

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



During the Spanish Civil War looking after the Spanish refugees once they had crossed the frontier into France was done by means of holding camps (*camps de triage*) where they were identified and recorded before being moved on.

The postcard shows the conditions at a holding camp at Amélie-les-Bains in the Pyrenees (APA series N° 28).

The first part of David Hogarth's article '*LA RETIRADA* - SPANISH REFUGEES IN FRANCE 1939-1942' is to be found on Page 43.

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Whole Number 280

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

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The Society

The Society was founded in 1949 and is affiliated to the ABPS. Its affairs are managed by a Committee comprising President, Officers and Committee members, elected annually.
All inquiries about and applications for membership should be addressed to the General Secretary.

2015-16 Annual Subscription Rates

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

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

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

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Auction and Exchange Packet Sales

Lots for sale through the Society auctions, held 2 or 3 times a year, should be sent to the Auction Secretary:
S R Ellis, 22 Burton Crescent, Sneyd Green, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 6BT (email: auction@fcps.org.uk) according to instructions.

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

France: R N Broadhurst, 47 Bolton Gardens, Teddington TW11 9AX (Telephone 020 8977 9665).

(Please do not submit any further material until advised)

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

The Magazine Circuit

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

I am delighted to report that we have another member in our editorial team. **Dominic Joyeux**, who only joined the Society this year, has had previous experience of editorial work and will be a valuable addition to the team. By the time you receive this edition of the Journal, the AGM will have been held and a full report will appear in the September edition. However, you are being given advance notice that **Richard Broadhurst** will be taking over as Exchange Packet Secretary (France) and **John Parmenter** will take on Richard's former role as Publications Stockist. Contact details can be found on Page ii. Furthermore, Australian member **Jan Gane** has responded to our appeal and we are delighted to welcome her as our new website coordinator.

My stockpile of articles is beginning to look rather low. I have received only one major article this year which means I currently hold material for just two more editions. Could you please let me have any contributions, large or small, to replenish my stock otherwise future Journals will be rather slim. I am also keen to publish reports or advance announcements of members' displays to other societies across the country. Please send all contributions to me at m.bister@btinternet.com. remembering that text should be sent as a Word document and images, scanned at 300 dpi, attached separately as jpegs.

Mick Bister

* * *

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome members 1449 Michael Tombs (Dorset) and 1450 Stéphane Pennacchiotti (France).

* * *

Members Resigned

The following members have advised us that, sadly, they will not be renewing their membership:

1171 R A Paterson, 1137 B K Smeed, 1439 D Scott, 855 E E Fricks, 1404 M Blackledge, 1441 A Cresswell and 1422 Mrs Paula Cant.

* * *

Members Deceased

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of three of our members: 88 Brian Dungate, 559 J R Heath, 896 P G Mackey and 1282 G D S Truell.

We offer our condolences to their respective families.

* * *

Future Events

The next meeting of the **Wessex Group** will take place at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham at 10.30am on Saturday 2 July. New member **Leonard Yandell** will be showing 'Le Havre'.

The next meeting of the **Northern Group** will be an all-day open event on Saturday 16 July 2016 from 10.30am to 4.00pm at Broom Methodist Church, 195 Broom Lane, Rotherham S60 3NW. Lunch will be taken in the nearby hostelry. Members are invited to bring their own displays and philatelic queries. For further details please contact **Roger Clapham** (tel. 01709 527673).

The next **London Group** all-day meeting will be on Saturday 6 August from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm at the Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8JR. In the morning **Steve Ellis** will be giving a display entitled 'Cross-Channel Mail and the French Ambulance'. The afternoon will be available for members to show a selection of their own material particularly their latest acquisitions and projects.

Our president is also organising a full day meeting in **Bournemouth**, with lunch, on Thursday 8 September, from 10.30am to 4.30pm. There is an optional evening meal together for those who wish to stay overnight. Full details and application form are enclosed with this Journal.

* * *

Displays by Members



André Métayer with (right) Claude Désarménien,
President of the *Fédération Française
des Associations Philatéliques*

On 23 January, the second *Rencontres Philatéliques Rennaises* was held at the *Espace des Deux Rives* in Rennes. Organised by our member **André Métayer** the day brought together some of the top philatelists of the region and from further afield. André gave a magnificent presentation from his collection of correspondence from English prisoners of war during the revolutionary and Napoleonic wars between 1793 and 1814. The packed and varied programme also included a display by fellow member **Henk Slabbinck** on *La Grande Pêche* and hospital ships - a collection of rarities that we were also fortunate to see at Charlecote (see Charlecote Weekend Report, Page 63).



Chris Hitchen with RPSL President Frank Walton
© Michael Pitt-Payne

On 31 March, **Chris Hitchen** gave members of the Royal Philatelic Society London a 12 frame display and PowerPoint presentation entitled 'The Post in Paris up to the Revolution'. The display, supported by a highly informative handout, was divided into three parts - *La Grande Poste*, *La Petite Poste* and Special Offices. Chris was congratulated on his excellent and lucid account, the exceptionally high quality of his material and the sharing with the membership of so many rarities such as the 1520 Medici cover, the 1766 office K strike and 1784 taxed returned letter label.

At Paris-Philex 2016 (19-22 May 2016) the *Académie de Philatélie* held a display in which some of our members participated:

Robert Abensur: "*Sélection de chffres-taxe Duval sur plis de l'étranger*"

Jérôme Castanet: "*Quelques utilisations des taxes en creux dans le régime intérieur*"

Peter Kelly: "*Pénétration des communications dans le Sahara. Bureaux de poste dans la région de l'Oued Rihir et Souf*"

* * *

Awards



Stephen Holder has been invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, the ultimate philatelic accolade, and he will join a long list of philatelic luminaries including past and present F&CPS members - Gavin Fryer (2011), John Sussex (2009), George Barker (2009), Barrie Jay (2005) and Francis Kiddle (1995). As a society we have been extremely fortunate in

having Stephen as a member. Not only have we been able to see at first hand his magnificent collections of Alsace-Lorraine, Siege of Paris and French Colonies but also been able to benefit from his phenomenal knowledge of stamps, postal history and philatelic literature. He has served on national and international juries, written numerous articles and is a long-standing member of the RPSL Expert Committee. Stephen will sign the Roll on 22 July in the chapel of St John's College, Cambridge during the 2016 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.



Peter Kelly has been awarded the RPSL's Tilleard Medal for the best 1 pm display given to the Society in 2015. Acclaimed as 'A master class in late 19th century French postal history', Peter's 52 frame display '*France - l'émission au type Sage*' and his 226 page paper 'The postal history of the *Type Sage* Issue of France 1876-1900' were reported on in Journal 276

of June 2015. Peter will receive his award at the RPSL's AGM on 30 June.

On 20 February 2016 the Federation of European Philatelic Associations awarded one of the two FEPA 2015 medals posthumously to our late member **Francis Kiddle** for exceptional services rendered to philately, citing in particular his work for the Literature and Fiscal Philately commissions.

The second FEPA 2015 medal was awarded to our French member **Michèle Chauvet** for her philatelic studies and research, notably for her 2015 book published by JF-B Philatélie, *Les tarifs helléniques des lettres internationales 1861-1878*.

Congratulations to all these members.

* * *

France Packet Secretary

Unfortunately for health reasons, Bob Wood, who has organised the France Packet so successfully over the past 10 years, has indicated his intention to step down with immediate effect.

Bob has run the packet in the most meticulous manner and has been responsible in obtaining the maximum sales for vendors and for the purchasers seeing the widest range of high quality material on a regular basis. We thank him for his unstinting efforts and wish him all the very best for the future.

The running of the Packet is an enormous undertaking and in Bob's own words had become "almost a full time job". In the absence of any volunteers, I have agreed to take over responsibility at short notice. It will be necessary to make some changes and simplify matters in order to ensure the continuation of this valuable service. I would therefore ask members to be patient whilst the changeover is put in place.

Due to the success of the Packet a considerable surplus of uncirculated books has built up and I will attempt to clear these in the first instance. Consequently we will not be taking in any new books until this backlog has been cleared. When the stock has been reduced I will seek more material from vendors.

It is perhaps a good moment to remind members that all the services of the society are run by just 2% of the membership. Along with other departments the running

Continued on page 53

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 135. 1^{er} Trim 2016: L'Émission 1906 de la Réunion [cont] (Fontaine); Les Bureaux-Gares de la Côte d'Ivoire (Mercier); Convoyeurs du Soudan, Routiers ou Fluviaux? (Kelly); Une lettre insolite d'Aguelock, Au Soudan Français (Kelly); Madagascar, Les Timbres Poste Aérienne «Île Rouge» [cont] (Richard); Congo Français, Griffes «AR échoppée en R» pour Recommandation (Lindekens); Guadeloupe, l'Art de Fabriquer des Variétés (Bessaud).

The Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 95 N° 2. March-April 2016: About a Mysterious and Precious Stamp « Catalogue » [‘Catalogue des Timbres-Poste 1881’ by Oscar Berger-Levrault (1826-1903) also ‘La bibliographie timbrologique’ from Philippe de Bosredon, Brussels 1874 and 1878 Berger-Levrault catalogue.] (Barbelin).

Vol 95 N° 3, May-June 2016: Introduction of a Reduced Postage Rate for Letters sent from French Post Offices Abroad in 1908 (Abensur); Professor A. Victor Segno: Sending Success Waves to Remote Places around the World (Grabowski).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 227, 2^e Trim 15 Jan 2016: Un essai de service postal aérien militaire dans le Sahara en 1933 (Estel); Exprès avant la lettre (Desarnaud); La lieutenance générale du royaume 31 juillet – 9 août 1830 (Goanvic); Les dessous des surcharges en piastres du Levant 1880-1888 (Abensur); Les oblitérations PAQUEBOT monégasques de 1960 (Maier); Purification rurale (Abensur).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1904 Mar 2016: Le passage de la TA64 à la TA65 [TAAF] (Venturini); La Saint-Barthélemy des vins: l'Explosion (Delmotte); La fin d'une saga spatiale à succès (Delmon); Hommage au pilote André Turcat (-).

N° 1905 Apr 2016: 2F au type Sage sur les valeurs déclarées du régime intérieur (Lavigne); Ay, la ville inondée [Saint-Barthélemy des Vins] (Delmotte); L'OP 2-2015 du Marion Dufresne [Tromelin et Crozet] (Venturini).

N° 1906 May 2016: Les fiscaux de l'Alsace-Lorraine désamorçés [1915-1921] (Danan); L'OP 2-2015 du Marion Dufresne [Kerguelen & Amsterdam - Sept 2015] (cont) (Venturini); 2F au type Merson sur les valeurs déclarées régime intérieur (Lavigne); La première «grande guerre» des aviateurs [1914-1918] (Albaret).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 323 (Vol 72 N° 1), 2016: The Mystery of Dr Bernard Gau - Following a philatelic trail (Taylor);

The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Madagascar Optical Telegraph Military Franchise Letters (Grabowski); Postage Due: Carte de Visite Rate Not allowed (Rasmussen); Algeria Timbres de Service (Rasmussen); Tunis to Geneva via Berlin in 1944 (Rasmussen).

Whole N° 324 (Vol 72, N° 2) 2016: U.S. Army 1943, Censorship of Algerian mail (LaBlonde); Yet another U.S. Army censored Letter (Rasmussen); Two covers from Martinique to Morocco in Fall 1943: The Censors were suspicious (Stevens); A French P.O.W. at St Helena other than Napoleon! (Luft); Unfranked Letter Tunis to Los Angeles (Rasmussen); St Pierre & Miquelon – Three surprises! (LaBlonde); Unpaid forwarded mail Taxed Postage Due France to Algeria (Rasmussen); A most unusual Postage Due Cover (Grabowski).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol XLVI N° 2 (Whole N° 222) March 2016: Colour varieties of 12c Along Bay EF Postal Card (Bentley); Ong Cong Tre (Beardsley); More on Revalued Ho Chi Minh Stamp Varieties (Gebhardt); Bien Hoa Airfield Attack Commemorative Stamp (Miller); Lien Khu 5th Interzone Local Stamps (Gebhardt); Receiving Authority Specimens Indo-China Stamps (Dykhouse).

Vol XLVI N° 3 (Whole N° 223) May 2016: Origine Rurale Marking (Bentley); Fake cover in Auction (Gebhardt); First Day Booklet for 1st Vietnamese set (Dykhouse); Letter from 1946 bears witness to Political change in North Vietnam (Düring); Vietnamese Commemorative cover Artist (Daniel III); Early cover from Indochina to Japan [Goup Type] (Grabowski); Broken « 2 » Variety of 2 Piaster Postage Due (Gebhardt); Francis Harnier's Last Letter (Bentley); An attempt at a Global Inventory of all L.K. V stamps (Gebhardt); Judging by the Cover [early S.Vietnam cover to Senator Lyndon B Johnson] (Gebhardt).

Timbres Magazine

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

N° 176 Mar 2016: Valenciennes à l'heure allemande, 1914-1918 (Lebecque); Quelques fleurons de l'histoire postale de Boulogne-sur-Mer (Poultier); Usages courants semi-permanents, comment les collectionner? Républicains et Régions (Rucklin); Les corbeaux, aussi, savent écrire...(de La Mettrie); Les Français entrent en lice Épisode 4: la desserte de l'Extrême Orient (Veglio); Les timbres au type «chiffres» d'Oudiné (Danan); Michel Monvoisin, graveur talentueux et méconnu (Nowacka); Cours d'instruction: les timbres-taxe étaient en retard (Gilles et al); Les cartes photos ont toujours la cote (Zeyons); D'une convention à l'autre (Prugnon); Timbres de Nouvelle Calédonie 1915-1927 (Singeot); Les marques de messageries (Baudot).

N° 177 Apr 2016: Emissions conjointes 2015: La France bat des records (Zimmermann); Retour sur une grande exposition: Philatéc Paris 1964 (Gomez); Le soleil de Strasbourg (Havrenne); Un fabuleux bloc de quatre du 20 centimes Cérès dentelé, Siège de Paris (Marion); Sans pince et sans loupe: regardons (de La Mettrie); Compétition sur le Rio de Plata..[5] (Veglio); Voulez-vous danser grand-mère? (Zeyons); Pour Smyrne et de Constantinople (Prugnon); Les timbres pour colis postaux d'Algérie 1899-1949 (Singeot).

N° 178 May 2016: Carcassonne avec ou sans surcharge (de Pellinec); Louis Chambon créateur des rotatives (Gomez); A la Poste, la moitié de 10c ne faisait pas toujours 5c! (de La Mettrie); La «voie de Kustendje» dans les années 1860 (Veglio); Des Postes étrangères au Maroc (Gailan); Les paquebots français de la Méditerranée dans l'entre-deux-guerres (Chauvin); La mémoire de Verdun (Zeyons); Un décret fort avantageux (Prugnon); Les timbres de Zanzibar 1889-1904 (Singeot).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 364 (1^{er} trim 2016, Mar 2016): Essai sur le Courrier d'État - «Les dépêches ordinaires du dedans du royaume» de François I^{er} à Louis XVI: Lettres closes portant la signature du monarque et la mention du destinataire (1^{ère} partie) (Barrère); Histoire de la double relation postale

du Principat d'Andorra, ch I (4^{ème} partie): Les débuts entravés du télégraphe électrique (Dupré); Le timbre BM sur les lettres acheminées par voie de terre 1867-1880 (1^{ère} partie) (Lissarrague); Quand les lettres portent la trace des messagers communaux des XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles (Trinquier); Découverte à Louveciennes (de La Mettrie).

