

# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



In 1938 a local letter from Paris bears the red registration label.  
This illustration represents Figure 31 in a major article by Alan Wood  
on French Registration and Insurance starting on page 97.

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Whole Number 257

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

**Society Website: [www.fcps.org.uk](http://www.fcps.org.uk)**

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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**

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**The Journal**

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

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For further details contact the circuit organiser:

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# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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

E-mail: editor@fcps.org.uk

Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

**Volume 60 Number 3**

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## SOCIETY NOTES

### New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1372 R L Thurnham (Gwent), 1373 Hans A Smith (London), 1374 Jean-Luc Raffel (France), 1375 John S Bowering (Somerset), 1376 Graham T Beresford (Middlesex).

\* \* \*

### Members Deceased

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

1274 P H L Hills, 1246 Peter R Twiddy.

\* \* \*

### Future Events

The **London Group** will meet at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 6.30pm on Wednesday 20 October 2010 when Alan Wishart will display "A Claimjamimrie out of the Auld Alliance," and at 6.30pm on Wednesday 17 November 2010 when Colin Spong and John Parmenter will display "Some Wartime Madagascar;" the Philatex meeting at the New Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1 at 3.00pm on Saturday 6 November 2010 will feature Alan Wood on "Classic France," and for those members interested this will be followed by a supper at 5.45pm at Il Posto Ristorante Italiano, 316a Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, London SW1V 1AA.

The **Southern Group** will meet at 2.00pm on Saturday 16 October 2010 at the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, East Worthing when Andrew Watton will display Corsica.

The **Northern Group** will meet at 1.00pm on Saturday 6 November 2010 in the Board Room, Leeds General Infirmary, Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3EX for a Members' Choice meeting (displays of up to 36 sheets = 3 frames and a maximum 8 minutes of chat).

The **Wessex Group** will meet at 10.00am on Saturday 16 October 2010 at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham, Salisbury (with lunch at the Mill Inn), when Alan Wood will display a varied selection of French Postal History from different periods; this will be followed in the afternoon by members' short displays.

The **Scottish Group** will meet in Room 1, Cross House, Linlithgow at 1.00pm on Saturday 18 September 2010 for a joint meeting with the Germany & Colonies P S, at which Alan Wishart will display a French Miscellany and Archie Hunter will display German Booklets and Booklet Panes; and on Saturday 13 November 2010 when Peter Brand will display Naval Mail and David Hogarth will display a World War II Miscellany.

\* \* \*

### Erratum

In the last issue of the Journal new member Mrs Jan Gane was listed as being from Warwick. This should have read "(Warwick,) Australia". Our apologies for the Editor's misreading of the information sent him!

\* \* \*

### Southern Group Programme

16 Oct 2010 - Andrew Watton: Corsica  
9 Apr 2011 - Philip Mackey: The Louis Napoleon Issues  
20 Aug 2011 - TBC  
8 Oct 2011 - Ian Booth: Niger

Venue given in Future Events at left; for further information please contact the Organiser Colin Spong, telephone 01903 709404.

\* \* \*

### Scottish Group Programme

18 Sep 2010 - Joint Meeting with Germany & Cols PS  
Alan Wishart: French Miscellany  
Archie Hunter: German Booklets & Booklet Panes  
13 Nov 2010 - Peter Brand: Naval Mail  
David Hogarth: World War II Miscellany  
26 Mar 2011 - Russell Walker: French Aviation

Venue given in Future Events at left; for further information please contact the Organiser Mavis Pavey, telephone 01896 830120.

\* \* \*

### London Group Programme

Owing to an unforeseen circumstance the speaker for Saturday 20 February 2011 has changed. Mr Brian Brookes will now present his display to the Branch in the autumn of 2011, and will be replaced at the February Philatex meeting by Mr George Barker, who has volunteered to speak on French Classic Issues, Part 2.

Details for the remainder of 2010 are given in Future Events at left; meetings for 2011 are as follows:

19 Jan 2011 - Stuart Henderson: French Cinderellas  
26 Feb 2011 - George Barker: French Classics 1870-1876  
16 Mar 2011 - John Hammonds: French Aviation  
20 Apr 2011 - Stephen Holder: French Postcards  
7 May 2011 - AGM (11.30am) & Auction (2.00pm)

Wednesday meetings and the AGM will be at the Calthorpe Arms; Philatex meetings on Saturdays will be at the Royal Horticultural Halls and followed by a meal for interested members. Full details of the venues are given in Future Events at left.

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Continued on page iii



## BOOKSHELF

### Books Noted

*Timbres fiscaux des colonies françaises (Colonies - Départements - Mandats - Protectorats - Territoires - Zones d'occupation) - Le Maghreb: Algérie, Maroc, Tanger et Tunisie*; pub. Cercle d'Étude de la Philatélie Fiscale; in colour; price 40€ for non-members; available from Madame Irène Daniel – Secrétaire Générale du CEPF, 66 boulevard Garibaldi, 75015 Paris. [Lists over 2500 fiscal stamps from the colonies of North Africa; first volume of a work which will present the 55 geographical entities marked by a French presence; deals with subjects such as ex-service-

men, foreigners' identity cards, bills of lading, customs service, passports, hunting permits, receipts, stamp duty, local taxes...]

*Le territoire de Memel - Documents postaux, oblitérations et affranchissements* by B Jusserand & R Pineau; pub. ColFra; 34pp; price 25€; available from Alain Hurpet, BP 5, 10230 Mailly-le-Camp. [Postal history of this territory situated between Prussia and Lithuania which was occupied by French troops 1920-23 and made use of surcharged stamps whose use is studied and abundantly illustrated here.]

Maurice Tyler

**Stanley Gibbons Catalogue, Part 6, France, 7th edition 2010; xvii + 429pp, 210 x 297mm. ISBN-13 978-0-85259-756-9; ISBN-10 0-85259-756-8. Price £44.95.**

As all F&CPS members and most British collectors will already know, SG Part 6 is the only comprehensive one-volume catalogue in English of France and (pre-independent) Colonies. Rivals exist, but they all take up more space or are less tidily arranged: Scott and Michel's French Cols conveniently house pre- and post-independence issues together but the colonies themselves are scattered A-Z through several volumes; Yvert – with an available page-count at which SG can only weep – takes three volumes to cover the same range as SG; while new-kid-on-the-block Maury (now incorporating slightly older kid Dallay and old hand Cérés) needs five. I hope to review some of the latter next time.

#### Scope and Layout

SG, in this its first edition since 2006, covers – in this order – France, then Colonies (general issues), followed by individual colonies and POs (largely A-Z), then Andorra and Monaco. The DOM/TOMs (Mayotte, New Caledonia, Polynesia, St Pierre & Miquelon, TAAF and Wallis & Futuna) are complete to date – to 2009, anyway: the other colonies are covered only up to independence, a point its publicity could usefully emphasise. In the absence of new editions of Parts 12-14 (Independent Africa A-Z), SG ex-French Africa coverage is confined to the simplified five-volume *Stamps of the World*: non-simplified listings of Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam appear only in Part 21 (South-East Asia).

Despite strong competition from France itself, SG contains a terrific amount to admire. My own favourite features include dates of issue, printing processes and designers' names, and a largely straight-through chronological listing of issues (perfect for those collectors wanting to see the story "as it happens") that takes in airmails, precancels, military franchise, charities and postage dues *en route*. Helpfully for thematicists, SG's captions not only name every portrayed celebrity but also state what he or she did – "Jean de Vienne (admiral)" and so on – save for a few, including one or two unguessable without help (what did

SG 520's Jacquard do, for instance?). France's new issues stop at 2009's 14-value Christmas/New Year set (SG 4707-20, no less); then follows an unpriced listing of machine labels (FRAMAS to some of us, LISAS to others) and priced listings of Council of Europe and UNESCO. The updated Design Index now runs to seven pages, definitives being listed separately from commemoratives. This is most useful, though the *Marianne* group could have mentioned Cheffer, Muller, Luquet, and Beaujard. Merson, startlingly perhaps, appears under O for Olivier.

Three pages on stamp booklets are followed by seven on Philatelic Documents: here, as often in the stamp market, the best-priced are often the duller-looking, those piecemeal definitives that collectors of pretty pictures spurned at the time. The page-and-a-half on Balloons and *Boules* look very helpful to this non-specialist: I leave better-informed judgments on pricings to more expert F&CPS members. SG's page listing those overseas POs which at some time or other used the stamps of France helpfully identifies the relevant lozenge numeral postmarks. There's still no Algeria here, where French stamps were used right up to 1924: snap these up now, while they still lurk unrecognised.

General Colonies follow (1859-1906, plus the 1943-6 Liberation pictorials and dues) – then individual colonies A-Z, with the provisos that, according to SG policy, territories whose names changed are grouped together under the most recent (pre-independent) name. Issues for Obock, Djibouti and French Somali Coast will therefore all be found under F for French Territory of the Afars and Issas (rather than D for current but post-independence Djibouti). Canton, Tchongking (sorry, Chungking), Hoihow and so on are all together after Indo-China – probably more collector-friendly thus than in Yvert, which scatters them A-Z among the other colonies. Some *in-situ* cross-references (like one for Djibouti between Dahomey and Fezzan) would have been helpful to non-experts: a pity there are none such. To locate Upper Senegal & Niger, for instance, collectors without good political history will need to scan and memorise the Contents page (if they can find it, buried as it is on

page v instead of the easier-to-find, and currently blank, inside front cover): it's under F for French Sudan. Anglicizations prevail: collectors should seek Oubangui-Chari under U for Ubangi, and Tchad under C. New Hebrides reverts to the bad old days of listing only French-inscribed issues – a mistake, I feel, given that English-inscribed equivalents were equally valid throughout the islands and their incorporation wouldn't have taken up too much more space. Both French and Spanish Andorra are here, after all.

## Illustrations

To the joy of stamp sorters everywhere, pretty well all illustrations in SG are now in full colour: particularly helpful in this A4 format, where busy collectors and dealers can see more than 40 illustrations at an opening. Many varieties are shown as enlarged computer scans: this is the automatic choice these days and generally valuable, but for certain varieties I still find the old line-drawings far clearer (compare the *Semeuse lignée* 15c variety illustrations with the *Semeuse camée* 10c). Provided, that is, they are updated when required: the 1929-33 5F and 10F enlargements now look a bit tired, and the *Marianne de Muller* are smudgy. The famous imitation perfs of Somali Coast 1894 are described within their listing – fortunately, since they no longer show in the (still black-and-white) illustration. Congo's T10 illustration (the 1900 franc values), also black-and-white, should be larger, not smaller, than T8, and I'm sorry the centimes "tusk variety" is neither illustrated nor even mentioned. But I'm grateful for being shown the extra way one can distinguish French Sage 'N under B' from 'N under U': faced with specimens tiresomely and heavily postmarked over these very letters, I can now check the coastline near the tablet instead. Omnibus Colonial designs all appear *in situ* for Cameroun and French Equatorial Africa, and are cross-referenced thereafter.

## Beyond the 'Simplified' (SOTW, or Stamps of the World)

A world of varieties awaits the SOTW user. SG lists precancels, but only those that don't also exist in unprecanceled form. This may irritate completists (who should turn to Yvert instead for the full range) but is reasonable, given that if carried through worldwide – and if not, why not? – would extend the USA listing by several tens of thousands of items, and thicken out even a more restrained country like Luxembourg. France's 1863-70 bisects and quadrisects, like the 1930 EIPA perfs, are footnoted if not priced. Rareties like the Baudot '1848' (SG 1074 footnote), Missing 7 (Corsica) (2523a) and *Thermalisme Rouge* (2854a), already well-known to streetwise France collectors, will come as revelations to SOTW users: they may be luckier in tracking down the more modest 1961/2 Arcachon with missing *POSTES* (1543a) or Le Touquet with beach in green not brown (1550a). The contemporary Cognac (SG 1546) with missing barges is not listed, probably because intermediate states exist, as they do for the likewise unlisted 1973 Clos-Lucé d'Amboise (2008, and indexed only under A not C for Clos), highly collectable nevertheless with '*République Française*' in green, brown or a mix of the two!

One can dig ever deeper, and fill a page with *Marianne de Decaris* (SG 1494) in all her shades and varieties: SG confines itself to the normal plus two missing colours, and even Yvert is not much more forthcoming. Post-19th-century

shades are sparsely treated, possibly because individual printings are hard to pin down: many collectable varieties exist nevertheless. The Cérès catalogue of France Varieties (2nd edition, 1994, edited by Lœuillet and Françon) was (still is, if available) a revelation in this and many other respects.

Colonial listings throw up welcome surprises to newcomers and SOTW users alike, like the perforation varieties among the engraved 1946/7 pictorials (now twelve to look for in Cameroun alone), though more exist for Togo than the three so far included: very few shades are listed as yet, however, though they abound and the relevant printing dates must be easy to research. No shades are listed for the 1892 Tablet (or '*Groupe*') stamps, nor for the 1906 West African '*Palmiers*', yet a collectable range may easily be made. The 1910s pictorials are accurately noted in both ordinary and chalky papers (even if experts still argue whether the Madagascar chalkies actually exist), though an 'OC' annotation after each value – as SG used to provide with British Commonwealth – would be a time-saving boon for those collectors anxious to collect both versions and who currently have to laboriously cross-check listing with footnote before stock-taking and mounting-up.

Long colonial pictorial sets are usually grouped into (i) original colours, (ii) inflation-generated new colours and values, and (iii) surcharges – but 1920s/30s sets are all lumped together regardless of chronology. Here as elsewhere, SG's dates of issue provide chronological lifelines to collectors trying to plan page after uncrowded page to accommodate them all. Those odd pictorials perf 11, proved by our own David Jennings-Bramly to be bogus, are footnoted as "of doubtful status". The 1912 '05' and '10' wide surcharges are here as ever: those for Dahomey are startlingly described as being 15 and 25mm apart, in-house technological gremlins no doubt misreading some vital decimal points. The correct measurements (listed in good old-fashioned halves for every other colony) are 1.5 and 2.5mm.

## New features

Snappers-up of unrecognized items at stamp fairs should scan the list of new stamps added to this edition: many are hugely rare unissued or missing colours, or (less pricy but very collectable) missing phosphor-bands. Some caveats: references have gone askew round France 2234a/b; France 1438a should be 1437a; 1386a, once looked up, is an error that should actually read '*FFrançaise*' – and new deletions include the perfectly inoffensive Algeria SG43, the 1926 25c green. Newly-added France SG 935a, the engraved 100F *Marianne de Gandon* in rose not carmine, is priced UM at £110 but just 17€ in Yvert, whose similar (150€) price actually refers to this stamp with the "bra-strap" variety.

Design Indexes (or Indices) have been added for Monaco, St Pierre & Miquelon and TAAF: no surprise that penguins and seals predominate among TAAF, and I'm tempted to devise a spoof SPM one with just three entries: S for Snow, C for Cod and I for Ice. SG's final novelty is most enterprising: the once totally unlisted, largely unissued, much despised, and still little-collected Vichy pictorials for the French Colonies have mostly been moved from the main listings and grouped together into a separate section after Wallis & Futuna.

This is, in theory, a great idea: snags lie in wait, however, since a few of them were actually used for postage and therefore still belong in the main listings. SG's new section awards the unissued items 'V' numbers (straight through, 1-497) and prices them (obviously) mint only. Two anomalies remain. There are now almost no cross-references to Vichy items in the main listings, so that non-expert collectors looking there will have no inkling of those pictorials that exist (mint, anyway) either with or without 'RF' in the design, nor of those items similar to issued designs but with vastly different face-values (like the Senegal 1942 airmails, V429-435).

