



Show & Tell

October 22, 2023

France & Colonies Philatelic Society



Shanghai Covers

Our presenter had questions about rates and routes, some answered, others still open. See what you think.

Shanghai to Bukhara – What was the route?

- Registered letter May 18, 1905, from Shanghai to Bukhara
- Addressed in three alphabets – Arabic, Cyrillic, Roman
- Expected to go through Odessa – preprinted on envelope



Shanghai to Bukhara – What was the route?



- Only transit marking is Napoli, Italy
- How did it get to Napoli and then Bukhara?
- The group thought perhaps sent on first available ship from Shanghai through Suez, next port of call was Napoli. Then put in mailbag headed east, either train or ship. Maybe through Odessa?

Where is Bukhara?

Odessa,
~2,000
mi.



Shanghai to Denmark – What was the route?

- Registered letter April 16, 1916, from Shanghai to Copenhagen, Denmark



Shanghai to Denmark – What was the route?



- Only transit marking is Russian censor marking
- How did it get to Copenhagen?
- The group thought perhaps it went by Trans-Siberian rail since it was censored in Petrograd

Paris to Chemilé, France, to Shanghai – Where censored?

- ▶ First class letter February 15, 1918, from Paris to Chemilé (Maine-et-Loire)
- ▶ Forwarded to Shanghai
- ▶ Blue crayon “T” probably added in France



Paris to Chemilé, France, to Shanghai – Where censored?



- ▶ Censored in Hong Kong
- ▶ Postage due probably added in Shanghai (for forwarding)
- ▶ Where was second British censor?
- ▶ The group thought perhaps it was opened a second time at a British censorship office in Shanghai – no reason the letter would have gone to London. Probably not Gibraltar. Censor tape apparently tied by Shanghai marking.

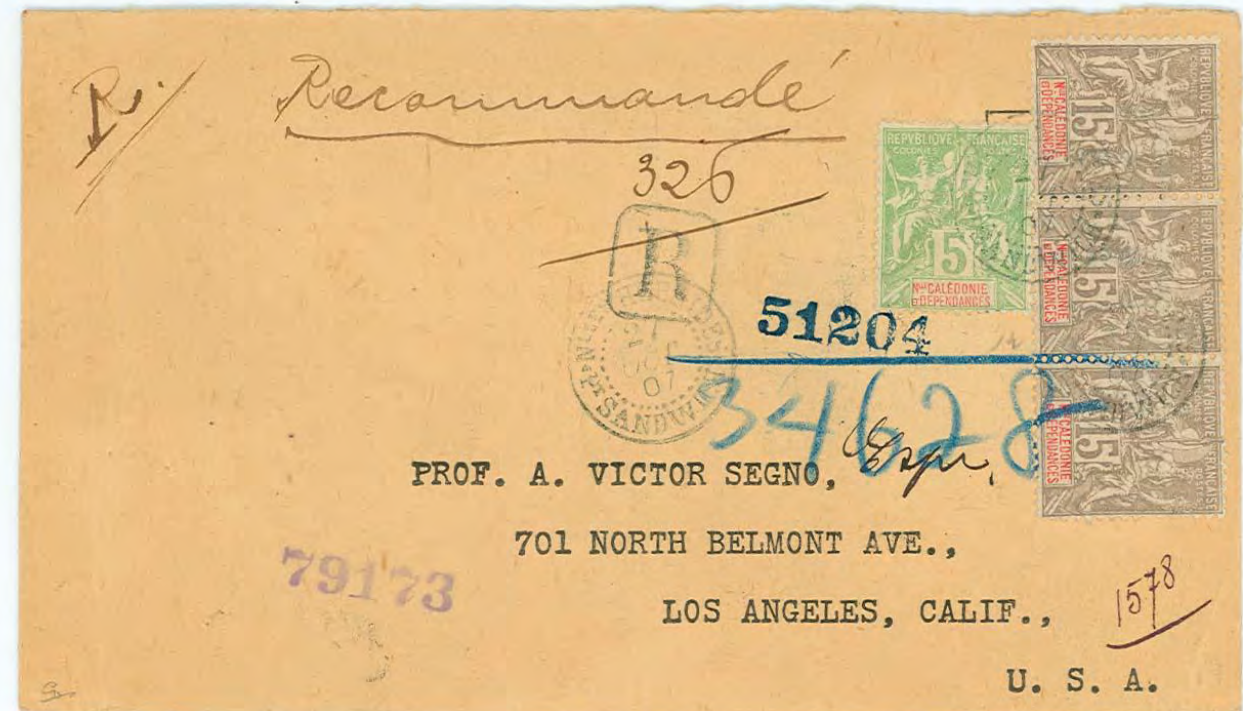
The Last of the Group Type

In 2019 I sold my Group Type Era Collection of about 2700 covers. But I did save one of the top 25 covers in the collection because of its relevance to my Philately & International Mail Order Fraud Collection



