

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



A postcard carried in October - November 1926
from Bamako, French Sudan, to Lokdja, Nigeria,
a leg on the France - Madagascar flight
*(an item in a display by Jeremy Martin on the French air route to West Africa
given at the Society's Philatelic Weekend at Charlecote 12-14 March 2010 - see pages 79-80 and iii)*

Volume 60 ● Number 2

June 2010

Whole Number 256

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

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The Society

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

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

2010-11 Annual Subscription Rates

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

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Sterling, Euro and US dollar bills are accepted but overseas cheques must be drawn in Sterling. The Society has a PayPal account for the use of overseas members, but please add 4% for bank charges, and email to treasurer@fcps.org.uk.

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.

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Auction and Exchange Packet Sales

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

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* * *

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The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

Volume 60 Number 2

June 2010 ● Whole No 256

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SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1367 Michael Rego (West Yorkshire), 1368 Leslie J Powell Surrey), 1369 Semaan Bassil (London), 1370 Alfred E Taylor (West Sussex), 1371 Mrs Jan Gane (Warwick).

* * *

Members Deceased

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

802 Peter Hartland-Swann, 1314 J R Mintoft.

* * *

Resignations

189 David V J Lafford, 220 J Luckman, 460 Bob Seeke, 484 M Goldsman, 1347 Peter Hall.

* * *

Future Events

The **London Group** will hold its first meeting of the new season at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 6.30pm on Wednesday 15 September 2010.

The **Southern Group** will meet at 10.30am on Saturday 21 August 2010 at the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, East Worthing when Alan Carter will display together with any members who wish to show on the theme of French Postal Markings.

The **Northern Group** will meet at 10.30am on Saturday 10 July 2010 at Heaton Royds, Bradford for the "Bastille Day" 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** meets in Room 1, Cross House, Linlithgow at 1.00pm on Saturdays. Future meetings will be announced in due course in the Journal.

* * *

Displays by Members

On 27 January 2010 **Peter Kelly** showed "The *Type Sage* Issue 1876-1900 - Aspects of Postal History" to Bristol P S; and on 23 February 2010 "*Soudan Français* and *Niger* - Postal History to 1945" to Bristol Woodlands P S.

On 9 March 2010 **Len Barnes** gave a talk to Malling Stamp Club in Kent on "Aspects of Prewar French Aviation".

On 30 April 2010 **Maurice Tyler** gave a PowerPoint illustrated talk in French to Chelmsford French Circle on "The History of the French Post Office and French Philately".

* * *

Membership Recruitment

At the AGM held on 1 May (full report to be published in the September issue of the Journal) the question was raised on how we could most effectively recruit new members to the Society. Thanks to the hard work of the committee and officers our Society is still in a very good state of health but we have to face the fact that we have lost a number of members who have died or, for various reasons, have felt obliged to resign. As a result, we need to recruit fresh blood to ensure that our membership does not dwindle any further.

A couple of ideas were put forward from the floor but the conclusion was that we need to promote the Society publicly, especially to members of other societies. Many of us give displays as a visiting speaker and such occasions provide us with the perfect opportunity to declare our membership of the F&CPS and to extol its virtues. If you are going to give a display somewhere, please try and promote the Society and take with you a few copies of the Society's Prospectus and Membership Form to hand out. Copies are available from your President; just drop a line or send an email (contact details on Page ii).

* * *

2010 Register of Members' Interests

The following corrections and changes should be made to entries in the Register:

Godfrey Bowden e-mail: bowden67@btinternet.com

Marty Bratzel e-mail: marty_bratzel@yahoo.ca (please note underscore and not a hyphen between the two names)

Mike Brindle e-mail: mikebrindle@talktalk.net

Ed Grabowski postal address: 111 Prospect Street, 4C Westfield NJ 07090-4074 USA

* * *

Lost Property

If anyone has lost a Mont Blanc fountain pen top which was found at the close of the Room Auction on 1 May, please contact the President.

* * *

Society Literature Award 2009

- 1 **Mick Bister**: "*Postes*, Prost and Pétain"
- 2= **Chris Hitchen**: "An automatic machine for registration of letters in 1909"
- 2= **Peter Kelly**: "Development of the services of *Postes et Télégraphes* in *Sénégal-Niger* 1900-1903"
- 4 **Bill Mitchell**: "AR (*Avis de Réception*) in the early 20th century"

Judges: M D Baxter, M A Porter, D J Richardson, B L Weeks, A T Wishart.

* * *

Exhibition Successes

The following awards were made to our members at London 2010 (10-15 May 2010):

Steve Walske: Large Gold for "Heart of the West: San Francisco as a Postal Hub from 1849 to 1869" (Postal History); also awarded Best in Class and runner-up for the *Grand Prix*

Alfred Bonnici: Gold for "Messageries Impériales to and via Malta 1853-66" (Postal History)

Gavin Fryer: Gold for "Blindman's Mail" (Postal History)

Lesley Marley: Gold for "A Whale's Tale" (Thematic)

Richard Stock: Gold for "Sudan: the Camel Postman Issues 1897-1991" (Traditional)

Mick Bister: Large Vermeil for "The Life and Times of the

1F50 Pétain" (Traditional)

Ed Grabowski: Large Vermeil for "Indochina and the French Offices in China: Use of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type" (Postal History)

Graham Booth: Vermeil for "The First 35 Years of the Cayman Islands Post Office" (Postal History)

Rainer von Scharpen: Vermeil for "Perfins of the French Colonies and Post Offices Abroad" (Traditional)

John Yeomans: Vermeil for "French India" (Postal History)

Francis Kiddle was Chairman of the International Jury

John Sussex was a member of the International Jury

Rainer von Scharpen was Commissioner for Germany

* * *

BOOKSHELF

Books Noted

La carte postale - Des origines aux années 1920 by Daniel Bénard & Bruno Guignard; pub. éditions Alan Sutton, collection Mémoire en images; 192pp; price 27€; available in bookshops. [Good introduction to topic with 350 postcards of all types illustrated in colour.]

Des correspondances liées aux chemins de fer se racontent ou gardent des secrets (janvier 1858-juin 1878) by Gilbert Douron, special number of *Feuilles Marcophiles*; 98pp; price 22€; details from Pierre Reynaud, Le Laisonnay, 2 rue Georges Guillaume, 45290 Nogent-sur-Vernisson. [Mine of information treated in an unusual way, covering such topics as official correspondence of railway employees, the establishment of *Boîtes Mobiles* in stations, the handling of mail in an *ambulant*, the rural and railway services, the regulations in force.]

D'Hermès au sms... ou la Saga du message by Alain Mergier and 14 others; pub. Editions Snoeck, Heule; 240 x 290mm; price 22€; available from L'Adresse Musée de la Poste, 34 boulevard de Vaugirard, 75731 Paris cedex 15. [Catalogue that accompanied the exhibition earlier this year exploring in 14 well illustrated chapters the history of transmitting messages, from ancient methods to the latest technology.]

Postes et postiers en Normandie: Témoins des transformations nationales 1830-1914 by Sébastien Richez of the *Comité pour l'histoire de La Poste*; pub. Editions L'Harmattan; 330pp; price 31€; available in bookshops. [Study of the evolution of the postal service in Normandy during this period; covers creation of rural postman, first postage stamp, establishment of ministry for postal service, fusion of postal and telegraph services, spread of letters as literacy grows, end of *poste aux chevaux*.]

Présence postale en banlieue: La Seine-Saint-Denis de 1960 à 1990 by Déborah Boïco, in series *Les Cahiers pour l'histoire de La Poste*; 170 x 240mm; price 6€; available from *Comité pour l'histoire de La Poste*, 44 boulevard Vaugirard, Case postale F 502, 75757 Paris cedex 15. Website: www.laposte.fr/chp [Details of small post offices set up during this period in this suburb of Paris adapted for overcrowded new towns.]

La Poste et les Timbres de Tahiti by Christian Beslu; 112pp well illustrated; price 27€; available from the author at BP 5073, Pirae, 98716 Tahiti. [Résumé of the postal history of the territory, with multitude of information and anecdotes to induce the reader to start collecting this area.]

Le Petit Yvert, Edition 2010; pocket edition 124 x 184mm; price 9€90; available from Yvert et Tellier, 2 rue de l'Etoile, 80094 Amiens cedex 3. Website: www.yvert.com [Pocket edition of catalogue of all stamps of France, including air-mails, mini-sheets, postage due, self-adhesives.]

Cahier d'étude no 2 - Timbres d'effets au Type CABASSON by Henri Barbero; pub. *Cercle d'Etudes de la Philatélie Fiscale*; price 25€; available from Mme Irène Daniel, Secrétaire du CEPF, 66 boulevard Garibaldi, 75015 Paris. [Study of first French fiscal stamp of 1860.]

Les Campagnes du Timbre antituberculeux français du 20^{ème} siècle: Première partie 1925-1944 by Lucien Coutan; pub. Editions Yvert et Tellier; A4 format; price 49€90; available from *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, 2 rue de l'Etoile, 80094 Amiens cedex 3. [Anti-TB vignettes (one per year up to World War II) listed and priced and illustrated, with booklet covers, marginal advertising, occasional surcharges, attached lottery tickets; all royalties will be paid to *Comité national contre les Maladies respiratoires*.]

Maurice Tyler

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 131 1^{er} Trim 2010: Relations postales entre le Congo Belge et le Congo Français (Lindekens); Pas de Rose pour la Réunion (Chandanson); Les timbres de l'administration des postes au Soudan (Kelly); Les nouvelles séries définitives de Timbres-poste et de Timbres-taxe (Drye); Les émissions des îles Wallis et Futuna de 1946 à 1963 (Drye); Agences Postales de Guyane (Core); Au-delà du catalogue... au Cameroun (Cobb).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1837 Feb 2010: Sandra Jayat, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Timbre rectangle, cœur ou...Carré (Cordina); Solidarité des postes avec les soldats et les blessés (Albaret); Les postiers sur les bancs... de l'école [9] (Marion); La Grande Poste d'Alger dans la Seconde Guerre mondiale (Danan); Duxin: Des collectionneurs extraordinaires [28] (Storch). Les experts, Paris [Christian Calves & Alain Jacquot] (-).

N° 1838 Mar 2010: Pere Canturri Montanya, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); La gourmette d'Antoine de Saint-Exupéry à L'Adresse Musée de La Poste (Albaret); Une invention pour les temps de crise monétaire (Hella); Les postiers sur les bancs...de l'école [end] (Marion); Mais qui était donc Henri Fabre? (-);Duxin: Des collectionneurs extraordinaires [end] (Storch). Les enveloppes Premier Jour (Farcigny); L'inauguration de la route des Tamarins, [Réunion] (Grillot).

N° 1839 Apr 2010: Damien Challet, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); ID Timbres: du luxe au prestige (Cordina, Sec; SOCOTA); Les femmes à l'honneur (Ouadi); L'alphabet des Imprimeurs [1] (Marion-SOCOCODAMI); Les ancêtres des cartes en France [1800-1890] (Storch).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 300 (Vol 66 N° 2): The First French Steamship: Line M [1866-1869] (Kouri); Maritime Postmarks and the *Afrique* (Bratzel, Jr); French Follies (Adema); Covers from Nowhere to Nowhere (Herendeen); November is coming! – Unusual Items from Madagascar & Dependencies (Grabowski); Frédéric Gadmer: Photographer Extraordinaire (Bratzel Jr);

Timbres Magazine

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

N° 109 Feb 2010: SPM [St Pierre et Miquelon]: la raison au service de la passion (Artigues); La circulation du courrier, test sans appel de la réalité des timbres de grève (Danan); Quelques timbres français perdus en Roumanie (Singeot); Ces "Roue ailée" qui font tourner la tête (de Pellinec); Carnets de tous bords (Rucklin); Mémoire postale de la Première Guerre mondiale (Aupiais); «Piquer» n'est pas «percer»! (de la Mettrie); Les marques postales d'entrées maritimes au XVIII^e siècle (Baudot); Un complément de taxe pour le destinataire (Prugnon); Olivier Daire Vervelle pour les initiés (Guerrier); 1943: vers Tanger à travers la censure allemande (Chauvin)

N° 110 Mar 2010: Lorsque la France fit main basse sur la Ruhr (Melot); La Poste déclarait sa flamme olympique (Rucklin); Les nombreux secrets de la Marianne de Béquet (Singeot); La Chambre des députés (de la Mettrie); Quand, à Tahiti, Loti rime avec oubli! (Beslu); L'histoire méconnue du Lado et de Méridi (de Pellinec); Les cris de la rue (Zeyons); Les marques postales d'entrées maritimes [3^e partie] (Baudot); Une combinaison rarissime (Prugnon) Dans la nuit des prisons (Chauvin).

N° 111 Apr 2010: Des timbres qui tournent rond: les roulettes (Singeot); A sa majesté (de la Mettrie); Autour du Lado; Oubangui-Chari (de Pellinec); «Reçu au guichet» (Lherbier & Loëdec); Les entrées maritimes [4^e pt]; (Baudot); L'Indochine à San Francisco (Chauvin).

N° 112 May 2010: Albert Fillinger 50 ans de présidence, une passion intacte [Association Philatélique Mulhousienne] (Rucklin); Une France où règnent les «Paix» (Singeot); Quand Circé s'intéresse aux lettres... (de la Mettrie); Au Congo [Belge], au Lado et à Méridi (de Pellinec); La Bourse (aux timbres) et la vie! (Apaire); La collection des cartes postales au temps des échangistes (Zeyons); Les entrées maritimes [5^e partie]; Les cachets à date «colonies fra» (Baudot); Acheminement suspendu par l'autorité militaire (Chauvin).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol 40 N° 2 (Whole N° 192) Mar 2010: A Date that Will Live in Infamy [6.12.41] (Bentley); Exhibitor Label from 1906 Marseille Exhibition (Bentley); More on the Franco-Thai Conflict of 1940-6 (Millington).

Vol 40 No 3 (Whole No 193) May 2010: Annam-Tonkin Overprints on Cover (Bentley); "Star and Wings" Par Avion Marking on Flight Covers from Laos (Aspnes & Dykhousé)

Documents Philatéliques

N° 204 2^e trim 2010 (Apr 2010): Organisation postale militaire de la France Libre en Grande-Bretagne (1940/1946) (Varin); Les bâtiments du commerce partant d'un port anglais, une voie peu connue (Bourgouin); Poste maritime française: Consulat de France à Panama - Les services postaux du Pacifique sud (Langlais).

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Bureau Naval 53

Some of my comments on the questions put by Stewart Duncan under the title "World War II Cover Algeria to Gambia and *Bureau Naval 53*" in Journal 254 for December 2009 will be found in an article to be published in a later issue this year, but others are not relevant to that article and are best dealt with separately. It is now known, of course, that the *Bureau Naval 53* was located at Dakar in Senegal and not in Algeria, as had been assumed. The questions raised by this cover and still unanswered concern the franking and the method of conveyance.

As Barbara Priddy says in her response, also printed in December, the 8 francs paid when the letter was originally posted on 19 November 1943 is correct – 4 francs for a first step (to 20g) letter to a foreign destination plus a further 4 francs registration fee under the local French West Africa tariff of 1 April 1942⁽¹⁾. The additional 6 francs added on 6 December can also be accounted for – the airmail surcharge for Gambia from French West Africa was 2 francs per 5g under the local tariff of 26 September 1943⁽²⁾, so the letter must have weighed between 10 and 15g if sent by air. But was it? There is no airmail instruction and, as Barbara says in a letter to me dated 2 January 2010, the dates (6 to 10 December) leave plenty of time for a ship to cover the short distance from Dakar to Bathurst (about 180km or 110 miles as the crow flies) – if one was available. So it may have been intended to go by surface mail, the expected ship did not materialise, air was the only way and the letter was returned to sender for payment of the airmail fee.

