

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



Reply portion of a postal stationery card posted in Banana (Belgian Congo) 21 September 1898 and addressed to Cap Lopez (French Congo).

The framed cachet *BANANA CARTE INCOMPLETE* was applied by the Banana post office to inform the addressee that only the reply part of the double card had been posted.

Rumours that postal employees had been stealing part of these double cards had led the postal authorities to create this cachet.

See the article on mail between the Belgian Congo and the French Congo on pages 51-56.

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

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The Society

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

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

2011-12 Annual Subscription Rates

(to be raised next year)

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

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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 new Auction Secretary:

S R Ellis, 22 Burton Crescent, Sneyd Green, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 6BT (email: auction@fcps.org.uk)

according to instructions

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

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

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

The Library

Members are invited to avail themselves of the services of the Society's substantial library, on terms set out in the Library List (2004) originally distributed to all Members but now available in PDF format on the Society website.

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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The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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SOCIETY NOTES

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1405 R Crimes (Cheshire), 1406 Joseph Coulbourne (USA).

* * *

Resignations

928 Ron Wood, 989 M Ankers, 1230 D McCammon, 1265 R A Smyth, 1389 Bill Sells, 1392 Eddie Hight

* * *

Future Events

The **London Group** will meet at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 6.30pm on Wednesday 19 September 2012 for members to present up to 12 sheets.

The **Southern Group** will meet at 10.00am on Saturday 25 August 2012 at the East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, East Worthing, when David Oram will display *Ambulants, Courriers Convoyeurs & Cachets de Gare*.

The **Northern Group** will meet at Heaton Royds, Bradford, courtesy of Stephen & Judith Holder, at 10.00am on Saturday 14 July 2012 for the traditional Bastille Day meeting. The meeting in Leeds on Saturday 22 September 2012 has been cancelled.

The **Wessex Group** will meet at 10.00am on Saturday 30 June 2012 at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham, Salisbury, when John West will display different aspects of the history and postal history of the Red Cross.

* * *

Society Literature Award 2011

- 1st **Mick Bister:** The 1936 'Vimy Ridge' issue
2nd **André Métayer:** Mail carried by *estafette* between France and England 1829-1836
3rd **Peter Maybury:** North African Expansionism 1881-1914 – An Overview

The judging was organised by Steve Ellis, and the judges for this competition were Messrs Cliffe, Hitchen, Paterson and Wilkinson.

This proved to be the most exciting competition result for many years! A single point separated the first and second place marks.

* * *

London Group Programme 2012-13

- Wed 19 Sep 2012 - Members: New Projects & Acquisitions
Wed 17 Oct 2012 - Len Barnes: Foreign Aviation in the 1920s & 1930s using French Airspace
Wed 21 Nov 2012 - Jon Aitchison: *Les Îles Chausey*
Wed 20 Feb 2013 - Mick Bister: The French Somali Coast
Wed 17 Apr 2013 - Stephen Holder: French Colonies - Memel, Cameroun, Mauritania
Sat 11 May 2013 - Society AGM & Auction
Wed 17 Jul 2013 - Colin Spong: Madagascar Censor Marks, Part 1

* * *

Displays by Members

On 3 December 2011 **Bertrand Sinais** displayed "*La France libre au Levant 1941-1946*" at the Académie de Philatélie
Early in March 2012 **Steve Ellis** displayed "Maritime Mail, both Transatlantic and Mediterranean" to Sheffield P S.

On 6 June 2012 **Ed Grabowski** displayed "The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type, Part IV - Postal History from Senegal and Dependencies" to the Collectors Club, New York.

* * *

Exhibition Successes

Ed Grabowski was awarded a Gold Medal for "Postal History of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Use in Senegal" at Florex 2011 (Orlando, December 2011) and at the Garfield-Perry March Party (Cleveland, Ohio, 23-25 March 2012). At the latter event he was also awarded a Silver Bronze Medal for his one-frame exhibit on "Professor A Victor Segno and the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Selling Good Vibrations for Fun and Profit." In October 2011 at Okpex 2011 (Oklahoma City) he had been awarded a Vermeil Medal for his "Postal History of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Use in Senegal, the French Sudan and Senegambia and Niger."

John Lucaci was awarded a Gold Medal at the Philatelic Society of Western Australia Centennial Exhibition in Perth in May 2012 for his exhibit "The Evolution of French Airlines and Postal Aviation Post-World War II 1945-1970." He also won the Modern Aerophilatelic Challenge against stiff competition from Australia's top sixteen aerophilatelists for which he was presented with a trophy in the form of a clock set in a wooden aircraft propeller.

[See photograph on page 50.]

* * *

Northern Group Programme 2012-13

The provisional programme is as follows:

- Sat 14 Jul 2012 - Bastille Day at Heaton Royds
Sat 13 Oct 2012 - George Barker: Cérès Issue 1871-76
Sat 9 Mar 2013 - Michael Meadowcroft: Varied French Selection
Sat 13 Jul 2013 - Possibly all day meeting as over last 21 years

All meetings this year will be held at Heaton Royds, Bradford, courtesy of Stephen and Judith Holder, from 2.00pm to 5.00pm except for Bastille Day meetings at 10.00am.

* * *

Philatelic Honours

Bill Mitchell has been elected to Honorary Life Membership of the US France & Colonies P S for having been a member for 50 consecutive years.

* * *

Continued on page 50

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

36th ANNUAL PHILATELIC WEEKEND 16-18 MARCH 2012

Modern postcard of Colditz Castle which as a POW camp was named *Oflag IV c* in World War II (see report of short display by Jeremy Martin in text below)



Lettercard posted at Nice on 29 September 1941 addressed to Sous-lieutenant Michel Froud at Oflag IV c to which has been added in manuscript Colditz

47 members and 18 guests attended the Society's Annual Weekend at the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Friday

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

André Métayer, helped by Mick Bister acting as translator, showed some 19th century POW letters and explained the tariffs involved; **Mick Bister** himself then illustrated the stages of production of the 1F75 State Visit; **John Mayne** offered a variety of colonial material that included mails from South America and West Africa with ship transit strikes; **Brian Weeks** showed postage due from Madagascar and an item from Reunion to New York by surface mail; **John Hammonds** had airmail items including France to

Lebanon that arrived in Indo-China, Marseille to Sydney, the British PO in Pondicherry, and a Zeppelin cover; **Bob Paterson** had some recent acquisitions from the 1930s and 1940s, commemoratives correctly used on cover, and a few queries; **Jeremy Martin** showed WWII POW mail to or from French prisoners in German or Austrian camps [see illustrations above]; and **Alan Wood** showed some watercolour enlargements of stamps from the early 1930s which he described as macrophilately.

A second session began with **Bob Larg** who wanted help in writing up a tatty ps airmail cover from the USA which had been refused but had postage and postage dues added; **Brian Lythgoe** brought a miscellany of items including 1940 stamp centenary cards and labels, the centenary of the penny black in France, 1931 Colonial Expo, and Cameroun labels and overprints; **Steve Ellis** showed different but linked sheets tracing a philatelic journey from Liverpool back to Liverpool via various locations and events



Maurice Alder

Howard Fisher

Willy Stephens

in France and its colonies; **Mavis Pavey** showed postcard reproductions of stamps and of postmen; **Alf Taylor** had brought stamps illustrating historical characters; **Paul Watkins** displayed mail between France and the UK chosen for their content, mostly from the French Revolution and just after; **David Hogarth** showed pre-WWII colonial picture postcards with WWII mail across the demarcation lines including a *Jeunesse et Montagne* cover and the Pétain 88th birthday set on one envelope; and **Barbara Priddy** had brought a box and printer's block with airmail connections, but wondered how to mount them!

Saturday

The following morning began with the Presidential Display, when **Stephen Holder** had been asked by our President John West to give on his behalf a comprehensive display on the Franco-Prussian War and its aftermath. Stephen started by outlining the background history to the war, explaining that the basic cause was the wish by Bismark to combine the fragmented German states into a German Empire under the hegemony of Prussia and its King William. Bismark decided to use the stratagem of forcing France under Napoleon III (the nephew of the great Napoleon) to declare war on Prussia when the latter was well prepared for war and the former was not. The trigger used was the proposed succession of a Hohenzollern to the throne of Spain, put forward by Prussia and strongly opposed by France, who demanded withdrawal of the proposal. A deliberate distortion of the "Ems Telegram" by Bismark cast a fatal slur on French honour, and led Napoleon to declare war on Prussia at the moment selected by Bismark, thus also making France seem the aggressor.

The French, considered at this time the dominant military Power in Europe, expected to cross the border with ease and advance relatively unimpeded. The young men ran through the streets of Paris crying "*A Berlin*" and the army was renamed "*L'Armée du Rhin*". Reality was different. The French, their mobilisation a shambles, crossed the border for a few days and were quickly pushed back by the forces of the combined German states. From the declaration of war on July 19 1870 to mid-August the French suffered a series of reverses and defeats culminating in the siege of the great fortress of Metz and on 1-2 September 1870 the Battle of Sedan. Here Napoleon and his commander-in-chief Marshal MacMahon were defeated and taken prisoner in one of the decisive battles of modern times and a turning point in European history. The main French professional army was destroyed and the way to Paris lay open.

In Paris the news caused the political downfall of the Second Empire, the renunciation of Napoleon, and the formation

of the Third Republic on 4 September 1870. The Prussian forces, by now with a million men in the field and more reserves mobilised, approached Paris. By 18 September they had completely surrounded the city. The Siege of Paris began and was to last 132 days until starvation and privation brought about the capitulation of the city on 28 January 1871.

During this time the military towns of Alsace-Lorraine were besieged and taken: Metz, Belfort, Strasbourg and Neuf-Brisach. Engagements with hastily trained forces, urged on by Gambetta (who escaped from Paris in a balloon), took place all around the north-east quarter of France; but nothing decisive was achieved and the attempt to bring forces to the relief of Paris and link up with a breakout failed. An armistice was arranged for 29 January 1871. The Germans occupied large parts of north and central France and by the Treaty of Frankfurt (10 May 1871) sealed France's defeat with stiff conditions for reparations and the loss of territory in the east. Most of Alsace-Lorraine became German for 50 years and engendered bitterness over the "Lost Provinces."

The Franco-Prussian War has produced perhaps the most varied, spectacular and interesting postal history in all philately. It provides the widest variety of postal themes, types of mail and the methods of transport of those mails, and these were illustrated in Stephen's wide-ranging display, which included military mail, the balloon mail of Paris and Metz, the pigeon post, the *boules de Moulins* underwater mail, the Commune and occupation issues, together with many unusual and rare items such as an example of a red envelope that gave rise to the term "Red Letter Day", a mourning cover from Osborne IOW, the red SC mark indicating a form of registered mail, letters destined for Alsace-Lorraine, POW mail, the *Gratis* label used in Switzerland, a Commune cover, detour routes, double franking, The use of German Empire stamps, the Ecuador 3154 Rixheim cancel (see article by Stan Luft in Journal 363), a postal receipt for money sent, a Red Cross item with Bordeaux stamp, a bill for forage for horses, and much more. This profusion of historical and philatelic material was acclaimed by those members present.

Peter Maybury then displayed French mail to and from Italy by steamship 1837-1880, looking at the rates, routes and markings applicable to the periods before and after the unification of Italy in 1860 and commencing with letters identifying the shipping lines and their agents. This involved the services provided by the *paquebots* of the French postal administration from 1837 until financial problems caused the privatisation of the enterprise in 1851 and the subsequent creation of the *Grandes Lignes* with onboard postal



Brian Weeks

President John West

David Worrollo

agents from 1866 to 1872; the *Bateau à Vapeur* services, operated by French and Italian vessels; the regular lines operated by the C^{ie} Fraissinet to the Levant with calls at Genoa, Messina and Naples; and examples of letters with French stamps cancelled with Italian postmarks applied on arrival at Italian ports. There were also letters with the stamps cancelled at the offices, or on board the vessels, of Claude Clerc et C^{ie} to prevent theft, and finally a detailed look at mail passing through the island of Corsica to and from Tuscany and the island of Sardinia.

John Mayne displayed Togo - the French Connection 1884-1922. This started with mail from German merchants in Benin via Togo to Germany, where we saw examples of the *Après le Départ* strike on German mail and mail from the French border commissioner. Then came unstamped mail with various cachets from 04.10.1914 and Dahomey issues used from 24.09.1914 including the unrecorded Red Cross issue on Army card; examples of German stamps overprinted for French use completed this section. The next frame was entirely of yacht issues on cover including the 1915 issues overprinted by the English on behalf of the French. There followed all four German ps cards overprinted including a 10Pf reply card, the only one recorded and thought by Gibbs as probably not available. The display continued with the 1916 issues on cover and included postal stationery of Dahomey overprinted. Finally came the difficult 1921 issue and incoming mail. Unrecorded mail censored by French authorities and mail to the Red Cross Geneva closed the display along with Dahomey postal stationery used by German prisoners of war.

After a break for coffee **Steve Ellis** produced a study of a section of the former PLM railway between Besançon and Bourg-en-Bresse. Using covers and postcards, it examined each of the small stopping places along the route, in addition to the towns at each end. In so doing it considered all aspects of railway postal history, including the cancellations applied both on board the trains and at the stations.

