

# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



Postcard commemorating the *Semaine du Milliard de la Libération*:  
see Bill Mitchell's article starting on page 177

Volume 59 ● Number 4  
December 2009  
Whole Number 254

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

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**The Society**

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

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

**2009-10 Annual Subscription Rates**

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**The Journal**

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

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according to instructions

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**

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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:

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\* \* \*

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

# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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**Volume 59 Number 4**  
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## SOCIETY NOTES

### New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1355 Roger Lawson (Portugal), 1356 Richard Stupples (Bristol), 1357 The Harry Sutherland Library (Toronto, Canada), 1358 Beverly Rice (USA), 1359 Machiel van der Velden (Netherlands).

\* \* \*

### Members Deceased

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

1096 J W Hunt

We are especially sad, however, to report the very recent and unexpected death of our Membership Secretary (and former General Secretary as well as author of the best selling book on French 20th century stamp forgeries):

513 Dr Geoff Gethin

Our thoughts and condolences go out to his wife Liz who has herself helped him so much in his secretarial duties. A full obituary will be published in due course.

\* \* \*

### Resignations

773 J C McLaughlan.

\* \* \*

### Future Events

The **London Group** will meet at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 6.30pm on Wednesday 20 January 2010 when Alan Barrett will display French Cinderellas Part 2, and at 6.30pm on Wednesday 17 March 2010 when members will display new projects and acquisitions; and at 3.00pm on Saturday 27 February 2010 at the Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1 when George Barker will display French Classic Issues 1849-1870.

The **Southern Group** will meet at 2.00pm on Saturday 9 January 2010 at the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, East Worthing when Alan Carter will display French Postal Markings.

The **Northern Group** will meet at 1.00pm at Leeds General Infirmary on Saturday 13 February 2010 when Tony Shepherd will display French Guyana, and at 7.00pm on Saturday 2 March 2010 there will be a visit to Leeds PS.

The **Wessex Group** will meet at 10.00am on Saturday 30 January 2010 at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham, Salisbury, when Peter Kelly will display aspects of the *Type Sage* issue.

The **Scottish Group** will meet in Room 1, Cross House, Linlithgow at 1.00pm on Saturday 27 March 2010, when George Barker will display Classic France.

\* \* \*

### Exhibition Successes

At the Autumn Stampex 2009, held at the Business Design Centre in Islington, London, on 16 to 19 September 2009, the following members of this Society won awards:

**Graham Booth** - Gold for "The Rise and Fall of the American Merchant Marine as a Transatlantic Mail Carrier 1800-62" (Postal History)

**John Yeomans** - Large Vermeil for "French India" (Postal History) and Large Vermeil for "French Equatorial Africa" (Postal History)

At Italia 2009, held 21-25 October 2009 in Rome, the following members of our Society gained awards:

**Alfred Bonnici**: Gold for "Mail by Messageries Impériales to and via Malta" (Postal History) [On 3 November 2009 he was also elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London]

**Guy Dutau**: Gold for "Relations postales franco-chiliennes des origines jusqu'à 1863" (Postal History)

**Steve Walske**: Gold and Special Prize for Material for "Transatlantic Packet Mail between the USA and France 1840-1875" (Postal History)

**Luca Lavagnino**: Vermeil for "L'ufficio postale di Cuneo durante l'amministrazione francese 1801-1814" (One Frame)

\* \* \*

### The Philatelists v The Eggheads

Our member **Mike Brindle** was part of a team of 5 philatelists who took on the resident team in the TV quiz programme *Eggheads*, shown on BBC2 on Wednesday 21 October 2009. Unfortunately The Philatelists lost the contest!

\* \* \*

### Displays by Members

On 26 September 2009 **Peter Kelly** displayed "The postal history of the Volta region of French West Africa from 1900 until and through Independence in 1960" to the West Africa Study Circle.

The following members of our Society displayed at Marcophile XXXIII at Cusset on 3-4 October 2009 [see back cover of this Journal for photograph]:

**Robert Abensur** - "Le timbrage par les bureaux de distribution au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle: Une exception qui confirme la règle?"

**Guy Dutau** - "La couleur du papier à lettres jusqu'au XX<sup>e</sup> siècle: À propos de quelques exemples" and "Pérou: la première émission dentelée du Pérou de l'American Bank Note Company (1866-1874)"

**Chris Hitchen** - "La Poste à Paris, Janvier 1849 à Janvier 1852, Période de la grille"



**Peter Kelly** - "Soudan Français: Développement des services postaux du début jusqu'en 1902"

**Jean-Pierre Magne** - "Le timbre à date type 23: Hommage à Jean-Claude Delwaulle"

**Peter Maybury** - "La naissance de la lettre pesante"

A weekend of seminars for exhibitors, potential exhibitors, jurors and potential jurors, held in London from 6 to 8 November 2009, included a presentation on "Revenue Philately" by **Francis Kiddle**.

On 2 December 2009 **Gene Fricks** displayed "Direct Promotion Mail" to the Collectors Club in New York.

\* \* \*

## London Group

Members who attend London Group meetings should note that the meeting advertised on our Programme Card for

Wednesday 14 April will now be taking place a week later, on Wednesday 21 April 2010, as the Calthorpe Arms is not available for the original date.

\* \* \*

## Exchanges of Stamps

Our member David Hogarth reports that he inserted a small advertisement in a recent issue of *Timbres Magazine* seeking someone with whom to exchange modern used French stamps, expecting at most a few replies.

However he has been inundated with some 60+ offers, some asking for their requests to be passed on, if he can't exchange with them, and he wonders if there are other members of the Society who would like to take this opportunity to exchange such stamps. David's details are in the Register of Members' Interests.

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# NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Request for Volunteers

I am pleased to report that there has been some response to my request for volunteers to assist with the running of the Society.

In my 'Message from the President' published in the June edition of the Journal I argued the need for fresh faces to come forward and serve on the committee as none of us was getting any younger or fitter. Since June, two volunteers have stepped forward to offer assistance with the distribution of the Journal and with the translation of articles. Another has offered his help when and if required. Their contribution will help reduce our workload and on behalf of the committee may I offer them our thanks and gratitude.

However, we desperately need members who will join the committee full time and eventually volunteer to become officers. The next AGM is not that far away and we need to plan how we are going to move forward. Out of a membership of nearly 400 there must be members who are destined to help run this successful Society, so if you think you are the one please get in touch with the General Secretary or me. Thank you.

## Register of Members' Interests

Accompanying this edition of the Journal you will find a form requesting your subscription renewal and inviting you to register your collecting interests. The Register of Members' Interests is a valuable source of information for those who wish to communicate with fellow members with similar collecting interests. It also provides contacts for those seeking advice on material which they own but which is

outside their own collecting expertise. Registration is completely voluntary and how much information you wish to give about yourself is up to you. For example, some members give two or three means of contact but others prefer to give just a postal address or a telephone number. I hope lots of our new members will take advantage of the scheme and submit their details for inclusion.

## Congratulations to André Métayer *et al*

Those of you who have purchased the 2010 Yvert & Tellier France catalogue will also have been the lucky recipients of the wonderful little supplement entitled '*Livret de l'Expert – Les Porte-timbres*'. It is a 32 page catalogue listing, describing and pricing all the identified *porte-timbres* from the 1870s to 1954 and is beautifully illustrated in full colour. Two of the four joint editors/compilers of this supplement are members of our Society, **Bertrand Sinais** and **André Métayer**.

André is well known to members who attend the Annual Weekend at Charlecote and where, in 2007, he displayed his own collection of *porte-timbres*. Items shown at Charlecote are a major feature in the supplement reminding us how privileged we were two years ago to see such an important collection on the subject. Furthermore, some of the items in the supplement illustrating the use of the Sower issue on *porte-timbres* are from the collection of member **Ashley Lawrence** whose article on the subject can be found in the September 2004 Journal.

This is, I believe, the most thorough supplement Yvert & Tellier have published to date. I hope they realise how indebted they are to members of France & Colonies. *Félicitations André, Ashley et Bertrand.*

**Mick Bister**

## REPORTS OF MEETINGS

### SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 22 AUGUST 2009

#### Members: Latest Acquisitions and New Interests

The Organiser welcomed Members to the all day August Meeting. Following coffee the first display was given by **John Yeomans** on the Mauritius French Connections of the 19th century. John showed a comprehensive outline of the mail carried by either French, British or private shipping companies.

The second display by **Graham Booth** was on the Franco-American Mail covered by the various Conventions. Graham gave a detailed history of the Conventions of 1857, 1870, 1874 and the GPU/UPU Conventions of 1860-1880, and showed a wonderful array of covers of this period.

After lunch the following members displayed:

- Bob Larg:** Postcards of World War One, and Hotels of France.  
**Bob Small:** Monaco Postal Stationery of Charles III and Prince Albert.  
**Roy Ferguson:** Postage Due markings and the French

commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of Quebec City.

**Mike Berry:** Four *Ballons Montés* from the Siege of Paris with translations. [*Ville de Florence, Victor Hugo, Ville de Châteaudun and Ville d'Orléans.*]

**Mike Annells:** Air Flights

**John Yeomans:** *Mission Bourbon Tunis-Tchad* (+ Niger) 1932.

**John Hammonds:** The Louis Blériot Flights.

Members present: Michael Annells, Michael Berry, Graham Booth, Colin Clarkson, Roy Ferguson, John Hammonds, Bob Larg, Bob Small, Colin Spong, John Yeomans. Guests: Christine Annells, Jean Hammonds, and Pat Spong [who looked after the refreshments]. Apologies received from Yvonne Larg, Bill Mitchell, George Nash, Barbara Priddy and John Thorpe.

CWS

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### NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 19 SEPTEMBER 2009

Sadly, owing to lack of support, this meeting had to be cancelled.

JPM

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### LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 23 SEPTEMBER 2009

#### Members' Displays: 12 Sheets

Members present: Len Barnes, Alan Barrett, Mick Bister, Michael Fairhead, Chris Hitchen, Hugh Loudon, Bill Mitchell, Roy Reader, Derek Richardson, Michael Round, Richard Stupples, John Thorpe.

Apologies: Maurice Tyler.

Displays:

**Michael Round** showed the changing stamps of Mayotte from General Colonies issues, through the individual 1892 'Tablet' stamps for each Comoro island, Madagascar stamps (1914-1950), unified Comoro Island pictorials (1950-1975) to the current 'Territorial Collective' period whereby Mayotte parted company with the other Comoros.

**Len Barnes** produced a recent acquisition of a collection of French mailboats from Ceylon, mostly with a *Ligne N* postmark.

**Alan Barrett** continued the maritime flavour with packet boat letters from the Cunard and White Star lines.

**Roy Reader** showed material from the Poles in France in World War II. He began with registered mail with identifiable unit origins as opposed to basic dumb cancels. Then followed franchise letters and units such as that for Polish airmen in Lyon. After the collapse of France those in the

Vichy zone were interned in foreign workers' camps whilst some escaped to Britain to carry on fighting. Some curious WP perfins on French stamps apparently stood for Polish Army but their proper usage is a little dubious. Some postwar letters from those unable to return to Poland concluded the frame.

**Mick Bister** brought some of his latest Pétain material including proofs and the last Pétain printing on 9 June 1944, acquired for a very reasonable amount on the web from someone who did not fully appreciate the significance. Liberation overprints, forgeries and a letter to Menton by then annexed by the Italians completed his showing.

**Derek Richardson** produced items from British internees in World War II including Christmas cards designed and produced within the camps. The men of military age were sent to Saint Denis and later the women went to Vittel; letters from both were included.

**Richard Stupples**, a recently joined member, produced newly acquired material that he hoped to turn into a new collection of France once he had learned more about French postal history.

**Chris Hitchen** showed the first issue of France, Cérès, used in Paris for various rates and usages.

CJH

## SCOTTISH GROUP MEETING OF 26 SEPTEMBER 2009

**Peter Brand: A Pictorial Tour of Alsace & Lorraine**

**George Burney: A Miscellany of WWI**

We had another joint meeting with the Scottish German Group on Saturday 26 September. This was well attended and both displays were well received.

Peter Brand opened the afternoon with his display that he called just a lighthearted collection.

He began with an item related to a Napoleonic prisoner at Bitche, and continued by illustrating with stamps postcards and covers towns, churches and cathedrals, a POW camp, the Council of Europe, personalities born or associated with Alsace, tourist sites, a postal museum, flora and fauna, museums, memorials, National Parks, battles, forestry, iron and steel manufacture. The tour ended in Nancy.

Peter covered lesser known tourist sites as well as the more famous, introducing aspects of personalities not usually associated with Alsace or Lorraine. He had obviously spent

a great deal of time marrying up stamps and postcards to illustrate these many aspects of the area.

George Burney's display was split into groups beginning with Sarajevo. Next he grouped a series of postcards entitled 'A Soldier's Story', illustrating a soldier from enlistment, through his training, into battle, then being wounded and invalided out of the army.

His next section showed a selection of *Feldpost* and regimental postmarks and cachets. This led on to POW mail with camp and censors' marks. Red Cross mail followed, and he continued with mail from forces in Serbia and Bulgaria.

Then came a small section of postcards showing war damaged towns, more censor marks and some Austro-Hungarian FPOs. George finished on a lighter note with a series of Bruce Bairnfather cartoon postcards.

MP

## WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 17 OCTOBER 2009

**Andrew Watton: Postal History of Corsica**

**Members' Displays**

13 members and 1 guest attended the meeting and enjoyed a fascinating display by our member **Andrew Watton** on the postal history of Corsica. Andrew gave us the background history of the island, supported by some splendid material from the early days to today. This material is hard to find and the number of covers from small villages having postal agencies or auxiliary offices was of particular interest because Andrew had incorporated period postcards which gave a real impression of how remote they were. The display was peppered with many other pieces of ephemera which brought the subject to life, even including a bag of sweet smelling herbs from the *maquis*.

After an excellent lunch at the Old Mill a number of members gave short displays.

**John Sussex, Alan Wood** and **Peter Kelly** showed Corsican extracts from their collections and then general displays were given by:

**Trevor Buckell:** Siege of Paris / Cérés issue 1871-6

**Brian Weeks:** West African airmails

**Richard Stupples:** Pre-1900 postal history

**Peter Lawrence:** The information of the time garnered from a typographically cancelled newspaper (*Type Sage*)

**Alan Wood:** Revolutionary mail and Swiss *départements conquis*

**Edwin Rideout:** Precancels

**Ashley Lawrence:** Sower postal stationery

**Peter Kelly:** *Type Sage* - A selection of maritime postal history items

The following members (and guest) were also present: Chris Hitchen, Ingrid and Tony Swinburn, Peter Todd.

The next meeting of the group will be on Saturday 30 January 2010, when Peter Kelly will be showing aspects of the *Type Sage* issue.

Convenors Alan and Peter thank all members of the group for their support throughout the year, for their displays and good company, and look forward to an enjoyable 2010 season.

PRAK / AJW

## SCOTTISH GROUP MEETING OF 21 NOVEMBER 2009

This meeting had to be postponed because of an unfortunate accident. Apologies to those who tuned up in vain.