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 1903-1934 (I) (Giletto); Les timbres à date des wagons-poste (Kiener).

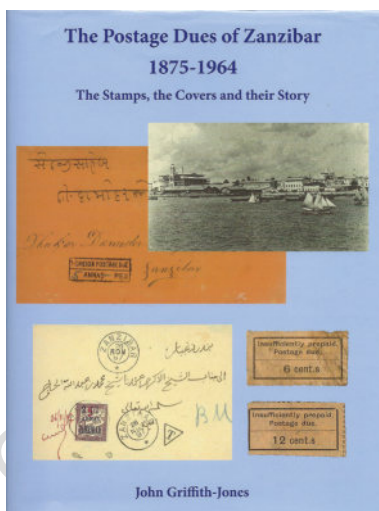
N° 174 (Apr 2016): La Bataille des Frontières, au mois d'août 1914 (I) (Geubel & Van Dooren); Le bureau de poste d'Annonay (Breyse); La pacification du Maroc de 1903-1934 (II) (Giletto); Introduction à la Marcophilie et l'Histoire Postale à l'usage de philatélistes et des marcophilistes (Morat); Erreurs de composition dans la couronne du TàD (Lavenas); La main-d'œuvre coloniale pendant les deux guerres mondiales (Berthier).

BOOKSHELF

Michael Round

Book Review

The Postage Dues of Zanzibar 1875-1964: The Stamps, the Covers and their Story. John Griffith-Jones. Published by the BPA Expertising Educational Charity. x+539pp, h/b & d/j. ISBN 0-9542032-4-0. Price £90 + p&p. Available via 65 Manor Park, Redland, Bristol BS6 7HW; email robert.johnson83@hotmail.com



Compare this luxurious 593-page volume with the tiny amount of catalogue space the actual stamps take up, and you might wonder how many library shelves, rooms or even whole buildings you'd need if every other issue in the world was treated in such detail. Author John Griffith-Jones' rationale is to use the Postage Dues themselves as a "lens"

(his word) through which to explore Zanzibar's postage-due – and general – history as a whole. Therefore there are three chapters covering trade, communications, Arab and Indian involvement, and UPU rules on relevant postal material. Then follow chapters on Indian handstamps, the German Post Office, those typeset issues of 1926-35 that look so much like bus tickets, the De La Rue postage dues of 1936-64, outbound postage due mail, no less than 11 appendices – and, of most direct interest to F&CPS members, a 36-page

chapter on the French Post Office, 1889-1904.

In this chapter the basic catalogue listings are brought vividly to life. Precursors – the Duval 'General Colonies' postage due type with Zanzibar postmarks – are shown to be fraudulent, concocted *post hoc* and identifiable by a dot inside the figure '9' of the postmark date. There is as yet no evidence of genuine usage in Zanzibar (unlike Morocco, Egypt and Shanghai). Normality commenced with the 1897 surcharges. Here and later, the book has vital research on plating, *millésimes*, errors and varieties, culminating in a worldwide census of covers which over 12 years has yielded only 15 items, all philatelic! The name of Mannoni features prominently in Zanzibar's postal history: these were brothers and purveyors of dubious products to the philatelic gentry almost as energetic as those behind the contemporary effusions of Guadeloupe and Senegal. The story is all here.

The book is not cheap, and F&CPS members might wish that this chapter could be made available separately. But if that were the case, an awful lot besides would be missed. Every chapter is exhaustive, very readable and copiously illustrated, and I guarantee that anyone with more than the narrowest of philatelic interests will find years of entertainment and enlightenment within these pages. Recommended, with acclaim!

Books Noted

A listing in this column does not preclude the possibility of a full review later.

Île de la Réunion. Émissions locales 1882-1905. II. Les timbres mobiles pour colis postaux, Marie-Anick et Christian-Jacques Duvivier. 108pp, 210x297mm. €50 plus postage (€7 within France, costs abroad on application). Available from Ch-J Duvivier, 4 rue de la Garenne, 86160 Champagné-Saint-Hilaire, France. Volume I passed me by, but this Volume II is devoted to possibly the least popular stamps of La Réunion, namely the decidedly homely and purely functional *Colis Postaux* issues of 1890. Despite their best endeavours, a few details - like the name of the engraver - remain unknown, but a huge amount has been discovered, and presented: for instance exhaustive studies of shades, paper variations, quantities printed, errors and Fournier forgeries. The work closes with a tentative price-list. This is likely to be the authoritative source on these items for years to come.

Catalogue Farcigny Enveloppes Premier Jour FDC 2015. Priced catalogue of FDCs and First Day cards from early-1950s precursors to the beginning of 2015. Includes France, Andorra, Monaco and DOM/TOMs. Colour, 292 pages, softback; Farcigny imprint. Price: €25.00 plus p&p. Éditions Jean Farcigny - 36, avenue de la République, 92400 Courbevoie - Tél. : 01 43 33 31 63 - Fax : 01 43 34 94 62 - <http://www.editions-farcigny.fr> - Email : contact@editions-farcigny.fr or: editions.farcigny@wanadoo.fr

Cours des carnets et des publicitimbres 2016/17. 110pp, coloured illustrations, A4 format, spiral bound (ACCP publication). €30 plus postage (€6 within France: overseas rates on application). ACCP, 21 rue du Héron cendré, 95290 L'Isle Adam, France. Website: www.accp-asso.com. Covers booklets of all periods issued by France, Monaco, the *Territoires d'Outre-Mer* and the former colonies, plus 'publicitimbres' and, for the first time, booklets of airmail vignettes. Yvert, Maury and ACCP's own numberings are correlated; the upward and downward arrows highlighting price rises or falls may remind football-watchers among us of league tables! Purchasers become entitled to apply for membership of ACCP itself (the *Association des Collectionneurs de Carnets et de Publicitimbres*), at a preferential rate of €12.

Timbres de la Libération 2015, Mayer. 108pp in colour, 210x150mm. Available via the website www.timbro.fr or directly from the editor: Mme Martine Mayer-Mottironi, 42 rue de la Filature, 1227 Carouge, Switzerland. Price €50, postage extra. This is the 11th edition, the first since 2010, and its prices reflect recent auction realization and other sales figures, with appropriate rises for the much sought-after on-cover material. Categories: *Libération*, *Poste navale*, *Armée des USA en France*, *Bâtiment de ligne* Richelieu,

Dunkerque-Coudekerque plus studies of the Pétain 1F50 and 50F stamps, *Saint-Nazaire* and *La Rochelle*.

L'Algérie à travers la carte postale ancienne, Philippe Lamarque. 192pp, 230x285mm. €18.50 plus postage

La Côte Fleurie, M Maurice-Juhász & O Bouze. 112pp, 210x285mm. €18.50

Aix en Provence à travers la carte postale ancienne, A-L and I Rauch. 112pp, 230x285mm. €18.50 plus postage

La Côte d'Opale à travers la carte postale ancienne, Isabelle Leclercq. 128pp, 230x285mm. €18.50 plus postage

Bourges d'antan à travers la carte postale ancienne, P. Martinat. €28.90. 112pp, 250x325mm

Publisher (all five): HC-Editions (Editions Hervé Chopin), 164 rue de Vaugirard, 75015 Paris. www.hc-editions.com. Possibly more attractive to geographers and historians than philatelists, these books (part of a series that could run and run!) are nevertheless most pleasing to the eye, and may inspire deltiologists among us to re-sort and classify all those postcards we have tucked away in shoe-boxes. Their fractionally different sizes affects their appearance on the shelf, but only minutely.

Les personnages célèbres sur les billets de banque et les timbres, Angel Sanchez. 128pp, 160x240mm, 144 coloured illustrations. Available from l'Adresse-Musée de la Poste, 8 Boulevard de Montparnasse, 75014 Paris. €19.80 (postage extra). First published in 2011, this compact booklet, now re-edited and in the same format as the SG 'France', contains brief back stories and anecdotes on celebrities great and small. An excellent resource for the thematic collector and extensive writer-up of traditional collections.

Yvert et Tellier 2016, Tome Ibis - Timbres de Monaco, TOM, Andorre, Europa, Nations Unies. 1052pp, in colour. €19.99 plus postage. Yvert et Tellier, 2 rue de l'Etoile, 80094 Amiens Cedex 3. A regular favourite among collectors of the areas. Monaco coverage is particularly detailed, with separate sections for booklets and postal stationery, plus - an excellent reference for thematicists - stamp-designs collated under topic headings, as with Yvert's companion volume for France. Some slight price rises have been noted, though in general they remain stable.

Yvert et Tellier - Carnets de France 1940-65 et des Colonies françaises jusqu'à l'indépendance. Hardback, 520pp in colour. €95 plus postage. See previous entry for availability. This forms Volume 4 of Yvert's magisterial coverage of French booklets. Page layout is spacious, and documentation ample. Illustrations include enlargements of detail where appropriate. Prices are included in a separate portion.

La Retirada - Spanish Refugees in France 1939 -1942

Part One

David Hogarth

BACKGROUND

For centuries refugees from political instability in Spain were a familiar sight as they crossed the border into France, through the Pyrenean passes or by sea at each end of the mountains. Some returned, though many settled as exiles in France. The latter half of the 19th century and the first years of the 20th century saw waves of emigration up to the establishment of the Second Spanish Republic in 1931. None of these however seemed to prepare France for the enormous numbers of refugees displaced by the Spanish Civil War between 1936 and 1938 and for the even greater numbers which followed the final successes of the Nationalist armies, the fall of Catalonia in January 1939 and the ending of the Civil War in April 1939.

Even though the border had been officially closed by France for a period until January 1939, that did not stem the flood. The French governments of the period were concerned over the economic and social costs and difficulties and the problems of having in their country soldiers of various political beliefs; but they did in the end adopt a humanitarian attitude even though they found themselves having to deal with hundreds of thousands of people. However they do not appear to have appreciated in advance the potential problems involved in housing, feeding and looking after such large numbers of refugees.

The problem was compounded by the division of responsibility between prefectural and municipal authorities even though a policy of dispersal throughout France was introduced to reduce the impact on individual towns, especially those close to the Pyrenees in the south-west of the country. By the early months of 1939 it was estimated that more than half a million refugees had crossed the border; with little having been done in advance to prepare for this influx it is not surprising that the conditions in which the refugees would be housed were inevitably poor.

SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

While in recent years considerably more information about internment in France during World War II has been brought into the light of day, the starting point for those interested in the postal history of the period and the various cachets and markings used in the internment camps remains in the series of articles researched and published in the Society's Journal by Derek J Richardson starting with issue 167 in March 1988 and continuing to the present time. The bibliography at the end of the article lists a number of other publications which have been referred to. The map in Figure 1 shows the principal camps which were used to house Spanish refugees: Agde, Argelès-sur-Mer, Le Barcarès, Bram, Gurs, Rieucros, Rivesaltes, Saint-Cyprien, Septfonds and Le Vernet.

In addition to the French archives which are slowly opening, there is a growing body of information on the internet and in publications describing the camps and

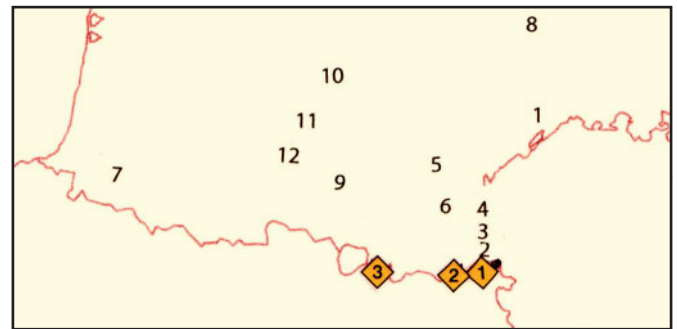


Figure 1

Map showing the principal camps where Spanish refugees were held: 1 Agde; 2 Argelès-sur-Mer; 3 Saint-Cyprien; 4 Le Barcarès; 5 Bram; 6 Rivesaltes; 7 Gurs; 8 Rieucros; 9 Le Vernet; 10 Septfonds; 11 Récébédou; 12 Noé. Three of the main crossing-points into France are also indicated: 1 Cerbère; 2 Le Perthus; 3 Bourg-Madame

including testimony of former internees. There are also two contemporaneous sources of information about *La Retirada* and the first camps: the first contains reports both in the local French newspapers, and also in the foreign press. At this period there was no major restriction on reporting what was happening. *The Times* correspondent filed a number of reports in February and March 1939, and *Picture Post*, in its issue of 15 April 1939, published an article, illustrated by photographs taken by Robert Capa, entitled 'The Forgotten Army'. This reported on the plight of the refugees in the camp at Argelès-sur-Mer and in a number of other camps, including Bram where a picture showed members of the Barcelona Philharmonic Orchestra giving a recital in the open air, having fled, taking their instruments with them.

The second source can be found in photographic postcards; there are at least two lengthy series of illustrated postcards produced by local publishers (Cartes APA of Albi and Studio Chauvin of Perpignan Figure 2) and many other issues. The postcards are rarely seen postally used and one is entitled to wonder whom they were aimed at.

I have not attempted to duplicate in any way Derek Richardson's series of articles or show all of the various cachets and cancels on mail, but to expand on those of his articles which dealt with the Beach Camps and the Spanish workers' companies to show a little more about the Spanish refugees while in France. It may be seen more as Social Philately rather than Postal History.

PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REFUGEES

Some of the refugees had connections in France and had come able to look after themselves, though these were few in number. Those who had come from 1936 onwards were to some extent settled and provided for (Figure 3). The much greater numbers in 1939 had to depend on the French State for support.



Figure 2

The postcard is captioned on the reverse *Réfugiés sur la Route du Boulou - se rendant à Argelès* (Studio Chauvin series no 21). The captions of all of these postcards are in both French and Spanish¹.

¹ Note that the use of capital and lower-case letters in the postcard captions can be variable; I have not attempted to make them consistent!



Figure 3

Postcard showing a group on 14 July 1937 at the *Centre d'Hébergement des Réfugiés Espagnols* at Tonnerre near Auxerre in the north-east of France

Information from the archives of the *département* of Hérault broadly identifies four types of camp within this *département*, and this situation would almost certainly have been the same in other *départements* affected by the influx of refugees:

- the *camp de concentration*, for example at Agde, where soldiers and men of military age were 'concentrated' (without having the connotations of the later German concentration camps) until they could be dealt with or interned or transferred elsewhere.
- the *camp d'hébergement* (also referred to as *centre*

d'hébergement, *camp d'internement* and *centre d'accueil*) which could be either run by public or governmental bodies or appropriate private individuals where civilians, particularly women, children and the old, were looked after.

- the *camp de triage* where refugees were recorded and health-checked before being sent on to other centres.
- and special camps for particular groups – such as the Basques – based on where they had come from or their age, sex or social background (Figure 4).



