

# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



A trial postmark applied at Office 1, Place de la Bourse,  
on a pneumatic card redirected to Pontoise in June 1880,  
is one of many fine district office items shown to members by Chris Hitchen  
at the October meeting of the London Group.  
For the full report of the display 'Paris District Offices 1863 to 1878', see page 143.

Volume 65 ● Number 4  
December 2015  
Whole Number 278

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

**Society Website: [www.fcps.org.uk](http://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 General Secretary.

**2015-16 Annual Subscription Rates**

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

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

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**The Journal**

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The price is included in members' subscriptions.

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**Auction and Exchange Packet Sales**

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

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

The Society's substantial library, as detailed in the Library List (2004) originally distributed to all Members but now available in PDF format on the Society website, is being disposed of, with members having the first opportunity of acquiring certain items in an auction.

**The Magazine Circuit**

The Society subscribes to two French philatelic magazines, and has circuits organised for those who wish to read them. For further details contact the circuit organiser:

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\* \* \*

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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## SOCIETY NOTES

### Editorial

You will recall seeing in the *Palmarès* published in the September edition of the Journal that one of our members, Claire Scott, was awarded a *Grand Vermeil* for her exhibit in the Open Class at London Europhilex. Compared to the Traditional and Postal History Classes, the Open Class is a relatively new concept in competitive exhibiting and I doubt if many members are familiar with the nature of this innovative discipline. In response to this, member Héloïse Mitchell who is a judge in Open Class philately, has written an invaluable guide to the subject (see pages 117-127) which will not only enlighten us all but perhaps tempt other members to adopt this multi-faceted method of collecting.

Also in this edition is the first part of a highly authoritative article on *Valeurs-à-Recouvrer*, the French debt collecting service, written by member Edwin Voerman. This is possibly the first time that such an in-depth article on the subject has been published in English and we are indebted to Edwin for sharing his expertise with us.

Please continue to send items for publication to:  
m.bister@btinternet.com.

**Mick Bister**

Our apologies to members for the very late arrival of the last issue of the Journal, due to circumstances beyond our control. It was ready for printing at the very beginning of September, and whether the extremely long delay before dispatch was the responsibility of the Post Office or the printers or both is uncertain.

**Maurice Tyler**

\* \* \*

### New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome 1445 Constanze Dennis of Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions.

\* \* \*

### Members Deceased

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of four of our members: 1145 Peter Whiting, 903 Alan M B Piggott, 608 J D Underdown and 708 Francis Kiddle. We offer our condolences to their respective families.

\* \* \*

### Future Events

The next **London Group** all-day meeting will be on Saturday 6 February from 11.00am to 4.00pm at the Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8JR. In the morning Barbara Priddy will be giving a display entitled 'West African Aviation (Part 1)': this is a change to the advertised programme. The afternoon will be available for members to show a selection of their own material particularly their new acquisitions and projects.

The next meeting of the **Wessex Group** will take place at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham at 10.30am on Saturday 20 February. The invited speaker is Steve Ellis who will give displays on 'Cross-Channel Mail' and 'The French Ambulance'.

The next meeting of the **Northern Group** will take place on Saturday 16 April 2016 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm at Broom Methodist Church, 195 Broom Lane, Rotherham S60 3NW and members are invited to bring their own displays. For further information please approach our President Steve Ellis, whose contact details are on page ii.

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### F&CPS Library

To update members on the disposal of the Society library, we can report there was a good response to the special February auction which raised a total of £1934 (although post-auction sales will take that figure up to £2000), but a considerable number of books remained unsold. Of these, almost a hundred titles were sold for £400 to the Royal Philatelic Society London to which were added journals and auction catalogues as a donation. Since then more new books have come to light. These will be offered in future auctions of the Society, starting with February 2016, and a selection will be available at some Society meetings and on the bookstall at Charlecote.

The following books are offered for sale at only £5 each (plus postage, or free delivery via a meeting). They cover the activities of a single *département* – Allier (3), Bouches-du-Rhône (12), Côte-d'Or (20), Côtes-du-Nord (21), Creuse (22), Ille & Vilaine (34), Isère (37), Manche (48), Nord (57), Pas-de-Calais (61), Sarthe (71), Var (78) and Yonne (83). First come first served, from Steve Ellis; contact details are on page ii.

\* \* \*

### Appeal for Webmaster

Can we remind members that we are still looking for someone to relieve Maurice Tyler as webmaster. Our website is going to play an increasingly important role in our Society as the internet does in all walks of life and we need someone to take over the responsibility of managing it.

We require a member with reasonable IT skills who could, *inter alia*, transfer images and PDF files to the website, edit and update existing texts and register new members to the Forum. Basically, it amounts to keeping the contents of the website up-to-date. If training or assistance were required this would be provided by Maurice or by a third party. If you are interested in taking on this essential role please contact Maurice at editor@fcps.org.uk who will be able to provide you with further information.

\* \* \*



## Displays by Members

The following members contributed displays to Marcophile XXXIX, held at Auvers-sur-Oise on 17-18 October 2015:

**Chris Hitchen:** Les bureaux spéciaux à Paris 1790-1850

**Peter Kelly:** La courte vie des «petits» timbres verts au type Sage de 1876 au 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1878

\* \* \*

## Thank you

After 45 years of contributing to the Society's packets John Mayne would like to offer his thanks to current and past Packet Secretaries for their tireless assistance and unstinting efforts and to members who have found his wares attractive. John was himself a Packet Secretary for ten years and fully appreciates the invaluable work that is being undertaken by the present incumbents. Unfortunately, John will no longer be able to maintain the level of his current contributions but hopes to be able to offer some material on a reduced scale until he celebrates his 50 years of membership.

This is a reminder from John that none of us are getting younger and if the Packet service is to survive we cannot rely on the Society's stalwarts to give of their time and energy for ever. If you are able to assist in these posts or can offer help in the running of the Society in any other way please contact the appropriate officer. May I also draw your attention to Chris Hitchen's comments on the enclosed 2016 Subscription Renewal form regarding the current range and level of services.

Mick Bister

\* \* \*

## List of Magazine Articles

For many years we have been publishing titles of articles in other magazines that may be of interest to our members and then storing those magazines in our library where they could be accessed by post or even in person. With the much regretted death of our long-serving librarian and the loss of the storage space he had afforded us, the library has had to be dispersed and that access is unfortunately no longer available.

However, several committee members have volunteered to store a few each of the more recent copies of those magazines listed in the pages of the Journal for at least 12 months, so that they can be made available to any member interested in reading a particular article. If therefore you spot a certain article that you would like to read, first contact the Editor who will put you in touch with the appropriate person to make arrangements for postage of the magazine or a photocopy of the pages concerned. As an example, Colin Spong reports that the following 2015 journals are available to members for the cost of postage only:

*Col.Fra* Issues Nos 152 & 153

*The Collectors Club Philatelist* May-June, July-August, September-October & November-December

*Documents Philatéliques* 15 April and 15 July

*The Indo-China Philatelist* Scan of the Contents page for May 2015, September 2015 and November 2015.

Earlier issues of all these items are of course available for consultation at the Royal Philatelic Society London.

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## BOOKSHELF

### Books Noted

*Carnets de France période de 1940 à 1965 et des Colonies françaises jusqu'à l'indépendance* by Lucien Coutan, Jacky Girard & Patrick Reynaud, pub Yvert & Tellier; 547pp 21 x 27cm; price 95€ + p&p; available from Y et T, 2 rue de l'Étoile, CS 79013, 80094 Amiens Cedex 3. [4<sup>th</sup> volume of Y&T specialised catalogue on booklets, listed, described and valued, for France and Colonies 1940-1965.]

*À la Guerre... malgré moi !* by group of historians in SHPTA (Société d'Histoire de la Poste et des Télécoms en Alsace); price 25€ + p&p; available from Musée de la Communication, des Postes, des Transports et des Télécoms, Château, 68340 Riquewihr or website www.shpta.com. [Letters and photos from those forced to work for German army; includes functioning of the *Feldpost* and mechanism of postal censorship.]

*Les Postes dans La Grande Guerre* pub l'Adresse Musée de La Poste; 60pp 20.5 x 21cm; free from the museum or email [parcours.virtuel@laposte.fr](mailto:parcours.virtuel@laposte.fr) [Booklet accompanying the travelling exhibition on WWI postal services, paying homage to 75000 postal workers mobilised in the conflict, 4000 of whom died, the recruitment of many women, and

funds raised through Red Cross charity stamps for those bereaved or injured.]

*Catalogue de Timbres de France 2016* pub Spink/Maury; price 24€90; available from Spink, 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 4ET or email [book@spink.com](mailto:book@spink.com); or ebook from Kindle etc, price 17€50. Sterling price unknown.

*Les ateliers et centres de tri en France: Étude des timbres à date modernes (de 1950 à 2014)* by Patrick Lavenas, pub Union Marcophile; 350pp A4; price 40€ + p&p; available from Evelyne Gauge (trésorière-adjointe de l'UM), 100 impasse du Serpentin, 38110 Saint-Clair-de-la-Tour or email [evelyne.gauge@sfr.fr](mailto:evelyne.gauge@sfr.fr) [Definition, history and siting of sorting offices followed by detailed study of handstamps and machine cancels including GARE, CENTRALISATEUR, DEPART, ATAM, CT, CTA, CTC, CENTRE DE REGULATION, CTE, CTM, PFM, PFC etc; over 2750 date stamps including those with a ROC code, of which over 2500 are illustrated, and all are listed by *département*, fully described with known years of usage and valued according to rarity; the latest abbreviations are listed and explained; there is a glossary and a bibliography.]

Maurice Tyler

# LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

## **Bulletin de la COL.FRA**

N° 153. 3<sup>ème</sup> Trim 2015: Les Cachets de Douane du Territoire de Memel [1920-1923] (Pineau); L'Emission 1906 de La Réunion (Fontaine); Les Enclaves Françaises de Forcados et Badjibo (Hurpet); La Guyane, un Pays Sage (Bessaud).

## **Cameo**

Vol 16 N° 3 2015: The Stillborn issue of Cameroun - A critical Examination (Bratzel); 1915 Stamps of Anglo-French Occupation Forces in Kamerun: 2014 listing in 11 ed of SG Catalogue Pt 7 Germany & Colonies (Maddocks); A review of Quirky Frankings on Mail from Duala, Occupied Cameroon, in WWI (Maddocks).

## **L'Écho de la Timbrologie**

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

N° 1898 Sept 2015: La champagne océanographique MD 200 LOGIPEV (Venturini); Partis et hommes de Gauche (Grosse); Des presses temporairement affectées aux Marianne (SoCoCoDaMi); 1857-1869: première Convention postale entre la France et les États-Unis [1] (Treviso); Le Foyer de Cachan fête ses cent ans (Albaret).

N° 1899 Oct 2015: L'idée européenne (Grosse); 1857-1869: première Convention postale entre la France et les États-Unis [2] (Treviso); Les débuts de la TA 64 [TAAF] (Venturini).

N° 1900 Nov 2015: Les Carnets de France [1940-1965] et des colonies (Girard, l'ACCP); Les Journées du Poilu (Grosse); Dumont fait des merveilles - TAAF (Venturini); Étienne Clémentel, un ministre des Postes atypique (Albaret); C'était la Fête du Timbre (Even et Guillaume).

## **France & Colonies Philatelist**

Whole N° 322 (Vol 71, N° 4) 2015: Philately & International Mail Order Fraud: Professor A Victor Segno and the French American Colonies (Grabowski); Cameroun Money Order Card - information and insight - plus Two New Cameroun postmarks (Bratzel); Examples of Incoming Mail for Territoire de l'Inini (Edinger); Group Type Die and Proofs (Tillard); He paid WHAT to mail that letter? - a Brief Study in Currency Conversions (Bratzel).

## **Gibbons Stamp Monthly**

Vol 46 N° 6, Nov 2015: The Postmarks of Benin: Part 1 (Pertwee).

## **The Indo-China Philatelist**

Vol 45 N° 4 (Whole N° 219) Sept 2015: Service Intercolonial d'Information et de Documentation, Paris (Bentley); Census of Viet-Cong & North Vietnam Issues (Telep); Unlisted Perforation varieties for Vietnam Issues (Kollmann); Scott N° 477 on Commercial Cover (Gebhardt); Binh-Long [An Loc] Commemorative Stamps of 1972 (Miller).

Vol 45 N° 5 (Whole N° 220): Nov 2015: Lao usage of Military Franchise Stamp (Bentley); Vietnamese Re-Education Camps after the fall of Saigon (Gebhardt); Campaign against Illiteracy in Early North Vietnam (Düring); Political Censorship in Stamps (Moallem); More about Revenue Stamps from Quang Tri Province (Wiart).

## **Timbres Magazine**

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

N° 170 Sept 2015: Lyon, huit fois capital (VS-B); Ces terres françaises oubliées (Toulemonde); Janvier 1860, à la poursuite de la persévérante, Episode 1 (Veglio); Quelques timbres fameux que l'on doit à Georges Hourriez (Nowacka); Suez: des timbres éphémères (Toulemonde); Sous les pavés, La Pote (de Pellinec); Les variétés de la 1<sup>re</sup> colonne du panneau D5 du 25 centimes Cérès dentelé au type II (Marion); J'ai dansé avec Mistinguett (Zeyons); Les relations postales franco-danoises (Prugnon); Les timbres d'Oubangui-Chari-Tchad 1915-1922 (Singeot).

N° 171 Oct 2015: Les 1f50 Avion survolant Marseille, enfin de « vrais » P.A. pour la France (de Pellinec); Ces terres françaises oubliées (Toulemonde); Le retour de l'héliogravure: un projet envisagé dès 1956 [Daniel Gonzague, designer] (Gomez); De l'aérodrome à l'aéroville (Rucklin); Les faux jumeaux (de Pellinec); 1942: l'hommage des Français aux ruines de Palmyre (Chauvin); Du Chili à la Polynésie française (de Pellinec); Les Deux Petites Postes de Paris (de La Mettrie); Amis je viens d'avoir 100 ans! (Zeyons); Une pénalité annulée (Prugnon); Les timbres des Etablissements français de l'Océanie 1915-1921 (Singeot).

