

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



The 55c Samothrace on a postcard from the time of the Spanish Civil War. It has been sent from Paris to Seville and has passed military censorship. In Seville, the card has been franked with three Spanish stamps, the *El Cid* issue of 1937–40, with the locally applied nationalist overprint “*Viva España / Franco Queipo*” and returned to the Chilean embassy in Paris.

See Edwin Voerman’s article ‘The Winged Victory of Samothrace’ on pages 63-66

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Whole Number 287

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

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The Society

The Society was founded in 1949 and is affiliated to the ABPS. Its affairs are managed by a Committee comprising President, Officers and Committee members, elected annually.

All inquiries about and applications for membership should be addressed to the General Secretary.

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).

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The Journal

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

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The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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SOCIETY NOTES

Editorial

One of the aims of the Journal Manager is to select for each edition topics which will satisfy the interests of a cross section of the membership. This is not easily achieved as there has recently been a dearth of major articles submitted on stamps particularly on the stamps of France, the origin and very essence of our hobby,

However, one of our members from the Netherlands, Edwin Voerman, has responded to our appeal and submitted an article offering further insight into two much admired and very collectable stamps, the 30c and 55c Winged Victory of Samothrace. Edwin demonstrates by combining research and astute purchases how the possession of two stamps on an album page can be developed into a fascinating study. I plead once again for members who have conducted similar research into French stamps to share their discoveries with us all.

But, and a big 'but', I still require articles on all other areas and aspects of collecting in order to maintain a healthy and vibrant Journal and I am extremely grateful to our regular contributors whose high quality articles have been published in this edition. The Journal would not survive without them.

Please send copy to me in Word format with separate jpeg images at 300dpi. If you need any further assistance or advice likewise just get in contact with me.

Thank you

Mick Bister

* * *

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome members 1467 Colin French (Wiltshire), 1468 Mark Brookes (Oxfordshire), 1469 Warren Trimble (USA) and 1470 Jean-Luc Delaux (France).

* * *

Resignations

We are sorry to lose member 1266 J B Rawlings who has advised us that he will not be renewing his membership.

* * *

Members Deceased

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of three long-standing members 175 Derek J Richardson, 399 Michael Wilson and 857 Fred Goatcher.

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 **London Group** will be meeting on 6 October from 11.00am to 4.00pm at the Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8JR when Chris Hitchen will give a display on 'French postal rates after 1878'. Lunch will be taken at the Calthorpe Arms and the afternoon will be devoted to members' displays.

Future dates for your 2019 diary are 9 February, 11 May, 3 August and 5 October. Further details will be given in the December Journal.

The **Northern Group** will be holding its next meeting on Monday 8 October starting at 1.00pm at the Village Hall, Mill Lane, Adlington, Cheshire.

Future dates for your 2019 diary are 23 March at Rotherham, 10.00 for 10.30am start, and 13 July at Rotherham, 10.00 for 10.30am start.

The **Wessex Group** will be holding its next meeting at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham starting at 10.30am on 13 October when Chris Hitchen will be displaying 'Aspects of Paris postal history'. After lunch, the afternoon will be devoted to members' displays.

Future dates for your 2019 diary are 2 February, 6 July and 26 October.

* * *

Appeal for London Group Convener

You will learn from the Wessex Group meeting report on pages 87-88 that after 14 years service Alan Wood is stepping down for personal reasons with effect from the end of this year; Peter Kelly has also announced that he will be doing likewise. However, the group has been very fortunate in obtaining an immediate replacement namely new member Colin French to whom the Society is extremely grateful.

The London Group is also urgently seeking a new convener to replace the recently retired Len Barnes.

The principal responsibilities are booking meetings at the venue, inviting speakers to give a display and writing up a meeting report for the Journal. The numbers attending the London meetings are slowly increasing and the new applicant would be assured of support and advice from the group's current members.

If you are interested in taking over this essential role in the Society please contact the President or the Journal Manager.

* * *

Philatelic Honours



Robert Abensur RDP

Congratulations to member **Robert Abensur** who signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists on 27 July at the Assembly Rooms in Newcastle upon Tyne during the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

Robert has been a regular attender of the Charlecote weekends with his wife Brigitte dazzling us with displays of his collections of postcard rate infringements, French Offices in the Levant, taxation of insufficiently prepaid airmail within and into France and the postal convention of 1817 between the kingdoms of France and Sardinia. He is fascinated by all aspects of tariff applications as demonstrated by his prolific writings. This has recently culminated in his much acclaimed book 'The Franco-Sardinian route in international relations (1818-1851)' which was published last year. Robert has been a member of the Académie de Philatélie since 1996 and its president since 2002.

His citation states that he had 'researched widely and fulfilled all the requirements needed for a signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists'. Bravo!

* * *

Exhibition Successes

At the World Stamp Championship 2018 in Jerusalem (27-31 May 2018) our member **Guy Dutau** was awarded Large Gold for "French Letters Purified in Metropolitan and Occupied Countries from the origin to the end of the XIX century" together with a second Large Gold for "Mail Disinfection in France and Occupied Countries." Double congratulations to him!

* * *

Publicity for the Journal

THE JOURNAL OF THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Décembre 2017 - N° 285
 Brexit ou pas, les Britanniques continuent à s'intéresser à la philatélie française et à celle de ses anciennes colonies. Il existe même un groupe qui se consacre exclusivement, avec passion et précision, à leur étude : la France & Colonies Philatelic Society. Parmi leurs outils de communication, ils possèdent un bulletin publié trois fois par an (mars, juin et décembre). Ci-contre la Une de leur dernier numéro de l'année 2017. Comme il sert de liaison entre les membres, il relate les dernières activités du club, indique les manifestations à venir et donne des nouvelles des uns et des autres. Il offre également une revue de presse et une rubrique critique des derniers ouvrages philatéliques parus. Il présente aussi des pièces intéressantes. Quant aux articles de fond, voici ceux qui étaient au sommaire de ce Journal : Paris, les bureaux de la place du Châtelet des Halles ; l'histoire d'un marin – de France en passant par la Méditerranée jusqu'au Gabon et au Cameroun – les vicissitudes et l'impact de la Seconde Guerre mondiale et au Sud de Suez (Djibouti). Largement illustrés en couleur, tous ces écrits sont en anglais, ce qui a l'avantage de toucher un large public de philatélistes du monde entier.
Contact : M. L. Bister – 7 The Slade – Wrestlingworth – Sandy – Bedfordshire – SG 19 2 ES – Royaume-Uni.

The Society was invited to send copies of the Journal to the French philatelic magazine 'L'Écho de la Timbrologie' for inclusion in the publication's 'Bulletins de club' column. The December 2017 edition was prominently featured and illustrated in the April 2018 edition of the 'L'Écho' for which we are very grateful to its editor Sophie Bastide-Bernard.

* * *

Displays by Members

At Paris-Philex 2018 (9-10 June 2018) **Guy Dutau** displayed "La colombe de la Paix de Jean-Gabriel Daragnès et le projet Mistler".

* * *

Programme Card

The annual Programme Card has normally been enclosed with the September issue of the Journal but changing the dates has meant that this August edition is rather too early for accurate planning of the regional meetings and the Programme Card will now be dispatched with the December Journal.

For ease of reference future meeting dates are as follows:

London: 2018 - 6 Oct; 2019 - 9 Feb, 11 May, 3 Aug, 5 Oct.

Wessex: 2018 - 13 Oct 2018; 2019 - 2 Feb, 6 July, 26 Oct.

Northern: 2018 - 8 Oct (Adlington, Monday); 2019 - 23 March (Rotherham), 13 July (Rotherham), Oct tba (Adlington?).

Charlecote Weekend: Friday 1 March to Sunday 3 March.

* * *

OBITUARY



Derek J Richardson

1923 - 2018

Derek's membership number was 175 so other members with a three or even a two digit membership number will realise that he must have joined the Society a long time ago – possibly around the end of the 1960s or the early 70s.

Derek was an active participant in so many facets of the Society. He joined the committee in 1983 but it was only a couple of years before he took on the role of editor of the Journal bringing with him a new broom that would sweep away the ancillary Newsletter and introduce a more regular and enlarged Journal with a more modern look. In 1996 Derek accepted the office of President and in 1998 he took on the responsibility of General Secretary. He finally retired from the committee in 2002 but still supported the Society tirelessly for a further eleven years in the thankless task of stuffing Journals and Auction Catalogues into envelopes and ensuring their dispatch to members. In 2013 he was presented with the prestigious Geoff Gethin Award for Service to the Society.

Derek's philatelic interests were broad. At heart, he was very much a stamp collector who listed in the now defunct Register of Members' Interests the 5c *Sage*, the 25c *Semeuse camée*, the *Type Paix*, the *Chaînes brisées* and the *Marianne de Dulac* issues among his chief interests. In 1982 the Society published his monograph '*Le Type Paix 1932-1941*' as Brochure N° 6 in its series of specialised studies; it was translated into French and published two years later by *Philoffset Edition* in Marseille. Derek also had a fascination for postal rates and specialised in the more obscure categories such as *avis de réception*, *valeurs à déclarer*, *recouvrements*, *service exprès* and *cartes d'abonnement aux émissions de timbres-poste*. In 1992 he completed his seminal work '*Tables of French Postal Rates 1849 to date*' which was published as Brochure N° 7. No-one had tabulated French rates in this way before (no-one had dared take on such a Herculean task) and his book became a best seller both here and abroad. Such was the demand that he revised and enlarged further editions, published in 1996, 2006 and 2011 and which became in other members' terms '*the definitive work in postal rates*' and '*an invaluable tool for researchers*'. Derek was a prolific writer contributing over forty articles to the Journal between 1986 and 2016. He was a passionate researcher spending time in France pouring over old newspapers and microfiche to glean information about the WW2 internment camps and their associated postal history. His treatise on the subject was published in the Journal from March 1988 to December 1989 with occasional chapters appearing until December 1993. In 2004 his book '*Detachment W - allied soldiers and airmen detained in Vichy France between 1940 and 1942*' was published. In the same year, aided by a team of twelve fellow members, Derek compiled the Society's Brochure N° 8 '*Subject Index to Four French Philatelic Magazines 1946 to 2000*'.

Derek was a stalwart of our Society who set the bar high in levels of service and commitment. He loved to share his knowledge with other members and his displays at the Society's Annual Weekend, delivered with such authority and humour, will be greatly missed.

The Society was represented at Derek's funeral by our President Chris Hitchen and our Editor Maurice Tyler who each contributed a spoken tribute to him. He had led a full and varied life with a career that ended as an aeronautical engineer at Luton Airport and wide-ranging interests that embraced not only French philately but also competitive duplicate bridge and playing the trombone in a jazz band. In recognition of all that Derek did for the Society, especially his brochures which have earned us many hundreds of pounds, the Society has made a donation of £100 to the British Heart Foundation nominated by the family for contributions.

MLB/MST/CJH

Bureaux et Recettes Auxiliaires 1887-1902

Their background, function and operation

Peter Kelly

Part 2: 1895-1902

Phase 3. *Recettes auxiliaires urbaines* and *Recettes auxiliaires rurales*. 1 November 1895

The report to the President of the Republic on 15 October 1895 confirmed the success of the trials referred to in Phase 2 (Journal N° 286, Part 1, Pages 19-22) and recommended converting all the existing *bureaux auxiliaires* into *recettes auxiliaires* and this was confirmed on 1 November 1895 stating that no further *bureaux auxiliaires* were to be opened and that the *recettes auxiliaires* were to be expanded with effect from that date.

At this point matters become a little more complicated because the *recettes auxiliaires* needed to be broken down into two categories, urban and local; whereas the guiding principle remained the same, the *modus operandi* was different.

3a. *Recettes auxiliaires urbaines*

For the *bureaux auxiliaires* in Paris and other towns, this represented merely a change of name and a certain

widening of operations they could carry out.

Basically, the urban offices were entirely sedentary and had no delivery function and had specific opening times. They were open to the public from 08^h00 to 19^h00 during week days and closed at midday on Sundays and bank holidays. Any exception to this rule required the authorisation of the Departmental director.

The offices were attached to main offices that would clear their letter boxes and at the same time act as the conduit between the *recette auxiliaire urbaine* and the main office for the exchange of necessary material between the two. As before, ordinary letters posted in the box would be cleared and cancelled by the main office. This is why we only see examples of mail cancelled by the *recette auxiliaire urbaine* where that category of mail needed to be dealt with over the counter, principally registered items but also reduced price items such as printed matter and samples (Figures 4-6 Paris; Figures 7-11 Provinces).



Figure 4

The Paris R.P.B. / 1 R. Vivienne *recette auxiliaire urbaine* opened on 1 December 1896 under the *Recette Principale* (Head Post Office)

Registered letter cancelled 13 February 1897 for Paris franked 40c with additional small hexagonal R.P/B handstamp



Figure 5

Paris 20 A/R.de l'Université 40 *recette auxiliaire urbaine* opened on 1 October 1894 under Paris 20, 195 Bld Saint Germain.

Registered sample cancelled 19 April 1898 to Bucey-lès-Pierrepont franked 15c (5c Sample rate + 10c OPR Registration fee).

Reduced price items as well as registered had to be dealt with over the counter



Figure 6

Paris 32/B *recette auxiliaire urbaine* opened on 9 March 1896 under Paris 32, Tribunal de Commerce. It operated for the benefit of lawyers in the *Palais de Justice* and became a *bureau annexe* in 1910.

This is the only Paris *recette auxiliaire* that did not give an address on the date stamp.

Registered letter for Paris franked 40c cancelled 12 October 1900.



Figure 7
Limoges B / Hte Vienne *recette auxiliaire urbaine* opened in July 1896.
Registered letter for Limoges franked 40c and cancelled 15 November 1899.



