

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



Lot 138 in the May 2010 Auction
Further lots are illustrated on page 38 and the back cover
as well as on the Society website www.fcps.org.uk

Volume 60 ● Number 1
March 2010
Whole Number 255

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

Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

Officers

President 2009-2010: M L Bister, 7 The Slade, Wrestlingworth, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2ES (email: auction1@fcps.org.uk)

General Secretary 2009-2010: P R A Kelly, Malmsy House, Church Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol BS8 3PG
(email: secretary@fcps.org.uk).

Acting Membership Secretary 2009-2010: J P Maybury, 18 Courtneys, Wheldrake, York YO19 6BR
(email: info@fcps.org.uk).

The Society

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

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

2009-10 Annual Subscription Rates

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

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

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

The Journal

The Society's Journal is published in March, June, September and December.

It is printed by Direct Offset, 27c High Street, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9DD from the Editor's camera ready copy.

Distribution: D J Richardson and M S Tyler.

The price is included in members' subscriptions.

The contents are copyright.

Auction and Exchange Packet Sales

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

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

J N Hammonds, 31 Wheatsheaf Close, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 5TH (email: auction2@fcps.org.uk)

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

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

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

The Magazine Circuit

The Society subscribes to two French philatelic magazines, and has circuits organised for those who wish to read them.

For further details contact the circuit organiser:

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

Journal Correspondents

Paris: J M Simmons

London Group: L H Barnes

Southern Group: C W Spong

Northern Group: J P Maybury

Wessex Group: P R A Kelly / A J Wood

Scottish Group: Mrs M Pavey

Publications Stockist

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

* * *

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

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

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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

E-mail: editor@fcps.org.uk

Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

Volume 60 Number 1

March 2010 ● Whole No 255

CONTENTS

Society Notes	2
New Members	2
Resignations	2
Future Events	2
Annual General Meeting	2
Swinpex	2
Wessex Group Programme for 2010	2
Displays by Members	2
Erratum	2
Obituary: Geoff Gethin (MLB)	3
Shorter Items - including Questions and Answers	4
Defaced Stamps (P J Whiting)	4
Free French Overprints on Colonial Stamps (B L Weeks)	4
Postes, Prost and Pétain (D C Lamb)	5
Obsolete Values on French UNESCO Stamps (E J Mayne)	5
Interesting St Helena Items (R C Deakin)	6
Marianne Solidarité Haïti Issue (M L Bister)	7
Cameroun Post Offices: Bda Up Station (R J Maddocks)	7
World War II – Northbound airmails by the British air route (R F May)	8
Bureau Naval 53 (C W Spong)	8
The 1 July 1854 Basic Letter Rate (A Métayer, trs M L Bister)	9
Dahomey Internal Communications at the Turn of the 19th and 20th Centuries: A Supplement (W G Mitchell)	11
New Cancellations by <i>La Poste</i> (M S Tyler)	15
ABPS Executive Bulletin February 2010	18
Boyer the Society <i>Parfumeur</i> (D Jennings-Bramly)	19
The 1F50 Pétain + 50 S N Overprint (Y&T 552): Part 1 (M L Bister)	23
The Alpha and Omega of Field Service Correspondence from the Cameroons Campaign 1914-1916 (R J Maddocks)	27
List of Recently Published Articles (C W Spong & M S Tyler)	30
French Guiana (A Shepherd)	31
Bookshelf	34
“Seventy Years of Postal History at the French Post Office in Beirut” by S Bassil (review by P R A Kelly)	34
Books Noted (M S Tyler)	34
Côte d’Ivoire Authorisation of Postage Due as Franking during 2005 (Dr M Parren)	35
Reports of Meetings	39
London Group Meeting of 7 November 2009 - J Scott: French Decorative Paper (LHB)	39
Northern Group Meeting of 14 November 2009 - Members’ Displays (JPM)	39
London Group Meeting of 25 November 2009 - J Yeomans: French India (MST)	39
Southern Group Meeting of 9 January 2010 - Meeting cancelled (CWS)	40
London Group Meeting of 20 January 2010 - A D Barrett: French Cinderellas Part 2 (MST)	40
Wessex Group Meeting of 30 January 2010 - P R A Kelly: <i>Type Sage</i> ; Members’ Displays (PRAK)	40
May 2010 Auction - Selected Lots (MLB)	i, 38, iv

SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1360 Martin Bratzel Jr (Canada), 1361 Dr James B Oerding (USA), 1362 Ian Bell (Surrey), 1363 Koos Fase (Netherlands), 1364 Irving Bloomfield (Glasgow), 1365 Peter Samson (Middlesbrough), 1366 Jere Dutt (USA)

* * *

Resignations

1180 R C Brown, 556 Dr R E Stuckey, 1147 K Col-lard, 722 J Munro, 1043 J S Cowan, 1286 D Mabbs.

* * *

Future Events

The **London Group** will meet at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 6.30pm on Wednesday 21 April 2010 when Ian Nutley will display the Mermoz Line - Air France; and at 3.00pm on Thursday 6 May 2010 at the Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1 when John West will display France, the Red Cross (during the Festival of Stamps) - the meeting being followed by a meal for those members wishing to attend at 5.30 for 5.45pm at *Il Posto Ristorante Italiano*, 316A Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, London SW1V 1AA..

The **Southern Group** will meet at 2.00pm on Saturday 17 April 2010 at the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, East Worthing when Steve Ellis will display French Maritime Mail.

The **Northern Group** will meet at 1.00pm in the Board Room at Leeds General Infirmary, Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3EX on Saturday 10 April 2010 for a Members' Choice meeting.

The **Wessex Group** will meet at 10.00am on Saturday 3 July 2010 at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham, Salisbury, when Bryan Wood will display Transatlantic Mail and the Development of Maritime Shipping.

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

* * *

Annual General Meeting

Members are reminded that the Society AGM will take place at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London

WC1 at 11.30am on Saturday 1 May 2010, and this will be followed at 2.00pm by the Auction.

Any member wishing to raise a matter which requires a decision to be taken at the AGM must give written notice to the General Secretary, Peter Kelly, no less than a month prior to the meeting. Any Officer or Committee member wishing to stand down or any member wishing to apply to join the Committee should also give written notice within the time limit specified above to the General Secretary, whose contact details are given on the inside front cover of this Journal.

* * *

Swinpex

This year the Society will have a table at SWINPEX on 12 June 2010. This event takes place at St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR, and is open from 10.00 to 16.30.

* * *

Wessex Group Programme for 2010

Sat 3 July 2010: Bryan Wood - Transatlantic mail and the development of maritime shipping

Sat 16 Oct 2010: Alan Wood - A varied selection of French postal history

* * *

Displays by Members

At the end of September 2009 **John Mayne** displayed British issues to the West Africa Study Circle at Charlecote.

On 24 November 2009 **Mick Bister** displayed the French Somali Coast and French West Africa to Huntingdon P S, and met in the audience Betty and Frank Blincow, former members of the Southern Group, who asked to be remembered to everybody.

* * *

Erratum

Our apologies for the mistake in the short piece by Bryan Wood on page 151 of Journal 254. The name of the locality in which the 3154 handstamp originated was not Rixholm but Rixheim. It is uncertain whether the error was first committed by the author or the editor, but the latter accepts his responsibility!

* * *

OBITUARY



Dr Ronald Geoffrey Gethin

12 June 1942 – 15 November 2009

Geoff Gethin pursued a broad range of philatelic interests but to most of us he will be remembered for his love of fakes and forgeries culminating in the publication in 2006 of his book “Fakes and Forgeries of 20th Century French Postage Stamps”.

Geoff joined the Society in 1977 but it wasn't until after his retirement in 1992 that he began to regularly attend the London and Southern meetings. In 1997 his first contribution to the Journal was published – a series of queries about World War II stamps and covers. In 2002 he stepped up to take on the role of General Secretary but following his deteriorating health, particularly the effects of diabetes, resulting in a below knee amputation, he reluctantly gave it up in 2006 but heroically insisted on taking on the responsibility of Membership Secretary instead which he held until his death.

Geoff was born in Merthyr Tydfil and educated at the Cyfarthfa Castle Grammar School where he also developed an interest in rugby. He went on to study at Aberystwyth University where he read for a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Zoology and was awarded a scholarship to complete a PhD in Zoological Research. He was also an enthusiastic member of the University's Jazz Band. He later took up a teaching post at Norwood Technical College and then the North East London Polytechnic now the University of East London. It was here that on the day of his interview he met his future wife, Liz.

In addition to his love of jazz and rugby (the only thing that prevented him from attending a Saturday meeting of the F&CPS would be a Wales international match) Geoff was also a collector of model O gauge trains for which he designed and built a realistic model railway layout in his attic. His philatelic interests were wide, collecting stamps not only from France but also Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and certain aspects of Great Britain. His collection of France was by far the most extensive of his collections and his interests included WWI Military Postal Stationery, WWII Postal History, *Vignettes*, *Cours d'Instruction*, Palissy labels and ‘*timbres fictifs*’, Booklets and ‘*pubs*’ and 19th century Essays and Reprints. Geoff had built up some serious collections but his sense of humour showed in the more eclectic side of his collecting. Who will forget the day when he came to one meeting and, with a wry smile, presented his ‘*Poste Enfantine*’ – a children's post office complete with miniature stamps, postal stationery and hand-stamps. Geoff never took his collecting too seriously and whenever he gave a display, be it at a regional meeting or at the Annual Weekend, we could look forward to a witty and sometimes even a slightly irreverent presentation but one that was always informative and entertaining.

Geoff's major collection though was his fakes and forgeries of France which he began after his retirement in 1992. In the introduction to his book he recalls how after giving a display of his collection in 2000 he found himself flanked by the outgoing and incoming Society Presidents adamant that he should convert the display into a publication. It took six years of intellectual rigour, painstaking and meticulous research and indefatigable tenacity to create his publication which has become the definitive work on modern French forgeries.

We shall miss Geoff's jokes, his cheerfulness and his passion for his hobby but in his book we will always have his legacy to philately.

MLB

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Defaced Stamps

My stamps were defaced in exactly the same way as Mike Roberts' when receiving Journal 252 (see Journal 253 page 89). You might like to see the enclosed letter from a Customer Service Advisor at Royal Mail in response to my complaint about biro cancellation of what were obviously covers of philatelic interest.

Peter Whiting

Thank you for contacting Royal Mail.

I am sorry to learn that you received mail with a pen mark through the stamp. If I may, I would like to explain that the vast majority of postage stamps are cancelled correctly as the letters they are affixed to pass through our sorting machinery. Packages that are too big for our machinery have their stamps cancelled manually by a hand stamp. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, a very small number of items do end up in the relevant Delivery Office with postage stamps that have not been cancelled.

Once an item has reached the Delivery Office, there is only a limited amount of time for the postmen and women to sort this mail and prepare it for delivery. If an item of mail comes to light that has uncanceled postage stamps on it, we ask the postmen and women to cancel them by drawing a single line through them with a pen. We know that this is not an ideal solution but it is fast and ensures that the mail goes out on delivery without delay.

As there is no further action I can take on your behalf, I hope that the explanation above resolves your enquiry and concludes this matter. If you have any other concerns though, please contact us again.

Free French Overprints on Colonial Stamps



Recently, I bought these three stamps from a local dealer and am having no success in identifying them. The basic stamps are no problem: it is the overprints that cause the difficulties.

The Somali Coast stamp has the normal *France Libre* overprint but there is no record of the other ones. The **LIBERATION** overprint occurs only on French Equatorial stamps and the **R F** is totally impossible to find.

The St Pierre and Miquelon stamp has a perfectly good overprint, apart from being slightly wonky. The problem about it is that no catalogues I have consulted show the 30c stamp as having been overprinted.

The French India stamp is the 15c Brahma issue of 1914.

This stamp is not described as having been overprinted even in the latest Maury catalogue of 2009. The red overprint occurs on the 16ca issue of 1942 with the same surcharge of 2fa 9ca but it is not listed as having been printed as a double overprint, as in this case. Again, the overprint appears of a good quality.

My question is: Are these all forgeries and, if so, who produced them and why, and, if not, can anybody enlighten me as to their source?

It is interesting that I found all three on the same day in the same dealer's books, although he may have been holding on to them because he had no idea what he should do with them.

Brian Weeks

Postes, Prost and Pétain



As a footnote to Mick Bister's excellent article in the September 2009 Journal (N° 253) I attach a photocopy of an artist's proof in the original unissued type. It is printed in black, for the value of 1 franc, and is signed by Jules Piel, the designer and engraver.

As stated, the design depicts Pétain in his 1918 uniform

with the bold inscription "MARECHAL PETAIN / CHEF DE L'ETAT FRANÇAIS" accompanied by the incongruous "RF" in the top right hand corner. Curiously the word "Postes" is omitted from the design.

Similar proofs are thought to exist for the 40c, 60c and 2F50 values.

David Lamb

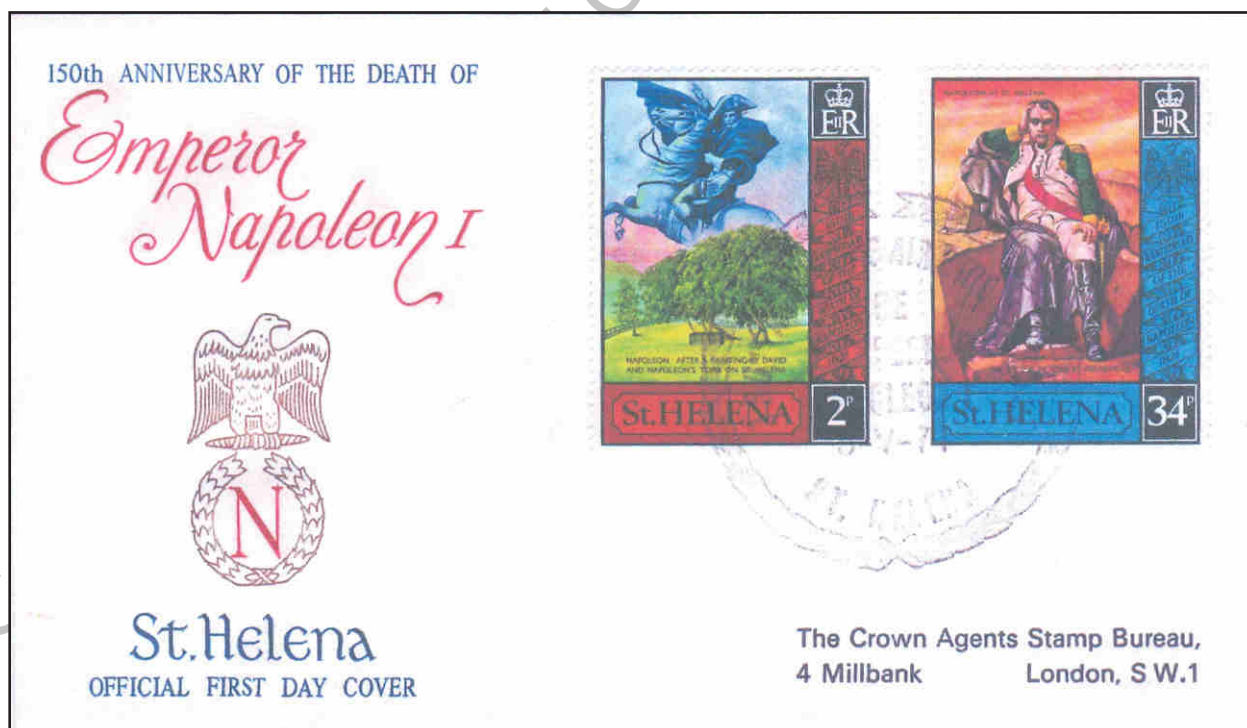
Obsolete Values on French UNESCO Stamps

I recently received from a French dealer in Saint-Longis a catalogue which was posted in a large envelope with postage paid by the use of France Unesco values of 20F x 2, Dallay 1200. No other stamps were added.

These stamps were released in 1958, since when the franc has been devalued (in 1960) and we have also seen the advent of the euro. Are there any special arrangements in France regarding the use of obsolete issues?

John Mayne

Interesting St Helena Items



I thought these two items may be of interest to readers. The first, whilst rather 'tatty', is quite remarkable in that all the details (except a TPO mark on the back) are on the front of the cover:

Marseille to St Helena via Paris, London and Plymouth; addressed to the Captain of the French ship *Maria*, sailing from the Indian coast of Coromandel bound for Marseille; sent care of the Forwarding Agents, Salomon & May at St

Helena. The name of the Marseille company is difficult to read — SCHLOE(SHG???) Frères & GRAVIER.

1863 80c stamp cancelled. 224; cds 6 Feb 1868.
On reverse Marseille to Paris TPO cds 7 Feb '68.
London H Paid 8 Feb 68 and boxed 'PD' in red.
St Helena arrival oval date stamp in blue 4 Mar 1868
(only 26 days from Marseille!).

Incidentally, knowing I was collecting St Helena my wife saw the cover for sale at £10 in a shop near Victoria Station (in about 1972) — she asked should she buy it! This is now probably one of the most interesting covers of my St

Helena collection.

The second item is a First Day Cover which is cancelled:
150^e ANNIVERSAIRE DE LA MORT
DE
L'EMPEREUR
NAPOLEON I
5 — V — 71
ST. HELENA

Thus we have a British Colony issuing a FDC cancelled by a French inscription. The house where Napoleon lived in exile on St Helena, 'Longwood', is French territory!

Bob Deakin

Marianne Solidarité Haïti Issue



On 19 January 2010 France issued a *Solidarité Haïti* charity stamp (that had been printed on 15 January). Members

may be interested to see this scan of a cover I received, handsomely double cancelled by La Poste.

Mick Bister

Cameroun Post Offices: Bda Up Station



In Journal 254 of December 2009 Marc Parren presented a comprehensively illustrated article on Cameroun 2005 provisional year slugs. On page 161 he showed, as one example in his study, a very cramped postal date stamp reading "Bda - Up Station - Distribution / R. Cameroun / 30-6 / 2005".

Since the here abbreviated location of the post office concerned might well intrigue some readers, may I add that it is in Bamenda, North-West Cameroun. The building, as shown in this photograph taken by me, is sited on the top of the escarpment overlooking the main township of Mankon-Bamenda.

Bob Maddocks

World War II – Northbound airmails by the British air route

I am writing in response to Bob Picirilli's answer in the September 2009 Journal (N° 253, cover page iii) regarding WWII airmail rates from French Equatorial Africa.

Bob has analysed a huge number of airmail covers of this period to try to reconstruct the rates in the absence of documentary sources. One of Bob's conclusions is that the French rates are different depending what "leg" of a journey was by air. This may be true of French airmails; that is not my main area of study. I can say that it would not be true of British airmails.