Barbara Priddy displayed the development of Air Afrique, including many first flight covers, commemorative stamps and first day covers, and picture postcards of the aeroplanes involved. Air Afrique was brought into existence by the Treaty of Yaoundé, 28 March 1961, with the participation of eleven African countries, ie the former AOF countries with the exception of Guinea and Mali, plus the former AEF countries (Cameroun, CAR, Chad, Congo, Dahomey, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Upper Volta) with the collaboration of Air France and UAT in the form of the Société pour le Développement du Transport Aérien en Afrique or SODETRAF. This event was commemorated by stamps issued by the participating countries

in 1961 or 1962, and Barbara showed a selection of these together with a relevant *document philatélique*. The start of various West African routes and services throughout the 1960s was illustrated by stamps and overprints and first flight covers and even a menu. This led to agreements with PAA in 1964, the addition of Togo in 1965 and the inauguration of Air Afrique Head Office in Abidjan in 1967. The various aeroplanes used during this period were listed and illustrated, but trouble began brewing in the 1970s, and financial crises in the 1980s and 1990s led eventually to the company folding in 2001 with huge debts.

John Hammonds gave a display on postmarks of aviation meetings 1909-1912. During the period in question several of these meetings had their own postmarks. These were hexagonal or circular – or at two meetings by machine. In 1909 there were 2 hexagonal and 1 machine type; in 1910 there were 8 hexagonal, 6 circular and 1 machine type; in 1911 there was 1 hexagonal mark; and in 1912 there were 2 circular marks. The first use of a special postmark at an aviation meeting was at Bétheny 22-29 August 1909 – this being the first major aviation meeting. The aeroplane was introduced to a wide audience including the President of France and proved the viability of the aeroplane as a means of transport. Port Aviation 1909 & 1910 had a hexagonal and a machine postmark at both meetings. Nice 1910 had a circular postmark in black and also in red. Lyon 1910 had different hexagonal postmarks, one showing the time and the other without the time. At Nantes 1910 the initial circular date stamp had an error – the date was “8-14” instead of “14-8”. Bouthéon 1911 had a very rare hexagonal postmark (which John did not possess). The two postmarks in 1912 were for a meeting at Nancy organised by the newspaper *Le Matin* in aid of military aircraft. and at Angers for the First Prize of the Aero Club of France. No more special postmarks for aviation meetings appeared until after the First World War.

George Barker displayed France: the Bordeaux issue 1870-71. The production of a provisional issue at Bordeaux occurred because stamp production was trapped in besieged Paris. The exiled government, then in Tours, sent orders to Bordeaux on 22 October and the first known use was on 13 November - very rapid! The master design was drawn directly in mirror image on lithographic stone, and 15 copies were made on transfer paper, grouped together 5 x 3. The 15 images were then transferred to a larger stone, and this is known as a ‘*bloc-report*’. For some values more than one ‘*report*’ was made, and these can be distinguished by the tiny variations in design inevitable in such a process. From the *bloc-report* by repetitive transfers, ‘plates’ of 2 x 150 were prepared. However, at the heart of the issue is



Packet accepted on board the *D'Artagnan* while moored in the Japanese port of Kobe. Upon the ship's arrival in Yokohama, the packet was forwarded by overland route to Switzerland via Siberia.

[see report on Mick Bister's display on page 44]

the fact that each Bordeaux stamp is one of just 15 variants. Simple!

After lunch **Philip Mackey** showed Classic France 1849-1872, starting with the 1849 issue which included an explanation of how M. Barre (the Mint engraver-in-chief), and M. Anatole Hulot (the printer-in-chief of stamps from 20 January 1849), came to be bitter rivals, together with some of the consequences for later stamp issues. A number of forgeries and reused stamps were shown to illustrate the problem of the 20c black, and why this was replaced by the 20c blue, which was unissued. Then came the Presidency issues of 1852-4, beginning with the Meillet & Pichot "unofficial" essays, which were lithographed, and the display continued with several essays and mixed frankings, which are not common. Also displayed, was the 80c carmine from the 1862 Rowland Hill official reprints which was never recorded postally used, and which M Hulot in a fit of pique printed only for one day, and in lake red! There followed items from Paris via Marseilles (sic) to Alexandria and Beyrouth to Baghdad, Turquie Asia (!) using the Desert Camel Posts, and forerunner of the Overland Mail. Philip went on to show transatlantic Mail to and from France, including a high denomination Southern States Mississippi steamboat cover taking 8 days to reach Boston. Two interesting Missionary covers were shown from Constantinople to Boston via the French Mediterranean packet which was disinfected at Malta due to a cholera outbreak in Turkey, and sent on to USA via the American Clipper service from Le Havre, arranged by the Shipping Agent. The last few covers were devoted to an item from the French PO in Egypt to Florence by British packet, and others to South America, which included showing the classic Empire, 1869 laureated, and 1870 15c Siege of Paris issues, used on high denomination covers to Mexico, Argentina, and Peru.

Maurice Alder showed the 15c blue *Type Sage quadrillé* (YT 101). This was a study of 18,500 stamps with emphasis on the "cleaning" of the printing plates during 1895-1896.

Peter Kelly displayed *Type Sage* mail to difficult destinations in Africa. The *Type Sage* issue lasted from 1876 to 1900 and the display consisted of a number of letters, often

to obscure destinations, all with something unusual about them. Peter made the point that postal history is not just a study of rates and routes but should also take into consideration the geography, human, economic and physical factors that have formed the basis for the postal service and that have influenced the way in which it operates. There is also the historic environment and the personages who were of importance at that time. Covers also included the extraordinary efforts made by the post office to deliver letters, some spanning different continents and taking many months to reach the addressee. The importance of looking at the back of the cover was stressed, and he pointed out that it is often the key to a fascinating story.

David Hogarth presented WWII interzonal mail, tracing the development and use of *cartes interzonales* between the two main zones into which France had been divided following the armistice of 22 June 1940. Initially the *Ligne de Démarcation* prevented most postal communication between these zones until the introduction of *cartes interzonales* in September 1940. Thereafter these *cartes* went through three main versions until they became in practice unnecessary by late 1942.

After the tea break **Chris Hitchen** displayed the *Recettes auxiliaires à gérance gratuite* in Paris. The standard model of sub-post office was set out in a decree of October 1895 with the costs of the operation covered by the proprietor receiving a fee from the post office for all postal operations performed. January 1905 saw another type of sub-office developed to be provided at the request of businesses and enterprises and entirely funded by the proprietor. Initially it was thought that hotels in coastal towns might be the most interested in such facilities but in Paris it was department stores who took most advantage of this provision. In Paris some 11 of these were opened and most functioned between the wars. As well as 6 department stores there were 2 newspapers, 2 airlines and 1 correspondence college with these offices. The department stores had large mail order operations and their own post office proved useful for handling this business. The post office debt collection service was widely used to collect the invoices due on goods



A monster quintuple rate cover
(actual size 28 x 23cm)
[see report on Paul Watkins' display on the page 44]

delivered and a service envelope 1488 from the Palais de la Nouveauté illustrated this quite neatly.

John Smith showed the the French Post Office in Morocco up to WWI. He explained that the French Post Office in Morocco commenced in 1852 as a sub-post office of Oran in Algeria, established in the French Consulate in Tangier. Until 1891 unoverprinted stamps of France were used. The post office network grew in the 1890s, partly by absorbing existing local postal routes, French stamps overprinted with Peseta values being issued in January 1891. In 1912 the French Protectorate was declared and the commencement of the Great War saw Morocco overprint the first colonial series of Red Cross stamps in 1914. Examples of French postal stationery that was widely used within Morocco were shown.

That was followed by **Derek Richardson's** display of material relating to French Internment Camps in WWII, starting with those for detaining German citizens after the outbreak of war. Other camps held companies of foreign workers. After the débâcle of 1940, British men and women were interned at Saint-Denis and Vittel, but it was French communists who experienced the most rigorous conditions, particularly those forced to labour in camps in French North Africa.

Mike Rego then showed foreign postal rates 1876-1900.

In the evening after an excellent dinner **Robert Abensur** gave a display and PowerPoint presentation on the advent of steam navigation in the relationship between France and the Americas.

And **Brigitte Abensur** followed her husband with a similar combination on the *Petite Poste de Lyon*.

Sunday

Sunday morning began with a display by **Brian Brookes** on Guadeloupe starting with the period during the first British occupation 23 April 1759 until returned to France in 1763 under the Treaty of Paris. We first saw the early handstamps and manuscript marks up to 1788, and then both French and British handstamps used from 1790 until 1836 covering the British occupations of 1794 and 1810. These were followed by French stamps used in the island from 1849 until 1859, the letter shown being a double rate one of three francs. We also saw the crowned circle handstamp in red and blue, the latter being scarce, and the Eagle issue on cover showing various rates and combinations of values including one charged 6F50 paid with sixteen 40c and two 5c Eagles making up the rate. We were then shown several of the sub-post offices including internal mail, with the first cover being a letter sent at the military rate of 20c from the small island of Les Saintes. These items were followed by covers posted free, printed matter rates, newspaper rates,

printed postcard rates and army correspondence rates. The display ended with the various tax stamps and handstruck tax marks applied mainly on internal mail.

Mick Bister introduced his display of the 1931 Colonial and International Exhibition issues with an account of the exhibition itself. Marshal Lyautey, whose military and administrative skills had been honed in Indochina, Morocco and Madagascar, was appointed as the organiser. The result was the transformation of a site spread over 270 acres of the Bois de Vincennes, the extension of the metro Line 8 with 17 new stations, the construction of nearly three hundred buildings and an attendance of over 33,000,000 visitors. Mick showed examples of exhibition memorabilia including tickets, postcards, medallions and various poster designs. He then moved on to the stamp issue associated with the Colonial Exhibition, the *Femme Fachi* definitive, designed by Louis-Pierre Rigal. The inspiration for the design has always been a mystery as the inhabitants of the Fachi oasis in northern Niger are of North African origin and not the ethnic group depicted on the stamp. The design was also criticised because it did not represent the ethnic diversity of the French Empire which had been successfully portrayed on the concurrent omnibus set issued in the Colonies. Mick continued with a display of proofs before proceeding with a brief look at the 15c and 40c values in dated corner blocks and on cover. The main part of the display examined the 50c value issued in both sheet and booklet format. Mick explained the origin of the two types and how the engraver modified the 50 individual impressions of the master electro instead of retouching the die. Following the criticism of the *Femme Fachi* design, Joseph de la Nézière was commissioned to produce an alternative depicting various ethnic groups and proofs of his *Les Races* design in black and red were shown. The *Les Races* design however was only adopted for the 1F50 value. On display were se-tenant Types 1 and 2, errors on dated corner blocks and postal usage. The 1F50 *Femme Fachi* value was shown alongside its successor the 1F50 *Les Races* issue and further examples of postal usage were displayed including a block of 20 of the 1F50 *Femme Fachi* used as payment for a telephone account. The display closed with examples of mixed frankings including the 2F40 foreign samples rate on a package from the 'D'Artagnon' in Japan to Switzerland via Siberia [see illustration on page 42] and a 10F45 parcel card from Alsace to Nièvre.

After a break for viewing **Ashley Lawrence** displayed French mandates of Syria and Lebanon. He reported that, while collecting Sowers, he was intrigued by the multiplicity of overprints on Sower stamps used in the Levant in the aftermath of the First World War. Under the terms of the secret Sykes Picot treaty of 1916, Britain and France had agreed to the partitioning of much of the Ottoman Empire. These arrangements were formalised by the League of Nations in 1923, which gave France the mandate to govern Syria, Lebanon and some minor territories in south-eastern Turkey. Ashley's display showed how French stamps were overprinted between 1919 and 1925 to show French military occupation, followed by the civil administration of the mandated territories. The overprints reflected the complicated political and boundary changes as well as currency changes during these years.

John West displayed the Red Cross surcharged stamps of Reunion, issued between 1914 and 1974. He appealed for assistance in identifying the dates of the 10 separate printings (other than the two recorded colour varieties) of the early and local surcharges used prior to the standard Paris Government printing works surcharge being introduced. He illustrated a series of issues with wide variations of the cross and sought to determine whether these varieties actually reflected those different printings or not. His display also included a complete display of the CFA ("*Communauté Franco-Africain*") overprinted stamps of France utilised between 1962 and 1974. He included unusual postal use of several of these stamps - including one to Iceland.

Bob Larg displayed a wide range of advertising covers, starting with an unillustrated cover of 1899 that was followed by many and various plain and illustrated covers from 1901 to 1950. The covers included many with fine etchings, illustrating tools, machines, clothing, maps, and there was even a telegram advertising Lux and Sunlight Soap and Perfect Cars and Cycles.

Alf Taylor showed Paris slogans and machine cancellations, the slogans including examples of the "*Recette Principale*" situated in the rue du Louvre, the SECAP type "*Tri et Distribution N° 1*" and railway stations. Machine cancellations from the 1940s and 1950s covered single and continuous impressions with both straight and wavy lines for SECAP, Flier and RBV types.

After the coffee break **David Trapnell** displayed the authorising handstamps of French military posts and railways 1914-1918. The presentation was the summary of a 40 page A4 full colour monograph published by the Forces Postal History Society in November 2011 (see review in *Journal* 263). This showed, apparently for the first time in English, how authorising handstamps were used on military mail which had to be posted into the civil system by senders with *franchise militaire*.

Paul Watkins showed French mail to the UK 1900-1940: special services. The display focussed on additional postal services including registration, insurance, express and airmail delivery of mail from France to the UK. Among the registered covers were a (1916) printed matter cover from the '*Au Bon Marché*' department store with pink (OPR) registration label and two (1911-13) post office wrappers used to enclose registered mail in transit. Insured – *valeur déclarée* – covers were shown including two attractive early items (1902-06) with multiple frankings plus examples of highly franked express mail. Airmail concentrated on the early commercial flights, especially the 1919-20 3 franc-rated pioneer service where examples were shown of scarce multiple rates including a monster quintuple rate cover addressed to the foreign Editor of The Times, which was charged at 15F85, paid with 33 stamps ranging from a 15c Sower to a 5F Merson, showing at least four shades of the 25c Sower [see illustration on page 43] – and a Guynemer airmail label. Also shown was a 5F Merson used alone (1926) to pay the airmail express rate – despite the 'official line' that there was no specific use for the stamp other than as a 'make-up' value.