Figure 4

Cover cancelled with the *Camp de Gurs* canceller on 19 July 1939 and with the *CAMP D'ACCUEIL DE GURS* and *CAMP DES BASQUES* cachets, the latter referring to the areas within the camp reserved for Basques rather than any separate camp. It is likely, given the clarity of the cancels and cachets, that this was specially produced and was not intended to be posted.

By this time, in and even before the invasion by Germany of the Netherlands, Belgium and France in May 1940 and before floods of refugees from the Low Countries had reached France, the country had become “a land of camps” as some commentators have put it. Centres were established wherever there was space (in prisons, schools, *colonies de vacances* for example) but not at the time in empty army barracks, given the international situation and the very real possibility before May 1940 of France having to mobilise troops.

THE ‘HOLDING’ CAMPS

The majority of the refugees would have reached France and crossed the border at Cerbère, Le Perthus (Figures 5 and 6) or Bourg-Madame, the normal routes through the Pyrenees. Looking after the refugees once they had crossed the frontier was done by means of holding camps (the *camps de triage*) such as that shown on the postcard of Amélie-les-Bains (see front cover). These camps were clearly intended to be short-term, where the refugees were identified, recorded and moved on, though this process took some time. The article in *Picture Post* in April 1939 (mentioned above) indicates that by then the camp at Amélie-les-Bains still held 15,000 refugees. There is however no special mail recorded from these first steps on to French soil, though philately did appear to be in place: Figure 7 is of a group at Le Perthus on what must surely be a philatelic postcard.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE REFUGEES

In 1939, the French state wished to remain on relatively good terms with Spain, and as a result sought to keep separate the Republican soldiers, many of whom had fled in their units and carrying their weapons: these had to be left at the frontier. Such refugees were interned in camps, often under strict conditions, such as at Le Vernet. Civilian

refugees, other than men of military age, were treated more leniently and housed initially in *Centres d'Hébergement*, thereafter in camps or sections of camps set aside for women and children or the old and infirm. Reports from the time suggest that often women and children sought to stay with their husbands or fathers.

Broadly speaking, no real preparations had been made in advance, France seeming to ignore as a matter of state what might happen if the Republican armies were routed. However the need to house, feed and provide medical facilities for such large numbers of people led, fairly quickly, in the first beach camps to the provision of tents, food and at least rudimentary medical facilities; huts began to appear as the weeks passed and the original beach camps were replaced by specially constructed camps. With the separation of men from the women and children, there was a need to allow communication between refugees and with organisations which could assist in dealing with them, whether by emigration, repatriating those who wished to go back to Spain or dispersing them throughout France, either individually or as workers' groups to carry out productive work.

Buildings of different sizes and types were identified throughout France where refugees could be looked after. They ranged from unused factories – soapworks keep appearing in the record – and workplaces, former prisons (as at Lodève in the Hérault), hospitals and sanatoria to villas and other holiday accommodation such as *colonies de vacances*. Many in the early days also accommodated wounded soldiers. Some were run by the local authorities, some by private individuals. The mail from such locations usually uses the overprinted 90c *Paix* stamp (Figure 8) and carries cachets identifying the *Centre*. Examples are shown in Figure 9.



Figure 5

Postcard of a *Vue générale au Perthus* showing a fairly chaotic scene on the main road (APA series no 5)

Figure 6

Postcard showing refugees at Le Boulou station *dans l'attente du convoi qui va les amener à l'intérieur* (Studio Chauvin series no 9)

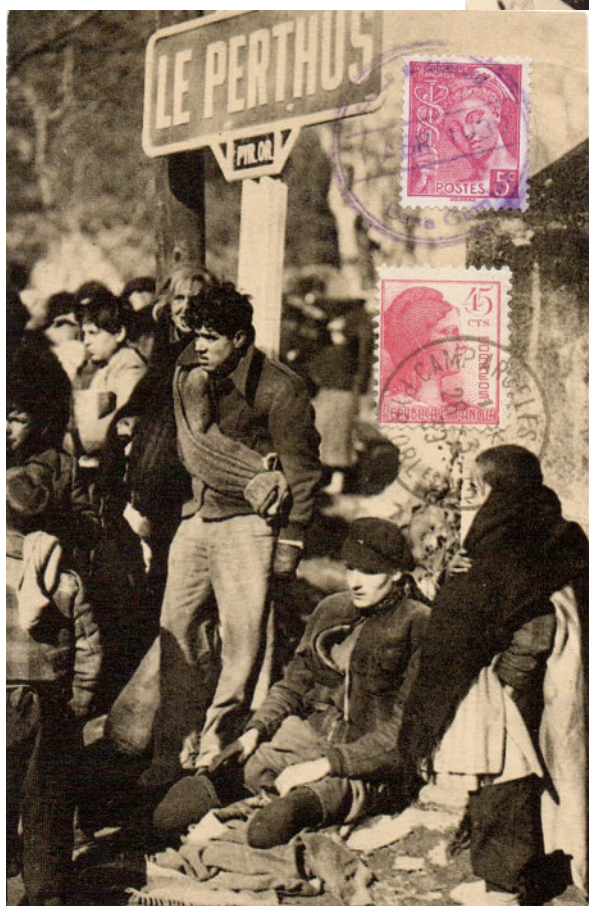


Figure 7

Philatelic postcard showing *Enfants et blessés dans l'attente d'être évacués* at Le Perthus (Studio Chauvin series no 7) franked with a French and a Spanish stamp, the latter cancelled with the Argelès-sur-Mer camp canceller on 28 March 1939 and the former with a double-ring cachet dated 1 April 1939 of CUSELO DE CAMPAGNA/Basa Gambia.

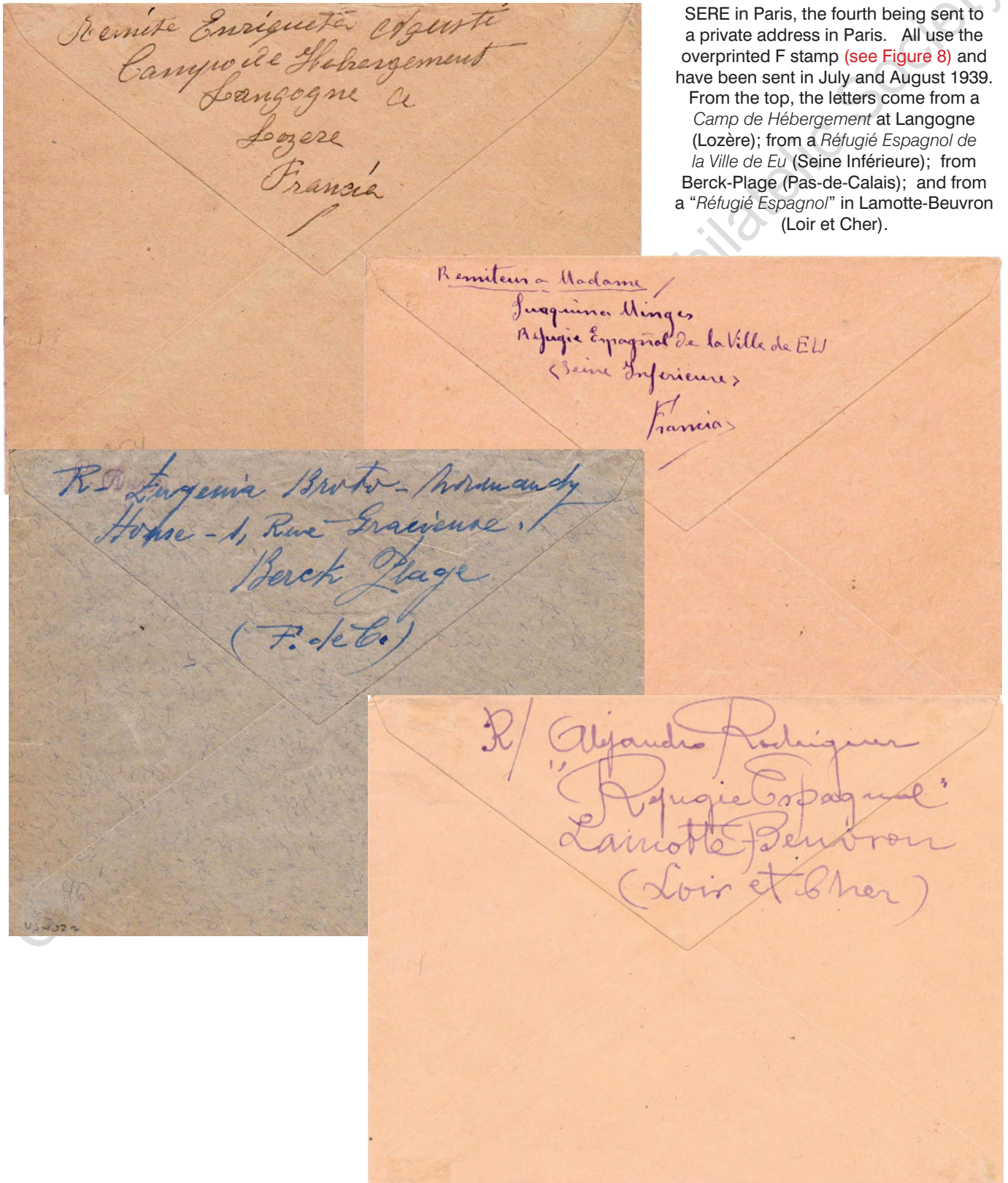


Figure 8

Spanish Refugee
Franchise issue

Figure 9

Four examples of letters from Spanish refugees in various parts of France. Three of the letters are addressed to SERE in Paris, the fourth being sent to a private address in Paris. All use the overprinted F stamp (see Figure 8) and have been sent in July and August 1939. From the top, the letters come from a Camp de Hébergement at Langogne (Lozère); from a Réfugié Espagnol de la Ville de Eu (Seine Inférieure); from Berck-Plage (Pas-de-Calais); and from a "Réfugié Espagnol" in Lamotte-Beuvron (Loir et Cher).



SERE, JARE AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Much of the mail which exists is addressed to SERE – the *Servicio de Evacuación* (sometimes *Emigración*) de *Refugiados Españoles* – or JARE – the *Junta de Auxilio a los Republicanos Españoles*. The two organisations were established when, in 1939, emigration was seen (at least by the French State) as a major option for removing the refugees from France. The Spanish Republican Government in Exile established SERE in late March 1939, however infighting within the exile community branded it as being run by communists, and JARE was set up as an alternative socialist group in late July 1939. (By 1942 however a conservative estimate found that only some 20,000 refugees had chosen to emigrate, mainly to Mexico). Both organisations closed down around the time of the German invasion of France, with SERE being dissolved in May 1940 and JARE in the following month. There were also other organisations which tried to help the refugees such as the *Solidaridad Internacional Antifascista* (SIA). These organisations do however provide the postal historian with large numbers of covers with various camp cachets (Figure 10).

THE CAMPS

The majority of internment camps (initially refugee camps – *les camps des réfugiés*) in France during the years following the Spanish Civil War until the liberation of France housed, at different times, varying communities of internees. Populations changed, and after the majority of Spanish refugees were dispersed, many of the camps where they had been housed – provided they remained in at least reasonable condition – were used to house other groups, particularly Jews. After the liberation, many continued in use for German prisoners-of-war and Frenchmen known or suspected of having collaborated with the Germans. While the censorship and the postal arrangements may have remained similar, this article deals only with the Spanish refugees.

THE BEACH CAMPS – ARGELES-SUR-MER, LE BARCARES & SAINT-CYPRIEN

In early 1939 the long Mediterranean beaches stretching north from Collioure near the Spanish border offered what seemed to be the only easy possibility of accommodating large numbers of refugees, and therefore came to appear as an obvious solution to the problem of accommodating hundreds of thousands of people. The so-called “beach camps” were established there, avoiding the need to take over agricultural land; most of the local inhabitants of the area were small farmers. The villages of Argelès-sur-Mer (population 2,945 in 1939), Saint-Cyprien (1,172) and Le Barcarès (508) were distinguished by their large sandy beaches and rural hinterlands, but were soon to find themselves overwhelmed by the ‘concentration camps’ established on their beaches.

The first camp was, literally, “staked out” on part of a 10-kilometre stretch of beach at Argelès-sur-Mer (Figure 11). At the start there were a few huts, but a government ministerial visit led hurriedly to stakes being driven into the beach marking out 1 hectare rectangles enclosed with barbed wire, and when the barbed wire ran out, all that there was were the stakes. Apparently security was, up to a point, clearly more important than shelter. This was soon followed by similar arrangements at Saint-Cyprien (Figure 12) and Le Barcarès (Figure 13), though the plan for the latter was to use refugee labour to build huts. All three locations were vastly overcrowded. The quality of the food and the early cooking arrangements can be seen in Figure 14.

The overcrowding was eased to a small extent by some repatriation, a very limited degree of emigration especially to Mexico, but mostly by the dispersal of able-bodied men to work throughout France, mainly in work parties known as *Compagnies de Travailleurs Espagnols* (CTE) in the first instances, being later absorbed into the larger *Groupes de Travailleurs Etrangers* (GTE). Sometimes the names seemed to be interchangeable or those enlisted in them did not entirely appreciate the nomenclature. Numbers of former soldiers joined the French Foreign Legion, some of whom fought at Narvik as part of the (mainly) British Expeditionary Force in 1940.

Republican refugees had been dispersed throughout France and many had ended up in what became the Occupied Zone, where many faced the possibility of being deported to Germany. For example, some hundreds of refugees had been dispersed to a variety of camps centred on Angoulême, to the north-east of Bordeaux, which after the Armistice lay in the Occupied Zone. These *rouges espagnols* were, on 13 July 1940, concentrated in what became the *Camp des Alliers* at Sillac, close to the railway line as the French authorities had decided to move them all back into the Unoccupied Zone. However, on 20 August 1940, the Germans took control of the camp and sent the 927 men and older boys to Mauthausen – this *convoi* had the unfortunate distinction of being the first *train de déportation* – and handed back the women and children to the Franco regime in Spain.

The beach camps had a short life. By July 1939, Argelès-sur-Mer had been closed, though it reopened in August to take some of the refugees who had been cleared from Le Barcarès when the latter camp became the home for Czech soldiers enlisted in the French army; it was later again pressed into service for internees. Argelès-sur-Mer seems to have struggled on with different categories of internee until mid-1941, while Saint-Cyprien was almost destroyed in freak weather and was closed in October 1940.

Examples of mail showing the camp cancellations are shown in Figure 15.



Figure 10

Covers from members of *Compagnies de Travailleurs Espagnols*, the first sent to SERE in August 1939, being validated by the cachet (faint) of the *Commandant du Détachement*, from Brianconnet (Alpes Maritimes); the second cover is to JARE from a member of the 118th CTE from Cassel (Nord); and the third is to SIA from an internee in *Campo 3, Baracca AX-2, Agde*.



