

THE JOURNAL OF THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY



A programme of Zoom meetings of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society was launched on 12 January 2021 with the first being attended by members in the UK, USA, Belgium, France, India and Australia. Full details of this and future Zoom meetings are to be found on Page 3.

VOLUME 71 • NUMBER 1
APRIL 2021
WHOLE NUMBER 295

ISSN 0269-5006

**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.

2020-21 Annual Subscription Rates

United Kingdom: £16.00, Europe: £23.00, Elsewhere: £27.00.

Overseas applicants may prefer to receive the Journal and other information in electronic format which would avoid expensive overseas postage. The subscription rate would be £16.00

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

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

Bank transfers to HSBC account name France & Colonies Philatelic Society sort code 40-07-31 account no 71019325.

The Journal

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

It is printed and distributed by Joshua Horgan Print & Design, Unit 2, Glenmore Business Centre, Range Road, Witney, Oxon OX29 0AA from the Editor's PDF copy.

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Contributions should be sent by email to Chris Hitchen at treasurer@fcps.org.uk

Text must be submitted in Word and images attached separately as jpegs scanned at 300dpi.

Auction and Exchange Packet Sales

Lots for sale through the Society auctions, held 2 or 3 times a year, should be sent to the Auction Secretary:

D G Parmley, 40 Kenyons Lane, Lydiate, Liverpool L31 0BR (email: dparmley@jhgl.co.uk; tel: 07464 926250) according to instructions.

Material for circulation in booklet form is welcomed but please contact the appropriate secretary with details before sending items.

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Colonies: R Gent, 17 Malmaison Way, Beckenham BR3 6SA (email: Rodney.gent1@outlook.com; tel. 020 8650 7695).

The Magazine Circuit

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

For further details contact the circuit organiser:

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* * *

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

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

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

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Volume 71 Number 1

April 2021 ● Whole No 295

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SOCIETY NOTES

Editorial

Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition and especially Mick Bister who does so much to ensure there is a balanced mix for your enjoyment.

This edition completes the *Post-Independence Postmarks of the Central African Republic* by Marc Parren and Martin Bohnstedt, new member Roger Niven shows us the complexity of collecting French stamps by topic, plus, there are more than 15 other shorter articles. Chris Hitchen also gives a detailed summary of the Zoom Meetings. It was a welcome innovation for me to participate in a Society meeting, not only to see some excellent material but especially to meet fellow members for the first time.

Enclosed with your Journal is the flyer detailing the Annual Weekend at Charlecote and the Auction Catalogue. Please check the website for images of a selection of auction lots and other up-to-date information between Journals. **Jan Gane**

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome new members 1502 Carlton Jones (UK), 1503 John Mackey (UK), 1504 Richard Elliott (USA), 1505 Magnus Bernhardtsson (Sweden), 1506 Vincent Centonze (USA) and 1507 Dr Greg Redner (Canada).

Members Deceased

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of two long-standing members 208 Colin Spong and 596 Michael Annells; we extend our sympathy and condolences to their families. Colin was a very active and well-loved member and two tributes to him will be found on Pages 5 and 6.

Annual Philatelic Weekend 2021

We are delighted to report that the Annual Weekend is back on. It has been re-scheduled at the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel, Charlecote, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, from Friday 9 July to 12.30 hours on Sunday 11 July 2021. Full details have already been circulated to those who had shown initial interest in the Redditch venue.

Articles for the Journal

A big thank you is due the members who have submitted or who have pledged articles in response to my appeal in the last 'Journal'. We now have sufficient material for the remaining editions of this year. Needless to say, I welcome more contributions to ensure progression into the next year. For the moment please send your material to Chris Hitchen treasurer@fcps.org.uk

Annual General Meeting 2021

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place at the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel, Charlecote (during the Annual Philatelic Weekend) at 9.20 am on Saturday, 10 July 2021.

Any member wishing to raise matters or put proposals to the AGM should submit them in writing to the General Secretary, Dr Andrew Telfer Brunton, The Ponds, Trevethan Close, Bolingey, Perranporth, TR6 0DH or by email to secretary@fcps.org.uk at least one month prior to the AGM.

Members who may wish to put themselves forward to serve on the Committee or otherwise assist the Society are encouraged to contact the General Secretary.

France & Colonies Packets

Richard Broadhurst is pleased to inform members that both the France and the Colonies packets are fully operational again and with much new and interesting material appearing especially very popular modern items.

During the lockdown some members understandably preferred not to receive the packets but most have now re-joined. It is possible that a few members would like to see the packets again and have not informed the packet secretaries, so please do get in touch and you will be included in future. New members will be most welcome as well.

Richard recently received this very kind note from one of our more vulnerable members:

"Thank you for the supply of packets during the lockdown. They have been a life saver for me as one who has been confined to my house for most of the year."

It is very rewarding to hear that our Society is highly appreciated in many different ways.

Displays by Members

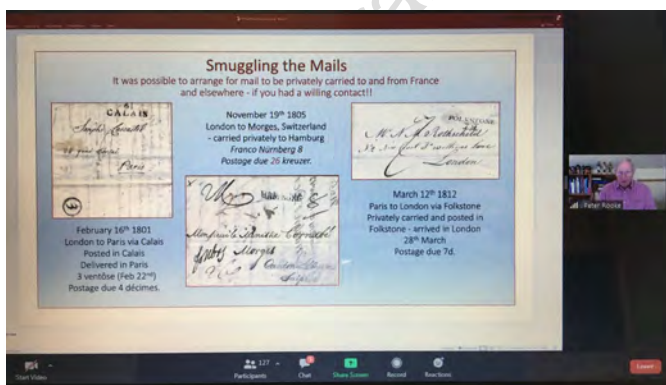
On 11 February, **Peter Rooke** gave a PowerPoint presentation on Zoom to members of the Royal Philatelic Society London. Entitled 'Revolution, Conflict and Occupation. The Posts 1789 – 1814', Peter's display gave us a very wide-ranging view of what France and the continent went through during a period of European history which saw enormous changes many of which still resonate today.

The range of material and the topics covered was vast. We enjoyed some wonderful and interesting material. He began with the French Revolution and fully explained the background to this momentous event. Peter then led us through the many changes in the systems of government in the infant republic concluding with the infamous

Committee of Public Safety which instituted The Terror and effectively ran France through the worst excesses of the revolution. All were illustrated with delightful covers from the various government bodies. The Revolutionary calendar followed. This, like so much else, was rigorously based on rational thinking. Whilst carefully divided into equal months of 30 days, with the supplementary five or six referred to as *sans-culottides*, it did not attract universal popularity. That a week was now ten days long probably did not help and it was eventually abandoned in 1806.



From as early as 1793, the rest of Europe began to try and overthrow this dangerous new Republic. England once again sent an army to Flanders and at sea the Royal Navy was active in the English Channel and Mediterranean. A number of British covers showed the reaction from an English perspective at this perilous time. This led to the suspension of mail routes and diversions to the Low Countries and eventually Denmark to circumvent the blockages. A number of letters showed these new routes in operation. 1801 saw a brief interlude in the continental wars with the Peace of Amiens but this soon lapsed and war with Napoleon continued for another 15 years. Examples of smuggled mail and cartel mail showed how efforts were made to continue letter correspondence. Some most attractive ship letters concluded this section.



Under the Emperor Napoleon France now began to expand into neighbouring countries and created Departments in these which are usually referred to as conquered departments. Peter gave us a very full coverage of what went on in Italy. The history and changes were most carefully set out and illustrated appropriately. It was good to include some of the letter headings. They are often most attractive and give an idea of the thinking of the time. One sees the Roman fasces and other symbols harking back to the

Roman Republic of antiquity. The Roman model was much admired and even today one has institutions such as the French Senate as a reminder.

Then we moved to Spain with some beautiful army marks of some of the French units engaged in this very brutal campaign which so undermined Napoleon's Empire. Finally, of course we saw English mails trying to avoid the French and landing often at Falmouth by packet ships.

Chris Hitchen

Virtual Displays

The last of the virtual displays were circulated during January. They were 'Military Hospitals in France 1914 – 1918' by **Dahlia Harrison** and 'The Group Type issues of Obock' by **Ed Grabowski** providing a fitting climax to the programme. Thank you again to all those who supported it.

Society Zoom Programme

Given that it has not been possible to hold physical meetings for the last year, the Society launched in January the first in a programme of monthly Zoom meetings, hosted by **Chris Hitchen**.

These have proved successful and have enabled those overseas (and indeed, in this country) who cannot normally attend meetings to participate. Some 55 members have indicated that they wish to be advised of these and around 33 have joined each of the first two meetings with representatives from the USA, Belgium, France, India and Australia. Full details are on the website and anyone who wishes to be informed of future meetings has only to advise **Chris Hitchen** at treasurer@fcps.org.uk

It is hoped to provide a range of topics and displays dependent on what members offer. Tuesdays at 14:30 GMT are scheduled as these allow the United States East coast, India and Western Australia to join in.

On 12 January we saw postal history associated with the 'Canal du Midi' given by **Peter Maybury***, printings of 'The 1f50 Pétain Type Bersier' by **Mick Bister** and a study of 'Boîtes mobiles' by **Steve Ellis**.

The 9 February meeting comprised 'A Celebration of the Art of Printing and 50 years of Printing at Boulazac' by **Andrew Telfer Brunton**, an illustrated display with stamps and postcards on 'Nice' by **Roger Niven** and a display on the usage of 'French airmail stamps' by **Chris Hitchen**

March 9 saw a stupendous display of 'Guadeloupe Postal History – Revisited' by **Ed Grabowski**. We were highly privileged to see such beautiful and rare material and to enjoy Ed's passionate and enthusiastic commentary.

Other future dates, all at 14.30 GMT will be:

Tuesday April 6 'The French Congo 1900 pictorial issue' by **Ken Nilsestuen** President France and Colonies Philatelic Society US,

Tuesday 4 May 'Commercial Service Mail Carriers – Marseille and the Italian coast' by **Steve Ellis**,

'50c Jeanne d'Arc booklets' by **Mick Bister**,

Tuesday 1 June 'Life and Times of the 1f50 Pétain' by **Mick Bister**,

'Early Algeria 1787 to 1852' by **Peter Maybury**.

After that it depends on offers of material to display which are rather lacking at the moment.

The meetings are recorded and can be viewed on YouTube afterwards. Please contact **Chris Hitchen** or **Jan Gane** for the links.

Many have expressed a wish that we continue these even after our regular meetings restart. That does seem a good idea and it should be possible to provide perhaps three per year. Any suggestions or thoughts on how to conduct or improve these meetings would be welcome.

* **Peter Maybury** also gave a Zoom presentation to Stockport P.S. on 22 January entitled 'Ireland – the Dublin Penny Post – my recent acquisitions'.

Regional Meetings

The Northern Group held a Zoom meeting on Thursday, 4 March. It was hosted by **Peter Maybury** and attended by eight other members, Mick Bister, Steve Ellis, Alan Goude, Chris Hitchen, Alan Mann, David Parmley, Colin Pease and Peter Stockton.

Steve Ellis gave a display on 'Railway Mail' focusing on the history of the P.L.M. line. We saw an early precursor dated 1849 of the *Ligne de Lyon*, covers bearing day and night *ambulant* strikes, *ambulant rapide* and *ambulant spécial*, the latter being encountered on mail unloaded from paquebots. These were followed by *convoyeur* and station strikes, *bureau de passe* marks and the *colis postaux* service. The display closed with a 1984 *TGV Postal* cover.

Peter Stockton presented 'French Morocco Military Aviation'. From its beginnings in 1911, Peter led us through the history of the service through WWI to the 1930s. We saw covers bearing the boxed cachet *Aviation Militaire/Service postal du Parc/Maroc* followed by items with military cachets including the decorative *Déesse assise* type. Next were examples of FM mail carried by the normal airmail service thereby requiring the payment of the 80c airmail fee. Finally, we were shown covers from the Meteorological Office in Casablanca and covers inscribed TOC or *Troupes d'Occupation du Maroc*.

Peter Maybury gave a display of 'Early Algeria' beginning with the Regency of Algiers period and a slavery related item from 1789. Covers from the French Military rule followed with a number of examples of disinfected mail from the 1830s. We saw a variety of *purifié* handstamps applied when the mail arrived in France. Also seen was a fine ARMEÉ EXPÉD^{RE} d'AFRIQUE strike. An unusual

item was a letter charged 11 *décimes* where a 10 *décimes* handstamp had had the zero vertically bisected to create a provisional '11'.

There will be another Zoom meeting on Wednesday 21 April at 14.30 GMT. The next physical Northern Group meeting will be on Saturday 7 August – (location details to follow as it will be a changed venue). It will commence with a pub lunch at midday and finish around 17.00. The main display will be 'Underpaid Mail' by Steve Ellis followed by members' displays. For further details of either the Zoom or the physical meeting please email Steve at Steve@homestead75.co.uk

The Wessex Group anticipates arranging a meeting in May or June. **Colin French** will keep members informed.

The Crawford Medal for Philatelic Literature

The Crawford Medal for Philatelic Literature selection committee has extended the deadline for nominations.

The Royal Philatelic Society London is the world's oldest stamp society, founded in 1869. It awards the Crawford Medal annually for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately in book form, whether physical or electronic. It was first presented in 1920, and has been awarded in most of the 101 years since. Nominations had closed for 2021 but, due to restrictions caused by the global pandemic, the selection meeting has been postponed until 7 July, so the committee has decided to re-open nominations with a new deadline of 31 May 2021.

Nominations are invited for any book on a philatelic subject that has been published and was available for sale in 2019 or 2020. The book does not have to be published by the Royal or be written by a Royal member and nominations are accepted from any individual or society even if they are not Royal members.

Nominations should be sent to Nicola Davies, Head of Collections, at The Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW or emailed to her at librarian@rpsl.org.uk to arrive by 31 May 2021 at the latest. A non-returnable copy of the nominated book must be supplied to the RPSL library by that date if it does not already have one.

We welcome any editorial you can give this in your publication or any nominations you wish to make.

Thank you,

Jon Aitchison. *Honorary Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society London.*

SOCIETY NOTES Continued on page 6

OBITUARY

A tribute to Colin Spong FRPSL



We are sad to report that our Society has lost, and Heaven has gained, a star. On 2 January we learned that Colin Spong had passed away in his sleep at his home in Worthing, West Sussex, aged 90. We send our condolences to his dear wife Pat and to his family and many friends.

Colin was a valued and highly respected member of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society for many years. He joined in the early 1970s and served the Society in many significant roles. He was an expert on all aspects of the stamps and the postal history of Madagascar and all related aspects of the Indian Ocean. He was a regular and indefatigable contributor to the Journal with articles on his first love, the Zebu, Traveller's Tree and Lemur issues. He also wrote about Madagascar Railway mail and Fournier forgeries but his latest interest was in censor marks and he was one of a group of co-authors of a book on 'Censorship of Civilian Mail in Madagascar during World War Two: Handstamps and Labels' published last year. Colin had compiled the 'List of Recently Published Articles'

column in the Society's Journal from the 1970s (although it was then known as 'Current French Philatelic Journal Articles') up to 2019.

He was the founder member and the Hon. Secretary of the Southern Group of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society from 1980 to 2012 and I had the privilege of accepting his invitation and giving a display to the group on 'The Sower, A Common Little Stamp' in January 1998. I was immediately struck by the enthusiasm and respect with which he was greeted and regarded by all who met him.

He enjoyed giving displays to the Society and he and Pat had been regular attenders at our annual weekends in Leamington and in Charlecote. At his last weekend, in 2019, he gave a magnificent display of the *boîte mobile* service in Madagascar as seen in the photograph at right.

Colin was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London in 1972 and was awarded the F&CPS Long Service Award in 2020.



Colin was an amiable companion, a good friend and a fine and an outstanding and highly respected philatelist and postal historian. More than that, Colin had the rare gift of being approachable and being keen and willing to share his expertise with others. It was always a pleasure to see how eager Colin was to encourage others to enjoy our hobby. At our meetings, he enlivened proceedings by showing genuine interest. His eyes twinkled as he expressed an opinion and he offered suggestions as to how a display might be improved by adding such and such a point of interest or by emphasising a particular feature of, say, an unusual postmark. He had a depth of knowledge and experience which was extraordinary and was generous in encouraging others – modestly, without showing off. It was indeed a joy to be in his company.

If I may be permitted to inject a personal note in this obituary, I admit that I envied Colin in regard to his sartorial elegance. Colin had a certain style, unusual among other philatelists and postal historians of my acquaintance, of being able to wear a cravat, say, or perhaps a lively bow-tie or colourful waistcoat, with a certain devil-may-care panache. Whatever the season, and regardless of the company or venue, Colin was always the best-dressed, nay debonair, man in the room.

