

# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



An example of the 50c rate by French packet from Martinique to France  
applicable from May 1862 to 30 June 1876  
as shown in Brian Brookes' display at Charlecote (see page 83)

Volume 61 ● Number 2  
June 2011  
Whole Number 260

**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.

**2011-12 Annual Subscription Rates**

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

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

**The Journal**

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The price is included in members' subscriptions.

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**Auction and Exchange Packet Sales**

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

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

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

according to instructions

Please send material for circulation in booklet form to the appropriate Exchange Packet Secretary, viz.

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

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

**The Library**

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

List distributed to all Members.

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

**The Magazine Circuit**

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

For further details contact the circuit organiser:

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\* \* \*

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

# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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 61 Number 2**

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## SOCIETY NOTES

### Editorial

I am afraid that at the AGM in May (the minutes of which will be published as usual in the September issue of the Journal) I had to report that I have recently and unexpectedly started suffering problems with my sight in one eye that seriously affects my ability to read comfortably and accurately. In the short term this means that it is taking me longer to produce the Journal, and I must ask members to show understanding if they receive their copies (including this one) rather later than usual or if they spot a few more typos than usual in the printed text.

I have just started a course of treatment that I hope will restore reasonable sight in the affected eye, but if this does not happen, then in the longer term (possibly within a year or so) I may have to relinquish my post as editor. With this prospect in view, I would like to appeal to any member who feels he or she might like to consider the possibility of taking over this role to contact me as soon as possible. It obviously needs someone with moderate computing skills, but I can make the appropriate software available and offer full training in using it to any volunteer who is willing to experiment with this task. In the meantime I will do what I can and hope that the outlook (in two senses) improves.

\* \* \*

### Large Attachments to Emails

We have only recently discovered that attachments (such as photos or scans) that are larger in size than 8Mb cannot be sent to a Society email address, ie one ending in "@fcps.org.uk". If this is attempted, then the email may disappear into the ether with no acknowledgement to either sender or intended recipient. If such an attachment cannot easily be reduced in size, members should enquire about an alternative email address, which in the Editor's case is maurice@mstyler.plus.com

\* \* \*

### New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1386 John Laurent (Sheffield), 1387 Pietjan Zwaag (Netherlands), 1388 David J Chalcroft (London), 1389 William Sells (Sussex)

\* \* \*

### Members Deceased

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

1220 Mike James, 698 David Lamb, 1199 D S MacLennan, 917 Ken Pye, 1172 Tony Shepherd.

\* \* \*

### Resignations

1173 Dr Steve Clark, 1317 John Cowell, 701 James Macaskie, 931 Ian McQueen, 1198 John Sussex.

\* \* \*

### Future Events

The **London Group** will meet at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 6.30pm on Wednesday 21 September 2011 for members to present up to 12 sheets.

The **Southern Group** will meet at 10.00am on Saturday 27 August 2011 at the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, East Worthing, when the morning displays will be by members [16 sheets] and after lunch at the Alexander, Lyndhurst Road, there will be a display of SS Pierre & Miquelon by Mike Slamo, President of the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies..

The **Northern Group** will meet at 10.00am 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.

\* \* \*

### Exhibition Successes

**Michèle Chauvet** was awarded a Large Verneil for "Les colonies françaises, tarifs et suivi postal 1848-78" in the Literature section of the regional Liberté exhibition at Boulogne-Billancourt, 12-13 March 2011.

As announced in a late insert in the last Journal, the 2009 volume of the **Journal of the F&CPS** gained a Vermeil Medal at Indipex 2011. We have since learned that we were awarded a Large Vermeil, coming second only to the *Collectors Club Philatelist* in the Periodicals Class, at the 12<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Philatelic Literature Exhibition 2011. Congratulations to all our contributors!

At the Sheffield 2011 ABPS National Exhibition (6-7 May) the following members are to be congratulated on their awards:

**Mick Bister:** Gold for "The Postcode Programmes of France - The Experimental Years 1962-1977"

**Graham Booth** in Association of Sussex PS Exhibit: Large Gold for "London Numbers in Maltese Cross"

**Steve Ellis:** Gold for "French Transatlantic Mail 1783-1875"

**Martin Hopkinson:** Gold for "Great Britain - Postage to France 1855-1870"

**Philip Mackey:** Large Vermeil for "The Franco-Prussian War and Siege of Paris 3 September 1870 to Resumption of Normal Postal Services in Paris on 21 February 1871"

**Iain Stevenson:** Large Vermeil for "Great Britain - the Victorian Letter Card"

At the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2011 (13-15 May) **Stan Luft** was awarded a Gold and the Aurora Stamp Club Award for Best Exhibit by a Colorado Resident for "France: the 30 centimes Cameo Sower", and a Silver for "A Rixheim Marcophily".

\* \* \*



## Philatelic Weekend 2012

After a number of successful weekends at Charlecote the Society has decided to return there next year (16-18 March 2012) for our annual weekend. The meeting room is ideal for our needs and the hotel provides everything required for a pleasant stay. Now that Shearings, the package holiday group, have taken over ownership there are however some changes in the terms.

For two people sharing a room the rate is now a total of £198 for the 2 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast.

Singles with occupancy of 1 room will be charged £139 for the 2 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast

For singles there is therefore a modest increase on the prices we have enjoyed for a little while, whilst for couples or those sharing a room the value is excellent.

Shearings ask for payment in advance so that full payment would have to be made to the Society by 31 January 2012. The Society would then coordinate requirements and settle all room charges. Any cancellations after that date would receive a partial refund as set out in their trading charter (available online as a pdf from the treasurer).

For our very welcome foreign friends without British bank accounts, arrangements can be made with the Treasurer.

Cancellation terms:

Period prior to 16 March	Amount refunded
More than 29 days	Room cost less £25
28-22 days	50%
21-8 days	30%
7-1 day	10%
16 March or later	nil

It is appreciated that this is not an ideal solution when compared with previous arrangements. However, the room charges are still reasonable for the service given. Those intending to attend next year should give thought to the cancellation clauses. We have fought hard to avoid these but are up against a corporate decision on the part of Shearings which cannot be overturned. In the event, we did have last minute cancellations this year for which no penalty at all was incurred. Members can of course use their own travel insurance as cover.

The alternative to returning to Charlecote is for the convenors to find a new location. We know, from the experience of other philatelic societies we are in contact with, that, given our numbers, it would be quite difficult to find another venue giving us what we now have. You only have to think back to the meeting rooms we had at the Manor House and Regent to see how fortunate we have been. The other point to bear in mind is that the meeting room at Charlecote is affordable. Many other venues charge considerably more for smaller rooms which would add considerably to the overall cost.

Taking everything into consideration, the Convenors believe that this is still the best alternative for the Society and, subject to any comments received, propose renewing our booking for next year.

\* \* \*

## Stamps for Sale

Fellow member Richard Broadhurst has a list of excess mint and fine used France stamps from 1920 that he is offering for sale at very competitive prices.

Please contact him with your name and address for a copy of the list on 020 8977 9665 or e-mail:

francestamps@tiscali.co.uk

A donation will be made to the F&CPS for any sales from the list to members.

\* \* \*

## Philatelic Honours: Correction

Owing to a misunderstanding by our informant it was reported in the last Journal that two of our members had recently become Fellows of the RPSL. It now appears that they have both been Fellows for some considerable time, and the Editor apologises for the mistake.

\* \* \*

## Displays by Members

In recent months **Len Barnes** has displayed "Prewar French Aviation" to Medway Philatelic Society, Sidcup Philatelic Society and Gravesend Philatelic Society.

In the same period **Peter Kelly** has displayed "Soudan Français, Postal history from 1880s to 1945" to Thornbury Stamp Club, "Les éphémères émissions de couleur verte au Type Sage (juin 1876 - 1 mai 1878)" to the Académie de Philatélie in Paris [see page 63 for further details], and "The Paris Universal Exhibition of 1900" to Bristol Philatelic Society.

On 27 April 2011 **Mick Bister** showed "France 1929-1979" to the Bedford Philatelic Society, a display composed of extracts from various collections including 50c Jeanne d'Arc, 1F75 State Visit, 1F50 Pétain, Coats of Arms, 1F Le Touquet and Postal Mechanisation. On 18 May he showed French Somali Coast (including Obock and Djibouti) and the Joseph de la Nèzière issues of French West Africa to the Leighton Buzzard Philatelic Society.

Next year on 12 January 2012 **Philip Mackey** will be showing 7 frames of Classic France stamps (as part of Midlands Royal Members' Display) at the Royal Philatelic Society London.

\* \* \*

## Society Literature Award 2010

1st **Mick Bister**: The 1F50 Pétain + 50 S N Overprint

2nd **Marty Bratzel**: The Booklet Stamps of French Cameroun

3rd= **Barbara Priddy**: WWII Airmail Rates from French Equatorial Africa

3rd= **André Métayer**: The 1 July 1854 Basic Letter Rate.

Judges: Meesrs Cliffe, Hitchen, Paterson, Wilkinson.

\* \* \*

Continued on page 48

# LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

## *Bulletin de la COL.FRA*

N° 135 1<sup>er</sup> Trim: 2011: De l'Insurrection des Esclaves à Saint Domingue à l'indépendance d'Haïti 1791-1804 [cont/end] (Gibot); Les timbres au Type Groupe [Navigation et Commerce] Coupés sur Lettres (De Virel); Cameroun Français 27-8-40 : Retour sur l'Essai B (Cobb); 974 La Réunion Marcophilie Moderne (Lavenas); Au-delà du Catalogue...au Cameroun (Cobb).

## *L'Écho de la Timbrologie*

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

N° 1848 Feb 2011: Henri Galeron, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Les timbres à La Loupe (-); Les débuts officiels de la poste aérienne (Albaret); Les Toshiba à numéros ROC dites aussi TSC 1000 ou MTP (Charbonnier); Cartes d'occupation allemande en France (Storch et Donnadiou).

N° 1849 Mar 2011: Jacqueline Duhême, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Une histoire vieille d'un siècle et demi... (Hella); Les Grands Prix de l'Art philatélique français (Marion, SO.CO.CO.DA MI.); Cartes d'occupation allemande en France (Storch et Donnadiou).

N° 1850 Apr 2011: Martin Jarrie, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); La naissance de la Caisse d'épargne postale (Hella); La légende de Besnardeau (Storch); Un ouvrage unique en France (Krempper);

N° 1851 May 2011: Christine Louzé, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); La poste sous la Commune de Paris (Albaret); Gustave Eiffel en son temps (Krempper); Avec Offenbach, vive l'opérette ! (Rosenberg, Amicale philatélique France-Israel); Cartes des années 1870 (Storch); De l'usage par le Vietcong des timbres comme armes (Moallem, Association Internationale des Collectionneurs de Timbres-poste du Laos).

## **France & Colonies Philatelist**

Whole N° 304 (Vol 67 N° 2): Handstruck Overprints in the Colonies (Herendeen); A cover story (Luft); The Amazing Group Type (Grabowski); Paris to Hawaii in 1897 - an interesting story of Handling (Malmgren); Tahiti to Turkey (Herendeen); What I collect and how I do it (Bump); A Nice Destination [Alger to Gibraltar] (Nilsesteun).

## *Timbres Magazine*

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

N° 120 Feb 2011: Sur les traces de Josef Enzensperger (Jacquart); Courriers naufragés (de Pelinec); Un *Caneton déchaîné* peut en cacher un autre (Sinai); Quand, à bord, on perd son ancre, il faut encre avec autre chose (de La Mettrie); Enfants au travail (Zeyons); L'insurrection vendéenne pendant les Cent Jours (1815) (Baudot); La simple taxe (Prugnon); 1943-1945: la reconstitution de la poste navale (Chauvin).

N° 121 Mar 2011: La trouvaille d'un génie: la machine Daguin (Singeot); Il y a des rebuts qu'il faut conserver (de La Mettrie); Marianne détournée (Rucklin); Du volcan à l'atoll: la Polynésie française (Blaise et Maury); La grande histoire des petits «LU» (Zeyons); Quel tarif a été appliqué? (Prugnon); Dakar 1941: la censure n'est plus militaire (Chauvin); Charles Guéniau 14 ans et déjà philatéliste! (Amiel).

N° 122 Apr 2011: André Chastain le botaniste [Archipel de Kerguelen] (Jacquart); Que sont devenus les courriers clandestins de Londres? (Melot); Le ballon de la victoire (Rucklin); Lybie: quand les Français administraient le Fezzan (Chauvin); Où doit-on coller le timbre-poste? (de La Mettrie); Révolte en Champagne (Zeyons); Les Armées des Alpes [1792-1815]: Une lettre recommandée contrôlée par la douane (Prugnon); Chandernagor: «pas question dans ces conditions d'abandonner les Comptoirs de l'Inde» (Chauvin).

N° 123 May 2011: La cathédrale de Reims vaut bien une grand-messe philatélique (de Pelinec); Le temps des cathédrales (Amiel); Sur l'échelle des risques (Rucklin); Libye: quand les Français administraient le Fezzan (Chauvin); Vrai jugement d'un faux ou faux jugement d'un vrai? (de La Mettrie); L'émission de Chambéry: petite série, grande spéculation (Singeot); Jossot le Rebelle (Zeyons); Une lettre taxée pour les États-Romains en 1870 (Prugnon); 1944: rétablir le lien postal (Chauvin).

## **The Indo-China Philatelist**

Vol 41 N° 2 (Whole N° 197) Mar 2011: Impounded Censored Mail (Bentley); The Hanoi International Exposition of 1902-1903 (Grabowski, Bentley); Stamps of the Kingdom of Sedang (Reniers); Cambodia *Coins Datés* (Dykhous).

Vol 41 N° 3 (Whole N° 198) May 2011: Marketing the Empire through Colonial Exhibitions (Montague); Postal Rate Changes of 1920 (Bentley); Indochina + de Gaulle = Cinderella (Wiart).

## *Documents Philatéliques*

N° 208 2<sup>e</sup> trim 2011: Djibouti, l'affranchissement des journaux en 1901 et 1902 (Guichenduc); Quatre mots dans un décret et la poste gagne quinze centimes (de La Mettrie); La crise de Fachoda, histoire postale (Maselis).

Continued on page 54

## BOOKSHELF

**Postal and Airmail Rates in France & Colonies 1920 to 1945** by Robert E Picirilli, of Hermitage, Tennessee, USA. ISBN 0 9519601 6 4, A4, 234pp card backed perfect bound volume. A complimentary CD with the entire database of covers in colour and additional information is included for those who would like a copy. Published by the France & Colonies Philatelic Society [GB] 2011. Available from Peter Maybury, 18 Courtneys, Wheldrake York, YO19 6BR, GB. Price: UK £24.00, Europe £27.00, Rest of the World £32.00. Details of payment from [publications@fcps.org.uk](mailto:publications@fcps.org.uk).

Robert Picirilli, a member of the France & Colonies societies in the USA and GB was seeking information in 1995 to explain the franking of airmail covers for his exhibit of the Ivory Coast from 1892 to 1945. He invited other collectors via the specialist society journals to join him in forming a study group.

Gradually an international group of collectors was involved, over a period of some 14 years, in supplying information from libraries, UPU and other sources and providing valuable input for the database.

An occasional Newsletter edited by Picirilli was published from November 1996 and reached 41 issues.

This important handbook covers the letter rates and airmail surtax for French colonies from the start of commercial aviation to the end of WWII, and provides for the first time a comprehensive source of information to explain the postage rates applied to pre-1946 French colonial airmail covers.

Whilst a number of us were invited to contribute particular chapters, Bob Picirilli, a retired academic, edited these in a particular organised planned style, so that the complete book reflects a concise approach to the subject.

Without a doubt we owe a great debt to Bob Picirilli for his enthusiasm and approach to this study, together with the many collectors who have contributed to this publication.

Colin Spong

**Australia - New Zealand - UK Mails (Rates Routes and Ships Out and Home), Volume I (2nd edition) to 1880 and Volume II 1881-1900** by Colin Tabeart. Each volume £50 + p&p obtainable from Colin Tabeart, 238 Hunts Pond Road, Fareham, Hants PO4 4PG. Books may also be collected in person from Nick Wraith in Derby, Peter Kelly in Bristol and Colin Tabeart in Fareham. Payment methods: UK cheque in favour of Colin Tabeart, euro by arrangement with Peter Kelly, PayPal to [colintabeart@btinternet.com](mailto:colintabeart@btinternet.com). Postage: 1 book UK £9, EU £15; 2 books UK £12, EU £26. If paying by Paypal please ensure remittance is in GB pounds and all charges are paid by the buyer.

Volume I (1st edition) sold out in six months in 2004, and the 2nd edition has been completely re-edited with a range of new information comprising a detailed study on mail out and home based on original sources and shipping movements that will be of immense value to those interested in maritime postal history and collectors of Australian and New Zealand mails. The book covers the development of mail services and a systematic study of each voyage by each mail carrying line and by each route. Letter rates for what is believed to be all the different routes have been covered.

Volume II covering the later period is of perhaps more use to the French collector because it contains a 34 page chapter on the mails carried by the Messageries Maritimes from the beginning of the Australian service in 1882 to 1900. While the work carried out by Raymond Salles

is undoubted there were a number of shortcomings. What Salles gives is, essentially, a scheduled timetable with some corrections. It is also only partial as the arrival dates at many of the ports are not shown and this is particularly so for the outward journeys, which is important where connections with other lines and annexes are concerned.

Salles also fails to take into consideration some local practices which impact on mail dates. For example, this included the omission of the use of the railways in Australia to speed up international mail. Mail for Sydney was offloaded at Melbourne and sent forward by rail, reaching Sydney before the mailboats. All of these points are taken up and considered in detail in the book and for anyone interested in French maritime mail and the *Ligne T* in particular this book is essential.

Peter Kelly



**Timbres Fiscaux des Colonies françaises**, spiral-bound series published by Cercle d'Étude de la Philatélie Fiscale (CEPF). Ordering information and price from Mme Irène Daniel, 66 boulevard Garibaldi, F-75015 Paris, France.

