

# THE JOURNAL OF THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY



The superb 500F Bridges of Paris airmail stamp was designed and engraved by Pierre Gandon as part of the 12th UPU Congress, Paris, 1947. Edwin Voerman gives a full account of the issue on pages 122 – 130

VOLUME 71 • NUMBER 3  
DECEMBER 2021  
WHOLE NUMBER 297

ISSN 0269-5006

**THE FRANCE & COLONIES  
PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN**  
**Society Website: [www.fcps.org.uk](http://www.fcps.org.uk)**

**Officers**

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

Vice President: R N Broadhurst, 47 Bolton Gardens, Teddington TW11 9AX (email: [francestamps@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:francestamps@tiscali.co.uk)).

General Secretary: Dr W A Telfer Brunton, The Ponds, Trevethan Close, Penwartha Road, Bolingey, Perranporth TR6 0DH (email: [secretary@fcps.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fcps.org.uk)).

**The Society**

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

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

The price is included in members' subscriptions. The contents are copyright.

Contributions should be sent by email to Chris Hitchen at [treasurer@fcps.org.uk](mailto: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, Lydiat, Liverpool L31 0BR (email: [dparmley@jhgl.co.uk](mailto: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.

**France:** R N Broadhurst, 47 Bolton Gardens, Teddington TW11 9AX (tel: 020 8943 1421). (email: [francestamps@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:francestamps@tiscali.co.uk)).

**Colonies:** R Gent, 17 Malmaison Way, Beckenham BR3 6SA (email: [Rodney.gent1@outlook.com](mailto: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:

R N Broadhurst, 47 Bolton Gardens, Teddington TW11 9AX (email: [francestamps@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:francestamps@tiscali.co.uk); tel: 020 8943 1421).

**Group Convenors**

London Group: C J Hitchen (email: [treasurer@fcps.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@fcps.org.uk); tel: 020 8654 4159).

Northern Group: S R Ellis (email: [steve@homestead75.co.uk](mailto:steve@homestead75.co.uk); tel: 01782 208669).

Wessex Group: C Scott (email: [claire@historystore.ltd.uk](mailto:claire@historystore.ltd.uk); tel: 01258 880841).

**Publications Stockist**

J Parmenter, 23 Jeffreys Road, London SW4 6QU (email: [publications@fcps.org.uk](mailto:publications@fcps.org.uk); tel: 020 7622 4851).

**Website Manager**

Jan Gane (email: [jan@fcps.org.uk](mailto:jan@fcps.org.uk) or [jan\\_g@iinet.net.au](mailto:jan_g@iinet.net.au)).

\* \* \*

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

Editor-in-chief: Jan Gane, P.O.Box 2081 Warwick, Western Australia, 6024 Email: jan@fcps.org.uk or jan\_g@iinet.net.au

Acting Journal Manager: Chris Hitchen, 36 Everton Road, Croydon CR0 6LA

Editorial Team: David Hogarth, Michael Round, Maurice Tyler

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

**Volume 71 Number 3**

**December 2021 • Whole No 297**

## CONTENTS

Society Notes (Chris Hitchen) .....	111
Annual Philatelic Weekend 2022 .....	111
Society Zoom Programme .....	111
Regional Meetings .....	111
Future events .....	111
Annual General Meeting 2022 .....	121
The Atlantic Pockets in France 1945 (David Hogarth) .....	112
The 12th UPU Congress, Paris, 1947 (Edwin Voerman) .....	122
Heroes of the French Resistance (John West) .....	131
New Caledonia (Derek Brown) - Reply (Michael Round) .....	137
Censorship of Civilian Mail in Madagascar During WWII - Handstamps and Labels (John Parmenter <i>et al</i> ) .....	138
New postal rates in France 2022 (Richard Broadhurst) .....	143
Shorter Items - including Questions and Answers .....	144
Fraud and franchise abuse before 1849 - an update (Chris Hitchen) .....	144
Congo Brazzaville – an important cover (Michael Round) .....	145
The French Revolution 1789 – 1795 (John Cowlin) .....	146
A quick guide to spotting Fournier forgeries of Congo Français N°1 <i>Colis Postaux</i> 1891 (Simon Binstead) .....	148
First sailing of the S.S. <i>Normandie</i> (Dane Garrod FRPS) .....	150
Imperial Airways Study Group .....	151
Tahiti – a dead giveaway (Michael Round) .....	152
Unique Concorde Miniature Sheet (Richard Broadhurst) .....	152
<i>Au Coin des neophytes</i> (P R A Kelly FRPSL) .....	153
1855 letter certified by the Mayor of Ardennes Sevigny (Luigi Wiechula) .....	153
Reports of Meetings .....	154
45th Philatelic Weekend at Charlecote 9-11 July 2021 (Chris Hitchen) .....	154
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 10 July 2021 (Andrew Telfer Brunton) .....	159
Examiner's Report (Alan King) .....	160
Bookshelf (Michael Round) .....	163
Review of <i>Art du Timbre Gravé</i> by L'Association du Timbre Gravé (Michael Round) .....	163
The Postmarks and Postal History of Cameroun Under French Administration – 1916-1959 (M.P. Bratzel, Jr.) .....	163
List of Recently Published Articles (Maurice Tyler) .....	164
Books Noted (Maurice Tyler) .....	164
New-issue listings from Stanley Gibbons: July-October 2021 (Michael Round) .....	164
Index to Volume 71, 2021 (Jan Gane) .....	iii





Derby Office:  
Cavendish House  
153-157 London Road  
Derby DE1 2SY

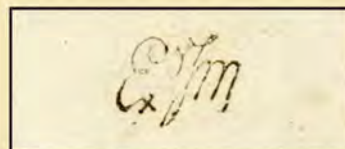


London Office:  
Suite G06,  
Dowgate Hill House  
14-16 Dowgate Hill  
London EC4R 2SU

March 2022 in Derby

## THE ROWLAND HAWKER COLLECTION OF FRENCH & BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR POSTAL HISTORY 1644-1815

Including exceptional items from the Anglo-French War,  
Revolutionary period & Napoleonic Wars.



## VIEWING AT THE LONDON 2022 INTERNATIONAL STAMP SHOW

See us at stand 104

Free Internet bidding with [EasyLiveAuction.com](https://www.easyliveauction.com) and [StampAuctionNetwork.com](https://www.stampauctionnetwork.com)

Search our catalogues at [PhilaSearch.com](https://www.philaSearch.com)

Consignments of significant stamps & collections always welcome.

[www.cavendish-auctions.com](https://www.cavendish-auctions.com)

[stamps@cavendish-auctions.com](mailto:stamps@cavendish-auctions.com)



Derby - Phone (44) 01332 250970

Fax (44) 01332 294440

London - Phone (44) 020 8785 7750



## SOCIETY NOTES

### Annual Philatelic Weekend 2022

It has been decided to return to the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel, from 11 to 13 March 2022. Further details are enclosed with the December Journal. The AGM will also take place on Saturday 12 March at this venue.

The hotel requires rather more notice from those wishing to stay than in the past. Bookings will need to be made with the hotel not later than 31 December 2021.

\*\*\*

### Society Zoom Programme

The monthly Zoom meetings continue to be popular.

Tuesday 29 June **Peter Maybury** presented 'Early Algeria 1787 to 1852' with a comprehensive look at an area which France regarded as part of the country rather than as a colony.

Tuesday 14 September allowed **Mick Bister** to resume his interrupted display on 'The Life and Times of the 1F50 Pétain'. So much of the course of the war could be gleaned from one small stamp.

Tuesday 12 October saw two excellent displays, 'Tunis steam ship mail to 1900' by **Peter Maybury** and 'Les envois disques - Records, Rates and Rock 'n' Roll' by **Mick Bister**.

All past meetings can be seen from the links on the website.

The first 2022 Zoom Meeting is scheduled for 11 January when **Ed Grabowski** will present 'The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: The French Pacific Colonies.'

We will continue with Tuesdays at 14:30 London time as these do allow the United States East coast, India and Western Australia to join in. Anyone who wishes to be informed of future meetings has only to advise Chris Hitchen, treasurer@fcps.org.uk.

\*\*\*

### Regional Meetings

**John Morton** reports that **The Northern Group's** new venue at the Ravenfield Parish Hall proved to be a good one: a spacious hall with a handy kitchen nearby. We had intended to have a bite to eat before the meeting at *The Cavalier*. It turned out to be a fun day in aid of "Yorkshire" so we ended up with a drink and hotdog. Dinner next time.

We had three generous displays. **John Morton** kicked off with a subject in progress: 'The Franco-Prussian War and its aftermath'. We saw some nice examples of mail prevented from reaching their destination due to the fighting and some fine examples of mixed franking. A Prussian military letter – registered – added interest. The display ended with a handful of examples of the early postcards issued in 1873.

**Steve Ellis** produced an amazing selection of reasons for having one's mail charged for being postage due – 31 reasons. Some of the audience were convinced he was making them up as he went along but we couldn't fault the quality and interest of his display. It was wide ranging in both dates and material.

The final display was given by **Brian Lythgoe**. Brian had spent a long time in Nigeria and drew on his knowledge and personal experience to give a fine talk on the Cameroons. We suspect there is a lot more material available for a later occasion. He touched on the set of stamps issued after the First World War by the French. Mint issues abounded and it appears to be extremely difficult to obtain postally used material. We ended with the WW2 Vichy issues, some of which did get used postally.

**The Wessex Group:** **Claire Scott** hosted a successful meeting on Thursday 2 September at her office premises near Blandford Forum, Wessex. Nine members attended and six apologies were received.

The guest speaker in the morning was **John Cowlin** who showed material from French wars and revolutions, bank notes and ephemera. The display covered a wide range of wars starting with the Siege of Kanizsa, Hungary dated 25 June 1664. His counterfeit banknotes produced by the British to destabilise the French economy of 19 June 1791 drew a lot of interest. So many wars and revolutions were covered and John provided us with a fascinating morning.

**Ashley Lawrence** presented *Pastré Frère*, a shipping company in Marseille and the story of Countess Lily, who was involved with helping Jewish musicians to escape the Nazis. He also told us about Josephine Baker, the black American singer, who became a French citizen.

**Ingrid Swinburn** shared with us World War II 'returned to sender mail'.

**Alan King** showed us the 'F1 Cérès - what is genuine and what is forged'.

**Peter Todd** displayed a study of *Bureau de Passe* cachets of railway junctions in the NE and NW of France. None of those attending had ever seen a display of these marks.

**John Scott** presented a study of the impact of the French Revolution on paper and parchment tax marks.

**Claire Scott** showed ambulance mail from WWI.

Local farm trout for lunch was washed down by French wine and a convivial day was had by all.

At the end of the day there was a discussion regarding the continuation of the Wessex group and all agreed they wished it to continue. This was followed by a discussion regarding the venue with the Grasmere up for sale and the Mill pub recently changing hands. The consensus was that members would like to return to the library at Tumblins. One of the apologies was due to a member who works and it was agreed that the Spring meeting will be at a weekend in May to enable him to attend.

\*\*\*

### Future events

**The Northern Group** intends holding meetings in 2022 at the Ravenfield Parish Hall, Birch Wood Drive, Ravenfield, Rotherham S65 4PT on 7 April, 9 July and 15 October.

As and when future events occur they will be promoted on the website.



# The Atlantic Pockets in France 1945

David Hogarth

In early 1944, with the prospect of invasion of the European mainland by the Allies becoming more likely, Hitler designated a number of places along the coast of Belgium, the Netherlands and France as strongholds to be defended against the Allies to the last man and the last bullet. These sites were described as fortresses or *Festungen*; they were ports to be both denied to the Allies in the event of a successful invasion and also to allow their continued use by German submarines in the Battle of the Atlantic. In France they stretched from Dunkerque to Brittany along France's northern coast, and from Brest southwards to Royan at the mouth of the Bordeaux estuary.

Initially one of the major aims of the invasion was to secure certain northern French ports, particularly Cherbourg and Brest, to enable the advancing Allied armies to be supplied as they moved east across France and into Germany. In the four months following the invasion Saint Malo had

pockets of Lorient, La Rochelle and Saint-Nazaire but not to assault them at this time denied the German armies of over 65,000 men marooned in these pockets and allowed the Allies to concentrate on the defeat of Germany and the decision would have been supported by the difficulties and loss of life in assaulting Brest and Royan. These three pockets held out until after the surrender of Germany in May 1945.

The three ports of Lorient, Saint-Nazaire and La Rochelle (Figure 1) had been French naval bases before the War and had been considerably developed by the Germans after the defeat of France, principally as submarine bases with the erection of enormous concrete shelters (which still largely remain in place today). Saint-Nazaire was the largest in land area with nearly 110,000 civilians and approximately 28,000 German troops within the perimeter. The pocket of La Rochelle and its associated submarine base at La Pallice,



Figure 1 Map showing the three pockets

surrendered to British forces and Cherbourg and Brest to American armies, the latter in particular only after a prolonged and expensive (in wounded and dead) campaign. In each case the port facilities had been largely destroyed. The emphasis was now on reaching Germany and the majority of the Allied armies were heading east, leaving the remaining *Festungen* to be taken later. The Royan and Point de Grave pockets surrendered by the end of April 1945, in the case particularly of the former after heavy loss of life amongst those in the pocket. The decision to surround the

some 105 miles to the south, contained some 15,000 German troops and a significant civilian population of about 58,000 (October 1944) though the latter had, as a result of evacuation reduced to some 13,300 by March 1945. Some 70 miles to the north of Saint-Nazaire lay the major port of Lorient; founded in the mid-17th century as the base for the *Compagnie des Indes* (the French equivalent of the East India Company) it lies at the head of a large natural harbour and is still used by the French navy as a submarine base. In late 1944 the German garrison amounted to 23,000

troops with, by January 1945, after many had been evacuated, a civilian population estimated at some 9,000 spread through the pocket. The German garrisons were initially well stocked with food and munitions, and supplies continued either being delivered by submarine or aeroplane, or being taken from the civilian population; the latter did not fare so well.

### The postal system in liberated France

As the successful outcome of the war in Europe became more likely and the Allies moved from the North African territories into metropolitan France, a Provisional Government was established, evolving from the *Comité Français de la Libération Nationale* – the CFLN – which had acted as a provisional government in the retaken North African territories. The first *département* to be liberated was Corsica at the end of 1943. One of the acts of the Provisional Government was to review postal services and discard the use of *Etat Français* stamps; this was achieved by initially bringing into use stamps of Algeria and the other North African territories, before introducing a new issue – the First Provisional Series with two designs – the *Coq d'Alger* and the *Marianne de Fermez*. At the same time the USA was considering arrangements for military government to be imposed after the occupation (or liberation) of France, and as part of this preparation had designed and issued a set of stamps without any consultation with the French. This Second Provisional Series was put on sale in France between 11 September and 9 October 1944, after a resigned acceptance by General de Gaulle of the design (with a schoolboy error), even though few of the values matched the newly-current revised rates. Stamps issued by the *Etat Français* showing Maréchal Pétain were demonetised from 1 November 1944 throughout liberated France. However in the three pockets, the new stamps were neither permitted nor could they be delivered for use, and the Pétain issues continued de facto until they began to run out.

### The Lorient pocket

Links with Germany were initially maintained by radio, submarine and a “regular” air service. By the start of 1945

this seems to have been restricted to mail, which was carried to Saint-Nazaire by fast patrol boat or, possibly on at least one occasion, by submarine. Since the new stamps circulating in liberated France could not be used, the supplies of stamps issued by the *Etat Français* were overprinted with *Festung/Lorient*. A double-ring circular censor mark was applied to mail to and from the pocket (Figure 2). Lorient surrendered on 10 May 1945.

### The la Rochelle/la Pallice pocket

Links with Germany were maintained until April 1945 by a twice-weekly flight to and from Frankfurt which carried supplies and mail. *Etat Français* stamps must have been used, while personal German military mail was supposed to have a *FESTUNG LA ROCHELLE* label (Figure 3) attached to it. The liberation of the fortress on 8 May 1944 was commemorated by a postcard sold for the benefit of prisoners-of-war of La Rochelle (Figure 4).



Figure 3  
Festung La Rochelle label, to be used on German personal military mail from La Rochelle. Both the label and, particularly the label on cover, are very rare

### The Saint-Nazaire pocket<sup>1</sup>

This pocket (Figure 5) was the largest of the three pockets in land area, and was the last to be liberated on 10 May 1945. Supplies for the German garrison were brought in by submarine and by air, and submarine patrols were continued against Allied shipping, though the majority of the U boats had been ordered elsewhere.

Postal services within the extensive pocket continued to operate, though there was no service to liberated France and letters addressed to places outwith the pocket were retained and sent on in mid-May 1945 after the pocket was liberated. For the German garrison there remained until early 1945 a fairly regular night air service using *Heinkel III* planes between the pocket and Frankfurt in Germany, though after January 1945 the number of such flights dwindled. In addition, for all German personnel, there was a radio-message service allowing one message a month.

While there was no formal crossing point between the pocket and the surrounding parts of liberated France, in practice there was a regular if infrequent transfer of postal materials between the postal authorities in Nantes and La Baule and here were a number of places, particularly in the south of the pocket, where clandestine crossings were possible. For example, the rise in postal rates from 1 March 1945 in liberated France was quickly made known to and



Figure 2  
Stamps YT 660 with censor cachet dated 1 May 1945 and YT 516, both with Festung Lorient overprints



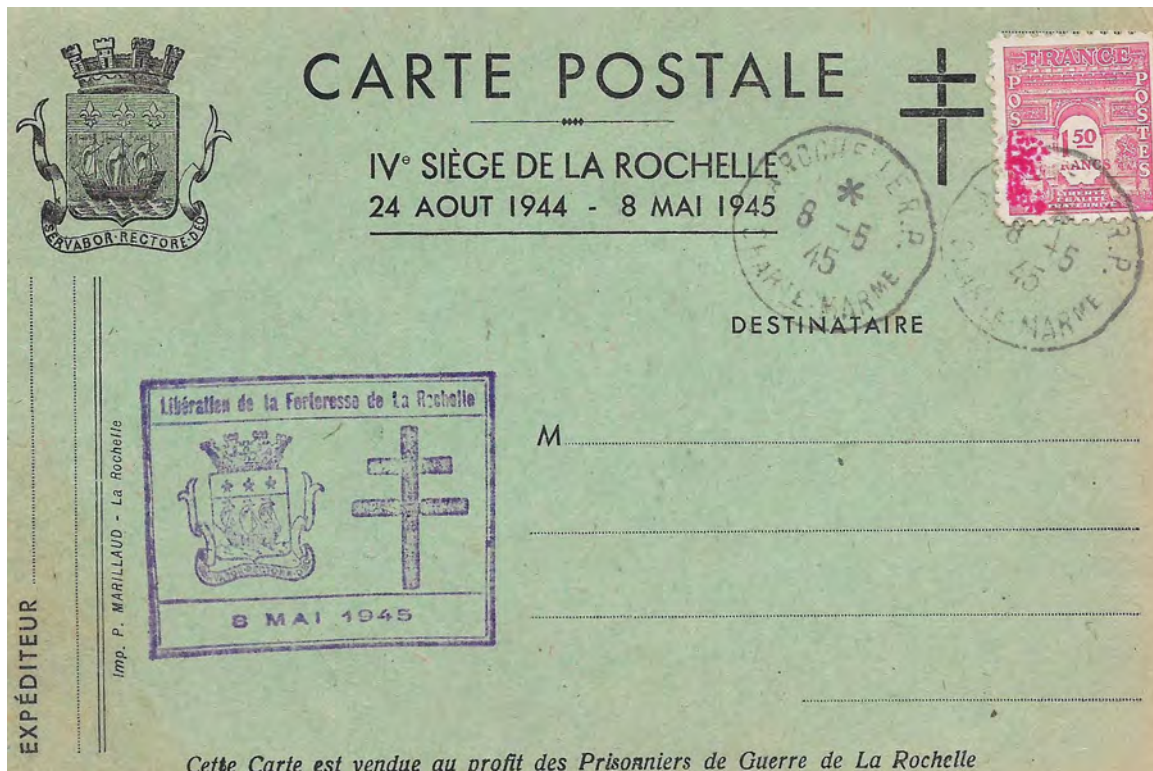


Figure 4

Commemorative postcard issued on 8 May 1945, celebrating the liberation of La Rochelle on that date. The card was sold for the benefit of prisoners-of-war from La Rochelle, and the card refers to the closure of the fourth siege of the town – the French clearly have long memories. The first siege ended in 1224 when Louis VIII captured the town from the English, the second in 1573 in the course of the religious wars between catholics and protestants, and the third in 1628 when Cardinal Richelieu and Louis XIII again defeated the English. The fourth siege lasted from 23 August 1944 until liberation on 8 May 1944. The stamp (YT 625) on the card is from the second provisional issue, prepared in the USA without consultation with the French, and includes the error of *francs*, instead of *franc* (ie the value should have been 1*franc*50)

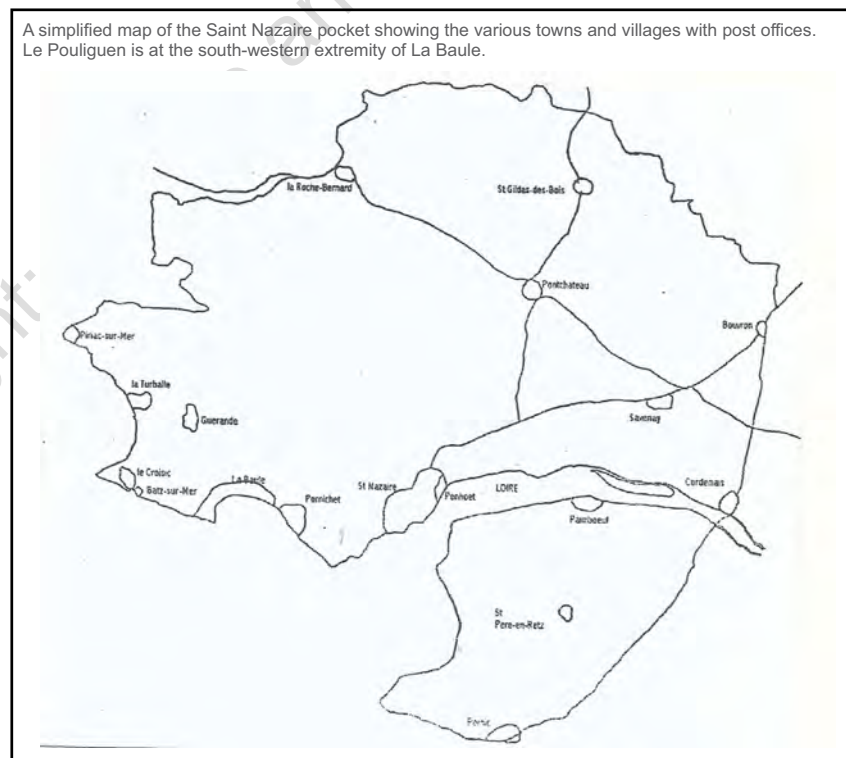


Figure 5

Map showing the Saint-Nazaire pocket



surprisingly implemented in the pocket. The newly introduced stamps of liberated France were not permitted to be used in the pocket and instead the *Etat Français* stamps were pressed into service, even though those depicting Pétain had been demonetised and were forbidden for use elsewhere in France. When even these stocks ran out, various other alternatives had to be used. And a philatelic “industry” also began to flourish.