MP

## SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 17 OCTOBER 2009

Robert Bradford - Cilicia

Cilicia is situated in south-eastern Turkey which was occupied by French Troops between 1919 and 1921. The three main towns are Adana, Mersina and Bozanti.

During the period of occupation a great many stamps were issued. Initially Turkish stamps were overprinted; latterly Levant and French stamps were overprinted. In March 1919 Turkish stamps were overprinted "CILICIE" in large letters, the overprint being applied by hand.

A second overprint was used four weeks later but using smaller letters for the country name. A third overprint appeared on 1 April 1918 which used cursive letters. As would be expected, there are a great many errors to be found on these stamps – eg double overprints, inverted overprints etc.

In May 1919 Turkish stamps overprinted "T.E.O Cilicie" (*Territoires Ennemis Occupées*) printed locally were issued. During a shortage of stamps Turkish fiscal stamps were overprinted "*Occupation Militaire Française Cilicie*".

In 1920 stamps of French Levant were used overprinted "T.E.O. 20 Paras". Finally French stamps overprinted "O.M.F. Cilicie" (*Occupation Militaire Française*) were

issued. Two different overprints were used, differing in the size of the letters "OMF".

The French left Cilicia in November 1921 when the use of French stamps ceased and those of Turkey took their place. Robert showed examples of the stamps and a range of covers showing their use together with an interesting commentary on the history of the region, remarking, *en passant*, that the Indian 19th Brigade of the 7th Division was stationed at Adana between January and February 1919 using FPO 310.

A vote of thanks was given by John Yeomans who stated that it was a privilege to see aspects of this neglected area.

Members present: Michael Annells, Michael Berry, Roy Ferguson, John Hammonds, Bob Larg, Colin Spong, John Yeomans. Guests: Yvonne Gren, Jean Hammonds, and Pat Spong [who looked after the refreshments]. Apologies received from Graham Booth, Colin Clarkson, Yvonne Larg, Bill Mitchell, and John Thorpe

The next meeting will be on Saturday 9 January 2010, the display to be French Postal Markings by Alan Carter.

JNH

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## LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 21 OCTOBER 2009

Derek Richardson: Broken chains, Dulac and Marianne de Briat

Attendees: Len Barnes, Godfrey Bowden, Ray Downing, Chris Hitchen, Bill Mitchell, John Parmenter, Barbara Priddy, Derek Richardson, John Thorpe, Michael Wright.

Apologies: Mick Bister, Michael Round, Maurice Tyler

Derek began with a brief outline of the life of the designer Dulac. Somewhat unusually for a Frenchman he was an Anglophile and eventually settled permanently in London. He designed a number of King George VI stamps and in 1942 was asked by de Gaulle to prepare stamps for use when France was liberated and perhaps unable to print stamps in a war torn country. As he was unsure of the rates that might be required, twenty values were produced to cover most probabilities. In the event the French stamp printing works continued almost without interruption and the only stamp actually required was the 1F50 to replace the soon to be demonetised Pétain issue. This duly appeared in September 1944.

To save wasting the stocks already printed and perhaps as a diplomatic gesture to the Allies the remaining stamps were put on sale some 6 months later, although not really needed and not fitting the postal rates in force. Amongst a lovely selection of various rates using only Dulac stamps, of note was the 2F40 for the foreign postcard rate and an

interesting *Hors Sac* item at printed matter rates. The balance of remaining stock was eventually released in 1953 and some late uses were included.

Derek concluded the first half with some of the Broken Chains issue, part of the first postwar French production for the lower values used for printed matter and other lower rates. A full range of possible usages on postcards and printed matter illustrated the use of these stamps.

For the second half the speaker turned to a more modern stamp – *Marianne de Briat*. Selected after a popular vote at Philexfrance 1989 for the bicentenary of the French revolution, it appeared in many formats and guises and gave a good view of the evolution of stamps in more recent years. A plethora of booklets appeared, and the use of self adhesive stamps was pioneered with this issue. That quickly produced problems as the imperforate stamps were easily fabricated with photocopiers. Derek produced a cover to himself with such a forgery which had got through without any difficulty!

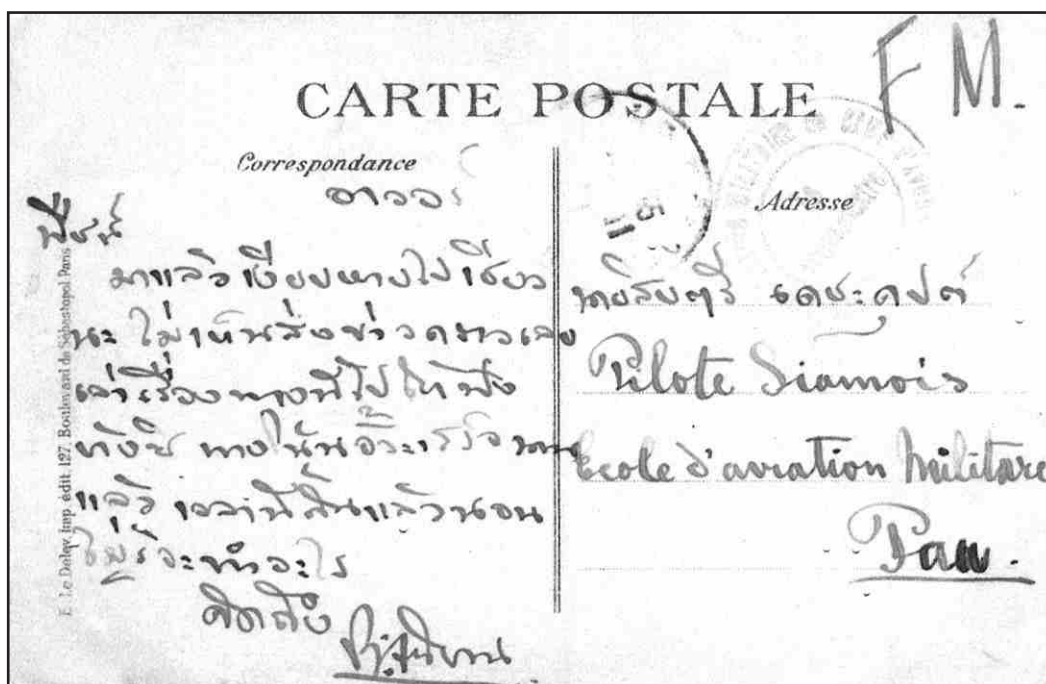
As well as use in France itself the stamps were overprinted for St Pierre & Miquelon and later Mayotte. A comprehensive display of stamps, covers, booklets, useful charts and tables and background material provided much for the audience to appreciate.

CJH

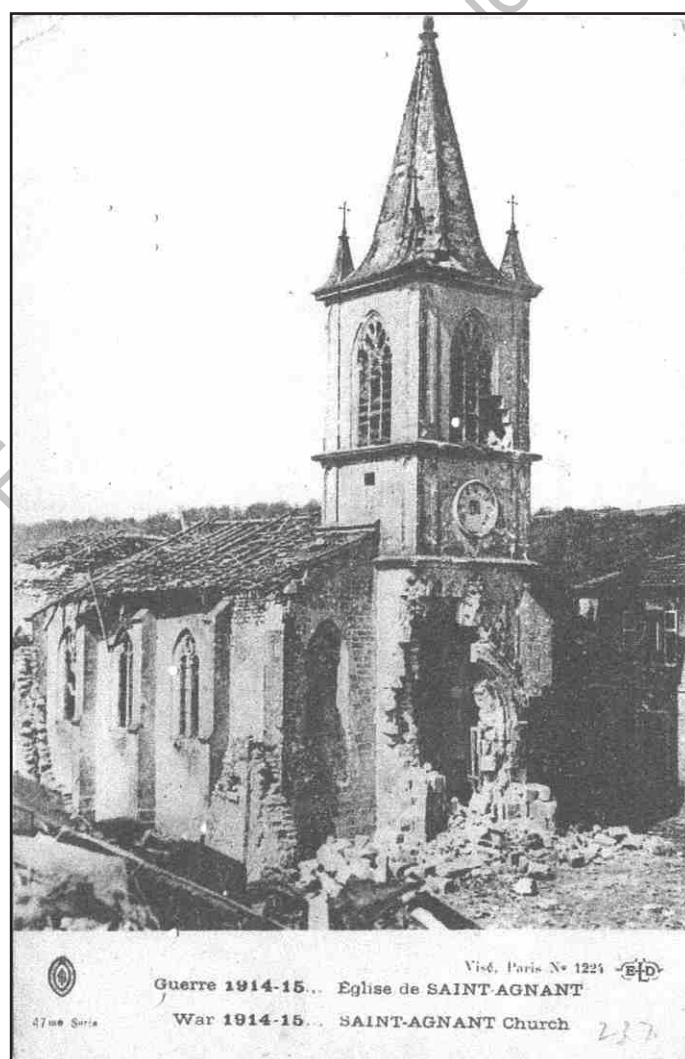


# Thai Pilots in France in WWI

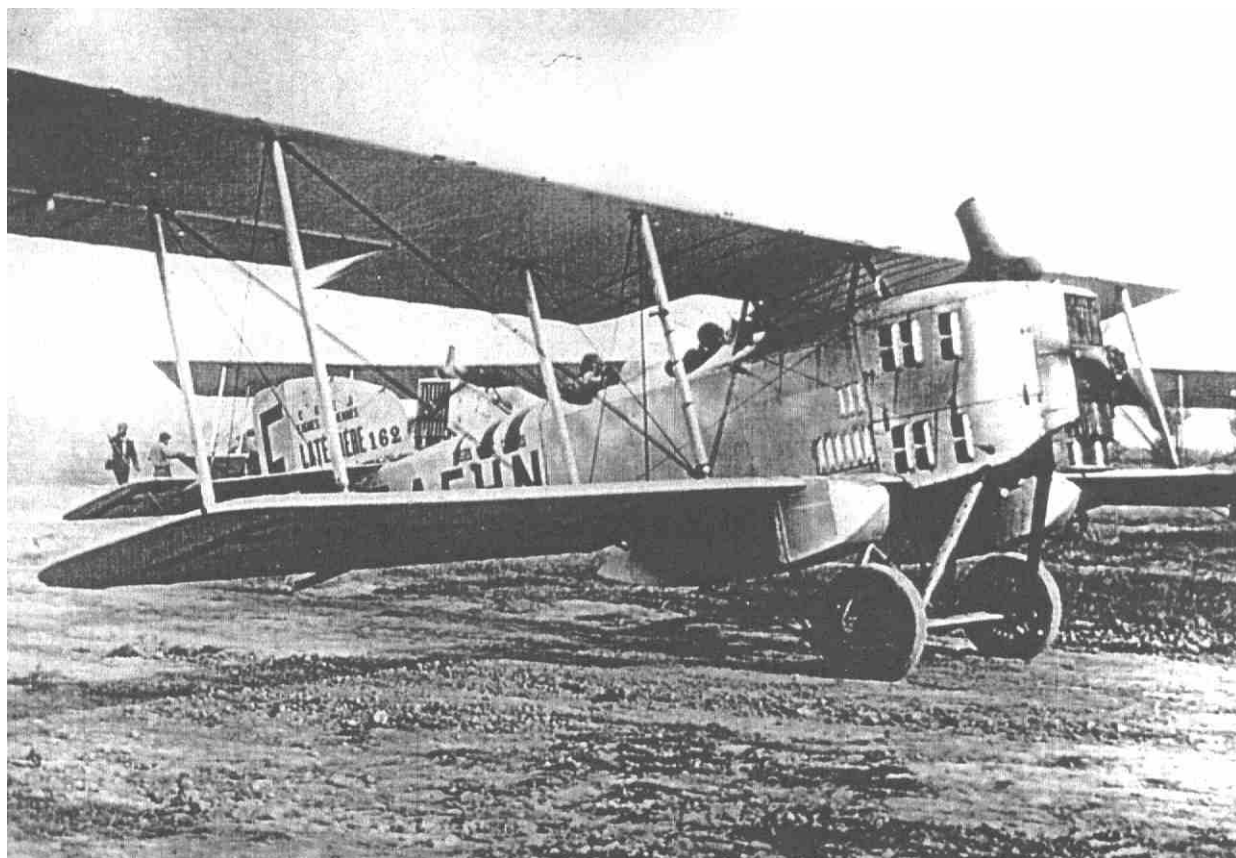
John Garner



Address side of the card sent to a Thai pilot at the military aviation school in Pau



View side of the postcard



Breguet 14 bomber

I first knew about this postcard (illustrated on page 147) in a vague sort of way, about ten years ago, but I never thought I would have the chance of owning it; and then one day there it was in an auction. Well, I simply had to own it, at least for a while.

Before I try to explain why I wanted this card, I should begin with some history:

On 22 July 1917 Thailand joined the War on the side of the Allies. At that time Thailand had no particular reason to like or trust Britain or France — both of whom had taken territory from the country; but Thailand did like and admire America, who had just joined in the War. Following that, Thailand decided to send troops to the front. It took quite a long time to organise and train the troops, but finally in June 1918 a mixed force of 1200 infantry, pilots and mechanics was dispatched for France.

The ship arrived at the beginning of August 1918 and the troops were kitted out with the appropriate French style uniforms. Now I cannot believe the Allies actually wanted untrained foreign troops as the War was drawing to a close, but they were received graciously and the infantry was readily assimilated. The situation was more complicated for the 115 pilots, whose skills simply were not up to opposing the exceedingly dangerous German 'aces'. Accordingly they took much longer to train.

As none of the volunteers spoke French, the French Army decided to keep the pilots and mechanics together and sent them to the *École d'Aviation* at Istres. Of the initial pilot trainees, 94 completed their training and received their

licences as military aviators. 28 of the most skilful pilots then went to the pursuit school at Pau and after completing this course went to gunnery school. The remaining pilots received advanced training in day and night bombing and general observation work.

Hostilities ended before any Thai pilots could get to the front, but the aviation contingent still wanted to make a contribution to the War effort, so 24 pilots joined the *Aviation Militaire* Air Divisions accompanying the French Army in the occupation of Germany — for the others training continued. In the spring of 1919 most of the aviation contingent returned to Thailand, leaving Marseille on 31 March 1919 and arriving in Bangkok on 1 May 1919 to an elaborate welcome.

The card itself is a very ordinary French production, so what makes it special in my eyes? Well, thus far it is the only item discovered sent from one member of the pilots' section of the Thai expeditionary force to another more advanced pilot at the pursuit school at Pau in the French Pyrenees.

I hesitate to use the word 'unique' in philately, as it generally leads to a very red face, but I can say this card is one of only two known to collectors, the other one being from a member of the Thai infantry on the western front, sent back home to his brother. In it he is very scathing about the French. In part he writes "If the French are like this, are they really worth fighting and dying for?" It is worth mentioning at this point that some members of the Thai expeditionary force were killed and there is a monument to them in Bangkok.





"Allies: Officers of the Siamese Aviation Corps in France"

As far as I can tell, the card doesn't appear to be dated, though clearly it was written between August 1918 and the end of March 1919. The card was sent postage free, as was normal with military mail, and carries an F.M. for *Franchise Militaire*. There is also a 'Vaguemestre' handstamp, but the depths of my ignorance are so appalling that I don't know when or why it was used.

