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# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



First Pasteur set, first day cover  
[Lot 399 in November 2008 Auction]

Volume 58 ● Number 3  
September 2008  
Whole Number 249

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

**Officers**

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**The Society**

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

All inquiries about and applications for membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, all other correspondence to the General Secretary.

**2008 Annual Subscription Rates**

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

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

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

**The Journal**

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The price is included in members' subscriptions.

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**Auction and Exchange Packet Sales**

Lots for sale through the Society auctions, held 2 or 3 times a year, should be sent to the Auction Secretary:

M L Bister, 7 The Slade, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2ES (email: auction1@fcps.org.uk).

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

France: R G E Wood, 51 Longstomps Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9BY (Telephone 01245 267949).

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

**The Library**

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

Librarian: G E Barker, 520 Halifax Road, Bradford BD6 2LP.

**The Magazine Circuit**

The Society subscribes to two French philatelic magazines, and has circuits organised for those who wish to read them. For further details contact the circuit organiser:

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

**Journal Correspondents**

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Southern Group: C W Spong

Northern Group: J P Maybury

Wessex Group: P R A Kelly / A J Wood

Scottish Group: Mrs M Pavey

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\* \* \*

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

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

# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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**September 2008 ● Whole No 249**

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## SOCIETY NOTES

### New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1325 Darryl Templer (USA), 1326 Duleep Shahani (India), 1327 M Trickett (Dorset), 1328 D Bailey (London).

\* \* \*

### Members Deceased

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

22 Peter Burnett, 274 D Starkey, 846 Philip de Paris.

\* \* \*

### Resignations

1260 A Aldham.

\* \* \*

### Philatelic Honours

Congratulations to **Robert Johnson** who was awarded the ABPS Congress Medal 2008 at Stratford-upon-Avon in July.

And also to **Stan Luft** (former editor of the *France & Colonies Philatelist*) who received the American Philatelic Society Luff Award for distinguished philatelic research at the APS Stampshow in Hartford, Connecticut in August.

\* \* \*

### John Levett

The Memorial Service for the life of our past President John Levett took place at Christchurch, Woking, on 4 July 2008.

During many tributes paid to a good and very full life, Patrick Pearson (past President RPSL) referred to the great contribution made by John to building up and making our Society what it is today, one of the leading specialised Societies in the country. The point was made that while John collected at the very highest level and held many positions in the top echelons of British philately he never failed to give encouragement and support at all levels from the local society upwards.

I, personally, remember well, and have never forgotten, the welcome and encouragement I received when I first joined our Society as a rank beginner.

The Society was represented at the Service by George Barker, John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen, Stephen Holder, Peter Kelly, Colin Spong and Iain Stevenson.

PRAK

\* \* \*

### Future Events

The London Group will next meet at the Calthorpe Arms,

Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 6.30pm on Wednesday 15 October 2008, when John Hammonds will display Air Orient.

The same group will meet at the Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1 at 3.00pm on Saturday 1 November 2008, when Iain Stevenson will display Pneumatic Post. The meeting will be followed by a supper (for those wishing to attend) at 5.30 for 5.45pm at Il Posto Ristorante Italiano, 316A Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, London SW1V 1AA.

The London Group will also meet at the Calthorpe Arms at 6.30pm on Wednesday 26 November, when Alan Barrett will display Maritime Mail and Cinderella material.

The Northern Group will meet in the Village Hall, Adlington, Cheshire on Saturday 11 October 2008 for an All Day Meeting in the North-West.

They will also meet in the Board Room, Leeds General Infirmary, Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3EX at 1.30pm on Saturday 29 November, displays being at members' choice.

The Southern Group will meet at the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, East Worthing at 2.00pm on Saturday 4 October 2008, when Lesley Marley will display the Sabine and Liberty issues of France.

The Wessex Group will meet at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham, Salisbury at 10.30am (with lunch at the Mill) on Saturday 18 October 2008, when Chris Hitchen will display Paris in World War II, followed by members' displays in the afternoon.

The Scottish Group will meet at St Michael's Parish Church, Cross House, The Cross, Linlithgow (next to paying car park) at 2.00pm on Saturday 22 November 2008, when Jim Moffat will display the French Antilles.

\* \* \*

### Old Copies of the Journal

**Charles Karsten**, a longstanding member in Scotland, has a big box of old copies of the Journal which he now wishes to dispose of. Any member who may wish to acquire these - or some of them - should contact the Editor for the full address and telephone number. The books will need to be collected from St Andrews, Fife.

\* \* \*

### New Book

Our President **Ashley Lawrence** reports that his book, "The Sower, A Common Little French Stamp", has now reached an advanced stage. It will be a greatly expanded version of the series of articles which appeared in Gibbons Stamp Monthly during 2007-8, and it is hoped that the book will be published by the Society in the near future. Further details will follow shortly.

\* \* \*



## Exhibition Successes

The following members gained awards in the Championnat de France 2008 at the Salon du Timbre et de l'Écrit (Paris, June 2008):

**Guy Dutau:** Gold and Grand Prix (Traditional) for "Chili, Émission de l'American Bank Note Company 1867-1868"

**Jean-Pierre Magne:** Gold and Special Prize (Postal History) for "Île Maurice, l'émission aux armoiries du premier type 1895-1910"

**Ralph Barracano:** Large Silver (Postal History) for "Histoire postale des Pyrénées Orientales de 1849 à 1876"

In the International Exhibition on the same occasion, these awards were made to members:

**Guy Dutau:** Large Gold, Special Prize and Grand Prix National (Postal History) for "Relations postales franco-chiliennes des origines jusqu'à 1883"

**Rainer von Scharpen:** Large Vermeil (Postal History) for "Postal stationery used in the French Post Offices of the Levant" and Large Vermeil for "Perfins of the Kingdom of Bavaria"

\* \* \*

## Displays by Members

The following displays were given by members on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Académie de Philatélie (June 2008):

**Guy Dutau:** "La grande peste, 1720-1723"

**Peter Kelly:** "Réunion - Aspects de l'histoire postale maritime de 1800 à 1875"

**Michel Letailleur:** "Sélection de timbres gravés en taille-douce de Grande-Bretagne 1840-1879"

**Robert Abensur:** Affranchissements insuffisants de l'étranger pour la France - Période pré-UPU"

**Michèle Chauvet:** "L'Aigle bistre"

**Alain Millet:** "Sélection de correspondances coloniales"

**Henk Slabbinck:** "Inde française, 1859-1899"

**Jean-Pierre Magne:** "Le timbre à date type 23 des bureaux de distribution - Hommage à nos anciens"

**Bertrand Sinais:** "La libération de la Corse et l'emploi des timbres d'Algérie dans l'Île de Beauté, 1943-1944"

\* \* \*

## Southern Group Programme 2008-9

The beginning of this programme was published in Journal 248 (page 40), but these further details can now be added:

10 January 2009 - Members Displays on Mail by Air/Rail/Road or Ship

4 April 2009 - Ray Downing: The Marianne de Dulac issue of France

\* \* \*

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## BOOKSHELF

**Air France** by Geoff Jones; 160pp, 103 b/w & 97 coloured illustrations or photographs; hardback cover with coloured dust jacket depicting Concorde; pub. May 2008 by Midland Publishing, an imprint of Ian Allan Publishing, Riverdene Business Park, Molesey Road, Hersham, Surrey KT12 4RG; ISBN 978 1 85780 285 6; [www.ianallanpublishing.co.uk](http://www.ianallanpublishing.co.uk)

This is a beautifully illustrated general history of Air France covering the years from the 1920s into the 2000s, with a good bibliography on page 160. This begins with the birth of La Compagnie Générale Transaérienne [CGT] in 1909 and continues through the years until the founding alliance of Air France, Delta Airlines, Aeromexico and Korean Air on 22 June 2000.

My only quibble is that I was hoping for a fuller definitive

history in the English language of all the various airlines that made up or were incorporated into Air France, and in particular the African continent. Therefore in that respect the lack of text covering the various companies incorporated into Air France makes this more or less a "coffee-table book". However, we must thank the author and the publishers for producing what is a well constructed book of excellent photographs covering the 75th anniversary of this airline that will appeal to many air enthusiasts.

Colin Spong

## Books Noted

*Répertoire des coins datés des émissions de la Poste française pour ses Bureaux en Andorre 1931-2008*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition pub. Philandorre (Society for philatelic and postal studies of Andorra), 2008 updated version by Jean-Pierre Comtet of list by François Dupré and Pere Mateu in 1988; 28 pp in col

& b/w; price 3€; available from Bernard Hennequin, Appt. 17, Résidence Champbertrand, 29 rue Champbertrand, 89100 Sens. [Result of 30 years' research on dated corner blocks, this list gives details of printing presses as well as dates discovered since the last edition in 2001.]

Maurice Tyler

## LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

### Cameo: Journal of the West Africa Study Circle

Vol 10 N° 5 (Whole N° 74) Jun 2008: Togo Overprints in the Royal Collection (Jackson); 1914 Togo to German SWA returned mails (Schlieper, Mayne & May); Identifying French W African Censor Marks (Priddy).

### Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 124 2<sup>ème</sup> Trim 2008: Les Timbres-taxi des Colonies Générales Yvert et Tellier N°s 27 à 38 (Core); Martinique: Marcophilie Moderne (Lavenas); Les Colis-postaux de la Société Générale des Transports Maritimes à Vapeur (Flotte); Les variétés de Type Groupe au Dahomey (Bes-saud); Au-delà du Catalogue au Cameroun (Cobb)..

### France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 293 (Vol 64 N° 3) Jul 2008: World War II - The Colonies "General Issues" Charity Stamps: a Second Supplement (Mitchell); The Place in Philately in Blum's Lowered 1947 Tariff (de la Mettrie); A Remarkable Franco-Pussian War Cover (Walske); Update on the use of the Two Franc Group Type Stamp (Grabowski); Earliest Recorded Group Type Usage? (Grabowski); An Indochina Design Clarification (Bentley).

### L'Écho de la Timbrologie

Permanent features: Actualités, Nouveautés, Prêt-à-poster Florilège de P&P, Variétés, Surcharges, Anomalies, Cartes postales, Comment ça marche?, Flammes, Livres, Maxi-philie, Thématique.

N° 1819 Jun 2008: Bertil Skov Jergensen, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Juin 1848: «La Liberté ou la mort» (Hella); Les découpages en taille-douce [III] (Marion).

N° 1820 Jul-Aug 2008: Cécile Millet, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Plaques ou écussons de postillon (Hella); Les LISA et le changement de tarif du 1<sup>er</sup> mars (Gengembre et Héron); Duxin, le magicien: 800 pièces inconnues [11] (Storch); Le courrier marqué «retour» (Emmenegger).

### Timbres Magazine

Permanent features: Actualités, courrier des lecteurs, Club des clubs, Manifestations, Marcophilie, Les nouveautés de France, Actus Andorre, Monaco et les TOM, P&P, Expertise, Les variétés, Le Journal des nouveautés, Bibliothèque, Mon marché du mois.

N° 91 Jun 2008: La magie des flammes des ex-possessions françaises (Artaud); La poste sur les pistes de l'AOF (Chauvin); Bienvenue chez les ch'tis, une collection

récompensée! (Mennessiez); Les publicités de la presse dans les carnets français (PJM); Marianne à la Nef: Le premier symbole de la V<sup>e</sup> République (Michaud); 1-2-3 et puis - zéro [Les instructions générales sur le service des Postes rédigées en 1792, 1808 et 1856.] (de la Mettrie); Cartes Postales: Jeanne d'Arc, un sujet qui fâche ou qui rassemble? (Zeyons); La rivalité entre le général Moreau et Bonaparte Premier Consul (Baudot); Une pénalité dissuasive (Prugnon).

N° 92 Jul-Aug 2008: La Côte d'Ivoire (Melot); Le Richelieu, légende des mers (Chauvin); Les types Groupe - L'Indochine [1] (Grabowski/Pellinec); Pour bien taxer il faut d'abord bien voir! (de la Mettrie); Marianne à la Nef: Le premier symbole de la V<sup>e</sup> République [2] (Michaud); La restauration sarde du Comté de Nice [1814-1860] (Baudot); Une tarification exceptionnelle (Prugnon); Les tribulations d'un courrier franco-chinois en Chine (Chauvin).

### Documents Philatéliques

N° 197 3<sup>e</sup> trim 2008: L'Académie de philatélie a 80 ans - Son histoire, ses membres (Hurtré); Catalogue de l'exposition du 80<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de l'Académie de philatélie, Parc floral de Paris 14-22 juin 2008.

### The Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 87 N° 4 Jul-Aug 2008: A Haiti Vignette - 1796 (Adema).

### Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 333 2<sup>e</sup> trim 2008: Contribution à l'étude des relations postales entre le Tyrol et la France au début du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle (Rouchy); Les cachets à date manuels d'Algérie du type K et K<sup>bis</sup> de Langlois et Bourselet (Lambert); Quelques empreintes et oblitérations intéressantes des bureaux de quartier de Paris durant la période des losanges (Andrillon); Entrées maritimes à Ajaccio sur la ligne de Bône à Marseille (Tomasi); Empire non dentelé et type 12 en port local (Driguet); Avis d'émission et fonds de subvention (Sené); Les rebuts civils durant la Seconde Guerre mondiale - Réglementation et applications (1939-1945) (Albaret); Oblitération «Petits Chiffres» des «Gros Chiffres» (Utilisation avant le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1863) (Driguet); La Daguin d'exposition de 1900 (Catherine); En 1890, le service des colis postaux de Paris pour Paris change de concessionnaire (Flotte); Les formations sanitaires du Maine-et-Loire pendant la guerre de 1914/1918 (Gallicet); Les micro-ordinateurs banalisés (MOB) en service dans les agences postales (AP ou APC) (Charbonnier); Les nouveautés en matière de guichets-annexes (Delvaux).

## REPORTS OF MEETINGS

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 10 MAY 2008

The General Secretary, Mr P R A Kelly, opened the meeting held at the Calthorpe Arms public house, 252 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1, at 11.30am in the presence of 18 members.

**(1) Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs Mavis Pavey and Messrs Barker, Clifton, Gethin, McQueen, Maybury, Mitchell, Parmenter, Pashby, Spong, Thorpe, West.

**(2) Minutes of the previous AGM** of 12 May 2007, published in Journal 245, were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

#### **(3) President's Report - Ashley Lawrence**

"Thank you for coming.

It's hard to believe that 12 months have passed since our last AGM. I hadn't realised it at the time, but I was elected as President on the same day as Nicolas Sarkozy. He has had a torrid time, but has enjoyed the companionship of a super-model: I've made do with my stamp collection! Perhaps we should swap places in our second year. He'll have the honour of presiding over the Society; I'll run France, and endeavour to interest Madame Sarkozy in my *Ballons Montés*.

My Presidential Message was published in the December issue of the Journal, so I don't intend to repeat it here. I just want to make a few personal remarks, and then allow the Secretaries and others to give their detailed reports.

I do want to pay tribute to four former members of this Society, whose loss we mourn.

Professor Barrie Jay died a year ago. I have remained in touch with his widow Marcelle, and she has kindly agreed to donate a number of Barrie's books and journals to the Society.