It could not have been flown as official correspondence on one of the RAF flights referred to in Rob May's comment, also in the December Journal, because they did not call at Dakar⁽³⁾, but it certainly could have been carried by the French Aéromaritime service from Dakar along the coast of West Africa, which had resumed calling at British colonies in May of 1943⁽⁴⁾. The total 10 francs postage, registration fee excepted, cannot be reconciled with the surface tariff for foreign mail, which was 4 francs for the first 20g, then 2.40 francs per 20g — so, yes, it does look as though the letter went by air.

Barbara also drew my attention to the pencil line drawn around the original two 4 franc stamps. Unusually this indicates either that the stamp was not valid for postage or that it was being re-used. But in either case the line should have been drawn in blue crayon, the stamps were current definitive stamps of Algeria first issued as recently as 1942 (an explanation of their use in Senegal will be given in the future article referred to earlier), there is nothing to suggest that they were being re-used and the additional sum of 6 francs charged was insufficient to meet the minimum charge for a registered surface letter to a foreign address. These considerations also suggest transmission by air.

There is a curious symbol followed by a number after the "*Recommandé*" endorsement on the cover which I am unable to explain or even decipher with any confidence. It could possibly be "f 166" [or f 146? - Ed] indicating the value of the contents, although registration did not include insurance; that involved an additional charge⁽⁵⁾, so this seems unlikely.

References

- (1) Picirilli, R E - "Colonies' Airmail Rates Study Group Newsletter 31", February 2007, French West Africa Section, Table on page 3.
- (2) As above, Table on page 8.
- (3) "Report on the Progress of Civil Aviation 1939-1945" edited by John Wilson with subtitle "The Wartime Postal History Collector's Answer to a Thousand Questions", published privately in 1994, page 27. A more extensive selection from the Report, also edited by John Wilson but without the subtitle, was published by the West Africa Study Circle in 2009 – see page 29.
- (4) Houlteau, J - "La Ligne Aéromaritime 1940-1944" (*La Revue Aéropostale du Cercle Aérophilatélique Français*), *La Philatélie Française* N° 198, 15 February 1970, page 44.
- (5) Richardson, D J - "Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to 2005" (France & Colonies P S Brochure N° 7, Third edition 2006), page 66.

Bill Mitchell

Cameroun to Gabon 1916

On page 73 of Journal 252, June 2009, I illustrated a stampless cover that appeared to have a manuscript "1" within the TRÉSOR ET POSTES AUX ARMÉES / CAMER-

OUN date stamp. Following discussion with Dudley Cobb, I can now confirm that this is, in fact, an ink smudge within the date stamp and is not a "1".

Jeremy Martin

Obsolete Values on French UNESCO Stamps

On page 5 of Journal 255 (March 2010) John Mayne asks whether there are any special arrangements in France for the use of obsolete issues in francs for the payment of postage in euros.

The April 2003 issue of *Timbres Magazine* contained a table of the value in euros of every stamp issued in francs since the revaluation of 1960, including the TVP stamps without a specific facial value. By extension, for the value of stamps in old francs one simply shifts the decimal point two places.

The article does not give a reference to an official French

government statement but, given its status as a “practical table for the avoidance of error,” it must have had an official source.

John Mayne’s enquiry prompts a further question: is it now legal for “*Timbres de Service*” from UNESCO or the Council of Europe to be used on ordinary French mail? I have also received envelopes franked with these stamps but the *Académie de Philatélie* “*Dictionnaire Philatélique et Postal*” of 1999 states categorically that they can only be used for post emanating from the respective headquarters.

Michael Meadowcroft

Free French Overprints on Colonial Stamps

In Journal 255 of March 2010, on page 4, Brian Weeks raised questions about Free French overprints on colonial stamps, and I am particularly interested in the French India 15c *France Libre* with Cross of Lorraine revalued to 9fa 9ca.

It is difficult to determine from the photograph but the overprint looks and measures as correct. Therefore I can only think of two possible explanations:—

1. that it is an outright forgery, or
2. that it is a pre-production positioning overprint proof.

In thinking the latter, I refer you to the plethora of the 1916 Red Cross overprint proofs.

After all, the positioning of overprints required the use of – if possible – redundant issues and the centime issues had been redundant since 1923. Therefore, any remaining

sheets would be ideal for practice.

There was “tight” security at the Pondichéry printers in 1942 when this revaluation occurred; it would have been quite possible for a copy to be “acquired” prior to the destruction of the practice sheet. The miscreant, fearful of discovery, could have kept it hidden for a year or two before selling.

There are plenty of collectors who would have bought it and perhaps the other items shown, knowing them to be clandestinely obtained, happy in the knowledge that they had something no one knew about. This would not be the first time nor will it be the last.

French Colonies stamps have been in the doldrums for so long that it is not surprising that odd items turn up from time to time and those illustrated, whether bogus or not, will always be welcome.

Ron Wood

With reference to the article on Free French overprints on colonial stamps, I can only speak for the Indian one. All stamps and stationery with French currency were ren-

dered invalid in the early 1920s, as in other Far Eastern colonies. So this item can only be dud. It is an interesting item nevertheless.

David Taylor Smith

WWII Airmail Rates from French Equatorial Africa

Further to the correspondence on Michael Barden’s AEF cover (Journals 250 p 142 and 251 p 33), as part of the e-group to which Rob May has referred I have to say first that I agree with his analysis of the route (Journal 255 p 8): by air to Lagos, ship to UK, air to Lisbon. And with Bob Picirilli’s analysis of the rates (Journal 253 cover p iii): 1F basic domestic postage, 6F per 5g airmail fee.

However this fee was for local airmail only: 6F was the rate for the BOAC and Sabena services flying between Belgian Congo, AEF, Cameroun and BWA⁽¹⁾. There was no airmail rate for all-the-way-by-air service between AEF and France⁽²⁾ until 1944.

I may also say that I think this cover was lucky to get OAT treatment in London, and would like to offer another cover from AEF to France in evidence. Fig 1 shows a cover from Libreville to Lyon at 8F50 (probably 2F50 basic foreign

postage in error, plus 6F airmail fee) in June 1942, which, like Michael Barden’s, went by air to Lagos and ship to UK, where the *Par Avion* instruction was cancelled: presumably it then went by ship to Lisbon.

The endorsement on this cover, ‘*via Accra - Lomé - Cotonou*’, also raises the question of why such covers were not just handed over to the French in West Africa: the sender clearly hoped that this cover would go by the Sabena service to Accra and then be transferred into the French airmail system.

We know that mail was transferred from Lomé to Accra⁽³⁾ and from Cotonou to Lagos. Fig 2 shows a cover from Bourgoin to Aboudéia via Fort Archambault in May 1941 at 4F50 (1F basic domestic postage plus 3F50 airmail fee - the rate to AOF⁽⁴⁾): it came with the original letter, which starts out with words to the effect that the sender has just



Figure 1



Figure 2

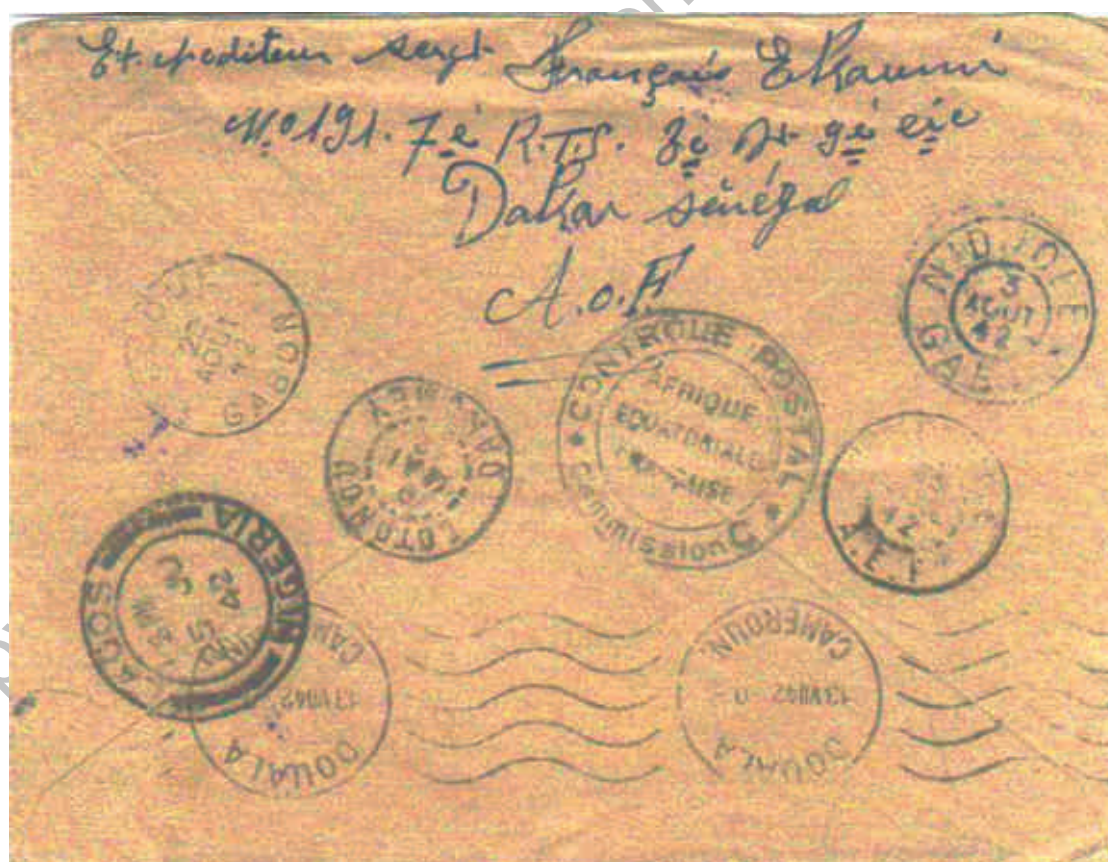


Figure 3



Figure 4

heard it is now possible to send letters from unoccupied France to AEF via Dakar. It went by air from Marseille to Dakar, where it was censored, reached Cotonou in July, was passed onto Lagos where it was again censored, then to Brazzaville where it was again censored, and finally reached Fort Lamy in September - clearly the journey from Cotonou (and possibly Dakar) to Fort Lamy was by surface.

Fig 3 shows a cover from Dakar to Booué in Gabon in May 1942 with FM paying the basic postage and 3F the airmail fee, carried by air between Dakar and Cotonou, then by surface: Lagos in June, Douala and Libreville in July and destination in August.

But was mail also transferred from Lagos to Cotonou or from Lomé to Accra? On the evidence of the few covers available for study, I would suggest that the rule seems to have been that the originating country would carry the mail as far as it could in its own system, and that transferred mail was not entitled to onward air transport in the receiving country's system: ie mail from Free French AEF

to France entering the British system was carried by air to Lagos and ship to UK and Lisbon, and mail from France to Free French AEF entering the French system was carried by air to AOF and by surface from Cotonou onwards.

Rob also enquires about evidence for the BOAC service being opened (or not) to AEF mail to UK at the same time as BWA mail: I don't think this happened immediately. Fig 4 shows a cover from Port Gentil to London in late May 1942 at 14F50 (2F50 basic foreign postage plus 12F airmail fee), carried by air to Brazzaville and Lagos, with the addressee's receiving date stamp of 29 July. The weight was between 5 and 10g, which is still less than ½oz.

I used to think that the routing endorsement '*Par Avion "Clipper" via Léopoldville*' had in fact been obeyed, but the rate is clearly inadequate for the PAA double Atlantic service. However, a year later, the cover shown in Fig 5, from Douala to London between 4 and 21 May 1943, must have gone all the way by air. Unfortunately it is missing an adhesive so we can't tell what the rate was!



Figure 5

References

- (1) Rates: Marty Bratzel, *The Postal Tariffs of Cameroun*, p 129; Routes: Report on the Progress of Civil Aviation, Appendix B.
- (2) The French Post Office guide to airmail rates for January 1942, *Renseignements sur les Relations Postales Aériennes*, shows a blank against AEF in the section 'Surtaxes Aériennes Applicables aux Correspondances-Avion à Destination de la France (Contrôle des affranchissements)'. I am most grateful to Marty Bratzel for copies of these guides.
- (3) Personal recollection of Michael Ensor.
- (4) Derek Richardson, *Tables of French Postal Rates*, 3rd ed, p 73.

Barbara Priddy

Anglo-French Occupation of Togo 1914-1915: German Reply Card Overprinted for French Use

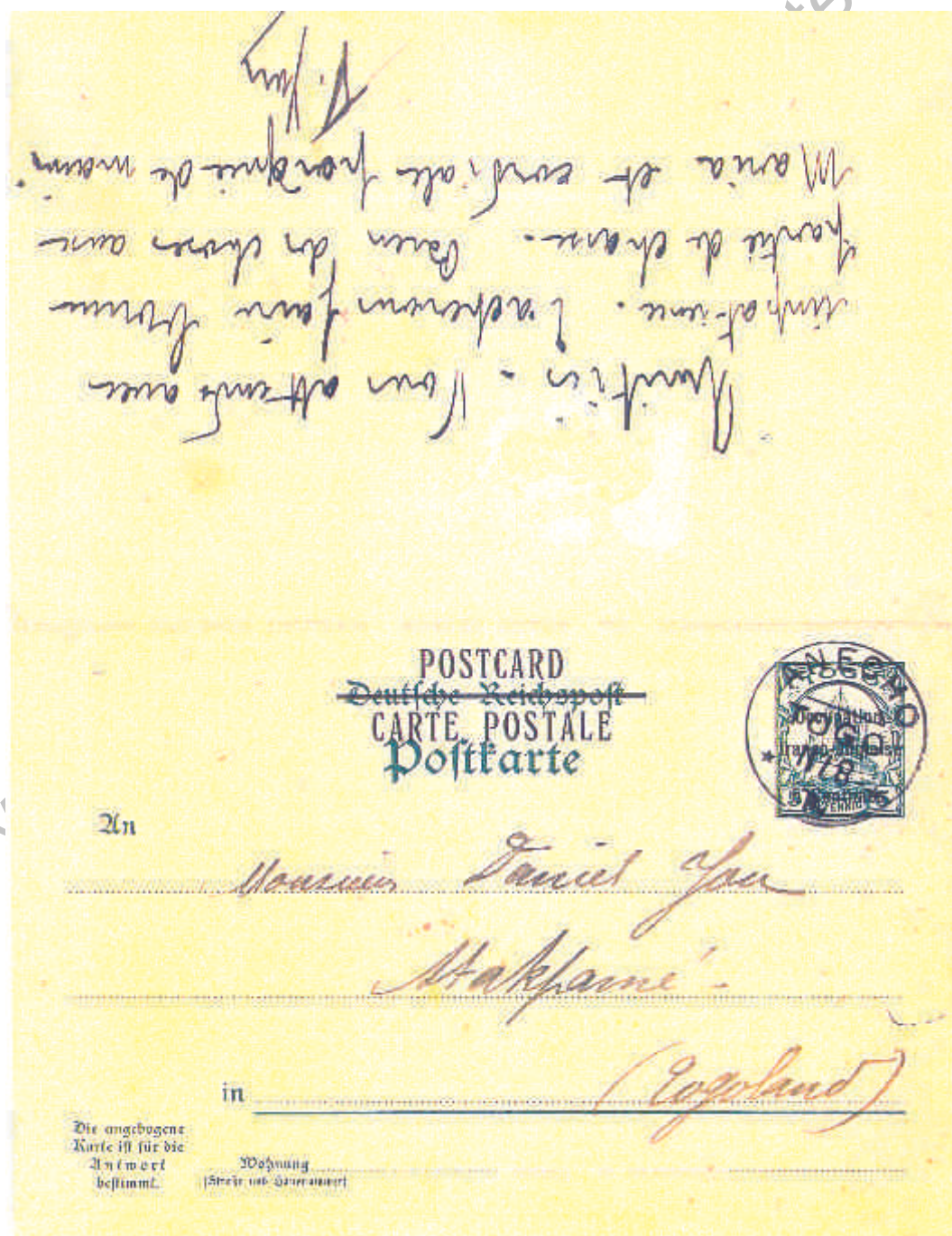
On 3 March 2010 the auction house Corinphila of Zurich offered the Dr. Burghard Wollenhaupt collection of the Anglo-French Occupation of Togo 1914-1915 in 243 lots. Collections of this order are not often offered and whilst the selection of stamps offered was of high quality the strength of the postal history fully reflected how difficult such material is, the majority of the items offered being of a philatelic nature. Amongst the latter section one French item caught my eye.

