

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



2F40 France-Canada concessionary rate on censored cover to Quebec
posted 15 May 1942 and received 14 July 1942

© Mick Bister

Postal relationships between France and Canada are explored in some detail
in 3 major articles inside this edition of the Journal

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

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The Society

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

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

2010-11 Annual Subscription Rates

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The Journal

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France: R G E Wood, 51 Longstomps Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9BY (Telephone 01245 267949).

Colonies: J C West, 5 Highbanks Road, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4AR (Telephone 0208 428 4741).

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

For further details contact the circuit organiser:

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

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* * *

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The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1379 David G Parmley (Liverpool), 1380 John Bald (Cambridgeshire), 1381 David H Trapnell (Gloucestershire), 1382 Dr Colin Pease (Yorkshire), 1383 B Knox (Somerset), 1384 André van Dooren (France), 1385 Stephen A Westwood (London).

* * *

Corrigendum

Apologies to new member Tony Howgrove-Graham whose name was mis-spelt in Journal 258.

* * *

Members Deceased

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

1178 Dr A J Heamon.

* * *

Resignations

1191 John Scott, 1343 John Cumes, 1361 Dr James B Oerding.

* * *

Future Events

The **London Group** will meet at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 6.30pm on Wednesday 20 April 2011 when Stephen Holder will display French Postcards.

The **Southern Group** will meet at 2.00pm on Saturday 9 April 2011 at the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, East Worthing when Philip Mackey will display the Louis Napoleon issues.

The **Northern Group** will meet at 1.00pm in the Board Room, Leeds General Infirmary, Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3EX on Saturday 9 April 2011 for a Members' Choice meeting, and at 10am on Saturday 9 July 2011 for the traditional "Bastille Day" meeting at Heaton Royds.

The **Wessex Group** will meet at 10.00am on Saturday 2 July 2011 at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham, Salisbury, when Peter Kelly will display the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1900.

The **Scottish Group** will meet in Room 1, Cross House, Linlithgow at 1.00pm on Saturday 26 March 2011, when Russell Walker will display French Aviation.

* * *

Annual General Meeting

Members are reminded that the Society AGM will take place at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 11.30am on Saturday 7 May 2011, and this will be followed at 2.00pm by the Auction.

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

* * *

Exhibition Successes

The following awards were made to our members at Chicagopex 2010 (19-21 November 2010):

Ed Grabowski gained a Gold medal for "Postal History of the French Colonial Group Type: Use in Madagascar and Dependencies."

Stan Luft gained a Vermeil medal for "Post Offices of the Annexed Paris Suburbs to the 1850s."

* * *

Philatelic Honours

The latest of our members to be congratulated on their elevation to the Fellowship of the Royal Philatelic Society of London include **Alan Wood** and **Jeremy Martin**.

* * *

Requests for Contacts

Our Membership Secretary has been contacted by his homonym, a Peter Maybury who spends most of his time in South Africa and who collects perfins (specialising in Britain and Africa but with a large French accumulation) and any postal items featuring the Maybury name. He seeks to exchange with any members interested and gives his email address as jobs@globaloptions.co.za.

Luis Cases from Spain collects used stamps and special postmarks from all countries (particularly in Europe) and seeks to exchange with other collectors. His postal address is Ausias March 37, 46013 Valencia, Spain.

* * *

Displays by Members

On 18 February 2011 **Maurice Tyler** gave a PowerPoint presentation in French to the Chelmsford French Circle on "La Correspondance pendant la Première Guerre Mondiale."

* * *

OBITUARIES



Skanda Vaitilingam

Many of our members will be sad to learn that our member and friend, Skanda, died on 12 November 2010 at the age of 79 and after a longish period of ill health.

He was born in Sri Lanka, then called Ceylon, and after his graduate studies there came over to the UK in 1955 and did his post-graduate master's degree in biology at Southampton University before taking up a 30 year career in teaching, latterly spending many years in Bridgwater, Somerset. Family was very important for Skanda and it was not long after his arrival that he married an English girl, and he was a much loved husband, father and uncle as well as friend to many.

While in this country he was a lifelong supporter of the Labour Party and was proud to have been the first Asian Town Councillor in Clevedon (Somerset). Social issues were very important to Skanda both at a local and international level where he was a keen supporter of Amnesty International.

Skanda had a great love of the countryside with all of its flora and fauna and I will always remember the enjoyable drives we had in the car together when I brought him up to meetings of the Society at Leamington, Charlecote and Salisbury.

He was also very fond of cricket and was a long time member and supporter of Somerset, but was also intensely proud of the Sri Lanka team.

Skanda was a keen collector of France and Colonies stamps and much more besides that we never saw, and his displays were always eagerly awaited, not only for the philatelic content, which was good, but also the history of the countries involved and his funny stories, for Skanda was a born raconteur and kept everyone in fits of laughter. He was always a brilliant antidote to some of the "heavier" and more serious displays.

Skanda was fond of life and all the people around him and we were all fond of him. He will always be remembered for his enthusiasm and good humour by all his F&C friends.

PRAK

Dr Robert Edwin Stuckey, c1914-2011

The Worthing Herald announced that Bob Stuckey passed away on 20 January 2011 aged 96 after a happy and enjoyable life. Whilst we know nothing of his early years, we understand that he was a biochemist and retired probably as a Research Director of Beechams Pharmaceutical Company [now Glaxo Smith Kline].

He was a member of Worthing Philatelic Society from March 1978 until 2003; he became a committee member from 1979-1981. He also joined the Worthing Society of Postal Historians 1978-2003. Bob Stuckey was a keen Francophile and used to go regularly to the French Institute to improve his French and have conversations. His collecting interest was in "The Saint Nazaire Pocket" travelling quite often to the area and getting to know the people, particularly those living through that period, adding further to his research.

Bob Stuckey probably joined our society either in 1978 or 1979 and the Royal Philatelic Society about the same time and gave us a display in 1989. He produced the Society brochure on the subject of the St Nazaire Pocket in 1982. After he sold his collection, for a time he became interested in the stamps of Monaco. He regularly attended the London meetings and the early weekend conferences in Bournemouth and greatly supported the Southern Group from 1980 until 2003 when his wife became an invalid. He was kind enough to entertain John Levett and Stephen Holder when they came to the Southern Group. He retained his interest in the France & Colonies and I last saw him in his flat last year when he asked me to recommend an auction house to sell his remaining collections.

He was an interesting conversationalist and enjoyed meeting fellow philatelists. He will be missed by family and friends.

CWS

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 19 JANUARY 2011

Unfortunately the display arranged for this date had to be postponed because so many regular attendees were unavoidably engaged elsewhere.

It is hoped that Stuart Henderson will be able to come on a new date still to be confirmed to give his display of French Cinderellas.

MST

WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 29 JANUARY 2011

In the morning session we had two invited displays.

The first, given by our member **Chris Hitchen** was entitled "Paris 1863-1876 – of stars and other things." Not surprisingly, knowing the quality of Chris's material, we were treated to a stunning display of Paris stars of immense variety and running through all of the offices except for the mythical office 40 of which only two copies are known. The other "things" in the title were the reduced price items which were cancelled with date stamps rather than stars and which are equally hard to find.

Our second display was given by member **Jeremy Martin** who treated us to the delights of Togo. This was an excellent presentation of a difficult French West African colony with all of the splits and divisions and wartime implications.

After lunch at the Old Mill, members put up the following displays:

Edwin Rideout - A selection of postal stationery cards;

Bob Paterson - An example of the *Poste Automobile rurale*;
George Nash - France WWII mail up to the occupation;
Brian Weeks - WWII Vichy overprints and varieties in the Colonies;

Graham Lenton - A *ballon monté* to Bristol;

Alan Ketchell - French post offices in the Mediterranean;

Jeremy Martin - A letter from the French fishing fleet to France;

Peter Kelly - The effects of WWII on mail between *Soudan Français* and France;

Richard Stupples - Sower stamps;

Alan Wood - The use of photocopies to display philatelic material.

The following members also attended: Ingrid Swinburn, Peter Todd, Lesley Marley, Peter Lawrence; and guests Kath Nash and Tony Swinburn (15 members & 2 guests)

PRAK/AJW

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 12 FEBRUARY 2011

Tony Shepherd: French Guiana

Present: George Barker, Steve Ellis, Alan Goude, Peter Maybury, Mike Rego, Tony Shepherd, Peter Stockton.

Apologies: Messrs. Cowell, Graham, High, Holder, Meadowcroft, Rooke.

Geographical situation: *Guyane française* (officially just *Guyane*) is an overseas region of France, consisting of a single overseas department (*DOM*) located on the northern Atlantic coast of South America. It is bordered by Brazil to the east and south, and Suriname to the west, with almost half of its population (2009: 229,000) living in the capital Cayenne.

Tony commenced with three 18th/19th century maps and a history of the one time colony followed by his earliest cover, which was dated 1819. This had been carried by favour to

Paris, where it was put into the post (a fine example of why one should always read the contents). We were then taken through a philatelic and postal history journey from the earliest penal colony days through to 1946 when it became a *département* of France. Of note were examples of straight line marks in red and black, mail carried by the Royal Mail Steam Packet line before the French established their own service, incoming mail, military, registered, postal stationery, internal and external airmails. The final two sections were devoted to the hard to find rural post office marks, including the notorious *Isles du Salut* the forbidden territory of *l'Inini* and WWII censored mail.

As George Barker said following the display, all in all it was a remarkable achievement to have assembled a collection of such depth and breadth in just four years.

JPM

Canada-France Concessionary Rate Established in 1929

Mike Street

of the British North America Philatelic Society and the Canadian Philatelic Society (GB)
This article first appeared in the Autumn 2009 issue of Maple Leaf



Figure 1
 8¢ Peace Issue stamp paying 1948 triple surface rate from Canada to France

While preparing my presentation on Peace Issue rates for the 2007 CPS convention in Worthing I decided to do a little more research on the cover shown in Figure 1, a triple rate (4¢ + 2¢ + 2¢) surface letter from Canada to France mailed in 1948.

I had known for some time from the Canada Postal Guide⁽¹⁾ that surface letters to France were charged the same postage as surface letters to British Empire countries, but did not know why France was treated differently from other non-Empire Universal Postal Union (UPU) countries. By digging into my Postal Guides I learned that this special rate had been in effect since at least 1930, but not why or when the rate was established.

While discussing the cover in Fig 1 during the presentation at Worthing I mentioned this problem. After the talk both David Sessions and Brian Stalker came up and said, "I may

have information for you on the special rate for France." It pays to advertise!!

David soon wrote, "A concessionary rate of 2¢ was granted for postcards to France on 1 June 1929; this was equivalent to the domestic, US and Empire rate. Preferred status for letters to France seems to have been granted around this time, although I have not been able to clarify whether it was actually on 1 June. [...] The preferential rate to France increased from 2¢ to 3¢ on 1 July 1931. This kept it in line with the Empire rate which held until 1943. On 1 April 1943 an additional 1c War Tax was applied and this held until 1954."

Brian replied with a scan of a page from the *Canada Gazette* of 1 June 1929⁽²⁾. The pertinent portion, shown in Fig 2, confirms David's rates and his partial answer to the 'When?' question by stating that a new rate was in effect.

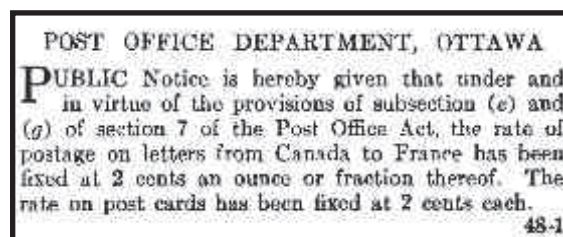


Figure 2
 Extract from *Canada Gazette* of 1 June 1929



Figure 3
Letter mailed 14 June 1929 at the correct new Canada to France rate
but taxed as underpaid because a postal clerk in France did not know about the changes
(Courtesy Gary Steele)

Brian also forwarded copies of an article⁽³⁾ from the *Journal of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society* (F&CPS) which discussed both the 'Why?' and 'When?' questions for reciprocal action by France. On 23 May 1929 officials of the governments of Canada and France had signed a postal agreement⁽⁴⁾.

Corresponding to the *Canada Gazette* announcement, on 6 June 1929 the *Administration des Postes, Télégraphes et Téléphones* of France, normally referred to as the 'PTT', announced that reduced rates for letters, postcards and business papers mailed to Canada were forthcoming, gave the new Canada to France rates, and admonished postal clerks not to tax such items as being insufficiently prepaid. Unfortunately for the recipient of the letter shown in Fig 3, mailed 14 June 1929 from Lacolle, Quebec to France, at least one clerk did not get that message.

The F&CPS article quoted a further reference⁽⁵⁾ which stated that the new reciprocal rates for mail from France to Canada came into effect on 11 September 1929. The pieces of the puzzle were slowly coming together, but the actual date the new rates took effect in Canada remained

unknown until C R McGuire provided the spectacular cover in Fig 4.

This letter consists of a 1¢ #10 postal stationery envelope, up-rated by the addition of a 1¢ Macdonald stamp from the 1927 issue. Addressed to "Mr H C Champ / care Post Office / Lyons / France", it carries two separate typewritten cachets. The two lines just above and left of the address read: "*Inauguration of Canada-France / penny postage, May 23, 1929.*" (italics mine). The cachet at upper left reads: "The Postmaster, GREETINGS: Would you kindly back-cancel this letter and return to H.C. Champ [full address] & oblige."

