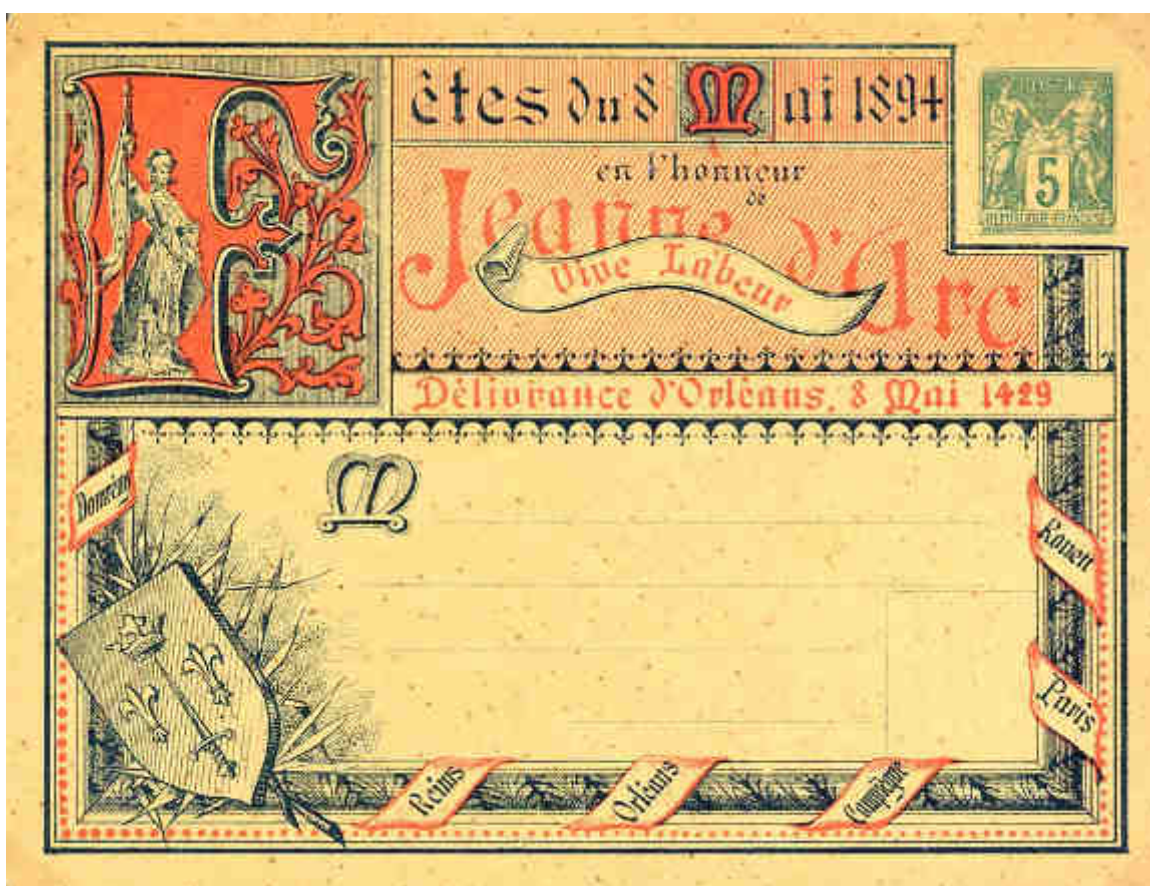


# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



1894 postal stationery envelope  
promoting *Fêtes de Jeanne d'Arc*

*[See report on Mick Bister's display on page 33]*

Volume 58 ● Number 1  
March 2008  
Whole Number 247

# THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

## Officers

President 2007-2008: A J Lawrence, 8 Cleveland Court, Chine Crescent Road, Bournemouth BH2 5LG  
(email: president@fcps.org.uk).  
General Secretary 2007-2008: P R A Kelly, Malmsy House, Church Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol BS8 3PG  
(email: secretary@fcps.org.uk).  
Membership Secretary 2007-2008: Dr R G Gethin, 5 Meriden Close, Bromley, Kent BR1 2UF (email: info@fcps.org.uk).

## The Society

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

## 2008 Annual Subscription Rates

United Kingdom: £13.00, Europe: £17.00, Elsewhere: £20.00.  
Treasurer: C J Hitchen, 36 Everton Road, Croydon CR0 6LA (email: treasurer@fcps.org.uk).  
The Society's Girobank account number is 39 784 9001.

## The Journal

The Society's *Journal* is published in March, June, September and December.  
It is printed by Direct Offset, 27c High Street, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9DD from the Editor's camera ready copy.  
Distribution: D J Richardson and M S Tyler.  
The price is included in members' subscriptions.  
The contents are copyright.

## Auction and Exchange Packet Sales

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

## The Library

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

## The Magazine Circuit

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

## Journal Correspondents

Paris: J M Simmons  
London Group: L H Barnes  
Southern Group: C W Spong  
Northern Group: C S Holder  
Wessex Group: P R A Kelly / A J Wood  
Scottish Group: Mrs M Pavey

## Publications Stockist

J P Maybury, 18 Courtneys, Wheldrake, York YO19 6BR (email: publications@fcps.org.uk).

\* \* \*

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

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

E-mail: editor@fcps.org.uk

Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

**Volume 58 Number 1**

**March 2008 ● Whole No 247**

## CONTENTS

Society Notes .....	2
New Members .....	2
Resignations .....	2
London Meetings .....	2
Exhibition Successes .....	2
Annual General Meeting .....	2
Future Events .....	2
Philatelic Honours .....	2
Displays by Members .....	2
Society Auctions .....	4
News from Paris: The new Marianne de Beaujard; <i>Exprès</i> Covers (J M Simmons) .....	3
May 2008 Auction - Selected Lots (M L Bister) .....	3, cover pages iii, iv
Yvert Levant N° 26 cancelled DIRRE-DAOUA (D Jennings-Bramly) .....	4
World War II — Just Another Sad Story (W G Mitchell) .....	5
An Unknown Tariff – Correspondence between Tahiti and France Oct. 1867 - Apr. 1875 (M Chauvet, trs M S Tyler) .....	11
Cameroun – Meteorological Manifestations, Publicity Cachets, and de Laurence Notations (M P Bratzel) .....	16
Shorter Items - including Questions and Answers .....	21
Mauritania Postage Dues of 1906 (E J Mayne) .....	21
French Morocco Cover with Swiss Postage Due and Boxed 'T' Mark (E J Mayne) .....	21
Jean-Baptiste Say (J H Garner, M S Tyler) .....	22
'T.O.M.O.' on 1921 Morocco Cover (A J Wood, R C Deakin, D Taylor Smith) .....	23
A Fantasised <i>Cameroun Française</i> Cancellation Used on Madagascar Stamps (R J Maddocks) .....	25
Forged 1925 International Philatelic Exhibition Sheetlet (R R Barracano) .....	26
Much Travelled Mail – Italy to Ivory Coast (P R A Kelly, W G Mitchell) .....	27
Postman Cheval's Ideal Palace (G H Bowden, M S Tyler) .....	28
Bookshelf .....	29
Cameroun in the Great War, Vol I, The Military Handstamps and the Early Overprints / Cameroun: La Grande Guerre, Tome I, Les Cachets Militaires et les Premières Surcharges, by Dudley Cobb (review by S J Luft) .....	29
Cameroun in the Great War, Volume II, The French Navy and the AEF Columns / Cameroun: La Grande Guerre, Tome II, La Marine Française et les Colonnes de l'AEF, by Dudley Cobb (review by W G Mitchell) .....	29
Books Noted (M S Tyler) .....	30
List of Recently Published Articles (C W Spong) .....	31
Reports of Meetings .....	32
Northern Group Meeting of 8 December 2007 - Members' Choice (CSH) .....	32
Southern Group Meeting of 12 January 2008 - Members' Displays (CWS) .....	32
Wessex Group Meeting of 2 February 2008 - P R A Kelly: How Postcards Developed 1876-1900; Members' Displays (PRAK) .....	32
London Group Meeting of 23 January 2008 - M L Bister: 1929 50c Jeanne d'Arc Issue (MST) . cover page i, 33	
London 2010: 150+ Volunteers Needed (R C Stock) .....	35
Where There's a Will (M J Roberts) .....	36

## SOCIETY NOTES

### New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1310 M J Hopkinson (Cornwall), 1311 Pascal Liévin (France), 1312 Florian Giunta (France), 1313 Stanley J Luft (USA), 1314 J Rodney Mintoft (Lancashire), 1315 I L Booth (Sussex), 1316 D R Cobb (Kent), 1317 John Cowell (Lincolnshire).

\* \* \*

### Resignations

567 N J Martin, 1056 Prof David R Stirrups, 1226 Trevor Davis, 1241 Mrs Yvonne Wheatley, 1242 Richard Wheatley, 1259 J Slingsby.

\* \* \*

### London Meetings

Len Barnes has now arranged a further series of meetings to take place in London, either at CA = Calthorpe Arms PH, 252 Grays Inn Road, London WC1, or at RHH = Royal Horticultural Halls (Room 32), Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1. Wednesday meetings commence at 6.30pm and Saturday meetings are from 3.00pm to 5.00pm, unless otherwise stated.

Wed. 24 Sept. 2008 (CA) Members: 12 sheets  
Wed. 15 Oct. 2008 (CA) John Hammonds: Air Orient  
Sat. 1 Nov. 2008 (RHH) Iain Stevenson: Pneumatic Post  
Wed. 26 Nov. 2008 (CA) Alan Barrett: Maritime Mail & French Cinderella material  
Wed. 21 Jan. 2009 (CA) Chris Hitchen: Paris & the Second World War  
Sat. 28 Feb. 2009 (RHH) John West: French Red Cross  
Wed. 18 Mar. 2009 (CA) Members: Latest projects & acquisitions  
Wed. 15 Apr. 2009 (CA) Maurice Tyler: First World War  
Sat. 9 May 2009 (CA) AGM (11.30am) & Live Auction (2.00pm)

The meetings at Philatex (RHH) on Sat. 1 Nov. 2008 and Sat. 28 Feb. 2009 will be followed by a supper (for those who wish to take part) to be held at 5.30pm for 5.45pm at Il Posto Ristorante Italiano, 316A Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, London SW1V 1AA.

It should also be noted that on Sat. 25 July several philatelic societies as well as the Royal Air Force will be involved in celebrating the Centenary of the Blériot Flight across the English Channel.

\* \* \*

### Exhibition Successes

**Ed Grabowski** was awarded a Gold Medal at Balpex in September 2007 for "Indo-China and the French Offices in China: Use and Non-use of the French Allegorical Group Type", and an Award of Merit in the Collectors Club one-frame competition in November 2007 for "Madagascar – Early Postal History".

\* \* \*

### Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 11.30am on Saturday 10 May 2008 (followed by the Auction at 2.00pm).

Any member wishing to raise any matter that will require a vote to be taken at the AGM must advise the General Secretary (Peter Kelly) in writing at least one month prior to the meeting.

\* \* \*

### Future Events

The London Group will be meeting at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road at 6.30pm on Wednesday 16 April 2008 when Colin Spong will display aspects of Madagascar, and Barbara Priddy will display French West African Airmails,

The Northern Group will meet at Heaton Royds, Bradford on Saturday 29 March 2008 at 2.00pm when George Barker will display Gaboon, and on Saturday 12 July 2008 for "Bastille Day".

The Southern Group will meet at the East Worthing Community Centre on Saturday 12 April 2008 at 2.00pm when John West will display the French Red Cross.

The Wessex Group will meet at Harnham, Salisbury on Saturday 5 July 2008 at 10.30am when Alan Wood will show the stamps and postal history of Morocco.

The Scottish Group will meet at the Burgh Hall, Linlithgow on Saturday 23 March 2008 at 2.00pm (when Bill Robertson will display Free French Censorship in Syria and Lebanon).

\* \* \*

### Philatelic Honours

On 24 September 2007 **Skanda Vaitilingam** was presented with an engraved pewter tankard by the Taunton Stamp Club in recognition of his having produced a varied Club programme for 22 successive seasons.

At its 2007 Conference Dinner **Prue Henderson** was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Postal History Society in recognition of her 20 years as librarian.

\* \* \*

### Displays by Members

**Alan Wood** displayed "Aspects of Great Britain" to Salisbury & District P S on 3 October 2007.

**Skanda Vaitilingam** gave a talk on the UPU and displayed Madagascar from 1884 and the Malagasy Republic to the Taunton Stamp Club on 24 September 2007.

\* \* \*

**Continued on page 4**



# NEWS FROM PARIS

John Simmons

## The new Marianne de Beaujard



The new Marianne, chosen by Nicolas Sarkozy on 17 December 2007, designed and engraved by Yves Beaujard, was unveiled by La Poste on 29 January 2008 and reported in *Le Monde* of 3-4 February 2008.

The President of the Republic had given La Poste the task of organising a competition, restricted to about fifty artists involved in designing stamps, in which they were to create one on the theme of Marianne and Europe. The winning design by Yves Beaujard is to be produced in thirteen different values and colours, and put on sale on 1 July, the first day of the French presidency of the EU. This design will replace the Marianne des Français of Thierry Lamouche, chosen by Jacques Chirac in 2005.

There will also be two booklets of self-adhesive NVI stamps in red (for France) and green (for the EU and Switzerland). These booklets will contain six Marianne stamps and six

commemoratives on themes that personify Europe according to M. Sarkozy: peace, democracy and the environment. An exceptional pre-release sale will be organised for the Salon du Timbre in Paris from 14 to 22 June.

Yves Beaujard was born in 1939 at Saint-Aignan (Loir-et-Cher), and graduated at the École Estienne. He designed his first stamp in 1966 for Vietnam, and then moved to the USA to work for the US Banknote Company. He returned to France ten years later to launch a career illustrating books for young people.

He realised his first stamp for France in 1999 with his portrait of the 19th century historian Frédéric Ozanam (Yvert 3281), and has since made stamp design his main activity, more recently producing a view of Vendôme and a portrait of Abd El-Kader which were put on general sale on 4 and 21 February of this year.

## Exprès Covers

I have a small collection/accumulation of "EXPRÈS" covers which I haven't seen for some time now. Today (6 February), however, I was reminded of its existence while reading one of Pierre Naudin's "100 Years' War" novels, "Les fils de Bélial" - "Cycle de Tristan de Castelreng V", page 349:-

*"On disait qu'il [the Black Prince] avait dépêché un exprès à son père..."*

A footnote explains *EXPRÈS*: "Courrier, messenger chargé d'une mission particulière. Le mot, dans cette acception, date de 1265."

## May 2008 Auction - Selected Lots



Lot 28

25c on 20c Gabon  
with Type 2 overprint  
(56 dots)



Lot 34

40c Navigation and  
Commerce CUYANE  
instead of GUYANE



Lot 187

20F Merson,  
unmounted mint,  
perfect centring



Lot 345

1F50 Pétain *maquis*  
forgery overprinted  
SPECIMEN



Lot 114

60c Chiffre-Taxe  
in blue

[See also cover pages iii and iv.]