Where was I to keep the card? Well, as part of my small World War I collection would seem natural, but in fact I am proud to keep it as the beginning of my airmail collection, along with a photograph of a group of young Thai pilots in France, looking very smart in their new uniforms — a photograph which I found in a *London Illustrated News* for 1918.

Pause for another spot of history:

In 1919 Thailand had a poor system of surface transport — principally rivers, except in the low water season, and a slowly expanding railway system. There were few roads away from Bangkok, transport was by bullock cart over rough cart tracks in the dry season, which became almost impassable in the monsoon season. When the new pilots returned home with no obvious role it seemed natural that the new aeronautical department should be developed for the postal service as well as defence. In the meantime the

Thai government had purchased various planes, including Breguet 14 bombers from French surplus stocks.

It took a while to organise landing grounds, but on 17 February 1920 two Spad fighters took off from the airfield at Don Muang near Bangkok with a small load of mail for Chantaburi, a journey which took 1 hour 30 minutes by plane or a minimum of two days by sea. The planes returned to Bangkok on 26 February carrying more mail and small packages of pepper.

After the success of these experimental flights, on 23 June three Breguet 14s took off from Bangkok to Korat on a second trial flight. Two of the planes reached Korat after 2½ hours, while the third experienced difficulties and returned to Bangkok. This time the planes reportedly only carried 14 or 15 letters — one of the great rarities of Thai philately.

The authorities were very happy with the results of the trials, so in 1922 the Royal Aeronautical Service began preparations for putting the proposed airmail service into operation, building landing grounds and hangars made of wood and corrugated iron. The planes were the previously mentioned Breguet 14 bombers, with the mail carried in canisters strapped to the sides of the aircraft. As a bonus, the planes being two seaters, there was also room for the occasional passenger.

The card was sent by a Thai pilot at the *École d'Aviation Militaire* at the *Camp d'Avord* (near Bourges in the centre of France), as seen in the double ring cachet of its *Vaguemestre* or postal order authorising the free postage, and addressed to another Thai pilot at the *École d'Aviation Militaire* at Pau in the far south-west of France. — Editor

## LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

### *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° 1832 Sept 2009: Dans la Boîte aux Lettres (Daulard); Corinne Salvi, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Un timbre personnalisé à l'effigie de Jeanne Jugan (Cordina); Les postiers sur les bancs... de l'école [3] (Marion); Le maître de poste face au chemin de fer (Hella); Duxin: Des collectionneurs extraordinaires [23] (Storch); Le «5F Daurat Vanier»: un usage mouvementé [4] (Grillot); L'histoire extraordinaire des timbres fiscaux consulaires (Danan); Le PANAF, son logo, ses timbres [Alger] (Ahmed).

N° 1833 Oct 2009: Sophie Beaujard, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); La réimpression du collector Basse-Normandie (Cordina, SOCOTA); Le Gabon, une jeune République (Mangin); Un logo...beau comme un tableau (Bastide-Bernardin); 1919: la première liaison aéro postale France-Maroc (Albaret); Découverte: Montimbrenligne: premiers constats (Krempper); Les postiers sur les bancs... de l'école [4] (Marion); La formation des postiers de l'Oise (Benhamou); Duxin: Des collectionneurs extraordinaires [24] (Storch); L'histoire extraordinaire des timbres fiscaux consulaires (Danan); Le «5F Daurat Vanier»: un usage mouvementé [5] (Grillot).

### **France & Colonies Philatelist**

Whole N° 298 (Vol 65, N° 4): A Possible New Group Type Variety (Grabowski); The First Issues of Afrique Occidentale Française (Tucker); Les Trois Premiers Timbres de St Pierre et Miquelon (Tillard); Covers from Nowhere to Nowhere (Taylor).

### *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° 104 Sept 2009: Conversation avec Cécile Millet, artiste (-); Le timbre et son environnement: marges, chutes, étiquettes [part 1] (Rucklin); La der des der du porte-hélicoptère *Jeanne d'Arc* (Lecouvey); La Grande Guerre tout à l'ouest (Aramis et Loëdec); Le timbre à date atypique au type 11 de Cusset (Lavigne); A qui se fier? (de la Mettrie); L'universelle passion des orchidées (Zeyons); Une erreur

classique de taxation (Prugnon); 1943: une dépêche-avion directe Beyrouth-Douala (Chauvin).

N° 105 Oct 2009: Line Filhon, l'amour de la gravure (Decaux); 35c Semeuse: maigre ou camée, des différences qui font la cote (de Pellinec); Le timbre et son environnement: marges, chutes, étiquettes [part 2] (Rucklin); Des taxes et détaxes (de la Mettrie); La grande folie des aérostats (Zeyons); Collectionner les marques postales: Les bases (Baudot); François Feuga, «Toute enveloppe m'intéresse» (Guerrier).

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

Vol 11 N° 3 (Whole N° 78) Oct 2009: Early French Gold Coast [Côte d'Ivoire] Postal Arrangements (Melot/transl. Parren); The FAM 18 stop at Horta (Wilscek).

### **The Indo-China Philatelist**

Vol 39 N° 4 (Whole N° 189) Sept 2009: Regulations for Rural Post in Laos (Kahane); List of Post Offices in Laos after 1910 (Kahane).

Vol 39 N° 5 (Whole N° 190) Nov 2009: New Viet Minh Slogan (Bentley); Indochina Town Cancel Project (Bentley).

### *Documents Philatéliques*

N° 202 4<sup>e</sup> trim 2009: Présence militaire française en Italie (1943-1947) (Goanvic); La «valse» des bureaux de poste autour de Toulon pendant la Révolution (1793-1796) (Trinquier); Des débuts de la mise en place des postes rurales en Indochine: l'exemple de la province de Nam Dinh (Tonkin) 1907-1909 (Chane-Tune & Roland).

### **The Collectors Club Philatelist**

Vol 88 N° 5 Sept-Oct 2009: Baden-Baden to Papete - An Unusual Return Receipt Cover from 1894 (Grabowski).

### *Les Feuilles Marcophiles*

N° 338 3<sup>e</sup> trim 2009 (Sept): Caisse de Passe, qu'est-ce? (Sené); Les marques d'arrivée (Lauprêtre); Poste rurale et retour à l'expéditeur (Duval); L'acheminement du courrier dans le pays de Gex durant l'hiver 1942-1943 (Sené); Un hôpital dans le château de Fontainebleau (1914-1918) - 2<sup>ème</sup> partie (Couvé); Tracts ou courriers de l'air? - Précisions sur une définition (Albaret); Avis de passage (Sené); Les nouveautés en matière de guichets-annexes (Delvaux); A propos de Marcophilgard 2009 - Uzès (Rioust); Eugène Vaillé, premier conservateur du Musée postal (Albaret); A propos de trains sanitaires et de diversité de sources d'information (Rioust).

**The President and Committee wish all members and their families  
a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year  
*Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année !***



## SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Strange Use of 3154 Handstamp of Rixholm (Haut-Rhin)



At the Wessex Group meeting in July at Salisbury I showed the unusual use to which the French large numeral 3154 was put. France endeavoured to obtain a contract to supply Ecuador with postmarks, and sent 3154 as an example.

They did not secure the contract but Ecuador kept the handstamp and used it in Quito. It can be found obliterating the stamps of Ecuador issued between 1865 and 1872.

Bryan Wood

### Union des Fabricants Label



I have just acquired a small label (2.2cms square) with the inscription "*Union des Fabricants, pour la répression de la contrefaçon, décret du 20 Mai 1877*". The item is over-

printed (cancelled?) in red script. It may be of interest to our members and in any case I would be interested to hear whether anyone has knowledge of its origins.

Godfrey Bowden

The label is new to me, but according to articles on the Web the *Union des Fabricants* is an anti-piracy body that was created in 1872 and officially recognised in 1877. Under the supervision of the Ministries of Industry and Home Affairs it gathers together the majority of French businesses and professional federations in all industrial

and commercial sectors to strive for improvement in the international protection of industrial and artistic property and to fight against counterfeiting. It is therefore concerned with trademarks, registered designs and patents, and helps its members to face the dangers offered by the latest information technology on the Internet.

Maurice Tyler

### The SS *Donai* between Bangkok and Saigon

I am searching for a picture of a little ship called the SS *Donai* which at the beginning of the twentieth century was sailing regularly between Bangkok and Saigon carrying supplies to the various French garrisons, some cargo and mail.

The interesting point about the mail is that it was often postmarked with a special date stamp '*Ligne de Saigon à Bangkok*'.

So far I have managed to find a plan of this little ship, but not a single picture anywhere. On the Internet there is a much earlier SS *Donai* which for a while I thought was the right one, but is clearly far too large to go over the bar at the mouth of the Bangkok river, and is also far too early.

However, you never know, someone might collect the subject and might even have found a postcard of the ship in a postcard fair somewhere.

John Garner

## WWII Cover Algeria to Gambia and *Bureau Naval 53*



Can any member of the France and Colonies Society help with this cover, please? It was posted on 19 November 1943 with 2 x 4F stamps to cover postage and registration. On 6 December a further 8 x 50c + 1 x 2F stamps were added. It arrived with a registered GPO Gambia label of 10 December 1943 on the reverse.

What was the *Bureau Naval 53* or where was it situated in Algeria? Why would an official dispatch require postage or be held up due to underfranking, and finally what was the correct breakdown between postage and registration fee?

**Stewart Duncan**

The original franking of 8F is probably for surface registered post, as I note there is no airmail endorsement on this cover. The problem for the Post Office would then be how to get it to The Gambia? At this date, Algeria had been liberated months earlier and had aligned herself with the Free French, so the letter did not need to "cross the lines". However, I am not aware of any shipping line calling at Bathurst which would also have called at a North African port, and an overland route was not an option. As a registered letter, it was the Naval Bureau N° 53 post office's responsibility to find a safe route, and I would have expected it to have been sent via Lisbon and/or London — Marseille or Paris not yet being available.

It seems that the letter was still at the originating office on 6 December when an opportunity arose to send it by air. How do we know it flew? Because it reached Bathurst on 10 December, as backstamped: too fast for a surface route. Additional postage would have been required for airmail transmission, hence the need to add an extra 6F of stamps. 14F total registered air postage is in line with other French colonies' covers I have seen which were franked to fly by British airmail services.

Who flew it? Probably the RAF (by Dakota) from Rabat, Morocco. See *Cameo* vol 5 pp 202-209, January 1997 "West African Airmails during WWII from the Gambia Perspective" by Bob Maddocks, which summarised the position of mails from Gambia on 30 November 1943 (a fantastic date for this cover): "All mail to the UK is at present carried by the RAF service to Rabat and thence to the UK by BOAC. BOAC acts as agent for Air Transport Command for all mails from Bathurst to Rabat. I am informed that Post Office mail, diplomatic mail, etc leave by this route twice weekly and that all mail is now cleared. Finally, we have of course no southbound private mail from the UK."

BOAC took over the landplane route to West Africa via Rabat on 16 April 1944.



This is the first time I have seen a cover that can demonstrably be allocated to the RAF period of flights on this route; and a southbound one to boot! Capacity on these planes southbound was taken up with war *matériel*, with no space for ordinary mails. Space was available only on the northbound return flights, hence a "one-way" airmail service created until after the end of the war. This, however, has a sender and recipient address to allow it to be deemed "Official mail". So another possible reason for the delay at the Naval Bureau could have been the need to negotiate consent to fly this letter south by this route.

I am green with envy, and would like to publish the story of this cover in *Cameo* when all those interested have tested and enhanced this analysis.

**Rob May**

I found a reference on the Web that gave an authoritative list of Naval Post Offices. Just to add to the confusion, *Bureau Naval N° 53* is stated to be situated at Dakar,

Senegal, from 14 April 1943 to 15 March 1946. No other details or dates for this office are given. The site is:

[www.phila-colmar.org/Les-bureaux-postaux-navals-a-numeros.html](http://www.phila-colmar.org/Les-bureaux-postaux-navals-a-numeros.html)

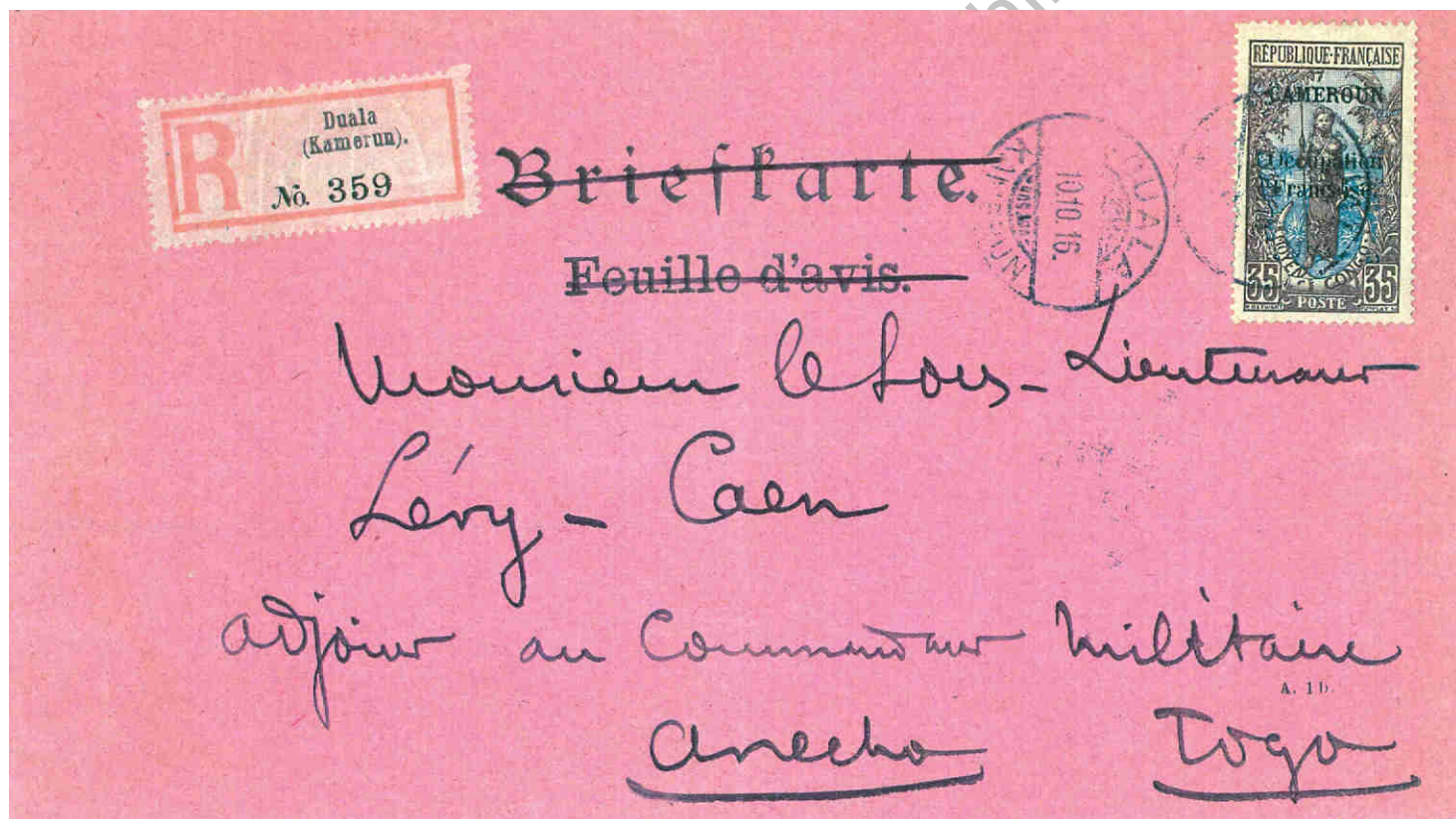
**Maurice Tyler**

Having just checked Derek Richardson's invaluable *Tables of French Postal Rates*, I can confirm that the original 8 francs postage consists of 4 francs basic foreign postage plus 4 francs foreign registration. The additional 6 francs covers the airmail fee for a letter of between 10 and 15 grams from France to non-French West Africa, so that doesn't help with placing the *bureau*. But I think we've cracked the basics.