Alan Wood showed a century of French telegrams. The first telegraph service in France was based on a mechanical



Mick Bister (left) receives the Literature Prize from Competition Organiser Steve Ellis

system and was available only for state affairs. In 1851 the newly introduced electric telegraph was available for use by the general public. The system expanded rapidly in tandem with the development of the railways. The telegram forms initially displayed the Imperial Arms until after the Franco-German War of 1870-71. By 1925 revenue was obtained by incorporating advertisements on the form. As the system developed telegrams were increasingly used for rapid international communications.

Godfrey Bowden displayed the development of French postal stationery, with unused examples representing half of a larger study. It started with an example of a trial envelope with an embossed head of the *Lauré* Napoleon, produced in 1865 by C Renard. Next came an example of a card designed during the Siege of Paris to be used for unmanned balloon flights which were abandoned after a few days. This was the precursor of the trials made by the Imprimerie Nationale and private organisations, two examples being shown. There followed examples of formula cards printed both by the Imprimerie Nationale and privately, including those by Cambell of Tours and Duploye's Cards with shorthand advertising. Examples of pre-stamped cards were shown. From this developed stationery with stamped impressions of the current Sage stamps. Examples of bands, envelopes, cards, and lettercards were displayed including private envelopes stamped to order and official stationery adorned with commemorative and publicity propaganda. Included were two examples of the privately produced Vervelle lettercards. Some examples of *cartes-télégrammes* and a lettercard produced for the pneumatic post of Paris were displayed, and finally we saw a few pieces of *Poste Enfantine*.

The final display, by **Mavis Pavey**, was of Philatelic Exhibitions of the 1950s, covering the period from November 1950 to May 1955. The covers and souvenir postcards had commemorative date stamps, some large and illustrated, some single circle. There are some commemorative cachets, but for these items no commemorative vignettes that Mavis has found so far.

The weekend came to a close before lunch with the presentation of the Literature Award for the best article by a member published in the Journal during 2011, won yet again by **Mick Bister** for "The 1936 Vimy Ridge Issue". A short review of the weekend led to the endorsement of the suggestion that we should plan to return to the same hotel next year, and our President **John West** took the opportunity to thank the joint organisers **Peter Kelly** and **Chris Hitchen** for their hard work in realising such a successful event, as well as the ladies, **Marian Bister**, **Annette Tyler**, **Jean Hammonds** and **Margaret Maybury**, for running the bookstall and bourse so efficiently and thus raising a considerable sum to swell Society funds.

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

Robert Abensur	André Métayer
Maurice Alder	John Parmenter
John Allison	David Parmley
George Barker	Bob Paterson
Len Barnes	Mavis Pavey
Mick Bister	Maurice Porter
Godfrey Bowden	Barbara Priddy
Brian Brookes	Mike Rego
Hamish Clifton	Derek Richardson
Steve Ellis	Henk Slabbinck
Howard Fisher	Gerald Small
John Hammonds	John Smith
Chris Hitchen	Willy Stephens
David Hogarth	Richard Stupples
Stephen Holder	Alf Taylor
Peter Kelly	David Trapnell
Bob Larg	Maurice Tyler
Ashley Lawrence	Paul Watkins
Brian Lythgoe	Brian Weeks
Philip Mackey	John West
Lesley Marley	Alan Wood
Jeremy Martin	Bob Wood
Peter Maybury	David Worrollo
John Mayne	

MST

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 30 MARCH 2012

George Barker: Classic France 1849-1870

Present: George Barker, Alan Goude, Ken Howitt, Peter Maybury, Colin Pearce, Mike Rego, Trevor Smith.

Apologies: Messrs. Ellis, Lucas, Graham, Holder, Meadowcroft, Stockton, Watkins.

George presented his display in 3 distinct sections, each dealing with the design and production of the stamps, postal rates and covers:

The Second Republic issues from 1849 to 1853 started with the 20 centimes and showed examples of proofs, colour trials (including a very attractive vermilion shade) and *découpage*. Examples on cover included a pen cancel of 12 January and *grilles* in black and red. Plated copies with *tête-bêche* were followed by the colour change to blue, with shades, a Roland Hill reprint and large blocks cancelled with the *grille sans fin* to invalidate withdrawn issues. The 1 franc had examples in all shades, with an explanation why all of the shades appeared from 1 January and were not distinct printings; there was a super example in deep vermilion and a cover from the colonies with anchor cancellation. Then came the 40 centimes with essays etc. and lovely examples, with explanation, of the wide 4 variety. The 1850 issues followed: the 25 centimes again with essays and a notable cover with *tête-bêche* within a strip of four; and the military 20 centimes rate, with a *tête-bêche* pair of the 10 centimes on cover. The Prince-President issues of 1852 were represented by colour trials and a military rate cover; and reprints and Sperati forgeries of the 1849 1 franc brought this round to a close.

Then we were shown the Napoleon III issues 1853-1863.

Imperforate and perforated issues were displayed showing the different papers and print shades for all the values with examples used on underpaid letters and printed matter, and fraudulent usage, together with all the official paperwork involved in prosecuting the perpetrator. *Tête-bêche* colour trials, destination mail, *chargé* usage and *OR* cancellations on cover with *SPECIMEN* overprints finished the second round.

Finally came the Napoleon Laureate issue of 1863-1870. George commenced with proofs, colour trials and examples of *découpage*. We saw an amazing cover with a bogus 30 centimes perforated red, cancelled with the Paris Star, that had been concocted from an essay (with "Royal" certificate showing it was not genuine); essays used in the pneumatic post in 1906 were quite special. Shades of the 5 francs issue with an example used on cover, the Rothschild printed by favour issues, and the 10 centimes unissued surcharge together with a "used" example, Granet printings and newspaper stamps were all shown. 1870 Siege of Paris issues printed from the 1849/1850 plates included *tête-bêche* and a 10 centimes used locally on cover during the siege. Then came Commune printings and mail sent in February after the siege at 25 centimes via Versailles: this rate was only available for a very few days. A probably unique full double bottom row of the 40 centimes orange, a letter to occupied Alsace forwarded via Switzerland and a prisoner of war letter sent to the camp at Stettin via Switzerland at the reduced rate of 15 centimes followed by a brief look at the Provisional Government (Bordeaux) issues, concluded what had been a most spectacular display.

JPM

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 21 APRIL 2012

Paul Watkins: The French Zones in Germany and Austria 1945-1955

Paul Watkins opened his three part display with a brief history of the politics behind the partitioning of Germany. He related how, before the end of the Second World War, the Allies had already mapped out the partition of Germany and Austria into British, American and Russian Zones. However, as a result of persistent demands from General de Gaulle, the partitions were modified in order to create a French Zone in each of the occupied countries and assigned areas in Berlin and Vienna..

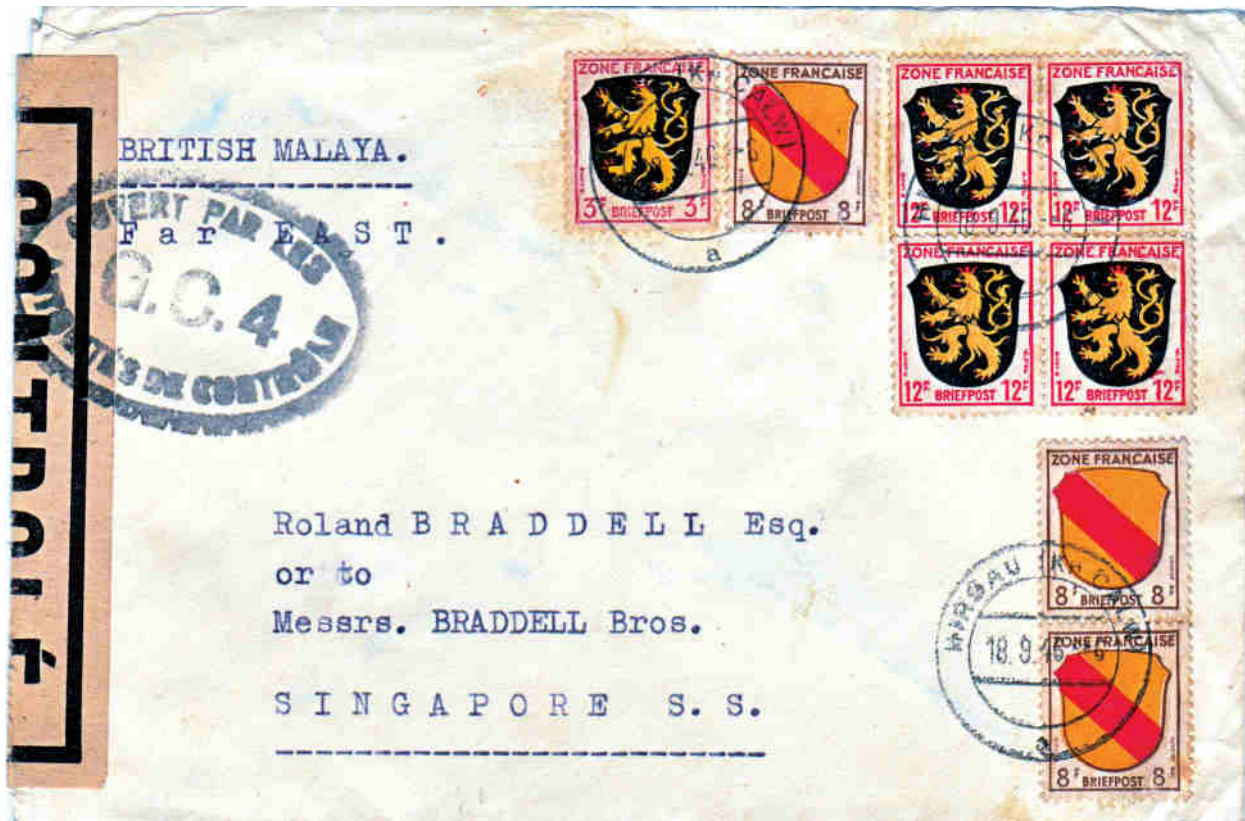
The first part of the display examined postal operations in the French Zone in Germany. Stamps were not available at the outset of the Occupation and we saw examples of internal mail bearing the oval cachet *Gebühr Bezahl*t indicating that cash had been paid. Then came the 1945-1946 general issues designed by Robert Louis, depicting the heraldic designs created for the five regions within the French Zone – the newly-formed Rheinland-Pfalz, Württemberg, Baden and Saar (Sarre) together with the high values portraying Goethe, Schiller and Heine.

Unfortunately the values did not always correspond with the current postage rates, hence covers are found overfranked

or with a multiplicity of low values. At the beginning only letters and postcards were accepted but later the postal services were expanded to accept registered and express mail. Items shown included 1945 uprated postal stationery postcards, a 1946 75Pf censored letter to Singapore [see illustration on page 47] and a rare example of the 2 Mark Schiller used alone on an internal registered express letter.

The first display closed with the 1947 stamps designed and issued specifically for use in the administrative zones of Baden and Württemberg. The designs depicted local views, heroes and cultural sites and were designed by a Lithuanian refugee Vytautas Kazimieras Jonynas who had previously lived and worked as an artist in Paris and was known to the postal authorities. Other issues seen included the Freiburg miniature sheet and the Goethe omnibus issue. Covers included use of the *Marianne de Gandon* issue on an air-mail letter to the USA cancelled *Postes aux Armées BPM 517* (Freiburg) and the re-use of the bantam Berlin airlift tax stamps overprinted in Württemberg to raise funds for the rebuilding programme.

Part two began with the 1947 issues of Rheinland-Pfalz.



September 1946 Württemberg to Singapore at the 75Pf single foreign letter rate with uncommon French 'G.C.4' censor used at Stockach

Examples were seen on a variety of covers including a scarce example of the 4c inter-zone printed matter under wrapper rate. Also seen were rural agency postmarks, further use of the *Marianne de Gandon* issue to pay the internal rate from Koblenz to Paris and airmails to Berlin and the UK. A particularly fine 1947 cover to the American Zone displayed a mixed franking of the general and Rheinland-Pfalz issues paying the inter-zone registered letter rate with *AR* embellished with a rare light blue registration label.

Similar stamps were issued in Saar which was the richest region in the French Zone. One particularly splendid cover was franked with a dated corner block of the 10Pf issue paying the registered inter-zone rate. These issues were overprinted later in 1947 with values in French currency and a scarce example of the 6F/24Pf on a local cover was seen. Official mail was also displayed including a 1951 registered COD item to France.

The third and final part of Paul's display was devoted to the French occupation of Austria [see illustration on page 48]. France was assigned the Austrian panhandle comprising the province of North Tyrol and the state of Vorarlberg with their respective capitals of Innsbruck and Bregenz.

Special stamps were not printed by the French for use in their zone. The Russians and Americans printed their own occupation issues initially, soon replaced by the 'landscape' stamp issue for use across the Soviet, British, American and French Zones. An example of the Russian issue was shown on a 1945 cover from Vienna to Innsbruck.

