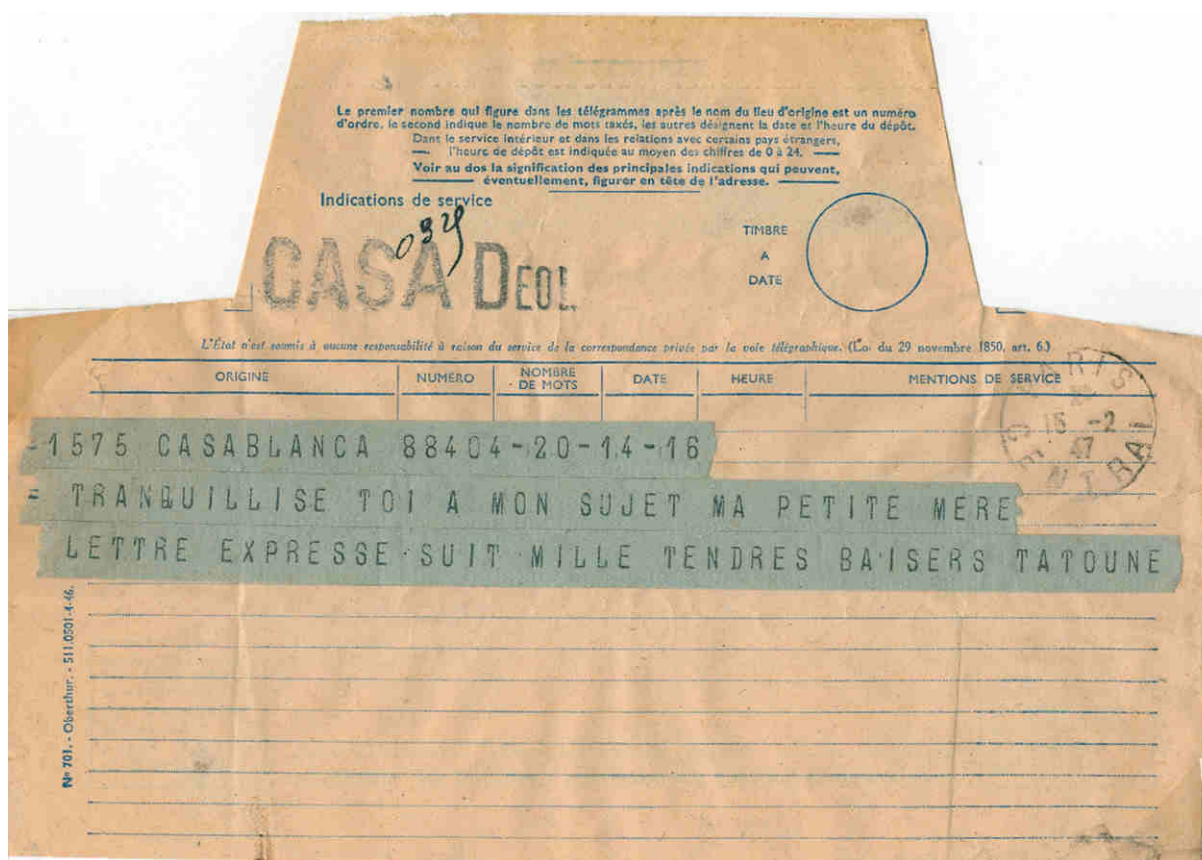


The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



A telegram from Casablanca on 15 February 1947 to Paris.
This image forms Figure 10 of the illustrated article
on French telegrams by Alan Wood on page 135.

Volume 63 ● Number 4
December 2013
Whole Number 270

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

Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

Officers

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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.

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

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

Bank transfers to HSBC account name France & Colonies Philatelic Society sort code 40 07 31 account n° 71019325.

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:

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

according to instructions

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

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

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

The Library

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

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

The Magazine Circuit

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

For further details contact the circuit organiser:

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

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* * *

When writing to an officer of the Society, please do not mention the name of the Society in the address. Requests for information should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

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

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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Volume 63 Number 4

December 2013 ● Whole No 270

CONTENTS

Society Notes	130
Editorial	130
New Members.....	130
Members Deceased.....	130
Future Events	130
Exhibition Successes	130
Displays by Members	131
Wessex Group Programme 2014	131
Club Books for Sale	131
Corrigendum.....	131
Awards Gained by the Journal of the France & Colonies P S.....	131
Autumn Stampex 2013: President's Message (J C West).....	132
Autumn Stampex 2013: Photographs (M L Bister)	132, N° 4 iv
List of Recently Published Articles (C W Spong & M S Tyler)	133, 172
Bookshelf	134, 163
New Books Now Available (P L Grech, D H Trapnell).....	134
Books Noted (M S Tyler).....	163
Special Offer (R N Broadhurst)	163
French Telegrams (A J Wood).....	135
The Boulanger Affair (P R A Kelly)	139
Professor A Victor Segno: A Note of Explanation (E J J Grabowski)	142
<i>Le Type Pasteur</i> - the 75 centimes blue (Yvert 177, SG 400) (W G Mitchell)	147
"Cluedo" - A Whodunit? from the Siege of Paris (A J Lawrence)	149
90 Years of Red Cross Booklets, Part 4 (J C West)	155
Shorter Items - including Questions and Answers.....	164
When did these wars start? (A J Wood).....	164
New Hebrides card (E J Mayne)	164
A Ban-Breaking Cover from France to the United Kingdom in 1943 (R E Reader)	166
Post Offices in Egypt (J E Cruttenden)	167
Cameroun Français 27.8.40 - the "+10c" Trial on the 90c Elephants Stamp (D R Cobb)	168
Bathyscaphe Archimède 1963 (J Moisala, M S Tyler)	169
An Alternative Service UK to France (J M Simmons, M S Tyler)	170
Reports of Meetings	171
Wessex Group Meeting of 12 October 2013 – P R A Kelly: <i>Type Sage</i> Maritime Mail (PRAK/AJW).....	171
London Group Meeting of 16 October 2013 – R D Larg: French Philately & Postal History (MST).....	171
Autumn Stampex Meeting of 21 September 2013 – P R A Kelly: Postal History of Soudan & Niger (PRAK) ...	172
Index to Volume 63, 2013.....	173

SOCIETY NOTES

Editorial

Those among our members who have read the AGM Report in the last Journal will have realised that this issue of the Journal will be my last as Editor. My resignation has been prompted mainly by my failing eyesight, which has made this job much more difficult than it used to be. This has resulted, as I warned earlier in the year, in a few more typos than usual appearing in the text, for which I apologise profusely.

One example of this failing occurred in the last Journal, when Ron Bentley wrote to me to say that he was going to complain about the misspelling of his first name in the piece by Mick Bister on page 120 – until he realised that I had made an even worse mess of my own name at the top of page 93. However, these errors can be in part excused by the fact that I was rushing to complete that Journal in time for the Stampex exhibition.

Despite these slips I am very pleased that I have been able to produce a full Journal on a regular basis over the past 20 years. This has been largely due to the willingness of many of our members to submit articles, long or short, on a wide variety of interesting topics, as I hope they will continue to do. They form the bedrock on which our award-winning publication rests (see page 131 for the list of awards). All I have had to do is put that material together on the page in what I hope is an attractive way.

I am obviously sorry to give up what has proved a very rewarding activity over such a long time, but I know that we have found in Howard Fisher a successor who has the expertise and co-operative attitude needed to take the Journal to even further heights. I have offered my help if and when required, and I am sure that the transition will be a smooth one.

Those articles in my stockpile that do not find a place in the current issue of the Journal will be passed on to Howard on the understanding that they will be published as soon as possible next year. And my apologies are due to Ed Grabowski whose name was inadvertently omitted from the list of authors waiting in that stockpile. This issue of the Journal is another bumper one, partly as a result of my efforts to include articles that would have been published in September had it not been for the Autumn Stampex extras. Those authors still awaiting publication now (or still) include Stan Luft, David Trapnell and André Métayer, and I can assure them they will be given priority next year.

I know however that Howard, although he will be presented with enough substantive material to fill the Journal for the next couple of issues at least, will welcome further pieces for the latter part of next year. Potential authors should continue to use the email address of editor@fcps.org.uk which will be transferred to Howard from the beginning of January 2014. For personal messages to me the address given in the Register of Members' Interests can be used: maurice@fcps.org.uk.

* * *

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following:

1427 Billy Ragina (London), 1428 Jim Hoffman (Essex), 1429 Eddie Rennison (Manchester), 1430 Jonathan Guy (Cheshire).

* * *

Members Deceased

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

431 Don Sherwin.

* * *

Future Events

The **London Group** will meet at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London WC1 at 6.30pm on Wednesday 19 February 2014 when Peter Kelly will display *Type Sage 1876-1900 – Aspects of Maritime Mail*.

The **Northern Group** will meet at 2.00pm on Saturday 8 March 2014 at Heaton Royds, Bradford, courtesy of Stephen & Judith Holder, when George Barker will give a display on the Inter-War Years.

The **Wessex Group** will meet at 10.30am on Saturday 8 February 2014 at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham, Salisbury, when the main displays will be given by Trevor Buckell (France 1920-49) and Jeremy Martin (Togo).

* * *

Exhibition Successes

We congratulate the following members on their awards.

At APS Stampshow 2013 (Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 2013):

Stan Luft: Vermeil for “Alsace-Lorraine/Elsass-Lothringen” and Vermeil in single frame competition for “Rixheim in the 19th Century”

At ABPS Autumn Stampex 2013 (London, September 2013):

Mick Bister: Gold (Postal History Class) for “The post-code programmes of France – The experimental years 1958-1978”

Graham Booth: Gold (Postal History Class) for “The rise and fall of the Liverpool Forwarding Agent 1807-57”

Steve Ellis: Large Vermeil (Postal History Class) for “Marseille: The development of the maritime mail” and Vermeil (Postal History Class) for “West African Maritime Mail”

Francis Kiddle: Vermeil (Traditional Philately Class) for “Aalborg Local Posts” and Vermeil (Postal Stationery Class) for “Copenhagen Local Postal Stationery”

Hans Smith: Large Vermeil (Literature Class) for “The Austrian Post Offices in the Levant” (Handbook)

Iain Stevenson: Vermeil (Revenue Class) for “Canada: Federal Inspection Revenue Stamps”

* * *

Displays by Members

The following members displayed at the meeting of the Cercle International de Rencontres Philatéliques (CIRP) on 14 September 2013 in Cusset (Allier):

Guy Dutau: "Lettres italiennes, de Venise et d'ailleurs de 1394 à la fin du XIII^e siècle"

Chris Hitchen: "Les Bureaux de quartier de Paris 1852-1863"

Peter Kelly: "Aspects du développement des relations postales en Soudan français"

Peter Maybury: "Les bateaux à vapeur"

The following members displayed at Marcophilex XXXVII on 19 & 20 October 2013 at Ouistreham: (Calvados):

Robert Abensur: "Courriers transportés par les paquebots de l'administration des Postes en Méditerranée (1837-1851)" and "Taxation des correspondances aériennes insuffisamment affranchies: Lettres à destination de la France (1920-1940)"

Chris Hitchen: "La Recette Principale de Paris à partir d'avril 1876"

Peter Kelly: "La Réunion, courrier intérieur (1821-1900)"

Peter Maybury: "Constantinople - La liaison française (1837-1914)"

Hans Smith: "La poste napoléonienne dans les provinces illyriennes (1806-1810)"

* * *

Wessex Group Programme 2014

Sat 8 Feb 2014: Trevor Buckell - France 1920-49
Jeremy Martin - Togo

Sat 28 June 2014: Ingrid Swinburn - WWII mail
Peter Todd - France from his collection

Sat 11 Oct 2014: Chris Hitchen - Paris
Tony Hargrave-Graham - French Cols

* * *

Club Books for Sale

John Mayne reports that it has recently become apparent that the major supplier to the trade and to private customers of club books, Barrington Smith of Leicester, had been unable to arrange the sale of his business. The owner is in his 80s, and consequently he had decided to cease trading.

The major holder of these books was Vera Trinder who when John spoke to them in July had yet to decide whether to continue and try and find an alternative source. He says he has not spoken to them since.

Several years ago, however, our member Peter Cliffe arranged for books to be printed for him by a small local printer, namely M J Lavin and Sons of 27A High Street, Uttroter, ST14 7HN, telephone 01889 564415.

John has in fact ordered 1000 which were printed very quickly though at the time of writing he had yet to take delivery.

If members require a small supply he says he will provide these at 35p each plus postage costs, but feels he should mention that the books have more pages than those previously printed by Barrington Smith, 12 not 10.

* * *

Corrigendum

Better late than never! It has only just come to my attention that a late correction to the text of Bill Mitchell's article on the Gold Coast-type cancels of Togo (in Journal 268 of June 2013) was not incorporated as he had requested. In order to make sense of the text on page 50 (left hand column) the phrase "and the '0' is also totally unlike the corresponding digit in Figure 3" should have read "and the '0' is also totally unlike the zeros in the Nkawkaw cancel in Figure 2". Apologies to Bill, who will be pleased to learn that his changes to another article mentioned in the same letter (and published in this Journal) have been made!

* * *

AWARDS GAINED BY THE JOURNAL OF THE FRANCE & COLONIES P S

Stampshow 1994 (Pittsburgh, USA) [Editor Derek Richardson]	Vermeil
Brighton & Hove 1998 [Editor Maurice Tyler]	Silver
Wipa 2000 (Vienna)	Large Silver
Belgica 2001 (Brussels)	Large Silver
Chester 2002	Vermeil (and best in class)
ABPS Specialist Society Journal of the Year Award 2004	Runner-up
España 2004 (Valencia)	Large Silver
ABPS Specialist Society Journal of the Year Award 2005	Winner
Canada's 7th National Philatelic Literature Exhibition 2005	Vermeil
Washington 2006	Vermeil
10th New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition 2007	Silver Gold
ABPS Specialist Society Journal of the Year Award 2008	Winner
Autumn Stampex 2010	Large Vermeil
Indipex 2011 (New Delhi)	Vermeil
12th New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition 2011	Large Vermeil
13th New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition 2013	Large Vermeil (and best periodical)

Autumn Stampex 2013

President's Message: John West

I make no apology for utilising the pages of our Journal to offer a special 'President's message' in which I take the opportunity to thank everyone who, in any small way, contributed to the success of our Stampex display. I am quite certain that I speak on behalf of the whole Society when I say that the whole was the sum of many small parts and that our debt to so many is almost impossible to quantify.

I can recall the committee meeting when the proposal to adopt the idea of marketing the Society by being "keynote exhibitors" was first mooted. It was a proposal which, from the outset, was greeted with enthusiasm. That same enthusiasm would prove to be the bedrock upon which the success of the whole venture was guaranteed. It was abundant in the small sub-committee that was established to ensure that the efforts of the Society members would amply reflect the vibrant nature of the "France & Colonies P.S." It was also manifest in the efforts of every single member who contributed the 1600 sheets of excellent material which

so many visitors were able to salivate over during the four days of the exhibition.

If there were to be a personification of the word 'enthusiasm' then it would, surely, describe the heroic efforts of the few who gave up their time to man the Society stall for the duration of the exhibition. We succeeded in selling books and journals to the value of £427 and, doubtless, whetted the appetites of an unknown number of philatelists who were left in no doubt of the plethora of benefits available to them as a member of our Society. Although I am deliberately avoiding any reference to individuals by name, because I am certain to omit somebody by accident, I must offer my personal thanks to the unstinting and Trojan work done by Mike Bister whose towering efforts in overseeing our input ensured that so many of the small parts not only joined together so seamlessly, but that all those parts worked together so successfully and made for a magnificent representation of what our Society is all about. My heartfelt thanks go out to each and everyone of you.

* * *

Photographs: Mick Bister



Erection of Society's frames



Steve Ellis's display is mounted and sealed



Society publicity frames



Frames ready for the opening of the exhibition



Early interest



Further interest

[More photographs can be found on the back cover of this Journal.]

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 145 3^{ème} Trim 2013: Le retour du vol exploratoire France-La Réunion pour Goulette 1929 (Desnos); Les Timbres-Monnaie des Colonies Françaises (Venot); Un timbre à date du Togo inconnu Badou (Hurpet); Un nouvel Aérogramme de Madagascar (Venot); Marcophilie Moderne à La Réunion (Vacher-Chicane).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1876 Sept 2013: Dis, l'artiste, *Romain Hugault*, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Ces timbres ...non postaux (Grosse, Arc-en-ciel); Où Crozet sort...sa nouvelle griffe (Venturini); Première traversée aérienne de la Méditerranée (Albaret); Les premiers pas de la poste aérienne en France (Albaret); Nés en 1863: deux Pastoriers avec l'Indochine en commun (Dercy); Plis préphilatéliques de Cusset, dans l'Allier (Lavigne).

N° 1877 Oct 2013: Dis, l'artiste, *France Dumas*, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); À bord du *Marion Dufresne* au 1^{er} trimestre 2013 (Venturini); Les premières années d'Air France (Albaret); Le point-poste franco-anglais (Lecouturier et Quesnée); Le Musée de la Communication en Alsace (Geay et Drillien).

N° 1878 Nov 2013: Dis, l'artiste, *Olivier Audy*, dessine-moi le timbre de tes rêves (-); Terre Adélie - Hivernage 2012 (Venturini); Érinophilie [vignettes]: Un charmant bestiaire (-); Vaillé, fondateur et premier conservateur du Musée postal (Albaret); Premières vignettes de Croix-Rouge de franchise postale (Israël).

Gibbons Stamp Monthly

Vol 44 N° 5 October 2013: The Inter-islands Stamps of the Comoros (Groenewald).

Timbres Magazine

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

N° 148 Sept 2013: Yves Vallette, pionnier des expéditions polaires françaises (Toulemonde); Vins d'Algérie: une histoire postale (Chauvin); Des affranchissements «mixtes» et «semi-mixtes» (de La Mettrie); Rixheim-Quinto: sur la piste du 3154 (Rucklin); Des timbres américains portant les couleurs de la France (Singeot); Bizarre, vous avez dit bizarre (Zeyons); La cursive 77 / Vielmur / d'Agoût (Baudot); Paquets et colis posaux d'Indochine (Chauvin); La grille rouge (Prugnon).

N° 149 Oct 2013: Dieu! Mais que Marianne était jolie!: Sous la plume de Nicolas Vial (Guéno); Les

machines à affranchir s'en vont en guerre! (Chauvin); Cap au sud avec Yves Vallette (Toulemonde); Des «fraudes» postales mais en toute franchise? (de La Mettrie); Paris vécu (Zeyons); Un cachet-à-date estimé: Le facteur boîtier type de 1884 (Baudot); Les timbres «CL» et «CD» (Prugnon); La poste chérifienne (Chauvin).

N° 150 Nov 2013: Les remplaçants de la planche 5 du 25 centimes Cérès dentelé au type II n° 60B (Marion); Une lettre de Rouen pour Rouen dans la boîte de la gare de Rouen (de La Mettrie); Timbres-taxe de la Polynésie française 1984-1987 (Beslu); 1940-1942: les voyages maritimes spéciaux (1^{re} partie) (Chauvin); Jacky Larrivière, 35 ans au service de la taille-douce (Toulemonde); 1943: par la route aérienne du Tchad (Chauvin).

Cameo

Vol 14 N° 3 Oct 2013 (Whole N° 90): Cameroun Sterling Issue - Philatelic Shenanigans (Batzel); Gold Coast 1/2d Postal Stationery Cards Overprinted for Togo (Mayne); French Cameroun 1943 Air Mails from the Jacques Piquet Correspondence (Maddocks); The Gold Coast-type Cancels of Togo, 1916 to 1950? (Mayne & Mitchell); Cameroun 1961 Sterling Overprints: A Changed Setting for the 1/- on 25^F (Maddocks).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 354 3^e trim 2013 (Sept 2013): Marcophilie moderne à la Réunion (Vacher-Chicane); Service des pneumatiques: les marques de promotion de la recommandation (Barbelin); Un pli du Calvados de 1870, d'origine rurale, ne manquant ni d'intérêt, ni de zones d'ombre (Douron); Bis repetita, ou comment essayer de déjouer les fraudes sur les mandats (1^{ère} partie) (Sené); Facteur rural: P^{re} Hurtaud St Michel-en-l'Herm (Vendée) (de La Mettrie); Pour une histoire des Gardes de Voies et Communications (GVC) (Worobel); Un résumé d'histoire postale (Moisy); Une pièce exceptionnelle: étoile 24 rue de Cléry (Lecoq); Erreur de taxation, retard du courrier: quand un postier tente de cacher la vérité (Driguet); Timbres «AVIS DE RÉCEPTION» (1^{ère} partie) (Guillard & Abensur).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 218 4^e trim 2013 (Oct 2013): 1875 Argentine-France: affranchissement insuffisant par paquebot étranger (Abensur); Le forçement en recette pour les chargements insuffisamment affranchis (Abensur & Bonnefoy); Les Serbes en France durant la Première Guerre mondiale (Bourguinat); Affranchissements de septembre 1871: L'utilisation des «fonds de tiroir» (Carcenac).