New Caledonia Group Type Issues Used From the New Hebrides

- ▶ Registered letter posted from Port Sandwich, New Hebrides on October 27, 1907 to Los Angeles, CA
- ▶ Proper 50c registered rate franked with 3 x 15c and 5c Group Type issues of New Caledonia from the 1900 printings
- ▶ October 30th transit via Nouméa, and Dec 21st Los Angeles arrival on reverse
- ▶ Only two recorded New Hebrides registered letters employing Group Type stamps to non-French destinations
- ▶ Addressed to the infamous fraudster A. Victor Segno who sold Success Waves for \$10 per year, \$200 in today's dollars
- ▶ Yes, Professor Segno and his scam was active in the New Hebrides



édition d'une Introduction théorique et pratique au cours de laquelle il met en lumière l'importance capitale pour chacun des enseignements du Maître, leur conformité parfaite avec les Doctrines Initiatiques de l'Antiquité et la science expérimentale moderne. « Imprégné-vous des révélations contenues dans ce livre, dit Jagot, et vous deviendrez d'emblée un participant de l'invisible rapport qui unit tous les mentalistes. Si vous avez besoin d'aide, d'inspirations, de secours ou d'appuis, ils viendront à vous par la voie télépsychique, par la chaîne d'or des intermédiaires naturels, selon l'heureuse formule de Stanislas de Guaita, car vos pensées d'appel auront une répercussion multipliée d'abord sur quelques personnes particulièrement synchronisées avec vous, puis, par les irradiations de celles-ci, sur des dizaines d'autres, lesquelles en affecteront quelques centaines. »

Que vous vouliez réussir dans la vie, purement et simplement, ou réussir spécialement comme expérimentateur voici le guide le plus sûr.

Les guérisseurs les plus réputés s'inspirent de la « Loi du Mentalisme » de même que les hypnotiseurs de premier plan qui fascinent des salles entières.

Dans la vie privée, quand il faut utiliser l'influence télépsychique, soit pour un retour d'affection, soit en vue d'atteindre une situation importante, c'est encore ceux qui connaissent la loi du Mentalisme qui remportent le succès.

Les plus hauts pouvoirs psychiques, ceux des yoghis, ceux des théurges ne peuvent se développer qu'en tenant compte des enseignements de M. A. Victor Segno car ces enseignements révèlent les véritables secrets de la puissance, de l'intangible et merveilleux pouvoir du psychisme humain.

A. VICTOR SEGNO

LA LOI
DU
MENTALISME

Comment attirer à soi les inspirations, les énergies et les influences bénéfiques.

Comment devenir invulnérable aux vibrations pernicieuses et aux actions occultes ou télépsychiques hostiles.

Nouvelle Edition révisée et augmentée
d'une Introduction théorique et pratique par

Paul-Clément JAGOT

Un volume in-8 carré : 750 francs ; franco : 820 francs

R.

Recommandé

326



51204

34628



PROF. A. VICTOR SEGNO,

79173

701 NORTH BELMONT AVE.,

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.,

1578

U. S. A.

SUCESO
AMBICION
FELICIDAD
INFLUJO
ESPERANZA
AMOR
SALUD
LUJO
PAZ

MENTALISMO



Based on the registry numbers, 5 post offices handled this letter, most probably Port Sandwich, Nouméa, Paris, New York and Los Angeles

Registered Letter from Port Sandwich to German Samoa in 1908



Was This a Postage Due Letter?





Dahomey Items

One of our members cannot be here today, but he sent a few items for show and tell and at least one with a question about rates.

Grand Popo to Milwaukee, Wisconsin

- ▶ Registered letter mailed September 23, 1910, from Grand Popo, Dahomey, to Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- ▶ 50 centimes registered rate paid by two 25c Oil Palm 1906 stamps
- ▶ Marked to travel via Cotonou, Bordeaux.
- ▶ Backstamped Ouidah and Cotonou on 24 Sept., Chicago, Illinois, and Milwaukee on 24 Oct.



