



France & Colonies Philatelist

USPS #207700

THE DOUBLE-FRANKING PERIOD ALSACE-LORRAINE, 1871-1872

By Ruth and Gardner Brown

Introduction

Ruth and I began this survey in December 1983 and I wrote the article in November 1984 after her sudden death in July. I have included her name as an author since she helped with the work. I have used the singular pronoun in this article because it is painful for me to do otherwise.

After buying double-franking covers for over 30 years I recently made a collection (an exhibit) out of my accumulation. In anticipation of this effort, about 10 years ago, I joined the Société Philatélique Alsace-Lorraine (SPAL). Their publications are to be measured not in the number of pages but by weight! Over the years I have received 11 pounds of documents, most of it is xeroxed but in 1983 they issued a nicely printed, up to date catalogue covering the period 1872-1924. Although it is for the time frame after the double-franking era, it is the only source known to me which solves the mysteries of the name changes of French towns to German. The ones which gave me the most trouble were French: Thionville, became German Diedenhofen, and Massevaux became Masmunster.

One of the imaginative things done by SPAL was to offer reduced xerox copies of 40, sixteen-page frames, exhibited at Colmar in 1974. Many of these covered the double-franking period.

Before mounting my collection I decided to review the SPAL literature to get a feeling for what is common and what is rare. This produced a card file covering 148 covers. Of course the results are skewed towards the "unusual" as collectors do not often illustrate "average" covers. In my survey I did not include the 60 covers in my own collection nor the 158 covers of Stephen Holder auctioned in 1983 (Ref. 1).

I have divided my collection into 6 units which includes 5 formal periods plus a section titled "forerunner." I will describe the events which produced these 6 units and then comment on each one in more detail. Finally I will make more observations about the rates, the stamps used, their cancellations and the tax (postage-due) markings.

General

First of all, Bismarck was prepared for the Franco-Prussian War. Occupation stamps had been prepared in advance of the conflict and a military postal system was well organized. At the end of the war, Germany annexed all of Alsace except for the Belfort area and 2/3 of Lorraine. By departments, this means the Germans annexed all of Bas-Rhin, all of Haut-Rhin (except Belfort), most of Moselle, about half of Meurthe and a small part of Vosges. Schott (Ref. 2) lists 340 towns in which the occupation stamps are known to have been cancelled. Of this number, 101 are towns which were not annexed by the Germans but were occupied at one time. Obviously, except for large cities, covers from the 101 not-to-be annexed towns are the more difficult ones to find.

The Armistice was signed between the Germans and the French on January 28, 1871 and the war was ended by the Treaty of Frankfurt on May 10 of the same year. At the time of the Armistice there was no postal agreement between free and occupied France. On February 4, 1871 an agreement went into effect that neither administration would recognize the validity of the stamps of the other. In other words, a letter from Reims (occupied) sent to Paris (unoccupied) would be treated as stampless on arrival even though it had a 20c occupation stamps cancelled in Reims. The recipient would have to pay a 20c tax. This was a concession since a stampless letter would normally have a charge of 30c postage due, the 20c rate plus a 50% penalty. The same was true for mail from free to occupied France.

This period, Feb. 4 to Feb. 14, 1871 is what I call the Forerunner of the double-franking arrangement. Mail from these 10 days, between the two jurisdictions, is not common and includes such rarities as the Amiens provis-

FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIST

USPS #207700

Published quarterly by the

FRANCE AND COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC. (N.Y.)

Affiliate No. 45, American Philatelic Society

January 1985 — Vol. 41, No. 1, Whole No. 199

Second-class postage paid at Lawrence, Kansas

Office of Publication: 821 Vermont Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Dues \$7.50 per year. Parent Chapter \$10.00 (plus 50c admission fee),

\$4.50 of which is for a subscription to the F. & C. Philatelist.

All communications about membership, subscriptions, activities, and services of the Society be sent to the Corresponding Secretary, Walter E. Parshall
103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, N. J. 07008

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ional cancellation, the Melun telegraph cachet and the *Taxe Allemande* covers to Amiens and Abbeville. Also included is mail from the German Field Post-offices, which is very desirable.

Beginning February 15, 1871 and continuing to March 24 is **Period 1** of the double-franking arrangement. Then the postal authorities of both sides agreed the sender could prepay the cost of delivery if they franked the letter with 20-centime stamps of both administrations, in other words, true double-franking. Properly-franked covers from this period are very rare, I know of only 3, the earliest being cancelled March 1. The custom grew that each side cancelled only its own stamp and the French stamp on the cover I own was cancelled by the numeral lozenge for Sens-s-Yvonne and the occupation stamp with the German rectangular Feldpost 27. Both were applied in Sens.

Very interesting covers are available from Period 1. Occupation stamps with Feldpost cancellations and French tax markings are very desirable and the use of the German provisional ROUEN cancellation is quite rare. Period 1 also includes mail addressed to Paris during the Siege and forwarded from Paris to occupied cities after the end of the Siege.

On March 24, 1871 the Germans returned to French control the 101 post offices not to be annexed. This ended double-franked mail from those post offices and once more only French stamps were sold by them. March 24 also marked the end of the use of the German military post offices.

Period 2 lasted from March 24 through July 31, 1871. Double-franking mail was now confined to correspondence between Alsace-Lorraine and the rest of France. During this time the Germans unaccountably broke the original agreement and added a 50% penalty to the normal 20-centime tax. The French continued the use of a 20-centime tax on incompletely franked mail.

Most mail from the double-franking era was not completely franked due to the unavailability of both kinds of stamps at most locations. This is particularly true during the first period but, during the second, a few senders found sources for the stamps not available from their own post offices. Mail with stamps of both administrations is much more common from annexed to free France than the opposite. Presumably this was because there was more concentrated need for French stamps in the Alsatian zone. Most of the correctly-franked mail from free to annexed France came from towns close to the border and those where occupation stamps had once been sold.

Period 3 covers only one month, August 1 through August 31, 1871. During this time the Germans stopped adding the 50% penalty to the normal tax. Otherwise everything was the same as Period 2 and some collectors consider Period 3 as a subdivision of Period 2.

Beginning September 1, 1871, the French increased the rate for ordinary letters from 20 to 25 centimes. This also applied to mail addressed to annexed France and was the cause of **Period 4** which lasted through December 31, 1871. The German rate, and tax, remained at 20 centimes but the French tax was raised to 25 centimes consistent with the rate change. The earliest use of the new 25-centime French stamp during the double-franking period that I have seen is Sept. 10. The temporary lack of a 25-centime stamp also caused the colorful "rate-change covers."

Finally, **Period 5** began on January 1, 1872 when the Germans demonetized the occupation stamps and replaced them with the first issue of Germany. The new stamps were valued in groschen, one groschen being the equivalent of 10 centimes. This continued until May of 1872 when the postage between the two became 40c for the French and 3gr for the annexed area with no additional franking required.

The exact date of the ending of the double-franking period is filled with confusion. Bentley (Ref. 3) in 1955 quoted Blanc as saying the date was May 5 but Lesgor (Ref. 4), in 1948 stated the 15th. Kauffmann (Ref. 5) used the May 15 date in his article of 1970.

In 1971 Noel (Ref. 7) found a presidential decree fixing the date as May 25 and this is the date used by the current catalogues and the latest SPAL literature. He cited two covers which appear to prove the 25th date is correct. This started an investigation by SPAL members and they came up with 7 more covers from the 10-day period between the 15th and 25th. Three of them indicate the 25th is correct but four prove the 15th is the proper date! To add to the confusion, I have in my own collection a letter (not included in the SPAL survey) posted August 3, 1872, well after the time frame in question. From a small town in the Pyrenees it should have carried a 40c French stamp. Instead it has a 20c French and a 2gr German stamp. This would have been the proper franking for Period 5. The French stamped it "PD" and the Germans did not tax it.

Cancelleds

It was the custom for each administration to cancel only its own stamps. This aspect of collecting is of more interest than one might suspect. In order to do it properly, one must take into consideration which way the mail was headed.

Note. Purists will note I have used both the German and French spellings of some annexed cities. My intent was to use the German spelling when the reference was to the way things were in 1871-72 and the French spelling when used in a more general fashion.

Mail for Free France.

For mail destined for free France, the Germans cancelled their own stamps at the point of posting. The most desirable cancellations are those used by the German Military Feldpost offices since they were used for only a very short time during the double-franking era. Of the 105 numbered offices listed (Ref. 6), I have seen only 7, 13, 22, 23, 25, 27, 33, 41, 49, 65, 66, 72, 80, and 82. They are more common on ordinary mail not involved with this subject. During this period there were four cities which used the so-called 'horseshoe' cancelling device: Muhlhausen, Colmar, Markkirch and Saargemund. These are popular from an aesthetic point of view and the last two named are the more difficult ones to find.

Mail posted at the railroad stations in Strassburg (German sp.) and Muhlhausen received a rectangular "Bahnhof" cancellation on occupation stamps and 5 other cities used a boxed rectangular device: Weisenburg, Westhofen, Saarburg, Pfaffenhofen and Falkenberg.

I know of 3 covers where the German stamp was not cancelled until it was on the train. All have the 3-line (rectangular) Strassburg to Avricourt cancel. All three were posted in Strassburg and have the French circular Strasbourg (Fr. sp.) date stamp at the side but with no date in the center.