Paul continued with material from the North Tyrol region

including a variety of sealing tapes used by the French censors, two 1946 postcards to Yugoslavia and a splendid example of the Cogwheel Censor mark on a 1947 cover to a displaced persons' camp in Lincolnshire. After 1947 censorship was abandoned other than on mail to Germany. An interesting 1951 cover to the UK showed various attempts by the sender to attach the correct franking, firstly by affixing a military *FM* issue, then *Marianne de Gandon* issues to pay the 30F foreign rate and finally an Austrian 1 Schilling issue. Mission completed!

Paul proceeded with a selection of covers from Vorarlberg including an official 1947 *taxe simple* cover paid for by the application of the US Posthorn issues overprinted to serve as dues. This was followed by examples of mail from the French Zone in Vienna including a 1947 cover with a combined stamp and *Taxe Perçue* franking necessitated by stamp shortages in the capital.

Paul closed his display with examples of mail sent by Austrian POWs in France including one item from a POW in Algeria.

Chris Hitchen gave a vote of thanks, remarking not only on the quality and diversity of the material shown but also on the breadth of knowledge that Paul had shared with the members attending. It had been an enthralling and informative insight into a little known period of post-war philatelic and postal history.

Members attending: Len Barnes, Mick Bister, Godfrey Bowden, Steve Ellis, Michael Fairhead, Chris Hitchen, Hugh Loudon, Barbara Priddy, Paul Watkins, David Worrollo; plus 2 guests. Apologies: Maurice Tyler.

MLB



August 1946 Innsbruck censorship of 1S 50Gr registered letter to Switzerland

SOUTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 28 APRIL 2012

Mavis Pavey: Naval Mail & Philatelic Exhibitions to 1938

The Organiser welcomed Mavis to Worthing. Until recently she was the Organiser of the Scottish Group, and had held several offices in the F&CPS. We very much looked forward to seeing her material.

Mavis said that as she collected Alsace seeing a postmark for the battleship *Strasbourg* started her off on collecting naval mail. This is a complex area to collect as there is not only mail from ships and base establishments, but also a variety of other areas relevant to this subject.

Covers with ships' postmarks and those of hospital ships and naval post offices in the colonies were shown. Of particular interest were items from the battleship *Richelieu* when she was in New York and the use of dumb cancels used during wartime.

This was an interesting and informative summary of this area of postal history.

The second half of Mavis's display was a look at the many philatelic exhibitions held up to 1938. Postcards, stamps including miniature sheets, vignettes etc. were shown in abundance.

It is thought that the first mention of a "Stamp Exhibition"

was at the 1867 Universal Exhibition. In 1892 a Philatelic Exhibition was held in Paris but it was not until 1907 that a commemorative postmark was used. Vignettes made an early appearance together with cachets either printed or applied by rubber stamp.

Philatelic exhibitions from their inception have proved to be popular at local as well as at national and international levels. Rarely a week goes by without one being held somewhere in France.

The vote of thanks was given by Colin. Spong.

Members present: Michael & Christine Annells, Mike Berry, John Hammonds, Bob Larg, Colin Spong, Alf Taylor. Pat Spong & Jean Hammonds looked after the refreshments.

Apologies received from Graham Booth, Ian Booth, Colin Clarkson, Roy Ferguson, George & Kath Nash.

The next meeting will be on Saturday 25 August 2012. At 10.30 there will be Members' Displays until lunch at 12.00 at the Alexandra, Lyndhurst Road. From 14.00 to 16.30 there will be a display of *Ambulants, Courriers Convoyeurs & Cachets de Gare* by Derek Oram.

JNH

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 139 1^{er} Trim 2012: Les Oblitérations de la Fédération du Mali et de La République de Soudan [cont/end] (Venot); Comment les timbres des Îles Comores furent utilisés après 1912 (Groenewald); 975 – Saint Pierre et Miquelon – Marcophilie moderne (Lavenas); Au-delà du Catalogue – Cameroun (Cobb).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1860 Mar 2012: Dis, Séverin Millet, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves... (-); Phil@poste: Au revoir Françoise Eslinger..Bienvenue Christèle Fontaine (-); Campagne d'été 2011: la ruche adélienne [1] (Venturini); Blaise Pascal: Pensées et...actions (Musée de La Poste); Marianne de Briat, tarifs du 1^{er} échelon de poids [1] (Rabineau); Les lettres et enveloppes commerciales illustrées (Dutau); Les photos-cartes de visite et les chromolithographies (Storch).

N° 1861 Apr 2012: Dis, Marie Détrée, l'artiste, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves... (-); Un pétillant Salon philatélique de Printemps (-); Campagne d'été 2011: la ruche adélienne [2] (Venturini); En souvenir du camp des Milles [1939-1942] (Romero); Marianne de Briat, tarifs du 1^{er} échelon de poids [2] (Rabineau); Histoire de lettres... lettres à histoires (Brun).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 308 (Vol 68 N° 2) Apr 2012: The French Colonial Exhibit: Part II - The Nuts and Bolts (Herendeen & Tucker); *Le Renard* of 1952 (Tillard); The First *L'Echo* (Luft); Tribute to Dr Martin F Stempien (Grabowski).

Timbres Magazine

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

N° 132 Mar 2012: Les cartes postales, les marques postales, les timbres-poste, les documents, tout est lié (Baudot); Ligne d'Océanie: «Les Messageries Maritimes font le tour du monde» (Chauvin); Colonies et carnétisme (PJM); Les Parisiens avaient faim! (de La Mettrie); La philatélie internationale et ses grandes institutions (Emmenegger); Le type Mouchon condamné à être mal aimé (Singeot); J'suis l'poinçonneur des Lilas (Zeyons); L'exemple de la convention France/Grande-Bretagne de 1856 (Prugnon); Des fournitures plus ou moins indispensables [Radio Brazzaville] (Chauvin); Georges Ferretti, «Les timbres c'est la culture» (Amiel).

N° 133 Apr 2012: Gabriel Barlangue, graveur de semi-modernes [1] (Nowacka); Le golfe d'Aden et la péninsule arabique (de Pellinec); Le carnet Blason de Paris: une double personnalité (Rucklin); Les traces de Saint-Jacques de Compostelle (Amiel); Vous n'aurez pas l'Alsace et la Lorraine (Singeot); Les timbres mort-nés de Moresnet (Robelin); de Lyon [France] à Brousse [Turquie

d'Asie] (de La Mettrie); La bande à Bonnot: Les cartes postales d'une aventure tragique (Zeyons); La création du minimum de perception (Prugnon).

N° 134 May 2012: Quand des nuls s'égarent en histoire postale [les surchargés du *Richelieu*] (Danan); Les vingt carnets du Blason de Paris (Rucklin); Planchage: le renouveau [Empire Franc issue] (Hipp & Marion); Quand les fiscaux font du cinéma (PJM); Une lettre dans un rond (de La Mettrie); Gabriel Barlangue, graveur de semi-modernes [2] (Nowacka); Le 5 francs Sage: période d'une valeur mal aimée (Singeot); Armand Fallières: Un septennat très cartophile (Zeyons); Pour l'histoire postale, il faut apprendre à bien lire (Baudot); Les relations postales de la France avec les Etats-Unis [1857/1874] (Prugnon); Les ambulants du Cameroun (Chauvin).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 212 2^e trim 2012: La poste aérienne en Cilicie (Parenti); Histoire postale et Empire non dentelé: Le bureau d'échange de San Francisco (Soulier); Les imprimés de Grèce pour la France 1^{er} juin 1838 - 30 octobre 1867 (Chauvet); Italie par Bastia (1826-1828) (Abensur); Les élections à l'Assemblée nationale du 8 février 1871 (Hardy).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol 42 N° 2 (Whole N° 202) Mar 2012: Khone Cambodia (Bentley); Anti-Opium Essay (Bentley); Printing Dates for Indo-China Stamps (Dykhouse); Annam Revenue Stamp Booklet (Dykhouse).

Vol 42 N° 3 (Whole N° 203) May 2012: Air France Envelope for Photographs (Bentley).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 348 (1^{er} trim 2012): Imprimés administratifs: la loi du 17 février 1798 (de La Mettrie); La mise en service de l'établissement de facteur receveur de Chapeauroux (Lozère) le 1^{er} octobre 1895 et ses deux premiers timbres à date [contd] (Catherine); Comparaisons postales et philatéliques entre «paquets» et «colis» (Bonney); Avis de recherche - Le service Congolia? (Bury); Lettre d'un officier français durant la guerre de succession d'Espagne (Estel); Vérité en deça des Alpes; erreur au-delà: un bureau français à l'étranger (Mermin); La vérification des franchises postales accordée aux services de la justice dites «franchises de procureurs» [1^{ère} partie] (Tixier).

Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile

N° 162 Mar 2012: Le contrôle des banques dans les étapes du nord de la France pendant la première guerre mondiale (2) (Ludwig & Van Dooren); Courrier de l'île Bourbon vers le Petit Bornand - Réponse (Abensur); L'affranchissement des courriers vers la Suisse en 1870-1871 (Lasserre); L'utilisation de la machine Daguin hors de la France métropolitaine (2) - Le continent américain (Garaud); Le tarif des cartes postales illustrées de novembre 1899 (Trinquier); Les services postaux dans le département de l'Ain: Les formations sanitaires de Bourg-en-Bresse et Montrevel en 1914-1918 (Villard); Précisions concernant l'oblitération de Morvillars Haut-Rhin (Chabot, Flotte).

BOOKSHELF

The Postal History of the French in Italy 1915-1919 with particular reference to the French Military Mission by David Trapnell; Fil-Italia Handbook No 9, published by the Italy & Colonies Study Circle 2012; 38pp A4; plastic comb binding with thin card cover; over 60 illustrations in full colour; price £10 + p&p; available from Andy Harris, Editor of *Fil-Italia*, 13 Pond Close, Harefield, Uxbridge UB9 6NG.

Our member David Trapnell's monograph on the French military post and railways in World War I was reviewed by Peter Kelly in Journal 263 of March 2012. He has now taken a further aspect of the French army in that war and extensively explored its handstamps used in Italy.

He starts, in the 4 pages of Part 1, with a short description of the military post offices established in that country and their *Trésor et Postes* date stamps. These postal sectors were attached to the various army units engaged in front line activities, but free postage was also granted to a wide range of organisations directly or indirectly connected to the military forces – such as the medical services with hospitals and clinics, aviation centres, supply depots, police guards, military offices at railway stations, Red Cross refreshment rooms and welfare centres, transport sections and diplomatic attachés – all of which are fully depicted in Part 2.

David has not set out to produce a comprehensive catalogue of these handstamps authorising military franchise, but has thoroughly explored the principles behind them. Part 2 of his study (the vast majority of the pages overall) deals with the use of these cachets, which are beautifully illustrated in colour, usually on the items of mail, each page being normally devoted to a separate location in Italy or one of the French military organisations serving there. The book ends with a series of conclusions about the use of these handstamps and a 2-page Appendix that lists the ones he has found so far (a few obtained from pictures on the Internet) and attempts to establish their individual periods of use.

I have a couple of minor criticisms. The first concerns a lack of rigorous proof-reading which has allowed some misspelt words to creep in (the worst example being 3 instances of "detachment"), together with an occasional wrong gender ("le mission"), the wrong attribution in the text of a figure number ("fig.12.2" - which does not exist - instead of "fig.11.2"), and inconsistency in the use of Rome/Roma. The other is a minor irritation that there is too sharp a differentiation between the roles of handstamps for the military and those for the civil posts (and this applies even more so to David's previous monograph). All military franchise mail was handled first by the military, and all of it would at some point enter the civilian postal system for final sorting and delivery. The main distinction was the point at which they did this. Mail with *T et P* date stamps had to return from the front to the *bureaux-frontières* before it could be sent into a civilian post office, whereas other mail with authorising handstamps could usually do this much earlier because it did not start in a battle zone.

However, these are extremely minor detractors from what is an excellent introduction to, and exposition of, a topic that does not offer abundant material to study and has very rarely been written about. David can be congratulated on very adequately filling a gap in our knowledge of the military postal history of France in the First World War.

I am pleased to add that he has submitted an article to be published in our Journal later this year on Italian forces in France in World War 1.

Maurice Tyler

SOCIETY NOTES

Continued from page 34

Autumn Stampex 2013

The Committee is pleased to report that the Society has accepted an invitation to be the 'keynote exhibitor' at Autumn Stampex 18-21 September 2013. This will be an outstanding opportunity for us to promote our Society and to show to the philatelic world the diversity, richness and quality of its members' collections. We will be allocated as many frames as we like for the duration of the exhibition and we shall also have a room made available to us free of charge for a Society Meeting.

The Committee is currently discussing how to benefit most profitably from this event and further details on how members can be involved will be published in the next edition of the Journal.

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PSWA Award 2012



John Lucaci of Australia receiving his award.

For full details see under **Exhibition Successes** on page 34.

* * *

Postal Relationships between Belgian Congo and French Congo

Part 1

Philippe Lindekens

[Reproduced in a slightly edited form by kind permission of the author, who is a member of the Belgian Congo Study Circle, and Stuart Smith, the Editor of the BCSC Bulletin, where it first appeared in 3 parts in 2010-2012.]



Figure 1

As a collector of Belgian Congo's postal history, I have always been interested in the postal communications and relationship between our Belgian colony and cross-border neighbours in the French Congo.

After the Berlin Convention in 1885 when the African continent was effectively divided up between the European colonising nations, the actual relationship between the colonies was not particularly good. "*Chacun chez soi et Dieu pour tous.*" It is therefore uncommon to find covers to or from neighbouring colonies of different nationalities, and equally rare for mail transit cancels of those neighbours. Wherever possible, mail was processed internally as far as the national boundary seaport, for onward despatch to its intended destination. Very little mail was routed via a bordering colony to take advantage of the shortest journey to the sea.