Grand Popo to Milwaukee, Wisconsin



- ▶ Addressed to manager of the Cosmopolitan Correspondence Club
- ▶ Club seal applied to reverse
- ▶ At one time there were 6,000 club members

Tough Single Use

- ▶ Registered letter mailed June 30, 1913, from Cotonou, Dahomey, to Marseille
- ▶ 35 centimes rate paid by single 35c Oil Palm 1906 stamp
- ▶ Ten centimes letter rate plus 25 centimes registered rate
- ▶ Arrived in Marseille July 17
- ▶ Ouviere was well known photographer



War Cover – Dahomey



- ▶ Mailed 28 Sept., 1892, from Porto Novo
- ▶ Franking privilege granted to expeditionary force in Dahomey
- ▶ Addressed to Enghien-les-Bains, France

War Cover – Dahomey

- ▶ Battle of Dogba had taken place 19 Sept., nine days earlier
- ▶ Dogba is about 50 miles north of Porto Novo on Oueme River
- ▶ French forces moving north after earlier skirmishes in July and August
- ▶ Dogba was first major battle
- ▶ Light French casualties compared to natives, but battle was fierce



Help Wanted – Dahomey



- Mailed 26 Dec., 1932, from Cotonou
- Backstamped at Héroult, 12 Jan., 1933
- Envelope not sealed
- What is the rate?



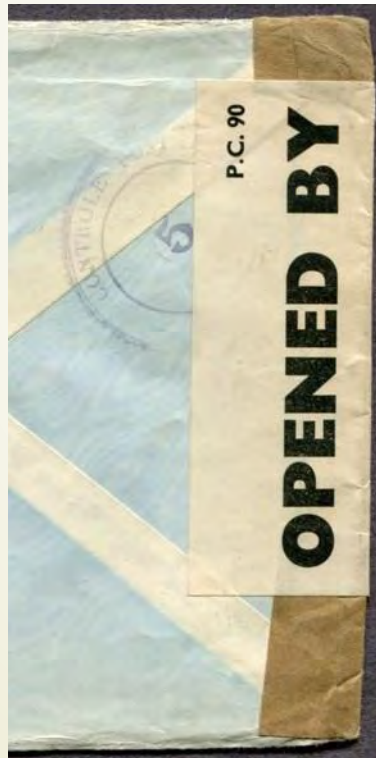
Martinique to France 1941 France to Martinique