# Yvert Levant N° 26 cancelled DIRRE-DAOUA

David Jennings-Bramly

**Figure 1**  
(new discovery)



**False**

OD: 27mm  
34 dashes  
6 armed Star

**Figure 2**



**Genuine**

OD: 26.5mm  
37 dashes  
6 armed star

**Figure 3**



**False**

OD: 27.5mm  
33 dashes  
6 armed star

*[Readers should not rely upon the accuracy of these reproductions as far as size is concerned.]*

Figure 1 is false and has 34 dashes in the ring, and the numerical figures 9, 8 and 6 vary very slightly in shape from the genuine postmark figures – a feature that is common to the Forbin false cancels.

A recent discovery in the Stanley Gibbons archives by Mr Brian Cartwright FRPSL of 120 postmarks on small squares of paper mounted on three larger sheets of paper has been reported in the April 2007 issue of *The London Philatelist*, pages 102-104.

43 out of 46 marks are from the Madame Joseph accumulation of false cancellers now held by the Royal Philatelic Society London; amongst the strikes are two genuine ones, one of which is of Tarquah, Gold Coast, dated 28 August 1915, which indicates post-August 1915 make-up of the three sheets.

There is one false strike, in particular, to interest members of the France & Colonies P S – and it is of DIRRE-DAOUA.

On counting the dashes making the interrupted ring of the Gibbons example, one finds 34, which is 3 fewer than in the genuine postmark. Going to my files I soon unearthed letters written to me during 1990 by the Reverend Eric Payne, author of the Cockerill Press handbooks on Ethiopia. He had written to me to let me know that he had detached used copies of Yvert Levant n°s 24, 25 and 26. He

detailed the cancellation dates, and that of the 1F was 19-08 06; he mentioned that he thought that date was earlier than when the 3 values were received by Dirre-Daoua post office and that he did not know that false Mersons existed. So I sent him an A4 copy of my line drawings depicting the principal differences between the genuine and false stamps. Shortly afterwards he wrote to say he was convinced that his 1F stamp and cancellation were genuine.

As at that time I considered he must have used my crib, I did not request a photo or photostat, or express a desire to buy or even be given first refusal, should he later become a seller.

In December 1995 Payne's collection was sold at Harmers; despite the great rarity of used copies of Yvert Levant n° 26 there was no mention of the trio in any lot in the sale, and I did not go to view. Unfortunately today Padre Payne cannot recall when, to whom or how his used trio was disposed of.

In conclusion I most earnestly request anyone who has a copy with the cancel noted to offer it to me — but, if they are unwilling to part with it, I would willingly pay for a photograph or high definition photostat of it!

## SOCIETY NOTES

Continued from page 2

## Society Auctions

During the coming year Mick Bister will be running auctions as follows:

Sat. 10 May 2008 Live Auction following the AGM  
(catalogue enclosed)

Sat. 1 November 2008 Postal Auction  
(material to be submitted by 31 July)

Sat. 9 May 2009 Live Auction following the AGM  
(material to be submitted by 31 January)

# World War II — Just Another Sad Story

Bill Mitchell

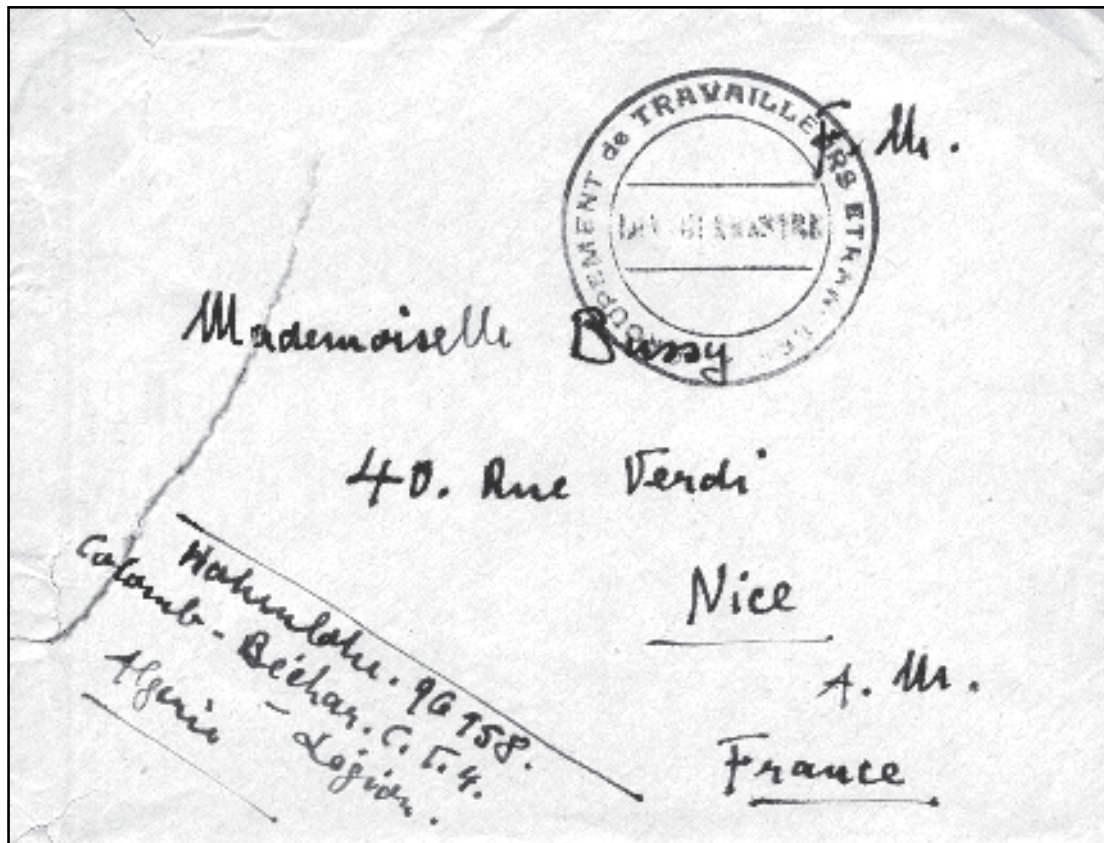


Figure 1

[Note: An unsightly strip of sellotape used to repair the tear to the left of the envelope has been removed electronically.]

Quite a few years ago now, Roy Reader's contribution to a members' evening included a letter dated 19 December 1940 from an inmate of a forced labour camp at Colomb-Béchar in Algeria. The writer was trying to get permission to live in France, where he had spent much of his time before the War, and I was interested to see that he was a Max de Hohenlohe, a member of a Bavarian princely family. A casual remark to this effect led Roy to send me this photocopy of the letter and its *Franchise Militaire* envelope bearing the *Vaguemestre's* cachet of the *Groupelement de Travailleurs Étrangers* (Figs 1 & 5). Some time later Roy sent me another photocopy, this time of an item in the *Sinai's* sale of 25 June 1999. It was a postcard dated a year earlier than the letter, 12 December 1939 (Figs 2 & 4), described as follows in a section of the catalogue devoted to internment camps —

"29. Meslay-du-Maine (Mayenne): no 406, 2 copies, and 416 [that is, the 5c and 70c *Type Mercure*] cancelled Meslay-du-Maine (1939) on postcard from Prince Charles de Hohenlohe interned as a German national, with small violet cachet BATAILLON GARDE DES ÉTRANGERS No 4 – CONTROLE AU CAMP ? – very rare."

[The translation is my own. It will be noted that the message is signed "Prince Max Charles de Hohenlohe". The violet cachet is very faint.]

It so happens that a former colleague of mine, Derek Crayford, has made a life-time study of the German princely houses, so I sent him copies of the two items in the hope that he would be able to tell me something about Prince Max. He very kindly sent me a chart of Prince Max's immediate family (Fig 3) which apparently showed that he did not get the permission he sought in 1940 but died in a camp ("Lager") in Stuttgart on 27 July 1943.

This of course raised quite a few interesting questions (non-philatelic), and I sought some answers from the International Red Cross at Geneva who referred me to its International Tracing Service at Bad Arolsen in Germany, which holds the "records of civilian victims in Concentration Camps as well as forced labourers or displaced people in time of the War". So I duly repeated my enquiry; the ITS acknowledged my letter (in five languages) and asked for my patience as it was "presently receiving a very large number of inquiries". Presumably it has still not cleared its backlog as after nearly four years I'm still waiting for its response. Nevertheless, the essential details of Prince Max's life can be recorded without it.

Prince Maximilian Charles Joseph of Hohenlohe-Langenbourg was born at Toblach in the Austrian province of South Tyrol on 21 July 1901, so he was a subject of the Emperor Francis Joseph and not of the Kaiser. (South Tyrol was awarded to Italy as a result of World War I and





Figure 2

Toblach is now known as Dobbiaco.) He was married in London in May 1931 to Georgina Pasquero (the marriage certificate calls her “Luiga”), after which he seems to have lived mainly in Paris and Nice. The marriage was apparently not a happy one, and shortly after the outbreak of World War II, on 12 December 1939, by which time he had been interned, he wrote to his lawyer in Paris (Fig 4) —

“Les Arcis, 12 December 1939

Dear Maître

Since your letter of 7 November, to which I replied immediately, I have received no further news from you. I therefore do not have your answer to mine and request that you be so kind as to write to me re: 1) the outcome of your visit to Maître M. Montet concerning my release, 2) the possibilities of my planned divorce. You will no doubt understand that my release from the Camp d'Étrangers is foremost in my mind.

Yours faithfully

Prince Max Charles de Hohenlohe”

(The translation is by Mick Bister.)

A letter to me from Derek Richardson, who of course has published a great deal on French internment camps in the Journal, adds to these bare bones —

“On the outbreak of war, German and Austrian nationals living in the Paris area were rounded up. Those who were deemed to pose no threat to national security were released, but others whose papers were not in order or who were in any way suspect were dispersed to regional camps to be held while their cases were being looked into. Meslay-du-Maine was one of over a hundred such places, all under army control.

“Although it is not indexed in Michelin’s France Atlas, Les Arcis is to be found marked on page 95

(box E1). It is 2 miles SE of Meslay-du-Maine itself. A château is indicated, which might have been where the Camp des Étrangers was.”

Unfortunately Prince Max was apparently considered to be suspect in some way and his hopes of release were not to be realised, and we next hear of him in the letter of 19 December 1940 from the *Groupeement de Travailleurs Étrangers* at Colomb-Béchar. In the chapter (13) of his article on French Internment Camps dealing with the camps in North Africa (Journal 189 of September 1993) Derek explains that

“After the Armistice of June 1940, the Vichy government created scores of Foreign Workers’ Groups (Groupements de Travailleurs Étrangers or GTEs). There was a ready supply of labour for the GTEs in the internment camps of France in which tens of thousands of ‘suspect’ foreigners (mostly German Jews) had been incarcerated since the outbreak of war. This supply increased when men who had served in Spanish Workers’ Companies, which were abolished after the Armistice, were demobilised and then redrafted into GTEs. It increased further when Algerian Jews who had had French citizenship for generations had it revoked by anti-Jewish statutes passed by the Vichy government, thus making them liable for GTE service [...]

“GTEs were deployed on a range of tasks such as mining and road construction. In North Africa, many thousands worked also on the first phase of the Trans-Saharan Railway, the ultimate purpose of which was to provide a rail link between the Mediterranean and Niger. Work on the section from Bou-Arfa to Kenadsa commenced on 27 March 1941. Workers were treated virtually as slave labour, and many hundreds died from heat and ill-treatment. By 15 July 1942 4,000 labourers were laying track at the



HOHENLOHE-LANGENBURGA MEDIATIZED SOVEREIGN HOUSE OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

Countess CAROLINE  
of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg

b. Walchen, Bavaria, 28 August 1867

(daughter of Count FRIEDRICH ERNST  
of S-W-B, by his first wife the Baroness  
THERESE Zessner von Spitzenberg)

m. Bregenz, Austria, 29 October 1891

+ Vienna, 7 June 1945

=

Prince MAX CHARLES RUDOLF  
of Hohenlohe-Langenbourg

b. Prague, 15 April 1861

(second son of Prince LUDWIG KARL of  
H-L, (who died on 26 July 1866 from  
wounds received at the battle of  
Koniggratz) by his wife Countess  
GABRIELLE Trauttmansdorff-Weinsberg  
who owned an enormous estate in the Circle  
of Czaslau in Bohemia).

+ Solbad Hall in Tyrol, 7 April 1935.

Princess MARIE THERESE  
of Hohenlohe-Langenbourg

b. Salzburg 13 January 1895

m. Innsbruck, 13 September 1916 (Divorced)

= Herr OTTO KOHLEISEN (a pharmacist)

+ Starnberg 1974

Residence: 1. St Polten, Austria  
2. Mistelbach-Poysdorf in Bohemia

Prince MAXIMILIAN CHARLES JOSEPH  
of Hohenlohe-Langenbourg

b. Toblach, South Tyrol, Austria, 21 July 1901

m. London in May 1931 (against the House  
laws of the family)

= GEORGINA PASQUERO  
(no other information)

Prince MAX CHARLES died (in a *Lager*)  
at Stuttgart 27 July 1943

Residence: 1. Originally PARIS, and then  
2. Place Grimaldi, NICE.

Figure 3

rate of 1 km per day and construction had reached 65 kms south of Colomb-Béchar. After a 2 month pause due to the heat, work recommenced on 15 September but ceased altogether in November 1942 when Allied forces liberated the camps. The last town on the line was, and still is, Abadla..."

Prince Max's appeal to his friend Mlle Bussy in Nice (Fig 5) provides a personal account to supplement Derek's description of conditions at Colomb-Béchar.

(The translation is by Roy Reader.)

"Kenadza 19.XII.40 Post: Colomb-Béchar

C.T. 4 Legion

Hohenlohe 96158

Dear Mademoiselle

Excuse the paper, but we're in the Interior. — We're living in Tents under which we've dug square holes to sleep in sheltered from the wind. But it's still excessively cold during the night and the days are very hot — a difference of 20 to 30 degrees.

We're a long way from all civilisation; a strange Arab Town, a sort of Moorish fortress, rises up

before us about a kilometre away on the plain, but it's out of bounds to us. The French village next to the post at Kenadza consists of four houses. — That's out of bounds to us too. — So from 7.00 in the morning till 11.00 and from 2.00 till 6.00 you will see me carrying blocks of stone on my shoulders from the nearby quarry to our camp. — If I had committed the worst of crimes, I could not be punished more and thus it is with all my comrades too. — Releases are getting fewer. Unfortunately your information about a permit to stay in the A.M. [the *Département* of Alpes-Maritimes] isn't quite right, that's to say the difficulties generally put in the way of foreigners don't apply to demobbed Legionnaires, as every week there are one or two of my released comrades who, despite being foreigners, have obtained a residence permit from the A.M. prefect. Can't you see anyone who could obtain the certificate of stay in question for me? — Just to get out of this hell. Everything is a thousand times worse than my premonitions had led me to guess. Believe me. In these conditions suicide is all that's left to me. All the best. Your Max de Hohenlohe."

Figure 4

Les Arins, le 12. Décembre 1889.