Figure 11

The upper postcard shows
un Coin du Camp d'Argelès – La Mer
 (APA series no 11)
 while the postcard on the right shows
 refugees guarded by a gendarme and
 a mounted colonial trooper
 on the sand at the same camp
 (Studio Chauvin series no 24)



Figure 12

Postcard of Saint-Cyprien –
Une vue du Camp
 (Studio Chauvin series no 18)
 with a manuscript note on the reverse
Exode espagnole Février 1939 —
Les premiers camps de concentration,
celui de Saint-Cyprien, Pyrénées-Orientales



Figure 13

Postcard of *Le Barcarès* –
Vue partielle du Camp de concentration
 (Studio Chauvin series no 23)

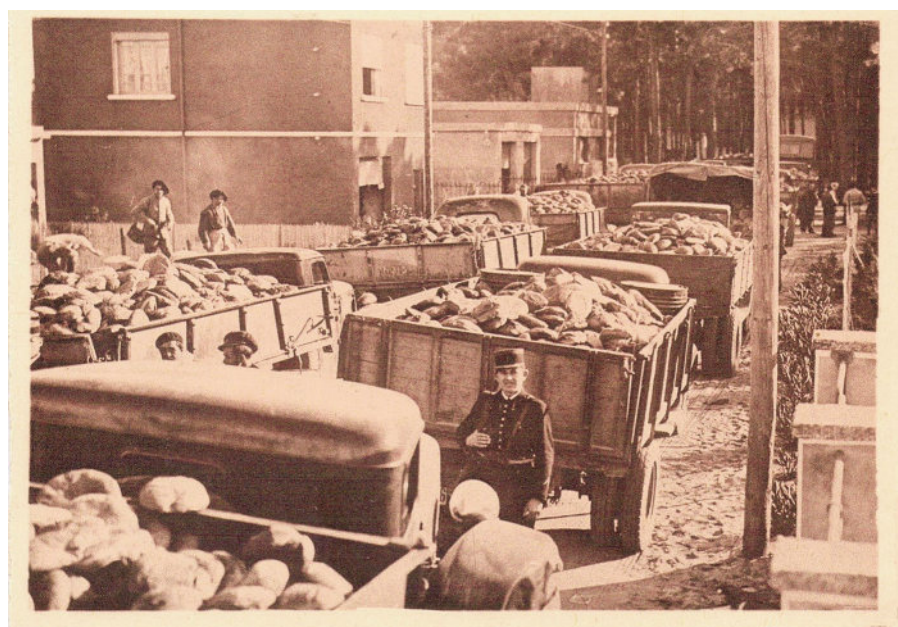


Figure 14

The first postcard (above) is of
Argelès - Les Camions de pain
destinés aux réfugiés
 (Studio Chauvin series no 29).
 The second (right) shows *Camp d'Argelès* –
Quartiers de viande qui vont servir
à la nourriture des Réfugiés
 (Studio Chauvin series no 30)



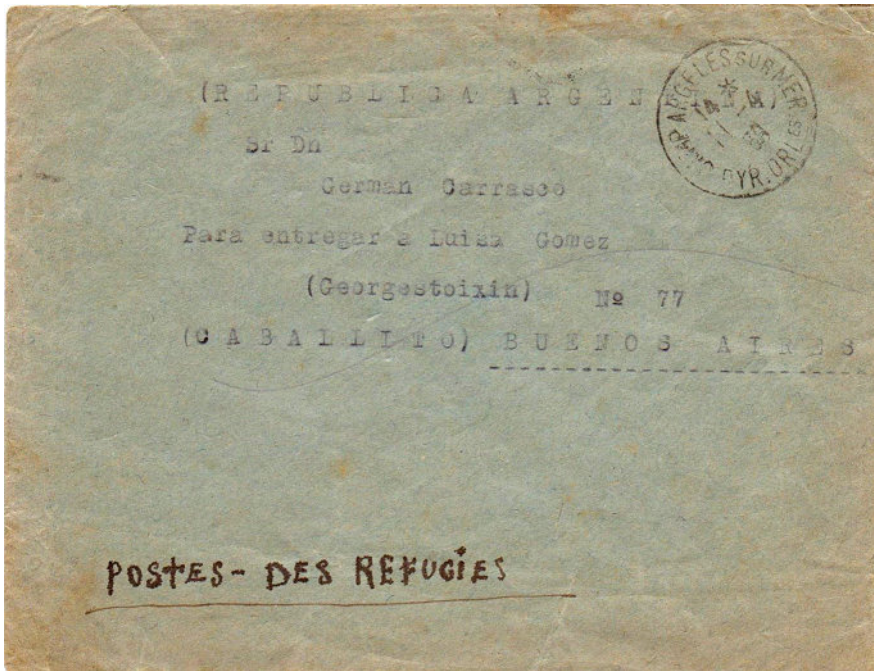


Figure 15

Examples of the beach camp cancellations with, from the top, Argelès-sur-Mer, Le Barcarès and Saint-Cyprien

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

Given the almost total lack of facilities provided for the refugees in the three beach camps, it is surprising perhaps that each of these three camps was so quickly allocated its own post office with a canceller incorporating the name of the camp. Almost certainly this was because the grafting of communities with very large populations, most of whom would be transient but who would generate large quantities of mail, on to "host" villages or towns many times smaller would swamp the existing post office facilities. Some of the other large camps established at this time also received their own post offices, at Agde, Gurs, Rivesaltes and Septfonds. Why other camps such as Le Vernet, and Bram did not is unknown.

By June 1939 each refugee, whether in the camps or formally transferred elsewhere, was allocated two free stamps for correspondence within France, the stamp being the 90c *Paix* issue of 1937 overprinted with a black 'F' franchise mark (Figure 8). Until the stamps were issued, the camp cancellers allowed free mail. The regulations provided for censorship, requiring the language the letter was written in to be stated on the front and the sender's particulars to be given on the reverse. These rules were not always followed, particularly with the shortage of envelopes resulting in some being turned inside out and reused and occasional errors such as the sender writing his details on the inside of the rear flap of the envelope which was then sealed. Given the large quantities of mail generated however, the system seemed generally to work well, and the French Post Office still enabled mail within France to be delivered speedily – within 24 hours from a camp in the south of France to Paris in many cases.

CONSULTED WORKS

France & Colonies Philatelic Society Journal: articles by Derek J Richardson from 1988 (particularly in nos. 167 and 172 in 1988 and 1989)

Picture Post, 15 April 1939

The Times, February/March 1939

La Lettre, APRA (Association Philatélique de Rouen et Agglomération), special issues 2002, 2005, 2006; *Républicains Espagnols en Midi-Pyrénées: Exil, Histoire et Mémoire*, Presses Universitaires de Mirail Toulouse, 2005

Les Camps sur la Plage, un Exil Espagnol, Dreyfus-Armand et Temime, Editions Autremont, Paris 1955

Les Camps du Sud-ouest de la France 1939-1944, Editions Privat, Toulouse 1994

Beyond Death and Exile, Stein, Harvard UP 1979

Le Camp de Gurs, Laharie, J & D Editions 1993

Le Camp de Gurs, Apollaro, Club Marcophile de la 2^{ème} Guerre Mondiale 1986

Des Camps de Réfugiés Espagnols de la Guerre Civile dans l'Hérault, Parello 2011

Derek Richardson also pointed me in the direction of *Refugees: a Review of the Situation since 1938* prepared for the Royal Institute of International Affairs and published by OUP in August 1939 with a section on the Spanish refugee problem. Any reader interested in this period of French history would find these interesting.

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

SOCIETY NOTES

Continued from page 39

of the Packet involves a great deal of effort. With this in mind, I would urge members to take the greatest care when dealing with the Packets, especially when recording their purchases, in order to eliminate any errors that can add such a considerable additional workload to the Secretary.

For all enquiries, my details can be found on the inside cover of the Journal.

Richard Broadhurst

* * *

F&CPS Forum

If you visit our website you will find that one section is known as the Forum. This is specifically designed for members to exchange information and ideas, to ask questions and answer those posed by others.

Over the past three years over 40 topics in categories such as censorship, philatelic literature, *pneus*, postmarks and cachets, postage rates, stamps, translations and transsaharan mail have all been dealt with to a greater or lesser degree. This part of our site, however, has been grossly underused and a total of only 100 messages has been posted by our

members during that period.

This is an opportunity for much speedier interaction than is possible with the Journal that is not being grasped by enough members, unfortunately leading to general apathy about the whole project.

However, if you would like to participate by entering comments, queries or replies to others, you need to be given a username – usually your initial(s) and surname as one word in lower case – and submit your preferred password, in order to become a registered user. Only about two dozen members have availed themselves of this facility so far, and we would like to see a much greater proportion of our membership do so.

To register, or just to give your opinion on the idea of the Forum, please contact me in the first instance, using the email address maurice@mstyler.plus.com – a little later in the year, probably from September and announced in the Journal at that time, our new webmaster Jan Gane will take over this function at jan_g@inet.net.au

Maurice Tyler

* * *

Military Mail from and to the Island of Réunion 1870-1899

Peter Kelly

Since the British captured Réunion in 1810 there has been no civil or international war that has been reflected within the shores of Réunion. Nevertheless, Réunion has played its part as host to soldiers and sailors in transit and particularly in connection with the convalescence of troops engaged in the two Expeditionary Forces in Madagascar.

This article examines the role played by Réunion, especially from a medical viewpoint, and military mail that relates to this. This includes a definition of mail eligible for either free postage or concessionary rates, the tariffs and dates of application of the franchise, the post offices recorded as having handled this category of mail and, importantly, the background to the presence of troops on the island. The article concludes with a selection of covers supporting the text.

1. Definition of military mail

The Decree of 30 May 1871 (Application 16 June) lays down the general principle of how military mail is to be dealt with and this is divided into two categories.

The military (army and navy) forming part of an Expeditionary Force, officially described as being '*en campagne*' as promulgated by the decree relating specifically to it, had the right of free mail (*sous franchise*) for letters not exceeding the first weight step. This also included troops wounded, ill and hospitalised. Mail sent by these means had to be marked with the name of the relevant campaign to which the franchise related (i.e. *Corps Expéditionnaire de Madagascar*) and an authorising handstamp (i.e. *Réunion / Hôpital thermal de Salazie*). The franchise given to the first *Corps Expéditionnaire* was decreed on 24 June 1885 and came into immediate effect and remained in place until July 1890, some time after the cession of hostilities. This did not last long; serious problems beset the protectorate and an army, the second Expeditionary Force, was landed at Majunga in March 1895. A mail franchise was granted from 15 February 1895 until 31 December 1903.

Those troops simply on garrison duties in the Colonies or on station or passing through were allowed to send mail at the inland rate. This also covered registration. There was a strict proviso that this concession was only available to mail that could be carried under the French flag (Law of 27 June 1792). All eligible mail had to be marked with a handstamp indicating¹ '*Correspondance d'Armées*' with the origin (i.e. *Corr d'Armées / St Denis*) together with an authorising handstamp.

On occasion this did not happen and one has to rely on the rate and presence of an authorising handstamp. The postal agents on board the French mailboats also had '*Correspondance d'Armées*' handstamps that were applied on occasion but not systematically to mail in transit.

None of this was affected by France joining the GPU/UPU.

The concessionary inland rate no longer applied and was no longer necessary after 1 January 1899 when all mail to and from the Colonies could be sent at the inland rate.

The postal authorities also emphasised that mail sent at the concessionary rate had to be franked with colonial stamps (i.e. the imperforate General or Colonial issues) and that mail franked with metropolitan stamps would be taxed at the unpaid letter rate less the value of stamps affixed.

2. Réunion and the Madagascar campaigns

The *Réunionais* do not appear to have written a great deal about either their own conscripts sent to Madagascar or of the treatment of convalescent troops sent to the island. On the one hand, it was considered that the Réunion troops were poor quality and only fit for garrison duties and that the presence of the convalescent troops on the island was a disagreeable imposition.² There certainly seemed to be an element of bitterness that the accession of Madagascar as a Colony pushed Réunion into a secondary position.

A report by Commandant Grandin³ refers to an action of April 1895 when two companies of Réunion *tirailleurs* (infantrymen) performed well in the taking of a small fort, with the success of the venture due largely to them so there may well be two sides to the coin.

The greatest problem encountered by both Expeditions was that of health with a substantial number of the troops, particularly the European ones, suffering from water borne diseases such as malaria and anaemia. Initially troops that were seriously ill were sent to the convalescent unit at Nossi-Comba but this was quickly filled and the decision was made to send them to Réunion. This did not happen immediately and up to 20 August 1895 convalescents were returned home to France. Many, already weakened, died on the voyage home, particularly while crossing the Red Sea. The climate was much healthier in Réunion, only 24 hours away by steamer. The main military hospital was stone built and situated at the highest point of the capital, Saint Denis. It had 256 beds and rooms with open windows through which the breeze could percolate. In the mountains to the south there were thermal spas at Salazie (Hell Bourg), Cilaos, St François and Mafate. Salazie was 900 metres above sea level. The general idea was that the convalescents spent a certain amount of time at St Denis and once their condition was stronger they could be transferred to the mountains for a final period. This worked well for the patients with a noticeable reduction in mortality.

3. The post offices

The author is aware of only four offices having used date stamps incorporating '*Correspondance d'Armées*'.

¹ M Chauvet, J-F Brun *Introduction à l'histoire postale 1848-1878*. Contains valuable source and general information

² D. Vaxelaire *Le grand livre de l'histoire de la Réunion. Tome II 1848-2000*.

³ Cdt Grandin *Les Français à Madagascar*. René Halon, Paris 1895

The periods of use are those quoted by F. Feuga with a couple of improvements from the author.

St Denis	1865-1901	Known in black, blue and red. Three types
Hell Bourg	1887-1901	Known in black, blue and violet and without central slug.
St Paul	1865-1876(?)	Rare
St Pierre	1865-1878(?)	Extremely Rare.

It is logical that the majority of examples are from St Denis where the military hospital is situated and from Hell Bourg (Salazie) to a lesser extent. Examples from St Paul and St Pierre are rarely seen and their use must have been accidental. St Pierre was the second largest port on the island.

4. Concessionary mail rates

The rate for a single weight letter from Réunion to France and vice-versa was the following.

1 April 1849	20c per 7½g
1 July 1850	25c per 7½g
1 July 1854	20c per 7½g
1 January 1862	20c per 10g
1 September 1871	25c per 10g
1 January 1876	25c per 15g
1 May 1878	15c per 15g

5. Illustrations

Finally, there follows a selection of letters (5.1 to 5.5) illustrating the handstamps of the four offices and also inward mail sent 'sous franchise'.

5.1 The military concession rate was 15c per 15g from 1.5.1878 to 1.1.1899



St Denis to St Ambert (Puy de Dôme) 16 March 1886.

m/s 'Correspondance militaire / Le lieutenant de vaisseau' (signed)

cds **Corr d'Armées – St Denis**

Transit: **Cor d.Armées / Paq Fr T N° 6** 16 March

Montbrison (Isère) 4 April. St Antheme (Puy de Dôme) 5 April. St Ambert (PdD) 6 April.

Carried by Messageries Maritimes **Ligne T** mailboat 'Salazie'

Dep: Réunion 16 March. Arr: Marseille 3 April.

