

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



Local Mahé cover dated 8 March 1917 comprising 10c/15c Postal Stationery Envelope
franked with four French Indian Settlements Red Cross issues
overprinted with Type A (2nd printing), Type B, Type C and Type D surcharges.
(See John West's article 'The Red Cross Overprints of the French Indian Settlements 1915-1916' on pages 15-19)

Volume 67 ● Number 1
March 2017
Whole Number 283

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

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The Society

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

2016-17 Annual Subscription Rates

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

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

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

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Auction and Exchange Packet Sales

Lots for sale through the Society auctions, held 2 or 3 times a year, should be sent to the Auction Secretary:
S R Ellis, 22 Burton Crescent, Sneyd Green, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 6BT (email: auction@fcps.org.uk)
according to instructions.
Please send material for circulation in booklet form to the appropriate Exchange Packet Secretary, viz.
France: R N Broadhurst, 47 Bolton Gardens, Teddington TW11 9AX (Telephone 020 8977 9665).
Colonies: J C West, 5 Highbanks Road, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4AR (Telephone 0208 428 4741).

The Magazine Circuit

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

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The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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SOCIETY NOTES

Editorial

I am writing this editorial just three weeks before the Society's Philatelic Weekend in Charlecote. It's an occasion that I look forward to immensely and which I strive to attend every year. There are several reasons. It will be, as always, an opportunity to meet up with friends, fellow philatelists and Francophiles and to enjoy conversations on my favourite topics. There will be a feast of philately in the form of twenty formal displays during the day and a variety of *ad hoc* ones in the evenings which never fail to entertain and inform. Despite having collected France for over 55 years there is always something new to learn. Above all there is the unique ambiance, the atmosphere, the cordiality - whatever you wish to call it - throughout the whole weekend whether you are in the meeting room, the restaurant or the bar. It truly is the highlight of the year.

The weekend always starts early though for the officers and committee as it is the one occasion in the year when we can hold a face-to-face committee meeting instead of discussing issues via the exchange of emails. This year there will be a longer agenda than usual with two major items demanding particular attention.

Firstly there will be a further opportunity for the committee members to raise matters concerning the proposed new Rules of the Society. You will have received your copy of the Draft with this edition of the Journal and we urgently request that you study it and voice your opinions too. This is your Society and the Rules are written for the benefit of all members so please find the time to read them through and contact the Secretary with any comments you may have by 6 April, ie one month prior to the AGM.

Secondly we will be discussing the need for new blood on the committee. We have been very fortunate in the past year with four members stepping up to take on important roles - Richard Broadhurst as Packet Secretary (France), Jan Gane as Website Manager, David Hogarth as Secretary and John Parmenter as Publications Stockist. We owe our gratitude to all four. However, we still have two other roles to fill from May onwards namely that of Packet Secretary (French Colonies) and Journal Manager. With a membership of over three hundred there must be someone who could take on these two responsibilities even if they have no previous experience. Advice and support would be available from the current holders of these positions.

So, please, as you read through the draft rules, do consider how you can contribute to the Society and help to ensure its future. Even if you cannot at this stage take on a specific responsibility consider putting yourself forward as a committee member. Send your proposals and nominations to the Secretary who, on behalf of the Officers and Committee, will be delighted to receive them.

Thank you.

Mick Bister

* * *

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome members 1456 I Brennand, 1457 Dr John Alan Baum and 1458 Colin Airey.

* * *

Resignations

The following members have recently resigned: 772 M A Baker, 1148 C Palmer, 1333 K J Dixon, 1402 Richard Akers, 1435 Helle Hiemstra and 1455 A H Porteous.

* * *

Members Deceased

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of member 618 Tony Merson. We offer our condolences to his family.

* * *

A Message from Ashley Lawrence

"Dear all

I have been ill for some little while but am glad to report that I am well on the way to recovery.

I want to say a big thank you to all the many members of the F&CPS who have sent me their good wishes and messages of encouragement. I am very grateful for these.

This is what the membership of such a society as ours is all about - the friendship and good will - **which exemplifies our society at its very best.**"

Ashley

* * *

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place at the Calthorpe Arms, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1 at 11.30am on Saturday 6 May.

Any member wishing to raise matters or put proposals to the AGM should submit them in writing to the Secretary, **David Hogarth**, 12 Moyness Park Drive, Blairgowrie, PH10 6LX or by email to secretary@fcps.org.uk. Members are also invited to submit their views on the Draft Rules which will be a major item on the AGM agenda. We also welcome any proposals or offers to join the committee. All communications must reach the Secretary at least one month prior to the date of the meeting

The AGM will be followed by the Spring Room and Postal Auction starting at 2.00pm. Lots will be available for viewing both before and after the AGM.

* * *

Members' Displays

The following members of our Society contributed to a display given by the *Académie de Philatélie* to the Royal Philatelic Society London on 24 November 2016. Fifty-two frames of outstanding material were on show including the following from F&CPS members:

Robert Abensur (President): Duval postage dues on mail from foreign origins to France (1882-1907)

Michèle Chauvet: Porcelain Cards

Guy Dutau: The first issues of Haiti (1881-1887)

Jean-François Gibot: The origins of the postage stamps engraved by Albert Decaris for the French airmail post

Chris Hitchen: Paris and the General Post from the Revolution to 1848

Peter Kelly: *Messageries Maritimes* Line T serving Réunion and Mauritius Routes 1 and 2 (September 1864 - November 1882)

Jean-Pierre Magne: Express mail service in Mauritius from 1903 to 1966

Henk Slabbinck: Mail from French Fishermen active on the Grand Banks (1896-1939)

Iain Stevenson: The postal history of Montpellier up to 1849



Colonies Packet

The society owes a great debt of gratitude to **John West** for his efficient running of the Colonies Packet for many years. Sadly, for reasons of ill health, it is likely to be necessary to hand over the running of this packet to another member; hence we are seeking a volunteer. Anyone interested in taking this on can speak with John to find out what is involved or contact myself and assistance will be given to ensure a smooth handover. The packet is an important part of the Society's activities and we are keen that it should continue to operate for the benefit of members.

Thank you.

Steve Ellis (President)

* * *

Errata

Two errors were made in the process of editing the article by **Peter Maybury** entitled 'Two 18th Century Letters to and from the City of Algiers' (Journal N° 282, December 2016, pp 138-139).

We incorrectly described a '*paraphe*' as the postmaster's initials. Its correct definition is 'a standard manuscript mark approved by the Postal

Authorities for use by all postmasters to authorise or confirm certain actions undertaken during the processing of letters, e.g. acknowledgement of pre-payment or uprating of charges.' Furthermore, the sentence 'The calculation appears to be on the following basis

We apologise to the author for these errors and to the readers for any confusion they may have caused.

* * *



The vote of thanks to the *Académie* was given by **Mick Bister** and the photograph (above) was taken by **John Ray**.

On 12 January 2017 it was the turn of **John Ray** himself, accompanied by a fellow RPSL member, to give a magnificent display of his Fiji collection to the Royal Pmselphilatelic Society London. John specialises in the Pacific Islands including French Polynesia and Wallis & Futuna. The photograph (top right, taken by Michael Pitt-Payne) shows him holding the plaque awarded to him by RPSL President Frank Walton.

* * *

Continued on page 6

BOOKSHELF

Compiled by Michael Round

Gabon and Rio Muni: French Political and Postal Activity in Spanish Equatorial Africa 1839-1906

Bill Mitchell

23pp, A4 format. Available gratis on request from the author, Mr W G Mitchell, 41 Graemesdyke Avenue, London SW14 7BH

The Spanish colony of Rio Muni, now Equatorial Guinea, has been little discussed. Its relevance to our Society arises from France's own administrative tenure on the area as part of Gabon, before recognition of the Spanish claim in 1906. Author and long-standing F&CPS member Bill Mitchell claims no more for his book than a collation of existing information – no simple exercise even so, for many sources contradict each other, and primary history sources extend no further than 1903. Five pages of appendices and two of references with several illustrations complete the picture. Familiar F&CPS names are credited with help in its production.

Assembling the information must have been a labour of love, and Bill's offer of copies free to members on request is generous indeed. Members interested in taking up the offer may care to enclose an A4 stamped addressed envelope (a 1st or 2nd class 'Large' franking should be sufficient) when requesting a copy.

Texts of all the following are in French unless otherwise stated.

La Poste pendant la première guerre mondiale

Laurent Albaret

148pp, format 210x270mm

Published by Yvert et Tellier, 2 rue de l'Etoile, CS 79013, 80094 Amiens Cedex 3

www.yvert.com

Price €19.90.

Combatants in World War I were able to communicate quite by letter far more easily than their Franco-Prussian War predecessors. The new conflict provoked a wholesale reorganisation of army mail, and the hitherto unsung heroes of the postal service dealt with thousands of postcards, letters and parcels despite the obvious difficulties. This profusely illustrated account tells their story.

La Première Série au type Iris

Yvon Nouazé

164pp, A4 format.

Available from Y. Nouazé, 1 rue Henri Manhès, 81000 Albi (email yvon.nouaze@orange.fr). Price €27.00 plus postage (€6 within France, TBC elsewhere)

The genesis of the 'Iris' design (SG Type 136, Yvert et Tellier 431 et al) was intimately bound up with the history of World War II, in particular the occupation of France and its consequences. Author Yvon Nouazé tells the story in dramatic and highly readable fashion. Profusely illustrated in colour.

Le détachement d'armée Gaede: La correspondance militaire allemande en Haute-Alsace durant la Première Guerre mondiale

Michel Frick

160pp, A4 format, illustrated in colour. Price €30 plus postage (€6 within France, €10 abroad). Order from the S.P.A.L. Treasurer, M. André Lader, 52 rue de Monswiller, 67700 Saverne, France.

The centenary commemorations of World War I have inspired the specialist Alsace-Lorraine society S.P.A.L. to publish several volumes on the cachets and datestamps of the period. This one, the fourth in the series, concerns the General Gaede army detachment (renamed *Armee-Abteilung-B* in 1916). Markings from this period predate the better documented material from Alsace under occupation: this volume therefore fills an important gap in postal history. Study of them became harder from 1917 when, for reasons of military security, dumb cancels prevailed. Censor and airmail markings receive less study here: detail on them is reserved for future volumes.

Yvert & Tellier 2017 Timbres de France, Tome 1

1232pp, format 150x210mm, hardback. Price €21.90 plus postage

Available from the usual Yvert outlets, or direct.

