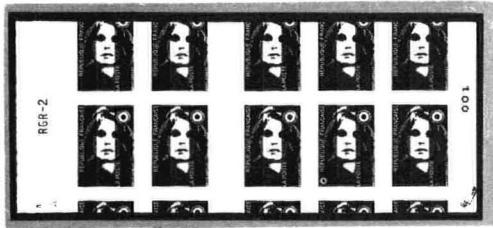




France & Colonies Philatelist



Some examples of modern French perforation errors. Usually printers' waste, which comes upon the market at inflated prices, but can also be found by sifting through French post-office stocks.

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SOLO USAGES OF 1-CENTIME STAMPS
by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS #915)

What could be more difficult to encounter on non-philatelic mail than a top value stamp alone on cover? The answer is obvious from this article's title: it's the humble one-centime stamp. (Two- and four-centimes stamps are correct answers also, but they lie beyond the scope of this article.)

The reason for this apparent inversion is simple. One-centime stamps were correctly and legitimately used--by themselves--mainly on minor, locally printed newsheets and broadsides and on ephemeral commercial (read "junk") or political mail that was seldom retained by their recipients. And very few of whom could be considered as being collectors of stamps on original documents. Although these stamps were also used as "make-up" (complementary) values in conjunction with other stamps, we consider here only the case of untaxed solo usage.

The first appearance of a discrete 1-centime rate was on 1 August 1856. Handstamped tax (revenue) markings were used at first. The first 1-centime postage stamp (Scott 12, Yvert 13) appeared 1 November 1860 to meet the need for an adhesive stamp of that value. Solo use of the 1c value was terminated on 5 January 1942. The last stamp issued for solo usage was the 1c sepia Mercure (Scott 353, Yvert 404)--which must be extremely rare used alone on newspaper wrapper or fragment thereof. Subsequent 1 centime stamps were printed and issued solely for use as complementary values.

Some important specialized collections of Classic 1c stamps on document or cover have appeared on the philatelic market in recent years (e.g., Roumet 399th auction, October 1989; J.-P. Magne collection, in Sinais 28th auction, October 1994). Some of the illustrations shown here were taken from these auction catalogues; others from the author's much humbler holdings and other sources.

What is hopefully an exhaustive tabular listing of all possible solo uses of French 1c values follows. Sources consulted for rate information are Alexandre, *et al* (1982)¹, Luft (1974)², and Richardson (1992)³.

1c rates

1 August 1856:

Non-political newspapers and periodicals, within department of origin⁴, to 20 gm (to 25 gm from 1 May 1878) (Figures 1-3);

Printed matter, within wrappers, to 5 gm (until 31 August 1871) (Figures 4, 5 and 8).

Electoral circulars and bulletins, within wrappers, to 5 gm (until 31 March 1902) (Figure 6).

April 1857:

Advertisements, to 5 gm (at printed-matter rate, above) (until 31 August 1871) (Figure 7).

February 1858:

Official notices, to 5 gm (until 23 November 1871) (Figures 9 and 10).

May 1864:

Printed matter in Braille, within wrappers, to 5 gm (until 31 August 1871) (Figure 11);

Photographs, within wrappers, to 5 gm (ditto).

1 May 1878:

Newspapers and periodicals, within department of origin, to 25 gm (until 31 March 1920) (Figure 12);

Printed matter, notices, lithographs, and circulars (including electoral ones), within wrappers, to 5 gm (until 31 January 1907) (Figure 13 and 14).

January 1886:

Meetings notices (at printed-matter-rate).

February 1886:

Some other printed notices, wherein names, dates, and/or places are added by hand (at printed-matter rate).

February 1893:

Military-service notifications, within wrappers (at printed-matter rate).

November 1896:

Lottery tickets (at printed-matter rate).

May 1898:

Printed matter within unsealed envelopes, franked with 1c stamps, and distributed by private enterprises. Cancellations could not resemble official PTT ones (Figure 15)⁵. Known so used, 1898-1907.

November 1899:

Illustrated postal cards, with CARTE POSTALE crossed out, "*Imprimé* written on, and sent within wrappers⁶ (Figures 16 and 17) (until September 1903).

1 April 1902:

Electoral circulars and bulletins, within wrappers or unsealed envelopes, to 25 gm (Figure 18) (until 31 March 1920).

1 February 1907:

Meeting notices and advisories, and official notices, within wrappers, to 5 gm.

1 June 1908:

Pre-routed newspapers and periodicals, within France and Algeria, to 50 gm.

Ditto, within department of origin, from 50 to 75 gm.

1 February 1909:

Official notices, to 5 gm.

1 October 1913:

Official notices regarding income taxes, within sealed envelopes, to 10 gm.

[Most rates were raised by least temporarily during the First World War, on 1 January 1917, except for meetings notices, and electoral circulars and bulletins.]

1 April 1920:

Pre-routed newspapers and periodicals, to 50 gm (until 29 June 1923);

Ditto, within department of origin, from 50 to 75 gm (ditto);

Non-routed (individual) ditto, within department of origin, to 50 gm (ditto);

Official notices, within wrappers, to 5 gm;

Electoral circulars and bulletins, to 25 gm;

Official notices regarding income taxes, to 10 gm (Figure 18).

30 June 1923:

Pre-routed (bulk rate) newspapers and periodicals, to 60 gm (until 11 July 1937);

Ditto, within department of origin, from 60 to 75 gm (ditto);
 Non-routed (individual) ditto, within department of origin, to 60 gm
 (ditto).

[Many of the above services cost more than 1c by the mid-1920s.]

9 February 1929:

Official notices regarding income taxes, to 20 gm.

21 April 1930:

Electoral cards within envelopes, after being designated as *carte d'électeur* by the town clerk, to 25 gm.

12 July 1937:

Pre-routed (bulk rate) newspapers and periodicals, within department of origin, to 75 gm.

After 5 January 1942, 1c stamps served only for add-on (complementary) postage, or as multiples.



Figure 1. Newspaper within wrapper, printed in and mailed within Dordogne Dept., February 1861; rare usage of 1c imperforate Empire (Encyclopédie des Timbres-poste de France, v. II, Pt. 3, 1994, Plate 1).



Figure 2. Local newspaper, printed directly on 1c Lauré, sent within wrapper (since removed), July 1871 (Sinais auction N° 28, 1994, Lot 501).

24 JANVIER 1875.

NUMÉRO 28.

L'ÉCHARENTAISE

litique, paraissant le Jeudi et le Dimanche

RÉCRÉATION

HISTOIRE LOCALE — BIOGRAPHIE — BEAUX-ARTS — PORTRAITS, DESSINS ET CARTES
— CONTES, NOUVELLES ET LÉGENDES — JEUX D'ESPRIT — COMMERCE — ANNONCES

IB-GÉBANT, VICTOR BILLAUD

Prix: 10 fr. par an, 1 fr. par mois, 10 cent. le n°.

Figure 3. Charente Dept. newspaper, preprinted in 1c Cérès, January 1875, for delivery within the department (author's coll.).

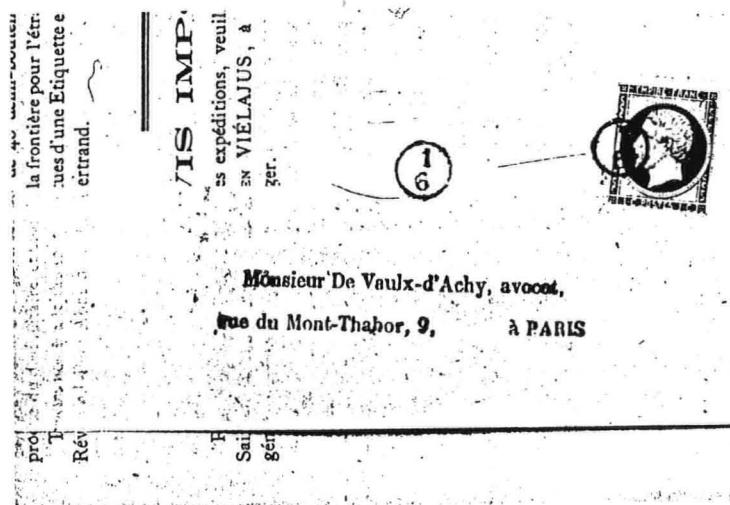


Figure 4. Printed matter within wrapper; 1c perforated Empire stamp cancelled upon arrival in Paris (Encycl., as above, p. 41).

