

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

Autumn Stampex 2013 Special Issue



See Stampex article by Colin Spong on page 107

19.12.1942 BMA Diégo Suarez cover to London, censored with Type BH-3 and Resealing Label 252-BL-3 and censored en route at Nairobi and by Free French in London [N° 2] re-directed.

On the reverse Handstamps for EASC 1010 Type EA-2 and French POSTE AUX ARMEES FFC - B.C.B. Type 7b together with British Resealing Censor Label in UK PC90 Examiner 9148 IVI 51 2116-G.W.D. and other labels beneath.

Volume 63 ● Number 3

September 2013

Whole Number 269

**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.

2013 Annual Subscription Rates

United Kingdom: £18.00, Europe: £26.00, Elsewhere: £30.00.

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

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 Auction Secretary:

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according to instructions

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

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

The Library

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

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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:

1424 Brian Downham (Cambridge), 1425 Dr Michel Bonnet (Somerset), 1426 D Hallett (Worcester).

* * *

Future Events

At **Autumn Stampex** on Saturday 21 September 2013 there will be an open meeting by the Society at 3.00pm in the Business Design Centre, at which Peter Kelly will display French West Africa, aspects of postal history.

The **London Group** will meet at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 6.30pm on Wednesday 16 October 2013 when Bob Larg will present an evening of French philately and postal history; and at 6.30pm on Wednesday 20 November 2013 for a display on Cameroun and Mauritanie by Stephen Holder.

The **Northern Group** will meet at 2.00pm on Saturday 12 October 2013 at Heaton Royds, Bradford, courtesy of Stephen & Judith Holder, for a display on Marianne by John Place of Keighley.

The **Wessex Group** will meet at 10.30am on Saturday 12 October 2013 at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham, Salisbury, when Peter Kelly will display *Type Sage* 1876-1900: Aspects of Maritime Mail.

* * *

Editorial

Your Committee made the decision that this issue of the Journal should be devoted principally to the Keynote Exhibition by this Society at Autumn Stampex 2013, at which – as detailed in Journal 267 of March 2013 (page 4) – 22 of our members are producing 28 separate non-competitive displays on the stamps and postal history of France and her former colonies. Readers will therefore find short descriptions of these displays on pages 81-109 which they may like to use as a catalogue to the exhibition (if they are able to visit Stampex and it reaches them in time!) or as a souvenir copy.

This means however that a number of articles originally intended for this issue have had to be postponed. Shorter items, usually referring to pieces that appeared in a recent issue of the Journal, have been accommodated for the most part, together with regular items such as Bookshelf, Recently Published Articles and Reports of Meetings. More substantial articles will be resumed in the December issue of the Journal, and I must apologise in particular to authors who have already been waiting some time to see their work in print: these include Peter Kelly, Ashley Lawrence, Stan Luft, Bill Mitchell, David Trapnell, John West and Alan Wood. I also have offerings from two non-members in my stockpile together with 3 or 4 promises of more material from members.

The result of all this is that, as you may have noticed, this issue of the Journal is rather thicker (and heavier - though still within the same postage weight range for the UK at least) than normal. Thus I have decided to reduce the size of nearly all illustrations (except small items or occasionally postcards) to 80% in order to save space on the page.

I hope that these arrangements meet your approval and I invite all readers to enjoy a bumper issue.

* * *

Autumn Stampex 2013

18-21 September 2013

Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington

Welcome to the Society's special 'Stampex' edition of the Journal. We trust that you will enjoy reading the twenty-eight articles contributed by the members representing the Society at Stampex and we hope too that what you read will entice you to attend the exhibition and see for yourselves the rich diversity and high quality of material that our members can exhibit. Do allocate yourself plenty of time; remember there are one hundred frames to view.

The Society's rôle as keynote exhibitor has been widely publicised with, at the time of writing, prominent articles appearing in *Stamp Magazine*, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and *France Magazine*. It is expected that we shall also be featured in *Stamp and Coin Mart* and in the *ABPS News*. Let us hope that this will attract the crowds both to our display and to our stand with the bonus perhaps of attracting new members.

The Society stand will be operating everyday where two members will be on hand to answer questions and to sell Society publications. We are always keen to meet our fellow members so please do call by and introduce yourself to us and if you haven't yet bought our latest publications, here is an opportunity to do so and avoid paying extra costs for postage and packing.

Saturday is going to be the busiest day with a large number attending the Society lunch at the Côte Brasserie followed by Peter Kelly's display back at the Business Design Centre. He will be presenting his collection of postal history of Soudan and Niger concentrating on the development of communications in the era of colonial expansion. The start is at 3pm and details of the venue will be announced at the exhibition.

Enjoy your visit to Stampex and *venez nombreux!*

Mick Bister, Richard Broadhurst, Steve Ellis,
Chris Hitchen, Peter Kelly, Ashley Lawrence
(2013 Autumn Stampex Sub-Committee)

* * *

Exhibition Successes

We congratulate the following members on their awards.

Ed Grabowski: Gold and Postal History Society Posthorn medal for "The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type Part II New Caledonia & Dependencies and French Oceania," and single frame Gold for "The Era of the French Colonial Group Type - Obock," both at Nojex 2013 (Seacaucus, New Jersey, May 2013).

Stan Luft: Gold and American Philatelic Society Pre-1900 Medal of Excellence for "Post Offices and Postal Markings of the Annexed Paris Suburbs to the 1880s" at Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2013 (Denver, Colorado, May 2013).

* * *

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 144 2^{ème} Trim 2013: Afrique 1886 – Liste des Bureaux de Poste des Colonies Françaises (Strobel); La Nouvelle Calédonie pendant la Seconde Guerre Mondiale (Millet); Réunion – Les Timbres Surchargés de 1901 mutilés (Fontaine); De Paris à Brazzaville par Matadi, Léopoldville et retour par Anvers, le Long Périple de trois Colis Postaux! (Flotte); La surcharge FISC 1944 sur Timbres du Togo (Hurpet).

Cameo

Vol 14 N° 2 June 2013 (Whole N° 89): Cameroun 1990 Forest Sheep (May & Parren); Akra to Paris 1788 (Martin); Cameroun – Plating the Sterling Issue of 1961, the £1 on 500 Franc Type 2 Stamp (Bratzel); Northern Nigeria – a French enclave (May).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1873 May 2013: Dis, l'artiste, André Boos, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Fin de la campagne d'été en Terre Adélie 2011-2012 [1/2] (Venturini); Timbres commémoratifs imprimés sur la presse EPIKOS (SoCoCo-DaMi-Gagné); Les hortillonages, une spécialité amiénoise (Jansenne); La liaison aéropostale de Casablanca à Dakar (Albaret); Première(s) date(s)? [Cérès issue] (Brun); Les Agences postales françaises d'Amérique (-); L'émission de la Liën Khu V [Vietnam] (Wiat).

N° 1874 June 2013: Fin de la campagne d'été 2011-2012 [2/2] (Venturini); Astrophilatélie: 1975: le programme ARAKS (Lentin); Les vicissitudes des petites valeurs laurées (Brun); Un postier dans la tourmente des guerres du XX^e siècle (Albaret); La poste fluviale au Laos (Tallet).

N° 1875 Jul-Aug 2013: Dis, l'artiste, Arnaud d'Aunay, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); La rotation interrompue [OP3-2012] (Venturini); Des sites et des personnages (-); Pierre-Georges Latécoère, à la lettre (Bastide-Bernardin); P-G Latécoère, industriel et avionneur visionnaire (Albaret); L'émission Logo (Grillot); La Poste sur le Tour de France [1963-2013] (Rivière et Richez).

Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

Vol 42 N° 11 April 2013: Benin 1999 – 40th Anniversary of the Conseil de l'Entente [Part 1] (Pertwee).

Vol 43 N° 12 May 2013: Benin 1999 – 40th Anniversary of the Conseil de l'Entente [Part 2] (Pertwee).

The London Philatelist

Vol 122 April 2013 N° 1404: Manual *Prix de Vente* Surcharge on Postal Stationery from Madagascar (Thy).

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° 145 May 2013: Les timbres du Togo allemand (PJM); Le Concorde et l'aérogramme convolent (Rucklin); Les étiquettes apposées sur les bulletins d'expédition de colis postaux en Alsace et en Moselle [1919-1940] (Bonney); Vers l'Extrême-Orient [2] Chauvin); Le 4 L Trophy du Maroc (Olivier et Icard); Quand les «timbres» font des timbres [1^{re} partie] (Vailly); Quand il manquait 5 centimes (de La Mettrie); Steinlen, un maître du dessin et de l'affiche (Zeyons); L'estampille pour insuffisance (Baudot); Ces timbres et carnets qui seront aux abonnés absents (Keledjian); Une lettre de Constantinople pour Naples en 1870 (Prugnon); Paquet poste familial de Bangui (Chauvin).

N° 146 Jun 2013: La Marianne aux mille variétés [1] (Rucklin); Quand «timbres» font des timbres [2] (Vailly); Au royaume de l'éphémère! (de La Mettrie); Vers l'Extrême-Orient [Dernière partie] (Chauvin); Sur les traces de Pierre Loti (Zeyons); Une application exceptionnelle du minimum de perception (Prugnon); 1944-45: le courrier des AFAT voyage en franchise (Chauvin).

N° 147 Jul-Aug 2013: Sous les cachets, sur les timbres et feuillets: la plage! (PJM); PAOMA: Paositra Malagasy La Poste malgache (Marini); L'état du monde par les timbres...[Mayotte *et al*] (Masclet); Decaris: Marianne fait la transition en Algérie (Rucklin); La Terreur [1793-1794] – Les prisons (Baudot); La quatrième taxe s'avéra la bonne (de La Mettrie); Pierre Fauchard, le père de la dentisterie moderne (Aronis); Petits et grands souvenirs du Tour de France (Zeyons); Une lettre par ballon monté insuffisamment affranchie (Prugnon); Un bateau-avion de Shanghai (Chauvin); Bernard Debrie: la philatélie à la croisée des disciplines et des influences (Andreu).

Forces Postal History Society Journal

N° 296 Summer 2013: The Friends' Ambulance Unit in France (Mark).

The Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 92 N° 4 (Jul/Aug 2013): The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type – Military Mail from New Caledonia & Dependencies and French Oceania (Grabowski).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 353 (2^e trim 2013): En toute franchise, la taxe ou la grâce ministérielle? (Pleinfossé); Quatre fautes d'inattention dans la marcophilie moderne (pour notre plus grand plaisir) (Mercier); Procès-verbal de situation de caisse au 31 décembre, les origines? (Pleinfossé); Procédure de recensement des timbres à date «Boîte mobile»

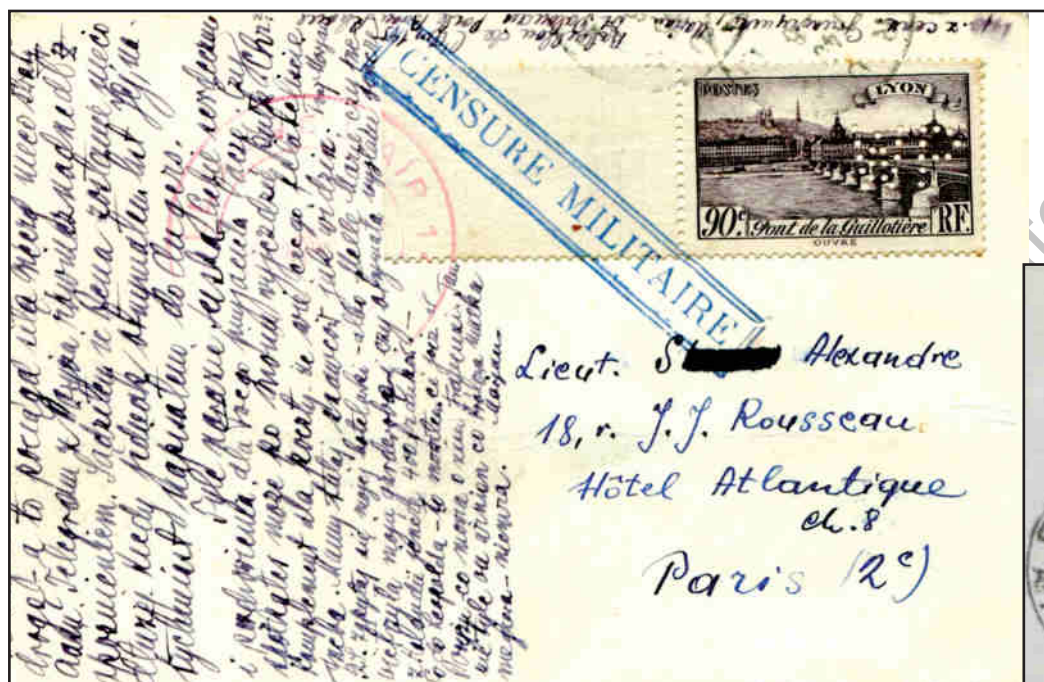
Continued on page 120

BOOKSHELF

Aleksander Stocki Enigmatic Philatelist by Roy E Reader & George K Kay; 2nd edition; paperback with laminated covers & plastic clip binding; 75pp A4; 73 mainly grey-scale illustrations; published June 2013 by Roy E Reader, 3 Stanhope Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 7HA; price £14 post free. See further details at <http://www.royreader.plus.com>.

The main interest of this book insofar as French philately is concerned lies with the story of those 1930-40 French postage stamps pin-perforated 'WP' (= Wojsko Polskie [Polish Army]) that still from time to time appear on the philatelic market today. They were, it was claimed, used by the Polish War Office in Paris in May-June 1940 on the suggestion of Aleksander Stocki, at that time a lieutenant in the Polish Army, and they were even later offered for sale by him after his arrival in Scotland in June 1940 before he went on to produce many Polish Army letter seals, postage due labels, date stamps, field postcards and commemorative cards and covers.

Roy Reader



A postcard that Stocki addressed to himself and then franked with a 'WP' Lyon stamp before sending it under separate cover to a Polish airman at Bron Air Base, near Lyon, with the intention this airman return it to him with a message on.

The airman obliged and on its return journey the card, bearing a faint Air Battalion 145 handstamp and a censor strike, was cancelled at Bron on an unknown day in June 1940.

As far as the French Post Office was concerned, the stamp was unnecessary as soldiers' ordinary mail was carried free of charge.

An obviously philatelic card, but nevertheless a rare example of the use of one of the short-lived 'WP' stamps on genuine mail.

'WP'
Red Cross Nurse stamp,
of which only forty
were produced,
here on piece
with a cancellation
of 3 May 1940,
its first day of use

Books Noted

France 1, Unadopted Proofs and Essays 1917-1931 (144pp, price 25€); **France 2, Unadopted Proofs and Essays 1933-1934, The Mistler project** (70pp, price 17€); **France 3, Unadopted Proofs and Essays 1935-1936** (92pp, price 20€); **France 4, Unadopted Proofs and Essays 1937-1940** (207pp, price 29€); **Monaco, Unadopted Proofs and Essays** (246pp, price 33€); all 5 vols in English by Giorgio Leccese; 220 x 142mm; available from author: g.leccese@dieproofs.it [Illustrated catalogues of unadopted projects (proofs and essays) of French stamps issued (after modification) or unissued, with values; studied since 1995 by Italian philatelist writing in English.]

Pierre-Georges Latécoère: Correspondances (1918-1928); ed. Laurent Albaret; pub. Editions Privat; supported by

Fondation d'entreprise La Poste; 150 x 240mm; price 24€; available from bookshops.

[In 2009 the Latécoère archive of thousands of documents, letters, notes and telegrams was opened to a historian who has reconstituted chronologically the story of the Lignes, concentrating on the development of airmail transport in these years.]

The Postal History of French Forces in Tunisia 1900-1920 & the South Tunisian Campaign 1915-1917 by David Trapnell; pub. F&CPS as Brochure N° 9; 40pp A4; format & binding as for a Journal; price £10 + p&p.

[This new brochure, fully illustrated in colour, will be printed and available by late October 2013; further details will be published in the December issue of the Journal.]

Maurice Tyler

AUTUMN STAMPEX 2013

*The following articles describe the displays by our members that form the keynote exhibition at Autumn Stampex 2013
I would like to express my gratitude to Mick Bister for his invaluable help in editing these contributions — MST.*

The Moveable Box Service

Graham Booth

The Anglo-French treaty of 1843 agreed to install moveable boxes on private ships for the convenience of passengers. On arrival at the port of destination the box was to be physically taken to the Post Office where it would be unlocked and the contents processed.

The original marks were rectangular; after 1857 they became octagonal, and late in the nineteenth century they were circular. The early marks are scarce: some known in the proof books are not known to collectors.

The original concept changed over time to include packets as

well as private ships and mail was put on board in dock after the last post had closed. In addition the requirement that the box should be opened at the port of arrival was abandoned.

When established the movable box rate created a conflict with ship letter rates, and in the twentieth century the rules for the *paquebot* system created confusion with those applicable to the moveable box.

Some marks continued to be used until 1939; but their use was imprecise and/or redundant, and it is surprising that they lasted so long.

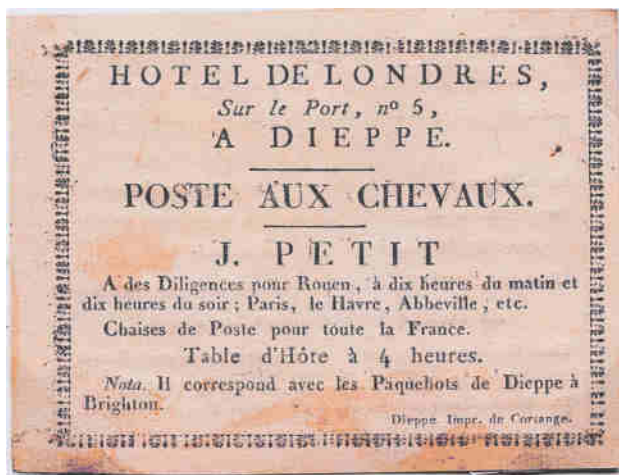


Figure 1

A card advertising the London Hotel and stagecoaches from Dieppe, addressed to British travellers arriving by 'Pacquet-boat' from Brighton c1825. The shortest sea route between France and the UK was between Calais and Dover, but Dieppe and the Sussex coast always had an intimate connection. It was not uncommon to float a coach and horses on a raft off the beach at Brighton en route to Dieppe.



Figure 2

An unpaid wrapper from Calais addressed to London dated 2 May 1844 posted in a moveable box on board a vessel regularly sailing between these ports but not a packet with a contract from the Post Office.

Because it was a private ship it was backstamped with a London Ship Letter (Tabcart S51) on 2 May 1844 for which the rate was 8d per ½oz.

In contradiction to this it was then struck with a red Mobile Box mark (Tabcart MB1) and charged 10d.

This was the paid to destination rate under the 1843 Treaty for a ¼oz letter with 5d going to the British Post Office and 5d going to the French.

Why it was necessary to use the Ship Letter mark is not understood, especially as the two marks implied different rates.

French Transatlantic Mail 1783-1869

Steve Ellis

Although a considerable amount of mail was carried between France and the United States of America during the early nineteenth century, no postal convention between the two countries existed until April 1857 when the United States-French Postal Convention was introduced. Prior to this any rate change in either country, plus Great Britain since the majority of mail sent transited that country, affected the postal charges, and these changes occurred quite often! The display identifies and explains eleven different rates in operation between 1843 and 1856, for example. Different rates sometimes prevailed depending on the nationality of the ship carrying the mail, the method of propulsion (sail or steam) and whether the mail was carried on a commercial basis or under contract to a government. A further factor was the inland postage rate calculation in either the sending or receiving country, which was also subject to change. The display also includes the interesting 'retaliatory' periods, of which it is not widely known that there were in fact two.