Ship Mail



S/S Fort Richepanse

- February 8, 1942, Fort-de-France, Martinique, to Marseille



S/S Carimare

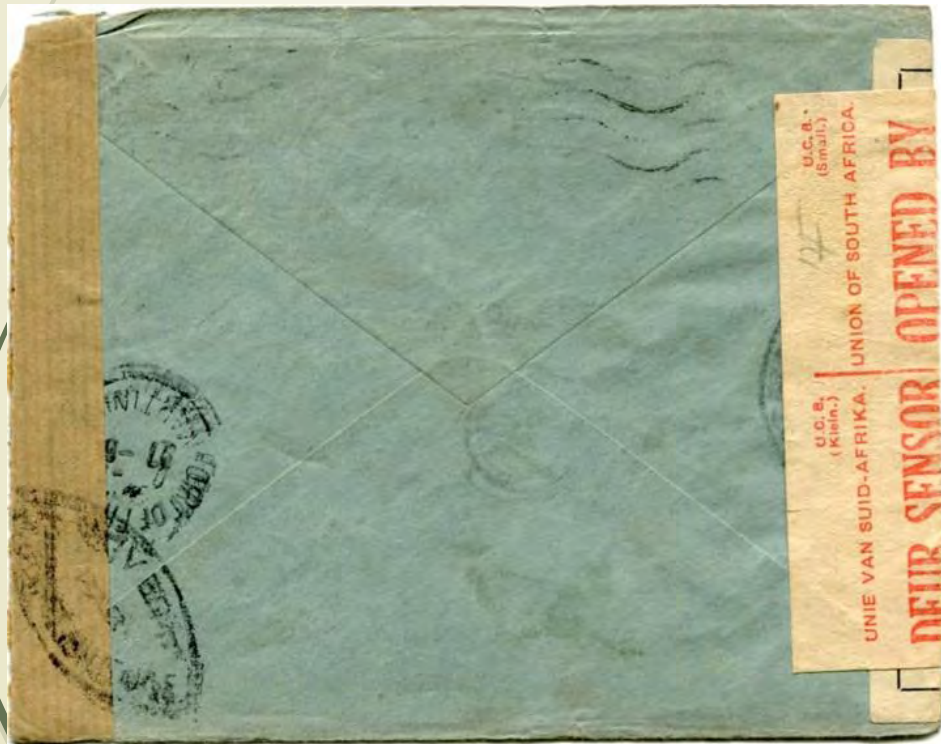


- Mailed May 15, 1941, from Fort-de-France, Martinique, to Avignon



Lyongrolef to Fort-de-France

- ▶ May 13, 1941, arrived June 27
- ▶ Censored three times, once in South Africa



Montpellier to Fort-de-France



- Mailed May 14, 1941, from Montpellier to Fort-de-France, Martinique

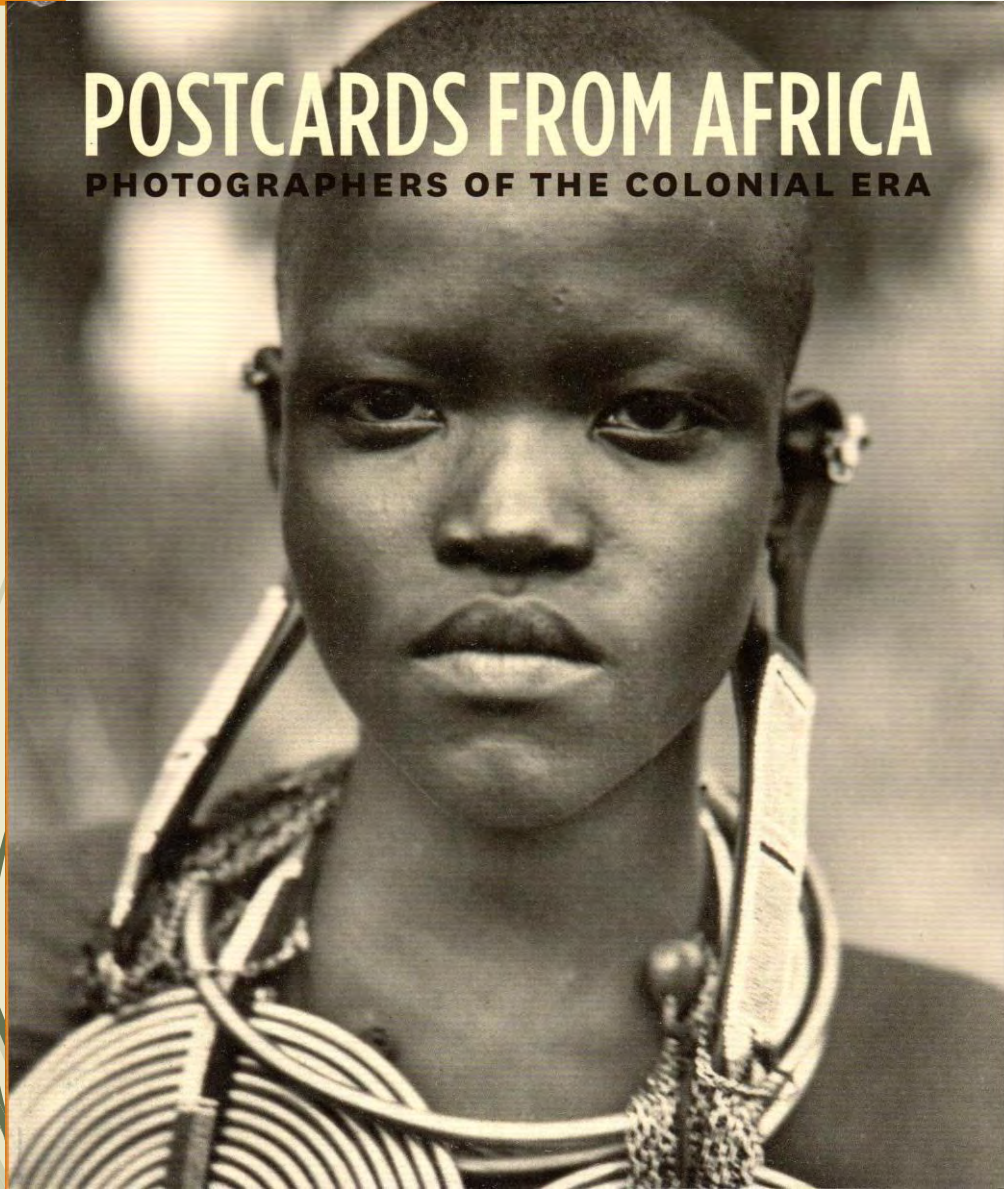




Postcards from Africa

A well-written book that offers some interesting insights and good history

The Book



- ▶ By Christraud M. Geary
- ▶ Published in 2018 by Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- ▶ Available on line
- ▶ Based largely on Leonard A. Lauder postcard archive at the museum
- ▶ Most if not all cards are not mailed