The focus of this hardy annual is this time on post offices abroad, particularly in Algeria - and the vastly more modern area of tropical gum, applied to *Sabine de Gandon* issues destined for use in the tropics (Réunion, Guadeloupe, Guyane and Martinique). Elsewhere, prices for *ballons montés* and *boules de Moulins* have been thoroughly revised.

Yvert & Tellier 2017 Timbres des Colonies Françaises, Tome 2-1

720pp, hardback, price €29.99 plus postage. Available from the usual Yvert outlets, or direct.

This covers colonies up to independence but not beyond. Afars and Issas are in, as are Comoros to 1975: the current DOM/TOMs (modern French Polynesia, New Caledonia, St Pierre et Miquelon, TAAF and Wallis & Futuna) are catered for in a different volume together with Andorra and Monaco. The striking feature this year is the increased mark-up for unmounted over mounted mint, now +50% for issues of 1892 to 1912, +30% 1913 to 1939, and +20% 1940 to 1950. This apart, prices are little changed.

Continued on page 6

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong and Maurice Tyler

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 158 4^{ème} Trim 2016: Les Bureaux de Poste d'Anié du Togo sous Mandat Français [1931-1960] (Girardin); Un Second Type d'Entier Postal 6c Bayon d'Angkor (Venot); M. Augouard et l'Évangélisation par les fleuves des Territoires du Congo [Navigation à Vapeur de la Mission de la Congrégation du Saint-Esprit] (Pennachiotti); Cameroun: La Série « Corps Expéditionnaire » de 1915 et la Surcharge déplacée du 75c (Collet); Guadeloupe: Retournements (Bessaud).

Cameo

Vol 18 N° 1 Whole N° 100 January 2017: Togo: The Gold Coast style cancel at Agomé Palimé (Martin); The Capture of *SS Appam* in 1916 (Mayne); Cameroun in World War II - I Batschenga and Mokolo Internment Camp and Nachtigal Military Camp (Bratzel); Ndop, Cameroun - Negative Cachets (Wright & Bratzel); Why Togo (Mayne); Sokodé, Togo to Secondée, Gold Coast 1918 (Mayne); 20/- Used 'Missing O of OCCUPATION' TOGO Overprint on Gold Coast [SG H 45f] (Jackson); Timbuktu POW Camp, World War II [Soudan Français, AOF] (Martin).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 230 4^e Trim 2016: 1837, Constantinople-Marseille, La peste du paquebot-poste *Le Léonidas* (Dutau); Conséquences postales du détachement de Nossi-Bé de la tutelle de Mayotte (Millet); Les aléas de l'impression du timbre à validité permanente ou TVP bleu Marianne et l'Europe de Yves Beaujard du 2^e tirage [11 au 17 avril 2008] sur la presse TD205 (Rabineau); Le bureau vaudois des Diligences et Messageries à Genève 2^e partie (Barnier et Voruz).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1912 Dec 2016: Le Musée de la Communication en Alsace (Le Musée); La Poste dans la Grande Guerre (Albaret); Des Valeurs déclarées avec avis de réception (Lavigne); Campagne d'été 2014-2015, en Terre Adélie (Venturini); La disparition de l'Archange Jean Mermoz (Albaret).

N° 1913 Jan 2017: Objectif: promouvoir le timbre gravé et plus (Bastide-Bernardin); 1^{er} échelon de poids des valeurs déclarées jusqu'à 500F (Lavigne); C'est la fin de l'été en Terre Adélie (Venturini).

N° 1914 Feb 2017: Le sigle bhpt? [Bibliothèque Historique des postes et des Télécommunications] (Bastide-Bernardin); Un mandat-poste pour le Poilu! (Albaret); Le Palais du Luxembourg (Sollin); Les papiers d'affaires (Lavigne).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 327 (Vol 73 N° 1), 2017: The Era of

the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Locally Fabricated Auxiliary Markings (Grabowski); An Introduction to the French Precursor Postcards of 1873 (Kelly); The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Return Receipts [Avis de Réception] as Viewed from French Oceania (Grabowski); First Aircraft at Martinique October 12, 1922 (Taylor).

Gibbons Stamp Monthly

Vol 47 N° 8 January 2017: The French Territory of the Afars and Issas (Round).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol XLVI N° 4 (Whole N° 224) September 2016: Fund-Raising Labels from the Early Days of VNDCCCH (Bentley?); Viet-Nam's 1955 Referendum (Aspnes); France's Wall to its Dead in the Indochina Conflict (Montague); What happened to Comrade Ngô Gia Tur? (Wiart); What to do when Stamps sell out (Dykhouse); Grasset Plate proofs (Bentley).

Vol XLVI N° 5 (Whole N° 225) November 2016: Postage Due for Free Mail (Bentley); LJC Mystery Cover [Magasins L.J.Chaffanjon - Perfin LJC] (Dykhouse); The Ham Rong Bridge Stamp of 1964 (Miller); Local Business Promotion via Stationery (Bentley); Varieties of North Vietnam's Bai Thuong Dam Issues 1956/1958 (Düring); A Diamond in the Rough [A Stamp without value issued for Disabled soldiers] (Gebhardt).

Vol XLVII N° 1 (Whole N° 226) January 2017: Coffee samples sent through the mail from Laos to France (Bentley); A Visit to Dien Bien Phu (Beardsley); More on Postage Due on Free Mail (Bentley); Underpaid Military Concession Rates from Saigon (Grabowski); Nga Khe Local Issues of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (Gebhardt); Marie I, King of the Sedangs (Daniel III); Greetings from a Lao Stamp Collector (Moallem); Addition and Corrections from Previous articles (Dykhouse); Cover with strings attached (Bentley).

The London Philatelist

Vol 125 N° 1440 November 2016: The Portuguese Expeditionary Force in WW1 France (E & L Barreiros).

Timbres Magazine

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

N° 184 Dec 2016: La collection de Carnets, comment s'y prendre? (Gomez); Le courrier des prisonniers de guerre par voie aérienne (Zimmermann); Le destin inattendu d'Hubert Latham concurrent de Louis Blériot sur la Manche (Sinais); Escalade en Guyane (de Pellinec); Les timbres non-dentelés de France (Singeot); Les empreintes jumelées historiques (Hervé); Sombre histoire [early postal covers] (de La Mettrie); Affranchissement au verso (Prugnon); Une marque postale espérée sans grand espoir ...et pourtant! (Baudot).

N° 185 Jan 2017: La fortune est peut-être au - rendez-vous! [Type Sage] (de Pellinec); L'I.T.V.F. innove avec l'impression mixte (Gomez); «Extrait d'acte de mort» [response to N° 264 *Feuilles Marcophiles* (Wallart) – Les Extraits mortuaires du 1^{er} Empire] (de La Mettrie); La Série 'Zin Kaka' du Bénin et ses avatars (Pertwee); Le Daguin encore... (Hervé); Le silence est d'or (Zeyons); Pour Dantzig, en 1855 (Prugnon).

N° 186 Feb 2017: A la Poste en 1917 (de Pellinec); Dans le sillage de l'Eurydice Episode 8...: la «voie de Panama» (Veglio); Conséquences postales des homonymies (de La Mettrie); La taille-douce: les variétés expliquées (Gomez); La colonisation du Sahara (Coutant); De Saargebiet à Saarland (de Pellinec); Les cartes postales du marché aux timbres (Zeyons).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 367 (4^{ème} trim 2016, Dec 2016): La lettre de cachet, arme fatale (Barrère); Les marques d'arrivée de Verviers (Lauprêtre); Service des pneumatiques: les marques de promotion de la recommandation [compl. au n° 354] (Barbelin); Le timbre allemand «fer à cheval» et son premier usage dans les territoires français annexés 9 août 1871 - 4 janvier 1875) (Martin); La réforme de la Poste aux Armées au second semestre 1914: le Bureau central militaire de Paris-Louvre (Albaret); Histoire de la double relation postale du Principat d'ANDORRA – Chap. I (5^{ème} partie - suite) Les débuts du télégraphe et son apport au fonctionnement du service du courrier (Dupré); TIMBRES «ORDONNANCE DU 17 NOVEMBRE 1844 (Art 30 et 31)» (1^{ère} partie) (Guillard & Abensur); La marque postale de Paris en port payé bien étrange: P.PAYÉ. (Bovagnet).

SOCIETY NOTES

Continued from page 3

Unsold Auction Lots

A list of unsold lots now appears on the Society's website a week after the auction's closure. Go to 'Auctions' on the home page and click on 'Unsold Lots'. They are available from the auction secretary at the reserve price quoted in the catalogue.

* * *

Future Events

Please do not forget to support your regional groups.

The **Northern Group** is holding a meeting on 25 March (see last Journal for full details). The **Wessex Group** will be holding its next meeting on 1 July, the **Northern Group** on 15 July and the **London Group** on 5 August. Further details will be announced in the June Journal.

Members of the London Group are indebted to **Richard Broadhurst** for the supply and fitting of new lights to the display frames. They are a vast improvement on the old ones. Thank you, Richard.

* * *

BOOKSHELF

Continued from page 4

SG 'French Colonies' catalogue review addenda

In my review of the new SG French Colonies catalogue (Journal N° 282, Dec 2016, pp. 141/4), I pointed out that SG had removed the listing of the French Morocco 1928 Relief Fund set (formerly SG 149/62). I am indebted to professional colleague Terry Garcia for pointing out that, illogically, the same issue overprinted for Tangier is still in place (SG 30/39). The two sets were issued under the same criteria, so the catalogue should include both or neither. One would suspect a simple and inadvertent erasure of the French Morocco listing, were it not for SG's new box of information that replaces it. Moreover, as it stands, the Tangier listing now refers us to a French Morocco set no longer listed!

My apologies to members for not spotting this first time round. I can only plead that North Africa is not an area I know as well as others.

Elsewhere, a gremlin sought to muddy the 'Addenda' waters. Under the Cameroun heading is an entry quoting SG numbers 36/50. These, and the entry itself, should refer to Congo. Alert readers will have corrected the discrepancy – but I am sorry for the extra Sherlock-Holmesian activity this would have required of them.

The same gremlin, or another one, may have removed the listing of my original review from the Index to Volume 66 (Journal *op. cit.*). Archival minded members with nothing else to occupy their time may care to reinstate it!

Paris instructional marks from 1837 to 1950

Part 2

Chris Hitchen

Reorganisation of deliveries 1898 to 1919

In 1898 plans began to be made to arrange for delivery in all Paris to be done according to the municipal *arrondissements*. The intention was to create a central district office in each which would make all deliveries in that district. It

was decided to begin with the suburbs and nine existing offices were selected. The final change was made official on 1 October 1901 and published in the *Bulletin Mensuel*. (Figures 13 and 14).