The Collectors Club Philatelist

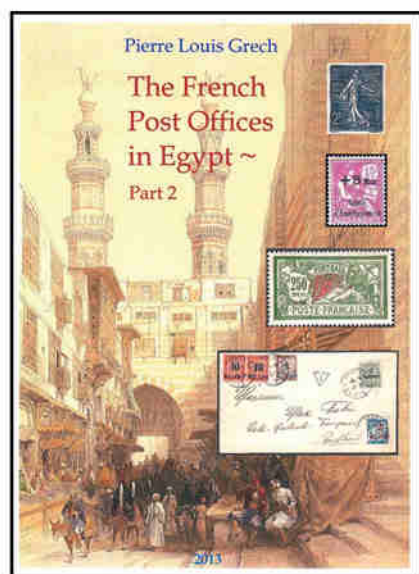
Vol 92 N° 5 (Sept/Oct 2013): Professor A Victor Segno Revisited (Grabowski).

Continued on page 172

BOOKSHELF

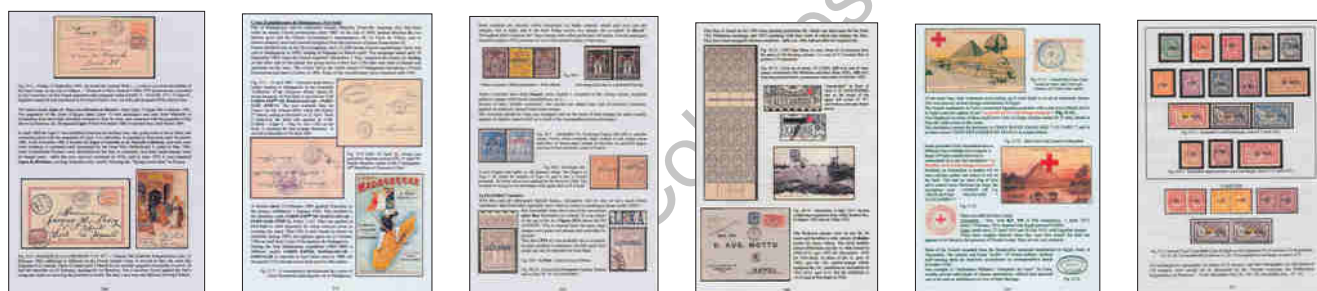
NEW BOOK - PART 2 Now Available...

The French Post Offices in Egypt, Part 2 (1876-1931) by Pierre Louis Grech



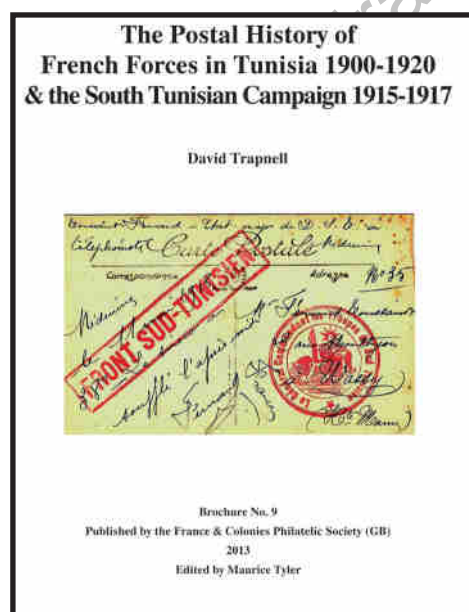
Following on from Part 1 (Before 1876), published in 2012, this second and final part continues from France's entry into the UPU (1876) until the closure of the French POs in Egypt in 1931. Topics covered: the Sage "Peace & Commerce" design; the UPU rates; auxiliary postmarks used in Egypt (*Après le Départ*, Return to Sender, AR); Military and Campaign postmarks as well as later maritime and *paquebot* markings; the 1882 destruction of the French Post Office and consulate at Alexandria and the British occupation. The 20th century heralds the introduction of special stamps for Alexandrie and Port-Saïd (printing, essays, varieties): the local issues for the inauguration of de Lesseps' statue, the Sage Overprints, the 1902 Redrawn French stamps. A detailed account of French Forces in Egypt during WWI, using French PO postmarks and services (Dardanelles, Red Cross, Base de Port-Saïd, the Palestine offensive, censorship). Port-Saïd used abroad (Abyssinia, Rouad, etc). The 1921 Millièmes surcharges, Local and from Paris, and subsequent issues including Sinking Fund. Taxed letters and Postage Dues, Postal Stationery, Registration. Closure of the POs. An appendix surveys the known *Ballons Montés* to Egypt. Soft-cover A4, fully illustrated in colour. 178 pages.

Price to F&CPS Members £ 45 (£ 55 to non-members) plus postage & packing: UK £5; Europe £9; USA/ROW £13. Contact Peter Grech, care of egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com



NEW BOOK Now Available

The Postal History of French Forces in Tunisia 1900-1920 & the South Tunisian Campaign 1915-1917 by David Trapnell



This monograph is an introduction to a subject that has been ignored by the literature for too long. It includes not only the traditional postal history but also an understanding of the situation in which the postal services worked, with illustrations from contemporary postcards of the harsh conditions in which the letter writers lived. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the north of Tunisia the occupying French built comfortable, spacious accommodation blocks, an arsenal, a harbour a hospital and a whole new town beside the sea. In the campaign in the extreme south of the country in the period 1915-1917 the troops lived in tents in the extreme heat of the desert and maintained outposts to defend the national boundaries, so that great ingenuity and tenacity were required to transport to these all the armaments, food, water and materials needed for effective survival.. Sections cover the Army of Occupation with handstamps of its military bases in the north (Bizerte, Tunis, Gabès, Le Kef) and the South Tunisian Campaign (Médénine, transportation including military aviation services, the Special Group, censorship, regiments of indigenous troops, working conditions).

Published by the F&CPS as Brochure No 9; 40pp A4, stapled as for a Journal; fully illustrated in colour; price £10 + p&p; available from our stockist Richard Broadhurst (contact details on the inside front cover of this Journal.)

BOOKSHELF continued on page 163

French Telegrams

Alan Wood

The early telegraph system in France was based on the Chappe optical system described previously by Professor Iain Stevenson (Ref 1). The system was reserved exclusively for state affairs.

A law passed by the National Assembly that took effect from 1 March 1851 resulted in the newly introduced electric telegraph system being available not only to state officials but also to the general public.

A tariff was established of 3 francs for up to 20 words plus 12 centimes per myriametre [10 km] and an additional 25% for each additional 12 words or part thereof. A charge of 50 centimes was charged for provincial delivery and 1 franc for delivery within Paris.

The telegraphic system developed rapidly, expanding from March 1851 in conjunction with that of the railways and a few months later the first under-sea cable established a link between France and England from Calais to Dover.

The law of 3 July 1861 established a uniform charge of 2 francs for despatches between two bureaux and of 1 franc within the same *département*. In 1864 the charge for telegrams within Paris was reduced to 50 centimes. In 1868 it was only 50 centimes within the same *département* and 1 franc for despatches between two bureaux.

In this period of early development of the telegraphic service the forms, in a distinctive colour, bore a vignette of the Imperial Arms. Telegrams for despatch were white, blue for arrival, rose for those in transit in a central

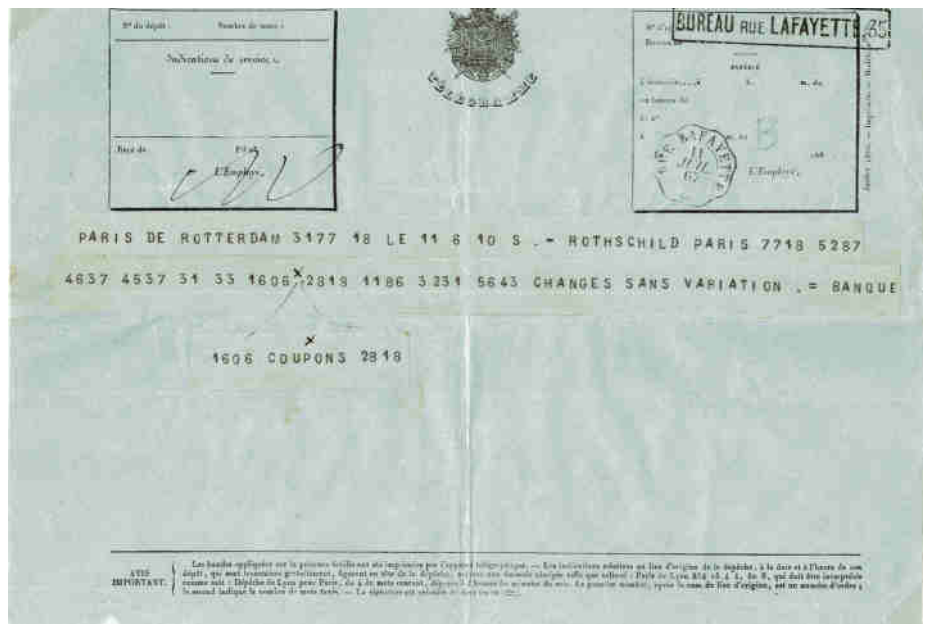


Figure 1
Rotterdam 11 July 1867 to Paris

bureau and yellow for the notification of the service and official despatches. The forms were originally placed in white envelopes.

A typical telegram of 1867 is shown in Figure 1.

In 1866 the attention of the French authorities was drawn to the fact that in Belgium, Spain and Prussia telegraph stamps were in use, so that similar French stamps were authorised by a law that became effective on 8 May 1867. Four imperforate stamps were issued, 25 centimes red, 50 centimes green, 1 franc orange and 2 francs violet. On 14 January 1868 the same four values were issued perforated 12. Both the imperforate and the perforated stamps were forged and appear in the Fournier albums overprinted FAUX. Examples are shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2a
2 imperf & 9 perf stamps 1868



Figure 2b
1868 forgeries – 3 singles + 2 pairs imperf & 1 perf

After the Franco-German War of 1870-1871 telegrams were issued in a new format, no longer displaying the Imperial Coat of Arms. By 1896 some of the printed

forms could be folded and sealed, thus dispensing with the need for envelopes. Examples of these forms are shown in Figures 3 and 4.

Figure 3
Toulouse 10 April 1874 to Orleans

Figure 4
Paris 1 July 1896:
notification that an item
requiring a signature awaits collection

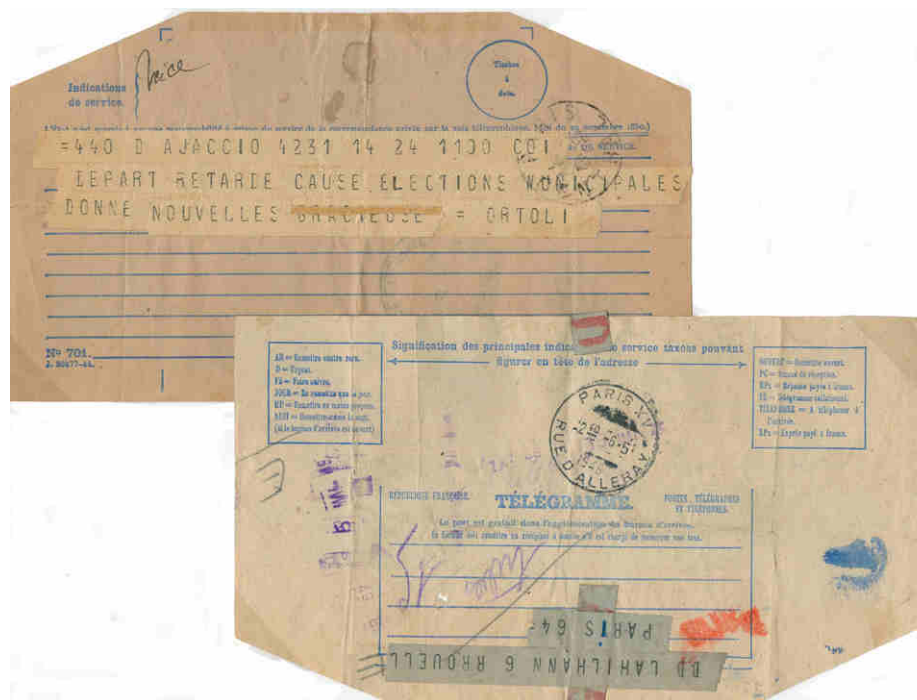


Figure 7
Ajaccio 1945 to Paris; Corsica to France

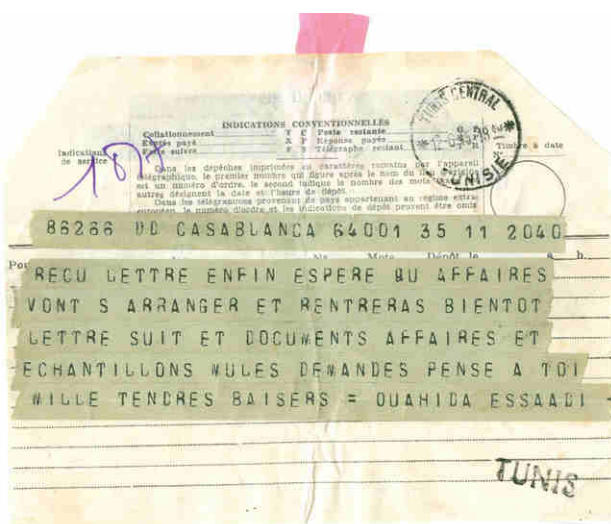


Figure 8
Casablanca 12 June 1945 to Tunis



Figure 9
Constantine 23 November 1949 to Paris

References

1. "An early French telegram" by Prof Iain Stevenson (*F&CPS Journal* N° 185 pages 96-100).
2. *Histoire des timbres-poste français* (Maury, Paris 1907).

Most illustrations in this article have been considerably reduced in size.

Figure 10 is the illustration on the front cover of this Journal.

The Boulanger Affair

Peter Kelly



Boulanger cover

Paris to Vienna 15 October 1891

Received at Vienna 17.10

Franked 40c instead of 25c for the foreign rate

Adhesives and Boulanger Cinderella tied by the Paris, R Milton date stamp

As a postal historian it has always been important to me to try to associate events of history and general interest with the mails sent at that time. Thus, during the *Type Sage* period of 1876 to 1900 – the early days of the Third Republic – there were a number of events such as the Panama crisis, the Dreyfus affair, France's opposition to the Boer War, and three International Exhibitions that give scope for this. The one event I had looked for and never found, was any reference, in postal terms, to the Affair of General Boulanger.

I was aware from Maury that there had been an issue of Cinderella stamps showing Boulanger on perforated stamps with different frames. However, there was no record of these having ever been used postally until..... one was discovered on a letter by Laurent Cordier, a dealer in Manosque. This great discovery was the subject of an article written by Bertrand Sinais and Annette Appaire in *Timbres magazine* in February 2006 and it is believed to be the only postal witness of the Boulanger affair.

This letter that is illustrated here subsequently came into my possession and as the history of Boulanger is not generally known I thought it might be of interest to our readers, and Bertrand Sinais has kindly allowed me to use his article.

Engraved by Louis Eugène the *Type Sage* issue appeared in 1876 and remained in use for 25 years. We are in the period of the Third Republic, when Presidents come and go: Mac-Mahon, Grévy, and in 1886 Jules Grévy is re-elected. And then the scandal of the sale of decorations – what a disaster to have a son-in-law who sells decorations! This brings his short reign to a close in 1887.

He is replaced by Charles de Freycinet who forms a new government focussing on republicanism and this is where the story starts. He appointed as Minister of War, General Georges Boulanger, a protégé of Georges Clemenceau, chief of the Infantry, a great reformer (he introduced bicycles in the army) and, moreover, the first republican general in French political life.

He was born in 1837 at Rennes of a Breton father and Scottish mother. Having passed through St Cyr he made a brilliant career as an officer in the Algerian infantry. He was a good looking figure of a man, tanned, with blue eyes and a blond beard and a touch of vulgarity which people found appealing. In 1871, aged 31, he was already a lieutenant-colonel and Commander of the *Légion d'Honneur*. He was ambitious and an ardent republican who sided with the political figures of the left and renewed his relationship with Georges Clemenceau, his old schoolmate from Nantes lycée.



Déroulède cover

Neuilly to St Petersburg, Russia 11 January 1900

Received at St Petersburg 2 January 1901 (Julian calendar) = 14 January

Franked 25c for the foreign rate

Label of Paul Déroulède on front & back

France of the 1880s loved its army and Boulanger, a general, socialite and republican won the hearts of everyone and galvanised a revenge driven patriotism. He won the heart of the military, authorising the wearing of beards. He introduced more comfortable uniforms and equipment and replaced the old Gras rifles with the Lebel repeaters. He also won the heart of the working man by refusing to use the military against the striking miners of Decazeville and the crowds, mounted on his black horse, Tunis. But you could see it....General Boulanger, Minister of War, possessed all the qualities necessary to crystallise the hopes of the discontented.

At the Longchamps revue of 14 July 1886 he received an ovation from the crowd all the way along the route leading to the Elysée. The variety singer Paulus, a star of the Café-Concert, wrote a song whose refrain was taken up all over France and which really launched Boulangism. "Gais et contents, nous étions triomphants....car nous allions fêter, voir et complimenter l'armée française....moi j'étais qu'admirer not' brav'général Boulanger." This was followed by a refrain where the repercussions were more disquieting. "Pour marcher vers le Rhin...parais, nous t'attendons, ô générale Revanche...."

What could be done to get rid of Minister Boulanger?

After the resignation of the Freycinet cabinet, General Boulanger remained in his post which was confirmed on 11 December 1886 by the new head of government, René Goblet. During the month of April 1887 the very popular minister of war took a strong stance against Germany and Chancellor Bismarck following the Schnaebelé affair (when a French commissioner of police attending a meeting at the frontier with a German colleague fell into a trap and was put in prison by the Germans) and gained the nickname *Générale Revanche*.

However, when the Goblet cabinet fell on 17 May 1887 he was replaced as minister of war although he retained his military functions. An enormous amount of different games, cards, plates, scarves and toys were produced to reflect his amazing career picturing him on foot, on horseback and in civilian garb. Musical verses abounded such as "....C'est Boulange, Boulange....C'est Boulange qu'il nous faut...."

Although married, our general was bewitched and passionately in love with Marguerite Brouzet, also married but separated from her husband, the Vicomte de Bonnemains,

a dazzling blonde who liked to surround herself with mysterious love affairs.

The government wished to distance Boulanger from Paris and so he was appointed head of the 13th Army Corps based at Clermont-Ferrand. He was scheduled to leave by the 8pm train on 8 July 1887. The League of Patriots called out a noisy crowd that invaded the Gare de Lyon, singing the *Marseillaise* and lying on the railway track preventing the exile of the general to the Auvergne.

In September the Wilson scandal blew up: President Grévy, heavily hit by the action of his son-in-law selling *Légion d'Honneur* honours, was obliged to resign in December 1887. He was replaced by Sadi Carnot with his black moustache and beard. Clemenceau commented "*Il n'est pas fort mais porte un nom republicain.*"

On 26 February 1888 elections in seven *départements* confirmed the popularity of General Boulanger although he was not eligible. On 14 March he was retired from the army and moved to Paris. As he now had no formal position he was able to devote his time to the new national party whose emblem was the carnation, his favourite flower. The aims were "dissolution, revision and rebuilding" and their journal *La Cocarde*.

In April 1889 regional elections in the Nord and Dordogne *départements* resulted in Boulanger being elected with a substantial majority. This was repeated in August with triple victories in the *départements* of Charente Inférieure, Nord and Somme. This was beginning to look like a referendum. After a triumphal election in Paris in January 1889 he was invited by the people, the *Ligue des Patriotes* and the army to march on the Elysée but he refused to take this forceful step against the republic, hoping that he would be able to come to power legally by means of the elections.

The republicans in the government had taken good note of the danger that Boulangism represented for them and on 13 February the deputies voted a law re-establishing voting in the *arrondissements* for the legislative elections. The minister of the interior pronounced the dissolution of the *Ligue des Patriotes* under the control of Paul Déroulède and spread a rumour of the imminent arrest of Boulanger following the result of a judgment in the High Court citing an

attack against the safety of the state. Boulanger fled on 1 April, initially to Belgium and then to London. The French began to lose interest in the general.

The party was dissolved in May 1890 and the Universal Exhibition which opened on 6 May to commemorate the great days of the Revolution in 1789 and to show the world what the Republic of the republicans was capable of dealt a further severe blow to Boulangism.

