



France & Colonies Philatelist



Vermeil Medals at CHICAGOPEX '98 & STAMPSHOW '99



A very fine and rare combination cover from the French bureau at Yokohama, Japan to France, bearing 1 Fr in French stamps (correct 1x letter rate if by way of Marseille and/or via U.S. packet) and N° 5118 killers. The Yokohama date stamp of 16 May 1876 appears genuine, according to the criterion given in *FCP* N° 259 (January 2000), p. 29. The purpose of the Japanese 4 sen "Cherry Blossom" may have been, according to the auction house, to prepay a double-letter rate, but we may never know for sure.

CONTENTS

ARTICLES

Occasional Fundamentals – *Entrepôt* Markings (Stanley J. Luft)100

SHORTER CONTRIBUTIONS

French Congo Stationery – What Constitutes Uniqueness?
(Kenneth R. Nilsestuen)99

A Twentieth Century Timeline106

Specialist Societies Within The “Groupement Des Associations
Philateliques Specialisees” (“GAPS”)108

Amazing 1870-1871 Wonder Stories--55 (Ernst M. Cohn).....110

Show Reports From Abroad114

Sterners Booklets Of 1944-1945124

REGULAR AND SPECIAL FEATURES

Random Editorial Jottings115

Announcements And News116

New Books, Pamphlets, And Catalogues118

Members' Appeals.....119

Review120

Some Show Reports121

For The Record122

We Get Letters124

Types And Subtypes125

New Issues And Withdrawals126

SOCIETY NEWS

President's Letter.....127

Membership Changes128

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FRENCH CONGO STATIONERY -- WHAT CONSTITUTES UNIQUENESS?

by Kenneth R. Nilsestuen (FCPS N° #1990)

News of the possibility of a second copy [*NDLR: now considered bogus*] of the British Guiana 1¢ magenta has prompted me to announce a similar discovery of my own. But first, a little background.

Starting in the late 1970s I bought and improved a collection of French Africa stamps. Over time I discovered the fun of covers and stationery as well, adding a few pieces here and there. I was aware of the many French Africa items in existence and the relative ease of acquiring mint copies so over time I accumulated quite a few. One day I noticed that Abe Siegel (Kover King) was offered a clearance sale on many of his cover leftovers, so I bought the French Congo material for a couple hundred dollars. As usual, the lot included a good sampling of mint stationery. I dug up a copy of the appropriate page from Higgins & Gage so I could sort them all out. Imagine my disappointment when the catalogue showed envelope B10, described as a 10 centime red Groupe type with blue legend, "only one copy known to exist." My chances of ever owning that were very slim indeed.

To my surprise, when I opened the December 8-9, 1983 George Alevizos auction catalog there it was, as lot 983! It was canceled-to-order in Brazzaville, 1909, (Figure 1) but the lot description said, quoting Higgins & Gage, "only

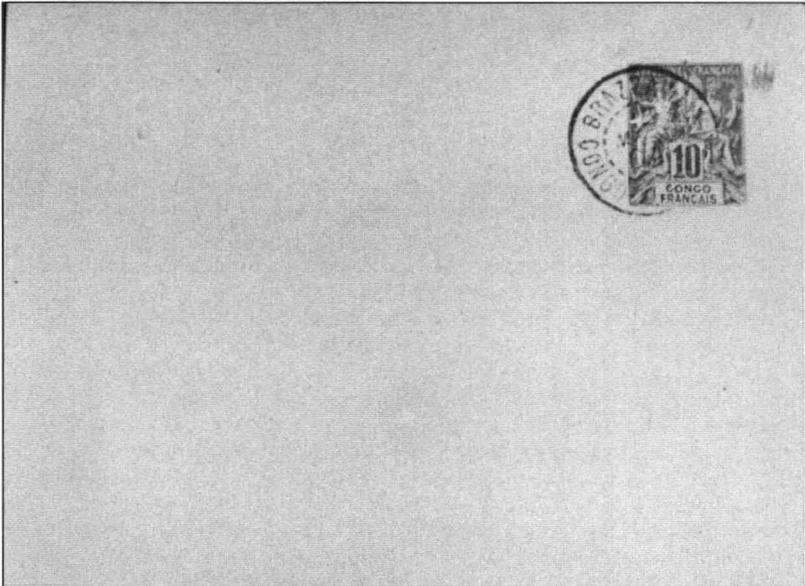


Figure 1.

one copy known to exist' and this is it." I studied the photo, thought *hard* about the estimate, and called them up. The opener was around half the estimate so I entered a bid, hoping on the one hand I would be successful and on the other that I wouldn't have to spend the full amount of my bid. I was successful, and truly pleased to own a unique piece. (Aren't we all a little crazy?) I sent it to Herbert Bloch for his opinion, asking if he could confirm the catalog claim of

uniqueness. His return note was actually from Alex Rendon, indicating that Mr. Bloch considered the envelope to be genuine, canceled to order, but silent as to its uniqueness. Nonetheless, it felt good to write the check to Alevizos and make a place in my collection for that envelope knowing it was the only one. I started thinking about how at last I had something that really required care (but not feeding) and I was holding it in trust for future collectors. Nothing should happen to that "only one."

Time Marches On...

Imagine my surprise as I opened the June 16, 1997 Demarest *Vente sur Offres* and found another one! Lot 1516, ACEP No. 18, was pictured in the catalog, and it was indeed another 10 centime Groupe type envelope, same dimensions, identical in all respects to mine except that it was postally used in 1915. I fired off a letter with photo to M. Demarest and received a nice e-mail in return stating that while neither piece was unique any longer, the item in his sale was still desirable. Indeed it was and is. So the ACEP and Higgins & Gage listings are incorrect — there are **two** French Congo 10 centime Groupe type envelopes, red with blue legend. And while I am disappointed that my envelope isn't unique, I am also glad than another collector in our wonderful field can also boast a complete collection of French Congo postal stationery. Having exhibited my French Congo several times with great success, I will soon turn my formerly unique treasure over to the next lucky owner.

OCCASIONAL FUNDAMENTALS--ENTREPÔT MARKINGS

by Stanley J. Luft (FCPS N° #915)

My Cassell's French dictionary defines *entrepôt* as a bonded warehouse or a depot. This definition might be considered most apt by those who believe their mail gets warehoused much of the time, to be released only whenever it might please postal employees. But, for more philatelically precise definitions and explanations, one can turn to the new (1999) *Dictionnaire Philatélique & Postal*—which really tells you much more, in four or so widely scattered entries, than one really wants to know for the purpose of this article.

Dr. Joany, in his serialized *Petit Glossaire Philatélique et Postal* [in *Le Monde des Philatélistes*], stated in N° 282 of December 1975 that an *entrepôt* is a fixed-site (sedentary) bureau of the railway mail service, **closed to the public** [*bold-face mine*], that services one or several mail boxes [*including mobile boxes--SJJ*]. These bureaus are located in or adjoining railway stations, seaports or airports. Their function is to centralize and dispatch the mail collected from the mail boxes within their jurisdiction [*as well as to exchange mail sacks between trains, ships and planes--SJJ*]. Note that they are closed to the public, which means one can't walk in and request a handback *entrepôt* cancellation.

The 1999 *Dictionnaire* states that *entrepôts* received special date stamps in 1868 and were permitted to use them to cancel stamps in 1876. No special killers were provided.

Unlike the RPO (*ambulant*) service, terminated in 1996, having been replaced by airmail and mail truck service--neither of which gets to cancel the mail--*entrepôts* continue (or so I assume!) to exist and to cancel mail. So much for the background.

Though I don't actively collect *entrepôt* markings and merely accumulate them from time to time, I was genuinely surprised when I began this article to find that I don't have a catalogue of such markings, nor do I know of one. Furthermore, my files contain absolutely nothing regarding this genre. Meaning that we'll all be learning something or other together. OK, I'm learning just ahead of you readers, just as I did during my very brief and checkered stints at teaching classes.

Nonetheless we do have a bit of published information regarding *entrepôt* cancels. Alexandre (1996, pp. 63-65) tells us the first such cancels were authorized by Articles 486-487 of the *Instructions Générales*, published in *Bulletin Mensuel* [B.M.] N° 69 of December 1874. A very few type 18 cancels (Figure 1, from Alexandre), with Roman lettering, appeared prior to 1886.

[These must be quite rare--SJJ]. Between 1886 and 1904, type 84 cancels with *bâton* lettering (Figure 2, from Alexandre), made their appearance, again at a leisurely pace. And, from July 1904-on, single-circle type 04 cancels (Figure 3, from Alexandre) were placed in service. Alexandre's work runs only to 1914, so we must use other sources to classify the later-appearing cancel types, and Lautier (1969) will serve as well as



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

any.

"Standard" type 04 [for year 1904, when it first appeared] is type A4 of Lautier. We see it in continued use in 1925 and 1936 (Figure 4); I also have it, too poorly struck



Figure 3.

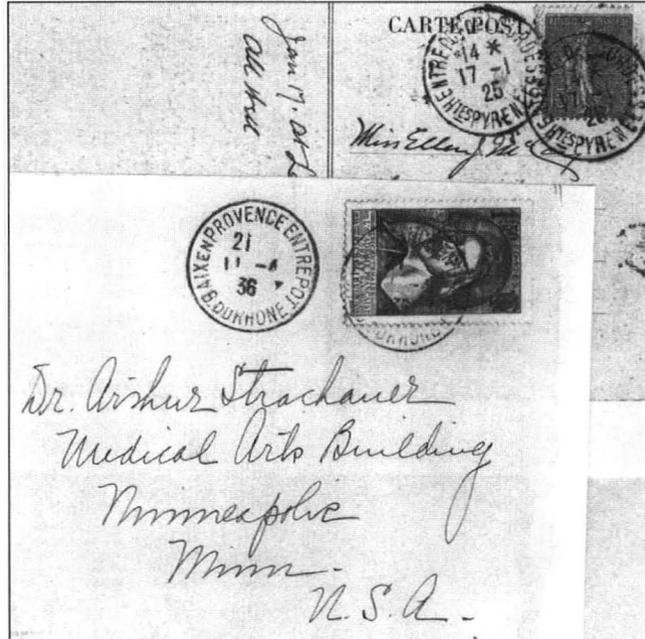


Figure 4. (reduced to 63%).

to reproduce well, used in 1937. According to Lautier, A4 did not completely disappear until 1948. In Figure 4, we see that *entrepôt* of the 1936 cover now follows the town name (instead of being *entrepôt de...*, as in earlier versions); this became the norm for all later usage.