— 638 — Août 1901.

DIRECTION DE L'EXPLOITATION POSTALE. — 1^{er} BUREAU.
ORGANISATION DES BUREAUX ET DE LA DISTRIBUTION.

Changement de dénomination d'un certain nombre d'établissements de poste de Paris.

A partir du 1^{er} octobre prochain, la dénomination des établissements de poste mentionnés aux tableaux ci-après sera fixée conformément aux indications contenues dans lesdits tableaux.

1^o Bureaux centraux.

N ^{os} des ARRON- DISSE- MENTS.	DÉNOMINATION ACTUELLE.		DÉNOMINATION NOUVELLE.	
	NUMÉROS D'ORDRE des bureaux.	EMPLACEMENT.	NUMÉROS D'ORDRE des bureaux.	EMPLACEMENT.
XII ^e .	Paris 23..	Rue Énard.	Paris 12..	Rue Énard.
XIII ^e .	Paris 65..	Avenue d'Italie.	Paris 13..	Avenue d'Italie.
XIV ^e .	Paris 69..	Avenue d'Orléans.	Paris 14..	Avenue d'Orléans.
XV ^e .	Paris 75..	Rue Blomet.	Paris 15..	Rue Blomet.
XVI ^e .	Paris 70..	Place Possoz.	Paris 16..	Place Chopin.
XVII ^e .	Paris 66..	Rue Meissonnier.	Paris 17..	Rue Jussieu.
XVIII ^e .	Paris 60..	Rue Eugène-Suë.	Paris 18..	Rue de Clignancourt.
XIX ^e .	Paris 77..	Rue d'Allemagne.	Paris 19..	Rue d'Allemagne.
XX ^e .	Paris 91..	Rue des Pyrénées.	Paris 20..	Rue des Pyrénées.

2^o Autres bureaux.

N ^{os} des ARRON- DISSE- MENTS.	DÉNOMINATION ACTUELLE.		DÉNOMINATION NOUVELLE.	
	NUMÉROS D'ORDRE des bureaux.	EMPLACEMENT.	NUMÉROS D'ORDRE des bureaux.	EMPLACEMENT.
XI ^e .	Paris 12..	Boulev. Beaumarchais.	Paris 112.	Boulev. Beaumarchais.
IV ^e .	Paris 13..	Hôtel de ville.	Paris 113.	Hôtel de ville.
X ^e .	Paris 14..	Rue de Strasbourg.	Paris 114.	Rue de Strasbourg.
VII ^e .	Paris 15..	Rue des Saints-Pères.	Paris 115.	Rue des Saints-Pères.
III ^e .	Paris 16..	Rue Réaumur.	Paris 116.	Rue Réaumur.
I ^{er} .	Paris 17..	Rue des Halles.	Paris 117.	Rue des Halles.
VIII ^e .	Paris 18..	Rue d'Amsterdam.	Paris 118.	Rue d'Amsterdam.
XI ^e .	Paris 19..	B ^d Richard-Lenoir.	Paris 119.	B ^d Richard-Lenoir.
VII ^e .	Paris 20..	B ^d St-Germain, 195.	Paris 120.	B ^d St-Germain, 195.

Figure 13

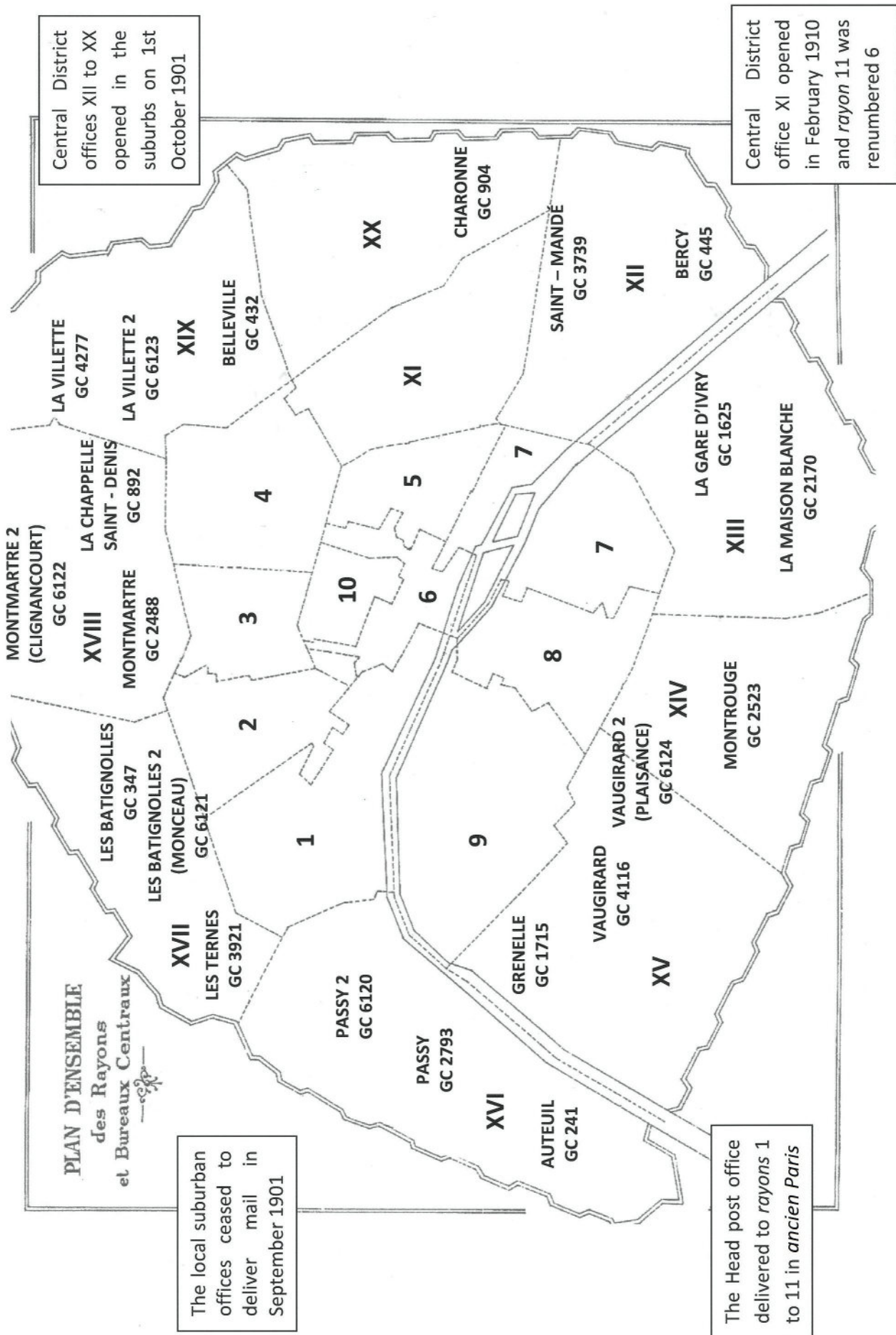


Figure 14
Delivery areas in Paris 1900 to 1910

The new sorting and delivery offices were titled *Bureau Central d'arrondissement* and were identified in Roman

numerals after the *arrondissement* to avoid any confusion with existing offices with the same number (Figure 15).

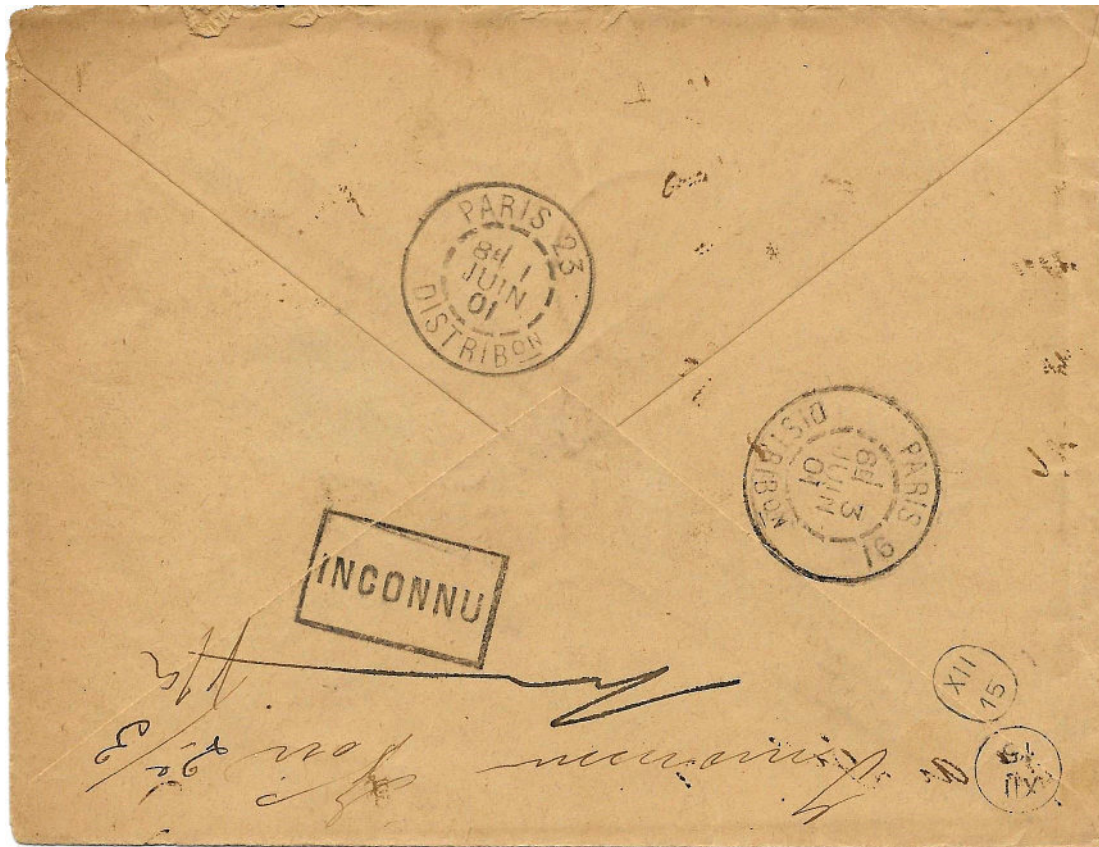


Figure 15
Bureau Central d'arrondissement XII postmen marks in June 1901
whereas the date stamp still reads *Paris 23 Distribution*

Whilst new postmen's marks were quickly produced with the new numbering, return to sender marks were not and either those with the old Paris office number or the even older ones with the *gros chiffre* number remained in use (Figures 16 and 17).