After twenty-three years of collecting in this field, I will show examples of the few cross-border communication links that I have found.

Postal routes

i) **Frontier mail** – correspondence from the Belgian Congo and posted in French Congo

– inter-colonial cross-border correspondence, with transit through Belgian or French Congo

ii) **Manuscript directed mail** – written request for particular route by French colonists e.g. '*via Matadi*'

iii) **Maritime mail** – covers between Belgium and Belgian Congo, using the French 'Loango-Bordeaux' line with transits in Libreville and Gabon

Frontier mail: Belgian colonial mail posted in French Congo

Over a period of time and as penetration of the centre of the African continent progressed, many colonial managed 'stations' were created along the shores of the river Congo – often where there were already local indigenous settlements. In many instances, these new 'colonial station' sites had an existing working relationship with a twin settlement on the other side of the river.

A typically good example is Léopoldville and Brazzaville. Léopoldville was founded in 1881 by Stanley with its first post office established in May 1889, whilst on the French side there is Brazzaville, founded some nine years previously in 1880.

Occasionally one finds postcards written on one side of the river and posted on the other side – in my opinion for three main reasons:

- Travelling from one shore to the other, tourists wanted such a facility to let their postcard recipients have a souvenir of their travels
- To save time rather than waiting for the next boat, when that on which they had crossed the river had already returned without them.
- To take advantage of preferential postage rates at a particular location.

The first illustrated example (Fig 1 above) is a Belgian Congo picture postcard written in Banzville on 17 March 1909, shortly after the new Belgian colony was established. It arrived in Brussels on 10 May having been franked with

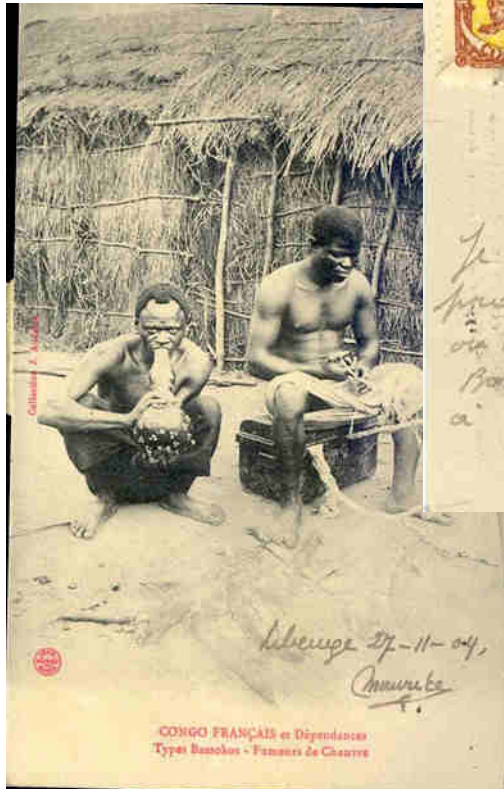


Figure 2



Figure 3



a 10c 'Allegorical Group Type' French Congo stamp and posted at Mobaye on the French side. At that time, the French Congo international postcard rate was 10c whilst that in the Belgian Congo was 15c.

This second example (Fig 2 above) is a French Congo postcard, written at Libenge on 27 November 1909 and addressed to Brussels. Again there is a combination of stamps making up the 10c rate with a saving of 5c over the Belgian Congo rate. The nearest 'downstream' Belgian

Congo post office is at Libenge, some 370km away [see map on page 53], and Stuart suspects that on this occasion the thought of saving 5 centimes was secondary to the inconvenience of waiting until back on the other side!

The last example (Fig 3) from a visiting tourist is the Compagnie Maritime Belge card written at Kin (Kinshasa suburb of Léopoldville) to Brussels franked with 35c Middle Congo stamps for registration and posted on the other side at Brazzaville on 31 July 1920.



Map showing location of Banzyville, Mobaye (Mobei) and Libenge

There were of course occasions when the reverse situation occurred. Figure 4 below is an example of an '*État Indépendant du Congo*' postal stationery card written in Brazzaville on the 17th but not sent until the writer

returned to Léopoldville, where it was posted on 22 September 1897. It left Léopoldville on 4 October and travelled via Boma, arriving in Rotterdam some six weeks later on 15 November.

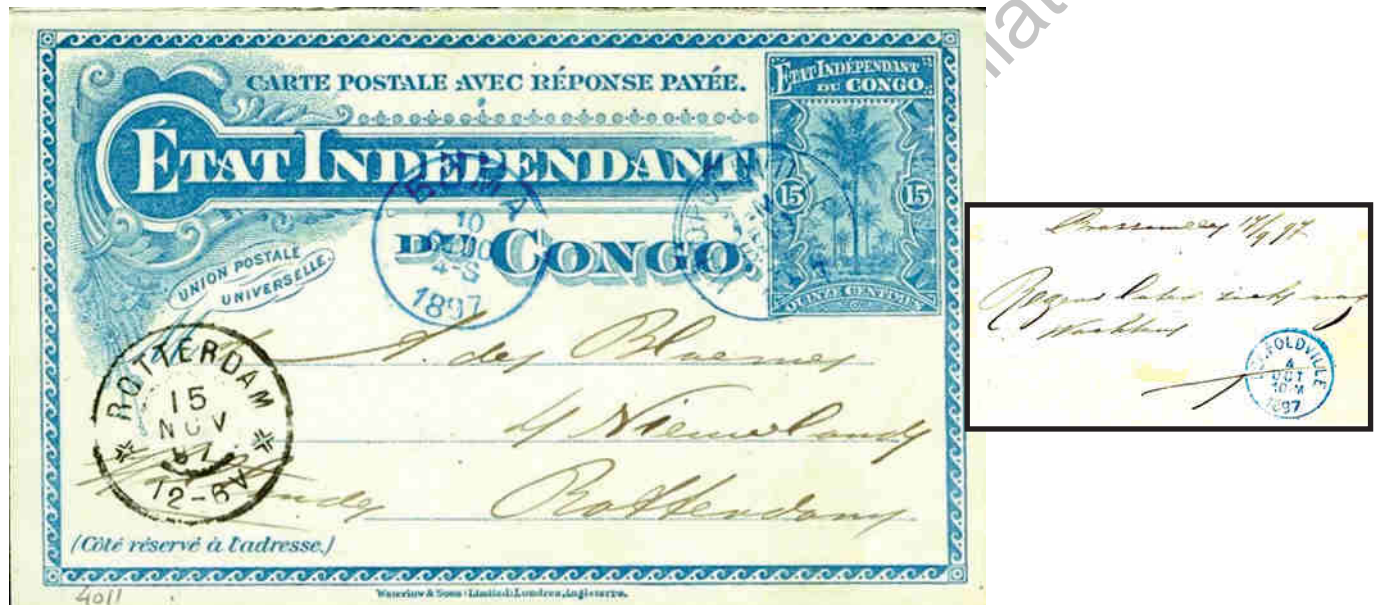


Figure 4

Inter-colonial cross-border correspondence

The French Congo applied the same postal rates for mail to France as to the other French colonies:

- Letters 15c per weight step of 15 grams
- Postcards to all destinations at 10c
- International UPU letter rate at 25c

Until 1 April 1910 the Belgian Congo did not apply UPU rates, but this tariff:

- Letters at 50c per 20 grams to Belgium and other countries
- Registration fee of 50c
- Postcards and postal stationery at 15c to all destinations

As from 25 March 1889 there was an amendment to the above for mail to those countries with a common border with Belgian Congo, extending to Libreville in the north and Mossamedes to the south. Furthermore and with effect from 1 January 1899, these boundaries were extended to include the British colony of Gold Coast and the German colony of South West Africa.

- Letters 25c
- Registration fee 50c
- Postcards and postal stationery 10c.

Cross-border mail is extremely rare for collectors of Belgian Congo; for those of French Congo it is incoming mail that is equally scarce.

Correspondence from the Belgian Congo to the French Congo

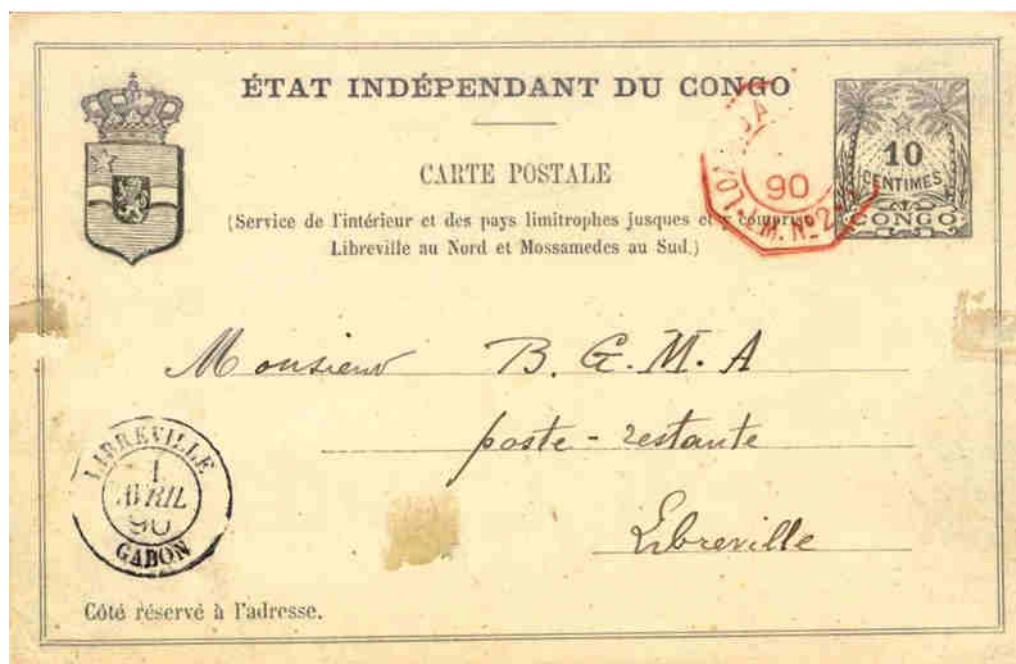


Figure 5



Figure 6

Figure 5 (top) shows a 10c 'Independent State of Congo' (ie Belgian Congo) postal stationery card posted on board the French packet boat *Taurus* of the 'Loango à Marseille L M N° 2' line, addressed to Libreville/Gabon where it arrived on 1 April 1890. For collectors of Belgian Congo mail cancelled by cachets of the French lines are rare.

Figure 6 (above) is an interesting annotated registered

letter from Léopoldville to Brazzaville. The sender hand-stamped it 'Recommandé', and the post office did likewise, even though the envelope was underfranked by 10c for such service. It was certainly not treated as a registered item – the registration number has not been added – and surprisingly neither of the two strikes was cancelled! Postage should have been 25c with 50c for registration, but the two stamps used are 10c and 40c.

Correspondence from the French Congo to the Belgian Congo



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

Figure 7 (top) illustrates a postal stationery card to a doctor aboard the steamer *SS Philippeville* of the CMB line. It was posted in Brazzaville and arrived at Matadi 19 November 1899.

Figure 8 (above centre) contained a letter, also posted from Brazzaville, that arrived in Léopoldville the following day, 17 September 1901.

Figure 9 (above) is a particularly interesting postal stationery card written and posted 23 February 1902 from 'Konga' in 'Haut Oubangui'. There are transit marks of Brazzaville on 29 March, Matadi on 1 April and Boma on the 4th. It was probably carried to Luki by the Mayombe railway but bears no arrival mark as Luki's post office didn't open until 1903 – then as the 'Gare de Luki'.



Figure 10



Figure 11

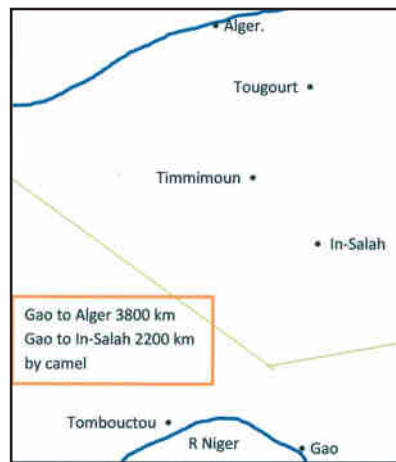
Figure 10 is an example of a postcard bearing a 'letter rate to foreign country' franking of 25c, whereas the imprinted 10c stamp on the postal stationery card would have been sufficient. It was posted in Brazzaville on 4 May 1911 and arrived in Matadi on 6 May.

Figure 11 is indeed appropriately franked at 25c, the rate needed as a letter to a foreign country. This letter was posted on 11 October 1914 (though much of the date stamp is illegible) and arrived in Léopoldville (via Brazzaville 3 November) on 5 November.

Part 2 of this article will appear in the next issue of the Journal.

Early Transsaharan Mails

Peter Kelly



Map showing situation of places mentioned in the text

There is always something romantic about crossing the Sahara. It was always one of the great challenges, involving the mysteries of the unknown and the fabled wealth of Tombouctou. The great explorers such as Caillié, Duveyrier and Barthe paved the way but many others died in the attempt. The hostility of the climate and terrain was matched by that of the Touareg, Senoussi and Berber tribesmen, determined to keep the explorers and travellers out on the grounds of territoriality and religion. In the 1880s a journey from Algeria to Tombouctou was almost unthinkable.