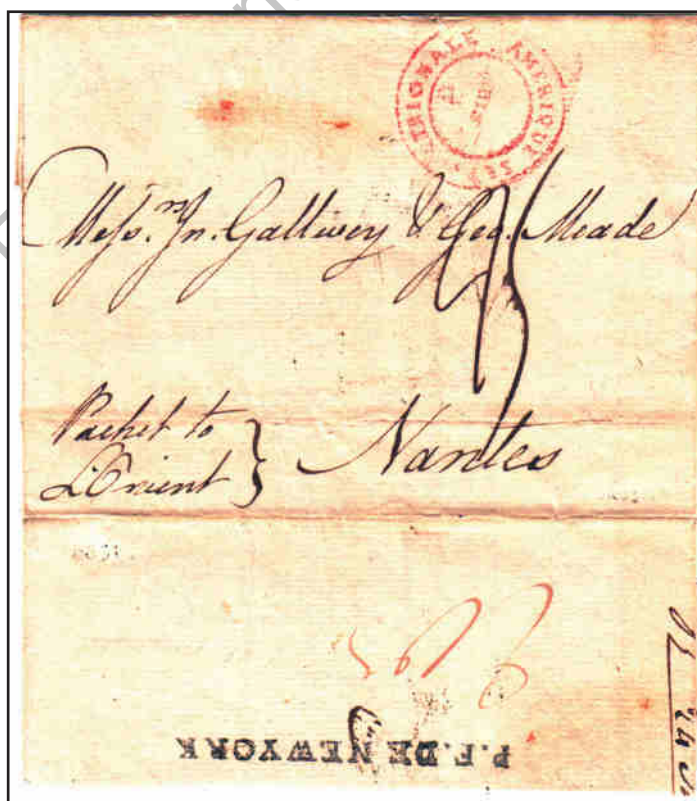
In these early years most mail was carried by private ships, with a gratuity paid to the captain of the vessel. Regular sailing 'clipper' service (usually American) operated from around 1822, and entry marks were applied showing the port of entry of the mail. Even after the introduction of regular packet services, operating under contract to the government, some mail was still carried by non-contract vessels and at different rates.

An interesting 'interim' period lasting three months existed in between the introduction of the Anglo-French and the US-French Postal Conventions of January and April 1857

respectively. During this period new accountancy marks were applied to signify a reduced credit to Britain in respect of the exchange of letters between that country and France.

From April 1857 to December 1869, in accordance with the US-French Postal Convention, mail could be sent fully paid to the destination (or the limits of each country's mail system). Rates were simplified (80 centimes or 50 cents) and agreement reached as to the apportionment of the postal revenue between the countries dependent on three factors – the nationality of the steamship operation (British, American or French), the route (whether direct or via Britain) and whether the mail was sent paid or unpaid. Such accountancy markings are fully illustrated in the display. A desire by the US post office during 1868 to reduce the rates, which was opposed by the French, resulted in notice being given to terminate the convention, which finally occurred at the end of 1869.

The introduction of the regular contract packet services, mainly from Liverpool after 1840, had a major impact on the carriage of mail to and from France, which now usually transited Britain. The French government offered financial support to a direct service from Le Havre to America (the Hérout & de Handel line from 1847) but this failed. What isn't often appreciated is that the French had from 1783 awarded a contract for the operation of a regular service to New York, known as the 'Royal *Paquebot*' service (operating until 1793) and it is such a letter carried on this route which is displayed below. Mail carried on this service received special cancellations both in America (New York) and France (Lorient).



Blindman's Mail for France and Colonies 1822-2008

Gavin Fryer RDP

The pages have been drawn from a worldwide collection of mail related to blind people.

Surveys by the UPU in 1906-07 are believed to have been used to form the basis for a 'bird's eye' view of postal rates for material for the blind, worldwide. These particulars were developed as each postal authority introduced specific tariffs for the blind. Some gave concessions, even a complete franchise, at the start of recognition of blind people as a segment of the community that needed special concessions.

UPU Circular of 13 October 1906 stated that in **France, including Monaco, Tunisia, Tripoli de Barbarie** mail for the blind could be sent at the following tariff:

1 centime per 5g or part up to 20g;

5 centimes above 20g up to 50g;

5 centimes above 50g - per 50g or part; papers may be sent under band or under stamped band supplied by the Post Office;

5 centimes per 50g when sent under band open at the sides or in an unsealed envelope or otherwise open for inspection.

This tariff is for countries within the UPU; otherwise the rate is 10 centimes per 50g.

UPU Circular of 5 March 1907 stated that in **French West Africa** mail for the blind could be sent as printed matter at 5 centimes per 50g.

UPU Circular of 24 May 1907 stated that in **French Colonies of St Pierre et Miquelon, Mayotte, Anjouan, Mohéli and Grande Comore** the rate was:

1 centime per 5g or part up to 20g;

5 centimes above 20g up to 50g;

above 50g 5 centimes per 50g or part;

5 centimes per 50g or part when sent under band open at the sides or in an unsealed envelope or otherwise open for inspection.

This tariff is for countries within the UPU; otherwise the rate is 10 centimes per 50g.

UPU Circular of 12 June 1907 stated that in **New Caledonia** mail for the blind sent as printed matter when sent under band:

1 centime per 10g or part;

when in open envelope 5 centimes per 50g;

and in **Indo-China** mail for the blind was sent as printed matter when sent under band:

1 centime per 5g or part up to 20g;

5 centimes above 20g up to 50g;

5 centimes above 50g per 50g or part.

In **Congo** mail for the blind was sent at 5 centimes per 50g or part.

On 13 July 1911 France introduced a postal tariff specifically for the blind that varied until the postal franchise applied from 6 January 1959 (source: Musée de la Poste, Paris).

FRANCE - Inland Rates 1911 to date CECOGRAMME / ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND								
Date	0-5g	5-10g	10-15g	15-20g	500g	per 500g extra	per kg	
1st Sep 1906 at Printed matter rates	1c	2c	3c	4c +5c per 50g				--
Weight steps	15g	20g	50g	100g	500g	extra 500g	per kg	Foreign per 500g
13 July 1911 Tariff began				5c	10c	+5c		
28 Feb 1912	2c		3c					
1 Apr 1920		2c		3c		5c	+5c	
1 Apr 1921								5c
1 Apr 1924								10c
1 Oct 1925								20c
1 Feb 1926								25c
1 Aug 1926								30c
1 July 1930								20c
9 Apr 1931					2c	5c		
1 Jan 1935								15c per kg
1 Aug 1937								20c
5 Jan 1942							10c	
1 Feb 1942								30c
1 Feb 1946								1 fr
1 May 1948								2 fr
1 Dec 1948								3 fr
Weight step							for 3 kg	
6 Jan 1949							1 fr	
1 July 1953								free
6 Jan 1959	FREE of postage and no fees for registration, express, AR, etc.							

Ref: the tariff in 1949 has its origin in Postal Decree dated 31 December 1948 Annexe N° 3 au R.O. N° 36. (see article page 110)



Sheets of Braille
from Epinal to Jussey
sent on 6 January 1923
under the domestic tariff in
France dated 1 April 1920
at 2 centimes per 20g

The selected pages include: the Braille alphabet, the keyboard on early typewriters used by the blind with an illustration of blinded soldiers learning to read Braille; a letter written in 1822 in Paris from the *Institution Royale des Jeunes Aveugles* together with a short history about Louis Braille and development of postal tariffs; a letter written in December 1829 by James Holman, the blind traveller, from Mauritius to Eton Buckinghamshire, who had visited the Seychelles; a postcard with Braille text sent from Toulouse to Borga in Finland in 1910 prior to the introduction of a postal tariff specifically for the blind; an early Braille letter sheet posted in January 1923 at 2 centimes for up to 20g (see illustration above); four examples using the

2c 'Sower' definitive posted in the period 1935-1941; the foreign rate to Italy of 20c on letter sheets sent in 1938-1940; 10c domestic rate under the tariff of 1942; mail from Belgium to Paris in 1948 and 1952; an amusing example of marketing in 1949 using a musical jingle to help in selling a car, in this case addressed to a blind person in Paris; examples of 1 franc rates in Paris 1949-1958 and from Trouville to a trooper at Bizerte in Tunisia sent in 1953-54; an envelope from Constantine in Algeria to Germany sent in 1966 under the postal franchise for the blind introduced in France on 6 January 1959; two examples from the Cameroons to London posted in 1992 and domestic mail sent in 2003-2008 each under the postal franchise.

The Franco Prussian War & its aftermath

Stephen Holder

The causes of war are seldom simple and the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1 is no exception, though simpler than many. The root cause is usually national rivalries, often sparked by a relatively minor event which then appears to be itself the cause.

Simplified in this instance, 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.

At this time France was considered the dominant military Power in Europe (as Britain was considered the naval

Power) and Prussia was not considered in the same light. But two factors made the difference between France and Prussia, guns and railways. The German armaments and industrial support were superior, and their railways were built to one standard, leading from the industrial heartlands straight to the Rhine. (It had been observation of this that had caused the French to develop their own railways).

The French expected to cross the border with ease and advance relatively unimpeded. The young men ran through the streets of Paris crying "*À 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 19 July 1870 to mid-August the French suffered a series of reverses and defeats at Spicheren, Wissembourg, Froeschwiller, Mars-la-Tour & Gravelotte-St Privat, 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.

Only two months had passed since the start of the war. 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-Brisac. 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 the bitterness over the "Lost Provinces" became one of the prime causes of the next conflict, 1914-18.

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.

The most important groups are the military mail, the balloon mail of Paris and Metz, the pigeon post, the *boules de Moulins* underwater mail, the Commune and the occupation issues. In addition there are many other aspects of postal history to be found in this period. Red Cross cachets, prisoner of war mail, detoured mail, letters from the army detained in Switzerland, emergency date stamps, bisects for the new September 1871 tariff, smuggled mail, the clandestine Swiss Route, to mention just some, making the subject a particularly rich one for the postal historian.

For the philatelist the various special issues of stamps, the Siege issue, the famous Bordeaux provisional imperf issue, the clandestine Commune printings and the new issues for the September 1871 tariff, provide a vast and colourful field for the serious student. Can any other short period of a few months have produced such a profusion of philatelic and historical material of such a varied interest?

Figure 1 (right)

A "Red Letter" Press envelope, the colour indicating the contents to be a Press Report.

Such letters are the primary reason stated for the origin of the expression "a red letter day".

Headquarters date stamp

K.Pr. Armee-Post-Amt 3 Armee

22 October (1870). MS '2' (double rate) and tax mark 4 (?) (*décimes*).

Backstamped London 28 October 1870.

Only about three or four such envelopes have been recorded.

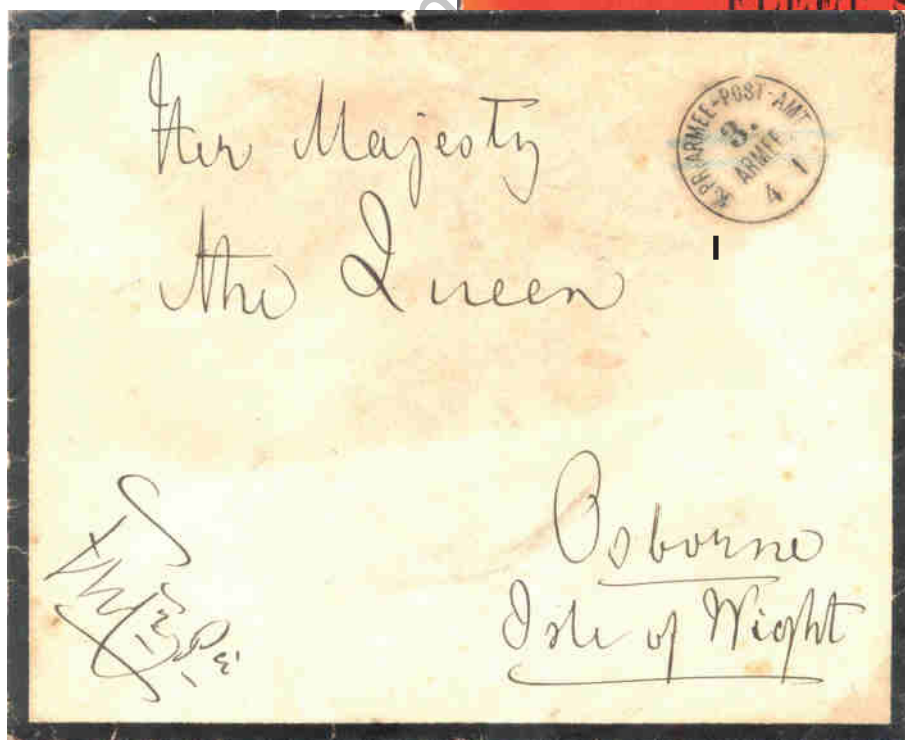


Figure 2 (left)

A mourning envelope to Queen Victoria at Osborne, Isle of Wight, from Crown Prince Frederick of Prussia, Commander in Chief of the Third Army.

The envelope is signed with his initials and sealed on the reverse with the Royal Seal.

I believe the original letter is in the Windsor Castle archives.

I acquired this item from a man in Worthing whose mother had been in service at Osborne, and of course the envelope would have been retrieved from waste paper at the time for an autograph collector).

Ligne Noguès - France to Indo-China

John Hammonds

Before the advent of air travel the mail from France to Indo-China took 26 days by sea.

The beginnings of the French interest in an air service to Indo-China can be traced to the military flights between Constantinople and Bucharest in 1919.

Compagnie Franco-Roumanie (later Compagnie Internationale de Navigation Aérienne) flew from Paris to Constantinople. M Noguès (Chief Pilot) surveyed the route between Constantinople and Ankara, from where the company planned a route to the far east via Damascus, Baghdad, Bushire, Karachi, Calcutta and Bangkok to link with Air Asie flying from Saigon. However Turkey refused permission to overfly its territory so the Company gave up its plan.

In 1926 Maurice Noguès left CIDNA to join Compagnie Messageries Transaérienne who gave him a free hand to create an airline to the Far East. In 1926 the company changed its name to Air Union Lignes d'Orient.

After several survey flights the route from Marseille to Beirut was opened on 6 June 1929. It took until 17 January 1931 before the route to Saigon was fully open. In the meantime Air Union Lignes d'Orient had merged with Air Asie to form Air Orient. Air Orient became part of Air France in 1933. The Seahorse emblem of Air Orient was adopted by Air France.

Between 1929 and 1930, before the route was fully established, an agreement with the Dutch Government enabled mail from Indo-China to be carried by the Dutch airline

KLM flying from the Netherlands East Indies to Amsterdam. Air Asie flew the mail from Saigon to Bangkok to connect with KLM.

From April 1932 the weekly departure from Marseille was on Thursdays and from Saigon on Fridays, later changed to Sundays. In 1932 the journey time was ten days, but this was later reduced to 6½ days when better aircraft came into service.

The route was extended from Saigon to Hanoi in 1935. In 1936 an accord was signed with China allowing an airline between Hanoi and Canton in conjunction with China National Aviation Corporation. The first through service from France to China was on 10 September 1936.

In 1938 a new route was opened via Tunis, Tripoli, Benghazi, Alexandria and Damascus, this shortened the journey from 12,505km to 11,645km.

On the outbreak of war (2 September 1939) Air France suspended all services until 18 September. The last Air France departure from Marseille was on 16 June 1940 arriving at Saigon on 25 June 1940. In the other direction the last service left Saigon on 18 June 1940 arriving at Marseille on 29 June.

From then mail to France went via various routes: KLM to Lydda then by rail to France; via Hong Kong and Pan American Transpacific and Transatlantic services; via Singapore and Pan American as before.

The service ceased on the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong in December 1941



16 January 1931 Inauguration of the Regular France to Indochina Air Mail Service by Air Orient

Paris - the District Offices 1863-1876

Chris Hitchen

The classification of Paris offices as principal or supplementary was dropped in September 1863. From the 5th of that month the district offices in Paris began to receive new date stamps which now included the street name and numbered stars with which to cancel the stamps. The offices were reorganised according to the amount of business handled from number 1 for the stock exchange to number 35 for the hospital and poor house at Salpêtrière.

The stars used as cancellation were in use for some 13 years until 28 March 1876. It was a period that saw enormous changes in French fortunes and this is reflected in the postal history of the period. At the beginning the empire of Napoleon III was approaching its peak and new stamps then just appearing showed him with a wreath of laurels befitting his imperial status. The disastrous war of 1870 saw Paris besieged and the Emperor deposed. In the spring of 1871 the civil war of the Commune brought fresh disasters to the capital and in September the 3rd Republic began its long life.

October 1866 saw five new offices opened. The office at Salpêtrière was then renumbered 40 and closed at the year end.

In July 1863 three offices had been given authorisation to accept letters after the usual collection time for an extra fee. For letters to be delivered to destinations throughout the country the next day they had to go on the night trains which left between 7.30 and 9 o'clock in the evening. The number of offices able to accept such late fee letters steadily increased throughout this period.

Postcards which first appeared in January 1873 and printed matter were usually cancelled with the date stamp. A small number of offices had paid handstamps for printed matter.

Registration saw some changes. From 1 June 1870 the insurance element on insured letters could now be paid in postage stamps. February 1873 saw the reintroduction of '*la recommandation*' (registration without compensation). At the same time full registration ('*le chargement*') was restricted to insured letters.

Letters not prepaid became less usual but date stamps with the amount to pay were issued for both local and inland postal rates. Postage rates increased on 1 September 1871 and the postage stamps in use saw the head of Cérès reinstated to replace that of Napoleon.

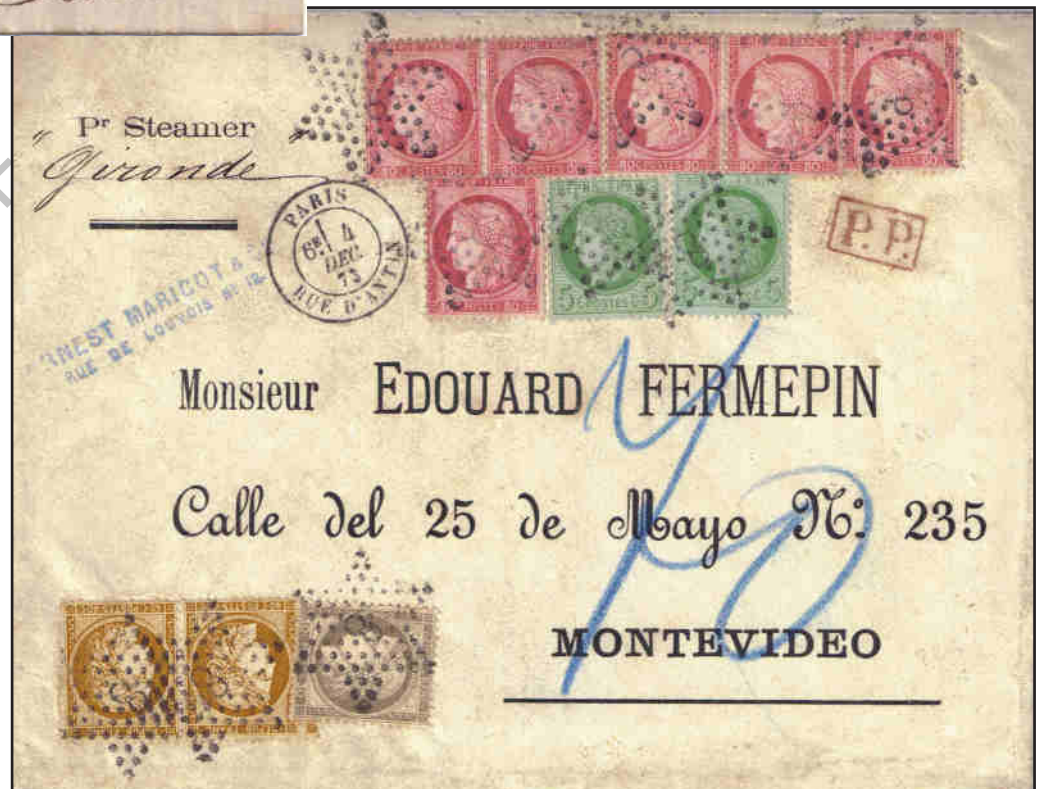


Figure 1

17 May 1871: a local letter posted during the Commune at the rue d'Antin office.

The star 8 to cancel the stamp had been lost so a lozenge with an anchor borrowed from reserves at the Head office has been used as an expedient.

Figure 1
4 December 1873:
a letter posted at
Office 8 rue d'Antin
for Uruguay to go on the
Gironde of Line J.
The postage of 6 francs
is a little odd
as the tariff of 1 January 1866
set the rate as
80c per 10 grams.



Type Sage 1876-1900: Registered and Insured Mail

Peter Kelly

The first *Type Sage* stamps were introduced in mid-1876. The stamps particularly associated with registration were the 40c, 50c, 75c, 1F and 5F. The 2F appeared in the last year of the issue. However, in parallel with the running down of stocks of the previous *Cérès* issue the first stamps issued were the lower values and it was some months before the higher ones appeared. It is therefore quite normal to see examples of mixed franking with *Cérès* in the early days of the issue and especially the 40c and 80c and the 5F *Empire Lauré*.