The Postmaster in Lyon was very obliging. Thanks to him and Mr Champ (and C R McGuire) today we have this cover, mailed on the very day the postal agreement between Canada and France was signed. So far I have been unable to find out how Mr Champ learned about the new rate and the date it was going into effect. He must have seen either a newspaper announcement about the signing ceremony, or perhaps a Canada Post Office announcement of the new rate, possibly both.



Figure 4
Letter to France mailed 23 May 1929, the first day of the new preferred rate
(Courtesy C R McGuire)

The covers that follow illustrate both French and Canadian concessionary rates from their implementation in 1929 to 1940.

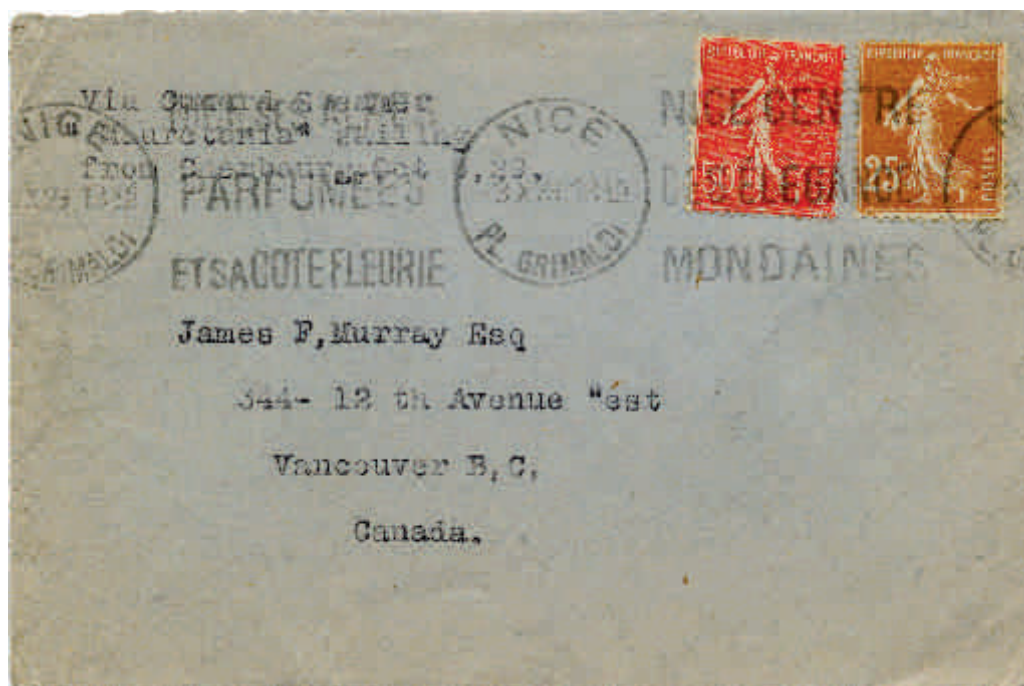


Figure 5
75 centime preferred rate letter from France to Canada
mailed 3 October 1929, less than a month after the new rates went into effect in France
(Courtesy Mick Bister)



Figure 6
Registered single weight preferred rate letter from Canada to France
mailed 17 December 1929
(Courtesy Kimber Wald)



Figure 7

Single weight letter from Canada to France mailed 17 October 1931, after the preferred rate had increased from 2¢ to 3¢ per ounce or fraction thereof



Figure 8

75 centime preferred rate souvenir cover from France to Canada, mailed 26 July 1936 by a participant in the pilgrimage of several thousand Canadians to the official unveiling of the new Vimy Ridge monument honouring Canada's Soldiers who fell during World War I⁽⁶⁾



Figure 9

1F25 preferred rate letter from France to Canada mailed 7 April 1939,
possibly with a Spanish Civil War connection⁽⁷⁾
(Courtesy Derek Richardson)



Figure 10

Double weight preferred rate letter from Canada to France mailed Sep 4/40,
examined by a Canadian censor and held
while postal operations were reorganized after the fall of France
(Courtesy Gary Steele)

Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks to Mick Bister and Derek Richardson of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society (GB), Christian Maltor of France, and to C R McGuire, David Sessions, Brian Stalker, Gary Steele and Victor Willson of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPSofGB) and/or the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS). Without their help this article would not have been written.

References

(1) *Canada Official Postal Guide*, King's Printer, Ottawa, 1930-1951

(2) *Canada Gazette*, King's Printer, Ottawa, 1 June 1929. The *Canada Gazette* is the official newspaper of the Government of Canada and has been published regularly by the Queen's Printer since 1841. Published within the *Canada Gazette* are new statutes and regulations, proposed regulations, decisions of administrative boards and an assortment of government notices. Private sector notices which are required by statute to be published to inform the public also appear in the *Canada Gazette*. For additional information see:

<http://www.gazette.gc.ca/cg-gc/lm-sp-eng.html#i6>

(3) Mick Bister, "The Concessionary Franco-Canadian Rates," *Journal of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society (GB)*, March 2001, Volume 51, N° 217. The article mentions that the late Alan McKanna of Toronto, an avid col-

lector of French postal history, knew that Canada's Empire rate had been extended to France and that France, in turn, had extended to Canada its 'frontier' rate, applicable to some countries on its borders such as Luxembourg, and later to Spain, Belgium and Switzerland.

(4) *Ibid.* The information is quoted from the 1929 *Bulletin Officiel* (N°s 9 & 15) of the government of France's Department of Mail, Telegraphs and Telephones (*Postes, Télégraphes et Téléphones - PTT*).

(5) Derek Richardson, *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to 2005*, France and Colonies Philatelic Society (GB) Brochure N° 7.

(6) For additional information see:

<http://bnaps.org/philatelic/vimy.htm>

(7) Derek Richardson, personal communication. Re Fig 9 above: "The cover is postmarked Felletin (Creuse) 7-4-39, franked at the concessionary rate of 1F25 instead of the UPU rate of 2F25, and contains correspondence, with photo, from a Spanish lady. Nearly half a million Spaniards, military and civilians, sought asylum in France towards the end of the Spanish Civil War in the spring of 1939. The soldiers were interned in camps in the south, while civilians were distributed in "colonies" in other parts of the country. I wonder how she met this Billy Millachip. Perhaps he had been a member of one of the International Brigades formed from volunteers fighting in Spain on the Republican side."

BOOKSHELF

Books Noted

1883-1960 Un Homme... une Machine: 77 ans d'oblitérations Daguin by René Geslin; price 35€ + p&p; 200pp, 330 illustrations in colour; available from the author at BP 45, 92270 Bois-Colombes. [Prefaced by Bertrand Sinais, a comprehensive study of the different types of Daguin cancels used in France and other countries, with valuations.]

Report on the Progress of Civil Aviation 1939-1945 by John Wilson, pub 2009 by West Africa Study Circle; ISBN 9781905647033, loose leaf, 213pp; now only available as a free pdf downloaded from www.wasc.org.uk [John Wilson has once again come to the aid of collectors of WWII postal history and airmails by his transcribing this report in the archives of the Civil Aviation Authority, and now made freely available to all interested collectors. It contains much information relating to worldwide routes and service. This compilation together with Peter Wingent's researches and the late John Daynes' editing of the **Overseas Mail Branch weekly reports 1939 to 1944** including censorship and air-mail services, published in 2005 with permission of Royal Mail; provides everything for the collector.]

Mayer 2010: Timbres de la Libération, 10th edition, produced by Martine Mayer, daughter of the well known specialist in Liberation issues; 108pp in colour; price 45€ + p&p; available from Martine Mayer Philatélie, 333 chemin de l'Oratoire, 74270 Clarafond. [Latest edition of this catalogue covering Liberation issues in detail.]

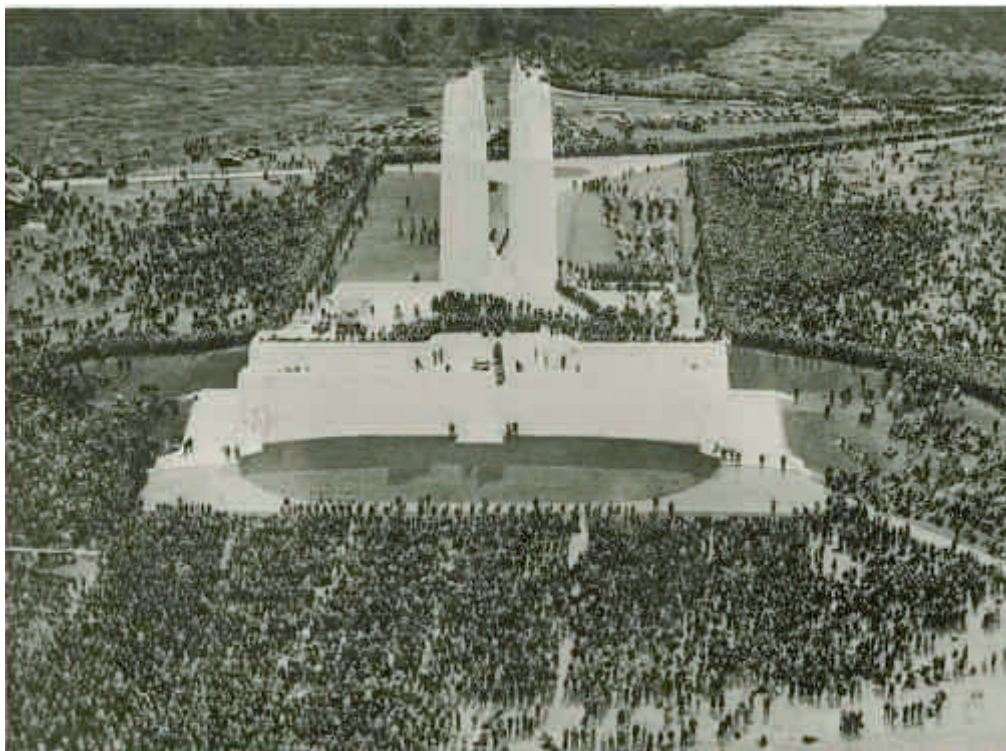
Maurice Tyler

Extracts from the Air Ministry Civil Aviation Intelligence Summaries 27 August 1939 to 30 May 1945 by Peter Wingent, pub 2010 by West Africa Study Circle; ISBN 9781905640751, 215pp ring bound; price £24 + p&p; available from WASC, 8 Grasmere Road, Dronfield Woodhouse, Dronfield S18 8PS (UK). [Peter Wingent is to be congratulated upon his many hours in researching these documents at the National Archive at Kew and making them available in book form. This weekly listing of the Civil Aviation summaries by the British Air Ministry covers more than West Africa. To all who are interested in the mails during WWII, we now have available dates of when the various services commenced and finished. It also covers destinations served and what happened to certain flights.]

Colin Spong

The 1936 'Vimy Ridge' issue

Mick Bister



Unveiling of the Canadian Memorial on 26 July 1936
(© McMaster University Library, Hamilton, Ontario)

Political Background

In 1935, in an effort to block any support for fascism in France all the parties of the left and centre combined to form the Popular Front which, at the elections of June 1936, won a sweeping victory. As a result, Léon Blum, a Marxist, became the first socialist and the first Jew to be Prime Minister of France. Despite its short life (4 June 1936 - 22 June 1937), the Popular Front government passed much important legislation, including the 40-hour week, paid holidays for the workers, collective bargaining on wage claims and the nationalisation of the arms industry.

Within weeks of the new government coming into power a noticeable change took place in the country's stamp issuing policy. Initiated by Blum's *Ministre des PTT*, Robert Jardilier, issues were to become more patriotic and a programme of issuing stamps related to the Great War was launched starting with two stamps commemorating the unveiling of the Canadian War Memorial on Vimy Ridge.

Historical Background

In the Battle of Vimy Ridge, the main combatants were the Canadian Corps against three divisions of the German Sixth Army. The battle, which took place from 9 April to 12 April 1917, was part of the opening phase of the British-led Battle of Arras, a diversionary attack for the French Nivelle Offensive. The objective of the Canadian Corps was

to take control of the German-held high ground along an escarpment at the northernmost end of the Arras Offensive. The Canadian Corps captured most of the ridge on 9 April and completed their objective on 12 April 1917 when the German forces finally retreated.

The battle was the first occasion when all four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force participated in a battle together, and thus became a Canadian nationalistic symbol of achievement and sacrifice. Nearly 4000 Canadians lost their lives – altogether over 66,000 Canadians died in the First World War.

In recognition of Canada's war efforts, France granted Canada perpetual use of 250 acres of land on Vimy Ridge under the understanding that the Canadians used it to establish a battlefield park and memorial. The monument architect Walter Seymour Allward was approached to create a memorial and, starting in 1921, he made 150 sketches before submitting the design which won the commission from the Canadian federal government. King Edward VIII unveiled the memorial on 26 July 1936 in the presence of French President Albert Lebrun and over 50,000 Canadian and French veterans who had made the pilgrimage. Canadian veterans were presented with a 2" diameter bronze medallion depicting the monument and the statue 'Mother Canada', one of several poignant figures on the memorial (Fig 1)



Figure 1
The pilgrims' medal, depicting 'Mother Canada'

The adhesive issues

The two stamps issued to commemorate the unveiling of the monument were designed and engraved by Henry Cheffer and depict the twin white pylons, one bearing the maple leaf for Canada the other the fleur-de-lys for France, symbolising the unity and sacrifice of both countries. The *Musée de la Poste* in Paris has retained in its archives the original dies engraved by Cheffer on 8 x 7cm steel blocks (Fig 2). These are accompanied by die-proofs for each of the values signed by the *Ministre des PTT*, Robert Jardillier. The two values chosen were a 75c value for the concessionary Franco-Canadian Letter Rate (11 September 1929 - 31 July 1937) and a 1F50 value for the Foreign Letter Rate (1 August 1926 - 31 July 1937).

