



France & Colonies Philatelist

THE MODANE AMBULANT by Robert T. Kinsley

(Editor's Note: While this article was waiting its turn to be published, a short article on the herein-noted Mt. Cenis Pass mail route and Fell's narrow gauge railway was published by F. E. Goatcher, in the September 1993 (Vol. 43, N° 3) issue of the "Journ. of the France & Colonies Phil. Soc." of Great Britain. The two articles complement one another very nicely).

The eminent Raymond Salles lists¹ a *cachet à date* as "pour memoire," meaning that he had heard of it but not seen it. This is the Paris à Modane ambulant (Salles N° 1898). The characterization applies to covers wherein the marking is used alongside stamps already cancelled (Figures 1-3). Salles also gives a relatively high valuation to the use of the marking when it cancels a stamp (Figure 4) and a low valuation when used on expeditionary corps letters without a postmark (Figure 5). The latter, according to Salles, occur mainly on military letters of 1900, but my review of numerous such letters shows only the alternate use of Paris Etranger date stamps and no use of the Modane marking.



First, a little background on the small but important French village of Modane in the Savoy Alps, which became quite a major mail distribution cen-

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Figure 1. Obock, 22 October 1893 to Marseille, via Reunion to Marseille Ligne V, 22 October, and Modane à Paris, 3 November. Backstamps: Aden, 23 October; Marseille, 4 November 1893 arrival.

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Figure 2. Registered cover, Obock, 22 May 1893, to Haute-Marne, via same line as for Figure 1, 23 May; Modane à Paris, 4 June 1893.

ter towards the end of the last century. Situated on the western side of Mont Cenis, its mountain pass, the Col de Fréjus, is believed to be the one used by Hannibal when taking his troops and elephants from Spain to Italy in 218 B.C. Part of the *département conquis* of Mont Blanc, it was French from 1792 until Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo and abdication in June 1815, when the Congress of Vienna gave the Savoy region to Sardinia. The Piedmont parliament was favorably inclined toward proposals made to the effect that a faster trade route between the Orient and central Europe would result from a tunnel through the Alps, and particularly through Mont Cenis, and finally authorized work to begin 1857 (Figure 6).

In 1858 the Premier of Sardinia, Camillo Cavour, met with Napoleon III in Plombières, Vosges to establish an agreement calling for French military aid against Austria, in exchange for the return of Savoy and Nice to France. Such aid manifested itself at the bloody Battle of Solferino, where the French and Sardinians fought the Austrians at a cost to all sides of some 30,000 casualties, leading to the Peace of Villafranca di Verona. It was this battle which inspired Jean Henry Dunant, a Swiss participant, to found the Red Cross (Swiss flag with colors reversed). At the same time the Italian patriot, Guiseppe Garibaldi, led a "Red Shirt" volunteer force to the conquest of Sicily and Naples, and joined with Cavour to effect the unification of Italy under King Victor Emmanuel II in 1860.

The return of Savoy, with the village of Modane, to France changed the status of the proposed tunnel from Italian to international, and France supported the venture to the extent of funding one-third of its cost. The construc-



Figure 3. Alexandria, Egypte, 22 April 1884, on French 25c Sage; Modane à Paris, 26 April 1884, alongside.



Figure 4. Modane à Paris date stamp cancelling French Offices in China 15c Sage stamp; naval anchor administrative cachet; Cannes, 29 July 1895 arrival backstamp.

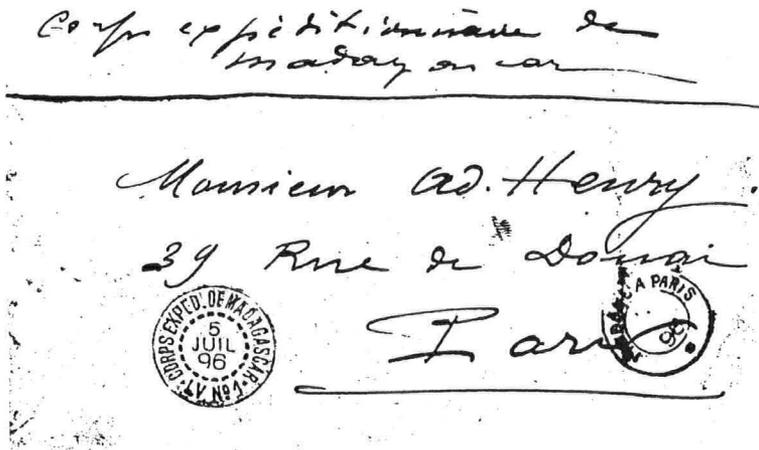


Figure 5. Corps Exped. de Madagascar, L.V. N°1, 5 July 1896, on stampless (free-franked) expedition cover; Modane à Paris date stamp alongside.

tion of the tunnel preceded very slowly until a new invention by the Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel, dynamite, became available in 1867. The first tunnel through the Alps was completed on Christmas Day 1870 (Figure 7). The first three trains were dispatched in June 1871, and all three engineers were overcome by engine smoke. The first successful trip was made on 17 September 1871² (Figure 8). In 1877 a landslide closed the Modane end; a new entrance extended the length of the tunnel from 7½ to 8½ miles and reopened the rail line in 1881. Again in World War II, the Modane entrance was destroyed, and finally reopened 14 August 1946.

Friend and FCPS member John Minsker provided some additional background information, surprisingly not in the encyclopedias, that since construction of the tunnel had been expected to take at least twenty-five years by pre-dynamite methods, a British engineer named J. B. Fell actually constructed a narrow-gauge surface railway over the Col du Mont-Cenis while the tunnel was being built. It climbed from 2,330 ft. altitude at St. Michel du Maurienne to over 6,860 ft. on the pass, and then dropped to 1,625 ft. at Susa in Italy. The Fell system required a center rail, engaged by extra wheels on the locomotive, for additional traction in climbing and additional braking in descending, with gradients as steep as 1 in 12.5 (1 in 40 is steep!). The trains took 6 hours to travel 48½ miles. This railway opened in 1868 but was soon put out of business by the tunnel.³

The French Bureau of Posts announced in its Bulletin N° 33 of December 1871 (Salles, Vol. V, p. 58) that mail by British ships to the Far East would henceforth go by way of Modane, thence to the port of Brindisi, Italy to be put on ship, and incoming mail by British ships would be removed at Brindisi and receive an entry marking at Modane (Salles N° 1893, etc.) (Figure 9). Similarly, overland mail going through Modane received distinctive *ambulant* date stamps (Noël N° 831, etc.) (Figure 10).⁴

Despite the late announcement of the routing of mail "*par l'Ambulant de Paris à Modane, créée à cette fin,*" the Anglo-Indian international mail on the Calais-Brindisi-Port Said route used the Fell railway upon its opening in 1868.⁵

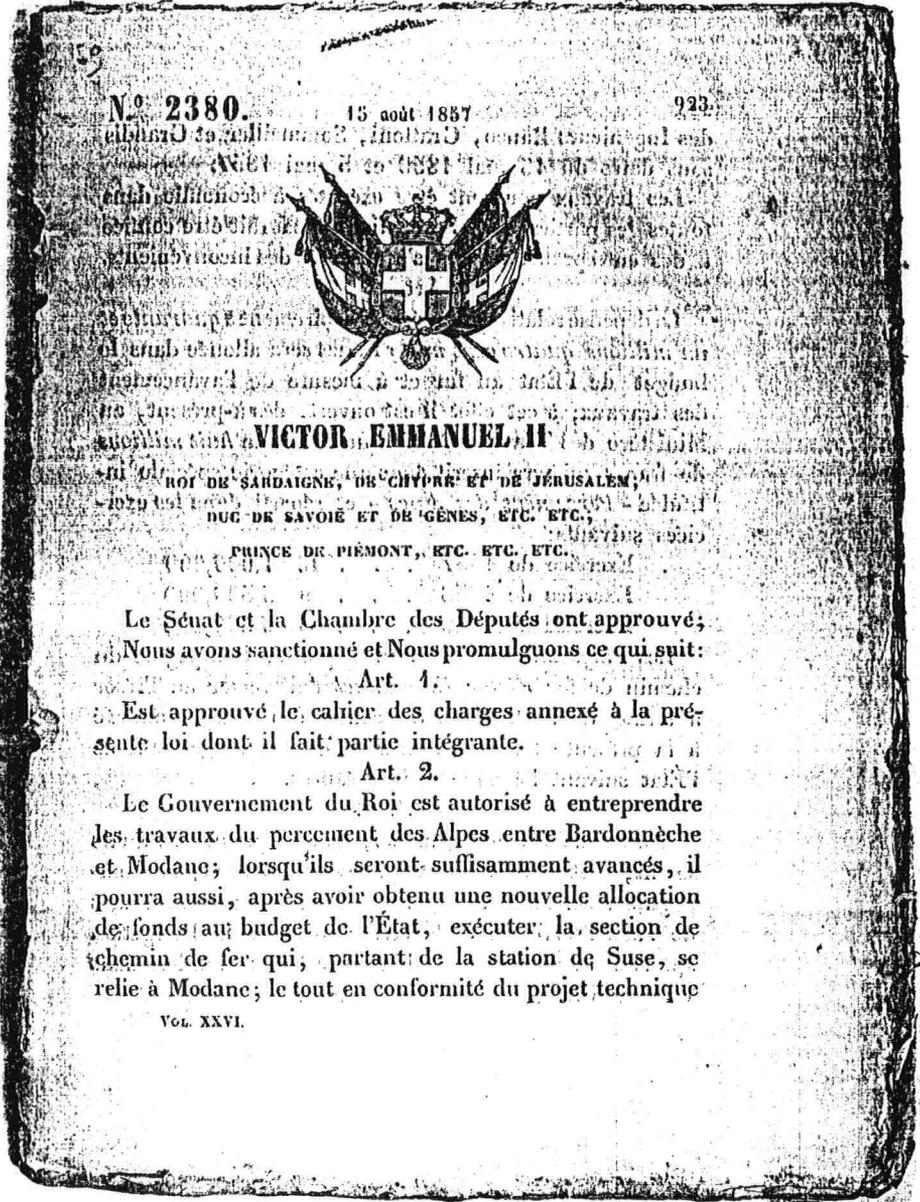


Figure 6. First page of authorization to commence work on tunnel between Susa and Modane, dated 15 August 1857.