In 2006 I wrote an article for the *London Philatelist*¹ after Nigel Lutwyche, a fellow member of West Africa Study Circle, showed me the official announcements of a one-way lightweight (no more than one half ounce) airmail service between and from Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and Gambia to the UK and Eire (only) which commenced on 21 May 1942. The only superscription required for this service was "By Air Mail". Until that date no airmails originating in West Africa or AEF flew any further than Lagos or Accra, where they were transferred to the sea routes to the UK. The table of rates published in that article shows that British airmails were always at a single rate of 1/3d per half ounce regardless of distance – it made no difference to the rate whether the cover flew between the West African colonies or the whole way. Indeed when the air route through the Mediterranean was cut in June 1940 by the fall of France, the air service to India and Australia remained at the rate of 1/3d per half ounce even when the leg of the journey from the UK to South Africa was by sea.

An informal international study group to which both Bob and I belong has since undertaken a great deal of research using original source documents in libraries on both sides of the Atlantic. We know that the Free French colonies in Africa had access to the Pan Am FAM22 and FAM18 services across the Atlantic, at its premium rates. For a very

high price, a letter could be sent twice across the Atlantic to the UK. There are also commercial covers available to show that the Free French were able to send mails by air within West Africa using the joint BOAC/Sabena service as well as their own air services to Lagos and Accra. What we do not yet know is whether the Free French colonies had access to the new lightweight northbound airmail service, at the same rate, which after Bob's researches seems to translate to a rate of 6 francs or thereabouts. There are plenty of airmail covers of this period from AEF and Cameroun to the UK; the problem for us is the lack of arrival backstamps to show whether they flew all the way to the UK, or were trans-shipped at Lagos or Accra as before. We would appreciate the help of any members of the France & Colonies P S who have any such covers that were registered, or redirected on arrival, so as to have obtained a dated backstamp in the UK.

What I am sure of is that Bob's analysis of the route of Michael Barden's AEF cover is likely not to be right. At that date it could possibly have flown throughout, but ONLY on two conditions – that it weighed half an ounce or less, and that it was addressed to the UK or Eire. As this cover appears to be double weight, and to a European address, it would certainly have been trans-shipped to surface mail to reach the UK. The airmail surtax was meant to accelerate the letter as far as it could go by air; which was within West Africa, then from the UK to Lisbon, and the OAT marking (applied in London) is a particularly nice piece of evidence that the airmail surcharge successfully paid for the second airmail leg to Lisbon by the BOAC/KLM land-plane service.

Reference

- 1 "West African Airmail Links with Europe after June 1940" by Robert May, *London Philatelist* Vol 115 N° 1341, December 2006, pp 382-407

Rob May

Bureau Naval 53

With reference to Stewart Duncan's *Bureau Naval 53* query in Journal 254 of December 2009 (pages 152-3), my photocopies of articles by Dr Jacques Mériaux, that appeared in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* from September 1972 until March 1973, deal with "La Poste Navale 1943-1963". Dr. Mériaux gives a detailed account of the organisation of the

naval post in that period. The *Bureau Central Naval* was transferred from Casablanca to Algiers after the Liberation: he confirms on page 9 of the January 1973 issue – under the heading "Dakar Naval" – that 53 was at Dakar 14.4.1943 until 15.3.1946. The Naval Bureau 74 was at Algiers 15.4.1943 until 31.10.1950.

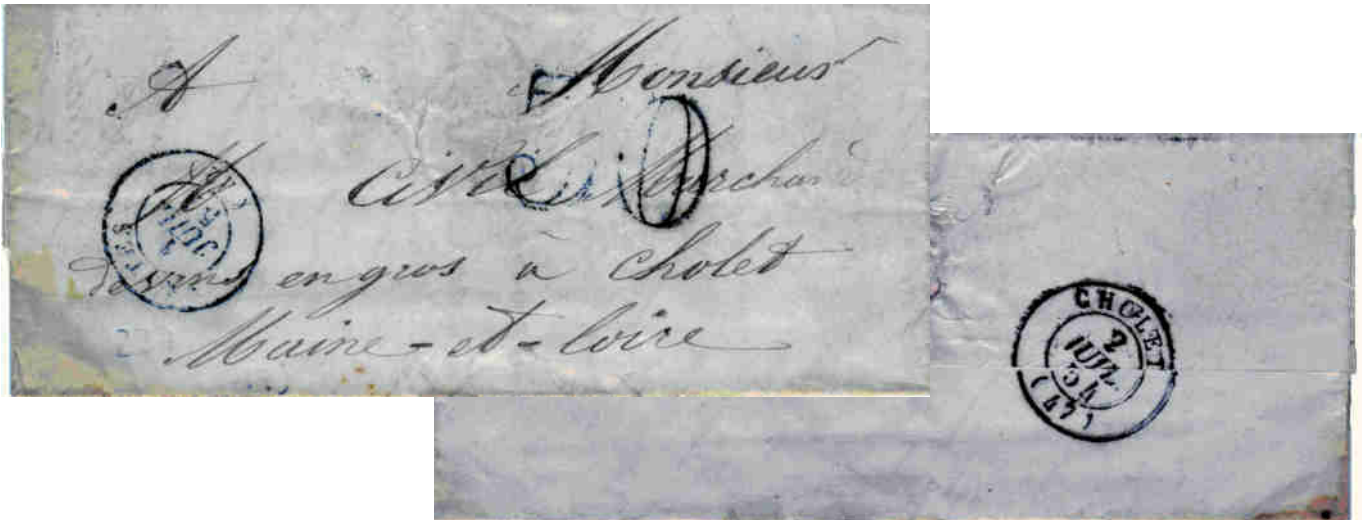
Colin Spong

[Other comments on this topic have been received from Bill Mitchell, Barbara Priddy and Rob May, but as Bill is researching further details and consulting colleagues, these contributions will be published in the next issue of the Journal. — Editor]

The 1 July 1854 Basic Letter Rate

André Métayer

Translated by Mick Bister



With effect from 1 July 1854 the basic letter rate was reduced to 20c but if the sender did not frank the letter beforehand the recipient was obliged to pay 30c i.e. an extra charge of 50% (Law of 20 and 25 May 1854). The 20c Napoléon *non lauré* was issued for this occasion.

The Law of 20 and 25 May 1854 stipulated:

- *With effect from 1 July 1854, the postage for franked letters sent from office to office is reduced to 20c for the basic rate. Unfranked letters will be charged at 30c.....*
- *Any letter insufficiently stamped will be treated as unfranked and taxed as such less the value of the stamp.*
- *The Treasury is authorised to issue new postage stamps required for the franking of mail.*

- Unfranked letters will be taxed by means of a special 30 centimes handstamp which will be supplied to all head postmasters by 1 July.
- Head postmasters will receive in due course a preliminary stock of the new postage stamps which must be used from 1 July. I shall delay until tomorrow the dispatch of further instructions.

STOURM *

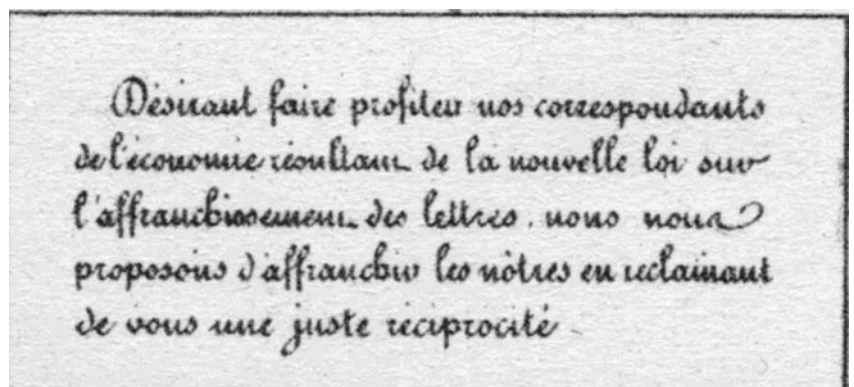
The above letter was posted on 1 July 1954, the first day of the new rates. It was posted unfranked from Nantes to Cholet and hence received the 30c handstamp. Two sizes of the 30c handstamp are known – 17mm and 19mm.

In order to encourage their customers to frank their letters in advance, businesses would insert a note or attach a label to their correspondence.

Arthur Maury in his book « HISTOIRE DES TIMBRES-POSTE FRANÇAIS » published in 1907 (page 85) reproduces one such label.



Extract from the *Loi du 20 mai*, page 7,
circulated to offices in June 1854



A circular dated 15 June 1854 was sent to offices explaining the franking and charging of letters.

* 'Histoire des Timbres-Poste Français 1848-1885' by Arthur Maury (1907) pages 88 and 89. Auguste African Stourm was *Directeur Général des Postes* from December 1853 to May 1861

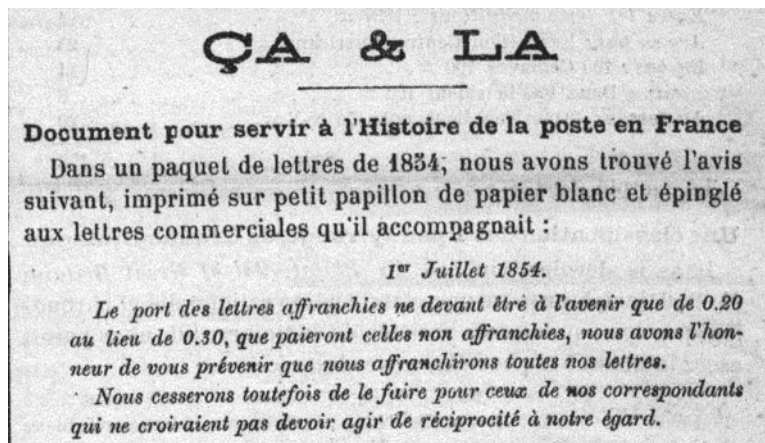
This may be translated as:

In our desire to pass on to our customers the benefit of the new law on the franking of letters, we propose to prepay ours trusting that you will return us the favour.

L'Écho de la Timbrologie n° 295 dated 15 April 1905 (page 16) also reproduces the text from a note found pinned to a business letter.

At the bottom of the page is a letter dated 30 July 1954 sent from Nancy and franked at 20c with, pasted inside, a slip of paper requesting the recipient to similarly prepay his correspondence. This translates as follows:

With the new postal law enforcing a higher tariff for unfranked letters, I am pleased to inform you that with effect from today we shall frank our letters to customers who opt to do likewise.



The franking incentive generated a radical change in the posting habits of the public. The chart below shows the percentage of mail posted franked and unfranked between 1847 and 1860.

	Franked	Unfranked
1847-48	10 %	90 %
1849	15 %	85 %
1850-51	20 %	80 %
1852	22 %	78 %
1853*	49 %	51 %
1855	85 %	15 %
1860	89 %	11 %

The text of the note may be translated as:

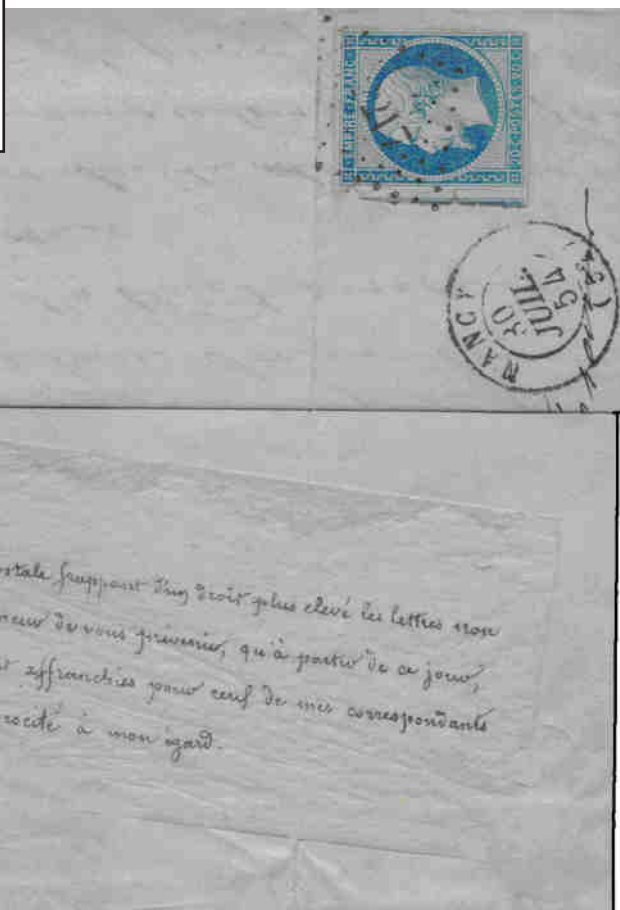
1 July 1854

With the rate for franked letters to be henceforth only 20c instead of 30c, the latter becoming the rate for unfranked items, we are delighted to inform you that we shall be franking all our letters.

However we shall cease to do so with regards to those amongst our clients who do not feel obliged to reciprocate.

*The percentages given above for 1853 may well be those just from the second half of the year from 1 July to 31 December. In his book '*Histoire des Timbres-Poste Français 1848-1885*' Arthur Maury gives on page 95 another set of statistics provided by the Administration concerning the number of letters posted in 1853 viz:

Franked letters 40,819,240 (25%)
Unfranked letters 144,722,760 (75%)



Dahomey Internal Communications at the Turn of the 19th and 20th Centuries: A Supplement

Bill Mitchell

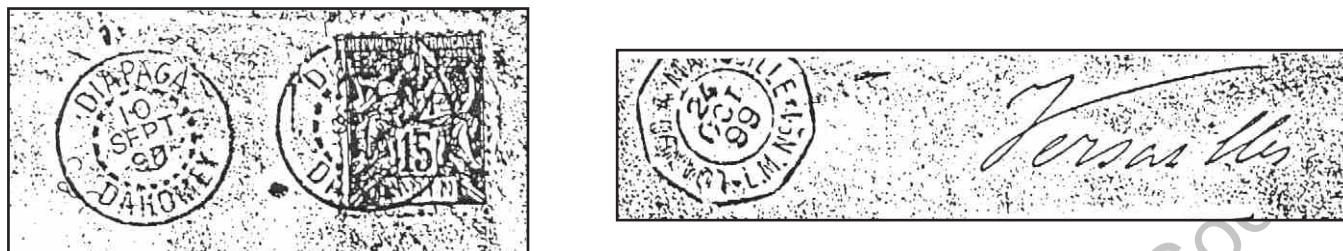


Figure 1a
Date stamps on the front of the 1899 cover Diapaga (Dahomey) to Versailles

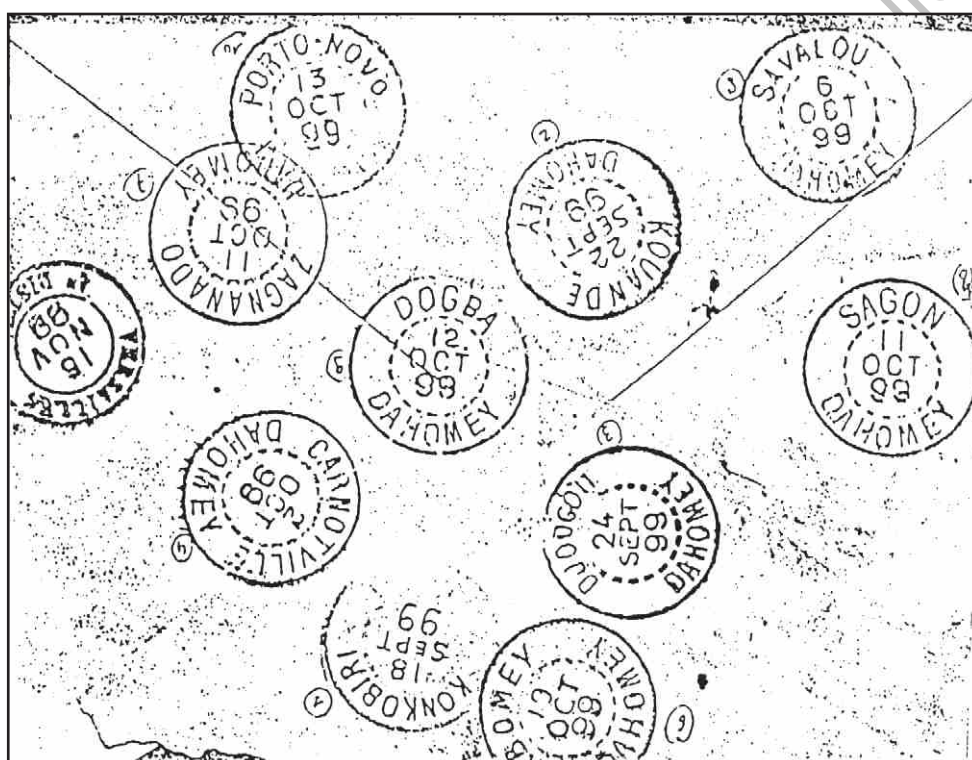


Figure 1b
Date stamps on the reverse of the 1899 cover Diapaga (Dahomey) to Versailles
[These illustrations are reproduced by kind permission of COL.FRA
having originally appeared in COL.FRA Bulletin N° 69 (1995)]

One of my occasional browses through back numbers of the *COL.FRA Bulletin* has enabled me to add to the article published in Journal 248 for June 2008⁽¹⁾. At the end of the last instalment of a long article by Alain Hurpet on Dahomey postmarks there appears, without any explanation, an illustration of a cover sent from Diapaga in Haut Dahomey to Versailles on 10 September 1899⁽²⁾. The illustration appears to have been taken from a poor photocopy, but the strikes of the various postmarks applied to the cover are of a particularly high quality, much better than the cover I illustrated in 2008, so I feel justified in reproducing it here (Fig 1) – with due acknowledgment, of course, to COL.FRA and M. Hurpet if it was indeed he who supplied the original photocopy.

In the following issue another member, R. Bonnal, illus-

trates a significantly earlier (23 January 1898) cover from Savalou in Bas Dahomey to Porto-Novo on the coast⁽³⁾. As the dates of opening of the various post offices on the route to/from the interior noted in my previous article show, at this time the service ended at Carnotville, the next “stop” on the route to the interior. It reached Diapaga, the furthestmost point inland from Porto-Novo of the six letters discussed in this article, on 4 August of that same year 1898. These details come from an important article by Constant Bouérat⁽⁴⁾.

These new covers, plus the one illustrated by Peter Kelly in Journal 244⁽⁵⁾ enable me to double the sample of mail from the interior to the coast previously published. So Table 1 sets out the relevant part of a 1900 itinerary⁽⁶⁾; Table 2 details the travels of the six covers as recorded by their

postal markings; and Table 3 repeats Bouérat's note of the dates of opening of the relevant post offices (it will be noted that some amendments to his list are necessary).

