

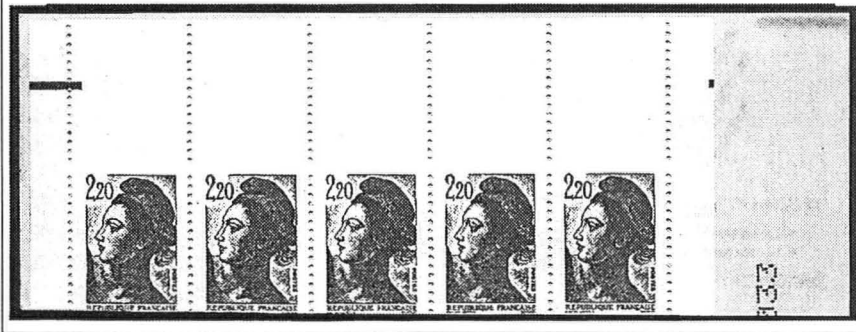


France & Colonies Philatelist



LAPOSTE
 10 TIMBRES à 2,20 = 22 F
 «POUR OFFRIE DES TIMBRES»
 • La collection philatélique (TP + notices)
 • La pochette semestrielle (TP seuls)
 DANS LES POINTS PHILATELIE

4 OUVRIER 4



Some unusual varieties from the Liberté issues of France (see page 112)

IRA ZWEIFACH

We sorrowfully advise our readers that Ira Zweifach passed away on 14 September 1998. At one time or another, Ira served our Society as its Recording Secretary, President, and Journal Editor and was, until his death, a Director and the Program Chairman for our monthly meetings. A Memorial notice will appear in the next number.

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FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST

USPS #207700

ISSN 0897-1293

Published quarterly by the
FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC. (N.Y.)
Affiliate No. 45, American Philatelic Society

The *France & Colonies Philatelist* is the official journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc. Permission to reprint material appearing in this journal is granted provided that proper credit is given the *France & Colonies Philatelist* and that the Editor is notified. The quoting or paraphrasing, in whole or in part, of any material therein should be properly attributed to its author and to this journal.

October 1998 - Vol. 54, No. 4, Whole No. 254
Second-class postage paid at Bloomfield, NJ
Office of Publication: 103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003
An additional entry office at Platteville, WI 53818
Printing arranged by: Jay Smith, P.O. Box 650, Snow Camp, NC 27349

Dues \$11.00 per year. Parent Chapter and Foreign \$15.00 (plus \$5.00 admission fee)
A subscription to the *F & C Philatelist* (at \$11.00 per year) is included in the membership dues.

All communications about membership, subscriptions, publications, activities, and services of the Society should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary,
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THE LEMAITRE - ARRACHART EXPEDITION OF 1925

by Bill Mitchell (FCPS #715)

Since the end of the Second World War, there has been a proliferation of souvenir first flight covers. They have their devotees, of course, and are a tribute to the efficiency of the aircraft and airlines involved (and of the organizers of the souvenirs) but are not otherwise especially interesting. Similar items from the early days of air mail are a different matter; flight and cover were both frequently improvised and the fact that the one was completed and the other delivered testified to the ingenuity and courage of the aviators concerned.

The cover may only hint at the full story of the flight. The one illustrated in Figure 1 is an interesting case in point. Ostensibly it was flown on an official

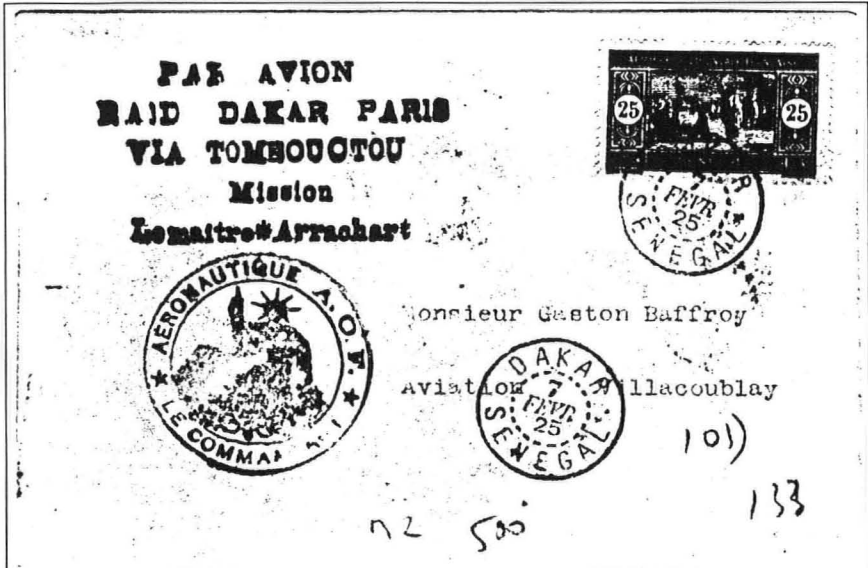


Figure 1. Front of cover.

flight by Messers Lemaitre and Arrachart - they were in fact captains in the French Air Force - from Dakar in Senegal to Paris, via Timbuktu in what was then French Sudan, leaving on 7 February 1925 and arriving on 24 March, the total flying time being 54 hours 45 minutes *(see the 4-line cachet on Figure 2). It was handled en route by Post Office staff at El-Golea in Algeria and Casablanca in Morocco, but there is nothing to suggest that it ever passed through Timbuktu. A typed note that has been attached to the cover tells us also that following an accident, the 200 covers carried were lost in the desert for a week when it was recovered by a nomad. But these are only the bare bones of the story.

Nineteen twenty five was an outstanding year for French aviation in Africa. The most important event was the inauguration, on 1 June, of a regular service between Dakar and Casablanca, completing the first stage of the air link between France and South America which had preoccupied the French since the end of World War I. (This did not necessarily result in a spectacular improvement in mail delivery time. I have a cover posted at Dakar on 15 March 1926 which arrived at Bordeaux a week later, on the 22nd; sea mail at this time - cost 30c - normally took about 8 to 10 days.¹ This was a very modest gain for the extra

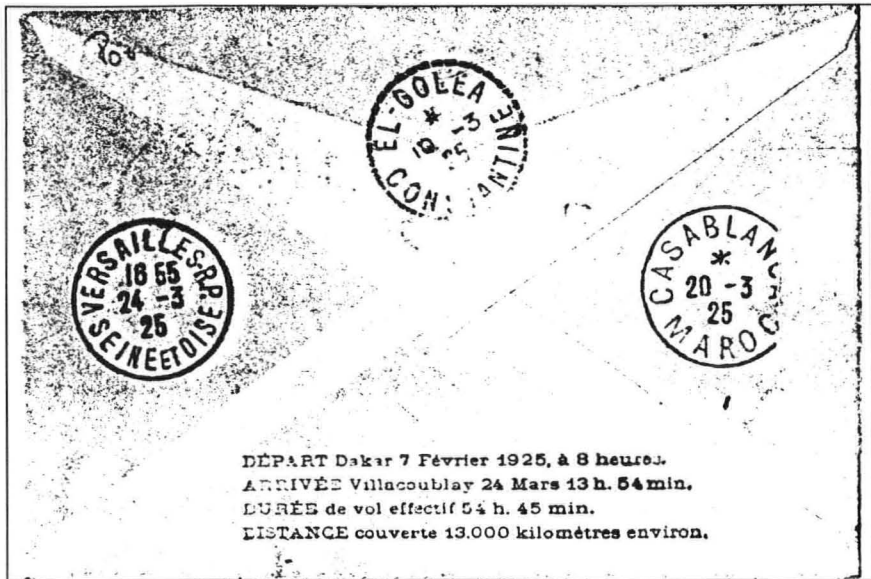


Figure 2. Back of cover.

3.10 francs charged.) But well before June the possibility of opening up the interior of French West Africa was being investigated by means of carefully prepared expeditions. The Lemaître-Arrachart flight was one of these; as will be seen, despite the advance preparations they were obliged to improvise en route.

The flight actually began in France, at the Etampes-Mondésir military airfield near Paris at 11.30 or 11.38 AM (the sources² differ slightly) on 3 February. The aircraft, a refinement of the one illustrated in Figure 3, was a single-engined Bréguet 19, a two-seater multipurpose biplane built in large numbers and in many versions, used by numerous air forces and for some outstanding long-distance flights. This particular plane was fitted with dual controls and supplementary fuel tanks which increased its loaded weight to 7616 pounds, 2460 greater than normal, even though all non-essential equipment had been removed. It flew over Madrid at sunset, crossed the Straits of Gibraltar to Tangier and then followed the coast of North Africa to Casablanca and Cape Juby in the Spanish colony of Rio de Oro. Engine problems caused it to land at Villa Cisneros, also in Rio de Oro, around noon on 4 February after a non-stop flight of 1978 miles in 24 hours 30 minutes (the sources are agreed on this). This established a French national distance record, but failed to surpass the world record of 2516 miles set by Lts. O. G. Kelly and J. A. Macready of the USA, who had flown from Long Island to San Diego in 26 hours 50 minutes on 2 and 3 May 1923.³ Dakar was reached the following day (5 February 1925), increasing the total distance flown so far to 2718 miles. Regrettably, I have been unable to trace a note of the time taken for this last leg of the outward flight, which carried 300 items of mail.

As my cover shows, the expedition was resumed a couple of days later (the 7th), and it did in fact reach Timbuktu - on the 18th! - having followed first the railroad through Kayes on the Senegal River to Bamako on the Niger, and then the Niger itself. Unfortunately the 200 items of mail did not receive a transit cachet there. The planned route for the next leg of the flight, on 20 February, was across the Sahara Desert via Tessalit in French Sudan and Adrar in Algeria

