

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



A pair of the 3F on 5F *Tuareg* issue of French Sudan cancelled 4 June 1929 paying the 6F Scandinavia airmail rate from Bougouni to Linköping, Sweden, made up of the 1F50 foreign letter rate, 3F first leg to Paris airmail fee and 1F50 second leg to Malmö airmail fee.

Read Mick Bister's article '*The Joseph de la Nèzière pictorials of French West Africa*' on pages 5-18 for a full account of these iconic colonial issues.

Volume 68 ● Number 1

April 2018

Whole Number 286

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

Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

Officers

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

General Secretary: D J Hogarth, 12 Moyness Park Drive, Blairgowrie PH10 6LX (email: 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.

2017-18 Annual Subscription Rates

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

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

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

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

The Journal

The Society's Journal is published in April, August and December.

It is printed and distributed by Joshua Horgan Print & Design, 246 Marston Road, Oxford OX3 0EL from the Editor's PDF copy.

The price is included in members' subscriptions.

The contents are copyright.

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: D J Chalcraft, 2 Woodfield Road, London W5 1SJ (Telephone 020 8997 0622).

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:

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

Group Convenors

London Group: C J Hitchen

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; tel. 0207 622 4851).

Website Manager

Jan Gane (email: jan_g@iinet.net.au)

* * *

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

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

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

Journal Manager: Mick Bister, 7 The Slade, Wrestlingworth, Sandy SG19 2ES
Email: manager@fcps.org.uk
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, John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen,
David Hogarth, Barry Knox, Michael Round, Colin Spong, Arlene Sullivan, Paul Watkins
Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

Volume 68 Number 1

April 2018 ● Whole No 286

CONTENTS

Society Notes	2
Editorial (M L Bister)	2
New Members	2
Resignations	2
Members Deceased	2
Future Events	2
Exhibition Successes	3
Obituary: Bernard Lucas (P R A Kelly)	3
Data Handling Policy (C J Hitchen)	4
Philatelic Honours	4
Displays by Members	4
The Joseph de la Nézière Pictorials of French West Africa (M L Bister)	5
<i>Bureaux et Recettes Auxiliaires</i> 1887-1902, their background, function and operation, Part 1 1887-1894 (P R A Kelly) ...	19
Wrapper from Great Britain to Nossi-Bé, Madagascar (J K Courtis)	23
Digital Image Resuscitation - an amateur's method (D H Trapnell)	26
Digging for Dogba (S Binsted)	29
Shorter Items - including Questions and Answers	34
Cabolé - <i>Dahomey et Dépendances</i> (W G Mitchell)	34
An Experiment in Printing Colour (M S Tyler)	34
Philatelic Confections in World War II (D J Hogarth)	35
Free French 1944 Christmas Charity Postcard (R D Larg)	36
Reports of Meetings	36
Wessex Group Meeting of 9 February 2018: Richard Stupples & members (PRAK/AJW)	36
London Group Meeting of 9 February 2018: Len Barnes & members (MLB)	37
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 10 March 2018 (MLB)	38
List of Recently Published Articles (C W Spong, D J Hogarth, M S Tyler)	42
Bookshelf (M Round)	44
Books Noted (M S Tyler)	iii
ABPS Executive Bulletin March 2018	iv

SOCIETY NOTES

Editorial

For the first time in the history of the Society the AGM has been held on the Saturday morning of the Annual Philatelic Weekend in Charlecote instead of its traditional slot prior to the May Room Auction in London. Although we had to sacrifice the time of what would have otherwise been a programmed display we did have the advantage of an attendance more than double that of previous years. The officers' reports are to be found on Pages 38-41. A committee meeting was also held on the Friday afternoon which covered day to day matters and preparations for the weekend. Two agenda items though are worth mentioning here.

Firstly, the Society is required by law to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations which come into force from 25 May 2018. Will you please read the Society's policy on Page 4 and return your consent form as instructed. Many of you who are members of other societies, philatelic or otherwise, will already be familiar with the process. You will only have to do this once as the annual subscription renewal will automatically endorse your consent.

Secondly, we have decided to give our website a facelift. Our website manager, Jan Gane, is very keen to improve the site in an attempt to increase awareness of our Society and to promote membership. The improvements will take time as we are not sure whether the capacity of the current platform will suffice or if it will require upgrading. Watch this space.

We are always proud to announce exhibition successes achieved by our members. However, it is a daunting task to trawl through the *palmarès* published after every exhibition in search of names we hope to recognise. Inevitably, we might miss a name or even be unaware of an exhibition that has taken place. Please do not '*cacher vos talents*'. From now on please send us details of any medal or other award you may receive with full details of the exhibition and your exhibit.

Finally, I am pleased to report that I have a healthy number of articles in my in-tray awaiting editing and publication. As you will see from my AGM report most of them are from regular contributors and treat predominantly postal history and the French Colonies. However, many of our members, especially new ones, are collectors of the stamps of France and hence we need to address this imbalance. I would welcome therefore articles on French stamps, long or short, specialised or at entry level, to make the Journal more relevant to more members.

Thank you

Mick Bister

* * *

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome members 1464 Roger Booth (Sussex), 1465 Brett Boudreau (London) and 1466 Sid Morginstin (USA).

* * *

Resignations

We are sorry to lose members 980 Robert Heasman, 1057 Sam Barkley, 1064 Hugh Loudon, 1175 Michael St J Wright, 1257 Ian Ritchie, 1290 J Griffiths-Jones, 1322 Dr D Bakker, 1336 Ross MacNeil, 1346 Edward Piper, 1367 Michael Rego, 1370 Alf Taylor, 1384 André van Dooren and 1448 Dominic Joyeux who have advised us that they will not be renewing their membership, mainly for reasons of ill health, a change in collecting interests or because they have ceased collecting.

* * *

Members Deceased

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of two long-standing members, 162 Bernard Lucas and 365 J O Andrew. We offer our condolences to their families.

* * *

Future Events

Please do not forget to support your regional groups. All members are welcome to attend whether you bring material to display or not.

The **Wessex Group** will be holding its next meeting at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham starting at 10.30am on 30 June (not July as indicated in the Programme card) when displays will be given by **Ingrid Swinburn** on 'Censorship of French colonial mail and POW mail' and by **Carol Turner** on 'The French anti-malarial campaign'. After lunch, the afternoon will be devoted to members' displays.

The **London Group** will be meeting on 5 May from 11.00am to 4.00pm at the Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8JR when **Steve Ellis** will be showing 'Transatlantic Mail'. The following meeting will be on 4 August when **Mick Bister** is displaying 'Poste Restante and Missent Mail'. On both occasions lunch will be taken at the Calthorpe Arms and the afternoon will be devoted to members' displays.

The next meeting of the **Northern Group** will be held at Rotherham (Broom Methodist Church Hall) on Bastille Day, Saturday 14 July. Doors open at 10.00am with the meeting starting at 10.30. In the morning the main display will be '*Boîtes Mobiles*' by Steve Ellis. Lunch will be taken at a nearby pub after which the afternoon will be devoted appropriately to members' displays on the theme of 'Revolution' but in its widest sense – not only 1789 but also 1830, 1848, 1870, 1940, 1944, 1947, etc together with Revolutionary symbols and issues such as Marianne, Cérès, etc. Alternative displays will be equally welcome.

The next **Annual Weekend** at Charlecote has been booked for 1-3 March 2019. Put it in your diaries now; full details will accompany the December Journal.

* * *

Exhibition Successes



Lesley Marley and Patrick Maselis
Photo © Michael Pitt-Payne

Congratulations to member **Lesley Marley** who scored a hat trick with her thematic exhibit 'A Whale's Tale' at the Royalpex 2017 Stamp Show in New Zealand last November.

Not only did Lesley achieve a magnificent 93 points to win a Large Gold medal but also won the Grand Award for best exhibit and the Phyllis Turnbull Trophy for the best exhibit by a lady philatelist. Lesley was presented with the Grand Award at the December meeting of the RPSL by the Society's president, Patrick Maselis.

Congratulations are also due to member **Graham Booth** who likewise scored a hat trick with three gold medals won at Stampex International in February. These were awarded for single frame entries in the Postal History class entitled 'Liverpool Maritime Late Marks 1849 - 1956', 'The Toulman Packets between the UK and Australia 1844 - 49' and 'The Gibbs Bright Steamship Service between the UK and Australia 1852 - 61'.

At Nojex 2017 (Newark NJ, USA) in September last year **Ed Grabowski** was awarded Large Gold for "The Era of the French Colonial Group Type: The French Pacific Colonies",

* * *

Obituary



Bernard Lucas

Photo © Maurice Tyler

Members will be sad to learn that Bernard died on 3 January 2018 in his 87th year. His death brings down the final curtain on a philatelic partnership forged over many years with his great friend John Whiteside who drove the pair of them to philatelic events all over the country in his Reliant three wheeler. They attended our philatelic weekends for many years and also supported the Northern Group on a regular basis.

Bernard had many philatelic interests and his speciality was certainly the postal history of Iran. He was interested in the postal history of France and especially pneumatic mail. He had a wide philatelic knowledge and was always ready to share this with his friends and to explain in detail the many interesting and varied displays he showed.

He was a private person but contributed enormously to philately, having sat on the Council of the Royal and acted as Chairman of Congress of the Philatelic Congress of GB in 1979. He had been President of Leeds PS and a Fellow of the Society of Postal Historians. Outside philately he was a staunch supporter of Yorkshire cricket and a regular attendee at Headingley, generally followed up with a hot curry and the odd pint of lager.

Bernard was extremely good company with a lively sense of humour. When you were with him you were never far away from a laugh and a drink.

Peter Kelly.

Data Handling Policy

The purpose of the Society holding members' data (names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses) is for the efficient running of the Society. They will be used to send by post or email the Society Journal, auction lists and anything else that a Society member is entitled to. The data will be available to Society officers who need such information to run services such as the packets and auctions. Nothing will be disclosed to a third party.

The data is held by the Treasurer, at present Chris Hitchen, who ensures that it is kept accurate and up to date, in close liaison with the Secretary and Journal Manager. Any queries or questions should be directed to Chris Hitchen.

The printers for the Journal, Joshua Horgan, receive a list of names and addresses to which the Society Journals should be posted whenever a Journal is printed. Their statement of compliance with good data handling procedures is noted below. Address lists sent to them will be encrypted.

"We have now updated our good standard practice for data handling, with the new regulations coming into effect, and have now created a dedicated email address for all data files data@joshuahorgan.co.uk, this is a 2-step verification email which gives an added layer of security. All data is also put into an encrypted drive and is deleted within 2 weeks of completion of a mailing and any emails sent through to print@joshuahorgan.co.uk will be forward to the new address and immediately deleted from this one."

Agreed at the committee meeting held at
Charlecote, 9 March 2018

The above policy has been formulated to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which come into force from 25 May 2018.

We are now required to seek your consent to use your contact details within the parameters quoted in the policy above.

A consent form is enclosed with this edition of the Journal and we ask that you complete and return it according to the instructions on the form by 25 May 2018 at the very latest.

Your full cooperation will be very much appreciated. Thank you.

CJH

* * *

Philatelic Honours

At the *Salon Philatélique d'Automne* on 10 November 2017 our member Guy Dutau was awarded the *Grand Prix Littéraire* by the *Cercle de la Presse Philatélique* for his book "*La désinfection du courrier en France et dans les pays occupés*".

* * *

'*La colombe de la paix*' and **Henk Slabbinck** on '*Courrier du "French Shore" de Terre-Neuve*'.

At the Académie de Philatélie in December last year **Robert Abensur** displayed "*Les lettres pesantes du XVIII^e siècle, 1704-1791*".

* * *

Displays by Members

On 13 January, the 4th *Rencontres Philatéliques Rennaises* was held at the *Espace des Deux Rives* in Rennes. Organised jointly by our member **André Métayer** and *Philopostel Bretagne* the day brought together some of the top philatelists of the region and from further afield. Over fifty visitors attended. André gave a display entitled '*L'utilisation des timbres au type lauré dans le régime intérieur*' as well as two other F&CPS members - **Guy Dutau** with a display on

STOP PRESS

We have just learned that member **Robert Abensur** has been invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Congratulations, Robert! The Signing Ceremony will take place on Friday 27 July at the Assembly Rooms in Newcastle upon Tyne during the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain and we hope to publish further details in the August edition of the Journal.

* * *

The Joseph de la Nézière pictorials of French West Africa

Mick Bister

Once the preserve of schoolboy collectors who could fill their album pages in exchange for a few pennies, the stamps of the French Colonies have in recent years gained considerable respectability arguably no more so than the French West Africa designs by the 'colonial painter' Joseph de la Nézière and the territories they portray.

The Background

In 1913, French West Africa was a federation consisting of six French colonial territories: Senegal, Mauritania, French Guinea, Ivory Coast, Upper Senegal & Niger and Dahomey. In 1914 the German colony of Togo fell under Anglo-French military occupation with the French being granted mandate over the eastern sector in 1919. Although independent of the French West Africa federation, Togo used the stamps of its neighbour Dahomey. In 1920, boundary changes further increased the number of constituent members when Upper Senegal & Niger was divided into the three separate territories of French Sudan, Upper Volta and Niger (Figure 1).



Figure 1
French West Africa in the 1920s
© 2012 amadouba.blogspot.

Before 1913 the member colonies had shared a common design, firstly the Navigation & Commerce issue of 1892 followed by the Faidherbe/Palm Tree/Ballay series of 1906. The 1906 designs, imposed upon the colonies by central government, had not been well received. The lower and higher values with the portraits of General Louis Faidherbe, former Governor of Senegal, and of Dr Noël Eugène Ballay, former Governor-General of French West Africa, were seen to carry an imperialist message. Furthermore, the middle value depicted a species of palm tree that was unidentifiable, at least in French West Africa. The series needed to be replaced.

The Artist

The French West Africa administration was influential in Ministerial circles and was prepared to absorb the costs of a replacement issue. In 1909 (some sources quote 1908 or 1910), the artist Joseph de la Nézière (1873-1944), the official artist to the French Colonial Office, was invited

to design a new set of stamps which, while retaining a common format for the federation, would contain a different subject for each of the component colonies. De la Nézière was a celebrated artist and well known in government circles and also an ardent traveller. Wherever he went he took his artist's materials with him and returned from his travels with sketches and paintings in oil, watercolour, gouache or pastel. His first journeys were within Europe but he soon extended his itineraries to Africa and beyond taking in most of the French Colonies including, in 1898, Senegal and French Sudan (Figure 2). He had established his reputation as the 'colonial painter' and with his enormous pool of knowledge and experience he was able to produce subjects representative of the six colonies.



Figure 2
Joseph de la Nézière with
General Lyautey, Military
Governor of French Morocco
© 2006 Famille La Nézière

The Designs

De la Nézière's brief was to produce a bicoloured design incorporating an indigenous scene symbolic of each colony (Figure 3). He chose to create three stamps in a horizontal format - a street market scene (selling cotton and groundnuts according to the artist) for Senegal, a pirogue on a stretch of the Ebrié Lagoon for Ivory Coast and a caravan of merchants with oxen laden with gum arabic for Mauritania. For the other three colonies the choice of design dictated a vertical format - native porters shouldering raw rubber as they ford the Kitim River for French Guinea, a native climbing a large oil palm to gather nuts for Dahomey and an armed Tuareg mounted on a camel with the ramparts of Timbuktu in the background for Upper Senegal & Niger. Each scene is framed by patterns and images inspired by the ethnic styles of local weaving, wood carving and leather tooling with which de la Nézière was so familiar. In 1908, de la Nézière completed the artwork and showed it to Governor-General Merlaud-Ponty who accepted the designs without reservation. The next task was to commission an engraver.