For the benefit of newer collectors, the old main-listing cross-references would have been worth preserving – as they do, presumably through oversight, for just Dahomey, Indo-China, Ivory Coast and Madagascar. More confusingly, those cross-references that do remain quote widely differing prices for the same item – Dahomey's 1942 Airs, for instance, at £4.75 the set of seven when listed as V28-34 but £9.25 when footnoted in the main listing. Conversely, to show the complete Vichy picture at a glance, the odd genuinely issued stamps like Guiana's Pétain pair (correctly retained in the main listing) could have been cross-referenced in the Vichy section too. A few spelling errors and references to wrong type-numbers make me wonder if this section was completed against the clock – and there was space to illustrate the easy-to-come-by but currently hard-to-identify Réunion pictorials of 1943 (SG V 383-402). But here I carp: this is a most laudable first attempt to correlate and draw attention to a cheaply collectable and attractive sideline.

### Pricing

SG's stated minimum price for any item is 10p: nothing here, however, seems to be less than 15p. Prices at this level are notional, of course, given that anything you actually buy from the SG shop would cost you at least £1, but the figure of 10p is worth preserving as a guide to overwhelming commonness, as with those definitives which we all have in sackfuls. Pre-1945 prices are for MM and U, post-1945 UM and U, and SG has had to strike a balance between scarcity and demand – and between the national and international markets. Many France and Cols issues are scarce used on both sides of the Channel, but the (openly acknowledged) reduced demand for them in France keeps prices down over there. The converse applies here for Colonies (see later), but one feels some French-market influence in, say, the pricing of used Relief Fund sets: SG prices pre-Fourth Republic issues higher U than M, but post-Fourth Republic lower, though good sets seem no easier to find. Nothing is priced on cover save for a few France earlyies.

Catalogues like Yvert often tweak individual prices within a set to ensure that the sum (set-price) exactly matches its parts: SG policy, here as elsewhere, is to offer the set at a discount – sometimes so considerable that the true value

of short sets (ie those lacking the high values) is minimal. Colonies collectors in particular may feel that their perseverance in completing any used set at all should be rewarded by a higher, not lower, total price for their endeavours – this is partly offset by SG's policy of pricing most used Colonies very highly indeed. In many cases they are spot-on: used Charities, particularly the 1939 Revolution and 1945 *Entr'aide* plus the whole North Africa lot, are howling rarities with genuine postmarks, as are some definitive low values like the 1930s "new colours" (from 3c - up to, but not including, the easier-to-find 2F50), the 1947 10c-40c, 80c, 1F20s and 3F60s, and pretty well any Postage Dues. Others, however, still seem way too high: most 1947 values above 5F (even the Airs, prone though these large stamps were to creasing in transit) are easy to find U, and hard to sell at any percentage of catalogue price. But however high, SG's prices are a valuable indication of relative scarcity within a set, even if overall they may need *un grain de sel*.

Some top-end classic France are quoted at oddly "unround" figures, possibly matching recent auction realisations: the 1849 1F orange-vermilion and *tête-bêche* 1F carmine (SG 16 and 26), at exactly £101,000 and £212,000 M, are striking examples. More within the orbit of most of us, I would rate France's *Blanc* 7½c precancel (SG 413) much higher than £1.10, the tricky U 1c  *Mercure* (618a) far higher than 20p, and the tough U 10c-40c *Chaînes Brisées* (902-4) infinitely higher than 15p each. Conversely, the 1934 Dove of Peace (519) and 1935 2F green (525) seem far commoner U than implied here. SG is spot-on, however, at £6.50/£5.50 for 2943/b: used, this 70c black *Marianne de Briat* is a real stinker, occurring only once per booklet and impossible to keep off-piece on account of its non-soakable adhesive.

SG's preliminary note about the pricing of sets including *se-tenant* blocks or strips (p ix) is not always borne out *in situ*: see SG 780-4 and 1640-3 for examples. SG worked their collective editorial fingers to the bone in preparation for 'London 2010' (I have eight more catalogues from them sitting in my review in-tray) and a few anomalies have undoubtedly crept in through tiredness. The set price for France SG 851-60 is less than that for the top value alone; most U stamps in SG 1095-1100 and 1113-8 are priced less than M but the set price is the same for both; Algeria SG17, the 1924/5 precancelled 30c rosine, is priced more highly U (i.e. without gum) than M (with). But I beg SG to treat these nit-pickings purely as evidence of the care with which I have examined the review copy that they so kindly sent, a care which this excellent production amply deserves, and repays. I look forward to many more hours of enthralled browsing, and I urge all members not spot-welded to Yvert to buy a copy and browse for themselves. Its bulk is manageable, the catalogue lies flat on demand, and the matt-finish paper is comfortable in any lighting and takes pencil notes with ease. The book is most heartily recommended.

Michael Round



# LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

## *Bulletin de la COL.FRA*

N° 132 2<sup>e</sup> Trim: 2010: Des débuts de la mise en place des postes rurales en Indochine: Le village de Ninh Cuong (Tonkin) [1907-1909] (Chane-Tune & Rolland); les débuts de la Poste au Bénin [1886-mars 1892] cont (Drye); La Poste au Bénin de mars 1892 à juin 1894 données principales (Drye); Les Russes à Bizerte (Delbeke); Haut-Sénégal-Niger: les taxes postales dans le service intérieur (Hurpet).

## *L'Écho de la Timbrologie*

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

N° 1840 May 2010: Geneviève Marot, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-) Sur le marché, par tous les temps [50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Bourse aux Timbres, Paris] (Bastide-Bernardin); Au marché aux Timbres (Sinai); Grandes figures de la philatélie: Arthur Maury, Louis Yvert, etc; (-); Marianne de Muller non-émise (Brun); Les premiers timbres français au profit de la Croix-Rouge (Albaret); L'alphabet...des Imprimeurs [2] (Marion-SOCOCODAMI); Les ancêtres des cartes en France [1800-1890] (Storch).

N° 1841 June 2010: Alain Bailhache, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Les Quatre Jours de Marigny (-); La philatélie en reine à L'Adresse Musée de la Poste (-); L'imprimerie de Périgueux a quarante ans (Hella); L'alphabet des Imprimeurs [3] (Marion-SOCOCODAMI).

N° 1842 Jul-Aug 2010: Isy Ochoa, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); La campagne d'Égypte (Mangin); Henri Guillaumet, l'Ange de la Cordillère (Albaret); L'alphabet des Imprimeurs [4] (Marion-SOCOCODAMI); Les ancêtres des cartes en France [1800-1890] (Storch); Les timbres du Pathét Lao (Moallem).

## *Timbres Magazine*

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

N° 113 Jun 2010: Afrique et océan Indien, des pièces exceptionnelles de la collection Maury (de Pellinec); La *Marianne de Muller*, résolument tournée vers l'avenir (Singeot); Doubles cursives et cursives doubles (de la Mettrie); La carrière avortée du dernier Zeppelin (PJM); Un art libre, affranchi et oblitéré (Rucklin); Les chiens de police (Zeyons); Le timbre à validité permanente [TVP] (Prugnon); Le Service de l'aéronautique civile de Madagascar (Chauvin).

N° 114 Jul-Aug 2010: Émotions de variétés (Rucklin); Septembre-Octobre 1938 aux Sudètes: 415 timbres pour clamer une libération éphémère (Melot); Quand affranchissement rime avec charité: les timbres Croix-Rouge (Singeot); Un petit coin de France en Afrique du

Sud (Groenewald); Lors de la première guerre de Vendée (de la Mettrie); Florilège d'incohérences postales (Benai); L'expédition polaire de l'ingénieur Andrée (Zeyons); La guerre de succession d'Autriche dans les Alpes [1740-1748] (Baudot); La «grille» du 10 janvier 1849 (Prugnon); 1939: un drôle de collier [organisation de la Poste aux Armées] (Chauvin).

## *Documents Philatéliques*

N° 204 2<sup>e</sup> trim 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).

N° 205 3<sup>e</sup> trim 2010: Affranchissements insuffisants provenant de pays situés hors de l'UPU: L'introduction de la taxation au double de l'insuffisance et le cas particulier de l'Australie (Abensur); La croisière du vapeur *Sénégal* (14-26 septembre 1901) (Dutau); San Francisco, port d'attache de Tahiti (Chauvet).

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

Vol 11 N° 5 (Whole N° 80) June 2010: Skeleton Handstamps of West Cameroon (Wright & Bratzel); Post-unification use of Permanent British Cameroons Date Stamps (Bratzel); German Stationery in Occ. Cameroons & Togo (Mayne); Côte d'Ivoire Postage Dues Authorised for Franking 2005 (Parren); *Paquebot Calabar* Postmark (Bratzel & Wright); West African first flights update 1969-83 (Parren).

## *Les Feuilles Marcophiles*

N° 339 4<sup>e</sup> trim 2009: Atelier imprimés et formulaires des Postes: 1884 - Mystère autour de la nouvelle nomenclature postale (Carnévalé & Pleinfossé); Martinez-Marseille et retour, ou les tribulations d'un colis postal international (Flotte & Bonnefoy); Carte d'identité PTT (Sené); La transition de l'identification des objets recommandés en 1909 (Landois); Avis de passage [contd] (Sené); Recensement des correspondants postaux au Maroc (Mercier); Un télégramme avec collationnement payé en 1862 (Narjoux); Oblitérations éducatives? (Gérard); AHPMR - De nouvelles sources bibliographiques (Lapasset).

N° 340 1<sup>er</sup> trim 2010: Atelier imprimés et formulaires des Postes: 1884 - le chaînon qui manquait (Carnévalé & Pleinfossé); La nomenclature 1884: une table de conversion (Lapasset); Convoyeur station « PARIS-ORSAY / LIM P. » Sené & Catherine); A propos des trains sanitaires et de diversité des sources d'information (Rioust); PND: Pli Non Distribuable ou Pli Non Distribué? (Sené); Le port payé est obligatoire à destination de certains pays (de la Mettrie); La presse à perforer les timbres-poste d'Oscar (Gauduchon); Reçu Radio (Sené); 1916: un colis postal du front (Flotte); Carte d'identité PTT (Sené); Timbre à date authentique: commune fantôme (Gauduchon); Étiquette [de recensement de la population 1968] (Sené); AHPMR:



Les documents organisant l'exploitation postale dans les départements en 1882 (Reynaud, Lapasset & Douron); Le rapporte-clefs de sécurité (Sené).

N° 341 2<sup>e</sup> trim 2010: La Révolution, vue au travers de bulletins de messagerie Sené); Sous les marques, lisons les textes (de la Mettrie); Reçu Radio [contd] (Sené); Marques de censure du 1<sup>er</sup> régiment BIR'Hakeim: Rochefort 1944

(Gauduchon); Le saga des mandats [de] poste pendant la « drôle de guerre » (Sené); Lettres acheminées par la Suisse durant la guerre de 1870 (Rouchy); AHPMR: Une lettre trouvée à la boîte peu ordinaire (Pinhas); Flammes non signalées (Michel); Quid de cet affranchissement? (Wagner); Le rapporte-clefs [contd] (Sené); PND: Pli Non Distribuible ou Pli Non Distribué? [contd] (Sené).

## ABPS Exhibitions Committee Newsletter August 2010

Application forms for national and international exhibitions and seminars plus additional information can be found on the ABPS Website ([www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)).

### International Exhibitions

#### 1 October 2010 - 10 October 2010: Portugal 2010

Applications for the exhibition are now closed, and the accepted exhibits are not yet on the website at [www.portugal2010.pt](http://www.portugal2010.pt)

The RPSL has been working with its overseas representative in Portugal, Luis Frazão, to participate in a joint display at this show and the UK commissioner will bring ten one-frame exhibits, including two from the RPSL's collection. The display will be shown on Saturday 9 October, from 10am to 12.30pm in one of the rooms adjoining the Exhibition hall of Portugal 2010.

#### 27 October 2010 - 31 October 2010: Jo'burg 2010 Exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Applications for the exhibition are now closed, and the accepted exhibits are not yet on the website at [www.joburg2010stampshow.co.za](http://www.joburg2010stampshow.co.za)

The show has 1,500 frames of competitive exhibits with over 20,000 pages of stamps and philatelic material across all FIP classes.

#### 21 November 2010 - 25 November 2010

"**Jerusalem 2010**" is a Multinational Stamp Exhibition to be held at The International Convention Center, Binyaney Ha'uma Jerusalem, Israel, with China, Great Britain and the USA participating. Applications are now closed.

#### 12 February 2011 - 18 February 2011: Indipex 2011 Exhibition - FIP Patronage and FIAP Auspices

New Delhi, India: [www.indipex2011.com](http://www.indipex2011.com): Exhibition closed but notification has not yet been received from the organisers as to which exhibits have been accepted.

#### 28 April 2011 - 1 May 2011: Closing date 30 November 2010; Philalux 2011 Exhibition - FEPA Patronage and FIP Recognition

Non-Competitive Class (by invitation only), Traditional Philately, Postal History, Thematic Philately, Literature, One-Frame Exhibits, Youth philately

[www.philalux.lu](http://www.philalux.lu): Commissioner Frank Walton, [Frank@FrankWalton.com](mailto:Frank@FrankWalton.com)

#### 28 July 2011 - 2 Aug 2011: Closing date 30 Sept 2010: Philanippon 2011 Exhibition - FIP Patronage and FIAP Auspices

Pacifico Yokohama Exhibition Hall 1-1-1.1 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama 220-0012, Japan

12 classes: FIP Championship Class, Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Maximaphily, Revenue, Thematic Philately, Youth Philately, One-Frame Exhibit, Philatelic Literature

[www.philanippon.jp/english](http://www.philanippon.jp/english); Commissioner Frank Walton, [Frank@FrankWalton.com](mailto:Frank@FrankWalton.com)

### UK Seminars 2011

#### ABPS Residential Weekend Workshops

The ABPS Exhibitions Committee is organising two weekend workshops about exhibiting. These are aimed at those who have mainly displayed at club and society level, who now wish to consider the more formal disciplines associated with exhibiting. Those who have exhibited only once at national level, or have not exhibited for many years will also be welcome, as will Federation judges wishing to sharpen or renew their skills.

In four sessions, the workshop will address Philatelic Research, Treatment, Presentation, and Judging. That is "How do I know what I've got?" with Francis Kiddle and Colin Hoffmann; "How do you construct an exhibit? From introductory page onwards" with Brian Trotter and Richard Stock; and "Presentation, Layout and the use of IT in creating an exhibit," with Chris King and Frank Walton. On Sunday morning there will be a practical judging workshop looking at exhibiting from the point of view of the Jury room.

The Sunday morning session will be part one of a federation level judging qualification, which will be followed by part two which will be a full day training session at a subsequent national exhibition.

#### Exhibiting at National Competitive Exhibitions 4 March - 6 March 2011 - Newcastle: The Holiday Inn, Emerson Road, Washington NE37 1LB.

And 11 March - 13 March 2011 - Royal Leamington Spa: The Best Western Falstaff Hotel, 16-20 Warwick New Road, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 5JQ

Friday: dinner and room; Saturday: breakfast, lunch, dinner, and room; Sunday: breakfast and lunch. The cost per person for each weekend including meals is £175.00.

Application forms for these two workshops are on the ABPS website. There will also be seminars at the Sheffield Exhibition and at Autumn Stampex 2011.