Colin was a kind and true gentleman in every sense of that word. I shall be forever grateful for the kindness and good humour which he showed when he called me to encourage me in time of trouble and he will be greatly missed. From the many tributes which I have seen from others who knew him, Colin was truly one of the best!

Ashley Lawrence FRPSL

In memory of Colin Spong FRPSL

Following the announcement in 'The London Philatelist' (January-February 2021) of the death of Colin Spong FRPSL on 2 January 2021, I would like to express my deep sadness and extend my condolences to his family.

MAY 2000

RF

The France & Colonies Philatelic Society Southern Group

Forthcoming meetings Season 2001-2002

18 August 2001

10.30am until Lunch Members Queries on Definitive
Issues. 14.00 until 16.30 hours the Type Sage
Registration Mail by Peter Kelly

20 October: Memel by Frank Blinkow

2002

26 January: Members Displays

13 April: The Pétain Issue by the President,
Michael L Bister.

Meetings take place at the East Worthing Community
Centre, Pages Lane, East Worthing from 14.00 until
17.00 hours except August.

For further information please contact
the Organiser **Colin Spong** telephone 01903 267803

Rail and Mail'. This display included not only stamps and covers but also railway time-tables with pictures and maps. In the end, it was Colin's ill health that brought about the demise of the Southern Group's programmes and meetings.

More recently, Colin and Maurice Tyler produced for each France & Colonies Journal a 'List of Recently Published Articles' relating in particular to the French philatelic press and those of its counterparts in the UK. I found these listings most helpful as a background to collecting French stamps.

I did meet Colin subsequently at a Royal Philatelic Society meeting in Devonshire Place, when we reminisced about the past. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Roy Ferguson

I came to know Colin very well in the late 1990s and early 2000s when he was the Convenor of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society Southern Group. We used to meet at the East Worthing Community Centre on Saturday afternoons and I attach a copy of one of his programmes, this one from May 2000.

I recollect the gatherings well and despite the wintry weather Colin, on a number of occasions, had to go off and find the key to the Centre. He would then rush back and set up and start the meeting. His wife, Pat, also attended and organised refreshments in the interval. Colin's organising ability resulted in some outstanding displays which, to this day, I recall with admiration.

In the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies ASPS News dated Spring 2008, I have by good fortune found an article written by Colin himself describing his early years as a stamp collector. He, like myself, discovered the magic of the City of London stamp shops in the 1950s. He went on to collect the stamps and material of Bohemia & Moravia, then explored Slovakia.

To me, he will always be remembered for his expertise on the postal history of Madagascar. For example, in June 2005, he gave a presentation on 'Madagascar –

SOCIETY NOTES Continued from page 4

General Secretary

In response to our appeal for a new General Secretary we are delighted to announce that **Andrew Telfer Brunton** has offered to take over the role with immediate effect. The President and Committee wish to thank Andrew accepting this responsibility and our thanks go also to David Hogarth whom we wish a very happy retirement.

Errata

Page 163 (FCPS Journal December 2020) had two errors that need addressing (pun intended): the correct website address for the Phil-Algérie is <http://babeldin.free.fr> and the author's email address should read: babeldin@hotmail.com

SOCIETY NOTES Continued on page 14

The Cathedrals, Basilicas, and Churches of France

The Complexity of Collecting French Stamps by Topic

Roger Niven

My interest lies in postage stamps and the pictures and designs they carry but not so much in the wider material associated with the postal and revenue services. I just enjoy collecting stamps from France and the way these illustrate some of the history and culture of this fascinating country.



Prince Karol of Romania
Emergency Printing 1871



Prince Karol of Romania
'Hulot' issue 1872



Emperor Napoleon III of France
'Empire' issue: YT 29

Figure 1

It might seem a little odd to start this article with pictures of two Romanian stamps alongside one French one (Figure 1) but when I renewed my interest in stamps six years ago, I decided that I would like a change from my previous Balkan collections and the 19th century connection between France and Romania piqued my interest in French stamps. Prince Karol (a keen philatelist) and the Emperor Napoleon III had developed a strong personal relationship and ensuing links between the postal services had resulted in the beautifully Paris designed and printed Romanian 'Hulot' issues of 1872-76, with their simple classical designs and restrained palettes that Karol believed better reflected the status of a ruler. The first stamp shown above, however, is from the Bucharest emergency printing of August 1872 required as the Hulot delivery had been delayed by the siege of Paris and the Commune. So, ironically, a stamp modelled on the portrayal of the Emperor Napoleon III was only issued in Romania after his abdication and exile. Here was an example of the stamp designs encapsulating an insight into a nation's history. And what other country can rival the richness and complexity of French history?

Cathedrals, Basilicas and Churches?

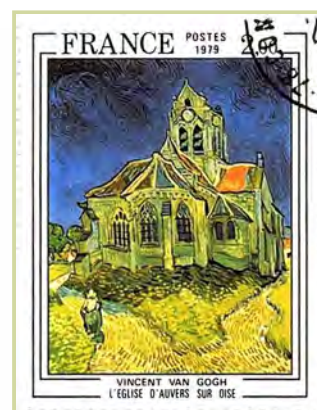
When I looked through the catalogues, I realised that France has produced many beautifully designed and printed stamps, not expensive in the main, and relatively easily obtained in good used condition. They cover interesting topics, often with innovative design and printing. So where to start? Three stamps suggested a possible topic (Figure 2). Firstly, the defiant *cathédrale Notre-Dame de Strasbourg* with its echoes of General Leclerc's oath made at Koufra in 1941- "*Jurez de ne déposer les armes que lorsque nos couleurs, nos belles couleurs, flotteront sur la cathédrale de Strasbourg*"¹; secondly the spiritual *basilique de la Notre-Dame d'Orcival* whose Romanesque building of local volcanic rock houses a statue of the Virgin believed to have been carved by Saint Luke; and thirdly, the disturbing painting of *Notre-Dame d'Auvers-sur-Oise*, captured by Vincent van Gogh in the last weeks of his life with its distortion of perspective and paradox of a sunlit church under a night sky. What riches these, and similar stamps, would uncover.



Strasbourg: YT 443



Orcival: YT 4446



Auvers-sur-Oise: YT 2054

Figure 2

¹ Swear never to put down your arms until our colours, our fine colours, fly above Strasbourg Cathedral.



Reims: YT 259

Chartres: YT 664

Beauvais: YT 666

Rouen: YT 1129

Rodez: YT 1504

Figure 3

Thus, taking ‘cathedrals, basilicas, and churches’ as my first topic all I needed to do was to construct a list of relevant French stamps, and then, to proceed to spend many happy hours collecting these from offerings in society packets, in auctions, and through websites and correspondence or at stamp fairs. This article shows how challenging I found compiling such a list could be.

Using the catalogues to create a topic list

‘Cathedrals, basilicas and churches’ seemed to be a potentially large topic so I thought I would start by breaking it down into the three elements and start with the cathedrals (Figure 3). These had first caught my attention with the beautifully engraved 1938 issue of the *cathédrale Notre-Dame de Reims* – the cathedral in which nearly all French kings were crowned from Charles VII in 1429 to Charles X in 1825 and a cathedral symbolising the victory of France in the Hundred Years War, and survival, albeit damaged, during the two World Wars in the 20th century. The following fine engraved stamps of 1944 and 1947 confirmed this interest. Although I am always disappointed that in the 1944 issue the *cathédrale Notre-Dame de Chartres* is printed in *lie-de-vin* rather than the blue used for the *cathédrale Saint-Pierre de Beauvais*. This blue might better have represented the unique light from the stained glass in Chartres, arguably the most spiritual of French cathedrals.

Cathedrals figure throughout the tourist issue designs from the 1950s and 1960s; for example, the *cathédrale Notre-Dame de Rouen* by Monet, with its reference to the variations of light and the *cathédrale Notre-Dame de Rodez* from whose great tower Méchain and Delambre calculated the circumference of the earth and defined the metre.

The issues of the 21st century have continued to illustrate French cathedrals such as the *cathédrale de Notre-Dame de Paris*, the *cathédrale de Notre-Dame de Laon* and the *cathédrale Saint-Étienne de Metz* with striking designs including the smaller self-adhesive offset printed issues with innovative photographs and brilliant colours (Figure 4). Furthermore, the names of even this small sample of cathedrals emphasises the strength of the Marian tradition and the interweaving in popular culture of this with the other French female symbols of *Marianne* and *Liberté*.

So there seemed to be a pleasing amount of choice in the cathedrals of France, an insight into many aspects of French history and culture, and not too large a number with the Yvert & Tellier catalogue index of 2019 showing a total of 135 stamps listed under ‘*Cathédrales*’.



Metz: YT 4554

Laon: YT AA554

Paris: YT AA331

Figure 4

Looking more closely I then noticed several of those listed in the index are quite hard to find in the catalogue as they have an ‘L’ prefix indicating that these are self-service labels listed under ‘*Timbres de distributeurs*’. But as explained by Richard Broadhurst “the current catalogues only mention the latest types as there is a huge quantity of them”² issued for all sorts of events all over France. Therefore, my catalogue only shows a few of the most recent issues. I also found that I had several other stamps listed with a YT ‘COL’ prefix with many more listed on the Colnect web-site³. These stamps are issued by *La Poste* and are fully valid for postage but seem to be principally targeted at tourists and souvenir hunters. They used to be listed in Yvert & Tellier under ‘*Collectors de la Poste*’ but these listings ceased in 2014 as according to Richard these have also been issued “in their hundreds”.

To complicate matters further I came across four sets of pre-cancelled stamps showing historical monuments issued

² Private correspondence with Richard Broadhurst in April 2020 in response to query posted on F&CPS website Forum

³ <https://colnect.com/en/stamps>: Colnect is a currently free on-line catalogue which is especially useful for keeping up to date with new issues. It does not quote prices but has good illustrations, may be searched using a number of parameters and, for most issues, offers comparison of YT, SG and Michel catalogue numbers.

between 1979 and 1981. These are in the Yvert & Tellier catalogue under ‘*préoblitérés*’ – but are not described by topic in the main catalogue index. One – the 88 centimes



Ajaccio: YT Préo 170

Figure 5

purple - shows the *chapelle impériale d'Ajaccio* (Figure 5) – a mausoleum chapel – commissioned in 1857 by Cardinal Flesch for the burial of members of the Bonaparte family, including Letizia Bonaparte (the mother of Napoleon I), and which was visited by Napoleon III and the Empress Eugenie in September 1860; so a chapel, not a cathedral, but an interesting small stamp.

Two other categories presented a challenge. Since my interest is uniquely postally used stamps, I decided to focus on the main catalogue listings, including individual stamps from the mini-sheets, and the *préoblitérés*, but not the ‘L’, ‘COL’ and the blocks/souvenir sheets: the former because they are so numerous and rarely seem to have been postally used; the latter because blocks and mini-sheets are so cumbersome to house in an album or display and are not designed for easy postal use. My list of cathedrals (and one Imperial chapel) now seemed to be clearer; back to 125 stamps.

Defining ‘cathedrals’

I had assumed that identifying cathedrals in stamp designs would be quite straightforward. After all a cathedral is a Christian religious building in which the bishop of that diocese has his ‘chair’ (*cathedra*), and usually has the distinction of being quite large and imposing.

Looking at the Yvert & Tellier index under cathedrals, however, I encountered a problem. The *basilique Notre-Dame-de-l'Immaculée-Conception* in Boulogne-sur-Mer with its massive dome, is listed by the catalogue as a cathedral but in fact it is a church (Figure 6). There was a medieval cathedral, but this was destroyed in the Revolution. The current building, on the same site, took fifty years to build after the foundations were laid in 1827 but is under the diocese of Arras.



Boulogne: YT 4862

Figure 6

Since the *basilique* in Boulogne is known locally as the ‘*cathédrale*’, I decided to include it in my list. But I realised that there might be other basilicas and churches known locally as cathedrals. I knew about the *église Saint-Éloi* in

Dunkerque (nicknamed the ‘*cathédrale des Sables*’), shown in the Yvert & Tellier index as a church (Figure 7). Known for its domination of the skyline and as a symbol of survival after having been burned down by the French in 1558, rebuilt in 1560, damaged by bombardment in 1917, rebuilt, burned out in 1940 and rebuilt again in 1985, the stamp in the series issued in 1945 shows a very striking image of the war damage.



Dunkerque: YT 744

Figure 7

The Yvert & Tellier index also lists the churches at Cholet and Colmar as ‘*cathédrales*’, but both are large churches (Figure 8). The claim of the *église Notre-Dame de Cholet* is, however, supported by the town council which is



Cholet: YT 5142



Colmar: YT 982

Figure 8

redeveloping the square in front of the church and has named this ‘*la Place de la Cathédrale*’. The inhabitants of Colmar also refer to their imposing collegiate church *église Saint-Martin* as their cathedral but whilst it was briefly designated as a cathedral between 1790-1801 it never had a bishop. Perhaps more telling, as shown in the stamp design of the 1954 issue, is its symbolic role as background to the portrait of Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny who led the French First Army in the liberation of Alsace from the German occupation that had lasted from 1870. Restored to France, the townspeople are clear that this is their cathedral.

The *cathédrale de la Résurrection* in Évry, completed in 1995, and the *église Saint-Pierre-Saint-Paul* at Maubeuge, completed in 1955, are also shown in the Yvert & Tellier index as cathedrals (Figure 9) but here the appellation is

probably bestowed for different reasons. They are all imposing modern buildings and the longer-term ecclesiastical intention is that since they were established in the ‘new towns’ of France established in the 1950s for an expanding population, such growth may justify creating new dioceses in the future. But for the moment they each serve a parish and reflect some wonderful modern architecture.



Evry: YT 2984



Maubeuge: YT 1153

Figure 9

Former Cathedrals

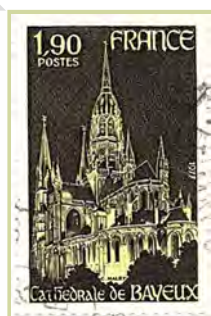
A further complexity in deciding which stamps to list as showing cathedrals results from the impact of the French Revolution. The Concordat of 1801 between Napoleon and Pope Pius VII sought national reconciliation between revolutionaries and the Catholic Church after the wholesale appropriation of church property and, in some cases, destruction in the 1790s.

The Concordat confirmed the Roman Catholic Church as the majority church of France but lands confiscated during the Revolution were not restored and, over the next few years, the number of dioceses was drastically reduced.

This resulted in several ‘co-cathedrals’ from the merging of dioceses with the bishop keeping a chair in each (e.g. the *cathédrale Saint-Pierre de Lisieux* along with the *cathédrale Notre-Dame de Bayeux* (Figure 10). There are also ex-cathedrals where there is no bishop’s chair and the building



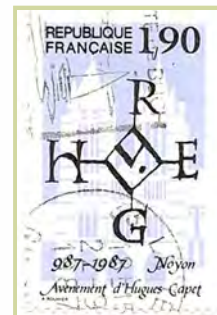
Lisieux: YT 1268



Bayeux: YT 1939

Figure 10

is now designated as a church (e.g. the *cathédrale Notre-Dame de Noyon*) (Figure 11). To tell the story of cathedrals in France these, and others like them, needed to be included in my topic list.



Noyon: YT 2478

Figure 11

Basilicas

To return to my starting point, the great *cathédrale Notre-Dame de Boulogne* in Boulogne-sur-Mer continued to challenge my desire for a simple listing. It is not a cathedral but is officially listed by the Catholic Church as ‘a minor basilica’. In English, this term is used to define a type of building, a large rectangular hall with an apse at one end, usually with a raised platform – a characteristic building in most Roman towns in which public meetings and tribunals were conducted. The early Christian churches, such as *Santa Maria Maggiore* in Rome, were built in the same style, hence the association of the term with Romanesque architecture. However, the Roman Catholic church uses the term to denote that a specific church has been given special ceremonial rights by the Pope. They need not architecturally be basilicas, nor does a basilica mean the building is a cathedral, as is the case with Boulogne-sur-Mer.

This sent me scurrying back to the catalogue and sure enough there are twenty stamps listed in the index as a ‘*basilique*’. Saint-Denis in Paris (Figure 12) is listed as the ‘*basilique cathédrale de Saint-Denis*’. So this is a cathedral and a basilica. Abbé Suger’s Gothic masterpiece is the burial site for most of the kings of France (even if their bones were rather mixed up in the Revolution and are now in a single tomb) and should be included in my list.