Despite all these difficulties, frequently misunderstood in the comfort of the Colonial office in Paris, there were those, fired by enthusiasm for rail travel, who believed that it was feasible to construct a railway crossing the Sahara from Algeria to the Niger and beyond. It was thought that the construction of such a railway was possible and that it was economically viable based on the transport of African produce to the Mediterranean and the movement of people back and forth.

This committee started life in 1879¹ and was comprised principally of those with little or no experience of the conditions in the Sahara. The first attempt to survey the region to be covered ended in disaster with the massacre of the Flatters expedition in 1882. Amazingly, the debate continued for decades without any real progress at all, although a final chapter was written during the Pétain Administration when the whole project was brought to life again and the railway was actually extended to Colomb Béchar in 1941 – and that is where it remains today.

The administration of French Africa was, to say the least, complicated. While Algeria was always considered as an extension of France itself and was never a colony, Senegal and French Sudan, in the early days were under the control of the French navy. This resulted in the military approach on the top and bottom of the Sahara differing to a great

extent. While French Sudan was busy extending its frontiers east of the Niger river in the direction of Chad, Algeria was not without its own problems with the pacification of the southern Oasis and Morocco as well as the military involvement with Tunisia.

The defining moment for the Sahara and what were to become Niger and Chad colonies was the departure from Algeria in 1898 of the substantial, well armed Foureau-Lamy Expedition. They set off with colonial expansion in mind and after a hard journey succeeded in reaching Lake Chad where they met up with Gentil's force coming up from Gabon and the Central African force which had already disgraced itself with excessive violence and brutality on its way from French Sudan. The subsequent defeat of the warlord Rabah defined control over Niger and Chad.

It follows that there was no great impetus to develop direct links between Algeria and Soudan towards the turn of the century. Until the advent of motorised transport² across the desert the only means of crossing it was by camel and it is not hard to see that there was no real need for a postal service. Nevertheless a certain amount of mail was carried across the desert despite the length of time it took, danger and uncertainty.

By 1900 postal routes from northern Soudan and what was to become Niger (then both in the third military territory using the postage stamps of *Soudan Français*, *Sénégal et Niger* or *Haut Sénégal et Niger*) had reasonably well established postal routes. Mail from Niger was generally carried south from Agadèz, Zinder and Niamey down to Cotonou (Dahomey) and then by regular French mailboats.³ From Niamey mail would take around two months to reach France. Thus, a letter posted at Niamey on 7 May 1904 was received in Paris on 4 July.

² It is intended that an article following on from this will appear later.

³ Further reading:

Constant Bouérat: "Le Service des postes et télégraphes du Niger 1900–1940," *Bulletin Col.Fra hors-série* N° 18-3, 2009.

Peter R A Kelly: "The role of the river Niger in the development of communication by post in French Soudan and Niger 1880-1940," *Opus* N° 10, Académie Européenne de Philatélie, 2010.

¹ Useful reading on this subject:

P Leroy-Beaulieu: "Le Sahara, le Soudan et le chemin de fer transsaharien," Paris, 1904.

Paluel-Marmont: "L'épopée du transsaharien," *Éd Aux Armes de France*, Paris, 1944.



31 December 1908, Niamey to Paris.
Card posted at Niamey (*Haut Sénégal et Niger*)
and carried by *méhariste* (camel) from Gao to In Salah
where it was received on 4 June.
4c + 1c "Faidherbe" stamps of *Haut Sénégal et Niger*
cancelled by the In Salah Constantine postal agency.
Transit mark of Biskra, Constantine, 21 April.

Mail from northern *Soudan* was more complicated in that it had first to be carried upriver from, say, Tombouctou to Koulikoro and then by track and/or rail to Kayès on the Senegal river (The railway linking Koulikoro and Kayès was completed by 1906.) From Kayès mail was carried downstream to St Louis at the mouth of the river or partly by track in the upper parts during the dry low water season, then by rail to Dakar and on to the French mailboats. Thus, a letter from Tombouctou dated 4 April 1904 was received at Coulommiers in the Seine et Marne on 11 June – again, a little over 2 months later.

The author has located 5 items of mail (N° 1 a letter and N°s 2-5 postcards) that have crossed the Sahara in these early days from the northern parts of the *Soudan* and *Niger* but has not seen any source records indicating a regular service. Nevertheless, the message on one card and the time taken in transit reveal valuable information, as shown below. It is to be hoped that this article will bring to light other items so that a valid database may be formed.

1. Tombouctou to France dated 20.6.1902. Received at Timmimoun, Algeria 23.1.1903.⁴ Transit time 214 days. This is the earliest letter seen by the author crossing the Sahara.

It is not known how this item was carried but the contents might give a clue as it indicates that a column is being prepared for an expedition into the Adrar at the northern frontier with Algeria. Perhaps the letter was carried by them and passed to an Algerian "*méhariste*". In any case it must have been carried across the Ténéré Desert to the

eastern side of Algeria.

The author possesses a copy of the Kayès postmaster's report for 1903 and this contains no mention of a trans-saharan mail service.

2. Bou D'Jeba (200km NE of Tombouctou) to France dated 6 June 1908. Received at In Salah 3.11.⁵ Transit 149 days.

This is the key piece as the message reads "*Cette correspondance vous parviendra par le Sahara, un service mensuel venant d'être installé entre In Salah (Tidikelt, Constantine) et Gao (Haut Sénégal et Niger).*" This card, and the two that follow were all sent in 1908 and all were received at In Salah. The route would have started to the east of that of the first item going north to In Salah.

3. Gao (*Haut Sénégal et Niger*) to France dated 24 November 1908. Received at In Salah 15 May 1909. Transit time 172 days.

4. Niamey (*Haut Sénégal et Niger*) to France dated 31 December 1908. Received at In Salah 6 April. Transit time 96 days. [See illustration above.]

5. Gao to France dated 24 March 1911. Received at In Salah 15 June. Transit time: 52 days.

It can be seen from this that the mails, in four of the cases, would have been better sent by the normal route and that nothing was gained by this exercise. Perhaps there was a change in the route for the 5th item, but the journey time appears exceptional. It is to be hoped that this article will encourage others holding similar material to share it with us.

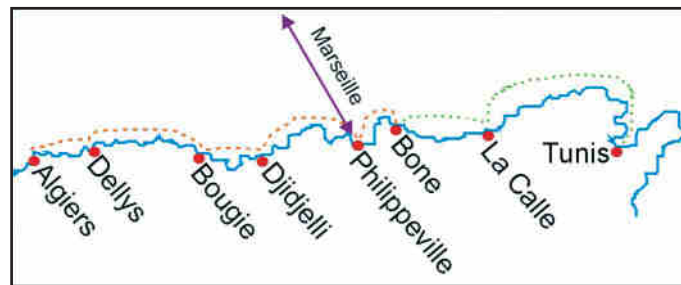
⁴ Kindly communicated by Edward Grabowski from his collection.

⁵ This card and N°s 3 and 5 kindly communicated by Alain Millet who has provided me with a great deal of information about early *Soudan*.

The French Post Office in Tunisia

Peter Maybury

[This article is an augmentation of the one published in Journal 261 of September 2011 (pages 93-97):
"France: North African Expansionism 1881-1914 – An Overview"]



The Algerian - Tunisian coastline

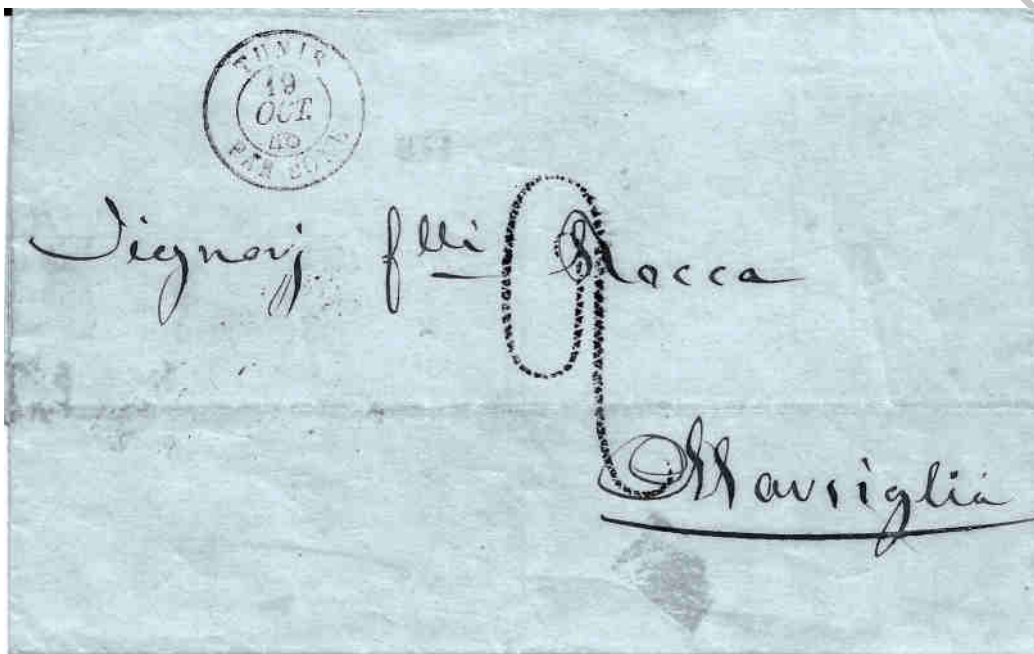


Figure 1

1848 letter from an Italian merchant in Tunis to Marseille.
Taxed 2 décimes, using a locally manufactured handstamp,
= 1d local delivery in Marseille (French tariff of 1828) + 1d *voie de mer*.

Precursors

Up until 1 August 1849 mail from Tunis was carried by private ships and was treated as ordinary incoming mail from overseas, taxed at the inland rate from Toulon or Marseille to destination plus 1 décime *voie de mer* (Fig 1).

In 1847 a dedicated steamship line was established by the C^{ie} Bazin Perrier and contracted to carry the mails between Stora (the port of Philippeville in Algeria), Bône and Tunis, with an initial mandate to operate a twice monthly service with additional calls, whenever possible, at La Calle and Tabarque. The schedule was set to coincide with the sailings

of the company's Marseille to Stora regular service.

From 1848 to 1874 the French Consulate in Tunis was designated a sub-office of Bône for incoming and outgoing letters, but dealing solely with personal callers – the primary customer base being the city's merchants. The office was issued with a "consular" type cds which was applied in black, and occasionally in blue, to both outgoing and incoming mail (see Figs 2 and 3). French post offices were established in the city in 1862 and in 1867 at La Goulette, a port near to Tunis.



Figure 2

2nd weight step letter (10-15g) to Marseille, posted at the Consular Agency on 30 September 1866. Franked at 80c (pair Yv 23) tariff of 1 August 1849 for mail carried by merchant vessel out of a French port, from port of embarkment to port of disembarkment only.



Cachet on reverse

Figure 3

Unfranked 2nd weight step letter (7½ - 15g) addressed to Voiron posted on 23 February 1862 at the Consular Agency office (blue handstamp). Taxed 12 décimes = 2 x 60c – tariff of 1 August 1849 by merchant ship out of a French port for delivery to an address beyond the port of disembarkation.

In the 19th century the massive debts contracted by the beys gave European powers cause for intervention, resulting in France, Great Britain and Italy taking over Tunisia's finances in 1869. In the following years a number of incidents, probably encouraged by the Italians, including attacks by Tunisian militants on French settlements in the mountain regions of eastern Algeria, a French possession since 1830, led to the 1881 invasion of Tunisia.

The invasion and occupation occurred in two distinct

phases, the first from 28 April to 12 May consisting of 35,000 men in 2 columns from Algeria together with simultaneous landings of troops from France. Tunisia was captured and the majority of the troops were then withdrawn. Mail from this operation is scarce. (Examples of mail from this phase together with a map of North Africa are to be found on pages 93-94 of Journal N° 261.)

The second phase was in response to an insurrection that commenced on 10 June and took until 28 October to

suppress. Six ironclads were despatched from Toulon to join the ships already in Tunisian waters, including three ironclads from the Division of the Levant. Sfax was bombarded and taken on 16 July. At Kairouan 32,000 men, 6,000 horses and 20,000 tons of supplies and material were landed, the town being taken without a fight.

The bey, Mohammed es-Sadok, was forced to sign the treaties of Bardo on 12 May 1881 and Mersa on 8 June 1883, which provided for the organisation of a protectorate under an all powerful French Resident General, Paul Cambon, who effectively administered the state as another French colony. (The protectorate was opposed by Italy, which had

substantial economic interests, including a postal service for its sizable group of resident nationals. Italy's attitude grew increasingly belligerent, and, in the years immediately preceding World War I, threats of annexation were made.)

Military franchise was granted to the expeditionary force in March 1881 and withdrawn on 1 July 1883 (see Figs 4-8). Forty date stamps for the military postal service were created during this period. From 1880 the military post offices were gradually taken over by the civilian authorities, with the first issue of Tunisian stamps appearing in 1888 (see Figs 9-10).