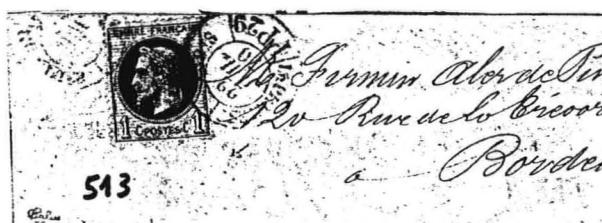
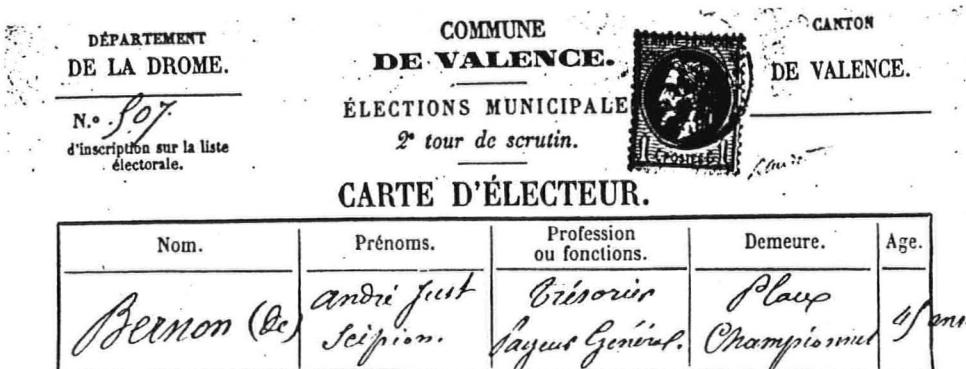


Figure 5. As per Figure 4, red Paris 22 July 1870 Imprimé date stamp on 1c Lauré (Sinai N° 28, Lot 513).



Vous êtes prévenu que les Électeurs sont convoqués pour les samedi 11 et dimanche 12 juin 1870, à l'effet de procéder à l'élection de 8 membres du conseil municipal.

La réunion aura lieu, pour les Électeurs inscrits sur la liste électorale à partir du N.^o 1 jusqu'à 225 inclusivement, dans la salle du foyer du Théâtre;

Et, pour ceux compris sur ladite liste depuis le N.^o 226 jusqu'à 5411, dans la salle de l'Enseignement mutuel.

Les opérations électORALES auront lieu dans les deux sections, le samedi, de 8 heures du matin à 6 heures du soir, et le dimanche, de 8 heures du matin à 4 heures du soir.

Valence, en Mairie, le 6 juin 1870.

Pour le Maire absent,
FORCHERON, 1^e adjoint.

NOTA. — L'Électeur devra être muni de sa carte en venant voter.

Valence, Imp. de Cheminier et Chavet.

Figure 6. Electoral notice sent within wrapper, June 1870; 1c Lauré (Encycl., p. 40).

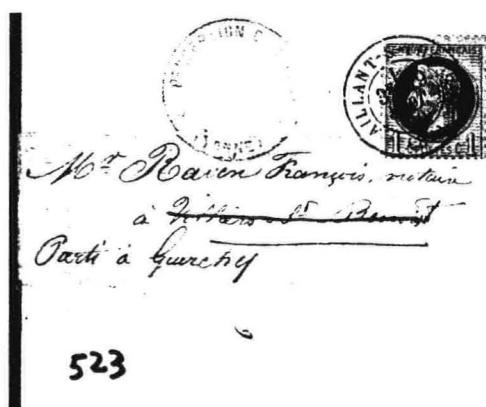


Figure 7. Advertising matter within wrapper, sent at printed-matter rate, 19 September 1870; 1c Lauré (Sinais N° 28, Lot 523).

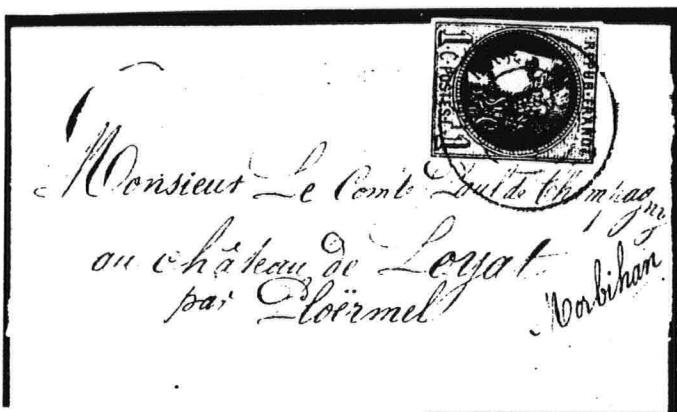


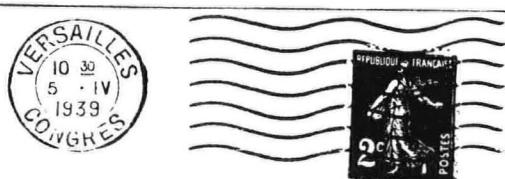
Figure 8. Visiting card within original wrapper, sent at printed-matter rate, 1871; 1c Bordeaux (Roumet auction N° 399, 1989, Lot 63).



Figure 9. Official notice, 1871, on 1c Bordeaux (Roumet N° 399, Lot 65).



Figure 10. Military orders (official notice!), Marseille, February 1871; 1c Bordeaux (Roumet N° 399, Lot 64).



IMPR. P. AVEUGLE
A POSTER MÊME
AVEC TAXATION

MONSIEUR LUCIEN VIVANT
CLÉON D'ANDRAN DR.

Figure 11. Card for printed matter for the blind, with philatelic favor cancel, 5 April 1939, on 2c Sower (author's coll.)⁷.

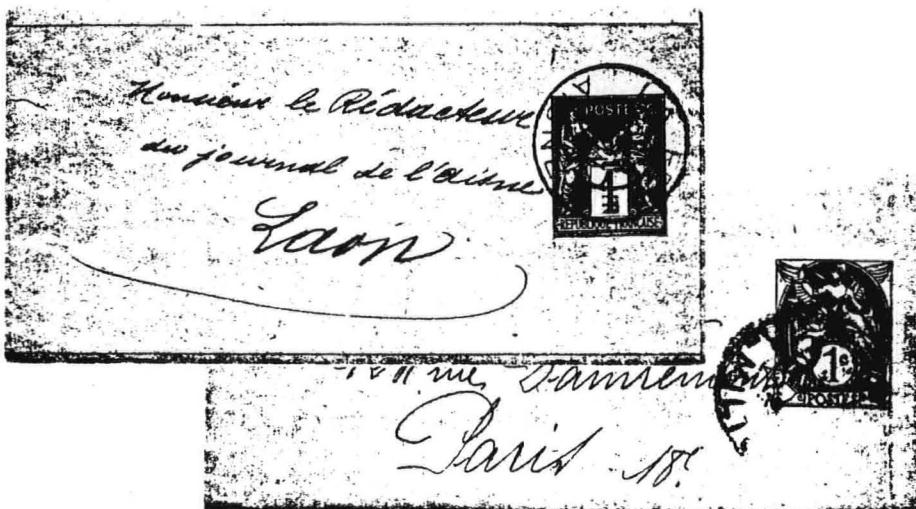


Figure 12. Preprinted 1c Sage and 1c Blanc on wrappers, for use at the 1c rate, used locally (respectively) 3 November 1889 at Laon and in 1912 at Paris (author's coll.).

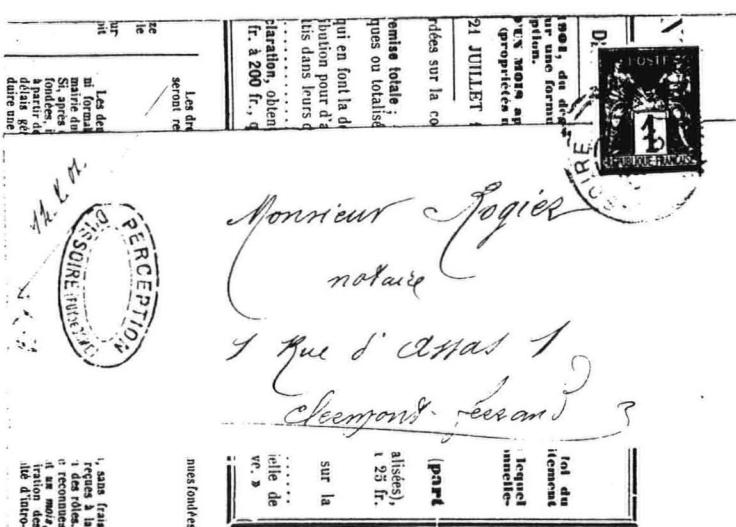


Figure 13. Tax notice or billing, within original wrapper, February 1901, on 1c black on bluish Sage (author's coll.).

