

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



Lot 4 in the May 2009 Auction
Morocco 1915 registered envelope from M'Çoun with 5c + 5c Red Cross label

STOP PRESS

Selected Lots from this auction (including those reproduced in this Journal)
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Volume 59 ● Number 1

March 2009

Whole Number 251

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

Officers

President 2008-2009: A J Lawrence, 8 Cleveland Court, Chine Crescent Road, Bournemouth BH2 5LG
(email: president@fcps.org.uk).
General Secretary 2008-2009: P R A Kelly, Malmsy House, Church Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol BS8 3PG
(email: secretary@fcps.org.uk).
Membership Secretary 2008-2009: Dr R G Gethin, 5 Meriden Close, Bromley, Kent BR1 2UF (email: info@fcps.org.uk).

The Society

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

2009 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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Please send material for circulation in booklet form to the appropriate Exchange Packet Secretary, viz.
France: R G E Wood, 51 Longstomps Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9BY (Telephone 01245 267949).
Colonies: J C West, 5 Highbanks Road, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4AR (Telephone 0208 428 4741).

The Library

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

The Magazine Circuit

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

Journal Correspondents

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

Publications Stockist

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

* * *

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

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

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

Editor: M S Tyler, 56 Mortons Fork, Blue Bridge, Milton Keynes MK13 0LA
E-mail: editor@fcps.org.uk
Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

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SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1332 Dr Jean-François Gibot (France), 1333 Kenneth J Dixon (Ross-shire), 1334 M G Burbage-Atter (Leeds), 1335 Harris Rosenburg (London), 1336 Ross K MacNeil (York), 1337 I G Mitchell (Perth), 1338 Prof Michael A Parniak (USA), 1339 John A Corderoy (Kent), 1340 Graham Booth (Sussex), 1341 Stuart Rae Sparrow (Wiltshire), 1342 Stephen D Roose (Surrey).

* * *

Members Deceased

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

1015 Peter K Brookman.

* * *

Resignations

403 Mrs M Weston, 1261 Stephen Toynbee, 923 W R Holland, 729 G T J Pullan, 1125 C R Hill.

* * *

Future Events

The **London Group** will meet at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 6.30pm on Wednesday 15 April 2009, when Maurice Tyler will display aspects of WWI.

The **Southern Group** will meet at the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, East Worthing at 2.00pm on Saturday 4 April 2009, when Ray Downing will display the Marianne de Dulac issue of France.

The **Northern Group** will meet at Leeds General Infirmary, Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3EX at 1.30pm on Saturday 4 April 2009 for Members' Choice of displays.

The **Wessex Group** will hold an extra meeting at **Swinpex**, St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR on Saturday 13 June 2009 where the Society will have a table and a meeting room in the morning. This will be a short 2 hour meeting from 10am and members are asked to bring something to show. This is a big and traditionally successful show with about 40 dealers in attendance. Members from other parts of the country are encouraged to attend.

The **Scottish Group** meets in Room 1, Cross House, Linlithgow. Details of future meetings will be given shortly.

* * *

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show

Any members who are able to attend this show, to be held in Denver, Colorado, 15-17 May 2009, are invited by Dave Herendeen, President of the France & Colonies PS (USA) to join them for the festivities. They will hold their Annual Meeting and an Exhibition with more than 100 frames of French-area exhibits strong in colonial material including seldom seen areas such as French Guinea, French Guiana, Ubangi-Shari, French Sudan and Niger, French West Africa and more.

* * *

Annual General Meeting

Members are reminded that the Society AGM will take place at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 11.30am on Saturday 9 May 2009, and this will be followed at 2.00pm by an auction.

Any proposals or matters which members wish to raise should be addressed to the General Secretary, Peter Kelly, whose contact details are given on the inside front cover of this Journal.

* * *

Displays by Members

On 13 September 2008 **Michael Wright** contributed to 12-sheet displays at the National PS with a selection of International Reply Paid coupons from France and territories.

In November 2008 **Barbara Priddy** displayed French West Africa to the West London PS at Acton.

In September(?) 2008 **David Hogarth** as the new President of the Dundee & District PS displayed French stamps and postal history 1934-1946.

In October 2008 **Lesley Marley** displayed her renowned "A Whale's Tale" to the Ringwood PS.

* * *

London Group Programme

Members may like to note that the following dates have been booked for future meetings at the Calthorpe Arms and that further details will follow in due course:

Wednesday 23 September 2009
Wednesday 21 October 2009
Wednesday 25 November 2009
Wednesday 20 January 2010
Wednesday 17 March 2010
Wednesday 14 April 2010
Saturday 1 May 2010 (AGM + Auction)
Wednesday 15 September 2010
Wednesday 20 October 2010
Wednesday 17 November 2010

* * *

Wessex Group Programme

Members should note that the date of the meeting scheduled for October is Saturday 17 October 2009 and not as stated on the yellow programme card.

* * *

Philatelic Honours

On 1 January 2009 our member **Robert Abensur** was appointed *Chevalier dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the French Minister of Culture. Our sincere congratulations are due to him!

* * *

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 126 4^{ème} trim: 2008: Sénégal: Le service postal et télégraphique en 1884 (Strobel); La surcharge diagonale SÉNÉGAL en 1884 (Strobel); La surcharge diagonale SÉNÉGAL sur timbres des Colonies Générales (Strobel); Cameroun: au-delà du catalogue (Cobb).

Cameo: Journal of the West Africa Study Circle

Vol 11 N° 1 (Whole N° 76) Jan 2009: Cameroun 1961 opts - plating the Sterling issue (Bratzel); FEA - Campo, Gabon "petit bureau" (Mitchell); Contemporary advert for Togo provisionals (Cochrane); Campost - Cameroun (Maddocks).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1824 Dec 2008: Noëlle Le Guillouzie, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Surcharges: un jour une surcharge (Barbero); Le Mali, pays multiethnique (Mangin); La dation Zoummeroff au musée de La Poste (Rabier & Albaret); La naissance du premier timbre-poste français [2/2] (Hella); Les fiscaux locaux [end] (Danan); Duxin: Des collectionneurs extraordinaires [15] (Storch); Tout sur les pèse-lettre [2/2] (-); Histoire d'une émission commune...restreinte [Tunisia] (Ali Ahmed).

N° 1825 Jan 2009: Laurent Scandolo, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); 1859: les premiers «chiffres-taxe» en France (Hella); Duxin: Des collectionneurs extraordinaires [16] (Storch); Des temps des télégrammes (Emmenegger).

N° 1826 Feb 2009: Catherine Dubreuil, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); 1929: l'année de l'Aéropostale en Amérique du Sud (Albaret); Une collection à double tranchant (-); Ma philatélie à moi (Cordina); Duxin: Des collectionneurs extraordinaires [17] (Storch).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 295 (Vol 65 N° 1): The Cherifien Post in Morocco (Gardner); Cameroun - Additional Provisional postmarks (Bratzel); A Well-Travelled Cover (Luft); Diégo Suarez Military Railway (Spong); The French Colonial Allegorical Group Type Foreign markings add to the soup (Grabowski).

Timbres Magazine

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

N° 96 Dec 2008: Les Bordeaux, une collection de toutes les couleurs (de Pellinec); La Syrie entre mandat français et république (Michaud); Une touche de luxe

(Michaud); La «Marianne des Français» Quelle nomenclature adopter? [Part 2] (Tourlan); La taille des maîtres de poste (de la Mettrie); Le lit: une collection de rêves (Zeyons); Lea marques postales de districts: Le secret des lettres! (Baudot); Un minimum de perception [taxes] congrès de Madrid (Prugnon); Expo 37: de l'île des Cygnes à la baie de Kouang-Tchéou (Chauvin).

N° 97 Jan 2009: «Merson», les seconds «grand format» de notre histoire postale (de Pellinec); Les premiers timbres de Polynésie Française (Jacquart); Une «enveloppe» n'est pas une «lettre» (de la Mettrie); Les publicités pour télévision dans les derniers carnets français d'usage courant de grand format (PJM); Cartes postales: Souvenons-nous des Rosières (Zeyons); Les noms révolutionnaires [1793-1815] (Baudot); Un affranchissement pour l'étranger sans valeur (Prugnon); 1943: vol d'étude AOF-AEF (Chauvin).

N° 98 Feb 2009: Les types Groupe en Nouvelle-Calédonie (de Pellinec); Flammes coloniales et politiquement correctes (Artaud); Le tarif du 1^{er} août 1856 (de la Mettrie); Les métamorphoses du facteur (Zeyons); Les noms révolutionnaires [1793-1815] (Baudot); AEF: le courrier des internés (Chauvin).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol 39 N° 1 (Whole N° 186) Jan 2009: Bisected 30 centimes Navigation and Commerce used on cover (Bentley); Independence Commemorative Markings of Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Laos (Aspnes); Phnom Penh Postmarks, Part 1: 1894-1949 (Shaw); Postcards on the Menu (Bentley); Pre-Independence Mail Service from North Vietnam to Germany (Düring); Unissued Vichy Government Stamps used on cover (Lu).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 334 3^e trim 2008 (Sep 2008): Souillac? Mais c'est Byzance! (Flotte); Remise d'argent de Mâcon (Sené); Faire parler la poudre: Les poudres et salpêtres au temps de la Révolution (Balsenc); Boîtes aux lettres du soir: un petit mieux pour le départ du courrier (Couvé); Les mandats-contribution (Sené); Les timbres-épargne (Sené); Les raccords ou raboutages après 60 ans d'oubli (Narjoux & Baudot); La 100^e liaison aérienne France-Amérique du Sud (1936): Une histoire de griffes postales (Albaret); Les chèques postaux en 1939-1940: Repliements en temps de guerre (Sené); Quand les employés des postes en perdent leur latin (Tixier); C'est mieux qu'un télégramme, c'est une adresse enregistrée (Delvaux); MOB Spéciaux des AP, APC, BP2 (Charbonnier); Les nouveautés en matière de guichets-annexes (Delvaux).

N° 335 4^e trim 2008 (Dec 2008): Thermidor An II: le mois de tous les dangers et celui d'une belle découverte! (de la Mettrie); Facteur Boitier de Tournecoupe (Gers) (Plas-Roques); L'oblitération Daguin jumelé de 1884 (Decroix); Au sujet des griffes BESETZTES GEBIET NORDFRANKREICH (Nouazé); Les Bureaux postaux

Militaires de la guerre d'Indochine (1945-1957) (Sinai & Goanvic); Cartes interzones au type Iris sans valeur indiquée (Nouazé); Taxe spéciale d'Alsace-Lorraine (Popie); Le point sur les oblitérations NEC (Charbonnier); Les nouveautés en matière de guichets-annexes (Delvaux); Recherche du destinataire et cursives au verso (Douron).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 199 1^{er} trim 2009: Histoire postale et Empire non

dentelé: La desserte du Nord-Est des États-Unis par la voie de l'Angleterre avant le 1^{er} janvier 1857 (Soulier); Signification des timbres PD, PF et PP sur les lettres de France pour l'étranger: L'évolution entre 1850 et 1862 (Abensur); Valeurs déclarées pour les Pays-Bas et 1^{ère} guerre mondiale (Castanet); Quel est le poids maximal d'un envoi postal? (Bonney); Son altesse Impériale, Madame, Mère de l'Empereur (Goanvic); Correspondance interzone entre La Réunion et la métropole (1941-1942) (Rykner).

BOOKSHELF

Munich Philatelic Library

Robert Binner, the Head of the Philatelic Library (part of the Munich Municipal Library) which has recently joined the Society with the intention of obtaining copies of our Journal, when acknowledging the safe arrival of a run of the Journal from 2000 to 2008 wrote as follows to Peter Maybury, our publications stockist:

"Recent numbers will be on display at our reading room; the earlier volumes go to the binder and will be available to the readers early next year.

"I notice the quality of the Journal is at this high level since 2000. If we hopefully get funds from the trust next year we can think about buying a few more volumes before that if you can offer these.

"If you go to our Online Catalogue you can find your society by entering France & Colonies on the line institution. After you get the list, tick any listed titles in the box on the left hand side and click on *Vollanzeige* (full view).

You can do cross search on the "key words" or "notation" (France is B 320) to get an idea of our holding on French philatelic literature. There is also a direct link from the catalogue to your society's homepage.

"In the drop down menu on top you can go to *Philatelistische Bibliothek*, which limits your search to Philatelic Library items only. The catalogue is for the entire Munich Library system. Let me know if you can get the results you want."

Books Noted

La Poste en Haute-Saône: La poste en milieu rural 1830-1911 by Bernard Augustin *et al*; 155 A4 pp; numerous colour illustrations; price 30€ + p&p; available from Bernard Augustin, 11 rue de Saint-Prix, 95320 Saint-Leu-la-Forêt (or email bernard.augustin@cegetel.net). [Collective study of the post in this *département* covering rural postmarks, fusion with urban post and rural box numbers.]

Île de la Réunion 1664-1864: Deux siècles de Poste maritime by Marie-Anick & Christian-Jacques Duvivier; 160 A4 pp; extracts from official texts, reproductions of letters; price 40€; available at shop from Pascal Behr, 18 rue Drouot, 75009 Paris; for order by post email asso.ashram.kaya@wanadoo.fr. [Traces evolution of maritime post on island from creation of colony to arrival of French *paquebots*; covers Anglo-French struggles, creation of *poste aux lettres* 1774, mail to and from France, first stamps used in 1852, arrival of Eagle issue; useful index; preface by Pascal Behr.]

Madagascar et dépendances: Poste, télégraphe, téléphone, timbres-poste, histoire postale, 1920-1930, Tome II, by François Thénard; *Bulletin Col.Fra Hors-série* n° 5-7B; 103 A4 pp; price 26€ inc p&p in France; available from Alain Hur-

pet, BP 5, 10230 Mailly-le-Camp (or email colfra-publications@orange.fr). [Col.Fra publication dealing with means of transport and the press during the period specified, illustrated by photos, postcards and reproductions of archival documents.]

Les deux premiers timbres-poste de l'Île de la Réunion: Légendes et réalité by Jean-François Brun & Benoît Chandanson; 64 A4 pp; price 25€ inc p&p in France; available from Brun & fils, 85 galerie de Beaujolais, Palais Royal, 75001 Paris (website www.brunphilatelie.com). [Full details of this famous issue, the result of research in archives and collections, illustrated with stamps, letters and documents.]