The choice of colour for the 1F50 was restricted to blue, being the regulatory UPU colour for the foreign letter rate. The only decision that had to be made was which shade of blue. The *Musée de la Poste* holds eight colour trials printed from a secondary die on 11 x 14cm sheetlets each perforated with the punch control along the lower edge and with the ink number written in pencil.

The colours are as follows:

Ink Number	Shade
5	Blue
13	Deep greenish blue (Fig 3)
1101	Ultramarine
1106	Deep ultramarine
1107	Navy blue
1108	Turquoise
1109	Aquamarine
1110	Bright blue

Strangely there does not exist a colour trial in the issued dark blue shade N° 1102.

The choice of colour for the 75c value was wide open as



Figure 2
Original die of the 75c value
(© Musée de la Poste)

there were no UPU colour regulations regarding this particular concessionary rate. Nine colour trials exist as follows in the same format as the 1F50.

Ink Number	Shade
1103	Deep blue
1108	Turquoise
1302	Bluish green
1308	Yellow green
1403	Reddish brown ⁽ⁱ⁾
1505	Blackish violet
1701	Sepia
1704	Dark grey
8674	Orange brown

(i) In their circulars, the PTT's description of the issued colour was '*rouge sombre*'



Figure 3
1F50 colour trial in ink N° 13 deep greenish-blue
(© Musée de la Poste)

To create the *bon à tirer* authorising the printing of each value a colour proof was pulled from the original die in the selected colour, ie N° 1403 for the 75c and N° 1102 for the 1F50, and attached to a sheet of document paper. Although the *bons à tirer* are stamped with the cachet of the *Atelier des Timbres-Poste* neither is dated or signed as is normally the case. Perhaps the die-proofs mentioned earlier that had been signed by Robert Jardillier provided sufficient authorisation for production to proceed.

Presentation proofs or *épreuves de luxe* were issued in two formats. 25 of each value were printed on small sheets (125 x 94mm), 70 of the 75c and 120 of the 1F50 in a larger

format (156 x 126mm)⁽ⁱⁱ⁾.

Both values were printed in sheets of 50, the 75c value from 11 to 28 July on Press 2 (Fig 4) and the 1F50 from 10 to 21 July on Press 5 and from 22 to 24 July on Press 3. 7 million and 5 million were printed respectively. The stamps were issued on the day of the unveiling, 26 July 1936, and withdrawn on 23 September. A *feuille-modèle* of the 75c value printed on 15 July and of the 1F50 value printed on 10 July record the details (Fig 5).

(ii) printing figures according to the *Catalogue Spécialisé Edouard Berck*, 1956



Figure 4
Dated corner block of the 75c value



Figure 5
Part of the 1F50 *feuille-modèle*
(© Musée de la Poste)

The Postal Stationery Issues

To accompany the adhesives, two sets of postal stationery postcards were printed. Each set comprised 10 postcards illustrating views and details of the monument based on photos taken by the French modernist photographer André Vigneau and by Fox Photos Ltd of London.

The 50c set, representing the concessionary Franco-Canadian Postcard Rate (11 September 1929 - 31 July 1937),

was printed with a vertical figurine in dark green depicting the statue 'Breaking of the Swords'. The horizontal figurine on the 90c set featured a view of the monument and was printed in red, being the mandatory UPU colour for the Foreign Postcard Rate (1 August 1926 - 31 July 1937).

The cards were produced in photogravure by E Desfossés-Néogravure of Paris and sold at face value in a rather unimaginatively designed folding wallet (Fig 6).



Figure 6
50c postal stationery postcard and wallet

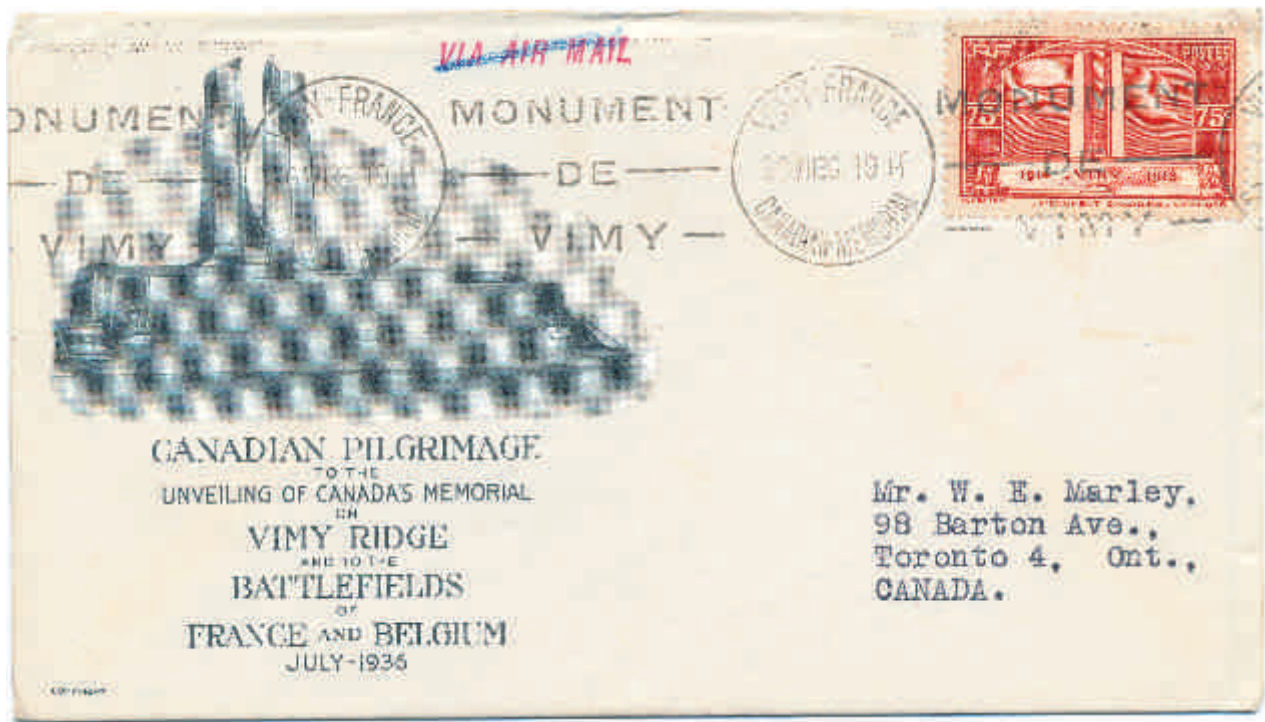


Figure 7
75c value paying the concessionary Franco-Canadian Letter Rate on First Day Cover to Toronto, Ontario, cancelled by Krag 'Monument de Vimy'

Condition of Sale

The sale of both the stamps and the postal stationery was strictly controlled. A letter sent to all the regional and *département* managers by Edmond Quenot, *Directeur de l'Exploitation Postale et des Services Financiers* on 16 July include, *inter alia*, the following instructions:

"The postcards will be sold as a complete pack at 5F and 9F according to the value of the stamp.

"The sale of both stamps and postcards will take place from 25 July at the following offices: Vimy, Arras, Bétune and Lens (Pas-de-Calais), Albert (Somme) and Lille, Armentières, Douai and Cambrai (Nord) and in those localities likely to welcome war veterans participating in the event. These localities will be announced by the PTT Directors of the départements of Nord, Somme, Pas-de-Calais and possibly Aisne.

"Afterwards, the sale of the stamps will be extended to the whole country. The postcards though, in addition to the places mentioned above, will only be available to the public at the Recette Principale in Paris and in the main post offices of Versailles, Chartres, Orleans,

Tours, Blois, Le Havre and Rouen.

To enable the public elsewhere to obtain the postcards it has been decided that post offices not stocked with them can accept written requests for complete sets. The requests [...] must reach the Agence Comptable des Timbres-Poste by 1 August at the latest."

Although the letter specifies that the stamps should be available for sale from 25 July, I am not aware of any covers bearing that date. The stamps and cards appear to have been put on sale on the day of the ceremony itself, 26 July. Illustrated souvenir covers celebrating the unveiling and the pilgrimage were available and a special Krag slogan cancellation inscribed VIMY-FRANCE CANADIAN MEMORIAL - MONUMENT DE VIMY was used to cancel the mail.

Although no reference can be found in any documents it can be assumed that the cancelling was undertaken at Arras just 12 kilometres away. There may have been, however, a temporary post office on the site of the unveiling as mail can be found cancelled with a circular handstamp simply inscribed VIMY FRANCE CANADIAN MEMORIAL. (Figs 7-12).

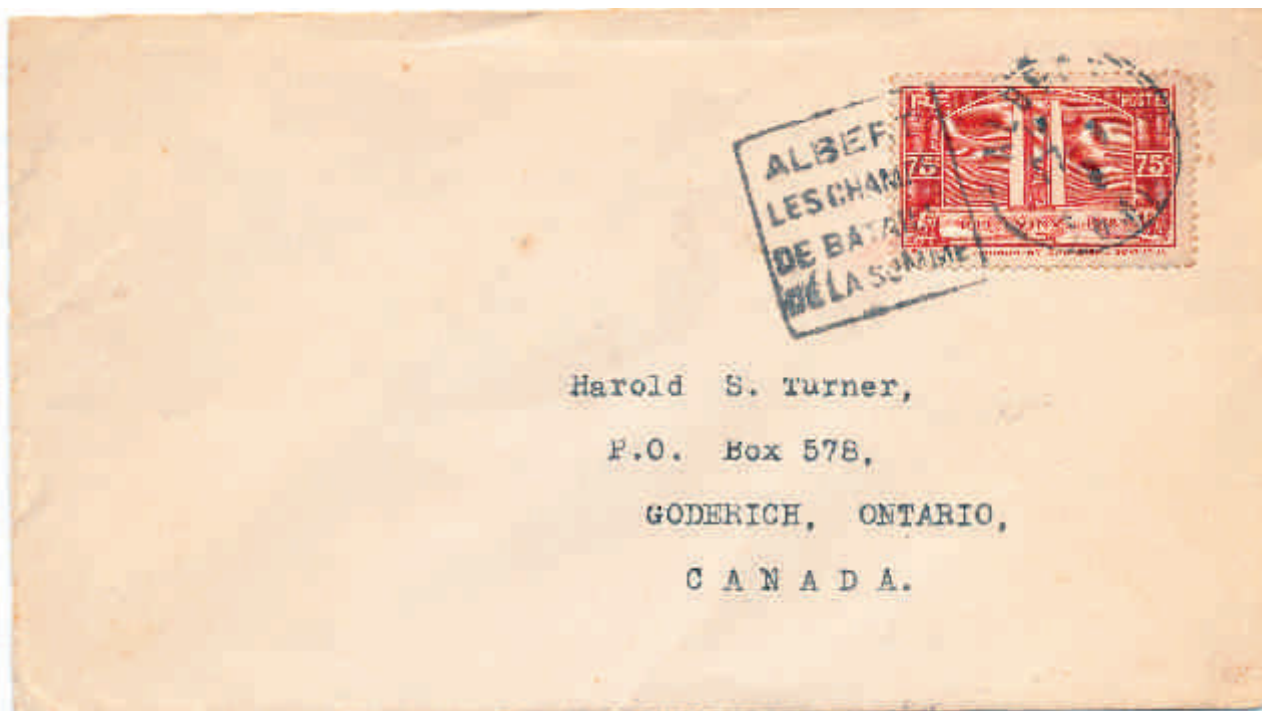


Figure 8

75c value paying the concessionary Franco-Canadian Letter Rate on cover dated 27 July 1936 to Goderich, Ontario cancelled by Daguin 'Albert - les champs de bataille de la Somme'



Figure 9

50c postal stationery postcard for the concessionary Franco-Canadian Postcard Rate, to Miramichi, New Brunswick, cancelled on first day of issue

(© Mike Street)



Figure 10

50c postal stationery postcard cancelled on first day of issue with Vimy-France handstamp and sent to Paris. Original message in pencil has been erased and replaced in ink with 'I know you will be interested in this souvenir from Vimy Ridge. *The boys are getting a wonderful reception*' The card has been franked with a 50c *Type Paix* to pay the concessionary Franco-Canadian Postcard Rate and forwarded to East Kildonan, Manitoba.