## National Exhibitions 2011 - 2012

### Reduced Frame Fees

The ABPS Exhibitions Committee is pleased to announce that the British Philatelic Trust will subsidise national frame fees for the whole of the year of 2011 reducing them from the current £25 per frame to £10, and it is hoped that this will encourage more exhibitors to participate. The ABPS is supporting three national exhibitions during 2011 and hopes that the reduction in frame fees will lead to 500 frames of competitive exhibits being shown in the year.

**23 February 2011 - 26 February 2011:** Please note that **Spring Stampex** will have no Exhibition in 2011.

**6 May 2011 - 7 May 2011:** **ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition Sheffield 2011**

ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition and Multi-Frame Picture Postcard Exhibition, Pond's Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield: Website  
[www.sheffield2011.org.uk](http://www.sheffield2011.org.uk)

**16 June 2011 - 19 June 2011:** Application forms available Autumn 2010 - **Philatelic Congress of Great Britain**, Queen's Hotel, Southsea, Hampshire: With the National One Frame competition.

**14 Sept 2011 - 17 Sept 2011:** **Autumn Stampex 2011:** Business Design Centre in Islington

**22 Feb 2012 - 25 Feb 2012: Spring Stampex 2012:** This will be a multi-frame competition for the 'Pictorial' classes: Thematic, Open and Postcards, with overseas participation for invited countries. We intend also that the seminars will be in support of these classes with emphasis on Thematic Philately.

**26 Sept 2012 - 29 Sept 2012: Autumn Stampex 2012:** Business Design Centre in Islington: In addition to the National Competitions there will be displays of Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands.

**18 October 2012 - 20 October 2012: ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition Perth 2012**

The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies will be hosting an Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) national exhibition in 2012 in Perth, Scotland.

The exhibition is being held in October, replacing the Scottish Philatelic Trade Associations Scotex fair that year. Both halls at the Dewar's Centre will be used with additional dealers likely to be present compared with the Association's Congress and Scotex.

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will also be hosted by the Association at the Queen's Hotel, Perth. It will open as the exhibition closes. Additionally The ABPS Inter-Federation trophy competition will take place, and there will be invited displays from the Scandinavia Philatelic Society

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## SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Mail sent from France to Switzerland 1828-45: A request for information

An article in Journal 137/8 (issued in June 1978) on the accountancy marks applied to mail crossing the French border (page 21) indicates something of the added complexity in respect of mail to/from the various Swiss Cantons and the subsequent calculation of cross-border rates (per the 1828 Franco-Swiss Cantonal Postal Treaty).

The postage due is determined by a measure of distance known as *rayons* (a *rayon* is a radius – the number of *rayons* increasing with distance from the border). Whilst it is a relatively straightforward matter to understand and translate the charges on mail from Switzerland into France if you are in possession of a conversion chart for Swiss *kreuzer* into French *décimes* (see Journal 137/8), there appear to be difficulties in attempting to apply this conversion formula in

reverse, that is, on mail from France into Switzerland.

So, in an attempt to understand this better I have been recording items of mail coming out of France into Switzerland during the period 1828-45 and would like to appeal for assistance in this task. I require the following information:

origin of letter,  
destination of letter,  
date of letter,  
accountancy mark details (eg LF/2D, also CF, CD, FR, with the number of *décimes* going up to 11)  
manuscript rate mark numerals marked, either one or in some cases two.

My thanks to any members who may be able to help in this task.

Steve Ellis

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### Pneumatic and Horoplan Cancels: A request for information

I am looking for information on how to distinguish pneumatic and horoplan cancels. What was the purpose of horoplan postmarks and had they any special usage?

Any help from members would be very much appreciated, as would an indication of where this information is obtainable.

Héloise Mitchell

*Poste Militaire* N° 560

An item with a pair of Algeria 2 x 60c SG 54 cancelled by the *POSTE MILITAIRE* N° 560 cachet on 18.04.1944 prompts me to enquire where the post office was located at this time.

The ppc is of Italian origin, and a cachet for the French Scientific Mission in Fezzan 18.02.1944 to 23.04.1944 is added.

Was the post office in Fezzan, and were stamps of Algeria readily accepted?

The card is addressed to Monsieur Bernard, Professeur à la Faculté des Sciences, Rue Michelet, Alger; the signature also seems to be Bernard.

The photograph on the picture side is of the covered market in Murzuk, which is a town in the south of Libya.

**John Mayne**



## New French Sorting Offices

I have noted two recent additions to the lists of new sorting office numbers:. I have received mail from 09466A (only the number without the letter A was listed previously)

posted from 47390 Layrac, and (a copy of *Les Feuilles Marcophiles*) from number 27916A, the latter posted from 45290 Nogent-sur-Vernisson.

Maurice Tyler

The following article was published in *Le Parisien* (Yvelines Section) on 12 April 2010. It was submitted to the Journal by **John Simmons** and translated by **Maurice Tyler**].

### “BOIS-D’ARCY

#### “325 postal workers move into a brand new sorting centre

“This morning, most of the staff at the mail sorting centre (CTC) of Montigny-le-Bretonneux are going to occupy their new premises at...Bois-d’Arcy. The completely new ‘mail industrial platform’ (PIC) with an area of 25,000m<sup>2</sup>, opened at the beginning of March by Christine Lagarde and Christian Estrosi, Ministers of Economy and Industry respectively, will in future manage the post in the *départements* of Yvelines and Eure-et-Loir, that is to say of 1.8 million people.

“And, for the personnel, the transition is not that easy. The 325 staff who have chosen to leave for the PIC are divided between apprehension and excitement. ‘The premises are beautiful but huge. We are going to need time to find our bearings’ say Alain and Françoise, who have been at the CTC for six years.

#### “Very industrial premises

“The new premises, ‘very industrial’ according to the Post Office workers, are equipped with the very latest machines capable of dealing with 40,000 items an hour compared with the present 30,000. According to the manager of the centre, the new machines are going to make the work of the staff less tiring and more effective.

“On the other hand, the SUD trade union anticipates a drop in the quality of treatment of the mail. ‘There will be more machines than men. And machines don’t adapt to variations in the flow of mail or to unexpected events’ explains a SUD official.

“On Friday the CTC workers left their premises with a twinge of sorrow. Of the 450 employees, about a hundred have chosen not to go to Bois-d’Arcy. As in the case of Jean-Alex who has chosen to retire after thirty-four years’ service at the Post Office. ‘All my memories are here, there’s no question of my going elsewhere’ he explains. The Post Office departmental management made it clear that the move involved no redundancies. ‘Everybody has been found a new placement’ they assured us.



BOIS-D’ARCY, MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH

The new ‘mail industrial platform’ is capable of dealing with 40,000 items an hour compared with 30.000 at present.



## ***La Poste* makes the most of the World Cup!**

*La Poste's* adverts and communication in general become *davantage lamentables* every day — so pathetic that I thought our members might like to see the most recent

item.

I trust their eyesight is better than mine, because I mistook Marianne's whistle for a strawberry.

**John Simmons**



*La Poste*, supporter of French referees in South Africa.  
*La Poste*, the referees' partner, hopes Stéphane LANNOY  
 and his two assistants Éric DANSOULT and Laurent UGO,  
 the French referees selected for South Africa, have some good matches.  
 CONFIDENCE GIVES YOU A HEAD START

## ***Titanic* Covers that Missed the Boat?**

Having read David Jennings-Bramly's article on pages 69 and 75 of Journal 256 (June 2010), perhaps I could just mention that the *Titanic* started her maiden voyage on 10 April 1912, and if all of these items were posted,

and received in the USA well before that date, what would the point have been in marking them with the ship's name? Like David, I too detect the odour of a large rodent!

**Bob Paterson**

## **Censored Cover from French Occupied Togo to Germany via Switzerland**

At London 2010 I came across two covers from French Occupied Togo which had passed through the British sector, to be later censored in Accra.

The more attractive cover (illustrated on the next page) was acquired, but the second – at an inflated price 2½ times the item bought – was declined.

The envelope has a boxed cachet stating it was sold by the International Agency for Prisoners of War – this has not previously been seen on Togo mail. It was sent to Germany via the Red Cross in Geneva. Postage of 25c was

met by a mixture of five Dahomey values overprinted, all cancelled with the date 12.3.1917 by the German Anécho cancel.

Escaping censorship in both Togo sectors, it was examined at Accra and resealed there by Ensor Type L3A which has been recorded only on 22.01.1916 ("The Postal Services of the Gold Coast 1901-1957" by Michael Ensor, WASC 1998).

The cover (see illustration on next page) has been resealed at the top and the side, but unfortunately the name of the writer has been hidden.

**John Mayne**





## Varieties of Senegal 1915-18 Red Cross Issues



Dallay 2005-6 lists varieties for both numbers 70 and 71 although none are listed by Stanley Gibbons (their numbers 89 and 90).

I can report the 15c + 5c value (Dallay 71, SG 90) with inverted surcharge on cover from Dakar 03.06.1920

to France, with two 5c values on the reverse escaping cancellation.

Dallay does not list the value on cover, and it is the first Red Cross variety for the colonies for this period which I have seen on cover.

**John Mayne**

## German Reply Card Overprinted for French Use in Togo 1914-1915: Lost item

I published a short article on this card from the Anglo-French Occupation of Togo in Journal 256 of June 1010 (pages 52-53). Unfortunately the fully illustrated item, whilst bought and paid for, did not reach me, along with two other lots acquired. Although sent registered post it was lost – the suggestion being that Icelandic ash was the cause!

I would very much appreciate it if any member who happens to see this unique item would advise me. My contact details are in the Register of Members' Interests, or this can be done via the Editor. To date, over four months on, I await a refund from Corinphila – members should be warned!

**John Mayne**

## A Couple of Corrections: *Milliard de la Libération* and *Bureau Naval 53*

I'm sorry, but I'm afraid I must apologise to readers for minor mistakes in a couple of my recent articles in the Journal.

In "French Colonies in World War II – What was the *Milliard de la Libération*?" which was printed on pages 177-8 of Journal 254 (December 2009), I wrote at the end of Note 6 on page 178 that total sales of 5,000 of the souvenir postcard under discussion "would give a profit of some 350,000 francs, quite possible given that AOF subscribed over 200 million in all." Reference back to the second column on the previous page shows that the *emprunt de la Libération*, which I believe must have been the same as the *Milliard*,

raised 200,432,000 francs from *l'ensemble des colonies* of French Africa. So, to revert to Note 6, "the African colonies" should be substituted for "AOF".

And a gremlin has been at work on the Note headed "*Bureau Naval 53*" on page 45 of Journal 256 (June 2010). At the top of the second column I commented on the occasional practice of drawing a line in blue crayon round certain stamps, usually to indicate either that they were not valid for postage or were being re-used. It will be noted that our gremlin has substituted "Unusually" for "Usually". Readers may like to cross through the extra two letters.

Bill Mitchell

## New *Salon du Timbre* Sheets

I expect that many collectors of modern France will be unaware of the four sheetlets issued by *La Poste* at the recent *Salon du Timbre* in Paris this June. They were issued to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the stamp printing works at Boulazac in the Dordogne.

Each sheet comprises 40 definitive stamps (alternating *Marianne de Cheffer* and *Marianne de Beaujard*) and 40 labels printed *se-tenant*. Each sheet is printed by a different method: *Taille-Douce*, *Typographie*, *Héliogravure* and *Offset Sérigraphie*.

With each individual stamp having a face value of 1 Euro, a total price of 40 Euro per sheet and 160 Euro for the set of four sheets, it was no inconsiderable sum to outlay to complete your modern collection.

The sheets were only available at the Salon, and I understand that you had to queue up for a considerable time to secure a maximum of four sets per customer at a mind-boggling cost of 640 Euro. However it would have been well worth your while, as the current (July 2010) dealers' price in Paris is in the region of 550 Euro per set. Only 4,000 sets were issued, making them one of the most sought

after items of France.

Three of the sheets have equal quantities of red "Cheffer" and "Beaujard" stamps, whilst the sheet printed in *Héliogravure* has eight stamps in a variety of colours. In all there are 14 new stamps, taking into account the different colours and types of printing, all of which, I assume, will be listed by Yvert and the other catalogues. Considering the minute quantity issued it will be most interesting to see the prices listed in the catalogues this autumn!

To whet your appetite further they have even added the odd *tête-bêche* pair (either horizontal or vertical) on one of the sheets!

The sheets are most attractive and very desirable but whether the market price will hold up is anybody's guess. It is all reminiscent of the *Rouge-Gorge* souvenir block n° 1 issued in 2003, the price of which has halved on the market from its early price of around 120 Euro.

Personally, I think if you were lucky enough to have bought a set of these sheets at face value, I am sure that you will have made a very sound investment indeed!

Richard Broadhurst



Top section of sheet in *Taille-Douce*  
"L'IMPRIMERIE OU L'ART DE LA GRAVURE"





Top section of the sheet in *Typographie*, showing one of the two tête-bêche pairs on this sheet  
 "L'IMPRIMERIE HÉRITIÈRE DE GUTENBERG"



Top section of the sheet in *Sérigraphie*  
 "L'IMPRIMERIE MAÎTRE PARFUMEUR"

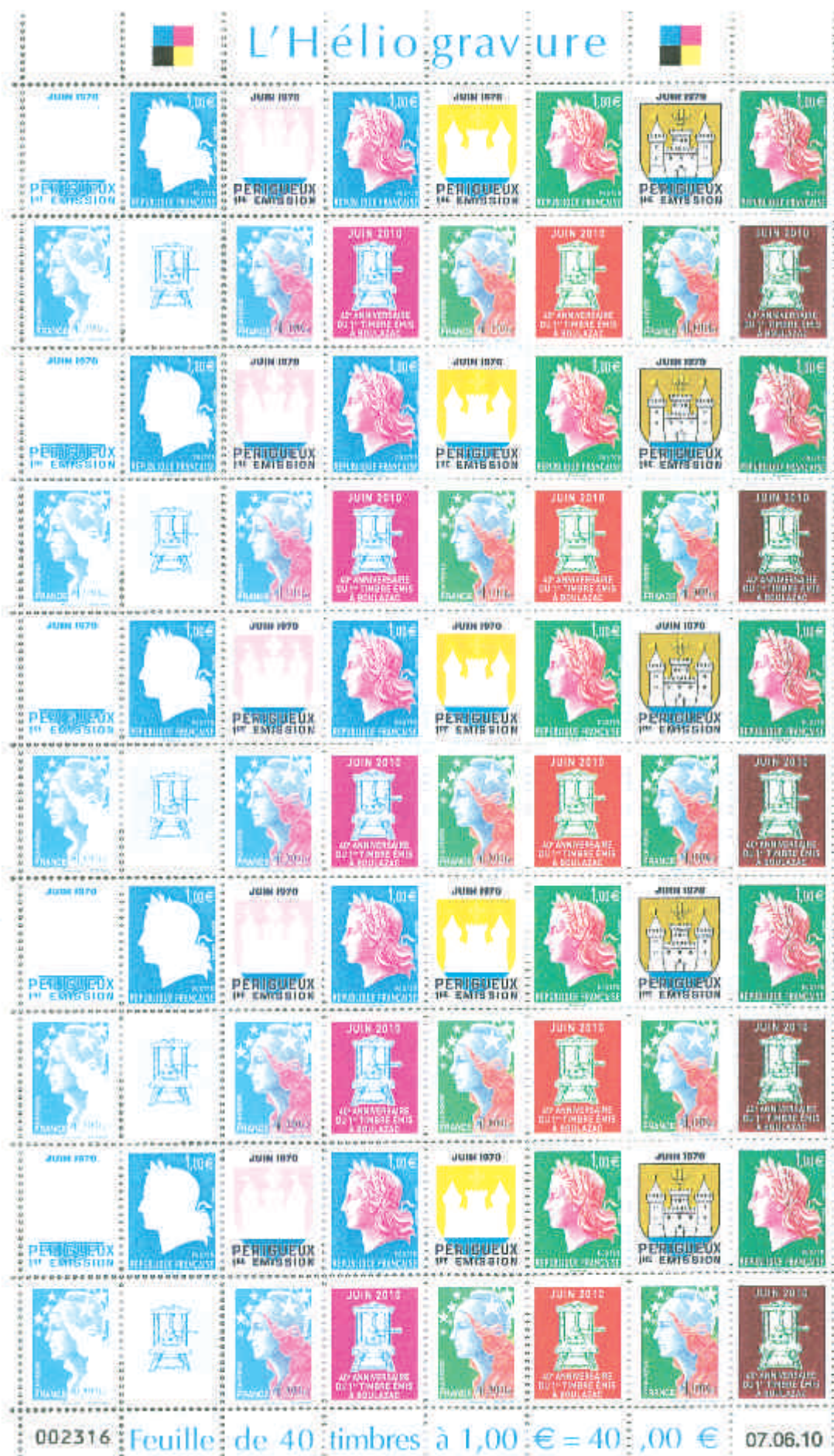


Top section of the sheet in *Héliogravure*  
 "L'imprimerie toute en couleurs"



L'imprimerie toute en couleurs

Juin 2010 - 40<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du 1<sup>er</sup> timbre émis à Boulazac, Dordogne



One complete sheet, reduced slightly to fit the page



# French Registered and Insured Mail

Alan Wood



Figure 1

Letter of ca 1792, registered at Bordeaux, for Paris.