Lautier type A5 is the autoplan (also called rotoplan and horoplan), with time and date generally confined

to a single horizontal medial line. Figure 5 is a late (1968) variant on the auto-plan, with the year at the end of the medial line. It is from an airport *entrepôt* (Orly) and bears *Entrepôt Postal* at the bottom.



Figure 5. (reduced to 75%)

Type A6, which first appeared in January 1948, is like A4, except in that the year is now shown by all four numerals instead of just the last two. Figure 6



Figure 6. (reduced to 57%)

shows examples dated 1956 and 1963. The usual sequence is unchanged: Town - *Entrepôt* / Department (at bottom). Less frequently, we find ENTREPOT at bottom, and no department (Figure 7), as per the 1951 and 1959 examples.



Figure 7. (reduced to 70%).

Type A7, appeared in 1951. It is identical to A6 except in that an “H” (for *heure* or hour) now separates the hours and minutes in the dater (Figure 8 [1957 and 1964 use]).

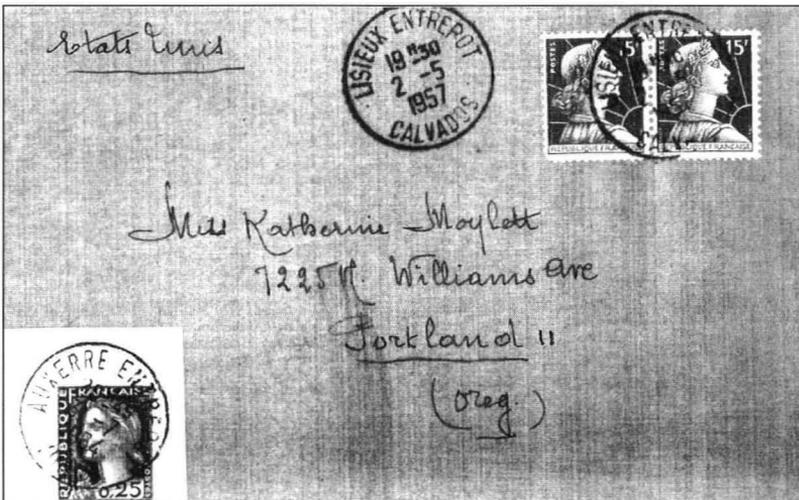


Figure 8. (reduced to 72%).

Type A8 first appeared in 1957. It is nothing more than type A7, but struck from a plastic handstamp rather than one of type metal. Strikes are generally finer-lined and cleaner (Figure 9 [1962 use]).

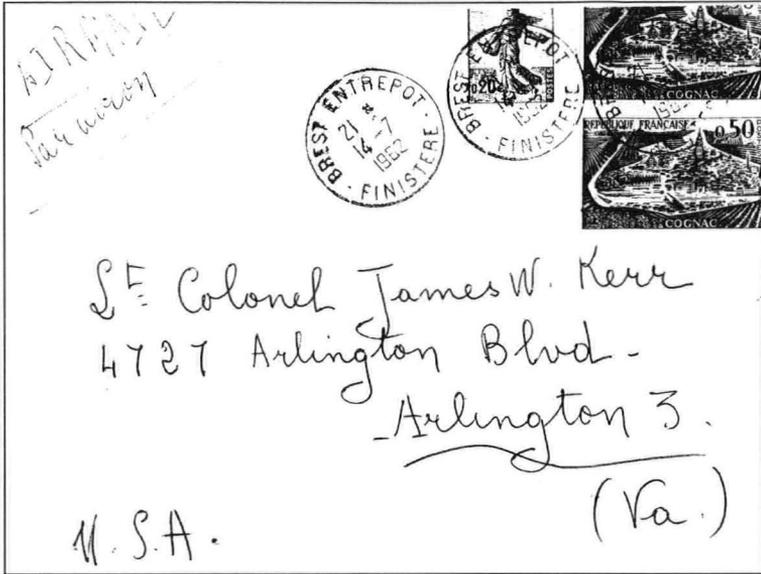


Figure 9. (reduced to 66%).

Type A9 appeared in 1965. It's identical to A8 except that now the departmental number appears to the left of the town (Figure 10 [1970 use]). Insofar as my holdings tell me, no later handstruck cancel types were placed into use.

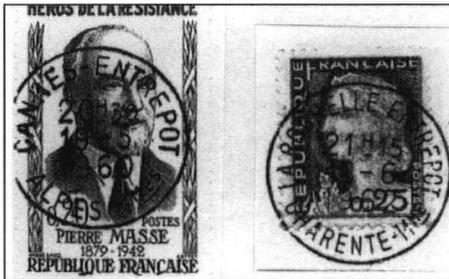


Figure 12.



Figure 10.

SECAP (perhaps others as well?) machine cancels were also used, with ever greater frequency, after World

War II. Figure 11 is a 1957 example; later ones from the early 1960s are shown in Figure 12. A 1973 cover from LeBourget airport (Figure 13) repeats the "Entrepôt Postal" of the previously shown (Figure 5) airport handstamp.



Figure 14.

Finally, we show a SECAP

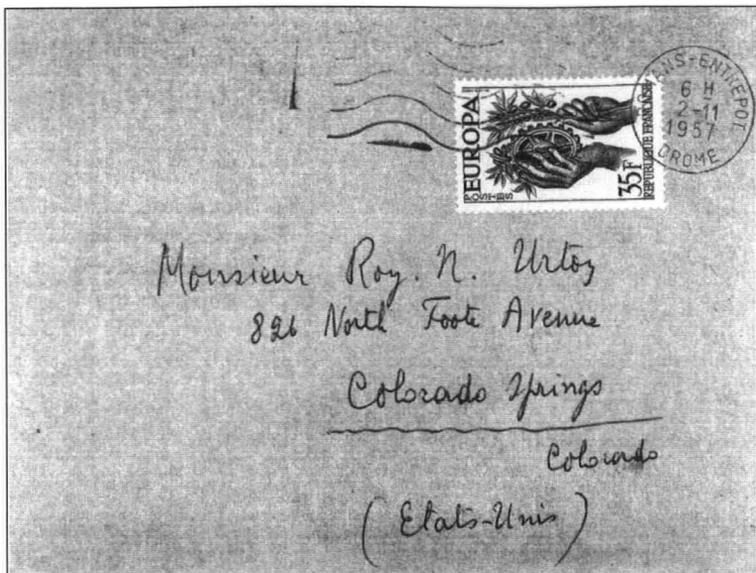


Figure 11. (reduced to 70%).

machine cancel of 1979 with departmental number preceding the town name (Figure 14).

To summarize, all *entrepôt* markings I've seen are of the circular, solid outer (or only) circle format of full-service (*bureau de recette*) bureaus. Straightline *entrepôt* strikes, canceling stamps that had escaped being cancelled prior to reach-

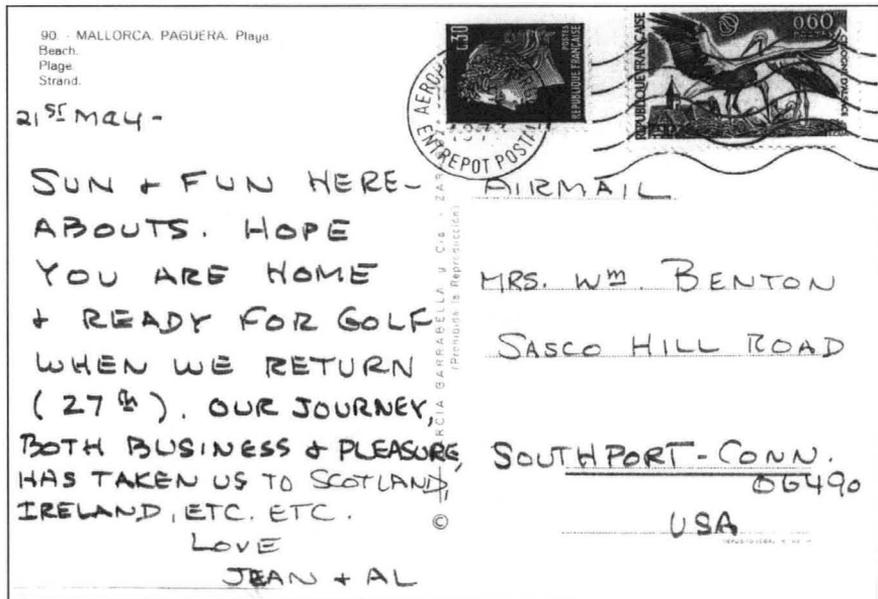


Figure 13. (reduced to 77%)

ing the *entrepôt*, very likely also exist. And, I have no idea as to what the most recent markings might look like. Alexandre states that black is the mandatory color, at least through 1914. From my limited holdings, which run into the early 1980s, I find I cannot quarrel with that statement.

Very obviously, I'm fishing for more information and illustrations to flesh out this interesting, poorly documented, and apparently inexpensive marcophily sideline. More information would be very welcome, particularly regarding, earlier and later dates of usage of the Lautier types; data on more recent usage; existence of straightline or other markings, etc. Can any reader help out? It would be greatly appreciated if you could.