The sample is still very small, but bearing in mind the primitive methods available to transport the mails it does suggest a fairly consistent service, especially in Bas Dahomey. The 1900 itinerary notes that canoes (*la voie fluviale*) were used between Porto-Novo and Zagnanado (Savalou) and beyond that point mail was conveyed by porter (that is, on foot). As noted in my previous article, this term could include teams of individuals carrying sacks of mail on their heads or a single messenger carrying his charge in a cleft stick, this last being most likely in remote areas such as Haut Dahomey where departures from the published itinerary could no doubt be explained by a number of factors which can only be guessed at 100-odd years later. Injury to the runner and particularly inclement weather are two possibilities. I should make it clear that the calculations in the Tables do not pretend to be precise; they are intended to give some idea of the times involved in the various stages of the journey as scheduled and as actually achieved.

On the same page as the photocopy of the cover dated 10 September 1899⁽²⁾ is a copy of part of a letter sent by the *Receveur* at Grand-Popo to a relative or friend in France on 18 March 1904 in which he sets out some interesting details of accommodation and staffing in Dahomey at that time. His quarters were on the ground floor (*rez-de-chaussée*) of his office and he was responsible for 2 native post clerks (*commis indigènes noirs*) (his underlining); 1 postman (*facteur*); 6 canoeists (*piroguiers*); 4 supervisors (*surveillants*); 1 inspector (*contrôleur*) and 4 persons whose function is something of a mystery. They are described as "*manceuvres pour les surveillants*". Maurice tells me that "*manceuvres*" is the word for unskilled labourers, but "*surveillants*" doesn't exist. It is however sometimes mistakenly used for "*surveiller*" or "*surveillés*", so, while the precise meaning is unclear, perhaps they were servants of the four "*surveillants*" (supervisors) or "*surveillés*" (those being supervised).

In the following issue of the *Bulletin*⁽⁷⁾, Constant Bouérat, who has an encyclopedic knowledge of the organisation of

the PTT in French West Africa, added some supplemental information about this letter. At this time, *Receveurs* (postmasters) did not spend more than one year in any post, this to prevent over-familiarisation with an area and to allow the equitable rotation of good and bad accommodation. The letter was written by M. le commis Kielwasser, who had (I assume) arrived in West Africa early in 1902. He was in charge at Fada-N'Gourma, far up-country in what is now Burkina Faso, from 4 April 1902 to 26 January 1903. There is then a gap even in Bouérat's knowledge, for Kielwasser is next recorded as taking over at Grand-Popo on 11 February 1904 (he posted his letter from there on the following 18 March, remember) and at Cotonou on 19 January 1905. He left, on leave, on 7 March 1906. There were apparently gaps (local leave?) between these appointments, because his successor at Grand-Popo, M. le commis Bourget, died on 19 January 1905, four months after taking over (is there a slip here? – it would be a remarkable coincidence if Bourget had died on the very same day that his predecessor assumed duty at his new post, and would local leave have lasted as long as four months?).

References

- (1) Vol 58 N° 2, Whole N° 248, pages 69-76.
- (2) *Bulletin* 69, first *trimestre* 1995, page 11.
- (3) *Bulletin* 70, second *trimestre* 1995, page 11.
- (4) "Les origines des Postes et Télégraphes au DAHOMEY (1890-1908)", *Bulletin* 16/17 of the Société Internationale d'Histoire Postale, Grenoble, 1970, pages 28-67.
- (5) Vol 57 N° 2, June 2007, pages 64-65. My 2008 article was in Maurice's pending tray by then.
- (6) Printed in "Les colonies françaises. Organisation administrative, judiciaire, financière" published in connection with the 1900 International Exhibition in Paris and reprinted by COL.FRA under the title "Le Service des Postes et Télégraphes au Dahomey en 1900" in *Bulletin* 104 (second *trimestre* 2003), pages 1-3. Copy provided by Jean-Jacques Sereni.
- (7) *Bulletin* 70, page 7.

TABLE 1

ITINERARY OF THE POSTAL SERVICE FROM DIAPAGA TO PORTO-NOVO, 1900

(taken from the 1900 timetable reprinted in the COL.FRA *Bulletin* N° 104, Second *trimestre* 2003)

STAGE	DEPART	ARRIVE	APPROX TIME (DAYS)
Diapaga to Konkobiri	Sunday AM	Tuesday PM	3
Konkobiri to Kouandé	Wednesday AM	Saturday PM	4
Kouandé to Djougou	Sunday AM	Monday AM	1.5
Djougou to Carnotville	Tuesday AM	Friday PM	4
Carnotville to Savalou	Saturday AM	Monday PM	3
Savalou to Abomey	Tuesday AM	Wednesday PM	2
Abomey to Zagnanado	Thursday AM	Thursday PM	0.5
Zagnanado to Porto-Novo	Friday AM	Sunday AM	2.5

Note: I have treated "*m(atin)*" and "*s(oir)*" as "AM" and "PM" respectively.

TABLE 2
SIX LETTERS FROM THE INTERIOR TO THE COAST

Figures in brackets are the approximate number of days taken.
(Compare with the scheduled times in 1900, Table 1.)

Origin:-	(1) 23 JANUARY 1898	(2) 7 DECEMBER 1898	(3) 18 MARCH 1899	(4) 10 SEPTEMBER 1899	(5) 16 SEPTEMBER 1899	(6) 26 NOVEMBER 1899
	Savalou	<i>Télégraphie Militaire</i> Poste N° 2 (Konkobi?)	<i>Télégraphie Militaire</i> Poste N° 2 (Konkobi)	Diapaga	<i>Télégraphie Militaire</i> Poste N° 5	Diapaga
Diapaga	—	—	—	10 September	—	26 November
Konkobi	—	7(?) December	18 March	18 September (8)	—	29 November (3)
Kouandé	—	10 December (3?)	—	22 September (4)	—	—
Djougon	—	17 December* (7)	27 March* (9)	24 September (2)	—	4 December (5)
Carnotville	—	27 December (10)	31 March (4)	2 October (8)	17 September (1)	8 December (4)
Savalou	23 January	30 December (3)	? April (?)	6 October (4)	22 September (5)	11 December (3)
Abomey	26(?) January (3?)	3 January (4)	—	10 October (4)	26 September (3.5)	14 December (3)
Zagnanado	27 January (0.5)	4 January (0.5)	6 April (?)	11 October (0.5)	26 September (0.5)	15 December (0.5)
Sagon	27 January (0.5)	4 January (0.5)	7 April (1)	11 October (0.5)	27 September (1)	15 December (0.5)
Dogba	29 January (2)	5 January (1)	8 April (1)	12 October (1)	—	16 December (1)
Porto-Novo	30 January (1)	6 January (1)	9 April (1)	13 October (1)	29 September (2)	17 December (1)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Haut Dahomey	—	—	—	8	—	3
— Diapaga to Konkobi	—	—	—	—	—	—
— Konkobi to Carnotville	—	20?	13	14	—	9
Totals	—	20?	13	22	—	12
Bas Dahomey	—	7#	10	11	12	9
— Carnotville to Porto-Novo	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overall totals	7#	30?	22	33	12	21

From Savalou only.

* Djougon: Tristant (source of covers (2) and (6); see below) records that until a suitably inscribed date stamp became available the date stamp of Ouangara was used at Djougon for some time after the transfer of business on 11/12 February 1898. Ouangara was known from 25 August-1898 (it was not, apparently, recorded prior to the transfer) to 20 February 1899, Djougon from 25 May 1899. The cancel on cover (2) (7 December 1898, it is not illustrated) reads OUANANGARA / HAUT-DAHOMÉY; the DJOUGOU / DAHOMÉY cancel on Peter Kelly's cover (3) (27 March 1899) brings the earliest date known to me forward by two months.

Sources

- (1) COL.FRA, *Bulletin* 70, page 11.
- (2) and (6) Henri Tristant, “Le Haut Dahomey” (*Feuilles Marcophiles* 145, 28 February 1962, pages 19-33, reprinted by COL.FRA in *Bulletin Hors-série* 14, edited by Robert Crombez — first edition 1997, pages 36-44; second edition 2004, pages 39-48).
- (3) Peter Kelly, “Benin — Postal use of military telegraph date stamps” (*Journal*, Vol 57 N° 2, June 2007, Whole N° 244, pages 64-65).
- (4) COL.FRA, *Bulletin* 69, page 11.
- (5) Lugdunum Philatélie auction, 2 October 2006.

TABLE 3
DATES OF OPENING OF THE POST OFFICES EN ROUTE
AS RECORDED BY CONSTANT BOUÉRAT IN 1970

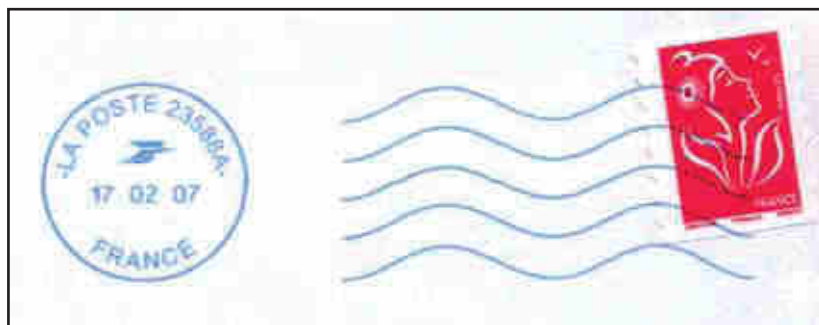
Diapaga	4 August 1898 ⁽¹⁾
Konkobiri	6 September 1898
Kouandé	12 August 1898
Djougou	12 February 1898 ⁽²⁾
Carnotville	16 August 1897
Savalou	26 April 1897 ⁽³⁾
Abomey	24 July 1897
Zagnanado	20 January 1897
Sagon	20 January 1897
Dogba	1894
Porto-Novo	1 July 1894 ⁽⁴⁾

Notes

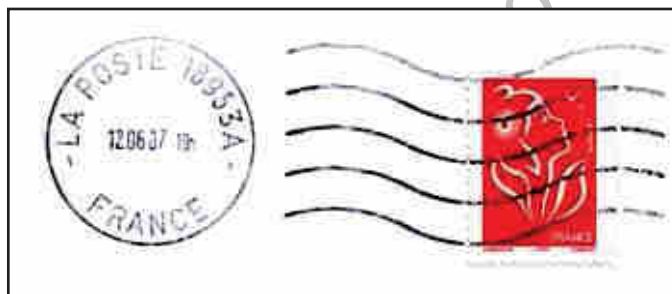
- (1) Diapaga. A slightly later date (4 October 1898) is recorded by Henri Tristant in “Le Haut Dahomey” (Table 2, source of covers (2) and (6)).
- (2) Djougou. See Note to Table 2.
- (3) Savalou. In my 2008 article I incorrectly recorded this date as 24 April. My apologies for this slip of the pen.
- (4) Porto-Novo. This date is clearly incorrect. The official account of 1900 says that the date was 1 July 1890, but a cover from Kotonou to France bearing a PORTO-NOVO / BENIN transit date stamp of 19 June 1888 is illustrated by Robert Crombez, who comments that the General Issues stamps were received in Benin towards the end of 1886 so it is reasonable to assume that Porto-Novo and Kotonou date stamps were received at the same time and customs officials began a “*véritable service postal*” (*COL.FRA Bulletin Hors-série* 14, first edition 1997, page 6; second edition 2004, page 9). (The cover is owned by another member, Herman Montpellier.)

New Cancellations by *La Poste*

Maurice Tyler



NEOPOST machine (inkjet)



NEC machine (typography)

During 2009 I received a communication from our member Michael Meadowcroft pointing out that a correspondent to the rec.fr.philatelic newsgroup on the Internet had raised the question of a mysterious code on a recent envelope. Another correspondent had answered his query with a reference to a list of such cancellations and their place of origin. Michael thought the list might be of benefit to readers of the Journal.

Intrigued by these coded numbers, I took a closer look at what was involved and discovered that they represented only part of a total reorganisation of the sorting and delivery processes of *La Poste*.

First, the sorting offices were being modernised with new machines and were being renamed. Thus the former CTC offices (*Centres de Traitement du Courrier*) were to be enlarged and amalgamated to become PIC (*Plate-formes Industrielles Courrier*); the former PCIL (*Plate-formes [de Courrier?] d'Intérêt Local*) were to become PPDC (*Plate-formes de Préparation et de Distribution du Courrier*); and the former CC (*Centres Courrier*) were to become PDC (*Plate-formes de Distribution du Courrier*). As an indication of the relative importance of each of the new establishments, it was stated that the reorganisation will provide the Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur Region with 4 PIC, 27 PPDC and 141 PDC.

Second, all sorting offices are gradually (since the end of 2006) being incorporated in the list of modernised establishments equipped with the new machines that now used for cancellations a "ROC" (*Référentiel des Organisations du Courrier*) code consisting of a five figure number usually followed by the letter "A". This code replaced any geographical indication such as the name of a town or *département*, and the time of collection has been replaced by the logo of *La Poste*. Examples of four different types of machine

using these ROC codes are shown above and overleaf.

A large number of French philatelists have over the last 3 years worked on identifying the localities (the sorting offices) in which the coded numbers have been used, and have published the results of their work on the Internet or in such publications as *Timbres Magazine* and *Les Feuilles Marcophiles*. Taking the list supplied by Michael as a basis, I have expanded it by adding the results of further research printed in the two latter periodicals. The list is far from definitive, of course, as new numbers are being added all the time. Some of the numbers have also been found without the final "A" but I am not sure whether these were trial versions or if there is another explanation for the difference.

The codes in my list that have no locality indicated are those that have been seen on mail but not yet identified. Readers will notice that some establishments have been labelled as CDIS (*Centre de Distribution?*), CTED (*Centre d'Entraide et de Distribution Départementale*), DOTC (*Direction Opérationnelle Territoriale Courrier*), CCT1, CCT2, and even one EFT, but I am not at all sure of the significance of these.

Any further information about these coded cancellations will be most welcome.

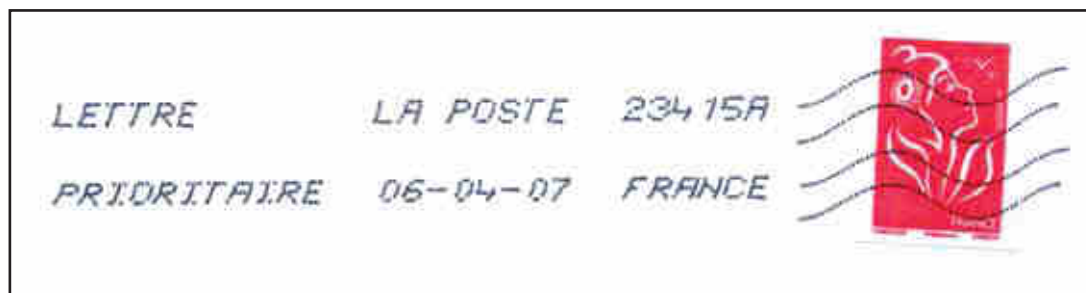
References

http://www.maphilatelic.com/dossier/oblit_neopost.html

http://www.maphilatelic.com/dossier/la_poste_nouvelles_obliterations_2007/html

Les Feuilles Marcophiles N^{os} 324 (Mar 2006) pp. 17-32, 325 (Jun 2006) pp. 19-27, 335 (Dec 2008) p. 27

Timbres Magazine N^{os} 94 (Oct 2008) p. 87, 107 (Dec 2009) p. 13



TOSHIBA TSC 100 machine (inkjet)



Circular date stamp (handstamp)

List of Codes

Code	Département N° & Locality		
00000A	Programming error	06850A	34 Montpellier CTC
00412A	02 Laon CTC	07156A	35 St Jacques de la Lande Rennes CTC
00713A	04 Digne-les-Bains CTC	07307A	36 Châteauroux Gare CTC
00758A		07581A	38 St Quentin Fallavier (La Verpillière) CDIS
00810A	05 Gap CTC	07582A	38 Vienne CDIS
00843A		08201A	40 Dax CTC
00845A	06 Cannes le Béal CDIS	08384A	42 Roanne CDIS
00849A	06 Grasse CDIS	08570A	
00854A	06 Carros CCT2	08575A	42 Saint-Etienne CTC
00858A	06 St Martin du Var CDIS	08870A	44 Orvault-Nantes CTC
00954A	06 Antibes CDIS	09189A	45 Fleury Orléans CTC
01033A	06 Nice CTC	09309A	46 Cahors CTC
01375A	08 Charleville-Mézières CTC	09466	47 Le Passage d'Agen CTC
01614A	10 Troyes CTC	09831A	49 Angers CTC
01856A	11 Carcassonne CTC	10003A	50 Saint Lô CTC
02034A		10818A	55 Bar le Duc CTC
02043A	12 Onet le Château CTC	11868A	58 Lézennes Lille CTC
02045A		11944A	60 Compiègne CDIS
02220A	13 Marseille Ville CTC	12142A	
02876A	16 Angoulême Gare CTC	12143A	60 Beauvais CDIS
02883A	17 Saintes CDIS	12155A	60 Creil CTC
03151A	17 Périgny La Rochelle CTC	12579A	62 Arras CTC
03320A	18 Bourges CTC	12599A	63 Lempdes-Clermont-Ferrand CTC
03717A	20 Ajaccio CTC	13102A	64 Pau CTC
03718A	20 Bastia CTC	13219A	65 Tarbes CTC
03826A		13409A	66 Perpignan CTC
03930A	21 Longvic Dijon CTC	13934A	68 Mulhouse CTC
04171A	22 Ploufragan St Brieuc CTC	14205A	69 St Priest Rhône CTC
04569A	24 Marsac-Périgueux CTC	14419A	71 Montchanin CCT1
04753A	25 Besançon CTC	14422A	71 Chalon-sur-Saône CDIS
04758A	26 Montélimar	14668A	71 Mâcon CTC
04943A	26 Valence CTC	14896A	72 Le Mans CTC
05231A	28 Mainvilliers Chartres CTC	15058A	74 Chambéry CTC
05505A	29 Guipavas Brest CTC	15076A	74 Cluses CDIS
05513A	29 Ergue Gaberic Quimper CTC	15080A	74 Annecy CDIS
05751A	30 Nîmes CTC	15254A	74 Cran Gévrier Annecy CTC
05995A	31 Toulouse Haute-Garonne CTC	15279A	
06006A	31 Toulouse Ville CTC	15670A	75 Paris Louvre CTC
06102A	32 Auch CTC	15672A	75 Paris 14 CTC
06231A		15673A	75 Paris Bonvin CTC
06535A	33 Bègles Bordeaux CTC	15873A	
		16234A	77 Melun Seine-et-Marne PDC1
		16472A	78 Montigny le Bretonneux CTC