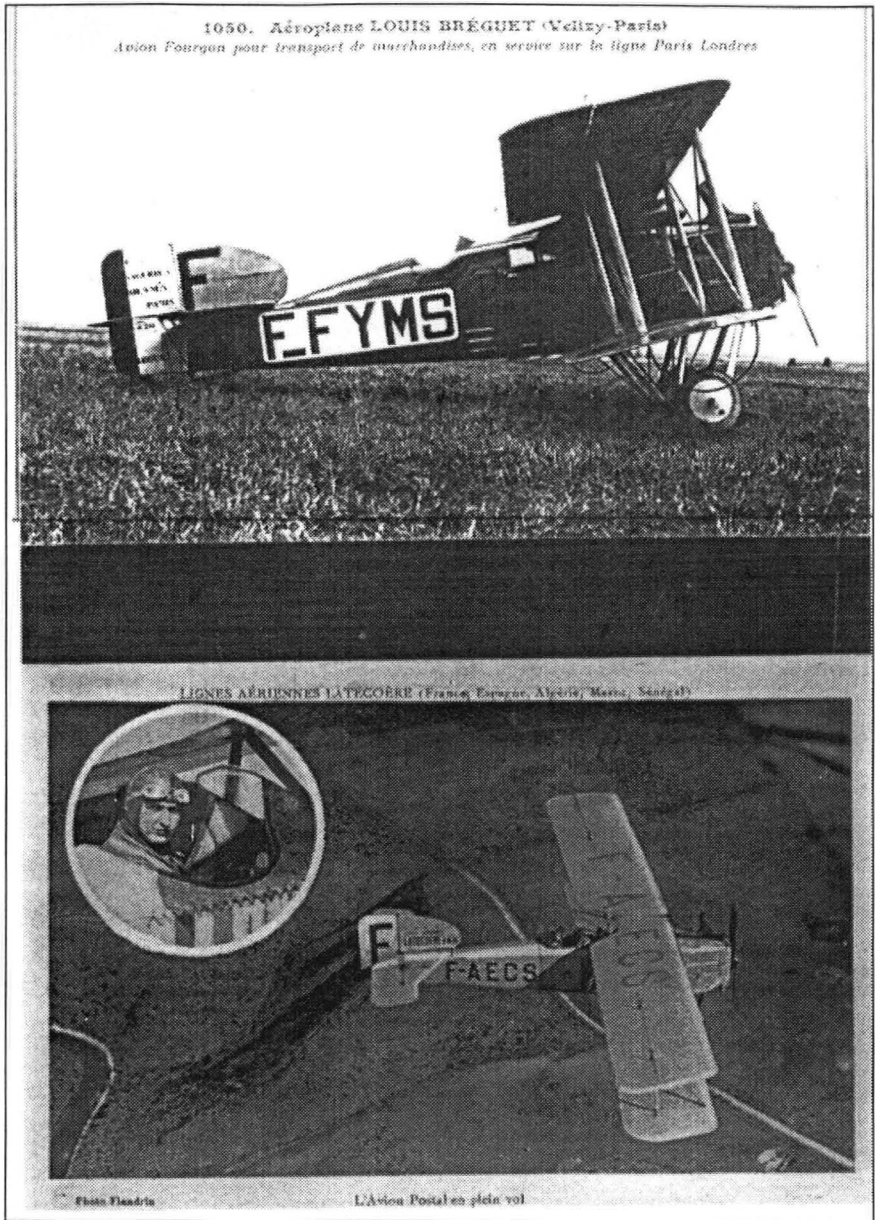


Figure 3. Bréguet aircrafts of the period.

to the coast at Oran, but limited fuel, a navigational error and hazardous weather led to a forced landing in the open desert. The aircraft suffered a burst tyre and some structural damage which forced Lemaître and Arrachart to seek help on foot; and this is where the nomads come in. After over 12 hours they en-

countered some Arabs who provided them with two camels on which they reached El Golea, some 100 miles from the aircraft, on the 26th. It was the Foreign Legion who enabled them, after 10 days' rest, to recover and repair the aircraft and with it the mail. So it was not until 10 March that the flight was resumed with a return to Villacoublay, Paris, on the 24th via Algiers, Oran, Fez, Casablanca, Alicante, Barcelona and Lyon.

This second part of the expedition covered some 8000 miles, making about 10,000 miles in all. It took 49 days to complete; the flying time was 79 hours 15 minutes plus the time taken on the Villa Cisneros - Dakar leg. I estimate this to have been about 10 hours, so the total was less than 4 days.

Yes, the cover is philatelic. But it is much more than a souvenir, I think and I am proud to have it in my collection.

I am grateful to Colin Spong for drawing my attention to the two accounts of the expedition and to John Hammonds for the details and illustration of the Bréguet aircraft.

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1. Raymond Salles, *La Poste Maritime Française; Tome III: Les Paquebots de l'Atlantique Sud, Brésil - Plata, Cote Occidentale d'Afrique*; Paris, 1963. (see the Table on page 188).
2. Robert Jackson, *The Sky Their Frontier*, Chapter 5: *Wings Over Africa*, Air Life Publishing Ltd, Shrewsbury, 1983 [11.30 AM]; and Jacques Renaud, "Raid France - Dakar," in *La Philatélie Française*, No. 451, January 1992 [11.38 AM].
3. *Guinness Book of Aircraft Records, Facts and Feats*, 6th edition; Guinness Publishing Ltd, Enfield 1992.

THE UNISSUED 60c BROWN DUVAL-TYPE POSTAGE DUE STAMP

The uninspiring and pedestrian black Duval-type (*banderolle*) postage-due stamps were reprinted, beginning late 1893, in various colors, mainly because their uniformity tended to confuse postal employees working under poor lighting conditions.

By ministerial decision of 13 August 1896, the seldom-used 60c black Duval due was suppressed, along with the 1F Duval in "Van Dyck brown" and the 75c Sage postage stamp. By inference, the presumably already printed—but not as-yet-delivered—60c brown-on-yellowish Duval due (Figure 1) was simultaneously suppressed. Their stock was subsequently destroyed.

But not quite completely. One copy exists in a sheet, with several other values, showing printed pseudo perforations, on Bristol card stock. Another, on normal paper, was reprinted for the 1900 Paris Exposition. A block of four, with SPECIMEN overprint, resides in the Musée de la Poste at Paris. And, according to an undated letter from pioneer philatelist Fernand Serrane, only one example of the 25 copies reprinted for the 1900 Paris Exposition was saved from incineration. Serrane also stated that three examples (all unused, of course) remained from the origi-



Figure 1.

nal printing(s). **But where are they now?**

This new 60c brown, printed in 1893 (as we know from its *millésimes*), was delivered, imperforate, to various Colonies (French Colonies Scott J21, Cérés Taxe 24), and remains an inexpensive stamp to this day. Though the Colonies dues are somewhat paler brown than the unissued Metropolitan ones, it would be possible for someone to perforate them and attempt to pass them off as the extremely rare genuine article. (Adapted from article by Michel Melot and Jean-François Brun in *Timbroscopie*, January 1998).
-- S. J. Luft

SLOGAN CACHETS OF FORT LAMY, CHAD

by Paul A. Larson (FCPS #2493)

Three promotional slogan cachets were recorded in use at Fort Lamy, Chad during the 1930s by our most prolific writer, Robert G. Stone (1987). Two of these cachets were illustrated and the third was mentioned but not shown. According to Stone, these rounded-corner boxed cachets were normally not struck on stamps and this type was not recorded at any other Afrique Equatoriale Française (A.E.F.) post office. In over twenty years of searching for Chad [and Ubangi-Shari] material I had not seen a single in-the-flesh example of these slogan cachets on cover, piece or a single stamp.

Then Lady Luck smiled and a friend presented me with a treasure from a bourse cover box. There on a nicely dated envelope fragment, shown at full size in Figure 1, were *four different* black Fort Lamy slogan cachets, each struck on

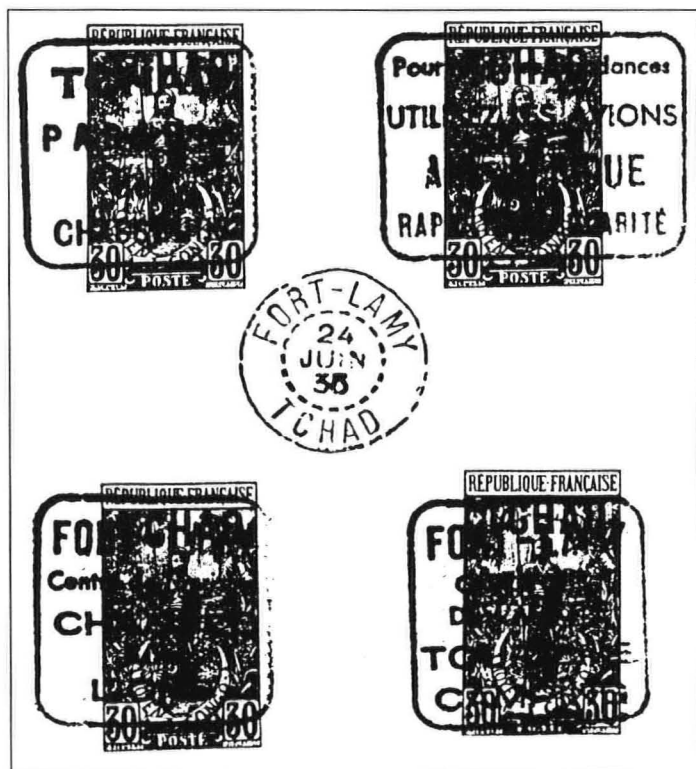


Figure 1.

30 centime rose and rose-camine stamps of 1924. A double-ring FORT LAMY / TCHAD dater documents usage of the four cachets on 24 June 1935. With the help of our editor's French linguistic talent and my daughter's skill with Macintosh scan-image editing software, the four slogan cachet images have been separated from the overprinted stamps and accurately translated into English.

These four cachets are shown individually at full size in Figures 2a - 2d. A few minor adjustments to some letters were undertaken because of the difficulty in exactly deleting the normal black TCHAD and AFRIQUE EQUATORIALE FRANÇAISE overprints along with the red stamps. Also, a few letters were slightly smoothed or reshaped to reduce the square-stepped appearance which occurred from normal pixel deletion.

The wording in the cachets will be shown first in the original French because normal ink spread and density variations may make some letters difficult to interpret exactly. An English translation follows.

Figure 2a--Original French: TCHAD / PARADIS / des CHASSEURS



Figure 2a.

English translation: *Chad -- Hunters' Paradise.*
This cachet was noted by Stone under his Figure 100a text but was not illustrated; usage recorded during 1936. Box size approximately 30mm wide x 30mm high.

Figure 2b-- French: Pour vos correspondances / UTILISEZ LES AVIONS / AIR-AFRIQUE / RAPIDITE-REGULARITE. [Note that the bar of next-to-last e of correspondances did



Figure 2b.

not print and looks like an o]

English: **For your correspondence, use Air-Afrique (airplanes), for rapidity and regularity.** This is Stone's Figure 100b. Usage given as 1930s. Box size 40mm wide x 30mm high.

Figure 2c--French: FORT-LAMY / CARREFOUR / DE L'AFRIQUE / TOURISME / CAMPING



Figure 2c.

English: **Fort-Lamy -- the Crossroads of Africa - Tourism / Camping.** Unrecorded by Stone. Box size 30mm x 30mm.

Figure 2d -- French: FORT LAMY / Centre de Tourisme / CHASSES / AUX/ LIONS.

English: **Fort Lamy -- Touristic Center -- Lion Hunting.** Stone's Figure 100a; usage during 1930s. Box size



Figure 2d.

30mm x 30mm.

Airmail from Fort Lamy is not uncommon from the mid-1930s onward. So maybe the Figure 2b cachet became redundant and was little used. Cachet Figures 2a, 2c and 2d must have been part of a planned effort to attract visitors interested in hunting and camping activities. The apparent paucity of cachet usage seems to suggest a lack of interest on the part of the postal service. Perhaps there was not yet enough economic recovery from the Depression years to induce signifi-

cant tourism to the area.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone who may have additional examples of the Fort Lamy slogan cachets in order to help better define their usage time frame.