Hôpitaux militaires dans la Guerre 1914-1918, Tome I France nord-ouest by François Olier & Jean-Luc Quéneq'hdu; 300 pp; price 36€ + p&p; available from Ysec Editions, BP 405, 27405 Louviers (or tel author on 03.20.0861.00). [Fully illustrated list of postmarks of over 2400 hospitals and annexes in north-west France (19 *départements*), covering 1500 cachets used by different medical units as well as the postcards produced during this period, with indications of rarity for each document.]

Maurice Tyler

AR (*Avis de Réception*) in the Early 20th Century

Bill Mitchell

N° 514.
(Raisin rose 178.)

(Mod. G de l'Union.)

SOUS-SECRÉTARIAT D'ÉTAT
DES POSTES
ET DES TÉLÉGRAPHES.

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE.

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

d'un (1) lettre (valeur déclarée 2000) enregistré au bureau
(recommandé.....)

de (2) MAYENNE le 10 nov, sous le n° 794 (3)

et adressé à (suspension complète) M. Adame le Bail
propriétaire
à Evron
(rue et n° s'il y a lieu)

Timbre du bureau d'origine.

Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur (A). M. Rasault
à notaire
(rue et n° s'il y a lieu) Mayenne

Le soussigné déclare que l'(1) lettre { valeur déclarée } à l'adresse
{ recommandé..... } susmentionnée a été dûment livré le 11 Nov 08.

Timbre du bureau distributeur.

du destinataire: (En France la signature du destinataire n'est jamais requise.)

Signature (4) de l'agent du bureau distributeur :

(1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, boîte, échantillon, etc.). — (2) Griffes du bureau d'origine. — (3) Date du dépôt et n° d'inscription au registre de dépôt. — (4) Dans les offices où les règlements le comportent, la signature de l'agent du bureau distributeur est remplacée par celle du destinataire. L'avis est ensuite renvoyé par le premier courrier :

Dans le régime intérieur : Sous enveloppe n° 819 comme correspondance ordinaire..... à l'expéditeur..... de l'objet qu'il concerne.
Dans le régime international : Sous enveloppe n° 289 recommandée d'office..... au bureau d'origine...

(A) Dans le régime international le nom et l'adresse de l'expéditeur ne sont consignés qu'à la rentrée de la formule n° 514 au bureau d'origine.

Figure 1a
Textbook use of the form N° 514



Figure 1b
The reverse side of Figure 1a
Only the address panel shown, the rest of the side being blank

A good friend of many years' standing, Noel Warr, who specialises in Imperial Russia with a particular interest in the postal history of Moscow (he is co-author of a fine book on its Postmarks⁽¹⁾), is the fortunate possessor of an AR form of 1911 sent from one Paris address to another and re-addressed to Moscow. The quality of the postmarks on the form and an associated envelope is superb and Noel has kindly agreed to my illustrating, and discussing, the documents here.

AR has been considered in these pages from time to time, most notably in the article by Ted Coles and Derek Richardson (Journal 181, September 1991⁽²⁾). Further details may be found in the review of the standard book on the subject by Professor David Handelman *et al* (Journal 232, June 2004⁽³⁾). Details of the service changed from time to time; the position as it was in 1911 is set out as follows in the Coles/Richardson article:

"Scheme 2, 1899-1920

"The rather cumbersome procedure of Scheme 1 changed in 1899 with the introduction of a modified pink form N° 514 which was raised at the originating office and to which was affixed the AR fee... The object, franked normally, was marked AR, as was the sender's receipt. The object travelled through the post with the form pinned to it. The office of distribution completed the form and returned it in a service envelope N° 819 to the sender..."

As regards AR mail posted abroad, in a short note applicable to all periods they say

"... Sometimes the AR form served for both internal and foreign use; at other times forms of a different style were used. The advice form was signed by the recipient, not an official. These minor differences apart, procedures for foreign mail were the same as for internal mail."

In a letter to me dated 31 May 2006 Professor Handelman goes into rather more detail; he writes

"... let me recapitulate the normal procedure for handling international AR forms. In the post-Vienna period [that is, after the changes of 1 January 1899 required by the UPU Treaty of Washington, 1898] the form is prepared at the office of origin, and attached to the registered letter. When the registered letter is delivered, the recipient signs it, and the form is returned to the office of origin for subsequent return to the original sender. For France at this time, the form was to be sent in a covering envelope... the instructions at the bottom indicate that the covering envelope was to be registered. Registration was part of the service and was not chargeable to anyone – there should never be any postage on the AR covering envelope.

"... registration of the covering envelope ceased for many countries (eg Canada, UK) around 1908, although if the printed forms were marked registered (having been printed before 1908), they would be sent as registered mail... the French AR form [in Noel Warr's possession] was used in 1911, presumably was printed well after 1908 (since it was sent from Paris, I would expect quick turnover), so the policy of registration persisted in France."

Why did Ted and Derek not mention that, at this time, in the case of international mail the form N° 514 required return by registered post to the post office of origin prior to forwarding to the sender whereas ordinary post and return direct to the sender was sufficient for domestic mail? (See Figs 1 and 2.) The explanation seems to be the apparent lack of any great interest in international mail on the part of the authors of their source, a 1982 article "*La marque A.R. et les demandes d'avis de réception*" by M Mathieu and A Sambourg⁽⁴⁾ in which I can find only

two references to the *régime international* in the early 20th century – the first records the point that in the 1899-1920 period the form N° 514 was to be signed by the recipient

(but does not mention registration); the second tells of the introduction in 1922 of a form N° 515 specifically for international use.

3 du 21

N° 514.
(Raisin rose 178.)
(Mon. G de l'Union.)


MINISTÈRE
des
TRAVAUX PUBLICS,
DES POSTES
ET DES TÉLÉGRAPHES.

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE.

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

d'un lettre { valeur déclarée } enregistré au bureau 41-C
{ recommandée }

de (2) PARIS-41.C le 19/12/1911, sous le n° 333
et adressée à (suspension complète) M. Antikoff, Roumain
4bis rue Georges Seche
Paris (14^e arr^t 7
à (rue et n° s'il y a lieu)


Timbre du bureau d'origine


Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur (A). { M. Paul Vasseur
Paris 2 rue Robt Bonheur
(rue et n° s'il y a lieu.)

Le soussigné déclare que l'objet (1) lettre { valeur déclarée } à l'adresse
{ recommandée }
susmentionnée a été dûment livré le 12/25 Décembre 1911

Signature (4) de l'agent du bureau distributeur : [Signature]

du destinataire:
(En France la signature du destinataire n'est jamais requise.)
[Signature]

Timbre du bureau distributeur


(1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, boîte, échantillon, etc.). — (2) Griffes du bureau d'origine. — (3) Date du dépôt et n° d'inscription au registre de dépôt. — (4) Dans les offices où les règlements le comportent, la signature de l'agent du bureau distributeur est remplacée par celle du destinataire. L'avis est ensuite renvoyé par le premier courrier :

Dans le régime intérieur : Sous enveloppe n° 819 comme correspondance ordinaire..... } à l'expéditeur..... } de l'objet qu'il concerne.
Dans le régime international : Sous enveloppe n° 289 recommandée d'office..... } au bureau d'origine... }

(A) Dans le régime international le nom et l'adresse de l'expéditeur ne sont consignés qu'à la rentrée de la formule n° 514 au bureau d'origine.

[Signature]

Figure 2a

This form illustrated in black & white is originally printed on pink ("rose") paper, as in Figures 1a and 1b; form N° 514 has been redirected to Moscow

Figure 2b

The reverse side of the form in Figure 2a, originally printed on pink paper; the annotations are in Cyrillic script.

The format of the form N° 514 was changed to what is known as the Type “Télégramme” (Fig 3) in 1920; the latest use of the original type in my collection was at Algiers on 25 August 1924. Unlike the 1908 and 1911 examples which will be discussed later, the form bears a printing date (February 1919); the registration requirement for international use is still present, confirming that France retained this requirement after 1908, when many countries dropped it. The instructions on the new form are different and direct the post clerk to the form N° 515 for international use. Unfortunately I don’t have a copy, but an earlier (1981) article by the same authors, “*Les formules de demandes d’avis de réception des origines à nos jours*”⁽⁵⁾ traces the development of this form (as well as form N° 514 and its predecessor) from its inception on 1 January 1922. The only example illustrated dates from many years later (1945); it is reduced in size and far from clear, but it was not sent Registered.

Before I discuss Noel Warr’s unusual example of a form N° 514, there is a much less interesting one in my own collection from rather earlier in the same period (Fig 1). It

accompanied a *valeur déclarée* letter from a lawyer in Mayenne, in the *département* of the same name, to a Madame le Brail, described as a “*propriétaire*”, in Evron, some 35km away in the same *département*. The form bears the Mayenne date stamp of 17.25hrs on 10 November 1908, as does the 10c Sower on the reverse, which paid the AR fee (the strike is indistinct, and it may not reproduce very well). The address panel has been completed to show that the registered letter attached to it was to be sent to the postmaster at Evron (to be handed over to the addressee). Mme le Brail duly signed the acknowledgement section of the form at 12.45hrs on the following day. This is a textbook example of a correctly completed form N° 514; the return envelope N° 819 has not, unfortunately, survived.

Now for Noel’s much travelled copy (Fig 2). It accompanied a registered letter posted at the Recette Auxiliaire N° 41-C in Paris on 19 December 1911. The sender was a M. Paul Vasseur of 2 rue Rosa Bonheur in the 15th *Arrondissement* and the addressee was M. Romain Lutikoff of 11 bis rue Georges Saxe in the 14th *Arrondissement*. But M.

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION ⁽¹⁾
D'UN OBJET CHARGÉ OU RECOMMANDÉ.
AVIS DE PAYEMENT.

Pour le bureau de

Département.....

1) Biffer les indications inutiles.
(2) 75 centimes pour un avis demandé au moment du dépôt.
1 fr. 50 pour un avis demandé postérieurement au dépôt.

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE.
POSTES, TÉLÉGRAPHES ET TÉLÉPHONES.

Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur :
À REMPLIR PAR L'EXPÉDITEUR.

M.....
rue.....
département.....
n°.....

ALGER
A DÉCHIRER.

97
FRANCE
MONTPELLIER
29 DEC 1920

Figure 3a
The 1920 revision of the form N° 514

Lutikoff was no longer in Paris, nor indeed in France, and the letter – together with the form N° 514 – was forwarded to him in Moscow, where he signed the acknowledgement of receipt at the 21st Branch Office on 12 December (old style, 25 December to us). The reverse of the form has not been completed – there is neither a 10c Sower cancelled by the Paris 41-C hexagon nor details of the post office in the 14th *Arrondissement* to which it, and the letter which was attached, was to be sent. There is, however, a strike, doubtless to record receipt, of the circular date stamp of the (fifth) section in the Moscow Head Post Office responsible

for distributing mail coming in from and going abroad. The inscription in the lower segment reads, in transliteration, V. EXPEDITISIA: the rather prominent N° 1 merely indicates the clerk handling the form. This was on 11 December, the day before M. Lutikoff acknowledged receipt. An associated envelope (Fig 4) addressed to M. Vasseur back in the rue Rosa Bonheur bears the date stamp of another Moscow Branch Office (N° 2) of 12 December (the same day as the acknowledgement). It reached the 15th *Arrondissement* early in the morning (8.30hrs?) of 29 December, so M. Vasseur received it later in the same day.

Journal of the France & Colonies P S - March 2009

Timbre du bureau d'origine

A REMPLIR PAR L'EXPÉDITEUR.

N° 514. 16 3.36

AVIS DE RÉCEPTION (B) — AVIS DE PAYEMENT

1. 20355-33. Ou. sp. 036 1986.

(b) d'un (1) valeur déclarée }
d'un mandat (2) } recommandé

enregistré au bureau de *Alger* de *Alger* sous le n° *228* et

adressé à (subscription complète) *M. Lecomte*

(sous le n° s'il y a lieu) *228* (ci-contre)

à *Alger*

Département *Alger*

(1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, boîte, paquet, échantillon, etc.).
(2) Ajouter, suivant le cas : officinier, carte, lettre, télégraphique, etc.
(3) Dans le régime international il est fait usage de la formule n° 515.
(4) Rayer les indications inutiles.

NOTA. — En cas d'absence de l'intéressé, l'objet recommandé ou chargé, adressé à un domicile, est conservé en instance au bureau destinataire pendant 15 jours, après trois présentations successives à ce domicile.

Signature de l'agent du bureau destinataire : *la lettre*

Le soussigné déclare que le mandat (2) }
mentionné ci-contre } livré le (a) *20-3-1936*
a été dûment payé le (b) }

Timbre du bureau destinataire

Figure 3b
The reverse side of the revised form N° 514

There is a similarity between the Paris *Recettes Auxiliaires* and the Moscow Branch Offices – both changed their location from time to time. The Paris office 41-C dates from 1 May 1910 and was first located at 12 rue Valentin Haüy. It was closed on 31 March 1911; a new office with the same number was opened at 7 rue César Franck – only a couple of streets away from the rue Rosa Bonheur – on the following 1 November; it moved to N° 6 (next door?) on 21 November 1913 and was finally closed on 17 May 1916⁽⁶⁾.

In Moscow, “Since the branch offices were physically located in the homes of various individuals, they moved as frequently as their hosts were no longer able to accom-

modate them”⁽⁷⁾. Location Tables are not entirely clear to me, perhaps because of gaps in the information available, but at the end of 1911 they would appear to have been: N° 2, Prechistenskaya district, corner of Smolensk Blvd and Glazovyy, House of Prince Trubetskij; and N° 21, Bol’shaya Tsaritsynskaya, House of Buchbinder⁽⁸⁾. I have been unable to locate a street map of Moscow at this time so cannot say whether these addresses were more or less in the same vicinity or some distance apart. So M. Lutikoff collected his letter *chez* Buchbinder on 12 (25) December and posted the associated envelope at Prince Trubetskij’s on the same day.