16625A	79 Niort CTC	23114A	24 Riberac CCT1
16633A	80 Amiens Hortillons CCT2	23295A	65 Lannemezan CDIS
16634A	80 Abbeville les 3 Rivières CDIS	23368A	21 Fontaine les Dijon
16819A	80 Amiens CTC	23388A	89 St Denis Les Sens PPDC CDIS
16953A	81 Albi CTC	23415A	58 Varennes Vauzelles PPDC
17030A		23422A	38 Eybens CCT1
17060A	82 Montauban CTC	23453A	28 Châteaudun CDIS
17429A	84 Avignon La Courtine CTC	23467A	33 Langon CCT1
17770A		23495A	02 Laon PPDC CDIS
18205A	88 Épinal CTC	23538A	38 Villard Bonnot
18399A	90 Belfort CTC	23579A	91 Igny
18598A	91 Bondoufle Evry CTC	23588A	91 Morangis CCT1
18740A	92 Nanterre La Défense CTC	23599A	91 St Michel sur Orge CCT1
18769A	92 Nanterre CTC	23606A	91 Viry Châtillon CCT1
18770A	92 Issy-les-Moulineaux CTC	23622A	02 Crouy Soissons CDIS
18906A	93 Bobigny CTC	23645A	33 St Médard en Jalles PPDC CDIS
19056A	94 Créteil CTC	23651A	11 Narbonne PDC1
19227A	95 Pontoise CTC	23654A	33 Cestas
19460A	972 Fort-de-France CTC	23716A	31 L'Union CCT1
19595A	974 St Denis Messageries CTC	23735A	73 Albertville CDIS
20993A	40 Mont de Marsan CDIS	23753A	45 Châteauneuf sur Loire CDIS
21048A	83 La Valette du Var Toulon CTC	23790A	59 Roost Warendin Douai CDIS
21130A	89 Auxerre CDIS	23800A	45 Villemendeur CCT2
21314A		23820A	06 Cagnes sur Mer CCT1
21318A		23841A	06 La Trinité CCT1
21319A	42 St Jean Bonnefonds CDIS	23845A	06 Mandelieu
21449A	59 Coudekerque Dunkerque CDIS	23848A	06 Menton CCT1
21453A	33 Biganos CDIS	23863A	59 Sin le Noble CCT1
21463A	07 Aubenas PPDC	23886A	06 Nice Garibaldi
21509A		23891A	06 Nice St Augustin CCT1
21511A	55 Verdun CDIS	23894A	06 Nice St Barthélemy
21526A	83 St Raphael-La Seyne	23902A	06 St Laurent du Var de Gaule CCT1
21541A	22 St Agathon Guingamp Bellevue CDIS	23906A	06 Valbonne CCT1
21554A	31 Labège CDIS	23911A	06 Villefranche sur Mer CCT1
21611A	13 Marseille Arnavant PPDC	23925A	94 Rungis CCT1
21618A	14 Caen Mondeville CTC	23930A	
21684A	02 St Quentin CDIS	24022A	92 Sèvres CCT1
21688A	83 La Farlède	24037A	52 Saint Dizier PPDC
21790A	59 Comines	24038A	74 Bonne CCT1
21792A	59 Haubourdin CDIS	24054A	93 Bagnole CCT1
21809A	24 Bergerac Valette CDIS	24056A	93 Bobigny CCT1
21810A	33 Bordeaux CDIS	24058A	93 Bondy CCT1
21855A	28 Dreux CDIS	24107A	51 Reims PPDC
21867A	973 Le Lamentin CCT1	24308A	93 Noisy le Grand CCT1
21935A	85 La Roche-sur-Yon CTC	24314A	93 La Plaine St Denis PPDC
21951A	56 Vannes CTC	24371A	40 St Vincent de Tyrosse CDIS
21958A	65 Lourdes CDIS	24408A	53 Gorron
21974A	74 Thonon les Bains CDIS	24409A	50 St Lô CCT1
21976A	31 L'Union Midi Pyrénées Sud CTED	24419A	61 Valframbert Alençon CDIS
21999	64 Bayonne CCT1	24427A	61 St Hilaire le Châtel Mortagne CDIS
22000A	64 Biarritz CDIS	24447A	49 Cholet CCT1
22014A	51 Châlons St Gibrien CTC	24460A	50 St Martin des Champs CDIS
22024A	64 Oloron Ste Marie CDIS	24508A	83 Draguignan CCT1
22025A	64 Orthez CDIS	24511A	83 Fréjus CCT1
22026A	64 Ascain St Jean du Luz CDIS	24512A	83 Hyères
22027A	78 Aubergenville CDIS	24526A	83 St Raphaël CCT1
22082A	78 Mantes la Jolie CDIS	24535A	971 Basse Terre CCT1
22160A	69 Lyon RP CCT1	24537A	973 Cayenne CCT1
22226A	19 Ussac Pays de Brive CDIS	24551A	56 Lorient CDIS
22285A	30 Marguerittes CDIS	24578A	44 St Herblain CCT1
22509A		24585A	34 Béziers PDC1
22525A	47 Agen CDIS	24586A	
22563A	14 Soliers CTED	24591A	48 Mendé CCT1
22663A	67 Schiltigheim Strasbourg Nord CDIS	24599A	974 Le Port CCT1
22758A	50 Tourlaville CDIS	24605A	974 St Pierre (La Réunion) CCT1
22771A	06 Mont Sertou	24658A	95 Herblay PPDC
22865A	76 Yvetot PPDC	24856A	20 Porto Vecchio CDIS
23038A	47 Villeneuve-sur-Lot PPDC CDIS	24910A	75 Paris 9 Choron CCT2
23073A	81 Castres Prévert CDIS	24923A	973 Kourou CCT1
23110A	24 Le Bugue CDIS	24924A	973 Matoury CCT1

24984A	67 Holtzheim Strasbourg CTC	37609A	57 Metz Est PPDC
25309A	976 Base Navale de Dzaoudzi	37610A	54 Heillecourt Nancy Sud PPDC CCT1
25316A	76 Rouen Madrillet CTC	37653 A	57 Faulquemont PPDC CDIS
25333A	80 Amiens DOTC	37668A	37 Sorigny Tours PIC Val de Loire CTC
25383A	07 Privas EFT CC	37752A	971 Les Abymes Pôle Caraïbes CTC
25479A		37784A	41 Blois PPDC
25635A	95 Gonesse Paris Nord PIC	37845A	69 St Priest Ain Rhône PIC
25657A	83 La Seyne Six Fours PPDC	38074A	57 Woustviller CDIS
25658A	75 Paris Villette PPDC	38144A	83 La Farlède
25678A	75 Paris Bercy PPDC	38207A	973 Macouria Tonate CCT1
25759A	38 Sassenage Grenoble CTC	38267A	57 Metz Nord PPDC CDIS
25926A	973 St Laurent du Maroni CCT1	38276A	91 Wissous Paris Sud PIC
25956A	62 Eleu dit Leauvette CCT2	38295A	75 Paris Brune PPDC
26025A	44 Pont St Martin CDIS	38296A	75 Paris Bonvin PPDC
26028A	75 Paris Europe PPDC	38395A	34 St Jean de Vedas
26029A	75 Paris Champerret PPDC	38449A	91 La Norville PPDC
26030A	91 Courcouronnes CDIS	38469A	53 Bonchamp-lès-Laval PPDC
26059A	68 Colmar Liberté CDIS	38768A	59 Petite Forêt Valenciennes PPDC
26269A	13 Aix en Provence CDIS	38769A	59 Roubaix PPDC
26479A	77 Croissy-Beaubourg Lognes CTC	38770A	59 Lomme PPDC
26841A		38777A	54 Bouxières aux Dames PPDC CDIS
26906A	79 Champdeniers St Denis	38784A	
26990A	44 Montoire de Bretagne PCIL	38830A	33 Carbon Blanc PPDC
27678A	54 Custines	38954A	63 Cournon d'Auvergne PPDC
29096A	81 Albi CETD	38985A	01 Bourg en Bresse PPDC
29120A	75 Paris Madeleine	39074A	38 Eybens PPDC
32415A	Programming error	39078A	62 Arques St Omer PPDC
33653		39103A	55 Bar le Duc PPDC
33770A		39169A	16 Fléac PPDC
36025A		39409A	21 Dijon Nord PPDC
36609A	89 Moneteau CCT1	39439A	70 Vesoul PPDC
37036A	94 Ivry sur Seine Bièvre PPDC	39677A	71 Chalon sur Saône PPDC
37353A		39820A	09 St Jean de Verges PPDC
37510A		39825A	31 St Alban PPDC
37530A		39912A	60 Compiègne PPDC
37580A	57 Pagny-lès-Goin Lorraine PIC	39916A	80 Poulainville Amiens PPDC

ABPS EXECUTIVE BULLETIN

February 2010

MORE HELP NEEDED FOR WEBMASTER AND ADVERTISING MANAGER

We need You!

We are still looking for an Advertising Manager and Webmaster and help with other roles.

If you feel you can help ABPS in this way, please contact Colin Searle (details below).

Helpers are also needed at the various Festival of Stamps events in 2010,

Can you spare some time at one of the Exhibitions or events, particularly London 2010???

NEW ABPS HANDBOOK & DIRECTORY

NEW LIST OF PHILATELIC LECTURERS AND DISPLAYS

The long-awaited new issues of these important publications are now nearly ready for print and should be circulated in March. We are now seeking advertisers from dealers and societies that wish to promote themselves.

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR ABPS

John Baron has now started as Chairman of ABPS. John is well known in the Thames Valley Federation and is looking forward to taking the hobby forward in the coming years.

Thanks to Phil Kenton for all his hard work.

Please send your feedback and ideas to John by Email: baronial@btconnect.com

NEW REPRESENTATIVE FOR SPECIALIST SOCIETIES

Dane Garrod is taking over this role from Hugh Osborne. Dane is aiming to contact Societies re support for events and publications. Thanks to Hugh Osborne for his support of ABPS in the past. Email: dane.garrod@tesco.net

NEW REPRESENTATIVE FOR FEDERATIONS

Maurice Flack has taken over this role. Email: mauriceflack@hotmail.co.uk

Continued on page 22

Boyer the Society *Parfumeur*

David Jennings-Bramly

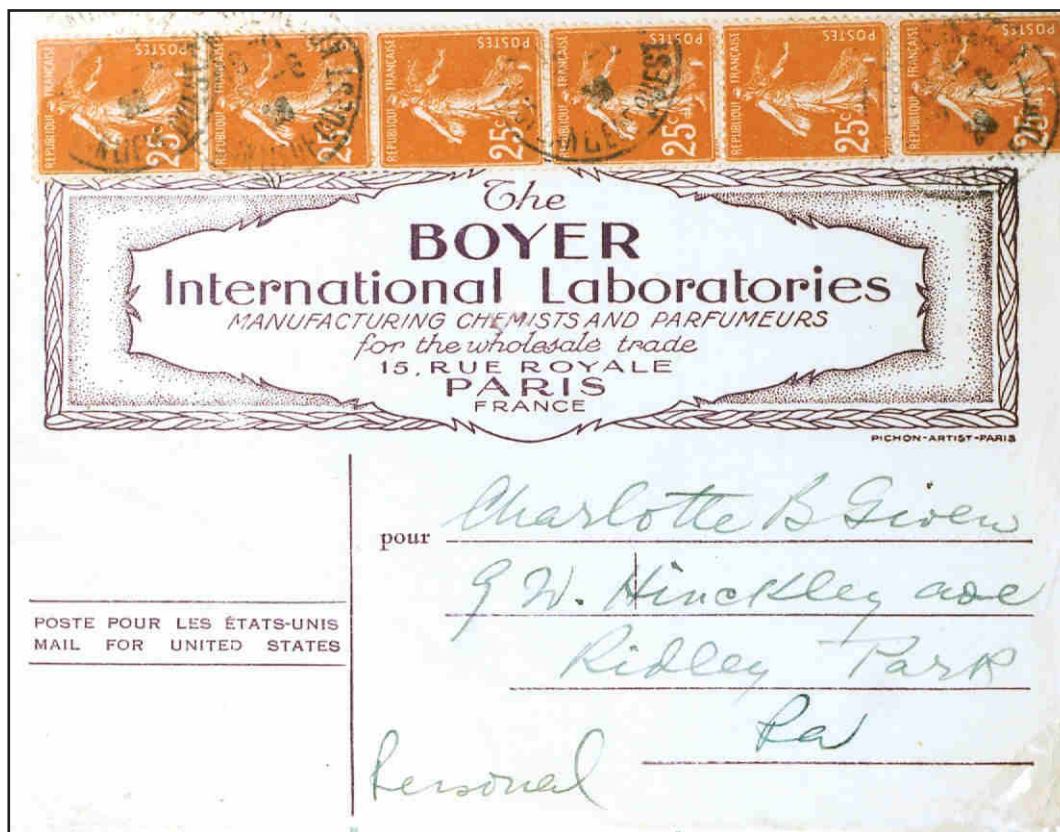


Figure 1

I feel sure the name Boyer will evoke fond thoughts of France and, most probably amongst all but the youngest, the inimitable Charles. But this article concerns an American — or so I deem him to be, thanks to the American English he employs when writing advertisements for his wares.

The Boyer covers that I have and have seen are, with one exception, franked using coil stamps. The coils used on my covers are the following:-

Yvert roulette N° 12	15c green Pasteur
Yvert roulette N° 16	5c green Blanc
Yvert roulette N° 17	10c Sower
Yvert roulette N° 20	15c brown Sower
Yvert roulette N° 22	30c green Pasteur
Yvert roulette N° 25	25c brown-yellow Sower

The exception is a strip of 6 of Yvert N° 235 used on The Boyer International Laboratories envelope illustrated above in Figure 1.

The earliest cover that I possess is postmarked 25 March 1926 and is shown on the next page in Figure 2. The latest dated cover is the undecorated "Boyer The Society Parfumeur" one of 24 December 1932, shown on the next page

as Figure 3.

Most of my covers have been bought in the States by an English postal history dealer, now deceased, who was then participating in most of the Stateside exhibitions. The arrangement was that he would buy on my behalf any Boyer material he saw during his peregrinations.

Some twenty or more years ago a cover postmarked 9 June 1929 came into my possession. In it were the contents, which reveal that The Society *Parfumeur* was an American, one Alden Scot Boyer, enthusiastically aided and abetted by the Countess (*soi-disant*?) Louise Delorme, who writes extolling The Boyer Laboratory of Beauty Research (see Figure 4 on page 21); she enthuses about a marvellous invention in the Laboratory called the EPIDERM-O-SCOPE. According to her the use of the apparatus to determine a lady's skin type and colouration during an examination at No 15 rue Royale (25 francs) would enable the client to learn which of Boyer's products would enhance her looks and how use of his preparations would banish lines and wrinkles. This was a conceit still being pursued as assiduously and ever more expensively today. Louise was also an American.



Figure 2

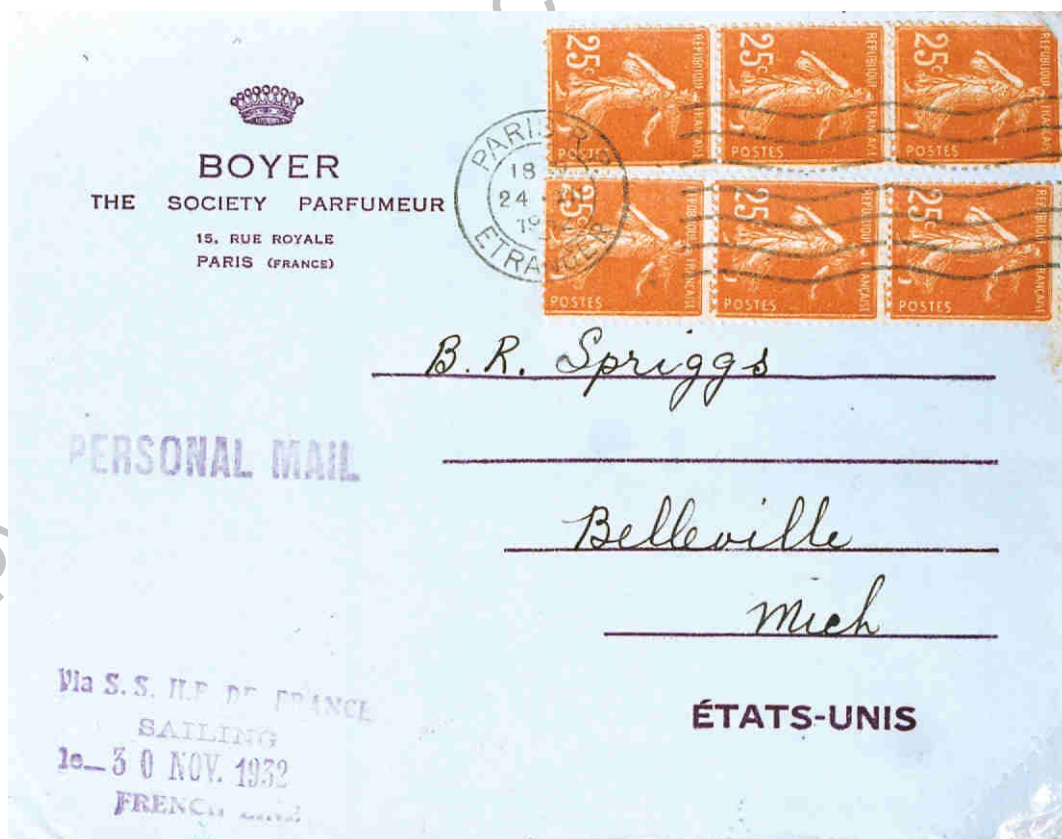


Figure 3

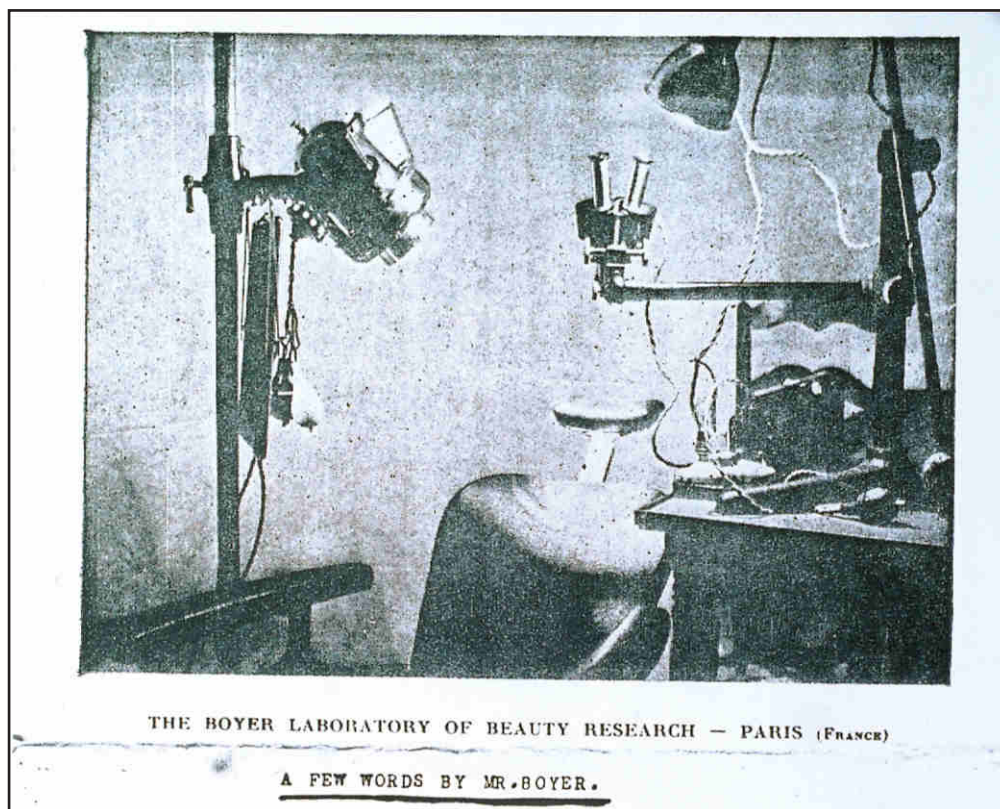


Figure 4

Reading A S Boyer's advertising one learns he has established an American Division, the location of which is to be

found on the 14 January 1930 Boyer Chemical Laboratory Company cover shown below in Figure 5.