N° 172 Nov 2015: Comment collectionner les usages courants modernes? [1] Impressions diverses (Rucklin); La poste navale embarquée (-); Les prémices de l'offset (Gomez); 1+2=2.. pour une fois - Le dispositif français des TVP (Vailly); Lettres expédiées en port-dû, mais distribuées en port-payé (de La Mettrie); L'âge moderne des expéditions polaires (Toulemonde); Est-ce que c'est grave, docteur? (Zeyons); Du kreuzer au décime (Prugnon); Les timbres de Canton 1908-1919 (Singeot).

## **Les Feuilles Marcophiles**

N° 362 (Sept 2015): 1915: aider les orphelins des P.T.T. (Albaret); AACP - Le fonctionnement de l'entreposeur en gare d'Angers (1867-1876), 2<sup>e</sup> partie (Chouteau); La carte d'abonnement à la réexpédition, 1<sup>re</sup> partie (Pleinfossé); Histoire de la double relation postale du Principat d'ANDORRA, ch. I, 2<sup>e</sup> partie: L'établissement d'un bureau de poste français à Andorra-la-Vella le 19 septembre 1882... resté sans lendemain (Dupré); Étude sur les premières cartes des Routes de Poste, réseau de la Poste aux Chevaux (Barrère); Conseils d'affranchissement sur la route de l'Île d'Elbe (Courtois); Timbres «T» (taxe à payer) (Guillard & Abensur).

Continued on page 133

# Open Philately

Héloïse Mitchell

## Introduction

Having been a judge in the Thematic and Open Philately classes at the Irish national stamp exhibition held in October 2014, it struck me and my fellow judges that exhibitors were not very clear on the differences between the two classes and that some of those entering for the first time were making basic errors that detracted from their exhibit and obviously affected their overall marks.

With a view to rectifying this situation we decided to hold an all-day seminar on these two classes and scheduled it for Saturday, 9 May 2015. It would include shorter papers on the rules and regulations for both classes, the practical aspects of mounting an exhibit and the tools of the trade, sourcing material via the Internet and using the computer to enhance your exhibit. These presentations had to cater for both more experienced collectors and complete beginners who had never displayed or exhibited before.

When I attended the France and Colonies week-end at Charlecote in March 2015, I was struck by the number and range of non-philatelic items in some of the displays and how much they added to the postal history and postmark aspect. This prompted me to adapt my Open Philately presentation (then in course of preparation) for an article in the Journal that might encourage more people to consider Open Philately as a form of collecting and exhibiting.

### What is Open Philately?

Open Philately allows the collector and exhibitor to include non-philatelic material from other collecting fields. An Open Philately exhibit may be structured on a Thematic or Postal History basis as they are considered to be the only two classes that lend themselves to this way of collecting. The most popular form of Open Philately by far is the thematic type of exhibit, which should develop the chosen subject in an imaginative and creative manner.

A study of philatelic or commercial items, such as telegrams, postcards or greeting cards, does not qualify as Open Philately. Such collections should be entered under Postal History sub-class C, which covers material connected to the postal system.

### Why and when did Open Philately start?

Open Philately came about because a number of collectors and exhibitors wanted to move away from what they perceived as a very rule-bound Thematic Philately, principally in what material is allowable. Its aim was to draw new collectors and exhibitors into the fold and also to encourage more people to look at exhibits. The good news is that the number of Open Philately collectors and competitive entries is increasing every year, as is their standard.

This form of collecting and exhibiting started in the 1990s as Open Class in Scandinavia, the Display Class in the USA and Social Philately in the UK, Australia and New Zealand. It was recognised as an experimental class by FIP at the 2002 Congress in Singapore. Renamed Open Philately, it

was accepted as a discipline in its own right at the Congress in Jakarta in 2012 where the '*Guidelines on Judging Open Philately*' were approved. These were used for the first time at the international exhibition in Melbourne 2013. The aim of the guidelines is to help collectors and exhibitors to improve and develop their displays and exhibits and to assist the judges.

The fact that Open Philately has at last been officially recognised means that an Open Philately exhibit that gets 85 points or more at a FIP exhibition can now show eight frames at any international exhibition since that held in Jakarta in June 2012. Previously, all Open exhibits were restricted to five frames, even when Large Vermeil and Gold medals were obtained.

### Introductory/title page

All Open Philately exhibits must contain an introductory/title page (Figures 1 and 2) and it is strongly recommended that this be confined to one page only. In fact this is becoming the norm for all classes in many internationals. It is the 'make-or-break' page of your exhibit, for on this will depend whether you are selected as an exhibitor, particularly at international exhibitions which are almost always oversubscribed. The plan page is worth ten points in Open Philately and is the key step in communicating your story.

The Introductory/title page should show:

**The title.** I suggest using a nice font for the actual title so that it stands out and catches the eye of the judges. It is often a good idea to use a different font to that used on the rest of the plan page.

**The aim of the exhibit**, what I call the catalogue description, e.g. '*A brief history of coaching days and coaching ways in Great Britain and Ireland during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries*'.

**Relevant general or background information** on your subject, i.e. an expansion of the catalogue description.

**A plan.** This normally has fewer sub-divisions than a thematic plan and should be a logical division of the topic in chapters (with sub-sections) to give the judges and the public an idea of what they will see in the exhibit and in what sequence. As far as possible, it is best to avoid sub-chapters with one page only. Do you need a numbering system as is strongly recommended in thematics? This is a matter of personal choice and exhibitors vary in which route they take. The plan should not contain any philatelic chapters or sub-headings. Examples mentioned in WEJ van den Bold's '*Handbook of Thematic Philately*' are 'Christmas stamps', 'Christmas postmarks', 'Commemorations', 'Centenaries', 'Jubilees', 'Meter marks' and 'Errors on stamps' as they do not add anything to the development of the story. The material in these philatelic chapters should be used where it best fits into the story. Where items commemorate events that took place earlier, e.g. the 1989 Philexfrance issues for the French Revolution, they must be used to tell the story of the Revolution.



## *“The Coach is Coming, Clear the Way!”*

The exhibit is a brief history of coaching days and coaching ways in Great Britain and Ireland during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The importance of the Coaching Age is evidenced by the mark it has left on both postal and social history and by the fact that so many of the terms, laws and practices introduced during that period are still in use today. The exhibit illustrates the vital role played by coaching in the transport of passengers, parcels and letters. It shows the extent to which the coaching industry was dependent on human skill - in building, driving and guarding the coaches, on horse power - in the strength and stamina of the horses, and on how well the roads were built and maintained.

Prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> century the mails were carried by foot-post, horse-post and mail cart. The public stagecoaches of the time were slow and cumbersome and did not provide a comfortable ride for passengers. In the 1750s lighter and faster stagecoaches were introduced. In 1784 came the mail coach, which was a stagecoach adapted to carry His Majesty's Mails, four inside passengers and an armed guard.

### **Introduction and Plan**

#### **THE COACHES**

Building the Coaches  
Running the Coaches  
The Bianconi Car

#### **THE HORSES**

Breeding and Buying  
Tending and Harnessing

#### **COACHMAN AND GUARD**

Driving the Team  
Guarding the Coaches

#### **THE ROADS**

Early Roads and Highwaymen  
Turnpikes, Tolls and Better Roads  
Routes and Services

#### **PASSENGERS AND INNS**

Carrying Passengers  
Inns and their Role

#### **FROM ROAD TO RAIL**

Advent of the Railway  
Coaching Comes to an End

### **Personal Research**

When tracing the sources from which the design of stamps and other material was taken, **the exhibitor found design errors and changes to original designs which appear to be unrecorded.** This research enabled many of the paintings on stamps to be identified. Interesting historical facts on coaching were found by studying the text of the letters and documents in the exhibit and by researching local history in many publications and on the internet. The wide range of material shown includes some rare and unusual items and interesting postal history.

### **Bibliography**

"Bianconi, King of the Roads" (Bianconi & Watson, 1962)  
"Stagecoaches & Carriages" (Ivan Sparkes, 1975)  
"Stagecoach" (John Richards, 1976)  
"Royal Mail Coaches" (F Wilkinson, 2007)  
"England's Postal History to 1840" (Willcocks, 1975)

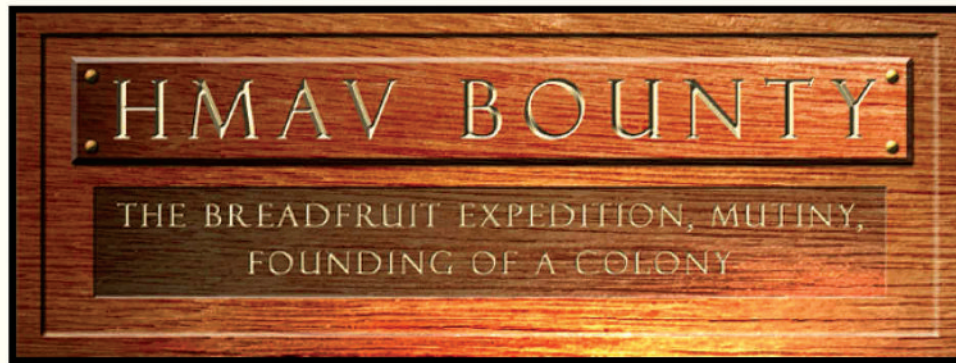
### **Conventions**

Story-line text and captions  
*Philatelic information*  
**Non-philatelic information**  
Discoveries (design errors and others) are highlighted in grey

Figure 1

The classic format of title, aim, background information, introduction and plan, personal research, bibliography and conventions





On 23 December 1787 a vessel departed the south coast of England on a mission to Tahiti to transplant breadfruit to Jamaican plantations. But a mutiny on the ship has immortalised the incident and is one of the most infamous events in maritime history.

The exhibit is a chronological narrative, from the expedition proposed in 1783, mutiny during the voyage, and establishment of the world's smallest colony on Pitcairn's Island by the Bounty mutineers whose descendants still inhabit.

This display consists of philatelic material including scarce printer's proofs and essays, and other items such as illustrations, maps, and engravings several of them contemporary.

Bibliography:

- A Voyage To The South Sea: *W. Bligh (1792)*
- Bounty Armed Transport: *John McKay (2002)*
- The Bounty: *Caroline Alexander (2003)*
- The Pitcairn Islands Study Centre

## EXHIBIT PLAN

Introduction & plan page

<b>1. <u>Background of the expedition</u></b>	<i>pages</i>
1.1 Sir Joseph Banks and the Breadfruit	(3)
1.2 William Bligh: Navy career	(5)
1.3 Fletcher Christian and Peter Heywood	(2)
1.4 Bounty and crew	(3)
1.5 Voyage to and landing on Tahiti	(3)
<b>2. <u>The Mutiny and aftermath</u></b>	
2.1 Mutiny on the ship	(3)
2.2 The open boat voyage to Timor	(4)
2.3 Royal Navy pursues mutineers	(3)
<b>3. <u>Pitcairn's Island and Norfolk Island</u></b>	
3.1 Bounty under Fletcher Christian	(3)
3.2 Bounty lands on Pitcairn's Island	(3)
3.3 Fate of the mutineers on Pitcairn	(3)
3.4 Mutineer John Adams	(3)
3.5 Discovery of the community	(2)
3.6 The migration to Norfolk Island	(1)
3.7 Early descendants of the mutineers	(3)
<b>4. <u>The Bounty's legacy</u></b>	
4.1 Bounty's Anchor	(2)
4.2 The depictions in film and literature	(3)
4.3 Modern replicas of the vessel	(2)
4.4 Pitcairn's Post Office and School	(2)
4.5 Pitcairn's Island today	(4)

Figure 2

This plan page is from an Irish exhibit

The title itself appears carved on a raised section, with the sub-title shown titled 'HMAV Bounty' fulfils all the criteria required.

The treatment of the title is interesting as it is displayed in a computer-generated graphic design, evocative of the ship's wooden structure on an apparently inset piece below it.

Very cleverly, the exhibitor has used the sub-title headings as the chapter headings in the plan.

**An indication of personal research.** Many exhibitors are confused about how to indicate personal research on the plan page. It is usually accepted that a short bibliography is enough to indicate what personal research has been done. This is particularly important when the exhibitor has written books or articles on the subject he is exhibiting. It also indicates to the judges where they can obtain additional information on the theme before judging takes place.

Personal research can also be shown by pointing out any information not previously recorded that you have personally discovered through your own research, but only in so far as room on your plan page permits. Otherwise make reference on the plan page to the fact that you have made discoveries and, possibly, include the specific details on a separate synopsis page, often referred to as a "brag" sheet. This page is for the judges only and does not appear as part of the exhibit. It can include additional information on personal research, a list of the highlights and anything that you feel will show the judges that it is a great exhibit, though one wonders how many judges ever read such pages. It is good to highlight discoveries on the actual pages so that they are noticed by the judges.

**A short bibliography.** Four to six book or article titles would probably be enough.

**Conventions.** Optionally, you may also include an indication of how you are distinguishing between philatelic, non-philatelic and story-line text.

Because the amount of information that needs to be included on the introductory page can take up a lot of space, it is quite in order not to include an illustration if you do not have room for one. Thematic exhibitors often like to show a prized non-philatelic item on their plan page because it is the single page on which they are allowed to do so.



Figure 3 Beware of using sets or a repeated design

## The material

Open Philately is the only philatelic discipline in which original non-philatelic material *must* be used. This provides exhibitors with the opportunity of enhancing their philatelic items with a variety of unusual ephemera and of using their imagination and creativity.

The **FIP Guidelines** state:

*"Open Philately seeks to broaden the range of exhibiting and to allow philatelists to include objects from other collecting fields in support of, and in order to develop, an understanding of the philatelic material shown. It provides an opportunity to present the range of research undertaken by showing the philatelic material in its cultural, social, industrial, commercial, or other context and to show wider and deeper knowledge of the topic."*

The philatelic material must be at least 50% of the exhibit, but it can be more. The non-philatelic material may be anything up to 50%, so it can be less, if desired.