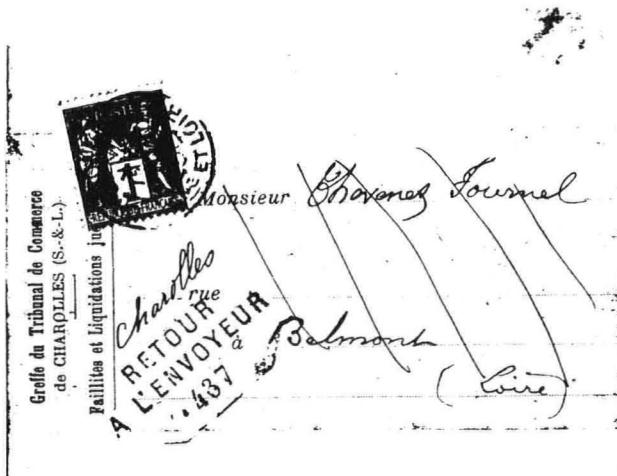


Figure 14. Printed circular within original wrapper, November 1898, on 1c black on bluish Sage (author's coll.).

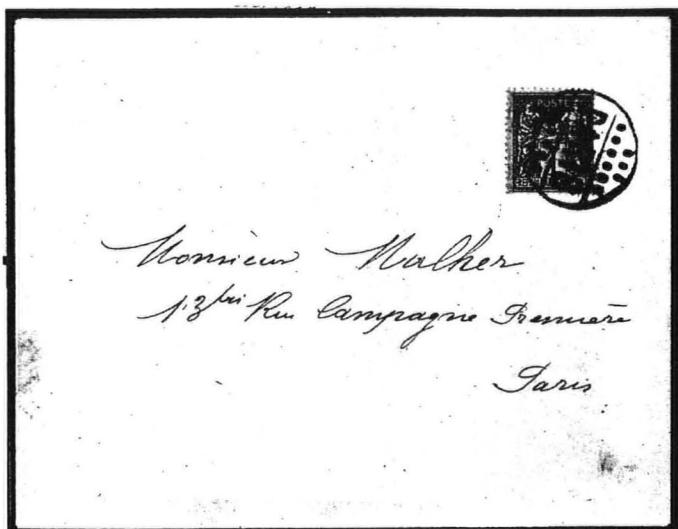


Figure 15. Private firm's (Paris local carrier) handstamp on 1c Sage (Roumet auction N° 431, February 1995, Lot 2137).

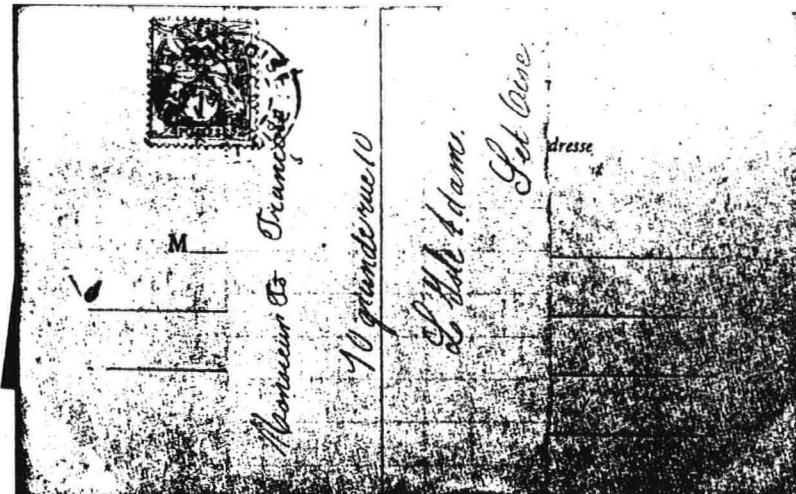


Figure 16. Correct use of 1c stamp (Blanc) tying wrapper to illustrated postcard (A. Chabanel article in Timbroscopie #114, June 1994, p. 68).



Figure 17. CARTE POSTALE crossed out and Imprimé written on; 1c Blanc used and cancelled, but obviously no wrapper was involved (same source as for Figure 16).

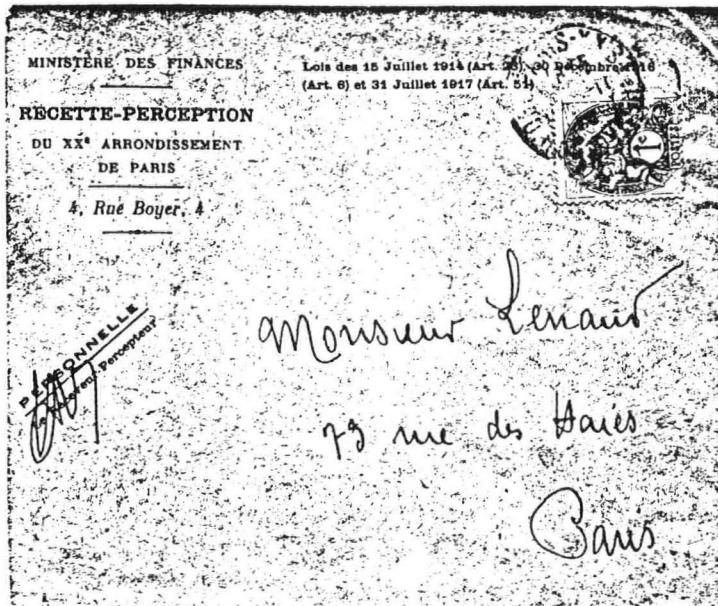


Figure 18. Official-notice letterhead envelope, 5 November 1920(?) on 1c Blanc (author's coll.).

Endnotes

1. Alexandre, J.P., C. Barbey, J.F. Brun, G. Desarnaud, and Dr. R. Joany, *Les Tarifs Postaux Français 1627-1969*; éditions Loisirs et Culture, Le Havre, 1982.
2. Luft, S.J., *The Regular Issues of France 1876-1945 According to Their Normal Postal Usage*; FCP Suppl. to April 1974 issue, 1974.
3. Richardson, Derek, *Tables of French Postal Rates, 1849 to date*; F & CPS [GB] Brochure N° 7, 1992.
4. As Richardson (1992) points out, this category could include departments contiguous to the one where the item was printed.
5. For full-size illustrations of some of these unofficial cancellations, see FCP #225, July 1991, p. 90 ("For the Record" #578).
6. See Jerry Massler's note in FCP #235, January 1994, p. 5.
7. I snuck this one in, for lack of an example of the special 1c rate. Sorry!

THE CARNET CORNER by Bob Seeke (FCPS #1334)

This time, let's look at the markings that are found in the selvage of modern French booklets.

Figure 1 shows a pair of the 80c red Marianne de Bequet from a booklet of either 5 or 10 stamps. It's impossible to tell which it's from, inasmuch as booklets of 10 contain two panes of 5. Note the numbers to the right of the stamps. These comprise the "*coin daté*" or dated corner. The digit at the bottom is a 6. It is partially cut-off. This is common on panes of 5 as the numbers are almost as wide as the paper. The 6 means that the stamps were printed on TD6 press number 6. TD presses were used for printing engraved (*taille-*

douce) stamps in 6 colors, and each of the 8 presses had its own number. These stamps were therefore printed on 6-color engraving press number 6. The rest of the numbers comprise the day/month/year the stamps were printed, the d/m/y format being the one used in Europe.

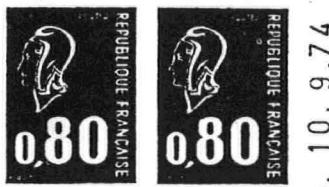


Figure 1.

Figure 2 shows the 50c red Marianne de Bequet from booklets of 20; these contained two panes of 10 stamps. Note the same "coin date" format as in Figure 1, on the pane on the right.



Figure 2.

The pane on the left in Figure 2 shows a control number. This is a 5-digit number that increments by 1 for each turn of the press.

Figure 3 shows the 2.20 red Liberté in an open-face booklet of 10. Sold unopened, they could be folded by the buyer. Note the "coin date" on this booklet. The press number is missing due to a slight misalignment. No, it's not rare or valuable - just collectible!



Figure 3.

Figure 3 also has the number "141." The pane of stamps in this booklet ended just to the right of the "*coin daté*." The "141" is therefore on the back side of the cover, and is similar to the control number found in the pane selvage in Figure 2. The curious thing about this number is that the range for it should be from 001-100. I don't know why this one is higher than 100. Anyone have any ideas?

Figure 4 shows four open-face booklets of 10 of the red Briat TVP stamp. The rectangle on the left booklet is the *Repère Electronique*, or **RE**. This is in the same color as the stamp, and is used to align the stamps for perforating before they are bound to the cover. In closed booklets, this appears in the left selvage of the pane. In open booklets, it normally appears at the bottom left, as in this example, but can be found in the left middle.