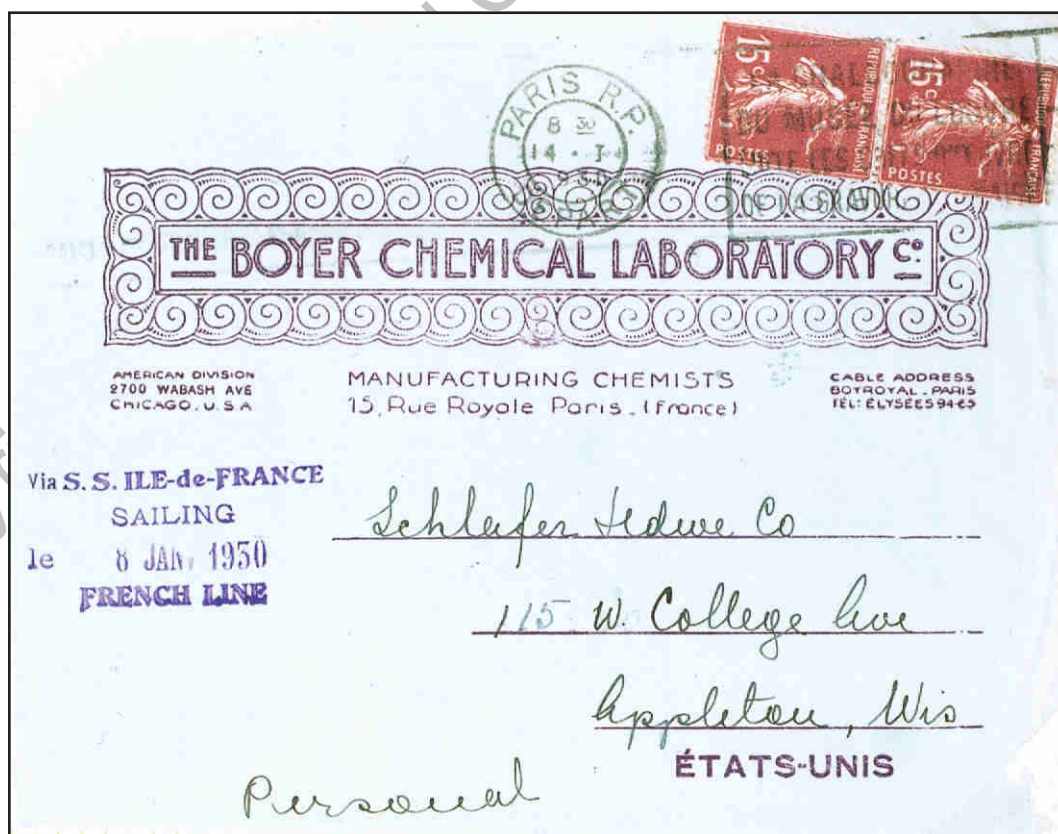


Figure 5

Until 1 July 1930 any orders he received had to be sent from Paris to America at full letter rate. It is only on the date quoted that a small packet rate was introduced for overseas mail. The great majority of the covers I have seen are ones which had carried Boyer advertising, as evidenced by the printing matter frankings; followed by letters at full rate and, least, at samples rate.

No large samples or small packet wrapping is known to me. However, I feel sure that there is one collector (or more) in the USA who can extend both my dates and list of coils

used, as well as show a wrapper, even if only a front: and I invite them to do so.

Collectors will have noticed the handstamped steamer's name, line and sailing date on most of the envelopes. There is no evidence that any of Boyer's mail was actually carried by the named steamers. Indeed, some have Paris postmarks dated days after the ships' quoted departure dates.

Perhaps this article should be headed "Boyer, the Flim-Flam Man."

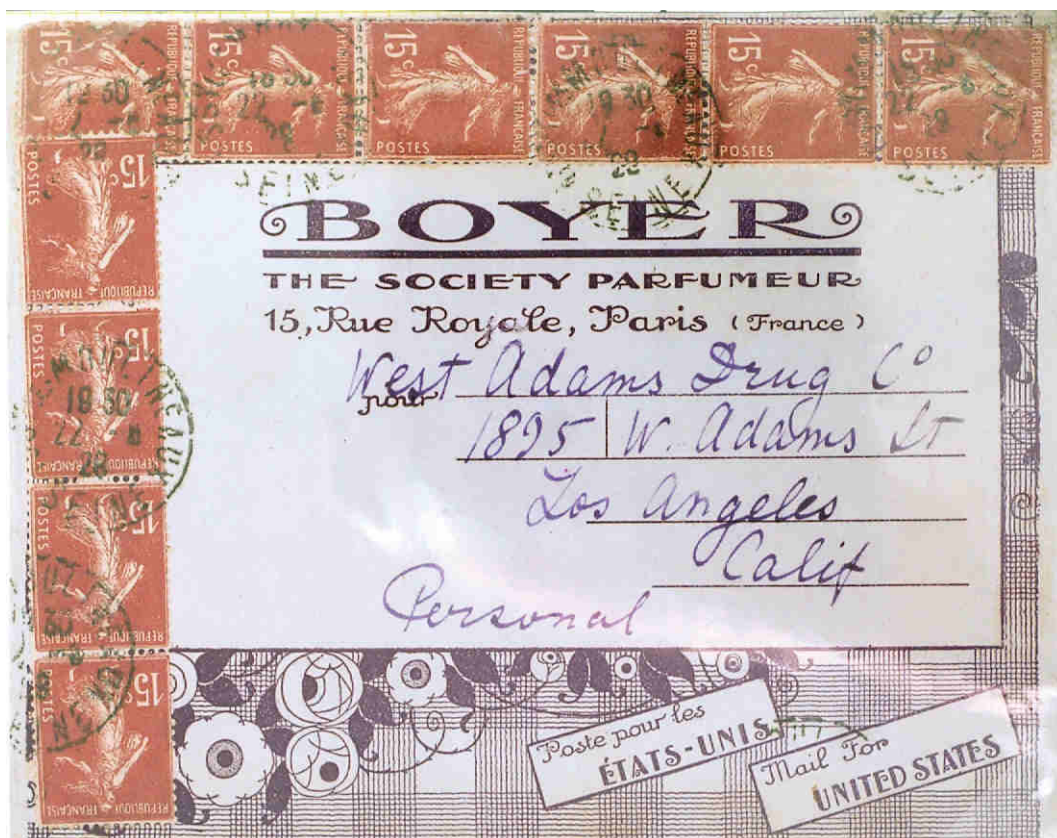


Figure 6

ABPS EXECUTIVE BULLETIN

Continued from page 18

MEMBERSHIP

The year 2009 showed only a slight reduction in membership over the previous year. The big disappointment was in the specialist societies where there was a net reduction of five societies, most significantly including the King George VI Collectors Society (262 UK members in 2008) and the Malta Study Circle (109 UK members in 2008). We hope to encourage them to rejoin to continue to support UK philately.

The number of Local Societies remained the same at 227. The number of Friends of Philately fell by three to 76, while the number of patrons remained the same at 23.

Total membership income was £22,160 (2008 = £22,596)

Renewal letters for 2010 will be sent out shortly to Societies, Friends and Patrons.

ABPS NEWS

John Gledhill has now taken over as Editor and is looking forward to receiving your ideas about how the magazine can be improved. Would you prefer an A4 format?

The use of colour to help the flow of items was well received by respondents.

The reports from societies are coming in regularly so the next ABPS News is due in early March, following the current quarterly time-scales.

Please remember to send in your reports to John prior to the copy deadlines. They should be sent by e-mail to: jmgstamps@jgledhill.me.uk typed in a clear format and posted to him. He needs more photos too!

Continued on page 26

The 1F50 Pétain + 50 S N Overprint (Y&T 552)

PART 1

Mick Bister

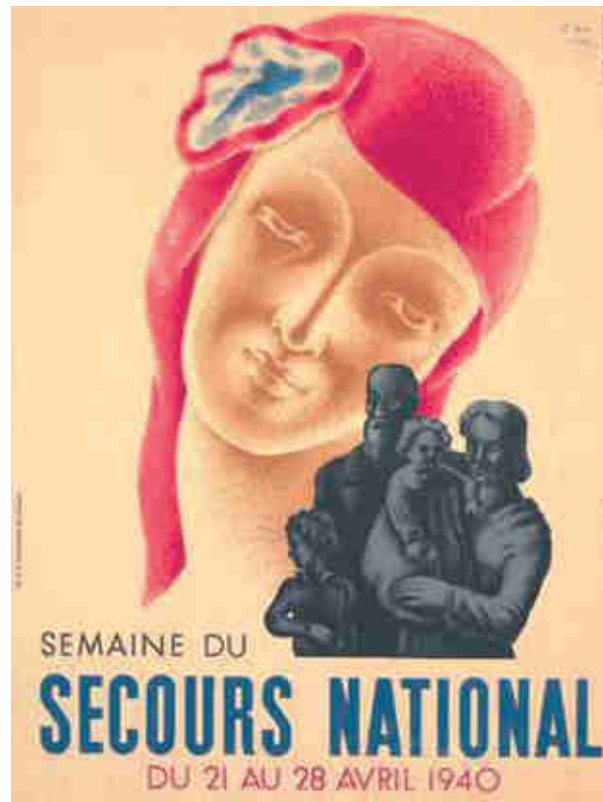


Figure 1
1940 campaign poster depicting a family in need
(actual size 40 x 30 cm)

The *Secours National*

Following the signing of the Armistice in 1940, hostilities between France and her German foes ceased. There awaited, however, another enemy on whom France would be forced to declare war – Poverty.

Marshal Philippe Pétain, head of the puppet government in Vichy, declared that although there was no longer a military battlefield on which to fight there was in its place a social one. France's new enemy was now '*la misère*'. To help vanquish this new foe Pétain embraced the *Secours National*, a humanitarian aid charity founded in 1915 with the twofold aim of giving aid to the civil population affected by the hostilities and of relieving the suffering of families whose menfolk were prisoners of war (Fig 1). The *Secours National* was relaunched following a decree issued on 19 October 1939 and it would become for Pétain the means to 'defeat the poverty offensive'. Pétain made the battle against poverty one of the promises of his New Order but the astronomic costs of occupation imposed by the Germans combined with the government's attempt to maintain a strong franc necessitated a policy of austerity and hence any attempts to fight poverty had to be efficient and cost effective.

In the Great War the *Secours National* had been operated by the private sector with minimum interference from the State. However, in order to increase efficiency by coordinating both fund raising and the distribution of benefits the organisation was placed under State control and later, by a decree dated 4 October 1940, under Pétain's patronage. It was argued that the public would respond much more generously in their giving knowing that the Marshal was at the helm; in fact the *Secours National* would come to be regarded as *une grande machine de propagande maréchaliste*. Initially the prestige of the *Secours National* would be enhanced by its association with the Marshal; later it was the prestige of the Marshal that would be enhanced by his association with the *Secours National*.

At its height in early 1944 the *Secours National* had more than 52,000 active members and between 1939 and the end of 1944 had spent almost 11 billion francs on social aid. The first State injection of cash was 50 million francs in May 1940 followed by a decree in July 1940 that permitted the organisation to claim the assets of those stripped of their French citizenship. From October 1940, profits from the *Loterie Nationale* were diverted into the *Secours National* coffers. Divers local, regional and national initiatives supplemented the income.



Figure 2
Bon de Solidarité



Figure 3
Campaign slogan:
'SECOURS
NATIONAL
- barrage national
CONTRE LA MISÈRE'



Figure 4
Booklet of 20
of the 1F50 Pétain with
Secours National 'pubs'

PTT Involvement

A major contributor to and supporter of the *Secours National* was the PTT. Postmen on their delivery rounds would sell sets of postcards depicting Pétain and counter clerks sold vouchers known as *Bons de Solidarité* (Fig 2) the income from which paid for *inter alia* the operation of soup kitchens. In addition, the Post Office promoted *Secours National* campaigns with a series of slogan postmarks

beginning with 'DONNEZ AU SECOURS NATIONAL - ENTR'AIDE D'HIVER' in 1941, 'UN BON DE SOLIDARITÉ NE SE REFUSE PAS' in 1942 and 'SECOURS NATIONAL - BARRRAGE NATIONAL CONTRE LA MISÈRE' in 1944 (Fig 3). From July 1942 to May 1943, booklets containing the 1F50 Pétain issue (Y&T 517) were printed with the achievements of the *Secours National* emblazoned in the margins (Fig 4).

However, the PTT's major contribution was through its stamp issuing policy. From 1914 with the issue of the 10c Sower + 5c in aid of the Red Cross, the PTT had supported charities by applying a surcharge to the facial value of the stamps. This policy continued until the mid 1930s with support for the Red Cross, the War Orphans Fund, the Sinking Fund and the Unemployed Intellectuals' Relief Fund. From 1938 though, with the approach of the 20th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice, and with the storm clouds of yet another war on the horizon, there was a dramatic shift in the production towards issues supporting war related charities such as those for soldiers' relief, war memorial construction, repatriation, civilian war victims as well as for health, sport and unemployment.

From December 1940 to August 1944 the programme of charity stamps escalated further with the first stamps specifically in aid of the *Secours National* being issued on 2 December 1940. During the four years of Pétain's period in office the PTT issued a total of 80 different stamps with surcharges in aid of the *Secours National* and its affiliated charities such as the French Red Cross and the *Comité d'assistance aux prisonniers de guerre*.

In the majority of cases the charity surcharge was well in excess of the face value of the stamp and the general public were becoming reluctant to pay such a hefty premium to frank their ordinary mail. For example, charity issues with a 1F face value to meet the Internal Letter Rate were being sold with a 2F surcharge (the 1940 *Semailles* Y&T 467), a 5F surcharge (the 1941 *Au profit des prisonniers de guerre* Y&T 475) and even a 9F surcharge (the 1941 *Au profit des œuvres de mer* Y&T 504). Many customers were also deterred by the conditions attached to their sale. The 1941 *Armoiries de Ville* (Y&T 526-537) could only be purchased as a complete set for a total of 60 francs – a substantial amount if all one wanted was the 1F value in order to post a letter. Furthermore, any purchaser was restricted to a maximum of sixty sets. In the case of the 1941 *Entr'aide d'Hiver* (Y&T 497-498) buyers were limited to just four pairs for the first week of their sale. As a result of these restrictions the public were becoming demotivated and sales slumped. Only 50% of the 2,384,000 stamps in the above set were sold, thus depriving the *Secours National* of over 11,300,000 francs (Fig 5).



Figure 5
2F50 + 7F50 *Entr'aide d'hiver*

If the decline in income from *Secours National* stamps was to be checked a scheme more acceptable to both the general public and stamp collectors alike had to be conceived. It would require a stamp with a low face value and a large turnover – for example, one meeting the Internal Letter Rate – combined with a modest surcharge that was not disproportionate to the face value. Finally, it would need to be put on sale without conditions and restrictions relating to

the quantity purchased. The solution came in the form of the 1F50 Pétain overprinted SN +50c (Y&T 552).

The inception

The genesis of this stamp occurs in Lannion in Brittany where, on 1 May 1942, the postmaster M. Brassier, sits down in his office to compose a letter to the Minister for Communications.

"Dear Minister

"The sale of Bons de Solidarité over post office counters moves me to express my opinion, not as a postmaster, but as a humble Frenchman who admires our great Marshal and his magnificent charity, the Secours National.

"Our Administration has the means by which to increase by at least tenfold the revenue derived from the sale of the Bons de Solidarité. I am talking about stamps sold with a surcharge.

"I am sure that large format designs of the Marshal inscribed 'Solidarité' and with a surcharge of 0,20, 0,30, 0,40 and 0,50 could easily be sold for the franking of ordinary letters as well as to stamp collectors who could be relied on to give their full support. With regards to the sending of parcels, which has reached a particularly high level, stamps surcharged 1F, 2F, 3F, 4F and 5F could be made available to our customers.

"Furthermore, on one day a week, a Thursday for example, the sending of parcels could be made subject to the mandatory use of a stamp with at least a 1F surcharge. There has not been the slightest reduction in the number of items posted since the recent big increase in postal rates⁽¹⁾ and so I am sure the public would readily accept this insignificant premium.

"I am convinced that everyone would want to contribute something to the Marshal's charity, some modestly, others generously.

"On a trial basis, and concurrently with the sale of the Bons de Solidarité, the below mentioned stamps could be issued in the following groups:⁽²⁾

1F50 + 0,20

1F50 + 0,50

1F50 + 1F

5F + 1F

5F + 5F

10F + 10F

20F + 20F

"Later on, this issue could be complemented by other sets including surcharges equivalent to the current values of the Bons de Solidarité.

"Yours faithfully

Brassier"

(1) This refers to the new rates introduced on 5 January 1942 in which the basic letter rate was increased by 50% from 1F to 1F50.

(2) These three groups would represent the Internal Letter Rate, the proposed mandatory 'Thursday' parcel tax and the parcel rates. Inexplicably, his figures do not correspond to those proposed in paragraph 3 of his letter.

The letter is forwarded on 5 May to the Secretary of State who in turn replies to M. Brassier explaining to him that there is already on sale a set of Coat of Arms issues each with a surcharge in aid of the *Secours National* and that a second set is in the pipeline. The letter closes by informing Monsieur Brassier that his proposals cannot be accepted but he is to be thanked for the patriotic feelings that inspired him to voice them.

However, an internal memo, dated 22 June 1942 and signed by the *Secrétaire Général des PTT*, V di Pace, reveals that in fact not all Monsieur Brassier's proposals were rejected out of hand. The memo suggests how one of the postmaster's proposals, the issue of a low value stamp with a modest surcharge, could be achieved.

"The current schedule of issues for Monaco, Andorra,

the Colonies as well as for France itself is taking up all the available equipment and staffing resources in the Imprimerie des Timbres-Poste. Therefore, I do not think I can authorise the issue of a new set of stamps with a surcharge in aid of the Secours National.