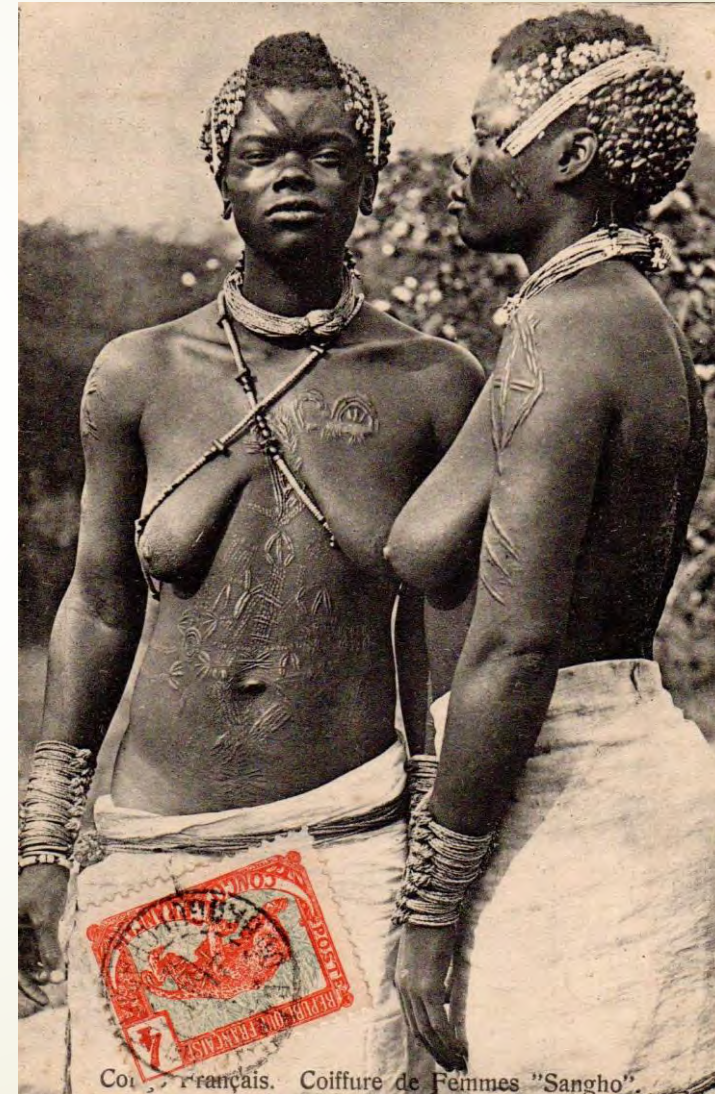
“Civilized” Loango Women



- ▶ “Civilized” because dressed in Western clothes
- ▶ Clearly posed – were they paid? How were they paid?
- ▶ Excellent historical record, but biased by European attitudes (as would any culture applying its standards to another)?

Sangho Women Coiffures

- ▶ Photo to document the coiffure of the Sangho women
- ▶ Again clearly posed – what did they get out of this?



Coiffure française. Coiffure de Femmes "Sangho".

Palm Tree Cultivation



- Supposedly a photo of cultivated palm “farming”
- Again, these figures are posed
- How accurate are these photos as a historical record?

Nola, French Congo, Post Office

- ▶ Staged photo – note person standing stiffly at right





Stamp Day

Journee de Timbre started in France in 1938. Here are three commemorative items issued since then.