Three members of CEPF – Henri Barbero, Irène Daniel, and Guy Venot – are collaborating to produce a series of six or seven volumes covering revenue stamps of the 55 overseas colonies, *départements*, occupied and mandated territories, and protectorates with a French presence. The contents encompass the pre-independence period as well as post-independence issues where designs – primarily those with the emblem of the French Republic – continued to be used until the introduction of designs representative of the newly independent states. Revenue stamps of independent countries are not otherwise included.

Volume I – North Africa – was released in June 2010 and Volume II – Equatorial Africa – in November 2010. Other volumes are in preparation and will be published in due course.

Because of interest in Cameroun revenue stamps, Volume II was purchased (30€ plus shipping). The observations and comments that follow pertain to Cameroun but also apply generally to the revenue stamps of other overseas locales.

The revenue stamps listed clearly convey the extensive and impressive collections of the authors. Almost every stamp listed is illustrated, and the illustrations are in color. Many stamps are overprinted *épreuve* or proof. A number of stamps not included in Duston's 1987-88 volume are included, alerting us to their existence.

The authors are to be commended for listing two ink shades or paper tints for many of the stamps. Shades and tints have always been confusing, as the stamps come in a range of them. These represent different printings spanning a number of years, but confounded by fading with time, or paper toning with age, or loss of color when used stamps were soaked.

The book has, however, several limitations. First, the numbering is unique to the authors which, in and of itself, is fine, but cross referencing to the earlier works of Duston or Janton would have been helpful. Whereas Duston grouped

stamps by date of issue, the present authors do not. Different issues with Cameroun printed in red or blue are grouped together. Occasionally, stamps with Cameroun 19mm in length are included with those that are 17mm. In some cases, when Cameroun is printed in carmine or red, the color is listed as mauve. Two entries are duplicated; perhaps a descriptive word or two was left out of one or the other.

Some stamps were revalued in the late 1940s with the overprinted currency expressed as either Frs. or frs., but the listing uses a capital F for all. Only the illustrations allow proper differentiation.

Another shortcoming is the treatment of wartime revenue stamps, prepared by overprinting postage or postage due stamps. The authors list 38 stamps without consideration as to when they were issued. There are, however, approximately 60 stamps (plus major and minor varieties) and the dates of issue unequivocally established. The authors would have been well advised to have consulted the published literature. Also, this section indicates photos, but there are none.

Any detailed examination of French and French colonial revenue stamps should consider the watermark, which includes a date indicating when the paper was manufactured. For example, the reviewer has one Cameroun revenue stamp with five different watermarks – AT47, 49, 50, 52 and 57 – spanning ten years. Two other groupings span 22 years. The various printings have different ink shades and paper tints.

Lastly, the authors acknowledge previous authors, including Duston (spelled Doston) and Genton (Janton?).

Despite quibbles, the publication is worth the price, if for no other reason than for the comprehensive listing and large number of color illustrations. This reviewer is certainly benefitting from having this publication available for handy reference.

Marty Bratzel

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## Books Noted

*La Marianne de Gandon - Volume VI: Le 15F carmin-rose; et Volume VII: Le 15F outremer - Coins datés des tirages en feuilles* published by SO.CO.CO.DA.MI; 182 and 276pp A5 in colour; price 45€ + p&p for each volume; available from Jean-Claude Gagné, 18 rue Danielle Casanova, 77330 Ozoir-la-Ferrière. [Fully detailed coverage of the dated corner blocks of these 2 issues, with illustrations and chronological tables, updating the data given in the third part of *L'impression des timbres français par les rotatives* published in 1955.]

*Bulletins d'expédition de colis postaux en Alsace et en Moselle du 15 décembre 1918 au 15 juin 1940* by Laurent Bonnefoy, published by l'Académie de Philatélie; 252pp A4 (72 in colour) with about 300 illustrations; price 44€ + p&p; available from Brigitte Abensur, 8 rue des Fossés, 54700 Pont-à-Mousson. [Examines inter-war context and analyses marks, labels and figurines on these forms; discovery of administrative documents in archives leads to detailed study of tariffs, forwarding, delivery, archiving and means of inspection, with numerous illustrations.]

Maurice Tyler



## REPORTS OF MEETINGS

### LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 26 FEBRUARY 2011

#### George Barker: French Classics 1870-1876

George began his display by outlining the historical background to the Franco-German War and the events that had led to the Siege of Paris beginning 18 September 1870. He described how M. Hulot had had to produce stamps for the capital and therefore used the old plates from 1849-50 for the 10c, 20c and 40c values, but then perforated them. Shades and varieties, rates and destinations were all profusely illustrated, and we saw examples of detour routes for mail via Switzerland, a 15c reduced rate for POWs in Germany, Gratis labels used by the Swiss, the Pigeon Post used to get mail into Paris, an *Armée du Rhin* mark used at Belfort, and two of the first balloons.

The second section of the display dealt with mail relating to Alsace-Lorraine which had its territories occupied until 1872. We were shown various stages of the double franking, by the Germans and the French, that ensued, involving such items as the manuscript 2 often used by the Germans and the rise in the French rates from 20c to 25c. George then gave details of individual balloons and covered themes such as *plis confiés* (covers given to the balloon pilot), the difficulty of identifying certain balloons, the *ballon non monté* system (which was not successful), balloons that were delayed or crashed in the sea, unexpected destinations, a letter sent to Paris by balloon (that did not

arrive until after the siege), and mail enclosed in the zinc balls (*boules de Moulins*) that were submerged in the Seine in another unsuccessful attempt to get mail into the city.

The third section of George's display moved on to a selection of stamps produced in Bordeaux for the rest of France, including different "reports" for some issues. This last part of the story covered the issues of 1871-6, with the reuse of some plates such as that of the 15c from 1850. We learned that the events around 1 September 1871 led to postage rates being raised to pay an indemnity to the Germans, that the French issued bonds that were over-subscribed but subscribed mainly by the Germans, and that a lack of 25c stamps resulted in various ways of making up the value. We saw examples of the 5c stamp that had to be printed on blue paper, a 15c included by error in a sheet of 10c, and even a *tête-bêche* of the 10c with small figures used on an *avis de chargement*.

It was agreed that we had been privileged to see a display of rare and fascinating material.

Attendees: George Barker, Mick Bister, Ian Booth, Godfrey Bowden, John Corderoy, Michael Fairhead, John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen, Hugh Loudon, Barbara Priddy, Hans Smith, Iain Stevenson, Maurice Tyler, Michael Wright.

MST

### LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 16 MARCH 2011

#### John Hammonds: Aspects of French Aviation

John gave his usual informative and entertaining account of various aspects of French aviation. The first part covered a number of topics, some being new to those present, whilst others shed new light on old themes.

The display began with letter journals and journals from the Siege of Paris, some with spaces for the sender to include a personal message. The Paris Air Show followed from its inception at the Grand Palais until 1953. The Cannes Film Festival and the air rallies linked with it were shown in depth both before and after the war.

A new venture for John was French aircraft carriers and their hexagonal postmarks, which seemed to have been discontinued during 1970, after which time circular and slogan postmarks were used.

Publicity for Aéropostale and Air France was achieved by a series of postcards from 1928 to 1939, although Argentina did issue a card in 1947. These attractive cards were produced in South American countries, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay. They were mainly issued during December for use over the New Year. They attracted a lower rate of postage, providing that no more than five words were used.

The first half concluded with a range of airmail etiquettes.

The purpose of etiquettes is to segregate the airmails from the ordinary post. The necessity for the use of etiquettes was first recognised by the French Postal Authorities in 1918.

It was at this time, after the First World War, that there was a great expansion in air transport for commercial purposes of which air post contracts played a significant part. The French issued the Guynemer labels which were used as etiquettes. Variations and lack of conformity resulted in recommendations by the Postal Union Congress of 1922 for uniformity of colour and design.

In the second part John produced displays of the development of air communication to two French colonies – Indo-China and New Caledonia. The pioneers of air routes to these destinations were shown and the steady commercial development between the wars. His lucid explanation of this quite complicated story of French airmails was much appreciated by the audience, and the accompanying material was greatly admired.

Attendees: Len Barnes, Alan Barrett, Godfrey Bowden, Michael Fairhead, John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen, Hugh Loudon, Barbara Priddy, Derek Richardson.

Apologies: Mick Bister, Maurice Tyler.

CJH

## LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 20 APRIL 2011

Stephen & Judith Holder: French Postcards 1870-1914

Stephen introduced his collection by confessing that he had started it as a swap for a collection of Dinky cars in boxes. Both he and Judith then commented on the more noteworthy cards on display, each concentrating on their particular interests.

We began with the postal history of the 1870-71 war, and moved on to some early cards of the Eiffel Tower, built in 1889, through some *art déco* varieties to early hotel advertising cards. A selection of early multiviews included the *Gruss Aus* cards, where the message could not be written on the address side, and examples of cards produced by chromolithography.

Some early vignettes were made from black and white photographs, and stamps were sometimes affixed to the front of the card. The Paris 1900 Exhibition featured further vignetting on the front, and we even saw some "Hold To Light" cards which revealed a completely different aspect when this was done.

The second part of the display included some fine art and the expensive productions of work by Alphonse Mucha, leading to *art nouveau* by other artists. Then came photographic cards of Paris life, with some fascinating street scenes, and Paris artsapes with artists' representations of Paris scenes in high quality typography. These led on to Yvon cards of Paris from the 1920s and 1930s, to multiview cards featuring town names, and ending with pictures of the beach in its various forms. This was a collection of rare and sometimes quite valuable cards, and those of us who were privileged to see them fully appreciated the opportunity presented to us.

Attendees: Len Barnes, Alan Barrett, Graham Beresford, Mick Bister, Michael Fairhead, John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen, Stephen Holder, Hugh Loudon, Hans Smith, Maurice Tyler, David Worrollo. Guest: Judith Holder. Apologies: Godfrey Bowden, Bill Mitchell, Derek Richardson, Michael Round, John Thorpe.

MST

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## SOCIETY NOTES

Continued from page 43

### London Group Programme 2011-12

Wed 21 Sep 2011 - Members: 12 sheets

Wed 19 Oct 2011 - Michael Round: Comoro Islands

Sat 5 Nov 2011 - Brian Brookes: Martinique Sub-Offices

Wed 30 Nov 2011 - Stuart Henderson: French Cinderellas

Wed 15 Feb 2012 - Members' New Projects & Acquisitions

Sat 21 Apr 2012 - Paul Watkins: France/Austria/Germany 1945-55

Sat 12 May 2012 - AGM (11.30am) & Auction (2.00pm)

Wednesday meetings (starting at 6.30pm) and the AGM and Auction will be held at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1; Philatex meetings on Saturdays (starting at 3.00pm) will be held at the New Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1 and followed by a meal for interested members (at 5.45pm) at Il Posto Ristorante Italiano, 316a Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, London SW1V 1AA.

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### Vacancy

With effect from January 2012, there will be a vacancy for a new Publications Stockist. The main responsibilities are the storage and sale of Society publications and back numbers of the Journal. Please note however that the quarterly distribution of each new Journal is not the responsibility of the Publications Stockist.

The post provides an essential service to members who wish to avail themselves of the excellent philatelic literature published by the Society and the person undertaking it would be making a valuable contribution to the work of the Society. Further information of the duties involved can be obtained from Peter Maybury (details on Page ii) and anyone interested in taking on this post next year should

contact the President or the General Secretary.

Peter Maybury has provided the following list of tasks and skills required:

Storage, control and maintenance of stock of Journals and other publications (a minimum of 25 linear feet of shelving will be required).

Answering queries about stock by telephone, email and post; producing quotations and invoices, and keeping financial records for returns to the Treasurer.

Packing and despatching orders (some for export).

Ensuring relevant data is updated for the website and ensuring the webmaster is informed of any changes to be made.

Producing an annual report for the AGM.

He adds that although this sounds a lot, the position is not very time-consuming, except when new publications are produced.

\* \* \*

### Scottish Group

It is with regret that we have to report that the Scottish Group will cease to function after the end of the current season. The group was founded by Mavis Pavey in 2005 with its inaugural meeting being held in Linlithgow on 1 October. Unfortunately attendance has since declined in part as a result of the geographical distribution of the Scottish members who have been obliged to travel long distances to attend meetings. Our grateful thanks are due to Mavis who has worked tirelessly as convenor during the entire existence of the Group. Obviously, if there is anyone who would like to reform the Group please contact the President or the General Secretary.

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## SCOTTISH GROUP MEETING OF 26 MARCH 2011

**Russell Walker: French Aviation**

Sadly, only three members attended the meeting, with apologies from two. So there was plenty of time and space to view the display of French airmails brought along by Russell Walker.

Russell's plan for the display was to plot the development of flight from balloons to Concorde. He began with commemorative covers, postcards and booklets relevant to Montgolfier, the Paris Siege and balloon flights. He also showed one *ballon monté* and some humorous postcards relating to balloon flight.

He moved on to early aircraft, showing their development and military camps where experiments and test flights took place. Russell then moved on to show postcards and

memorabilia of aviation pioneers and their flights. These included Blériot, Latham Chavaz and Roland Garros.

The display continued with the opening up of routes involving Reunion, Madagascar and Mauritius, illustrated with a variety of covers. Russell then touched upon air shows, Paris and regional, rocket mail experiments and parachute mail.

Round 2 started with airmail issues from Reunion and Madagascar, plus covers. Next came Algeria, showing airmail stamps and covers to a variety of destinations. Modern mail followed from the Pacific to Scotland. Then we saw night flight mail from 1945 to 1973; postcards featuring more modern aircraft followed and the round ended with Concorde material.

MP

## SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 9 APRIL 2011

**Philip Mackey: Louis Napoleon issues**

On a sunny and warm early spring day the Southern Group welcomed member Philip Mackey from Solihull to display France centred on the Louis Napoleon issue

Philip explained that the first part would concentrate on the stamp issues and the second the postal history, and he opened by describing the various printings, engraving and essays of the 1848 Cérès issue, and similarly for the Napoleon president period – remarking on a number of ink and printing related problems – and then followed the Napoleon issues of 1854 including a magnificent display of the Fournier forgeries and the later laureate and non-laureate stamps and finishing with very uncommon examples of the 2c internal newspaper rate and the printed matter 1c rate of 1871.

The second half opened with a number of examples of a range of rates on cover to and from destinations to a wide selection of French offices and other countries worldwide. Of particular note were a number from the period of the Crimean War carried by Italian and French packets and a very special wrapper of 1865 to Argentina with a 5F60 franking. Examples of very scarce material from the

Franco-Prussian war were shown including mail carried by balloon, pigeon post and *boules*. The last frame included a spectacular cover of 1871 to Peru franked 5F20 and an example of the Napoleon 5F laureated stamp which for many of those attending had not been seen before either on or off cover

A very special display was acknowledged to acclaim by all those present

Members present: Oliver Andrew, Michael Annells, Graham Booth, Ian Booth, Roy Ferguson, Colin Spong, Alf Taylor, John Yeomans.

Apologies from: Michael Berry, Colin Clarkson, John Hammonds, Bob Larg, George Nash; and the refreshments were looked after by Pat Spong.

PLEASE NOTE: The next meeting has been transferred to Saturday 27 August and the morning displays will be by members [16 sheets] and after lunch at the Alexander, Lyndhurst Road, there will be a display of St Pierre & Miquelon by Mike Slamo, President of the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies.

JY

Continued on page 80

## OBITUARY



### **Tony Shepherd (1936 - 2011)**

Anthony Shepherd was born on 18 April 1936 at Darfield village near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, the second son of Sam and Phoebe Shepherd. Tony attended primary and secondary schools in Halifax, finding he was top of the class in history and geography, and practical skills. His practical application led him into the motor trade, which he enjoyed for most of his working life. Tony and Mavis met at a dance and were married in 1962 at Triangle Anglican church, moving to a house in Ovenden. Through their hard work they were able to buy their own home in Willowfield Road, and this became the venue for many gatherings and meetings both nationally and internationally.

Tony's main hobby was stamp collecting and postal history and it was through this medium that he used his knowledge of world history, geography and travel. He was often found coming out of his local library with an armful of books, for his next study and display. He joined the Halifax and Huddersfield Philatelic Societies and rose to become President in both study groups. Huddersfield P S was twinned with Besançon, France, and here Martyn Cusworth, Mike Roberts, Tony and team made frequent visits to the French town. Tony then joined the British West Indies Study Circle in 1969. Shortly after its founding he joined the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society, where he became Secretary in 1970 and President in 1974.

Tony would write stamp articles and have these published worldwide, often receiving letters from overseas. These letters would lead into lifetime friendships, whereby Tony and Mavis would invite people to stay with them in Halifax, enjoying some of the best cooking in Yorkshire. He always collected with a view to publish, and in 1976 was the main driving force in publishing the first Roses Caribbean Handbook, covering two chapters on Civil Censorship in World War II on Barbados and Grenada. Then in the following year he helped publish Volume 2. For his work in philately he was made a member of the Roll of Distinguished Yorkshire Philatelists and he became a familiar friendly figure at many conventions and meetings all over the UK.

Having sold his Grenada collection, he took an interest in the postal history of the Chaco War, and told the story involving Paraguay and Bolivia, when he produced and published his own booklet in 1981. To further 'his' knowledge on postal history, he and Mavis would travel to the Caribbean, touring around Barbados, Trinidad, Martinique, Grenada and other islands, meeting-up with new friends. Returning home, they told their stories, and Tony would then write detailed 'postal' tour guides about the places visited, and friends they had met.

His next stamp collecting adventure was French Colonies: he met up with more new friends, and before long was an active member of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, under the guidance of Northern Group member, Peter Maybury. He attended night school for French lessons, and again produced articles, gave talks, often very humorous, and became a stalwart of the Society.

Tony collected stamps from; Barbados, St Kitts/Nevis, Grenada, St Lucia, Dominica, Chaco War, Guadeloupe, Censorship Mail, French Guiana. For his outstanding achievements in researching, presenting and publishing work on postal history, he was awarded in 2011 a fellowship with the Society of Postal Historians.

His other main hobby, was gardening, and he could give the Latin names to many exotic plants in 'his' garden and describe in some detail how these plants first came to the UK.