Yes, I know there was no service to or from France at this time: but the rates were still in force. On reflection, I think it makes it more likely that the *Bureau* was at Algiers rather than Dakar.

**Barbara Priddy**

## German Stationery Used in Occupied Cameroun and Togo



I recently acquired from a small French auction house a salmon pink 'Briefkarte Feuille d'avis' envelope sent registered post from Duala 10.10.1916 to a Lieutenant and Adjutant to the French Military Commander at Aného, Togo.

The correct postage and registration fee was met by a single 35c value Dallay 38. This was routed via Lomé 24.10.1916 and reached Aného the same day. A German registration label was employed.

Puzzled regarding the envelope itself, which has a number "A. 1 b.", I sent a copy to a friend in Germany who man-

ages a specialised German colonies auction. He told me he had never seen this envelope used in Kamerun or Togo during the German period, and the only examples he had seen were from German South West Africa.

The envelope is an official envelope for use by German Post Offices and was used to hold the registered advice notices and placed at the top of outgoing mail bags.

In *Cameo* Whole N° 64 I reported the use of a similar envelope in Togo July 1915 with reference number A 1b measuring 19.5 x 14mm as opposed to 19.5 x 11mm for this cover to Togo.

**John Mayne**

## Dahomey Issues Used in Togo 1914-1922



Jeremy Martin in his book on the Togo Occupation states that many unoverprinted stamps of Dahomey can be found with Togo postmarks in this period. I have examples of all values of the 1912 issue, SG 42-58, with a range of cancels.

Until recently, however, I had not seen any Dahomey postage due issue with a Togo cancel in the same period (SG D59-66). Jeremy adds that these stamps overprinted for use in Togo are not recorded in this period, and are only seen with a cto handstamp of 13 January 1926.

I have collected the area for 30 or more years and I share Jeremy's view. I have not seen any postage due issues for

Dahomey or Togo on cover and consequently questioned if these were in fact used in Togo.

A recent cover has come to light, obviously philatelic, but nevertheless representing possible evidence that Dahomey postage due issues were available at Anécho. The cover, which has no evidence of any postage paid, is to the Catholic Mission at Anécho — leading to the thought that the father in charge perhaps persuaded one of his parishioners to do him a favour!

In addition to Dahomey D61, D63, D64, D65 and D66 — a total value of 2F55 — an additional 20c postage due value, Dahomey D36, was added.

John Mayne

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### 2F20 *Liberté de Gandon* Type IB

I have recently read of the existence of a Type IB of the 2F20 *Liberté de Gandon*, which has the characteristics of the Type I plus "five or less small sub-horizontal *hachures* at end of chin... difficult to see... (sheet stamps from

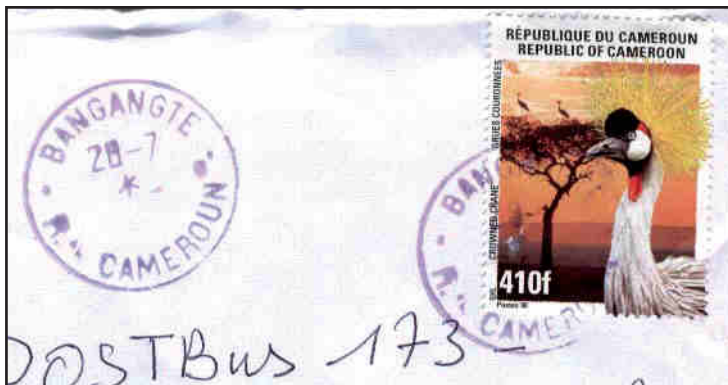
RGR-1 press)." No illustration was provided with the description, and the author does not know of one. Can any member of the Society help with a picture or additional reference?

James Camak



# Cameroun 2005 Provisional Year Slugs

Marc Parren



Variety 1 (Type 2) Bangangte

Variety 1 (Type 1) Ndop



Postmarks of Cameroun for the year 2005 show that the postal authorities faced problems with the year slug that year. It is not known what caused this but it looks as if when December 2004 came to an end the four-digit metal year slug or just the number 5 for 2005 was not available in the digit kit box. As a result of examining over one hundred covers originating from all corners of Cameroun destined for a European Union Agricultural Extension Service Agency based in the Netherlands we are able to deduce some trends.

The postmarks in use at this period are mostly the single ring 27mm in diameter postmarks with the name of the postal agency at the top, while at the bottom it is mainly: 'R.U. CAMEROUN' (Type 1); or the mutilated form 'R. CAMEROUN' (Type 2) in which the U of UNIE has been removed; or simply 'R. CAMEROUN' (Type 3). Reported here are all different options encountered stating the postmark type and the period of use observed.

The only postmark type which seems not to have been affected is the 36mm single ring, newly introduced in January 2004, at a limited number of principal post offices across the country. Examples without a notable problem for 2005 are those for Buea Courrier Arr/Dep (21 FEB) and Nkongsamba Courrier Arr/Dep (06 MAY).

1. Some post offices solved the problem by omitting the year slug altogether. This can be seen for Type 1: Mamfe (12 OCT), Ndop (28 SEP), Njinikom (14 FEB); Type 2: Bangangte (21 JUN - 28 JUL); Type 3: Ambam (15 FEB), Bafoussam Distribution (14 FEB), Bangangte Charge-ments (16 FEB), Maroua Arrivée (04 APR), Muyuka Arrivée (07 OCT), Ngaoundéré Distribution (12 SEP).
2. The 5 of the year-slug was just left out. This can be seen for Type 1: Mamfe (18 APR)
3. Others decided to write the year just by pen. This can be seen for Type 1: Eseka (14 DEC), Mamfe (18 JUN); Type 3: Koundja (15 JUL).



Variety 3 (Type 1) Eseka



Variety 4 (Type 1) Tiko

Variety 4 (Type 3)  
Dschang Distribution



4. The year slug 2003 was used instead of 2005. This can be seen for Type 1: Tiko (09 SEP), but 3 altered into a 5 by pen; Type 2: Bangangte (15 NOV); Type 3: Dschang Distribution (17 AUG – 08 NOV).

Most post offices used a temporary four-digit year slug, made most likely of rubber, which was then placed in the metal canceller. A lot of variation in sizes and wear can be seen for these rubber year slugs. Normally, after months of usage, the imprints of the year slugs will become slightly larger as the wear allows for more surface to touch the stamps and covers. That means that the width and/or height of the font may differ slightly.

There seem to be two principal or more common types which might have been ordered centrally and distributed accordingly to serve most post offices and agencies. These are those year slugs with a font height of 3mm and a length of 10.5mm (5c), and those with the year slug measuring 12

x 4mm (7h).

All encountered types will now be described, starting with the smallest font type of 3mm up to the ones measuring 5mm.

5. Font height 3mm.

- a. Length 8mm. Type 2: Ayos (23 NOV)
- b. Length 9mm. Type 3: Mbankomo (04 APR)
- c. Length 10.5mm. Type 1: Bandjoun (23 JUN – 21 NOV), Mbengwi (17 JAN – 07 APR), Njinikom (26 AUG); Type 2: Bangangte (15 JUN – 14 SEP); Type 3: Bafia Depart (19 JAN), Baf Njeleng Guichet N° 1 (04 JUL), Baf Njemoun Guichet N° 2 (13 JUN – 21 NOV), Bambili Guichet N° 1 (14 JUN – 16 NOV), Dschang Distribution (01 FEB – 16 JUN), Foumban Départ (31 JAN), Garoua Boulai (16 AUG), Koundja (22 SEP – 09 DEC), Lomie Guichet 1 (31 OCT), Mankon Bamenda Distribution (24 MAR – 16 NOV), Saa (13 OCT – 29 NOV)

Variety 5a (Type 2) Ayos



Variety 5b (Type 3)  
Mbankomo





Variety 5c (Type 2) Bangangte



Variety 5c (Type 3) Baf Njeleng Guichet N° 2



Variety 5c (Type 3) Dschang Distribution



Variety 5c (Type 3) Foumban Départ



Variety 5c (Type 3) Koundja



Variety 6a (Type 3)  
Maroua Chargements



Variety 6a (Type 3)  
Melong Guichet N° 2



Variety 6b (Type 1)  
Endom

6. Font height 3.5mm.
  - a. Length 8mm. Type 3: Maroua Chargements (14 JAN), Melong Guichet N° 2 (07 NOV)
  - b. Length 12mm. Type 1: Endom (15 JUN), Type with Chargements below: Bafoussam (20 SEP)
7. Font height 4mm.
  - a. Length 7mm. Type 2: Awae (10 MAY)
  - b. Length 8.5mm. Type 1: Doukoula (07 JAN)
  - c. Length 9mm. Type 1: Soa (16 SEP – 09 NOV); Type 3: Maroua Départ (13 JAN); Type with Départ below: Ebolowa 28 APR – 06 JUL)
  - d. Length 9mm. Type with just Cameroun below: Bazou (15 NOV)
  - e. Length 10.5mm. Type 2: Ekondo Titi (31 AUG)
  - f. Length 11mm. Type 1: Ndu (12 JUL); Type with just Arrivée below: Bafoussam (20 SEP)
  - g. Length 11.5mm. Type 1: Manjo (09 FEB – 20 DEC), Mbanga (31 MAR); Type 3: Batouri Départ (19 APR), Penja (03 OCT); Yokadouma (24 FEB)
  - h. Length 12mm. Type 1: Fundong (22 APR – 26 SEP); Type 2: Kribi (11 APR), Penka Michel (24 MAR – 19 DEC); Type 3: Bafang (14 APR), Bafoussam Distribution (03 FEB), Baham (11 OCT), Bertoua Départ (30 MAR), Doumé (13 APR)
  - i. Length 13mm. Type 3: Bda - Up Station – Distribution (30 JUN)



Variety 7a (Type 2) Awae



Variety 7b (Type 1) Doukoula







Variety 7c  
(Type with Départ below)  
Ebolowa Départ

Variety 7c (Type 1) Soa



Variety 7d  
(Type with just Cameroun below)  
Bazou

Variety 7e (Type 2)  
Ekondo Titi



Variety 7f  
(Type 1)  
Ndu



Variety 7g  
(Type 3)  
Batouri Départ

Variety 7g  
(Type 1)  
Manjo



Variety 7g (Type 3) Penja



Variety 7g (Type 3)  
Yokadouma



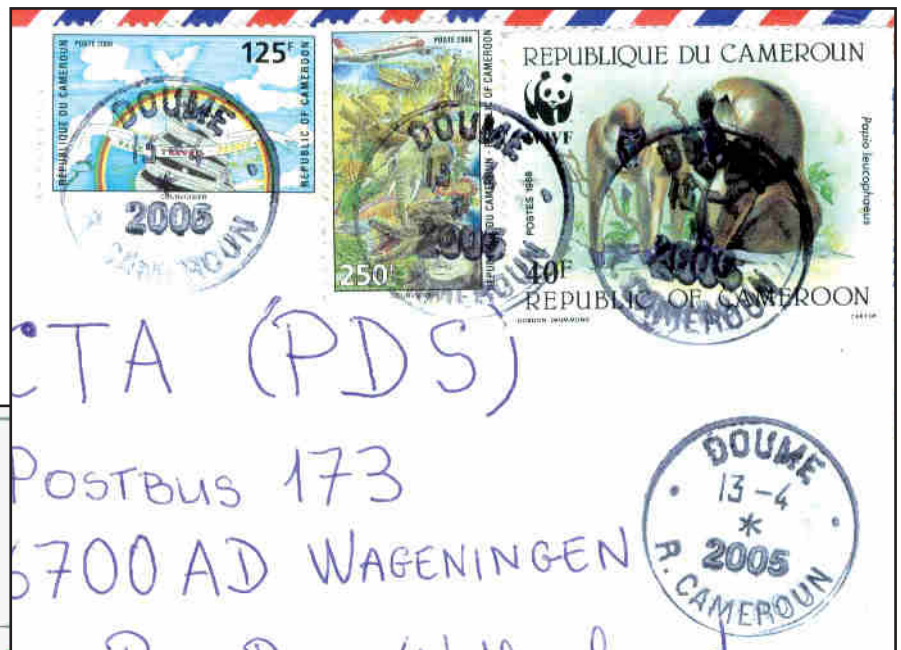
Variety 7h (Type 3)  
Bafoussam Distribution



Variety 7h  
(Type 3)  
Baham



Variety 7h (Type 3) Doumé



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Variety 7h  
 (Type 1)  
 Fundong



Variety 7h (Type 2) Kribi

Variety 7h (Type 2)  
 Penka Michel



Variety 7i  
 (Type 3)  
 Bda -  
 Up Station -  
 Distribution

8. Font height 4.5mm.

a. Length 10mm. Type 2: Mokolo (24 MAR – 10 NOV); Type 3: Bamenda Nkwen (21 SEP – 08 NOV), Edea Départ (06 SEP); Type with just Départ below: Ebo-

lowa (10 NOV)

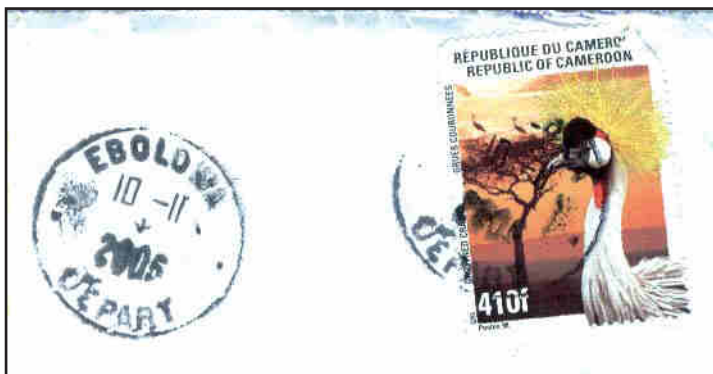
b. Length ? mm. Type 1: Tombel (09 AUG)

9. Font height 5mm. Type 3: Garoua Départ (01 APR – 02 NOV)



Variety 8a (Type 3)  
Bamenda Nkwen

Variety 8a  
(Type with just  
Départ below)  
Ebolowa



Variety 8a  
(Type 2)  
Mokolo



Variety 8b  
(Type 1)  
Tombel



Variety 9  
(Type 3)  
Garoua Départ

The normal metal four digit year slug for the 27mm single ring date stamp type has a font height of about 3.5mm by 1.5mm width. What can be seen is that some post offices were able to provide these but most often the digit 5 is not placed in line or is otherwise out of position such as inverted (upside down).