Figure 8
Bordeaux, Les Salinières B / Gironde *recette auxiliaire urbaine* office opened in August 1900.
This an unusual example of a postcard franked 10c and cancelled 13 May 1901 by the *recette auxiliaire urbaine* office to which the main Bordeaux office has also added its own date stamp.

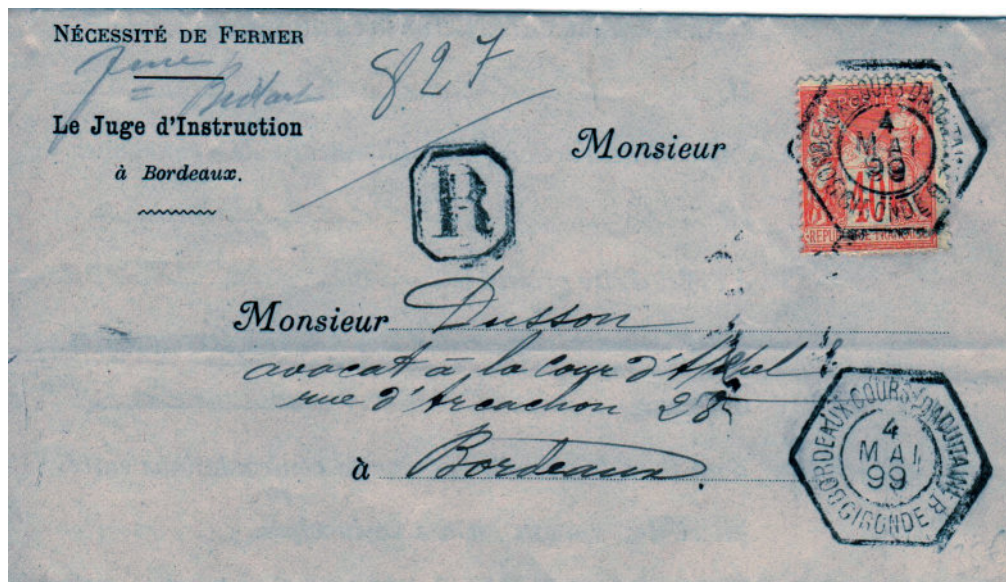


Figure 9

The Bordeaux Cours d'Aquitaine B / Gironde *recette auxiliaire urbaine* office opened in August 1897.
Registered letter sent within Bordeaux franked 40c and cancelled 4 May 1899



Figure 10

The Agen A / Lot et Garonne *recette auxiliaire urbaine* office opened in July 1895.
Papiers d'affaires (Business papers) to Aiguillon franked 5c and cancelled 18 October 1899.
Printed matter could not be posted directly into a postbox but had to be handed in over the counter.
It is correct to see this cancelled by the *recette auxiliaire urbaine*



Figure 11

Castres A / A (Tarn Dept) Office opened in July 1905.
 Registered letter dated 6 January 1909 to Hyères, franked 35c.
 Postage 10c (tariff of 16.4.1906) plus Registration 25c (tariff of 16.1.1879).
 In 1904 a new canceller was introduced without the inner ring
 but with the date slug in figures and a space for an asterisk/collection time.

3b. *Recettes auxiliaires rurales*

These offices were situated in *communes* where there was no post office and depended on the main office in whose circumscription they lay. They were required to be open for at least five hours per day during the week and for three hours on Sundays and bank holidays. These hours had to be arranged to coincide with the schedule of the rural postman or courier. In exceptional circumstances the *gérant* could be authorised to undertake delivery services and in this case the opening hours would be reduced accordingly. Additional staff could be employed for delivery duties but this would require the prior authorisation of the *Administration*.

There is an interesting point here that while the Post Office was responsible for the salary of the *gérant* and the running costs, the *commune* would be responsible for additional costs arising from the provision of a delivery service (Article 2. *Arrêté ministériel réglementant la gérance des recettes auxiliaires de poste* - Paris, 16 October 1895). Article 5 of the above also referred to the possibility of adding the services of both telephones and telegraphs to a *recette auxiliaire rurale* while indicating that the office's opening hours then also had to coincide with those of the municipal telegraph service (Figures 12 and 13).



Figure 12

Bessancourt / Seine et Oise. Office opened in April 1899 under Taverny.

Population of Bessancourt (1885): 1009

Postcard dated 6 August 1900 from Bessancourt to Woerishofen, Bavaria. 10c postcard rate.

Standard continuous inner ring.



Figure 13

La Levade / Gard. Office opened in February 1894 under La Grand'Combe.

Population of La Grand'Combe (1895): 300

20 January 1900 commercial *papiers d'affaires* letter for Narbonne franked 5c.

Originally opened as a *bureau auxiliaire* and still using the dotted inner ring date stamp after conversion to a *recette auxiliaire* in 1895.

Office opened to serve an important coal mining company with railway interests.

Services provided by *recettes auxiliaires urbaines* and *recettes auxiliaires rurales*

These were formulated by the *Arrêté ministériel réglementant la gérance des recettes auxiliaires de poste - Paris* of 16 October 1895)

- Sale of stamps, postcards, letter cards, envelopes, stamped wrappers, fiscal receipt stamps
- Taking in letters and items for registration and reduced price items (*objets à prix réduits*)
- Sale of franked envelopes for debt collection (*recouvrements*)
- Debt collection (*recouvrements*) but not in cases where the depositor claims the right of protest in the event of non-payment
- Issue of French payment orders (*mandats*) not exceeding 300 francs
- Issue of postal payment cards (*mandats-cartes*) up to 50 francs
- Sale of postal orders (*bons de poste*)
- Payment of French payment orders up to 300 francs and postal orders.

The salary of the *gérant* is based on commissions on postal products sold as well as a fixed rate on encashment. Where the total revenue falls below 200 francs per annum the Post Office would make up the balance.

The postmarks

The *recettes auxiliaires urbaines* and *recettes auxiliaires rurales* can be told apart by their postmarks. Both continue to be hexagonal with a continuous inner ring in which can be found the date slug. This shows the day, month (in capital letters) and year. In 1900 the *recettes auxiliaires urbaines* offices introduced a time element (eg 13^h20) with the date and month in figures on the second line.

The *recettes auxiliaires urbaines* offices continued to place a letter after their name (eg Lille A) above and the name of the *département* below or simply the name of the office above and the *recette auxiliaire* letter below. The Paris offices continued exactly as before, showing the number of the main office and the letter of the *recette auxiliaire urbaine* above and the address below. The only exception appears to be Paris 32 B. This is an anomaly as the location, normally indicated on the bottom, is replaced by the letter B. Paris 32 B was located in the *Palais de Justice*.

In the provinces there were two possibilities. Either the name of the office with the *recette auxiliaire urbaine* letter was placed at the top of the date stamp with the name of the *département* underneath or the name of the main office was shown on the top and the letter alone on the bottom. The letter is always shown and this is the difference.

The *recettes auxiliaires rurales* offices have the name of the office above and the *département* below. There is no reference to the name of the office to which they are attached. In 1900 the date slug changed to incorporate the time (24 hour system) on the top line and day / month in figures on the second line with the year (last two figures) on the third line. In 1904 the inner ring was removed.

One of the difficulties is that the old *bureaux auxiliaires* that

were converted into *recettes auxiliaires* in 1895 continued to use their old stamps often until they needed to be replaced and their dotted inner circle handstamps survive well into the new period.

An important difference is that the *recettes auxiliaires rurales* could clear their own boxes and this meant that one does see the majority of letters stamped by them at the ordinary letter rate and not just registered. This does make these offices interesting to collect because many of them are situated in *communes* with a small population and their mail has to be relatively scarce.

Returning to Post Office notices, the *Arrêté* of 17 May 1902 introduces a change in name for the *recettes auxiliaires urbaines* that had an additional distribution function. Henceforward these were to be called '*distributions auxiliaires*'. From the point of view of the postal historian there does not seem to be any obvious way to recognize or separate these offices. This *Arrêté* also indicates the salary due to the *gérants*, a minimum of 200 francs per annum for the *recettes auxiliaires urbaines* and 100 francs per annum for the *recettes auxiliaires rurales*. Over and above this the *gérant* benefits from commission on the sale of postal products.

An earlier circular and *Arrêté* of 10 May 1902 established the rules, regulations and allowances for the use of cycles (*vélocipèdes*) in the distribution and clearing of mail. The times were changing!

Postscripts

A further category, the *recettes auxiliaires à gérance gratuite* was introduced in 1905 (*Arrêté* 17 January 1905 and BM N° 2 of February 1905).¹ These were auxiliary offices where the *gérant* received no salary and the sole source of revenue was the commission on stamps and postal products sold. The concession was available to members of the public and the offices operated in exactly the same way as the other *recettes auxiliaires*. Standard post office equipment was provided by the Post Office but the premises, fixtures and fittings were the responsibility of the *gérant*. The first of these offices was opened on 1 June 1905.

A further *Arrêté* of 18 July 1914 (BM N° 9 of August 1914) stated that the *recettes auxiliaires* could be opened anywhere provided that they were at least 350 metres away from the nearest full service post office (*recette*) or any other *recette auxiliaire* with the exception of *recettes auxiliaires* opened in hotels.

The hexagonal cancellations of the *recettes auxiliaires* continued to be used up until the time of the Decree of 6 November 1966 when standardisation of all the date stamps took place and all became circular. Up until that date there were many changes and innovations within the hexagon.²

¹ Alexandre J.P *Dictionnaire historique des timbres et griffes "standard" de l'Administration française des Postes 1792-1914*. Brun & Fils, Paris 1996.

² For further information see the brochure by André Lautier *Nomenclature des cachets à date manuels postérieurs aux types 18 & 25. 1884-1969*. Published by the author in 1984.

Aspects of Anti-Communism in Vichy France

A Tale of Two Legions

David Hogarth

Background

The rapprochement between France and Russia in the two decades before World War 1 came to an end in 1917 when the Bolshevik government in Russia unilaterally nullified the various agreements which had been entered into between the two countries. The end of the war also led to most European countries suffering economic and political difficulties and uncertainties. During the 1930s Germany in particular was re-arming and, towards the end of the decade, was in a position both politically and militarily to expand its borders.

Preparing for invasion of the neighbouring countries to the west, in August 1939 Germany entered into a Non-Aggression Pact with Soviet Russia; in May and June 1940 Germany invaded Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France. By 14 June 1940 the German armies had reached Paris, a new government under Marshall Pétain was established on 16 June and a formal Armistice was signed on 22 June, coming into effect three days later on 25 June.

This provided for the division of France into a number of different zones, the principal ones being the Occupied Zone (in the north and west) and the Unoccupied Zone (most of the southern part of France); the latter was under the control of the *Etat Français* or the French State led by Pétain which formally came into being on 11 July 1940 and had its seat of government in Vichy. While the French State governed the Unoccupied Zone, it remained effectively

under the control of the German authorities and aligned to the demands of the occupying power.

When, on 22 June 1941, the Non-Aggression Pact was torn up, Operation Barbarossa was launched and Germany invaded Soviet Russia, the German approach to communism changed and this new anti-Bolshevik approach was inevitably supported by the Vichy government.

First Steps – Propaganda

In summer 1941 a *Comité d'Action Antibolchévique* was created and used various forms of propaganda (Figure 1) including exhibitions to ram the message home about the evils of communism. It was described as '*La Croisade contre le Bolchévisme*'.

A series of exhibitions describing the "red menace" and warning of the evils of communism was organised in certain major cities of France. The first, grandly titled, *Exposition Internationale: Le Bolchévisme contre l'Europe* opened in the Salle Wagram in Paris on 1 March 1942. It was visited by 370,000 people in four months (Figure 2).

Similar exhibitions were held until June 1944, in Bordeaux, Lille, Lyon, Marseille and Toulouse. Publicity material was available at each location, including leaflets and postcards with special postmarks and cachets (Figures 3-6). The effect which these exhibitions and related publicity material had is unknown.



Figure 1
Examples of *papillons* or propaganda cards,
two of which are cancelled with the special postmark from the Paris exhibition

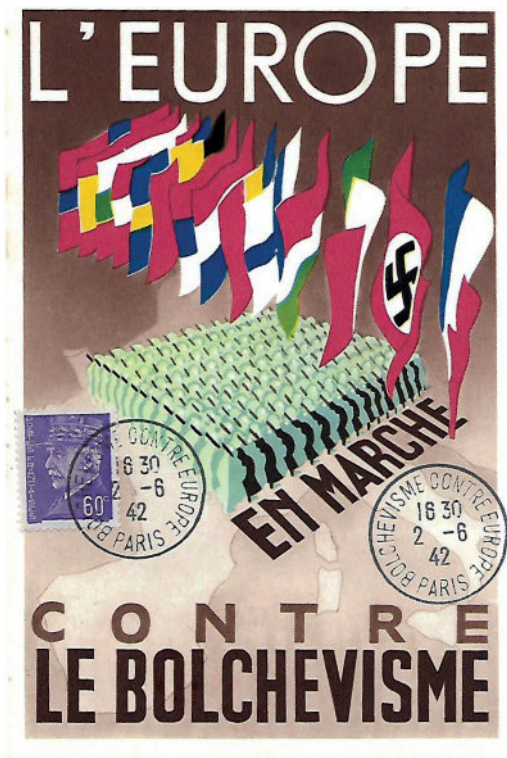


Figure 2 (above)
The "classic" postcard
cancelled on 2 June 1942
at the Paris exhibition

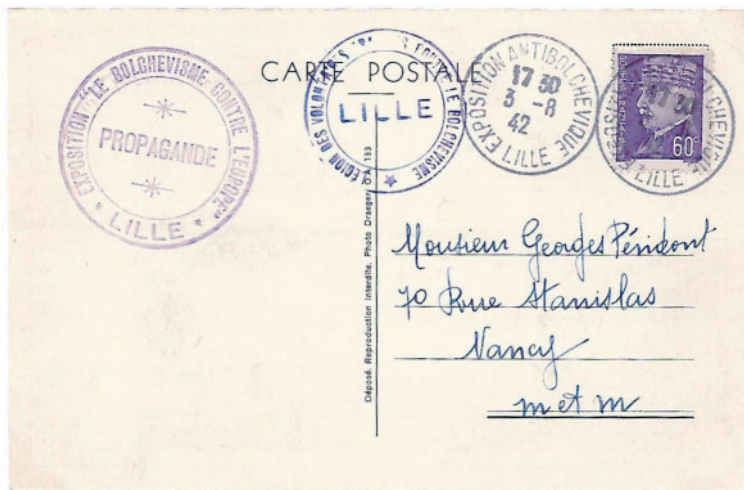


Figure 3 (above)
The Lille exhibition cancellation of 3 August 1942
with two further cachets, the smaller of which is a cachet
of the Légion des Volontaires Français



Figure 4 (right)
Late use of the Toulouse cancel of 20 May 1944
(a fortnight before the exhibitions were closed)
on the Pétain 88th Birthday issue [YT606-608]



Figure 5 (above)
The Lyon cancel on 13 April 1943 on a Pétain postcard:
"J'ai été avec vous dans les jours glorieux.
Je reste avec vous dans les jours sombres. Soyez à mes côtés".
The Marseille exhibition cancel is shown in Figure 9.



