

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



Your Editor is very proud and honoured
to have become the first recipient of this new award,
the Geoff Gethin Award for Service to the Society,
received at the AGM on 7 May 2011
(See page 128 and back cover)

Volume 61 ● Number 3
September 2011
Whole Number 261

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

Society Website: 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.

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

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

The Journal

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Auction and Exchange Packet Sales

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

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

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

according to instructions

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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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The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1390 Allen S Akers (Yorkshire), 1391 Terence Kerslake (Devon), 1392 Eddie Hight (Essex).

* * *

Members Deceased

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

279 David Jennings-Bramley, 919 Ralph Barracano.

* * *

Resignation

1058 R P Gilbert.

* * *

Future Events

The **London Group** will meet at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 6.30pm on Wednesday 19 October 2011 for a display by Michael Round on the Comoro Islands; and at 6.30pm on Wednesday 30 November 2011 for a display by Stuart Henderson on French Cinderellas. During Philatex there will be a display by Brian Brookes on Martinique Sub-offices starting at 3.00pm on Saturday 5 November 2011 at the New Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1, and this will be followed by a meal for any interested members at 5.45pm at Il Posto Ristorante Italiano, 316a Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, London SW1V 1AA.

The **Southern Group** will meet at 2.00pm on Saturday 8 October 2011 at the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, East Worthing, when Ian Booth will display Niger.

The **Northern Group** will meet at 1.30pm on Saturday 15 October 2011 in the Board Room, Leeds General Infirmary, Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3EX for a Members' Choice meeting.

The **Wessex Group** will meet at 10.00am on Saturday 1 October 2011 at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham, Salisbury, when John Hammonds will display Aspects of French Aviation.

* * *

Philatelic Honours

The following members of our Society are to be congratulated on their distinguished achievements.

At the Annual Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies held at Perth in April 2011 **Jim Moffat** was presented with the ASPS Award of Merit.

At the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain held at Portsmouth in June 2011 **Gavin Fryer** was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

On the same occasion **Ashley Lawrence** became the second name to be engraved on the Stanley Gibbons Congress

Cup awarded for the best paper presented at the Congress, a talk on *Les Ballons Montés*.

Bob Larg has been installed as President of the Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society of Great Britain for 3 years.

* * *

Displays by Members

In February 2011 **Peter Rooke** displayed the Postal History of the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars to Bolton Philatelic Society.

Also in February 2011 **Gavin Fryer** displayed Morale in World War II to Southampton & District Philatelic Society, and in March 2011 he displayed Russia Post-Perestroika to Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society.

In April 2011 **Francis Kiddle** displayed the Revenue Stamps of Tasmania to Croydon Philatelic Society.

In June 2011 **Brian Lythgoe** displayed 1840-1940 Stamp Centenaries to Sheffield Philatelic Society.

In August 2011 **Bob Larg** displayed France 1919-1937 to Southwick Philatelic Society.

* * *

Corrigendum

I advised readers in the last issue of the Journal that there may be a few more typos appearing, but one occurred in that edition that was really inexcusable, even if it was not spotted by some of you. The date in the heading near the top of page 41 should of course have read "June 2011" and not "March 2011." This was a result of using the previous Journal as a basis and forgetting to change the month – although the number and other details were changed correctly. My apologies!

* * *

Northern Group Programme (1)

Please note the change of date for the next meeting from 29 to 15 October 2011.

But see also page 92 for the full programme.

* * *

Southern Group Programme

Sat 8 Oct 2011 - Ian Booth: Niger

Sat 28 Apr 2012 - Mavis Pavey: Philatelic Exhibitions & *Journée du Timbre* or French Naval Mail

Sat 25 Aug 2012 - Derek Oram: *Ambulants, Courriers Convoyeurs & Cachets de Gare*

Sat 27 Oct 2012 - Ian Booth: Hatay & Alexandrette

Meetings take place at the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, East Worthing from 2.00pm until 5.00pm except August which is 10.00am-12.00 & 2.00pm-4.30pm.

For further information please contact Southern Group Organiser Colin Spong: telephone 01903 709404.

* * *

Continued on page 92

OBITUARY

David Lamb 1928 - 2011



I first met David Lamb in the early 1960s when I joined the Warwick and Leamington Philatelic Society of which he was Chairman. I was immediately struck by his warm and welcoming manner and it wasn't long before we became good friends sharing our mutual interest in the stamps of France. My interest in French stamps was still in its infancy but David became very much my mentor and soon persuaded me to expand my knowledge and to 'specialise'. It became very apparent that he appreciated good stamp design and his knowledge of the designers and engravers of French and Andorran stamps was both broad and deep. He encouraged me to look more critically and analytically at stamp design and, to assist me in my education, lent me the four *Le Monde* brochures '*Ceux qui créent nos timbres*'. These little books enthralled me and provided me with the background for my first exhibition entry in 1967 'Designers and Engravers of France'. The exhibit may have contained my stamps but the inspiration, information and encouragement had all come from David.

My introduction through David to French philatelic literature led me to taking out a subscription for *Le Monde des Philatélistes* and to collecting the *Le Monde* brochures. He pointed me in the direction of dealers, notably Constantine in London and Georges Monteaux in Paris, from whom I was able to buy affordable material. Understanding my financial predicament it was David who suggested I should start collecting areas that were not popular at the time and therefore less demanding on the wallet. That is how I began collecting *Marianne de Muller* and the *Type Blanc*, both regarded as unimportant issues in the 1960s.

A new job took me away from Warwickshire to Kent in 1967 where a few months later I joined the France & Colonies Philatelic Society. After only five years of my collecting French stamps David had given me the confidence to join a specialist Society. David joined a few years later and we would meet up whenever we attended the Annual Weekends in Leamington and Charlecote. During his membership David contributed articles to the Journal on Dulac's *Marianne* issue and on proofs, and no Annual Weekend would have been complete without a display of the latter given by David in his inimitable informative and softly spoken style.

Although David was a big collector of French stamps and proofs his main interest lay in the issues of Andorra. He was a founder member of the Andorran Philatelic Study Circle and when he died he was still holding the post of treasurer that he had held from the start. He was a regular contributor to the Circle's bulletin, the Valira Torrent, writing on subjects such as the Vegueria issues, Liebig cards incorporating Andorran subjects and, of course, proofs, colour trials and essays. It is not surprising therefore that the service sheet for David's funeral was illustrated on the front cover, not with a portrait, but with an Andorran stamp.

'A charming man and a real gentleman', 'a thorough gentleman of the old school', 'quietly spoken, kind and approachable', 'he was delightful company', 'we all appreciated his quiet presence' and 'David will be remembered as a lovely and gentle man' are just a few of the comments made by members of the Society upon learning of David's death and they were further echoed in the address at his funeral.

David is a great loss to philately and to the Society and a fellow philatelist to whom I shall be eternally indebted.

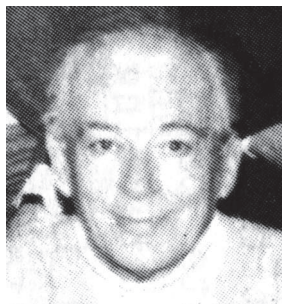
Mick Bister

OBITUARY

David Jennings-Bramly FRPSL 1920-2011

It is with great sadness that we record the death of "D J-B" on 23 May 2011, following a heart attack. Together with Chris Hitchen we represented the Society at his funeral at the West London Crematorium.

David joined the Society some 40 years ago and until he suffered a stroke in the summer of 2001 was frequently to be seen at our London meetings (on at least one occasion he was spotted enthusiastically bidding against himself at a room



Photographed in 1986

auction; he bore the inevitable ribbing with great good humour). The stroke, mercifully, did not cause any brain damage but it did affect his ability to walk quite seriously; nevertheless he continued to attend meetings until he was no longer able to cope with the stairs in the Calthorpe Arms pub. David had been a member/Fellow of the Royal since 1987, and he spent many hours working with the late Alec Swain in the library at 41 Devonshire Place.

In recent years David's enthusiasms centred largely on the Sowers, coil stamps, wreck mail, forgeries, bogus items and, above all, the *Type Merson*, and over the years he wrote many articles on these subjects for the Journal and other France & Colonies P S publications. His first, on forged precancels, dates from March 1982 and was quickly followed in the following year by another on forgeries, this time the *Type Merson* as issued in the various French post offices abroad, which was accompanied by his own hand-drawn illustrations of identifying details. The final article, on Boyer commercial advertising envelopes and laboriously written with his damaged right hand, was published as recently as December of last year. His philatelic interests were not confined to France, and in the past he assembled important collections of the classic issues of Greece and the village post offices of Cyprus.

David's early years were spent in rural Sussex until he became a boarder at Ampleforth College in what was then the North Riding of Yorkshire. On the outbreak of war in 1939 he entered the Royal Artillery; in 1940 he was sent to France, arriving at Dunkirk just in time, as he put it, to be told to go back (the memory of some horrific experiences during the Evacuation remained with him for the rest of his life). Subsequently he transferred to the cavalry and spent the rest of the War in command of tanks, serving in the campaigns in North Africa and Italy (he was wounded more than once). For the 15 years or so following the end of the War he worked in India, where he was introduced to Mahatma Gandhi, Burma and finally Tanganyika where he held a senior post in the docks at Dar-es-Salaam and where his twin son and daughter still live. His duties at the coast did not prevent him from spending periods on safari, and he knew a great deal about the wild life of the Territory – indeed, he made it his business to learn as much as possible about wherever he happened to be working. Consequently his excellent memory made him a most interesting companion. On his return to the UK he tried his hand at designing and making fur coats, not being satisfied with those offered to his late wife.

Over the past 8 or 9 years he became increasingly unable to leave his flat and we used to visit him, perhaps 6 or 8 times a year, in his home in North Kensington where he lived alone surrounded by his stamps and philatelic literature, his books on other subjects (especially military history and ornithology), his photographic equipment, his CDs (Mozart and Noel Coward were especial favourites) and his DVDs which featured many well-known Hollywood stars of yesteryear. Here he would talk about this and that, switching with effortless ease from one subject to another. A typical conversation (they were not monologues) might cover the difference between flat plate and rotary printing (Sowers, of course), the relative merits of British, American and German tanks, forged *Mersons*, red wine, fond recollections of old-time stamp dealers, the first stamps of Greece, vintage motorcycles, the very high value stamps issued by Kenya & Uganda in the 1920s (which were really fiscals), what to do (and especially, what not to do) when suddenly faced by an angry elephant and the strong arms of the monks/masters at Ampleforth, for some of whom he nevertheless still felt affection. Afternoon tea consisted of ice-cream, chocolate cake (David was very fond of both – indeed, he was a connoisseur of chocolate) and a glass or two of white wine. He was also partial to a hot curry – but not, of course, with afternoon tea!

David never lost his interest in philately or his other pursuits. He bid successfully in the Society's auction in January of this year, and almost the last time we spoke to him (except during Wimbledon fortnight, phone calls in both directions were frequent) he was looking forward to receiving the CDs of the Beethoven piano sonatas played by Daniel Barenboim.

If David held strong, sometimes unorthodox, views which he was inclined to express quite forcefully, he was also the kindest and most generous of friends. We shall miss him, and those visits to North Kensington – especially the cheerful chink of glasses!

Bill Mitchell & John Thorpe

OBITUARY

John Whiteside 1939-2011



Photographed in 1984

John Whiteside, who died on 23 May 2011, was a big collector of “foreign” countries. His early collections were of Brazil, Nicaragua, Sweden and the post offices of Hamburg, and he also collected Afghanistan, Czechoslovakia, Germany and his favourite Danzig. He also made very fine collections of the hyperinflations of Austria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Russia and China, often entertaining his audiences with his detailed explanations of the complicated and often very short-lived rates.

In the early years of the Northern Group of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society, when I was chairman, I invited him to attend our meetings and he also came to a couple of our weekends as my guest. I think this pricked his conscience, for he decided to join our Society and formed collections of *Bureaux de Passe*, *courriers convoyeurs* and TPOs of specific railway lines, often quite small ones, the details of which he obtained from his collection of Baedekers. These collections were shown at our meetings and at the weekends at Leamington Spa.

In 1990 he was asked to be the first secretary of the new Revenue Society of Great Britain and he formed large collections of Austria, Hungary, China and the Indian state of Rajasthan.

John was invited to join the Society of Postal Historians in the early 1980s and was a keen member, giving many displays and his interpretations of the early European postal charges to its members, presentations which were always well received.

Both John and I were confirmed bachelors and as such were able to travel together to many philatelic meetings and I was able to learn a lot from him.

He won medals from the Royal and various international and national exhibitions, but he soon tired of having to restrict his collections to conform with exhibition rules, and also he was not prepared to spend thousands of pounds on scarce material just to try and get gold medals. He said he would rather use the money to buy lots of cheaper material and enjoy sorting them out and presenting them for display.

Philately, and especially the Postal History side of it, will greatly miss him and there are many serious collectors who will have learned a lot from him and will be very sorry to have lost him.

Bernard Lucas

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 136 2^{ème} Trim 2011: Les Documents du Musée de la Poste pour les émissions de Haute Silésie [1920-22] (Jusserand); D'une Allégorie à l'Autre: Le Trajet d'une Carte Postale Voyageuse! (De Virel); Territoire de Memel: Les Timbres Perforés K.A. (Pineau); Les Russes à Bizerte: L'Étrange Monsieur X [additional information by Marc Parren on article in Col.Fra 132]; Au-delà du Catalogue.....au Cameroun (Cobb).

Cameo

Vol 12 N° 2 (Whole N° 83) June 2011: Cameroons: use of German *Taxe* Handtamps (May); Surface Mail Cameroons to Togo 1915 (Mayne & May); Cameroun - Sterling 5/- and 10/- type 2 (Bratzel); Cameroun - Sterling £1 on 500fr type 1 (Bratzel); WWII Airmails from French Eq. Africa (Priddy); Togo Postal Stationery Cards 1914 (Mayne); Togo Censorship 1917 (Mayne).

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, Maximaphilie, Thématique.

N° 1852 June 2011: Daniel Astoul, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Mon Timbre en Ligne: deux ans déjà (Krempper); Roland Garros, pionnier de l'aviation française (Albaret); Au Marge de Montboudif (Marotte).

N° 1853 Jul-Aug 2011: Hervé Louzé, Dis, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Les bureaux de distribution de la circonscription postale de Metz (B & R. Abensur); La Marianne de Jean Cocteau (Emmène); Un bâtisseur universel (Krempper); Mayotte, dernière étape d'un parcours philatélique (Krempper).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 305 (Vol 67 N° 3): Thomas Cook Undercover Mail (Fraser); Occupied France to the United States [1870-1871] (Luft); An Indochina Postage Due Cover (Dykhouse); Senegal: A Registered Post Card (Herendeen); From the Penal Colony (Polk); Gleanings from the Group Type: Some Observations on Karikal, French India (Grabowski).

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° 124 Jun 2011: La redevance radio, une affaire

postale...(Chauvin); Louis Daléas, marchand de timbres, poète et ami de Saint-Exupéry (Guéno); Classiques de France au Japon (de Pellinec); Facteur presse le pas... (Rucklin); L'émergence chaotique d'un tarif préférentiel (J & P Cotte); Appel aux collectionneurs de timbres dits modernes (de La Mettrie); Les timbres des bureaux allemands au Maroc (PJM); Les montreurs d'ours sont-ils de retour? (Zeyons); Le catalogue des estampilles de 1929 (Baudot); Un complément de taxe justifié (Prugnon); Kouang-Tchéou-Wan et la France d'Outre-mer (Chauvin).

N° 125 Jul-Aug 2011: Monaco: il y a 126 ans naissaient les premiers timbres de Monaco (de Pellinec); II. Bouger...plus vite (Racklin); Escalade sur l'île de Pâques (Singeot); Philatélique! et alors... (Chauvin); Allers et retours d'une lettre, expédiée en port dû puis en port payé (de La Mettrie); On a volé la Jaconde (Zeyons); Monaco: Les marques postales des Grimaldi (Baudot); Taxe et taxe complémentaire (Prugnon).

The Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 90 N° 4 Jul-Aug 2011: An Unusual Postage Due Letter from Sainte Marie de Madagascar: Philatelic or Not? (Grabowski).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 209 3^e trim 2011: La naissance postale de Beausoleil (Maier); Les taxes argentines sur les lettres de France (1857-1878) Bourgouin & Abensur; La présence suisse en Algérie (Grand); La poste militaire du territoire de Memel dans le contexte des territoires à plébiscite (1920-1923), à travers les «fonds Moscou» du Service historique de la défense (Jusserand); Pneumatique de Marseille en poste restante (Abensur).

Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 345 2^e trim 2011: Certains Ports-Payés, ornés, ont de vrais airs de famille (de La Mettrie); Piquage des chiffres-taxe par de petits traits (Couvé); Les oblitérations des C.R.S.F. [Centre Régional des Services Financiers] (Lavenas); «État Français» [sur mandats] (Sené & Troadec); Colis postaux en Alsace et en Moselle durant l'entre-deux-guerres (Bonney); Loterie Télégraphique (Narjoux); Quand les facteurs ruraux prenaient le train... (Douron & Lapasset); Réclamation d'article (Sené).

Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile

N° 160 Aug 2011: Les marques postales et oblitérations de l'Ain: Bourg-en-Bresse (1^{ère} partie) (Villard); Correspondance pour le Camp de Drancy: Recherche d'informations (Neimark); Retour sur les Daguins borgnes (Perrayon); En marge de l'affaire Finaly (Carnévalé).

BOOKSHELF

Syria and Lebanon: Free French Censorship World War II 1941-1945 by William Charles Robertson; pubd Wiveliscombe, The Civil Censorship Study Group, 2011; A4, ring bound, viii + 132 pages; available from Graham Mark, Oast House West, Golden Hill, Wiveliscombe, Somerset TA4 2NT, UK; price: £11.00 (CCSG members), £13.00 (non-members) + p&p UK £1.75, Europe £4.50, worldwide air £7.00; USA and Canadian orders to Charles LaBlonde, 15091 Ridgefield Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80921-3554, USA, costs including p&p US \$20.00 (CCSG members), US \$24.00 (non-members).

Bill Robertson is well known for researching many aspects of Middle Eastern postal history and for kindly publishing his findings, in such fields as Turkish airmails and postal censorship in the region. He notes that this present volume was 'inspired' by David M Zimmerman's 1980 treatise on 'Free French Censorship in the Levant' and Bill's first book on this subject, 'Free French Censorship in Syria' (1989).

He describes the historical background and the launch on 8 June 1941 of 'Operation Exporter', designed to wrest control of Lebanon and Syria from the Vichy regime. The censorship network was set up with advice from the British Chief Censor, Palestine, while the Free French forces were given operational responsibility with Aleppo, Beirut and Damascus as the censorship centres. British liaison officers were associated with the Aleppo and Beirut centres.

He gives a useful account of the sources of mail and their destinations when this became an Allied-controlled area.

All forms of mail transport are included, by land, by sea and by air. Robertson takes each of the three centres in turn and looks at the various operational phases from the late summer of 1941 to the late summer of 1945. Full documentation is given of the comprehensive 'audit trail' system used by the censors with the attendant 'Cross of Lorraine' handstamps and the coded manuscript dating system, otherwise referred to as the 'Censor Signature'. The 'bewildering array' of FFL resealing labels is also discussed.

The range of Appendices covers a variety of extracts from the UK National Archives, and from the French Military Archives, a nine page index of FFL censor marks and a Bibliography.

The whole volume gives evidence of a painstaking and detailed study, conducted with academic thoroughness. Bill Robertson is to be congratulated on this valuable addition to the literature. It should be in the library of all interested in WWII postal history.

Richard Beith

Établissement Français de L'Océan Indien: Madagascar. Philatélie Malgache: Tome 2 Les Oblitérations by Dr Jacques Desnos; A4 126pp perfect bound with coloured cover and illustrations in colour; publisher Col.Fra in the *Hors-Série* N° 5-8B; available from Alain Hurpet, BP 5, 1 rue des Jardins, 10230 Mailly le Camp, France; price 45€ for non-members.

Volume Two covers, under the following main chapter headings, with several sub-headings:

I. LES OBLITÉRATIONS AVANT 1896

1. Tamatave 1882/86
2. Le Protectorat Français
3. Du Premier Protectorat à La Colonie: 1894-1896
4. Oblitérations des Territoires d'abord Autonomes
5. Les Services Britanniques
6. Le Service Postal Norvégien

II. MADAGASCAR COLONIE – RÉGIME GÉNÉRAL

1. Étude des Cachets à Date
2. Nomenclature des Bureaux de Poste
3. Cachet à Date à Numéro
4. Cachets à Date à Numéro et Bureaux Auxiliaires de 1896 à 1907
5. Cachets à Date à Lettres
5. Cachets à Date Caviardés

III. RÉGIMES SPÉCIAUX

1. Oblitérations Ferroviaires
2. Poste Maritime

3. Poste Militaire
4. Poste Militaire Britannique 1942/45
5. Poste Rurale
6. Annulation à l'Arrivée des Timbres non Oblitérés
7. Cachet pour Centre d'Instruction
8. Annulations Anormales
9. Enveloppes Ajourées

IV. OBLITÉRATIONS FAUSSES OU IRRÉGULIÈRES

1. Les Cachets de Fantaisie
2. Les Contrefaçons
3. Utilisation Abusive de Cachets Authentiques
4. Relevé des Fausse Oblitérations Coloniales

BIBLIOGRAPHIE

This volume also contains a map, postal administration and other official documents, together with lay-outs of the many illustrations of handstamps, varieties, plus tables.

Col.Fra is to be congratulated once again on undertaking this task

[This book was originally mentioned briefly in *Journal* 258 of December 2010, page 155.]

Colin Spong

Books Noted

Les machines à timbrer fiscales by Jean-Paul Fosse; *Cahier d'étude* n° 6 of the Cercle d'étude de la Philatélie fiscale; 56pp b/w; price 14€ + p&p; available from Irène Daniel, 66 bd Garibaldi, 75015 Paris (website www.copf-asso.fr). [Machines to replace fiscal stamps and handstamps from 1930: lists marks for cheques, *effets de commerce*, *affiches*, *taxes de dimension*, *taxes communales*, *affaires étrangères*, *transports de viande*, *transports d'alcool*, *bons de remis*, *parfumerie*, *lettres de voiture*, *chicorée*.]

Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon une philatélie d'exception: les classiques 1885-1900 et les entiers postaux 1885-1911 by Jean-Jacques Tillard; 308pp A4, illustrations in colour, bilingual; price 64€ + p&p; available from author, BP 764, 97500 St-Pierre-et-Miquelon (email texspm@cheznoo.net). [Classic stamps of this colony fully described, with varieties, followed by details of *Alphée Dubois* and *Groupe* type postal stationery.]

Cameroun in the Great War: Volume III The Homeward Mail by Dudley Cobb; 134pp, A4, card covers, perfect bound, 70 b/w illustrations, bilingual; UK price £40 post paid; available from author, Les Capsades, 09140 Couflens (email cobbweb@wanadoo.fr). [Explains postal routes used for mails from occupying forces to France and Britain, including shipping movements.]

Côte d'Ivoire: Les vignettes pour colis postaux dans leur environnement historique et fonctionnel (1902-1906) by Constant Bouérat & Hervé Drye; Col.Fra *Hors-Série* N° 16-4; 188pp + 12pp pamphlet + 4pp reference; price 34€ post paid for non-members; available from COLFRA, BP 628, 75367 Paris (email Colfra-publications@orange.fr). [Covers administrative history of Ivory Coast including evolution of postal service and use of parcel post labels; procedures for issuing stamps and handling parcels, with biographies of post office personalities; fully detailed description of printing methods and of all nine parcel post issues, with discussions of appropriate *arrêtés* and *décrets*; the fate of these issues with their usage and sale to collectors and dealers; and a list of open research topics.]

Le Relazioni Postali dell'Italia nell'Ottocento - Italia-Francia - Convenzioni e Tariffe Postali - Elenco Ragionato delle Corrispondenze in Periodo Filatelico by Vito Sallierio; 576pp (36pp of colour plates), 175 x 240mm, soft-bound; price 45€ + p&p; available from its editor, Via Buonarroti 46, 41058 Vignola, Italy (website www.vaccari.it). [In Italian, analysis of conventions and rates from Napoleon's fall and Restoration of Old Italian States, covering bilateral relationship between France and Old Italian States and then the Kingdom of Italy.]

Maurice Tyler

SOCIETY NOTES

Continued from page xxx

Exhibition Successes

In the Championnat de France 2011 (10-12 June) the following members are to be congratulated on their awards:

Michèle Chauvet: Gold, Special Prize and Judges' Felicitations for "Les colonies françaises – Tarifs et service postal 1848-1878" (3 volumes) (Literature section)

Robert Abensur: Gold for "Lettres insuffisamment affranchies de l'étranger pour la France (des origines à 1907)" (Postal History section)

Guy Dutau: Gold for "Relations postales Franco-péruviennes des origines à 1879" (Postal History section)

* * *

Northern Group Programme (2)

Sat 11 Feb 2012 - Members' Choice

Sat 31 Mar 2012 - George Barker: Classic France

Sat 14 Jul 2012 - "Bastille Day," courtesy of Stephen & Judith Holder

Sat 22 Sep 2012 - Peter Maybury: Algeria

Meetings take place in the Board Room, Leeds General Infirmary, Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3EX from 1.30pm to 4.30pm, with the exception of "Bastille Day" which is at Heaton Royds from 10.00am to 4.30pm.

* * *

France: North African Expansionism 1881-1914

An Overview

Peter Maybury

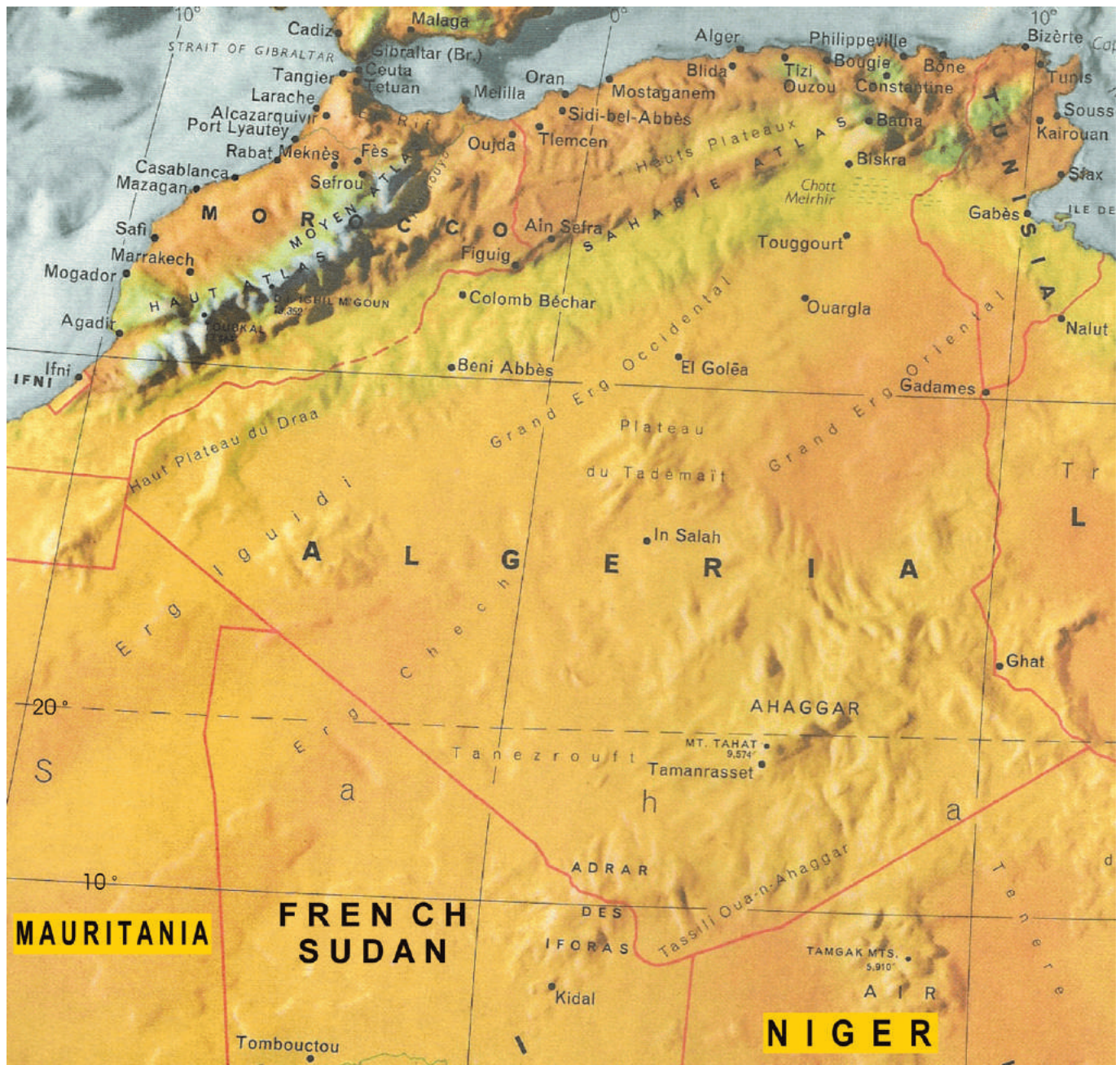


Figure 1
Topographical map of the region

Tunisia

In April 1881, taking advantage of raids into Algeria by Tunisian tribesmen, the French invaded Tunisia with two columns from Algeria, backed up by seaborne troops from France.

Tunis was captured and the country was declared a protectorate on 12 May. The majority of troops were then

withdrawn. In July a major revolt broke out occasioning the second expeditionary force to invade and suppress the insurrection. Mail from the first expedition is not common.

Military Franchise was operative from 26 April 1881 until 30 September 1883.