Saint-Denis: YT 661

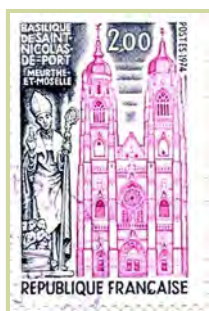


Saint-Denis: YT AA563

Figure 12

Including other basilicas with such beautiful stamps as those of the *basilique de Saint-Nicolas-de-Port* and the *basilique de Notre-Dame de la Salette* made sense (Figure 13), and persuaded me to abandon my first sectional approach and adopt all ‘cathedrals, basilicas and churches’ as the topic list.

This would be a much clearer definition and would also take care of the anomalies such as Boulogne, but the list had now grown from 125 stamps to over 435 stamps!



St. Nicolas-de-Port:
YT 1810



La Salette:YT 3506

Figure 13

A trail of destruction and survival

There are several other types of Christian buildings in France, however. A return to the catalogue revealed five more categories in the index; namely 'Abbeyes', 'Chapelles', 'Cloîtres', 'Monastères' and 'Prieurés'.

Many monasteries had been suppressed during the Revolution and the buildings and land sequestered and sold on. The *abbaye de Cluny* – the founding house for the Benedictine Rule – was largely demolished to provide building materials. The 1990 issue shows an impression of its former glory and details of some remaining carvings which are now in a museum. The ruins of other monastic houses are also very evocative, and, as in the case of the 7th century *abbaye de Saint-Wandrille*, provide for a haunting stamp design (Figure 14).



Cluny: YT 2657



Saint-Wandrille: YT 842

Figure 14

When many religious communities were disbanded, however, the abbey was often adopted as the local church (Figure 15). Some had quite a chequered history and usage. The *église abbatiale de la Chaise-Dieu* was a Benedictine monastery founded in the 11th century. Pope Clement VI began his vocation as a monk at La Chaise-Dieu and is buried in the abbey. Secularised in the Revolution, it is now the parish church and hosts the annual music festival started by the pianist Georges Cziffra in 1966. The *église abbatiale de Saint-Germain-des-Prés* was originally outside the city walls of Paris and under royal patronage. It was incorporated into the Latin Quarter within the city, and in



La Chaise-Dieu:
YT 2825



Saint-Germain-des-Prés:
YT 2045

Figure 15

the 17th century became a fashionable area; Descartes is buried in the abbey. Although secularised in the Revolution, it later became the parish church.

Other uses of the religious buildings secularised in the Revolution (Figure 16) include a bordello (the *église d'Aubazine*); a Temple of Reason (the *église de Saint-Philibert de Tournus*) and a prison (the *abbaye de Fontevraud*).



Tournus: YT 986



Aubazine: YT 2001



Fontevraud: YT 2002

Figure 16

The French Revolution is, however, only a fairly recent event in the evolution of Christian buildings in France. Over the last thousand years many religious buildings have been knocked about a bit.

The original cathedral at Angoulême was burned in a Viking raid. The crusade against the perceived heresy of the Albigensians in South-West France in the 13th century saw the destruction of the church at Béziers, and many others. The Hundred Years War in the 14th and 15th centuries resulted in the destruction of many cathedrals and churches such as the *église collégiale Notre-Dame de Dôle*. The stamps showing Béziers and Dôle illustrate the potential strategic military importance of the siting of many religious buildings in French towns as well as their symbolism on the skyline. The Wars of Religion between Huguenots and Catholics in the 16th century, and feuds between Lutheran, Calvinist and other Protestant sects saw further widespread destruction such as the *église Saint-Vincent* at Nyon which was razed to

the ground three times during the conflict. The *abbaye Fleurie* in Saint-Benoît-sur-Loire is still an active monastery, but has been pillaged and damaged multiple times over the centuries by the Normans, the English, the Huguenots and during the Revolution (Figure 17).



Béziers: YT 1567



Dôle: YT 4108



Nyons: YT 2956

Saint-Benoît-sur-Loire:
YT 5146

Figure 17

More recently the destruction of the *église St Martin* at Oradour-sur-Glane and its commemoration in the graphic 1945 issued stamp serve as a powerful reminder that the destruction of religious buildings (often accompanied by a massacre) does not always lie in the distant past. The *basilique du Sacre-Coeur* on Montmartre still divides French people, being seen by some as a symbol of penance for the violence unleashed by the Paris Commune in 1871 and by others as a symbol of the suppression of democracy, overlooking as it does the scene of the final massacre of the last communards in the Père Lachaise cemetery (Figure 18). Is it a legacy rather neatly side-stepped in the 2002 issue by placing the basilica in the background behind a motor scooter, suggesting that times have moved on?

Oradour-sur-Glane:
YT 742Montmartre, Paris
YT 3472

Figure 18

New developments

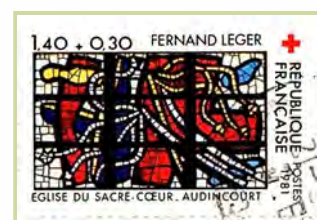
Since the Second World War many new churches have been built in France, often with astonishing architecture (Figure 19). August Perrret's *église Saint-Joseph* in Le Havre has a fabulous coloured glass lantern; the *église de l'Immaculée Conception* in Audincourt, one of the first reinforced concrete churches in France, has magnificent stained glass by Ferdinand Léger and the famous *chapelle de Notre-Dame du Haut* at Ronchamp was designed by Le Corbusier. All have been celebrated on postage stamps.



Le Havre: YT 5166



Ronchamp: YT 1394A



Audincourt: YT 2175

Figure 19

Three other unusual modern religious buildings celebrated on stamps are the towering *église Notre-Dame de Royan* built in 1958 to replace the church destroyed in the Second World War, the *église Notre-Dame-des-Missions-du-cygne-d'Enghien* at Épinay-sur-Seine and the *Maison de Culture* at Firminy (Figure 20). Royan is regarded as a masterpiece of



Royan: YT 4613



Firminy: YT 4087



Épinay-sur-Seine: YT 5038

Figure 20

modern engineering using reinforced concrete – although it is now having to undergo extensive renovation. The *chapelle de Notre-Dame-des-Missions-du-cygne-d'Enghien* was presented at the International Colonial Exhibition in 1931 by the architect Paul Tournon and then rebuilt in 1932 in Épinay-sur-Seine as the parish church. Whilst France had decided since 1878 to exclude religious buildings from the universal exhibitions the inclusion of Paul Tournon's pavilion was justified by the role of Catholic and Protestant missionaries in the 'civilising' mission of the French Nation – a view that could offend in the 21st century but regarded as worthy in its time.

The cultural centre at Firminy was the last major work by Le Corbusier and was designed as a church. With money running out however, the building could only be completed with a government grant. Under the law the French State cannot fund religious buildings and therefore Firminy was opened as a cultural centre.

A Wider Context?

As I progressed from list compilation to collecting, I considered how I might best display the growing number of stamps. I wondered if just showing stamps of cathedrals might be limiting (and to other people, a little boring?). To enliven the presentation, and perhaps better root a building in the local culture, could I include some contextual stamps? For the *basilique de Notre-Dame* in Boulogne this might include stamps showing a Roman temple, a cow, and the sea front! (Figure 21)



Autun: YT 4552



La vache Bordelaise:
YT AA961



Boulogne-sur-Mer:
YT 1503

Figure 21

In rebuilding the basilica, the remains of a Roman temple were uncovered and are now on view in the crypt. Using the 2011 stamp showing a similar Roman 'temple of Janus' in Autun would add a northern Gallo-Roman dimension to the topic. It has the added advantage of showing the cathedral of Saint Lazarus in Autun, famous for its Romanesque sculptures.

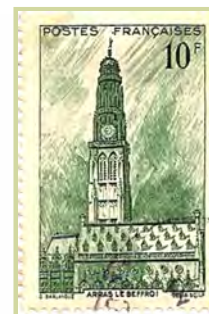
The dome of the rebuilt cathedral provides the name for a local spherical cow's cheese - '*le Dôme de Boulogne*', created

to provide an alternative to the notorious '*le Vieux Boulogne*' cheese, whose orange rind has earned it the title of the world's smelliest cheese (according to research by Cranfield University). It uses milk from the local *Bleu de Bord* cows (successors to the Bordelaise and Friesian breeds).

To continue my philatelic illustration of Boulogne 'cathedral' I could also include the jolly 1966 stamp which captures the essence of the Boulogne sea-front, and shows the 'cathedral' dome and the sea-front.

As mentioned above many religious buildings in France have been destroyed. The loss of the 12th century *Notre-Dame de la Cité* in Arras in 1793 is to be mourned as it was renowned as one of the most beautiful Gothic cathedrals in northern France. So, should the scope of my list include referencing religious buildings that may no longer exist but whose legacy might linger on in other stamps? For some references this might be relatively easy, for example, the original Arras cathedral might have been destroyed, but might the 1942 stamp showing the bell tower serve as a place keeper? This despite the fact that, as in many French cities, the bell tower is a civil and not religious building. Nevertheless, it is a striking design (Figure 22).

The former cathedral at Thérouanne provides more of a challenge in philatelic representation. Utterly destroyed by the Emperor Charles V in 1553 in revenge for his earlier defeat at Metz, the nearby *cathédrale Notre-Dame de Saint-Omer* became the bishop's seat. But Saint-Omer does not seem to feature on any stamps despite the glories of the Gothic cathedral and Vauban fortifications.



Arras: YT 567

Figure 22



Children of the Unemployed:
YT 312



YT 428



Espadrilles: YT 4260

Figure 23

Inside the cathedral, however, is the very moving tomb to Saint Erkembode, festooned with children's shoes as prayer offerings for disabled children. Stamps such as those issued for the children of the unemployed or of the espadrilles might therefore provide an evocation of the lost cathedral and its replacement; and they are attractive stamps (Figure 23).

A different challenge is presented by the listing in the Yvert & Tellier index of the *cathédrale d'Aix-la-Chapelle*

(*Aachener Dom* in German). Now firmly in German territory in Aachen the battered remains of Charlemagne's great Palatine Chapel within the cathedral is still regarded by many as 'French' – and a memory of when both Charlemagne and much later the Napoleon sat on its stone throne and dreamed of empire. Framing the stamp with these personages might emphasise the disputed nature of its names (Figure 24).



Charlemagne:
YT 1497



Aix-la-Chapelle:
YT 1714
Figure 24



Napoleon:
YT 1776

More questions

With my draft topic list ever growing, I am now left with a series of questions. Should I also include stamps that show buildings with other religious purposes, such as hospices, schools, synagogues, temples, or even pagan structures? Should only stamps where the building is the main focus of the design be included, or also stamps where they are part of the landscape or in the background? Should stained glass, frescos, sculptures, or tomb stones, carvings and church furniture be included? Lastly should I now reconsider my

omission of '*timbres de distributeurs*' and stamps issued for '*Collectors de la Poste*'; or even add relevant '*prêt-à-poster*' covers for buildings that are not otherwise pictured on stamps? The jury is out!

In conclusion, my goal of a simple list to help me collect and display the stamps of France showing 'Cathedrals, Basilicas and Churches' is proving a challenge. But with well over 700 stamps so far identified it is proving fun.

SOCIETY NOTES Continued from page 6

Appeal for Journal Manager

A reminder that **Mick Bister** is retiring from his post as Journal Manager with immediate effect.

We are seeking, therefore, a replacement to work alongside our Editor, Jan Gane, during the preparatory stages of the Journal. The responsibilities are as follows:

- Act as contact for reception of articles, reports and reviews.
- Correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- Check accuracy of any French used. *
- Liaise with authors over any concerns regarding inaccuracy or lack of lucidity.
- Compile membership updates, Society information, announcements etc and write up 'Society Notes.'*
- Send texts and images to the Editor.
- Maintain membership lists and send addresses to the printers.*

* The inclusion of these responsibilities can be negotiated.

Any member interested or requiring further information please email Mick Bister at manager@fcps.org.uk or the President Chris Hitchen at treasurer@fcps.org.uk

Post-independence postmarks of the Central African Republic

Marc Parren and Martin Bohnstedt

Part 4

KEMBÉ

Post office open at least since 1950

In 1930, the cotton company Kotto installed a gin here for separation of lint and seed.

The company later became known as Cotonbangui.



Kembé Post Office, October 2017

Photo credit Martin Bohnstedt

<p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 30 mm with bridge</p> <p>Earliest: 1.7.1960</p> <p>Latest: 16.7.1987</p>	
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KONGBO

Post office opened after independence

<p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge</p> <p>Earliest: 25.7.1977</p> <p>Latest:</p>	
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KOUANGO

Post office open at least since 1957

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge</p> <p>Earliest: 12.4.1960</p> <p>Latest: 25.5.1983</p>	
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KRAKONDJI

Post office opened after independence



<p>1</p>	<p>Single circle 27 mm</p> <p>Earliest: 7.1.1976</p> <p>Latest:</p>	
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Registered airmail letter franked 180f from Krakondji, 7 January 1976, to Paris



LANGANDI

Post office opened after independence

	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 21.11.1973 Latest:</p>	
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LOKO SAFA



Post office opened after independence

	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 14.7.1962 Latest: 10.12.1964</p>	
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MALA

Post office opened after independence



In 1902, a warrior named Yabalangba led his people and settled on the borders of Mala and Zimenzéré. He built a fort called Gban and became Chief of Canton in 1915.

	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 8.12.1969 Latest:</p>	
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MARKOUNDA

Post office opened after independence

Former name Fort-Brusseaux which existed from 1912 and changed to Markounda in 1915.

	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 7.1.1970 Latest: 6.12.1973</p>	
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M'BAIKI

Post office open at least since 1913




In 1905, Lieutenant Prévost founded the French military post at M'Baiki. The town was handed over to German Kamerun on 4 November 1911 but with the outbreak of WWI Lieutenant-Colonel Morisson re-occupied the town on 12 August 1914 thus forming part of Moyen-Congo again. No German postal facility functioned during that pre-war period but instead a French postal agency.



M'Baiki Post Office
April 2019
Photo credit Martin Bohnstedt





Boîtes postales
and Boîte aux lettres

<p>1</p> 	<p>Double circle 30 mm with bridge Earliest: 9.8.1960 Latest: 6.12.2000</p> <p>Without apostrophe M'BAIKI</p>	
<p>2</p> 	<p>Single circle 30 mm Earliest: 30.5.1969 Latest: 17.11.1980</p> <p>With apostrophe M'BAIKI</p>	

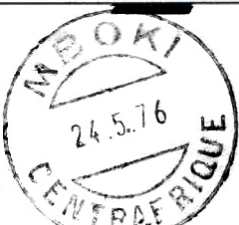

M'BATA

Post office opened after independence

	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 15.8.1961 .1961 Latest: 28.4.1964 .1964</p>	
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MBOKI

Post office opened after independence

	<p>Double circle 30 mm with bridge Earliest: 24.5.1976 Latest:</p>	
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MBRES



Post office opened after independence

	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 18.8.1981 Latest: 4.8.1982</p>	
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MINGALA

Post office opened after independence

Established as administrative control post on 23 January 1961 on the right bank of the Kotto river.

	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 24.3.1970 Latest:</p>	
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MOBAYE

Post office opened 1 February 1901

This post was created on 14 August 1891 by the administrator, Gaston Pierre Gaillard, who was sent on an expedition by Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza.



Mobaye Post Office with post office boxes behind the fridge and the counter closed, September 2018
Photo credit Martin Bohnstedt

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge</p> <p>Earliest: 2.5.1960</p> <p>Latest: 29.6.1988</p>	
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MONGOUMBA

Post office at least since 1910



Mongoumba Post Office with post office boxes,
April 2019
Photo credit Martin Bohnstedt





 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 28.11.1962 Latest: 20.9.1975</p>	
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NANA-BAKASSA

Post office opened after independence




The settlement is located on the left bank of the Nana-Bakassa river.

<p>1</p> 	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 10.2.1969 Latest:</p>	
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NDÉLÉ

Post office opened 8 April 1910



In 1896, sultan Mohamed-es-Senoussi founded Ndélé on a plateau overlooking the Méagoulou river and made it his capital. In 1911, after having killed Senoussi, on 8 January 1911, the French occupied Ndélé.

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 30 mm with bridge Earliest: 9.8.1960 Latest: 17.11.1977</p>	
 <p>2</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 24.10.1973 Latest: With apostrophe N'DÉLÉ</p>	

NOLA



Post office open at least since 1908

In 1893, Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza founded a military post at Nola. The town was handed over to German Kamerun on 4 November 1911. With the outbreak of WWI the French re-occupied the town on 18 October 1914 and thus it formed part of Moyen-Congo again. A German postal facility functioned from 10 March 1913 until 12 October 1914.

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 21.4.1960 Latest: 13.11.1997</p>	
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OBO

Post office open at least since 1952

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 22.9.1960 Latest: 22.8.1984</p>	
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Obo Post Office, January 2019, with painted SOCATEL OBO sign (*Société Centrafricaine de Télécommunications*)



Photo credit Martin Bohnstedt



OUADDA

Post office open at least since 1959



In 1892, explorer and naturalist Jean Dybowski established the French post at Ouadda.