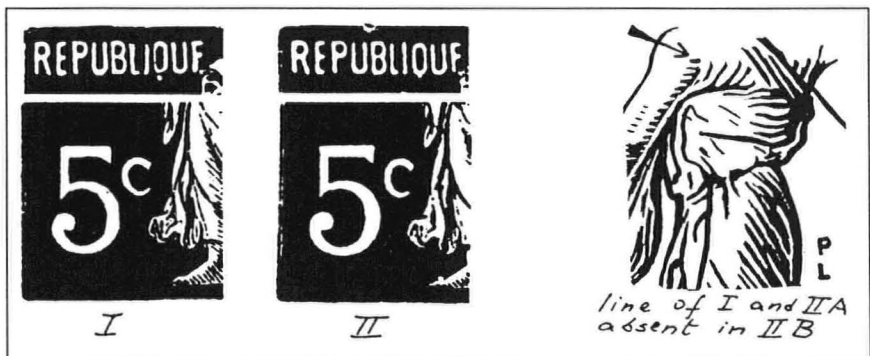
Acknowledgements: I would like to thank Alfred Kugel for finding me the fragment bearing these Fort Lamy cachets, Stan Luft for his translation assistance, and especially my daughter, Debra Hammond, who produced the excellent cachet reproductions after blowing away a multitude of unwanted background pixels.

References

1. Stone, Robert G, *The Diverse World of Postal Markings of Gabon / Congo / A.E.F.*, The France and Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc., New York, 1987.
2. CERES, *Catalogue Timbres-Poste Anciennes Colonies Françaises, T.O.M., ..., Andorre, ...*, 50th ed., Paris, 1995.

TYPES AND SUBTYPES 5c cameo Sower

Type I used for flat-plate sheet (on normal and GC papers), coil and booklet stamps, and on stamped envelopes, all in green; also for orange flat-plate sheet and coil stamps and stamped wrappers. In Type I base of **Q** of REPUBLIQUE is just a point, and right side of horizontal bar of the **5** is terminated by a large triangle. Type IIA served for green and orange booklet stamps; base of **Q** formed by a vertical bar, and horizontal bar of the **5** ends in a smaller triangle. Type IIB found only on the scarce rotary-press orange coil stamps; similar to IIA except that top shading line of upper arm (see cut) is absent. The later stamps in rose, printed only as rotary-press sheet stamps, are all in new Type III (not illustrated); the **Q** is as in II and the **c** of value differs very slightly from that of the earlier types.



PRE-DESTRUCTION DEFACING OF DEFECTIVE STAMPS

Ever since the dawn of the 20th Century—and perhaps earlier—sheets of French (and the Colonies and Offices Abroad, plus Andorra, Monaco, etc.) that were too poorly or incorrectly printed, or too off-center, or color trials or in incorrect shades or colors, or by being off-sale, were regularly destroyed. For whatever the reason, these imperfect or obsolete sheets (and booklets, coils, postal stationery, etc.) were destined for destruction by incineration, and more recently by shredding.

Prior to their destruction, they usually were defaced by various means in order to avoid or at least reduce the opportunity for pilferage. The earliest version consisted of cancellation (*annulation*) by concentric hexagons (*para-oblitérations*) (Figure 1), in use from the early 1900s to the mid-1960s. Overprinting

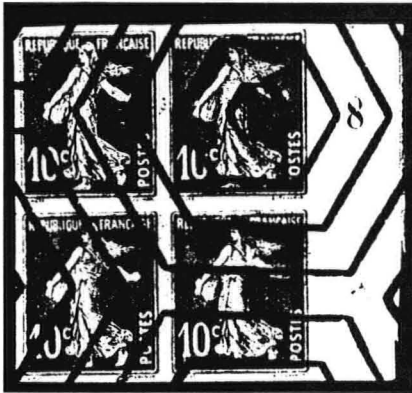


Figure 1. Imperforate 10c red cameo Sower with concentric hexagons.

“ANNULE” by means of hand-held inked rollers was another, less frequently encountered method. Some Marianne de Décaris booklets were similarly “annulled” by heavily inked bars (Figure 2).

Between 1965 and 1970, the stamp printing works employed an oversize paper punch that could hammer holes in several hundred stacked sheets, booklets (Figure 3) or stationery items with one blow. More recently (ca 1965-early 1980s) self-inking rollers of multiple open Xs (Figure 4) have been employed.

Obviously, some items slated for destruction have passed into the hands of collectors, or else we wouldn't be showing you these illustrations. But this has

been happening less and less frequently with the passage of time, and now only the Figure 1 concentric hexagons can be considered as being less than very scarce.

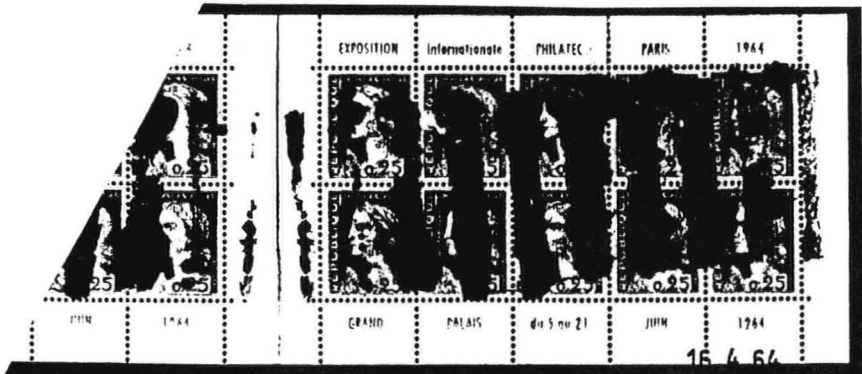


Figure 2. Marianne de Décaris booklet with rolled-on ink bars.



Figure 3. *Idem*, with punched holes.



Figure 4. *Idem*, with multiple open Xs.

It appears that, for at least the past ten years, faulty material is being shredded, pulverized, or incinerated (this last less so, in order to mitigate air pollution) without intermediate recourse to defacing methods. Or, one less collectible for the enjoyment of specialists. However, a form of pre-cancellation of sorts is still practiced, in the form of simple circles (Figure 5) applied on stamps packaged for French school children, to further their education and perhaps to create new generations of collectors.

(Adapted and modified from article by Claude Jamet in *Timbroscopie*, December 1997).

-- S. J. Luft



Figure 5. *Semi-postal precanceled by open circle (for children's packets).*

AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--39

by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

Here are two bizarre stories of German markings on French mail, one being a Baden censorship mark, the other an auxiliary marking applied in Alsace.

When I acquired a *ballon monté* with an elaborate censorship inscription dated at Carlsruhe [now Karlsruhe], capital of Baden, I wrote to the state archives there to find out more details, if possible, because I had never heard of censorship of mail by any of the South German states in the 1870 war. The answer was unequivocal, stating that

1. no one with the name signed on the front of the cover was listed as being employed by the Baden civil service;
2. the title with which the name was signed was not being used in Baden at that period;
3. there was no censorship of mail of any kind in Baden at that time.

The wonderfully complete and very legible endorsement was evidently someone's poor joke that only ruined an otherwise perfectly authentic *ballon monté*. The merchant from whom I had purchased it took it back immediately, when I explained the facts to him. Furthermore, I have not seen it offered anywhere meanwhile.

* * * * *

In *A Tale of Four Cities FCP* (N° 235), January, 1994, pp. 1-4), I illustrated the rarely seen auxiliary marking "In Schlettstadt vorgefunden" and mentioned that Gutekunst has illustrated a misspelled version of the same thing in his SPAL study XVI/III. A drawing of the correctly spelled mark is shown on page 1 of XVI/III B; on page 2, table VIII shows drawings of both the correct and the misspelled one, the latter as "Slchettstadt." XVI/III C, page 7, shows a poor picture of the correct strike, which is almost always poor. XVI/III D, page 3, shows a good picture of the misspelled marking on cover, obviously reading "In



Figure 1. The "correct misspelling" In *Slchettstad/vorgefunden* (from Gutekunst study I/IIIC, p. 3).

Slchettstad vorgefunden," (Figure 1) but the text below says "Slchettstadt." Mailed on 13 September at St. Omer, the letter finally arrived at Buchsweiler on 14 November. On page 21 of the same part, a more complete table VIII is repeated, again showing "Slchettstadt." To sum up, the double error, misplaced "l" and missing "t", was only partly corrected by Gutekunst, who must have been convinced that the originally misspelled handstamp had to have a [correct] "t" at the end of the town's name, even though the actual examples he showed clearly lack the final "t".

This error in the spelling of the error has been repeated by writers ever since. In preparation for a book on smuggled and censored mail of 1870, I have assembled my photocopied material of the Schlettstadt markings and found that the misspelled one occurs on at least two other known covers, one mailed from Charleville on 9 August to Strasbourg, the other from Ville-d'Avray on 11 August via Strasbourg and Basel (16 November) to Vevey (17 November). The copies, sent to me by Raymond Pittier and Jean Kauffmann, respectively, are clear and show sharp, complete imprints of the cachet, exactly as Gutekunst showed it, saying "Slchettstad."

In this case, the error was clearly unintended. I should have propagated it

too, had I not been stopped from doing so by comparing the three strikes in some detail. The experience reminded me of a favorite trick used by fakers, who deliberately try to draw people's attention away from the faked spot by presenting a beautiful stamp or postmark, an elaborate endorsement, or whatever it is that will keep people from closely inspecting the remainder of the piece they are examining.

I should not have discovered the faked censorship inscription, had I not been curious about finding out more about it. It never occurred to me to suspect it. And I took Gutekunst's word for the spelling of Schlettstadt on the auxiliary cachet error until I closely inspected three strikes of it.

Moral: Don't be misled by unusual or pretty items. Study them in detail and try to find out what makes them tick. You may be pleasantly surprised by what you find out; or perhaps your findings will save you a bundle.

THE CARNET CORNER by Bob Seeke (FCPS #1334)

The issuance last year of the new definitive stamp series "Marianne du 14 Juillet" (commonly called the Luquet issue, after the designer) meant that new



Figure 1.

Sometimes things don't go right when printing stamps. That's when we get to look for, and collect, errors, freaks and oddities. The items in the accompanying illustrations are examples of these *gaffes*.

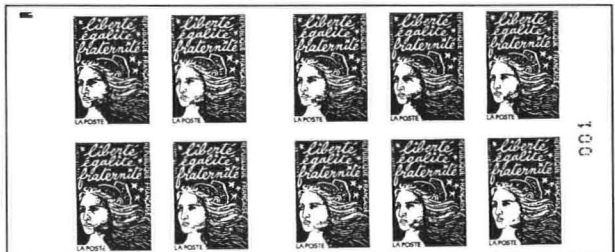


Figure 2.

booklets would be issued in addition to sheet and coil stamps. Booklets of Luquet stamps follow the same format as the earlier Briat stamps, which they replaced: unfolded booklets of 10 and 20 stamps, unfolded booklets of 10 stamps sold in vending machines (type Sagem), and closed booklets consisting of six 3.00 franc and two 1.00 franc stamps (type Sterner). The 3.00 franc stamps in all of these booklets are non-denominated.