The First Expedition April - May 1881

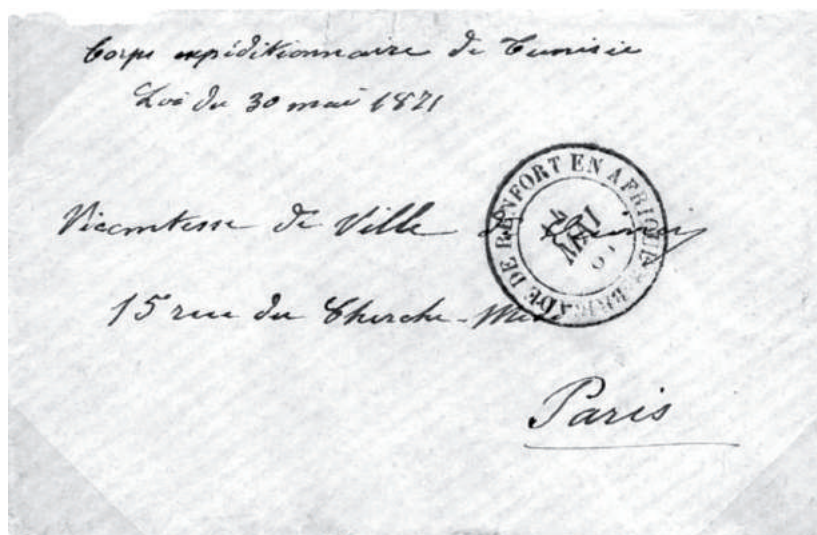
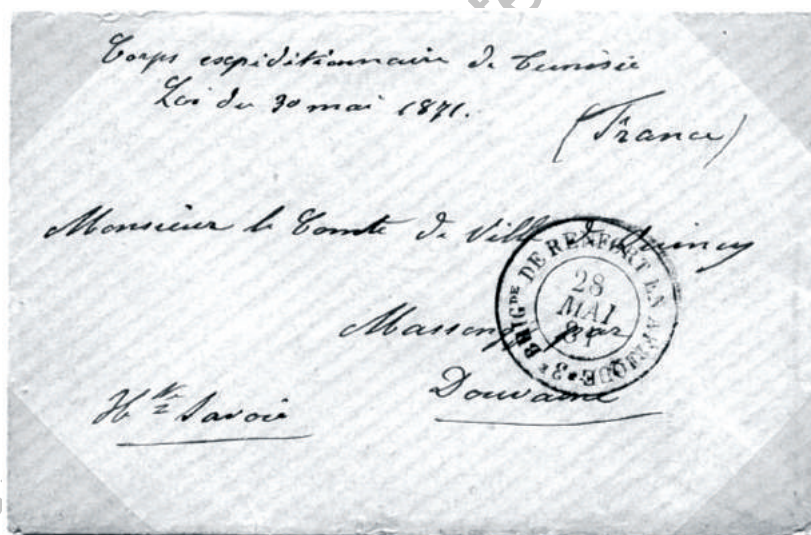


Figure 2
Correctly endorsed envelope
sent under Military Franchise to Paris
showing the **Type 1 cds**
of the 3rd Brigade of Reinforcements

Figure 3
Envelope, correctly endorsed,
sent under Military Franchise to France
showing the **Type 2 cds**
of the 3rd Brigade of Reinforcements



The Second Expedition July 1881 - September 1883

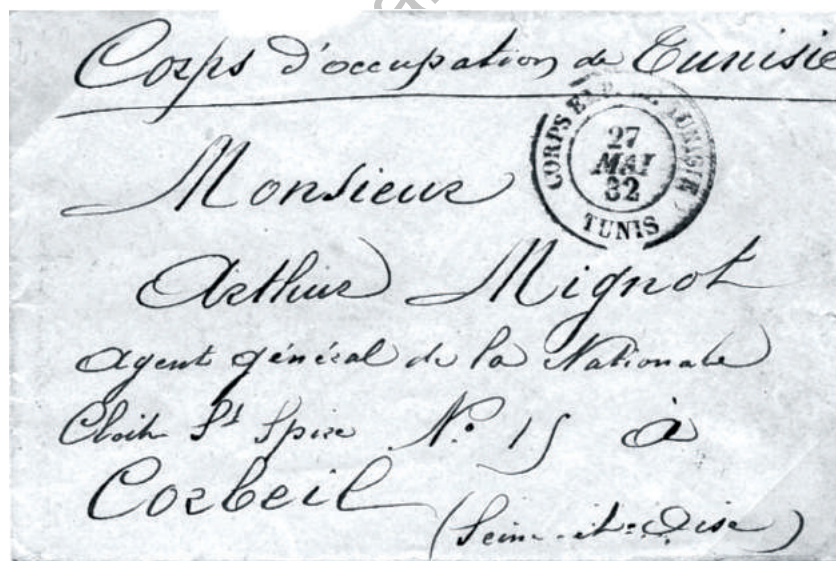
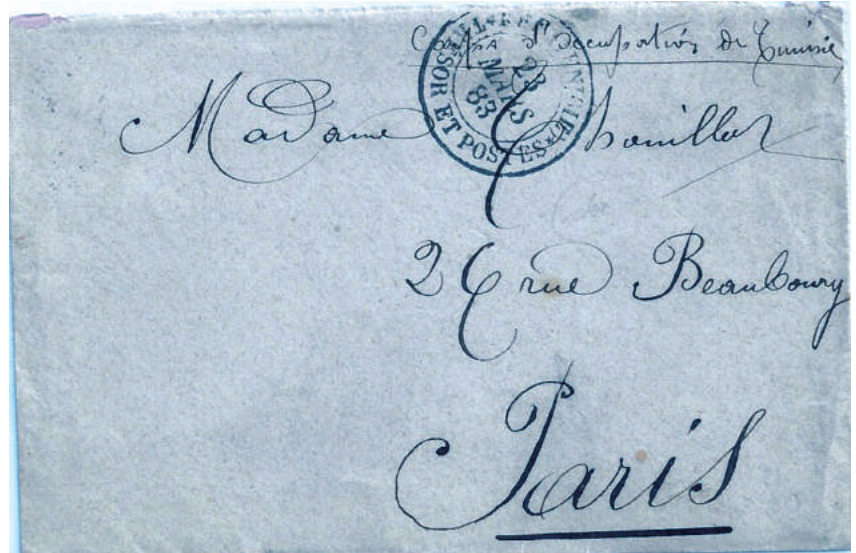


Figure 4
1882 letter to France
sent under Military Franchise
with **CORPS EXP. DE TUNISIE / TUNIS** cds



Figure 5
KEF to PARIS 23 March 1883



Algeria: The Capture and Occupation of the Saharan Oases 1891 - 1913

The Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871 caused the withdrawal of many thousands of French troops from “the General’s Playground” of Algeria. Widespread serious revolts erupted in January 1871, lasting for about a year. In 1881 the Touregs annihilated Colonel Flatters’ expedition into the Ahaggar Mountains. This was followed by general insurrection of the tribes on the Saharan frontier, and in particular the Ghardaia region.

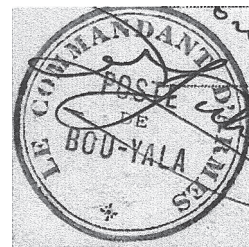
In 1891 the military commenced operations to capture and occupy the Saharan oases with the objective of pacifying

the desert tribes. Commencing with El Golea, the oases south of Oran were seized over the next six years, with those to the south-west being overrun and occupied during the period 1897-1903. The Moroccan frontier region was garrisoned in 1903/1904. Sporadic insurrection by the majority of the indigenous tribes was virtually eliminated by 1906, the exception being the Berbers, where the process of pacification lasted until 1913.

Military Franchise was authorised from April 1900 to circa 1906.



Figure 6
Envelope from a member of the TIDIKELT occupation force at the oasis of IN SALAH to St Denis (Seine).
Postmarked 15 October 1904 it was sent via the regional Military HQ (26 October)
and reached St Denis on 15 November 1904



Reverse

Official cachet
and commanding officer's
endorsement and signature
authorising Military Franchise

Figure 7

Postcard addressed to NUIITS ST. GEORGES,
written at COLOMB-BECHAR
but originating from the outpost of TAGDA
in south Oranaise, near the Moroccan border.
Authorised for franchise
by the commanding officer at BOU-YALA
and then taken to the post office
at BENI-OUNIF-DE-FIGUIG
for transmission to ORAN and across to France.
The large circular cachet is an example
of a locally produced administrative handstamp.



Figure 8

Some further examples of locally produced administrative cachets

The Invasion and Occupation of Morocco 1907 - 1939

Following the murder of several French citizens in March and July 1907, French troops crossed the Algerian border and occupied the town of Oudja on 29 March. Casablanca, on the Atlantic coast, was taken on 7 August.

Sporadic revolts against the Sultan and clashes with the French forces ensued, resulting, with backing from Germany, in the Berlin agreement for the establishment of

the French Protectorate and the installation of a puppet Sultan on 30 March 1912. However, total pacification of the tribes in the Anti-Atlas Mountains in the south of the country was still not accomplished in 1934.

Military Franchise was authorised from 17 August 1907, but withdrawn for troops serving on the Algerian/Moroccan border in December 1910.

Consolidation of the border region



Figure 9
Envelope to Paris
posted on 9 August 1910
at Nemours, Algeria.
Sent under franchise,
probably by a wounded soldier,
and approved by
the chief medical officer
at the Nemours military hospital.
Nemours was an important port and
base close to the Moroccan border.

Eastern Expeditionary Corps Mail transited via Algeria

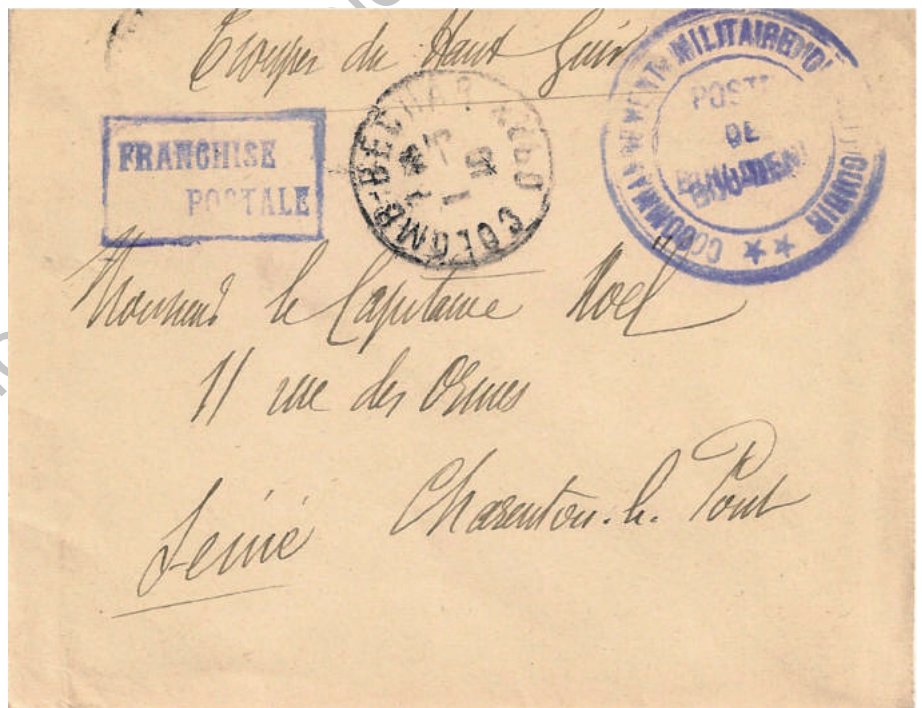


Figure 10
Envelope to Charenton-le-Pont,
from the base at BOU-DENIB
in eastern Morocco,
where it was stamped
with the locally produced cachets
for the military franchise.
Transported across the border
to COLOMB-BECHAR
where it was date stamped
1 March 1910
prior to forwarding to Oran
for delivery in France,
which was effected six days later.

References

Wikipedia

*A Chronology of French Military Campaigns & Expeditions
With Their Postal Markings*, Waugh and Luft 1984

Catalogue Yvert et Tellier Tome 1 Timbres de France. 1980.

Catalogue des Marques Postales & Oblitérations d'Algérie 1830-1876, ab der Halden & de Beaufond, Paris 1949

Catalogue Illustré des Marques Postales et c.à d. Manuels d'Algérie 1749-1962, C Bosc, Ed. Sinais 2000

Modern Algeria, a History from 1830 to the Present, C-R Ageron. London 1991

A “Recommandée d’office” carried by the Paris-Turin relay

Luca Lavagnino

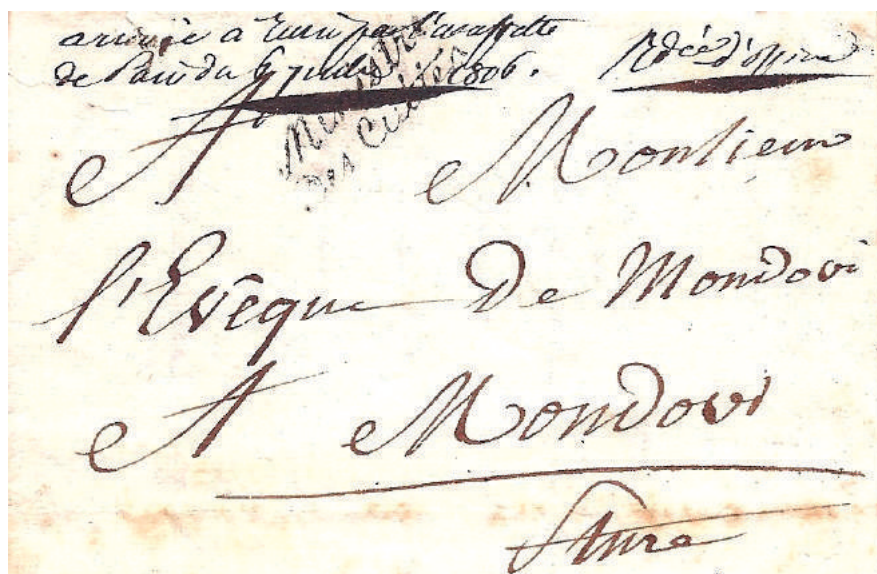


Figure 1
Letter from Paris to Mondovì – 6 September 1806
Registered *ex officio* in Turin

During the Napoleonic period the operation of *ex officio* registration was regulated by the sixth article of the “*Instruction Générale sur le Service des Postes*” published in 1792 (provision confirmed in 1808):

« Toute lettre soupçonnée contenir d'espèces, des bijoux ou des effets précieux, sera recommandée sur la feuille d'avis destinée pour le bureau auquel ladite lettre sera adressée ou par lequel elle devra être expédiée en passe ; mais cette espèce de chargement n'étant fait que d'office, la lettre ne sera taxée que du port simple ; il sera écrit en tête de la suscription *Recommandée d'office*. »

It has to be pointed out that only in 1829 will the words “*chargé*” and “*recommandé*” be distinguishable as two different services: for our purpose they have to be considered as synonyms.

The above free-franked letter (Fig 1) was mailed from Paris, from a minister of religion to the Bishop of Mondovì (*département conquis* 105 Stura, whose capital was Coni [Cuneo in Italian]), on Saturday 6 September 1806. The letter was registered *ex officio* (see the prescribed handwritten note on the front of the cover top right): this operation was compulsory and within the postmaster's competence, following what was established in the article quoted above. The purpose was to indicate letters meriting special care during their transport and delivery, as in our case here.

The manuscript note top left (written in Turin) stresses that the letter arrived in Turin by the relay which left Paris on 6 September 1806: as a matter of fact, relays from Paris to Turin, through Lyon, and then to Coni and Mondovì, left on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

This fast relay was created in the first years of the second occupation of Italy particularly for military and political purposes, and only afterwards was it opened to civilians, in order to link the most important cities of the Empire with Paris in record times. On 15 August 1805 the Paris-Lyon-Turin relay was inaugurated and it was extended to Naples, through Florence and Rome, by a decree issued on 19 October 1808. The whole journey from Paris to Naples could be covered in just eight days. It is important to point out that relay services did not depend on the ordinary postal service. Civilian mail might be sent by such relays, but only if the sender prepaid the necessary postal rate, which was equal to three times the normal rate.

Naples and Florence had their own special postmarks to distinguish letters carried by the relay, whilst the postmaster in Turin, since he did not have such a postmark, distinguished normal mail from that carried by the relay by adding handwritten notes on the cover (where it came from, registration number, kind of service...). When he received official letters, with the ministerial marks, he usually specified the used relay and wrote manuscript notes as in our case: “*Arrivée à Turin par l'estafette de Paris du 6 7bre 1806*”; he finally registered the letter *ex officio* and on the back of the cover he affixed a slip to be removed, as a receipt, on delivery (Fig 2).

The Paris-Turin relay was very important during the capture and exile suffered by Pope Pius VII in Savona (Liguria – *département* 108 Montenotte) from August 1809 to May 1812: Napoleon had to know about the Pope's behaviour and intentions. In this case letters arrived in Turin by the relay and then most of them were sent to Savona through Genoa (and not through Ceva, as one might expect).