As far as Georges Boulanger himself was concerned he lived by the side of Marguerite, ravaged by pulmonary consumption. In May 1891 they settled in Brussels where Marguerite died three months later. On 30 September 1891 General Boulanger committed suicide, shooting himself with his revolver over the tomb of his mistress. Forgetting any religious forgiveness the Abbé Mugnier commented that the revolver shot in the cemetery at Ixelles in Belgium was a new triumph for the Republic.

So it is that this little envelope sent from Paris-2 rue Milton on 15 October 1891 to Vienna, Austria, franked 40c (25c would have sufficed) with the 25c Boulanger Cinderella stamp correctly tied may be the only postal souvenir of this great adventure of General Boulanger. Written a fortnight after his suicide perhaps this was attached to the letter in his homage by one of his last followers.

Reference was also made to Paul Déroulède who founded the League of Patriots. He was a fervent Boulangist. Elected a *député* (member of parliament), he tried to encourage the army to take a position against the Elysée in 1899 and was subsequently banished from France from 1900 to 1905.

Labels were made to commemorate his action although they would have been frowned upon by the State. A letter is shown bearing labels on the front and back sent from Neuilly-sur-Seine to St Petersburg, Russia on 1 January 1900 and franked 25c for the foreign rate. This is the only example of this label used on mail seen by the author.

Suggestions for further reading

Harding J — *The astonishing adventure of General Boulanger* (W H Allen, London 1971)

[Illustrations have been reduced to 80% of their original size.]

Professor A Victor Segno: A Note of Explanation

Ed Grabowski



Figure 1

Cover to Professor Segno posted from Saint Pierre, Saint Pierre & Miquelon during October 1905 at the 50 centimes registered rate franked solely with the Group Type issue.

These envelopes were preaddressed by Professor Segno's staff and mailed to Success Club members or potential members. Undoubtedly, those sent at registered rates contained money for membership in the Success Club.

Whilst excitedly perusing my newly-arrived copy of the Society's Journal (June 2012 – Whole Number 264), I noted that our Editor had been steadfastly recording the results of my efforts in exhibiting the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type, mostly here in the USA.

As some may already know, in 2005 I embarked on an odyssey to prepare eight postal history exhibits on this issue (each containing about 160 sheets). To date I have completed four of the exhibits (*Indochina & French Indochinese Offices; The French Pacific Colonies; Madagascar & Dependencies* and, most recently, *Senegal & Dependencies*). I am currently working on an exhibit that combines the colonies of Obock, Reunion and French India, a troika of colonies from the Indian Ocean area. Editor Tyler's summary mostly highlights the results with the Senegal exhibit.

But readers will note a second exhibit that is mentioned within his summary: *Professor A Victor Segno and the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Selling Good Vibrations for Fun and Profit*. With such a strange title, I thought a few words of explanation, or defense, might be due to members of the Society.

In the late 1980s I purchased a 1905 registered Group Type cover from Saint Pierre & Miquelon addressed to one Professor A Victor Segno of Los Angeles, California (Figure 1). I immediately began to wonder who this professor was and what his field of study might have been. By the late 1990s I had eight Group Type covers addressed to Professor Segno, but had uncovered no information on his identity.

Finally in the early 2000s I struck Google pay dirt, and

learned that Professor Segno was a self-proclaimed mentalist, who claimed to have founded the new science of mentalism in the early 1900s. For an initial sum of \$1 per two months or \$5 per year (subsequently raised to \$1 per month or \$10 per year) he would send out his mental Success Waves twice each day, and subscribers' lives would improve in the areas of health, wealth, ambition, success, influence, love, etc. He subsequently founded the American Institute of Mentalism in the Echo Park section of Los Angeles (LA) and the Segno Success Club as a means to unite his subscribers.

By 1904 he had more than twelve thousand members of the Success Club, and was the largest private mailer in Los Angeles, sending out as many as six to seven thousand letters a day to Success Club members and prospective members. Shortly thereafter, he built a complex of buildings in the Echo Park section of LA including the American Institute of Mentalism and the Segnogram Publishing Company in support of his activities. He renamed his property in LA as Inspiration Point.

By 2010 I had sixteen Group Type letters addressed to Professor Segno or one of his affiliated organizations, and prepared a one frame exhibit detailing his exploits in defrauding the public. Examples include the cover shown in Figure 2 from the small village of Saint Laurent du Maroni, French Guiana posted to Professor Segno in December 1913 and franked at the 50c registered rate with Group Type and subsequent stamps of the colony. It also shows a French Guiana registry label, and a return receipt (AR) was requested suggesting that dues for Success Club membership were enclosed.



Figure 2
Registered letter from the small village of Saint Laurent du Maroni, French Guiana
addressed in manuscript to Professor Segno.

That shown in **Figure 3** is from the small village of Lamentin, Guadeloupe in June 1913 at the same registered rate, but addressed to the American Institute of Mentalism at Inspiration Point. I especially treasure this cover as it was purchased from the eminent colonial collector and my early mentor Robert G Stone, and was my first Segno cover, though I was not aware of such at the time of purchase.

The cover in **Figure 4** is from the small village of Fenerive, Madagascar posted during October 1914. It is addressed to the Chirological College of California located at Inspiration Point in the Echo Park area of Los Angeles which suggests an association with the Professor. From the *LA Times* I learned that Professor Segno had opened the Chirological College in 1900. It was a school devoted to the study of

palms and fortune telling, though it never enjoyed the success of the Success Club which is why so little mail is addressed to this entity.

At this point the reader should have noted that all of these covers, as with most of the others in the exhibit, are from remote places in the French Colonies. They are wonderful examples of small village mail, which even during the Group Type period is difficult to find. Yet this was at a time well before radio, TV and the web. Clearly Professor Segno had superb turn-of-the-century marketing skills, and his reach was probably world-wide. I decided to explore this possibility, and in 2012 I began to search for Segno covers from other countries which went beyond the limits of my first French Colonial Group Type Segno exhibit.



Figure 3
Registered letter from Lamentin, Guadeloupe
addressed to the American Institute of Mentalism, the principal part of Segno's business activities.



Figure 4
Letter to the Chirological College of California, one of Professor Segno's lesser business activities, from Fenerive, Madagascar, employing 1912 overprints of Mayotte. In 1911 the Comoro Islands became part of Madagascar & Dependencies and stamps were used interchangeably amongst Madagascar and the Dependencies.

In short order I found the cover in Figure 5 posted from Grenoble, France and franked with the 50c Merson issue. Again, this preaddressed envelope probably contained annual dues for membership in the Success Club.

From the Jim Forte web site I found the 1910 postcard from Monaco shown in Figure 6. It bears two 5c Albert stamps cancelled on the train going from Monaco to Nice. I well remember my first Society Annual Meeting at Leam-

ington Spa where one of the members referred to this style of cancellation as the 'wiggles'. The card is addressed in Italian to a member of Segno's staff. (My studies suggest that he had a staff of more than two dozen secretaries and mailroom clerks at the height of the Success Club membership, and mail in foreign languages presented no difficulties.) The violet RECEIVED handstamp suggests that any form of payment was acceptable for participation in the Segno activities.



Figure 5
A preaddressed Segno envelope posted at the 50c registered rate from Grenoble, France, undoubtedly containing money for membership in the Success Club.



Figure 6

Postcard from Monaco in 1910 posted on the rail line from the Principality to Nice to a member of Segno's staff, written in Italian with the curious message:
Such beautiful things in grateful acknowledgement of your encouragement and friendship, Santina Mantovani and two sisters, Pascaline and Glorietta.

Possibly our Honorable Editor will permit a few examples of Segno covers from outside of the French area. The United Kingdom was also susceptible to the Segno draw as shown by the cover in [Figure 7](#) from the village of Watchet in July 1906. Possibly it contained a request for information on Success Club membership since it is not registered.

From the Delcampe site I found the unsealed Egyptian printed matter envelope from Cairo in 1912 shown in [Figure 8](#). I am not sure what type of printed matter this might have contained.

Speaking of printed matter, the January 1915 cover from Coomassie, Gold Coast shown in [Figure 9](#) is also most unusual. Again, why would Professor Segno receive overseas

printed matter? Were others trying to induce him into joining their moneymaking schemes?

The addressee is now A DELL SEGNO. Professor Segno married Annie Dell Dinsmore in January 1903. She was a member of the initial Segno team which incorporated the American Institute of Mentalism in 1902 in the state of California.

In 1911 the Professor ran off to Berlin with one of his married secretaries, and within two weeks the *LA Times* reported that A Dell Segno had sued for divorce from the Professor which was subsequently granted. Despite the divorce, she ran the organization while Professor Segno tried to establish the Berlin branch of the business during the 1912-1915 period.

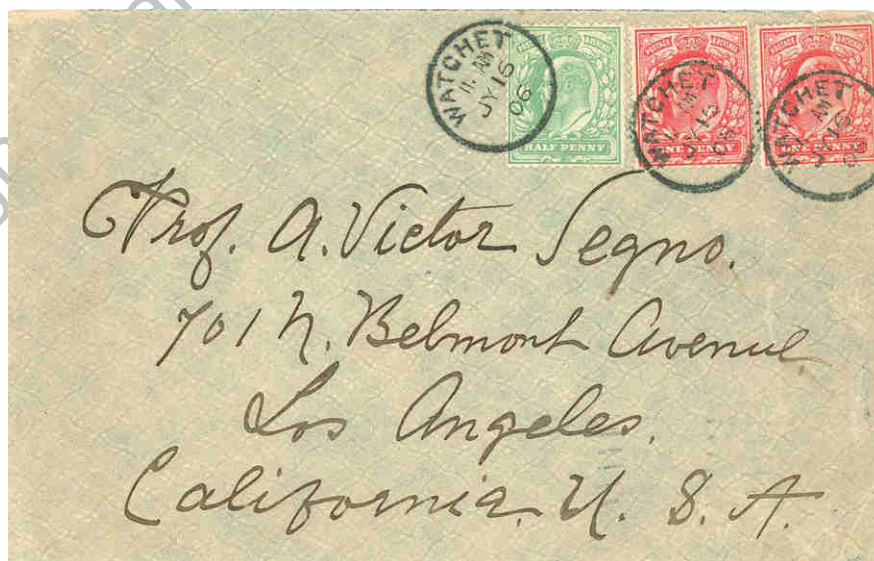


Figure 7

Hand addressed letter at the 2½d rate to Professor Segno from the small village of Watchet, England in 1906.



Figure 8
Unsealed postal stationery envelope at the two millièmes printed matter rate posted to Professor Segno from Cairo, Egypt in 1912.

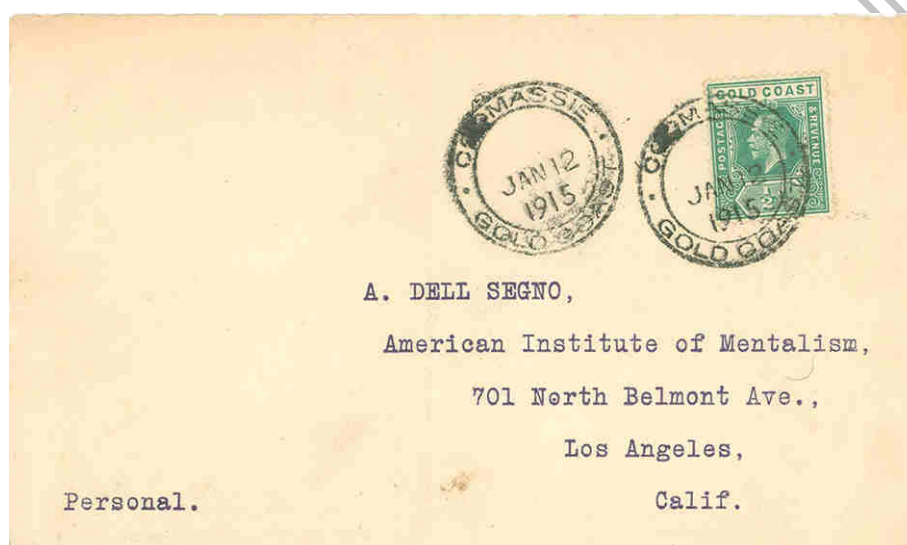


Figure 9
Printed matter rate of 1/2d from Coomassie, Gold Coast in January 1915 to A Dell Segno who was running the American Institute of Mentalism while her former husband was trying to establish a branch of the business in Berlin.

Such is the explanation for the strange title of the one frame exhibit on which our Editor reported. What began as a small and unusual French Colonial adventure, has turned into a time consuming endeavour. I now have Segno covers from twenty different countries, and believe that I have opened a Pandora's Box.

Should any of the readers of this note come across any Segno-related covers in their searches for new material for their collections, I would be interested in hearing about such (edjgg@alum.mit.edu).

I do not yet know the limits on Segno's reach. My

most dear Segno cover is from Port Sandwich, New Hebrides franked with Group Type stamps of New Caledonia.

This cover and additional information on the Segno Empire, with pictures of Professor Segno and of a Segno Success Wave, can be found at the website of the Westfield Stamp Club (http://westfieldstampclub.org/Newsletter/WSC_News_2010-01.pdf) in Westfield, NJ.

Any help in finding additional material or other suggestions on developing my studies of Professor Segno's nefarious activities will be most appreciated.

[Illustrations in this article have been reduced to 80% of their original size.]

Le Type Pasteur - the 75 centimes blue (Yvert 177, SG 400)

Bill Mitchell

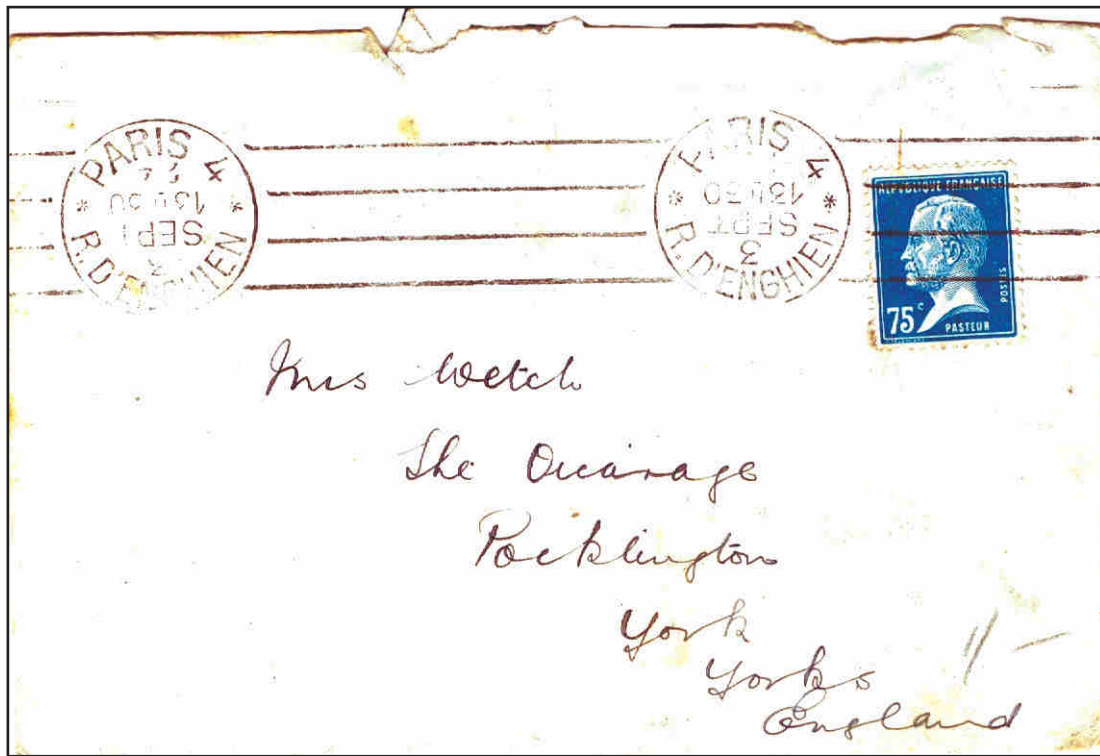


Figure 1

This envelope and postcard (Figs 1 and 2) are not, on the face of it, particularly inspiring. There are no transit or arrival marks to record their routes from France to England, and while the picture on the card is quite attractive, the only immediately obvious point of philatelic interest lies in the excellent strike of the Krag machine cancel on the card, which advertises the buildings shown on it (Fig 3). The slogan is partly obscured by the printing on the card; it reads:

LISIEUX
CAPITALE DU BOIS SCULPTÉ
SES VIEILLES MAISONS
LISIEUX
ARRET FACULTATIF DE 24^h
AUTORISÉ PAR LE RÉSEAU.

But why did this stamp frank a letter to England in September 1924 (the strike, I'm afraid, is not of the best quality) and a postcard, also to England, less than two years later, in July 1926? Blue was, after all, the colour required by the UPU for letters to foreign destinations and the colour for postcards was red.

Reference to Derek Richardson's book on French postal rates⁽¹⁾ shows that both letter and card were correctly franked. The stamp was originally issued, according to the SG catalogue, in July 1924 (I have not been able to trace

a more precise date) to meet the charge for international letters weighing less than 20 grams under the tariff of 1 April of that year. This had quite a short life of a little over 15 months, the charge being increased to 1 franc on 16 July 1925, so the 75 centimes blue was no longer required (without additional stamps) for international mail.

However, it was not so long before it became relevant again. A further increase in international postage rates on 1 February 1926 raised the charge for postcards to 75 centimes, a rate which was destined to last for only six months because further increases in the international tariff became effective on 1 August of that year. There was now no need for the stamp, and the Dallay catalogue notes that it was withdrawn from sale at an unspecified date later that year. The same stamp printed in red for use on international postcards never appeared although it does exist on a postal stationery card, which is scarce.

The stamp could also have been used alone on domestic mail, because as the 75 centimes international rate for postcards ended it became (on 9 August 1926) the rate for second-step (20 to 50 grams) letters to addresses within France and the colonies. But, although this rate remained in force until 11 July 1937 this would probably have been for a very limited period. Most of the substantial stock remaining (13 million copies, according to Dallay) was used up by surcharging, reducing the face value to 50 centimes, the new

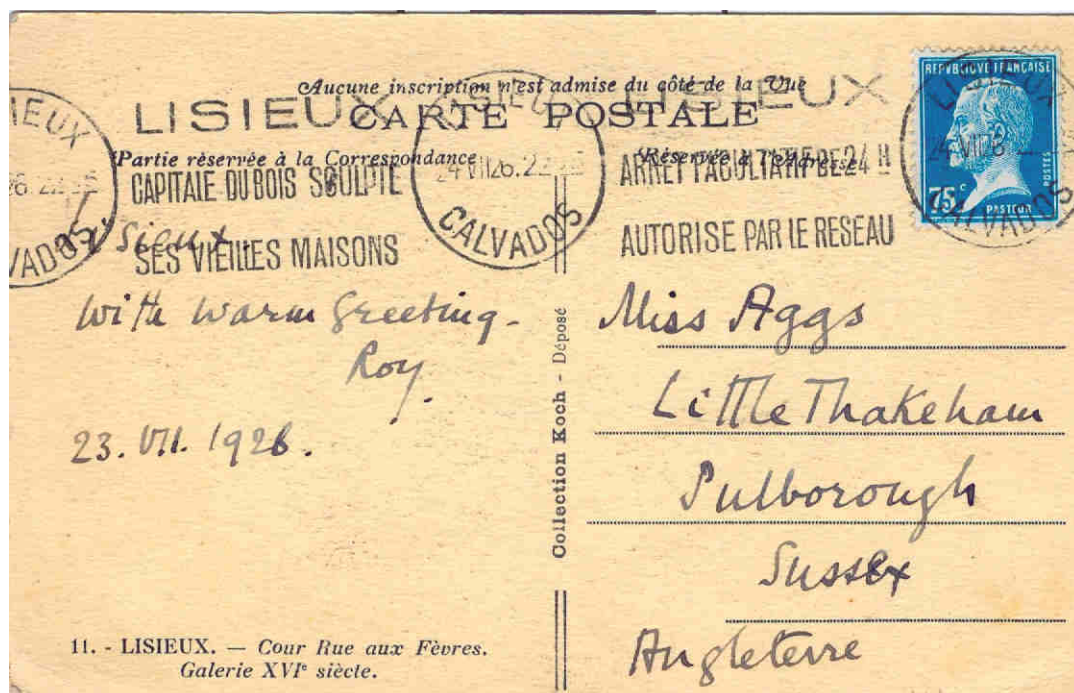


Figure 2

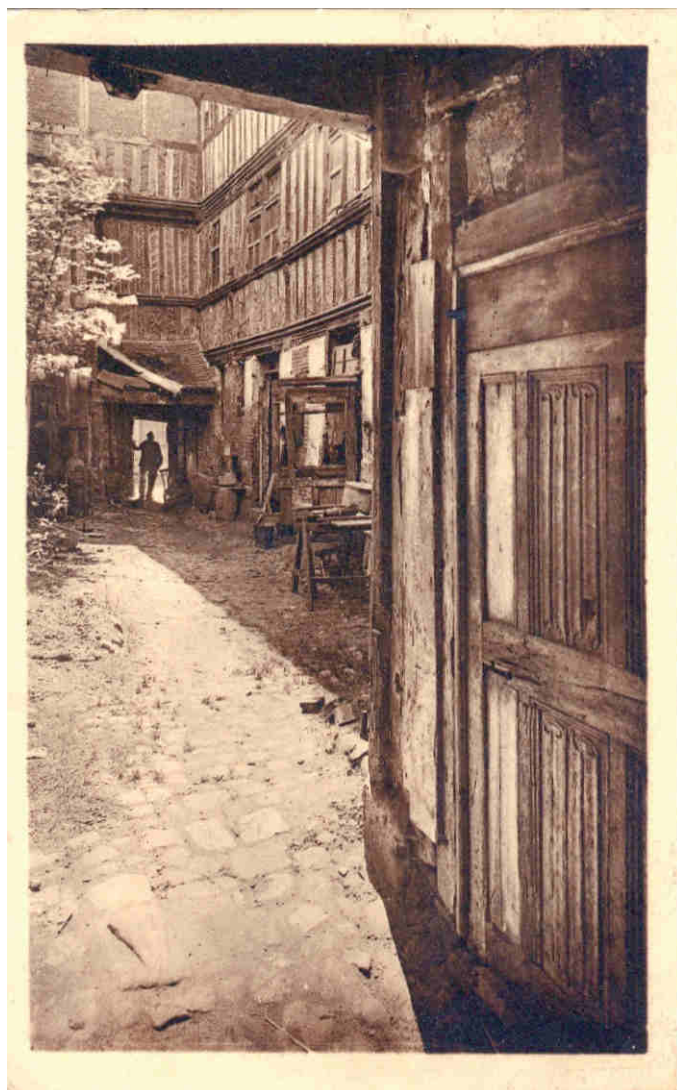


Figure 3

rate for first-step domestic letters (Yvert 219, SG 438). Dallay and SG both give the release date as "November 1926".