#### Postal services in the town of Saint-Nazaire

In February 1943 a large part of Saint-Nazaire was destroyed by Allied air raids and much of the remaining population dispersed to the areas around the town. At this time the postal service consisted of a postmaster (*controlleur*), two employees in the post office and two postmen; on average some 150 letters were dealt with each day and delivery of the mail was *quasiment nulle*. This would change with the activities of the CDL (see below)! Before the siege began some of the (minimal) post office staff were moved to Nantes, while the regional staff - presumably the

postmen and sorters - were moved to La Baule, followed by the *sous-prefecture* and the *chambre de commerce*. This would be the situation when the pocket became a reality in August 1944.

#### The stamp position in the Saint-Nazaire pocket

Since the new stamps of liberated France were not permitted, the existing *Etat Français* stamps were used (Figure 6). In due course with no new supplies being available, these began to run out; and by the end of 1944 the shortage of stamps had become acute even taking into account the limited mail being posted, especially in the more populated areas. The general solution then was, in the four post offices of La Turballe, Batz-sur-Mer, Guérande and Piriac-sur-Mer, to charge the sender the correct rate (and collect the cash payment) and use what stamps (if any) were still available, recording the fact that the correct rate had been paid by means of a single-line *TAXE PERÇUE* handstamp (Figure 7). Use of this handstamp began on 19 February 1945 and continued until the liberation of the pocket.



Figure 6  
Printed cover from  
CDL to Roger  
Blachère cancelled  
4 December 1944  
showing use of YT  
521A, YT 505 and  
YT 547

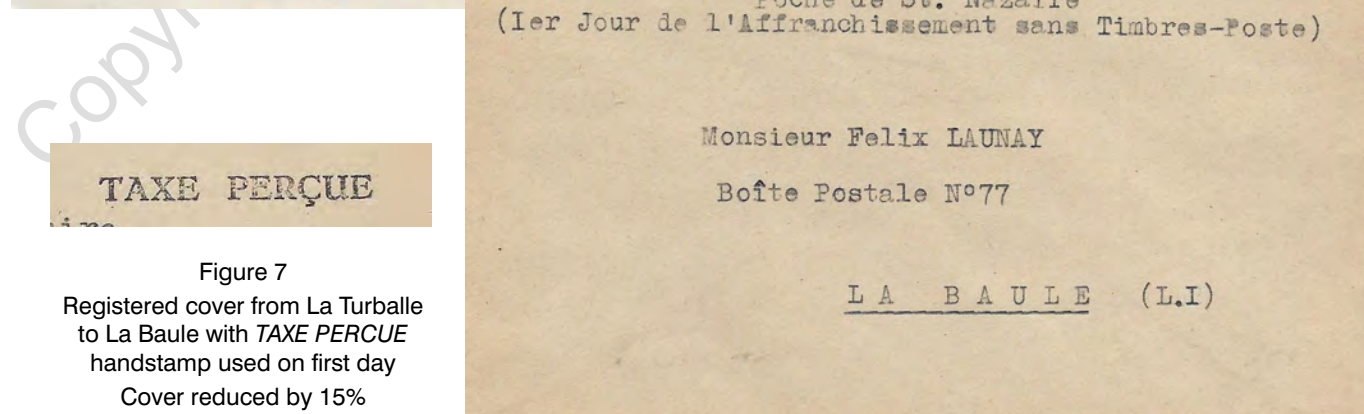


Figure 7  
Registered cover from La Turballe  
to La Baule with *TAXE PERÇUE*  
handstamp used on first day  
Cover reduced by 15%

In La Baule, however a commercial franking machine from the *Chantiers de Penhoët de Saint-Nazaire* was belatedly pressed into service (the post office there was described as being *a bureau de loin le plus actif*) from 8 January 1945 (Figures 8 and 9) and also in La Baule the proprietor of a bookshop (see below) sought permission to print envelopes and labels with *TAXE PERCUE*; permission was given for printed envelopes but not labels and the former (as did a few of the latter) appeared from 19 February (Figures 10 and 11). A local solution to the shortage of stamps however was

triggered by the increase in postal rates in liberated France from 22 February 1945; so far as the Saint-Nazaire pocket was concerned the most important changes would be to the ordinary letter rate (which would rise from 1F50 to 2F) and to the registered letter rate (which would increase from 4F50 to 6F). The shortage of stamps, except perhaps for the 1F50 Pétain stamp, prompted the printing of the well-known *Chambre de Commerce* stamps (described as *timbres-poste*) described on page 118.



Figure 8  
Registered cover  
franked with the  
commercial franking  
machine in La Baule  
on 8 January 1945.  
Note the printed RF,  
even though the  
pocket was still under  
German control



Figure 9  
Souvenir card franked on first  
day of use of the commercial  
franking machine



# Philatelic mail and *La Centralisation du Livre*

A large proportion of the surviving mail must be considered as philatelically-inspired, and much of this emanated from the bookshop at 38 Avenue de la Gare in La Baule run by Roger Blachère, *La Centralisation du Livre* (CDL). The business had printing facilities and an attached philatelic

department, the *Rayon Philatélique*. A significant number of cachets, covers and cards were produced here. Mail from and to the shop and to Roger Blachère and occasionally his wife is relatively common, often sent to poste restante addresses in the pocket.



Figure 10  
Registered cover  
with authorised  
printed TAXE  
PERCUE sent to  
CDL from La  
Turballe on  
19 February 1945



Figure 11  
The use of labels  
printed with TAXE  
PERCUE was not  
authorised but  
some were printed  
and can be found  
on cover. This  
registered cover  
was sent from La  
Turballe to CDL on  
19 February 1945,  
the same date as in  
Figure 10



### The *Chambre de Commerce* stamps

The shortage of stamps in the pocket suggested that a local issue might be produced, and with the approval of the German authorities in the pocket a request was made to the French postal authorities to allow local stamps to be prepared. The *sous-prefet* issued a decree on 30 March 1945 authorising the design and printing of the stamps by the Saint-Nazaire Chamber of Commerce for use in the pocket. The design selected incorporated the coat-of-arms of Saint-Nazaire and 30,000 50c stamps (to make up the letter rate of

2F with the believed remaining stock of 1F50 Petain stamps) and 20,000 2F stamps were printed (Figures 12 and 13). The stamps were printed in made-up sheets of 10 on a pedal-operated machine and were perforated on a machine, also pedal-operated, normally used for producing books of “tear-off” tickets; there was a lack of power available. As a result many printing and perforating errors can be found. These stamps were issued on 9 April and were supposed to have been withdrawn on 9 May 1945, the day



Figure 12

Cover cancelled on 9 April 1945 (the first day of issue) with the 50c *Chambre de Commerce* stamp making up, with a 1F50 Petain stamp, the then current letter rate



Figure 13

Cover cancelled on 9 April 1945 with the 2F *Chambre de Commerce* stamp



the agreement for the surrender of the German troops was signed, allowing 2 days for mine-clearing before liberation of the pocket was achieved on 11 May. A number of the stamps were overprinted with *LIBERATION* (Figure 14). The die was then defaced with a cross cut across the sail – or at least that was what was supposed to have happened...

#### German military mail

As mentioned above, for all members of the German garrison to communicate with Germany there was a radio-message service, allowing each person one message a month. Normally the messages related to the health of the sender. The messages were transmitted by radio and typed on to cards (Figure 15) in Germany which were delivered in the normal way. The cards had an attached reply card.



Figure 14

Piece with the two *Chambre de Commerce* stamps overprinted *LIBERATION*, cancelled on 11 May, though the stamps had purportedly been withdrawn three days earlier. The *LIBERATION* overprints were in use between 8 – 11 May 1945, the period between agreeing the surrender of the pocket, and its actual liberation

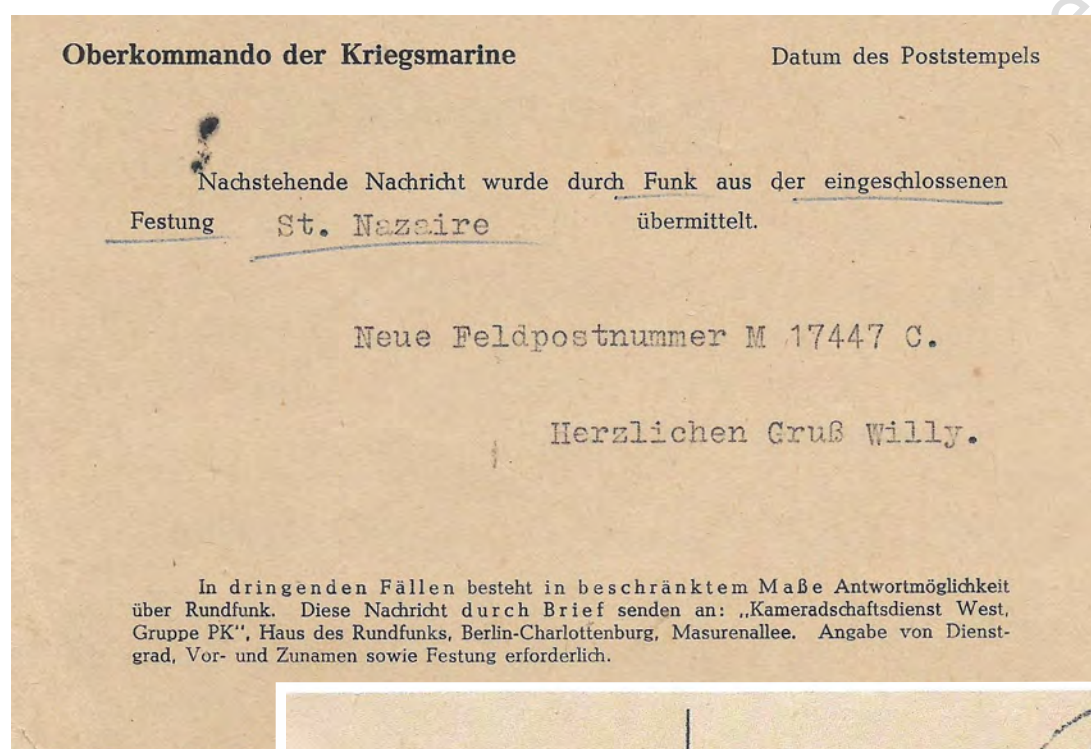
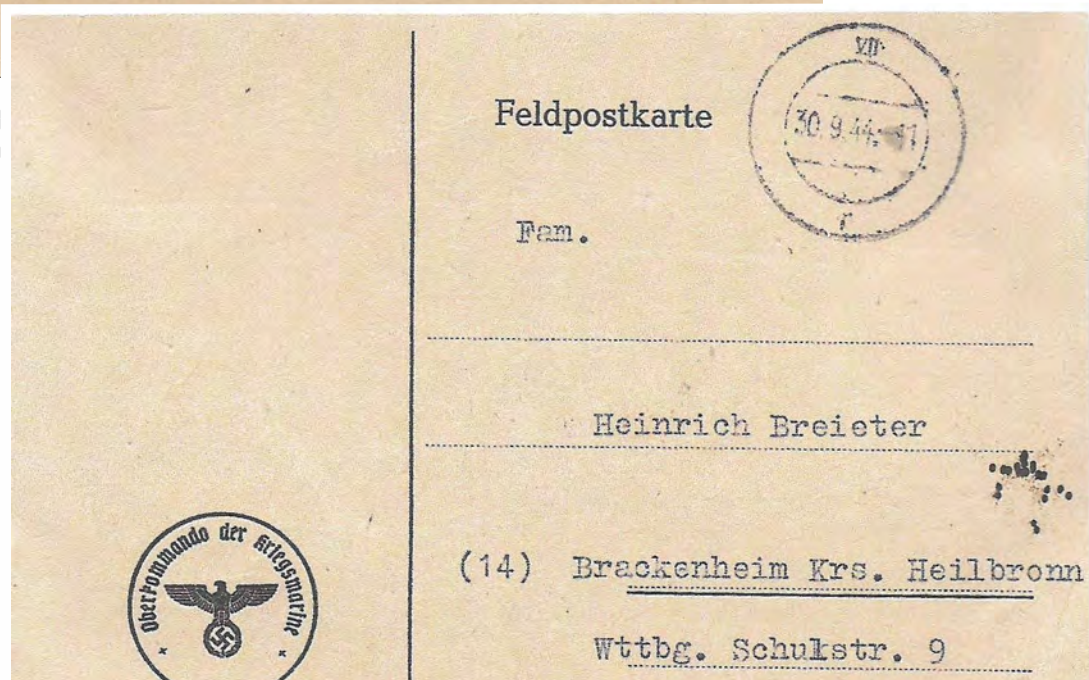


Figure 15

Radio message card from Saint-Nazaire with a copy of the address side. In this case the message concerned a changed feldpost number





## Liberation of the pocket

Liberation was achieved on 11 May 1945 and any stamps still available including the Chamber of Commerce issues were overprinted with *LIBERATION* (Figure 16). In fact, the first Allied soldiers to enter the pocket were members of the FFI who arrived on bicycles on 10 May, followed by US forces on 11 May. The CDL produced a souvenir postcard (Figure 17) celebrating the entry of Franco-American forces on 11 May, stamped with a Pétain 1F stamp

overprinted *LIBERATION* cancelled on 12 May and sent to Roger Blachère poste restante at Batz-sur-Mer on that date with a *TAXE PERCUE* handstamp, which presumably reflected the situation faced by the postal service. One can find covers on these dates stamped with both overprinted Pétain stamps (no doubt the few remaining) and the new liberated France issues (Figure 18).



Figure 16

Cover stamped with two Mercure 10c stamps (YT 546) cancelled on 9 May 1945 with the balance having been paid and recorded with a *TAXE PERCUE* handstamp. The letter is addressed to the wife of Roger Blachère (see above) and features a new cachet

*ILOT de St NAZAIRE / VIVE la LIBERATION*



Figure 17

Souvenir postcard prepared by the CDL commemorating the liberation of the pocket on 11 May 1945 by Franco-American forces, stamped with an overprinted Pétain 1F stamp and bearing a *TAXE PERCUE* cachet





Figure 18

Registered cover stamped with a 4F Pétain stamp overprinted *LIBERATION* and a *TAXE PERCUE* cachet to cover the additional 2F payment for a registered letter. The 1F Marianne de Dulac stamp (YT689) (from the *Série de Londres*) was added with a tax cachet to cover the 1F fee for *poste restante*

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>This brief article covers aspects of the postal history of the three pockets on the west coast of France which remained in German hands though besieged by Allied forces until they surrendered in May 1945. So far as Lorient and La Rochelle/La Pallice are concerned, I am not aware of any major work covering this aspect of this period. However, Saint-Nazaire was the subject of a series of four articles by Dr Robert E Stuckey in the FCPS Journal between June

1990 and March 1991 (whole numbers 176 – 179 and in a previous FCPS handbook which I have been unable to find, though I assume his articles deal with the same matters) which cover much of what I have written about here. I can at least plead that by 2021 reproduction of the various covers is clearer and better presented than illustrations 30 years ago! Anyone interested in this pocket is encouraged to find these articles.

## Bibliography

The articles by Dr Robert E Stuckey (see note <sup>1</sup>)

S. Simonnet *Les Poches de l'Atlantique – Les batailles oubliées de la Libération, janvier 1944-mai 1945*; éditions Tallandier 2019. A fairly detailed description of the Atlantic coast pockets.

L. Braeuer *L'Incroyable Histoire de la Poche de Saint-Nazaire*; privately published at Batz-sur-Mer, Braeuer 2003. A very well-illustrated account of the siege and liberation of the pocket, concentrating on the military aspects.

A. Apaire et B. Sinais *La poche de Saint-Nazaire: mythes et réalités* article in *Timbres magazine*, December 2000

*Qui était Roger Blachère?* Article in *Timbres magazine* July-August 2021 by B Sinais with additional comments in *Timbres magazine* September 2021.

## Annual General Meeting 2022

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, 12 March 2022. 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](mailto: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.

# The 12th UPU Congress, Paris, 1947

Edwin Voerman



Figure 1  
Épreuve de luxe of the  
500F Bridges of Paris  
airmail stamp  
(YT PA20)



Figure 2  
Inland letter with  
the 4F50  
Conciergerie and  
the special  
Congress  
cancellation  
applied by a  
Frankers machine

Collection  
Dio Glaudemans

**Introduction** The *Union Postale Universelle* (UPU or Universal Postal Union) was created in 1878 as a continuation of the *Union Générale des Postes* established in Berne in 1874. Initially, the main goal of the organisation was to simplify and reduce the costs of the complicated and expensive international postal traffic, which until then was based on bilateral agreements.

At their congresses, the member countries of the UPU discuss tariff issues, (new) forms of service, technology, design and implementation. Since 1874, 27 congresses have been held, each time in a different place in the world with a different chairman. The effectiveness of the UPU was so attractive from the outset that the number of members rose sharply from then on. At present 192 countries are affiliated to the UPU.



**The UPU Congress of 1947 (Figure 1)** This congress was the first after the Second World War. The penultimate congress was the one in Buenos-Aires in 1939. The 1947 Congress reinstated the tradition of meeting every four to five years with the participating countries to further improve the international postal service. The congress was held in Paris in the prestigious Grand Palais. This imposing building was constructed to house part of the 1900 World Fair and stands in a prominent spot in the heart of the French capital on the Avenue Winston Churchill overlooking the Champs-Élysées. On 7 May 1947, the UPU Congress (Figure 2) was opened by President Vincent Auriol (1884-1966) accompanied by the Minister of P.T.T. Eugène Thomas (1903-1969) and some other members of the government. Germany, which was still occupied, was represented by the various occupying nations.

**Decisions** The most important decision of the 1947 congress was to let the UPU become a special agency of the United Nations Organisation. This happened in 1948. Still later the UPU recognised the UNO as a postal carrier and from 1951 the UNO started to issue its own stamps. Before that, the

stamp requirements of the *Société des Nations* were met by overprinted Swiss stamps. Other decisions concerned the trade in stamps, enquiries, liability and compensation for registered mail and the exchange of international reply coupons for stamps.

**Special stamp issue** For France, the congress was a great opportunity to put the country in the international limelight. This ambition was reinforced by the issue of a beautiful series of four stamps without a surcharge (Figure 3) together with, as the icing on the cake, a fifth stamp in the form of a 500F airmail stamp as portrayed in Figure 1.

**Sales period** These special stamps were initially only available for a short period of time, i.e. from the day of the opening of the congress on 7 May 1947 until 18 May. Only five sets of stamps with the lowest four denominations could be purchased per person for 24 francs. A maximum of five of the airmail stamps could be purchased per person. Only then did the stamps go on sale at post offices on an individual basis. They no longer had to be bought in a series. They remained on sale until the date of withdrawal on 23 August 1947 (Figure 4).



Figure 3

3F50 Louvre Colonnade (YT 780), 4F50 Conciergerie (YT 781), 6F Ile de la Cité (YT 782) and 10F Place de la Concorde (YT 783). The images are slightly enlarged



Figure 4

The enthusiasm to get hold of the new issues knew no limits at the time. In the Netherlands the Amphilex 1967 exhibition showed this kind of scene for the last time



**Engravers** The best French engravers of the time were called upon for the production of this occasional series. Achille Ouvre (3F50), Jules Piel (4F50), Henry Cheffer (6F), René Cottet (10F) and Pierre Gandon (500F) all did a fine job, but the public *palmarès* went of course to Gandon with his graceful seagull flying over Paris. Despite the fact that the stamps are among the better ones by our current standards, the philatelic press complained a great deal. Critic René Normand, in particular, went ‘wild’, as we say today, in the September 1947 issue of the *‘Echo de la Timbrologie’*. Perhaps an early reproval of the time or has it always been like this? Not only did the philatelic press find the chosen subjects of the first four values rather ‘ordinary’, but two of the four stamps were depicted as a downright aesthetic disaster (the 3F50 and the 10F). Only the 6F engraved by Henry Cheffer was acceptable and appreciated. Because all the stamps except the 6F have no people, vehicles or ships on them, the artists were accused of having created stamps with an icy appearance in a deadly setting, as if the city of Paris had just been evacuated under a terrible threat (*“Une froideur glaciale dans un ambiance de mort”*). We Dutch are sometimes said to be rather direct and blunt, but this criticism is downright villainous. When dealing with the individual values, I will discuss the criticism of the time for each stamp in more detail so that you can judge for yourself to what extent you share the criticism. The vehemence with which in 1947 doctrines were drawn against alleged philatelic defects contrasts sharply with the

tameness with which today’s stamp designs are approached. A clearer signal that philately still occupies only a marginal place in public life is hardly conceivable.