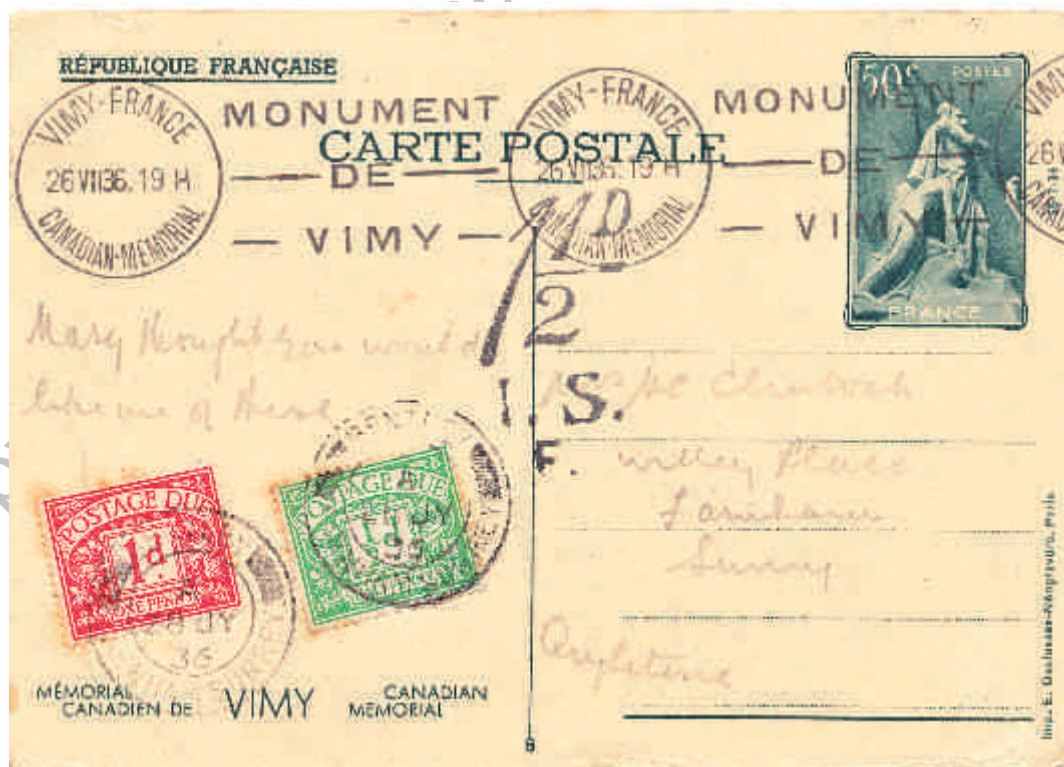


Figure 11

50c Postal Stationery Postcard to Farnham, Surrey.
The card is underpaid as the UPU Foreign Rate was 90c at the time
and has therefore been taxed 1½d postage due.



Figure 12

Picture postcard of the trenches at Vimy Ridge sent to Mers-les-Bains in the Somme. The card has received the souvenir cachet TRANCHEES CANADIENNES / 6 SEPT 1936 / VIMY (France) and was posted at Liévin in the Pas-de-Calais.

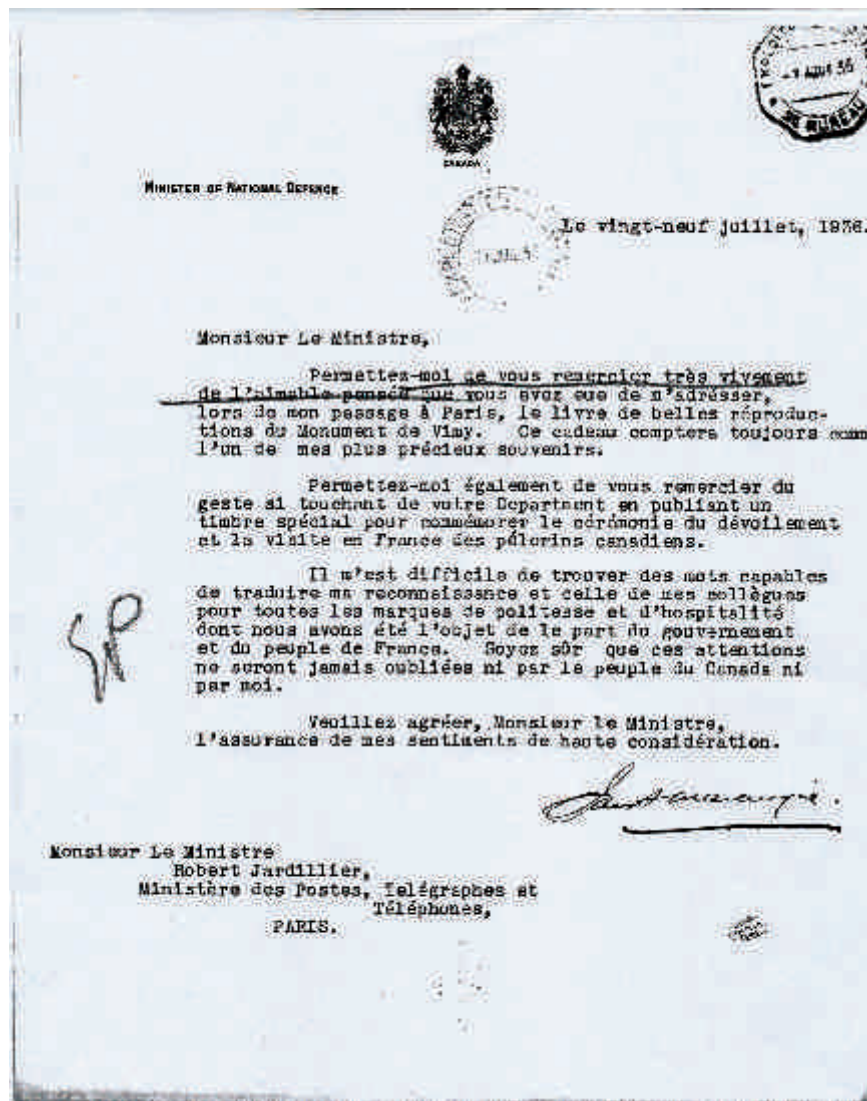


Figure 13
Letter from Ian Mackenzie to Robert Jardillier
(© Musée de la Poste)

Only a few weeks after the signing of the die proofs by the *Ministre des PTT*, Robert Jardillier, the unveiling of the memorial, the meeting of dignitaries, the issuing of the stamps and all the attendant ceremonies were over. Robert Jardillier could look back with some satisfaction at the success of such a major event so early on in his party's new government and he could be forgiven for privately congratulating himself on the part that the PTT had played in the celebrations.

He must therefore have been delighted when he found in his in-tray a letter dated 29 July 1936 from Ian Mackenzie, the Canadian Minister of National Defence who had attended the ceremonies (Fig 13).

"Dear Minister

"Please allow me to offer my heartfelt thanks for the kindness you showed to me when, upon my visit to

Paris, you presented to me the book of beautiful illustrations of the Vimy Memorial. This gift will always remain one of my most precious souvenirs.

"Allow me to thank you too for the touching gesture of your Department shown in the issuing of a special stamp commemorating the unveiling ceremony and the visit of the Canadian pilgrims to France.

"It is difficult for me to find the right words to express my gratitude and that of my colleagues for all the tokens of courtesy and hospitality that we have received from the government and the people of France. Rest assured that this kindness will never be forgotten either by the people of Canada or by myself.

"Yours faithfully

Ian Mackenzie"

A job well done indeed!

French Colonies and the Luxembourg/Canada Concessions of 1928-1929

Bill Mitchell

I often browse through back numbers of the Journal. In this way I have just rediscovered an interesting article by Robert Johnson in which he illustrates and comments on two covers in his collection sent from Fort Archambault in French Equatorial Africa to Toronto in Canada in May and June 1937⁽¹⁾. The postage paid on both appeared to be correct for letters sent by surface mail to Canada under a Franco-Canadian Agreement of 23 May 1929 effective from the following 11 September. Full details of this Agreement can be found in an article by Mick Bister which was published a year or so earlier⁽²⁾. A study of the Foreign Letter Rates pages in Derek Richardson's book⁽³⁾ shows that a similar arrangement with the same rates for letters had applied to mail sent to Luxembourg since 1 June 1928. These arrangements ceased with the next rate change on 1 August 1937, from which date the Frontier Rate applying to certain mail to certain addresses in Spain, Belgium and Switzerland applied also to Luxembourg and Canada.

It was Mick Bister who spotted this unusual franking, and their discussions enabled Robert to write:

"Mick makes the valid point that we have not been able to trace any document authorising use of the Canadian concessionary rate in the French Colonies. On that basis this article is written, amongst other reasons, to see if anyone does know of an authority or, failing that, whether anyone else has concessionary rate covers to Canada from any French Colony."

Through the good offices of Bob Picirilli and Marty Bratzel I have photocopies of extracts relating to postal matters from the *Journaux Officiels* of several of the Colonies, and a search through them has proved very interesting. I have not been able to trace any reference to these concessions in 1928 or 1929 (as it turns out, not surprisingly), but I have found that in Madagascar (perhaps untypically) the metropolitan foreign tariff of 1 August 1937, which was set out in no less than four *décrets* signed at Paris on the preceding 8 July, was given effect from the following 1 October by order of the Governor-General on 28 August (it was not uncommon for new tariffs to become effective in the Colonies some little time after they were imposed in France). These *décrets* were published in full in the *Journal Officiel de Madagascar et Dépendances* of 4 September; we are only concerned with the first of these, which dealt with letters, postcards, business papers (*papiers d'affaires*), printed papers (*imprimés*), samples (*échantillons*), small packets (*petits paquets*) and registration (*recommandation*).*

This first *décret* is reprinted in Fig 1. Article 1 is interesting because it mentions something that I have not come across before – that in accordance with the special arrangements made under Article 5 of the Universal Postal Convention

[at the UPU Congress of 1934, apparently] and the legal or regulatory arrangements concerning correspondence between France, Algeria, the French Colonies and territories under protectorate or for which France was otherwise responsible ("*les pays du protectorat ou assimilés*" – does this last mean "under Mandate from the League of Nations"?) on the one hand and foreign countries on the other hand were subject to the conditions laid down by the Convention and the Regulations annexed to it. Article 2 provided that foreign postal charges, ordinary and registered, in France and Algeria were to be as set out in the Table which followed (the details will be found in Fig 1).

The special arrangements for Luxembourg and Canada appeared in Article 5. They applied to the oddly named "*taxes de transport*" and were specifically said to apply in France. They covered letters, postcards and business papers. The first two present no problems. For letters the rates were 1 franc for the first 20g and 60 centimes for each additional 20g or part thereof ("or part thereof" should be understood for all the scales of charges which follow); for foreign countries in general they were 1F75 and 1F respectively. For postcards the charge was 60c or 1F20 for reply-paid cards compared with 1F or 2F (for some strange reason the latter was said to be 1F for each part of the card).

The position as regards the Luxembourg/Canada rate for business papers is not so clear. Article 5 simply said that the minimum charge ("*minimum de perception*") was 1F; it said nothing about actual rates so one must presumably look to the charge for other destinations, which was 35c per 50g subject to a minimum charge of 1F75. On this basis, for Luxembourg and Canada the minimum charge was exceeded when the weight exceeded 100g when it would have been 1F05 (35c x 3) as opposed to 1F75 for other destinations. The totals would have become the same (1F75 franc or 35c x 5) when the weight exceeded 200g. Although the French *décret* was printed in its entirety in Madagascar, Article 5, which applied only "*en France*," clearly could not have applied there, and it seems to follow that the 1928 and 1929 Agreements did not extend to the Colonies. It's no wonder, therefore, that Robert and Mick were unable to trace any authority for the use of the Canada rate in them and I conclude that either the clerk or clerks handling Robert's letters misunderstood the rules or the sender was well informed and successfully "tried it on".

The provisions about the Frontier Rate were set out separately in Article 4. There are two reasons for this. The Luxembourg/Canada concession applied to mail from anywhere in France (and only in France, as already noted) to anywhere in Luxembourg or Canada, whereas the Frontier Rate only applied to mail sent between two offices which were not more than 30 kilometres apart as the crow flies ("*lorsque la distance en ligne droite entre le bureau d'origine et le bureau de destination ne dépasse pas 30 kilomètres*"); and while the rates for letters and postcards were the same, business papers were additionally included in the arrangements for Luxembourg and Canada. These Frontier Rates

* The others dealt with insured packets, parcels and money orders: for these services there were no special arrangements for Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg or Canada.

also applied only in France, which is hardly surprising, and equally could not have applied in the Colonies.

It's interesting to note that in some Colonies things were handled differently and perhaps more typically. In its issue of 15 August 1937 the Ivory Coast *Journal Officiel* printed an *arrêté* of the Lieutenant-Governor dated 30 July 1937 which said, in Article 1, that postal, telegraph and telephone charges in the Colony are charged as follows from 1 August (*"Les taxes postales, télégraphiques et téléphoniques applicables dans la Colonie de la Côte d'Ivoire sont modifiées ainsi qu'il suit à compter du 1^{er} août 1937"*). There followed tariff details corresponding to the French tariffs of 12 July (metropolitan) and 1 August (foreign). Similarly, the Cameroun *JO* of 1 October 1937 printed an *arrêté* of the *Commissaire de la République Française au Cameroun* dated 11 September setting out the same tariff details (ie,

metropolitan and foreign) for that Territory. Not surprisingly, since the Luxembourg/Canada concession applied only *"en France"*, these *arrêtés* contained no reference to either of these countries. And, of course, there is no mention of the Frontier Rate.

I'm obliged to Mick Bister for some helpful suggestions for improving the first drafts of this article.

References

- (1) *"Congo Français - Oubangui-Chari: Concessionary Rates to Canada"* (*Journal*, December 2002, Vol 54 N° 4, Whole N° 226, pp 163-164)
- (2) *"The Concessionary Franco-Canadian Rates"* (*Journal*, March 2001, Vol 51 N° 1, Whole N° 219, pp 7-9).
- (3) *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to 2005* (F&CPS Brochure N° 7, third edition 2006, pp 56-58).