The natural choice was Jules Puyplat whose talent at wood engraving was much admired by the *administration* and who had already demonstrated his skills at engraving dies on boxwood, a material which responds well to the execution of very fine details. However, Puyplat was already working on designs for other colonies and it was decided that he should be responsible for engraving only the dies for the French Guinea and Mauritania issues. Émile Froment was therefore commissioned to engrave the dies for the Ivory Coast and Upper Senegal & Niger issues and Abel Mignon for the Dahomey and Senegal issues. Each engraver was required to produce two dies for each design, one for the frame and one for the centre subject.

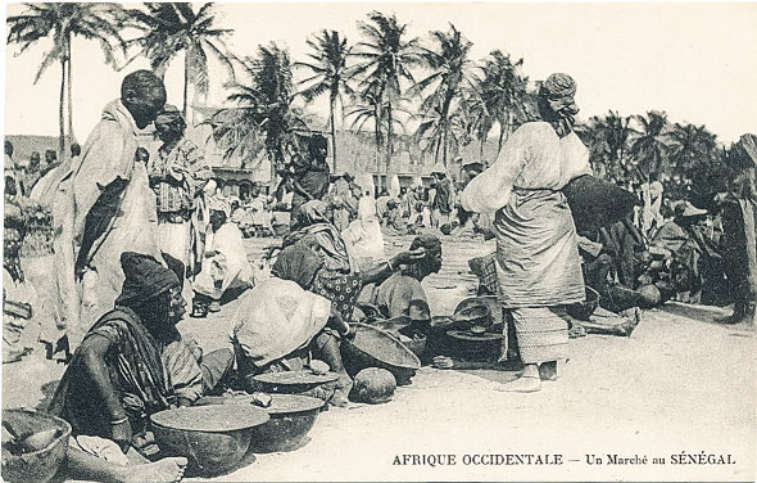
Figure 3
Examples of early 20th century postcards depicting the type of scenes which inspired de la Nézière's stamp designs.



Pirogue on Ebrié Lagoon,
Ivory Coast



Gathering palm oil nuts in
Dahomey



Street market in Dakar, Senegal



Tuaregs crossing the Sahara



Fording the Kitim in French
Guinea

Émile Froment, like Jules Puyplat, was experienced in engraving dies on wood. However, Abel Mignon was less confident and so prior to committing himself to engraving

the dies on boxwood he produced an intaglio essay die on bronze. His progress in producing the Dahomey and Senegal dies is shown below (Figure 4a and 4b).

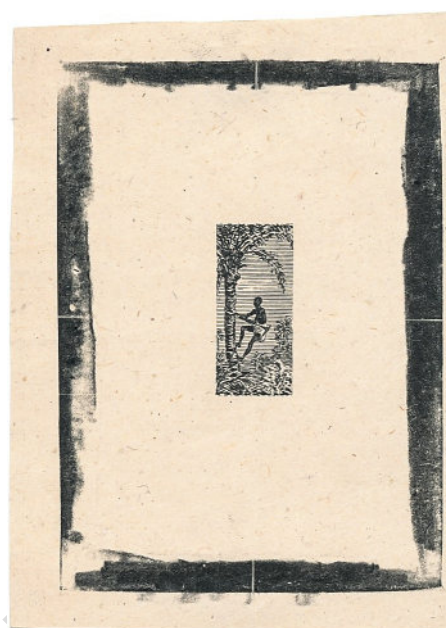


Figure 4a

The tree-climber design for Dahomey engraved by Abel Mignon in clockwise order:

Intaglio essay engraved on bronze

Surface-printed die proof of centre subject engraved on boxwood

Final die proof uniting centre subject and *sans valeur* frame in inks 518 (deep violet) and N° 414 (red orange), an unissued colour combination. Signed A Mignon.



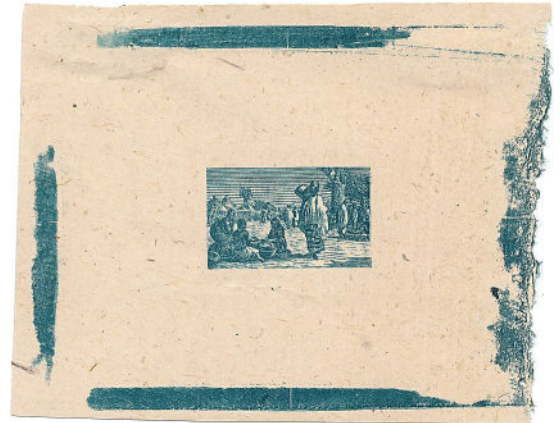
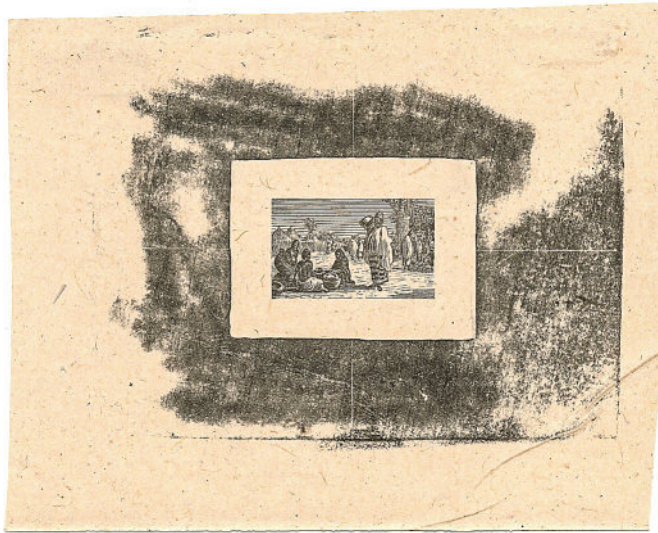


Figure 4b

The street market scene for Senegal engraved by Abel Mignon in clockwise order:

Die proof of centre subject engraved on boxwood with vertical and horizontal guidelines

Die proof of centre subject engraved on boxwood without guidelines

Final die proof uniting centre subject and *sans valeur* frame

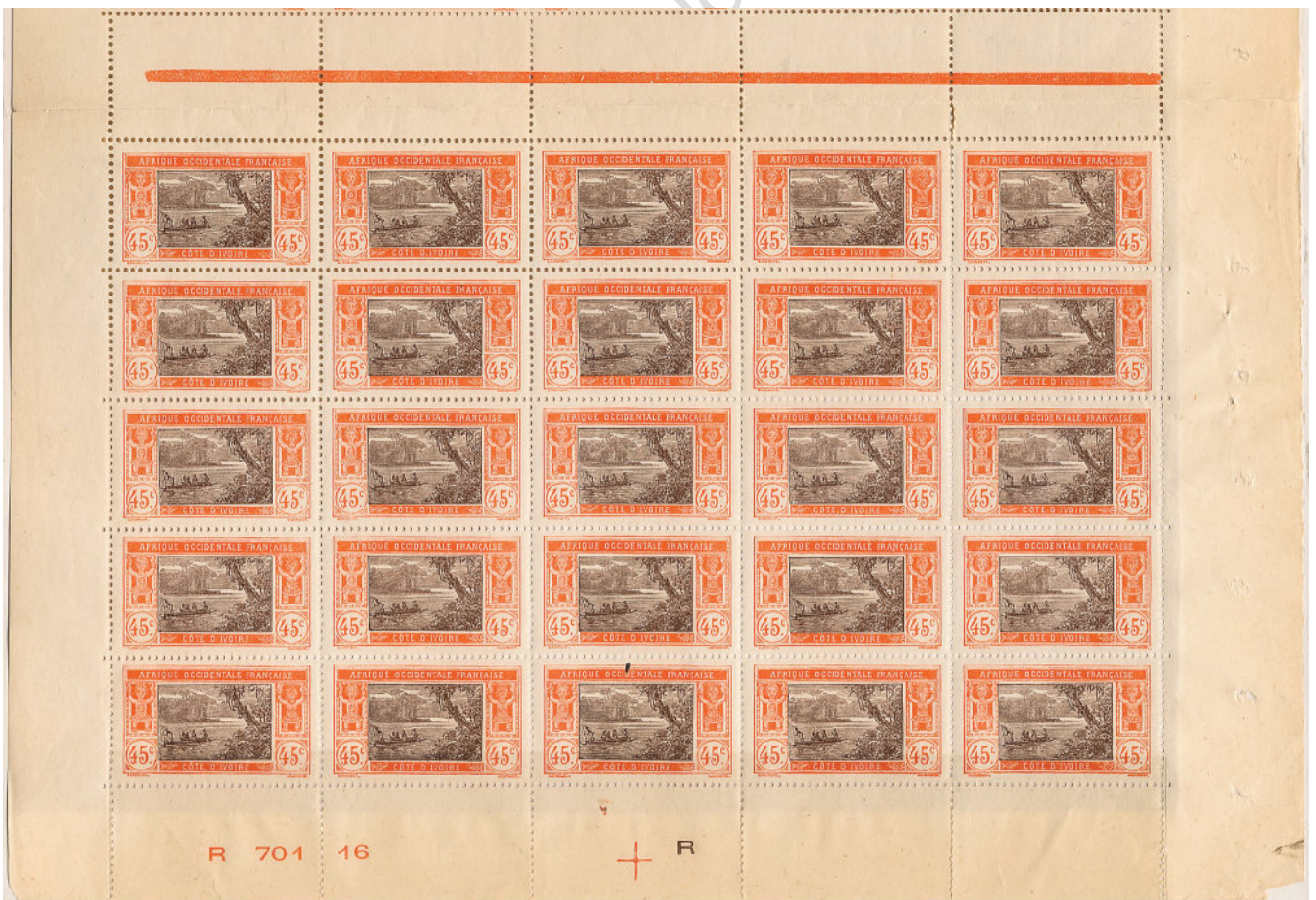


Figure 5

Pane of 25 (reduced) of the 45c Ivory Coast stamp issued in October 1913. The inscriptions in the bottom selvedge indicate the press operator (R) the date of printing (7 January) and the press number (16)

The Sheet Printings

The dies were all ready by the end of 1911 but with the large number of secondary dies and plates to be made and with a backlog of printing for colonies yet to receive their first pictorial sets, yet alone a replacement, it is unlikely that printing started until the end of 1912 or early 1913. The stamps were surface printed (typography) on flat bed printing presses. Printed in sheets of six panes of 25, each sheet was cut vertically to create a sheet of three panes of 25 which could then be folded twice or separated into

individual panes to fit the post office counter stock book (Figure 5).

The first stamps to be dispatched to the colonies were those of Mauretania which were issued in 1913 possibly in May. Next came French Guinea (around August 1913) Dahomey and Ivory Coast (October 1913 or later) and finally Senegal and Upper Senegal & Niger in March 1914. Each colony was provided with the same sixteen values ranging from 1c to 5f but in different combinations of colours (Figure 6a and b). The exception for each colony was in response to



Figure 6a
Examples of the first issues of Dahomey and Upper Senegal & Niger



Figure 6b
Examples of the first issues of Senegal and Ivory Coast



Figure 6c
Examples of the first issues of French Guinea and Mauritania in regulation UPU colours

the UPU ruling that required stamps franking mail going abroad to be printed in green for printed matter, red for postcards and blue for letters (Figure 6c). The first printings were on ordinary paper although chalk-surfaced paper was employed for some of the later printings.

The Booklet Printings

From 1913, booklets were issued in all of the constituent

colonies with the exception of Niger and Togo, with new printings progressively taking place between 1914 and 1922 as rates and borders changed. The configuration for the 5c value booklets was ten panes of four stamps (Figure 7a). The remaining values, 10c, 15c and 25c, were issued in booklets containing five panes (Figure 7b). Printings on both ordinary and chalk-surface paper are known.

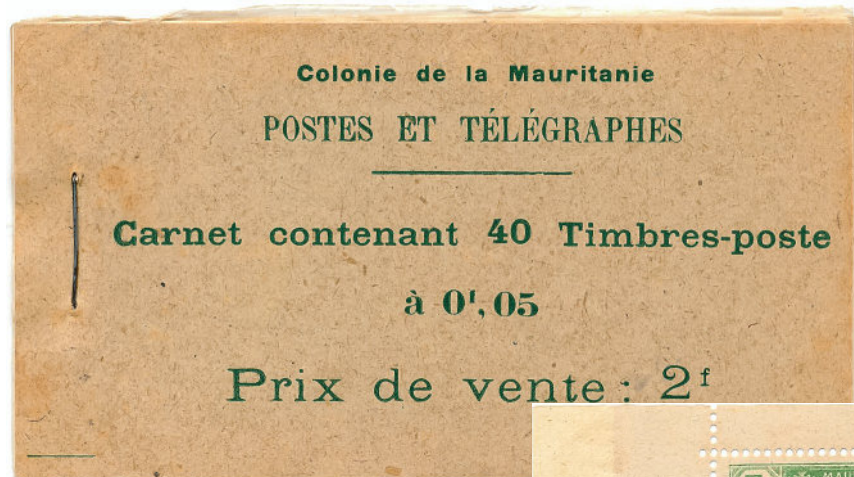


Figure 7a
1913 Mauritania booklet of 40 x 5c on ordinary paper

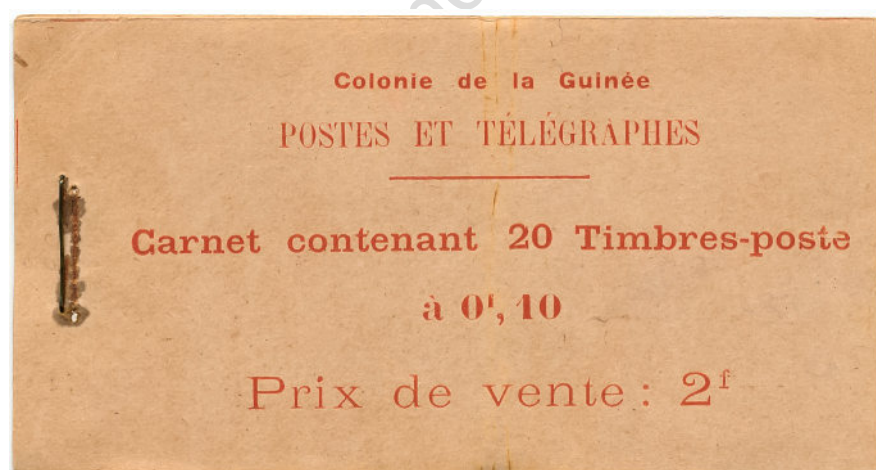


Figure 7b
1913 French Guinea booklet of 20 x 10c on chalk-surfaced paper.



The Overprints

The denominations of the 1913 issue corresponded to the postal rates which had been in effect since May 1910. Future printings were necessitated each time there was an increase in rates, the first being in January 1917. With the post-war depression and the resultant period of inflation and fall in the value of the franc, postage rates were being constantly increased particularly with regards to the overseas tariffs. In the period between 1913 and 1926 the basic foreign letter rate rose from 25c to 50c (April 1921), 75c (April 1924), 1f (July 1925), 1.25 (Feb 1926) and finally to 1f50 (Aug 1926). With many of these changes, in both domestic and foreign rates, it became no longer feasible to keep pace with them by printing new stamps. The authorities therefore had occasional recourse to overprinting remainder stock held in Paris or devising other means to provide provisional issues until a definitive stamp in the appropriate value and colours could be printed. A typical sequence of events is illustrated in **Figure 8**.



1) The 75c Mauritania issue of 1913 is made redundant by domestic rate changes in May 1926.



2) The 75c plates are cleaned to print a provisional issue in red in accordance with UPU regulations for the foreign postcard rate. The stamp is overprinted 90c to meet the new August 1926 rate and issued in April 1927.



3) The definitive 90c issue is printed from new plates and in UPU colours and eventually issued in May 1930.