**Luxury prints** The stamps were issued as *‘épreuves de luxe’*. These are prints of the final engraving carried out by the printer and authenticated as such. They serve mostly as gifts for dignitaries. There are also proofs signed by the engraver, the so-called *‘épreuves d’artiste’* of this issue as well as the so-called *‘épreuves collectives’*. This last category does not only include the first four stamps, but also the 500 francs airmail stamp. Naturally, the dignitaries received a presentation folder with these stamps.

**Number of stamps issued** The number of stamps issued of the first four stamps of this set vary from 2.4 million to 4.6 million and are thus in line with the numbers issued of contemporary special issues without surcharge. This category was thinly spread immediately after the war because a flood of surcharged stamps was issued during the war. Everything was in short supply, so people needed to economise. The number of airmail stamps printed was 525,000.

**Stamp usage** The absence of surcharges and the application of nominal values that exactly corresponded to the current prevailing rates undoubtedly contributed to their actual use. So, apart from the 500F, we see these stamps on all kinds of everyday mail. That makes collecting this special issue attractive.



Figure 5

3F50 Gandon

4F50 Gandon

6F Gandon  
red6F Gandon  
carmine-rose

10F Palais du Luxembourg

Above are the regular issues of 1947. The special UPU stamps were issued in the same denominations

**The postal rates of 1947** Immediately after the end of World War II there was high inflation in France. The development of the rate for an ordinary inland letter shows that the year 1947 was very turbulent in terms of rates. For philatelists this is a very interesting period with the most exotic frankings. From 1 March to 31 December 1945, 2 francs had to be paid for the carriage of a letter. During the whole of 1946 this became 3 francs (+50%) and on 1 January 1947 the letter rate was raised to 5 francs, an increase of no less than 67%! There was an immediate and fierce protest against this increase, with the result that immediately on 2 January the rate was lowered again to 4F50, still an increase of 50%. Genuinely used covers from 1 January 1947 are

highly sought after by collectors. On 8 July 1947, the rate was increased yet again, this time to 6 francs. The prevailing postal values in 1947 were the *‘Marianne de Gandon’* issues which appeared in 1945 and were only replaced ten years later in 1955 by the *‘Marianne de Müller’* issue. One exception to the use of the Gandon stamps for normal circulation was the value of 10F. Instead of a modest Gandon stamp, a large format stamp with the image of the Palais du Luxembourg was used for the 10F. The 10F served to frank the mail to foreign countries and French prestige demanded a large format stamp with an imposing picture. For internal tariff the modest 15F surface-printed stamps of the Gandon issue were good enough. (Figure 5).

**Usage of the 3F50** Here we see the colonnade of the Louvre façade. The stamp was designed and engraved by Achille Ouvre (1872-1951). The number issued was 2.5 million stamps. The stamp was printed in sheets of 50 and was intended for the internal rate of a postcard with more than 5 words of text (Figure 6). That tariff was 3F50 from 1 March 1947 until 7 July 1947 when the rate went up to 5 francs. After this rate increase there was little use for the 3F50 stamp until the series was withdrawn. From time to time we still encounter this stamp in combinations (Figure 7). Of the four first values of this issue, this stamp is the most difficult to find as '*seul sur lettre*'. It must be assumed that most of the

stamps disappeared into the albums of collectors. In general, the criticism of all four stamps focused on the fact that there was no animation to be found on the stamps. This gives the stamps a somewhat dead and sterile look. The 6F is the only exception for which engraver Henry Cheffer received praise. The colonnade of the Louvre is compared to a soulless row of polished pine trunks and the sky looks more like how small children draw the sea. For an engraver as renowned as Ouvré, the verdict of “*un véritable désastre*” must have been harsh. Although the judgement is harsh, on closer inspection it is not entirely unfounded.



Figure 6  
3F50 Louvre  
Colonnade on an  
interior postcard with  
more than 5 words  
of text



Figure 7  
3F50 Louvre  
Colonnade and 10F  
Place de la  
Concorde on an  
interior registered  
letter.  
4F50 postage plus  
9F registration fee  
equals 13F50





Figure 8 (reduced)  
This 1934 postcard of the Conciergerie shows how lively the bridge scene would normally be

Figure 9  
4F50 Conciergerie on an inland letter. The cancellation is that of a second generation Krag machine

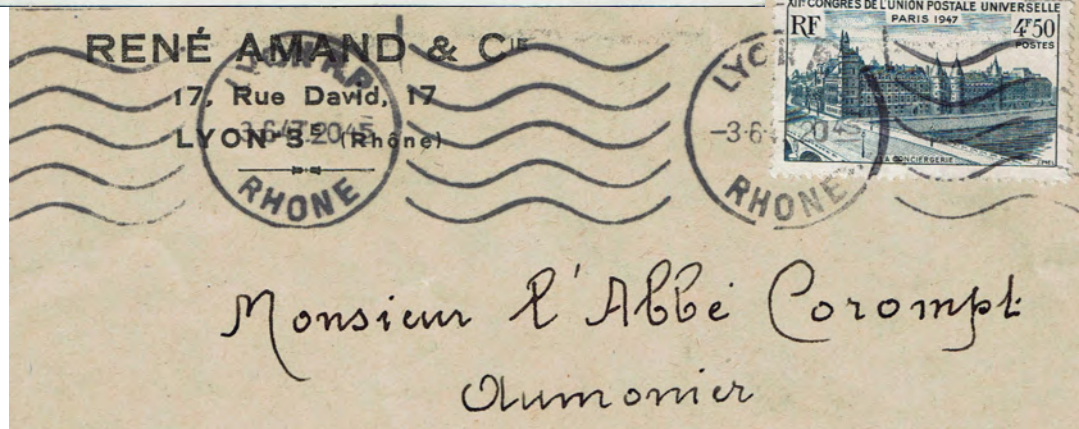


Figure 10  
Three copies of the 4F50 Conciergerie on an interior registered letter. 4F50 postage plus 9F registration fee equals 13F50



**Usage of the 4F50** The stamp was designed and engraved by Jules Piel (1882-1978). The number issued was 4.6 million stamps. The stamp was printed in sheets of 50 and was issued to meet the internal letter rate. It had the highest circulation of the series, which is not surprising considering the designated use. The postage for an internal letter cost 4F50 from 2 January 1947 until 8 July 1947 when this rate was increased to 6 francs. After this rate increase there was little use for the 4F50 stamp until the series was withdrawn. The Conciergerie is located in the centre of the Île de la Cité

near Notre Dame. Currently it is part of the Ministry of Justice. Part of the building has been set up as a museum. The building dates from the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century at the end of which, it was used as a prison, among other things. The most famous prisoners were undoubtedly Marie-Antoinette, wife of King Louis XVI and Robespierre. The latter was one of the protagonists of the French Revolution. Both lost their heads under the guillotine. The 4F50 stamp is also not entirely without its critics and is given the verdict of 'passable'. That is already much better than the harsh

Figure 11

Interior second step letter (20-50 grams) franked with a 6F Cité. This rate applied until 7 July 1947. The cancellation is that of a RBV machine (Roux/Braconnier/Vorms)



**SOCIÉTÉ DES USINES QUIRI & C<sup>ie</sup>**

Société à responsabilité limitée

au Capital de 2.000.000 Frs.

**SCHILTIGHEIM (Bas-Rhin)**



Société des USINES QUIRI et Cie

a **SCHILTIGHEIM**

(BAS-RHIN)

Figure 12

First step interior letter franked with a 6F Cité. After the increase of the rate on 8 July 1947 this was the new main usage for the 6F stamp



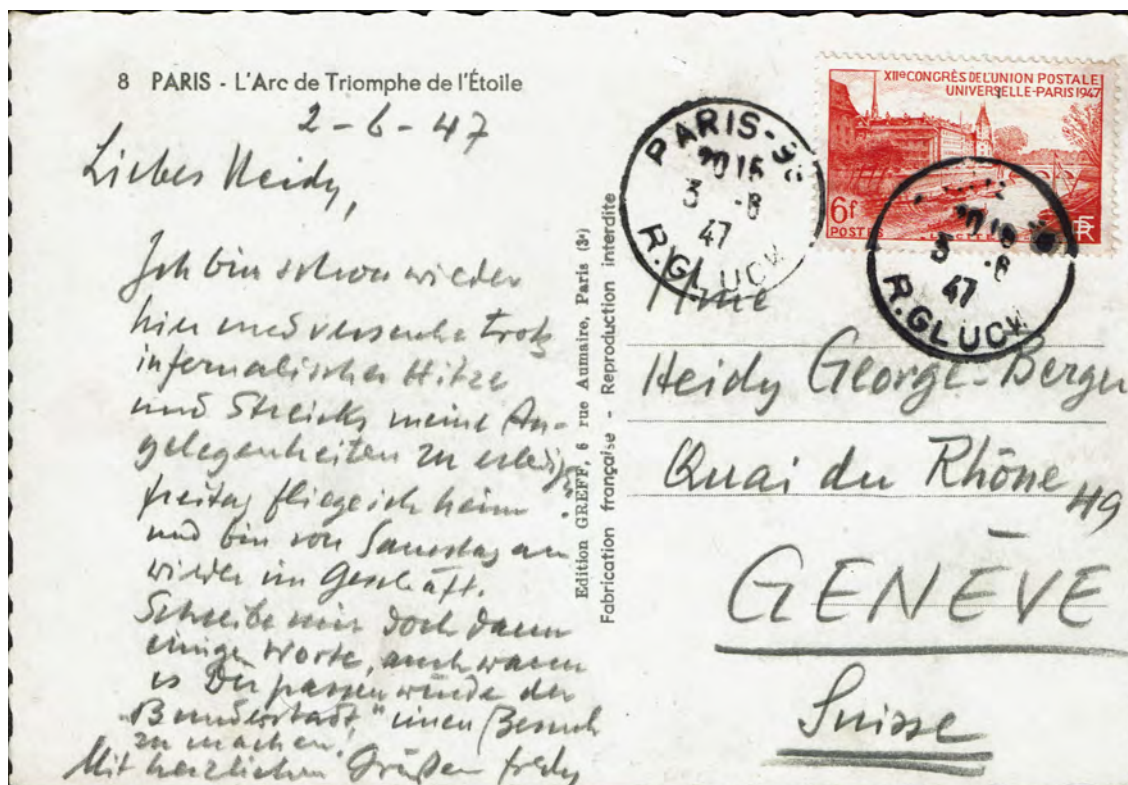


Figure 13

Foreign postcard with more than 5 words franked with a 6F Cité. This rate was valid from 1 February 1946 to 30 April 1948.



Figure 14

Advice of receipt (AR) franked with a 6F Cité, the rate from 8 July 1947 to 20 September 1948. A scarce use of the 6F stamp for this purpose

judgment that was passed on the 3F50 stamp, but it will still have hit the experienced Jules Piel hard. Critic René Normand believes that the lack of any furnishings on the quay where the Conciergerie is located makes the building look lonely and desolate in contrast to the activity captured by the photographer for the postcard shown in Figure 8. The Seine is also said to be far too simplistically depicted. Figures 9 and 10 show examples of usage.

**Usage of the 6F** The stamp was designed and engraved by Henry Cheffer (1880-1957). The number issued was 2.4 million stamps. It was printed in sheets of 50 and was originally meant for the franking of an internal letter of the second weight band. (Figure 11). With the rate increase of 8 July 1947, an ordinary letter could henceforth be franked

with this stamp. (Figure 12). Furthermore, this stamp could also be used for franking a postcard to a foreign country (Figure 13) and the payment of an advice of receipt (Figure 14). The design depicts the Île de la Cité, the old heart of Paris. The main reason for critic René Normand to proclaim the 6F stamp the most beautiful of the series is the fact that engraver Cheffer has animated the streets and the river with people, vehicles and ships. The successful finesse of the shadows and the gentle fading of the image into the distance is appreciated by Normand. The colour is considered a little too red, but apart from that, this stamp receives the qualification 'un beau timbre'. A bit frugal after all. In the Netherlands we would say "Het had erger kunnen zijn" - "it could be worse".





Figure 15  
Foreign letter franked  
with a 10F Place de  
la Concorde being  
the rate from  
1 February 1946 to  
30 April 1948. The  
cancellation is that of  
a Frankers machine

Figure 16  
Internal registered  
letter franked with two  
copies of the 10F  
Place de la Concorde.  
The letter rate of 6  
francs and the  
registration fee of 14  
francs were applicable  
from 8 July 1947 to  
20 September 1948  
and together make  
exactly 20 francs



**Usage of the 10F** This stamp was designed and engraved by Ren  Cottet (1902-1992). The number issued was 3.5 million stamps. It was printed in sheets of 50 and was mainly meant for franking a foreign letter and, in that capacity, we encounter this stamp the most often (Figure 15). With two stamps an internal registered letter could be franked from 8 July 1947 (Figure 16). We see the Place de la Concorde with the famous fountain in the foreground and the 23 metre high obelisk in the background. This was not brought from Egypt by Napoleon as was thought, but was a gift from the Viceroy of Egypt Mohammed Ali in 1836. Like the 3F50, the 10F stamp had also to undergo the judgment of being a "total failure". The obelisk is too short, the water of the fountain seems frozen and the important buildings in the background are marginalised. The stamp is considered to be of an unimprovable insignificance. Personally, I think the 10F is a great success, but then I'm not an art critic....

**Usage of the 500F** A stamp with a nominal value of 500 francs had never been issued before in France. At the time,

500 francs represented more than one hundred times the amount needed for a stamp to frank a simple letter (4F50). In today's terms, this would mean a stamp with a nominal value of over  100, since the postage on a letter today costs  1.16 for 'poste prioritaire'. It is therefore no wonder that at the time there was fierce speculation about this stamp but speculation did not end well, because this stamp currently has a catalogue value of  60. The market value will be somewhere between  10 and  20. Count your losses.... Postally this stamp has hardly been used, although I can show you a nice piece with a somewhat belated use from 1951. The stamp was designed and engraved by Pierre Gandon (1899-1990), one of the most gifted engravers in France and 525,000 stamps were printed in sheets of 10. This stamp did not escape the all-seeing eye of philatelic criticism either. Although the design fits nicely with the theme of airmail, the judgement is that the stamp comes across as somewhat cold and hard. It could be worse! (Figure 17).





Figure 17

A subscription card for the issue of special new stamps. As of 1 October 1942, new stamps could only be obtained by subscription. This rule lasted until 1956. The background, of course, was the scarcity of raw materials, especially paper, during the war. The authorities wanted remuneration for this, but they also wanted to have a better idea of the number of stamps to be produced. Many of these cards have been preserved in good condition because they circulated in philatelic circles. The subscription rate of 500 francs came into force on 31 December 1950. Usually, this amount is paid with two airmail stamps of 200 francs and one of 100 francs as shown on the first subscription card illustrated. At that time those were the usual high values to pay this amount with. By this time the 500F Congress issue of 1947 was no longer available. Apparently, an enthusiast went to the counter with a 500F stamp and asked if it could be used instead of the current airmail stamps of 100 and 200 francs. This single franking is very rare and possibly unique



# Heroes of the French Resistance

John West

One topic, which I have always felt lends itself particularly to the subject of a thematic collection, has its origins in a series of five sets issued between 1957 and 1961, featuring the heroes of the French Resistance. Indeed, there is an abundance of reading material for anyone researching this subject and it serves to illustrate the degrees of bravery, heroism and sheer valour exhibited by many insignificant people to defy the efforts of the invading German army during World War II.



Jean Moulin  
SG 1329 / YT 1100



Honoré d'Estienne d'Orves  
SG 1330 / YT 1101



Robert Keller  
SG 1331 / YT 1102



Pierre Brossolette  
SG 1332 / YT 1103



Jean-Baptiste Lebas  
SG 1333 / YT 1104

The first series (SG 1329-33/YT 1100-04) issued on 18 May 1957 featured the legendary **Jean Moulin** on the 8F value who would, again, be commemorated in 1981 (SG 2438/YT 2172) and 2009 (SG 4653/ YT 4371). He is sometimes said to be the greatest hero of the Resistance. Moulin, who was prefect (regional administrator) of the *département* of Eure-et-Loir, came to notice when he refused to sign a declaration that corpses, rotting in the streets, were the



Jean Moulin

1981 (SG 2438 / YT 2172) and 2009 (SG 4653 / YT 4371)

victims of Senegalese soldiers in the French army. He was imprisoned, tortured and then attempted suicide which left him badly scarred around his neck. He subsequently wore a scarf to avoid the risk of identification. After being discharged from hospital and then dismissed from office, he left for London where he convinced General de Gaulle to unite the many independent Resistance groups into a single organisation in order to be more effective against the Nazis. To this end, he set up the *Conseil National de la Résistance*

which consisted of 16 Resistance organisations. In June 1943, he was captured and imprisoned at Fort Montluc. No one knows exactly how or where he died but the death register at Metz mentions his death as 8 July 1943. It is believed he was being transported to Frankfurt but his body was returned to Paris the following day. It is said that he spoke only once to his captors - and that was to correct his surname from 'Moullin'.

**Honoré d'Estienne d'Orves**, the subject of the 10F value, joined de Gaulle in London in September 1940. He adopted the pseudonym '*Châteauvieux*' and held positions as Head of the 2nd Office of the General Staff of the Free French Forces, Head of Intelligence, and lieutenant commander in the Navy of the Free French Forces. He was the co-founder of *Nemrod*, one of the first intelligence networks<sup>1</sup> in France. He was betrayed by his radio-operator Alfred Gaessler, a German counter-espionage agent and arrested on 22 January 1941 in Nantes by the Gestapo. Gaessler's betrayal allowed the Nazis to arrest a further 26 operatives. Before d'Estienne's execution on 29 August 1941, he insisted, to the German officer in charge of his firing squad, that he did not wish to be blindfolded thus setting an example to others of his heroism. Shortly before his death he wrote to his family:

*"Do not harbour hatred for anyone because of me, everyone has done their duty to their own country. Instead, get to know and better understand the character of France's neighbouring peoples".*

It is believed that he was the first member of the Resistance to be shot dead during the Second World War.

<sup>1</sup> It may be of some interest to our readers to learn that a number of the networks were code named after animals. It is strange, but true, that the Germans wasted a great deal of time and effort in trying to trace a Mrs Harrison when, in fact, a network was named 'Herrisson' - the French word for hedgehog!

**Robert Keller**, portrayed on the 12F value, was employed as an engineer by the PTT and was recruited into the Resistance movement in 1941. He would go on to pull off one of the greatest feats of espionage in Occupied Europe by succeeding to intercept the Paris- Metz telephone cable at Noisy-le-Grand, which was one of the two co-axial cables to Berlin from Paris - one via Metz and the other via Strasbourg. These tapped phone calls included not only Adolph Hitler's but most of the top dignitaries of the Third Reich!

He was denounced in an anonymous letter and arrested by the Gestapo on Christmas Day, 1942. After being interrogated, he was first detained at Fresnes prison, deported in July 1943 to the Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp, then transferred to the Oranienbourg-Sachsenhausen concentration camp and finally to Bergen-Belsen, where he died of typhus on 14 April 1945. He is still regarded as a legend in French postal circles.

When World War II broke out, **Pierre Brossolette**, the subject of the 18F value, joined the army as a lieutenant and, before the fall of France, reached the rank of captain. After the Armistice, and forbidden to teach by the Vichy regime, Brossolette and his wife took over a bookstore specialising in Russian literature. This became an intelligence hub of Parisian resistance where documents such as Renault factory plans used for its bombing, were exchanged unnoticed, thanks to the extensive library available underground.

Popular on the radio before the war for his chronicles on Hitler's rise, it did not take long before Brossolette was approached by his friend Agnès Humbert and introduced to Jean Cassou and the *Groupe du musée de l'Homme*, the very first Resistance network. He just had time to produce the last issue of the newsletter '*Résistance*' before narrowly escaping its dismantlement.

In April 1942, Brossolette met General de Gaulle in London as representative of the ZO (*Zone Occupée*) Resistance and was hired to work on bringing political credibility to de Gaulle to back his recognition as the only Free French Forces leader by the Allies in his feud against Henri Giraud in Algiers. At the same time, he was promoted to major (*commandant*) and awarded the *Compagnon de la Libération*. Brossolette created the civilian arm of the *Bureau central de renseignements et d'action militaire* (BCRAM) intelligence service, which became the *Bureau central de renseignements et d'action* (BCRA), in liaison with the RF section of the British side, the Special Operations Executive (SOE). Strong ties of camaraderie were forged between Brossolette (codenamed 'Brumaire', a.k.a. Commandant Bourgat), BCRA's chief André Dewavrin (codenamed 'Arquebuse', a.k.a. Colonel Passy) and SOE's Forest Frederick Edward Yeo-Thomas (codenamed 'Shelley', a.k.a. The White Rabbit). De Gaulle set up his Free French intelligence system to combine both military and political roles, including covert operations. The Germans captured

Brossolette in March 1944 and rather than take the risk of talking under torture, he leapt out of a fifth-floor window of the Gestapo H.Q. at 84, Avenue Foch, succumbing to his injuries several hours later. He was 39 years old.

In 1908, **Jean-Baptiste Lebas**, portrayed on the 20F value, was elected to the municipal council of Roubaix and became mayor of the city in 1912. German troops invaded the city at the beginning of World War I. Lebas refused to grant the German forces the list of able-bodied inhabitants whom the occupiers wanted for compulsory labour. He was therefore arrested on 7 March 1915 and imprisoned in the fortress of Rastatt in Baden-Württemberg, Germany. After he was released, he was awarded the *Légion d'honneur* in October 1916 for his courage.

In 1940, he joined the action to fight the invaders. He was responsible for circulation of the underground journal entitled '*L'Homme libre*'. In May 1941, as a member of a Resistance movement, he was arrested together with his son and his niece by the Gestapo and imprisoned in France before being deported to Germany for a second time. He died at the Sonnenburg concentration camp in March 1944.