10. Metal year slug with the digit 5 out of normal position (to right and/or below or above). Type 1: Dibombari

(20 DEC); Type 2: Sangmelima (15 JUL – 17 NOV); Type 3: Ambam (30 MAR), Bafang (12 AUG), Buea Distribution (30 JUL – 07 NOV), Maroua Arrivée (14 NOV); Type with just Départ below: Kumba (13 OCT – 30 DEC)

11. Metal year slug with the digit 5 upside down. Type 2: Meiganga (04 JUL); Type 3: Bertoua Départ (02 AUG), Maroua Départ (04 OCT – 15 DEC) ; Type with just Arrivée below: Kumba (09 AUG)



Variety 10  
(Type 3)  
Bafang



Variety 10  
(Type 3)  
Buea Distribution

Variety 11  
(Type with just  
Arrivée below)  
Kumba Arrivée



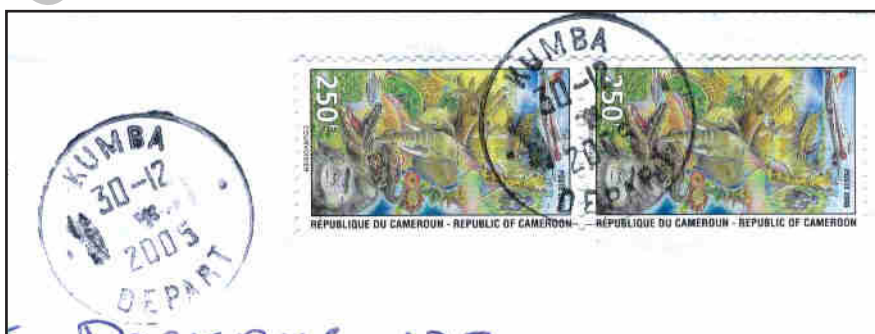




Variety 10 (Type 3) Ambam



Variety 10  
(Type 1)  
Dibombari



Variety 10  
(Type with just Départ below)  
Kumba Départ



Variety 10  
(Type 2)  
Sangmelima

Variety 11  
(Type 3)  
Bertoua Départ



Variety 11  
(Type 2)  
Meiganga



Variety 12  
(Type 3)  
Bafoussam  
Distribution



Variety 12  
(Type 1)  
Obala

A smaller size digit 5 metal replacement was also made having a font height of 3mm with a width of just 1mm.

12. Metal year slug with the digit 5 font height 3mm by 1mm width. Type 1: Obala (21 JUL – 01 NOV); Type 3: Bafoussam Distribution (24 MAR – 05 OCT).

A normal 27mm single ring date stamp type (approximately 3.5mm by 1.5mm) is also noted, such as Type

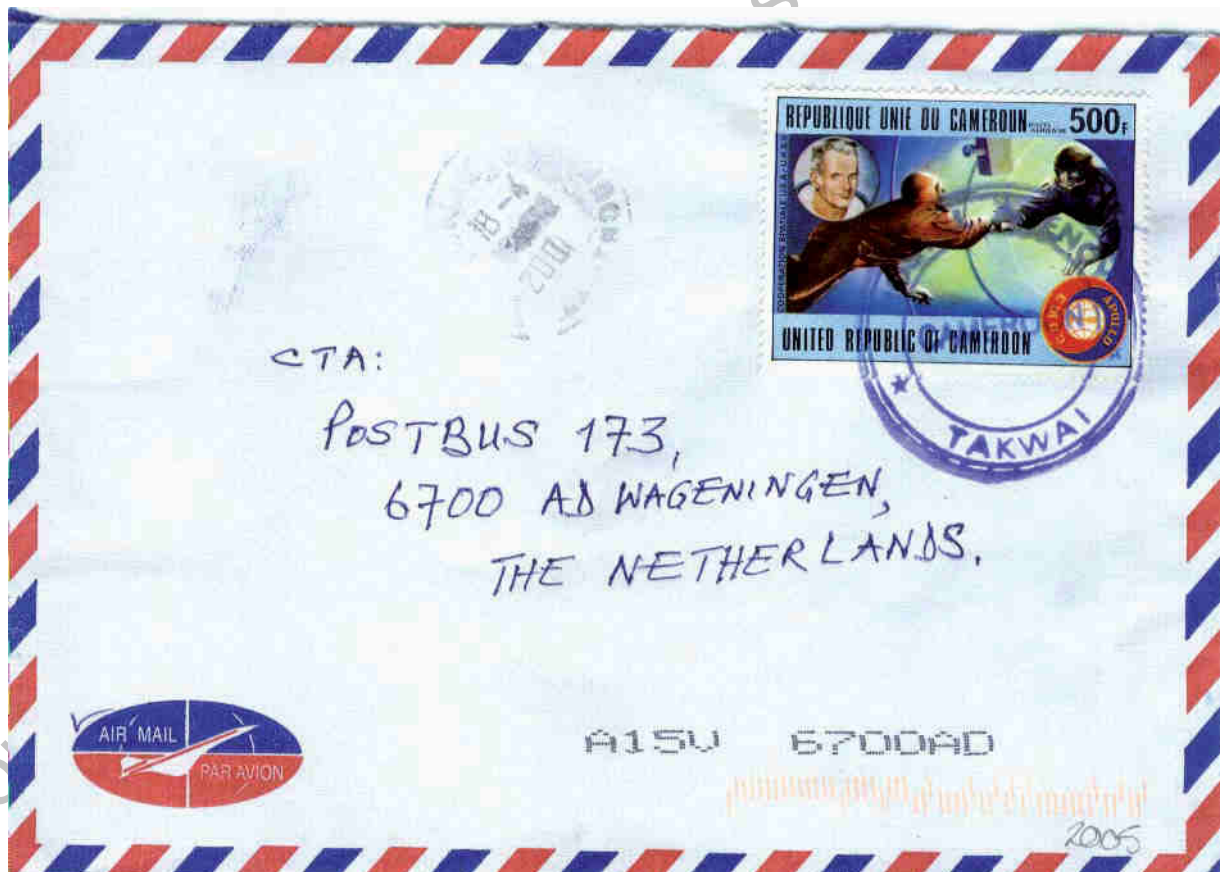
1: Doukoula (12 AUG – 10 NOV), Limbé (17 AUG), Tiko (22 NOV); Type 3: Bafia Départ (09 SEP), Tibati (20 JUL).

In a number of postal agencies a sequence of postmarks can be seen. At Bafoussam Distribution Type 3 was used; in February it can be seen without year slug (1), which in March was already replaced by a small digit 5 font (12). At





"Normal" variety (Type 1) Doukoula



Provisional undated double ring postmark: Takwai

Bangangte Type 2 was used simultaneously with and without year slug (1) as well as a complete year slug with font height 3 mm (5c) which later in November was replaced by the year slug 2003 instead of 2005 (4). At Doukoula Type 1 was used in January with a year slug with font height 4mm (7b), while in August the normal year slug was again in use.

At Tiko Type 1 was used in September with the year slug 2003 (4), but the number 3 was altered into a 5 by pen, while in November the normal year slug was again in use.

The only post office seen with a provisional undated double ring rubber postmark is the one of Takwai applied sometime in April that year.



## Yvert 137 as a Postage Due in 1917

David Jennings-Bramly

In Journal 214 of December 1999 David published an article entitled “The 5c Green Sower Used as a Postage Due”, in which he gave his reasons for thinking that the examples from 1917 in his possession were in fact pure fabrications. The article ended with the following conclusions:

“I regret to say that I have become convinced that none of these covers is genuinely used. In my opinion all five covers are philatelic confections and most probably travelled in other covers to their destinations accompanied by self-addressed envelopes for their return to the senders and notes as to how they were to be handled — so that they would not receive any other marks, such as *Retour à l'Envoyeur*, *Inconnu*, etc. And thanks to the two covers to Villeneuve St Georges, it looks certain that 4 out of 5 of these covers travelled to their apparent destinations with the 5c Sowers and the T in a triangle tax due mark already struck on them by the despatching office.

“It is also notable that all 4 of my covers are backstamped on arrival, when backstamping was not, I think, general by 1917 other than on mail which was not travelling simply from sender to recipient, ie Registered, AR, etc. Then again, 4 out of 5 of the covers have the 5c Sower carefully postmarked on arrival, which was not required to be done by the PTT administration for the obvious reason that the tax triangle acted as an annulation and therefore such stamps could not be used as postage by the recipient on another piece of his or her mail at some later date.”

This article adds to the story.

Editor



Front of the cover

Since publication in our Journal (N° 214) of my article on this subject ten years ago I have seen several more confections similar in style to those then illustrated, but none definitely appearing to be a genuine used item, card or cover. Disappointingly no member has written in, in the interval, to say “I’ve got one” with a photostat or photo to prove it.

This spring the 123mm x 92mm cover illustrated above appeared in a sale. A greatly reduced size illustration of it was amongst the many, in colour, in the auction catalogue. When I spotted it *j’étais frappé d’un coup de foudre!* I was smitten by a lust to possess it. Caution fled: I hoped desperately that no-one else would notice the envelope. A forlorn hope, I knew, but, within reason, I had to have it. The over-taxation by a *sou* convinced me that this could not be the

confection of stamp collector or dealer.

My experience between 1928 and 1938 had taught me that relatives, French as opposed to Welsh, in France were extraordinarily “careful” when *sous* were involved. The size of their *châteaux* or estates made no difference to how carefully they spent or did not spend *sous*. Cousins who had deserted the country for Paris were held up as spend-thrifts — particularly one, a few years older than me, who had married a Parisian who was heir to an industrialist; the factory owner was not quite out of the top drawer, but all had to admit that Elise was *BCBG*<sup>1</sup>.

1 *Bon chic bon genre*: dictionary definition = smart but fogeyish; Sloaneys.

Enlargement of 10c Sower  
and postmark



Enlargement of 5c Sowers  
and T in triangle marks

Slight enlargement  
of part of reverse  
showing arrival mark  
and vertical fold



So I bid high. Unfortunately so did others. Caution having been banished, I did not enquire as to what, if anything, might be on the back of the cover, or even if there were signs of the “giveaway fold”.

The cover arrived. The reverse bears a dead-centrally struck MIRECOURT and the dreaded fold is there: nothing else.

And so I feel I must amend, yet once again, a long ago learned Latin maxim by inserting a well directed *NON SEMPER*<sup>2</sup>. On meeting Jezebel, my daughter drily remarked “I could, I’m sure, have bought me a nice *ballon monté* for your painted hussy’s price.” Ouch!

<sup>2</sup> *Non semper ea sunt quae videntur*: Latin for “Things are not always what they appear to be.”



## General Leclerc in Cameroun and Tchad 1940-42

Bob Maddocks

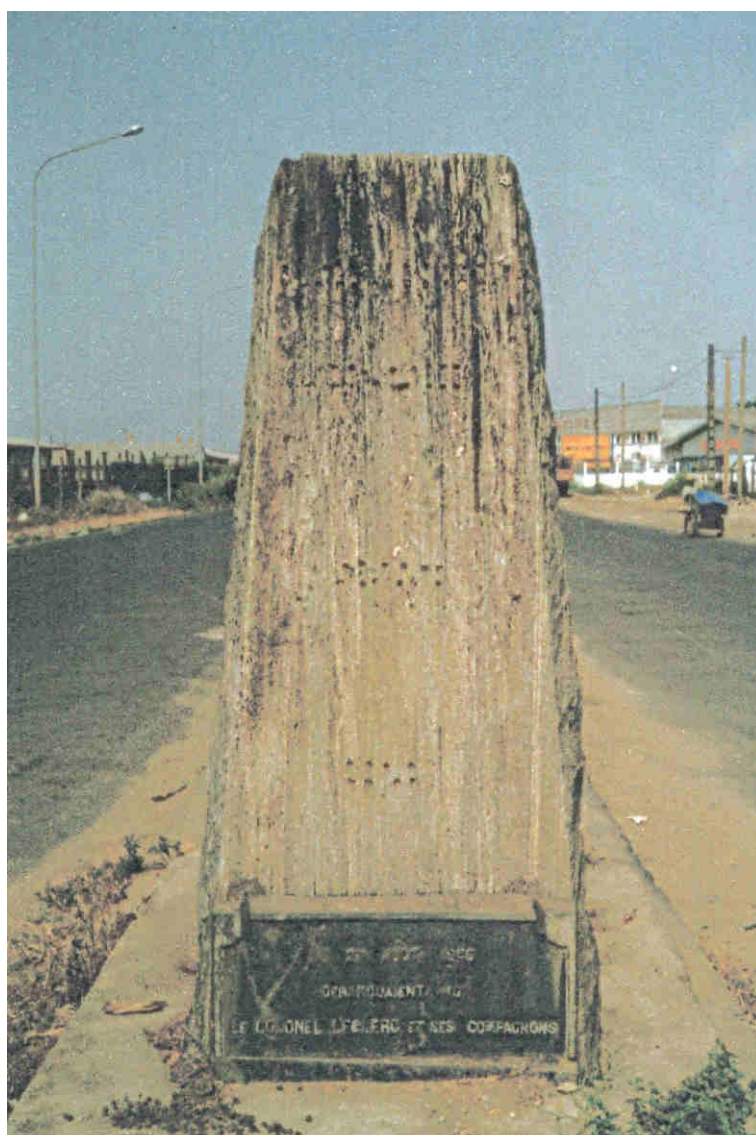


Figure 1  
Monument to Leclerc's landing at Douala 27.8.40  
(Photo by RJM)

In his interesting article on French Internment Camps of WWII in the September 2007 issue of the Journal (N° 245) Derek Richardson showed a photograph of a stone which marks the site of the Choisel-Châteaubriant Concentration Camp. A commemorative plaque thereon giving relevant details is clearly well maintained.

This led me to recall another, and not dissimilar, commemorative stone which I came across in the mid-1960s many hundreds of miles away in Douala, Cameroun, sadly overlooked and in a very poor state of repair, as my photograph (Fig 1) shows.

This stone stood in the centre of the Boulevard du Général Leclerc 27 Août 1940, which runs through the port area on reclaimed land in Douala. At its base was then a heavy metal plaque which appeared to have slid down from an original higher placement. It had a brief inscription: "27

*Août 1940 / Débarquement / Le Colonel Leclerc et ses Compagnons.*" To me, it appeared that there should have been further details of that historic event, which resulted in Cameroun overthrowing its pro-Vichy administration in favour of the Free French. Other relevant plaques have probably been removed by accident or design. Note the many drill holes in the stone. I have not been able to determine when the stone was erected. I wonder whether any of our readers have any relevant details or photographs of the stone in its original state.

To fill in the background, which gave rise to this commemorative stone: during the night of 26-27 August 1940 General Leclerc assembled a small group of French partisans in the British Cameroons and crossed the intervening creeks of the Wourri Estuary to land at Douala. They quickly took possession for the Free French and immediately thereafter





Figure 2  
Statue of Leclerc outside main post office, Douala  
(Photo by RJM)

seized Yaoundé from Vichy control. Leclerc was installed as Commissioner of the Territory, but he then gave up this job to return to active military service based in Fort Lamy, Tchad. Thence his famous drive from Tchad to the Rhine via Libya and North Africa — this event is portrayed in a fine carved stone memorial behind a statue of the General

outside the main post office in Douala (Fig 2).