The areas covered by the new central district offices overlapped the *rayons* in *ancien* Paris and led to some adjustments. The area around Chaillot transferred from *rayon* 1 to central office XVI and that in *rayon* 6 south of the rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine to central office XII. *Rayons* 7, 8 and 9 lost some strips of territory on their southern edges.

As suitable premises were found new central district offices opened: that in *arrondissement* 11 in February 1910 and that for *arrondissement* 10 in July 1912. This resulted in

the disappearance of the original *rayon* 6 and a new *rayon* 5 consisting of what remained of old *rayons* 5 and 6 was formed. *Rayon* 11 was renumbered 6.

The war put a temporary halt to changes but resumed soon afterwards and in April 1919 a central office for *arrondissement* 9 opened. *Rayon* 3 and a part of *rayon* 2 were affected and *rayon* 9 then renumbered *rayon* 3. In August 1919 it was decided to abolish sorting by *rayon* altogether and arrange everything on the *arrondissements*. Where a central district office had not yet opened deliveries would be made from the Head Post Office but organised by *arrondissement* not *rayon*. It took until 1954 to open a further 4 central district offices (V, VI, VII and VIII) and *arrondissements* 1 to 4 continue to be delivered from the Head Post Office.



Figure 16
Bureau Central d'arrondissement XIV with return to sender P 69 in 1902



Figure 17
Bureau Central d'arrondissement XIV with return to sender 2523 in 1912

Post 1919

New postmen's marks were issued quite quickly, whilst return to sender ones were reused if possible. Those that had been used in *rayons* 1 to 8 were, after August 1919, still used by the Head Post Office but now allotted to

arrondissements I to VIII. When a central district office was eventually opened then they were sent to the new office (Figure 18) though in some cases new ones were needed (Figures 19, 20 and 21).

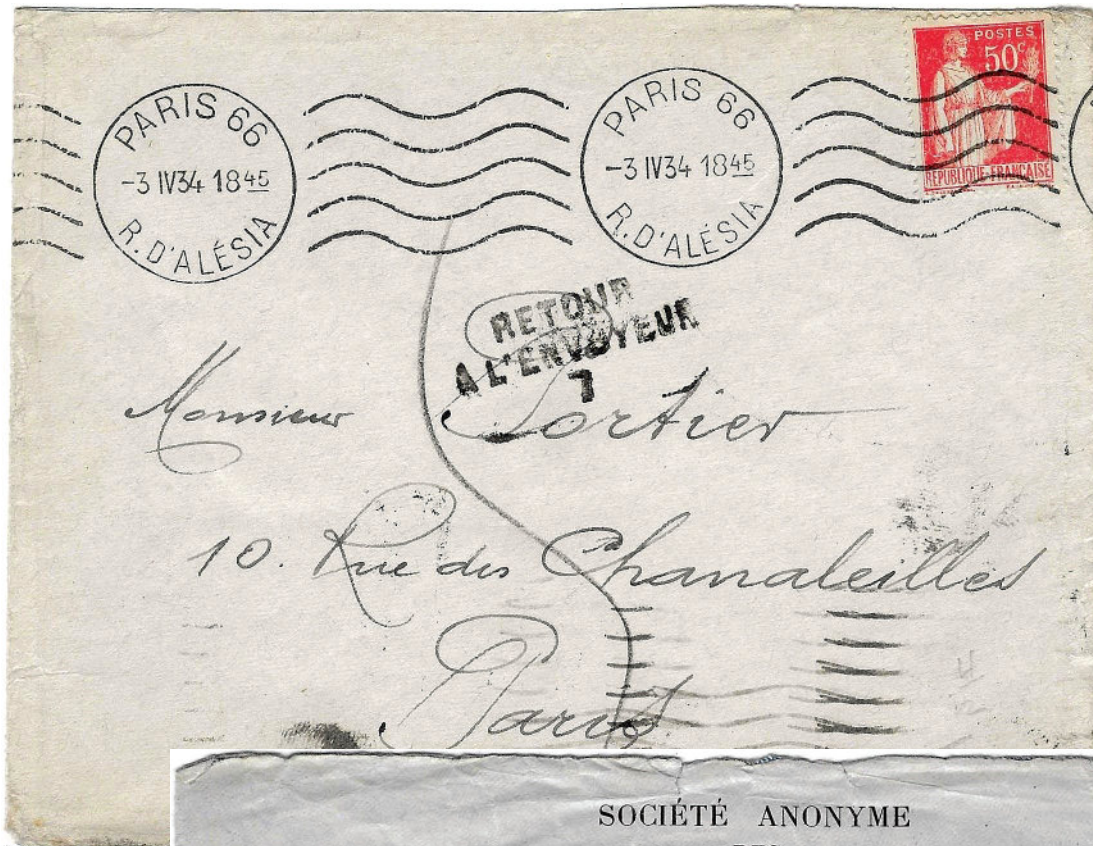


Figure 18
RETOUR A
L'ENVOYEUR 7
now used by
Bureau Central
d'arrondissement VII
opened in
November 1929.



Figure 19
RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR VIII B used by
Bureau Central d'arrondissement VIII
opened in November 1931.



Figure 20
RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR 2 A used at the Head Post Office
for deliveries to the 2nd arrondissement in 1931



Figure 21
RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR 2 used by the Head Post Office
for deliveries to the 2nd arrondissement in 1931

In *arrondissements* IX to XX a new series of return to sender marks were created around 1923 numbered from 12 to 47, with a block of numbers for each district (Figures 22 and 23).

The table below summarises the new Return to sender number marks. Some gaps still need to be filled. in.

Number	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Arrondissement</i>	IX	IX		X	X	X	XI	XI	XII
Number	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<i>Arrondissement</i>	XII	XIII	XIII	XIII	XIV	XIV	XIV		
Number	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
<i>Arrondissement</i>	XV		XVI	XVI	XVII	XVII	XVII	XVII	XVIII
Number	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
<i>Arrondissement</i>	XVIII	XIX	XIX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX

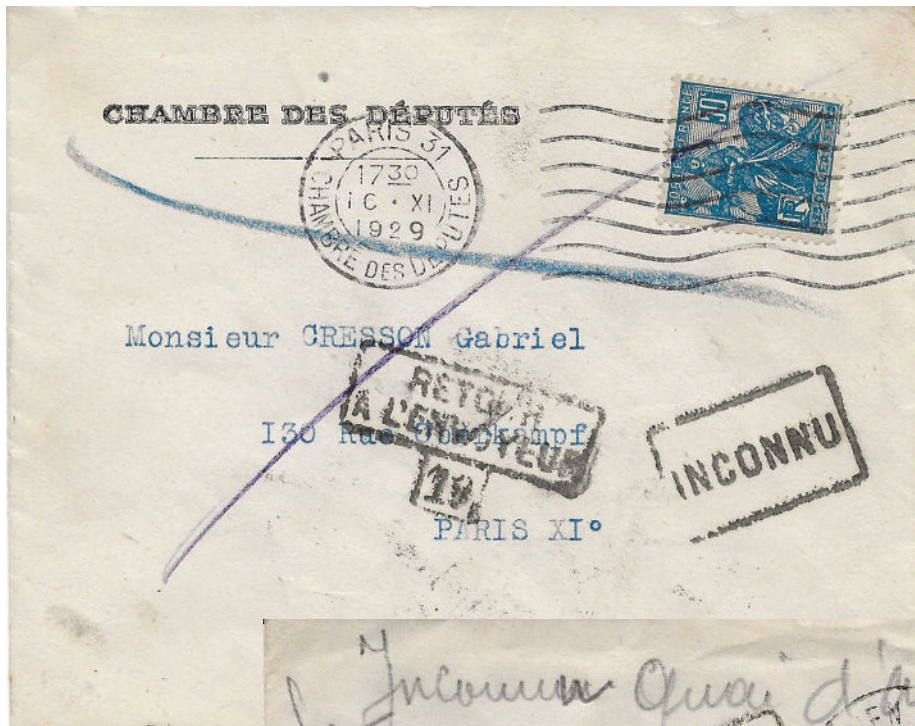


Figure 22
RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR 19
used by Bureau Central
d'arrondissement XI
in 1929



Figure 23
RETOUR A
L'ENVOYEUR 23
used by
Bureau Central
d'arrondissement XIII
in 1949

For postmen's marks a fifth brigade or shift was instituted around 1901 with hexagonal marks and those delivering printed matter used a triangular

one (Figure 24). The latter either had the *rayon* number at the top or – after August 1919 – that of the *arrondissement*.

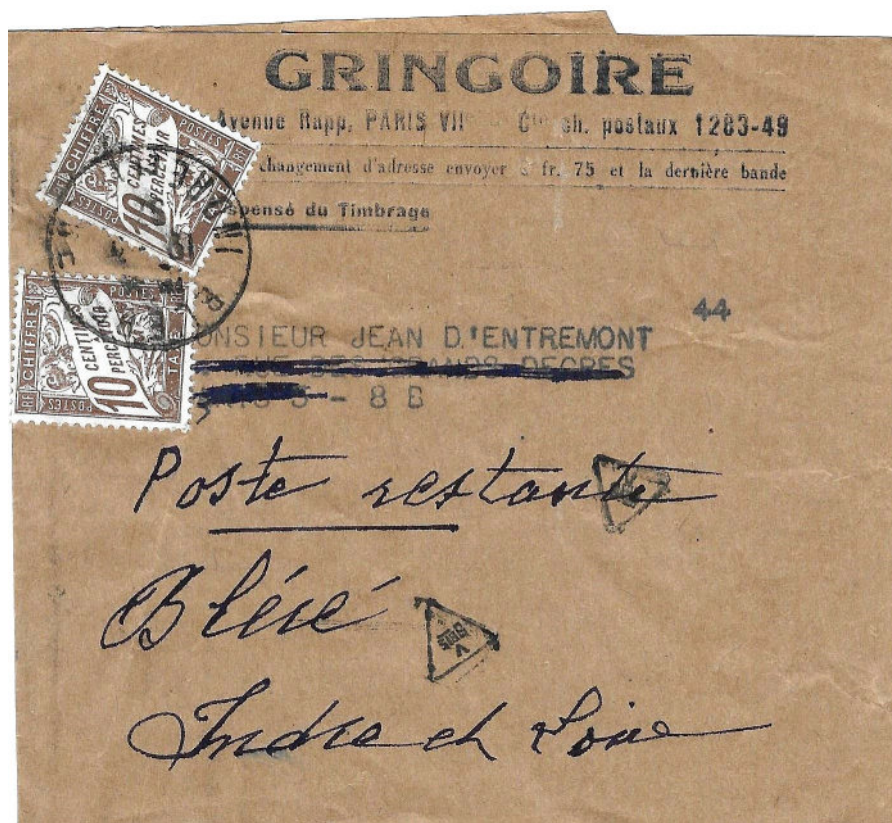


Figure 24
Postman's mark V in a triangle for printed matter
originally addressed to *arrondissement* V in 1937

There must be hundreds if not thousands of instructional marks of various types used in Paris in the last 200 years. This article is simply intended to provide a guide to their context which is so intimately linked to how deliveries were carried out in the capital.