Jean Cavaillès  
SG 1381 / YT 1157



Godefroy 'Fred' Scamaroni  
SG 1382 / YT 1158



Simone Michel-Lévy  
SG 1383 / YT 1159



Jacques Bingen  
SG 1384 / YT 1160

The second set, issued on 19 April 1958 (SG 1381-84/YT 1157-60), honoured four heroes.

After the outbreak of World War II, **Jean Cavaillès**, portrayed on the 8F value, was mobilised in 1939 as an infantry lieutenant with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Regiment and honoured for his bravery twice.

At the end of December 1940, he met Emmanuel d'Astier de la Vigerie, with whom he created a small group of



Resistance fighters, known *La Dernière Colonne*. To reach a broader audience, it was decided to create a newspaper, which was to become '*Libération*', the mouthpiece of both the *Libération-Sud* and *Libération-Nord* movements. Cavaillès took an active part in editing the paper. The first edition appeared in July 1941.

In April 1942, he formed an intelligence network in the Northern Zone, known as *Cohors*. He displayed a total selflessness in his work for the Resistance and showed a courage without equal. He later moved south where he founded another network and formed similar groups in Belgium and the north of France. In September 1942 he was arrested by the French police at Narbonne. After a failed attempt at escaping to London, he was interned in Montpellier at the Saint-Paul d'Eyjeaux prison camp from where he escaped at the end of December 1942. Denounced as a public enemy by the Vichy regime, and sought by the police, he fled clandestinely to London in February 1943, where he met General de Gaulle on several occasions. Back in France on 15 April, he resigned from the management of the *Comité de la Libération* movement to dedicate himself entirely to direct action. He was placed in charge of the sabotage of the stores of the *Kriegsmarine* in Brittany and German radio installations on the coast. Betrayed by one of his liaison officers, he was arrested on 28 August 1943 in Paris with his sister Gabrielle, his brother-in-law Marcel Ferrières and four other members of his network. Tortured, imprisoned in Fresnes then in Compiègne, he was transferred to the Citadel of Arras in 1944, where he was executed. He was buried in Arras under a wooden cross simply marked "*Inconnu n° 5*" although his body was removed to Paris after the war.

**Godefroy Scamaroni** known as 'Fred', as inscribed on the 12F value, or by his alias of 'Capitaine Severi', was born in Ajaccio on 24 October 1914 and proved to be a model of courage and self-sacrifice. He joined the Free French Forces in June 1940 and was taken prisoner at Dakar but then freed by an underground group of militant Resistance workers. Despite being pursued by the Gestapo he travelled to England in 1943. He then volunteered for a particularly dangerous mission in Corsica, organising the Resistance there, but he was betrayed and arrested by the Italian Political Police - *Organizzazione per la Vigilanza e la Repressione dell'Antifascismo*, (OVRA) at Ajaccio where he had been directing the network, known as '*Action R2 Corse*' in preparation for the liberation of the island. Although he was able to lessen the responsibility of his fellow workers by denying their involvement in anything or, even, insisting they were innocent of anything suggested by the Gestapo, he succeeded in buying time from the OVRA officers interviewing him. To avoid being forced to reveal any information about his network he committed suicide in his cell on 20 March 1943 after 30 hours of torture.

**Simone Michel-Lévy**, one of only three women featured on the 27 stamps issued, was portrayed on the 15F value. Michel-Lévy, was responsible for the telephone switchboards of the PTT's Research and Control Centre

before the war, and was made regional director of telephones in 1941. She set up a clandestine radio and courier system to get messages to England. She was arrested on 5 November 1943 and deported to Ravensbrück, then Flossenbürg where she organised a rising against the camp guards. It was for this that she was hanged ten days before the camp was liberated by the Allies. Posthumously she was awarded the *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur*, *Compagnon de la Libération*, *Croix de guerre 39/45 avec palmes* and the *Médaille de la Résistance française*.

Finally **Jacques Bingen**, who appears on the 20F value, was a high-ranking member of the French Resistance during World War II. He was wounded on 12 June 1940 at Saint-Valéry-en-Caux but after France surrendered, he made his way to England, arriving in July. He joined the Free French under General de Gaulle and was put in charge of its Free French Merchant Navy in London – what little there was of it. He resigned on 1 October 1941 and signed up with the *Bureau central de renseignements et d'action*, the Free French intelligence service, in 1942 where he replaced the arrested Jean Moulin. On 16 August 1943, he parachuted into France to help organise and unite the various disparate groups that comprised the Resistance and played an important role in the creation of the *Forces françaises de l'intérieur*. In early May he was betrayed by a Belgian double agent, Alfred Dormal. Bingen was captured by the Gestapo at Clermont-Ferrand where he chose to commit suicide by swallowing a cyanide pill rather than risk divulging what he knew under torture. His body was never found. He was 36 years old.



The five martyrs  
SG 1418 / YT 1198  
(enlarged)

The third set, issued on 25 April 1959 (SG 1418-22/YT 1198-1202), includes the only stamp, the 15F value, that honours more than one person. In 1940, the five martyrs of the Lycée Buffon were students, ranging in age from 15 to 18 years old. They began their resistance in 1940 by distributing pamphlets, organising anti-Nazi demonstrations and attacking officers of the occupying forces. Four of the young men honoured on the 15F stamp were arrested in June 1942. The fifth, Pierre Benoît who

had become chief of the group, known as the *Francs-tireurs et partisans*, was detained two months later. All were executed by firing squad on 8 February 1943. The five martyrs of the Lycée Buffon were named as **Jean-Marie Arthus** (1925–1943), **Jacques Baudry** (1922–1943), **Pierre Benoît** (1925–1943), **Pierre Grelot** (1923–1943) and **Lucien Legros** (1924–1943).

All five were posthumously awarded the *Légion d'honneur*;

the *Croix de guerre 1939–1945* and the *Médaille de la Résistance française*. In October, 1948 the Minister of Education decided that their last letter to their parents was of such a patriotic and inspiring nature that it should be read and discussed by all school pupils and their teachers<sup>2</sup>. The Lycée Buffon was established in the 1880s and still exists today being the equivalent of a combined secondary school and sixth-form college.



Yvonne Le Roux  
SG 1419 / YT 1199



Gilbert Médéric Védý  
SG 1421 / YT 1200



Louis Martin-Bret  
SG 1420 / YT 1201



Gaston Moutardier  
SG 1422 / YT 1202

**Yvonne Le Roux**, née Rossel, portrayed on a second 15F value, was born in Toulon and, although in Philadelphia at the outbreak of war, she immediately returned to France where she was promptly accepted into the heart of the 'Johnny' network. Residing in Morgat, she monitored and reported on the repairs of the battleship *Gneisenau* and movements of other German warships in the port of Brest from the Crozon peninsula. Her code name was 'Aunt Yvonne'. She was arrested on 8 April 1942 in Plomodiern. Of the 197 agents within the network, 53 were killed, and 60 deported including 'Aunt Yvonne'. She was deported on 22 April to Neuengamme, then transferred to Ravensbrück concentration camp. She died of dysentery and exhaustion in Paris on 28 April 1945.

**Gilbert Védý**, featured on the 20F issue, established one of the first Resistance groups at Cherbourg in July 1942 where he went under the alias of 'Médéric', his middle name. He travelled to London in 1943 and, two months later, was parachuted back into the outskirts of Paris. Returning to London once more, he was named as a member of the Algerian consultative assembly. He was recognised as the driving force behind the network *Ceux de la Libération*. This network commenced at the end of 1940 under the direction of the local mayor, Jules Lemoigne, and would remain as an important cell of the national network, which was led by Védý. He was arrested on 21 March 1944 and was interrogated by the *Brigade spéciale* detectives. He was unable to dispute his real identity due to the revealing nature of certain documents found in his possession upon his capture and, as the result, he chose to swallow his

cyanide capsule in the office of the *Commissaire* who was interrogating him.

**Louis Martin-Bret**, featured on a second 20F value, was born in Marseille on 18 July 1898, and was one of the first to respond to General de Gaulle's appeal and took responsibility for organising the *Maquis* in the Southern Alps region. He was affiliated with the *Combat* movement and leader of the *Mouvements unis de la Résistance* of the Basses-Alpes *département* (now Alpes-de-Haute-Provence). Martin-Bret took part in numerous sabotage operations and, in particular, at the Gardanne factory in the Bouches-du-Rhône during the night of 4 March 1944. He was arrested on 16 July 1944, tortured but remained silent, as the result of which he was shot dead at Signes two days later on 18 July 1944, his 46<sup>th</sup> birthday!

**Gaston Moutardier**, portrayed on the 30F value, was born in Comines (Nord) on 4 March 1889. He joined the PTT in 1908 and, in 1943, was appointed Departmental Director of the PTT in the Somme where he was stationed in Amiens. He became regional leader of the *Résistance PTT* movement as well as the *Libération-Nord* movement. Through his professional knowledge of telecommunications, he was able to brief the Allies on German telephone installations as well as the locations of V-1 rocket launch pads. Devising a telephone cable sabotage plan with Cyrille Werbrouck, his deputy, the plan was a complete success. The two men were arrested by the Gestapo on 8 March 1944 and, although he was tortured, Gaston Moutardier did not talk. They were shot on 6 July 1944 in Amiens.

<sup>2</sup> The letters of the 'five martyrs' to their families can be read at [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinq\\_martyrs\\_du\\_lycée\\_Buffon](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinq_martyrs_du_lycée_Buffon)

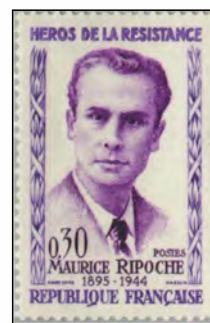




Edmond Debeaumarché  
SG 1478 / YT 1248



Pierre Masse  
SG 1479 / YT 1249



Maurice Ripoche  
SG 1480 / YT 1250



Léonce Vieljeux  
SG 1481 / YT 1251



René Bonpain  
SG 1482 / YT 1252

The fourth set of stamps was issued on 26 March 1960 (SG 1478-82/YT 1248-52) after the revaluation of the French franc.

**Edmond Debeaumarché**, portrayed on the 20c value was director of the PTT and co-founder of the network named *Résistance PTT*. A notable fellow collaborator was his work colleague, Simone-Michèle Lévy. Debeaumarché became the linchpin of the transport and delivery of mail from London and worked in league with the networks known as the *Organisation civile et militaire* and the *Confrérie Notre-Dame Castille*. He was arrested on 3 August 1944 and then deported to Buchenwald and onwards to Dora. He survived until the Liberation and was then made the president of the *Union des associations de déportés, internés, et familles de disparus* tirelessly concentrating all his efforts into helping fellow deportees, their widows and orphans. He was named as Director of the Military Post, on 29 July 1948. He received numerous decorations including the *Croix de guerre avec palmes*, and was also made a *Grand officier de la Légion d'honneur* and a *Compagnon de la Libération*. Debeaumarché was the only person, honoured in this set of stamps, who did not meet his end at the hands of the Gestapo. He died on 28 March 1959.

**Pierre Masse**, subject of the second 20c value, was born on 13 December 1879 in Dordogne. A captain in the infantry during the First World War and later called to Paris, he was entrusted with the task of acting as under-secretary to the Minister of Pensions as well as working at the military court. Suspected of being a Jew, and fighting against the anti-Semitism displayed by the Vichy regime, he was arrested in

August 1941, but refused the freedom offered to him as a senator unless every last man of his religion was freed. He was deported on 30 September 1942 to Auschwitz but, despite all the threats, insults and blows, he displayed an unwavering spirit which never wilted. He 'disappeared' in October 1942.

In the summer of 1940, **Maurice Ripoche**, featured on the 30c value, founded the Resistance movement known as *Ceux de la Libération*. This group was composed, essentially, of reserve officers and engineers. The following year, his groups (*Corps*) at Paris and Villacoublay were armed. In October 1941, Ripoche narrowly escaped arrest and he made his way to the unoccupied zone. From there he travelled to Lyon where he made contact with Jean Moulin. At the end of 1942 he returned, secretly, to Paris but he was captured on 3 March 1943. He was arrested and transferred to Germany where he spent nearly 14 months in a Düsseldorf dungeon before being tortured and condemned to death at a sham trial and guillotined on 20 July 1944 in Cologne.

**Léonce Vieljeux**, portrayed on the second 30c value, was born on 12 April 1865 at Vans (Ardèche) and is the oldest of the Resistance fighters featured in the series of stamps. He was a product of the Saint-Cyr academy and the co-founder of the Delmas-Vieljeux company. He became the mayor of La Rochelle and began his resistance on 23 June 1940 at the town hall when he refused to replace the French flag with that of the Germans. He would both participate and actively encourage involvement in the Resistance despite his age. In spite of threats, he considered it to be beneath his dignity, as

a French Army colonel, to execute the orders of a subaltern officer. His mayoralty was revoked on 20 September, 1940 and he was then expelled from Charente-Maritime at the insistence of the Germans. As the result, he promptly became a member of *L'Alliance* Resistance network. He was not caught until March 1944 - when he was arrested with his grandson and his nephews. He was shot and killed at Struthoff Camp (Alsace) during the night of 1/2 September, 1944 along with his relatives and 114 other agents of the *Alliance* network.



Jacques Renouvin  
SG 1519 / YT 1288



Lionel Dubray  
SG 1520 / YT 1289



Paul Gateaud  
SG 1521 / YT 1290

The fifth, and final, set of heroes, issued on 22 April 1961 (SG 1519-22/YT 1288-91) comprised four stamps and featured the following Resistance fighters.

**Jacques Renouvin**, portrayed on the 20c issue, was born in Paris and became a successful barrister until being mobilised in 1939 but he refused to serve in the *Corps de justice militaire*. He did accept a proposal, however, that he should serve as a sergeant with the *Corps francs*.

He was injured in action, captured and then escaped after which he decided to settle in the Southern zone. By the end of 1940 he had become actively engaged in the recruitment for, and the formation of, the *Groupes francs* and became the head of the network known as *Combat* in which he was known as 'Joseph'. Acting in this capacity he directed any number of covert operations, constantly setting an example by leading his fellow Resistance workers into action.

He was arrested on 29 January 1943 at Brive-la-Gaillarde station and imprisoned at Fresnes where he was to provide further proof of his courage during the ordeals he suffered in the course of numerous and protracted interrogations by the Gestapo. He subsequently died at Mathausen on 24 January 1944 of extreme exhaustion. He was made a *Compagnon de la Libération* and posthumously received the *Croix de guerre*, the *Médaille de la Résistance française* and the *Légion d'honneur*.

**Lionel Dubray**, seen on the second 20c stamp, was born in Joinville-le-Pont (Seine) and was one of a long line of young heroes. He joined the Alsace-Lorraine group of the *Francs-tireurs et partisans* in December 1942. Spurred on by his

**René Bonpain**, featured on the 50c value, was ordained as a Catholic priest in 1932 and became a Franciscan monk. After the war broke out, he organized the passage of people and mail in a false-bottom wooden trunk (called a *Paulinette*) in coal convoys from the northern France area of Dunkirk to unoccupied cities in southwest France. He was captured by the Germans in November 1942 and was executed on 30 March 1943.

ardent patriotism, he was involved in numerous reckless escapades in the Paris regions notably an attack, with his group in October 1943, on a German company during a parade right in the middle of occupied Paris. In addition to that he, and his group, were also responsible for an attack on a Waffen-SS division at the Porte d'Italie, still in the capital.

Having been identified by the Gestapo, he was forced to seek refuge in Brittany, where he joined the *Maquis* and continued the fight. He was captured on 14 July 1944, in the course of an attack on 300 Germans in a camp in the Morbihan where thirty-three Resistance fighters were killed in the fighting. He was mercilessly tortured during eight days in Locminé jail but he preferred to suffer rather than denounce his comrades. The twenty-year old was executed on 22 July 1944 at Colpo. He was honoured with the *Croix de guerre avec palmes*, the *Médaille militaire*, the *Médaille de la Résistance française*, and the *Croix du combattant* amongst other decorations he received for his valour.

**Paul Gateaud**, portrayed on the 30c value, was a postal inspector in Mâcon where, in 1940, he distributed propaganda leaflets, organised both the transport and the cipher sections of the MUR and, after moving to Valence, was a leading light in the Resistance movement throughout the Ardèche-Vercors area. Later, to facilitate sabotage, he transmitted information on the German storage of arms and ammunition. He was arrested in May 1944, tortured, and executed by firing squad less than a month later. Gateaud was decorated with numerous honours, including being made a *Chevalier de la légion d'honneur* and receiving



the *Médaille de la Résistance française*, the *Croix de guerre avec palmes*, the *Médaille d'or des PTT* and the Distinguished Service Medal.

**Mère Marie Elisabeth**, Mother Elizabeth of the Euchariste, formerly known as Elise Rivet née Draria, is featured on the second 30c value. She was born in Algeria and entered the convent of Notre-Dame de la Compassion, in Lyons, in December 1912, becoming the Mother Superior in March 1933. During the years 1940 - 1944, she worked as an intelligence agent in occupied territory and rendered great service to the MIU and *Armée Secrète* by storing their weapons and giving shelter to hunted men. She was arrested by the Gestapo on 25 March 1944 and imprisoned at Montluc where she rapidly gained the love and respect of her fellow prisoners, setting an example of bravery, courage and *sang-froid*. She was known by everyone as 'la Mère' and was then moved to Ravensbrück, where she became the 'soul of the camp'. On 30 March 1945, whilst consoling internees who the executioner was taking to the gas chamber, she took the place of the mother of a young family and climbed aboard the cart, saying "Let us go together, I will help you to die well". It was Good Friday.

To further extend the topic of French Resistance, the collector can include such subjects as memorials (SG 1567-9/YT 1335-81 and 1609-10/YT 1380-81), medals such as the Croix de guerre (SG 1681/YT 1452), the Cross of Lorraine (SG 1495/YT 1264), concentration camps and topics such as deportation and liberation. A variety of philatelic items could also be included such as maximum cards, postal stationery and postmarks.

#### Sources

Wikipedia - various

<https://www.ordredelaliberation.fr/fr/historique>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre\\_Brossolette](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre_Brossolette)

<https://www.presqu-ile-de-crozon.com/guerre/>

<https://225.polytechnique.fr/en/225-stories>

<https://www.philatelie-francaise.com/>

<https://www.normandy1944.info/stories/>

<https://www.executedtoday.com>

<https://www.northeastmedals.co.uk>



Mère Marie Elisabeth SG 1522 / YT 1291  
Maximum card

<https://hmc2.pagesperso-orange.fr/en/ww2/39france.html>

<https://spartacus-educational.com>

<https://www.findagrave.com/>

<https://philatelie-pour-tous.fr/>

<https://cryptocellar.org/Flossenbuerg/Michel-Levy.html>

#### Further reading:

*Honoré d'Estienne d'Orves un héros français* - Étienne de Montety.

## Details needed - New Caledonia

**Derek Brown** wonders if anyone can provide any details of this 10 centimes stamp and tell him what the number 24 means? The stamp is 21 x 28mm.

**Michael Round** replies: This is the first of four Military Frank stamps that appeared in 1893, and the only one of the four to show a face-value. Each stamp within the sheet of 25 was individually numbered, hence the figure '24' on the example shown. For further details, see the Yvert 'Specialised' catalogue of 1932, or the *Histoire de la Poste et du Timbre en Nouvelle-Calédonie et Dépendances* (Georges Kling, OPT Nouvelle Calédonie 1982).



# Censorship of Civilian Mail in Madagascar During World War Two - Handstamps and Labels

**John Parmenter, with Alain Hurpet, Colin Spong, Joh Groenewald and Etienne Coré**

**John Parmenter** has very kindly given the Society permission to extract and reformat a selection of pages for the Journal. It is a joint publication between the France and Colonies Philatelic Society of GB and Col.Fra<sup>1</sup>. **Roy Reader** gave a full review of the publication in the F&CPS Journal 293, August 2020 page 110.

This extract shows a selected pages prior to the Allied Invasion 5th May 1942. Part two will be published in Journal n° 298.

## Key Dates

1 September 1939	Censorship was started by the French colonial government
June 1940	The Vichy regime took over the censorship of civilian mail
5 May 1942	Allied invasion of Diégo-Suarez
September 1942	British Military Administration established
5 November 1942	The Vichy administration surrendered

## Detailed Chronology

1 September 1939	Start of French censorship in the island
September 1940 to May 1942	Blockade of the island and interruption of external postal relations and attempts to force the blockade by merchant ships, often boarded at sea. The mail, if seized, was censored either in South Africa or in the UK. Madagascar mail from ships seized in mid-Atlantic was censored in Liverpool
5-7 May 1942	British forces invade Diégo-Suarez (Operation Ironclad). Military handstamps (FPO 226 and 596) are used on civilian mail prior to the establishment of British civil censorship
May (late) to August 1942	British forces were reinforced by South African, Rhodesian and East African troops. Mayotte taken on 2 July
10-13 September 1942	Operations Stream, Jane and Line: British, South African and East African troops disembark in Majunga, Tamatave, Tulear and Fort Dauphin
16 September 1942	Establishment of the British Military Administration (BMA).
23 September 1942	Allied forces occupy Tananarive
6 November 1942	Surrender of the Pétainist Governor Annet and signing of the armistice with the British.