Tony's health was good until he had to go into hospital for the first time in his life in 2010. These past 18 months he never complained, moving from hospital to hospital in Halifax, Bradford, Leeds and Huddersfield. Mavis was always there. Tony died on Friday 6 May 2011, aged 75. Our thoughts are with Mavis and her friends and family. Tony, we will miss you.

MR



# The Status of the French Post Office in Beirut after 1 October 1914

Semaan Bassil

The establishment of a foreign postal service in the Ottoman Empire had taken place in the second half of the 18th century, at first because of the consular needs of the Russian and the Austrian governments, and then of the French government in 1812, at their respective embassies in Constantinople<sup>(1)</sup>.

The introduction of steamships in the Mediterranean, the establishment of regular shipping routes by the relevant navigation companies, and the presence of the Capitulations facilitated from the mid-1830s the development of extra territorial foreign post offices in the Ottoman Empire when an international mail service was non-existent. The international postal service by the Ottomans was introduced only around 1879<sup>(2)</sup>. After the creation of the Universal Postal Union in 1875, however, the Ottoman government attempted several times to abolish these offices, but with no success.

It is generally known that foreign post offices in the Ottoman Empire closed down following the outbreak of WWI. It is important to recall that Germany declared war on Russia on 1 August 1914, Britain declared war on Germany three days later, Turkey joined the Central powers on 29 October, and France and Britain declared war on Turkey on 5 November.

The French post office in Beirut was established on 16 November 1845<sup>(3)</sup>.

Empirical research in finding the latest dated mail or relevant postal activity at the French post office in Beirut could help determine the approximate last day of postal activity (i.e. franking of letters, postage stamps sold, mail received/remitted). Until recently, I could only find an unsatisfactory latest Beirut date stamp on an incoming cover dated 24 September 1914, acquired just recently from a collector in India.



Figure 1

Letter posted in Paris 29.9.1914  
with enlarged arrival backstamp dated 24.9.1914  
(Private Collection, S.B)



As I could also not find any information in the official French postal circulars (i.e. the *Bulletin Mensuel des Postes*) for the whole year of 1914 about the effective closure date of the Beirut French post office in Beirut, I ended up digging in the official correspondence between the Beirut office and the different French Administration departments (i.e. Foreign Ministry, Embassy in Constantinople, Post Ministry). Indeed, the circulars of the '*Bulletin Mensuel des Postes*' seem not to have covered all specifics of post offices overseas, and the relevant postal circulars specific to these overseas post offices were often not kept on file and were destroyed<sup>(4)</sup>.

Research at the diplomatic archives of the French ministry has indeed brought some light – although not definitively – on the last date of postal service processed at the French post office in Beirut.

This article tries to describe the status of the French post office in Beirut after 1 October, and tries to identify the effective ending of the postal service there (i.e. the last day of postal processing documented by a date).

The General Consulate of France in Beirut played an important role in promoting and protecting the activities of the French post office in Beirut, the main postal centre ("*Distribution*" – offering most postal services) on which depended the smaller ("*Recette*" – offering limited postal services) offices established along the Syrian coast (i.e. Mersina, Alexandretta, Latakia, Tripoli, Jaffa\* and Caiffa – modern Haifa).

On 25 September 1914 the French Postal Administration in Bordeaux reports<sup>(5)</sup> to the French Ambassador in Constantinople, M. Bompard, that a telegram from the Ottoman minister Oskan Effendi in Istanbul demanded that all postal activities of foreign post offices be shut down on 1 October. All mail should from that date be directed to Ottoman offices, continued the message.

Bordeaux asked that the directors of the '*recette*' post offices on the Syrian coast be accompanied on that 'D-day' by the Consulate or Vice-consulate dragoman (local interpreter and aide at foreign consulates), to protest if need be in the case of any Ottoman official showing up and requesting the closure of the office. However, if insistence on closure persisted, the office was to be sealed. While "expecting some difficulties or even conflicts following the October deadline", the ambassador asked the post offices' directors to "hide away the monies, the postage stamps and all objects of value including important documents from Ottoman eyes".

The strategy was to "continue to ensure mail bags were brought to French post offices after 1 October by the Messageries ships "at least temporarily" although he "also expected these bags to be intercepted by the Turkish authorities on arrival in port." Any measures taken by the Ottomans

to seize these postal bags was "in a general sense a violation of the protected privileges granted to our postal agents and to our nationals as per the Capitulations" and would need to be followed by a written report by the director of posts that would be forwarded to the Ottoman government.

Furthermore, the message continued by inviting the French ambassador to contact the representatives of allied nations so that they would act in the same way and inform the national representatives of Italy and the US as well as of the neutral nations of the French action and urge them to follow the same procedure.

The French apparently did not intend leaving soon, nor did they want to shut down business as was clearly being demanded, and they persisted in finding ways to perpetuate their postal activities in the Ottoman Empire.

On 10 October a telegram<sup>(6)</sup> was sent from the Constantinople-Pera post office to the local vice-consuls/consuls in Syria requesting them to ensure that all '*recette*' French post offices in Syria (Latakia, Tripoli, Caiffa, Alexandretta, and Mersina) send to the Consulate General of France in Beirut all documents and equipment of the relevant office sealed in a bag, as per the minutes drafted back on 1 October with the each of the relevant office directors. The latter should however continue to keep their relevant date stamps until further notice, meaning that they could use them if the opportunity arose. A reply from Beirut dated the same day confirmed that the postal bags sent from the Syrian '*recette*' post offices had already been received in Beirut.

It is not clear when exactly each of those '*recette*' offices were forced to close down, although we know all the offices' documents and tools were dispatched and received by 10 October in Beirut. We also do not know whether any client remitted any franked letters to any of these directors and whether they were cancelled (before 10 October) with the date stamp kept in their hands or could have been posted on board a Messagerie ship or in the mobile box.

Indeed, a letter dated 12 October<sup>(7)</sup> from the Consulate General of France in Beirut to the French Vice-Consul in Caiffa informed the latter that if the Ottomans did not authorize postal bags to be remitted by the Messageries to the French post office or if they asked for the mail bags to be opened under Ottoman presence, that these should be sent back to Marseille, "as the closure of French post offices had not yet been authorized by the French authorities." Earlier a letter dated 7 October<sup>(8)</sup> reported that the steamer '*ISPAHAN*' had arrived in Beirut with no mail as the 25 bags destined for Syria and Palestine had to be fetched at Port Said by the French diplomat in Cairo (probably under Ottoman pressure), which had outraged the clients and businessmen in Beirut.

Thus, by 12 October, French diplomats in Syria and in Constantinople had not yet been informed officially that the French postal service had ceased nor been asked for their French expatriates to return to France, but were asked to be on stand-by with their relevant town date stamps.

On 15 October<sup>(9)</sup> the Beirut French Consulate sent a telegram to Bordeaux stating that the Ottoman authorities had tried to take possession of the Beirut Consulate bag when taken aboard and did not allow it to be shipped, and demanded that the mail be remitted to the Ottoman post.

\* Note that the French post office in Jaffa was first a '*Distribution*' post office (since its opening in 1852), then was upgraded as '*Recette*' office in 1877 (Dallay, *Catalogue de cotations des timbres des bureaux français, anciennes colonies, et zones d'occupation en Europe et Asie*, 2006-2007, p 203), but was still reporting to the Beirut post office as at April 1895 (CADN, sous-direction des affaires commerciales AC 44, poste de Beyrouth, letter dated 15 April 1895, #23).





Figure 2

A dragoman (an interpreter and guide often at the service of foreign Consulates and Embassies at the time)  
(Private Collection, S.B)

On 16 October<sup>(10)</sup> a letter from the Consul General of France in Beirut to the Postmaster in that town informed him that one mobile box (*'Boîte Mobile'*) could be set on the French ship whereby letters (and franked, unfranked, insufficiently franked ones would all be accepted) could be deposited by the public (whether the local authority liked it or not) or by passengers before the ship sailed or during the voyage as the UPU convention of 1906 (article 11, paragraph 5) allowed. Another telegram<sup>(11)</sup> from Beirut on 20 October confirmed the continual interruption of incoming mail at the post office.

Did the "*Boîte Mobile*" service actually operate at all? If it did can this service allow us to assume that postal operations did not completely stop?

On 28 October a telegram sent at 5pm from the French Ambassador to the Consuls General in Beirut, Jerusalem and Smyrna declared laconically that he believed that the liquidation of the French post was completed and requested that the staff of French nationals be repatriated to France with the office documents of the Beirut and Smyrna offices only<sup>(12)</sup>.

At the same time<sup>(13)</sup> the French Consul General in Beirut sent a telegram to Bordeaux reporting that no mail nor

newspapers from France had arrived from Egypt although the city was inundated with German newspapers. He asked when the correspondence would be processed as before in order to calm the former customers of the post office.

In addition<sup>(14)</sup> the Consul in Beirut reported to Bordeaux that the Ottomans were planning to seal the doors of the old post office in Beirut. This could confirm that the postal activity in Beirut had been moved to the Consulate premises some time earlier, based on an earlier letter dated 21 September, in which the French Consul General had suggested this initiative to the French ambassador.

This situation shows clearly that, despite the incoming mail being interrupted, the French Consul General still hoped the postal service would be brought back into service.

On 29 October<sup>(15)</sup> the Consul General in Beirut sent another telegram to Bordeaux to inform it that in order to liquidate the office in Beirut its director needed to receive the relevant authorization to reimburse fully the depositors of the *'Caisse d'Épargne'* and confirmed that the Head Clerk would return home to France with the necessary archives as per the embassy instructions. This was the same day that Turkey officially sided with the Central powers (ie Germany).

In summary, technically the French post office in Beirut was supposed to stop functioning completely on 1 October. Although mail apparently could not be remitted because of the Ottoman embargo on French mail embarking on board or being forwarded by the Messageries to the French post offices on the Syrian coast, postal activity (inside the French post office, or at the Consulate in Beirut), although limited, continued to operate (e.g. settling outstanding money order transactions on behalf of the 'recettes', reimbursing depositors at the 'Caisse d'Épargne', possibly promoting the use of the 'Boîte Mobile' on board ship) as well as liquidating the remaining services of the 'recette' offices on the Syrian coast (by collecting all the archives from the five 'recette' offices, settling on their behalf the shipment cost of the archives).

Hence, empirical research rather than mere reliance on the Ottoman official deadline of 1 October for shutting down the foreign post offices, would clarify the date of the last postal service at the French post office in Beirut.

### References

- (1) G Young, 1906, *Corps de droit Ottoman, Recueil des codes, lois, règlements, ordonnances et actes les plus importants du droit intérieur, et études sur le droit coutumier de l'Empire Ottoman*, vol IV, Oxford, p 342
- (2) *idem*
- (3) R Salles, 1992, *La poste Maritime française, Tome II, les paquebots de la Méditerranée de 1837 à 1939*, Zavallis Litho, Nicosia, p 38
- (4) R Abensur, 2004, *Documents Philatéliques*, N° 179, 1<sup>er</sup> Trimestre, pp 6-20
- (5) CADN (Centre des Archives Diplomatiques de Nantes) (E406, *Ambassade de Constantinople, documents divers*) — Telegram #66 from Bordeaux, on 25 September 1914 at 2.00am
- (6) CADN (E406, *Ambassade de Constantinople, documents divers*) — Telegram, Classement #102, from Pera, 10 October 1914
- (7) CADN, *Beyrouth Consulat A242 poste Beyrouth, 1909-1914*, — letter # 29/1, 12 October 1914
- (8) CADN, *Beyrouth Consulat A349, 1895-1914*, — letter dated 7 October 1914
- (9) CADN (E406, *Ambassade de Constantinople, documents divers*) — Telegram, #75, #160, from Beirut 15 October 1914, 6.00pm
- (10) CADN, *Beyrouth Consulat A242 Poste Beyrouth, 1909-1914* — letter #113, dated 16 October 1914
- (11) CADN (E406, *Ambassade de Constantinople, documents divers*) — Telegram, #1636, from Beirut 20 October 1914
- (12) CADN (E406, *Ambassade de Constantinople, documents divers*) — Telegram, #102, 5.00pm, from Constantinople to Jerusalem, Beirut and Smyrna Consuls General
- (13) CADN (E406, *Ambassade de Constantinople, documents divers*) — Telegram, #80, #102, from Beirut 28 October 1914, 6.00pm
- (14) CADN (E406, *Ambassade de Constantinople, documents divers*) — Telegram, #81, #102, from Beirut 28 October 1914, 6.00pm
- (15) CADN (E406, *Ambassade de Constantinople, documents divers*) — Telegram, #82, #102, #1715 from Beirut 29 October 1914, 6.00pm

## LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Continued from page 44

### Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 343 4<sup>e</sup> trim 2010: Deux correspondances liées aux chemins de fer (Driguet); Lettre recommandée MAILEVA (Sené); À propos des GC «refaits» (Cornuejols); Spoliation du courrier: Paquets piégés pour la bonne cause! (Plein-fossé); Une lettre «tour du monde» (Rappaz); Piquage de Marenne sur les chiffres-taxe (Couvé); AHPMR - Lettre d'origine rurale renvoyée à son auteur en 1845 (Douron); L'Armée de la Moselle (Schaff); Saint-Germain-en-Laye (Dorsand); Panorama de la poste ferroviaire dans les ex-territoires, ex-colonies françaises et départements français [contd] (Mercier); Recensement des correspondants postaux au Maroc (Mercier).

N° 344 1<sup>er</sup> trim 2011: Lettres en port payé d'origine et à destination rurale pendant la période du décime supplémentaire (Estel); Télégraphie: Marque d'essai du bureau de la rue de Gramont (Narjoux); Atelier Rebutis: Destinataires absents, lettres en instance et plaisirs mar-

cophiles (Douron); Les Sections Sanitaires Automobiles (SSA) et les marques associées pendant la Grande Guerre (Quenec'hdu); Ambulant de mobilisation (Hanotaux); Quand la boîte mobile de Boyardville prenait la mer (Pain & Gauduchon); Petits Chiffres - Gros Chiffres (de La Mettrie); Data-Matrix (Douron & Sené); AHPMR - Quelques centimes dans une boîte rurale (Driguet & Pinhas); D'un tarif à un autre [1854] (Driguet); Les vaguemestres d'étapes du Maroc type convoyeur (Mercier).

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

N° 159 1<sup>er</sup> trim 2011: Saint-Quentin - Lieu de destination envahi (Ludwig); La correspondance privée à Lille en novembre 1914 (Van Dooren); La surcharge fiscale pour l'armée libanaise en 1945 (Jousset); Lyon Guillotière - Gare de rassemblement (Van Dooren); Griffe linéaire de bureau de distribution non calligraphiée *cursive* (Garcin); L'étude d'une empreinte double cercle du type A.3.c (Van Dooren).



## 'La Belle France' Vignettes

Godfrey Bowden

*It was seeing the short article by Alan Wood in Journal 249 of September 2008 (page 110) showing a complete sheet of the Algerian series of 'La Belle France' series of vignettes printed by the Imprimerie Vaugirard which made me revisit a collection of these vignettes purchased a year or so ago. Together with these vignettes, many in sheet form, was an article on the subject by Degardin and Granger. This gave a full story of the origins and details of the vignettes, much of which is in translation below and which may be of interest to our members. It is interesting both by giving a picture of the collecting habits of the 1930s and for the commercial motivation leading to their production. A detailed list of all of the individual vignettes is available on disk to anyone interested, enabling any one of the several hundred vignettes to be allocated to the appropriate series and, where possible, to the position on the sheet. The first page of this listing is shown in Appendix I (page 58).*

*The series is identified in having the words 'La Belle France' shown either in the design (Fig 1) or below the design (Fig.2), the latter being confined to the vignettes of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and the other overseas territories.*



Figure 1

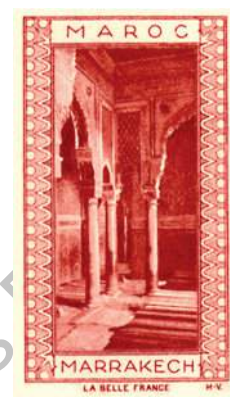


Figure 2

### The French Tourist Vignettes of the Vaugirard Printing Works

by G Degardin and L Granger

Among the tourist issues there are those, by choice of subject, their perfect printing and richness of colour, which are sought by many collectors, of Cinderella material or not, whether here or abroad. Among those to show these qualities are the vignettes of the 'Belle France' series edited and published by the Vaugirard Printing Works.

Previously known by certain issues of postage stamps until 1923, the Vaugirard Printing Works later printed vignettes of a tourist and commercial type. It seems that the first vignettes published by this firm were those commemorating the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Ronsard in 1924, printed in six colours. It seems that this may have been an unadopted postage stamp project, but in the end the management saw another possibility.

The birth of 'La Belle France' was as a direct consequence of a meeting of the *Touring Club de France* which was leading a campaign against the distressing poverty of design of the existing French postage stamps and for their replacement with a tourist series depicting the most beautiful sites and monuments of France. Thus it was that Vaugirard was prompted to produce the 'Beautiful Series' by using their experience of printing Moroccan, Lebanese and Syrian stamps as well as those of the Saar. The issue of the 'twenty beautiful sites and monuments' made a great stir at the time, not only with collectors but with the public, although it was not so popular with the minister of the PTT!

Encouraged by the success of this series Vaugirard sought

to extend and further continue the 'twenty beautiful sites and monuments' and thus the 'Belle France' issue was born. It was to the credit of the company that they had this idea and moreover realised it.

The editor himself announced it and said this:

"Each Nation celebrates the beauty of its native land, this being their unalienable right, but it seems to me that France is the most beautiful of all; it possesses with its various climates the sweetness of these without the clash of extremes which affect others, without the monotony of the Nordic countries and without the oppressive heat of the South. That is why you must believe we have created, in an artistic form, this collection of images of "La Belle France" the fragments of which, scattered around the world, make a newly assembled mosaic which it would otherwise lack. Tourist vignettes are an instrument of national publicity. These works of art in miniature, the result of twenty years of considerable effort, have effectively put a seal on all industrial and commercial post.