Figure 8

There were other reasons for overprinting stamps. On 18 August 1914, the French postal authorities proposed the creation of the first French charity stamp by the application of a 5 centimes surcharge on the basic letter rate stamp in support of the Red Cross. The surcharge was applied to the 10c value of each of the six colonies and issued around March and April 1915 (**Figure 9a**). Senegal and Mauritania repeated the initiative in 1918 by which time the letter rate had risen to 15c (**Figure 9b**). All the Red Cross issues were demonetised with effect from 1 April 1921.



Figure 9a
1915 10c + 5c Red Cross issue of Ivory Coast

Ivory Coast had a unique reason for overprinting three of its issues. Due to the requisitioning of metal for the war effort, small denomination coins were in short supply in the Colony. On 14 March 1920, Governor Lapalud gave orders for the production of substitute coinage in the form of *timbres-monnaie* to the value of 8,000 francs. 60,000, 50,000 and 40,000 copies of the 5c, 10c and 25c stamps

respectively were mounted on perforated sheets of card, overprinted *Valeur d'échange* and circulated as money during the five year shortage until their withdrawal on 14 October 1925 (**Figure 10**).

Less information is known about the revenue overprints on Ivory Coast stamps which possibly originate from the same period and which are likely to have been the response to a shortage of fiscal stamps.

The author has in his collection examples of the 1913 10c and 30c values overprinted *CONTRATS DIVERS Tarif 0/05 %* (**Figure 11**) and has seen examples of the 10c overprinted *QUITTANCES RECUS ET DÉCHARGÉS* and *LIBÉRATIONS Tarif 0/10%*. A fourth overprint, *MUTATIONS IMMOBILIÈRES* has also been reported together with the observation that the printing numbers were very low, in some cases only 100 copies.

In 1941 a set of four specially designed stamps to raise funds for the National Defence Fund was prepared for

issue in most of the pro-Vichy colonies. However, for each of the French West Africa colonies, a miscellany of remainder stocks held in Paris were overprinted instead with 'Secours National' and a surcharge. Each colony received the same four denominations and surcharge values but only Dahomey was supplied with remainders of the de la Nézière design left over from the 1913, 1926, 1930 and 1938 issues (**Figure 12**).

Occupation and Territory Re-organisation Issues



Figure 9b
1918 15c + 5c Red Cross issue of Mauritania

As mentioned in the introduction, the German colony of Togo was occupied by Anglo-French forces from 1914 to 1919. From 1916 the de la Nézière issues of neighbouring Dahomey were used overprinted *TOGO Occupation franco-anglaise* and in 1919 when France was given mandate to administer Togo a new series was issued overprinted simply *TOGO* (**Figure 13**).



Figure 10
Timbres-monnaie circulated in Ivory Coast between 1920 and 1925



Figure 11
Ivory Coast provisional Revenue overprints



Figure 12
1941 National Defence Fund overprints for Dahomey

After World War I it became evident that the vast territory of Upper Senegal & Niger was becoming unmanageable as a single entity. It was the largest of the colonies and united regions that were under both military and civil administration. By a decree of the 1 March 1919, the colony was divided into three parts. This took effect on 4 December 1920. Niger remained as a military territory and Upper Senegal was divided into two colonies under civil administration - six provinces creating Upper Volta and the remainder reverting to the earlier name of the area, French Sudan. Eventually, on 13 October 1922, Niger became a colony under civil rule with a Lieutenant governor reporting to the Governor General of French West Africa.



Figure 13
Togo Occupation and Mandate overprints



Figure 14

Territory of Niger

Imperf colour trial for 1925
50c issue of Upper Volta
and French Sudan

Upper Volta

French Sudan

The three newly-created territories retained the stamps of Upper Senegal & Niger which were overprinted with their new name and issued in December 1921 (Figure 14).

The last printing of a de la Nézière design was for Dahomey which required a stamp for the short-lived 1938



Figure 15

The final de la Nézière issue of 1939

90c domestic letter rate (Figure 15). It marked the end of a long and colourful period of French Colonial philately which many collectors would say has never been surpassed. The first of de la Nézière's designs was issued in 1913 and his last stamp was issued in 1939. Adding the charity set put on sale in 1941, we achieve a collection of 437 different issues spanning 28 years.

Joseph de la Nézière died in Casablanca on 15 April 1944 aged 71. His memorial will forever be these colourful and affordable stamps, so loved by collectors of all ages.

Post-script: Postal Usage

The de la Nézière stamps create spectacularly colourful covers. Below is a selection of ten items (Figures 16 to 25), one from each colony, chosen for no other reason than that they reflect the glorious palette of Joseph de la Nézière - the 'colonial painter'.



Figure 16

Dahomey: Franco-Colonial 2f50 Airmail Letter Rate, Athiène to Paris 1936



Figure 17
French Guinea: 2f Franco-Colonial Registered Letter Rate, 2nd Step, Conakry to Nancy, 1936



Figure 18
French Sudan: 2f Foreign Registered Letter Rate, Timbuktu to Switzerland 1925.
Notice the considerable colour shift in some stamps.



Figure 19

Ivory Coast: 85c Franco-Colonial Registered Letter Rate, Grand Lahou to St Etienne, 1924



Figure 20

Mauritania: 50c Inter-Colonial Letter Rate, Chinguetti, Mauritania to St Louis, Senegal, 1934
At the time St Louis, although in Senegal, served as the capital of neighbouring Mauritania.

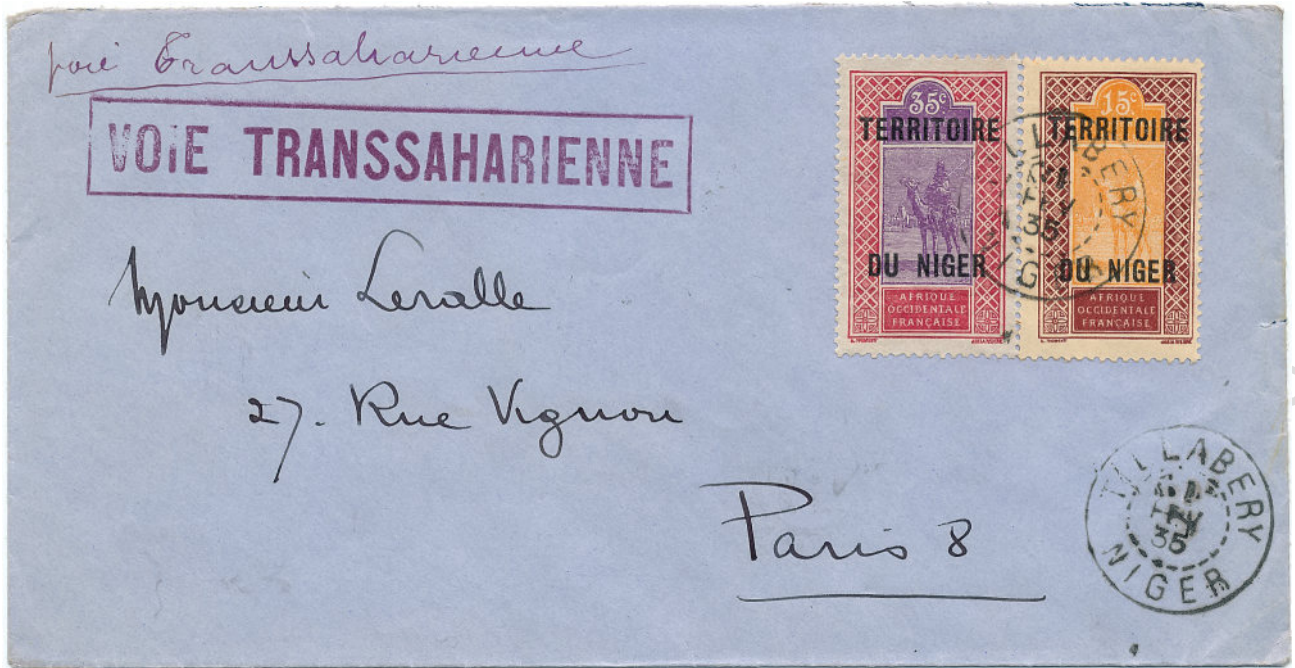


Figure 21
Niger: 50c Franco-Colonial Letter Rate, Trans-Saharan Route, Tillabery to Paris 1935



Figure 22
Senegal: 3f40 Franco-Colonial Airmail Letter Rate, 2nd Step, Rufisque to Paris, 1926, posted during the one year only when the basic letter rate was 10c more for airmail letters than for surface mail letters.



Figure 23
Togo: 50c Foreign Letter Rate, Lomé to UK, routed via Accra, Gold Coast, 1923



Figure 24
Upper Senegal & Niger: 40c Franco-Colonial Registered Letter Rate, Kati to Paris, 1918



Figure 25
Upper Volta: 25c Franco-Colonial Letter Rate, Ouagadougou to Mulhouse, 1924

Sources and Acknowledgements

'The Globe Trotter, Volumes 32-36', Cosmopolitan Correspondence Club, 1910

'Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste', Arthur Maury, April and May, 1912

'Journal Officiel de la Côte d'Ivoire', October 1925

'The Pictorial Issues of French Colonies 1891-1941', Robert G Stone, The Essay-Proof Journal, N°135-137

'Côte d'Ivoire: Et vogue la pirogue' Claude Jamet, Écho de la Timbrologie, July/August 1995

'Carnets des colonies - L'Afrique subsaharienne', PJM, Timbres Magazine, March 2004

'Postal and Airmail Rates in France & Colonies 1920-1945', R E Picirilli, F&CPS, 2011

'Tables of French Postal Rates 1849-2011' D J Richardson, Brochure N°7 (4th edition) F&CPS, 2011

'Les timbres-monnaie des colonies françaises - Côte d'Ivoire', Bulletin COL.FRA 3ème trimestre 2013

The de la Nézière family website www.delanèzière.free.fr ©2006. Thanks are due to the family for its kind permission to reproduce the photograph of Joseph de la Nézière.

A shorter version of this article was published by the author in 'Stamp & Coin Mart' magazine, May 2014. www.stampandcoin.co.uk

Bureaux et Recettes Auxiliaires 1887–1902

Their background, function and operation

Peter Kelly

Part 1: 1887-1894

On 7 April 1887 M. Granet, the *Ministre des Postes et des Télégraphes* submitted a report to the President of the Republic, M. Grévy, the contents of which were reported in the *Bulletin Mensuel* (BM) N° 7 of July 1887.

The report starts by stating that the Post Office had received 1789 requests during the previous year to open new post offices and this against a budget to finance only twenty-five. It was recognised that the possibility was available to the *communes* to open sub-offices in the form of *facteurs boîtiers* or *recettes municipales* but the conditions under which they were authorised to operate required all costs incurred by the Post Office to be met by the sub-offices and the *communes* did not always have the funds available to achieve this.

The Post Office now sought to remedy this, recognising that the rural population continued to complain about the loss of time and the inconvenience incurred in carrying out even the simplest postal or savings bank transactions in having to visit a post office that might be distant or difficult to get to.

Phase 1. The 'Bureaux Auxiliaires'

The Post Office offered a solution that it believed would satisfy the majority by opening rural¹ auxiliary offices, *bureaux auxiliaires*, at the request of the municipalities run by a person approved by the *Administration* and under the control of a *Recette* post office. He or she would only have to maintain simple accounts and carry out a range of basic and the most frequently required services, and acting as an intermediary between the main office to which they were attached and the public in the *commune* where they were situated. The plan was for the offices to be opened subject to the costs being met by the *commune*; this consisted of the salary of the *gérant*² that would be agreed by the municipality together with operational costs. The site of the office would be at the discretion and cost of the municipality and the *Administration* had no specific rules on the subject provided that it was on the ground floor.

This was approved and signed off by the President on the same day (7 April 1887) by a Decree that stated that the approval was conditional upon the operating instructions laid out in an *Arrêté Ministériel*. This was published as part of BM N° 7 (page 164) and was followed by *Instruction* 354 on the following page.

The *Arrêté* contained much information of interest to

postal historians.

- Article 1 This stipulated that the person chosen to run the office should be recruited locally and where possible from retired servicemen or civil servants. They would, after due diligence on their characters, be proposed by the Mayor of the municipality and approved at *département* level. They would then have to swear the professional oath. Their salary would be fixed and paid by the *commune*.
- Article 2 This lists the equipment and furniture that the *commune* would have to provide and would include the wooden sign "*Bureau auxiliaire de poste*" that would be fixed outside. An important point is that the rural post box would be transferred to the office at the cost of the *commune*.
- Article 3 The Post Office left the choice of hours of opening to the municipality but a condition was that the *gérant* had to be present each time the rural postman from the main office called on his round. This article also indicated the range of services that would be available. This included the sale of postage stamps and franking of all correspondence, the direct payment of postal payments of 50 francs or less to known residents of the *commune*, the despatch of mail cleared from the box or placed in their hands, the issue of payment orders or payments in excess of 50 francs being payments or withdrawals from *Caisse d'Epargne* accounts, the collection of bills and promissory notes (*recouvrements*), the registration of mail, mail delivery (see note later) and the facility to give a provisional receipt for any of these services.
- Article 4 Despatches to and from the office to which the *bureau auxiliaire* is attached are carried by their postmen. There are exceptions to this in that where a *bureau auxiliaire* is situated on a route covered by a private mail contractor (*voiture d'entreprise/boîtes mobiles*) or where there is a railway station in the *commune* with a *convoyeur* then mail could be carried by these means. There is also provision for exceptional circumstances whereby a *bureau auxiliaire* can maintain a direct relationship with a *convoyeur* or *ambulant* or even other offices to which they are not attached.
- Article 5 This concerned the provision of cash and postage stamps to the *bureau auxiliaire*, normally up to a maximum of 200 francs or such larger amount that is authorised by the director of the *département*.
- Article 6 The *bureau auxiliaire* was not required to have a proper accounting system; simply a daily tally of transactions reported to the main office each day and entered into their accounts. The *gérant* was not required to stand surety (*cautionnement*).

¹ In this context the word 'rural' signifies a *commune* where there is no post office.

² *Gérant* is the word used in the BM. He is not an employee of the Post Office as we shall see, simply, the person in charge. The meaning in French is "someone who administers but is accountable to another." The translation would be "manager" which seems inappropriate here so this article will continue to refer to him (or her) as *gérant(e)*.

- Article 7 The municipalities were strictly forbidden to meddle in the affairs of the *bureaux auxiliaires*. The *gérant* was subject to the service regulations of the Post Office and under the orders of the agent of the main post office to which they are attached.

In the *Bulletin Mensuel* on page 165 there follows a detailed study with regard to the organisation of the service covered in *Instruction 354*. This runs to some ten pages and is highly specific to each detail. For the purpose of this study the author has extracted such information as is of interest to postal historians and, specifically, how the system worked.

The situation with regard to the location of the rural box is clarified. Article 2, above, stated that the box was to be transferred to the new office at the cost of the *commune*. The *Instructions* (para 4) do not make this a condition indicating that if a *bureau auxiliaire* chooses not to move the box to the new office, nothing prevents it from maintaining the existing box, subject to the necessary approvals as a *boîte supplémentaire*, visited every day by the rural postman visiting the *commune*. In this case, the *gérant* would be given a key and could clear the box prior to the arrival of the rural postman at the *bureau auxiliaire*. However it seems clear that even if this happens, it would be the duty of the postman to visit the *boîte supplémentaire* as, technically, it remains on his round and he has to stamp his *carnet* with the box stamp.

The question of reciprocity with the railway (*convoyeurs*) and the mail contractors is raised. It is made clear that there is no reciprocity: the *bureau auxiliaire* could deposit mail with them under certain conditions but would not receive anything.

The delivery of mail to domicile was not one of the functions of the *gérant* and was an exception rather than the rule and was to consist of ordinary letters only unless there was some legal requirement to do otherwise. Any exception required authorisation from the *Administration* who would also need to approve the appointment by the *gérant* of another person to carry out delivery work.