A manuscript 12 on the reverse is the charge in sous.

The manuscript 1732 is the number recorded in the postal register.

By a Royal decree of 1632 articles of value for conveyance by the French postal system were admitted, with provision for compensation for loss, on the basis of a contractually agreed estimation of the value negotiated between the sender and a postal service representative. The articles of value had to be presented before enclosure and the application of five seals and the agreement of a valuation known as *Valeurs Cotées*. Laws governing *Valeurs Cotées* are recorded on 8 December 1703, 3 July 1846 and 2 July 1862.

In the Parliamentary regulations of 8 July 1759 the admission of registered mail without declaration of value was introduced by Royal decree with letters marked *Chargé*. Exceptionally, prior to this date a few letters with a manuscript marking of *Chargé* have been noted. Double taxation was applied to all *Chargé* letters and packets that were recorded in post office registers. No indemnity for loss was offered. The sender of a registered item received a receipt and a signature was required for the letter or packet when collected. In Paris, such letters could only be collected



Figure 2

A letter registered at Lyon ca 1792 bears the boxed Lyon handstamp in black together with a red linear *CHARGÉ* mark.

A postal charge of 35 sous was levied for this registered letter.

from the Central Post Office by the addressee or a representative with a power of attorney certified by a public notary.

An indemnity of up to 150 livres for the loss of valuables sent by registered post, including banknotes or bills, was introduced by order of the Council on 31 May 1786. Letters marked *Chargé* are rare before 1789. In August 1791 compensation was increased to 300 livres.

The law of 22 August 1791 retained the double rating for registration in the tariff of 1792. Double rating was subsequently confirmed in the reviews of tariffs of 16 January 1795, 9 June 1795, 21 July 1795, 27 December 1795, 24 June 1796, 25 December 1796, 22 March 1800, 4 May 1802, 8 April 1810, 1 April 1817 and 5 March 1823.

In 1792 registered mail received the handstamped marking *Chargé* and this remained in use for the next 37 years.



Figure 3

A letter dated 8 Oct 1792 was prepaid from Toulouse to St Loup as indicated by the red *PORT PAYÉ / À TOULOUSE*. It was secured with five wax seals, registered and marked *CHARGÉ / TOULOUSE* in red.

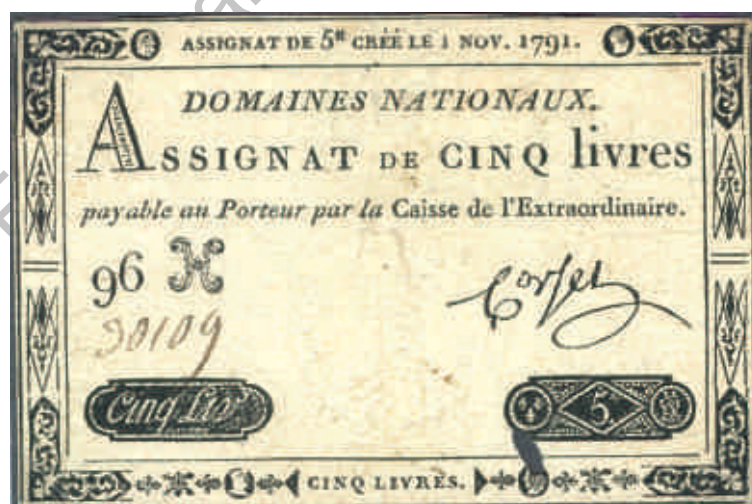


Figure 4

An assignat for 5 livres issued 1 Nov 1791.

*Assignats* were bonds secured by confiscated properties of the church and were first issued by the revolutionary government in 1789.

By 1793 *assignats* were printed with values as low as 10 sols and these were used for such low value purchases as for bread.

Authority was given for their use for the pre-payment of letter registration fees.

As a result of hyper-inflation *assignats* were withdrawn in 1796.



Elzevir le 11 fructidor 3<sup>e</sup> année républicaine  
 Monsieur le 19 fructidor an 3. 5. 7. 9. 1200. en h. assigné  
 son lieu de son domicile pour le 2<sup>e</sup> de son Châssé de 2. de 100. Châssé.  
 Je vous prie de m'envoyer la lettre de M. de Belleval. Du 5. de ce mois. Dont. la signature est  
 accompagnée de la vôtre. il ne faut pas compter pour moi même l'exploitation des mines  
 en activité tant que les choses seront portées aux prix extravaquants ou elles sont  
 ignore les prix que peuvent valoir les mines au 1<sup>er</sup> août. et je suis sûr qu'en ce point  
 mais en supposant que l'on put en faire l'achat il seroit impossible d'en faire venir  
 à brève échéance ni capitaines ni équipage qui voudraient des qu'ils le feroient  
 attendu que les anglais sont fréquemment le long de nos côtes ce qui interrompt l'navigation  
 des pêcheurs - ainsi quant il seroit possible d'acheter les mines de brève échéance  
 difficilement montrant de ce que je ne trouverois pas de volontiers pour les envois  
 apparus et point d'ouvriers au moins de 50 par chaque homme et par maree  
 d'appareil la ficelle & autres objets sont de même portés à un prix plus qu'exorbitant  
 Je ne vois pas qu'il y ait lieu à une pleine exploitation pendant que l'on  
 guerre durera; pour ce qui porte dans les mines il y en a quelques unes  
 qui meurt. Je pense que cela vient de ce que faute de bras elles sont pas été  
 assez soignées - mais il y en a peu dans ces. Je n'ai si je puis les envoyer  
 apparus - après qu'ils auront repris avec leur donc la grande quelle  
 d'appointement ordinairement en septembre et octobre mais il faut une  
 diminution de prix tant pour les voiliers que pour les ouvriers et fournisseurs  
 Je vous prie d'envoyer quelques assignats car j'en ay absolument  
 besoin ce qui me coûte 25<sup>e</sup>. me content 500<sup>e</sup> présentement et me tant  
 ici que j'ai attachement avec intérêt j'ai la confiance que vous ne  
 me laisserez pas manquer du mois de l'année nécessaire

Salus et fraternitas.

Handel

Je te salue avec le 27<sup>e</sup> 1796. pour savoir si  
des officiers d'administration, si on peut repenter l'apostrophe  
aux uns et autres? L'avis m'importe, pour faire  
reparaître les bords et pour l'apostrophe m'importe  
pour rendre notre apostrophe au monde l'admirable  
prophète.

CHARGE

No.

Registre 3°.

Chargement fait au Bureau des Postes.

Paris, le 19 jour de  
l'an trois de la République Française, une  
et indivisible.

Ce Numéro doit être gardé par le Chargeur,  
en cas de réclamation.

Figure 5

A letter of 19 *Fructidor* AN 3 (6 Sept. 1795)

in which Citizen Bardel acknowledges a request for the registration of his letter, for which payment of the fee was made by an *assignat* for which the receipt is attached.





Figure 6  
The "Comité de Salut Public" sent out a notice to the National Agents on 21 Messidor AN 2 (9 July 1794) requiring each district of the Republic to send six young citizens to Paris to be entered in the "École de Mars", a military academy to train competent army officers which was founded on 1 June 1794 but which closed less than five months later on 24 October 1794. The document was signed by, amongst others, Robespierre. The cover received the oval handstamp of "Comité de Salut Public" and a linear marking of LOIS. CHARGÉ, both in red.

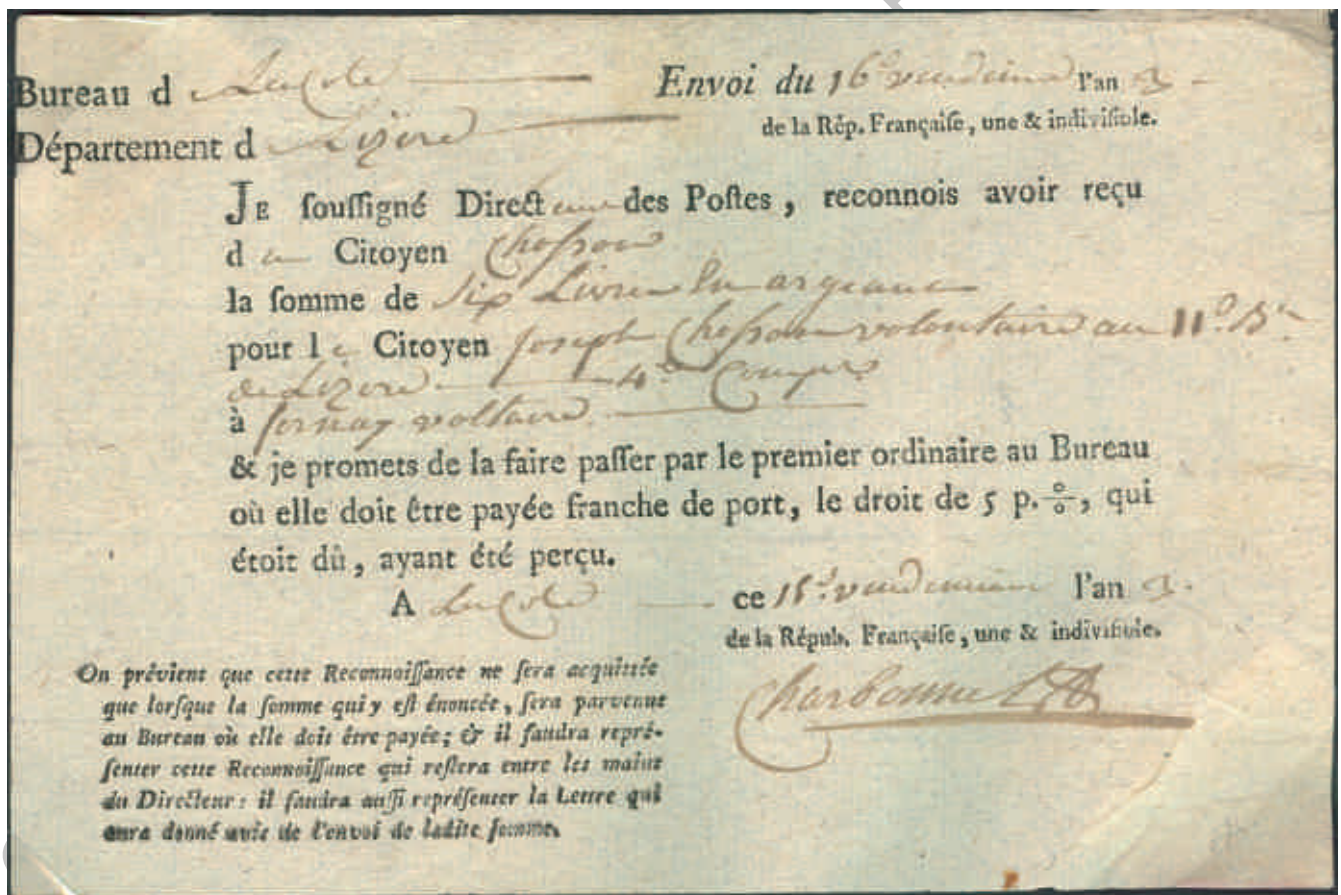


Figure 7  
A receipt dated 15 Vendémiaire AN 3 (6 Oct. 1794) was issued to Citizen Chopon who had sent six pounds of silver by registered post.

It was in the early 1790s that the Convention created twenty-one Committees to control and run the Nation's affairs. Edicts from the *Directeur Général de la Liquidation* were marked *Chargement à taxer*. From the Ministry of War *Un Reçu à Demander* was a marking first used in 1794 and this same wording, in a somewhat larger

format, was used in 1795 on documents from the Ministry of the Interior. Official decrees from the Committee of Public Safety were sent registered to ensure that the recipients could not claim that they had not been received. Such communications were marked *LOIS. CHARGÉ*.



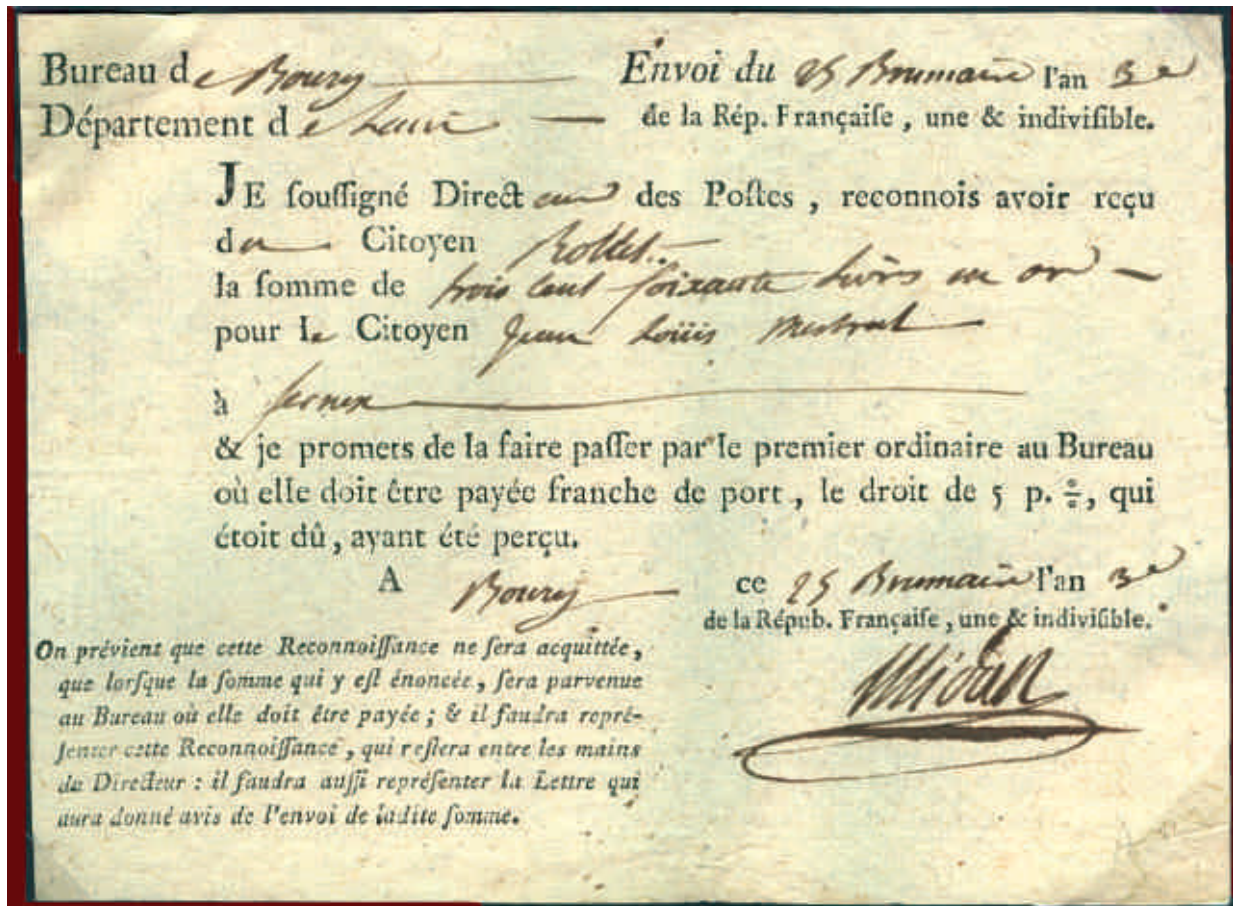


Figure 8

On 25 Brumaire AN 3 (15 Nov. 1794) a receipt was issued for the registration of 360 pounds of gold.