Carrying abroad these aspects of the most beautiful sites and marvellous architecture, characteristic of our attractive towns, encourages tourism and the taste for travel and thus increases the number of visits made by foreign tourists and as a consequence increases foreign exchange."

In other publicity pamphlets the editor modified his text to read:

“By rewarding young pupils with these vignettes one allows them to form an attractive and informative collection. It also stimulates their taste for beauty and love for their native soil. Thus these vignettes are used in many schools to illustrate their exercise books in the subjects of history, geography and art. We should be very happy if it merits your attention.”

The Vaugirard Printing Works adds the following:

” Our series are published conforming to the tourist regions of France”

It seems obvious that the different approaches of the two presentational texts show that Vaugirard aimed at two different publicity categories, one aimed at industry and commerce, the other at teachers, headmasters and educationalists. The fact is that they realised this was something of which they were justifiably proud. We do not believe that it has been better done since or will be in the future. The favourable reception afforded to the ‘*Belle France*’ series by collectors shows that they were very close to perfection.

This interest leads us to think that it would be useful for many of our colleagues to give a complete list of the vignettes produced in this series as well as certain issues which devolved from them and should logically be included.

In the text there now follows a list according to Vaugirard of the various series given in abbreviated form by Alan Wood in his article quoted above, but with the addition of three further issues:

Series N°	Area	N° in series	N° of colours	Total
XXVIII	<i>La Guyenne, la Gascogne et la Côte d’Argent</i>	20	5	100
XXIX	<i>La Flandre, L’Artois et La Picardie</i>	20	5	100
XXX	<i>Pyrenées, Languedoc et Roussillon</i>	40	5	200

The first publicity pamphlets (‘*Avis aux Collecteurs*’) stated that “no series other than the ‘*Vingt Sites et Monuments*’ and ‘*Les Châteaux de la Loire*’ would be reprinted, so it is in your interest to acquire the new series as they appear.” Further information was given with series XXX: “Issue XXX finishes the cycle of the

first French series, that is to say that our first ‘*Tour de France*’ is finished. The series that follow are meant to replace the currently exhausted series, but will conform to our agreement made with collectors that none of the views previously published would be reprinted. Unfortunately there will be only two.

XXXI	<i>Vosges (Versant ouest) (2<sup>nd</sup> Series)</i>	20	5	100
XXXII	<i>La Vallée de la Loire (2<sup>nd</sup> Series)</i>	20	5	100

For financial reasons the issue of the ‘*Belle France*’ vignettes stopped after the 32<sup>nd</sup> Series, though now we find a further unnumbered series ‘*Indochine Française*.’ It is logical to believe that it exists in the usual five colours. However this series does not carry the inscription “*La Belle France*” but is otherwise identical (see Fig 6, p 62).

No series will be reprinted, if we are to believe the editor, except those of ‘*Les Vingt Beaux Sites et Monuments*’ and ‘*Les Châteaux de la Loire*.’ The former of the two are found in three presentations:

- No inscription in the margins.
- Sheets with the inscription in the top margin “*Vingt Beaux Sites et Monuments de la France*” heavily printed in black letters and in the bottom margin “*Classement du Concours du Touring Club de France*” both printed typographically and certainly added after the vignettes had been printed.
- Text in the upper margin “*Vingt Beaux Sites et*

*Monuments de la France*” and in the lower margin “*Classement du Concours du Touring Club de France. Imprimeries de Vaugirard. Impasse Ronsin, Paris (XV<sup>e</sup>)*” all printed in ‘helio’; the letters are finer and printed in the same colour as the vignette, ie printed at the same time. The colours of the third presentation are slightly lighter than those of the other two. In one general way they are different, being less heavy, but also, for example, the violet changes to lilac and the green becomes almost olive. These differences of presentation and shade are proof that the ‘*Vingt Beaux Sites*’ had effectively been reprinted.

Certain vignettes have been the subject of special printings and ought to be included. A block of four of the ‘*Cité de Carcassonne*’ is known (N° 13 of ‘*Les Vingt Beaux Sites*’). In the ‘*Belle France*’ series it only exists once. This was probably printed for the local *Syndicat d’Initiative*: it exists without doubt as a booklet entitled *Cité de Carcassonne*. Unfortunately we do not have any documentation on this subject and would welcome any information concerning it.

Certain series were printed imperforate in sheet form and generally in different colours to those of the perforate series. Interestingly, the existence of these sheets was denied by Vaugirard itself. Gustave Bertrand when answering questions for '*Les vignettes de France*' was of the opinion that they did not exist. However, in some of the early prospectuses it is written that in the early years they were known. They are present in the collection of our colleague M. Pierrot of Lyon. He possesses the following sheets.

III in blue green and blood red  
IV in the usual five colours  
V in the usual five colours  
VI and VII in green and red

VIII, IX and X in blue green and bistre red  
XI and XII in green and bistre red  
XIII and XIV in blue and bistre red  
XV and XVI in green and blue

It would probably be of interest to give the approximate dates of issue of the various series:

1925 I and II  
1926 III to XII  
1927 XIII to XVI  
1928 XVII  
1929 XVIII to XXIV (see Figs 3 & 4, pp 59-60)  
1930 XXV to XXVIII (see Fig 5, p 61)  
1932 XXIX to XXXII

*There follow, in the original article, details of the series associated with 'La Belle France' but as they do not have that inscription on the vignette we shall not concern ourselves with these at present. Further on in the essay mention is made of the overprints on the 'Belle France' series. Here is what the authors say on that subject:*

It now remains for us to indicate those vignettes found with various overprints. We know of these:

- (1) Red overprints, a red cross and the initials *A.D.F.* (*Association des Dames Françaises*).
- (2) Red overprints '*Lutte anticancéreuse*' on one, two or three lines.

These overprinted vignettes are found with postal franking up to 1931. It is reasonable to believe that the overprints were made by *Imprimerie Vaugirard* themselves, who also printed the booklet covers (*A.D.F.*) for the Red Cross and '*Œuvres de la Croix Saint Simon*' for anti-cancer vignettes. Also found are other overprints which appear to have been printed privately. After the suspension of the '*Belle France*' issues the *Imprimerie Vaugirard* (which transformed itself for sound reasons into '*Hélio Vaugirard*') sold the stock of vignettes, some to charities and some to commercial concerns. Overprints appearing during this period were:

- (a) *Solidarité-Trésor* in red in the upper margin
- (b) *Amis de l'Enseignement Libre* in black in the lower margin
- (c) *Chocolat Kwatta* in black in the lower margin
- (d) *L'Aide aux Enfants paralysés* in red in the upper margin
- (e) *Passion de Poitiers* in red in the margin
- (f) *SA Peintres-Sculpteurs* in red in the margin
- (g) *Au bénéfice des déportés de la France combattante 5FR* (all in capitals) in black on the image
- (h) *Œuvres Sociales de la France Combattante* (all in capitals) 5Fr in black on the image

There may be others.

Most of the vignettes were sold for the benefit of the various charities shown. Those of the *Chocolat Kwatta* were distributed with the chocolates. Not included in the list above is the overprint on the Algeria series which was imposed on the occasion of the Centenary of Algeria; the overprint was in red and consisted of the dates 1830-1930. This series is much rarer with the overprint (see back cover).

Some purchasers of the Vaugirard stock were happy just to put them on sale with new covers containing commercial adverts.

#### The value of the vignettes

Taken as individual vignettes all of the '*Belle France*' series are not rare, however to gather a collection of all of them in all colours would be very difficult. Ideally these should be collected in complete sheets. A coefficient of 10 is reasonable for the overprinted Algeria series. Specialists in the subject of the Red Cross and anti-TB will be keen to find these issues.

With respect to the overprinted issues it is difficult to fix values. For example the Kwatta Chocolate sheets are often encountered, and classified with them are those of (g) and (h) above. At a level above these we put (a) and the anti-cancer overprints (2), and above them the *A.D.F.* (1) and (b). Near to the top of this rarity scale will be (d) and (e). Lastly at the very top we place (f) which is really difficult to come by.

*There seems to be no order given by Degardin and Granger indicating the position of the vignette in the sheet(s). Where I have the complete sheet I have given the positional number reading left to right in each successive row, the sheets annotated in this way are mentioned at the bottom of the list on the disk. See the illustration of the first page of this list in Appendix I, p 58.*

## Appendix I

<i>Position in sheet</i>	<i>Description of vignette</i>	<i>Series N°</i>	<i>Name of series</i>
13	Abbaye de Solesmes	5	La Vallée de la Loire
15	Abbeville, Collégiale Saint-Wulfran	29	La Flandre, l'Artois et la Picardie
20	Abbeville, vieilles maisons	29	La Flandre, l'Artois, et la Picardie
18	Agen, Église Saint-Hilaire	28	La Guyenne, la Gascogne et la Côte d'Argent
20	Aigues-Mortes, la Porte de la Gardelle et la Tour de Constance	7	La Provence (1st Series)
18	Aix-en-Provence, fontaine monumentale	7	La Provence (1st Series)
8	Albi, la Cathédrale	30	Pyrénées, Languedoc et Roussillon
13	Albi, l'Archevêché	30	Pyrénées, Languedoc et Roussillon
1	Alençon, le Château	16	La Normandie
39	Alger, la Grande Mosquée	22	L'Algérie
35	Alger, rue de la Casbah	22	L'Algérie
34	Alger, vue générale	22	L'Algérie
29	Alger, cimetière musulman	22	L'Algérie
3	Amboise, le Château	5	La Vallée de la Loire
10	Amiens, la Cathédrale	29	La Flandre, l'Artois, et la Picardie
29	Anet, entrée du Château	17	L'Île de France
18	Angers, Hôtel Pincé	32	La Vallée de la Loire (2nd Series)
16	Angers, le Château et la statue du Roi René	5	La Vallée de la Loire
17	Angles-sur-l'Anglin, vue générale	12	La Saintonge, le Poitou, l'Angoumois
3	Angoulême, Cathédrale Saint-Pierre	12	La Saintonge, le Poitou, l'Angoumois
44	Annam, Djiring, habitations Moïs	25	La France d'Outremer
45	Annam, Hué, le Palais des Empereurs	25	La France d'Outremer
12	Antibes, le vieil Antibes et la Chaîne des Alpes	27	La Côte d'Azur et la Corse
4	Arbois, la Tour Gloriette	21	Franche-Comté et les Monts Jura
1	Arcachon, bord du Bassin	28	La Guyenne, la Gascogne et la Côte d'Argent
3	Arène de Nîmes	7	La Provence (1st Series)
4	Arènes de Lutèce	18	Paris
9	Arènes de Nîmes	3	Vingt beaux sites et monuments de la France
9	Argelès-Gazost, vue générale	6	Les Pyrénées (Côte Basque) (1st Series)
7	Argenton, vieilles galeries sur la Creuse	19	Sologne et Berry
16	Arles, le Cloître	7	La Provence (1st Series)
9	Arras, l'Hôtel de Ville	29	La Flandre, l'Artois et la Picardie
5	Aubenas, le Château	20	La Vallée du Rhône
20	Auch, la Cathédrale	28	La Guyenne, la Gascogne et la Côte d'Argent
19	Aurillac, vue sur la Jordanne	13	La Bourgogne et le Morvan
15	Autun, Temple de Janus	11	Le Massif Central (1st Series)
15	Aux flancs du Honneck	31	Les Vosges (versant ouest) (2nd Series)
3	Auxerre, vue générale	13	La Bourgogne et le Morvan
10	Avalon, la place de l'Église	13	La Bourgogne et le Morvan
6	Avignon, vue générale	7	La Provence (1st Series)

*This is the first page of a complete alphabetical list of the vignettes compiled by the author, giving (where known – which is in most cases) their position in the sheets, numbering from left to right in the successive rows, together with the number and name of the series in which they appear. Godfrey's disk with this database can be made available to any members interested: his details are included in the Register of Members' Interests.*



## Appendix II

*John Mayne has provided photocopies of several of the sheets described in this article, and we illustrate several of these on these next few pages.  
See also the back cover of this Journal.*

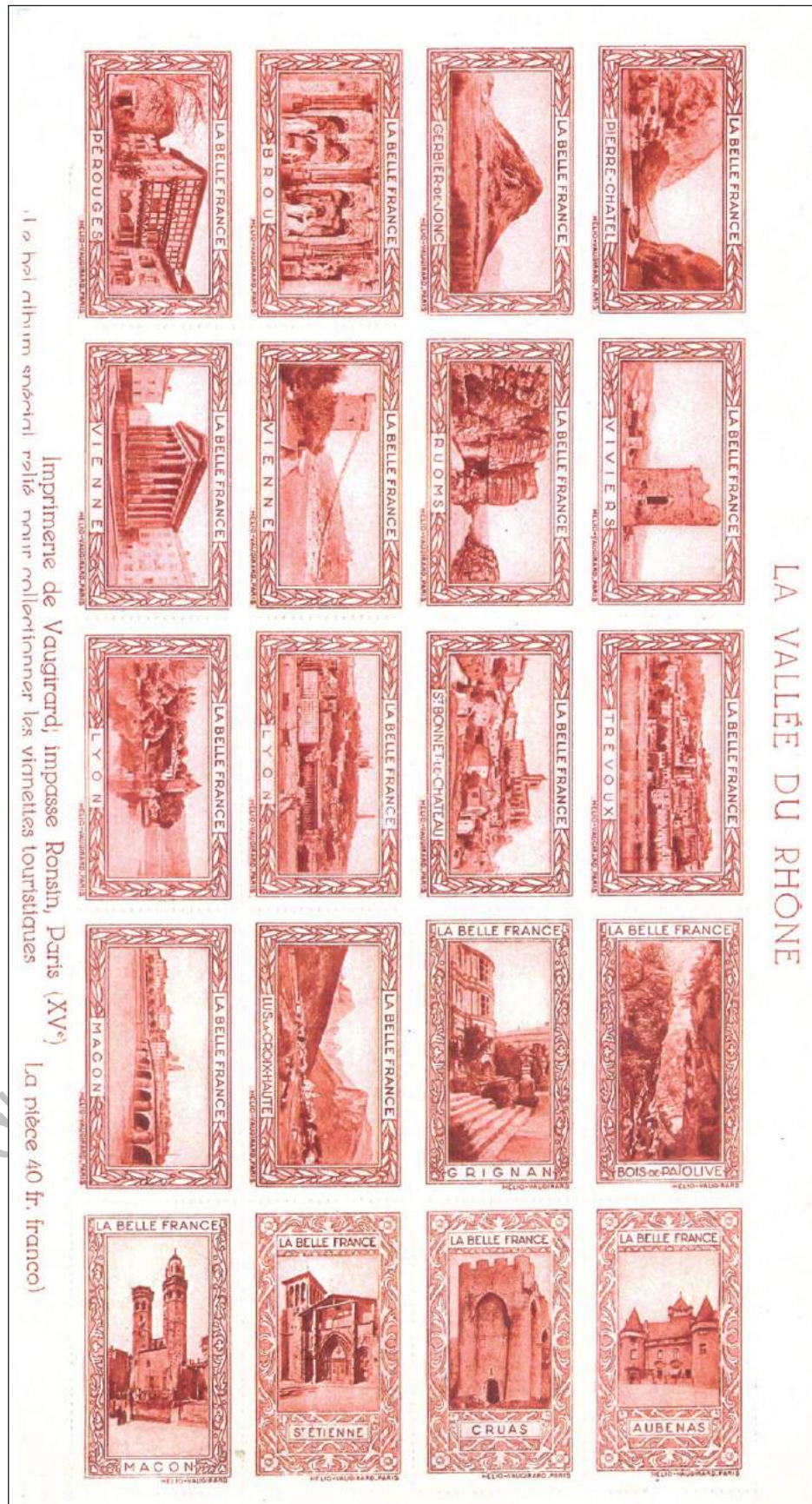


Figure 3

La Belle France Sheet N° XX, The Rhone Valley (reduced to 90% to fit the page)



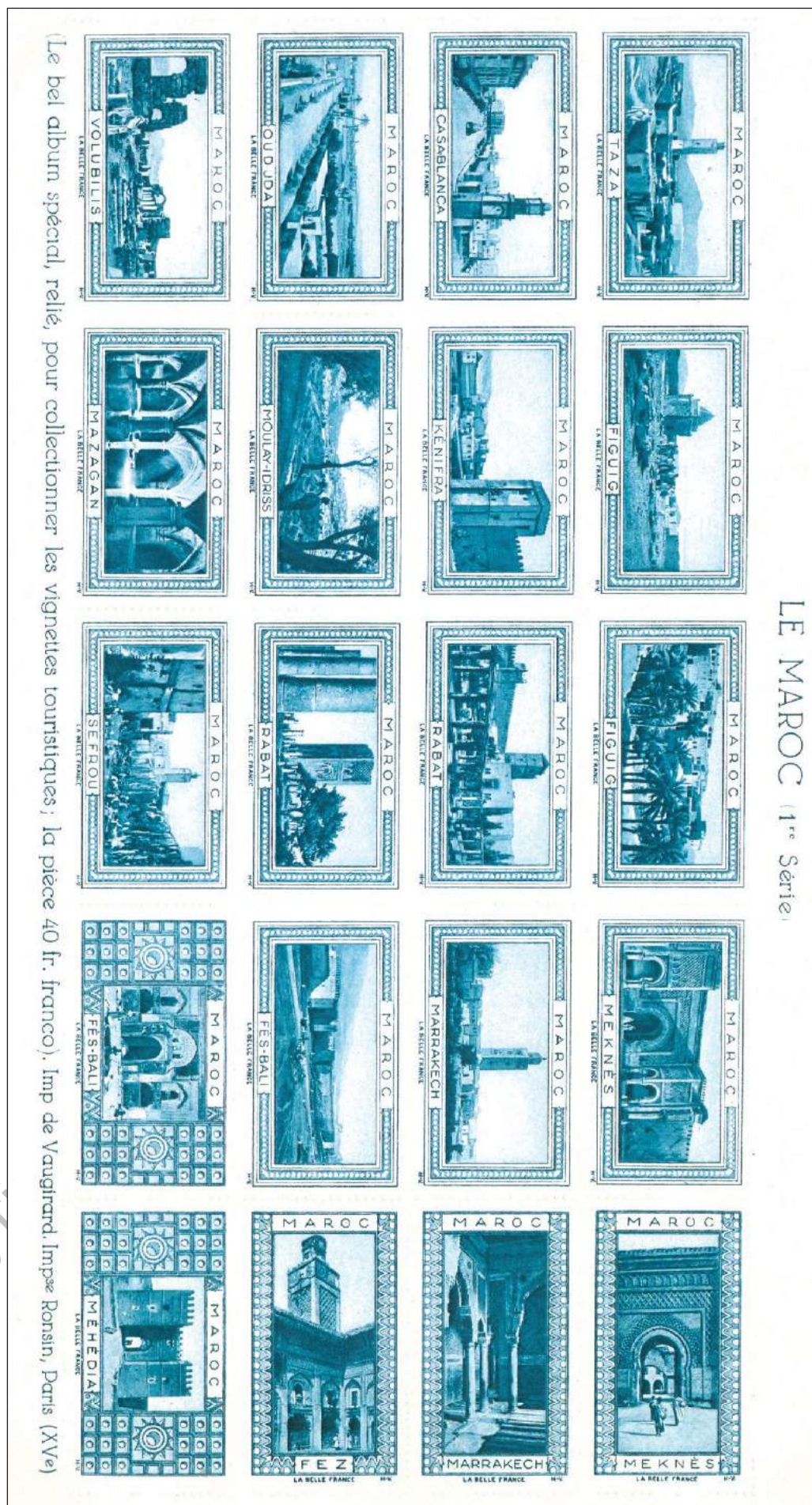


Figure 4  
La Belle France Sheet N° XXiii, Morocco (1st Series)









Figure 6  
Associated Series: French Indo-China



## Use of the Low Value Green Stamps of the *Type Sage* Issue of France (1876-1878)

Peter Kelly

*This is a detailed summary of a display given earlier this year to the Académie de Philatélie .*



Figure 1

Handed to a rural postman of the Steenvoorde (Nord) office on his round at Godewaersvelde. He cancelled the stamps with his 'OR' handstamp and delivered the letter at Steenvoorde before returning to his office there. Franked with seven 2c green (Type II) and one 1c green making up the local rate of 15c. Date: between end 1876 and 1.5.1878.