In order to simplify the work of the *bureau auxiliaire*, the main office would only provide them with postage stamps of the following denominations: 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 10c, 15c and 25c, together with postage due stamps where the office had undertaken to make deliveries.

The point is stressed once more that the immediate payment of postal payments of 50 francs or less can only be carried out for persons resident in the *commune* and known to the *bureau auxiliaire*. This highlights the concept that these auxiliary offices were there purely to provide a service specifically for people living in that *commune*, distant from a full service office that may be difficult to get to.

Where a receipt for a postal transaction was required, the *bureau auxiliaire* would provide a temporary one and a definitive receipt would be issued by the main office that would be exchanged by the *bureau auxiliaire* against the temporary one. All of this documentation would be carried to and fro by the rural postman.

The *bureau auxiliaire* could carry out the registration of mail acting as an intermediary between the customer and the office to which it was attached. It would issue a temporary receipt for this as outlined above. The situation regarding insured mail (*valeurs déclarées*) was different and they were not allowed to accept such items, even as an intermediary.

Insufficiently or unpaid incoming mail would be taxed by the *bureau auxiliaire* which would apply the postage due stamps and deliver them against the amount due if they did deliveries. If they did not, the mail in question would be sent to the main office.

Each object received by the *bureau auxiliaire* would be stamped with its own date stamp and postage stamps cancelled as appropriate.

Finally, the date stamp cancellers used by the *bureau auxiliaire* were of hexagonal shape and this makes them instantly recognisable from the circular *recette* full service offices and the dotted outer ring circular marks of the sub-office *facteurs boîtiers*. The date slug was in capitals and contained within an inner ring of dots.

The name of the office and that of the *département* were placed between the date slug and the outer hexagon at the top and bottom of the stamp respectively as can be seen from the illustrations (Figures 1 and 2). There remains scope for confusion, however, as the date stamps of a very small number of *bureaux auxiliaires* did have a continuous inner ring which later became standard practice for the later *recettes auxiliaires*. An example is illustrated below from the Courgenard *bureau auxiliaire* in Sarthe in 1891 (Figure 3).

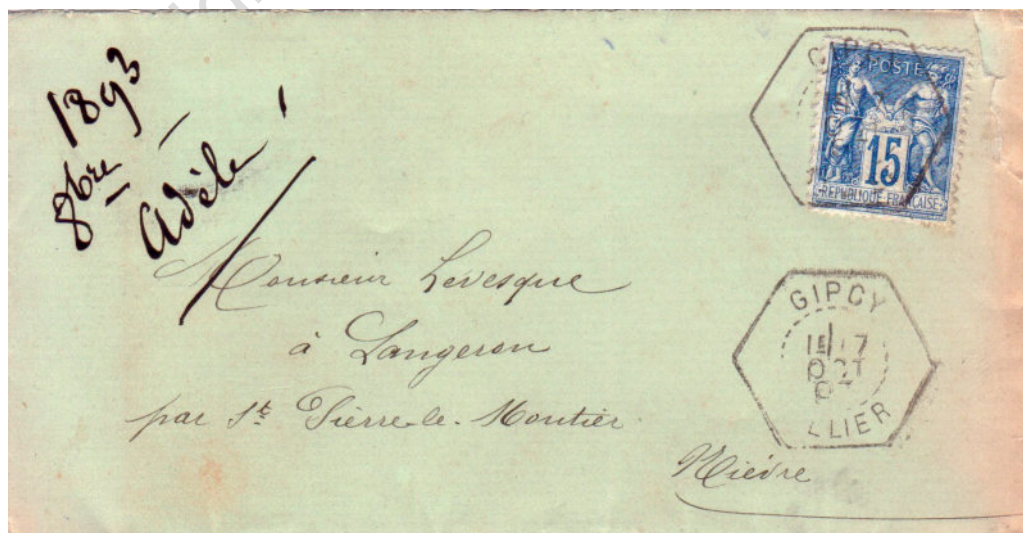


Figure 1
Letter to St Pierre-de-Montier
cancelled 17 October 1893
at the Gipcy *bureau auxiliaire*
opened in December 1887
under Noyon-d'Allier.
Population of Gipcy (1895):
748.



Figure 2

Letter to Angoulême cancelled 23 January 1889
at the *Poudrerie Nationale d'Angoulême** *bureau auxiliaire* opened in November 1888
*Government gunpowder manufacture and magazine at Angoulême



Figure 3

Letter to Lamnay cancelled 18 December 1891 at the Courgenard *bureau auxiliaire*
opened in November 1890 under La Ferté-Bernard.
Population of Lamnay (1895): 716
Cancellation variant: inner continuous ring.

Overview

Despite the need for additional post office services the *bureaux auxiliaires* did not achieve the level of growth anticipated and by 1894 only 109 offices had been opened. The problem was the cost to the *communes*, subject to their own strict budgets, together with the restricted service in terms of both product and especially opening hours. It was also considered that their role was often purely that of a link between the public and the office to which they were attached and of little real value in themselves.

Nevertheless, despite this lack of success, the Post Office was of the view that the concept was a good one and that a change in approach, in particular with regard to the funding aspect, might bear fruit. This led to the decision to carry out trials in Paris of a small number of new sub-offices also designated as *bureaux auxiliaires*.

Phase 2. The 'Bureaux Auxiliaires' trial in Paris. 1894³

France continued to lag behind other European countries (notably Germany and Great Britain) in the number of post offices and the requests received by the *Administration* to open new offices exceeded by far the number that were accepted by reason of strict budgetary controls. It was this that drove the Post Office to agree to a trial of modified *bureaux auxiliaires* in Paris.

This decision was published in the *Bulletin Mensuel* N° 8 of June 1894 (Pages 178-79) announcing the opening of eight new *bureaux auxiliaires* for a trial period. These new offices were to be run by shopkeepers or commercial businesses providing a wider range of services than those outlined in 1887 and, most importantly, where the setting up and running costs were to be included in the Post Office budget; in other words, a complete change from the 1887 Decree. This is, at first sight, confusing. The organisation and service provided by the Paris *bureaux auxiliaires* as is detailed below, is completely different to that of the rural *bureaux auxiliaires* and is the precursor for the *recettes auxiliaires* that follow in 1895.

The service consisted of the sale of postage stamps, the issue and payment of payment orders (*mandats-poste*) up to 300 francs, the payment of postal orders (*bons de poste*), the registration and despatch of registered mail, the franking of ordinary correspondence and the receipt at the office of reduced price items (*objets à prix réduits* or O.P.R.). Once

again, insured mail could not be handled by them either directly or as an intermediary of the office to which they were attached. As part of the extension of services offered the *bureaux auxiliaires* could also incorporate telephone and telegraph services.

The *gérant* would continue to be a member of the public. He/she could be a shop keeper, tobacconist, or employee of a commercial business or simply a private individual. They were not employees of the Post Office but were subject to the oath of secrecy.

The *bureaux auxiliaires* continued to use a hexagonal date stamp but with the difference that the inner ring was continuous and not dotted as were the original rural *bureaux auxiliaires*. The number of the office to which the *bureau auxiliaire* was attached followed by a letter was at the top of the stamp and the address of the *bureau auxiliaire* was at the bottom. The purpose of the letter after the office identifying number was to cover the situation where a single office had more than one *bureau auxiliaire* attached to it. An example would be the offices of Paris 1 A / rue de Louvois 8, Paris 1 B Passage Jouffroy and Paris 1 C rue St Augustin etc. Paris 1 itself was at Place de la Bourse. The only exception to this appears to be Paris-32 B whose stamp showed no address. (It operated from the Palais de Justice).

Each *bureau auxiliaire* had its own postbox and all ordinary letters and postcards were posted in it. These boxes were cleared by a postman from the office to which it was attached and they would cancel the letters. There would therefore be no reference on those letters to the fact that they had their origins in a *bureau auxiliaire*. However, certain categories of mail had to be handed in over the counter and this included registered mail, printed matter, samples (O.P.R.) and parcels. These did receive the cancellation of the *bureau auxiliaire*. Thus, the most likely category of mail to be seen from these *bureaux auxiliaires* is registered mail.

These offices opened from 23 April 1894 in Paris, followed by Marseille on 20 August 1894 and Nancy on 1 September 1894. They were a great success from the start and by the year end there were twenty *bureaux auxiliaires* in Paris and, within a year, more than thirty *bureaux auxiliaires* in the provinces. Clearly, they were providing a useful service, taking pressure off main offices at busy times and providing residents within large cities and towns with a wide range of services at a more convenient location. Indeed, the success was such that the whole system had to be looked at again and in particular, attention needed to be given to the old rural auxiliary offices that had not played any part in the trials that had taken place.

³ This section could not have been written without reference to Pierre Lux 'Les recettes auxiliaires de Paris 1894-1972'. This was published by the author in 1973 and the brochure remains a seminal work on the subject. It is available reprinted to order.

(To be continued in the August edition of the Journal)

Wrapper from Great Britain to Nossi-Bé, Madagascar

John Courtis

Nossi-Bé? Where or what is Nossi-Bé? A study of more than 10,000 used post office postal stationery wrappers of Great Britain found only one wrapper addressed to this destination. This wrapper is an 1889 issue of Queen Victoria ½d brown type WP16/E9 with four bolded text message lines. The wrapper is uprated ½d, and cancelled with a pair of the 26mm W [West London] / 5 MR 98 / X date stamps.

Madagascar, and therefore Nossi-Bé, was not in the Postal Union thereby explaining the reason for the uprating; Madagascar as a destination did not qualify for the newspaper concessionary rate. The wrapper is addressed to Mr. J. de Lastelle, Nossi-Bé, Magascar - the recipient was Joseph Lionel de Lastelle. It is the only known recorded example of a Great Britain wrapper with this destination (Figure 1).

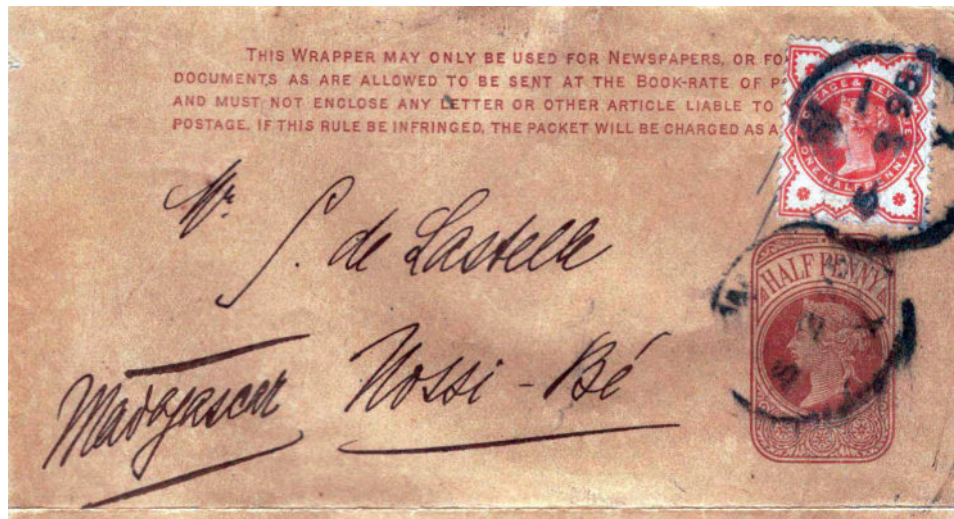


Figure 1

Great Britain E9 wrapper to Nossi-Bé, Madagascar

Nossi-Bé

Nossi-Bé which means 'big island' (also known as Nosse Be and the more contemporary Nosy Be) is a volcanic island of 113 square miles and is located about 5 miles off the northwest coast of Madagascar (Figure 2). It was also known as Nosy Manitra (the perfume island).

It was colonised by the French from 1840, and an outpost

was founded named Hell-Ville (Figure 3). The abolition of slavery resulted in conflict with the Malagasies who owned the slaves.

In the late 19th century and early 20th century the island was ruled by the French, using military force and diplomacy to maintain their position on the island.



Figure 2

Nossi-Bé: © Boldair - Relief et ombrages



Figure 3
Hell-Ville

The first inhabitants were 15th century Indian and Swahili traders who made it a regular stopover. Some of these traders decided to live there and they operated in the business of gold, spice, tortoise shells and slaves. Its *raison d'être* arose therefore from early commerce with India, Arabia and Africa. Smugglers and traders from these places had established a trading post in Ambanourou (Figure 4) with flourishing businesses. An early attempt to set up an English colony in 1649 by Robert Hunt failed

due to disease and hostile natives. Later, King Radama I defeated Queen Tsiomeko's army and she sought refuge on Nossi-Bé and requested help from the French. This involvement led to formal annexation of Nossi-Bé in 1841. When the queen of Hovas, Ranavalona I, violently chased out the Europeans, the French responded by sending in a task force. After an operation that lasted one year, the French succeeded in imposing a fragile protectorate over the island in 1885, with partial success.



Figure 4
Ambanourou



Figure 5
Joseph de Lastelle

Joseph Lionel de Lastelle

The recipient of the wrapper was Joseph de Lastelle (Figure 5). As one of 11 children, Joseph was born in 1870 to parents Charles Nemours Lastelle and Alice Hélène Amélie Bernard de Belet. Joseph in turn married Marie Louise Rachel du Pré in 1900 and there were five children. His marriage occurred after the 1898 date of the wrapper but indicates Joseph was still living in Nossi-Bé at the turn of the century.

Not much is known about Joseph but his presence in Nossi-Bé suggests he was either involved in import/export from the island or he was an owner of a sugar plantation with accompanying rum distillery, these activities not being mutually exclusive. Either way his lineage can be traced back to his great uncle Napoléon who became involved in politics and the aristocracy and became known as the Prince of Madagascar.

Napoléon came from a large family of ship owners and captains and when in Madagascar was an important policy-maker of trade, especially regarding the supply of the French in the Réunion Islands and the English in Mauritius. Napoléon settled on 300km of the east coast of Madagascar and built many factories as well as coconut, coffee and sugar cane plantations.

His trading empire supplied the Mascarenes, the west coast of Australia, South Africa and France while importing guns, furniture, fabrics, clothing, and “all kinds of objects of civilisation” for use in Madagascar. His empire and name were the background to Joseph’s activities in Nossi-Bé.

The Route

Newspaper wrappers were carried in closed bags from England and did not receive transit or arrival markings. The absence of these markings makes it difficult to corroborate a particular route. There are two schools of thought. One is that the post office selected the fastest route for the delivery of mails. Another is that the post office selected the cheapest route to the post office. Newspaper wrappers and their enclosures were often bulky and paid for at the cheaper concessionary rate for this class of mail.

The postmark 5 March 1898 fell on a Saturday. The wrapper left West London by rail for Southampton where it went aboard a French packet which sailed from Southampton in the morning of Wednesday 9 March according to the GB Post Office Guide. The sailing left Southampton for Marseille, and then through the Suez Canal from Port Saïd to Aden, and then to Mahé (Seychelles Islands) and Réunion to Mauritius. It was off-loaded to a French branch line from Réunion to Toamasina (East coast of Madagascar), Nosy Boraha (island north of Toamasina), Vohimara, Antomboka and then Nossi-Bé (the steamer continuing to Mozambique and Zanzibar).

Reference

Campbell Gwyn (2005), *The Early History of Imperial Madagascar 1750-1895: The Rise and Fall of an Island Empire*, Cambridge University Press, New York, p. 106.

Acknowledgement

My sincere thanks to Sheila Mackenzie for helping with the research and for editing an earlier draft.