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29 mm with bridge</p> <p>Earliest: 28.7.1960</p> <p>Latest: 28.7.1981</p>	
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OUANDA-DJALLE



Post office opened after independence

The settlement was founded by Captain Souclier in December 1912.

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 30 mm with bridge</p> <p>Earliest: 3.1.1985</p> <p>Latest:</p>	
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OUANGO

Post office open at least since 1957
In 1895, the French post at Ouango was founded.




	<p>Double circle 30 mm with bridge Earliest: 13.2.1961 Latest: 19.10.1977</p>	
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PAOUA

Post office open at least since 1953





Paoua Post Office, June 2019
Photo credit Martin Bohnstedt

	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 17.7.1970 Latest: 26.12.2001</p>	
	<p>Single circle 31 mm Earliest: 22.5.2001 Latest: 9.8.2002</p>	

PISSA



Post office opened after independence

	Double circle 30 mm with bridge Earliest: 11.3.1983 Latest:	
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RAFAI

Post office opened 1 October 1909



The town is named after sultan Rafai of the Azandés, who died in July 1900.

	Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 19.1.1961 Latest: 11.5.1984	
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SALO

Post office opened after independence



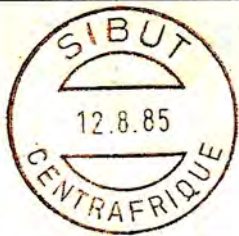
A harbour town located on the left bank of the Sangha river.

	Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 16.3.1976 Latest:	
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SIBUT

Post office open at least since 1908



Until 23 December 1961 it was named Fort-Sibut.

	Double circle 29 mm with bridge Earliest: 15.9.1964 Latest: 30.7.1970 S - T = 11 mm	
	Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge Earliest: 4.1.1964 Latest: 12.8.1985 S - T = 13 mm	

SOSSO

Post office opened after independence



Established as an administrative control post after the return of this part of Neukamerun to the French in 1920, on the left bank of the Kadéï river.

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge</p> <p>Earliest: 9.7.1975</p> <p>Latest:</p>	
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YALINGA



Post office open at least since 1951

The town is named after a traditional chief, Yaligheu

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 28.5 mm with bridge</p> <p>Earliest: 20.8.1960</p> <p>Latest: 3.11.1981</p>	
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YALOKÉ

Post office opened after independence

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 30 mm with bridge</p> <p>Earliest: 5.6.1975</p> <p>Latest: 3.3.1983</p>	
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ZÉMIO

Post office opened April 1911 as Sémio

 <p>1</p>	<p>Double circle 29.5 mm with bridge</p> <p>Earliest: 21.9.1960</p> <p>Latest: 1.10.1986</p>	
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Zémio Post Office, December 2017
Photo credit Martin Bohnstedt



Acknowledgements

We like to thank Messrs. Jean Goanvic, Alain Hurpet, Stéphane Pennacchiotti, Gerald Prins, Yves Tayana, France, and Mr. Robert Jenkins-Hayes, USA for sharing covers and dates of use of postmarks. Mr. Stéphane Pennacchiotti was kind enough to share the opening dates of the respective post offices during the colonial days he has investigated.

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SOCIETY NOTES Continued from page 14

The February edition of *L'Écho de la Timbrologie* has featured the Journal again in its regular column *Bulletins de clubs* with a résumé of our August, 2020 edition.

Thank you again to the editor, Sophie Bastide-Bernardin, for highlighting our *revue*.

THE JOURNAL OF THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY

N° 293 – August 2020

Les rédacteurs anglophones de ce bulletin consacré à la philatélie des colonies françaises se sont ici intéressés aux marques postales postindépendance de la République centrafricaine. Même s'il est hors sujet par rapport à la thématique habituelle, un article sur le camp des Milles s'avère passionnant.

Sont aussi abordés les courriers de deuil ; le franc CFA ; les surcharges gothiques de Saint-Pierre de 1885 ; etc.

Contact : C. J. Hitchen – 36 Everton Road – Croydon CR0 6 LA – Royaume-Uni.

SOCIETY NOTES Continued on page 50

French Transatlantic Mail

Steve Ellis

The 1857 U.S. – French Postal Convention enabled letters to be sent between the two countries with only a single payment being made, either by the sender or the recipient.

But there were still several instances whereby a payment was necessary by both sender and recipient, albeit they are quite uncommon, as illustrated by these four covers.



Figure 1
1868 letter franked 12 cents
and struck
INSUFFICIENTLY PAID



Figure 2
Front marked with
16 *décimes* charge

Figure 1 shows a 1868 letter sent from New York to Paris, prepaid by 12 cents adhesives on the rear of the envelope and marked with the red New York paid cancellation. However, this was incorrect as the rate to France was 15c and the cachet 'INSUFFICIENTLY PAID' was applied to the front (Figure 2). In the case of an underpaid letter, the postage already paid was disregarded and it was treated as an unpaid letter. It was also deemed to be overweight for the single rate since the red paid marking was overstruck with a black unpaid marking including the accountancy debit of '18' cents – comprising double rate 3c inland postage plus 6c sea postage multiplied by 2 for a double rate letter with carriage via Britain on a transatlantic steamer operating under contract to the American post office (in this case the Cunard vessel *Scotia* departing New York on 8 July). This is

confirmed by the French entry mark 'ETATS UNIS / SERV AM CALAIS'. The French recipient was charged '16' *décimes* for this unpaid double rate letter.

In the other direction, a letter was sent from Troyes on 4 May 1869 to New York and paid 80 centimes by French adhesives (Figure 3). It was considered overweight for the single rate and marked with the cachet 'AFFRANCHISSEMENT / INSUFFISANT'. The absence of any British transit cancellations indicates it was carried by direct steamer and the accountancy mark '24' (for 2 x 12 cents) points to the carriage by a French steamer as that would be the credit to France for inland postage plus sea postage. In fact, the C.G.T. steamer *St. Laurent* departed Le Havre on 6 May 1869. The recipient was charged in the depreciated currency of '41 U.S. notes'¹ for this double rate letter.

¹ See Addendum



Figure 3

1869 cover franked 80 centimes, marked AFFRANCHISSEMENT / INSUFFISANT and charged 41 U.S. notes

Figure 4 shows a letter sent from Celia, Boston, via New York and Le Havre to Paris in February 1866. Prepaid with 15c adhesives but marked 'SHORT PAID' indicates that it was overweight for the 7½ grams single rate. The 'BOSTON /24' cancellation indicates the French debit of 24c for a letter sent direct by American steamer (U.S.

inland rate plus steamer multiplied by 2 for double rate letter). It was carried on the Le Havre Line steamer *Fulton* departing New York on 17 February and arrived at Le Havre on 3 March. The recipient was charged '16' *décimes* for the double rate letter, ignoring the 15 cents already paid.



Figure 4

1866 letter franked 15 cents, marked SHORT PAID and charged 16 *décimes*

Finally, it was still possible, even in 1857, for transatlantic letters to France to be sent by British open mails, paid as far as Britain and then treated as unpaid between Britain and France. Such instances, with their consequential British accountancy markings, are uncommon. However, in the case of this letter (Figure 5), sent from Dixon to Paris in May 1857 (just after the introduction of the U.S. – French Postal Convention), they are encountered on underpaid mail.

The letter is marked 'PAID 24' indicating 24 cents prepayment (the rate under the 1848 U.S. – U.K. Convention) as far as Britain and cancelled 'NEW YORK / AM PKT' in red. However, the mark in the upper left part of the cover indicates that it was considered overweight, but rather than have the postage paid lost, the clerk allowed it to be sent via the British open mails and the recipient charged '10' instead of 16 *décimes*.



Figure 5

1857 letter prepaid 24 cents with British accountancy mark and 10 *décimes* charge

The letter was carried by Collins steamer *Ericsson* departing New York on 9 May to Liverpool. It was sent via London where the accountancy mark 'GB / 40c' was applied to indicate reimbursement at the 40 centimes per 30 grams

bulk weight for unpaid mail. The French entry mark 'ANGL / AMB.CALAIS' indicates carriage on the *ambulant* (travelling post office) from Calais to Paris.

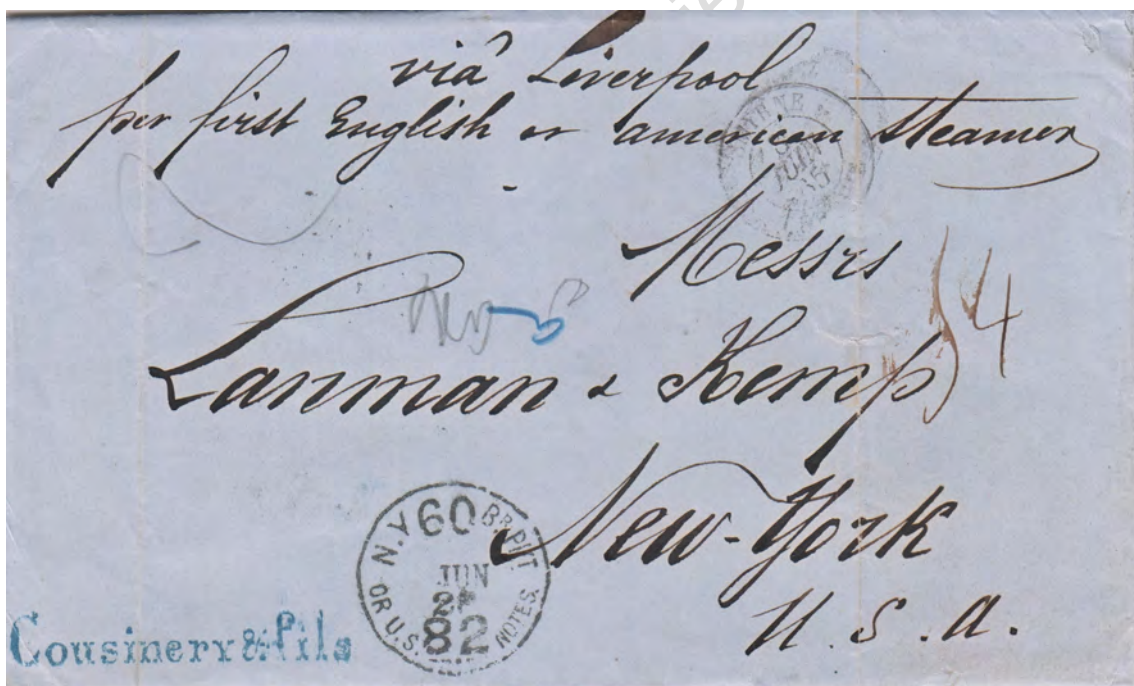


Figure 6

June 1865 letter to New York charged 60 cents / 82 notes

Addendum

The depreciation of the American currency during the mid-1860s resulted in mail being marked with charges in both normal coin currency or alternatively, if paid in depreciated greenback currency, of 'notes'.

The fact that the rate of exchange between the two varied

over time is perfectly illustrated by these three letters from Smyrna via France to New York, where the charge for the recipient was 60 cents. The equivalent in 'U.S. notes' was as follows – June 1865 – 82 notes (Figure 6); November 1866 – 84 notes (Figure 7); June 1867 – 78 notes (Figure 8).

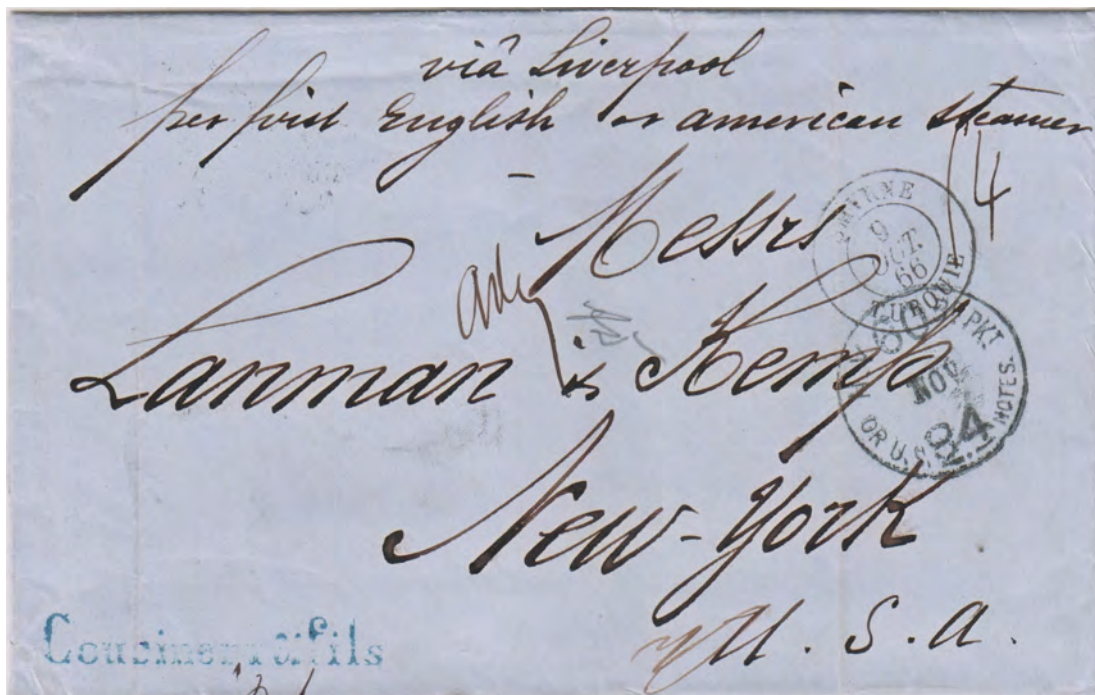


Figure 7

November 1866 letter to New York charged 60 cents / 84 notes

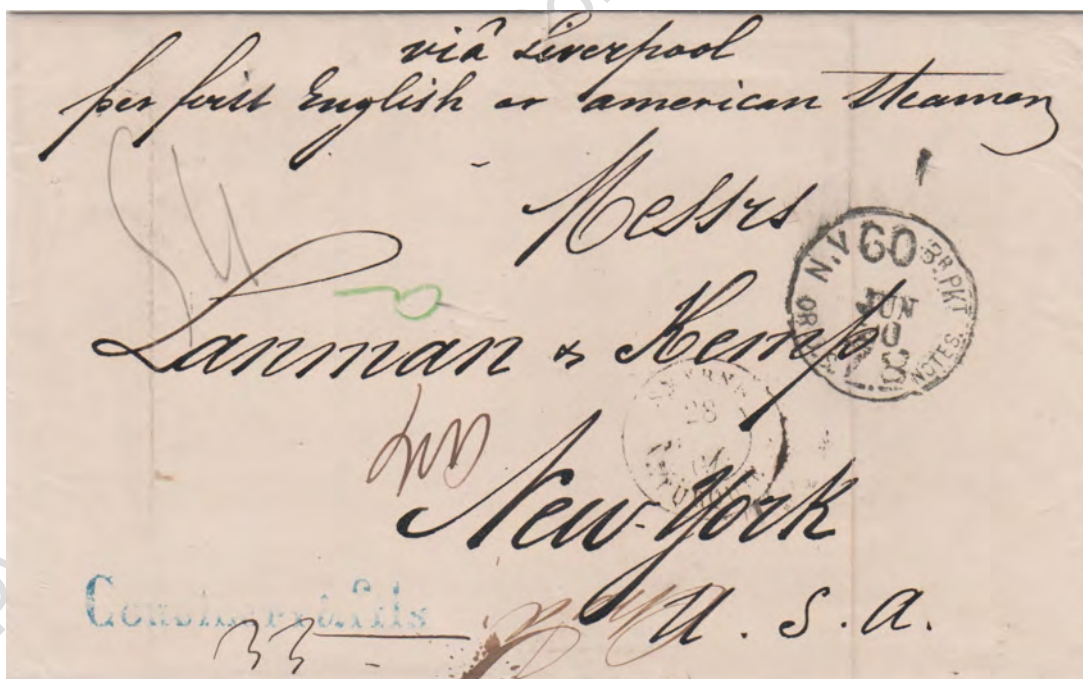


Figure 8

June 1867 letter to New York charged 60 cents / 78 notes

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Cérès de Bordeaux Commemorative Booklet

The Siege of Paris took place from 19 September 1870 until 28 January 1871 and marked the end of the Franco-Prussian War. During this time, due to a shortage of current postage stamps, it became necessary for the government-in-exile to print stamps in Bordeaux. They used the Cérès design of the first French issues and produced the new stamps by lithographic printing.