What does "50% of an exhibit" mean?

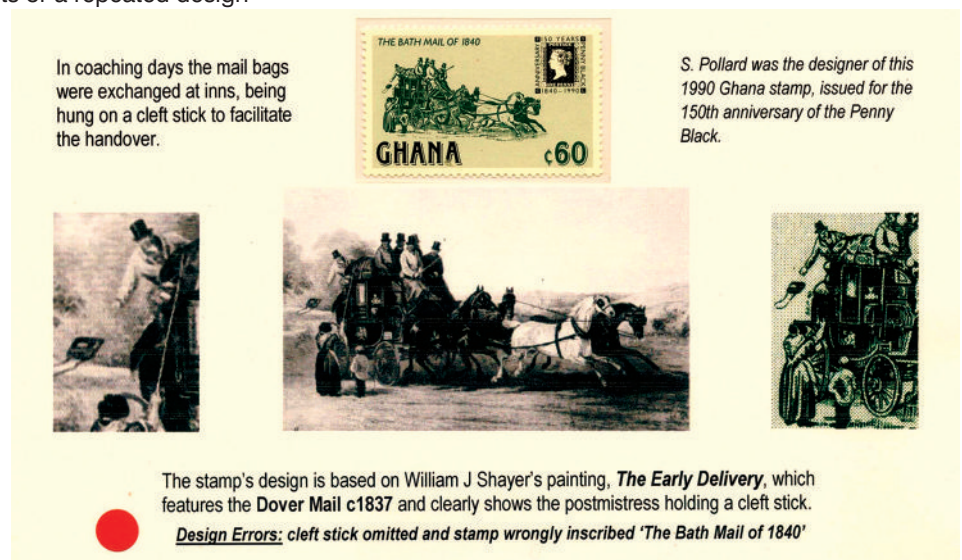
It does not mean counting the number of philatelic against non-philatelic items or measuring how much space the items occupy on each page. One sheet may consist mostly or entirely of philatelic material, while another shows all or mostly non-philatelic items. It is the overall view when looking at a frame and at the whole exhibit that counts, and neither should overwhelm the other - there should simply be a balance.

## Philatelic material

All the philatelic material must be original, and scans and photocopies cannot be used unless they reproduce the front or back of an item included in the exhibit. Such scans should be at least 25% less (or 25% more) than the original.

You must be prepared to break up sets of stamps and other material and use only those relevant to your theme, placing them in the correct chapter according to their design. Use only one of each design (Figure 3), and if you need to use an item twice, show it in some other format.

Figure 4  
The non-philatelic material, including photographs, should be original as far as possible. If you want to show a map, or a part thereof, or a depiction of an original painting to show a design error on a stamp, you can use reduced scans to make these points.





### Non-philatelic material

The range of non-philatelic material available (Figures 4 and 5) is very extensive and its variety will influence the judging under "Treatment" and "Material". The inclusion of socio-historical documents and prints can give a more accurate picture of the subject shown and make the collection or exhibit varied and attractive. If such collections were exhibited as a thematic, one would have to depend largely on modern material - the special postmarks, stamps and souvenirs issued maybe 200 years after the event. This would be very restrictive and you would lose points under the "Rarity of Material" heading.

Due to the large size of some non-philatelic items, such as prints and newspapers, mounting them on A3 pages can be the only way of displaying them, and some exhibitors

prefer to use A3 for their whole exhibit. Another solution is to use 1½ A4 pages (29.7 x 28 cm), three to a row, but it would be better if the whole exhibit were done on this size of page. Judges do not like covers placed diagonally or upright on a page but this can be solved by using pages of the sizes mentioned above.

As it is often extremely difficult for judges to assess the rarity of both the philatelic and non-philatelic items because there is no register for much of this material, it can be helpful to indicate which items are rare, special or exceptional. You can do this by putting small sticky labels beside the item (see Figure 4), though too many detract from the look of the exhibit, by framing the text or by using computer-generated symbols. The system you use should be explained on the introductory page.

#### 5.3 Barley and harvesting

The guide told us more interesting facts about barley that we didn't even think about, even though we consume it in beer on a daily basis. We managed to remember some things.



This is what a grown barley ears looks like.



Anton is our oldest member in still remembers how he as a child watched others at the barley harvest.

*Swiss postal stationery from the year 1920.*



The merchant will only buy quality barley for malt.

*Meter stamp, Czechoslovakia, 1936.*



Barley grows in nearly 100 countries on all continents.



Larger producers had farming equipment for theharvesting of grain.



*Copy of the back side - Swiss postal stationery from the year 1920.*



Very primitive tools were once used even with barley.

Figure 5

On this page from the exhibit 'Lads, Let's Grab a Pint!' by Veni Ferant of Slovenia, we see an actual ear of barley, an excellent non-philatelic item. It is worth noting that the philatelic material is very relevant to the text. This exhibit was awarded a Gold medal at London 2015 in May.



The following are examples of non-philatelic material (Figures 6-18). In selecting such items, note that they

must not exceed 5mm in thickness, otherwise it will not be possible to close the frame.

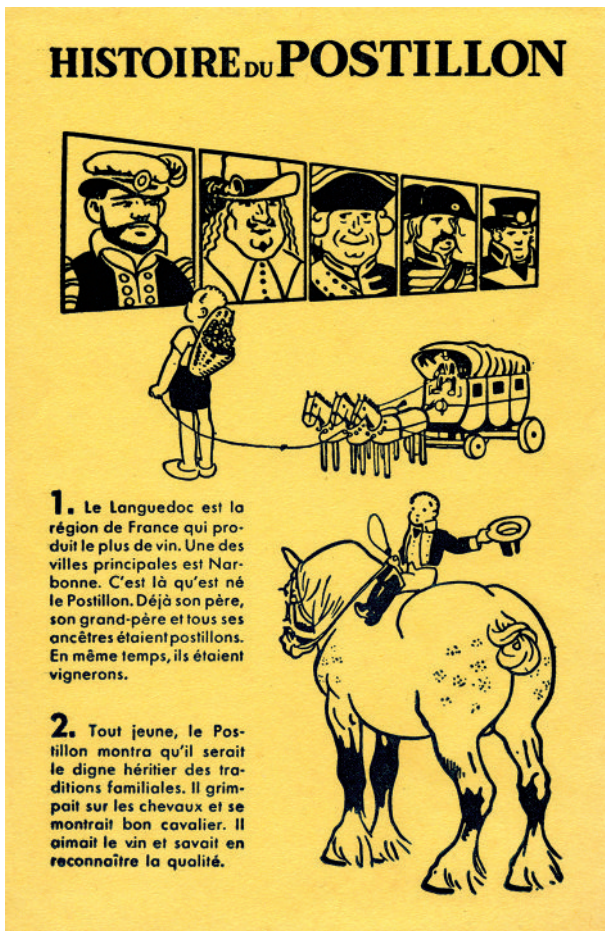


Figure 6  
Blotting Paper:

You could also use mouse pads and advertising flyers



Figure 7  
Medals and Awards: On the left is the Legion of Honour, with the 1914/18 War Cross in the centre and the 1914/18 Inter-Allied Victory medal to the right.



Figure 8  
Calendars: This publicity card with calendar was produced by La Poste.



Figure 9  
Advertising Bags: These unusual items can contribute to your story.





Figure 10

**First Day Covers:** If the illustration on a cover or FDC fits into your theme, it can be used in a non-philatelic context even though the stamp and postmark have no relevance.

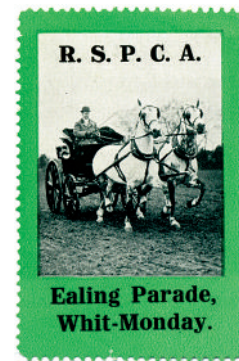


Figure 11

**Seals and Labels:** such items provide huge scope on a variety of topics.



Figure 12

**Admission Tickets:** This entry ticket to the Moulin Rouge in Paris dates from 1958.



Figure 13

**Cards:** This four-sided card showing a hansom cab was hand made using cut-out US postage stamps.

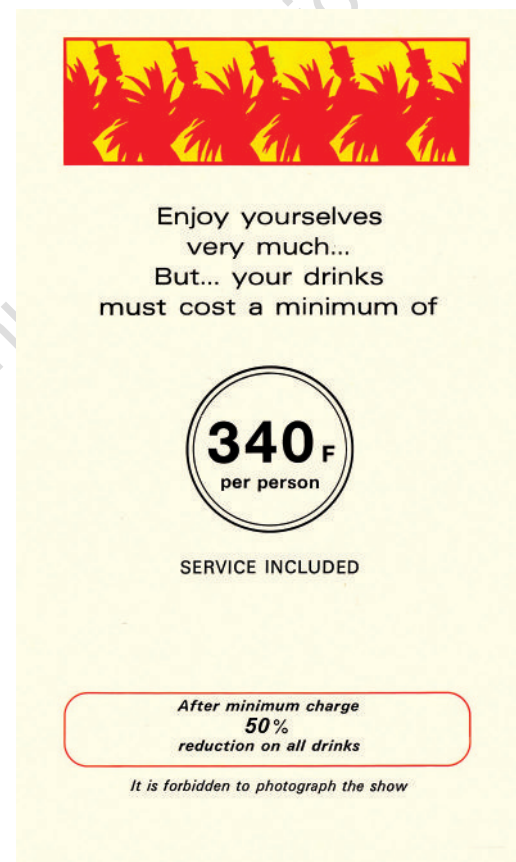


Figure 12

**Admission Tickets:** This entry ticket to the Moulin Rouge in Paris dates from 1958.



Figure 13

**Cards:** This four-sided card showing a hansom cab was hand made using cut-out US postage stamps.



Figure 14

**Phone Cards:** This phone card could be used to illustrate telecommunications, Paris or sport.



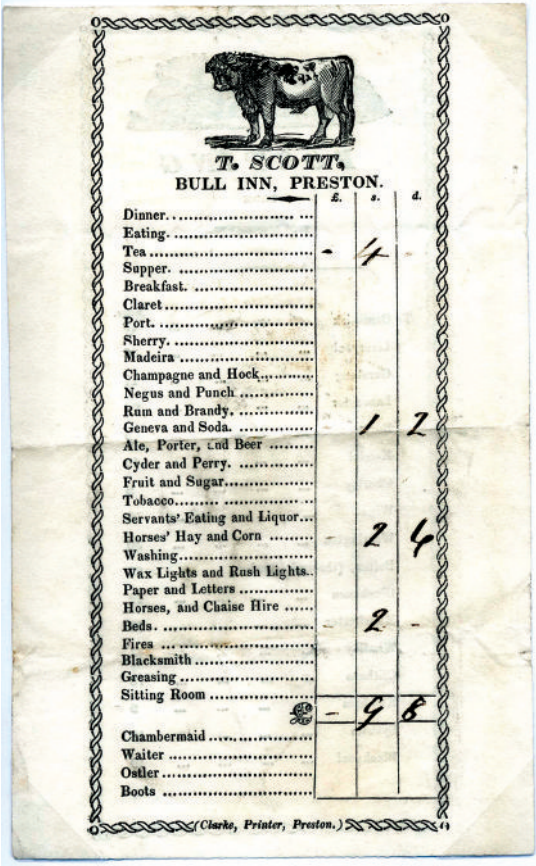


Figure 15

**Invoices:** Illustrated and non-illustrated invoices can be used for their illustration or for the establishment which issued them.

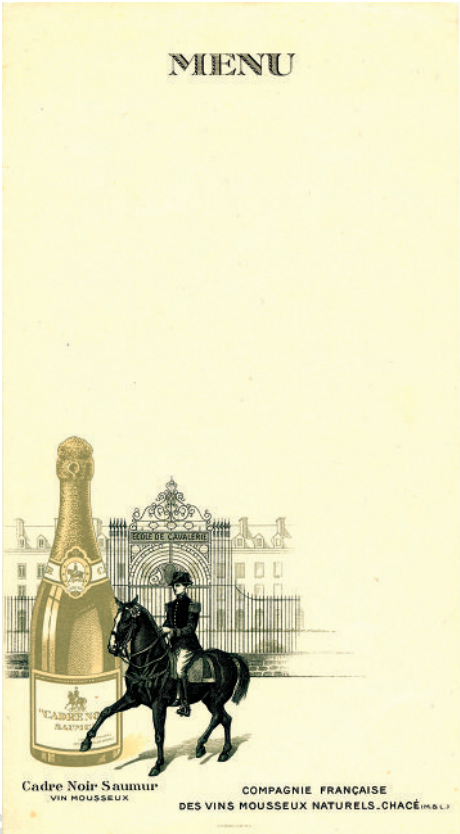


Figure 16

**Menu Cards:** These can be blank, as is the case here, or show the actual menu.



Figure 17

**Prints:** This very fine print comes from the 'HMAV Bounty' exhibit.

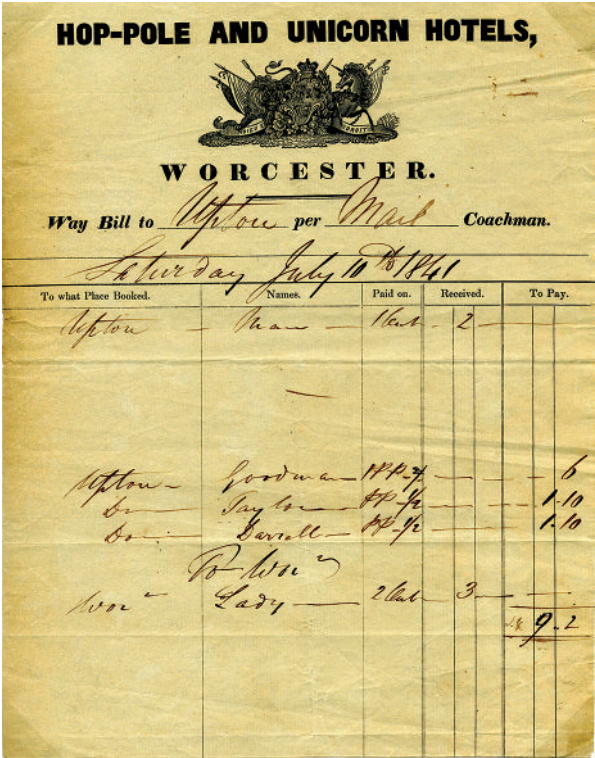


Figure 18

**Way Bills:** This type of invoice is a good addition to my Coaching exhibit.



This list is by no means complete. You can also use autographs, the contents of letters, maps, newspapers, serviettes, beer mats and wax seals, to mention but some of the possibilities.