Figure 7. Map showing rail connection from Turin to Paris, via Modane and Macon.

It was not until April 1879 that French ships from the Orient could discharge mail in Italy, and this was done at the port of Naples, but only for mail going to Paris and northern France. Such mail received a distinctive entry marking at Modane (Salles, N° 1897) (Figure 11). (This cover bears the earliest known date, 23 May 1879 for the marking; Salles, Vol. V, p. 107). Other mail continued to enter and leave at Marseille. These entry markings, all struck in red, were not in use very long before they fell into disuse after January 1881, as a consequence of the recently established Universal Postal Union. Thereafter, such mail might be expected to receive only the simple Modane à Paris *ambulant* of Figures 1-3 until the routing of Orient mail, inbound and outbound, stopped using Brindisi and reverted to Marseille in 1898.

I contend that the Modane à Paris marking, just like the other Modane date stamps, is simply another entry marking that was struck at the Modane *wagons-poste*, rather than a typical "normal" rail line transit postmark, which is almost always struck on the back of a cover. However, in Figure 12, we see its counterpart, the Paris à Modane marking properly applied to the back of an 1891 cover from Buffalo to Lower Burma, courtesy of John Minsker.

Although mail by British ships addressed to the Marseille region was to be transferred at Alexandria to French ships going directly to Marseille, perhaps this only applied to the period between 1872 and mid-1879 before French ships were allowed to discharge mail at Naples. The Figure 1 cover appears

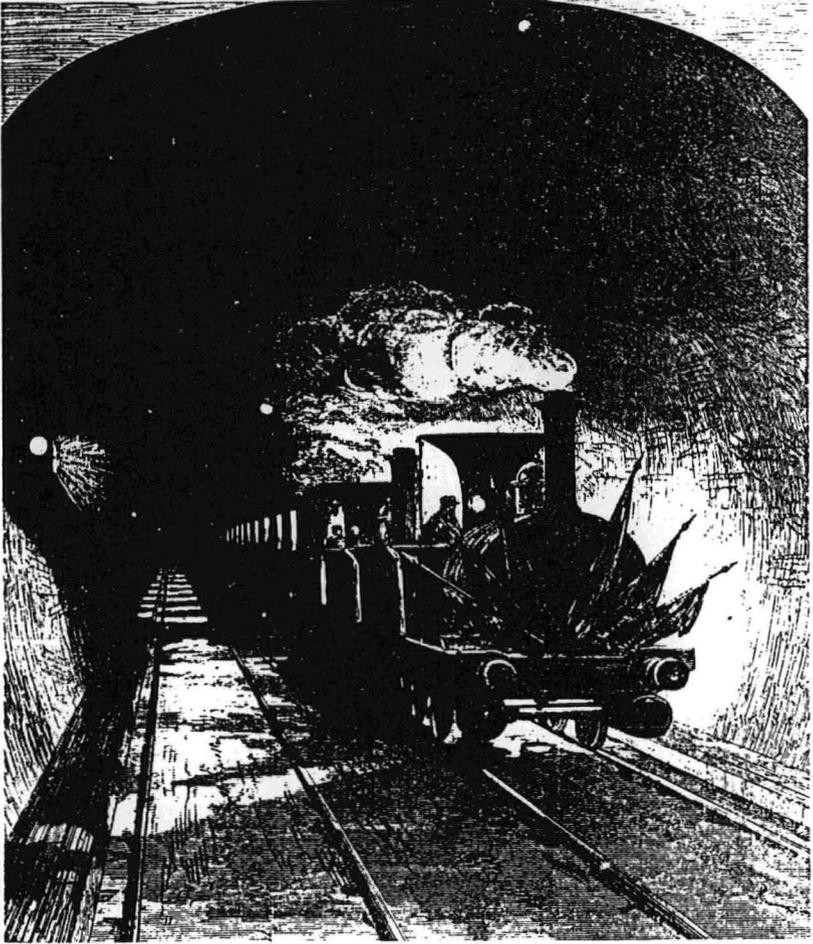


Figure 8. First train through the Mont Cenis tunnel; from "The Illustrated London News" of 30 September 1871.

to contradict conventional wisdom that Orient mail addressed to Marseille would go directly to Marseille, and may simply attest to the speed of and preference for rail transit rather than via steamship.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the helpful information provided by FCPS members Huguette Gagnon and Martin Stempien in responding to my many questions, and to include Ed Grabowski's learned hypothesis that the Figure 1 cover was carried by an Orient-bound ship--the "Pei-Ho," which left Marseille 12 October 1893--but only from Obock to Aden, and then was placed on a more timely ship to the Mediterranean.



FIG. 1.893.



FIG. 1.894.



FIG. 1.895.



FIG. 1.896.

Figure 9. Some Modane date stamps for mail carried by British ships via Brindisi (Salles numbers shown).



831



870

Figure 10. Some Modane ambulant date stamps for mail transiting Italy via the tunnel (Noël numbers shown).



FIG. 1.897.

Figure 11. Corr.d.Armées, Ligne N, 20 April 1879, on French 15c Sage; Indo-Chine, Paq. Fr. Modane (Salles N° 1897), 23 May 1879 alongside; to Brest.



Figure 12a. Buffalo, NY, 21 August 1891, to Lower Burma; Calais-Paris, 31 August ambulant transit.

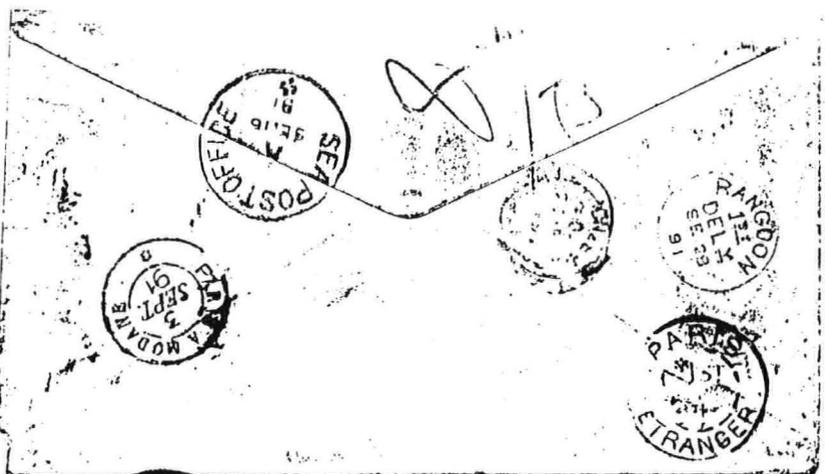


Figure 12b. Reverse of Figure 12a, showing several transit markings, including Paris à Modane, 3 September, and Rangoon, 28 September 1891 arrival.

End notes

1. Raymond Salles, "La Poste Maritime Française," Vol. 5: "Les Paquebots de l'Extrême Orient," 1960.
2. Joseph Gies, "Adventure Underground - the Story of the World's Great Tunnels," 1962.
3. E.L. Cornwell, "History of Railways," New English Library Ltd., 1976.
4. Gilbert Noël, "Catalogue des Marques et Cachets d'Entrée en France 1800-1881," 1976.
5. Pierre Lux, "The Indian Mail Coach," *FCP*, Vol. 41, N° 1, 1985.

AMAZING 1870/1871 WONDER STORIES - 3
by Ernst M. Cohn

(Editor's Note: The odd-numbered Amazing Wonder Stories are going to us; the even-numbered ones to the Jour. of the F&CPS of Great Britain. Not everyone's cup of tea perhaps, but half a loaf... In any case, both journals should benefit from Ernst's largesse, and this may be a reason for some to also join our sister society across the water--and vice-versa, of course).

A New York friend sent me a clipping from a European catalogue, showing - in living color - an envelope endorsed *Par Ballon*, addressed in dark ink to Monsieur A. Vernier at *Moscou, Russie* (shown here). The postmarks are a "1"



star cancel with the corresponding Place de la Bourse date stamp 2E/3 (or 8) NOV 70, the small red P.D. in a rectangular frame, and a Moscow receiving mark of 16 December (according to the old calendar, of course). Interlined between the address is some writing, presumably in Cyrillic script and in purple ink, so the Russian postman might be able to read it.

This is the first such item I have seen in color, and a very attractive one it is. It rang a bell and I took out my envelope of clippings about counterfeits. Sure enough, I have pictures of three other covers from the famous Vernier correspondence. One in particular is outstanding - for its impossibility. Carrying the same address (incl. purple intercalation), star cancel and Bourse date stamp, but this one as of 6E/19 September 1870, it supposedly got to Moscow on 9 October, according to the arrival postmark. Carrying only a 20 centimes stamp instead of 80 centimes, it sports the additional marking *AFFR.INSUFF./ETR.* (insufficiently franked, abroad).

The siege lines around Paris were closed on the afternoon of 18 September, so this earlier cover would have been from the first full day of the Siege, when nothing had been done yet about balloon mail, let alone inventing that endorsement *Par Ballon (Monté)*. And yet here it is, in the same handwriting

and the same ink as used for the address. The writer had obviously great psychic powers. The current owner of the cover got it as a present, if I remember correctly, from the previous owner, who had thought for some time that he had a rare balloon cover, bought for good money.

I first saw a picture of this extraordinary cover in the April 1976 bulletin of a German study group (no April fool joke, though).

Later that same year, another example of the same correspondence turned up in a Paris auction, this one without any stamp; it is supposed to have fallen off when the cover fell into the sea, either from the "Ville d'Orléans" or the "Jacquard."