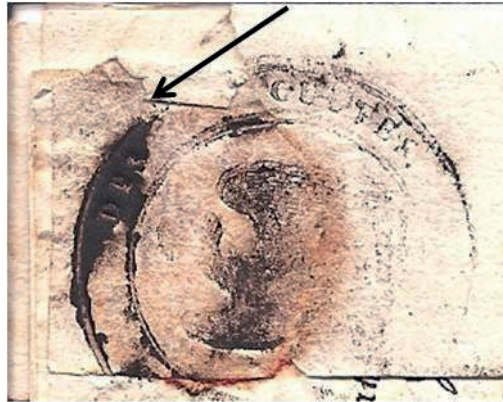


Figure 2

An enlarged image of the wax seal closing the letter: one can see the remains of the slip (see the arrow) which the postmaster affixed as a receipt to be removed when the letter was delivered

After Napoleon's defeat in Leipzig (October 1813) this fast relay remained open only for official letters up to the first months of 1814. In April 1814 the French Empire was finally broken up and this service was of course closed.

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Michèle Chauvet, *Introduction à l'Histoire Postale*, Brun et fils, 2001

Robert de Fontaine, *La Poste dans les Départements Conquis en Italie (1801-1814)*, articles in *Documents Philatéliques*, Académie de Philatelie, Paris, 1974-1980

Piero Giribone, « *L'estafette de la Maison de Sa Sainteté* » e *l'ufficio di Torino nel servizio di staffette imperiali*, Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale, Padova, 2010

Chad: The Use of the Stamps of the Sudan at Adré in 1925

John Yeomans



Figure 1: Location of Adré

At the beginning of 1925 A J Arkell (1898-1980) was the Acting Resident of Dar Maselit at Geneina on the western border of the then Anglo-Egyptian Sudan with Chad. He reported in a letter written on 8 August 1963⁽¹⁾ that in January 1925 the neighbouring Chad border post of Adré had exhausted the supply of the overprinted stamps of Middle Congo and the Commandant of Adré purchased Sudan stamps at the Geneina post office for use at Adré

pending the receipt of new stocks of stamps from Paris.

Enclosed with this letter were covers cancelled in the post office at Adré and addressed to Arkell at Geneina and here (on the next page) are two examples, one with and one without a stamp, each cancelled by the uncommon Stone Type 25 known to be used at the three post offices of Abecher, Adré and Fort Lamy in the 1920s.

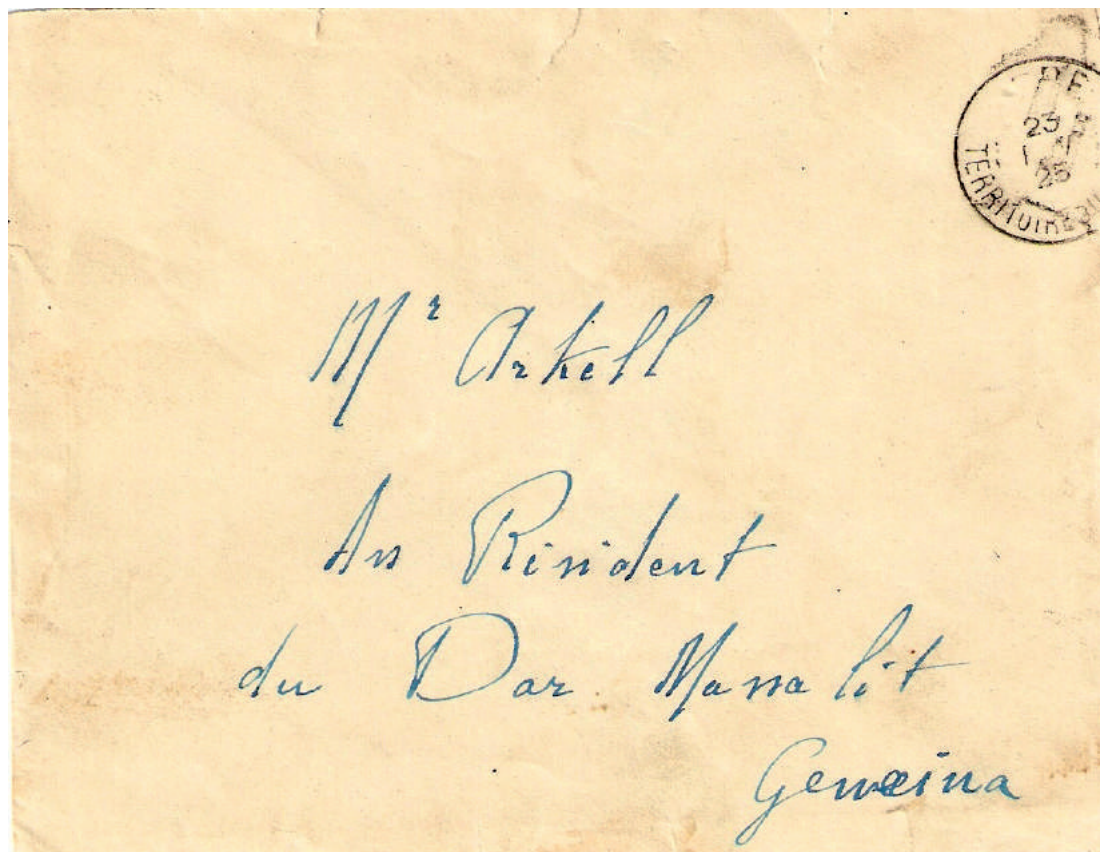


Figure 2
Cover dated 23 February 1925
posted unpaid and not taxed



Figure 3a
Cover dated 30 March 1925
franked with a 15 mm stamp of Sudan



Figure 3b
Backstamp on cover in Figure 3a:
receiving cds of Geneina 31 March 1925



Figure 4
Example of the Adré handstamp

Arkell was instrumental in halting the slave trade between the Sudan and Ethiopia, the freed slaves in the villages being known as 'the sons of Arkell'. He later became an eminent Egyptologist and in 1948 was appointed to be the Professor of Egyptology at University College in the University of London. On retirement in 1963 he was ordained and appointed Vicar of Cuddington in Buckinghamshire⁽²⁾.

References

- (1) Letter with enclosures written by A J Arkell on 8 August 1963 from the Vicarage of the village of Cuddington
- (2) Personal communications with the Clergy at Cuddington

The Free French Cameroun Definitive Overprints of 27.8.40

Bob Maddocks



Figure 1

(reduced in size to fit page)

Unaddressed philatelic cover bearing all 31 Cameroun postage stamps overprinted *Cameroun Français* 27.8.40, each postmarked *Douala, Cameroun* 27 Oct 1940.

Also bears censor sealing tape and three censor cachets of *Contrôle Postal/Commission A/Territoire du Cameroun* (at Douala) in black. Backstamped *Douala, Cameroun* 27 Oct 1940.

Involving 31 different values of contemporary Cameroun postage stamps, these early WWII overprints were prepared to mark the date on which the pro-Vichy administration of Cameroun was ousted from office by the Free French. Colonel, later General, Leclerc, with a small force of French patriots assembled in neighbouring British Cameroons, had, during the hours of darkness on 26-27 August 1940, crossed the intervening creeks to land at Douala. He, with local support, quickly seized control of the commercial capital and thereafter the rest of the country in the name of General de Gaulle.

On 12 September 1940 Leclerc, as the new interim Governor, authorised the overprinting of all stocks on hand of the then valid postage stamps with 'Cameroun Français 27.8.40'. Following trial printings, the work commenced on 2 October 1940 with the 40c, 45c and 90c values in various quantities. Other values followed on various dates subsequently, up to and including the 50c value on 26 October 1940. At the end of each print run the respective overprinted sheets of stamps were delivered to/collected by the Douala postal authorities who put them on sale immediately. This piecemeal process meant there was no single release date for the combined issue (Ref 2).

There were six settings of the overprint and numerous variations in the type occurred because of the mix of different fonts used by the printers – more particularly in the date. As readers are aware, the minutiae have been painstakingly researched and discussed elsewhere in several studies

since (Ref 1-5).

The purpose here is just to show a couple of relevant interesting, though philatelic, covers which complement those studies but, I believe, have not been formerly illustrated or commented upon previously – at least in any detail.

The first item (Fig 1) is a large envelope bearing a fine arrangement of all 31 values of the overprinted definitive stamps, each neatly postmarked 'Douala/Cameroun/27 Oct 1940'. This would have been the first possible date on which a postal official could have assembled together all values of the overprinted stamps. The last print run, which involved the 50c value, had been completed the previous day, 26 October 1940. Unaddressed and not postally used, this souvenir item was likely to have been prepared for, or at the behest of, the Douala Postmaster, M. Marcel Roblin, a perceived philatelist, given the many covers seen addressed to him from various other Free French African countries as well as the Belgian Congo.

It is not known how many of these particular Cameroun souvenirs might have been produced.

Of further interest and obviously by favour, the cover had ostensibly been subject to postal censorship in accordance with wartime regulations. This is evidenced by the postal censor's resealing tape 'Contrôle Postal Militaire' over the right hand edge of the cover to which it was tied by the strikes in black of the three standard censor's cachets then used in the censorship of mail. These are the double ring



Figure 2a Front of cover

Registered philatelic cover from Mbanga 10 Sep 41
addressed to M. M Roblin, Postmaster, Douala.

Franked 9F being 4 x 2F25 value overprinted stamps in bottom left hand corner block,
with overprint misplaced laterally to the right.

Also censored Commission A (Douala) with tape and cachets thereof.



Figure 2b Part of reverse
Backstamped Douala, Cameroun 10 Sep 41

'Contrôle Postal/Commission A/Territoire du Cameroun', the oval-shaped 'Ouvert par l'Autorité Militaire' and a small single ring 'A 5' which was the Commission's individual censor's identification mark. Both tape and cachets were applied at Douala (Ref 6).

The official figures, giving values and numbers of overprinted stamps and also their respective dates of issue, were first provided by the late Ken Read (Ref 2). He was for many years the Agent of John Holt & Co (Liverpool) Ltd at Victoria, British Cameroons, and a respected senior resident. On the outbreak of WWII he was involved in the internment of German nationals and enemy aliens living on the plantations, and then in Anglo-French political and military matters leading up to and after Leclerc's capture of Douala. Thereafter he also had responsibility for John Holt's affairs in Cameroun. Though unconfirmed, I believe he was a postal censor at Victoria. Unfortunately, he did not record his memoirs.

The second item (Fig 2) is another fine philatelic cover of the period with a now clear association with M. Roblin, the Douala Postmaster. This time the indications are that the cover did pass through the post, albeit with favourable treatment.

It was mailed, registered, from Mbanga on 10 September 1941, nearly a year after the overprinted stamps affixed thereon were first issued in Douala, being addressed personally to Postmaster Roblin. It was backstamped on arrival in Douala the same day. Mbanga, sited on the northern line of rail, was some 40 miles from Douala.

Here again the envelope bears all the hallmarks of 'favoured' censorship, also at Douala, as seen in Fig 1, the only difference being that the individual censor's cachet was numbered 'A 3'.

The particular interest here lies with the philatelic franking of 9F, represented by a bottom left hand corner block of four overprinted 2F25 stamps of the Elephants design.

On these stamps from sheet positions 41 and 42 and 46 and 47, the orange overprint is laterally misplaced to the right. It is thus seen extending across the perforation, touching and onto the adjoining stamp to create a notable variety which has apparently no catalogue listing and has aroused

almost no comment in any of the mentioned studies of the overprints. The exception is the work by Dudley Cobb (Ref 3) who however merely commented in passing that the overprint occasionally falls on or outside of the frame of the design but that he had yet to see a stamp with this setting, where the overprint actually touches or straddles the perforation.

It is not known whether an entire sheet of 50 stamps was so overprinted or only certain positions thereon; or if more than one sheet was affected! Presumably the sheet from which these stamps were taken was found in stocks supplied at some stage from Douala to Mbanga. There it is assumed the Postmaster, noting the misplaced overprint and discerning the likely interest to his colleague M. Roblin in Douala, accordingly originated this cover by favour. Quite probably other similar covers were made up and also mint stamps are likely to be in existence.

The rarity or otherwise of this overprint variety remains to be established, given that the total print run of the overprint on the 2F25 value was 1,200 sheets. The involvement, however, of M. Roblin as Postmaster of Douala and a known philatelist and the addressee of this Mbanga cover, would lead one to assume that in local postal circles at the time it was recognised that this overprint variety was indeed a notable one. Surprisingly therefore, for whatever reason, this has not been subsequently confirmed in relevant philatelic discussions since or catalogued by such as Yvert and Gibbons. Perhaps a reader can enlighten us further in this respect?

References

1. C P Rang – "Free French Cameroun Varieties" (*Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, June 1941)
2. K W H Read – "Free French Cameroons: Numbers Overprinted" (*Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, Sept 1942)
3. H G Porter – "Cameroon" (series of articles in *The Philatelist*, 1956/57)
4. J Mérot – "Cameroun Français Libre 27.8.40" (*Colfra* June 1992)
5. D Cobb – *Cameroun: The 1940 Overprints* (1997, ISBN 2-951 1613-0-1)
6. R J Maddocks – *Facets of Cameroun in Wartime* (1985, Cockrill Series Booklet N° 58)

Cameroun Français 27.8.40 – More on Trial B

Dudley Cobb



A

on six Lamido Woman values



B

also on the 25c Waterfall



C

also on 4c⁽¹⁾

Figure 1
The three trials

Three trials, in preparation for the Free French overprints, were described in my 1997 book⁽²⁾. Reflecting the order in which they were probably made, I called them Trials A, B and C.

Copies of the 5F Trial B are found together with a complete overprint on the lower margin pane, which has perfs on all sides. I suggested at the time that the Trial B setting was of twenty positions, in two rows of ten, applied to the sheet of fifty stamps in three operations (explaining the additional overprints on the lower margins); and further, that the setting was then adjusted to form the top four rows (positions 1-20) of Trial C, which have FRANÇAIS with cedilla too (the remaining thirty positions do not).

In 2003 research by Martin Bratzel⁽³⁾ appeared to confirm the conjectures above. He identified the true Trial C positions that resulted from the overprints shown in Figure 2, correcting the careless misattribution in Plate 5 of my book. More gratifyingly, to me at least, he showed a block of four Trial B stamps from the lower left-hand corner, complete with margins – six overprints in all. In each column of three, the first and third overprints were identical.

My interest in these stamps has persisted. Bratzel's article was an advance, but a number of puzzles remained. In particular, I wanted to see a Trial B Canoe, or Waterfall, with the authentic closed 4 that is found at position 16 of Trial C and all the Lamido Woman

and Elephants definitives.

Additionally, further copies I was able to examine all seemed to come from the left-hand side of the posited setting – like the ones Bratzel had identified. None appeared to correspond to positions 11-20 of Trial C or the definitives.

Two items sold in Paris this past winter have, I believe, brought resolution. At Palais Royal Danièle Dutertre had a block of four (Canoe design, with margins), from the upper right-hand corner. The block thus comprised stamps at sheet positions 9-10 and 19-20. Under my hypothesis, the corresponding overprints would have the same setting numbers. Yet the overprints seemed in fact – indeed, they were – the predecessors of quite other overprint positions in Trial C and the definitives. Two of them, moreover, were the same as those, from the fourth column, in Figure 2.

In rue Drouot Pascal Behr had a top margin copy, again of the 5F Canoe. From a printer's mark it could be identified as sheet position 5 or 6. The overprint, with R=broken B in FRANÇAIS, is position 1 according to Bratzel's block, position 1 in the proof, and position 6 in Trial C and the definitives. This broken B used as an R is a leitmotif of the overprinting work by Imprimerie Commerciale du Cameroun (also known as Imprimerie de l'Eveil) at Douala – the postage stamps of 1940, and revenue stamps throughout the war⁽⁴⁾.

The stamps alone – the two blocks, the pair in Figure 2, and this one – would have been enough to show the Trial B setting had only ten positions. You wait years for a proof, then three come along together. Accompanying the Dutertre block was a piece of paper bearing ten overprints, in two rows of five, and marked *épreuve* in pencil.



Figure 2
Column 4
of the setting



Figure 3
Proof of the Trial B setting

Conclusions

The setting for Trial B consisted of ten positions, not twenty as my book suggested. It was applied to a sheet of 5F Canoe stamps in six operations. In one case at least (lower left-hand corner) the overprints are slightly angled. (I have not seen corner or margin copies of the 25c Waterfall. There is no reason to think the the overprint differs in any significant way. Holders may care to confirm, or challenge, that.)