John Levett, who passed away in March, played a major role in building up this Society, and was its President for many years. Like Barrie Jay, John also served as President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, and he enjoyed an international reputation for his scholarship and for the quality of his prize-winning collections. It is thanks to John that I became interested in the Siege of Paris. He was always keen to advise and encourage, and I valued his friendship. This Society owes John a great debt of gratitude.

I had the privilege of meeting Yvonne Newbury at one of our annual meetings in Leamington. Others here today knew Yvonne better than I, but she was a kind and gracious lady with a fund of knowledge, and she'll be sadly missed.

And most recently we have lost Trevor Davis, a great friend and supporter of this Society.

May I suggest that we rise for a few moments, and stand in silence to show our respects to these departed members.

[Pause]

Thank you. Now to more cheerful matters.

First, I'd like to congratulate Prue Henderson. Her late

husband George was a stalwart of this Society, and Prue has continued to be a staunch friend, and regularly attends our meetings. Prue has just been awarded a Medal by the Royal Philatelic Society London for her work in reorganising and cataloguing its library.

Next, I want to give my best wishes to Mick Bister, to Geoff Gethin and to Peter Maybury, who are recovering from serious illnesses. I hope their health will continue to improve.

Stamp collecting is supposed to be good for the health, if not for the wallet. It concentrates the mind, stimulates the intellect and (except for traumatic last-minute bidding on eBay) relieves tension. The benefits of stamp collecting are well illustrated in this cartoon, sent to me by our long-standing member David Jennings-Bramly, who unfortunately can't be here today.

As you'll hear in greater detail, the Society's membership is holding up well. I wish we could encourage today's youngsters to take up this great hobby, as we did as schoolchildren in the Good Old Days. Let's hope that our efforts at Swinplex in June, our Website, and the publicity given to the Society elsewhere, in this country and overseas, succeed in attracting more new members. It is encouraging that among those who have recently joined, several live abroad.

The superb quality of our Journal, and the increasing sales of Geoff Gethin's "Fakes & Forgeries" and Derek Richardson's Rates Book, now in its third edition, all contribute to the international reputation of the Society, and play their part in attracting new members. Congratulations are due to our Authors, and to Maurice Tyler, for their success during the past year. Not only are we recognised in Metropolitan France (as I'll remind Madame Sarkozy) and elsewhere in Europe, and in the USA: the Journal received a top award at the Philatelic Literary Exhibition in New Zealand.

The Society has held regular meetings in London, in the north, south and west of England, and in Scotland. These meetings have been well attended, and as the reports in the Journal testify, the range and quality of the material displayed has been outstanding. I want to thank the convenors of these meetings for all their hard work and enthusiasm. An especial thank you to Len Barnes for organising the meetings in London, where there are particular problems. Len, this is the moment to make Boris Johnson aware of our Society. Extol the benefits of membership – but don't offer him cash!

For many years, our weekend at Charlecote has been the highlight of the Society's activities. This year we had a record attendance. All those who came enjoyed excellent displays, enhanced by good food and wine and the best of company, and it was generally considered to be one of the best weekends ever! Spread the word: this is an occasion not to be missed.

Special thanks are due to Peter Kelly and to Chris Hitchen



for organising Charlecote, for providing a superb and varied programme of events, and for ensuring that the arrangements ran so smoothly. No-one could have done it better. I also want to give particular thanks to Marian Bister and to Annette Tyler who manned (if that's the right word) the bookstall, and to all those others who helped to make the weekend such an outstanding success.

As you'll hear from Chris, our finances are on a sound footing. My thanks also to those who run the France and Colonies' packets, the auctions, the book sales, the library, and the circulation of the magazines. Well done to you all.

Finally, but significantly, I want to thank Peter and Chris and Maurice and all the other Officers and Members of the Committee for all their help, advice and support during these past twelve months. I greatly appreciate the dedication, the experience and commitment which they bring to the Society, and look forward with confidence to the coming year. 2009 will mark our Diamond Jubilee, so we are in for an exciting time ahead."

#### **(4) Membership Secretary's Report - Geoff Gethin**

"During the year to 31.12.07 membership increased from 379 in 2006 by ten to 389. We have welcomed 34 new members (23 UK and 11 non-UK). The Society's Website and our PayPal facility have proved their worth in recruitment alongside our Regional Organisers.

Unfortunately this gain of 34 was offset by the loss of 24 members due to resignation (11), suspension (9) and death (4).

I would like to thank in no particular order, several people: my wife Liz for holding the fort on membership matters and Peter Kelly for dealing with General Secretary affairs both during and after my 10 week hospitalisation; Chris Hitchen for chasing up the forgetful and together with Peter Kelly for recruiting eminent continental postal historians / philatelists to the Society; Maurice Tyler for maintaining the Website; our Regional Organisers for their recruitment efforts; and Derek Richardson for his meticulous maintenance of the Society's database."

#### **(5) General Secretary's Report - Peter Kelly**

"A review of the Officers' reports on our different activities show that the Society is firing on all cylinders and that 2007 was, in all ways, a successful one. In many ways, and in particular after the hectic printing schedule in 2006, it may be considered as a year of consolidation in which we recouped our printing expenditure and got on with the job of providing our members with meetings spread around the country, auctions, packets, magazine circuits, a wonderful reference library and, of course, our Journal which has again won acclaim in the New Zealand International philatelic literature congress. Two of our Officers, Mick Bister and Geoff Gethin have had health problems during the year and I am glad to report that both are now back in the saddle again.

The success of the Society depends on its ability to provide the members with what they want and we believe that we have succeeded in this. There is, as I have said in previous years, a caveat in that none of us are getting any younger and, sadly, there is little sign of younger members coming forward to join us in running your Society. Unless this changes, the result, in the longer term, can only be the curtailment of some of the services we provide. Never say you

have not been warned!!

Membership levels have remained fairly stable with a continual influx of new Members matched by resignations, suspension and death. In the last period we have lost some members of the highest quality, not only for their knowledge and wonderful collections but also for their company and friendship. I refer particularly to Barrie Jay, Yvonne Newbury and John Levett, a past President of the Society whose drive and influence played an important part in getting us to where we are today. I also learned this week of the death of Trevor Davis, a stalwart supporter and Francophile.

I have dispensed with individual reports from each convenor of our groups in London, Worthing, Yorkshire and Lancashire, Salisbury and Scotland because details of their programmes and the meetings they have had have all been published in the Journal.

In general the meetings have been well attended and the invited displays have been of very good quality. I would like particularly to thank Len Barnes for his efforts in breathing a little more life into the London meetings which have been better attended of late. Thanks are also due to Stephen Holder for hosting Northern Group meetings during the year during the time that Peter Maybury was indisposed. The move to have occasional meetings on the Lancashire side of the Pennines has been welcomed. The distances involved in travel in Scotland have made it difficult for Mavis Pavey to get the Scottish group into a really viable position but the move to have joint meetings with the German Society was a clever idea that has seemed to work. Colin Spong, our longest serving convenor, continues to run the Southern group effortlessly, and the relatively new Wessex Group has had good attendance and some fine displays at Salisbury under the leadership of Alan Wood and myself.

If you take the total number of people attending these meetings this gives a fair measure of their success.

The annual weekend continues to be well attended and it is always a surprise for Chris Hitchen and myself as convenors to see the quality of the displays which are offered to us each year. Good philately, good company and good food are a combination unlikely to be bettered and this can be confirmed by those who attend each year. If you have not been, do try it. The stamp bourse and book sales have now become an annual feature over the weekend, great for those attending and for the Society too

Chris Hitchen will report that our finances are in good shape and this is due, in no small part, to the hard work and commitment of our packet and auction secretaries and our sales organiser. The number of auctions has been reduced and this reflects the amount and quality of material submitted for sale and the general interest as well as the lack of a volunteer to help and ultimately take over the auction function. We do have the likelihood of new material coming in this year which should be of great interest.

Efforts are being made to widen our approach to attract new members and our presence with a stand at Midpex was a success and also a central point where members could meet and chat. We are doing the same again at Swinpex in June and will have a meeting there. Any member requiring



further information about Swinpex should contact me.

I would like to thank all Officers and Committee members for their support and commitment through the year."

#### (6) Treasurer's Report - Chris Hitchen

"As anticipated the Society made a surplus in 2007 of £xxxx.xx. The cost of past publications has now been fully recovered from sales and all future sales will provide a surplus to our income. I have always made the point that our finances should be looked at over a period and in the past four years there has been a small overall loss of some £xxx.

On the income side sales from the auction and packets have dropped once again. Whilst on expenditure the cost of the Journal has increased by around £xxxx due largely

to the increased use of colour.

It is hoped to produce further publications and our reserves are sufficient to finance those ourselves. Good financial control and energetic marketing of those recently published resulted in a satisfactory outcome. If we take the same approach in the future then our financial position should remain sound.

All debtors and creditors have now been cleared.

I would recommend that the subscriptions for 2009 remain at their current levels."

Acceptance of the Report and Accounts was proposed by Maurice Tyler and seconded by Len Barnes and carried unanimously.

#### BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

##### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at bank  
Cash at building society  
Sundry debtors

_____
-------

##### DEDUCT CURRENT LIABILITIES

Sundry creditors  
Subscriptions in advance

\_\_\_\_\_

##### TOTAL ASSETS

Represented by  
MEMBERS' FUNDS  
Uncommitted funds at 1.1.2006  
Year surplus

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2006

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2007

##### Expenditure

Meetings  
Journal 4 issues  
Postage and expenses  
Publications (Rates book)  
Publications (F&F book)  
Insurance  
Library  
Year surplus (2006 loss)

2007

2006

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

##### Income

Auction  
Exchange packet  
Interest  
Sale of publications

2007

2006

Subscriptions

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**(7) Auction Secretary's Report - Mick Bister**

"As in the case of the previous year, three auctions were held in 2007 comprising a room auction in May and two postal auctions in February and November. The usual bookstall was held at the Annual Philatelic Weekend at Charlecote but on this occasion I was unable to follow up the successful stamp bourse operated by Trevor Davies in 2006.

Over the past three years I have been reporting a decline in auction participation, in sales and, inevitably, in profits and I have been quoting statistics to illustrate the trends. Although I have to report yet again a fall in profits some

statistics show that we may at last be approaching an upturn.

The year started in a disappointing manner. John Hammonds, who was organising the February sale, received material from only seven vendors and hence the number of lots offered was low. To exacerbate the situation, only 46 members, i.e. 11.5% of the membership sent in bids; but the one redeeming factor was that nearly 55% of the material was sold. In certain respects the other sales fared better with 22 vendors providing material in May and 80 members (20% of the membership) bidding in November. On the other hand, only 50.2% and 42.5% of the lots were

AUCTION ACCOUNT 2007				
INCOME		EXPENDITURE		
2006	2007	2006	2007	
SALE OF LOTS (including reimbursed Postage & Packing)		PAYMENTS TO VENDORS		
	February		February	
	May		May	
	August		August	
_____	November	_____	November	_____
BOOKSTALL & BOURSE		BOOKSTALL		
		PRINTING		
			February	
			May	
			August	
		_____	November	_____
		POSTAGE		
			February	
			May	
			August	
		_____	November	_____
		OTHER OUTGOINGS		
			Sec. Expenses	
			Profit to Society	
			Credit c/f to 2008	
			Float c/f to 2008	
_____	Bank Interest	_____		_____
_____	Credit to Buyers	_____		_____
_____	Float b/f from 2006	_____		_____
_____		_____		_____
RECONCILIATION OF CASH POSITION AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2007				
Balance in HSBC Current Account				+
Unpresented cheques from buyers				+
Unpresented cheques from vendors				-
Less profit paid to Society				-
Amount carried forward to 2008 (float and members' credit)				_____

Continued on page 116

# THE POSTAL COMPLEXITIES OF 1947

André Métayer

translated by Mick Bister



Figure 1

5F Marianne de Gandon - First day of printing 24 December 1946

When the year 1947 is mentioned, one thinks immediately of the shortest postal rate period in French philatelic history but a close study of the various rates reveals quite a number of surprises which bring joy to the philatelist both when he comes across them and when he finds the corresponding covers.

## The Basic Letter Rate

On 19 December 1946, printing ceased of the 3F Marianne de Gandon rose which had served the basic letter rate since 1 January of the same year. It was the signal for a forthcoming rate change. Sufficient stocks of this 3F had been produced to cope with the heavy demand associated with the Christmas and New Year post, but with the postal rate increase being imminent printing of its successor, the 5F Marianne de Gandon rose, started on 24 December 1946 (Fig 1).

During this post-war period life had not been easy for the French. Everything was in short supply, inflation was running high and wage earners were struggling against a fall in their spending power. The unions and the communist party were strong and Léon Blum, leader of the Popular Front and supporter of paid leave, had just accepted the post of head of the government.

On 26 December 1946 Blum announced the increase in postal rates which would come into being on 1 January 1947. The basic letter rate would rise from 3F to 5F. A year before, on 1 January 1946, the rates had already been increased by 50%; this time the increase would be higher still, more than 60%. Making good the post office deficits was clearly imperative, but the unions and the communist party would not tolerate the increase. Blum backed down in the face of their wage claims, but instead of offering a wage increase he decided, on 1 January 1947, to reduce prices, particularly the postal rates, by 10%.<sup>(1)</sup>

As a result, the basic letter rate fell from 5F to 4F50. For the other rates, it was agreed that the lowering should take place in two stages, 5% immediately and a further 5% on 1 March. This lowering of rates was only announced during the course of 2 January 1947, which explains why on this day items of mail can be found franked at both the 1 January and 2 January rates.

When, a year earlier on 1 January 1946, the 2F letter rate had been raised to 3F, there must have been a surfeit of 2F stamps and for reasons of economy and to prevent wastage, printing of the new 3F Gandon was delayed until 1 March 1946<sup>(2)</sup>. To avoid the mistake of having a similar surfeit, it was calculated that the existing stocks of the 3F value would be sufficient to meet demands between its last day of printing (19 December 1946) and the application of the new rate (1 January 1947). In order to meet the heavy demand for stamps for New Year cards, post offices had also been provided with the new 5F Marianne de Gandon rose, of which a large quantity had been printed, in readiness for 1 January 1947.

The decision to lower the basic letter rate to 4F50 caught the PTT unawares. In this period of shortages the destruction of the stocks of 5F stamps was out of the question. Two solutions were put forward – either apply a ‘-10%’ overprint to the stamp or simply sell it at 4F50.

The Belgian post office had opted to overprint all the stamps ‘-10%’. As there was no question of asking the Belgian postmasters to send back their stocks for overprinting they were instructed to overprint them themselves. This resulted in a huge number of varieties of overprint: red,

in order to give greater spending power to wage earners. “Taking into account the productivity potential of the period, I was convinced that any increase in wages would prompt an increase in prices; such an operation would end in a fall rather than in a rise in spending power. The only solution was to lower prices.”

(1) Such a decision had been inspired by the Belgian premier, A Van Acker. In May 1946 Van Acker had decided on a lowering of prices

(2) Before 1 March the 3F rate was commonly made up with a 2F Marianne de Gandon and a 1F Cérès de Mazelin.

black, purple, diagonal, horizontal, inverted, *tête-bêche*, etc. There are so many varieties in fact that a catalogue exists entitled '*L'émission la plus rare d'Europe: les -10% Van Acker*' by René Berlingen and Jules Lejeune. And then of course there are the forgeries!