## British Censor Locations

### Handstamps

- I Tananarive
- II Tamatave
- III Diégo Suarez

### ZB Handstamps and Labels

- ZB/1 Tananarive
- ZB/2 Tamatave
- ZB/3 Diégo Suarez
- Z.B.3 Diégo Suarez
- ZB/4 Majunga & Tananarive

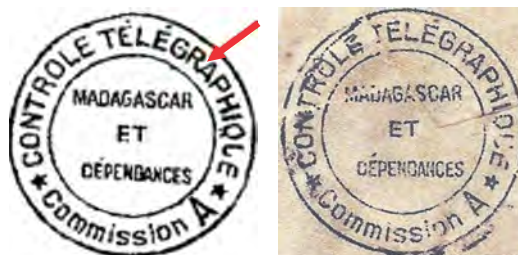
## French Censor Locations

- A Diégo Suarez
- B Fianaratsua
- C Fort Dauphin
- D Majunga
- E Morondava
- F Tamatave
- G Tananarive
- H Tulear

<sup>1</sup> Col.Fra: Stamp and postal history study circle, specialising in territories which were under French dependence (colonies, protectorates, countries under mandate) or territorial authorities (D.O.M and T.O.M.). Territories militarily occupied or temporarily administered by France. French Post Offices abroad. Further information - <http://www.colfra.org>



## French Censor Handstamps FH 1 and FH 2



### FH 1

#### CONTRÔLE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE

COMMISSION	early début	late fin	number seen quantité vue
A DIEGO SUAREZ	2 SEP 1939	6 NOV 1939	7
D MAJUNGA	22 JAN 1944	25 JAN 1944	3
E MORONDAVA	2 SEP 1939	28 MAR 1940	3
G TANANARIVE	18 JUL 1940	5 MAR 1941	3



### FH 2

#### CONTRÔLE POSTAL

COMMISSION	early début	late fin	number seen quantité vue
A DIEGO SUAREZ	11 FEB 1942	26 MAY 1944	5
B FIANARANTSOA	13 SEP 1939	1 MAR 1942	9
C FORT DAUPHIN	3 NOV 1939	13 JUL 1942	9
D MAJUNGA	3 AUG 1939	27 JUN 1944	20
MAJUNGA cachet négatif	5 SEP 1939		1
E MORONDAVA	30 MAR 1940	1 MAR 1943	3
F TAMATAVE	10 OCT 1939	1 MAY 1943	13
G TANANARIVE	18 OCT 1939	31 JAN 1945	30
H TULEAR	30 SEP 1939	14 APR 1942	5

## French Censor Handstamps FH 2, FH 3A and 3B, FH 4



**FH2**  
MAJUNGA cachet négatif



Reduced 50%



**FH 3A**  
(Smaller letters)

COMMISSION CENTRALE	early début	late fin	number seen quantité vue
	8 SEP 1939	17 FEB 1940	2



**FH 3B**  
(Larger letters)

COMMISSION CENTRALE	early début	late fin	number seen quantité vue
	16 OCT 1939	26 SEP 1944	6



“Opened under military authority”  
- very common on civilian mail

COMMISSION CENTRALE	early début	late fin	number seen quantité vue
	2 SEP 1939	29 SEP 1945	100

**FH 4**



## French Censor Handstamps FH 11



### FH 11

"Seized under military authority" used on military forces mail (On active service) and sent to a dead letter office.

The eight recorded examples are on internal covers to "soldat indigènes"

Seen used from 29 AUG 1939 to 7 NOV 1941



Arrêté  
SANS AVIS À L'EXPÉDITEUR

"Stopped without informing the sender"

**French Censor Sealing Labels FL 1-3**

Plain label white or brown

**FL 1A**

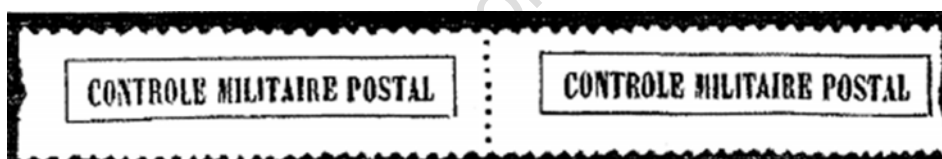
early début	late fin	number seen quantité vue
10 SEP 1939	10 JULY 1945	7

Makeshift label made from a printed government form.  
It is 32 mm high

**FL 1B**

One cover from Majunga to Paris

early début	late fin	number seen quantité vue
11 SEP 1945		1

**FL 2**

early début	late fin	number seen quantité vue
8 SEP 1939	6 DEC 1945	13

**FL 3**

early début	late fin	number seen quantité vue
31 OCT 1939	6 OCT 1944	13



## French Censor Sealing Labels FL 4

**MILITAIRE. CONTROLE POSTAL MILITAIRE.**

### FL 4

early début	late fin	number seen quantité vue
29 DEC 1939	29 SEP 1945	138

White to brown paper from an unperforated roll.

In AUG to SEP 1945 there is a blank extension at the end of the roll, which can be cut so as to appear to be an individual label. This has been listed by Little as **FLIVb** with the comment “seem to be individual labels.”

A trimmed copy of FL4 shows a possible explanation of Little's **FLIVb**.



“*Enveloppe non-fermée*”  
Military mail should be open, civilian was normally closed. The full FL4 label is preserved - it was frequently trimmed

## New postal rates in France 2022

The annual price increase takes place on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Rate up to 20g	Colour	2021 price	2022 price	Increase
<i>Lettre Prioritaire</i>	Red	1.28€	1.43€	11.70%
<i>Lettre Verte</i>	Green	1.08€	1.16€	6.70%
<i>Ecopli (economy)</i>	Grey	1.06€	1.14€	7.00%
<i>International</i>	Blue	1.50€	1.65€	7.50%

Richard Broadhurst

## SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Fraud and franchise abuse before 1849 – an update

Subsequent to my article in the Journal 296 (April 2021) a good friend in France, Luc Guillard, let me have some documents that he had uncovered in the Musée de la Poste which sheds a little more light on some aspects of this subject.

A circular apparently dated around 1816 refers to the need to mark letters correctly if due for postage. The franchise accorded to Ministers and others did not apply to everything they sent by the post. Some letters would still be due normal postage and the suggestion was made that a new handstamp **Bon à taxer** should be created for this purpose. In the event that was not pursued.

#### Circulaire, référencée Musée de la Poste D/717, (vers 1816?)

*...to replace the handstamp "affranchi par état" (paid by the State), it would be useful to have a handstamp bearing the letters fr which would be an abbreviation of "franc" which would be used on all letters and packets where the endorsement of ministers and other Paris authorities carries the right to free postage in accordance with the directives of the Consuls of 27<sup>th</sup> Prairial, Year 8; 15<sup>th</sup> June 1800 and 15<sup>th</sup> Brumaire, Year 9; 7<sup>th</sup> Nov, 1801.*

*In view of the fact that government ministers, according to these directives, do not have unlimited franking privileges, it would also be useful to have a stamp inscribed "B à taxer" which signifies Bon à taxer, (Should be Charged); this to be applied to all letters and packets, which have been stamped or marked by whatever Authority, which should in view of the aforementioned directives be due postage despite validation (Contreseings) handstamps.*

*As for those letters and packets, from various authorities within the Departments neighbouring "The Seine", which pass through Paris and where the free franc marks have been applied by hand, only the ones entitled to free franking would receive a simple paraph stamp. And, for those where Free Franking is not authorised the aforementioned handstamp (B à Taxer) would be used.*

The **Décision du Conseil des Postes du 11 octobre 1822** further expands on this problem. Some post office employees were abusing the tolerance given to them to receive letters free of postage. Where such letters were really due to pay the postage it was suggested that a handstamp **Taxé par ordre** be created. Again there is no such stamp known.

However these texts perhaps explains that enigmatic handstamp **Par Ordre à Taxer** (figure 1) which is known around 1821-22. It is usually found on private letters addressed to post office employees. Presumably not actually being on official business they were therefore liable to normal postage. The handstamp makes that clear in case the address itself misleads some to assume that they were entitled to free postage on the strength of the address alone when that was not actually the case. So abuse as such is not involved, just the need to be absolutely sure that private letters were properly charged.

The decision of 1 October to introduce a handstamp **DOUBLE TAXE POUR FRAUDE** was changed on 29 October to using one with the wording **DOUBLE TAXE**

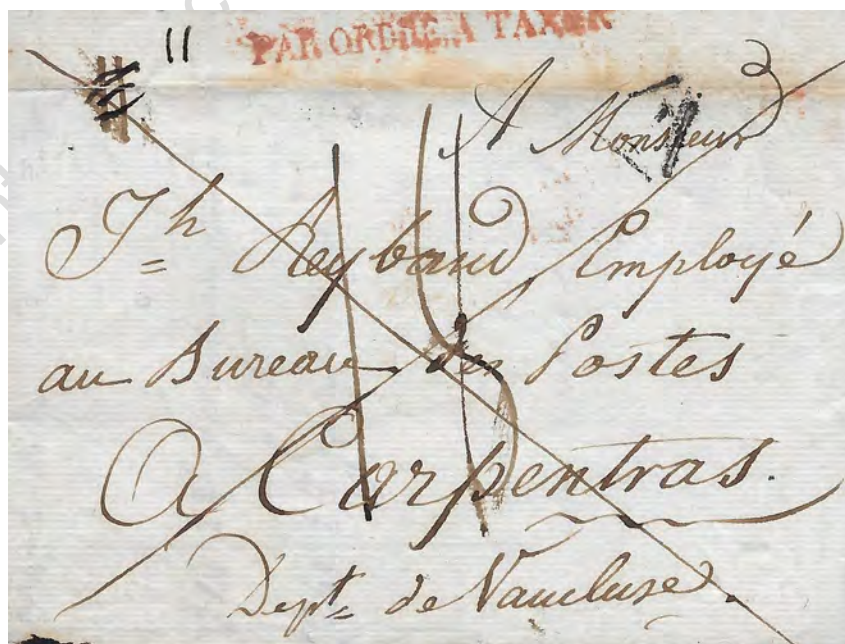


Figure 1

A letter of 4 June 1821 addressed to an employee of the Carpentras post office. PAR ORDRE A TAXER applied. Postage charged for a letter up to 15 grams in weight for a distance up to 800 kilometres: 18 décimes.



CONTRAVENTION. So the difference is simply that the one replaces the other. The letter I showed at figures 3 and 4 in my original article (Journal 296,) must therefore have arrived sometime in the month of October 1822. The wording of the first decision rather suggests that the post office had not been properly observing previous instructions. This was indeed the case and continued despite continual efforts to implement such. These two stamps are rare and clearly not regularly used as they should have been.

**[F9020362] Décision du Conseil des Postes du 28/09/1822:**

*“The Director General, who had deemed it appropriate to reduce to ordinary postage letters seized for fraud or returned by ministers and major administrations, has duly instructed the Paris heads of department, in both the sending and arrival offices, to abide by the decrees and regulations which demand that double postage be applied to these types of letters.*

*The head of the arrival office is submitting to the Administrator the proposal to have a special handstamp made bearing these words: **double taxed for fraud** in order to identify these letters should individuals intend to claim against the double postage.”*

**[F9020363] Décision du Conseil des Postes du 1er octobre 1822:**

*Having regard to the report of the Head of the Arrivals section, the Council decides:*

*1° will be subject to double the ordinary postage letters or packets sent or received improperly under cover of*

*ministers, dignitaries or officials which should have been sent by them to the Director General of Posts in accordance with Article 24 of the decree of August 6, 1819 as well as letters found posted out of course in post boxes and packages entrusted to private couriers.*

- 2° the office supplying post office equipment will have three stamps made as soon as possible with the words; “**Double taxe pour fraude**”.*
- 3° they will give one of these stamps to each of the Departure, Arrival and Paris divisions.*
- 4° the heads of the three above-mentioned divisions will have letters stamped with these handstamps (...)*

**Décision du Conseil des Postes du 23 octobre 1822:**

The Council decrees

- 1. The handstamps commissioned following the deliberations of Oct 1<sup>st</sup> will be changed.*
- 2. Others will be manufactured bearing these words. “Double taxe pour Contrevention”*
- 3. The office supplying post office equipment will be instructed to implement this change and advise the departments for Arrivals and Departures in Paris as well as the Dead Letter offices in the departments.*

Translations by John Allison and Mick Bister

Chris Hitchen

## Congo Brazzaville – an important cover



Amid the excitement of multicoloured pictorials and dubious ‘LEGAL’ overprints on recent stamps of the former French Congo, the cover shown above would appear to be deeply uninteresting. It is, however, important in the story of the ‘Woman and Child’ definitives of 1996 (YT 1012/7; Mi I-VIII, inserted between nos. 1473 and 1474; Scott 1115/20; not in SG)<sup>1,2</sup>, for the stamps used on it are in colours changed from the basic set. These colours are catalogued in Michel but not yet in Yvert, and one of them, the 40F, is

there claimed to have been made available – and that only at the Brazzaville philatelic counter – only in 2006, four whole years after the postmark on this cover.

For the record, there is also a 115F in a new colour, carmine (Mi 1559). Michel claims that it only exists overprinted ‘LEGAL’. I have not yet seen this, either with or without overprint, and I would be delighted to hear from any F&CPS member coming across one.

<sup>1</sup> Congo (Brazzaville) – The ‘Woman and Child’ Definitives of 1996-8. Round, M. Journal of the France & Colonies PS (GB), Vol 54 No 1, WN 231, March 2004, pp.3-5.

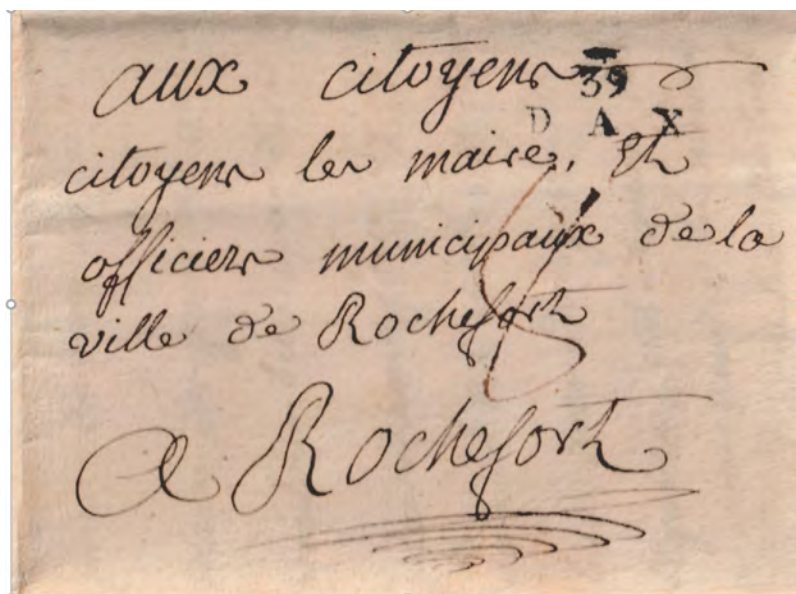
<sup>2</sup> 150 Years of French Congo. Round, M. (Society Display Report, 11th May 2019). Journal of the France & Colonies PS (GB), Vol 69 No 2, WN 290, August 2019, pp.92-5.

Michael Round

## The French Revolution 1789 – 1795

[John Cowlin provides a look at penal conditions at the beginning of the revolution.]

The municipal officers of Saubusse (Landes) seek information on the fate of Bernard Odios, a convict who was sent as part of a chain gang to the galleys at Rochefort. They have received news that he is dead, they ask for confirmation.



*"To the citizens, the mayors, and municipal officers of the city of Rochefort"*

An entire letter from the Department of Landes District of Dax Municipality of Saubusse, to the Citizens, the Mayors, and municipal officers of the city of Rochefort.

Postmark 39 D A X. ¼ ounce letter, Postage 8 sous.

*Landes Department*

*District of Dax*

*Town of Saubusse*

*Citizens*

*We are seeking a man by the name of Bernard Odios, miller by profession, once resident in the Parish of St Paul near the town of Dax. Subsequent upon several thefts he committed around six years ago in the above-named Parish of St Paul, the Parliament of Bordeaux sentenced him to the galleys and the chain gang to which the above-named was attached was taken to your town to join the other criminals. Rumour has reached this area via sailors arrived from your town that they saw this man dying of illness and that finally he was dead. It has become necessary for us to know the truth and we can do no better than ask your citizens. We beg you to search quickly among the galley slaves in your harbour and to tell us as soon as it pleases you to do so whether the aforementioned Bernard Odios exists or if he is dead and in this last case would you kindly send us a notarised copy of his death certificate. This we beg of you to supply. We offer to render the same service to you to the best of our ability upon your first request.*

*We have the honour to be, with the most inviolable fraternity, citizens, your very humble and very obedient servants*

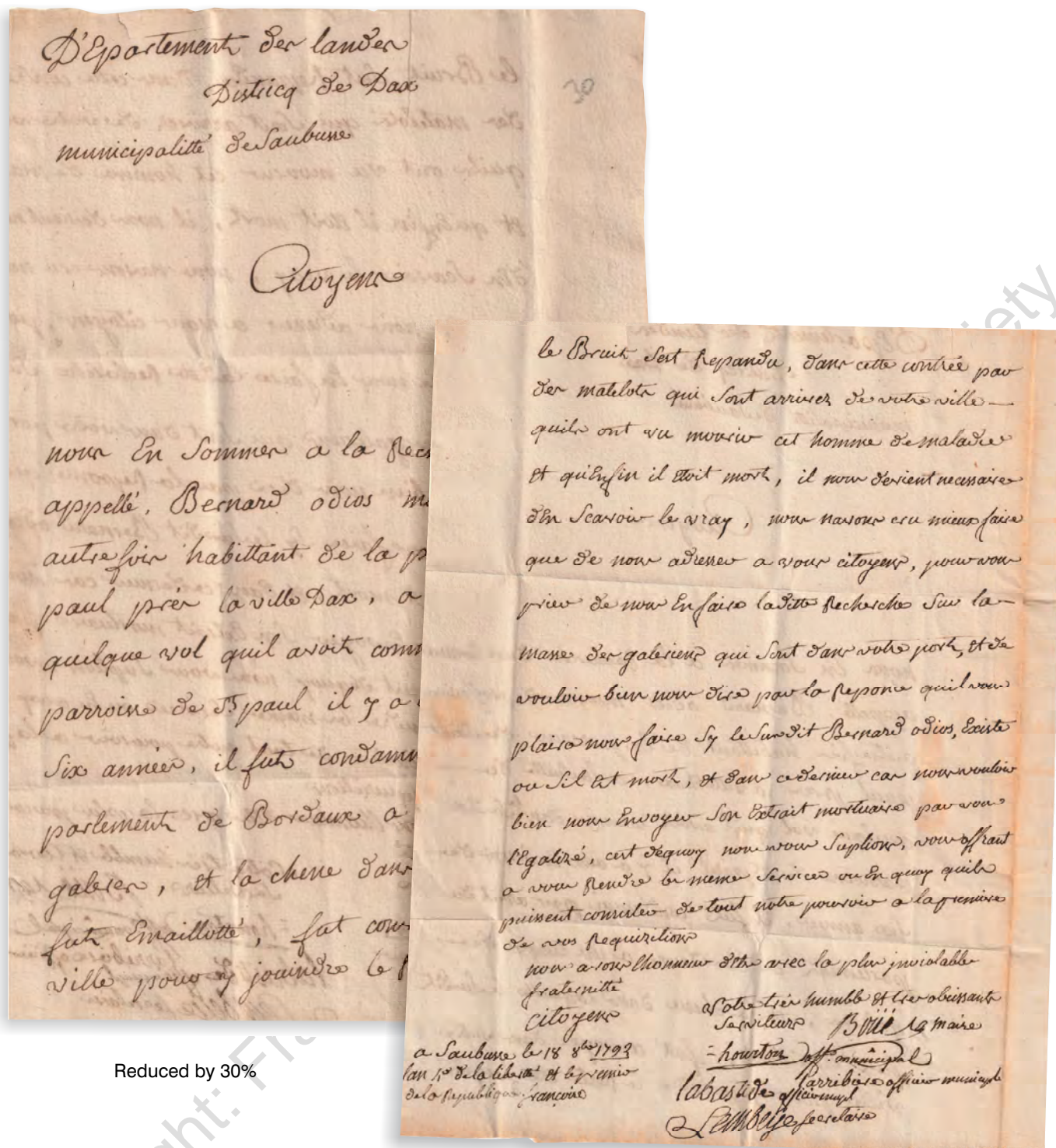
*Boüé, Mayor; Houviton, Municipal Officer*

*Carribase, Municipal Officer; Labastide, Municipal Officer; Lembeye, Secretary*

*At Saubusse 18 8bre 1792 Year 4 of liberty and the first of the French Republic, (18th October 1792)*

Translation by Jeny Wolvers





Reduced by 30%

**Footnote:**

The use of galleys as warships was largely over by the reign of Louis XV (1715 to 1774). However the designation galley slave (*galérien*) used for all French convicts continued until the revolution when the term *forçat* (forced) replaced it. The galleys sometimes remained in use as prison hulks. Shore prisons, more suited to the practice of forced labour, were also needed and consequently the *bagnios* of Toulon, Brest, Rochefort, and Lorient were established, the convicts employed in constructions, harbour labour, armament and disarmament of ships, rope-making, sail-making, etc.; for

such services the convicts received a few cents per day for tobacco and other small items. Besides this pecuniary remuneration the convicts derived some tiny amounts from selling to visitors small articles, such as toys, straw gewgaws and other knick-knacks, which they were permitted to manufacture when off duty.

A useful article on galley slaves:  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galley\\_slave](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galley_slave)

John Cowlin

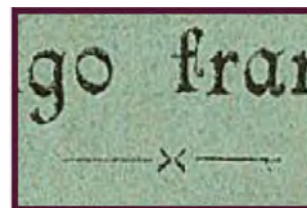
## A quick guide to spotting Fournier forgeries of Congo Français N°1 Colis Postaux 1891

Following on from the previous edition of our Journal, **Simon Binstead** continues to enlighten us with his knowledge of the Fournier forgeries.

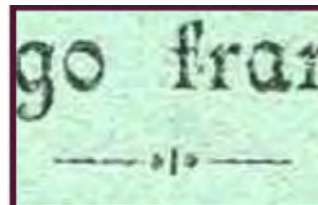
These stamps were fairly crudely typographed locally in Libreville in blocks of four types, with some raggedness of impression, onto sheets of soft bluish-green textured paper which has tended to discolour over time. In each block the four filigree frames were all very slightly different, since they were all engraved by hand, but the biggest difference in the four types was in the design below the f of Congo français in the centre, which the Maury catalogue classes into four different types (Figure 1).