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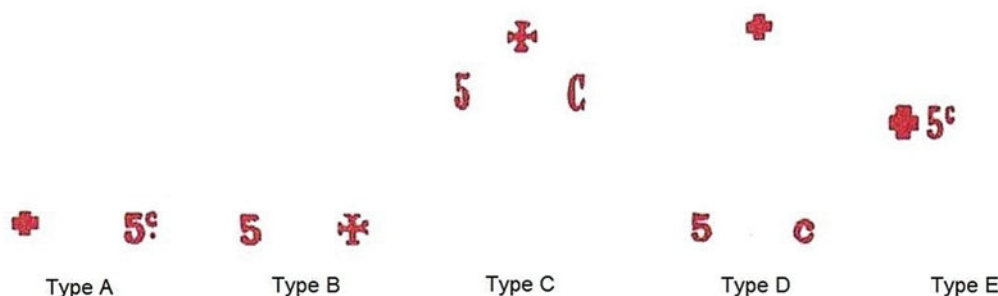
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Red Cross overprints of the French Indian Settlements: 1915-16

John West



Most readers will doubtless be aware that France issued the first stamp with a surcharge to benefit the Red Cross, just a week after hostilities commenced in 1914. It was the success of this venture that prompted the French government to demand that the postal authorities in many of their colonies should follow suit. What they did not allow for was the fact that many of these colonised areas were not only isolated and distant but they had only primitive printing facilities and, quite often, no ink! It is little wonder, then, that many of the early issues of stamps, overprinted to try and raise funds for this global organisation, were the subject of considerable speculation. A prime instance of this may be found with the stamps of the *Établissements français dans l'Inde* – better known as the French Indian Settlements.

The French Indian Settlements were, originally, trading posts founded by the French East India Company during the 17th and 18th centuries. They represent the remnants of a once considerable French presence in that sub-continent. The settlements (or *établissements*, as they were also known) consisted of Pondicherry (founded 1674), Karikal (captured 1739) and Yanaon (founded 1728) on the Coromandel coast; Mahé (acquired 1746) on the Malabar coast; and Chandernagore, near Calcutta (arrival of French settlers in 1664, acquired by the French in 1688). Be aware

that slightly different dates may be quoted in other sources. All were captured by the British during both the Seven Years' War and the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, but were restored to France by the treaties of 1763 and 1815.

On 11 February 1915 a requisition was submitted for the preparation of a Red Cross stamp for the Settlements, announced by a government decree but which was left undated! In accordance with the terms of that decree, the first printing of 40,000 stamps of the contemporary Hindu god issue depicting Brahma was surcharged at Pondicherry with the Type A surcharge of 5c and a Geneva Cross over the name tablet of the stamp. The surcharge was rose-carmine in colour and the overprinting was done on sheets of 75. These were first issued on 15 June 1915 (Figure 1).

Thereafter, things become confusing as there would eventually be, including the above, nine different printings featuring six different surcharge designs. For the purpose of clarity I refer to the printings as 1-9 and the surcharges as A-E (Figure 2).

The major catalogues do not recognise all of the issues, evidently considering that two issues, in particular, were purely speculative. Insofar as Stanley Gibbons is concerned I refer to catalogue numbers 44 and 45 and 48 to 51. The majority of these have recorded varieties which include a double surcharge, an inverted surcharge and instances of the letter 'e' appearing in place of the 'c'. The French catalogue, Cérès, numbers these same stamps from 43 to 48 but includes a slightly more detailed list of varieties, for example, recording instances of changes in the distance between the figure '5' and the letter 'c' which I will refer to later. Maury also refers to six issues, catalogued as 43 to 48, as does Yvert et Tellier which additionally provides, for numbers 44 to 47, sub-listing and identification of the varieties.

Members are advised to be very careful when consulting the above catalogue numbers regarding Surcharge A as there is an inconsistency not only between the different publishers but also between different editions. Currently, Cérès and Maury correctly list the low setting before the high setting whereas Yvert & Tellier list the high setting before the low setting. Stanley Gibbons, in its 'Part 6 France' similarly listed the high setting before the low but



Figure 1

Pair of 10c with Type A low setting surcharge alongside 2c and 3c normal 'Brahma' issues paying 25c foreign letter rate cancelled 16 July Pondicherry to Edinburgh



Figure 2
Overprinted on sheets of three panes of 25,
Types A to D were set up and printed on the Pondicherry Roman Catholic Church Printing Press
and Type E at the Government Printing Works in Paris.

in its 'French Colonies First Edition' published last year, the sequence has been corrected.

Different Types

The heavy demand for these stamps, due to a combination of patriotism and speculation, meant that the first issue quickly became exhausted, prompting a reprint. Accordingly, a further 20,000 stamps were overprinted in November 1915. However, although an identical design of surcharge was utilised, on this occasion it was set higher than in the first printing – it is usually found just below the scroll on either side. A darker shade of ink was used for this surcharge but different shades are known, ranging from carmine-vermilion to deep rose red. I refer to this as the second printing.

If 40,000 sold quickly, it requires little imagination to think what might/would happen to an issue of just 20,000 with a print variation! Within just a couple of weeks the stocks were gone and, just one month later, a further supply of 20,000 was ordered to be surcharged. The same high setting of Type A was used but, although the quality of the printing was considerably improved, the major catalogues have resisted the opportunity to list this issue separately. I refer to this as the third printing since not only can examples be found where the overprint is a rose colour but, in the case of the 50th stamp of certain sheets of 75, the surcharge is missing altogether. This mayhem continued, with continuing demands for these stamps necessitating yet another print run in the same month, December 1915. This

time the surcharge was printed in pale red on just 5,000 stamps. It is suggested that this very limited issue was purely speculative and, strangely, no errors are reported but it is understandable why the major catalogues do not recognise this issue as meriting a separate entry. I, however, refer to this printing as the fourth printing.

On 20 April 1916 yet another Red Cross issue was produced, this time featuring an entirely new design of surcharge, Type B. The figure '5' now appeared without the letter 'c' or a stop after it. Furthermore, the design of the cross differed quite dramatically, more closely resembling the Maltese cross. The same 'Brahma' stamp was used for this new surcharged issue and the overprint would now be found on the lower part of the stamp, once again superimposed on the name tablet. The quantity printed was limited to 12,000. The surcharge was in rose-carmine. The printing of this surcharge, like the others beforehand, was undertaken on the Pondicherry Roman Catholic Church Printing Press. I refer to this as the fifth printing. It is worthy of remark that Derek Ingram, in his excellent handbook, *'Postage Stamps of the Red Cross'* published at the offices of the magazine *'Stamp Collecting'* circa 1919, erroneously describes this surcharge as "usually to be found on the upper part of the stamp". Although this issue spawned a number of varieties, I have seen none with the overprint at the top (Figure 3).

Just one month later, on 20 May 1916 yet another decree was issued, enabling the overprinting of an additional 50,000 copies of the same 10c 'Brahma' stamp. Once again,



Figure 3

The Type B pre-production surcharge positioning trials enabled the printer to check that the surcharge was correctly positioned on each stamp.

The colour and value were immaterial for the purpose of the trial hence old stamps stocks were utilised.

Usually such trials were destroyed but evidently this was not always the case.

It is reported that a few were inadvertently sent to post offices where they were actually sold over the counter and at least one has been recorded, used, on cover

the surcharge, Type C, differed from its predecessor. The Maltese Cross design was retained but it was now positioned at the top of the stamp. The figure '5' now appeared lower down and to the left of the stamp, while the letter 'c' (which was now re-introduced) appeared to the right – creating an arrowhead formation. The surcharges are listed both as being printed in both carmine and in rose-carmine – a distinction that many find very difficult to make. I refer to this as the sixth printing.

On 20 July 1916 the Governor of the French Indian Settlements authorised the issue of yet another batch of surcharged stamps – this time amounting to 60,000 in number. Few will be surprised to learn that this new issue featured another change of surcharge design, Type D. This time, the printers reverted to the original Geneva Cross with the cross impressed, on its own, 2cm above the remainder of the surcharge. The figure '5' and the letter 'c' were both now printed in a smaller font than those of the preceding issue. I refer to this as the seventh printing. A number of recorded varieties emerge from this issue, notably the letter 'c' being transposed by the letter 'e' in position 75 of the printing plate. There are also discrepancies in the space between the figure '5' and the letter 'c'. The standard distance between the two is 11mm but instances can be

found where it is reduced to 9mm.

All the stock, ordered in July, had been exhausted within five or six weeks and, on 4 September 1916 another decree authorised the issue of a further 40,000 stamps of the same type as those produced in July. I prefer to describe this issue as the eighth printing, making a combined total of 100,000 for this issue. Up until this moment all of the printing had been undertaken, as previously stated, on the printing press of the Roman Catholic Church at Pondicherry.

Finally, in November, 1916, the printing process was taken over by the government printing works in Paris. This gave rise to the first appearance of what is commonly referred to as the Type E 'Paris Surcharge'. It was struck in carmine and, as is often the case with this surcharge, any collector should treat a 'variety' with extreme caution for those that do exist are almost invariably forgeries. I refer to this as the ninth printing.

As with most Red Cross overprinted stamps in the Colonies, commercial mail bearing those stamps is not easy to find. However, it is worth mentioning to fellow philatelists that a number of covers do exist, cancelled at Pondicherry, in 1915 and sent to Cholon in Cochinchina unaddressed (Figure 4). These are often back-stamped with both an



Figure 4

Government mail between the French Indian Settlements and Indo-China was carried free in a sealed bag.

This cover was franked with four copies of the Type A surcharge and cancelled at Pondicherry on 10 August 1915

having been backstamped the day before with a double ring GOUVERNEMENT - 2^{ème} BUREAU - INDE (see insert). Upon arrival in the diplomatic bag at Cholon, Cochinchine, it received a handstamp dated 27 August 1915.