Cher Maître,

Depuis votre lettre du 7. Novembre à la quelle je vous avais immédiatement répondu, je n'ai plus reçu aucune nouvelle de votre part. - Je me trouve donc sans votre réponse sans la même et vous prie de bien vouloir m'écrire : m'effort de votre démarche chez M. M. Moutet à ce qui concerne ma libération, les possibilités de mon divorce projeté. - Vous comprendrez sans doute que ma libération du "Camp d'étrangers" m'intéresse en premier plan. Recevez, cher Maître, mes salutations

Plus distinguées. Pierre MacKasler de Hohenlohe

Figure 5a  
(below)

général ne s'appliquent pas aux légionnaires démolibérés, puisqu'il y en a chaque semaine un ou deux de mes camarades libérés, quoi qu'étrangers, qui ont obtenu l'autorisation de séjour par le préfet des A. M. Ne voyez vous personne qui pourrait me procurer le certificat d'hébergement en question ? - Seulement pour sortir de cet enfer. Tout est mille fois pire que mes pressentiments ne l'ont laisser deviner. Croyez moi. -

Bien à vous votre Max de Hohenlohe

Henadga le 19. XII. 40. Poste: Colomb-Béchar C. T. 4. Légion. Hohenlohe 90958.

Chère Mademoiselle,

Excusez le papier, mais nous sommes dans le Bled. - Nous habitons des Tentés sous lesquelles nous avons creusé des trous carrés dans lesquelles nous dormons à l'abri du vent. Mais il fait quand même extrêmement froid pendant la nuit et les jours sont très chauds. - une différence

Dans ces conditions il me vient que le suicide.

de 20 - à 30 degrés.  
 Nous sommes loin de cha-  
 que civilisation, une  
 étrange ville arabe, genre  
 forteresse mauresque s'élè-  
 ve à environ 1 km. de-  
 vant nous dans la plaine,  
 mais elle nous est déf-  
 fendue. Le village français  
 à côté de la station de  
 Kénadga comprend quel-  
 ques maisons. - Il nous est  
 également consigné. -  
 Tous me verai donc de  
 7 h du matin à 11 heure  
 et de 2 h - à 6 heure le  
 soir porter des blocs de  
 pierres sur mes épaules  
 de la carrière voisine à  
 notre camp. - Si j'avais  
 commis le pire des crimes  
 je ne pourrais pas être puni  
 d'avantage et ainsi aussi  
 à ce qui concerne mes  
 camarades. - Les libérations  
 diminuent. Malheureusement  
 votre information concernant  
 une autorisation de séjour  
 dans les A.M. n'est pas  
 tout à fait exacte, c'est à  
 dire que les difficultés  
 faites aux étrangers en

Figure 5b

The letter in Figure 5 has been reduced in size to fit the page.

Note that it would have been folded  
 so that it starts on the right hand side of Figure 5a,  
 continues in Figure 5b,  
 and finishes on the left hand side of Figure 5a.

For those readers interested and able to understand colloquial French, the written comments by Lieutenant Dubuc, Commandant of the Camp at Meslay-du-Maine, and by Captain Fonval (see next page), on the man who is the subject of this article, read in the original language as follows:

"J'ai déjà parlé, dans un chapitre antérieur du prince Max-Charles de Hohenlohe-Langembourg, appartenant très probablement à une illustre famille de l'Europe centrale et dont il n'était plus qu'un élément de pâle envergure annonçant une dégénérescence certaine... Je me rappelle à son sujet le jugement court et... militaire du capitaine Fonval : « Avez-vous vu le Prince? » me demanda-t-il un jour aux Rochères et, comme je lui répondais d'une manière vague, il ajouta crûment : « Quel ... ! » Quelle piètre recrue fut certainement cet homme lymphatique et sans caractère pour notre Légion étrangère !"

Figure 6

This appeal, too, must have fallen on deaf ears because, as already noted, Prince Max died in Germany on 27 July 1943. The reason for his repatriation must have been his broken health, but I can only guess at the date. He died in a "camp", not a hospital – perhaps it was a reception centre for repatriates, in which case he may well have been one of the

inmates when Allied forces liberated Colomb-Béchar in November 1942 and repatriated at some date after that.

Just another World War II story. The fact that the victim was on the other side is irrelevant.

[But see the Postscript on the next page.]



## Postscript

And there this story ended. Or so I thought, but I reckoned without the Internet. I sent a copy of the article to the interested parties, and almost by return of post I received a great wodge of paper from Roy Reader which re-opened the correspondence about Prince Max and showed that my assumptions about his last days were very wide of the mark. What follows is philatelic only in the sense that it shows how the disciplines of history in general, postal history in particular and genealogy can be interdependent and research into a minor piece of postal history can shed new light on one of the others – in this case genealogy, for the information unearthed has added considerably to Derek Crayford's knowledge of the Hohenlohe-Langenburg family.

To add to the details of Prince Max's life set out above, it is now known that in the early 1920s he studied in the College of Arts and Crafts in Munich, after which he became a painter and a writer of poems, novels and books on travel. In the 1930s he was politically active in German émigré circles in Paris, publishing anti-Nazi articles and actively opposing the return of the Saar to Germany; consequently his German citizenship was revoked in 1934 (he had been born an Austrian, remember, so he had presumably taken German nationality at some time). Despite his writings he was not, as has been noted, particularly popular in France and he is next heard of interned at Meslay-du-Maine late in 1939, shortly after the beginning of the War.

Camp records held at the Mayenne Departmental Archives at Laval kindly obtained by Roy Reader show that he arrived there on 18 September 1939 and that while there he joined the French Foreign Legion, very likely in the hope that this would enable him to get away from the camp – as already noted, in this he was successful although it was to be a case of out of the frying pan into the Algerian fire. His superiors formed a most unflattering view of his military abilities (Fig 6) – “What a ... !” said a Captain Fonval; “*Quelle piètre recrue fut certainement cet homme lymphatique et sans caractère pour notre Légion étrangère.*”, which may be loosely translated as “Really, what a mediocre man; clapped-out, indolent and colourless — and for our Foreign Legion!”, wrote Lieutenant Dubuc, the Camp Commandant. (Roy and I had a bit of fun discussing the possible words, French and English, which might be inserted in the dots. None of them is suitable for printing here.) This reaction is perhaps not surprising in view of Prince Max's artistic and literary interests. The archive shows that he left Meslay-du-Maine on 18 April 1940 for the Legion's Centre de Rassemblement at Sathonay (Ain); Dubuc correctly believed that he would probably be sent to a unit stationed in Algeria. Not so long after he left, the camp was evacuated on 17 June<sup>(1)</sup>. And by the end of the year he was enduring the horrors of the forced labour camp at Colomb-Béchar. I don't know when he was sent there, but Roy tells me in a letter that “As a legionnaire, with the arrival of the Vichy Government [formed on 2 July 1940] he would have soon found himself with other legionnaires formed into Foreign Worker Groups in North Africa”, so he may have been there for some six months when he wrote his appeal to Mlle Bussy.

The last detail that I have about his story comes in a document in the Baden-Württemberg archives at Stuttgart<sup>(2)</sup> which has been translated for me by David Pashby. It's the source of the information on his pre-war activities noted in this Postscript and goes on to record that he was handed over to the Germans and eventually taken into protective custody in Karlsruhe and charged with espionage, contact with émigrés and publishing treasonous articles. He was condemned to death on 12 December 1942 and executed on 27 July 1943.

How he fell into German hands is not known to me, but obviously he was not repatriated on health grounds as I first supposed. Part of the answer is no doubt to be found in Article 19 of the Franco-German Armistice Treaty, the relevant part of which reads (the translation is by Derek Richardson) —

“The French Government is required to hand over on demand all the Germans who are either in France or in French possessions, colonies, protectorates and mandated territories who are demanded by name by the German Government.”

Although we don't know for certain, it seems highly probable that he was one of those “demanded by name by the German Government”. But when was this, and where was he at the time? We can only guess at the “when”; as to the “where”, most likely he was still in North Africa, but it's possible that he did in fact succeed in returning to Nice and was arrested there. Within three months of the Armistice the French in the Unoccupied Zone handed over 90 former Foreign Legion Germans<sup>(3)</sup>, and it's very likely that more were handed over later. Roy tells me that the position in North Africa is less well documented, but it's quite possible that the French were equally co-operative there and Prince Max's name was on a list of German nationals there, including those in the Foreign Worker Groups. If it was, his arrest was a foregone conclusion.

I repeat that this is just another sad story from World War II. No doubt it is only one among many – some a matter of public record, some not.

## References

- <sup>(1)</sup> Peschanski, D — “La France des Camps, l'internement 1938-1946” (Editions Gallimard, 2002), page 86. I'm grateful to Derek Richardson for a photocopy of the whole section: “Un camp d'internement des étrangers parmi d'autres: Meslay-du-Maine”, on pages 86-90.
- <sup>(2)</sup> Schiffer, P — “Prinz Max Karl zu Hohenlohe-Langenburg, am 27. Juli 1943 in Stuttgart hingerichtet.”
- <sup>(3)</sup> Aron, R — “Histoire de Vichy 1940-44, Tome II” (second edition, Livre de Poche, Paris, 1966). Information provided by Roy Reader.

## Acknowledgements

My grateful thanks to the friends named in this article and the present owner, unknown to me, of Fig 2. Derek Richardson kindly did the research in the Family Records Centre for me.

Direction of correspondence from Tahiti  
until 1867 by British steam-packets

Direction of correspondence from Tahiti  
from June 1867 by American steam-packets

French steam-packets,  
*Ligne A* from Colon-Aspinwall to St Nazaire



So, before announcing that a colonial letter is not franked at the correct rate, it is advisable to consult the colonial regulations: some nice surprises await you there – and in particular a few postage rates rather too rapidly declared to be unknown, it seems<sup>(1)</sup>. It is thus with great pleasure that I offer you here one of these “mysterious tariffs”.

In this second half of the 19th century, Tahiti (Taïiti) was both the chief town and the most important island of the Society archipelago, an archipelago that was a French protectorate belonging to the French Settlements of Oceania and more particularly of Eastern Oceania<sup>(2)</sup>. So until 1872 Tahiti could be served only by hypothetical trading ships or, in whole or part, by British steamers. However, for a short period from 1872 to 1874, the Compagnie Transatlantique Générale opened a French

(2) The French Settlements in Eastern Oceania also include the Possession of the Marquesas Islands and the Protectorate of the Bass Islands. As for the French Settlements in Western Oceania, they include the Government of New Caledonia, the Government of the Île des Pins and the Government of the Loyalty Islands.



Lozenge shaped  
cancellation with  
the initials OCN  
(Oceania)

Figure 1a - Front of cover

Letter from Tahiti to Bordeaux, leaving Papeete 5 October 1873,  
franked with 40c Eagle + 80c Cérès of 1872 + 20c Siege = 1F40,  
the rate complying with the colonial *arrêté* of 30 October 1867.

- (1): This letter was first handed over on **17 December 1873** to the French ship n° 1 at Colon-Aspinwall, departing on the subsidiary Line D from Colon-Aspinwall to Saint-Thomas — this was after more than 2 months crossing to Panama via San Francisco, then taking the railway from Panama City to Aspinwall.

line serving the coast of the Southern Pacific. This *Ligne F* allowed exclusively French transport to Tahiti, provided however that conveyance was by the French navy between the Pacific coast and Tahiti.

It is thus by the way of England and Panama that from 1 January 1860 French correspondence was exchanged between France and the French Establishments in Oceania, and more particularly the office of Tahiti, implementing the decree (*décret*) of 13 November 1859 published in *BM* n° 52 of December 1859. Letters were then franked at 80c per 7½gm and unfranked letters were taxed 90c.

It should be noted that this *décret* was only promulgated in the French Settlements in Oceania by an *arrêté* of the Commander of these Establishments, E G de Richerie, dated 26 February 1860, and therefore only applied starting from this date.

The *décret* of 7 September 1863, applicable from 1 January 1864, took the rate of postage to 1F20 per 10gm and the tax on an unfranked letter to 1F30 (*BM* n° 99 of November 1863, Circular 318).

In November 1865 it was planned to add to the English route a mixed route, French steamer + English steamer: “the mail-boats of the Saint-Nazaire line arrive in Aspinwall to coincide with the departure from Panama of an English service charged with serving the coasts of South America as far as Valparaiso”<sup>(3)</sup>.

Consequently, an imperial decree modified the postage rate on letters from 1 January 1866: 1F per 10gm for a franked letter and 1F10 the tax on an unfranked letter

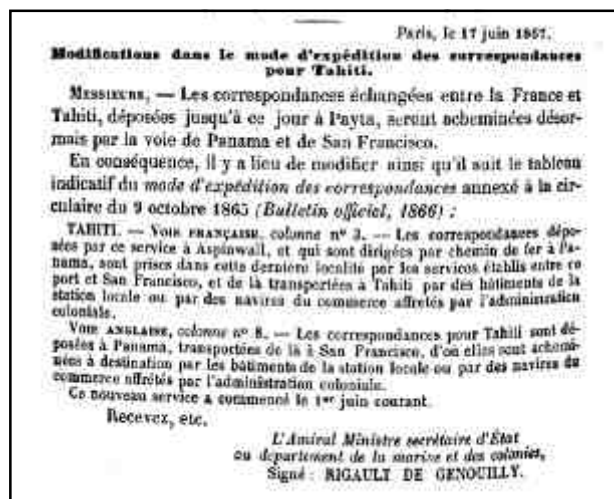
(*BM* n° 123 of November 1865, Circular n° 434). But this *décret* would only be promulgated in Tahiti by an *arrêté* of 9 March 1866 published in the *Bulletin Officiel* of the French Settlements in Oceania, so applied from this date only.

Thus, until June 1867, correspondence reached Payta via Panama by an English service, whether it crossed the Atlantic by English or French steamers.

From Payta to Papeete, the service was ensured by vessels of the French navy or trading ships.

#### Exchanges as from June 1867: the Panama and San Francisco route

On 17 June 1867 some modifications were introduced in the method of sending correspondence to Tahiti and these were published in the *Bulletin Officiel* of the French Establishments of Oceania, applicable from 1 July 1867:



<sup>(3)</sup> Official despatch from the Minister of the Navy and the Colonies dated 27 November 1865 – *Bulletin Officiel* of the French Settlements in Oceania 1866.