It is also illustrated on a set of 6 Cameroun (also AEF) commemorative airmail stamps issued in 1946 (Fig 3). Of these commemorative stamps, the 10F value is here singled out for additional comment as it marked a turning point in the fortunes of the Free French. This was the capture of



Figure 3  
Set of 6 commemorative stamps of Cameroun  
marking Leclerc's famous drive from Tchad to the Rhine, issued 1946





Figure 4  
Front and reverse of Italian official envelope from Koufra used by French soldier at Largeau



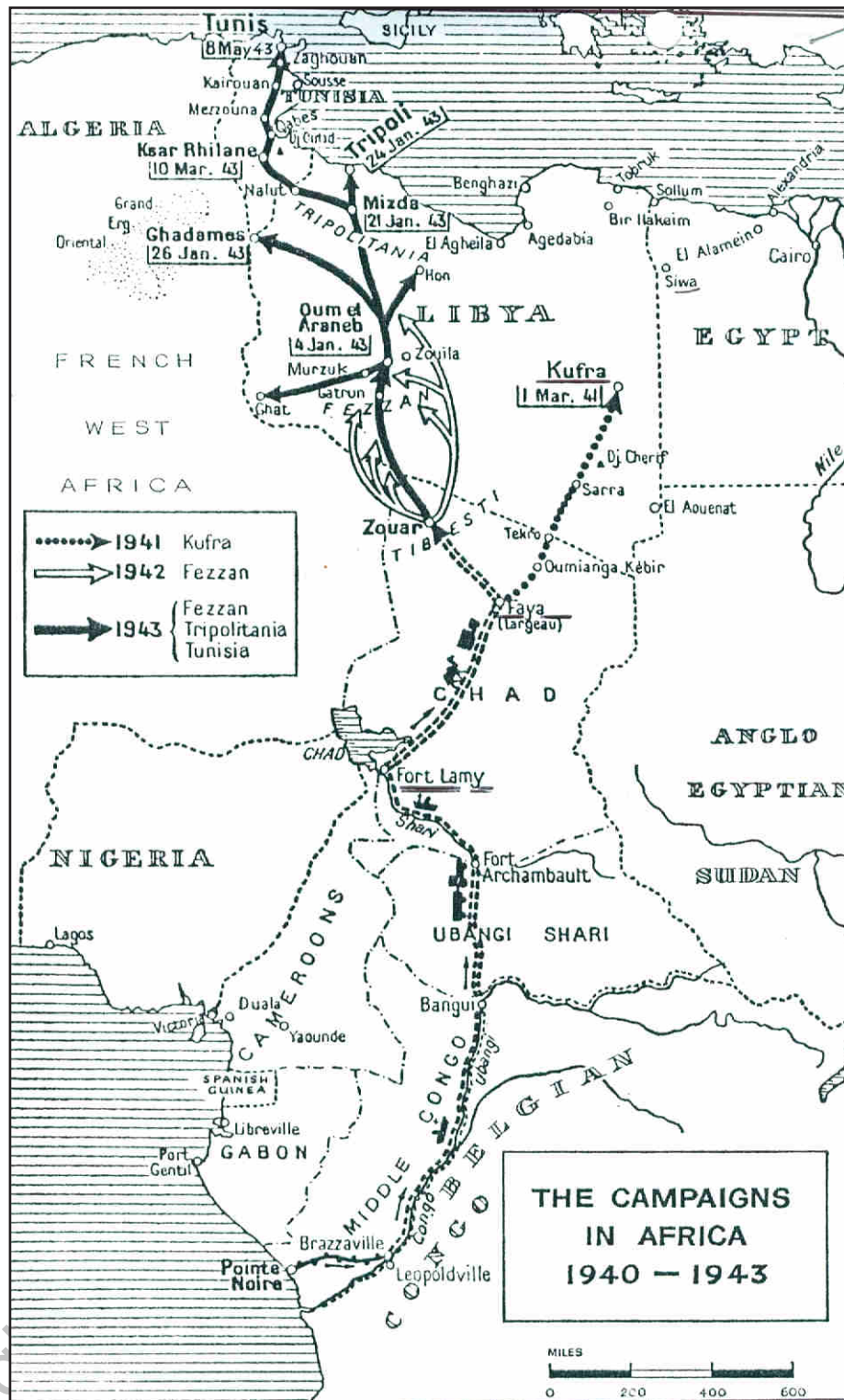


Figure 5  
Map of the Attack on Koufra  
from "Out of the Sand" by H Maule (London, 1966)

the Italian held Libyan oasis of Koufra by General Leclerc on 1 March 1941. To achieve this, Leclerc's force, mainly native soldiers recruited in Tchad, had crossed some 1000 miles of desert from Fort Lamy via Largeau (formerly Faya) (Fig 5).

Koufra was an Italian military stronghold and airbase, strategically positioned between Italian forces in northern Libya and those in Eritrea and Ethiopia. Leclerc's remarkable success in its capture made him the first Fighting Free French leader to seize any enemy territory since the fall

of France to the Germans. In a victory message to General de Gaulle, Leclerc vowed he would not rest until the French flag once more flew over Paris and Strasbourg. This became known as the famous oath of Koufra which, indeed, he personally saw fulfilled, as the "Tchad to the Rhine" commemorative stamps bear witness.

A considerable supply of Italian weapons and ammunition was captured by the French and, as the Force withdrew, was taken back across the border to Largeau. Leclerc had insufficient troops to occupy and defend Koufra in isola-



tion and in the face of expected Italian aerial counterattack. In any event, his main objective was to prepare for a more important offensive from Largeau, this time through south-west Libya via the Fezzan, and to join up with the British 8th Army fighting along the North African coastline. The offensive began in December 1942.

Almost inevitably, amongst the looted Italian property found at Koufra were such mundane items as postal stationery, which French troops put to their personal use. The envelope illustrated on page 170 (Fig 4, front and reverse) had obviously been originally provided for official purposes — as seen by the Italian coat of arms and address pre-printed on its back flap, viz “*Presidio Militare / Cufra / Circolo Ufficiali.*” In this instance it was used at Largeau for a French soldier’s stampless mailing to another Tchadian township, Laye [also spelt Lai], some 200 miles south-east of Fort Lamy. The sender, in the Artillery at Largeau, had written these details along with his name, which is not fully legible, in the bottom left hand corner. In the top right hand corner he had added what presumably are the initials “F.M.” to indicate his entitlement to the Military’s free frank mailing concession.

Largeau, in 1941, had yet to be built up as a major military base and depot of the *Intendance* Service by the Free French, and in April of that year this cover entered the Tchad civil postal system at this point. The Largeau / AEF date stamp of 8 April 1941 is barely discernible. Thereafter in transit, it passed through Fort Lamy on 18 April 1941 where the civil censor cachet “*Contrôle Postal / Commis-*

*sion G / Afrique Équatoriale Française*” was also applied without any indication that the envelope had been opened for censorship purposes. The third and final postal date stamp was that of Moundou / AEF, but its day and month did not print well – 12.?.41.

Moundou was the chief town of the Logone *département*, of which Laye was a subdivision, with the township of the same name being an old military station on the right bank of the Logone River. Quite why the sender of the cover had included in the addressee’s address “Près de Bongor”, the more distant chief town of the neighbouring Mayo-Kebbi *département*, is uncertain. Laye was, however, upriver of Bongor which was in turn upriver of Fort Lamy. Connected river traffic depended on the seasonal depth of water. However, all the several other wartime mailings to Laye I have come across have a Moundou transit date stamp. None has one of Laye itself, which perhaps indicates it did not have a post office at that time. From around 1910 Laye had been renamed Béhagle, after the French trader/explorer Jean-Jacques-Marie-Ferdinand de Béhagle, who had been murdered in October 1899 at Dikwa on the orders of Rabeh, Emir of Bornu. Rabeh, in conflict with the French, had held him hostage for five months previously. I have not been able to ascertain when it reverted to its original name.

One of the most highly regarded French military leaders of WWII, General Leclerc was tragically killed in an air crash in North Africa on 28 November 1947 whilst on a tour of French colonies he had done so much to win back for Free France.

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## BOOKSHELF

**Intercontinental Airmails, Volume One: Transatlantic and Pacific** by Edward B Proud (Proud Publications, 2008); 632 pp, including bibliography and index

My review, while broadly descriptive of the entire work, is focused for evaluation only on the material of interest to collectors of France and colonies, and specifically on the information that appears in the book regarding basic postal rates and airmail surtaxes from France and the “colonies” (I use the term broadly).

Ted Proud continues a long history of writing and publishing postal history books. This particular volume is crammed full of detailed information and I find it difficult to imagine the amount of research and material he has incorporated. The bibliography is impressive. I understand, for example, that he has photocopies of all the issues of the UPU publication usually called (in short form) the *AVI Liste*, from its beginning in 1929 to 1945: that alone represents several thousand pages of useful material!

The work undertakes to cover the subject in fourteen chapters, of which the first six focus on the North Atlantic, with a chapter each for pioneer transatlantic flights, the German airship flights, services 1939-1945, Imperial Airways/BOAC services, Pan American timetables, and Trans-Canada Air Lines. The next five cover the South Atlantic, with a chapter each for the French service, Lufthansa, Italian services, Pan American’s service between Brazil and Lisbon, and Pan American’s service between Miami and West Africa (FAM 22). (This chapter shows that Proud,

understandably enough when he wrote, was not aware of the most recent developments in the study of FAM 22.) The final three chapters cover Pan American’s transpacific routes, the TEAL service from New Zealand to Australia, and European Link and Shuttle services 1939-45. What amazes me — although I gather that aerophilatelists are used to this sort of thing — is that Proud charts the actual flights of most of these airlines on the routes discussed, identifying the aircraft used and providing stops and dates.

Collectors of France and colonies will be most interested in chapter seven, “French South Atlantic Service Mail,” but will find things of note in other chapters as well. This is especially true for basic (surface) postal rates and airmail surtaxes used in France and colonies. There are listings of these for various countries in almost every chapter, and France and some of its colonies are included in several of these listings. (The index for the rates given on pp 112-152 incorrectly lists them as for carriage on the Imperial/BOAC service as described in chapter 4; instead, they belong to the North Atlantic services as described in chapter 5.) The idea of the whole is to enable the reader to identify what flight a given cover was probably carried on and to analyze the franking on that cover. I will focus on the rates below; here I express my most basic criticism of Proud’s work in

general: in spite of his bibliography one cannot tell the source of much of the information he provides — although he does indicate some sources and reproduces a number of original documents. Failure to document information carefully is a failing of many philatelic writers. This makes the information of limited use; the careful reader cannot evaluate it properly or carry out further research. Furthermore, it means that the authors on whose work one has relied do not receive the recognition they deserve.

My own focus is on the postal and airmail rates listed for France and colonies. Readers of this journal are aware that I coordinate the work of a group devoted to researching these rates — a project that is nearing completion and will before long issue in a book. Every collector of France and colonies needs to be aware that there are many deficiencies and errors in Proud's listings. (I cannot speak about the rates listed for other countries, of course.) In order to be helpful to any user of the volume, I will describe the problems involved, speaking first of those that characterize the listings in general and then noting specific items.

1. In each listing of rates used in France and colonies, Proud first provides the UPU surface rates to which the airmail surtax had to be added — correctly so. But the UPU rates applied only to countries that were not part of the French community (called "international" rates), whereas a letter sent to France or one of its colonies required domestic basic (surface) rates (called "Franco-colonial" and "inter-colonial") instead. These are not listed by Proud, even though he includes airmail surtaxes to French colonies. The reader, therefore, will not be able to apply Proud's airmail surtaxes correctly to the analysis of the franking on covers to such destinations. As one of many examples, on p 125 — after listing UPU surface rates — he lists surtaxes from France to various countries. The list includes Guadeloupe, French Guiana, and Martinique, all of which would require domestic surface rates, not UPU rates. This is a serious deficiency throughout.

2. The rates listed, especially the airmail surtaxes, are very limited. I grant that Proud apparently intended to list these only (or at least primarily) for the wartime period (1939-45), but even for this period only some of the airmail surtaxes in effect are given. I will not attempt to list here the ones that Proud does not include, but most listings suffer from this lack. To cite just one (of many) such: on p 112, giving airmail surtaxes from Algeria, he notes that the surtax would be the same as from France with an additional 1F/10g for the leg Algeria-France. But this increased to 1F50/10g in September 1942. (No doubt Proud could only list the rates he found in his research, and that is understandable. I assume — since he does not identify sources for each listing — that he relied heavily on Derek Richardson's *French Postal Rates 1949-2005* for the airmail surtaxes from France, and on the *AVI Liste* for the surtaxes from some of the colonies. Both of these are listed in his bibliography, although none of the official journals of the colonies appear there. Perhaps he is not aware — as comparison of the *AVI Liste* with the colonial official journals shows — that the *AVI Liste* was not always kept up to date. Furthermore, that publication was very limited during the latter part of the war years.) At any rate, the user of Proud's work will need to realize that, even when the rates and surtaxes

given are correct, they applied only during certain parts of the time. Rates and surtaxes for some parts of the period 1939-45 are not given. This deficiency is pervasive.

3. The dates given for the periods when certain rates or surtaxes were in effect are often imprecise. One general observation about these is that changes in rates did not necessarily take place in any given colony on the same date as in France. This includes even the basic UPU surface rates that Proud lists, using the same dates in all the colonies that applied in France. In some of the colonies this is not a serious problem: the changes took place at least soon after they were effective in France. But in some instances this is a significant problem: in a number of cases the changes were several months later, and in the colonies that aligned with the Free French (AEF and Cameroun, in particular) the 1942 changes did not take place until 1944! Again, we can only expect Proud to publish what he found in his sources, but the user of this volume needs to be aware of this deficiency.

4. Another detracting aspect of Proud's dates is inconsistency: for some of the colonies he lists all the UPU surface rates that he lists for France: five sets for August 1926, August 1937 (which he incorrectly states as April 1937), December 1938, January 1940, and February 1942. But for a number of the French colonies he only gives four sets of these, omitting the 1942 changes. Examples are French West Africa (p 250), French Somali Coast (p 250), French Equatorial Africa (p 251), and Guadeloupe (p 251), when all five sets could have been listed (even though for AEF the 1942 changes did not take place until 1944).