For Trial B, overprint positions 1, 2, 4 and 5 (upper row) and 6, 7, 9 and 10 (lower row) have now been identified on stamps, in vertical pairs or blocks which corroborate the printer's proof. (I may emphasise that all the positions which Bratzel found in 2003 were correctly identified, as the proof confirms.) Positions 1-5 of Trial B are found, after adjustment, at positions 6-10 of Trial C and the definitives, and positions 6-10 of Trial B are seen at positions 1-5 there.

Accordingly, positions 11-20 of Trial C (with cedillas, and including the closed 4), along with the remainder, were set up only then. It is likely, given the method used for Trial

B, that the printer had done the same with the first one (which also shows overprints on lower margins). So the Trial A setting probably consisted of ten positions as well. Plating would be possible if sufficient blocks and margin pairs could be assembled.

With the trial settings now halved in number, it becomes easier (and cheaper), in theory, to obtain copies of all positions. As with the definitives, each is different.

My thanks to Martin Bratzel, Danièle Dutertre and Bernard and Pascal Behr for their kind assistance.

Endnotes

- (1) Possibly, on the 1F75 Elephants design as well
- (2) Dudley Cobb, *Cameroun: The 1940 Overprints*, 1997. ISBN 2-9511613-0-1
- (3) Martin Bratzel, "Cameroun 27.8.40 – The Second Trial Printing," in *F&C Philatelist* July 2003 (Whole Number 273)
- (4) My book, as above; and Martin Bratzel, *The War-time Revenue Stamps of Cameroun*, 1996, ISBN 0-9694026-2-7

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Paris Star 4

I am truly amazed and gratified seeing four pages (pages 69-72 of Journal 260) of comments on my brief note (page 31 of Journal 259). That shows it certainly pays to belong to the Society and communicate with so many of its experts!

My thanks to Stephen Holder for pointing out that the stamp is a 25c and not a 15c: I missed that when it was time to proof-read my work. But I'm afraid that all else he says is sheer nonsense. The 12 DEC 72 La Villette date stamp is perfectly visible on the original cover, and there's absolutely no trace of any weak or hidden marking beneath or on either the stamp or the Paris Star 4 killer, as suggested by Messrs Holder and Hitchen.

Everything that was needed to answer my questions is provided by Monsieur Kubler. Yes, I do own the Delwaulle book, which I neglected to make use of because that Annexe 2 is way in the back on pages 175-177 – but it says it all! By *Ordre de Service* (perhaps I should not have translated the term) of 6 January 1872 (my informant was absolutely correct on the date), signed by Rampont, Paris

4 at Rue d'Enghien had become a "*bureau de passe*" that sorted the mail from, amongst others, La Villette. The 6 January 1872 document lists all these "*bureaux de passe*" as well as those post offices whose mail was to be sorted. Thus my query has been completely resolved.

If I may make a suggestion, we do know and use the term *Bureau de Passe* (I have an exhibit of the 23 railway transfer offices), and the definition, well stated by Stephen, should certainly stand. But, could we consider using "*bureau de passe*" (all lower case) as applying here to a much more localized system (and only at Paris?) that served to transfer mail from the outskirts to more central locations for the purpose of being sorted before proceeding on their journey?

Finally, might we consider a cooperative, international effort to determine earliest and latest dates of use of this "*bureau de passe*" service?

Thanks again to my three correspondents for their aid. Yes, Chris, you are fortunate to own four such covers, including one not listed by Monsieur Rampont.

Stan Luft

1869 5F Louis Napoleon in Red



Do any members know what the item illustrated above actually is?

It is larger than the 1869 5F Napoleon III light grey-blue copy.

Harris Rosenberg

20F + 20F France-Canada Rate - Erratum

I am afraid I was not diligent enough with my proof-reading before submitting my article on the 20F + 20F France-Canada rate (page 77 in Journal 260). The periods

of operation of the 20F Internal Postcard Rate and the 20F Concessionary France-Canada Postcard Rate were identical, ie 6 January 1959 to 17 January 1965.

Mick Bister

Smallest and Largest Stamps of France

At our Charlecote Weekend in March I asked the question whether anyone knew which were the smallest and the largest stamps ever produced by France. Readers who

were not there, or who were but have forgotten the answer, make like to hazard a guess. The answer is given and illustrated on page 118.

John West

Thomas Cook Civilian Undercover Mail

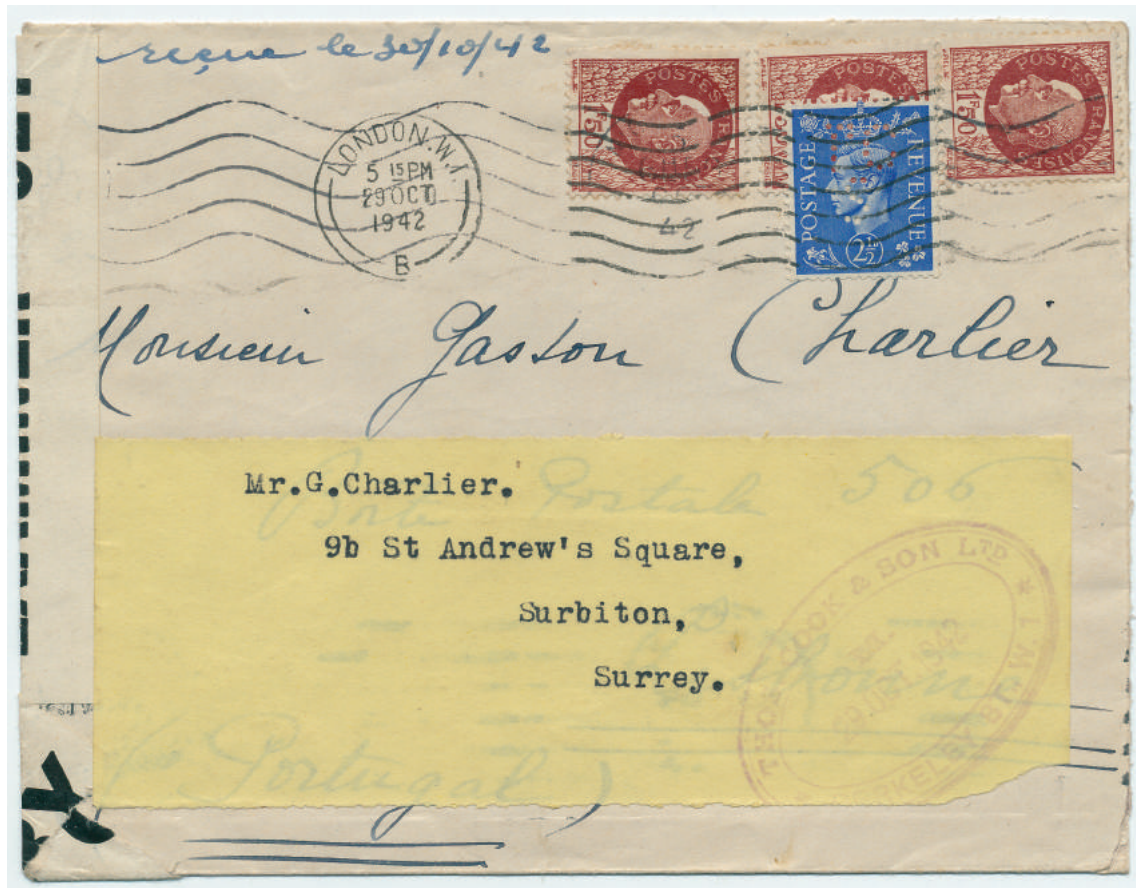


Figure 1
Undercover mail handled by Thomas Cook, Lisbon

In response to Ed Fraser's query in Journal 260, it would appear that little of any substance has been published in English on the topic of Thomas Cook Undercover Mail. The only related publication I have is a copy of 'Undercover Addresses of World War II' by C and A Entwistle, a 44 page booklet published by Chavril Press in 1992. A search on the internet brings up various articles of which Ed Fraser himself is the major contributor. However, I do have two items of undercover mail in my collection which have passed through Lisbon and which may interest fellow members.

The first is a Thomas Cook cover (Fig 1) which was posted in Nice on 13 October 1942 and addressed to a Monsieur Gaston Charlier, c/o Post Box 506 in Lisbon, the undercover address for the Thomas Cook office. On the reverse the Lisbon receiver is dated 15 October 1942. The letter was then forwarded by the Lisbon representative to Thomas Cook & Son Ltd in Berkeley Street, W1. By what means the letter was forwarded is not indicated but it is assumed that it was posted with other undercover items in a single packet. Upon arrival in England the contents were censored by Examiner 527 before being delivered to Thomas Cook in London. Here, a yellow label was affixed bearing the recipient's real address and stamped with the oval Thomas Cook cachet in violet dated 29 October 1942. The letter was finally franked with a 2½d George VI with a TCS perfin and put into the post. Cancelled 29 October 1942, the letter bears the manuscript annotation indicating that it was received the following day.

The second item is not so straightforward and I have already been in touch with Ed Fraser in an attempt to unravel its secrets. The cover in question (Fig 2a) was featured in an article written by Bertrand Sinais ('René Cassin alias Cazeneuve', *La Philatélie Française*, April 1992) in which the author claims that the letter was handled by Thomas Cook in Lisbon. This may not be the case.

The letter was posted in Pau on 15 July 1942 and addressed to a Monsieur R Cazeneuve c/o the Portuguese Red Cross in Lisbon where it was backstamped at Lisbon Central ten days later. The *apartado* or post box number has been heavily deleted in black ink rendering it entirely illegible other than for a small loop in the original blue-black ink which is visible in the bottom left hand corner (Fig 2b). It does not appear to be part of a figure 5 which it would have to be if it were the Thomas Cook Post Box 506. Who, then, handled this letter in Lisbon and forwarded it to London? Did the Portuguese Red Cross have their own undercover mail operation with a dedicated post box number? Or was the Portuguese Red Cross acting as an intermediary and forwarding mail to the Thomas Cook representative in Lisbon? More significantly, who identified the pseudonym and readdressed it for as we can see the real recipient is René Cassin, one of de Gaulle's loyalist supporters and chief legal advisor (Fig 3), and member of the French National Committee established at 4 Carlton Gardens. There are no markings to indicate how it reached Britain but on arrival it was censored twice, firstly by Examiner 1119 and then by Free French Censor 2 before being delivered to René Cassin.



Figure 2a
Undercover mail
to René Cassin



Figure 2b
Enhanced *apartado* number

Copyright: France

Figure 3
René Cassin
(the bearded civilian
to de Gaulle's left)
with other members
of the French National Committee
at Carlton Gardens



The National Committee during the 5 minutes silence in honour of the shot hostages of Nantes.

The above questions may be answered if the original *apartado* number could be deciphered. Does anyone know of a non-

chemical means of reading the original blue-black ink behind the heavy deletion? Photoshop has been unsuccessful.

Mick Bister

Following the enquiry (page 75 of Journal 260) by Ed Fraser, I have referred him to two articles I wrote on the subject for *Cameo* in January 1995 and July 1996, which concentrated on the British West Africa aspect but might be of assistance to him.

The French cover as illustrated appears to be a reply correspondence to PO Box 506, Lisbon, as set out in para 3 of Government Notice N° 909 of 29.8.40 (Nigeria) and as instructed by the Ministry of Informatio, P&T Censorship, London.

Bob Maddocks

I suggest the best thing Ed Fraser can do is get a copy of *Undercover Addresses of World War II* (3rd Edition) from

Chavril Press, Bloomfield, Perth Road, Abernethy, Perth PH2 9LW. I find this a most useful booklet.

Ingrid Swinburn

Readers may like to know that Ed Frsser, who is not a member of either the British or American France & Colonies Philatelic Society, has just published in the (US) F&C Philatelist (N° 304 of July 2011) an 11 page article on this mail between France and Canada during WWII. This is available from our Society Library for any member interested in the topic - Editor

Kamerun Border Commission Vignettes



(reduced slightly to fit page)

In the past I have published short articles concerning the vignettes issued for the German Togo - Dahomey Border Commission and their sister counterparts for the German Kamerun - French Congo Border Commission, both consisting of five stamps in different colours. Border disputes with the French Congo were ongoing.

In a France vignette collection purchased recently at auction was a sheet(let) of 12 stamps in blue/black for the Kamerun - Congo commission. My contact in German who owns a major German colonial auction house tells me he has never seen these vignettes on mail and it was news to him that they were printed in blocks of 12.

John Mayne

Telegraph Office and Post Office Date Stamps on the same Card



This postcard was purchased recently and I thought it was quite interesting. The stamp has been cancelled with cds Toulouse Central, H^e Garonne, T / 27 Jan 03 in blue. The address side shows a cds in black of the Toulouse post office and a receipt cds of Levallois-Perret.

It would seem to me to have been handed in to the Telegraph Office who stamped it twice and then passed to the Post Office (the two functions were often in the same building). However, am I right in my assumption? I would like to know if any member can confirm my theory or otherwise.

John Woodcock

Soudan: Two Mysteries



The first two Soudan stamps listed in catalogues are overprints/surcharges on General Colonies issues: 15c on 75c rose and 25c on 1F green. Cérès adds that they are “habituellement défectueux.” The year of issue is given as 1894.

The stamp illustrated here appears to be a genuine 1F value and the 15c surcharge corresponds with that on a 75c stamp. But such a combination is unrecorded. On the stamp's reverse is minutely written in pencil what seems to be 'le Brun'.

The cancellation reads BAFOULABE SOUDAN-

FRANÇAIS and bears a date in May 1894. By that time, I believe, the 'Bafoulabe Senegal' date stamp had been replaced by one with 'Soudan'. So I cannot find fault with it.

So have we here a forgery or something to be added to catalogues? The views of more knowledgeable members would be welcome.

The second puzzle is the postcard (of Algeria) illustrated below. It has a Soudan cancellation purporting to state that it was posted on 5 Mars 04 for carriage by ship. But the stamp, just touched by the postmark, was issued only in 1921. There is an illegible handstamp mark on the other side, probably a French arrival mark.



Michael Ensor

Vimy Ridge First Day Cover

In his article on this topic published in the last Journal, N° 260 of June 2011 on page 78, Mick Bister quoted a communication from a Mr Don Hedger of Toronto. Don Hedger was sent a copy of the Journal and has responded as follows:

Received the publication (4 days delivery from UK – great) and article was wonderful and the photo scan you used printed real nice – I also read the articles and was impressed both with the quality of the articles as well as

print & paper of the publication – real nice quality, good format. Pass this on to those responsible – it's one thing to get articles to publish, it's another to print them in a format worth keeping. Cheers for now, keep it touch.