The same sale, by the way, contained another forged ballon monté to Moscow, this one on the tissue edition of *La Cloche*. Handwriting is somewhat different and it is addressed to a lady, but the same purple intercalated writing is present.

Yet, a third Vernier cover was sold in Germany in 1990 or 1991, this one supposedly postmarked at the main Paris p.o. as of 23 December. A Swiss friend, who recognized it for what it is, sent me a page from a German bulletin that mentions the auctioneer had estimated DM 160 for the lot, but it sold for DM 3100, not bad for a 100% counterfeit.

In 1980 Jean-François Brun published his "Faux et Truqués," meanwhile translated into English, where he shows two examples of counterfeit ballons montés to Russia, ascribed to a certain Ressejac. (Pages 84-85 of the original 1980 publication.) The Vernier letters and *La Cloche* appear to originate from the same source.

So remember, if you (1) live long enough, (2) specialize in a field where you can manage to keep most of the information in your head, (3) keep a reasonably well ordered clipping file, and (4) know the people who can exchange useful information with you, you may eventually come to know most of the interesting facts AND fiction about your specialty.

SOME SHOW REPORTS

FRESPEX '94 (Fresno, CA, March): Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "Postal Markings on Stampless Letters of France 1589-1869."

Garfield-Perry March Party '94 (Cleveland, March): Vermeil medal to Bob Kinsley for "Military Mail of French Forces in China and Indochina, 1860-1907"; Silver-bronze medal to Chuck LaBlonde for "Swiss Machine Cancels."

ROPEX '94 (Rochester, NY, April): Silver-bronze medal to Chuck LaBlonde for "Swiss Priority Mail Markings."

Plymouth Show '94 (Plymouth, MI, April): Grand and Reserve Grand Awards went to FCPS members Steve Washburne and Paul Larsen, respectively, for their non-F&C exhibits; also, Gold medals to Walter Brooks for "Siege of Paris Balloon Mail" and Peter Smith for "Egyptian Offices Abroad."

Philatelic Show '94 (Boxborough, MA, April-May): Reserve Grand and Gold medal to Dick Winter for "U.S.-France Mails by Steamship."

WESTPEX '94 (San Francisco, April-May): Gold medals to Stan Jersey for his Solomon Islands in WWII exhibit, and to Steve Washburne for Classic Portugal. Vermeil medals to Peter Smith for "Taxed in Africa," and to Bob Kinsley for "Military Mail of French Forces in China and Indochina 1860-1916."

ROMPEX '94 (Denver, May): Gold medal to Bob Kinsley for "French Somaliland 1890's-1960's."

**THE USAGE OF THE "TRUE PC" IN FRANCE AND ALGERIA,
1863 - 1876**

by **Laurence H. Lambert**

In 1863, the large numeral (*GC*) system came into use in France, the Offices Abroad, and Algeria, replacing the small numeral (*PC*) system. Following this change in numbering systems, many post offices received a *PC* canceler, the numerals on which matched their new *GC* number. These cancelers were either new or used cancelers, the latter of which would have been sent from the post office to which it had been originally assigned.

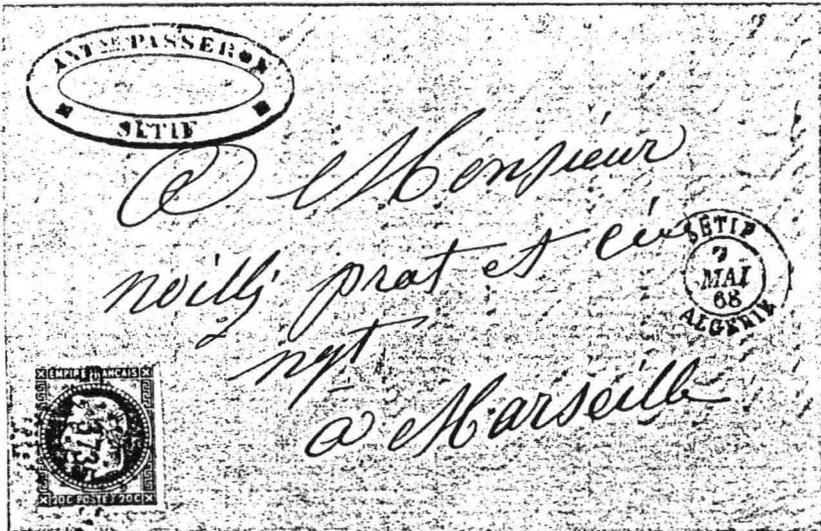
These *PC*'s which matched the *GC* of the post office to which they were given are called "PC's of the *GC*'s." Pothion lists approximately 1,300 post offices known to have used their *PC* of the *GC*.

At the same time, there were some post offices which did not get the word, or did not comply. They kept their originally assigned *PC* cancelers, and occasionally continued to use them after 1863. These are called "true *PC*," to indicate a usage after 1863 of the *PC* originally assigned to a post office.

There are at least eleven post offices in France known to have used their original *PC* (true *PC*) after 1863. These are Boucoiran (Gard), Riaille (Loire Inf.), Mont-St. Michel (Manche), Montrouge/Paris (Seine), Ronchamp (Hte. Saone), Macon (Saone et Loire), Amiens (Somme), Castres-s-L'Agout (Tarn), Toulon-s-Mer (Var), Montpezat de Quercy (Tarn et Garonne), and Gare d'Etampes (Seine et Oise).

In addition, there are five post offices in Algeria which used their "true *PC*" after 1863. These are Ain Beida, Boghar, Laghouat, Philippeville, and Setif.

Shown below is an illustration of a cover with the true *PC* of Setif (N° 3735) used to cancel a stamp on cover in 1968. For those with a particular interest in obtaining a "true *PC*," some of these may be obtained on cover for less than \$100.



RANDOM JOTTINGS FROM YOUR ASSOCIATE EDITOR

After reaching an all-time peak of 812 members in 1989, there has been, ever since, a net annual membership loss. The reasons are many and are often justifiable, but it is still a loss. Because this journal is the only link between our Society and the vast majority of our members, we have been attempting to make it even more useful and "user-friendly" to our readers. But this means of communication must work both ways. The letters I receive almost invariably come from regular correspondents and contributors. Such new features as Questions and Answers, and Problem Covers, may be dying on the proverbial vine. Please avail yourselves of these opportunities to seek help and advice, and to make yourselves heard.

The weekly and monthly philatelic press has gotten very lackadaisical about publishing stamp show results. We'd like to hear from you attendees as to who in our Society won what awards, and who was there, etc. We'd like to know and write about those members who have distinguished themselves in any philatelic, or philatelic-writing way. This is your journal; tell us about our members' (yourself included) deeds and exploits.

We are now inviting articles--or at least outlines or synopses--for 1995 publication. If you need help with a research project, exhibit, article, or book you aim to prepare, please call upon us for advice. We may not always be able to help directly, but at least can try to find you a contact person who might be able to help.

There have been several good responses to our request for guidelines for buying and selling in France, etc. But more information and "case histories" (best case, worst case...) would be useful, particularly on selling. The first section of a two- or three-parter should appear soon in this journal.

RATES TO CANADA -- A WELL-KEPT SECRET by Alan G. McKanna

It would do well to begin with a brief review of French "frontier" (*rayons limitrophes*) rates. These concessionary rates were introduced on January 1st, 1876 under the General Postal Union, and were continued from December 19th, 1878 under its successor, the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

Special lowered rates were applied to mail between French border towns and those in Spain, Belgium, and Switzerland, where the straight-line distance between the towns of origin and destination did not exceed 30 km. These rates were equal to or slightly higher than French domestic rates, but considerably less than foreign UPU rates.

On May 10th, 1910, the letter rate to all destinations in Luxembourg was reduced to the French domestic rate. After August 1st, 1958, these "frontier" rates were eliminated, and replaced by European Community ones, generally identical to French domestic rates.

Until 1929, mail to Canada was charged the UPU rate. On September 11th of that year, as a reciprocal agreement, the Canadian Post Office extended the British Commonwealth preferential tariff to France, and France charged mail to Canada at a lowered "frontier" rate. Details of these special rates to Canada are given in the tables that follow.

All covers bearing "frontier" rates are scarce and much sought after. This also applies to preferentially rated covers to Canada. In twenty years of looking for them, I have found only about a dozen. Mail from France to Canada does not seem to be plentiful. However, of those covers examined, the vast majority have been rated at the regular foreign tariff rate.

Inasmuch as French is one of the two official languages of Canada, one would expect a greater volume of mail between the two countries. However, most French-speaking Canadians are descendants of the earlier settlers. In relative terms, there was little emigration from France after World War I and II, especially compared with that from other European countries. This leads to a quite small amount of Transatlantic family correspondence.

All of the "tourist" mail I have seen has borne the full foreign postage. Special rates to Canada were certainly published and available, but were probably not well publicized. It is suspected that mostly the costlier foreign rate would be publicized for the dubious benefit of tourists. All of the commercial mail seen so far which bears reduced-rate postage has been from Canadian government offices in France or from major companies in the wine industry. Properly rated mail to Canada is certainly very scarce.

In Table 1, the "frontier" rate for single-rate letters and postcards is compared with the UPU rate. For the periods shown, the UPU rate applied to the USA and the "frontier" rate to Canada.

Effective Date	UPU Rate		"Frontier" Rate	
	Letters	Postcards	Letters	Postcards
11 Sep 29	75c	50c	60c	60c
1 Aug 37	1F75	1F	1F	60c
1 Dec 38	2F25	1F25	1F25	75c
1 Jan 40	2F50	1F50	1F50	1F
1 Feb 42	4F	2F40	2F40	1F60
1 Feb 46	10F	6F	6F	4F
1 May 48	18F	12F	12F	8F
1 Dec 48	25F	15F	15F	10F
1 May 51	30F	18F	18F	12F
1 Jul 57	35F	20F	20F	15F
6 Jan 59	50F	30F	25F	20F
1 Jan 60 (new franc)	50c	30c	25c	20c
8 Jan 65	60c	40c	30c	25c

TABLE 1.-- Comparison of UPU rates to USA with preferential rates to Canada, for single-weight letters and postcards, via ship.