So far, I have discussed only use requiring a single stamp. But there were two instances where a pair, or two singles, could be used to frank a 1.50 franc rate. From 1 April 1924 to 15 July 1925 75 centimes was the registration fee as well as the basic postage charge for international mail, and 1.50 franc became the basic postage charge for international mail on 1 August 1926 – as just noted, the stamp was available, probably, for a limited period only. (75 centimes was also the domestic registration fee from 16 July 1925 to 30 April 1926, but this required only an additional 30 centimes to meet the charge for postage and is outside the scope of this article.)

To complete the story of this "uninteresting" little stamp, I should mention that it also exists in coils (Yvert Roulette 15). This is very scarce. It is difficult to identify single coil stamps of this period with any certainty, and they are best collected mint in vertical or horizontal strips – they could apparently be dispensed either way – of, in this case, six to be certain that they do not come from counter sheets (as printed, counter sheets of 150 were divided into six panes of five rows of five stamps separated by gutters).

So don't despise this rather dull-looking little stamp, it's more interesting than it seems. As originally issued without surcharge, used alone or as a pair, it's of some postal history importance.

Reference

- (1) *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to 2011* (Society's Brochure N° 7, 4th edition 2011, pages 56 and 67 (international); 4, 16 and 22 (domestic)).

“Cluedo” - A Whodunit? from the Siege of Paris

Ashley Lawrence

Introduction

As readers may recall, I have written several articles about the correspondence which passed between William James Brown, in Paris, and his wife, in England, during the Siege of 1870-71.¹

A letter that William Brown began to write on 30 September, and completed on 3 October 1870, was a real puzzle. There was no envelope to accompany the letter, and no postal markings of any sort. So how had it got to England?

William Brown had mentioned in earlier letters on 20, 24 and 27 September that he had useful contacts at the British Embassy in Paris. It seemed reasonable to suppose that he had also delivered this letter to the British Embassy, either on 3 October (a Monday) or at any rate soon afterwards. I can't vouch that this was the case. He could have delivered the letter to a line-crosser (whose services, at a fee of five francs per letter, were being advertised in *Le Figaro* at the time) or entrusted it to someone else (another Mr Kidder perhaps?) who was hoping to leave Paris by some means or other. But the date of this letter and its context, the series of letters sent through the Embassy, showed a *modus operandi*, a pattern, which was persuasive. I believe that Mr Brown took this letter to the Embassy, hopeful that his contacts there would have some means of expediting it to Mrs. Brown. For the purposes of what follows, let's assume this is so.

The British Embassy was situated at 39 rue du Faubourg St Honoré. The Ambassador, Lord Lyons, the Consul

Mr Falconer Atlee and most of the senior diplomats and their staff had left Paris before the start of the siege. The Queen's messenger, Captain Cecil Johnson, had taken the final despatches from the Embassy by coach on 27 September. By the time William Brown brought his letter there, on or soon after 3 October, the only officials left at the Embassy were the second secretary Mr Henry Wodehouse, the military attaché Colonel Claremont, a concierge, and a few sheep!

So how had William Brown's letter found its way to England? From this point, my research resembles a game of “Cluedo”, and I invite readers to decide Whodunit?

The Suspects

My research led to three men who had the means, the motive and the opportunity to take the letter from the Embassy in Paris to England. These are the three likely suspects:-

1. Lt-Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, co-founder of the British Red Cross. He would have taken the letter as an act of charity, and carried it in his pocket or luggage.
2. Mr Frederick Gonner Worth. An adventurer, desperate to leave Paris to attend to business affairs in England, he would have taken the letter aboard a balloon.
3. Mr Henry Wodehouse aforesaid. He would have felt duty-bound to take the letter in his diplomatic bag.

Here is the evidence. Now, dear reader, please make your choice. And good luck!

.....

1. Lt-Colonel Loyd-Lindsay VC



Figure 1

Photograph of Lt-Colonel Loyd-Lindsay

Lt-Col Robert James Loyd-Lindsay (1832-1901), the future Lord Wantage of Lockinge, had been awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry during the Crimean War. As co-founder and Chairman of the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War, which later changed its name to the British Red Cross, he undertook the mercy mission to France in October 1870, well described by Ernst Cohn.² Having visited Versailles from 9 to 11 October, where his benevolence earned the gratitude of the Queen and Crown Prince of Prussia, he journeyed to Paris. The sketch from the *Illustrated London News* showed him leaving the Prussian outpost at Sèvres and crossing the Seine under a flag of truce. He stayed in Paris from 12 to 15 October, the *Journal Officiel* announcing that he had brought 500,000 francs in charitable relief, and afterwards returned to Versailles for the journey back to England.

Loyd-Lindsay reported to his committee on 24 October 1870:

I am the bearer of a great number of letters from various people at Paris, including officials at the English Embassy, private persons, and Correspondents of London papers. Before consenting to carry letters I begged it to be understood, which indeed was scarcely necessary, that letters must contain nothing likely to prove useful, or the reverse, to either besieged or besiegers, and feeling satisfied that such was the character of the communications of which I was the bearer, I gladly consented to a great service and kindness to many anxious and very



Figure 2
Sketch from the *Illustrated London News*

unfortunate people, who found themselves suddenly cut off from their relations, with whom they had previously been in daily and hourly communication – husbands separated from wives, children from parents, and proprietors from little estates left entirely at the mercy of foreign soldiers.

The reference to “private persons” is significant, and gives strong support to the possibility that William Brown’s letter was brought back to England by Loyd-Lindsay.

Loyd-Lindsay was accompanied by “my servant Whittle, formerly Sergeant Scots Fusilier Guards.” Mr Whittle kept a diary of their journey to Paris, and his entry for 15 October, the Saturday on which they returned from Paris to Versailles, reads:

October 15th. - The Hotel was literally besieged this morning by gentlemen with letters they wished the Colonel to take out for friends, which he very kindly undertook to do, to such an extent that a portmanteau had to be purchased to carry them in, for which 30 francs was paid.

Loyd-Lindsay and Mr Whittle were staying at the Hotel Vouillemont in the Rue Boissy d’Anglais, Paris 8^e, close to the Madeleine Church, and just a short walk from the British Embassy and from William Brown’s premises in Rue Halévy.

The letters that were carried by Loyd-Lindsay in the diplomatic pouch (such as those described and illustrated by Ernst Cohn) were sealed and franked. However, letters from “private persons” such as William Brown, carried by Loyd-Lindsay about his person or in the portmanteau mentioned by Mr Whittle, would have been unsealed, to allow for inspection.

Mr. Whittle described how the French and Prussian officials at Sèvres regarded the travellers with great suspicion, and subjected all documents to close scrutiny on numerous occasions:

Escorted to Examiner Trupp’s Quarters, and kept prisoners for nearly two hours, the whole of which time I was in the greatest state of nervousness, fearing that if we were examined, some of the many letters and papers might not be exactly what they should be, and that this might lead to our being sent back to Paris, these reflections being far from comforting. However, after the delay narrated, the orderly returned, and we were permitted to proceed to Versailles, where we arrived at 3 pm.

Their return journey to England was delayed by gales, and they arrived in Dover on 21 October. The final entry in Mr Whittle’s diary reads :

October 23rd. - I delivered several address cards with a line or two on the back, and posted several letters that had been entrusted to me both at Paris and Versailles. They were received with not more astonishment than pleasure, at meeting with some one who had seen their friends, and was able to say they were well.

The office of the English Society for Aid to Sick and Wounded in War at 2 St Martin’s Place WC was just a short walk from the office of William Brown’s friend Mr Burroughes, 19 Soho Square W1 to which his earlier letters had been addressed.

This sketch from the *Illustrated London News* (above) shows Colonel Loyd-Lindsay leaving the Prussian outpost at Sèvres to enter Paris. To his rear is Mr Whittle, carrying the luggage. They are preceded by a Hussar Officer carrying a flag of truce, and accompanied by a Staff Officer of the Bavarian Cavalry holding the Red Cross flag in accordance with the rules of the Geneva Convention. The bridge at Sèvres having been destroyed, crossing the River Seine from the Prussian to the French lines, and vice versa, had to be made by a small boat and was risky: the soldiers manning the barricades did not always respect the flags of truce!

2. Mr Frederick Gonner Worth

There is another, more exciting scenario, namely the possibility that William Brown's letter of 3 October was entrusted to Mr F G Worth, a passenger aboard the balloon "*Bretagne*" (also called "*Normandie*"). As the story is lengthy, I'll number the paragraphs for ease of reference. The circumstances are as follows:-

1. Henry Labouchere,³ the "Besieged Resident" correspondent of The Daily News, wrote on 8 October:

Yesterday I happened to be calling at the Embassy, when a young English gentleman made his appearance, and quietly asked whether he could take any letters to England. He is to start today in a balloon, and has paid 5,000 francs for his place. I gave him a letter, and a copy of one which I had confided on Wednesday to an Irishman who is trying to get through the lines.

2. The young English gentleman was Frederick Gonner Worth, a nephew of Charles Frederick Worth, the eminent Paris couturier. He was the junior partner in an Anglo-French firm of wine merchants, Messrs. Delattre & Worth, with offices in Paris and at 110 Cannon Street, London. M. Delattre having been enrolled in the National Guard, F G Worth went to Paris to superintend the business of the firm.

[An ironic situation. William Brown was also in Paris because his French business partner, M. Jourdain, had been called up for military service.]

In the statement that he later gave to the Foreign Office,⁴ Mr Worth explained that by early October 1870 he had decided that he must leave Paris to attend to affairs in London, and to look after his mother in Lewisham. He was an only child, and was worried about her delicate state of health. He asserted he did not learn of the plans for the evacuation of British subjects through the German lines before he booked his passage aboard a balloon to be flown to Belgium.

3. Labouchere again, on 9 October:

The Briton who has paid for a place in a balloon is still here, and he imagines that he will start tomorrow, so I shall give him my Columbian letter and this one.

4. At the time of his visits to the British Embassy on 7 and 9 October, Mr Worth was due to depart aboard "*La Liberté*". This was an unofficial flight to be undertaken by Wilfred de Fonvielle, who had acquired the giant balloon from Henry Giffard, with backing from some British residents. The departure of "*La Liberté*" was delayed for several days by bad weather. Finally, on 17 October, as the balloon was being inflated at La Villette gasworks, it escaped its moorings and was blown away by a sudden gust of wind, without mail or aeronauts. It came down some 7 miles away, and was seized by Bavarian troops.

5. Thwarted in his attempt to leave Paris aboard "*La Liberté*", Mr Worth sought another means of escape. A businessman, M. Prévert had advertised in *Le Figaro* for

places aboard another balloon, "*Bretagne*" (also called "*Normandie*"), that was supposed to depart on 22 October. Mr Worth paid £100.00 for his place aboard this balloon. Strong winds, confusion over the passenger list and the obtaining of official authorisation for the flight, and technical difficulty in inflating the balloon, all contributed to further delays. "*Bretagne*" finally departed from La Villette gasworks at 2.10 pm on 27 October, piloted by René Cuzon. In addition to Mr Worth, the balloon carried two more passengers, M. Manceau and M. Jules Ballot (he was also known to the authorities as Georges Udin). There was insufficient room for a fourth passenger, M. Antonin Etienne, who was forced under protest to disembark (He later travelled aboard *Le Galilée*, was captured, but escaped.)

6. After a four hour flight, during which they came under heavy gunfire from enemy troops, the aeronauts made a disastrous landing near Verdun. When F G Worth and the others jumped out, the unfortunate M. Manceau in the lightened balloon shot up to a height at which his hands were numbed by the cold and his ears were bleeding. When he finally managed to open the valve, and landed some distance away, he injured his leg, and was later betrayed by local peasants. Mr Worth and the others were roughly treated when they surrendered to the Prussians.⁵

7. The passenger Jules Ballot gave an account of the aeronauts' capture by the Prussians near the village of Dugny (Lorraine), some 8km from Verdun.⁶

The sergeant then gave us to understand that we must disclose our names, age, rank etc, and hand over to him our papers, warning us that if we intended to conceal any letters, that would cause us a great deal of trouble. ... Our papers were made up into a packet, and indicating to us that it was time to leave, the sergeant committed us to the charge of Uschling [the Prussian officer] and two of his men. He handed our papers to one of the two horsemen, and thus surrounded, we were sent on our way to be escorted to the captain.

8. Dr Arbrath, a German surgeon, saw F G Worth and the two French prisoners being escorted at Epernay (mid-way between Verdun and Versailles) on the night of 1 November. Dr Arbrath kindly gave Mr Worth some cigars, and agreed to let his friends in London know of his predicament. Dr Arbrath wrote to Lt-Col Loyd-Lindsay of the British Red Cross in London on 2 November, and his letter was forwarded to Earl Granville, the Foreign Secretary.

9. At Earl Granville's request, Colonel Beauchamp Walker, the official British representative at German Headquarters in Versailles, interviewed F G Worth on 8 and 9 November. Colonel Walker was told by the Commandant that Mr Worth's papers had been taken from him, and were in the hands of Count Moltke.

10. On 14 November Mr Worth was escorted from Versailles and taken to Cologne, where he was eventually put on trial. Access by British Embassy officials and friends

was denied, and the precise charges were not disclosed, but were presumed by the officials to relate to spying by Worth and to his being an agent of the French Government. It was alleged by the Prussians that Mr Worth had written a letter to a relative and business associate, Mr Littlewood, giving details of an English arms manufacturer, or containing an order for the purchase of arms for the French Government. No such compromising letter was found on his person, or he would certainly have been treated as non-neutral, found guilty, and shot. Apparently it had been sent on an earlier balloon, which was captured by the Prussians.⁷

11. The court martial was held in Cologne on 23 January 1871. Mr Worth was acquitted, but the papers were referred to the German Emperor William in Versailles for ratification of the verdict. In spite of repeated protests from the British Ambassador, Mr Worth was not released

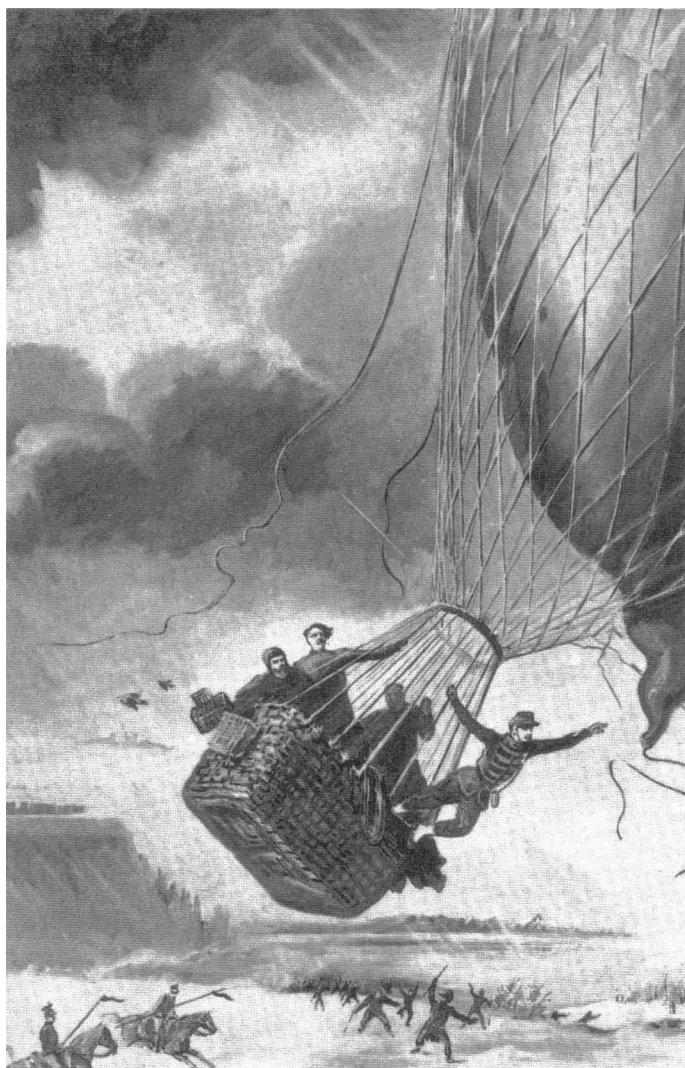


Figure 3
The descent of "Le Bretagne" near Verdun

until 20 February. The Foreign Office refused to assist his claim for compensation. The episode showed the need for international laws to deal with aviation, and the proper treatment of neutral, civilian POWs.⁸

12. Although "Bretagne" did not take official mail, it is known that some letters were carried by those aboard. According to the research carried out by Ernst Cohn, a mailbag full of letters from the Mobiles of Brittany to their families was entrusted to M. Manceau, who also carried a letter dated 9 October from M. Georges Pierret, Inspector-General of Telegraphs, to his wife. M. Pierret had attended the launch of the balloon.

13. Which brings us back to William Brown's letter of 3 October.

In the statement that Mr Worth gave to Earl Granville on 18 March 1871, following his release from the prison in Cologne, Mr Worth described how he had gone to the British Embassy in Paris on 7 and 9 October, had told Mr Wodehouse, the Second Secretary, that he was about to depart by balloon, and that

"if he or his friends had any letters for England I should be happy to take them."

Mr Worth stated explicitly that Henry Wodehouse had entrusted "several closed letters" to him. Mr Worth told Earl Granville that after his capture by the Prussians, "My passport, together with all my papers and letters, were taken from me, including those sent through Mr. Wodehouse." It is possible that one of these was the letter from William Brown.

14. During his interrogation in Versailles, Mr Worth

"received a visit from Colonel Walker, to whom I had managed surreptitiously to have a note conveyed, informing him of my position: when he came to see me he said that he had received a telegram from Her Majesty's Government respecting me ..."

Colonel Walker, writing to Mrs Worth on 28 November, refers to letters written and taken from her son, and held by the Prussians.

"The letters have, in all probability, never been forwarded, but for this I am in no way answerable. I was not allowed to take charge of them ..."

So Colonel Walker was not responsible for sending William Brown's letter to England. Nevertheless, it is possible that it was among those confiscated by the Prussians, and later released, either by the Prussian authorities once they were satisfied as to its contents, or by Dr Arbrath or another of the benefactors whom Frederick Gonner Worth encountered along the way.

3. Henry Wodehouse

1. There is a third possibility. I suggest that Henry Wodehouse, the sole secretary remaining at the Embassy, retained William Brown's letter, in the firm belief that he was about to leave Paris within a matter of days. Mr Wodehouse had no need to entrust the letter to Mr Worth or to Loyd-Lindsay or to anyone else if, as he confidently expected, his departure from the Embassy was imminent.