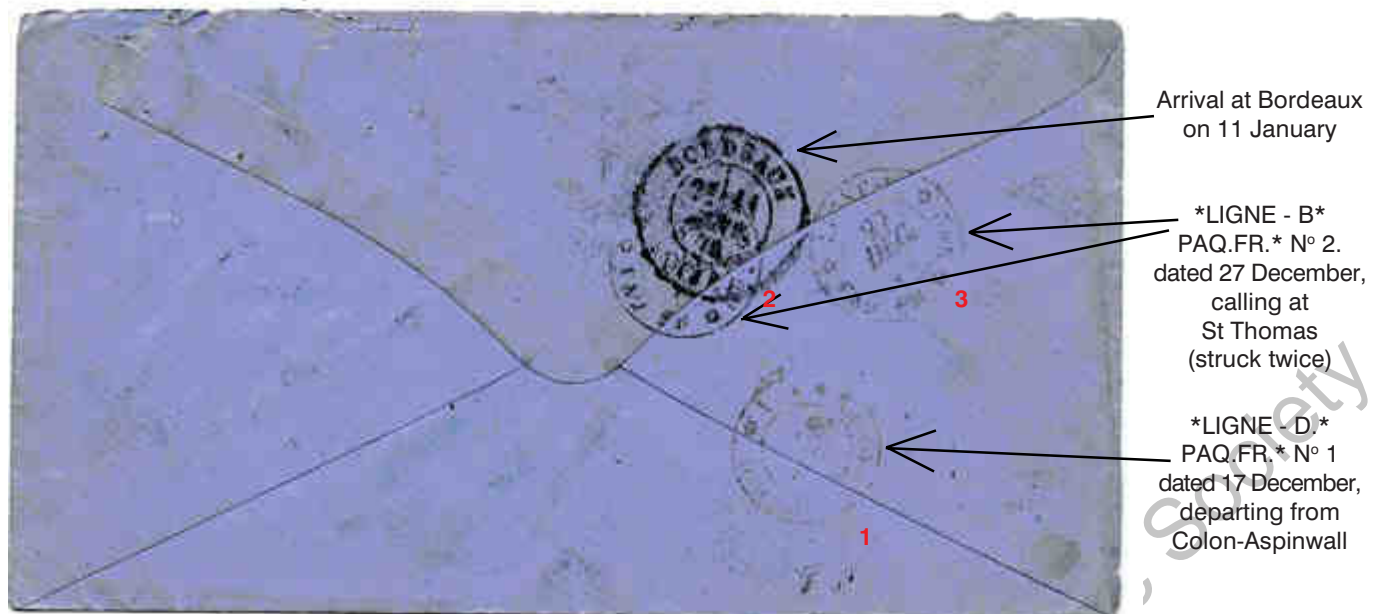


Figure 1b - Reverse of cover

(2): At Saint-Thomas, the letter was transferred to the French ship n° 2 of Line B that put in there on **27 December**, coming from Vera Cruz and going to Saint-Nazaire where it arrived on 10 January 1874.

(3): Arrival in Bordeaux on **11 January 1874**.

This may be translated into English as follows:

“Paris, 17 June 1867.

#### Changes in the method of shipping correspondence to Tahiti.

DEAR SIRs, – Correspondence exchanged between France and Tahiti, until now deposited at Payta, will in future be forwarded via Panama and San Francisco.

Consequently it is necessary to change as follows the notice concerning the *method of shipping correspondence* appended to the circular of 9 October 1865 (*Bulletin Officiel*, 1866): TAHITI. – FRENCH ROUTE, *column no 3*. – Correspondence deposited by this service at Aspinwall, and which is taken by rail to Panama, is accepted in this latter locality by the services established between this port and San Francisco, and transported from there to Tahiti by vessels of the local naval station or by trading ships chartered by the colonial administration.

ENGLISH ROUTE, *column no 8*. – Correspondence to Tahiti is deposited at Panama, and transported from there to San Francisco, whence it is forwarded to its destination by vessels of the local naval station or by trading ships chartered by the colonial administration.

This new service began on 1 June this year.

Yours faithfully,

Admiral and Secretary of State  
at the Department of the Navy and the Colonies,  
Signed: RIGAULT DE GENOUILLY.”

What is certain is that following this change decided by Paris, the costs incumbent upon Tahiti were increased. The Commander of the French Settlements in Oceania therefore simply created a surcharge... while waiting for the Minister of the Navy and the Colonies to find a definitive solution. The solution was in fact to be found ... 8 years later in 1875, with the application of a Franco-American postal convention signed in 1874.

So here is this astonishing *arrêté* of 30 October 1867 increasing the postal rate in force in the colony, which the metropolis completely ignored. As it did not appear in the *BM*, philatelists were certainly surprised at the small number of letters encountered, but were unable to take this any further. However, we must point out the article by Jean-Paul Alexandre<sup>(4)</sup> in which he mentions the existence of

“specific rates”; although, not having seen any letters, he concludes a little too hastily: “they were always paid for in cash leaving no postal trace”. That is a pity, but Jean-Paul Alexandre has some excuse because correspondence with Tahiti was very rare at that time.

He opened up a good lead however... one which no-one seems to have taken up.



<sup>(4)</sup> *Documents Philatéliques* N° 111 of 1987.



Lozenge shaped cancellation with the initials OCN (Oceania)

Date stamp originating from the office at Papeete 20 October 1869

Figure 2a - Front of cover

Letter from Papeete dated 20 October 1869 to Draguignan, written by a sailor on the *Astree* in Papeete harbour, franked at 1F, the reduced tariff reserved for service personnel, in accordance with the colonial *arrêté* of 30 October 1867. It reached its destination on 31 January 1870.

The English translation of the *arrêté* reads as follows:

“N° 175 — *ARRÊTÉ* of 30 October 1867 increasing the postage rate in force in the colony.

We, Commander of the French Settlements in Oceania, Imperial Commissioner to the Society Islands, Deeming that the exchange of correspondence by the San Francisco and Panama route requires an increase in expenses, either for the transport of letters and printed matter from San Francisco to Panama, and vice versa, or as a result of the postage duty that letters and newspapers originating from or destined for Tahiti are struck with at San Francisco;

That there is consequently good reason to revise the tariff in force in the colony for the taxation of letters, newspapers or printed matter, while waiting for the answer to be given by H E the Minister for the Navy and the Colonies to the request by the local administration that aims to have these supplementary taxes reduced or removed through a special treaty;

On the proposition of the authorised official p p the Director of the Interior;

The Administrative Council concerned,

HAVE DECREED AND DECREE:

ART. 1. The tariff for taxing letters, newspapers, printed matter, etc, in force in the colony, is temporarily increased: (1) By 40 centimes per basic letter weighing 10 grams, originating from or destined for Tahiti, sent from or received in San Francisco;

(2) By 10 centimes per fraction of 40 grams for newspapers, printed matter, periodicals, etc, originating from or destined for Tahiti, sent via the same route.

ART. 2. Letters addressed to non-commissioned officers and soldiers, petty officers and sailors, or written by them, will be exempt from this surcharge.

The letters written by them, in order to benefit from this exemption, will have to be countersigned by the respective commanding officers.

ART. 3. The authorised official p p the Director of the Interior is responsible for the execution of this *arrêté*, which will be registered everywhere necessary, published in the *Messenger* and inserted into the *Bulletin Officiel* of the Settlements.

Papeete, 30 October 1867.

Signed: COUNT DE LA RONCIERE.

For the Imperial Commissioner in Command:

The authorised official p p the Director of the Interior,

Signed: T. NESTY.”

Thus, letters from or to Tahiti (referred to by name and not just addressed to the Pacific naval station) via San Francisco found their postage increased by 40 centimes per 10g, and we therefore have the explanation of this mysterious tariff of 1F40 that collectors have occasionally been able to see on letters of this period (see Figure 1).

The colonial *arrêté* of 30 October 1867 makes provision in its Article 2 for the military personnel in Tahiti to be exempted from this surcharge of 40c on the letters that they write or receive, which restores these letters to a postage rate of 1F per 10gm, another reason for them passing unobserved as being in accordance with the “BM tariff”. It is all the more difficult to identify these soldiers’ letters since Tahiti had not, unlike the other colonies, received the specific date stamp “*Correspondances d’armées*” — which was considered unnecessary because it was to be used solely in the case of exclusively French transport<sup>(5)</sup>.

(5) The creation in March 1872 of *Ligne F* (French packets from Panama to Valparaíso), linked to the St Nazaire to Aspinwall line, will allow Tahiti military letters to benefit from the French interior rate. At this time the “*correspondance d’armées*” date stamp will be delivered to the Papeete office. *Ligne F* will be closed in February 1874.

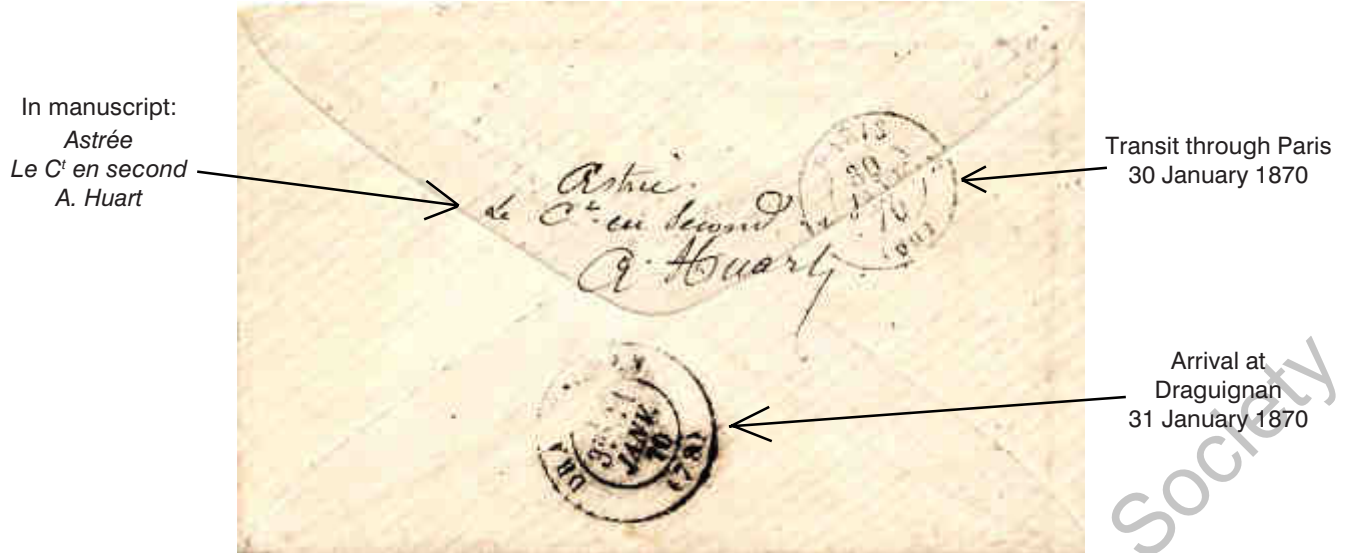


Figure 2b - Reverse of cover

The *Astrée* was a frigate at the Pacific naval station from 11 July 1868 to 8 July 1871.  
A. Huart was its second in command.

And yet you only have to look at the reverse of the cover to recognize a military letter, the colonial *arrêté* having provided for the unit commander affixing his countersignature (see Figure 2).

In March 1874, the Postal Administration modified the itinerary followed by correspondence exchanged with Tahiti: it ceased passing in transit via Panama to follow the New York and San Francisco route (*BM* n° 60 of March 1874 p. 126), but nothing was changed concerning the tariff and the surcharge of 40c continued to be applied.

On 28 April 1874, a Franco-American postal convention was finally signed and a decree by the President of the Republic dated 8 February 1875 allowed, from 1 March 1875, the lowering of the postal rates (*BM* n° 71 of February 1875, instruction n° 154) which were changed to 70c per 10gm for a franked letter.

**The enactment of the decree in the French Settlements in Oceania would only come about on 20 April 1875, bringing to a definitive end the “mysterious” tariff of 30 October 1867 and its surcharge of 40c.**

The rarity of letters franked at the tariff of 30 October 1867 is obvious, since 10 letters from Tahiti TO France have been listed to date at 1F40 (of which one at 2F80 for the second weight step) in the period of June 1868 to August 1874, and 5 letters franked at 1F (subject to the reverse presenting the clear countersignature of a unit commander, which we have not always been able to verify). On the other hand, not one letter seems to be known from France TO Tahiti<sup>(6)</sup>.

<sup>(6)</sup> Our thanks for this inventory are due to the kind co-operation of Messrs Langlais and Gaetjens.

## 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](mailto:blomefield@aol.com)

Website: [charlesblomefield.com](http://charlesblomefield.com)

*Callers by appointment only; orders may be made by telephone, fax or e-mail  
Special discounts for F&CPS members*

**I hold a very comprehensive stock of France with many rarer items, both used and mint.  
Please telephone or write for my full price list which covers all issues from 1849 to 2003.**

**The 2008 Yvert France catalogue in hardback is available at £16.00 post free.**



# Cameroun – Meteorological Manifestations, Publicity Cachets, and de Laurence Notations

Marty Bratzel



Figure 1

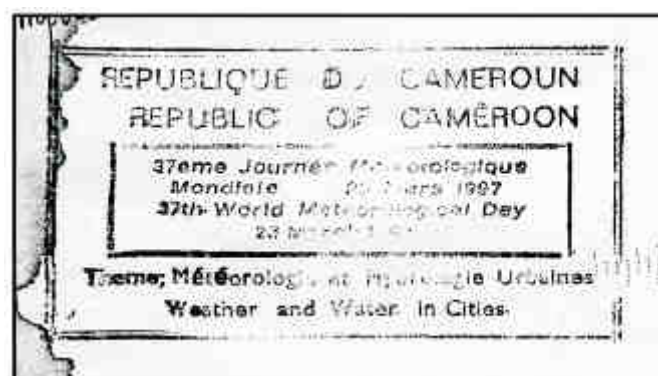


Figure 2

Bob Maddocks' contributions to philatelic publications are always enjoyable, not only for the philatelic and postal history information he shares, but also for the delightful insight he provides into the associated life and times. A case in point is his article on pages 26-28 of Journal 243 (March 2007) regarding a Messiah, mail to the de Laurence Company in Chicago, and meteorology. This article elaborates on the meteorological queries that Bob posed, tabulates a number of other publicity cachets, and adds a footnote to his de Laurence notations.

## Meteorology

To recap, Bob illustrated two covers with a meteorological connection. The one cover had a Cameroun stamp (Scott 572) inscribed "Centenaire OMI-OMM". The cover had a commercially prepared cachet to commemorate the stamp's first day of issue. The cover, postmarked Douala Philatélie 20.9.1973, is unaddressed, so it did not go through the mails.

The other cover, addressed to the de Laurence Company in Chicago, had three definitive Cameroun postage stamps. The cover was registered and postmarked Douala R.P. N° 18 17.3.1973. The cover also has a handstamp publicity cachet inscribed "Journée Météorologique / Mondiale / 23 Mars 23th March / World Meteorological Day". Yes, the errors are atrocious!

With a bit of detective work, the mystery of the dichotomy in the dates is solved.

Regarding the first-mentioned cover, the "OMI-OMM" adhesive stamp commemorates the centenary of the International Meteorological Organization (IMO, or OMI in French). The IMO was established in 1873, following on the recommendation of the International Meteorological Conference held in Vienna, Austria, in September 1873 that such an organization be formed. The IMO became the World Meteorological Organization (WMO, or OMM in French) on 23 March 1950, with the entry into force of the Convention of the World Meteorological Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations.

According to the Scott catalogue, the stamp was issued on 1 September 1973. The postmark is, however, dated 20 September. Notwithstanding the cachet, this is NOT a first day cover. Indeed, rather than a commemorative first day cancel, the postmark reads Douala Philatélie. This particular postmark was routinely applied to mail with a philatelic connection and is known used between at least 1970 and 1978. Earlier and later dates are to be expected.

The handstamp cachet on the other cover does not commemorate the World Meteorological Organization but, rather, World Meteorological Day. 23 March was chosen because that was the day – in 1950 – that the WMO Convention came into force. The first World Meteorological Day was celebrated on 23 March 1961. A number of countries have recognized World Meteorological Day with stamps and postmarks. One of Cameroun's contributions was the 1973 cachet which was likely intended to promote public awareness. The cachet was probably applied to mail originating in or transiting the Douala post office for a period of time around 23 March. In Bob's example the cover is postmarked 17 March, so the cachet probably saw use for two or three weeks, perhaps more, perhaps less. If similar cachets were used at other locations, do they, too, have typographical errors?