"A halfway solution would be to produce a special unlimited issue by overprinting a modest 20 centimes surcharge on the current 1F50 stamp which portrays the Marshal and which corresponds to the basic letter rate; the operation would be very straightforward and not create too much extra work at the Imprimerie [(Fig 6)].

"If the Minister approves this proposal, I would be very grateful if he would validate it by appending his signature to this document."

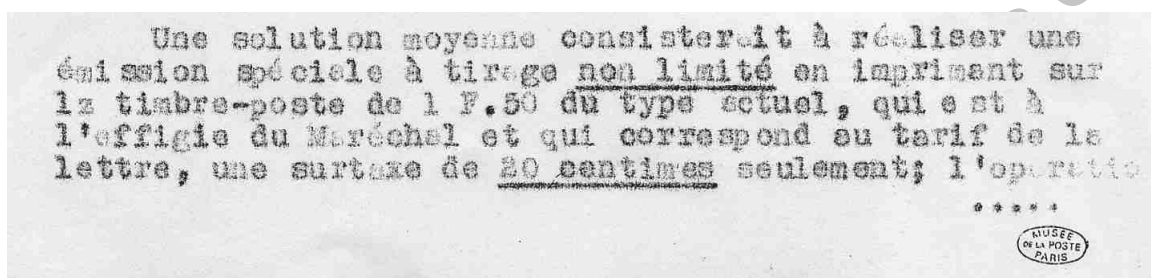


Figure 6

Extract from memo of 22 June 1942 making first reference to the *Secours National* overprint
© Musée de la Poste

Part 2 of this article will be published in the next issue of the Journal

ABPS EXECUTIVE BULLETIN

Continued from page 22

WEBSITE

The new ABPS website is up and running and you will find lots of information about Clubs around the country and their activities. Please take a look and tell us what you think of the developments. The new site is: www.abps.org.uk

CONGRESS

The Centenary Congress in Manchester was a great success and plans are well advanced for 2010. You can now book your place. Please contact Paul Gaywood. His e-mail is: gaywood@talktalk.net
Tel: 01772 713917. Put the date in your diary now!

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

Copies are still available of the new full-colour publication celebrating "100 Years of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain" which is now available to ABPS members at the usual 50% discount - £18 plus £3 p&p.

PCGB website: www.pcgb.org.uk

2011: 7 to 10 July, Portsmouth

2012: Plans are also moving forward for Congress at Perth in October 2012.

Their Committee desires to host the national competitions around the same time.

ABPS NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

This Committee is now including Workshops and Seminars in its scope and a number of judging seminars have been requested.

If Federations would like to have workshops on any subject, please contact John Sussex johndc.sussex@btinternet.com.

COMMUNICATIONS TO FEDERATIONS

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

Continued on cover page iii

The Alpha and Omega of Field Service Correspondence from the Cameroons Campaign 1914-1916

Bob Maddocks

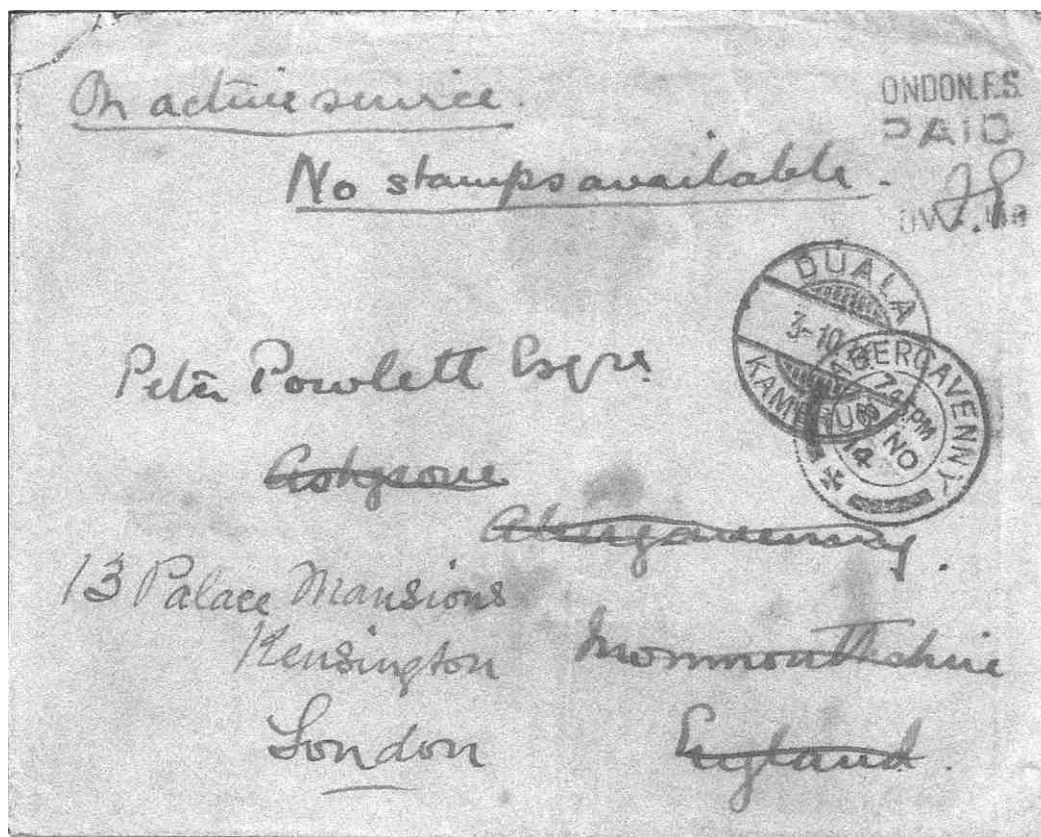


Figure 1

Stampless On Active Service cover addressed to England — Postmarked “Duala 3.10.14”

Very few campaign covers are found complete with their contents and those that are occasionally and unexpectedly provide some additional titbits for the postal historian. Quite fortuitously, I have acquired separately and, from quite different sources, two such covers from the same sender dating respectively from the beginning and the end of the Anglo-French Cameroons Campaign of 1914-1916. The content of the enclosed letters touched upon both military operations and postal matters of that conflict.

Both letters, addressed to different correspondents, were written by a British officer, Captain (subsequently Major) F L N Giles of the Royal Engineers. As Chief Engineer and Director of Signals he had been a core member of the embryonic CEF Command consisting of six officers and the Allied Commander, General Sir Charles Dobell, who had sailed from Liverpool in *RMS Appam* on 31.8.14 for a seaborne invasion of Kamerun. Following the capture of Duala, Capt Giles had overall responsibility for the establishment there of the CEF's postal facilities. He remained until the CEF had succeeded in its task of seizing the German colony and was then disbanded in March 1916.

The first cover was postmarked Duala 3.10.14: this was within a few days following the capture of that town at the very outset of the Campaign. The second was postmarked Duala 24.2.16, just days after the capitulation of Mora, the last pocket of German resistance in Kamerun.

Duala had been surrendered to the invading Allied Force on 27.9.14 and the Joint Allied Commander established his Headquarters there. In his General Routine Order N° 15 of 2.10.14 he included a Notice concerning the Force's first homeward mail. This announced “A mail will probably leave within 24 hours. Letters should be posted at the Telegraph Office where a Post Office has been opened in Woermann Street, near to the Bank.”

As mentioned in my book on the CEF⁽¹⁾, the then earliest known recorded mailing from Duala by a member of the Allied Forces was postmarked 4.10.14. This had been seen illustrated in a 1985 Auction Catalogue but no details of the sender were given.

Now, shown here (Fig 1) is the earlier and presently earliest dated cover of Capt Giles from the initial day of operations of the CEF Field Post Office on 3.10.14 and which was included in the first official outward despatch. The cover, which is stampless, was inscribed in accordance with an earlier General Routine Order, “On Active Service. No Stamps Available.” and initialled by the sender. It bears the strike of one of the captured three different former German Duala, Kamerun, postal date stamps, namely that without an index letter. Originally addressed to Abergavenny (7.11.14) it was redirected from there (8.11.14) to London. In the top right hand corner struck in red is the initial UK arrival/transit date stamp reading “London FS/PAID/NOV. 7. 14”.

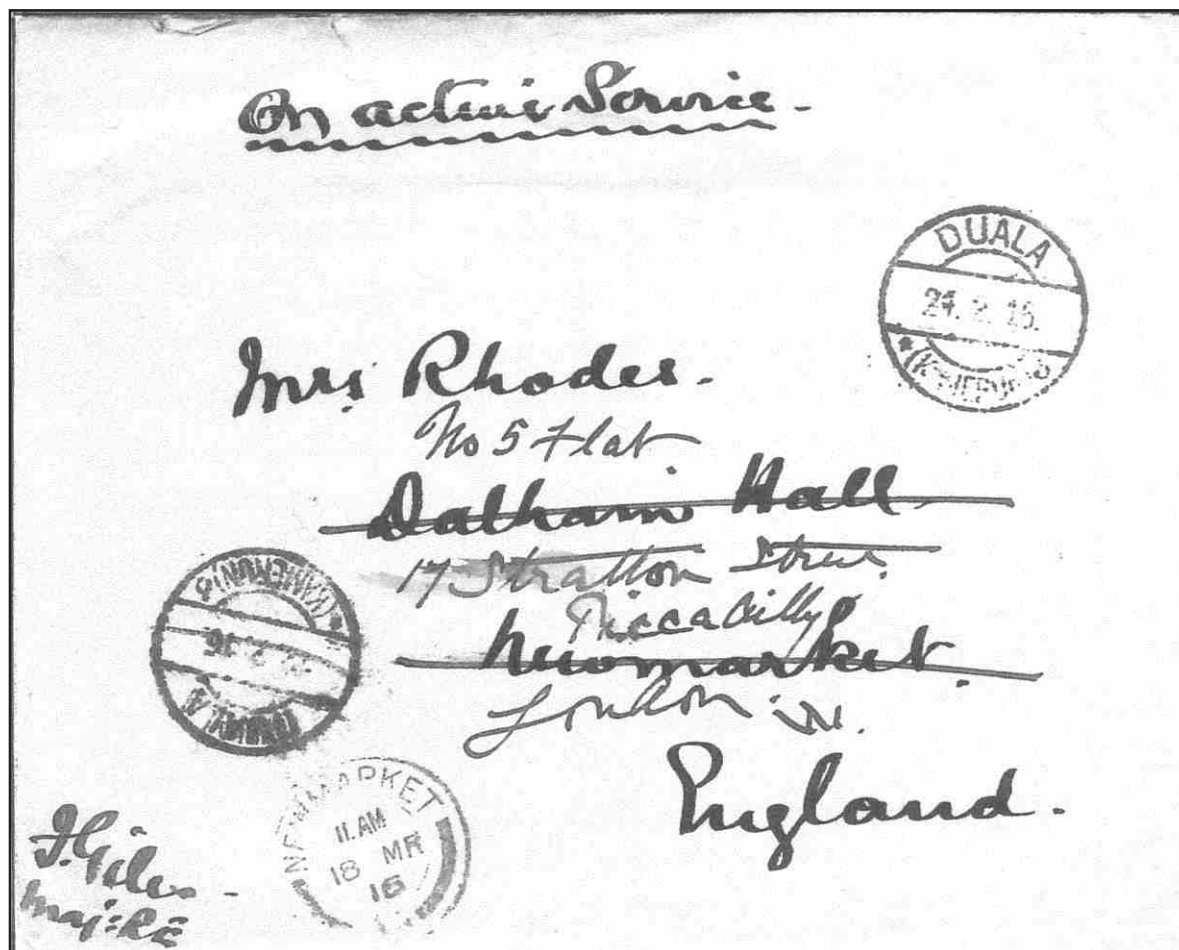


Figure 2

Stampless On Active Service cover addressed to England — Postmarked “Duala b 24.2.16”

Contained therein is Capt Giles' letter datelined “Duala, Cameroons, W Africa 3.10.14”. This reads as follows:

“My dear Peter,

“Here we arrived safely at the first stopping stage of our journey. The Germans did not like our naval guns shelling the town so hurriedly decamped, surrendering Duala unconditionally. And so I find myself in a comfortable house with water laid on and all sorts of luxuries instead of sleeping in the open as I had anticipated. However, I foresee that there will be some of that later on.

“Meanwhile, I send you some German stamps I found here. They should be valuable later on for you may be assured that no more will be issued.

“Please thank your father for his letter of 31.8.14 which reached me a week ago and tell him I am sorry he is too far away for me to get him a job here although there are plenty of them going begging.

“I hope you are getting on alright at school and are in the football team by this time. You must not let Oliver beat you in games records.

“Write to me when you get this and be sure to look after the stamps. They are certain to be valuable later on.

“My address is – Staff Officer, W.A.F.F., c/o Colonial Office, London.

“From your old friend,
Frank Giles.”

Of the mentioned postage stamps of German Kamerun, still enclosed were 8 x 5Pfg and 2 x 10Pfg in mint condition.

One wonders how/where Capt Giles acquired these stamps for in his own first official “Situation Report” of 7.10.14 to General Dobell he had stated – “Nothing of value, postage stamps etc was found at the (German) Post Office”!

The second (and for this purpose the Omega) Giles cover (Fig 2), also stampless and inscribed “On Active Service” and initialled by the meantime promoted Major, was postmarked “Duala b, Kamerun 24.2.16”. It was, however, addressed to a different correspondent at Newmarket, England (18.3.16) where, strangely coincidentally, it too was readdressed to London.

Unfortunately, in this instance, only the last page of the enclosed letter has survived and this does not show the sender's address, or the date when written but certainly this was very shortly after the German Governor of Kamerun with the remnants of his *Schutztruppe* had, on 17.2.16, taken refuge in neighbouring Spanish Rio Muni. The German garrison at Mora, alone and still holding out against the Allies' siege, then surrendered on 18.2.16. The conquest of Kamerun was over.

Major Giles ended his letter:

“... I enclose two sets of stamps [CEF overprints] for the family (and also postcards). You don't say which are the collectors so please give them to the two most ardent. The sets are fetching £10 a piece already in England and so in a few years should become very valuable for the issue was such a small one. No individual was allowed to purchase more than seven sets and no one outside of the Cameroons was permitted to buy.

"Our show is over. The German Governor has gone into Spanish territory and sent a telegram to Berlin to say that he has evacuated the country. It only remains for ourselves and the French to decide how the country is to be governed and this seems to be a knotty point. At any rate they are taking a long time making up their minds. Anyway I am hoping to be home in April or May and a chance of sitting down and sleeping for a bit.

"Love to all the family.

Yours always and sincerely

Frank Giles."

The mentioned postage stamps had, however, gone separate ways. Also the postcards, though I have elsewhere come across several initialled by Major Giles; those seen had various views of the German *Schutztruppe* in training at Duala.

Reference

- (1) *The Postal Arrangements of the Anglo-French Cameroons Expeditionary Force 1914-1916* — R J Maddocks (1996)

London 2010 Festival of Stamps

London 2010

International Stamp Exhibition

Business Design Centre, Islington

8 to 15 May 2010

including a major presence by Royal Mail

Empire Mail: George V and the GPO

Exhibition at Guildhall Art Gallery

7 May to 25 July 2010

with material from The British Postal Museum & Archive and the Royal Philatelic Collection

Special displays and talks presented by the British Library Philatelic Collections

Displays at the Royal Philatelic Society London

Open to all – 6 May 2010 by ticket

Members only – 7 May 2010

Themed displays at many venues

Throughout the year

including Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum;

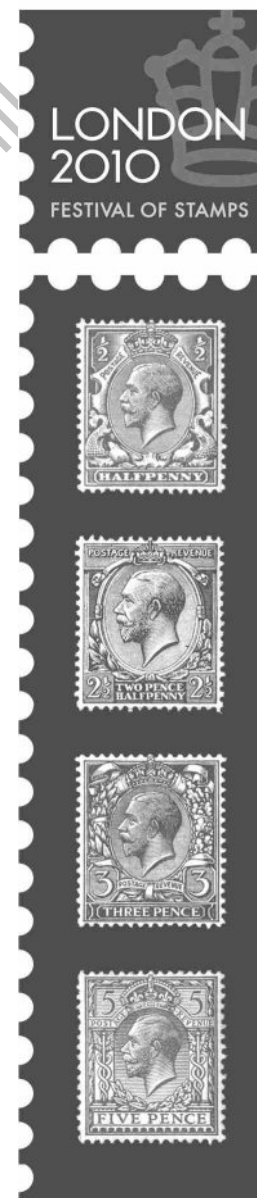
Bath Postal Museum; Bletchley Park;

Museum of World Rugby, Twickenham;

and Marylebone Cricket Club Museum at Lords

One-day events

Organised by the member Federations of the ABPS



More details: www.london2010.org.uk

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 130 4^e trim: 2009: L'Utilisation de la marque «P.P.» à Saigon au début de l'expédition du Tonkin (Baudin); Les débuts de la Poste au Bénin [1886 - Mars 1892] (Drye); Guyane: Les surcharges *France Libre* de Juin 1943 [cont from *Bulletin* N° 129] (Buchheit); 973 Guyane [marcophilie moderne] (Lavenas); Au-delà du catalogue au Cameroun (Cobb).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1834 Nov 2009: Lucia Simion, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Le timbre autocollant «Conseil constitutionnel» (Cordina, SOCOTA); Le Gabon, une jeune République [suite] (Mangin); Les postiers sur les bancs...de l'école [6 - *but should this not be N° 5 as the series commenced in the June issue?* CWS] (Marion); La poste aux armées à la veille de la 2^e Guerre mondiale (Albaret); Duxin: Des collectionneurs extraordinaires [25] (Storch); Le «5F Daurat Vanier»: un usage mouvementé [5 fin] (Grillot); L'histoire extraordinaire des timbres fiscaux consulaires [cont] (Danan).

N° 1835 Dec 2009: Line Filhon, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); La fin de la grande aventure d'Air Bleu (Albaret); Les postiers sur les bancs...de l'école [7] (Marion); Duxin: Des collectionneurs extraordinaires [26] (Storch); L'histoire extraordinaire des timbres fiscaux consulaires [cont] (Danan).

N° 1836 Jan 2010: Jame's Prunier, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Les timbres personnalisés abbé Pierre: rétrospective (Cordina); Les postiers sur les bancs...de l'école [8] (Marion); Paris sous les eaux...mais les facteurs surnagent! (Hella); Duxin: Des collectionneurs extraordinaires [27] (Storch).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 299 (Vol 66 N° 1): French Post Office in Morocco: Precursors to 1893 (Gardner); John J Sauer revisited [Fr Guiana & Inini] (Ward); Deconstructing Catalogue Numbering (Herendeen); The Spanish Patrol [*Le Croisière d'Espagne*] (Luft); Covers from Nowhere to Nowhere [Tombouctou, Fr Soudan to Ozona Falls, USA] (Tucker).