Journée du Timbre



Favor cancelled: Stamps defaced, registering a blank card, stamps don't pay the registration fee.
Unless: the registration label was added later?

Journée du Timbre



Sold for the benefit of
prisoners, Stamp Day 1942.



Stamp Expo in
Valenciennes, April 19,
1942

Journée du Timbre



The balloon flew northeast and landed near Chimay, Belgium. It could well have passed over Soissons.

Celebrating the viewing of the balloon flight on Oct 16, 1870.



More Groupe Type Covers

Be sure to read the notes – there are some very cool items here..

- From Saïgon (Indochina) to Johannesburg (Transvaal), via Aden
- Forwarded to Pretoria with registration added
- Saigon franking: 25 centimes (1c x 2, 2c x 2, 4c, 5c, and 10c), standard foreign rate
- Complement of 5 pence (2½d x 2), 1d for the extra franking and 4d for the registration fee, plus oval R mark typical of South African posts
- Ex Silvain Wyler (Swiss philatelist, 1927-2014) via Rolf Weggler, in Zurich

Forwarded with Registry Added



- 3 JUIN 04 – SAIGON PORT 2^E / SAIGON CENTRAL 3^E
- 4 JUIN 04 – LIGNE N PAQ. FR. N° 8 (Ernest Simons)
- Stopped in Colombo on June 11 and Djibouti on June 19, without stopping in Aden [JU 11 04 – COLOMBO]
- 5- JUL 04 – JOHANNESBURG 2
- 8- JUL 04 – ROCKEY ST B.O. JOHANNESBURG
- -8 JUL 04 – REGISTERED JOHANNESBURG
- 8 JUL 04 – PRETORIA

Forwarded with Registry Added



More notes on Saigon Cover – 1

- ▶ Let's start with a cover that a collector in the Society of Indo-China Philatelists called "spectacular". This cover was sent from **Saigon, Indochina** (3 June 1904) to **Johannesburg, Transvaal** (5 July 1904), forwarded to **Pretoria** on July 8, 1904.
- ▶ Thanks to the many transit cancels, we can make an educated guess about its journey:
 - 3 JUIN 04 – SAIGON PORT 2^E / SAIGON CENTRAL 3^E
 - 4 JUIN 04 – LIGNE N PAQ. FR. N^o 8 (Ernest Simmons)
 - The steamer *Ernest Simmons* from the *Messageries Maritimes* (PAQ. FR. N^o 8) made a stop-over in Colombo on June 11 [JU 11 04 – COLOMBO] and at Djibouti on June 19, without stopping by Aden. Despite the hand-written mention "*Via Aden*", it is likely that the letter was transferred in Colombo (June 11 postmark) to another steamer with service to Zanzibar or Maputo (Lourenço Marques), with the final leg from Maputo to Johannesburg by train, using the Pretoria-Maputo railway, a 567 km railway which had been put in service 10 years earlier (November 1894).

More notes on Saigon Cover – 2

- I considered other routes:
 - Offloaded in Djibouti, taken to Aden, loaded on a ship from the Union-Castle Lines (London to South Africa via the Mediterranean service), London to Natal via Marseilles, Genoa, Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, Tanga, Zanzibar, Dar es Salaam, Port Amelia (Pemba), Beira, and Maputo (Lourenço Marques)
 - Another option would have required the transfer in Djibouti to another steamer from the *Messageries Maritimes* sailing to Diégo Suarez, plus branch line to Mozambique, Beira, and Lourenço Marques (Maputo).
 - But the transfer in Colombo to a ship departing for Eastern Africa (Zanzibar, Maputo) makes the most sense.
- 5- JUL 04 – JOHANNESBURG 2
- 8- JUL 04 – ROCKEY ST B.O. JOHANNESBURG
- -8 JUL 04 – REGISTERED JOHANNESBURG
- 8 JUL 04 – PRETORIA



More notes on Saigon Cover – 3

- The letter was registered from Johannesburg to Pretoria, resulting in an interesting mixed franking: Proper franking at 25 centimes (seven Groupe type stamps from Indochina) for first-rate mail from Indochina to a foreign destination, plus additional franking at 5 pence for the local registration (2 Edward VII stamps from Transvaal), with the R markings that is typical from South African registered mail.
- I have not found much information about Herman Panitz (?), but John Jack Ltd was a Department Store located on Church Street, in Pretoria (leading family grocers).
- This cover is the only example seen in 25 years of a mixed franking due to payment of a registration fee when forwarding the letter to its final destination in the same country (when no additional franking was due for postage).
- Formerly owned by Swiss philatelist Silvain Wyler (1927-2014), I bought it from Rolf Weggler, a Zurich -based stamp dealer.