Note use of **Cor.d.armées / paq.fr.T N° 6** handstamp

5.2 The military concession rate was 25c per 10 grams from 1 September 1871 to 1 January 1876



6 March 1875

Registered military concession letter from St Denis to Marseille and redirected to Montpellier
m/s *Correspondance d'Armée / Le Sous Commissaire de la Marine* (signature)

Franked **Chargé** and m/s '10gr'

Franked 75c

Postage 25c (inland rate) of 1 September 1871 + Registration 50c (Tariff of February 1873)



Transit: **Col.F.V. Suez Paq F ' 1 Mars 1**, 31 March 1876

(Entry mark applied at Marseille on mail destined for Marseille from French colonies by French mailboat via Suez)
Marseille 31 March; *Marseille / Poste Restante* 1 April; Montpellier 2 April

Carried by *Messageries Maritimes Ligne T* mailboat *Tigre*. Dep: Réunion 6 March Arr: Aden 18 March
M.M ligne N mailboat 'Amazone' Dep: Aden c 18 March. Arr: Marseille 31 March

5.3 Military Franchise period June 1885 to July 1890

Correspondance des Armées - Hell Bourg

Corps Expéditionnaire de Madagascar



Letter sent 'sous franchise' from Hell Bourg to Lyon (Rhône) 6 April 1887
m/s *Correspondance d'Armées / L'Agent comptable de l'hôpital de Salazie* (Signature)
Accompanied by the blue handstamp **Réunion – Hôpital thermal de Salazie**
ds. **Corr d'Armées / Hell Bourg** and **Hell Bourg / Réunion**
Transit: **Cor d'Armées / Paq Fr T N° 4** 10 April. Received at Lyon 29 April.



Carried by *Messageries Maritimes* **Ligne T** mailboat 'Godavery'
Dep: Réunion 29 April. Arr: Aden 11 May
Transferred to **MM Ligne N** mailboat 'Irraouaddy'. Dep: Aden c11 May Arr: Marseille 1 June
Received at Paris 2 June

5.4 The military concession rate was 25c per 10 grams from 1 September 1871 to 1 January 1876
Correspondance d'Armées - St Pierre



St Pierre, Réunion to Camp de Santhony (Ain)

7 July 1872

cds **Corr d'Armées** / ***St Pierre***

Transit: Carried by Messageries Maritimes **Ligne T** 'Emirne'. Dep: Réunion 27 July Arr: Aden 8 August.

Transfer to **M.M. Ligne N** mailboat 'Provence'. Dep: Aden c.8 August Arr: Marseille 20 August

Marseille à Lyon spécial (TPO) 20 August. Received at Santhony 21 August.

Only four letters have been recorded so far from St Pierre sent at the concession rate with this handstamp. All are in blue ink.

The lozenge cancel of Réunion on colonial imperforate 5c Empire and 20c Cérés is said to be the only known example of this franking from St Pierre. Only 33,000 5c Empire stamps were issued to Réunion.

5.5 The military concession rate from 1 January 1876 to 1 May 1878 was 25c per 15 grams
Correspondance militaire - St Paul, Réunion



St Paul, Réunion to Paris 27 April 1876

Franked 25c and authorised by the h/s

Inscription **Maritime - Saint-Paul** / ***Réunion***

m/s Présent dans la Colonie le 28 Avril 1876 /

Le Chef Insc° / (signature)

cds **Corr.d.Armées** / ***St. Paul*** and

Réunion / ***St Paul*** with Réunion dumb grill



Carried by Messageries Maritimes **Ligne T** mailboat 'Sydney'

Dep: Réunion 10 April Arr: Marseille 28 April.

A letter dated 15 June 1820

Héloïse Mitchell

(with background notes supplied by Paul Watkins)

Background

The King referred to is Louis XVIII, younger brother of the guillotined Louis XVI, who reigned 1814-24. He was unpopular in the UK and despite being sheltered in England for part of his exile and being restored to the throne of France largely through the efforts of the British forces, he was particularly high-handed and snubbed the Duke of Wellington when military governor of Paris.



Figure 1

15 June 1820 Auxonne to Lymington in Hampshire with **P.20P./AUXONNE** (Côte d'Or) and framed **P.P.P.P.** in red. The British charge was 1/2^d. On reverse; **Prepaid "11"** in manuscript, British FPO / JU 22 / 1820 arrival date stamp and double rim receiving house date stamp of 22 June 1820.

The references to unrest in Paris concern the anti-Royalist feeling which mushroomed after the sensational assassination of the King's heir – his nephew, the Duc de Berry – at the Paris Opéra in February 1820. Royalist and Republican factions developed a head of steam, with public demonstrations demanding reform of the law followed by clamp-downs on the press and heavy-handed reaction to public unrest which was spearheaded by students, shop-workers and discharged soldiers. A group of the *Garde de Paris* in civilian dress attacked a student demonstration, killing one man and accusations of another 'Peterloo' arose. Then, as happened with the later 'Chartist Riots' in London, the weather changed bringing torrential rain and people went home. Effectively, it was all over by mid-June but it had been a frightening moment and must have

reminded people of the bloody events in Paris within living memory – the 1790s were only a generation away.

The letter is unsigned but it is worth noting that the writer had the intention of following a military career out of a sense of duty.

Original text (as is) extracted from letter of 15 June 1820

... .. "Vous saurez du reste par les journaux que nous sommes dans un état de crise très violent et les lettres particulières que l'on reçoit de Paris sont allarmantes. Je suis bien aisé que vous et Clémentine ne soyez pas en France, vous seriez dans l'inquiétude et n'auriez pas de momens de bonheur d'aucune manière. Les habitans des Provinces sont passifs jusqu'à cette heure, je ne remarque aucune agitation ici et dans les environs, mais si le gouvernement venait à faiblir, il en serait fait de nous. Si le Roi vient à descendre encore une fois du Trône, il aura bien à se reprocher sa faiblesse qui aura entièrement causé ses malheurs et les nôtres; nous attendons tous les deux jours des nouvelles de Paris avec une vive anxiété.

"Notre Reine va donner un peu de scandale, j'imagine, puisque le Roi l'attaque devant la Chambre des Pairs, il est bien fâcheux dans les tems ou nous sommes que les Rois et Reines donnent occasion au public de connaître leur conduite particulière, quand elle est de nature à leur donner des ridicules. Je n'ai jamais aimé la conduite du Roi vis-à-vis d'elle, toute légère que celle de la Reine a pu être, et je m'intéresse beaucoup plus à elle qu'à lui. Sa conduite privée cependant (pendant son séjour en Italie) peut donner matière à des reproches graves, mais certainement tout ce que l'on a connu d'elle pendant l'investigation n'a pu donner que du dégoût pour toutes les menées du Roi et sa conduite envers elle. Il faut voir ce que la démarche du Roi fera connaître: mais autant je respecte le Roi, comme Roi, autant je le méprise pour sa manière de croire particulier et différent en cela de son respectable père.

"Je comptais envoyer aujourd'hui une petite lettre de change, mais à cause des évènements de Paris, j'attendrai quelques momens plus tard, afin de connaître la solution des troubles si le gouvernement du Roi venait à succomber, je ne voudrais pas rester sans argent afin d'être à même de suivre les mouvemens des Royalistes s'il y a lieu et pouvoir vivre quelquetems sans solde si les choses en venaient au point que les Libéraux désirent. Quel tems malheureux que celui dans lequel nous vivons? On ne peut être longtemps sans inquiétude, et cette inquiétude est d'autant plus tourmentante qu'il s'agit pour nous autres Royalistes, d'un abandon d'existence et de moyens de vivre. Cependant il faut admettre que les Royalistes ne sont pas ce qu'ils étaient autrefois, ils sont en force dans le midi et l'ouest, et surement ils se défendront partout où il y aura possibilité de le faire; les troupes de la Garde Royale, toute la Cavalerie et une partie des Légions sont très bonnes et ne demandent qu'à agir et si on sait les employer, on réussira à abattre le parti de la Révolution, mais tout cela n'en est pas moins très inquiétant."

Quixonne Côte d'Or, 15 Juin 1820.

J'ai reçu votre lettre du 28 Mai, ma chère Agathe; je n'avois aucune possibilité à cette paille en Angleterre, ce seroit de ma part une grande folie, car l'on ne peut obtenir de congé pour se rendre dans un pays étranger que sans solde et cela dit tout. Je ne suis pas en mesure d'aller passer un hiver près de vous, je mettrai ^{par là} mes affaires pécuniaires dans un tel état que je ne pourrois jamais plus m'en tirer. Si le système qui s'est suivi de puis peu, vient à persister appui devient douteux, alors j'ai un espoir assez fondé d'être promu au mois de Janvier, et j'attacherais d'être placé sur les Côtes ou en Flandres, nous pourrions ainsi nous voir sans grands frais.

Vous savez d'ores et déjà par les Journaux que nous sommes dans un état de crise très violent, et les lettres particulières que l'on reçoit de Paris sont alarmantes. Je suis bien aise que vous et Clémentine ne soyez pas en France, vous seriez dans l'incertitude et n'aurez pas de moments de bonheur d'aucune manière. Les habitants des Provinces sont passifs jusqu'à cette heure, je ne remarque aucune agitation ici et dans les environs, mais si le Gouvernement venoit à faiblir, ce seroit fait de nous. Si le Roi vient à descendre encore une fois du Trône, il aura bien à se reprocher sa faiblesse qui aura entièrement causé ses malheurs et les nôtres; nous attendons tous les deux jours des nouvelles de Paris avec une vive anxiété.

Mais pour répondre ma chère Agathe à un article de votre lettre, j'observerai, que dans ma position séparée de vous et de Clémentine il n'est pas possible que je puisse habiter un lieu (quelque convenable il puisse être à mes dispositions) où je ne prouve pas de moments d'ennui et de dégoût; j'en éprouve à Dieuze comme j'en éprouve ici et comme j'en éprouverois partout où l'on m'enverroit; puisque j'y serai toujours loin de vous et de Clémentine; mais à Dieuze j'y ai trouvé ~~quelques instants de bonheur~~

Figure 2
The original letter

English translation of Extract from letter of 15 June 1820

“You will no doubt have learned from the newspapers that we are in a very violent state of crisis and the personal letters we are receiving from Paris are alarming. I am pleased that you and Clémentine are not in France, you would be in a state of anxiety and would not have any moments of happiness whatsoever. The inhabitants of the provinces have been passive until now, I notice no unrest here and in the surrounding areas, but if the government were to weaken, we would be done for. If the King were to abandon his throne again, he would have to blame himself for his weakness which would certainly have been the cause of his misfortunes and ours; every second day we await news from Paris with great anxiety

“I imagine our Queen will cause a little scandal, since the King attacks her in front of the Chamber of Peers; it is very unfortunate in the times in which we live that Kings and Queens give the public the opportunity to learn details of their private conduct, when it is such as to ridicule them. I never liked the King’s conduct towards her, weak and all as her conduct has been, and I am much more interested in her than in him. However her private conduct (during her stay in Italy) could give ground for severe reproaches, but certainly everything one learned about her during the investigation can only have caused disgust at all the King’s

intrigues and for his behaviour towards her. We must wait and see what the King’s approach will reveal: but much as I respect the king, as King, I despise him for the peculiar and different beliefs he holds to those of his respectable father.

“I had intended sending a bill of exchange today, but because of the events in Paris, I will wait a little while, so that I can find out the solution to the troubles if the King’s government were to fall. I would not want to continue without money in order to be in a position to follow the movements of the Royalists if needs be and to be able to live for a while without a cash balance if things came to the point desired by the Liberals. What an unfortunate time is the one in which we live. One cannot remain without anxiety for long, and this anxiety is the more tormenting in that for us Royalists it entails a loss of existence and the means of living. Nonetheless one must admit that the Royalists are not what they used to be, they are strong in the south and the west, and surely they will defend themselves everywhere possible; the troops of the *Garde Royale*, all the Cavalry and part of the Legions are very able and ask for nothing more than to act and if one knows how to make use of them, one will succeed in destroying the party of the Revolution, but this does not make the situation any less anxious.”

Cameroun National Union Stamp Varieties – Double Overprint and No Overprint

Marty Bratzel



Figure 1
Headquarters of the Cameroun National Union, Garoua.

The postcard on the previous page (Figure 1) depicts the headquarters, located at Garoua, of the Cameroun National Union. On 1 September 1973, Cameroun released a 40 franc stamp commemorating the seventh anniversary of the Union. The stamp faithfully depicts the party's headquarters. However, the stamp was erroneously designed to commemorate the 8th anniversary (Figure 2).

Therefore, before issuance, the stamp was overprinted with a small block accompanied by a '7' to change the number on both the French and the English inscriptions (Figure

3). Two varieties have recently been found. On the first, the overprint is double, one of which is inverted (Figure 4). On the second, the overprint has been omitted altogether (Figure 5) – apparently some stamps escaped overprinting before release. Both stamps are postally used. Given the small size of the overprint, these varieties are easily missed, but here they are!

A number of inverted overprints, spelling mistakes and other errors have been recorded for other Cameroun stamps. What additional varieties await discovery?



Figure 2

Imperforate example of the commemorative stamp, without overprint.

The stamp is graphically cropped from a larger block.

A deluxe sheetlet also shows the stamp without overprint.

Imperforate stamps and presentation sheetlets

were routinely prepared as philatelic souvenirs

and were not intended for use on mail.

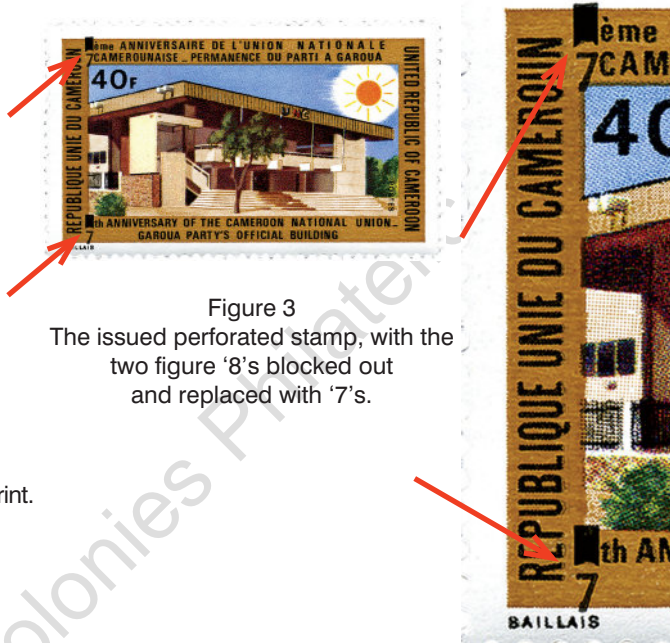


Figure 3

The issued perforated stamp, with the two figure '8's blocked out and replaced with '7's.



Figure 4

Perforated stamp with double overprint, one inverted. The postmark is illegible.



Figure 5

Perforated stamp without overprint.
Postmarked Douala Aéroport 14 February 1979.

An Early 'Registered' Letter

Peter Maybury

History

The concept of registering important letters and packets is known from the time of the Tariff of 1627 (*Règlement Général des Postes du 16 octobre 1627*) when the service was not subject to an official surcharge, but postmasters were allowed to charge "a reasonable sum depending upon the distances to be carried".