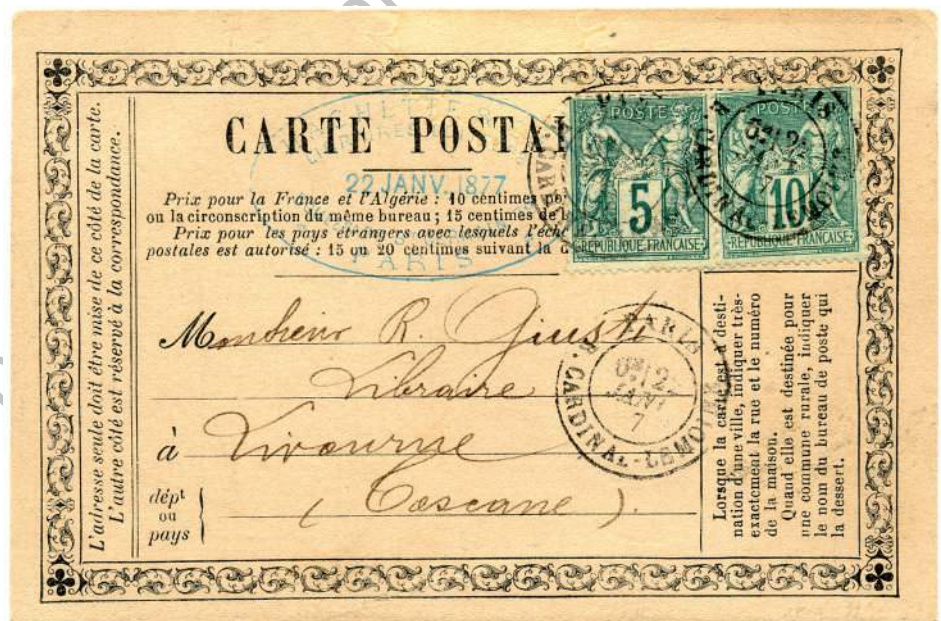


Figure 2

Privately printed postcard for Hachette & Co.  
Franked 15c (Tariff 1.1.1876)  
from Paris, rue Cardinal Lemoine  
to Livorno, Italy.  
Franked with 5c and 10c Sage  
– both Type II.

The *Type Sage* issue of France was introduced progressively from mid-1876. Initially, the low values of 1c, 2c, 4c, 5c and 10c were all printed in green. The situation was further complicated by the fracture of the plate during tempering and its subsequent repair that gave rise to a Type II of the 2c, 5c and 10c.

Towards the end of 1876 the decision was taken to replace the 1c, 2c, 4c and 10c with new colours because of the difficulties encountered by the postal employees working at speed and in bad light and general confusion by the public.

The new colours appeared progressively from January 1877. The green issues, with the exception of the 5c that

continued right through the Sage period to 1900, were never officially withdrawn but simply replaced.

The print runs of the four discontinued colours were relatively small and particularly so for the 2c (Type I) and 10c (Type II). This, together with the fact that they were used on printed matter and other reduced price items of mail that were rarely retained, makes them relatively illusive.

This display considered some of the uses of these stamps during the period of mid-1876 to 1.5.1878 when the great postal reform introduced major rate changes affecting printed matter and reduced price items as well as normal letters.





Figure 3

Provincial newspaper devoted to the arts, science, letters & industry, 2nd weight step 20-30 grams.

*Chronique Charentaise* 4 November 1877.

Franked with a strip of three 1c Sage (Tariff of 1856).



Figure 4

Bulk mailing of social economy & political journals each weighing less than 40 grams and sent within the Seine département or within France.

*Bulletin des Halles* 3 December 1876 posted at Paris, rue Turbigo office.

7 journals sent to a distributor in France at 4c per journal or 14 sent within the Seine département at 2c per journal.

Franked 28c strip of four + pair of 4c and a pair of 2c (Type II).



# La Poste Senegal Meter Stamps

Marc Parren

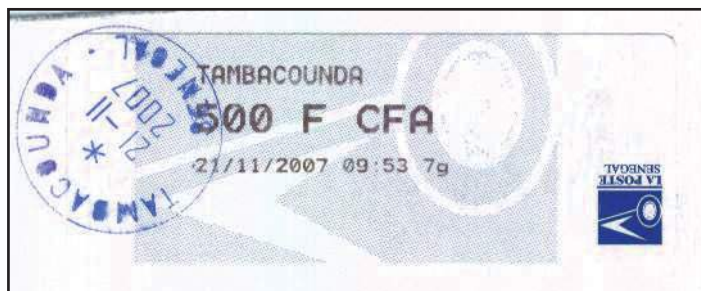


Figure 1

Tambacounda town mark  
on label Type B dated 21/11/2007,  
7g weight class charged 500F CFA



Figure 2

Tambacounda town mark  
on label Type A1 dated 19/10/2007,  
15g weight class charged 550F CFA



Figure 3

Saint Louis RP town mark  
on label Type A2 dated 12/03/2007,  
12g weight class charged 550F CFA



Figure 4

Dakar RP town mark  
on label Type A3 dated 03/03/2006,  
6g weight class charged 500F CFA.

Here I report the introduction of Senegalese *La Poste* meter stamps which can be seen used starting around early 2006. These meter stamps, generated only by machines in post offices, are introduced by the *Société Nationale La Poste*, also known just as '*La Poste*', which was created by Law N° 95-24 of 29 August 1995. Basing our findings on the examination of over 20 covers destined for a European Union Agricultural Extension Service Agency based in the Netherlands for the period until early 2010, we are able to deduct certain trends.

The descriptions are based on *The International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog*, written and published by Joel Hawkins and Richard Stambaugh in 2005, and its 2008 Supplement (see also the website [http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International\\_Postage\\_Meter\\_Stamp\\_Catalog](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog)).

The Senegalese meter stamps are printed digitally by a thermal or ink-jet process on self-adhesive labels. The term town mark (or town/date mark) is used here. The implication is that the town is where the mailer is located, but in fact it is the name of the post office where the meter is

licensed. Here we use 'Town Mark' instead of 'Post Office Mark' because of its near universal use in the hobby. In this case the meter stamp types have a town mark (TM) which is in the form of a straight line (SL). The frameless straight-line town mark always has the same format and is made up of three horizontal lines consisting of (1) post office name, (2) value in francs (CFA), and (3) the date, hour (time of printing) and weight in grams. For registered mail, this is followed by a barcode and a series of code numbers across the bottom, starting with LR (*Lettre Recommandée*) while ending with SN (*Sénégal*).

Meter stamps are applied to self-adhesive labels with the following pre-printed (underprint) designs:

Type A. Plain white or grey

Type B. Design of '*La Poste*' (light grey) and the *La Poste* logo in blue at the right hand upper corner

The Type A labels come in three sizes: (A1) 30 x 60mm, (A2) 41 x 47mm, and 44 x 55mm, while Type B labels are standardised 30 x 80mm (Fig 1).

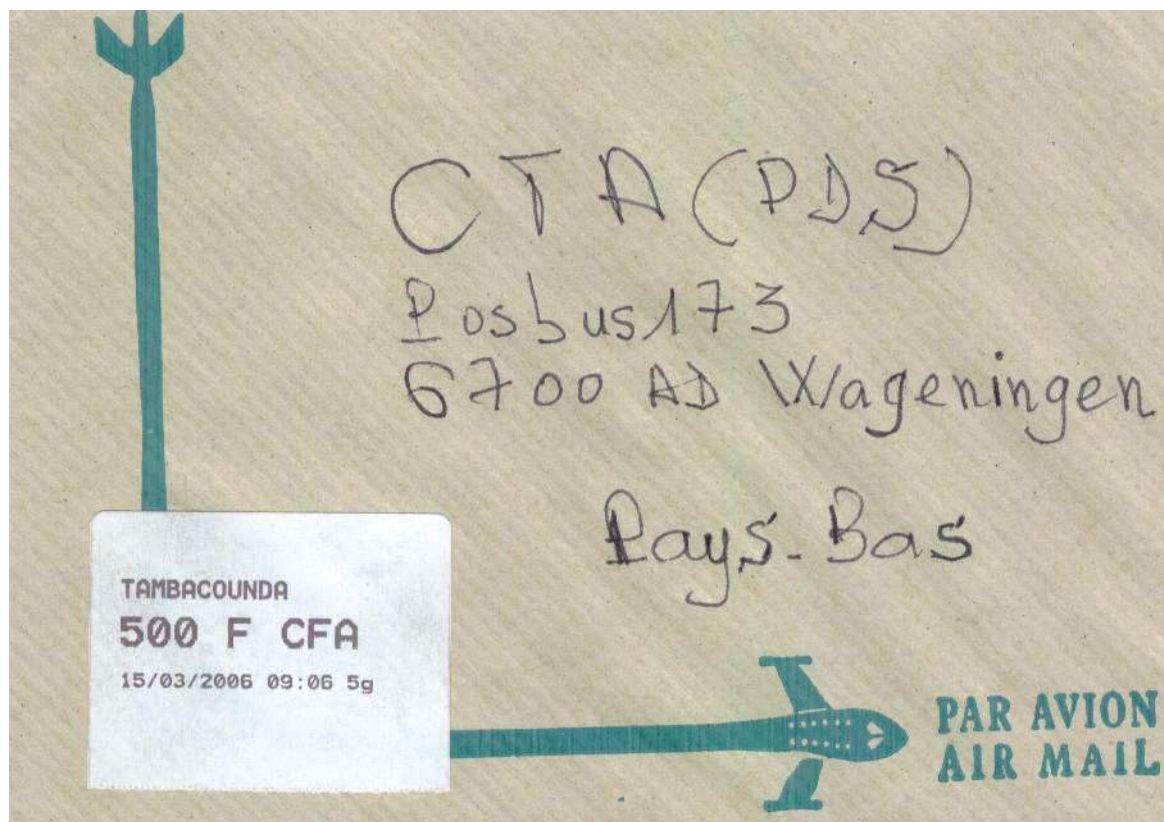


Figure 5

Tambacounda town mark on label Type A2 dated 15/03/2006,  
5g weight class charged 500F CFA with part of label torn off

Next we will present the known examples with their period of use (Table 1). Some eight post offices with meter stamps are reported of which three are in Dakar. The earliest Type A dates from February 2006 and the latest known date from November 2007, while the earliest known date for Type B dates from March 2007. No overlap in the use of both self-adhesive label types is noticed but more examples are needed to confirm this.

Table 1

**Reported period of use of meter stamps  
with frameless straight-line Town Marks applied to self-adhesive labels  
with the pre-printed (underprint) designs Type A or B.**

TM	Type A	Type B
Dakar Colobane		05/03/2007
Dakar Liberté	08/03/2006	
Dakar RP	03/03/2006	
Kaolack RP	03/03/2006 – 07/03/2006	23/11/2007 – 30/11/2007
Rufisque		05/03/2007 – 28/11/2007
Saint Louis RP	06/03/2006 – 12/03/2007	
Tambacounda	24/02/2006 – 19/10/2007	21/11/2007 – 14/01/2010
Ziguinchor RP	15/03/2007 – 21/11/2007	05/03/2010 – 12/04/2010

The Type A1 labels are known from Tambacounda (Fig 2) and Ziguinchor RP; Type A2 labels from Dakar Liberté, Kaolack RP, Saint Louis RP (Fig 3), Tambacounda and Ziguinchor RP; and Type A3 labels from Dakar RP (Fig 4) and Kaolack RP. The labels most likely came from a roll as some broken up labels show evidence of a dented cutting edge (see Figs 2 and 5).

From the weights and franking values we can determine the current postal rates for Europe except France: 500F CFA: 5 to 9g; 550F CFA 10g to 19g; 1100F CFA 29g (too

few examples to determine the full weight class for this franking). The registered letter of 5 March 2010 which was franked 1350F CFA weighted 12g, which would imply 550F CFA for the weight class plus 800F CFA for registration (Fig 6).

What is of interest is that an additional UPU barcode label was applied – most likely on 10 March – at the sorting post office in Dakar before being carried abroad. The reporting of further such meter stamp examples would be most appreciated: marcparren@hotmail.com





Figure 6  
Registered letter with Ziguinchor RP town mark  
on label Type B dated 05/03/2010,  
12g weight class charged 1350F CFA  
and additional bar code labels from UPU Senegal and Amsterdam exchange office

## SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Nice Day of the Stamp Souvenir Card

With reference to Bob Larg's query in Journal 259 of March 2011 (page 34) about the value of the 1938 Nice Day of the Stamp issue with unofficial overprint, I can inform him that catalogue values are given in *Yvert 2006, Tome 1*, page 711

as \*\*250€, \*200€ and on cover 250€. Note also that in the *Catalogue descriptif des Timbres Commémoratifs de France et des Colonies* the value is "RR". I hope this information is of some use.

Len Rowe

### Réunion CFA Postal Rates

I am interested in Réunion postal rates between 1948/9 and 1960 designated in CFA. It is my impression that metropolitan rates divided by 2 were applied.

Presumably rate changes were applied in Réunion and in France from the same date. This is guessing, and if any member can improve on the above please advise

John Dickson

I think most the information you seek can be found in *Bulletin COL.FRA Hors Série 8-1* entitled *La Réunion – Tarifs Postaux C.F.A. 01/01/1949 au 31/12/1974* (30 pages) by Michel Collin (2000). (The COL-FRA website address is <http://www.colfra.com/>)

From that *Bulletin*, I quoted sample values of these rates on page 50 of my *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to 2005* published as FCPS Brochure 7, 3rd Edition. The factor 2 that you mentioned is an approximation. I hope this is useful.

Derek Richardson

### New Machine Marks

In Journal 259 of March 2011 (page 27) Peter Maybury posed the question as to what exactly was represented by a CTED or *Centre d'Entraide et de Distribution Départemental*. John Simmons has found the answer in Yvon Nouazé's book *L'Oblitération Mécanique en France, Tome 2*, starting on page 128 with a section entitled "*Un CTED Curieux*".

According to Nouazé the acronym stands either for *Centre de Tri et d'Entraide Départemental* or for *CenTre d'Entraide et de distribution Départemental*. As far as the management of the Post Office is concerned, it is a departmental centre that in certain situations is used to relieve the strain on other centres with the movement of mail in times of heavy use.

However, the workers in the postal unions see the CTED as a means of breaking strikes, as this is apparently how they were employed in February 2009. The CTC (*Centre de Traitement du Courrier*) at Besançon was to become a PIC (*Plateforme Industrielle et Commerciale*) and to be equipped

with a new Toshiba 1000 machine that would replace the existing NEC one. These changes were accompanied by a reorganisation of the conditions of work for the employees that triggered the strike.

Two of these centres were thus set up early in 2009, one in a Post Office building, the other on the site of a private transport firm. They did not have the proper equipment needed to frank the mail, and had to use whatever machines (usually old ones brought back into service) and other material they could lay their hands on. This resulted in some of the strange anomalies that appeared in the postmarks used.

The strike ended on 1 March 2009; the NEC machine used at Besançon CTC/PIC was used for the last time on 9 February and the new Toshiba machine was used for the first time in test mode on 26 January. There now seem to be about 40 CTED, some of them, such as that at Rennes, functioning on a fairly permanent basis.

Maurice Tyler



another possibility).

I do not know where Stan Luft got the information from, although he quotes a service order of January 1872. I would like to see that, as it would make nonsense of the system, and I think he has got hold of the wrong end of a stick. George Barker agrees with all of this.

## Stephen Holder

then passed to another office which then applied its date stamp on the reverse “*en passe*”. JCD cites two offices doing this:

Bureau 12 in the boulevard Beaumarchais collecting letters from offices 23 and 36 and the suburban offices of Paris Saint-Mandé and Paris Charronne. Dates of use are stated as November 1865 to November 1866.