### The text

Never show the title of the exhibit on any page other than

the plan page. The chapter headings and sub-headings you use in the plan should be reproduced at the top of the pages in exactly the same wording (Figures 19a and 19b).

It is best not to use too small a font for your story-line. The philatelic and non-philatelic description of items can be in a smaller font.



Figure 19a

This is the first of two pages from the exhibit 'The Importance of Lace' by Margareta von Bahr of Sweden, herself a lace-maker, reproducing the headings as shown in her plan.

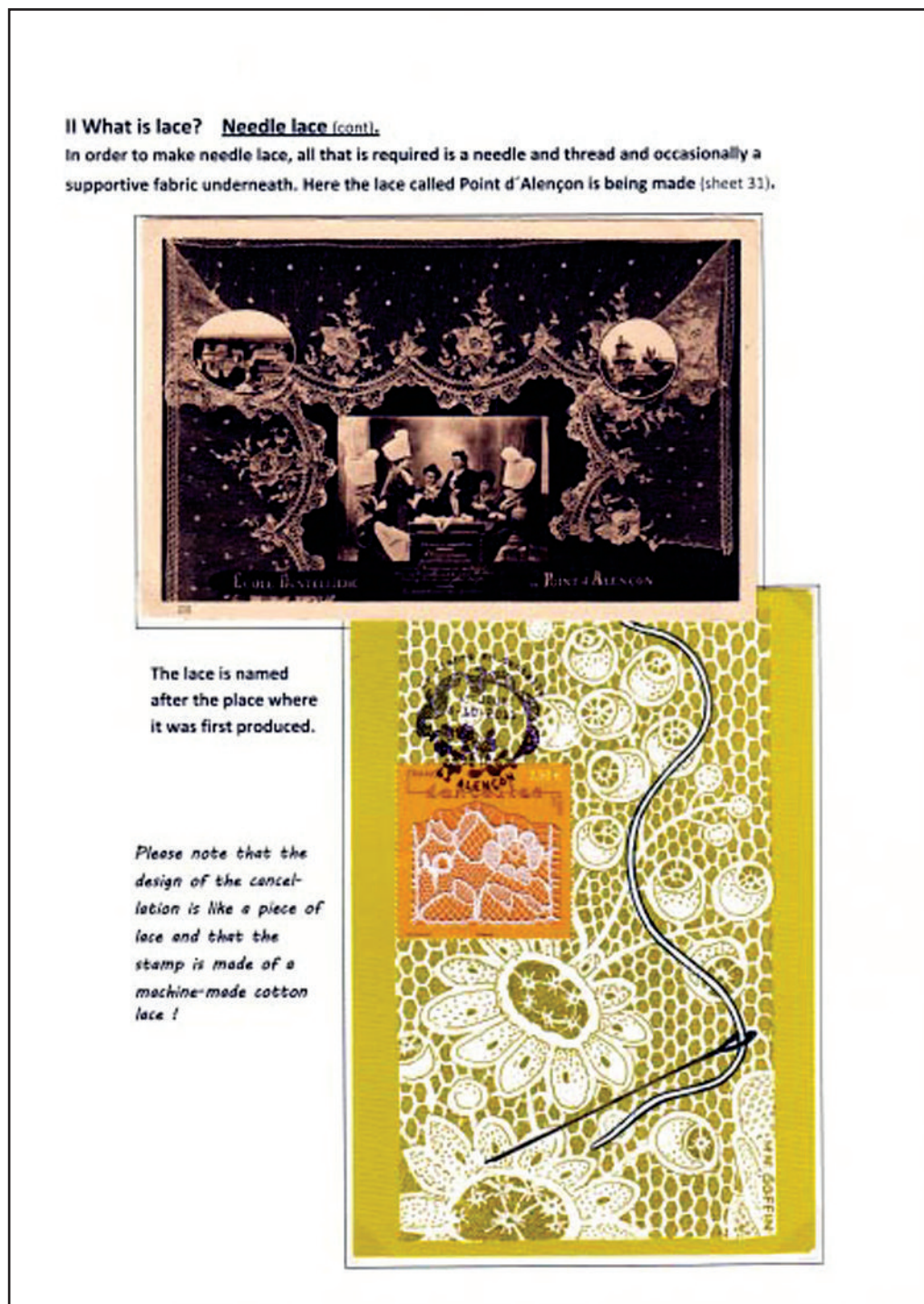


Figure 19b

The second page of 'The Importance of Lace' has an extra sub-heading to show that it deals specifically with needle lace. You can always add further sub-divisions for clarity, and even if you are using a numbering system these third-level headings do not need to be numbered

Philatelic items must be described as they would be in a Thematic Philately exhibit. Judges prefer a different font for the philatelic information and recommend the italics version of the story font (Figure 20). The non-philatelic items must also be identified and described. Some judges prefer a third font for this so that they can distinguish philatelic from non-philatelic information at a glance as they must assign separate marks to each.

The marking system in Open Philately differs from that used for a thematic exhibit. Note that Knowledge and Research carries 35 points in Open Philately and is shown by your text, choice of material and how you use this material. Of these 35 points, 20 points are given for philatelic knowledge and 15 for non-philatelic knowledge, which makes the non-philatelic aspect very important.



## 5. ...WHERE WE FIND OUT THAT THERE IS NO BEER WITHOUT BARLEY.

## 5.1 Barley

Before the tour of the first part of the brewery our guide spoke to us about one of the most important ingredients - barley. Some of us knew about it but had no idea how important it was in the beer brewing process; so we listened to the guide with great interest.

**INŠTITUT ZA HMEĽJARSTVO IN PIVOVARSTVO SLOVENIJE** • Oddelek za rastline, tla in oke  
Slovenian Institute for Hop Research and Brewing Žalskega tabora 2, 3310 Žalec, Slovenia Tel. / 00386 / 03 / 71-21-600, Fax : / 00386 / 03 / 71-21-620  
Slovenisches Institut für Hopfenbau und Brauereiwesen

**REZULTATI KEMIČNE ANALIZE TAL IN NASVETI ZA GNOJENJE**

Naročnik analize : Nataša Ferant  
Lastnik parcele : Nataša Ferant  
Naslov : IHPS  
Kultura oz. raba : travnik  
Število vzorcev : 1  
Datum vpisa vzorca : 23.10.2005  
Datum izpisa rezultatov : 25.10.2005

**REZULTATI KEMIČNE ANALIZE :**

Lab.št.	Glob. (cm)	Oznaka vzorca	pH v KCl	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> * mg/100 g tal	K <sub>2</sub> O* mg/100 g tal	Org.snov* (%) težka tla/lahka tla
2055/05	0-20	Travnik	5,2	6,1 B	31,3 C	-

\*ob številčnih vrednostih so črkovne oznake stopenj založenosti tal s hranili / z organsko snovjo :

Navodila sestavila :  
Dr. Dušica Majer, univ.dipl.ing.agr.

Multiple factors for a great and quality yield are involved. First, farmers have to find out what soil quality they have.

The results of soil analysis from Slovenian Institute for Hop Research and Brewing, 2005.



It's also important that the barley is sown correctly and on time. Farmers used to do it by hand. Meter stamp, Austria, 1935.



It's very important to choose a quality seed...



...because the crop is depended on the quality of seeds.

Machine cancellation, Germany, 1943.



Other types of grain were used beside barley.

Booklet with 10 stamps, Sweden 1979.

Figure 20

This page from the exhibit on beer shows the philatelic information in italics and the non-philatelic information in a different font to that used for the story text.

## Conclusion

Here are my two tips when writing up a collection:

**Be consistent** and always do things the same way, e.g. how you write headings, dates, measurements, etc.

**Check the text of each page** after printing and before mounting (or even better, print in rough first, especially if you are using expensive paper) so that you do not waste time and materials

when you discover a mistake and have to remount.

I myself find Open Philately an interesting, if challenging, way of collecting because it requires some knowledge of all types of material. It has enabled me to use the treasures forbidden in Thematic Philately and encouraged me to hunt for additional unusual non-philatelic items.

# *Valeurs-à-Recouvrer* (Debt Collection Service)

Edwin Voerman

## Introduction

This following article is intended to show how the *Valeurs-à-Recouvrer* or 'debt collection service' operated in France and to explain the 'rules of the game', rather than showing a collection with the most exotic items (postage stamps and covers) or the *Valeurs-à-Recouvrer* stamps themselves. A thorough understanding of the functioning of the postal service gives more meaning to the postage stamps which we meet as collectors, even when looking at the most basic 'back of the book' stamps. The debt collection service ran smoothly due to the implementation of specific rules and regulations, the use of special service envelopes and forms and specific postage due stamps. This shows how this section of the postal services functioned and allows a unique insight into the service. Based on the literally translated meaning of the word philately ('love for the stamp'), describing a specific form of a postal service such as *Valeurs-à-Recouvrer* helps to understand the mechanisms behind philately in general.

## Part 1

### *Service des Recouvrements* explained

The *Service des Recouvrements* in French is simply known as 'debt collection' in English and '*Postauftrag*' in German. It concerns the collection of commercial debts.

Providing goods or services without immediate payment creates a debt relationship between the buyer and the seller. In a way, the seller provides credit to the buyer. An agreement can be made between the buyer and seller on the settlement of the payment, such as timing and the way the payment will be handled. In the past when there was no agreement on immediate payment for international trade, the debtor would sometimes write a note which stated the date on which the amount due would be paid. In domestic commerce, where the buyer and the seller are physically distant from each other, an undertaking to pay (in French, a *promesse*), would be signed where the buyer promised to make payment at a given time to a company or person as set out in the acknowledgement whilst also including a commission for the bank. Clearly, the bank needed to have confidence in the debtor or in the debtor's bank. In the event of non-payment, it had to be possible to recover the amount that was paid in advance by the bank. As interesting as debt negotiation is in itself, this is outside the scope of this article.

The practice of deferred payment created a need on the seller's side to call in the undertaking at any given moment. It was not until 1918 that France, as one of the last countries in Europe to do so, offered the option of opening a *Compte Chèques Postaux* (CCP) account which allowed for direct inter-bank transactions for the transfer of money. If required, the creditor could immediately have

his collected debt(s) added to his account.

The *Service des Recouvrements* has clear rules, but is not readily understandable to everyone because the used postage due stamps are often placed in the 'back of the book' section, which means that they are relatively unknown. This requires a thorough understanding of the process in order to master the subject. For some this creates a barrier, for others who like a challenge this serves as an extra spur to really understand the subject. Moreover, you have the field almost to yourself!

### A brief history of the collection service

The use of the postal service to provide a service dealing with invoices and debts for collection was highly appropriate given its network of offices throughout the country and its reputation in the handling of anything that had monetary value. For centuries, the postal services had been used to facilitate payments. In 1817, the *Mandat de Poste* (money order) was already available for postal users. In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the use of this method of payment really began to grow substantially. At the post office, the debtor would buy a money order for the amount he owed to the seller. He would pay that amount to the post office plus the current handling charges in force at the time. The post office would proceed to send the money order to the office of the beneficiary. The latter would be invited to present himself with identification at the office of payment and would be able to choose cash or from 1918 have it paid into a CCP account.

But not everyone could or wanted to pay instantly. As a consequence of the increased need for credit by the public, the National Assembly in 1848 had already formulated a proposition to create a post office debt collection service. However, the Assembly rejected this proposition arguing that banks already provided this service. The rapid development of the economy over the next 25 years including trade on a greater scale than hitherto led to a steep increase in the demand for credit by the wider public. Banking could not meet these increased demands as banks did not have any offices in the rural parts of the country. The postal services however made deliveries and collections even in the smallest villages on a daily basis. Both banks and individuals alike had been using the postal services for some years to collect invoices based on a circular dating from 1860, which allowed individual postmen on their own initiative to carry out such requests without incurring any liability on behalf of the post office itself.

Clearly this could not continue indefinitely, as the increased volume of invoices for collection posed an ethical dilemma. In addition it was impossible to continue to ask these post office employees to provide services they were not contracted to deliver as that could lead to a conflict of interest.



On the initiative of Adolphe Louis Cochery (1819-1900), Minister of Posts and Telegraphs (from 5 February 1879 until 30 March 1885) a decision was reached which resulted in the



Figure 1 Adolphe Louis Cochery

creation of an official debt collection service (Figure 1).

From 7 April 1879, the post office in France was officially given the task of collecting the amount due on invoices or any other kind of paper which held any monetary value. The initial limit was set at 500 francs leaving more substantial amounts to be handled by the banks. This therefore meant that there was no obligation to make use of the postal service to collect all debts. The law went into effect on 15 June 1879. Initially it was intended to exclude some 40 larger cities and Corsica from the service. This restriction can be explained by the fact that the postal services did not have a monopoly on collecting invoices and did not want to interfere with the banks. But this seems a little unreasonable as banks themselves used the postal services for debt collection in rural areas. Most of the time the post office dealt with smaller debts. Within 3 months the new service was extended to the whole country and in 1880 the service was further extended to French offices in the Middle East.