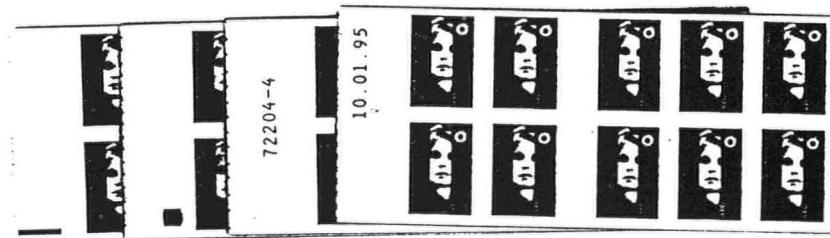


Figure 4.

The next marking is a black square, the *carré noir*. This is a recent marking, having first appeared on booklets of the TVP stamp from the 6th printing. It appears once in every 2,000 booklets, or once in every 20 pads of 100 booklets. It is there to make it easier for the worker at the distribution office to know how many booklets have been sent to post offices.

The next marking of interest in Figure 4 is another type of control number. These stamps were printed on the RGR-2 press. RGR stands for *Rotative à Grande Rendement*, and the 2 indicates press #2. The RGR press prints 600 stamps per turn of the cylinder. For printing booklet stamps, the printing plate is divided into 4 sections - hence the -4, indicating that these stamps are from section 4.

Finally, on the right-hand pane, we come to another example of the "*coin daté*."

A final note: the "*coin daté*" and control number appear once in every 10 booklets. The RE appears once in every 33 booklets. When the **RE** and the "*coin daté*" appear on the same booklet, it is called an *aristo* (aristocrat?) because it happens only once in every 330 booklets.

Correspondence regarding French booklets is always welcome. You may write to me at RR 1 Box 137, Nassau, NY 12123.

"Til next time, *bonne philatélie*.

**AMAZING 1870-71 WONDER STORIES-15
by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)**

Of the airmail newspapers and newspaper-letter combinations that started with the *Gazette des Absents* and multiplied like weeds until the end of the Siege of Paris, a number are not known to have been flown. Occasionally one of those shows up, supposedly flown anyhow, and the question then comes up - did it or did it not fly? I had an inquiry about one of those recently, the *Ami de la France*, of which only a single specimen number is known, dated 15 December 1870. This one was supposedly flown in January 1871, under cover, to Geneva. I was asked to opine whether that was reasonable or not.

Well, I looked it up in the best source I have for these things, my 1953 LePileur, *Les Aérostats Poste 1870-1871*. He says it is not known flown. That, of course, simply means he did not know about any flown copies.

I have a habit of marking up my reference books, and so I found next to that statement a comment that Hofinger stated that it was 'under cover.' Unfortunately, I did not annotate this cryptic remark with either the original wording or the reference to it, and I was not about to make a search through my documentation. I also had a note, *Courrier des Etats-Unis*, 18 January 1871. Now, that was something entirely different!

The *Courier* appeared in New York City. I looked up my notes and found, under that date, that the paper mentioned that the 'microscopic newspaper' *L'Ami* had published an article about cannons in its issue of 15 December. Well now, how would a U.S. paper know what a paper in besieged Paris had printed unless said Paris paper had been brought out of the city? And how else more likely than by balloon? So, there was proof that the *Ami* had left Paris, and at least one issue had reached a place where the *Courrier* heard about it. Hence, it was entirely possible that the *Ami* in question had been flown out of Paris and sent to Geneva.

My correspondent said nothing about there being any written message in or on the envelope. So that still leaves some doubt as to whether this copy of the paper was originally in that envelope. There was, however, a remark in the description of the auction lot, which said that the addressee, Barousse, was a co-owner of the printer of a newspaper. This is not clear to me, but I recommended to the buyer of the lot that he ask the auctioneer to clarify that remark. I presume that the auctioneer either knew of a Geneva paper printed by one Barousse or a Geneva printer named Barousse who printed a paper by some other name. I recommended that the lot's new owner try to find that paper at the Geneva public library and try to find some mention in it of the *Ami* in an issue dated between January 19 (when the envelope was back-stamped at Geneva) and the end of January 1871. He does not live that far from Geneva, so it won't be very expensive for him to drive there and spend a couple of days there. Half a day at the library should be more than enough to decide the issue.

If the *Ami* is named in the paper, that is as good a proof of the *Ami* having been in the envelope originally as one can find, assuming there is no message with the envelope.

Incidentally, the lot came with a certificate from an expert, which says not one word about whether the newspaper was in the envelope in 1871. One may certainly assume that both the envelope and the newspaper are genuine. But either one as such is not terribly valuable. It is only the combination that would justify the price my correspondent paid for the lot. And that the expert was careful not even to mention!

* * * * *

FOR THE RECORD

* * * * *

(continued from FCP #241, July 1995, p. 89)

- 657.) [in #231, January 1993.] Bob Kinsley has at least partly answered his own query, by pointing to Lot 3664 in Sinai's 30th auction, of June 1995. Therein, the "Le Vin Chaud Chasse la Grippe" illustration is depicted on a 1939 military-franchise postal card.
- 723.) Postage stamps and meter imprints appear to be gradually phased out on mailings of auction and mail-sale catalogs, magazines, etc. coming from France. The replacements include simple P.P. (postage paid) postmarks (shown here at left) or even preprinted P.P. indications (at right). Some of this sort of mail is also being shipped in bulk through lower tariff countries such as The Netherlands and some Asian countries (RT Kinsley).



P.P.
ANNONAY 07010
FRANCE
12-06-1995

- 724.) Not too long ago, 1885 was considered to be the earliest year of use for Daguin machine cancellers. That date has been steadily rolled back. Here is a postally used Daguin duplex date stamp essay (de Beaufond No. 20) of 6 June 1883, from the trial period of the Daguins. This is now the earliest recorded date of use. The cover came from Sinai's 30th auction sale, of June 1995, for the proverbial arm and leg.



w Measson

- 725.) In addition to having been forged to deceive collectors, the large format Newspaper stamps of 1868-1869 (Scott P1-6, Yvert *Journaux* 1-12) were officially reprinted on two distinct occasions. First for the 1913 Ghent (Belgium) exposition. These can best be distinguished by their more "modern" paper, and sometimes by their shades. The perforated values were also reprinted, for the 1937 Paris philatelic exposition (PEPIX). The 2c values of 1937 show a notch in the top frame line; the 5c values of 1937 weak-

nesses of the left frame line. The presence or absence of **EPREUVE** overprints (see illustration) is not really significant, for they exist on originals as well as on reprints. (Abstracted from "Les Timbres pour Journaux," by Claude Jamet, in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, No. 1670, 1994).

- 726.) As a follow-up on ongoing questions and discussions on late usage of the Colonial Group type (No. 240, April 1995, *et seq.*) Bob Picirilli sent us this Ivory Coast cover of 8 April 1918 to Switzerland. The 5c Group-imprinted envelope is complemented by a 20c Group type adhesive stamp, for the 25c foreign rate. It was censored at Pontarlier (No. 105) prior to arriving at Cham on 2 July 1918. The significance of the light blue A.H. handstamp is not known to us. Any thoughts on this last?



- 727.) Perhaps the rarest of all French booklets, or at least the ones least offered and seen, are the fiscal booklets prepared (1) for taxable receipts (*quittances*) (Figure 1), and issued sporadically from 1917-on; these were poorly received by the business community, and none were made after 1925 or so; and (2) for the assistance of post-World War I refugees (Armenians, Czechs, Poles, Russians) (Figures 2 and 3), at elevated face values in gold francs. (Abstracted from "Les carnets français de quittances et de réfugiés," by Y.M. Danan, in *Le Monde des Philatélistes*, No. 497, 1995).



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

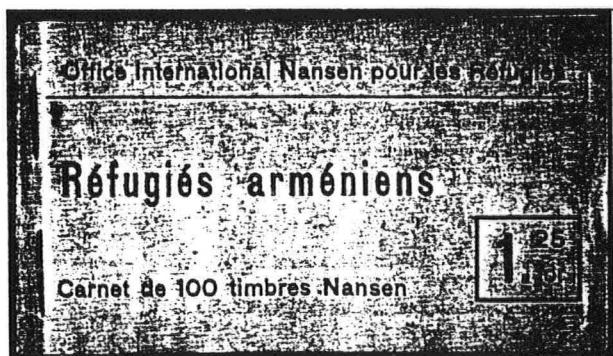


Figure 3.