Figure 6 (right)
The Bordeaux cancel of 24 November 1942
on a Légion Tricolore maximum card.

Fighting for the Germans – the *Légion des Volontaires Français (LVF)*

More practical matters had preceded the exhibitions (which may themselves have come about only after the early German hopes of conquering Russia had been dashed) when, as in other European countries occupied by Germany, attempts were made to recruit volunteers from these countries to assist the German army.

The *Légion des Volontaires Français contre le Bolchévisme* - the *LVF* - was formed on 8 July 1941 by a number of right-wing collaborationist parties and started recruiting in the following month, attracting over time some 6,500 men. The history of the *LVF* has already been described in the Journal in a three part article by Roy Reader in 1975¹ and in a booklet based on the articles now long out of print², and there have been a number of recent books published such as *'Hitler's Gauls'* by Jonathan Trigg³. For the purposes of this article, it is sufficient to note that the recruits appear to have been drawn largely from French prisoners-of-war held in Germany, from those Frenchmen who preferred fighting to being conscripted into, and who could not avoid, the *Service de Travail Obligatoire*, and from those who were prepared to collaborate with the Germans. No doubt the high pay offered was also an encouragement. In France they wore French military uniforms, but while fighting in Russia they wore German uniforms with a *tricolore* on one sleeve and on the helmet (Figure 7).

The *LVF* was designated the 638th Infantry Regiment and initially comprised two battalions. They were engaged in heavy fighting on the Eastern Front from October 1941 and a third battalion was recruited in France in early 1942 to make up for heavy losses sustained in winter 1941/42. In early 1943 the battalions were attached to the 186. *Sicherungs-Division* and were engaged in fighting partisans

¹ 'Legion of French Volunteers 1941-44' Roy Reader, Journals 131-133

² 'Legion of French Volunteers 1941-44' Roy Reader, FCPS Brochure N°4, pub. 1981

³ 'Hitler's Gauls' Jonathan Trigg, Spellmount, London, 2006

in both Russia and the Ukraine. On 1 September 1944 the *LVF* was dissolved and the surviving elements were, with other foreign-national units, merged into the *Waffen-Grenadier Division der SS Charlemagne* and continued to fight with that division until the fall of Berlin and the end of the war.

A Legion on Paper – The *Légion Tricolore (LT)*

The concept of Frenchmen fighting in German uniforms with the German army was not supported by the Vichy government, which sought to create a French alternative which, while assisting the Germans, would be under Vichy control. It was anticipated by Vichy that the *LVF* would be subsumed into this new body, to be known as the *Légion Tricolore*. The *Légion Tricolore* was created in June 1941 though in fact it largely existed only on paper. At first the German authorities approved the proposed new force but, having apparently realised that it might be used against them notwithstanding its collaborationist credentials, dissolved it in autumn 1942, while keeping the *LVF* firmly under their control.

The Postal History of the two Legions

The history of the *Légion Tricolore* stamp issue is confused. It started with the *Légion Française des Combattants (LFC)*, an organisation created by the Vichy regime in summer 1940 to bring together the various organisations of former soldiers from both world wars to assist in promoting the *Révolution Nationale*: this *Légion* was restricted to the Unoccupied Zone. On its first anniversary in July 1941 a commemorative stamp (with a face value of 1F50 but with a surcharge of 8F50) was demanded to commemorate the anniversary. That demand was rejected on the grounds of lack of time to prepare the issue, whereupon a request was made to overprint two stamps from the then current definitive issue with the wording *31 Août – Anniversaire de la Légion*. This request too was turned down on the (perfectly reasonable) grounds that the stamps were not big enough for the overprint: "*un timbre-poste n'est pas un journal*". At this point the *LVF* also demanded the issue of a stamp, but the designs submitted were all rejected.



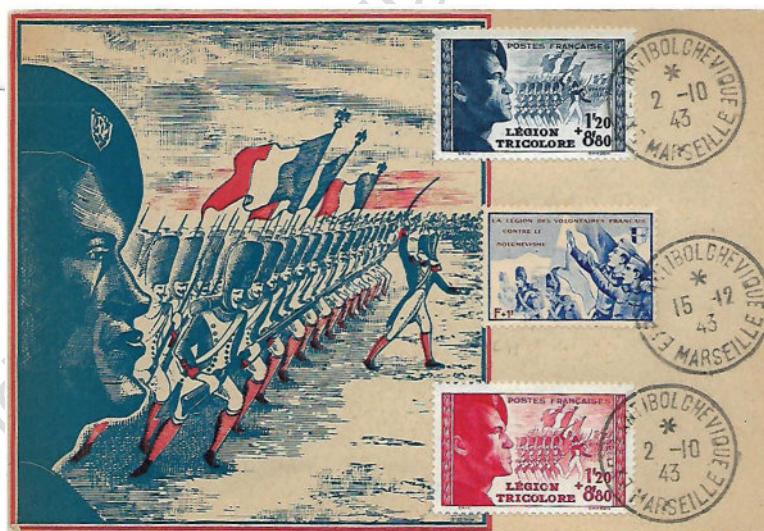
Figure 7

Postcard showing *LVF* soldiers training with anti-tank guns in Russia. The postcard is n° 3 in series 1 depicting the *LVF* and headed *La Croisade contre le Bolchévisme, La Légion des Volontaires Français*. The French *Tricolore* can be seen on the helmets.



Figure 8 (left)
Part sheet of the *Légion Tricolore* stamps
showing the arrangement of the blue,
the white embossed gutter
and the red stamps in the form of the *Tricolore*.

Figure 9 (right)
Rare *Légion Tricolore* maxicard
with the two *Légion Tricolore* stamps
postmarked 2 October 1943
and a single LVF Borodino stamp [LVF 9]
postmarked 15 December 1943,
all with the Marseille exhibition cancel



Pressure was then applied, founding on the intention of the Vichy government to transform the *LVF* into the *Légion Tricolore*, and a *Légion Tricolore* issue was authorised in July and appeared on 12 October 1942. By this date however the *LVF* still remained firmly under German control and the *Légion Tricolore* had been dissolved.

Meantime the Central Committee of the *LVF* (in Paris) had announced in September 1941 that it intended to issue a series of stamps (or labels) to raise funds for the soldiers of the *LVF*. Four sets duly appeared though they were not

sold through post offices but from the *LVF* offices.

The French post office *Légion Tricolore* issue

The approved design appeared on two stamps, one printed in blue and the other in red, separated by a white embossed gutter, the triptych showing the French *Tricolore* flag (Figure 8). Each stamp was of similar design, linking Napoleonic grenadiers with a current legionary, and with a face value of 1F50 plus a surcharge of 8F50 (as had earlier been proposed for the *Légion Française des Combattants*) (Figure 9).

The *Légion des Volontaires Français* issues

The arrangements for the sending of mail from the front were the same for *LVF* soldiers as for the German army. Mail sent to and from *LVF* soldiers in Russia was under franchise, and was exempt from postage; postage stamps were therefore not required. Letters normally received two circular cachets, one being a dumb *Feldpost* cachet with the date, and the other, slightly larger and with an eagle and swastika, with the 5-figure number of the postal sector (Figure 10).

The *LVF* issues are recognised as *timbres de bienfaisance* or *timbres de guerre* in the main French catalogues. Examples of all four series appear on mail from Russia though the stamps would primarily have been bought in Paris. Like many Vichy organisations, a number of different cachets were also used.

Five issues were planned, though only four actually appeared. The first issue – the ‘Bear’ miniature sheet – was issued on 24 October 1941. It depicts the Russian Bear with a red star (so that there could be no doubt) standing in the ruins of a city in flames with a sword more or less pointing at it and the Vichy *Francisque* in the top right corner (Figure 11).

The second issue appeared on 10 December 1941 and comprised two stamps, one for official airmail showing a

plane flying towards Russia, the other for special airmail showing a single-engined plane returning to France. Having learnt from the sales of the ‘Bear’ which had sold out (a print run of 30,000) the print run for this issue had been increased to 450,000 pairs though only 141,000 were sold (Figure 12).

The third issue which appeared on 15 January 1942 used the same two stamps, overprinted *FRONT DE L’EST/OSTFRONT*; again the sales were poor with only 137,000 of the overprinted pairs being sold (Figure 13).

The fourth and final issue is known as the *Borodino* issue and appeared with tabs (Figure 14), commemorating the *LVF* facing Soviet armies for a week at a village called Djukowa, close to Borodino where in 1812 Napoléon had won the battle which opened the way to Moscow (Figure 15). Sales again were poor with only 450,000 sets being sold out of a print run of 1 million.

The unsold stamps of all four issues were supposedly destroyed, but many no doubt found their way into collectors’ hands; “printer’s waste” no doubt also provides many of the varieties found today.

The links with Napoléon and his victories permeate the issues of both the *LVF* and the *Légion Tricolore*, though the march on Moscow and, in particular, the retreat in 1812 are perhaps hardly the stuff of national pride.



Figure 10
LVF cover stamped with the fourth LVF Borodino issue and showing the *Feldpost* cancel dated 1 August 1943 and the postal sector cachet, in this case 03865A.



Figure 11
The first LVF issue of the ‘Bear’ miniature sheet with the franchise mark +100^F.



Figure 12
Souvenir cover
with the second LVF issue
cancelled 18 July 1942

Figure 13
LVF cover to Tourcoing
from a soldier in postal sector 03865A
bearing the third LVF issue,
postmarked with the *Feldpost* dated cancel
and with the sector cachet,
opened and resealed
and treated with chemical wash
by the German censor
with censor number on reverse.



Figure 14
Part sheet of the Borodino issue showing the sheet layout and the tabs



Figure 15
LVF cover with the Borodino issue
postmarked 13 August 1943
from postal sector 03865A
with the sender's details on the reverse
and a note of his name on the front.
A two-line cachet emphasises the unit,
and it has been opened, censored and resealed.

Mail from LVF soldiers can also be found with German *Luftfeldpost* stamps. These blue stamps were introduced on 15 April 1942 to provide soldiers with access to the airmail despatch of letters. All soldiers received the stamps, one

of which had to be stuck on each letter, though two were required from 23 July 1943 (Figure 16). This service came to an end on 24 July 1944 with the retreat of the German armies from Russia.

Figure 16
Lettercard from a soldier of the 3rd LVF Battalion
of the 638th Infantry Regiment
in postal sector 05492D,
indicated by the cachet
and the sender's details on the reverse.
The card is dated 4 February 1944
and stamped with a pair
of *Luftfeldpost* stamps [SG M804].
The lettercard was opened by the censor
and resealed with tape,
treated with a chemical wash
and carries various censor marks.
The message includes
“...I hope to be back in Paris for a fortnight's leave...”,
though as the address is crossed out,
it is uncertain whether it reached its destination.



Finally

This brief article deals only with limited aspects of the anti-communist activities of the Vichy regime. It should not be forgotten however that the communist resistance against Vichy and the occupying Germans, the *Franc-Tireurs et Partisans*, grew strongly after the invasion of Russia, and

that the Free French (and the British) sought to support Russia with the despatch of air force squadrons. In the case of the Free French, the *Normandie – later Normandie-Niemen* – squadron fought bravely and successfully with the Russian air force on the Eastern Front (Figure 17).



Figure 17
Normandie-Niemen squadron joint stamp issue from France and Russia in 2017.

The Winged Victory of Samothrace

Edwin Voerman



Figure 1
The 30c and 55c values of the Winged Victory of Samothrace
cancelled at the *Musée du Louvre*

Introduction

Throughout their youth, collectors of French stamps looked in awe at the 1937 green and red stamps with a depiction of the Greek image of victory, the Winged Victory of Samothrace, also known as the Nike of Samothrace (Yvert 354–55; SG 586–87). These stamps were expensive and thus largely impossible to obtain for the majority of us young collectors. Fortunately, times have changed and these stamps are slightly easier to obtain now, although they still rank among the ‘good values’ – the ‘*bonnes valeurs*’ as the French put it.

It remains very apparent today that in 1937 the world of philately held a very different set of ideas from those that are current today. All too often we come across pre-stamped postcards from the *Musée du Louvre* or the detached stamps with the Louvre cancellation; stamps that had served on ordinary letters and postcards were not considered as valuable in the 1930s as they are today. Consequently, such pieces are difficult to find these days.

Who was Nike?

Nike was the Greek goddess of victory; her Roman equivalent was Victoria, a name with which we are generally more familiar. The Winged Victory of Samothrace is a marble sculpture of Nike discovered on the Greek island of Samothrace in 1863. The sculptor has never been fully confirmed, but it is assumed that it was Pythokritos. The sculpture is a masterpiece of life, movement and realism; it radiates enchantment, depicting the moment when the winged Nike descends onto the bow of a ship. The heavy winds force her clothes to cling to her, thereby revealing her elegant bodily shape and curves.

