

# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



Stephen Holder signs the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists on 22 July in the chapel of St John's College, Cambridge during the 2016 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

The President, officers and members of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society offer their congratulations to Stephen on such a prestigious and well-deserved honour.

*(Photographer Dane Garrod FRPSL)*

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

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

**Officers**

President: S R Ellis, 22 Burton Crescent, Sneyd Green, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 6BT (email: [president@fcps.org.uk](mailto:president@fcps.org.uk))  
General Secretary: D J Hogarth, 12 Moyness Park Drive, Blairgowrie PH10 6LX (email: [secretary@fcps.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fcps.org.uk)).

**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.

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

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R N Broadhurst, 47 Bolton Gardens, Teddington TW11 9AX (email: [stock@fcps.org.uk](mailto:stock@fcps.org.uk); tel. 020 8977 9665).

**Journal Correspondents**

Paris: J M Simmons

London Group: L H Barnes

Northern Group: S R Ellis

Wessex Group: P R A Kelly / A J Wood

**Publications Stockist**

J Parmenter, 23 Jeffreys Road, London SW4 6QU (email: [publications@fcps.org.uk](mailto:publications@fcps.org.uk); tel. 0207 622 4851).

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# The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

Journal Manager: Mick Bister, 7 The Slade, Wrestlingworth, Sandy SG19 2ES

Email: m.bister@btinternet.com

Editor-in-chief: Maurice Tyler, 56 Mortons Fork, Blue Bridge, Milton Keynes MK13 0LA

E-mail: editor@fcps.org.uk

Editorial Team: Peter Allan, Derek Atkins, Steve Ellis, Chris Hitchen, David Hogarth,  
Dominic Joyeux, Barry Knox, Michael Round, Colin Spong, Arlene Sullivan, Paul Watkins

Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

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## SOCIETY NOTES

### Editorial

It is with great pride and pleasure that we publish on the front cover the picture of Stephen Holder signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Stephen is an indefatigable philatelist and although he has officially retired now from running HH Sales Ltd he has started a new venture called Barndance100. For further details see page 94.

You will have received with this copy of the Journal your Programme Card for the 2016-2017 season. All three regional groups now run full day meetings which offer both a specialised display followed by shorter contributions from members. There is therefore something for everybody. Furthermore, the day is punctuated by the enjoyment of a convivial lunch together, usually in a nearby hostelry. These are always friendly, relaxed and informal meetings where everyone gets a chance to show and share their material and knowledge. It's a great occasion to learn from one another.

I am still very short of articles; in fact I have received nothing since my last appeal. With a membership of over three hundred members there must be a good number of potential authors who could write an article, however short, for the Journal. As with attending group meetings, contributing articles is a means of sharing knowledge, the principal *raison d'être* of our Society. If anyone requires advice or assistance please contact me at m.bister@btinternet.com.

Mick Bister

\* \* \*

### Future Events

The next meeting of the **Wessex Group** will take place at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham at 10.30am on Saturday 8 October. The invited display will be given by **Peter Kelly** on 'The *Type Sage* issue of France: research projects and aspects of the provincial and rural post in France 1876-1900.'

The next meeting of the **Northern Group** will take place on Saturday 8 October 2016 at Adlington Village Hall, Cheshire starting at 1.00pm. It will be devoted to members' displays.

The next **London Group** meeting will be on Saturday 1 October from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm at the Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8JR. In the morning **Len Barnes** will be giving a display entitled 'French Colonial Aviation between 1925 and 1955'. The afternoon will be available for members to show a selection of their own material particularly their latest acquisitions and projects.

Please support your local group. It's a great day out.

\* \* \*

### Awards

My apologies for not including John Levett amongst the list of previous members to have been invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists; he was added in 1979.

John was President of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society from 1966 to 1971 and Journal Editor/Co-editor from 1967 to 1973.

MLB

\* \* \*

### Exhibition Successes

Congratulations to the following members who gained medals at the World Stamp Show NY 2016.

**Michèle Chauvet:** Large Gold\* for "Hermès, the first issue of Hellenic stamps on International Mail, 1861-1882" (Postal History)

**Lesley Marley:** Large Gold for "A Whale's Tale" (Thematic)

**Robert Abensur:** Gold\* for "Mail Routes and Rates between France and foreign countries by sail and steam, 1828-1849" (Postal History)

**Graham Booth:** Gold for "The Postal History of the Cayman Islands 1829-1945" (Postal History)

**Guy Dutau:** Gold for "Haïti: First Issues, 1881-1887" (Traditional)

**John Griffith-Jones:** Gold for "The Postage Dues of Zanzibar, 1875-1964: the Stamps, the Covers and the Story" (Literature)

**Steve Walske:** Gold for "North American Blockade Run Mail, 1775-1865" (Postal History)

\* also awarded Special Prize for 'Material'

American member **Steve Walske** was also invited to display in the Court of Honour two of his other collections - "The United States 1869 Issue on Packet Mail to France, 1869-1871" and "Transcontinental Pony Express: April 1860 to October 1861".



Furthermore, at the NY2016 dinner, Steve was presented with the Crawford Medal awarded to him and his co-author Richard Frajola for their publication "Mails of the Westward Expansion 1803-1861". The award is presented annually by the RPSL for 'the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately published in book form.'

Congratulations to Steve on a magnificent hat-trick of achievements.

\* \* \*

Continued on page 98



# The Coat-of-Arms Issues of France:1943-1966

Mick Bister

In response to the French government's war-time economy measures the PTT replaced four of its current large format high values with smaller stamps thereby saving on paper and ink. Thus in 1943 was born the typographically printed Coat-of-Arms issues, each representing a pre-revolutionary province, and the start of a long love affair between collectors and these multicoloured issues. Furthermore, the series has provided great potential for those wishing to embark on a specialist collection combining the study of printing techniques and postal rates.

## 1943-1949

The first set, consisting of the 5F *Lyonnais*, 10F *Bretagne*, 15F *Provence* and 20F *Ile de France*, was issued in 1943 to meet registered, express and airmail rates and replaced respectively the large format 5F *Pétain*, 10F *Beffroi d'Arras*, 15F *Hôtel-Dieu de Beaune* and 20F *Aigues-Mortes*. The latest four-cylinder presses were employed thereby producing France's first rotary typo printings in three colours; the fourth cylinder was reserved for printing the marginal data in black. A team of four artists was chosen headed by the

celebrated heraldist, Robert Louis, who designed the 20F value and monitored the heraldic accuracy of the others (Figure 1). The stamps were an instant success with collectors and public alike as they brought colour into their war-weary lives and evoked images of France of yesteryear. The PTT therefore launched a rolling programme of similar issues which would continue for three decades. Robert Louis was awarded the contract to design all the series which he did until his death in 1965.



Figure 1  
The four values of the First Series issued in 1943

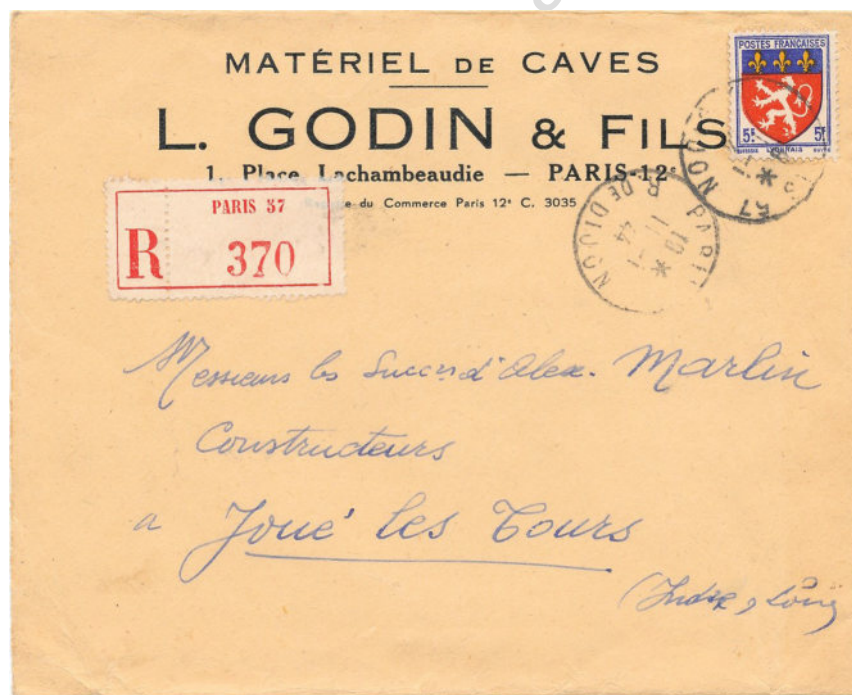


Figure 2

First Series: 5F *Lyonnais* inscribed *POSTES FRANÇAISES* on registered letter (Second step 20-50 grams) Postage 2F + Registration Fee 3F, from Paris to Joué-lès-Tours, 11 January 1944.

The second series was issued in 1944 with the same high values as those of the previous year (see Appendix at end of article for further details) but after the war the third series took on a completely different usage. Henceforth, the stamps would no longer be high values but instead target the low value postage rates such as those applicable to newspapers and printed matter. The third series of 1946, the 10c *Corse*, 30c *Alsace*, 50c *Lorraine* and 60c *Comté de Nice* played an additional commemorative role celebrating their liberation from the occupation or annexation by Germany and Italy.

It was not only the provinces and their coats-of-arms that changed with each of the early series but also the legend. During the war-time period of the French State, the first series bore the inscription *POSTES FRANÇAISES* and the second series *FRANCE POSTES*. Following the liberation of France and the creation of the Fourth Republic, the third series was inscribed *POSTES RF* and the fourth series, in 1949, *RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE*, an inscription that was retained thereafter (Figures 2-5).





Figure 3

Second Series: 2 x 10F *Languedoc* inscribed *FRANCE POSTES* on airmail letter (Third Step 12-18 grams)  
Postage 2F + Airmail Fee 18F, from Montmoreau to Hanoi via London and Singapore, 5 November 1945.



Figure 4

Third Series: 2 x 60c *Comté de Nice* inscribed *POSTES RF*  
on newspaper wrapper (Seventh Step 400-500 grams)  
from Amiens to Carmaux, 2 August 1948.



Figure 5

Fourth Series: 10c *Bourgogne* and 50c *Guyenne*  
inscribed *RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE*  
on newspaper wrapper (First Step 0-50 grams)  
from Paris 12 to Paris 10, 30 October 1950.



## 1951-1955

The programme of new issues gathered pace and between 1951 and 1955 a further four series were issued bringing the total number of provincial coat-of-arms issues to thirty-nine (Figures 6-8). Towards the end of this period modifications were made to the presses allowing the fourth cylinder, usually reserved for printing the sheet data, to take

on the additional role of contributing a fourth colour to the design. Thus in 1954, the 50c *Maine* of the seventh series was the first coat-of-arms to be represented in four colours instead of three. The drawback was that the printing data could no longer be printed in black but in one of the four colours used in the design (Figure 9).



Figure 6

1F Béarn from the Fifth Series on a *cécogramme* (Concessionary rate for Printed Matter in Braille) from Marseille to Digne, 28 November 1953.

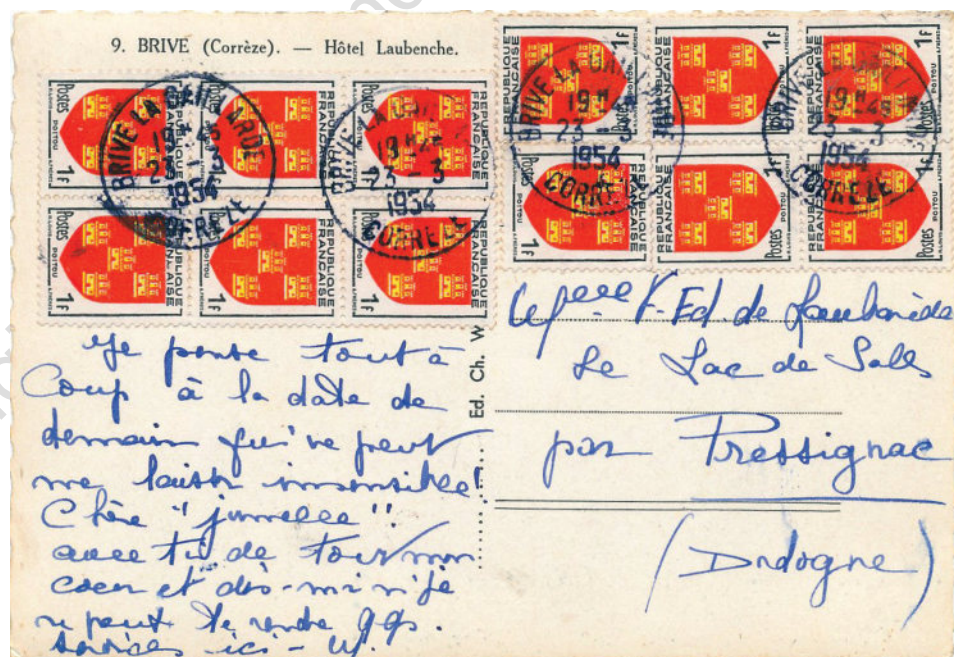


Figure 7

Multiple use of the 1F *Poitou* from the Sixth Series paying the Internal Postcard Rate (with more than 5 words of text), Brive to Pressignac, 23 March 1954.

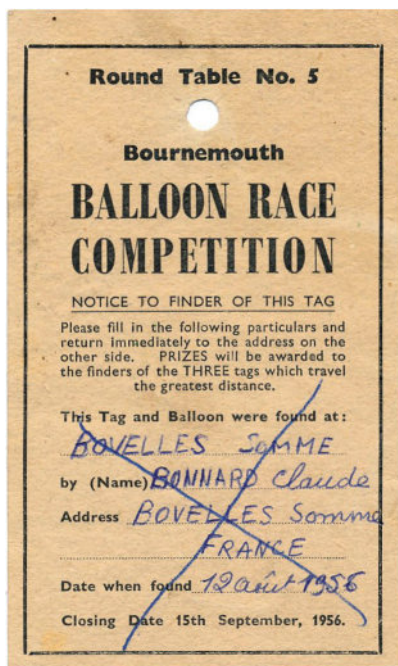


Figure 8  
5F Saintonge from the Seventh Series  
and 1F Comtat Venaissin from the Eighth Series  
on a returned Balloon Card  
sent at the 6F Foreign Printed Matter Rate  
from Bovelles to Bournemouth, 13 August 1956.