Digital Image Resuscitation - an amateur's method

David Trapnell

Sooner or later you are likely to have wished that that handstamp on your cover was clearer. "Is this the same as the similar one I have or different?" you may be asking. The answer is to see the mark clearly. We students of postal history need to be like surgeons in the A&E department of our local hospital or like the conservators in our museums. But there is a difference between both those important tasks and ours. They are operating on actual people or real precious objects. What I need to do is simply to enhance and modify a digital image, "peeling off" the grime and ink that has obscured the image that I want to see.

I am not at all the expert like the A&E surgeon or conservator but a self-taught amateur who has made many mistakes and been severely frustrated. But, having learned that care and patience will work wonders on my "patients", at the suggestion of the Editor I share the following with you in the hope that you will find the process as rewarding as I have done. Like the A&E surgeon or the museum conservator, we must be willing to take all the time and trouble needed to achieve a satisfactory result.

There are many different image manipulating programs available. It so happens that I use *Serif Photoplus 8.0*.¹ I believe I can be of more help by describing only the principles, rather than details of particular programs. As learning to be a surgeon depends on principles, rather than this scalpel or that, so it is essential for the digital image manipulator to understand the basic principles of his software (speaking for myself, without having the least idea how my PC actually works!).

No one can rightly say there is only one way to restore a handstamp to something like its original appearance. What follows is a description of a method that experience has told me works. As long as the result is good, any method must be satisfactory, even if one is slower than another.

Such work, I find, makes my eyes tired after a couple of hours. The 'operation' which is described below was spread over three evenings. What is really one progressive process I have, for descriptive clarity, divided into sequential steps. The order is not critical but all the steps have to be taken. They are -

1 Make a digital image of the item with your scanner (or, get an image from another source - as in this example).

2 Copy the image. Never work on the original image. (Figure 1)

3 I start by trying to enhance the (copy) image. To do this, I find most often it is best gradually to reduce the brightness and increase the contrast. Of course this effects all parts, wanted and unwanted.

At this, and every stage, do not hesitate to undo the changes you have just made and try again! Most software allows going back a step 20 times or more. This is the button I use most!

4 Having obtained a fair copy, it may be wise to copy this and work only thereafter on the second copy.

Whether or not you do this, the next step is -

5 Rotate the whole image (or a selected part) so that the part you want to enhance is horizontal on your screen. Decide which way to rotate and then proceed. You will probably need to undo that change and try again until the bit you want is exactly parallel with the top of your screen. (Figure 2): This needed 4° clockwise.



Figure 1
Scan item and adjust contrast



Figure 2
Rotate image to attain level handstamp

¹ *Serif Photoplus* can be downloaded free from www.nchsoftware.com/photopad/download. Other software programs such as *Photoshop Elements Editor* and *Microsoft Paint* offer similar facilities

6 Crop off all you do not need and save the bit you want (Figure 3). There is no need at this stage to be strict. You can trim more from the image later if need be. Now – this is where the fun begins!



Figure 3
Crop image

7 Enlarge your residual image (Figure 4). It is much easier to see what is happening as one operates on it. It may even be possible to discern the outlines of parts of letters that one could not see before. Try reducing brightness and increasing contrast again.

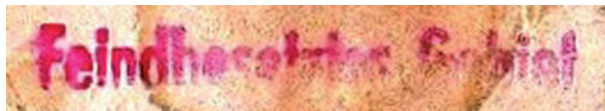


Figure 4
Enlarge image

8 Start by removing any obviously-unwanted part(s) of the image. To do this, put the colour selector (or color picker / pickup tool according to the software being used) on a part of the background that you want to become the norm in your enhanced image.²

Select a brush-tip (size and edge - sharp or indistinct). I find that one with a sharp edge is the best. If the brush strays where I do not want it to go (as it seems to do much of the time when one is in learning mode), the extent of its 'damage' can be quickly seen. If need be, 'Undo' what you have just done again and again until the error is eliminated and then re-start the process.

9 Always start where the image is clearest and work from there to where it is worst.

10 Having eliminated some of the most glaring and easily-removed unwanted parts of the image, make the brush tip smaller and continue to tidy up the edges of the letters by removing 'dirt' there. I aim to 'clean' the whole background as well as the lettering. Make provisional 'holes' in the letters 'e', 'b', 'd' etc. (Figure 5).



Figure 5
Clean the background and tidy the letters

11 At some point about now it will be helpful to change the brush colour to what you want the lettering to look like and to start 'tidying' the letters themselves - edges and interior.

12 If there is a part where the lettering seems to be completely obscured, leave that bit of resuscitation until last.

13 Study carefully the style and characteristics of the lettering and try to discern what lettering is hidden. Very helpful is comparison with other handstamps from the same camp/source/group.

14 When letters are unclear, I start by 'sketching' in a thin line of the final colour I have chosen (here on the "esetztes". Tidying-up follows gradually. (Figure 6)



Figure 6
Sketch colour into unclear letters

² Or an eraser tool may be used as in *Paint* if you prefer the background to be white.

15 When the top and bottom margins of letters are obscure it is also helpful to ‘clean’ a line in the background above and below the letters, allowing the level from the clearer ones to show the limits of the unclear ones — here above and below **Gebeit** (Figure 7). It takes practice to make such a straight ‘cut’ with the mouse.



Figure 7
Insert horizontal guidelines to establish margins of obscure letters

16 More cleaning of the background and the clearing the letters continues, next with a vertical guide line in the inner left edge of the ‘G’. (Figure 8)



Figure 8
Insert vertical guidelines to establish width of obscure letters

17 More cleaning of the background and clearing and tidying the edges of the letters continues until, at last, the ‘patient’ is satisfactorily resuscitated and can be returned to its original size. (Figure 9)



Figure 9
Final tidying up and clearing to create resuscitated handstamp

If the final appearance of the resuscitated handstamp looks a bit bent, as here, compare with the original. I suggest that the lower edge in the original also looks the same and that I have not introduced some artefact. Rubber handstamps do get deformed by much use.

Resuscitation is not difficult – just time consuming. Have a go! It’s worth the effort.

PS *Feindbesetztes Gebiet* means Enemy occupied territory.



Digging for Dogba

Simon Binsted



Figure 1
Benin 39 Used DOGBA

Some months ago my quest via *Cameo* for more information on my **CABOLÉ - DAHOMEY et DÉP^{tes}** postmark on a 4c Bénin stamp produced a very gratifying response and so I decided to take a chance on solving another similar mystery by calling on the Editors once again. Not only did Barry and Rob say they would be happy to publish my request but they also put the word out, which has resulted in another fascinating trail through the Dark Continent.

The original story was simple. A year or so ago, I spotted this 20c Bénin stamp (Figure 1) in a full-set job-lot of 1894 series used stamps with some fine used higher values and happily paid the 36€ asked. I had never seen or heard of DOGBA and couldn't find it any of my extensive library of 19th century West Africa reference books and catalogues and the only thing I found on the internet was that there was a battle at Dogba village in the Second Dahomey campaign in September 1892.

However, both John Mayne and Peter Kelly mentioned a 1920s publication by Langlois and Bourselet of which I managed to obtain a decently-bound photocopy from a splendidly named philatelic publications dealer in Paris, Jacques Putard, and in it I found DOGBA post office, but with no dates of opening or closing.

Meanwhile, Peter Kelly had been doing some serious research of his own and had come up with a reference to it in Robert Crombez' monograph "*Col-Fra Hors Serie 14 Dahomey: proposition pour l'établissement d'un catalogue d'histoire postale et philatélique*" which gave him a closing date for the office of 15 February 1905, which neatly served to indicate that my cancellation was probably genuine.

Peter also came up with another reference to Dogba that he had published a while back about an amazing card in his

collection that travelled all the way from Konkobiri down to Porto Novo (and on from there) in 1899. As he said to me, the Dogba mark was very faint – as one can see – and I myself cannot even identify it from the scan here (Figure 2), so I must take his word for it, but two other curious questions emerged from this.

Firstly, I did some research on Google maps into the whole journey of that card (Figure 3) because I still couldn't see anything of the village of Dogba except the usual Google place marker. Not only is there apparently no habitation there at all these days, but neither is there any at some of the other way-stations on the card, such as Carnotville and Sagon and hardly even at Konkobiri itself, so one has to wonder what has become of these places. Neither is there any logic to the route covered by the card: no river connects all of these places, so the card must have been carried on foot practically all the way from north to south.

Secondly, quite obviously, these way-station offices were in extremely small settlements, so one wonders why it was thought necessary for cancellation stamps to be made for these offices in the first place. Thus, the last nugget of information becomes even more fascinating: why on earth were there then, apparently, two cancellers thought necessary for such a small place as Dogba? According to the references in the Langlois and Bourselet study (Figures 4 & 5), Dogba Post Office only had a Type B canceller and that appears to be confirmed by the one on Peter's Konkobiri card. But mine, as can be seen, is a "Type E"!

Maybe there is someone who knows something more about this mystery, but for the time being we shall probably have to assume that both strikes that we know of to date are, in fact, unique survivors.

FRENCH WEST AFRICA

DAHOMEY

Mail carried from Konkobiri, Dahomey to the coast.



18 March 1899

15c Benin postal stationery letter card from Konkobiri to L'Hillil, Oran
cds KONKOBIRI, DAHOMEY 18.3

Carried by porter to Cotonou via a number of offices who have added their date stamps and have made the route quite clear. At Cotonou the letter was picked up by a Ligne M Mailboat operating between Loanga and Marseille. It was then despatched to Alger and onward to its destination in Oran.

Carried by Fraissinet Ligne M mailboat No 1 *Stamboul*.
Dep; Cotonou 23.4 Arr: Marseille 13.5

Note The scarce "Telegraphi Militaire / Benin / Poste No 2" handstamp and the route taken to the coast. (map on following page)

The sender was not impressed with Upper Dahomey. ".....I am now at Konkobiri close to the Soudan border It is a dirty dump of a place and I can't wait to finish my stay"

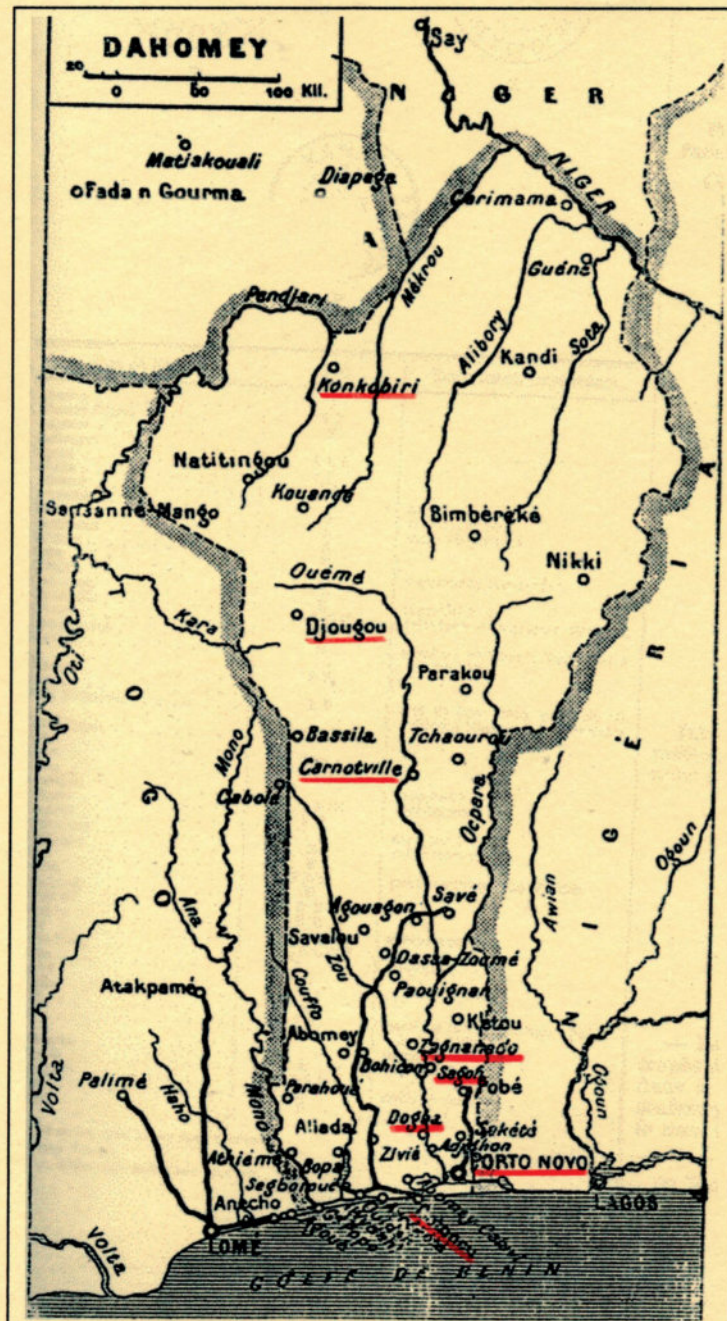
Figure 2
Benin Konkobiri card
(courtesy Peter Kelly)

Circle and arrow indicate Type B Dogba date stamp of 8 April 1899

FRENCH WEST AFRICA

DAHOMEY

Mail carried from Konkobiri, Dahomey, to the coast..



1899.

18.3 Konkobiri.

18.3 Telegraphie Militaire / Benin
Poste No 2

27.3 Djougou

31.3 Carnotville

6.4 Zagnanado

7.4 Sagon

8.4 Dogba

9.4 Porto Novo

23.4 Loanga a Marseille.
Ligne M

13.5 Marseille Depart.

14.5 Alger, Alger

15.5 L'Hillil, Oran

Figure 3
Konkobiri Benin card map



A



A bis



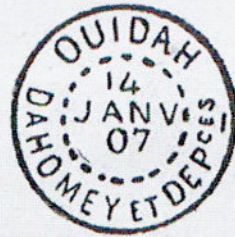
B



C



D



E



F

Noms des bureaux	Types	Renseignements complémentaires
Abomey	BE	
Abomey-Calavi	BE	
Adjohon	E	
Agouagon	E	
Agoué	A bis BE	
Allada	EF	
{ Athiémé	BE	
{ Athiène (var.)	B	
Attogon	B	
Avrékété		supprimé ?
Bassila	BE	créé février 1913
Bimbéréké	BE	créé 1 février 1914
Bohicon	B	
Bopa	B	
Cabolé	E	suppr. 27 février 1913
Carimama	E	

Figure 4

DAHOMÉY

53

Noms des bureaux	Types	Renseignements complémentaires
Carnotville	B	supprimé ?
Cotonou	A bis B E F	précéd ^t orthographié Kotonou
Cové	B	
Dassa-Zoumé	B	
Diapaga	B E	passé au H ^t -Sénégal-Niger, puis à la Haute-Volta
Djougou	BE	
Dogba	B	
Fada-N'Gourma	C E	créé 23 janvier 1899 passé au Haut-Sénégal-Niger, puis à la Haute-Volta
Grand-Popo	A A bis B E F	
Ghéné	B	
Guéné	B	
Kandj	B.C.E	
Kétou	B	
Konkobiri	B	supprimé
Kotonou	A	voir Cotonou
Kouandé	C E	
Matiakouali		passé au Haut-Sénégal-Niger
Natitingou	B	créé 1 mars 1914
Nikki	E	
Ouidah	B D E F	précéd ^t orthographié Whydah
Paouignan	E	
Parahoué	B E	
Parakou	B E	
Perere	E	
Pobé	B D	
Porto-Novo	A A bis B C D E	
Sagon	B	vu en 1897, supprimé en ?
Sakété	D	
Savalou	B E	
Savé	B E	
Say	D (1) E	passé au Haut-Sénégal-Niger
Tchaourou	B	supprimé mai 1916 ; rétabli, vu en février 1935
Whydah	A bis	voir Ouidah
Zagnanado	B E	
Zivié	B	créé 1 février 1914
Zougou	C	

CACHETS DIVERS.

Convoyeurs.