The sculpture has been crafted out of white marble originating from the Greek island of Paros in the Cyclades and measures an impressive 3.28 metres in height including the wings. It was sculpted in the Rhodes school of sculpture between 200 and 190 BC and was created to commemorate a victory at sea by Eudamos of Rhodes over Antiochus the Great, ruler of what we would now call ‘Greater Syria’. In the third century BC, Rhodes was a mighty seagoing nation in the Aegean. The sculpture is on display in the Louvre in Paris.

Purpose of this stamp issue

In order to financially support the national museums, the French postal service would from time to time issue so-called ‘surcharged stamps’. Initially, a set of postal stationery cards, ‘*entiers postaux*’ in French, for domestic use was envisaged, imprinted with the 30c stamp for cards containing a message of up to five words of text and the 55c value for cards of over five words (tariff of 12 July 1937 to 17 November 1938). As a result of a misunderstanding between the French postal services and the printers, it appeared to be impossible to publish a set of such cards. This meant that the postal service had to print the stamps separately which would then have to be affixed to the postcards before sale.

Exclusive use of the stamps was in the hands of three museums and they were thus not for sale elsewhere. The *Musée du Louvre* was the primary point of sale, but the stamps were also available in museums at Versailles and Fontainebleau. Cancellations from both aforementioned museums are much rarer than those from the *Musée du Louvre*. There was no limit set on the number of postal cards and stamps allowed to be sold for this issue, which prevented speculation and provided reasonable control for the postal service.

The issue totalled 150,000 pairs, which at the time was a relatively small number for a typical surcharged stamp issue. Indeed, the relatively high surcharge and the limited availability because of only three points of sale limited the volume of sales. The stamps were available between 20 August 1937 and 16 November 1937, at which time they were withdrawn from sale. Jean Antonin Delzers (1873–1943), a member of the famous French engravers’ guild in those days, not only engraved the stamps but also designed them.

Initially, the postcards were sold with the 30c or 55c Samothrace stamps pre-attached, and an additional fee of 70 centimes per postcard had to be paid on behalf of French museums – the three aforementioned museums were not the only ones to benefit. If you wanted both stamps, you had to purchase two postcards, priced at 1 franc (30c + 70c) and 1 franc 25 (55c + 70c) respectively, which made

it impossible to obtain just individual mint stamps. This was unheard of in a country which still has a long-standing tradition of collecting stamps in mint condition! This inevitably resulted in a storm of protest, predominantly from stamp dealers. By the end of August 1937 the French postal service succumbed to the pressure and made the individual stamps available, provided they were purchased along with a postcard and the surcharge of 70 centimes was paid. Mint stamps from this arrangement are still rather scarce and expensive as only a small amount ended up in public hands.

Scarcity

The most commonly found examples of the issue are individually cancelled stamps bearing the Louvre cancellation (Figure 1). This cancellation is usually slightly tilted towards the right as is clearly visible on the examples shown. Stamped, but otherwise unused, cards (Figure 2) are also commonplace taking into account the limited total circulation. Cards that have been posted from one of the three museums to an address within France are much rarer (Figure 3), but the most remarkable are the ones shown in Figures 4 to 6, which have been sent from a post office rather than from one of the museums. These cards originate from the period after the end of August 1937, when the stamps were available for purchase on an individual basis.

Figure 4 depicts a postcard with up to five words of text, sent from Paris to Grenoble, whereas Figure 5 shows a card with more than five words sent locally within Vichy. One notes a witty comment from its sender stating “Voici Samothrace [sic] / Dont, aux bras, il ne reste trace” (“Behold

the Samothrace, whose arms are gone without a trace”). On a sidenote, in both languages the rhyming is intended. Figure 6 shows a postcard which was sent from Garches in the *département* of Seine-et-Oise to Switzerland which, because of its additional stamps, was suitable to be used as an international postcard containing over five words at the 1 franc rate between 1 August 1937 and 1 December 1938.

Figure 7 (see cover) and Figure 8 depict a rather curious item from the time of the Spanish Civil War. It has been sent from Paris to Seville and has passed military censorship. In Seville, the card has been franked with three Spanish stamps, the *El Cid* issue of 1937-40, with the locally applied nationalist overprint “Viva España / Franco Queipo”. A return message has been written on the card, the original address having been crossed out and replaced with the address of the Chilean embassy in Paris (see Figure 7). The item left Seville on 10 September 1937 and arrived back in Paris a week later on 17 September, the front of the card (bearing a portrait of the artist Rembrandt; see Figure 8) being struck with the arrival date stamp of Paris 115 (Rue des Saints-Pères).

The affixed 55c Samothrace stamp was insufficient for the international rate for a postcard with over five words (the tariff for this was 1 franc as described above) but the lack of a tax mark is understandable as the card was prepaid and cancelled at the time of purchase. This must explain why it has escaped postal control and, presumably, in the far south of Spain they had never laid eyes on a franking like this before. For the return to Paris, the card had been properly stamped. An item like this with the Samothrace issue is an unexpected find!



Figure 2
Stamped and cancelled cards
as originally sold
at the *Musée du Louvre*



Figure 3
30c postcard with
Musée du Louvre cancellation
used correctly at internal
maximum 5 word rate

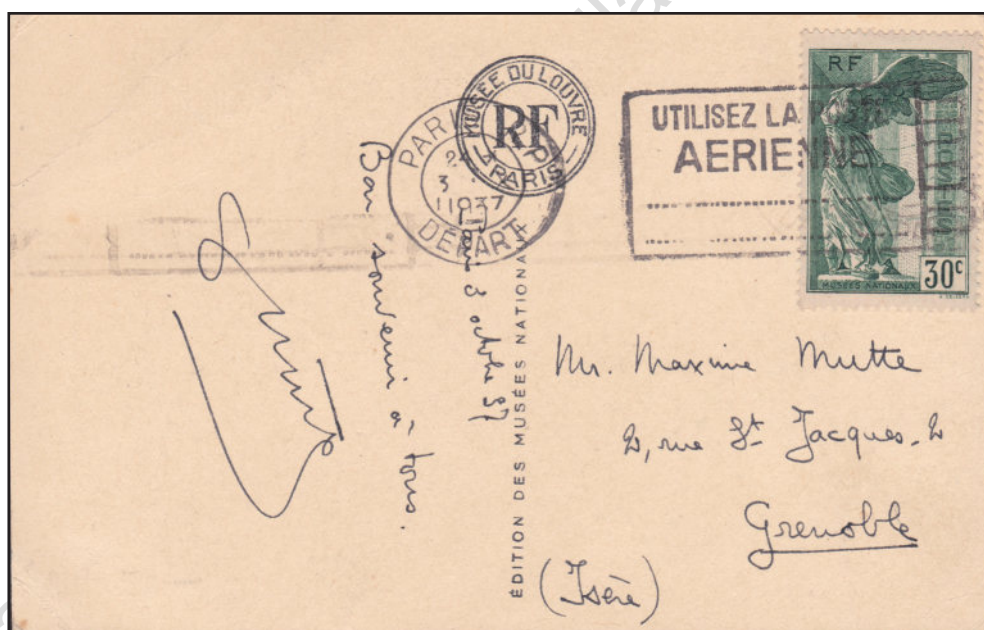


Figure 4
30c value on Museum card,
posted and cancelled
3 October 1937
at the Paris RP office



Figure 5
55c value on Museum card,
posted and cancelled
15 September 1937
at Vichy



Figure 6
30c value on Museum card to Switzerland
with added 5c and 65c values making up 1 franc foreign postcard rate,
posted and cancelled 5 November 1937 at Garches, Seine-et-Oise



Figure 8
Reverse of Figure 7 illustrated on front cover of the Journal
showing Seville departure postmark of 10 September 1937
and Paris arrival postmark of 17 September

Post-independence postmarks of Brazzaville

Part 1

Marc Parren



Logo of the
Société des Postes et de l'Épargne du Congo

Background

Brazzaville was the capital of the large federation of French Equatorial Africa in colonial times and it became the capital of the so-called Free French in Africa in 1940. The Republic of Congo gained autonomy on 28 November 1958 and its independence from France on 15 August 1960. The 1960s saw a gradual shift to the political left which included nationalisation and increased political ties to the USSR and communist China. In August 1968 a bloodless military coup toppled the government. In 1977 the People's Republic of Congo was proclaimed, Africa's first People's Republic. We can see this name illustrated on postage stamps but not in the postmarks, unlike in Benin.

After decades of turbulent politics bolstered by Marxist-Leninist rhetoric, and with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Congo completed a transition to multi-party democracy in 1992. Ending a long history of one-party Marxist rule, a specific agenda for this transition was laid out during Congo's national conference of 1991 when the name of the country was changed from the People's Republic of Congo to the Republic of Congo once more. Congo's democratic progress derailed in 1997 as presidential elections scheduled for July 1997 approached. This led to the outbreak of violence between supporters of different political parties and this short lived civil war was brought under control in October of that year through the intervention of troops from Angola. Ever since, the eruption of fighting can be seen, often around the time of elections, even to this very day.

The *Office National des Postes et Télécommunications*

(ONPT) was created by Law N° 64 of 25 June 1964. In 2001, by presidential decree, the Congolese postal and savings company, *Société des Postes et de l'Épargne du Congo* (SOPECO) was created as a follow up to the *Office National des Postes et Télécommunications* by splitting the postal branch from the telecommunications branch and coming into effect in 2003. In colonial times Brazzaville only had a *Recette Principale* (General Post Office) which started operating in 1889.

It was only during the 1960s that other post offices opened at the Maya-Maya airport and in the popular neighbourhoods of Baongo and Poto-Poto, located not far from the city centre. With the expansion of Brazzaville from 310,000 (1974 census), 600,000 (1984 census), 850,000 (1996 census), 1.4 million (2007 census), to 1.9 million (2017 census) inhabitants, post offices gradually opened further afield. During the 1980s there was Mfilou not far from the airport, Ouenzé and Plateau Quartier Administratif next to the presidential palace and the World Health Organisation (OMS) office in Djoué. Makélékélé, Moukondo, Plateau des 15 ans and Talangaï opened in the 1990s and, more recently, Kinsoundi and Nkombo in the present outskirts of the town. In 2017, just nine post offices were still operational after closing down the Plateau Quartier Administratif post office the previous year.

The author lived in Brazzaville during 2016 and 2017 and was able to verify the postal activities in much detail by visiting all postal facilities in town and by having conversations with postal staff present. The results of the author's research are tabulated below.

BRAZZAVILLE POSTAL HEADQUARTERS



The Brazzaville Postal Headquarters are located on the Avenue Patrice Lumumba around the corner from the *Recette Principale*. However, there are no postal facilities available.
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BRAZZAVILLE RECETTE PRINCIPALE









The Brazzaville *Recette Principale* (General Post Office), in use since 1931, holds, in addition to many counters, the Philatelic Bureau, the sorting office and Express Mail Service facilities.
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1.		Double circle 29mm with bridge Earliest: 20.1.1960 Latest: 4.9.1968 Earliest: 27.2.1997 Latest: 24.4.2012	RP without dots, font 3mm, Congo 13mm Observed during two distinctive time periods, it seems to have been reintroduced later on
2.	illustration required ¹	Double circle 29mm with bridge Earliest: 22.1.1962 Latest:	R.P. with dots, font 3mm
3.		Single circle 30mm Earliest: 6 IV 60 Latest: 6.4.1976	R.P. with dots, font 3mm Month indication changed from Roman to arabic numbers in unknown year, but seen 4.1.63. Also seen used in blue ink
4.		Double circle 29mm with bridge Earliest: 18.12.1978 Latest: 22.2.1986	RP without dots, font 3mm, Congo 17mm

¹ The author would be grateful if any member who possesses a copy of this postmark, or any other one not illustrated in these tables, could send a scan to the Journal Manager who will pass it on.

5.		Double circle 29mm with bridge Earliest: 21.7.1975 Latest: 15.12.1986	Brazzaville - R.P. with dots, font 2mm Congo 13 mm
6.		Double circle 30mm with bridge Earliest: 29.3.1962 Latest: 10.11.1998 B - E = 19½mm	R.P. excised
7.		Double circle 29mm with bridge Earliest: 2.4.1985 Latest: 24.5.1985	R.P. – Congo below
8.		Single circle 31mm Earliest: 13 MAR 1997 Latest:	BRAZZAVILLE R.P. large font CONGO not between crosses
9.		Single circle 31mm Earliest: 30 AOU 1999 Latest: 28 SEP 2000	Brazzaville R.P. small font CONGO between crosses
10.		Single circle 29mm Earliest: 29 JAN 1997 Latest: 15 SEP 2015	CONGO between 8-pointed stars

BRAZZAVILLE RECETTE PRINCIPALE CENTRE PHILATÉLIQUE

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11.		Double circle 30mm with bridge Earliest: 4.VI.1966 Latest: 1.4.1975	Brazzaville without dots below
12.		Double circle 30mm with bridge Earliest: 26.8.1971 Latest: 1.4.1975	Brazzaville with dots below
13.		Double circle 29mm with bridge Earliest: 14.12.1992 Latest: 7.12.1999	<i>ANNEXE PHILATELIQUE</i> below
14.		Rectangular 45 x 27mm Earliest: 15 JUN 2016 Latest:	
15.		Single circle 30mm Earliest: 15 NOV 2016 Latest:	

BRAZZAVILLE RECETTE PRINCIPALE CTM (CENTRE DE TRI ET MESSAGERIE)

Entrance to Brazzaville CTM
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Brazzaville Sorting Office
© Marc Parren June 2017




Brazzaville Sorting Office
© Marc Parren June 2017

16.		Double circle 30mm with bridge Earliest: 5.6.1972 Latest: 4.12.2000	With hyphen between BRAZZAVILLE and CTM
17.		Double circle 30mm with bridge Earliest: 18.4.1966 Latest: 21.11.1991	Without hyphen between BRAZZAVILLE and CTM
18. illustration required		Double circle 30mm with bridge Earliest: 4.1.1972 Latest: 24.1.1972	With hyphen between BRAZZAVILLE and CTM CONGO wide
19.		Single circle 27.5mm Earliest: 27.2.1975 Latest:	
20.		Single circle 29mm Earliest: 5.5.1986 Latest:	
21.		Single circle 30mm Earliest: 31 JUIL 1995 Latest: 7 MAR 2007	CONGO between crosses
22.		Single circle 29mm Earliest: 31 DEC 2001 Latest: 03 JUIL 2017	CONGO between 8-pointed stars
23. illustration required		Single circle 32 mm Earliest: 20 MAR 2003 Latest:	

BRAZZAVILLE RECETTE PRINCIPALE (OTHER SERVICES)





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CTM Départ		
24.		Double circle 30mm with bridge Earliest: 13.7.1985 Latest: 1.8.1991
Colis Postaux (Postal Packages, applied to packages over 4kg)		
25.		Double circle 29mm with bridge Earliest: 3.7.2017 Latest:
26.		Single circle 28mm Earliest: 26 FEV 1993 Latest:
Courrier d'Entreprise		
27.		Rectangular 44 x 26mm Earliest: 31.10.2016 Latest:

<i>Port Payé</i>		
28. 	Double circle 29mm with bridge Earliest: 28.12.1961 Latest: 27.9.1963	Brazzaville R.P. Congo /P.P. Seen applied both in black and red ink

BRAZZAVILLE AEROPORT

The post office is located at Maya-Maya but named after the airport.
It was no longer operational in 2016 when the author was stationed in Brazzaville.
Date of closure unknown.