5. In addition to these broad deficiencies, I list the following specific problems:

- p 112 (Algeria), the UPU rates for 1944 are incorrect: instead of 1F + 60c it should be 4F + 2F40, instead of the 60c postcard rate it should be 2F40, and registration should be 4F.
- p 125 (France), airmail surtaxes to Canada, the US and Central America should be 10F/10g rather than 10F/5g.
- p 125 (French Guiana), the list of airmail surtaxes for May 1939 and December 1940 is entirely incorrect; it is, in fact, a reproduction of the list for France! (This was probably the result of copying information by computer.)
- pp 125-126 (French Guiana, AEF and AOF): no UPU surface rates listed; the reader is left to assume that they were the same as from France — perhaps a safe assumption.
- p 126 (AEF), airmail surtaxes for 1940 to the US and Canada are for air only part of the way (from AEF to France and from New York on, with surface carriage between France and New York); there were also surtaxes for the complete route, not given.
- pp 132, 255, 554 (Indochina), the UPU rates given for "Feb. '40" went into effect 1 July 1939; they increased in February (or March) 1940.
- p 138 (New Caledonia) simply says "as Fr. Colonies" without giving information. While this might cover the UPU rates (ignoring differences in effective dates, as mentioned above), it would not cover airmail surtaxes.



- p 147 (Syria) simply says "as Lebanon," but Lebanon is not listed in this section! Consequently, there is no information for either.
- pp 248-249 (France), airmail surtaxes to Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay are confusing: for 21 April 1931 they should be 8F50/5g and for 10 Aug 1937 10F50/5g (the same as to Brazil, correctly listed).
- p 250 (French Guiana) lists airmail surtaxes but does not say to where! The surtaxes are correct to France.
- p 251 (Guadeloupe, misspelled Guadaloupe), the inclusive airmail surtax is not correct for French Morocco (should be 18F/5g).
- p 255 (Indochina), the airmail surtaxes listed for July 1935 to several South American countries (85 cents/5g) covered air only from France; for air all the way, one had to add 30 cents/5g for the leg to France.
- p 259 (French Morocco) has May 1938, confusingly, as starting date for two sets of airmail surtaxes; the second set was decreed 11 August 1938.
- p 554 (Indochina) states airmail surtaxes using "F" as though in French francs, but the amount was in piastres. Also, the surtax for one group of African countries (Cameroun through Senegal) must have been accidentally omitted: it was 2p20; only the surtax to the Canary Islands was 2p05, which appears to apply to all these countries.

I may note that I have not undertaken to check Proud's second volume in this series, which describes airmail services involving Asia and Australia. A quick glance at the pages that give rates from France and colonies, however, shows a

number of similar problems. One especially startling error caught my eye, however, that our readers should know about. On p 827, appearing under French West Africa, is a table of airmail surtaxes purporting to be the "extra fee" for airmail service beyond France. The table should be identified as for French Indochina, not French West Africa. It does indeed indicate the airmail surtaxes, in Indochinese currency, for airmail service beyond France (what we often call OAT). But even if the table were correctly identified, it has some important errors. The surtax to Corsica, for weights up to 20 grams, should be 3.5 (.035) cents, not 35 cents, and to Europe should be 7.5 (.075) cents not 75 cents (in both the LC and the AO columns). And the note that the surtax is for carriage by boat from France to New York and then airmail from New York, at the bottom, should be attached by asterisk to all the countries in the Western Hemisphere and not just to some in South America.

The reader of this review should not take these corrections to indicate that as a whole the book is worthless. Far from it. While discernment and further checking of data are called for, no doubt there is much helpful information in the book. This kind of care should probably be taken with any of the resources we use, especially philatelic resources produced from under the rigors of academic publishers and peer review. Proud's volume represents an impressive achievement, and the numerous pages of schedules are enhanced by a wealth of pictures that complement the information and make the whole interesting. On a personal note, I found the author very cooperative when I asked for help identifying the source of one set of rates he gave.

Bob Picirilli

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**The Postal History of British Airmails** by Edward B Proud; pub 1991; ISBN 1 872465 722; hardback, 576 pp, 24.5 x 16cm; many b/w illustrations; price £70 plus p&p; available from Vera Trinder Ltd, 38 Bedford Street, Strand, London WC2E 9EU

Despite its title, this book (which is still in print) contains much that is of interest to collectors of French airmails.

A Preface explains Standard Abbreviations, details UK basic postal rates ("Air Fees" were additional at first) and reprints contemporary documentation of the first British "Aerial Post" between London and Windsor to commemorate the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911.

Chapter 1 ("Pre-1919", pp 13-49) devotes 19 pages to the Siege of Paris with particular emphasis on the British side of the Channel, the pigeongram and balloon posts being explained complete with Tables of the number of messages sent from London to Tours for onward transmission (it was hoped) to Paris by pigeon and the flights from Paris by balloon. For students of airmail as generally understood, the Chapter continues with a brief note on the Windsor Flights of 1911 followed by a 17 page study of "RAF Services 1911-1920" (sic). The first service involving France was established in the final days of World War I when, for two or three days only, mail for advancing British troops was flown from Le Cateau in the *Département du Nord* to two advance aerodromes in Belgium. Soon after the Armistice, on 16 December 1918, two regular services, also from France (Marquise and Maisoncelle, both in the *Département du Pas-de-Calais*) to Belgium but shortly afterwards extended

to Germany (Cologne), were established; they were followed from 1 March 1919 by a service from Hawkinge near Folkestone to Maisoncelle and Cologne. These services were, of course, designed to expedite the delivery of mail to the Military and followed discussions between representatives of the Army Postal Service and the RAF; they were not intended to be used for civilian purposes.

Chapter 2 (pp 50-182) consists of a "Chronological Development of the Air Mail Services" from the coming into force of the Air Navigation Act 1919, which allowed civil flying, on 1 May 1919. The account ends at 21 November 1945 and its scope is worldwide; references to the French mails are scattered through its pages, the most interesting being details of the first UK foreign airmail service between London and Paris on 10 November 1919 and subsequent developments, the arrangements "whereby the senders of the letters for Morocco may prepay them for onward transmission from France by the French Air Mail which leaves Toulouse on Tuesday and Saturday mornings in each week, and is due at Rabat (Morocco) on the afternoon of the following day", and reports (negative) on the "*Île de France*" Catapult service in 1928 and again in 1930. Curiously, the precise date on which the new Morocco service began is not stated, but it must have been some time between 5

and 19 July 1920. The effect of World War II on airmail services (cessations and resumptions) is covered in some detail, from a British viewpoint, of course.

Chapter 3 (pp 183-435) deals with "Air Mail Rates from the UK" in alphabetical order from Aden to Zanzibar, but for major destinations, including France, this heading is rather misleading. The section on France (pp 250-263) includes, in addition to the promised details of charges, two very informative Tables. The first details dates of "No Service" from 25, 26 and 27 December 1919 (in both directions, the first after the service began) to 25 and 26 December 1931 (London-Paris) and 7 January 1933 (Paris-London); no reason is given for the cut-off dates — were they the last? The second Table lists dates of "Mail Delayed", mainly through crashes and forced landings, between 20 April 1920 and 30 October 1930 (London-Paris) and 11 August 1920 and 10 April 1935 (Paris-London); again the cut-off date is not explained. There are similar Notes on mishaps in the sections on Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia (not many in the case of the last named).

Chapter 4 (pp 436-556) is a comprehensive study of "Foreign Airlines used to carry British Mail"; the section on French services runs to 44 pages (452-496) including illustrations. Some 18 pages are devoted to a Time Table of flights on the South America service from 8 August 1928, the first flight used by the British Post Office, until the service ceased on 29 June 1940 following the capitulation of France in World War II. Dates of departure/arrival at both Toulouse and Buenos Aires are given, where known, and (for 1928 only) UK closing dates. Copious Notes draw attention to significant events such as mishaps, the first mail flown across the South Atlantic by Jean Mermoz on 12-13 May 1930 and the disaster which overtook him on 6 December 1936 (curiously, in this case he is not named). At first, the section Dakar-Natal (Brazil) was by fast despatch boat; a weekly service all the way by air began on

6 January 1936, but the list shows that there had been quite a few direct flights by then — the aircraft involved is named in the Notes until September 1934 and thereafter in the Time Table. There are few gaps after 25 April 1936, none after 13 February 1937. Details of delayed flights are scattered throughout the text, and there is a Table listing delays on the Toulouse-Dakar-Toulouse service from 18 October 1925 to 15 December 1928. The effect of World War II on these French services are also discussed in this Chapter; they include a list of the available services from the UK via France in January 1940.

Short Chapters 5 (pp 557-564) and 6 (pp 565-571) deal with "Underpaid Air Mail and Air Mail Marks" and "Air-graphs"; they do not call for any comment.

As I hope I've shown, this book is a useful addition to the libraries of collectors of French airmails; written from the British perspective it may shed fresh light on what has been learnt from French sources. The book is produced to a high standard, its stout hardback binding will stand up to a good deal of wear and tear and it is easily read by elderly eyes such as my own which are no longer in tiptop condition. I have a couple of reservations — for some odd reason the Table of Contents, which is called an Index, refers only to Chapters without giving any indication of what they are about, and there is no Index as usually understood. I can see that a fully comprehensive Index would run to many pages, but it would save much time-consuming turning over of the pages. The black and white illustrations, which would benefit from sharper definition, include many photographs, particularly of aircraft, maps and reproductions of airlines' posters which would look much better in colour — not an impossibility in 1991, I would have thought. Strangely, there seem to be no illustrations of flown covers.

This book is strongly recommended to collectors of French airmails and Franco-British posts in general.

**Bill Mitchell**

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**Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue: West Africa** (1st edition, 2009); ISBN 13: 978-0-85259-651-7; xiv+162pp, price £19.95

Members may be wondering what relevance a British West Africa catalogue has to the Francophone territories we collect. Togo, of course, came under British scrutiny long enough to generate those Anglo-French Occupation surcharges on Germany and Gold Coast. They appear here in a listing that basically duplicates that of Gibbons' 'Commonwealth 1840-1970' volume. But in recognition of its joining the Commonwealth in 1995, Cameroun now makes an appearance. In similar fashion to Togo, its CEF surcharges on Germany are listed, plus the 1960 UKTT overprints on Nigeria. But the main interest to F&CPS members will be the listing of all Cameroun's new issues since 1995. This is a Gibbons 'first', for — unusually — not even the monthly new issue supplements in Gibbons Stamp Monthly have made any mention of them.

Editorial caution has hitherto been the watchword, Gibbons taking its customary care before listing in haste a stamp issue that may later turn out to be unauthorised. The cataloguer's cause has also not been helped by written

ministerial statements from the country itself categorically denying — in spite of copious on-cover evidence — the very existence of any new issues at all. All this is now put straight, and SG's new listing helps to remind us of two attractions. One is that compared with almost any other of its Francophone neighbours Cameroun has had a quite restrained new issue policy, with only 40 basic stamps in ten years. The other is that stamped mail from the country exists in plentiful enough quantity for any of us to be able to assemble a representative collection of postally used specimens without too much difficulty. There is much else to explore: unofficial sewing-machine perforations made locally from imperforate sheets to eke out dwindling supplies, and — for postmark collectors — a piecemeal changeover to 'Campost' cancellations, in larger format than their predecessors and inscribed in mixed upper and lower case characters.

A 2009 catalogue containing new issue listings stopping at 2005 looks at first like an excessively slow catch-up rate,



but for Cameroun this is emphatically not the case: only two stamps have appeared at all since the latest listed set in Gibbons ('Cameroun-Japon' Co-operation, eight values), namely a Papal Visit issue (200F and 250F, issued 4 March 2009, plus a miniature sheet— or possibly two) which 'Stamps of the World' will no doubt list in due course.

The new 'West Africa' catalogue listing includes valuable points that 'Stamps of the World' users could miss. There are perforation varieties and different imprints amid the 1996 OAU Conference set of 1996. There are two versions of the *Cameroun-Japon* issue — versions which SG omits, since they weren't discovered until after press date, but which we can all look out for. Most if not all values exist either with or without the date '2005' after the word 'Postes' at bottom left.

Catalogue prices were devised after consultation (gratefully acknowledged) with several members of the West Africa Study Circle, at least one of whom lived in Cameroun itself. The Cameroun market is volatile: mint are very scarce, and not priced at all. Local information is that mint 125F values are among the scarcest: this was the domestic letter rate and supplies ran out quickly. Gibbons' used prices are generally high: too high, perhaps, for the quasi-definitive Tourism sets of 1998 and 2000, SG 1193-99 and

1206-08. These are common, and exchange packet members (both buyers and sellers) should treat them with caution. Conversely, there is a grossly scarce diamond-shaped 500F value originally produced in connection with the Post Office Savings Bank but which received limited postal use: this is by no means overpriced at £15. Few of us have ever seen this at all.

Yvert still seems not to list post-1995 Cameroun, at least not in *Tome 2, 2<sup>e</sup> Partie* (all I've seen). Cameroun's change to Commonwealth member status may have deflected subsequent listings into a different Yvert volume: can any member confirm? Scott and Michel have been listing Cameroun new issues for a while — but it is a pleasure for British collectors to be able to welcome this Gibbons update. Full marks to SG for correctly describing the 200F Tourism stamp: captioned 'Baboon,' this is in fact a mandrill. The 2002 World Cup miniature sheet is confusing to describe in words: it actually contains the 250F, in square format, plus the circular 125F value alongside.

This is a most useful and careful listing. Let us hope that SG will now turn its attention to other African ex-Colonies. According to the latest 'Stamps of the World' to hand (2008), I notice that the *République Centrafricaine* and *Niger* have not been updated since 1994, *Gabon* and *Congo* since 1993, nor *Madagascar* since 1992.

Michael Round

## Books Noted

*Les Colonies françaises: Tarifs et service postal (1848-1878) – Les colonies d'Afrique* by Michèle Chauvet; 520pp A4 in colour; price 140€ +p&p; available from Éditions Brun & fils, 85 galerie Beaujolais, Palais-Royal, 75001 Paris.

*Oblitérations mécaniques des colonies françaises, protectorats, territoires sous mandat avant l'indépendance, tome 1: Algérie, Maroc, Tunisie; tome 2: Afrique Noire, Asie, Europe*, new edition 2009 by Gérard Artaud; price 15€ and 13€ or 25€ for both (+p&p); available from the author, 6 rue Armand-Millet, 92340 Bourg-la-Reine.

*Le service des postes et télégraphes du Niger, 1900-1940 (Bulletin Col.Fra Hors-Série N° 18-3, 2009)* by Constant Bouerat; available from Col.Fra, Alain Hurpet, BP 5, 10230 Mailly-le-Camp.

*Madagascar, philatélie malgache, tome 1: Les affranchissements (Bulletin Col.Fra Hors-Série N° 5-8A, 2009)* by Dr. Jacques Desnos of the French Indian Ocean Settlements; available from Col.Fra, Alain Hurpet, BP 5, 10230 Mailly-le-Camp.

*Les bureaux de distribution «cursives» de France et d'Algérie 1819-1858* by Jean Chevalier; price 140€ +p&p; available from Jean-François Baudot, 24 rue de Gramont, 75002 Paris.

*Joseph Hackmey: France Cérès 1849* by Michèle Chauvet & Jean-François Brun; 200pp; price 35€ +p&p; available from David Feldman SA, 175 route de Chancy, PO Box 81,

CH-1213 Onex, Geneva, Switzerland.

*L'occupation italienne en France à travers son service postal militaire (1940-1943)* by Claude Gérard; supplement to *Feuilles Marcophiles* N° 338; price 30€ +p&p; 156pp A4 in colour; available from l'Union marcophile, l'Adresse musée de La Poste, 34 boulevard de Vaugirard, 75731 Paris Cedex 15.