Figure 4
The associated envelope from M. Lubitkoff in Moscow to M. Vasseur in Paris
with the PARIS XV DISTRIBUTION cds on the reverse

There are problems with both the form N° 514 and the envelope. Why was the reverse of the form not completed and why is there no stamp to indicate the payment of the AR fee? This must be a matter of speculation; in his letter Professor Handelman suggests that this could have been accidental. The endorsement "3 du 21" at the top of the form suggests that this was one of a batch of registered AR letters; maybe this particular form was omitted through oversight. It is not clear who was responsible for the endorsement – the handwriting differs from that of both the official who entered the details of the addressee and M. Vasseur, who entered his own details himself (although Noel says that the ink is the same). I mention Professor Handelman's other suggestion to place on record an occasional AR blip. It sometimes – but very rarely – happens that a replacement is required for a form which is found, usually at the destination office, to be lost or damaged, or which is spoilt because of mistakes in completing the form after it has been franked in the originating office. The latter could have happened in this case but, as I say, this is speculative.

It is tempting to think that the envelope was used to return the form to M. Vasseur in Paris. Certainly, when folded into four the form would fit the envelope, which was written by M. Lubitkoff (compare the "R"s in the signature and "Rosa Bonheur"). But I am inclined to agree with Professor Handelman that it's much more likely that it contained other matter, possibly a reply to M. Vasseur's letter. It was not registered, as it should have been, and it was not posted from the Branch Office (N° 21) where the letter was signed for – as one would expect. And why, having obtained a signature, did the postal official not send the form back him-

self as he was required to do? True, the form was printed only in French, but that language was widely used in Russia at that time, and even if the official did not understand it, he must have had an instruction manual which would have told him what to do.

One final comment. Note the efficiency of the posts and railways at this time, and in the depths of winter too – Paris/Moscow 19-24 December, 5 days including re-direction; Moscow/Paris 25-29 December, 4 days.

I am grateful to Noel Warr and Professor Handelman, who have seen this article in draft, for their help. Chris Hitchen kindly provided photocopies of parts of a couple of street maps of Paris and a page from Pierre Lux's book on the *Paris Recettes Auxiliaires* (ref 6).

References

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- (2) Corrections were published in Journal 183 (March 1992) and addenda in N° 182 (December 1991).
- (3) *AR – Avis de Réception* (Volume 1)? (Postal History Society of Canada, 2000).
- (4) *Feuilles Marcophiles* N° 229 (2^{ème} trimestre 1982) with a correction in N° 230 (3^{ème} trimestre 1982).
- (5) *Feuilles Marcophiles* N° 226 (3^{ème} trimestre 1981).
- (6) Lux, P — *Les Recettes Auxiliaires de Paris 1894-1972* (published by the author, 1973), page 47.
- (7) Combs and Warr, *op cit*, page 41.
- (8) *Ibid*, pages 51 and 58.

Early Airmails from France

John Garner

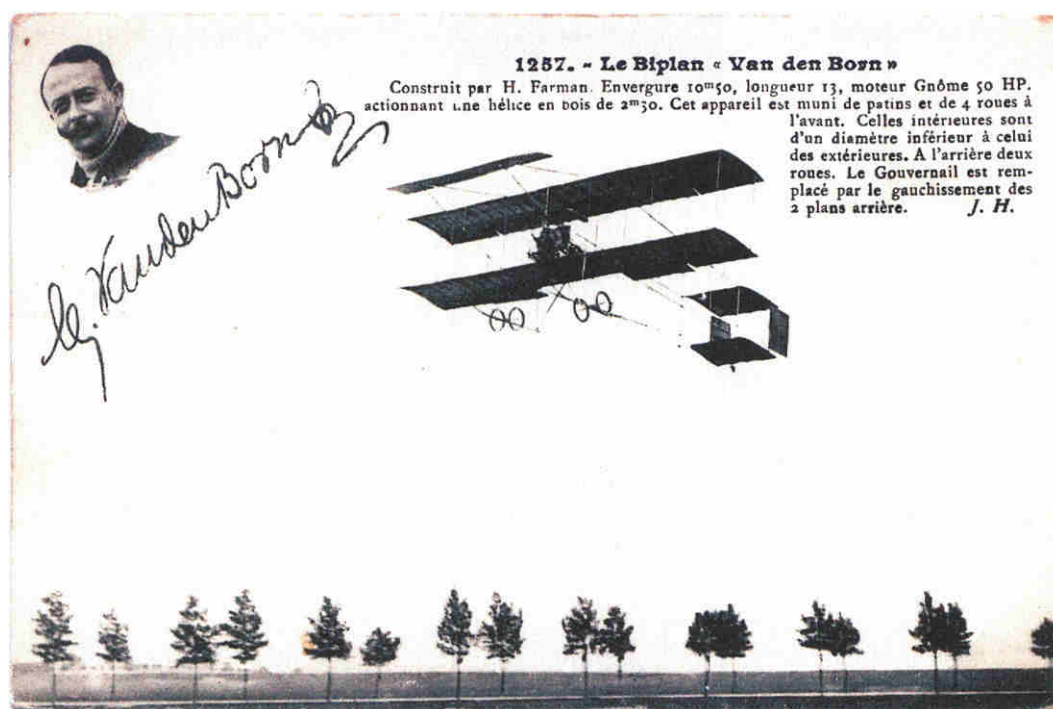


Figure 1
Charles Van den Born – original postcard

In 1910 a Frenchman, Charles Van den Born (Fig 1), came out to south-east Asia with a Henry Farman biplane (Fig 2) and gave a series of demonstration flights in Saigon and Hong Kong. I know of no actual book about him, but Van den Born must have been a really interesting man, who learnt to fly, bought his own aeroplane, took it out East, and then decided he liked the region enough to live there.

At the end of January 1911 he arrived in Bangkok for a flying week, to be held on the racecourse of the Royal Bangkok Sports Club (Fig 3). January is the perfect time in Bangkok – that is to say winter, when the temperature at night sometimes drops as low as 70°F. The sky is a cloudless, perfect blue, there is little wind and the ground is dry and hard. Ideal flying weather – exactly the opposite of the

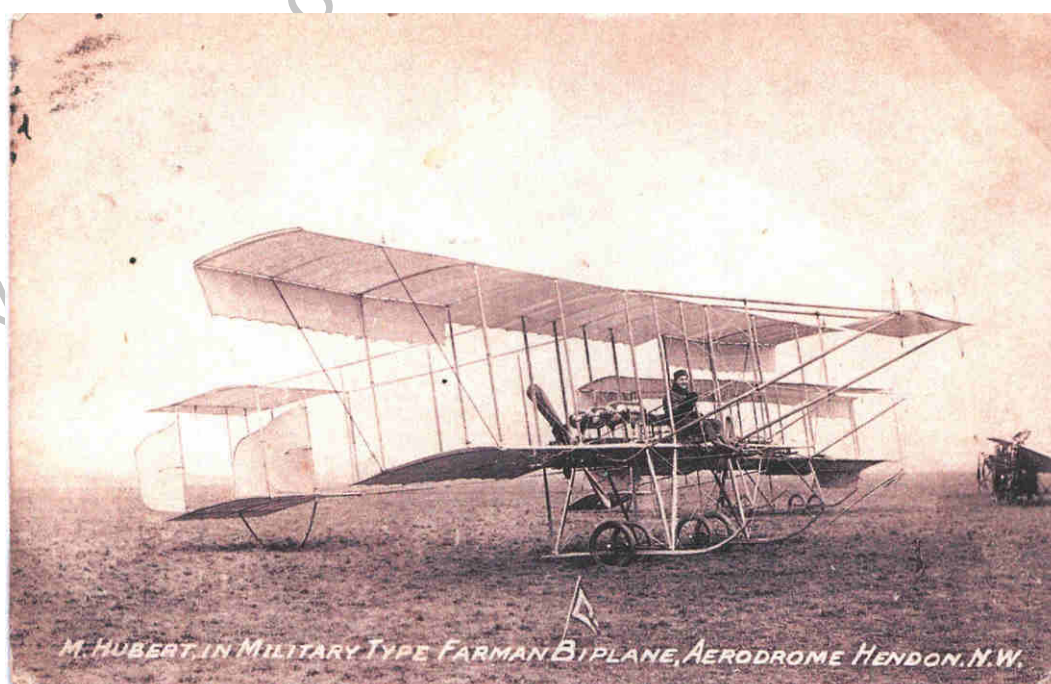


Figure 2
Farman biplane



Figure 3
Van den Born in Bangkok – reproduction postcard

summer monsoon season when the sky is leaden, the rain falls in waterfalls and the ground is swampy, or completely flooded.

The Thai army helped build a small temporary hangar in the grounds of the Sports Club and the entire week became a tremendous success, with thousands watching demonstration flights and various Royals and other notables being given short flights. Even the King came to inspect the plane and watch the flights; but it was the Army that was particularly impressed, so early the following year the Ministry of War announced that three young officers of the Royal Engineers had been chosen to train in the art of flying.

The three young officers were Major Sakdi, Captain Arwut and Lieutenant Tip, and the obvious place to learn was France. Why? At the beginning of the twentieth century France was a world leader in the science of aviation, at a time when Britain regarded the new (and it has to be said, extremely fragile) aeroplanes as something of an irrelevance compared with horses for military use. So, when the Thais decided they had to be involved in the wondrous, entrancing activity, it was natural that the three young engineers selected should be sent off to France.

They left Thailand on 28 February 1912 and first had to learn French. After several months studying the language they began their flying studies at Villacoublay, near Paris. The three engineers completed their training in August 1913 and in the meantime the Thai War Ministry ordered four Bréguet Type III biplanes and four Nieuport mono-

planes. The three pilots returned to Thailand in November 1913 after touring the European centres of military aviation.

It was these three officers who became the nucleus of the new Thai Air Force, and all eventually became air marshals. In the Spring of 1914 the Ministry of War gave orders to build an airfield with the necessary hangars and other buildings at a place called Don Muang, about sixteen miles outside Bangkok. Gradually the airfield was completed, they began building their own copies of the Bréguet and more army officers began training as pilots or observers. It was when Thailand joined in the war on the side of the Allies in 1917 that what at the time was called the Flying Battalion really started expanding.

You might very reasonably say, 'So what?' Well, the postcards the three officers, Sakdi, Arwut and Tip sent home from France, including photographic postcards, survived and were sold together in auction some years ago. They gradually became split into smaller lots and it was my privilege to buy the two illustrated cards, though not the photographic ones, unfortunately. I am proud to own them as the beginning of my airmail collection, but more so as important historical documents.

Postcard N° 1 (Fig 5) was posted from Paris on 12 September 1912, reached Bangkok on 8 October 1912 and arrived in Petriew in the south of Thailand on 10 October 1912. The Paris street scene must have intrigued the recipient.

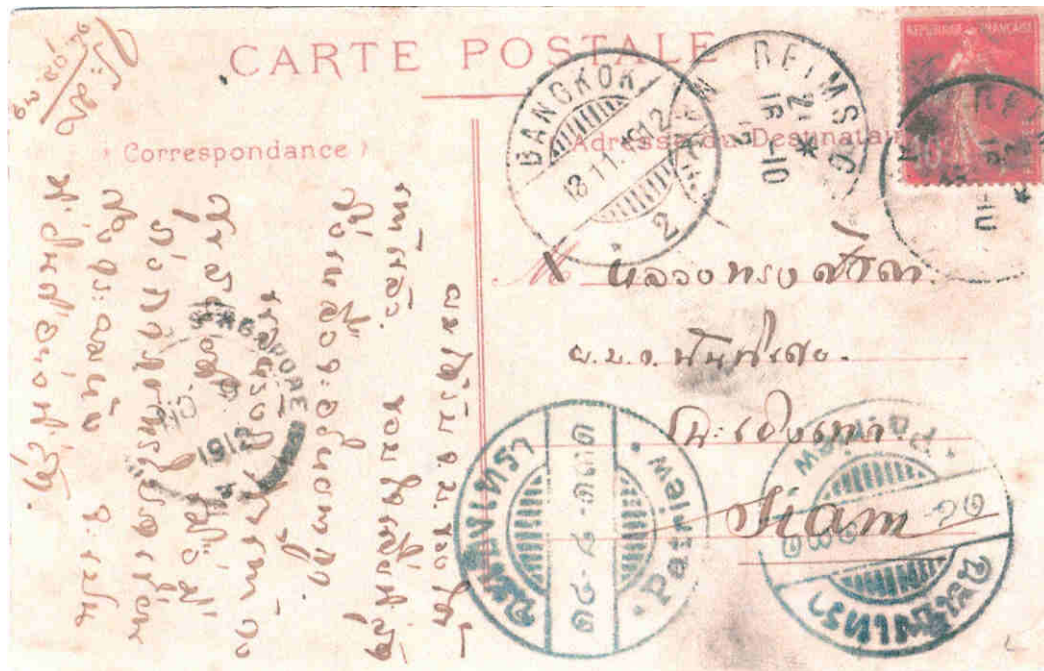


Figure 4
Postcard N° 2

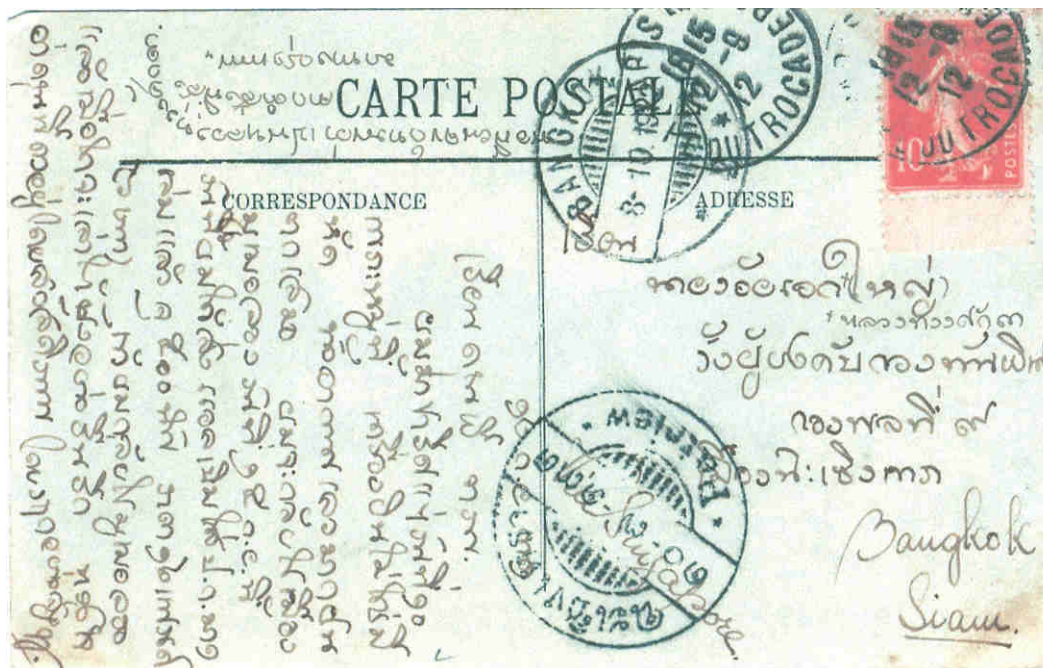


Figure 5
Postcard N° 1

Postcard N° 2 (Fig 4) was posted from Reims and dated 15 October 1912. It was sent to Petriew via Singapore 9 November 1912 and Bangkok 13 November 1912, arriving on 14 November 1912. The picture of a church seems pretty dull to me, but was no doubt a really curious feature to someone in Thailand used to Buddhist temples. Even though the two cards are sent to the same destination the two styles of writing seem different to my eyes. Unfor-

tunately I cannot translate either card, so I do not know whether they say anything of interest, nor do I know which two of the officers wrote the cards.