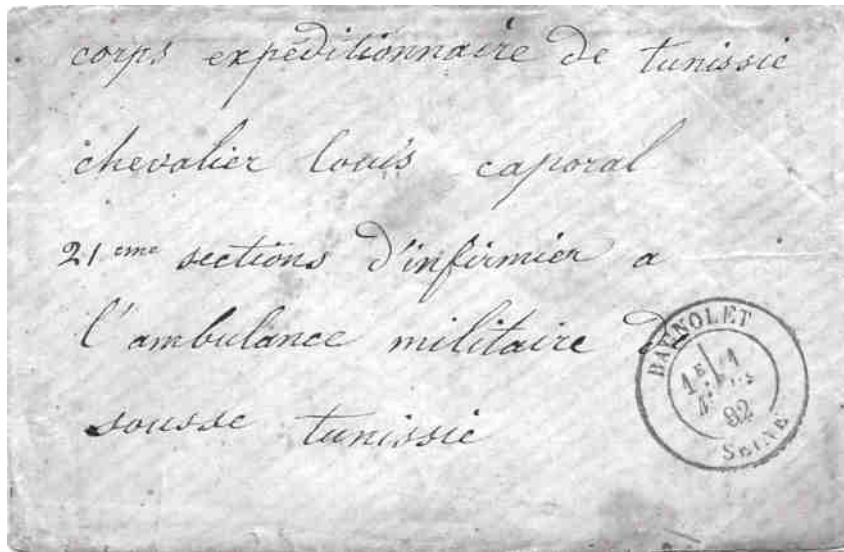


Figure 4

Envelope, sent under military franchise, posted in Bagnolet (now a suburb of Paris) on 1 March 1882 to a corporal in the Military Ambulance Corps stationed at Sousse, 87 miles south of Tunis.



Figure 5

The "Colbert" was the lead vessel of the Colbert-class ironclads built for the French navy in the 1870s. She was the flagship of the Mediterranean Squadron for most of her career, taking part in the occupation of Tunisia, and notably shelling and landing troops at Sfax on 15 and 16 July 1881.



Figure 6

Envelope sent under military franchise on 25 January 1883 from the military post office in Gafsa to Salins



Figure 7

Envelope posted at the Tunis office on 16 July 1886, franked at 15 centimes (Yv 90) for the 1st weight step (<15g) metropolitan & Algeria tariff of 1 May 1878.



Figure 8

Letter from a captain in the 29th *Chasseurs* stationed in Ain-Draham, an outpost in the Koumirie mountains, sent under military franchise to Aix.

Further examples of mail from the 2nd phase may be found on pages 94-95 of Journal N° 261.



Figure 9

Envelope to Lyon posted in the movable box of a CGT vessel in the harbour at Tunis. Franked with a 15 centimes Tunisia issue (Yv 13) for the metropolitan tariff of 1 May 1878. Cancelled on arrival in Marseille.



Figure 10
The main Post Office in the rue d'Italie, Tunis, circa 1900.

Table of postal rates to France - 1849 to 1900				
01.08.1849	per 7½g	60c. unpaid or prepaid by merchant vessel from a French port		
		30c. unpaid or prepaid as above but from or to the port of disembarkation		
01.01.1866	per 10g	40c. prepaid	60c unpaid	to any office in France
01.05.1872	per 10g	60c. prepaid	80c unpaid	by <i>paquebot</i> from Algeria
01.01.1876	per 15g	30c. prepaid	60c unpaid	
01.01.1880	per 15g	15c. prepaid	30c unpaid	as French internal rates
01.07.1888	per 15g	25c. prepaid	50c unpaid	Treated as a French colony
01.01.1899	per 15g	15c. prepaid	30c unpaid	French internal rates

Tunisia remained under French control until independence on 20 March 1956. The monarchy was abolished on 25 July 1957 with the declaration of a republic and Habib Bourghiba was elected President.

Bibliography:

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Raymond Salles – “*La Poste Maritime Française – Tome 1*”
Alexandre, Barbey, Brun *et al* – “*Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969*,” Editions Loisirs et Culture, 1982
D J Richardson – “Tables of French Postal Rates 1849-2011,” F&CPS, 2011
Robert Abita – *Philatélie Populaire* N^{os} 195, 429, 430, 1995
Pothion, Alexandre, Noël – “*Bureaux Français à l'Etranger 1561-1948*,” La Poste aux Lettres, 1982
C Marsanoux – “*Le corps expéditionnaire français en Tunisie de 1881 à 1884*,” *l'Echo de la Timbrologie*, February 2012
“*Catalogue Yvert et Tellier, Tome 1 – Timbres de France*”, 1980.
Encyclopaedia Britannica in 32 volumes
Wikipedia (with some reservations)
My grateful thanks to Christian Marsanoux for his assistance with the evolution of the tariffs

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Philatex 2012



These two photographs commemorate the last Society meeting at Philatex, which is now defunct, portraying Paul Watkins presenting his display at the New Royal Horticultural Halls in Westminster (see pages 46-48 for report) and the ensuing meal at Il Posto Ristorante Italiano near Victoria Station.

Photographs by Godfrey Bowden

Rixheim in the 19th Century: Corrections

In my article in the last issue of the Journal (N° 263 of March 2012, pages 15-18) the following corrections should be made. The errors were discovered just too late to be changed in the original text.

On page 15, column 1, paragraph 3, line 2: "23mm" not

"21mm."

On page 15, penultimate line of paragraph 3: "from late 1869 to 1870" not "possibly only in 1870."

On page 16, last paragraph, line 4: "the 66 / *Habseim* secondary post office" not just "the 66 / *Habschein* post office."

Stan Luft

French West Africa – *France Combattante: Aide à la Résistance* 11.11.1943

Looking at Bob Maddocks' article in Journal 263 of March 2012 (pages 13-14) reminded me that I have an almost identical cover to that described by him. The number on the cover is 000721 but it includes the Senegal 50F over-

print that he speculates about. Other than this, the cover is identical down to the handstamp. I, too, have wondered about this cover since there is no other information available on it.

Brian Weeks

When browsing through my collection of photocopied articles in a not very successful attempt to reduce the quantity of paper threatening to engulf N° 41 Graemesdyke Avenue I was struck by an illustration in the middle of the first page of "L'A.O.F. coeur de l'Empire, 2° partie: 1942-1945" by Francois Chauvin (*Timbres Magazine* for May 2004, pages 85-89). It depicted the fund-raising envelope illustrated by Bob Maddocks on page 13 of the Journal for March 2012 (Whole N° 263).

The two differ in that in the example illustrated by M. Chauvin stamps have been affixed to all seven printed rectangles, not just the first six as on Bob's copy, and the seventh box does indeed contain the top value, 50 francs on 65 centimes Senegal, of the first AOF provisional issue of 1943. The cover is numbered 000782.

All three examples now noted are postmarked CONAKRY R.P. / GUINEE FRANÇAISE / 11 NOV 43. The caption reads (my translation) "Souvenir envelope sold at Conakry

(Guinea) on 11/11/1943 in aid of La France Combattante: the franking in the form of a V for Victory is met by the surcharges [authorised by] the *arrêté* of 24/06/1943. This set is the first for general use throughout the whole of AOF."

M. Chauvin does not mention the envelope in his article, which is a rather wordy account of the origin of these and subsequent provisional stamps and the difficulties encountered over the production of the first two definitive series of French West Africa (Yvert 4-22 and 24-42, SG 4-22, 34-52). So no authority is given for the statement in his caption, from which one infers that the fund-raising exercise was confined to French Guinea.

This may be correct, of course, but as Bob says it would be very interesting to know whether the envelopes were used in any of the other AOF colonies - after all, *la France Combattante* was much wider than French Guinea. M. Chauvin neither illustrates nor mentions a stiffener which, as Bob says, might shed some light on this question.

Bill Mitchell

Identification of *La Poste* Code number 38770A



This cover was sent to me by a colleague on leaving the Dover-Dunkirk ferry and posted at Loon post office. The *La Poste* code number is clearly legible as 38770A which is given on the listing on pages 16-18 in Journal 255 of March

2010 as LOMME, a town on the Lille ring-road. Should LOMME really read LOON on the listing, or does the jurisdiction of the PPDC at Lomme extend some 80km to the coast?

Peter Whiting

I have checked in the latest official list of numbers and find that 38770A is definitely that of Lomme. The code for Loon-Plage (near Dunkirk) is 39302A.

Why the stamps were apparently cancelled at Lomme I have no idea. I can only suggest that letters destined for

Great Britain are perhaps sent on to Lomme (which is now administratively part of Lille) to catch the Eurostar train to London.

I wonder if any of our French members can help solve this mystery.

Maurice Tyler

Poste Navale Bureaux in West Africa



Following on from Bill Mitchell's article 'French Naval Posts in North and West Africa in World War II' (Journal N° 262 of December 2011, p 133), I was recently given this philatelic cover by an old friend who was decluttering. It was cancelled at *Poste Navale Bureau N° 71* on 26 May 1943, addressed to Conakry and, although the rate of 55F bears no relation to any actual reasonable postal rate, it does show the range of Algerian stamps available at *Poste Navale* bureaux.

The three highest values are from the pictorial set of 1936, presumably still available because demand for them had been low. The 1F and the 70c are from an issue of 1941, still bearing 'RF', and the 50c and 30c, without 'RF', are from a Vichy issue of 1942. The rest are from the arms

issue of 1942-3: but the 4F50, 1F50, and 80c are the Paris printing, without imprint, and the 4F, 3F, 2F40, 1F20, and 40c are the local printing with 'Berliot' imprint. So pre-war and Vichy issues were all still valid and in use alongside a Free French issue.

On the Internet I found www.phila-colmar.org, the website of *L'Amicale Philatélique et Marcophile Colmarienne*, which gives the locations and dates for the *Bureaux Navals*. N° 71 (unsurprisingly) was at Conakry, 19 April 1943 to 7 October 1945. The other bureaux in West Africa were: N° 51, Abidjan, 15 April 1943 to 10 November 1945; N° 53, Dakar (as we have seen from previous articles), 14 April 1943 to 15 May 1946; and N° 88, Cotonou, 19 April 1943 to 30 October 1945.

Barbara Priddy

Cameroun: 1F75 Forgeries



Enlarged image

In my book "*Cameroun: The 1940 Overprints*" I described what I then believed to be a trial overprint, "the only one known in orange," on the 1F75 elephant design. "I have seen two copies as a vertical pair, and the overprint on the lower stamp is inverted...the stamps appear to be authentic." The *tête-bêche* pair was illustrated there, in Plate 4. Further on, without doubting its authenticity, I said "More copies of the 1F75 trial are needed before it can sensibly be discussed."

Fifteen years on, that time has come. I have recently been able to examine four of these *tête-bêche* pairs. None of the overprints are in my opinion authentic. Two of the other holders share that view. Most significantly, the font differs in several aspects from that employed on the 1940 postal overprints, and the wartime revenue overprints, made by

Imprimerie Commerciale du Cameroun at Douala.

The references to a 1F75 trial in my book are accordingly wrong. There is a further consequence. My pair, and at least one other, are signed (on the inverted stamp): potentially, if separated the lower ones could be taken for authenticated examples of the known variety among the 1F75 definitives. That inverted overprint can, however, be plated and the font shows no departure from the norm for definitive. *Caveat emptor*.

Reference: Cobb, D - "*Cameroun: the 1940 Overprints / les Surcharges de l'An 1940*," published by the author, Monaco 1997.

[This piece has also been submitted for publication to the *F&C Philatelist*, *Cameo* and *COL.FRA Bulletin*.]

Dudley Cobb

Cameroun Français: Femme de Lamido

In my article on the 1940 *Cameroun Français* trials (Journal 261 of September 2011, pages 105-106) the stamps showing the head of an elegantly coiffed woman are designated "Lamido Woman" stamps. Though so named in some catalogues in English (including Stanley Gibbons), this term is incorrect.

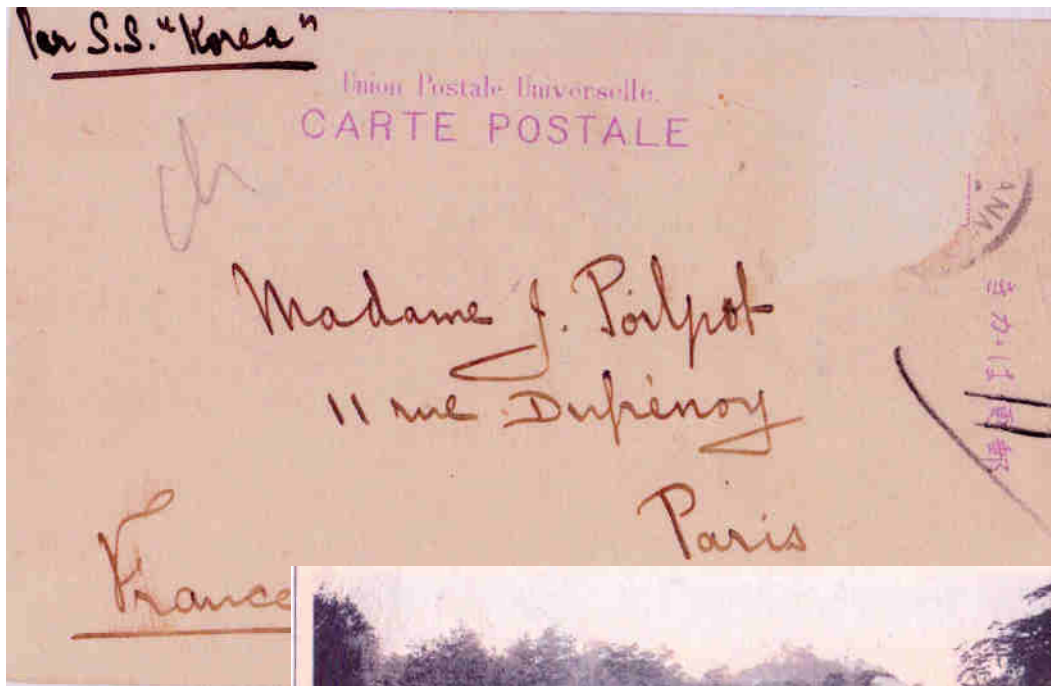
Lamido is not a place, region or ethnic group. It is a title (equivalent to emir or sultan), the title of a hereditary ruler whose territory is called a lamidate (*lamidat* in French, like

émirat and *sultanat*), one example being the Lamido of Ngaoundéré.