Of the few French items offered there was an example of the German 5Pf reply card overprinted for the French correctly used. These cards were released in early August 1915, and Robert Gibbs in the section on postal stationery states: "These cards are all very scarce to rare unused or with favour cancels and they are very rare used (cor-

rectly)." Offered at Sw Fr 500 (£335), this card realised Sw Fr 800. It has several unusual features.

The reply half was used for the outward message and is addressed to the Interpreter at Petit-Popo (Anécho). It has the German cancel for Nuatja of 05.08.1914, which of course is not possible, but in January 1915 several of the former German post offices did not have a '15' year slug available. Furthermore the German cancel for Nuatja is not recorded by Jeremy Martin until after 1922.

The outward half used for reply purposes has the German Anécho cancel – with the '14' year slug crudely amended – of 11.08.1915 and is addressed to Atakpamé about 40 miles north of Nuatja. The message whilst genuine states that the card is appreciated and will form part of the collection of the recipient's brother.



Plus de nouveau à Petit Pô-
Le Colonel me a demandé le 15 et
m'a fait venir vous remercier pour son
envoi. Le Colonel me a dit que vous

Manure Robert Monahan

In Answer

in *Constitution & militaire*

Wohnung
(Miete: 126 Guldenmonat)
(102)

Petit-Pape

New Cancellations by *La Poste*

Here is a copy of my listing of the items that may be relevant to the article by Maurice Tyler on pages 15-18 of

Journal 255 (March 2010). I have included all of them as there may be something of interest to readers.

Peter Maybury

| Code | Sender Address | P code | cds | Toshiba | Collection | Logo | Colour | Date | Notes |
|--------|-------------------------|--------|-------|---------|------------|------|--------|----------|---|
| 09466 | | | Neo | | * | | Blue | 08.02.07 | |
| 37610 | Epinal | 88000 | Neo | | * | | Blue | 07.01.08 | |
| 01033A | Nice | 6200 | | * | | | Black | 30.03.10 | + cds handstamps 06 Nice St. Hélène for 29.03.2010 |
| 04753A | Couhenans | 70400 | | * | | | Black | 20.02.10 | |
| 09466A | | | NEC | | | | Black | 10.04.09 | Wavy lines 50mm in length |
| 09466A | | | Neo | | | * | | 11.12.07 | |
| 12155A | | | | * | | | Black | 28.12.09 | |
| 12599A | Cusset | 33000 | | * | | | Black | 09.09.09 | |
| 15254A | Cluses | 74304 | | * | | | Black | 24.02.09 | |
| 15670A | Paris | 75002 | Neo | | | * | Blue | 23.06.08 | Wavy lines of dashes 108mm in length |
| 16234A | Moret s Loing | 77250 | | * | | | Black | 13.03.07 | |
| 17429A | Vedène | 84270 | | * | | | Black | 07.01.08 | |
| 17429A | Valréas | 84600 | | * | | | Black | 17.12.09 | |
| 18740A | | | | * | | | Black | 02.04.08 | |
| 21048A | Pont à Mousson | 54700 | | * | | | Black | 02.01.09 | |
| 21611A | Marseille | 13375 | Neo | | | * | Blue | 21.09.09 | Neo is frameless cds + wavy lines of dashes 49mm in length |
| 21935A | St. Gilles Croix de Vie | | | * | | | Black | 12.02.10 | |
| 22160A | Lyon | 69002 | | * | | | Black | 30.06.09 | |
| 22525A | Layrac | 47390 | Neo | | | * | Blue | 07.03.08 | |
| 24585A | Béziers | 34500 | Neo | | | * | Blue | 13.12.07 | * not posted in Béziers |
| 25635A | Paris | 75009 | Neo + | Black | | * | Blue | 02.12.09 | Neo is frameless cds + wavy lines of dashes 108mm in length on same envelope * not posted in Paris? |
| 25759A | Grenoble | 38100 | Neo | | | * | Blue | 07.01.08 | |
| 26479A | Bussy St Martin | 77600 | | * | | | Black | 04.01.10 | |
| 37036A | Thiais | 94320 | | * | | | Black | 13.10.07 | |
| 37580A | Volurange | 57100 | | * | | | Black | 22.09.07 | |
| 37668A | Ciran | 37240 | Neo | | | * | Blue | 06.05.08 | |
| 37668A | Joue-lès-Tours | 37300 | | * | | | Black | 03.08.09 | |
| 38276A | | | | * | | | Black | 30.03.09 | |
| 38469A | Laval | 53000 | | * | | | Black | 04.03.08 | |
| 38909A | Vendeuvre du Poitou | 86380 | | * | | | Black | 16.12.09 | |
| 38985A | | | | * | | | Black | 10.08.07 | |
| 39376A | Macauen Médoc | 33460 | | * | | | Black | 13.03.10 | |
| 42089A | Béziers | 34500 | | * | | | Black | 14.12.09 | * not posted in Béziers |
| 42229A | Orvault | 44700 | | * | | | Black | 23.06.09 | |
| 97036A | Ivry/Seine | 94200 | | * | | | Black | 02.04.08 | |

From time to time I have acquired some modern French covers and, of course, many of these have the new cancels. I have gathered them together and with great delight have identified most of them thanks to the list published in Journal 255 pages 16-18. I can now add a few more numbers.

Of those in the original list, I have found 22000A as NEO-POST in blue, 38276A as a handstamp in black, and 38295A as a NEC version. I have noted that those with *Lettre Prioritaire* incorporated have shorter wavy lines.

One particularly interesting one is 21958A of 06-03-08 NEOPOST with a slogan between the cds and the wavy lines. The slogan shows the outline of a church at the left + *LOURDES 2008 / 150^e anniversaire des apparitions*. This is the only one I have and the only one I have seen with a slogan. Have readers seen any others with slogans?

As a general comment, I have not come across any without the letter A after the number. In addition, the straight line type is by far the most frequently seen.

Héloïse Mitchell

| Number | Date | <i>Lettre Prioritaire</i> | Sender's Address | Type |
|--------------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 15436A | 15-02-08 | | | cds handstamp in black |
| 38909A | 15-04-09 | Yes | | straight line |
| <i>ditto</i> | 05-01-10 | Yes | | <i>ditto</i> |
| <i>ditto</i> | 01-02-10 | Yes | | <i>ditto</i> |
| 39057A | 06-03-10 | | 85520 Jard sur Mer | <i>ditto</i> |
| 39289A (?) | 08-02-10 | Yes | 59870 Bouvignies | <i>ditto</i> |
| 39376A | 03-11-09 | Yes | | <i>ditto</i> |
| 39600A | 09-04-09 | Yes | | <i>ditto</i> |
| <i>ditto</i> | 11-07-09 | Yes | | <i>ditto</i> |
| 42089A | 09-02-10 | Yes | | <i>ditto</i> |
| 42229A | 17-07-09 | Yes | | <i>ditto</i> |
| <i>ditto</i> | 22-07-09 | Yes | 85270 St Hilaire de Riez | <i>ditto</i> |
| <i>ditto</i> | 21-08-09 | Yes | 85520 Jard sur Mer | <i>ditto</i> |

Information gleaned from the late André le Guillou reveals that:

CCT1 = *Centre Courrier Type 1*. It consists of at least 12 postmen's rounds.

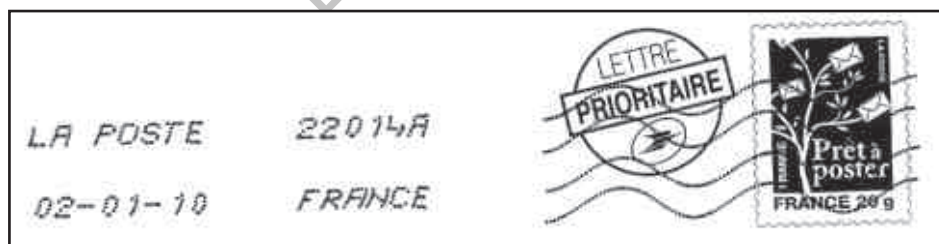
CCT2 = *Centre Courrier Type 2*. It consists of fewer than 12 postmen's rounds.

CDIS = *Centre de Distribution*.

As I understood things, all *La Poste* establishments, both old and new, would be given a ROC reference number. The following photocopies are not wildly exciting, but I thought they might be of interest, even if only for a minute or two.

I have seen a fair number of PRIORITY frankings with an ECONOMY cancel, but have never come across a single ECONOMY franking with a PRIORITY cancel.

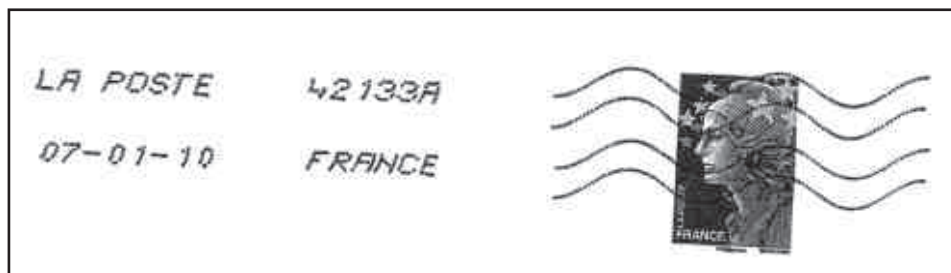
John Simmons



Domestic 20g PRIORITY letter;
Toshiba inkjet cancel,
ECONOMY version;
ROC N° 22014A -
51 Chalons St Gibrien CTC

Domestic 20g PRIORITY letter;
TOSHIBA inkjet cancel,
PRIORITY version;
ROC N° 37610A -
54 Heillecourt Nancy Sud
PPDC CCT1





Zone A, 20g PRIORITY letter to Spain, franked with Beaujard blue NVI (0.70€);
Toshiba inkjet cancel, ECONOMY version;
ROC N° 42133A - ?



Zone A, PRIORITY letter to UK;
the blue "hyphens" cancel allegedly reduces ink consumption;
ROC N° 21618A - 14 Caen Mondeville CTC.
Although I was aware of their existence, this is the first ink saving cancel I've seen.



Editor's Note

This example, which appeared on the envelope containing the two articles,
and sent to the Editor by John Simmons,
neatly joins this contribution of his to the next one!
The ROC N° appears to be 41974A and the letter comes from 78 Marly-le-Roi.

A “Solidarité Haïti” Marianne

[Mick Bister introduced this stamp to us in Journal 255 of March 2010, page 7, but John Simmons now gives us further interesting details.]



Figure 1

As happened in a similar case five years ago with the Asian tidal wave disaster, *La Poste*, following a decree dated 14/01/10, issued a “Solidarité Haïti” Marianne (Fig 1) on 19/01/10 (FDC) and 20/01/10 (general sale).



Figure 2

The stamp, very similar to that of Lamouche, in 2005 (Fig 2), is the red NVI version of the current Beaujard Marianne. Both have a Red Cross vignette and both also serve(d) the domestic 1st class 20g letter rate: 0.50€ in 2005 and 0.56€ in 2010. Hence, given that the stamp is on sale at 1.00€, *La Poste* Haïti Solidarity fund should receive 0.44€ per stamp sold, 3,080,000€ from an announced print run of 7 million stamps.

As far as printing is concerned, the stamp was recess printed on press TD 205 from 15/01/10 to 19/01/10. Périgueux definitely worked on the Saturday 16/01/10 (Fig 3), but not, so far as I know, on the Sunday 17/01/10. On 19/01/10 a self-adhesive version, only available to “business” customers, was also printed — which, at the time of writing I have not seen; neither have I any information on the quantity printed.

Although I was and still am pleased with the cover (Fig 4 on the next page), one of my philatelic acquaintance, who claims to be a friend and who collects First Day Covers, took great pleasure in telling me that my “petit trésor” was of no particular interest due to its having been cancelled twice: once with two strikes in red ink of the large (32mm diameter) circular date stamp on 19/01/10 and a second time, a day later, with a common or garden Toshiba inkjet cancel.

Notes

- Press TD 205 was formerly known as TD6_5, ie *Taille-Douce*, 6 Couleurs, Presse N° 5.
- The first time, according to the March issue of *Timbres Magazine*, that a commemorative format has been printed on this press. Usually TD 201 is used for this purpose.
- When first issued on 14/01/05 the Lamouche stamp was valid for not only the first weight step of the domestic “LETTRE” rate, but also for the first weight step of the “Zone A” (EU and Switzerland) “PRIORITAIRE” rate (Fig 5 on the next page).