To answer my own question, the answer is yes! I have a cover postmarked Nso 16.3.1974, transit Mankon Bamenda 16.3.1974, Douala Chargements 11.3.1974 and arrival Chicago Mar 25, 1974. Applied to the back of the cover is a boxed cachet (Figure 1) with the same erroneous wording as for the cachet used in 1973! However, this is a different handstamp – the spacing and positioning of the letters and words do not align with Bob's example, although "World" and "Meteorological" are similarly misspelt. Was this handstamp also fabricated at the same time as Bob's example and then used a year later? And, yes, the date in the Douala transit mark is incorrect.

Michael Wright has recorded two additional Cameroun meteorological cachets, for the 9<sup>th</sup> World Meteorological Day in 1969 and the 37<sup>th</sup> Day in 1997; the latter is illustrated

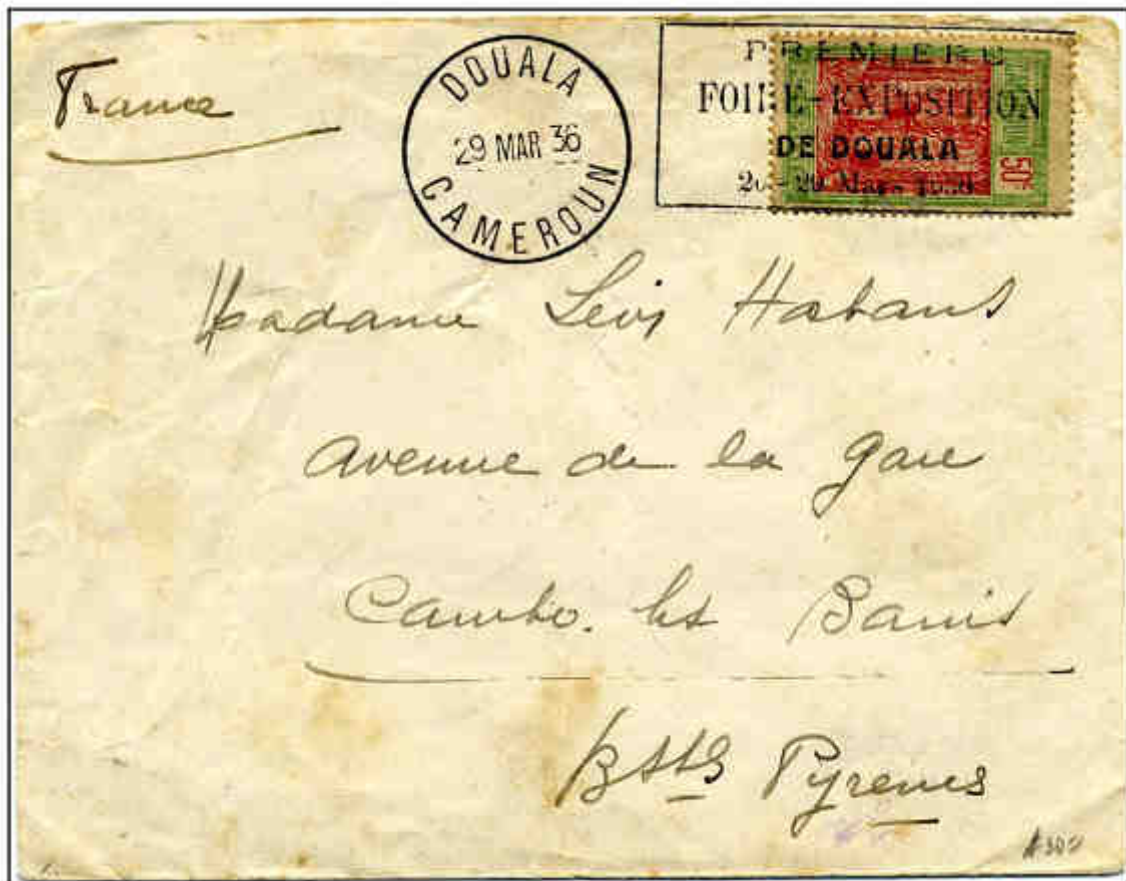


Figure 3

in Figure 2. It is likely that meteorological cachets exist for other years as well.

#### Publicity Cachets

Bob asked whether other publicity cachets exist. Indeed they do. These promote, for example, expositions and trade fairs; United Nations and pan-African organizations, themes, and events; and Cameroun's journey toward independence, growth, and development. Several that are immediately to hand are listed below in chronological order. No attempt is made to establish which handstamps were authorized by the government and applied by the postal authorities and which were of semi-official or private origin.

- Première / Foire-Exposition / de Douala / 26-29 Mars 1936 (Figure 3).
- Conférence / Nutrition / Dschang / 1949 (Figure 4).
- Première Exposition – Automobile / Douala / 6.14. Avril / 1950 (Figure 5).
- Inauguration / du Barrage d'Edéa / Cameroun / Février 1954 (Figure 6).
- Inauguration / du Pont / sur le Wouri / Douala 15 Mai 1955 (Figure 7).
- 1<sup>ère</sup> Foire - Exposition / Maroua / (Cameroun) / 17 au 19 Mai 1955 (Figure 8).



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

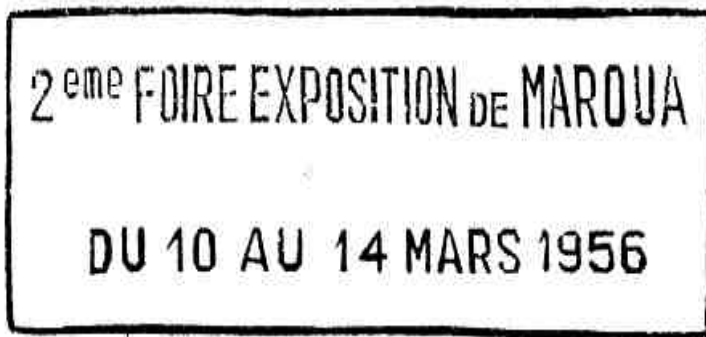


Figure 9



Figure 10

- 2<sup>ème</sup> Foire Exposition de Maroua / du 10 au 14 Mars 1956 (Figure 9).
- Visitez la foire exposition / de Ngaoundéré / 10-11-12 November 1956 (Figure 10).
- Célébration / du premier anniversaire / du gouvernement Camerounais / 10 mai 1958 (Figure 11). On covers postmarked Garoua 13 Mai 1958 and M'Balmayo 20 Mai 1958. The markings, when superimposed atop a light box, align perfectly, which leads me to speculate that the same handstamp was used and that the cachets were applied while the covers were in transit, probably at Yaoundé.
- Etat du Cameroun / 1<sup>er</sup> Janvier 1960 / Premier jour de l'indépendance (Figure 12).

- 5<sup>e</sup> Congrès Forestier / Mondial / Seattle U.S.A. (Figure 13).
- Semaine de l'information / du 26 septembre - 3 octobre 1965 / 10<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire de Radio - Yaoundé / auditeurs écoutez votre radio (Figure 14).
- République Fédérale du Cameroun / Federal Republic of Cameroun / "1967" / Année Internationale / du Tourisme / International Tourism / Year (Figure 15).





Figure 11



Figure 12 (above)



Figure 14 (below)



Figure 13 (above)



Figure 15

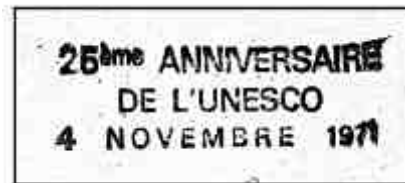


Figure 16

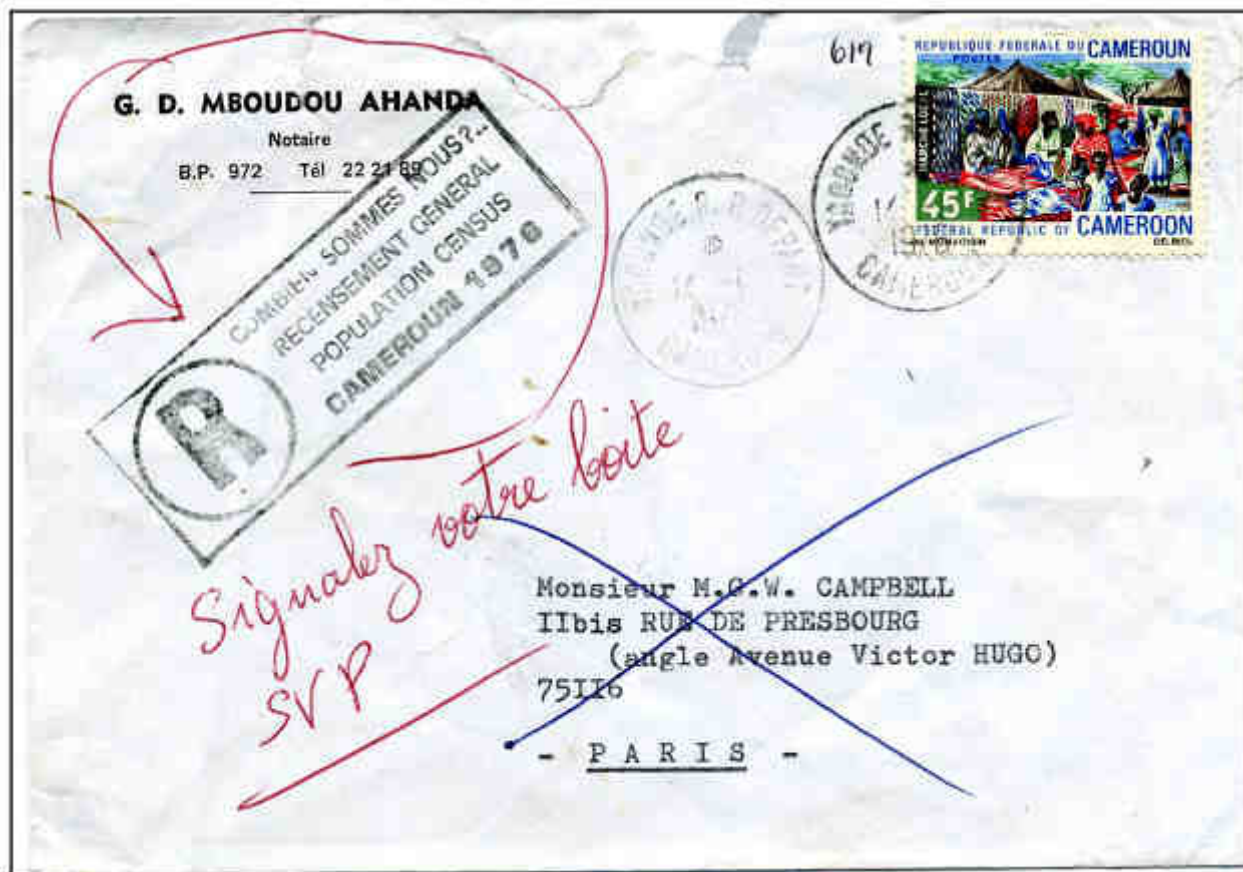


Figure 17

- 25<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire / de l'UNESCO / 4 November 1971 (Figure 16).
- Combien sommes-nous?.. / recensement général / Population Census / Cameroun 1976 (Figure 17). Examples to hand are postmarked Yaoundé 14.1.1976, Buea 29.1.1976, Ndop 12.3.1976. Comparison leads me to conclude that more than one handstamp was used. The cachet was likely applied during transit, probably at Douala, Yaoundé, and other major locales.

Michael has identified more than two dozen additional cachets. Even taken together, our tabulation is far from complete. Further, there is also a large number of souvenir cachets associated with airline first flights to and from Cameroun which are a suitable topic in and of themselves. Add in the plethora of publicity slogans found in machine postmarks, and there is more than enough material for a free-standing publication in its own right. Is there a volunteer to explore this aspect of modern Cameroun postal history?

#### de Laurence Company

In his article Bob illustrated a cover to the de Laurence Company with a typed notation, added after receipt in Chicago, regarding pending payment. It must have been company policy at that time to add such notations to the envelope. I had never noticed these before, but I have in my collection several Cameroun covers to de Laurence postmarked between 1929 and 1936 with either typewritten or manuscript notations regarding payment, but none as elaborate or as striking as Bob's example.

Others have probably also observed that virtually all de Laurence covers from the 1950s and later have a staple (or the remnant holes) where the order and payment were attached after the envelope was opened and prior to filling the customer's order. I had never taken the time to look closely at these otherwise mundane covers.

No Messiahs or epiphanies here, but thanks, Bob, for making philately phun!



## SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Mauritania Postage Dues of 1906



I trust Michael Round receives commission from Vera Trinder and/or Dallay, as no doubt sales will have grown on the strength of his reviews!

Dallay 2005/6 for Africa advises that the *Medallion Taxe* issues were released in 1907, and the 20c value alone was available in 1906. They illustrate values of the *Faidherbe/Palmiers* series used at Kaédi between 5.9.1906 and 6.12.1906, all with a triangular 'T' *taxe* mark.

In a collection I acquired two years ago there were three Mauritania *Faidherbe* values, 1c, 5c and 5F, each cancelled

at Sélibaby and all with a straight line 'T' which I have recorded on Togo occupation mail. They all appear to have been cancelled in 1906.

As we know from Bill Mitchell's schedule of post offices, there were few offices in the country in 1906, but the above suggests that different *taxe* marks were employed at different post offices.

With the 5F value with triangular strike catalogued at 1000€, it would be nice to think my example has the same value!

John Mayne

### French Morocco Cover with Swiss Postage Due and Boxed 'T' Mark



Our President Ashley Lawrence, Bob Deakin and Lesley Marley are to be congratulated on their articles in the philatelic press which hopefully may lead to an influx of members. As a colonial collector I found Bob's article of

particular interest. A disadvantage of collecting my interest is that I am invariably obliged at stamp fairs to browse through large swathes of British and French African material in the often vain hope of finding a Togo item to



add to my collection. The advantage is that I see a wide range of material — which all too often tempts me to buy!

One such cover was found at Autumn Philatex 2007. At first glance this was none too significant — a simple pre-printed commercial cover from the Library at Marrakesh-Médina to Geneva — but the addition of a Swiss 40c postage due made it more attractive. The Swiss appear to have been avid in collecting unpaid postage pre-1940 and adding to their coffers. In this case postage of 50c was

paid, whereas 75c was due. The cover was posted 30.1.1934, and reached Geneva 6.2.1934.

Of greater interest was the boxed 'T' *taxe* mark. This, as readers of the articles on Cameroun and Togo will know, is German. Germany had a post office at Marrakesh until 4.8.1914. It is interesting to see the *taxe* mark used after a twenty year interval. I cannot think the item would have passed via Germany en route to Geneva, and there are no backstamps.

John Mayne

---

## Jean-Baptiste Say



A small ship, well known to Thailand collectors, was sunk during the Paknam Incident of 1893. This ship was named the *Jean-Baptiste Say* — but who actually was J-B Say? Certainly

he was famous enough to have a ship named after him, even if only a small one. I only learnt recently that he was a real person and not just a fictional name for a boat.