Figure 9  
50c Maine from the Seventh Series  
in four colours  
and with the press number  
and date of printing in yellow.

## 1958-1959

The series of provincial coats-of-arms had been a resounding success. The *Le Monde* newspaper though was concerned that many distinctive regions, although not provinces in the true sense of the word, had been omitted. Amongst others, the *Pays Basque*, *Beaujolais*, *Sologne* and *Périgord* were proposed by the press as potential issues and representation was made in parliament for their inclusion in a further series. Initially the calls fell on deaf ears but the PTT realised eventually that even with the list of provinces exhausted, an alternative had to be found to appease the collectors. The solution would be to promote the heraldry of France's towns and cities.

On 15 November 1958, the much anticipated series depicting the arms of French towns was eventually issued.

This first series consisted of the 50c *Marseille*, 70c *Lyon*, 80c *Toulouse*, 1F *Bordeaux*, 2F *Nice*, 3F *Nantes* and the 5F *Lille* with each town being allocated its value in descending order of population size. As some of the 1954 and 1955 provincial coats-of-arms issues were still on sale in post offices until their withdrawal on 29 November, both provinces and towns were on sale conjointly for two weeks (Figure 10).

The next year, as a 'gesture of national unification' De Gaulle ordered the printing of Algerian stamps to be suspended and the Algerian offices to be stocked with metropolitan issues. As a further reminder to the Algerians that their country was part of France, the Byzantine coat-of-arms of *Alger* appeared on the 1959 15F value, the sole issue of the Second Series (Figure 11).



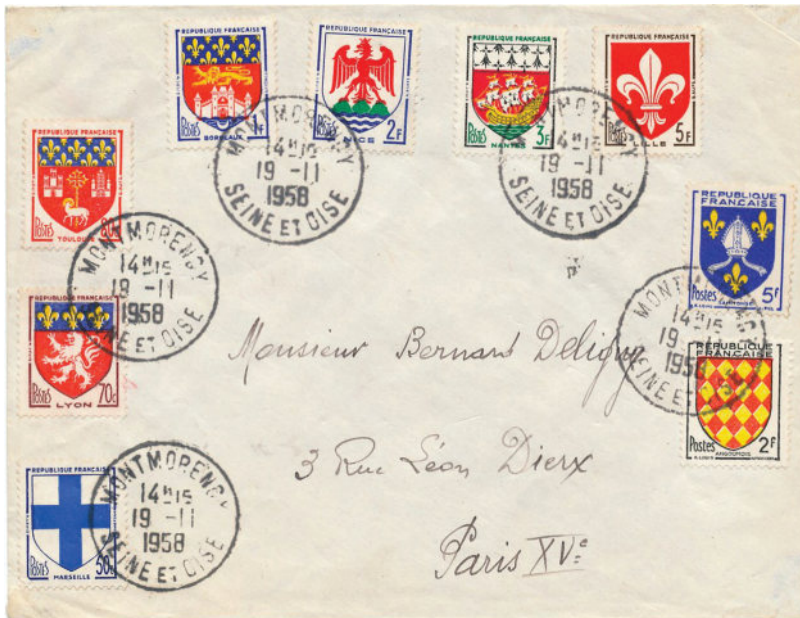


Figure 10

Complete set of the First Series of Towns (50c - 5F)  
plus remainders of the Seventh Series of Provinces (2F and 5F)  
sold simultaneously for just two weeks paying the 20F Internal Letter Rate,  
Montmorency to Paris, 19 November 1958.

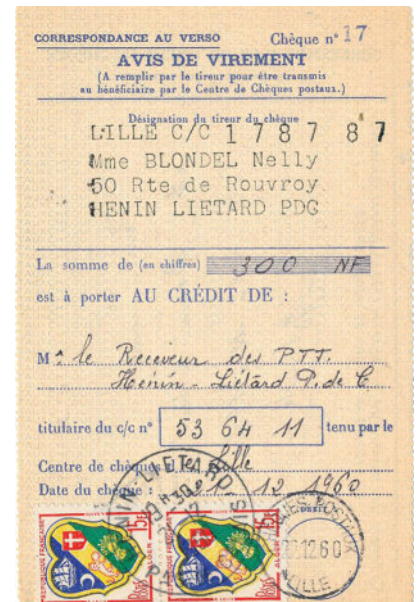


Figure 11

Second Series: Pair of 15F Alger  
paying CCP Transfer Advice Fee,  
Hénin-Liétard, 21 December 1960.

## 1960-1965

In 1960, with the introduction of the New Franc, a third series was issued. It included modified versions of the Lille and Alger designs expressed in centimes and a new 5c Oran issue. However, the Algerian arms were

promptly withdrawn in 1962 when the country won its independence and the two values were replaced with a fourth series, comprising the 5c Amiens and the 15c Nevers (Figure 12).



Figure 12

Mixed usage of 5c Oran from the Third Series  
and its replacement the 5c Amiens from the Fourth Series  
paying the 1F45 Registered Letter Rate with Advice of Delivery  
(Postage 25c + Registration Fee 70c + Advice of Delivery Fee 50c),  
Bayonne to Paris, 25 June 1963.



The 10c *Troyes*, issued in 1963 as the fifth series, was the longest running value with printings lasting fifteen years until 1978. It was also the first of the coat-of-arms issues, in 1970, to receive phosphor bands. Being a three colour design the fourth cylinder was employed in the application of the

phosphor bands and hence the printing data once again had to be printed in one of the colours of the design (Figure 13). A year later the State Printing Works were relocated from the capital to Périgueux and the 10c *Troyes* was the first of several coat-of-arms issues to be printed at both sites.



Figure 13  
The 10c *Troyes* (left) without phosphor bands printed at Paris and with date in black and (right) with phosphor bands printed at Périgueux with date in yellow.

The sixth series was issued in 1964 and comprised four values, the 1c *Niort*, 2c *Guéret*, 12c *Agen* and 18c *Saint-Denis* (Réunion). Ostensibly issued to meet newspaper rates, they had a limited use as most papers benefited from pre-paid reduced rates for bulk posting. As a result these stamps are rarely encountered used alone on cover

other than the 12c *Agen* which could also serve the Printed Matter Rate. The 2c *Guéret* though did have occasional outings by itself as, during local and national elections, voting cards and electoral pamphlets could be sent at the concessionary 2c Electoral Literature Rate (Figures 14 and 15).



Figure 14  
2c *Guéret* from the Sixth Series paying the Electoral Literature Rate during the period of the Canton Elections in the Hérault, local delivery within St Jean-de-Minervois, 26 February 1970.

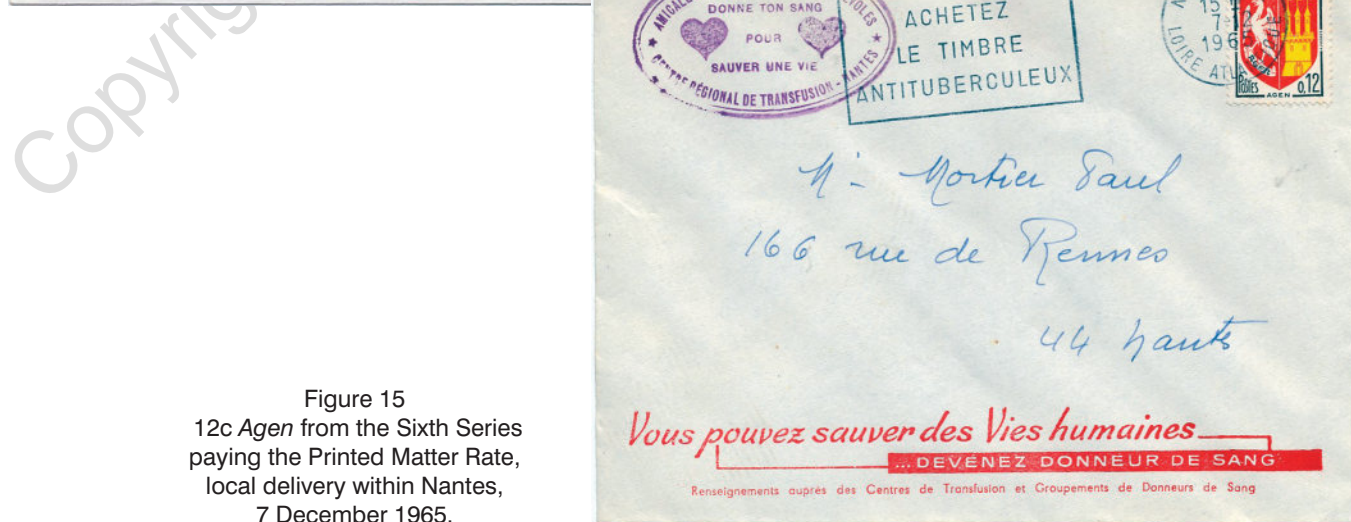


Figure 15  
12c *Agen* from the Sixth Series paying the Printed Matter Rate, local delivery within Nantes, 7 December 1965.



Arguably the most contentious issue was the 30c *Paris* of 1965, the sole constituent of the seventh series, which was issued to meet the anticipated 30c Internal Letter Rate. As large quantities would be required the stamp would be printed in both sheet and booklet form. As usual the designer, Robert Louis, had insisted that the rules of heraldry be respected and stipulated that the stamp be printed in three colours.

However, the booklet presses were limited to two colour production and, one colour, yellow, had to be omitted. For the sake of consistency the yellow was similarly omitted from the sheet printings. Printing began in 1963 but due to a delay in implementing the new 30c Internal Letter Rate the stamp was not issued until 1965 the same year that Robert Louis died (Figures 16 and 17).



Figure 16  
Artwork by Robert Louis  
annotated with instructions from the authorities  
to reduce the issue to two colours  
by printing the *fleurs-de-lys* in white.



Figure 17  
Booklet of 20 x 30c *Paris* printed in just two colours.

1966

Following Robert Louis' death, his daughter Mireille designed the eighth and final series comprising the 5c *Auch*, 20c *Saint-Lô* and the 25c *Mont-de-Marsan*. All three were printed in both sheet and coil format. The *Saint-Lô* design was printed in photogravure, a process which facilitated the

use of metallic gold and silver inks. It was perhaps, of all the sixty-one coat-of-arms issues, the one which reflected most accurately the rules of heraldry (Figures 18 and 19). It is regrettable that Robert Louis was not able to witness this achievement himself.



Figure 18  
The 20c *Saint-Lô* from the Eighth Series  
printed by photogravure  
and incorporating gold and silver inks.

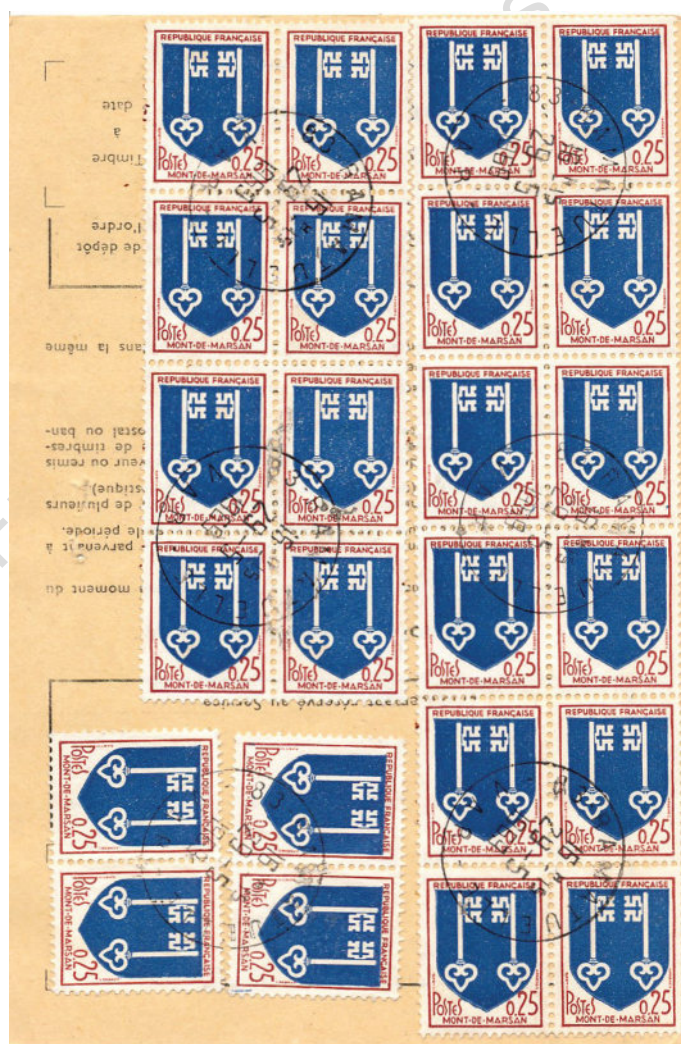


Figure 19  
Multiple use of the 25c *Mont-de-Marsan* from the Eighth Series  
to pay the three months' fee of 6F for the redirection of mail  
from Ramatuelle to Bernay-en-Brie, 29 May 1969.