1. 	Double circle 30mm with bridge Earliest: 26.8.1966 Latest: 13.1.1983 B - T = 18mm	
2. 	Single circle 27mm Earliest: 24.1.1975 Latest: 2.12.1994	
3. 	Single circle 27mm Earliest: 27.1.1983 Latest: 28.11.1992	
4. 	Single circle 31mm Earliest: 8 FEV 2001 Latest: 9 MAI 2001	CONGO between crosses
5. 	Single circle 29mm Earliest: 31 OCT 2002 Latest:	CONGO between 8-pointed stars


6.		Single circle 31mm Earliest: 18 AVR 1996 Latest: 19 NOV 1996	
Express Mail Service			
7.		Single circle 31mm Earliest: 15 AOU 2004 Latest: 30 AVR 2008	CONGO between crosses

BRAZZAVILLE BACONGO



Brazzaville Baongo Post Office

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1.		Double circle 30mm with bridge Earliest: 29.3.1962 Latest: 10.11.1998 B - O = 13mm	Upper text extends well beyond lower bar, font 3mm
2.		Double circle 30mm with bridge Earliest: 1.10.1975 Latest: 14.5.1987 B - O = 20mm	Upper text extends fractionally beyond lower bar, font 2.5mm
3.		Double circle 30mm with bridge Earliest: 17.3.1993 Latest: 30.8.1993 B - O = 21mm	Upper text extends beyond upper bar, font 3mm
4.		Double circle 30mm with bridge Earliest: 17.12.1986 Latest: -4.11.1999	
5.		Single circle 31mm Earliest: 6 JUIL 2000 Latest: 20 DEC 2005	CONGO between crosses
6.		Single circle 29mm Earliest: 13 JUIL 2001 Latest: 20 AOU 2013	CONGO between 8-pointed stars
7.		Double circle 24mm without date Earliest: 16 JUIN 2016 Latest: 04 OCT 2016	Local replacement ordered by postmaster C.D.A. = <i>Centre de Distribution et Administration</i>

Part 2 will be published in the next edition of the Journal.

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Cameroun – Bui Poste Automobile Rurale Postmark and ‘Mitterrand’ error



Figure 1
1987 cover with Bui Poste Automobile Rurale registration label and cancellation

The rather scruffy registered cover depicted above (Figure 1) is appealing for several reasons. Firstly, the cover, addressed to London and postmarked 1 April 1987, was sent from the Bui Poste Automobile Rurale and

bears a registration label with the Bui Poste Automobile Rurale handstamp. Bui is a Division in the Northwest Region of Cameroun. The principal town in the Division is Kumbo.



Figure 2
1983 issue depicting the Poste Automobile Rurale service

The Poste Automobile Rurale was introduced in Cameroun beginning about 1973 to bring postal services to rural populations, thereby reducing their isolation and promoting social and economic development. The Poste Automobile Rurale operated through correspondents, who represented

the postal service in the communities served. The postal vehicle would make regularly scheduled visits, primarily on market days. The range of services provided included the sale of postage stamps, collection and delivery of mail, and registration of letters (Figure 2).



Figure 3

Back of cover with balance of franking including two copies of the 'Mitterrand' error (see insert)

To return to the cover, it is interesting, secondly, that seven adhesive stamps of three different designs were used to pay the 470 CFA francs postage. One would not have expected such a variety from a *Poste Automobile Rurale*.

The cover is most interesting, thirdly, because the two 60-franc stamps commemorating the visit of French President Mitterrand are the error with Mitterrand spelled incorrectly, that is, with only one R. (Figure 3). First day covers of the error stamp are known, but only stamps with Mitterrand spelled correctly were to have

been issued.

A 70-franc stamp was also prepared with Mitterrand spelled incorrectly and it, too, has been found postally used. When stamps were supplied to the Bui *Poste Automobile Rurale*, and elsewhere, apparently no one paid attention to the fact that the stamps contained the error and, as a result, both stamps did postal duty. It is surprising – but perhaps not – that stocks of the error stamp were not destroyed and were accessible for provision to post offices.

What Cameroun surprises will we find next?

Michael Wright & Marty Bratzel

Free French 1944 Christmas Charity Postcard

In response to Bob Larg's query in the last Journal I can supply the following information.

The cards were produced on the initiative of Colonel Thibault de Beauregard, Director of Medical Services of the 1st Alpine Infantry Division of the F.F.I. and Major Chabannes, Senior Medical Officer of the area Auxiliary Forces. 5000 cards, all numbered, were produced and sold for 50 francs each to raise funds in aid of the sick and

wounded members of the F.F.I. and F.F.A.

The meanings of the initials in the overprint are as follows:

S.S.M. = *Service de Santé Militaire*

D.I.A. = *Division d'Infanterie Alpine*

F.F.I. = *Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur*

F.F.A. = *Forces Françaises Auxiliaires*

John Lucaci

Dogba Revisited



Figure 1
Declared value letter from Dogba, Bénin, to Paris

In the April 2018 issue of the Journal, member Simon Binsted recounts his odyssey in establishing some information on the Dogba, Benin/Dahomey post office. I began collecting the postal history of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type in 1976, and, more importantly, in 1985 I began keeping a simple database on the collection. This has become a non-trivial matter, as the program I use, titled Q&A, only runs at the DOS level and my Windows-based computer no longer supports programs at the DOS level. Fortunately my son was able to set up a DOS emulator on my hard drive, and I can continue to use this program. It now contains thousands of records of covers from the era of the Group Type.

A quick search of my database revealed that I have two covers from Dogba. The first, shown in Figure 1 and not in the finest condition, is a declared value letter that was posted from Dogba on 18 June 1903. It is franked at a 1F35 rate with seven Group Type stamps. Six of the stamps bear the BÉNIN legend and the final stamp is the 25c issue with the DAHOMEY ET DÉPENDANCES legend.

This is a difficult stamp to find on cover, especially from the period of its immediate release in 1899-1900. The Dogba datestamp (Figure 2) clearly shown at the bottom centre of the cover, is the same one (Type E) as noted by Simon Binsted. All of the Bénin stamps are cancelled by the Dogba datestamp. However, the 25c Dahomey stamp bears a Porto-Novo cancellation of 19 June, the next day – see Figure 3. The letter bears a CHARGÉ handstamp and a manuscript *Valeur = Mille Francs*, indicating that the letter contained 1000 francs. It also bears a Loango-Bordeaux Line L French Packet transit with an unreadable date. It is addressed to the Crédit Lyonnais bank in Paris.

To this point it appears to be a normal commercial letter. However, the upper right of the envelope bears a manuscript endorsement that indicates that it was franked by the sender. Postal clerks used these endorsements to protect themselves from claims of overcharging customers, when the customers overfranked letters, most often for philatelic reasons.



Figure 2
50c Bénin cancelled
DOGBA DAHOMEY ET DÉPES
18 June 1903.



Figure 3 (right)
25c Dahomey et Dépendances
cancelled
PORTO-NOVO DAHOMEY ET DÉPES
19 June 1903

The reverse of the letter bears a Porto-Novo transit from 19 June, and a Paris 11 arrival of 23 July. It also bears a typical declared value cachet which indicates that the letter weighed 16 grams, thus reaching the second weight level. Normally when I do the first attempt at determining the rate for a declared value letter, I take the easy way out. I simply add the amount for postage based on weight of the letter and the current rate to the destination (15c per 15g in 1903) and 25c for registration, subtract that from the total franking and assume the balance represents the amount paid for insurance on the declared value. In this case the calculation would look as follows: $2 \times 15c + 25c = 55c$; $1F35 - 55c = 80c$. Thus, I would conclude that the insurance on 1000 francs was 80c.

However, I must face the reality of the manuscript endorsement on the front, and the fact that the 25c stamp from Dahomey was not cancelled in Dogba but in Porto-Novo. Possibly the sender added the 25c stamp from Dahomey as a souvenir for the addressee, knowing that it was a rare stamp. The postal clerk in Dogba added his protective manuscript endorsement, and refused to cancel the Dahomey stamp. The clerk at Porto-Novo saw the Dahomey stamp simply as an uncanceled stamp, and cancelled it! Under this scenario, the actual postage for this letter was 1F10 and the charge for insurance was 55c.

As this point, I have far exceeded my area of knowledge, and defer to Peter Kelly for his comments on this matter. Peter and I have often discussed declared value rates in the past. He has vast knowledge of what these were during the *Type Sage* era, and more ready access to French decrees of the period. My Group Type collection now shows 72 declared

value letters (I love that database!), and that the insurance charges on mail from the Colonies is much more complex than one would initially think. However, this Dogba cover, is the first clear example of a declared value letter with an apparent philatelic taint that I have documented.

Earlier I noted that I have two Dogba covers. I have good news, and I have bad news as others have often said. The bad news is that I do not have a scan of this cover, and I am not sure just where it is at the moment. However, the database contains a wealth of information on it. It is a registered triple weight cover franked with BÉNIN legend stamps at a 70c rate. It bears three of the 15c blue Group Type stamps prepaying the postage and a 25c stamp for the registration. It was posted in Dogba on 19 September, 1899 and arrived at its Porto-Novo destination on 20 September. It bears a Langlois and Bourselet cancellation Type B, confirming that Dogba had two circular datestamps. It was addressed to *Monsieur le Greiffier Notaire*, and undoubtedly dealt with some legal matters. I will search for this cover, and try to provide a scan for the Journal.

So that's my contribution to the Dogba story. At this point, those with some computer expertise are probably wondering why I have not imported the data from my Q&A database into a modern programme such as Excel or Access. I would love to, and be able to use the capabilities of these modern programs. But such is not to be. When we import the data from a 1985 DOS program into a modern Windows program, all sorts of small glitches result in the transferred data. Before this data can be properly searched, I would have to manually correct thousands of records, each with more than forty fields of entry. My time is better spent on other endeavours.

Ed Grabowski

Andorra insists!



Those of us looking for a quiet Francophone sideline may well have considered the stamps of Andorra, many of them handsomely engraved in the best French style and whose more modern issues, if artistically more commonplace, nevertheless adhere to a not excessive stamp-issuing policy. Some of us may even have subscribed to its new issues.

All that is now to change. *Timbres Magazine* for July/August quotes a justifiably aggrieved letter from reader and new-issue subscriber François Galland, who reports that after years of happily subscribing to just the French Andorra issues, from now on the Andorra Post Office is demanding that he accept the issues of Spanish Andorra as well, an

indivisible package from which there is no relief save that of cancelling his subscription altogether. M. Galland is renewing his subscription, under protest, but fears that if such “forced purchases” become any more common, he – and no doubt many others – will think twice about collecting new issues at all. Is this what Andorra wants?

At the risk of undermining M. Galland's complaint, I must confess that I once used to subscribe to Andorra myself. Indiscriminate magpie that I then was, I took both components, and could scarcely complain about then receiving Spanish Andorra's 1972 *Europa* at new issue rates (44p, as I recall). It now catalogues at £150!

Michael Round

The Joseph de la Nézière pictorials of French West Africa

Browsing through an online auction catalogue earlier this year I came across the following lots. I would dearly love to have acquired them for inclusion in my article published in the last edition of the Journal but the estimates were prohibitive

due to their obvious rarity. Unfortunately I cannot recall the auction house from whence the images came (I have mislaid my notes too!) but if anyone can identify it I will gladly express my acknowledgements in a future edition.



Figure 1

French Guinea colour trials in unissued colours prepared for first issue (1913)



Figure 2

25c overprint trials in red on 2F French Territory of Niger (1924)



Figure 3

25c overprint trials in black on 2F French Territory of Niger (1924)



Figure 4

Framed 25c overprint trials in black on 5F French Guinea (1924)



Figure 5

Framed 25c overprint trials on 5F French Territory of Niger (1924)



Figure 6

Framed 25c overprint trials on 2F French Guinea (1924)

Mick Bister

42nd ANNUAL PHILATELIC WEEKEND 9-11 MARCH 2018

30 members and 16 guests attended the Society's Annual Weekend at the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Friday

A Committee Meeting was held in the afternoon and after dinner the proceedings were opened by **Peter Kelly** who invited members to put up their short displays.