John Garner

A quick search on the Internet reveals that Jean-Baptiste Say was born in Lyon in 1767 to a family of textile merchants of Huguenot extraction. With his brother he spent 2 years in England (living first in Croydon and later in London) apprenticed to a merchant, before taking a job at an insurance company in Paris. He became an ardent republican in the French Revolution, edited an economic journal from 1794 to 1800, and in 1803 published his most famous work, the "Treatise on Political Economy" in which

he promulgated Say's Law, often summarised as "Supply creates its own demand". In 1814 he turned to industrial pursuits and founded a spinning mill at Auchy in the Pas-de-Calais. The French government sent him to England to study the economic condition of the United Kingdom. In 1819 he became professor of industrial economy at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, and in 1831 professor of political economy at the Collège de France. After a few years of ill health he died in Paris in 1832.

Maurice Tyler

---

## “T.O.M.O.” on 1921 Morocco Cover

In Journal 246 of December 2007 (page 146) John Smith asks for an interpretation of a typed T.O.M.O. on a Moroccan cover of 1921. The answer to this question is revealed by consideration of the early postal history of Morocco.

In the first decade of the twentieth century turmoil existed in Morocco with conflict between the sultan, native tribesmen and French, German and Spanish commercial interests. In 1911 France obtained the right, by agreement with the Chérifien government, to control the Chérifien finances and on 30 March 1912 a French Protectorate was established over the Chérifien Empire.

A cover (Figure 1) from Meknès to Sousse, Tunisia, in August 1913 and bearing Chérifien stamps to a total of 10 centimes has a manuscript “T.M.O.” marking, and a further cover (Figure 2) of November 1913 bears a manuscript marking of “T.O.M.O.”

The interpretation of these initials becomes clear with a cover of 1912 (Figure 3) with a manuscript marking of “*Troupes d’Occupation du Maroc Occidental*”, and another (Figure 4) with a linear handstamp in block letters in 1914. More elaborate handstamps were in use by 1916, as shown in Figure 5.

Alan Wood



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4





Figure 5

“T.O.M.O.” is frequently found on Army covers from Morocco in that period, and stands for “*Troupes d’Occupation du Maroc Occidental*”.

The ‘Guynemer’ airmail label (issued May 1920) was mandatory on all airmail. It should not be cancelled unless done so in error. 75c is correct for the airmail surcharge.

**Bob Deakin**

The initials “T.O.M.O.” stand for “*Troupes d’Occupation du Maroc Occidental*”. I have several of these in my

collection, and I find that often it could indicate “*Oriental*”, i.e. the eastern part of the country!

**David Taylor Smith**

### A Fantatised *Cameroun Française* Cancellor Used on Madagascar Stamps



Figure 1

In Figure 1 are illustrated five low value postage stamps of Madagascar’s definitive issue of 1930-1938 (Yvert n<sup>os</sup> 161-165). Each stamp bears a partial strike in black ink of an apparent double ring postal date stamp. A complete impression can only be discerned when two of these cancelled postage stamps are placed together in an overlapping position (Figure 2 - enlarged 250%). This is seen as *Cameroun Française* (sic) set around a curiously fixed date “2 mai 8”, with both numerals being inverted.

As all the stamps still retain their original gum, it is certain that they were never used for postal purposes wherever, but were cancelled to order for whatever reason. It is surmised that this was probably to meet requests by overseas collectors for used French colonial stamps, and that a certain dealer or dealers unknown catered for this market from behind the counter of their establishment, using locally made cancellers of their own composition.



Figure 2

Clearly such action was irregular and deceptive, but it cannot be said that the canceller used in this case – other similar ones are known – was a forgery *per se*, for its make up bears no semblance to that of any genuine Cameroun postal date stamp so far recorded. Indeed, the compositor has obviously fantasised in his creation, no doubt purposely to avoid otherwise accusations of forgery.

Also, why, unless he lacked knowledge of the French language, did he go to the extent of feminising Cameroun

by adding an 'e' to Français? Furthermore, why was a so domiciled Cameroun canceller used on these stamps of Madagascar? Even then, it is evident that the person involved avoided making fully blown impressions on any one stamp.

One can only guess that such cancelling was done in the late 1930s or early 1940s, but the question where and by whom has not been ascertained by me. Perhaps readers can kindly provide the relevant information?

**Bob Maddocks**

## Forged 1925 International Philatelic Exhibition Sheetlet

I have just a few comments to add to my communication about the reproductions of this sheetlet, queried by Bob Paterson and already discussed in Journals 245 (page 85) and 246 (page 145).

I mentioned that I had no way of knowing who had produced the item, and now find that this was a product of House of Stamps, Division of Technodif SA, Quay de Corsier 10A, CH-1246 Corsier-Port, Switzerland; telephone (as of 1989) +22 751 2917.

I came across the leaflet that must have been handed to me at the same time as the sheet. I hadn't read it until now,

and had forgotten I had received it. I believe the young man handing out the sheets for free was hired to do that and had no idea about what I was asking him – who produced it and why, etc.

According to the flyer only 100 of these reproductions were made for customers who came to their bourse near the main expo. I never realised they had such a bourse, so getting my copy must have been serendipitous.

I am now aware that House of Stamps specialised then (still does?) in replicas (*répliques*) of great philatelic rarities.

**Ralph Barracano**

## Much Travelled Mail – Italy to Ivory Coast.

In Journal 243 (page 12) John Mayne submitted a card that had travelled a very long way, from Florence to Grand Bassam, and in Journal 245 (page 82) Bill Mitchell commented on this item at length.

The simple facts behind this story are that the card was mis-sent to East Africa instead of West Africa and that it was offloaded at Zanzibar. Neither of the writers has given the original date of despatch and there are no transit marks to help. It is by no means certain that the card was sent to East Africa by way of Marseille. If the word “occidentale” was mistaken for “orientale” by Italian mail sorters then the letter could easily have travelled by the Deutsche Ost Afrika Linie which called regularly at Naples on the way to Zanzibar.

After the Zanzibar postmark of 3 February 1904, the next one is the quartered Liverpool bagging stamp of 2 March. This means that at this date the letter was in London and, because of the lack of transit marks, it appears likely that it was carried by closed mail from Zanzibar by British vessel. Bill Mitchell’s comment that the letter was received at Liverpool and sent to Marseille via London is clearly incorrect because the quartered Liverpool stamp was applied by London Foreign on **letters to be routed via Liverpool**<sup>(1)</sup> and not the other way round. It is thought that these marks were not applied to all mail but only to the top and bottom envelopes in a bundle. It is also not very likely

that a vessel bringing mails from Zanzibar and through Europe would land them at Liverpool.

From Liverpool mailboats of the British and African lines carried mails regularly to ports on the West African coast. Some of these packets called at Grand Bassam.

Contrary to the view expressed by Bill Mitchell it is quite possible that no French mailboats were involved at all, and it is absolutely certain that the letter was carried to West Africa from Liverpool and not Marseille.

Finally, as far as the Italian hotel is concerned, Baedeker confirms that there was an Hôtel de la Ville at Florence.

As an adjunct to the article and while still on the subject of the quartered “L” bagging stamps it may be useful to bear in mind that one cannot always assume that mail will be directed by the French post offices automatically to French shipping lines.

This postcard (*below*) from Lyon to Freetown, Sierra Leone could have been carried by Lines L or M, both of which called at Freetown, but in this case the post office opted to send it to London and then to Liverpool, from where it was carried to Freetown by the British and African line mailboat *Volta*, arriving on 20 August.

This was well thought out by the Post Office. Lines L and M called at Freetown on the alternate Marseille / Bordeaux to Loanga run. However the next Line L mailboat did not leave Marseille until 10 August, and arrived at Freetown on 25 August. Use of the British route saved 5 days.

<sup>(1)</sup> Tabcart C, *Robertson revisited*, Bendon 1997, Limassol.



Peter Kelly

I would not willingly put my name to an incorrect, inaccurate or misleading article, so I'm grateful to Peter for setting the record straight.

Bill Mitchell



## Postman Cheval's Ideal Palace

While having a clear out, I found this photographic comment in *The Saturday Book* n° 27 regarding a postman

from Hauterives south of Vienne near Lyon. Our readership may or may not be interested!



Photograph of M. Cheval taken after he had completed the east front. It is the face of a dedicated man, a face which explains the gobs thing at the creator of the *Palais Idéal* by the villagers of Hauterives.

The postman's masterpiece, the mausoleum he began to build for himself at the age of seventy-nine after the parish priest had refused permission for him to be entombed in his Palace. The monument was completed in 1922, the year of M. Cheval's death.

Godfrey Bowden

Ferdinand Cheval was born in a village near Romans-sur-Isère in 1836, and became a rural postman about 1867. He was a dreamer, and during his rounds imagined constructing a fairytale world that included a palace. From 1879 onwards he started carrying home to the village he now lived in, Hauterives (south of Lyon and west of Grenoble), pebbles and rocks to build his "ideal palace" in his spare time. Ignoring the ridicule of his neighbours, he spent the next 33 years forming – with no help from anyone else – a construction of stone, mortar, cement and chalk that was 23 metres long and 11 metres high, decorated with scenes of biblical and eastern fables and including a bestiary and a waterfall.

This uneducated visionary worked as if inspired by a divine mission. Some of his creations recall statues from Hindu or Buddhist temples, and the inscriptions on his façades sing the praises of hard labour and simplicity: "Creature, come and admire Nature. All that you see, passer-by, is the work of a peasant." When the palace itself was completed in 1912, Cheval in retirement turned to building his own tomb that took another 8 years to complete (1914-1922) and was named the Tomb of Eternal Silence and Rest. He died 2 years later at the age of 88. Both the palace (in 1969) and the tomb (in 1975) have been recognised as historical monuments, and Cheval's talent has been praised by such as Picasso and André Malraux.

Maurice Tyler

## BOOKSHELF

**Cameroun in the Great War, Vol I, The Military Handstamps and the Early Overprints / *Cameroun: La Grande Guerre, Tome I, Les Cachets Militaires et les Premières Surcharges***, by Dudley Cobb; pub 2004; ISBN 2-9511613-1-X; 132 bilingual pages, A4 format; col & b/w illustrations; price £27 (inc p&p to UK) or 40€ (inc p&p to France) from the author at Les Capsades, 09140 Couflens, France, or from Roumet SA, 17 rue Drouot, 75009 Paris, France; e-mail: roumet@roumet.fr

This delightful study, which reads almost like a mystery novel, consists of the English text up front and the French text in the back, the two separated by two maps and 12 excellent colour plates (with bilingual captions). The plates show a good number of stamps, overprints and covers in actual size. The author's debt to his predecessors, including Maddocks and Bratzel, is gratefully acknowledged, even as he parts with a number of their inferences and conclusions.

The emphasis is, of course, on the French involvement in German Kamerun during its 1914-1916 conquest by Anglo-French forces. This very readable, definitive study begins with mention of the prewar changes in Kamerun's boundaries, including the use of Ekododo, Gabon date stamps as the town shifted temporarily to German control in 1912. Though interesting as provisional usage, it was done primarily for collectors. This is followed by a very useful section on the military actions and their effect upon the mails, the mail routes (direct and indirect) to France and elsewhere, and on the stampless, military franchise mail and markings.

The early series of overprints, applied to seized Kamerun postage, and later to French Gabon stamps, are then examined in great detail. Quantities overprinted are discussed, insofar as could be determined from contemporary correspondence. The *Corps Expéditionnaire* overprints (from 25 subject panes) are identified, described, and plated to the extent possible and in painstakingly great detail. This section alone could be worth the book's price to a specialist. What doesn't fit the description is quite

possibly a forgery — of which there are many. Major errors and varieties are described, and the section ends with a listing of postal rates of the period.

Next comes an exhaustive study of the postal markings, including a month-by-month census of covers, colours of markings, and attempts at locating geographically the relatively few senders of these covers. Forgeries, where known, are noted. Considering how little of worth has been written on the subject, the Bibliography is very adequate.

Throughout the book, Cobb explains his own, well-considered thoughts and interpretations regarding the available documents, letter contents, mail routing, the basis of the several overprint types, and where the various cancels may have been used. He is extremely informative on how genuine overprints and markings should look, which makes this work extremely useful for the detection of forgeries. Even so, the author does not consider this to be the last word on 1914-1916 Cameroun philately, and requests assistance from readers in the form of copies of covers, etc. This very readable handbook is well printed on quality paper.

Some minor criticisms. Text (black and white) illustrations are not numbered and therefore are not referred to in the text, requiring a bit of digging about by the reader. Perhaps this could be rectified in time for subsequent volumes. There is no Index. The binding may deteriorate with use.

We recommend this work highly to specialists, and very much look forward to seeing the next volume.

Stan Luft

[This review originally appeared in the *France & Colonies Philatelist* N° 280 of April 2005, and is reprinted here by kind permission of the author and Dave Herendeen, the present editor.]

---

**Cameroun in the Great War, Volume II, The French Navy and the AEF Columns / *Cameroun: La Grande Guerre, Tome II, La Marine Française et les Colonnes de l'AEF***, by Dudley Cobb, 132 A4 pp, softbound, pub 2007; price £27 (inc p&p to UK) or 40€ (inc p&p to France) from the author at Les Capsades, 09140 Couflens, France, or from Roumet SA, 17 rue Drouot, 75009 Paris, France; e-mail: roumet@roumet.fr

This second volume of Dudley Cobb's study of French involvement in the capture of the German colony of Kamerun in the First World War is planned on very similar lines to its predecessor. 52 pages of English text are followed by six of maps with two of bilingual notes, 16 colour plates with two more pages of notes in both languages and another 52 pages of French text. Most, but not all, of the black and white illustrations in the

text (which again are not numbered) appear in both versions. There is no discernable difference in the quality of the printing; if the coloured plates are not as striking as those in Volume I it's because no stamps are studied in depth this time so they are only incidental to the covers, a high proportion of which are stampless — their considerable value lies in their importance as historical documents, not their appeal to the eye.

Volume II breaks new ground. As Dudley Cobb remarks in his Preface, the philatelic literature on the Cameroun campaign has concentrated on the joint expeditionary force, which included troops from French West Africa. But before that, French naval vessels were involved in operations along the coast, and French columns had invaded from each of the four colonies of French Equatorial Africa – Gabon (the *Colonne du Sud Cameroun*), Middle Congo (the *Colonne de la Sangha*), Ubangi-Shari (the *Colonne de la Lobaye*) and Chad (the *Colonne du Cameroun Nord*). Now, for the first time, this aspect of the postal arrangements of the Cameroun campaign has been studied in minute detail, involving a systematic reading of daily logs and war diaries and other more general archive material. A separate chapter is devoted to each of the five scenes of hostilities.

Naval operations along the coast were led successively by four light cruisers. These, and subsidiary vessels, are named and described, and the – largely non-postal – cachets applied to their mail are illustrated and discussed, as is some of the mail itself. Cameroun was on the well-established shipping line between Libreville in Gabon and Dakar, Senegal, for onward transmission to France, so as a general rule the mail presented few problems. In a section devoted to “Conclusions” Dudley Cobb tells the reader what will help identify this mail.