Don Hedger

Yet Another Forged Duala Kamerun Postmark

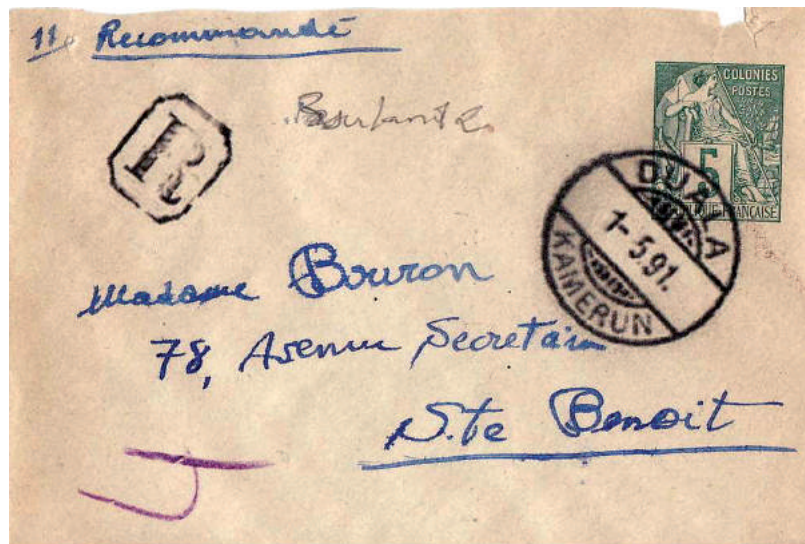


Figure 1

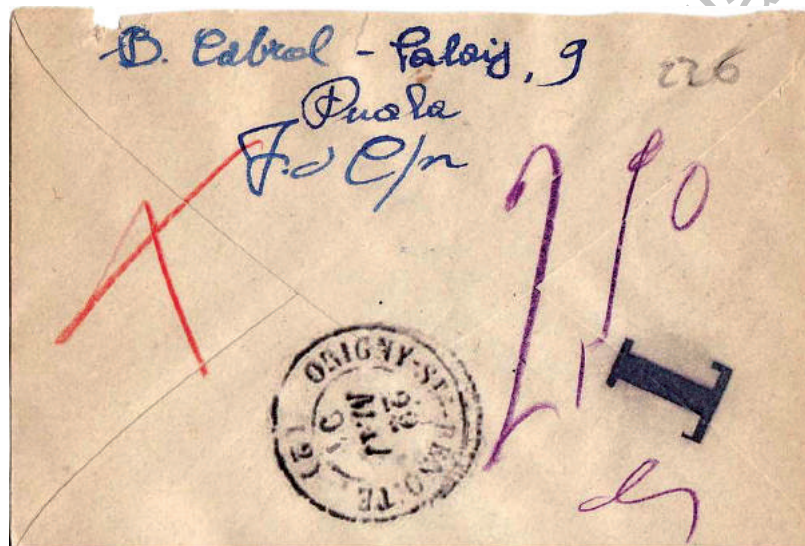


Figure 2

The Internet is a great source of philatelic and postal history material for our collections. Web-based sites such as eBay and Delcampe are easily searchable to help us find what we are looking for and, speaking for myself, I have found some great items. However, a lot of spurious material is also offered, not only fakes and forgeries prepared many years ago, but also modern creations. The cover in Figure 1 (front) and Figure 2 (back) is a recent blatant example, offered on Delcampe.net.

The 5 centimes Commerce imprinted postal stationery envelope issued for use in French colonies is postmarked Duala 1-5.91. The postmark alone raises two red flags! First, the town of Duala was so named only on 1 June 1901, almost a full decade later than the date indicated by the postmark. Prior to that Duala was known as Kamerun, the same name as for the German protectorate as a whole. Second, the canceller (Friedemann N° 19) was introduced only at the end of August 1906, fifteen years later than the postmark date. The chamfered R registration mark was introduced at Duala only in 1915, at the French CEF post office. I can pass no judgement about the Origny-Ste-

Benoite receiving postmark on the back, but I have my suspicions. Perhaps other members can advise as to when that particular postmark was used.

Could the postmark date have been mis-set? Possibly, but I doubt it. Also, to my knowledge, this postal stationery envelope was never sold or used in Cameroun.

The 5 centimes postage is clearly insufficient to pay both the letter tariff and the registration fee. The T *taxe* mark on the back is quite similar to forged T marks recorded on forged CEF-overprinted Kamerun postcards offered on eBay (see reference). The cover also has crayon notations: on the front a dark red violet 4 and, on the back, a red X plus dark red violet notations that might indicate the postage due. No postage due stamps are affixed to indicate that the shortfall was collected.

Since I have only a scan, I cannot comment about the ink used for the handwritten components, nor can I provide insight as to how the Duala postmark was produced. I suspect that a postmark dated 1-5.16 was modified. That date, found on numerous philatelic covers, was particularly

clear. Some other forged postmarks, when examined under magnification, were clearly prepared with a photocopier or scanner.

The three Duala Kamerun cancellers – without index (Fr 19), with index a (Fr 20), and with index b (Fr 21) – were introduced by the German postal authorities between 1906 and 1912. All were subsequently used during World War I at the military post office operated by the Anglo-French Cameroons Expeditionary Force, and Fr 19 and Fr 21 were later used by civilian French postal authorities until at least 1927 and 1930, respectively. Figure 1 depicts the 21st different forgery identified to date that resembles – to a greater or lesser extent – Fr 19, 20 or 21. Most of the earlier finds were reported in a series of articles a number of years ago in the US *France & Colonies Philatelist*.

In addition to forged postmarks, the genuine Fr 19 and Fr 21 handstamps were both backdated to cancel stamps

which, with genuine postmarks, have considerable value. Backdated Duala and Duala-b postmarks have also been found on stamps which have very little retail value. Many backdated Duala-b postmarks (Fr 21) are easily detected. The bridge on that device was damaged in late December 1916 or very early January 1917, so postmarks with an earlier date and a broken bridge are clearly backdated. Backdated postmarks created with the Duala-b device before the bridge was damaged, as well as backdated Duala postmarks (Fr 19) are much more difficult to detect.

The price realized for the cover was a modest 5 Euros. What else can one say? *Caveat emptor!* As usual, comments and further information are welcome.

Reference

Bratzel, Marty: "CEF Overprints on Kamerun Yacht Stamps, Update Number 4, *Cameo*, Vol 11, N° 6, October 2010, pages 397-400.

Marty Bratzel

A Philatelic Confection



Figure 1
The 4F Vermeer cut-out on cover
from Villiers-sous-Grez to Saint-Quentin

At the Northern Group's Bastille Day meeting in Bradford, Stephen Holder showed a cover which will surely rank as one of the most blatant philatelic confections of 2011 and I can only conjecture how it successfully made the journey from Villiers-sous-Grez in Seine-et-Marne to Saint-Quentin in Aisne without being detected, challenged and taxed (Fig 1).

The envelope is a mail order reply envelope on which the recipient's address has been concealed by an adhesive label and the sender's address in the top left hand corner by a portion of barcode of unknown origin.

The cover has been re-addressed to Saint-Quentin and 'franked' with a cut-out of the 'die proof' from the *Document Officiel N°30-82* which accompanied the issue of the 4F Vermeer (Yv2231) in 1982.

Stamps reproduced as *tirages spéciaux* including *épreuves de luxe*, *non-dentelés*, *documents officiels* and *gravures* have no franking value whatsoever. Nevertheless, with the face value of 4F being the equivalent of 0,61€, the Vermeer cut-out has been accepted as payment for the 0,58€ Internal Letter Rate by the counter clerk at the little post office at Villiers-sous-Grez. Villiers-sous-Grez is

a small community of 784 souls (2006 census) with a post office that functions only in the afternoons during the week and on Saturday mornings. It would be very likely that the counter clerk knew the sender and was therefore happy to accept his philatelic confection.

Under normal circumstances mail from Villiers-sous-Grez would be collected for treatment at the PDC (*Plate-forme de Distribution du Courrier*) at Melun, 30 kilometres to the north, where it would receive the anonymous 16234A cancellation. Instead, the obliging counter clerk has applied the Villiers-sous-Grez circular date stamp, thereby giving the franking the resemblance of validity and respectability, before dropping it into the mailbag for Melun.

The cut-out of course was not printed with phosphor bands and therefore would be immediately rejected by an automated facing and cancelling machine. Did this happen at Melun or did an observant employee spot the cancellation

and transfer the letter directly to the sorting equipment? At this point one would think that it would have been identified as a *tromperie* and either returned to the sender or taxed – but clearly it was not.

The next stage would have been the mechanised sorting and once again this would have presented an opportunity for an observant operative to realise the true nature of the franking. Even with the most sophisticated optical character recognition equipment, the current generation of LIAPs. (*Lecteurs-Indexeurs d'Adresses Postales*) are capable of reading only printed and typed script^(*).

I am of the opinion that the scrawled address on this item could only have been read and processed by a manual coding desk operator as the indexation or barcode is an accurate transcription of the postal address which would be unachievable on a LIAP (Fig 2). He, too, failed to recognise the anomaly.

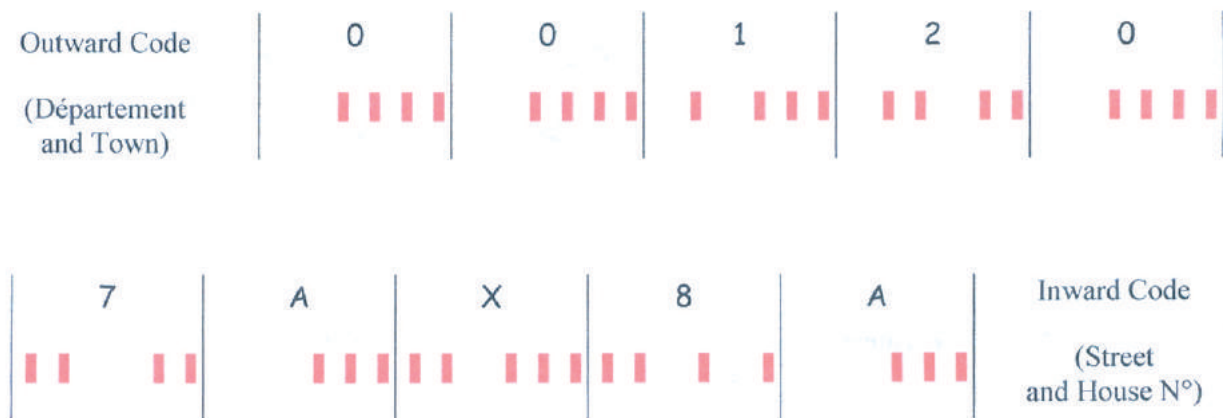


Figure 2
Correct postcode transcription for
N° 7, rue du Général Foy, 02100 Saint-Quentin

I assume that the letter crossed Paris on its way north to Saint-Quentin but being bagged with other mail for the *département* of Aisne it would have travelled undetected. However, upon arrival at the sorting office at Saint-Quentin, even the postman preparing his delivery round has failed to notice, or has chosen to ignore, the illegal franking.

The sender failed in his duty to pay the postage and the postal employees in Villiers-sous-Grez, Melun and Saint-Quentin failed in their duty to identify the misdemeanour and collect the tax. But what they have definitely not failed

to do is provide us with an entertaining example of philatelic shenanigan.

(*) My knowledge of LIAPs is limited to the experimental period of the last century although I am aware that there is ongoing research into OCR equipment capable of recognising manuscript addresses. The current guidelines published by *La Poste* for its customers (*la Norme XPZ 10-011 de mai 1997*) refer only to typed and printed addresses with Verdana and Lucida Console being the preferred fonts. I would be grateful if any members could advise me of any further advances in this technology.

Mick Bister

Madagascar Related: French POW Camps in Kenya

In the Indian Ocean journal IO/109 pages 9-14 and France & Colonies Journal N° 2 of June 2006 pages 39-43, I published an article together with a table of letters recorded to date. Since then further items have been recorded and

the following table has been up-dated. In the IO article, I omitted to state that Type EASC 1068 handstamp 29 x 18mm has been seen used from 31 December 1941 to 7 January 1944.

Ref N°	Camp N°	Date	To
P/WEA 021 Type EAPW100	358 Makindu ¹	28.09.1942	Norrand, Mourillon, France
P/WEA 021 Type EAPW200	358 Makindu ²	20.10.1942	Martin, Majunga –Tananarive
P/WEA 021 Type EAPW200	358 Makindu ³	03.11.1942	Martin, Majunga –Tananarive
P/WEA	358 Makindu ⁴	00.00.1943	Martin, Majunga –Tananarive
P/WEA 010 Type EAPW100	358 Makindu ⁴	19.11.1943	Martin, Majunga –Tananarive
P/WEA 021	358 Makindu ⁴	00.00.1943	Martin, Tananarive [16.12.43]?
P/WEA 007 Type EAPW200	365 Londiani ⁴	00.00.1943	Martin, Tananarive G16
P/WEA 006 Type EAPW100	365 Londiani ⁴	24.06.1943	Martin, Tananarive
P/WEA 007 Type EAPW 200	365 Londiani ⁷	20.07.1943	Martin, Tananarive
P/WEA 007 Type EAPW 100	365 Londiani ³	12.08.1943	Martin, Tananarive [18.11.43]
P/WEA 007 Type EAPW 100	365 Londiani ³	15.08.1943	Martin, Tananarive [02.09.43]
P/WEA 007 Type EAPW 100	365 Londiani ⁵	25.09.1943	Martin, Avignon, France [21.01.44]
P/WEA 007	365 Londiani ³	00.00.1943	Martin, Tananarive [26.10.43]
P/WEA 007 Type EAWP100	365 Londiani ⁶	18.10.1943	Martin, Tananarive [09.11.43]
P/WEA 007 Type EAWP100	365 Londiani ⁷	? 11.1943	Martin, Tananarive G16
P/WEA 007 Type EAPW100	365 Londiani ⁸	01.11.1943	Martin, Tananarive
P/WEA 007	365 Londiani ⁴	10.11.1943	Martin, Tananarive
P/WEA 007	365 Londiani ⁴	13.11.1943	Martin, Tananarive
P/WEA029	365 Londiani ⁴		Martin, Tananarive [09.10.43]
P/WEA 007	365 Londiani ⁴	13.11.1943	Martin, Tananarive [12.11.43]
P/WEA 029 Type EAPW200	365 Londiani ⁸	10.01.1944	Martin, Tananarive
P/WEA 004 Type EAWP 100	365 Londiani ⁸	14.01.1944	Martin, Avignon, France
P/WEA 023 Type EAWP200	⁸	21.04.1944	Le Villain, Antsirabe
P/WEA 029 Type EAWP200	365 Londiani ⁴	12.11.1944	Martin, Tananarive
P/WEA 007 Type EAWP100	365 Londiani ⁴		Martin, Tananarive
P/WEA 026 Type EAWP 100	365 Londiani ⁸		Martin, Kenya [19.08.1944] then transferred to French HQ Algiers

Table of letters from the Kenya Camps recorded to date

The measurements of the P/WEA handstamps are approximate from the photocopies.

The details on the items from David Wrigley's stock sheets vary; all are headed 1943 although some are 1944 and the dates of a few taken from a notation on the front may be incorrect.

Two further items recorded by Joh Groenewald are from the Bertrand Sinais sale of 14 November 2008.

It should be noted that the Madagascar date slugs for 1942/3 are very badly blurred, making it difficult to identify the year.

1 = Sinais postcard	2 = Bill Colley	3 = Georges Barot	4 = David Wrigley
5 = Claude Ablard	6 = Bill O'Connell	7 = Joh Groenewald	8 = Colin Spong

The last item in the table is illustrated on the next page. This is my latest acquisition and shows that the letter from Major Martin's wife in Tananarive, Madagascar has been forwarded from Camp N° 365 at Londini, Kenya to French Headquarters at Algiers, where it would appear French POWs from Kenya were repatriated. Detainees from South African camps were eventually returned to Madagascar

On the front of the air letter is the East Africa 026 handstamp with the identifying Camp 365 address crossed through and the letter then forwarded to French Headquarters Algiers, written on a white label; to which has

been added an "Address incomplete" handstamp and a handwritten address in red ink "EM88 Alger Ville." On arrival a blue manuscript *Inconnu EM88* [unknown at...] was added and a "Return to Sender" handstamp was struck. For the return to Tananarive see the reverse of the cover above. The letter was reposted at Tananarive on 19.8.1944.

The air letter was cancelled on arrival at Tananarive post office on 16.8.44 [the reposting circular date stamp is on the front] and a new forwarding address in Algiers added. Is this one of the last letters and the end of the correspondence?



Acknowledgements

Peter A Chantry, William Colley, William O'Connell, John Wilks and the late Harry Henning [East Africa Study Circle]

Joh Groenewald, South Africa [Indian Ocean Study Circle]

Georges Barot, Roy E Reader, Maurice S Tyler [France & Colonies PS]

Bertrand Sinais, Paris, Paul Sussmann, Marseille [dealers in France]

David Wrigley [dealer in Thailand]

The late W Alex Page [South Africa Collectors Society]

Colin Spong

Smallest and Largest Stamps of France

(Answer to query posed on page 107)



The popular cartoon character 'Asterix' made his first appearance on 29 October 1959 and this unusual Red Cross miniature sheet issued in 2009 celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of his creation by including both the largest and the smallest stamp ever issued in France.