Bureau 7 rue des Vieilles Haudriettes collected letters from offices 13, 21, 23 and 30 and the suburban offices of Charenton, Créteil and Maison Alfort.

I have four such covers:

14 December 1865	Star 23 cancel on 20c	Backstamp of office 12 same date
24 February 1866 (Fig 2)	Star 30 cancel on 20c	Backstamp of office 7 same date
22 December 1865	Star 13 cancel on 20c	Backstamp of office 7 same date
15 January 1866 (Fig 1)	GC 445 Bercy	Backstamp of office 7 same date

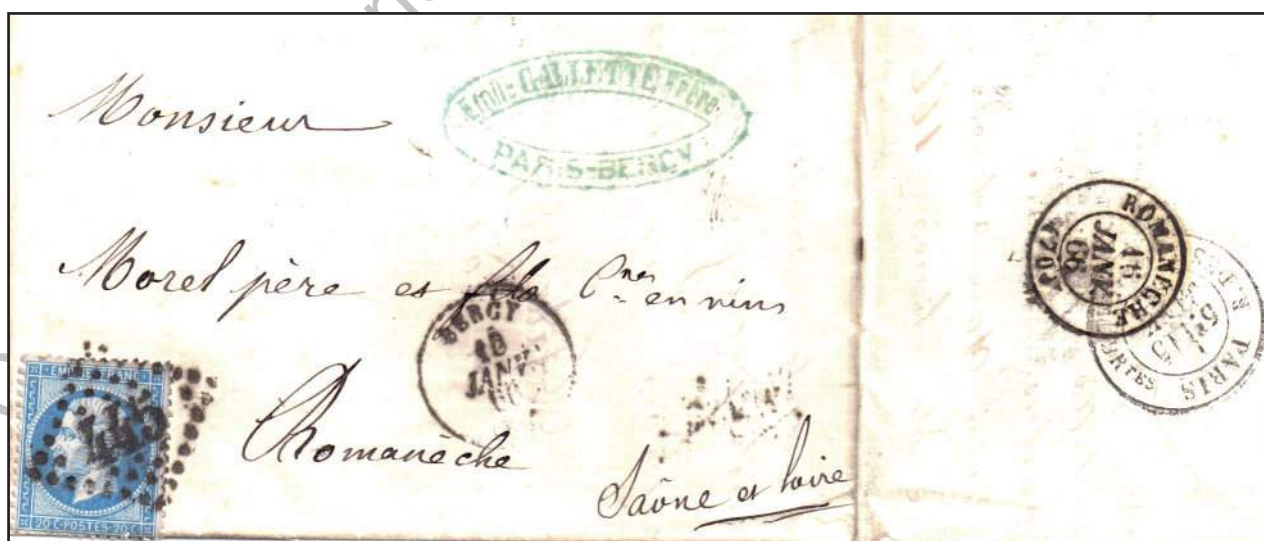


Figure 1  
Paris Bercy GC 445 with the date stamp of rue des Vieilles Haudriettes on the reverse





Figure 2  
Paris Star 30  
with the date stamp of  
rue des Vieilles Haudriettes  
on the reverse

Chris Hitchen

Following the question in the last Journal about the “Paris Star 4” from Mr Stan Luft, I would like to add some information.

I attach some scans of M. Delwaulle’s book giving a list of the Paris “Bureaux de passe”. [Two of the 4 scans sent are reproduced on the next two pages – Editor]

I have a friend who has a very good knowledge of the “Etoiles de Paris”. The usage of the Star 4 stamp on the front of the cover seems to him very strange.

He suspects that “under” the Paris Star 4 stamp we also have a very light “Losange Grands Chiffres 4277” (standard La Villette handstamp at this time).

Jean Kubler

## LES BUREAUX DE PARIS

BUREAUX DE PASSE	ÉTABLISSEMENTS DE POSTE DONT LA CORRESPONDANCE EST TRIÉE PAR LES BUREAUX DE PASSE
N° 35 (rue de Luxembourg)	Boulogne-sur-Seine Paris-Auteuil Paris-Passy N° 1 Paris-Passy N° 2 Bureau N° 34 (avenue Joséphine) Bureau N° 9 (rue Montaigne)
N° 8 (rue d'Antin)	Neuilly-sur-Seine Levallois-Perret Paris-Les Ternes Paris-Les Batignolles N° 2 Bureau N° 37 (boulevard Malesherbes) Bureau N° 3 (place de la Madeleine)
N° 22 (rue Taitbout)	Clichy-la-Garenne Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine Paris-Les Batignolles N° 1 Bureau N° 18 (rue de Londres)
N° 1 (place de la Bourse)	
N° 2 (rue Saint-Lazare)	Paris-La Chapelle Paris-Montmartre N° 2 Paris-Montmartre N° 1
N° 4 (rue d'Enghien)	Aubervilliers Pantin Paris-La Villette N° 1 Paris-La Villette N° 2 Bureau N° 39 (rue des Écluses-Saint-Martin) Bureau N° 26 (gare du Nord) Bureau N° 14 (rue de Strasbourg)
N° 24 (rue de Cléry)	Bagnolet Les Lilas Paris-Belleville Bureau N° 19 (rue d'Angoulême du Temple) Bureau N° 5 (rue de Bondy)
N° 12 (boulevard Beaumarchais)	Paris-Saint-Mandé Paris-Charonne Bureau N° 36 (boulevard Voltaire)
N° 7 (rue des Vieilles-Haudriettes)	Créteil Maisons-Alfort Charenton-Le Pont Paris-Bercy Bureau N° 30 (boulevard Mazas) Bureau N° 23 (rue d'Aligre) Boulevard N° 21 (rue Saint-Antoine)
N° 28 (rue du Cardinal-Lemoine)	Ivry-sur-Seine Paris-Gare Ivry Bureau N° 33 (gare d'Orléans)

Figure 3

Extract (page 176) from Jean-Claude Delwaulle's book  
*Les Bureaux de Quartier de Paris 1863-1876, Période de l'Étoile*  
 (Bibliothèque de l'Académie de Philatélie)



BUREAUX DE PASSE	ÉTABLISSEMENTS DE POSTE DONT LA CORRESPONDANCE EST TRIÉE PAR LES BUREAUX DE PASSE
N° 17 (rue de Pont-Neuf)	Vitry-sur-Seine Villejuif Gentilly-sous-Bicêtre Paris-La Maison-Blanche Bureau N° 29 (rue Pascal) Bureau N° 38 (rue des Feuillantines) Bureau N° 25 (rue Serpente) Bureau N° 32 (rue de la Sainte-Chapelle) Bureau N° 13 (suspendu)
N° 15 (rue Bonaparte)	Fontenay-aux-Roses Châtillon-sous-Bagneux Montrouge (extra-muros) Paris-Montrouge Paris-Vaugirard N° 2 Bureau N° 10 (rue du Cherche-Midi) Bureau N° 6 (rue de Vaugirard)
N° 20 (rue Saint-Dominique-) Saint-Germain)	Paris-Vaugirard N° 1 Paris-Grenelle Bureau N° 27 (rue Saint-Dominique-Saint-Germain) Bureau N° 31 (rue de Bourgogne)
Recette principale de Paris	Bureau N° 11 (rue Saint-Honoré) Bureau N° 16 (rue de Palestro)

§ 5 – Le bureau des passe N° 22, de nouvelle création, et les nouveaux bureaux établis dans Paris se conformeront, pour l'envoi de leurs correspondances, aux instructions actuellement en vigueur.

Les bureaux ambulants recevront, en conséquence, du bureau N° 22 des dépêches, paquets de chargements ou liasses de correspondances, aux mêmes heures et de la même manière reçoivent des autres bureaux de passe.

Paris, le 6 janvier 1872.

Le Directeur Général des Postes, Député,  
G. RAMPONT.

On relèvera, sur ce document officiel, quelques erreurs d'adresse :

- le bureau 18 a été transféré de la rue de Londres à la rue d'Amsterdam entre le 17 janvier et le 15 février 1869 ;
- le bureau 19 a été transféré de la rue d'Angoulême du Temple au boulevard Richard-Lenoir au début de 1868 (première date connue : 19 mars 1868) ;
- le bureau 18 a été transféré de la gare d'Orléans au boulevard de l'Hôpital en septembre 1967.

Figure 4

Extract (page 177) from Jean-Claude Delwaulle's book  
*Les Bureaux de Quartier de Paris 1863-1876, Période de l'Étoile*  
(Bibliothèque de l'Académie de Philatélie)



## Togo – Recent Discoveries



Figure 1  
(enlargement)



Figure 2  
(enlargement)



Figure 3

Other than the publication by Jeremy Martin released in 1995 (*Togo: Postal History of the Anglo-French Occupation 1914-1922*) I know of none which covers the Anglo- French Occupation as comprehensively.

Understandably after 15 years new discoveries come to light. Stanley Gibbons record in *France 2010 7th edition* the earliest dates known of the various stamps released in 1921 cancelled prior to 20 July 1922 when League of Nations mandates became effective.

Jeremy illustrates the Anécho cancel with two line dates, ref. 003.04, and lists this as first used after 1922. I have examples of the cancel on the 1916 issue dated 25.04.1922 (Fig 1) and 06.06.1922 (Fig 2) confirming the cancel was introduced earlier than thought.

Jeremy records two 'Taxe' marks, neither the straight

French 'T' which I have not seen used prior to 20 July 1922 on Togo mail. One would have expected this to have been introduced in July 1922.

The Dahomey postal stationery card overprinted for Togo, H & G 1 (Higgins & Gage: *World Postal Stationery Catalog*), remained valid after July 1922 and I have recently acquired an example (Fig 3), not in pristine condition, from Anécho 08.09.1922 with the two line French cancel and *taxe* mark to a commercial address at Cotonou. The *taxe* mark was applied, I suggest, as the message of a private nature was lengthy and over five words. It could have been added in Dahomey of course and whilst there is no arrival cancel for Cotonou there is a Grand Popo transit, incomplete, to confirm it reached Dahomey.

Unfortunately there are no postage due issues added!

**John Mayne**

## Morocco: *Surcharges à Cheval*

Dallay's catalogue refers to the above many times for early issues from the colonies, but I have never seen such an item and have had several conflicting views as to what exactly it refers to.

I attach an enlarged copy of a page from Arthur Maury's catalogue (ex-Dallay) for 2010/11 showing references to the "*surcharge à cheval*" for several of the earlier stamps of

Morocco. Similar items occur for Tunisia and Algeria.

The phrase means "astride", so therefore presumably refers to a surcharge overlapping two stamps in some way. However, I am sure many of our members know precisely what this means, so it would be of great help if someone could produce a photocopy or scan of such a surcharge for publishing in the Journal.

Bob Deakin

Date d'émission: 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1891

Date de retrait:

Usage: imprimés, cartes de voeux

Tirage: (f 150)

Date d'émission: 6 février 1893

Date de retrait:

Usage: cartes postales

Tirage: (f 150)

**1(l) 5c s 5c vert t. IIB**

non dentelé

**30 16 5 50**

200 110

a - surch rge au lieu de carmin (1896)

85 45 16

b - surch carmin très foncé (fin 1896)

35 22 7

c - surcharge à cheval

160 90

**2(3A) 10c s 10c noir s lilas t. II**

**75 39 4 60**

a - surch rge au lieu de carmin (1894)

275 150 20

b - surch carmin très foncé (1896)

100 60 9

c - surcharge à cheval

200 110

Emission: 6 févr 1893

Retrait:

Usage: impr 4<sup>me</sup> éch

Tirage: (f 150)

Emission: 1<sup>er</sup> janv 1891

Retrait:

Usg: lettres simples pr

l'étranger

Tirage: (f 150)

Erreur de surcharge


sur timbre à 25c: une

feuille a été surchargée

10c, elle n'a pas été

mise en vente. Tir: 150

**3(4) 20c s 20c brique s vert t. II**

seul sur 

**85 45 36 250**

325

**4(5) 25c s 25c noir s rose t. II**

seul sur 

**75 40 5 115**

150

non dentelé

200 110

a - surch rge au lieu de carmin (1894)

425 235 30

b - surch carmin très foncé (1896)

130 70 12

c - surcharge à cheval

180 100

d - surcharge doublée

275

e - surch doublée dont une renversée

475

f - surcharge triplée

325



## Thomas Cook Civilian Undercover Mail

Can I ask if any of your members collect or have worked on an area I collect which includes France: specifically it is a WWII topic I'll call "The Thomas Cook civilian undercover mail scheme"? Also, I am curious if over the years you have had articles in your publications about this? *[None to my knowledge – Editor]*

The topic covers many countries during WWII, especially those occupied by the Nazis – and although I have exchanged

interesting information with a few specialized philatelic societies including Czech, Polish, Hungarian, and Norwegian, I have failed to connect with those involving French philately, and should do that. Hence this e-mail.

I have attached scans of a few covers as examples of what I collect, and collect information about. Any further information, or suggestions of anyone I might contact, would be greatly appreciated.

Ed Fraser  
(Farmingdale, NY, USA)

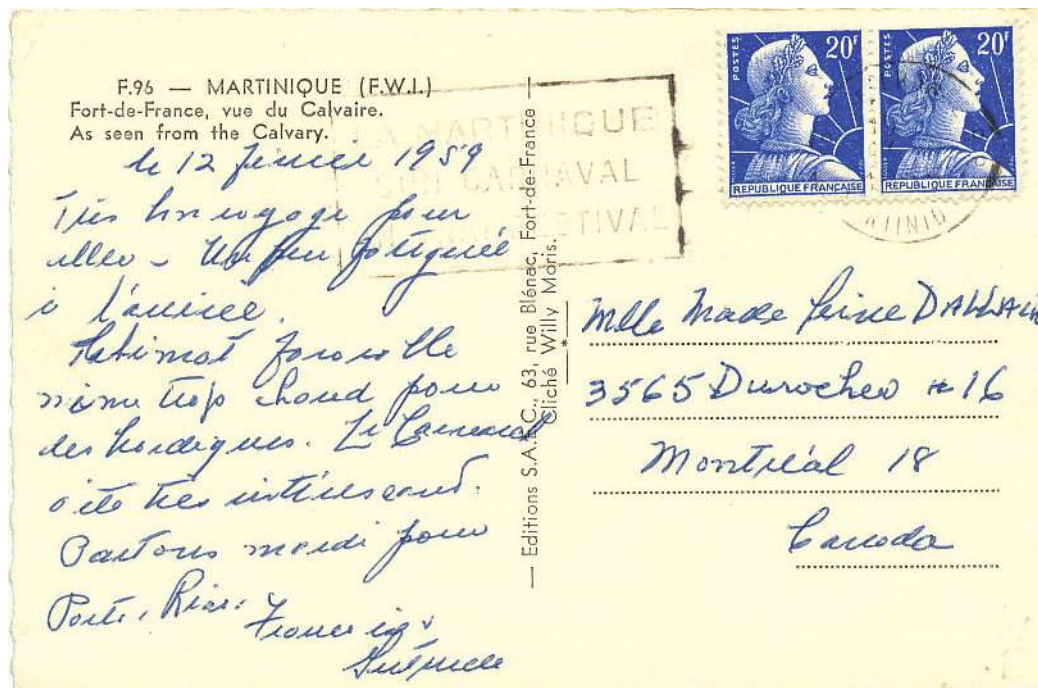








## 20F + 20F France-Canada Rate



From time to time I do a quick search through the French Colonies listings on the Delcampe auction site in the hope that I might come across an elusive item of mail between a colony and Canada posted at the concessionary rate. There are currently nearly half a million items on the site listed under French Colonies but typing in Canada in the search field brings up usually between fifty and sixty covers that have made the journey between a colony and Canada. Many of these are philatelic souvenirs which bear no resemblance to the current postal rates, a good proportion are from the neighbouring islands of St Pierre et Miquelin and the remainder are franked according to the regular UPU rates.

Last year, however, I came across the above item, a postcard bearing two copies of the 20F Marianne de Muller sent from Fort-de-France in Martinique to Montreal and cancelled 12 February 1959. At the time I was somewhat baffled by the apparently excessive 40F franking but as the card was on offer for just a few euros it seemed little to pay for something that could go one day into either my Marianne de Muller or France-Canada collections.

At the time of posting, the foreign postcard rate was 30F (6 January 1959 - 17 January 1965). The obvious explanation for the overfranking might be that the sender had only 20F stamps on their person but this would appear very unlikely

as, from reading the message on the postcard, it is evident that the sender is on a cruise and visiting destinations other than French possessions.

Unable to explain the rate, I contacted another Marianne de Muller collector in France with whom I have corresponded for many years. He responded with a very plausible explanation.

Mail from Martinique to Canada was usually sent at the normal foreign rate (in this case 30F for a postcard) but in the 1950s direct flights were irregular and transit across the States slow. A quicker option was available. For an extra 10F senders could send a postcard to France at the 20F Internal Rate (6 January 1959 - 17 January 1965) having prefranked it for onward transmission to Canada at the 20F France-Canada Concessionary Rate (1 January 1960 - 17 January 1965).

Have any other members in their possession similarly 'overfranked' items which may be explained by the above dual tariff?

Bill Mitchell in his article in Journal 259 (pages 22-24) provided primary evidence that the concessionary rate did not apply to mail sent directly from the French Colonies to Canada but clearly this omission did not prevent some senders taking advantage of it with a little circumnavigation.

**Mick Bister**

## Vimy Ridge First Day Cover

Observant readers will have spotted that the first day covers for the 75c Vimy Ridge issue illustrated in Mike Street's article (page 9 in Journal 259) and in my article (page 17 in the same issue) are both addressed to the same recipient, a Mr W E Marley of Toronto.

A communication received from the grandson of the above offers further background information regarding these covers.