## Appendix

Provinces				
SG N°	Y&T N°	Value	Arms	Date of Issue
<b>Series 1</b>				
776	527	5F	Lyonnais	15 May 1943
777	528	10F	Bretagne	25 March 1943
778	529	15F	Provence	15 May 1943
779	530	20F	Ile-de-France	27 April 1943
<b>Series 2</b>				
814	602	5F	Flandre	27 March 1944
815	603	10F	Languedoc	27 March 1944
816	604	15F	Orléanais	24 April 1944
817	605	20F	Normandie	24 April 1944
<b>Series 3</b>				
971	755	10c	Corse	26 June 1946
972	756	30c	Alsace	26 June 1946
973	757	50c	Lorraine	5 July 1946
974	758	60c	Comté de Nice	26 June 1946
<b>Series 4</b>				
1049	834	10c	Bourgogne	11 May 1949
1050	835	50c	Guyenne	11 May 1949
1051	836	1F	Savoie	11 May 1949
1052	837	2F	Auvergne	11 May 1949
1053	838	4F	Anjou	11 May 1949
<b>Series 5</b>				
1121	899	10c	Artois	25 June 1951
1122	900	50c	Limousin	25 June 1951
1123	901	1F	Béarn	25 June 1951
1124	902	2F	Touraine	21 June 1951
1125	903	3F	Franche-Comté	25 June 1951
<b>Series 6</b>				
1178	951	50c	Picardie	23 July 1953
1179	958	70c	Gascogne	29 September 1953
1180	959	80c	Berri	29 September 1953
1181	952	1F	Poitu	23 July 1953
1182	953	2F	Champagne	23 July 1953
1183	954	3F	Dauphiné	23 July 1953
<b>Series 7</b>				
1225	999	50c	Maine	3 November 1954
1226	1000	70c	Navarre	3 November 1954
1227	1001	80c	Nivernais	3 November 1954
1228	1002	1F	Bourbonnais	3 November 1954
1229	1003	2F	Angoumois	11 November 1954
1230	1004	3F	Aunis	11 November 1954
1231	1005	5F	Saintonge	11 November 1954
<b>Series 8</b>				
1270	1044	50c	Comté-de-Foix	19 November 1955
1271	1045	70c	Marche	19 November 1955
1272	1046	80c	Roussillon	19 November 1955
1273	1047	1F	Comtat-Venaissin	19 November 1955

Towns				
SG N°	Y&T N°	Value	Arms	Date of Issue
<b>Series 1</b>				
1403	1180	50c	Marseille	15 November 1958
1404	1181	70c	Lyon	15 November 1958
1405	1182	80c	Toulouse	15 November 1958
1406	1183	1F	Bordeaux	15 November 1958
1407	1184	2F	Nice	15 November 1958
1408	1185	3F	Nantes	15 November 1958
1409	1186	5F	Lille	15 November 1958
<b>Series 2</b>				
1410	1195	15F	Alger	7 March 1959
<b>Series 3</b>				
1452	1230	5c	Lille	2 January 1960
1499	1230A	5c	Oran	15 October 1960
1454	1232	15c	Alger	2 January 1960
<b>Series 4</b>				
1499a	1352	5c	Amiens	21 July 1962
1499d	1354	15c	Nevers	21 July 1962
<b>Series 5</b>				
1499b	1353	10c	Troyes	12 January 1963
<b>Series 6</b>				
1498a	1351A	1c	Niort	25 January 1964
1498b	1351B	2c	Guéret	25 January 1964
1499c	1353A	12c	Agen	16 May 1964
1499e	1354A	18c	Saint-Denis	16 May 1964
<b>Series 7</b>				
1499f	1354B	30c	Paris	16 January 1965
<b>Series 8</b>				
1700	1468	5c	Auch	22 January 1966
1735	1510	20c	Saint-Lô	17 December 1966
1701	1469	25c	Mont-de-Marsan	22 January 1966

This article was first published by the author in *Stamp & Coin Mart* magazine, July 2014. [www.stampandcoin.co.uk](http://www.stampandcoin.co.uk)



# La Retirada - Spanish Refugees in France 1939-1942

## Part Two

David Hogarth

The first part of this article set out the background against which the French State initially looked after the refugees from the Spanish Civil War. The second part considers various camps in which these refugees were interned and what happened to them after they reached France.

### AGDE

By February 1939 it was clear that the refugees entering France from Spain would overwhelm the existing camp provision, and additional locations were being sought, one of which extending to some 30 hectares was identified to the east of Agde, a town of some 10,000 people. The area was divided into three sub-camps, each of which was designed to hold 8,000 refugees in prefabricated huts which were erected by the refugees under the supervision of the French army. The camp was occupied by Spanish refugees, initially mainly from Catalonia, between early 1939 and September 1939, thereafter being used for other internees. The size of the camp in relation to the town of Agde dictated that a post office serving the camp was set up there with its own canceller (Figure 16).



Figure 16

Cover from a refugee in the Camp d'Agde sent to SERE on 10 August 1939

(SERE = *Servicio de Evacuación* (sometimes *Emigración*) de Refugiados Españoles)

### BRAM

At the same time as additional sites for camps were being looked for, there was also a realisation that conditions should be improved; a site of 12 hectares identified at Bram in the Aude, the *Camp du Pigne*, was planned to have a notional capacity of up to 18,000 internees to be lodged in 170 wooden huts. The camp was constructed in three weeks. It was ready by February 1939, reserved, at least initially, for the elderly, though it held many men and women and large numbers of children. Different authorities disagree about the population of the camp and how this was made up, and indeed when it was opened, but it remains curious that in a camp designated for the elderly, much of the camp population was away working

in *Compagnies de Travailleurs*, usually in local factories, on local farms and in a military bakery in Bram (Figure 17).

Like many camps – other than the beach camps – it was sited close to a railway line. It closed in early 1941 after being seriously damaged by storms and torrential rain, but not until after it had been largely cleared of the Spanish and used to house German and Austrian families who had fled to France. While a 'large' camp, it did not have its own postal facilities, relying on the Bram post office.

Bram represents an example of a camp erected in haste, where even when it was opened the designated population was overtaken by events, where different authorities disagree on when it opened and when it closed and how many people were from time to time housed. Perhaps this is not surprising given the chaotic conditions at the time.

### FORT COLLIOURE

Collioure is a pretty little port lying close to the Spanish frontier overlooked by a Templar fortress: this was pressed into service, effectively as a prison, to hold those refugees considered as *fortes têtes* or troublesome. Being small, it did not require its own post office, and mail, often in standard envelopes, was dealt with in the town post office (Figure 18).

### GURS

The major internment camp at Gurs was constructed in early 1939 to relieve overcrowding particularly in the beach camps. (Much of the camp mail which survives especially from 1940 onwards comes from or to this camp and the oval ring cancels are well known). The first refugees arrived from Argelès-sur-Mer on 5 April 1939 comprising 980 Spanish Basques commanded by a former captain from the Republican army. They were followed over the next few days by a further 2,745 Basques. By 25 April there were more than 15,000 Spaniards (including Basques) in the camp.

The camp lay alongside the main road between Oleron and Navarrenx with a planned population of some 19,000, giving rise to concerns amongst the local people. At the beginning there was little security as shown in Figure 19, when it was designated as a *Camp d'Accueil*. During this first summer, there was considerable overcrowding with some 24,530 refugees being accounted for. They were accommodated in 382 wooden huts divided between 13 *Ilots* designated by the letters A to M; in summer 1939 *Ilots* A – D were occupied by Basques, E and F by other Spaniards, G – J by members of the International Brigades and K – M by *les aviateurs* (members of the Republican air force) (Figure 20).

As conditions changed during the ensuing years, the official designation of the camp also altered and it was made more secure for its new roles. The population of the various *Ilots* and the layout of the camp was altered. As one of the largest camps, Gurs had its own administrative services,

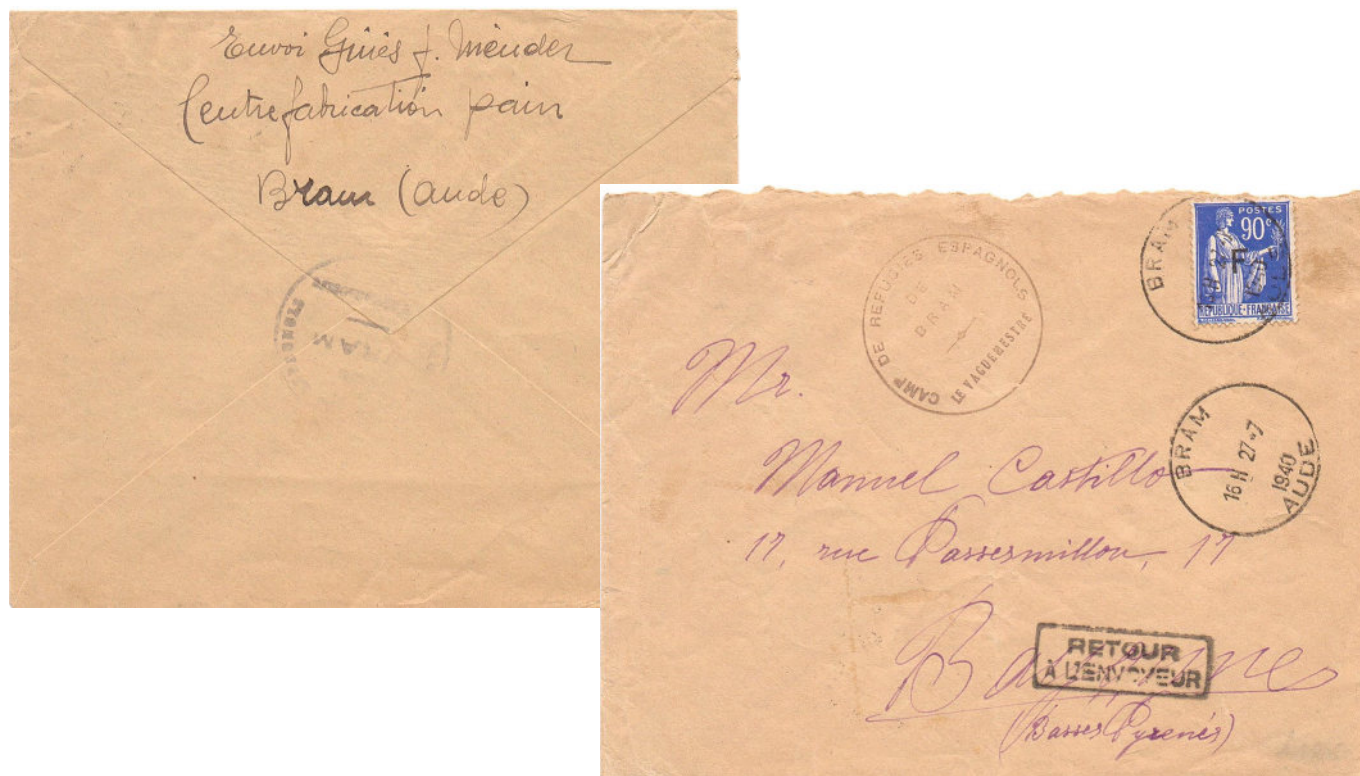


Figure 17

Two covers from refugees in the Camp de Bram, both dated July 1940, the upper from a refugee working in the military bakery in Bram and the lower showing the camp cachet CAMP DE REFUGIES ESPAGNOLS/BRAM/LE VAGUEMESTRE



Figure 18

Cover to SERE from an internee in the 1st section, Fort Collioure

which included postal arrangements. Censor marks and other cachets changed from time to time. An example of an early cover is shown in Figure 21. The volume of mail – estimated from 1939 as being between 5,000 and 8,000 items per day – led to delays and necessitated a large team of *fonctionnaires* being devoted to the postal service and censorship.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that at the beginning the censors were not too strict when applying the censor marks to correspondence, using them lightly to allow the recipient to be able to read the letters or cards. The issue of forged

stamps also arose, but was dismissed, though one internee's advice was that a thin film of candle-wax smeared over the F stamp allowed the cancel to be held but it – and the wax – could be rubbed off by the recipient, returning the stamp to a state whereby it could be reused.

## LE VERNET

The camp at Le Vernet had been built during World War I to house German prisoners-of-war and it seems that little had been done thereafter to maintain it until 1938 when, being on the main railway line from Spain crossing the frontier at Bourg-Madame, it was used from that year



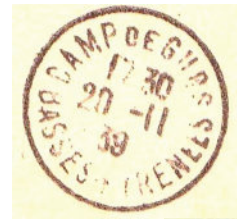


Figure 19

Postcard with view of the entrance to the *Camp de Gurs* when it was designated a *Camp d'Accueil* and, on the address side, a camp cancellation of 20 November 1939 and the seal of *Le Commandant*

Figure 20  
Postcard showing  
*Un Groupe de Réfugiés Espagnols*  
at the *Camp de Gurs*



Figure 21

Early cover from a Spaniard in the *Camp de Réfugiés*, *Pavillon 8*, *Ilot K*, *Camp de Gurs* showing the camp canceller dated 5 June 1939 before the F franchise stamps were issued



to house Spaniards and International Brigade members fleeing from Spain. Initially many of the refugees had to be accommodated in tents. From February 1939 considerable work had been done to make it habitable for large numbers of refugees, though conditions generally appear to have remained unsatisfactory for the large numbers who were housed there: these numbers fluctuated considerably with a population of over 13,000 in early 1939 reducing to approximately 1,000 by October 1939, possibly as the result of large-scale enlistment in *Compagnies de Travailleurs Espagnols* (CTEs – see page 90). Neither Le Vernet nor its sub-camp at Mazères had its own postal facilities, mail being dealt with at the neighbouring town of Pamiers. While members of the International Brigade were later transferred here by the end of 1939 most Spanish refugees had been transferred elsewhere or had been conscripted into CTEs. For many, Le Vernet was seen as a 'punishment' camp with poor facilities and harsh conditions. Examples of mail are shown in **Figure 22**.



## SEPTFONDS

Early in 1939 an area of ground near Septfonds in Tarn-et-Garonne was identified as a site for a camp for Spanish refugees to relieve the overcrowding at the beach camps and incidentally to provide better facilities. The area was known as the *Camp de Judes*, which gave rise to misunderstanding as to its function, though by early 1940 it had ceased to function as a refugee camp and was thereafter used to house foreign workers and later as a transit camp for Jews.

Initially some 15,000 refugees were intended to be housed here and from March 1939 thousands of Spanish refugees began to arrive by the trainload at what was initially a construction site where the building of huts could not at the start keep pace with new arrivals. From April 1939 the numbers of refugees began to fall as men joined CTEs, and by the end of 1939 the camp was almost empty of Spaniards. The camp had its own postal facilities (**Figures 24 and 25**).



Figure 22

Two covers, the first to Juan Gualtero in *Quartier B, Baraque 9, Camp Espagnol* at Le Vernet in October 1939 showing the camp censor mark of the time from a person in the *Rassemblement Féminin* at Chantonay (Vendée).

There is extant considerable correspondence between M Gualtero and various ladies, and it appears that he may, notwithstanding his early internment, have risen to a position in this camp.

The second cover is possibly an official enquiry since the sender's details are not given, but it shows the cancellation used by the camp and a different cachet in February 1941

## RIVESALTES

The large hutted camp at Rivesaltes, some 10 kilometres north of Perpignan, was originally built during WW1 as a transit camp for French colonial troops. In 1939 it lay empty, but does not initially seem to have been considered as a place to house the Spanish refugees. The first internees to be housed at Rivesaltes were German nationals arrested in France in May 1940 followed, after the invasion, by Jews deported from western Germany. Later, in October 1940, following serious damage caused by storms to the camps at Argelès-sur-Mer and Saint-Cyprien and the consequent overcrowding at Gurs, large numbers of Spanish refugees were also brought there. The notional capacity seems to have been about 15,000 people in late 1940. By the time the camp was closed in November 1942, most of the Spanish refugees had been conscripted into CTEs or had been transferred to other camps. Rivesaltes had its own postal facilities (**Figure 23**).