The troops invading from the four colonies of French Equatorial Africa were not so fortunate, since communications were at best difficult. Dudley Cobb writes –

“The official history notes that the *Sud Cameroun* theatre in fact fell into two sections, completely isolated one from the other. As the crow flies, 130-140km separated the objectives of Oyem/Bitam and Minkebe/Akoafim that had been set for two groups of forces whose initial bases, Mitzig and M’Vahdi, were 190km apart. These bases could communicate with each other only via the rear, along a 450km route via N’Djole. Later, when new bases had been established at Oyem and Minkebe, their line of communications via Angouma was still 280 km long. In addition, of course, Mitzig was itself 190km from Libreville.”

And, as for time scales –

“The officer commanding in Gabon, Colonel Le Meillour, was on tour in the back country. His journey gives some idea of travel times and communications problems in this part of Gabon. Starting on 20 June by riverboat from Cap Lopez to

Lambarene (where he noted the presence of a German doctor, Schweitzer) and N’Djole, the Colonel then proceeded on foot to the frontier area. He left Booue on 8 July, and reached Angouma on 22 July and Mitzig on 28 July. Later in the year, with the rains, some sections of his route would be barely passable for a well-laden column. He returned to Libreville by the most direct route, coming from Mitzig on foot and by riverboat in 12 days, and learnt on the way that war had been declared a week before.”

So the mail, both official and private, had to rely on makeshift arrangements. It was not a speedy service –

“Although Le Meillour could communicate swiftly and directly with Brazzaville, links with the troops under his command were far more tenuous. At the outset of the war, the company in M’Vehdi sent its correspondence, and received orders, via the main column based at Mitzig. In September and October 1914 transit times for communications between Libreville and Mitzig varied between nine and twenty-seven days, with a further nine days between Mitzig and M’Vahdi. One set of papers took fifty days from Brazzaville to Mitzig; another took forty-four days from M’Vahdi to Libreville.”

The four chapters dealing with these operations follow the same pattern – a brief account of objectives and the operations themselves, a detailed discussion of the mail and the postal and other cachets applied to it, including the use of a captured German canceller of Ukoko dated 16.9.14, and (again) “Conclusions” containing identification pointers.

There follow a short chapter, “The Captains and the Colonels Depart” quoting and commenting on several documents dating from early in 1916 as the end of the Franco-British administration approached; some Notes containing additional, more general information; a lengthy four-page discussion of the various sources; then the maps, colour plates and French text already mentioned.

I agree with Stan Luft’s concluding remarks on Volume I; they apply equally here. This handbook is indeed very readable and well printed on quality paper, but sometimes the black and white illustrations need a little searching and – much more important – the binding may deteriorate with use. Additional information may come to light, but this study is likely to be the standard work on the subject for a long time to come. It’s essential reading for all collectors of Cameroun, French Equatorial Africa and the First World War.

Bill Mitchell

## Books Noted

*Madagascar et Dépendances: Poste, Télégraphe, Téléphone, Timbres-poste, Histoire postale (1920-1930), Tome I*, by François Thénard; *Bulletin Col.Fra Hors-série* n° 5-7A; 100 A4 pp; price 26€ inc p&p within France; available from Alain Hurpet, BP 5, 10230 Mailly-le-Camp. [Col.Fra publication giving detailed postal and administrative information, including the functioning of the PTT in Madagascar during the period specified (rates, names of offices, etc).]

*Guerre et Poste: L’extraordinaire quotidien des Français en temps de guerre, 1870-1945*, pub. Éd. Casterman; price 16,95€; available from Musée de la Poste, 34 boulevard de Vaugirard, 75015 Paris. [Covers the recent exhibition at the Musée de la Poste, with 3 sections dealing with the 1870 Franco-German War, and the first and Second World Wars, describing how soldiers and civilians kept in touch, and illustrated with original cartoons by Jacques Tardi.]

Maurice Tyler



# LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

## Cameo: Journal of the West Africa Study Circle

Vol 10 N° 4 Whole N° 2007: Four settings on the CEF Postal Stationery (Cobb); Re Cameroun - Postage Due Stamps 1916-1923 (Maddocks); Togo - Early Occupation (Mayne); Togo Occupation Mail - Letter Cards (Mayne); Togo Campaign - D A R Bettington (Mayne); Manfe, late Ossidinge, Camerouns (Martin); British Fiscals used at Lomé, Togo (Mayne); Cameroun 2005 provisional year slugs (Parren); Campo River & the French & German posts (Parren); Response (Mitchell).

## Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 122 4<sup>ème</sup> Trim 2007: La série de timbres gravés de 1901 du Congo (Strobel); Réunion: Une taxe 16 de fabrication locale enfin connue? (Chandanson); Sainte-Lucie, ancienne possession française (Hurpet); Les empreintes postales des Comores en 1984 (Groenewald).

## France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 291 (Vol 64, N° 1) Jan 2008: French Post Office in Palestine 1948 (McGarrity); The Strange Case of Port Inini (Ward); The Salon d'Automne (Herendeen); Performing Philatelic Research (Herendeen).

## L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1813 Dec 2007: Marie-Laure Drillet, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Première vente sur offres Yvert et Tellier: La collection Georges Grandvoinet (Sinai); «Guerre et poste», trois expositions en une (Hella); Les particularités postales de l'année 1947 (Métayer); Les timbres de grève des CCI [Chambres de commerce et d'industrie] (Franceschi); Impression [IV] des timbres personnalisés (Marion).

N° 1814 Jan 2008: Raphaële Goineau, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Dans la veine de Franck Sorbier (Bastide); Une lettre de Saint-Exupéry au musée de La Poste (Hella); Impression [end] des timbres personnalisés (Marion); Les particularités postales de l'année 1947 [II] (Métayer); Les timbres de grève des CCI [Chambres de commerce et d'industrie] [II] (Franceschi).

N° 1815 Feb 2008: Jean-Jacques Oliéro, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Duxin, le magicien: 800 pièces inconnues [8] (Storch); Arthur Maury, ami du timbre et collectionneur passionné (Hella); Les timbres de grève des CCI [Chambres de commerce et d'industrie] [III] (Franceschi); Les LISA de POST-EXPO 2007 (Héron et Gengembre); L'entreprise et le timbre

(Stéphan); Cartophilie: Les joies naissantes des sports de glisse (Geslin).

## Timbres Magazine

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

N° 85 Dec 2007: Polaire: Les premiers plis ont été expédiés (Toulemonde); Jacques Tardi fidèle au poste (PJ); Les timbres *Jacques Cartier* de 1934 (Michaud); Un seul timbre et il est en trop! (de la Mettrie); Un Président collectionneur [M. Nicolas Sarkozy] (-); Cartes Postales: Voitures à chiens à fond la caisse (Zeyons); Les taxes au tampon de fabrication locale dans Le Comté de Nice [1850-1860] (Baudot); Une lettre indument taxée (Prugnon); Le Bourget: Bureau frontière G (Chauvin).

N° 86 Jan 2008: La Colombe de Daragnès (Michaud); Celui que les timbres ont surnommé « père des lépreux » (Michaud); Le Midi en colère (Allard); La baisse Ramadier en philatélie (de la Mettrie); Guadeloupe, quelques-unes des plus belles pièces d'une collection exceptionnelle (de Pellinec); CLEMENTINE DELAIT la plus illustre des femmes à barbe (Zeyons); Un cas exceptionnel de simple taxe (Prugnon); Des lettres « frauduleuses » lui étaient parvenus par la Suisse (Chauvin).

N° 87 Feb 2008: Conversation avec ... Claude Andréotto, l'alchimiste de l'image (Decaux); Le service des points textiles (Chauvin); Les « gravures » des Marianne (Stéphan & Guilbaud); Quand la crise mondiale met les intellectuels au chômage...les curiosités philatéliques apparaissent (Michaud); Prophylaxie en marcophilie! (de la Mettrie); Un scoop vieux d'un demi-siècle: La Grille Spéciale (de fabrication locale) de Bain de Bretagne (Baudot); Qu'est-ce qu'un coin daté? (La So.Co.Co.Da.Mi.); L'Indice de Conversion (Prugnon); Des Kiwis au pays du cagou (Chauvin).

## Documents Philatéliques

N° 195 1<sup>er</sup> trim 2008: Le poinçon au type Aigle (Chauvet); Origine et utilisation des timbres à date « Poste aux armées T.O.E. » (Goanvic).

## The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol 38 N° 1 (Whole N° 181) Jan 2008: Use of Black R D Overprint (Bentley); In Search of Information [RP cancels] (Dykhous); Na-Cham Mail Processing Marking (Bentley); Indo-China First Day Cover Mystery [1939 *Exposition Internationale*] (Aspnes); More Advertising with Indo-China's Stamps [Fictional "TONKIN" legend on Group Type] (Bentley).

## REPORTS OF MEETINGS

### NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 8 DECEMBER 2007

#### Members' Choice

The December meeting took place as usual at Heaton Royds, Bradford. Apologies were sent from Peter Maybury, Ron Shiers and Peter Stockton.

On view before the meeting started were displays (1 frame of each) by:-

**Judith Holder** - The Eiffel Tower in early postcards including all Libonis types; selected 1900 exhibition cards; early cards of Paris; early cards of Brittany & Normandy.

**Stephen Holder** - Fieldpost, balloon & later commemorative postcards of the Siege of Paris.

The following members then displayed:-

**George Barker** - 1914 Red Cross issues (1 frame); the Orphans issues (1 frame);

**Tony Shepherd** - Martinique in World War Two (3 frames). After tea came:-

**Alan Goude** - St Pierre & Miquelon (1 frame); French Equatorial Africa (1 frame);

**Steve Ellis** - *Ligne A* St Nazaire - Colon & Central & South America to the West Indies (2 frames); the paddle steamer *La Marguerite* (1 frame);

**Michael Meadowcroft** - French Classics (1 frame); assorted Airmails and miscellaneous items (1 frame).

CSH

---

### SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 12 JANUARY 2008

#### Members' Displays

The Organiser welcomed members and guests to the first meeting of the New Year. Colin introduced one new member Ian Booth and a long time member John Luckman on his first visit to the Worthing Group. The following members gave displays:

**Michael Annells**: Airmails of France

**Michael Berry**: Siege of Paris, 31, 45 & 48 Balloon flights, Isle de Rey local covers

**Bob Larg**: Postcards of Eiffel Tower

**Bill Mitchell**: Maritime & Airmail covers of AOF

**John Luckman**: 1862 Laureated Issue of France

**Ian Booth**: Missionary Letters from Niger

**John Yeomans**: AEF Postcards rates & routes

**John Hammonds**: South Atlantic Airmail routes

**Roy Ferguson**: 1970 issues of France

**Colin Spong**: Madagascar Commercial Airmail routes

On behalf of everyone present Colin thanked those who had displayed and our Ladies who had looked after the refreshments.

Members present: Michael Annells, Michael Berry, Ian Booth, Roy Ferguson, John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen, Bob Larg, John Luckman, Bill Mitchell, John Thorpe, John Parmenter, Colin Spong, John Yeomans; and Guests Christine Annells, Jean Hammonds and Pat Spong.

Apologies from. Colin Clarkson, Yvonne Larg, George Nash, Barbara Priddy, Bob Small, & Michael Wilson

The next meeting was arranged for Saturday 12 April 2008, with John West showing French Red Cross

CWS

---

### WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 2 FEBRUARY 2008

**Peter Kelly: How Postcards Developed 1876-1900**

#### Members' Displays

The Wessex Group met at the Scout Hall, Harnham, Salisbury on 2 February. The main display in the morning was given by **Peter Kelly** who showed "The development of postcards during the *Type Sage* period 1876-1900. Starting from the early precursor cards Peter explained how the various uses of postcards had developed during the period both from a personal and a business angle, registration, late fee and the treatment of unpaid and insufficiently paid cards. There was a section on postcards to foreign destinations and examples of things that had gone wrong with them. The display ended with a section on the 1900 Paris Universal Exhibition.

After our usual lunch at the Old Mill the following members displayed in the afternoon:

**Alan Wood**: Fiscals

**John Yeomans**: French Equatorial Africa Postcards 1900-1938

**Ingrid Swinburn**: Mail returned to sender

**Peter Lawrence**: Unusual precancelled mail

**Ashley Lawrence**: 1929-1931 Pictorials

**Jeremy Martin**: Corsini correspondence and early mail to GB.

Other members attending: Messrs A Ketchell, B Weeks, P Todd, C Hitchen, J Foskett, G Nash.

Visitors: J Forbes-Nixon, Mrs K Nash, A Swinburn.

PRAK

## LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 23 JANUARY 2008

### Mick Bister: 1929 50c Jeanne d'Arc Issue

11 members of the Society were present at the Calthorpe Arms to see a display by Mick Bister on the 50c Jeanne d'Arc stamp. Mick confessed that much of the display had been shown before, but that there was nevertheless some interesting new material.

He started by explaining how he had first become familiar with Jeanne's stamping ground when he was a student in France, and how he had persuaded his wife Marian to concentrate on Jeanne d'Arc in part of her history course. His specialised collection had been kickstarted when he bought a composite proof from Stephen Holder. Mick told the story in brief of Jeanne's influence on the army and her involvement in battles, especially the raising of the siege of Orleans. We then learnt about the way in which the Mayor of Orleans battled for years to obtain a postage stamp in recognition of her exploits, leading to vignettes of various kinds that were important precursors to the stamp that was eventually issued.

The display itself began with an *Illustrated London News* of 1855 covering celebrations at Orleans, postcards featuring the *Fêtes de Jeanne d'Arc*, a commemorative medallion struck for the visit to Orleans by the Emperor Napoléon III and Eugénie in 1868, and postal stationery and lettercards promoting the canonisation of Jeanne d'Arc. In 1896 a stamp was proposed, and we saw the essay of Grasset's design that later in 1902 became the central part of an Indo-Chinese stamp.

There followed *porte-timbres*, and photographic postcards published in 1912 by Marcel Marron (with his logo of a chestnut tree) to promote Jeanne d'Arc as a national figure, which were then reduced and reproduced as vignettes in different colours in 1913. This variety of precursors to the stamp continued until the stamp itself was finally produced in 1929, during which period various other towns celebrated their *Fêtes de Jeanne d'Arc*. As an extra we even saw a little poster from the Second World War.

1929 was in fact the 500th anniversary of the raising of the siege mentioned above, and offered a suitable date for the stamp to appear. We were shown some essays of rejected designs, the original artwork for which has apparently disappeared; photographic reductions of the winning design that were sent to newspapers; a champagne label with the original design on it, showing the commercial prospects for the Post Office; and working proofs on which it was insisted that the royalist *fleur de lys* be covered up.

The first half of the display ended with a closer look at sheet printings, with die proofs and colour trials, and variations of shade in the printings shown by dated corner blocks. Mick mentioned that catalogues still give 11 March (or sometimes 3 March) as the first date of issue of the stamp and will not accept any alteration of that date, although he is able to prove

that it was issued on 2 March in some towns, and now owns four out of the ten known FDCs.

The second session of the display began with a detailed study of the booklet printings of the stamp – there being no coils or postal stationery issued in this design. Booklets were all flat plate versions in the early days, but rotary printings appeared later: they could be distinguished from each other by the width of the gutter margin and according to whether a staple or glue had been used in the manufacture. A wide variety of advertisers was illustrated, and it was noted that the advertisements on the covers were changed more often than those on the stamps inside.