References

Alexandre, J.-P., *Dictionnaire Historique des Timbre & Griffes "Standard" de l'Administration Française des Postes, 1792-1914*; Brun & Fils, Paris, 1996.

Lautier, André, *Nomenclature des cachets à date manuels....1884-1969*; privately printed, 1969.

A TWENTIETH CENTURY TIMELINE

LEcho de la Timbrologie published an interesting and useful year-by-year (almost) timeline for 20th Century French stamps and postal history in its N° 1725 of December 1999. I've translated and tabulated it here.

- 1900: International philatelic exhibition at the Paris World Fair, and 1st Congress of French philatelic societies.
- 1901: First Military franchise stamp
- 1902: Retouched Mouchon type
- 1903: First Sower issue
- 1906: First booklets
- 1908: First coil stamp [5c Sower]
- 1909: Postal strike; mail service provided by chambers of commerce
- 1912: First experimental airmail (Nancy-Lunéville)
- 1913: First airmail (Villacoublay-Pauillac)
- 1914: Military postal-train service; postal sectors; first semi-postal
- 1915: First Red Cross semi-postal booklet; first revenue-stamp booklet
- 1917: First semi-postals for war orphans
- 1918: First large-format Red Cross stamp; first postal cheques
- 1919: First regular airmail (Aéropostale); first airmail surcharge
- 1920: Creation of the postal identity card
- 1922: First typographed stamp printed from rotary press (10c green Sower); creation of the Federation of French philatelic societies
- 1923: Pasteur type
- 1924: First commemorative stamps (Ronsard); first use of meter-stamp machine
- 1925: First souvenir sheet; the P&T becomes the PTT;
- 1926: Creation of the rural automobile post
- 1927: First airmail stamp; creation of the Sinking Fund series;
- 1928: First line-engraved stamp; creation of the Académie de Philatélie
- 1929: First line-engraved stamp printed from rotary press (10F La Rochelle)
- 1931: First heliogravure stamp (1F50 Colonial Exposition)
- 1932: Paix [of Laurens] type
- 1936: Correspondence-reply forms

- 1937: PEPIX [Paris International Exposition]
1938: First Day of Stamp
1939: Iris type; first stamp printed from 3-color press for line-engraved stamps (Red Cross); military franchise for mobilized military personnel; evacuation of the stamp-printing works to Limoges
1940: Prohibition of correspondence between North and South zones; interzone cards
1941: Pétain type; suppression of marginal dates [coin datés] on commemoratives and semi-postals
1942: Mercure type; creation of Paris postal museum; creation of subscription card for new issues
1943: End of the separation into two zones; first provincial coats-of-arms; first official stamp
1944: Marianne and Coq d'Alger; demonetization of the Pétain type
1945: Marianne de Gandon
1946: First Salon de la Philatélie; Postal museum at rue St. Romain opened to public
1947: The shortest (1/1/1947) postal rate in effect; 12th UPU Congress, in Paris
1949: CITEX (exposition for the centennial of French stamps)
1950: Rural carriers
1951: First official First-Day covers; first pre-issue stamp sales
1952: Motorization of the rural post
1955: Marianne de Muller
1956: First EUROPA issues
1957: Reaper of Muller
1958: First official stamp for the Council of Europe
1959: Marianne à la Nef
1960: Sower of Piel; the new franc (from 1/1/60); Marianne de Décaris
1961: First definitive printed on the 6-color press for engraved stamps (Marianne de Cocteau); creation of the Art series; first televised philatelic presentation (Téléphilatélie)
1962: Experimentation with fluorescence on stamps
1963: Year of issue printed on stamps (other than small-format definitives)
1964: PHILATEC world stamp exposition
1966: Creation of the CEDEX; first heliogravure printing (coat-of-arms of St.-lô)
1967: Marianne de Cheffer; first definitive stamp printed on TD-3 press (o,30 Cheffer)
1969: Fast and slow domestic mail service; suppression of domestic printed-matter rate; first aerogram
1970: First stamps with phosphor bars; inauguration of stamp-printing works (ITVF) at Périgueux; formation of the CNEP from two former societies of stamp dealers and experts
1971: Marianne de Béquet
1972: Introduction of the Postal Code
1973: First official "philatelic document"; first automatic sorting center (Orléans-La Source)
1975: First printing of a definitive on the RGR press (o.80 Béquet); ARPHILA International Philatelic Exposition
1977: Sabine de Gandon
1981: First LSA machines [machine-imprinted stamps]
1982: Liberté de Gandon; PHILEXFRANCE 82

- 1983: Suppression of coins datés on Art stamps; creation of La Poste's philatelic service
- 1984: TGV postal service [on the fast trains]; first prêt-à-poster [modern pre-stamped stationery]
- 1986: Stamp with LETTRE; first Day of the Stamp booklet; first stamp printed by offset (3,40 Council of Europe)
- 1987: First booklet of mixed composition (stamps at 2,20, 0,10 and 0,40)
- 1988: Suppression of postage-due stamps
- 1989: Mixed line-engraved and offset printing (2,20 Council of Europe); legend POSTE replaces POSTES; mixed line-engraved and heliogravure printing (Cent. of the Estienne School); PHILEXFRANCE 89
- 1990: First booklet of self-adhesive and precut stamps; separation of La Poste and France Télécom
- 1991: La Poste becomes a public enterprise; LISA machine-imprinted stamps
- 1992: Suppression of *ambulant routier* service; addition of the ITVF emblem on sheet margins
- 1993: First permanent-value stamp
- 1994: Federation of French philatelic societies (FSPS) renamed French federation of philatelic associations (FFAP)
- 1996: Suppression of the franchise (other than for the La Poste service and for mail to the President of the Republic)
- 1997: Marianne of the 14th of July [Marianne de Luquet]
- 1998: First round stamp
- 1999: First stamp denominated in euros; first holographic stamp

SPECIALIST SOCIETIES WITHIN THE "GROUPEMENT DES ASSOCIATIONS PHILATELIQUES SPECIALISEES" ("GAPS")

Association des Collectionneurs d'Entiers Postaux (ACEP)

Numéro fédéral : 035
 Président: M. Del Vitto Claude
 20, Avenue Daniel Casanova - BP 25
 91360 Villemoisson-sur-Orge

Société des Collectionneurs de Coins Datés et Millésimes (SOCOCO-DAMI)

Numéro fédéral : 092
 Président : M. Le Guillou André
 19, rue Alsace-Lorraine
 22000 Saint-Brieuc

Union Marcophile (UM)

Numéro fédéral : 154
 Président : M. Bridelance Lucien
 19, avenue du Châtelet
 77150 Lésigny

Association des Collectionneurs de Machines à Affranchir (ACEMA)

Numéro fédéral : 303
 Président : M. Lepetit-Collin
 33, rue du Bois Desséché
 18000 Bourges

Club Philatélique Franco-Britannique

Numéro fédéral : 331
Président : M. Bilhaut Michel
Le Bourg
72430 Pirmil

Association des Collectionneurs de Carnets et Publicitimbres (ACCP)

Numéro fédéral : 386
Président : M. Gomez Gérard
17, avenue de Sceaux
78000 Versailles

Association Française de Philatélie Thématique (AFPT)

Numéro fédéral : 423
Président : M. Collinet Louis
3, rue des Deux Boules
75001 Paris

Association des Collectionneurs de Flamme (ASCOFLAM)

Numéro fédéral : 597
Président : M. Valade Jean
4, rue des Eglantiers
33320 Eysines

Groupeement Ultra-Violet de France (GUVF)

Numéro fédéral : 622
Président : M. Labbé Jean-Claude
3, rue des Boutons d'Or
14610 Cambes-en-Plaine

Association d'Etude Timbres Colonies Françaises (COLFRA)

Numéro fédéral : 659
Président : M. Mérot Jacques
10, avenue Boileau
94500 Champigny

Société d'Etude Philatélique et Postale de l'Andorre (PHILANDORRE)

Numéro fédéral : 696
Président : M. Devarenes Robert
Les Jardins de Talma - 20, avenue Maréchal Davout
91800 Brunoy

La Philatélie Chinoise

Numéro fédéral : 800
Président : M. Bedin Michel
2, rue Henri Dunant
94350 Villiers-sur-Marne

Société Française de Philatélie Fiscale

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40, avenue du Président Roosevelt
92330 Sceaux

Club Philatélique Crois-Rouge

Numéro fédéral : 829
Président : M. Bodet Guy
12, rue de la Ballastière - Passay
79290 Saint-Martin de Janzay

Cercle des Amis de Marianne

Numéro fédéral : 859
 Président : M. Marziano Pascal
 8, avenue du 8 mai 1945
 03120 Lapalisse

Association Int^{le}.d'Histoire Postale de la Guerre de 1870/1871 (AIHP)

Numéro fédéral : 1018
 Président : M. Sinais Bertrand
 7, rue de Chateaudun
 75009 Paris

Association Français des Collectionneurs Olympiques et Sportifs (AFCOS)

Numéro fédéral : 1025
 Président : M. Boucher Marc
 17, rue de Lattre
 52800 Nogent

Association des Collectionneurs de Timbres de la Libération et de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale (ACTL)

Numéro fédéral : 539
 Président : M. Duet Denis
 60, Les hauts Saint-Caprais - 33880 Saint-Caprais

AMAZING 1870-1871 WONDER STORIES--55
 by Ernst M. Cohn (FCPS #1491)

A number of reasons have contributed to the fact that the weight of letters sent by manned balloons from besieged Paris has usually been highly overestimated. Among them is the weight of loaded mail bags, cited in contemporary newspapers. Even if all these figures are official and real, they do not show that much of that weight represents printed matter and other pre-siege items left behind but then sent, once excess lift capacity became available. The percentage of "first-class mail" has been estimated at about 50% of total weight, still too high according to evidence uncovered by Maurice Gauzit.