## OTHER CAMPS

As time passed and the immediate problems associated with the Spanish refugees were overtaken by the need to house other groups of internees and improve conditions, new camps were established whose populations changed from time to time. Spanish refugees would for one reason or another be housed in a number of different camps – whether as refugees, as captives of the invading German army or as communists or other *indésirables*. For example, a site in Brens, Tarn was requisitioned in October 1939 as a *centre d'accueil pour réfugiés* and a small camp of 20 huts for some 500 refugees was completed by May 1940. Following the German invasion, it housed nearly 1,000 people, mainly Belgian refugees but including some 30 Spanish refugees who had fled from what was to become the Occupied Zone of France. A further very small camp was established at Rieucros near Mende in the Lozère to house foreign women and children considered as *indésirables*. The





Figure 23  
Cover dated 5 April 1941  
containing, probably, an official letter  
since it is addressed to the *Police Nationale*, with  
the *Camp de Rivesaltes* cancellatin  
and a cachet of a  
*Compagnie de Travailleurs Espagnols*  
(possibly, though unnumbered, the 157<sup>th</sup>)



Figure 24  
Cover from a refugee cancelled on 12 July 1939, showing the *Camp de Septfonds* cancel.  
It is addressed to the *Campo Refugiados I.B.I.* at Agde.  
The sender's details are given on the reverse

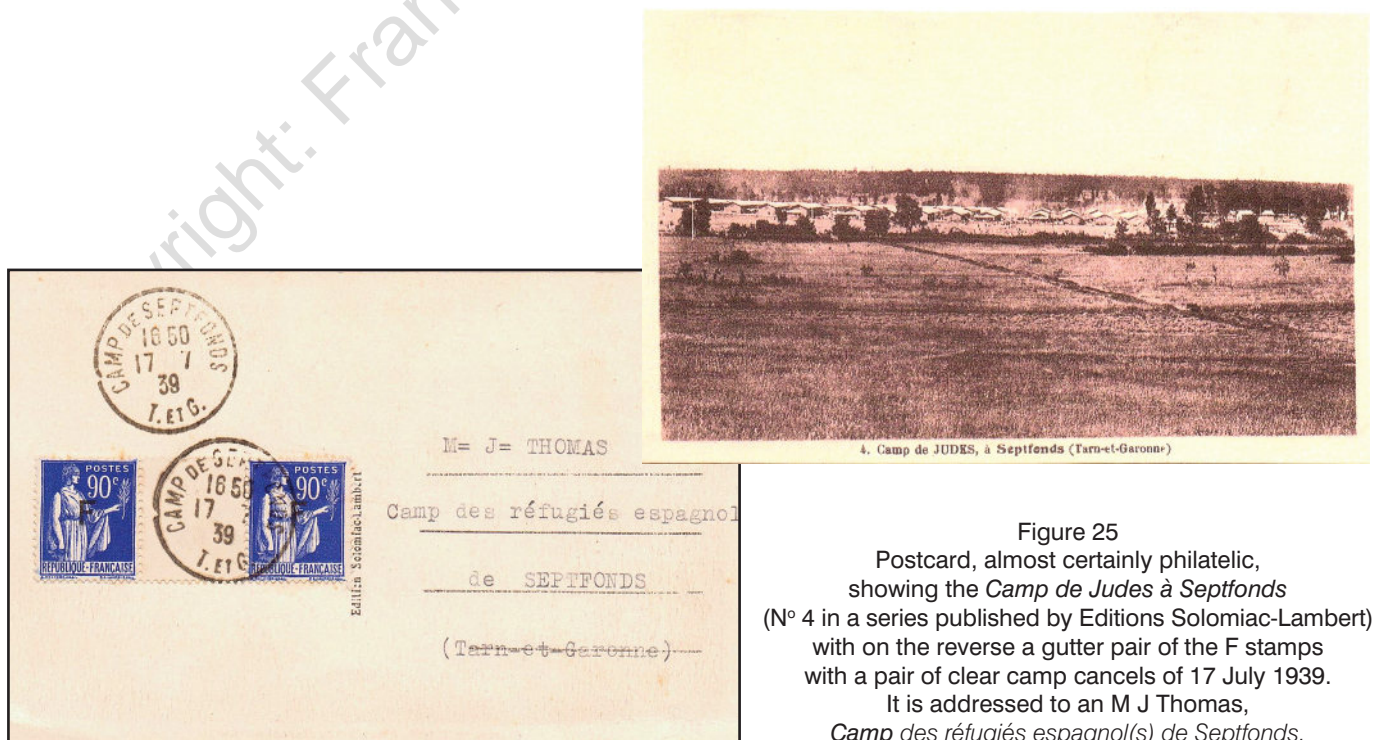


Figure 25  
Postcard, almost certainly philatelic,  
showing the *Camp de Judes à Septfonds*  
(N° 4 in a series published by Editions Solomiac-Lambert)  
with on the reverse a gutter pair of the F stamps  
with a pair of clear camp cancels of 17 July 1939.  
It is addressed to an M J Thomas,  
*Camp des réfugiés espagnol(s) de Septfonds.*



notional capacity was 400, to be housed in a small number of wooden huts. In early 1939 it was used for a brief period to house Spanish refugees, the postal facilities used being those of Mende.

Camps were set up at Noé and Récébédou, initially as 'hospital' camps to ease the conditions of refugees in Gurs and other camps (Figure 26). Inevitably, there were Spanish internees in these camps, and they formed a part of the various camps' populations along with many other nationalities.

### COMPAGNIES DE TRAVAILLEURS ESPAGNOLS (CTE)

From the earliest days of the refugees entering France there was a policy of dispersing them throughout the country since the *départements* in the south-west clearly could not cope with the influx. It was open to individual businesses, particularly in farming or forestry, to hire refugees. However the most important vehicle for using the refugees' labour and/or skills, was the enlistment – or conscription – of refugees into the *Compagnies de Travailleurs Espagnols* (CTE) or, later, into the *Groupes*



Figure 26

Cover to a refugee in the Camp de Récébédou

showing both a Spanish censor mark of San Sebastian and the Récébédou *censure* mark.

Since the camp was refurbished in early 1941 the cancel, fairly unreadable, is likely to be on a date in July 1941

### NORTH AFRICA

Camp populations and designations were in a state of flux for the remainder of World War II. Groups of internees were moved between camps for a variety of reasons, not least because of the conditions in certain camps, the lack of food and illness, the dilapidation of camp structures or the desire to locate particular groups in particular locations.

For various reasons – mainly to rid the camps in France itself of *indésirables* and to provide workers for schemes such as the trans-Saharan railway, many republicans were shipped to camps in the French territories in North Africa. Conditions in these camps were reputed to be even worse than in Le Vernet.

### WHAT BECAME OF THE REFUGEES

It is difficult to be precise about the answer to this question. In the short term, some were repatriated and some emigrated. In the short term also many were dispersed throughout France either individually or in small groups and found work or at least were able to integrate into French society. The majority of the able-bodied men were enrolled or conscripted in workers groups, at first referred to as *Compagnies de Travailleurs Espagnols*. The others remained initially in the camps.

*de Travailleurs Étrangers* (GTE). Members of these groups could also be seconded from the groups to work as individuals in specific locations. An example of this is shown in Figure 27 where the person in question was seconded in late 1941 from *Groupement N° 2* of GTE 536 to work in forestry in Casteljalous to the south-east of Bordeaux, remaining there until his liberation from the GTE on 7 June 1945 (Figure 28). By April 1942 he appears to have been married with a child and was granted assistance from a fund to provide *Secours aux Familles des Travailleurs Étrangers Encadrés* (Figure 29).

The complement of a CTE was between 200 and 400 men – normally around 250 – and was usually commanded by a French officer supported by NCOs and gendarmes with a Spanish liaison officer and staff (Figure 30). The able-bodied Spanish refugees, and other refugees, were seen in the 1939/40 period as a valuable resource to be used by France and, after the Armistice, by the Germans. Many CTEs were attached to the French military, some were involved in camp maintenance, and many were deployed in industry (often armaments), agriculture and forestry. It was one way for refugees to escape life in the camps. The CTEs were soon complemented by the larger *Groupes de Travailleurs Étrangers* (GTE).



**Ministère de la Production Industrielle et du Travail**

**Ordre de Service**

DÉPARTEMENT :

Le Travailleur Espagnol Vives Folch Eduardo est autorisé à travailler chez Monsieur Temboury à Castelfalvy pour effectuer les travaux agricoles en cours.

Il devra rejoindre le Groupe de Travailleurs une fois son travail fini ou sur mon ordre et sans préavis.

Carreuil le 21.11.41 Le Chef du Groupement N° 2  
J. LEMAY.

Vu à l'arrivée  
Le Maire,

Vu au départ en  
direction du Groupe  
Le Maire,

(Lot-et-Garonne)

LE CHIEF DU GROUPE

Figure 27  
GTE transfer order

MINISTÈRE DU TRAVAIL & de la Sécurité Sociale

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DE LA M. O.  
SOUS-DIRECTION DE LA M. O. E.

Bureau du Contrôle Départemental  
Lot & Garonne

**CERTIFICAT DE LIBERATION  
D'UN TRAVAILLEUR ÉTRANGER**

REFERENCE : Circulaire interministérielle N° 11/MO du 16/12/1944.

Le T. E. VIVES FOLCH Eduardo né le 26 Juillet 1917  
à Bacelone nationalité Espagnole  
résidant à CASTELFALVY est libéré du G. T. E. N° 536  
suivant décision de la Commission Départementale de Contrôle et de Libération instituée par la Circulaire N° 11/M. O. du 16/12/1944. (Réunion du 7 Juin 1945).

Ce certificat ne tient lieu en aucun cas de titre de séjour.

A AGEN le 7 Juin 1945 194

LE CONTRÔLEUR DÉPARTEMENTAL

NOTA.—L'intéressé devra d'ores et déjà se présenter à la Mairie de la résidence (ou au Commissariat Central en ce qui concerne TOULOUSE) pour déposer les pièces complémentaires de son dossier de demande de carte d'identité.

CONTROLE DÉPARTEMENTAL  
Lot et Garonne

Figure 28  
GTE Release Order



PREFECTURE  
DE LOT-ET-GARONNE

ÉTAT FRANÇAIS

Service des Etrangers

**SECOURS**  
aux Familles des Travailleurs étrangers encadrés  
(Loi du 31 Mai 1941)

Commune de : Casteljalous

Dossier No 285

Réunion de la Commission du : 24 juin 1942

Nom : Vives-Eldi ne Gilberta Bonarda

Prénoms : Rosa

Adresse : Casteljalous

est admis à percevoir les secours aux Familles des Travailleurs étrangers encadrés.

Date d'entrée en jouissance du secours : 1 avril 1942

Nombre de majorations pour enfants : une

Allocation principale : une

Signature de la partie prenante : \_\_\_\_\_

Agén. le 3 JUL 1942  
Le Préfet,

*[Signature]*

**Avis important.** — Le paiement du secours sera effectué par le Percepteur sur présentation du présent certificat qui devra être conservé soigneusement. Se munir de pièces d'identité.

Figure 29  
Aid fund for families of foreign workers

While it remains difficult to ascertain how many Spanish *Compagnies* there were, it was estimated that by the end of 1939 there were more than 180 CTEs – though this figure is probably less than accurate, and some reports put it at 250 or more. Even this figure seems only to be an estimate as there was considerable confusion about the designation of workers' groups. The reference to a 'CTE' also included *Compagnies de Travailleurs Étrangers* (rather than *Espagnols*), and when the *Groupes de Travailleurs Étrangers* – which were normally much larger – were established they included Spaniards as well as refugees or internees of other nationalities. Some GTEs were referred to, not least by the actual members of the groups, as *Groupes de Travailleurs*

*Espagnols*. Furthermore the groups did change their names: the 182<sup>nd</sup> CTE, formed of Spaniards, became, after the Armistice, the 182<sup>nd</sup> GTE and, to complicate matters more, in early 1941 a new designation – the *Compagnies des Travailleurs Hébergés* (CTH) – came into being, though I am not aware of any covers emanating from such groups.

Members of the Spanish CTE/GTEs were entitled in 1939 to use the 'F' franchise stamps since they were considered effectively to be on secondment from the camps in which they were based, and a variety of cachets were used, presumably designed and manufactured by the individual groups. Three of these are illustrated in **Figure 31**.





Figure 30  
Two cards sent under military franchise  
from a Lieutenant in the French army,  
almost certainly on the reserve list,  
serving with the 132<sup>nd</sup> CTE  
at Parthenay (Deux-Sèvres)  
dated 28 December 1939 and 3 January 1940



Figure 31  
Examples of individual  
CTE cachets





### **FORCES FRANÇAISES DE L'INTÉRIEUR (FFI)**

As the war progressed however, large numbers of the Spanish refugees disappeared along with young Frenchmen into the *Maquis* and the Resistance (some estimates are of the order of 21,000) and others could have joined the FFI – the estimate here is of more than 15,000. Those in North Africa found this easier, and many enlisted in the French 13<sup>th</sup> *Division Blindée* (DB) in North Africa and fought with the Allies there and in Provence and Italy. (The French element of the Norwegian Expeditionary Force in 1940 had included the 13<sup>th</sup> *Demi-Brigade* of the Foreign Legion, which included a number of Spaniards, and fought at Narvik). The Spanish company of the 2<sup>nd</sup> DB commanded by General Leclerc took part in the liberation of Paris in 1944 and though relatively few in number so far as tanks and armoured vehicles were concerned, reached the *Hôtel de Ville* first. Perhaps this was a fitting conclusion to their original defeat by a fascist army in Spain.

### **CONSULTED WORKS**

*France & Colonies Philatelic Society Journal*: articles by Derek J Richardson from 1988 (particularly in N<sup>os</sup> 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, Éditions Autremont, Paris, 1955

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

*Beyond Death and Exile*, Stein, Harvard UP, 1979

*Le Camp de Gurs*, Laharie, J & D Éditions, 1993

*Le Camp de Gurs*, Apollaro, Club Marcophile de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale, 1986

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

Thanks to Derek Richardson who 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.

## **STEPHEN HOLDER BARNDANCE100**

email: [stephen@barndance100.co.uk](mailto:stephen@barndance100.co.uk)  
website: [www.barndance100.co.uk](http://www.barndance100.co.uk)  
phone: 01274 544446

**Barndance100** is a new venture which has been developed since my retirement from HH Sales Philatelic Literature and which will be substantially expanded over the next year or so.