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Early Usage of French Postage Due Stamps in the French Sphere of Occupied Kamerun

Bob Maddocks



Figure 1
Cover Douala 2.12.16

After the French sphere of Occupied Kamerun was established on 1 April 1916, to include the previously CEF administered part of Douala and before it became a French mandated territory in 1921, its post office made provisional use of overprinted postage stamps of the neighbouring colony of Congo. This did not, however, extend to postage due stamps; it made use of those provided by France for much earlier general colonial use and which did not have a named country of domicile. Those seen used on Cameroun covers in the Occupation period were from the 1893-1908 French issue of 9 values, 5c-1F (Yvert 18-26), which were imperforate. It is not known when in 1916 these postage due stamps were first made available in Cameroun.

Marty Bratzel, on page 75 of his book *Postal Tariffs of Cameroun 1916-1959* (MPB Canada 2007), illustrated usage – albeit atypical – of the 5c value on a stampless Yabassi to Douala cover cancelled “Douala b 7.4.17” by a former German date stamp taken over from the CEF post office.

Shown here (Fig 1) is an earlier – and possibly the earli-

est so far recorded – cover postmarked “Douala 2.12.16” (also a former German date stamp and without an index letter) bearing the 10c value (Yvert 19). It was addressed to a Capt. Moyret, Commander of the French warship *Le Surcouf* then at Douala. This, too, had an unconventional franking, being a mixture of postage and postage due adhesive stamps with a total value of 41c, which leads one to surmise that the cover was souvenir inspired.

In 1916 the Cameroun domestic tariff was 10c for a letter weighing up to 20 grams. Yet this particular cover bore a single 1c Cameroun postage stamp only. Thus, *prima facie*, there was a shortfall of 9c which in turn should have given rise to a surcharge of 18c. However, there are no tax markings of any kind on the cover – yet without any logical reason a marginal block of 4 x 10c imperforate postage due stamps has also been affixed. These stamps, too, were cancelled “Douala 2.12.16”. It is assumed that the cover originated in Douala, probably by the addressee himself, but no details of the sender are given thereon.

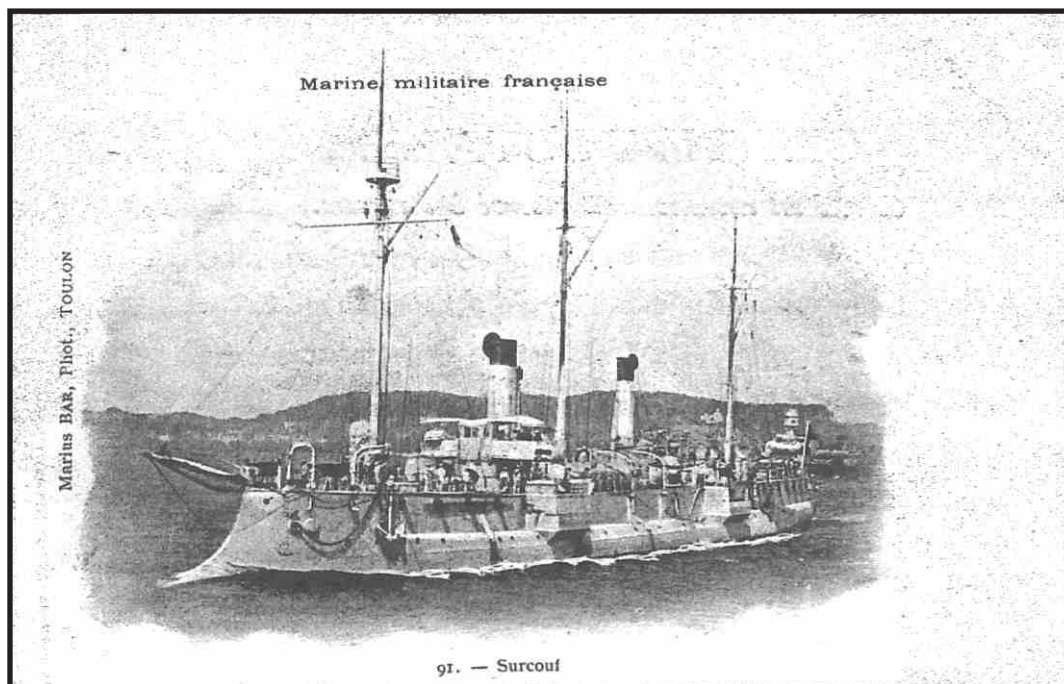


Figure 2
Viewcard "Le Surcouf"



Figure 3
Cover Duala 7.5.17

By way of added interest, the *Surcouf* (Fig 2) was still in Cameroun waters five months later, as seen from this stampless cover (Fig 3) from a crew member to France, postmarked "Duala 7.5.17".

The free frank entitlement was confirmed by the purple circular cachet "Marine Nationale / Service à la Mer" and the ship's own straight line handstamp "Croiseur 'Le Surcouf'", also struck in purple.

An Automatic Machine for the Registration of Letters in 1909

Chris Hitchen

Le récépissé que l'on reçoit est un ticket en fort carton, de 94^{m/m} × 64^{m/m}, dont les inscriptions imprimées sont disposées comme suit:

<p><i>Recto.</i></p> <p>RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE</p> <p>POSTES ET TÉLÉGRAPHES</p> <p>REÇU D'UN ENVOI RECOMMANDÉ DÉPOSÉ</p> <p>sous le N° :</p> <p>dans l'appareil automatique du Bureau 11, à PARIS, rue Ste-Anne.</p> <p>Nom et domicile du destinataire :</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Avis : Les lettres non, ou insuffisamment affranchies ne seront pas expédiées.</p>	<p><i>Verso.</i></p> <p>INSTRUCTIONS</p> <p>Pour le fonctionnement de l'Appareil</p> <p>— 0 —</p> <p>1° Introduire une pièce française en nickel de 25 centimes, dans la fente située à la partie supérieure du côté droit de l'appareil.</p> <p>2° Soulever le volet qui ferme la boîte aux lettres et déposer, dans l'ouverture, la lettre toute préparée, de manière que la suscription se trouve en-dessus, le bord inférieur tourné vers l'opérateur.</p> <p>3° Faire décrire à la manivelle un tour de bas en haut, prendre ensuite le récépissé de dépôt dans la coupe ad hoc.</p> <p>E. Conty, 54, av. des Ternes, Paris.</p>
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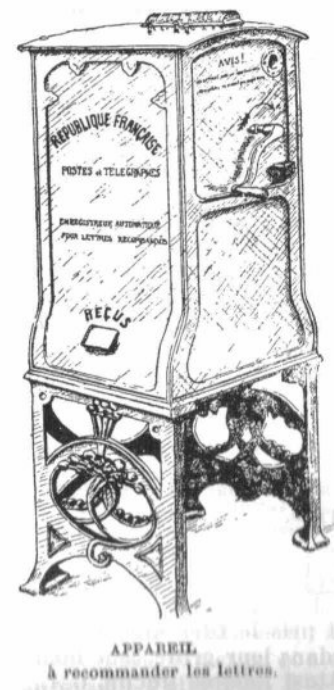


Figure 1
The instructions

Figure 2
The machine illustration

Machines to speed up operations of all sorts have been the result of many an ingenious inventor's efforts. A Monsieur Fodor from Hungary was the proud creator of a machine to effect the registration of letters automatically to save customers the need to wait in the usual counter queue to perform this operation. Not much is known about this experiment and few letters that used the machine have survived.

The only recent article is by Paul Lamar who wrote in *Les Feuilles Marcophiles* in 1983. He had available an actual cover which had been kept along with the receipt issued by the machine.

Some 20 years ago David Jennings Bramly kindly gave me a copy of an article taken from *'Le Journal des Philatélistes'* for 1909. I never expected to acquire an example of one of these letters but was fortunate to do so some years later. How much of the article in that magazine is supposition it is hard to tell; some of it is given in the form of an imaginary conversation between the inventor and the Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telegraphs Monsieur Simyan. Fortunately the technical description of the machine's workings appears in more than one source so is probably accurate.

Julien Simyan took on the junior ministerial portfolio for the Posts in October 1906 under the patronage of the Minister for Works Louis Barthou. As a stepping stone towards

a more promising future career he set about following a dynamic and technically progressive path. In 1908 a new design of post box began to appear, installed first of all in metro stations and referred to as *'les Simyanettes'*.

Unfortunately his relations with the work force left much to be desired. Lack of money for the postal service had worsened the conditions of the ordinary postmen and postal clerks and Monsieur Simyan's high handed and sometimes brutal manner exacerbated matters.

In the spring of 1909 two postal strikes broke out. Georges Clemenceau intervened personally to bring them to an end with considerable severity. Despite successfully ending the strikes his ministry fell on 20 July 1909 and with it the career of Monsieur Simyan. By the time Fodor's experimental machine was put on trial therefore his chief supporter in the Post Office had gone.

The article in *'Le Journal des Philatélistes'* suggests that Simyan hoped to reinvigorate his career with this new invention after the severe setbacks caused by the strikes and their aftermath. It also suggests that the office in rue Sainte Anne, not far from the Opéra, was selected rather than the head office in the rue du Louvre in order to placate a dissatisfied customer who used the office in the rue Sainte Anne. Whatever the reason, the machine was duly installed at Office 11 of the Paris Post on 29 July 1909.

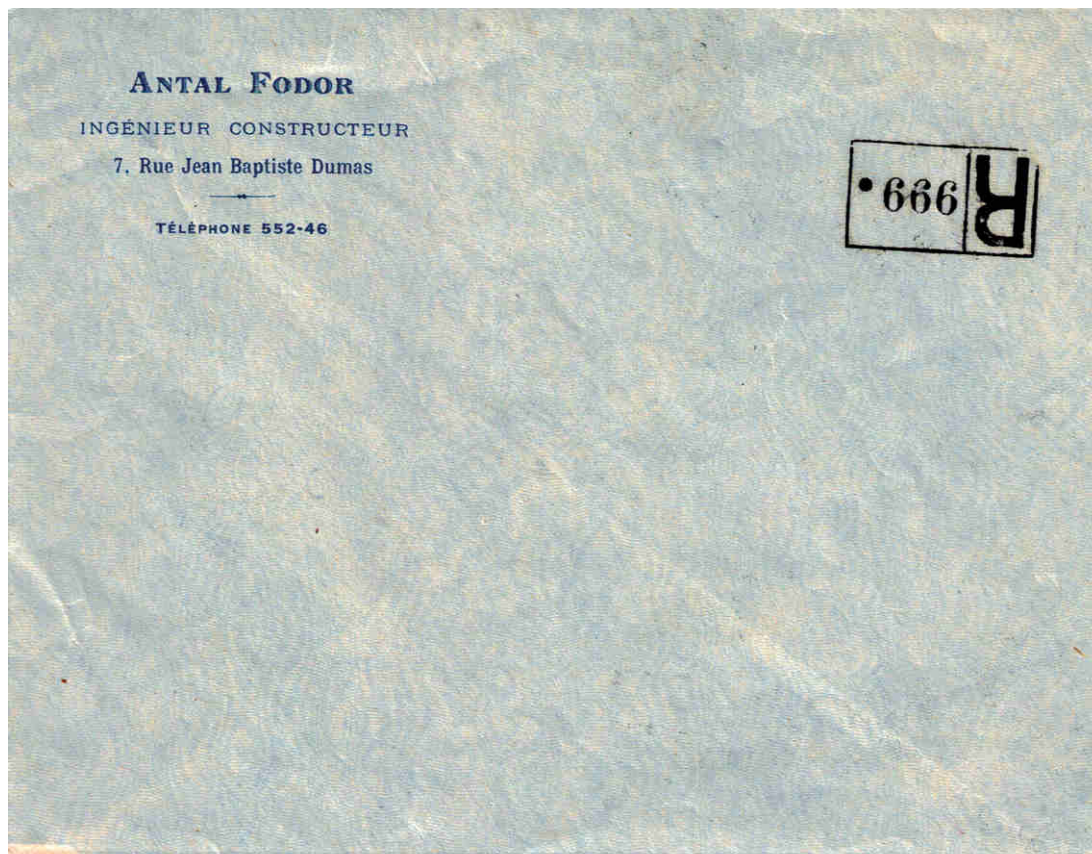


Figure 3
The mock-up

It had four slots, one to accept a nickel 25c coin, a second for the letter, a third for the issue of a registration receipt and a fourth for rejected coins. The sender first franked the letter in the usual way according to its weight and destination. After inserting a 25c coin, the cost of registration for both inland and foreign letters, a flap could be lifted and the letter inserted, taking care to place it address upwards and in the right direction following the instructions provided (Fig 1). Whilst these instructions were carefully printed on the back of the receipt one assumes that a copy was also placed on the machine itself to guide the prospective user.

A handle on the right of the machine was then turned, the letter dropped inside, and the receipt emerged as proof of posting. On that appeared the date, office or apparatus designation, and the registration number. The sender then filled in the details of the addressee on the receipt. The letter itself fell into a compartment and was stamped in the bottom left corner with a large letter R and the registration number as on the receipt. After the machine had been cleared a 25c stamp for the registration fee paid was added by the post office to each letter.