It can be seen that the bone (bottom centre) is the smallest and the largest is Obélix in the bottom right hand corner. It may be that one or two of the precancels might vie for the title of the smallest, but the publicity blurb by La Poste gave the above assertion when they produced the mini-sheet.

John Weat

Tahiti Overprint



Dallay Dom-Tom Catalogue 2004-2005 lists Dubois French Colonies General Issues overprinted TAHITI with a release date of 1 July 1893.

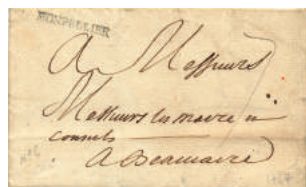
This enlarged copy of the 5c value cancelled with double ring PAPEETE / TAITI cancel has a postmark of 21(?) February 1893, which is four months earlier. The stamp and postmark both appear to be genuine.

I would be interested to know if later catalogues have amended the issue date; and any other comments would be welcomed, please.

John Mayne

November 2011 Auction - Selected Lots

All lots on these two pages will be illustrated more clearly on our web page www.fcps.org.uk/auctions.html
Here they are generally reduced in size to 33% - with the exception of some stamps which appear at full size.



Lot 2



Lot 7



Lot 13



Lot 44



Lot 26



Lot 32



Lot 49



Lot 55



Lot 57



Lot 58



Lot 90



Lot 121



Lot 104



Lot 116



Lot 138



Lot 153



Lot 168



Lot 188



Lot 201



Lot 223



Lot 232



Lot 233



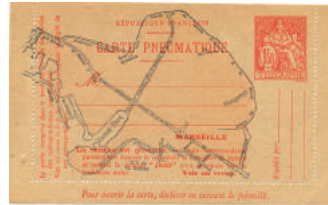
Lot 241



Lot 267



Lot 258



Lot 267



Lot 316



Lot 300



Lot 313



Lot 295



Lot 365



Lot 371



Lot 378



Lot 440



Lot 373



Lot 386



Lot 488



Lot 494



Lot 473



Lot 400

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 7 MAY 2011

The President, Mick Bister, opened the meeting held at the Calthorpe Arms public house, 252 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1, at 11.30am in the presence of 24 members. He started by welcoming Liz Gethin who had been invited to present the Geoff Gethin Award for Service to the Society in memory of her late husband.

(1) Members present: M Alder, Len Barnes, Mick Bister, Godfrey Bowden, R Broadhurst, A Carter, C A C Cowling, D Day, Michael Ensor, R Ferguson, P Grech, John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen, M Kemp, Peter Lawrence, Hugh Loudon, J Morton, Barbara Priddy, M Round, Bob Small, F M Turner, Maurice Tyler, John West, Alan Wood.

Guests: Marian Bister, Liz Gethin, Annette Tyler, Chris West.

Apologies for absence: George Barker, Graham Beresford, Steve Ellis, David Jennings-Bramly, Peter Kelly, Ashley Lawrence, Philip Mackey, Lesley Marley, Peter Maybury, Bill Mitchell, David Pashby, Hans Smith, John Thorpe, Colin Spong, Bob Wood.

(2) Minutes of the previous AGM of 1 May 2010, published in Journal 257, were accepted unanimously as a true record of that meeting. This was proposed by Alan Wood and seconded by John Hammonds.

(3) President's Report - Mick Bister

"In order to refresh my memory on what has taken place during the past year of the Society I have three sources of information which I can turn to - the Journal, my diary and my emails. Re-reading the contents, entries and messages however evokes very mixed feelings and responses. Highs are reached when I read about the achievements of the Society and of its members and then lows quickly follow on when news of a death is received and another obituary is published.

"We have lost a number of loyal and long serving members of the Society over the past twelve months. Who can forget Skanda Vaitilingam, a born raconteur, whose inimitable style of presentation brought humour to all his displays. And the lovely Yvonne Larg, who with her husband Bob, were the Mr and Mrs of Philately, enchanting us with their presence at the Southern Group meetings and at the annual weekends. We lost too Bob Stuckey, a philatelic stalwart to the very end. He was sharing his knowledge with me about his St Nazaire Pocket collection only weeks before he died. And dear Alec Swain, who had served the Society as an officer and committee member for many years. He lived only a short distance from me and we would meet up under the pretext of collecting material for the auction but in reality so that we could enjoy a hearty pub lunch together. This was always followed by me driving him around Bedfordshire so he could take photographs of old railway tracks and other railway memorabilia.

"You will recall that in 2009 we lost Geoff Gethin but his memory will live on. Last year, his wife Liz announced that she would like to sponsor an award in his name and after discussions the committee agreed that an appropriate

award would be one for service to the Society presented every other year by the outgoing president. The award consists of a forged Paris 1925 5F Sage miniature sheet from Geoff's collection which has been mounted and framed and which epitomises the contribution that Geoff had made himself to the success and status of the Society.

"One could argue that so many members of the Society deserve to be recipients of such an award. When you hear the reports given by the officers you will realise how much hard work and time is put into running this Society and how such high standards are achieved in the services and facilities offered.

"You will also realise that it is once again the same people that take on the major responsibilities. Last year I mentioned in my report fourteen names - fourteen members who had ensured the smooth and successful running of the Society in 2009. My gratitude and thanks are extended once again to those same fourteen people for their continued loyalty and devotion to duty in 2010. It has been a privilege for me to serve the Society during the past two years with such an industrious team and I wish my successor an equally successful and enjoyable tenancy.

"So, as I relinquish my role as president, to whom will I be presenting this new award for Service to the Society? The announcement will take place at the close of the AGM so you will just have to wait and see."

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

"This year, in his review of the year, our President, Mick Bister concentrated on those long-standing and faithful friends and supporters of our society who are no longer with us. In doing this, I am certain, he speaks for all of us. Mick completes his two years as President and at this AGM the baton will be passed to John West. This is the second time that Mick has been President and, once again, has been a model of diplomacy, tact and common sense, leading us through a difficult period in the Society's history as we have faced a number of new challenges. I take this opportunity of thanking him for all he has done, in so many ways and as he retires, as it were, to the back benches of the Committee I am glad that we shall be able to call on him in the future for his wise counsel.

"2010 has been a busy year for the Society and our meetings in London and the Provinces and of course the annual weekend at Charlecote have all been well attended and the quality of the displays throughout has been excellent. The reports of all the meetings have been published in the Journal so require no particular comment here with the exception of the situation in Scotland. Mavis Pavey has sadly had to end the regular meetings of the Scottish Group whose attendance levels have fallen below viability. This is a great shame and Mavis is to be thanked for her perseverance and efforts but, as has been the case with many other organisations in Scotland, the distances are great and it has proved difficult for members to attend regularly and in reasonable numbers. Perhaps, in the future someone else would like to

take up this challenge?

"The packets and auction operations have functioned well and continue to provide a marvellous service for our members. They have been fortunate in having good material available and the proof of this has been the sales achieved. For all of those concerned, these are mammoth jobs requiring long hours of work and a meticulous eye for detail and our thanks go out to them. Mick Bister is now entering his last year as Auction Secretary and Steve Ellis will now be working with him with a view to taking over this role in 2012. Mick has done a great job, and John Hammonds too has to be thanked for his contribution.

"The publications side of our activity has also been very busy in 2010. Following the extraordinary success achieved in disposing of surplus brochures and publications in 2009 our attention in 2010 focused on new publications. The informal publications sub-committee has been working for a long time on Bob Picirilli's book on airmails and this has now been published. Peter Maybury and I have spent a lot of time on the marketing and publicity for this new book and this has been rewarded by an excellent response to the pre-publication offer in the current year which I will be writing about in 12 months' time. In the meantime, especial thanks go to Maurice Tyler and John Parmenter on the production side. This has been a real team effort.

"The Librarian's Report for 2010 makes sad reading. Put simply, the wonderful library we have built up over many years is not used by members to any great extent. This has been discouraging for our librarian George Barker who has gone to a great deal of trouble to house the library, which is extensive, and to make its services available to members through book loans and a photocopying service. George has now indicated that he wishes to withdraw as librarian and the future of the library is a matter which will be discussed at this meeting under AOB. Again, thanks are due to George for his contribution.

"The high standard of our Journal continues and this has again won international awards and plaudits that are due to the impeccable work of our Editor, Maurice Tyler.

"I can report that our membership level has remained stable and that our finances, as can be seen in the report of our Treasurer are in fine shape."

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

Membership movement

	UK	Europe	Rest of World	Total
As at 01.01.2010	324	35	30	389
Lapsed	-2	0	-2	-4
Died	-5	0	0	-5
Resigned	-9	-1	0	-10
New	+13	+2	+1	+16
Rejoined	+2	0	0	+2
Transferred	-1	+1	0	0
As at 01.01.2011	<u>322</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>388</u>

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

(5) Treasurer's Report - Chris Hitchen

"For the second year running the Society enjoyed a good surplus on its operations.

"The auction again produced an exceptional performance and the packets continued their excellent record. Sales of our publications continued steadily and produced a modest income. Subscriptions maintained the levels of previous years, the actual income slightly flattered by the conversion of some dollar payments accrued in previous years.

"Costs of postage and distribution of Society Journals continue their usual increase and go up by more than the rate of inflation. However the cost of publishing the Journals, our greatest head of expenditure, has remained fairly steady.

"In broad terms our annual costs are now running at just under £x. Subscriptions cover just over half of that, so the balance needs to come from the packets, auction and sales of publications. Whilst these remain successful the Society can continue on its present course. They require a lot of work to run and any drop in income from these sources would change the financial outlook quite quickly.

"The Society has healthy reserves and with the surpluses of the past two years I would recommend that subscriptions remain unchanged for 2012."

[See the balance sheet on the next page.]

Acceptance of the accounts as presented was proposed by Mike Kemp and seconded by Michael Round, and there was a unanimous vote in favour.

(6) Auction Secretary's Report - Mick Bister

"I am delighted to report that John Hammonds and I were firing on all four cylinders last year and between us were able to offer auctions in January, May, July and November. The last time that four auctions were offered was back in 2004.

"The first two auctions of the year offered material supplied by the general membership although it has to be reported that the number of vendors contributing continues to fall. Only eight vendors contributed lots to the January postal sale and seventeen to the May room sale. John and I are eternally grateful to four members in particular who between them keep us continually supplied with material at all times of the year. Two of these members send us predominantly stamps, the other two mostly postal history which helps us maintain a balanced auction catalogue.

"The second two sales were devoted to material from the late Geoff Gethin's collections. At this point I would like to record my thanks and gratitude to Geoff's wife Liz for allowing the Society to handle Geoff's library and collections thus offering an opportunity to his fellow members to acquire some very unusual and sought after material.

"Geoff's library consisting of well over 300 books was offered in two phases, firstly a proportion was sold at the Charlecote Bookstall and then the rest was offered in the first part of the August auction. The second part of the auction was devoted to a selection of material from Geoff's

**FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2010**

**PAID UP MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY MAY
CONTACT THE WEBMASTER FOR THE
UNEDITED VERSION.**

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at bank
Cash at building society
Sundry debtors

DEDUCT CURRENT LIABILITIES

Sundry creditors
Subscriptions in advance

TOTAL ASSETS

Represented by

MEMBERS FUNDS

Uncommitted funds at 1.1.2009
Year surplus

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2010

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Meetings			Auction		
Journal 4 issues			Exchange packet		
Postage and expenses			Interest		
Insurance			Sale of publications		
Library			Donations		
Year surplus			Subscriptions		

collections. The auction was a resounding success. Of the 300 lots offered only 10 remained unsold thereby achieving a 97% success rate which is the highest I have ever recorded.

“Similarly, the November auction was devoted to 500 items from Geoff’s collection, but unfortunately the material offered did not attract the same attention. Only 44% of the material sold.

“2010 then has been a year of highs and lows but as you will see from the accounts, the auction surplus continues to contribute significantly to the Society’s funds. All this is due to the generosity and willingness of people to contribute to its success, not only the vendors whose material is the life line of the auction but those who assist in various ways. I wish to acknowledge and thank John Hammonds

for running the first sale of each year, Alan Wood for his assistance with the May sale, Maurice for updating the auction pages on the website and as ever the ladies, Annette Tyler, Jean Hammonds and my wife Marian, for operating the Bourse and Bookstall at Charlecote.

“Next year I will have been Auction Secretary for fifteen years hence my decision announced in the December Journal to stand down. I am delighted to report that Steve Ellis has volunteered to take over and that my last auction will now be that in May 2012. I am very grateful to Steve for taking on the role and I can retire in the knowledge that the auction will be in safe hands. I know he will do a splendid job and that the Society will be indebted to him.”

[The auction accounts appear on the next page.]

FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY
AUCTION ACCOUNT for the year ending 31 DECEMBER 2010

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
2009	2010	2009	2010
SALE OF LOTS		PAYMENTS TO VENDORS	
(including reimbursed Postage & Packing)			
February		February	
May		May	
July		July	
November		November	
BOOKSTALL & BOURSE		BOOKSTALL & BOURSE	
		PRINTING	
		February	
		May	
		July	
		November	
		POSTAGE	
		February	
		May	
		July	
		November	
OTHER REVENUE		OTHER OUTGOINGS	
		Insurance & Fees	
		Administration	
		Surplus to Society	
		Credit c/f to 2011	
		Float c/f to 2011	

RECONCILIATION OF CASH POSITION AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2010

Balance in HSBC Current Account
 Unpresented cheques from buyers
 Unpresented cheques from vendors
 Less surplus paid to Society
 Amount carried forward to 2011 (float)

(7) Report of Packet Secretary (France) - Bob Wood

"The 'France' packet has continued to operate on the lines established during 2009. The 100+ members who participate are grouped into ten circuits, and each has received ten packets during the year. Each packet has contained between 8 and 11 books, with a variety of content: mainly single stamps (used and mint) from all periods, but including *carnets*, covers, postcards and miniature sheets. Thanks to a steady provision of new material it has been possible to avoid duplicating content in any one packet, and at least one new book is added to each packet at the beginning of each circuit.

"During the year 16 members supplied 149 books for the packet: one-third of them containing more than £xxx-worth of material. Books have therefore remained in circulation for longer than the traditional three circuits, so long as the unsold contents warranted this. During the year 103 books

were returned to vendors. At the end of the year the bad weather caused some delay in both posting and receiving packets, but the signs are that the routine has now returned to normal. Unfortunately increasing postal charges are outweighing increased receipts from sales, but the packet continues to provide a steady income to the Society."

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

(8) Report of Packet Secretary (Colonies) - John West

"At the AGM in May I warned members that there would have to be some additional outlay in the forthcoming year due to a diminution in my stocks of stationery. I have now purchased 5,000 remittance slips at a cost of £150 and, in my view, that will be sufficient to last for the next five years and, presumably, the end of my reign as your packet secretary! On the basis, therefore, of that being the equivalent of £25 per year over 6 years I think that is reasonable value for money.