The existence of a trial '-10%' overprint on sheets printed on 26 December 1946 reveals that the French post office

had likewise considered this solution but the problems encountered in Belgium must have led the French authorities to adopt the second option.

And that is how France came to have the shortest rate in its postal history – less than two days. Naturally, letters franked on 1 and 2 January are extremely sought after especially those franked with the 5F Marianne de Gandon rose (Figs 2-8).

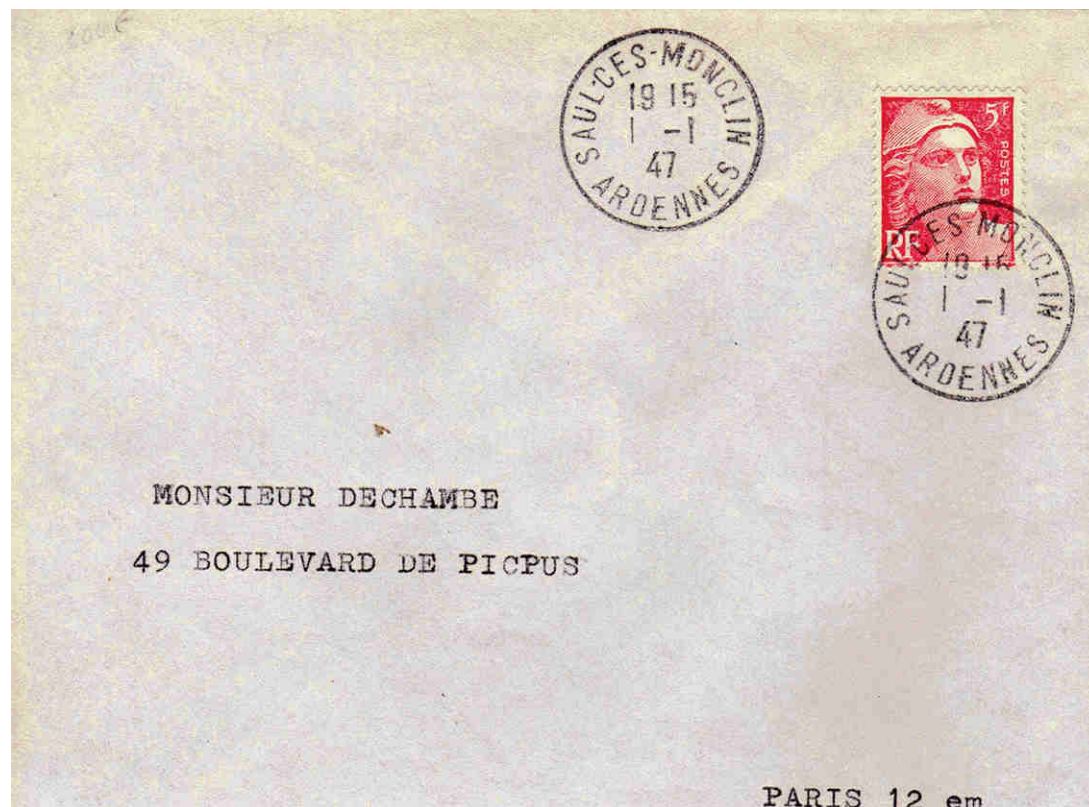


Figure 2  
Letter dated  
1 January 1947  
with a 5F Marianne de  
Gandon rose

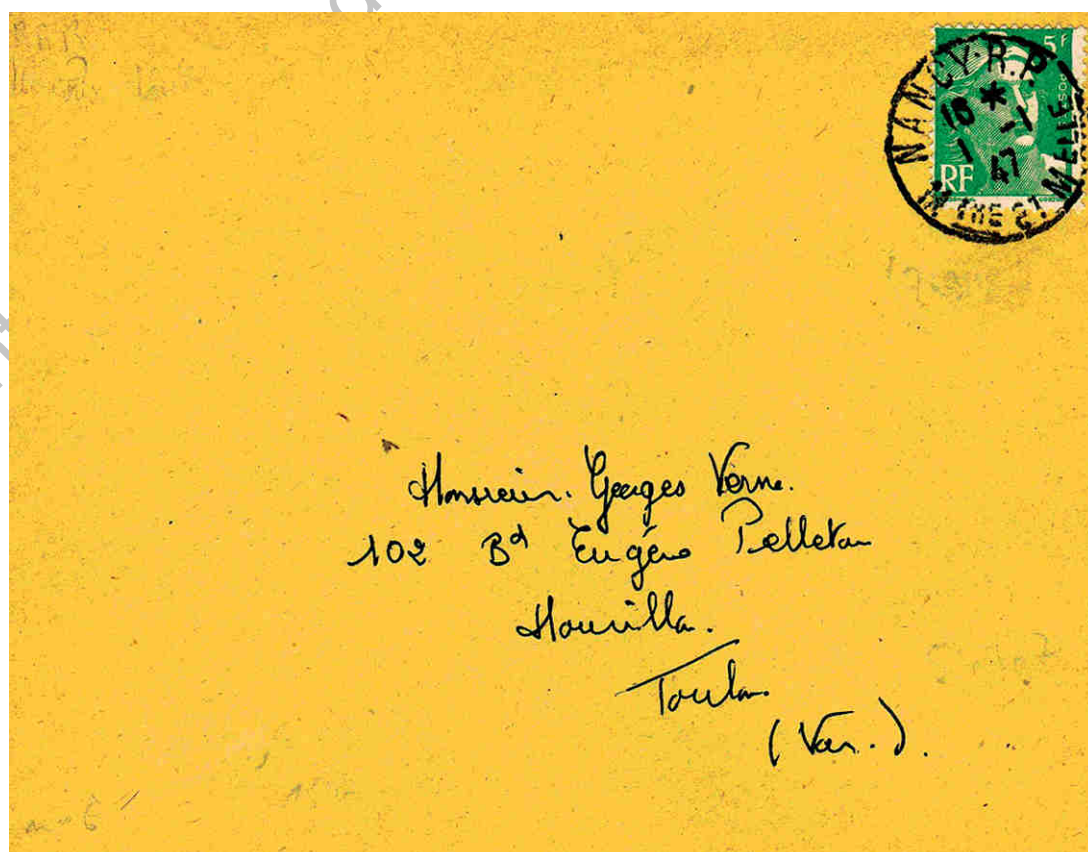


Figure 3  
Letter dated  
1 January 1947  
franked with a  
5F Marianne de  
Gandon green<sup>(3)</sup>

(3) The 5F Marianne de Gandon green had been on sale from 1945 to 1946 as a complementary value.





Figure 4

Letter dated 2 January 1947 franked with a 5F Marianne de Gandon green



Figure 5

Letter dated 2 January 1947 franked at the new rate of 4F50 with a 3F Marianne de Gandon and a 1F50 Cérès de Mazelin

Printing of the new 4F50 Marianne de Gandon blue began on 9 January 1947 (Fig 9) but printing of the 5F inexplicably continued beyond this date until 13 January 1947. This decision is completely incomprehensible since it is illogical

to extend the printing of a stamp with a 10% discount and which would not be appropriate for franking overseas mail. A British postal worker could not be expected to realise that 5F meant 4F50! Because of the excess stock of the 5F



Figure 6

Letter dated  
2 January 1947  
franked at the new rate  
of 4F50 with a  
2F Marianne de Gandon  
and a 2F50  
Cérès de Mazelin

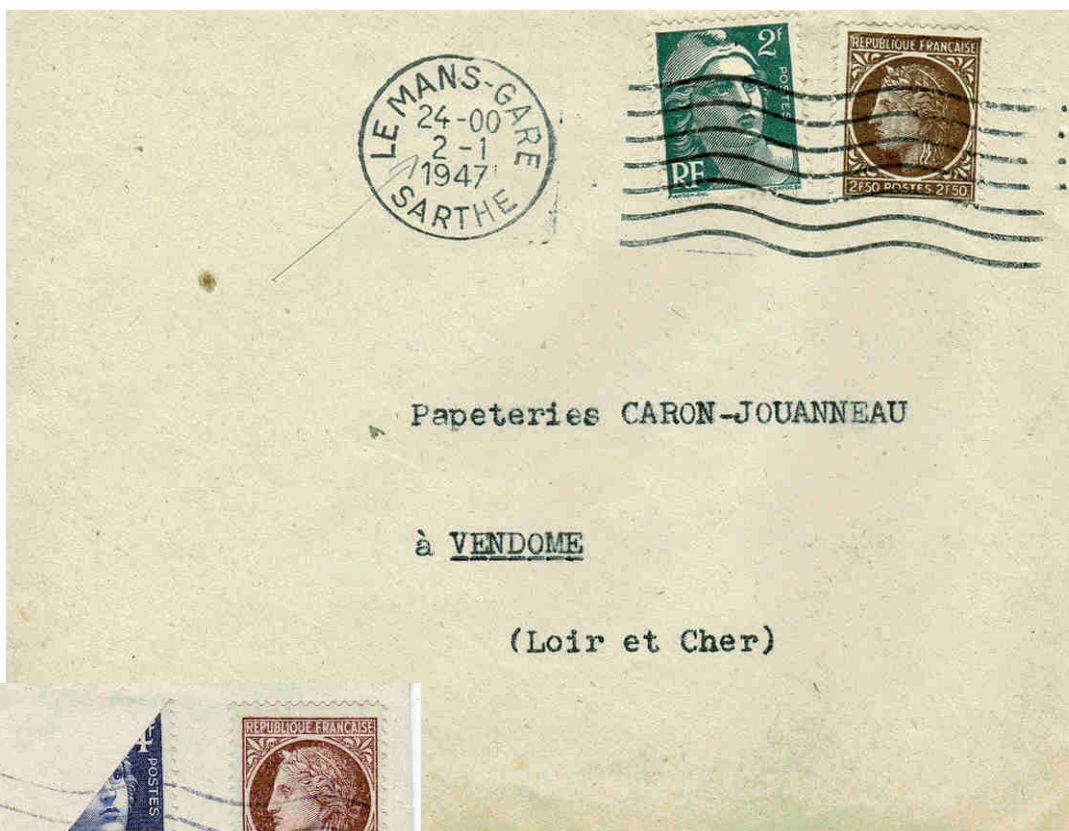


Figure 7

Letter dated 9 January 1947  
franked at the new rate of 4F50  
with a bisected 4F Marianne de Gandon  
and a 2F50 Cérès de Mazelin



Figure 8

Letter dated  
4 January 1947 franked  
at the new rate of 4F50  
with a 3F Marianne de  
Gandon and  
3 x 50c Chiffre-Taxe







Figure 9

4F50 Marianne de Gandon  
First day of printing  
9 January 1947

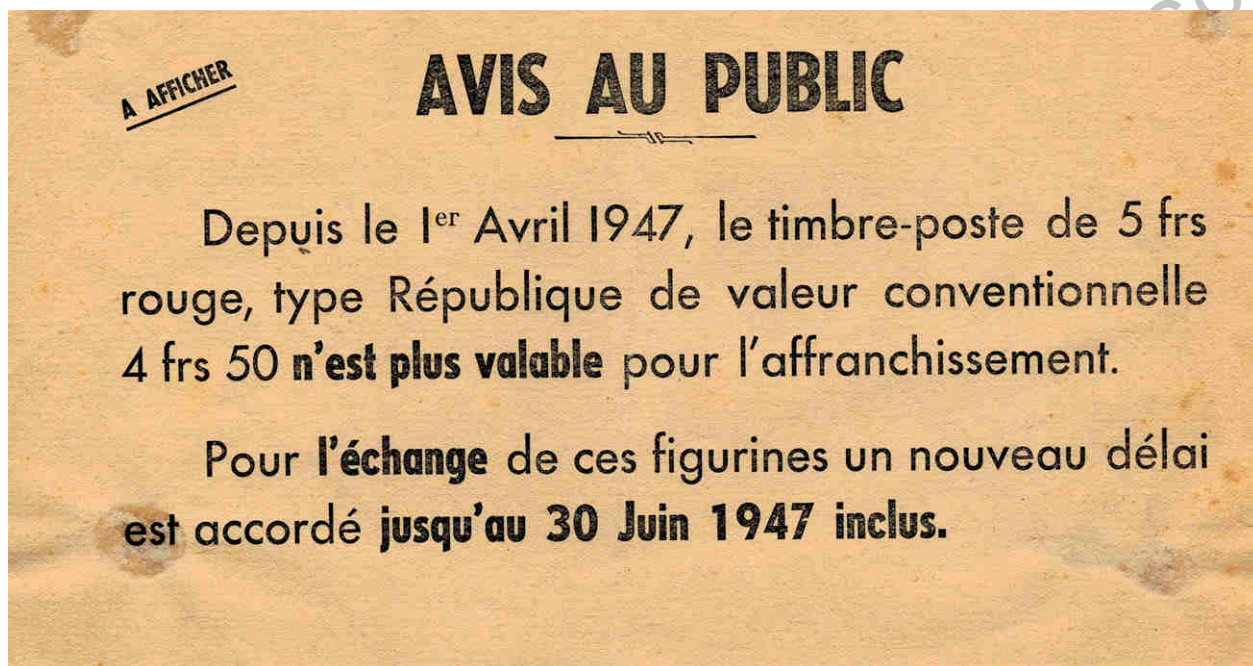


Figure 10 (above)

Public notice extending  
the date to 30 June  
for redeeming  
the demonetised  
5F Marianne  
de Gandon

[reduced to 80%]



Figure 11 (right)

Souvenir cover  
celebrating end of  
Blum experiment  
and franked with  
5F Marianne de  
Gandon rose  
on its last day of use as  
a 4F50 value,  
31 March 1947





Figure 12

Letter franked  
with demonetised  
5F Marianne de Gandon  
rose,  
used on 3 April 1947,  
and taxed at  
double the deficiency  
ie  $2 \times 4F50 = 9F$

rose, the issue of the 4F50 was delayed until 23 January.

On page 104 of the *Bulletin Officiel* N° 3 dated 31 January 1947 a directive from the Direction Générale dated 22 January 1947 gave post office employees the following strict instructions relating to which stamps to sell first.

“With the aim of facilitating the work of counter staff regarding the auditing of their stocks of stamps, the table below lists the postage stamps currently in use.

“Stamps listed in the first column must be used up first. This ruling is imperative. Indeed, due to the scarcity of raw materials, it is essential that these stamps be sold until stocks are exhausted.

“With this in mind, postmasters must draw up an inventory of the stamps they hold and, if need be, instruct the counter staff concerned to dispatch them to the head post office or to other large post offices in the *département* where they can be disposed of more quickly.

“The counter staff will be held accountable if, at the time of the stamps’ withdrawal, it is found that they have not been rigorous enough in prioritising the sales of the stamps indicated.

“Inspectors will be obliged to record in their audits any findings which they make concerning stocks of prioritised stamps held in post offices and, if need be, the steps they will take to remedy the situation.

“Area and *département* postmasters are requested to issue full instructions and to ensure they are adhered to.”

In the above mentioned table the 5F Marianne de Gandon rose appears in the left hand column. In light of these instructions, it is not surprising that mail franked with the 4F50 Marianne de Gandon blue is not encountered during the first few weeks.