Measures to prevent fraud elicited the high admiration of the *'Le Journal des Philatélistes'*. If a coin was inserted but no letter in order to attempt to perpetrate a fraudulent claim, no receipt was delivered, but the machine retained the money. The correct functioning of the apparatus depended on proper payment which then released the handle which set in motion all subsequent operations. A magnet picked up any spurious coins with iron content, but allowed the

true 25c nickel coin to pass onward as intended. Apparently the magnet slowed down the nickel coin because any other metal went through the machine too quickly and was also rejected. Undersized coins of the wrong value were also deflected from the correct route and thrown out. Finally, should the machine run out of receipts a closed sign popped up and no more coins could be inserted. Letters incorrectly franked, or indeed not franked at all, would not be forwarded, though how they would be dealt with was not specified.

Paul Lamar in his article carefully reviewed the information provided by Messieurs Strowski and Brunel. Strowski clearly drew on Brunel's work and both show the same receipt with an impossible date of 1900. However the text is the same as that on the one examined by Paul Lamar, which would suggest a genuine receipt poorly copied or transcribed. The October receipt seen by Monsieur Lamar has the month abbreviated to OKT. Since the inventor was Hungarian and German the language used in the Austro-Hungarian Empire it simply means that the date slugs were not updated for use in France.

The 1909 article confirms that the month was in German and the number 1 after the date the number allocated to the apparatus. Subsequent machines were intended to have the number of the post office itself at that point. Monsieur Lamar felt that the drawing of the machine must have been done from a sketch of the actual apparatus. Such a precise sketch could not be purely a product of an artists' imagination (Fig 2). It first appeared in Brunel's book and nothing of its origin is known.



Figure 4
The cover

Three letters are now recorded and the period of use began on 29 July 1909 and continued until at least October. Nothing seems to be known about its withdrawal but it does not seem likely that it lasted much beyond October 1909. There are a number of unused envelopes around which

appear to be a demonstration of how such letters would appear. I do not know when they were produced or what their status is, but the example here has been done the wrong way round with the R etiquette at top right instead of bottom left (Fig 3).

Letters recorded:

Date	Franking	Destination	Registration number	Source of information
3 August 1909	25c + 25c	Belgium	R190	Author's collection (Fig 4)
16 August 1909	25c + 25c	Switzerland	R792	Sinais Auction 58, June 2005
2 October 1909	10c + 25c	Amiens	R375	Article by Paul Lamar

The number on the October cover does not fit with the other two. On the receipts seen there seems to be no space for a fourth digit for the registration number so it may simply have repeated on reaching 999.

Bibliography

'Le Journal des Philatélistes' for 1909

Le Patrimoine de la Poste, Flohic Editions, 1996, page 231 outlines the career of Julien Simyan

Les Feuilles Marcophiles 235, 1983, article by Paul Lamar pages 11-15

Les Estampilles Postales au XX^e siècle, S Strowski, 1933, pages 126-127

La Poste à Paris, Georges Brunel, 1920, pages 378-379

The last is a book to be used with caution; it has many fascinating snippets but gives no sources. Much has been found incorrect with subsequent research. Cross check with other sources for accuracy.

Modern Post Offices in Cameroon

Marc Parren



Figure 1
(above and left)

'Gruss aus Kribi'
viewcard from
the botanist Zenker
franked with
a 10Pf stamp
addressed to
the botanist J. Dörfler
in Vienna
posted in Kribi on
16 April 1900

In March 2008 I paid a visit to Cameroon and took the opportunity to visit two post offices in the Kribi area, South Province, which had their postal facilities established already during German days. It concerns (1) Bipindi some 65km east of Kribi, where the famous German botanist Zenker resided in the German colonial days at Bipindihof along the Lokoundjé river, and (2) Campo some 90km south of Kribi at the mouth of the Ntem river on the border with Equatorial Guinea. Postmarks of both post offices are notoriously difficult to find and until this very day both towns can only be reached by dirt road from Kribi.

Both postal establishments were opened on 1 June 1906 (Anon. 1999). In the mid-1990s I used to live in Kribi and visited both Bipindi and Campo. I once posted a self-addressed cover at the Bipindi post office to Kribi which I never received, while the Campo post office was not visited at the time.

Mail from German Bipindihof as well as Campo was forwarded to Kribi before their own post offices were opened in June 1906. I possess a 'Gruss aus Kribi' viewcard (Fig 1) from Zenker franked with a 10Pf stamp, addressed to the botanist J Dörfler in Vienna and posted in Kribi on 16 April 1900, which reached Vienna on 29 May of that same year. At the front Zenker signs off with his name and address as Bipindihof near Kribi.

Another item concerns a 5Pf postal stationery card (Fig 2) written by Max Kerber, customs officer in Campo on 2 February 1906. From there the correspondence would have been taken by runner to Kribi, as at the time there was only a footpath along the beach and no road connecting Campo with Kribi, and over there cancelled two days later. This procedure was also confirmed by the sender since he informs the addressee of his new address as Campo via Kribi.



Figure 2
A 5Pf postal stationery card cancelled Kribi 4 February 1906
and written by Max Kerber, customs officer in Campo on 2 February

Bipindihof postal establishment was most likely created because of the residence of the botanist Zenker at the time. Bipindi is more of a hamlet hardly having a regional function, unlike Lolodorf some 40km eastwards along the same road from Kribi. This is also reflected by the fact that, after the Allied occupation of Kamerun until Independence in 1960, Bratzel *et al* (1990) report that an auxiliary office was in existence but most likely without a date stamp. When we passed through Bipindi during a late afternoon in March 2008 we saw the existence of a new post office building (Fig 3) while the former tiny one was in ruins (Fig 4). Most unfortunately, we could not pay a visit since we wanted to reach Kribi before darkness fell. The only postmark known for Bipindi so far dates back to 1978 (Fig 5); it is in the possession of Michael Wright and concerns a Type E with a 27mm diameter single ring (Bratzel *et al*, 1990).



Figure 5
Bipindi Type E



Figure 3
Bipindi post office March 2008



Figure 4
Former Bipindi post office building in ruins



Figure 6
Campo post office March 2008



Figure 7
The postmaster of Campo cancelling the registration slip with advice of receipt
with the new 30mm single ring self-inking handstamp



Figure 8

Campo post office 30mm single ring self-inking handstamp on a registered cover with advice of receipt (AR) of 14 March 2008. Transit postmarks of Kribi (28 MR), Douala CTT (08 AP) and Accra (10 AP) on the reverse. Air transport most likely by Virgin Nigeria on 9 April, Douala-Accra via Lagos.

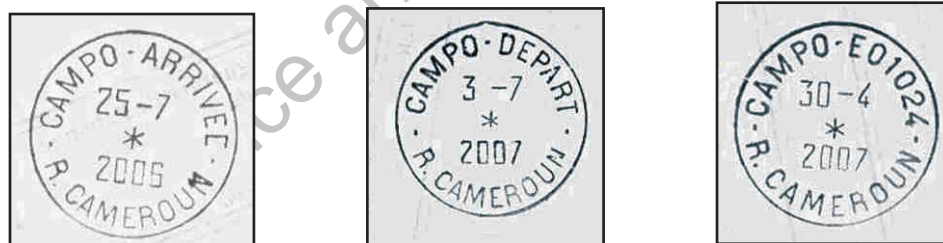


Figure 9

Postmarks used at Campo post office over the last couple of years

The next day we reached the Campo post office during a rainy afternoon while the door was locked and nobody was around (Fig 6). However, an officer in a government office next door had seen us knocking on several doors and warned the postmaster Mr. Christian Elemo Abega by mobile phone that he had customers waiting for him. The postmaster, who has been in charge of this small post office since 1995, proved to be very helpful (Fig 7). Since we had a registered letter to post with advice of receipt we had time to discuss matters.

The first thing we noticed was a new type of circular postmark in use, not reported before from Cameroon. It concerns a 30mm single ring self-inking handstamp with the

town name at the top between two dots, and 'CAMPOST – CAMEROUN' at the bottom introduced nationwide in late 2007 (Fig 8). After checking this new handstamp more closely it proved to be named 'Shiny' and could indicate the manufacturer.

The postmaster was also kind enough to show us all former handstamps available and provided us with their prints on a sheet. There were three 27 mm single ring metal handstamps available reading 'R. CAMEROUN' at the bottom, while at the top either 'CAMPO • ARRIVEE', 'CAMPO • DEPART' or 'CAMPO • E01024' were seen, while it was explained that the latter was only used for *mandat* (money transfer) covers (Fig 9).

Figure 10
(left)

Domestic cover
cancelled Campo
3 April 1985
with the 31mm
single ring
postmark
in use since
Independence

Figure 11
(below)

Kribi – Campo mail
dispatch notice
of 12 March 2008
accompanying
a mail bag

The author also possesses a domestic cover from Campo posted in 1985 (Fig 10) which at the time still received the 31mm single ring postmark with 'CAMEROUN' at the bottom in use since Independence in 1960 (see Bratzel *et al*, 1990). To give you an idea of the scarcity of finding a cover from Campo, the postmaster was kind enough to show us a mail dispatch notice for 12 March 2008 in which one postal bag was dispatched from Kribi to Campo (Fig 11). The postmaster received that day 10 foreign covers, 76 domestic covers, one official cover and two registered covers, while not a single letter was posted at Campo to another destination for the return trip to Kribi. Most of the mail might be destined for the garrison based at this border town. Some of the Cameroonian post offices hardly handle any mail, even less destined for abroad, which might explain why collectors hardly find covers or used stamps with these village postmarks.

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Bratzel, M P, Kraja, H, Maddocks, R J — *Les oblitérations du Cameroun 1914–1960*. Bratzel, Windsor, Canada (1990), 83 pp.

N° 115.PM POSTES ET TELECOMMUNICATIONS DU CAMEROUN
POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF CAMEROON

BULLETIN NOMINATIF DES DEPECES
MAIL DESPATCH NOTICE

Livrées par - Delivered by..... *Kribi*

Au - To..... *T. J. ONDOA*

Le - On..... *12 MAR 2008*

Timbre à date
Date Stamp

ORIGINE - ORIGIN	DESTINATION	NOMBRE DE SACS NUMBER OF BAGS	
		Sacs à étiquette rouge Bags with red Label	Autres sacs Other bags
<i>Kribi</i>	<i>Campo</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>

Campo
14 MAR 2008
CAMPOST-CAMEROUN

A reporter - C/FWD.....

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Booklet Publicity Tabs

Several members have responded to John Mayne's appeal in Journal 250 of December 2008 (page 142) for further information about the catalogue listing of the 50c *Paix* stamp with its attached publicity tab, and as each one has added his own slant to the details offered we have decided to print them all in chronological order of receipt. — Editor

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With regard to John Mayne's enquiry on "Booklet Publicity Tabs", the Dallay catalogue, now in 2009 renamed Maury following its merger with Cérès, probably intends to be comprehensive but has missed our member's particular example. This catalogue makes an excellent presentation of these 'Publicitimbres', with its illustrations in colour, but

while listing the tabs that name the two companies, it fails to list and illustrate the "second" version of the same tabs, ie those that only publicise generically the vehicles of Bernard Moteurs (tab above the stamp) and those for Conord (tab below the stamp) without the company name.

The definitive catalogue is "*Catalogue des Publicitimbres (Pubs) des carnets de France et des Colonies françaises*," by Dr J Braun and published in 1958 by the Association des Collectionneurs de Carnets et Publicitimbres. This catalogue lists John Mayne's stamp, on page 77, as its n° 717, under Bernard Moteurs of Suresnes (Seine). Dr Braun suggests that it only exists on Type II of the 50 centime *Type Paix*.

I have not yet had the opportunity to check whether other "tabs" are missing from the Maury catalogue.

Michael Meadowcroft

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It is not often that I have an answer for any of the questions raised in your excellent journal but for a change I think I can be of some help with respect to John Mayne's booklet publicity tabs problem.

Dealing only with the *Paix* booklets, Dallay appears to list all of the advertisers, but only a limited sampling of the relevant tabs, many of which contain no mention of the name of the advertiser.

Mr Mayne's example is from advertisements for Bernard

Moteurs, positions 2 or 4 (actually 2) in Dallay booklet n°s 186, 187, 188 & 189, all of which are of *Paix* 50c Type II.

Although Bernard ads are found only in Type II booklets, those booklets do contain a couple of isolated Type I Bernard Moteurs clichés (but not in positions 2 or 4).

I have found the Dr. J Braun '*Catalogue des Publicitimbres (Pubs) des Carnets de France et des Colonies Françaises*', published in 1959, to be a most useful reference for the study of this material.

Bob Heasman

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In answer to the question by John Mayne on booklet publicity tabs — the stamp in question is advertising BERNARD MOTEURS. It is listed in Yvert 2006, n° 283 *pub* 27. It comes from the series of booklets n°s 283 - C25 to

C29. They were only issued as type IIA. However, in booklet C29 one stamp per pane is type I and considerably more valuable. To distinguish type I from type IIA it is only necessary to look at the letter c next to the value.

John Allison

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I can throw some light on John Mayne's request for information concerning his cover to Dakar with a copy of 50c Red *Paix* with *bande publicitaire* (pub).

This particular item is one of two "pubs" issued in *carnets* of 20 stamps by Bernard Moteurs, manufacturers of tractors and agricultural machinery based in Suresnes (twinned with Hackney) in the western suburbs of Paris. The other "pub" reads:

**BERNARD-MOTEURS
SURESNES (Seine)**

The one on John's letter is 50c *Paix* Type IIA and is listed by Yvert as n° 283 *Pub* 27 and by Dallay as n° 201. The two *pubs* are only found in position above the stamp (*pubs supérieures*). They are catalogued by Yvert used 1.5€; on cover 8€ and by Dallay used 4€; on cover 11€.

These "pubs" emanate from *carnets* Yvert ref 283 - C25, C26, C27, C28, C29, C30. They share the *carnets* with various other advertisers: Art Vivant, Blédine, Calvados, Fauroy, Risban & DU. There is an anomaly only found in *carnets* ref 283 - C27 and C29 where one stamp with the above "pub" in position 1 or 5 is of Type I — should John have been lucky enough to have found this on his cover it is catalogued by Yvert at 250€!