In addition, collectors look for mail to and from obscure towns. My favorite is Malbouhans (not annexed) which did not rate a French post office so there are no cancellations from there. It is located near Lure, just west of Belfort and can be found only on the most detailed of maps. I once visited the town just to see what it looked like. It is only a fork in the road, not even a crossroads. I would guess perhaps 100 people live there.

The French stamps, applied in Alsace but not cancelled there, were cancelled by the French in a variety of ways depending on where the mail was addressed. Mail for Paris or beyond (letters which had to change trains in Paris) were cancelled in the Paris-Etranger (Foreign-mail) office with a mute Paris blue star or by the single-circle Paris-Etranger date stamp. On the examples I have seen, the double-circle date stamp was always applied at the side. For other mail, the French stamps were cancelled according to which of the 4 rail lines was used to enter free France.

The most common entry point into France was Belfort and the cancellation was usually the small-numeral 420 lozenge of Belfort. A few examples are known with the large-numeral 420 both on mail addressed to Belfort and on letters just passing through. This line carried the mail from the Mulhouse area. I know of no covers with the French stamp cancelled with the Belfort-to-Paris ambulant lozenge.

The second most common entry point was Avricourt on the Strasbourg to Paris line. Avricourt had no post office and the French stamps were cancelled on the train. An examination of 9 of these covers show 3 different cancellations, all used with about the same frequency. Some were cancelled with the Avricourt-to-Paris circular date stamp and others with the more conventional ambulant lozenge (STP). The third device used was the ambulant lozenge PS 1 or 2. This reads Paris-to-Strasbourg even though the letters were travelling in the opposite direction.

Mail from Metz had the option of going in two directions. One was to the north connecting with a line going west along the border and the other was to the south which connected with the Strasbourg-to-Paris line. The entry point on the line south out of Metz was Pagny-s-Moselle. It had a post office, but the French stamps were not cancelled until the mail was transferred to the Strasbourg-to-Paris train where it received the usual ambulant lozenge. Mail going north (and west) out of Metz entered France via Audun-le-Roman. This town did have a post office but, in contrast to Belfort, there was no reason to take the mail off the train just to cancel the French stamps. I do not know of any examples of doubly-franked mail going via the Audun route.

The final classification of cancellations on mail entering France from Alsace is that of the standard large-numeral lozenge cancellations used in the cities. All of the examples known to me were addressed to towns close to the annexed area. In other words, although they travelled by train, they were not on the train long enough to get processed. By far, the most common of these is the lozenge numeral 2598 for Nancy used not only on mail for that city but for nearby cities as well.

Mail From Free to Annexed France

Fully franked mail from free France is much scarcer than similar mail in the opposite direction. My review of the SPAL literature (exceptional covers) yielded only 11 examples to study. The cancellations on the French stamps are perfectly normal just as though they were not addressed to Alsace-Lorraine. The ones on the occupation (or German) stamps fall into 4 categories, two of which are similar to the way in which the French handled their incoming mail.

Some of the German stamps were cancelled on the train when they entered Alsace. The Avricourt-Strasbourg ambulant mark (three lines in a roughly rectangular shape) is the most common and, like the French, some-

times the direction is reversed by error. The only other one I have seen is Metz-Bingerbruck. The second category of cancellations on the German stamps was the use of circular datestamps.

Two styles of cancellations are quite different from the French. First, the Germans had a heavy hand with a blue crayon and sometimes cancelled the stamp with ugly crayon markings. Finally, sometimes the German stamp was cancelled by the French. The typical French post office handled very little doubly-franked mail, especially letters with stamps of both administrations. It is understandable why the rules were not followed.

Tax Markings

For letters which were incompletely franked each administration added its own postage-due markings. These exist both handwritten and by the use of handstamps of varying sophistication. When written by hand, the French generally used ink which is now brownish and Germans used a blue crayon and sometimes an orange one. The most common French handstamp is a crude script 2 which rather looks like a 9 with a tail. Later of course they changed to a script 25. The Germans used a very attractive double-lined numeral 20 and sometimes a 30. The French had a similar style of tax marking but not in the 20c value, theirs being 5, 10, 25, 30 and 40. The Germans also had a script handstamp with a thin line in contrast to the French. The numeral 2 is distinctive because the bottom line of the 2 (and this looks like a 2) had a high "arch." More varieties exist on both sides but are beyond the scope of this article.

I have seen only one cover with a French postage-due stamp and this was very early in the double-franking period, before the regulations were well known

On occasion the French used the common rectangular AFFRANCHISEMENT INSUFFISANT cachet but the two varieties of the German TAXE ALLEMANDE are very much sought after. The SPAL literature showed 5 of these covers, 4 being the 62 mm handstamp used in Amiens and one of 50 mm which is from nearby Abbeville.

The Stamps Used

The common French postage used on doubly-franked mail was either the 20c Napoleon laureated or the 20c Ceres (Siege Issue). Later the 25c Ceres took its place. The SPAL literature showed only 5 examples using the 20c Bordeaux Issue. Four originated in free France and one in Alsace. One prize cover is known which used twenty 1c Napoleon to make up the rate! Oddly enough, this cover originated in annexed Metz.

The September 1871 rate increase in France caused the usual crop of "rate-change covers" with the extra 5 centimes being made up with low-value stamps. I know of only one bisect on doubly-franked mail. It originated in Strasburg and has a 40c Napoleon bisected diagonally.

On the German side, the 20c occupation stamp and later the 2 groschen German first issue were the common stamps used. For the occupation stamps there is the usual search for stamps with the inverted network and the catalogue quotes properly reflect your chances of finding one of these.

The literature showed only 9 covers using the small denominations of the German stamps and only one used the German first issue in this manner. (The section on "Rates" contains more information on this subject.)

Rates

The SPAL literature is a valuable source of the rates and their variations during this time. They are listed here according to the regulations of each administration.

French

Until September 1, 1871 the French postage required was the same as usual for mail within France: 20c for mail up to 10 grams; 40c for 10-20 grams and 80c extra for each fraction of 100 grams more. A rate for printed material was effective March 25, 1871 and was 1c for 5 grams in a wrapper and 10c for up to 10 grams in an envelope.

As of September 1, 1871 the simple rate was changed to 25c, the double rate remained the same and the triple rate was lowered to 70c, but the weight limit was lowered from 100 to 50 grams. Mail over 50 grams was charged 50c more for each fraction of 50 grams. The printed-matter rate for the banded mail was changed to 2c for up to 5 grams and 1c for each additional 5 grams. A charge of 50c additional was established for registered mail.

At the end of the double-franking period the rate for simple mail from France to the annexed part of France was set at 40c.

German

From February 4 through March 24, 1871 the rate from occupied to free France was 20c for mail up to 15 grams, and 40c for mail 15-250 grams. After that, and until January 1, 1872 the rates were 20c for up to 10 grams; 40c for 10-20; 60c for 20-30 and 20c for each additional fraction of 10 grams. The printed rate was 4c for up to 40 grams.

A rate for registered mail was effective Sept. 1, 1871 and was set at an extra 25c over the regular postage.

On January 1, 1872 the occupation stamps were discontinued and new ones valued in German currency were introduced, with 1 groschen being equivalent to 10 centimes. Otherwise the rate for letters and the weight limits remained the same. The rate for printed matter was now changed to 1/3 groschen and the extra charge for registered mail was changed to 2 groschen.

After the end of the double-franking period, the rate for simple letters from the annexed area to France became 3 groschen.

The SPAL literature shows only 4 examples of mail over the double rate. All were triple rate except one posted in January 1872 from Metz to Paris. The franking is 8 groschen German stamps and 70c French. This is the quadruple rate for Germany and triple rate for French postage.

Mail to and from Algeria is also very scarce and the rates, of course, were the same as for metropolitan France.

Not many examples have survived of the special printed-matter rates. Of the 5 examples shown, the most interesting was a marriage announcement which, within France, was only 5c versus the normal letter rate of 20c. This one was mailed in October of 1871 from the annexed area with 4c occupation and 5c French.

Although rates existed for registered mail I have never seen an example.

Only one example of Commune Revolution mail has been shown. It was from Zabern (annexed) on April 17, 1871 addressed to Poste Restante (general delivery in Versailles). A 10c (local rate) French stamp was added and postmarked Paris May 17, 1871. Obviously this had been carried into Paris by one of the special services available.

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 THOSE HEXAGONS

Anyone collecting covers or used stamps of France cannot help seeing some of the postmarks of hexagonal form, mostly of a single ring but some with an inner circle. These were used over the whole period from 1876 to date, but their significance or function has varied. The history of these postmarks can be summarized briefly:—

Those with a continuous outer contour were issued:—

1. to "auxiliary offices" in rural communes from 1887 to 1895,
2. from 1895 on, to "auxiliary recettes" in towns or rural areas,
3. from 1919, to "postal agencies" of Alsace-Lorraine, and
4. since 1878, at large city offices for "Levées exceptionnelles."

The hexagons with dashed (discontinuous) outer contours were issued to:—

1. civil and military "postal agencies" from 1922 on, and
2. to the "poste auto rural" (PAR) service from 1922 on.

The deBeaufond "Catalogue des Oblitérations des Timbres de France 1876-1900," lists the types used in that period. The booklet (Yvert) of Dr. L. Goubin on "La Clé des Hexagons" is a very fine survey of the many uses and varieties, and his article in Doc. Phil. #43 reviews the "Levées Exceptionnelles." Pierre Lux in a pamphlet on "Les Recettes aux Paris" and one on "Timbres à Date des Recettes aux Urbaines et Levées Exceptionnelles" deals with the large-city types. There are many articles in the journals that have discussed some aspects of the hexagons; also the various Departmental monographs on marques postales, if they extend their coverage to later than 1876, will list hexagons.