Here, however, we shall look at early, if not earliest, evidence of misjudgment of the amount of balloon mail. This letter to the owner/editor appeared in *Le Figaro* (7 October 1870, p. 1, col. 4-5):

* * * * *

Paris, 3 October 1870.

Monsieur de Villemessant,

I have not forgotten the emotional tears you have found in a recent article to paint one of our most burning pains, the absence of news from those who are dear to us. There is none in Paris, rich or poor, humble or great, whose heart does not bleed at that thought that, beyond the circle of iron that oppresses us, he possesses a mother, a wife, small children, the better part of his soul and of his body, and that he cannot exchange with them any thought, encouragement, or sob.

Paris has, it is said, two million inhabitants, let us say five persons per family, that is perhaps a lot today, so we have 400,000 families.

Is it unreasonable to assume that each of these families carries a letter to the post office every two days? That makes 200,000 letters per day, or a minimum of 600 kilogrammes [some 1300 US pounds].

The post office makes the most commendable attempts, no one can doubt that. But how will that suffice to send by balloon such a load, and how often has it succeeded in having its balloons fly over the Prussian lines?

Those are two questions of great importance, which the administration would do well to answer, for we have the greatest interest in knowing whether we may hope that at least one of our messages, which each of us has written daily, will have reached its destination. I'll explain:

The post office can evidently send only a part of our letters; how does it select them, and what becomes of the unsent letters? Are they kept for the next departure or are they put in the dead-letter office?

If your letters are put into the dead-letter office, I ask you to note that there is a chance that they have the same fate again the next day, so that you write every day in vain, I should say for the king of Prussia, until the end of the siege, whereas your neighbor, on the contrary, will have his mail sent through, always the same seven times a week.

I ask that the post office should let us know how it proceeds: That it take measures, if needs be, so that it will be possible for each of the 400,000 besieged families to give its news, once a week, for example, to the anxious relatives. I demand that it gives us official notice of the success or failure of each of its attempts, when it is in a position to do so. Finally, and above all, I demand that they return to us those of our letters that are not put into its consignments. There is no great inconvenience in having our letters open: they are terribly similar to each other: and if they are at times wet from tears, they all express the same unshakable resolution to win, yes, all.

If you find it useful to publish all or part of my thoughts, I deliver them to you and sign them for this purpose.

Please accept, Sir, my most sincere salutations,

DE MOLENES,
Surgeon-Major of the 22nd Battalion
of the National Guard.

* * * * *

Thus, the writer has assumed a daily load of 200,000 letters weighing on average 3 grams each, his total of 600 kg. Actually, a good average load (20-30 kg) was 25 kg, hence fewer than 8500 letters daily, based on 3 g per letter, less than 5 percent of what Dr. Molenes had assumed. At the start of the siege, that average may have been closer to 1 g, making the daily load about 12 percent of his estimate.

Incidentally, Molenes consistently uses *dépêche* for letter, quite acceptable in French as a substitute for *lettre* but clearly indicative of the urgency of the mail at that time. When he wrote, on 3 October, the departure of the new, small, balloon carrying Gambetta was being postponed from the 3rd to the 4th. It did not actually leave until the 7th, however. On the 4th an official telegram mentions that "We shall doubtless take few letters," which turned out to be the case, viz., some 10 kg presumably in a No. 5 mail bag.

Molenes' letter helps to think ourselves into the state of mind of the besieged Parisian and to understand what was *really* happening, regardless of what was claimed later on.

LONDON 2000



Some of our very distinguished members seen cavorting during the show. From left to right, Ernst Cohn, Jerry Massler, Denise Gaillaguet and Ray Gaillaguet. We also note Chris Hitchen of the British F&CPS society (which hosted this reception) in left background.

OUR SOCIETY AT ROMPEX 2000



Dick Stevens receiving his Gold medal from Awards Chairman Greg Frantz.



Lew Bussey receiving his Gold medal from Dick Stevens.



Steve Washburne receiving the Grand Award from Awards Chairman Greg Frantz and ROMPEX President Sherri Soraci.



Dick Stevens holding the FCPS Grand Award, won by Ed Grabowski.



Some of the participants at the FCPS dinner at Le Central Restaurant in Denver; clockwise from left: Mark Isaacs, Anne (Mark's friend), Larry Lambert, Tom Broadhead, Steve Washburne (mostly hidden), Dick Stevens, Lew Bussey, and Walter Parshall.

SHOW REPORTS FROM ABROAD

The French Challenge, Canberra, Australia, 18-20 March

Five years ago one of the Australian international collectors bought an assortment of India postal stationery and offered the remnants to another collector who promptly challenged him he could make a better exhibit out of what was left. Other members of the Canberra club were invited to pick a country and join a stationery competition. The winner then picked French Colonies as the subject for a rematch, and all members of the Australian Federation were invited to join in. The Challenge was originally to have been run in 1999, but scheduling didn't work and it was set in conjunction with the 2000 national show in Canberra. The rules were simple—it had to be an area not previously collected by the exhibitor, and format had to be Traditional under international standards.

I was invited to judge, joined by Jack Blanc from France and David Benson (Chairman) and Paul Barsdell from Australia. There were 22 competitive entries covering a wide range of Colonies and Offices, from Algeria to Wallis & Futuna. There was one hitch; namely that nobody told the jury to add points for “fun” and our awards ranged from certificate to vermeil, largely due to scoring of knowledge and research at best 26 points out of a possible 35. The winner was young Deryn Druce, “Fezzan and Ghadames” who took great delight in outscoring her father (and FIP biggie) Edric. Second place went to Bruce Marshall for “Alexandria, the French Post Office” and recognition for research went to Martin Walker for “Mauritania.”

The show was opened by the French Ambassador, and entertainment was furnished by a native troupe (accompanied by the Vice-Premier) from New Caledonia. The locals did their own thing with “Faux Palmares” a night in advance of the formal ceremonies, with beer and wine furnished by one of the dealers, and an auction of fun items including a milking stool bought by one dealer whose hand was raised for him while he was dozing. The Post Office did a big business with a repeat of their put-your-picture on a souvenir sheet, A\$15 with \$4.50 of stamps included. We had to have one to add to our souvenirs.

Youth Exhibition, Bangkok 25 March—3 April

Had to serve as commissioner to this show when nobody else would do it. [U.S. had only two entries.] Eleven days for a youth show, even with a FIAP regional thrown in, was too much. Bangkok was hot, humid, dirty, and full of air pollution. The organizers had hoped for a repeat of the 300,000 attendance at their 1993 international, and did get 100,000. The Thai Post Office did the Australians one better by having an option for their souvenir sheet, ability to scan in photos from home as well as live shots. We did just the stand-up photo on the 4th day, serial #37,693, and were told at show-end that it would take about four weeks to process the backlog. The sheet was Baht 130, including 15x B2 stamps, [Baht=12 cents, B2 not enough to pay cheapest local rate, postcard to US was B15] so they at least enjoyed it.

Stamp Show 2000, London, 22-28 May

London was wet and expensive. The show was a smash! Choice offerings of French Community were scattered through many exhibit classes—French Classic Varieties (Barrail, LV), Sage (Geydet, G); Guadeloupe (Grabowski, LG and congratulations!), Paris Post (Hitchen, G), German-French Double Franking (Kauffmann, G), Post in Algeria (Sauvage, G), Anglo-French Togo (Mayne, LS); Siege of Paris (Giudici, G), and Pigeon Post (Eliashar, G). US exhibitors did well, with Patricia Stilwell-Walker capturing the Grand Prix National for her Irish Postal History, one of the eight US large gold of 40 awarded; and a very respectable 18 of the 133 golds.

The Queen's Collection was represented by a selection of archival material for both Britain and the Colonies. The British Library presented an astounding array of world rarities and should have supplied bibs. The Royal Philatelic society held two open-house sessions to display 45 frames from Society collections.

Did I mention expensive? We bought two available tickets for the jury/commissioner boat trip down the Thames, London Bridge to the Tidal Barrier in the rain. In addition to membership in the Millennium Club, we also coughed for the Palmares. Cab fare for the transportation alone was enough to provoke another Boston Tea Party. We opted not to have our pictures taken for the Royal Mail's "Smilers."

WIPA, Vienna, 30 May—4 June

This was a FEPA exposition, FIP auspices, but open to US exhibitors. Whoever was responsible for scheduling it so close to London ought to be punished. It was not possible for an exhibitor to enter both shows, because of insufficient time to reclaim exhibits and get to Vienna; some who got preliminary acceptances to both were forced to choose. The venue was in two buildings, and the arrangement of the frames without consecutive numbering made it difficult to follow the catalog. There were only a couple of French Community exhibits in the show and after giving them the once-over, we went on to other things.

Vienna was charming. We enjoyed good food, a metro that had escalators and wasn't crowded, and a laid-back brand of hospitality. Our hotel was across town from the show, but transportation was no problem. We lucked into free tickets for the jury/commissioner outing and the Palmares, which latter was in the magnificent setting of the city hall. Our neighborhood had a nice little bistro, run by an ex-Californian, where it was possible to get a good solid dinner for two for about \$20. We had been warned ahead of time that everything would be served with whipped cream. Not so, only half of it.

--John & Jo Lievsay.