These are open booklets of 10 sold over-the-counter at post offices. Apparently, someone wasn't paying attention when it came time to put the number of the press that printed the booklets on the printing plate. It may be difficult to see, but in Figure 1, the "RG" of RGR-2 is at the top of one booklet, while the remainder, "R-2", is at the bottom of the adjacent booklet. Similarly, in Figure 2, only the first "R" of RGR-2 appears at the top of the booklet. The bar in the selva-ge of the lower booklet of Figure 1 is the "*repère électronique*," and the 3-digit numbers in the opposite selva-ge are the accounting numbers. These booklets are shipped to the post offices in pads of 100, numbered 001 to 100. While not especially valuable, such oddities do make fine additions to a booklet collection.

Until next time, *bonne philatélie*.

THE TWO UNISSUED LAUREATED EMPIRE STAMPS

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

In two short articles in *Timbrologie* for July-August 1997, Michel Melot and Jean-François Brun write on what is currently known about the only two unissued stamps in the laureated Napoleon design. It may be of service to our readers to abstract their findings here, with some general additions from the earlier literature.

In order of ascending face value, the first of the two is the 5c value, shown here in Figure 1. It exists only as rare essays, one being black on thin (China)



Figure 1.

paper, the other blue with a white circle surrounding the medallion (NE4 and NE4a), respectively, in the *Marianne* 1984-1985 Catalogue, page I-76.

According to Melot and Brun, the printing plates of this stamp were already being assembled by 16 October 1870¹ at the Paris stamp printing works. On 30 September, Hulot (Director of the stamp printing works) had offered to the government to reprint various values, including a 5c—presumably the pre-laureated green stamp. The new Director of Posts, Rampont, accepted the proposal on 8 October and asked Hulot to start working with the 5c value.

But by this time the decision was made to reuse the Republican Cérés design (for what we now call the Siege issue) instead of Napoleon III's effigy, and the 5c Lauré descended into almost total philatelic obscurity.

In sharp contrast to the 5c Lauré, the 10c Lauré with a large blue 10 overprint in the center (Scott 49, Yvert 34) (Figure 2) is (1) very well known by collectors, even if very few of us own an example, (2) is relatively "common" inasmuch as most major French auctions offer at least one copy—oftentimes genuine, and (3) no trace of any



Figure 2.

official documentation regarding the overprinting has ever been found in any archive.

Late usage on mail is known and is mostly or entirely philatelically inspired. Figure 3 shows two copies plus a 5c Sage making up the 25c UPU rate on a 1893



Figure 3.

letter to Switzerland. It bears a certificate of authenticity from a well-known European expert. But, because the overprinted stamps were unissued the letter should have been taxed for the unpaid 20c—and wasn't—which suggests connivance by one or more friendly postal clerks.

Fake overprints exist. In the originals, the base and upper slant of the **1** are thin and regular, the **0** is well-rounded, commonly open at the top; oftentimes the typographic ink used is visible from the back of the stamp.

What did we know about this 10 on 10c overprint prior to the appearance of the Melot-Brun article? Bertrand stated that some three million 10c bistre stamps were overprinted for use on New Years cards, presumably not before September 1871 inasmuch as that rate was raised to 10c on 1 September. The large blue overprint was designed to distinguish the stamp from the new 15c Cérés, also in bistre, and also to distinguish it from those 10c Laurés used earlier in 1871 by the Communards [though why consider this at all?]. Most overprinted stamps were later destroyed by burning. Dangerous counterfeits exist.

Kremer essentially paraphrases Bertrand, but at least he writes in English.

According to Fromaigeat, the 10 was overprinted mainly on fine impressions of the Type II 10c Lauré at some unknown date, but when and by whom? A not inconsiderable quantity is stored at the Musée de la Poste, which therefore confers upon them a certain degree of legitimacy.

Finally, Melot and Brun accept as the most plausible reasons for its being: (1) to avoid any confusion with the new 15c Cérés, and (2) to deface the effigy of the former emperor.

¹Paris had then been under siege for four weeks and Napoleon III's Empire had been replaced by a Republic for an even longer period.

REFERENCES

Gustave Bertrand, *Mémorial Philatélique, v. VI, La France.....1849 à 1900*, pp. 144-145, 1948.

Dr. Jacques Fromageat, "Histoire des Timbres de l'Empire," Chap. 62, *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, October 1970.

Brainerd Kramer, *French Philatelic Facts*; Billig's Philatelic Handbook, v. 29, p. 137.

Michel Melot and J.-F. Brun, "La saga des non émis de France"; *Timbroscopie*, July-August 1997.

NOTES REGARDING OUR COVER

Upper left: sheet-bottom block of four of the 1,00F olive Liberté, with major perforation shift (offered at 550Fr). Upper right: cover of booklet of ten 2,20F red Liberté stamps, showing "inebriated" text (offered at 450Fr). Bottom: open-face booklet of ten of the 2,20F red Liberté stamps, containing only five stamps, all inperforate at top; upper row of stamps left unprinted, though positioning marks do appear. A true rarity, offered at 30,000Fr! All three items are from Pascal Marziano's first (Spring 1998) net-price sale. Who says that collecting modern regular issues can't be made interesting and challenging?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS REGARDING CODE POSTAL BOOKLETS

by B. Hellebrekers (FCPS #1612)

I should like to add to Bob Seeke's note on the "Code Postal" booklets (N° 252, April 1998, pp. 46-47). These booklets, which started to appear late 1974, were eagerly collected around 1975-1976 but apparently interest has dwindled since then. At the time all the philatelic monthlies in France carried articles and gave lists. Unfortunately, due to space problems, I had to throw out most of my monthly magazines and the relevant articles are not among my clippings. The book by Jean Dumont, *Essai de nomenclature des étiquettes des services postaux et télégraphiques de France 1868-1983* mentions them (and the hype) on page 156, but he gives no listing.

The list shown below is based on what I've preserved. The only items I know to be missing are the Clermont-Ferrand booklets with hyphen, and it is fair to assume that they were in all other respects similar to the definitive issue. At the time they were supposed to be rare. The same goes for **St** Etienne, the abbreviated form, and for Paris **16**. These are considered errors. The Orléans 45100 is supposed to be rare too (due to non-distribution?). Apparently, there were differences in paper too; I have Nantes 44200 on both normal paper and on *papier azurant*.

The colours may vary slightly, but I have not found any brownish reds. Bob's mauve is presumable my purple. As the exact shade was probably unimportant, these booklets not having any monetary value for the Posts, the colors I have indicated as blue green and light blue may well have been intended as one shade. I think that, from the list, different conclusions may be drawn concerning rarity, but I don't believe that any colour is really rare.

	purple	orange	blue green	bright green	light blue
NICE	06000	06100	06200	06300	
TOULOUSE	31300	31500	31200	31000	31400
BORDEAUX	33000	33200		33300	33100/33800
RENNES	35100			35000	
TOURS	37000	37200		37100	
GRENOBLE	38000			38100	
ST ETIENNE	42100			42000	
SAINT ETIENNE	42100			42000	
NANTES	44000	44300	44200	44100	
ORLEANS	45000			45100	
NANCY	54000			54100	
DUNKERQUE	59240	59640		59140	
CLERMONT-FERRAND*					
CLERMONT-FERRAND	63000			63100	
STRASBOURG	67000	67200		67100	
MULHOUSE	68100			68200	
LE MANS	72000			72100	
PARIS 16	75016			75116	
PARIS	75016			75116	
ROUEN	76000			76100	
LE HAVRE	76600	76610		76620	
TOULON	83100			83200	83000
DRAGUIGNAN		83300			
LIMOGES	87000			87100	

MEMBERS' APPEALS

OFFER: Approval selections of French FDC's, special postmarks, stamps on cover, France and TOM cancellations, military cancellations (army, navy, air force), postal stationery. Also military insignia and medals. Will trade or sell. Mike Troubetzkoy, 3437 Taraval St., San Francisco, CA 94116. E-mail Maandmi 2 @ aol.com. (Mb. #1843).

OFFER: "Code Postal" booklets to collectors in the U.S. I am primarily a postal stationery collector and would welcome used French stationery in return. B. Hellebrekers, P.O. Box 779, NL-Am stelveen, Netherlands. (Mb. #1612).

AIRMAILS WANTED: Semiofficial airmail and air meet stamps, labels, and covers wanted by a collector. I am especially interested in older (pre-1941) France and French Community but am also looking for worldwide material. Will reply to all responses, John H. Bloor, 8727 E. Kettle Pl., Englewood, CO 80112-2710. E-mail bloorj@concentric.net. (Mb. #2880).

WANTED: Perfins of France on and off cover, in small or large quantities. Will buy or trade. Gilbert Loisel, 13 rue des Sources, Grand au, F-89500 Villeneuve-sur-Yonne, France. (Mb. #877).

SELLING: Stamps of France and other European countries, from 35% of Scott Cat. Also MNH collections. Write to Eugene Meyer, 3707 Sun Eagle Lane, Bradenton, FL 34210. (Mb. #2911).

WE GET LETTERS...

Re: "Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories—35" by Ernst M. Cohn, in N° 252 (vol. 54, N° 2, April 1998: The censor mark "Oesterreichischer Zensurstelle / S.Z." (~30mm single circle, normally struck in violet) is not a World War I era marking but a rather ubiquitous one from post-WWII Austria. To be precise, it is from the Soviet Zone of Austria and I have examples of its use in the 1946-1948 period. Similar markings exist with "Z.1", "W.N." and "W." at the bottom of the circle (also "W.N." with the "N." removed). In addition, similar markings exist with "Allierte Zensurstelle" at the top. Some form of these censor marks were used until 1953. It was common practice in the Soviet Zone for both the envelope and the contents to be marked with the same censor handstamp. There are even cases where envelopes sent without contents have such censor marks on the inside of the cover.

--Jay T. Carrigan

Mr. Cohn replies: Many thanks for your better explanation of how Austrian censorship disfigured a ballon monté. I thought I could eliminate Austria from all consideration as concerns WWII but had neglected to consider the postwar situation. Thank you for correcting my conclusion.