Hexagons in the colonies are another story; they were used there only to a limited extent and only after ca. 1900, mostly for "postal agencies" (see Langlois et Bourselet; "Les Oblitérations de Bureaux de Postes des Colonies Françaises"). In the Overseas Territories and Departments hexagons have been used since 1945 on the same basis as in France.

Most Naval-ship and base postmarks since 1916 are in the hexagon form (see B. Sinais and D. Delhomez: "Catalogue des Oblitérations Navales Françaises 1771-1979," 2 vols.).

(The octagonal postmarks have no relation to the hexagons; they are chiefly from the French mail packets and Consular offices in foreign countries, and also for the "Corr. d'Armées" postmarks used in the colonies between 1862 and ca. 1900. Marks with wavy outer rings were generally for telegraph offices and for railroad "ambulants" or "convoyeurs.")

A LOOK AT THE DIVERSE WORLD OF A.E.F. POSTAL MARKINGS

By Robert G. Stone

III

Cont. from FCP #198, p. 106)

Special-Mission Cachets

92. Cachet of the ill-fated Marchand "Congo-Nil" Mission of 1896-1899, used on mail from the Mission's camps in the upper Ubangi 1897-98. Extremely rare (two slightly different versions). For background see Waugh and Luft "Chronology of French Military Campaigns . . ." pp. 63-4.
93. Cachet used on mail (free franchise to any French territory unless registered) from French personnel on the joint Franco-German Boundary Survey Expedition for the Kamerun-Congo land transfer of 1911-13. Mail posted at several civil p.o.s near the boundary. Rare.
94. Postmark for a Technical Service Group of the postal administration, 1950s; mail stampless in official franchise at least if addressed within the colony. (Analogous mark for a Ubangi-Shari Group reported.)

Post-Office Administration Marks

95. For use on official p.o.-business mail and forms, probably at the main p.o. of Libreville? (not regularly used on stamps?).
- 96a-b. On mail sent by the main p.o. of the colony in reply to inquiries, philatelic requests, etc., also as an arrival mark.
- 97a-b. Cachets on mail from the Gabon postal administration's headquarters, 1950s.

Cancels For "Validating" Irregular Uses

98. Used to tie 25c French Sage stamps on covers posted at the Abiras p.o. in Haut Oubanghi in 1897, originating from one of the nearby stations of the "Syndicat Francais du Bassin du Tchad" at Semio, Rafai, Ali Djaba, or Tamboura on the Ubangi River. Several covers reported; also postmarked on arrival at Paris. (The Syndicat may have been a "blind" for the Mission Marchand which was at Semio then.)
- 99a-b. Used to tie bisects of postage-due stamps at Libreville during Nov.-Dec. 1910 on local covers of philatelic nature. Bisects were not necessary and not authorized, a caper of one of the postal clerks with collusion of many local people; 100s of covers made up, sold in Paris bookstores. Question whether the cancels are "official"?

Slogan Cachets for Promotional Purposes

(Struck on covers not on stamps)

- 100a-b. Examples of Daguin-style boxes, 1930s, Fort Lamy (this type not reported for any other AEF p.o.s).
- 101a-e. Straightline and odd types, framed or unframed, 1930s-1950s, known for only several p.o.s.

Censor Cachets

102. W.W. I military censor cachet in typical French style, seen on Ft. Lamy cover of 1918, rare.

POSTES ET TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS
 —
 PAR AVION
 AFFRANCHISSEMENT
 EN COMPTE
 —
 BRAZZAVILLE RP - CONGO

88.

87.

VOIE TRANS-SAHHARIENNE



89.



90.



91a.



91b.



91c.



92.

88.

103. Typical W.W. II general French style of military censor cachet used in areas with considerable troop concentrations or in military p.o.s, not common on AEF mail as military personnel mostly used the civil p.o.s.
- 104a. W.W. II postal censor cachets of A.E.F., Commissions A to D recorded, each letter for a different p.o., common.
- 104b. Letter A or B in circle with numeral, accompanied use of #104a but not frequently. (A3 and A4 seen.)
105. W.W. II telegraph-censor cachets, Commissions A to ?, used on ordinary mail and telegrams posted at telegraph and radio stations, scarce.

Auxiliary Marks

- In addition to the Registry marks, #s 67-70, various other auxiliary marks common in most p.o.s of other colonies may have been used in AEF, such as Chargé, Chargé d'Office, Affranchissement Insuffisant, Non-Reclamé, Inconnu, Refusé, Retour à L'Envoyeur, Décédé, Recouvrements, Service Officiel, Adresse Incomplete, Exprès, Après le Départ.
106. "T" unframed or in triangle, 1876-, common (for due).
 107. "Officiel," framed, seen Gabon 1946 to identify official-franchise mail.
 108. Seen on cover returned from Bria, Oubanghi-Chari, 1933.

Port "Paquebot" Marks

- More likely seen on stamps and covers from foreign countries, but could occur on loose letters from AEF coastal ports.
109. Pointe Noire, 1953-54.
 110. Pointe Noire, 1954-59.

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MISSION DE DÉLIMITATION
 Afrique Equatoriale Française

93.



94.



95.



96a.



96b.



97a.



97b.

A défaut de timbres Coloniaux
 dans les
 Postes de la Mission

98.

TAXÉ AVEC MOITIÉ
 DE 4° FAUTE DE 2°

99a.

Taxe avec moitié
 de 20 faute de 10

99b.

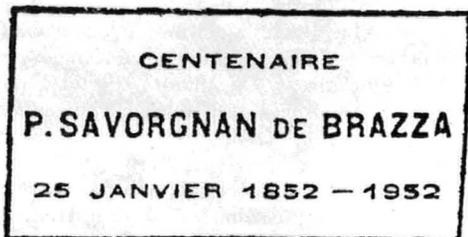
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- R. G. Stone: (on Agent-Spécial and Trésorier-Payeur postmarks), Fr. Cols. Phil., #123, 1966, p. 120.
- R. G. Stone: (on banderole-style postmarks), Fr. Col. Phil., #191, p. 24.
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- R. G. Stone: "The pirogue posts on the Ogooué River of Gabon," Fr. Col. Phil. #184, April 1981.
- S. Strowski: "Les Estampilles de la Grande Guerre 1914-1920." Amiens, 1925 (repr. 1976).
- H. Tristant: "Essai de classification des cachets postaux française d'outre-mer," L'Echo de la Timbrologie, Nov. 1954 to Jan. 1956.
- H. Tristant: "Une curieuse oblitération du Gabon," Feuilles Marcophiles, #123, Jan. 1960.
- H. Truc: "Le Poste Aérienne Francaise, Vol. I, Afrique du Nord," Paris, 1950.
- J. Wall: "Cachets oblitérants du Gabon," Feuilles Marcophiles, #117, 1959; ". . . du Congo-Moyen Congo," F.M. #118; ". . . du Oubanghi-Charit-Tchad," F.M. #119; ". . . du A.E.F.," F.M., #120, 1959.
- W. M. Waugh and S. J. Luft: "A Chronology of French Military Campaigns and Expeditions with Their Postal Markings 1815-1983" Fr. Cols. Ph. Soc. and War Cover Club, 1984.

Addenda and Corrections

- Type 1. Substitute the following annotation: Libreville, always struck in blue. Raynaud records: for the first period, 23 Sept. 1862 to 24 April 1865, less than 20 covers, ½ of them stampless, and several on detached stamps; for the second period, examples recorded from 4 Feb. 1883 to 25 Aug. 1886, less than 20 covers, all stamped with Dubois issue (5c, 25c 80c), plus an equal number on detached stamps.
- Type 2. Seen on General Issues: Eagles (10, 20, 40c), Ceres (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30c), and Dubois (15, 25c); used from 26 Aug. 1865 to 16 Oct. 1885. Ceres covers are scarcer than Eagles and Dubois.
- Type 6a. Seen without date for Brazzaville, probably philatelic or administrative use; shown below.
- Type 9. A cover with a cachet for "télégraphie" reported from Kango, Gabon 1913.
- Types 13 and 14. Omit "(For variant of #13 with name of p.o. cut out see #60b.)" The variant is of Type 21.
- Type 21a. Correct the dates to "1927-1938."
- Type 21a(-60b). For Type 21 with name of p.o. cut out see under 60b.
- Type 60b. Change "13a" to "21a."



100a.



101a.

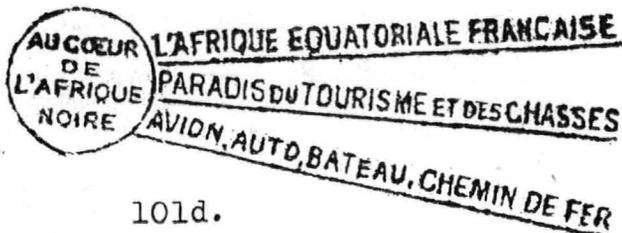
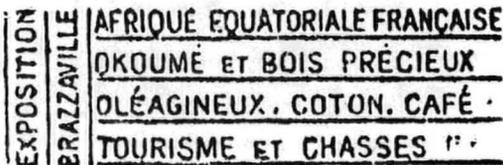


100b.