Booklets for distribution anywhere in France were given a serial number; regional issues had letters to denominate the region; but there were also departmental distributions, with the name of the *département* being given; and even local distributions in certain towns. Mick mentioned that there was a particular problem when the advert for *La Vache Qui Rit* (the "Laughing Cow" cheese) was printed under the stamp showing Jeanne d'Arc on horseback, thus being seen as an unintentional insult to the heroine. Private booklet printings were commissioned by particular companies, with a limited issue of 1000-5000 only – including *Lux Radio* with its beautiful Art Déco design on the cover. Other exhibits noted included one for the Le Havre Exhibition, an experimental cover for one of the few rotary printings, and the 1929 major launch of the anti-tuberculosis labels.

The final part of the display concentrated on postal usage, which normally meant Jeanne d'Arc stamps used on their own, but Mick admitted that he was sometimes tempted to purchase covers where the stamp was used in combination with others when that proved particularly interesting. We were shown fascinating examples of the *paquebot-annexe* service, a mobile box cover, the concessionary border rate to Switzerland, a Marion envelope with a hole in it allowing the stamp on the document inside to receive the authenticating date stamp, some unusual rates such as the France to Luxembourg one or one from a post office in Egypt to Ems in Germany, airmails including a first flight from Montluçon to Geneva to Vienna to Poland, and even a crash mail cover.

The final sheets included a pneumatic letter bearing four Jeanne d'Arc stamps, a packet bearing eleven of these stamps, and even a registered airmail to Argentina bearing forty-one of them! Mick pointed out that most of these items could be dated to the period in or around 1929-31.

The vote of thanks was given by Maurice Tyler, who congratulated Mick on a colourful and highly individual mixture of items illustrating the promotion of the stamp and its printing processes, accompanied by a commentary that was not only erudite and informative but also extremely entertaining.

MST

[See front cover and next page for colour illustrations of Mick's display.]

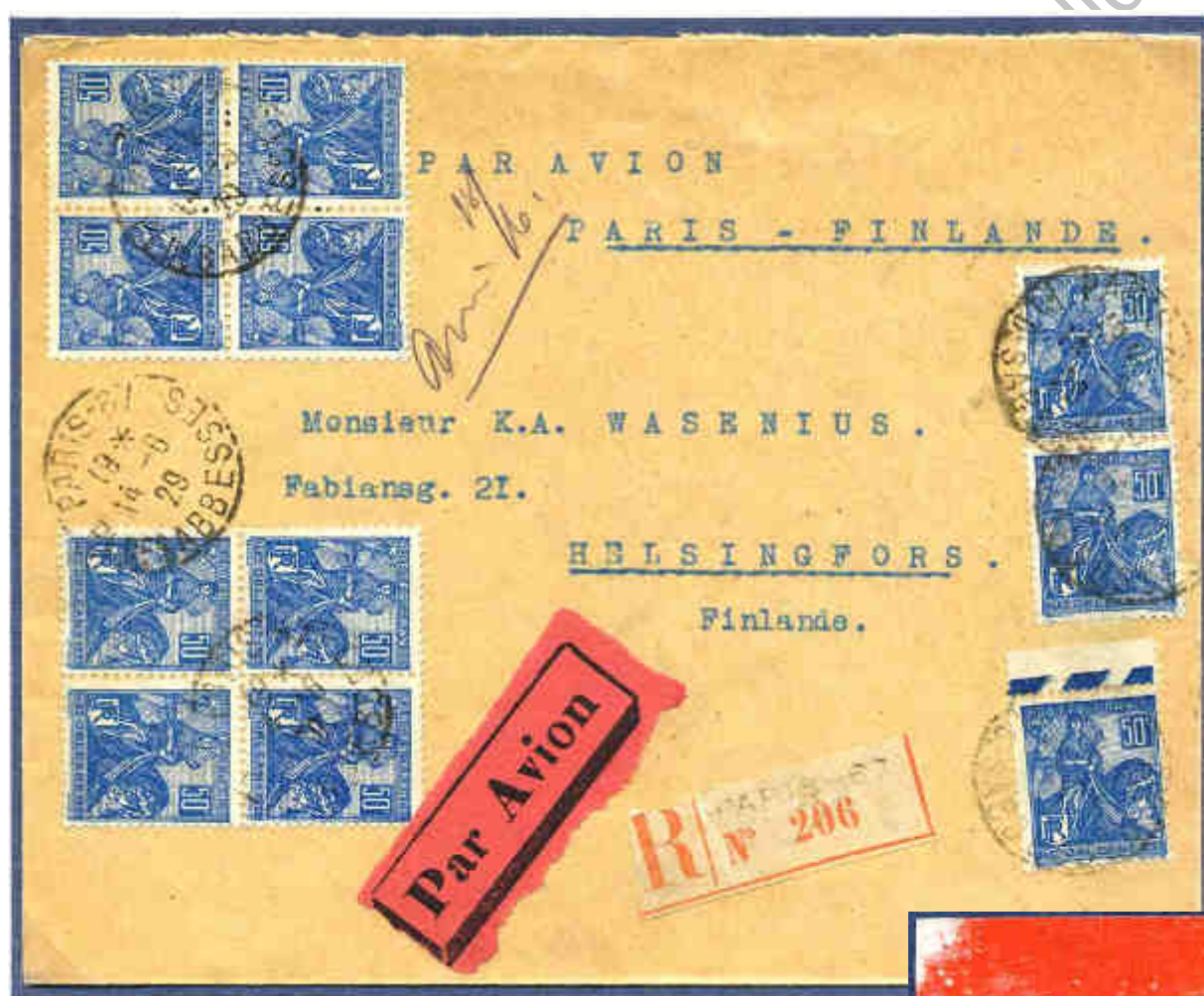




Lux Radio private booklet (3000 printed) - Art Déco cover



First Day of Printing  
14 February 1929



11 copies on registered airmail to Finland



Colour trial pulled by engraver Abel Mignon



## London 2010 International Philatelic Exhibition

150+

# Volunteers Needed

The London 2010 International Philatelic Exhibition is the central feature of linked events comprising the Festival of Stamps and will be held at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington Green, London N1 0QH from 8<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

The exhibition will have some 2,400 competitive frames and about 190 trade and postal administrations' stands. A special feature will be an invited exhibition of 32 frames relating to King George V.

Details of the organization and supporting teams responsible for the management of the exhibition may be viewed on the London 2010 website [www.london2010.org.uk](http://www.london2010.org.uk)

### Volunteers

London 2010 needs **150+ volunteers** to help with a wide range of tasks including:-

- **mounting and dismounting exhibits**
- **supervising the build and dismantling of frames**
- **organisers office and bin room support**
- **staffing information stands**
- **preparing seminar and awards rooms**
- **placing sponsor labels, ribbons and results on frames**
- **data entry to London 2010 database**
- **arranging transport**

A new feature of the exhibition is the "changeover" of exhibits at the mid point of the show. At this point all exhibits displayed for the first four days of the show will be taken down and different exhibits put up and displayed for the last four days.

This enables twice the number of exhibits to be displayed during the exhibition. However, it also means more work and therefore additional volunteers are needed.

### Who is responsible for the volunteers?

The Volunteer Team comprises Richard Stock (Team Leader) Pat Grimwood-Taylor, Tony Bosworth and Lindy Bosworth. They are responsible for recruiting volunteers, supervising certain tasks and dealing with all 'housekeeping' matters e.g. expenses.

Regular updates will be available via the website.

### Database of Volunteers

The details provided by volunteers on registration will be entered into the exhibition database and used to manage the deployment of volunteers during the exhibition. Access to the database will be restricted.

### Expenses

Volunteers will be paid their out-of-pocket expenses.

## Cavendish Reception

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd., will be sponsoring an evening reception for volunteers during the exhibition.

## Finally

This is an opportunity for philatelists and postal historians to contribute to the most important philatelic event of the decade. If you wish to help, please register now by downloading and completing the form on the London 2010 website or send your full name, address, telephone number, and details of any previous experience at exhibitions, by post or email to:-

**Richard Stock, Moor Cottage, Manorial Road, Parkgate, Neston, South Wirral, CH64 6QW. (email: [richardcstock@aol.co.uk](mailto:richardcstock@aol.co.uk) (please quote 'London 2010' as the subject))**

**Thank you for your help.**

---

## Where There's a Will

**Mike Roberts**

What a miserable subject to think about! You have filled your last stock book, licked your last hinge (assuming you are not an unmounted mint fanatic) and gone to join the Great Philatelic Society in the Sky. Working on the basis that you can't take your collections with you, what will happen to them when you are gone?

Sadly, we probably all know of examples of former collectors who did not make proper arrangements for the ultimate disposal of their collections. In the worst cases, these have ended up in skips, rotting away in damp cupboards, or have been carted off to the local furniture auctioneers and sold for a pittance. Maybe a distressed widow has been persuaded by a friendly "dealer" to accept a derisory sum just to get rid of all the clutter. Usually it will not be as bad as that, but with a little forethought you should be able to ensure that all of your treasures find the best new homes after you have gone, with the maximum financial benefit to your family.

The key is to make plans as soon as possible and keep them under review. Of major importance is to identify perhaps a couple of trusted philatelic colleagues (likely to be members of an appropriate specialist society) who will be prepared either to act as executors of your will (possibly in addition to family members) or at least be happy to give expert guidance to the executors on your death. They will know which auctioneers are best for particular sections of your collection (some are better at postal history than stamps and vice versa: what about overseas auctioneers or dealers?) and may suggest that particular sections of your collection could best be dealt with within the specialist society itself to the benefit of the society, its members and your estate. They would ensure that your research notes and library were preserved for the benefit of future generations of specialists.

So here is a suggested strategy:

1. Consider the things a non-collector would need to think about before making a will. Who should inherit the bulk of the estate? What happens if they die

before you? Are there any individuals or charities that should be left a legacy?

2. Who should act as executor? Should a special philatelic executor be appointed? Ask the people concerned whether they would be willing to take on the job.
3. Talk to your executors about your collection. Give the lay executors details of whom to contact for help. Be honest about the value of your collection. If you have spent far more on your collection than your family thinks, now is perhaps the time to come clean with them!
4. Contact a solicitor who specialises in will drafting. Not only will he be able to set out your wishes in a way which is legally binding, but will be able to help with any tax planning or other relevant issues. Remember that each individual is able to pass on up to £300,000 to the next generation without inheritance tax becoming payable. There are ways of arranging your affairs, particularly if you are married, to ensure the maximum tax benefit to you rather than the Chancellor of the Exchequer. There are also a number of traps into which the unwary can easily fall! A solicitor who is a member of the Society of Trusts and Estate Practitioners (Contact details: Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), 26 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1 W OGT, Telephone: 020 7838 4890) will have the specialist knowledge to advise you on these points.

It must be admitted, this is a fairly dour subject to contemplate. All collectors, however, surely have a duty to themselves, their collection, future generations of students and their family to ensure that the proper arrangements are made when the album is finally closed.

*Mike Roberts is a partner with Ramsdens Solicitors. He is a member of Solicitors for the Elderly Group, the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners and numerous philatelic societies.*



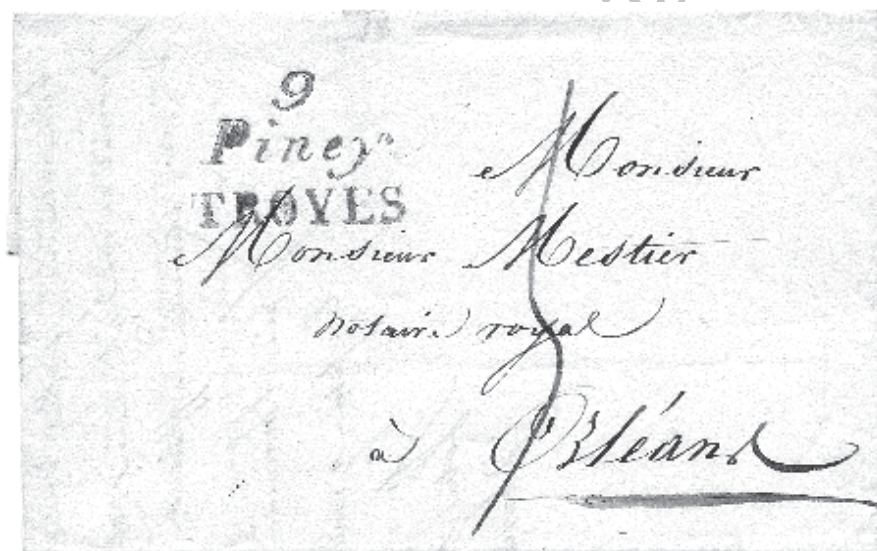
# May 2008 Auction - Selected Lots

[See also page 3 and cover page iv.]

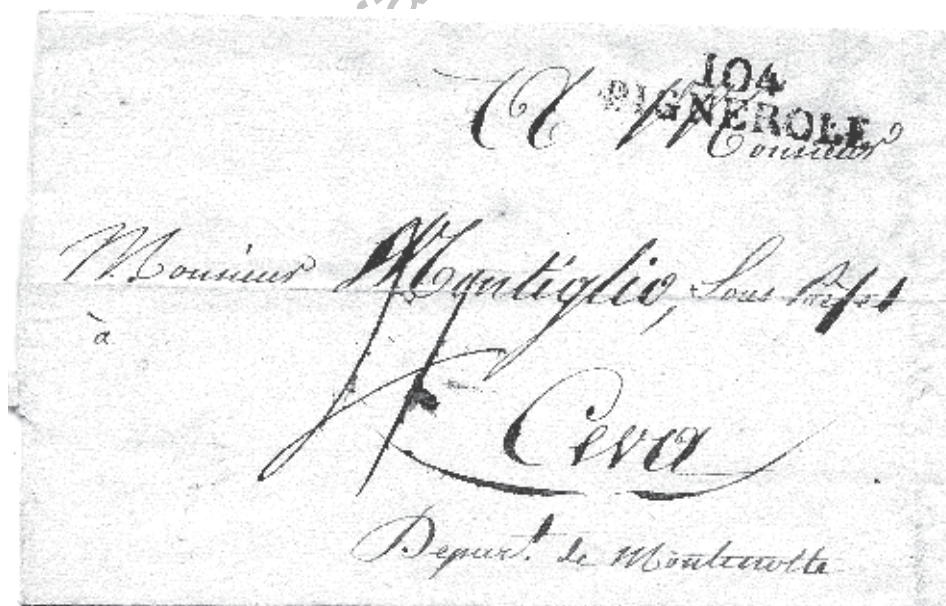


Lot 164  
1905 3c Blanc sheet number essay

Lot 87  
1827 EL with  
9 Piney TROYES  
strike in blue



Lot 77  
ex-collection of 14 département  
conquis covers



Lot 383  
1890 10c Sage  
Postal Stationery Card  
commemorating  
Czar's visit



Lot 66  
1965 Terre Adélie  
Expéditions Polaires  
Françaises



Lot 336  
1870 ballon monté  
probably flown by 'Le Jules Favre N° 2'

Lot 178  
5c Sower on GC paper