On 6 November 2020, to mark the 150th anniversary of these printings, *La Poste* issued 70,000 booklets of stamps reproducing the design, imperforate and with new values, containing six green 0,10 € stamps; six carmine 1,40 € stamps (Figure 1) and two maxi stamps, one green and one carmine valued at 3,50 € (Figure 2). The booklet was sold for 16,00 €. (YT: Carnets de Timbres à Composition Variable: 1527).



Figure 1
Booklet pane of 12 stamps



Figure 2
Pane of maxi stamps



Figure 3
Booklet covers of different length



Figure 4
Booklet panes under ultra-violet light



Figure 5
Contrasting phosphor bands

Having obtained copies of the booklet, closer comparison reveals variants indicating there may have been more than one print run. The main differences are:

- 1) that the booklets are cut in different sizes, as shown in [Figure 3](#).
- 2) In addition, the print density is very slightly different to the naked eye, although this is not easily reproduced.
- 3) The most obvious difference is that there has been a change of the cylinder which applies the phosphor bands. This becomes apparent when submitted to ultra-violet light ([Figure 4](#)).

The extract from the booklet on the left in [Figure 5](#) has phosphor bands which are sharp, with straight ends and measure 2.2mm x 0.13mm. The extract from the booklet on the right has bands which are wider, have rounded ends and measure 2.2mm x 0.19mm. Small spots of phosphor are also seen over the whole of the surface on this booklet.

Once again, a single issue of French philatelic material appears to have been the product of more than one print run.

Andrew Telfer Brunton

Post-Delandre Red Cross Booklets

Many readers will not be surprised to learn that, following the arrest in June 1917 of the poster stamp creator and con man Gaston Fontanille and the resultant closure of '*Editions Delandre*', the flood of Red Cross material slowed to a trickle. Because Fontanille had, illegally, been importing both high quality ink and paper throughout the war it will come as no surprise to learn that, of the items printed thereafter by other sources, most were of poor quality.

Fontanille himself died in a French prison in 1922, so there would be no resurgence of the brightly coloured and often

ornate material that he was responsible for printing, ostensibly for the Red Cross charitable organisations. Nevertheless, a few items by other printers did find their way on to the market.

Take, for example, the booklet printed on behalf of the *Union des Femmes de France* in 1928 (Figure 1) to raise funds for the *Dispensaire de Nouveau-Nancy*. The booklet contains 20 labels, printed in two panes of 10 (2 x 5), but it provides no complementary information with which to identify the printing company etc.

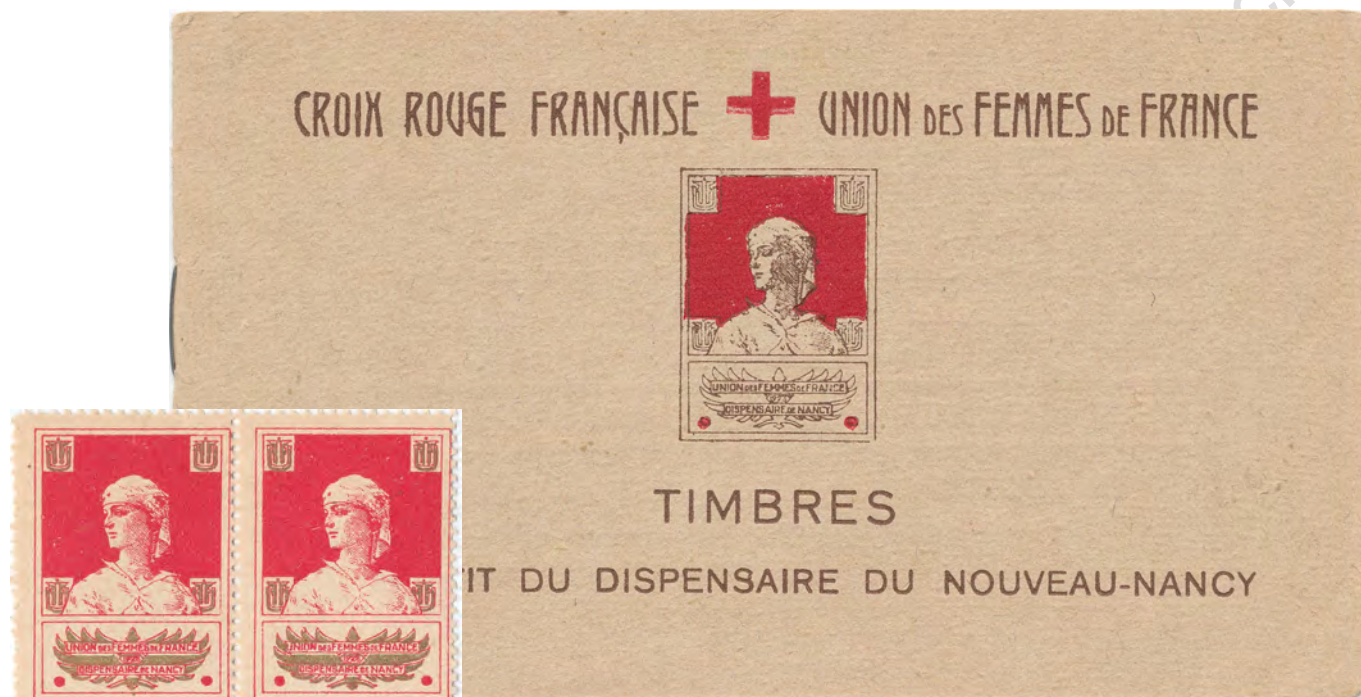


Figure 1
1928 *Union des Femmes de France* booklet cover and
block of four labels



Figure 2 (right)

A.D.F. overprint on '*La Belle France*' vignettes. The position of each overprint was different depending on the format of the label and on which part of the design, eg the sky, offered the lightest background.

However, the *Association des Dames Françaises* found a far simpler method of raising funds. They simply 'hi-jacked' a popular series by overprinting in red the labels with the

letters '+ A.D.F.' (Figure 2) and offered them for sale! The booklet was issued, in 1929, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the *Association des Dames Françaises*.

The cover contained a single, folded, sheet of 20 labels of the 'La Belle France' series (Figures 3 and 4), which measured 300mm x 165mm when opened fully and the sheet

was headed 'Vingt Beaux Sites et Monuments de la France'. In all, a total of 17 series was similarly treated. The booklets were sold for 5 francs.

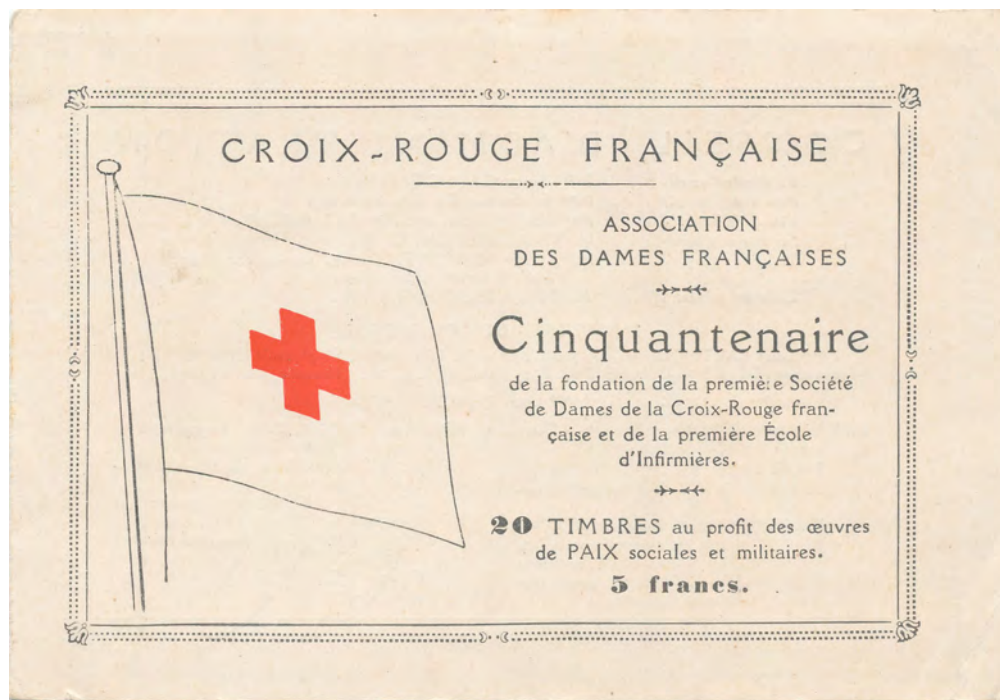


Figure 3
1929 Association des Dames Françaises booklet cover



Figure 4
Sheet of 20 labels (reduced to 60%) entitled 'Vingt Beaux Sites et Monuments de la France', printed by the Imprimerie de Vaugirard in Paris

John West

The Belgian and French franc exchange rate of 1928 as seen in the application of postage due



Figure 1

1928 unsealed envelope containing an invoice sent to Belgium underpaid at the 40c internal printed matter rate

Preface

A letter with so many aspects like the item above is worth an extensive discussion. It shows how varied and rich postal history can be.

It concerns an invoice sent in an unsealed envelope (Figure 1) from France to Belgium dated 7 March 1928, franked with a 40c *Semeuse camée* stamp (YT 236). Invoices and printed matter were allowed to be sent for less than the letter rate, provided that they were presented in an unsealed envelope so that they could be easily verified.

The sender has overlooked the fact that it concerns a foreign destination because he has used a 40 centimes stamp for the internal invoice rate. Furthermore, the sender has not written the designatory '*facture*' on the envelope and so the item has been subsequently treated as a letter by the Belgian postal authorities. Therefore, as a letter, it would have been sent at 1,50 French francs (the rate for a letter abroad between 1 August 1926 and 31 July 1937) and so it is 1,10 French francs underpaid.

Because the addressee had to pay the postage due, he refused the delivery as confirmed by the label on the back of the envelope (Figure 2).



Figure 2

Bilingual refusal of payment label applied by Belgian postal service

The Belgians were unable to collect their postage due but had already affixed and cancelled their postage due stamps. They used postage due stamps to the value of 2,60 Belgian francs and the letter was returned to France as unfinished business. In France, the letter was presented to the sender who still had to pay the deficiency of 1,10 French francs doubled to 2,20 French francs.

Belgian and the French franc exchange rates

In market trading the exchange rate between the two currencies was subject to constant fluctuation depending on supply and demand and also on interest rates and speculation. In contrast, the postal services used a more stable rate which was only periodically adjusted, not daily but just once in a while. The post office could not operate

with daily rates for its settlements because it was impractical.

In the French post office reference manual, the *'Bulletin Officiel des Postes Télégraphes et Téléphones'* of 1928, a review is given of the most common postal rates of all members of the UPU and also the factor by which the French franc must be converted. Such a complete review of these data is only published periodically and in between these full periodic reviews any changes are communicated to the offices by circulars (*'bulletins'*) while maintaining the last complete review for the countries that did not have any interim changes. The review previously published in 1925 was revised in 1928 in circular 15 under the heading *'Tableau des équivalents des taxes postales dans les différents pays de l'Union'*. For Belgium a conversion factor of 85,7 was given which means that 1 Belgian franc was only worth 0,857 French franc.

This explains why the double deficiency totals in French francs and Belgian francs are not identical. In France the double deficiency is 2,20 French francs. When converted by 0,857 it gives a result of 2,567 Belgian francs which is rounded up to 2,60 Belgian francs.

How much the Belgian and French franc fluctuated in value in relation to each other is evident from two sequential conversion factors from 1926: 1,25 and then 1,50. In other words, more than 1 French franc had to be paid for 1 Belgian franc. The turnaround came in the course of that same year when the French franc was stabilized with international help.

On 9 August 1926, the postage for a letter for the interior was increased from 40 centimes to 50 centimes and that

would remain so until July 1937. That was an unusually long period without adjustments compared to the period before, from the first World War onwards. By 1928, the time of the letter under discussion, the French franc had clearly gained strength and had become stronger than the Belgian franc by a factor of 0,857.

Course of events

The Belgian postage due stamps had already been fixed on the letter by the receiving office for delivery to the addressee and cancelled according to the regulations on the assumption that the letter would be accepted by the addressee.

Now that it was refused, the postage due stamps had to be crossed out by pen or be stamped with *'void'* or *'annulé'* or something similar. After its refusal, the letter was returned to the Brussels office. There the bilingual label was affixed on the back of the letter: *'Refusé pour la taxe/refused due to the postage to be paid'*. Afterwards the letter was returned to France where the sender had to pay the double deficiency of 2,20 French francs. An expensive letter that was sent in vain, so you have to pay more attention!

A final comment concerns the handwritten postage due amounts. To the left of the Belgian stamps 2,60 is written in blue and to the right of the French stamps is written 2,20 in red. This clearly shows that a 'senior' postal officer calculated the postage due amounts and noted them on the envelope while the counter clerk was allowed to affix that amount in postage due stamps.

Thanks are due to my Belgian colleague, Luc Selis, for his assistance.

Edwin Voerman

Syria à cheval: twice!

'À cheval' – literally, 'astride', a term used in philately to describe misplaced perforations (falling midway through a stamp) or overprints (falling across two).



Even when correctly printed, Syria's Damascus-issue surcharges of 1921 (on Arab Kingdom issues of the previous year) must be among the least attractive issues of possibly the least popular area within the whole of the F&CPS.

Of the two items illustrated above (they both show the 25c on 1m brown: SG 60, YT 74, Scott 82), one is at least reasonably well centred, albeit so closely (line-) perforated as to produce a smaller stamp than is usual for this issue.

The other, however, could count as being *'à cheval'* twice. Perforation in both directions is wildly misplaced, catching faint traces of adjacent stamps at right and bottom. The overprint, meanwhile, is pitched so high that the letters "O. M. F." would have been bisected even by well-centred perfs. As it is, they mostly appear at the bottom of the stamp, not where they should be, at the top.

Practically *'à cheval'*, then, in two senses.

Michael Round

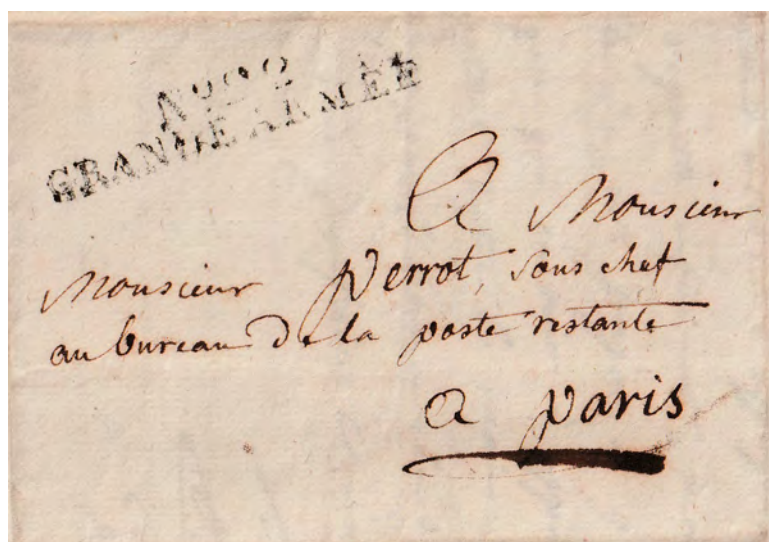
The Napoleonic Wars 1803 – 1815

John Cowlin shares with us two more pages from his collection of material from the Napoleonic Wars

(3) The Russian Campaign of 1812-1813, Magdeburg

Twenty train battalions, comprising 7,848 vehicles, were to provide a 40-day supply for the Grande Armée and its operations, and a large system of magazines was established in towns and cities in Poland and East Prussia. Artillery was concentrated at Danzig, Stettin, Küstrin and Glogau Magdeburg where even the cathedral was used for stabling

horses. Magdeburg contained a siege artillery train with 100 heavy guns and stored 462 cannons, two million paper cartridges and 300,000 pounds/135 tonnes of gunpowder. The letter below is from Major Garnier, of the 4th Battalion Artillery Train.



A letter to Monsieur Perrot, for collection at the poste restante counter, Paris, written by Major Garnier, Chef de brigade of the 4^e bataillon du train des équipages militaires, at Magdeburg, 26 March 1813 and cancelled N^o 22 GRANDE ARMÉE.

Magdeburg 26 March 1813

Dear Sir,

I received your letter dated the 16th of this month, and I am afraid I have no information to give you regarding Mr Pujos and Mr Pain beyond what I already sent to Mr Pain in Liège.