101b.

101c.



101d.

- FORT-ARCHAMBAULT :
- SES GRANDES CHASSES 101e.
- SES FEMMES A PLATEAU



102.



103.



104b.



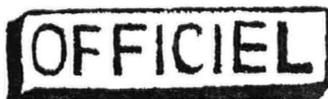
104a.



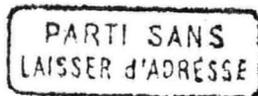
105.



106.



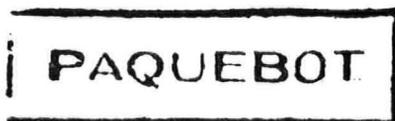
107.



108.

PAQUEBOT

109.



110.

Type 65c. A straightline "Brazzaville R.P." seen similarly used on a cover from Loutéte, Middle Congo, ca. 1950.

Type 71b. We are not certain the "A.O.F" in this mark is an error in the postmark or in a tracing of it.

Type 76. Figure inadvertently omitted; now shown below.

Type 78. Three covers reported, two from Fort Lamy; may have been a pirogue rather than a steamer.

Type 79. The boat was the "Largeau," stranded June 23, 1927, near Brazzaville.

Type 86. "PAR AVION" in rectangle seen from several other p.o.s.

Add new class: **Railroad Ambulant Postmarks**

- 111-111a. Southbound and northbound ambulant marks in style like Type 94, the "Congo-Ocean" RR line, reported 1938-52, in black, occasionally violet; very scarce.
- 112-112a. Southbound and northbound ambulant marks in Type 33 style, for the "Congo-Ocean" line, reported 1952-59; very scarce.



6a.



111.



76.



111a.



112.



112a.

"THE INDIAN MAIL COACH"

Pierre Lux, the expert on French railway posts, enlightens us about a little-known facet of French postal-history, or should we say, Franco-British postal history, in an article in Feuilles Marcophiles #238.

For the French public the "Indian Mail Coach" was long only a mysterious symbol of a fast train that went from Calais to Marseille and back with priority above all other trains. It carried the British mails with the colonies and dominions in Asia and Australia, picked up at Marseille by British packets for Suez and beyond. This train ran in various consists and routes for nearly a 100 years 1839-1939, in the first decade or two being a horse-drawn mail-wagon affair until the rails were fully constructed.

The British GPO was concerned to speed up the mails with the distant oriental outposts, which by sail had been months away. First the Cape route was eliminated by opening the Mediterranean route through Egypt "overland" to the Red Sea. Then the detour around the Iberian Peninsula was to be avoided by obtaining the cooperation of the French for a fast through "mail coach" from Calais to Marseille. The French Postal Administration

made a favorable proposal in terms of speed and cost leading to a Postal Convention of July 31, 1839. The horse-drawn special coach at first ran once a month the 1065 km from Calais in 102 hours, with top priority at the relay posts en route.

The French railway from Boulogne to Paris opened in 1848 and from Paris to Bourges in 1847; so they put the coach on a RR flatcar (like the other RR mail wagons at that time—see the illustration on the French 1.50 Fr stamp of 1944). But the coach had to go by road between the two railroad stations in Paris on opposite sides of the city. And again between Bourges and Marseille it had to return to the highway. Year by year the railway lines extended southward, and a line from Avignon to Marseille opened in 1850, yet a gap remained. When the rail from Calais to Paris was finished in 1849 the coach went again from Calais instead of Boulogne. In 1853 the rails reached Chalon-sur-Saone; it was decided to go that way but putting the mail bags in a freight car instead of carrying the wagon on a flat car. To get across Paris the freight was transferred via horse wagons to the Gare de Lyon which only took 1½ hours. Thence another freight car to Chalons where a horse wagon took the bags to Avignon and rail to Marseille. All these changes were too time consuming so at the end of 1851 it was arranged to take the Indian Mail from G.B. to Antwerp thence by rail to Munich, Graz and Italy. When the rail gap between Lyon and Marseille was finally filled in late 1856, the Coach returned to the all-French route, using six special cars with a compartment for the officer in charge of the convoy (—the volume of mail had greatly increased by then). Now the trip took only 37½ hours, twice a month. Additional cars were built in 1858 and 1861.

In 1864 the outer belt RR around Paris eliminated the transfer problem between stations. In 1868 with the opening of the rails through the Mont Cénis pass, the Coach was diverted through Macon, Culoz, Chambéry, and Ste. Michelle-de-Maurienne to Suze, Italy, and on to Brindisi. The War of 1870-71 forced the Coach to run from Ostende to Munich and Brenner Pass through Italy.* After the Mont Cénis tunnel was finished in 1871, the Coach was again routed that way to Italy.

The train had become a solid weekly express. The P. & O. SS Co. and the French RR Companies agreed to take some English passengers in cars added to the mail-Coach trains, becoming known as "The Peninsular Express," starting 1890. Another train was begun from Calais to Marseille, "The Bombay Express," which proved more popular with the passengers, so the Brindisi run was abandoned in 1898.

A French ambulant p.o. was added to the Brindisi train between Paris and Modane for sorting mails to and from French destinations.

Each week the Coach was taking 2500 mail bags, requiring 2 or 3 trains of 200-250 tons each.

The War of 1914-18 of course prevented the Coach across France and the British had to resort to a sea route. After the War and until 1939 the Calais-Marseille Coach ran every Thursday in less than 16 hours. After 1945 air-mail supplanted the Coach and much of the steamer service also.

*A very detailed study of how the Franco-Prussian War of 1871 affected the transit of British mails, by our member Robert I. Johnson, appeared in the Phil. Journal of G.B. for Sept. 1975,

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS



- ◆ On 13 October the 5.00F "La Pythie" (painting series) of Andre Massou was issued. On 2 Dec. the 5.00F "Le Peintre Piétiné par Son Modèle" of Jean Hélon (painting series)—a scandalous erotic scene of a nude model stomping on the prostrate artist. On 3 Nov. three stamps in uniform design for the Conseil de l'Europe (Strasbourg) came out in denominations of 1.70, 2.10, and 3.00F (these replaced on 9 Nov. the three stamps in the 1983 set). On 8 Dec. the 2.10F for the 9ème Plan Moderniser la France appeared.
- ◆ On 15 Jan. the 3.00F La Francophone will be issued; on 19 Jan. the 1.70 Vienne (touristic), on 26 Jan. the 2.50 Télévision 1935-85, on 14 Feb. the 2.10 Peynet's "La Saint-Valentin," on 23 Feb. the set of 6 Personnages Célèbres (3 of 1.70 and 3 of 2.10 plus surtax) and the 6 in a special strip of six in a booklet sold at 14.10F.
- ◆ Andorre issued Dec. 1 a 3.00 and a 20.00F in their regular issue design (Prémier Ecu d'Andorre). The Andorre program for 1985 was announced on 15 Nov.: Europa: CEPT theme for the Music Year of Europe—a comic

opera "The Val d'Andorre" and traditional music instruments. Nature: two birds, le chardonneret and le col-vert. Artistic: detail of a fresco in the church of Sant Cerni de Nagol. Commemorative: Anniversary Intern. de le Jeunesse, and La Vallée de Sant Julia. The current regular issue will be augmented with a 10F value. A new series of dues stamps in a "Baies Sauvages" design will replace the present flowers set.

◆ Monaco will issue in 1985 a souvenir bloc to mark the centenary of the first stamp of Monaco.

◆ Sometime in 1985 the PTT will issue a stamp for the 40th Anniversary of Documentation Francaise.

◆ The PTT announced on 20 Nov. the preliminary list of stamps programmed for 1986—we will wait for the final program in July next.

◆ The painting stamp of André Masson issued Oct. 13 is a chaotic looking colorful surrealist work titled "La Pythie" (the python). It is inspired by mythical legends of the Delphic Oracle known as "the dawn of the combats at the March sun" and "the terrible wound at the April sun"—a fight with a python leaving a bloodied man. Masson's early work was figurative. Following a trip to America he went into cubism, surrealism, and abstractions, and an obsession with images of life vs massacre, merging of organic and inorganic in frenetic unchained incandescent chaos—an impetuous tragic seeking of an obscure cosmic vision.

◆ The P.T.T. announced in November that booklets of 5 would no longer be printed and would be replaced by booklets of 6 (to simplify the vending machine charges); the booklets of 20 will also no longer be printed as the demand for them has decreased.

◆ Starting Dec. 3, 1984, the P.T.T. began an experiment in the Isère Dept. with a special set of 4 entires and a mailable "cassette postal." The 4 entires consist of:

a) a yellow aérogramme in the Tour Eiffel type without face value, sold at 3.50F.

b) a yellow "Carteposte" (Liberté) without face value, for the non-urgent mail, sold at 2.50F.

c) a yellow "lettre-poste" entire (a sort of domestic "aérogramme") in the Liberté type, without face value, sold at 3.00F. (The vignettes are just of the Liberté head in red or green with Republique Francaise in an arc above and Postes below.)

d) a yellow precancelled entire (114x162mm) in the Liberté type, without face value, sold at 3.00F.

The "cassette postal" is a blank cassette good for 20 min. of recording, sold with a mailing packet; for the convenience of the public one of the Isère p.o.s will have available a recorder. This experiment was originally planned for 1982 but postponed.