The correct version is Lamido's Wife (or more precisely One of the Lamido's Wives), and that is the term I have used for more than fifteen years. The catalogue usage is admittedly of longer standing, but we should remember that catalogues (like other books, and indeed journals) are fallible guides rather than bibles.

Dudley Cobb

French POW Cachet used in Japan?



I am President of the Forces Postal History Society and, as a collector, specialise in hospital ship postal history. In addition I am forming a collection of Russo-Japanese War PH. It is in this latter collection that I have a query and wonder whether any member of this society can point me in the right direction, as it relates to French postal services.

I have recently obtained a picture postcard (a view of Japan) addressed to Paris with a message dated 25.11.05. The picture side has a double ring purple cachet reading ".....DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE * JAPON * " around the perimeter and, inside, *SERVICE ADMINISTRATIF DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE*".

The address side is endorsed "Per S.S. Korea." Regrettably the adhesive has been removed and one can just make out part of the cancellation as "...ANA...."

Both sides of the card are illustrated above for further information.

Although I have seen POW cachets before, this one (with

the Japan reference) is unknown to me.

I think that the cancellation was that of Analalava, Madagascar, probably on a Rép Madagascar adhesive. (Madagascar was a coaling station and an island where the Russian 2nd Pacific Squadron stayed for 3 months in 1904-05 on its way to meet Togo at Tsushima.) I am aware that at the time of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05 France was a close ally of Russia.

My speculation is that this card formed part of mails written on board the *SS Korea*, a transport possibly taking former Russian prisoners of war of Japan to France, *en route* to the Russian homeland. Is the French POW cachet purely an administration mark? Was the card written by a French member of the crew or a medic sent to accompany the Russian POWs back? I know that some Russian ex-POWs of Japan were nursed at Cannes (Villa du Méridien) – were there other places in France where the POWs were housed? Any ideas as to the direction to take would be most appreciated.

Peter High

An Interzone Card Charged Postage Due

Figure 1a



8/1/42
 cher Maître
 De 31/12/41, je vous ai demandé par carte interzone
 de verser à Madame Montaigne le montant des
 coupons échus (et que vous pourriez toucher) sur les
 titres nominatifs que j'ai chez vous.
 Au lieu de verser ce montant à ma belle sœur,
 veuillez plutôt faire verser le montant de ces
 coupons au crédit de mon compte chez la Société
 générale à Lavaur-Tarn - merci d'avance.
 J'espère aussi J.V. si le transfert de mes titres
 nominatifs, chez la Société générale à Lavaur, est possible.
 J'attends vos nouvelles sur la liquidation des 2 successions.
 Meilleures vœux et meilleurs sentiments. - G. Decroix

Figure 1b

On 5 January 1942 the French Post Office put up the cost of sending a postcard from 80c to 1F20. It had not yet, however, produced any postcards preprinted with the 1F20 rate. Only 80c postcards were available.

This could have created a problem for anyone wishing to send mail between the German-occupied northern zone of France and the unoccupied southern zone as the only mail then allowed between the two zones was postcards, to which no postage stamps could be stuck. It was therefore impossible to send an 80c postcard with a 40c stamp added to make up the 1F20 rate.

The French Post Office, however, solved the problem by simply allowing the 80c postcards to continue to be used for interzone correspondence. Senders therefore got away with sending their cards underfranked without postage due being charged at the other end, as in Figure 2 – or

rather normally got away with it, for illustrated in Figure 1 is a case of a northern-zone postal worker at Lille on 19 January spotting an 80c card sent from the southern zone eleven days earlier and charging it postage due!

At first sight it might be supposed that the postal worker had not realised that it was a card from the southern zone as the sender had absent-mindedly given his address not as 'Labarthe, Route de Castres, Lavaur, Tarn' but as 'Labarthe, Route de Castres, Lille, Nord', the 'Lille, Nord' at the end echoing the last words of his correspondent's address!

Presumably, however, the postal worker had realised the card was from the southern zone as he 'kindly' charged only 40c postage due, that is the simple difference between the 80c and 1F20 rates, and did not charge 80c in line with the rule that postage due should be charged at double the amount underpaid.



Figure 2

It is also to be noted that 40c was less than the minimum postage due charge set at 50c from 5 January. All in all,

this postcard with its 40c postage due has to qualify as somewhat exceptional.

Roy Reader

German 6th Army Feldpost Date Stamp on French Semeuse Camée Issue



Enlargement of Sower stamps

Here is an interesting companion to the two German 13th Infantry Division cancels on *Type Blanc* stamps illustrated by Stephen Roche in Journal 263 of March 2012 (page 30). This time the vertical pair of 10 centimes Sowers is cancelled by two excellent strikes of the *FELD-POSTSTATION N° 10* date stamp of the German 6th Army dated 5 December, possibly 1914.

I assume that all four stamps come from stocks looted by German troops and cancelled as souvenirs. My own two were bought from a "packet" some 50 years ago; to the best of my recollection the vendor was Capt Frank Davis, who was Packet Secretary at the time and had served in France during World War I. He was already 29 when the War broke out and died, aged 92, in 1977.

I seem to recall that his booklet also contained at least one block of this stamp with the same cancel. The pair bears traces of imperfectly washed-off gum; I'm sure that none of these stamps saw postal duty.

Bill Mitchell

French Cameroun:
A Fitful Appearance of the “*COURRIER ORDINAIRE / ORDINARY MAIL*” Cachet



This *Cameroun* cover posted at Douala on 2.VII.42 to the USA bears a very seldom seen unframed two-line bilingual cachet “*COURRIER ORDINAIRE / ORDINARY MAIL*” struck in red. It was applied to indicate that the 2F50 adhesive postage stamp affixed covered prepayment of the cover’s conveyance by surface transport at the then basic foreign rate to the USA of mail weighing up to 20g. Airmail service, if/when available would have incurred a

surtax of 16F per 5g as discussed in Reference 1. The cover has no postal transit or arrival backstamps.

One assumes the cachet was used at the post office – but could it have belonged to the sender?

Reference 1: Robert E Picirilli - “Postal and Airmail Rates in France & Colonies 1920-1945,” France & Colonies P S, 2011.

Bob Maddocks

***Marianne et l’Europe* (4th Series)**



The number of TVPs in this series, issued 01.07.2011 has increased from 3 to 7 as indicated in the table to the right. The page numbers indicated are those of Derek Richardson’s “Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to 2011” where the “p” signifies permanent validity stamps (TVPs) with no indication of value. Four more values in his lists can now have this letter added to them.

National Mail		International Mail	
Page 5 Priority		Page 66 Europe	
20g	p 0.60 Euro	(European Union	
50g	p 1.00 Euro	and Switzerland)	
100g	p 1.45 Euro	20g	p 0.77 Euro
250g	p 2.40 Euro		
Page 20 <i>Ecopli</i>		Page 66 Rest of the World	
20g	p 0.55 Euro	20g	p 0.89 Euro

John Simmons

French Naval Forces in the Borneo Area

I collect Labuan, and recently came across reference to a naval vessel in the Borneo area in the inter-war period; for example in 1934 one called at Sandakan. I wondered whether any of the members of this Society could provide me with details of visits to British Borneo by French vessels? My interest was aroused by an Internet entry that I spotted in 2011. An auction firm was offering the following two items:

— North Borneo 1934 postcard, early black & white photographic picture postcard (ships, boats) written from Sandakan, cancelled by military cachet '*Forces Navales Extrême Orient / Franchise Militaire*' in blue with French *paquebot* cachet '*Croiseur Primauguet*.' Scarce item of French Forces Naval mail in Borneo. Offered at £240.

— North Borneo / Labuan 1934 military postcard, early photographic picture postcard written from Amock, cancelled by military cachet '*Forces Navales Extrême Orient / Franchise Militaire*' in blue with French *paquebot* cachet

'*Croiseur Primauguet*.' Scarce item of French Forces Naval mail in Labuan. Offered at £240.

Sadly, these descriptions were not accompanied by photos. So far as the Labuan card is concerned, I have never come across any item of French military mail into or out of Labuan. Another possibility is that this Labuan refers to one of the Labuans in Sumatra, Java, Flores or the Philippines – although I have no evidence that any of these locations was called 'Labuan Amock (or Amok).'

There is however one tenuous bit of evidence – through the *USS Augusta*. In 1934 the *Augusta*, an armoured cruiser and flagship of the US Asiatic Fleet, was in the seas off Borneo. There are examples of mail, of both 6 and 8 December, with the departure postmark of 'Labuan Amok' and a destination of Bali. Is it too much to deduce that this Labuan is the one located in Flores, and that the card was written there as the French vessel had called there *en route* to or from Sandakan?

Jeremy Dickson

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SPÉCIMEN COLLECTION MAURITANIE

THE MAURITANIA UPU SPECIMEN ARCHIVE

the following groups contain the stamps distributed by the UPU between October 1939 and June 1942
all are on complete or parts of archive pages and with very few exceptions are in strips of three as distributed by the UPU
these UNIQUE items are cancelled in red with the three-line handstamp illustrated

FRANCE

Three examples of every stamp distributed by the UPU
between October 1939 and June 1942. – 279 stamps. € 6,000
*if not sold intact I will divide into individual issues – enquiries
are invited*

Algeria

1938-41 issue - 1f50, 2f50 - the two values issued in
1940 - Yv 140A, 142A € 150
1939 1F/90c - Yv 158 € 75
1939 war charity surcharged set of 4 - Yv 159-162 € 250
1941 view of Algiers 30c, 70c, 1f, 1941-42 50c/65c,
+60c/ 90c, 1941 1f, +4F/1f, Secours National +4f/1f -
Yv 163-170 € 500
1942 40c, 50c without RF Yv 172,173 € 150

Alsace-Lorraine

1940: Hindenburg issue of Germany - two sets of 16 values -
one set overprinted 'Elsaß' and the other overprinted
'Lothringen' - also 1940 Heligoland 6+94pfg semi-postal
commemorating 50 years of German possession € 1,350

Andorra (French)

1940 colour changes group of 7 € 450

French Morocco

1939-42 issue - 50c, 60c, 80c, 1f50, 2f50 the values
issued in 1940, and 1940 Air Mail 2f - Yv 174/192,
Aér 46; Maury 193-197, Aér 49 € 450
1942 Enfants de France charity set of 4 - Yv 200-203 € 300

Monaco

1939-46 pictorial issue: 30c red, 60c green, 1f30, 2f50
deep blue - the 1940 colours and new value and
1941 Prince Louis II 80c, 1f, 1f50, 2f50 € 475
1941 National Relief Fund set of 10 € 750
1942 Air Mail set of 6 € 600

Tunisia

1939-41 Mosque & Amphitheatre 50c, 80c, 1f, 1f25,
1f30, 1f50, 5f, 10f, 1f/90c, 1f/1f25, 1f/1f40, 1f/2f25,
Yv 207, 210, 212-214, 216, 221, 222, 223-226, and
20c pré-ob Yv 1, and postage due 3f, Yv Taxe 51 € 800
1941 Secours National set of 4, Yv 227-230 € 300

FRENCH COLONIES

Afrique Equatoriale 45 stamps Yv 77-86, 87-89, 90-91 € 1,200

Côte des Somalis 48 stamps Yv 177-187, 188-190, 191-192 POR

Côte-d'Ivoire 78 stamps Yv 151-161, 162-164,
165-168, 169-170, Aér 1-5 € 2,000

Dahomey 141 stamps Yv 90A, 120-141, 142-144,
145-148, 149-150, Aér 1-5, Taxe 19-28 € 3,250

Guadeloupe 48 stamps Yv 147-157, 158-160, 161-162 € 2,500

Guinée 75 stamps Yv 158-168, 169-171, 172-175,
176-177, Aér 1-5 € 2,000

Guyane 51 stamps Yv 157-168, 169-171, 172-173 € 1,750

Inde 15 stamps Yv 123-125, 126-127 € 900

Ini 51 stamps Yv 36-47, 48-50, 51-52 € 1,750

Kouang-Tchéou 45 stamps Yv 125-134 (no A numbers),
135-137, 138-139 € 3,000

Madagascar 78 stamps Yv 214-225, 226-228, 229-230,
Aér 16-24 € 2,000

Martinique 48 stamps Yv 175-185, 186-188, 189-190 € 2,500

Mauritanie 75 stamps Yv 105-115, 116-118, 119-122,
123-124, Aér 1-5 € 2,000

Niger 78 stamps Yv 74-85, 86-88, 89-92, 93-94, Aér 1-5 € 2,000

Nouvelle-Calédonie 54 stamps Yv 180-189, 190-192,
193-194, Aér 31, 33, 34 € 1,750

Océanie 15 stamps Yv 135-137, 138-139 € 900

Réunion 51 stamps Yv 163-174, 175-177, 178-179 € 2,000

Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon 48 stamps Yv 196-206,
207-209, 210-211 € 3,500

Sénégal 72 stamps Yv 160-169, 170-172, 173-176,
177-178, Aér 13-17 € 2,000

Soudan 78 stamps Yv 110-121, 122-124, 125-128,
129-130, Aér 1-5 € 2,000

Togo 78 stamps Yv 182-207 € 1,800
72 stamps Yv 208-210, 211-214, 215-216, Aér 1-5,
Taxe 22-31 € 2,000

Wallis et Futuna 45 stamps Yv 77-86, 87-89, 90-91 € 1,750

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