In 1880, the service gradually expanded abroad, initially to Switzerland and Belgium on 1 May 1880. Then followed agreements with Luxembourg, Germany, the Netherlands, Romania and Sweden in the same year. Monaco was subjected to French domestic regulations. As of 14 June 1881, for the first time it was possible to formally sign a protest in the event of non-payment. This implied that the debtor could refuse to pay by declaring so in writing or by noting it on the paperwork. However this is beyond the scope of this article. Gradually, the service started to expand to other foreign offices. Interestingly, the collection service never really took hold in the colonies as non-payment there was rife. By contrast, the cash on delivery service (COD) performed much better due to the more flexible procedures for settling payments.

In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the services' activities quite quickly came to an end due to the rise of more effective and efficient money transfer methods for relatively uncomplicated transactions. For really complicated credit transactions commercial banks opened so called 'letters of credit' in favour of the buying party. The seller could only obtain his money after all conditions which were set out in these credit letters had been met. As soon as both the seller's and buyer's bank agreed that the transaction met all criteria, the bank would proceed to transfer money from the buyer's bank to the sellers' bank. The seller then eventually received the payment. These forms of transactions were too complicated for the post office to handle.

To begin with the development of the collection service had been quite successful. During the first year of the service in 1879, 423,000 invoices had been handled. By 1913, that number had risen to 24.5 million and it finally reached a peak in 1926 with 42 million invoices. After that the number dropped sharply to approximately 11 million invoices in 1945. In the years to follow, the number crept back to 17 million in 1954, but that appeared to be the last increase. The reasons can be found in the increased use of sending goods C.O.D. (cash on delivery), the increase in the use of CCP cheques, the development of CCP transaction forms and the rise of consumer credit with its regular monthly payments. Former large users of the collection service switched to use of the CCP and insurance and large trading companies began to provide credit themselves. Debt collection became a specialised activity, the preserve of firms able to deal with 'problematic cases'. More routine transactions are now done with more modern methods including such things as your smartphone! After 1970 few items can be found and by the end of 2005 one can conclude that the service had finally ceased to operate in France. The foreign debt collection service had already ended in 1981.

### Cash on delivery (C.O.D.)

In 1896, the means to send goods and receive payment by the use of cash on delivery (*Envois contre Remboursement*) had been added to the debt collection service (*Service des Recouvrements*). This basically provided the opportunity to receive goods after cash payment. The beneficiary, the seller, would receive the agreed amount from the post office less the costs incurred. This could then be added to his account or he could accept a cheque in settlement. This service followed the same rules as the debt collection service. The big difference between both services is of course that in the event of cash on delivery, there is no remaining debt still to be dealt with between buyer and seller. Delivery is only made after payment. This form of service still exists in France. For foreign countries this finished in 1976 due to lack of use. While there are strong links between cash on delivery and the debt collection service, the former lies outside the scope of the rest of this article.

### Debt collection procedures

If a person or trader wanted any debts and payments due to them to be collected by the post office they would complete a form supplied by the post office with details of all the amounts for collection and place it with all the bills involved in a special post office service envelope. To begin with there was a limit of 15 transactions with a maximum value of 500 francs per item. The person making the request would write their name and address on the envelope as well as the form, which he would then complete with details of the amounts involved. The sender's post office would send this envelope under compulsory registration to the nearest post office where the payments were to be collected. The postman then took on the job of collecting payment which had to be paid in full, they were not allowed to accept partial payments.

The completed form, after all the amounts to collect had been dealt with, would set out which bills had been paid, which ones remained open and which ones had to be

returned to the sender or forwarded to another location. Normally, the form would include a final settlement. After the first attempt had been made, or a second one if need be had been completed, the final settlement along with unpaid bills would be returned to the sender's post office again under compulsory registration. The post office would ensure that the claimant received all the unpaid bills that they had not been able to obtain payment for. From 1918, the sender could choose to have either the money collected credited to his CCP account or a cash payment. Many companies had a CCP account and many 1488 envelopes show the CCP account number of the beneficiary with the name, address and town of residence stamped on the front

of the envelope (Figure 2). The remainder of the payment process was not dealt with by the post offices. Obviously, the sender could opt for his payment requests to go through the service a second time, but ultimately, it was not the responsibility of the post office to ensure payment. They would make their best efforts but could not guarantee success.

### Forms and service envelopes for use in France

As the previous section on 'procedures' shows, the collection service had special envelopes and forms for use with this service, all of which will be described in the following sections.



Figure 2.

On the right hand side of the service envelope 1488 the creditor 'La Compagnie Singer' has already stamped its post office CCP account details for payment to them of collected amounts. The envelope has been sent from the office of Rochefort in the *département* of Charente-Inférieure, to sub-post office Genouillé in the same *département*. Genouillé was responsible for the debt collection process.

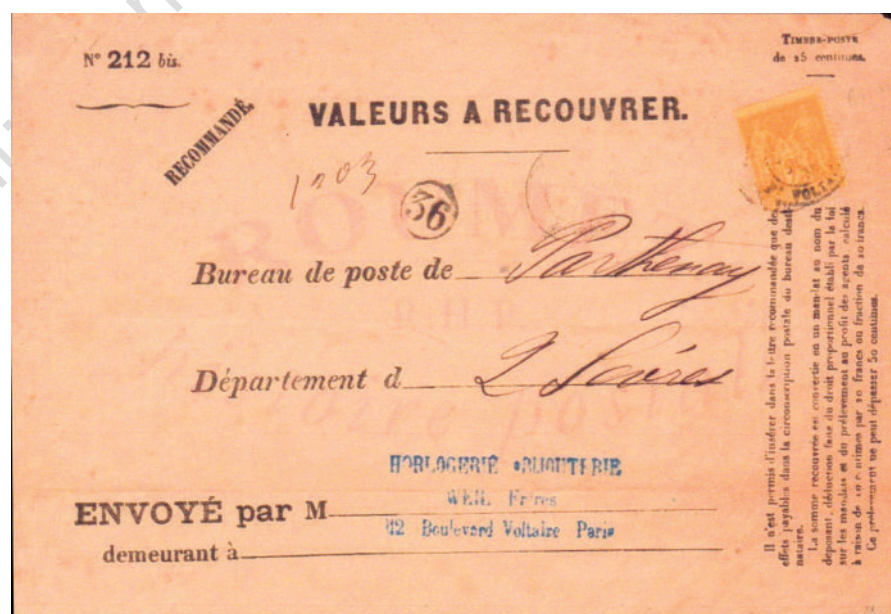


Figure 3.

Envelope 212bis to collect debts via the postal service pre-franked with a 25 centimes Type Sage stamp. This envelope was to be replaced by envelope 1488 in 1883.



### Service Envelope 1488 (previously known as 212bis)

This envelope has the heading '*Valeurs-à-Recouvrer*' (payments to be collected) for sending the payment requests and form (*bordereau*) to the office which would take on the collection of the amounts due. When the service started in 1879 anyone requiring payment could obtain an envelope 212bis (Figure 3) and a form 212 from their post office. Both were provided *gratis*, the envelope itself already franked with a 25c stamp to cover the standing charge in force until 1 January 1917. This corresponded to the registration fee for an inland letter from 16 January 1879. It was not until 1899 that pre-franked envelopes stopped being supplied. Instead, they were provided no longer pre-franked at a charge of 20 centimes for 50. The user now

had to stamp these themselves with a 25c stamp. In 1883 service envelopes 212bis and forms 212 were replaced with envelopes 1488 and form 1485.

### Service Envelope 1494 (formerly 214bis)

These envelopes have the heading '*Valeurs recouvrées*' (collected payments) (Figure 4). From the 1930s the wording was changed with two lines that now read '*Service des Recouvrements Règlement de Compte*' ('Collection service account settlement'). The envelope contained the unpaid bills and was sent from the debtor's post office to the sender's post office together with the original form, now annotated with the outcome for each item, and included the settlement due to the sender.

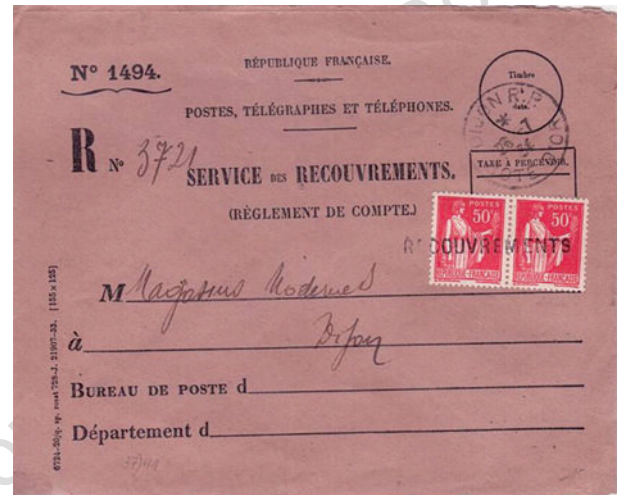
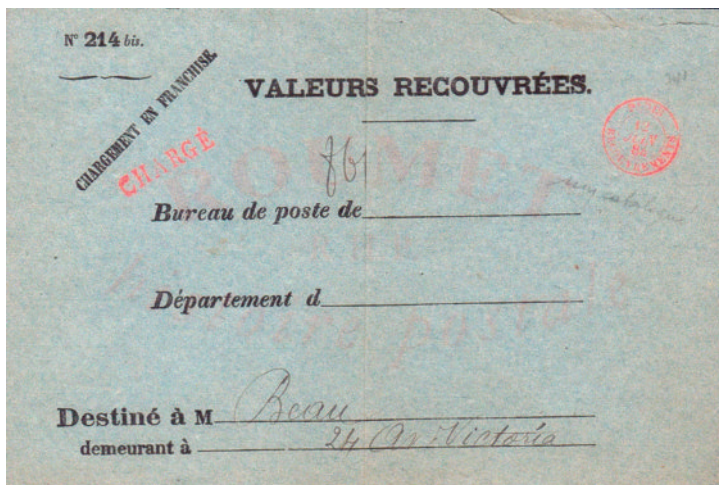


Figure 4.

Envelope 214bis (© Roumet) which contained the non-collected items and settlement details which were sent back to the office of the creditor.

This envelope was later replaced by 1494 (© Delcampe) with revised inscription.



Figure 5.

Paris Office XVIII has sent an officially registered letter 819 to the office in Le Mans, the office of the creditor.

The envelope contained two non-collected items.

The Paris office then wrote in red crayon 'Taxe 2F' on the envelope, the *droit de présentation* for the two unpaid invoices.

In Le Mans the office added two VAR stamps of one franc each, for return to the sender.

A handstamp R has been applied to indicate registration.





The form would therefore make two journeys. The first from the post office of the claimant to the post office of the debtor and then back again with the outcome of the collection process. (Figure 6).

### Storage of paperwork

The official envelopes 1488 which contained the amounts due for collection by the post office were retained. As the envelopes were of value this was an obvious precaution. Also, if anything went wrong in the course of the operation, the collection office had to be able to provide proof of the claims by producing the original envelope. Envelope 1488 would be opened by at least two officials. Banks operated

in exactly the same way and would retain correspondence for many years. To be quite sure that nothing was missed when opening these items they would often be opened on three sides in front of two post office clerks. For storage only the *front* of the envelope 1488 was kept and these were collected up on a daily basis for archiving (Figure 7). It is unusual to find these opened on just one side or retained intact as only the front was of interest and space was saved by only keeping these. Whilst collectors prefer complete items in this case one must be content with just the fronts although complete envelopes or those opened on only one side can be found and should justly be prized for their rarity.

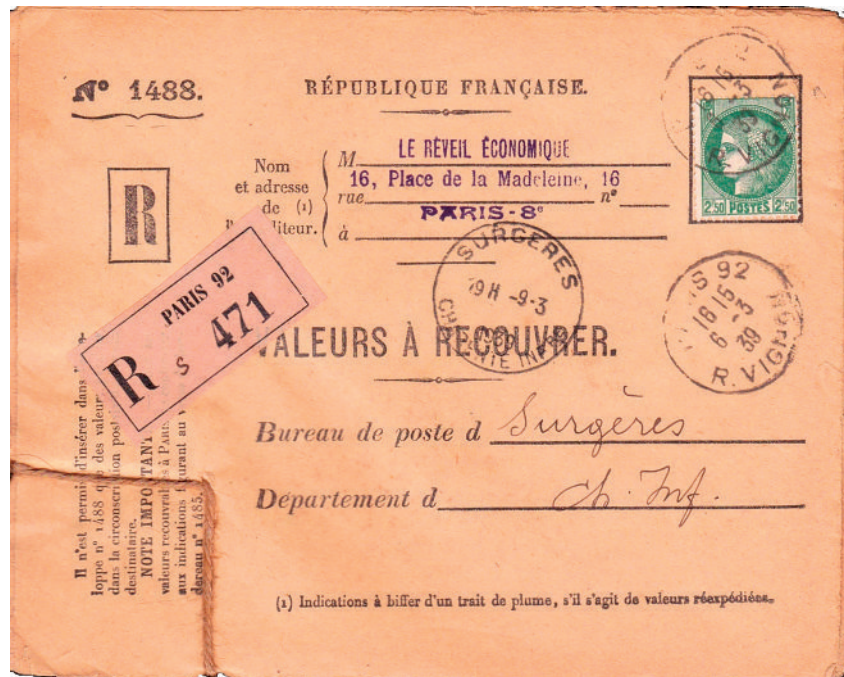


Figure 7.

On 9 March 1939, the Surgères (Charente Inférieure) office received five service envelopes 1488 which contained items from all over the country for collection. Once opened and the contents removed the fronts were tied together and archived. The string used to tie the bundle can be seen in the bottom left hand corner.

*Part 2 of this article will be published in a future edition of the Journal.*

## LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Continued from page 116

### *Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile*

N° 173 (Nov 2015): Le fac-similé du timbre de la Chambre de Commerce de Valenciennes (Van Dooren); Courriers d'Oubangui-Chari [suite et fin] (Vialatte); Le courrier des prisonniers de guerre et civils de la forteresse de Maubeuge (Ludwig); L'alliance franco-russe, Visites du

tsar Nicolas II en France en 1896 et 1901 (Berthier); Août 1914, la Bataille des Frontières - Recherche de documents philatéliques (Geubel & Van Dooren); La pacification du Maroc de 1903 à 1934 (I) (Giletto); Les timbres à date des wagons-poste (Kiener).

## SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Current French Polynesia Cancellations



Figure 1

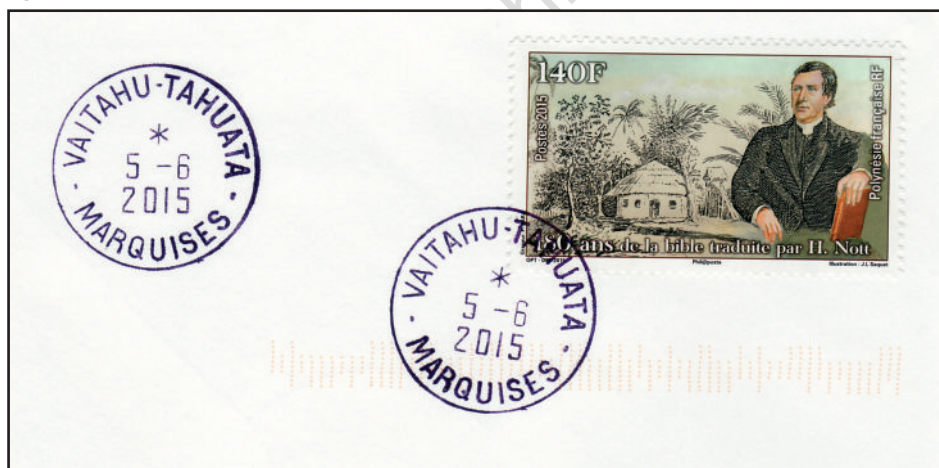


Figure 2

I was intrigued to see at Europhilex, held in London in May 2015, that the *Centre Philatélique de Polynésie Française* was present - not represented by an agency, but in the person of two charming ladies who had come all the way from Tahiti. Their stand was well-stocked with commemorative and definitive stamps but, unfortunately for me, no postal stationery. I also collect postmarks and, on enquiring, was told that if I were to provide them with self-addressed envelopes, and the names of the offices for which cancellations were required, I could buy the stamps from them and my covers would be taken back to French Polynesia for postmarking. This was too good an opportunity to miss, so I returned a couple of days later with some envelopes.

All four covers, from Maupiti / Iles-sous-le-Vent (**Figure 1**), Vaitahu-Tahuata / Marquises (**Figure 2**), Hakamaïi-Ua-Pou / Marquises and Vaipae-Ua-Huka / Marquises, turned up in due course at my home in London. All had been beautifully postmarked with the same date and all in the same shade of ink. I had suspected that duplicate cancellers were held in Tahiti for many, if not all, of the post offices and my experience would confirm this. I am not complaining - I am very pleased with what I received, just for the cost of the postage. This, incidentally, is not a service which is advertised by the Philatelic Centre, although they do offer to cancel stamps with either the 'Philatelic Centre' or first day postmarks, so perhaps it was a matter of me being in the right place at the right time!

Article first published by the Pacific Islands Study Circle in *Pacifica*, Vol. 53 N° 212, July 2015

John Ray



## 18th century entire Lyon-Paris

In Journal 276 of June 2015 (page 57) Nigel Borlase-Hendry queried the manuscript phrase “pour creteil” on a 1767 entire from Lyon to Paris. Below are scans of a 1763 map of post routes and an extract from a 1765 *Livre des Postes* which may be of help.

The route from Lyon to Paris is marked in red and travelled via Fontainebleau through Créteil. Lenain does not list a

post office at Créteil, but there were offices at Villejuif and Fromentau. There was an alternative route via Burgundy but the final stretch also went via Fontainebleau and Créteil.

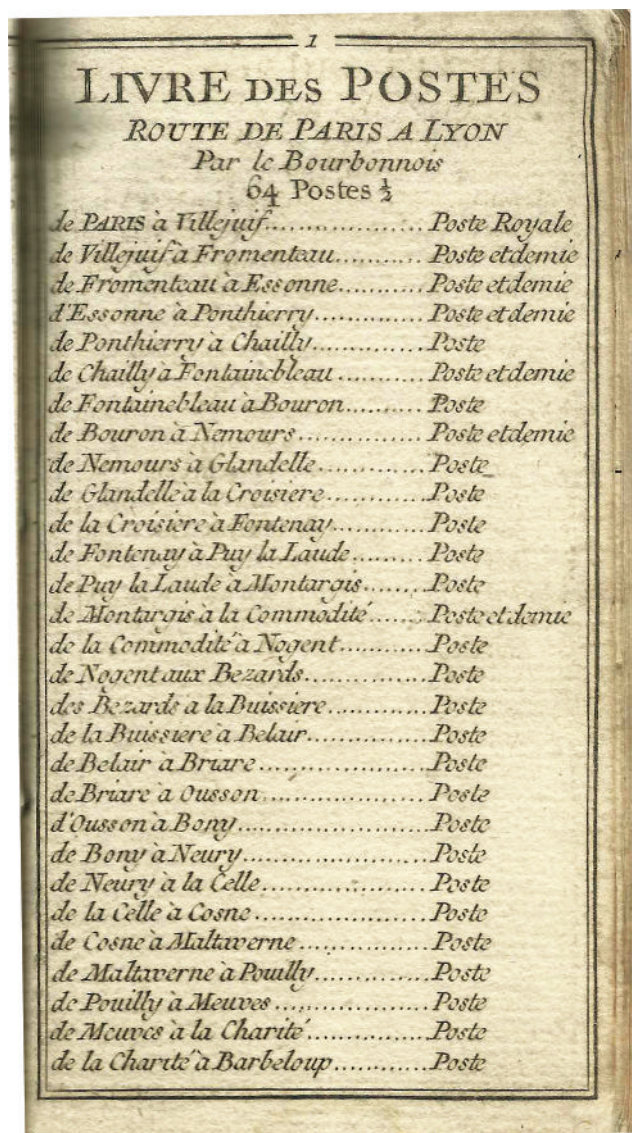
Why the letter is endorsed “pour creteil” I have no idea. It does appear to be in the same hand and ink as used by the writer.

Peter Maybury



1763 map of post routes





1765 Livre des Postes

## Réunion facsimiles

These are well known items (Journal 277 of September 2015, page 103) produced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as part of a small collection of such 'fantasy' items created to fill the spaces for the rare Réunion classics in early albums with printed squares for each stamp. They used to be found in

many early French colonies lots and there are a number of different related designs. I have accumulated quite a quantity of such items over the years. I have often thought of doing a display of these and years ago I started a small study but never completed it.

Stephen Holder

## Cheap postage, or what?

Many dealers in the stamp, book and postcard worlds use out-of-date but still valid mint postage stamps to save money (Journal 277 of September 2015, page 103). I do so extensively. It is known in the dealing fraternity as "postage" and mint stamps, of low catalogue value as collectors' items but still valid for postal use, are sold in bulk at -10%, -20%, or more, according to their perceived value as postage (small format high face-

value stamps fetch more money as they take up less space on the parcels and packets for higher franking items). Clearly the examples shown in the article have been mounted on self-adhesive labels to use up 'dead' stamp stock. The ones illustrated have been made up into 'pairs' with a face value of five francs for ease of use. Thus the packet shown has values amounting to 30 francs (which equates to 4€60).

Stephen Holder



## A letter dated 9 May 1793

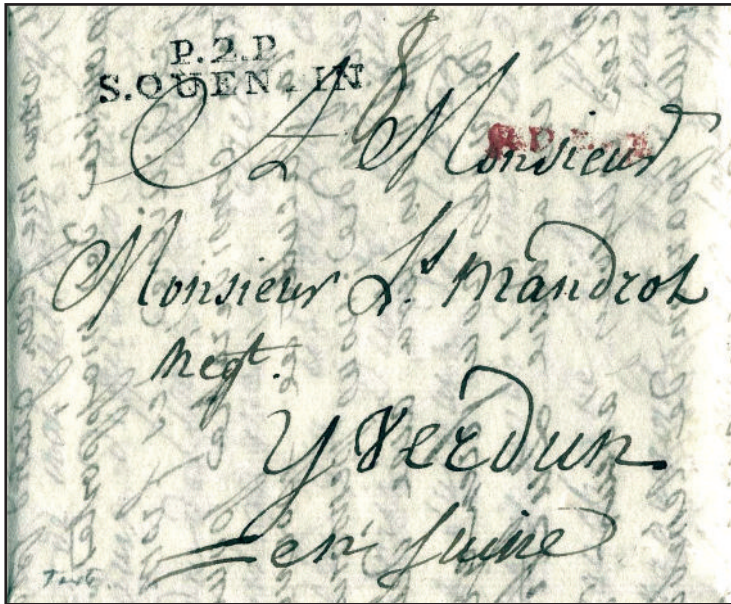


Figure 1

9 May 1793 St Quentin to Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland with P.2.P./S. QUENTIN (Aisne) post paid to the Swiss border.

The P.P.P.P. (*Port-Payé-Passe-Paris*) h/s in red was applied to letters with a foreign destination in transit through Paris.

The prepaid "8" in ms on the front was the Swiss charge.

### Background

The letter refers to the Allied offensive against the *Armée du Nord*'s advance into the Low Countries in early 1793 – the Flanders Campaign. The combined forces of Austria, Prussia, Saxe-Coburg and Hanover (the last led by the Duke of York) besieged the French army in the border fortress towns of Valenciennes and Condé-sur-Escaut. After lengthy sieges, the towns capitulated in late July but, instead of taking them prisoner, the Allies allowed the French soldiers to return home.

This was a potential turning-point – France lay open to an Allied invasion – but the Campaign further deteriorated

when the various commanders opted to pursue their separate national agendas and the great army dispersed. The British-Hanoverian force began an assault on Dunkerque, under orders from the Pitt government to capture the port – only to be defeated by the French at Hondeschoote and forced into an ignominious retreat to Hanover.

The failure to understand the scale of the French threat and lack of common purpose were perhaps understandable at this early date – but the Allies' failure to press home their advantage opened up a conflict that wracked Europe for a generation.

### Original text (as is) extracted from letter of 9 May 1793

... .. "L'interruption des courriers d'Angleterre nous prive d'avoir des nouvelles de nos bons amis Dubois. Les lettres viennent difficilement. Il faut espérer que cela finira. Nos armées sont tout près de Valenciennes et bien sûr de nos ennemis. Il y a eu depuis 15 jours différentes attaques ou l'on a perdu de part et d'autre du monde sans avoir gagné des terrains n'y pu ravitailler Condée qui est toujours cerné par l'armée ennemie. Dunte (?) est aussy menacé du --- suivant des lettres d'hier de nos intimes amis comme des oiseaux sur la branche ne sachant pas si les Anglais attaqueront ou non, par précaution

on a fait évacuer les femmes et les enfants et bouches inutiles, vous sentez que cette position est bien alarmante.

Dieu veuille bénir nos armées et amener le calme et la paix car nous sommes écrasés de toutes les façons. Notre ville est surchargée en contributions pour la levée d'hommes et par les logements presque journaliers chez les bourgeois, de soldats fuyard de l'armée, de --- de malade et nous n'avons qu'un hôpital contenant environ 150 hommes, point de caserne. Le pauvre, ---, et le riche sont acceptés. "

### English Translation of Extract from letter of 9 May 1793

... .. "The interruption in the mails from England means that we were without news of our good friends the Dubois. Letters arrive with difficulty. One must hope that this will come to an end. Our armies are very close to Valenciennes and of course to our enemies. There have been several attacks over the last 15 days during which both sides lost men without having gained any ground or been able to provide Condé, which is still surrounded by the enemy army, with fresh supplies. Dunte (?) is also under threat from ... .., according to yesterday's letters from our close friends; like birds on a branch they do not know if

the English will attack or not, as a precaution women and children and the non-active have been evacuated, you must realise that this situation is very alarming.

May God bless our armies and bring calm and peace because we are crushed in every possible way. Our town is overloaded in contributions for the raising of men for the army and by the almost daily lodgings with the middle class, soldiers fleeing from the army and those who are ill and we have only one hospital which contains about 150 men, no barracks. The poor and the rich are taken in."



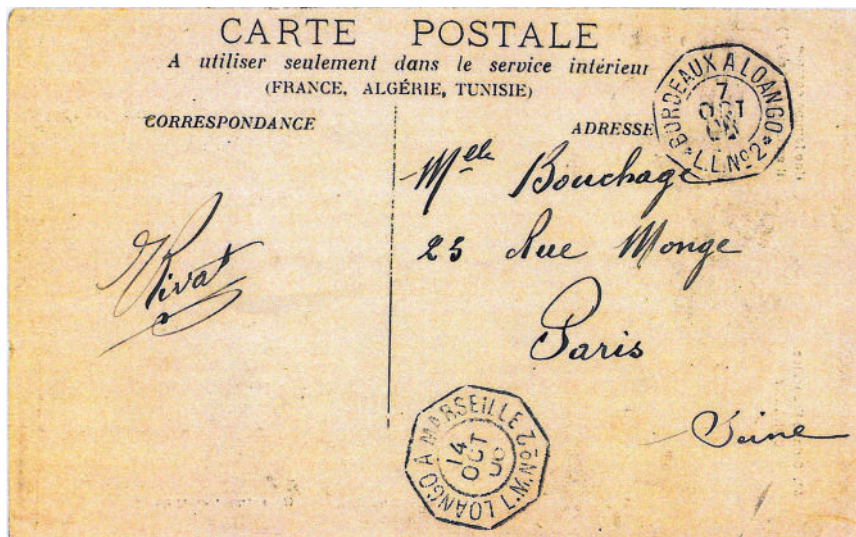
faite donc m<sup>r</sup>. et cher ami quel que  
 sacrifice pour nous accorder cette satisfaction  
 l'interruption des courriers d'angle nous prive  
 d'avoir des nouvelles de nos bons amis  
 Dubois les lettres viennent difficilement  
 il faut espérer que cela finira nos armées  
 sont tout près de Valenciennes en leur  
 près de nos ennemis il y a eu depuis  
 15 jours différentes attaques où l'on a  
 perdu de part et d'autre du monde sans  
 avoir gagné du terrain n'y pu ravitailler  
 l'armée qui est toujours campée par l'armée  
 ennemie Dunk. est aussi menacée elle  
 font suivre des lettres d'hier de nos  
 intimes amis comme des oiseaux sur la  
 Branche ne sachant pas si les anglais  
 attaqueront ou non, par précaution on  
 a fait évacuer toutes les femmes et enfants  
 et Bouches inutiles, vous sentez que  
 cette position est bien alarmante -  
 Dieu veuille benir nos armées et  
 amener le calme et la paix car  
 nous sommes écrasés de toute les façons

Figure 2  
The original letter

Héloïse Mitchell  
(with background notes supplied by Paul Watkins)



## French Guinea to France – but how?



This picture postcard has a 5c French Guinea Tablet issue meeting the correct rate to Paris and is cancelled by the strike 'Bordeaux to Loango, *Paquebot* L.L.N° 2, 7 October 1906' which is repeated on the address side. Here it is accompanied by the strike 'Loango to Marseille, *Paquebot* L.M. N° 2, 14 October 1906'. There is no Paris arrival cancel, unfortunately.