- 728.) Earliest known dates of use for most of the French square dues are given by Jack Blanc in *Coll. Phil. et Marco.*, No. 106 (1995). They are:

10c lithographed: 1 January 1859
 15c typographed: 1 January 1963
 25c: 20 September 1871
 40c: 30 September 1871
 60c bistre: 3 October 1871
 30c blue: 2 May 1878

- 729.) Bert Mendelsohn sends us this copy of a Shanghai, 3 Nov. 1938 air-mail cover to Paris, paid by a \$1.00 Chinese stamp (probably Scott 344). It is endorsed "Via Saigon by Air Orient" (also "SS. Athos II," perhaps for the Shanghai sea leg?), and bears the unusual Air France mail handstamp, 72 mm in length, *Par Avion Saigon-Marseille et au dela/de Marseille* (enhanced here). A *Par Avion Saigon-Marseille Seulement* also exists, for air-mail not fully prepaid to a beyond-Marseille destination.



- 730.) The color of Indochina's 25c "Planting Rice" definitive stamp was changed in 1941 from violet to blue (Scott 165A, Yvert 217), for the new UPU foreign-letter rate. The late Dr. Robert Joany advised Jean Desrousseaux ca. 1971 that this stamp came in three "types," with the "25" in left, in center, and in right of the value tablet. M. Desrousseaux owned copies of the first and third, and Bert Mendelsohn of the first and second. Bert wonders whether any readers own multiples of this stamp, and whether they might be merely the result of slight displacements of the value plate. Collectors, reach for your magnifiers!

THE "OTHER" CALENDAR IN THE POSTAL HISTORY OF GENEVA
by Charles J. LaBlonde (FCPS #1314)

I was happy to see the article by Robert Kinsley on "Postmarks of the 'Other' Calendar" reprinted in the January 1995 *FCP*. I hope it will be used by other collectors of Revolutionary-period mail. Until I saw the original June 1993 article, I, albeit a student of Geneva postal history, had been struggling with those "strange" dates on Geneva correspondence. And then I "saw the light."

Geneva was annexed by France in 1798 and became the seat of the Conquered Department of Le Leman in August 1798. At that time, it adopted the Republican calendar. However, Geneva did not use dated postmarks. The only way to "date" a Geneva cover of the time was by means of the receiving marking (later than the posting date, of course) if mailed to France (Figure 1), or by noting the internal date line (Figures 2 and 3). Note that, in Figure 2, there is no internal date line, merely the notation that a reply was written on 18 Germinal, Year 7 (7 April 1799).

After 1805, but commonly before then, dates reverted to the Gregorian calendar (Figure 4).

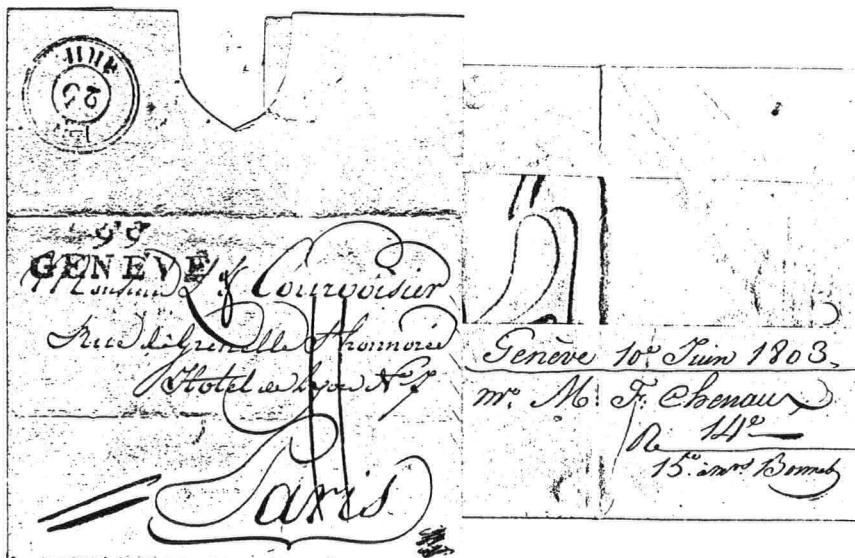


Figure 1. Geneva letter of 10 June 1803. No datestamp. Paris arrival backstamp of 23 Prairial, Year 11 (12 June 1803).

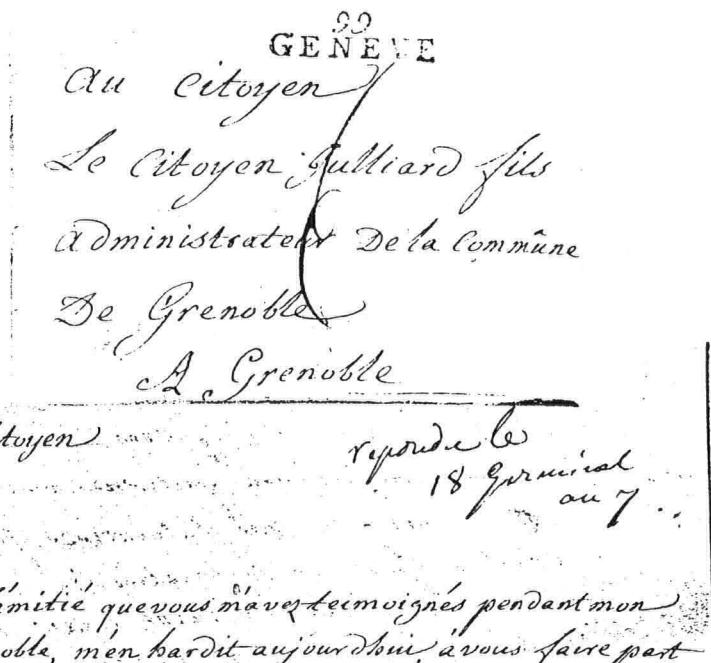


Figure 2. Geneva to Grenoble, France. No internal date line, no legible arrival back-stamps. Sole date is that of reply of 18 Germinal, Year (7 April 1799).

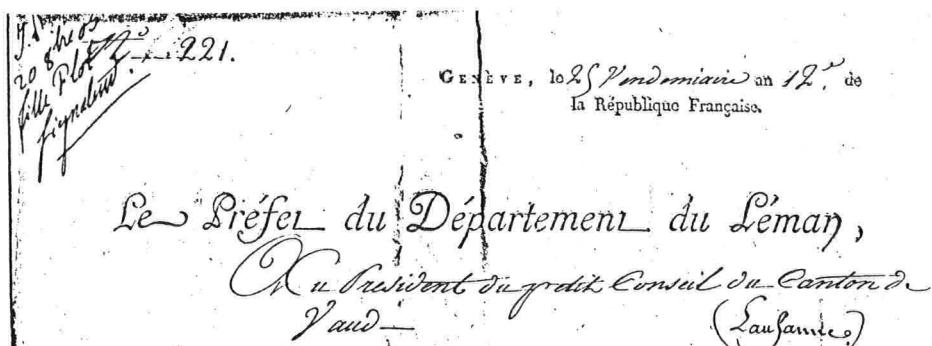


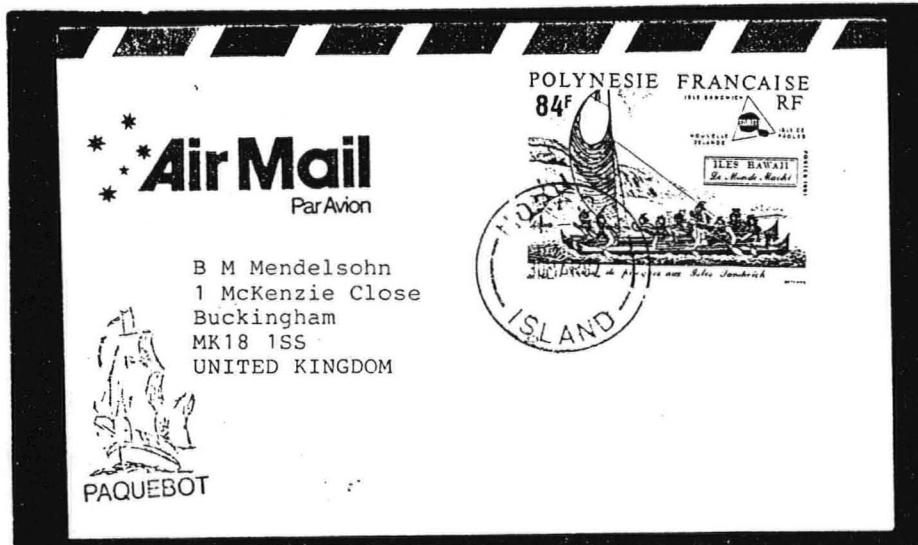
Figure 3. Geneva to Lausanne, 25 Vendémiaire, Year 12 internal date line
(18 October 1803).