*Les îles Éparses: Nouvelle Frontière des TAAF*, pub. administration des TAAF; 210 x 140mm; available from la boutique des TAAF, 34 boulevard de Sébastopol, 75004 Paris.

*L'Histoire des cent premiers pionniers de l'aviation française* by Yves Saint-Yves; 120pp 220 x 280mm; price 32€; available Yvert & Tellier, 2 rue de l'Étoile, 80094 Amiens Cedex 3.

*Des P & T à la campagne: L'exemplarité de l'Auvergne avant 1914* by Nicolas Laparra; Cahiers pour l'histoire de La Poste N° 11; 183pp, 170 x 240mm; price 6€; available from Comité pour l'histoire de La Poste, CP F 502, 44 boulevard de Vaugirard, 75757 Paris Cedex 15.

*Catalogue des timbres des postes privées d'Alsace-Lorraine 1886-1914, avec description et prix des entiers postaux* by Michel P Daulard; 146pp; price 55€; available from the author, 18 rue de l'île Margot, 58800 Clamecy.

**French Establishments in India: Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery** by Ron Wood; it is reported that our member Ron has donated a copy to the RPSL Library.

Maurice Tyler

## French Colonies in World War II - What was the *Milliard de la Libération*?

Bill Mitchell

I have acquired the second copy of a postcard (illustrated on the front cover of this Journal), published in Dakar (Senegal) on Bastille Day (14 July) 1944 in aid of War charities. Like the first copy, which I discussed in an article in the Journal for June 2006<sup>(1)</sup>, it is “franked” with a complete set of the Mauritania airmail stamps of 1940 (Yvert PA 1-5) cancelled DAKAR PRINCIPAL / SENEGAL / 14. JUIL. 44; it was posted to Algeria and bears a Philippeville arrival cachet of 25 (or possibly 26) July. A third copy identically “franked” and cancelled and also addressed to Algeria (Bône, though unfortunately there is no receiver) is owned by Bob Maddocks. The total face value of the stamps affixed to each card is 21.10 francs; the cards were sold at 100 francs each so the profit on each one would have been some 75 francs. The serial number on the address side of this latest example of the card, 01308, is the highest of the three, so if — as is quite possible — 2000 cards were sold the venture would have shown a profit of some 150,000 francs, which seems a more realistic total than the rather fanciful amounts suggested in my 2006 article. As will appear, however, the facts are rather different.

In my previous article I asked what exactly was this *Semaine du Milliard de la Libération*, and how widely was it observed? Browsing through some back numbers of the COL.FRA *Bulletin* I found that much the same questions were asked by a member, a M. Omer, in the issue, N° 86, for the second *trimestre* of 1999. M. Omer illustrates the same card, likewise “franked” with the 1940 airmail stamps of Mauritania cancelled at Dakar on 14 July 1944; unfortunately he does not say whether it was actually sent through the post, nor does he state the serial number. He also illustrates one of two *encarts philatéliques*, which I take to be stiffeners for missing envelopes similarly inscribed, headed *ENTR'AIDE FRANÇAISE POUR LA LIBÉRATION / Comité de Tunis / 14 Juillet 1944 / SOUSCRIPTION NATIONALE pour le MILLIARD DE LA LIBÉRATION / LISTE N° 000122*. The card bears two copies of each of the 1.50 + 8.50 francs *Libération de la Tunisie* stamp and the 10 francs and 5 francs El Djem definitives of 1941 (without “RF”); these are Yvert 249, 241 and 240 respectively. The stamps are cancelled with a special commemorative circular date stamp of Tunis; naturally the date is 14 July. M. Omer also owns, but does not illustrate, a similar *encart philatélique* of French West Africa (AOF) bearing unspecified stamps of the Ivory Coast.

The only substantive reply to his query was published in COL.FRA's *Bulletin* 89 (fourth *trimestre* 1999); it is not a model of clarity. It takes the form of an extract from “*Histoire de la France Coloniale*”, tome III: *Le Déclin*<sup>(2)</sup>, reprinted without comment or analysis (not even the author is named, although the publisher is). The title suggests that the scope is worldwide, but after several readings I concluded that the detail contained in the extract relates only to the African territories and colonies. Perhaps the title of the relevant chapter would have made this clear, but it is

not stated. My free translation of the extract follows.

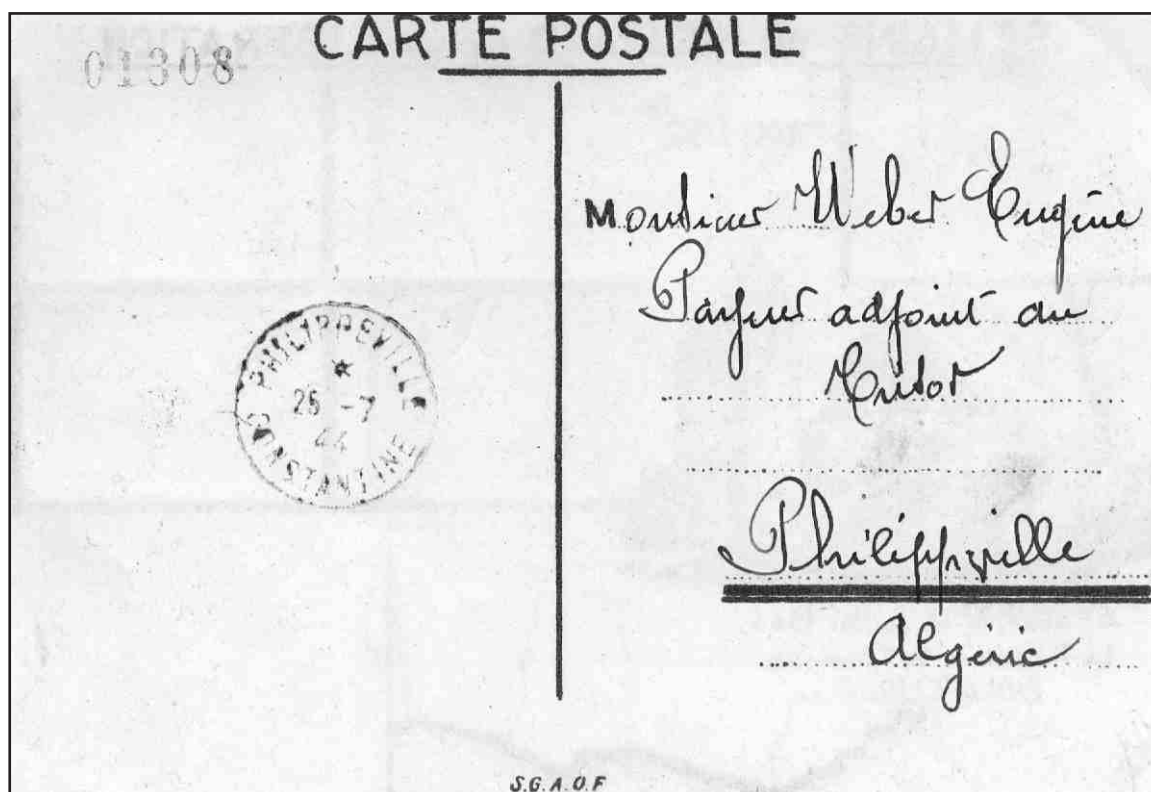
“Fund-raising was by no means the least of the contributions of the Empire to the War Effort. Free French Africa set an example by a return to the system of *souscriptions volontaires* [apparently by the indigenous population] practised in 1939, but Félix Éboué [who had been appointed Governor-General of French Equatorial Africa (AEF) by de Gaulle in November 1940<sup>(3)</sup>] extended it to Europeans. As he wrote [apparently subsequently] in a circular of 9 December 1942: ‘The Administrators and the Africans have already given enough to provide four aircraft for *la France Libre*; now they must subscribe to double this.’

“French territories [in Africa, I presume] contributed to a series of loans (*emprunts*) and subscriptions: *l'emprunt africain* (1942-1943) and subscriptions to aid the Resistance (1943), to support prisoners and deportees (1944) and to the *Milliard de la Libération* (1945 *sic*).”

The account goes on to give details of some of the amounts contributed. As I say, I believe that they relate only to French Africa; they are very impressive. 241,500,000 francs were subscribed to *Aide la Résistance* by *l'ensemble des colonies*, the North African territories excepted. The only reason for this exception that I can think of is that they remained under Vichy control until November 1942<sup>(4)</sup> — but then, so did the AOF colonies. A further 200,432,000 francs, without this qualification, were raised by the *emprunt de la Libération* which is not otherwise mentioned and must, I think, have been the same as the subscription to the *Milliard* previously mentioned (the year is wrong, too). Both these appeals must surely have been connected with the stamps with surtax issued by the *Comité Français de la Libération Nationale* (CFLN) in 1943 (Yvert *Colonies Générales* 60-65), the last of which is inscribed *Aide aux Résistants*<sup>(5)</sup>.

The *semaine* could have ended the *emprunt/souscription* on the following *quatorze juillet 1944* (John Hammonds has plausibly suggested that it may have marked the climax of this particular scheme). This, I think, is the nearest we are likely to get to an explanation without a sight of original documentation. It now seems that it was indeed Empire-wide, as I wondered in 2006, although no doubt other colonies produced different souvenirs. It is also clear that the aggregate receipts were much larger than I thought possible; indeed, since French Africa contributed over 200 million francs, the total may well have approached the milliard — one thousand million — targeted (no global total is given)<sup>(6)</sup>. Fans of General de Gaulle may like to know that the same correspondent, a M. Goanvic, also sent a photocopy of a printed *Milliard* subscription acknowledgment by the General in the name of the Provisional Government of the French Republic.





Reverse (in black & white) of the *Milliard de la Libération* card: the front is illustrated on the front cover of this Journal

In all, the AOF colonies were officially credited with having contributed 1,508 million francs to War Charities from 1939 to 1945<sup>(7)</sup>. The only other colonies mentioned by name, Madagascar and AEF, subscribed 36,877,584 and 23,055,000 francs respectively to support the Resistance. Perhaps not surprisingly, the account ends with two contrasting views on this fund-raising. Some chose to believe that “*ces résultats avaient été obtenus sans aucune pression*” due to the goodwill of the *indigènes*; others, probably more honest, hinted darkly at “*collectes forcées*”. I suspect that in practice the “loans” and the subscriptions were one and the same. I would be surprised if any of the former were ever repaid.

#### References and Notes

- (1) “Senegal — Another World War II Red Cross Postcard, and some Early Direct Airmail to the USA” (Journal N° 240, at pages 45-47).
- (2) AGORA/Pocket chez Armand Collin, 1991.
- (3) Osborne, Richard E — “World War II in Colonial Africa” (Riebel-Roque Publishing Co, Indianapolis, 2001), at page 120.
- (4) Drye, Hervé — “*Le Retour de l'Empire Français dans la Guerre de 1940 à 1945*” (COL.FRA Bulletin 91, second trimestre 2000, pages 8 and 9). This is a useful checklist of the various changes of allegiance of the colonies which took place during the war. Not all of the colonies rallied to General de Gaulle: in particular, Algeria, Morocco and AOF were subject to the authority of Admiral Darlan “in the name of Marshal Pétain” from 14 November 1942 until his assassination on the following 24 December. This regime was continued by General Giraud until 16 March 1943 when he changed sides; he was joined by the newly liberated Tunisia on 8 May. Giraud and de Gaulle combined to form the CFLN on the following 30 June; the latter assumed sole control later in that same year, on 3 October 1943. (Although nominally representing Marshal Pétain, both Darlan and, after his death, Giraud co-operated uneasily with the Allies — D M Giangreco: “Roosevelt, de Gaulle and the Posts”, Joseph V Bush Inc, 1987, at pages 14 and 31. A curious arrangement, indeed.)
- (5) As will be seen in the Table annexed to the article on these stamps on pages 306-308 of Journal 249, they were in fact supplied to the North African territories and AOF.
- (6) In another response to M. Omer’s question (*Bulletin* 88, third trimestre 1999), a M. Huet says that he owns a fifth copy of the card, numbered 0432. Four digits, not five. My hypothesis that 2000 copies may have been sold is not affected if this is correct or if another “0” is missing from the beginning of the number; if however a final digit has been missed this raises the possibility that the total may have been as many as 5000. This would give a profit of some 375,000 francs, quite possible given that AOF subscribed over 200 million in all.
- (7) Very few details of the amounts given by the individual AOF colonies are given. French Guinea, considered the wealthiest, subscribed 100,844,000 francs to the *emprunt africain*, 5 million to the *Secours social* (not otherwise mentioned) and 11 million for the Resistance. The Ivory Coast did even better — 132 million for the *emprunt africain* and 40 million for the Resistance. Mauritania, the poorest of the colonies (see Stephen Holder’s article on pages 49 to 55 of the Journal for June 2008, Whole N° 248) found 3 million for the *emprunt africain* and about another million to support the Resistance.

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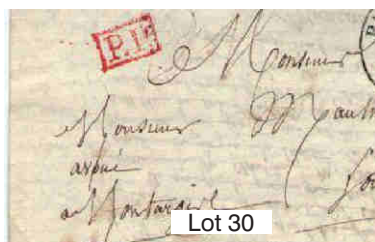
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## February 2010 Auction - Selected Lots

(much reduced in size)



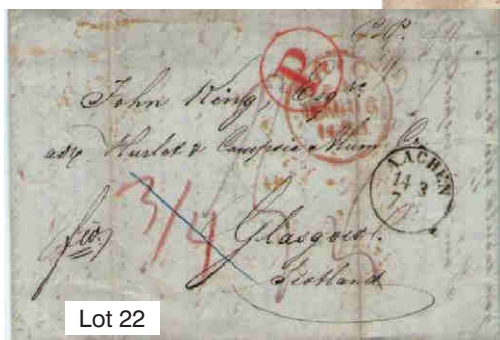
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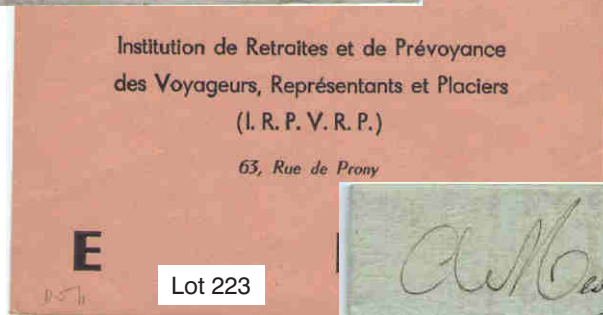
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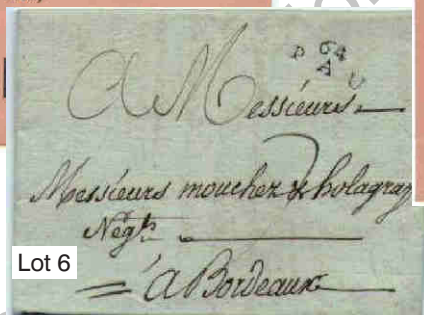
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These and a selection of other Lots in the Auction are illustrated on the Society website [www.fcps.org.uk](http://www.fcps.org.uk)

The Three Wise Men (Chris Hitchen, Peter Kelly, Peter Maybury) at Marcophilex 5 October 2009