SOME SHOW REPORTS

- WISCOPEX '98 (Appleton, Wisc., April): Gold medal to Barbara Mueller for her one-frame exhibit on Jefferson, Wisconsin.
- The Plymouth Show '98 (Plymouth, Mich., April): Gold medals to Paul Larsen (German Carolines) and Roger Quinby (Russian used in Finland).
- ISRAEL 98 (Tel Aviv, May): Large Gold medal to Steve Walske; Gold medal to Steve Washburne; Large Vermeil medal to Peter Smith; titles of exhibits not announced, nor were recipients of Vermeil- and -below medals.
- 71st Congress of French Philatelic Associations (Dunkirk, May-June): Gold medal to Alain Millet for an exhibit on the early posts of Mayotte and Nossi-Bé.
- Philatelic Show '98 (Boxborough, Mass., May): Gold medals to Dave Herendeen and to Paul Larsen for their exhibits on, respectively, British Empire Dues and German Caroline Islands; Vermeil medal to Paul Larsen for early Leeward Islands.
- Filatelic Fiesta '98 (San Jose, Calif., June): Reserve Grand Award and Gold medal to Tom Siddens for "French Stamp Cancellations of the Classic Period 1849-1876."
- JUVALUX 98 (Luxembourg, June): Grand Prix International and Large Gold medal to Steve Walske for "Balloon Mail of the 1870-1871 Siege of Paris." Quite possibly the first international Grand Prix awarded to an F&C exhibit shown by one of our members! Congratulations, Steve!
- A number of other topnotch French area exhibits went on display this past June, and I don't believe that any of the exhibitors belong to our Society. They are: "Cuba: The British and French Post Offices (Fernando Iglesias - NAPEX '98 Gold)", "French and British Aviation and Airmail Pioneers, 1870-1935" (Dieter Bortfeldt - NAPEX '98 Vermeil), "French Activities in the Arctic 1925-1970" (Serge Kahn - NAPEX '98 Vermeil), and "Latin American Air Mail Service - French Initiatives 1920-1935" (Robert Spooner - SCOPEX '98 Gold and Reserve Grand). We hope they'll be on view again quite soon, and that their owners learn about our Society, for our benefit and theirs.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- A. 98.1.** The explanation for the routing of this most interesting cover, I think, is straightforward. The writer was aboard the *Maranhao* when he wrote, and posted the letter at the on-board post office. French stamps were used because the ship was of French registry and at sea. (If the ship had been in port, stamps of the port of call could have been used, according to UPU convention). The ship was outbound, so the postal clerk applied the out-

bound postmark, Bordeaux à Loango, dated 21 Jan 1900. The letter, addressed to France, was routinely offloaded at an appropriate port of call, to be transferred to a homeward-bound ship. Tenerife, in the Canary Islands, would have been a logical choice, at this port was a busy crossroads, with ships of many nationalities routinely calling there. The cover was probably transferred to the first ship in port that was proceeding directly (without intermediate ports of call) back to Europe. In this case the ship was British, with a home port of Liverpool, where the letter was stamped 1 Feb 1900, then forwarded to Lyon, where it was received two days later. The Liverpool mark was applied as a matter of routine, serving to indicate the routing of the cover and that the proper postage had been paid. Fast? Yes indeed, perhaps even faster than some mail today. (MPB, Jr.)

RANDOM EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Elsewhere in this number, under "Announcements and News," I mention that French stamps (but not those for the DOM-TOMs), as we know them today, will be demonetized after 30 June 2002. Yes, that's still a long way off (and only if we all survive the Y2K "crisis"...), but how might that affect the collecting of French stamps? Probably by not very much. A number of French stamps have been demonetized in earlier years, but that does not seem to have either increased or decreased their value to collectors nor collector interest in those issues. I wouldn't expect any wholesale drop in French collecting. However, there may be a diminution in the number of people collecting post-2001 new issues, unless perhaps they continue to be "very French" in their subject matter. On the other hand, there may be a positive aspect to all this upcoming brouhaha: the bivalued (in francs and in euros) issues of the relatively short 1999-2001 period could make a very interesting specialty and might even bring in a "flood" of new collectors. A voir!

At this time, we understand that La Poste is considering buying back (at face value) all(?) pre-2002 French stamps. This unusual action will presumably occur only between 2 January and 30 June 2002. Keep watching this space!

Apparently not many members realize that the Members' Appeals are **free**. Send your offers and your needs to the Editor. Just keep them brief, to the point, and not too frequent. Please.

The "For the Record" feature in this number is far richer than usual. That's because I've been dipping into the pile of unread journals and tearsheets in search of "goodies" possibly worth passing along. As a result of all this reading, or at least persuing, I've had even less time of late to prepare articles. And at this same time, our backlog of unpublished articles is beginning to thin out. Contributed articles and shorter pieces are being solicited from you all, and the bright side is that there should be less lag time between acceptance and actual publication than in recent years.

If anyone attempted to reach me via Fax, as per page 66 of the July 1998 number, my apologies are herewith extended. Faxing via the telephone line didn't work at all, nor did adding a separate line. We'll try again at some later time, with new software. In the meantime, just forget about faxing me!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- > Many French dealers are complaining about the high prices being asked by La Poste for stands at PHILEXFRANCE 99. Charges currently run from a minimum of 26,000Fr (US\$4420) to as much as 150,000Fr (US \$25,500), according to size and location. These prices don't seem to bother foreign dealers quite as much.
- > Mayotte continues to make philatelic news. It appears that when Mayotte refused to join the other newly independent Comoro Islands, it bisected and even quartered several Comoros stamp values, while awaiting the arrival of French stamps. Does anyone know of the status, legitimacy, and tariff rates followed, for any such covers that may have appeared in the mails or in the philatelic marketplace?
- > We haven't brought up auction realizations, of varying degrees of significance, in quite a while. Perhaps this is a good time and place to do so:

A *coin daté* block of four of the 0,25 Marianne de Décaris, with the rare 1965 date, sold for an astounding 4060Fr in P. Robin's May 1998 (28th) auction sale. In that same sale, an imperforate(?) block of four of the 10F Palais du Luxembourg, printed on cloth (Figure 1) sold for 8670Fr. But a *coin daté*



Figure 1.

block of four of the May 1932 rotary press printing of the 75c lined Sower had no takers at a minimum bid of 10,000Fr.

An extremely(?) modern error, a mint sheet-corner copy of the 4,40F Chateau de Plessis-Bourré (issued May 1997), lacking all inscriptions including face value (Figure 2), went

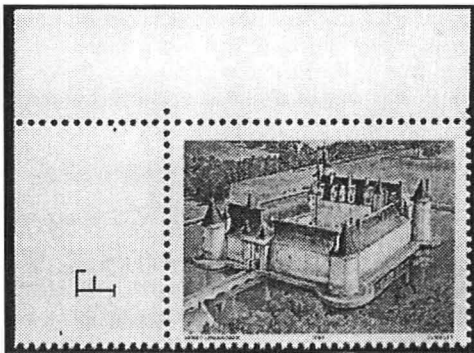


Figure 2.

for a incredible 50,010Fr. A mint set of the 1944-1954 parcel post stamps (*Yvert Colis Postaux et autres 1-30*) sold for 12,000Fr. Mint, first issued complete of French Andorra sold for 9,000Fr. Cameroun's 1939 New York World's Fair 2F25, in a mint block of 9 lacking several country names and value inscriptions, sold for 10,010Fr. New Caledonia Scott 117a var. (*Yvert 105e var.*), the inverted, **wide-spaced** 05 to 15c Group Type, realized 18,370Fr.

Just a few examples to show that scarce and unusual 20th Century items generally continue to do very well.

- In Roumet's 450th (May 1998) auction sale, a slightly faulty (disturbed gum, one perforation tooth missing) block of four of the 5c green on blue Empire (Scott 24, *Yvert 35*) was hammered down for an astonishing 42,009Fr (Lot 402). Apparently two or more "deep pockets" "had to have it."
- In the planning stage, and to appear some time in 1999, are "mixed value" stamps that will have face values expressed both in Francs and in Euros. The objectives are (1) to familiarize a recalcitrant French public with the upcoming euro, and (2) to ensure that such stamps will retain their franking value and would not be immediately demonetized that fateful January First of 2002, when the French franc (and many other European currencies) will cease to exist. We've also learned that stamps (and money) denominated in francs will not be accepted on mail--and therefore will be considered as having been demonetized--after 30 June 2002, with one significant exception: that of the non-denominated permanent-value stamp. What appears likely at this time is that, unlike currency, each country will continue to issue its own postage stamps (albeit denominated in euros). Therefore, there should be no compelling reason for collectors of France to cease collecting new issues after 2001.
- After a lapse of several years, a commemorative, or at least a large-size postage stamp is to be issued 27 (28) September for use in Ecoplis (formerly "slow mail" and printed matter). The current denomination stands at 2,70F for this service's first weight band. The last such stamps apparently was the 2,00F protected duck of the Nature series, issued 6 (8) February 1993. [See *New Issues and Withdrawals*, p. 118].
- Among the invited speakers at the Luxembourg 98 Symposium on Postal History, held in June during JUVALLUX 98, were: B. Berkinshaw-Smith ("Aspects of French Maritime Posts, origins to 1910"), Dick Winter ("Transatlantic Mail USA-France") and Steve Walske ("Postal History of the Franco-Prussian War").
- The favorite French stamp of 1997, as picked by over 103,000 collectors on ballots furnished by the *Service National des Timbres-poste et de la Philatélie* (SNTP), is the elongate stamp issued 17-20 May 1997 for the Congress of the Federation of French Philatelic Associations, meeting at Versailles.



- Our member, Dr. J. F. Gibot, has published a 36-page study, *Autour de 1848* (Supplement to N° 293 of *Feuilles Marcophiles*, 1998) on his specialty, the

postal history of the 1848 Paris insurrections. We expect to have it reviewed in a forthcoming number of this Journal.

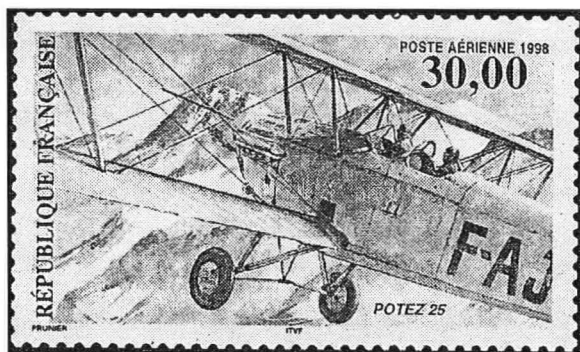
- The o,10 Liberté (Scott 1784, Yvert 2179) has been found printed on laid paper. Supposedly only one sheet was produced. A Paris dealer is offering mint singles for 400Fr, more for sheet-margin copies.
- We have been shown very skillfully made F.M. overprints on used early 20th Century stamps. The overprints are in red. Because there has been nothing published in the philatelic literature of the past 90-plus years regarding any legitimate printing of F.M. overprints in any color other than black, we must conclude that red F.M.s are the personal creations of private individuals.
- Alan McKanna has been honored by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, which named him an honorary life member.
- Our member, Laurence H. Lambert, specialist in Algeria, is publishing a series of illustrations of Algerian cancellations in the *Bulletin de la Société PHIL-EA*. Twenty six pages (with 20 illustrations per page) have been published to date, and Larry expects the project will run to a total of nearly 200 pages and close to 4,000 illustrations.