The period is an interesting one; *Type Sage* is very much a child of the General Postal Union (later UPU) that France joined on 1 January 1876. The first period, up to 1 May 1878 combined a mixture of pre-GPU and post-GPU elements. Although the basic weight step of 15 grams had been adopted, various weight bands applied thereafter and a twin rate tariff continued to separate local and territorial mail. The insurance element was expensive at 20c per 100F and a combination of these features resulted in the possibility of high value frankings.

The postal reform of 1 May 1878 was significant in that it saw the replacement of the twin rate tariff with a single territorial rate with equal weight steps of 15 grams and a substantial reduction in the insurance rate. Other rates for reduced price items such as printed matter, samples, postcards etc, were also unified and simplified. Over the rest of the period of the issue the rates remained fairly stable but with a tendency for reduction and a number of new products were introduced where registration and/or insurance was involved such as the COD service.

A selection of these rates is shown along with the postal markings used by the different categories of office. While each category had separate distinguishing marks there were, especially in full service *recette* offices, a great variety of marks used and some applying specifically to registered and insured mail. This display relates to inland mail with the inclusion of a couple of foreign items designed to illustrate a point. The issue was replaced by the Blanc, Mouchon, Merson issues in 1900 although Sage stamps continued to be used for some years and were never officially withdrawn.



11 November 1876: Local registered letter, Oléron to Oléron
 Franked 65c: Postage 25c (T.1.1.1876); Registration 50c (T2/1873)

French Postal Relations with the United Kingdom and Germany 1939-45

Roy Reader

In World War II France was the only German-occupied country that at one point in time had postal relations with both Germany and the United Kingdom at the same time.

When France declared war on Germany on 3 September 1939, all postal relations with Germany were severed while, of course, they continued with the United Kingdom. On 10 May 1940 Germany launched an attack on France. The French resisted but, unable to stem the German advance, eventually signed an armistice with Germany on 22 June. By the terms of this armistice, the Germans occupied the northern part of France and the Atlantic coast, while the French Government at Vichy kept control of the south of France except for a small part occupied by Italy.

The Germans immediately banned all postal relations between their zone of occupation and the United Kingdom, but they allowed them with Germany from 8 November 1940. In the southern zone the Vichy Government, which had after all asked for an armistice with Germany and not an alliance, allowed postal relations to continue with the

United Kingdom as before, though now via neutral Portugal. Germany refused to allow them with Germany. Hence it came about that people in the northern zone could communicate with Germany but not the United Kingdom (Figure 1), while people in the southern zone could communicate with the United Kingdom but not Germany (Figure 2). Sometime after March 1942, the Germans did allow some limited postal relations between the southern zone and Germany.

All postal relations between France and the United Kingdom eventually ended when the Germans occupied the southern zone on 11 November 1942 and banned all postal relations with abroad except for with Switzerland. They re-allowed them with Germany the following month, but not, of course, with the United Kingdom. Eventually the liberation of France, which began with the Allied invasion of Normandy on 6 June 1944, resulted in growing disruption to the postal services with Germany until they eventually ceased altogether. Postal relations between France and the United Kingdom were resumed in September 1944.

Figure 1
French postcard sent from the northern zone of France to Germany. Sent from Nantes on 9 December 1940 by a German wanting to give his best wishes to a friend or relative at Regensburg.



Figure 2
Postcard for England cancelled at the village of Rébénacq, near Pau, in the southern zone of France on 14 September 1940. In the absence of ships or planes to the United Kingdom, the card had to be routed via Lisbon, where, exceptionally, it was transit-stamped on 22 September. It eventually reached its destination of Hampstead and was backstamped there on 19 November on redirection to Harrogate, which it reached two days after that. It was not a fast service! This was hardly helpful to the sender (a German Jew?) anxious to give his brother the address of where he and others had been taking refuge since 1 August. During its journey the card had been passed by the British censor.

Czechoslovak Army in France 1939-40

Roy Reader

Soon after declaring war on Germany on 3 September 1939, the French allowed a Czechoslovak Army to be re-constituted on French soil. The soldiers were based mainly at Agde Camp in the south of France until they were evacuated to Britain in June 1940. At the camp their mail was initially stamped with the camp date stamp already in use for the mail of Spanish refugees already assembled there.

At the end of October 1939, the Czechoslovaks were allocated Postal Sector 2197 to use as their postal address. The French then supplied them with two 'Poste aux Armées' date stamps: one unnumbered for use on ordinary mail and one bearing the number 2197 for use on official and registered

mail and on parcels. On 1 February 1940, perhaps in celebration of the 1st and 2nd Infantry Regiments becoming ready for battle, the Czechoslovaks produced a date stamp of their own, a rather ornate one bearing the number 2197. This, however, they were not allowed to use to cancel outgoing mail. However, they often used it, quite legally, as an adjunct alongside the French-supplied date stamp or else on its own as an arrival mark on incoming mail.

They later produced two further date-stamps: one on 5 May to mark the 21st anniversary of the death of General Štefánik and the other on 1 June to mark the imminent departure of the 1st and 2nd Infantry Regiments for the front. The same limitations on use applied.

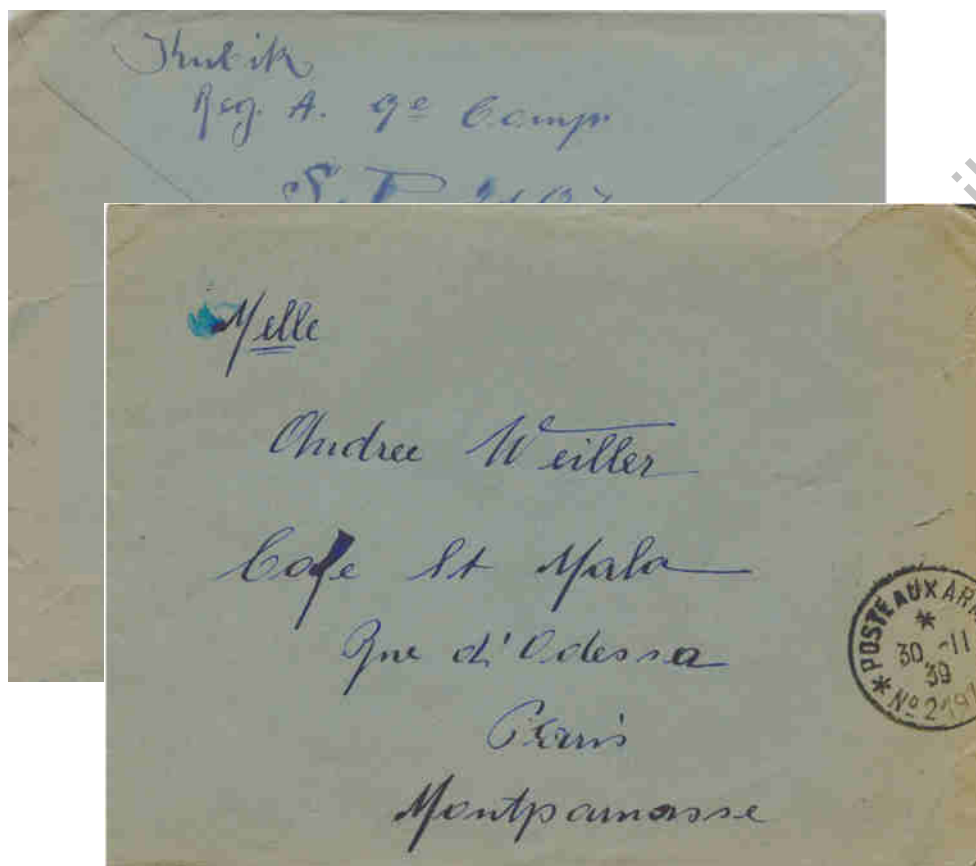


Figure 1
Though supposed to be used only on official mail, registered mail and parcels, the French-supplied date-stamp bearing the number 2197 was applied here to an ordinary cover. This did occasionally happen, especially at busy times of year, not that the end of November, when this cover was cancelled, was a busy time of year.

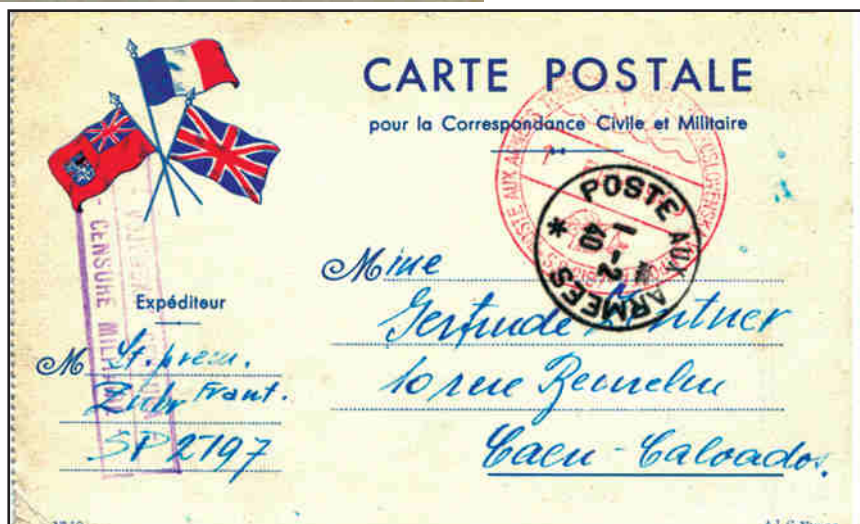


Figure 2

The French-supplied dumb (numberless) date stamp was here used on 1 February 1940 on a postcard to Caen.

Applied with it was the date stamp produced by the Czechoslovaks themselves and used for the first time this day.

It was used in red to celebrate its introduction.

The card was also checked and stamped by the Czechoslovak censor.

France 1789-1814: Revolution And War

Peter Rooke

The display illustrates various aspects of this tumultuous period in the history of France.

Following a series of very expensive wars fought to protect her various colonies, the failure of Finance Minister Turgot to solve the country's financial problems plus an exceptionally hard winter, France was bankrupt, the people were hungry and insurrection was becoming rife, so Louis XVI recalled the Estates-General. This body was an ancient assembly of France dating back to 1301, which had not met since 1614 under Louis XIII. The aim was to solve France's financial problems but a dispute arose about whether they should sit separately or as one assembly. Tired of the obstructive attitude of the clergy and nobility, on 17 June 1789 the Third Estate – the People's Representatives – constituted itself as the National Assembly. This was the first step towards the Revolutionary government.

The National Assembly led to the National Convention, the Reign of Terror and the establishment of the Commissions, the governmental departments necessary to create a state structure.

By the Spring of 1794, over 750,000 men were under arms, a feat largely due to the efforts of Lazare-Nicolas-Marguerite Carnot (1753-1823), who served as Minister for War. He overcame the restrictions imposed by 'The Terror' to create a well-organised citizen army that could stand against the best professional armies in Europe.

The Directory and its Ministries followed and then came the *Consulat*, which enabled Napoleon to take power. The display also included items from the War of the 1st Coalition and mail diverted from the 'Calais or Ostend Packet route' to the 'Yarmouth and Cuxhaven route' or smuggled via Holland to France. The plight of British '*Détenus*' and Prisoners of War between 1794 and 1809 was also represented, including a letter from a French prisoner-of-war in England and the use of the efficient French Army postal system by civilians.

The final frame was devoted to the military post offices of the French armies during the Peninsular War between 1808 and 1813 and some of the cachets used.

The illustrated cover, sent from Paris to Cherbourg via Le Havre 1794 is addressed to the *Conseil d'administration du 10^e Bataillon de la Manche au Havre, Manche* but this was deleted and the front re-addressed to the *Conseil d'administration de la 28^e demie Brigade d'inf^{te} Armée de Cherbourg, Cherbourg*. At some point it was also thought that this body was based *à Caen* but this was also deleted.

The letter was sent by the *Commission de l'organisation du mouvement des armées de Terre N° 1*, whose abbreviated cachet was struck on the front and is recorded in use in Paris from 1794. The seal on the reverse was struck with the official oval cachet of this body. Being an official communication the letter travelled under the franchise of the Commission.



The Napoleonic Post in the Southern Adriatic 1806-1813

Hans Smith

After Napoleon had lost a substantial part of his fleet at Trafalgar it became clear to him that he would be able to extend the French Empire only by the land route. His grand scheme at the time was reportedly to neutralise Germany and Austria, subjugate Russia and with the manpower thereby released to him, bring Britain to the negotiating table by attacking her at her weakest spot – in India, to be approached through Russia, Turkey and Persia (annexing Egypt to France on the way). But he had to protect his flank where it was weakest – in the Adriatic – and he achieved this after the Battle of Austerlitz (1805) by attaching various parts of the Austrian provinces and of the Italian Kingdom to the French Empire, including seizing the independent Republic of Ragusa for the French Empire.

During their time in the new territories, the French established an efficient postal service where virtually none had existed hitherto. Civilian post was kept separate from the French military postal system, so we find “Italian” postmarks being used (eg Spalato, Ragusa) on local mail, while local authorities could also send local mail endorsed with their seals.

From 1806 onwards considerable numbers of French troops were moved into the new territories both from the West (Italy) and the North (Germany or Austria): *Armée d'Italie*

(1806-1810), *Armée d'Allemagne* (1810-1811), *Armée de Dalmatie* (1807-1810).

Subsequently and up till 1811, 8 different postmarks appear on military mail, consisting of 2 lines of which the upper designated the unit and the lower read *ARM. DE DALMATIE* (Fig 1). In 1810, however, the armies were reformed and renamed and a headquarters unit and 4 divisions were established known as the *Armée d'Illyrie* and the former divisional postmarks were reissued accordingly (*ARM. D'ILLYRIE*).

In 1811, French domestic tariffs became general throughout “Illyria” and standard postmarks were adopted incorporating the word “ILLYRIE,” namely:

- (1) TOWN NAME/ILLYRIE for non-prepaid mail;
- (2) P.P./TOWN NAME/ILLYRIE for prepaid mail;
- (3) DEB/TOWN NAME/ILLYRIE for rerouted or returned mail where a charge was due to be refunded by the transit office.

A “CHARGÉ” mark was used on registered mail from Ragusa (Fig 2).

By late 1812, French postal staff had been largely replaced by Italian-speaking Illyrians and the former Italian postmarks or new postmarks resembling the latter began to appear. The Austrians took over the existing postal system in 1814.



Figure 1 (above)
Private letter 4.5.1809 to Auxerre, post-paid
Probably postmarked at Split



Figure 2 (left)
Entire letter dated 22.9.1811 from Castel Nuovo, where a receiving office is believed to have existed, via Ragusa to Venice, arriving 15.10.1811. Prepaid 22 décimes (entered on the reverse) but still charged 6 décimes on arrival, the basic rate for internal mail within the Kingdom of Italy/Illyria, so 22 décimes was apparently the registered charge.

French Military Postal System in World War I

Maureice Tyler

During WWI free postage was instituted for mail to and from the French troops. The display categorises and illustrates various postal markings used by the military postal system to give an overview of the ways in which the organisation developed during this period.

Some of the markings used in the years immediately before WWI and in the early days of the war are first shown. These include an *Ordre d'Appel sous les Drapeaux*, used when reservists were being called up, cards from a *Bureau de Recrutement*, marks of *Bureaux Ambulants de Mobilisation*, used on trains transporting troops after war was declared on Germany on 3 August 1914, and *Cachets de Manœuvres*, used originally during the large scale manoeuvres carried out as preparation for war but some of which continued to be used as an emergency after the war had started.

In the early days troops sending letters or cards home from the front were able to use the "flag" cards produced in large numbers by the government and later cards produced by private firms; they normally bore the date stamp of the appropriate *Bureau Payeur*, which soon developed into *Secteurs Postaux*; mail sent from families to the troops were at first directed to the appropriate military *Dépôt*, but these were soon overwhelmed by work and a new system had to be devised.

Then come the marks of the *Gares de Rassemblement* which were set up to receive mail from the *Dépôts* until they were abolished in September 1915 to be replaced by the *Bureau Central Militaire de Paris* (moved for a short time to Bordeaux) and the *Bureau Central Militaire de Marseille* (transferred for a short time to Lyon) for mail to and from the *Armée d'Orient*.

Mail would be sorted and sent from these establishments to the *Bureaux-Frontière*. There was a *Gare de Rassemblement* for each Army Corps, numbered from 1 to 20 and 22, with 14bis being a separate one for Moroccan troops and

those sent to Africa, 22 at first being labelled a Colonial Corps although later the word *Colonial* was removed. The striking "hat-shaped" mark was normally accompanied or replaced by a double ring date stamp.

Then comes a selection of the *Bureaux-Frontière* which were established in or near to *Gares Régulatrices* (under the command of a *Commissaire Postal Régulateur*) on the periphery of the war zone and forwarded mail on by daily trains (*Trains de Ravitaillement*) to the correct *Secteur Postal* where it would be distributed to the troops by the *Vaguemestre* or postal orderly. These *Bureaux-Frontière* were given the letters A to N (except J) and W; L was for the *Armée d'Observation des Alpes* until Italy changed sides, and W was a late addition for the British Army. The "hat-shaped" mark was normally accompanied or replaced by a double ring *Poste aux Armées* date stamp. All these marks were only used authentically on mail posted in the station itself, but can often be found as *marques de complaisance*.

Finally comes a selection of *Bureaux Centralisateurs*, regional sorting offices that forwarded mail received from the *Bureaux-Frontière* and sent from the troops in the battle zone to destinations principally in occupied territories of France: approximately a dozen of these offices are known, with single ring date stamps.

In December 1916 a daily *Train de Rodeau des Régulatrices* was organised to link all the regulating stations along the front line. This train contained a travelling post office service known as the *Bureau Ambulant d'Armée* consisting of 4 sections (numbered 1-4) on the route Dunkirk-Amiens-Le Bourget-Troyes-Gray, each section being served by two crews A and B for the journey in one direction or the other: their marked cachets were withdrawn early in 1916. Finally come a few examples of the uncommon postal cachet used by the *Trésor et Postes aux Armées - Service Central* in Paris.



A card dated September 1915 from the Recruitment Office at St Etienne summoning a Monsieur Maurice Mouchet to the local Convalescent Hospital for an enquiry to establish whether he is unfit for military service. "Badouiller" in the small date stamp is the name of a district in St Etienne.

UK (London) Late Fee mail to France 1840-1939

Paul Watkins

The late office hours common in the 19th century meant that mail was often taken for posting in the early evening. It was thought worth paying extra postage on urgent business mail – particularly that to the Continent which had a more complex route. The majority of such mail originated in the City of London.

The system of charging a 'late fee' for enclosing a letter in the day's mails after the closure of the PO counter originated with the informal 'tips' received by postal clerks for their trouble in re-opening the mail-bag and amending the way-bill. By its nature, there are no records or special marks associated with it. Rowland Hill's 1840 postal reforms emphasised accountability and ensured that late fees were paid in stamps – adding to PO revenue while depriving clerks of their perk.

Regulations regarding the stamping of foreign mail were flexible: until the embossed 10d (1848) there was no single stamp for French postage so many letters continued to be cash-paid, sometimes including the late fee.

Initially, late mail was accepted only at the Chief Office, St Martin le Grand; this was extended to certain District & then Branch POs later in the century, as the volume of such mail increased.

The fees

Early late-fee mail can be identified by analysing the postage paid on a letter. There were no distinguishing instructional marks.

The fee charged depended upon the time of presentation, up to the departure of the mailbags – the time-bands and scales of fees varied at different periods. Most late fees

were charged at 1d or 2d – exceptionally 4d, 6d or more.

The marks

Late fee mail was often – but not always – cancelled by dedicated machines of standard type such as the 1844-type twin numerals 45, 46 & 47 or London inland-type duplexes within a particular number sequence.

From 1869 boxed 'L' marks were introduced at the Chief Office to indicate the late posting 'period'; in the 1870s this was extended to District POs which gave rise to various 'home-made' boxed 'L' marks, some very scarce.

The 1876 standardisation measures following UPU membership led to the development of 'late' hexagonal duplex cancellations, themselves replaced by the compact hooded cds from 1895 and used into the 1920s.

The Continental Night Mail train also had a late-posting facility at Charing Cross Station from 1880, switching to Victoria Station after 1923 and in use until the outbreak of war in 1939; originally an expensive 4d, this charge was reduced to 2d in 1906.

Registered mail had its own separate late fee system which is outside the scope of this display.

Essentially, the 'Late' mark was simply an indication that an item had arrived at a PO after the close of normal business, to account for the apparent delay in its delivery – it did not always result in a late fee being paid: letters could be 'held over' until the next day. However, the majority of mail so marked also has a late fee paid, often included in an office mail room's stamping-up procedure and part of the running costs of a late-working business.