The details of the contents as examined by the postmaster, ie names of the sender, the recipient and the receiving office, were entered in a register and also on an advice note to accompany the item to the destination office. The principal letter/packet was then marked *chargé*.

In 1632 the service was expanded to cover other valuables as well as the transfer of money, and from 1644 a charge of 5% of the total value of the object(s) to be carried was levied on the sender with the package then carried free of charge '*franches de port*', with the letter being carried at the appropriate normal postal rate. It is interesting to note that prior to 1759 both unpaid (*port dû*) and pre-paid (*port payé*) *chargé* letters are known.

The earliest official instructions are contained in the *Déclaration royale du 8 juillet 1759*, which established an extra charge equal to the normal rate (*double port*) for internal mail and both incoming and outgoing foreign mail.



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Other Reading

Eugène Vaillé: 'Histoire Générale des Postes Françaises, vol.IV'. Presses Universitaires de France. 1950.

Alan Wood: 'French Registered and Insured Mail'. The Journal of the F&CPS. vol. 60 no. 3, p. 97, 2010.

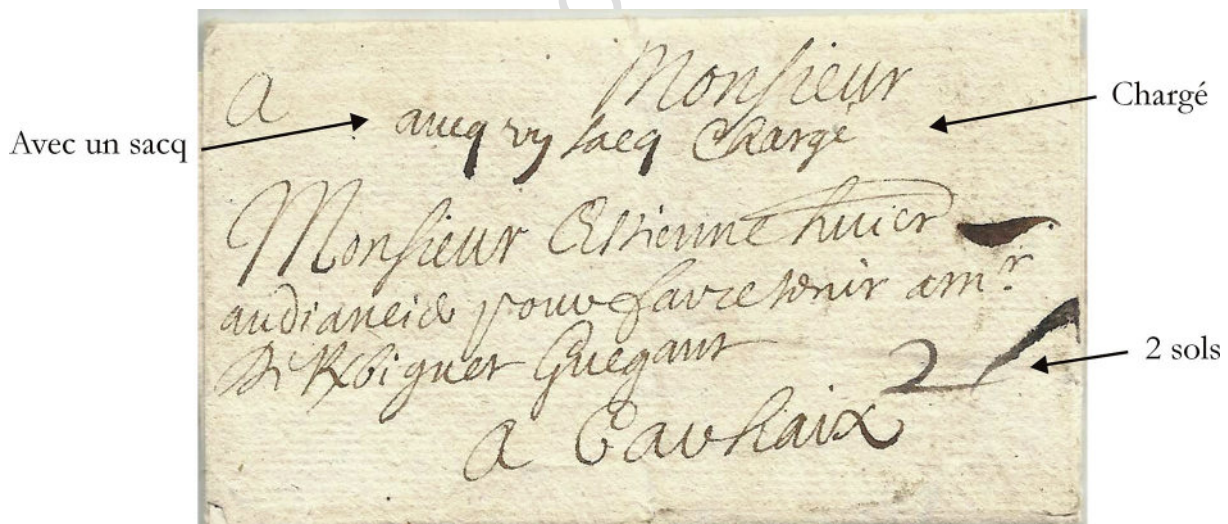


Figure 1: The Letter

Dated 12 September 1678 from Vannes, Brittany, to a lawyer in Carhaix.
Sent unpaid and taxed at 2 sols for a single letter and a distance of up to 25 lieues,
tariff of 1 May 1676 (implemented in June 1676)
being a continuation of the rates applied under the tariff of 1673
for letters circulating between two towns not nominated in the 1676 tariff.

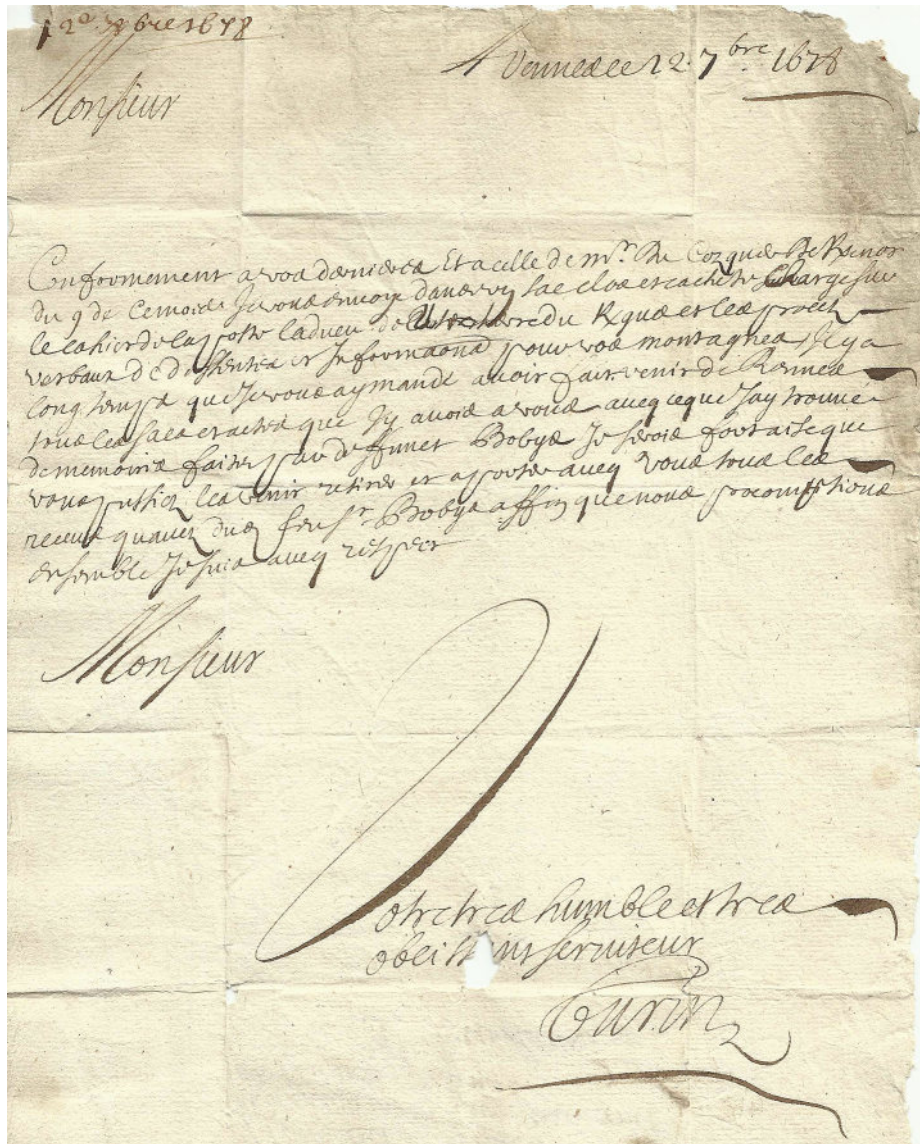


Figure 2: The contents

The recipient endorsed the letter, top left, as being received the same day

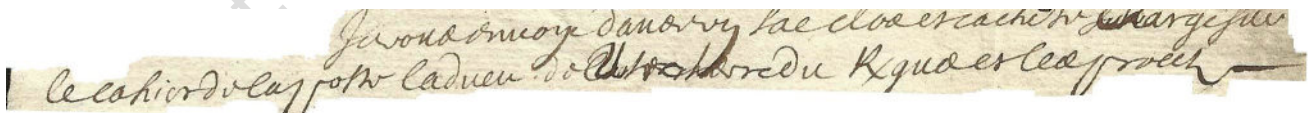


Figure 3: The confirmation

The writer, M. Curin, requested that the letter be transported together with a sealed fabric or leather bag and the postmaster at Vannes endorsed the letter accordingly, also recording the details in the appropriate register, thus instigating the further endorsement, *Chargé*.

The writer also confirmed these actions within the text of the letter:

"Je vous envoie dans un sac clos et cacheté de Charge sur le cahier de la poste" (sic).

Mail from French West African Colonies collected by German Mail Boats

John Mayne



In my earlier query (Journal number 279) I stated I had never seen before May 2015 mail from Bulbineh, French Guinea. Sometimes philately has similarities with London buses, two or three come at once! Temptation comes when browsing the internet, however the more one sees the more one learns and looking for Togo incoming mail, I found another cover.

I have seen other mail to this German company; the Germans were very aggressive on the West African coast and there were more German merchants in Lagos than British. It is not endorsed when collected by the ship's purser but is marked May 1893, Hamburg backstamp 5 May. It is endorsed in red ink 'Auf See' suggesting it was handed in when the ship 'Anna Woermann' was at sea. It may well have been collected at Bulbineh but escaped endorsement.

An acknowledged expert on German shipping is Ulrich Czimmek ('Deutsche Seepost Hamburg - Westafrika' 1994) who embarked on rebuilding shipping schedules from covers and he lists all the stops relative to mail seen, which in my opinion are more complete than Salles' French listings. He records 'Anna Woermann' departing Hamburg

18.02.1893 returning, he believes, about 20 April. (A Hamburg arrival 5 May would appear logical). He does not list the ship at Conakry, nor does he list Bulbineh in any schedule, understandably if this is only the second item seen. According to him ships rarely put in at Conakry, only five on outward runs, one on return, during 1893 out of forty-four ships leaving Hamburg.

The cover has the two line boxed AUS WESTAFRIKA, mine three and the earlier of the two types. Friedemann states it was introduced when ships called less frequently at Belgian ports ahead of Germany to speed delivery. He suggests September 1887 as the earliest date possible but Gottspenn and Grimmer record two examples in 1885, the earlier 11 March. This cover is not recorded by them.

When I wrote my article I concentrated on items with a three line strike. I should have looked further. I now notice in covers listed by Gottspenn and Grimmer for 1889 with the two line strike, they record one from Bulbineh per 'Erna Woermann' 7 February 1889 and one from Hamburg 4 March, the earliest they record from the port. Mine is therefore not the earliest and there are three possible!

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 20 FEBRUARY 2016 AT HARNHAM

Our invited display was given by Society President **Steve Ellis**. This came in two parts.

The first section was entitled the 'Cross-Channel rail mail' but it was so much more than this. Steve went into considerable detail as to the development of the service and the various companies involved, displaying a wonderful variety of postcards and ephemera of all kinds as well as a fine selection of letters carried by these trains. This was a great opportunity for our members to see a serious thematic display with a great story line as well as some fine postal history.

The second section was entirely different, covering the 1859-1919 history of the French ambulance. This covered the development of the *ambulance* service, the word '*ambulance*' being understood to mean the place where the wounded were taken and only later referred to the means by which they were transported there. This was a wide ranging display incorporating a mixture of postcards and ephemera showing the development of medical services in the field including the collection of the wounded, use of dogs, vehicles and the volunteers who served and identified the different countries involved. Space was also given to the different locations used, such as schools, hotels etc.

After our usual lunch at the Old Mill we returned to enjoy members' contributions.

Ashley Lawrence – 'Balloon mail and the remarkable flight of the *Ville d'Orléans* followed by a letter from the Brown correspondence and a detour into ladies' underwear.'

Jeremy Martin – 'Corsini Correspondence: merchant strangers' letters from France into England.'

Chris Hitchen – 'French revolutionary mail from Paris, special offices from branches of government, use of revolutionary names and franchises, and masonic references.'

Richard Stupples – 'Sower *millésimes*'.

Ingrid Swinburn – Censored mail from French colonies in all quarters of the globe sent at different times during WWII, incorporating French, British, American and Egyptian censor marks'.

Peter Kelly – '*Type Sage* period: unpaid and insufficiently paid taxed mail 1876 to 1 October 1882'.

Alan Wood – 'Anglo-French mail 1806-1875'.

PRAK/AJW

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 16 APRIL 2016 AT ROTHERHAM

Our thanks are due to **Roger Clapham** for having facilitated this meeting at a new venue in Rotherham, with free parking, close proximity to the motorway and a large light room. He even arranged for refreshments to be provided and served to us from the church hall's kitchen!

A good attendance (these days) of eleven people (with three apologies) was treated to some fine displays of mail from the Napoleonic Wars comprising PoW mail from

France and French forces in the Peninsular (**Peter Rooke**); the basic letter postage rate 1849-1900 (**Trevor Smith**); stamps of Dahomey / Benin (**Alan Goude**); route markings 1836-56 (**Michael Rego**); unusual airmails (**John Morton**); cross-Channel rail mail (**Steve Ellis**); and some interesting queries on pneumatic covers, an airmail postcard from Spain to England via Le Bourget and an unusual overprinted stamp (**Michael Meadowcroft**).

SRE

STOP PRESS

Very sadly, we report the sudden death on Wednesday 18 May of our member **Philip Mackey**, who gave a display at Charlecote only two months ago (see page 68 and the last photograph on the back cover) and we offer our sincere condolences to his family.

40th ANNUAL PHILATELIC WEEKEND 11-13 MARCH 2016

39 members and 20 guests attended the Society's Annual Weekend at the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Friday

A Committee Meeting was held in the afternoon and after dinner **Peter Kelly** welcomed new members from France and England and **Chris Hitchen** announced our return to Charlecote next year on 10 March. **Steve Ellis** appealed for a new Journal Manager and Publications Officer.

The Friday evening displays began with **David Hogarth** who showed a series of humorous postcards, probably issued before World War I, depicting versions of *L'Alphabet du Soldat*. He was followed by **Hans Smith** who displayed the Illyrian provinces covering the history of a small selection of towns, formerly colonies of Venice, and explaining the difficulties with the Montenegrins in Dalmatia and mentioning field and civilian posts. **Steve Ellis** talked about various exhibitions in Marseille and displayed illustrated cards and special cachets and other exhibition items. Finally, **Jeremy Martin** showed a publicity postcard promoting the reduction of postal rates pointing out that French rates were higher than those in other countries.

Saturday

The morning began with the traditional President's Display given by **Steve Ellis** entitled 'French Transatlantic Mail 1783-1875'.

Steve explained that whilst a French transatlantic contract service known as '*Paquebots Royaux*' operated between 1783 and 1793, mail was generally carried on merchant vessels, initially private ships but from 1822 on scheduled American 'clipper' services operating between New York and Le Havre. Cancellations were applied to the mail upon arrival and examples of these were shown. The introduction of steamships, along with reductions in the 'packet' rates for carriage of mail from 1839 had a significant impact, resulting in most transatlantic mail from France being routed via Britain. The 1840s and 50s saw a series of rate changes (explained and illustrated in the display) as France, Britain and America made modifications to their particular charges for carriage of inland mail or mail on their own vessels. There was keen competition for the carriage of mail and occasionally this led to disagreement, such as during the 'retaliatory' periods of July 1848 to January 1849 and again briefly in 1853. The overriding principal until the introduction of the first postal convention between France and America in 1857 was that mail could not be paid through to the destination but was subject to two charges. After a complicated three month period at the beginning of 1857, the convention allowed mail to be fully paid, either on departure or arrival, with a set of rules governing the apportionment of the revenue between the three countries according to the nationality of the vessel which carried the mail and whether the service operated direct or via Britain. The consequent cancellations applied

also reflected whether the mail was sent paid or unpaid. The convention terminated at the end of 1869 and for the subsequent four years the lack of an agreement between France and America resulted in considerable complexity in terms of rates, postal markings and revenue apportionment, which were explained and illustrated in the display.