Figure 5

Similar scenario to above but at what stage was the address applied and was the cover carried by normal post or diplomatic bag?

arrival mark at Cholon and a double-ringed CDS which reads 'Gouvernement - 2ème Bureau - Inde'. These appear to have travelled between the two countries via diplomatic bag, possibly the result of two diplomats trying to improve their stamp collections. One note of caution though, for certain dealers or collectors appear to have tried to enhance the value of these covers by adding a fictitious name and address to the front of the envelopes (Figure 5).

Varieties

I will conclude by making reference to some of the varieties which have been confirmed as seen.

- Type A (low setting, 1st printing): '5' and 'c' joined (not constant).
- Type A (high setting, 2nd printing): inverted surcharge.



Figure 6

Top left: Type B Inverted surcharge

Top centre: Type B diagonal overprint and missing overprint in se-tenant pair

Top right: Scarce positioning trial with double inverted surcharge in black

Bottom: Strip of five positioning trials with double surcharge in black



Figure 7
(all type D surcharges)

'e' for 'c'

'e' for 'c'
double surcharge
one inverted

'e' for 'c'
double surcharge
both inverted

'o' for 'c'
and truncated
cross

- Type A (high setting, 3rd printing): missing surcharge from the 50th stamp on certain sheets of 75.
- Type B: missing surcharge, inverted surcharge, and diagonal surcharge on issued stamps and double surcharge and inverted double surcharge in black on the 5c green and black pre-production 'positioning trials' (Figure 6). They should have been destroyed but some found their way into post offices and at least one is recorded used on cover.
- Type C: double surcharge, inverted surcharge, missing '5', inverted '5' and inverted 'c'.
- Type D: space variations between '5' and 'c', a letter 'e' in place of the letter 'c', double surcharge, inverted surcharge and inverted surcharge of just the '5' and the 'c' (Figure 7). In addition to these recorded varieties there are examples of the letter 'o' appearing in place of the 'c' and there are a number of instances of so-called diagonal surcharges – where the sheet was placed askew under the press – and of double

perforations, presumably from a misfeed into the perforating machine.

I regret that I can offer little or no assistance in trying to distinguish between the several shades of red used by the catalogues – this must remain in the domain of the experts because there seems very little difference between many of the colours used in the overprinting.

Acknowledgements

Michael Round, Ron Wood and Jon Oddy.

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French Postal Routes via Paris 1838-1848

(display presented at the Annual Weekend, Charlecote, Saturday 12 March 2016)

Michael Rego

In November 1838 the sorting of the mail in France was divided into Primary Postal Route Nos. 1-15 to or via Paris as follows; 1 Calais, 2 Lille, 3 Valenciennes, 4 Sedan, 5 Forbach, 6 Strasbourg, 7 Besançon, 8 Lyon, 9 Marseille, 10 Toulouse, 11 Bordeaux, 12 Nantes, 13 Brest, 14 Caen, 15 Le Havre. In addition, there were eight Secondary Postal Routes which were cross-country links, listed from the Provinces; 1 Troyes - Mulhouse, 2 Lyon - Avignon, 3 Lyon - Strasbourg, 4 Moulins - Clermont, 5 Toulouse - Bayonne, 6 Toulouse - Marseille, 7 Bordeaux - Toulouse, 8 Bordeaux - Bayonne. These lists were published annually in the official PTT Directory, which were written not only for the postal service authority, but were also available for public use.

All the primary postal route services, via the main trunk roads, arrived by horse and coach at the *Hôtel des Postes* in Paris from 4.00 to 6.00am each morning. The work involved sorting the letters which were mostly intended for Paris, and this work began immediately. By 7.00am Paris deliveries commenced through the capital city.

It should be noted that the PTT Directory appeared in January of each year; and produced a list of postal routes from the end of the previous year. The postal routes were divided into two sections; the first included main trunk roads from Paris, while the secondary routes were trunk roads that did not touch Paris. The route numbers listed in the PTT Directory differ somewhat to the backstamp Route Nos. 1 to 15. These routes were fairly stable 1838-45 (see table below), when in 1846 route changes were amended annually to accommodate the advent of the railways taking over the service from teams of horses set in relays.

The daily mail left Paris at 6.00pm each evening and every morning from 4 to 6am. The 15 Primary Postal Routes were operated by twelve mail-coaches and three postal vans (*estafettes*). However an additional postal van arrived daily from Valenciennes to Paris between noon and 1pm, and this service was allocated Postal Route No.16. The only difference between a mail coach (*malle-poste*) and an *estafette* is that the latter had no place for travellers

Primary Postal Routes - PTT Annuaire des Postes - to Paris 1838-1848							
Paris Primary Routes	1838-40	1841	1842-44	1845	1846	1847	1848
Calais	1	1	1	1	1	2	-
Boulogne	-	-	-	-	-	-	Amb-1
Lille	2	2	2	2	2	-	-
Quiévrain	-	-	-	-	-	-	Amb-2
Valenciennes	3	3	3	3	3	Amb-1	-
Tours						Amb-2	Amb-3
Sedan	4	4	4	4	4	8	8
Forbach	5	5	5	5	5	4	4
Strasbourg	6	6	6	6	6	9	9
Besançon	7	7	7	7	7	-	-
Genève	-	-	-	8	8	5	5
Lyon	8	8	8	9	9	7	7
Marseille	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moulins	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Étienne	-	-	9	10	10	10	10
Toulouse	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clermont-Ferrand	-	-	-	-	11	-	-
Limoges	-	10	10	11	12	6	6
Bordeaux	11	11	11	12	13	-	-
Troyes	-	-	-	-	-	11	11
Nantes	12	12	12	13	14	-	-
Brest	13	13	13	14	15	1	1
Caen	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cherbourg	-	14	14	15	16	3	3
Le Havre	15	15	15	16	-	Amb-3	Amb-4
(not used)							2
Strasbourg to Bâle							Amb-5

Sometimes, but rarely, letters have been recorded by myself and others carrying a route numbered backstamp in error; on the other hand route changes were probably made that we have not yet recorded which could explain this, such as those listed in a Circular of 16 August 1855. But in total, nearly all of the backstamps seen are the postal route as indicated by them.

These backstamps are almost always struck in blue, but copies are known in blue-green, green ink, and, in later use, in black ink. They are recorded in use to 28 September

1848. Officially, black ink was to be used from 5 January 1849, following the first postage stamp for France, issued a few days earlier. These datestamps seem to have never been used as departure marks on originating letters from Paris; they occur as marks of arrival at the back of the letters addressed to Paris or by which route the letter arrived. They are also located on the back of letters originating in the provinces and on mail from foreign countries passing through Paris to be forwarded to other destinations. In the latter case, datestamps regularly indicate the route starting point.

Postal Route Numbers 1-16 recorded use, 1 November 1838 to 31 December 1848			
Routes 1 - 8	Blue, Green, Black inks	Routes 9 - 16	Blue, Green, Black inks
Route 1, Calais	10.1.1839 to 22.7.1848	Route 8, Lyon	12.12.1838 to 27.10.1845
Route 2, Lille	31.7.1839 to 4.5.1847	Route 9, Marseille	17.12.1838 to 26.12.1847
Route 2, Flers?	5.9.1846	Route 10, Toulouse	28.7.1839 to 28.9.1848
Route 3, Valenciennes	13.4.1839 to 27.11.1840	Route 11, Bordeaux	24.11.1838 to 21.3.1847
Route 3, Lille?	27.10.1845 to 1.2.1846	Route 12, Nantes	13.2.1840 to 26.1.1848
Route 4, Sedan	28.1.1839 to 25.8.1847	Route 13, Brest	8.4.1840 to 2.7.1847
Route 5, Forbach	7.6.1839 to 7.1.1847	Route 14, Caen, Cherbourg	22.10.1839 to 8.3.1847
Route 6, Strasbourg	7.4.1839 to 23.11.1846	Route 15, Le Havre	3.5.1839 to 26.10.1846
Route 7, Besançon	19.1.1839 to 13.3.1848	Route 16, Valenciennes	8.10.1839 to 19.12.1844

Two new routes were added from Paris - in 1844, the *Route de Genève* and in 1845 the *Route de Moulins*, these were forerunners to the *Ambulant* TPO markings. These two backstamps did not employ route numbers on either side of the postmark (see illustrations). They indicated the arrival of letters routed to Paris, and the routes of other letters passing through Paris.

<i>Route de Genève</i> , recorded use	<i>Route de Moulins</i> , recorded use
7.7.1844 to 8.12.1848	9.7.1845 to 7.2.1848































Datestamps No.17


























At the same time as datestamps Nos.1 to 16 / (60) were in service applied in blue ink, there were similar datestamps No.17 / (60). They exist in two subtypes, with (60) at the foot or with the French words for 'second', 'third', 'fourth', 'fifth' or 'sixth', sorting; these are found in red or black inks.

The datestamp No.17 / (60) seems to have been placed in service at the same time as the datestamps bearing Nos.1-16. The other No.17 (with second, third, fourth, etc.) have been recorded from November 1839, and are likely to have come into service at the same time as No.17 / (60).




Datestamp No. 17	Red ink	Black ink
(60)	23.1.1845 to 27.4.1848	15.11.1838 to 3.11.1846
Deuxième (2 nd)	4.2.1848 to 15.4.1848	-
Troisième (3 rd)	25.5.1845 to 20.3.1848	30.11.1840 to 13.7.1842
Quatrième (4 th)	12.2.1845 to 19.4.1848	-
Cinquième (5 th)	13.8.1846 to 25.3.1848	-
Sixième (6 th)	7.11.1842 to 20.12.1845	11.7.1839 to 18.5.1842

Primary and Secondary Postal Routes (November 1838 - March 1848)