With reference to John's other point concerning the catalogue listing of "pubs", Dallay list these every year under the heading "*bandes publicitaires*". As far as I am aware the only time that Yvert has ever listed these in their

Timbres de France Tome 1 catalogue was in 2006 under the heading "*publicitimbres*". It is interesting to note that the arrival of the Dallay catalogue a few years back obviously touched a nerve with Yvert who added some extra headings to their catalogue including their "pubs" listing in 2006 (which for some inexplicable reason has not appeared since).

John asks if Dallay list all known "pubs". Well, as far as I know, both they and Yvert do, however they only list the advertiser by name and illustrate only one type for reference. They also indicate how many different types there are, which can range from one to ten. You need to be something of a detective to work out to which advertiser some relate as the advertisements tend to read across a number of stamps in the booklet, not all showing the advertiser's name! The catalogues also list whether they are found above or below the stamp ("*pubs*" *supérieures* or *inférieures*). The only way to find the position of each "pub" in the *carnet* is to refer to the original booklets or the excellent catalogue of *carnets* issued by Yvert.

"Pubs" make a most fascinating collection as it is possible to reconstruct the various *carnets* of the period. However it is not easy as many "pubs" are very elusive! Until the recent catalogue listings, it was generally possible to pick these up in used condition for about 50p each, but now if you buy them from a dealer they are much more reflective of their catalogue value which can be quite daunting in a number of instances!

Richard Broadhurst

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The tab he is referring to can be found in the following 50c Peace Type IIA booklets, Dallay 2006/07 n°s 186, 187, 188 & 189 as part of the Bernard Moteurs publicity and shown in the catalogue under the generic name "BERNARD".

The firm of Bernard sold motorised small agricultural items of equipment / implements, small motors, spare parts etc. The firm is still in business at Gretz-Armainvillers, France.

John Lucaci

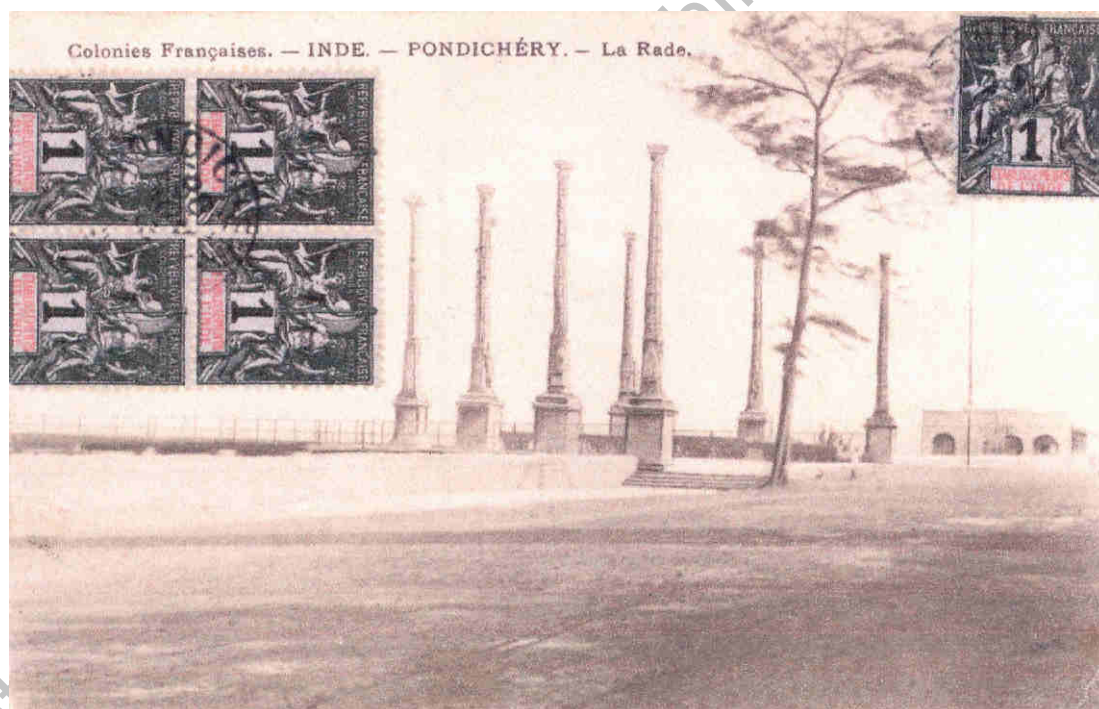
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The 'pub' depicted on John's cover is one of a pair commissioned in 1933 and 1934 by Bernard Moteurs and is listed by Dr J Braun as N° 717 in his '*Catalogue des Publicitimbres (pubs) des Carnets de France et des Colonies Françaises*' published in 1958 and as N° 283 *Pub* 27 in the 2006 edition of the Yvert & Tellier catalogue. The second 'pub' of the pair is inscribed 'BERNARD-MOTEURS' / SURESNES (Seine)' and is listed as N° 716 in Braun. In Yvert it is not given a separate catalogue number but can be found with the reference N° 283 *Pub* 27a where it illustrates a booklet compilation variety.

Using the Braun numbers, the two 'pubs' were printed above the first five stamps of the booklet in a 716-717-716-717-716 sequence. They are found in Type IIA printings of the 50c *Paix* but in some booklets N° 716 is found attached to isolated Type I stamps in positions one and five.

Mick Bister



The second card, dated 21 November 1908, which was franked at 5c for letters with less than five words in the text, was taxed at 10c.

This was franked at 5c, therefore might be treated as printed matter — although the words CARTE POSTALE were not crossed out. There is text written on the card but in 1906 within the international regime only the date, signature, profession and address were allowed at the

printed matter rate. Additionally, the five word postcard tolerance was only authorised within France and between French Colonies.

At this date 1908, under UPU rules, even without text the item was considered as a postcard and therefore it should have been franked at the 10c rate.

Therefore being franked at 5c it was taxed at double the deficiency = 10c.

Ron Wood

Postal Aberrations



Figure 1
Front and reverse of cover

Three postal aberrations. Perhaps one or more of our readers can give some explanations.

The first aberration is shown in [Figure 1](#), which shows a cover I sent from Sidcup to Patrick Codron at Vence on what I can vouch to be 14 December 2006, even if the Royal Mail tried to keep everything secret with one of its usual illegible cancellations, though this time not completely succeeding in that '14' can be seen stamped on Santa's face.

The Royal Mail decided to give the letter a Christmas treat by sending it off on holiday to some destination other than Vence. It did not, however, plump for the obvious choice of Venice but sent it to a place seemingly spelt CI??SUL, where it was given a greeting cancellation on arrival in the sorting office on 21 December.

With its treat over, the letter was despatched to Monsieur Codron, who received it on 29 December.

Monsieur Codron thought it must have visited Brazil or Portugal (because of the style of postmark?), but the only CI??SUL I can find in the atlases is the small town of CIRESUL in Romania and that does not seem to be the most likely of places for it to have been sent to for its Christmas treat.

Perhaps someone can make out the name of the place where it had its holiday and explain why the Royal Mail chose that place.

It so happened that on the same day that I sent my letter to Monsieur Codron I sent another to Bertrand Sinais in Paris, and this too must have been sent to some remote destination for a Christmas break, but this time, unfortunately, only to find itself murdered by hostile natives, for it disappeared without trace. Therefore all I have to illustrate this aberration is nothing at all.

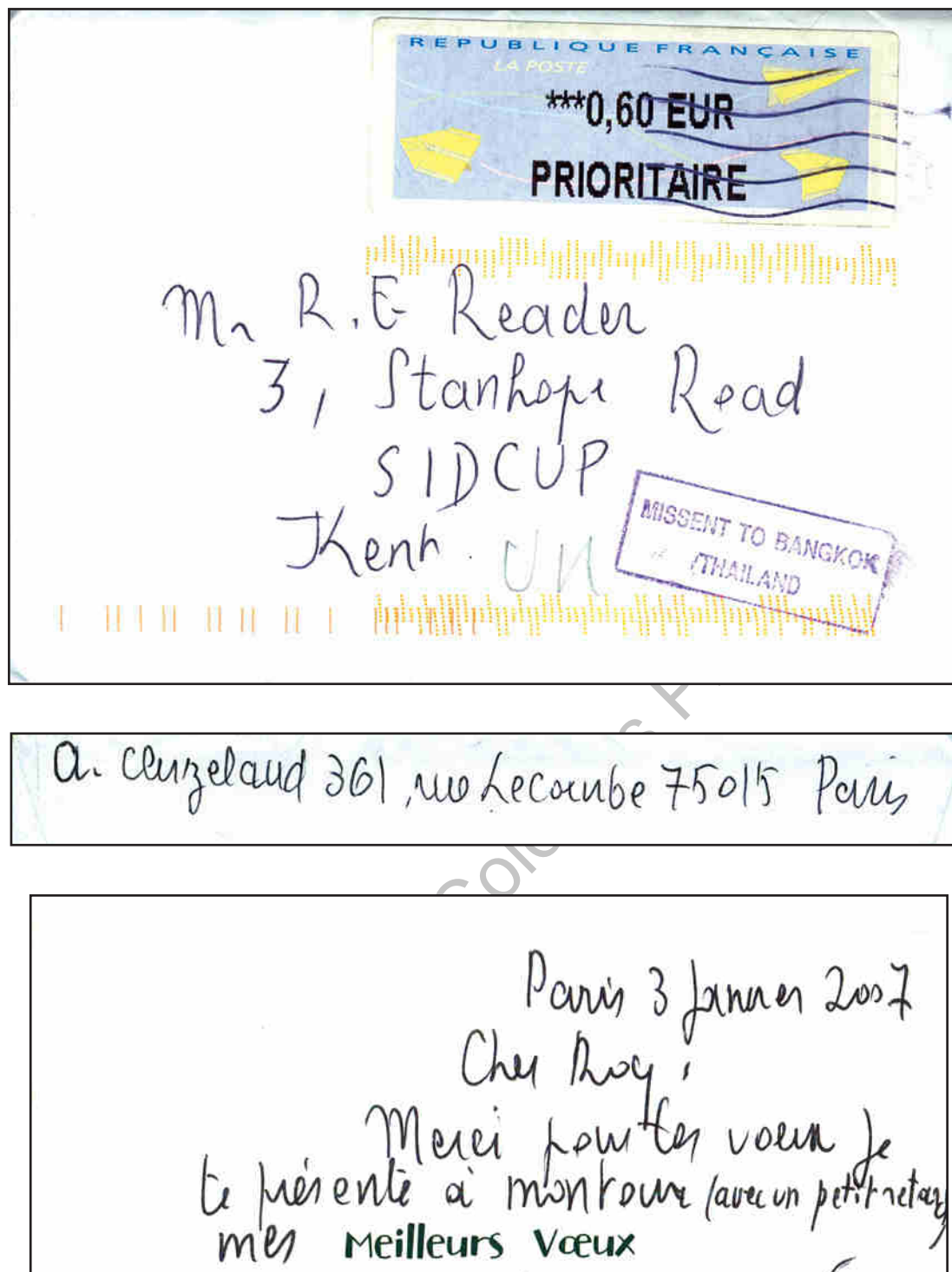


Figure 2
Front of cover, sender's address on reverse and beginning of inside message

The third aberration concerns the French Post Office and is shown in **Figure 2**. It is a New Year card sent to me from Paris on 3 January 2007. The French Post Office, quite exceptionally, failed to cancel it properly in its excitement at the idea of sending it on a New Year holiday to the exotic destination of... Thailand! The Bangkok Post Office managed to do what everyone else had failed to do so far

and give it a clear complete postmark, this to indicate its thoughts about it all. It may well have been the Bangkok Post Office that pencilled 'UK' on the cover to indicate it was time for the letter to be sent to its original destination. I eventually received my card on 30 January. Perhaps someone can see what must have inspired the French Post Office to chose Thailand as a holiday destination for my card.

Roy Reader

WWII Airmail Rates from French Equatorial Africa

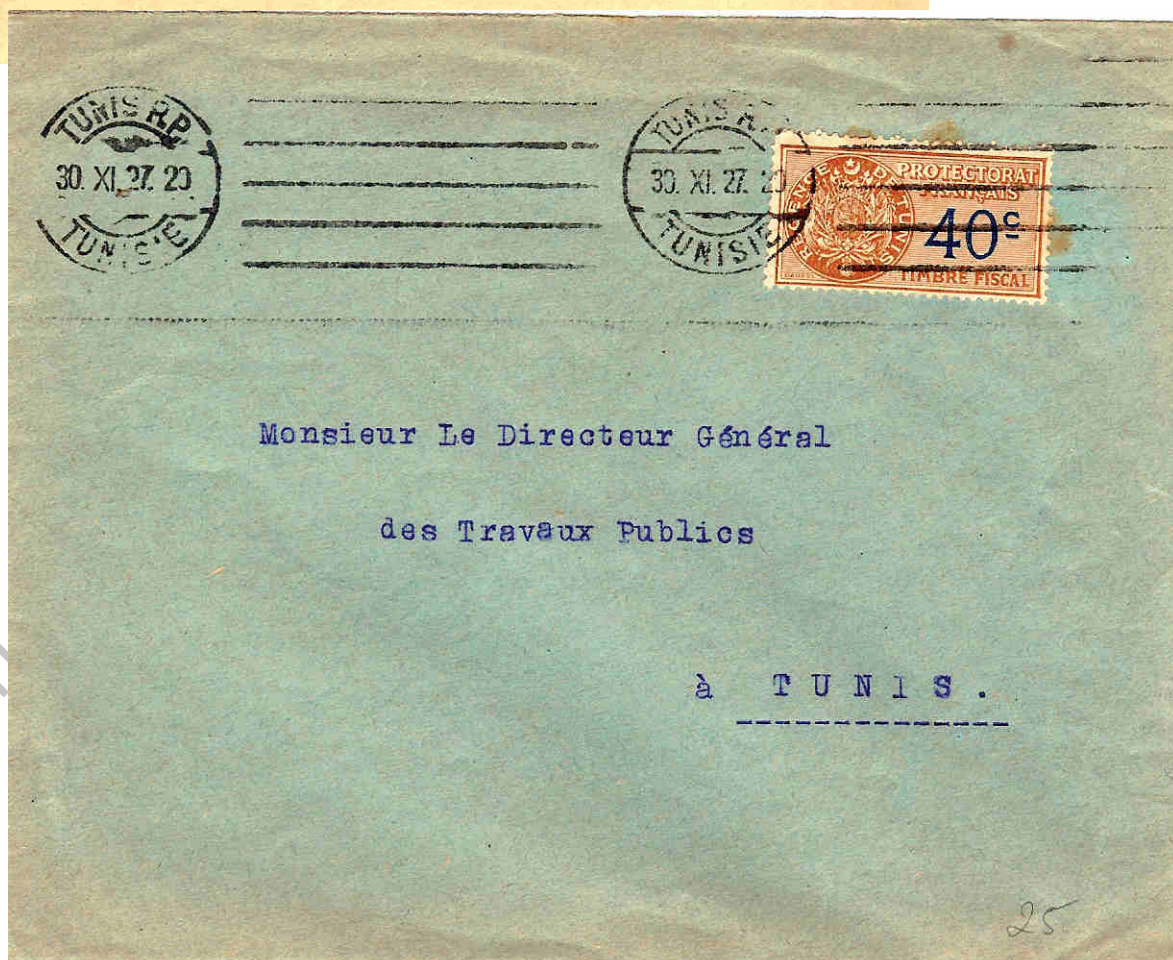
An Australian member of the Belgian Study Circle set us a query (published in Journal 250, page 142) about an August 1942 letter from Port-Gentil in AEF to Perpignan in Vichy France franked with stamps to the value of 13F, and asked whether any of our members could confirm that this was a valid wartime rate or could point him in the direction of relevant information. For technical reasons (the failure

of the memory stick in my brain to engage properly) the accompanying illustrations were not published, and I have therefore decided to remedy that omission here in the hope that sight of the cover referred to will help to produce an answer. The correspondent's full contact details were given in the last Journal, but I will pass on to him any information sent to me. — Editor.