2. However, the departure of Mr Wodehouse was not straightforward. He was responsible for organising visas for those British subjects who wished to escape from Paris, and faced a real problem. Unlike the United States Government, the British Government had not recognised the provisional Republican Government of National Defence which had been declared in Paris on 4 September. General Trochu, the Governor of Paris and the head of the French Government, was therefore not inclined to deal with British diplomats, and Mr Wodehouse was obliged to seek assistance from the American Minister in Paris, Mr E B Washburne.

3. A departure planned for the morning of 27 October had to be postponed, as the list of names of the British party (unlike those of the departing Americans and Russians) had not been supplied to the German authorities in Versailles in time for the necessary permits to be obtained from Count Bismarck.

It was 8 November before Mr Wodehouse was able to escort a party of British residents out of Paris, accompanied by some Swiss and Austrian citizens and representatives of the Red Cross. The departure was described by the Special Correspondent of *The Illustrated London News*:

Tuesday, Nov.8 - Today the first detachment of British subjects, shut up in Paris since the commencement of the siege, accompanied by the Chief Secretary of the Embassy and the Vice-Consul, quitted Paris by the Porte de Charenton at the early hour of seven am, Count Bismarck having granted permission for them to pass through the Prussian lines.

4. Mr Wodehouse and his party were expected to arrive in Versailles later that day. As Colonel Walker wrote to Earl Granville on 8 November:

...I have taken no steps for his [Mr Worth's] release, as I am desirous before doing so of obtaining the advice of Mr. Wodehouse, who, though hourly expected, has not yet made his appearance at Versailles.

5. In the event, Mr Wodehouse and his party did not arrive in Versailles until the evening of 11 November. They were obliged to take a roundabout route by way of Créteil, because the Prussians did not wish the travellers to see their lines of investment and the preparations for the bombardment of the Paris forts. Their journey was vividly described by Ernest Vizetelly.⁹

The entire party of British refugees was now limited to fifteen or sixteen persons, some, tired of waiting, having taken themselves off by the Sedan route, while a few others ... resolved to stay at Versailles. Mr. Wodehouse also remained there for a short time. Previously in poor health, he had further contracted a chill during our three days' drive in an open vehicle.

6. If Mr Wodehouse took William Brown's letter out of Paris, it is very unlikely that he parted with it during the escorted journey through German-occupied territory: there would have been little opportunity to do so, and the risks would have been too great. It is far more likely that he brought the letter to Versailles, so that it could be forwarded to England in the diplomatic bag.

7. The departure of Mr. Wodehouse was followed soon afterwards by the military attaché Colonel Claremont and the remaining staff. The British Embassy in Paris was left in charge of a concierge and a few sheep! So William Brown was no longer able to send messages through the Embassy. Fortunately, he found other means of communicating with his wife. A letter dated 27 September was the first of many to be sent by balloon post. But that's another story

Continued on page 154



**The President and Committee wish
all members and their families
a Happy Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year
*Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année !***



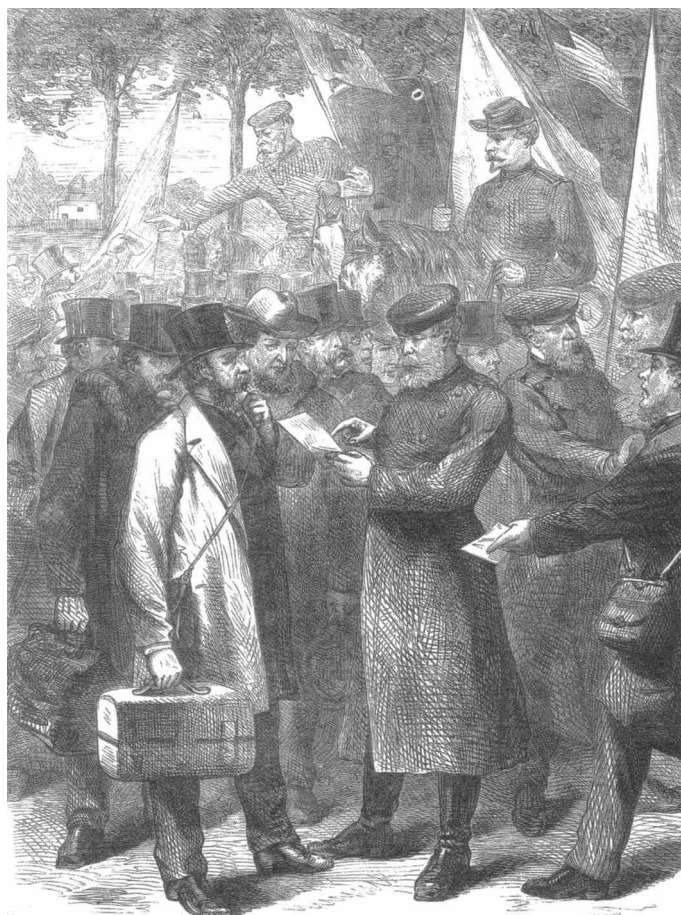


Figure 4
The British Subjects leaving Paris,
from Cassell's *Illustrated History of the Franco-German War*

The “Cluedo” Challenge

So there you have it. You pays your money, and you takes your choice ...

Of course, the solution may be none of the above. William Brown's benefactor may have been an anonymous visitor to the Embassy, or an unnamed member of staff.

Perhaps, after all, the Butler did it !

How do you think William Brown's letter from Paris reached his wife in England ?

Footnotes

1 See “A Message brought to Paris by Pigeon Post in 1870-71” (*Journal* 224 of June 2002); “An American Kindness” (*Journal* 230 of December 2003); and “So Who was Mr. Kidder?” (*Journal* 253 of September 2009).

2 “Ordinary Mail by Diplomatic Means during the Siege of Paris 1870-71” by Ernst M Cohn.

3 “Diary of the Besieged Resident in Paris” by Henry Labouchere.

4 “Correspondence respecting the Imprisonment of Mr Worth by the Prussians” – *The Parliamentary Papers*, 1871.

5 The most detailed modern account of the flight of “Bretagne” is given by Gérard L'héritier in the 1990 edition of *“Les Ballons Montés”*.

6 Translation of an extract from *“Les Ballons Montés”* by Gérard L'héritier, 1990 (qv).

7 The Prussians were right to be suspicious. In 1893, M. Manceau revealed that 7 million francs in banknotes were concealed in his luggage, provided by the Minister of Finance for the purchase of arms. Before his betrayal and arrest by the Prussians, M. Manceau entrusted these funds to Abbé Thirion of the village of Hennemont (Meuse), midway between Metz and Verdun, close to the Belgian border.

8 The first Hague Conference held in 1899 laid down that captured civilian aeronauts must be treated as prisoners of war, not spies, unless they were bound on missions of espionage or sabotage.

9 “My Days of Adventure” by Ernest Alfred Vizetelly.

90 Years of Red Cross Booklets

Part 4

John West

These final sections close the book on an issue which has given enormous pleasure to stamp users and collectors alike over more than 50 years. Notwithstanding that the booklets have been sold in their millions over this long period of time, the most important aspect is that it has been a vehicle for raising substantial funds to assist the French Red Cross in their critical work during that period.

1985 Matthias Grünewald was one of the great German painters of his age. Born Mathis Neithardt Gothart circa 1480 at Würzburg, he painted subjects with a religious theme and in 1509 he became Court Painter to the Archbishop of Mainz. Important commissions for altarpieces followed, such as the one for the Antonite monastery – now considered to be his masterpiece – which he completed about 1516. Rudolph II, in a letter to Albrecht von Fürstenberg dated 15 July 1597, makes specific reference to “*Un beau retable peint avec grand art par un maître excellent.*”

The altarpiece, at Isenheim in Germany, was painted in oil on wood and was housed in a hospital ward at the monastery. It is now on public view at the Unterlinden Museum at Colmar. One of the panels from this magnificent work of art provides the detail for the 1985 Red Cross issue (Yv. 2392). The particular panel is entitled “The Concert of Angels” and highlights the artist’s speciality, namely his use of intense colour. Sympathy for the ‘Peasant’s Revolt’ of 1525 caused Grünewald to leave the service of Albrecht von Brandenburg (the reigning Prince of Mainz) and he spent the remaining years of his life travelling in Frankfurt and Halle – where he died in August 1528.

The total transformation that the booklet had undergone a year earlier left little need, or further requirement, for any additional change in 1985. In size, format and style the booklet remained exactly the same, measuring 240 x 72mm fully extended. The outside cover was flesh pink in colour, with a less than attractive design, of a row of four medieval windows, on both the front and back covers. The arch-shaped windows are in shades of pink and grey and, between the base of the design and the bottom of the booklet cover, there is a 12.5mm band (in the background colour) where one finds the slight change in lettering brought about by the increase in the cost of the stamp. The letters, and the figures, which are all 3mm high, are all printed in the same grey-pink shade, bordering on mauve, as the windows. At either end are two red crosses, each 9mm high.

Between the highest point of the arches and the top of the cover is a 10mm gap and in the space at the top left hand corner appear the words “*La Poste*” (in capital letters) and the winged dart logo. On the back cover only the letters “*PTT*” appear, in white, at the top right hand corner.

If there is a major distinction to be made between this and the *carnet* issued a year earlier, then it is in the content of the inside cover – where one finds printed a comprehensive list of all the French post offices with a philatelic counter

and, for good measure, it even includes details of four overseas ones. The remaining available space is taken up with publicity for philatelic facilities offered by the postal authorities. All of this information is printed, in black, upon a white gloss surface. The layout of the stamps contained within is identical to the previous year. This includes both the position and design of the two *vignettes* – which are also exactly the same as in the issue of 1984. The perforation difference remained identical to that of the previous year – and would do so for a further 5 years.

The booklets did, however, provide a notable variety, evidently caused by a second printing. This has the result that, in certain of the *carnets*, the foot of the musical instrument just touches the letters ‘N’, ‘C’ and ‘A’ of “*Française*”. The larger zero of 0.50c extends over the edge of, and onto the face of, the instrument and there is a difference between the heights of the face values. The 1985 issue amounted to 500,000 booklets.

1986 Maria Helena Vieira da Silva was born on 13 June 1908 at Lisbon in Portugal. She displayed her rich talents at a very youthful age – first sketching at the tender age of 10 years, before progressing to study sculpture and painting in Lisbon. Whilst there she met Árpád Szenes, the Hungarian-born artist she was later to marry. At the age of 20 she travelled to Paris, where she was introduced to Jeanne Bucher, the founder of a gallery in Rue du Cherche-Midi, with whom she was to form a close and lasting friendship and who ultimately guided her rise to fame. Mme Vieira da Silva now has paintings adorning many of the foremost museums in France and overseas. She received nearly every honour and accolade that it is possible to bestow on an artist, including being made a “*Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres*” and being awarded the “*Grand Prix National des Arts*” in 1966. The 1986 Red Cross stamp (Yv. 2449) features a creation of this tireless artist, entitled “*Le Soleil*” (The Sun). This is on stained glass and can be seen in the south chapel of St Jacques church at Reims.

Subtle differences appeared in the 1986 booklet – not least the fact that the *carnet* shrunk fractionally in size to a (folded) measurement of 117.5 x 71.5mm, although they were actually sold across the counter in an unfolded state. The design of the outer cover also changed in style, featuring an original work by Vieira da Silva which extended across the totality of the back cover and also across three quarters of the front cover, on a black background. There is a 4mm wide strip at top and bottom of the *carnet* which extends across both front and back cover. On the front cover, there is a 30mm wide vertical band at the extreme right hand side. At the top of this strip are the words “*Carnet de 10 timbres-poste de 2,20 + 0,60 = 28F*”, across three lines, in silver lettering just 2mm high. At the very foot of this strip are the words “*PTT*” and “*La Poste*” in similar sized letters. The post office logo is also dramatically miniaturised – being reduced in size by more than 50%. One Red Cross, measuring 25mm, assumes a position of prominence in the lower



Figure 34

part of this strip, just above the lettering and logo.

The printed information inside the front cover reflects another change of direction. The French post office produces publicity material in conjunction with each and every new stamp that is issued. Basically, this ordinarily comprises a sheet of paper with a colour photograph of the stamp, technical detail about it and general information pertinent to the topic displayed thereon. This same information is duplicated on the popular "*Documents Philatéliques*" which are distributed in limited numbers by the French Postal Museum. For the first time this same information was repeated in full, in small print, inside the cover. Credit for the '*rubrique*' was attributed to M. Guy Weelen. There is additionally, at the foot of the inside cover, a reference to the design by da Silva, on the outer cover. Once again the sheetlet of stamps contained within the *carnet* is unchanged in format, with the two *vignettes* positioned, as before, closest to the selva adhering to the cover. Although previous issues had seen the cover overlapping the stamp contents, the reduction in size of the outer cover meant that the selva was affixed much closer to the edge than had previously been the case.

This issue saw the introduction, by the French postal authorities, of the practice of releasing actual sales figures – as opposed to the previous practice of publishing details of the numbers printed. These statistics show that sales of the 1986 booklets are recorded at 637,434.

1987 Remarkably little is known of Melchior Broederlam, who was one of a number of outstanding Flemish artists and sculptors, working around the turn of the fifteenth century. Such records as are available suggest that he was active as an artist between the years 1381 and 1409 – when he died. He was born in Ypres and spent most of his life there, becoming a leading exponent of the 'International Gothic' style of painting – which first found expression in the 'Court Art' of France (and Burgundy, in particular) before spreading rapidly to Italy. A great patron of this art was Philip the Bold (1342-1404), the first Duke of the newly created Duchy of Burgundy, and his wife, Marguerite of Flanders.

In 1385, Broederlam became official painter to Philip the Bold. At this time, Philip was involved in building a Carthusian Abbey at Champmol, which he originally intended to be a ducal mausoleum and the "*pièce de résistance*" of this

edifice was to be a magnificent altarpiece. The altar wings were carved by Jacques de Baerze and Broederlam was commissioned to paint them in 1392. The work took 7 years to complete, with scenes depicting "The Annunciation", "The Visitation" and "The Presentation", in addition to the subject of "The Flight into Egypt" which is featured on the 1987 issue (Yv. 2498). The rich colouring and brilliant gilding of his work are acknowledged as being amongst the earliest known examples of the new 'International Gothic' style. Sadly, most of the mausoleum was destroyed during the French Revolution but some artefacts did survive and the altarpiece can be seen in the *Musée des Beaux-Arts* in Dijon to this day.

The 1987 booklet (Fig. 34) yielded yet more changes in the structural make up of the booklet cover. The practice, adopted since the introduction of the single stamp issue, of printing the cost of the individual stamps on the cover and showing a multiplication by 10 to justify the cost of the booklet, was now discontinued. No reference whatsoever is made to the "PTT" on either the front or back cover, whilst the winged dart logo and words "*La Poste*" are relegated to the top left hand corner of the back cover – albeit considerably increased in size. The outer cover itself is in red, white and black on a gold background, and is an attractive but primitively basic interpretation of the Dijon skyline by the artist Alain Rouhier. The large red cross is still featured in the bottom right hand corner, although reduced in size by 5mm from the previous year. Only the words "*Carnet de 10 timbres-poste*" appear on the front and these are positioned on two lines across the foot of the cover at the right hand side. The value (28F), in larger and bolder print, appears after the word "*Poste*" and below the cross. The cover is identical in size to its predecessor and the inside cover is also utilised for the same purpose as a year earlier, namely to provide a far more detailed explanation of the background to the issue of the stamp by replicating the information contained in the Post Office publicity material. The disconcertingly small, black printing on a glossy white surface is less than easy to read but does at least assist to assuage those whose thirst for knowledge was constantly frustrated by the total absence of any information in the earlier years.

The practice of printing the sheet of ten stamps, with two *se-tenant vignettes* was continued, although it is astonishing that no effort had been made to vary the content of the

vignette(s). Effectively, this means that, if found in isolation, it is impossible to identify the booklet that they originated from. Sales of this booklet were recorded as rising to 728,126.

1988 A landmark in the history of the Red Cross was reached in 1988, with numerous countries affording philatelic recognition to the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the organisation. This issue reflected the passage of time that had passed since Henri Dunant organised the first conference to discuss his concept of a neutral organisation to treat wounded soldiers in time of war. The French postal authorities elected to adopt a posture of 'killing two birds with one stone' for instead of releasing a special commemorative stamp in line with other countries they chose to discontinue their practice of featuring an artefact of their cultural heritage on the annual Christmas issue and instead produced an attractive 'Red Cross' stamp (Yv. 2555) to mark the anniversary.

The occasion served also to remind people of just how far the Red Cross organisation had progressed since its inception. The distinctive symbol is now prominent at the scene of every major disaster and the movement is always one of the first to provide massive aid to areas stricken by famine, floods etc. So diverse is its role now that the organisation is as widely revered throughout the world for its work in peacetime as it is for its work in time of human conflict.

The booklet for the 1988 issue followed the pattern set in preceding years – both in terms of format and size of cover and contents. Fully extended, the cover measures 235 x 72mm. The cover had a powder blue background and, on both front and back, there was an elliptical shaped globe – to symbolise the area of the world spanned by the Red Cross organisation. The two globes, both of which are printed in white, have a series of concentric blue lines traversing them and, scattered at random across these encircling bands there are thirteen red crosses. These crosses take up different positions on the front to those on the back. On the front cover the words "*La Poste*" and the winged dart logo appear in black in the top right hand corner. Across the foot of the front cover are the words "*Carnet de timbres-poste*" and "*De 2,20 + 0,60 = 28F.*" separated by a red cross which is slightly larger than the crosses on the globe above. The lettering is all in white. Except for the name "*Gouju*" (who designed the cover), which is just discernible in the top right hand corner, the back cover has no additional markings.

The pane of ten stamps contained within, continues to be printed with two *vignettes se-tenant*, the whole sheet being attached to the *carnet* by affixing the selvage, above the *vignettes*, flush with the edge of the cover. At last the *vignettes* have been redesigned and are plain white with a red cross printed in an identical position (and of an identical size) to that on the stamp proper. The word "*Affranchissez*" printed in black appears across the top of the label and, at the bottom, also printed in black, the words "*Croix-Rouge*" appear. Under the heading "*125^e Anniversaire de la Croix-Rouge*" the inside cover contains the publicity material prepared by the '*Ministère des PTT*' for distribution prior

to release of the stamp. This, as before, is printed in very small black print on a glossy white surface. Sales continued to increase and, for 1988, are shown as being 806,609.

1989 Just as Sheffield is synonymous with the manufacture of steel, so is the town of Lyon associated with the production of silken goods. Silk is a natural fibre, produced by silkworms. It is usually obtained from a cocoon spun by larvae of the Chinese silkworm moth ("*Bombyx mori*") which feeds on mulberry leaves. Silk production was actually begun in China in the sixth century and then spread, throughout Asia, into Europe. It was not until the fourteenth century that the cultivation of silkworms was commenced in France – and the birth of the silk trade there can be traced back to 1536.

François 1^{er}, who had forbidden the Genoese access to his kingdom and, in consequence, the introduction of their textiles, proposed that the Lyonnais people should create their own velvet and taffeta. Since that time the silk industry has developed, reaching its peak in the eighteenth century with more than 14,000 workers in the town and another 30,000 persons directly concerned in the production of Lyonnais fabrics. These statistics do not even allow for the huge numbers employed in the peripheral and related jobs, such as dyeing and cleaning of the material. The single stamp (Yv. 2612), issued in 1989, features detail from an eighteenth century silk – the brilliant colours being highlighted in the plumage of a bird feeding its three young fledglings in their nest.

The final booklet of the eighties was identical in both shape and size to the majority of those produced during the latter part of that decade. The open cover measured 235 x 72mm and contained a sheetlet of ten stamps with two *vignettes se-tenant*. The cover design, by Pierette Lambert (who also designed the stamp), bore a slight resemblance to the 1984 issue – insofar as it featured a vine which extended across the full length of the back and front cover. The cover is cream-coloured, with a mottled beige pattern giving a rather blotchy effect to the background. The vine itself is richly festooned with leaves (in green, yellow and white) and young buds of brown and gold, whilst the whole picture is given life by the animated activities of various species of insect life. The artist's licence has in this instance been extended to the creation of somewhat mythical looking creatures, including winged caterpillars and moth-like flying creatures which look remarkably like bees. These insects are gold in colour, their gossamer wings being portrayed in black and white.

The front cover does differ considerably from its predecessor in printed content. Gone is any reference to the value of the individual stamps contained therein. Printed in black, the words "*La Poste*" appear centrally at the top of the front cover, alongside the winged dart logo of the PTT. In the top right hand corner the figure "28" appears in bold print, followed by the word "*Françs*" in smaller lettering. In two parallel lines at the base of the front cover appear the words "*Carnet de 10 Timbres-Poste*" above the words "*Surtaxés au profit de la Croix-Rouge Française*". A red cross (extended 12mm both horizontally and vertically) adorns the bottom right hand corner.