Figure 1

1861 Exceptional 'last minute' 6d late fee paid at the Chief Office on a double-rate 8d cover to Paris



Figure 2

1869 earliest recorded use of the rare 'L4' late fee mark: the only-known single-rate (4d) cover to France with this very short-lived mark recorded in use during 8 weeks only

The Red Cross Tracing Service – Reply Labels

John West

With the outbreak of the First World War, in 1914, the fledgling Red Cross organisation – initially comprised of just four staff – was quickly swamped by the overwhelming volume of requests for information about missing persons. Within weeks they were given larger premises to operate from and speedily identified a need to streamline the handling and distribution of incoming mail, as the army of filing clerks increased commensurate with the amount of mail being received. A scheme involving different coloured labels was evolved by the Red Cross and all items of correspondence that they despatched to hospitals, prisoner of war camps, worried relatives etc were accompanied by a perforated vignette. One half of this vignette was to be detached and affixed to any future correspondence, sent in response to that particular enquiry. Use of this vignette did not, *per se*, entitle the sender to a free postal franchise but, almost invariably, it was claimed – and allowed.

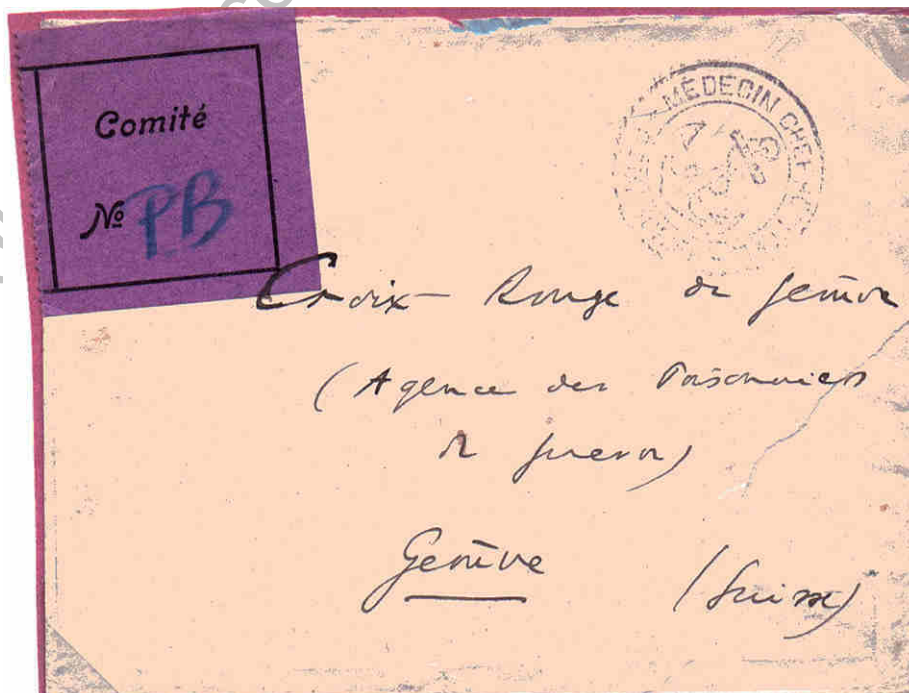
Initially, the bulk of these labels catered for enquiries which related to Frenchmen or Germans who were unaccounted for but, as the scope of these enquiries widened, the staff were faced with the prospect of either devising and printing a whole range of new labels or simply adapting those they were already utilising to meet the needs that arose. They chose the latter solution and thus left behind a puzzling series of initials by which they could identify the relevant handling office and ensure this mail reached the correct filing clerk(s). The initials, almost always added in manuscript to the printed details, ranged from a simple letter “B” – designating a Belgian – to the letters “S.P.” – translated to mean ‘*Sud Polonais*’, referring to a Polish national. A mystery still surrounds the initials of “o.O” (found on a cover from Lyon) and discussion still continues as to whether it is an abbreviation for “*östlicher*

Oberbefehl” (Eastern Supreme Command) or “*ohne Ort*” meaning ‘location unknown’. Also noted, although only on labels relating to missing Germans, are the initials “R.O.” – which may prove to relate to Austrians. Thus far, enquiries made of the Red Cross have failed to discern the meaning of any of these initials.

Mystery also surrounds the necessity to use two different colours (blue and buff) to denote civilian enquiries. Although different theories exist, analysis of those covers seen fails to suggest any evidence to support a theory that they identify a particular group of persons. Therefore, it must be surmised that the answer must simply lie in the filing methods employed at Geneva. Examples are not unusual of multiple vignettes on one envelope – often originating from hospitals or internment camps – where responses often dealt with two or more of their inmates – and which avoided overloading the system by including replies relating to more than one person in the one envelope.

It is also interesting to examine the irregular sizes of the labels, suggesting the likelihood that they were printed in large sheets but were subsequently reduced to individual labels by the use of a guillotine or, less probably, even a pair of scissors!

Finally, it will be noted that two strange labels surface amongst the plethora of items relating to war casualties. These labels are noted on items of mail addressed to the Red Cross, intended to reach their committee members or, more specifically, the treasurer. To avoid this mail being queued up for days, awaiting sorting, these vignettes ensured that urgent correspondence of this nature reached its intended recipient with some haste. These labels are not commonly seen.



WWI Patriotic Postcards

Alan Wood

The murder of the Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand at Sarajevo on 28 June 1914 was the spark that set light to the powder trail that exploded into World War I. Exactly one month later Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia and within days Germany took the decision to go to war with Russia. Then German troops invaded France and crossed the Belgian frontier. In reply Great Britain also entered the war. The conflict rapidly developed into prolonged battles by opposing armies in the field.

Printers of postal stationery quickly perceived a commercial opportunity and soon produced postcards for use by the troops to send messages back home, using the privately produced military cards. As early as 1 September 1914 they were used to convey news to and from the theatres of war. Initially the cards were relatively plain but soon were pictorially enhanced, often depicting the flags of the allies and were colour printed. No doubt their use gave a welcome boost to morale.

No postage stamps were required for forces mail unless the destination was overseas. Examples may be found of cards addressed to England that are franked at the 10 centimes rate and bearing stamps of the Sower issue and also the handstamp of the military censor. Postal markings may include the Postal Sector number of the *Trésor et Postes* circular date stamp.

Military postmarks struck on covers and postal cards from the personnel engaged in the conflicts of World War 1 make these items of mail authentic and original historic documents. The very patriotic card illustrated, sent by a corporal in the 112th Infantry Division, based in Toulon, conveyed New Year's Greetings for 1916 to his family in Marseille and was despatched on 31 December 1915.

By 1918 a card was produced acknowledging the support of Belgium, China, USA, France, GB, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Siam in efforts to achieve Liberty and Justice.



The 1F50 Pétain

Mick Bister

The 1F50 Pétain was designed by Jean-Eugène Bersier an art historian, engraver, painter and illustrator; his design of the Pétain issue is the only recorded example of his work in this medium. The design was based on a portrait of Marshal Pétain used in a series of patriotic postcards printed by E Desfossés of Paris in 1940. The name of the original photographer is unrecorded. The die was engraved by Jules Piel who specialised initially in the designing and engraving of banknotes turning eventually to stamps in 1933.

Printing began on 28 January 1942 and a total of 73 cylinders were employed in the stamp's production. The inconsistent quality of ink resulted in a variety of shades ranging from milky brown to chocolate brown. During 1944, a distinctive Venetian red is encountered in the May printings. The existence of a *feuille-modèle* dated 12 May 1944 discovered in 2008 in the archives of the *Musée de la Poste* by the author suggests that this colour change may have been intentional. In addition, much of the paper used was from recycled material not unlike the *papier de grande consommation* employed during and after World War I.

Since 1919 the *Fête du 11 Novembre* or Armistice Day had always been a public holiday and therefore the *Atelier* was closed on that day. However, from 1939 to 1943 there were exceptions and on 11 November 1943 the *Atelier* remained open with a skeleton staff in order to print the 1F50 Pétain. Until 1998 it was believed that the last printing of the 1F50 Pétain took place on 8 June 1944. Since then a few printings have been encountered with the date 9 June 1944.

Several forgeries of the 1F50 appeared during the war. In

Britain, the Political Warfare Executive was involved in the provision of forged documents and its master forger Ellic Howe was charged in 1942 with producing forgeries of the 1F50 for SOE agents to take to France.

Forgeries of the 1F50 Pétain were printed in January 1944 by the *Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur* at the *Ateliers de la Défense* printing works in Paris. To create the forgery, a block of four genuine stamps was photographed and printed onto a sensitised zinc plate which in turn was duplicated the requisite number of times to produce a sheet of ninety-six.

In 1943 during a series of clandestine raids on post offices an estimated seventy-five complete sheets of the 1F50 Pétain were seized by the Marseille Resistance group. The gutter margin of each sheet was then printed with a General de Gaulle propaganda vignette. Also during 1943 a similar vignette was circulated in Nice by the local Resistance group. Ostensibly intended for use as propaganda labels, some of them were nevertheless used to prepay mail and there is evidence that the Resistance used them to frank threat mail sent to collaborators.

The 1F50 Pétain was demonetised with effect from 1 November 1944 but not before thousands of sheets had been overprinted in celebration of the successive liberation of French towns. 160 towns overprinted the 1F50 with their own particular design but after the war only 15 towns were deemed by the PTT as having produced an authorised and postally valid issue as the remainder had not followed the conditions stipulated.



De Gaulle vignette on threat mail
from the Nice Resistance group: 15 September 1943

Marianne de Muller

Mick Bister

Louis-Charles Muller was commissioned by André Bar-don, Minister of Posts, to produce a design representing the new France; it would replace the postwar issue of Marianne de Gandon. His design was baptised '*la République de l'Espérance*' – 'the Republic of Hope' but in philatelic circles it became known as 'Marianne de Muller'.

When issued in February 1955 the design was much maligned by philatelists and public alike but during its life its output was rich in variations and innovations. It is now regarded as the stamp which heralded the PTT's transition to more modern production techniques and marketing practices some of which are described below.

Trials were undertaken to print the stamp in two colours. A 15F colour proof in new blue and ultramarine was presented to the Administration for consideration in March 1955 and trial printings took place in April 1955 but the concept was rejected. All the issued stamps of this value were printed in carmine.

Most stamp vending machines had fallen into disuse during World War II. A new electrically operated machine was therefore designed and its introduction was scheduled to coincide with the issue of the 6F brown value. The stamp was issued on 11 July 1955 but only on a trial basis from a dedicated machine installed at Lourdes. Similar electrically

operated machines were later installed at Vichy and other large tourist centres. The PTT was immediately criticised for restricting the issue to certain towns but this was partly rectified when the PTT authorised the sale of complete coils of 1000 over the counter.

The 12F green value was issued on 7 July 1955 in an experimental folding booklet format and was put on sale predominantly in holiday and health resorts. The first printing featured illustrated instructions for folding the booklet and the second printing promoted the redirection of mail service. The initiative failed to impress the public and lasted but two years.

Trials had been conducted in 1958 to produce pocket size machine dispensable booklets (with the original intention of containing 20F blue stamps) but when eventually issued they contained the 25F scarlet value. Only one series was printed, S.1-59, and these were sold from a single dispensing machine at the Rue du Louvre post office in Paris from 9 July 1959.

With the introduction of the New Franc on 1 January 1960, Marianne de Muller adhesives were withdrawn although the design was retained for printing 0,20 NF and 0,25 NF stamped-to-order postal stationery. A die was prepared for printing a postcard at the 0,30 foreign rate but the project was abandoned.



Figure 1
Unissued design in black
with six oak leaves
and two acorns



Figure 2
Unissued bi-coloured design
in Lefranc ink N° 134, new blue,
and N° 135, ultramarine



Figure 3
Unissued 0,30 New Franc design
in Lorilleux ink N° 728,
light brown

The Pasteur Definitive

Steve Ellis



.....Figure 1.....

The Pasteur issue of definitive French stamps and postal stationery took place between 1923 and 1932 in five stages which correspond with changes in the postal tariff for foreign mail (except that there was a delay with the issue of first stamps which were not available until May 1923). The postal rate changes resulted in the following values of Pasteur definitives –

- 1 April 1921 – 10c, 30c, 50c (Issue 1);
- 1 April 1924 – 15c, 45c, 75c (Issue 2);
- 16 July 1925 – 20c, 60c, 1F (Issue 3);
- 1 February 1926 – 75c, 1F25 (Issue 4);
- 1 August 1926 – 30c, 90c, 1F50 (Issue 5).

The Pasteur definitive stamps maintained the UPU colours for use with foreign mail, being issued in green for printed matter, red for postcards and blue for letters. One can also see a standard progression in the value of the stamps; namely the value of the middle stamp is always three times the value of the lowest and the value of the highest five times the value of the lowest. Several of the stamps were issued with overprints of values, and also for some foreign possessions.

After a small section examining the stamps, the main purpose of the display is to illustrate their use on items of mail, firstly to foreign destinations (for which this issue was pri-

marily concerned) and secondly for domestic destinations (this includes the foreign possessions which were considered to be domestic in terms of postal rates).

Thus this display provides a comprehensive examination of the wide variety of different French rates available at this time. It includes rates for printed matter (*imprimés*), urgent printed matter, postcards, airmail postcards, registered postcards, letters, airmail letters, registered letters, '*valeur déclarée*' registered letters, registered airmail letters, express letters, visiting cards (*cartes de visite*). It also explains some of the more unusual French postal rates for such as debt collection (*recouvrement*), the Paris pneumatic mail, late collection in Paris, *hors-sac* letters, *contre remboursement*, *poste restante* and *bulletins d'expédition*.

The item here displayed below is a registered letter to a foreign destination (Rotterdam) sent from Nancy, 29 March 1926. It falls within the short period from 1 February to 31 July 1926 but rather than utilising Pasteur stamps during Issue 4 (75c or 1F25), previous Pasteur stamps are utilised, namely 10c from Issue 1, 15c from Issue 2, and 1F from Issue 3. Together they make up 2F50 – being 1F25 foreign letter rate (1/2/26-31/7/26) plus 1F25 registration (1/2/26-31/7/26).



Figure 2

French Cinderellas

Francis Kiddle

The four frames of Cinderellas concentrate on just two aspects of a vast field, the poster stamps produced by French stamp dealers and multiples of Delandre World War I patriotic and propaganda poster stamps.

Stamp dealers throughout the world produced poster stamps to advertise themselves. French dealers were in the forefront and the most famous of these was Arthur Maury, Paris (1844-1907). Maury commenced trading in stamps in 1860 at the age of 16. By 1863 he had started publishing a journal "*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*." In its issue Vol 3 N° 26 (page 204) dated 15 August 1866 he stuck an advertising label about himself. This stamp is the first recorded 'photo stamp', produced in multiples and usually imperforate (Fig 1).

A number of other of his advertising stamps are shown with particular emphasis on a new stamp, issued on 15 December 1894, with the stamp carrying the legend "SERBMIT – SIRAP A YRUAM", which created much discussion in philatelic journals of the time. In fact the lettering is simply a mirror image of "*Timbres, Maury à Paris*." In Figure 2 I show an example, redesigned in 1900, stuck to a card which carries the legend 'Having acquired several millions of these stamps whose origin is to be found, we offer them to collectors free.' This particular stamp was reissued/redesigned a number of times and the exhibit provides a specialised study of it.

Amongst the 15 plus additional pages of French stamp dealer poster stamps attention should be drawn to those produced by A Forbin (1872-1956), the major revenue stamp dealer. His design was taken from the De La Rue

British Commonwealth keyplate issues, and is very scarce.

The second part of the display is of Delandre material, especially very large blocks which illustrate the make-up of the printing plates.

Gaston Fontanille, the French printer known as Delandre, started his poster stamp printing career by plagiarising Italian regimental vignettes that he sold during 1914. The reason he copied them was that supplies from Italy were insufficient to meet his market requirements and thus he copied the vignettes. From this small beginning, he first produced a whole series of French military poster stamps, and then, progressively, Allied Forces (plus others such as Montserrat!), and Red Cross vignettes.

Each of these productions was made to meet the demands of a major market he had developed, that of patriotic labels. Unfortunately, he attempted to pass off the poster stamps as official issues. In other words, the Red Cross vignettes, for example, often had a value indicated and the assumption by the buyer was that the purchase price was handed on to support the Red Cross.

This was not the case and in April 1917 Delandre was arrested for defrauding the French Red Cross. Convicted and imprisoned, he died, probably from influenza, sometime in 1923. During his lifetime, he produced in excess of 4000 different WWI vignettes, all sold in packets. Piecing together the printing plates is thus very difficult. The material on display is some of the largest multiples so far discovered and assisted greatly in the publication of eight volumes about Delandre issues.



Figure 1



Figure 2

The Sower Issue

Ashley Lawrence

The Sower, *La Semeuse*, designed by Louis Oscar Roty, shows a graceful girl scattering seed corn. She represents the French Republic, wearing the bonnet of liberty, sowing ideas and delivering a message of peace. As shown in my display at Stampex 2013, the Sower has graced the stamps and coins of France for more than 100 years.

The 15c stamp, in grey-green, with a lined background (Yvert 130) was the first of the new series of stamps bearing the Sower design to be issued, on 2 April 1903. The 15c stamp served a variety of postal usages between 1903 and 1924, and philatelists have identified six different Types. Printings of the first five types were made by flat press. Type VI coil stamps, the only ones to be printed by rotary press, in 1923, served a very limited use for just a few months during 1924, and these are rare.

Between November 1916 and March 1920, the stamps were printed on poor quality "GC" (standing for *Grande Consommation*) paper, as a wartime economy measure. The illustration shows a block of 50 of the 15c grey-green lined Sowers (Type III) printed on GC paper in 1919. The year of printing is indicated by the *Millésime* 9, which appears in the second row in the central gutter. The block, divided by the central gutter into two blocks of 25 stamps (5 x 5), is the bottom third of a sale sheet of 150 stamps printed by flat press.

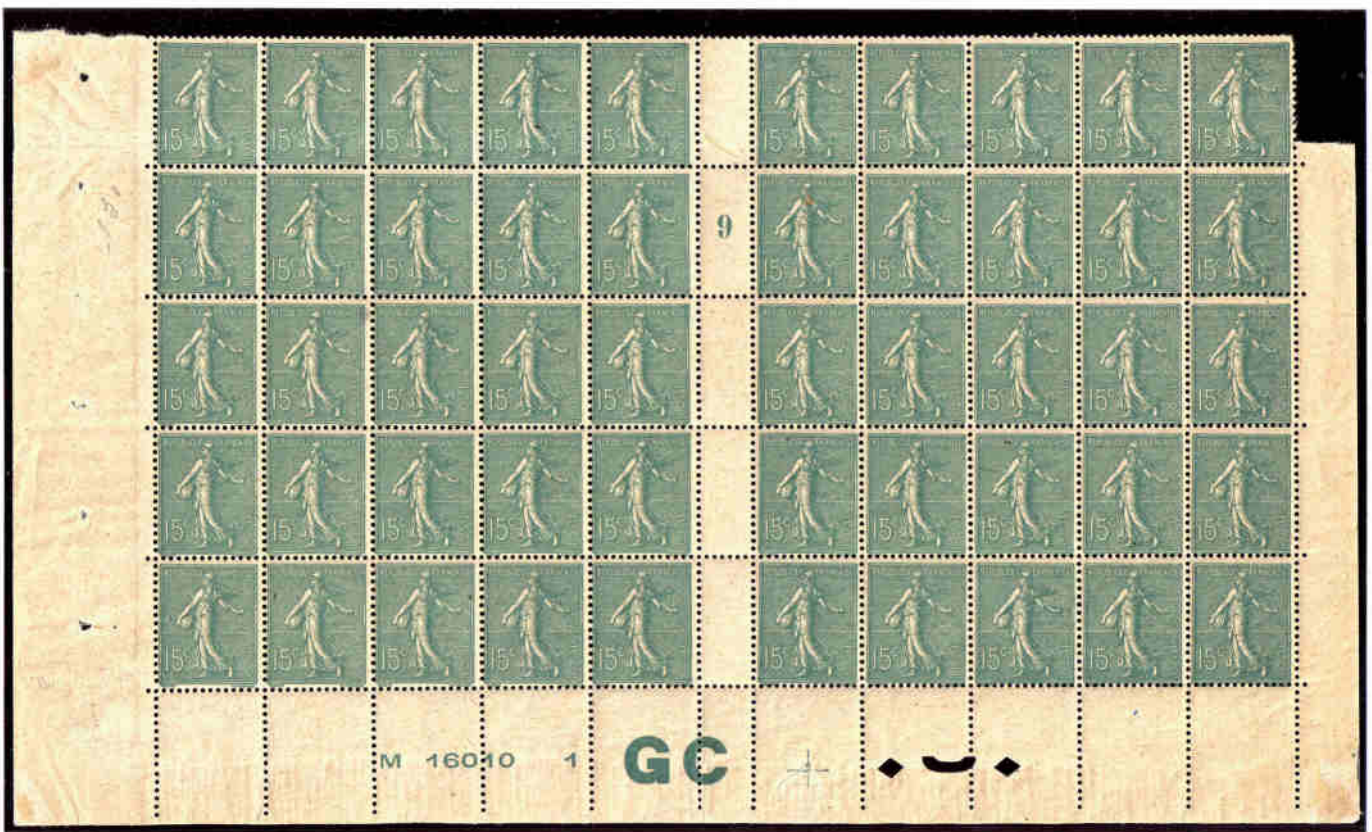
The printing information is conveyed by the "M 16010 1" on the bottom margin. The letter "M" signifies the machine

operator's identity code. The last digit, "1", is the number of the printing press. The central number "16010" represents the day and the month on which the sheet was printed, and these dates are always separated by a zero. Hence this sheet was printed on 16 October 1919.