There are other forgeries of these stamps but the ones most usually found were executed by François Fournier in Geneva in the first decade of the 20th century. Fournier did not actually regard himself as a forger, but as a creator of “art objects” for the “little man” and showed a certain temerity when authoring a signed article in the 1912 edition of the *Le Fac-Simile* in which he wrote: “If (the collector) spent only a little money for some facsimiles, then he would have ... a more beautiful and cheaper collection with more rarities.... and have (more) money in the bank”! However, his 3,671 different forgeries of stamps from all over the world have bedevilled the international market ever since and one sees examples offered as genuine on the internet almost every day.

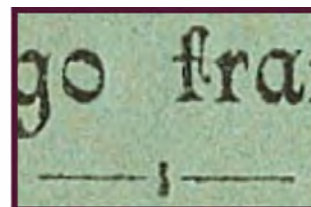
In the case of the French Congo *Colis Postaux*, Fournier only designed his sheets using the Type I as a guide, thus *all* his forgeries have the –x– in the centre. However, as one can see from the illustrations below, in the genuine (Figure 2) the x (actually two arrowheads) is flatter and Fournier’s (Figure 3) is larger; tilted to the left; and there are no gaps in the line. Because he used the Type I as a design guide one can also see that the filigree frame in the original design has the M-like design in the top right-hand corner of the frame inverted like a W, whereas in *all* the other types (see the Types III and IV (Figure 4) in the valuable *tête-bêche* variety) it matches the left-hand top corner, hence his rendition of this variety in his sheets (Figure 5) is very easy to spot. The other glaring difference is that the colour of the paper he used is greenish-grey rather than bluish-green.



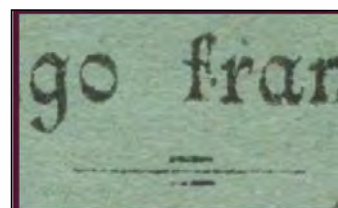
Maury Type I



Maury Type II



Maury Type III



Maury Type IV

Figure 1

The other design faults can be seen (Figure 6) in the excellent hand-drawn illustration in Fernand Serrane’s “*Vade-mecum du Spécialiste-Expert du Timbre Poste*” published in 1929.



Figure 2 (genuine)

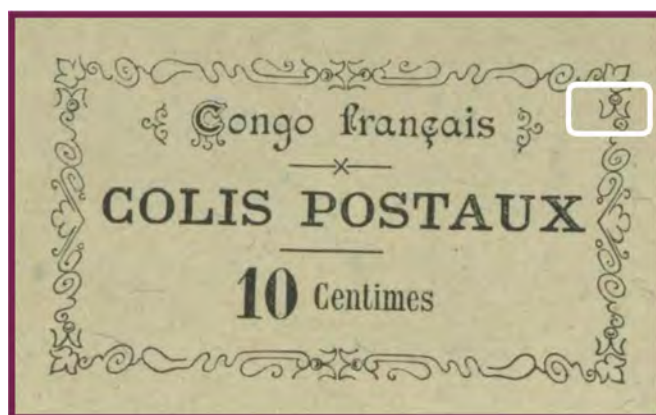


Figure 3 (forgery)



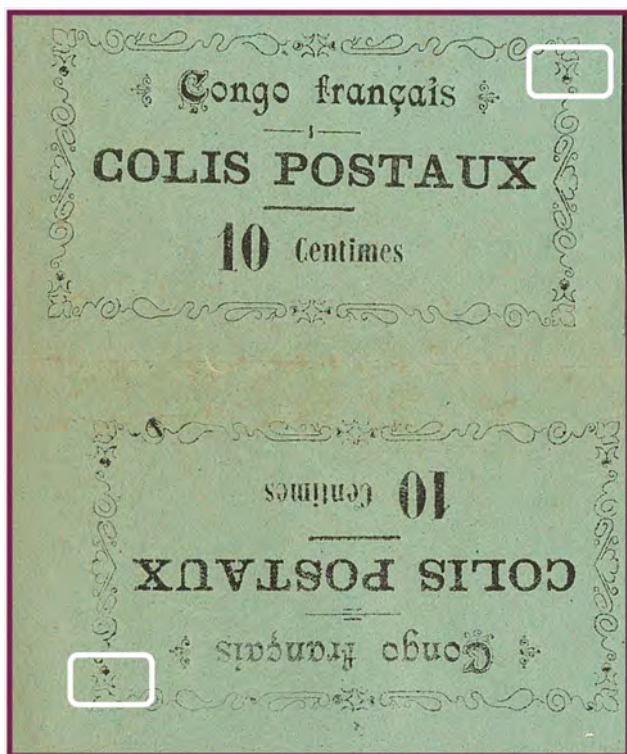


Figure 4:  
tête-bêche variety

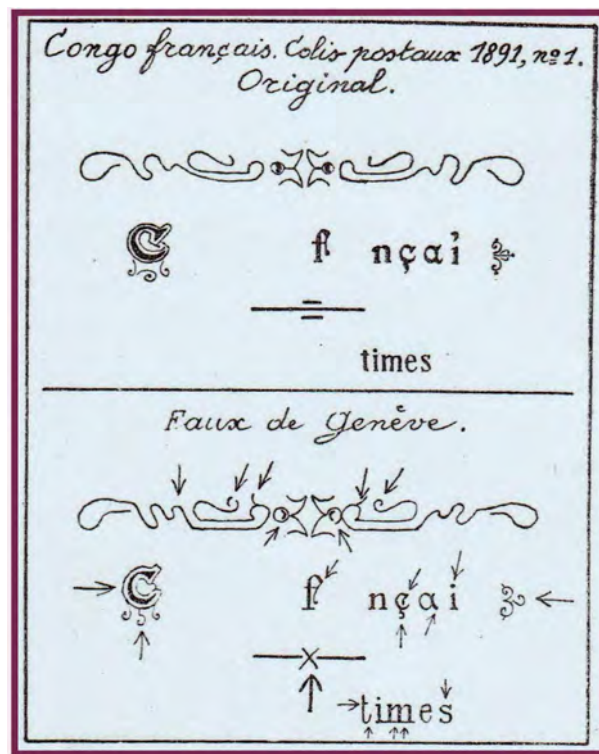


Figure 6:  
Serrane's hand-drawn illustration

To make things even easier, Fournier almost always used three different “cancellations” on his “used” versions: Circular 22¼mm LIBREVILLE GABON-CONGO 13 NOV 92; Circular 21½mm LIBREVILLE 10 MARS oo CONGO FRANÇAIS (the oo is smaller than the date and

there is no hyphen between CONGO and FRANÇAIS); and LIBREVILLE 1 /15 DEC 86 CONGO FRANÇAIS. Dates are interchangeable and cancellations positioned to hide *français* and *Centimes*.

Simon Binstead

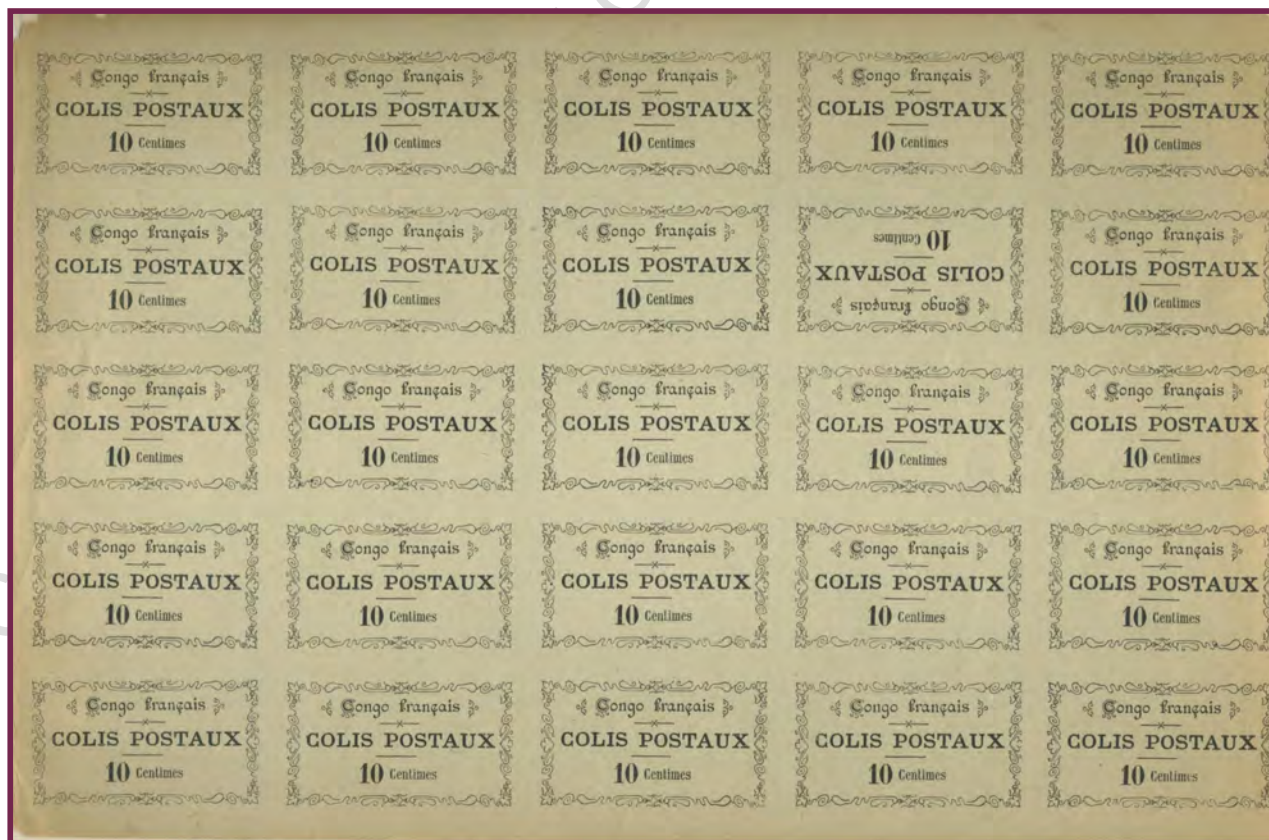
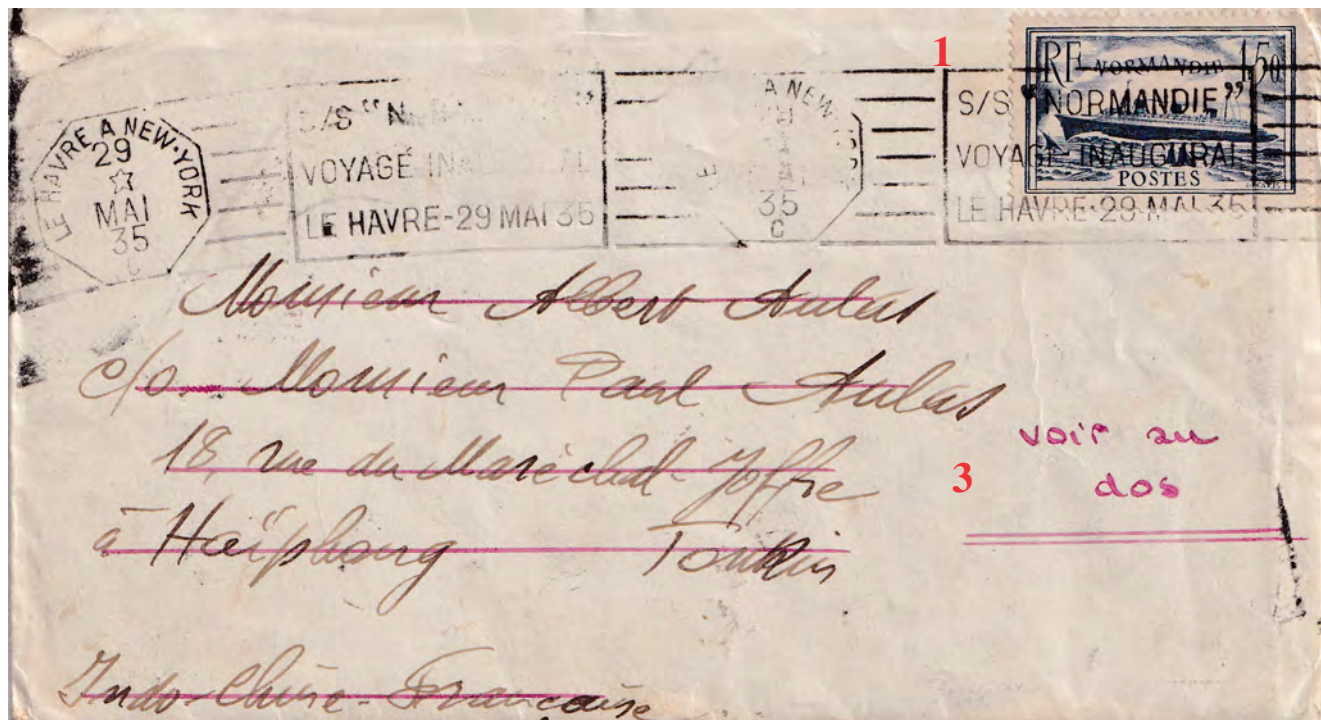


Figure 5  
Full sheet of Fournier forgeries from the Beving Collection  
(Reduced size)



## First sailing of the S.S. Normandie

As well as receiving the special stamp and postmark for the journey, this cover went to New York and far beyond, only to return again. Thanks and acknowledgements are due to FCPS member Paul Miller, who is the current owner of this cover.



The roller cancellation says it all - 'LE HAVRE À NEW YORK / 29 / MAI / 35 / C / S/S "NORMANDIE" / VOYAGE INAUGURAL / LE HAVRE-29/☆/MAI 35' as does the 1F50 stamp which was issued in advance five weeks earlier on 23 April 1935 (1). Apparently, Monsieur Aulas, who lived in Rouen, sent this cover to a male relative living in French Indo-China, a country now known as Vietnam. The journey to New York on this well-publicised Atlantic crossing was but part of the long journey, which was duplicated in reverse when it was returned over the period into August of that year.

The 'S.S. Normandie' ocean liner was the largest and fastest ship afloat when she entered service and is still the most powerful steam turbo-electric-propelled passenger ship ever built. This envelope with letter inside would have been one of many thousands on board, as 50,000 people saw the ship off at Le Havre, on what was hoped would be a record-breaking crossing. It was, the ship taking the *Blue Riband* away from the Italian liner 'Rex'.

The journey onwards from New York is unfortunately not documented on the cover, but when it arrived at Haiphong in the Tonkin region of French Indo-China, the post office applied a handstamp (2) to show arrival date and time - 'HAI-PHONG / TONKIN / 9 50 / 28 - 6 / 35'. Upon receipt that day, the recipient took up a red ink pen, crossed out each line of the address, and added 'voir au dos' underlined, translated as 'see on the back' (3). At the top of the reverse was written and underlined 'Reçue 28.6.35 réexpédiée 28.6.35 P. Aulas C.P.A.P. HAIPHONG', - received and resent on 28 June, 1935 (4). It had therefore taken a day short of a month to travel the whole journey. Monsieur Aulas then added the name of his relation and their address in Rouen, France, for the return, and decided that registration was required to ensure safer delivery. He also wrote 'Recommandé' (registered) and underlined the word (5).



'SS Normandie' arriving in New York on its maiden voyage





The registration label - 'R / HAIPHONG / N° 122' - was applied at Haiphong post office (6a), along with four stamps of the 1931 definitive issue totalling 21 cents, each one being cancelled with a handstamp reading 'HAI-PHONG / TONKIN / 14 30 / 28 - 6 / 35' (6b), and a fifth handstamp clear of the stamps. This would be when the arrival handstamp received a pen cancellation with a cross-mark (7). Additionally, a bronze-coloured wax seal was applied on the tip of the large envelope flap (7). The journey this time, back to France, took until 1 August, just under five weeks. This is shown by a Rouen arrival handstamp at the top right on the reverse, most of which can be read as 'ROUEN/SEINE/14\*/1-8/35.' (8).

Monsieur and Madame Aulas were not at home, so further re-direction details were written in blue ink sending the cover to the commune of Sologny (9) in the Saône-et-Loire département in Burgundy where it arrived the following day, as shown by the final handstamp 'SOLOGNY / SAONE-ET-LOIRE / 17 50 / 2 - 8 / 35' (10). One can hope that Albert Aulas was pleased with his 'inaugural sailing' cover on the pride of the French liner fleet.

The ship was not so fortunate, as we shall briefly explain. As the flagship of the fleet of her owners, CGT, she made 139 westbound transatlantic crossings from her home port of Le Havre to New York. During World War Two, 'S.S. *Normandie*' was seized by U.S. authorities at New York. In 1942 she caught fire whilst being converted to a troopship and re-named '*Lafayette*', capsized onto her port side, and came to rest in the mud of the Hudson River. Although salvaged at great expense, restoration was deemed too costly and she was scrapped in late 1946. However, apart from more recently produced souvenirs, the original French stamp issue, special postmarks, and covers carried on board, serve to commemorate her name and transatlantic exploits.

Dane Garrod FRPS

*The article was originally published in 'Stamp Collector' magazine in March 2019. Find out more about the magazine at [www.allaboutstamps.co.uk](http://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk)*

## Imperial Airways Study Group

Peter Wingent, Editor of the Imperial Airways Gazette, informs us that past copies of the Imperial Airways Gazette have been added to the **British Airmail Society** website with open access to all. The Gazette is the bi-annual journal of the **Imperial Airways Study Group**. Each edition contains a number of in-depth articles relating to a wide variety of aspects of the operations of Imperial Airways in the 1920s and 1930s, some of which relate to France and Colonies.

The readership of the journal is small, currently around twenty, and over the years many people have said that it is a pity that it does not reach a much wider audience. Thus, in the interests of sharing the knowledge of the specialist contributors, the British Air Mail Society has accepted the offer of the Imperial Airways Study Group to place back issues of the journal from 2003 to the present on its website. These may be found under the heading "**IA Gazette**" on the home page at <http://www.britishairmailociety.co.uk/>

## Tahiti – a dead giveaway



With military manoeuvres, secrecy is all. Hence the slogan on the *Franchise Militaire* item shown nearby. “The S.P. No is a complete address [in itself],” it tells us. “It is forbidden to add the indication of a geographical location.” The postmark is suitably non-committal, reading just “*Poste aux*

*Armées.*” The gaffe has been well and truly blown, however, by the use of a tourist envelope proclaiming to all and sundry its origin in Tahiti. It could be effectively censored only by cutting it in two and throwing the offending half away – a step too far, perhaps, even for the military.

Michael Round

## Unique Concorde Miniature Sheet

This attractive miniature sheet was recently sent as a free gift to selected customers of *Phil@poste* for their continued loyalty.

The *Poste Aérienne* stamp (YT PA83) depicted, was first issued on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first flight of Concorde. The stamps from the *blocs-feuillets* and the sheet are identical in design. However, the bloc stamp has no phosphor bands whereas the sheet type has two, making this an entirely new stamp which I assume will be catalogued by Yvert & Tellier at a later date.

The sheets are numbered and were issued in a limited edition of 80,000. This is only the second time, to my knowledge, that an individual modern stamp has been issued in bloc format outside of the normal stamp programme and which was not available to the general public. The previous time was in 2019 when another *Poste Aérienne* stamp (YT PA81) “Georges Guynemer” was issued in a similar style.



I predict that the bloc will become one of the more sought-after items of recent times as it is so unusual and was available to such a limited audience.

Richard Broadhurst



## AU COIN DES NÉOPHYTES

### 1855 letter certified by the Mayor of Ardennes Sevigny

Thanks to Mr Wiechula for his contribution to this new feature. I hope other members will follow in his footsteps and submit items of particular interest for this section of our Journal. The aim is to encourage members to share with us items of particular interest from their collections. They do not have to be great rarities, simply unusual or interesting elements of philately. The 'coin' is run by Peter Kelly who should be contacted at peterkelly35@btinternet.com **Peter Kelly**

"This is an 1855 entire bearing 20c imperf, Die I, from Chateau Porcien to Bethel on 26 Feb 1855, the *Origine Rurale* stamp indicates the origin of Sevigny, with Bethel receipt CDS of the same day on the reverse. It is the

contents that make this cover very interesting and why I bought it 30+ years ago.

The letter, presumably penned by a letter-writer, for a Mr Cholet (a farmer?), is about a bill of 100 francs he hasn't the

funds to pay, having lost his horse and his goods not having sold. The Mayor of Ardennes Sevigny has certified the reason for non-payment, affixing the mayoral seal to the letter. The front of the envelope has the figure '3' which implies more than one letter along the same lines had been sent.

Every time I look at this cover I have wondered what become of poor Mr Cholet."

**Luigi Wiechula**



Cover shown at 100%  
Contents shown at 75%



## REPORTS OF MEETINGS

### 45th ANNUAL PHILATELIC WEEKEND 9 TO 11 JULY 2021



The Farmhouse block, Charlecote Pheasant Hotel

There was some understandable apprehension about holding our usual weekend event. This was the first available opportunity as pandemic restrictions relaxed. Whilst numbers were a little down on previous years and sadly our foreign friends were not able to join us, the meeting was extremely successful and much enjoyed by those who could attend. The standard of the hotel was excellent and markedly better than when we last visited in 2019.

After further negotiations with the hotel management we will return to the Charlecote Pheasant next year from 9 to 11 March 2022.

Saturday morning began as usual with the Annual General Meeting (see report on pages 159–162) followed by our regular programme of displays.

**Steve Ellis** began with a display of 'Underpaid mail from 1849', showing us the first two sections of this new display. The first section examined the different reasons (in excess of thirty identified so far) for the mail being deemed to have insufficient postage, with examples shown and explained for each reason. The second section explained the various different methods of calculation used by the French post office to determine the amount of 'taxe' to be paid.

**Peter Kelly** continued with a display entitled 'Réunion maritime mail' from 1740 up to 1864. Starting from *La Bourdonnais*-era mail in the 1740s and a *Paquebot du Roi* letter of 1786, the difficulties of the Napoleonic period were discussed with an example of blockade mail, and the occupation by the British in 1810 with an example of mail from the British post office on the island. With the growth of commerce in the 1820s a number of ship letters were shown detailing the different ports of call in France. The first regular postmarks were introduced in 1831 together with the ancillary PP marks that gave rise to confusion in France at times. 1848 saw Bourbon renamed as Réunion as France became a Republic. It also saw the first Mauritius packet service to Ceylon (to link up with the P&O). This was the first opportunity for a regular mail service for Réunion.