FRANCE AND COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY ACCOUNT FOR 'FRANCE' PACKET 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2010	
RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 2009 2009 </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> In hand 1 January: cash at bank Deposit a/c Current a/c less _____ unpresented cheques _____ - Receipts from members Cheques pd to bank Stamps and cash _____ Bank interest _____ _____ </div>	<div style="margin-top: 10px;"> 2009 surplus paid to Treasurer Payment to vendors Expenses Stationery & printing Postage _____ In hand 31 December Deposit a/c Current a/c less unprstd chq _____ _____ _____ </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <u>Books completed during 2010</u> commission on sales insurance refunded return postage refunded balance paid to vendors _____ _____ </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <u>Cash at bank comprises</u> receipts for books still circulating 2010 surplus due to Treasurer _____ _____ </div>

"I continue to be disappointed by the failures of a few members to do the basic things correctly. Simple things like ensuring the Packet N° is included on the remittance slip and, just as importantly, the name of the person to whom the packet has been forwarded, are two vital pieces of information I need in order to keep track of where the packet is at any given time. The new style post office receipts – which have, evidently, superseded the old certificate of posting – rarely give me any idea of the identity of the person the packet has been forwarded to. Addition errors continue to be prevalent and unsigned spaces are always an unnecessary expense to the Society. I do urge everyone to note any unsigned space(s) because it makes it so much easier to identify the likely culprit.

"The total number of packets circulating during 2010 was 66, of which 52 have been returned to me and 14 are still circulating. (The 2009 figure was 62, of which 10 were still circulating.) The total insured value of material circulated was £xxx (in 2009 £xxx). The average number of books per packet was

"On the administration side, I received and registered

(180) new books. This was not only up on previous years but, in several cases, the books contained quite high value material – thus reducing the number I could put in each packet and, to the members' delight, thereby reducing the cost of postage, too! I received and paid in a total of cheques as well as writing out and sending off cheques, totalling £x. Postage on books returned to the vendors was, as a general rule, recovered from those vendors.

"I continue to encourage the use by members of philatelic material on their postings to ensure that we all benefit, in some small measure, from receiving commemorative stamps. It is with some horror that I note some members simply sticking a sheet of paper over those stamps in order to re-use the envelope!

"I dealt with two cheques during the year which were returned marked "Refer to Drawer". Fortunately, in both instances the authors of the cheques were simply the victims of 'over-efficient' banking systems and both instances were happily resolved expediently and amicably.

"The year also saw members beginning to raise the possibility of sending NIL returns via e-mail. It is the subject of on-going discussion but it is conceded that with certain strict provisos this may become viable. It would not be acceptable in circumstances where the packet is passed by hand, though. The packet secretary must have evidence available to him/her in order to provide the insurers with a clear trail of who has handled each packet in the event

France and Colonies Colonial Packet accounts 1 January to 31 December 2010**Income**

Balance b/f from 31 Dec 2009
Receipts from members

2010

Commission on sales
Insurance recovered
Postages recovered
Balance due to vendors _____

Total receipts 2010

Bank interest _____

Expenditure

Payments to vendors
Expenses
Surplus 2010 paid to Treasurer
Creditors:
Money received for
booklets not brought
to account
Retained interest
Surplus 2010 due to Treasurer _____

of loss. The signature of the recipient is the only proof a member has that he/she has forwarded the packet, and when. Please believe me, I have seen two societies (one in London and one in Cumbria) having to find substantial sums to reimburse vendors because these simple rules were not adhered to. In fact, I understand that the Cumbrian society has been made bankrupt.

"Once again, I would wish to include my grateful thanks to the vast majority of members on my circulation list. Many of you are kind enough to thank me regularly for my efforts, many of you go out of your way to ensure that you use philatelic material on your mail to me and many of you make it clear that you appreciate the part I play in enabling you all to have the opportunity to view, inspect and purchase a wide range of excellent material all originating from the French Colonies. Long may you all continue to enjoy the privilege of being able to do so."

[Accounts for the Colonial packet are shown above.]

(9) Editor's Report - Maurice Tyler

"The majority of my report merely echoes what I said last year, so I will try to keep it even briefer than before. I am still in the happy position of having a small stockpile of articles that should keep the Journal going for the rest of this year, though I would still encourage members to submit further material despite the fact that they may have to wait several months before seeing the publication of their work. New authors and subjects are always welcome.

"During 2010 the Journal appeared four times as usual and amounted to a total of 160 pages (180 last year with its special issue) of which 102 inside pages were in full colour (112 last year). The total cost of producing it, including expenses, but not those of distribution (ie postage and packing), remains at a sum between £xxxx and £xxxx (fairly static for the past four years). I am delighted to report that the quality of articles submitted has led to further awards being gained in national and international competitions (Vermeil and Large Vermeil in the past year).

"I have continued to keep the website up to date, to the best of my limited ability, but we are looking at possibilities of developing this with a new webmaster.

"I must however end on a negative note in reporting that I am suffering problems with my sight in one eye that 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 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."

(10) Librarian's Report - George Barker

"The year 2010 continued the decline in usage seen in previous years with 16 loans (2009: 26) and 8 photocopies (2009: 35). I despair at the non-use of the library's resources. My own personal circumstances have increased pressure on me, so I must advise that I should like to withdraw as the Society's librarian. Please discuss! Thank you."

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

"The magazines chunder along as usual; most arrive at the first attempt, sometimes I have to e-mail Paris for a replacement for one that has strayed in the post. One disappeared in Royal Mail between me and the first person on the list; I purchased another copy, and am still waiting.....

"Some subscribers are holding the magazines for far too long; I am receiving complaints from those waiting. Please keep them moving.

"The price of the magazines themselves has remained pretty steady for some years, the variable being the exchange rate from euros to pounds. Postage keeps mounting: it now costs £1.23 to post a magazine, an increase of 19p over the old figure.

FRANCE & COLONIES - MAGAZINES
Accounts for year ending 31 March 2011

ASSETS AND RECEIPTS**2011****2010****Total**

Plus interest

Less loss carried from previous year

TOTAL**EXPENDITURE**Sub to *Tiinbres* (2 copies) Feb 2011: 138€Sub to *l'Echo* (2 copies) Mar 2011: 126€

Postages

TOTAL**ASSETS AND RECEIPTS**less **EXPENDITURE**

"I will obviously have to put the subscription up in the coming year, since I can't continue to run at a loss, although it is at least an only slightly increased loss this year. But at what point do people say 'enough' and not renew their

subscription? We have lost one subscriber this year, and recruited no-one. Way back, when I first took over the circuits, there were 18-19 people on each, and four magazines monthly."

(12) Sales Organiser's Report - Peter Maybury**Publications Report - Year to 31.12.2010****Volume Sales Comparison**

	Members	Non-Members	Wholesale	Promotional	Total	(2009)
Rates Book -	-	2	2	-	4	(34)
Fakes & Forgeries -	1	-	6	-	7	(19)
Brochures & Journals -	-	2	-	-	2	(97)

Non-Member Geographical Sales

	UK	Europe	Rest of World	Total	
Rates Book -	2	2	-	4	(27)
Fakes & Forgeries -	6	-	-	6	(9)
Brochures & Journals -	-	2	-	2	(1)

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

"Back numbers of the Journal and the older brochures remain slow movers. The 3rd edition of Derek Richardson's Rates Book has sold out, having produced a steady and healthy income stream since 2006. Fakes and Forgeries is also very slow to move, but has also produced a good income for the Society and should continue to do so.

"Since the end of the year we have undertaken and completed the publication of another outstanding philatelic work, "Postal and Airmail Rates in France and Colonies 1920-1945" by R E (Bob) Picirilli, one of our USA members. This work has taken some 14 years to compile and includes valuable contributions from many of the Society's

members. Sales are now underway and are progressing at a satisfactory rate.

"It is a number of years since I was "persuaded" to take on the task of re-organising the Society stock and sales of publications. This was followed with the promotion and marketing to a wider customer base of the works of Derek Richardson, the late Dr Geoff Gethin and now Bob Picirilli, a task I have thoroughly enjoyed. However I believe it is now time for new blood to be injected into this area of operations, and so it is my intention to retire from the publications side of the Society at the end of December 2011. My sincere thanks to everyone who gave their support during this time."

13) Election of Officers and Committee

The list of those willing to serve as Officers and Committee Members had been published in the Agenda and their election *en bloc* was proposed by John Hammonds, seconded by Len Barnes and passed unanimously:

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

The position of Vice-President remained a vacancy and would be considered at a later date. In the meantime any duties would be filled by other officers of the Society

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

(14) Any Other Business

(a) The future of the Society's library

Two proposals were put forward:

(1) the duties to be shared by two volunteers who would (i) house the library and be responsible for the lending service and (ii) house the magazines and be responsible for the photocopying service (proposed by Michael Round);

(2) the books to be donated to the RSPL (proposed by Alan Wood) or to the National Philatelic Society (proposed by Barbara Priddy); any books not required by those organisations could be sold to FCPS members.

These proposals would be discussed by the Committee.

(b) President's Award for Service to the Society

Our retiring President concluded proceedings with the following speech:

"In the March 1994 edition of the Journal Derek Richardson published the following announcement:

'Members will be pleased to learn that a very suitable candidate to succeed your present editor has been found. He is Mr Maurice Tyler who lives in Buckinghamshire and has been a member of the Society for over 20 years.'

"So, from March to December 1994, Maurice served his apprenticeship as assistant editor under Derek and in March 1995 took on full responsibilities. Maurice has since continued in this post for 16 years during which time he has edited 65 editions of the Journal.

"At the 1996 AGM, Maurice made this observation in his annual report:

'I am not sure whether or not I should take heart from the fact that a member of very long standing recently admitted to me that he had not noticed there was a new editor.'

"The member's ignorance, however, should be interpreted as a compliment, not only to Maurice who had obviously made a seamless transition from the cuttings room to the editor's desk but also to Derek Richardson whose successful format had not been deemed by Maurice as being in need of any tinkering.

"The success of the Journal under Derek did not prevent Maurice though from putting his own mark on it, particularly when he could embrace new technology. When, in June 1999 we published the Golden Jubilee edition of the Journal, Maurice introduced coloured illustrations which appropriately enough accompanied Derek Richardson's article on the anti-tuberculosis stamps of France. A year later, Maurice brought us into the 21st century with the new A4 format Journal and with it the proportion of coloured pages gradually increased until they became the norm. Today black and white images are very much the exception.

"Alongside his work on the Journal, Maurice worked tirelessly with other officers to promote the Society's reputation for the publication of specialised literature. In 1996 and 2006 he edited and published Derek Richardson's bestsellers 'The Tables of French Postal Rates', 2nd and 3rd editions, and in 2004 'The Subject Index for French Philatelic Magazines' by the same author. Much of this work was being undertaken while holding the additional office of President of the Society, from 2003 to 2005. In 2006, Maurice edited the first Society publication to be printed in colour, Geoff Gethin's definitive work on the 'Fakes and Forgeries of 20th Century French Postage Stamps' which, in both content and format, raised the Society's publications to a new level. This was subsequently followed by this year's impressive publication 'Postal and Airmail Rates in France & Colonies' by Bob Picirilli. In the meantime Maurice has been finalising yet another study which is currently under wraps.

"No-one in the Society can fail to be impressed with such an enormous output. But we are not alone in recognising the talent and achievements of our Editor. Judges in the Literature Class at exhibitions home and abroad have expressed their admiration for the quality and content of the Journal and our specialist publications. Since 1994 the Journal has won one silver, one vermeil and one large vermeil at National Level and has been voted best in class. At International Level, it has won three large silvers, five vermeils and one large vermeil. It has twice won the ABPS Specialist Society Journal of the Year and once been runner-up. Derek Richardson's previously mentioned studies have been awarded a vermeil and silver respectively and Geoff Gethin's book a large vermeil.

"What more do I need to say except that it is with great pleasure that I ask Liz Gethin to present to our Editor, Mr Maurice Tyler, who lives in Buckinghamshire, the Geoff Gethin Award for Service to the Society."

The meeting closed at 12.15pm.

[Picture on back cover.]

WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 2 JULY 2011

Peter Kelly: Paris Universal Exhibition of 1900 Members' Choice

In the morning our invited display was given by **Peter Kelly** who showed The Paris Universal Exhibition of 1900. Peter started by placing the Exhibition in the context of the period with the difficult political and economic problems that beset France at that time and affected its relationship with other countries. He considered the immense size of the project, the means of financing it and the enormous number of companies who wished to show their goods there. There were a number of French post offices on the site with their own handstamps as well as the general flag duplex. The only foreign post office present was that of the United States and this had a number of different handstamps which were shown. Labels and postal stationery were shown including the extremely rare lettercard. Examples were given of different categories of mail. This was followed by a visit around the exhibition illustrated by a large number of the postcards of principal features of the show. Of particular interest were the Robida "*Vieux Paris*" cards, the *art déco* cards of the Palais de l'Optique, Swiss Village and Russian Red Cross, and also cards of the newly opened Metropolitan underground and the electric train and moving pavement.

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

Chris Hitchen: *La Belle Époque* 1900-1914

Ashley Lawrence: Cartoons connected with the Franco-Prussian War

Bob Paterson: Semi-modern material and queries on an envelope to Prince Dimitry Kandaouroff- who wrote a book on collecting postal history

Jeremy Martin: Material from West Africa to France including a letter carried privately from Lagos to Zinder for onward transmission to France

Peter Lawrence: French Olympic stamp issue 1924

Edwin Rideout: A variety of letters with different interesting ancillary marks, *boîtes rurales*, *trouvée à la boîte*, entry marks etc

Alan Wood: Haiti to France with an early 1765 Loliot post into Bordeaux, plus general colonial issues from elsewhere including a 10c Eagle "*couché*"

Our next meeting will be on 1 October when John Hammonds dips into the fascinating world of French aviation and the postal history that goes with it.

PRAK

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 9 JULY 2011

Bastille Day at Heaton Royds

The following presentations were made by those present

1. **Chris Hitchen** - 2 frames: Paris first issues featuring the 15c green stamp
2. **Mike Rego** - 2 frames: Paris Postal Bureaux 1838-63
3. **John Hammonds** - 1 frame: 1946 Commemoration of the Siege of Paris
4. **Stephen Holder** - 2 frames: Document of the various Government entities of the French Revolution (including the original article by the late John Hayhurst and the actual covers he used)
5. **Peter Rooke** - 2 frames: Napoleonic Occupation of Italy
6. **Peter Maybury** - 1 frame: "The re-discovery of a new discovery" of an unrecorded mark used on the Oran-Port Vendres steamship on 21 October 1880
7. **Mavis Pavey** - 1 frame: Philatelic Exhibitions
8. **Steve Ellis** - 2 frames: Maritime and Transatlantic Mail
9. **George Barker** - 2 frames: The Bordeaux issue
10. **Mike Caswell** - 1 frame: Pondichéry
11. **John Hammonds** - 1 frame: The *Arc-en-Ciel* seaplane

Lunch was held here in fine weather as is customary.

12. **Peter Stockton** - 2 frames: Military miscellany
13. **Mavis Pavey** - 1 frame: France in WWI
14. **Maurice Tyler** - 2 frames: The military postal service in France in WWI
15. **Richard Wheatley** - 1 frame: The Netherlands connection in WWI
16. **Alan Goude** - 2 frames: Tchad & Oubangui-Chari
17. **Michael Meadowcroft** - 2 frames: Classic French philately
18. **John Hammonds** - 1 frame: Catapult Mail
19. **Yvonne Wheatley** - 1 special item (ex Levett): Railway Mail to England in 1870
20. **Mick Bister** - 2 frames: 1 franc Le Touquet
21. **George Barker** - 1 frame: 1st issue 20c & 1 franc values (ex RDP display)
22. **Steve Ellis:** The PLM railway - a tribute to the late John Whiteside

Tea taken here and the meeting broke up about 6.00pm.

The gratitude of all those present was expressed to Stephen and Judith Holder for their generous hospitality, and to the ladies who helped organise the refreshments.

CSH

[See the photographs on the back cover of this Journal.]

New Award at the AGM



Liz Gethin, in memory of her late husband, presents the Geoff Gethin Award for Service to the Society to your Editor, Maurice Tyler, at the AGM on 1 May 2011. Recipients are chosen by the retiring President of the Society.

(Photograph by Mick Bister)

Bastille Day 2011



Alan Goude



Maurice Tyler



Mick Bister



Steve Ellis



Discussions at lunchtime



Some of the audience during a display session

(Photographs by Maurice Tyler [bottom left] and Peter Maybury [all the others])