French surtaxes for airmail varies according to geographical zones. On January 13th, 1969, the new tariff placed Canada and USA in the same zone (i.e., same surtax per weight class). The preferential *basic* rate to Canada continued, however. On the assumption that, from 1969-on, most Transatlantic mail would be sent by air, Table 2 compares the single-weight letter rate by air to Canada with that to the USA.

Effective Date	USA	Canada
13 Jan 69	1F15	85c
12 Jan 70	1F30	90c
4 Jan 71	1F30	1F
1 Jul 71	1F40	1F
1 Jan 76	1F70	1F30
2 Aug 76	1F90	1F50
15 May 78	2F20	1F70
15 Oct 79	2F30	1F80
1 Aug 80	2F50	1F90
1 Sep 81	2F85	2F15
1 Jun 82	3F25	2F45
1 Jun 83	3F45	2F65
1 Jul 84	3F65	2F75
1 Aug 85	3F85	2F85
1 Aug 86	4F05	2F85
1 Aug 87	4F20	2F80

TABLE 2. -- Comparison of airmail rates to USA and to Canada, for single-weight letters.

On January 11th, 1990, the special rates to Canada were terminated, and postage to Canada and to the USA are now identical.

* * * * *

MEMBERS' APPEALS

* * * * *

FOR SALE: WWI picture postcards, priced in \$US: (1) Croiseur Auxiliaire *Sant'anna*, T et P 502, 11-8-16 postmark, vg, \$5. (2) Contre-torpilleur *Fanfare*, unused, f, \$10. (3) Stampless card to Alsace from German civilian internee, blue double-oval mark "Prefecture des Bouches-du-Rhone / Depot de St-Remy / Cabinet du Directeur," red endorsement signature, St-Remy 9-6-15 postmark; attractive, vf, \$35. Postpaid. Martin P. Bratzel, Jr., 1233 Virginia Ave., Windsor, Ontario N8S 2Z1, Canada. (Mb. #2394).

OFFER: Extensive stock used Fr. Colonies and independent French Africa, for sale or exchange for used French T.O.M. Pierre Robichaud, 650 Deguire, St-Laurent, Quebec H4L 1L2, Canada. (Mb. #1128).

WANTED: Pasteur issues on covers or cards for rate study. Interested in large lots or individual items. Grégoire Teyssier, 988 Av. de Manrèse, Quebec, Quebec G1S 2X1, Canada. (Mb. #2790).

AÉROSTIERS AND AÉRONAUTES by Ernst M. Cohn

During the 1870/71 Siege of Paris, some people took their mail directly to one of the balloon-builder teams, hoping for safe and fast delivery outside of town. The Godard team did not mark such letters; Nadar and his successors did.



Figure 1

Their original cachet was always struck in red and shows the term “Aérostiers” (balloonists) (Figure 1). The subsequent one, used by Nadar’s successors, was struck in red or blue and reads “Aéronautes” (Figure 2), meaning pretty much the same thing.

Relatively little is known about the history of these private first airmail cachets, but more information was extracted from a census of early dated mail struck with the latter cachet.

Nadar protested the French government’s financial support of Dupuy de Lôme’s dirigible by resigning from his team on or about October 30. He presumably insisted on removing his name from everything connected with that team, including the “Aérostiers” cachet (Figure 3). That is how the device has survived.



Figure 2

The last balloon for which strikes of the unmutated Figure 1 cachet are known is the “Colonel Charras” of October 29. Rather good imitations of these strikes exist, in red or in black (!) on later mail, some postmarked in Paris, a physical impossibility of



Figure 3

which the forger was unaware. Such forgeries cannot have involved this now incomplete, Figure 2 device.

Whereas the "Aéronautes" device (Figure 3), unmutilated, might have been used for counterfeits, none appears to exist.

No strikes of either cachet are known on mail from the next two balloons manufactured by Nadar's successors - "Ferdinand Flocon" and "Ville de Châteaudun" - that left the Gare du Nord on November 4 and 6.

The new cachet was apparently first used on mail of the "Général Uhrich." Following is a list of all known dated covers from that balloon with the Figure 3 cachet:

Earliest November Dated Letters Marked "AERONAUTES"

Color	Date	Source of Information
red	5	found by J.-F. Brun (according to letter by Cappart)
red	7	Gaz. des Absents #5 (Robineau sale 102 (1971), lot 470)
red	15	Gaulois, (Robineau sale C...(1979), lot 125)
blue	15	(Robineau sale Antonini (1974), lot 439)
blue	15	(Robineau sale C..., lot 124)
blue	17	Gaz. des Absents #8 (Cérès sale, (May 1986), lot 875)

Conclusions -

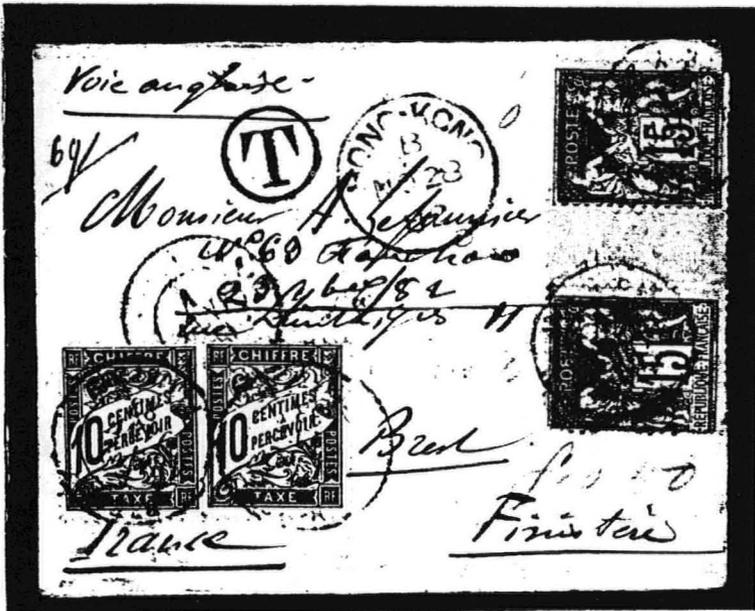
- * letter #1 was delivered to the balloonists on the 6th (or flew on the "Châteaudun?");
- * the "Aéronautes" cachet became available on the 5th or 6th;
- * at that time, the balloonists stamped letters upon receipt;
- * blue ink replaced the red ink pad permanently on the 15th.

(This summary has been adapted from a paper in
Documents Philatéliques #139, 1994, pp. 10-12.)

A COVER STORY

This cover, written aboard a French naval vessel (large Escadre de la Flotte cachet on back), and with a gutter pair of the blue 15c Sage of Metropolitan France, was mailed November 28, 1882 from Hong Kong. The Metropolitan stamps were tolerated upon arrival in France, but the letter was apparently treated as foreign (rather than French naval) mail. The penalty rate of 50c (25c foreign 1 x letter x 2) was assessed in blue pencil (+ black T in circle to denote tax due) upon arrival at Brest by way of Marseille (backstamps), the Sage stamps being cancelled in red at Brest, 1 January 1883. With 30c of the 50c having been prepaid, recipient was charged the remaining 20c (two 10c black Duval dues), these stamps being cancelled in black at Brest, 2 January 1883. The cover is shown courtesy of dealer Andrew Holtz, but the interpretations--faulty or otherwise--are mine, and I wish this cover were mine!

--S.J. Luft



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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS
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New Issues and Withdrawals
 (continued from FCP #236, April 1994, p. 56)



France

- late (?) February 1994: 20F and 28F vending-machine booklets and 28F open-face booklets; stamps with undulating or serpentine vertical perforations, for security measure (see news item, below);
- 4 (7) March: 2,80F Laurent Mourguet and Guignol de Lyon;
- 11 (14) March: 2,80F Bicent. of Ecole Polytechnique;
- 12 (14) March: Stamp Day (Marianne de Dulac design) 2,80F + o,60F; also 21,40F booklet of seven (4 at 2,80F alternating with 3 at 2,80F + o,60F) (see illustration);
- 18 (21) March: Franco-Swedish Cultural Relations 18,60F booklet of six (4 at 2,80F + 2 at 3,70F) (see illustration), with one common design with Swedish booklet of six, same issue date;
- 9 (11) April: 2,80F Georges Pompidou; 2,80F Hommage to the Maquis (1944-1994);
- early April: 2,80F "La Poste" sailboat postal card, sold at 5F;
- 22 (25) April: 2,80F PhilexJeunes 94 (Grenoble);
- 30 April (2 May): 2,80F and 3,70F EUROPA 94;
- 3 (5) May: Inauguration of sub-Channel Tunnel 2,80F (x2, se-tenant), 4.30F (x2, se-tenant) [joint tissue with Great Britain]; 2,80F Asiatic Development Bank;
- 20 (24) May: 2,80F Congress of French Philatelic Societies, Martigues;
- late May: 5F aérogramme, for 50th Anniv. of disappearance of aviator/writer St.-Exupéry.

Withdrawals: 15 April: 3.40F Art (EUROPA 93); 3,40F Chinon; 4,40F Montbéliard; 5F Art of G. de La Tour; 2,50F + 4,20F Martyrs and Heroes of Resistance diptych; all M. de Briat postal cards with imprinted face values;
 13 May: 2,80F National Center of Circus Arts; 4,40F Lambesc - Le Jacquemard;
 5F Art of Maurice Denis; 14,40F Bicent. of Louvre Museum strip.



Andorra

- 12 (15) March: First Anniv. of Constitution triptych 2,80F + label + 3,70F;
- 7 (9) May: 2,80F and 3,70F EUROPA 94.
Withdrawal: 13 May: 2,50F Ten years of the Andorran School.