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Stephen Holder



# Business Papers, Samples and Additional Notes in France, 1876-1900 (with prior and post background information 1856-1910)

Peter Kelly

These notes relate to letters and objects that are referred to in French as *papiers d'affaires*, *échantillons* and *annotations*. They represent categories of mail that fall within the wide spectrum of reduced-price items (*objets à prix réduit*). This does not include the largest category, that of printed matter (*imprimés*).



Figure 1: *Papier d'affaires* dated 26 September 1878

Registered *papier d'affaires* franked 35c:  
postage 10c (second weight-step of 50–100g for the tariff applicable from 1 January 1876)  
+ registration 25c (tariff applicable from February 1873).  
Cancellation of the *Recette Principale*, Paris, for Montauban

## *Papiers d'affaires* (Figure 1)

These are wholly or in part handwritten documents, to the exclusion of any personal correspondence. As the name implies, they refer to business papers and, as such, were eligible for a preferential rate with effect from 1856; up until then they had been treated as regular letters. The Law of 25 June 1856 assimilated them into printed matter (*imprimés*) but with a minimum rate of 50c. This continued until the formation of the *Union Générale des Postes*, which did not accept the principle of a minimum charge for this category of correspondence. The Law of 3 August 1875 (applicable from 1 January 1876) introduced a flat rate of 5c per 50 grams, and this charging rate remained in place until 1 May 1910.

This category includes all strictly business papers, corrected printers' proofs, invoices, statements of account and shipping *bordereaux*, maps and plans. These could be sent either in unsealed envelopes or under wrapper.

## *Échantillons* (Figure 2)

The Law of 25 June 1856 established that samples, up to a maximum weight of 300 grams, could be sent at the

rate applicable to printed matter under wrapper. In 1871 the scope for samples was widened and, over and above the use of wrappers, objects could be sent in boxes or sacks provided that these could be opened easily. This arrangement remained in place until 1 January 1876, when the rate was aligned with that of business papers (see above) – ie, 5c per 50 grams – and remained unchanged up to 1 January 1917. The weight limit was increased to 350g on 1 October 1881 and to 500g on 1 February 1907.

## *Annotations* (Figure 3)

The rules governing the addition of manuscript notes to posted material are varied. Certain such items were allowed within strict guidelines, such as printing corrections, visiting cards and tax collection forms. Some annotations were authorised and some were not.

With effect from June 1859, the addition of manuscript notes was authorised subject to an additional charge, and this rule related both to business papers and to samples. The charge was a flat 25c fee in accordance with the Law of 24 August 1871 (applicable from 1 September 1871). The fee was reduced following the Decree of 12 May 1875 (effective from 15 May 1875) – to 10c for despatch and





Figure 2: *Echantillon* dated 16 September 1884

Sample sent by the *Grands Magasins du Printemps*, Paris, to Rennes.

Bulk mailing with cds showing *IMPRIMES/3 PARIS/P.P.58*.

Franked 10c (second weight-step of 50–100g for the tariff applicable from 1 January 1876).

This specially printed envelope for samples is important because, in requesting the return of the sample in the same envelope, the shop reminds the recipient that the rules of the Post Office formally prohibit the insertion of any handwritten note in a packet of samples.

distribution within the circumscription of the same office or large town, or to 15c for territorial distribution. The regulations changed again with the postal reform of 1 May 1878 (deriving from the Law of 6 April 1878), when the

surcharge was simplified to a flat national rate of 10c and remained in place until its disappearance on 1 May 1910. The manuscript notes would not qualify if messages of a personal nature were included.

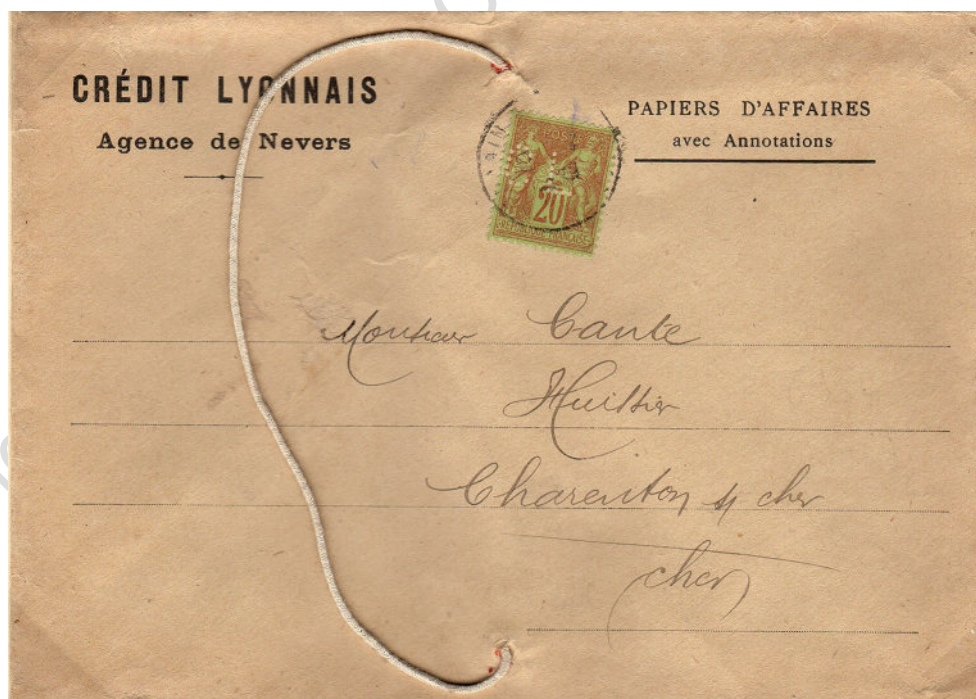


Figure 3: *Annotation* dating from November 1901

These are business papers with handwritten additions,

sent in a special stationery envelope from *Crédit Lyonnais* in Nevers to Charenton-sur-Cher.

Franked 20c: postage 10c (second weight-step of 50–100g for the tariff applicable from 1 January 1876)

+ 10c for the handwritten addition (tariff applicable from 1 May 1878).

Note the elasticated string that can be placed behind the letter, thereby keeping it securely closed but easy to open for inspection, in accordance with Post Office requirements for this category of mail.



# A letter of 30 May 1815

Héloïse Mitchell

Original text (as is)

extracted from letter of 30 May 1815

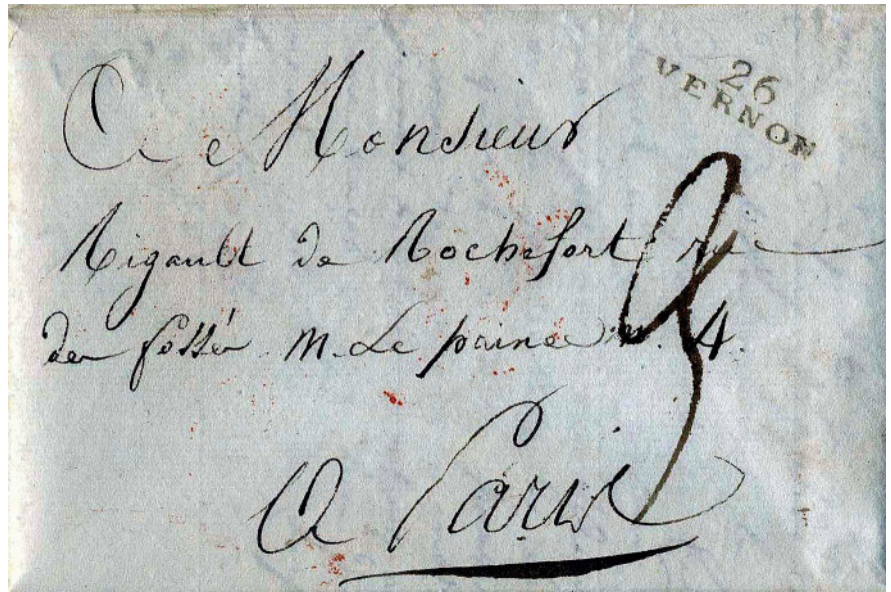
"Vous êtes instruit de l'évènement pénible et surprenant de M. Demordant connu de vous et de moi qui a été victime le 27 courant vers dix heures du soir le long des hayes de la madeleine près la pelouse ayant été assassiné par un coup de fusil ou pistolet chargé à balle et l'on peut dire à bout portant.

La malheureuse Hélène perd beaucoup mais elle compte beaucoup sur vos conseils et votre protection. Cet enfant n'éprouvât pas assez de peine de cette cruelle catastrophe, il a plut de charger sa famille du fait atroce de l'assassinat, Henri son frère est détenu depuis le 27, le père surveillé, la mère, la bru et les autres domestiques de la maison, cependant il est constant que depuis le 15 septembre dernier M. Demordant et la famille Chauvel n'avaient plus d'intérêt à débattre à la médiation de MM Lebrun & Bourgival, et .... Curé de Lille, néanmoins on est à la recherche de plusieurs autres sur lesquelles la prévention paraît fondée, Hélène ne pouvant encore en ce moment écrire ni parler lentement pour ses intérêts, m'a prié de vous écrire en son nom vous priant aussi de lui faire connaître l'époque du remerme de la rente vendue a M. Fournier et le montant du capital à rembourser, si elle pourrait même obtenir par vous de M. Fournier un nouveau delay vu les circonstances. En l'obligeant vous m'obligerez moi-même, lui ayant donné tout espoir sur votre bonne volonté".

## English translation of Extract from letter of 30 May 1815

"You have been informed of the painful and surprising event that happened to Mr Demordant, known to you and me, who was a victim on the 27<sup>th</sup> instant at about 10 o'clock at night along the hedges of the Madeleine near the lawn, having been assassinated by a shot from a loaded gun or pistol at point blank range.

The unfortunate Hélène has lost a great deal but she relies a lot on your advice and protection. As

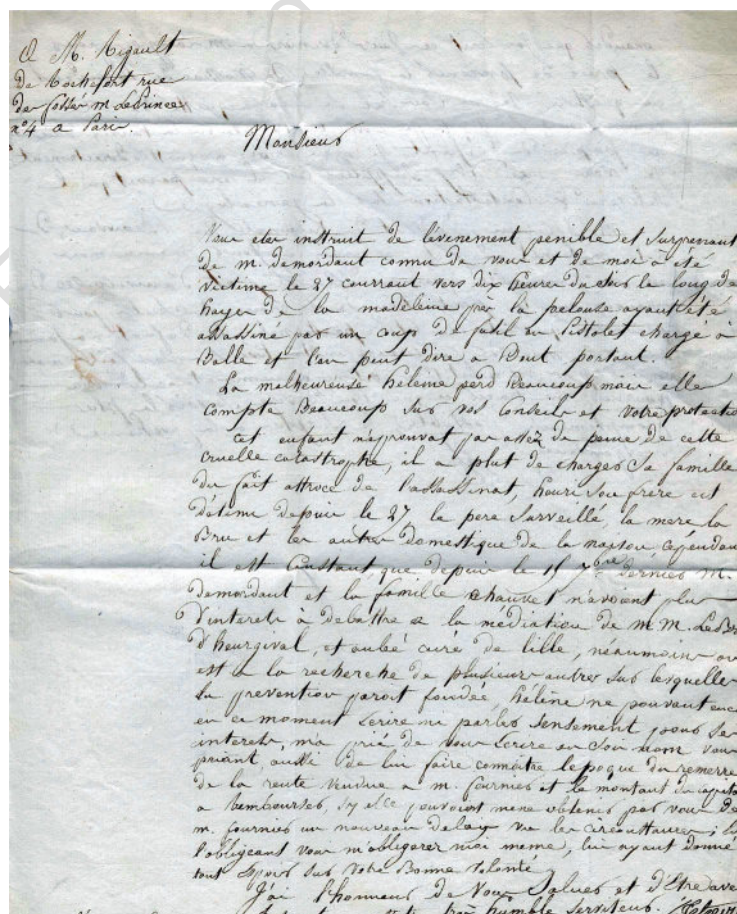


30 May 1815 Vernon to Paris with straight-line 26/VERNON (Eure) and ms 3 décimes.

The text concerns the murder of a Monsieur Demordant with a shotgun.

if this child has not had not enough sorrow because of this cruel catastrophe, her family has been charged as a result of this awful assassination, Henri her brother has been detained since the 27<sup>th</sup>, the father is under surveillance, the mother, the daughter in law and the other servants in the house, however since the 15<sup>th</sup> September last Mr Demordant and the Chauvel family have had no further

interest in discussing mediation with Messrs Lebrun & Bourgival and with ....., parish priest of Lille, nevertheless they are looking for several others who would justify being detained, Hélène being unable at present to write or speak even slowly to defend her interests, has asked me to write to you in her name, asking that you let her know the period of the option to repurchase the pension sold to Mr Fournier and the amount of the capital to be repaid and if she could obtain through you from Mr Fournier an extension in view of the circumstances. By helping her you would be helping me also as I gave her every hope of your good will."



# LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

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

N° 156, 2<sup>ème</sup> Trim 2016: L'Émission de 1906 de la Réunion [cont. & end] (Fontaine); Madagascar: Les Timbres de la Poste Aérienne «Île Rouge» [cont. & end] (Richard) ; Faux Timbres à date et cachets des Colonies Françaises (Strobel).

## **Cameo**

Vol 17 N° 2 Whole N° 98 June 2016: 1915 Occupation of Kamerun - The Stillborn Stamp Issue (Maddox); Observations on the new issues of Cameroun 2009-2015 (Parren).

## **Documents Philatéliques**

N° 228 2<sup>e</sup> Trim 15 April 2016: Les levées exceptionnelles «La date de création du service.» (Platzer); L'échelon 1 n'a pas existé (Lissarrague); La fin d'une légende ou la pseudo interdiction des lettres non affranchies en 1871 (Chauvet); Les extensions de la poste pneumatique hors de Paris de 1906 jusqu'à la Première Guerre mondiale (Barbelin); Lorsque la poste aérienne s'associe au réseau de tubes pneumatiques (Fox); Relations entre le service postal et la désinfection des lettres (Dutau).

## **L'Écho de la Timbrologie**

N° 1907 June 2016: Le musée postal de Paris: toujours actif et enchanteur, à 70 ans (Bastide-Bernardin); 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du Musée postal de France (Albaret); Les utilisations du 25c bleu Semeuse lignée (Lavigne); Les fiscaux de l'Alsace-Lorraine désannexée [1915-1921] (Danan).