<p style="text-align: center;">DÉCRET</p> <p>portant exécution de la convention postale universelle du 20 mars 1934 et du règlement y annexé.</p> <p>Le Président de la République française,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Décrète :</p> <p>Art. 1^{er}. — Sous réserve de l'application des arrangements spéciaux conclus en vertu de l'article 5 de la convention postale universelle et des dispositions « légales ou réglementaires » concernant les correspondances circulant entre la France, l'Algérie, les colonies françaises et les pays de protectorat ou assimilés, l'échange des correspondances ordinaires ou recommandées (lettres et cartes postales, papiers d'affaires, journaux et autres imprimés, échantillons de marchandises, petits paquets) entre la France et l'Algérie, d'une part, et les pays étrangers, d'autre part, aura lieu dans les conditions fixées par la convention précitée et le règlement y annexé.</p> <p>Art. 2. — Les taxes à percevoir en France et en Algérie sur les correspondances ordinaires ou recommandées à destination des pays étrangers sont perçues conformément aux tarifs fixés par le tableau suivant :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lettres :</p> <p>De 0 à 20 grammes, 1 fr. 75 ; Au-dessus de 20 grammes, par 20 grammes ou fraction de 20 grammes, 1 franc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cartes postales :</p> <p>Pour la carte simple et pour chaque partie de la carte avec réponse payée, 1 franc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Papiers d'affaires :</p> <p>Par 50 grammes, ou fraction de 50 grammes, 35 centimes, avec minimum de perception de 1 fr. 75.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Imprimés :</p> <p>Par 50 grammes ou fraction de 50 grammes, 35 centimes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Impressions en relief à l'usage des aveugles :</p> <p>Par 1.000 grammes ou fraction de 1.000 grammes, 20 centimes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Echantillons :</p> <p>Par 50 grammes ou fraction de 50 grammes, 35 centimes, avec minimum de perception de 70 centimes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Petits paquets :</p> <p>Par 50 grammes ou fraction de 50 grammes, 70 centimes, avec minimum de perception de 3 fr. 50</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Recommandation :</p> <p>Droit fixe, 2 francs.</p>	<p>Art. 3. — Les journaux et écrits périodiques expédiés directement par les éditeurs ou leurs mandataires bénéficient d'une réduction de 50 p. 100 sur le tarif général des imprimés, dans les relations avec les pays qui ont donné ou donneront leur assentiment à l'application de cette mesure ; la même réduction est concédée, sous la même réserve et quels que soient les expéditeurs, aux livres ainsi qu'aux brochures et papiers de musique, à l'exclusion de toute publicité ou réclame autre que celle qui figure sur la couverture ou les pages de garde des volumes ; la taxe à percevoir, après l'abattement prévu, sera, le cas échéant, forcée au demi-décime.</p> <p>Art. 4. — Par exception aux dispositions de l'article 2, les taxes de transport à percevoir en France pour les lettres et les cartes postales à destination de la Suisse, de la Belgique et de l'Espagne, lorsque la distance en ligne droite entre le bureau d'origine et le bureau de destination ne dépasse pas 30 kilomètres, sont fixées comme suit :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lettres :</p> <p>1^{er} échelon (20 grammes), 1 franc ; Par 20 grammes ou fraction de 20 grammes en sus, 60 centimes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cartes postales :</p> <p>Simple, 60 centimes ; Avec réponse payée, 1 fr. 20.</p> <p>Art. 5. — Les taxes de transport applicables en France aux lettres, aux cartes postales et, en ce qui concerne le minimum de perception, aux papiers d'affaires à destination du Canada et du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg sont fixées comme suit :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lettres :</p> <p>1^{er} échelon (20 grammes), 1 franc ; Par 20 grammes ou fraction de 20 grammes en sus, 60 centimes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cartes postales :</p> <p>Simple, 60 centimes ; Avec réponse payée, 1 fr. 20.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Papiers d'affaires :</p> <p>Minimum de perception, 1 franc.</p> <p>Art. 6. — En cas d'absence ou d'insuffisance d'affranchissement, les objets de correspondance de toute nature, en provenance des pays étrangers, sont passibles, à la charge des destinataires d'une taxe égale au double de l'affranchissement manquant ou de l'insuffisance, sans que cette taxe puisse être inférieure à 50 centimes.</p> <p>Lorsque l'évaluation de la taxe à appliquer aux correspondances de provenance étrangère non affranchies ou insuffisamment affranchies fera ressortir une fraction de demi-décime, cette fraction sera forcée au demi-décime.</p>
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Figure 1a

First part of the *décret* published in the *Journal Officiel de Madagascar et Dépendances* of 4 September 1937

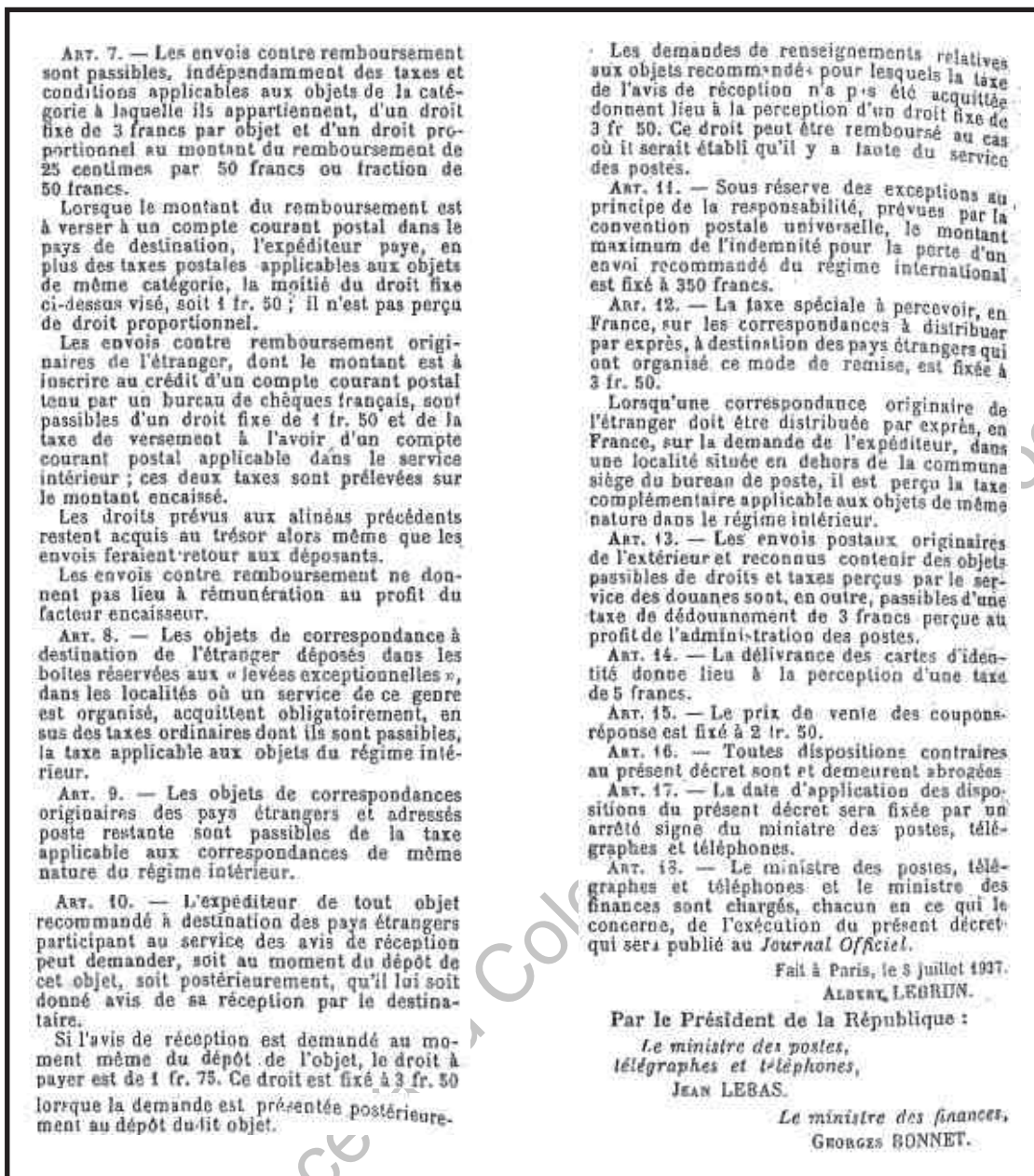


Figure 1b

Remainder of the décret published in the *Journal Officiel de Madagascar et Dépendances* of 4 September 1937

STOP PRESS

We have just received the news that at Indipex 2011 (New Delhi, 12-18 February 2011) the *Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society* (Volume 58 for 2009) was awarded a Vermeil Medal.

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Varieties of Senegal 1915-18 Red Cross Issues

I note that in Journal 257 of September 2010 John Mayne reports an inverted Red Cross surcharge on a Senegal stamp. Sadly, the reproduction of the cover in question doesn't show the address very clearly but I have already informed John that this item is a forgery. For confirmation readers may wish to refer to the excellent book, entitled "*Faux et Truqués*" written by Jean-François Brun. In particular a reference to page 100 will find the following reference to inverted surcharges (illustrated in the book):-

"[Figure 204] Ivory Coast 10c with double Red Cross + 5c surcharge: both surcharges forgeries.

"[Figure 205] Monaco 10c Albert with forged inverted Red Cross + 5c surcharge. Fabrication having the same author as that of N° 204, a certain Jules Hermann living in Chaville. He realised a large number of forged Red Cross surcharges of France and various Colonies. In this way he franked a number of letters that he sent to himself."

John's cover is clearly posted in Chaville and is addressed to M. Hermann in Chaville. I have sent John a photocopy of the relevant page and have told him that, although of interest to confirm the information supplied by M. Brun, his item is not, regrettably, worth the money he paid for it!!!

[The above comments were inadvertently omitted from Journal 258, for which mistake I apologise. John West has since submitted some further remarks, reproduced below. – Editor]

This can be verified by referring to André Métayer's excellent bulletin (a 23 page study of the Red Cross issues in France & Colonies 1914-1918 and published by the association *Amicale Rennaise Philatélique*) dated December 2009, in which he has illustrated a similar item, this time addressed to Mrs Hermann!

I am, however, interested in Bruno Mattei's contribution in Journal 258 (pages 145-6). I continue to retain serious doubts about the authenticity of these 'varieties' of the Paris printings of these surcharges, but it would benefit everyone if we could organise some sort of study of Bruno's covers to check the area in Senegal where they originated, the dates on which they were posted and even the handwriting, to try and establish beyond all doubt if these are ALL forgeries, as I suspect they are.

It is a fact that most experts are adamant that whilst local issues were more susceptible to flaws, the Paris government printing works did not yield these faults in the abundance that they seem to appear nowadays. Mr Mattei illustrates covers to a variety of different addresses, all from Bignona and all exhibiting handwriting similarities. I fear that any expertisation panel might view these covers under the "extremely dubious" heading!

I am willing to assist anyone who is interested in researching this subject with copies of my own reversed overprints, double overprints and even double reversed overprints which, I am content, are all forgeries.

John West



Further to the two items in Journals 257 and 258 (pages 93 and 145-6) regarding varieties of the surcharged Red Cross stamps of Senegal, I can offer a piece from my collection showing examples from the Ivory Coast, with forged sur-

charges and the bogus(?) cancel GRAND BASSAM / 7 / NOV / 16 / COTE D'IVOIRE. The brown paper appears to be genuine! But perhaps the stamps of other colonies have been similarly "enhanced."

Jim Moffat

Orphelins de l'Incursion

A fellow member of my local society is also a part time dealer and he invariably allows me first look at his French purchases.

Last night he gave me a photocopy of some vignettes, not seen by me before.

You will note five colours employed, and two *se tenant* pairs, which suggests they may have been printed in strips of five or more.

Can anyone shed any light as to what they are and also their value?

John Mayne



The *Orphelins de l'Incursion* set of 5, apparently printed in sheets of 5 rows of the 5 “stamps” (see illustration opposite) was fully discussed in our Journal 204 (June 1997) by Godfrey Bowden, Roy Reader and Michael Meadowcroft, after a query raised in Journal 203 (March 1997) by Brian Raine.

In brief, it seems that the vignettes were available in about 1948, although there is some suggestion they were issued in the time of the Vichy government as a charity issue. There were just the 5 values, 2 of which were stated (on the stamp) to be designed by J Piel – although he and the French Post Office denied all knowledge of them. The full sheet gives the printer as Maillot-Grève of Vichy. Some copies bore an overprint (see illustration below).

Much of this information comes from the book by Georges Chapier, “*Les Timbres de Fantaisie et Non-Officiels*” published in 1963, and he gives the colours as violet, sepia, red, blue and brown (1F50 to 20F respectively). The colours in the image opposite would appear to be more accurate, therefore, than those in the photocopy sent to John.

I found these latter two illustrations on the Internet, which also indicated that a set of 5 was offered in an auction by Marc Cognat (I have never heard of him) in January 2010 at a starting price of 50€. Otherwise I have no idea of their value or whether they are worth acquiring – although they are quite obviously bogus or fake.

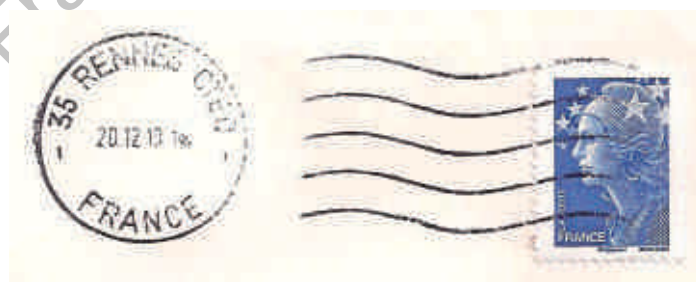
Do any members know whether any other information about them has emerged in the last 13 years?

Maurice Tyler





New Machine Marks



I received an envelope recently with the stamp cancelled by one of the “older” type machines, as illustrated above. This seems rather odd – or is it me?

Does anybody know exactly what the propose is of a *Centre d'Entraide et de Distribution Départemental* as indicated by the initials CTED in the date stamp?