Timbres Magazine

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

N° 106 Nov 2009: L'impressionnante collection Maury (de Pellinec); Le vol du Capitaine Rolland (Chauvin); Ferdinand-Philippe se tue, le préfet prend sa plume (de la Mettrie); La Ligne de l'Atlantique Sud (PJM); Cartes

postales: Les mystères de l'affaire Steinheil (Zeyons); En 1861, les frères Susse offrent - enfin - leurs premières dents aux timbres de France (Bartoli); Carnet de notes du collectionneur (Keledjian); Par simple déduction logique [chiffre-taxe] (Prugnon); François Chauvet, Globe-trotter (Guerrier); Cameroun: contrôle postal sans acheminement postal (Chauvin).

N° 107 Dec 2009: Grande pêche, des courriers à rechercher (Toulemonde); A la rame! (Toulemonde); En passant par Panama (de la Mettrie); Place au pilotage automatique! (Rucklin); La courte histoire déjà riche des carnets de Monaco (PJM); 35c Semeuse; des pièces remarquables (de Pellinec); L'OTAN, 60 ans d'histoire postale militaire (Sanders); Port-Saïd: La petite surcharge en «Millièmes» (Scheller); Les mystères de l'affaire Steinheil pt 2 (Zeyons); Deux problèmes à résoudre (Prugnon); Poste aux Armées FFL du Levant (Chauvin).

N° 108 Jan 2010: Les multiples facettes de la Marianne de Decaris (Singeot); Le «d» de la fin...[une lettre refusée] (de la Mettrie); Paris sous les eaux (Zeyons); Les marques postales d'outre-mer; Les marques postales d'entrées maritimes; Les marques postales d'entrées républicaines (Baudot); Trois cas de figures (Prugnon); Mon marché du mois: La courte histoire philatélique de l'île Tromelin (PJM); La franchise militaire japonaise en Indochine (Chauvin).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol 40 N° 1 (Whole N° 191) Jan 2010: Censor Exemption Ignored (Bentley); New Maury Catalogue (Dykhouse); World War II Censor Exemption (Bentley & Dykhouse); Testimony from the Franco-Thai Conflict 1940-1946 (Goanvic).

Author and Key-Word Index 1971-2009 (updated Thompson).

The Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 89 N° 1 Jan-Feb 2010: Cover Story: A Colonial Application of an Obscure French Postal Law (Grabowski).

Documents Philatéliques

No 203 1^{er} trim 2010: L'arrivée à Ancône en 1832 de la brigade française: Quand une lettre vient confirmer et conforter l'histoire (Carra); Faux faux vrai, histoire d'une expertise (Brun); Deux lettres du Var pour les États-Unis (Trinquier); L'émission au type Aigle et les tarifs coloniaux intérieurs (Chauvet); Le timbre fiscal de Monaco pour allumettes (Maier); Le losange n'annule pas les seuls timbres-poste: Imprimés non périodiques traitant de politique et d'économie sociale, 1850-1852 (de la Mettrie); Variations sur le front méconnu de la guerre de 14-18 (Danan).

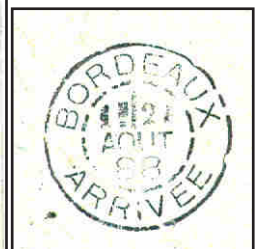
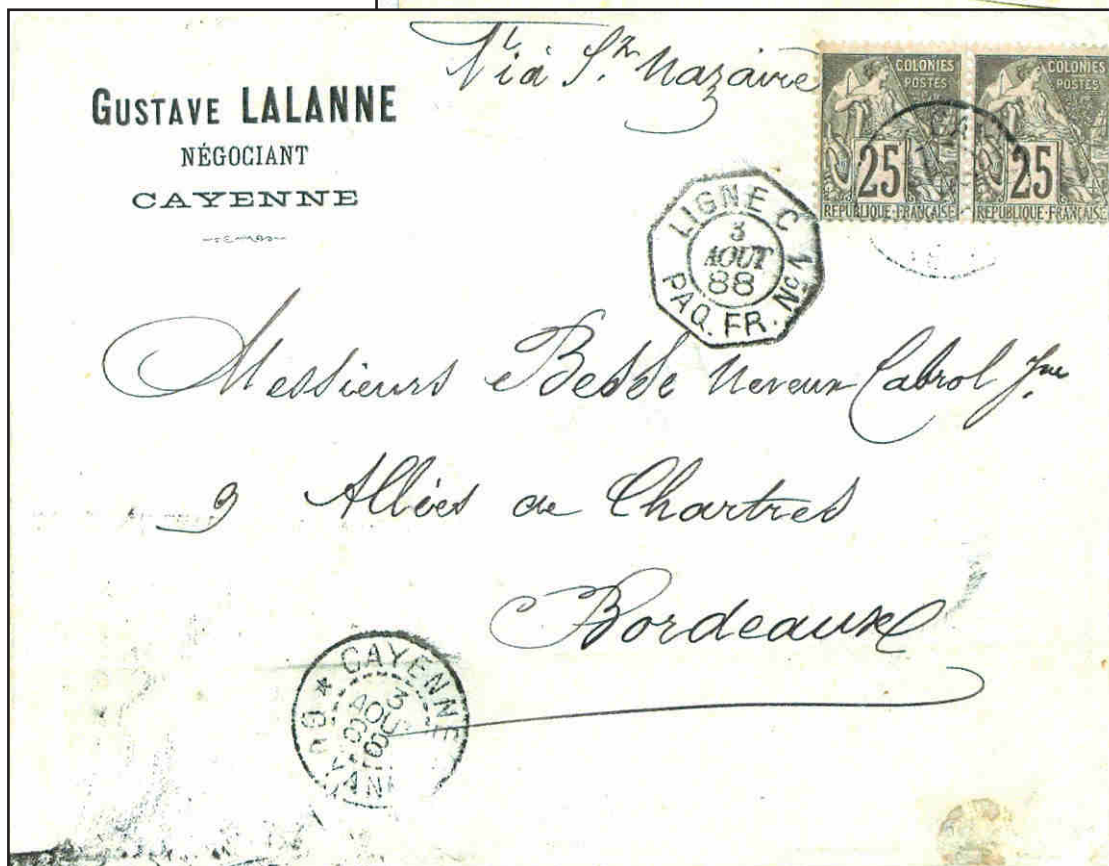
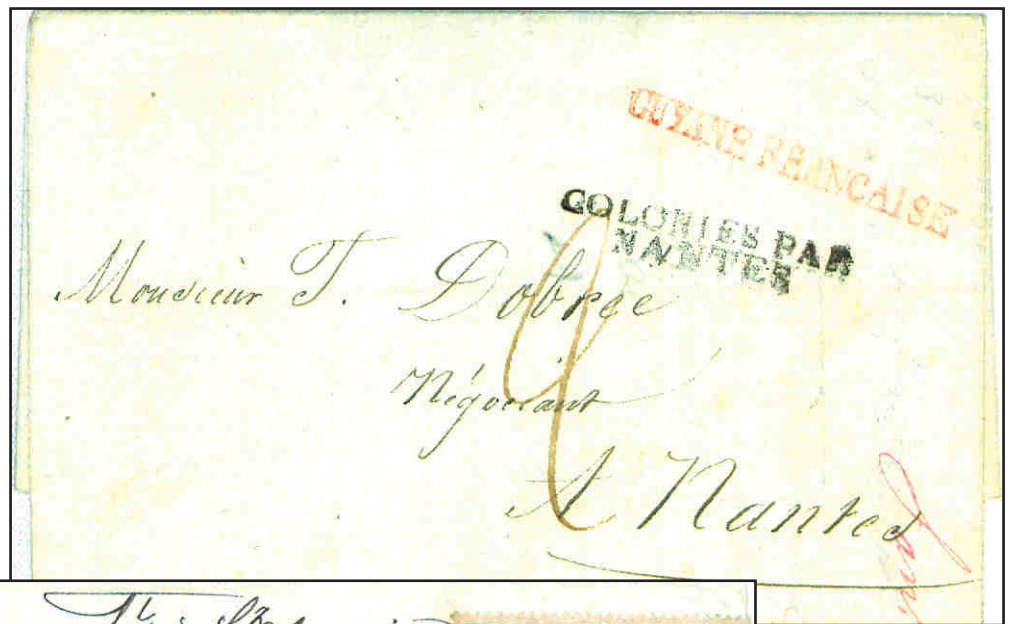
Cameo: Journal of the West Africa Study Circle

Vol 11 N° 4 (Whole N° 79) Jan 2010: Dahomey Postage Dues used in Togo (Mayne); Cameroun - Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961 (Bratzel).

French Guiana

Tony Shepherd

Figure 1



Backstrike

Figure 2

This is a fully illustrated report on a display given to the Society at Charlecote on 14 March 2009.

The display commenced with an 1822 entire letter from Cayenne to Paris, by hand, thence by the French internal postal system to Tournon in the Ardèche region.

There followed a series of entire letters illustrating the various types of postal handstamps used in the colony. During this early period the colony's only post office was situated at Cayenne, and illustrated (Fig 1) is an entire letter Cayenne to Nantes endorsed with the single line handstamps "Guyane Française" applied in red ink, dated 18.08.1825,

carried by merchant ship to Nantes and endorsed on arrival "Colonies Par Nantes" and rated at 2 decimes. Then came sheets showing a selection of entires bearing the single line "Guyane Française" handstamps in black, an entire handstamped with the oval postmark "Poste aux Lettres de Cayenne Guyane Française".

Also shown were the later dated Cayenne postmarks and covers prepaid by the use of the General Colonies issues, the "Cérès" design and "Alphée Dubois". Figure 2 illustrates a double rate cover franked with "Alphée Dubois" design adhesives dated 03.08.1888 carried by French Packet Steamer via St Nazaire to Bordeaux.



Figure 3

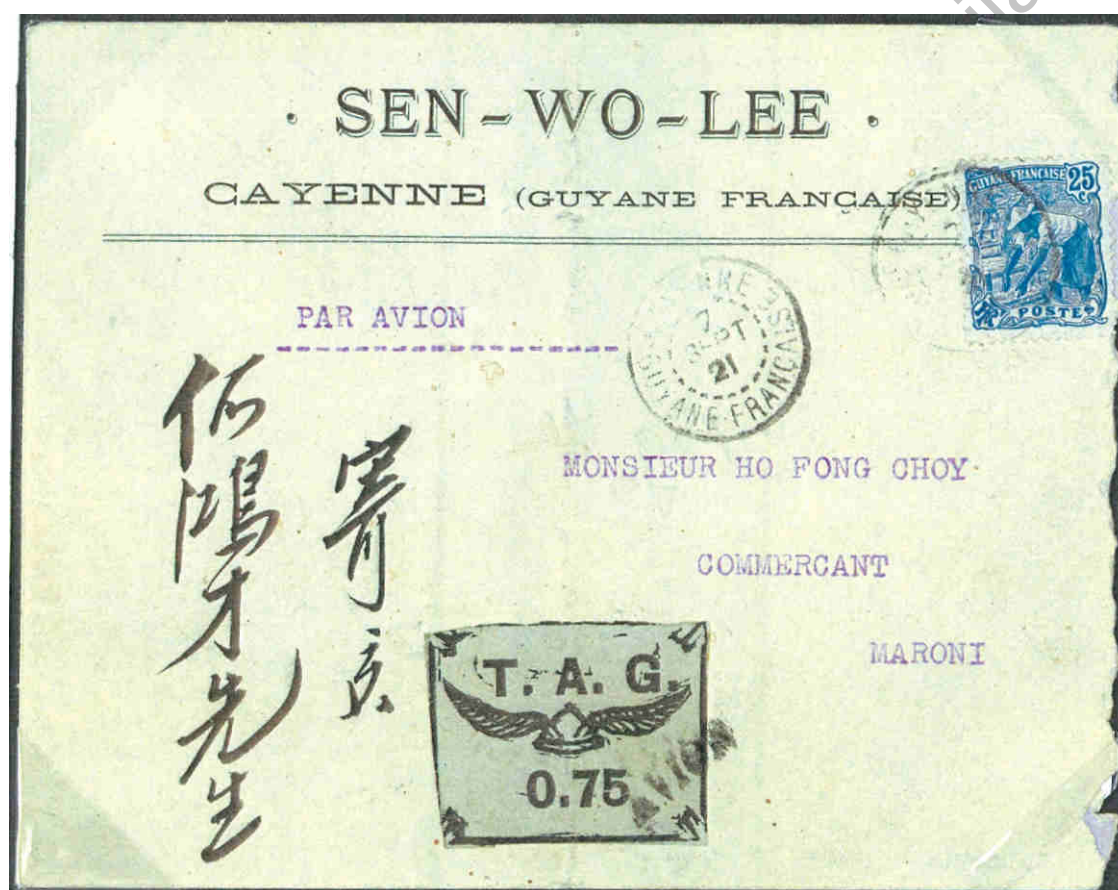


Figure 4

Carried via the *Transports Aériens Guyanais* airmail service

The second section of the display was concerned with the rural posts of the colony. The interior of French Guiana is largely undeveloped and most rural post offices are located on the coast, the majority of these postal establishments being opened in 1882. Figure 3 illustrates a postal card from the Îles du Salut, these islands lying off the coast of French Guiana. The group consists of three islands, Île Royale, Île St Joseph and Île du Diable, this latter being the infamous “Devil’s Island” used for the incarceration of France’s political deportees, the others being used as

penal establishments for convicts from France and her Empire serving long and life sentences. The card shown is to Switzerland and, dated 03.10.1894, was written by a prison guard.

The display included an example of the short lived *Transports Aériens Guyanais* airmail service. The cover shown (Fig 4) depicts a cover Cayenne to St Laurent-du-Maroni, dated 07.08.1921 and franked with normal postage plus the “TAG” label prepaying the airmail fee of 75 centimes.



Figure 5
Facsimiles of types of "TAG" stamps used



Figure 6

Also included in the display were items from the Territoire de l'Inini, an underdeveloped region in the interior of French Guiana, the site of penal work camps for prisoners from French colonies in Africa and Asia. Figure 6 shows a flown cover from the *Secteur du Centre*, dated 15.10.1939, to France via airmail and rated at 14 francs 90 centimes;

the letter was opened by the Postal Censor at Cayenne.

The writer's designation on the reverse is interesting, the letter being from "André Peyroulou, s/off Infirmier, Poste Médical Saut Zigu, Inini, Guyane Française." The cover was transit marked at Cayenne on 18.10.1939.

BOOKSHELF

Seventy Years of Postal History at the French Post Office in Beirut by Semaan Bassil; pub. The Lebanese British Friends of the National Museum, Beirut 2009; ISBN 978-9953-0-1478-4; 231pp, hardback; price £55, payable by cheque or PayPal; available from www.ahlebanon.com

This superbly illustrated book combines the philately, history and social history of Beirut in its Mediterranean context. The background to the original capitulations is explained and how the position of France vis-à-vis the Ottoman Empire was privileged, and this was particularly so after France took the side of the Ottomans in the Crimea. It describes the rights accorded to French residents and the preferential duties on trade. This situation enjoyed by France enabled them to establish strong shipping links with the Levant and Beirut from the 1830s, and the establishment of a disinfection station in Beirut in 1834 further strengthened the importance of the port.

The 1830s also saw substantial investment by the Lyonnais in silk production and there is considerable detail given to the companies involved and the history of this trade.

After a long and detailed introduction, profusely illustrated in colour, there follows a section on the French shipping lines serving Beirut showing routes and postal markings.

Moving on to the postal system it is explained that the lack of an effective Ottoman postal service led to the authorisa-

tion of postal consular activity, leading to the opening of a French post office in 1845 followed by other European countries.

All the marks of the French post office are illustrated and supported by copies of relevant letters and description of the rates. This includes tax and maritime marks with a detailed analysis of the covers and the different postage stamps used. This includes both letters to France and other destinations. The post-UPU period is treated in a similar manner covering the period up to WWI.

A final section covers moveable box mail (including a slight misunderstanding of Salles) and military correspondence. A useful annex illustrates the postage stamps used, ancillary marks, details about principal trading companies, a glossary and bibliography.

This is a 'must have' book for those interested in Mediterranean philately and Foreign Post Offices abroad. It is beautifully produced, bilingual in French and English, and packed with splendid colour illustrations. Highly recommended.

Peter Kelly

Books Noted

Collection Joseph Hackmey by Michèle Chauvet & Jean-François Brun; 200pp A4, 400 colour illustrations; price 40€ + p&p; available from Brun Philatélie, 85 galerie Beaujolais, Palais-Royal, 75001 Paris.

Yvert & Tellier Catalogue des timbres de Monaco, et des TOM, Andorre, Europa, Nations Unies 2010 (Tome 1 bis); price 19€90; available from Yvert & Tellier, 2 rue de l'Étoile, 80094 Amiens Cedex 3.

Catalogue Arthur Maury Principautés & Terres polaires 2010-2011; 670pp A5; price 34€ + p&p; available from Timbropresse, 6 rue du Sentier, 75080 Paris Cedex 02.

[New edition of former Dallay Catalogue for stamps of Andorra, Monaco, St Pierre et Miquelon, TAAF, Europa.]

Andorre le pays des Pyrénées: Découvertes touristiques et philatéliques by Pascal Bandry; 40pp; price 15€; available from

Philandorre, Irène Daniel, 66 bd Garibaldi, 75015 Paris. [Picturesque history and postal history with colour illustrations of maximum cards.]

Répertoire des 1^{res} cartes postales 1902-1920 des vallées d'Andorre by Louis Ducreux; 56pp; price 8€; available from Philandorre, Irène Daniel, 66 bd Garibaldi, 75015 Paris. [Listing of early b/w postcards by 10 publishers.]

La Philatélie à Tahiti, 1958-2008 by Christian Beslu; 254pp 235 x 295mm; 1000 stamps presented and 1300 colour illustrations; price 37€70; available from Vilo, 91 bis rue du Cherche-Midi, 75006 Paris.

[Follows first volume that appeared in 1981 and covered period of *Établissements français de l'Océanie* 1862-1957; deals with stamps, airmail, postage due, official or service stamps, machine coils, aerograms, postal stationery.]

Maurice Tyler

Côte d'Ivoire Authorisation of Postage Due as Franking during 2005

Marc Parren

LA POSTE
de Côte d'Ivoire
KAVASC

République de Côte d'Ivoire
Union - Discipline - Travail

URGENCE SIGNALÉE

Ref. à **006** POSTE-CWIGIDPROVAC 07A2005

Abidjan, le **24 JAN. 2005**

Le Directeur Général

V/ Ref. :

Objet : Utilisation des
Timbres-Taxes.

NOTE DE SERVICE

Dans le cadre de l'assainissement de la gestion de l'ACOTP, Messieurs et Mesdames les Receveurs ainsi que les Chefs de Centres Spécialisés sont informés que l'utilisation des Timbres-Taxes est dorénavant autorisée pour l'affranchissement des envois du régime intérieur Côte d'Ivoire.