RANDOM EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

After judging ROMPEX 2000 and hosting our Society there, and after putting the July 2000 issue to bed, I betook myself to the hospital and underwent a perhaps-long-delayed sextuple coronary bypass operation. Am now going through the standard slow and painful process of recuperation (no flowers or food baskets please!). Among the negative aspects are a weedy and wormy garden and orchard and cancelled travel plans, including having to absent myself from the Stampshow 2000 literature jury at Providence, RI, where I had hoped to see many of you once again. Not this year anyway. On the other hand, I have had more time than usual to dedicate to at-home philately (including working on our Journal) and, I suppose and wish for, better health in the years to come. I rather smugly had asked the surgeon if six bypasses were the most he had accomplished "at one sitting" and he put me in my place by curtly stating he had once done nine. Far as I'm concerned, six was really quite enough. But, honestly, I can't say enough about being heavily involved in this hobby of ours, which keeps me going all these terribly slow days.

After having promised in the previous (July 2000) editorial that all text would henceforth be at an eyestrain-relieving 9-point, someone asked about the fine print of the page 79-83 article. (1) This had been submitted to the printers' backlog over a year ago; (2) it is a page-by-page scan (from larger book page to smaller Journal page) done by our layout designer, and one must admit she did a great job of keeping it all clear and legible, in spite of having to step down any number of type fonts.

What you are now reading is the final number of Year 2000. We anticipate a good mix of articles, etc. in the coming year. Of course, the more manuscripts and other contributions that come this way, the better the product for the near future.

Has anyone obtained a copy of the new Yvert Specialized (2000 edition) [see "New Books, etc.", page 118]--and would like to write a review of it for us? Or, for that matter, of any other recent work on France or Colonies philately? If so, please contact your editor before you start writing, just in case there might be more than one volunteer reviewer... Thanks in advance!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

- The prestigious Crawford Medal of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, for 1999, has been awarded to Dr. Peter Smith for his formidable treatise "Egypt - Stamps and Postal History."
- It seems possible that the French Federation of Philatelic Associations, and the accompanying national exhibitions, may decide to meet only every other year, for lack of interested host cities. Stay tuned.
- An outstanding, highly detailed study of the boxed ARMÉES ALLIÉES EN ORIENT / POSTE AÉRIENNE handstamp of 1919, including legitimate dates of use (July-October 1919), unusual uses and destinations, contrived covers, and outright forgeries, was published by Gabriel Sassower, in the *London Philatelist* for May 2000. Having once been an underbidder--just once and many years ago--on one such cover, I've since decided I really didn't need one for my collection; now, from what I've learned from this article, I'm extremely glad I didn't pursue the item any further.
- The large numeral (*gros chiffres*) 5106 killer has been attributed to the French Office in Tangier ever since January 1863. Yet and to date, **no** examples are known other than on loose stamps. Jean-Françoise Brun hopes that (in *Le Rekkas*, N° 27, 2000) someone will come up with a cover--or at least a fragment--showing a Tanger/Maroc date stamp alongside a 5106 killer. Should you have one such, please do rush us a clear photocopy for transmittal to M. Brun and for the glory of solving a 137-years-old mystery. (As well as knowing that you own a world-class rarity.)
- The French printing works at Périgueux has prepared and printed, at no charge, the first five postage stamps for the provisional government of Kosovo (in ex-Yugoslavia). Face values are in German marks, apparently the legal tender there for the civilian population.
- The U.N. humanitarian mission to East Timor (INTERFET) included a French presence of some 600 men from September 1999 through January 2000, supported by two French warships. Mail transited via BPM (Military Postal Bureau) 705, which was set up in Darwin, Australia from 4 October 1999 to 31 January 2000.
- The *Académie Européenne d'Etudes Philatéliques et Postales*, founded in 1977 as the *Académie d'Etudes Postales*, has been renamed the *Académie Européenne de Philatélie*.
- We've learned of the death on May 24, 2000, of Adalbert Vitalyos, the first (1951-1977) editor of *Le Monde des Philatélistes*. Vitalyos, born 10 July 1914 in Hungary, became a French citizen in 1932 and worked his way up in the newspaper business, having started as a press operator.
- Bill Mitchell and Larry Lambert (and occasional other collaborators) are preparing a series of articles on the post offices of former French Africa, etc. They have, or will be, published in either our *FCP* or the *Journal* of the British F&CPS, and occasionally in both periodicals. Benin/Dahomey has appeared in the March 2000 *British Journal*; Reunion and Ivory Coast are being readied. Any information regarding opening and closing dates of French African post offices and on their various postal markings would be welcomed; please send data via your Editor for transmittal to Bill and Larry.
- Military Postal Bureau (BPM) 665 was opened 11 April 2000 at Pristina, Kosovo.
- A simple fact of life, often forgotten or ignored at the sight of an intriguing taxed cover. Simply stated, a postage stamp and a postage-due stamp, on the same cover, cannot bear the same date stamp(s). The postage stamp is cancelled upon departure, whereas the postage due stamp is applied and cancelled upon arrival; two different places, two different stamps, two different dates, two different date stamps.

- > In addition to making use of Paris' 180 post offices, 1800 mail boxes, and 17,600 postal employees, one may now drop off one's mail, or purchase stamp booklets and prestamped envelopes and packaging at the automated postal facility located in the Miromesnil Metro station. Similar facilities are scheduled to open at several other Metro stations later in 2000.
- > Slight upward modifications were made on 2 June 2000 to some French domestic postal rates, notably for letters above 100 gm and to all Colissimo and Colieco package rates.
- > We've been overjoyed by the amount of ink spilled in our pages, over the past several issues, relative to the 1884 (and later) provisional overprints of Tahiti. And now we've received what should be the last word on the subject, this time from "our man in Tahiti." We hope to publish this article (once we are successful in translating it) some time next year. But, to let the cat out of the bag, its author, Christian Beslu, categorically states they overwhelmingly are, probably with few exceptions, fabrications that never saw actual postal use, that is, *pieces de complaisance*.
- > Mail-tracing etiquettes (*Lettre Suivie*) (Figure 1), or self-adhesive bar-coded labels to be affixed to mail to trace its progress and arrival, were being tested in parts of France during June-August 2000. If the tests prove their worth, the etiquettes are to become available for general public use on 4 September 2000. The etiquettes would be sold at 6F each or in booklets of five for 20F and of 25 for 90F, with additional discounts for larger quantities. Mail thus labeled would not carry the indemnity nor have the legal standing of registered mail, and therefore might be roughly



Figure 1. (reduced to 75%).

- equivalent to Certified Mail in the U.S.
- > Experimental LSA (*Libre Service Affranchissement*) vending machines (Figure 2) were functioning this year (since November 1999) at two Paris post offices. They print LSA vignettes (computer-vended postage) on "thermosensible" paper, whereby it's the paper itself that reacts to the ink, making the impression more permanent than before. They also can disgorge booklets of 10 stamps. In addition, these machines deliver more detailed receipts, in a choice of five languages and of francs vs. euros. Payment may be made with coins or, for sums of 30F or more, with credit cards. We've received no word as to whether they'll become fixtures elsewhere in Paris and in France.



Figure 2.

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND CATALOGUES

- Bill Holland, *New Hebrides / Condominium / des / Nouvelles Hébrides -- Official Cachets Officiels 1908-1980*; published by the Pacific Islands Study Circle; £4 sterling (+postage), from John Ray, 24 Woodsale Avenue, London SE25 4A, England. (Bilingual English-French inventory of the administrative and other official cachets. The Study Circle has also published an inventory of New Hebrides date stamps; inquire of Mr. Ray.)
- Georges Renoy, *Histoire de la Poste*; 192 pp., 25x29 cm, card cover; 250 color illustrations; 1495 Belgian francs; inquire of La Poste, Direction Philatélie - Centre Monnaie, B-1000 Bruxelles, Belgium; fax 32 (0)2 226 27 86. (A history of the posts from 1520 and the house of Thurn & Taxis to modern times, based upon more than 250 documents of the various times.)
- *Le Patrimoine du Timbre-poste Français*, vol. II, (1999); 337 pp.; 250 Fr post-paid (perhaps only within France?); from Flohic Editions, 10 boulevard de la Bastille, F-75012 Paris. (Apparently, consists primarily of three indices for the stamps of France: alphabetical, by themes, and by designers and engravers, plus a September 1998-September 1999 addendum to volume I.)
- *La Poste et le Rail*; 208 pp., 340 photos and 115 graphics; 250 Fr, from Editions La Vie du Rail, 11 rue de Milan, F-75440 Paris Cedex 09. (A history of mail cars and of the carrying of the mail via train.)
- *Catalogue des Oblitérations Mécaniques à flammes illustrées ou stylisées -- Supplément 1998*; Etude N° 274 of Le Monde des Philatélistes; 90 Fr (+15 Fr postage); from Librairie Service Timbropresse, 21 Boulevard Montmartre, F-75080 Paris Cedex 02. (Illustrations, etc. of the 552 flammes that appeared during 1998.)
- Pierre Mayer, *Catalogue Libération*, 7th edition (2000); 120 pp., 14.5x21 cm, black and white and color illustrations; 300 Fr, from the author, at 4 rue Drouot, F-75009 Paris; fax 33 (0)1 48 24 04 12. (Priced catalogue of the WWII Liberation overprints, by the expert on and chief purveyor of this material.)
- Guy Raynal and Bernard Bougue, *Les Services Ambulants et les Convoyeurs Français -- Période de 1966 à 1995*; 220 pp., 21x30 cm, over 1000 cuts of date stamps and straightline markings of the period, including dates of creation and suppression of the services, and valuations; 16 pages in color; 200 Fr (+20 Fr postage), from Bernard Bougue, 20 rue du Tronc du Pinson, F-33320 Eysines; checks payable to AS.CO.FLAM.ES., CCP Bordeaux N° 3972 55 T.
- Vincent Pothion, *Paris Oblitérations 1849-1876*; 93 pp.; 175 Fr (postpaid in France), from La Poste aux Lettres, 17 Faubourg Montmartre, F-75009 Paris. (2000 reedition of the illustrated standard catalogue of Classic-period Paris markings on cover, with price indices.)
- *Le Spécialisé, Timbres de France 1849-1900*, vol. 1 (2000); 496 pp., A4 format, hardbound, fully illustrated in color; 380 Fr (+ postage), from Yvert & Tellier, 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036 Amiens Cedex 1, France. (This new edition of the 1975 Yvert Specialized, edited by Pascal Behr, Jean-François Brun and Michèle Chauvet, is not only more spaced out than, and graphically superior to the 1975, but is also less inclusive. This vol. 1 consists of (1) a primer on pre-1849 postal markings; (2) detailed studies of the 19th Century postage stamps--including essays and proofs, but excluding "flyspeck" varieties of the "Bleus"; and (3) detailed studies on the mail of the 1870-1871 besieged cities, including, of course, Paris balloon mail. Prices are in euros. Excluded, but expected to appear in vol. II, are usages on cover; postage dues, precancels, and the other back of the book issues of the period.)
- Gérard Lhéritier, *Collection 1870: Ballons Montés - Boules de Moulins*; 2000 edition; 432 pp., hardbound; inquire of ARISTOPHIL, 34 boulevard Hausman, F-75009 Paris. (Detailed, multilingual [French, English, Italian, German,