◆ At the Salon d'Automne last November the Grand Prix de l'Art Philatélique Francaise was awarded to Andreotti for the 1.60F Philex-Jeunes '84 stamp. The Prix for the best stamp of the Territories went to Betemps for his 80F Polynesia Pirogues stamp.

◆ At the Boston Stamp Show last October Martin Stempien got a Vermeil for his exhibit of "the Three-Month Period 1857" about which he gave a talk to the FCPS meeting in November.

◆ At the Collectors Club Annual Competition Exhibit for members, Abbot Lutz got a certificate for his frame of G.B. London Inland Office Cancels, M. Stempien a certificate for his "Introducing the Union," Dick Stevens showed Serbia Government in Exile at Corfu, and S. Serebrakian Inspection Sepia Proofs.

◆ One of our most promising young members, James C. Pratt, age 36 an Ass't Attorney General of State of Georgia, died last October 20, after an operation for brain tumor. Jim was an eager student and collector of transatlantic covers US-France. His exhibits had won good awards, not fully appreciated by the judges but much praised by our transatlantic buffs, who will greatly miss his valuable collaboration. Our heartfelt condolences to his family.

◆ **Chicagopex 84 Report.—**

A France and Colonies Philatelic Society regional meeting was held on Saturday, November 10, 1984 at Chicagopex 84. Ten French collectors gathered for a slide program of Indochina's Airmail Stamps by Mark Isaacs and French balloon mail by Cheryl Ganz, plus some interesting covers with autographs were shown by Elizabeth Chang. Seven exhibits were on display and received the following awards:

Gold and F&C First Award: The Cameo Sowers of France, Rollo Adams
Vermeil and F&C Second Award: Indochina Air Posts: 1923-1939, Mark Isaacs
Vermeil: French Andorra 1931-1956, Felix Ganz

Silver: Indochina: French Military Mail 1946-1955, Mark Isaacs

Silver: Ballooning in France, Cheryl Ganz

Silver: Images of the Great War, Walter Schmidt (literature)

Silver Bronze: Circular Type Precancels on the Sower Issues, 1912-1938,
Guy Louis Calhamer

Silver Bronze: Monaco Stamps and Covers, Ralph Herdenberg.

—Cheryl Ganz

◆ At the ASDA Show in New York Nov. 15-18, our booth was well attended by local members and a few out of towners. Jeff Bohn, John Chaite, Ray Gaillaguet, Alain Millet, Alfred Schneider, Bob Stone, and Dick Winter in from more or less afar. A dinner party one evening collected a dozen of us. Of course much attention was given to the bourse—a dealer from Paris with a lot of covers did a land-office business. The exhibits (only 125 frames) included Martin Stempien's Franco-British Accountancy Marks (Vermeil) and Ed. Grabowski's French Colonies Group Type Covers (Gold). Dealer members Bill Bogg, Sergio Sismondo, and S. Serebrakian had booths.

◆ Let us bow to the latest APS accredited judge—Stanley J. Luft no less.

◆ For the next couple years St. Pierre will use a new illustrated flamme (slogan box) in its machine postmark. It shows an outline of the islands, the head of Cartier, and an inscription "1536-1986 / Comme Cartier vers / l'Amérique partez / a la découverte."

AUSIPEX '84

This international exhibition at Melbourne 21-30 Sept. under FIP auspices, from all reports was a well-organized show of over 3000 frames with exhibits from all continents and many countries, not the least U.S.A. The Catalog is well printed on coated paper with a great many color illustrations and ads—the color printing being generally excellent except for many Australian items reproduced with a toned background. The catalog will be a valuable reference for Australia specialists for the large number of rare proofs, essays and rarities illustrated in color with a brief annotation.

Six FCPS members obtained awards, mostly Golds. Exhibitors (9) from France with French exhibits got only one Gold, but several Vermeils and Silvers. 19th Century France exhibits all got good awards.

There were 14 exhibits in the FIP Championship Class, which included John Levett's French Colonies. 26 Large Golds. 13 Large Golds with Special Prize. 51 Golds, including Stan Jersey's New Hebrides and British Solomon Islands, de Bustamente's Morocco Locals, H. Vermeer's French Colonies, H. Gachot's Alsace-Lorraine Letters, and Mary Ann Owens' The Blue Danube (thematic). 19 Golds With Special Prize, including Stanley and Anita Luft's French Revolution and Napoleonic Armies, M. Monchicourt's 1871 Composite Frankings and R.-A. Levillain's topical on Vehicles. 62 Large Vermeils awarded, including Geo. Guzzio's Penguinalia (thematic), and R. Losinski's France 1849-71, C. Vedel's Siege of Paris, and A. Bouthie's French airmails. 11 Large Vermeils with Special Prize, including B. Polak Jr.'s Paris Pre-Stamp Covers. 74 Vermeils, including Y. Souhard's Study of the Marianne de Gandon, P. Richart's Postmarks of French Northern Provinces, and member Ernst Cohn for his Postal History Journal (literature class). 65 Large Silvers, including H. Van der Vlist's France Sage Type, M. de Pompignan's South Atlantic Line (maritime), and A. Candoni's Entirets of the Chaplain Type. 72 Silvers, including R. Benétière's Monaco Albert. 65 Silver Bronzes ($\frac{1}{2}$ to literature). 34 Bronzes.

U. S. exhibitors won a good share of the Golds and of the other classes.

(Thanks to Geo. Guzzio for loan of the catalog and to Stan Jersey for copy of the palmares.)

◆ Since the Marianne French Catalogue (Storch, Francon and Brun) has become recognized as a good one to get, the literature dealers in U. S. are now offering to order or stocking it. We regret that our announcement in July FCP gave the price as \$6.50 from Leonard Hartmann (Box 320006, Louisville) when it should be \$16.00. Theo Van Dam (Postal Covers, Box 26, Brewster, N. Y.) who has heretofore only handled Yvert and Cérés catalogs is now selling the Marianne also, at \$16.50 postpaid. Our members Frank Anderson (Box 210612, Dallas) and France International (Ft. Lee, N. J.) have been handling Yvert and Cérés and perhaps will take on Marianne also. The Fédération Québécoise de Philatélie (1415 ru Jarry est, Montreal, Que. H2E 2Z7) is selling the Marianne at \$15.95 Canadian—it also is selling the full line of works by Jean Pothion and a number of other French philatelic works (Yvert specialized, Sage monograph).

◆ Leonard Hartmann has just issued his latest literature catalog (#9) of 85 pp which has a number of French items (new and old); and Roger Koerber has also just issued his latest stock list of literature offers with some 40 French items (new and 2nd hand)—he also sells Cérés and Yvert catalogs

but not Marianne. Several New York stores—Subway Stamp Shop and Cambridge Essex among others handle the various French catalogs.

Last Call for RIPEX XX, April 19-21

According to maestro Ray Gaillaguet, the plans for RIPEX XX have pretty well matured. There will be about 380 frames, and a bourse of some 30 dealers. It is the Spring National Meeting of APS and the Grand Award qualifies to enter the Champion of Champions later. The judges include our members John Lievsay and Ernst Cohn. 11 a.m. Sunday the FCPS will hold a meeting, as will a number of other philatelic societies: Postal History, Thai, Austria-Hungary, Portugal, airmail societies, etc. Various social events and tours are being arranged. The deadline for entries is 1 April but frames may all be allotted before that. For information and entry forms write to Ray Gaillaguet, 15 Fletcher St., Rumford, R. I. 02916. The show will be held at the Biltmore Hotel on Kennedy Plaza, Providence, R. I. 02903.

Louise Clemencon

We are saddened to learn one of our oldest members (#19, next to Adrien Boutrelle and Jacques Musy) died last October. Louise was a charter member, recruited by the late Roaul Lesgor, an enthusiastic and intelligent collector of modern France and Reunion. Her Reunion exhibit won a Bronze award at FIPEX. She promoted a project for FCPS to compile and publish a catalog/handbook of French booklets, which sputtered for a few years and ended for lack of cooperation. Louise was a regular at our meetings for many years, and was elected Recording Secretary from the 40s to 1952, then President 1952-3, and Vice President 1953-54. Owing to infirmities she retired to live with a sister in New Jersey.

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND CATALOGS

Correction:—in our listing of the work in Oct. FCP, "Courrier Récupéré, Recovered Mail," the coverage was stated to be world-wide; that is incorrect, the coverage is only of Europe and European colonies and by European airlines; a later volume is expected covering the rest of the world.

"Catalogue Georges Monteaux France Spécialisé," 28th Ed. 1985. 130pp. 24Fr +6F post. Geo. Monteaux, 6 Sq. de l'Opera Louis Jouvot, 75009 Paris. (20th Cent. specialized for types, coils, booklets, vars., etc., priced.)

"Histoire des Timbres et Oblitérations des T.A.A.F." By Lucien Joffre. Rev'd ed. 1985, of former Le Monde Etude #221, now Phila #1, Le Monde des Phil., 44pp, 300 illustr. 76.50F ppd. Le Monde, 24 rue Chauchat, 75009 Paris.

"American Philatelic Congress Book 1984." Includes art. by Richard Winter: "Mails from the U.S. to France via England 1836-1849."

"Catalogue 1985 France, Andorre, Europa—La Bourse du Timbre." 10th ed. 1984, 224 pp. 25F+post. La B. du T., 7 rue Drouot, 75009 Paris. (Gives prices both at which he sells and at which he buys.)