*"Mr W E Marley was my grandfather and designer of these covers. They were printed, possibly several hundred (I have about 75), from a maquette (the print was from Pringle & Booth, Toronto) which I have. It included a printed card with information about the monument which was in all mailed covers. It's rather interesting in that at the bottom left corner of the cover you will note "Copyright". While the art work in the form of a print was supplied free, I suspect there might have been some implications had this not been copyrighted. Some of the covers mailed from field post and telegraph offices of the day show a round and square*

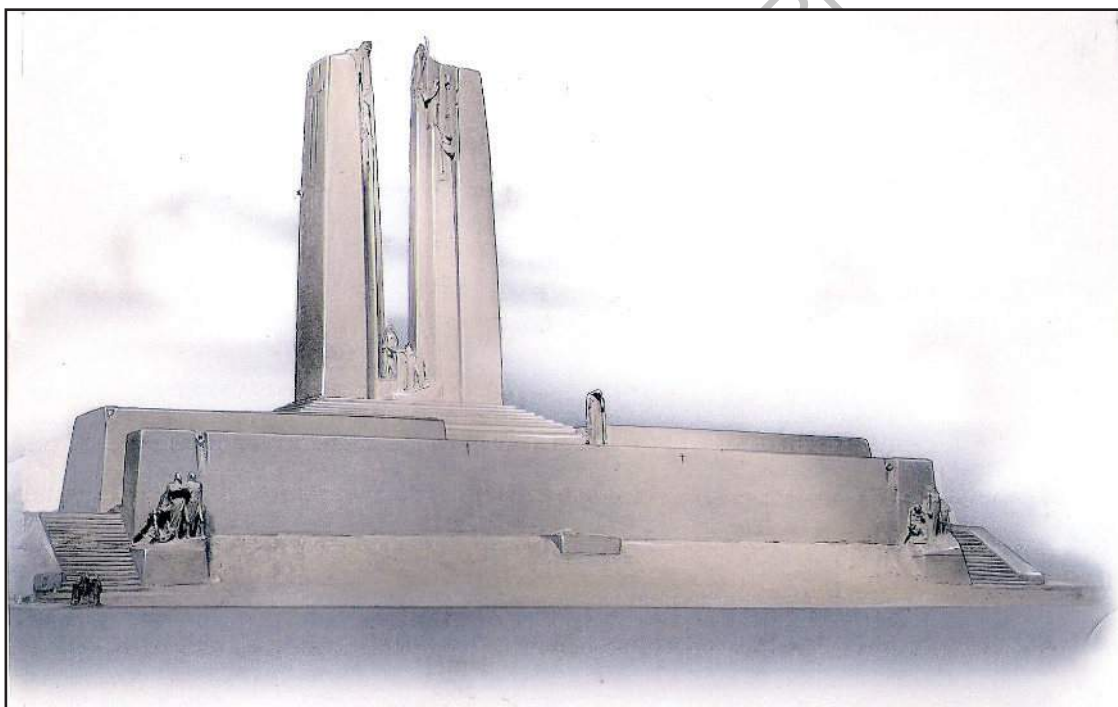
*franking. These covers were mailed beginning with the voyage in Quebec City – there are covers posted on board and from all locations during the Pilgrimage as well as from England (Mr Marley was accompanied by his wife and daughter, my mother) as he had family in Eastbourne. You might come across or have seen covers addressed to H S Marley, 98 Barton Ave – this was his son (my uncle) Herb. Both W E Marley and Herb Marley operated the Harbord Stamp Store in Toronto till after WWII.*

*Don Hedger*

*Toronto*

*PS Incidentally Mr Marley was in 1st Div, 5th Co. 3rd Bat. 1st Brigade, CE (Canadian Engineers) and Mr Turner (on the cover in Fig 8, page 18 of Journal 259) was with the 4th Div. HQ, 10th Field Company, CE (Canadian Engineers)."*

Grateful thanks to Don Hedger for adding further light on a story that is already 75 years old.



Vimy Memorial *maquette* reproduced on the souvenir covers

© Pringle and Booth, Toronto

**Mick Bister**



## Sage Fakes / Facsimiles



4c Sage forgery



25c Sage forgery

Shown above are enlarged illustrations of the 4c and 25c Sage fakes or facsimiles from the late Geoff Gethin's collection of forgeries, recently purchased at the Society's auction.

Apart from the postal forgeries of the 15c and the 25c blue I have never come across these crude unperforated fake-

cancelled items in my many years of the study of the Sage issue. It seems that some trouble has been taken to print these items on gummed paper of similar thickness to the original and also to use tinted backgrounds.

I would be delighted to know if any of our members may have any information concerning their origin.

**Godfrey Bowden**

## WWI Military Abbreviations

Regrettably the reproduction of the cachets on the card in John Garner's "A French/Thai Postcard" article (pages 39-40 in Journal 259 of March 2011) is not as clear as one might have hoped. On consulting Michel Charbonnier's *Glossaire des Sigles et abréviations militaires* I could find no references for either "T.F.M" or "T.M.I" (both queried by John in his article). However "T.E.M." is, as the editor opines, confirmed as the acronym for *Train des Équipages Militaires*.

The cachet is of the *T.M.I.* [ie figure 1 not letter I] 401 of the 19th *E.T.E.M.* (*Escadron du Train des Équipages Militaires*) which would have been stationed at the automobile training centre at Dourdan.

A *TM* (*Transport de Matériel* or Equipment Transportation) section consisted of approximately 20 trucks and was responsible for the transportation of food, weapons, clothing, etc.

**Peter Maybury**

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## REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Continued from page 49

### NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 9 APRIL 2011

#### Members' Choice

Present: George Barker, Steve Ellis, Alan Goude, Colin Graham, Judith and Stephen Holder, Bernard Lucas, Peter Maybury, Mike Rego, Peter Rooke, Peter Stockton.

Apologies: Messrs. High, Meadowcroft, Mercer, Morton, Shepherd, Smith.

**Judith and Stephen Holder** displayed a selection of their collection of French postcards from 1870 to 1914. The first part was devoted to the issues relevant to the Eiffel Tower with examples of the first pictorial cards. This was followed by cards from the 1900 exhibition, with attractive pictorial Paris cards, examples pertaining to the Franco-Prussian War from Metz, and Paris *ballon monté* cards. Commercial productions including some notable Pétroleuse, and exquisite *Art Nouveau* and Mucha designs brought the display to a close.

**Michael Rego** followed with a good selection of postal rates, national and local, with examples of some very high weight step letters, *poste restante*, prepayment and late fees. Express delivery, *pneumatiques*, postal stationery, *AR* and *recouvrement* material also featured with many of Michael's requests for explanations being debated and answered.

**Bernard Lucas** celebrated his return after a long illness with *timbres fiscaux*, explaining that the 1925 issues were for general usage, replacing the earlier issues that were designed for the specific. The stamps used, unused and on documents were represented with, of note, the two types of *DA (distribution auxiliaire)* overprints which were used where the stamps were sold from kiosks or other secondary outlets. In 1948, with inflation climbing following WWII, higher values were issued and these together with usage as postage stamps completed the display.

**Peter Rooke** brought us some splendid letters and documents from the revolutionary/Napoleonic period. These covered the various aspects of the wars and also commercial mail. We had examples from the conquest of the Austrian Netherlands, decrees, certificates re casualties, Revolutionary town names, splendidly engraved letter-heads, and finally some examples of commercial mail using the military express system.

Following a break for coffee and biscuits, kindly provided by Judith and Stephen, **George Barker** produced a display entitled "Pasteur Revisited", consisting of covers bearing

the Pasteur issues mailed during the periods of the tariffs applicable between 1923 and 1930. A comprehensive display of these general rates plus registered mail, samples and fascinating examples of the Soleau System (whereby the envelopes were perforated to prove delivery) were complemented by an example of a similar system produced by a competitor.

**Peter Stockton** then presented a glimpse into the machinations of French Indo-China mail during the aftermath of WWII. Following a brief historical outline of the region, and of the escalation from a local conflict between the French and Ho Chi Minh, into a full blown war in the 1950s, we were treated to examples of how various offices were re-sited and cancellations changed as a consequence of the conflict. Of special interest were the Foreign Legion covers to destinations outside France, where the *FM* concession was up-rated in Paris for the foreign destinations.

**Steve Ellis** then entertained with a further section of his Marseille maritime mail collection, this time targeting the Mediterranean excluding Italy and North Africa. Commencing with mail carried by private vessels before the establishment in 1837 of a government service, a superb and rare 1837 cover carried by the *Rhamses* accompanied examples of the entry marks used on these forerunners. Steve then explained the reasoning behind the establishment of the state service and the subsequent move to subsidised private contractor, the first being Valéry et C<sup>ie</sup>. for the Corsican route in 1850. All of this was illustrated with fine examples of the various markings used until the abandonment of onboard postal agents.

**Alan Goude** produced a beautifully presented selection of stamps and covers from French West Africa, explaining that in origin the *AOF* was an administrative federation of eight African colonial territories, Mauritania, Senegal, French Sudan, French Guinea, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Dahomey and Niger, with each of them issuing its own stamps up until the end of WWII.

**Peter Maybury** presented a display of some of the French post offices established in the Levant, covering Libya, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Greece, Crete, Turkey and the Black Sea area, with cards and covers illustrating the different date stamps and ranging through the various national and international rates up until the closure of the offices following the end of WWI.

JPM



## SOCIETY'S 35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PHILATELIC WEEKEND 18-20 MARCH 2011

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

### Friday

The usual Committee Meeting was held in the afternoon, but it was after dinner in the evening that Joint Organisers Chris Hitchen and Peter Kelly welcomed those attending and invited the now traditional impromptu displays.

**David Worrollo** kicked off with the first issues of the French Protectorate of Tunisia; **John West** had some Red Cross queries on booklets and mini-sheets; **Lesley Marley** produced some stamps defaced by the postman and work by certain engravers including Bequet; **Alan Wood** showed 1848 mail to and from prisons; **Jeremy Martin** displayed a Gold Coast military cover with postage due, together with a couple of queries; **Brian Weeks** had further queries on 1940 censorship, with first flights and censored mail from New Caledonia; **Chris Hitchen** had brought some *Montimbramoi* stamps; **Steve Ellis** showed postcards of an Orient Line ship from England to Australia with a French cancel and a map; **André Métayer** concentrated on the explorer Marion Dufresne and some cannibal mail; **Bob Larg** showed his Nice Philatelic Day card, menu and sheet, with queries about a forgery and some military cards; and **Mavis Pavey** produced some postcards from French frontiers.

A short second round allowed **Barbara Priddy** to show an illustration of a *ballon monté* sent to Senegal; and **Paul Watkins** had some 1871 mail sent to Paris on the first day possible after the siege, two 1940 covers with cheques detained in France until 1945, and some rare overprinted Pétain stamps from 1945.

### Saturday

The following morning commenced with **Mick Bister's** Presidential Displays of Marianne de Cheffer and the mechanised sorting of mail, presented in his absence through illness by Maurice Tyler, using notes supplied by Mick.

The display began with an explanation of how the Marianne de Cheffer issue had come into being. Henry Cheffer had initially submitted his *maquette* in 1954 but it had been rejected in favour of the Marianne de Muller design. A decade after his death, Cheffer's design was re-assessed and Claude Durrens and Jacques Combet were commissioned to produce a modified version; that of Claude Durrens was accepted and the first recess-printed stamps were issued in November 1967. A few months later, Cheffer was posthumously awarded the *Grand Prix de l'Art Philatélique* for his Marianne.

Only four values were issued between 1967 and 1969 although one remained in usage until 1977. During this period Marianne de Cheffer witnessed some of the most significant changes in stamp production and PTT policy as well as political events reflected in its postal history

In 1967, the Marianne de Cheffer stamp was the first definitive to be printed simultaneously off both TD-3 and TD-6 presses and it was explained how one could identify the two

printings. Colour changes were necessary in 1969 with the introduction of the two-tier postal system and the selected colours of red and green are still in force today. The first stamps printed with phosphor bands appeared in 1970 and were on restricted sale in Clermont-Ferrand and the Puy-de-Dôme where automatic facing and segregation trials were conducted. The government policy of the decentralisation of government organisations to areas of unemployment and depopulation resulted in the staggered transfer of printing presses to Périgueux in 1969 and 1970. Examples of both Paris and Périgueux printings were shown with explanations on how to distinguish them. For reasons of economy, the 30c was reprinted in typography for which Roger Fenneteaux engraved the die. Examples of postal stationery signed by Fenneteaux were displayed. The consequences of political unrest were represented by covers from the 1968 general strike and the 1974 postal strike as well as returned mail refused by Australia as a result of French nuclear testing in the Pacific in 1973. Finally Mick showed examples of the special Cheffer-Beaujard printings put on sale at the 2010 *Salon du Timbre* which have since been the subject of much controversy.

By far the most important innovation during the Cheffer period was the creation of the postcode and the development of mechanised sorting which Mick focused on in the second part of his display.

The structure of the British postcode and its two constituents – the outward code and the inward code – were first briefly explained. (In contrast the French postcode consists of just an outward code.) Firstly, material was shown to illustrate the difference between direct sorting and mechanised or automated sorting. This was followed by a series of covers treated by the eight successive computer languages that had been tested by the coding desks operators, beginning with the horizontal yellow barcode of Programme N° 1 of 1962 to the vertical red barcode of La Source 2 introduced in 1974 and still in use today. Members were shown the many variants and anomalies encountered, particularly in the PLM programme, test mail from the optical character recognition trials and the scarce instances when both the yellow and red codes appeared on the same cover. Mick closed his display with examples of postmarks, stamps and vignettes which accompanied the campaigns launched by the PTT to promote the use of the postcode.

After a break for viewing **Steve Ellis** gave a display tracing the development of shipping services which carried mail to and from Marseille (wholly within the Mediterranean) up to the end of the nineteenth century. This covered the early "precursors," the state operated *paquebot* services, the contract routes (*lignes*) and the commercial (non-contract) services. He pointed out that the latter are much neglected as they carried volumes of mail primarily to the Italian coastal ports.

**Peter Kelly** displayed maritime mail to and from Réunion 1864-1900. This start date was chosen to coincide with the first contract of the Messageries Maritimes to carry the mails to and from the island and Mauritius. The *Ligne de Suez à Réunion et Maurice* became the Line T of which the first three variants affected Réunion. At the same time

mails continued to be carried privately and by the P & O and Union Steamship lines. Lines U and V succeeded Line T and examples of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> schedules were shown. A full range of rates was shown as well as a good selection of stamped covers with the Eagle, Cérès, Sage, Alphée and *Groupe* stamps. Of particular interest were the early registered and journal items. The developing military occupation and expeditionary forces in Madagascar resulted in a large number of troops recovering on the island from the effects of water-borne disease and this is reflected in the volume of military concession correspondence.

After a coffee break **Ian Booth** displayed the last set of Hatay (Alexandrette) overprinted stamps from 1939. He delved into the mystery of this set and concluded that his conversations with a local philatelist, Ali Nuşret Pulhan, in the 1960s suggested that the overprints were carried out in Istanbul. Ian aims to extend his study of these stamps and covers to identify forgeries, and his display included all the main varieties and errors he has found so far.

**Roy Ferguson's** display on French wartime issues covered the period 1940 to 1945, with later anecdotes relating back to this time. The first part concerned the stamps which were unusually arranged in strict date of issue order, showing how quickly they followed each other. The stamps of this period were consistently well designed and printed, and in some cases they formed the basis for similar series issued after the war. The second part of the display showed German stamps overprinted Alsace and Lorraine, Vichy stamps at the opening of the National Assembly in Vichy, Allied forgeries, stamps of the Free French Forces in the Levant, National Liberation Committee stamps, Italian Occupation stamps, Liberation issues, and the "Epilogue" postmark of the final day of the Nuremberg war crimes trials.

**Godfrey Bowden** presented a short display covering briefly the origins of French 'perfin' from one large punch hole in the shape of a triangle, star etc, to simple letters composed of small punched holes, to complex monograms and pictograms also using the method of forming the desired shape from a series of small punch holes. Originally, the perfin was applied manually using a hand operated punch, a time consuming process, and somebody very soon realised that by folding the sheets of stamps more than one stamp could be perforated with a single strike of the punch. The larger companies using large numbers of stamps needed to reduce this waste of their resources, and consequently a multiple perforator was designed which could perforate complete or parts of stamp sheets. In the 20th century this eventually led to the invention of the POKO machine, which had the ability to hold up to seven rolls of coil stamps (*roulettes*), automatically perforate each stamp used, moisten the gum and adhere stamps of the correct postage rate to each item. 22 different examples of used *roulettes* were shown. A large section of the display involved covers with perfins enabling their origin to be deduced and sometimes showing that the reference book 'Ancoper' can occasionally miss a trick. A couple of personal picture postcards were shown with the mixed use of ordinary stamps and perfins making one wonder how reliable a pilfering preventative measure perfins were! One of the sought after perfins is that used on the official French Senate's (*Sénat*) mail between 1938 and 1940. Many organisations used a simple 'S' as their perfin

but only the one used by the Senate has 12 holes and is 7.25-7.5mm in height. Finally a sheet was shown containing two high value stamps (20F and 50F) dating from the 1930s. These were perforated with a single hole (about 0.5cm across) and were used in Alsace Lorraine on forms which were stamped with both postal and fiscal stamps as evidence for parcels having attracted the correct costs of postage. Perfins of this type could be used for stamps of a face value greater than 3F.

**Barbara Priddy** displayed *Aéromaritime* in West Africa 1935-1939. This airline, the offspring of *Chargeurs Réunis*, opened an airmail service between Niamey, on the *Régie Air Afrique / Sabena* trans-Saharan trunk route, and Cotonou on the coast, to connect the French coastal territories of Dahomey, Togo, Ivory Coast, Cameroun and Gabon with the main airline routes in July 1935, although early covers are hard to find. In March 1937 they opened a service along the coast from Dakar to Cotonou, extended to Pointe Noire in May 1937, which carried an enormous volume of mail to destinations worldwide. In September 1939 the service was temporarily suspended, but resumed after a fortnight. *Aéromaritime* continued in existence until 1945, but conflicting sources make it as yet impossible to write up the period between June 1940 and November 1942.