Figure 4. Same correspondence as Figure 3, but now with Gregorian 10 July 1807.

A SELDOM-SEEN PAQUEBOT COMBINATION

Bert Mendelsohn wishes to share with us this unusual cover to England, franked with a French Polynesia stamp, carried by boat to Norfolk Island, and posted from there 30 March 1992 with "explanatory" Norfolk I. PAQUEBOT cachet at left. Obviously reached its destination without problems.



FRENCH U.N. FORCES IN EX-YUGOSLAVIA (A PERIODIC UPDATE)

FORPRONU is the acronym for the U.N.'s Protection Force. Military-postal Bureaus (BPMs) of the French units within **FORPRONU** consisted of the following, as of early 1995:

BPM 651	Pleso
652	[closed May 1993]
653	Zagreb [HQ of French contingent]
654	Grajac [in Serb-occupied South Krajina]
655	Sarajevo
656	Velika, Kladusa, and Bihać [NW Bosnia]
657	Split
658	Kakanj [central Bosnia]

WE GET LETTERS...

Dear Editor,

The item [in the January 1995 number] on the *Ten Rarest French Stamps* intrigued me! The glaring omission is Yvert 42A [5c Bordeaux, Rept. 1] of which only 180,000 were printed. It is also surely cheating to include "non émis!" The other curious aspect of French philately is the glamour, and consequent ultra high price, of the "Vermillon" of which more are, in theory, available than other very rare stamps with lower catalogue-and actual-prices.

There ought to be another listing for over and under catalogued items! For starters the 1918 15c+5c "Infirmière" (Yvert 156, Scott #B11) is much overvalued unused, and Type Paix 1f25 olive (Yvert 287, Scott #279) is undervalued mint and even more so on cover. Modern imperfs are all somewhat overvalued and can be bought well below the usual catalogue discount.

[The writer also mentions having obtained, even recently, some of these "Ten Rarest" for next-to-nothing from large lots and collections, at auctions and bourses. Defective copies may also be obtained very cheaply. The secret is to keep looking].

Michael Meadowcroft
Bramley, Leeds, England

* * * * *

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGS

* * * * *

"La France et le Courrier de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale," by Albert Lasserre; 270Fr + 30Fr postage, from UP.PTT, 38 rue Vignon, F-75009 Paris. (About 100 pp., many illustrations of covers and documents. Treats the French military posts during 1939-1944. Coverage includes the Occupation, POW mail, the Resistance; impressed workers; concentration camps; Navy and air forces; Algeria, Corsica, and Alsace-Lorraine; and Red Cross messages.)

"1955 Vietnam Guide," by Tran Anh-Tuan; 57 pp., 8½ x 11", spiral bound; June 1995; from the author, P.O. Box 1413, Alameda, CA 94501. (FCPS member Tran has prepared this priced list of philatelic literature, aerogrammes, official cards from South and North Vietnam, revenues, local posts (with postal codes) of the present regime, and varieties on 1956-1961 stamps of South Vietnam.)

"Guide to Perfin Exhibiting," by Sylvia M. Gersch and Robert J. Schwerdt; 1995; 11 pp., 4 x 9"; available from Kurt Ottenheimer, President of The Perfins Club, 462 W. Walnut St., Long Beach, NY 11561. (A handy little introduction to collecting and judging Perfected Initials material.)

"Exposition, Propaganda and Charity Labels of French Indochina in Southeast Asia," by Terry A. Barham; 1995 revised edition, 60+ pp.; from author, 12615 SE 164th St., Renton, WA 98058-5548, for \$7.00 postpaid in U.S. (Information, illustrated list-

ings, and current market prices for "Cinderella" material related to French Indochina and its political subdivisions.)

"Histoire Postale des Poches de La Rochelle et Royan-Pointe de Grave, Août 1944-Mai 1945," by Dr. Jacques Perruchon; 200Fr (+ postage), from Amical Philatélique Aunisienne, 23 rue des Dames, F-17138 Puiboreau, France. (Covers official mail, civil mail, Red Cross, clandestine mail, French POW mail, FFI mail, and German mail, including postal sectors.)

"Liberté," by Jean Pinck; 44 pp., presumably softbound, numerous illustrations; 35Fr + 12Fr shipping and handling, from author, at Boite Postale 221, F-78410 Aubergenville, France. (Detailed study of all the Liberté de Gandon stamps, booklets, coils, and stationery; includes printing, perforation, Ph-band, paper, etc. varieties. Very useful for the specialist. Unfortunately, does not give printing dates and press numbers for individual press runs.)

"Catalogue spécialisé des timbres pour colis postaux d'Algérie," by Jacques Dudoy; 42 pp., illustrated; published by Phil-EA; 248Fr postpaid, from Librairie-Service de Timbroscopie, 33 rue de Chazelles, F-75850 Paris Cedex 17. (Details the more than 200 parcel post stamps issued for Algeria between 1899 and 1949, with their varieties and indices of rarity.)

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

* * * * *

- Member Stan Jersey has published a book on one of his well-known specialties, "New Hebrides Islands: Military Postal History of the United States Forces, 1942-1946." It received glowing reviews from Dick Graham in the June 26, 1995 *Linn's* and from Ernst Cohn in the 2nd Quarter 1995 *Philatelic Literature Review*, and thus comes highly recommended. Hardbound, 194 pages, numerous illustrations; from the Collectors Club of Chicago, 1029 Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610, for \$29.95 postpaid in the U.S.
- Member Marty Bratzel has extracted Cameroun postal tariff information from the *Journal officiel du Cameroun* for the years 1938 through 1946. The information provides the rates (within Cameroun and the French Community as well as international) in effect at the start of World War II and changes (always upward) during the war years. Included are surface letter rates, air mail surcharges, postage due, parcel post, registration, money order, and much more. Copies are available on request to Marty at: 1233 Virginia Avenue, Windsor, Ontario, N8S 2Z1, Canada. Please include one dollar to help defray the cost of postage. As time permits, Marty will extract information for other years.
- Member Jamie Gough has been named a consultant to Christie's Stamp Dept., for matters relating to the acquisition of philatelic properties in the western U.S.
- New editors at the helm: Maurice Tyler became editor of *The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society* [of Great Britain] at the beginning of the year. More recently, Terry Barham took over *The Indo-China Philatelist*. From one with a bit more seniority on the job, best wishes to you both!
- Bob Kinsley submits these labels of the Federation of French Philatelic Societies to explain the obvious French influence on his exhibit of topless ladies on stamps, which garnered the coveted People's Choice award at TOPEX '95 in Reno, NV, July 1995.



Ernst Cohn Scores A Triple!

The last weekend of August was surely a most memorable one for our erudite and prolific member-contributor, Ernst M. Cohn. At the American Philatelic Society's annual STAMPSHOW, Ernst received the Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research **and** was enshrined into the Writers Unit No. 30 Hall of Fame. [This latter recognition was long overdue, in our estimation]. In addition, his just published "Ordinary Mail by Diplomatic Means during The Siege of Paris 1870-1871" [*reviewed elsewhere in this number*] was awarded an almost unheard of Gold with Felicitations during STAMPSHOW's Literature competition. Well done indeed, Ernst!

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

Dear Members (and non-member friends),

Your response has been magnificent! This Journal will not be starving for material for some time to come. Though I won't say that we're swamped with contributed articles, it may be safe to state that "longer" articles may have to sit for a full-year between receipt here and publication. "Shorter" ones and notes, announcements, letters, Qs and As, For the Records, etc. will, of course, be published as soon as space opens up. Many thanks for making my life calmer and simpler!

By no means does this imply that contributions are no longer desired or needed. Far from it. We just want to alert you to current delays in seeing them published. And please be reminded that all communications intended for editing and publication should be double-spaced, with clear margins all around. Illustrations should not be pasted (nor scanned) within the manuscript. Send them "loose," with figure numbers soft-pencilled on back. Please specify if you want your illustrations returned to you following publication.

In the interest of conserving space for what you'd rather be reading, will stop right here. Thanks again!

* * * * *

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

* * * * *

(continued from #241, July 1995, p. 87)

France

- ca.15 May: Sterners 20F booklets (seven self-adhesive permanent-value stamps + one at 0,70F) now with white covers (starting with 7th press run of 1-2 March 1995);
- 26(?) June: In addition to the previously reported sheet stamps for the Fables of LaFontaine, La Poste issued six imprinted envelopes at 2,80F (cost 36F the indivisible lot) and six imprinted postal cards at 2,80F (cost 30F the indivisible lot)--a bit of overkill...;
- 9 (11) September: 2,80F André Maginot (1877-1932).
- 16 (18) September: 2,80F Grand Feminine Lodge of France (Masonic);
- 23 (25) September: 2,80F Hospital pharmaceutics (1495-1995); 6.70F Art of Kirkeby;
- 30 September (2 October): 4,40F The thatched huts of Barbizon (Art);
- 5 (9) October: 2,80F 50th Anniv. of National School for Administration;
- 7 (9) October: 6,70F Berthe Morisot (1841-1895) (Art);
- 14 (16) October: 2,80F Bicent. of the French Institute.