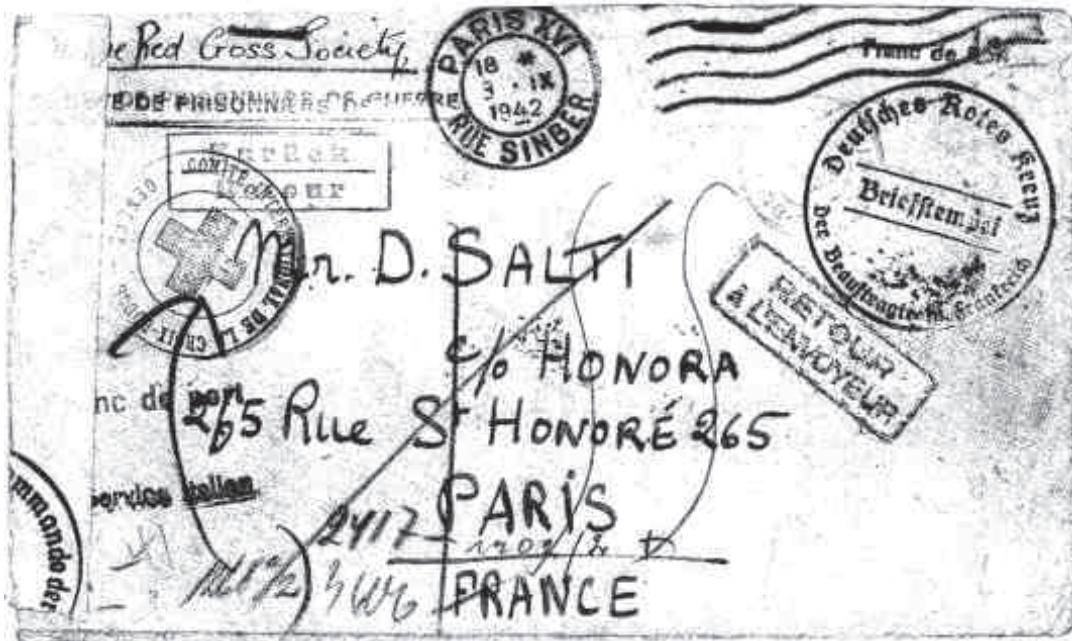
John Simmons



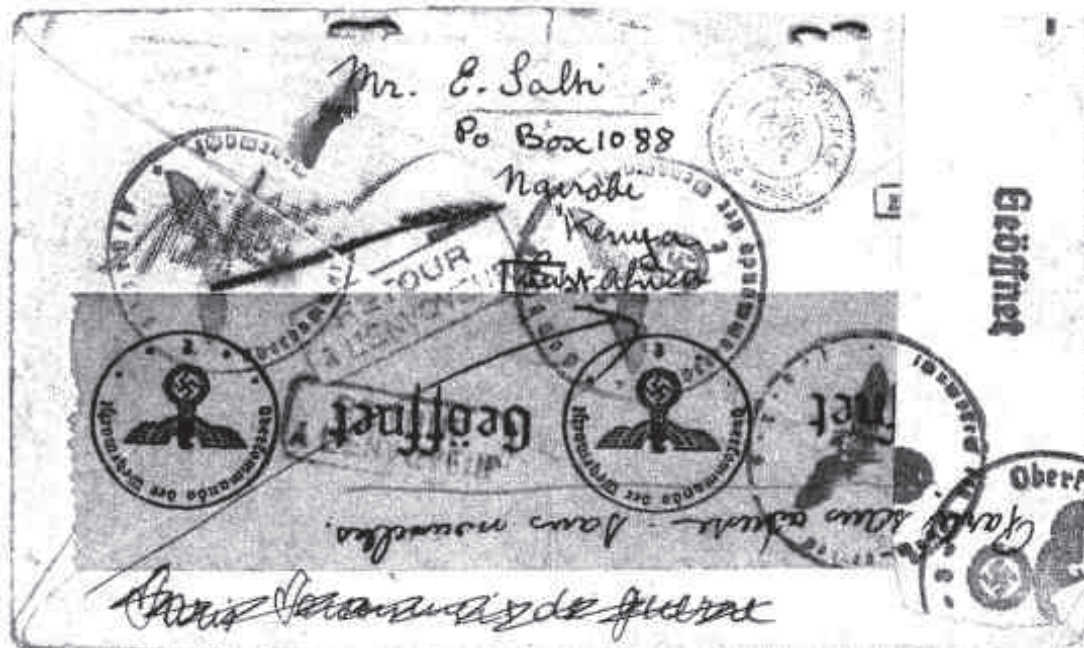
Figure 3
(slightly reduced to fit the page)



French POW in Kenya



Front



Reverse

These two scans of the front and reverse of a cover from a French POW in Kenya via the Red Cross was sent to me as a query by my friend Bill Colley FRPSL, a member of the East Africa Study Circle. I have annotated my comments but would be grateful if any member could confirm or correct these or add any further information that would be of help to Bill Colley.

The cover is from a Mr E Salti, PO Box 1088, Nairobi, Kenya to a Mr D Salti in Paris, c/o The International Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland and undated. It was posted presumably in 1942, via Cairo to Italy - Switzerland - France? The letter arrived at Paris in Occupied France and was undelivered, with the manuscript *Parti sans adresse / sans nouvelles* [Gone away with no forwarding address or other informa-

tion] and marked return to sender (*Retour à l'Envoyeur* and *Retour / Zurück*), with a cds of Paris 3.9.42.

The front has the handstamps of the International Red Cross, Geneva, and the German Red Cross. The various markings include *Franc de Port* and *Service Italien*.

The reverse bears an unidentified handstamp ?Italy/ Cairo/ or Nairobi. It is censored by German handstamps and censor tape [Riemer Type G53a] at the Vienna office.

References

Riemer, Karl-Heinz – *Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch deutsche Dienststellen*, 1979, Poststempelgilde "Rhein-Donau" eV, 4000 Düsseldorf 30, Spielbergerweg 5, Germany.

Colin Spong

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

PART 2

Mick Bister



Figure 7a
The 1F50 Pétain in blue
with +50 SN surcharge in carmine,
issued 14 September 1942



Figure 7b
The so-called 'unissued'
1F50 in brown
with +50 SN surcharge in black

The 'unissued' 1F50 brown with black surcharge

The events which took place during the seven weeks between the submission of V di Pace's proposal on 22 June 1942 and the first day of printing of the surcharged stamp (Fig 7a) on 12 August 1942 have remained unclear and subject to hypothesis particularly with reference to a certain 'unissued' or 'non émis' (Fig 7b). For many years the theory has been expounded that, in accordance with V di Pace's wishes that the overprinting should be 'very straightforward and not create too much extra work at the Imprimerie', an initial printing took place comprising a black surcharge applied to the normal 1F50 Pétain definitive in brown.

It is claimed though that this printing was cancelled after just one day due to the realisation that such an overprint could easily be replicated by forgers who could sell the stamps with the receipts from the surcharge going into their own pockets. As a result, the initial printing was withdrawn, viz it became an unissued stamp, a 'non émis'.

The supporters of this theory reached the conclusion, therefore, that the stamp with a carmine surcharge on a blue printing issued on 14 September 1942 was conceived only after the rejection of the printing in black on brown. The earliest record I have of this hypothesis dates from 1975. In their book 'Spécialisé France: Timbres-poste de 1900 à 1940 et de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale 1940-1945', Messrs Storch & Françon relate the following:

'An initial plan consisted of overprinting in black the normal 1F50 (Pétain) in brown. Worried about possible forgeries, the plan was abandoned and the stamp was printed in blue. To render the surcharge more legible, it had to be applied in red. A sheet of the printing in brown with a black overprint is known with the date 10-6-1942 and the sheet number 78524, from cylinder V+ W on press 17.'

This thesis is supported by the authors of 'Le patrimoine du

timbre-poste' published in 1998, who record that 'in order to avoid possible forgeries, the 1F50 in brown overprinted in black remained unissued whilst a 1F50 was printed in blue and surcharged.'

But there are two major flaws in the above theory. Firstly, Storch and Françon claim that there exists a sheet of the black on brown *non émis* with a printing date of 10 June 1942. However, V di Pace did not submit his proposal for such an issue until 22 June 1942, which means the date of printing of the aforementioned sheet must have been misread by the authors or misinterpreted by their book's compositor. Secondly, records reveal that Press N° 17 was being used on 10 June 1942 for printing a completely different stamp – the 50c *Préo Mercury*. What then is the correct date of this so-called 'unissued' printing and what is its true chronological position and rôle?

Archival material

V di Pace had proposed in his letter 'une émission spéciale à tirage non limité en imprimant sur le timbre poste de 1F50 une surtaxe de 20 centimes.' Unfortunately, there are no documents in the *Musée de la Poste* archives recording any further discussion on the value of the surcharge. Clearly, at some time a decision was made to increase it from 20c to 50c but there is no written record. There are however, a number of colour proofs which illustrate the length to which the PTT went to ensure the most effective design of surcharge and the optimum colour combination of overprint and stamp.

The *Musée de la Poste* holds a total of eight colour proofs showing various combinations of surcharge designs and ink colours. Each colour proof measures the standard 115 x 123mm, is perforated with the *Atelier's* control punch of an arc flanked by two lozenges and is inscribed in the bottom right hand corner with the ink reference numbers in pencil (Fig 8). It is not indicated if the inks are from Lorilleux or Lefranc, the usual suppliers of the period.



Figure 8
Colour proof
© Musée de la Poste

The proofs held in the archives of the *Musée de la Poste* are in the following colours:

- Black surcharge (Ink N° 605) on turquoise stamp (Ink N° 125)
- Black surcharge (Ink N° 605) on rose stamp (Ink N° 444)
- Black surcharge (Ink N° 605) on olive-green stamp (Ink N° 325)
- Black surcharge (Ink N° 605) on violet stamp (Ink N° 503)
- Black surcharge (Ink N° 605) on blackish brown stamp (Ink N° 712)
- Black surcharge (Ink N° 605) on red stamp (Ink N° 714)
- Deep blue surcharge (Ink N° 101) on violet stamp (Ink N° 521)

- Carmine surcharge (Ink N° 303) on green stamp (Ink N° 303)

In my own collection I have two further examples:

- Black (Ink N° 605) surcharge on grey-blue stamp (Ink N° 117)
- Deep blue surcharge (Ink N° 101) on blackish-brown stamp (Ink N° 712)

It is worth noting that a colour proof in the brown of the 1F50 Pétain definitive (*marron* ink N° 729) does not feature, which implies that overprinting the normal printing was not a consideration.

As can be seen from the examples below and on the next page, the proofs were overprinted with four different types of surcharge which I have arbitrarily called Types 1 to 4.



Figure 9a

Type 1: overprint in four corners, upper characters bold and lower characters fine

Figure 9b

Type 2: overprint in four corners, uniform characters



Figure 9c

Type 3: overprint at base of stamp, all characters bold



Figure 9d

Type 4: overprint in opposite corners, upper characters bold, lower characters fine

Figure 9

Examples of the colour proofs

© Musée de la Poste and author's collection



Top proof on the *bon à tirer* with normal characters



Bottom proof on the *bon à tirer* with reduced figure 50

Figure 10

Bon à tirer © Musée de la Poste

Alongside the proofs in the archives is the *bon à tirer* which is the document which endorses the selected colour and authorises the printing of the stamp. Normally the *bon à tirer* consists of just one proof in the chosen colour, but in this case two proofs have been attached to the document (Fig 10). Both proofs display the 1F50 stamp printed in blue (Ink N° 117) and with the overprint in carmine (Ink N° 419).

However, there are differences in the design of the overprints both of which are variants of Type 2. The top proof has all four characters which are uniform in size whereas the bottom proof has the figure 50 in a much smaller font than the other characters. It is the bottom proof which has been initially approved, signed and dated on 31 July 1942, yet when the stamp eventually comes to be printed it is the surcharge of the top proof which is used.

My theory is that the top proof was added to the document as a correction after the *bon à tirer* had been signed, which would explain why it has been pasted over the *Atelier* cachet. The bottom proof, which had been approved earlier in error, was subsequently cancelled by a cross in blue crayon.

'Unissued' stamp or printing trial?

There is no evidence at all in the files of the *Musée de la Poste* to support the theory that there was a previous plan to print the stamp in brown with a black overprint or that the carmine on red issue was a remedial afterthought. So again, where does this black on brown printing come from and what was its rôle? Three other items, one to be found in the *Musée de la Poste* and two in private collections may provide the answer.

The *Musée de la Poste* holds a proof sheet of 200 impressions of the approved surcharge, ie two uncut sheets of 100 produced by one complete revolution of the cylinder. The surcharge is printed in black on poor quality rose paper which is ungummed and imperforate (Fig 11). In the bot-

tom right hand corner is a pencilled annotation which reads: N° 552 (*surcharge*) *Don collection P. Morel d'Arleux, février 1967*, recording the fact that the sheet had been received as a donation⁽³⁾. Such printings in black on rose paper are not uncommon. During the war years, test printings and proof sheets were made on cheaper paper rather than using the questionably better quality paper reserved for regular printings. Proof sheets of Pétain and Mercury issues are known printed in this way after modifications or retouches have been made to a cylinder.

(3) Pierre Morel d'Arleux (1897-1964) specialised in pre-cancelled and newspaper stamps and was vice-president of the *Académie de Philatélie*, founder member and president of the *Société des Amis du Musée Postal* and in 1950 was a signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

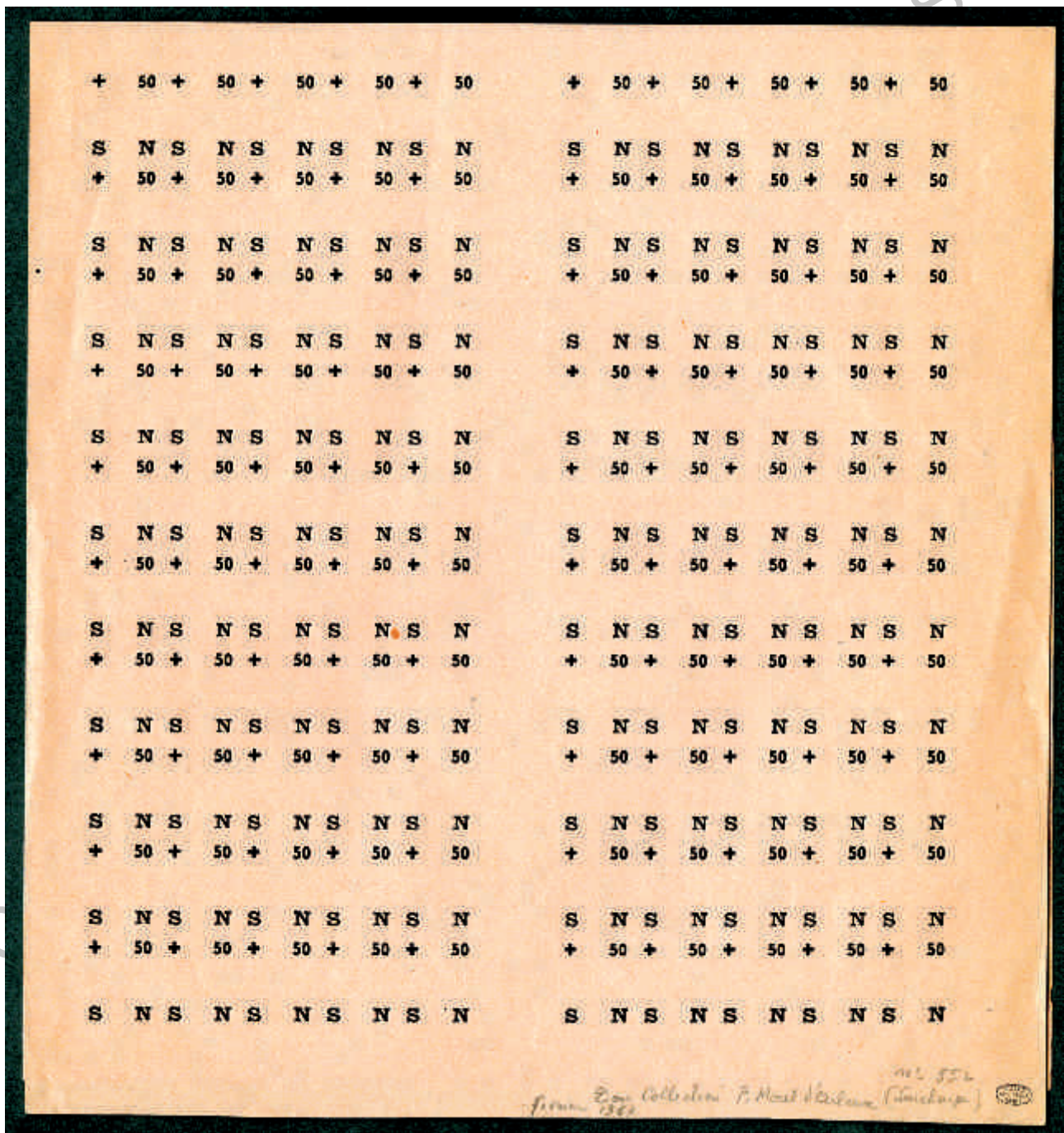


Figure 11
Trial printing of the +50 SN surcharge in black on rose paper
© Musée de la Poste



Figure 12
Trial printing of the surcharge in black
on the normal printing
© Max Derouen

It is my theory therefore that the so-called 'unissued' printing of the black surcharge on the brown stamp is but an extension of the above test print. As has been said earlier, Storch and Françon record the existence of a sheet of the black on brown printing dated 10 June 1942 but we have already proved that this date is incorrect. However, the same authors state that the sheet they saw was printed on Press N° 17, evidence of which they would have seen in the gutter margin between stamp positions 85 and 86. In this case, it is possible that a trial printing was needed to check the efficiency of the relatively new Press N° 17 which had the capacity of printing up to three colours including an overprint. Press N° 17 had only been in operation since 16 March 1942 and had been limited to producing single colour printings particularly of the Mercury, low value Pétain and Algeria Mosque issues. If this printing was indeed a trial printing, on what date then was it conducted?