Spanish] compilation of everything one would wish to know about *ballons montés, boules de Moulins, papillons de Metz*, etc. Unfortunately for author and publisher, this comes on the market simultaneously with the new Yvert Specialized [see entry on page 118], and Lhéritier does not quite command the respect that Brun does when it comes to correctness of data—at least for earlier editions of Lhéritier's works.)

- Charles Kiddle, *The Paris Universal Exposition 1900*; 142 pp., A4 format, (60+ pp., in color), illustrating and cataloguing thousand(?) of vignettes from that exposition and related themes; spiral bound; £46 sterling, postpaid in Great Britain (more elsewhere); checks payable to "World Poster Stamps," and sent to author at P.O. Box 13, Alton, Hants. GU34 4DW, England. (Vignettes, not postal markings, are what the work covers.)
- Donald L. Duston, *French Colonies Revenues (and Former Colonies now independent)*--North Africa and Middle-East Colonies, 2nd edition; 2000; 218 pp., 8½ x 11", card cover, spiral bound; over 1500 illustrations, computer enhanced to emphasize the many overprints; laser printed by the editor; prices in US dollars; edited and published by Donald L. Duston, 1314 25th Street, Peru, IL 61354, USA. Postpaid to US and Canada: \$43.50(US) book rate or \$45.00(US) Priority Mail; for all other countries (US currency only, no checks) \$45.00(US) by sea mail or if by Global Priority Mail (air): \$50.00(US) to Western Europe and \$55.00(US) to all other countries. Collectors wanting only individual country listings should contact the editor for price and availability. (This catalog is the first of three that will update the series of five catalogs on the revenue stamps of the French Colonies first published between 1987 and 1990. It combines the original Parts I and III covering the Mediterranean and Arab countries. The other two catalogs covering sub-Saharan African colonies in one, and the Far East and miscellaneous and island colonies in the other, will be updated in the future.)
- Laurent Bonnefoy and Luc Guillard, *Les Empreintes de Machine à Affranchir Utilisée en France*; about 500 pp., 21 x 30 cm, about 1400 illustrations, + glossary and bibliography; 350 Fr postpaid in France (more elsewhere); checks or money orders payable to "l'Union Marcophile"; order from Lucien Bridelance, 19 avenue du Chatelet, F-77150 Lesigny, France. (The definitive study of meter imprints and strips, and their machines, used in France between 1924 and 1999. We haven't been informed as to whether it is also a priced catalog of the meters.)

MEMBERS' APPEALS

FOR SALE: Specialized Classic France, to 1876 (shades, cancels, multiples, flaws, covers, etc.). Also off-cover Classic Colonies (postage and dues). Priced to sell. Inquiries and want lists (Yvert Nos. preferred, Scott Nos. acceptable) to Stanley J. Luft, 16291 West 56th Place, Golden, CO 80403. (Mb. #915).

REVIEW

Ernst M. Cohn, *Unusual Mail in Occupied France 1870-1871*; 2000; xi + 195 pp., 9¼ x 9½," hardbound, illustrated; ISBN 9963 579 79 5; from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 56484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus; \$50.00 (US) + \$2.00 postage, or £30.00 (UK) + £1.00 postage; payment by personal check (in sterling or US, French or German currency, or Eurocheque in sterling) or major credit card.

This is the companion work to Ernst Cohn's earlier *Ordinary Mail by Diplomatic Means during the Siege of Paris 1870-1871*, reviewed here in Whole N° 242, October 1995. The nearly square format, the high production values to be expected from a James Bendon publication, and the uneven quality of illustrations (inasmuch as many were reproduced from photocopies) all replicate the earlier work.

Chapters (some of which amount to a fraction of a page) basically follow the chronological order of the start of the various German sieges of French fortresses. Some mostly very short chapters seem to have been tossed in hap-hazardly [i.e., "Mail Lost by Enemy Action" (p. 39); "Mail Delayed by Depot..." (p. 131); "An Inside View of Clandestine Mails" (p. 133); "Dornach's Forgotten Post Office" (p. 137); and "A Unique Experiment" (p. 139)]. The first of these should have been grouped with the others in some sort of Miscellanea section. Siege of Paris balloon mail is not covered here, having been the subject of countless books and articles of widely divergent usefulness and veracity. Instead, the author confines himself to studies of the many attempts at smuggling mail into and out of Paris. These Paris smuggling schemes and the pot-pourri of miscellaneous mini-chapters are followed by well done studies of French and German censorship, particularly of the latter, which is illustrated with a number of covers bearing various forms of censor markings. A brief epilogue is followed by 163 endnotes. I would have much preferred to see them broken up and placed at the end of the appropriate chapters. An 11-page Index completes the work.

Ernst Cohn is **the** authority on the unfamiliar, unusual and esoteric aspects of the history and postal history of the 1870-1871 Franco-German War. He takes great delight in all his writings in sharing his discoveries and in taking pot-shots at those writers who (1) display sloppy scholarship and (2) unquestioningly propagate the errors of earlier writers. However, Ernst stands on shakier ground than in his earlier book (which relied in large part upon diplomatic archives), for his conjectures oftentimes are based upon the earlier conjectures of others, who in turn relied upon secondary, as well as primary, sources. But we can hardly fault him for this. The thrust of the book is not just to point out what we know or think we know, but also to challenge the reader to seek out and analyze better or further information on the circumstances that may have created *unusual* mail. That is, to build upon his and earlier conjectures and speculations.

A belief, shared by Ernst and this reviewer, in "phantom postal history," which essentially decrees that, because mail *may have existed* during some historical period, an appropriate cover *will eventually surface*, is a prerequisite for this quest. The Siege of Bitche is a typical example of covers that did indeed surface, in relatively recent times, once the history and timeframe of the siege became better known. The same could happen with, say the as-yet-undiscovered mail from the Siege of Phalsbourg.

In several places, we note something to the effect that a particular subject matter lies "outside the scope of this book" (as per the reference to the *papillons de Metz* on page 33). But not everyone is familiar with this and other fascinating topics, and it would have been extremely helpful to have some solid bibliographic references to what has been written about such "outside" tidbits. After all, Cohn has himself authored a fair number of them. Also, a greater number and variety of illustrations, particularly of covers, would have been appreciated. [Author and publisher, please take note in case of a next volume!]

Ernst is a notorious albeit gentle hunter-gatherer of typos. I'm not particularly one, but could not pass by without pointing out, first and foremost, that there's a terribly obvious one in the book's **subtitle** (inside and on the dust cover): "activites" for "activities." On page 101, I noted "wether" for "whether"; and the book referred to in Endnote 112 (p. 180) is entitled "...1870-1872" and not "...1871." Otherwise, the book seems to be relatively free of typos.

In conclusion what we have here are numerous, often intriguing narratives regarding yes, very *unusual* mail of the period. It's a veritable treasure trove of information (and of speculation by the author and his predecessors) that should enlighten and delight its [unfortunately] presumed smallish audience. Those readers will be well-served. Many will or should take up the author's challenge and delve into their cover collections to check--or seek out--the when, where, how, and by and to whom of potentially problematic covers. Those who might bypass the book for being perhaps too *outré* for their reading tastes may be the losers through their inaction.