Michael Barden

Fiscal Stamps used for Postage



These two local covers from Gabès (September 1901) and Tunis (November 1927) respectively use revenue stamps

as postage. There is no sign of postage due on the reverse. Any comments on this practice would be welcome.

Johan Delbeke



This Ivorian cover of 1956 has a fiscal stamp used for postage. A postage due marking (T in triangle) of Côte d'Ivoire

seems to have been crossed out in the USA. I wonder whether other examples of fiscals as postage have been seen.

Marc Parren

Cameroun Sterling Stamp Appeal

Since 2001 a group of dedicated Cameroun stamp collectors has worked to plate a series of Cameroun stamps (Scott 343-351, C38-40) released on 1 October 1961. Each stamp is overprinted REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE, two bars obliterating the old value, and a new value added in sterling currency. The stamps were intended for use in the former Southern Cameroons until the conversion from British currency to the CFA franc was complete.

In total, 19 face-different stamps were released, from ½d to £1. Since each overprint plate was prepared from loose type, the characteristics of the type, primarily the obliterating bars, allow the position of each stamp in each sheet to be plated. To date, nine of the stamps have been fully plated and the findings published as a series of articles in *Cameo*, the journal of the West Africa Study Circle. The goal is to complete the reconstruction of sheets for the remaining ten stamps, and to characterize each position in each sheet, by the end of 2010.

To complete this landmark study, we are appealing to collectors for the loan or sale of multiples – blocks of four or larger and preferably with marginal selvage – of the following stamps:

- ½d on 1 franc – the variety with the d aligned with the end of FEDERALE.
- 4d on 15 francs – two overprint plates of 50 positions

each were prepared.

- All three varieties of the 5/- and the 10/- stamps and both varieties of the £1 stamp. The 5/- and 10/- varieties differ in the size of the numerals and the placement of the numerals in relation to the obliterating bars. The £1 varieties differ in the length of REPUBLIQUE and FEDERALE.

Photocopies and even electronic scans are not sufficient to conduct the study. The stamps must be examined first-hand under 30x magnification.

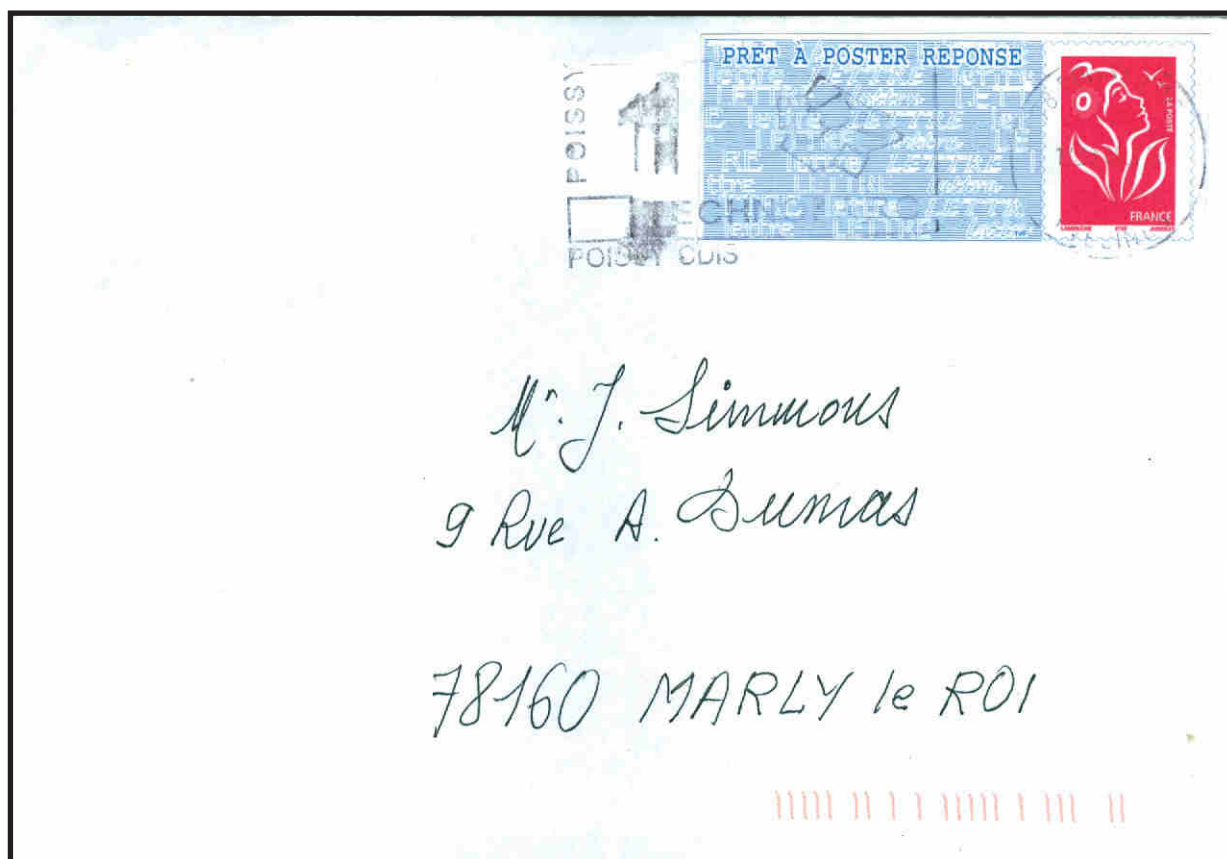
Our priority is for larger multiples of the 4d stamps. Two overprint plates of 50 positions each were prepared, necessitating more than the anticipated number of stamps in order to complete the characterization of both plates.

All expenses, including postage, will be reimbursed. If desired, contributors will be acknowledged in articles arising from this study.

For further details, please contact Dr **Martin Bratzel** at marty_bratzel@yahoo.ca or at 1233 Virginia Avenue, Windsor, Ontario N8S 2Z1 Canada.

Member: American Philatelic Society, West Africa Study Circle, France & Colonies Philatelic Society (USA), Germany Philatelic Society (USA).

When is a Stamp not a Stamp?



Years ago I was informed that the use of “vignettes”, cut from postal stationery items, as “stamps” on ordinary envelopes was not only frowned upon by the French Post Office, but was in fact illegal.

There was, I understood, a law to that effect, but which was only rarely, if ever, applied. Hence most of such items, as the one illustrated here, arrive at their destination without mishap.

Nevertheless, it could prove to be a somewhat risky and expensive business, as reported last year in (if I remember correctly, though I can no longer find the reference!) an issue of *Timbres Magazine*.

A still youthful OAP, a lady of some 71 years, from Angers cut out the stamp from a *Prêt-à-Poster* and used it on another envelope.

The missive was returned to sender, accompanied by an official warning:

“... The offender is liable to a term of imprisonment of up to 5 years and a fine of up to 76,244.50€...”

While there can be little doubt of the pensioner’s guilt, the potential punishment for the crime still seems out of proportion with the reasonable misuse of what is, in appearance at least, an ordinary postage stamp.

John Simmons

Two Bogus Tunisian Stamps



These two stamps of Tunisia are recently fabricated fantasies. Since they are so easy to make, more varieties probably exist.

They should not be confused with the 1926 “*porteuse d’eau*” stamp overprinted SOLIDARITE, which was overprinted by the proper authorities

Johan Delbeke

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

SCOTTISH GROUP MEETING OF 22 NOVEMBER 2008

Jim Moffat: French Antilles

Jim Moffat gave the second display of the season, his subject being "French Antilles".

He began by giving a brief historical background before starting the afternoon with the stamps and other items of Guadeloupe. First came an 1855 letter carried by a British steamer, the 1891 overprints with all 4 spelling varieties, the notorious 1903 surcharges and overprints, a 1947 first flight cover, a signed Decaris proof and a postcard to the UK via St Martin.

Continuing with Martinique, Jim showed an 1882 formula card, an 1892 range of postal stationery, and postcards of St Pierre before and after the eruption of Mt Pelé.

Moving on to French Guyana, we saw an 1899 postal stationery card referring to '*l'affaire Dreyfus*,' Inini overprints and 1937 miniature sheet, the 1943 "*France Libre*" airmail issue (withdrawn after one day), and covers from the European Space Centre, Kourou.

For all 3 colonies Jim displayed most of the stamp issues as well as covers and postmarks, producing a very enjoyable afternoon.

Our next meeting will be on 27 March 2009 with Peter Brand showing Accountancy & Entry Marks and David Hogarth showing French Internment Camps in World War II.

MP

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 26 NOVEMBER 2008

Alan Barrett: Maritime Mail and French Cinderella Material

The first half of Alan's display covered Cinderella items, mainly "stamps" intended for other uses than postage. Thus we saw examples of parcel post and railway stamps, including the sleeping car tax issue and narrow varieties with perforation slips. The more interesting designs were issued during the Second World War, and the last issue of such stamps was in 1960. Paris had its own parcel stamps that were issued *tête-bêche*.

The PTT produced stamps to raise funds for its employees suffering as a result of the War ("*pour les victimes de la guerre*"). Telephone stamps covered the cost of calls made from kiosks in the post offices, and we learned about changing methods of using these.

Alan showed not only the recognised stamps, but also a wide variety of essays with unadopted designs (eg postal stationery essays of 1865) and colour trials (such as that of the stamp centenary issue). Examples of printers' waste and modern colour trials were swiftly followed by essays for the Prince Imperial issue and for the Anglo-French issue bearing portraits of both the British King and the French President.

We moved on to instructional stamps or *timbres fictifs* bearing the *annulé* and *spécimen* overprints, testing machine stamps, provisional issues, 2 covers from 1973 boycott mail, and the Amiens *Chambre de Commerce* strike post. Etiquettes from various air shows followed, including covers issued for the one on the Île d'Yeu even though the 1939 Show had been cancelled.

This part of the display ended with a wide variety of "*timbres de guerre*" produced by the petty crook Delandre, who

suggested FM stamps based on his own designs and issued them himself for all possible regiments, ships, airforce units and even other countries.

The second half of the display consisted mainly of covers, and dealt with three distinct aspects of maritime mail — Mediterranean transport, North Atlantic and other ocean-going liners and *Boîtes Mobiles*. The first of these categories involved passing letters personally to ships' captains or agents, from 1690 onwards. The government set up the Service Maritime des Messageries Nationales, which was sold and renamed the Messageries Impériales, finally in 1871 becoming the Messageries Maritimes (a name that still exists). Early examples had the name of the ship in the postmark, and later there was a postmark for each route (maps of routes were shown).

The opening of the Suez Canal led to a direct route through to the Far East, and postcards of ships such as Indian Ocean *paquebots* were shown. Alan did indicate that there was no genuine catapult mail from the *Île de France*, that the *Normandie* was a cruise liner, and that the *France* was sold and became the *Norway*.

We finally saw examples of cross-Channel mail with the MB mark for letters posted in mobile boxes on board or on the quayside, the marks usually being applied in Southampton or London, and some Guernsey and Jersey marks.

The vote of thanks was given by Maurice Tyler.

Members present: Len Barnes, Mick Bister, Chris Hitchen, Bill Mitchell, John Parmenter, Derek Richardson, John Thorpe, Maurice Tyler.

MST

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 29 NOVEMBER 2008

Members' Choice

Members present: G E Barker, S Ellis, A Goude, B Lucas, P Maybury, J Morton, A Shepherd.

Apologies: J W Cowell, C Graham, J. Cowell, S Holder, M Meadowcroft, P Rooke, J Smith, P Stockton, P Watkins.

On behalf of the group the convenor congratulated **John Morton** on his award of a silver-gilt medal for a postal history display at the North West Federation Convention. John then presented two displays: (1) WWII North African censored mail, with examples from Algeria to Norway, Indo-China, Hong Kong and South Africa sent during both Vichy and Free French periods; (2) transatlantic letters sent via the clipper routes.

Steve Ellis then showed more of his ever increasing Red Cross collections, firstly a correspondence from a military chaplain on board the CGT converted hospital ship *SS France* plying between Toulon and Algiers, and secondly a study of the Fabre Line featuring the *SS Canada* before and after conversion to a hospital ship.

George Barker moved into cultural mode with a "light-weight" display of the first 18 issues of Art Stamps, mint and on cover – commencing in 1961 when they reflected current postal rates until subsequently becoming compli-

mentary values.

Bernard Lucas produced two short displays of revenue stamps, covering (1) the *Petite Vitesse* (70c) and the *Grande Vitesse* (35c) *taxe* on railway freight bills used between 1864 and 1930 (they are most unusual and almost nothing is known about them) and (2) *Taxe sur les Paiements*, a 2% levy, with stamps and documents.

Peter Maybury followed with 36 sheets of maritime mail between France and Italy, 1834-1900, including a newly acquired example of the very scarce entry mark Da Ajaccio VIA DI MARE, which was used only on mail from Corsica to Sardinia.