Although the *Musée de la Poste* does not hold the answer, a private collector does. A website devoted to the 1F50 Pétain has been created by the Pétain specialist Max Derouen on which he has recently added an illustration of a dated corner block of the black on brown printing (Fig 12). The block is dated 10 August 1942 but with the figure 8 for August bisected by the vertical perforation it may have been misread as a 6 by Storch and Françon thus explaining the inaccurate entry in their book. The location and shape of the white punch mark applied by the press technician below the 100th stamp combined with the form of the marginal bars confirms that the block is from Galvano W of Cylinder V+W, the cylinder specifically prepared for printing the issue in blue.



Figure 13
Trial printing of the surcharge in carmine
on normal printing
as illustrated in an auction catalogue
© J Robineau, Catalogue 183^e Vente sur Offres

This date on the corner block confirms that the printing of the black on brown took place after the *bon à tirer* was signed authorising the stamp to be printed in carmine on blue. In other words, there never was any intention to issue a stamp in black on brown, and hence there never was any possibility of a threat from forgers replicating the issue. In my opinion the black on brown cannot be regarded as a 'non émis' as the catalogues and auction houses insist on calling it. The term 'non émis', as defined in the *Dictionnaire Philatélique et Postal* published by the *Académie de Philatélie*, is used to describe '(des) vignettes dont la création fut décidée, l'effigie, la valeur faciale et les couleurs choisies, et qui reçurent un commencement de fabrication mais ne furent pas livrées au public par suite d'une décision de l'Administration des Postes.' Or, more succinctly, the American Philatelic Society member, Rick Miler, defines an unissued stamp on his website as 'one that was prepared and produced or contracted for by the proper authorities but was never issued.'

The sequence of dates prove that the black on brown printing was never considered as a stamp to be put on sale; it was a trial printing conducted well after the issue in blue had been approved. It is definitely not a 'non émis' and should henceforth no longer be listed as such.⁽⁴⁾

(4) In the November 2008 Robineau auction a single copy of a brown printing with a carmine overprint, hitherto unknown to me and to many other Pétain collectors, was offered (Fig 13). Enquiries about it have remained unanswered so I am unable to shed further light on its significance. Its existence would indicate that it was another stage in the trials, this time using carmine ink for the overprint.

The concluding Part 3 of this article will be published in the next issue of the Journal.

Scarce as Hens' Teeth – the Booklet Stamps of French Cameroun

Marty Bratzel

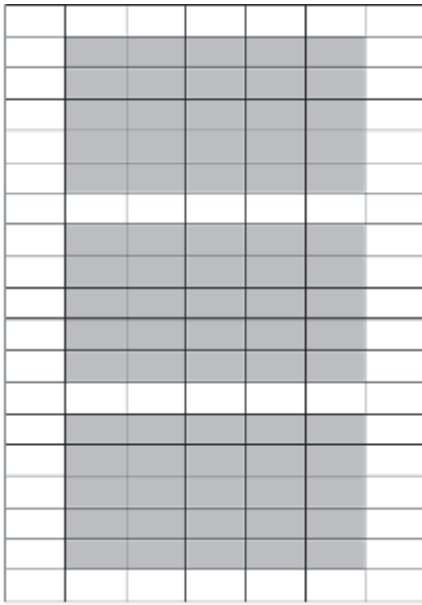


Figure 1
Printing format for sheet stamps

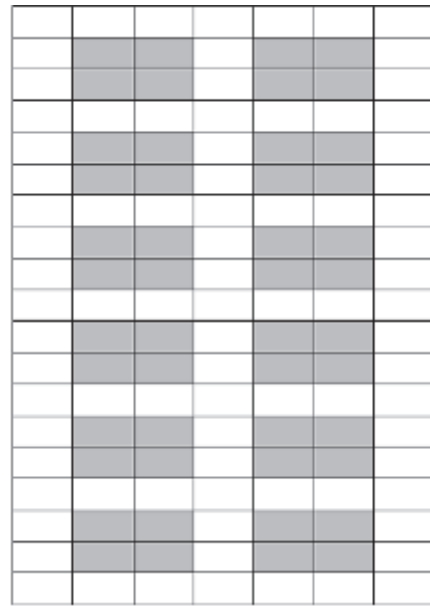


Figure 2
Printing format for booklet stamps

During and shortly after World War I, French postal authorities issued three postage stamps in booklet format for its newly acquired territory of Cameroun. The next booklet stamps would not be released for another 60+ years, in about 1985, well after independence. Porter⁽¹⁾ recorded the booklet stamps, Hamilton⁽²⁾ mentioned production, and the author⁽³⁾ provided a summary, but little else has been published. Catalogue listings are sporadic. For example, the 1930 Yvert lists all three booklets, the 1932 edition only two. The 1987 Scott lists two booklet panes, the 1997 edition none.

The three stamps released in booklet format were identical in appearance to the corresponding stamps in sheet format. All were then-current stamps of *Moyen Congo*, and both formats were overprinted for use in Cameroun, the third stamp also with changes to the basic colours. The sheet

format consisted of 75 stamps, arranged in three panes of 25, separated by gutters, and with the stamps in each pane arranged in five rows of five (Fig 1). Each booklet pane consisted of four stamps, arranged two by two. Booklet stamps were probably printed with the same size sheet of paper, with additional gutters incorporated (Fig 2). The booklet sheets could then be guillotined along the gutters to prepare individual booklet panes which were, in turn, compiled into booklets. The three booklet stamps were:

- 5 centimes, dark green and blue, on ordinary, unsurfaced paper, overprinted **Cameroun / Occupation / Française**. (Fig 3). The booklet consisted of 10 panes of 4 stamps each, for a total of 40 stamps and a sale price of 2 francs. The booklet stamp was released in mid-1916, in conjunction with the sheet stamps with the same overprint.



Figure 3a
Pane of 5c booklet stamps with no perforations through the left margin

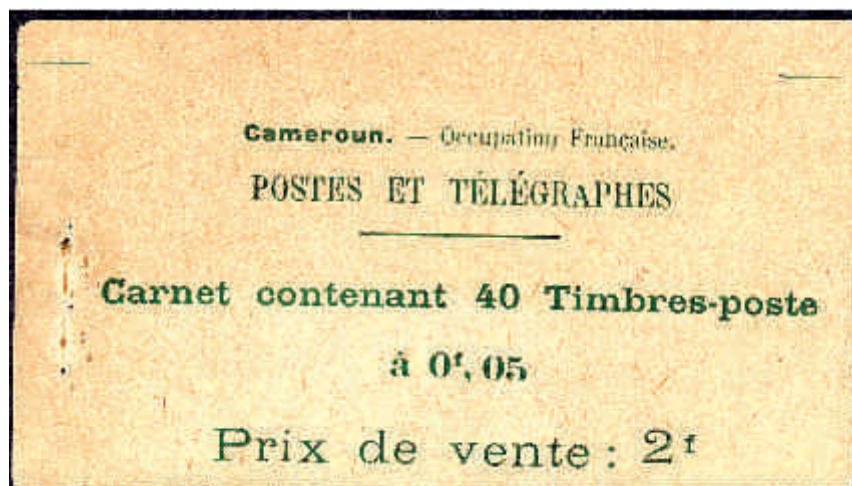


Figure 3b
Cover of 5c booklet stamps

- 15 centimes, brown violet and rose, on ordinary, unsurfaced paper, overprinted **Cameroun / Occupation / Française**. (Fig 4). The booklet consisted of 5 panes of 4 stamps each, for a total 20 stamps and a sale price of 3 francs. The booklet stamp was released in 1917, at about the same time that the corresponding 15 centimes sheet stamp was added to the occupation stamp series.
- 25 centimes, slate and orange, overprinted **Cameroun** (Fig 5). The booklet consisted of 5 panes of 4 stamps each, for a total of 20 stamps and a sale price of 5 francs. The booklet stamp was released in 1921, in conjunction with the definitive series of sheet stamps with the same overprint, introduced when the territory became a provisional mandate under the League of Nations.



Figure 4a
Pane of 15c booklet stamps with perforations through the top margin



Figure 4b
Pane of 15c booklet stamps without perforations through the top margin

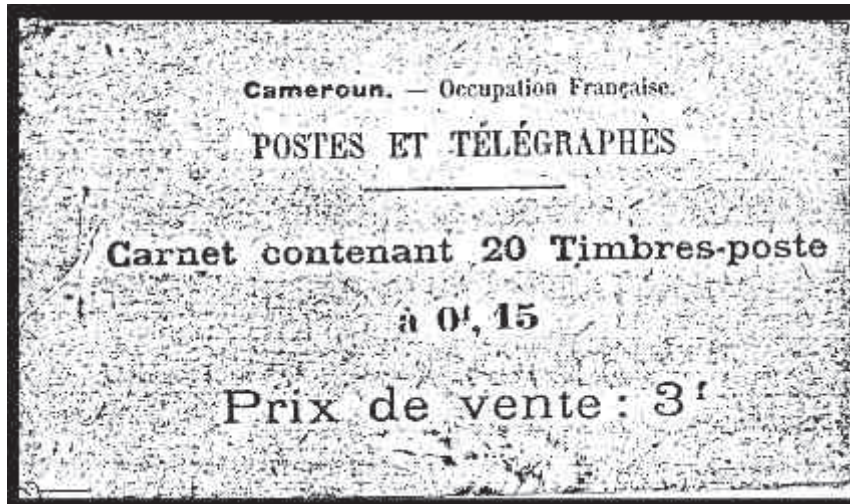


Figure 4c

Cover of 15c booklet stamps

The b/w cover and pane courtesy of Bob Maddocks, and previously illustrated in Ref (3)



Figure 5

Pane of 25c booklet stamps

Each booklet had a front and back cover made of brownish paper. The front cover contained information about the contents; the back cover was blank. For the 5 centimes booklet, the text on the front cover is printed in blackish green. Glassine interleaving was inserted between the panes. The entire booklet was held together with a single staple. Depending on where in the full uncut sheet the booklet pane was situated, the pane may or may not be perforated through to each margin. Compare the two 15 centimes panes in Figure 4, and also compare the pane in Figure 3 with those in Figures 4 and 5.

The stamps met a variety of postal tariffs, primarily⁽⁴⁾:

- The 5 centimes stamp – the then-current 1916 domestic rate for printed matter and for illustrated postcards with a written message of five or fewer words.
- The 15 centimes stamp – the domestic tariff, announced 5 January 1917, for letters (first weight increment to 20 grams) and for ordinary and illustrated postcards with a written message.
- The 25 centimes stamp – the domestic tariff, effective 1 August 1920, for letters (first weight increment).

Figure 6
5c booklet stamp
on unsealed printed
matter envelope
to Paris



Figure 7
Pair of 25c booklet stamps
on registered cover
to Paris

Since the individual booklet stamps are identical in appearance to the sheet stamps, they can be identified only if selvedge of the correct size is attached, as opposed to the larger selvedge of the sheet stamps. Until late 2008, in more than 25 years of searching, the only examples seen by the author were:

- A booklet cover and a pane of the 15c booklet stamp, courtesy of Bob Maddocks.
- An unsealed envelope with a single 5c booklet stamp postmarked *Duala 1.6.20* correctly paying the printed matter rate (Fig 6). The enclosure (still present) is a printed birth announcement.
- A registered cover to Paris with a pair of the 25c booklet stamp postmarked *Duala 2 Nov 23* (Fig 7). Along with a 10c stamp, the total payment was 60c, correctly paying the domestic postage (25c) plus registration (35c) fees.
- A single 25c booklet stamp postmarked *Edea 8 Mai 22*.

Then, the three panes depicted in Figures 3 - 5 were offered on eBay. The booklet stamps had previously resided in the collection of Jack Hatfield of Springfield, Ohio. The collec-

tion was sold after Jack passed away in the mid-1990s, and its whereabouts unknown until virtually all of his Cameroun material appeared a decade and a half later on eBay. Despite interest by other bidders, the author was fortunate to have acquired all three booklet items.

No information is available as to the quantities of booklets issued. Since the booklet stamps were intended for everyday use, the number of panes to have survived is clearly quite small, and the number of complete booklets even smaller. Scarce as hens' teeth indeed!

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2. Hamilton, Ben, Jr - "Cameroun: A Philatelic Review," *Stamps*, Vol 39, N° 13, 27 June 1942, pages 450-454 and 460-463.
3. Questions and Answers - Addendum, *Vorläufer*, N° 55, June 1982, page 19. See also N° 56, October 1982, page 12.
4. Bratzel, M P, Jr - "The Postal Tariffs of Cameroun under French Administration - 1916-1959," MPB Canada, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 2007. 215+vi pp + Appendix on CD. ISBN 978-0-9694026-4-0.

Titanic Covers that Missed the Boat?

David Jennings-Bramly



Cover found by Tom Fortunato in a dealer's "junk box" in 1986 bearing a PARIS ÉTRANGER backstamp of 4 March 1912 and stated to be one of nine surviving covers with similar markings intended for the *Titanic* but carried on other ships

[Almost all the covers may be viewed on-line at <http://www.wrestlingsbest.com/titanic.pdf>]

During 2008 the journal of the Ship Wreck Study Group, *La Catastrophe*, reprinted an article entitled "Titanic covers that missed the boat" that had first appeared in *The Titanic Commutator*, the journal of the Titanic Historical Society. This article by Tom Fortunato of Rochester, New York, gave details of nine covers with a *TITANIC* handstamp dated between 3 and 13 March 1912 from various places in France, some of them bearing a *Paris Étranger* postmark of 4, 7 or 14 March and most bearing a Washington DC transit mark of 18 or 27 March, that had apparently been carried by other ships and received by the M A Winter Company in Washington on 19 or 28 March 1912 [some dates being illegible].

The article begins with the words: "Would you pay \$10 for the cover above (Figure 1)? I did. I ran across this gem in a dealer's box marked 'Better Junk' back in 1986. If you're like me you're probably a bit of a history buff and at first glance are puzzled at this piece of postal history..."

I have no knowledge of any comments that Mr Fortunato's article may have attracted, but consider it unlikely that any were adverse because *La Catastrophe* published the article without caveat or comment.

One may assume that the editor of *The Titanic Commutator* welcomed the article, when received, as being from a philatelist or postal historian and as a result did not have it checked by a competent collector; had he done so, I am certain that the unfortunate article would not

have appeared. In what follows I attempt to correct the situation.

As a long time collector and student of the Sower issue of France, my eye was immediately drawn to the cover at the head of Mr. Tom Fortunato's article which was reprinted, in 2 parts, in *La Catastrophe*.

Having checked the 10c Sowers, in the hopes that they might be postal forgeries and finding them to be genuine, I turned to the article to attempt to find out why Mr. Fortunato declared the envelope, numbered 267914, a gem.

After reading through the 2 parts of the article and having viewed the 8 covers which come up on the references he gives and having failed to raise the 9th, which does not really matter, because it is also stated to be an envelope, franked 25c, to the Winter Co, I can answer the question which he poses in his first sentence – and my answer is: NO. I would not give a nickel for any one of the so-called "missed *TITANIC* covers" listed as 9 by him. Why not? Read on...