Les voies ferrées au Dahomey se répartissent ainsi :

1° Chemin de fer du Central Dahoméen, ligne de Cotonou à Savé par Bohicon et embranchement de Ouidah-Segboroué.

2° Chemin de fer de l'Est Dahoméen, ligne de Porto-Novo à Pobé et Sakété.

(1) Il nous a été signalé à ce type, un cachet à deux cercles pleins portant : Haut-Dahomey.

Figure 5

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Cabolé - Dahomey et Dépendances

I can offer a little further information in response to the Cabolé query initiated by member Simon Binsted (page 116 in Journal 285 of December 2017). These comments have also been published in the January edition of 'Cameo', the journal of the West Africa Study Circle.

In the year 2000, together with a friend and colleague in the United States, the late Laurence Lambert, I published an article in the F&CPS Journal on the post offices of Dahomey. We included tables of known post offices over the period 1888-1960 with dates of opening, closure and transfer. So far as Cabolé is concerned, we noted that it was recorded in 1907 and 1909, opened on 16 November 1903 and closed on 27 February 1913.

In the historical note that begins our article, Laurence and I commented that Cabolé was the only Dahomey post office affected by numerous boundary changes. We also said that, according to Crombez the post office was apparently not re-opened after transfer to Togo.

I have no information about the location and attractions or otherwise of Cabolé and have been unable to trace a record of postal facilities at Kaboli or Kambole, the new spellings noted by Maurice Tyler.

I hope this helps. I agree that this is a very rare cancel. The strike is very fine, being nearly complete and very legible. A real find!

Bill Mitchell

An Experiment in Printing Colour



In Journal 285 of December 2017 this cover was printed as Figure 1 in the article "South of Suez" on page 111. This version of the image was rejected as being much too dark and a lighter version that appeared on our laptop screens (that of Mick Bister and my own) was considered to be a much more accurate representation of the original.

However, when the Journal arrived from the printers the cover had acquired a distinct yellowish hue that was certainly not present in the original. Now I have a much larger monitor screen attached to my laptop (enabling me

to see detail of the Journal pages with considerably more clarity) and the overly dark image on the laptop screen showed up on this second screen as the more accurate version.

My theory is that the commercial printers also use a large more accurately calibrated monitor screen and that when this version of the image is printed it will no longer be far too dark but will be a more accurate showing of the illustration and nearer to what we sought in the first place. I await the result with great interest!

Maurice Tyler

Philatelic Confections in World War II

Figure 1



Figure 2

Two slightly odd items of mail are illustrated here.

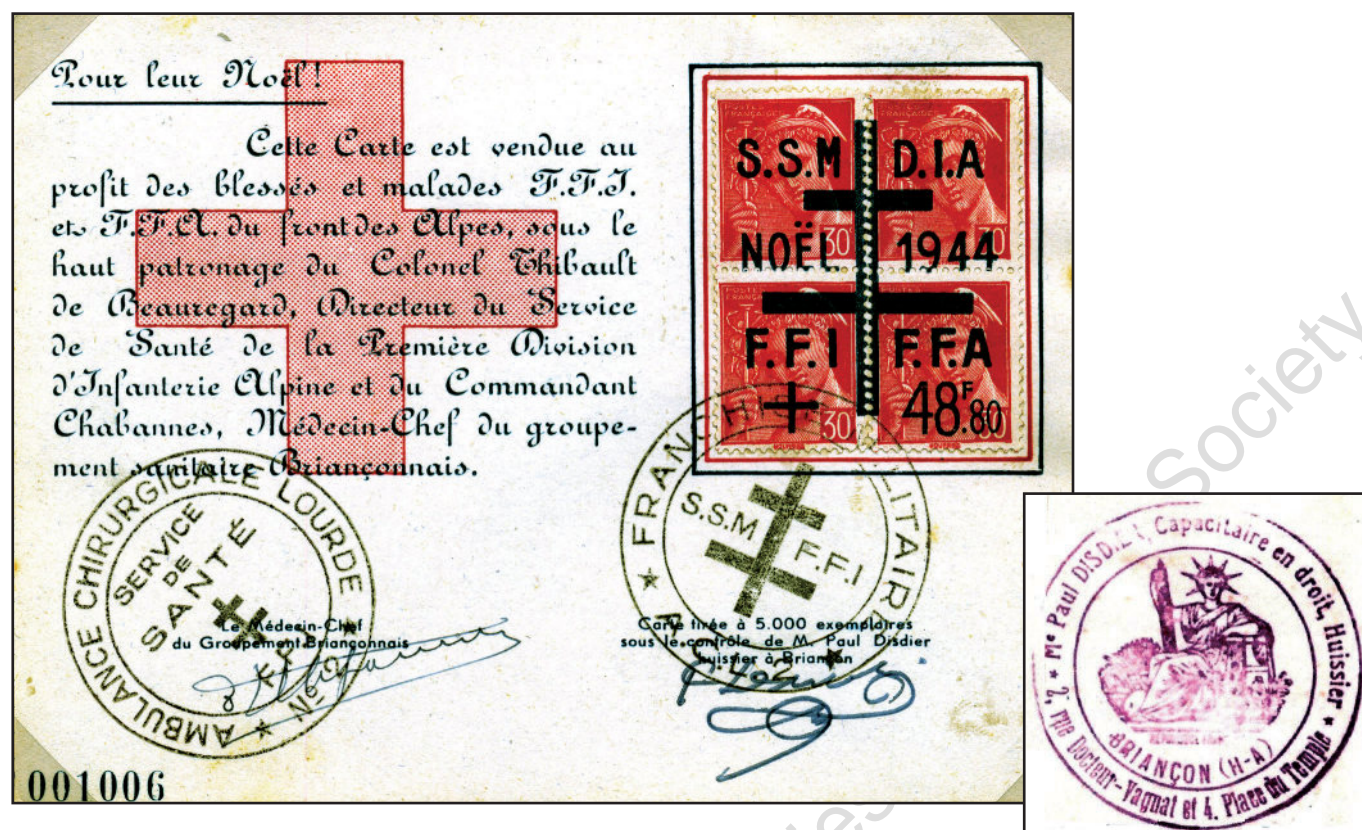
The first is a cover from the Camp de Gurs, or at least a cover using the camp canceller, addressed to Lille in the north of the country (Figure 1). It is postmarked 24 September 1940, by which date even the most ignorant writer should have appreciated that the only mail (with very few exceptions) allowed across the demarcation line between the two main zones was in the form of *cartes interzonales*. The boxed cachet 'RETOUR / A L'ENVOYEUR' looks 'legal', the other two cachets I have considerable doubts about. I have found no reference to either in Deloste: *Histoire Postale et Militaire de la Deuxième Guerre Mondiale 1939 - 1945*, though the 'NE PEUT ETRE ACHEMINÉ / ZONE OCCUPÉE' cachet represented the actual situation. The sender's particulars are not given, so the 'RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR' cachet is

meaningless. Given the clear camp cancels, this appears to be a confection. But interesting nonetheless.

On the face of it, a card postmarked in Marseille on 5 April 1942 and sent to an address in Haute-Saône might not be unusual (Figure 2). Haute-Saône lay in the *Zone Réservée* controlled by the German authorities and the card appears to have been censored with a German roller censor on the reverse. However in April 1942 Haute-Saône was not in danger of being invaded and the circular cachet 'LIEU DE DESTINATION ENVAHI' on the front would therefore be unnecessary as would the 2-line cachet 'Contrôlé par les services de l'État'. Again, Deloste's *Histoire* offers no help. It would seem that both cachets may have been added later as a piece of philatelic embellishment (unless anyone can explain otherwise).

David Hogarth

Free French 1944 Christmas Charity Postcard



I should be grateful if anyone could provide the background to the issue of this Christmas 1944 postcard, especially the

interpretation of the various initials present in the text, cachets and overprints.

Bob Larg

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 9 FEBRUARY 2018

Richard Stupples: The stamps and postal history of the Sower issue

The invited display was given at the Scout Hut, Harnham, Salisbury by our member **Richard Stupples** who showed his new collection of the Sower issue. Those present were impressed by the short time it had taken for Richard to put together an excellent display of this issue, showing a good selection of the stamps, a number of varieties and supporting postal history. As a relatively new member and collector of this issue it is an object lesson of what can be done over a relatively short period from someone new to the hobby.

After our usual lunch at the Old Mill the following members displayed.

Peter Kelly: Early postal history of the region of the Mossi people in southern French Soudan illustrating exploration and colonisation and the delimitation of frontiers.

Alan Wood: New acquisitions including *double trait* handstamps, fakes and a Djibouti cancelled telegram.

Jeremy Martin: Divisions between British and French interests in WWI.

Ashley Lawrence: Money stamps, with advertising, used after WWI because of the shortage of metal affecting the production of small value coins.

Ingrid Swinburn: St Nazaire liberation material and postcards with excessive text and old view postcards with modern day photographs for comparison.

Tony Howgrave-Graham: A very fine display of classic postal history material from different French Colonies including some fine Eagle covers.

Brian Weeks: Queries on censored WWII mail to France (BCM "A") and a censored letter sent to New York held by the authorities for four months.

8 members and 2 guests (Mr Tony Swinburn and Mrs Brian Weekes) attended and all members displayed.

PRAK/AJW

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 9 FEBRUARY 2018

Len Barnes: French Aviation

We were delighted to welcome back **Len Barnes** with further extracts from his collection of French Aviation which this time would concentrate on Cinderella material and ephemera.

The first part of Len's display began with promotion material for balloon flights at the 1903 *Exposition Internationale* in Lorient. Then followed aviation meetings from 1909 of which many were sponsored by Champagne houses. We saw postcards, vignettes, seals and a *Loterie Nationale* ticket promoting meetings at, amongst other locations, Bétheny, Lyon and St Omer. One frame was devoted to the flying ace Georges Guynemer portrayed on the 1920 precursor of the airmail label, on 1945 vignettes and postcards, on 1977 local stamps from Ile Barbe, and even on blotting paper advertising Pelletier rusks and depicting him engaged in a 1915 dogfight. The first part closed with proofs and trials of the vignettes for the 1922 Rouen meeting and vignettes from the 1924 Vincennes meeting including a very fine complete sheet of fourteen.

The second part of Len's display began with material promoting the Paris *Salon d'Aviation* including sheetlets of triangular labels. This was followed by a very fine cover flown from Vincennes to Dakar franked with a booklet pane of the 50c *Jeanne d'Arc* and an *Aviation Sanitaire* label. Then came examples of *Air Union* baggage labels and vignettes followed by a comprehensive selection of airmail labels, mostly from the 1930s in both sheet and booklet form. Later printings of airmail labels included a much admired edition depicting the silhouette of Concorde. Len closed with further examples of vignette proofs and misperfs.

After lunch, there was the opportunity for other members to show their material. **Paul Miller** showed us his recent purchases which included colour trials of the 1940-41 large format Marshal Pétain issues printed on tinted paper which were much admired. He also treated us to two examples of the promotion card for the 1936 *Chômeurs Intellectuels* overprinted SPÉCIMEN in exceptionally fine condition and a selection of 1960s FDCs from the 'Arthur Lowes Collection' he had recently acquired.

Barbara Priddy had brought two items from Cameroun, a 1992 cover to Canada and a 1994 cover to the UK accompanied by a question about the nature of franking. After much discussion it was agreed that although it resembled a meter mark it was more likely to have been printed from a post office counter machine.

John Ray displayed rarely seen village postmarks on cover from French Polynesia dating from the 1950s onward. He explained how the content of the outer circle changed from naming only the village and the island to later including a

third element, the name of the island group. Our attention was drawn to a 1967 Ahurei, Rapa strike applied in violet ink on arrival and to an unstamped cover from Hao that was both franked and cancelled upon arrival at Papeete.

Michael Round showed us material from the French Territory of the Afars and Issas (1967-1977). The covers showed the name changing with the territory's status from French Somali Coast through to the Republic of Djibouti. Items included *Franchise Militaire*, ordinary stamps used as Postage Dues, redirected military mail and scarce postmarks including the reopened sub-office of Obock, the site of the original settlement.

Mick Bister gave a display of the 1F50 Pétain in blue overprinted +50 SN in carmine in aid of the *Secours National*. Included were colour trials and a test overprint on the normal brown issue, still erroneously described by some catalogues as an unissued stamp. Mick also showed examples of the 1944 Liberation overprints on the 1F50 Pétain brown including a unique document signed by the mayor authorising the overprinting of the Montreuil-Bellay issue.

Finally **Richard Broadhurst** gave a colourful display of *blocs* and *carnets* with a 'stamps on stamps' theme. The display focused on the commemorative booklets from the 1990s onwards which portrayed iconic definitives from the past. These included the 1994 *Marianne de Dulac*, the 2003 *Semeuse de Roty* and the 2008 *Les visages de la V^{ème} République*. An outstanding piece was a complete sheet of the photogravure printing of the *Marianne de Cheffer* and *Marianne de Beaujard* issues *se-tenant* sold at the *Salon Planète Timbres* in 2010. Richard fittingly closed the meeting on a humorous note with a display of the 2009 *Astérix* sheet containing the smallest and largest stamps issued by the French Post Office - the 0,56€ *Idéfix* and the 0,56€ *Obélix*.



The smallest and largest stamps issued by the French Post Office - the 0,56€ *Idéfix* and the 0,56€ *Obélix* from the 2009 *Astérix* sheet

Members present: Maurice Alder, Len Barnes, Mick Bister, Richard Broadhurst, Chris Hitchen, Paul Miller, Barbara Priddy, John Ray and Michael Round.

MLB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 10 MARCH 2018

The President **Chris Hitchen** opened the meeting at the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel, Charlecote, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV35 9EW at 9.25am in the presence of 26 members.

(1) Members Present: Robert Abensur, Maurice Alder, Len Barnes, John Barton, Mick Bister, Godfrey Bowden, Richard Broadhurst, Steve Ellis, John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen, Stephen Holder, Peter Kelly, Bob Larg, Ashley Lawrence, Brian Lythgoe, Lesley Marley, Peter Maybury, André Métayer, Héloïse Mitchell, John Parmenter, Colin Spong, Peter Stockton, Maurice Tyler, David Trapnell, Paul Watkins, Brian Weeks.

Guests: Brigitte Abensur, Marian Bister, Jean Hammonds, Judith Holder.

Apologies: Jan Gane, David Hogarth, Jeremy Martin, Barbara Priddy, John West, Alan Wood.

(2) Minutes of the previous AGM of 6 May 2017, published in Journal 285, were accepted unanimously as a true record of that meeting.

(3) Matters arising from these minutes. No issues were raised.

(4) President's Report - Chris Hitchen

"The Society continues to function reasonably well and continues to offer as full a range of services to members as possible. This is made possible by the dedicated work of some who have been in harness for many years and some who are newer to their tasks but willing to assist as much as they can. This has enabled both packets to continue under new stewardship but still providing a service which so many of our members enjoy and appreciate. Steve Ellis has quietly but efficiently maintained our auctions which enable both sellers and buyers to exchange material for mutual benefit.

"Our Secretary's report mentions the Journal which continues under the overall direction of Mick Bister and Maurice Tyler. Fortunately the response to the plea for articles has had a modest success and there is enough for the foreseeable future. That does not mean that members can now rest on their laurels. Please consider taking up your pens or turning on your computers and writing something that could be suitable for the Journal. All contributions, long or short or just a sensible question are welcome. Consideration is being given to ways in which we

might be able to improve our website and our enthusiastic Website Manager Jan Gane has offered to help as much as possible.

"The attendance at many of our meetings is still rather disappointing when so much interesting and good material is displayed for the enjoyment of all. However we still intend to maintain as full a programme as possible. Thanks must go to those who organise and arrange them. Please consider attending a meeting if you are able, it is amazing what one can learn.

"I look forward to a successful year for our Society."