- "Cote d'Ivoire 1892-1982 Timbres Poste." By Michel Nedelec. 1984, 142 pp. Each st. reprod. in color. 88Fr. Fro mEds. Karthala, 22-24 Blvd. Arago, 75013 Paris. (A thematic-topical emphasis.)
- "Supplement 1983 au Catalogue des Flammes, avec Cotations." 1984, 32 pp. 34.20F p.pd. Le Monde Etude #257. Le Monde, 24 rue Chauchat, 75009 Paris. (Annual update of the Lafon cat. of machine-cancel flammes.)
- "Catalogue des Timbres Perforés France et Colonies." By R. Dedecker, M. Herbert, and R. Janot. 1984. 340 pp. 325Fr+24F post. Philoffset Editions, 18 rue Elémir Bourges, Marseille 13004.
- "Catalogue des Marques de Tri Mécanique (MTM)." 1984. 47 pp. 45Fr p.pd. by subscription. M. Christian, Le Gac, Les Closiaux, Trégonier, 22400 Lamballe.
- "Le Facteur et Ses Metamorphoses." By P. Charbon and P. Nougaret. 1985. 272 pp. 300 illustr. 24 color plates. Amis de l'Histoire des P.T.T. d'Alsace, B. P. 153 R4, L7004 Strasbourg Cédex. (The facteur in history, culture, art, etc., and anecdotes of their adventures.)
- "Iconographie des Camps des Prisonniers de Guerre pendant de Guerre Mondiale." By M. Carnavalé-Mauzan. 1983. 35Fr+6.30 post. Editions Philoffset, 18 rue Elémir Bourges, 13004 Marseille.
- "Catalogue des Oblitérations Daguins Flamme." 10th ed. 1984, 165 pp., illustr. Le Club le Meilleur, B. P. 21, 77350 Le Mée sur Seine. (Classified by Departments.)
- "Les Machines à Affranchir Electroniques." By R. Charbonnier. 1984. 20 pp. 45Fr p.pd. Le Club le Meilleur (see above).
- "Les Oblitérations Retardataires Types 17bis—17ter, 18-19, 20." Le Club le Meilleur (see above). (Priced cat., dates of use of each type at each p.o.)
- "Guerre 1914-18, le Service Postal des Formations Automobile No10A." Le Club le Meilleur (see above).
- "Guerre 1914-18, Sections Sanitaires Automobiles et Autos Chirurgicales Francaises et Etrangers." Le Club le Meilleur (see above).
- "Catalogue des Enveloppes et Cartes Premiers Jour 1984-85." J. Farcigny, 1984, 300 pp., illustr. 65F+post. Eds. J. Farcigny, 39 rue d'Estienne D'Orves, 92400 Courbevoie. (FDCs for sale by this firm, priced, past years and present.)
- "Histoire Postale des Lacs et des Rivières du Monde (Sauf U.S.A. et D.D.S.G.)." By E. Antonini and Dr. J. Grasset. 1984. 164 pp., illustr. \$30.00. David Feldman, S. A., Case Postale 81, 1213 ONEX, Geneva, Switzerland. (Remarkably comprehensive compilation of the postal markings and brief background information on all the known lake and river posts of the world; marks all illustrated and scarcity ratings given; references to sources used. The U.S. river packets and Danube SS Co. are not included as these are well-covered in available works.) (For sale by L. Hartmann, Louisville, Ky.)
- "Les Premiers Paquebots Francais de la Ligne de New York 1783-1793." By Henri Tristant. 200pp, Feb. 1985. Edition of 250 copies, offset from typed ms. 237Fr. p.pd. surface reg., to outside France, payable by check in Fr. francs. From the author, 1 rue de la Mission-Marchand, 75016 Paris. (Detailed history from the archives on each sailing, with marks, covers, 33 pp. illustr. of documents, tables and covers.)
- "France—Poste Maritime." By J. Pathion, J.-P. Alexandre, and J. Robineau.

1984, 37 pp. 200Fr. La Poste aux Lettres, 17 Faubg. Montmartre, 75009 Paris. (And from J. Robineau). (A listing of the item numbers from Salles' "La Poste Maritime" with revised indices of rarity; also revision and additions on the early entry marks and on the accountancy (exchange) marks.)

"Ecuador Postal History and a Listing of Prephilatelic Postmarks." By Leo J. Harris, Percy Bargholtz, and Rodrigo Paez T. 1984, 98 pp. illustr. soft-bound \$25.00. The Collectors Club and Fed. Interamericana de Filatelia. (Has a chapter on the French South Pacific Mail Services between Panama and Valparaiso, Ligne F, 1872-74). (From the Coll. Club, 22 East 35th St., N. Y. 10016.)

"Nomenclature des Fictifs de France." By R. Biard. 1984, 30 pp. 25Fr p.pd. The author, Salles/Mer, 17220 La Jarrie.

"Les Surcharges 'France Libre' Dans les Etablissements Francaises de l'Inde 1941-1945." 1984. 20 pp. 50Fr. p.pd. Phil. Voisin, 50 rue Sainte-Catherine, 45000 Orleans. (Detailed study, printings, fakes, etc.)

"Les Surcharges Provisoires 'E.A.' sur Timbres de France, Dept. de Sétif." By C. Bosc. 1984, 62 pp. 60Fr+9.50F post. Phil. E. A., 24 Ave. de Province, 77270 Villeparisis .

"L'Algérie à Travers le Timbre." 1984. Ministère de l'Information d'Algérie, Alger.

Reviews

"L'Emission Metropolitaine Francaise de 1849-1850 Aux Colonies."

By Henri Tristant. 1983, 52 pp. Eds. Yvert et Teller, 37 rue des Jacobins, 80036 Amiens Cédex. Price 60Fr + 20Fr postage.

This work is a reprint of a long serial article in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* Sept. 1980-June 1983. It is a very thorough study, based on archives and official regulations and a survey of covers reported. The subject is the well-known official use of French 1849-50 stamps of 10c, 25c and 1Fr in four colonies on letters to France, as a sort of experiment in prepayment, which lasted from 1851 to 1853 (1855 in Reunion). Tristant covers all aspects of this episode, including the underlying policy, the controlling regulations and instructions both of the Ministry of Colonies and the colonial administrations, the quantities sent out, the various rates applicable and frankings found on covers, the cancellations (all on arrival in France), the colonies postmarks on the covers, the various ships and packet routes transporting the covers, the withdrawal of unused stocks in 1853-55, and estimates of the numbers of covers and stamps used, etc. Then follows a detailed analysis of the use in each of the colonies, with an inventory and analysis of known covers—many covers illustrated. Gaudeloupe had the most (35), followed by Martinique (17), Guiana (8), Reunion (4). (The stamps sent to India were returned and never used there.) Tristant estimate that probably 200-300 covers might be in philatelic hands, which we think is too high.

For colonies specialists, few of whom will be able to acquire any of these rare and expensive covers, the extensive documentation in Tristant's work has nevertheless a great interest and value. It shows the way in which the colonial postoffices were operating in the period before the Law of May 1853 (which gave the authority for the colonies to retain postage money collected on mail to other countries and even to issue local stamps), and the various

packets and merchant vessel transports available, the postage rates to France by them, the ways in which the regulations from France were disseminated to and within the colonies, etc. There are many intriguing sidelights on the impacts of the experiment on the colonial postal employees and residents and local difficulties in interpreting the complex and detailed instructions causing many mistakes the Ministry had to point out. Also of special value is the explanation of how the forwarding of mail by British packets was carried out under the Franco-British postal conventions, which has not been well understood by most colonial specialists.

The situation of Guiana, not being on any packet line, required the colony to make an arrangement to forward letters to Surinam via a monthly subsidized coastal schooner, thence on Surinam's local packets to Demerara where the British packets could pick them up. An extra tax was charged locally for this.

The experiment was apparently not a great success. Tristant estimates perhaps 10% of the total letters of 1852-55 from the four colonies to France were franked prepaid, and if so, many more such covers should be extant. He thinks many of the 1Fr stamps off cover cancelled by the types of obliterations seen on these colonies covers may well have come from such covers—an intriguing thought.

It is odd that the most complete documentation obtained is for Guiana, and that the number of covers from Reunion is so small. The large number from Guadeloupe is probably due to the fortunate find of a large correspondence to the Beuscher firm in Paris.—R.G.S.

"The Paquebot Marks of the Americas."

By Gustav J. Lund. 1984, 193 pp. \$15 p.pd. in U.S., \$15.75 p.pd. to foreign countries. Pages printed on one side, loose leaf, punched for 3-ring binder. The author, 6514 142nd Place S. W., Edmonds, Wash. 98020.

This work illustrates all the "Paquebot" (and analogous) marks of ports in the Americas used since the 1890s, listed by countries and ports, with an introductory explanation of Paquebot mail practices. Sizes and dates of use, the numbers in other Paquebot catalogs (Studd, Joesten, Hoskings), are given. It will primarily interest general collectors of paquebot covers of course, and of stamps with paquebot cancels, but also French colonies collectors of the American and Pacific colonies will find this book very helpful in identifying paquebot cancels on stamps off cover, as a wide variety of paq marks could occur on them and usually they are of American ports. The coverage in this work is more complete and accurate than any of the previous paquebot mark catalogs the author went to much effort to verify usages and get clear an accurate illustrations.—R. G. Stone

FOR THE RECORD

(Cont. from FCP, Octo. 1984, p. 125)

477). We have reported in these columns on several special familial correspondence postal cards issued by some colonies during W.W. II—for Guad-

eloupe and Oceania. These are apparently rare used and not generally known—not in the ACEP catalog. Now Alain Millet has come across another one, from Equatorial Africa (A.E.F.). Like the others it was mostly intended for mail to Vichy and German occupied France requiring an open message that would pass censorship. The back of the card has half of the space taken up with a notice: that this card is exclusively reserved for familial correspondence. It is permitted to write in space below only correspondence of familial nature in seven lines, but it is strictly prohibited to write between these lines or to give news that would not be of that character. It is indispensable to write very legibly to facilitate the control by the German authorities. Any irregular card in form or background will not be forwarded and its face value will not be reimbursed.