Withdrawals: 7 July: 4,30F Normandy Landings; 4,30F Hommage to the Liberators; 2,80F National Press Federation; 4,40F Champs-Elysées; 4,40F Bridge of Normandy; 2,80F European Notariat.

Andorra

- 24 (26) June: 2,80F Center for thermal therapy at Les Escales;

- 8 (10) July: 3,70F National auditorium, Oudino.
- 9 (11) September: 4,40F Virgin of Merixtell;
- 23 (25) September: 2,80F and 3,70F Nature series.
Withdrawals: 16 June: 2,80F and 4,40F Butterflies.

French Polynesia

- 24 May: 150F Tahiti monoi (skin conditionner) [accidentally left out of *FCP #241*];
- 21 July: 400th Anniv. of discovery of the Marquesas Is. diptych, 161F + label + 195F.
- 12 August: 83F 10th South Pacific Games;
- 1 September: Singapore 95 (Pandanus plant), four x 91F se-tenant strip.

Monaco

- 24 October: 2,50F and 3,00F 50th Anniv. of U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization; 2,50F and 3,00F Inter. Year of Tolerance; 2,50F and 3,00F UNESCO; 2,50F and 3,00F 50th Anniv. of U.N.; and souvenir sheets with the aforementioned eight stamps;
- 24 October: 7F and 8F Monégasque Red Cross; 3F, 5F, and 6F Noël 1995 (the Three Kings, from Provençal crib figures); 2,80F 800th Anniv. of birth of St. Anthony of Padua; 4F 20th Anniv. of Monégasque Assoc. for Nature Protection; 6F 100th Anniv. of disc. of X-rays; 7F 100th Anniv. of the Cinema; 8F 100th Anniv. of first auto with pneumatic tires (road race);
- 24 October: 15F 550th Anniv. of birth of Botticelli (painting); booklet of twelve 30F stamps showing Flowers dedicated to the Royal family.
Withdrawals: 22 May: 2,80F 1903 auto; 8F Inter. Fed. of Amateur Athletics; 2,80F, 4,50F, 6F giant Provençal figures; 5F and 7F 50th Anniv. of civil aviation; 5F, 6F, 7F, 9F Art series; 6F and 8F Monégasque Red Cross; 30F Money Museum block; 30F Salon du Timbre block.

New Caledonia

- 17 May: 60F fossil [previously reported as issued 15 April];
- 27 May: 60F Tenth Triathlon of the Sun (cycling) [previously reported as issued on 6 May];
- 9 June: 10F 50th Anniv. of the CPF franc; 90F 50th Anniv. of World War II Armistice; 90F 50th Anniv. of creation of UN; 60F 50th Anniv. of New Caledonia representation in French National Assembly.
- 29 July: 60F New Caledonian flora;
- 25 August: Singapore 95 260F sheetlet of six sea birds stamps; 90F 10th South Pacific Games.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 10 July: Crustaceans and Molluscs in se-tenant strip of four x 2.80F stamps;
- 21 August: Geological research 2,80F + label + 16F, se-tenant;
- 11 September: 1,80F Sister Césarine.
Withdrawals: March-April 1995: 3,70F insect and flower; 1,50F and 1,80F drying codfish; 3,70F Salon du Timbre; 23 June: 2,80F Noël 1994; 7 July: Merchant ships (two at 2,80F and two at 3,70F).

Wallis & Futuna

- 1 August: 70F 10th South Pacific Games.
- 24 August: 500F airmail for Singapore 95;
- 19 September: 600F airmail for Cent. of the Cinema;
- 24 October: Local artists 20F, 60F, 65F.

* * * * *

REVIEWS

* * * * *

Ernst M. Cohn, "Ordinary Mail by Diplomatic Means during The Siege of Paris 1870-1871"; 1995; vi + 113 pp., 9 x 9½", hardbound; 4 color plates + numerous illustrations; \$38.50(US) or £22.50 (UK) postpaid; from James Bendon, P.O. Box 6484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus. Payment by personal check in \$(US) or Sterling, Eurocheque (Sterling) or major credit cards.

This is an oddly dimensioned and slender volume. But then, all of Ernst Cohn's earlier books--with which I'm familiar--are on the thin side, for he is direct, to the point, and needs not pad his pages with unnecessary verbiage.

The author is, of course, our "resident" member and expert on things 1870-1871. More so, he is just about the expert anywhere on that period of Franco-German history. He does not suffer fools gladly, and he does not accept blindly the pronouncements of earlier--and current writers and "experts." He seldom travels anywhere without taking some time off to visit local libraries, newspapers, and archives, to read and learn about what might have happened in France and Germany (and in other countries) during 1870 and 1871. The slightest clue could lead him to fresh and sometimes startling discoveries.

Now that I hope to have demonstrated that this work is truly documented history, "the real thing," so to speak, I'll go on to more traditional book reviewing.

In this history and postal history of the diplomatic pouch and related mail from and to besieged Paris, Cohn credits his predecessors for starting him on his journey. Ever since that start in the early 1970s, he's had the whole field largely to himself. This book is based upon his writings of the past 20-plus years, and which consist of 27 bibliographic entries, several of which were published in this Journal. They have been reassembled here, with evident updating and judicious editing¹, into a nicely flowing narrative study. No other works are listed in the Bibliography, other than the 27 mentioned above, but the writings of predecessors are noted in the Acknowledgements and in an early chapter, "Setting the Scene" (pp. 3-9).

Cohn then continues with the main course of this repast, "The U.S. Diplomatic Pouch" (pp. 11-71), which is as detailed as anyone can possibly hope for. This alone is worth the price of the book. Then come short chapters on the even more obscure means of moving the mail, "Swiss Mail to and from Paris" (pp. 73-84) and "Other Diplomatic Efforts" (pp. 85-101). It ends with a useful index (pp. 107-113).

This is a very attractive, well-produced work, loaded with pertinent illustrations of letters and of people and contemporary scenes. Reproductions of covers are sometimes not the best; that can't be helped where only copies of copies were available. Quoting from the press release, "Bits of multinational information have been retrieved from diverse sources, compared and checked against each other and integrated into a consistent web of adventure stories... Methods for recognizing these covers are described, together with an inventory of known ones." That's it, pretty much in a nutshell.

I can't fault this captivating work hardly at all, except that I tend to get annoyed when I read the self-serving and "clever" remarks and repartees that certain principals claimed, at some later time in their lives, to have uttered back then in 1870 (*viz.* pp. 42-43 and 94-98). Though they add a bit of color and even humor (of a heavy-handed sort), it would have sufficed just to quote the official *written* documents, correspondence, and memoirs of the times, which the author does most adequately. My only quibble.

The nearly square format, a bit too similar to that of a child's picture book, was disconcerting at first; but, as long as it fits on my bookshelf, why worry? Every collector of Franco-Prus. (err, Franco-German) War material should own a copy. --S. J. Luft