Peter Maybury

[“Distribution” is of course the delivery of mail, but I am not at all sure what the “Entraide” involves in this context. The word means mutual aid, or perhaps support service, but I do

not know what this involves in a departmental post or sorting office. Can any of our French members offer a more detailed explanation? – Editor]

German *Taxe* Marks on Togo and Kamerun/Cameroun Mail

Bob Maddocks' article covering German *Taxe* Marks on Togo and Kamerun/Cameroun Mail appeared in all three journals — *Journal of the F&CPS*, September 2008, pages 113-115; *Cameo*, October 2009, pages 153-155; and *Vorläufer*, December 2010, pages 13-16.

It took three readings for me to take a close look at the cover in Figure 3 to realize that the cover was transported aboard the *Appam* and reached Britain via Newport News,

Virginia, USA. The key is the London Paid marking dated 19 FE 16. The date is consistent with dates recorded for other mail transported aboard the *Appam*.

Also, Bob's cover originally appeared on page 121 in his book, *The Postal Arrangements of the Anglo-French Cameroons Expeditionary Force 1914-1916*. I missed its significance there as well, 14 years ago! But that tidbit can now be passed on to Bob.

Marty Bratzel

Hong Kong / Saigon Postmark

I would like to offer some information to answer the question from Mike Roberts in Journal 258 (page 143) on a Hong Kong / Saigon date stamp. This cancel was described in "*La Poste Maritime Française*" by Raymond Salles in Volume V page 150 (9 volumes published), Opposite can be seen a scan of the page concerned. Those French colonial lines handled by Messageries Maritimes departed from Saigon to Haiphong, to Singapore, to Hong Kong and

to Manila (another line does exist to Bangkok). These date stamps were used on board the ships, and they are very scarce to extremely rare. I have never seen any cover with the HONG KONG / SAIGON cancel and no cover has been recorded. SINGAPOR / SAIGON was unknown on cover by Salles until I found one (see below): it is backstamped SAIGON 21 MAI 92. MANILA / SAIGON should exist but none is recorded, even off cover.

Alain Millet



SERVICES « COLONIAUX » AVEC HONG-KONG ET SINGAPORE



FIG. 2.001.



FIG. 2.002.

- 2.001 Cercle 22 mm, cercle intérieur pointillé, HONG-KONG SAIGON, avec deux fleurons

Ne nous est pas connu sur lettre entière.

f) sur timbre Hong-Kong ou Colonies, détaché

N

100

- 2.002 Cercle 22 mm, cercle intérieur pointillé, SINGAPOR SAIGON, avec deux fleurons

1881-1898

Ne nous est pas connu sur lettre entière.

f) sur timbre Malacca ou Colonies, détaché

N

100



FIG. 2.003.



FIG. 2.004.

- 2.003 Cercle 24 mm $\frac{1}{2}$
LIGNE DE SAIGON A SINGAPORE
Ne nous est pas connu sur lettre entière.

1893-1903

f) sur timbre Malacca ou Indo-Chine, détaché

N ou Bl

100

- 2.004 Cercle 23 mm
PAQ. SAIGON A SINGAPORE

1901

a) sur carte, c. à d. obl. timbre Indo-Chine

N

200

t) sur timbre Indo-Chine, détaché

N

100



The 1877 postmark which is the subject of a question by Mike Roberts on page 143 of the Journal for December 2010 is indeed a maritime mark. As so often with French maritime postal history, Raymond Salles has provided the answer. The Hong Kong-Saigon service was one of several *Lignes "Coloniales" de la Station de Saigon*. Saigon was a port of call on the Messageries Maritimes trunk route (*Ligne N*) from Marseille to the Far East, which at that time terminated at Shanghai, and a reserve of vessels was kept there to enable the speedy replacement of ships withdrawn from service. They were also used to provide feeder services to and from various ports – Singapore, Haiphong and Manila as well as Hong Kong.

Salles, writing in 1966, initially dates this service and cancel (his Fig 2001) from between at least 1885 and 1894, but in an apparently undated Supplement he extends these dates to 1877-1898, so this is an example of very early use of the cancel. When Salles was writing he was not aware of any example on cover; it is of course possible that one has turned up since, but in any case this is a superb strike of a highly desirable cancel. I wish it was mine! Salles does not record the existence of an outwards SAIGON / HONG KONG cancel.

In 1877, cancels on the *Ligne N* trunk route identified only the Line. By the time terminals were added, from 1898, the line had been extended to Yokohama, so cancels reading MARSEILLE A YOKOHAMA and return can be found, but not "Marseille à Hong Kong".

Salles later (1969) added a cancel reading HONG KONG TONQUIN in his *Tome VII*, an Index of the cancels and

other cachets recorded in his previous volumes, but it is merely noted as an addition to the relevant page in *Tome V* with date *vers 1887*; it is not illustrated and I've found no other reference to it.

There were two other lines, known as *Lignes Annexes*, with a terminus at Hong Kong, but they were identified by a letter and "Hong Kong" does not appear on their postmarks. Early in 1867 a Hong Kong / Shanghai / Yokohama and return service began operations. It was divided into two sections, Hong Kong / Shanghai and Shanghai / Yokohama, called respectively *Lignes R* and *S*. *Ligne R* was closed in the summer of 1871 when Shanghai became the terminus of the *Ligne N* trunk route; Salles records that on-board postal agents were carried only until the end of 1869. *Ligne S* operated for some 20 years until 1887, when *Ligne N* was extended to Yokohama; Salles records without comment or explanation that the initial southern terminus of Shanghai was replaced by Hong Kong in 1869, which meant that there was no direct Shanghai / Yokohama service from then until 1887. He noted dates of cancels for these two services corresponding to these details – *Ligne R*, 1867-1869; *Ligne S*, 1867-1887.

References

Raymond Salles, *La Poste Maritime Française, Tome V, Les Paquebots de l'Extrême-Orient*, pages 67, 118, 126-127, 128-137, 148-151, and *Supplément*, (unnumbered) page 3; and *Tome V* (Index), page 86. The Supplement to *Tome V* bears the date November 1966, but this refers to the original publication of the Volume.

Bill Mitchell

The answer to Mike Roberts' query in Journal 258 re the HONG KONG / SAIGON postmark is to be found in Salles volume V, page 150 and page 5 of the addendum. The mark is referenced as N° 2001 and is recorded as only

seen on detached stamps. It was used from 1877-1898 on mail carried by *paquebots* of the Messageries Maritimes on the "Saigon Station Colonial Service" plying between the two ports.

Peter Maybury

Regarding the query of Mike Roberts on the HONG KONG / SAIGON cancel from 1877 shown on page 143 of Journal N° 258: it is listed in Salles *Tome V* under number 2001. Salles notes no examples on cover. My guess is that

it was used for sorting mail from Saigon that was being routed via Hong Kong for reasons of destination or trying to connect with the British service for a more timely connection to Europe.

Ed Grabowski

You may have been inundated with responses to Mike Roberts' query in the last Journal but – just in case – this is an early use of the TPO mark used on the French packet service

between Saigon and Hong Kong which is recorded by Salles between 1885 and 1894. An earlier example from 1878 was included in the Roberts collection sold at Sothebys in 1982.

Claire Scott

Missent Letter



On 3 January 2011 my daughter informed me that she had just received a missive posted by me in Marly-le-Roi on 20 December 2010, some two weeks earlier.

The item was a 20g Zone 1 (EU plus Switzerland) *PRIORITAIRE* letter which had been franked by a 0.75 Euro olive-green *Marianne de Beaujard* and cancelled on 20/12/10 by the Toshiba TSC 1000 machine installed in the Bois d'Arcy *Plateforme Industriel Courrier*, ROC Code 41974A.

So far so good; but why had it taken two weeks for a trip that normally only takes two or three days? Quite simply because the letter had been missent to Ireland, as indicated by the unexpected postmark: Athlone Mails Centre 23/12/10.

Unfortunately, however, there are no further marks, postal or otherwise, which might suggest a possible itinerary.

The same is true of the return trip to Marly: posted in Spain, obviously in a new envelope, on 12 January 2011, the letter only arrived a nerve-racking 19 days later on 31 January 2011.

Note: Readers will have noticed that the usual blue NVI definitive for Zone 1 countries has been replaced by a 0.75 Euro olive-green stamp issued to serve the 2nd weight step of the domestic *Ecopli* tariff of 1 July 2010. According to a counter clerk this stamp should not be used on *PRIORITAIRE* mail for abroad. I must say that I fail to see why not, but that is another story.

John Simmons

More Gremlin Activity in Cameroon Philately: Cameroon Airlines *et al*

Editor's Note — In Bob Maddocks' article published in Journal 258 of December 2010 (pages 138-140) the gremlin struck again! An editorial lapse unfortunately led to much of one paragraph being omitted. I have apologised to Bob, but readers should note that the last paragraph on page 138 should read as follows (with the text in red to be added):

“Now take a second look at the above mentioned Tiko cover (Fig 2). Thereon, for very good measure, is seen a second and quite different commemorative handstamp – this time marking, in French, the 25th anniversary of **UNESCO on 4 November 1971**.

Yet again no corresponding commemorative stamp (or cover) is known to have been issued. Instead, at that time Cameroon issued two stamps (Fig 5) to mark the 25th anniversary of UNICEF! Such was the gremlin activity in 1971.”

Bob Maddocks

Cover Malta to Marseille with *COLONIES PAR / MARSEILLE* Handstamp



I have just seen an entire written on 19 Nov 1823 from Malta to Marseille with the handstamp *S D COLONIES PAR / MARSEILLE*. As far as I know this handstamp has

never been recorded on Malta entires. Can any members produce any information about this handstamp, such as when it was used?

Alfred Bonnici

I have looked at the scan of the *COLONIES PAR / MARSEILLE* handstamp and compared the measurements and type-face on the scan with the standard handstamp (Salles

Nº 74 in use from c1802 to 1827) and they appear to be the same. The strike is rather “smudgy” and I suspect this to be a possible cause for misinterpretation.

Peter Maybury

Train-borne Machine Cancellor



In Journal 258 (page 144) Michael Ensor showed a machine cancel used on a TPO between Le Croisic and Nantes. Here is an illustration of a similar marking dating from 10

August 1962, with wavy lines instead of the “*Emprunt PTT*” *flamme* shown there. Unfortunately, I have no further information about it.

Héloïse Mitchell

First French *Par Avion* Airmail Label



I am looking for a good example of the first type of French *Par Avion* airmail label, as illustrated above. This type has

a simple ruled frame – later types had a ‘shadowed’ frame – and is on red paper. I’m happy to pay a reasonable price.