AVIS IMPORTANT

Carte exclusivement réservée à la correspondance familiale. Il est permis d'écrire ci-dessous une correspondance de caractère familial de sept lignes; mais il est strictement interdit d'écrire entre les lignes ou de donner des nouvelles qui n'auraient pas ce caractère. Il est indispensable d'écrire très lisiblement pour faciliter le contrôle des autorités allemandes.

Toute carte irrégulière dans la forme ou dans le fond, ne sera pas acheminée; sa valeur d'achat ne sera pas remboursée.

10-9-41 - Chère petite Maggy, il y a bien longtemps que je n'ai pas eu de tes nouvelles. Je sais fort bien que ce n'est pas de ta faute mais le temps me dure de recevoir une lettre. J'ai reçu il y a 3 semaines 2 lettres: 1. de maman et 1. de Marcel datées du 27 Mars. quelques primées les nouvelles font plaisir, quelle chaleur ici! c'est effrayant! Excellente santé malgré ça. Bonne bonne santé. Bis très très baisers.

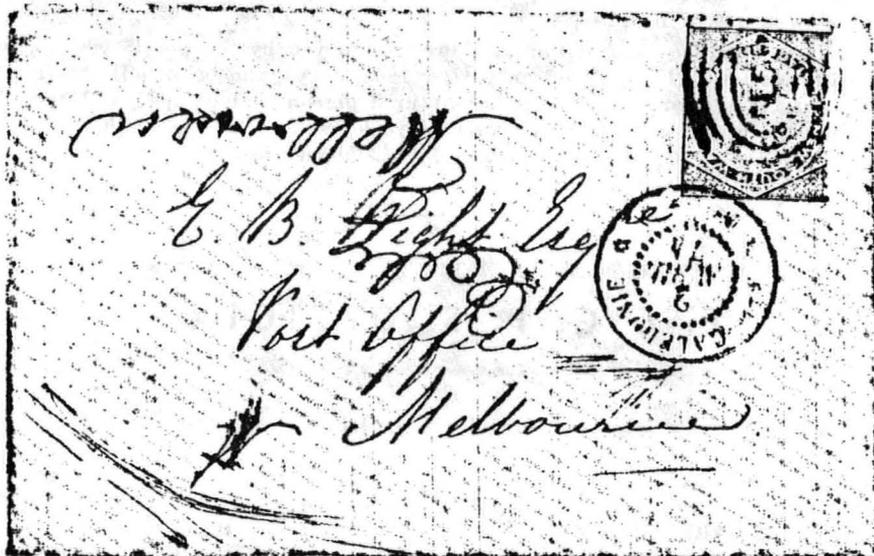
Signature

Millet

478). Recently we had a copy of the Sage 1c Prussian blue for an opinion; noted that the Hazebrouck (Nord) cancel was dated 11 Sept. 1880, which is two days earlier than the date listed by Joany, Storch, et al. in their 1980 monograph on the Sage issues.—J.E.L.

479). Mark Schumacker calls our attention to the peculiar error in spelling in the maritime postmark Salles #2024/5, "Yokoama A Marseille" instead of "Yokohama"!

480). Bert Mendelsohn notes an odd usage on a cover sold in the last Oct. sale of Proud-Bailey Co.:—a pair of 25c Indochina Group Type cancelled "Han-Keou Chine/Poste Francaise/20 Mars/03." We have seen a number of un-overprinted Indochina stamps used in the Indochinese Offices in China, but this is the first one used in French postoffices in China.



No. 481

481). Alain Millet shows us a remarkable cover from Noumea, New Caledonia, addressed to Melbourne, franked with a New South Wales 6 pence stamp cancelled with an oval killer of NSW(?) and tied also by Noumea cds 3 Avril '74. Such use, must be extremely rare, has been mentioned in the literature (Phil Mag. v. 64, p. 15; Echo de Timbr. 1964, p. 65), and in Philatélie #15, Dec. 1968, a cover is illustrated from New Hebrides to France with New South Wales and French Colonies stamps postmarked Noumea.

482). When Bill Waugh inquired if there are any railroad ambulant postmarks of the line between Djibouti and Addis-Abeba, Henri Tristant came to his rescue. His book on Ethiopia did not indicate any, but he has meanwhile found two types of ambulant marks for the line: one is a cds with wavy outer circle inscribed "AddisAbeba A Daouanlé" seen on a 50c Djibouti stamp, canc. 24/7/27 and also on an Ethiopian stamp (Sc. A9 type); the other is a large rectangle inscribed in 4 straight lines: "Compagnie du Chemin du Fer/ Franco-Ethiopien de Djibouti/à Addis Abeba/Gare de Djibouti" seen on several Ethiopian stamps of the 1909 and 1919 issues.

SPEAKING OF POSTCARDS . . .

A filler in the **Dothan (Ala.) Eagle** of July 1, 1975, in commenting on an exhibit of postcards at a museum in the Bois de Boulogne, contains the following amazing intelligence:

"French post cards were born in the 1870 Franco-German war. Bismarck had captured Strasbourg from Napoleon III.

"So the city's Red Cross printed small message cards that could be carried to Paris by balloon. Homing pigeons were taken along in case the balloon didn't make it.

"The balloons and pigeon post have vanished . . ."

So, all you 1870 buffs and airmail collectors, sharpen your pencils and correct those history books of yours! With all those wonderful NEWS, what will they think of next?

These mind-boggling details are brought to you by the people who gave you the Nadar duel (based on an earlier 1808 story), the balloon flight from besieged Paris clear into Natal, the captured pigeon that escaped a Prussian prison-cage 6 years after the war to return home, and all those other amazing wonder stories you crave to read.—An Alabama Reporter.

F. & C. P. S. OFFICIAL

President's Letter

As recorded elsewhere in this issue, the Directors made a presentation to our editor, Bob Stone, at a dinner the first day of the recent stamp show in New York. Although not official Society functions, these dinner get-togethers have become traditional on the first day of the March and November stamp shows in New York. Any of our members who wish to participate should make inquiry at the France and Colonies booth by early afternoon that day, so that appropriate reservations can be made.

The F.C.P.S. will be officially participating at RIPEX XX, to be held on April 1921, 1985 at the Biltmore Hotel in Providence, R. I. Final arrangements are not complete, but the Society will hold a meeting, and there is a special section for French area exhibits. This will be an important show, hosting the Spring Meeting of the A.P.S., and all our members are urged to participate. Further information can be obtained from Ray Gaillaguet, 15 Fletcher St., Rumford, R. I. 02916.

We are constantly looking for speakers for our monthly meetings at the Collectors Club in New York. In particular, if any of our out-of-New York members knows in advance that he will be in the city on a first Tuesday night, we would be delighted to see part of his French-area holdings. If you have any suggestions please contact me or any other New York-based officer.

—Sincerely, Dick Stevens

The Society has sent out a news release to literature dealers and journals announcing the offer to sell The Bordeaux Issue book at a special price of 40% off retail when ordered in units of ten or more copies—i.e. \$12 a copy postpaid.

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Presentation To Robert G. Stone

At an informal dinner the first day of the National Postage Stamp Show 1984 the Directors of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society presented Robert G. Stone with an engraved letter opener. This honored his twenty years as editor of the France & Colonies Philatelist.

In making this presentation the Directors express their sincere appreciation for the extraordinary job that Bob has done for these many years. The Philatelist editorship is really the most important job in a specialist society. We have Bob to thank that our Journal has established such a high reputation for the philatelic excellence of its contents.—RMS

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Meeting of 6 November 1984

Dick Stevens completed his presentation regarding the postal services of The Serbs in Exile 1916-1918 which he began at the meeting of 3 January 1984. This section discussed the post offices on the Salonika Front and the transmission of mail across the lines. The principal exhibit was based on four frames from his recent entry at NOJEX. This was supplemented by one frame showing additional postmarks, and an entire wall showing covers from Serbs on the Salonika Front with French stamps.

The postmarks were arranged according to Vukovic's article on the Field Post Offices. It was pointed out that Vukovic's later article on the Censor Markings implies that certain postmarks originally assigned to infantry regiments were later used by fixed post offices in towns in northern Greece. One item was shown which strongly supports this theory: a registered post card, it was postmarked at VOJNA POSTA BR. 76 but the registration label has a manuscript notation "do Vodena." This is strong evidence that this postmark was no longer being used by the 19th Infantry Regiment, but rather at the town of Vodena (now Edessa).

The French stamps on registered mail from Serbs on the Salonika Front were normally cancelled by the French fieldpost office, most often TRESOR ET POSTES 504, which was designated for the handling of Serbian mail. Until late 1917 both the Serbs and the French fieldpost offices were instructed not to cancel the stamps on non-registered mail; as a result these are normally found with ink or crayon lines, or a wide variety of incidental markings: examples were shown cancelled by censor marks as well as French and Swiss receiving marks.