Salles lists the earlier of the two cancels with '*Paraguay*' which left Bordeaux on 25 September 1906. Salles' schedules are incomplete, but are thought to be reasonably accurate, and he suggests that in 1893 ships took two weeks to reach Conakry, French Guinea. By 1906 the sailing time would have logically been reduced and so an arrival of, say, 7 October at Conakry is reasonable. It is logical that the stamp be bought there even if the card was purchased elsewhere.

The next port of call according to Salles would be Freetown, a British port where mail was unlikely to be held over for the next returning French ship to arrive, and Grand Bassam five days later, say 12 October, and three days later on 15 October at Cotonou, Dahomey.

I've studied the boat schedules in Salles, publicity maps of the two French *paquebot* services and my African atlas long and hard and John is correct in saying this postcard is a puzzle!

My assumption is that the mail got into the wrong bag at Conakry and went southbound instead of northbound. Realising their mistake, the clerks on *Ligne L 'Paraguay'* sought to put it on to a French ship travelling in the opposite direction. Although the timings are tight, *Ligne M 'Stamboul'* at Cotonou is, I agree, the only credible option.

The Loango-Marseille strike is dated 14 October and was carried probably by *Stamboul*, but Salles does not list 'N° 2' alongside the appropriate voyage, although the ship is listed with this cancel on the previous and next voyages. So where was this ship on 14 October? It surely could not have travelled from Libreville. Salles lists an arrival/departure date of 12 October, to Conakry in two days.

According to Salles, ships leaving Libreville for Cotonou took five days to reach their destination but allowing for improvements between 1889 and 1905 in my opinion the item possibly changed boats at Cotonou.

What I find unusual also is the fact there are two companies involved here albeit they operated a joint service. I have German mail collected by a boat in Liberia sailing eastwards which changed ships at Lomé, Togo. This was probably because war drums were beating in Europe and this was by the last boat to return to Germany in early August 1914. I have never seen French mail on the West African route passing from one ship to another, and different companies involved too!

**John Mayne**

If the two boats had missed each other at Cotonou it would not have been switched to the following boat ('*Tibet*') whose canceller would most likely have been 'L.M.3' and in any case would have arrived in France after the '*Paraguay*''s return journey to Bordeaux. The clerks would have known this.

I agree that switching mail between boats is unusual, but I have one example of this taking place; although different companies operated *Lignes L & M*, it was a joint service and they were both French!

**Steve Ellis**

## Cameroun - A Mute Cancel Identified as a Railroad Postmark



I have a very similar cover to that in Marty Bratzel's article (Journal 277 of September 2015, page 96) with excellent strikes of the void cds (see illustration above). At some point I have identified this as being likely to have originated at Edea, but I do not recall why. Although very attractive

with clear markings, my cover is only a front and there is thus no evidence on the reverse. The item is to the same correspondent as that shown in the article, but two years later in 1922. By this time the postage rate to Great Britain had increased from 25c to 50c (on 1 April 1921).

**Stephen Holder**

I must admit that I am not a member of your Society, nor do I collect France or its Colonies old or modern, but I do like to borrow your magazine as it is always an excellent read, especially about the new African states.

I have read Marty Bratzel's article (in Journal 277 of September 2015, page 96) with great interest as he seems to have found something new and done a lot of research, but he obviously does not collect Postage Dues.

I think he has overcomplicated the cover's transit. There is no postal system that I know of which would completely ignore the UPU regulations for underpaid mail. The obvious answer is that the sender (not someone further

down the route which would be contrary to all known postal rules) franked it at 20c instead of 25c, thus incurring the French type T in a small triangle showing that it was underpaid. Common practice at this time was not to mark the envelope in any other way, and it was up to the receiving Post Office to calculate the due.

But I do agree with his suggestion that the British Postal Authorities failed to notice the shortfall and did not change any due. They could have just missed the T mark because it is so small, or else they could not be bothered.

Incidentally the due should have been 1d and it would be a valuable postage due cover if it had a label.

**David Williams**

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## Colonies, 1871?

From the evidence shown by "Napoléon" (Journal 277 of September 2015, page 105) and the image printed, this is almost certainly a Colonies General issue (Y&T 11) with colour faded.

Colonies General Issues were printed from the existing available plates of the first 1849 and later issues, and any flaws on those plates were repeated in the later printings. The Colonial issues were printed on poorer quality paper than that used of metropolitan Cérès printings, being slightly toned or greyish, and with slightly inferior quality of impression. Failing sight of a clear Colonial postmark, this is how they are identified. It cannot be a Bordeaux printing because of the shape of the profile, and the full leaves of the head wreath.

Bordeaux issues have a shortened 'sawn-off' look to the 'couronne' which many people do not seem to recognise (including dealers and some 'experts') and this determines their identity.

I would have to see it and handle it to be sure but I am as good as certain from the image that it will be a Colonial General issue 10c. It is remotely possible that it could be an imperf variant of the perforated issue, but extremely unlikely and even more so being used.

Sometimes these Colonial stamps can be found cancelled on arrival in France, especially in Paris and there is a slight possibility in the image of it being a weak Paris star cancel.

**Stephen Holder**



## An Anomalous N'gila Cameroun Postmark

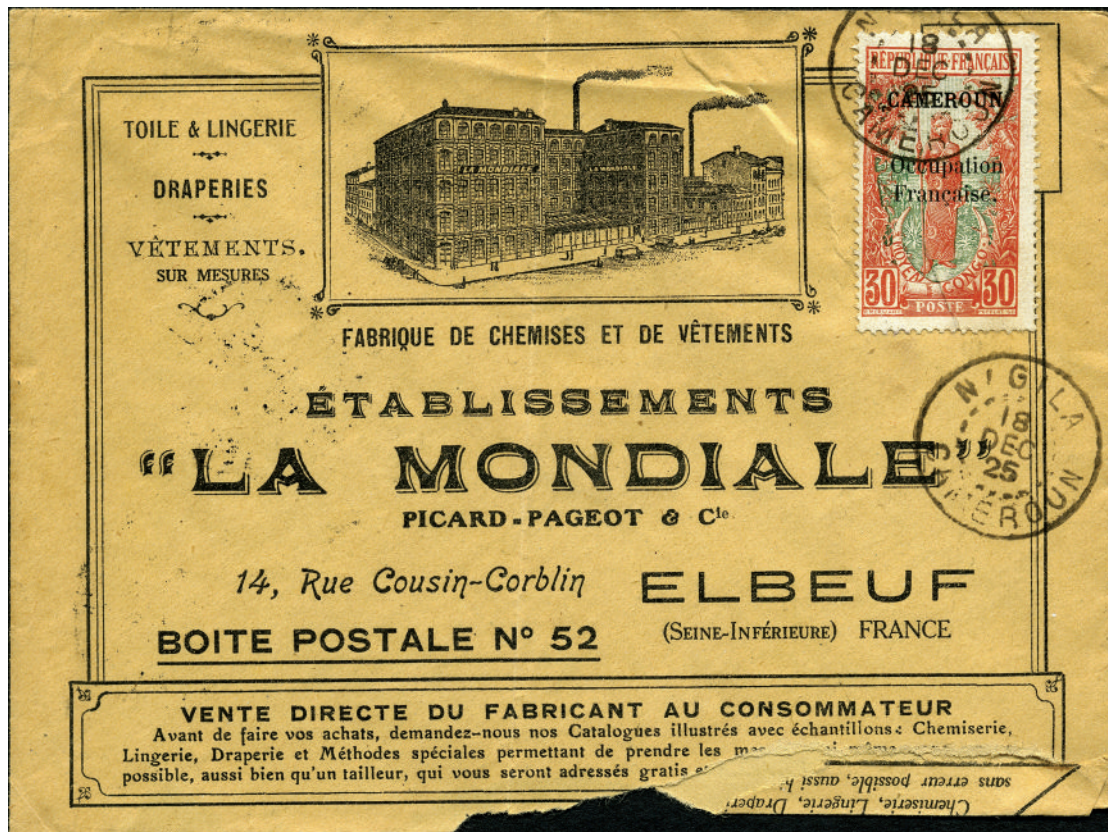


Figure 1

Commercial cover postmarked N'Gila 18 Dec 25.

The single stamp paid the short-lived 30-centimes tariff for a letter weighing up to 20 grams (Ref. 6).

On 19 January 1923, the French announced the opening of a post office at N'Gila, a small remote locale about 120 kilometres north of Yaoundé, the territorial capital of Cameroun (Ref. 1). The post office was closed on 16 April 1934 (Ref. 2) – the telegraph service had been upgraded and there was no longer a need to maintain a French presence at N'Gila (Ref. 3). Only one canceller (Figure 1) has been recorded used during the eleven years that the post office was open (Ref. 4).

The postmark on the cover in Figure 2 was a surprise – N'Gila 21 Sept 48 – dated more than 14 years after the post office had been closed. The postmark is the same as that in Figure 1.

A review of the *Journal officiel du Cameroun* and the French trusteeship reports to the United Nations confirm that the N'Gila post office was not reopened, and there is no mention of any postal connection with N'Gila.

The cover is backstamped at Yaoundé on 22 September. This one-day difference indicates that the letter was posted not that far from Yaoundé. However, there is no return address or any other markings that might provide a clue as to the place of origin. The challenge, then, is to explain the postmark. The following is one plausible possibility.

The canceller may have been used at another location in the vicinity. Only one town qualifies during the time period in question. The 1949 annual report to the United Nations (Ref. 5) reports a *bureau auxiliaire* at Ntui, a town along the road connecting Yaoundé and N'Gila, about 35 kilometres south of N'Gila and about 85 kilometres north of Yaoundé. The exact opening date is not known but the

report infers 1948, although the date could possibly be earlier. The earliest documented postmark reading Ntui is dated 20 December 1949. Therefore, the N'Gila canceller may have been provisionally used at Ntui until a properly worded datestamp was available. There is no information regarding a postal connection with Ntui, nor any other details in the *Journal officiel* to corroborate or refute this conjecture.

Other explanations are possible. As always, readers' thoughts are welcome.

### References

1. Arrêté dated 19 January 1923. *Journal officiel des Territoires du Cameroun*, 1923, p.35. Imprimerie du Gouvernement, Yaoundé.
2. Arrêté dated 2 May 1934. *Journal officiel du Cameroun*, N° 336, 15 May 1934, p.334. Imprimerie du Gouvernement, Yaoundé.
3. *Rapport annuel adressé par le Gouvernement français au Conseil de la Société des Nations sur l'administration sous mandat du territoire du Cameroun pour l'année 1934*. Paris, Imprimerie Générale Lahure, 1935, p.64.
4. Bratzel, M.P. Jr., H. Kraja, and R.J. Maddocks. *Les oblitérations du Cameroun 1914-1960*. MPB Canada, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 1990 (83 pages. ISBN 0-9694026-0-0).
5. *Rapport annuel du gouvernement français à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration du Cameroun placé sous la tutelle de la France, 1949*, pp.96, 268.



6. Bratzel, M.P. Jr. *The Postal Tariffs of Cameroun under French Administration – 1916-1959*. MPB Canada,

Windsor, Ontario, Canada, 2007 (215+vi pages + Appendix on CD. ISBN 978-0-9694026-4-0).



Figure 2

Cover postmarked N'Gila 21 Sept 48. The chamfered *taxé* mark dates from the prior German era.

Tariff = 3.00 CFA francs for a letter weighing up to 20 grams + 9.00 CFA francs per 5 grams airmail surtax = 12 CFA francs.

Only 9 CFA francs postage was paid, resulting in a deficiency of 3 CFA francs.

The postage due was double the deficiency or 6 CFA francs. In September 1948, 1 CFA franc = 1.7 Metropolitan francs.

Therefore, the postage due to be collected was  $1.7 \times 6 = 10.2$  Metropolitan francs.

The actual amount collected was 12 Metropolitan francs.

An explanation would be appreciated. Tariff information from Ref. 6.

Marty Bratzel

## Les Travailleurs

The Chinese Forces covers shown (Journal 277 of September 2015, page 104) reminded me of one part of their strange story. In World War One a large number of workers were recruited from China by the British to do military construction work such as communication trenches, rest areas, bath houses and latrines, and the general establishment of the back-areas, to save using valuable fighting manpower. A very large number of these were recruited from a seaport and territory off the North China Coast which was leased by the British from 1898 to 1930 (including Port Edward, the bay of Wei-hai-wei and Liu-Kung Tao Island – now Liugong Island). 'Treaty Port' stamps of Hong King were used there and Revenue Stamps were issued for a short while, these being much sought after now. It is believed some 200,000 men were recruited. The units were staffed with British Officers, and there is very little mail known save letters to the families of these British Officers. Little if any mail is known from or to the Chinese forces themselves, most of whom were

probably illiterate. The covers illustrated relate to the similar French units.