French Polynesia

- 16 March: 180F 150th Anniv. of arrival of Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny;
- 6 April: 51F official stamp showing (stamp-on-stamp) 1942 Free French issue.
Withdrawals: 3 February: 22, 31, 45F Children's games; 40, 50F freshwater fauna: 100F Mozart.

Monaco

- 11 February: Lillehammer Winter Olympics S.S. of two 10F stamps; Mediterranean cetaceans S.S. of 4, 5, 6, 7F se-tenant stamps;
- 14 March: 2,40F Monte Carlo Dog Show; 2,40F + 0,60F Committee for Campaign against TB and other Respiratory Diseases; 4,40F 27th International Bouquet Show; 5F 10th Grand Prix of Magic; 6F view of Monaco port, for 25th Anniv. of Culinary Conf. of French Cuisine;
- 17 May: 2,80F and 4.50F EUROPA 94; 3F 100th Anniv. of Intern. Olympic Committee; 6F dolphins, for Economic Institute for Rights of the Sea; 7F Intern. Year of the Family; 8F World Cup Soccer.
Withdrawals: 14 January 1994: 0,20F Rock of Monaco and Port de Fontvieille; 0,30F Commerce Dock; 0,40 Casme Place; 4F Monaco RR Station.

New Caledonia

- Spring 1994: 80F booklet of 16 x 5F Cagou bird definitives;
- early 1994: permanent-value Cagou bird definitive with serpentine perforations.

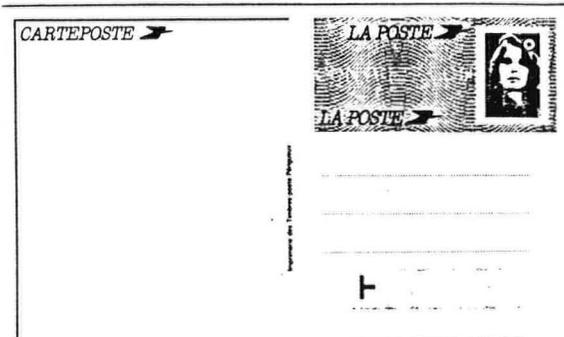
St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 9 (14) February: 5,10F Bowling game (and not 5F and 10F, as previously reported);
- 11 April: 1,50F drying cod;
- 25 April: 2,80F 50th Anniv. of Women's vote.
Withdrawals: 11 February: 5F underwater diving; 11 March: 3,60f insect and flower; 8 April: 1,50F and 1,80F cod-cleaning knives.

Wallis & Futuna

- 24 March: 80 Traditional Art.

- The new permanent-value postal card, sold at 3,50F for presently 2,80F's worth of service, not only has simili-perforations incorporated into the design (see illustration), but also, to discourage color photocopying, the word *contrefaçon* will appear in photocopies of the blue area to left of imprinted stamp. This security measure must assume that one can make a good photocopy--and on heavy card stock to boot--for far less than the 3,50F cost of the postal card.



- The red consecutive control numbers, printed on the gum of every fifth French coil stamp, can be saved on used copies by the judicious use of a Stamplift or other similar sweat box, whereby stamp and paper backing are not in direct contact with water.
- Both 2,80F values of the Decorative Arts stamps issued 22 (24) February 1994, come with either large or small perforations. However, perfs in both cases gauge at ca. 13½.
- This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Marianne de Dulac issues (see *FCP*, #236, April 1994, p. 52). The event was commemorated by an attractive March 1994 Stamp Day sheet and booklet. The Dulacs are only now receiving considerable publicity in the French philatelic press. Non-philatelic, 1944-46 usage on cover, and multiples on or off cover are becoming hard to find. Be prepared for 1995, when the succeeding--and far more collected and studied-- Marianne de Gandon also turns 50 and will also be the beneficiary of Stamp Day treatment.
- Very occasionally, nearly square (with rounded corners) cachets have appeared on French mail, since October 1993, in place of the more usual date stamps. On four lines they show name of postal station, phone number, date (in larger characters in middle of the rectangle), and a code number below. These are not postal cancellations but rather, cachets sent to the financial services of some 200 post offices that were renovated 1991-93. Because they don't show the time or a *levée*, they are not supposed to be used on mail. But then, not everybody reads or pays attention to postal regulations.
- Covers of 20F and 28F booklets printed early 1994 and issued from late(?) February 1994 on (stamps with undulating or serpentine vertical perforations--see illustration) will state that the contained "permanent value" stamps will always be valid for letters to 20 gm, in France, to and in the Overseas Depts. and Territories, and to the European Union, Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland. A similar message will be printed in top selvage of sheets, replacing the one shown in *For the Record* 688 (January 1994, p. 25). (See illustration on p. 87).
- More problems for purchasers of French stamps. This time, of stamps worth more used than unused-but-hinged. According to expert (and FCPS member) J.-F. Brun, stamps such as the 5F+5F War Orphans and the 10c Sower with Mineraline tab recently have appeared on the market bearing excellently faked cancels on stamps that had been previously expertized and signed as being unused without gum. The presence of such signatures could easily allay any suspicions on the part of would-be buyers.



- Those long, rectangular, blue vending-machine “print-your-own” stamps, with silhouetted birds in flight designs (and predecessor “comet,” etc.) are known as DIVAs and LISAs, according to the type of machine which produces and sells them. DIVAs (*DI*stributeurs de *V*ignettes d’*A*ffranchissement) are smaller, simpler, and don’t give any change. Some 700 are now in service throughout France. The (usually) red face values printed are relatively large, and may be accompanied by LETTRE or other service purchased. LISAs (*LI*bre-*S*ervice *A*ffranchissement) are programmed to print the exact charge for the service requested, after weighing the object (and must be reprogrammed with each change in tariff). They give change and, upon request, a receipt. Some 1500 are now in operation in France. The values printed are thinner, usually smaller, than those on DIVAs. Both types are considered postage stamps and are to be cancelled upon use. Errors and varieties do appear, are sometimes spectacular, and are quite collectible.
- Because the 3,50F value now serves mainly for a “slow” (economic) function, that for the ECOPLI between 20 and 50 gm, the 4th printing of the 3,50F Marianne de Briat (printed 22 November-3 December 1993) went from two phosphor bars to just one. But, this bar was printed on left side of stamp, perhaps erroneously. M. de Briat collectors should seek this one out.
- The new 28F booklets, with new information on covers and with serpentine vertical perfs (see below), come with a small black square or rectangle at lower left of pane (see illustration), once per every 100 sheets, for automatized accounting purposes. This means, with 20 booklet panes per printed sheet, that the rectangle appears only once per 2,000 booklets and is worth looking for.



- BPM 613, at Baidoa, closed 15 December 1993 as the last French troops left Somalia.
- French troops will be leaving Berlin between 1 July and 1 October 1994; the BPM 600 there will close on the last day.
- The frigate of “Ventôse” has been participating this year in the international embargo “blockade” of Haiti.
- As has been the case in recent years, singles of Stamp Day issues can be differentiated under UV light; stamps from sheets of the 1994 issue (see p. 84) fluoresce bluish white whereas stamps from booklets are non-fluorescent.

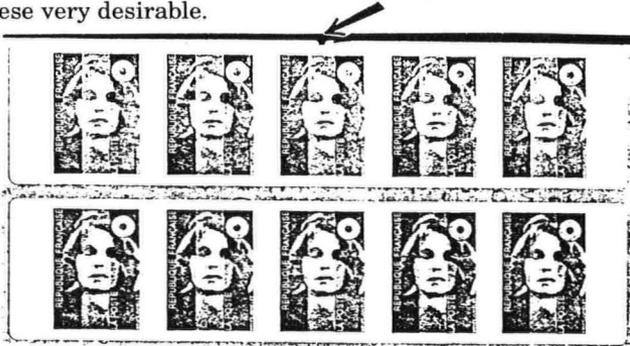
* * * * *

FOR THE RECORD

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(continued from *FCP* #236, April 1994, p. 58)

- > 702.) Member Bob Seeke advises that vending-machine booklets of 10 (in two strips of 5) permanent-value self-adhesive stamps, first issued 12 July 1993, are cut upon vending by the machinery, and come in two lengths. Those sold at Paris Gare St. Lazare and four (or now more?) other places are ca. 12.0 cm long and show a small notch at top near the middle (see illustration). Those sold by the *Agence Postale* are ca. 12.5 cm long and lack this notch. A third and later variety is also ca. 12.0 cm long but lacks the notch. The 23 July 1993-issued Sterners vending-machine 20F booklets of self-adhesive stamps (the ones with a 0,70F stamp) have a "true" *repère électronique* on the left side of only every 330 booklets, which would make these very desirable.



- > 703.) For those among us who've wondered what the spaces stand for in boxed accountancy markings for money letters (*cachets descriptifs de chargements*) (see illustration), here's the answer: GR. = weight in grams; C. = additional (fractional) weight in centigrams; NOM. = number of wax seals (on back); COUL. = color of wax seals; EMPR. = initials shown impressed upon seals.

CHARGÉ. N°					
12 AOUT 63	GR.	C.	CACH.	COUL.	EMPR.
PARIS J.					

- > 704.) We mentioned in a review (*FCP* #227, January 1992, p. 10) of Bertrand Sinais' study on Czech troops in France during World War II that only one example of the 1st Czech Division's N° 209 date stamps is known. We now show it here, together with its rectangular franchise cachet (BPM numbers were shown only on official and registered mail). The late, 12 July 1940 date is from the time that the division was officially dissolved. May you find a second example!