Figure 9  
In 1795 documents from the Ministry of the Interior were marked in red "Un Reçu à Demander".

Article 6 of the decree of 1792 required letters containing money, jewels or precious articles to be endorsed *Recommandation d'Office*. A rating for silver and gold, regardless of distance within France, was fixed at 5% of the value of the package.

In 1795 authorisation was given for letter registration fees to be paid either in coin or in *assignats*. In 1796, following a period of hyper-inflation, *assignats* were recalled. Their use

for payment of postal registration fees was thus short-lived.

It was in 1796 that prepayment of registration charges became obligatory and the law of 5 Nivôse, An 5 (25 December 1796) stated that letters were not to contain any paper money, gold, silver or jewellery regardless of whether letters were sent *Chargé* or not.

A *Reconnaissance*, or declaration of contents, form was introduced in April 1817.



Figure 10  
On 1 Thermidor AN 6 (19 July 1798) the  
"Liquidateur Général"  
of the French Republic  
required the administrators  
of the civilian hospice  
to comply with legal obligations.  
The letter received the  
CHARGEMENT À TAXER  
handstamp in red.

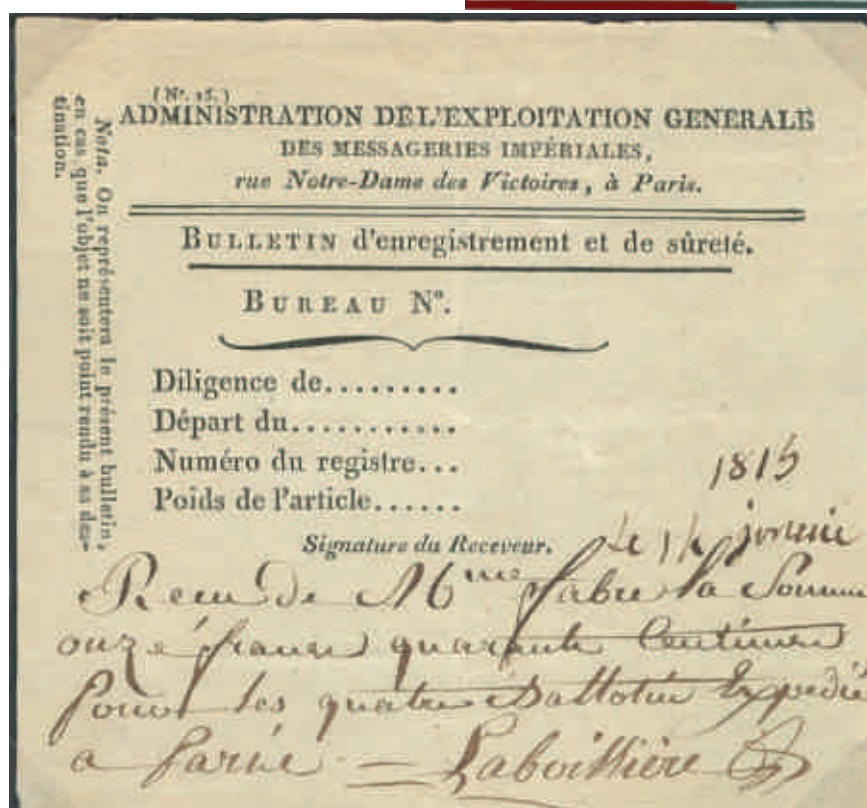


Figure 11  
In 1815 a registration receipt  
was issued by the  
"Administration de l'exploitation générale  
des messageries impériales".

Figure 12  
A letter dated 28 Mar. 1816 was addressed to Bar le Duc.  
During the Revolutionary Period this town was renamed  
Bar-sur-Meuse and later Bar-sur-Ornain.  
The letter received the enclosed P for Paris  
and a linear CHARGÉ marking, both in black.





PIERRE GALLINE et C. <sup>o</sup> , ENTREPRENEURS - PROPRIÉTAIRES des Messageries du Midi.		
MARQUES.	N <sup>os</sup>	POIDS.
V. <sup>o</sup> B.	463	K7

**DÉCLARATION.**

*Remb.*  
 EXTRAIT des Registres timbrés  
**DES DILIGENCES EN POSTE**  
 DE MARSEILLE à LYON.

**DIRECTION D'AVIGNON.**

Départ du 8 août 1818

*un paquet sous plateau  
 de soie liée fermement  
 soignée*

d'envoi de *Boqueron*

pour la voiture être payée

conformément au tarif, le dixième du Gouverne-  
 ment en sus; avec un remboursement de

L'Entreprise n'est point responsable du coulage des  
 liquides, de la rupture des choses fragiles, des avaries par  
 vice d'emballage, ni des événements arrivés par force  
 majeure, de quelque nature qu'ils soient.

*A Messieurs J<sup>rs</sup> Dumont & C<sup>o</sup> s<sup>rs</sup>  
 place St Honoré  
 à Paris*

Figure 14  
 A declaration from  
 the registration records  
 for the postal *diligence*  
 from Marseille to Lyon  
 was dated 8 August 1818.

In 1826 a handstamp issued by the Postal Service Directorate was intended for *chargement* recovery from Administration offices benefiting only from ordinary letter franchise. The two-lined handstamp read *Don. Gle des postes / Chargés à percevoir*.

By the Royal decree of 11 January 1829, which took effect from 1 March 1829, a new system *Recommandation* was introduced, initially restricted to letters and packets addressed to Paris only. The system offered security but did not extend the compensation provisions which continued to benefit only *Chargé* letters. *Lettres recommandées*

had to be enclosed in an envelope and secured with two wax seals. They were entered in a register and a receipt given to the sender.

No charge was made for registration and the postal charge made to the addressee was taxed in accordance with the distance and weight rates. All such letters received a boxed *R* handstamp. They could not be addressed *Poste Restante* and the postage on such letters could not be pre-paid. Receipt was subject to a signature of acceptance. Registration was extended to the whole of France on 1 April 1830.

Figure 14  
On 18 Jan. 1845 a  
"Bulletin de Chargement"  
was issued for a despatch  
from Nantes to Lyon.

**Entreprise des Maitres de Poste.**

---

<b>Bureau</b>	<b>Port des Cordeliers,</b>
de	57,
<b>NANTUA.</b>	<b>LYON.</b>

---

**BULLETIN DE CHARGEMENT.**

---

Départ du 18 janvier 1845  
de Nantes pour Lyon

Poids. . . . .  
 Désignations. . . . .  
 Expéditeur. . . . .  
 Destinataire. . . . .

Le Directeur,  
*[Signature]*



Figure 15  
A foreign letter  
from Paris  
dated 27 Apr. 1861  
to Prussia  
was franked at 1F  
and marked  
CHARGÉ in red.





Figure 16  
An internal letter of 7 Mar. 1867  
from Carpentras  
was charged 40 centimes.  
A red *CHARGÉ* mark was applied  
to the front of the envelope  
which was secured with 5 wax seals  
and received the descriptive handstamp  
with manuscript registration details.

Figure 17  
On 17 June 1868  
a legal document  
was sent under wrapper  
by registered post in Marseille.



Figure 18  
A receipt issued in 1869  
to the sender of  
a registered letter from  
Briouze-St-Gervais to Paris.





Figure 19  
A receipt for  
a registered letter  
of 28 Feb. 1871  
from Toulouse  
was received at Vallauris  
on 2 March 1871.

Figure 20  
A letter containing 2000 francs  
was marked **CHARGÉ**  
and a postal fee of 4F80 was prepaid  
on a letter of 1873.



Figure 21  
An official notice  
from the Tribunal at Beauvais  
was sent under registered wrapper  
on 25 April 1878  
and received a boxed **R** marking in red.

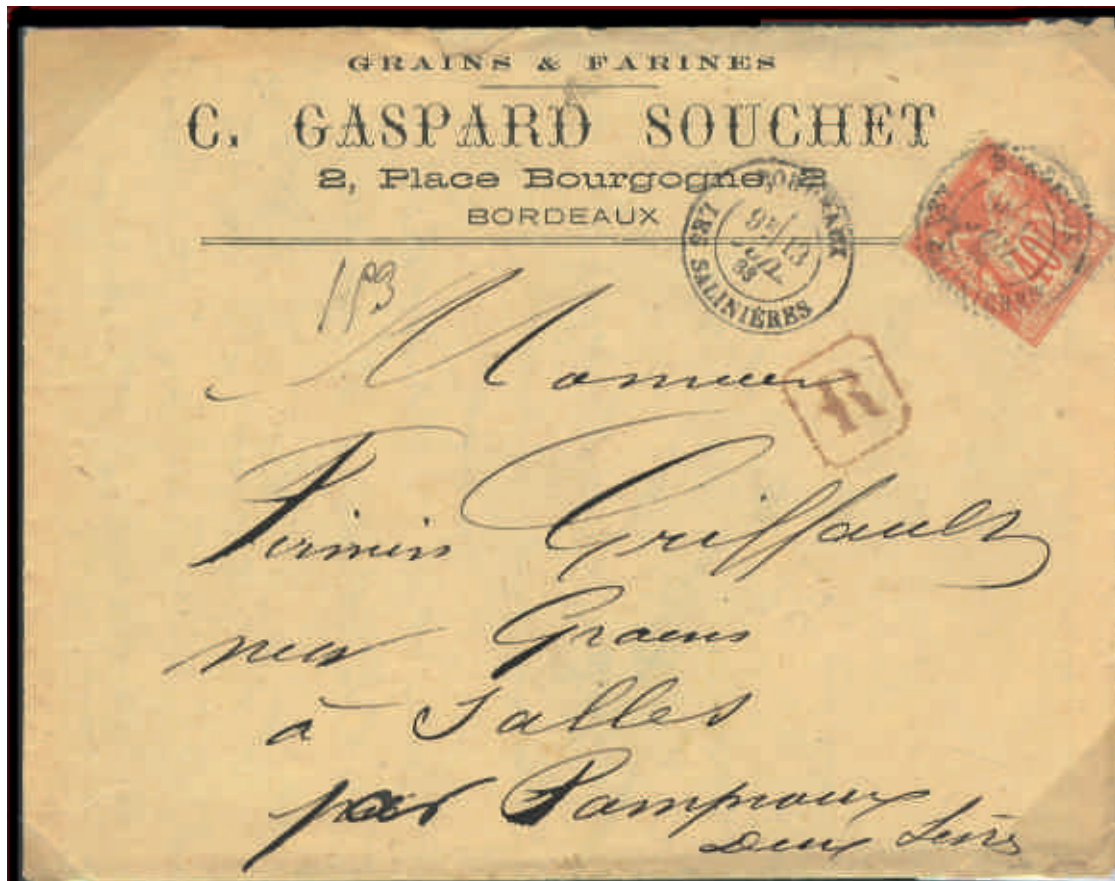


Figure 22

In 1883 a letter franked at 40 centimes was registered and marked with a red boxed R.



Figure 23

A black boxed R was used on a cover from the Gare du Nord, Paris on a letter to Nancy franked at 55 centimes in 1891.

A decree of 19 August 1844 stipulated that from 1 September 1844 the boxed R handstamp should be accompanied by a manuscript or handstamped legend *d'Office*. On 17 November 1844 it was further decreed that all letters addressed to the king had to be officially registered.

Article 12 of the decree of 13 December 1848 specified that all forms of *Recommandation d'Office* were to be discontinued. The *Chargements d'Office*, however, were to remain as

before. From 1 January 1849, when adhesive postage labels were introduced in France for the prepayment of postage, a double rate for registered letters, which had to be prepaid, was introduced.

However, from 1 July 1850 when the basic postal rate increased to 25 centimes and a similar charge was levied for the registration fee prepayment was no longer obligatory. This situation remained until this service was abolished and





Figure 24  
At Arles  
on 4 Feb. 1901  
a pink registration  
label was applied  
to a letter franked  
at 20 centimes.



Figure 25  
A pink registration label  
was applied to a telegram  
at Lirnoges  
on 13 May 1901.

assimilated into the *lettre chargée* service on 1 July 1854. From this date the fee for insured letters, *lettres chargées*, was fixed at 20 centimes.

The value of a *Valeur Cotée* item was assessed by a post office representative before it was sealed and the registration fee, from 1 January 1849, was fixed at 2% of this value. A scale of fees for *Valeurs Déclarées* items, which were sent at the senders' valuations was weight dependent:

Up to (g.)	10	20	/+20	100	/+100
Centimes	20	40	+20	80	+80

with an additional fixed fee of 20 centimes and an insurance fee of 10 centimes per 100 francs value, subject to a maximum value of 2000 francs.

The law of 4 June 1859 re-established the admittance of bank notes, bearer shares and coupons in *chargé* letters with their declared value to be fully insured and a reimburse-

ment upon loss of 50 francs where no such value had been declared.

Oblong descriptive cachets, with provision for the manuscript insertion of the registration number and details relating to the letter bore the indication of the Paris *bureau* or alternatively of the number of the *Bureau de Poste*. These markings, with variations, were in use on registered mail for about forty years.

From 1 January 1863 the *Valeur Cotée* fee was reduced to 1% of the value of the item.