Let me deal with the "junk box" cover first: despite Mr. Fortunato's assertion, N° 267914 has not been registered by the French State *Postes*. N°s 267909 & 267925 are, also, not registered, because the *Courriers Convoyeurs* (scallop rims) did not offer registration. The other 6 covers are not registered and none of the 9 was ever tendered for registration. Had any been registered, the fronts would have

Continued on page 75

July 2010 Auction - Selected Lots

All lots on these 2 pages are reduced in size 50%; see back cover for a few further lots.
All lots illustrated in this Journal may also be seen on the Society website www.fcps.org.uk/auctions.html



ex Lot 245



ex Lot 225



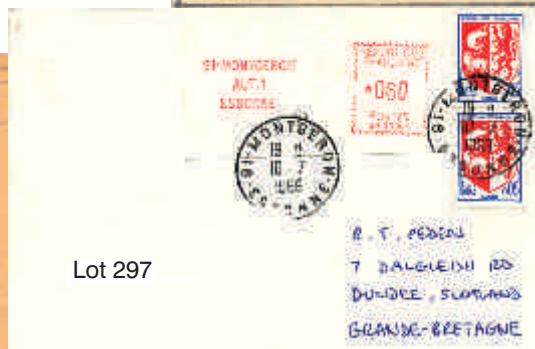
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ex Lot 251



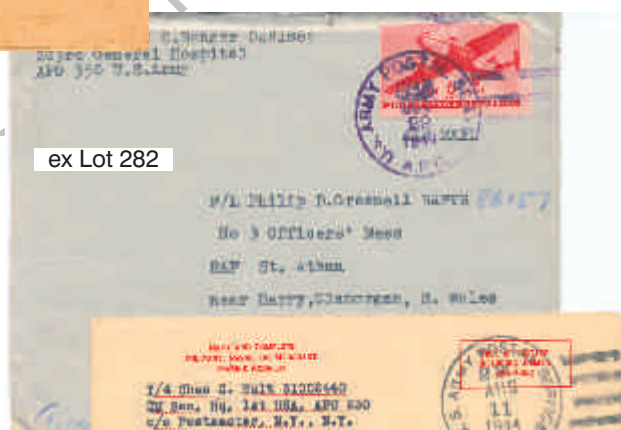
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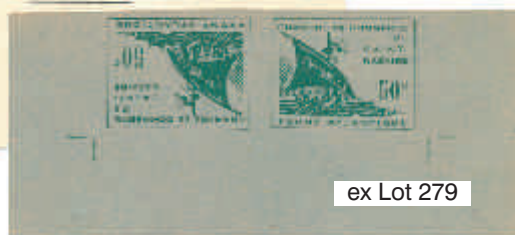
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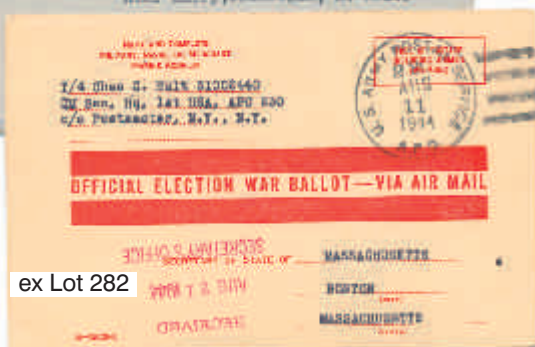
ex Lot 279



ex Lot 282



ex Lot 279



ex Lot 282

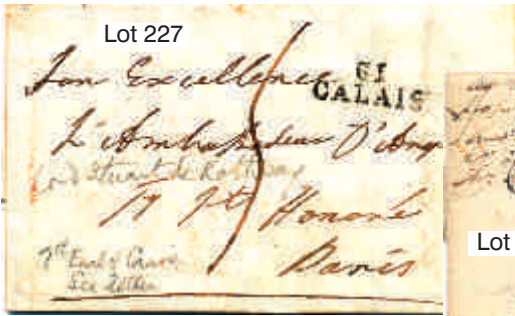


ex Lot 294



Lot 291

Lot 227



Lot 285



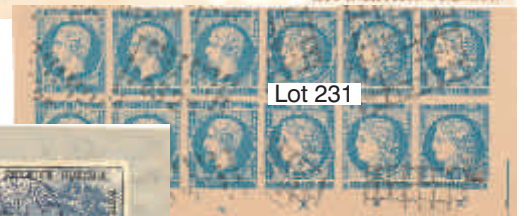
Lot 228



Lot 239



Lot 231



Lot 253



Lot 242



Lot 287



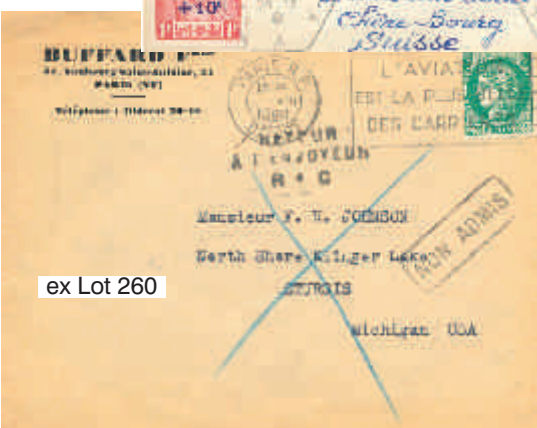
Lot 267



Lot 272



ex Lot 260



Lot 280



Lot 281



REPORTS OF MEETINGS

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 13 FEBRUARY 2010

Steve Ellis: The Development of the Red Cross in France

Present: G E Barker, S R Ellis, A Goude; J P Maybury, R K MacNeil, M Meadowcroft; J W Morton.

Apologies: were received from 11 members.

Unfortunately Tony Shepherd, who was scheduled to present a display of French Guyana, had only come out of hospital a few days prior to the meeting. At very short notice Steve Ellis agreed to present the display originally programmed for the cancelled meeting of September 2009.

Steve commenced by explaining the content of the display, which consisted of letters, cards, forms and ephemera such as medals, photographs, armbands etc, commenting that wherever possible his postal material had actually travelled through the mail system.

Following the horrific experiences recorded by Henri Dunant (a Swiss national) following the battle of Solferino in 1861, the International Red Cross was formed in 1864 and we were shown material from the Franco-Prussian War, followed by examples of the organisation and fund-raising methods employed by the three independent French groups. The subsequent structure and involvement of the unified movement in the relief of suffering in more and more areas, such as the Paris floods of 1910, two world wars, and international relief efforts up to the present day, were explained and demonstrated in great detail. The third and final round was dedicated to the labels and stamps, including forgeries, produced over the years to provide funds for the movement's activities.

JPM

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 27 FEBRUARY 2010

George Barker: French Classic Issues 1849-1870

Present: George Barker, Len Barnes, Alan Barrett, Mick Bister, Godfrey Bowden, John Corderoy, Michael Fairhead, Ed Grabowski, John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen, Hugh Loudon, Philip Mackey, John Parmenter, Barbara Priddy, Derek Richardson, Colin Spong, Martin Tingle, Maurice Tyler, Michael Wright.

Apologies: Bill Mitchell, John Thorpe.

Guest: Ron Bentley (plus one passerby who was in the wrong meeting!).

George began his display with the classics from 1849 to the end of the Republic issues in 1852. A wealth of material was shown, including essays, notable shades, the reimpresions, types of paper, a Sperati forgery, strips and blocks. We saw a number of *tête-bêche* (and in particular a 10c example on cover), interesting rates (such as the 20c used by the military even after the normal rate was increased to 25c), and notable cancellations (the rare rosette of Bureau J being used as the *grille* was not ready on 1 January 1849). We were given full details of the printing development and change in colours and shades

of the 20c and 1F stamps.

George then illustrated the period 1853-1863, covering the 20c Napoleon essays (shown at Charlecote last year), with a multiplicity of shades, and the 10c and 25c President issues, with Granet reimpresions and imperforate colour trials. There were 1858 essays by Barre and other essays from private industry.

The third and final section of the display covered the period 1863-1871, and dealt with the development of Napoleon III issues through imperforate, perforated and laureated types. We were shown such items as the fraudulent re-use of a used stamp, perforate and imperforate *tête-bêche*, *Spécimen* overprints, *découpages*, bogus usage of a perfin together with added documentation, plated examples, a variety of rates with tax marks and late fee, *OR* marks, possible Susse perforations, a Rothschild set of imperforate issues, and the unissued 10 on 10c overprint.

The vote of thanks was given by Godfrey Bowden who described the collection we had seen as "stuff that dreams are made of."

MST

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 2 MARCH 2010

Visit to Leeds P S

Following an invitation to the Northern Group from the Secretary of the Leeds Philatelic Society, the following members attended the meeting held on 2 March and provided the following displays:

Peter Maybury – "The development of the weighed letter

1750-1789"

Michael Meadowcroft – "The classic stamps of France"

George Barker – "The Pasteur issue on cover"

Stephen Holder - "Cameroon stamps and covers"

JPM

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 17 MARCH 2010

Members: New Projects and Acquisitions

Present: Len Barnes, Godfrey Bowden, Michael Ensor, Michael Fairhead, Chris Hitchen, Hugh Loudon.

Apologies: Mick Bister, Maurice Tyler.

The evening began with **Michael Ensor** showing Cameroon around the time of unification from 1959.

Godfrey Bowden produced Tunisian T perforations and French perfins. He explained that every office in Tunisia used its own stamps and the problem was to correctly allo-

cate these to the right office. With perfins he remarked on the different ways to display these in order to explain the subject – by theme or alphabetically and so on.

Chris Hitchen followed with the late fee service in Paris from its inception in July 1863 to 1936 when it effectively ended.

Len Barnes concluded with some colourful postcards of Paris.

CJH

SCOTTISH GROUP MEETING OF 27 MARCH 2010

George Barker: Classic France

6 members attended the meeting, with apologies from 3 members.

We welcomed George Barker, who had a very long day's travel, coming to give us his display of Classic France.

George opened his talk with a brief background to what was happening during the period of the material he had brought to show us: 1849-1870. In both rounds George gave comprehensive explanations as to the postal values of the stamps produced, dates of issue, and duration in use. He covered printing techniques (explaining *découpage*),

perforation varieties, paper and colour variations. He was able to explain how to identify where *tête-bêche* pairs were situated on a sheet, and how printing plates were re-used.

He had colour trials to show us, examples of many values on cover (including a fraudulent re-use of a stamp with its attendant fine papers – a lot of effort to recover 30c!). Sperati and Fournier forgeries also got their mention. George ended the display by showing newspaper stamps.

The members all agreed that it had been a wonderful display and thanked George for making the long journey.

MP

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 10 APRIL 2010

Members' Choice

Present: G E Barker, S R Ellis, A Goude, J P Maybury, R K MacNeil, M Rego, A Shepherd, R Shiers.

Apologies: R L High, C S Holder, M Meadowcroft, P Rooke, P Samson, P S Stockton, P S Watkins.

George Barker – a “clearing up” of material accumulated over the years, with a *CHARGE* letter with missing stamp, a spectacular underpaid item taxed at 5 francs and a huge 1902 mourning cover, re the artist Benjamin Constant.

Alan Goude – French Equatorial Africa, the story of *Oubangui-Chari* and *Tchad* told in stamps, postal stationery and covers plus postcards of the river transport boats.

Tony Shepherd – Martinique 1939-1945, military and civil censorship, with emphasis on the different marks, place of application and destinations.

Steve Ellis – Maritime mail from Marseille to the coast of Italy, describing the development of the contracted and non-contracted shipping lines of France and the Italian States.

Ronnie Shiers – French Polynesia, the island of Moorea, with stamps, postcards, letters and 1st day covers with emphasis on the “Girl from Bora Bora” issue by Gandon.

Peter Maybury – Paris, postmarks to 1840 including the *Petite Poste* and the subsequent local post from 1795.

JPM

STOP PRESS

Northern Group

Due to unforeseen circumstances the meeting scheduled for Saturday 13 November 2010 is now brought forward to **Saturday 6 November 2010**. Please amend your programme. The usual rules will apply: displays of up to 36 sheets (3 frames) and a maximum 8 minutes of chat.

JPM

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 17 APRIL 2010

Steve Ellis: Maritime Mail

The Southern Group welcomed Steve Ellis who presented a most comprehensive display of Maritime Mail. The opening section concentrated on mail to and from Marseille and ports in the Mediterranean from 1850 and identified in particular the mail of the Levant, Egypt, Corsica, Algeria and Italy – the display being enhanced by a number of entires from the precursor period of the 17th and 18th centuries

This was followed by a section concentrating on the complexities of the transatlantic service from France to and from the USA in the short period 1870-1874. Steve first reflected on the simplicity of the rates arising from the 1857 convention and how the USA initiative to reduce the costs of the postal service led to the difficulties well set out and developed in the display of the rates applicable to the routes from France to the USA direct and in transit through the UK.

The presentation ended with what Steve called a diversion and displayed covers and cards illustrating the shipping lines calling at French ports, of which he has identified forty-three to date

Members appreciated this fine presentation and the quality of the material and showed their acclaim in the usual way.

The next meeting will be on Saturday 21 August, when the display will be French Postal Markings by Alan Carter and other members.

Members present: Michael Annells, Michael Berry, Graham Booth, Colin Clarkson, Roy Ferguson, John Hammonds, Colin Spong, John Yeomans.

Guest: Alf Taylor; and the refreshments were looked after by Jean Hammonds and Pat Spong.

JY

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 21 APRIL 2010

Ian Nutley: Mermoz Line - Air France

Ian first apologised that although he was about to illustrate the story of a French airline, the majority of his material was not French. He then explained that a World War I industrialist called Latécoère had founded an aircraft factory with the intention of forming an airline to the west coast of South America. His first cover was dated 1919, for the route Toulouse to Casablanca, when a service was set up twice a week by a Bréguet 14 aircraft that reduced the time for the journey from 7-10 days to 30-48 hours.

In 1922 the airmail surcharge was reduced and red bordered envelopes were introduced to indicate airmail. Two years later the route was extended from Morocco to Dakar, and in 1925 an airmail route was explored down the coast of South America to Brazil. The business was sold out to the new company of Aéropostale, which opened new routes to South America – though crossing the Andes to Chile by rail.

Guillaumet flew the first regular service Argentina-Chile, and the exploits of these early pilots were encapsulated in the novels of one of them, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Ian showed examples of many of these first flights, which included passengers being carried from Toulouse to Dakar (and being given booklets enabling them to plot their route) and involved some crashes (such as the example we were shown of one from 1925 in Alicante, Spain, after which the remains of a letter had been forwarded).

By 1928 a regular service was ready to open from Europe to South America – though we saw further crash mail from that year and mail that was delayed for various reasons. This was a service that was used by the British, though it was very expensive until a further reduction of the rates in 1931.

The second part of the display started with another crash in 1930, but an item from this had also been identified by a local expert as the earliest example of Henlow Camp postmarks. The airmail service was now spreading to Brazil, Peru, Argentina and Paraguay – though the journey often had to be completed by boat. We were shown further crash mail from 1932-33 and 1937-38, and a number of flight covers signed by Mermoz.

In 1933 the existing airlines merged into Air France, and in the following two years experimental long-distance flights began. Ian displayed a variety of cachets as well as stamps (including some high value ones for the airmail rates), and illustrated how the all-air service developed – though it later reverted to an air + sea service.