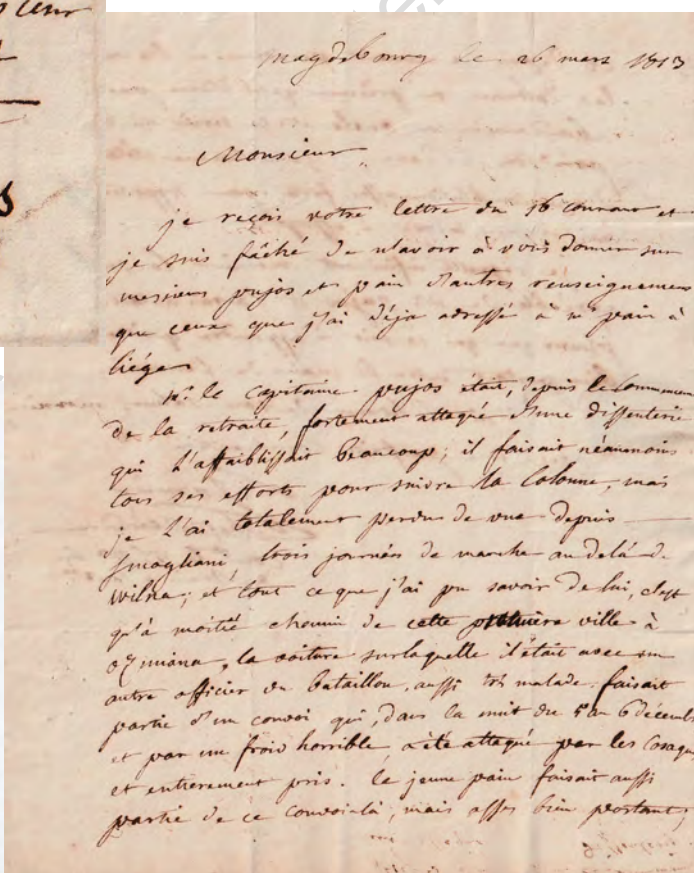
Since the beginning of the retreat, Captain Pujos had been suffering from a severe attack of dysentery that made him very weak; he nevertheless made every effort to keep up with the column, but I have seen nothing of him since Smorgoni, three days' march beyond Wilna, and the only thing I have been able to find out about him is that halfway between this city and Oszmiana, he was travelling with another officer of the battalion, who was also very sick, in a vehicle that was part of a convoy which, on the night of 5th and 6th December, in bitterly cold weather, was attacked and seized by the Cossacks. Young Pain was also in this convoy, but in quite good health. No one has seen him in the columns since that time; we are assuming that he did not want to abandon his uncle, and this would have been a blessing for both of them, since this young man did not have the constitution to endure the hardship still to come.

I greatly miss the pleasant company of Mr Pujos, sir, and I should be delighted if, this evening, I learned that he has survived and is in good health in the hands of the enemy.

With kind regards,

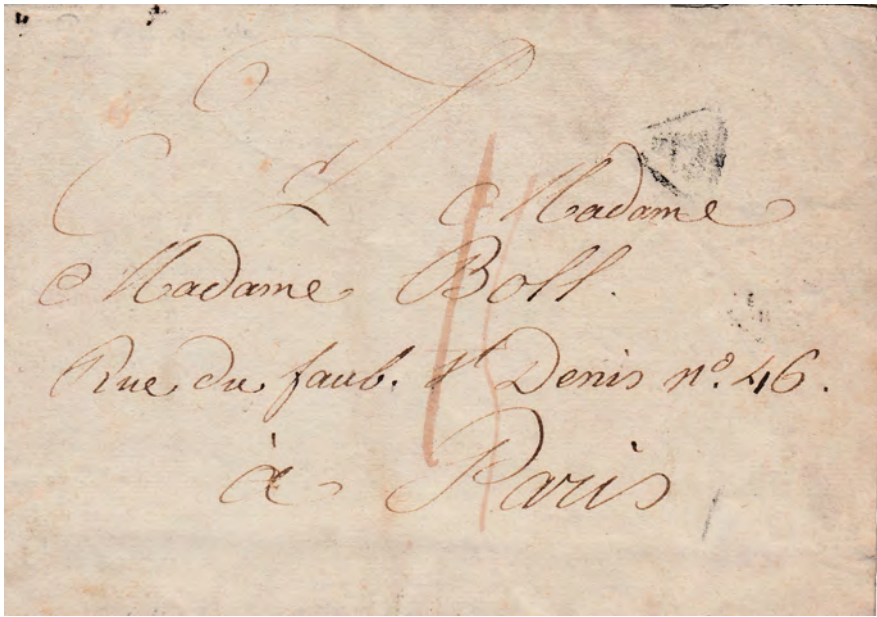
L. Garnier

Chef de brigade of the 4^e bataillon du train des équipages militaires



The Napoleonic Wars 1803 – 1815

(4) Lost in action



An entire letter to Madame Boll, 49, rue du Faubourg St Denis, Paris, written on 12 April 1817 and posted on 15 April 1817.

The text inside, however, is addressed to Mademoiselle Boll.



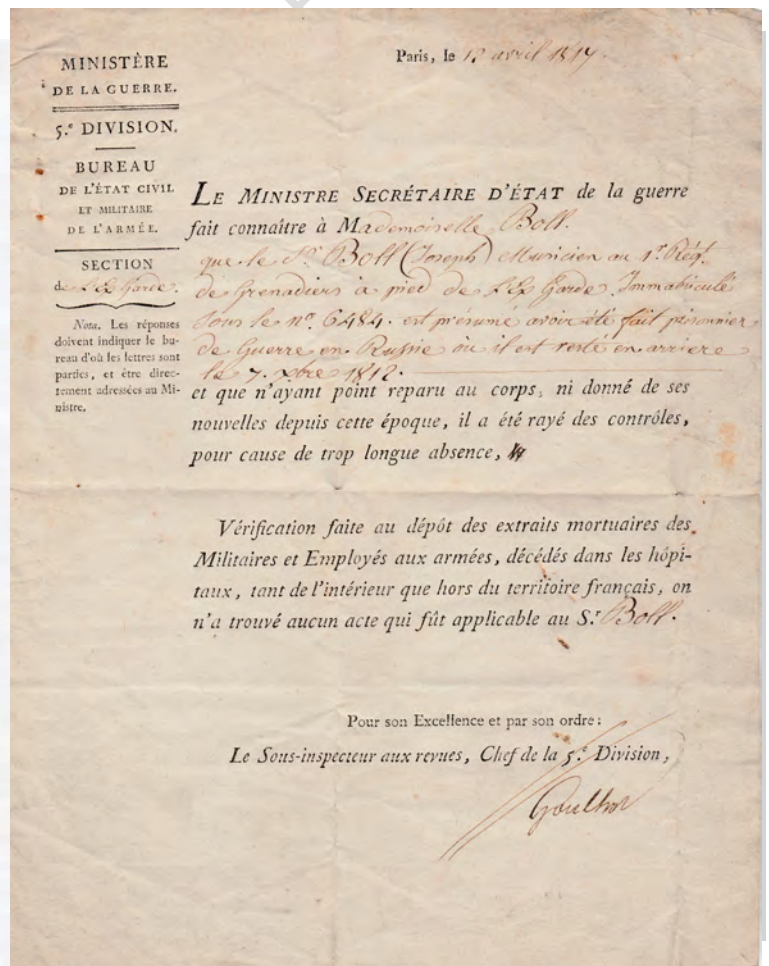
Paris, 12 April 1817

THE MINISTER & SECRETARY OF STATE for war informs Miss Boll that *S^r. Boll (Joseph), Musician in the 1st Foot Grenadiers Regiment of the Imperial Guard, registered under no. 6484 is presumed to have been taken prisoner of war in Russia where he remained on 7th December 1812 and since he has not reappeared in person, nor sent any news since then, he has been struck off the roll because of too long an absence.*

*Verification having been made at the Record Office for military personnel and employees in the armed forces who have died in hospitals both inside and outside the French territory, no entry concerning *S^r. Boll* has been found.*

On behalf of his Excellency and by his order:

The Assistant Inspector for Revues,
Head of the 5th Division,
Gouthon.*



* "The Inspector of Revues was charged with the organisation, enrolment, incorporation, levies, discharges, payment and compatibility of the military corps, and conducting of revues".

Pierre Daru, "The System of Military Administration, and le Code Militaire, 1805" (napoleon-series.org)

50th Anniversary of stamp printing at Boulazac

On 4 November 2020, *La Poste* issued two special items to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the French stamp printing works at Boulazac, located on the outskirts of Périgueux in Dordogne, in south-western France. In addition to printing most of France's postage stamps it is the home of the philatelic bureau, Phil@poste.

3,500 sheets of 100 of the *Marianne l'engagée Lettre Verte* definitive were overprinted '50 ans gravés dans l'histoire' (Figure 1). As can be seen from the illustration at the top of the sheet there are a number of marginal inscriptions including the names of the ten different types of *Marianne* definitives printed at the works between 1970 and 2020.



Figure 1

Top half of sheet (reduced) of the *Marianne l'engagée Lettre Verte* value overprinted '50 ans gravés dans l'histoire'

In common with recent anniversary overprints on definitive stamps these were only available in full sheets of 100 at 97€ and only by a special telephone order line on three days between 4 and 6 November 2020.

Issued on the same day was a small booklet measuring 160 x 110mm containing seven miniature sheets of previously issued stamps in different printing methods but with Euro values. A further sheet of four new self-adhesive 'Collectors'

stamps featuring designs of the printing works and engraving tools was included.

Two of the sheets containing past definitives are illustrated here. Figure 2 shows the block of four of those issued for the 1970 inauguration of the printing works (YT 1643) featuring the *Marianne de Cheffer* definitive printed in *taille-douce* with *se-tenant* label but with the original 0,40 face value replaced by 1,16€ (*Lettre Prioritaire* rate in 2020).

Figure 3 shows the block of four of the *Marianne de Briat* issue from 1990 printed in *taille-douce* on self-adhesive paper. It is listed in the booklet as the reproduction of YT 2630 which was issued originally with four straight edges but should more accurately be listed as YT 2874 from 1994 with vertical lignes ondulees (wavy lines) which this new version has. It also has a face value of 1,16€.

These two sheets will be much sought after as they will be required to complete the ever-popular collections of *Marianne* stamps. The commemorative booklet was printed in a limited edition of 12,000 copies; in the case of the 1970 *Marianne de Cheffer* commemorative stamp, it had an astonishing print run of over 20 million.



Figure 2

Extract from booklet pane containing
1,16€ *Marianne de Cheffer*



Figure 3

Complete booklet pane (reduced to 80%) containing block of 1,16€ Marianne de Briat and depicting the '50 ans' motif.

Richard Broadhurst

Madagascar: the 2f Lemur of 1961

A common stamp, yes, but check your spares before dismissing them as duplicates. Here are three copies.



The copy at left may be considered as the “normal”. The centre copy looks more green: this also discolours the borders of the stamp beyond the design itself, and is due to poor wiping of the inking plate (as *Timbroscopie* magazine confirms¹).

The copy at right shows the lemur in brown rather than brownish-black; the greenery is cleaner-looking and lighter, and – most strikingly – the caption ‘Protection de la Faune’ is in brown, not green as on the centre copy. All in all, this looks like a second printing, though Brambila² does not list one. He does, however, note the green caption as a variety, and (tacitly) the brown as the normal.

This will ring bells instantly with collectors of mainland France, for the Clos-Lucé à Amboise pictorial of 1973 (SG 2008, YT 1759), shows a very similar variety, well-known if not always catalogued. In that instance the heading ‘*République Française*’ can appear in brown, orange or greenish-blue.

Look closely at the left-hand copy of this 2f Lemur, and you’ll find ‘*Protection de la Faune*’ in an intermediate state (mixed green and brown). This is not uncommon, and its existence may have discouraged cataloguers from listing the others as distinct varieties. Notwithstanding, they’re far too good not to display in the album. How many more might be out there, waiting to be discovered?

Michael Round

¹ Question posed in *Timbroscopie* No 94, Sept 1992 (p.16) and answered in *idem* No 100, March 1993 (p.12).

² *Timbres de Madagascar*, Marcel Brambila 1972 (Administration des Postes et Télécommunications [Madagascar]).

Taxation of a Letter sent under Military Franchise from French Soudan to France



Figure 1

1899 taxed military cover from Touba, Côte d'Ivoire, with Soudan Expeditionary Force, Kankan, Soudan Français / Ligne K No 3 and St Hilaire-du-Harcouët handstamps

This letter is of interest for several reasons (Figure 1). To begin with it was sent from Touba, a small town in Côte d'Ivoire, and addressed to France by a medical major based at that location. It was carried privately some 400km north to Kankan in Soudan Français, a town and military post on the Milo river, where it entered the postal service on 6

December 1899. It is not clear why this route was taken. There was no post office in Touba until 1900. Mails were frequently carried privately by military personnel moving from one place to another and this officer was clearly attached to the Soudan Expeditionary force although this does not explain why he was at Touba.



Figure 2

Map showing route taken by letter from Kankan to Dakar via Kayes, Podor and St Louis

There had been a post office in Kankan since 1893 and it was connected regularly with Kayes either by foot or via the Milo river when the water level allowed. The general reorganisation and restructure of the Soudan Français in 1900 included the transfer of Kankan to Guinée Française.

Dealing now with the letter itself, Kankan recognised that it was correctly made out establishing that it was sent under military franchise, marked accordingly and signed by the sender. The authenticating handstamp '*Corps Expéditionnaire du Soudan Français*' was applied and a 'T' tax stamp was added indicating that postage was due. The reason for this was that the weight of the letter exceeded 15 grams. The military franchise was given to the Soudan Expeditionary Force in 1892 (*Bulletin Mensuel* N°3 of March 1892) and was withdrawn in April 1905. The franchise was available on mail weighing up to 15g and, beyond that, the letter would be treated as unpaid. This was the case here as

it must have weighed between 15 and 30g.

In this instance it took 26 days from receipt of the letter at Kankan to reach Kayes (Figure 2). From there, it travelled by foot and mailboat on the Sénégal river to St Louis. This would have been the dry season and mails would have been carried on foot to Podor (Sénégal) and by mailboat to St Louis. Mails were then carried by train from St Louis to Dakar.

We do not know the exact date it reached Dakar but it was taken on board the Messageries Maritimes Line K mailboat *Brésil* on 27 January 1900 and the postal agent on board stamped it with the 'Soudan Français / Ligne K N° 3' transit mark reserved for the use of Expeditionary force mail.

The *Brésil* docked at Bordeaux on 3 February and the letter reached its destination at St Hilaire-du-Harcouët (Manche) on 5 February. There, it was taxed at the unpaid rate of 30c x 2 = 60c.

Peter R.A.Kelly

Playing with the Post in WWII: Interzone Postcards

Postal stationery may not be, to many, the most interesting aspect of philately, but it can have its moments, particularly when stamp clubs and dealers used the postal system for the benefit of their own interests. Examples occur particularly in late 1942 after allied forces invaded North Africa on 8 November.

Airmail services from metropolitan France then became impractical if not impossible and they largely ceased. A

similar position applied to other French territories. Notwithstanding this, a new form of printed airmail postcard was introduced on 17 November 1942, the main elements being PAR AVION printed or stamped in the centre top of the card and a circular handstamp with the name of the issuing post office and the amount of the surcharge to be paid dependent on the destination. So far so good.



Figure 1
Postcard addressed to Tunisia and returned to sender

In the event, and unsurprisingly, the use of these cards was mostly philatelic since, as they were unlikely to reach their destination, they should not have entered the mail system. The card shown in **Figure 1** was addressed to Tunisia and postmarked on 24 December 1942. The card in **Figure 2** was addressed to Guadeloupe in the West Indies and

postmarked on 9 January 1943. Neither of the cards has any message, and the senders' details are clearly philatelic. In the case of both cards, they would have been returned to the senders, the cost being refunded and the cards having attracted various cachets (which might in the future be attractive to collectors).