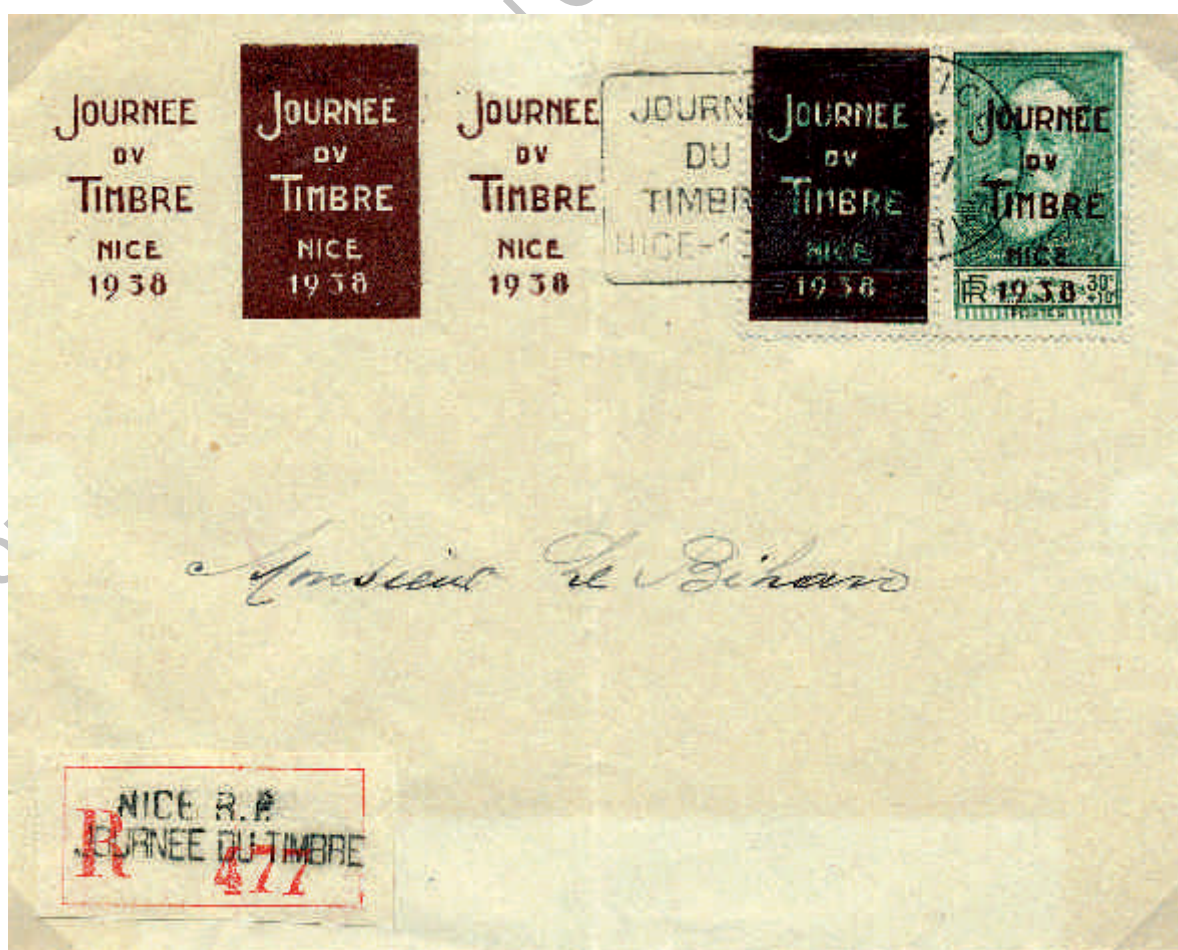
Paul Watkins

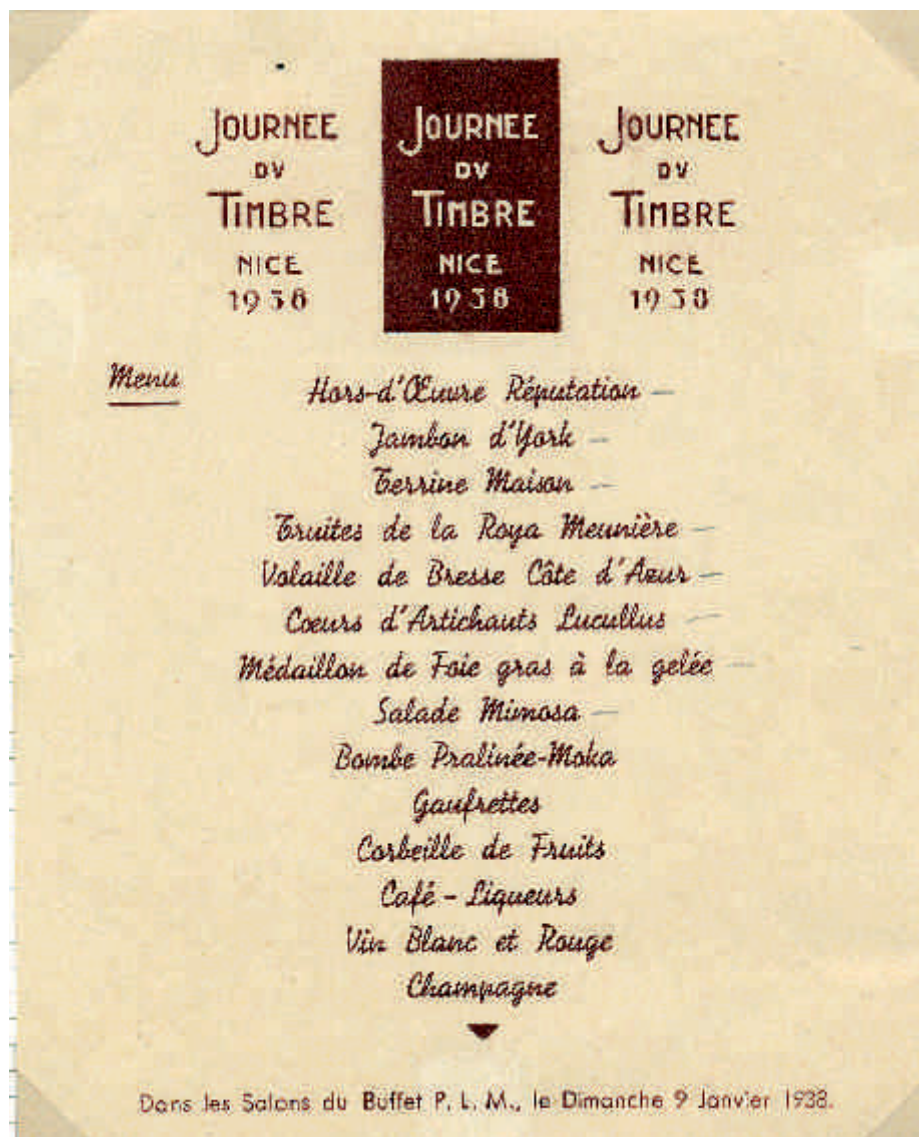
Nice Day of the Stamp Registered Souvenir Card

I was interested to see in the February Postal Auction listing Lot N° 162 – “1938 (9/1) Nice Day of the Stamp Reg Souvenir Card with pair Yv3423 with unofficial opt Journée du Timbre Nice 1938” Daguin type cancel” – at a

surprising reserve of £75.00. These scans are of four similar items in my collection, and I would be interested in knowing whether any members could suggest what they would be likely to be worth.

Bob Larg





Help Needed: Paris Star 4



At first glance, this should be a perfectly ordinary 15 centimes cover from Paris Star 4, at the time located on the Rue d'Enghien. But, instead of the accompanying and expected Rue d'Enghien date stamp, it bears instead a Paris La Villette one dated 12 December 1872.

I don't recall when and where I obtained this cover, but some time later, I read (again somewhere) a brief commentary on the subject.

It seems that Paris *Bureau 4* was transformed temporarily, by Service Order of 6 January 1872, into a *Bureau de Passe* charged with sorting the mail from the north-eastern

suburbs of Paris, mainly Aubervilliers and Pantin outside the walls, as well as La Villette. A few other Paris bureaux similarly serviced mail from other suburbs and nearby towns.

This service certainly appears to have been poorly documented; information is also lacking (to me) as to when it was terminated.

Whereas this bit of information seems reasonable to me, I do hope to hear from our readers about the how and why and where (and what other Paris bureaux?) this all came about. Thanking you in advance!

Stan Luft

Red Cross Tracing Label marked "o.O"

Apropos my article concerning the Reply Service Tracing Labels, published in Journal 250 of December 2008, I am indebted to Brian Lythgoe for solving the mystery which had defeated everyone at Leamington a couple of years ago and everyone else I have spoken to ever since about the letters *o.O* on one of the labels. Brian informs me that they stand for *ob Ost* which stands for Eastern Command - the letters *ob* being an abbreviation for *Oberbefehlshaber*. At least I can sleep more easily now!

[Unfortunately not! If it is possible that the letters are actually ö.O (i.e. with two dots over the first o) this would make better sense in German, as the phrase could then be "östlicher Oberbefehl" (Eastern Supreme Command) or "östlicher Oberbefehlshaber" (Eastern Supreme Commander or

Commander-in-Chief"). A capital letter is always used for the noun, not the adjective. "Oberbefehl[shaber] Ost" is possible, but that would need "O.O" and would not explain the lower case "o". And why would such a reference be needed?

However, I have just taken another look at my German-German dictionary and have found that ö.O. is an accepted abbreviation for "ohne Ort" which literally means "without place" or "no location". Unless that label has the two dots over the first "o" the meaning is therefore likely to be something like "location unknown" or "no locality shown". But then you indicated in your article that all other references of this sort are in French, so why would German be used for this one alone? The mystery is still unsolved, I'm afraid!!

- Editor]

John West

Poste Militaire N° 560

I agree with the conclusion of David Taylor Smith's correspondent (page 141 of Journal 258 for December 2010) that "the most likely location of military PO 560 was SEBHA". But this attribution is not without its difficulties.

I have found in my collection of photocopied articles what is probably still the definitive account of the postal history of Fezzan during World War II (Grapinet)⁽¹⁾, and through the good offices of Michael Round I now also have a copy of an earlier American account (Taub)⁽²⁾. They differ in their views on the location of this office. Grapinet (page 29) says that it was indeed at Sebha – which, he adds (page 27), was the main military base in the territory (and so surely the most likely place for a military post office). Taub considers that it was at Mourzouk, which Grapinet notes was the main religious centre. Taub bases his conclusion (page 9) on an Italian picture postcard of Mourzouk, clearly in the same series as the one illustrated by John Mayne on page 89 of Journal 257 for September 2010, bearing a *COLONNA D'ORNANO / MOURZOUK* cachet which is similar, if not identical, to the one owned by David's correspondent. A third location, Ghat, is noted by Sinais⁽³⁾ (page 170), but I have seen no other reference to this location. Neither Grapinet nor Sinais notes the source of their identification.

Grapinet and Taub illustrate three different covers/cards, all of which are franked, bearing the *Poste Militaire N° 560* cancel. In date order they are -

16 April 1944. Yet another postcard in this Italian series, bearing the *MISSION SCIENTIFIQUE DU FEZZAN* cachet and an undated message "*Souvenir de Mourzouk*". Addressed to Algiers (Grapinet, page 29).

21 April 1944. Envelope, also bearing the *MIS- SION SCIENTIFIQUE* cachet. Addressed to Ghadamès, also in Fezzan (Taub, pages 8-9).

23 July 1944. The postcard already mentioned with the *COLONNA D'ORNANO* cachet (Taub, pages 8-9). It has a couple of indecipherable words of greeting and is addressed to BCM (*Bureau Central Militaire*) A, which Sinais (page 169) says was located first at Constantine and later at Algiers. It will be noted that the date on the postmark (23-7 44) is the same as the inaugural date, 23 JUILLET 1944, on the cachet.

In support of the identification of the location of the Military Post Office N° 560 as Sebha, I can accept that, quite apart from security considerations, a military base is unlikely

to be very photogenic, so picture postcards of somewhere more attractive such as Mourzouk may well have been the only ones available there. My problem concerns the card with the *COLONNA D'ORNANO* cachet, which is unlikely to have been applied anywhere else. If it was put in the post at Sebha – some 100 miles away as the crow flies and over desert tracks – on the same day, it must have been carried by army vehicles carrying food and other necessities to the garrison. David Jennings-Bramly, who served with the First Armoured Division in Libya in 1943, tells me that without knowledge of the terrain he could not be certain, but in his opinion this was not impossible. No doubt the vehicles were accompanied by an armed escort because of possible danger from hostile tribesmen. It is possible, of course, that souvenir mail was prepared in advance and transported to Sebha for cancelling on the given date. There is nothing to say when the two *MISSION SCIENTIFIQUE* items noted above and the one owned and illustrated by John Mayne were actually written; it may not have been on the same day as the postmark.

As for the use of Algerian stamps, this was correct. Grapinet (page 29) records that on 1 September 1943 the administration of the Military Territory of Fezzan-Ghadamès was placed in the hands of the *Service des Affaires Indigènes d'Algérie*, from which date Algerian stamps were used (Taub, I suspect incorrectly, places this transfer somewhat later, in the Spring of 1944 – page 7). The use of Algerian stamps continued until stamps inscribed *FEZZAN-GHADAMÈS Territoire Militaire* (Yvert/Ceres 28-42, Maury 20-34, SG 23-37) were placed on sale in 1946 (SG says, on 29 October).

Two further points of interest. Grapinet, Taub and Sinais agree that the other Military Post Office in Fezzan (N° 561) was located at Ghadamès, and Sinais adds (page 170) that a similar single-ring circular date stamp inscribed *POSTE AUX ARMÉES* and with a tiny cross at the foot was used on single-weight letters carried free under the *franchise militaire* arrangements.

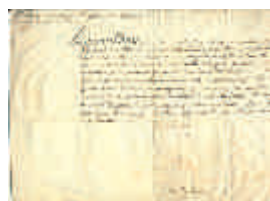
References

- (1) René Grapinet, "La Conquête et l'Occupation Française du Fezzan (1943-1952)", *Les Feuilles Marcophiles* 216, 1^{er} trimestre 1979, pages 27-30.
- (2) Marvin Taub, "Fezzan-Ghadamès: A Modern Philatelic Mystery", serialised in the *American Philatelist* and reprinted as a 27-page monograph in 1964.
- (3) Bertrand Sinais, *Catalogue des Oblitérations Militaires Françaises 1900-1985*, Éditions Fostier, 1987.

Bill Mitchell

May 2011 Auction - Selected Lots

This selection of Lots in the Auction will be found in full size on the Society website www.fcps.org.uk/auctions.html



Lot 4



Lot 7



Lot 18



Lot 30



Lot 69



Lot 48



Lot 94



Lot 98



Lot 105



Lot 121



Lot 122



Lot 124



Lots 217 & 138



Lot 154



Lot 157



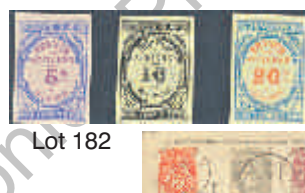
Lot 161



Lot 167



Lot 174



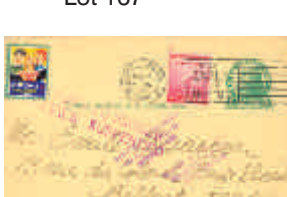
Lot 182



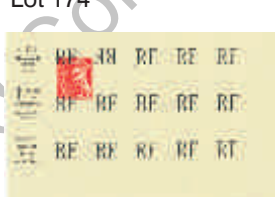
Lot 208



Lot 222



Lot 241



Lot 254



Lot 228



Lot 248



Lot 261



Lot 270



Lot 282



Lot 283



Lot 284



Lot 289



Lot 291



Lot 293



Lot 294



Lot 306



Lot 321



Lot 323



Lot 328



Lot 351



Lot 359



Lot 374



Lot 420



Lot 469



Lot 372



Lot 468

A French / Thai Postcard

John Garner



Front of the card

Of all the French items I own this is my very latest and favourite — well, until the next one. I first came across this card in a Thailand Philatelic Society auction at a ridiculously low estimate and I wondered how the owner could bear to sell it. I recognised the card as rare and possibly unique, and of course I tried to buy it. Well, I was comprehensively outbid and I just hoped the new owner would cherish it. Much to my surprise I saw the card again only a few weeks later, lurking on a dealer's stall at London 2010 International and I snapped it up immediately; at a much higher price, I need hardly say.