(5) General Secretary's Report - David Hogarth

"2017 saw a number of major changes in the operation of the Society. The Society's new Rules were approved at the AGM and provide an up-to-date framework within which it can operate: hopefully they will not require to be consulted frequently! The packets and the auction continue successfully. The Journal has reduced to three issues a year but with approximately the same number of pages as in previous years. Again the Society should acknowledge and thank the members who operated these facilities of the Society for without them, given the wide geographical spread of members, there would probably be no Society.

"That brings me to a recurrent theme of most societies these days: with members reluctant, it seems, to take on responsibility for the various facilities which the Society offers, inevitably these may be reduced. The Journal is a case in point: in spite of a number of appeals for help in editing and managing the Journal, no new members have come forward and the result (so far) is that we now only have three issues a year rather than four. Taking a positive view, I am sure that there are members who could and would be able to help, and I ask them to offer their help: just contact the Journal Manager. I would thank all those involved for their work throughout the year: the Secretary's job in comparison is relatively easy.

"One other cloud continues to hang over the Society: as can be seen from the table below, the fact that regrettably the decline in membership continues. Over the past 2 years between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2017 the net membership has reduced from 324 to 292, though it is encouraging that the number of new members in each of these years has stayed much the same.

	UK members	Non UK members	Total
On 1 January 2017	246	61	307
Resigned	-10	-3	-13
Suspended	-3	-1	-4
Died	-5	-1	-6
Transfers	+1	-1	0
New members	+7	+1	+8
On 1 January 2018	236	56	292

Nonetheless I look forward to the current year with optimism, and a degree of hope that we can increase our membership."

(6) Treasurers Report and Presentation of Accounts - Chris Hitchen

The packets and auctions did better than I anticipated and provide welcome additional revenue to the Society. The reduction of Journals from 4 to 3 per year has reduced expenditure by some £0000.

For the immediate future I would assume that subscriptions will be around £00.00 and the auctions and packet will

provide at least £00,00. Outgoings should be about £00,00. I would therefore propose reducing 2019 subscriptions to a maximum of £16 UK, £23 Europe and £27 overseas.

The report by the examiner to the accounts is set out at the bottom of the balance sheet below.

Acceptance of the accounts and the 2019 subscription was proposed by Peter Maybury, seconded by Ashley Lawrence and carried unanimously.

**FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2017**

CURRENT ASSETS

2017

2016

Cash at bank

Sundry debtors

DEDUCT CURRENT LIABILITIES

Sundry creditors

Subscriptions in advance

Magazine circuit float

TOTAL ASSETS

Represented by

MEMBERS FUNDS

Uncommitted funds at 1.1.2017

Year surplus

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2017Expenditure20172016Income20172016

Meetings

Journal 3 issues

(2016 4 issues)

Postage and expenses

Insurance

Year surplus

Auction

Exchange packet

Sale of publications

Donations

Subscriptions

"I have examined the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st 2017 and the Balance Sheet at that date and I certify that they are in accordance with the books and records of the society. I have not carried out an audit.

D G PARMLEY CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Liverpool, February 20 2018"

(7) Auction Secretary's Report - Steve Ellis

"The increased auction surplus in 2017 (£0000 against £00,00 in 2016) comes about for four reasons:

1. more high quality material offered and hence larger commission to the Society
2. some lots were donated for club funds
3. the continuing sale of residual unsold lots from the library
4. a larger auction (nearly 800 lots) compiled in October.

"My thanks to vendors and to bidders and to the helpers at the Charlecote bourse.

"The trend of fewer stamp sales, as compared to postal history, plus better sales of anything slightly unusual, continues to be the case."

(8.1) Packet Secretary's Report (France) - Richard Broadhurst

"2017 was a very successful year for the France Packet. Purchases of some £000,00 were made resulting in payments to vendors of £000,00. After expenses the Society benefited from a record commission payment of £0000.

"There are approximately sixty recipients of the packet spread from Scotland to Cornwall and Northern Ireland. It is a very useful way for many members, some of which live in the more remote parts of the UK and who do not have the benefit of local stamp fairs to obtain good competitively priced France material.

"Other than minor day to day mistakes made by participants which could be eliminated with a little more care, the operation of the packet continues with remarkably few problems. We have six circuits each with around ten participants who receive a new packet monthly.

"Currently we are able to accommodate new members who would like to receive the packets and we would also be delighted to receive more material to sell, especially anything unusual! For those who have not participated before it is an excellent and enjoyable way of both buying and selling stamps. If you would like any further details please do not hesitate to contact me."

(8.2) Packet Secretary's Report (Colonies) - David Chalcraft

"2017 was a transitional year for the Colonies Packet. After many years as Packet Secretary John West was forced through ill health, and very reluctantly, to relinquish the position.

"Since I took up the mantle, in April, it is fair to say that it has been a steep learning curve for me and as a result far fewer packets were circulated than in previous years, resulting in sales of only some £0000 in the period from April, and a contribution to the Society's funds of £000.

"On the plus side, we still have forty-five members in our four circuits and all are keen to buy material to add to their collections. We have a good supply of material to sell, with new sources of supply arising. So the future of the Colonies Packet looks healthy.

"The teething problems associated with the handover of the Packet to me should now be over and I am confident that 2018 will see the service back on track, although I think it unlikely that I will be quite able to match John's efficiency. His is a hard act to follow!

"I believe that the service is invaluable to members and an important part of what the Society has to offer. New members are very welcome to join, and anyone who has had a sort out of their collections and has material that they think fellow members may be interested in seeing are encouraged to send it to me for circulation."

(9) Journal Manager's Report - Mick Bister

"As agreed at the last AGM, the production of the 2017 Journal was reduced from four to three magazines a year. This was not an easy decision to make but was necessary in order to reduce the workload for both Peter Allan and myself and at the same time to ensure that the quality of the contents be maintained.

"The number of pages in each edition was erratic, to say the least, reflecting the nature and quantity of material I had available at the time. The March edition contained only 28 inside pages, the June edition 40 and the December one 60. Ideally I would like henceforth to keep each edition at 44 or 48 pages; I would not be happy for it to fall below 40 again.

"I now hold sufficient material for four more editions thanks to a very positive response to my request for articles albeit from the regular contributors rather than from new ones. The majority of the articles treat postal history and the French Colonies so, despite having a pretty full in-tray, I would still welcome more articles covering the stamps of France.

"I would like to take the opportunity to thank the team of sub-editors for their help and support and in particular Peter Allan for turning my Word documents into InDesign and Maurice Tyler for putting the Journal together for the printer. As announced at the late AGM Peter and I will continue in our present roles for one more year and then reassess the situation. In the meantime, anyone willing to take over as Journal Manager/Editor on a permanent basis should contact me for further details."

(10) Website Manager's Report - Jan Gane

"I have updated the website after each Journal issue with forthcoming meetings, refreshed the information board and uploaded new images from the Journal; I have also repaired or deleted broken links to other websites etc. and updated general information as required between the issues. A plea that echoes last year's request is that I would like a few more images to liven the site up; Auction images help but their time frame is quite limited. I would like to see more philatelic articles on the site.

"New members have requested to join the Forum but not all have responded when I have contacted them. I have continued to publish a record of past meetings with images to show potential members what the various branches do at their meetings and I have taken either part of an article or published one in its entirety – something that I think may

be of interest to the general public. I believe the website needs refreshing and I am willing to do whatever I can to push that forward. I would also be willing to further suggest ideas for the promotion of the Society.

“Thank you to the other members of the Committee for their patience with my questions in the organisation of the Society and listening to some of my ideas. I am willing to continue as Web Manager.”

(11a) Publications Officer's Report - John Parmenter

“Income from publications has fallen from £000 in 2016 to £000 in 2017. Derek Richardson's Rates book has continued to be the main source of income; as stocks are getting low the price has been increased to £15 per copy.”

(11b) Magazine Circuit Officer's Report - Richard Broadhurst

“The Magazine circuit once again operated smoothly. We

subscribe to two French stamp magazines: *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* and *Timbres*. The number of subscribers was similar to the previous year and once again we were able to maintain subscriptions at the previous rate of £8 per copy annually.

“This represents very good value and we are able to accommodate any new members who may wish to join the circuits.”

(12) Reports on Group Meetings

These are as published in the Journal Volume 67, Numbers 283-285

(13) 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 Peter Maybury, seconded by Lesley Marley and carried unanimously.

President	Mr C J Hitchen
Vice-President	Vacant
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 D Chalcraft
Magazine Circuit	Mr R N Broadhurst
Publications Stockist	Mr J Parmenter
Webmaster	Mrs J Gane
Committee Members	Mr P R A Kelly
	Mr A J Lawrence
	Mr C W Spong
	Mr P S Watkins
	Mr J West
For information: Group Convenors	Mr C J Hitchen (London)
	Mr S R Ellis (Northern)
	Mr P R A Kelly and Mr A J Wood (Wessex)

(14) Appointment of an Examiner of the Society's Accounts

The retention of Mr D G Parmley Chartered Accountant, as examiner of the Society's Accounts was proposed by Lesley Marley seconded by Ashley Lawrence and carried unanimously.

(15) Any other business

Mick Bister thanked Len Barnes for his services as the London Group Convenor and Chris Hitchen for taking on yet another responsibility.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45am

MLB

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong, David Hogarth and Maurice Tyler

Association des Collectionneurs des Timbres de la Libération et de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale

The Association publishes a twice-yearly journal which over the past few years has grown in content, and has moved beyond simply dealing with stamps and the postal history of the period.

The first double issue of 2016 (189/190) covers in detail the liberation of the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th *arrondissements* of Paris and includes also detailed articles on the *Atelier des Faux*, the issues in Paris of the *Mouvement de Libération Nationale*, and the huge variety of liberation overprints in the Paris area. The second double issue of 2016 continues with the liberation of the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th *arrondissements* and the areas round Paris. The liberation of Montreuil, Conflans, Mureaux, Nanterre, and Neuilly-sur-Seine are all described along with their overprinted liberation stamps. The final article described the part played in the liberation of Paris by the *Nueve*, the 9th company of the Second (Leclerc) Armoured Division, which was composed mainly of Spanish Republican refugees who had joined the new Division when it was formed in Chad. This issue concludes with a description of a bunker built under the *Gare de l'Est* in Paris. All of the articles are well-illustrated.

The first double issue of 2017 (193/194) looks at the landings in Provence in August/September 1944 with various articles on different aspects supplemented by a discussion on postal arrangements on the *Marine Française* ships involved and the use of the overprinted American 6c stamp. The second double issue (195/196) continues with the same theme, concentrating first on the two weeks at the end of August and continuing with the liberation of La Valbonne and the battle for Marseille. A lengthy article deals with the liberation overprints of the towns and areas liberated including Digne, Alès, Gap, Provence, Cannes, Antibes, Vence, Saint-Laurent-du-Var, Nice, Montluel, La Valbonne and Marseille. Again all the articles are well-illustrated with contemporary photographs and illustrations of the overprints.

DJH

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 162 4^{ème} Trim 2017: Série Bastille 1939 Variétés et Planchage (Dupin); Les timbres à date de Brazzaville après L'indépendance (Parren); Pourquoi l'Archipel des Comores [cont] (Bergossi); Existe-t-il un Cachet Linéaire du Vamp d'Ambre à Madagascar (Strobel).

The Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 96 N° 6 Nov-Dec 2017: "Present at the Creation" The Advent of Self-Adhesive Postage Stamps (Benjamin).

Vol 97 N° 1 Jan-Feb 2018: Using forensic testing of ink on a postal history item when historical expertizing methods fail (Kravitz & Hagendorf).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 234 4^e Trim 15 Oct 2017: La franchise postale des Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur, 1944-1945 (Goanvic); Indochine française: les surtaxes pour le service postal accéléré de la S.T.A.C.A. entre 1928 et 1936 (Estel); Mexique or not Mexique (Vernot); Quand les fiscaux s'invitent en Histoire Postale (Danan); Projets de Propagande Postale Militaire à la fin de la Guerre d'Indochine (Goanvic); Le Transfert de la Presse TD6-6 vers La Presse TD6-5 - Une période tourmentée pour les timbres d'usage courant du 20 février au 9 avril 1990 (Gervais).

N° 235 1^{er} Trim 15 Jan 2018: «Exposition / Paris»: Un timbre à date pour Plusieurs Expositions (Barbelin); Porto Rico: Le paiement en timbres-poste du Port des Lettres Provenant de l'Étranger (Herráiz); La Désinfection de courriers dans la Région de Memel en 1931 (Pineau et Lindeiner); La Première Étiquette Expresse Suisse avec Code à Barres 1995-1997 [Étiquette ou timbre-poste?] (Barnier).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

N° 1922 Nov 2017: Le Prins de l'histoire postale [Le passage de Panoramas, Paris] (Bastide-Bernadin); Le début du contre-remboursement en France (Lavigne); De la tempête, du soleil de l'amour et de la solidarité [TAAF] (Venturini); *La Marseillaise*, chant de la Grande Guerre (Albaret).

N° 1923 Dec 2016: Claude Andréotto s'en est allé subitement (-); Relation d'une rotation pas tout à fait comme les autres (Venturini); Le contre-remboursement en France (Lavigne).

N° 1924 Jan 2018: La maison Behr, un commerce philatélique de famille (Behr); Le protocole de Madrid [TAAF] (-); Le contre-remboursement à l'international (Lavigne).

N° 1925 Feb 2018: Le contre-remboursement en France (Lavigne); Entre l'OP4-2016 et l'OP1-2017: Ce mois-ci, nous vous invitons à monter à bord du *Marion Dufresne* entre deux OP (Venturini).

N° 1926 Mar 2018: L'Année du Tigre! [Georges Clemenceau] (Albaret); Les Utilisations du 30c orange Semeuse camée dans la régime intérieur (Lavigne); L'OP 1-2017 du *Marian Dufresne* (Venturini) ; 25^e anniversaire de la Constitution de la Principauté d'Andorre (Louviau).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 328 (Vol 73, N° 4) Oct 2017: The 13 centimes Sages travel to Darkest Africa (Luft); Ngomedzap, Cameroun - un établissement de distributeur postal (Bratzel); A fragmented Story - Forensic Philately (Nilsestuen); France, Paris 1930 First Air Mail, Aeronautics and Art International Exhibition (Setaro); Tunisia Second Design Series 1906-1927 (Rasmussen); Cameroun and the International Colonial Exhibition, Paris, May-November 1931 (Bratzel); Franco-Russian Alliance on Stamps (Setaro).

Whole N° 328 (Vol 74 No 1) 2018: 1000 Franc view of Paris Air Mail Stamp and Post WWII French Airmail Service (Setaro); A reminder of Former Days [Pc from Ivory Coast to USA] (Szymanski); Philately of Franco-Russian Amity of the Late 19th Century and Updates on the *Pont Alexandre III* (Broadhead); The 1918 Jerusalem French Consular Stamps (Morginstin).

Gibbons Stamp Monthly

Vol 48 N° 7 Dec 2017: Caught in the Middle - Philately of Juan de Nova (Pendleton).

Vol 48 N° 8 Jan 2018: The Bird Definitives of Niger [1] (Round).

Vol 48 N° 10 Mar 2018: The Bird Definitives of Niger [2] (Round).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol XLVIII N° 1 (Whole N° 231) Jan 2018: America Commemorates «New Republic» of Indo-China (Bentley); International Postage Meter Stamp Catalogue (Aspnes); Greetings from Devil's Island (Indo-China) (Dykehouse); Construction of Indochina's Cog Railway (Bentley); Banknotes of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam precede Lao Issues (Moallem).

Vol XLVIII N° 2 (Whole N° 232) Mar 2018: Attempted use of Stationery cut-out (Bentley); Unissued 0.200kg Rice Official Stamp of 1952 (Gebhardt); More on the 1957/1958 Flag on Mot-Cot Pagoda issue (Düring); Express Mail in Indochina (Bentley).