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 253, July 1998, p. 87)

France

- May: prestamped envelope, without face value, for international use; 4 (6) July: 3,00F Chateau de Crussol (Ardèche);
- 13 (15) July: 30F Potez 25 plane airmail stamp; also in sheetlets of ten stamps at 300F; sheetlets of ten stamps at 200F of the 20F Breguet XIV airmail that was issued November 1997;
- late August (?): Flowers precancels 1,87F and 2,18F [not a rate change];
- 5 (7) September: 4,40F poet Stéphane Mallarmé (1842-1898);
- 12 (14) September: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (depicting his "The Little Prince") sheetlet of five 3,00F stamps, sold for 25F, the extra 10F benefitting PHILEX-FRANCE 99; 3,00F Aéro-Club de France; 3,00F Imperial Palace (Beijing) and 4,90F the Louvre [joint issues with Mainland China];
- 19 (21) September: 4,40F Collégiale de Mantes-la-Jolie (Yvelines); 4,50F Paris Opera-Palais Garnier;
- 27 (28) September: Horses (Nature Series): 2,70F, 3,00F, 3,00F, 4:50F.



Withdrawals: 12 June [additions and corrections for previous number]: all six stamps previously listed for withdrawal on 10 April; 10 July: 3,00F + o,60F 1997 Red Cross stamps and booklet; 3,00F

Protection of abused children; 3,00F Marshal Leclerc; 14 August: 4,40F Moutier d'Ahun Abbey; 3,00F Michel Debré; 3,00F National Assembly; 3,00F Mediator of the Republic; Stamp Day 1998 semi-postals and booklet; 4,50F Abbé Franz Stock.

Andorra

- 8 June: 3,00F World Cup soccer;
- 20 (22) June: 3,00F Music Festival [EUROPA];
- 4 (6) July: 5,00F EXPO '98 [Lisbon, Portugal world fair];
- 19 September: 4,50F Chalice of the Maison des Vallées.

Withdrawals: June(?): 4,50F flour mill; 14 August: 3,00F Monaco Int. Philatelic Expo.

French Polynesia

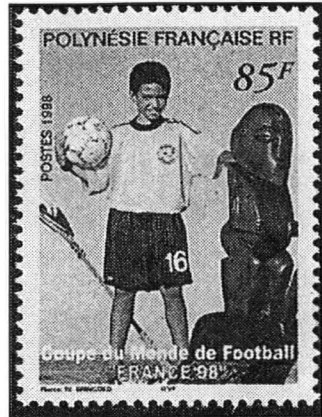
- 9 April: 90F aerogramme;
- 7 June: 1000F 150th Birth Anniv. of Gauguin (+ label);
- 10 June: 85F World Cup soccer;
- 16 July: Festival of Flower and Shell Garlands 55F, 65F, 70F, 80F

Mayotte

- 15 April: 30F booklet of ten non-denominated Marianne de Luquet stamps overprinted MAYOTTE, with new cover design [see N° 253, July 1998, p. 86, for design];
- 1 June: 3,00F Children's carnival; 3,80F interport ferry The Barge.

Monaco

- 6 May: 3,00F Sainte Devote stained-glass window [EUROPA 98]; 7,00F 150th Birth Anniv. of Albert I; 3,90F Birth Cent. of Joseph Kessel; 10F Death



Cent. of Charles Garnier; 3,00F European Convention of Junior Chambers of Commerce, Monte Carlo; 10F World Music Awards; 2,70F EXPO '98 [Lisbon World Fair];

- 20 May: 3,00F Formula 3000 Grand Prix;
- 31 May: 3,00F National Festivals [EUROPA 98].

Withdrawals: 25 May: Atlanta Olympic Games set; Museum of Stamps and Money set of two; Monaco of Yesteryear set; 4,00F Exotic Garden; 2,70F Seal of the Prince; 6,00F Int. Philatelic Expo.; 7,00F Fight against Drugs; 3,00F Automobile Club of Monaco; 3,00F 21st Circus Festival; 3,00F Yacht Club of Monaco; 4,60F Monaco Country Club; 3,80F Int. Bouquet competition; 4,40F 60th Monaco Dog Show; 4,90F 37th Monaco TV Festival; 5,00F vegetables.

New Caledonia

- 15 May: 405F 150th Birth Anniv. of Gauguin;
- 16 June: Tjibaou Cultural Center: 30F, 70F, 70F, 105F;
- 21 July: 130F 150th Anniv. of Abolition of Slavery in French colonies.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 8 April: booklet of ten self-adhesive, non-denominated Marianne de Luquet stamps overprinted ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON [see N° 253, July 1998, p. 86 for cover design];



- 6 (11) April (or May?): 10F white-headed eagle;
- 18 May: 3,00F PHILEXFRANCE 99 stamp of France [depicted in N° 252, April 1998, p. 53] overprinted ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON;
- 8 (13) July: Typical local house, four at 3,00F, set-tenant.

Wallis

&

Futuna

- 26 May: 50F and 52F fishermen of the lagoon;

- 10 June: 80F World Cup soccer;
- 21 July: Wallis insects: 36F dragonfly and 40F cicada.



FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from #253, July 1998, p. 89)

- **766.)** Less than five copies are known to exist (thus far) of the 4th (damaged) state of the 25c perforated Cérés (Type III), plate position 141A7 (see Figure 1), according to Michel Melot (*Timbroscopie*, N° 156, 1998). The damage to the lower left portion of the stamp is extremely obvious, but this variety doesn't seem to have been known to Suarnet, in whose pioneering work, *Les Variétés des Timbres de France de 1849 à nos jours* (1964), the damage is neither described nor illustrated. Plate 7 was used in printing the 25c value from mid-August to late November 1874, but the damaged 4th state should date from at least late October 1874, at the earliest. Used examples were used probably early in 1875.



Figure 1.

- **767.)** Lot 1277 of the May 1998 Boule/Monaco Collections' 54th auction sale shows two 15c blue Sage stamps on an envelope, privately by a two-line LE DIRECTEUR DE LA SA/DES PAPETERIES, struck twice. According to the late description, this was a rarely seen or used but quite legitimate means of bypassing the government's postal monopoly (directive of 27 Prairial, Year 9; confirmed by the courts 3 December 1843 and again 24 September 1874) whereby mail could be transported via the sender's household help(!). Offered at 2000Fr; no bids.
- **768.)** Another unusual 15c Sage item. Lot 2681 of Roumet's 451st auction sale (June 1998) consists of an unused horizontal pair of the 15c blue Sage (Type IID) on pelure paper, with each stamp overprinted **Authentique** in red. Such stamps apparently were distributed to postmasters for the purpose of comparing them with counterfeits then in circulation.
- **769.)** Landslides in the Marrakesh region of Morocco in 1930 cut off Marrakesh from villages and army posts to the south. As a result, French mil-

itary mail was carried, in the region, by air in March 1930, then again and in greater volume between December 1931 and May 1932 (and later), by the 37th Aviation Group. The various airstrip localities used boxed or unboxed 3-line rectangular handstamps as departure marks (Figure 2). [From note by J. Benezra in *Le Rekkas*, #18, 1998].

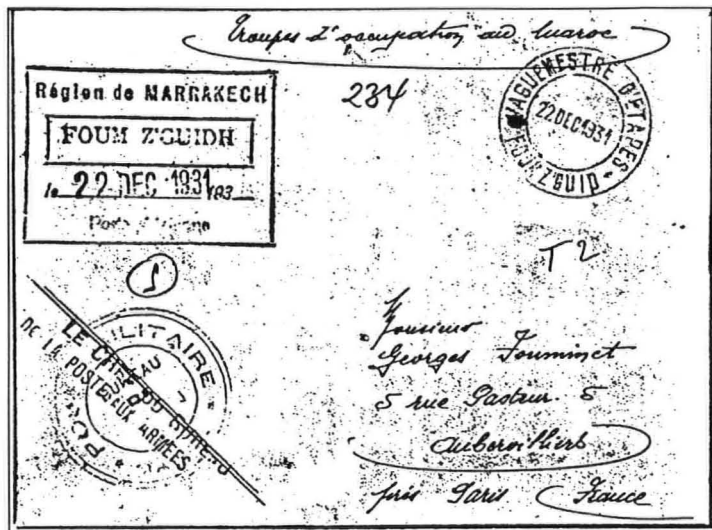


Figure 2.
Cover flown
22 December
1931 from
Foum
Z'Guidh to
Marrakesh on
22 December
1931, then
forwarded to
France.

- > **770.**) In the waning months of World War II, the Japanese made one final effort at territorial expansion by taking over French Indo-China (9 March 1945) and disarming and interning the Vichy French garrisons. A few thousand French troops and civilians (the troops being mainly Indo-Chinese) took refuge in adjoining southwestern China where they were interned in various Yunnan localities along and near the Hanoi-Kunming rail line. Late in 1945 they were regrouped and rearmed under then Brig. Gen. Salan, and by agreement with China and the American Red Cross, were brought back (January-February 1946) to Indo-China.

Mail from these interned servicemen is extremely rare. Two letters from China to France are known, dated 10 September and 1 November 1945. They bear mute Postes aux Armées date stamps of 27 October and 11 November 1945, respectively. Both backs show a large, 72x33mm double-line purple rectangular cachet reading TROUPES FRANÇAISES/EN CHINE/—/CONTROLE AU DEPART. (J. F. Berthier, *Les Troupes Françaises en Chine en 1945*; Coll. Phil. et Marco.; N° 118, 1998).

- > **771.**) The 50F green "Plane over Paris" airmail (Scott C14, Yvert Avion 14), too similar in color to the issued 85c value, was itself issued only because over 400 examples of it had been inadvertently sent to UPU headquarters in Switzerland at the end of January 1936. Before the French authorities got wind of this *faux pas*, the samples had already received worldwide distribution. Consequently, and to avoid speculation, it was decided to issue the stamp after all. The 50F green thus appeared on 30 July 1936, a scant 20 days after the issuance of the other 50F airmail, the larger one in blue and rose (Sc C15, Yv Avion 15). Only 118,000 were sold of the 50F green, out of 500,000 printed. (From Michel Melot, in *Timbroscopie*, N° 151, November 1997).
- > **772.**) Jean-Luc Trassaert (*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, N° 1704, January 1998) points out something about the 0,20 Sower of Piel, of 1960, that we should

have noticed long ago. That the Type II of coil stamps (parasitic points between the **o** and the **2** are absent) is also to be found in positions 1, 49, 60 and 99 of sheet-stamp panes. Thus, it is present (position 99) in every *coin daté* block. Figure 3 shows the parasitic points of Type I—found in 96 percent of sheet stamps albeit not always well defined.

- 773.) Our member, the retired naval captain Arnaud de La Mettrie continues to offer elegant explanations for the most ordinary and banal appearing covers of the Classics era. In *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, N° 527, (March 1998), he explains why certain covers (apparently very few of which have survived) of the early 1870s lack postage stamps but were evidently prepaid at the post office, as indicated by a boxed P.P. (Postpaid) handstamp (Figure 4). Reasons for being “stampless” include lack of postage stamps at the post office because of the recent 1870-1871 War, or a stamp had once been affixed but had somehow fallen off during transit.



Figure 3. *o,20 Sower of Piel*; the two distinguishing blue dots of Type I between the **o** and the **2**.



Figure 4. Saumur, 20 February 1871, in unoccupied zone but apparently un-supplied with postage stamps; boxed P.P. denotes prepayment of the 20c postage.