The author has seen a 4F50 Marianne de Gandon on an

SNCF cover cancelled on the first day of issue but despite much searching has not found a proper cover dated before 7 February. That means that the instructions were applied and that there must have been a considerable stock of the 5F issue.

Naturally it was not a procedure that could last forever, and on 12 March 1947 Decree N° 47-434 demonetised the issue with effect from 1 April 1947.

“The Prime Minister, on the advice of the Minister of State and the Finance Minister and with reference to the Decree of 15 August 1937 regarding the validity of postage stamps, decrees:

“Article 1: The 5F ‘République’ red<sup>(4)</sup> whose postal value has been fixed by Act of Parliament at 4F50 will cease to be valid for franking mail with effect from 1 April 1947.

“Article 2: Holders of these stamps will be able to exchange them up to 30 April 1947<sup>(5)</sup> inclusive for an equivalent value in other stamps. The sum value of the exchanges will not be subject to any discount.

“Article 3: The Minister of State and the Finance Minister will be responsible for the enforcement of the Decree which will be published in the *Journal Officiel de la République Française*.

“Signed in Paris on 12 March 1947

Paul Ramadier Prime Minister  
Félix Gouin Minister of State  
Robert Schuman Finance Minister”

Henceforth, after 31 March 1947, the 5F rose was demonetised and any letter franked with a copy would be treated as unpaid mail and taxed as such (Figs 11 and 12).

(4) The 5F ‘République’ red is the official PTT description of the 5F Marianne de Gandon rose.

(5) Later extended to 30 June 1947 (Fig 10)



Figure 13

Letter dated  
7 July 1947  
franked with 4,50F  
Marianne de Gandon  
(last day of  
4F50 letter rate)



Figure 14 (left)

6F Marianne de Gandon,  
rose-carmine  
First day of printing  
26 June 1947

Figure 15

Postcard dated  
1 January 1947  
franked with a  
4F Marianne de Gandon



The 4F50 rate continued until 7 July 1947 (Fig 13). The post office deficits had not diminished thus necessitating a further rate increase of 33% to 6F. Printing of the 6F Marianne de Gandon rose-carmine began on 26 June 1947 (Fig 14) in readiness for the new rate on 8 July. However, there

must have been large quantities left of the 6F red printed previously between 6 February and 24 October 1946 as the new 6F rose-carmine was not issued, as one would have expected, on 8 July when the new rate came into being, but on 12 July 1947.





Figure 16

3F50 Marianne de Gandon  
First day of printing  
27 March 1947

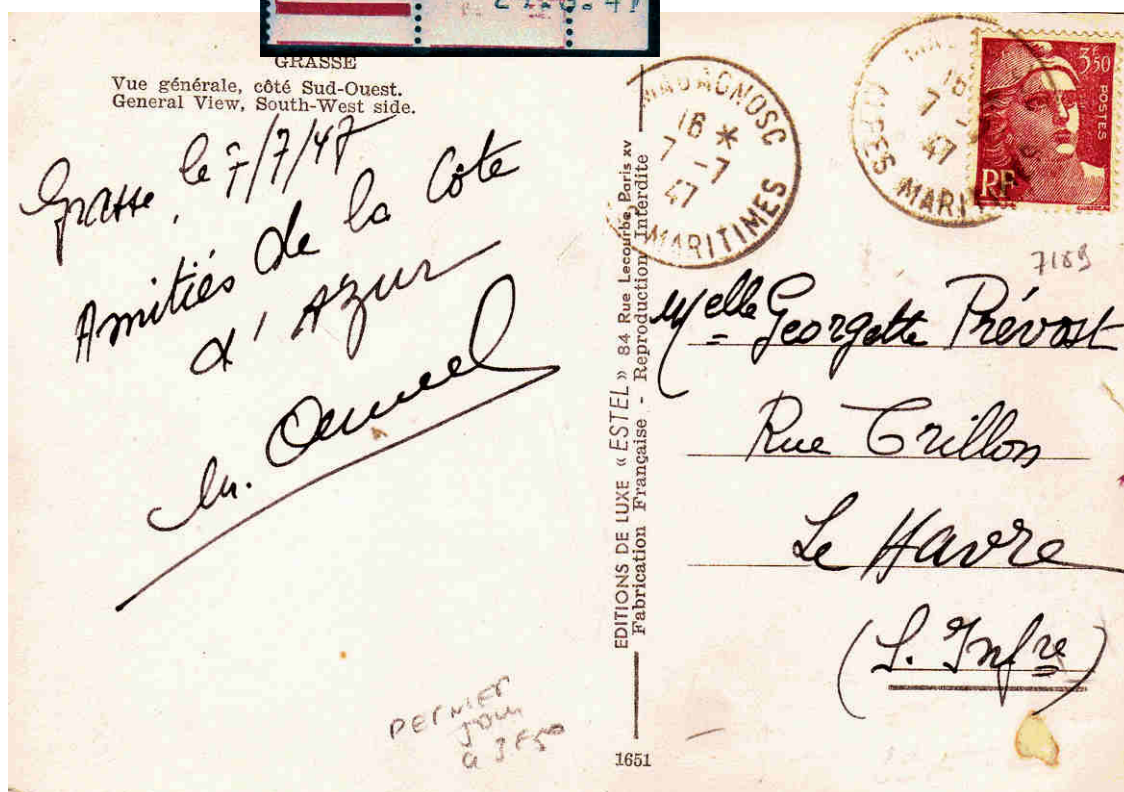


Figure 17

Postcard dated  
7 July 1947  
franked with a  
3F50 Marianne de  
Gandon  
(last day of 3F50  
postcard rate)

### Postcard and Invoice Rates

The remaining rates did not evolve like the basic letter rate as the reductions were applied in two stages.

In the case of invoices and postcards with more than 5 words the rate set on 1 January 1947 was 4F (Fig 15) but this was initially reduced, on the following day, by 5% to 3F80; there was, however, insufficient time to print a 3F80 value. It was expected that the second reduction on 1 March 1947 would be to 3F60 but in anticipation of a future measure to round prices to the nearest franc (Decree N°47-754 of 21 April 1947) the new rate was rounded down to a more manageable 3F50.

The decree (see *Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969* by Alexandre, Brun *et al*, page 149) stipulated that purchases over post office counters had to be such that the total amount would be in whole francs. For example, if you wished to purchase a 4F50 stamp or a 3F50 stamp you would have to buy two to get a round number. If you wanted to buy a 1F30 stamp you would need to buy 10. It is believed that the Administration des Postes had been aware of the pending rounding off of prices since the end of 1946, which

would explain the printing of the 3F50 brown on 27 March 1947 (Fig 16), well before the decree was published.

The 3F50 value was used until 7 July 1947 (Fig 17). On the following day the rate was increased by 42% to 5F in an attempt to end the post office's deficits (Fig 18). Printing of the 5F Marianne de Gandon blue did not start until 17 July 1947 (and it was not issued until 25 July) suggesting that there were adequate stocks of the earlier 5F Marianne de Gandon green.

### An unusual case

The Decree of 21 April 1947 rounding prices to a whole franc had repercussions on taxed mail when the payment for a single stamp was unavoidable. From 1 May 1947 a letter sent *taxe simple* would be taxed on arrival at only 4F, having been rounded down to the nearest whole franc (Fig 19). This is the only time that the *taxe simple* letter rate (4F) was different to the basic letter rate (4F50).

The situation was similar for printed matter and postcards sent *taxe simple*. The *taxe simple* was reduced respectively from 1F30 to 1F and from 3F50 to 3F so that a single stamp could be paid for by the recipient.



Figure 18

3F50 stationery  
postcard  
with added 1F50  
Cérès de Mazelin  
dated 8 July 1947  
(First day of 5F  
postcard rate)



Figure 19

Letter dated 7 June 1947  
sent under *taxe simple*  
and taxed 4F instead of 4F50







Figure 20

Printed matter dated 9 January 1947 underfranked at 1F20 instead of 1F30. The minimum 1F90 charge for newspapers has been applied instead of the 3F80 charge for other items – proof perhaps that postmen can be lenient!



Figure 21

Letter dated 1 January 1947 underfranked at 3F instead of 5F hence minimum taxation of 3F80.

### Postage Due

At the beginning of 1947 the different changes in rates led to a large number of franking errors and, as a result, to the heavy use of postage due stamps, especially the lower values of 10c, 30c and 50c. Furthermore, on 2 January 1947 minimum charges were set at 1F90 (Fig 20) for newspapers and periodicals and 3F80 (Fig 21) for other items, including basic internal letters and printed matter. The intensive use of small value postage dues quickly led to shortages which resulted in some offices resorting to the use of postage stamps instead. A notable case is that of the *Recette Principale* at Lyon.

Georges Chapier explains in an article published in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* of January 1972 (N° 1417 page 53) that

the *RP* Lyon ran out of low value postage dues on 6 and 7 January and that it used instead an 80 centimes Cérés de Mazelin struck with a T in a triangle (Fig 22). The office was restocked with 30c and 50c postage dues by the end of the day on 7 January.

From 23 August 1943, the postage due issues had been the *Type Gerbes* with the legend 'Chiffre-Taxe' (Fig 23), but from 8 November 1946 printings began with the modified legend 'Timbre-Taxe'. To satisfy demands for the lower values the Administration des Postes instructed printings of the 10 centimes between 15 and 19 February<sup>(6)</sup>, the 30

(6) Printings of 15, 16 and part of 17 February 1947 were overprinted for use in Algeria.



Figure 22

Letter dated  
6 January 1947  
franked 3F  
instead of 4,50F.  
The minimum taxation  
has been levied at Lyon  
by the application of a  
3F *Timbre-Taxe*  
and a 80c  
Cérès de Mazelin  
overprinted T  
in a triangle.



Figure 23

Letter dated  
13 January 1947  
sent under  
*taxe simple*  
paid with  
four *Chiffre-Taxe* and  
one *Timbre-Taxe*  
amounting to 4F50.



Figure 24

30c Type Gerbes  
*Timbre-Taxe*  
Last day of printing  
19 February 1947



Figure 25

50c Type Gerbes  
*Timbre-Taxe*  
First day of printing  
13 March 1947





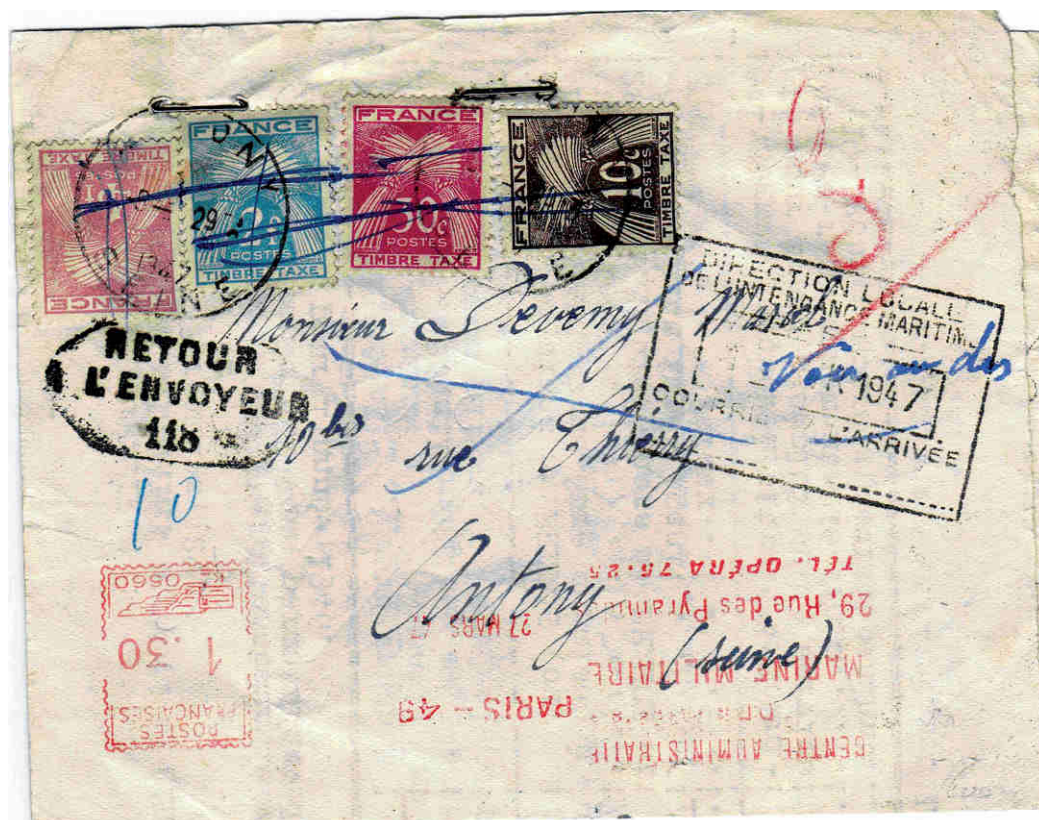


Figure 26

Letter dated March 1947  
with 1F30 printed matter  
meter franking instead of  
4F50 letter rate.  
Taxed at 6F40 -  
ie double the  
deficiency of 3F20.



Figure 27

Letter from Togo dated 8? April 1947 taxed at 13F50  
using the short lived 50c *Timbre-Taxe*.

centimes on 18<sup>(7)</sup> and 19 February, and the 50 centimes on 13 and 14 March, 1947 (Figs 24 and 25).

The 10 and 30 centimes '*Timbre-Taxe*' were issued in March and the 50 centimes in April 1947 (or maybe in March with the others)<sup>(8)</sup>. The decree dated 21 April 1947 stipulated

the rounding off of *taxe* stamps to the nearest franc with effect from 1 May 1947 and the subsequent Order N° 724 dated 30 April 1947 instructed the withdrawal of the three small values. They were removed from the few offices that still had them and thus they are very rarely encountered on cover during their short period of use (Figs 26, 27 and 28).

(7) Printings of 18 February 1947 were overprinted for use in Algeria.

(8) Edition N° 11 of the magazine '*Le Timbre*' dated 25 March 1947

gives on page 38 the list of stamps currently on sale over the counter at the *Hôtel des Postes* in Paris and includes the 50c with the 10c and 30c.