Steam reached Mauritius and Réunion in 1852 with the General Screw Steam Navigation Company but this was not a success: the steamers lacked sufficient power and could not keep to schedule. The service ended in 1854. After two years with colonial schooners connecting with Ceylon the Lindsay line extended its service to Calcutta via Mauritius, but this only lasted a year. Another failed service was that of the Lambert brothers with the *Cie. Anglo-Française de la Mer des Indes* but this opened the door to the P&O who took over the route to Suez and on to Australia. The island benefitted enormously from the 1857 Franco-British Convention with the reduction and simplification of mail charges. In 1869 the P&O changed their Australian route to take in the Indian mails and provided a separate service to the two islands. In 1864 the *Messageries Impériales* tender for the mail contract was accepted and the display ended at that point.

After viewing and coffee **Rodney Gent** presented (1) 'Guadeloupe, the 1903 Overprints'.

From 1884 the French Colonies general issue had been overprinted with either 'GPE' or 'Guadeloupe' with various levels of boxed ornamentation and some inversion or double printing. In 1891, just before the introduction of the 'Tablet' issue, the Basse-Terre Government printers produced a single-line Guadeloupe overprint of the general issue. The typesetting errors have been the root of accusations of some skulduggery. Examples of the different typesetting mistakes involved were shown and it was noted that the same errors occur in different places in different settings which fed these suspicions.

All went quiet until August 1903 when stamp shortages gave an opportunity for some printing creativity. A full sheet of 5 cents on 30 cents was shown. We see the printer has put his signature 'C for G' variety which occurs throughout these overprints, a bit like the artist Terence Cuneo who signed his paintings with a cartoon of a mouse.

A partial reconstruction of the 15 cents on 50 cents was shown which uses the same setting as 5 cents on 30 cents.

A full sheet the 10 cents on 40 cents shows the first signs of a loss of restraint. Not only does the printer introduce a second C but also an inverted 1. The two C's are linked to two different print settings of the 10 cents within the sheet.

Examples of different settings for the 40 cents on 1 franc and the 1 franc on 75 cents shows our old friend C for G there. A curious person might ask why it was necessary to create 1 franc on 75 cents stamps when there were many 1 franc available. Would 40 cents on 75 cents have met the need?

Examples of the Postage Due stamps overprinted at the same time because of a shortage of 30 cents stamps were exhibited. A shortage of type affects this overprinting so Roman G and Ds are drafted in.





Clockwise from above: Peter Kelly, Rodney Gent, Steve Ellis

All this is a prelude to 1904 when, in printing terms, all hell breaks loose. Did the dealers who promoted this who thought that in 100 years' time there would still be people who would pay for this stuff, and if so who can say they were wrong?

Examples of settings 1-3 for the 40 cents on 1 franc and the 1 franc on 75 cents were shown. The first setting was overprinted in blue and red as was the second setting. The third was in blue, red, and black for the 40 cents on 1 franc and red on 1 franc on 75 cents.

A complete sheet of the fourth setting of the 40 cents on 1 franc was shown. They were mostly SG Type 36 but with half a dozen different exotics thrown in. In keeping with the 10 cents on 40 cents half a dozen broad types are in the same position at the bottom of the sheet. There is also a dropped D in the bottom corner stamp.

A complete sheet of setting 5 of the 40 cents on 1 franc was shown with mainly a Type 45 overprint but with a few extras thrown in. The dropped D and C for G are in the same position as the fourth setting but there is a bonus of a second C for G.

A complete sheet of the fifth setting for the 1 franc on 75 cents was shown which loses the dropped D but gains three inverted 1's on 1 franc.

A display covering inversions was shown which was a bit of a specialty of a Basse-Terre printer. This includes a double printing with one inversion. The single 15 cents on 50 cents inversion was added to otherwise unchanged second setting.

Two covers were shown. One may have been "genuine" mail but the one featuring a nice strip of three different 5 cents overprints was sent to the President of the *Philatelic International* which is a bit of a giveaway.

Finally, a question was posed. Where is the impression Type 48 illustrated and listed in Gibbons? They do not list it in any of the detailed settings but price it in the red, blue and black listings. The only setting it could have been was the third, since this is the only black overprint. Did the cataloguer have a breakdown, and if so, who could blame him?

(2) Guadeloupe: The colourful definitives of the 1930's.

The definitives replaced some rather dull ones first issued in 1905 with new colours from 1922 to 1927. They were worthy but not much more. Like the 1905 stamps all were printed in the Government Printing works in Paris.

A complete run through all the colour and value changes was shown with a couple of errors including a missing colour.

A selection of covers from the time when these stamps were in use was shown.

1. Guadeloupe to Buenos Aires, a 45-day land and sea trip via Panama for 1F50.
2. Guadeloupe to Dutch Guiana, first flight via Trinidad.
3. Posted at sea reaching America by two different routes, one stopping off in Barbados.
4. Inter-island registered post to Martinique.
5. Cristobal Paquebot to France.

6. Mourning letter with censorship in place 3 weeks after the outbreak of war, although it is a local letter.
7. Airmail to Vendée in December 1939 via New York, probably the safest way to send it?
8. Airmail to Marseille via New York and Lisbon in August 1940. It took 6 days even though it was after the fall of France.
9. The POW special rate of 1 franc when sent to the POW in Geneva in November 1940.
10. Airmail to New York via Antigua where it was censored for a second time by Examiner 4179. This is said to be rare.
11. 1944 letter with overprints done locally with examples of double overprint.



John Parmenter

**John Parmenter** then showed some extracts of a new book ‘*Censorship of Civilian Mail in Madagascar WW2*, published with Col.Fra’.

Madagascar civilian mail censorship occurred in three phases:

1. French censorship from September 1939 to the May 1942 Allied invasion.  
The Allied blockade restricted international mail; internal mail was unaffected.
2. Military censorship from the May 1942 Allied invasion to the November 1942 Armistice.  
The invasion was to prevent Japanese establishment of a naval base in Madagascar.
3. Joint French and Allied censorship from November 1942 to September 1945. Diego-Suarez became a British Naval base; in the rest of Madagascar joint censorship was undertaken by both French and Allied censors.



David Parmley

**David Parmley** continued with ‘A brief interlude with Fournier’. An overview of Fournier’s career as a manufacturer of facsimiles in a time when this was an acceptable business. His promotional activities ran to publication of 24 volumes of ‘*Le Facsimile*’ as well as a catalogue which ran to 3,671 varieties by 1914. After his death, and other efforts to revive the business failed, *L’Union Philatelique de Geneve* acquired his residual stocks and produced reference albums. Photographs of his equipment and pages from the reference albums were displayed as well as examples of his work.

To close the morning session **Godfrey Bowden** showed us ‘20<sup>th</sup>-Century Parisian Poster Stamps’. The use of Poster Stamps in Paris took off with the decision to have an exhibition to celebrate the year 1900. So extensive was the exhibition that an entire book was devoted to poster stamps advertising it<sup>1</sup>. The display started with a short introduction of poster stamps advertising that event. The ‘*Foire de Paris*’, an annual national exhibition also provided many types of poster stamps, advertising itself and organisations participating. Other exhibitions such as the Colonial exhibitions of 1906-7 and 1931, the Art Deco exhibition of 1924 and the 1937 international exhibition are shown to have extensively used poster stamps to advertise the occasion both nationally and internationally, examples from all these areas were shown e.g. Agriculture, Childhood, Electronic Components, Sport, Radio and TV, among many others.



Godfrey Bowden

After lunch the programme resumed with **Peter Stockton** and ‘French Morocco Military Mail’ which comprised four sections. Naval mail included a letter from a sailor on board the “Protected Cruiser” *Du Chayla* which ship had taken part in the naval bombardment of Casablanca in August

<sup>1</sup> The Paris Universal Exposition 1900, The Poster Stamps- Vignettes, by Charles Kiddle 2000





Peter Stockton

1907. Mail from several departments of the *Résidence Générale* of General Lyautey in Rabat formed the second section, principally the Military Cabinet. A section of mail associated with Military Telegraphy then followed which included mail from both towns and cities alongside more remote camp locations. The final section of Military Aviation mail began with an early (1912) letter to an aeronautical engineer at the Etampes Aviation Centre near Paris, once associated with Louis Blériot, and we finished with a post-independence postcard (23<sup>rd</sup> July 1956) from Sidi-Slimane Air Base still used by the French until 1959.

Next came **Stephen Holder** with French Indian post offices followed by **John Scott** with 'The impact of revolution on paper & parchment tax'.

After a break for viewing and more refreshments **Claire Scott** gave us a continuation of the wounded soldier story. **Andrew Telfer Brunton** then followed with a display of Red Cross booklets. The day's programme concluded with another fine display from **Stephen Holder** on the Siege of Paris.

## Sunday

The morning began with **Barbara Priddy** and 'West African airmails: The Aéropostale years'.

**Paul Watkins** then gave us two displays. 'France in WWII': six frames of material illustrated what was happening in France at the beginning of WWII.

The 'phoney war' period included examples of French censorship of foreign mail, the treatment of refugees and "aliens" including cards sent from domiciled Germans caught up in the 'petit rafle' of Autumn 1940 – from the *Stade des Colombés* and the *Vel d'Hiver*. Mail to and from all three French forces was shown including to one of the ships interned at Alexandria as well as BEF letters with emphasis on the small RAF contingent in Northern France.

Following the Armistice, thousands of servicemen were interned in *Frontstalags* and then moved to the *Stalag* camp system in Germany; examples of mail illustrated this. A section of letters from *Détachement W* showed the travails of this particular group of British servicemen – soldiers escaped from the Dunkirk beaches or downed airmen – who congregated in Marseilles and were shuttled around Vichy France throughout the War.

The fate of civilian internees – many of them British ex-pats – was illustrated with covers from various internment camps including the 2,000-strong all-male *Caserne de St Denis* outside Paris, the 'alien nuns' confined to hotels in Vittel and some of the notorious *camps de surveillance* in the Vichy zone.

The final frame illustrated the workings of the Free French based in the UK including administrative cachets and a group of letters to the 'undercover addresses' of the three military arms – the most unusual being that linked to the *Armée de l'Air*.



Clockwise from above: Stephen Holder, John Scott, Claire Scott, Andrew Telfer Brunton, Barbara Priddy.

Interzonal postcards: the partition of France following the Armistice of June 1940 and German desire to control inland posts led to the introduction of the first version of the *carte postale familiale* at the end of September 1940 – with an amended version issued in mid-May 1941 and lasting until mid-August 1941, just 11 months.

The wide range of coloured card and ink used was shown as well as normal, prohibited and unusual usages – including two from *chantiers de la jeunesse*, others to uncommon destinations including French Soudan and Ivory Coast, and to a prisoner in a German *Oflag*. The arcane arrangements for its distribution were explained.

Examples of uncommon interzonal business cards were shown including Iris and Pétain types and reply-cards requesting birth and marriage details. The scarce Rennes card of October 1944 with a 1F20 Lined Sower imprint was shown – including an unusual example uprated for use to the UK.

After viewing and morning coffee **Chris Hitchen** showed Paris and the type Sage 1884 to 1900'. 1884 saw the introduction of a new date stamp known to all French collectors as the Type 84. It was initially intended for the new Daguin machines but from July 1885 was steadily supplied to all offices as a handstamp as well. New services and products were steadily introduced by the post office. The pneumatic service gradually extended to more and more parts of the capital. Debt collection (*Recouvrements*) and cash on delivery (*Contre remboursement*) were of use to its business customers. Advertising postcards and envelopes appeared offering cheap postage for those prepared to

accept the sometimes garish advertisements on them. What today would be called junk mail made its appearance. There were cards franked at 1 centime, unaddressed and delivered to all in a particular locality or those working in a particular trade. The display covered all aspects of the postal services in the capital in the last part of the nineteenth century.

**Peter Kelly** gave us the final presentation on the use of the 1c centime black Sage used alone or in combination and the 1c *chiffre taxe*. The object of this display was to show that even by basing it on the lowest denominator of stamps there were opportunities for a meaningful and interesting study of aspects of the postal history of the Sage period and some of the problems that could arise. Similarly the ending of the rounded-up tax treatment in 1898 provided new opportunities for the 1c *chiffre taxe*.

After dinner on both Friday and Saturday evenings we saw a wide variety of smaller offerings from those present.

The following members attended all or part of the weekend.

Maurice Alder	John Allison
Godfrey Bowden	Steve Ellis
Rodney Gent	Chris Hitchen
Stephen Holder	Peter Kelly
John Parmenter	David Parmley
Michael Passé	Barbara Priddy
Claire Scott	Peter Stockton
Andrew Telfer Brunton	Paul Watkins
Jeny Wolvers.	



Top left: Organisers Peter Kelly and Chris Hitchen. Top right: Steve Ellis presenting Chris Hitchen with the Literature Trophy  
Bottom: members at the AGM on Saturday morning.  
Images courtesy Andrew Telfer Brunton and Gina Davies.



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 10 JULY 2021

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held at Charlecote Pheasant Hotel, Charlecote, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV35 9EW at 0921h in the presence of 16 members.

1. **Members Present:** Maurice Alder, John Allison, Godfrey Bowden, Steve Ellis, Rodney Gent, Chris Hitchen, Stephen Holder, Peter Kelly, John Parmenter, David Parmley, Michael Passé, Barbara Priddy, Claire Scott, Peter Stockton, Andrew Telfer Brunton, Paul Watkins. **Apologies for absence** were received from Richard Broadhurst, Maurice Tyler, Jan Gane, Mick Bister, Ashley Lawrence and John West.
2. The President introduced the meeting and welcomed those attending. The minutes of the previous AGM of 14 March 2020 had been published in Journal 293 and were accepted as a true record of that meeting.
3. There were no matters arising from the minutes not already on the agenda.
4. President's report – Appendix 1
5. General Secretary's report – Appendix 2
6. Treasurer's report and accounts – Appendix 3
  - The audited annual accounts were unanimously approved – proposed by Peter Kelly and seconded by Rodney Gent.
  - The treasurer recommended that subscriptions should remain unchanged next year – unanimously agreed – proposed by Andrew Telfer Brunton and Peter Kelly.
7. Auction Secretary's report – Appendix 4
8. Packet Secretaries reports and Magazine circuit:
  - France – Appendix 5
  - Colonies – Appendix 6
9. Journal Manager's report – Appendix 7
10. Website Manager's report – Appendix 8
11. Publications Officer's report – Appendix 9
12. The president summarised the status of group meetings.
13. Election of Officers and Committee Members

It was unanimously agreed that the following would serve – proposed and seconded by Rodney Gent and Barbara Priddy:

**President** – Chris Hitchen; **Vice President** – Richard Broadhurst; **General Secretary** – Andrew Telfer Brunton; **Treasurer** – Chris Hitchen; **Auction Secretary** – David Parmley; **Packet Secretary (France)** – Richard Broadhurst; **Packet Secretary (Colonies)** – Rodney Gent; **Journal Manager** – vacant; **Journal Editor** and **Website Manager** – Jan Gane; **Publications Officer** – John Parmenter; **Committee members** – Mick Bister, Peter Kelly, Steve Ellis, Ashley Lawrence, Maurice Tyler, Paul Watkins and John West.

Alan King has agreed to continue as Examiner of the accounts
14. There was no other business and the meeting closed at 10.00h.

### Appendix 1. President's Report 2020

I rather tempted fate last year by suggesting that we were in a stronger position as a Society. The pandemic whilst causing so much damage worldwide and loss and sorrow to so many has not actually had that much of an effect on the running of the Society. It has not been possible to conduct physical meetings but all other services have continued although the packets were suspended for a short time. However other circumstances have significantly reduced our ability to maintain the standards members have come to expect.

Sadly Mick Bister has had to step down from his position as Journal Manager. That does put a great deal of pressure on Jan Gane who so ably edits the Journal and manages our website. Offers of assistance in preparing articles for the Journal and liaising with authors would be very welcome. We are also rather in need of members able to translate reasonably competently from French to English. Fortunately Mick has agreed to remain on the committee so his experience and expertise will still remain available to the Society.

On the positive side the services provided to members are now all in the hands of hard-working and competent Society Officers. The downside is that there is now no back-up of any kind. The very few doing all the work needed to run the Society are therefore rather stretched.

Meetings should resume in the autumn but it is still not clear what will be possible. The Northern Group has found another venue in Rotherham and intends to carry on as much as usual as they can. The Wessex Group will no longer meet in Salisbury as Colin French who has been running these is now moving to Devon. Claire Scott has generously stepped forward to offer the use of her office premises near Blandford Forum where a successful meeting was held in October. In London the position is very difficult and a new convenor is needed if meetings are to resume. The Annual Weekend is planned for March 11 to 13 2022 at Charlecote.

Following the example of a number of Societies we began a series of Zoom meetings in January. These have been well received and enabled some overseas members and indeed some in the more far-flung parts of the United Kingdom to participate and enjoy high quality displays. It is hoped to continue with these dependent on members providing material.

Let us hope the end to 2021 will be better than the beginning.

Chris Hitchen  
President FCPS

### Appendix 2. Secretary's Report

I took on the role of General Secretary in January and would like to thank my predecessor and the President for the help they have given me in settling into the position. I still have things to learn but am gradually understanding how the Society works.

There have been eight new members this year so far: three from the UK, two from the USA and one each from Canada, Malta and Sweden. Nine members have lapsed, reasons unknown, and we have been notified of one recent death. Currently we have 202 UK members, 59 Foreign members 16 complimentary journal members.

In addition there have been a surprising number of requests for philatelic information. I am extremely grateful to those members of the committee who have either helped me answer or have themselves answered these queries. All of those seeking information have been very complimentary about our responses and it shows the Society in a good light to be able to deal with these matters.

There have been 8 secretarial memos to the committee this year at the time of writing (nine by the time of the AGM) due to various changes in membership.

Dr. Andrew Telfer Brunton, July 2021.

### Appendix 3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts 2020

On expenditure the cost of meetings has of course dropped considerably. That incurred is largely for the weekend meeting at Redditch. All other expenditure has remained much as it was in 2019. I would expect a modest increase this year as regional meetings resume.

There was one item of income that was not anticipated. Banks have become very aware of possible accusations of money laundering and very high penalties should such be

FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020					
CURRENT ASSETS		2020		2019	
Cash at bank					
Sundry debtors					
<u>DEDUCT CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>					
Advance weekend payment					
Bank transfer error					
Subscriptions in advance					
Magazine circuit float					
TOTAL ASSETS					
Represented by					
MEMBERS FUNDS					
Uncommitted funds at 1.1.2020					
Year surplus					
INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2020					
Expenditure			Income		
	2020	2019		2020	2019
Meetings			Auction		
Journal 3 issues			Exchange packet		
Postage and expenses			Sale of publications		
Insurance (packets and auction)			Donations		
			Bank and website refunds		
Donation to RPSL	0.00				
Year surplus 2020 (2019 loss)			Subscriptions		
<p><i>"I have examined the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2019 and the Balance Sheet at that date and I certify that they are in accordance with the books and records of the Society. I have not carried out an audit."</i></p> <p>Examined by Alan King Chartered Accountant Poole, Dorset 26 February 2021</p>					



proved. HSBC therefore demanded completion of a very lengthy document relating to our activities all of which was absolutely irrelevant to a small philatelic society. It was necessary to solemnly assert that the Society was not trading with South Sudan, North Korea, Iran or any other regime considered unwholesome. However, on the bright side, having very thoroughly inspected our activities, they then suggested that they might have been levying bank charges under the wrong heading. Some months later they decided that they had been over charging us for the last 20 years and provided a refund of £0,000.00

Packet income was down due to temporary suspension at various points during the pandemic. Now that normal service has resumed that should hopefully return to something approaching usual levels in 2021. The auction continued to put in a strong performance. Subscriptions show a very small increase.

At the moment there is nothing to suggest significant changes to either income or expenditure in the current year 2021. I would therefore propose keeping 2022 subscriptions at a maximum of £16 UK, £23 Europe and £27 overseas.

Chris Hitchen, Treasurer

#### **Appendix 4. Auction Secretary's Report**

After an initial reduction in lots offered (462 - Winter 2020) there was a return to 500 for Spring and an increase to 627 in Autumn. Overall about 40 percent of lots were sold resulting in an increased surplus of £000 to the Society. The increase in lots offered has led to an increase in printing costs (including the Winter 2021 auction for which the costs are included in this account) but the spare pages created have given the opportunity to include illustrations, kindly proposed and facilitated by Jan Gane. It remains to thank all the vendors and bidders who have supported the auction during this difficult year.

David Parmley, July 2021

#### **Appendix 5. Packet Secretary's Report (France)**

I am pleased to report that despite the problems with COVID and having to suspend the packets for a few months early in the year we still managed to turn over a very healthy £0.000.00 of sales.

Payments were made to vendors of £0.000.00 after expenses and the Society benefited from a commission payment of £000.00

The recipients of the packet stretch from the Orkney Isles to Cornwall and Northern Ireland. The packets contain a wide variety of material from classic issues, postal history, back-of-the-book and an increasingly popular modern selection of stamps, blocs and carnets. There really is something for everyone! It is a very useful way for members to obtain good competitively priced France material.

I am pleased to say that once again not one packet was lost in the post during the year.

Currently we are able to accommodate new members who would like to receive the packets and we would also be delighted to receive more material to sell, especially

anything unusual! For those who have not participated before it is an excellent and enjoyable way of both buying and selling stamps. Further details are available from the Secretary.

Richard Broadhurst, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### **Report of the Magazine Organiser 2020**

We subscribe to two French stamp magazines: *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* and *Timbres*. The magazines were distributed throughout the year with not one copy being unavailable despite all the problems with COVID. We are able to accommodate any new members who may wish to join the circuits. Further details are available from the organiser.