In the final section examples were shown of mail to and from Austrian-occupied Serbia and prisoners-of-war in Austria and Germany. By the end of the war some of these openly showed addresses on the Salonika Front or in France or North Africa. No similar material has been seen from Bulgarian-controlled territory where rules on mail must have been much more stringent.—RMS

Meeting of December 11

"Three-Month Covers" was subject of talk and exhibit by Martin Stempien, Jr.

The period usually referred to, by trans-atlantic mail students, as the "three-month period" is the first three-months of 1857. It is the short period between the beginning of the new, second, Franco-British Treaty on 1 January, and the beginning of the first Franco-American Treaty on 1 April. During this period, eastward-carried unpaid mail to France was carried in the "open" mail through London, and was characterized by Franco-British accountancy marks. These indicated the rate, per 30 grams, to be paid by France to Great Britain for handling these classes of mail: 40 centimes, if carried by American Packet; 1 franc 60 centimes, if carried by British Packet. Westward-carried unpaid mail from France did not carry any particular markings, and is identified only by the dates of despatch and arrival. In contrast, unpaid mail carried in either direction before or after this short period was carried "closed" through Great Britain, and no marks were applied by the British P. O. The exception to this rule was eastward-carried ship-letters. Because they were given directly to the British P. O., they were placed in the "open" mail, and show accountancy marks.

Stempien's four-frame exhibit showed examples of most of the rate categories in use during these three periods. Among the first group were examples of mail to and from France via Great Britain and by the direct service between New York and Le Havre. In addition to a scarce piece of circular mail to France via Great Britain, one of the scarce shipletters carried to Great Britain for forwarding to France carried the "Article 13" accountancy mark of the first Franco-British Treaty.

The next two frames contained 22 covers covering most classes of mail in use in either direction during the period. In addition to two January 1 postmarked "first-day" covers from Paris, several examples of letters carried by American Packet in both directions were shown. Also shown was a rare piece of printed matter carried via Great Britain and the British service. This showed the rare, on American mail, accountancy mark GB/2 F PK used for bulk accounting of printed items. Less than six examples of American mail with this accountancy mark have been recorded. However, any American Packet mail from the period is particularly scarce as there were only about 5 sailings to Liverpool by American Packets in contrast to about 15 by British Packets.

The last frame showed examples of mail carried after the beginning of the first Franco-American Treaty. Starting with an April 1 postmarked "firstday"- cover from New York, examples of unpaid mail both to and from France carried by British and American packets were shown. These were followed by a number of unusual items carrying Franco-British accountancy marks, which were scarce during this period on American mail, as most went "closed" through London. They represent shipletters presented directly to the British P. O., or insufficiently prepaid mail to countries beyond France. In the last case, a letter could be sent, through the grace of a good-hearted exchange office clerk, in the "open" mail to England, and unpaid from that point to destination. In this way some portion of the paid postage could be utilized. Insufficiently-prepaid mail addressed to France, under the Franco-American Treaty, was treated as completely unpaid, and any money paid on it was lost to the system.

NEW MEMBERS

- 2440 GORRELL, Joseph P., 2210 Granville Rd., Greensboro, N. C. 27408
(France: mint, used, on cover. Occupation issues of France. Colonies General Issues: mint, used, on cover)
- 2441 DJERAHIAN, Leon, P. O. Box 502, Brookline Village, MA 02147
(France: mint, used. Imperforates. Andorre. Colonies General Issues. Europa, United Nations, TAAF)
- 2442 WALSH, Robert G. I., Post Office—Lafayette College, Easton, Pa. 18042-1798 (General collector all issues. France: mint. Monaco)
- 2443 GWIZDALA, Pauline, 600 S. Sheridan St., Bay City, Mich. 48706
(Classics 1849-1876, used. Dues. Sage Type 1876-1900. Modern France, mint. Semi-Postals, Air mails, Dues, Parcel Post, Franchise Militaire, Occupation issues by France. Offices Abroad. Saar. Colonies General Issues, mint, used. Philatelic literature. Exchange)
- 2444 AMINE, Alibhaye, B. P. 760, 97475 Saint Denis, Reunion
Topical: Polar/Antarctic. General France: mint, used, on cover. CFA. Stamps and covers of French Southern Antarctic Terr. TAAF. Reunion. Madagascar and Dependencies. Dealer, full time)
- 2445 SULSONA, Robin T., 1575 Aragon Way, Atlanta, Ga. 30319
(General collector all issues. France, mint, used. Precancels. All Fr. Community issues)
- 2446 BRAGG, William E., 3700 Bridgewater Rd., Apt. B-8, Columbus, Ga. 31909 (General collector all issues)
- 2447 MOUBRAY, Jemas C., 745 Fairway Ave., Lakeland, Fla. 33801
(General collector all issues. Modern France, mint. Colonies General Issues, mint)
- 2448 DOIG, Kenneth F., 23146 Marantha Rd., North Fork, Calif. 93643
(Cancels and postal history of the Caribbean and Africa only)
- 2449 BENEDICT, James D., 6514 Pauma Dr., Houston, Texas 77069
(General France, mint. Modern France, mint)
- 2450 TEICHMAN, Robert, P. O. Box 1053, Topsail Beach, N. C. 28445
(General France, used. Classics 1849-1876, on cover. Colonies General Issues, used)
- 2451 BAILEY, David C., 4322 Nutmeg Lane, #226, Lisle, Ill. 60532
(Topical, Birds. General France, mint)
- 2452 LEASK, Samuel, IV, 3719 Vista Dr., Soquel, Calif. 95073
(Classics 1849-1876, used. Cancellations. Colonies General Issues, used. Philatelic literature)
- 2453 VAN REUTH, Ed., 10722 Shingle Oak Court, Burke, Va. 22015
(General collector, all issues)
- 2454 FURST, Dr. Arthur L., Kibbutz Harel, DN Shimshon, Israel 99740
(Offices abroad postal history, with emphasis on Morocco)
- 2455 BEAN, Frederick G., The Stamp Professor, 1500 E. 79th Sth., Bloomington, Minn. 55420 (Dealer, part time)

REINSTATEMENTS

- 2349 GOOLD, Wilson, III, VAMC, 4100 West 3rd St., Section 20, Dayton, Ohio 45428 (Already in past Philatelist)
- 1834 BLAKE, Paul, 1466 Hamilton Way, San Jose, Calif. 95125
(Already in past Philatelist)
- 1023 BROOKS, Walter, 305 West Ave., Springfield, Penn. 19064
(General France on cover. Specialized France: Postal History, Franco-Prussian War: 1870-1871)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 1058 FULLER, Clarence R., 448 East Shore Trail, Sparta, N. J. 07871
 1979 SULYMA, Ronald, 33-25 92nd St., Jackson Heights, N. Y. 11372
 2222 MARTIN, Allan, 3601 Hidden Lane #219, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif. 90274
 1451 HORNE, Rick, P. O. Box 1742, Fremont, Calif. 94538
 1887 PARNIAK, Dr. Michael, 32 Bethune, Kirkland, Que., Canada H9H 4H6
 2434 STUT, Daniel J., Correction of name spelling, should be STUTZ.
 2436 BALBATON, Richard J., 116 Fisher St., North Attleboro, MA 02760
 2416 BENNETT, Kira, correction of member number, should be #2415
 1810 GAGE, Alexander D., P. O. Box 5201, Whittier, Calif. 90607-5201
 1649 AUSTIN, Jerry C., 1049 Regency Dr., Charlotte, N. C. 28211-4778
 2314 PINCHOT, Daniel N., P. O. Box 953, Englewood Cliffs, N. J. 07632
 2169 SZYMANSKI, Robert H., 1086 Allston, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44121
 1946 SATLOFF, Aaron, M.D., 57 Monroe Ave., Pittsford, N. Y. 14534
 2355 COULBOURNE, FTMC Joseph C., 702 Prince Allen Court, Virginia Beach, Ca. 23454-3424
 1029 AINSWORTH, Group Captain Joseph C., Century Cottage, 10 Ellesborough Road, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP22 6EL England
 2340 TRIBOLET, Robert W., 749 Canal Road, Sarasota, Fla. 34242
 29 SCHILLING, W. H., Jr., 29 High Point Cir. E, Apt. 504, Naples, Fla. 33940
 357 BRETAGNE, Charles, 36 Wilson Blvd., Poughkeepsie, N. Y. 12603-3304

RESIGNATIONS

Col. B. Stiness, Roy Couzin, Arthur M. Kennedy, Jr., Herbert Schlegel, John J. Sauer, Leo Dubois, Frank D. Hutchinson, Emile Gaudreau, William E. Dutcher, George A. Hunnex, Ronald Belton, Rick Horne.

DECEASED

Irving L. Black, Little Neck, N. Y.

UNDELIVERABLE ADDRESS

John B. Nichols, Saugus, Mass.

DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT

William Nichols

MEMBERS APPEALS

OFFER:—Rick Basini has issued a 48-page catalog of France, French Colonies, and Monaco he is offering. This his most extensive price list to date, is available at \$1.00 post paid.—Rick Basini Stamps, 1505-C N.E. 26th St., Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 3305 (Mb. #2091)

WANTED:—Perfins on used French stamps; will trade or buy. Gilbert Loisel, 89-14 31st Ave., East Elmhurst, N. Y. 11369 (Mb. #877)