The pane of 10 stamps and two *vignettes* (Fig. 35) is still affixed to the booklet by the adhesive on the selvage at the edge, but the two labels have been dramatically altered in appearance. The casual observer might even be forgiven for thinking at first glance that the *vignettes* were actually real stamps, but a second and closer look would reveal that, although the stamp is faithfully reproduced pictorially, there is no colour in it. The area where the stamp value is depicted on the stamp proper is filled with an enlarged red cross, and the words “*Affranchissez votre coeur*” appear twice in place of the standard printed matter, on the left hand side of the picture. The number of booklets sold continued to rise and, in 1989, reached 935,167.

1990 Quimper, capital of the old kingdom of Cornouaille, still encapsulates much that is traditionally Breton – and nothing is more traditional than its ceramic industry. This industry dates back to 1690, when Jean-Baptiste Bousquet created the first pottery workshop in Brittany. From this small beginning, there followed a gradual expansion throughout the eighteenth century but the emergence of porcelain saw a dramatic slump in interest in ceramics as the new century was heralded in.

It was primarily through the interest of the painter Alfred Beau that the Quimper pottery industry underwent a spectacular renaissance in 1870. Since that time it has gone from strength to strength, with a number of local artists utilising their exceptional talents for blending modern designs with the more traditional Breton decorations. To coincide with the release of this stamp (which celebrates 300 years of production of hand-painted earthenware in the workshops of Quimper) the ‘*Musée des Beaux-Arts*’ at Quimper arranged a special exhibition featuring the product of 10 generations of potters in the town. For the first time the 1990 issue (Yv. 2646) was released in May, thereby breaking with the tradition of producing a stamp for the Christmas period.

The reader may be excused for thinking that there could be few ways remaining of achieving a major alteration to the face of the booklet cover. It will come as little surprise, however, to learn that the postal authorities succeeded, yet again, in doing so. The 1990 issue (Fig. 36) saw the disappearance of all printed matter from the front cover – with the lone exception of the price at which it was offered for sale. The figure “29,00F” appearing in characters 5mm high, was boldly printed in black in the top right hand corner, just above a single red cross. The legend, normally to be found on the front cover, was now re-distributed across the back cover and the words “*Carnet de 10 timbres-poste surtaxés au profit de la Croix-Rouge française*” appeared, in two lines, in the top left hand corner. An 8mm wide band, which ran across the foot of the entire outside cover, contained the words “*La Poste*”, a winged dart logo (now expanded to 14mm in length at its extremities) and the year “1990”.

The band referred to above was formed as part of the design, which conveyed the impression of various items of decorative pottery standing on a shelf. A straight black line, drawn on the brown background, and clever shading, created the shelf. The central design, which extended the full breadth of the cover, was of two ornate plates, a beautifully painted dish and a figurine, on display, the items overlapping each other on this shelf. The outer cover size



Figure 35

remained the same as in preceding years, and was designed by M. Alain Rouhier – who was also responsible for the design of the stamps. The format of the pane of stamps contained therein corresponded to that of previous years. The innovation of printing the *vignette* in the black and white image of the stamp was slightly adapted. On this occasion the central design of the plate was retained and all printed material to be seen on the stamp proper was absent (to avoid possible confusion) but, in this instance, the four edges of a red cross were visible behind the rim of the plate. A very small red cross was also printed in the bottom left hand corner of the *vignette*. The whole design was framed by a thin black line, above and below which were printed the words “*Affranchissez votre coeur*” in manuscript form. Sales were recorded at 942,429.



Figure 36

1991 It may be difficult to reconcile the tranquil Toulon harbour scene, portrayed on the 1991 Christmas issue, with the reality of the town's present day position of being the premier naval base in the country but, symbolically, it serves to illustrate that peace can permeate the most hostile of environments. The port of Toulon has had a chequered history. In the Middle Ages it was regularly pillaged by the Saracens and pirates, being – geographically speaking – a sitting duck for the sea-going armadas of the Mediterranean. Not until 1481 (when the region of Provence-Côte d'Azur came under French control) did people begin to realise the potential military significance of Toulon and, even then, it was a further 150 years before the naval base was created. During the Revolution, Toulon was renamed "Port-de-la-Montagne" but, strangely, it was not to see military action until the Second World War – when 4,000

houses were destroyed and the French fleet was scuttled.

The captivating oil painting of "*Le Port de Toulon – le Matin*" was completed in 1908 by François Nardi (1861-1936) and it conveys the serenity of the harbour bathed in the light of the morning sun. The artist specialised in this subject, producing many scenes of Toulon, emphasising the effects of the elements on the port – notably wind, rain and storms at both dusk and at dawn.

The basic booklet format – introduced with the arrival of the single issue – was retained in 1991. Naturally, the 20c price increase of each stamp (Yv. 2733) was reflected in the change of price, from 29,00F to 31,00F, on the front of the cover. There were also the usual minor design changes, more specifically the words "*Carnet de 10 Timbres-Poste Surtaxés au Profit de la Croix-Rouge Française*" appeared (in two lines) on the front cover, whereas only a year earlier they had been relegated to the rear cover. Additionally, there was a minor perforation change – the booklet stamps now being perforated 13 (at the top and bottom) x 13.5 (at the sides), reversing the format of earlier years. Likewise, the sheet stamps were now perforated 13 x 12.5 (instead of 12.5 x 13).

On the booklet issued the previous year the artwork had extended across both front and rear cover. However, on the 1991 issue the illustrative matter encroaches upon a smaller area of the back cover. The actual cover design, by J-P Veret-LeMarinier, is based on a lithograph by the notable painter A Guesdon, and it has a pleasing simplicity. Printed purely in black and white, it portrays an aerial view of the harbour and town of Toulon. The blank area of the rear cover, between the edge of the cover and the artwork, is taken up with a small shield bearing the heraldic arms of Toulon (in blue and silver), below which is the year of issue "1991" atop a small red cross measuring 8mm in size. Above the shield, the 'winged dart' logo and the words "La Poste" appear – all on a smaller scale than that of the previous year.

As in earlier years, the block of ten stamps (5 x 2) is tied to the booklet cover by two vignettes. Unlike the issues of the preceding two years, however, this label is not a colourless image of the stamp itself. In quite stark contrast to the previous issues, these *étiquettes* had the words "*Tous les jours des preuves d'amour*" written in manuscript form in three lines, in black on a plain, pale blue background. In the bottom left hand corner is a small (5mm) red cross with the words "*Croix-Rouge Française*" extending, from the cross, along the base of the label to the right hand extremity of it. The inside cover opens out to provide information printed in black and white concerning the history of Toulon and a pen portrait of the artist François Nardi, whose life was devoted to painting views of the town and who was responsible for creating the painting featured on the stamp. The recorded booklet sales, for the 1991 issue, reached a peak of 957,135.

1992 In May 1992, the town of Strasbourg was host to the convention for "*L'Europe: Secours et Urgence*", which was organised by the Committee of National Red Cross Societies in Europe. With the annual Red Cross stamp issue (Yv. 2783) placing the emphasis on 'mutual aid', the decision to feature the efforts of Strasbourg in connection therewith seems to have been a natural, and somewhat inevitable,

consequence. The artist Tomi Ungerer produced a light-hearted design in which he graphically illustrated the thin strand upon which a life may sometimes depend. His clever drawing symbolises the whole concept of mutual aid – with three birds each holding broken telephone wires in their beaks – seemingly re-establishing lines of communication between people whilst at the same time physically supporting each other on them.

With the troubles throughout the world providing a constant reminder that people are starving and suffering unspeakable deprivation, the role of aid agencies is continually being thrust to the fore. Over many years there have been countless examples of the world of philately working for the benefit of charitable causes – and few countries have been more benevolent than France in this respect. This issue was just the latest of numerous issues produced with surcharges aimed at providing for the needy.

The 1992 booklet again displayed evidence of basic design changes, although it continued to remain the same size (72 x 235mm fully extended) and to retain the same format for the layout of the sheet of stamps contained therein. The external cover is primarily silver-grey in colour. Designed by Tomi Ungerer, the artist who designed the issued stamp, the front cover features an enlarged version of the central design of that stamp. In this instance, however, the reproduction is devoid of any lettering. Measuring 60 x 60mm, the design is situated 6mm from the outside edge. To the left of this picture appear the words “*Carnet de 10 Timbres-Poste Surtaxés au Profit de la Croix-Rouge Française*” in block capitals spread across six lines. Below this is a cross in red, which is much larger in size (20mm) than is normally to be seen on the booklet covers. Below the cross, in turn, are the words “*L’Entraide Strasbourg*”, spread across two lines.

The rear cover is bare, save for a narrow, gold-coloured strip (10mm wide) extending 90mm inwards from the outside edge of the cover, 22mm from the base. The only printed matter on the back cover appears on that gold strip, in black – namely, the characters “31,00F”, “*La Poste*” and “1992”. Additionally, the PTT logo (a winged dart) appears between the word “*Poste*” and the year. As in previous years the sheet of ten stamps are *se-tenant* with two *vignettes*, the selva^{ge} of which is attached to the *carnet*. It is therefore physically impossible to remove the *vignettes* without detaching the entire contents from the booklet. The *vignettes* (Fig. 37) feature a collection canister bearing the Red Cross emblem. The container is a brownish-purple colour on a white background. Below it, the words “*Soyons fidèles, continuons l’histoire*” are printed, on two lines, in black. In the upper, left hand side of the label (and to the left of the collection box) the words “*Croix-Rouge Française*” are also printed in black. Both booklet and sheet stamps had the same perforation, namely 13.5 x 13.

The inside cover of the *carnet* also follows the design of previous years, containing informative material about the work of the Red Cross organisation and the charitable benefits which have accrued to them by surcharging postage stamps. This is printed in black on a white background. Sales in 1992 dropped quite markedly to a recorded total of 880,685.



Figure 37

1993 In the fourth century, the Bishop of Myre (in Asia Minor) was Saint Nicholas, who is pictured on the 1993 issue wearing his mitre and a cross. Western legend has it that the patron saint of Lorraine revived three children, each of whom had had their throats slit and had been put in a salting tub by an inn-keeper. The children are portrayed at the foot of Saint Nicholas, whilst the boat which can be seen in the background is a reminder that he was also responsible for saving sailors in distress on a number of occasions. During the nineteenth century a coloured print industry burgeoned in the town of Metz. Much of this stemmed from the prowess of Adrien Dembour, who established a printing works in the Place Saint-Louis, circa 1835. He produced religious icons and pictures, many of which evoked the Napoleonic era. An army of peddlars distributed these lithographs amongst the working classes and



Figure 38

the workshop flourished until 1870, when the war brought an end to the production line.

Typical of the superbly engraved religious pictures (known as pictures of protection) produced at the Dembour workshop is that of St Nicholas, created by M. Valentin, which is used to illustrate the 1993 stamp (Yv. 2853). After 1871 sales slumped and the quality of work declined as the number of staff diminished. In 1892 the factory was sold to Messrs. Delhat & Son, who moved the business away from Metz. The 1993 booklet design remained faithful to the idea introduced a year earlier, of featuring an enlarged facsimile of the issued Red Cross stamp on the cover. By so doing, of course, the print of "Image de Metz" from which the stamp was designed was, effectively, reproduced in its

natural state. The principal difference from previous *carnets* was that, whilst the design on all the others issued since 1984 had been horizontal, this cover was in a vertical format.

Set on a background colour of a pastel yellow, the design on both front and rear cover is so similar that it might even be a matter for debate as to which is which, for only the wording distinguishes the one from the other. The picture itself measures 50 x 70mm with a thick black border around it. Folded correctly there would be a 10mm gap between the upper edge of the border and the fold, but this is variable – depending on the accuracy with which the stamp content is inserted. Immediately above this top edge of the border frame are the words "Saint Nicolas" in bold black lettering.

Most observers will judge that the front cover (Fig. 38) is actually that with the words "Carnet de 10 timbres-poste surtaxés au profit de la Croix-Rouge" printed in three lines below the main illustration. Beneath that lettering, centrally positioned, is a red cross on a small square white background. On the reverse side immediately below the illustration appear the words "Image de Metz". Under this the year of issue – "1993" – is printed and, in turn, below that is the identical Red Cross symbol as appears on the front. Along the narrower base line (which is the opening edge in this vertical format) are printed the words "34,00F" and "La Poste" alongside the Post Office 'winged dart' logo. The inside of the cover, as usual, has publicity information (in French) concerning the issue. This is printed in black on a glossy white surface.

The booklet contents conform to the pattern set in preceding years, with a pane of 10 postage stamps and two *se-tenant*

vignettes. The *vignettes*, coloured grey on white, feature a collecting tin with a cross in red on the front. Alongside the tin is what one may presume to be a begging bowl, in the shape of a cup. The words "Avec la Croix-Rouge soyons plus près de ceux qui en ont besoin" appear in white on a grey shaded area in the upper part of the *vignette*. At the foot of this label are the words "Croix-Rouge Française". Yet again a distinction appeared between the perforations of the sheet stamp (12.5 x 13) and that of the booklet stamp (13.5 x 13) and this would remain in place until the turn of the century. Sales rallied slightly from the previous year, to a recorded total of 898,823.

1994 The former Benedictine Abbey of Saint-Vaast now houses an important museum where one can view some of the famous tapestries that have survived a by-gone era which brought prosperity to the town of Arras during the

Middle Ages. The tapestries were renowned world-wide, the success of the industry even bringing economical growth to neighbouring towns, notably Tournai, until Arras became involved in political in-fighting between the House of Burgundy and the French Crown. With the town under the control of the House of Burgundy during the 14th century, the craftsmen worked hard to satisfy their masters' taste for splendour, commemorating the famous deeds of their forefathers in magnificent works of art.

Then, in 1477, Louis XI occupied the town and the "lissiers" and their weaving workshops found themselves out of work. Most of the existing tapestries were destroyed or melted down to recover their gold and silver. Only a few precious examples survive to this day and they include "L'Histoire de Saint Piat et de Saint Eleuthère", "L'Offrande du Coeur" and the "Saint Vaast" tapestry which is featured on the 1994 issue (Yv. 2915). Saint Vaast is acclaimed for reviving the town of Arras, after it was invaded at the turn of the sixth century.

The year of 1994 saw the appearance of arguably one of the visually least appealing Red Cross issues of modern times. It was also notable for the intrusive appearance of the initials ITVF (*Imprimerie des Timbres-Poste et Valeurs Fiduciaires*) below the printed year. Although first introduced a year earlier, they had on that occasion been placed inconspicuously between the stamp border and the perforations, alongside the name of the engraver. The booklet cover, measuring 235 x 71.5mm, reverted to a horizontal format and featured a cover-length design by Jean-Paul Véret-LeMarinier which he entitled "Arras La Grand (sic) Place". The illustration, of an arcade, was printed in photo-gravure on a powder blue background. Whilst the artwork of the buildings leaves an irregular sky-line, at street level it formed a straight line which provided a natural border. In turn this border, thus created, left a regular 19mm gap along the full length of the foot of the cover.

Fully extended that space was filled from left to right with the words "Carnet de 10 timbres-poste surtaxés au profit de la Croix-Rouge Française 34F Arras. La Grand Place. La Poste 1994". A small red cross on a square white background appears at the extreme left border (just to the left of the word 'Carnet') and the Post Office winged dart (measuring 9mm at its longest point) separates the words "La Poste" and "1994". As per previous years the interior contains an identical version of the information provided in the philatelic publicity bulletins, printed in black on a white surface. The booklet pane of ten stamps also follows a familiar pattern, established in earlier years, although the design of the two *se-tenant vignettes* is subject once again to alteration. In this booklet they are devoid of any illustrations and simply contain the words "L'Intégralité des surtaxes de 0,60F par timbre est reversée à la Croix-Rouge Française" on four lines, below which is printed "La Poste" and the post office logo. Booklet sales continued on an upward trend, records showing that sales figures reached 913,860 for the 1994 issue.

1995 Originally known as Salmurus, the town of Saumur is best known for its famous Cavalry School. Founded at the end of the 18th century, it survived two attempts to close it down before becoming firmly established in 1825 – when Saumur became the equestrian capital of France. The



Figure 39

school was initially set up to teach classical riding to army officers, and earned the nickname "Cadre Noir" because of the black jackets worn by the instructors. In 1945 the "Ecole de Cavalerie" became the "Ecole d'Application de l'Armée Blindée et de la Cavalerie" (the armoured vehicle and cavalry school) which rendered the riding school as somewhat surplus to requirements. As a result the academy became a civilian institution and in 1972 was reborn as "L'Ecole Nationale d'Equitation" (the national horse riding school) and assumed the responsibility of training and instructing the finest riders in France.

The 14th century château at Saumur houses not only the "Musée des Arts Décoratifs" but the "Musée du Cheval". These premises trace the progress of the horse through the

ages. There, visitors can see the Brussels tapestry from the Reydam's workshop that is featured on the 1995 issue (Yv. 2946). Woven in the 17th century, it portrays King Louis XIII performing equestrian exercises under the supervision of M. de Pluvinel, his riding instructor whose discourse "*L'Instruction du Roi*" in 1625 is still considered a landmark in equestrian literature.

The success of the experiment of an issue in May, which in 1990 had seen a highpoint reached in the sales of the Red Cross stamp, may well have prompted the postal authorities into an attempt to repeat that success. For the second time since the annual issue had commenced we can record the issue of a stamp featuring the Red Cross in the month of May. If critics felt that the design of the 1994 issue was somewhat drab, their hearts would have been lifted by the appearance of the 1995 stamp. Even the booklet cover was revitalised with a stunning equine design produced by Jean-Paul Véret LeMarinier. Four horses in silhouette were strikingly portrayed in various stages of dressage on a white background. The stark images proved simple but extremely effective.

The booklet cover, measuring 235 x 71.5mm, was folded in half to display two horses on the front and two more on the back cover (Fig. 39). On the front, and in between the two horses featured, the word "*Saumur*" appeared – printed in green. The only other lettering, also printed in green, extended along the full length of the outer cover at its base, and read "*La Poste*" (followed by the winged dart logo of the PTT) "*1995 Carnet de 10 timbres-poste surtaxés au profit de la Croix-Rouge Française*". After the word '*Française*' was a small red cross and then – the price of the booklet – "*34,00F*". The cover was printed in 'heliogravure'.

The inside cover of the booklet followed the familiar pattern of previous years, the small black print conveying background information in French about the "*Ecole de Cavalerie*" at Saumur. The content, too, was identical in format – even to the extent that the two *vignettes*, *se-tenant* with the two top stamps in the pane, were identical in design to that of the previous year. The 1995 booklet issue saw a downturn in the recorded sales figure, which dropped to 827,924.

[All illustrations in this article have been reduced to 80% of their original size.]

To be concluded in the next issue

BOOKSHELF

Continued from page 134

Books Noted

Les Postes du Front de l'Est 1941-1945, y compris les courriers des légions européennes de la Waffen SS, by Michel P Daulard; limited edition of 100 copies; covers all countries involved; collection of b/w photocopies; price inc p&p 55€ France, 60€ UK, USA 75\$; available from author, 18 rue de l'île Margot, 58500 Clamecy.

Catalogue Yvert et Tellier de cotation des Timbres de France de 1849 à nos jours, Tome I- 2014; price 19€99 + p&p; available from shops or from publishers.

Catalogue Yvert et Tellier de cotation des Timbres de Monaco et des territoires français d'Outre-Mer, Andorre, Europa, Nations Unies, Tome Ibis – 2014; price 19€99 + p&p; available from shops or from publishers.

Catalogue des entiers postaux des colonies françaises, bureaux français à l'étranger et territoires occupés ou sous mandats,

Millésime 2014, pub. l'Association des Collectionneurs d'Entiers Postaux (ACEP); 56pp; price inc p&p France 17€, ROW 20€; available from Luc Jacquemin, 14 rue Marceau, 78800 Houilles.

Maghrebophila Nos. 1-3, by Khalid Benziane, Philippe Lindekens & Thierry Sanchez; free quarterly bulletin on philately of Morocco, Tunisia & Algeria; available in PDF format electronically only, by email from:

lindekens.bogaerts@skynet.be

or on the Web at:

<http://issuu.com/congolatres>

Île de La Réunion, Émissions locales 1889: III. Les chiffres-taxe provisoires by Marie-Anick & Christian-Jacques Duvivier; 112pp A4 in colour; price 55€ + p&p; available from Ch-J Duvivier, Le Chaillot, 79190 Montalembert.

Maurice Tyler

SPECIAL OFFER

Fakes and Forgeries of 20th Century French Postage Stamps by Geoff Gethin, pub. 2006 by the France & Colonies P S (GB); 152pp in full colour with enlargements of images; **special price £25** (normally £40) + p&p (£4 for UK) until the end of January 2014. Contact our stockist Richard Broadhurst (contact details on the inside front cover of this Journal).