Mermoz himself was lost without trace in 1936, and we saw the anniversary stamps produced in 1938. Other pilots who had been involved in these pioneering flights were killed in World War II. Airmail services were suspended during the war, but some flights to South America were possible in 1940 and we saw examples of the last mail before the occupation of France prevented onward transmission. We were also shown some that had been detained in France during the German occupation from 1940 and that was only delivered in 1945.

The vote of thanks for an interesting and colourful display was given by Bill Mitchell.

Present: Len Barnes, Mick Bister, Godfrey Bowden, Michael Fairhead, Chris Hitchen, Hugh Loudon, Bill Mitchell, Barbara Priddy, John Thorpe, Maurice Tyler.

Apologies: Alan Barrett, John Parmenter, Derek Richardson.

MST

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 6 MAY 2010

John West: France, The Red Cross

This was the third of a trilogy of displays featuring the subject of France & the Red Cross, and members were treated to a feast of the vignettes issued, primarily, to raise funds for the benefit of the organisation.

The display split quite nicely into three sections, the first of which featured the issues of the “*Société de Secours aux Blessés Militaires*”, the “*Association des Dames Françaises*” and the “*Union des Femmes Françaises*”. John took the opportunity to enlarge upon the story of Henri Dunant – which often ends with the signing of the Geneva Convention in 1864 – and provided little known information about his struggle to survive during the following 25 years. He also described the formation of the three societies which comprised the French Red Cross up until the Second World War. He showed a comprehensive cross-section of the various issues of these three organisations, even including evidence of missing values and colours etc.

The second section featured a display of the material printed by M. Gaston Fontanille, better known as “Éditions Delandre”. John added the extremely colourful background of this rogue printer – who invented French committees of the Red Cross from all parts of the globe and then printed vignettes purporting to be issued on their behalf! He also insidiously permeated the genuine market of Red Cross vignettes, first of all by printing material at the request of the genuine societies and, when his printing

company had become synonymous with the issue of this material, on his own behalf.

Fontanille was able – illegally – to import the best paper and inks from Germany and – love him or hate him – he succeeded in producing an avalanche of stunningly designed and printed vignettes. He used multi-coloured printing techniques which were far in advance of those used by the Government Printing Works and left a legacy of the most spectacular material. John’s display included a comprehensive display of the issues, from Alexandria to Yunnan, of the non-existent committees, and he also provided an insight into the printing methods used at the workshop of Éditions Delandre. The section ended with the very visible deterioration in the quality of his issues brought about by the evaporation of his supply of top quality paper and ink and, also, his arrest in 1917 for fraud.

The third section dealt with the vignettes of World War II, of which there were very few, and those issued shortly thereafter – generally to coincide with the regular annual Red Cross exhibitions that were held in France. As a little bonus, the members were treated to a small display featuring the series “*Monuments de Paris*”. This included all the booklets of 10 and the booklets of 20 and illustrated how each booklet contained combinations of these vignettes which were unique to the individual booklets.

Mick Bister gave the vote of thanks.

JCW

Titanic Covers that Missed the Boat

Continued from page 69

displayed evidence of it and the franking would have been 50 centimes (25c postage + 25c registration); turning the covers over should have revealed handling by the registered mail branch of the US Postal Service – they do not; all there is, are markings for ordinary mail.

The **PARIS R.P. ÉTRANGER** marks are made by the 2 heads of a cancelling machine working with no bars between heads. Cover 267942 shows the bars in situ. Using “registration” in a non-postal sense and taking into account the shape of the digits, I am of the opinion that the six-figure numbers have been applied by a registry in the Winter Co.

By 1912, the UPU had been in existence for over thirty years and few countries had not joined. The benefits were great, especially as tariffs were now standardised between member countries. There were no more varying rates between shipping line and shipping line and even individual ships. The previous tedious and often fruitless searches for the fastest, safest and least expensive route and vessel were over. Pre-payment reigned and superscription of Line, of Captain’s favour, of shipping agent or vessel was extinguished.

The Post Office of a country did not designate or impose a particular vessel’s name on an item of mail or a bundle of mail: their remit was to send the mail on the first available packet. Later, sometimes, arrangements might be made

specially for propaganda; the *SS Normandie* is an example, but for anyone to advance such a theory in regard to the PTT and the *Titanic* is ludicrous.

The choice of vessel, to carry one’s mail, has always been the prerogative of the sender; governments have tried to control and have spied on mail from the earliest times. The suggestion that the word **TITANIC** handstamped on the 8 covers viewed was carried out by the Foreign Branch of the PTT in Paris is completely untenable.

Since the *RMS Titanic* was British, there is no likelihood that *La Poste* would have arranged a special handling for mail which senders wanted to travel by the *Titanic*. Should anyone in France have desired ocean travel for their mail by that White Star liner, they could have arranged for it to take place by posting to the liners’ agency at Cherbourg; that patently was not so done.

Mr. Fortunato finds it interesting that after 20 years searching, only 9 covers, all to one firm, have been recorded. I find it suspicious and one more reason why I end up convinced that these covers had the handstamp *TITANIC* added to them with fraudulent intent, at some time shortly before they started to appear. What I am unable to decide is where the fraud originated: whether in America or Britain.

SOCIETY'S 34th ANNUAL PHILATELIC WEEKEND 12-14 MARCH 2010

43 members and 17 guests attended the Society's Annual Weekend at the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Friday

A Committee Meeting was held in the afternoon, but the Weekend opened in earnest after dinner on the first evening, when Joint Organisers Peter Kelly and Chris Hitchen welcomed those attending and invited the usual impromptu short displays.

Mick Bister opened proceedings with recent additions to his collection of the Coats of Arms issues; **Maurice Tyler** showed a variety of propaganda cards from World War I; **André Métayer** had brought some dead letters and items from the Messageries Maritimes; **Derek Richardson** displayed some 5c red Sower stamps that had been printed on the picture side of postcards as a publicity stunt 1908-10; **George Barker** reviewed the 1917 Orphans issue, stressing the three different printings involved; **Alan Wood** had some priority, registered airmail letters France to England 1993-2008; **Mavis Pavey** showed some *car* postal cancellations 1937 and PTT mobile exhibitions cachets of 1967; **Alan Wishart** showed a selection of entires from Rotterdam illustrating the postal markings in use during the French occupation 1795-1813 and their continued use up to 1837; and **Chris Hitchen** showed Paris newspaper rates and cancels from the 18th and 19th centuries.

The second and last session in the evening began with **Paul Watkins** and cross-Channel mail by irregular routes from the 17th to the 20th centuries; **Godfrey Bowden** had brought folded business postcards that were used between 1917 and 1980; **John Parmenter** displayed pictures and publicity from the Oscar Roty Museum; **Maurice Porter** illustrated the packet service 1814-15 at the end of the Napoleonic War; **Brian Weeks** uttered a cry for help with some RF overprints on former French Colonial stamps (illustrated on page 4 of the last Journal); **Brian Lythgoe** displayed perf and imperf and fdc examples of the scarce 1962 reunification issues of both French and British Cameroons; and **Steve Ellis** rounded off the evening with maritime mail to and from the USA by the Fabre Line.

Saturday

The following morning **Mick Bister** opened his Presidential Display of the Life and Times of the 1F50 Pétain by showing a cover he had received as a free gift from an approval dealer in 1952. It was a 1944 souvenir cover franked with the 1F50 Pétain overprinted with the Cross of Lorraine, a General de Gaulle vignette and a *Poste Spéciale FFI* cancellation. It would be another twenty years before another Pétain item was added to it.

In order to put the 1F50 Pétain into context the first frame was devoted to examples of the series to which it belonged issued from 1941 onwards and comprising designs by Prost, Bersier and Lemagny. Examples of dated corner blocks and postal usage were shown including a rarely seen example of the 4F50 Interior Registered Letter Rate being accepted on mail to the Red Cross in Geneva.

Mick proceeded then to focus on the 1F50 value in brown

issued in 1942. Examples of the first and last day of printing were shown, together with artist's proofs with and without the value, trial printings, booklets and private postal stationery. Examples of spectacular varieties included a full sheet of 100 *imprimé sur raccord* complete with the two pink *sonnettes* and an albino printing caused by a parasitic section of selvage which had masked part of the printing cylinder.

A whole frame was devoted to the *Secours National* +50 SN overprint in carmine on blue which opened with proofs and a copy of the so-called 'unissued' printing in black on brown. Mick explained that through studying documents at the *Musée de la Poste* he had discovered that the printing in brown was simply a test printing and had never been intended for issue.

Examples of various forgeries and propaganda issues emanating from London, Nice, Marseille and Paris were displayed. Amongst them was a 'threat card', sent by the Nice Resistance to suspected collaborators which had been enclosed in a visiting card envelope franked by a de Gaulle vignette based on the 1F50 Pétain design. These were followed by a frame of Liberation overprints including a trial sheet of the *Lyon RF* overprint and the document authorising the overprinting of the 1F50 in Montreuil-Bellay and signed by the mayor.

Postal tariffs were covered next with examples of rates met by the single and multiple usage of the 1F50 Pétain. These included the concessionary 1F50 rate for sending registered letters to Pétain and for sending mail to forces abroad. Multiple usage ranged from the 3F pneumatic mail rate in Marseille to the 6F land registry rate and the 12F foreign express delivery rate.

The remainder of the display was devoted to items of postal history all franked with the 1F50 Pétain. Topics covered included the effects of occupation and demarcation, mail sent under Italian administration, prisoner mail, censored and confiscated mail, relationships with the Colonies, the allied invasion, covert mail, the establishment of the provisional government and the German pockets. Among the highlights were a covert letter to René Cassin. Chief Advisor to de Gaulle at his headquarters in Carlton Gardens, a letter to a an officer held in the Cherche-Midi prison complete with *papillon*, a letter to a TOTD worker in Jersey, an example of the bicycle *estafette* mail service operating in Laval and correspondence sent under *recommandation d'office* to de Gaulle after his arrival in Paris.

After a break for viewing **John Hammonds** took up the reins with a display of airmails involving the 15 non-African French colonies, scattered around the world between Levant and the West Indies, where possible linking the appropriate colony with a direct flight. He started with France - Indo-China, explaining the difficulties encountered when setting up the route from 1929 onwards, leading to the formation of Air Orient in 1931 and then Air France in 1933, until services ceased in late 1941. Similarly details were given of early experimental flights and the development of regular services to New Caledonia (up to 1948); the Pacific islands of Wallis & Futuna, Tahiti, Bora Bora and New Hebrides (including the modern period to 1980);

St Pierre et Miquelon (1931-1948); and the West Indies (from the internal *Transports Aériens Guyanais* service of 1919-22 until the Pan American Airways service of 1939).

Barbara Priddy then displayed French West Africa air-mails 1923-1942. The first route considered was Toulouse-Dakar down the west coast of Africa, starting with a survey flight in 1923 and including attempts to cross the South Atlantic, the acceleration of a scheduled service 1928 with avisos and despatch boats, the Mermoz flight of 1930, the *Arc-en-Ciel* flight of 1933, and leading to the inauguration of a twice weekly service Dakar-Casablanca in 1938. The second route covered was the trans-Saharan one from a 1925 survey flight to the development of scheduled flights and feeder routes in the late 1930s. The display also included various crash mail, some civil flights that continued after the beginning of the war in 1939, interzone cards and WWII mail that was returned to sender because of the suspension of most services (with queries about how far the mail managed to reach in certain cases).

After the coffee break **Peter Kelly** showed registered and insured mail of the *Type Sage* period (1876-1900). He started with the different registration and insurance rates displayed chronologically, including mixed franking with the previous Cérès/Siege issue, maximum value insurance rates and heavy letters. This was followed by mail from the different categories of office and ended with a selection of 'affranchissements', 'chargements', 'guichets' and 'articles d'argent' cancellations. Afterwards, there was a lively discussion as to why only some of the offices used these marks and this forms part of an ongoing study.

John Yeomans displayed French Equatorial Africa. He first described the geographical situation and extent of the territory, and outlined its history, starting with the establishment of trading posts along the coast of Gabon. In 1875 the exploration of the River Ogowe and the opening of the way to the River Congo by Pierre de Brazza led to its economic and administrative development and to significant expansion after 1890. This expansion spread inland and between 1895 and 1920 involved at different times Gabon, the Lower Congo, the Middle Congo, Lower Ubangi, Upper Ubangi, the Shari Basin and Chad. The postal services that resulted were shown in a variety of mail from the Gabon First Regime 1862-1888 (including missionary mail 1867 to Bonito and the GAB lozenge cancellation 1870) and the Gabon Congo Regime 1889-1891 (including 1991 Libreville to Berlin together with a very uncommon example of a 10Pf postal stationery card to Mayumba with attached response card to Germany). We then saw items from the French Congo First Regime 1891-1904 with Gabon, Middle Congo, Ubangi-Shari and Chad under one administration (such as mail from the 1898 *Mission Saharienne* in Chad) and the Second Regime 1904-1910 when Gabon separated in 1904 and Middle Congo in 1907 (with an uncommon example of a 1907 postcard 10c rate from Coco Beach to Brazil). Finally we were shown marks of the first post offices opening in Libreville 1862, Brazzaville 1890, Bangui 1893 and Fort Lamy 1905.

After lunch **Chris Hitchen** showed newspapers and a variety of printed matter between 1900 and 1937. The rate for newspapers under wrapper remained unchanged from 1878 until 1937 at 1c for the first weight step locally and

2 centimes inland. The regulations were relaxed in 1901 to allow newspapers to be packaged by any method that allowed easy checking including unsealed envelopes rather than strictly under wrapper as previously. In 1907 there were further price reductions for partial sorting done by the sender. Examples of all these rates were displayed including wrappers with a ½ centime handstamp because of the lack of a postage stamp of that value and registered newspapers with the reduced registered rate for printed matter. Early precancelled material followed and the point was made that there was only a cost saving for the first weight step, but it did provide a faster service because less sorting needed to be done by the post office.

A display of Mediterranean maritime mail by **Steve Ellis** dealt with correspondence between Marseille and the Italian coastal ports, from the precursors of the early years through the state operated *paquebot* service, the Messageries contract service and the non-contract commercial services. In relation to these latter routes, the display examined entry marks (both French and Italian on Marseille mail), steamship company and agency cachets, and considered the actual operating companies themselves.

Peter Maybury also covered maritime mail in his display, but dealt with *bateaux à vapeur* services linking the towns east of Algiers prior to 1880. Thus the display covered the shipping lines, non-postal vessels, routes and rates from Marseille to Algiers, Marseille to Philippeville (Stora) and Bône and the lateral coastal line linking Algiers to Bône via Dellys, Bougie and Djidjelli, linking to the feeder line for Tunis via La Calle. Of note were the covers bearing the name-stamps of non-contracted postal vessels and the very rarely seen Djidjelli *B à V* and *B.M.* marks.

André Métayer had chosen as his topic the postal history of St Malo up to the appearance of the first stamp in January 1849. He showed items illustrating the first handwritten marks of departure (*de St Malo*), followed by its printed form and then the replacement of the word "de" by the *département* number ("34"). The revolutionary period saw the change of name to Port-Malo, though the port eventually reverted to the original name and former postal markings. In the early 19th century came some experimental cachets giving the date of departure, followed by Types 11, 12 and 13 date stamps and other developments. André then explained the *Port Payé* marks used in the town and the system of *Déboursés* used to adjust post office accounts. He finally showed the evolution of entry marks, and drew attention to some letters with particularly interesting contents such as one of 1733 from the War of Succession to the Kingdom of Poland and the activities of Belgian privateers operating from Ostend, and some from the American War of Independence 1777-78.