N° 1908 Jul-Aug 2016: Un été au musée (Bastide-Bernardin); Les utilisations du 25c bleu Semeuse lignée [cont] (Lavigne); L'OP3-2015 du *Marion Dufresne* (Venturini); La Griffes FD (Loëdec); La fulgurante carrière de Maurice Bokanowski (Albaret).

## **Gibbons Stamp Monthly**

Vol 47 N° 2, July 2016: French Congo Pictorials of 1900 (Round).

Vol 47 N° 3, August 2016: Tromelin: A Desert Island (Pendleton).

## **Timbres Magazine**

N° 179 June 2016: Le 20c noir de France premier timbre d'Italie (de Pellinec & Baudot); Cécile Guillame, Artiste, Graveur «J'étais la première femme à graver des timbres-poste» (Nowacka); L'album du centenaire de la Grande Guerre (Aramais); Taxer les retraites des anciens combattants? (Danan); Les déboursés «de fortune» (de La Mettrie); 1941: 32 timbres d'AOF pour le Secours national (Chauvin); Enveloppes-réponse T: Des usages particuliers mais pas inintéressants (Gomez); Vichy: retour aux sources (Zeyons); Un service postal accéléré: les Estafettes (Prugnon); Les timbres établissements français d'Inde 1892-1922 (Singeot).

N° 180 Jul-Aug 2016: La Campagne d'Italie contre l'Autriche (de Pellinec); Le musée de La Poste fête ses 70 ans (de Pellinec); Une lettre ancienne de Sainte-Marie de Madagascar (Monteret); Un corps d'observation (de La Mettrie); Les presses taille-douce prennent de la couleur (Gomez); Les cartes-lettres illustrées d'Algérie (Chauvin); La rupture des relations diplomatiques (Danan); Allons enfants de la patrie (Zeyons); L'amour est à la mesure de la connaissance! (Baudot); La convention franco-britannique de 1836 (Prugnon).

## **Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile**

N° 175 (Jul 2016): Un courrier, hors du commun, envoyé le 23 août 1914 de Namur vers Lyon (Geubel); Le courrier de la base aéronavale de Khouribga (Maroc) (Giletto); La Bataille des Frontières, au mois d'août 1914 (II) (Geubel & Van Dooren); Fort Barraux pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale (Neimark); Introduction à la Marcophilie et l'Histoire Postale (II) - L'histoire de la Poste française jusqu'au Premier Empire (Morat); FFI 1944-1945 - Les volontaires des Commandos "M" (Berthier).

## **SOCIETY NOTES**

Continued from page 74

### **France Packet Circuit**

I'm pleased to report that since I took over the France packet circuit from Bob Wood in May, very few problems have been encountered and the whole operation was transferred with the minimum of disruption. This was in no small part due to the cooperation and encouragement of the vast majority of members for which I am most grateful.

The Packet continues to be a most important service of the F&CPS, both the distribution of members' material and the funds that it raises for the Society.

The France Packet contains a great variety of material from classics to the very latest issues, including "back of the book" material all at very attractive prices. We now have limited availability for members who may wish to join the

circuits, there is no obligation to purchase and the only cost in addition to the stamps bought is the postage to the next member on the list.

Currently we have enough books in stock to last until the end of the year but I would be pleased to hear from any potential vendors, especially if you have any modern or unusual material for sale as this is very popular and always sells very quickly. I have produced a revised set of conditions for making up books and will be pleased to send this to anyone who is interested.

My contact details can be found on the inside cover of this Journal.

**Richard Broadhurst**

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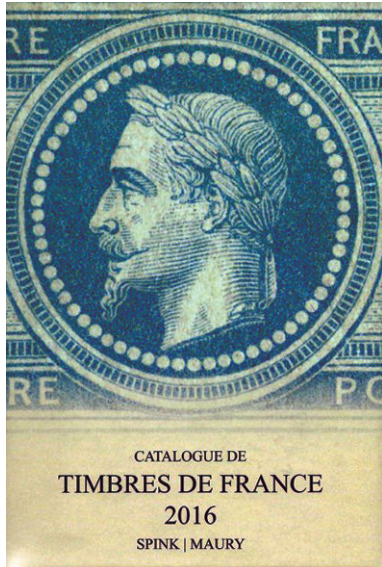


# BOOKSHELF

## Compiled by Michael Round

### New Catalogue Reviewed

**Spink/Maury, *Catalogue de Timbres de France*, 119<sup>th</sup> edition 2016.** Hardback, 1,051pp, weight 1.75kg. Illustrated throughout in full colour. Text in French. Available from Vera Trinder at £21.50 plus postage, or (to F&CPS members only) at £16.50 plus £3.00 postage and packing, from Richard Broadhurst, 47 Bolton Gardens, Teddington, Middx, TW11 9AX.



“Spink/Maury?” For those of us who missed the news, coin and collectibles dealers Spink bought this catalogue from Maury in March 2015. The familiar Maury “feel” is retained inside, however, maintaining continuity with previous editions despite a considerable editorial makeover.

As may be guessed from the page-count (see above), layout and coverage are

sumptuous. Exhaustive too - the contents page shows 29 main headings, the first of which (the classic period, 1849-1900) fills 168 pages alone. Here are illustrations of all known retouches and flaws, with stamps priced mint, unused no gum, used, on cover, in pairs, strips of three, four or five, and blocks of four. Postmarks, postage rates and *blocs-report* are all covered, as are private productions, unissued stamps, post offices abroad, newspaper, telegraph and telephone stamps, postage dues, and a 19-page section on *ballons montés* and other siege stamps practically amounting to an illustrated booklet on the subject.

The preliminary editorial admits that the favouring of one area may be at the expense of another, but modern stamps are by no means neglected. The ten new one- or two-page “monographs” scattered through the catalogue range from the 4c *Blanc*, 75c *Ronsard* and 15c *Semeuse Camée* through to the 30F *Wibault* airmail (Yv PA 59) and the different engraving techniques used for the *Marianne de Beaujard* definitives. A pity these monographs are not indexed. They may only be found by leafing through the catalogue itself – no hardship, in fact, given the full-colour appeal and amount of detail offered on every page.

Numbering basically matches Yvert: Maury’s own deviations appear alongside. Miniature sheets appear *in-situ* among the normal issues. The minimum price anywhere seems to be 0.1, i.e. 10 euro cents. Stamps of 1900-59 are priced unmounted, mounted, used and on cover: no mounted mint prices are quoted thereafter.

Lovers of the “semi-moderns”, those engraved pictorials of around the 1960s, will enjoy hunting for misplaced colour varieties. My particular “catalogue test-cases”

emerge with colours flying at various altitudes. The 1961 *Cognac* ‘missing barges’ (Yv/Maury 1314e, SG 1546a) are listed and priced, but not illustrated (Yvert is the sole helper here), but the 1973 *Clos-Lucé à Amboise* (Yv 1759, SG 2008) duly lists the ‘*République Française*’ inscription in either greenish-brown (first printing) or orange-ochre (second), plus further varieties in blue or green. Similar discoveries lie in wait nearby: discard your apparent duplicates at your peril!

Conversely, no shades are listed for the *Marianne de Decaris* (Yv 1263, SG 1494), a definitive much reprinted and with which a whole album-page may easily be filled. Maybe they cannot be pinpointed to particular printings. Neither, amid all the separate cross-reference tables of definitives, self-adhesives and personalised stamps, is there any Design Index. Non-specialists among us looking for a particular stamp in a hurry will have to turn to Yvert, or SG.

Collecting fashions in France are suitably reflected: ‘*Documents Philatéliques*’ seem to have fallen out of favour, for they are not here. Neither are there any re-entries: these seem never to have been collected in France and one wonders what is out there, waiting to be discovered. As with Yvert, used stamps since 2001 are priced way too low: SG’s look too high (and still are, for many late 20<sup>th</sup>-century issues), but sheer scarcity of recent material shows SG to be fully abreast of 21<sup>st</sup>-century reality. Modern imperfs have always been more popular in France than in the UK: I noted here that most 1997-99 issues exist thus, with in practically all cases just 50 copies known.

There are separate sections for booklets, dated corners, parcel post, instruction, military frank and strike stamps, precancels, postage dues, *millésimes*, specimens and semi-official CNEP and FFAP souvenir blocks. The dedicated self-adhesives section collates all those already shown *in-situ* among the moderns, and renumbers them all, reminding us in the process that 1,081 of them have been issued so far. The ‘*Guerre de 1939-45*’ section includes page after page of unofficial local overprints, and the surprising heading ‘Israel-Arab war of 1948’ reminds us of the fiscals and *Marianne de Gandon* definitives overprinted ‘Jerusalem’.

The trite phrase “mine of information” does not begin to do justice to this immense achievement. To any collector of France beyond the elementary stage, this would be a bargain at twice the official retail price. If that weren’t reasonable enough, note that F&CPS members can obtain it at a discount. Buy it – but before you open it, make sure you’ve answered all your emails, fed the cat and topped up the groceries, for once you start browsing you’ll still be there hours later. Highly recommended.

**Michael Round**

## Books Noted

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

**Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue, French Colonies, 1st edition 2016.** xxv+517pp, price £34.95. This completes SG's splitting into two of the old 'Part 6' catalogue (France and Colonies): fellow-member Richard Broadhurst reviewed the first part (France) in the September 2015 Journal. The new volume covers the same ground as did the Colonies section of Part 6, namely all colonies up to (but not beyond) independence, plus the DOM/TOMs – French Polynesia, Mayotte, New Caledonia, TAAF, Wallis and Futuna – to date. Andorra and Monaco were included in the 'France' catalogue.

**Archipel des Comores, 40 ans de Philatélie depuis l'indépendance en 1975**, by Olivier Bergossi. 360pp, colour illus, card cover, A4 format. Price 50€, post free (even abroad) to Col.Fra members, 58.50€ to non-members. Details from Col.Fra editorial secretary Alain Hurpet, 1 rue des Jardins, 10230 Mailly le Camp, France. Email: colfra-publications@orange.fr. Payment may be made either by a cheque drawn on a euro account and payable to Col.Fra or else via PayPal (paypalcolfra@gmail.com). In two parts: 1. Independent Comoros, 2. Mayotte. Each part subdivided into (a) philately and (b) postal history. Likely to be the standard work on this little-collected but fascinating area (Comoros since independence) for some time to come.

(We hope to include full reviews of both the above titles in the next Journal.)

**Le raid du Petit Journal au Maroc en 1911 – Philatélie et Aviation**, by Hélène Guillaume. Preface by Bertrand Sinais. Published by the Association Philatélique S.P.L.M (Maroc et Tunisie), 206 boulevard Péreire, 75017 Paris, France. 96pp, 66 illustrations including 38 in colour. Price 45€, standard postage free to S.P.L.M. members. Recounts the first trans-Morocco postal flight, from Casablanca to Fez, drawing largely on contemporary newspapers, including the popular *Le Petit Journal* (circulation, nearly 1,000,000), with every stage of the journey amply illustrated by covers and postcards.

**Petites histoires postales des îles de la zone**, by l'Association Philatélique de l'Océan Indien. 198 A4 pp, illustrated in colour, softback. Price, including postage 40€ (to France) or 46€ (rest of the world) from APOI, 195 rue Henri Pignolet, La Petite Plaine, 974431 La Plaine des Palmistes,

France. Website: <http://apoi.over-blog.com>. Assembles information and philatelic stories concerning Réunion, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros, Mayotte, Seychelles and TAAF. (I am grateful to colleague Colin Spong for notification of this title. – MR)

**La Grande Guerre Néocalédonienne.** Produced by the New Caledonia society 'Le Cagou' as its first all-colour *hors-série* publication (N° 22, April 2015). Illustrates letters and postcards from the Alain Millet collection 'La guerre de 1914-1918 et la Nouvelle Calédonie'. No price quoted. Information from the 'Groupement philatélique' Le Cagou, BO 1902, 98846 Nouméa Cedex, New Caledonia. Tel/fax (00 687) 28.62.37 – (00 687) 43.11.38. Website: [www.cagouphila.nc](http://www.cagouphila.nc)

**Les timbres fiscaux et socio-postaux de France et Monaco 2016**, Yvert et Tellier, in association with the Société française de Philatélie fiscale. 245pp, format 140 x 210mm. Price 29.90€. On sale through usual Yvert et Tellier agents or directly from Yvert et Tellier, 2 rue de l'Étoile, CS 79 013, 80 094 Amiens Cedex 3. Destined to be the standard work on the area, this catalogue now lists 6,000 items dating from 1860 to date. The partnership between Yvert and the society dates from 2012, and the results of its regular collaboration now expand to include a chapter on fiscals used postally. The converse circumstance – postage stamps used fiscally – is also treated.

**Le dessous des timbres.** Published by *Timbres magazine*, *Hors-série* II, April 2016. 132pp, 7.80€. Postage extra: 3€ within France, rest-of-world price not stated. This is not a treatise on the back of the stamp, as the title may lead you to believe. No, here are extracted "bonnes bouches" from previous editions of the monthly *Timbres magazine*, ideal light reading and including, for instance, ten pages of Questions and Answers. The profuse illustrations entertain and inform even if your French is not fluent. The publishers are sadly not able to offer it for nothing as part of the regular *Timbres* subscription, but the brochure is quite cheap even so – and in partial compensation, there is a free gift: an Easter miniature sheet issued in 2001 by the Palestinian Authority. Possibly still available over the counter from kiosks in France, if you happen to be holidaying there.

Michael Round



# REPORTS OF MEETINGS

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 7 MAY 2016

The President **Steve Ellis** opened the meeting at the Calthorpe Arms public house, 252 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1 at 11.30am in the presence of 13 members.

**(1) Members Present:** Len Barnes, Mick Bister, Richard Broadhurst, Steve Ellis, Chris Hitchen, Dominic Joyeux, Les Konzon, Hugh Loudon, Michael Round, Bob Small, Mark Turner, Maurice Tyler, Alan Wood.

**Guests:** Marian Bister.

**Apologies:** Maurice Alder, John Hammonds, David Hogarth, Peter Kelly, Mike Kemp, Ashley Lawrence, Tony Merson, Roy Reader, Hans Smith, Colin Spong, Iain Stevenson, Peter Stockton, John West, Bob Wood.

**(2) Minutes of the previous AGM of 9 May 2015**, published in Journal 277, were accepted unanimously as a true record of that meeting.

### **(3) President's Report - Steve Ellis**

"In my second year as your President I am able to report that the Society remains in good health, though I perceive possible dark clouds on the horizon as we face the difficulties associated with increasing age and infirmity.