--S. J. Luft

SOME SHOW REPORTS

- Plymouth Show 2000 (Plymouth, MI, April): Reserve Grand Award and Gold medal to Steve Washburne for "Portugal Classics"; Vermeil medal to Peter Smith for his Egypt postal stationery exhibit, and a one-frame Gold for his exhibit of Greek and Russian P.O.s in Egypt.
- Parforex XL (Park Forest, IL, April): A first award to Paul Larsen for "Barbados -- Seal Issues."
- LONDON 2000 (London, May, **FIP**): Not many members exhibited, but those who did were very well rewarded. Large Gold + special prize to Dick Winter for "U.S.-G.B. Mails by Steamship 1838 to UPU"; Large Gold to Ed Grabowski for "Guadeloupe: The development of stamps for regular postage"; Large Gold (Literature) to Peter Smith for "Egypt - Stamps and Postal History"; Large Silver to John Mayne for "Anglo-French Occupation of Togo"; Large Silver (Literature) to Dave Herendeen (editor) for the "British Caribbean Philatelic Journal"; Silver (Literature) to Jean Haik (publisher) for "The Local and Private Posts of Morocco." A couple of members were listed in the show catalogue but not in the palmars. Edric Druce was a Vice President of the International Jury.
- WIPA 2000 (Vienna, May-June, **FIP**): Large Gold to Peter Smith for "Egypt: The Classic Period"; Gold to Frederick Mayer for "Costa Rica 1863-1900"; Gold to Steve Washburne for "Portugal Classics"; Gold to Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith for "French Mediterranean Maritime Mail"; Large Vermeil to Paul Larsen for "German Togo 1885-1914"; Vermeil to Edric Druce for "Postal Stationery of Grenada"; Large Silver (Literature) to Maurice Tyler (editor) for the "Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society"; Silver (Literature) to Jean Haik (publisher) for "The Local and Private Post of Morocco."
- NAPEX 2000 (McLean, VA, June): Gold medal to Roger Quinby for his Finland postal cards exhibit.
- PIPEX 2000 (Victoria, BC, June): Gold medal to Bill Bartlett for "100 Years of French Postage Dues."
- World Stamp Expo 2000 (Anaheim, CA, July): Gold medal to Peter Smith for "Postage Due Stamps of Egypt"; Dick Winter showed his "U.S.-France Mails by Steamship 1838 to General Postal Union" in the Court of Honor.
- APS Stampshow 2000 (Providence, R.I., August): Prix d'Honneur to Earle Plyler for his US 2c domestic rates exhibit and to Steve Washburne (non-competitive) for "Portugal Classics"; Gold medal to Frederick Mayer for "Nova Scotia: 1788-1868." In the Literature competition, Ernst Cohn's *Unusual Mail in Occupied France 1870-1871* received a Vermeil medal, and Chuck LaBlonde (editor) a Silver-Bronze for *Bulletin of the Civil Censorship Study Group*. Steve Washburne served on the philatelic jury.

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from #261, July 2000, p. 92)

- **797.)** Two French towns that had received Revolutionary names in the early 1790s and then lost them upon the royal restorations 1814-1815, briefly resurrected those same names in the aftermath of the 1848 uprisings. They are, Bar-le-Duc, the more important of the two towns and the government seat of the Meuse Dept., and Neuvy-le-Roy (Indre-et-Loire Dept.). An article by Pierre Mangin and André Goven in *Documents Philatéliques*, N° 164 (2000) deals only with Bar-le-Duc. The town became Bar-sur-Ornain in October 1792, the orthography being corrected only in July 1793. Once again Bar-le-Duc in July 1815, it very briefly regressed to Bar-sur-Ornain in 1850, as a result of an anti-royalist majority having been voted in in the Meuse Dept.

Mangin and Goven know of only five letters bearing the Bar-s-Ornain date stamp. They range in dates from 24 March (Figure 1) to 16 April 1850. This Spring of 1850 date stamp must therefore be very rare and should be sought after in readers' holdings. Bar-le-Duc reappears once and for all on a 16 June 1850 letter (earliest known to the writers).



Figure 1.

- **798)** One of the effects of the French Revolution was the rapid disappearance of hard currency. As a result, a number of municipalities issued *billets de confiance* in 1793 and sold them to travelers in need of petty cash in other towns. Once use was made, the *billets* would be gathered together and mailed in bulk to the issuing towns, in exchange for their value in *assignats*. If you think the procedure was confusing or worse, you are quite right. Little confidence was placed in the system, which soon quietly died. In Baudot's 179th auction sale of May 2000, a rarely seen assemblage of 37 return envelopes for *billets de confiance* was dispersed. All (or almost all) bear CHARGÉ notations either handstamped or in manuscript, as well as manuscript notations of "exchange of billets de confiance" or similar. Two of the lots are shown in Figure 2. No hoard of this size should be expected to reappear on the market for a long time to come.
- **799.)** Locally made overprints of 1977, to indicate currency changes for the New Hebrides Condominium, are known to have been forged. The forged overprints are the 25 FNH and 30 FNH on, respectively, the 25 gold centimes and 30 gold centimes seashell stamps of 1972 (Figure 3). Forgeries may exist only on the British issues, though they might also appear on the equivalent French stamps. (Thanks to Jacques Mérot, in *Bull. COL.FRA 92, 2000*).



Figure 2.

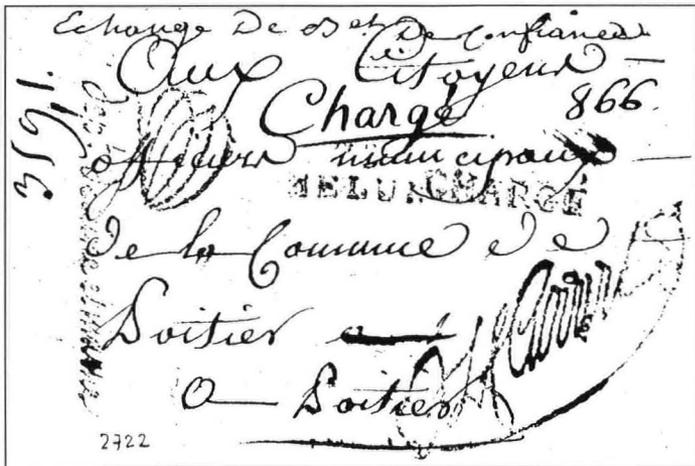


Figure 2.

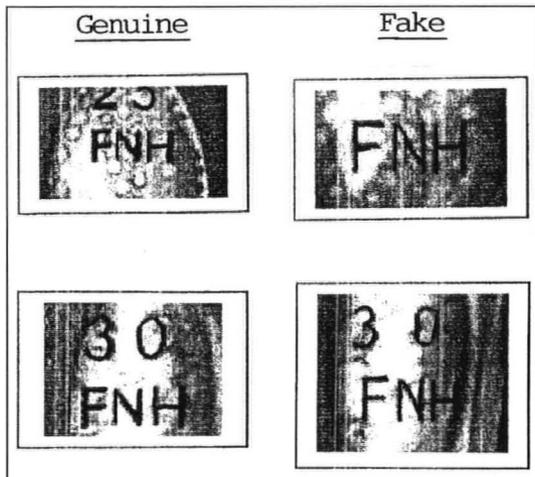


Figure 3.

Sterners booklets of 1944-1945

Though I have no desire to steal Bob Seeke's thunder, as per his periodic "The Carnet Corner," I'd like to illustrate a small distinction between labels in the 20F Sterners booklets of self-adhesive, permanent-value stamps plus add-on, 0.70 value.

The top example, issued February 1994, comes within a yellow cover; the bottom one, issued October (?) 1995, has a white stock cover. Note that the word CASES (within boxes) is larger in the earlier booklet than in the later one (Figure 1). Both booklets come with



Figure 1.

serpentine or rouletted perforations along the sides of the stamps. It is my understanding that, in first printings of the older booklet, stamps separations are straightline; thus single stamps from the early examples would appear to be imperforate.

--S. J. Luft

WE GET LETTERS...

Ian McQueen wrote on the advantages of larger page size and type for philatelic periodicals, pointing with deserved pride to the now A4 (8¼ x 11¼") *Journal of the F&CPS* [GB]. "You force yourself [at our Journal's present size] to print many illustrations in reduced size, instead of actual, and of course...the cramped lay-out makes the overall effect of the publication rather unattractive. The advantages [of our 'tiny' pages] are few. Satisfactory for shelves, if you only have small shelves.... The only benefit I had noticed from small pages was that they are easier to read in bed!"

[In our defense of the status quo, I can only say that we are raising our dues only to be able to continue to pay for our current eight sheets of paper per issue. No card covers, no use of color, no funds to pay for additional sheets and the extra postage they may require. Truly, we are between a rock and a hard place.]

Bob Kinsley wrote: Your humble non-resident Director, as penance for absence from the national meeting at ROMPEX 2000, left LONDON 2000 to make a pilgrimage to the site where General de Gaulle spent his postwar holidays in the seaside village of Cashel, Galway County, Ireland, and had the temerity to sit on the same rustic bench that de Gaulle used (so said the sign), in the beautiful gardens of the Cashel House Hotel, to view the panorama of Bertraghboy Bay. If you don't mind driving on the "other" side of very narrow, winding roads it is a nice trip. While there don't miss the postal and political history of the land reform and famine of the mid-1800s, contained in the museum at Strokestown in adjacent Roscommon County. And finally, seek out the impressive four story shell of a fortified house (not quite a castle) which few tourists and no tour buses ever visit, at the village of Glinsk at the Galway-Roscommon county line. Bon voyage.

Ernest (Gene) Fricks wrote: Re the July 2000 *FCP*, p. 90: Adrien [Boutrelle] died in a nursing home about 5 years ago. Before he entered the home, about 1990, he gave me, as editor of the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, his photo files of all items he had done for the *CCP* during his career. He also gave me, as a sign of personal regard, his study collection of the Paix [of Laurens] issue. The photo file is stored at the [Collectors] Club in New York. Adrien was a prince of a man, always most helpful to everyone who asked for his assistance.

TYPES AND SUBTYPES 25c cameo Sower

Type 1A (all blue flat-plate sheets printed 1907-1923, and the very rare blue flat-plate coils of 1920-1922): note shape of base of the 2 and of ball of the 2 (ball oriented north-west-southeast) and of the c of value (both points end at same distance to right); other criteria shown in illustration seldom clear enough to use; **Type 1B** (blue flat-plate booklets without publicity tabs, printed after World War I): note shape of base of the 2, and of the c, which is thinner than in 1A; **Type 2** (blue flat-plate booklets of 20 stamps with or without tabs, and of 10 stamps with tabs, printed 1922-1925): note base of the 2 (thicker than in other types) and ball of the 2 (essentially round) and shape of the c; **Type 3** (blue flat-plate sheets printed 1923-1924; minority of blue imprinted letter-cards): note base and ball of the 2 (ball oriented east-west) and shape of the c (lower point extends farther to right); inner vertical white band on left side of stamp (mainly above the 2) irregular in thickness.