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

When did these wars start?

The outbreak of the Franco-German War of 1870-1871 is stated to be **15 July 1870** by (1) H A L Fisher in "A History of Europe" page 988 (Arnold & Co, London, 1946), (2) A Horne in "The Fall of Paris" page 37 (The Reprint Society, London, 1967), and (3) "The Illustrated Encyclopedia of World History" page 333 (Longman Bookmark Ltd, 1976, Octopus Books Ltd).

However, it is stated to be **19 July 1870** by (1) Dallay, (2) Wikipedia, (3) the "Encyclopedia Britannica" p 629 (London, 1957), and (4) Stephen Holder in F&CPS Journal 269 of September 2013 (p 84). On page 115 of the same

Journal 269 Stan Fairchild also pointed out the discrepancy between Dallay and Wikipedia on the one hand and Philip Mackey's statement on page 42 of Journal 268.

Similarly, the outbreak of World War II is said to be on **2 September 1939** by John Hammonds in the same Journal 269, page 86, but **3 September 1939** by Roy Reader in the same Journal page 89 and by "Encyclopedia Britannica".

Can anyone please explain either of these two discrepancies?

Alan Wood

New Hebrides card



There are several interesting aspects attaching to the card illustrated by Stan Luft on page 113 of Journal 269.

Unfortunately no mention is made of the date of posting, which is possibly stated in the shorthand script although the postmark on the 'stamp' is not legible (as he says, it is "socked on the nose" with black on black even in a colour reproduction).

The French local trading company issued four 'stamps' to meet the cost of inter-island mail (see the illustration above of the 5c, 15c, 20c and 1F values each incorporating

the year 1903 when I assume they were released. I noted I saw a mint set at auction in Australia in 2004 at Aus \$150-250 (see the illustration below) but have no note of the realised price if it was indeed sold. Good copies are difficult, most are toned, and when found on cover or card in conjunction with issues of New Caledonia at the correct rate attract considerably higher prices. I have never seen a single issue in loose format used. I believe in the same auction a picture postcard with the 25c value along with 15c tablet grey issue for New Caledonia was offered at Aus \$1000-2000 (see illustration on the next page).





You may be interested to know that similar issues were released by the Australian Interisland Company — two values only, 1d and 2d, these being more readily found mint and with more difficulty used, but there are suggestions of backdating and forged cancellations etc when seen on card or cover.

Unfortunately my item (illustrated below) is a front only, but it has a correct date stamp for Noumea from whence it was routed 10.01.1906 to Paris, the local issues being cancelled at Port Vila 20.12.1905. I hope they are genuine!!

As regards the message, our elder daughter was coincidentally here when the Journal arrived and she recognised some characters from her student days as a shorthand typist. She tells me the 'symbols' for letters are the same whatever the language, but was unable to help further. For example the characters for April in English would be little different from *Avril* in French.

Incidentally my father was born at Wootton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire over 100 years ago in Pitman's house where I believe he developed his shorthand system. The house has the blue badge of recognition.



John Mayne

A Ban-Breaking Cover from France to the United Kingdom in 1943



Figure 1

When the Germans extended their occupation of France to the southern zone on 11 November 1942, they banned all further postal relations between that zone and the United Kingdom¹. Figure 1 (above) shows a cover sent to Pau from London on 7 December 1942 only to be promptly stopped and marked 'NO SERVICE / RETURN TO SENDER'.

However, Figure 2 (next page) shows a cover that contravened the ban and got away with it. It not only contravened the ban but did so with the full knowledge and even collaboration of the Germans! It was addressed to a relative in Mere in Wiltshire by Father Nicolas Glencross, a priest interned in the dreadful camp at Le Vernet in the Ariège. He was in Area B reserved for the 'politically dangerous'.² After being stamped with two camp handstamps, both of them unclear, the cover was cancelled at nearby Pamiers on 4 January 1943. It was then forwarded to Berlin. There

the censor office with its code-letter 'b' examined the letter and surprisingly resealed it, stamped it with a handstamp used on transit mail (note the 'T' above the eagle's head)³ and released it to continue its journey to England presumably via the Central Agency of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Switzerland, the channel for prisoner-of-war mail passing between enemy countries.⁴ The censor in England did not fail to give it a final check.

As a footnote for those interested in non-philatelic gossip, it is mentioned that the unusualness of the priest's name suggests that he was most probably the well-liked, highly respected priest of the same name who in 1990, at the age of 77, found himself arrested and imprisoned for using the presbytery of his church at Saint-Léger-des-Vignes as a prolific child pornography production and distribution centre.⁵

¹ M. Paul, *Histoire des P.T.T. pendant la Deuxième Guerre Mondiale* (Paris?, n.d. (194- ?)), pp. 159, 161-2.

² 'Le Vernet', para. 'Le quartier B...', <http://www.histariege.com/le_vernet.htm> (accessed 14.9.2013).

³ Karl-Heinz Riemer, *Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch deutsche Dienststellen* ('Rhein-Donau', Düsseldorf, 1979), p. 27-8.

⁴ CICR, 'Ressources > L'Agence Centrale de Recherches du CICR: un Peu d'Histoire', para. 'Cependant, l'Agence centrale des Prisonniers de guerre...', (<<http://www.icrc.org/fre/resources/documents/misc/5fzh6f.htm#4>>) (accessed 14.9.2013).

⁵ AP News, 'Priest Arrested for Child Pornography' (article of 4.7.1990), <<http://www.apnewsarchive.com/1990/Priest-Arrested-for-Child-Pornography/id-47f7c05ef46dd2b41fa49d7ced46391f>> (accessed 23.3.2013); PDF 'Année 1990: - Histoires de Decizes' (accessed 23.3.2013); Réseau Voltaire, 'Nazisme et Homosexualités, Imbrications Historiques et Retour du Refoulé' (article of 1.6.1997), <<http://www.voltairenet.org/article7502.html>> (accessed 23.3.2013); 'Un Mort de...', <<http://militaire1690.skyrock.com/2913333723-un-mort-de-je-l-ai-connu-et-je-n-ai-pas-compris-comment-il-pouvais.html>> (accessed 23.3.2013); etc.



Figure 2

Roy Reader

Post Offices in Egypt



As a new member of the Society I am looking for an expert in FPOs in Egypt. Recently I acquired a large lot of these with very fresh colours and in fine used condition. I did find in the Port Saïd section an unrecognised SG 127 with Harar postmark – this is footnoted under Ethiopia and I imagine is not too common.

One mystery item that I have not been able to pin down is SG130 25c with a probable *Abyssinie* postmark but the town is not decipherable against any town list that I can find. Illustrated above is a scan of the stamp and a separate image of the postmark extracted from the original image. This is not mentioned in SG.

John Cruttenden

Cameroun Français 27.8.40 - the “+10c” Trial on the 90c Elephants Stamp

The 30 stamps in this series of overprints were discussed in a detailed study [Ref 1] some fifteen years ago. I returned, in the Journal of September 2011, to Trial B for this issue, on the waterfall and canoe designs. I have a correction, and further information, to add now on the “+10c” overprint on the 90c Elephants which forms part, alongside the black overprints on the 2c and 4c, of the Trial C stamps.

To set the scene, I quote a few lines from the correspondence dealing with the preparations for these overprints:

“The stock of stamps is substantial... However, there is no stock at all of the value in most common use, 1 franc” (Post Office letter of 5 September 1940, which goes on to suggest overprinting 300,000 90c stamps “*France-Libre +10*”).

The printers advise, on 14 September, that “for the 90c value on which you want a 10c overprint... a special setting will be needed.” Some ten days later another letter about the proposed overprints makes special mention of a “10c surcharge for the 90c stamps.”



Figure 1
90c Trial B without cedilla
(Enlargement, colours reversed for examination)

The 90c Elephants is indeed among the definitive overprints (6,000 sheets, or 300,000 stamps, were run off), but without the “10c surcharge”. The lack of a 1 franc value was overcome by different means: the 10c lamido’s wife and the 50c rubber-tapping stamp from the previous issue, along with the 90c, have by far the largest runs.

Copies of this particular trial, fairly few and far between, illustrate the overprint that, in the end, was not adopted. My 1997 study raised two questions concerning the “special setting” mentioned by the printers, without properly answering either.

It now seems to me incorrect to suggest, as I did fifteen years back, that this trial overprint entailed two operations. No doubt the reference to a “special setting” led me to think there had been a separate one for the “+10c” part. Looking at the overprint’s positioning on individual copies does not provide the full picture; and at a more practical level I should have paid more heed to the way in which the same printers tackled the overprinting work for revenue purposes which they carried out from mid-1940 onwards (Ref 2).

At present I think the “special setting” comprised all the components – text, date, additional value – that are seen on

the 90c trial. “+10c” admittedly appears directly below the face value on some copies, but by no means everywhere. The space between the text and the additional value is not uniform either – but lack of uniformity, surely, is a feature in all the 28.8.40 overprints. Assertions on pages 14 and 21 of my book accordingly need correction: this trial overprint was made in a single operation.

Second, were the components of the overprint seen on the 2c and 4c trials taken over, unchanged, for the 90c? It may be recalled that the distance between text and date on the 2c and 4c trials is greater than on the definitive. By 1997 I had been able to ascertain that the same gap occurred on the 90c, for a number of overprints from the lower part of the setting; that has since been confirmed for other positions there. But until last year the upper part was shrouded in mystery.

It may further be recalled that, in the top four rows, the 2c and 4c show FRANÇAIS with a cedilla on the C (there were, on each sheet of these values, 20 stamps with the cedilla, and 30 without). In 1997 I wrote: “Although I have not seen the 90c + 10c trial with C cedilla, I expect it exists, or existed in the same quantities”. It was conceivable, nonetheless, that the “special setting” had been standardised – FRANCAIS with plain C throughout, as on the definitive.

In over twenty years I had – until recently – seen not one 90c trial with C cedilla. Not one stamp, in fact, from rows 1 to 4 of the setting.

This particularly does not occur there: the enlargement below shows text and additional value from position 3 of that row.



Figure 2
90c Trial with cedilla
(Enlargement, colours reversed for examination)

It can hence be taken that the 90c Elephants trial comprises 20 stamps with C cedilla, and 30 without, per sheet... Quite possibly, only one sheet was overprinted in this way.

Thanks are extended to Jean-Philippe Kalkstein (Caphila, Paris).

Endnotes

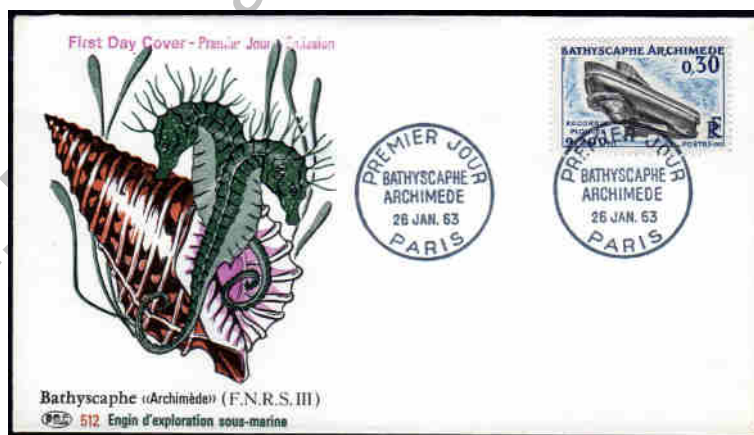
(1) Dudley Cobb, *Cameroun: The 1940 Overprints*, 1997,

ISBN 2-9511613-0-1. Correspondence given on pages 10-17, with the original French on pages 107-110; erroneous assertions pages 14 and 21; "I expect it exists", also page 14.

(2) See Martin Bratzel, *The Wartime Revenue Stamps of Cameroun*, 1996, ISBN 0-9694026-2-7. The classics can never be consulted too often- I should have remembered that these overprints, on a range of designs, all entailed a single operation.

Dudley Cobb

Bathyscaphe Archimède 1963



[reduced to 60%]

I write from Finland. I am interested in this FDC. The stamp is *Bathyscaphe Archimède*, on which one can read that the record dive was 9200m. The date on the FDC is 26

Jan 63. But it was not the date of *Archimède*'s record dive, but that of *Trieste*'s. Can you explain me the meaning of the stamp and FDC?

Jouko Moisala

The Swiss vessel *Trieste* made its record dive of 10916m on 23 January 1960. The French vessel *Archimède* reached a depth of 9200m in July 1962, though it is reported that some days later that depth was increased to 9545m. The date of issue of the stamp commemorating those achievements was

26 January 1963 (28 Jan for first day on general sale) but as far as I can see this was just a date chosen for the stamp and had nothing to do with any of those dives. Interestingly this stamp was the first in France to bear the year of the date of issue, a practice continued for all stamps except definitives.

Maurice Tyler

An Alternative Service UK to France



Illustrations reduced to 80% of original size

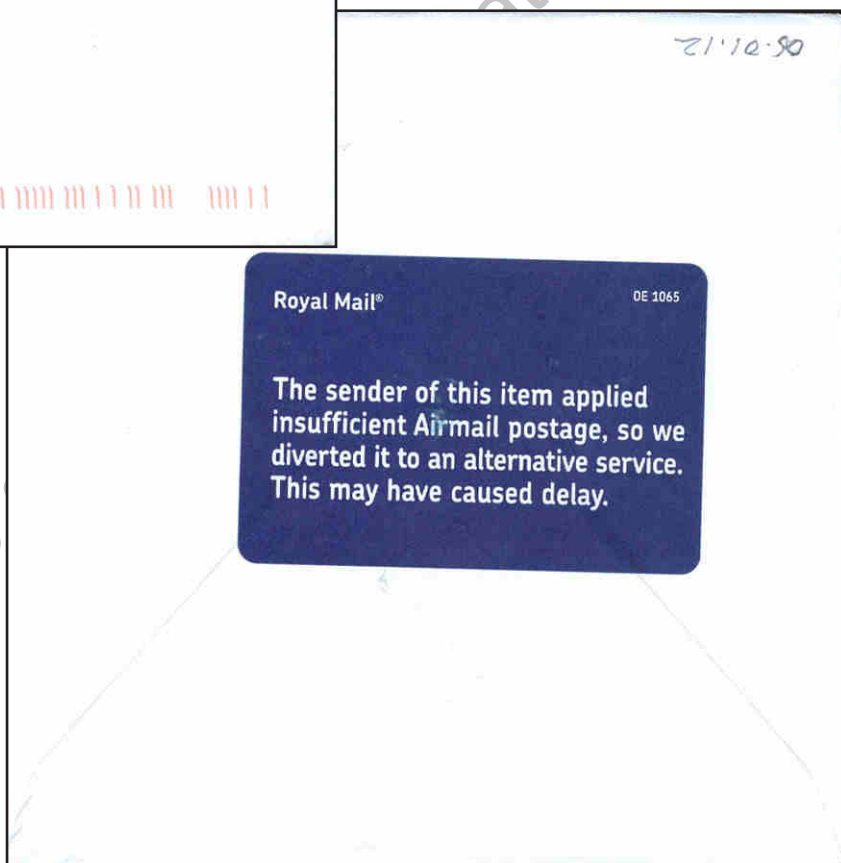
Although the cover illustrated here is not of French origin the fact that it was addressed to France might, nonetheless, allow a query in the Journal.

Do airmail supplements still exist?

What is the alternative service?

The alternative service did indeed cause delay; some 16 days or so. The cover, according to the sender, was posted in Worthing prior to entering the Postal Service at Gatwick Mail Centre on 21.12.11 at 6.14pm where, in all probability the alternative service was activated

John Simmons



Standard airmail to Europe (including France) now costs 88p for up to 20g. But there is an alternative "surface mail" non-urgent rate for letters of this weight costing 78p. However, this letter was franked at the (domestic) 1st class rate which is now 60p, so it was 18p short of the cheapest

rate to France and should therefore have been taxed as well as delayed. These prices have been applied since 2 April 2013 but a similar difference in the rates would have been in force the previous year. I have not seen this label before.

Maurice Tyler

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 12 OCTOBER 2013

Peter Kelly: *Type Sage 1876-1900 - Aspects of Maritime Mail*

The main morning display was given by our co-convenor, **Peter Kelly**, who showed maritime mail during the *Type Sage* period of 1876-1900. Peter started by explaining how post offices and the general public had access to shipping routes and departure dates with copies of the *Annuaire des Postes* which provide considerable detail. While there is often an assumption that the post office would hold back mail to prefer French mailboats it was shown, through documentation and letters displayed, that this was certainly not the case and while France was developing its own contracted services, they relied on foreign mailboats to a considerable extent.

The display covered the principal geographic regions of the world with a wide range of material in and out of France and also from French post offices abroad with a particular section on the consular mail in the Caribbean. Problems with the mail is an area of great interest to Peter and a number of letters were shown which had travelled enormous distances backwards and forwards to reach the addressee and which highlight the lengths the post offices and postal agents on board mailboats went to in order to ensure delivery.

After our usual excellent lunch at the Old Mill the following members showed in the afternoon session:

George Nash: British POWs interned in France in WWII;

Graham Lenton: *Marianne de la Jeunesse* – the new 2014 issue;

Tony Hargrave-Graham: A selection of superb classic colonial covers including a 25c *tête-bêche* pair and a 5c Empire used on a Guadeloupe cover;

Ingrid Swinburn: WWII POW mail;

Jeremy Martin: POW mail with a French connection including a letter from Dartmoor prison;

Chris Hitchen: A fine display of the Head Post Office in Paris from 1876 with cancellations of Daguin precursors, Bickerdyke flags, *affranchissements*, *charge-ments*, *caisse*, printed matter and pneumatics;

Michael Berry: Siege of Paris and life after the end of it, newspapers, food shortages, the Zoo;

Peter Todd: Paris stars;

Peter Kelly: Printed stationery need not be boring – a display of decorated covers and commemorative stationery;

Alan Wood: Newspapers - Postage and newspaper stamps.

PRAK/AJW

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 16 OCTOBER 2013

Bob Larg: *An Evening of French Philately and Postal History*

Bob Larg introduced his display as that of a stamp collector, most of it written up 20 years previously on a typewriter. The first half covered the wide variety of stamps issued in France during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, starting with the Cérés and Napoleon heads of the 2nd Republic and moving on to the 2nd Empire up to 1870. He included the colour trials of a later date to the originals, stamps on covers and entires, newspaper stamps and postage dues (with some of these on cover).

He then went on to the laureated types with different cancels, Alsace-Lorraine stamps, and the 3rd Republic up to 1940. Thus he included a *ballon monté*, the Peace and Commerce issue (with a Sage used in China), telephone stamps, *préoblitérés*, an *Au Bon Marché* sample envelope, a mourning cover and postal stationery (with ps printed to private order celebrating the visit of the Emperor and Empress of Russia in 1896). Other items of interest included the Blanc and Mouchon issues, hotel envelopes, bisects, lettercards, a cover franked with 25 Sage 1c stamps and a 1901 cover sent to the Empress Eugénie at Farnborough.

The second half of Bob's display was devoted to picture postcards and covers advertising or commemorating exhibi-

tions in France from 1894 (the Colonial Exhibition at Lyon) onwards but excluding the 1900 Paris one. Thus we saw a broad variety of items from 1889 Paris, 1902 Lille, 1906 Tourcoing International, 1906 Marseille Colonial, 1906 Amiens, 1908 Auxerre, 1908 Toulouse, 1908 Marseille International Electricity, 1909 Nancy, 1911 Roubaix International and 1913 Paris Exhibitions.

After the First World War came the 1922 Marseille Colonial, 1925 Paris International Philatelic, 1925 Paris Modern Decorative Arts, 1927 Strasbourg International Philatelic, 1929 Le Havre International Philatelic, 1930 Paris International Airmail (with EIPA perfins including an example on cover), 1931 Paris International Colonial and 1937 Paris International (with a series of cards and the PEXIP miniature sheet mint, used and cut down on cover). Bob finished by saying how much he had enjoyed collecting all these items, and Len Barnes gave the vote of thanks for what had proved a very interesting evening.

Members present: Maurice Alder, Len Barnes, Mick Bister, Michael Fairhead, Chris Hitchen, Bob Larg, Hugh London, Barbara Priddy, Derek Richardson, Maurice Tyler. Apologies: Godfrey Bowden.

MST

AUTUMN STAMPEX MEETING OF 21 SEPTEMBER 2013

Peter Kelly: Aspects of the Postal History of Soudan and Niger

Peter began his display of these two inland colonies of the Federation of French West Africa (A.O.F.) by making the point that there was far more to postal history than the usual attention given to rates and routes and this was particularly the case when looking at the background to the historic and political development of the colonies and the establishment of postal communications in a difficult and complex environment.