"Having responded well to the two problems I reported on last year, namely the loss for different reasons of our librarian and Journal editor, I am pleased to report firstly that the distribution of the library to members by auction (yielding revenue to the Society and increased philatelic knowledge to our members) and the placing of some books with the Royal Philatelic Society of London (with open access to members), has been successful. A smaller number of titles will appear in the Society's general auctions during 2016. Secondly, the production of our award-winning Journal continued in the admirably safe hands of Mick Bister, Maurice Tyler and Peter Allan. However, as you will appreciate from Mick's report, for health reasons he is sadly unable to continue in his rôle as Journal Manager and we are once again dependent upon another volunteer stepping forward to oversee the (non-technical) side of its production.

"This highlights a problem facing officers of the Society. John West is battling through ill health to continue his sterling work with the 'Colonies' packet but sadly Bob Wood is obliged to hand over the reins of the 'France' packet to Richard Broadhurst, in stages, during 2016. It is in recognition of the importance of the circulation of the packet to many of our members and the amount of time that is involved in performing this function that the George Henderson award for service given by a retiring member of the committee is to be awarded this year to Bob Wood and also retrospectively to his predecessor Mavis Pavey. Our sincere thanks go to them both.

"Richard's rôle in overseeing the sales and the stock of publications passes to John Parmenter and Peter Kelly is retiring from the rôle of Secretary which passes to David Hogarth. For the Society to continue in its present form,

with its wide range of benefits, it is very much dependent in future on new people being willing to step forward to join the committee and in due course take on positions as officers. We owe a great debt to the tireless work over many years of people like Mick Bister, Peter Kelly and Bob Wood to each of whom I pay tribute as they step down from their respective rôles.

"Last year I highlighted the falling attendance at regional meetings and this has continued in 2015. However the spring weekend conference at Charlecote continues to be successful, both in terms of attendance and the quality and breadth of the material on display. Our intention is to supplement this with an autumn all-day meeting (with the option of an evening meal and/or overnight stay) in a location which has other attractions nearby. This will be held on 8 September in Bournemouth and if successful will be repeated in 2017.

"My thanks go to the members of your committee and particularly Chris Hitchen for his wisdom and support during the year. May I reiterate our need for more members willing to take on responsibility in the future; you may be assured of our assistance and support. My overall prognosis for the Society remains positive, despite the difficulties, and in my opinion the F&CPS continues to be one of the leading specialist philatelic societies in the country and, indeed, recognised worldwide."

**Geoff Gethin Award for Service to the Society:** The President followed his report with the announcement of the recipient.

"The Geoff Gethin Award is the highest award made by the Society in recognition of outstanding service given by a member over a period of years. The award is at the discretion of the President and previous winners have been Maurice Tyler and Derek Richardson. It is my intention this year to give this award to Mick Bister, sadly being obliged to retire from active service, as it were, on health grounds.

"Mick was President of the Society during 2000-2003 and again in 2009-2011. He fulfilled the demanding role of Auction Secretary for sixteen years from 1996-2012, organised the bookstall and bourse at Charlecote for many years and has recently been our Journal Manager.

"His knowledge of France and French philately is extensive; he has displayed at the highest level (including the Royal Philatelic Society) and has won medals with entries at stamp exhibitions. His displays to our Society are of the highest quality in terms of the material, research and presentation and his willingness to share knowledge and encourage others is greatly to be applauded. His reduced involvement in the Society's activities on health grounds means his hard work and dedication to everything he does will be greatly missed.

"He is, in my opinion, and I have no doubt the opinion of members generally, a most worthy winner of the Geoff Gethin Award"

**(4) General Secretary's Report - Peter Kelly**

'As can be seen from the table below, the decline in membership continues but this follows the pattern of many other societies and, while disappointing, is not a source of major concern at this time.

**Summary:**

	U.K.	Non-U.K.	Total
On 1 January 2015	275	59	334
Resigned	-9	0	-9
Suspended	-4	-1	-5
Died	-7	0	-7
Transfers	0	0	0
New members	+7	+4	+11
On 1 January 2016	262	62	324

"Your Society has continued to hold a number of meetings through the year that have been reported separately in the Journal. The London and Wessex groups continue to be active and the Northern group, after a short stumble, is also active again. Steve Ellis is also working on other meeting possibilities. The annual weekend meeting at Charlecote continues to be popular with an increase in attendance this year and perhaps the highest standard of displays we have seen for some years. The participation of members from France and Belgium was very much a feature of this success.

"Our standing among the specialist philatelic societies is very high and 2015 has seen major displays to the Royal Philatelic Society given by four of our members and several books also published by members. Some members have been successful in competitive philately and others have been active in foreign Academies and organisations, standard bearers for the study of French philately in this country and our Society.

"Mick Bister, working with Maurice Tyler and Peter Allen in Australia supported by an editorial group have produced four excellent Journals with many excellent and well thought out articles of general interest to us all and they are to be thanked for that. The Journal is of supreme importance to the Society, not only containing interesting articles but also constituting a record of the life and activities of the Society. We have already aired the sight problems that Maurice has and now Mick has also had to stand down, also for reasons of health. Volunteers are urgently needed to help with the Journal and the website.

"The situation with regard to the packets is also of considerable concern. Both of our current packet secretaries have health problems. Bob Wood is standing down and Richard Broadhurst will take over progressively and it remains to be seen whether this will be an interim or longer term commitment. John West has also suffered serious operations on his back and is currently in a convalescent stage and this only adds to the concerns he has as to the health problems of Chris, his wife. Again, support for John on the Colonies packet is needed.

"At the year-end I handed the secretarial baton to David Hogarth, who is now fully in charge and I take this opportunity to thank him for offering to replace me and wish him well in this function.

"We have more than 300 members who benefit from a range of services that have been summarised in the different reports made by the Society's officers at the end of each year and it seems to me that there is a blithe acceptance that all these benefits that they enjoy will continue for ever without let or hindrance. In this, my valedictory report to the members, I do believe that we are approaching a watershed in the life of the Society and, having crossed it, should look down the far side with some concern. The 'old guard' who have served you well for many years have to be replaced if the Society is to continue in its present form. The future of our Society is in your hands.

"It remains for me to thank all of the officers with whom I have worked for many years for their support and co-operation and for making the tenure of this post both rewarding and enjoyable and to wish the Society well in the future."

**(5a) Treasurer's Report 2015**

"We made a surplus of £x in 2015.

"This is in large part due to the disposal of the library which so far has raised some £0000 in sales. There are still some more books to be sold and those sales will provide a modest amount of future income. As our membership steadily decreases so the income from subscriptions, the packets and the auction is slowly declining in line with this drop. Without any new publications that source of income will become quite small.

"On the expenditure side our meeting costs dropped slightly. The savings from our change of printer now show fully in the drop in the cost of printing and distribution and I would anticipate little change in those amounts in the immediate future.

"Six members so far have opted to have the Journal and other information sent to them by email rather than by post.

"As long as the packets and auctions between them continue to provide between £0000 and £0000 of income annually then present levels of subscription can remain unchanged. Subscriptions alone have never covered the costs of the Journal and its distribution along with our other running costs. Were we to lose the services of the packets and auction then our position would change quite drastically.

"I would therefore propose leaving the maximum subscription levels as they are for 2017."

Acceptance of the Accounts (shown on the next page) was proposed by Richard Broadhurst, seconded by Maurice Tyler and carried unanimously.

**(5b) Rule Change**

Following the sale of the Society's library it was proposed that the title 'Librarian' should be replaced by 'Publications Officer' in Rule 4 of the Society's Constitution.

The proposal was made by the President, seconded by Chris Hitchen and carried unanimously



FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2015					
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		<u>2015</u>		<u>2014</u>	
Cash at bank					
Sundry debtors					
 <u>DEDUCT CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>					
Sundry creditors					
Subscriptions in advance					
Magazine circuit    oat					
 <u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>					
Represented by					
<u>MEMBERS FUNDS</u>					
Uncommitted funds at 1.1.2015					
Year surplus					
 <b>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE 2015</b>					
<u>Expenditure</u>				<u>Income</u>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>		<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Meetings					
Journal 4 issues					
Postage and expenses					
Insurance					
 Year surplus					

**(6) Auction Secretary's Report - Steve Ellis**

"Three normal sales, plus a special sale offering members books from the library, were held during 2015. Library sales yielded £0000 net for the Society thus giving a total 2015 surplus of £0000 from all auction and related activity, which has been transferred to the Society's main account.

"The first two normal auction sales of the year were down on the previous year as a result of fewer lots being offered for sale by vendors. Two large collections offered for sale in October 2015 resulted in a full auction, and this will continue into 2016. The percentage of lots sold in the normal auctions dropped slightly in 2015 to 39%.

"There are still some books from the library to be offered as part of future auctions, but good progress has been made thus far. This would not have been possible without the assistance of Stephen Holder, Chris Hitchen and Richard Broadhurst. Equally, work undertaken by Mick Bister has resulted in further funds accruing to the Society from material left to it by Ray Whitlock, as has the organisation of the bourse at Charlecote by Annette Tyler. My thanks go to them all and to the bidders who participate in the auction, who make all the long hours in producing the auctions worthwhile."

The Auction accounts are shown in detail on the next page.

FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY			
AUCTION ACCOUNT for the year ending 31 DECEMBER 2015			
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
2015	2014	2015	2014
SALE OF LOTS (including reimbursed Postage & Packing)		PAYMENTS TO VENDORS	
February May July (GEB) Oct / Nov.		February May July (GEB) November	
Library (Feb) (Post-auction)			
CHARLECOTE Bookstall/Bourse		CHARLECOTE Bookstall/Bourse	
BEQUEST Ray Whitlock		POSTAGE (auctions)	
		PRINTING February May Oct / Nov.	
		<u>Expenses (GEB)</u>	
		<u>Administration</u>	
		<u>Surplus to Society</u>	
Float b/f from 2015		Float c/f to 2016	

**(7a) Packet Secretary's Report (France) - Bob Wood**

"During 2015 the circulation of material for sale continued steadily, with between 69 and 71 members receiving ten packets. Vendors received payment for sales from 187 books which had been circulated during the previous 12 months, and another 171 books were added to the stock in reserve. Another 40 books have been added since January. There were no significant losses, although the arithmetical and clerical skills of some members posed occasional problems, while one book which was feared lost was later found, tucked inside another book.

"Attempts have been made to reduce the length of time between receiving material for sale and the making of a final payment, but some delay is inevitable in a Society where material is circulated by post rather than by hand, and most vendors seem content to accept the situation in return for ensuring a maximum number of potential purchasers.

"Members will be aware that I have been compelled by increasingly urgent medical problems to hand over responsibility for the France Packet. This is particularly disappointing at a time when the quantity and quality of material provided by members, and the volume of sales, show no sign of decreasing, but I am pleased to know that Richard Broadhurst has agreed to take on the task. I am sure that members will support him with the same tolerant

generosity that I have enjoyed.

"The arrangements for handing over responsibility are proceeding smoothly. All material in hand that has not previously been allocated to packets has now been transferred to Richard, who is revising and simplifying the procedure for circulation. As packets currently being circulated return to me I am returning their contents to their owners (with appropriate payment), and when all have been returned the existing bank accounts will be closed and the balance of funds paid to the Society's Treasurer.

"It only remains for me to thank members (and especially my fellow-officers) for their encouragement during the past ten years, and to hope that the Society will long continue to flourish and to support all aspects of French philately."

**(7b) Packet Secretary's Report (France) - Richard Broadhurst**

"Unfortunately for health reasons, Bob Wood, who has organised the France packet so successfully over the past nine 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 "an almost 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 around 2% of the membership. Along with other departments the running of the Packet involves a considerable effort. With this in mind, I would urge contributors 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.

"Should you wish to contact me, my details can be found on the inside cover of this Journal."

#### **(8) Packet Secretary's Report (Colonies) - John West**

"With membership numbers still declining – to something like half the figure I started with twenty years ago – it is unsurprising that the annual amount I pay to the Society does not increase each year. What is quite pleasing to report, though, is that it has not declined alarmingly and I am still contributing over £0000 each year – helping to subsidise your annual subscriptions. Ideally, I would like to amalgamate my four circuits, reducing them to two. However this would mean that (a) for several months members would be receiving material they had already seen and (b) this would only serve to increase the build up of material waiting to be circulated. Quite a dilemma!

"This past year has seen a deterioration in my health – particularly in the later months – and, indeed, I am preparing this report from a hospital bed. Thus far, with help from some of our members, I have been able to keep things going despite my mobility problems but I really don't know, as I write, what the future holds. One member has offered to try and take on this rôle and I have spent an afternoon with him to show him what it entails. I will be sad to relinquish the reins but there is little sense in trying to continue for much longer if I am unable to provide the service to the members that I have managed hitherto.

"I can happily bore everyone with statistics, which may tend to show that fewer/more booklets have been circulated at higher/lower values than previously, but I suspect that such information is of little interest to the majority of members. What I consider important is the necessity for vendors to price their material clearly – how often do you see books where a 3 might be a 5 or an 8? Then, as if the difficulty in determining the price of the material is not bad enough, the situation is exacerbated by the buyer signing on top of the price – effectively obliterating it.

"I could, equally easily, compile a list of all the silly and

careless mistakes I regularly encounter. The consolation for me, though, is knowing that these errors are just that – as opposed to certain losses we have suffered in the past which I have never been convinced were anything short of dishonest. Could you, for example, envisage removing a stamp, priced at £00 (and, doubtless, valued four times that!) and then submit a "nil" return?

"Fortunately, these instances have been scarce, and I am pleased to say that all the current members reward my faith in humanity by being helpful, supportive and gracious in their dealings with me. I thank each and every one of you for that."

#### **(9a) Journal Manager's Report - Mick Bister**

"I am delighted to report that since the last AGM meeting we have succeeded, under new management, to maintain the publication of our beloved Journal.

"Although reference was made to the newly created sub-editing team in the 'credits' of the March 2015 edition, it was in fact Maurice who did the lion's share using material that he had earlier edited himself. It wasn't until the June edition that the Journal was created under my rôle as Journal Manager together with the newly formed editorial team.