Type 3A (blue and then yellow-brown rotary-press sheets, flat-plate precancels on the blue sheets, rotary-press precancels on the blue and then on the yellow-brown sheets): identical to 3A except that the inner white band is very thin and fairly regular. **Type 3B** (blue, then yellow-brown rotary-press coils, rotary-press precancels on yellow-brown coils): very similar to 3B except that the R of FRANÇAISE is pinched in at the "waist"; **Type 4** (blue flat-plate booklets without tabs, blue im-

IV				AUTRES TYPES
III C				RR
III B				
III A				FR
II				
1 B				
1 A				

printed envelopes, majority of blue imprinted letter-cards): note base and ball of the 2 (ball is "cashew"-shaped) and minor details of lines in robe.

[Illustration is from the 1995 Cérès catalogue. Types and subtypes sometimes difficult to distinguish; use of secondary characteristics, shown in the illustration but not mentioned above, may sometimes help.]

NEW ISSUES AND WITHDRAWALS

(Continued from N° 261, July 2000, p. 95)

France

- > 14 (17) July: 3,00F/0,46€ The Yellow Train of Cerdagne;
- > 12 (14) August: 4,50F / 0,69€ Folklores;
- > 9 (11) September: Sydney Summer Olympic Games, two 3,00F / 0,46€ set-tenant; same in 30F sheetlet of ten + vignette;
- > 16 (18) September: Great French Adventurers semi-postals: six at 3,00F + 0,60F / 0,55€ (Eric Tabarli, Alexandra David-Néel, Haroun Tazieff, Paul-Emile Victor, Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Norbert Casteret); same in 21,60F booklet;
- > 23 (25) September: 4,40F / 0,67€ Father Alfred Stanke (1904-1985); 6,70F / 1,02€ Art of Gaston Chaisac (1910-1964);
- > 30 September (2 October): 3,00F / 0,46€ 40th Anniv. of S.O.S. Amitié; Social events of the Century (paid vacations, women's suffrage, Declaration of the rights of man, the washing machine, first steps on the Moon): five at 3,00F / 0,46€;
- > 14 (16) October: 3,00F / 0,46€ 2001, the new millennium;
- > 21 (23) October: 6,70F / 1,02€ Art: Carolingien mosaics at Germiny-des-Près.



Withdrawals: 9 May: Nature series of October 1999 (four stamps showing dogs and cats); 9 June: Red Cross 1999 semi-postals: 3,00F + 0,60F and 36F booklet; 11 August: 3,00F the Metro, 3,00F Council of State, 50F Dewoitine airmail; 8 September: 3,00F the Lighthouse at the End of the World, 3,00F Bank of France, 3,00F Prefectorial corps of Year VIII; 4,40F Cultural patrimony of Lebanon.

Andorra

- > 27 May: Festivals triptych of two 3,00F / 0,46€ stamps + central label;
- > 10 July: 4,40F / 0,67€ caricature of bird.

Withdrawals: 3,80F 50th Anniv. of Council of Europe; 2,70F The First Stagecoach; 3,00F (x two) historical setting of PAL.

French Polynesia

- > 30 May: Polynesian beauties 300F + 500F block;
- > 21 June: Traditional robes 85F, 120F, 160F, 250F;
- > 10 July: Polynesian peaks higher than 2000 meters 90F, 180F.

Mayotte

- > 26 June: 5,40F / 0,82€ Tomb of Sultan Andriantsouli; 3,00F / 0,46€ children racing tires.

Monaco

- > 25 April: [correct date of issue for the six stamps showing the Twelve Apostles]; Monaco and the Sea sheetlet of eight stamps at 6,55F / 1,00€ each, + central label; 7,00F / 1,07€ Sydney Olympic Games;
- > 9 May: EUROPA 2000 two set-tenant stamps at 3,00F / 0,46€ each; 4,40F / 0,67€ Second Historic Grand Prix of auto racing; 5,00F / 0,76€ Hanover 2000 Exposition; 20F / 3,05€ the Four Evangelists;
- > 30 May: 4,50F / 0,69€ WIPA 2000 Philatelic Exhibition;
- > 19 June: 4,40F / 0,67€ Celebrities Golf Tournament;
- > 23 June: Sydney Olympics 2,70F / 0,41€ (fencing) and 4,50F / 0,69€ (rowing); 10F / 1,52€

Monegasque Red Cross; 3,50F / 0,53€ Museum of Stamps and Money (exhibition of philatelic rarities); Automobiles 3,00F / 0,46€, 6,70F / 1,02€, 10F / 1,52€, 15F / 2,29€;

- 7 July: 4,40F / 0,67€ World Stamp Expo 2000, Anaheim, CA;
- 4 September: Retable of St. Nicolas sheetlet of two stamps (10F / 1,52€ and 20F / 3,05€); 4,60F / 0,70€ Monte Carlo Magic Stars; 6,50F / 0,99€ Inter. Year of Mathematics [Leonard da Vinci topical];
- 2 October: 3,80F / 0,58€ ESPAÑA 2000 Philatelic Expo.; 3,00F 0,46€ New Aquarium and Oceanography Museum; 5,00F / 0,76€ Congress of Aquarium Sciences; 5,20F / 0,79€ Museum of Anthropology; 9,00F / 1,37€ 25th Anniv. Of Monegasque Assoc. for the Protection of Nature.

Withdrawals: 5 May: Parks and Natural Preserves (5,00F x two) (EUROPA 1999); 3,00F The Rock and the Casino; 3,00F green spaces of Fontvieille.

New Caledonia

- 19 April: 135F Four-master "Emile Renouf"
- 16 June: Year of the Dragon souvenir sheet of two 105F stamps; 155F painting by Gilles Subileau;
- 8 July: 130F Antoine de St.-Exupéry [World Stamp Expo 2000]; Noumea Aquarium, three stamps at 70F each.

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- 4 October: 5,40F shipwreck of the "Inger";
- 15 November: 3,00F / 0,46€ Noël 2000 (church and angels)

Withdrawals: 7 April: 1,70F and 2,00F horse-shoeing.

Wallis & Futuna

- 5 June: 155F patrol boat "La Glorieuse";
- 19 June: 115F first Senator from Wallis;
- 3 July: 200F Institut d'émission d'Outre-Mer.



F.C.P.S. OFFICIAL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As I write this, I have just returned from Providence, Rhode Island, and APS Stampshow 2000. I believe this was a generally successful show. There were many excellent exhibits to study, but essentially none in the French area; this being the result, both of a paucity of applications by exhibitors of French material, and the rejection of those that were submitted. At the bourse, I found a few covers to add to my Martinique collection, but all at very high prices. The majority of my time was spent behind the Society's table. This workaholic finds such duty more attractive now that I can bring my "laptop" computer and a pile of covers, and then prepare the write-ups for my album pages during those extended periods when there are no visitors at the table. I completed nearly 100 pages during this last four-day show.

One of the Society's goals in having tables at both ROMPEX 2000 and APS Stampshow 2000 was to recruit new members. At each of these shows the Society received precisely **one** membership application. Additional applications were distributed, and perhaps a few of those will be mailed in. There are other advantages to having a Society table: it provides a focal point for members to meet, and helps publicize the Society's name. However, it seems clear that it is no panacea for our gradual decline in membership. It is too much a matter of "preaching to the converted": the vast majority of the attendees at these shows are veteran collectors, who are already members of as many societies as they wish to support. This brings us back to my oft-repeated message: Please encourage any collectors you know who are interested in French-area philately to join our Society. Our members are always our best recruiters.

The Society has not yet made any commitment for official participation in any show in 2001. If the show is outside the greater New York City area, there must be a reliable Society member in the vicinity, who will coordinate arrangements for a Society dinner

and any other talks or Society meetings. Stampshow will be held in Atlantic City in 2002, and we expect to have at least a Society table there.

Extensive renovations are now under way at the Collectors Club in New York, where we normally hold our monthly meetings. By the time you read this, I certainly expect that the work will be finished, and the building will be open again. The September meeting has been cancelled, and we may have to find an alternative location for the October meeting. Resident members receive notices for each month's meeting. (That's why they pay higher dues.) Other members are encouraged to attend, but, particularly at this time, would be well advised to confirm with me, or some other resident member, that the meeting is being held at its normal place and time.

--R. M. Stevens

NEW MEMBERS

- 3230 DIXON, DR. MICHAEL D., P.O. Box 60007, Potomac, MD 20859-0007. (Stationery. Particularly Pneumatic Mails Of Paris.)
- 3231 TURCHIK, STEVE, 727 East Pleasant St., Santa Paula, CA 93060-2073. (General Collector: 19th Century.)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

- 3143 CARRIGAN, JAY T., 39 Foxglove Rd., Hendersonville, NC 28739-8994.
- 2807 BARRACANO, RALPH., 30 Allée Du Mirailles F-66400, Ceret, France.
- 3198 KINDRACHUK, MARK., 702 Nesslin Crescent, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7J 4V2, Canada
- 2425 KLEENE, STEVEN J., 3649 Canyon Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45217-2101.
- 2867 WESOLOWSKI, THOMAS R., 1 Glen Falls Circle, Salinas, CA 93906-4848.
- 3178 STAM, ANTONIE, 2708 Pine Tree Lane, Columbia, MO 65203.
- 1024 STEPHEN, PIERRE, 615 West First, Truth Or Consequences, NM 87901.
- 946 VOSSLER, VERNON R., 6602 East 574 Road - Lot 204, Catoosa, OK 74015.
- 2826 AKERSTROM, DONALD B., 424 Stratford Ct Apt. A34, Delmar, CA 92014-2758. (Correction of Apt. No. and Zip Code).

REMOVE FROM THE MAILING LIST

- 1568 DENTZ, PAUL A., (Deceased).
- 3151 TIERNEY, GERALD W., (Moved: Forwarding Order Expired, Undeliverable As Addressed).

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