Plain postcards, privately produced, were first used in France during the Franco-German War 1870-1871, cards being sent in the balloon mail from besieged Paris. None of these cards were registered. Elsewhere in France, authorised by the law of 20 December 1870, printed cards were issued with a postal rate of 15 centimes for postage from *bureau* to

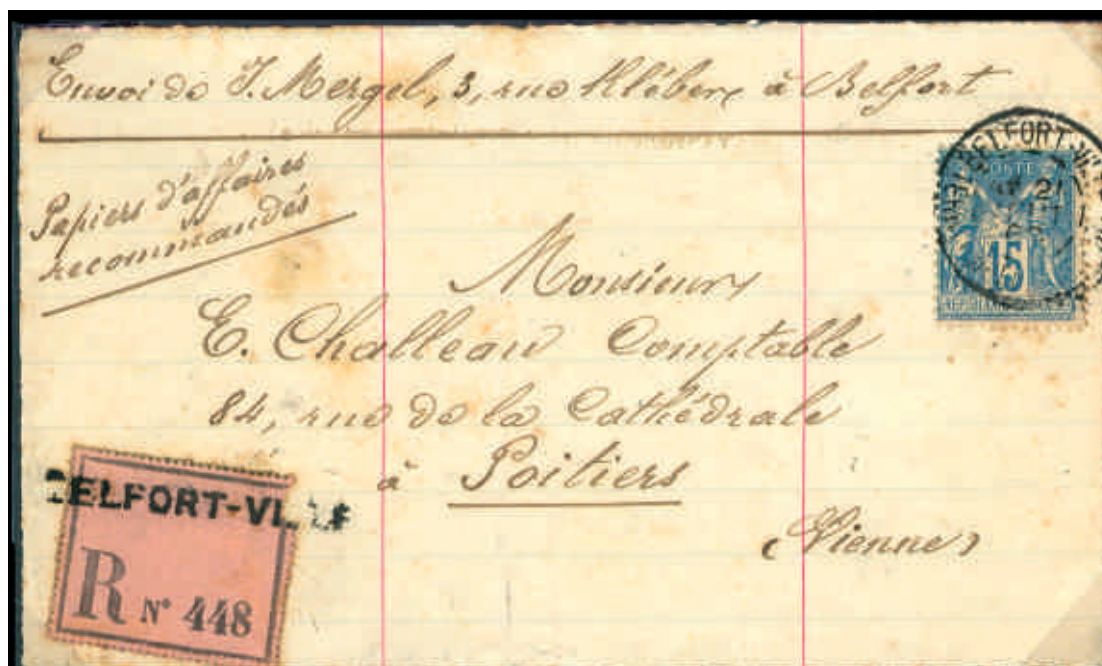


Figure 26

Papiers d'affaires from Belfort to Poitiers were sent by registered letter on 21 Aug. 1902.



Figure 27

On 4 March 1904 correspondence using stationery for the Universal Exhibition of 1900 was registered from Paris.





Figure 28

On 16 Feb. 1905 *Papiers d'Affaires* were sent by registered post from Cognac to Niort.



Figure 29

By 13 March 1924 new style registration labels were in use for this letter to Manchester



Figure 30  
The red  
registration labels  
continued in use  
for many years,  
as seen on the  
legal document  
sent from La Rochelle  
in 1931.

bureau. When registration was re-introduced after the war in January 1873 the new regulations included a registration tariff for postcards, with the fee set at 25 centimes, compared to 50 centimes for letters. With these relatively low fixed rates for registration only nominal compensation for loss was payable. By the law of 25 January 1873 the *Chargements* and *Valeurs Cotées* schemes were ended and stamped receipts were no longer issued. A handstamped *R*, within a box with chamfered corners, was applied on registered letters. *Chargé* letters had the declared value written at the top of the envelope and could be presented at the post office with two wax seals in place.

On 1 April 1898 postcards classified as printed matter could be sent under the *OPR* (*Objets à prix réduits*) tariff. Such cards were restricted to conveying only the date, profession, address and signature of the sender and could be sent for just 5 centimes postage with, if required, a 10 centimes registration fee.

Instruction 511 of December 1899 provided for the introduction in February 1900 of registration labels which were to be used only for letters sent as *Objets à prix réduits*. Such mail was restricted to printed matter, samples, journals, *papiers d'affaires* and assimilated items, franchised mail or items for which the post office deemed registration necessary. The pink labels, provided for offices throughout France and Algeria, were perforated and within a frame. They bore a large letter *R* and a sequential registration number. At the top of the labels those for offices in the capital had Paris printed in the top left hand corner, many of those for provincial cities had the respective name printed centrally towards the top as did the major cities in Algeria. Alternatively many offices used handstamps to denote the origin of the registered letter. These labels were in use for many years but by 1920 somewhat smaller labels had been introduced.

A comprehensive listing of registration rates from 1849 to

2005 is recorded in Derek Richardson's *Tables of French Postal Rates*.

Registration postal markings from 1792 to 1929 are described and illustrated in Yvert's catalogue of Postal Markings.

A selection of items of French registered and insured mail is shown in this article and illustrates the extensive range of material available for study by the postal historian.

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- "*Catalogue des Estampilles et Oblitérations Postales de France et des Colonies Françaises*," Yvert & Co, Amiens 1929; reprinted by Postilion Publications, USA
- Michèle Chauvet, "*Introduction à l'Histoire Postale*," Brun & fils 2000.

### Acknowledgements

The author gratefully acknowledges the information derived from the literature cited in the bibliography and notes compiled by the late R M Wilcocks, who in turn expressed thanks to the late John Hayhurst for helpful discussions.

[Figure 31 is shown on the front cover of this Journal.]



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

## PART 3

Mick Bister

The definitive printings in carmine on blue



Figure 14

First day of printing, 12 August 1942, on Press N°17

(Note the same marginal bars and dot of Galvano W that appear on the black on brown trial)

Printing of the stamp in carmine on blue began on Press N° 17 on Wednesday 12 August 1942 (Fig 14) and continued for five working days until Tuesday 18 August. A second printing on Wednesday 26 August lasted for just the one day. A specific Cylinder V+W was used for both printings while its predecessor, Cylinder T+U, continued to print concurrently the normal brown issue on the older Press N° 7. The *Musée de la Poste* holds a 'feuille-modèle' of the printing which records its arrival in the archives on 5 October 1942 and the withdrawal of the stamp on 30 November 1943 together with an official imperforate sheet dated 14 August 1942. The archives also contain a *dupliquata* (Fig 15), a copy of the colour proof that was attached to the *bon à tirer*. Although there is no record of their existence at the *Musée de la Poste* we do know that other printing trials took place. Examples of the 1F50 in blue without the overprint, both perforated and imperforate, appear from time to time on the philatelic market, but curiously neither is in precisely the same shade as the issued stamp (Fig 16) and their precise identity and purpose is uncertain.

The quantity printed varies according to which author one reads. Unfortunately I was unable to find a conclusive figure in the records held at the *Musée de la Poste* but other sources quote a printing of 5,000,000 (Catalogue Cérès), 5,100,000 (Catalogue Yvert & Tellier) 5,150,000 (Joany) and 5,500,000 (Storch & Françon and Afaire, Brun *et al*). The only document I could find appertaining to the printing figures was a directive sent by a Monsieur Bernard to the *Imprimerie* in the Boulevard Brune dated 18 August 1942, ie the day on which the first printing run was completed (Fig 17).

The directive states that 2,000,000 stamps must be dispatched on 25 August to Limoges from where they will be distributed for sale in the Free Zone; in addition a further 2,100,000 are to be designated to the Occupied Zone and 900,000 are to be held as reserve stocks in the capital. This amounts to a total printing of 5,000,000 stamps.

The question arises as to how the printers responded to this directive. Had they already printed sufficient quantities to meet all the directive's demands and to be able to execute them on time? Why was there a need for a short second printing one week later?

If the ultimate quantity printed was indeed 5,000,000 as the publisher of the Cérès catalogue believes then the second printing could well have been an emergency one to make up a shortfall identified upon receipt of the directive. However, if the larger quantities of between 5,100,000 and 5,500,000 quoted by other sources are correct, the second printing may have been in response to a later directive, now mislaid, ordering additional supplies.

On 1 September the *Directeur des Postes et des Bâtiments*, M. Pignochet, issued instructions to post offices regarding three forthcoming new stamps. There were to be two issues without surcharges, a 4 franc stamp commemorating the centenary of the death of Stendhal (Y&T 550) printed fittingly in *le rouge et le noir*, and a 4 franc stamp in memory of André Blondel (Y&T 551). Both stamps would be issued on Monday 14 September and would be limited to ten copies per person until 21 September whereupon restrictions would be lifted. On the same day, the 1F50 Pétain surcharged +50 SN (Y&T 552) was to be put on sale but



Figure 15  
Duplicata of the bon à tirer  
© Musée de la Poste



Figure 16  
Imperforate and perforated trial printings in blue without the surcharge

with a notable difference. Unlike so many of the previous issues sold in aid of the *Secours National* there would be no restrictions attached; customers would be able to purchase as many or as few as they liked.

### Conclusion

During the first few months after its issue, communications were exchanged between the *Direction de la Poste* in Paris and the regional heads whose responsibility it was to monitor the sale figures. Initially, the returns had to be submitted to Paris by 1 December 1942 but correspondence discovered in the files shows that not every region was as prompt or as accurate with their returns as they should have been. A belated note from the *Direction Régionale de Marseille* informs the PTT on 17 March 1943 that Corsica still had 17,367 copies of the stamp available for sale in the island's post offices.

The *feuille-modèle* in the *Musée de la Poste* records that the issue was finally withdrawn from sale on 30 November 1943 and along with all the other remaining Pétain issues the stamp was demonetised with effect from 1 November

1944.

The Yvert & Tellier catalogue records that out of the 5,100,000 stamps it believes to have been printed, 5,050,000 copies were sold. If this figure is correct then the *Secours National* would have netted 2,025,000 francs assuming that all the profits went directly to the cause. This stamp, with 99% of the printing sold, must be considered as a major philatelic and financial success and one wonders if M. Brassier, the Lannion postmaster, ever realised the significance of his letter or ever received the acclaim due to him for his idea.

### Bibliography and Acknowledgements

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- 'Le 1f50 Pétain Bersier' by Max Derouen;  
[www.1fr50bersier.free.fr](http://www.1fr50bersier.free.fr)
- 'Le Patrimoine du Timbre-Poste Français' by Apaire, Brun, Chauvet, Rabier and Sinais, 1998



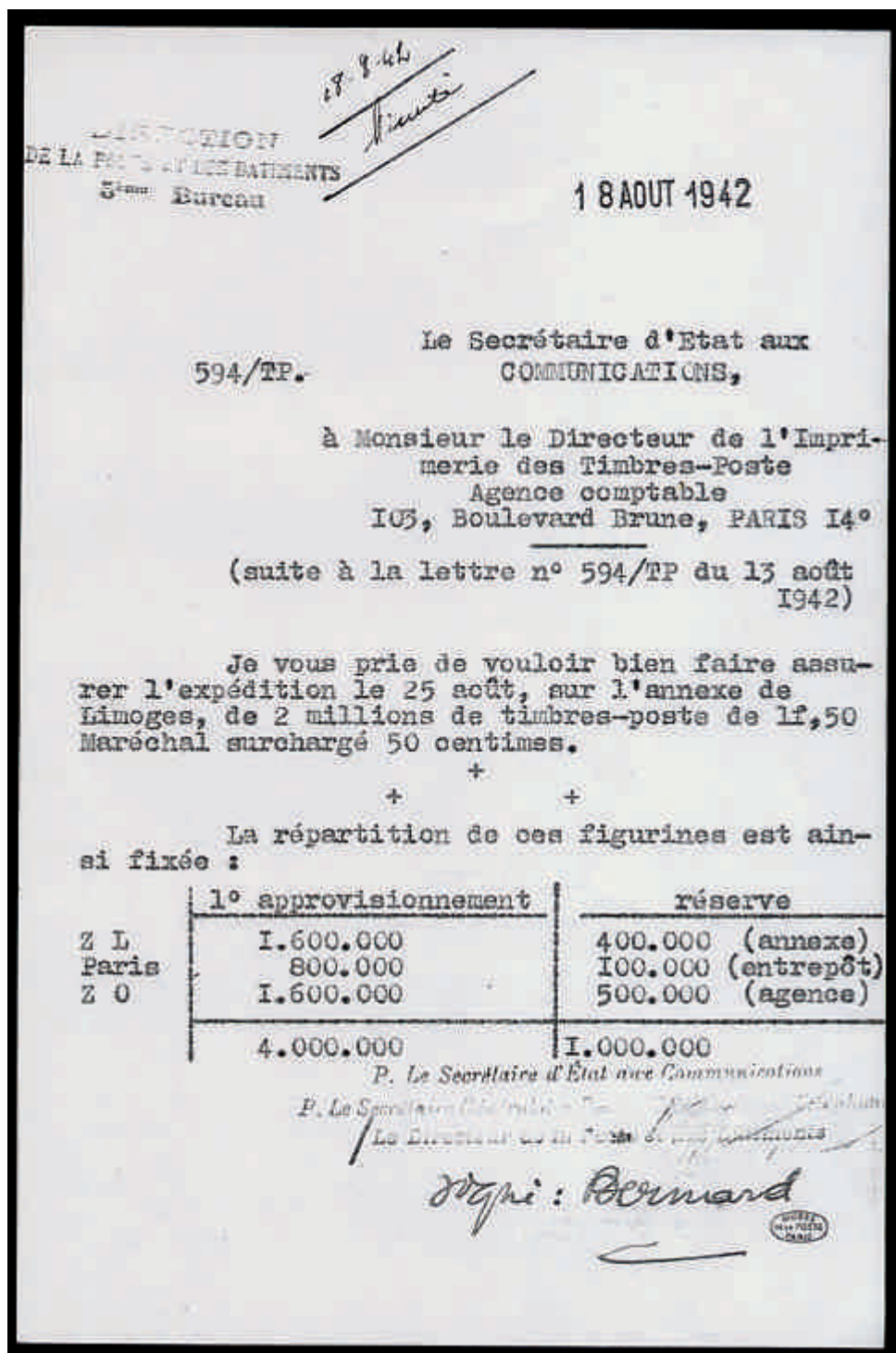


Figure 17  
Printing and distribution instructions  
© Musée de la Poste

- 'Nomenclature des Timbres-Poste de France: Tome IX Timbres avec Surtaxe' by Dr R Joany, 1973
- 'Spécialisé France - Timbres-Poste de 1900 à 1940 et de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale 1940-1945' by R Françon & J Storch 1975
- 'L'impression des Timbres Français par les Rotatives' by Baron de Vinck de Winnezele, 1946
- 'Refresher Course' by Rick Miller, Janet Clug *et al*; www.linns.com

My sincere thanks are due to M. Pascal Rabier of the *Musée de la Poste*, Paris, who granted me access to material held in the museum's archives and to Mme Chantal Reynaud for access to the documents in the library. Immeasurable thanks are due also to Mme Marthe Bobik, who not only offered me such valuable assistance while I was there but has responded so graciously and enthusiastically to my subsequent demands for further information. This article would not have been possible without their support.