Richard Broadhurst, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

#### **Appendix 6. Packet Secretary's Report (Colonies)**

Like almost everything else in life in 2020 it was a rotten year for the colonies packet. At the start of first lock-down, it was decided to suspend the packet to minimise the membership's exposure to the bug when going to the Post Office. It was restarted shortly after the lifting of restrictions and continued throughout the subsequent lock-down. This was a vote of confidence in the wiliness of the membership giving the bug the swerve because of accumulated experience.

The result was a virtual halving of sales to £0.000 producing a contribution to funds of £000. Initially several members dropped out when the circuit was suspended but on the bright side the number participating rose towards the end of the year so that a small net decline from 34 to 31 was registered. Sales recovered strongly at the end of the year and this has continued into 2021. More members are participating as vendors so the variety of material on offer has increased.

As ever strong nerves are required for the job of packet secretary. A packet disappeared for five weeks at the end of the year. Hopes were raised when the packet secretary spoke to his postman who had just returned from two weeks isolation. He said that "an idiot" (his words) at the main sorting office had tested positive but had come to work because he did not want to miss overtime. As a result, 14 members of staff had to isolate from the sorting office and mail was piled high. "It is probably at the bottom of the heap." was his view and so it proved.

Thanks again to Chris Hitchen and Richard Broadhurst for their advice during the year and to Barry Knox for using his "Word" skills to update the returns form.

Rodney Gent, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

#### **Appendix 7. Journal Manager's Report**

2020 marked the beginning of another era for the Society's 'Journal' with Jan Gane taking over the role of Editor with all the challenges it entails. Maurice Tyler, after several previous attempts, was at last able to put his printing press into permanent storage.

Jan will be reporting on the achievements of the year in her own report but as Journal Manager, and hence responsible for liaising with the membership, I would like to thank all those who have contributed material, not only last year, but also throughout my whole term of office. Some of the

contributors have been old friends but new friendships have been struck through mutual correspondence and that has been one of the blessings of the job. I am particularly grateful to our North American and European members who have made an increasing number of contributions particularly during 2020.

The response to recent appeals has been most encouraging and we now have a solid base on which to continue the publication of the Journal. Unfortunately, I shall no longer be part of the team as earlier this year my health received a warning shot across the bows and I had to step down with immediate effect. Chris Hitchen has stepped in to assist Jan but this must be seen as only a provisional solution and I implore other members to give consideration to offering their services.

Finally, thank you to all those who have worked with me in the sub-editorial team, past and present, and especially Maurice Tyler, Peter Allan and Jan Gane whose technological knowledge passeth all understanding.

Mick Bister, 4 June 2021

#### **Appendix 8(a). Website Manager's Report**

The Society upgraded the software for the Website Forum late in 2020 and now looks and performs 100%. Although we increased our Forum membership by 20 in the last 15 months it is still under-used. We are getting the views but not the contributors, so to those who have - thank you, it makes the outlay and the effort worthwhile.

The website now has 75 back issues of the Journal uploaded, years 2000 - 2019, each page is copyrighted and all financial information has been removed - not an easy job.

All Virtual displays that were circulating throughout the pandemic have been uploaded as have the Zoom programmes.

The Website regularly gets updated with current information and after each Journal is complete a selection of images is taken and used to promote the Society and its activities. The current Auction catalogue along with colour images of selected lots is featured with further information if available.

The Analytics: The 'Back-Issues' page is proving the most visited page, with 'List of Publications' next and 'Auctions' third, 'Zoom' is new, but it has numbers on the board. 11% of our visitors return: almost 25% of our visitors are from the UK, 21% from the US and 5% from France.

Thank you to everyone, especially members of the Committee for your help throughout this last year.

I am willing to continue on the Committee in 2021 as Website Manager.

Jan Gane, July 2020

#### **Appendix 8(b). Editor's Report**

As Editor I had large shoes to fill to maintain the high standard of production that Maurice Tyler had created.

Maurice's blueprint made the way much easier, and I refer to past Journals constantly for guidance in continuity. Mick Bister became a friend and working with friends is always fun. His advice, patience and good humour is invaluable. Michael Round and David Hogarth have hawk-like eyes and without their thoroughness to detail the Journal would be a lesser product - they too are very patient.

My first Journal, number 292, was daunting and there were a few mistakes, for which I apologise, but like most things, repetition makes things easier.

The calibre of articles defines a Journal; thank you to our contributors.

Over the 15 months we have produced four Journals consisting a total of 232 pages covering 16 full-length articles and 40 shorter items plus - Book Reviews, Recently Published articles and various reports.

The Journal is the lifeblood of our Society and, with members spread throughout the globe, contributions large and small are needed to continue the high standard you have come to expect.

I am willing to continue on the Committee in 2021 as Editor.

Jan Gane, July 2021

#### **Appendix 9. Publications Officer's Report**

There have been steady sales of the Richardson Rates book and the pdf of Picirilli's 'Rates of France and Colonies'. The latter provides pure profit for the Society; the former needs a reprint as we are down to one copy of the current 4th edition (and 5 copies of the previous editions).

Sales of back issues of the Journal: as they are now available on our website we are reducing the stock to one copy of each issue.

John Parmenter, July 2021

The AGM concluded with the presentation of awards.

#### **Awards**

Many years ago the Society held annual competitions and medals were awarded to the winners of the various categories. Andrew Berkinshaw Smith, grandson of our Past President and Secretary Bernard Berkinshaw Smith, contacted us recently. He had been clearing the old house and come across some Society material including a number of medals. Sadly most recipients had long since died but the winner of the Filmer Shield in 1987 Godfrey Bowden is of course still with us and was present at Charlecote this year. The President Chris Hitchen congratulated Godfrey and assured him that his medal would soon be with him, albeit some 34 years late!

The Literature trophy was presented by Steve Ellis to Chris Hitchen for the most enjoyable article in the Journals of 2020 on 'France and the British post office 1660 to 1833'.

ATB



## BOOKSHELF

Compiled by Michael Round

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



Lovers of engraved stamps should investigate a title advertised by *L'Association du Timbre Gravé* or *Art du Timbre Gravé* (ATG) (details from the Secrétariat de l'ATG, 21 rue de la Sente du Couvent 78660 Boissy-le Gaillard; email [secretariat@artdutimbregreve.com](mailto:secretariat@artdutimbregreve.com) . It comprises a large-scale album display of subjects beginning with, as it were, the firm's initials: A, T and G. Price to members 20€, non-members 30€; postage an extra 5€ in either case. Further details from the partly-English website: [www.artdutimbregreve.com](http://www.artdutimbregreve.com) . The Musée de La Poste (34 bd de Vaugirard 75731 Paris cedex 15) is also quoted as a contact address.

---

### The Postmarks and Postal History of Cameroun Under French Administration – 1916-1959

M.P. Bratzel, Jr.

This full-colour publication includes xiv + 481 A4-sized printed pages with hard cover plus 658 pages on a searchable CD, the contents of which are also available as a free download from The Stuart Rossiter Trust, which provided financial support for publication. Projected release – mid-October 2021.

This 16-chapter book draws upon postal information published in the *Journal officiel du Cameroun* and in France's annual reports to the League of Nations and the United Nations. This primary documentation plus other key background materials are included in their entirety on the accompanying CD. Key chapters of the book address:

- The development of postal services in French Cameroun.
- Post offices and postmarks – All postal facilities are listed and, for each, all associated postmarks are faithfully illustrated, accompanied by their recorded dates of use. Also included are backdated, fake and fantasy cancels.
- Postal handstamps, markings, forms, and related materials.
- Specimen stamps.
- Special event handstamps and promotional labels.
- Maritime and paquebot services.
- Air line services, air mail, and air mail cachets.
- Armed forces mail in peacetime.
- World War II, including Cameroun's contribution to the armed forces and prosecution of the war effort; internees and internment camps; postal censorship and control, including control commission cachets and local and regional cachets, accompanied by their recorded dates of use; and other fascinating considerations.

The book is extensively illustrated in full colour with numerous covers and postal materials, contains 11 maps, and is fully referenced. In addition to the background documentation, the CD contains about 100 World War II-era covers with military cachets and covers to and from troops in the field.



One of the many postal control cachets discussed in Chapter 14: *Postal censorship and control during World War II.*

(Only recorded example of this cachet by M. Bratzel)

Price: £25 plus postage and packaging:

- Within the U.K. – £10.00
- To Europe – £16.00
- To United States – £36.50 \*
- Australasia - £34.00
- Rest of the world – £28.00

\* We are investigating distribution from the U.S. in which case the postage will be less.

Orders and enquiries to: Martin Bratzel, 1233 Virginia Avenue, Windsor, Ontario N8S 2Z1 Canada or [marty\\_bratzel@yahoo.ca](mailto:marty_bratzel@yahoo.ca) .

Payments via PayPal to [martin.bratzel@yahoo.com](mailto:martin.bratzel@yahoo.com) .

As some people do not use PayPal, we therefore accept Sterling, Euro, U.S. dollar and Canadian dollar cheques.

## 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.

[Due to space constraints Maurice Tyler's article is regrettably severely abridged. The full list of Recently Published Articles is available on the website. It will be published in full in the April 2022 edition.] Ed.

### **Timbres Magazine**

N° 235 Jul/Aug 2021, N° 236 Sep 2021.

### **L'Écho de la Timbrologie**

No 1963 Jul/Aug 2021, No 1964 Sep 2021, No 1965 Oct 2021.

### **Bulletin COL.FRA**

No 176 2<sup>ème</sup> trim 2021

### **France & Colonies Philatelist**

Vol 77 No 3 (Whole No 345) Jul 2021

### **Cameo**

Vol 22 No 2 (Whole No 113) Jun 2021

### **Documents Philatéliques**

No 249 (3e trim 2021) Jul 2021

### **The Indo-China Philatelist**

Vol LI No 4 (Whole No 249) Sep 2021

### **Les Feuilles Marcophiles**

No 385 (Jun 2021), No 386 (Sep 2021)

### **Le Maghrebophila**

No 34 Jun 2021

### **Stamp Lover**

Vol 113 No 4 (Aug 2021):

---

## Books Noted

**Timbres de la Libération 12ème édition 2021** by Martine Mayer

108pp A5 in colour; revised and enlarged edition with values in euros; price 55€ +p&p; available from Martine Mayer Philatélie, rue de la Filature 42, CH 1227, Carouge, Switzerland or m.martine.philatelie@gmail.com

**La Présence Française en Inde aux XVIII et XIX<sup>ème</sup> siècles** by Bernard Juttau

296pp A4 in colour; very limited print run; price 50€ +p&p; available from B Juttau, 35 rue du Faubourg de la Madeleine, Orléans or b.juttau@laposte.net

**The Free French in London 1940-1945** by Peter A Baker

64pp A4 in colour; postal history of Free French & associated London-based organisations; price £9.50; available from www.rossitertrust.com

The following three items are available from:

Académie de philatélie,  
8 rue des Fossés, 54700 Pont-à-Mousson or  
academie.philatelie@gmail.com or  
www.academiedephilatelie.fr

**Cent ans de coupons-réponse en France 1907-2007** by André Hurtré

Price 40€ +p&p;

**Bulletins d'expédition de colis postaux en Alsace et en Lorraine** by Larent Bonnefoy

Price 44€ +p&p;

**Poste maritime française: Les paquebots du Mexique 1827-1835** by Eugène Langlais

Price 26€ +p&p;

Maurice Tyler

---

## New-issue listings from Stanley Gibbons: July-October 2021

Here are details of items catalogued in supplements to Gibbons Stamp Monthly (GSM). Some of these supplement entries can be extensive, supplying much specialised information in one place.

Dates in brackets (month/year) after each country-name identify the last issue of GSM containing that country's previous update.

JULY 2021

**Laos** (2/2017): 2015 ASEAN – 2016 Flowers (SG 2232/72).

AUGUST 2021

**Tunisia** (6/2021): 2018 Tourism – 2019 Seeds (SG 1921/81).

SEPTEMBER 2021

Nothing here for F&CPS members.

OCTOBER 2021

**Cambodia** (5/2021): 2018 Temple – 2018 Faces (2524/32), plus relistings of some 2005-8 issues (among SG 2303/81).

**France** (5/2021): corrections to previous listings of 2019 issues (among SG 6717/49).

Michael Round



# INDEX TO VOLUME 71, 2021

Compiled by Jan Gane

Pages	Issue No	Whole No	Date
1- 52	1	295	April 2021
53-108	2	296	August 2021
109-164	3	297	December 2021

## PHILATELIC ITEMS

### France

<b>Marcophily</b> – Ambulant query (J Moffat) .....	48
– Poste Mobile query (J Moffat) .....	48
– What is this? (2) Postmark (S Fairchild) .....	104
– What is this? (3) ½ centime en plus (S Fairchild) .....	105
<b>Postal History</b> – 1855 letter certified by the Mayor of Ardennes Sevigny (L Wiechula) .....	153
– The Atlantic Pockets in France 1945 (D J Hogarth) .....	112
– First sailing of the S.S. <i>Normandie</i> (D Garrod) .....	151
– Fraud and franchise abuse in the French post office before 1849 (C J Hitchen) .....	56, 144
– French Transatlantic Mail (S. Ellis) .....	28
– The French Revolution 1789 – 1795 (J Cowlin) .....	146
– The French Revolutionary Wars 1798 - 1802: The evacuation of French troops from Egypt, 1800 (J Cowlin) ..	96
– The Napoleonic Wars 1803 – 1815: (3) The Russian Campaign of 1812-1813, Magdeburg (J Cowlin) .....	38
– The Napoleonic Wars 1803 – 1815: (4) Lost in action (J Cowlin) .....	39
<b>Postal Stationery</b> – Playing with the Post in WWII: Interzone Postcards (D J Hogarth) .....	43
– Recouvrements Service Envelope N°1494 Variants (D Hockett) .....	64
– Problems with reply paid letter cards sent out of the country of issue (P R A Kelly) .....	August iv
<b>Postal Tariffs &amp; Services</b> – Cancellations and rates applying to French newspapers (P R A Kelly) .....	102
– The Belgian and French franc exchange rate of 1928 - re: postage due (E Voerman) .....	36
– New Postal rates in France 2022 (R J Broadhurst) .....	143
– Recommandé d'office (C J Hitchen) .....	46
– Redirection of International Mail at the Original Rate (E Voerman and J Vellekoop) .....	101
<b>Red Cross</b> – Post-Delandre Red Cross Booklets (J West) .....	34
– The 1F50 'tolerated' letter rate to the Comité International de la Croix Rouge in Geneva (J Moffat) .....	47
<b>Stamps</b> – 50th Anniversary of stamp printing at Boulazac (R N Broadhurst) .....	40
– The 12th UPU Congress, Paris, 1947 (E Voerman) .....	122
– The 1959 Fréjus Disaster Fund Issue (E Voerman) .....	90
– The Cathedrals, Basilicas, and Churches of France (R Niven) .....	7
– Cérès de Bordeaux Commemorative Booklet (A T Brunton) .....	32
– Collecting by Topic: The Châteaux of France. Part One: The Stamps (R Niven) .....	85
– Heroes of the French Resistance (J West) .....	131
– Identification of dated corner blocks of the 20c Rose-Lilac Cameo Sower (M Blackledge and M L Bister) .....	94
– Les timbres-poste 'Changement de tarif' (R N Broadhurst) .....	107
– The Royal Visit to France 1938 (M Meadowcroft) .....	100
– Unique Concorde Miniature Sheet (R N Broadhurst) .....	152

### Colonies

<b>Algeria</b> – Algeria: Modern fiscals used for postage (M Round) .....	45
<b>Central African Republic</b> – Post-independence postmarks of the Central African Republic - Part 4 (M. Parren & M. Bohnstedt) ..	15
<b>Congo Brazzaville</b> – an important cover (M Round) .....	145
<b>Congo Français</b> – correction (S Binsted and M Parren) .....	106
<b>French Colonies</b> – General Issues (S Fairchild) (P R A Kelly) .....	49, 105
– La France d'outre-mer : The Quinzaine Impériale and Joseph Foret (D J Hogarth) .....	79
<b>French Soudan</b> – Taxation of a Letter sent under Military Franchise from French Soudan to France (P R A Kelly) .....	42
<b>Gabon</b> – What is this? (1) Côte D'Or et Gabon (S Fairchild) .....	104
<b>Madagascar</b> – the 2F Lemur of 1961 (M Round) .....	41
– Censorship of Civilian Mail in Madagascar During World War Two - Handstamps and Labels (J Parmenter et al). ..	138
<b>New Caledonia</b> – Details needed (D Brown, M Round) .....	137
<b>Réunion</b> – Mail from Réunion landed at La Flotte (P R A Kelly) .....	50
– Réunion - mail from a distant shore (P R A Kelly) .....	72
<b>Senegal</b> – Avis de recherche - Research request (B Mattei) .....	44
<b>Syria</b> – Syria à cheval: twice! (M Round) .....	37
<b>Tahiti</b> – a dead giveaway (M Round) .....	152

### Forgeries

Classic Forgeries Query: (1) Cérès (R Abela) .....	97
Classic Forgeries Query: (2) Cérès, a forger's forgery? (R Abela) .....	106
Côte d'Ivoire Colis Postaux Y&T 7g + 7h: forgeries (S Binsted) .....	99
The Fournier Forgeries (S Binsted) .....	98

Gabon Y & T 14 + 15 (18 May 1889): forgeries (S Binsted) .....	98
A quick guide to spotting Fournier forgeries of Congo Français N°1 <i>Colis Postaux</i> 1891 (S Binstead) .....	148

### Miscellaneous

<i>Au Coin des neophytes</i> (P R A Kelly) .....	August iv, 153
Imperial Airways Study Group .....	151
My very first stamp (J Wolvers) .....	93
Missing in Transit .....	84
A Postcard Mystery (P Maybury) .....	103
Zoom into the U.S. ....	49

### SOCIETY NOTES

ABPS .....	55
Annual General Meeting 2021 .....	2
Annual General Meeting 2022 .....	121
Annual Philatelic Weekend 2021 .....	2
Annual Philatelic Weekend 2022 .....	54, 111
Appeal for – Journal Manager .....	14
Articles for the Journal .....	2, 54
Displays by Members .....	2
Editorial (J Gane) .....	2, 54
Erratum .....	6, 55
Examiner's Report (Alan King) .....	160
Forthcoming Exhibitions .....	55
France & Colonies Packets .....	2, 54
Future Events .....	111
General Secretary's Report .....	6, 55
Help Needed .....	55
Members Deceased .....	2
New Members .....	2, 54
Obituary – A tribute to Colin Spong FRPSL (A J Lawrence) .....	5
– In memory of Colin Spong FRPSL (R Ferguson) .....	6
Publicity for the Journal – <i>L'Écho de la Timbrologie</i> .....	27, 55
Regional Meetings .....	4, 54, 111
Society Website (J Gane) .....	50
The Crawford Medal for Philatelic Literature .....	4
Virtual Displays .....	3
Zoom Programme .....	3, 54, 89, 111

### LISTS OF MAGAZINE ARTICLES AND BOOKS NOTED AND REVIEWED

<b>Articles from Philatelic Magazines</b> (M Tyler) .....	April iii, August iv, 164
<b>Bookshelf</b> (M Round) .....	51, 108, 163
<b>Books Noted</b> (M Tyler)	
– <i>150 ans de la Guerre de 1870-1871</i> .....	August iv
– <i>Bulletins d'expédition de colis postaux en Alsace et en Lorraine</i> by L Bonnefoy .....	164
– <i>Cent ans de coupons-réponse en France 1907-2007</i> by A Hurtré .....	164
– <i>Courriers Europe-Asie par le Transsibérien 1903-1941</i> by B Bonnet .....	April iv
– <i>The Free French in London 1940-1945</i> by Peter A Baker .....	164
– <i>Histoire et Art</i> by Musée de La Poste .....	April iv
– <i>Inventaire des marques et oblitérations du département des Landes 1672-2018</i> by J Conséjo .....	April iv
– <i>Morocco: The history of the Local and Sherifien Post 1891-1913</i> by R J M Garcia & M Hadida .....	April iv
– <i>La Présence Française en Inde aux XVIII<sup>e</sup> et XIX<sup>e</sup> siècles</i> by B Juttau .....	164
– <i>Poste maritime française: Les paquebots du Mexique 1827- 1835</i> by E Langlais .....	164
– <i>Les timbres perforés postaux et fiscaux en Alsace-Lorraine – Reflet de l'histoire postale, industrielle et commerciale des XIX<sup>e</sup> et XX<sup>e</sup> siècles</i> by G Feutren, G Frick, M Frick & E Tschaen .....	April iv
– <i>Timbres de la Libération 12<sup>e</sup> édition 2021</i> by M Mayer .....	164
<b>Books Reviewed</b> (M Round)	
– <i>Air France et le Breguet Deux-Ponts</i> .....	108
– <i>Art du Timbre Gravé</i> by L'Association du Timbre Gravé .....	163
– <i>The Development of French Postal Communications in the Algerian Sahara</i> by P R A Kelly FRPSL, FSPH .....	51
– <i>The Postmarks and Postal History of Cameroun Under French Administration – 1916-1959</i> (M.P. Bratzel, Jr.) .....	163
– <i>Les surcharges locales de 1992 à 1997 aux Comores</i> by Olivier Bergossi .....	108
– <i>Maurice Noguès vers l'Asie avec la nuit</i> .....	108
<b>Bulletins Reviewed</b> (M Round)	
– <i>L'Entier Postal, Philatélique et Cartophile, Cercle Aérophilatélique Français,</i> .....	52
– <i>Le Philatéliste Croix Rouge, Marianne,</i> .....	108
<b>New-issue listings</b> from Stanley Gibbons (M Round) .....	52, 78, 164

### REPORTS OF MEETINGS

<b>45th Annual Philatelic Weekend</b> 9-11 July 2021 .....	154
<b>Minutes of the Annual General Meeting</b> 10 July 2021 .....	159