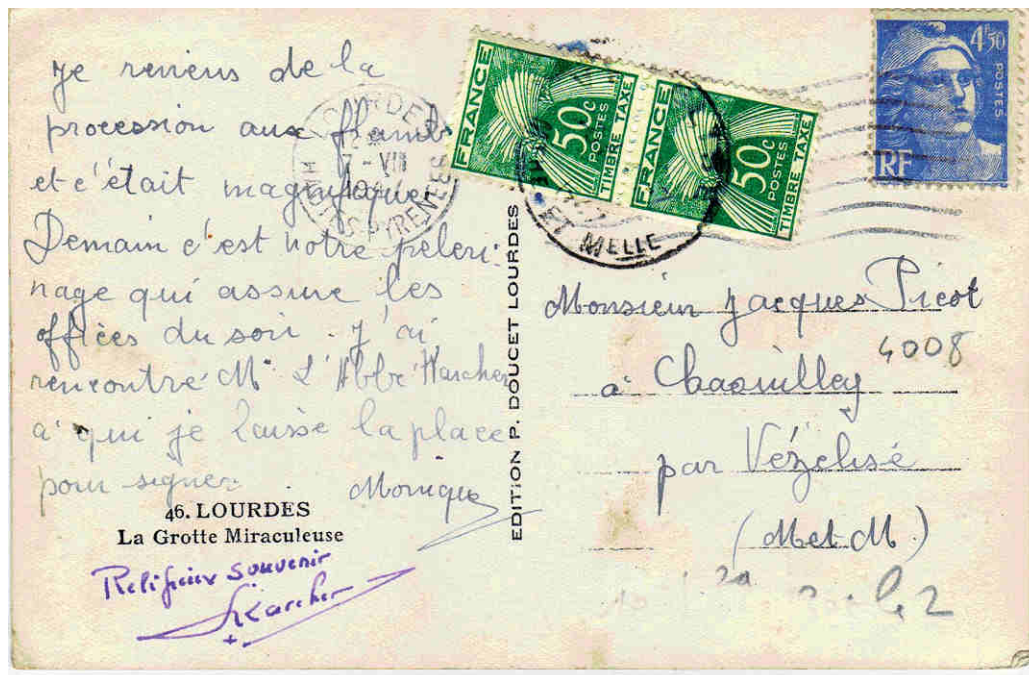


Figure 28

Postcard dated 7 August 1947 franked 4F50 instead of 5F and taxed at 1F with two 50c *Timbre-Taxe*, ie double deficiency. However, the card should have been taxed at the minimum charge of 3F.

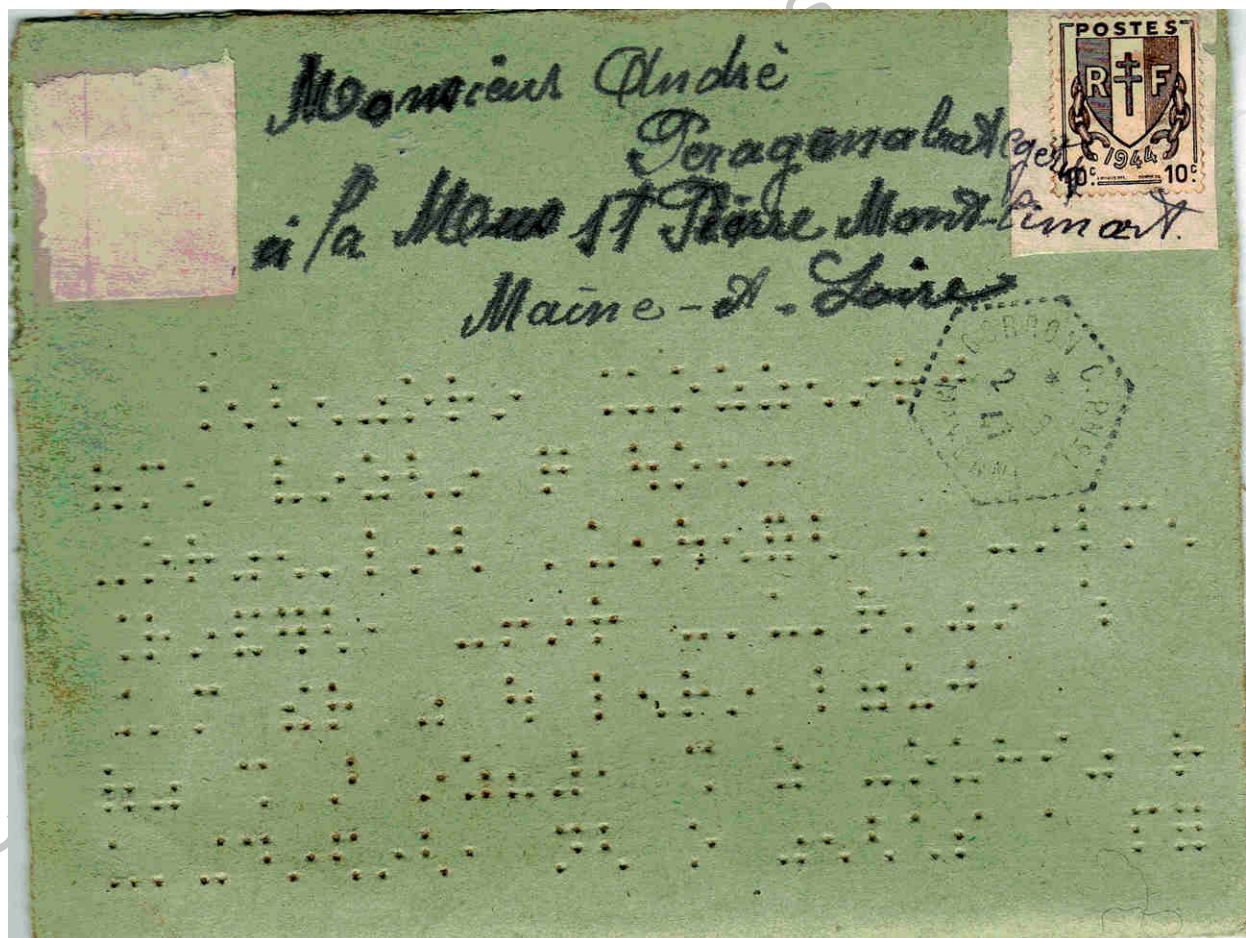


Figure 29

*Cécogramme* franked with a 10c *Chaînes brisées*, the rate since 5 January 1942

### Unaffected rates

Although some rates changed considerably during 1947, the *cécogramme* rate remained unchanged at 10c (Fig 29).

The 200 francs new issue subscription fee also remained unchanged (Fig 30). It was too much to hope that collectors would be able to benefit from any lowering of prices!

DÉTERMINATION DES QUANTITÉS DE TIMBRES SOUSCRITES				
PRIX DE VENTE TOTAL DU TIMBRE (y compris éventuel- lement la surtaxe)	Jusqu'à 10 francs	Au-dessus de 10 fr. jusqu'à 20 francs	Au-dessus de 20 francs	Préobli- tés (facultati- vement)
Nombre de timbres .	10	10	10	-
Nombre de feuilles .				

Demande de renouvellement de l'abonnement		Timbre
présentée le .....		à
au bureau de .....		date.

Figure 30

200F *Char du soleil* paying the new issue subscription fee  
applicable between 1 January 1947 and 20 September 1948

### Oddities

On 12 July 1947 a 4F50 stamp in honour of Fénélon was issued, but used alone it did not serve any particular rate, as from 8 July the letter rate had been 6F. It is therefore one of four stamps issued between 1900 and 1949 which did not have any postal use when used alone, the other three being the 5F + 5F *Orphelins*, the 5F Sage and the 50F *Burelé*. One could even add the beautiful 500F UPU Air-mail issued on 7 May 1947 because its value corresponded to such an obscure rate that the opportunity for it to be used alone would have been extremely rare.

Finally, the rate for a letter sent by the Paris Pneumatic Post was 15F on 1 January 1947, 14F from 2 January and 19F from 8 July. However, the Caisse Nationale d'Epargne issued a 6F + 6F reply-paid letter card which was well short of the current rate.

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- '*Bulletins mensuels de la Poste*', 1947
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- '*La Lettre taxée au XX<sup>ème</sup> siècle (tarifs intérieurs)*' by Charles Rioust



# Togo 1914-1922 – Postal Stationery

John Mayne

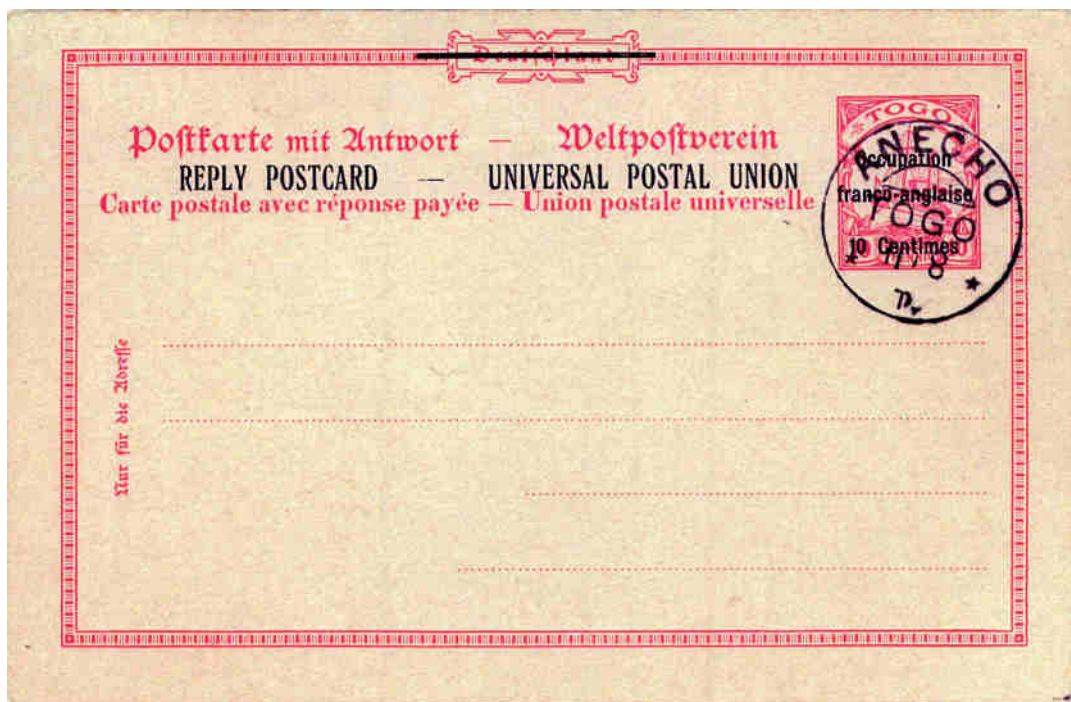


Figure 1

Details of French postal stationery used in Togo in the occupation period are clearly set out by Jeremy Martin on page 38 of his book.

Whilst Dahomey stamps of 1913 were used unoverprinted, to date no unoverprinted postal stationery, Faïdherbe or palm tree issues, has been recorded used in Togo. In the British sector Gold Coast issues were also used unoverprinted and Gold Coast postal stationery for the period, albeit extremely difficult to find, is known used unoverprinted.

The German Yacht stamps overprinted by the French at Porto Novo, Dahomey, were available from 8 October 1914 but German Yacht postal stationery, which was overprinted by the British on behalf of the French, was not available until nearly a year later in August 1915. Catalogues list four German cards overprinted: numbers are not known, but Robert Gibbs, an authority on these issues, suggests fewer than 100 of the 5Pfg single cards are possible (these the most common), with considerably lower numbers for the other card. He also questions if the 10Pfg reply card was ever overprinted as he has never seen one, either complete or in parts.

Having acquired many years ago the English example of the 10Pfg reply card (albeit used incorrectly within Togo) addressed to Lt Col Bryant, Commanding Officer British Forces at Lomé, and knowing that records confirm that the stamps found by the British were shared equally with the French, I was confident the French 10Pfg reply card was 'out there' somewhere.

The largest collection of Togo offered in this country for many years was sold by Cavendish Auctions in April 2007,

and arrangements to view ahead of the sale, and attendance on sale day proved beneficial. Items from the German period and French issues were offered but the majority were British, mainly Gold Coast issues overprinted. One French lot included an example of the French 10Pfg reply card complete cancelled to order at Anécho 11.8.1915 (Fig 1).

They say lightning does not strike twice in the same place! My local society, Shropshire Philatelic, receives via the secretary complimentary copies of Cavendish catalogues. At our first meeting of the season in September 2007 the catalogue for the sale held that same day was on view. The sale included a selection of Togo Occupation postal stationery cards, and the next morning I telephoned to learn the lot remained unsold. To my amazement this included two further copies of the French 10Pfg reply card matching the one acquired in April and also a matching British mint 10Pfg reply card. I was in luck the lot was still available.

Overprinted Dahomey postal stationery, in the form of cards, lettercards and envelopes, is more difficult to find than expected. Jeremy states that the 10c lettercard was available from 1917, but none has been recorded.

Some 10 years ago David Feldman attended the Russell Square monthly stamp fair bringing certain auction lots for viewing. I travelled to London for that purpose and was disappointed when my bid for one lot of 14 covers proved unsuccessful. Included was a used example of the 10c overprinted lettercard, the only example seen. This had been posted at Anécho 3.11.1920 with the '20' year slug omitted but the year confirmed by transit backstamps (Fig 2). I hold a mint copy cancelled to order at Anécho 5.7.1918 (Fig 3).



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4





Figure 5

In the German period 1884 to 1914 there were no lettercards printed for use in Togo or sold there and the authorities suggest the German lettercard I hold sent from Togo may be the only letter card from the country in the colonial period.

I was invited to travel to Poitiers with three others in June 2007 for the French National stamp show – I am ashamed to admit this was my first visit to France in spite of collecting her colonial issues for well over 50 years! Few Togo items were on offer but one made the trip worthwhile. I came across an unfranked lettercard from Atakpamé in the French sector 23.11.1915 to Paris 15.12.1915, from a soldier and routed via Lomé where it was censored by the British. Enquiries of German contacts have failed to confirm this card is of German origin. I welcome comments please as to its origin (Fig 4).

In September 2007 Württembergisches Auktionshaus offered 350 lots of Togo, the majority German, and again

the largest selection from this area for very many years. The market for these items proved stronger than expected and of nine bids only two bore fruit, and both were from the occupation period and the French sector. One (Fig 5) was a lettercard privately printed for Fraissinet et Cie of Marseille who operated in West African waters until 1907 when they withdrew from the service operated jointly with Chargeurs Réunis of Bordeaux. The fact this lettercard was available eight years later is a puzzle and again your thoughts will be welcomed. The card was posted at Atakpamé 29.1.1915 (though no '15' year slug was available) and sent to Porto Novo via Grand Popo with a 5c German 5Pf Yacht amended to 10c meeting the correct postage.

After this remarkable hat trick of discoveries I feared a lean spell, and so it has proved. When I visited Autumn Stampex 2007 I came away empty handed and am concerned that I may experience the same result at Autumn Philatex 2008.



## SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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



Figure 1

I too, like Colin Spong (see Journal 248 of June 2008 pages 47-48), was interested in the article on these issues by Bob Maddocks in Journal 244 of June 2007, pages 45-47.

Having collected stamps of the French Colonies from the time I was at school, I have found these issues more difficult than catalogues suggest.

The article prompted me to turn to my Dallay catalogues and I was interested to see that the number of stamps issued for each colony is noted in the Stamps of France Catalogue pages 721-722 for 2006-2007, and they are as follows:-

Area	CFLN issues	Resistance issues
Corsica	10000	4000
AEF	15000	5000
AOF	25000	8000
Algeria	90000	30000
Cameroun	10000	3000
Somali Coast	1000	300
Guadeloupe	15000	5000
French Guiana	5000	2000
French India	1500	500
Lebanon	10000	3000
Madagascar	25000	8000
Morocco	40000	15000
Martinique	15000	5000

New Caledonia	1000	500
New Caledonia	500	300
Oceania	2000	600
Reunion	2000	600
St Pierre	500	200
Syria	10000	3000
Tunisia	20000	6000

Members may be able to explain the reason for two figures being given for New Caledonia, there is no answer in the catalogue!