# November 2010 Auction - Selected Lots

All the lots on these two pages are illustrated more clearly on our web page [www.fcps.org.uk/auctions.html](http://www.fcps.org.uk/auctions.html)



ex Lot 3



Lot 12



Lot 28



Lot 30



Lot 32



Lot 33



Lot 35



Lot 40



Lot 47



Lot 54



Lot 56



Lot 59



Lot 62



Lot 63



Lot 68



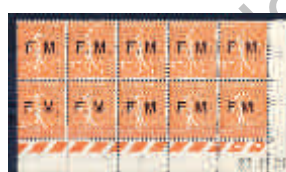
Lot 82



Lot 84



Lot 95



Lot 97



Lot 99



Lot 101



Lot 106



Lot 112



Lot 113



Lot 114



Lot 117



Lot 119



Lot 122



Lot 126



Lot 130



Lot 132



Lot 138



Lot 153



Lot 163



Lot 170



Lot 160



Lot 224



ex Lot 171





Lot 230



Lot 233



Lot 234



Lot 242



Lot 245



Lot 253



Lot 258



Lot 277



Lot 270



Lot 280



Lot 282



Lot 284



Lot 288



Lot 290



Lot 291



Lot 293



Lot 295



Lot 301



Lot 310



Lot 339



Lot 354



Lot 355



Lot 378



Lot 379



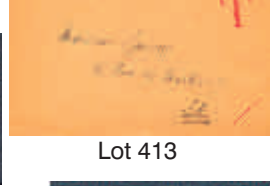
Lot 388



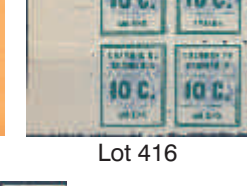
Lot 394



Lot 403



Lot 413



Lot 416



Lot 428



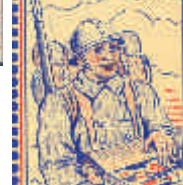
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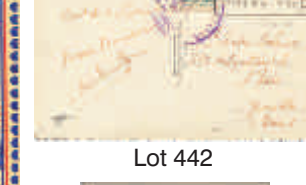
Lot 433



Lot 435



Lot 439



Lot 442



Lot 464



Lot 485



Lot 466



Lot 486

# REPORTS OF MEETINGS

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 1 MAY 2010

The President, Mick Bister, opened the meeting held at the Calthorpe Arms public house, 252 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1, at 11.30am in the presence of 18 members.

**(1) Members present:** Len Barnes, Alan Baum, Mick Bister, Godfrey Bowden, Steve Ellis, L Roy Gilbert, Peter Grech, John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen, Peter Kelly, M Kemp, Peter Lawrence, David Pashby, Barbara Priddy, Maurice Tyler, John West, Bob Wood, Alan Wood.

**Apologies for absence:** Messrs Barrett, Jennings-Bramley, Lawrence, Mackey, Maybury, Mitchell, Simmonds, Spong, and Thorpe.

**(2) Minutes of the previous AGM** of 9 May 2009, published in Journal 253, were accepted unanimously as a true record of that meeting. This was proposed by Alan Wood and seconded by Roy Reader.

### 3) President's Report - Mick Bister

"Last year we entered a new era in the Society's history. In keeping with the eco-friendly policies of the nation, we too adopted the principles of recycling and the use of reclaimed materials. Your president from 2000 to 2003 was recalled, dusted down and guided towards the President's chair. But it was great to be back in the driving seat particularly as 2009 promised to be a significant year.

"Where do we start? Well, we cannot do better than on the first day of the year when Robert Abensur was appointed *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the French Minister of Culture. This was followed by other members achieving accolades including George Barker and John Sussex who were invited in July to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and Chris Hitchen who was elected President of the Society of Postal Historians. Respect is also due to member Mike Brindle who, as part of a team calling themselves 'The Philatelists' took on the Eggheads on BBC 2 in October.

"In 2009 we celebrated the 60th anniversary of our Society and, thanks to Maurice, it was marked in the best way we know how – the publication of a special edition of the 'Journal'. Thank you to all those who contributed articles and recollections and made it such a memorable edition. I have still not been forgiven by some members for resurrecting the photos taken of them in the 1980s. With a Journal of this quality, it was not surprising that we learned in September that the four issues of 2008 had been awarded the Society Journal of the Year award organised by the Association of British Philatelic Societies. At the same time Maurice has been working in his indefatigable way on Ashley Lawrence's book on the Sowers and Bob Picirilli's book on French Colonial Airmail Rates. And while still on the subject of literature, congratulations to André Métayer, Ashley Lawrence and Bertrand Sinais for their contributions to the 2010 Yvert & Tellier catalogue supplement on *Porte-Timbres*.

"Exhibition successes have been widespread with members being accorded honours in Oklahoma City, Denver, Rome and London. Congratulations in particular to Stan

Luft for being awarded a gold for his exhibit of *Marianne de Decaris*, a major feat when exhibiting what many would call 'a common little stamp' .... and where have we heard that description before?

"However, not only congratulations are due. This is also the time to acknowledge the commitment, energy and efficiency of the members and officers who give up so much of their time to ensure that the Society maintains its high levels of service to its members. May I therefore, on behalf of the membership thank all those who have contributed to the smooth running and success of the Society during 2009:- George Barker for running the library and the invaluable photocopying service, Len Barnes for his increasingly successful organisation of the London Group programme and associated *bon viveur* activities, John Hammonds to whom I am indebted for assuring a third auction each year, Chris Hitchen for his role as treasurer, joint convenor of the Annual Weekend and backbone of the London Group meetings, Peter Maybury for handling publications and organising the Northern Group meetings and, in particular, for taking over the responsibility of membership secretary within a couple of days of the announcement of the loss of Geoff Gethin. Thank you too to Peter Kelly for his role as secretary, for being joint convenor of the annual weekend and still finding time with the aid of Alan Wood to arrange programmes for the Wessex Group, to David Pashby for providing an efficient magazine circuit, to Derek Richardson for maintaining the membership lists and for ensuring the distribution of the Journal, to Mavis Pavey and Colin Spong for convening and coordinating the Scotland and Southern Group Meetings, to Maurice Tyler for producing our internationally acclaimed Journal and maintaining the Society's webpage and last, but definitely not least, to John West and Bob Wood for running the packets which provide such pleasure to our members and a constant source of income for the Society.

"The Society could not operate without the input from the above. But did you notice how many officers and members are wearing not one, but sometimes two or even three hats? And did you notice too, how many of these names you have already heard in previous Presidents' reports, year after year? This is evidence of their unfaltering commitment and their unwavering concern for the wellbeing of the Society. I thank them all. However, I reiterate what I wrote in the Journal last year. None of us can continue in our roles for ever and it is essential that we encourage younger members to step forward and take over the reins, thus ensuring that the second decade of the millennium is as successful and rewarding for the Society as the first."

### (4A) General Secretary's Report - Peter Kelly

"Following on from the comments expressed by our President I would like to enlarge on the general activities of the Society.

"At a recent committee meeting at Charlecote I was struck forcibly by just how active and successful the Society has become and the spread of our activities and the services



that are available to our members. The members actually owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the small number of people who have worked so hard to make this happen. The cry for help has been heard and a volunteer has stood forward and he will join the Committee subject to acceptance at today's meeting.

"The scope of our activities is extensive and we believe that there is something there for everyone based on the sound footing of an award winning journal and regular and well supported meetings in London and the provinces organised by our regional conveners where the opportunity is there for you to view fine collections and participate by displaying the stamps or postal history that you collect and to share your queries with other members. Reports on these meetings are published regularly in the Journal.

"The highlight of our year is the annual weekend and this year there were more than 50 of us (including guests) at Charlecote in March. As ever, the atmosphere was convivial and we enjoyed a number of stunning displays and most found something of interest in the stamp and book bourse.

"Worldwide sales of our publications continue and we are currently working with Bob Picirilli on a new book on air-mail rates. Several of our members have contributed to this and we believe that it will be a valuable addition to those researching and collecting this subject.

"The France and Colonial packets continue to operate very successfully thanks to the indefatigable efforts of the two secretaries and new material consigned or donated to the Society has boosted our auction sales considerably.

"In the search for philatelic information the Society has much to offer from our own specialised library which holds many of the 'key' reference works on stamps and postal history as well as the back numbers of the principal French philatelic journals. (The index of their contents is available in the specially produced brochure. These, in all, provide a valuable source of information, supported as it is by the photocopying service provided by our Librarian and it is a pity that this service is underutilised.

"We also have the magazine circuit in which the two principal magazines are circulated for a modest annual cost. This is a great way to keep up to date with what is happening in the world of French philately as well as reading many interesting articles.

"Our Treasurer reports that our finances are in good shape and more than adequate to meet our current requirements.

"I can therefore report that the Society, with all its different functions, is in excellent health and we look forward, with confidence, to another successful year.

"As I bring these notes to a close I have learned, with enormous pleasure, that our member Michèle Chauvet RDP has been awarded the prestigious Crawford medal by the RPSL, a fitting tribute to her work in producing a number of immensely valuable source based reference books on French domestic and colonial postal history."

#### **(4B) Acting Membership Secretary's Report - Peter Maybury**

	Membership movement			
	UK	Europe	Rest of World	Total
As at 01.01.2009	331	31	29	391
Lapsed	-7	-2	-3	-12
Died	-6			-6
Resigned	-11		-1	-12
New	<u>+17</u>	<u>+6</u>	<u>+5</u>	<u>+28</u>
As at 31.12.2009	324	35	30	389

"My thanks to Derek Richardson for his sterling work in again compiling the membership database from which these statistics have been extracted."

#### **(5) Treasurer's Report - Chris Hitchen**

"The year finished with a better surplus than I had anticipated of £

"Whilst the packets continued to provide an invaluable source of support to our finances the auction had a quite exceptional year and produced a surplus that was most welcome whilst quite unexpected. Sales of our publications continued steadily and produced a modest income. Subscriptions maintained the levels of previous years.

"Costs of postage and distribution of society journals and so on continue their inexorable increase and go up by more than the rate of inflation. However technological changes have meant that the figure for the cost of journals has actually dropped and it is anticipated that there should only be small increases under that heading for the foreseeable future.

"In view of the better than anticipated surplus I would therefore recommend keeping the subscription at the present level for 2011 but will probably suggest an increase in 2012 to take account of increases in the costs of postage and expenses over the past few years. As can be seen from the balance sheet the Society still has good reserves."

*[See the balance sheet on the next page.]*

Acceptance of the accounts as presented was proposed by John West and seconded by John Hammonds, and there was a unanimous vote in favour.

#### **(6) Auction Secretary's Report - Mick Bister**

"In 2009 we were back to offering members three auctions thanks to John Hammonds who once more stepped into the breach and rescued the February sale.

"Despite the fall in the number of members submitting lots (between only 12 and 20 vendors per auction) the quality of the material and the attractive reserves ensured continued interest. The percentage of members bidding in the auctions remained the same, between 16% and 21%, but the percentage of material sold rose to between 57% and 63% per sale.

"During 2009, we continued to benefit from the excellent material being offered from the John Levett estate and also from the collections donated to the Society by the late Ray Whitelock. All of Ray's French Colonies collections

## FRANCE &amp; COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at bank  
Cash at building society  
Sundry debtors

**2009****2008**DEDUCT CURRENT LIABILITIES

Sundry creditors  
Subscriptions in advance

TOTAL ASSETS

Represented by

MEMBERS FUNDS

Uncommitted funds at 1.1.2008  
Year surplus

## INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE 2009

Expenditure

Meetings  
Journal 4 issues  
Postage and expenses  
Insurance  
Library  
Year surplus

**2009****2008**Income

Auction  
Exchange packet  
Interest 21.05 18  
Sale of publications  
Donations  
Subscriptions

**2009****2008**

have now been offered although several remain unsold and will be re-offered later. The next step is to lot and dispose of his France collection.

"The Bookstall and Bourse held at Charlecote was another resounding success due to in part the sale of stamps and postal history becoming a main feature of the stall rather than just a sideline as in previous years. Unfortunately, this new venture did experience logistical problems on the first afternoon as the ladies in charge had to cope with the arrival and cataloguing of large quantities of material and, at the same time, the tracking of sales to members keen to find an early bargain. New preparatory procedures are being considered.

"It is a long time since I have had to report a loss in the post but one item from the May auction did not reach its destination – although the Society was reimbursed by Royal Mail.

"In the light of recent events at Westminster I have renamed the Expenses entry under Expenditure as Administration. So that I cannot be accused of misappropriation of funds I can declare that the £ listed was spent on computer ink, envelopes, adhesive tape, a return taxi ride (May Room Auction) and a wonderful gadget manufactured by Helix grandly called a Postal Charge Template and Pricing in Proportion Ruler. It is the best £3.99 I have spent for a long time.

"As always, I would like to express my thanks to all those who gave me assistance last year especially John Hammonds and Alan Wood for the running of the February and May auctions respectively, Maurice Tyler for taking on the extra workload of putting lot images and results on the Society's website and, of course, the ladies, Annette Tyler, Jean Hammonds and my wife Marian, for manning the barricades at Charlecote. They have all contributed to one of the most successful years in the history of the auction, for which I am eternally grateful."

*[The auction accounts appear on the next page.]*

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

"During 2009 22 members offered material for sale, and the number of members receiving packets declined slightly (from 110 to 106). Thanks partly to the reduction in the size of each packet forecast last year, the number of packets in circulation at any one time has continued to increase, and members can now expect to receive a fresh packet every four to six weeks (except when delays occur because of illness or unforeseen absence from home). An improvement in the quality of many booklets has made it possible to offer them to more than the traditional three circuits, with sales showing a steady improvement.

"Members who have not been accustomed to receiving the France packet may be interested to know that it has been



**FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY**  
**AUCTION ACCOUNT for the year ending 31 DECEMBER 2009**

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
2008		2009	2008		2009
SALE OF LOTS			PAYMENTS TO VENDORS		
(including reimbursed Postage & Packing)					
0	February		0	February	
	May			May	
_____	November	_____	_____	November	_____
BOOKSTALL & BOURSE			BOOKSTALL		
			PRINTING		
			0	February	
				May	
			_____	November	_____
			POSTAGE		
			0	February	
				May	
			_____	November	_____
OTHER REVENUE			OTHER OUTGOINGS		
	Bank			Administration	
	Royal Mail Compensation			Surplus to Society	
	Credit to Buyers			Credit c/f to 2010	
_____	Float b/f from 2008	_____	_____	Float c/f to 2010	_____
_____		_____	_____		_____
_____		_____	_____		_____
RECONCILIATION OF CASH POSITION AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2009					
Balance in HSBC Current Account					
Unpresented cheques from buyers					
Unpresented cheques from vendors					
Less surplus paid to Society					
Amount carried forward to 2010 (float and 2 members' credit)					

possible to offer a pleasing variety to each circuit. Typically, a packet contains from eight to ten booklets, usually including one of very modern material, one of 19C items (often with some pre-stamp covers), two of semi-modern, one of 20C covers (often FDCs), another with postcards and one with back-of-the-book material. Unused items are not as common as they used to be, while miniature sheets (used and unused) usually sell very quickly. Recently there have been several booklets of items priced at £ or over, notably some from the late John Levett's collection. The system of including at least two booklets of 'unpicked' material on each circuit has meant that every member has a reasonable chance of finding something that others have not seen: booklets whose contents have been largely removed are no longer circulated. I regularly receive comments such as 'I've been looking for this item for years', while I know of some members who have been inspired to pursue a new angle thanks to having seen what was available.

"Obviously this report is a sales pitch: I would be happy to include any newcomer in a circuit for a trial period."

*[The accounts for the France packet appear on the next page.]*

**(8) Report of Packet Secretary (Colonies) – John West**

"Members may actually be surprised to learn that I actually derive considerable pleasure from receiving remittance slips accompanied by a substantial cheque and, equally, suffer disappointment when the slip reflects that nothing has been purchased. Others, of course, may just consider me 'very sad'!

"The past year has seen a number of new names joining the circuits (and, sadly, several departures too) but new blood does tend to increase sales, albeit briefly, as the new members feast on material that they would scarcely have seen anywhere else. Naturally, therefore, I am always delighted to enlarge the list of packet recipients.

"The year 2009 was dominated by postal action, or should I say inaction, which certainly impacted upon the speed with which packets were transferred. If members didn't decide to delay forwarding through the post (understandably) then postal workers, in various parts of the country, did."