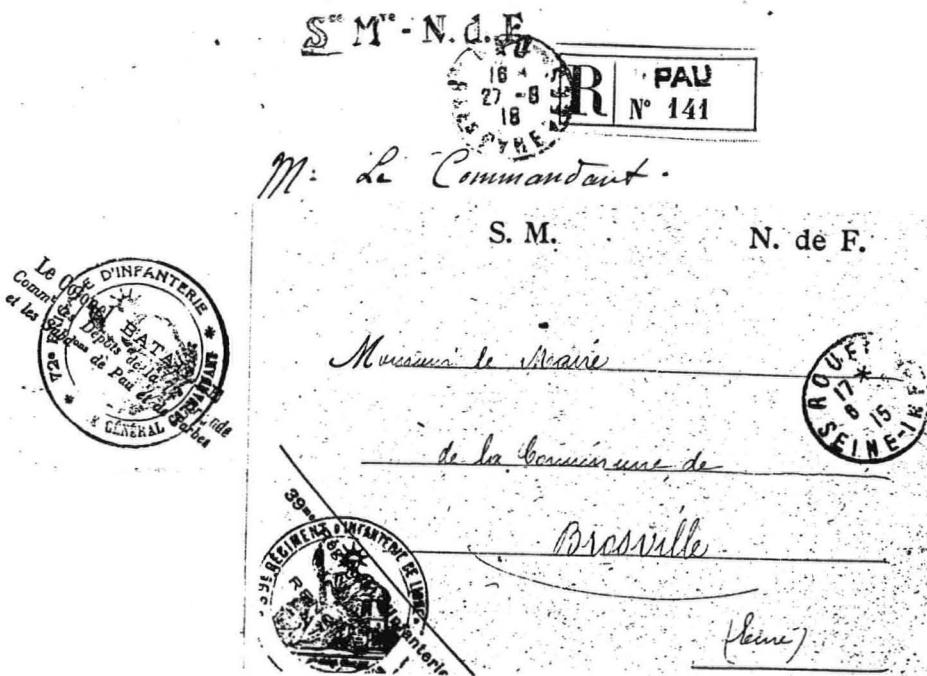
¹ But perhaps too concisely. For instance, I missed seeing the illustration of the Riggs letter and the narrative concerning the Riggs correspondence, as published in *France & Colonies Philatelist*, No. 173, July 1978.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- A. 240-1.** I agree with EG that Group Types were probably never formally demonetized, at least not prior to independence of the various colonies. Some examples of late use I have found: Fr. Sudan postal stationery, with added later stamps of Upper Senegal & Niger (March 1917); Ivory Coast postal stationery, locally used (April 1922). (WGM)
- A. 240-2** Catalog color descriptions are not always reliable guides. Also, a mint stamp that spent little or no time in the Colonies would tend to have fresher color than one that spent years in a colony. With a used copy, the time at which it was cleaned of its gum could be relevant as would be degree of fading. And, of course, these stamps were reprinted one or more times, resulting in different shades. FHM's particular overprinted item is probably **not** a fake. (WGM and MR).

[Editor's note: In the course of preparing their Answers, WGM and MR made a number of interesting--and separate--observations regarding the 75c Camel and Rider. We hope to combine them into a succinct study for a "near-future" number of this Journal.]

- Q. 242-1** What is the meaning or purpose behind the mention of *Nécessité de Fermer* (or its initials) on some French mail, most commonly seen (apparently) on World War I military mail? (RTK).



MEMBERS' APPEALS

LITERATURE WANTED: Langlois & Bourselet, *Les Oblitérations des Bureaux des Colonies et Possessions Françaises, Afrique Occidentale Française*; Paris, Editions du Graouli, 1937. Offers to: Paul Larsen, P.O. Box 426, Park Forest, IL 60466. (Mb. #2493)

WANTED: Unusual covers from New Caledonia during WWII period showing various postage rates and both inbound and outbound mail and especially postage due items. Of special interest: covers from the N/C local military unit or colonial troops. S.C. Jersey, POB 713, Carlsbad, CA 92018-0713. (Mb. #1770).

F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

As I write this, it is one week before Labor Day, and summer is rapidly drawing to a close. I trust it has been an enjoyable one for all of you.

In the May 1995 issue of *The American Philatelist*, it was announced that the following article was added to the American Philatelic Society's Code of Ethics: "No dealer or auctioneer shall represent in any way that a lot has been sold unless ownership has been transferred to a party other than the dealer, auctioneer, consignor, or an agent of the dealer, auctioneer, or consigner." I have several strong objections to this action. First, although ostensibly intended to apply to the publication of "Prices Realized," the actual wording would appear to be much broader, obviously also including the announcement of the winning bid at a public auction, and extending to any report of a sales transaction involving a dealer, whether in an "auction" or not. Second, even if one restricts its application to printed lists of "Prices Realized" distributed by auctioneers, this provision makes an impossible demand: How is the auctioneer to know if the apparent purchaser is acting as an agent for the consignor? There is also a technical problem where the auctioneer extends credit to the buyer: such arrangements often require that the auctioneer retain possession and official ownership of the material until paid in full; the realized prices for such lots should be just as valid as those for lots for which the buyer paid immediately in full, but they would be considered as unsold under the quoted standard.

My greatest objection lies in the presumption that the price for which a lot sells at auction reflects a true "value," which is necessarily relevant to future transactions. I am concerned here with the prices for "specialist" items, which are only occasionally offered for sale. Manipulation of Prices Realized is not really a concern for those standard items that are offered in almost every sale. It is in valuing that cover or variety which only appears occasionally, that we all look for some sort of guidance. Unfortunately, the rarer an item is, the more uncertain its value is. To mix two standard axioms, I believe there are three factors which determine the value of rare philatelic items: "supply," "demand," and "possession." When an item appears at auction, potentially the greatest determinant of the final price is how many bidders want it, and how deep are their pocketbooks. Generally there must be two or more avid bidders to generate a high price. If the owner is smart, and suspects there will be only one avid bidder, he will try to set a high minimum price. If the buyer is also smart, and can control his avarice, he may decide not to buy this time, and anticipate the item will be offered again at a lower price. Now, what is the item's value? Last year I bought my second cover used from Serbian Military Post Office No. 64 on the Salonika Front; I know have one with the postmark in violet, and one in black. Being an inveterate accumulator, I would consider buying another cover from that rare office, but I would only be willing to pay a fraction of what I paid for the cover last year. What is the value of

such a cover? Is it what I paid for my second cover, or what I would be willing to pay for a third? I feel I was an "avid bidder" for the second cover, but, frankly, I do not know whether I was competing with another avid bidder, or just meeting the owner's price. What I am really trying to prove is that, for infrequently offered items, auction prices realized, by themselves, are not reliable guides, and the fact that the "buyer" was the original owner should not be a significant concern. The owner's asking price is just as important in determining the value as what one particular bidder paid on one particular occasion.

The only way a conscientious auctioneer could comply with this code of ethics is to not publish "Prices Realized." Something is better than nothing. I do not believe that is what the A.P.S. intended. Just remember that any "price realized" may reflect unique circumstances that will not occur at another sale.

--Dick Stevens

OUR JOURNAL RECEIVES A SILVER MEDAL

Our *FCP* was entered in the Literature competition at STaMpsHOW 95 to test its strengths and weaknesses. The jury awarded it a Silver medal, which it indicated as meaning it is a better-than-average periodical. Which should be the case as only seven of the 40 periodicals entered received Vermeil or better awards. Unfortunately, we did not receive the written critique form in time to meet our deadline, but we were told--as a sample--that the journal could be improved by presenting more scholarly articles. That's up to you contributors and potential contributors! Also, that the quality of illustrations could be improved by more (and judicious) highlighting of markings and greater use of white-out to clean up copies of covers; and as many figures as possible should be captioned, to attract and retain readers' interest in the article. These last are, of course, my responsibility, and I shall endeavour to improve illustrations--and our journal--in subsequent numbers.

--Ye Editor

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 2099 GELINAS, JOSEPH A., 2253 New Bedford Dr., Sun City Center, FL 33573.
368 MALMGREN, RALPH T., P.O. Box 409, Melvin Village, NH 03850-0409.
2657 KNEE, STEVEN T., 1844 Scenic Dr. - Apt. 339, Modesto, CA 95355.
2829 JENNINGS, DAVID J., 3812 Trailvies Dr., Carrollton, TX 75007-6285.
1491 COHN, ERNST M., 1138 Appian Way Cir., Dothan, AL 36303-1960 (Correction
Of Address & Zip Code).
1788 BOIKESS, ROBERT S., 451 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904.
2912 ROTTMAN, MILTON, 3845 Park Ave - Apt. 18, Fairfield, CT 06432-1278.

REMOVE FROM MAILING LIST

- 2675 JOHNSON, FRANK (Resigned in 1992)
2658 TORREY, DR. GORDON H. (Deceased)
3014 SHAW, DONALD (NPD)



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Managing Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address)

Stanley J. Luft
16291 W. 56th Place - Golden, Colorado 80403

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Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
France And Colonies Philatelic Society,	103 Spruce Street - Bloomfield,
Inc. (NY)	New Jersey 07003-3514

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagors, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check here. None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
None	

12. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: (Check one)

Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months
(If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Name France And Colonies Philatelist	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below October - 1995	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	900	900
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales (Not Mailed)	0	0
(2) Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions (Include Advertisers' Proof Copies/Exchange Copies)	663	654
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2))	663	651
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free)	43	43
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or Other Means)	0	0
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)	43	43
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)	706	694
h. Copies Not Distributed (1) Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled	194	206
(2) Return from News Agents	0	0
i. Total (Sum of 15g, 15h(1), and 15h(2))	900	900
Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c / 15g x 100)	.939 (93%)	.939 (93%)

16. This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the **October 1995** issue of this publication. Check box if not required to publish.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

Date

Walter E. Parshall - Corresponding Secretary **9/20/95**

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).