My collection of these issues is modest, and in view of the numbers above it is no surprise to find that my copies were cancelled in those areas where the number of issues received was greatest. Covers are considerably more difficult to find than single stamps or sets thereof. Whilst I have seen complete sets of the 1931 and 1937 Colonial Exposition sets offered, including the miniature sheets on cover, I have never seen a set of these issues on cover available at auction or with dealers.

Of the covers I hold the one to Governor General Éboué (Fig 2) is of most interest. The catalogue does not break down the allocation of the issues to the AOF countries, but I hold one from Soudan (Fig 3).

I cannot recall seeing the *taxe* issues on cover.



Figure 2



Figure 3





Figure 4



Figure 5

John Mayne

## French Somali Coast Cover

This cover was sent under French military franchise on 26 January 1940 from Lille to a Monsieur Lucien Temin from a relative; the word “radio” appears after the addressee’s name. His unit was “BMTS 1 - 1<sup>ère</sup> Cie, Secteur postal 760”. The letter was sent via Djibouti (added) not to the French Somali Coast but to *Somalie Anglaise* (where I understand that no French troops were stationed). It was sent via Aden (censor mark) and bears backstamps of Berbera, British Somaliland (26 February 1940) and Côte Française des Somalis / Djibouti (17 February 1942).

I should like to pose the following questions:

1) If there were no French troops in British Somaliland at this time, what is the reason for the address, particularly to *Secteur Postal 760* which is apparently not recorded, and to a French unit. At the time it was sent, France and Britain were allied, and it is possible that for some reason a French unit - or at least an officer from a French unit - was liaising

with the British, especially if “radio” indicated that he was in a signals unit.

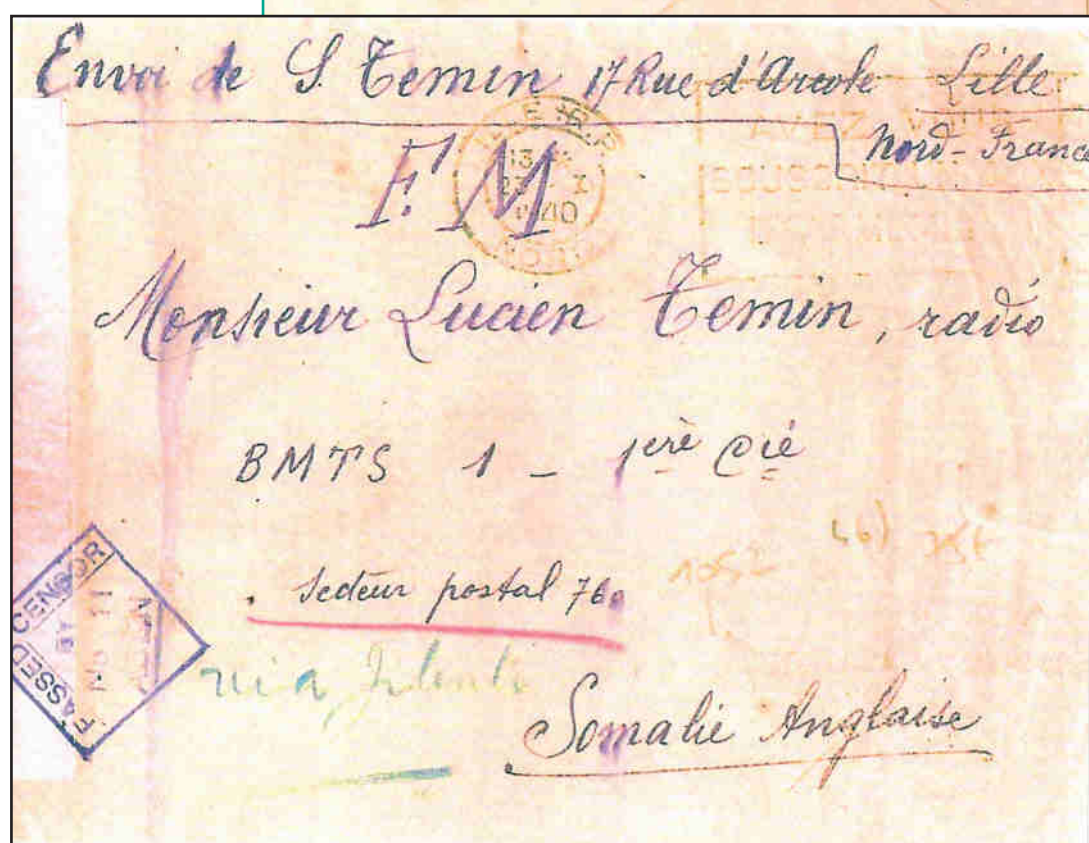
2) I am unsure what unit is referred to as “BMTS 1”. It was suggested that this was probably Bataillon de Marche de Tirailleurs Sénégalais, in French Somaliland since 1935, but it might have referred to a signals unit.

3) The route and delay. The letter was date stamped on 26 January 1940 and the backstamps are dated 26 February 1940 (Berbera) and 17 February 1942 (Djibouti). However the letter was routed, it reached British Somaliland on 26 February 1940. Did it travel via Aden (perhaps more likely) where it was opened, or was it transferred to Aden and held there for two years before being forwarded to French Somaliland?

If any member can offer information about any of these points, I would be grateful.

David Hogarth

Back of cover



Front of cover



The only firm reference I can find for the initials BMTS is to a British "Basic Military Training School". Could the addressee be a radio operator who was seconded to such an establishment in British Somaliland?

As the cover was addressed to a British territory, this is quite a possibility, especially as the British were training the Somalis in a number of different spheres - not only military - at that time.

Maurice Tyler

## French Tourist Vignettes



Figure 1

Collectors of French Cinderella material will be familiar with the profusion of vignettes promoting tourism that were produced in Paris, being printed at 152, rue de Vaugirard. The Centenary edition, 1830-1930, ran to 27 series by 1931 with a further 4 series in preparation.

A booklet (Fig 1) for series XXII Algeria contained 40 vignettes (Figs 2 and 3), and was priced at 4 francs.

The listing of the vignettes is as follows:

Series	Subject	No.	Cols.	Total
I	Evian	16	4	64
II	Nice	16	4	64
III	Beautiful views & monuments	20	5	100
IV	The Châteaux of the Loire	20	5	100
V	The Loire Valley	20	5	100
VI	The Pyrenees	20	5	100
VII	Provence	20	5	100
VIII	Brittany	20	5	100
IX	Alsace	20	5	100

X	The Vosges & Moselle	20	5	100
XI	The Massif Central	20	5	100
XII	Saintonge, Poitou & Angoumois	20	5	100
XIII	The Bourgogne & Morvan	20	5	100
XIV	The French Alps	20	5	100
XV	Limousin, Quercy & Périgord	20	5	100
XVI	Normandy	20	5	100
XVII	The Ile-de-France	40	5	200
XVIII	Paris	40	5	200
XIX	Sologne & Berry	20	5	100
XX	The Rhône Valley	20	5	100
XXI	Franche-Comté & Jura	20	5	100
XXII	Algeria	40	5	200
XXIII	Morocco	20	5	100
XXIV	Tunisia	20	5	100
XXV	France Overseas	80	5	400
XXVI	Champagne	20	5	100
XXVII	Côte d'Azur & Corsica	20	5	100

Thus already more than 3000 vignettes were available by 1931.

Alan Wood



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Figure 2  
(Reduced to 90%)

## German *Taxe* Marks on Togo and Kamerun/Cameroun Mail



Figure 1  
Postcard from Kamerun township (later Duala) postmarked 6.1.00 to Karlsbad, Bohemia. Bears German boxed 'T' type *taxe* handstamp. *Taxe* collected in Karlsbad.

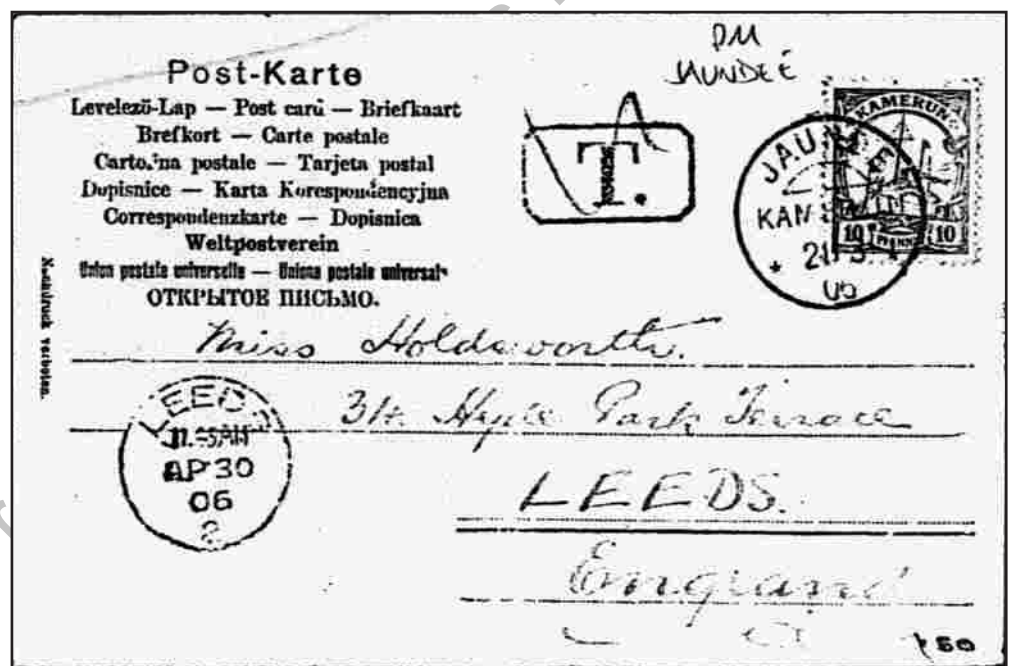


Figure 2  
Postcard from Jaunde 28.3.06 to England correctly franked 10Pfg but taxed in error with boxed 'T' type handstamp pen cancelled.

Apropos the questions and answers raised by both John Mayne and Marty Bratzel in Journals 246 of December 2007 and 248 of June 2008, I should like to offer my own observations on the initial and extended use of the German boxed 'T' type *taxe* handstamp in Kamerun pre-WWI and subsequently. Neither correspondent had seen any cover with a German Kamerun provenance bearing such a handstamp, only on those post-War mailed from the French Mandate of Cameroun. Opinion was therefore divided as to whether the mark was, in fact, of German origin, even though a similar handstamp was seen used in the sister colony of German Togo.

Incidentally, perhaps I should add here that the correct terminology for this type of handstamp is "a 'T' in a chamfered corner box"!

Though neither cover is now owned by me, I do have photocopies of these two pre-1914 German Kamerun covers which clearly prove that this boxed 'T' type handstamp was indeed introduced into the territory by the German postal service. The first (Fig 1) was on a cover from Duala in 1900 and the second (Fig 2) on one from Jaunde. It is assumed that the respective post offices would have been supplied with their own *taxe* handstamp as were other offices. Thus, more than one would have existed.



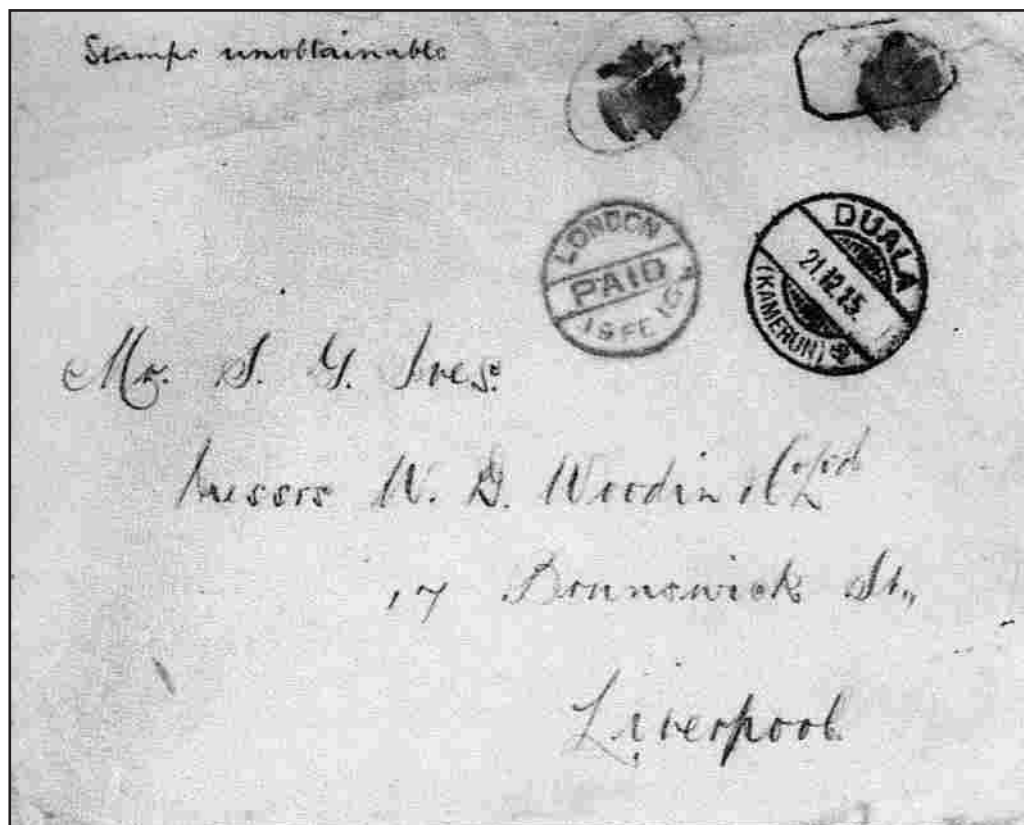


Figure 3  
WWI stampless cover from Duala 21.12.15 to England;  
of non-military origin it was duly taxed at the CEF Post Office  
using the former German boxed 'T' type handstamp.  
Again the handstamp was cancelled, erroneously by the oversight of the British Post Office in London.