Customs CDS on Mail



- Letter from Szemao, Yunnan, to London, England
- Only 5 known letters with the "CUSTOMS * SZEMAO" cancel
- Ex Steve Chazen (1946-2022), Occidental Petroleum's CEO

Customs CDS on Mail

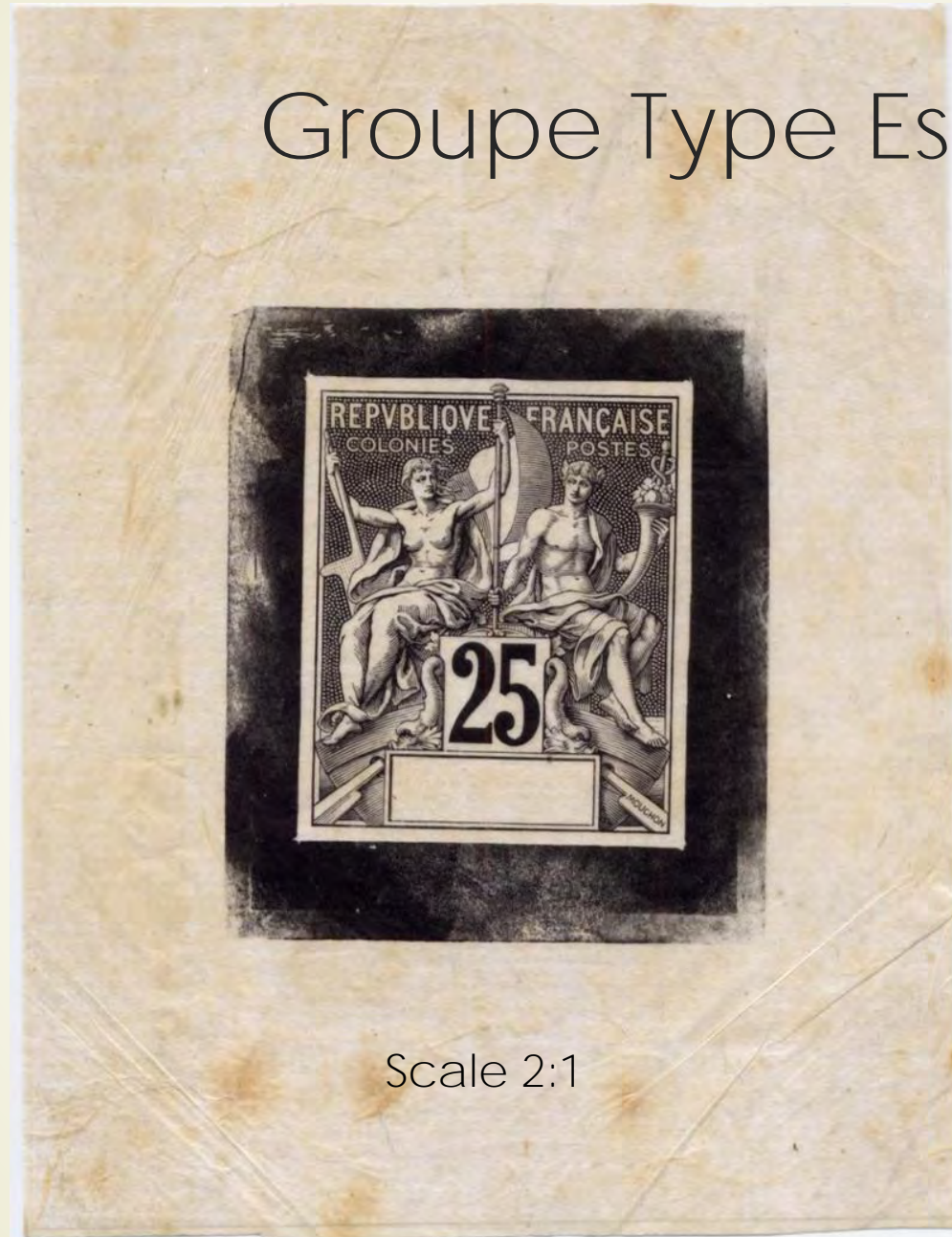
- ▶ CUSTOMS * SZEMAO – SEP 15 1898 [front]
- ▶ CUSTOMS * MENGZU – SEP 25 1898 [reverse]
- ▶ LAOKAY TONKIN – 4 OCT 98 [front]
- ▶ HANOI TONKIN – 11 OCT 98 [reverse]
- ▶ HAIPHONG TONKIN – 12 OCT 98 [reverse]
- ▶ LIGNE N – 25 OCT 98 [front] (probably the NATAL, PAQ. FR. N° 2, in Saigon on October 26 according to Salles)