After a break for viewing and for lunch **Peter Maybury** displayed maritime mail from France to South America. He explained that prior to the establishment of the *Grandes Lignes*, mail to France from South America, or vice versa, was entrusted to the captains of commercial vessels, who were obliged to take such letters to the main post office at their destination port. In France such letters were taxed at the inland rate from the port to destination plus a charge for the sea journey or *Voie de Mer*. These letters often accompanying the goods they referred to, and consequently took many weeks or months to reach their destination. It was not until May 1860 that the Messageries Impériales established a monthly service from Bordeaux to Rio de Janeiro known as the *Ligne de Brésil*. In October 1860 the service was connected by the *Ligne Annexe de la Plata* to Montevideo and Buenos Ayres, with Consular Agencies being established at the ports of call in Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. Full details were given of how these functioned. The change from date stamps with the names of vessels to *cachets de ligne* and *cachets de provenance* was effected in March 1866, with the *Ligne de Brésil* becoming *Ligne J* and the *Ligne Annexe de la Plata* becoming *Ligne K*. The *cachets* of the Consular Agencies remained in use. *Ligne J* was extended to Buenos Ayres in October 1869 and *Ligne K* became obsolete, until revived in 1898. A further transformation took place at the end of October 1872 when *Ligne J* was split into the government subsidised *Ligne Rapide* and the *Ligne Commerciale* operated by the Messageries Maritimes. 1898-1921 was the final period for on-board postal agents, ushering in changes in the route, a new type of date stamp and the re-emergence of *Ligne K* that sailed outwards from Bordeaux on the route of *Ligne J* and homewards on the outward route of *Ligne J*. There was a very short-lived *Ligne F* from Panama to Valparaiso 1872 -1874, not represented in the display. The final frame had examples of mail carried by British shipping lines, in particular for destinations on the west coast of South America, together with *Voie de Commerce* letters carried via Cape Horn.



**Brian Brookes** then illustrated various rates of postage on general issues of Martinique between 1853 and 1883. These covered the 1F30 rate via British packet with French stamps being cancelled on arrival in Paris; the 50c rate by French packet from May 1862 until 30 June 1876 (see front cover); the 50c rate by British packet from 1 January 1857 until 31 December, 1863; and the 70c rate by British packet from 1 January, 1864 until 30 June 1876. The above included single, double, triple and quadruple rates and underpaid mail, the highest franking being a letter at twenty-two times the single rate making 15F40. The 40c UPU rate from 1 July 1876 military concession rate to France was 20c, increased to 25c, then reduced to 15c. Newspaper rates, internal rates and printed matter rates were also shown.

**Henk Slabbinck** displayed mail from the French Shore of Newfoundland. Although a part of the territory of the British colony of Newfoundland, the 'French Shore' of Newfoundland was a seasonal fishing treaty concession granted to France. The French enjoyed landing and shore rights from 15 April to 5 October annually (Convention of 1857) and established numerous fishing stations, complete with permanent shore facilities. The fishing stations were located in many of the sheltered bays and harbours along stretches of the Newfoundland coast defined by treaty. French Navy vessels patrolled the French Shore in season, defending French rights and settling fishing disputes. The French Naval base in Newfoundland was at Croque Harbour, where a French Navy cemetery is maintained to this day. The French colony of St Pierre and Miquelon also serviced the French fishing fleet and French Naval vessels when the British were not in control of the islands. The various terms and on-shore geographical boundaries of the French Shore were contained in a number of agreements and treaties dating from 1713. The 1904 Anglo-French Convention terminated the French Shore concession when the France relinquished their shore rights but retained the island colony of St Pierre and Miquelon. The French shore concession reverted wholly to the British Colony of Newfoundland in 1904. The consolidating of the territory allowed the British to create the self-governing Dominion of Newfoundland in 1907. The French Shore outbound postal history in the second treaty period, 1783-1904, was illustrated with a number of rare outbound folded letters; and the mail routes in this area were covered in some detail.

**Colin Spong** showed aspects of Madagascar civil censorship. He explained that censorship is a policy or programming of censoring correspondence which has been practised by governments over the centuries, but especially during times of war. It is only during the last 250 years that marks and labels have been openly used to indicate that this has taken place. His first frame consisted of uncensored mail from Madagascar 1939-1940 during the "phoney war" period, which was censored on arrival at its destination, and mail from the Vichy Government period 1940-1943. The second frame covered the British Occupation handstamps for 1942 and from 1943 until 1945 with mixed Free French and British Censor Commission markings. The third frame had material from the Free French administration of 1944-45 in the period from June 1944 when Paris sent out censors of the *Services des Contrôles Techniques* with only one British Liaison Officer. The Mixed Censors Commission ceased and the British officers left – apart from Diego Suarez

which remained a British Naval base until the end of the war. Some previously unknown boxed letters, ie I, K, L, O, P and R, were noted on correspondence, and it was suggested that these handstamps had perhaps been brought out by the SCT.

After the tea break **André Métayer** displayed his collection of Dead Letters to 1900. Though not much is known about dead letters in France, the interest of philatelists has been stimulated by the recent creation by Union Marcophile of a workshop for the study of the documents and envelopes used by the Dead Letter service – a vast subject, but here restricted to a limited period. Ever since the development of the messenger service in the 18th century, the Administration of Posts has been faced with the problem of undeliverable letters. These include letters without a named addressee, or without a full address, or letters that are rejected because the recipient refuses to pay the charge, and which finish up as dead letters. Early instructions for the safeguarding of the post gave partial protection for these undeliverable letters. As the volume of mail increased, however, there was the need for more rigorous management, and this led to the setting up of an effective dead letter service, installed at the Hôtel des Postes in Paris during the first half of the 18th century, but little was known about its early years. It managed the classification, the opening of the undeliverable mail, and oversaw the destruction of the dead letters. A proper system for the re-delivery of correspondence was introduced by the general instructions issued in 1832, and the creation of special envelopes for such purpose during the 1830s. With further general instructions of 1856 and 1868, different arrangements were applied and the dead letter service became more and more decentralised. The main topics covered by the display included the periods of storage and the labels, the postmarks used for dead letters and those on reclaimed letters, postmarks used in the provinces, cachets affixed with sealing wax, labels, printed forms, and dead letter envelopes.

**Chris Hitchen** gave a display of the local post in Paris from 1760 to 1795. He began with some letters from the very early days of the service in June. There then followed a selection from the nine offices, A to J, that functioned throughout this period. The offices, postmen and post boxes all had different postmarks and these were explained and illustrated. Whilst letters were usually prepaid, unpaid ones were also accepted and carried an extra *Port dû* mark – *PD*. Offices K, L and M only operated for short periods but material from all three was included. The postmen covering the inner suburbs around the city that had been attached to Office K continued with their old walks after the closure of that office around 1763 and examples of these filled one frame. Around 1790 the General Post began to accept local letters. A number of letters handled by that means concluded the display.

**Ashley Lawrence's** display, entitled "A Message brought to Paris by Pigeon Post in 1870-71", showed how Mrs Margaret Brown was able to communicate with her husband William Brown by means of the Pigeon Post service during the Siege of Paris. The documents included the GPO Notice of 16 November 1870, "Open Letters for Paris – Transmission of by Carrier Pigeons"; Mrs Brown's draft

message; the receipt issued by the Post Office in London W1 for the sending of a registered letter to France (at a charge of 8/10d for 20 words at 5d plus 6d registration fee); the microfilm containing Mrs Brown's message; the telegram transcribed from the microfilm at the Grand Hotel in Paris and delivered to Mr Brown on 12 January 1871; and the official report on the Pigeon Post service, showing Mrs Brown's message, issued by the French authorities in 1871. The display also included examples of the work of the micro-photographer René Dagon, and souvenirs of the Pigeon Post service between England and France during the Franco-German War.

In the evening after dinner **Brigitte Abensur** gave a Power-Point presentation on *La Petite Poste de Nantes 1777-1796*. The *Petites Postes* were autonomous postal establishments of the XVIIIth century for assuring the collection and the delivery of letters from and to the same city and its suburbs. They functioned in nine different cities in France, the first of which opened in Paris in 1760. The *Petites Postes* worked at first under the regime of the royal privilege granted to private individuals such as Mangin, an architect and entrepreneur in Nantes on 6 October 1777; the end of this *Petite Poste* is not known for certain. The talk described the rate structure for these letters and then showed numerous beautiful covers with many marks that showed details of the service including collection and delivery.

**Robert Abensur** then gave a similar presentation on *Le service des recouvrements* (collection of debts). This financial service of the post office was created on 15 June 1879. The service still exists but is not used any more. The sender (or payee) presents bills of exchange, promissory notes and drafts to the post office for collection. We have three principal forms: sending envelope 1488, *bordereau* 1485, return envelope 1494; and for each the rates structure was studied and illustrated. Examples of disputed bills, forms for use in forwarding and for foreign and colonial use were also displayed.

### Sunday

The following morning began with **George Barker** displaying Paris: the 'Taxe' Marks 1837-1871. The postal markings shown, with the French title 'Taxe', can perhaps be better understood in English as 'rate' markings. In 1837, in Paris, when postal activity was centralised at the Head Office, circular cachets bearing the rate of 15c were introduced, struck in blue. There was no date and no location. In 1841 even the word 'PARIS' disappeared, but the time of delivery was shown. Subsequently (1848), the collection and delivery times were shown and an indication of the delivery office was shown. In 1851 the date was added, and the cachets showed either the Paris rate of 15c or the country-wide rate of 25c. The route followed was also shown with a single number from 2 to 20. From 1853 the Paris rate rose to 15c (franked items were only 10c) but with the spread outside Paris of the 'prime à l'affranchissement' idea in 1854, the country-wide rate for unfranked mail rose to 30c (franked mail was reduced to 20c). In 1856 a complete reorganisation took place with the abandonment of the 'route' system, and sorting was transferred to the district offices. The cachets therefore showed the office, the date and the rate. A final change occurred in September 1871, when the rates Paris/Provinces rose to 25c and 40c respectively.

**Alan Wood** showed French stamps from 1870 to 1876. The Third Republic was established on 4 September 1870, and stamps were issued in Paris, during the siege, that were printed from the plates of 1849-1852, and these were perforated 14 x 13½. As a consequence of the siege imperforate stamps were lithographed at Bordeaux, the seat of the French Government, from 1870 to 1871. Following the fall of Paris the Peace of Frankfurt (10 May 1871) imposed conditions on the French such that Alsace and much of Lorraine should be conceded, a huge financial indemnity had to be paid and Paris was occupied by German troops. The French were allowed to retain Belfort. After the siege further issues were produced from 1871 to 1876 bearing the head of Ceres, printed on tinted paper and perforated. By 1876 the war reparations had been paid and France looked to a new era of prosperity based on peace and commerce, typified by the issue of the *Type Sage* stamps.

**Bryan Wood** showed French stamps from 1849 to 1900, starting with the first Cérés issue of 1849 up to 1F and followed by the Napoleon issues of 1852-53 and 1853-1861 with values up to 1F. Then came the world's first postage due stamps used from 1859 onwards, and the perforated Napoleons up to 5F of both shades, followed by the newspaper stamps. The Cérés issue of 1870-71 came next, followed by the Bordeaux issue produced during the Franco-Prussian War. Finally came the various printings of the Peace and Commerce issues which continued until the end of the century. The display included some covers illustrating the internal and external use of the stamps during this period.

Then **David Trapnell** displayed the French in Italy 1915-1918, with particular reference to *La Mission militaire française en Italie*, a study which is still progressing. In less than three months of Italy joining the Allies in May 1915, French aviators had established an air base near Venice. From 1916 the *Mission militaire* seems to have had many roles including the provision of health and welfare facilities for French troops. Since the only documentation on it is in the National Library and still classified nearly 100 years later, the prime role may have been spying. Its intriguing postal history does not seem to have been described before.

A short break for viewing was followed by **John West** and the French Red Cross. In the light of recent correspondence in the Journal, John elected to display a number of double and inverted overprints, all of which he is content are forged copies of the surcharge added by the Government Printing Works, in Paris. He proposed that further analytical research might be undertaken in order to determine once and for all that these issues were forgeries. Concentrating on the First World War Red Cross issues of the colonies, he provided a comprehensive cross-section of the issues which were locally printed and subject to much local speculation, illustrating their use on cover, together with a complete display of the "Paris Surcharged" issues which, subsequently, were to replace all the locally printed issues.

**Peter Stockton's** display of military mail from French Indo-China concentrated on the period immediately after World War Two. The Potsdam Conference permitted France to re-establish control in the area with General Leclerc arriving in Saigon in October 1945. Military franking of civilian mail was shown followed by a selection of *Bureaux Postaux*



*Militaires* and administrative markings. Some 21 *Bureaux* and 27 *Annexes* were created. Some examples of the mark *TOE* (*Théâtres d'Opérations Extérieures*) followed along with mail from the Foreign Legion bearing additional adhesives on letters to "foreign" destinations. Mail from naval forces included the ships *Dixmude*, *Gloire* and *Duguay-Trouin*. Following the defeat of the French army at Dien Bien Phu in May 1954, the Geneva Conference provided for the withdrawal of French forces to the 17th parallel and the establishment of the International Commission for Supervision and Control. Mail from Indian Army forces attached to such commission was shown (FPO 742 Saigon and FPO 743 Hanoi).

**Paul Watkins** produced a 72-sheet overview of British mail rates and routes to France across two and a half centuries, 1670-1930. It included 17th century letters routed via Rouen, Lille or Paris, 18th century mail charged on a London-Paris basis with additional inland charges at both ends and letters diverted due to war (via Brussels, Amsterdam or Bremen) or smuggled into the Calais posts. This included 'problem' charges caused by the conflicting methods of rate calculation used in the UK (number of sheets) and France (weight). The major developments and Postal Conventions of 1836 (allowing options of part, full or non-prepayment of charges), 1855 introducing a standard, weight-based scale, and the 1876 acceptance of UPU regulations were illustrated. The display was constructed around the basic letter rate with examples of multiple rates and special services – notably registration and late fee mail – and extended to the early airmail services of 1919-24.

After the coffee break **Maurice Alder** displayed a study of the 15c blue *Type Sage quadrillé* Yvert 101, with particular emphasis on sub-types IID and IIE and the possibility that the master galvano may have been "cleaned".

**Jeremy Martin** gave a display of POW mail, mainly WWI mail from prisoners held in Germany or Switzerland and German POWs held in France. However, the first two covers were from French prisoners held in England during the Napoleonic wars. An 1806 entire from a POW at Wincanton to another POW at Chesterfield had a TRANSPORT OFFICE cachet. The second, dated 1813, was from a POW in Dartmoor to Liège with *Ex JM*, the initials of John Moore, the censor. Many French prisoners were interned in Switzerland, where mail home received cachets such as *Internement des Prisonniers de Guerre / LAUSANNE - SUISSE*. The display ended with a WWII cover to a French POW held in Oflag VI C, Colditz, the most famous camp of them all.

**John Hammonds** displayed airmails of Algeria, starting with the demonstration flights by Metrot and Taurin at Blida in 1909. After WWI the routes from Algeria could be divided into three sections: (1) Morocco-Algiers-Tunis; (2) liaison with France (a) via Morocco and the Aéropostale company, (b) via Oran and Alicante, and (c) via the Balearic Islands; (3) routes across the Sahara to the Congo and Madagascar, (a) Algiers to Biskra, (b) Algiers to Soudan, Chad, via the Transsaharienne company, and (c) routes to the Congo and Madagascar by Air Afrique. In WWII mail was not affected from 1 September 1939 to June 1940, but from 21 August

1940 until November 1942 an airmail service was resumed by Réseau Aérien Français to unoccupied France. From 8 November 1942 to April 1943 Algeria was invaded by the Allies and all flights between Algeria and France were prohibited, the only communication being through the Red Cross Message system. Red Cross mail was carried to Great Britain from where it was flown to Lisbon and then to Paris where it was censored before being sent to Geneva. Following the surrender of Axis forces in May 1943 North Africa was no longer a combat zone and mail was carried across North Africa and, where space was available, to the USA and Great Britain.

**Bob Larg** rounded off the weekend displays with his collection of postcards issued for the 1900 Paris Exhibition. He showed a wide range of cards during a 'tour' of the Exhibition, with several main features described.

The weekend came to a close before lunch with the presentation of awards. The Literature Award for 2010 was won by **Mick Bister** for his Journal article "The 1F50 Pétain + 50 S N Overprint". The Levett Trophy for the best display by a member who had not won a Society competition prize previously was won by **Henk Slabbinck**. The Filmer Shield for the best display on stamps was won by **Bryan Wood**. The Jubilee Salver for the best postal history display was won by **Brian Brookes**. A short review of the weekend showed that members were generally still satisfied with the facilities offered by the hotel and it was agreed that Chris Hitchen should try to negotiate favourable rates for us for next year, 16-18 March 2012. Vice-President John West expressed the gratitude of all members attending the weekend to the two co-ordinators **Peter Kelly** and **Chris Hitchen** for the hard work behind their usual efficient organisation, and to **Annette Tyler**, **Jean Hammonds**, **Pat Spong** and **Margaret Maybury** for their running of the bookstall and bourse, which yet again proved a very successful venture.

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

Robert Abensur	John Parmenter
Maurice Alder	Bob Paterson
George Barker	Mavis Pavey
Len Barnes	Maurice Porter
Ian Booth	Barbara Priddy
Godfrey Bowden	Derek Richardson
Brian Brookes	Henk Slabbinck
Steve Ellis	Gerald Small
Roy Ferguson	Colin Spong
Colin Graham	Willy Stephens
John Hammonds	Peter Stockton
Chris Hitchen	David Trapnell
Peter Kelly	Maurice Tyler
Bob Larg	Paul Watkins
Ashley Lawrence	Brian Weeks
Graham Lenton	John West
Philip Mackey	Alan Wood
Lesley Marley	Bob Wood
Jeremy Martin	Bryan Wood
Peter Maybury	David Worrollo
John Mayne	John Yeomans
André Métayer	

**MST**

# CHARLECOTE WEEKEND 2011



Maurice Porter



Henk Slabbinck



Roy Ferguson



David Trapnell



John West



John Yeomans



George Barker & Peter Kelly  
in deep discussion



Bryan Wood  
receives the Filmer Shield



David Worrollo  
reading the latest Journal

## *La Belle France Vignettes*

(see pages 55-62)



The Algeria sheet overprinted in the Centenary year of 1930