As a curious footnote to this story my wife and I frequented a Chinese restaurant in Shipley (which has closed now regrettably) where we had a conversation with the *'patron'* and asked him where he came from. "Oh a little island off the coast of China" he said. When I asked him if it was the Wei-Hai-Wei area he was astonished to find anyone in England who had even heard of it. I then told him the area's World War One history, none of which he had ever heard and by which he was astonished.

Once when we were in France we stumbled upon one of the graveyards of these Chinese labourers, with an ornate Oriental arched gateway. Most of the fatalities were not caused by military action but Western diseases, especially the 'flu. Even now there is said to be a shortage of men in Wei-Hai-Wei, compared with other areas of China, owing to the losses in 1914-18.

Stephen Holder



## REPORTS OF MEETINGS

### LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 3 OCTOBER 2015

Chris Hitchen: Paris District Offices 1863 to 1878  
Members' Displays

Mick Bister opened the meeting with a brief outline of the day's proceedings and then welcomed the main speaker **Chris Hitchen**.



Chris introduced his display explaining that it would cover a slightly longer period than that quoted in the issued programme, namely, 1863 to 1885.

The first round took us from September 1863 to March 1876, essentially the period when the Paris stars were in use but as we saw there were many other things going on as well. Napoleon III was approaching the most successful period of his reign. With his prefect of the Seine, Baron Haussmann, the city had been entirely renovated and the old medieval streets completely replaced. Since the days of the *Petite Poste* the district offices had been designated by letters of the alphabet. The 35 offices then in existence within the limits of the Farmer Generals wall were now renumbered according to the amount of business transacted. The Place de la Bourse (the Stock Exchange) took first place with number 1 and Salpêtrière, then essentially a poor house for destitute old ladies finished the listing at number 35. In October 1866 5 new offices opened, Salpêtrière was renumbered 40 and closed 3 months later in December 1866.

After a brief explanation of the rates in use some of the more interesting items were picked out for comment. The war of 1870 punctuates this period and the stamps and rates changed in 1871. At the beginning of the period on 5 September 1863 the new stars to cancel the stamps were available in most offices but not the date stamps. Two covers were shown with the old date stamp and the new stars on 5 September. A number of offices used improvised stars when the regular ones were not available. At office 28 a star 20 was made into a 28 with soft metal which steadily broke down and an example with the remains of the zero was shown. Offices 20 and 24 had periods when they used provincial lozenges in place of the stars. Two examples of the exceptionally rare Salpêtrière star 35 were shown of which only 16 or 17 examples are recorded.

The second round took us from March 1876 when date



**Office 33:** 30 July 1878,  
an unpaid letter with an incorrect date stamp applied.  
It has been cancelled with a star 33  
and the correct '30c to pay' stamp struck alongside.

stamps replaced the stars for cancelling stamps to 1885 when the Type 84 date stamp became the norm. This was a period full of change. The offices in the suburbs between the walls became fully integrated in July 1881 when they were given Paris post office numbers in a new listing with just street names and no mention of the old suburb. However they were not immediately given new post marks and continued with their old ones for some time. A selection of these was shown along with some of the 17 new offices to open between 1878 and 1881. The war of 1870 had certainly brought progress to a halt and the pace of change reflected a need to modernise. 1884 saw the beginning of the use of the new Daguin machines and the introduction of the Type 84 postmarks. The display concluded with some of the trials leading up to this and the trial post marks used at the Place de la Bourse office in 1880 and after.

After a copious lunch in the bar of the Calthorpe Arms, the meeting resumed in the afternoon with a selection of members' displays.

**Mick Bister** opened the afternoon session with two frames of errors and curiosities from his collection of mechanised sorting. The first frame comprised technical errors which had resulted in the barcodes being printed upside down, diagonally and on both sides of the envelope. Barcodes with duplicate strokes or missing strokes were also seen. The second frame was devoted to the results of human error often causing items to be seriously mis-routed.

**Michael Round** stepped up next with a display representing the short-lived *République Soudanaise*. The republic existed briefly from November 1958 to April 1959 as an autonomous state within the French Community and thereafter with Senegal as the *Fédération du Mali* until September 1960 when Senegal seceded. From this date the *République Soudanaise* became known as Mali. No stamps were issued with the inscription *République Soudanaise*, the stamps of French West Africa or the *Fédération du Mali* being used instead. However, the inscription did appear in some postmarks of which we were shown several examples.



Michael Round

**Richard Broadhurst** followed with a range of experimental vignettes. We saw the 1913 Poincaré vignette which was used in rotary press trials for printing the Sower, the H Estienne essay used in the 1940s, the *Barres Horizontales* printings for testing coil dispensers in the 1950s and various Chambon vignettes for promoting, demonstrating and testing the manufacturer's presses. Richard's display concluded with a wide range of Palissy vignettes including bi-coloured, coil and booklet printings and a selection of PTT charity issues..



Richard Broadhurst



Maurice Alder

**Maurice Alder** entertained us with a selection of his recent Stampex purchases. Maurice reminded us of his interest in both philately and railways and the material he showed linked the two themes. Items included postcards depicting railway lines, bridges and stations, railway posters and postmen. Also shown was an 1881 PLM advice of parcel delivery franked by a 15c Sage and an 1889 advertising card printed on wood.

**Len Barnes**, our convenor, closed the afternoon session with a display of miscellaneous French Colonial surface mail. He explained that when bidding in auctions for airmail material some of the multiple lots would include surface mail which did not have a place in his airmail collection. Included were highly attractive covers from French West Africa and Djibouti and multiple frankings of the early *Commerce* issues. Len was advised that his material would form a good basis for starting a surface mail collection!

Mick Bister thanked Chris for giving us such an informative presentation with high quality material which allowed us to see an abundance of rarities. Mick also thanked the other members who had combined to provide a broad spectrum of entertaining topics.

MLB

## NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 10 OCTOBER 2015

### Members' Displays

Fascinating displays, good refreshments, an opportunity to purchase some of the unsold books from the library auction, and the viewing of a Vulcan aircraft as it flew over the venue were the order of the day at the northern meeting at Adlington (Cheshire). Amongst those attending, the following gave displays.

**John Morton** displayed 'Postes from François de Tassis' – letters from 1582 to 1806 – showing towns of origin, manuscript and handstamp entry marks, transit marks, crown marks from Paris, Bordeaux and Limoges, all being used to illustrate changes in currencies, calendars and routings. A prisoner of war letter sent to Plymouth was also displayed.

**Peter Stockton** showed us the benefits of collecting the postal history of one particular *département*, in this case

Hérault, which gave the opportunity of collecting the full range of cancellation types and tariffs, in his case starting in 1799 and including items from World War I.

**Steve Ellis** told us the story of the development of the French *ambulance*, which initially referred to a place rather than a vehicle, using illustrative material in addition to postal history. From the Crimean War to World War I, with other conflicts in between and containing a strong section on the Franco-Prussian War, the display considered many different *ambulance* items.

**Ken Howitt** showed one frame of *estafette* mail, with a range of cancellations and two very nice associated items. A second frame looked in detail at the period from January 1848 to February 1849 when the French-English mails were carried via Boulogne rather than Calais, including



one later item from August 1849 when Boulogne was still being used on occasions.

**Trevor Smith**, who had travelled from Immingham, displayed the Peace (*Paix de Laurens*) issue with stamps, including the

overprints, dated blocks and perfins, for the nine years it was in use. Covers showed their use at various different rates. Interestingly there was an example of a stamped luggage label sent from a florist in Cannes to Stockport.

**SRE**

## WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 10 OCTOBER 2015

### Members' Displays

By way of an experiment the convenors did not invite a speaker for the main morning session but instead, as at the last meeting, asked everyone (without fail!) to bring along a display. This they did without exception and ten members and a guest produced a number of interesting and well presented displays that lasted well into the afternoon.

**Michael Berry** got us off to a good start with an interesting show of Ile de Ré with a description of the island and some of its history.

**Peter Kelly** followed with military mail from the island of Réunion.

**Ingrid Swinburn** gave us an overview of the situation in North Africa during WWII, with Mers-el-Kebir, Torch and Leclerc's journey from Tchad to the Rhine via Tunisia.

**Jeremy Martin** produced mail in and out of France at different times.

**Peter Lawrence** brought stamps into the equation with a fine display of modern and classic issues including Susse perforations that were an interesting subject of discussion.

**Brian Weekes** showed Free France / Resistance issues from the Colonies, Pétain issues and Corsica printings.

**Tony Swinburn** put up a selection of Revolutionary mail.

**Graham Lenton** followed with a well presented selection of anti-TB stamps, carnets and covers.

**Chris Hitchen** focussed on the French *Recouvrement* service, outlining the background to it and the complicated stationery and methods of accountancy involved.

**Peter Kelly** returned to take us into Algeria around 1900 covering difficulties with the delimitation of the Algero-Moroccan border and the development of French forts and outposts along it, problems with communications and border incursions.

**Alan Wood** then showed us some French fiscals.

**Jeremy Martin** gave us a second display, this time of the *Départements Conquis* offices in Belgium.

**Tony Howgrave-Graham** wound the meeting up with a selection of French colonial mail and items from the Crimea.

**PRAK / AJW**

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



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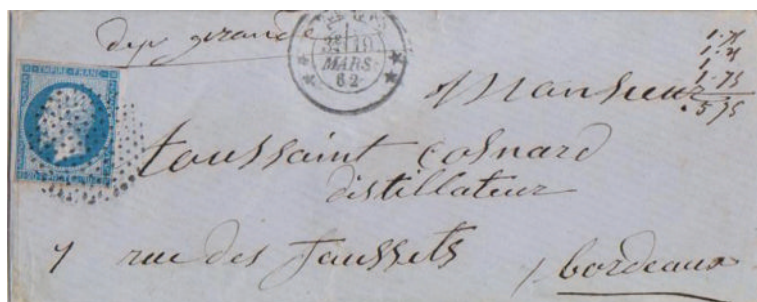


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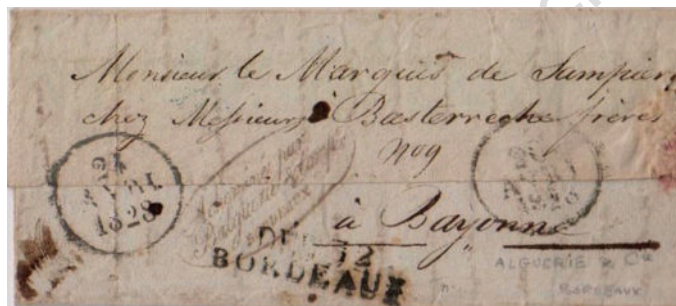
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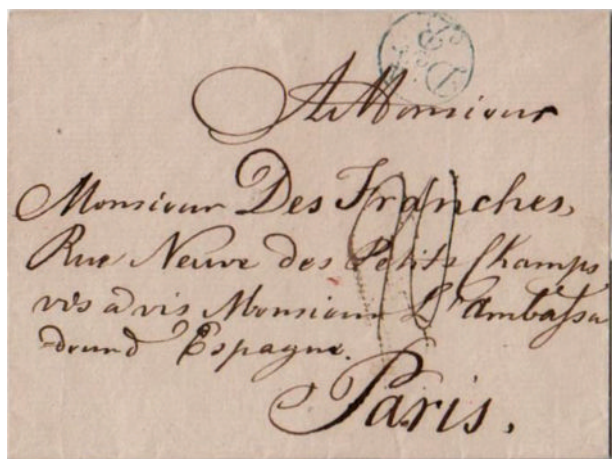
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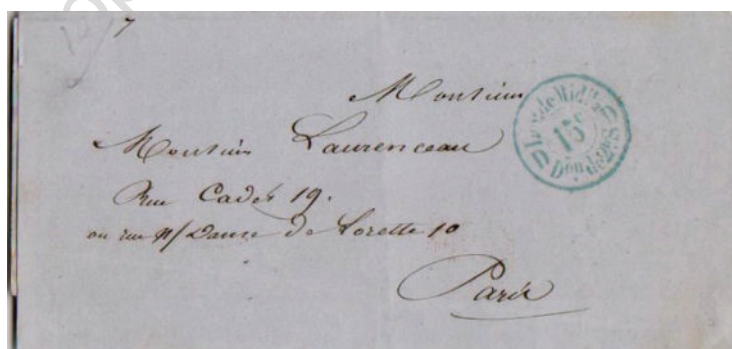
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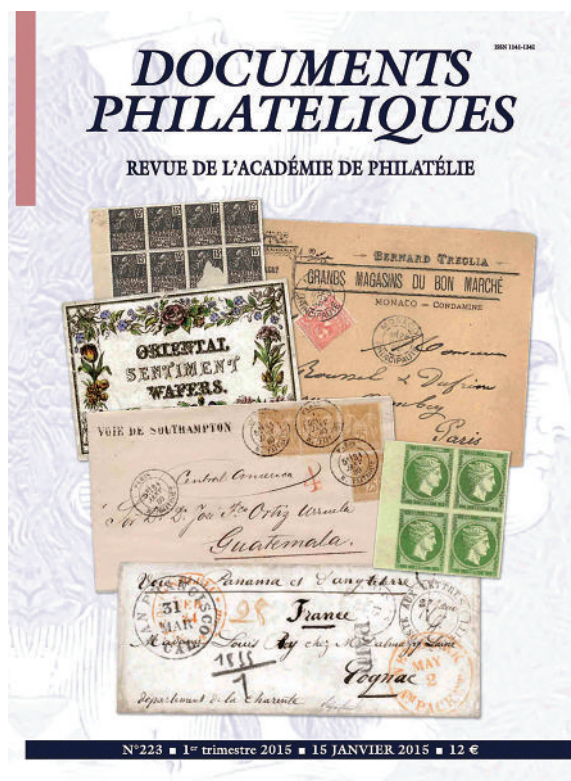


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