FRANCE AND COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY			
ACCOUNT FOR 'FRANCE' PACKET 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2009			
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
2008			2008
	In hand 1 January: cash at bank		2008 surplus paid to Treasurer
Current a/c			
Deposit a/c	Expenses:		
		Stationery & printing	
		Postage	
Bank interest			
Receipts from members		Payments to vendors	Cheques
paid to bank			
Stamps and cash	Cash at bank:		
		Current a/c	
		Deposit a/c	
	Cheques not yet presented		
Income comprises:		Cash at bank comprises	
Treasurer		(a) 2008 surplus due to	
(b) booklets completed in 2009:		receipts for booklets still circulating	
2009 surplus due to Treasurer		cheques to vendors not yet presented	
balance paid to vendors		commission on sales	
(c) booklets still circulating			
(d) arrears, errors & donations			
(e) bank interest			
(f) cheques not yet presented			

"I regularly send out little missives with the packets, using the opportunity to highlight the recurring indiscretions and, sometimes, offering suggestions that might avoid a repetition. The top 10 major concerns continue to be:-

- 1) Signing too heavily for stamps taken. This results in an impression (and often ink) being left on the stamps on pages underneath.
- 2) Signing over the price of the stamp and making it impossible to discern when I undertake my reconciliation of purchases when the books are returned to me.
- 3) Removal of stamps without leaving a signature.
- 4) Failure to enclose slips, labels etc when forwarding the packet. Returning them to me does not help the next member on the list!
- 5) Unnecessarily lengthy delays in forwarding the packet.
- 6) Protracted delays before forwarding remittance slips to me.
- 7) Incorrect use of my address labels, ie they are intended for use on the packet as a default 'Return to Sender' not to address mail to me with.
- 8) Failure to check with the next member that he/she is available to receive packets.
- 9) The careless transfer of figures and poor addition.
- 10) A recurring problem is people addressing mail to me at the wrong number. My house number is 5 and NOT 8. This might not be a problem if it weren't for the fact that

number eight does not exist in my road. Anyone but my regular postman simply returns the packet marked "No such address" or similar.

"I will also take this opportunity to emphasise that vendors are not the world's leading experts on forgery, and neither am I. You purchase what you see. I continue to be grateful to those few who have sufficient expertise to identify and annotate a Fournier forgery as such. The unwary buyer may not have been fortunate enough to have a 'rogue' or 'bogus' stamp identified as such before acquiring it. No seller is attempting to defraud anyone but we are all capable of misidentification and I can only urge caution when making any expensive purchase.

"The total number of packets circulating during 2009 was 62, of which 52 have been returned to me and 10 are still circulating. (The 2008 figure was 64, of which 8 were still circulating). The total insured value of material circulated was £ (in 2008 £). The average number of books per packet was ( ) and the average value of each packet was £ (£). The total number of books circulated was 845 (898) and the average insured value of each book was £ (£). Income from insurance deductions rose to £ (£). The important figure, however, is the total sales income generated - which amounted to £ compared to £ the previous year. The 2009 figure equates to an average income of £ (£) per packet.



**France and Colonies Colonial Packet accounts 1 January to 31 December 2009****Income**

Balance b/f from 31 Dec 2008

Receipts from members

2009

Commission on sales

Insurance recovered

Postages recovered

Balance due to vendors \_\_\_\_\_

Total receipts 2009

Bank interest \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditure**

Payments to vendors

Expenses

Surplus 2008 paid to treasurer

Creditors:

Money received for  
booklets not brought  
to accountRetained interest \_\_\_\_\_ Surplus  
2009 due to treasurer \_\_\_\_\_**Notes**

Money received for booklets not brought to account is that amount where the vendor has not yet been paid and the final figures calculated

The amounts held in the current and reserve account total £ at 31 December 2009

“Unsigned spaces continue to be an irritating annoyance which continue to cost the society a small amount per year. This amount is usually offset by interest earned on a reserve account which was opened with the first £ received in sales. However, this year, the interest earned barely covers the cost of posting the bank statement to me! On the administration side, I received and registered 180 new books. This was down on previous years but still ample to ensure that I could circulate a steady flow of material. I received and paid in a total of 595 cheques as well as writing out and sending off 43 cheques, totalling £. Postage on books returned to the vendors was, as a general rule, recovered from those vendors. In 2002, I invested £19 in the purchase of 100 second class stamps for use on general correspondence. I have 8 remaining and, with 2nd class postage rising to 30p in April, this does appear to have been a prudent purchase!

“I continue to encourage the use, by members, of philatelic material on their postings but there is no doubt that the post office does little to assist, or encourage, the use of stamps. Sadly, the increased appearance of labels on mail is signalling a gradual end to our leisure pursuit of philately in this country. Luckily, there is evidently sufficient material out there to continue to sustain collectors of French Colonies for the foreseeable future.

“Finally, a word of thanks to all the members who so kindly do everything they can to make my job easier. I do appreciate your regular words of gratitude and encouragement and it certainly makes one’s task a little more enjoyable to know that it is considered worthwhile.”

**(9) Editor’s Report - Maurice Tyler**

“Members’ responses to my request for more articles, made about two years ago, have enabled me to accumulate a small stockpile that will keep me busy for the rest of this year at least. In fact, I now feel rather apologetic towards those who submitted articles a year or more ago and are

still waiting to see them published. It is a nice situation to find oneself in, but I hope members appreciate the balancing act that this entails. I try not to publish too many articles in the same Journal on the same topic area or by the same author, though I am not always completely successful in this attempt.

“During 2009 the Journal was as usual produced four times, although this included a special issue in September which was much more substantial than usual with a number of articles by eminent philatelists, some translated from French. I am very grateful to those colleagues who worked hard (writing, translating, encouraging others to contribute, helping with administrative tasks) to facilitate this production. The year ended with a total of 180 pages (156 last year) of which 112 plus the outside covers were in full colour (90 plus covers last year). I have given up counting the number of words used (this is probably a good thing as that job is not very meaningful!) because the new software I am using does not make that particular task easy. The total cost of producing the Journal has risen by less than £ over the previous year if we take into account all necessary expenses.

“As far as the website is concerned, I have kept it up to date, and have been able to introduce the possibility of viewing the auction catalogue, a selection of lots and the prices realised on-line.”

**(10) Librarian’s Report - George Barker**

“The year 2009 continued the modest decline of 2008, with only 26 (2008: 38) loans and supply of 35 (52) photocopies. While I am grateful for less work to do, I should prefer to see the growing library better used. We have a marvellous resource in the Society’s Library and I hope to be able soon to produce a revised and expanded Library List. A number of new and very interesting books have been produced over the last few years, and though the Society is well able to afford to buy them, I hesitate to suggest that we do, as

they are of considerable size (and high price: for example, Madame Chauvet's recent book on the "Tarifs et Service Postal 1848 - 1878 : Les Colonies d'Afrique" is hardback, A4, with 520 pages and over an inch thick, and costs 140 Euro). This would be quite expensive to post out. Perhaps the meeting can discuss this aspect of our library."

#### (11) Magazine Circuit Organiser's Report - David Pashby

"This year has been a difficult one, with the loss of several members, due to illness, death, or reluctance to accept the 50% increase I was obliged to introduce in an attempt to cover the loss of revenue for the other reasons. The increase is not, as may be seen from the figures, sufficient to cover the difference, and there is a shortfall of £. I do not wish to raise subs yet again; it will in all likelihood deter other

subscribers, and I pin my hopes on the recruitment of new members. This, however, is a slow business. I send a letter to any new member joining the society who expresses interest in the magazine circuit, and recruit about one in five.

"There have been two new members this year; they do not make up for losses for other reasons.

"The amounts I pay in France have fallen a little since 2009, but postages, since April, have risen. The magazines have not arrived without incident; I have had to write to the publishers three or four times to request replacement copies for ones that didn't arrive. Then in one case, a month after a replacement had come, the original turned up, courtesy of a private mailing company. Oh, well, it keeps me in practice with my French."

#### FRANCE & COLONIES - MAGAZINES Accounts for year ending 31 March 2010

ASSETS AND RECEIPTS	2010	2009
Loss carried from previous year		
14 Subs @ £ (2009: 16 @ £)		
6 Subs @ £ (2009: 5 @ £)		
Interest on deposit account for year		
<b>TOTAL</b>		
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Sub to <i>Tiinbres</i> (2 copies) Feb 2010: 138€		
Sub to <i>l'Echo</i> (2 copies) Mar 2010: 126€		
Postages & incidental expenses		
<b>TOTAL</b>		
<b>ASSETS AND RECEIPTS</b>		
<b>less EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>DEBIT to carry to following year</b>		
Current Account		
Deposit Account (statement Nov 10)		
<b>Liability; owing to Organiser from 2009 (left as float)</b>		

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

##### Publications Report - Year to 31.12.2009

##### Volume Sales Comparison

	Members	Non-Members	Wholesale	Promotional	Total	(2008)
Rates Book -	4	27	3	-	34	(20)
Fakes & Forgeries -	1	9	9	-	19	(23)
Brochures & Journals -	96	1	-	-	97	(62)

##### Non-Member Geographical Sales

	UK	Europe	Rest of World	Total	
Rates Book -	-	25	2	27	(15)
Fakes & Forgeries -	-	9	-	9	(13)
Brochures & Journals -	-	1	-	1	(3)

The financial benefit to the Society is presented in the Treasurer's report – Income and Expenditure Account.



### 13) Election of Officers and Committee

The Officers and Committee had agreed to stand again and their re-election en bloc was proposed by Len Barnes, seconded by John Hammonds and passed unanimously:

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

It had been proposed that Paul Watkins should join the Committee, and this proposal was strongly supported by the Officers. However, the Rules of the Society specify that the number of committee members who are not Officers should not exceed 8 and his inclusion would bring the number to 9. In accordance with Rule 5, therefore, it was decided that the Committee would take the earliest opportunity to co-opt Paul Watkins as a committee member to serve until the next General Meeting when he must retire but can offer himself for re-election. This was formally proposed by Alan Wood, seconded by John Hammonds and there was a unanimous vote in favour.

*[Soon after the AGM Iain Stevenson and Hamish Clifton offered their resignations from the Committee, and so Paul Watkins was formerly co-opted as proposed at the AGM.]*

For information: Group Convenors are Mr L H Barnes (London), Mr C W Spong (Southern), Mr J P Maybury (Northern), Mr P R A Kelly & Mr A J Wood (Wessex), and Mrs M Pavey (Scottish).

### (14) Any Other Business

None.

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## WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 3 JULY 2010

### Bryan Wood: Transatlantic Mail and the Development of Maritime Shipping Members' Short Displays

This summer meeting formed part of the 2010 Festival of Stamps and was particularly well attended despite two regular attenders being absent for health reasons.

Our invited display was given by **Bryan Wood** who showed Transatlantic Mail between France and the United States.

Bryan presented a comprehensive display of maritime mail illustrating the development of the shipping companies, the ports used, the postal rates and associated marks. The display was lavishly illustrated with engravings of the ships and ports.

Following our usual lunch at the Old Mill the following members showed in the afternoon:

**Jeremy Martin:** 1940, the Phoney War and Dunkirk;

**George Nash:** Occupied France to Germany from 1943;

**John Scott:** Bills of Lading;

**Claire Scott:** French Deaths;

**Bob Paterson:** Recent Acquisitions;

**John Hammonds:** Service by Ship or Catapult across the Atlantic to France;

**Peter Lawrence:** The Pasteur Centenary Issue of 1923;

**Chris Hitchen:** A Paris Selection;

**Ashley Lawrence:** An American Kindness: a story from the Siege of Paris;

**Alan Ketchell:** Memel;

**Alan Wood:** The Blanc Issue.

Also in attendance were members Peter Todd, Colin Spong and Brian Weeks together with a visitor, Kath Nash.

Best wishes for speedy recoveries were extended to Peter Kelly and Trevor Buckell.

The next meeting will be on Saturday 16 October 2010 when Alan Wood will show a varied selection of postal history.

AJW

# NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 10 JULY 2010

## Bastille Day at Heaton Royds

Once again the day dawned bright and the West Yorkshire sun shone upon the righteous as they gathered at the 17th century home of **Stephen and Judith Holder** for the 18th meeting to celebrate, with displays of French philately and postal history, the fall of the Bastille in 1789.

After coffee and biscuits the proceedings commenced with a display of entry marks by **Mavis Pavey**. Locally made handstamp 1s was the subject then presented by **Peter Maybury**, followed by Haute Savoie from **John Cowell**, the Anglo-French tariff of 1855 from **Paul Watkins** and the definitive issues of the 1930s and 1940s from **George Barker**. There then followed a session on the subject of the Franco-Prussian war, with **George Barker** popping up again with the Tariff of September 1871, **Stephen Holder** then producing the Double Frankings of Alsace-Lorraine, and **Steve Ellis** 1870/1871 Red Cross. The morning session was brought to a close with a display of Cameroun by **Brian Lythgoe**, and yes it was that man again, **George Barker** with

a miscellany displayed on 6 extra large sheets.

A most convivial lunch was partaken in the garden and, wonder of wonders, the afternoon session commenced on time.

**Alan Goude** was first up with St Pierre et Miquelon, then **Tony Shepherd** showed his Guadeloupe Military Mail, **Peter Stockton** French Morocco Military Mail, and **Peter Maybury** Maritime Mail to and from Italy. The penultimate offering was French Internal Airmails from **Mavis Pavey**, and **Derek Richardson** rounded off the afternoon with the Bicentenary Marianne, aka *Marianne de Briat*, issue. Further sustenance of tea and cake was provided to refresh the participants prior to their homeward journeys.

Judith and Stephen were warmly thanked by all present for once again providing a most agreeable day, with the only dissenting voice being that of the cat, when confronted by Paul's display. Janet Richardson was also present as a guest.

JPM

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## SOCIETY NOTES

Continued from page 82

### Philatelic Honours



Mrs Yvonne Gren, the Chairman of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain drew attention at their London 2010 Dinner to the work over many years done by Colin Spong (who is also a prominent member of the F&CPS and Organiser of the Southern Group, of course) and his wife Pat in producing *Czechout* four times annually. Colin joined that Society in 1974 and has served it in many ways during that time, in particular by editing *Czechout* on and off for 23 years, and he has indicated that he wishes to retire later this year.

In recognition of his many years' service Colin was appointed President and presented with a Presidential Certificate. In view of her phenomenal support shown both to Colin and to the Society, Pat Spong was presented with rather a special Czech glass vase.

Colin responded by thanking the Committee and Members for this prestigious award and commented on how much he had enjoyed his many years' association with the Society.

\* \* \*

### Northern Group Programme

12 Feb 2011 -	Tony Shepherd: French Guyana
9 Apr 2011 -	Members' Choice
9 Jul 2011 -	"Bastille Day" at Heaton Royds
29 Oct 2011 -	Members' Choice

Full details of the usual venue (apart from the Bastille Day meeting) are given in the Future Events section of Society Notes on page 82. Further information is available from the Organiser, Peter Maybury, whose contact details are shown on the inside front cover of this Journal.

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### Exhibition Successes

In May 2010 Ed Grabowski was awarded Gold at Nojex 2010 (Secausus. New Jersey) for his "Postal History of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Madagascar & Dependencies."

\* \* \*



# Bastille Day 2010

## Photographs by Peter Maybury



George Barker



Mavis Pavey



Brian Lythgoe



Alan Goude



Paul Watkins and  
the disapproving cat



Derek Richardson



Peter Stockton



Stephen Holder  
our host



Steve Ellis



Tony Shepherd



Lunch  
in the garden