After the tea break **Philip Mackey** displayed the Golden Era of Louis Napoleon III. A summary of the political history of the period after the Second Republic was declared on 24 February 1848 became the background to the issue of postage stamps – from the first Cérès design, through the first use of the Louis Napoleon effigy, in its imperforate and perforated, non-laureated and laureated varieties, via the work of M. Hulot, to the Siege and Bordeaux issues. The Franco-Prussian War brought the Balloon Posts, blockade runners, Pigeon Posts and *Boules de Moulins*.

This period was fully illustrated with essays, proofs and trials of the stamps and items of postal history.

Godfrey Bowden displayed World War II Algeria and Tunisia. He began with some letters of 1940 before the Franco-German Armistice, including some FM and commercial mail, and followed this section with some items sent after the Armistice, including Return to Sender items. He claimed he had little of interest in the period 1941-1942 before the Allied invasion, but showed among other items a *Boîte Mobile* internal letter and two examples of the economy re-use of envelopes. In the following period from the Allied landings in May 1943 to the German surrender in Tunis we saw some censored letters addressed to the Red Cross in Geneva, various FPOs and a letter to the UK with the postmark obliterated. The final section of the display, covering May 1943 until the end of 1944, presented a variety of material including further FPOs and censoring, forwarded mail evacuated by sea from hospital in Tunisia to the UK, postal stationery used by US forces, some non-military mail to the UK, a letter with the 'Liberation of Tunisia' heavily surcharged stamp (1F50 + 8F50) used in June 1943, and a front from a parcel bearing 1228F postage to Canada cancelled with the cds of the '*Comité de la Libération*' and the OAT (onward air transmission) imprint Type 1.

Alan Wood showed Algeria up to 1900. He explained that the country has a fertile Mediterranean coastal strip which is heavily populated and has mercantile and farming industries, producing rice, cotton, tobacco, figs and dates, and that inland are the Atlas mountains beyond which stretches the vast Sahara desert. As part of the Ottoman Empire from 1554 Algeria was attacked and captured by the French in 1830, and its conquest was completed by 1848. French stamps were in use in Algeria until 1923. Initially they were cancelled by the *grille* postmark but from 1852-1863 small numeral postmarks denoted the place of origin and from 1863 to 1876 the larger numerals were in use. In 1876 circular date stamps were introduced as cancellers. The country was divided for administrative purposes into three provinces with centres in Oran, Algeria and Constantine.

After a very satisfying dinner members reassembled for a second session of short displays. **Maurice Tyler** opened with some World War I postcards featuring Alsace-Lorraine, various novelty cards and the Anti-malaria Mission to the *Armée d'Orient* in Salonika; **Ashley Lawrence** followed with Napoleon and the weather; **André Métayer** had brought a letter by an immigrant in Jersey fleeing the French Revolution and involving a long journey and a misinterpretation of the Battle of Waterloo; **Bob Paterson** showed 1949 Stamp Centenary material; **Prue Henderson** had a set of souvenirs inside a folder of the 1949 Stamp Centenary; **Paul Watkins** displayed 19th century Anglo-French mails; **George Barker** had brought a postal stationery item from Indo-China 1908 with an illustration inside; **Peter Kelly** showed advertising on envelopes; and **Jeremy Martin** showed post being delivered in various countries illustrated on a series of postcards printed in France. A second and final session had **Philip Mackey** displaying definitives of Napoleon III including balloon post items.

Sunday

The final day of the weekend began with **George Barker** displaying the General Issues for the Colonies, which he described as a working collection in course of expansion, trying to demonstrate the development of the issues and their usage. He explained that in 1859, after some years of hesitation, the issue of the "Eagles" took place, initially 10c and 40c values and then other values, 1c, 5c, 20c and 80c. These stamps were supplied for use in any of the 15 colonies involved. Printings were made annually if there was a demand from one or more colonies, and these varied in tint. George collects chronologically by value and by territory of use, but he says the larger task of allocating individual stamps to their respective printings still awaits him. The Franco-Prussian War brought these imperial issues to a grinding halt, and the establishment of the Third Republic brought about again the use of the Cérès design plus laureated and non-laureated values. The 2c and 4c Cérès were included in the display, but Stone (a pioneer worker) made the point forcibly that they should not be included in the general issues. There followed 15c, 25c and other Cérès issues up to 1877. Then came the use of the Sage design (imperforate), and finally a special perforated issue, the Dubois, provided in 1881, though still in the style of a general issue for the colonies. George closed with the postage dues, in particular the 1F, 2F and 5F in black, the so-called "*non-émis*".

Brian Brookes showed Martinique, the Second British Occupation from 1794 until they finally left in 1816. We saw two types of the straight line Martinique, followed by both the Martinique and Fort Royal dated handstamps, the crowned oval Martinique Ship Letter and the Martinique in an octagonal frame.

Prue Henderson illustrated the development of the French railways. She explained that the first concession for a railed track with horse-drawn wagons was passed by law in February 1823, for a 23km stretch between Andrézieux and St Étienne for the carriage of coal products, taxed at 186F per kilometre. A second ordinance approved the route and the *Société Anonyme, Compagnie de Chemin de Fer de St Étienne à la Loire*, was formed for 99 years with a capital of one million francs. The line opened in 1828. In 1826 the second concession was granted for a line St Étienne to Lyon. A note of caution was raised over the accounts, but the Government had absolute control over concessions and the new line was financed with a capital of ten million francs. By 1832 on this line there were trials of traction by a steam locomotive with a "*chaudière tubulaire*" that gave more power to the engine. The next new line, Montbrison to Montrond, had objections raised by the legislature to the use of steam, but the Government stepped in and overruled by passing the relevant law. By the 1840s, on hearing that England had a railway from London to Folkestone and Dover, the Government woke up and demanded a line to the sea, preferably at Le Havre, with branches to Dieppe and Rouen. Prue gave examples of the taxes charged in 1857 for carrying various forms of article, and in particular the excess charge for animals carried on a passenger train. Small local lines were built entirely by private

enterprise, and eventually the State had to step in and join up the gaps.

After a pause for viewing we had a display of airmails by **Michael Annells**, which started with postcards of pilots flown at Aviation Meetings. We saw two copies of Paris-London flights with a 3F surcharge for airmail which was in force for less than a year, a cover to London with both the initial airmail overprints posted one day late, and two copies of a card commemorating the Paris-Brussels-Paris rapid airmail with green and blue labels.

Brian Lythgoe showed a selection of items from the French Cameroons of the 1930/1960 period detailing the many proofs and imperforate issues as well as one accepted and two rejected artists' drawings of the 1958 10th anniversary of the UNO issue.

With the regretted absence of John West, **Maurice Tyler** took the opportunity to expand his display of the World War I military infrastructure to fill the gap. He started with a general review of the *Intendance Militaire* (Service Corps) marks such as *CO(M)A* and *SHR*, involving not only storekeepers and accountants but also hay balers, butchers, firemen and customs officers. A section on supplies included a gunpowder factory, a searchlight unit, a boot factory, a field bakery, ration coupons and protected meat stores. Then came transport, with the *GVC* (*gardes des voies de communication*) or home guard, roadmenders, a company of bargees, and cyclists in the cavalry. Signals were represented by the *télégraphie militaire* cachets, and a section on animals included pigeons, Red Cross dogs, a Blue Cross wounded horses depot, a centre for the evacuation of horses and even a convalescent horses depot. Other topics illustrated included charities for relief work, the "La Provence" Pleasure House, a bacteriology laboratory, propaganda organisations, chaplains, and training centres. Maurice ended by reading out a report to a hospital by a patient denying "unfounded" accusations that he had thrown an official out of the window and swallowed some coffee spoons.

After the coffee break **Bryan Wood** started his display with a letter on vellum of 1157 from a French bishop giving authority for the appointment of a priest. This was followed by pre-stamp items with early postal markings prior to the Revolution, Revolutionary markings including the French Army in Italy, and the *Petite Poste* of Paris and Bordeaux.

Mavis Pavey displayed philatelic exhibitions during World War II. She told us that as she collected material for her philatelic exhibition collection she was surprised to find how many exhibitions had been held during the German Occupation of France. Her display showed some of these, but omitting the Paris exhibitions of 1941, 1942 and 1943 to bring only items from the smaller towns and cities. A great many were held with the view of providing benefits for people made homeless by the war or for prisoners of war, by such activities as the sale of souvenir postcards. She said that considering the shortage of paper she was still surprised by the amount of souvenir material that it was possible to produce.

Bob Paterson gave a short display of commemorative and charity issues used on cover, covering the 1930s and 1940s up to the fall of France and the start of the Pétain regime.

In the final display of the weekend **Jeremy Martin** traced the development of the French air route to West Africa between 1925 and 1940. The first cover shown was the December 1925 first flight by air, rail and car from Dakar to Zinder, backstamped 6 January 1926. This was followed by early covers from Toulouse to Dakar and vice versa. Then came some trans-Sahara examples and cachets used by *Aéromaritime* on their route from Dakar. The display ended with a cover from the March 1938 crash of the plane that failed to fly over the Pyrenees and a June 1940 badly damaged cover retrieved from the plane shot down over Ouistreham. [See the front cover and Figs 1-2 on pages 80 and iii.]

The weekend came to an end before lunch with the presentation of awards. The Literature Award 2009 was won by **Mick Bister** for his Journal article "Postes, Prost and Pétain." The Levett Trophy for the best display by a member who had not won a Society competition prize previously was won by **John Yeomans**. The Filmer Shield for the best display on stamps was won by **George Barker**. The Jubilee Salver for the best postal history display was won by **Brian Brookes**. A short review of the weekend revealed that those attending were very happy with the venue and the arrangements made, and it was agreed that we should return to the same hotel next year, 18-20 March 2011. Our President Mick Bister expressed the gratitude of members to **Peter Kelly** and **Chris Hitchen** for their usual immaculate organisation, and to **Marian Bister**, **Jean Hammonds** and **Annette Tyler** for their management of the bookstall and bourse, which had again proved very profitable to the Society.

The following members were present for all or part of the weekend:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Maurice Alder | Jeremy Martin |
| John Allison | Peter Maybury |
| Michael Annells | André Métayer |
| George Barker | Héloïse Mitchell |
| Len Barnes | John Parmenter |
| Mick Bister | Bob Paterson |
| Godfrey Bowden | Mavis Pavey |
| Brian Brookes | Maurice Porter |
| Hamish Clifton | Barbara Priddy |
| Steve Ellis | Mike Rego |
| Colin Graham | Derek Richardson |
| Victor Guillem | Tony Shepherd |
| John Hammonds | Willy Stephens |
| Prue Henderson | Richard Stupples |
| Chris Hitchen | Maurice Tyler |
| Peter Kelly | Paul Watkins |
| Ashley Lawrence | Brian Weeks |
| Graham Lenton | Alan Wishart |
| Hugh Loudon | Alan Wood |
| Brian Lythgoe | Bryan Wood |
| Philip Mackey | John Yeomans |
| Lesley Marley | |

MST



Figure 1

The front and reverse of a commercial cover to Minna in Nigeria, from Glasgow in 1935, rated at 9d per oz:

Air France took it to Dakar.

The cover has been marked "Air Mail via Sierra Leone.

It took 17 days to get from Dakar to Lagos!

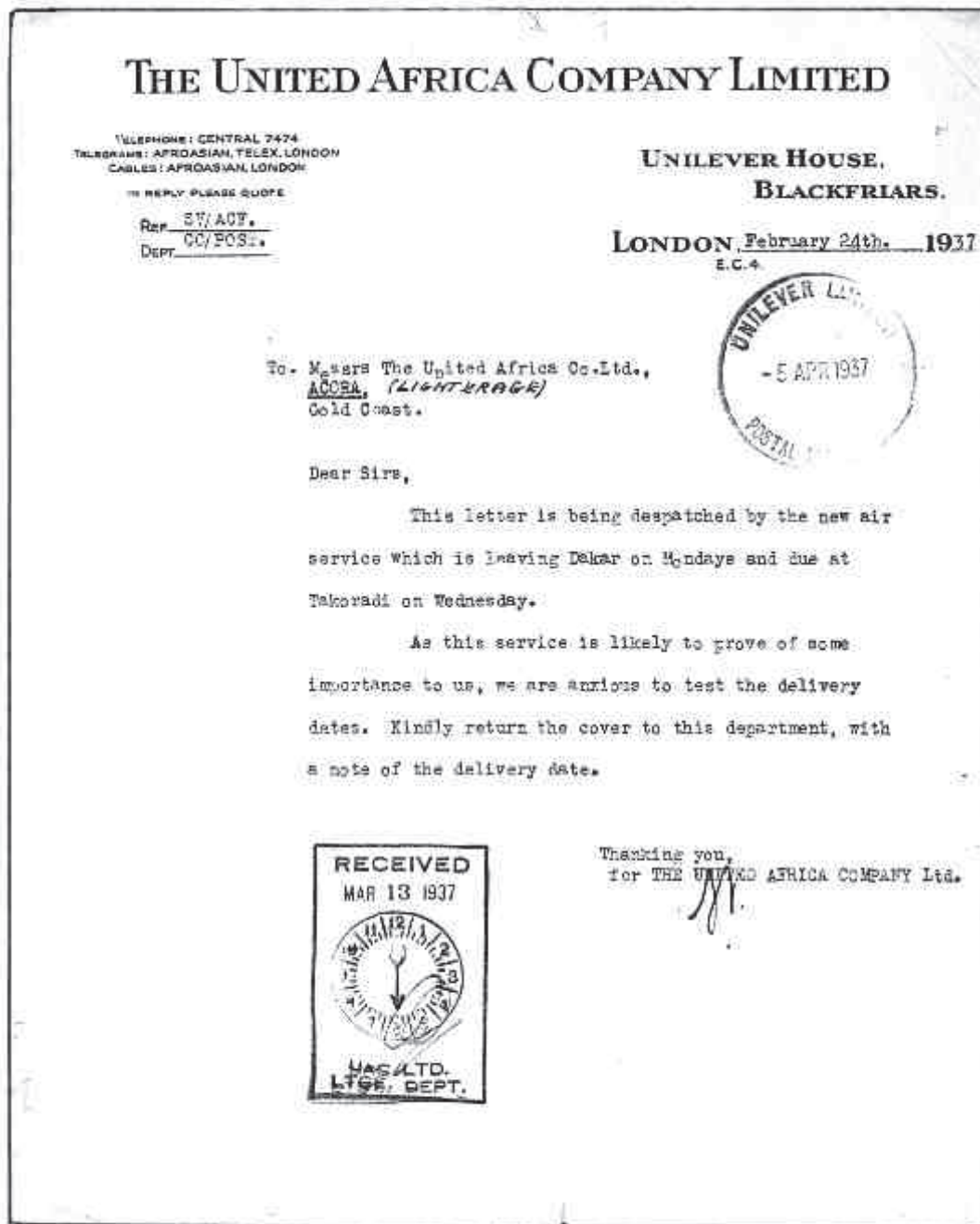


Figure 2

Firms such as The United Africa Company Limited were keen for transit times to be speeded up. This illustration [70% actual size] shows a test letter to see if this was so.

CHARLECOTE WEEKEND 2010



Barbara Priddy giving her display



Members viewing a display



Hamish Clifton



Brian Lythgoe



Philip Mackey



Michael Annells



Mick Bister
receiving the Literature Award
from competition organiser Steve Ellis



John Yeomans receiving the Levett Trophy
from President Mick Bister
& Weekend Joint Organiser Peter Kelly



George Barker
receiving the Filmer Shield
from President Mick Bister

July 2010 Auction - Selected Lots

See also pages 70 and 71



ex Lot 241



Lot 273



Lot 244



Lot 247



Lot 259



Lot 277