The *Millésime* 9 would also have been used for sheets printed in 1909. However, the letters GC at the base of the sheet, and the buff paper, prove beyond doubt that this sheet was printed in 1919, not 1909.

The faint cross (the *Croix de repère*) to the right of the GC appears beneath stamp number 146 on the sheet of 150 stamps, and a corresponding dot would be printed above stamp number 6 at the top of the sheet. These were used as guide marks to ensure the correct alignment of the sheet during the next stage in the production process. For Sower stamps, these served as perforation alignment guides that enabled the sheet to be placed in the correct position in the perforating machine.

The arc flanked by two diamonds (the *perforations de contrôle*) punched out towards the right of the selva, were quality control marks applied by the printers (the *Atelier*) on receipt of paper from its suppliers. At first this pattern of perforations was made in triplicate, appearing vertically in the side margins alongside each pane of 50 stamps. From June 1907, only one set of control perforations was made per sheet, and this appeared in a horizontal pattern at the bottom of the sheet, as shown in the illustration below.



Classic France 1849-70: The Splendour of Louis Napoleon III Development of the Definitive Values

Philip Mackey

My traditional display traces the development of the two definitive issues in the classic period: the Cérès and Napoleon Heads.

Prince Louis Napoleon arrived in Paris from exile in England to take up the post of Deputy at the National Assembly in 1848. A *coup d'état* quickly followed together with a self elected 10 year term as President of the Second Republic. The law of 3 January 1852 enabled Louis Napoleon to take the title of Emperor, and for his effigy to appear on stamps and coins – all of which were produced at the Paris Mint - *La Monnaie*.

The Second Republic Issues 1849-1852

Following a decision of the French Government to issue postage stamps by Article 5 of Decree 24 August 1848, the rates were fixed at 20c, 40c and 1F for letters up to 7.5g; 7.5-15g and 15-100g. The definitive colours were 20c black; 40c orange and 1F red.

In the September M. J-J Barre, engraver to the Paris Mint where banknotes were produced, had accepted by the "Engravers Committee" his design and proposal for the Cérès head, which would form the medallion effigy, of France's first postage stamps. J-J Barre was responsible for all the essays, proofs and trials of the typographic issues of 1 January 1849, and which remained in use until 1853/4.

The first issues were printed by M. Tacquin, but the 1F came out vermilion, and due to a conflict with the proposed 40c vermilion, this was withdrawn on 15 January 1849, and reprinted in red-carmine. The vegetable dye however, still gave colour varieties. Anatole Hulot took over as Director of Stamp Printing, and remained in post until the final post-Franco-Prussian War second Cérès issues of 1876.

The 20c black gave trouble as well. This had been predicted by Perkins Bacon, who in September 1848 had offered to tender and produce stamps for the French Government. However neither line engraved nor surface printed techniques were favoured, as *La Monnaie* used lithography – there was also perhaps a political dimension to this decision! As predicted, widespread reuse of the 20c black, and loss of revenue, quickly led to a print run of a 20c blue on 19 May 1849. This was never issued as the 20c black stocks were adequate and a change of postal rates on 1 July 1850 saw the 25c blue printed on 13 May 1850.

The first definitive set was completed on 3 February 1850 with issue of the 40c orange, and the 15c green on 29 July 1850.

Napoleon III Head: the Presidency Issue of 1852

With the creation of the Presidency, the Louis Napoleon head – engraved from a photograph by Albert Barre (son) – came the Presidency issues of 1853/3, and which were annotated Republic. These, were only in use for 18 months, before being followed in July 1853 by the Empire issues.

The Presidency issues were re-engraved by J-J Barre and used the same frame as the 1849 Cérès, but with the Napo-

leon effigy inserted in place of Cérès.

Albert Barre (son) took over as director of the mint in c1858, and as he was superior to Hulot there was continuing conflict – which is a story in its own right!

From the Presidency issue, A Hulot produced all the essays, proofs and trials for subsequent definitives. He gained in importance and effectively was director of stamp production until 1876. The period during the Siege of Paris is obscure, as is Hulot's role during the Commune. However, the subsequent second Cérès issues of the Third Republic were developed under his care. We also know that M. Hulot liked to take his work home with him, and some of the dies etc obtained by Maury (senior) have raised some questions perhaps from confusion during the Commune!

Napoleon III Head: the Empire and Laureated Issues 1853-1870

Up to 1862, all issues were imperforate, with the perforated Empire series dating from July 1863. In July 1863, Napoleon III was afforded a crown of laurel leaves, on coinage and stamps. Albert Barre re-engraved the original effigy to form the "Empire laureated issues" which were printed until 1872.

With the Franco-Prussian War declared in July 1870 came abdication of the Emperor on 4 September and investment of Paris, and the Paris Mint. From October 1870 until July 1871, the original Cérès issues were reprinted at the Paris Mint, and called the Siege issues. At the same time the Provisional Government at Tours had to resort to engraving the Cérès effigy on limestone and lithographing adhesives from October 1870 to May 1871 for use outside Paris, and these are referred to as the Bordeaux issues.

Some of the Siege issues were printed during the Paris uprising (the Commune) in March to May 1871, but these are not documented. Printing was restored on a national basis at the Paris Mint in July 1871 – continuing the Siege issues, but from September 1871, following agreement with Germany on terms of payment for the War Indemnity, the Cérès head issues were re-engraved by A Barre, and re-issued with different valuation designs. These lasted in service to 1876. Unlike the first Cérès issues, the second series was fully essayed and developed to production stage by A Hulot, the printer.

My display follows the process of development through essays, proofs and trials to the definitive uses, from 1849 to 1876.

The splendour of Louis Napoleon as "Deputy, Prime Minister, President and then Emperor" is self evident in the stamps and postal history of the period 1849-70. The Louis Napoleon heads were used from 1852-7. The most short-lived stamps were the Presidency 25c blue and 10c bistre issues of 1852 which lasted only 22 months; the 5F violet grey laureated issue of 1869 for 8 months, whereas the 5c green was issued imperforate on 15 December 1854 and perforated on 23 August 1862. This stamp was not issued in the laureated format, with the Empire head

widely reprinted for the 5c reply coupon to the balloon post *dépêche-réponse* of the pigeon post during the Siege of Paris. It was then reprinted in August 1871 to make up the 5c surcharge of 1 September 1871, levied to pay off the War Indemnity, and remained in use until the new Cérès II 5c issue of June 1872 was ready – making almost 20 years, from the same die sets.

It is worth mentioning that a close associate of Louis Napoleon was the banker and financier Nathan Rothschild, who was an avid philatelist. At the specific request(?) of Louis Napoleon, M. Hulot produced several private issues of differing colours and perforations, including the 1869 laureated issues as imperforate, and in many cases these are indistinguishable from contemporary official “essays, proofs and trials”.



Martinique Postal Rates from 1830 to 1890

Brian Brookes

The Post Office was established at St Pierre in March 1766 with three main offices in Fort Royal, Trinité and Marin with sub-offices in all the parishes. In 1831 it was confirmed that St Pierre was the Head Post Office and that two routes from St Pierre, the Northern and Southern routes, would cover the distribution and collection of mail.

The mail to and from the island expanded with private ships and companies like the C^{ie} Balquerie Shipping Line of Bordeaux calling monthly on its route to Mexico from 1830 until 1835 and the RMSP Company boats called monthly taking mail to England to be forwarded to France. French stamps were issued to the island in 1849 and continued in use until 1859. The one franc fifty centimes rate by British packet had the stamps cancelled on arrival in

Paris. The first French Colonies stamps (Eagle issue) were in use from 1859 until 1871, being followed by the Cérès, Napoléon and Sage general issues.

In 1862 the French set up the Mexican Line of packet boats to supply troops fighting in Mexico, calling at Martinique until 1865, mail being carried at the 50c packet rate from 1859 until 1876 and the 50c rate by British packet from 1857 until 1864 when it was increased to 70c until 1876. The six values of the Eagle issue were all used on covers making single, double, triple and quadruple rates. Martinique joined the UPU on 1 July 1876 with the rate to France reduced to 40c until 1879 when it was reduced to 25c. Newspaper and printed matter rates are shown from 1872 until 1879 and Army correspondence rates from December 1859.



Double rate letter by British packet
of three francs
from Grande Anse
dated 10 December 1851,
the stamps being cancelled
on arrival at Paris on 10 January 1852

Réunion Maritime Postal History: Messageries Impériales / Maritimes 1864-1896

Peter Kelly

The display covers the period from the initial Messageries contracts with Réunion and Mauritius in 1896 concentrating on the Line T and the different route changes that took place. At the time that the *Ligne d'Indochine* was set up the plan provided for a branch line to operate between Aden and Réunion. This did not happen immediately and in 1864 the decision was taken to open an independent line linking Suez, Réunion and Mauritius. The first mailboat sailed from Réunion on 4 October 1864.

The reaction of P&O who had operated successfully on this route since 1857 was immediate and they ceased calling at the island in June 1864 but continued to serve Mauritius until June 1866. The subsidy was no longer adequate without a contribution from Réunion. The Union Steamship Company also ran a service from Cape Town to Galle Point, Ceylon via Mauritius linking in with the P&O service. This extension to their operations lasted from 1864 to 1868. This provided another means of sending mail from Réunion via Mauritius. After 1868 the Messageries Impériales had a monopoly on Réunion mail.

Initially the new line operated as *Ligne de Suez à la Réunion et Maurice* and in November 1866 the letter "T" was attributed to it, this first variant lasting until March 1869. From Suez mail was carried overland to Alexandria and by Line V to Marseille.

In April 1869 the line ceased to be an independent one and

became an annexe of Line N (*Ligne d'Indochine*) connecting with it, home and out, at Aden every 28 days. In April 1870 the Suez canal opened and Line N sailed directly to Marseille. In May 1879 mails for Paris and northern Europe were transferred to rail at Naples (Modane-Paris TPO).

Variant N° 3 took place in December 1882 when the line was converted to *Ligne d'Australie et Nouvelle Calédonie* operating from Marseille to Nouméa via Réunion and Mauritius. The new port at Pointe des Galets, Réunion was opened in 1886.

The fourth change of route in August 1888 confirmed the decision to sail to Australia directly via Seychelles, no longer calling at Réunion and Mauritius. This did not end Réunion's relationship with Line T because two new lines were created. These were Line U *Annexe des Mascareignes* calling at Réunion, Mauritius, Madagascar and Mahé (Seychelles) linking in with Line T on outward and homeward voyages.

The second line, Line V (*Ligne de la côte orientale d'Afrique*) called monthly at Réunion, Mauritius, Madagascar, Zanzibar, Dar-es-Salaam, Obock and Marseille and provided a second possibility to send mails to France.

Finally came the fifth variant. In 1896 Line T no longer called at Seychelles, replacing it with Colombo. As a result, Line U was extended to Marseille and this marks the end of the relations between Line T and Réunion.



18 November 1864 to France.

Posted in the moveable box on the quay at St Denis, cancelled on board Messageries Impériales *Emirne*.

Dep Réunion 19.11; Arr Suez 7.12

Dep Alexandria 9.12; Arr Marseille 15.12

Franked 1F 2nd weight step, tariff 8.1864.

The French Occupation of Togo - 22 August 1914 to 20 July 1922

John Mayne

T Pakenham in 'The Scramble for Africa' writes that in half a generation 30 new colonies, 10 million square miles and 110 million subjects came under European rule. Germany, the last power to raise its flag, did so on 5 July 1884 at a village called Togo, from which the country took its name. By 1914 the country was the size of Ireland with one million inhabitants ruled by 350 Europeans. Germany, a major player on the West African coast, controlled the Atlantic cables at Monrovia.

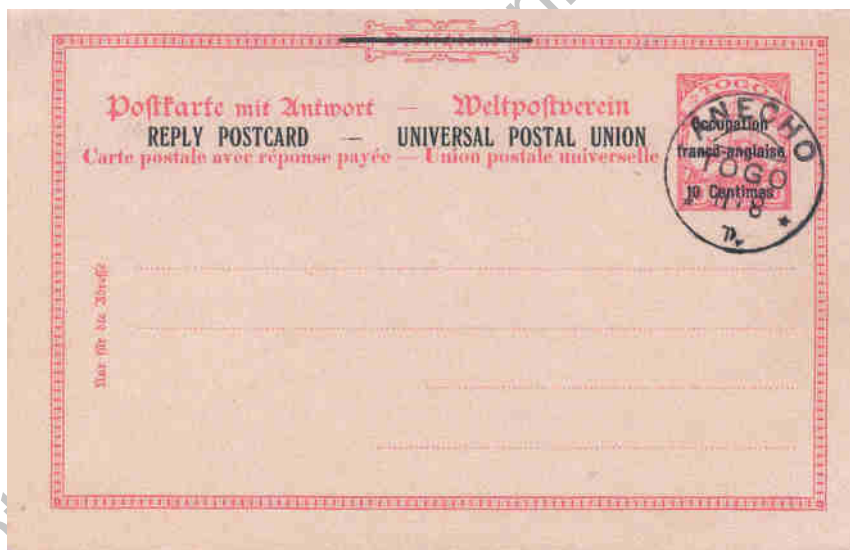
In June 1914 the world's most powerful radio transmitter at Kamina became operational, this being able to communicate direct with Berlin, Monrovia, and other German colonies in Africa and German shipping became the priority target of the British Admiralty. The Allies rejected suggestions that West Africa abstain from hostility; after a short but fierce campaign, the first of World War One, German troops surrendered at Kamina, after destroying the transmitter.

The country was controlled by Britain and France, the latter having the considerably larger sector. Changes were made on 20 October 1920 to boundaries which remain; from 20 July 1922 the country was governed under League of Nations Mandates.

Initially Dahomey issues were used. On 8 October 1914 German issues overprinted by the French were introduced to be replaced once exhausted by overprinted Dahomey issues in November 1915. These in turn were replaced as stocks reduced by a second issue on 15 July 1921.

The display gives examples of the issues used, stamps and postal stationery, and cancels employed along with censored, inward and prisoner of war mail for a country whose moment in history has long since been forgotten and was short-lived.

R Gibbs, the authority on German issues overprinted by the Allies in various theatres of the 1914 war, reports that limited supplies of German postal stationery were found and overprinted by the British for both sectors. He questions if the 10Pf reply card was overprinted. He had never seen one and suggested if they existed there would be no more than five possible. Two examples are known of the card used in the British sector; this, the only card to date recorded for the French sector has been cancelled '*par complaisance*' by the German cancel for Anecho on 11.08.1915. Note there was no '15' year slug at Anecho and the '14' year slug was crudely amended. Note the inverted '8'.



French West African Airmails to 1939

Barbara Priddy

The French enthusiasm for aviation evidenced in the pre-WWI meetings soon extended to their colonies in North and West Africa. In 1919 Pierre-Georges Latécoère, an aircraft manufacturer of Toulouse, gained a contract from the Government to provide an airmail service to Morocco, Senegal and ultimately on to South America. An experimental flight from Casablanca to Dakar in 1923 was followed by the scheduled service in 1925. The cover below was carried on the return flight and is West Africa's first scheduled airmail.

This was the first intercontinental airmail service, and the route lay over the hazardous terrain of sea, mountains and desert. The infrastructure was at first primitive and the planes only gradually improved from small Blériot biplanes to the larger and more reliable Laté-25s and Dewoitine-333s and 336s. Forced landings and crashes were frequent, but the service was so successful that the route, subsumed into the Air France network in 1933, is still in use today.

In 1930 an agreement between the French and Belgian Governments provided for each to fly over the other's territories on a trans-Saharan route, inaugurated in 1935 by Régie Air Afrique and Sabena, to Soudan, Niger, the French Congo and the Belgian Congo: the French route eventually reached Madagascar. The Compagnie Générale Transsaharienne, which had been operating flights between Cotonou and Algeria, as well as a trans-Saharan motor service, was reduced to operating a shuttle service between Cotonou and Niamey, and this was soon taken over by Aéromaritime. Profiting by other airlines' experience, Air Afrique used large and reliable Bloch-120 aircraft on the trans-Saharan route and there

were very few accidents.

In 1937 Aéromaritime, founded by the shipping company Chargeurs Réunis, joined up the French colonies along the coast from Dakar in Senegal to Cotonou in Dahomey and on to Pointe Noire in Gabon with a service operated by Sikorsky amphibian aircraft. As well as carrying local mail, this service carried mail from the territories west of Cotonou to join the Air France service at Dakar and mail from the territories east of Cotonou to join the Air Afrique service at Niamey via their Cotonou-Niamey shuttle.

In the same year Air France inaugurated a feeder service from Bamako to Dakar, and in 1938 Air Afrique inaugurated a feeder service from Bamako to Gao.

This highly successful network, almost 10,000 miles in length, served an enormous area, and mail from all territories arrived at the airports by road, rail and sea. Despite the operational difficulties, it reduced transmission time for business and personal correspondence between West Africa and France from, in some cases, over a fortnight, to around two days, at a comparatively small extra charge, and was much appreciated. The network also connected West Africa to South America and East Africa and beyond.

In 1938, Air France had 78 land-planes and 14 flying-boats and employed over 100 pilots; Air Afrique had 13 aircraft and employed 15 pilots. In the same year, Air Afrique carried 30,473kg of mail; Aéromaritime carried 20,228kg of mail. Aéromaritime was planning to expand their service with two new lines into the interior of French Equatorial Africa, which would have joined the Air Afrique route, but in 1939 all plans were disrupted by the outbreak of WWII.



1925 cover flown on first Dakar-Toulouse scheduled flight

Madagascar Censor Marks: Civil Censorship 1942-1945

Colin Spong

A preliminary study of Madagascar Civil Censor marks was made by the late C W E [Ted] Coles, who published his researches in specialist society journals in both the United Kingdom and France during the period between 1960 to 1992. In late 1998 I received a request, or invitation, from John Little of the Civil Censorship Study Circle, who was preparing to publish a Handbook on Civil Censorship of the British Colonies and Occupied Territories in Africa. John had an article of the late Ted Coles and inquired whether I could update this. This I was delighted to do and eventually supplied him with further information together with some illustrations.

The CCSC published the handbook in 2000 under their series entitled 'British Empire Civil Censorship Devices World War II: Colonies and Occupied Territories in Africa' by John Little. As far as I know this is the only handbook in English containing a chapter on Madagascar censor marks.

At the suggestion of my friend Joh Groenewald of South Africa, together with John Parmenter of F&CPS, we decided to try and study and record the World War II censor markings of Madagascar, and this selection of sheets forming part of the France & Colonies display at Autumn Stampex will hopefully assist us in gathering further information.

Briefly Madagascar was invaded in April/May 1942 by a Naval Fleet Air Arm and Army forces capturing the port of Diégo Suarez to prevent the Vichy French Administration becoming a base for Japanese forces. Owing to

unsuccessful negotiations with Governor General Annet, a combined force of British, East African & South African troops was dispatched to capture the ports of Majunga, Tamatave, Tulear and eventually the capital Tananarive. Eventually an armistice was signed with representatives of the Governor General who had moved south to Ihosy, on 5 November 1942.

The exhibit covers the second phase of operations in Madagascar beginning with mail cancelled by the British Military Administration which was appointed in October 1942 until negotiations between Britain and the Free French were completed on 17 December 1942 and an Agreement was signed by Sir Anthony Eden and General Charles de Gaulle. In Frame 1 the first and second type of handstamps are illustrated.