En conséquence, les bureaux de Poste détenteurs de ces valeurs pourront les utiliser comme indiqué ci-dessus.

En tout état de cause, l'approvisionnement des bureaux de Poste par l'ACOTP tiendra compte de cette nouvelle donne.

P/Le Directeur Général en mission
le Directeur Général Adjoint chargé
de l'intérim

Le Directeur Général

Omer L. KONAN KAN

Adresse Télégraphique Préziposte Abidjan
17 B. P. 105. Abidjan 17 - Tél. : 20 34 79 75 - Téléc. : 23 666 - Fax. : (225) 20 34 79 79

Figure 1

Official directive by La Poste dated 24 January 2005
authorising the use of postage dues for franking on domestic correspondence



Figure 2
Cover franked 500F, made up of a mixture of surcharged stamps and postage dues,
posted in Taï a border town with Liberia on 15 April 2005

In the course of 2005 commercial covers with postage due stamps affixed to European destinations were noted by me. However, no markings of insufficient postage were noted on these covers. This made me curious as to what was happening at the time.

On a recent visit to Abidjan I enquired with the financial controller of postage stamps of the Ivorian *La Poste*, Mr. Alfred Kouame Ndo. He explained to me that at the end of 2004 *La Poste* ran out of low values for franking. *La Poste* was facing financial difficulties due to the crisis as a result of the civil war which raged in the country and the decline in volume of letters sent by the public. So on his instigation it was decided that the postage due stamps were allowed to

be used for franking as most post offices still held a stock of these.

So on 24 January 2005 a directive was sent to all agencies that postage due stamps were allowed only on domestic letters (see Fig 1). However, as we can see from the examples at hand this directive was not followed up to the letter as covers are known with such franking to foreign destinations as well.

In total I possess some eight covers with mixed franking including postage dues. Six are destined to the Netherlands of which one originally to Guinea in West Africa, while two to the UK (see Table 1).

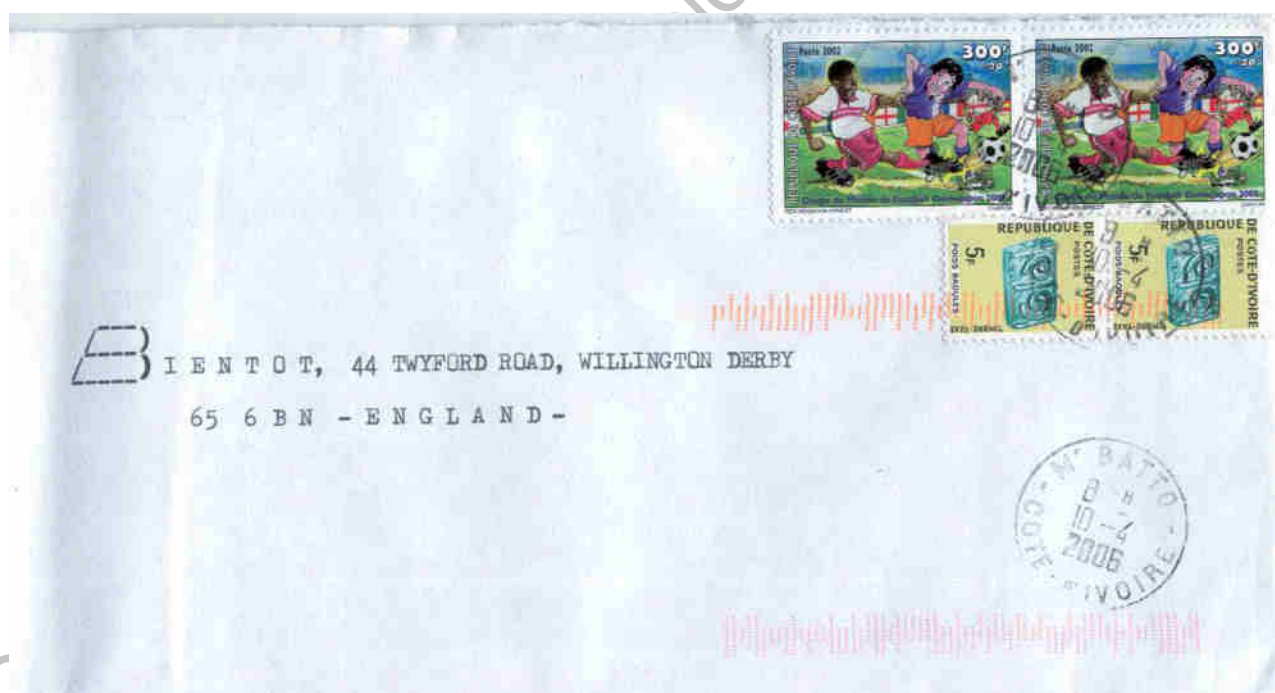
Table 1. Covers with postage due stamps used as franking on covers overseas during 2005 and 2006

Date	Town	Destination	Zone ⁽¹⁾	Weight	Normal stamps	Surcharge	Postage due	Total franking
15 APR 05	Taï	Netherlands	Europe	20g		400F	100F	500F
15 JUL 05	Zoénoula	Netherlands	Europe	20g	440F		60F	500F
29 JUL 05	Sinfra	Guinea	ECOWAS	20g	330F		20F	350F
29 AUG 05	Bongouanou	Netherlands	Europe	20g		400F	100F	500F
03 OCT 05	Guiglo	UK	Europe	20g		420F	80F	500F
21 NOV 05	San Pedro 02	Netherlands	Europe	40g	1050F		30F	1080F
30 JAN 06	Taï	Netherlands	Europe	20g		420F	80F	500F
10 APR 06	M'Batto	UK	America	20g		640F	10F	650F
(1) Zone 1 ECOWAS (Economic Community Of West African States), Zone 3 Europe, Zone 4 America								

Most covers were of the first weight class up to 20g and required a total franking of 350F to ECOWAS countries, 500F to Europe and 650F to the Americas. Some interesting facts can be derived from these covers. It is common practice in *Côte d'Ivoire* to add the *surtaxe* – which is meant for charity – of any such stamps in order to reach the total franking value (see Fig 2).

Another cover shows that the weight of a cover destined to England was miscalculated as the postal officer in M'Batto, in the east of the country, believed it was located in the Americas instead of Europe and accordingly applied the postal rate up to 20g for that destination (see Fig 3).

Probably the most interesting cover is one sent from neighbouring Guinea to the Netherlands. Instead of stamps from Guinea the sender cut out a franking of *Côte d'Ivoire* totalling 350F, the ECOWAS rate up to 20g, applied before on a cover posted 29 July 2005 at Sinfra, and glued the cut-out on his cover. He offered this cover with used Ivorian stamps at the post office in Faranah, located on the Niger river in central Guinea, which accepted the franking and cancelled them once more on 30 October 2005 (see Fig 4). There was unrest in Guinea at the time as well which might explain the acceptance of this extraordinary franking.

**Figure 3**

Cover franked 650F for the first weight step to the Americas instead of to Europe, made up of a mixture of surcharged stamps and postage dues, posted in M'Batto on 10 April 2006

We have established when the use of *surtaxe* stamps was permitted as from late January 2005. However, this directive was meant to be limited to domestic covers which was apparently not respected by the different post offices dotted along the south of the country. It should be noted that at this time the northern part of the country was controlled by rebels and the post offices in this zone were not operating. Of course the shortage of low value postage stamps was not limited to domestic covers alone and so one can speculate that creativity to make up the correct postal rate

for foreign destinations caused the postal officers to apply the same regulation to these destinations as well. When the shortage of regular low value postage stamps was overcome is not clear but at some post offices this situation lasted at least until the first half of 2006 as two covers posted in that year demonstrate. According to Mr. Alfred Kouame Ndo no directive was issued to end officially the use of these postage dues as franking. It would be of interest to see whether any domestic covers with postage dues applied in this way survived.



Figure 4

Cover franked 350F for the first weight step to ECOWAS countries, with a 20F postage due stamp to make up the postal rate, cancelled at first on 29 July 2005 in Sinfra, Côte d'Ivoire, while later re-used and posted in Faranah, Guinea, on 30 October 2005

May 2010 Auction - Selected Lots

See also front and back covers of this Journal



Lot 11



Lot 23



Lot 12



Lot 456



Lot 453



REPORTS OF MEETINGS

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 7 NOVEMBER 2009

John Scott: French Decorative Paper

John Scott's display at the Royal Horticultural Halls was excellent. He gave a first half domestic display in which the artistry was wonderful, and suddenly you realised this art work could broaden our scope to further philatelic interest. The second half involved commercial concerns advertising their products.

Unfortunately none of our usual correspondents was able

to attend, and we apologise to John that a more detailed report has been impossible to obtain.

Members present: Len Barnes, K C.....(guest?), Bill Mitchell, John Parmenter, Barbara Priddy, Derek Richardson, Colin Spong, John Thorpe, John West.

Apologies: Mick Bister, Chris Hitchen, Maurice Tyler.

LHB

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 14 NOVEMBER 2009

Members' Displays

Stephen Holder commenced with a display of the first issues of French Cameroon 1914 to 1922 including genuine and forged items of the overprints, a study of the different papers utilised and used stationery cards of Gabon without overprints.

Alan Goude then showed overprints on the French Colonies issues from 1884 to 1904 including varieties of colour, typeface and mis-spellings and used on cover.

Steve Ellis produced a selection of trans-Atlantic mail with examples of rates, accountancy marks, and usage under the international conventions. This was followed by Mediterranean mail to the Levant emanating from Marseille, 1837-1900.

Judith Holder presented a one frame display of the early Eiffel Tower postcards from 1889.

Bernard Lucas followed the Paris theme with a comprehensive display of the pneumatic mail, from the 1879 *Type*

Sage design through to the Chaplain issues.

Peter Stockton when called upon to entertain the multitude commenced with excerpts from "Albert and t'Lion" and this was more conventionally followed by material from the BEF in France 1939-1940.

George Barker produced stamps from the John Levett collection of the General Colonies issues, with date order of production, shades, the marks of some smaller offices and a *tête-bêche* pair of the Cérès issue used in 1870.

Tony Shepherd rounded off the afternoon with a display of essays, stamps and covers of the last two issues of Guadeloupe designed by Dulac and Serres. This was followed by a study of postage dues of the colony consisting of three issues of stamps on and off cover.

Present: G E Barker, S Ellis, A Goude, C L Graham, C S Holder, Mrs. J Holder, B Lucas, J P Maybury, A Shepherd, P S Stockton. Apologies: J Morton.

JPM

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 25 NOVEMBER 2009

John Yeomans: French India

John began with a brief history of the development of French India, explaining that France, being more interested in the Indian Ocean countries, had been late in trading with India, after the British, Dutch and Portuguese. The Compagnie des Indes was founded in the mid-17th century and between 1673 and 1739 established the five settlements of Chandernagore, Pondichéry, Yanaon, Mahé and Karikal, after which political motives led to the ambition of a French Empire in India and further conflict with Britain, resulting in their being ceded to France under the terms of the Treaty of Paris in 1814. The first French post offices opened in these 5 territories between 1781 and 1876.

John illustrated the postal history of this period with a variety of incoming, outgoing and transit mail, some attached to interesting stories involving certain post offices or destinations, together with unusual exchange marks and covers

franked with the Eagle issue.

The second half of his display dealt with entry into the UPU and beyond. An extensive variety of covers illustrated such topics as the rates between French and British colonies, the evolution of mail to and from the territories, a rare newspaper with its wrapper, conflicts between French and British post offices, British sub-post offices in the French territories, and concluding with some interesting destinations.

In his vote of thanks Hugh Loudon pointed out in particular John's attention to detail and his fascinating presentation.

Present: Len Barnes, Alan Barrett, Mick Bister, Michael Fairhead, Chris Hitchen, Hugh Loudon, Bill Mitchell, John Parmenter, Barbara Priddy, Derek Richardson, John Thorpe, Maurice Tyler, Michael Wright.

MST

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 9 JANUARY 2010

Unfortunately this meeting had to be postponed because of the severe snowy weather.

Alan Carter will now be displaying at the August meeting together with any members who wish to show on the theme of French Postal Markings. The August meeting as usual will commence at 10.30am until lunch and recommence

at 2.00pm until 4.00pm. The other meetings will be from 2.00pm until 5.00pm, all in the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, Worthing.

Details of the remainder of the programme for October 2010 and April, August and October 2011 will be published as soon as it is arranged.

CWS

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 20 JANUARY 2010

Alan Barrett: French Cinderellas, Part 2

Alan began his display with various types of revenue stamps such as bills of exchange or lading, a tax on customs formalities, taxes on playing cards, matches, chicory and radios, taxes on printed documents and receipts. We also saw stamps representing pension contributions, cut-outs from documents, meat stamps from ledgers, membership stamps, printed stationery stamps, municipal stamps and some showing the head of Napoleon III designed by Barre. These were followed by Paris millennium stamps, sheets of stamps listing Paris sites, souvenir labels from the Eiffel Tower and other monuments, the Paris Fair and various exhibitions, philatelic or otherwise. The first half of the display ended with ships on stamps, local issues and music exhibitions.

The second half began with anti-TB stamps 1925-1929, proofs and booklets. From WWI we saw religious stamps, those commemorating historical figures such as Marshal Foch, General Gallieni and General Joffre, and some

showing devastated towns or the celebrated 75mm cannon. Red Cross labels included those of the Association des Dames Françaises, and were followed by patriotic and Delandre labels, ration coupons, an Alpine troops booklet and lottery tickets with stamps affixed. From WWII we saw Pétain labels, further ration coupons and lottery tickets, forgeries of stamps, *bons de solidarité*, franchise stamps never issued (1940), Maquis stamps, bogus and local issues not recognised by the PTT, and charity issues. The display ended with 1920 New Year celebration labels, *La Belle France* stamps, *porte-timbres*, unissued essays and labels of the centenary of Napoleon I, Prince Imperial labels, and some on Jeanne d'Arc and on Esperanto.

Mick Bister gave the vote of thanks for a wide-ranging and fascinating variety of unusual material.

Present: Mick Bister, Hamish Clifton, Michael Ensor, Chris Hitchen, John Parmenter, Derek Richardson, Maurice Tyler. Apologies: Len Barnes.

MST

WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 30 JANUARY 2010

Peter Kelly: Aspects of Type Sage; Members' Displays

14 members and 1 guest braved the winter cold for an enjoyable meeting at Harnham.

The invited display was given by **Peter Kelly** who showed aspects of the development of postal services in France during the *Type Sage* period of 1876-1900. Starting with a detailed examination of newspapers and in particular typographic cancellations, Peter concentrated on the lower values and considered business papers, printed matter, samples and book post before going on to postal stationery which included a copy of a postal passport (*livret d'identité*). New products included *recouvrements* and the *contre-remboursement* service, express mail and the beginnings of the Paris pneumatic mail system. In the second half Peter turned to different aspects of advertising including the sale of reduced price advertising stationery and illustrated envelopes.

After our usual excellent lunch at the Old Mill members showed the following:

Edwin Rideout: French Equatorial Africa 1937-1948, correspondence from the hospital at Lambaréné.

Ashley Lawrence: Postage due letters and telegraph stamps.

Bob Paterson: A collection of letters from the 1940s bearing charity and commemorative stamps.

Richard Stupples: *Type Sage* postal stationery cards

Trevor Buckell: Prewar issues, stamps, covers and cards illustrating various events.

Peter Todd: 1854 20c blue – a detailed presentation of stamps, varieties, and covers.

Jeremy Martin: A miscellany of material with a military flavour.

Peter Lawrence: A query – Free French postage stamps from French India, Somalia and SPM.

Alan Wood: 1815-1876 – a selection of letters from Paris and the provinces, Napoleonic mail, *Légion d'Honneur*.

Chris Hitchen: 1930 slogan postmarks for infant mortality, stationery for the 1931 Colonial Exhibition, and slogan postmarks on postal stationery.

Our next meeting will be held on 3 July when Bryan Wood will give us a display on transatlantic mail and the development of maritime mail.

PRAK

FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

			<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>UK Judges</i>	
Antverpia 2010	Belgium	9-12 April 2010	Yvonne Wheatley	Brian Moorhouse	14 accepted
London 2010	London	8-15 May 2010	John Hayward	Chris Harman	104 accepted
				Alan Huggins	
				Francis Kiddle	
				John Sussex	
				Richard West	
Planète Timbre 2010	Paris, France	12-20 June 2010	Chris King	-	?
Philalux 2010	Luxembourg	1-4 July 2010	Frank Walton	2 nominated	19 applications
Portugal 2010	Lisbon, Portugal	1-10 October 2010	Chris King	3 nominated	38 applications
Joburg 2010	Johannesburg,	27-31 October 2010	Francis Kiddle	?	?
	South Africa				
Indipex 2011	New Delhi, India	12-18 February 2011	?	?	?
Philanippon 2011	Japan	28 July-2 August 2011	?	?	?

ABPS UK COLLECTORS CLUB

Exhibitors are now being invited to register for participation in FIPA/FEPA events. 66 collectors have registered so far. The organiser is David Stirrup.

Please remember that information about the rules of exhibiting and judging can be found on the www.ukphilately.co.uk website.

NATIONAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY

On 21 January, in an endeavour to encourage more stamp collectors to show off their philatelic goodies, Chris and Susan Oliver led a seminar entitled "Displaying to your Local Club."

At a seminar planned for 13 October 2010 we will be discussing "Producing a Society Journal". This will be led by David Alford and Richard West.

The National PS is looking for more London based people to assist with manning the joint NPS / ABPS information stands at Stampex and Philatex. Initially this is through our own membership, but this could be extended to all interested folk in the future.

We will be holding, in addition to its regular monthly meetings at the Phoenix Centre, an open meeting in Thatcham on 27 March 2010. This meeting is open to members and non-members and we anticipate that this should be enjoyable as was last year's meeting at the same venue.

Similar provincial meetings are being held at Chelmsford and Salisbury on 26 June & 2 October respectively.

Chris Oliver

FESTIVAL OF STAMPS

A tremendous year is ahead for philately in the UK with a full range of events across the UK under the umbrella of "The Festival of Stamps". We will keep you updated with all of these as the year progresses.

The first Federation event will be hosted by the Thames Valley federation at Thatcham on 27 March.

A full schedule appears at the end of this bulletin.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO GIVE YOUR COMMENTS, please contact those mentioned above, or the ABPS General Secretary

Colin Searle. Tel: 07879 665658. E-mail: searlec@gmail.com

The Association of British Philatelic Societies Limited. Company Number 3326534.
Registered in England. Registered Office: Greystones, Green Lane, Crowborough, TN6 2BX

See also front cover and page 38; all lots on this page are reduced in size by 50%.

See also front cover and page 38; all lots on this page are reduced in size by 50%.