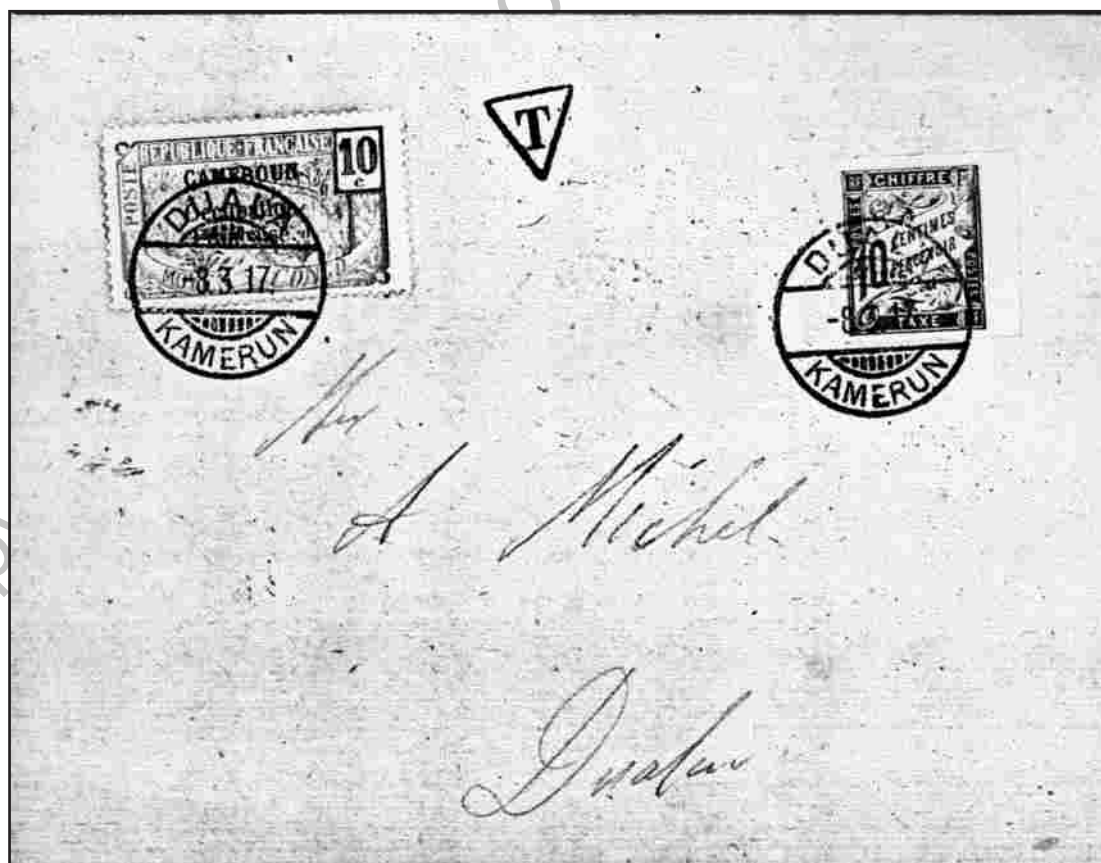


Figure 4  
French Cameroun local cover from Buea 19.8.33 postmarked Duala 8.3.17  
showing possible earliest usage of French introduced triangular type 'T' taxe mark.

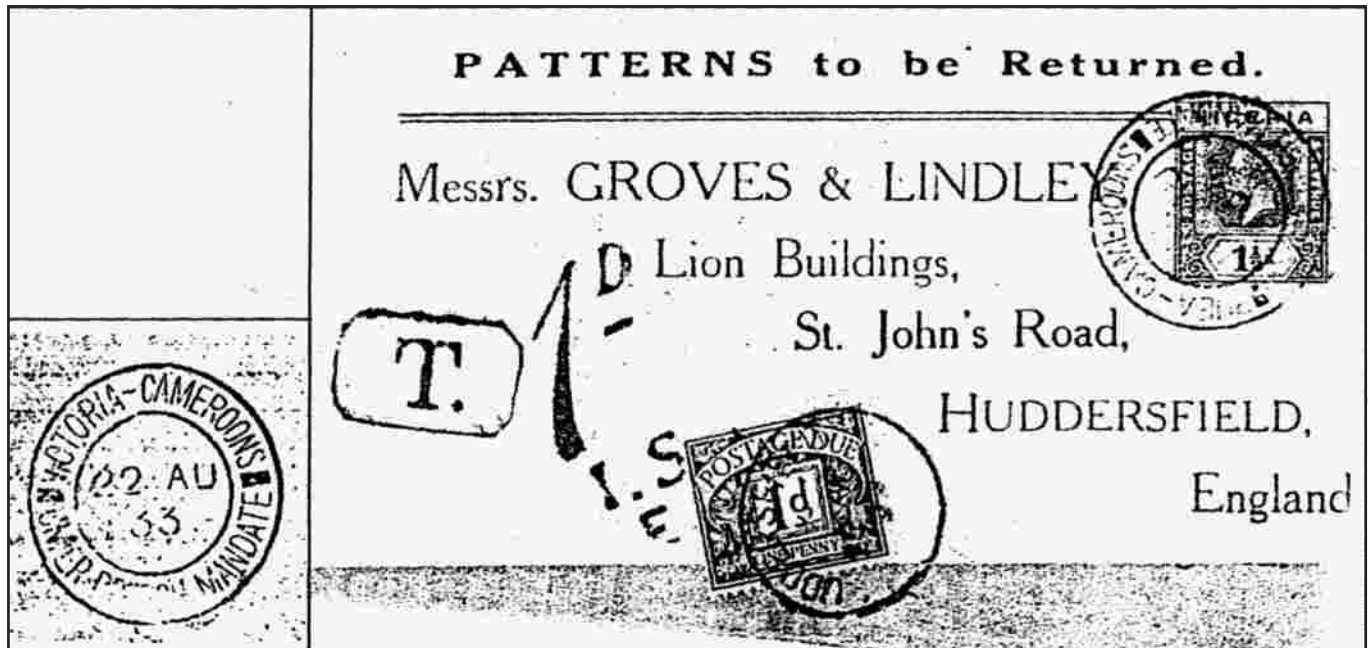


Figure 5  
British Cameroons cover from Buea 19.8.33 to England  
showing extended use by the British of the German boxed 'T' handstamp post-WWI.

With the Anglo-French military invasion of Kamerun and the capture of Duala in September 1914 at least one of these *taxe* handstamps fell into British hands. It was then put into use at the CEF Post Office, Duala, as seen applied to this cover (Fig 3) mailed to England with a Duala 21.12.15 postmark. The charge, by the way, was subsequently officially cancelled by the British Post Office in London which, however, had failed to observe that this letter was not of military origin and thus not entitled to the free frank concession.

Effective from 1 April 1916, Allied Occupied Kamerun was divided into separate British and French spheres of administration. Duala was handed over to the French who re-opened the former British-run CEF Post Office. There is no evidence so far that in the initial years the French had taken over or used the former German boxed 'T' handstamp. Instead, it is apparent that they introduced their own *taxe* stamp – an inverted triangle containing a serified 'T'. I

have this cover (Fig 4) postmarked Duala, Kamerun 8.3.17 to confirm such usage. This is four years before Marty Bratzel's first recorded date. He also gives 1921 as his own observed first date of usage in French Cameroun of the German boxed 'T' handstamp. No doubt a specialised study of French usage of both these and other *taxe* marks would reveal earlier dates.

Finally, this German boxed 'T' type also saw extended use in the British Cameroons, as seen on this cover (Fig 5) to England, postmarked Buea, Cameroons 19.8.33. The application, whilst probably made at Buea, could have been made when transiting Victoria (22.8.33), the main sorting office. The handstamp may have been found left behind in Buea by the Germans along with the single Buea postal date stamp. Or it could have been brought over to Victoria (where no postal stamps were found) by the British, together with the imperial weights and measures for letters and parcels from the former CEF Post Office, Duala.

**Bob Maddocks**



**Minutes of AGM continued from page 88**

sold in these two sales.

In 2006 we made a total profit of £xxx of which £xxx came from the bookstall and stamp bourse and £xxx from the three auctions, i.e. an average of just under £xxx per sale. In 2007 we made a smaller total profit of £xxx of which £xx came from the bookstall but £xxx from the three auctions, i.e. just over £xxx per sale. I may be grasping at straws but, despite the fall in total profits, I am encouraged by the fact that the contribution made by the sales has risen.

As agreed two years ago I am henceforth running just two auctions a year, a room sale in May and a postal auction in November. As my wife and I are spending more and more time in France, particularly in June and September, it means that I have had to reduce my commitments. However, if there is anyone in the Society who would like to run a sale in February and/or June please let me know and I will give you a very warm welcome aboard.

It is always very sad to lose members but many of them show their gratitude to the Society by letting us sell some of their material. At the moment there is material from two late members in the pipeline. I have not seen the items yet but the quality and diversity appear promising so I think we can look forward to some interesting sales.

The success of this year's stamp bourse at Charlecote encourages me to develop it further. If I can persuade members to provide sufficient material then I see no reason for it not becoming an annual feature like the bookstall and creating a profit the equivalent of an auction sale.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to all those who gave assistance last year. I am particularly grateful to John Hammonds for running the February auction and to those who stood in for me at the May auction while I was convalescing after my operation. Thank you too to Annette Tyler and Jean Hammonds who took over the bookstall at Charlecote and made such a success of it.

I am optimistic that things will get better and I look forward to giving you a positive report next year."

**(8) Report of Packet Secretary (France) – Bob Wood**

"At the end of my first complete year as Packet Secretary, I am pleased to report that there has been an encouraging increase in the number of booklets received (175, compared to 133 in 2006), although the average value of items in each has fallen from £xxx.xx to £xx.xx. There has been a wide variation in the value of new booklets: during the year I received 25 priced at £xx or less, and 23 at £xxx or more,

**ACCOUNTS FOR 'FRANCE' PACKET 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2007****INCOME**

In hand 1 January: cash at bank  
Current a/c  
Deposit a/c

Receipts from members  
Cheques paid to bank  
Stamps and cash

comprising

(a) 2006 surplus due to Treasurer

(b) completed booklets  
return postage refunded  
commission on sales  
insurance  
balance paid to vendors

(c) booklets still circulating

Bank interest

**EXPENDITURE**

2006 surplus paid to Treasurer

Expenses:

stationery & printing  
postage

Payments to vendors

Cash at bank:

Current a/c

Deposit a/c:

Cash at bank comprises  
receipts for booklets still circulating  
2007 surplus due to Treasurer

with one booklet's contents being priced at over £xxx. Sometimes a booklet's contents have remained largely unsold after completing the usual three circuits, and where there remains a reasonable range of material I have sometimes kept it in circulation: there have been some high rates of sale from booklets that had already been round two (or even more) circuits. Members' collecting interests vary so much that it is unwise to assume that previous recipients of the packet will have removed every attractive item. I have continued to adjust the contents of each packet as it completes each circuit. Although this means that no member any longer receives a completely 'unpicked' packet, the chance of being the first to see a particular booklet has been increased, and the regular injection of new material seems to have been welcomed.

The number of members receiving the France packet has fallen slightly (from 123 in January to 110 at the end of the year), and the number of circuits has been reduced to ten. Most members have received five different packets during the year. Overall sales (from the 127 booklets which completed their circulation during the year) have been 63.28% of the value of the contents. 14 booklets sold their entire contents, and 95 (75% of the total) sold more than 50%. Only 15 (12%) had to be returned to vendors with less than one-third of their contents having been sold.

Overall, the increased cost of postage, the lower average value of the material in circulation, and the need to compensate vendors for occasional losses or damage, have prevented the income to the Society from returning to its 2005 level, but members' comments indicate that the service provided by the France packet is valued and appreciated. Above all our thanks should go to those who spend time and effort preparing an interesting variety of material for

circulation, and it is good to see that their efforts do not go unrewarded."

#### **(9) Summarised Report of Packet Secretary (Colonies) - John West**

John West reports another successful year for the Colonies packets with a surplus of £xxxx against £xxxx in the previous year. The number of packets circulating during the year was 63 (against 60 in 2006) with 14 still with members (13 in 2006) and a total value of material of £xxxxx (2006 £xxxx) sales in 2007 fell from £xxxxx in 2006 to £xxx. Despite the increases in postal rates overhead charges were slightly lower thanks to cost efficient distribution and cost management. Full details of the accounts and a much more detailed report are available from the Editor on request.

During the year one packet was lost in transit and the loss was settled in full by our insurers. Although no member was directly responsible for this it is felt that a greater attention to the care of the packet could, perhaps, have helped to avoid this. The vast majority of members take great care with the packets and are asked to continue to be as vigilant as possible. This is not the first packet we have lost and there is a risk that we might become uninsurable should this happen frequently.

John has also had to report an instance of "switching" resulting in our having to make an ex-gratia payment to the vendor to cover his loss. We take a very strong stance against this and, again, ask for vigilance from all our members to eliminate the occurrence.

The committee thank John for his hard work and commitment to the smooth running of the packet.

#### **COLONIAL PACKET ACCOUNTS 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2007**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Balance b/f from 31 Dec 2006		Payments to vendors	
Receipts from members		Expenses	
2007		Surplus 2006 paid to treasurer	
Commission on sales		Creditors:	
Insurance recovered		Money received for booklets	
Postages recovered		not brought to account	
Balance due to vendors	_____	Retained interest	
Total receipts 2007		Surplus 2007 paid to treasurer	_____
Bank interest	_____		

#### **(10) Editor's Report - Maurice Tyler**

"I have been fortunate over the past year in receiving a steady stream of well illustrated articles for publication in the Journal. This does mean, of course, that authors are often having to wait several months before seeing their work in print, but it is a much healthier situation as far as I am concerned. I hope that even more of our members who have displayed part of their collections, or who have a particular speciality, will in the future feel able to share their enthusiasm in print. Writers of shorter pieces, where the

text occupies only about half a page or less, are normally much more likely to be published quickly, as I am always on the lookout for items to fill part of a page.

If we consider the usual boring statistics, I can report that in 2007 there were the traditional 4 issues, totalling 156 inside pages (168 and 152 in the previous two years) and that 50 pages were in full colour (8 and 22 in the previous two years). The recent trend has been to increase the amount of colour and to balance that by slightly decreasing the total number of pages. The total number of words in the



text throughout the year amounted to 71,500 (80,880 and 72,800 in the previous two years). The total cost of printing plus editorial expenses has again proved more expensive than in the previous year (just over £xxx.x compared with just over £xxxx) mainly as a result of the extra use of colour but also because of the rise in printing costs. I hope members consider this increase worthwhile.

During 2007 the 2005 and 2006 editions of the Journal were entered for the New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition and awarded a Silver Gold Certificate. The judges' comments included the following:

"Very good contact with members, society reports interesting. Questions and answers section in each issue also very good. Some good in-depth articles in each issue. Very good index in each issue and one for each volume make the journal very 'user friendly'. Most illustrations in black and white, some colour would help. A very well presented journal."

I have as usual tried to keep the Society website up to date as far as information is concerned, but have had no time to improve the page design. If there are any experts out there who would like to take on the task of bringing the web pages up to scratch, I should be delighted to hear from them."

#### (11) Librarian's Report - George Barker

"The year was relatively quiet, but of considerable diversity of content. Loans in the year totalled only 38 (2006: 59) but photocopies continued to grow, to 137 (2006: 120), though this larger number was due primarily to extensive requests by a few keen members, developing their topics of collection. The situation in the first four months (ie, to 4.5.08) of 2008 was 10 (8) loans and 25 (3) photocopies.

I have to report that, on a number of occasions, members requesting photocopies fell foul of an error situation in the Richardson 'Subject Index'. Derek very nobly remedied

shortages in the Society's holdings of *Philatélie Française* (the early issues) and *Timbroscopie* (miscellaneous early numbers) by consulting and indexing those issues at the Library of the Royal Philatelic Society London (or elsewhere). However, in his 'Subject Index' it is stated that copies of all the magazines that were indexed are available in the Society Library, which, unfortunately, is not true. In a few limited instances (eg, *Timbroscopie*) I can help from my own holdings but, in general, members preparing a list of copies they would like to receive should cross check with the list of holdings in the Society's Library List. Thank you.

We have continued to receive an excellent range of donations of books and articles to the Society Library, and I thank sincerely the many donors. Work has begun on a revised List, and I hope that, with a quiet summer, the new List will be available towards the end of 2008.