In February 1943 the island was officially handed over to the Free French Administration and in February under the agreement signed by the British Government and the Free French, a Mixed Control Commission composed of British and French representatives received their directives from their Chief Censors. This censor commission continued until early June 1944. Frame 2 continues with BMA 252 handstamps as well as the ZB labels and handstamps which were introduced for Tananarive, Tamatave, Diégo Suarez and Majunga.

In Frame 3 are examples of mail with both French and British types of censor handstamps or labels. Finally, Frame 4 covers a distinctive censor handstamp in use at the capital Tananarive, a boxed letter G with numbering from 1 to 22.

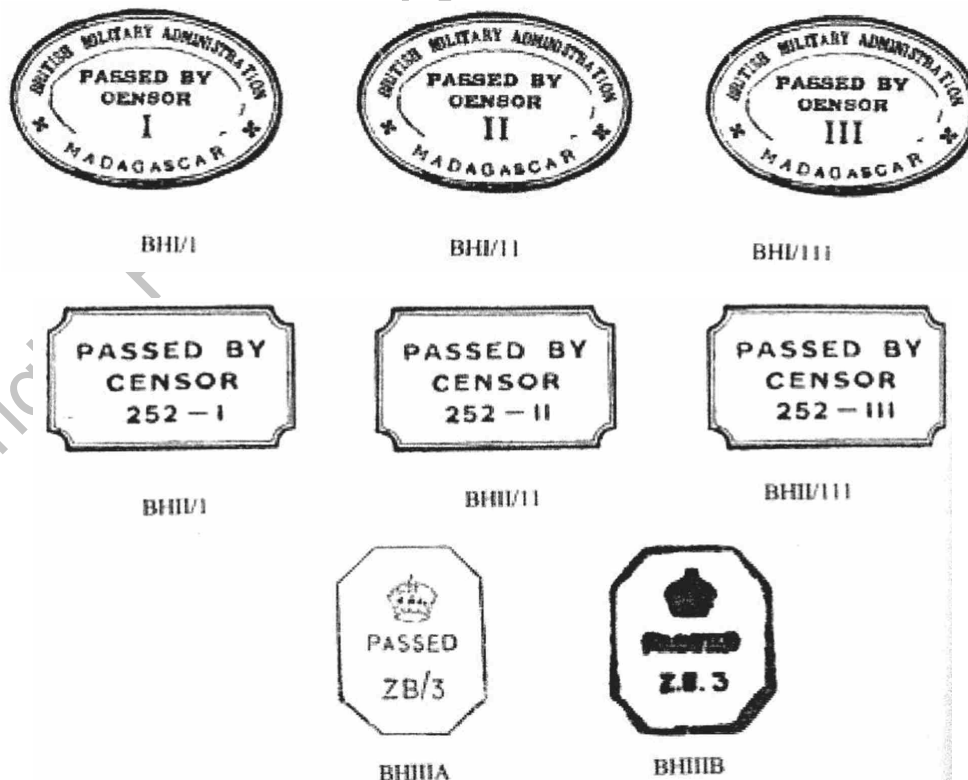


Figure 1

British handstamps

For Figure 2 see the front cover of this Journal

The French Colonies – The Red Cross 1914-1918

John West

Insofar as giving consideration to responses to the commencement of hostilities in August 1914, France must be viewed as trail blazers. Within eight days of the start of the war, they had issued a stamp which was surcharged to raise funds for the benefit of the Red Cross. Impressed with the success of this innovative idea, the government authorities encouraged the postal services in all their colonies to follow suit. It is to be regretted that in so doing they failed to take into account the primitive nature of the printing facilities in many of their far flung outposts.

Ink, for example, was in such short supply that some colonies were forced to surcharge their postage stamps with a red cross in black! There was a dire shortage of machines, similar to those in use at the government printing works in Paris, which could produce a consistent and regular shaped cross, added to which there were insufficient reserves of existing stamps to prevent speculators stockpiling the new issues, when they were placed on sale at Post Offices. The limited numbers offered for sale fuelled the large scale purchasing of the newly issued stamps which, in turn, precipitated a shortage necessitating a further printing of the same issue. Each new issue was naturally distinctive and distinguishable from the predecessors and, of course, perpetuated the merry-go-round.

In an endeavour to counteract the profiteering in these stamps the postal authorities introduced different strategies. Some offices were restricted to selling a certain

number of stamps each day, others were ordered to limit the numbers sold to any individual and, when these measures proved unsuccessful, some offices were forbidden to sell them over the counter at all! Prospective purchasers were only permitted to acquire these stamps if the counter clerk actually affixed them himself to the item being posted. Although not known as a fact, it is presumed that this explains the frequency of unaddressed postcards that exist with a surcharged stamp postally cancelled on the picture side.

The 'local' surcharges produced many varieties but any study of these is hindered by the work of M. Jules Hermann, a resident of Chaville in France, who not only fabricated numerous double and inverted surcharges but then posted them to himself at his home address! Jean-François Brun makes reference to these forgeries in his book, "*Faux et Truqués*", published in 1980. Stability came to most of these issues after about a year when the Paris overprint, as it was known, replaced the majority of the local surcharges.

Genuine sales were rarely substantial since relatively few of the inhabitants of most of these French outposts were wealthy enough to afford the additional funds required to pay for the surcharge. Even fewer, indeed, would have needed to purchase the higher value stamps, since they rarely needed to post any letters beyond their own country. Nevertheless, examples of the use of these issues on cover are always interesting.



Réunion – The Red Cross

John West

The *Journal Officiel* of the island of Réunion dated 7 January 1915 contained a public notice relating to the impending issue of so called Red Cross postage stamps. The stamp to be overprinted would be the 10c of the 1907 (Chauvet-Puyplat) series which featured a map of the island in its design. The stamp was duly overprinted in the local printing office in blocks of ten, in black. In addition to various minor varieties, there are two distinct types of the overprint, the second having a wider cross whose arm approaches much closer to the figure of value than on the normal, whilst the whole impression is thicker and heavier.

A total of 50,000 stamps are stated to have received this overprint but 41,200 were officially destroyed by incineration by reason of the unsatisfactory nature of their printing. The stamps of the first printing were current for just twelve days, by which time the entire stock of 8,800 stamps issued for sale had been exhausted.

The stamps themselves were printed in three panes of 25 separated by two rows of blanks, the same size as the stamps. Across these blanks is a broad, red continuous bar but, on the unsurcharged 10c stamps, this red bar is much thicker and not continuous. The middle space in each row is provided with a separate bar, on each side of which there is one bar across two spaces, which shows that the stamps surcharged for Red Cross purposes are from a later printing.

The surcharging was done two rows of five at a time, the dividing space between the panes being overprinted the same as the stamps. The marginal spaces at the bottom of the sheet are without the red bar but they also received the Red Cross surcharge – in which condition they were not, of course, allowed to be used for postage, although, unsurprisingly, copies got into circulation and found their way into the hands of dealers.

A second printing, of 20,000 copies, had the overprint in “flat red” according to a local source at the time. This is presumed to be the “dull red” described by the Gibbons catalogue. This, in turn, gave place to a third printing, this time in deep carmine. The ninth stamp in each block of this printing has a damaged cross. The third printing is believed to have comprised a total of 80,000 copies.

Towards the end of 1915, a fourth printing, of 20,000 copies was made from the same *clichés*, with the exception of the worn number 9, for which a new one was substituted. Inadvertently, this was inserted upside down. A remarkable feature of this issue is that, due to a temporary shortage of regular printing ink, the Red Cross overprint was actually struck with paint! It is understood that the Governor of Réunion signified his disapproval of this method of overpainting and he ordered that no more Red Cross stamps should be prepared “*au Ripolin*”.



The 1 Franc Cécogramme Rate

Mick Bister

Just over eight years ago I wrote an article on the mystifying 1 franc internal *Cécogramme* rate (Journal N° 235, March 2005). At the time I had acquired an example of this rate represented by a 1 franc Cérés de Mazelin on a folded sheet of braille text dated 16 June 1949. The problem was that I was unable to write it up as published sources differed about the date on which the 1 franc rate had been introduced. The most revered source, based on data published in the *Bulletins Officiels*, was 'Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969' by Alexandre, Brun *et al* which stated that the 1 franc internal rate was introduced on 1 July 1957. But how could that be if I owned a cover dating from 1949? Eight years later, I now have the answer.

In early May I received via Peter Maybury a forwarded email from his friend Frans Jorissen who lives in the *département* of Maine-et-Loire. He had a query about a similarly

franked *cécogramme* dated 1949 and wanted to read my original article from 2005. I had concluded the said article with the words 'I suppose I should ensconce myself in the library of the Musée de la Poste and trawl through all the Bulletins Officiels..... but then, isn't that what the aforementioned authors have already done?' In other words, I had taken the research no further but Frans clearly was prepared to do so.

A few days later I received a scan from Frans who had pored over the aforementioned *Bulletins Officiels* and had discovered a reference completely overlooked by Alexandre, Brun *et al*. As part of the postal decree dated 31 December 1948 the document unambiguously states 'Imprimés en relief à l'usage des aveugles: jusqu'à 3000 grammes: 1 franc'. This postal decree and with it the 1 franc rate became effective from 6 January 1949 and definitely

31 DECEMBRE 1948

Annexe n° 3 au B. O. n° 36

981 A

Tarif applicable : en sus de la taxe de 160 francs correspondant à 3.000 grammes, par 1.000 grammes ou fraction de 1.000 grammes en excédent 40 francs.

Dispositions spéciales concernant les imprimés ordinaires

1° Imprimés présentés à l'affranchissement en numéraire ou affranchis au moyen de timbres-poste oblitérés d'avance ou d'empreintes de machines à affranchir, déposés en nombre au moins égal à 1.000, triés et enliassés par départements et par bureaux de distribution :

Jusqu'au poids de 20 grammes..... 4 francs.

2° Imprimés dits « urgents » (prix courants, mercuriales, cotes de bourse ou d'offices de publicité et de vente, lettres de convocation ou d'invitation, avis de passage des voyageurs de commerce, avis de naissance, de mariage ou de décès, affiches, épreuves d'imprimerie et copies destinées à l'impression dans les journaux) :

Taxe additionnelle par objet..... 5 francs.

3° Imprimés en relief à l'usage des aveugles :

Jusqu'à 3.000 grammes..... 1 franc.

4° Imprimés électoraux (élections aux corps politiques et élections des tribunaux, de commerce, des chambres de commerce et des conseils de prud'hommes) :
Sans modification.

VII. — JOURNAUX ET ECRITS PERIODIQUES.

Sans modification.

VIII. — TARIF SPECIAL DES PAQUETS A L'ADRESSE DES MILITAIRES ET MARINS EN CAMPAGNE.

Jusqu'à 20 grammes.....	5 francs
Au-dessus de :	
20 grammes jusqu'à 50 grammes	10 francs
50 — 100 —	15 —
100 — 1.000 —	30 —
1.000 — 2.000 —	50 —
2.000 — 3.000 —	60 —

Les tarifs ci-dessus sont uniformément applicables à tous les paquets quel que soit leur conditionnement (clos ou non clos).

Les envois soumis, sur la demande des expéditeurs, à la formalité de la recommandation acquittent, en sus des tarifs ci-dessus, le droit fixe de recommandation des paquets non clos.

IX. — AVERTISSEMENTS ET AVIS ENVOYES AUX CONTRIBUABLES PAR LES ADMINISTRATIONS FINANCIERES.

Jusqu'à 50 grammes.....	12 francs
Avec majoration de.....	52 francs
pour les plis recommandés avec avis de réception.	

NOTA. — Ce nouveau tarif n'intéresse les bureaux qu'en ce qui concerne les avis et avertissements qui ne bénéficient pas de la dispense d'affranchissement prévue par l'article 51 de la loi de finances du 31 décembre 1935 (cf. Note Po 5 du 10 janvier 1944, B. O. page 3).

Figure 1
Extract from *Bulletin Officiel*, 31 December 1949

not from 1 July 1957 as originally published by Alexandre, Brun *et al.* Mystery solved.

I have since contacted member Gavin Fryer, world renowned collector of *cécogrammes* and whose magnificent collection of 'Blindman's Mail' is the ultimate in this field. He possesses eight examples of covers at the 1 franc rate

and he is delighted that he can now at last reconcile the data with his material especially as he will be showing it as part of the Society's display at Autumn Stampex (see page 83).

We are both extremely grateful to Frans Jorissen for his diligent research and offer our thanks to him for providing us with the answer to this mystery.



Figure 2

1F rate represented by 1 x 10c Arms of Corsica and 3 x 30c Arms of Alsace and dated 10 April 1949
(Gavin Fryer collection)



Figure 3

1F rate represented by 1F Cérès de Mazelin and dated 16 June 1949
(Mick Bister collection)



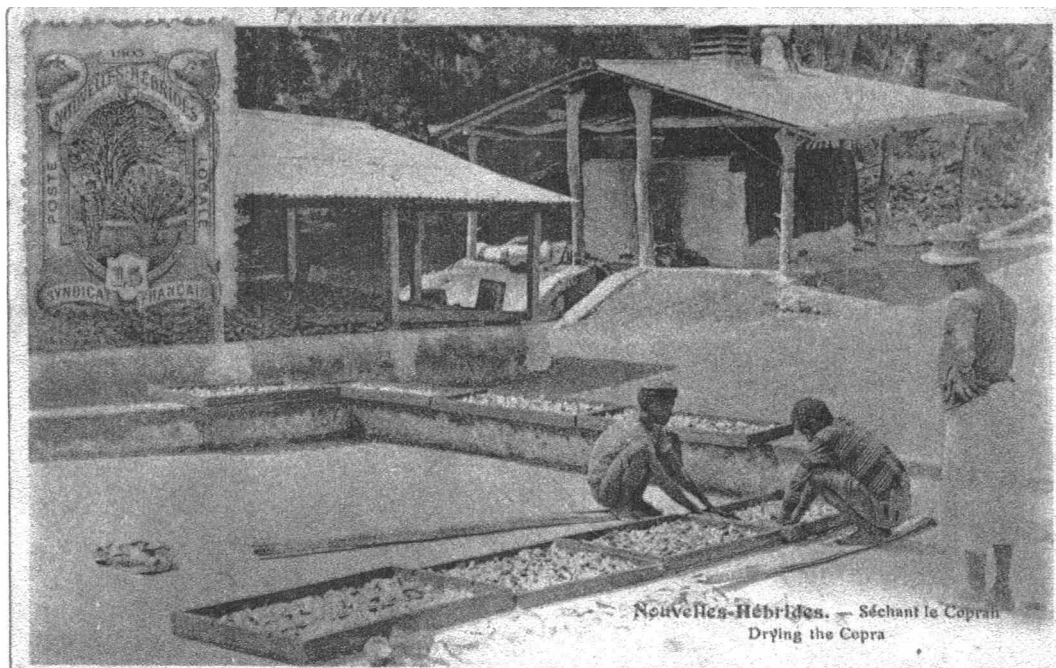
Figure 4
1F rate represented by 1F Arms of Béarn and dated 28 November 1953
(Mick Bister collection)



Fig 5
1F rate represented by 2 x 50c Arms of Picardie and dated 22 February 1954
(Gavin Fryer collection)

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

New Hebrides card in code



A friend of mine, who primarily collects Scandinavian local steamship mail (please don't blame him for that odd specialty!) has shown me this card from the French part of the New Hebrides. The stamp is socked on the nose, which makes it black on black, but he believes it dates from c1905, when the stamp was valid for only a brief period.

But it's really the message side that's of present interest. Are we seeing (1) a secret code, known only to the sender and recipient in France? (2) a form of written language used by some New Hebrides tribe? (3) pure gibberish? or (4) something else? Can any reader offer some sort of intelligent (or otherwise) explanation?

Stan Luft

I am fairly sure this is an example of Pitman's shorthand, but does any member know somebody who can read this? It may be even more difficult if, as may be assumed, the message is in French.

Maurice Tyler

Joint UK-France Stamps 1940

Further to Maurice Tyler's account in Journal 267 of March 2013 (page 31) of the joint UK-France issue of 1940 I can add a little more information that may assist members.

A very detailed account of the genesis and evolution of the issue can be found on the website of the British Postal Museum & Archives where two articles can be accessed – 'The 1940 Proposed Anglo-French Issue' and 'A Stamp for the Anglo-French Alliance'.

In these articles references are made to the colour trials mentioned by Maurice but it is important to point out that the items illustrated in the Journal are merely philatelic confections obtained by copying an illustration of the original 2F50 Cheffer design and reprinting it in a variety of

colours. Similar philatelic reproductions of the 2½d Dulac version can be found in the same range of colours.

The reproductions are easily identifiable by the mesh pattern which is clearly visible and is the result of the printing method used (not photogravure like the originals). The reproductions of both values, the 2F50 Cheffer and the 2½d Dulac, are imperforate and printed on gummed paper in eight colours – brown, red, lilac, purple, green, blue, grey and black.

They also appear overprinted SPÉCIMEN and I have seen some values with an amateur perforation which has every indication of having been applied at a later stage to the imperforate copies.



Figure 1
2½d Dulac design
overprinted SPÉCIMEN



Figure 2
2F50 Cheffer design perforate

Below are the original designs described by Maurice and from which the above reproductions were copied.



Figure 3
Bromide N°190
printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd
produced from
Henry Cheffer's original design.
© British Postal Museum
(original size unknown)



Figure 4
Final essay in blue by Edmund Dulac
© Edmund Dulac Estate and British Postal Museum
(original size unknown)

Mick Bister

Missent Mail

At the Annual Weekend held in Charlecote, I gave a display on 'missent' or 'misdirected' mail known in France as *fausse direction*. The emphasis was on late 20th century mail as *FD* handstamps were not used until after 1969 whereupon they became prolific in the 1980s and 90s.

Before 1969 *fausse direction* mail was only identifiable by the surfeit of cancellations tracking the item's circuitous journey; there was rarely anything added by the post office as an explanation, instruction or apology other than the very occasional manuscript *FD*. I was able to show one cover from 1874 which had been missent from Bayonne

to St Martin-de-Seignanx (Landes), as shown by the date stamps on the back. It had subsequently been redirected to its correct destination with the following annotation on the front: *Fausse direction. Bon pour St Vincent-de-Tyrosse*.

Fausse Direction mail annotated in this manner in the 19th century appears to be quite uncommon and I would be delighted to hear from any other member who possesses similarly marked mail. I would be especially delighted to receive scans which can be sent to me at:

mbister@theslade.fsnet.co.uk



Mick Bister

Franco-Prussian War 1870-71

In his article on interrupted mail during this conflict, published in Journal 268 of June 2013 (page 42), Philip Mackey stated: "Thus the [mail] contract came into being just one month after France had declared war on Prussia and its Allies."

However, Dallay lists the Franco-Prussian War as starting on 19 July 1870, and this agrees with the Wikipedia date for the start. This makes the start of the war one month AFTER the mail handling contract went into effect, not one month before the contract took effect.

Stan Fairchild

.....

I have read Philip Mackey's informative article on interrupted mail in the Franco-Prussian War (in Journal 268 of June 2013, pages 41-47) with much interest. I am sending him a picture of a cover from my collection which was routed via Rouen and Dieppe to England.

The letter was posted from Les Andelys on 27 November and on the reverse has the daytime *ambulant* of the Paris

to Caen line dated 29 November. The letter arrived in London on the same day as the letter illustrated in the article, presumably carried in the same batch of mail from France

I have read somewhere (possibly in an old F&CPS Journal though I have not been able to find the article) that mail was routed via Rouen and Dieppe for only four days.

Tom Waterman



My initial off the top reaction is that the faint small red-orange boxed PD (bottom right) suggests a French PO

receiving handstamp, whereas the second large PD (in black) looks like routing via Brussels and Calais.

Philip Mackey

The Gold Coast type cancels of Togo

Bill Mitchell's article (in Journal 268 of June 2013, pages 48-50) caught my eye and his comments are welcomed. Many years ago I was a guest of Michael Ensor when we gave a joint display to the Southern Group. This gave us an opportunity to share information, or more rightly Michael to enlighten me. I will concentrate on the cancel for Agomé Palimé, Bill's reference 011.02. The first time I saw the cancel it was on a cover owned by Michael and addressed to Groves and Lindley of Huddersfield. Postage of 50c, the standard rate, was met by a 50c value (SG 49). The photocopy will not reproduce to a sufficient quality, the envelope is very dark paper, the cover posted 03.11.1922. I have since acquired two covers, and seen no others.