"There was considerable trepidation on my part when we embarked on the production of the June Journal. For example, would the time scale I had allocated prove to be adequate for the various stages of production - allocation of articles to sub-editors, return of articles to me, forwarding of illustrated articles to Peter Allan for formatting, transfer of finished articles to Maurice for setting, final proof reading and dispatch to the printers? Furthermore, would the team, dispersed across the globe, be able to synchronise their efforts to avoid logjams and would my guidelines turn out to be more of a hindrance than a help? In the end, the few hiccups that did materialise were easily resolved and number 276 was published on schedule. Since then, the team has continued to work efficiently, promptly and in a well coordinated fashion within the designated time scale for each edition.

"The quality of the articles submitted has been very high with a wide coverage of all aspects of philately and I have been delighted to receive articles from members who have not contributed before. I do hope that other members will take heart from this and consider the possibility of submitting an article themselves. At the moment I hold only enough material for two or three more editions so clearly I am in need of more material to see us into 2017.

"I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to all the members of the editing team who have given me so much support and, in so doing, manifested their determination to make this new arrangement a success. We have all been on a steep learning curve but I do believe that we have maintained a very professional looking Journal of which Maurice can still be proud to be Editor-in-Chief. Having said that, we always welcome suggestions and advice on how we may improve it.

"Unfortunately, following medical advice I am obliged to reduce my workload both in philately and in other spheres of my life. This was announced in the March edition of the

Journal. After being in the post of Journal Manager for only a year I am reluctant to give it up but I need to do so as soon as possible. I am asking therefore for a volunteer to step forward to take over this fascinating, rewarding and important job. I can assure you that you will have a magnificent team to work with."

#### **(9b) Editor's Report - Maurice Tyler**

"I would just like to add that under Mick's very successful organisation and management of an editorial team my task of putting the Journal together ready for the printer has been considerably simplified and takes up only a fraction of the time I spent on this in the past.

"Despite a slimmer than usual version for the March issue we have nevertheless managed to produce over the year a total of 148 pages (plus the 16 cover pages) all in colour, which compares with 154, 176 and 168 inside pages respectively over the previous 3 years. The quality of articles has been maintained and if we succeed in finding a member willing to take on the management rôle occupied until now by Mick, then I think we can look forward to at least another twelve months or more of the Journal in its present shape and form.

"Incidentally, my extra rôle as webmaster trying to keep our website up to date is now in the process of being taken over by one of our members in Australia, Jan Gane, and I would like to express my gratitude to her for her offer to do so."

#### **(10) Publications Sales and Magazine Circuit Organiser's Report - Richard Broadhurst**

"With no new material to sell in 2015, Publications added a modest sum of £000 to the Society's finances, up around £000 from last year. Approximately twenty orders for stock items were received, mostly from overseas, a number which was generated by the advertising on our website.

"We still hold stocks of Derek Richardsdon's France Rates Book which made up a considerable proportion of the orders. Despite offering Geoff Gethin's Fakes & Forgeries book on special offer, few orders were received.

"The Magazine circuit once again operated without any problems. We subscribe to two French stamp magazines: 'L'Echo de la Timbrologie' and 'Timbres Magazine'. The number of subscribers was roughly similar to the previous year and we were able to maintain subscriptions at the

previous rate of £x per copy. This represents excellent value and we are able to accommodate any new members who may wish to join the circuits.

"We are grateful to John Parmenter for stepping in and taking over the rôle of Publications Stockist while I concentrate on the Magazine Circuit and the France Packet. John's details can be found on Page ii of this Journal."

#### **(11) Reports on Group Meetings**

These are as published in the Journal Volume 65, Numbers 275-278.

#### **(12) Election of Officers and Committee members**

The list of those willing to serve as officers and committee members had been published in the Agenda and their election *en bloc* was proposed by Alan Wood, seconded by Hugh Loudon and carried unanimously.

President	Mr S R Ellis
Vice-President	Mr C J Hitchen
General Secretary	Mr D J Hogarth
Treasurer	Mr C J Hitchen
Editor-in-Chief	Mr M S Tyler
Journal Manager	Mr M L Bister
Auction Secretary	Mr S R Ellis
Packet Secretary (France)	Mr R N Broadhurst
Packet Secretary (Colonies)	Mr J C West
Magazine Circuit	Mr R N Broadhurst
Publications Stockist	Mr J Parmenter
Webmaster	Mrs J Gane
Committee Members	Mr A J Lawrence
	Mr C W Spong
	Mr P S Watkins

For information: Group Convenors

Mr L H Barnes (London)  
Mr S R Ellis (Northern)  
Mr P R A Kelly and  
Mr A J Wood (Wessex)

#### **(13) Any other business**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12.45 and members adjourned for lunch.

MLB

*See photographs on the back cover.*



## WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 2 JULY 2016 AT HARNHAM

Our invited display in the morning was given by a new member, **Len Yandell** from Southampton who gave us a most interesting presentation of the social and postal history of the port and city of Le Havre. Len's interest in Le Havre and the research he had carried out was very evident in his selection of material which, in the first half of his display, traced the development of postal services in relation to the social history of this great port. In the second half Len showed us commemorative covers with stamps featuring events and personalities connected with Le Havre followed by a section on Sainte-Adresse with covers from the Belgian Government in exile there. We saw mail reflecting both domestic and maritime aspects of postal history together with a fine selection of postcards and other ephemera. I believe that we all learned something from this enjoyable display.

After our usual lunch at the Old Mill with the mill race, very powerful after all the rain, rushing by under our feet, we returned to look at short displays by our members.

**Ingrid Swinburn** showed an interesting selection of mail from France after the Liberation

She was followed by **Peter Kelly** who displayed the 1c green and 1c black of the *Type Sage* issue used alone or in multiples on different categories of mail. It included what may be the only example of a 1c green used correctly on an election voting form.

**Jeremy Martin** was next with German, French and British Cameroun starting with an early missionary letter and continuing with World War I 1914 expeditionary force material, Cameroun expeditionary force overprints on German stamps and a selection of other overprints.

**Alan Wood** followed with an 1849 early cork cancel on a 20c pending delivery of a proper canceller in use from 20-26 January - a very scarce item. Alan closed the session with a selection of stamps from the French colonies.

9 members and 1 guest were present.

PRAK/AJW

## NORTHERN GROUP MEETING OF 16 JULY AT ROTHERHAM

The meeting was attended by eight members with six apologies received. Christopher Binmore was welcomed to his first F&CPS meeting.

A wide range of displays, punctuated by an excellent local pub lunch, was offered by the following:

**John Morton:** Revolutionary mail

**Steve Ellis:** Paris stations

**Peter Rooke:** Napoleonic War Commissioners in Italy plus a *Caisse d'Amortissement* cover from Sardinia

**Alan Goude:** Cameroun 1915-24 stamps and covers, booklet stamp usage, plus charity surcharges (including the 1940-4 Spitfire Fund)

**Michael Rego:** Rates for mail sent from France (1849 to UPU) to South America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Venezuela)

**Brian Lythgoe:** Cameroun, 1961 Republic Federal overprints including errors

**Alan Goude:** Miscellany of postage due issues

SRE

## LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 6 AUGUST 2016

Steve Ellis: Cross-Channel Mail and the French *Ambulance*

Dominic Joyeux: 1937 Paris International Exhibition

Len Barnes opened the meeting by welcoming **Steve Ellis**, our President, who had kindly agreed to pay us a return visit.

Steve explained that his Cross-Channel Mail was a new collection that he was working on and which had been designed to make the material more accessible and appealing to a wider audience. This was achieved by displaying not only postal history but also associated ephemera.

Steve outlined the main channel crossings benefiting from rail links including the familiar ones such as Newhaven-Dieppe and less familiar ones such as London-Dunkirk and Southampton-Honfleur and introduced us to the various railway companies and steam navigation companies that operated them.

Covers were shown illustrating the various routes including a fine 1847 letter from Le Havre to London endorsed 'Steamer via Southampton' but which had instead been posted in a Mobile Box of the General Steam Navigation Company operating a service to Brighton. A range of railway cancellations was displayed from companies such as the London and Brighton Railway and the London, Chatham and Dover Railway together with postcards of stations and ships, posters, timetables, invoices, labels, waybills and tickets. Similar material was shown from French companies such as the *Chemin de Fer de l'Ouest* and S.A.G.A. French railway marks including *ambulants* were shown amongst which was a fine 1890 cover to Cognac with a *LIGNE DE BOULOGNE* cds and an 1854 cover from London to Paris with a *RETARD DU COURRIER* cds. On the English side were an 1870 cover to Le Havre with a fine N.W.R.P. OFFICE LIVERPOOL cds and a 1915 postcard to the Gironde with a PORTSMOUTH SORTING CARRIAGE cds. An example was also shown of a continental night mail sorting carriage operated by the Foreign Branch on the Dover to London line.

Steve continued his display with examples of Moveable/Mobile Box/*Boîte Mobile* mail accompanied by postcards depicting dock scenes and quaysides in English and French ports and closed with examples of *levée exceptionnelle* mail from both sides of the Channel. These included an 1884 postcard to Paris with a TOO LATE GPO cachet and examples from France of a  $\frac{1}{4}$ <sup>e</sup> *levée exceptionnelle* cds on an 1869 letter to Cambridge and of a  $\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>e</sup> *levée exceptionnelle* cds on a letter to London.

The second part of Steve's display was devoted to the French *ambulance* service which originated in the Napoleonic Wars to facilitate the moving of injured soldiers. Only later did the word become associated specifically with the vehicle used rather than the service provided. Steve showed early covers related to the service including a 1793 entire addressed to the *Directeur de l'Ambulance* closed with an embossed *AMBULANS HOPITAUX* seal and an 1859 cover from the Italian War of Independence marked *Ambulances du Corps Expéditionnaire d'Italie*.

The service developed during the Franco-Prussian War as illustrated by covers and an 1870 admissions document from a private *ambulance* service operating in Paris; it developed even further during World War I as shown by the display of covers and postcards depicting French, British, Belgian, South African and American operations.

After an enjoyable lunch in the bar of the Calthorpe Arms members reassembled for a display given by **Dominic Joyeux** on the 1937 Paris International Exhibition.

Dominic introduced the topic with two statuettes of the period known as '*colons*'. Carved out of wood in the *Côte d'Ivoire* they were caricatures of members of the indigenous population who followed professional careers and who attired themselves in western dress.

Dominic explained the rationale behind the exhibition and then proceeded to describe the stamp issues, starting with the publicity set of 1936. We were shown illustrations of the proposed designs, both in small and large format, submitted in competition and which ranged from the innovative to the banal. A particularly interesting item was a *maquette* by Albert Decaris who had only recently embarked on his stamp designing career.

For the four lower values Démétrius Galanis' design depicting a '*génie*' or herald was chosen but when it was issued in September 1936 it was met by a poor reception from both the public and philatelic press. The design was described as uninspiring and the *génie* as skeletal. In April 1937 Baron de Vinck de Winnezele was asked to expertise a sheet of 100 of the 50c value which he declared to be forgeries. The PTT had already considered withdrawing the stamps due to their unpopularity but following the discovery of forgeries the withdrawal was implemented immediately.

Dominic related the background story to the design of the two higher values by Jean-Gabriel Daragnès and explained how elements had been incorporated from other essays. Dated corner blocks were displayed of all six stamps of the series.

Dominic proceeded to the 1937 commemorative issue designed and engraved by Jules Piel which depicted Marianne, Minerva and the Paris coat-of-arms. This was followed by examples of the colonial omnibus issues of which there were four values for each colony and one miniature sheet. However, the miniature sheet was only available in France and had to be sent by the purchaser to the relevant colony for it to be returned postally used. Dominic displayed some extremely attractive examples of the colonial issues on cover including several miniature sheets followed by stamps and *épreuves de luxe* from Algeria, Syria and Lebanon.

Dominic closed his display with a selection of postcards, vignettes and cancellations including a fine 1937 cover with the *flamme* in Esperanto '*PARIS INVITAS VIN EKSPOZICIO 1937*'.



**Mick Bister** followed with a display of material issued by the PTT to promote the five digit postcode introduced in 1972. The first part was devoted to the *0,30* and *0,50 Code Postal* stamps which bore the postcode logo. The creation of a logo had been contracted to Havas who then sub-contracted it to Studio Bassiani. Mick showed various printings of the stamps on both ordinary and *azurant optique* treated paper and with metropolitan and tropical gum. Examples of usage were shown including two examples of the quasi-coil format on 1972 and 1973 Reader's Digest correspondence.

Mick continued with a display of postcards, vignettes and promotional literature which had been delivered to households in the ensuing years all of which bore the familiar Bassiani logo. Examples were shown of vignettes both in booklet and sheet form as well as on cover.

Finally **Chris Hitchen** gave a fascinating display of Special Offices in Paris. This began with an undated cover from the *Loterie* with a cachet used only between 1790 and 1793. This was followed by two covers from 1789 and 1792 marked *Bureau Royal de Correspondance* complete with

*fleurs de lys* and one cover dated 1793 with the *fleurs de lys* excised at the beginning of the Reign of Terror. The turbulent history of France was further reflected with a display of covers from the *Assemblée Nationale* (1791), the *Convention Nationale* (1794) the *Directoire* (1798) and the *Consulat* (1804). Other special offices represented on cover were those of the *Corps Législatif*, the *Tribunal* and the *Bureau du Carrousel*.

Finally Chris showed us mail marked with various strikes such as *déboursés*, *chargement à taxer* and *un reçu à demander*.

**Len Barnes** closed the meeting thanking the speakers for their input and commenting on the good turn-out.

Members Present: Maurice Alder, Len Barnes, Mick Bister, Richard Broadhurst, Steve Ellis, John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen, Dominic Joyeux, Hugh Loudon, Barbara Priddy, Roy Reader and Maurice Tyler.

Guests: Peter Romano, Jenny Bardwell

Apologies were received from a further five members.

MLB

*See photographs on the back cover.*

## **FRANCE 1900-2015**

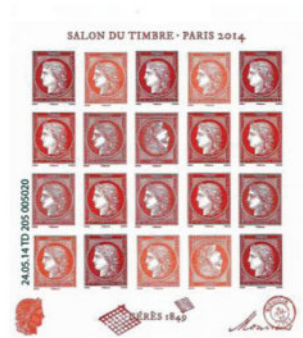
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## Photographs taken at the 2016 AGM

by Mick Bister



President Steve Ellis  
gives his report at the AGM



Members enjoy lunch in the bar of the Calthorpe Arms



Alan Wood, Dominic Joyeux and Les Konzon concentrate on the Auction

## Photographs taken at the London Meeting of 6 August 2016

by Jenny Bardwell



Members view Dominic Joyeux's display  
of the 1937 Paris International Exhibition



Mick Bister gives his display  
of the 1972 *Code Postal* campaign