What makes this card so very special in my eyes? The card itself seems an ordinary enough 'Franchise Militaire' item, presumably distributed by the million to the French military and the message, while quaint, contains nothing of serious interest;

"lyon

"I am now safely in France and am getting on pretty well, France a very nice and beautiful country. I hope that you are alright. It is impossible to get English or foreign cigarettes + they are very dear in prices. I beg to thank you and am very much appreciated for your kindness in giving me your own cigarettes, they gave me courage and ease my mind.

"Yours truly,

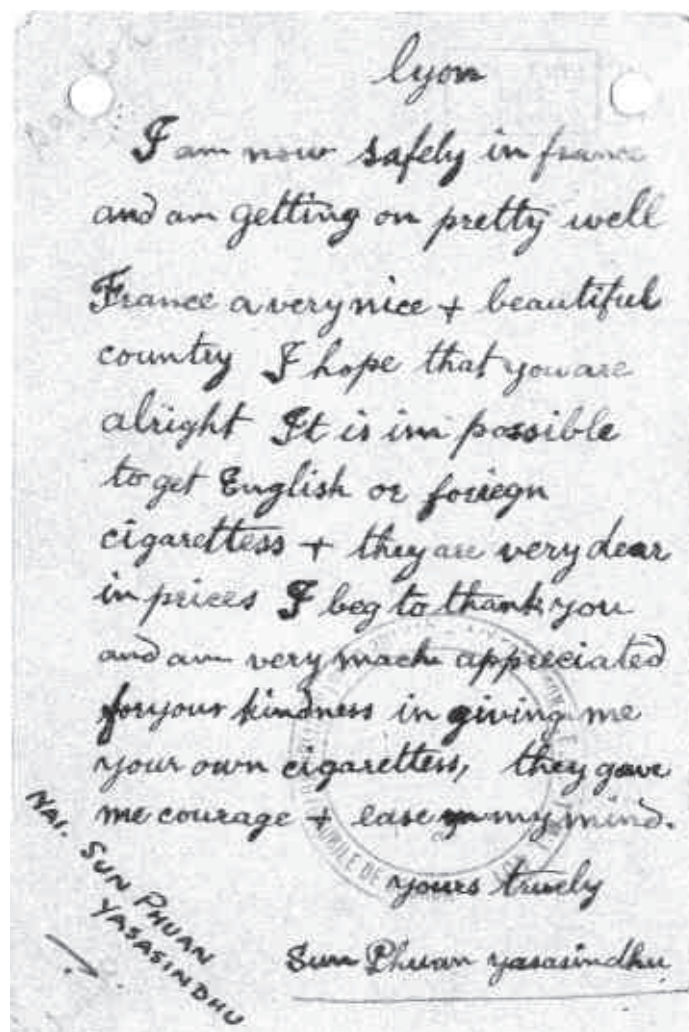
"Sun Phuan Yasantindhu"

The card bears no obvious censorship markings, but I am in no doubt that it would have been censored before leaving France. The card was addressed to the British & American Tobacco Company in Bangkok, and while it does not bear a Singapore censor mark either, I think that is the route it would have travelled. There is a Bangkok arrival mark, and although I cannot decipher the date, I would guess from the message that it was for autumn 1918.

What is left, apart from the Thai soldier, is the blue cachet to be found on both sides of the card: "19^e Escadron T.F.M. T.M.I. 401 Centre d'Instruction Automobile de Dourdon." There is some writing across the middle of the cachet and while it is too faint to be legible, it possibly carried a censorship mark, or perhaps the date. Incidentally Dourdon is a mystery to me; it appears to be a place in France, and yet I cannot find it on any map to which I have access. [Dourdan (the "an" at the end is clearly visible on at least one of the cachets) is situated roughly halfway between Chartres and Fontainebleau — Editor]

All in all this is a totally unassuming item which anyone might easily miss, and yet it is in all probability a unique survivor from a Thai helping on the Western Front in France during World War I.

A short piece of history: when war broke out in Europe in August 1914, Thailand very wisely remained neutral. For one thing she had no reason to trust the European great powers, for another it was by no means certain who



Back of card

would win. After the entry of America into the war in 1917 it became more likely that the Allies would ultimately prevail, and so on 22 July 1917 Thailand declared war on Germany and gained an immediate dividend in confiscated German ships, factories, offices and shops. Eventually the Thais sent a small expeditionary force of volunteers to the Western Front to aid in the war effort, but perhaps as importantly, to acquire knowledge of modern warfare. The Expeditionary Force comprised about 1,200 aviation, motor and ambulance personnel and arrived in France on 31 July 1918.

A few postcards exist from the aviation contingent [see Journal 254 (Vol 59 N° 4) pages 147-9 and Journal 258 (Vol 60 No 4) pages 131-2 & 160] but this item seems to be the only one still surviving from the motor transport corps and is now my prized possession. The little I know of the Thai motor transport corps suggests they operated with the French Army under heavy shell-fire before crossing the Rhine into Germany after the Armistice, with other Allied

forces. Most of the expeditionary force eventually returned to Thailand in the spring of 1919, including presumably the motor transport corps..

I have so many questions about this cachet: for instance, was it a common mark on all motor transport material, or just that of the Thais? What might the initials 'T.F.M. T.M.I.' mean? Have the words '19^e Escadron' and '401 Centre d'Instruction Automobile' any particular significance? For all I love this card, I know precious little about the entire subject.

[The photocopy supplied is not as distinct as the original might be, but it seems to me that the first set of initials are TEM rather than TFM, which can stand for Train des Équipages Militaires – where the word train can refer to a line of vehicles, not necessarily something on the railway – and an informed guess for the second set would suggest perhaps that TMI stands for something like Transport des Matériaux pour l'Infanterie. — Editor]

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 134 4^e Trim 2010: De l'Insurrection des Esclaves à l'Indépendance d'Haïti 1791-1804 (Gibot); 974 La Réunion Marcophilie Moderne (Lavenas); Les variétés au Type Groupe en Martinique (Bessaud); Au-Delà du Catalogue au Cameroun [cont] (Cobb).

Cameo

Vol 12 N° 1 (Whole No 82): Forged Togo Postal Stationery (Mayne); Gold Coast WWI censor tape L3 on Togo mail (Mayne); Cameroon CEF overprint varieties (Williams); Inbound in the Gambia, 1943 – but where from? [summary of correspondence from FCPS Journals 2010] (Duncan & May); Cameroun-Japan co-operation set 2005 (Hauschild & Parren); Togo: Mail to an Undercover address? (Mayne); Air Mail services from UK to West Africa during WWII (Richards); French Air Service Levant to Africa, 1942 (Picirilli).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

N° 1845 Nov 2010: Stéphane Humbert-Basset, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); L'avion mythique des débuts de la poste aérienne (Albaret); L'alphabet... des Imprimeurs [7] (Marion-SOCOCODAMI); Les timbres fiscaux mobiles ont cent cinquante ans (Morelle, Le Timbre Fiscal); Naissance de «Phil@poste» (Martineau, Cercle des Amis de Marianne); Les cartes postales de la Croix-Rouge [1870-1871] (Storch).

N° 1846 Dec 2010: Pierre Bara, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Jean Grillot, créateur de lien philatélique (Bastide-Bernadine); L'histoire d'un «agent» très spécial (Hella); L'alphabet... des Imprimeurs [8] (Marion-SOCOCODAMI); Les dépêches-réponses (Donnadieu); Solidarité corporative (Odoul et Sabban); De la vignette caritative au timbre personnalisé (Coutan et Steff).

N° 1847 Jan 2011: Céline Roussel, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Jacqueline Caurat, cinquante ans après la première de Télé-Philatélie (Bastide-Bernadine); Autour du diptyque surtaxé «Entr'aide Française» en 1948 (Albaret); Les Curie, l'esprit de Nobel (Deroy); Nouvelles modifications pour les machines de type LISA II (Héron et Gengembre).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 303 (Vol 67 N° 1): So Who Was Mr Kidder (Lawrence); Fundamentals of *Recouvrements* (Abensur & Herendeen); Covers from Nowhere to Nowhere – some new contributions (Grabowski); Postal History Challenges (Kelly); What I collect and How to do it (Bump).

Timbres Magazine

N° 118 Dec 2010: La retraite à 30 ans..(Rucklin); Les Blasons de France: quand la philatélie rencontre l'héraldique (Singeot); Collectionner les carnets d'entiers postaux (PJM); Les «dessous» des timbres (de la Mettrie); Taxe et dépréciation monétaire (Prugnon); Jean-Louis Quemar, philatélie en mer (Amiel); Vol 117 pour Brazzaville (Chauvin); Avis à la population marcophile [cont] (Baudot).

N° 119 Jan 2011: Jean Antonin Delzers, l'homme au

burin (Nowacka); Le jardinier averti émergeait à la *Propagandastaffel* de Paris (Sinais); Le 5 centimes Cérès: un classique à la portée de toutes les bourses (Singeot); Quand un timbre à date n'est pas trouvé (de la Mettrie); Une lettre de Moscou (Baudot); Avis à la population marcophile [cont] (Baudot); Une lettre de France pour les Etats sardes (Prugnon); Correspondance commerciale interzone pour l'Afrique du Nord (Chauvin).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol 40 N° 5 (Whole N° 195) Nov 2010: Outbreak of World War II in the Pacific Delays Cover (Bentley); Early Essay for Indochina (Bentley & Roland); The Rarest Stamp of Indochina on Cover (Bentley); Angkor Labels (Bentley & Wiart).

Vol 41 N° 1 (Whole N° 196) Jan 2011: Indo-China Coins *Datés* (Dykhous); First Day Collection From World War II (Bentley).

The Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 90 N° 1 Jan-Feb 2011: Cover Story: Gleanings from the Group Type - A Commendation for Randi [Madagascar document] (Grabowski); Addendum and Errata – the French Royal Packet Service 1783-1793 (Walske).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 207 1^{er} trim 2011: Les éphémères émissions de couleur verte au type Sage (juin 1876 - 1^{er} mars 1878) (Kelly); Les paquebots-poste royaux de la ligne de New York: Analyse des lettres 1783-1793 (Walske & Abensur); La poste française Jaffa-Jérusalem: La découverte d'un courrier local (Livnat).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 342 3^e trim 2010: Une procédure particulière démontée par Monsieur X [un timbre réutilisé?] (Rioust); Réexpédition, il n'y a pas de petits profits (Flotte); Union d'un marcophile et d'un graphologue (de la Mettrie); Versailles, Camp de Satory (Kelly); Les trois capitaines l'auraient appelée vilaine [poste rurale] (Douron); A propos des tarifs postaux du 1^{er} juillet 2010 (Curgy & Sené); Pneumatiques: le 2F avec plan de Marseille (Narjoux); Atelier Rebutis - Pour une histoire des services des rebuts en province: l'exemple de «Toulouse-Rebutis» (Albaret); Deux nouvelles structures postales dans le Loiret (Reynaud); L'acheminement du courrier 2010 (Sené); FM Infos: Percés en ligne (Couvé & Sené); GC 2258 (Dorsand); APV: Autre Point de Vente (Curgy); Timbre de distribution de Paris, Recette Principale (Kelly); Port-payé manuscrit de Mézières (Dorsand).

Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile (Cercle d'Études Marcophiles)

N° 158 4^e trim 2010: La guerre du Bois et les Compagnies de Chasseurs forestiers (Berthier); Le courrier de la Société des Mines d'Anzin pendant la première guerre mondiale (Luwig & Van Dooren); Les EMA et «ROC codée» (Kiener); L'acheminement des lettres entre Gérardmer (Vosges) et Granges (Basset).



The Geoff Gethin Collection of Fakes and Forgeries of 20th Century France Sale by Private Treaty

Many members are already familiar with the fakes and forgeries collection of the late Dr Geoff Gethin. They either possess his definitive study of them published by the Society in 2006 or they will have attended his displays at Leamington, Charlecote and London where he would report enthusiastically on the progress of his research.

This important and unique collection built up by Geoff over two decades, is now for sale. In many cases the forgeries are still mounted on their original sheets with the draft notes for his book and the accompanying 400% enlargements. Amongst the forgeries designed to deceive philatelists are examples of the dangerous but skilfully executed 'removal and paint' techniques demonstrated on the 5f+5f *Orphelins de la Guerre* and the 50f *Avion survolant Paris*. Included also is the cleverly faked 70c *Paquebot 'Pasteur'* without surcharge and the rarely encountered 1931 *Caisse d'Amortissement* set of Sowers annulled by *Sûreté Nationale - Police Judiciaire* strikes. Items from the Fournier and Forbin workshops are also offered.

The section on WWII is strong in British Intelligence Printings including the scarcest of all 20th century forgeries, the 1f50 Pétain rose, which Geoff featured on the cover of his book. Furthermore the collection contains a complete sheet of 96 of the Paris resistance forgery of the 1f50 Pétain brown - another much sought after item.

As for forgeries intended to deceive the post, the most famous and sought after are there – the large format Marianne de Gandon *Faux d'Italie*, the 50c *Paix Faux de Samoreau* and the 15f Marianne de Gandon discovered as recently as 1999.

A number of stamps illustrated in the book cannot be included in the sale. Such items as the 50f 'banknote' airmail, the 1928 catapult mail covers and some of the Sowers were loaned by other members to Geoff for his research and have been subsequently returned. On the other hand, the German anti-British forgeries, the Machin forgeries and the Azad Hind fantasies also featured in the book are included in the sale.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to acquire a unique and important collection which still has potential for development (especially post 2000). The collection, comprising over 200 items (sheets and blocks are each counted as one item), is for sale at:

£3750

Full details of the contents, with descriptions and page references, are available either by e-mail or in return for a SAE from Mick Bister whose contact details can be found on Page ii of this Journal.