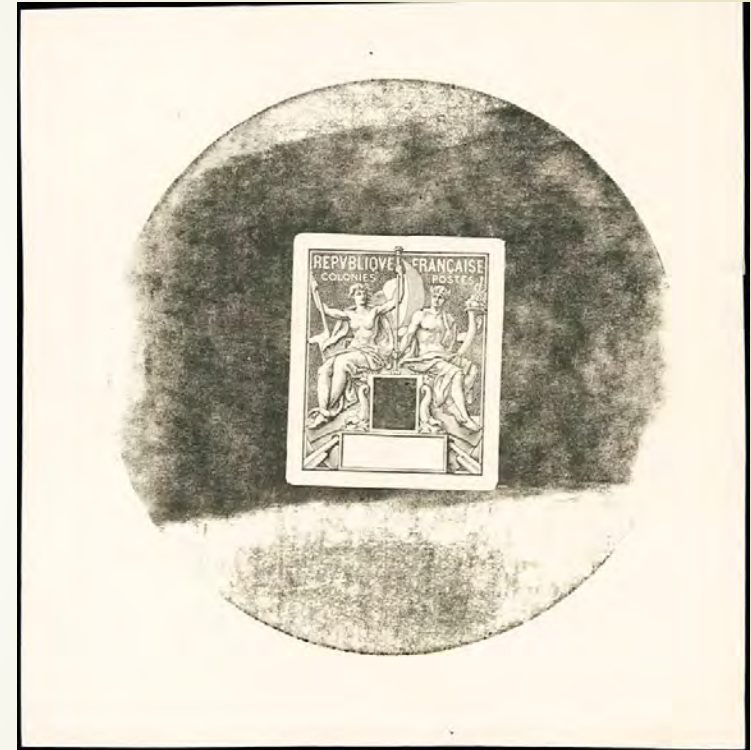
Groupe Type Essays



Scale 2:1



Scale 2:1



Scale 1:1

More notes on Groupe Type Essays – 1

- ▶ Proofs and trial runs of the Groupe type are quite rare and seldom seen at auctions. I'm showing here three sequential samples, of which two are in my own collection, and one belongs to a well-known philatelist from Saint Pierre et Miquelon:
- Early proof (scale 2:1) of the Groupe type design by Mouchon, real size is 34mm x 42mm (probably WIP). Probably a proof of state of the hallmark or punchstamp (*poinçon* in French) at scale 2 during the initial design process. It was after this trial print that the white dots in the background were added. The rest of the features are identical.
- Final proof (also scale 2:1), with white dots added in the background (for technical reasons – since large inked areas didn't print very well, or for mere financial reasons – to use less ink and thus reduce the overall printing costs) and a slightly distinct frame (this piece is today in the collection of a well-known philatelist from Saint Pierre et Miquelon, part of his exhibit on Groupe type stamps). Besides these two differences I just mentioned, both designs overlap perfectly – they obviously come from the same punchstamp. Previously, the final proof was in the collection of (name removed) (sold in 2015). That owner's hypothesis was that this punch was made of boxwood in accordance with Mouchon's habits, which is perfectly possible. This punch belonged to the engraver and therefore is not in the collections of the Musée de la Poste and it was probably lost during the dispersal of Mouchon's private archives.



More notes on Groupe Type Essays – 2

- Finally, we have a trial print (proof) of the resulting steel punchstamp, without the actual value (scale 1:1) or legend – just the design. It was probably the job of an apprentice to transpose the design onto the steel die, a rather tedious job, and the master engraver then made the cuts into the steel, especially when making a piece as precious as the master die.
- ▶ The first two items are probably unique, while maybe half-a-dozen examples are known of the third item.



The end of the assembled items

Time for questions and comments