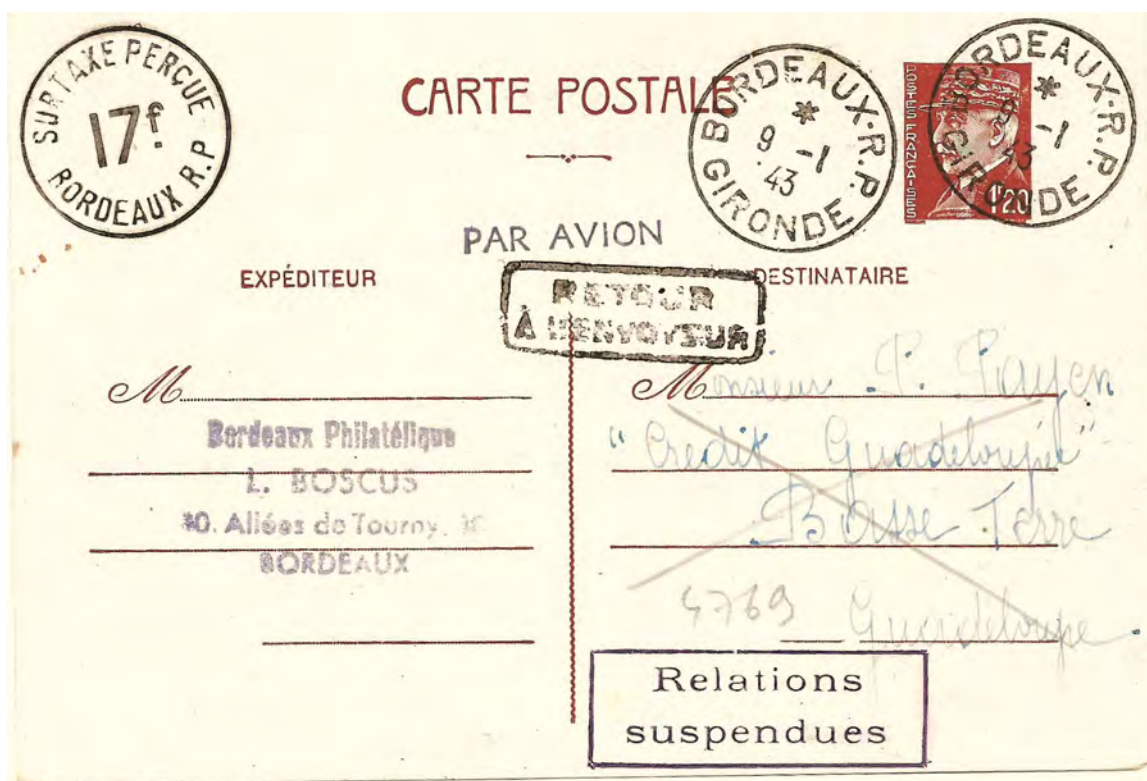


Figure 2

Postcard addressed to Guadeloupe and returned to sender

David Hogarth

Avis de recherche - Research request



Mon objectif: faire un recensement exhaustif des documents présentant un affranchissement en numéraire au Sénégal en janvier 1902.

Vous pouvez me faire suivre vos scans recto/ verso de vos lettres et cartes postales à l'adresse mail suivante:

mattei.bruno@gmail.com

My goal: to make an exhaustive census of documents presenting prepayment of postage in cash in Senegal during January 1902.

Can you forward scans of your letters and postcards, both front and back, to me at the following email:

mattei.bruno@gmail.com

Merci d'avance
Bruno Mattei

Thank you in advance
Bruno Mattei

Algeria: Modern fiscals used for postage

Browsing through a boxful of modern Algeria covers, I came across four items franked with fiscal stamps, used either alone or in combination with regular postage issues. Two covers are illustrated in full (Figures 1 and 2), the others partially (Figures 3 and 4). They were all addressed to the BBC World Service in London ('Arabic Service', not 'Cruise', as Figure 1 would have you momentarily believe) and travelled through the post without incurring postage due or other comment. Has any member seen others like them? Was their usage officially sanctioned, or are they instances of post offices using whatever was handy at source?

Figure 1
Posted from Rouiba,
12 November 1997

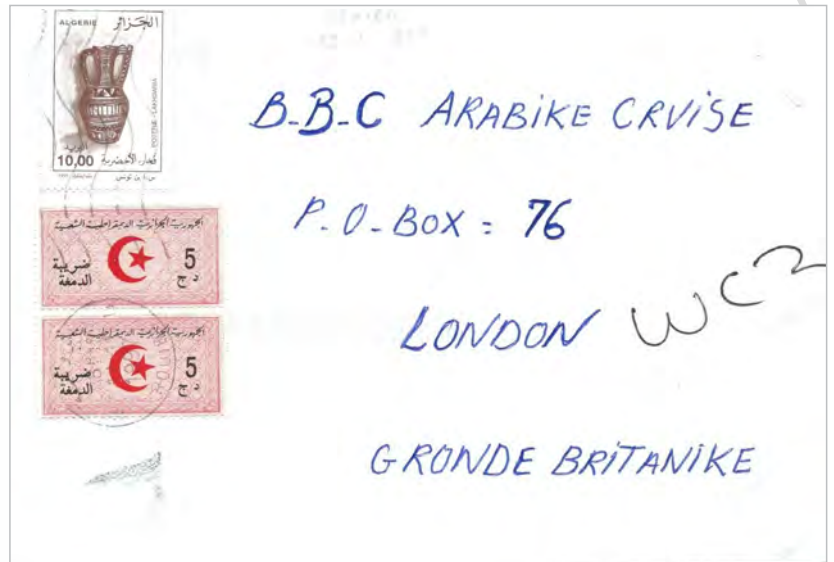


Figure 2
Posted from Mostaganem, 12 May 2002



Figure 3 (detail)
Source unknown: postmark
illegible, and sender's address
entirely in Arabic



Figure 4
Posted from Ain Beida, 16 June 2001

Recommandé d'office

In the F&CPS Journal 294, December 2020, page 140, Mick Bister described the letters to Pétain at the basic rate of 1F 50 as 'concessionary registered letter rate'. That is not quite correct.

From time immemorial any letter to the French head of state is handled as registered mail and reference to this ruling can be found in the *'Instruction Générale sur le Service des Postes'* of May, 1832.

It is known as *recommandé d'office* or *chargé d'office* (in English, 'compulsory registration'), and is applied if the

letter has been posted at the basic rate. As far as I am aware, that is still the case today. Should such a letter be posted unregistered then the first sorting office to spot it would apply registration, very often at a railway station sorting office in transit. Below is an unregistered postcard bearing a petition to President Coty in 1958 from the Netherlands which has been noticed at the Gare du Nord.

It is therefore not really 'concessionary rate' but a standard practice on letters to any French President.



Chris Hitchen

The 1f50 ‘tolerated’ letter rate to the *Comité International de la Croix Rouge* in Geneva

I was interested to read Mick Bister’s contribution in the FC&PS Journal 294, December 2020, regarding the 1f50 ‘tolerated’ rate for correspondence to the Red Cross in Switzerland. I doubt that the rate was ever advertised to the public or appeared in tariff lists – perhaps a memo was posted in the sorting offices asking that leniency be shown to underfranked mail. At the other end, it may have seemed in wartime to be ‘poor form’ for the Swiss post office to take postage due from the Red Cross.

I looked at the handful of 1943-44 covers that I have in my own collection (including one from the Mairie de Vichy) going to Geneva but all bore the 4f Pétain stamp. However, I found two odd items. Firstly, a letter from Carpentras (**Figure 1**) dated 15 February 1945, addressed to the C.I.C.R in Geneva and franked with 2 x 1f Iris and a 50c Iris overprinted RF. This totals 2f50 when the foreign letter rate was 4f; was someone hoping to get away with the 2f40 frontier rate? The letter has been censored but not taxed.



Figure 1
1945 letter from
Carpentras to Geneva
franked at 2f50



Figure 2
1945 letter from Annecy to
Annemasse franked at 2f50

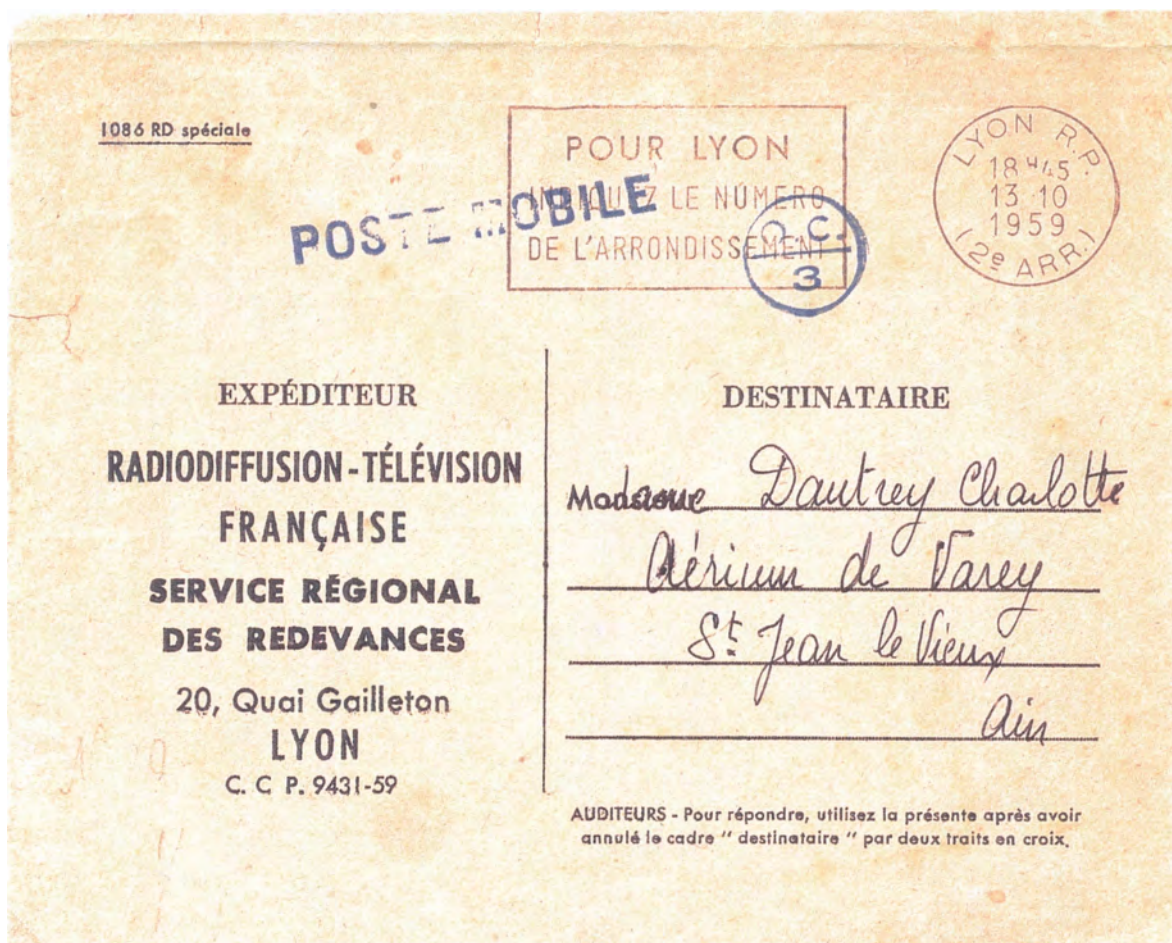
The second is a letter from Annecy (**Figure 2**) dated 4 April 1945 and addressed to the French Red Cross Delegation in Switzerland but who have a Post Office box

in Annemasse. The inland letter rate is now 2 francs (since 1 March 1945) but has been overfranked by 50c. Both illustrations have been reduced.

Poste Mobile query

Can anyone explain the origin and purpose of the two cachets – POSTE MOBILE and OC/3 applied to this

1959 cover? Are they postal marks or might they be related, perhaps, to an outside broadcast unit operating in Lyon.



Ambulant query

Can anyone identify the second placename in the single-line *ambulant* strike on the 1942 postcard? It looks as

though it could be RENNES in PARIS A RENNES but the first letter is definitely an S.



Jim Moffat

French Colonies General Issues

At heart, I am a philatelic storyteller. When a strange item crosses my path, I want to know its story. Can anyone help me realise my goal with the following?



YT 41 *Colonies* cancelled with octagonal 'CORR D'ARM...'

I used colour channel splitting to see if it would improve the legibility of the city or country name. The yellow channel helped. I am guessing it is from Indochina because of what seems to be DOC at the end of the name. Where is it really from? (Don't be misled by what I think the last three characters are!)¹



YT 48 *Colonies* blue hand cancellation

This cancellation is not in Yvert & Tellier, Maury, Cérès, Dallay, *Estampilles et Oblitérations*, or any other book in my somewhat limited collection. Where is it from and why was it used?



YT 82 *Type Sage* – 'AFFRANCH...' over 'LE HAVRE S IN..'

I have a 1976 copy of Mathieu's *Cachets à Date de France sur Type Sage*, but it does not list this cancellation. Is this a particularly unusual item or merely editorial oversight or omission?



YT 92 *Type Sage* – 'STAMBOUL' over 'GALATA'

I have several reference books, many of which list Stamboul or Galata on postmarks, but none that lists them in combination. Is this a particularly unusual item or, again, merely editorial oversight or omission?

Stan Fairchild

¹ Michael Round replies: "This is from Châu Đốc, a city in An Giang Province bordering Cambodia, in the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam." -Ed.

Zoom into the U.S.

The US France and Colonies Philatelic Society has created a public YouTube channel for their society's monthly video presentations. Currently four presentations are posted, and it is intended to add one per month, subject to getting appropriate permissions.

Go to: <https://www.franceandcolonies.org> then click on *Video Presentations* on the left-side of the menu, then click on 'YouTube channel'.

The *Presentations* link on their web site contains a large and growing number of articles and presentations, including the slides from several of the video presentations.

The *FCPS Philatelist* link provides downloadable copies of all their journals from 1941 through to 2015. Newer journals are available only to US France and Colonies Philatelic members.

Mail from Réunion landed at La Flotte

At a time when Covid has robbed us of the most important element of the Society's being – our meetings – and the pleasure of seeing our friends face to face and sharing a dram or two, here is the second of the letters I would have put up on the boards.



Above is a letter sent on 7 September 1833 from St Denis, Bourbon (Réunion) to a M. Martel at St Malo in the French *département* of Ille et Villaine. It is unpaid and was carried by the merchant vessel *Le Commerce* that anchored at La Flotte on the Ile de Ré on 3 December 1833 as per the office date stamp. The boxed *Pays d'Outremer* was applied with the name of the port removed and the frame damaged (as per Salles Type 109 used in 1833). It has been taxed 7 *décimes* being the rate for up to 7 ½ gms in weight and 220 – 300km distance and the 1 *décime* ship letter fee (*Voie de mer*).

The contents of the letter are interesting and describe the difficult state of things in Bourbon with regard to the

treatment and future of the slaves there and the need for them to be registered. In the letter itself, a reference is made to a M. Le Butte “on the point of selling his properties (plantations) on the island and about to see his slaves taken from him as a result of the philanthropic system adopted by the British Government.”

From a postal point of view, only a relatively small volume of mail was landed at la Flotte, a small port on the Ile de Ré, offshore from La Rochelle (Charente Inférieure). Furthermore, it was certainly unusual for a ship coming from Bourbon to drop anchor there.

Peter R.A.Kelly

SOCIETY NOTES Continued from page 27

Society Website

JOURNALS: Since our last edition I have uploaded thirteen Journals to the website for your enjoyment.

On-line there are now 79 pdfs of past Journals, from March 2000 through to April 2019 whole number 289, our 70th Anniversary edition. They all are searchable. (Control F). I have also uploaded the ‘Cumulative Index to Society Periodicals 1949 - 1997’ and a ‘Searchable list of Contents for Journals 215 - 294, March 2000 through to December 2020’. The contents and cover image of each Journal since whole number 289 are also on-line.

All thirteen **VIRTUAL DISPLAYS** which were circulated by email have now been uploaded to the website - A page devoted to the displays has now been created.

The Website has a dedicated **NEWS** section - please check regularly for any Society updates, when information comes to hand it is updated there and on the Front page.

ZOOM MEETINGS: Details of past and future meetings are listed.

AUCTION: Selected images are uploaded to the Auction page, these are in full colour. A list of previous auction catalogues is available online.

Website FORUM: Please consider stopping by occasionally, it's your chance to ask or answer questions or just chat with fellow members. If you don't already have a password contact me at jan@fcps.org.uk

Jan Gane

BOOKSHELF

Compiled by Michael Round

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

The Development of French Postal Communications in the Algerian Sahara

by Peter R A Kelly FRPSL, FSPH

Reviewed by Michael Round

Card cover, (xii+)224pp, A4 format, fully illustrated in colour

Published by, and available from, the author: peterkelly35@btinternet.com

Price: £25.00 or 27,50€ plus postage and packing (UK £3.10; Europe £10.55, USA \$24.33, Australia £23.43).

Payment by UK sterling cheque, euro cheque or via PayPal.

After the justly acclaimed success of his earlier book on French Soudan¹, Peter Kelly now turns his attention and considerable expertise to an area of great importance to French history students (philatelists or not) but little known about elsewhere. Peter covered the Dakar-to-Timbuctou story in 96 pages: in comparison, Algeria's sheer size and political importance cause this new volume to stretch to more than twice that.