By way of introduction to the region Peter took us on a journey from Dakar on the coast, up the Senegal river to Kayès, across by track and eventually rail to Koulikoro on the Niger and then downstream to Tombouctou and beyond the Niger bend to Ansongo, through a large selection of postcards of the period.

Thus he explained how the expansion of the colony and the supply of goods and equipment required was seasonal, depending on the heavy rainfall in the Fouta Djallon hills of Guinea which fed both the Senegal and Niger rivers, leading to a substantial rise in the water level that allowed the passage of deeper draught vessels at more or less predictable times. All communications and general movement were subject to the geographic and climatic conditions prevailing, that differ greatly from the desert conditions of the sub-Saharan region to the north and semi-tropical country to the south.

The display itself took the form of different snapshots in

time, starting with the early period of colonial expansion from the 1880s with a variety of military free mail and some stamped mail including surcharged stamps and markings used while awaiting new stocks from France. Many new post offices were opening, reflecting colonial expansion as well as changing routes. This expansion was certainly not easily achieved and there were a number of serious military setbacks as well as the successful seasonal campaigns.

This was followed by some relevant references to the impact of WWI on the colony. The 1920s saw motorable routes opening up between Soudan and Niger and Algeria across the Sahara and the successful Citroën and Renault expeditions, culminating in the regular services provided by the Compagnie Générale Transsaharienne and the S.A.T.T.

All of this was leading up to the establishment of regular air services — firstly from Morocco down the coast to Dakar and later across the Sahara from Gao to Algiers. The success of these led to the setting up of a number of cross-country branch lines connecting with the coast at Dakar and Cotonou.

Finally, the display moved on to the WWII period and the period that the Colonies sided with the Pétain Government before changing over to the Free French after the invasion of North Africa by Allied troops. Attention was given to the difficulties in communicating with the home country during this critical period.

PRAK

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Continued from page 133

Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile

N° 167 (Nov 2013): La Principauté de Dombes (I) - Son service postal de 1702 à 1781 (Villard); Un bulletin d'expédition pour travailleur civil dans la zone des étapes du nord de la France en 1914-1918 (Flotte); Correspondance microfilmée pendant la deuxième guerre mondiale (I) (Giletto); Mirecourt pendant la Poste cantonale dans les Vosges 1870-1871 (Lasserre); Les fusiliers-marins dans les Flandres en 1914-1918 (I) - Leur périple d'après leur correspondance (Tassin & Van Dooren); Quand le courrier voyageait en sacs (Kiener); La procuration d'un prisonnier de guerre en 1914-1918 (Facq); Les marques administratives et de franchise des poudreries nationales 1900-1945 (Berthier).

France and Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 314 (Vol 69 N° 4, Oct 2013): The Era of the French Colonial Group Type: Reunion - From Nowhere to Nowhere, Maybe Not Completely, But Still..... (Grabowski); Free French Military Cover (Rasmussen); 1997 Recalled 5f Airmail: A Modern Rarity (Taylor); Two Overprint Errors on 1924 Algerian Stamps (Rasmussen); Gleanings From the Group Type: In Search of the Elusive Items (Grabowski); A Quadruple Censorship Cover From Martinique (Stevens); Design Flaw, Corrected [1958 Tunisia] (Rasmussen); New Issues [July-September 2013] (-); From Nowhere to A Small French City [Djeneien, Tunisia to Autun, France, 1906] (Rasmussen)

INDEX TO VOLUME 63, 2013

Compiled by W G Mitchell (N^{os} 1 - 3) and M S Tyler (N^o 4)

Pages	Issue N ^o	Whole N ^o	Dated
1 - 36	1	267	March 2013
37 - 76	2	268	June 2013
77 - 128	3	269	September 2013
129 - 176	4	270	December 2013

PHILATELIC ITEMS

(Longer items indicated by *;

articles describing exhibits at Autumn Stampex 2013 by †)

Alsace-Lorraine (and Moselle)	
— Letters with Certificate of Delivery (R and B Abensur) [M S Tyler in report of Charlecote weekend]	72
<i>Après le Départ</i>	
— 1934 Airmail cover from the Gambia with boxed <i>Après le Départ</i> strike (E J Mayne)	118
Aviation (see also under French West Africa)	
— † <i>Ligne Noguès</i> – France to Indo-China (J N Hammonds)	86
<i>Ballon Monté</i> — see under Siege of Paris	
<i>Bathyscaphe Archimède</i> 1963	
— FDC and dates of record dives (J Moisala, M S Tyler)	169
Belgian Congo	
— Postal Relationships between Belgian Congo and French Congo (comments on article by Philippe Lindekens published in Journals 264, 265 and 266, June, September and December 2012) (E J Mayne)	66
Blind Literature	
— †Blindman's Mail for France & Colonies 1822–2008 (G H Fryer)	83
— †The 1 Franc <i>Cécogramme</i> Rate (M L Bister)	110
Bogus items — see under <i>Pétain de Bersier</i> , Siege of Paris, Syria	
<i>Boîte Mobile</i> — see under Moveable Box	
Booklets — see under Red Cross	
Boulanger, General — see under Labels and Vignettes	
<i>Cameroun Français</i>	
— <i>Cameroun Français</i> 27.8.40: the “+10c” Trial on the 90c Elephants stamp (D R Cobb)	168
<i>Cécogramme</i> Mail — see under Blind Literature	
Censorship — see under Cilicia, Madagascar	
Cérès — see under France (Classics)	
Cilicia	
— French Occupation of Cilicia: censor marks and stamp usage with earliest dates seen (request for information) (R Bradford)	119
Cinderellas — see under Labels and Vignettes	
Czechoslovakia — see under World War II	
de Gaulle — see under <i>Pétain de Bersier</i>	
Egypt (Post Offices)	
— Post Offices in Egypt - query ((J E Cruttenden)	167
Essays — see under Great Britain	
France (Classics)	
— †Classic France 1849-70: The Splendour of Louis Napoleon III, Development of the Definitive values (P G Mackey)	102
Franco-Prussian [German] War (see also under Siege of Paris)	
— †The Franco-Prussian War & its aftermath (C S Holder)	84
— When did these wars start? (A J Wood)	164
French Colonies — see under individual Colonies, also Blind Literature and Red Cross	
French Congo (see also under Belgian Congo)	
— French Congo unknown cds ... Dombo query (P S Watkins)	31
— Reply to the above (M de N Ensor, P S Watkins, E J J Grabowski, W G Mitchell) [N'Dombo, Gabon]	63
French Somali Coast	
— An overview (report of display by M L Bister) (M S Tyler)	67
French West Africa	
— †French West African Airmails to 1939 (Ms B M K Priddy)	106
Gabon — see under French Congo	
Germany — see under Great Britain	
Great Britain (see also under Siege of Paris and Postal Tariffs)	
— †French Postal Relations with the United Kingdom and Germany 1939-45 (R E Reader)	89
— Joint UK – France Stamp 1940 (Query) (N Greenbaum)	31
— Answer to the above (M S Tyler)	31
— Further comments (R E Reader, M L Bister)	65, 114
— †U.K. (London) Late Fee mail to France 1840-1939 (P S Watkins)	94

Group Type of Colonies	
— *Professor A Victor Segno, a note of explanation (E J J Grabowski)	142
Indo-China — see under Aviation, World War II (interzone cards)	
Internment Camps	
— *French Internment Camps – Drancy (Seine) (D J Richardson)	5
— Stiefel, Albert (D J Hogarth) [assistance to internees]	121
Interzone Cards — see under World War II	
Italy — see under World War I	
Labels and vignettes (see also under <i>Pétain de Bersier</i> and Red Cross)	
— †French Cinderellas (F Kiddle)	100
— *The Boulanger Affair (P R A Kelly)	139
Legion of French Volunteers – see under World War II	
Madagascar	
— †Madagascar Censor Marks: Civil Censorship 1942-1945 (C W Spong)	107
<i>Marianne de Muller</i>	
— † <i>Marianne de Muller</i> (M L Bister)	98
Maritime Mail (see also under Belgian Congo, Siege of Paris)	
— †French Transatlantic Mail 1783-1869 (S R Ellis)	82
— †Réunion Maritime Postal History: Messageries Impériales/Maritimes 1864-1896 (P R A Kelly)	104
Martinique	
— †Martinique Postal Rates from 1830 to 1890 (B A Brookes)	103
Military Mail — see under World War II	
Missent Mail — see under Postal Services	
Moveable Box	
— †The Moveable Box Service (G Booth)	81
“Mrs Simpson letter” — see under Siege of Paris	
Napoleonic Wars — see under Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars	
Napoleon types — see under France classics	
New Hebrides –	
— New Hebrides card in code query (S J Luft)	113
— Comment – Pitman’s shorthand? (M S Tyler)	113
— Comments on stamps used on the card (E J Mayne)	165
Paris	
— †Paris – the District Offices 1863-1876 (C J Hitchen)	87
Pasteur type	
— * <i>Le Type Pasteur</i> , the 75 centimes blue (Yvert 177, SG 400) (W G Mitchell)	147
— †The Pasteur Definitive (S R Ellis)	99
<i>Pétain de Bersier</i>	
— †The IF50 <i>Pétain</i> (M.L.Bister) [Resistance de Gaulle propaganda vignette noted]	97
Postal Services (see also Postal Tariffs)	
— Folded business cards (G H Bowden) [M S Tyler in report of Charlecote Weekend]	75
— *French Telegrams (A J Wood)	N° 4 i, 135
— Missent Mail (M L Bister)	115
— † <i>Type Sage</i> 1876-1900: Registered and Insured Mail (P R A Kelly)	88
Postal Stationery — see under World War I and World War II	
Postal Tariffs (see also under Martinique)	
— An Alternative Service UK to France (J M Simmons, M S Tyler)	170
— Tariff of Nivôse An 4 (R and B Abensur) (M S Tyler in report of Charlecote Weekend)	72
Red Cross (see also under Réunion)	
— *90 Years of Red Cross Booklets, Parts 2, 3, 4 (J C West)	11, 51, 155
— †The French Colonies – The Red Cross 1914-1918 (J C West)	108
— †The Red Cross Tracing Service – Reply Labels [World War I] (J C West)	95
Réunion (see also under Maritime Mail)	
— †Réunion – The Red Cross (J C West)	109
Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars	
— †France 1789-1814: Revolution and War (P Rooke)	91
— †The Napoleonic Post in the Southern Adriatic 1808-1813 (H A Smith)	92
Sage (Peace and Commerce) Type — see under Postal Services	
Segno, Professor A Victor — see under Group Type of Colonies	
Siege of Paris	
— <i>Ballon Monté</i> – genuine? (D Sherwin)	29
— Reply to the above (the Mrs Simpson letter) (M P Brindle, A J Lawrence)	64
— *“Cluedo”: A Whodunnit? from the Siege of Paris (A J Lawrence)	149
— *Franco-Prussian War 1870-71: The Siege of Paris Interrupted Mail: Packet Services to and from Calais and Dieppe, A New Look at an Old Issue (P G Mackey)	41
— Comments on the above (S Fairchild, T F C Waterman, P G Mackey)	115, 116

Sowers

- A Rather Special Postcard (A J Lawrence) [postcard of *La Semeuse* written and autographed by Oscar Roty, the engraver]61
- †The Sower Issue (A J Lawrence)101
- Unusual Sowers (A J Lawrence)118

Stiefel, Albert — see under Internment Camps

Syria

- Syria Overprints (E J Mayne, comment on article in Journal 266, December 2012) [uncatalogued surcharge, or bogus]28
- Further Comment (S Fairchild)28

Togo

- †French Occupation of Togo – 22 August 1914 to 20 July 1922 (E J Mayne)105
- *The Gold Coast – type cancels of Togo, 1916 to 1950? (W G Mitchell)48
- Comment on the above, mainly about Agomé Palimé (E J Mayne)116

United Kingdom — see under Great Britain and Postal Tariffs

World War I (see also under Cilicia, Red Cross, Réunion and Togo)

- †French Military Postal System in World War I (M S Tyler)93
- *Italian Forces in France in World War I with particular reference to Italian Auxiliary Troops (T.A.I.F.) (D H Trapnell)20
- †World War I Patriotic Postcards (A J Wood)96

World War II (see also under *Cameroun Français*, Great Britain, Internment Camps and *Pétain de Bersier*)

- A Ban-Breaking Cover from France to the United Kingdom in 1943 (R E Reader)166
- Airmail Interzone Cards – *corrigendum* [to article in Journal 266, December 2012] (R E Reader)29
- †Czechoslovak Army in France 1939-40 (R E Reader)90
- Interzone Cards to and from Indo-China [query] (R Bentley)32
- Answer to the above (R E Reader)34
- Further comment (M L Bister)120
- *Legion of French Volunteers (A Cautionary Tale) (G H Bowden with comments by R E Reader)8
- When did these wars start? (A J Wood)164

LISTS OF MAGAZINE ARTICLES AND BOOKS NOTED

Articles from Philatelic Magazines – Lists of Titles (C W Spong & M S Tyler) 36, 76, 79, 120, 133, 172

Books noted (M S Tyler, P L Grech*, S Smith**, R E Reader***, D H Trapnell****)

- ACEP (pub) — Catalogue des entiers postaux des colonies françaises, bureaux français à l'étranger et territoires occupés ou sous mandats, Millésime 2014163
- Aka, M — Villacoublay–Pauillac, 15 octobre 1913 – Naissance de la poste aérienne en France: Histoire de la première liaison aéropostale N° 2 iii
- Albaret, L (ed) — Pierre-Georges Latécoère: Correspondences (1918-1928)80
- Baudot, F — Catalogue des losanges petits et gros chiffres de France 1852-1876 N° 1 iii
- Benziane, K, Lindekens, P & Sanchez, T — Maghrebophila N°s 1-3 [electronic PDF only]163
- Chabot, J-C — La poste ferroviaire en Franche-Comté des origines à nos jours N° 2 iii
- Daulard, M P — Les Postes du Front de l'Est 1941-1945, y compris les courriers des légions européennes de la Waffen SS 163
- Duvivier, M-A & C-J — Île de la Réunion, Emissions locales: Les chiffres-taxe provisoires de 1889, Faux et copies (annexe de tome III) N° 1 iii
- Île de la Réunion, Emissions locales: Tome III, Les chiffres-taxe provisoires de 1889163
- Felten, R von — Les Centres d'Instruction des militaires belges dans le Nord de la France 1914-1918 N° 1 iii
- Gethin, R G — Fakes and Forgeries of 20th Century French Postage Stamps (2006) [Special Offer]163
- Grech P L — *The French Post Offices in Egypt, Part 1 (before 1876)47
- *The French Post Offices in Egypt, Part 2 (1876-1931)134
- Gudenkauf, Abbé G — **Belgian Congo: Mailboat Steamers on Congo Rivers and Lakes (1896-1940) – Postal History & cancellations (Cockrill Series Booklet N° 43)66
- **Mailboat Services from Europe to the Belgian Congo (1879-1922) (Cockrill Series Booklet N° 41) ...66
- Henri, C — Le courrier prend les airs: L'aviation postale intérieure au milieu du XX^e siècle N° 2 iii
- Leccese, Gr — France I, Unadopted Proofs and Essays 1917-1931; France 2, Unadopted Proofs and Essays 1933-1934; France 3, Unadopted Proofs and Essays 1935-1936; France 4, Unadopted Proofs and Essays 1937-1940; Monaco, Unadopted Proofs and Essays80
- Reader, R E & Kay, G K — ***Aleksander Stocki Enigmatic Philatelist (2nd edition)80
- SoCoCoDaMi (pub) — Cote des Coins datés et des Millésimes: Timbres libellés en francs, 75^e édition 2013 N° 2 iii
- Dates d'impression: Erreurs et Anomalies N° 1 iii
- Les "Marianne de Lamouche" – les tirages en feuilles, les tirages pour carnets N° 1 iii
- Trapnell, D H — ****The Postal History of French Forces in Tunisia 1900-1920 & the South Tunisian Campaign 1915-1917 (Society's Brochure N° 9)80, 134
- Yvert et Tellier (pub) — Catalogue de cotation des Timbres de France de 1849 à nos jours, Tome 1- 2014163
- Yvert et Tellier (pub) — Catalogue de cotation des Timbres de Monaco et des territoires français d'Outre-Mer, Andorre, Europa, Nations Unies, Tome 1bis – 2014163

SOCIETY NOTES

Annual General Meeting — Advance Notice	2
Awards — Geoff Gethin Award	N° 3 iv
— Awards Gained by the Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society	131
Auctions — Lots illustrated (S R Ellis)	N° 1 iv
Belgian Congo Study Circle — offer of publications (S Smith)	66
British Thematic Association — Increased scope	40
Club Books for Sale	131
Displays to Other Societies	38, 131
— Appeal for Speakers	40
Exhibition Successes	38, 78, 130
Exhibitions — Autumn Stampex 2013: Photographs (M L Bister)	132, N° 4 iv
— President's Message (J C West)	132
— Society's Keynote Display	3, 4, 40, 78
— Society's Lunch	39
— Midpex 2013	3, 38
— 13th New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition 2013	69, 122
Future Events (Group Meetings)	2, 38, 78, 130
Journal — Awards at 13 th New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition 2013	69, 122
— Charlecote Weekend 2012 – correction to report in Journal 264, June 2012	40
— Correction to Journal 267, March 2013	40
— Correction to Journal 268, June 2013	131
— Distribution – new Organiser	2
— Editorial	78, 130
— New Editor appointed (report of AGM)	126, 128
— Society's Literature Award, 2012	38
— Special Edition to act as unofficial catalogue of Keynote Exhibition, Autumn Stampex 2013	78
London Group programme 2013	2
New and deceased members, and resignations	2, 38, 78, 130
New Website	3
Northern Group programme 2013	2
Obituary — Herendeen, D. (M S Tyler)	2
Scottish Congress 2013	2
Wessex Group programmes 2013, 2014	2, 131

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

(*indicates an illustrated report)

Annual General Meeting

11 May 2013	*Society's Annual General Meeting, Calthorpe Arms (M S Tyler)	122
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Annual Philatelic Weekend

15-17 March 2013	*Society's 37th Annual Philatelic Weekend (M S Tyler)	70
(Note – some items in this report are included under Philatelic Items)		

Autumn Stampex Meeting

21 September 2013	P R A Kelly: Aspects of the Postal History of Soudan and Niger (P R A Kelly)	172
-------------------------	--	-----

London Group Meetings

20 February 2013	M L Bister – French Somali Coast (M S Tyler)	67
(also included under Philatelic Items)		
17 April 2013	J N Hammonds – Aviation Mk III (M S Tyler)	69
17 July 2013	*C W Spong – A Study of Madagascar Censor Marks, Part I, (C W Spong, M S Tyler)	N° 3 iii
16 October 2013	R D Larg: An Evening of French Philately and Postal History (M S Tyler)	171

Northern Group Meetings

13 October 2012	G E Barker – The Cérès Issue of 1871-1876 (C S Holder)	35
9 March 2013	M Meadowcroft – A Varied French Selection (M Meadowcroft, M S Tyler)	68
13 July 2013	*Bastille Day – 9 short displays (G E Barker, C S Holder)	N° 3 iii

Wessex Group Meetings

2 February 2013	A J Wood – Aspects of Algeria; 12 short displays (P R A Kelly, A J Wood)	35
29 June 2013	C W Spong – Rail and Mail in Madagascar; 6 short displays (P R A Kelly, A J Wood)	128
16 October 2013	P R A Kelly: Type Sage 1876-1900 - Aspects of Maritime Mail (P R A Kelly, A J Wood)	171



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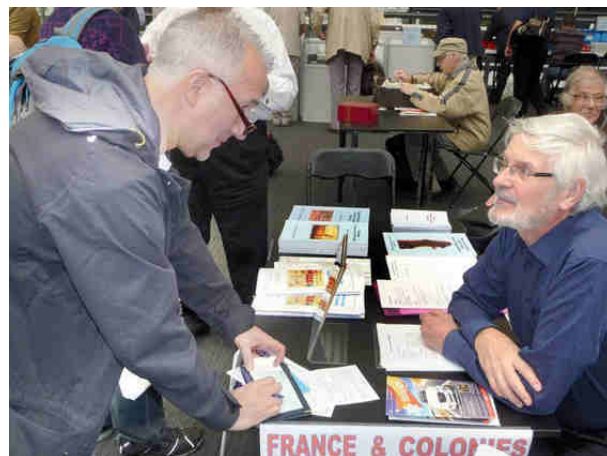
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Autumn Stampex 2013

Photographs by Mick Bister: see also page 132



Steve Ellis handles enquiries
at the Society stand



Howard Fisher welcomes
new member Jonathan Guy



Gavin Fryer admires
the special edition of the Journal



Gathering round the Society table



Lunch at the Côte Brasserie



Peter Kelly's presentation
in the Executive Centre