Fig 1 shows registered mail with a manuscript registered endorsement Palimé N° 84 is addressed to a post inspector at Osnabruck, Germany, and is maybe philatelic. Sent by Hermann T Kwami from Palimé Togoland, its postage and fee were met by a 75c value on the face (SG33) and a 25c on the reverse (SG27), both cancelled Agomé Palimé 15 February 1922. It was routed via Lomé, normal route, and reached Cologne and its destination on 8 March 1922.

Fig 2 is a cover posted 19.05.1922 and has four examples of the 15c value (SG42) from the second Dahomey overprinted issue, one on the face, three on the reverse, and overpaid. The name of the sender is omitted and the name of the addressee not seen on other mail; again it is sent to Germany, without an arrival cancel but with Lomé transit mark on the day of posting, which is thought to be 'genuine'.

I have offered several examples of the cancel on single stamps, via the packet, and they do deserve a premium as

suggested by Bill. Over the years I have acquired the following. Some dates are not too clear, the cancel being to my mind overcrowded and not always easy to define, and the overprinting on the first issue is invariably stronger than the postmark which is 'obscured'.

First Dahomey overprints with four lines

SG23	5c	24.02.1922
SG26	20c	unclear
SG27	25c	unclear
SG28	30c	unclear
SG29	35c	04.02.1922

Second Dahomey overprints with one line

SG40	5c	unclear
SG41	10c	--.09.1922
SG41	15c	25.04.1922
SG42	15c	--.12.1922
SG42	25c	09.07.1922
SG42	25c	08.08.1922
SG49	50c	22.12.1922

Some were cancelled after 20.07.1922

Little research has been undertaken for this area other than by members of the WASC and F&CPS. When I visited Michael he kindly copied a work by Langlois and Bourselet covering the postmarks of French West Africa, of which of course Togo was never officially a part. Issued in 1937, the Agomé Palimé cancel was considered by them to be of German origin, and Michael had ringed the example illustrated dated 14.10.1921 and 'moved' it alongside the only British cancel illustrated, that for Agbéluvhoé.



Figure 1

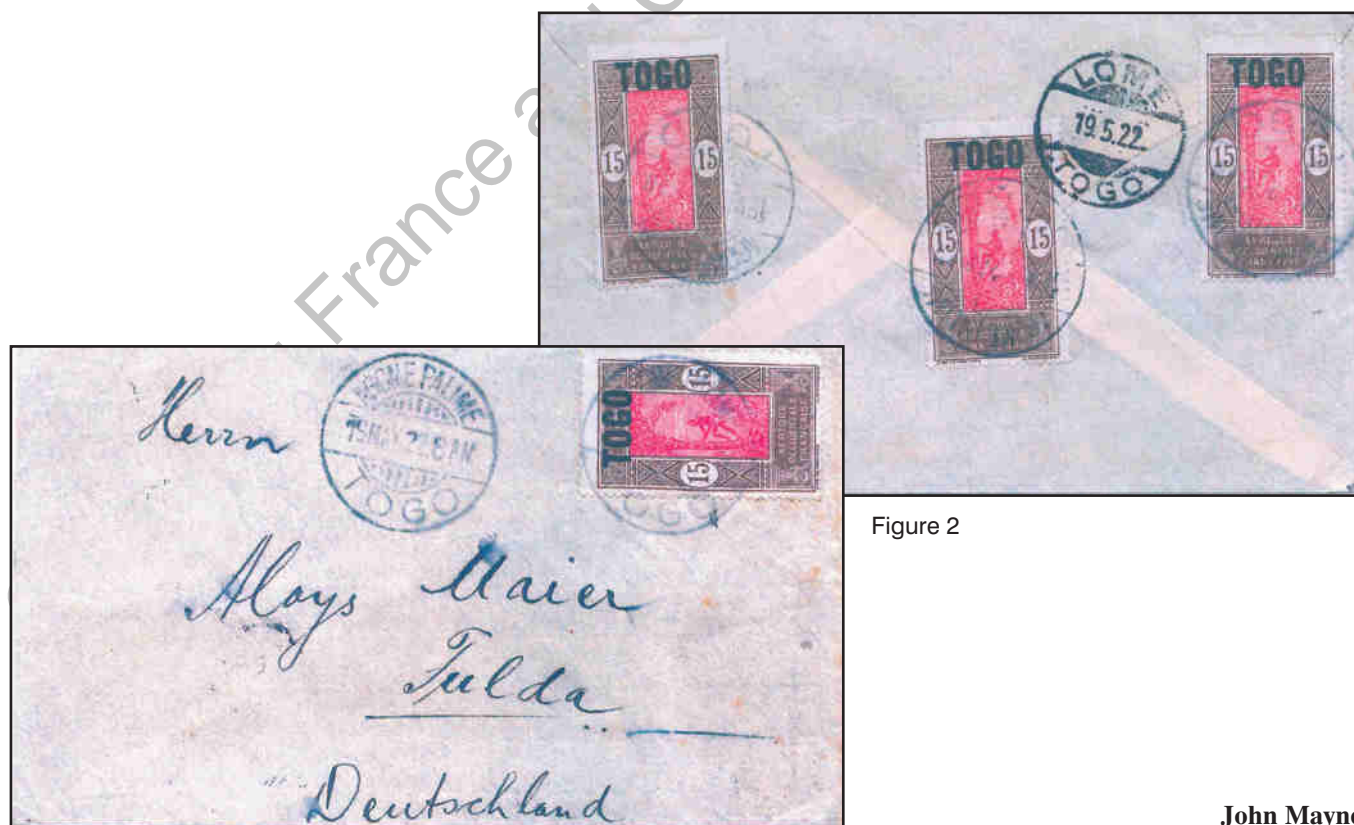


Figure 2

John Mayne

1934 Airmail cover from the Gambia with boxed *Après le Départ* strike



At a recent meeting of the West Africa Study Circle Philip Beale showed mail from the Gambia which included an air-mail cover posted 08.10.1934 to Lennards Limited of Bristol, a shoe manufacturer/retailer from memory, details of which he has kindly allowed me to pass on including this image.

The cover attracted postage of 9½d and was routed from Bathurst via Dakar, Senegal. It is backstamped *Dakar Avion Sénégal 06.11.1934*, this deleted by blue crayon, and with two more similar transit marks of the 10th and 14th of the same month. This suggests that the item was held over more than once perhaps?

A boxed *Après le Départ* strike was applied to the face suggesting this was a late cover via the French airmail service. Philip notes the German airmail service from Gambia via Stuttgart started on 10 November 1934. He adds that with the date of origin in October sea mail would have been quicker.

Apart from the three German Togo covers, all with a straight line *Après le Départ* strike applied at Cotonou, Dahomey, this is the only example I have seen of the French strike on mail other than of French origin and the first on mail from a country within the British Empire.

John Mayne

Unusual Sowers

Readers of the Journal might be amused ...

A friend (who now wishes to remain anonymous) emailed to tell me about a forthcoming auction sale which included

"a few sewers on covers".

I replied that they were probably too large to fit in my album.

Ashley Lawrence

French Occupation of Cilicia: Censor marks and stamp usage with earliest dates seen

I have copies of scans from several collectors, my own collection plus items from the Internet (Ebay, Delcampe etc).

I have over 650 covers on a spreadsheet so I can check the number of different censor marks and earliest dates of French stamp usage.

I would appreciate receiving scans of any covers (both

sides) members may have. The larger the database the more accurate the number of censor marks and dates.

Though not a member of F&CPS myself I hope the attached details are of interest to members of this Society.

I am also willing to answer any Cilicia queries members may have. Contact is bradhrad@aol.com

Bob Bradford

Censor marks within Cilicia

Adana Earliest seen: 4/1/19 Latest seen: 28/10/20 Number - 190	Red Mersine Earliest seen: 3/4/19 Latest seen: 29/8/19 Number - 28	Black Mersine Earliest seen: 18/9/19 Latest seen: 22/9/19 Number - 3	Tarsous Earliest seen: 30/7/19 Latest seen: 17/3/20 Number - 28
Bozanti Earliest seen: 20/8/19 Latest seen: 25/1/20 Number - 5	Tarsous Earliest seen: 2/5/19 Latest seen: 16/8/19 Number - 11	Unknown but only seen on Mersine covers. Earliest seen: 24/3/19 Latest seen: 20/6/19 Number - 12	

Stamp usage

MILITAIRE		
T. E. O.		T. E. O. 20 PARAS
GILICIE		
For use in Syria Earliest seen: 14/1/20	Syrian Revenue Earliest seen: 1/2/20	15c Levant Earliest seen: 20/2/20
3 or 4 line Earliest seen: 29/2/20	4 line 15mm high Earliest seen: 16/4/20	4 line 14mm high Earliest seen: 14/6/20

WWII Mail from France to Indo-China



Further to Roy Reader's helpful and detailed account of mail services from France to Indo-China during World War II (in Journal 267 of March 2013, page 34), may I contribute the above cover from Marseille to Saigon posted on 5 September 1942. From the dates quoted by Roy the letter was intended for the unofficial

trans-Siberia route which operated between February 1942 and May 1944. It was rejected and returned to the sender with the explanation that mail to Indo-China was limited to unregistered postcards as clearly supported by the examples shown by Roy Bentley (on pages 32-33 of that same Journal).

Mick Bister

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Continued from page 79

et timbres BM ovales (Pouillart); Procédure de collecte des lettres-timbres et modalités d'échanges d'informations (Reynaud); Et les ficelles grossissent de plus en plus! (de La Mettrie); L'étoile 28 improvisée du bureau de la rue Cardinal Lemoine (Gasqui); St-Michel-en-l'Herm (Vendée), Pierre Hurtaud – facteur rural et fier de l'être (Abert); La naissance de la poste aérienne – Villacoublay-Pauillac (15 octobre 1913) (Aka); Timbres «R» et «RECOMMANDÉ» [2e partie] (Guillard & Abensur).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 217 3^e trim 2013: Trois entiers non émis de la poste pneumatique de Paris (1917-1920) (Barbelin); Dieu-donné, l'enfant du miracle ou les raisons d'une mention restée longtemps mystérieuse (Dutau).

Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile

N° 166 (Jul 2013): Le courrier dans le sud des Vosges pendant la Poste cantonale 1870-1871 (Lasserre); À propos des Daguin borgnes (Kiener); Le courrier de la Marine fluviale française en Chine [II] (Giletto); Le contrôle de l'administration civile dans les étapes du nord de la France pendant la première guerre mondiale (Ludwig & Van Dooren); L'épuration philatélique après 1945, mythe ou réalité? (Lagarde).

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France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 313 (Vol 69 N° 3): The Era of the French Colonial Group Type - Papeete to China and Beyond (Grabowski); France's WWII Stamp Issues (Nilsestuen); 1945-1946 St Pierre & Miquelon Airmail to France via Montreal, Canada (Taylor); *Timbre d'appoint de Janvier 1917* (Rasmussen); The Development of the Local Letter Rate Within Tunisia 1888-1928 (Rasmussen); St Pierre-Miquelon Forgeries (Taylor); Accountancy Marking Explanation (Rasmussen).

Albert Stiefel



Members with reasonably long memories may recall an article I wrote entitled “Albert Stiefel – a Name from History” which appeared in Journal 236 of June 2005 (pages 43-49).

Herr Stiefel lived during the first years of the war at 12 Rue Roanette, St Etienne, Loire; he and his family had come from the Saar in the mid-1930s and after a period in Paris had settled in St Etienne in 1936. He was described in official documents as a merchant; and he had a wife and two sons.

At the time I speculated as to why there were relatively large amounts of correspondence addressed to him from numbers of German, or possibly Sarrois, internees in various camps in south-west France. Some were obviously members of his extended family, but judging from postcards and the occasional letter, not all were. Clearly he was providing some kind of service to these internees by sending them clothes, food and other necessities; and he seemed to keep accounts of the money he had spent.

The covers which I had acquired by 2005 not only have a variety of cachets and censor marks but also lists of items for particular people (not necessarily related to the person who had written the envelope on which pencil notes had been made).

I have recently acquired a further large number of covers, mainly from the same internees. I am still curious as to what

role Herr Stiefel actually played. The difficulty is that there are few people left to ask, unsurprisingly since most, if not all, of his correspondents perished or were murdered during the war (including Herr Stiefel and his wife). His two sons survived – the page of testimony in the Jewish archives for Frau Stiefel was submitted by one of the sons. I have not however been able to elicit a response from them.

With the number of covers available, it is becoming possible to gain a greater appreciation of the changing circumstances of internment, and to note changes in camp censor and postal markings. There must be quantities of surviving correspondence out there!

If any member has correspondence to or from (I have never seen any letter, note or parcel cover from him) Albert Stiefel or his wife Rena Stiefel in his or her collection, I would be grateful to see this (either the original or a copy). I can be contacted at djh720@btinternet.com or at the address given in the Society Register of Members' Interests.

On a few of the covers is, in addition to the camp cancellation, a faint 26mm circular mark with what appears to be a number within. This is shown on the cover illustrated above. It is not a normal camp cancellation, and may have been applied on receipt in St Etienne. Can any member provide information about this mark?

David Hogarth

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 11 MAY 2013

Our President, John West, opened the meeting held at the Calthorpe Arms public house, 252 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1, at 11.30am in the presence of 21 members.

(1) Members present: Maurice Alder, Len Barnes, Mick Bister, Godfrey Bowden, A Carter, Steve Ellis, Michael Fairhead, R Ferguson, Howard Fisher, C Griffiths, John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen, Hugh Loudon, Philip Mackey, Barbara Priddy, Michael Round, Robert Small, Maurice Tyler, John West, Alan Wood, Bob Wood.

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

Apologies for absence: Richard Broadhurst, Peter Kelly, Ashley Lawrence, Bill Mitchell, Derek Richardson, Colin Spong, Paul Watkins.

(2) Minutes of the previous AGM of 12 May 2012, published in Journal 265, were accepted unanimously as a true record of that meeting. This was proposed by Len Barnes and seconded by Maurice Tyler.

(3) President's Report - John West

"In an era when we note, with some sadness, the increasing demise of the local philatelic society (through lack of funds, facilities and/or members) it is with some pride that I am able to report that our Society continues to punch well above its weight. Notwithstanding the fact that our membership is spread across the length and breadth of the country, we have an active and enthusiastic committee – all of whom make a fulsome contribution to the day-to-day running of the Society. We are indeed extremely fortunate that we have been able to fill every role with dedicated club members, which augurs well for the future.

"We continue to publish a top quality Society Journal at regular intervals and, furthermore, still produce well-researched and documented works of reference for purchase by the specialist collector. Everyone, I am sure, will join me in congratulating Ashley Lawrence, Maurice Tyler and Bob Picirilli for sweeping the board with accolades for their respective oeuvres at the New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition in March.

"Everyone who attended enjoyed yet another successful convention at Charlecote and the ongoing increase in attendance reflects the amount of interest that this event now generates. In recent years several members' wives have selflessly given of their time to run a bourse throughout the event. Not only has this added to the enjoyment of the weekend but has been of considerable financial benefit to the Society coffers at the same time. My thanks go to Marian, Annette, Jean, Margaret and others who have lent a hand from time to time.

"Steve Ellis is to be congratulated for effecting a seamless transition – having taken over the organisation of our auctions – and this seems an opportune moment for me to appeal to all our members to have a look for any unusual material that they don't want and send some of it off to Steve, who will do his best to find it a new home and earn you a few bob! Mick Bister, having relinquished his

job running our auction, has thrown himself wholeheartedly into the unedifying task of trying to marshal every one of us who has agreed to provide a display for the Autumn Stampex – where we are privileged to be the keynote exhibitors this year. With the opportunity to feature no less than 100 frames of "France & Colonies", and provide the manpower to 'sell' the Society throughout the period of the exhibition, this represents a unique opportunity to increase our membership. Obviously, all offers of assistance during this period will be warmly welcomed! I earnestly hope that I will be able to boast of a large rise in our numbers this time next year.

"In conclusion, this should have concluded my term of presidency but, at the request of the committee I have agreed to remain in office for a further period of one year – after which time I hope that we will have a successor in place. In the meantime, my thanks go to everyone for their support and help in keeping our Society so vibrant and successful."

(4) General Secretary's Report - Peter Kelly

"2012 has been another successful year for the Society. All of the officers and sections of the Society have functioned well and have continued to provide an excellent range of services for our members.

"Membership levels have declined slightly and this is, sadly, something to be expected with an ageing membership and the difficulty in attracting younger members.

"Meetings of the Society have continued to be held in London, Worthing, Leeds/Bradford and Salisbury. Attendance has remained relatively stable but efforts by the convenors to attract new members have, in the main, proved unsuccessful. This is a shame because the quality of the invited displays is very good and the opportunity to mix with other members and exchange knowledge and information has proved helpful to most of those who attend. However, we have had to face some disappointing news with regard to the Southern Group following the planned retirement of Colin Spong who has driven the Worthing group for so long and so successfully. He felt, rightly, that it was time to pass the baton but, sadly, no-one in the Southern Group valued it sufficiently to take it on and the group is now disbanded.

"The reports from our packet secretaries and auction secretaries follow and show that all three are in good health. Mick Bister has now passed the auction on to Steve Ellis and thanks are due to Mick for having done such an excellent job over the years. We are grateful to Steve for taking this on and are confident that he will continue Mick's splendid record.

"Our Journal goes from strength to strength and after the year end we learned that a Large Vermeil medal has been awarded to the Society for the quality of the production in the New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition where it was adjudged to be the Best Periodical. This is all due to Maurice and, of course, our many contributors. Another piece of good news received post year end is the

appointment of Howard Fisher as Assistant Editor, to take over progressively from Maurice. Howard has considerable publishing experience and we need to give him all the help we can to settle into the new position which will be put to the members for ratification at this meeting.

"Congratulations are also due to Bob Picirilli and Ashley Lawrence whose books were also awarded a Large Vermeil and a Large Gold and Grand Award at the same literature exhibition. A splendid achievement by both. Sales of our publications have gone well during the year and thanks are due to Richard Broadhurst for managing this so smoothly.

"Our finances remain in a sound position despite a very small loss this year. It goes without saying, that, as is the case with every other society, we have been heavily affected by the increase in postal rates and this problem can only continue. As I write this in April, we have had another rise.

"All in all, I can report that the Society is in rude health with a strong financial base. The current year is going to be one of great importance for us with the Autumn Stampex exhibition where we shall be active with our 100 frame display, a members' lunch on the Saturday followed by an afternoon meeting. We hope that as many members as possible will drop by to see us and join in for the lunch and meeting, details of which can be found in the [last] Journal.

"It remains for me to thank all the Committee members for their support during the year, and particularly the 'new' volunteers."

(5) Treasurer's Report - Chris Hitchen

"We made a small loss of £xx in 2012. This was after a large windfall of income from publications of some £xx largely due to the great success of the latest edition of Derek Richardson's Rates Book.

"On the income side there was quite a large drop in income from the Auction and Packets of just over £xxx. Subscriptions were at similar levels to previous years at just over £xx bearing in mind that 2011 is understated by £xxx as I mentioned last year.

"There was a one-off amount of £xxx for the revamped website which largely accounts for the increase in postage and expenses. The increase in postage only really began to show in the last quarter of 2012 and will become more apparent in 2013. Distribution of the Journal came to around £xx in 2012.

"Our expenditure now runs at just over £xxxx per year – in round figures one would expect:

Meetings £x
Journal £x
Postage and expenses £x
Insurance £x

"Income from the new rate of subscriptions will raise a little under £xxx. That leaves some £xxx to be made up by the packets, auction and publications.

"There will be a one-off cost this year for the Society's display at Stampex in September. That will probably be somewhere between £xxx and £xxx."

FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2012

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at bank
Cash at building society
Sundry debtors

2012

2011

DEDUCT CURRENT LIABILITIES

Sundry creditors
Subscriptions in advance

TOTAL ASSETS represented by MEMBERS FUNDS

Uncommitted funds at 1.1.2013
Year loss

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2012

Expenditure

Meetings
Journal 4 issues
Postage and expenses
Insurance
Library
Year loss (2010 surplus)

2012

2011

Income

Auction
Exchange packet
Interest
Sale of publications
Donations
Subscriptions

2012

2011

The accounts were accepted unanimously after a proposal by Alan Wood seconded by Mick Bister.

(6) Auction Secretary's Report - Steve Ellis

"Unusually, the three auctions in 2012 were run by two stalwarts, Mick Bister and John Hammonds and one newcomer, Steve Ellis. The latter has now taken over the running of the auction and will try his best to emulate his worthy predecessors!"