I should like particularly to draw attention to the vast amount of data passing into the Library as a result of the sterling work on airmail rates in the Colonies (up to circa 1945) carried out by our member, Bob Picirilli, in Nashville, Tennessee, as co-ordinator, aided by his numerous collaborators. No one has yet accessed this material (except me) and I remind you of its value.

I have had some visits to the Library from Society members and remind you again of the welcome waiting in West Yorkshire."

#### (12) Magazine Circulation Organiser's Report - David Pashby

"The big increase in expenses is due to the weaker pound. Last year a pound would buy a little more than 1.40 Euros, this year it is just over 1.20.

A little calculating will reveal that – leaving aside the amount carried from the previous year – receipts do not cover expenditure. Subs from members totalled £xx,

#### FRANCE & COLONIES - MAGAZINES: ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2008

##### ASSETS AND RECEIPTS

Canied from previous year  
Subs @ (note: @ in 2007)  
Subs @ (note: @ in 2007)  
Interest on deposit account for year  
Donation

##### **TOTAL**

##### EXPENDITURE

Sub to *Timbres Magazine* (2 copies) Feb 2008 :  
Sub to *l'Echo* (2 copies) Mar 2008 :  
Postages & incidental expenses

##### **TOTAL**

ASSETS AND RECEIPTS

LESS EXPENDITURE

##### **TOTAL to carry to following year**

Current Account (by telephone)  
Deposit Account (statement Nov 07)

**2008**

**2007**

**2008**

**2007**

magazine renewals and postages came to £xxxx. I don't want to raise members' subs again, but there are still a few funds in reserve, so there is no need to this year. But I am concerned about the situation and will have to consider it again next year.

There haven't been the same problems this year as in past years with the non-arrival of one of the magazines (sometimes two), so I hope the forwarding agents have realised that stout packaging is required. Fingers crossed that I will have no problems in 2008 either."

### (13) Sales Organiser's Report - Peter Maybury

"During the year to 31.12.2007 136 items were sold to members, non-members and to the trade., viz:

Fakes & Forgeries	53
Rates Book - 3rd edition	56
Other brochures and Journals	27
Total	136

Geographical representation = UK	33.1%
Rest of the world	66.9%

nb F & F 5 copies to Legal Deposit claim )  
 3 revue copies ) issued free  
 R B 2 revue copies ) of charge

Considering the excellent take up of the two major publications in 2007, I believe the volume sales figures for the year to 31.12.2008 to be in line with our best expectations.

Outlook – efforts continue in marketing all of the available publications; however, I would stress that it would be unwise to assume that 2008 will deliver a significant contribution to the Society's funds."

### (14) Southern Group Report - Colin Spong

"We have held four quarterly meetings and details of these will have appeared in the Society Journal. Once again I am

pleased to report that we have enjoyed some good displays with an average attendance of 13 members and guests. I would like to thank those who have given displays and also the members who travel considerable distances to be with us. We are a friendly group and invite those who have not yet been to one of our meetings to come along. Finally I thank my wife Pat who looks after the refreshments for us, also John Hammonds and John Yeomans who have kindly prepared the reports of the meetings."

The completion of the new programme for this group is published on page 83 of this Journal.

### (15) Election of Officers and Committee

There were no proposals for any new Officers or Committee members and no resignations.

It was therefore proposed by Alan Wood, seconded by Len Barnes, that the existing officers and committee members be re-elected *en bloc*, and this was passed unanimously.

The new Committee remains therefore as follows:

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

The General Secretary closed the meeting at 12.35pm.

PRAK/MST

## WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 5 JULY 2008

### Alan Wood: Morocco up to Independence

A well attended meeting of 15 members and 2 guests enjoyed a most interesting display given by co-convenor Alan Wood. The breadth and complexity of the philately of Morocco make it a difficult subject to cover, but Alan certainly succeeded in outlining the history of the country and particularly France's relationship with it, together with recollections of his own visits there. He linked these to a fine selection of stamps and covers starting from the early seals up through the many private postal services that existed, the French post offices, WWI, the development of airmail services, censored mail in WWII and leading up to Independence.

After our usual lunch at the Old Mill the following members gave short displays:

**Edwin Rideout:** Stamps and postal history of Indochina

**Alan Ketchell:** Covers from Memel

**Bryan Wood:** A Napoleonic letter from Elba and its background

**Peter Lawrence:** Training stamps

**John Scott:** A beautiful selection of Bills of Lading

**Lesley Marley:** A thematic display around the work of the stamp designer C Haley

**Ashley Lawrence:** The 25c Sower and a genuine forgery

**John Yeomans:** AEF - Various elements of the Federation post-1910 and an envelope concerning the border commission

**David Stotter** (guest): A postcard of a courier of the Chérifien post circa 1910 outside the post office at Casablanca

**Peter Kelly:** French Soudan to 1900 including the 1894 surcharges and *Taxe Perçue* marks

**Claire Scott:** The movement of wounded soldiers by train.

PRAK



## NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 12 JULY 2008

## “Bastille Day”

As usual Stephen and Judith Holder welcomed us to their home at Heaton Royds for the traditional feast of philatelic material, shared by 13 members and 3 guests.

Members present: George Barker, Mick Bister, Roger Clapham, Steve Ellis, Alan Goude, Stephen Holder, Peter Maybury, Peter Rooke, Tony Shepherd, John Smith, Peter Stockton, Maurice Tyler, Paul Watkins.

Apologies from R Barnes, R High, R Mintoft.

**George Barker** commenced proceedings with some Sabine material that had not been seen for 25 years, including the various types, printings, phosphor varieties, booklets with gum varieties, and changes in colour for changing postage rates. **Mick Bister** went into the intricacies of the *poste restante* system, with an early item from 1785, postcards showing users of the system, an interesting personal letter from a married lady arranging a liaison with an Englishman, and a PP marking indicating “*parti pour*”; he covered the various methods of levying the charge, the different fees available, different cachet colours, and *pneu*, money order and advice of delivery items all sent to *poste restante* addresses.

**Stephen Holder** then tackled Alsace-Lorraine in the 1870-71 period, with stamps, blocks, the various types of *burelage renversé*, different captured French cancels and German date stamps, provisional date stamps in 3 towns, horseshoe cancels, the boxed date stamp, *Feldpost* cancels with the rare Bavarian type, *ambulant* cancels, manuscript cancels, the Hamburg reimpresions used with forged cancels, and many shades and varieties. **Peter Maybury** covered the port of Le Havre, beginning with the history of the establishment of the port, its changes in name and later development; we saw maritime mail into and out of Le Havre, local mail carried by small steamboats, various routes to abroad and to other French ports, with examples of various cancellations and rates.

**Paul Watkins** displayed French post offices in the Mediterranean, starting with a Napoleonic item, and including the Expeditionary Force in Algeria, the expansion of the French Empire from the 1850s, Crimean items, POs in the Ottoman Empire, the Syrian Expedition, the Postal Agency marking of Aleppo, and a disinfected item from the French PO in Egypt. **Peter Rooke** showed us greetings cards, with details of the early changes in the 5-word rate, tinted cards, posed pictures of postmen, New Year greetings, a *Poisson d'Avril* card, a regimental card, cards wishing *bonne fête*, in the Provençal dialect, the “language of stamps”, and a “*santon*” representing a rural postman at the turn of the century.

**Mick Bister** returned with visiting cards that had been bought cheaply in the dealers’ tomato boxes available at previous Bastille Day meetings; his display covered the history of the various rates, according to the number of words, whether they were unsealed or not, those under wrapper, overseas rates, bulk rates, penalty taxes imposed for the incorrect rate, FM cards, and limits placed on the size of the envelope. **Steve Ellis** brought the morning to a conclusion with French maritime trans-Atlantic mail, dealing with the 32 different shipping lines that called in at French

posts and carried mail; he gave a full explanation of covers from 1783 onwards, covering packet and non-contract services with a French connection, and illustrating the different routes to and from French ports.

After a very pleasant lunch prepared by Judith and 3 wives of members attending, the afternoon began with **Tony Shepherd** showing French Guiana with its various postal markings (straight line and circular), classic stamps (Group type, Alphée Dubois, Cérès), and postmarks of 20 small offices. **Alan Goude** showed what he called a *pot pourri* of the colonies, covering New Caledonia (military stamps of 1893), St Pierre-et-Miquelon (handstamps used in 1926 because of a shortage of stamps caused by the change in rates, covers to illustrate rates, FM and airmail stamps), and Martinique (the classic French colonial issues and the definitive series of 1908 and 1922-30).

**Paul Watkins** returned with Anglo-French mail across the Channel, illustrating the 1801-2 interim tariff, official mail, *estafette* mail for newspapers, consignee mail disallowed, 1871 armistice mail, the commercial usage of stamps in 1922, and different GB rates including the late fee and registered mail. **Peter Stockton** showed French Morocco military mail; he gave a potted history of the country until independence in 1956, illustrated by such items as military aviation, airmail supplementary adhesives, mail from the Vichy period, American troops in the invasion of North Africa, besieged Djibouti, and mail to and from the French Foreign Legion.

**John Smith** showed Morocco local posts, describing how the early journeys round the coast developed inland with the import/export business; he produced items from 1891 onwards, with examples of the various services, stamps, cachets, overprints, cancellations, military mail, a wireless telegraphy envelope, various routes and covers from 22 local POs 1891-1913. **Tony Shepherd** came back with more French Guiana, this time offering trade cards, local views, and propaganda cards (including one refused by the Post Office) such as some on the Dreyfus affair.

**George Barker** returned with a display on the productions of the 1884 Daguin machine, that he said cast light on the French character and language; the items shown included an 1881 “apparent but impossible” Daguin, a 1984 centenary cancel, slogans appearing as part of the cancel (some highly decorated), and an 1891 example from Bucharest, Romania. He was intrigued to learn from two slogans that the most beautiful beach in France and the most beautiful beach in Europe are in two different places! **Stephen Holder** brought the day to a close with the double frankings of 1871-2 in the occupation of Alsace-Lorraine in the Franco-Prussian War, covering the use of stamps, the different franking periods, the different rates applied, emergency cancels, horseshoe and lozenge cancels, the 10c occupation rate granted in Luxembourg, a *boîte mobile* item, and some errors made; the display gave a detailed picture of French and German cancellations on mail written in the occupied area, including to foreign countries.

MST

## SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 16 AUGUST 2008

John Parmenter & Colin Spong: Mail in WWII and Airmails

**John Parmenter** together with **Colin Spong** combined to show a very fine and wide ranging display centred on Madagascar in the WWII period 1939-1945.

The historic background to the 1939-1942 French Colony censor marks and, following the fall of France, the establishment of Vichy forces, and the events leading to the British invasion of 1942, were all explained. The complexity of the censor marks was illustrated by covers to a wide range of destinations including Boanahary to Mombassa and Majunga to India. A detailed analysis followed of covers illustrating the censor marks of the British forces originating in Diego Suarez

Member **Bob Small** then showed an interesting cameo display of stamps including originals and forgeries of the Pétain issue of 1944 together with British intelligence forgeries of the Mercury issue. Airmail covers from the period 1929-1937 completed the morning session, illustrating the difficulties of matching rates and routes and showing examples of mail to the French soldiers' Training Camps

in Kenya in the period 1942-1945

The afternoon presentation opened with examples of covers in the period 1942-1945, showing sea and air routes to Dakar and Marseille, many without censor marks. The programme was completed by a display of mail and propaganda leaflets originating from Operations Ironclad and Straight-Line-Jane by the combined British, East African and South African forces to secure the island in 1942.

The members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

Members present: Michael Annells, Colin Clarkson, Roy Ferguson, John Hammonds, Bob Larg, Bill Mitchell, Bob Small, Colin Spong, John Parmenter, John Thorpe, John Yeomans; with Pat Spong looking after the refreshments.

Apologies were received from Michael Berry, Yvonne Larg and Barbara Priddy,

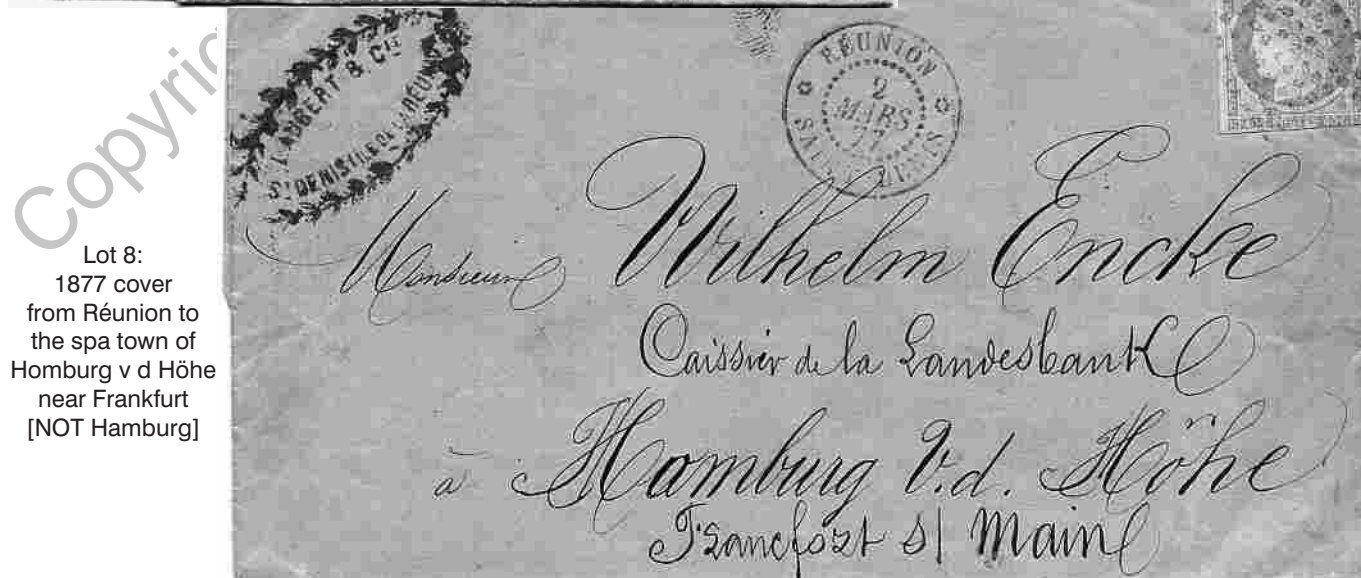
The next meeting was arranged for Saturday 4 October 2008, when Lesley Marley would display the Sabine and Liberty issues of France.

**John Yeomans**

## November 2008 Auction - Selected Lots



Lot 179:  
1818 entire with  
Bureau Spécial des Banquiers strike



Lot 8:  
1877 cover  
from Réunion to  
the spa town of  
Homburg v d Höhe  
near Frankfurt  
[NOT Hamburg]





Lot 205:  
"Mrs Simpson" ballon monté facsimile



Lot 19:  
Neyrac-les-Bains interpane publicity  
on 50c Mercury



Lot 255:  
15c Lined Sower,  
Type VI, coil printing



ex-Lot 263  
1917 5F + 5F Orphelins



Lot 354:  
1938 cover addressed to  
Ginger Rogers  
at the RKO studios  
in Hollywood



Lot 233: Hansa Strassburg private post letter card

Lot 189:  
1F Cérés carmine



Lot 300:  
Exposition  
Philatélique  
de Nancy  
perfin