- 774.) Claude Jamet, associate editor of *Timbroscopie*, reports in N° 158 (June 1998) on the discovery of a second type of the red permanent-value Marianne de Briat. This new Type II is found only on booklets of 20 stamps (sold for 60Fr) that were vended from La Poste's automatic banknote disbursing machines. Only about 100,000 of these booklets were printed; probably few were put to use, and used stamps should be quite scarce.

In Type II, a horizontal line is present along the entire base of the stamp, whereas it is absent below the central third of the stamp in Type I (Figure 5). In addition, the diagonal lines forming the background of the lower portion of this central third are thinner, closer together and less distinct in Type II than in Type I.

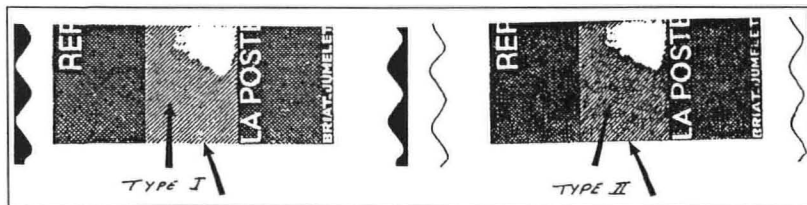


Figure 5.

REVIEWS

G. P. Cuny and J. C. Delwaille, *Les timbres à date manuels de la recette principale de Paris de Mars 1876 à nos jours* ("The dated handstamps of the main post office at Paris from March 1876 to our days"). 1998, *Les Feuilles Marcophiles* (supplement to No. 292), 8¼x11¾", 72 pages, softbound, saddle stitched, many ills., French F 80, from the Union Marcophile, 47 rue de Maubeuge, F 75009 Paris, France.

With hardly any text, this highly concise book contains the admittedly incomplete list and illustrations of all types of handstruck postmarks, used at the main post office of Paris since 1876, that were known to the authors at the time they compiled their manuscript. Unless it was overlooked, the famous red PARIS SC of Paris Siege fame had disappeared by 1876; but the much less frequent (on Siege mail) blue PARIS ETRANGER was later used in several variants, sometimes also in black and more rarely in red as well.

A passing knowledge of French should suffice for the sparse text. Illustrations, paper, and printing are first-rate. Recommended for Paris postmark collectors and for those who are curious as to how many and what kind of postmarks a country's No. 1 post office might have a use for. --E. M. Cohn

Marino Carnévalé-Mauzan, *Histoire de la Poste en milieu rural* ("Postal History in Rural Areas"), with collaboration of René Laborde, Camille Marteau, Pierre Nougaret, and Denis Pinhas, 1994, 6¼x9½", 164 pp. + map, softbound, many ills., French F325 postpaid, from author, Résidence Elysée, 8 bd. R. Salengro, F 38100 Grenoble, France.

The author's emphasis in his treatment of the rural mails extends from 1830 to 1911, though he starts earlier and ends later. Considering that he is dealing with 35,000 communities as well as out-of-the-way places, hamlets, chateaus, and isolated factories, he explains at the outset that an in-depth treatment of this aggregate is impossible.

Rather, his purpose is to introduce the topic, which has been popular in France for quite some time, so that those wishing to investigate particular areas will have a reliable guide for their researches. Furthermore, the history of rural mail has been in a steady state of flux, starting from the time in 1830 when 70 percent of the French population had its postal needs satisfied by this service. Changes of boundaries, growth of cities into the country, establishment of new post offices and closing of old ones happened in France as (ir)regularly as elsewhere, of course. Regulations were changed as well, and those are part of the prime content of the book, another part being a specific examples to show their applications.

The author cites not only the usual sources but also yearbooks, dictionaries, and printed matter in addition to postal forms and, of course, cards and envelopes to illustrate the raw materials on which such studies can be based. The complete *Instruction sur le Service Rural*, issued on April 1, 1830, is reprinted, as is an 1855 map of postal activities in the Isère Department, including places of rural service and the most important postal regulations. Details are explained on pages 129-137. Similar aids of other areas and times must abound. Over 30 main subjects are covered, making the book required reading before studying French rural mail delivery. Illustrations, paper, printing, and binding are excellent.

Apart from its usefulness to postal historians collecting France, this introduction to how one country deals with problems of rural delivery is of general philatelic interest. A good reading knowledge of French is required. -- E.M. Cohn

Pierre Lux, *La Poste Ferroviaire de 1871 à 1914*; 116 pp., 22 x 27 cm, sewn signatures, softbound; numerous illustrations; published 1998 by the Académie de Philatélie; 220Fr (+ 30Fr postage within France or + 76Fr postage to the

U.S.) payable to the order of the Académie; order from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 rue du Faubourg Montmartre, F-75009 Paris.

The first part (origins to 1870) of this encyclopedic work on the French railway post was published in 1992 and reviewed here (N° 232, April 1993, p. 52). Eminent postal historian Pierre Lux has now completed the second part, covering the 1871-1914 period.

This period was one of rapid growth and development of railways, not only in France but also in much of the rest of the civilized world. Furthermore, it fits rather neatly between the disruption and partial destruction of the rails and the mails during the German invasion of 1870 and the similar disruptions that commenced in Summer 1914 with another German invasion and with French general mobilization. Obviously there should be much more to say about this 1871-1914 period than of the earlier, pre-1871 one.

The first of three sections (or chapters, as used by the author) is headed "History of the Railroads and their utilization by the Posts." Generally brief "subchapters" cover (1) consequences of the 1870-1871 war upon rail mail service—which included the rapid construction of a supply line around besieged Metz; (2) the railroads (main network and local lines) during 1871-1914—39,000 km of main lines by July 1914; (3) the railway postal service of 1871-1914; including the evolution of the *ambulant* (and special) services, that of *conveyeurs*, *boites mobiles*, *bureaux de passe*, and station POs; (4) the cancellations of the times, including date-stamp types and essays; (5) services and markings on cross-border routes; and (6) the 1914 mobilization *ambulants*. All of this is covered (or glanced over), mostly sketchily, in pages 4-47.

Chapter 2 (pages 49-73) is a detailed study of the six major mail-carrying networks: East, North, West, Paris-Orléans, South (*Midi*) and Paris-Lyon-Méditerranée (P.L.M.). Dates are given for each reopened, or new or renamed line. Slick-paper full-page maps show each of the networks. This chapter is, to me, the main thrust of this work.

Chapter 3 (pages 75-98) consists of a tabular, alphabetical listing of *ambulants*, whether they handled mail at night (most of the time) or during the day, types (I, II and/or III) of date stamps used, and most importantly, **known** dates of service. I emphasize this last column because that's what distinguishes the Lux tables from my trusty old (1979) *Catalogue Bureaux Ambulants 1845-1965/Cachets de Gare 1854-1960*, by Jean Pothion, which lacks dates (but on the other hand has indices of rarity, which the Lux book doesn't). I didn't compare the two works to search for new data but I would think that, if you already own the Pothion, his listings should suffice for all but the most advanced specialists; if not, then by all means purchase or borrow the Lux.

Pages 99-115, assigned to Chapter 3, consist of copies of relevant original texts and train schedules, mainly from 1870-1871 (also for July, 1895, for the schedule shown on pages 112-115). A brief one-page bibliography completes the volume.

Chapters 2 and 3, being mainly tabular in form, should be relatively easy to use by non-French readers. Chapter 1 presents more difficulties, but they are not insurmountable.

This volume follows the format (size, thickness, generally good quality of printing and production) of previous Académie products of the 1990s, though quality of reproductions of date stamps is not always the best. One thing in particular does trouble me: The Lux origins-to-1870 *tôme* was Volume II, Part 1 of the *Encyclopédie des Timbres-Poste de France*. This continuation is from the Library (or book-store) of the Académie de Philatélie. Both "series" are being published concurrently at a rather fast clip. But which one is the "truly encyclopedic"? Which "series" might supplant the other? Could one of our Académicien members come forward and explain this dichotomy?

-- S. J. Luff

Gilbert Noël, Jack Blanc, Jean-Claude Delwaille, Roger Loeuillet, and Jean-Paul Schroeder, *Les Chiffres-Taxe Carrés 1859-1882* (The Square Postage

Dues 1859-1882); 132 pp, 22x27 cm, softbound; 1997; published by the Académie de Philatélie; 220Fr (+30Fr postage within France or 60Fr abroad) payable to the Académie; from Bertrand Sinais, 7 rue de Chateaudun, F-75009 Paris [also from J.-F. Brun, La Poste aux Lettres, and other sources].

The tome on the Duval dues, which came out first, had left me somewhat dissatisfied (see review in N° 246, October 1996). But this time, I'm exceedingly pleased with this encyclopedic study of the square dues, the first adhesive postage dues of France.

In 23 generally brief chapters (some occupying a fraction of a page), the authors expand in varying degrees upon the earlier (1974) *Catalogue des Timbres-Taxe Carrés de France 1859-1878* by the late Gilbert Noël. The newer work is based to a considerable extent upon Noël's unpublished revision of his 1974 handbook. Much has been published since that time, particularly in the Académie's house organ, *Documents Philatéliques*, and many of these new findings are incorporated here.

Significant additions to the 1974 work are: the texts of official document regarding the taxation of unpaid letters; stamp printing and utilization data; privately perforated stamps; usage of dues stamps as postage stamps; and taxed cards and telegrams. Conversely, the following chapters or topics are relatively unchanged from the 1974 handbook: tariffs; town cancels in use; usage in the Paris suburbs; ambulant and railway-station usage; rural service; mobile boxes; maritime and military usage; insufficiently franked mail; postal fraud; the increased rates of the 1 September 1871 Tariff; and the consequences of the May 1878 Tariff. However, most chapters are now illustrated with some highly desirable covers.

Illustrations on the whole are quite adequate. Color is used on front and back covers. The book ends with a useful 1½-page bibliography. A separate leaflet quotes current estimated valuations (mostly way up there!) of usages on cover.

In summary, the new collaboration is much more elaborate (and expensive) than Noël's original—which is out-of-print anyway. If you don't have the earlier work, nor access to the later scholarship to be found in *Documents Philatéliques*, etc., and if you have at least a passing interest in the square dues, then by all means obtain the new work for yourself. And if you happen to be a specialist in the square dues as used on cover, this work may probably be all you would need on your bookshelf.