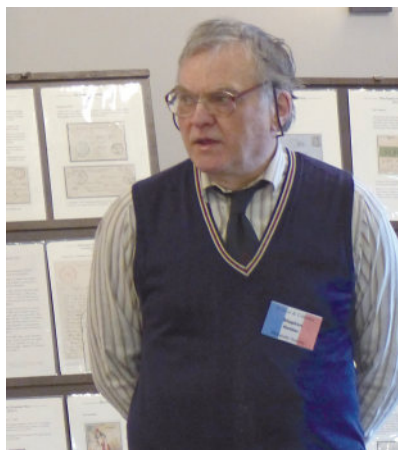
Peter Maybury began with a single frame of mail carried by the Cie. Albrecht steamships from Rotterdam, Hamburg and the Baltic Sea ports of Copenhagen, St. Petersburg and Cronstadt to Le Havre or Dunkirk between 1834 and 1872. **Steve Ellis** followed with material from the French offices in the Chinese Treaty Ports and then **David Parmley** showed the 1949 CITEC promotional labels designed by Pierre Gandon in a quest for further information. **John Parmenter** updated us on his ongoing 'World War 2 Civil Censorship in Madagascar' questionnaire showing scans sent in by various respondents. **Peter Kelly** displayed two letters from Réunion dated 1874 and 1895 both incorrectly franked with metropolitan France issues but only one taxed on arrival. Finally, **Peter Stockton** displayed *Franchise Militaire* material from World War 2 to 1960.

Saturday



Saturday morning began with the Annual General Meeting a full report of which was published in the August Journal. Then followed the traditional programme of displays with **Stephen Holder** presenting the first display of the morning which was part of his extraordinary Franco-Prussian War collection.

Stephen distributed a useful pamphlet providing a succinct analysis of the war and its aftermath and then related to us how his collection had been sold and reformed on several occasions, each time concentrating on a different facet of the war. Stephen gave us a broad view of



events starting with the war itself and showing us material from the German *Feldpost*, French Army posts and sieges such as those of Metz and Belfort. Then followed a study of the Siege of Paris including balloon flights and mail to Alsace-Lorraine, the Pigeon Post and attempts to get mail into the capital. Next came documents related to the Armistice and examples of mail from POWs and during the Commune. Finally we saw the German occupation issues and cancellations and examples of double franking

After a period of viewing and refreshments, **Mick Bister** took over with his display of Visiting Cards. Topics covered included the aristocratic ritual of exchanging visiting cards in the 18th and 19th centuries, 'porcelain' and photo visiting cards and postal stationery. Mick turned next to the printing process showing copper printing plates, proofs and filing pockets, printers' advertising material, receipts and invoices. Mick then showed examples of the early acceptance of visiting cards in the post both in envelopes and under wrappers before proceeding with, from 1 January 1917 onwards, examples of the three tier rate. Mick closed with material illustrating the postmarks and cachets from postal campaigns enforcing card size restrictions, taxed mail for underpaid items and penalties for deliberate flouting of franking requirements.

Peter Maybury gave a display of *bateau à vapeur* material illustrating the steamship services carrying mail to and from the ports of Marseille, Toulon and Cette and Oran, Algiers, Bone and Stora (Philippeville) in Algeria. The display covered the period from 1833 to 1939 and included the lateral services from Algiers and the connections to Tunis in the east and Tangiers, Spain and Gibraltar in the west.



David Trapnell concluded the first half of the morning with his display of German directional handstamps on the mail from French POWs in Germany in WW2. In his

presentation he explained the creation of the Occupied Zone and the Free Zone that gave rise to the need for these apparently never-described-before handstamps. The Germans arranged for what David called directional handstamps to be applied to speed up the correct delivery of POW mail to their families. Following the surrender of the French on 25 June 1940, 1,800,000 French soldiers were taken prisoner and most were soon moved to Germany to work on farms and in factories. They were held in many of the 125 camps, each holding c.20-25,000 men. Each camp had its own unique pair of handstamps reading *Besetztes Gebiet* or *Unbesetztes Gebiet* (zone occupée or zone libre), in

the same way that their censorship handstamps were also unique to the camp. David said that a preliminary article had recently been published in *'Germania'* and that our Editor had kindly agreed to publish a more detailed paper on the subject later this year¹.

After lunch, **John Hammonds** gave his display of airmail stamps in two parts – stamps imprinted *'Poste Aérienne'* followed by others relevant to the development of the



airmail of France. It was not compulsory in France to use *Poste Aérienne* stamps on airmail unlike some other countries. In 1927 the first *Poste Aérienne* stamps were two Merson values, overprinted *Poste Aérienne* and a Blériot Monoplane, issued for an aviation and automobile exhibition in Marseille. The Blériot Monoplane overprint was used also on stamps of Tunisia and Monaco. It also appears on some postcards of the era. (See F&CPS Journal N^{os} 141/142).² A modified Blériot monoplane overprint was used on stamps from Lebanon and Syria. The 1930 *Exposition Internationale de Poste Aérienne* was the occasion for two 1F50 stamps to be issued in red and blue to mark the occasion. The stamps were also perforated 'EIPA 30'. The same design was used on postcards printed for the 1948 *Foire de Marseille* and various other designs of *Poste Aérienne* stamps were shown. In the second part stamps issued to commemorate various aviation events were shown commencing with stamps issued to commemorate Montgolfier and Charles Balloon flights, Pilâtre de Rozier, Clément Ader and various others – including some vignettes issued for anniversary events. Stamps were also issued to commemorate events such as the opening of the air route to South America. The display closed with the 2010 issue of *'Les Pionniers de l'Aviation'*.



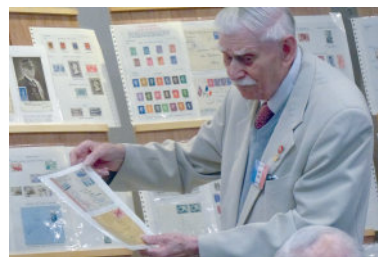
André Métayer followed with a display illustrating the usage of the *Napoléon lauréat* issue on cover. The display was divided into three parts. Firstly there

were examples of printed matter and other reduced rate items such as election bulletins, birth, marriage and death announcements, price lists and visiting cards. Later came newspapers and periodicals, business papers and samples. The second part was devoted to letters covering local, Paris to Paris and office to office mail. Finally we were shown examples of specific usages such as on insured letters and on unpaid and underpaid correspondence.

Next came **Len Barnes** with his display of airmails to and from the French Colonies. We saw material from the interwar years of the 1920s and 1930s. The display started with



Aéropostale covers including its first flights in Venezuela and continued with crash mail in Bondy, Akyab, Corfu, Gwalior, Juaiy-de-Nova Island and Morocco. Mail flown in proving flights was shown as well as mail from missed flights and covers illustrating aviation development.



After the tea break **Bob Larg** opened his display with the French State issues (July 1940 to August 1944) and showed all the stamps, including postage dues, issued during this period,

interspersed with various covers and cards and other items of interest. These included pre-printed postcards, *Journée du Timbre* material, items for various philatelic exhibitions and meetings, airmails and other special events. The next section was devoted to the Liberation issues. The last period, that of the Provisional Government (August 1944 to October 1946), commenced with the new colours and values of the Iris issue and the 1944 Marianne stamps plus all other subsequent issues being displayed. Various covers and cards again were shown including a card for Christmas 1944, franked with a block of four 30c Mercury stamps overprinted "S.S.M. D.I.A. / NOEL 1944/ F.F.I. F.F.A. / + 48f.80" and the Cross of Lorraine.

Peter Kelly then stepped up to show us his study of the development of postal services in French Sudan up to 1900. The display started in the late 1880s when



the region of the *'Haute Fleuve'*, meaning the upper part of the Senegal river, was transferred by Decree into the autonomous *Soudan Français* attached to Senegal. In January 1893 *Soudan Français* became a colony and under the Governorship of Colonel Archinard a period of substantial expansion began. The appointment of a civilian Governor in 1893 was short-lived owing to the continued need for military intervention. In October 1899 a Decree withdrew autonomous control and the colony was dissolved with parts distributed to adjoining colonies. In addition three military zones were created, one of which ultimately became the colony of Niger. The balance took the name of *Haut Sénégal et Moyen Niger*. During all of this period the expansion of the colony was achieved by a succession of annual seasonal military expeditions. The seasonal water levels on the rivers were critical in getting in supplies. Mails consisted principally of items sent *'sous*

¹ *'German Directional handstamps on the mail of WW2 French POWs'* by David Trapnell will appear in the December 2018 edition of the Journal

² *'The Marseille Aeroplane'* by Stephen Holder, F&CPS Journal, London 1980 Edition, N^{os} 141/142, Pages 36-37

franchise (free). Civilian stamped mail was scarce at the outset. The development of the telegraph network was a key factor. Initially, the postage stamps used were from the *Alphée Dubois* issue and later, the *Type Groupe*. In 1894 the shortage of stamps due to delays in supply caused the surcharging of the 75c and 1 franc issue, now rarities of this colonial issue and, in the same year, *'taxe perçue'* handstamps with the amount shown in manuscript. During this period all mail for Europe was channelled through the Kayes office and travelled by foot and the Senegal river to Dakar. Mail from the south-eastern side was sent south through Upper Dahomey to the coast at Cotonou. Mail in the interior was carried on foot or by *pirogue* (canoe) on the Niger river



After time for viewing, **Brigitte Abensur** gave us an informative PowerPoint display entitled "Just before France joined the GPU". Brigitte concentrated on the last six months of the

year 1875 which constitute a unique period in postal history. All the founder member countries of the *Union générale des Postes* (UGP) – Europe, the USA, Turkey and Egypt – created on 1 July 1875 a single area sharing common and simplified postal regulations. France was the exception inasmuch that it did not enter immediately into the pact but obtained a six month delay until 1 January 1876. The reason for this sole exception was France's dread of heavy financial losses. The twenty plus bilateral conventions between France and other countries continued to function whereas the latter adopted the rules of the UGP resulting in for them a considerable reduction in postal rates and transit fees as well as new methods of franking letters. Letters bearing evidence of this episode are not easy to find. They range from letters franked by senders at the new UGP rate but treated as insufficiently paid upon arrival in France to postcards, accepted as a reduced rate item by the UGP, being taxed as a letter. Old and new practices regarding franking and manuscript annotations can be encountered and lead to surprising discoveries. Less evident on correspondence but extremely interesting are the provisional tariffs charged by certain countries when their mail had to go via France while other less attentive countries applied the UGP tariffs.³

Evening

Following dinner, the evening was open to members to continue giving short displays. **John Parmenter** stepped up first with two 1941 covers addressed to Carlton Gardens, London, the location of the Free French Provisional Government. Both had been censored and sealed with FFL tape and forwarded to Tchad. **Brian Lythgoe** followed with examples of the reunification issue of the Cameroons issued on 1 January 1962 and sold for only three days, being withdrawn because the portraits of the president and prime minister were considered too effeminate. Next came **Paul**

Watkins who related the service record of a French junior naval officer between 1799 and 1816 who saw action from Martinique to Trafalgar and ended up as a POW at Cadiz. **Godfrey Bowden** followed with a display of Algeria EA overprints on French stamps. We saw singles and blocks on and off cover with various ink colours and varieties. **André Métayer** displayed five items of correspondence from an English POW detained in Verdun during the Napoleonic Wars, plus one from him when passing through St Malo on his return to Guernsey. **Lesley Marley** produced correspondence and postcards from Montargis focusing on the River Loing, the canals and canal paths, the 1910 floods and the tanning industry. Finally **Peter Kelly** showed us material passing through the *origine rurale* and *origine locale* service and explained the collection, delivery and registering of mail and the associated cachets.

Sunday

The morning began with **Robert Abensur** who entertained us with a display of postcards taxed as letters. We saw many examples of infringements of internal or UPU rules



including oversized cards, ones made of leather and wood and those with extraneous objects such as trade samples, photographs and spangles. Prior to October 1907, some countries would not accept privately produced postcards. With the evolution of the postcard and the popularity of postcard collecting, new rules appeared: the mandatory title '*Carte Postale*' or the equivalent in other languages, the admission of postage stamps on the back (view-side) and the introduction of the divided front. Internal and international rules came into force at different dates, and any infringements resulted in the postcard being taxed as a letter. Folded typewriter postcards, with an integral carbon copy, appeared in the 1920s; incorrect sealing of the folded part meant they were classed as letters and taxed.



Chris Hitchen gave a comprehensive display of the head post office in Paris from 1852 to 1876. The *Bureau Central* was of course the chief office for the capital and so

housed many sections and services. In mid-January 1852 the grills for cancelling the stamps were replaced and the head office then used a dumb star as an obliterator. The routes to various parts of the country were numbered and in April datestamps were issued for each route. A selection of these showed how the system was intended to work, however there were many errors which is perhaps why they were dropped in May 1856. One misdirected letter from Dunkirk to Reval in Estonia had first been sent to Revel near Toulouse in error. The display continued with trial postmarks with a number of circles of dots cancellations, registered mail, foreign destinations, printed matter, late

³ A full article on this topic will be published next year in the Journal

fee letters including some posted too late for the second and third periods, and items from the Dead Letter Office.



Steve Ellis shared with us his collection of *boîtes mobiles*, or moveable boxes, which were closed post boxes at a fixed location used for the acceptance of mail and capable of being moved for subsequent opening.

They were found from the 1840s on the quayside or onboard departing boats and on the wagons of *courriers d'entreprise* particularly in rural areas. Less common are those on Paris trams, at some railway stations and on river boats. Special cancellations were applied to mail taken from these *boîtes mobiles*. Examples were displayed on cross-Channel, Mediterranean and local coastal routes into France as well as within France, Corsica and *Guinée Française*.