The Stamp Lover

Vol 109 N° 3 Aug 2017: Respite in Algeria (McCallun).

Timbres Magazine

N° 194 Nov 2017: 1924-2024 Paris ville olympique (de Pellinec); Route des Indes sur les pas de Philéas Fogg! (Veglia); Des missions norvégiennes à Madagascar (Monteret); Il ne l'était pas tant que ça (de La Mettrie); Quand l'impression typo devient rotative (Gomez); Les carnets de 2016: des carnets à en pleuvoir! (PJM); Affranchissements et timbres-poste (Prugnon).

N° 195 Dec 2017: Claude Andréotto l'amoureux de l'image (Nowacka); Saint-Nicolas ou la Fête des Enfants sages (Aronis); L'héliogravure: une entrée tardive à l'Atelier (Gomez); 19 février 1929: un raid aérien Paris-Hanoï de 10 km (Sinai); Les marques postales de l'armée française durant la Guerre du Golfe (Singeot); Marie et Irène Curie (Tormo); Activité des contrôleurs, dans les bureaux de poste (de La Mettrie); Un préfet nommé Lépine (Zeyons); Une mesure exceptionnelle (Prugnon).

N° 196 Jan 2018: Les marques postales durant les Expositions Universelles de Paris (Singeot); Des fragments de lettres qu'il ne faut pas négliger (de La Mettrie); Des épreuves à toute épreuve (Wertheimer); La taille-douce fait son entrée à l'Atelier (Gomez); Un préfet nommé Lépine [2^e partie] (Zeyons); Relèvement des taxes en franc-or (Prugnon).

N° 197 Feb 2018: Michel Granger «Toute idée surgit d'un croquis» (Buffier); Claude Andréotto l'amoureux de l'image (Nowacka); Des épreuves déjà mises à l'épreuve (Wertheimer); Les Expositions philatéliques internationales en France avant la Seconde Guerre Mondiale (Singeot); La genèse des RGR (Gomez); Du bon emploi de l'O.R. (de La Mettrie); Vive les J.O.! [Olympique] (Zeyons); Sous l'œil de l'expert (Calves, Jacquart et Beghin); Taxation en franc-or (Prugnon).

N° 198 Mar 2018: Grand format, petit conditionnement: les carnets Croix-Rouge (Singeot); Immigrations clandestines (de La Mettrie); L'organisation des cours pour les surnuméraires (Gomez); On l'appelait «Casque d'or» (Zeyons); Le XVIII^e siècle livre quelques secrets «SOMBERNON» (Baudot); Sous l'œil de l'expert (Calves, Jacquart et Beghin); Refus de franchise et insuffisance d'affranchissement (Prugnon).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 371 (4^{ème} Trim 2017, Dec 2017): Les Nouvelles Imprimantes Étiquettes et Vignettes (IEV) thermiques de guichet (Guillard); Des dates d'application des tarifs postaux, le cas extrême du début de l'année 1942 (Bonnefoy); La guerre franco-prussienne de 1870-1871, un témoignage sur le vif du Siècle de Paris dans un pli confié du 2 octobre 1870 (Martin); Un chef de gare et les services postaux en 1864-1865 – Première partie: le contexte (Douron); Quelques lettres illustrant le contrôle du droit à la franchise postale (Chouteau).

N° 372 (1^{er} Trim 2019, Mar 2018): Les Levées Exceptionnelles, 2^{ème} partie: Les timbres à date (Schaft & Donnadieu); Histoire de la double relation postale du Principat d'ANDORRA – Chap 3 (1^{ère} partie) Dans l'attente qu'une évolution des esprits favorise enfin l'établissement d'un service postal français performant à côté d'une Administration Espagnole (Dupré); Vichy aviation 4 sept. 1932: un timbre à date «privé» utilisé par des postiers! (Flotte); Qui était Monsieur Désiré, artiste aux bouffes-parisiens? (Dutau); Récépissés de Chargements (Sené); Le circuit de Lecture est resté lettre morte! (Flotte); Corps d'observation de la Gironde – Deuxième période: Empire (Aka); Associations d'empreintes d'un timbre OR et d'un timbre de boîte rurale sur une même correspondance: des cas prévus et d'autres inexpliqués... (1^{ère} partie) (Mingant, Douron, Lebecque).

Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile

N° 179 (Nov 2017): La qualité rappelée à un fournisseur en 1841 (Chrétien); Le type IRIS et la 2^e guerre mondiale (II) (Métayer); Histoire d'un pli exceptionnel (Garaud); La grande grève des Postes et des Télégraphes de 1909 (Van Dooren); Qui agit avec précipitation néglige l'essentiel: L'omission du censeur allemand de Lille en 1915 (Geubel); Les péniches-ambulances en France en 1914-1918 (Berthier); Introduction à la Marcophilie et l'Histoire Postale (VI): L'histoire postale au début du XX^e siècle (Morat).

BOOKSHELF

Compiled by Michael Round

La Voie franco-sarde dans les relations internationales – Conventions, réglementations, tarifs 1818-1851 by Robert Abensur

Orders: Robert Abensur, 8 rue des Fossés, 54700 Pont-à-Mousson, France (Payment to *Académie de Philatélie*); 360pp, in two parts; price 57€ (inclusive of p&p within France) or available from www.philabooks.com, and elsewhere too.



Robert Abensur, author of this magnificent volume, is an esteemed F&CPS member whose related display at Charlecote last year will stay long in the memory of those present. The Society report on it appeared in the June 2017 Journal (Vol 67 N° 2, Whole N° 284, p66) – re-read it forthwith, to whet your appetite for this book.

The period covered by *La Voie franco-sarde* largely predates the first adhesives, but is a crucial part of French postal history nonetheless, and a period largely neglected hitherto. The scope is enormous: the realm of Sardinia, postally, encompassed the whole of Italy, southern Austria, the Ionian Islands, the Swiss canton of Tessin... not forgetting Monaco, at the time a Sardinian protectorate. Mail passing through and beyond this area was voluminous; its postal markings, currencies and weight steps all varied wildly. The work is divided: Part 1 explains and elucidates, in English and French, the different types of letter that may be encountered, while Part 2 compiles official texts, circulars and decrees (both French and Sardinian) relevant to these particular routes. Illustrations of more than 260 covers, from common to rare, act as priceless references besides being something to attract the covetous gaze!

Cours des cartes et publicitimbres 2018-2019 pub. by l'ACCP.

134pp, A4 format; available from ACCP, 21 rue du Héron cendré, 95290 L'Isle Adam, France; website: accp-asso.com; price 36€ (inclusive of postage and packing within France)

What are “*Publicitimbres*”? – and what is the “ACCP”? One answer leads to another: ACCP stands for the *Association*

des Collectionneurs de Carnets et Publicitimbres, founded in 1957 and still going very strong (see their website, address as above, for details). *Publicitimbres* themselves are those stamps from booklets (*carnets*, of course) with attached selvedge bearing advertisements. The new ‘*Cours*’ lists and prices all known items plus new discoveries, previously unrecorded. There are price increases for better items, based on auction realisations. New issues run through to November 2017. The scope is comprehensive, with many colour illustrations and including colonies both before and after independence.

Maroc: les Etablissements Postaux illustrés par la carte postale pendant le protectorat franco-espagnol, 2nd edition 2017 by Khalid Benziane.

184pp; price 40€+p&p; for orders and details of postage costs, contact the author direct: khalid.benziane@orange.fr

This covers not just French Morocco, but – already familiar to collectors of straight stamps of Morocco as a whole – the Spanish, British, German and (local) Cherifian areas too. Using more than 300 black-and-white illustrations, author Khalid Benziane has painstakingly tracked down postcards of 218 postal agencies from their beginnings through to the end of the Spanish Protectorate period in 1956. The statistics are impressive: 111 French and Franco-Cherifian offices, 12 French military, 28 Spanish or Hispano-Cherifian (including the Southern Zone), 24 British, 17 German and 26 purely Cherifian. Details include not just dates of opening and closure, but – where known – historical and architectural background too. Surprisingly perhaps, given its endless fascination, this seems to be the first volume devoted to the subject.

Répertoire des cartes postales 1921-1932 des vallées d'Andorre by Louis Ducreux

68pp; 12€ (+ 2.90€ postage within France); orders to Irène Daniel, Boîte 25 – 66 bvd Garibaldi, 75015 Paris; email: popid78@yahoo.fr

This volume lists (and illustrates, all in colour) postcards published by Basuyau, Daspét, La Maravilla, A. Rossell and Fototipia Thomas known to be used in Andorra during the period stated. This follows an earlier Ducreux volume, covering the period to 1920; a further one overviews the Labouche Frères cards for 1908-45 (details of both publications may be found on line). Browsers at stamp fairs should look out for precursors (postcards from this period bearing stamps of France or Spain), for the first Spanish-Andorran stamps did not appear until 1928, nor the French-Andorran ones until 1931.

Books Noted

Histoire Postale d'Issoire (des origines à 1876) by Gilbert Morel — 46pp in colour A4; price 10€+p&p; orders: Gilbert Morel, 21 rue de Verrières, 63500 Issoire, France; email gilbert.morel043@orange.fr [Variety of postmarks used in the town.]

Inventaire des marques et oblitérations du département de la Gironde 1603-2013 by Jacques Conséjo — 992pp, 9217 reproductions; price 50€+p&p; orders: Jacques Conséjo, 5 avenue de la Gaillarde, 34000 Montpellier, France; email j-consejo@orange.fr [Award winning book on departmental postmarks.]

Répertoire des timbres à date des bureaux temporaires, premiers jours, Fêtes du timbre, points philatélie du département de l'Oise by Groupement des clubs philatéliques de l'Oise, section marcophile — Price 10€+p&p; orders: Martine Divay, 21 rue Henri Dupriez, 60300 Aumont-en-Halatte, France; email divay.m@wanadoo.fr [3rd edition of study of departmental date stamps 1943-2016.]

Introduction à l'Histoire Postale by Jean Morat — A4 50pp in colour; pub. by Association Philatélique Rhodanienne; price unknown; details from J Morat, 20 rue Jeanne d'Arc, 69003 Lyon; email jean.morat@wanadoo.fr [Basic guide to French postal history.]

Le «French Shore» pub. by Amicale Rennaise Philatélique — price 7€; details from secretaire.arp@free.fr [Correspondence of French fishermen in Newfoundland.]

Un Postier dans la Grande Guerre: Augustin-Alphonse Marty (1862-1940) réformateur de la Poste Militaire by Sébastien Richez — pub. by Comité pour l'Histoire de la Poste; price

29.95€; available on Peter Lang website www.peterlang.com [Biography of official who reformed military post during WWI.]

Catalogue des Oblitérations Neopost, Toshiba et MTI-GF France-Andorre-Monaco by Gérard Dreyfuss — 350pp in colour A4; price 65€ + p&p; orders: Gérard Dreyfuss, 37 avenue Georges Cuvier, 62000 Dainville, France. [4400 references described and valued, 1400 illustrations.]

Jérusalem et la poste française en Terre Sainte 1843-1914 by Raphaël Livnat — 289pp in colour A4; price 49€; details from R Livnat, 14 rue Paul Lafargue, 92800 Puteaux, France; payment by Paypal possible. [Revised and enlarged edition.]

La Poste à Saint-Dié-des-Vosges (1575-2015) by l'Amicale des Philatélistes de Saint-Dié et environs — 40pp in colour A4, price 10€ + p&p; orders: Bernard Luezas, 17 chemin du Pont des Fées, 88400 Gérardmer, France; email bernard.luezas@gmail.com [Collective study of town's postal history.]

Essai sur les timbres au Type Blanc de France, tome 1: l'Impression à plat by Gilles Toussaint — 156pp in colour A4; price 37.50€ + p&p; orders: Gilles Toussaint, 29 rue de la Roseraie, 67700 Saverne, France; email gilles-toussaint@orange.fr [Result of detailed research, including varieties.]

La Cote des Coins Datés et des Millésimes 2018 pub. by SOCOCODAMI — price 13€; orders: SOCOCODAMI, 18 rue Danielle Casanova, 77330 Ozoir-la-Ferrière, France. [77th edition of valuation of dated corner blocks and millésimes.]

Maurice Tyler

ABPS EXECUTIVE BULLETIN March 2018

This is an abbreviated version focusing solely on selected key points. You will find full information about all areas of ABPS on our website.

Please have a look at www.abps.org.uk

and circulate this bulletin to any philatelic friends to show just how much the ABPS is doing to promote philately across the UK. Thank you.

ABPS NEWS

The Spring 2018 issue has just been published and circulated to members. It can also be found on the website. The deadline for copy for the next issue is 15th April. This is a good opportunity to showcase your club and share ideas with affiliated members of ABPS. You can also apply for one free advertisement annually to promote your Society, though space is limited, so get your application in early!

Contact editor@abps.org.uk

SPRING STAMPEX 2018

This show featured the first use of the new "A" type frames from the Philatelic Fund which are available for the ABPS national stamp show. They were well received, being easier to erect and giving a good view of the displays.

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

This year's Congress will take place from 26th to 29th July 2018 at Jury's Inn, Gateshead Quays, South Shore Road, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE8 3AE. Further details of the programme and application forms can be found on the website.

NATIONAL STAMP DAY

This event was re-established in 2017 and plans are well advanced to make this a regular annual event on 6th May each year. It is hoped that Societies will play their part in featuring a key event as close as possible to that date each year and join in the fun. If you have any ideas for a local event or would like to help, please contact the Chairman by email: j.gwinters@hotmail.co.uk

STAMP ACTIVE NETWORK

Stamp Active had a successful Spring Stampex with improved attendance. One of the highlights was the production of promotional labels in the feature area, sponsored by Cartor Security Printing that raised significant funds for the group. Autumn Stampex will feature the theme of "Britain at War". Can you donate any suitable material to Stamp Active. John Davies recently stood down as Chairman but will remain actively involved as Events Manager.
Email: stampactive@btinternet.com

AUTUMN STAMPEX

13th to 16th September 2018 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London.
National exhibition for all classes. Full details and exhibitor application forms are on the website.

EXHIBITING AND JUDGING SEMINARS

The next national exhibiting and judging seminar, for existing and would-be federation judges and for potential and existing exhibitors, is on 14th -15th April 2018 at the Sun Hotel, Hitchin. Anyone interested, should contact David Alford at exhibiting@abps.org.uk

These events can be held in any part of the UK, subject to the level of interest. If you would like one of the two-day events in your region, please contact the organiser on international@abps.org.uk
We believe that exhibitors at every level deserve to be given quality feedback by accredited judges, so please make sure that you have enough in your area.

DIRECTORY AND SPEAKERS LIST

If you would like to be included, please contact the Secretary.
All changes and additions to the current directory are shown in ABPS News, so you can keep up to date.
All changes to society officers should be notified by email to secretary@abps.org.uk
Please note unaffiliated societies do not appear in detail in the Directory or the website.

DEALER REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

ABPS is seeking another individual to join the team to liaise with the philatelic trade and PTS. If you feel you would be willing to help, please contact the Chairman by email chairman@abps.org.uk

FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE ALSO NEEDED

AWARDS

Nominations for the ABPS Award of Merit and the Congress Medal should be submitted by 1st March each year.
Details on the website. Contact awards@abps.org.uk

DATA PROTECTION ACT

There are changes in the law that will require philatelic societies to get express consent for any data they may hold on their members. Please look at the ABPS website for more information and draft forms.
If you have any queries, please contact secretary@abps.org.uk

ABPS SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

If you are planning a local event to promote philately and may need financial assistance, please have a look at this scheme as you may be eligible for a grant.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO GIVE YOUR COMMENTS,

please contact those mentioned above, or:
ABPS General Secretary 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G6JY
E-mail: secretary@abps.org.uk