Tony Shepherd's new acquisitions of French Guiana created much interest, with stamps and covers including a 10c printed matter rate internally used wrapper, the Red Cross locally overprinted first issue and a very nice T.A.G. letter (internal air service).

Alan Goude had brought his "fun collection" of colony to colony mail and showed letters from St Pierre et Miquelon to St Pierre Martinique; Gabon to SPM; Gabon to Algeria (a colony?); a 1934 airmail French Guiana to Mauritania; Cochinchina to Niger and many more items of interest.

JPM

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 10 JANUARY 2009

Members' Displays: Mail by Air, Rail, Road or Sea

The Organiser welcomed nineteen members and guests to the first meeting of the New Year and he said that they were delighted to see Yvonne Larg after a long illness. Colin also mentioned that we had a prospective new member, Graham Booth, whose interests were the Cayman Islands, Transatlantic Mail and now France Moveable Boxes between the UK and France.

The following members gave displays on the chosen theme:

Michael Annells: Airmails of France;

John Hammonds: The Blériot Flight Anniversary;

Roy Ferguson: Postcards of France etc depicting air/rail postmarks;

Bob Larg: Covers and postcards of France 1939-46 covering air, rail & sea;

Yvonne Larg: Monaco covers;

Bill Mitchell: AOF maritime mail;

Ian Booth: Niger postmarks with rail and road links;

George Nash: WWII zone cards from and to occupied and non-occupied France;

Michael Berry: Siege of Paris balloon mail;

Graham Booth: Franco-USA transatlantic mail pre-1870 to 1880;

John Yeomans: French Equatorial Africa air routes.

The vote of thanks was given by Colin Spong

Members present: Michael Annells, Michael Berry, Ian Booth, Colin Clarkson, Roy Ferguson, John Hammonds, Bob & Yvonne Larg, Bill Mitchell, George Nash, Bob Small, Colin Spong, John Thorpe, John Yeomans.

Guests: Graham Booth, Christine Annells, Kath Nash and Jean Hammonds & Pat Spong [who looked after the refreshments].

The next meeting will be on Saturday 4 April: The Marieanne de Dulac Issue by Ray Downing.

CWS

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 21 JANUARY 2009

Chris Hitchen: Paris in World War II

Chris started his display by reminding us that on 13 June 1940 the Germans were met with the news that Paris was an open city, and thus began the four years of occupation. He had only a few items from the early period before the occupation, but France had many men under arms who were entitled to military franchise, and we were led through the Phoney War to the eventual *Débâcle* with a couple of POW cards from Germans captured by the French, some slogan postmarks reflecting what was happening at the time, the special office of the Paris *Centralisateur*, and much censorship internally and on the borders of the country.

In May/June 1940 everything collapsed, with the result that air services were suspended and soon all mail stopped – although Germany rapidly re-established communications. France became a quasi-independent state with occupied and “free” zones, and we were treated to examples of all kinds of handstamps on mail returned or held in Paris. In September 1940 came the system of interzonal cards allowing only very basic limited details to be given.

The French were now given the task of policing everything, and commercial cards were strictly limited by the Chamber of Commerce, being used for such tasks as acknowledging receipt of goods. There were too many POWs for the Germans to run the postal system efficiently: cards were sent to them, but were very limited in scope. In November 1940 foreign mail accumulated and was eventually sent back, although in time new mail was allowed. In June 1941 the clash between Vichy France and British forces, together with the German invasion of Russia, meant that the political scene shifted yet again.

In the second half of his display Chris gave us examples of some of the specific changes involved. Thus we saw some special cards for Christmas 1941; despite the fairly routine arrangements in 1941-2 there was censored mail from Paris to various destinations; the Germans used a V

for Victory cachet; mail addressed to Pétain was free and registered (sometimes by the Post Office itself); the Chamber of Commerce organised mail to and from the German Victoria Insurance Company; there was mail to and from POWs and internees.

By 1942 the course of the war was changing, and although airmail from France to parts of the Empire went normally in wartime, the invasion of Madagascar and North Africa changed and even ended the relationship with the old French Empire and mail was suspended. In January and February 1942 postage rates were raised, but as no extra labels were allowed to be added, this meant that mail was refused if supplementary stamps were used on postal stationery — though handstamps were sometimes employed in such cases. Paris was bombed by the RAF, particularly because Renault was producing tank engines, but they only succeeded in knocking out Post Office 100!

In 1943 Paris was in Allied hands and France was starved of materials, so that this led to cards being sent rather than letters, to slogans praising economy being applied to the mail, and to various improvised envelopes being employed. Foreign and internal mail continued to pass until the end of the occupation, and we saw an example of a forged stamp with Pétain being replaced by de Gaulle. Other notable items included mail to French workers in Germany, the use of the pneumatic tube system which was operating normally, and Red Cross cards. With the liberation of Paris in 1944 there appeared the cachet of the *Bureau du Courrier Officiel* and the demonetising of Pétain stamps.

The vote of thanks was given by Derek Richardson.

Members present: Len Barnes, Alan Barrett, Mick Bister, Godfrey Bowden, Michael Ensor, Michael Fairhead, Hugh Loudon, Barbara Priddy, Derek Richardson, Maurice Tyler.

MST

WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 31 JANUARY 2009

Alan Wood: Postmarks of the Classic Period

Peter Kelly: Problems with the Delivery of Mail 1876-1900

Members' Short Displays

13 members and two guests braved the cold to attend this winter meeting, at which the invited displays were given by the two convenors.

Alan Wood started off with a fine display of the postmarks of the classic period in which beautifully presented stamps and covers illustrated the enormous range of marks that existed during this period. The fine example of a ‘Lille bar’ was of particular interest.

This was followed by a display by **Peter Kelly** on problems with the delivery of mail 1876-1900 in which he explained the interest that can be found in letters that could not be

delivered, including the reasons for their return, the labels used, postmen’s marks and return to sender stamps. A second section covered the mail returned to the *Rebuts* and *Réclamations* services in Paris as well as provincial *rebuts* at Bordeaux, Marseille and other towns. All of these were illustrated by their own handstamps or manuscript markings.

After a convivial lunch at the Old Mill the afternoon was given up to the members’ short displays which included:

Jeremy Martin: Corsini correspondence; redirection of WWI mail; airmail letters including express items from UK to France;

Bob Paterson: New acquisitions including Red Cross charity and Guynemer stamps;

Ashley Lawrence: Sowers – a look at cinderellas and ephemera including anticlerical and wartime propaganda material and artistic interpretations;

Edwin Rideout: Stamps of French Guinea;

Trevor Buckel: The Merson issue – use of different papers;

Brian Weeks: Free French mail from Djibouti including blockade runners and the resumption of airmail services;

Peter Kelly: A 'Mission Congo-Nil', Marchand expedition

cover that got away and the complete dossier of paperwork relating to the fraudulent re-use of a 15c Sage stamp;

Chris Hitchen: French exhibitions – 1855, 1867, 1878, 1889, 1900;

George Nash: Second World War by land, sea and air.

Our next meeting will be at Swinpex, St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way Swindon SN3 3LR on 13 June 2009. Full details are given on page 2 of this Journal.

A date to correct. The date for the October meeting should read 17 October 2009. Those with yellow programmes are asked to correct them..

PRAK

ABPS EXECUTIVE BULLETIN NUMBER 13

January 2009

COUNCIL & EXECUTIVE MEET AT YORK

The Council and the Executive Committee held meetings at York on 17th January to try to move discussions around the country. Regrettably, the Council meeting was poorly attended by Federation and Specialist Society ABPS representatives. The Chairman would be interested to know why?

Finances of ABPS are raising some concerns as a result of falling membership. There was a break even position in 2008 but Treasurer, Nigel Gooch, reported "the accounts are not a pretty sight". The focus is currently on bringing more clubs and societies into the national association with many positive messages to encourage support.

ABPS News: The printing arrangements are currently under review to try to reduce printing and circulation costs. Some 2000 copies are distributed, four times each year.

Please remember to send in your reports to our Editor, Hugh Feldman prior to the copy deadlines – the next being 15th February. They should be sent by e-mail to hugh@feldman.f9.co.uk or typed in a clear format. He needs more photos too!

Website: A major review of the site is now taking place. It is felt that we are not doing justice to the profile and activity of ABPS. Colin Searle presented a paper to Council and explained "the whole ethos is for a new database-driven web site with a comprehensive, national calendar and links which will be professionally produced and maintained".

MIDPEX 2009

The date for your diary is 11th July 2009 at the brand new Xcel Leisure Centre, Mitchell Avenue, Canley, COVENTRY, CV4 8DY, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. The ABPS 2009 AGM, an ABPS Council Meeting, and the 2009 THEMATICA competitions will also be held alongside MIDPEX in the Xcel Centre.

THE CENTENARY CONGRESS

The 2009 Congress will be held at the Copthorne Hotel, Manchester from 16th to 19th July. Booking forms are now available from searle@gmail.com. Further information can be found at www.pcgb.org.uk

Gerald Marriner, Chairman of the Congress Committee, reports that HM The Queen has graciously consented to be Patron of the Centenary Congress.

Congress will start at 2.30pm on the Thursday. It will be officially opened by The Mayor of Salford. The RDP Ceremony will be on Friday afternoon at Manchester Town Hall. The Lowry Museum and the Imperial War Museum are just some of the other attractions close at hand.

A new publication celebrating 100 Years of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is being prepared.

2010: July 22-25th at the Holiday Inn, Kenilworth, Warwickshire. The theme will be King George V.

2012: Plans are moving forward for Congress at Perth in October 2012. Their Committee desires to host the national competitions around the same time.

UPDATES OF PUBLICATIONS

The 2009 edition of Philatelic Lecturers and Displays will be distributed within the next few weeks. The ABPS Handbook and Directory will in future be issued as two separate volumes. The 2009 ABPS Directory, which will now become an annual publication, will be published by Summer and a new ABPS Handbook will follow a short time later.

SUPPORT ABPS PERSONALLY AS A FRIEND OR PATRON

Why not become a personal member of ABPS and support philately in the UK?

Why not do more to support ABPS and its efforts to promote philately by becoming a Friend (£20) or Patron (£50) personally? Please send your donation to Alan D Godfrey, ABPS Membership Secretary, 8 Gerard Road, ALCESTER, B49 6QG.

COMMUNICATIONS TO FEDERATIONS

Members of the Executive Committee are willing to attend Federation and other regional events by invitation to talk about the role of ABPS. If you would like to know more about ABPS and its activities, please contact the PR Officer, John Davies on 01295 255831 or e-mail davies1890@btinternet.com

STAMP ACTIVE NETWORK

ABPS continues to support and promote youth philately through the Stamp Active Network. They are launching a new e-mail newsletter with activities for leaders of school and junior stamp clubs.

If you are a club leader and would like to register, please email stampactive@btinternet.com

WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

New workshops for existing judges are being planned to update judges later this year. If Federations would like to have workshops on any subject, please contact John Sussex johndc.sussex@btinternet.com

Scotland	28th March	Judging Seminar	NPS	20th Aug	Using the NPS Library
Thatcham	28th March	NPS Regional Meeting	Leamington	26th Sept	NPS Regional Meeting

LONDON 2010

The London 2010 web site www.london2010.org.uk/ now contains the first bulletin and entry forms.

ABPS UK COLLECTORS CLUB

Exhibitors are now being invited to register for participation in FIP/FEPA events. 66 collectors have registered so far. Please remember that information about the rules of exhibiting and judging can be found on www.ukphilately.co.uk

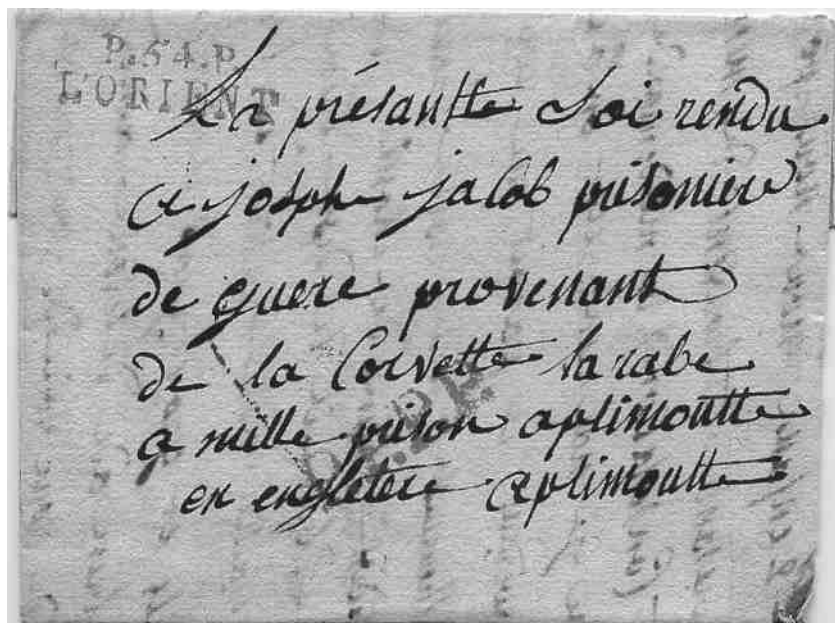
FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO GIVE YOUR COMMENTS, please contact those mentioned above, or the ABPS General Secretary Colin Searle at his new address which is: The Old Post Office, 1 Wellesbourne Road, Barford, WARWICK, CV35 8EL. Tel: 07879 665658. E-mail: searlec@gmail.com

May 2009 Auction - Selected Lots



Lot 282

ARMÉE FRANÇAISE
'F for R' error



Lot 8

1806 Napoleonic War EL to prisoner of war at Plymouth



ex-Lot 451 (left)
Paris Expo Universelle vignettes

ex-Lot 107 (above)
1954 Prototypes colour trials

Lot 308
(right)
1929
Exposition
Philatélique
Le Havre
o/pt on
2F Merson



Lot 319 (above)
65c Armistice
dated corner block

ex-Lot 420 (right)
30c + 10c Anatole France
unofficial overprints for
JOURNÉE DU TIMBRE
Nice 1938



Lot 243
(left & above)
1918 BANQUE D'ALSACE
& DE LORRAINE env.
with on reverse
LIEU DE DESTINATION
ENVAHI cds