-- S. J. Luft

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

- > Pierre Lux, *La Poste Ferroviaire de 1870 à 1914*; 120 pp., 22x27 cm, softbound, numerous black and white illustrations; railway maps in color; published by the Académie de Philatélie; 220Fr (+30Fr postage in France, more elsewhere), payable to the Académie de Philatélie; from Vincent Pothion, 17 rue du Faubourg Montmartre, F-75009 Paris. (Reviewed on pages 123-124 of this number).
- > Pierre Souchon, *Histoire Postale — Département du Rhône: Marques Postale et Oblitérations (1876-1996)*; vol. 2, 540 pp., 16x24 cm, and vol. 3, 560 pp., same size; 400Fr each, payable to UPPTT Rhône-Alpes (CCP Lyon 3323 04 Y); from Union des Philatélistes des PTT de Rhône-Alpes, 39 ave. Jean-Jaurès, F-69007 Lyon, France. (First volume, by Yvette Mience, covering the 1611-1876 period, was published in 1996. Now Souchon brings the study of the Rhône Dept's markings and postal history to the present time. Vol. 2 covers the department except Lyon; vol. 3 is devoted to Lyon. Illustrations include [totals for both volumes] some 1350 date stamps, 1100 slogan cancels, 800 military markings, 400 temporary bureaux, etc.)
- > J. Strohl, *Service postal rural dans les Vosges après la Réforme de 1830*; photocopied text of article from *Feuilles Marcophiles*, N° 129 (1960); check for 30Fr, payable to A. Remy, 1 Place Jeanne d'Arc, F-88000 Epinal, France.
- > R. Gregnac-Daudenard is revising and updating his long-term study of the postal markings of the Var Dept. He offers photocopies of his findings on various classes of

Var markings at very reasonable prices. Inquire of author, at "Colline," Bd. Des Arbousiers, F-83120 Sainte-Maxime, France.

- > Jean Belhabit, *La Poste aux chevaux et la Poste aux lettres dans le département de l'Yonne (1464-1985)*; 80 pp., illustrated; published by the Club Philatélique Sénonais; 60Fr + 12Fr postage (more abroad?); inquire by telephone [011-33-] 3-22-71-71-80 to William Pitiot. [Sorry, I have no address].
- > Bernard Fréchet and Richard Rucklin, *Marianne de Briat: l'Impression des carnets ouverts de timbre - autocollants* [The open-face Marianne de Briat booklets of self-adhesive stamps]; 48 pp., illustrated; 90Fr postpaid, from Pascal Marziano, 7 rue des Filles-Notre-Dame, F-87000 Limoges, France. (Printing data, essays, varieties, and how to collect and display these booklets).

A LEXICON OF ABBREVIATIONS [AND ACRONYMS ON FRENCH DATE STAMPS OF 1960-1995]

by Patrick Lavenas [continued from *F&C* #247, January 1997 and #249, July 1997]

FURTHER ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

[It was premature of me to publish, in #249, the Additions and Corrections to Lavenas' lists. Here follows the far more extensive list that was printed in *Feuilles Marcophiles*, #289, 1997. Again, those without a preceding **X** are abbreviations present on date stamps; those with a preceding **X** are present on ancillary markings.--The Editor].

RECTIFICATIF

<u>Abbrév.</u>	<u>Signification</u>
CATMI	Ctre d'Achemint et de <u>Transport</u> de la Messagerie Internationale
PLM	Paris Lyon <u>Méditerranée</u>
ZUP	Zone à <u>Urbaniser en Priorité</u>
X CAMP	Compagnie d'Appareils Mécaniques de Précision
X IER	Impression - Enregistrement des Résultats
X LI	Lettre <u>recommandée</u> Internationale
X PI	Paquet <u>recommandé</u> International

ADDITIF

<u>Abbrév.</u>	<u>Signification</u>
A	guichet Annexe (<i>Abréviation rare - ne pas confondre avec les RAU</i>)
AC	Agence Commerciale
ACFT	Agence Commerciale France Télécom.
ACL	Agence Commerciale Locale des télécom.
AERO.	AEROport
AF	AFfaires
AG <u>CE</u>	AGenCE
ANC	ANCien
ANNIV.	ANNiversaire
AUTO	AUTOMobiles
BASEFUSCO	BASE FUSilliers COMmandos
BEMI	Bureau d'Echange des Mandats internationaux
BS	Brigade de Surveillance des douanes
<u>CALE</u>	CommerciALE
CAP	CARRé Professionnel
CCBE-A	CCBE - AMP (<i>Adresses Mailing Promotion</i>)
CCBE-R	CCBE - RDSL
CCL	Centre de Construction des Lignes
CDC	Centre de Distribution du Courrier
CDM	Centre de Distribution de la Messagerie
CFDT	Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail
<u>CIAL</u>	CommerciAL

CIGRE
CIRTVCongrès International des Grands Réseaux Electriques
Centre International de Radio et TéléVision (J.O. 1992)

(To be continued)

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I had hoped to announce a year ago that I had established an Internet connection. Unfortunately my four-year-old computer was not really up to the task. Now I have a new computer, and can announce that I have established an E-mail address of:

rmstevens_greendell@yahoo.com

Although I have only recently established a personal connection, I am a strong believer in the future importance of the Internet. I believe that eventually much philatelic business will be transacted over the Internet. To show that that day is not so far away, I quote the following from the comments in Dann Mayo's latest auction catalog: "I am absolutely determined to start putting my show stock on the internet. ...I have the hardware and the software, and have finally learned and tested both.... With the **annual** cost of a domain-name website at around half what it costs to do a single show -- and with that web site open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to anyone in the world with an internet connection, it is clear that the days of the on-site philatelic bourse are numbered."

The Society has made no plans yet regarding a web site, but it is certainly something we must be thinking about, for publicity purposes, if nothing else. I would be happy to hear suggestions regarding how and what.

I am a big fan of E-mail, not so much as a replacement for postal service, but as a great improvement over the use of the telephone. When I send an E-mail message, I can feel reasonably sure that it will reach the recipient promptly, and can be received at a convenient time. With the telephone, I must first find the person at home, and then hope I am not an unwelcome interruption. Admittedly, voice mail can be used similarly to E-mail, but personally I have never liked it, and I know I am not alone in that sentiment.

It has been suggested that the Society compile and distribute a list of members' E-mail addresses. Perhaps that would be one feature for a Society Internet site. Probably that would be too public a place to keep the actual list. Again, I would welcome suggestions. In the meantime, any members who want their E-mail addresses available can send them to me, and I will prepare at least two lists: one of which would be available to any member, probably as an E-mail attachment; the other, with addresses available on specific request.

-- Dick Stevens

MEETING OF 2 JUNE 1998

With the program chairman *hors de combat*, and no other volunteers, it became the President's responsibility to present the program at the June meeting. The topic chosen was the Changing Markings Used by the Serbian Ministerial Post Office at Corfu. This office is best known for its use of the POSTES SERBES marking on French stamps. However, here we were interested instead in the four (or more) different censor markings and the variations in the date bar in the Ministarska postmark. Lacking any official records, one must use covers to determine the period of use for each censor marking, and for each variation in the date bar. Since this will hopefully eventually be part of a lengthier article, I will write no more here.

-- Dick Stevens

NEW MEMBERS

3172 UNGER, MORT, 10048 Diamond Lake Road, Boynton Beach, FL 33437. (General Collector: 19th Century - 20th Century Through 1958. General France: Mint - Used. Modern France: Mint - Used - Blanc, Mouchon And Merson Types - Sowers - Air

- Mails - Coils - Others Through 1958. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used. All Colonies And Territories Until Independence. Exchange.)
- 3173 LEVIN, ERLING G., 246 N.E. Northgate Way, Seattle, WA 98125. (Topical Collector: Art - Paintings. Semi- Postals Modern France. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3174 STEPHENS, DARRYL R., 1535 Kenzie Ct., Suwanee, GA 30024-2812. (General France: Mint - Used. Specific Colonies: FSAT. Dealer: Part Time - Auctions.)
- 3175 JOHNSON, B. CONNOR, 4409 Thompson Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - On Cover. Specialized France: Postal History. Stampless Covers - Marques Postals. Regular Issues: Used - On Cover. 1870-1871 Issues - Alsace-Lorraine - Dues. Modern France: Mint. Special Issues: Dues - Parcel Post. Colonies General Issues: On Cover. Postal History To 1900. Early Issues Of Stamps Used - Mint To 1989.)
- 3176 PREISS, KLAUS, Hauptstr. 32, D-89542 Herbrechtingen, Germany. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Used - On Cover. Regular. Used - On Cover. Cancellations. Modern France: Used - On Cover. Special Issues: Revenues. Colonies General Issues: Used - On Cover. Benin. Cote D'Ivoire. French Polynesia. Independent Republics.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2700 RUIMY, JOEL D., 222 Milverton Blvd., Toronto, Ontario, M4J 1V5, Canada.
- 2455 BEAN, FREDERICK G., P.O. Box 27420, 2101 Kings Valley Rd., W., Minneapolis, MN 55427.
- 1788 BOIKESS, ROBERT S., 51 St. Annes Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex, SN7 1SO, England.
- 1455 MAYER, FREDERICK R., P.O. Box 481150, Denver, CO 80248.
- 1822 MAYER, PIERRE, 4 Rue Drouot, F-75009 Paris, France. (Corrected street number).
- 1328 McCULLOCH, J. DOUGLAS, 53 Golf Course Road, Bracebridge, Ontario P1L 1M7, Canada.
- 3026 HOUE, MICHEL, 38 Jefferson Court East, Welland, Ontario L3C 7G4, Canada.
- 2300 ERICKSON, RAYMOND R., 2658 Howe St., Santa Cruz, CA 95005-1905.
- 1230 TORRES, DR. DAVID, 1836 College, San Angelo, TX 76904.
- 429 GOLDEN, MRS. ROBERT H., 4650 54th Ave., S. - Apt. 317, St. Petersburg, FL 33711-4636.
- 3137 GELLION, CLAIRE, 3998 Rawhide Rd., Rocklyn, CA 95677-1527.

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UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Required by 39 USC 3685)				13. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	
1. Publication Title France And Colonies Philatelist		2. Publication Number ISSN 0077-0779		3. Filing Date 9/1/98	
4. Issue Frequency Quarterly		5. Number of Issues Published Annually 4		6. Annual Subscription Price \$ 11.00	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4) France And Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc., (NY) 103 Spruce Street - Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003-3514				8. Complete Mailing Address of General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) France And Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc., (NY) 103 Spruce Street - Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003-3514	
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Editor: Stanley J. Left 16291 West Sixth Place - Golden, Colorado 80403				10. Owner (Do not leave blank) France And Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc., (NY) 103 Spruce Street - Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003-3514	
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box. None				12. Publication Title France And Colonies Philatelist	
13. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below October - 1998				14. Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months 750	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation 1. Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales (Not Mailed)				16. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	
2. Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions (Include advertiser's proof copies and exchange orders)				750	
3. Paid or Requested Return Mailed Copies (Sum of 15b and 15c)				0	
4. Paid Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)				610	
5. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b, 15c, and 15d)				610	
6. Free Distribution (Sum of 16a and 16b)				36	
7. Total Distribution (Sum of 15e and 16c)				646	
8. Copies not Distributed (1) Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled				104	
(2) Returns from News Agents				0	
9. Total (Sum of 15g, 16c, and 16d)				750	
10. Payment of Postage (Check one) (1) Paid by Publisher				94.2 %	
11. Publication of Statement of Ownership Publication required to be printed in October - 1998 issue of this publication				12. Publication of Circulation Data Publication not required	
13. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Stanley J. Left, Editor				14. Date 9/1/98	
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