"In summary, there was for each auction an average of 453 lots from only 12 vendors, with 60 bidders who purchased 51% of the lots, leaving 49% unsold. These figures are similar to the previous year except that there was a further slight reduction in the percentage of lots which sold. What was different, however, was the value of the lots sold – the

reduction caused the commission income to fall. Nevertheless, the surplus from the three auctions, together with the Charlecote bourse, resulted in £xxx being transferred to the Society's main account.

"My thanks go obviously to the members who provided material to sell (and in so doing generated good sums of money for themselves), to the members who kept us busy with their bids and to Mick Bister who has made the transfer of running the auction take place so smoothly. Looking to 2013 and beyond, I do need a ready supply of material if three auctions per year are to be maintained, as I would like."

FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY
AUCTION ACCOUNT for the year ending 31 DECEMBER 2012

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
2011	2012	2011	2012
SALE OF LOTS (including reimbursed Postage & Packing)		PAYMENTS TO VENDORS	
		Feb/Jan	
		May	
_____	_____	November	_____
_____	_____		
BOOKSTALL & BOURSE		BOOKSTALL & BOURSE	
		PRINTING	
		Feb/Jan	
		May	
		November	_____
		<i>*Paid from another source</i>	
		POSTAGE	
		Feb/Jan	
		May	
		November	_____
OTHER REVENUE		OTHER OUTGOINGS	
		Insurance & Fees	
		Bank Error	
		Administration	
		Surplus to Society	
_____	_____	Float c/f to 2013	_____
_____	_____		
_____	_____		
			-

RECONCILIATION OF CASH POSITION AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2012

Balance in HSBC Current Account	
Unpresented cheque from buyer	_____
Unpresented cheque to F&CPS (adjustment to Paypal payments)	_____
Surplus to Society	_____
Amount carried forward to 2013 (bank float)	_____
(cash float)	_____

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

“During the year 22 members contributed 177 books of material for sale, and 159 books completed circulation among the 10 circuits. The comparable figures for 2011 were 193 books received from 18 members, with 178 books completing.

At the end of the year there were 84 members receiving the ‘France’ Packet, with most having received eight packets during the previous twelve months. Receipts from members were again lower, but the final surplus credited to the Society was back to its usual level before last year’s ‘dip’.

“Since March 2011 the number of books awaiting circulation has been more than adequate for replenishing each packet, and I am now returning books to vendors after they have circulated for 12 months, even if a significant amount of their contents remain unsold. This makes it possible to guarantee a regular injection of new and varied material.

“The task of persuading some members to provide accurate and complete details of their purchases remains a constant challenge, but it is necessary if vendors are to receive the financial returns their contributions deserve.”

FRANCE AND COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY ACCOUNT FOR ‘FRANCE’ PACKET 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2012			
2011	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS	2011
	In hand 1 January: cash at bank	2011 surplus paid to Treasurer	
	Deposit a/c		
	Current a/c		
_____	-	Payment to vendors	
		Expenses	
		Stationery & printing	
		Postage	_____
	Receipts from members		
	Cheques pd to bank		
_____	Stamps and cash	In hand 31 December	
		Deposit a/c	
		Current a/c	_____
	Bank interest		
_____			_____
	<u>Books completed during 2012</u>	<u>Cash at bank comprises</u>	
	commission on sales	receipts for books still circulating	
	insurance refunded	2011 surplus due to Treasurer	_____
	return postage refunded		
_____	balance paid to vendors		

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

France and Colonies Colonial Packet accounts 1 January to 31 December 2012	
Income	Expenditure
Balance b/f from 31 Dec 2011	Payments to vendors
Receipts from members	Expenses
2012	Surplus 2011 paid to Treasurer
Commission on sales	Creditors:
Insurance recovered	Money received for
Postages recovered	booklets not brought
Balance due to vendors	to account
_____	Retained interest
Total receipts 2011	
Bank interest	Surplus 2012 due to Treasurer
_____	_____

"My report, for the year ended December 2012 will show a small downturn in income and commensurately a reduction in the amount contributed to the parent society. The reasons? Well, I don't think that there is any real concern for alarm – yet. There is a continuing trend of members resigning or passing away and their numbers are exceeding the new blood being welcomed in. This has been the case on all four of my circuits for a number of years and, indeed, the contraction has reached the stage where I am seriously considering amalgamating two of the circuits.

"Perhaps there is a point reached where the specific requirements of our collectors can no longer be satisfied by the contents of the booklets in circulation – certainly I am noticing an increase in "NIL" returns. This, of course, tends to deter the member from paying the postage to receive or send more packets and another member is lost to the circuit. Finally, the timing of the distribution of these packets may also impact upon the income in any one year. The year under review, for example, saw about 12 packets still circulating when the cut off date was reached. All this said, our sales income of £xxx should allay any fears that this is a problem for the Society yet and vendors continue to receive healthy cheques with some regularity!

"We lost one packet in the post during the year but fortunately everyone concerned had complied fully with our guidelines and this helped to expedite a smooth and quick insurance payment. Notwithstanding this I have had cause to remonstrate with certain members who continue to post packets on without bothering to forewarn the intended recipient – and please do not blame the spouse who is kind enough to post it for you!! If members will not abide by our advice then they can have no complaints if the privilege (of receiving the packets) is withdrawn.

"Administration costs continue to rise, although postage – oddly enough – was reduced with last year's alterations to weight limits. I estimate that, on average, a packet must generate sales exceeding £xx before the Society makes a penny. This is one reason why unsigned spaces are so frustrating ... with a £x stamp unaccounted for that figure rises to £xx! So, I would urge all members to concentrate on one thing at a time when removing stamps, try and avoid answering the phone, completing crossword puzzles, making shopping lists or watching television and be vigilant that there are no unsigned spaces when you receive the books.

"To summarise, last year I circulated 786 booklets, with a total value of £xxx. I received £xxx in insurance payments and purchased a set of digital scales (£xxxx) to facilitate postings. I also spent £xx on postage plus £xx on stationery and phone calls. Finally, as usual, I pay a fulsome tribute to the majority of the members who do their utmost to ensure that the whole process is completed smoothly and efficiently. Long may you continue to benefit from this excellent means of obtaining such specialist material."

(9) Editor's Report - Maurice Tyler

I am pleased to report that members have continued to produce articles of interest and value in sufficient quantities to make my job much easier in arranging them on the printed pages of the Journal. The success of the Journal was shown in particular when a recent set of 4 issues was

submitted to the 13th New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition and not only was awarded a Large Vermeil (which it also gained in the previous one two years ago) but this time was also deemed Best Periodical.

"During 2012 the Journal appeared four times as usual and amounted to a total of 156 pages (168 last year) of which 136 inside pages were in full colour (124 last year). The total cost of producing it, including expenses, but not those of distribution (i.e. postage and packing), was just over £xxxx (£xxxx last year). At the present moment I probably have enough major articles to last until the end of 2013, bearing in mind that the September issue will be mostly devoted to the Autumn Stampex Exhibition by this Society.

"This will, however, be my last year as Editor. We have been lucky to find a member who is willing to take on this task from the beginning of 2014 – somebody who has experience in producing quarterly publications of similar size and length to our own and who will be working with me over the next months to ensure a smooth transition. I hope therefore that you will at the appropriate moment of this AGM agree to elect Howard Fisher to our Committee as the new Assistant Editor, ready to take over as Editor for the March issue of the Journal next year. I am sure that his expertise and willingness to co-operate will lead to the Journal continuing as a respected channel for Society news and the dissemination of knowledge in French philately for a long time to come.

"Provided that my eyesight does not worsen significantly, I hope that my role will (after this year) turn more to the development of our website. We introduced a refurbished website at the end of last year with some important improvements including the new Forum, available for those members with access to the Internet to air their queries and views on whatever topics strike their fancy and to receive answers from other members much more quickly than using the Journal. It is appreciated that some members do not have this access, and it has always been our intention to reprint any interesting discussions in the pages of the Journal for their benefit as well. It must be pointed out, however, that so far very few members – disappointingly – have availed themselves of this opportunity. May I end by appealing to members of this Society to apply for registration on the Forum, following the guidelines published in the Society News pages of recent Journals."

(10) Librarian's Report (George Barker)

"This report is deliberately different from those in previous years, as my illness in 2012 greatly disrupted the operation of the Library, and I am grateful to members for their forbearance. There are no statistics for last year (I hope to publish these in the Journal at some time in the future) but I am glad to report that with my recovery from illness the operation of the Library has resumed (with some delays, for which I apologise) and quite a number of loans have been made. Photocopies are occasionally requested, but hard copy has been the major activity. It has been particularly rewarding that quite a number of the newer (and generally a little younger!) members have kept me fairly busy.

Little by little I am preparing an enlarged Library List, and also dealing with the enormous volume of duplicate (often triplicate or quadruplicate) copies of the philatelic

magazines, and while I am preserving an untouched 'file copy' of each I am converting the duplicates into a source of useful serial articles which can enlarge the general library.

"May I ask members for two things; (1) please always date your correspondence (emails of course do this automatically) which often gives me some unnecessary research to keep my files correct; (2) would any member with items that he or she have had for more than six months please advise me (email to gebarkstmp@yahoo.co.uk is easiest) of their holding and if they wish to retain the items any longer. Many thanks."

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

"Last year I was obliged to raise the subscription to £xx per title, and it was probably as a direct consequence of this that three subscribers did not renew their sub to either magazine this year, and one person cut down to one title.

"Quite apart from making it impossible to balance the books this year, it also reduced the number of subscribers on each list, reducing the two circuits for *l'Écho* to 5 persons on one, and 7 on the other. For *Timbres* the figures were 6 on each. Two circuits for each magazine were simply not viable, and this year I have reduced my renewals to one magazine of each title So this year the deficit reported last year is made up, and there is a healthy surplus to carry forward.

"It will also be noted that postages creep inexorably upwards. The reported £xxx is of course for two magazines of each title, next year's figure should be approximately half this. (There are a few postages besides journals.) It may well be possible to reduce the sub next year; we'll see how it goes.

"New recruits to the circulation lists will always be welcome, and I hope present subscribers continue to find enjoyment and useful information in the magazines."

(12) Publications Stockist's Report - Richard Broadhurst

"2012 turned out to be a very busy year for Publications.

"Derek Richardson's Postal Rates Book continued to be a best seller with a reprint being ordered during the year with a remarkable quantity of nearly 300 being sold to date.

"September saw the launch of Ashley Lawrence's book on the Sower, around 120 copies of a print run of 150 have been sold in less than a six month period.

"I continued with the rationalisation of the stock of back Journals and have now reduced these to a manageable quantity. The offer of packs of mixed Journals was well received and has brought in around £xxx for club funds.

"Other older publications continue to sell with the Picirilli Rates Book clocking up a healthy twenty copies and Fakes & Forgeries a further five.

"In all a total of around 500 individual publications were distributed during the year."

FRANCE & COLONIES - MAGAZINES Accounts for year ending 31 March 2013

RECEIPTS

9 Subs @ £x

7 Subs @ £x

(2012 1 Sub @ £x)

Total

Less loss carried from previous year

TOTAL

EXPENDITURE

Sub to *Timbres* (ONE copy)

Sub to *l'Écho* (ONE copy)

Postages

TOTAL

RECEIPTS

less EXPENDITURE

SUM TO CARRY TO FOLLOWING YEAR

2013

2012

**Business Deposit Account: This contains £ not included in the above.
£ are a float deposited by the Organiser**

13) Election of Officers and Committee

The list of those willing to serve as Officers and Committee Members had been published in the Agenda and their election *en bloc* with the additional role of Vice President for Steve Ellis was proposed by Philip Mackey, seconded by Bob Wood and passed unanimously; an amendment to the effect that Howard Fisher be appointed as Assistant Editor with the intention of taking over from the present Editor at the beginning of next year was proposed by Maurice Tyler, seconded by Chris Hitchen and also passed unanimously.

President:	Mr J C West
Vice President	Mr S R Ellis
General Secretary:	Mr P R A Kelly
Membership Secretary:	Mr P S Watkins
Treasurer:	Mr C J Hitchen
Librarian:	Mr G E Barker
Editor:	Mr M S Tyler
Assistant Editor	Mr H Fisher
Auction Secretary:	Mr S R Ellis
Packet Secretary (France):	Mr R G E Wood
Packet Secretary (Colonies):	Mr J C West

Committee Members:

Mr L H Barnes
Mr M L Bister
Mr R N Broadhurst
Mr A J Lawrence
Mr J Parmenter
Mr C W Spong

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

(14) Any Other Business

Philip Mackey extended an invitation to members to attend his display at the Royal Philatelic Society London on 18 May.

Mick Bister announced that he was still seeking more members who would be willing to help man our stall at Autumn Stampex, 18-21 September 2013, and appealed to all members to promote our participation in the keynote display at their local societies.

Liz Gethin presented Maurice Tyler with the small replica of the Geoff Gethin Award for Service to the Society. She was unable to present the main award as the recipient was unfortunately unable to attend. [See photo on back cover]

MST

WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 29 JUNE 2013

Colin Spong: Rail and Mail in Madagascar

Members' Choice

Our invited display was given by member **Colin Spong** who gave us a fascinating showing of mail carried by rail in Madagascar. This constituted a follow up to a previous display he gave us, this time concentrating initially on the extension of the main Tananarive–Tamatave line from Brickaville to Tamatave, replacing the transport from Brickaville via the Pangalanes Canal. This resulted from the gradual silting up of the canal with the first surveys for the new line starting in 1910 and completed in 1913. This presented a number of engineering difficulties and the work was largely carried out by the French military with local labour.

In the second part of the display Colin showed mails carried by additional lines from the capital running from Tananarive to Antsirabé and from Moramanga to Lake Aloatra. All members present agreed that this was a most interesting display given by Colin who has spent many years studying the complex postal history of Madagascar.

After our usual lunch taken at the Old Mill the following members displayed:

Alan Wood: Paris after the Siege with elements sowing the confusion of foreign mail, various restrictions, how it had to be sent unsealed, control through Versailles;

Trevor Buckell: The stamp issues of 1931 – a splendid way of showing the stamp plus some covers and ancillary information on them;

Chris Hitchen: Paris and WWI – the exhibition of the ‘*village reconstitué*’, postal controls and commissions, returned mail to exempt companies, exempt mail & hospitals;

Ashley Lawrence: Scarlet Sowers and maritime use;

Michael Berry: Background and postal history of the Île de Ré – the principal ports of St Martin and La Flotte and an unusual collection of early mail;

Peter Kelly: Postcards relating to communications by land and water in Madagascar, and the rural and urban post in France 1876-1900 in which were explained the different rural and urban box markings as well as the OR and OL handstamps together with the various combinations and complexities that can be found, finishing with a brief introduction to the moveable boxes.

The following members also attended: Michel Bonnet, Peter Lawrence, Jeremy Martin,

The next meeting will be held on 12th October and the invited display will be ‘French Maritime mail during the *Type Sage* period 1876-1900 presented by Peter Kelly.

PRAK & AJW

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 13 JULY 2013

“Bastille Day”

The meeting was held on Saturday 13 July 2013 from 2pm to 5pm under the new arrangements now in force, replacing the former whole-day meetings held privately by Judith and Stephen Holder. Members should kindly note that this arrangement is now the norm for any future meeting.

The weather was kind (as has been normal for all ‘Bastille Day’ meetings previously held!), and nine separate displays were enjoyed.

Mike Casswell: Indian Mail to or through France – 1834 onwards

Steve Ellis: France – Mail by Rail

Stephen Holder: *Estafettes* – examples of all types

John Place: Miscellany of 20th Century Items

Alan Goude: French Guinea

Peter Stockton: French Indo-Chinese Military Mail

George Barker: Paris Post Offices (as affected by the absorption into the Parisian system in 1860); and Hexagon postmarks related to Paris.

Michael Rego: France – Inland Postal Rates 1849 to 1939

Stephen Holder: A display of one sheet from every (or almost every!) colony.

The afternoon was a great success, and we hope that those absent (who had kindly advised their absence) will manage to come next year.

Members attending: George Barker, Mike Casswell, Steve Ellis, Howard Fisher, Alan Goude, Stephen Holder, John Place, Michael Rego, Peter Stockton. [See photo on back cover.]

There were last minute cancellations from Roger Clapham and John Smith; and other apologies were received from Colin Graham, Ken Howitt, Brian Lythgoe, Peter Maybury, Michael Meadowcroft, John Morton, Peter Rooke, Trevor Smith, Maurice Tyler, Paul Watkins; and from non-members Charles Grainger and Yvonne & Richard Wheatley.

The autumn show will be “Marianne” by new man John Place from Keighley.

GEB/CSH

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 17 JULY 2013

Colin Spong: A Study of Madagascar Censor Marks, Part 1

Colin explained that it was at the suggestion of his friend Joh Groenewald of South Africa, together with John Parmenter of F&CPS, that they decided to try and study and record the World War II censor markings of Madagascar, and this selection of sheets including part of the France & Colonies display for Autumn STAMPEX, will hopefully give members a preview of the subject. In answer to a question Colin said Part One covers the Civil Censorship marks and labels.

The displays in the first half covered the civil censorship markings in Madagascar, beginning with mail cancelled by the British Military Administration which was appointed in October 1942 until negotiations between Britain and the Free French were completed on 17 December 1942 and an Agreement was signed by Sir Anthony Eden and General Charles de Gaulle. During this period there were two types of handstamp [a description of these will be seen in the Stampex section of this Journal, page 107] for the capital Tananarive and the ports of Tamatave and Diégo Suarez.

In February 1943 the island was officially handed over to the Free French Administration and in February under the agreement signed by the British Government and the Free French, a Mixed Control Commission composed of British and French representatives received their directives from

their Chief Censors. This censor commission continued until early June 1944. Members were shown sheets covering both the British and French handstamps and labels which were introduced for Tananarive, Tamatave, Diégo Suarez and Majunga.

In the second half Colin showed the distinctive and individual handstamp used by the French for the capital Tananarive, a boxed G with numbering from 1 to 22.

A vote of thanks for a fascinating display of seldom seen material was given by Len Barnes, the Group Convenor, who added that he hoped we would be privileged to see many more parts of this topic.

Members present: Len Barnes, Mick Bister, Michael Fairhead, Chris Hitchen, Hugh Loudon, Barbara Priddy, Roy Reader, Derek Richardson, Colin Spong, Maurice Tyler.

Guests: Marian Bister, Liz Gethin, Janet Richardson.

The meeting had in fact started with the presentation to Derek Richardson by Liz Gethin of the Geoff Gethin Award for Service to the Society. Derek apologised for being unable to receive the award at the AGM in May, but Liz outlined his considerable contributions to the Society over many years and said she was very pleased to be able to hand over the award in person. A photograph of the presentation can be seen on the back cover of this Journal.

CWS/MST

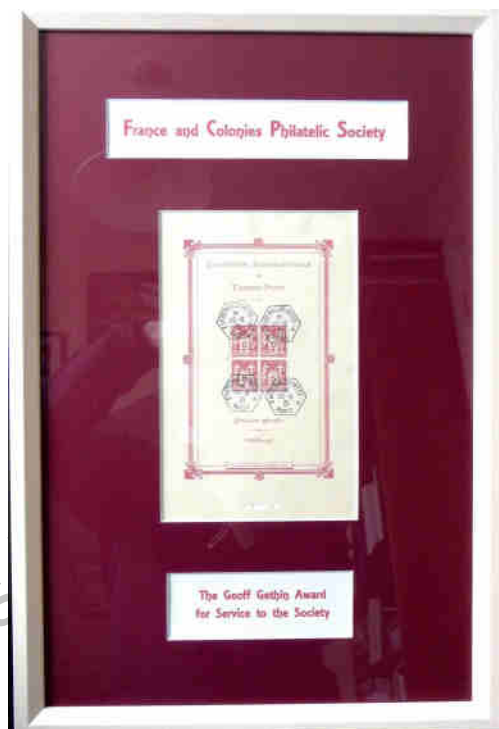
SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPHS



Derek Richardson receives the Geoff Gethin Award for Service to the Society from Liz Gethin at the July meeting of the London Group
(The display in the background is that of Colin Spong)
(photo by Maurice Tyler)



Maurice Tyler receives the small replica of the Award he won 2 years ago from Liz Gethin at the AGM in May (with President John West)
(photo by Mick Bister)



The Geoff Gethin Award
(containing a genuine forgery!)
(photo by Maurice Tyler)



Discussion at the Northern Group meeting in July with Steve Ellis, Alan Goude and Mike Casswell
(photo by Howard Fisher)