Poste aux Armées
Bureau Postal Militaire n° 209



> 705.) Bob Kinsley shows us two varieties of the seldom-seen WWII "Family Correspondence" cards prepared for mail from the Colonies to the German-controlled and Vichy zones of France. The excessively overpaid 7 Nov. 1941 card from N'Djole, Gabon (Figure 1a, b) appears to be of the same type as the September 1941 one shown by Alain Millet in "For the Record" 477 *FCP* #199, January 1985). It bears the typical A/3 censor commission I.D. marking (Figure 104b in Bob Stone's article in same *FCP* #199), a less "common" CONTROLÉ handstamp, and a very audacious LIBRE-overprinted A.E.F. stamp. Another, but unused "Family Correspondence" card is shown in Figure 2a, b). It was printed specifically for use in the Somali Coast, and bears a somewhat different advisory on back. Does any member know of other varieties of these cards?

Figure 1b



Figure 1a

Figure 2b



COTE FRANÇAISE DES SOMALIS

CARTE POSTALE

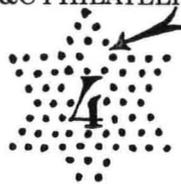
Prix de vente 2 fr. 50

EXPÉDITEUR

DESTINATAIRE

Signature :

Figure 2a



- 706.) Captain A. de La Mettrie has discovered a new, apparently constant variety of Paris Star 4, wherein one of the dots above the 4 is missing (see illustration). Earliest date reported thus far is 2 September 1868. (*Le Monde des Philatélistes*, April 1994).
- 707.) Various specialists, including Dr. Grasset, have stated that stocks of the 15c blue Sage "Faux de Chalons" were seized November 1886--after some minimal postal use--and stored by tribunals at Lyon, Chalon-sur Saône, etc., post-trials, for eventual destruction. However, covers and fragments have appeared on the philatelic market bearing this fraudulent stamp, with Paris 4 (Rue d'Enghien) dates of September 1892. Could this mean that some of the confiscated but undestroyed fakes were snuck out of hiding some years later, through official or otherwise connivance, and used to fabricate philatelic souvenirs?
- 708.) From 8 October 1909-on, postal cards "of 5 words"--which benefited from lower postal rates--could include any five words (or less) plus the address. But before then, they had to be words of congratulations, condolence, thanks, or other forms of politeness. Postal employees would read the messages to see if any not fulfilling the requirements needed to be taxed as "ordinary" cards. (Abstracted from M. Chauvet, in *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, May 1994).
- 709.) In an interesting article in *Documents Philatéliques* N° 140 (1994), Michel Chauvet reminds us that certain manuscript words or phrases were, at some specific times in the history of the French posts, obligatory on the face of correspondence, usually at upper left or top. These included: (*Par*) *Estafette* (1829-1833), on mail from Paris to England via Calais; (*Voie d'*) *Angleterre* (from 1843), for British packet service; (*Par*) *Ballon Monté* (late September 1870-January 1871), for outbound mail from besieged Paris; *Paris par Moulins (Allier)* (January 1871), for inbound mail into besieged Paris, prepaid at 1F; *Voie Sibérie* (or *Via Transsibérien*) (1903-1920s, with interruptions in service), for transit via the TransSiberian RR; (*Par*) *Exprès*, for special delivery service; and *Pneumatique* (from 1898) for sending non-pneumatic mail stationery via the tube system. (There are others, of course). The specific services were not necessarily denied by the PTT if the word or phrase was omitted (or incorrectly stated), but it could result in delayed routing. And the PTT did eventually provide handstamps for some of the services (*Estafette*, *Voie Sibérie*, *Exprès*).

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NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

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1993 Supplement to "Seine-Inférieure-Histoire postale et monographie des origines à 1904"; 100F + 20F postage, payable to Cercle d'Etudes Marcophiles et Philatéliques de Normandie; contact J. Regnaud, 122 Blvd. Clémenceau, F 76600 Le Havre. (several new studies).

"La Pousée vers l'Est," by Bernard Abouchar; 106 pp, softbound; 120F + 20F postage, payable to Amical Aérophilatélique d'Air France ("A.R.A.F."), 1, square Max-Hymans, F 75741 Paris Cedex 15, France. (The evolution of Air France service, and mail service, into Asia and the Far East in the 1920s and 1930s; route maps, illustrations of covers--mainly philatelic, some time tables).

- "Catalogue des Marques de Passage 1671-1875," by James van der Linden; 336 pp, 17 x 24 cm, clothbound; 750F + 45F postage (registered), from SOLUPHIL, S.A., 5 rue du Helder, F 75009 Paris, France. (A priced catalog of transit, rate, and exchange markings of Western Europe, indicating which towns used them, by a recognized expert in the field. Some 3339 different markings listed, most of them reproduced, with indices of rarity).
- "Histoire Postale et Oblitérations du Département de la Loire des origines au 31 Mars 1876," by Pierre Souchon, Vol. I, 1994; 208 pp, 17 x 24 cm, softbound, numerous illustrations of markings and covers; 220F postpaid, payable to UP PTT Loire C.C.P. 7466-89-S Lyon, from Antoine Dupont, 1 Chemin du Sablat, F 42600 Ecotay l'Olme, France. (Subscriptions are being taken by M. Dupont for Vol. 2, covering April 1876-December 1992, in some 350 pp).
- "Les Oblitérations Mécaniques de Savoie et Haute-Savoie," by Bernard Pajani. Contact M. Pajani, 142 chemin de la Perrière, F 74210 Faverges, France, for details and price.
- "Les Avis de Réception--et leurs formules de demande des origines à nos jours"; 150+ pp, 21 x 29.5 cm; 135F postpaid (145F by registered mail), from Henri Géant, La Tâche, F 17770 Migron, France. (An augmented and updated version of the studies of M. Mathieu and A. Sambourg, describing more than 200 types and subtypes of these formules).
- "100 Ans de Poste Aérienne en France," by Pierre Saulgrain; 408 pp, 21.5 x 30.5 cm, card cover, profusely illustrated with cachets, vignettes, documents, postal cards, etc.; 455F postpaid, from Roumet s.a., 17 rue Drouot, F 75009 Paris; payable by check to the above, or by money order to CCP Paris 409 30 V. (Individual chapters cover mail from the Siege of Paris and of the Alsace and Lorraine fortresses; air-mail precursors; the air meets from 1909-on; and the development of French air-mail services to 1969).
- "Boîtes Rurales du Rhône," by R. Laborde; edited by the Club Marcophilie Moderne; 60F postpaid, from Marcophilie Moderne, Boîte Postale 21, F 77350 Le-Mée-sur-Seine, France.

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REVIEWS

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Robert G. Stone, **"A Caribbean Neptune: The Maritime Postal Communications of the Greater and Lesser Antilles in the 19th Century,"** (1993); 357 pp, clothbound, 17 maps, numerous illustrations; published by the Philatelic Foundation; \$65.00 postpaid, from Leonard Hartmann, The Philatelic Bibliopole, P.O. Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233.

It is with a great deal of trepidation that I approached this work in the guise of its reviewer for this journal. With so many better qualified collectors mentioned in the Acknowledgements, it appeared I might be the only possibly fully objective reviewer left on the bench.

To simplify the task, I'll start by making use of promotional information provided by the distributor, FCPS member Leonard Hartmann. This splendid work is no mere "compilation of sailing tables and rates. Each chapter starts with a history and significance of the [maritime] service before going into the rates, sailings, known usages, markings, maps, etc., but tables are used when appropriate. This is a book that you can sit down and read, chapter by chapter and cover to cover."

More than "just" the 19th Century is covered, notwithstanding the subtitle. The various sections (rather than "chapters") deal with Spanish, British, French, U.S., and German shipping--private as well as governmental, and from their origins, which in some instances go back in murky time into the 17th Century. Illustrations of covers, markings, old port scenes, packet ships, advertisements regarding mail service, etc. abound, as well as the expected maps and tables. This is truly a most detailed and scholarly, definitive study of all aspects of pre-modern West Indies letter communications. Considering that most covers were reproduced from photocopies or catalogs, their quality and usefulness are high, thanks to Stone's careful retouching of markings and cleaning of stains and other undesirable attributes. The covers shown generally are unique in one sense or another.

Before continuing with general comments, I will jump to Section 11 (p. 223-50), for it deals specifically with the French mails. (Mail to and from France and Colonies that travelled via other nations' ships is, of course, covered in other sections as well.) Section 11, because of its historical and narrative format, is mainly an in-depth continuation of the work of the late Raymond Salles (Vol. IV of *La Poste Maritime Française*). Its subsections, following an introductory one, deal exhaustively with the French mails to and from St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. But really, collectors of French maritime mail should read and familiarize themselves with the whole book and not just this one section. For example, the existence of an early and ephemeral French service, which resulted in a very few and very rare covers, is noted on p. 28.

In this book Stone has assembled, in good narrative style, the fruits of a half-century's search of archival and newspaper files; the studies of earlier workers, himself among them; and the wealth of information he has obtained from his many correspondents and friends and from catalog sources. Much of the basic material would now be exceedingly difficult to relocate and use, particularly that from Cuban sources. Considerable new information, never before mentioned in earlier postal histories, has thus been uncovered and it--plus the more familiar--are now incorporated into this single volume. But information is not all one gets; Stone's educated conjectures and conclusions make this work truly a gem. What's more, the author carefully notes the questions that remain unanswered and the guesses that may not hold up under later investigation.

Among the many contributions are detailed inventory descriptions of numerous covers (e.g., p. 49-55, for Puerto Rican arrival markings from St. Thomas, and p. 133-141, for Spanish packet covers from the Havana-St. Thomas line). Section 3, which is a 3-page table comparing the attributes and categories of mail from St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, and Cuba, is most instructive and rewarding.

It is to be expected--and the author is the first to say so--that at least some of the information he draws upon and conclusions he draws will probably change in the light of future scholarship. So it is unfortunate that there are no footnotes whatsoever to tie the data to their sources. As a result, it would be difficult or nearly impossible to check these data, as stepping stones for future studies.