Finally, the situation was simplified by the implementation of a second convention in August 1874, which lasted until the introduction of the General Postal Union after the end of 1875.

After a period of viewing, **John Hammonds** took over with his display entitled 'Beginning of the air route France to Indo-China'. John introduced his display by explaining that before the air route to Indo-China from France was opened the mail by sea took an average of 26 days. After the First World War countries with empires looked to ways to speed up communications with them; air was an obvious way. Maurice Noguès (1889-1934) taught himself to fly in 1909 and took part in many of the Aviation Meetings before WWI. After seeing active service he joined the *Compagnie Franco-Roumanie* (later CIDNA) as a pilot in 1922 flying between Paris and Strasbourg. Later he established the Bucharest-Istanbul-Ankara route; the later stage of this route was very spasmodic as the Turks were reluctant to allow flying over their territory. One of the aims of CIDNA was to open an airline to the Far East, but the difficulties with Turkey caused them to abandon this plan. Likewise its plan to fly to China via Siberia was also abandoned. However its later publicity did show its route ending at Baghdad. Noguès resigned from CIDNA in 1926 and joined the *Compagnie des Messageries Aériennes* (which later changed its name to *Air Union-Lignes d'Orient*) because the CIDNA Company had abandoned its plans for a route to the Far East. He pioneered the air route to Syria and Lebanon which, during 1930, was extended to Baghdad. Meanwhile in Indo-China a new company, *Air-Asie*, was formed which carried mail from Saigon to Bangkok to connect with the Dutch airline KLM's route from the Dutch East Indies to Amsterdam. The French Government had negotiated with the Dutch Government for KLM to carry French mail from Europe to Bangkok and return as the French had no aircraft capable of flying long distances. The first use of this arrangement was on 19 December 1929. Between January and April 1930 British airfields in India were closed for repairs. For some unknown reason KLM flights did not restart until September 1930. When they resumed French mail was offloaded at Baghdad where it was transferred to an *Air Orient* aircraft for its journey to France. The time taken over the route was 14 days. In July 1930 *Air Union Lignes d'Orient* and *Air-Asie* merged to form *Air Orient*; Noguès was appointed Chief Pilot. France had a reluctance to use non-French built aircraft. However, in the end they agreed to lease Fokker Aircraft from KLM. Having leased three Fokker F-VII aircraft the opening of the all-French route to Saigon took place in January 1931 and the reliance on KLM ceased.

Barbara Priddy then followed with her collection of French transatlantic mail carried by Pan American Airways, 1939-1942, most of which she had accidentally acquired when buying a large lot containing a couple of West African airmails. The display was illustrated with route-maps prepared by Peter Wingent. The first scheduled mail service left New York on 20 May 1939 and arrived at Marseille by way of the Azores and Lisbon on 22 May. At the outbreak of war, the route terminated at Lisbon instead of Marseille; French mail could still be carried, and so, of course, could French West African mail. With the fall of France, and the suspension of the *Ligne Mermoz*, Pan Am also carried French mail from Lisbon to New York and down to South America. However, the Clippers could not carry enough fuel for a non-stop transatlantic flight with a decent payload, especially if they met headwinds, so from time to time they had to stop off at Bermuda. Here the British were waiting to pounce on the mail in order to censor correspondence from Axis countries and Vichy France, much to the displeasure of the Americans. Two notable covers showed how suspect mail could be detained for the duration of the war. From February to May 1941 the route followed a clockwise course via Portuguese Guinea and the Caribbean, then reverted to the summer route via the Azores and Bermuda. In December 1941 the route was changed back to the clockwise route around the South Atlantic, supplemented from January 1942 by a U-shaped service from New York to Lisbon via Brazil and back. This meant that mail was being carried from Vichy France to South America without going near an Allied censor, and as the USA had now entered the war on the Allied side, transatlantic mail began to be censored in either Bermuda, Puerto Rico or Trinidad, even if this meant overflying its destination.

Maurice Porter concluded the first half of the morning's display with his presentation of airmails to South America.

After a break for viewing and coffee, **Brian Weeks** showed 'Free France and Vichy France'. The display illustrated the variety of stamps used in the French Colonies during World War II as they moved their allegiance to Free France. Some covers illustrated the effects of the difficulties in handling mail between the colonies and the home country.

Henk Slabbinck followed with 'Mail from French fishermen on the Grand Banks', an extension to his display at last year's weekend about mail to and from French fishermen active out of St Pierre et Miquelon and out of the French Shore of Newfoundland. This time Henk focused on mail from the fishermen active on the Grand Banks in the North Atlantic during the fishing season from April to October. These men remained, most of the time, active during the whole of the season and never set foot on North American ground; they came on board their vessel before sailing from France and did not disembark before their return in France. Both the crisis in the fisheries, caused by fish having migrated increasingly to the high seas, and innovations in the fishing pattern, through the use of transportation ships supplying food and coal and then delivering the fish overseas, resulted in the fishing vessels remaining active nonstop on the Grand Banks. Hence mail exchange became ever more important for the welfare of the crew stuck on board. Also

the fishing techniques themselves changed as motorised fishing boats now could work on an almost permanent basis, no longer depending on favourable winds. Shore calls had now become quite exceptional and no longer followed a pattern. Bunkering was always brief and done in the nearest harbour available in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Greenland, Iceland, and only exceptionally in St Pierre et Miquelon. If the scarce mail from the fishermen could then be posted, incoming mail could neither be planned nor recovered. That called for other solutions to be developed, possibly in a structured way. At earlier meetings Henk had illustrated already the key role played by the *Société des Œuvres de Mer* which provided the few fishermen passing through St Pierre with envelopes, pen and stamps for their mail to home. Their *Maison du Marin* also used the Society's stickers to identify mail having been handled there. The same stickers were used on board the hospital ships of that Society, when they accepted letters from fishermen on the occasion of a meeting on the high seas. Several examples of such scarce documents were shown, both from the period in which stickers were used and from the period as from 1918 when large marks were stamped on the reverse of letters, indicating they had been handled by a hospital ship. However, the hospital ships were not the only ones handling fishermen's mail on the high seas: ships from the French Navy occasionally carried letters from and (more seldom) to fishermen, while a few commercial companies purveying equipment and professional clothing would at times deliver letters to them, properly marked to illustrate their courteous intervention. Last but not least private vessels (fishing or supply ships) could be entrusted too with letters from or to the fishermen. In the former case they would then post the letter in their first port of call; in the latter case, the letters would bear a (at times handwritten) marking indicating they had been transferred on the high seas. Examples of each of these methods of transmission were shown. Finally Henk illustrated the wide variety of frankings one can encounter on the letters which were posted exceptionally in one of the region's harbours. First there were the letters posted without any franking at all and subject to taxation in France, then there were the ones carrying the proper franking but cancelled with the mark of excessively rare post offices and, finally, there were the few properly delivered to sailors on the Grand Banks, notwithstanding they had as an address nothing more than the following text: "Mr X, travelling on the Grand Banks."

Michael Rego then stepped forward to give a display of French postal routes via Paris between 1836 and 1848. It is hoped that an illustrated account will appear in a future Journal, probably in September.

Finally **Philip Mackey** closed the morning session with his display entitled 'General Bourbaki and the Army in the East'.

After lunch, **Chris Hitchen** showed the first issue of France used in Paris between 1849 and 1852. It took almost twenty months for all the values to be issued. On 1 January 1849 only the 20 centimes and 1 franc were ready. The decision to reform postal rates had only been made in August 1848 which gave little time to have everything in place for the 1 January. The grills to cancel the new stamps were not issued until the 10 January at the head post office in Paris.

Until then date stamps and pen cancellations were the only means available to cancel the new stamps. Blue ink had routinely been used at the head post office for its date stamps but it soon became clear that this was inadequate on black postage stamps. A blue date stamp of 4 January 1849 demonstrated the inadequacy of this means of obliteration. The rate for unpaid letters was the same as for prepaid which led to much less use of postage stamps than had been anticipated. This led to an increase in the inland rate to 25 centimes on 1 July 1850. We saw a 20 centimes used on 13 July 1850 with a manuscript 05 for the 5 centimes deficient amount due on collection. It was not until 29 July 1850 that the 15 centimes finally appeared for local Paris letters. Uncommon uses of the 20 centimes for local letters before that date were shown where the sender preferred the loss of 5 centimes rather than take the trouble of going to the post office to prepay in cash. Various uses of the different values on foreign, registered and printed matter items completed the display.

Jeremy Martin followed Chris with a display of French airmails.

Stephen Holder followed with a display of mail from Mauritania, whose postal history only started in 1906. Two frames showed the first issues, these being the series depicting Faidherbe, Balay and Palm Trees, starting with the complete series both mint and used, followed by their use on cover including the high values 75c, 1F and 2F. A short section of very scarce military mail from various administrative military *cercles*, with appropriate cachets (few examples of these seem to have survived) was shown, and finally some pioneer airmails (an important service in the colony owing to the vast distances between the few very sparsely populated centres). In particular these included the three experimental military airmail flights from Atar to St Louis, which took place, unannounced and thus without 'philatelic' examples, on 31 March 1934 (out and return journeys on the same day), 12 April 1934 (arrived same day) and 12 July 1934 (out and return journeys on the same day but backstamped the next day). This journey had previously taken 12 days by road (cars or camels). This may be the only complete set of the three. Owners of Mauritania covers of these dates should look at the back-stamps to see if they could have gone on those flights, these dates being the only guides. All three flights were addressed to Port Etienne where they arrived a day or two later after the St Louis date.

Robert Abensur completed the first half of the afternoon session with a study of the taxation of insufficiently prepaid airmail within and into France between 1920 and 1942. The display illustrated not only French internal, franco-colonial and French International Air services such as Air Orient, CIDNA and Air France but also British Imperial Airways, Dutch KLM, American Pan Am, German Lufthansa, Italian Alitalia and combined air services between France and USA or between Madagascar and Imperial Airways. Robert explained that the rules of taxation of international letters with the gold centime were complicated; moreover information on foreign airmail surcharges could be very difficult to find.

After tea and refreshments **Alan Wood** showed a selection

of essays and proofs together with a range of colour trials of the classic issues from 1849 to 1876 including unadopted essays.

André Métayer then presented his display of the taxation of inland mail between 1881 and 1892 with *taxes-carrés* and Duval issues. In the period before 1882, the *taxes-carrés* stamps were used only in the local post and in contiguous areas. On 20 February 1882 an investigation by the Post Office concluded with the use of the tax stamp for all items of unstamped mail, regardless of the origin of the objects. A ministerial decision of 6 August 1880 instructed the change from the *taxes-carrés* design to the *banderole* or Duval design. The new stamps would be the same size as normal postage stamps, perforated and printed in black. The first Duval stamp was the 30 centimes value issued in June 1881 to be replaced by the 30 centimes red in 1894. The *Bulletin Mensuel des Postes* indicated that from 1 October 1882, the tax applicable to all unpaid or underpaid items would be represented by the application of the Duval stamps. As previously said, the 30c black was issued in June 1881 and on 1 October 1882 the 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 40c, 1F, 2F, 5F joined it. Note that the 30c black and 60c blue *taxes-carrés* remained in service. March 1884 saw the issue of the 1F, 2F and 5F printed, not in black but in Van Dyck brown. The 60c followed in April 1884 and the 50c in April 1892. Given the new rules for calculating taxation as of 16 April 1892 and the rounding up of the amount to the nearest 5c, the denominations of 2c to 4c were withdrawn on 5 May 1892. In April 1898 the rounding of taxation was abandoned. Throughout this period, the tax arrangements were changed significantly depending on the type of document. Until 15 April 1892 the postage due letters were taxed at twice the postage that should have been applied minus the value of any stamp(s) affixed. As of 16 April 1892, taxation was calculated at twice the deficiency. Taxed newspapers however benefited from a special rate.

John Dickson closed the afternoon session with a display entitled 'Italian Occupation of France in World War II'. John explained that Italy declared war on France on 10 June 1940 and by an armistice of 25 June 1940 annexed a series of border localities, Menton (Mentone) being the most important, and set up a demilitarised zone extending 50km west of the pre-war border. Italy also established a submarine base at Bordeaux and a naval presence at Toulon. Codenamed 'Operation Anton' and consequent upon the allied landings in Morocco in November 1942, Germany occupied most of the former French free zone (Vichy) leaving an eastern sector from the Swiss border as far as Toulon to Italian forces. Italy also attempted the military occupation of Corsica. Between the fall of Mussolini on 25 July 1943 and an armistice of 9 September 1943 certain Italian units withdrew participation in the war. Under 'Operation Achse' Germany took over the Italian zone and entered Italy; the Italian occupation of eastern France ended. The larger part of the Italian army was interned in Germany and Poland, some subsequently joined German units, others remained as internees. A minority of Italian occupants associated with Free France and the *Maquis* in the struggles against Germany. John showed covers illustrating the various phases of the Italian occupation.

Evening

Following dinner, the evening was open to members to continue giving short displays.

David Hogarth showed sheets of suspended and undelivered mail including letters hidden in Paris during the war and letters caught by the invasion of France in 1940 and the Allied invasion of the south of France. He also displayed an example of a Hollow Star cancellation and a 1943 interzonal card from *Océanie*. He finished with a few 19th century French postcards depicting archers in various outfits. **John Parmenter** then displayed a reprint of a 1947 map showing the Normandy Landings and different liberation dates. **Peter Stockton** followed with a *retour à l'envoyeur* query, *taxe* stamps and examples of *numéros blancs*. **Claire Scott** related excerpts from the story of a wounded soldier with material relating to dogs, stretcher bearers, ambulances and other aspects of war. **John Scott** followed with a comprehensive display of 19th century taxes on paper and parchment. **Iain Stevenson** showed extracts from his projects under development, including the Gandon mythology airmail stamps of 1946-48 for which the designer was criticised for their erotic images and which are surprisingly hard to find on cover. Iain also showed some early French India, including a cover from Pondichéry to Karikal on government business sent in the British mail system, and some attractive classic covers from Paris.

A second round began with **André Métayer** showing two fascinating covers from the Seven Years' War and **Godfrey Bowden** displayed a variety of mail that has passed through the post office without cancellation, the use of revenue stamps for postal purposes, '*Ravitaillement*' cards, *Services du facteur* material and other oddments. **Paul Watkins** closed the evening outlining the London-Dover Continental Night Mail Late Posting system which was in existence from 1880 to 1915 and involved the two London stations of Charing Cross and Cannon Street. The relevant platform at each displayed a mobile post-box which accepted urgent late mail for France up until at least 8.00pm – considerably later than the last acceptance at the Head Post Office – for a substantial fee, prepaid in stamps. In 1880 this was an additional 6d, whether the item was a 2½d letter or 1d postcard. The fee was reduced to 4d then to 2d during the lifetime of the service. Clearly, only for use *in extremis* – the messages on the cards tend to be variants of '*expect me back at home tomorrow afternoon*' or urgent orders for goods. The boxes were emptied and sorted *en route* to Dover for the night sailing, meaning that there was a good chance that the mail would be delivered very early the next morning. Examples were shown of all three rates and the peculiar 'Sunday' rate of 1d, including an item that had been undeliverable and found its way back to London a week or two later. There was also an example of the even scarcer inter-war period system which proved even less popular with correspondents.