Route 1 1838-48, Calais - Boulogne-sur-Mer - Abbeville - Beauvais - Paris					
	11.1.1839, blue Abbeville to Paris	5.3.1840, blue Boulogne-sur- Mer to Paris	24.11.1840, blue Abbeville to Paris	31.8.1841, blue Beauvais to Chevalier	22.7.1848, blue Abbeville to Paris
Route 2 1838-48, Lille - Arras - Doullens - Amiens - Clermont - Paris * route error.					
	24.9.1839, blue	20.6.1840, blue Lille to Paris	6.8.1842, blue Mulhouse to Lille	5.9.1846, blue Bayonne to Flers*	4.5.1847, blue Chantilly to Paris
Route 3 1838-46, Valenciennes - Cambrai - St. Quentin - Compiègne - Paris <i>Railway</i> Sep. 1846-48, Valenciennes - Douai - Amiens - Paris					
	3.3.1839, blue Le Catelet to Paris	13.4.1839, blue Le Catelet to Paris	27.11.1840, blue Lille to Paris	27.10.1845, blue Clamecy to Paris	1.2.1846, blue Lille to Paris
Route 4 1838-48, Sedan - Mézières - Reims - Soissons - Paris					
	28.1.1839, blue Charleville to Paris	13.1.1840, black Sedan to Paris	1.9.1841, black	2.5.1843, blue Villers- Cotterets to Paris	25.8.1847, blue Gien, Reims, St. Quentin
Route 5 1838-48, Forbach - Metz - Verdun - Châlons-sur-Marne - Château Thierry - Paris					
	7.6.1839, black Charly to Paris	19.11.1842, blue Condé-en-Brie	19.11.1843, blue Lyon to Châtillon	9.6.1845, blue Soultz to Château- Thierry	7.1.1847, blue Verdun-sur- Meuse to Paris
Route 6 1838-48, Strasbourg - Sarrebouurg - Nancy - Bar-le-Duc - Vitry-le- François - Coulommiers - Paris					
	19.5.1839, blue Nancy to Paris	21.3.1840, blue Toulouse to Strasbourg	18.12.1840, blue Strasbourg to Paris	29.7.1843, blue Château - Thierry to Villeneuve- sur-Bellot	23.11.1846, blue Guadeloupe via Boulogne to Bar-le-Duc

Route 7 1838-43, Besançon - Dôle - Dijon - Châtillon-sur-Seine - Troyes - Provins - Paris 1844-46, Besançon - Langres - Chaumont - Troyes - Provins - Paris					
	2.3.1839, blue La Chaux-de- Fonds,(Switz), Paris	26.9.1840, blue Besançon to Paris	9.1.1843, green Donnemarie to Paris	13.8.1847, blue Langres to Paris	18.3.1848, blue Mulhouse to Paris
Route 8 1838-48, Lyon - Macon - Châlon-sur-Saône - Arnay-le-Duc - Auxerre - Melun - Paris					
	14.5.1839, blue Avallon to Paris	16.6.1840, blue Lyon to Paris	18.9.1842, blue Sens to Paris	19.11.1843, blue Lyon to Vandières to Port-à-Binson	24.7.1844, green Maubeuge to Paris
Route 9 1838-40, Marseille - Aix-en-Provence - Avignon - Montélimar - Valence - St. Vallier - St. Étienne - Roanne - Moulins - Nevers - Briare - Montargis - Paris 1841-44, Moulins - Paris 1842-48, St. Étienne - Moulins - Paris					
	17.12.1838, blue Italy via Antibes	29.6.1840, blue Toulon-sur- Mer to Paris	8.2.1842, blue Marseille to Paris	9.10.1844, blue Naples via Marseille to Paris	6.9.1847, black Antwerp to Marseille
Route 10 1838-40, Toulouse - Montauban - Cahors - Uzerche - Limoges - Châteauroux - Vierzon - Orléans - Étampes - Paris 1841-48, Limoges - Paris					
	28.7.1839, blue ink Amiens to Bédarieux	6.6.1840, blue ink Rochechouart to Paris	19.9.1842, blue Nancy to Agen	11.4.1845, blue Le Blanc to Paris	28.2.1848, blue, Amiens to Osséja
Route 11 1838-46, Bordeaux - Angoulême - Ruffec - Poitiers - Tours - Blois - Orléans - Étampes - Paris <i>Railway</i> Nov.1846-48, Bordeaux - Tours - Clermont - Paris					
	24.11.1838, blue ink Bordeaux to Tonnerre	24.3.1839, blue Blois to Paris	20.1.1840, blue Pontlevoy to Paris	9.10.1842, blue Lyon to Parthenay	21.5.1847, black Vizille to Paris

Route 12 1838-46, Nantes - Angers - La Flèche - Le Mans - Nogent-le-Rotrou - Chartres - Paris <i>Railway</i> Nov. 1846-48, Nantes - Angers - Tours - Orléans - Paris					
	13.2.1840, blue Chabeuil to Angers ?	12.3.1840, blue Rambouillet to Paris	10.12.1844, blue St. Amand to Vendôme to Pezou to Paris	6.6.1845, black Angers to Paris	8.2.1847, blue Le Mans to Paris
Route 13 1838-48, Brest - Morlaix - St. Brieuc - Rennes - Vitre - Laval - Mayenne - Alençon - Verneuil - Dreux - Versailles - Paris					
	8.4.1840, blue Soissons to Laval	26.4.1840, blue Rennes to Paris	20.3.1842, blue Auray to Paris	22.7.1842, blue Oran, Algeria via Marseille to Laval	16.3.1846, blue Ille-et-Vilaine via Redon to Paris
Route 14 1838-40, Caen - Lisieux - Evreux - Mantes - Paris 1841-48, Cherbourg - Caen - Lisieux - Evreux - Mantes - Paris					
	8.11.1838, blue Oléron to Flers	30.4.1840, blue Caen to Paris	2.6.1841, blue Évreux to Paris	4.8.1842, blue Mézières to Flers	8.3.1847, blue Libourne to Drucourt
Route 15 1838-48, Le Havre - Yvetot - Rouen - Gisors - Pontoise - Paris					
	3.5.1839, blue New York via Le Havre to Paris	25.6.1839, blue Havana, Le Havre to Paris	13.3.1840, blue Le Havre to Paris	17.2.1842, blue Pontoise to Paris	26.10.1846, blue Vienna via St. Louis to Le Havre
Route 16 1838-46, Valenciennes - Cambrai - St. Quentin - Compiègne - Paris <i>Railway</i> Sep. 1846-48, Valenciennes - Douai - Amiens - Paris					
	19.11.1840, blue La Capelle to Paris	23.4.1841, blue Bordeaux to London	1.5.1842, blue ink Geneva to Hague, Holland	8.3.1843, blue La Fère to Paris	

Route 17(i) Supplementary mark used exclusively for mail departures and arrivals.					
	19.10.1842, red Meximieux to Melun	17.3.1844, black Le Merlerault to Evreux	8.4.1845, black Nyon to Yèvre	7.1.1846, red Villers Cotterêts to Lizy	9.2.1848, red Grandvillers to Gisors

Route 17(ii) Supplementary marks employed to show sequence second to sixth sorting.					
	DEUXIEME	TROISIEME 20.3.1845, red Versailles to Brussels	QUATRIEME	CINQUIEME 28.3.1848, red St. Germain- en-Laye	SIXIEME 11.3.1840, black Melun to Paris

Route de Genève 1844-48, Genève - Gex - Potigny - Dôle - Dijon - Tonnerre -Sens - Melun - Paris					
	15.4.1845, blue St. Jean-de - Losne to Paris	19.5.1845, blue Châtillon-sur- Loing to Sens	11.5.1846, blue St. Claude- sur-Bienne to Paris	1.4.1847, blue Sens-sur- Yonne to Paris	25.6.1847, blue Melun to Paris to Melun

Route de Moulins 1845-48, Moulins - Nevers - Montargis - Fontainebleau - Paris					
	18.7.1845, blue Clermont - Ferrand to Paris	19.9.1845, blue Entraygues to Paris	29.10.1846, blue Caen to Cette	4.9.1847, blue Aize to Clermont - Ferrand	17.2.1848, blue Bourges to Paris

The Revolution of February 1848 led to the 2nd Republic, and during the revolt looting took place at the *Bureau Central* and with it the disappearance of postal datestamps.

Mid-1848 saw the *Courier* postmark in use, lasting a few months, which is very scarce. So by 1849 a new set of markings was put into service, consisting of a new set of Route Nos.1-20.

Much of this work is based on the study of Dr Carroll Chase, published in 1937, titled '*Les Cachets de Routes du Bureau Central de Paris 1838-1856*'. I was able to obtain a photocopy from the France & Colonies Philatelic Society library sale during their Annual Convention in Charlecote.

The above is related to the first period in the Chase study, and I am currently working on the second period from March 1848 to May 1851.

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Cameroun Continued – A Mute Cancel Identified as a Railroad Postmark – and Elsewhere

Many years ago, Bob Maddocks introduced me to the concept of WAWA – West Africa Wins Again! Indeed, how true!

Most recently, in my article in the September 2015 issue of the Journal (pages 96-98), I concluded that a mute Cameroun cancel had been provisionally used on the *Chemin de Fer du Nord* from the time that the railroad postal service was inaugurated on 1 September 1919 until the introduction of a properly worded *Bonaberi à Nkong-Samba* railroad cancel, reportedly as early as 27 June 1920.

The responses and comments kindly provided by David Williams and Stephen Holder in the December 2015 issue (page 140) are much appreciated. Thank you, David, for clarifying my muddled analysis of the postage due aspect. Particularly fascinating was Stephen's illustration of a cover front bearing three strikes of a mute Cameroun cancel dated *17 Mars 22*, well beyond the range of use as a provisional railroad datestamp.

Initially, I thought that my case was shot down but, upon further reflection, the answer could be as simple as the mute device being subsequently reallocated for use elsewhere. As fortune would have it, almost simultaneously with the arrival of the December 2016 issue of the Journal, I found two loose Cameroun stamps – one on eBay and the other on Delcampe – with mute cancels. The one now extends the range of use as a provisional railroad datestamp from

18 November 1919 to 19 June 1920. The other example, dated *27 Sept 22*, is consistent with the time period of Stephen's example.

I compared all available examples of mute postmarks by superimposing images atop a light box. All align perfectly, confirming that all were struck with the same device.

So, where was the device used in 1922? Conceivably, it could have seen subsequent use on the railroad. Initially, there were only two trains per week in each direction. Travel time was one day up (Monday and Thursday) and one day down (Wednesday and Saturday), so only one postmarking device was required. I do not know when frequency was increased to daily service in both directions but, if by 1922, then perhaps a provisional device was still required for the second train. I am however not inclined to accept this conclusion, as a second properly worded railroad postmark has been not recorded until late 1926, and then only when the first device was apparently replaced with a canceller that yielded a virtually identical strike.

Another possibility is provisional use at another location(s). A check of the *Journal Officiel du Cameroun* and elsewhere for dates of opening of Cameroun post offices / postal agencies, coupled with the date of the earliest recorded properly worded town datestamp, identified four locales where a mute handstamp could possibly have been used provisionally in 1922: see table below.

Town	Date of Opening	Earliest Recorded Postmark
Abong-Mbang	22 July 1920	8 March 1925
Lobetal	4 January 1917; closed 1922	None recorded
Makak	16 November 1921	9 July 1923
N'Goumou	10 March 1922	9 January 1923

Another possible location is Dschang. A post office was opened there on 28 August 1920. The earliest confirmed postmark is dated 20 November 1922; 7 February 1922 has been reported but not documented.