The history of French penetration into the Algerian Sahara is complex: Peter's elucidation of it is comprehensive, and fills the first (15-page) chapter. Here and later, a profusion of maps helps to clarify the picture. Subsequent chapters take us, area by area, through the initial 'Gateway' offices of Biskra, Lahouat, Géryville and Djelfa, to the Oued Rihr and Oued Souf, the central expansion, the Ain Sefra Division, the Southern Oasis and finally the Eastern offices and the Touareg.

Within each chapter Peter explores each region town by town. Maps show where each place is, while an introductory paragraph to each name adds colour. He closes the book with annexes listing postage rates, franchise deals, post-office handstamps (helpfully cross-referenced to previous classifiers Lothier and Pothion), a 38-item bibliography, and – pricelessly – a glossary bringing to life names that most of us only know as subjects of pictorial stamps, like Bugeaud, Faidherbe, Foucauld and Lavigner. I wonder if Peter was

THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS IN THE ALGERIAN SAHARA



PETER R.A.KELLY FRPSL FSPH

CORPS D'OCCUPATION DU TIDIKELT
FRANCHISE POSTALE

Troupes du Tidikelt
12 Juin 1902
* Region d'In-Salah

Lieutenant Co enest
(Red hand & crescent)
* Bureau Arabe



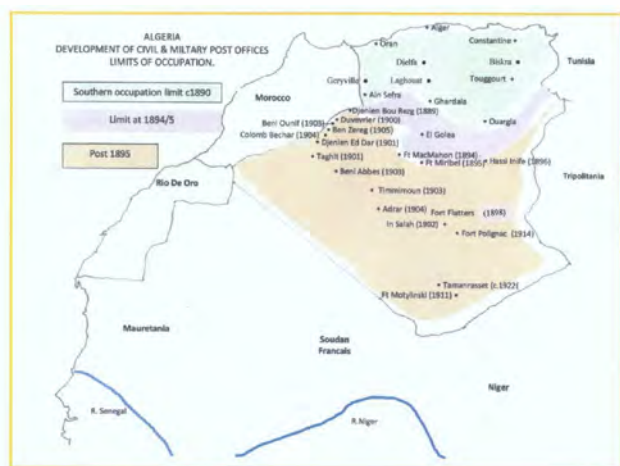
In-Salah to Evreux and redirected to Maisons Lafitte and then Paris. (12) June 1902.

ever tempted to underline the period's thematic potential by showing modern stamps commemorating these historical figures: good stamp portraits abound. The glossary also includes helpful Arabic terms like *bordj* (a bastion or ford, I learned), *chott* (salt lake), *erg* (the great sand sea, probably the only word many of us already knew), *foggara* and *sebkha*. Unsurprisingly perhaps from such a volatile part of the world, at least three terms – *goum*, *harka* and *razzia* (variously spelt) – apply to combat! Buy the book, and look them up for yourselves.

So much for what might, unflatteringly, be called the pastry lining. The meat of this delicious book – besides those indispensable maps – is the prodigious quantity of illustrated covers, hundreds upon hundreds of them,

¹ *Dakar to Tombouctou: Communications and Postal History in French Soudan*. Peter R A Kelly FRPSL. Reviewed in F&CPS Journal No 289 (April) 2019, pp 45-6.

displaying postal history at its most comprehensive and forming a priceless reference for anyone with more than a fleeting interest in the area. Here Peter generously credits



the previous owner of the collection on which most of the illustrations are based, that of M. Claude Bosc. Quite apart from its encyclopaedic value to researchers of the area, this

underlines the importance of recording a lifetime collection in easily accessible form should its components, for whatever reason, be dispersed later.

The book sits proudly on the shelf next to Peter's previous volume, but serious historians will far more often have it open on the desk, browsing the maps, checking postage rates and postal markings, looking perhaps for earlier dates... Straight-stamp collectors among us will be emphatically reminded that French stamps were used there throughout the period under discussion (i.e. to the end of World War I) though a few later additions to complete the picture duly show Algeria's own stamps in use.

Peter invites news of further discoveries from all readers, and - generous as ever - credits the Stuart Rossiter Trust with financial help and, for assistance with the printing process, David Alford - erstwhile editor of the National Philatelic Society's house-organ *Stamp Lover*, among much else. This is a magnificent work, and, unless events have already overtaken me, a sure-fire medal-winner. Most highly recommended.



A bulletin entitled simply **L'Entier Postal** must by its very nature be generalised – but comments on one field may so easily be applied to others nearer to our own interests that I have no hesitation in recommending it here. Issue No 112 (December 2020) includes, fascinatingly, the transcription of an interzone entire from 1942 originally rejected by the authorities on account of being cross-written (to save space) and therefore too dense to read (and censor) easily. Details from L'Association des Collectionneurs d'Entiers Postaux, via Jean-François Carde, 26 rue G.Fontanges, 46100 Figeac; email jfcarde@sfr.fr

A similar spread of interests permeates the **Bulletin Philatélique et Cartophile** put out by l'Amicale Philatélique (Maison des Associations Culturelles, 73 avenue Larroumés, 94249 l'Haÿ-les-Roses). Issue No 156 (4th quarter 2020) covers the Fréjus surcharge on *Marianne à la Nef*, the *Suivi* booklet, a note on 2021 postal rates and – intriguingly – what's described as an “injurious” postcard addressed to Jacques Chirac!

Of perhaps more direct interest to members, Bulletin No 81 (October 2020) of the **Cercle Aérophilatélique Français** has a piece on the Genet brothers, indefatigable organisers of earlier aerial manoeuvres including first flights to La Réunion and Madagascar, no less, and another item on the Paris-Cairo flight of 1913. Contact fdpetit@orange.fr or write to 32 avenue de Normandie, 78000 Versailles.

New-issue listings from Stanley Gibbons. Regular readers of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* (*GSM*) will know that nowadays its Catalogue Supplement lists individual countries' new issues not frequently, a few at a time (as do some French magazines), but in larger batches at much longer intervals. These are the only source of detailed information -

designers' and printers' names, perforations, formats, and exact colours and dates of issue - pending new (non-simplified) editions of each SG catalogue.

It may be useful, therefore, to record when such listings appear. The August 2020 issue of *GSM*, for instance, carried the first supplement to **France** since, apparently, November 2018*. Counting nine booklets, it runs to over 200 items, from the 'Leather Goods' of March 2018 (SG 6361) to the 'Human Rights' of December that year (SG 6555) and includes *en route* all the *Marianne de Digan* issues within that period. That said, the Mariannes were later relisted and expanded (*GSM*, March 2021) in a supplement which also extended to the de Vilman commemoration, (SG 6588).

GSM's latest **Monaco** contribution (January 2021, possibly the first since July 2015*) takes us from the 2015 Museum (SG MS3155) to the Aisnes WWI issue of 2017 (SG 3243).

These listings are even more valuable stopgaps to collectors of the former French Colonies and territories: non-simplified new SG catalogues for these are rare birds indeed. **Algeria** was favoured with five pages in September 2020; its last item, the Sign-Language Dictionary issue of 2019 (overall, SG 1844/962), takes us well beyond the *Yvert Afrique francophone* catalogue of 2018. You wait five years for a supplement update, then two arrive at once: **Tunisia** featured in both January and March 2021 (SG 1777/889) and **Vietnam** in February and March 2021 (SG 2882/985). Issues covered there date from 2012-16.

I hope to register more listings as they appear.

* *GSM* cross-references each country's supplement to the date of its last one, but not always accurately.

Michael Round

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Maurice Tyler

Please contact me (maurice@mstyler.plus.com) if you would like to see a particular article that you do not have direct access to. I can usually produce one that has appeared during the last 12 months, or point you in the right direction.

Timbres Magazine

N° 227 Nov 2020: Le faux Pétain/de Gaulle: de la résistance à la philatélie (Sinai); Entraide française pour la Libération (Chauvin); La Poste dans le département des Oasis après l'indépendance (Gomez); A Boulazac, l'imprimerie qui fait impression depuis 50 ans (Richez); La France Libre dans la philatélie de Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon (Tillard); Le rouge et le noir en déboursé (de La Mettrie); Les pointillés ne comptent pas pour du beurre! (Hervé); Il y a un demi siècle mourait le général de Gaulle (Zeyons); Quand les hydroglisseurs transportaient du courrier (Emmenegger); Le coup de cœur de la CNEP [le Cérès n° 55b avec erreur de valeur] (Dreyfus).

N° 228 Dec 2020: Maryse Hilsz, une héroïne de l'air (Sinai); Les anciennes routes postales d'Andorre, des premiers transports de courrier jusqu'à la fin des années 1920 (Albe & Louvian); Le point sur les bandes phosphorescentes des timbres en carnets (Gomez); Après Versailles 1919: les autres traités (Emmenegger); Exemples de marques «BM» sans indication de date (de La Mettrie); Maisons-Alfort: l'École Nationale Vétérinaire (Zeyons); Les aspects de la vie locale de l'AEF en dix-neuf timbres (Chauvin); Ce timbre n'est pas un n° 18 mais un n° 17A truqué (Calves, Jacquart & Beguin).

N° 229 Jan 2021: Une collection d'exception [carnets] (Gomez); Il y a 50 ans, l'envoi du ballon Phœbus (Sinai); 90c Le Puy en Velay : un timbre imprimé en taille douce pour remplacer un timbre au type Paix (Hervé); Nom d'une pipe! [postcards on the topic of tobacco - Ed.] (Zeyons); Affranchissements peu attirants (de La Mettrie); Répertoire des départements ayant utilisé des affranchissements de fortune suite à la défaite de 1940 (Sinai).

N° 230 Feb 2021: 1913: Brindejonc des Moulinais réussit le premier circuit aérien des capitales d'Europe (Sinai); Rivière bretonne, oui mais laquelle? (Hervé); Pendant la guerre de Vendée (de La Mettrie); Répertoire des départements ayant utilisé des affranchissements de fortune suite à la défaite de 1940 (Sinai); Les cartes postales anciennes sur les routes de l'aventure (Zeyons); Les fausses surcharges de Tahiti de 1893 (Calves, Jacquart & Beguin).

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

N° 1955 Nov 2020: Mauvais points pour l'impression au laser [vignette émise par la chambre de commerce de Saint-Nazaire en 1945] (Beghin); 1940-1945: Charles de Gaulle, premier résistant de France (1/2) (Lehmann); Terre Adélie, hivernage 2017 (1/2) (Venturini).

N° 1956 Dec 2020: Un timbre de Côte d'Ivoire aux allures vaticanaïses (Bogoni); 1940-1945: Charles de

Gaulle, premier résistant de France (2/2) (Lehmann); Terre Adélie, hivernage 2017 (2/2) (Venturini).

N° 1957 Jan 2021: Michel Rocard (1930-2016), la conviction sans le dogmatisme Sollin; Terre Adélie, campagne d'été 2017-2018 (1/2) (Venturini).

N° 1958 Feb 2021 Spécial Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon [10c Armoiries YT 67] (Ferretti); Le retour du *Pourquoi-Pas?* (Delmotte); Un millésime qui fait toute la différence... [YT 20 1F de Monaco] (Beguin); Dans le sillage du paquebot *Normandie* (Araign); Terre Adélie, campagne d'été 2017-2018 (2/2) (Venturini).

Bulletin COL.FRA

N° 174 4^{ème} trim 2020: Courrier et Poste des Missions Norvégiennes à Madagascar (1867-1897) (Monteret); Togo: Le timbre à date STATION PALIME (1^{ère} partie) (Girardin); Étude des timbres de Martinique n° 27 à 30 et du n° 19 (Jouvent); Histoires de graveurs et de gravures (1^{ère} partie) (Puech).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Vol 77 N° 1 (Whole N° 343) Jan 2021: Studying the 1900 French Congo Pictorial Issue – II (Nilsestuen); Bata, French Congo Postmark (Bratzel); French Colonies Example Stamps submitted to the UPU without reference to St Pierre and Miquelon 1909-1928 Pictorial Series (Taylor); Modern French-Area Proofs, Part II: Artist's Proofs (Elliott).

Le Collectionneur Philatéliste et Marcophile

N° 4 Jan 2021: Les cachets de Route des Malles-Poste – Première Période – Deuxième partie (Martin); L'empire Britannique des Indes à la fin du XIX^e siècle —Troisième Partie (Vialatte); La Poste automobile rurale dans le Jura — Deuxième Partie (Chagnon); Les Courriers de l'Administration de l'ancien régime à l'Empire (Jarkov).

Documents Philatéliques

N° 247 (1^{er} trim 2021) Jan 2021: Les premiers et uniques ambulants ferroviaires dans les territoires français d'Afrique: Casablanca-Tanger et Casablanca-Oujda (Guglielminetti); Les extensions de la poste pneumatique hors de Paris après la Première Guerre mondiale (Barbelin); Forcement en recette pour affranchissement en-dessous d'un tarif sur lettres pour l'étranger (Abensur); Les «départements réunis» du Piémont: 2. La direction des postes de Turin (Veglio).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol LI N° 1 (Whole N° 246) Jan 2021: Interesting Depiction of Indochinese Post Office (Bentley); Defending Con Co Island Stamp (Miller); Vietnam Refugee Mail (Beardsley).

Les Feuilles Marcophiles

N° 383 (Dec 2020): Les machines à oblitérer obtenues par la transformation de machines à affranchir NEOPOST de la série II et Pitney Bowes de la série DM (partie 1) (Guillard); Le compostage chronodateur des correspondances pneumatiques à Paris (errata et compléments) (Barbelin); Les timbres à date au type 1884 utilisés dans les bureaux français de Constantinople (Désarnaud); Le guichet annexe des Invalides (Lavenas); 1858, création d'un cas spécifique de récépissé de chargement (Chouteau); Un ballon monté écrit par Jules Péan (Gasqui).

Cameo

Vol 22 N° 1 (Whole N° 112) Jan 2021: Cameroun Postal Service in 2020 (Parren); Madeira 1847 Wrapper to France (Martin); Cameroun: Garoua PNA "Postmark" (May); Cameroun – Use of Sterling Revalued Stamps to Collect Poste Restante / General Delivery Fee (Bratzel); New Post Office in Douala – Laquintinie Hospital (Lebourcq); Sierra Leone – Free French Forces, Freetown (Martin).

Le Maghrebophila

N° 32 Dec 2020: Étude de la marcophilie à Cap Juby (1916-58) (Benziane); Casablanca – Achetez tous le timbre Antituberculeux (Guyaux); Question sur timbre Armoirie d'Alger de 1942 (Seydoux); Khalifa's Seal at Tetuan during Spanish Protectorate [in English -Ed.] (Medina).

Stamp Lover

Vol 112 No 5 (Oct 2020): A few books on forgeries (Round). Vol 113 N° 1 (Feb 2021): A few more books on forgeries (Round); Albert Decaris (Palmer).

ABPS News

Vol 28 N° 1 (Whole N° 109) Spring 2021: Paquebots of the Mediterranean (Howgrave-Graham).

Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 99 N° 4 (Jul/Aug 2020): Book Review: "Morocco - The history of the Local and Sherifien Posts 1891-1913" by Garcia & Hadida (Haber).

Books Noted

Morocco: The history of the Local and Sherifien Post 1891-1913 by RJM Garcia & M Hadida

Bilingual French & English, pub. RPSL 2019, 375pp 9x11in, price £65 + p&p; available from the Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW or on website www.rpsl.org.uk

[Detailed study of a remarkable period in Moroccan postal history.]

Courriers Europe-Asie par le Transsibérien 1903-1941 by B Bonnet

82pp A4; price 30€; available from bruno.bonnet0@orange.fr

[Illustrated research into postal itineraries from France and Europe to China, Japan, Tonkin by Russian route, with supporting official texts.]

Inventaire des marques et oblitérations du département des Landes 1672-2018 by J Conséjo

454pp, 3750 reproductions; price 35€; available from Jacques Conséjo, 5 avenue de la Gaillarde, 3400 Montpellier or j-consejo@orange.fr

[Postmarks and cancellations in this part of France.]

Les timbres perforés postaux et fiscaux en Alsace-Lorraine – Reflet de l'histoire postale, industrielle et commerciale des XIX^e et XX^e siècles by G Feutren, G Frick, M Frick & E Tschaen

340pp A4 (300 in colour); pub. SPAL; price 45€ + p&p; available from Gilles Feutren, 31 rue du Belvédère, 68100 Mulhouse or gifeu@hotmail.fr

[Stamps perforated with punched holes (1877-1955 for postage stamps, until 1990s for fiscals) in this region.]

Histoire et Art by Musée de La Poste

350pp 240 x 300mm; more than 600 illustrations in colour; pub. 2019; price 39€; available from Musée de La Poste de Paris, 34 boulevard de Vaugirard, 75015 Paris

[Wide-ranging artistic catalogue of the permanent exhibition at the museum covering such topics as methods of treating letters, staffing, transport, telephonic and telegraphic and financial services, etc.]

Maurice Tyler