Sunday

The morning began with a display given by **Jérôme Castanet** entitled 'French international mail 1900-1939'. The object of the display was to show the different categories of mail that could be encountered as well as the different rates and rules that applied to France's international mail between

1900 and 1939. Of particular interest were the reduced price items such as journals and printed matter and examples of advices of receipt and the collection of debts. The rules concerning some aspects of mail sent abroad are little known and examples were shown of insufficiently paid registered and insured mail and the taxation of airmail. Between 1924 and 1926 the high rate of inflation in France led to frequent rate changes and some examples of these were also shown.

Peter Kelly then stepped up to give his display on the Saharan penetration along the Algero-Moroccan border. Peter introduced his presentation with a summary of the position taken by the French government, the Algerian military and colonialists and the Sultan of Morocco and Makhzen between around 1900 and 1912 when Morocco became a French protectorate with the outstanding personalities of Governor General Jonnart and General Lyautey. Hanging over all of this was the influence brought to bear by the Great Powers and the perceived need to avoid an international incident. The display itself showed correspondence, mainly military from the forts along the Oued Zousfana and Oued Saouara that constituted an approximate and unofficial frontier. Reference was also made to military incursion into Morocco at Berguent, Colomb Bechar and Bou Denib, subterfuge with the French government and their later acceptance of the position.

After a period of viewing it was the turn of **Paul Watkins** with his display of *Marianne de Briat* stamps and postal history (1990-1996). Paul began with a quick overview of the issue's controversial background partly due to a touch of *la mégalomanie Mitterrand* and the postal developments of the time. The developments included the introduction of an increasing volume and variety of booklet stamps including the experimental ATM-vented format which is the only source of the NVI Type II, the adoption of TSV (NVI) to replace the complex interim issues with 'code-letters', self-adhesive stamps, various experiments with die-cut separation, booklet formats and the re-introduction in a big way of postal stationery with La Poste's '*Prêt-à-Poster*' campaign. This spawned commercial *repiquage* printings, private issues and a range of stationery for special services such as *enveloppes cartonnées* which offered the privilege of sending inland mail up to 100g (including the 25g weight of the card envelope, so effectively 75g) for 4F more than the 100g letter-rate and *enveloppes-à-cases* with postcode boxes to speed sorting. Examples were shown of the forgeries that appeared instantly – the lesser-known *Faux de Barcelone* appearing on a recorded 40 covers with the special first day cancellations of the last day of 1989. Paul admitted he did not own one but was still looking. The Marseille forgeries are easy to find in comparison. The focus of the display was more on the usage of the issue and covers were shown from DOM/TOM areas where French stamps were current, military bases in Oceania, Djibouti, Cambodia, Central African Republic and Germany, uses on board ship and at naval bases in France; some interesting extra-EU items included a heavy registered item to Peru and various rates to Finland. A favourite item was a 1995 diplomatic bag cover from the French embassy – still at Bonn, due to post-unification rebuilding in Berlin – carried to the nearest military base (Wittlich) and forwarded through the military posts. Other interesting items included two

uncommon covers with the correct inland postage made up from multiples of the *timbres complémentaires* used to 'round up' the value of machine-vended booklets – the 70c and 1F – and an item received two weeks previously with the €2 postage correctly paid with 13F 12c worth of still-valid *Marianne* stamps!

Brian Brookes followed with material from Martinique. In 1831 it was confirmed that Saint-Pierre was the Head Post Office and that Fort-Royal, Marin and Trinité were principal offices. The first mention that the sub-offices could endorse the names of the Parishes where they originated from and the date on the front of letters, came in this decree. The decree also announced the setting up of two routes from Saint Pierre, one being the Northern Route the other the Southern Route to Fort Royal. The Northern Route had two boxes. Box No. 1 contained letters for Basse-Pointe, Macouba, Grande-Anse, Marigot, Sainte-Marie and Trinité, with a courier taking mail from Saint-Pierre to Le Prêcheur. Box No. 2 contained letters for Carbet and Case-Pilote. Postillions carried the boxes on the three routes twice a week returning with mail to Saint-Pierre to be forwarded to other destinations. The first two frames showed four sheets from each village on the Northern Route Box No. 1, most of them with various styles of the manuscript markings used. The third frame showed three covers from the small village of Le Prêcheur showing three different styles of manuscript marks on mail having been delivered by courier. The next two villages were put into Box No. 2 and delivered twice a week to Le Carbet and Case-Pilote; one example from each village was shown. The remaining seven sheets were from very small hamlets around Saint-Pierre. After the 1831 Decree even very small hamlets occasionally endorsed their letter with the name and date and even cancelled stamps with crosses.

David Hogarth concentrated on the World War II period and started by showing a frame of postcards and covers from the 1939 Spanish exodus into south-western France, some of which could only be philatelic. This was followed by a frame depicting the anti-Bolshevik exhibitions from 1941 including postcards from the main exhibition sites, covers sent by the *Légion des Volontaires Français* from the eastern front in the USSR and a pair of *Légion Tricolore* postcards. A final frame showed some of the *Faux de Londres* issues, the Marseille *Faux de Gaulle*, and a sheet from the *Atelier des Faux* and closed with two sheets of British and German propaganda issues.

Len Barnes closed the first half of the morning with a display of Airship material. He explained that when the Zeppelin LZ127 started to fly to Brazil in 1932, France signed up to the contract for two years only. For this reason French stamps are not common on Airship covers. It was unfortunate that the LZ127 had three of her five engines giving her trouble and she had to land in France on her first flight to New York. Making some repairs she withdrew to Germany and embarked on the flight again some six weeks later. Being fuelled with expensive Helium gas that only delivered 92.5% lift it could not earn its keep so the airship was retired nine years later. In 1939 the last of the Zeppelin airships - three sisters to the *Hindenburg* - were broken up by the Germans under Marshal Goering to provide more

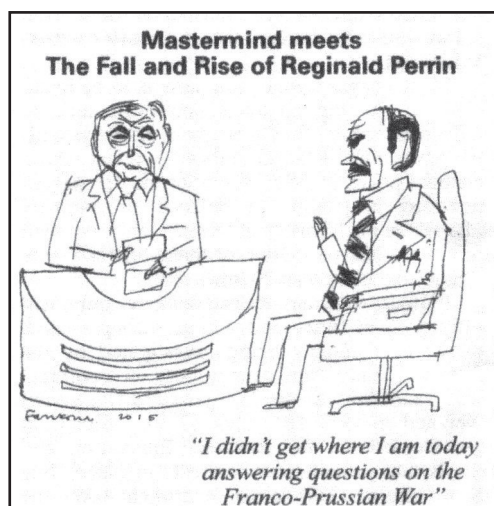
aluminium for aircraft production.

After viewing and a coffee break, **Iain Stevenson** described the publicity cards sent to French (and other) doctors to advertise the medications produced by the Dieppe based pharmaceutical firm Biomarine between 1947 and 1966. Iain explained that doctors had received cards for decades often with precancelled stamps but the IONYL cards named after one of the medicines were uniquely elaborate and effective. The company once a year organised a '*peripyl*' – a journey round exotic locations – and from each made a mass mailing of stamped picture postcards to doctors. At their peak, each mailing was over 30,000 per card but some are surprisingly hard to find and expensive, if the dealers know what they are selling. Many do not! Particularly popular are cards from the TAAF to Algeria, Tunisia and Belgium. All cards show correct printed matter rates and the logistics of producing the cards, sourcing the stamps and getting them in the mail were formidable. At Port-Vila, New Hebrides, the postmaster demanded the installation of a SECAP cancelling machine before he would accept the cards. Others got severe wrist ache from cancelling them. Iain showed a wide range of origins, including Wallis and Futuna, St Pierre et Miquelon, French Somali Coast, Ascension, French India, Tahiti and many others. Particularly notable was a card from St Pierre to the Comoros, missent to New York. The scheme proved so popular that the company set up an agency to provide similar campaigns for other companies, like paper makers Arches and food companies Amora, Nestlé and Maggi. In 1966, the French Ministry of Health stepped in and forbade the cards but by that time well over 2000 varieties had been issued. They had also had the notable effect of making Jean Storch, the son of a doctor, who avidly collected the cards as a boy, a philatelist.

The display by **Peter Stockton** concerned mail to and from members of the *Garde des Voies de Communications* during the First World War. This service, manned by persons not liable to active military service (usually by reason of age) had been created by General Boulanger in 1887. Its purpose was to guard railways, canals, bridges, telephone and telegraph networks. The organisation by *Subdivision, Section, Groupe* and individual *Postes* was reflected in the different cachets and manuscript endorsements confirming the free postal franchise applicable to the mail. Included in the display were examples of straight-line, oval, boxed and circular cachets as well as those incorporating the effigy of the *Déesse assise*.

Bob Larg opened his display of 'France - the Early Years' with the Second Republic (1848-52) Cérès Heads, going on to the Empire (1852-70) Napoleon Heads showing many shades including two colour trials. Newspaper stamps were followed by the 1859 postage dues (including 3 covers), the 1862 Heads and 1863 Laureated Heads. A copy of the '*L'Indépendant*' newspaper dated 28 January 1853 was shown as were the Telegraph stamps of 1868. The Third Republic from September 1870 produced more Cérès Heads and stamps issued at Bordeaux during the Siege of Paris. A *ballon monté* was shown. Further Cérès Heads of the 1871-76 issue were displayed accompanied by the 1871 postage dues. The display ended with two colourful pages of the 1876-77 Peace and Commerce stamps.

Under the title 'Around 1870', **Ashley Lawrence** displayed a selection of items from his collection of Franco-German War memorabilia. These included a charming water-colour of a Siege Balloon, painted by Albert Tissandier, the pilot of the balloon *Le Jean-Bart No. 1*. Albert Tissandier and his brother Gaston, another balloon pilot, later demonstrated the world's first electric-powered flight in 1881, by attaching an electric motor to a dirigible. Ashley showed a series of amusing cartoons of the Siege of Paris drawn by the accomplished artist Jules Renard, who preferred to sign his works as Draner. By contrast, he showed the cartoon from a recent issue of 'Private Eye'.



© Private Eye

Ashley showed a letter flown aboard the *Général Cambronne*. This was a suitable name to be given to the 67th and last of the Siege Balloons, celebrating the General's defiance against the enemies of France, and refusal to surrender, as expressed in his notorious and immortal expletive 'le mot de Cambronne'.^{*} Ashley also described the nocturnal activities of Sergeant Hoff, who gained a fiendish reputation for killing German sentries at night, and whose tomb and statue by Bartholdi are to be seen in the cemetery at Père Lachaise. He recounted the debt he owed to the staff at the Victoria & Albert Museum for assisting with his postal history research into the ladies' underwear manufactured by Morley and worn *circa* 1870, as recommended by William Brown in one of his balloon letters to Mrs Brown, the subject of Ashley's recent account *Besieged in Paris*. Finally, Ashley displayed examples of the rarely seen medals issued in Norway to commemorate the historic and record-breaking flight of the balloon *La Ville d'Orléans* by Paul Rolier and Léon Bézier; the tiny medals were struck from the copper-zinc alloy retrieved from Rolier's battery-lamp when the remains of the balloon were displayed at Drammen in Norway in December 1870.

^{*} Suffice it to say that the infamous expletive began with the same letter as 'mot'.

Hamish Clifton closed the programme with a display of the 5c *Semeuse*. The display showed the wide variety and flexibility of the stamp and how its use reflected and changed according to the dramatic financial and social upheavals of the age in which it was used. This 12 sheet display looked at the 5c, its guises and disguises, from *porte-timbres* to *monnaie-jetons*. Issued in 1907 the 5c rate allowed the sending of postcards worldwide and examples were shown of items to Melbourne in 1910 and to Saigon, using the special rate restricting the sender to 5 words of text. Examples of invitation letters and cards also benefiting from the new rate were shown. Being in use for so long (through to the 1930s although printing ended much earlier) there are numerous examples of the 5c in its print varieties and on the GC paper and these were all displayed, with part sheets and blocks. An unusual example was its use on a parcel label attached to *échantillons* (samples) from Calais to Paris.

At the final Sunday review **Steve Ellis** announced that the Society Literature Award had been judged and the trophy for the best article in the Journals of 2015 was to be awarded to **David Trapnell** for 'Les travailleurs who helped win World War 1'. The runner-up was **Ashley Lawrence** with 'Bogus Artwork of Louis Roty and Luc-Oliver Merson'. Judges were **Alan Littell**, **David Parmley** and **Hamish Clifton**. The four ladies on the bourse and bookstall (**Annette Tyler**, **Jean Hammonds**, **Margaret Lovatt** and **Brenda Broadhurst**) were thanked and applauded for their efforts that raised about £88 for the Society. The convenors **Peter Kelly** and **Chris Hitchen** were to be congratulated on what was regarded as one of the best weekends ever with a great selection of displays.

The following members attended all or part of the weekend.

Robert Abensur	Philip Mackey
Maurice Alder	Jeremy Martin
John Allison	André Métayer
Len Barnes	John Parmenter
Godfrey Bowden	David Parmley
Richard Broadhurst	Maurice Porter
Brian Brookes	Barbara Priddy
Jérôme Castanet	Michael Rego
Hamish Clifton	Claire Scott
John Dickson	Henk Slabbinck
Steve Ellis	Gerald Small
John Hammonds	Hans Smith
Prue Henderson	Iain Stevenson
Chris Hitchen	Peter Stockton
David Hogarth	David Trapnell
Stephen Holder	Maurice Tyler
Dominic Joyeux	Paul Watkins
Peter Kelly	Brian Weeks
Bob Larg	Alan Wood
Ashley Lawrence	

F&CPS Philatelic Weekend at Charlecote 2016

Photos by Dominic Joyeux



Brian Brookes



Jérôme Castanet



David Hogarth



John Dickson



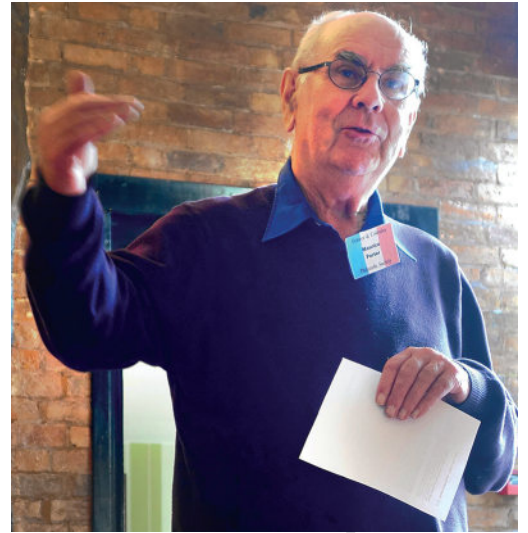
Jeremy Martin



André Métayer



Peter Stockton



Maurice Porter



John Scott



Brian Weeks



Paul Watkins



Philip Mackey