After a period for viewing, **Peter Stockton** showed us his display comprised of rarely seen *hors sac* (urgent unbagged mail) and printed matter items. His commentary on the historical background was largely based on the article on *hors sac* mail written by Jean-Luc Trassaert in F&CPS Journal 223.⁴ Examples were shown from 1924 to 1958 covering different rates, frankings and cancellations. Within the section on printed matter was a 1923 fortnightly circular from a Paris financier containing his Stock Market analysis and recommendations for future investment with a review of his previous 'tips' all of which appeared to be profitable!



Peter was followed by **Paul Watkins** with his display of mail during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. Three frames illustrated the impact of the Wars on mail when normal relations

were suspended with a variety of different routes shown including letters to France through Amsterdam, Hamburg and Lubeck, the use of forwarding agents in Calais, 'smuggled' letters, soldiers' mail – including items from a newly-discovered correspondence between members of the exiled Royalist *Légion de St Domingue* based at Southampton – ship letters and a rare example of the 1815 'Post Paid Withdrawn Letter' scheme – a newly-recorded first example for Southampton. The second half illustrated the workings of the prisoner of war service including letters from both British and French prisoners, many with

Transport Office control markings, one showing a scarce example of Dartmoor prison censorship, including mail from and to prison hulks, the inland prisons and parole towns, the latter with an unusual letter from a prisoner to an officer serving with the French army in Germany. Finally, a letter to a Margate magistrate gave instructions on the handling of two escaped French prisoners who had almost made it to the Kent coast.

After viewing and coffee, **Brian Lythgoe** showed his Cameroon 1961 Sterling overprints which included panes and sheets, varieties, imperfs, errors and surcharge proofs. A wide range of covers was present from this narrow time framed period.



The finale was a comprehensive display of the French Mandate of Syria and Lebanon by **Ashley Lawrence**. His display commenced with an account of the French post offices, and those of several other

nations, which were established by negotiation with the *Sublime Porte* in the Turkish Ottoman Empire. Turkey had sided with Germany in the Great War of 1914-1918. Ashley described the Sykes-Picot agreement which had been made in secret between Britain and France in May 1916, and which, anticipating the defeat and downfall of Turkey, effectively divided the Ottoman Empire into their respective spheres of influence. In the post-War era, the League of Nations granted to France the Mandates to administer the territories of Syria and Lebanon. The display, aided by colourful maps, showed how the stamps of France were overprinted during the period of the Mandates to reflect the complex political situation as military occupation gave way to civilian government. The overprints became evermore complicated by boundary changes, and by changes in currency, as efforts were made to reconcile the competing claims and nationalistic aspirations of the different populations; divisions which plague the Middle East to this day.

After viewing, members returned for the closing of the meeting and to hear Steve Ellis announce the results for the 2017 Society Literature Award which were as follows.

- 1st 'The 25c visiting card rate from 1/4/20 to 15/7/25' by Mick Bister
- 2nd 'Paris: the post office for the Place du Châtelet et Les Halles' by Chris Hitchen
- 3rd 'Paris Instructional Marks from 1837 to 1950, Part 2' by Chris Hitchen

Chris Hitchen presented **Mick Bister** with the award and Steve Ellis thanked the judges John Garton, Ashley Lawrence, Peter Maybury and Alan Wood.

The convenors, Peter Kelly and Chris Hitchen were thanked for the time and effort in organising the event which remains the highlight of the Society's year.

⁴ 'Hors Sac Mail' by Jean-Luc Trassaert, F&CPS Journal N° 223, March 2002, Pages 23-26

The following members attended all or part of the weekend:

Robert Abensur
Maurice Alder
John Allison
John Barton
Mick Bister
Godfrey Bowden
Richard Broadhurst
Steve Ellis
John Hammonds
Chris Hitchen

David Hogarth
Stephen Holder
Peter Kelly
Bob Larg
Ashley Lawrence
Brian Lythgoe
Lesley Marley
Peter Maybury
André Métayer
Héloïse Mitchell

John Parmenter
David Parmley
Henk Slabbinck
Gerald Small
Colin Spong
Peter Stockton
David Trapnell
Maurice Tyler
Paul Watkins
Brian Weeks

MLB

REPORTS OF DAY MEETINGS

NORTHERN GROUP MEETING AT ROTHERHAM 24 MARCH 2018

The Northern Group day meeting was held in Rotherham on 24 March and was attended by nine members and three guests. An excellent occasion was enhanced with eleven fine displays given by the following:

John Morton: Early pre-Revolutionary mail

Steve Ellis: France in China

Alan Goude: French Cameroon plus Obock curiosities

Peter Rooke: Napoleonic Italy

Michael Meadowcroft: Stamps of the Third Republic issues

and the postal history of Faugères, Hérault

Trevor Smith: Modern auto-adhesive stamps

Stephen Holder: Franco-Prussian War, the Siege of Paris and the "Swiss Route"

Steve Ellis: Paris Railways

A convivial and tasty (food and liquid!) lunch was taken in the nearby local pub.

Residual items from the F&CPS library were available for purchase.

SRE

WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 30 JUNE 2018

Carol Turner: The French anti-malarial campaign

Ingrid Swinburn: Censorship of French colonial mail and POW mail



Members and guests attending the 30 June Wessex Meeting
Mike Berry, Peter Kelly, Chris Griffiths, Ashley Lawrence, Carol Turner (guest and displayer), Chris Hitchen, Alan Wood, Tony Swinburn (guest), Brian Weekes, Ingrid Swinburn (displayer)

Photo taken by Colin French

For this meeting we had two invited speakers. Firstly guest visitor **Carol Turner** showed a very detailed and comprehensive thematic display based largely on French and French colonial malarial issues of stamps including proofs and mainly letters but also including booklets and maximum cards. This covered all areas of the subject from the bark that quinine was extracted from to the research and methods of dealing with the disease from the earliest dates up to the modern day. It also included incoming mail and there was plenty of interesting postal history involved. We also enjoyed seeing a wide range of splendid postal stationery cards giving publicity to the prevention of malaria during WWI and there was a wide coverage of modern material from the French Colonies.

Our second invited display was given by Ingrid Swinburn who showed a wide range of POW and Internee mail from WWII. This covered a selection of camps and also a study of the categories of prisoners and where they were sent with examples of incoming and outgoing mail. Interesting examples of undercover mail were on view. The colonies were well represented with material from AOF and Algeria as well as the protectorates of Morocco and Syria and Lebanon. Censorship of mail was at the foreground with unusual examples from Madagascar and Reunion.

After our usual lunch at the Old Mill members' short displays included:

Ashley Lawrence: The life and times of the blue riband transatlantic liner '*Normandie*' illustrated by the two stamps issued, letters and some mouthwatering, if excessive, dinner menus.

Chris Hitchen: A selection of Paris mail from the 1830s and 40s all relating to different problems with the mail including items that were contrary to the monopoly, how these were dealt with and examples where the senders got away with it, franchise mail, taxation and Dead Letter Office applications (*Rebuts*).

Chris Griffin: A selection of material including redirected mail and incoming mail from the UK with newspaper labels.

Brian Weekes: Issues relating to the liberation of France following WWII through pages from philatelic journals.

Colin French: French TPOs.

Peter Kelly: Interesting covers from Reunion franked with stamps from the colonial Eagle issue.

Mike Berry and Alan Wood also attended with guests Carol Turner and Tony Swinburn.

At the opening of the meeting Peter Kelly advised members that Alan Wood had made the decision to stand down as Convenor by reason of his wife's illness and its effect on his own health. A new member, Colin French has volunteered to take over as Convener with any help required from Peter with effect from 1 January 2019. Alan has been the lynch pin of the group since it was formed in 2004 and the group would not have survived without him. All those present expressed their gratitude to Alan for his hard work and unfailing kindness and good humour.

We plan to have three meetings in 2019 and dates will be announced as soon as possible. Meetings will continue to be held at the Scout Hall.

PRAK/AJW

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 5 MAY 2018

Steve Ellis: French Transatlantic Mail 1783-1875



Steve Ellis presents his outstanding French Transatlantic Mail collection

Steve Ellis introduced his display explaining that it contained transatlantic maritime mail primarily between France and the United States but also included mail to and from other countries which had transited France. The time span would cover several postal conventions and conflicts enforcing changes in rates and routes.

The first frame contained seven items carried by the Royal *Paquebot* Service which operated between 1783 and 1793. Most covers bore only a town cachet such as a 1786 entire stamped *L'Orient* (now known as Lorient). A unique item was a 1784 letter bearing the a strike of the ship's name '*Le Warwick*'. Thereafter, private ships crossing the Atlantic

and transporting passengers and goods accepted mail although during periods of conflict mail would be rerouted using neutral ships to avoid theatres of war. During the Franco-American War of 1798 and 1806 and the War of 1812 between the USA and Britain we saw mail carried by bootleggers and blockade busters including a fine example from New York to Toulouse via Havana.

1815 saw the emergence of the clippers so-called because their streamlined design enabled them to clip time off previous records. Examples of mail carried by clippers were shown as well as American ship letter marks and forwarding agents' cachets. From 1838 mail began to be carried by the pioneer steam ships such as the British and North American Royal Mail Steam-Packet Company later known as Cunard who introduced the 1/- rate of which examples were shown. From now on most transatlantic mail was operating through Liverpool. In the meantime, the Americans levied a 25c freight money letter charge of which examples from 1841 were shown on mail from Philadelphia and New Orleans to Paris.

Two frames were devoted to rate reductions introduced by the 1843 Postal Convention. Complications arose with changes being made in France, Great Britain and France at different times. Two fine examples from 1851 were displayed one from Quebec to Calais with Paid at Quebec and routed via Montreal, Boston, Liverpool, London and Calais and one at the rare 34 cents rate from Lyon to New Orleans via Paris. In response to the British discriminatory rate on incoming mail carried by American steamers the USA retaliated with a 24 cents packet rate on British mail examples of which were shown. This lasted from 29 June to December 1848. Normal rates were restored before the end of the year although one cover dated 12 January 1849 showed the retaliatory rate still being applied in New Orleans.

Eventually a Postal Convention between France and USA was introduced in April 1857, though prior to its implementation there was a complex three month "interim

period". However, the Convention greatly simplified things, with a single paid-through rate, though the apportionment of the revenue between the various countries still depended upon the ship's nationality. We saw a splendid range of such rates including a fine 1863 newspaper wrapper and covers with a variety of accountancy marks. In 1869 America demanded reduced rates but France refused and the postal treaty expired leaving postal relations in a state of flux. Finally, Steve showed us several frames of the ensuing rates including the so-called 'phantom rates', prepaid from France and the USA, unpaid from Brazil, unpaid transit, through rate from Cuba to France and underpaid items.

In the afternoon, members showed the following:

Paul Miller: A selection of illustrated first day covers with various printers' logos, examples of the *Blasons* issues and *Dames de France* Red Cross booklets

Michael Round: Printing and colour varieties on stamps of the 1960s including the 25c *Marianne de Decaris* in carmine and rose, the 2F *Noratlant* printed in both monochrome and in two colours and the 50c *Cognac* with progressively 'missing' barges.

Mick Bister: A study of the printings of 1F *Le Touquet* issue and its postal usage including a rare example of an *avis de réception* form with the 'after posting' rate followed by an update of the 50c *Jeanne d'Arc* 'La vache qui rit' scandal based on recently published evidence.

Chris Hitchen: An explanation of the Revolutionary calendar and the introduction of metric rates and currency with a display of related covers including one with a leap year cancellation *jour complémentaire 6 An 11*.

Chris thanked all who had displayed during the day and thanked Steve Ellis especially for his magnificent presentation of rare and varied material and congratulated him on his delivery of such a complicated subject.

Members present: Maurice Alder, Alan Baum, Mick Bister, Steve Ellis, Chris Hitchen, Paul Miller, Barbara Priddy, Michael Round, Hans Smith and Tom Waterman.



Alan Baum and Paul Miller discuss the 50c *Cognac* varieties

MLB

BOOKSHELF

Compiled by Michael Round

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

Yvert & Tellier 2018 – Timbres d’Afrique francophone Volume 1 (Afars et Issas à Haute-Volta)

666pp, 210x290mm format, illustrated in colour

Price 44.90€ plus postage. Editions Yvert & Tellier, 2 rue de l’Étoile, 80094 Amiens Cedex 3.

Right up my street for one, this volume (the first since 2012) cries out for a detailed review, but this will have to wait until I can physically get my hands on a copy. In the meantime, I rely on press releases. The biggest change here is the inclusion of pre- and post-independence material together, a huge convenience for those pursuing the ideal of “one country, one catalogue” if less of an improvement to card-carrying “modern rubbish” collectors (guilty as charged, and loving every minute of it) who already know which is which and whose hands have hitherto fallen instinctively onto the correct (well-thumbed) volume. In fact – and in vindication of us patient and long-suffering collectors of modern, most price-rises this time round are in the post-independence sections.

The limitation to African territories means that Cambodia and Laos do not feature. Only time will tell where they will next turn up.

La Cote des Coins Datés et des Millésimes 2018 (timbres libellés en francs)

116pp, A5 format.

Information: M. F. Keledjian, Président de la SoCoCoDaMi, 98 rue de Charenton, 75012 Paris.

The sheer quantity of material available to collectors of dated corners and *millésimes* forced their dedicated society (the SoCoCoDaMi) to split their catalogue into two: one for stamps denominated in euros (I mentioned an edition of this in June 2015), the other – this 77th edition – in francs. Other catalogues cover this material, but in not nearly as much detail. Given the relative stability of the market, the catalogues may not automatically be renewed each year.

Catalogue des vignettes expérimentales, 6th edition by Gérard Gomez

52pp, A4 format, illustrated in colour

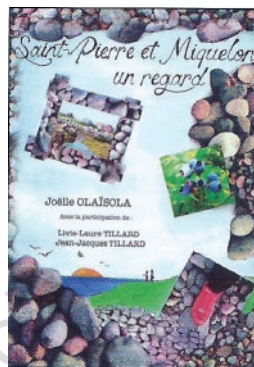
Price: 29€ plus postage (4.80€ within France, 9.60€ abroad) from:

Gérard Gomez, 13 rue Hardy, 78000 Versailles.