Or perhaps the device was used elsewhere. Pending further information such as return addresses or transit marks on covers, the matter rests there. WAWA indeed! Thank you, Bob. And thank you, Stephen for your further assistance.

Marty Bratzel

Registered 'Autres Objets'

Recently, I came across two wrappers from 1955 which had been interestingly franked and dispatched by the stamp magazine 'Le Timbre' in Paris. The reason they caught my attention is because it is quite rare to send registered wrappers. The cachet 'Dépot Complémentaire' indicates that these magazines were sent to complement an earlier shipment.

The pink labels and franking are testimony to the reduced registration fee for 'Autres Objets' (A.O.), applicable to these items of mail. During the period of 1 July 1949 to 30 June 1957, the normal registration fee was set at 35F whereas 'A.O.' items such as printed matter and newspapers benefited from a concessionary 25F fee. On both wrappers 26F has been applied in total. This means that the remaining regular postage amounts to a mere one franc! Is that right? It is, as from 8 December 1951 to 5 January 1959 only 1F was payable for non-routed newspapers and periodicals weighing up to 60g. I have never come across such a substantial monetary disparity between a postal tariff and a fee for a supplementary service.

Neither of the low value stamps used, the 2F *Marianne de Dulac* (Figure 1) and the 2F *Cérès de Mazelin* (Figure 2), could be purchased at post office counters in 1955*. However, many of these stamps could still be found in philatelic circles and they were used long after they had been withdrawn from sale.

The recipient has treated these particular items with the same amount of care as most of us stamp collectors would do and has preserved his pieces well. While acknowledging that these items look like philatelic craftwork, in fact they are not. Moreover, we do owe stamp collectors much gratitude as they show us every now and then postal possibilities which we do not see often on a regular basis.

Most people would have torn off and discarded such a wrapper. In the best case scenario, the stamps would have been cut out and saved for a family member's collection. But fortunately (at least for me), these pieces have survived. If only I were to come across a wrapper with this franking from a non-philatelic magazine. That will take some time, I guess...



Figure 1

* Derek Richardson, in his display of the Dulac issue at the Annual Weekend at Charlecote in 2013, suggested that there were regular sightings of the Dulac issue on mail during the mid-1950s that could have been philatelic or due to the issue of remainder stock by the French postal authorities.

MLB



Figure 2



Edwin Voerman

Debt Collection Service

I read with interest Edwin Voerman's article on the Debt Collection Service in the Journal of December 2015. I would like to receive any information on the item below

which is apparently specifically for containing '*Valeurs non-recouvrées*' ie 'uncollected debts'. The envelope has a 31 August 1926 Hanoi backstamp.



Ronald Bentley

Metropolitan France did not use the '*Valeurs Non-Recouvrées*' envelope. This is in contrast to all other UPU member countries who had joined the international collection network. Like the collected values, all unrecovered values in France were put into the same envelope '*Valeurs Recouvrées*'. Occasionally you see sometimes that the office clerk has added by hand the word '*non*'.

Obviously the French colonies followed international practice of which the domestic collection envelope of

Indochina is a fine example. Why France itself followed a different path from other UPU countries and from its own colonies is unknown to me.

The evidence that the Indo-China envelope is about non-collected values can be seen on the specified amount to be paid and the affixed postage stamps. If the debt had been recovered, the costs would have been specified on a docket inside the envelope. It is a beautiful item and fairly rare, I think.

Edwin Voerman

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Museum of Philatelic History launched

The Royal Philatelic Society London is delighted to announce that its Museum and Archives will in future be designated as 'The Museum of Philatelic History'. The Museum will continue to be located at the Society's London premises.

By clarifying the purpose of the Museum in this way, the Society wants to bring it to the attention of a wider public and to encourage more visitors and researchers to take advantage of its extensive collections of artefacts and records. It also wants to encourage collectors and societies to see the Museum as a natural repository for relevant material in need of a permanent home.

The change of name also differentiates the Museum from other philatelic institutions with different functions.

For further information about the Museum of Philatelic History, contact the Curator, Wesley Tierney, at museumarchives@rpsl.org.uk or on 020 7486 1044, who will be delighted to welcome visitors by appointment.

Further information for editors: The Museum's collections of philatelic history include artefacts and materials relating to printing, postal administrations, philatelic exhibitions, philatelic accessories and collectors. The Archives include the records of the RPSL, important records of the Perkins Bacon printing company and a vast collection of papers, research notes and records related to all aspects of philately.

(13 February 2017)

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 17 FEBRUARY 2017

Barbara Priddy: West African Airmail Surprise



Cover from Adj-t-Chef Pierre Massa of the Dakar Garrison to Paul Massa in newly liberated Corsica, censored and posted at Dakar on 28 October 1943, with the basic postage paid by the *Franchise Militaire* and the airmail fee represented by the 6F50 in stamps.

Barbara Priddy opened her presentation explaining that when she had looked at the covers she had from the period November 1942 to the end of the war, there were an 'awful lot of them' but practically few were written up. The first half of this display was therefore to be called 'Voyage of Discovery'.

Barbara began with a series of maps illustrating the companies and routes operating during the Second World War. Included were the networks operated by *Lignes Aériennes Militaires*, *Air France* and *Aéromaritime*, the changing routes of PAA's transatlantic service and the British service between West Africa and UK.

The first covers shown represented undeliverable mail from France to French West Africa or vice versa in the immediate aftermath of Operation Torch in November 1942. We saw cachets such as *Relations Suspendues*, *Retour à l'Envoyeur*, and *Inacheminable*. Then followed examples from resumed internal flights from Niger to Ivory Coast and from French Soudan to French Guinea.

By April 1943 most of North Africa was in Allied hands and the *Lignes Aériennes Militaires* were able to open an airmail service along the North African coast to Algiers where it met up with Air France. Meanwhile, down on the coast, *Aéromaritime* was resuming service from Dakar to Cotonou, and in May 1943, to Lagos. We saw examples

of 1943 mail between Abidjan and Casablanca, Dakar and Algiers and Conakry and Lagos.

In February 1944 all Free French airlines were placed under one control, that of the *Direction des Transports Aériens*. The West African network was christened *Réseau Occidental des Transports Aériens Militaires*. A splendid cover was shown franked Dakar to Réunion, clearly by French airline all the way, but did it go clockwise via Cairo or anti-clockwise via Lagos?

Clearly the old route via France to Northern Europe and the Americas was no longer available, and in early 1943 routes and rates are variable and confusing. One registered cover paying only 18F25 displayed a very tortuous route. It started at Maradi in Niger, went to Dakar, up the coast by air to Morocco, then by rail to Tangiers, where the British Post Office put it on an *Aero Portuguesa* flight to Lisbon and Lisbon put it on a PAA flight to New York. *En route* it was censored in Bermuda.

After viewing, Barbara introduced the second half of her display explaining it would concentrate on the months leading to the end of the war and the restoration of services to France. She reiterated that due to the complex routes and rates, it was still a 'Voyage of Discovery'.

A beautiful large cover was shown containing messages from people in West Africa trying to contact their families

in Europe which was sent by the Dahomey Red Cross to the International Red Cross in Geneva. It was franked 322F, was posted at Porto Novo on 29 April 1944, was censored in Berlin, and reached Geneva on 9 June. Clearly at some point it must have transited Lisbon, but other than that Barbara could only speculate on the route.

The first part of France to be liberated was Corsica. It was evacuated by the Germans between 16 September and 3 October 1943, and Barbara showed a cover from Adjutant-Chef Pierre Massa in Dakar to his brother Paul in Ajaccio dated 28 October. Clearly it went by air up the coast to Morocco, but thereafter is unknown. In September 1944 the Free French government was installed in Paris and at some point soon after postal communications between French West Africa and France recommenced. Initially only postcards were accepted.

Many of the planes used were old, insufficiently maintained or badly designed and crashes were not uncommon in the late 1940s and early 1950s. We saw examples of crash mail on flights from Beirut to Tripoli, Paris to Dakar (crashing in Minorca) and Douala to Niamey. Barbara related the unfortunate history of the long-range flying-boat manufactured by Latécoère, the Laté-631, which Air France commissioned to fly directly from France to the Antilles and which was tried out on the old route via Dakar to South America. It was a beautiful creature but unfortunately not held together very well: on its first flight in South America an engine came loose from its moorings and killed two passengers. Undaunted, Latécoère built more flying-boats to the same specification and service to the Antilles began in July 1947: by 1948 two more aircraft had vanished into the Atlantic and the service was suspended.

The last two frames displayed rate tables and covers divided into three categories – French West Africa to France, French West Africa to Europe and French West Africa to non-French Africa. There was often little parity between the published rates and the actual frankings.

After lunch, members were invited to show a few sheets of their own.

Alan Bourne gave a comprehensive display of the private

postal systems during the period of the Paris *Commune* showing labels produced by three agencies – Lorin-Maury, Edouard and de Tédesco. Alan acknowledged that one had to beware of reprints and forgeries.

Hugh Loudon displayed his collection of *Journée du Timbre* issues each with an informative description of the design. The display terminated in 2000 when the occasion was renamed *Fête du Timbre*.

Richard Broadhurst put up several airmail covers in search of comments and observations from other members. Highlights were a 1925 long distance flight cover to Dakar, a trans-Saharan test flight to Chad and a souvenir cover bearing the 1927 *Salon International de l'Aviation* overprints on the 2F and 5F Merson.

Maurice Alder related the last few years in the life of the Sage issue when, after the failure to find a replacement design in competition, the stamp was 're-issued' and continued into the 20th century. *Millésime* pairs of the 15c were shown displaying gutter margin widths varying between 11 and 13 millimetres.

Len Barnes gave a comprehensive display of Red Cross booklets from 1914 to 2008 giving members the opportunity to see some of the scarcer printings.

Mick Bister put up two frames. The first illustrated the 25c Visiting Card Rate from 1920 to 1925 unrecorded by Alexandre, Brun *et al* and Derek Richardson in their respective books on postal tariffs* and the second showed examples of mail sent from Vichy France to the French colonies.

Mick Bister gave the vote of thanks to all members who had contributed to such an enjoyable day and particularly to Barbara for her most entertaining and colourful display of French West African Airmails.

Members present: Maurice Alder, Len Barnes, Mick Bister, Alan Bourne, Richard Broadhurst, Dominic Joyeux, Hugh Loudon, Barbara Priddy, Michael Wright.

*An article on the 25c Visiting Card Rate will be published in a future edition of the Journal.

BMKP/MLB