This is really my principal qualm. Other lapses are relatively few and seldom detract. Typos appear to be minimal. Guerra-Aguir's name is misspelled on p. 32. Several maps (A, B, L among them) show unlabelled grid lines (Lat. and Long.?). Charleston is labelled Savannah on Map B. Map E (Puerto Rico) could have been much reduced in size, for the little it shows. Postal markings in Figs. 10-1 to 10-4 (p. 164-67) lack labels A, B, C, etc. to match their captions, a minor irritant. The same holds for Fig. 8-2 (p. 82), and also elsewhere. Markings of Section 12 (U.S. mails) begin on p. 252, but one has to go to p. 292 to learn the sources of the numerations shown, and that information itself is very sketchy. And the book lacks an index. Some readers may wish this was a priced catalog, but that would have been a terribly difficult task, quite beyond the objectives of this study.

The book is sturdily and attractively bound and should make a handsome as well as extremely useful addition to one's bookshelf. Bob must be justly proud of this product, and we should all vote him a major round of thanks for his decades of labor and for this accomplishment!

-- S.J. Luft

Armand Mathieu, "**Oblitérations de France sur Timbres Détachés, 1994,**" 151 pp., card cover. From the author, 5 rue Blacas, F-06000 Nice; 325 Fr, postpaid.

This is the revised edition of a catalog indispensable to the dedicated collector of French cancels 1852-1876. Priced coverage includes: Paris stations and numbered stars, small and large numerals and the p.c. du G.C., railroad cancels, and an assortment of military and foreign. It has been some years since I bought a new edition, so it is rewarding to see much new material--the remade numbers, both small and large numbers reassigned (other than Alsace/Lorraine), and French cancels on foreign stamps.

The minimum quote has risen to 5Fr (85 cents) which is substantially above any current minimum that might be quoted in this country. Regular bidders in French auctions are aware that large cancel lots, by Department for example, give an estimated value from this catalog, but sell at a discount depending on the weighting of common material. The trend of the quotations is consistent with the general market. For comparisons, I index the 1975 Yvert Specialized as a base, and both this catalog and the 1994 Cérés are consistent at an approximate 5X increase. Naturally I am pleased to see

a run of Paris stars, for example on the 25c type Cérés type III, has risen from 550Fr to 2800Fr.

The author has issued catalogs for a number of years, and is cited as the French authority on cancels on detached stamps. His catalogs are most useful as both a checklist of what exists and as a guide to relative scarcity. If you collect Paris/number/railway cancels, or just need to know how to evaluate them, a copy of this catalog belongs in your library.

-- J.E.L.

A.R. Torrance, "**French Somali Coast - The Postal History 1939-45**"; 24 pp., 4 air route maps, censor and postmark illustrations, 5" x 7", stapled; from Charles Entwistle, Bloomfield, Perth Road, Abernethy, Perth PH2 9LW, Scotland, for 5.50 Pounds + 1.50 Pounds postage (+ bank charges if not paid in Sterling); or from L. Dann Mayo, P.O. Box 20837, Indianapolis, IN 46220, for \$9.00, postpaid.

This booklet provides a detailed study of the transport of colony mail during World War II based, in the author's words, "on the study of an accumulation of about 50 covers." The monograph, after a concise historical and geographical background, is divided into six time periods, beginning with the identification of changes in airmail routings related to the status of Italy, Vichy France and Free France, and ending with the canceled flights for the return of troops from the colony to liberated France in 1945.

Somali Coast initially pledged allegiance to the Vichy Government controlling southern France, resulting in the mails being carried by Italian airlines, which were required to make continually longer flights as the war progressed. Following the German expansion into the Vichy France territory in November 1942, Somali Coast became the last colony to change its allegiance to de Gaulle, and while mail to France was thereby discontinued, mail to other Free French territories could be resumed, resulting in a number of France Libre first flight cachets.

The study not only incorporates previously published information (primarily by Tristant) but also provides many previously unpublished air flight details including additional "blockade-runner" information and postal rate analysis. The author notes that covers during this period with the "Djibouti-Avion" postmark should be "viewed with suspicion" as philatelically motivated.

This little booklet is a fine addition to the philatelic library of those with an interest in airmail routes, or an interest in wartime mail handling, or simply an interest in the interesting postal history of this colony.

--RTK

Académie de Philatélie, "**Les Bureaux de Quartier de Paris 1852-1863**"; Vol. II, Fascicule 2 of the *Encyclopédie des Timbres-Poste de France*; 144 pp, 22 x 27 cm, soft cover; 1993. 220Fr postpaid, payable to Académie de Philatélie; order from A. de La Mettrie, 47 Blvd. Garibaldi, F 75015 Paris.

For many years the standard reference on Paris cancels has been the Rochette & Pothion 1958 *Catalogue*, wherein the 1852-1863 lozenges period was covered in eleven pages. Now comes this definitive work, written by Jean-Claude Delwaille, with substantially more information of use to the specialist. The contents, accompanied by extensive illustrations--some in color--include courier markings, office locations and cachet types, Roman and block-lettered lozenges with varieties, detailed lists of dates of service, and some texts of official notices. There is no attempt to provide quotations or an index of scarcity; it takes close reading to discover that Roman-letter A and block-letter HS1 are rarities.

The production values show improvements over Fascicule 1 [railway-mail service up to 1870; reviewed on p. 52 of April 1993 *FCP*]; the cover illustrations particularly are better. The information given is probably more than most of us would want to know about Paris lozenges, even those who collect them. The original *Encyclopédie*, Vol. I in two well-bound parts (1968), was surely a bargain at 250Fr for over 1,400 pages. The decision to print Vol. II in these small pieces, while perhaps expedient, leaves me with the taste of driving on the Garden State Parkway where they make you stop and cough up a 35 cents toll every 20 miles. This book is a must for Paris cancel collectors and for postal historians, and worthy of attention by owners of Vol. I and other bibliophiles.

-- J.E. Lievsay

Gardner L. Brown, "**The Postal History of the Commune Revolution, Paris 1871**," Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication No. 9, The France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc., New York, NY, 1992; edited by Robert G. Stone. Softbound, 8.5" x 5.5", 107 pp. Available for \$20.00 (\$16.00 for F&CPS members in good standing)

postpaid, from the Corresponding Secretary of The France & Colonies Philatelic Society, 103 Spruce Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003.

The late Gardner Brown was a well-known expert on the mails surrounding the 1870-1871 Franco-Prussian War and its Paris Commune aftermath. Perhaps one of the most complex and confusing periods in French philately, the postal history of the War and Commune are both highly interesting and dramatic. It is this drama that attracts both specialists and non-philatelists alike to this period, and this first comprehensive book about the postal history of the Commune is a major contribution. This study was originally published in serial form in the *France & Colonies Philatelist*, between April 1989 and January 1991. A number of corrections to the original text appear in this book.

All aspects of Commune mail are covered, including all types of mail into, out of, de-toured around and within Paris. This is perhaps the most valuable aspect of the book, since it offers, for the first time, a logical and well-explained classification of Commune mail within the context of the history of the Commune revolution. This aspect of the book is also lavishly illustrated, although illustrations sometimes lack acceptable clarity.

Gardner relied on a database of auction catalog listings to draw conclusions about the rarity of various types of Commune mail. This aspect of the book can be somewhat misleading. Although Commune mail is undoubtedly scarce, it has not historically commanded high prices outside of the few spectacular Agency letters. This being the case, not many pieces of Commune mail would deserve individual auction listings, and therefore would not be picked up in Gardner's survey. His data, however, are useful in indicating relative rarity of various types of Commune letters.

Although Editor Bob Stone is correct in describing Gardner's work as "prolix and somewhat incompletely organized reflecting his incremental style of study and writing," this comprehensive book on the Commune is a must for anyone at all interested in this period of French postal history. And for those with a few inexplicable Commune covers in their collections, this is an invaluable guide to the explanation of the rates, routings, and markings on such covers.

-- S.C. Walske

Theo. Van Dam, "**War Dates 1911-1950**," 1993; 80 pp, 8½"x11", spiral-bound soft cover; plus maps, two appendices, bibliography, and index; \$13.00 postpaid in U.S.A. and Canada, \$15.00 elsewhere; from Postal Covers, P.O. Box 8809P, Anaheim, CA 92812.

The subtitle pretty much sums it up: "A geographical and chronological listing of wars, major campaigns, occupations and newly established nations before and after World War I and II up to the Korean War." Within seven chapters covering periods of three to 15 years each, and alphabetically by country, the author lists numerous important dates and events. Some are for the start and end of armed conflicts, others for treaties, still others for changes in governments, alliances, national names, plebiscites, mandates, etc.

The primary purpose and use of this information is to help place one's covers--civilian as well as military--within their historical context. This is a very ambitious undertaking, and at least partly successful. For this useful booklet, the author (and FCPS member) is to be highly commended. Theo readily admits that these are the more "major" dates (and events), and that there is much that could or should be added, in a hoped-for sequel.

More information on France and Colonies-related dates would have been very helpful, and may perhaps appear in the sequel. Among information I would have liked to see are: *Alsace-Lorraine*: when in 1914 did France retake a part of southwestern Alsace (Wesserling, Thann, Dannemarie, etc.)? [6-11 August 1914, with mail partly reestablished from 6 October]; *Bulgaria*: dates of November 1918 on French occupation; *China*: when did French (and other powers') forces leave the country, prior to WWII?; *Germany*: dates for the French contingent in Upper Silesia, after WWI?; *Palestine and Near East*: war dates for British (plus French, Italian) actions against Turks in WWI?; *Serbia*: when did French troops arrive in support of the Serbs in WWI? *Syria*: dates of mid-1920s Druze revolt?; *Turkey*: French-occupation dates for Cilicia, Smyrna, etc.?

A few typos crop out; first date at top of p. 45 should be 1939, not 1940. The "Riff War" of 1920s is listed only under Spain, a minor participant in its later years, and not under either Morocco nor France.