Some experimental, non-postal Cinderellas have recently been admitted to the Yvert catalogue, sparking off (as

catalogue inclusion always does) a renewed interest in them. The very earliest examples date from as early as 1849, coincident with France’s first postage stamps. The best known are probably the “Palissy” issues. M. Gomez’s catalogue embraces these, and all those that we can recall offhand: *La Fayette*, *Pic Vert*, *Chambon*, *Jacques Cartier* labels and so on – plus many more besides. Handsomely illustrated, and a “must-buy” for anyone interested in this area.

Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, un regard by Joëlle Olaisola with Livie-Laure Tillard and Jean-Jacques Tillard



48pp, A4 format, lavishly illustrated in colour

Price 22€ including postage

Orders and information: J.-J. Tillard, 57 rue de Paris, BP 4433, 97500 St-Pierre et Miquelon. Email: jjtillard@cheznook.net Payment via Paypal: texspm@cheznook.net

This is a luxurious back-up to any collection, or display, of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, and something of a family affair. Jean-Jacques Tillard, already well-known among collectors and author of at least seven handbooks on the territory’s philately, took most of this book’s photographs and chose the stamps for illustration; Joëlle Olaisola, author of the text, is his wife; daughter Livie-Laure designed the most attractive front cover. Proximity to Canada has prompted a bilingual text, a relief to monoglots among us: it reveals much on local customs, culture and history. An excellent gift, spouses and partners please note!

Books Noted by Maurice Tyler

Atlas Historique du Philatéliste, Tome 3: Afrique by Jean-Pierre Merceille

Dedicated to history of African continent, with many illustrations and maps. Details on website:

www.clubphilateliquesarcellesetenvirons.com/galerie-114-atlas-philatelique-tome-3.html

Price 20€ + p&p (6.40€ in France); available from Club Philatélique de Sarcelles et Environs, Résidence Fontaine Saint-Martin, Esc. 2, 1 rue Jean-Jaurès, 93550 Saint-Brice-sous-Forêt.

La Grande Guerre dans l'Yonne 1914-1918

Pub. by l'Amicale Philatélique Auxerroise (APA) with le Club Cartophile de l'Yonne; 80pp well illustrated with postcards and photos; price 10€ + p&p (3.50€ in France); available from APA, 14 rue d'Auvergne, 89000 Auxerre; email michel.worobel@orange.fr

Covers medical units in this *département*, postmarks of military hospitals, GVC, monuments, POWs, executions, etc.

Le Contrôle Postal Français en Alsace-Moselle (1939-1945)
by Jean Specht

Pub. Editions de la SPAL; 52pp in colour, format A4; price 19€ + 6€ p&p; available from Gilles Feutren, 31 rue du Belvédère, 68100 Mulhouse.

French censorship cachets and sealing strips from two separate periods, during hostilities (September 1939 - June 1940 - Colmar, Strasbourg and Metz) and at Liberation (from end of 1944/beginning of 1945 - Strasbourg and Metz).

**'Le timbre Jeanne d'Arc-Orléans 1929'**

by Alain Wagner

Reviewed by Mick Bister

163pp, A4 format. Price 25€ plus postage. Orders and information: Alain Wagner, 7 impasse du Pin, 33124 Auros.
Tel. 05 56 65 72 40. Email: chrisal.wagner@orange.fr



Before going any further I should declare an interest: I have known the author since early 2005 when we began an extended correspondence on the 50c *Jeanne d'Arc* issue which evolved into a mutually rewarding exchange of information and philatelic material.

Having now read his book, I have discovered that it was just three years earlier when he had made the decision to

abandon 'collecting stamps' and instead embark on a single specialised study. Born and bred in Lorraine it dawned on him that the 50c *Jeanne d'Arc* of 1929 would be an apposite choice; he had seen the light, he says, although not heard any voices. It is remarkable therefore that the author, in a relatively short time, has built up such a large collection of material and become such an authority on the subject that he can produce a book of 163 pages on this humble postage stamp.

The book begins, appropriately, with what he terms the 'genesis' of the stamp illustrated with examples of the rejected and shortlisted designs that were submitted in competition. There follows a short biography of Gabriel Barlangue the winning designer and Abel Mignon the engraver and a series of illustrations documents the development of the stamp's design from the first sketch (a phenomenal discovery) to the finally approved design with its offending *fleurs de lys* removed. Contemporary PTT correspondence appertaining to the printing and issuing of the stamp is quoted from and the full documents themselves are reproduced for reference in the book's appendix. My only criticism is that I would like to have seen more examples illustrated of the colour trials which I am sure the author possesses.

The sheet printings are fully explained and illustrated thereby enabling collectors to identify both cylinder and press. The booklet printings follow, first the booklet covers

with all four pages illustrated and then the contents. Much attention to detail is given not only to the marginal 'pubs' but also to any interleaving that may have been included. Illustrations abound including the full range of coloured cloth samples inserted in the *Histoire de la Chemise* booklet; four pages are devoted to this one booklet of which twenty-four permutations are now recorded.

A chapter is devoted to perfins recorded to date on the *Jeanne d'Arc* issue; the list will inevitably get longer as further discoveries are made. We then return to the *Vache qui rit* 'pub' scandal which I would have expected to have been included in the above chapter on booklets. The author reproduces the evidence, a circular issued in July 1929, which instructed postal workers to remove the offending 'pubs' from the *Jeanne d'Arc* booklets. This document is a significant find and therefore perhaps justifies after all a separate chapter devoted to it.

Then follows the author's award winning section of his collection - twenty-four pages devoted to a study of the rates operating during the stamp's six month period of issue plus the occasional late usage. We see single, multiple and mixed frankings including a 50c urgent invoice, 50c *Lettre-océan*, 1F presentation tax on a VAR *bordereau*, 3F50 fee on a telegram, 50c concessionary mail to Canada and a wide selection of airmails including zeppelin and catapult mail and a 21F registered letter flown to Argentina. Each item is fully described and explains how the rate was calculated.

The study closes with a chapter on hand and machine cancellations encountered on the stamp. Many of these are familiar but clean Savava and Sylbe & Pondorf strikes are always a joy to behold.

In all, this is a well produced compendium combining information drawn from previously published sources (most now out of print and hard to find), personal research, correspondence with fellow collectors and, last but not least, his own collection. This is a book written by a philatelist passionate about his subject and creates a template for other collectors who may be considering how to embark on their own specialised study.

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong, Maurice Tyler and Michael Round

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 163 1^{er} Trim 2018: Madagascar: La Série Typographie 1891 (Richard); Les Timbres à date de Brazzaville après l'Indépendance [cont & end] (Parren).

The Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 97 N° 2 March-April 2018: Who printed J.W.Scott's forgeries? (Lawrence); 1918 - The fifth War Year (Kugel).

Vol 97 N° 3 May-June 2018: The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: New Caledonia – Datestamps Lacking Village Names (Grabowski); Old Postal History Interests Resurface in Another Century, Another Hemisphere; Similarities Between the Philatelic Study of Civil War in America and Vietnam (Telep).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 236 2^e Trim 15 April 2018: Le timbre de franchise du Mémorial de l'Artillerie de la Marine (Desarnaud); Les Serbes en Tunisie et en Algérie durant la Première Guerre mondiale (Bourguignat); L'affaire du faux Merson de 1912: la levée partielle du mystère (Bonney); Le timbre à l'effigie d'Iris: Les «1 Franc» vert et rouge de 1939/1941 et les type 2 en rouge (Rabineau).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

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

N° 1927 Apr 2018: L'OP2-2017 du *Marion Dufresne* [1/2] (Venturini); Le premier tour du monde aérien par Français (Albaret); Les utilisations du 30c orange Semeuse camée à l'international (Lavigne).

N° 1928 May 2018: Jeanne d'Arc et le publictimbre (Wagner); Le 3c du type Sage pour l'envoi de journaux et d'imprimés sous bande (Lavigne); L'OP2-2017 du *Marion Dufresne* [2/2] (Venturini).

N° 1929 June 2018: Ainsi font, font, les 4 Jours de Marigny (-); «90 pièces (et plus) pour les 90 ans» L'Académie de Philatélie (-); L'Utilisation du 3c Sage sur les imprimés sous enveloppe ouverte et à l'international (Lavigne); L'OP3-2017 du *Mariou Dufresne* (Venturini).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 332 (Vol 74, N° 2) April 2018: The era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Senegal Military Mail (Grabowski); St Pierre et Miquelon Local Letter rate and Extra Service fees 1941-1945 (Taylor); St Pierre et Miquelon - Le cachet «Langlade» demeure rarissime au 19^{ème} Siècle (Tillard); Tinker to Evers to Chance: A philatelic version and an unusual Marseille datestamp (Grabowski); The Fantasy MARTINIQUE Overprints on the General Issues Postage Due Stamps

(Grabowski); Postal Modernization in French Polynesia and Ivory Coast (Meter Stamp Society News).

Gibbons Stamp Monthly

Vol 49 N° 2 July 2018: Phantom Philately: The Classic Issues [incl French Congo item] (Brustrøm).

The Stamp Lover

Vol 110 N° 2 April 2018: On your marks! Charge + instructional and explanatory marks (Hill).

Timbres Magazine

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

N° 199 Apr 2018: Le Coq de Decaris: un symbole gaulois sur un timbre français (Singeot); La Tour Eiffel: symbole de Paris (Wertheimer); Une histoire belge qui fait date (Touloman); Quelques histoires de roulettes: Les factices (Gomez); Armée de Sambre et Meuse (de La Mettrie); Sur les pas de Jules Renard (Zeyons); Les blocs de la C.N.E.P.: une collection qui a la cote! (-); Convention franco-luxembourgeoise de 1851 (Prugnon).

N° 200 May 2018: Ces Marianne qui n'ont pas vu le jour (Nowacka); 1^{er} au 2 septembre 1930 Paris-New York Costes et Bellonte traversent l'Atlantique d'est en ouest (Sinai); 1825, à bord du *Real Ferdinando*; la plus ancienne lettre [connue à jour] transportée par vapeur postal en Méditerranée (Veglio); Quelques histoires de roulettes Changement de format (Gomez); Images et slogans de Mai 68 (Zeyons); La taxe de traitement (Prugnon); Le cachet «Langlade» rarissime au XIX^e [St Pierre et Miquelon] (Tillard); Des rubans du XVI^e aux étiquettes du XIX^e (JFB).

N° 201 June 2018: La *Marianne à la Nef*: à la charnière entre l'ancien et le nouveau franc (Singeot); Costes et Bellonte à l'assaut de l'Atlantique: La suite du voyage (Sinai); C215: «Quand je réalise un timbre, c'est une façon de rappeler au public qu'il y a un art de communiquer» [Ernest Pignon-Ernest] (Julien); Fin des dentelures verticales et des distributeurs (Gomez); Des villes redeviennent des ports (de La Mettrie); Deux hypothèses pour une taxation (Prugnon).

N° 202 Jul-Aug 2018: Les premiers visages de Marianne sur le timbre français (Singeot); Collectionner les plis de grève! (Fresneau); La dramatique tentative New York-Paris de René Fonck (Sinai); Pas grand-chose [documents] (de La Mettrie); Entiers de l'Isère: les précurseurs des P.A.P. [Prêt-A-Poster] (Gomez et Gervais); Besnardeau: mystères et légende (Zeyons); Sous l'œil de l'expert (Calves, Jacquart et Beghin); Le complément de taxe (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 Siège 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).

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 Marcophile et l'Histoire Postale (VI): L'histoire postale au début du XX^e siècle (Morat).

PHILapl

Michael Round reports that the magazine of the Association Philatélique du Loiret, includes in its issue N° 70 (May 2018) a detailed study of the Pétain stamps engraved by Charles Mazelin. They appeared between 1942 and April 1944, and were demonetised in November of that year. This compact area, all illustrated, includes artist's proofs, *de luxe* proofs, colour trials, *coins datés*, varieties and some covers. Information from the Association, 10 rue Alain René Lesage, 45100 Orléans; phone 02 38 63 37 33; email phila.assocloiret@laposte.net

What The Royal Philatelic Society London does for non-members

Whilst most benefit can be derived from actual membership of the RPSL a considerable amount is done that is available both to the wider philatelic world and non-collectors.

The Society is a charity and its purpose is the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage and education in relation to these purposes. A library of international repute is maintained and is available to the public and members. An Arts Council England (ACE) accredited museum of artefacts of international importance is kept and is open to the public. Philatelic collections are acquired by purchase and inheritance and gift which are valuable for research and aid the philatelic world in the detection of forgeries.

The collections – Library, Museum and Philatelic collections give advice and answer enquiries from members and non-members from around the world at no charge. Free-to-access displays are open to the general public by prior arrangement at no cost. Open days and tours are conducted regularly giving access to different parts of the Society's holdings. In September 2017 the Society took part in the nationwide Heritage Open Days scheme and it is intended to continue with these in the new premises which will be in use from 2019.

It is recognised that many cannot attend or visit the Society at its London home. Events and meetings are held throughout the UK and indeed the whole world to which guests are very welcome. Use of the internet is already widely used and will be further developed to make as much as feasible available wherever one resides.

The Society website www.rpsl.org.uk provides more information and contact details for members of staff available to answer queries and provide information.

Next year the RPSL will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary. For its major official international celebration, the Society is delighted to be joining its members and friends from around the world at the 'Stockholmia 2019' international philatelic exhibition in Stockholm, Sweden from 29 May to 2 June 2019 (see page iv of this Journal).

Further information about all the activities and events that are taking place in London, Hong Kong, the USA and Sweden to celebrate the Society's 150th Anniversary is available on the Society website.

RPSL

Come!

All are invited



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