-- S.J. Luft

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F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

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President's Letter

As announced in the January *Philatelist*, the Society's annual meeting was held in May, and lasted the typical sixty seconds, during which the present officers were re-elected. As I have emphasized before, this is the result, not of any overwhelming campaign by the current officers, but of an inability to find other candidates. Your president, in particular, is well past the number of terms he had hoped to hold that position, but is too poor an arm-twister to have found any replacement.

The announcement and entry form for the Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibit are included in this issue of the *Philatelist*. Holding the Exhibit in October seemed to work out well last year, so we will do the same again for 1994. I urge all our members to consider submitting an exhibit. I have recently received an inquiry from one of our overseas members: Could he submit an entry for the Rich Exhibit as color photocopies, since the shipment of an exhibit across national boundaries is complicated by customs regulations? I have not yet had an opportunity to discuss this matter with the other directors. Personally, I would permit such a submission, but each request should be made when returning the entry form, and approved individually. The judges must also have the right to reclassify the exhibit as non-competitive, if they feel, on viewing it, that it can not be properly judged in photocopy form.

-- Dick Stevens

Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibit

The annual Stephen G. Rich Memorial Exhibit will be held this year on Tuesday, October 4, 1994, as the program part of the regular monthly meeting of the Society at the Collectors Club in New York. The full regulations and the entry form may be found in the supplement enclosed with this issue of the *Philatelist*.

Meeting of 4 April

It was John Lievsay's night to present six frames of material entitled "Unconventional France." John began by noting how he had gotten into collecting the Classics of France. His introduction came many years ago when he bought a caboose lot of France at an auction, intrigued by the note "possible trimmed perfs" written adjacent to a 1F Cérés issue. Little did the lot describer know, for the 1F was never issued perforated. Not much came of his French-area collecting until he met Bill Waugh while working as a political canvasser in the 1960 election. (John didn't say for whom he was working.) While looking at John's material during off-hours, Bill made a number of comments such as, "This one was used in Egypt, this on a railroad line, this on a packet boat, etc." So with this collection and Bill's guidance, John began to specialize in the Classics of France.

In the six frames of material on exhibit tonight, John presented an overview covering from the first Cérés issue through the Sage issue, ending with back-of-the-book material. All of the items presented were in the unusual or unconventional category; some with personal stories, some discovery material, and some that was just fun to see. The Cérés section was highlighted by proofs, essays, and unusual uses such as on cover from Martinique. The 40c recut variety was shown in both its positions. The reissues for Rowland Hill initiated a fair bit of debate about rarity and value. Fourniers and Speratis were also shown for the first issue.

A nice Empire item with a "CORR EXP SYRIA" cancel was shown, and a cover franked with the 5c perforated issues were shown with the backprint for the Claude LaFontaine firm, an early precursor to perfrins. The Lauré section featured a 5F plate proof with no "5" and "F", perforated to look like the rare variety with no denomination.

The Bordeaux section was highlighted by a pair of the 5c stamps used for fiscal purposes along with a typical tax handstamp of the period, plus the forgeries of Pol and Sperati. The Franco-Prussian war era featured a cover with the Corsican naval cancel (Salles 886), and the September 1871 period was highlighted by a 20c Laureated issue accompanied by a 10c bisect of the same issue.

Of course the 25c issue if 1871 was handsomely illustrated from John's excellent collection. Proofs, essays, the tête-bêche on cover and the prosecution copy of the 25c forgery on cover used as evidence in the prosecution and execution of the forger were featured. The Sage era was highlighted by a 1c Prussian blue and the display was concluded by a back-of-the-book section. John will be back next month with a display on the French forces in Italy from the Waugh collection.

-- Ed Grabowski

NEW MEMBERS

- 2997 DODARO, PAUL E., 28-16 Fort Evans Rd., N.E., #103, Leesburg, VA 22075. (Levant During The Mandate Period, And All Prior Philatelic-Related Materials.)
- 2998 WILCOCK, DAVID C., 501 Meridian St., Falls Church, VA 22046. (French Community: Offices Abroad - CFA Issues. Colonies General Issues: Mint - Used. All Colonies and Territories. Morocco (to Independence) - West African Colonies. Reunion.)
- 2999 CHASET, LAURENCE G., 1749 Pleasant Valley Ave., Oakland, CA 94611. (Topical: Art - Railroads. General France: Mint - Used. Saar. French Antarctic Territory.)
- 3000 MAY, ALBERT F., 5308 Coral Blvd., Bradenton, FL 34210-2117. (General Collector: 19th & 20th Century. General France: Mint - Used. Modern France: Mint - Used.)
- 3001 SEWALL, STEVE., 535 N. Michigan Ave., #3208, Chicago, IL 60611. (All Colonies & Territories. French Africa: Pre-Independence. Philatelic Literature Exchange.)
- 3002 BEATTY, WILLIAM E., 194 Connor Dr., Henrietta, NY 14467. (General Collector: 20th Century. Topical: World War II. General France: Mint, On Cover. Modern France: Mint, On Cover. Airmails First Day Covers - Miniature Sheets.)
- 3003 DEAN, MARY JOAN, 43 Albany Ave., Dunkirk, NY 14048. (General Collector: All Issues. Topical: Engraved Art Stamps. General France: Mint. Modern France: Mint - Any Engraved Stamp - First Day Covers - Miniature Sheets. Artist's Proofs and Color Trials. Andorra. Monaco. Colonies General Issues: Mint. Philatelic Literature Exchange.)
- 3004 DEGROUX, GERARD, 13 Rue Hélène Boucher, Thiais, F 94320, France. (Modern France: Mint - On Cover. French Indochina. Philatelic Literature.)
- 3005 ALLEN, DAVID, 2159 W. 47th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V6M 2M6, Canada. (Colonies General Issues on Cover. Cancells and Postal History of St. Pierre & Miquelon - Kerguelen (TAAF).)
- 3006 HURZ, ROBERT L., 5 Arapahoe Lane, Kearney, NE 68847-2527. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used.)
- 3007 VALI, ALADER, 5512 Rosedale Ave., Montreal, Quebec H4V 2J1 Canada. (General Collector: All Issues. General France: Mint - Used. Modern France: Used - On Cover. Exchange.)
- 3008 WALLACE, CHARLES B., 14-J Watertown Circle, Birmingham, AL 35235. (General France: Mint - Used. Regular Issues; Alsace-Lorraine. Special Issues: Proofs & Color Trials. French Community: Offices Abroad. Monaco. Saar.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 1781 SCHUMACHER, MARK, 816 Spring Garden St., Greensboro, NC 27403-2431.
- 2875 RUSSELL, DARYL A., P.O. Box 260410, Littleton, CO 80126-0410.
- 1052 HAGAN, A.S., M.D., 7035 W. Grand Ave., Suite 104, Chicago, IL 60635.
- 2978 MARTIN, TOM, 470 Stepp Ave., Apt. 3-A, Hendersonville, NC 28739-5569. (Change of Zip Code).
- 2101 SIMON, JAMES R., P.O. Box 63, Dunn-Loring, VA 22027-0063. (Change of Zip Code).
- 2314 PINCHOT, DANIEL N., 478 Tenafly Rd., Englewood, NJ 07631.
- 1564 RAVACON, PIERRE T., 6 Park Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081-1723.
- 2996 VAN REUTH, ED, 204 Shipping Creek Dr., Stevensville, MD 21666.
- 2912 ROTTMAN, MILTON, 3845 Park Ave. - Unit 18, Fairfield, CT 06432-1237.
- 2740 MEAD, WILLIAM, 4504 Sunningdale Ave., N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87110-5747.
- 2733 BELL, SCOTT H., 1600 S. Joyce St., Apt. #1227, Arlington, VA 22202-1714. (Apt. # Change).
- 2851 BURNS, DONALD L., 7032 44th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53142-1707. (Correction of Zip Code).
- 1736 ARELLANO, REFUGIO, JR., 26106 Hillsford Pl., Lake Forest, CA 92630-5507.
- 2910 KLUHERZ, MICHAEL K., 24 South Flora Way, Golden, CO 80401-5330.

REINSTATEMENTS

- 1593 KOHAGEN, ROGER A., 5051 Jamestown Rd., Columbus, OH 43220.
- 2356 POLHEMUS, J. MARK, 68 Bridgegate Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903-1092.
- 1847 ARNESS, GISELE, 6325 Chippewa Rd., Medina, OH 44256.
- 2905 McPHERSON, CAM, 8000 Modesto Dr., Delta, B.C., V4C 4B1, Canada.
- 1052 HAGAN, A.S., M.D., 7053 W. Grand Ave., Suite 104, Chicago, IL 60635.
- 2888 ROTAR, PATRICK JOHN, 7600 W. Manchester Ave., Apt. 1201, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293.
- 2857 OLSHEVSKY, GEORGE, P.O. Box 16924, San Diego, CA 92116-0815.
- 2803 BARTLETT, BILL, Postmaster, Saanichton, B.C., V0S 1M0, Canada.
- 1694 SCINTO, FRED, Resurrection College, Westmount Road, N., Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G7, Canada.
- 2790 TEYSSIER, GREGOIRE, 988 Ave. de Manrèse, Quebec, Quebec G1S 2X1, Canada.
- 2643 GAETJENS, KAY, 1 Rue Cognac-Jay, F-75007 Paris, France.
- 2878 BANG, SE HYUK, Seoul, Korea.
- 2119 EDISON, ROBERT B., 13907 Piscataway Dr., Fort Washington, MD 20744-6639.
- 2448 DOIG, KENNETH F., 26363 Club Dr., Madera, CA 93638-0248.

REMOVED FROM MAILING LIST

- 30 GILBERT, LEWIS D. (Deceased)
- 2855 WEXELBLAT, DAVID (NPD)
- 79 MORTON, J.B. (Deceased)
- 2629 TERRY, GLENN F. (Deceased)
- 2498 TUPPER, WILLIAM K., 4584 N.W. 58th St., Tamarac, FL 33319. (Undeliverable as addressed).