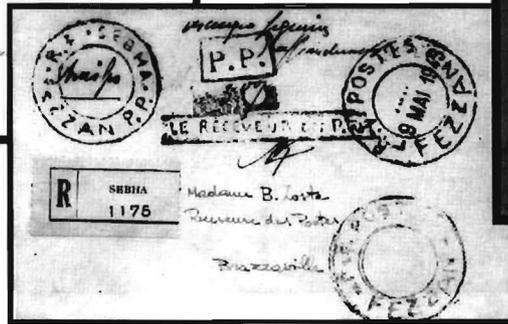




FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

July 2009
Whole No. 297 (Vol. 65, No. 3)



The French Occupation of Fezzan

See page 55.



Volume 1
768 Pages



Volume 2
672 Pages

Book Review: The New Maury Specialized France

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The French Occupation of Fezzan

Ray McGarrity (FCPS 3208)

[This paper is an outgrowth of the slide show that Mr. McGarrity presented at our annual meeting. He has been kind enough to expand this information for the FCP.]

This paper provides an overview of the little-known territory of Fezzan during its occupation by French troops from 1943-44. In 1946, the region became a French military territory. The United Nations declared that Fezzan, at the end of December 1951, would be part of the new Kingdom of Libya. However, Libya was not prepared to take control of the territory and the stamps of Fezzan continued to be used until 15 April 1952. A single exception occurred on 31 March 1952 when First Day ceremonies took place for a set of stamps, denominated in French francs, that were issued by the Kingdom of Libya. The French finally withdrew their troops in 1955.^{1,2}

I. Geopolitical History

People were living in the area of Fezzan in the Neolithic Age. There is evidence that the people of Fezzan were trading goods and exchanging ideas with the Egyptians more than 5,000 years ago. These people had a level of civilization which included cities, advanced agricultural techniques and even mummified bodies similar to the Egyptians. Over the many centuries that passed, Carthage and Rome ruled the area. Finally Phazania, as the country was called by the local inhabitants became independent around 400 A.D. In 666 A.D., the Arabs conquered Fezzan and Christianity ceased to exist. For about 900 years the people of Fezzan were treated like slaves until a sheriff from Morocco invaded Fezzan in the middle of the 16th century. He founded the dynasty of Beni Mohammed which lasted until 1811.^{1,3}

The Karamanlis, also known as the infamous pirates of Tripoli, then took control of the country. For the next thirty years, much fighting took place within the pirate leadership. This ended when the Ottoman Empire took full control of

Fezzan in 1842. By the mid-19th century, the Ottoman Empire began crumbling.³

Many of the European powers had a strong interest in all of the territory on the Mediterranean coast of Africa. For example, the French opened an office in Tripoli in 1880, and Italy opened offices in Tripoli (1869) and Bengasi. The latter two offices used specially overprinted stamps. Claiming to be protecting Italians living in Tripolitania, Italy waged a war against the Ottomans from 29 September 1911 until 18 October 1912. Italy prevailed in the conflict and, by the First Treaty of Lausanne, was awarded three Ottoman *sanjaks*, or provinces: Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Fezzan. These provinces, which would later be merged into modern-day Libya, are shown in Fig. 1.

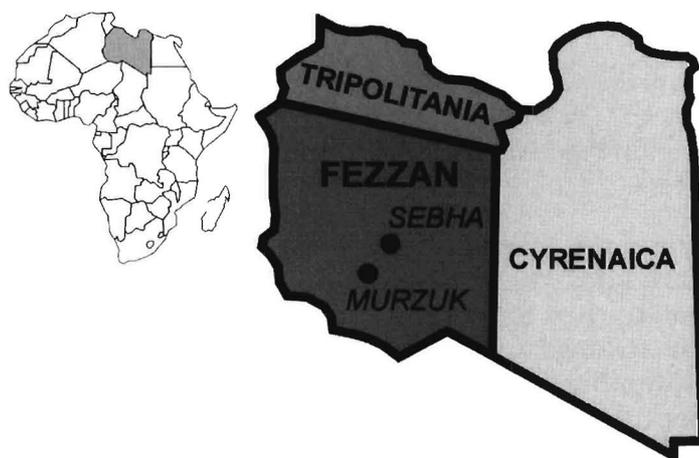


Figure 1. The Provinces of Libya.

II. Philatelic History

Before the French

The Italians introduced stamps into Libya in 1912 shortly after their military victory. These stamps were created by simply overprinting the current issues of Italy. Beginning in 1921 nearly all of the issues were inscribed for Libya (Libia in Italian). These were valid in all North African Italian colonies. Special stamps were also issued for Tripolitania and Cyrenaica. The

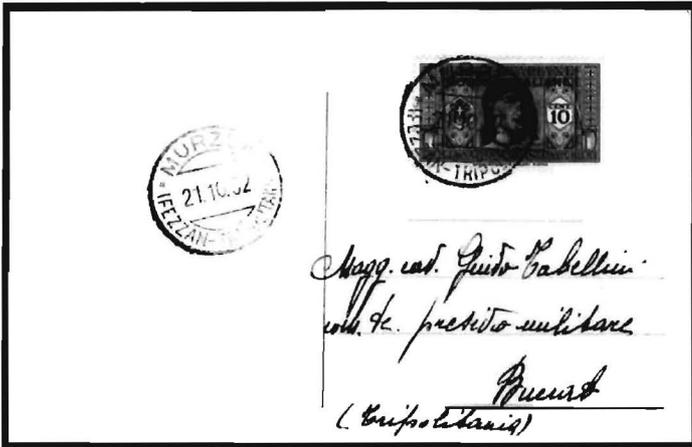


Figure 2. Usage of an Italian Colonies general issue in Fezzan.

last stamp to be issued was a 1 Lira air mail stamp in August 1941

During this period, Italy created a special general issue of stamps for use in all colonies. The first of these issues was 1 July 1932 and the last one was on 5 June 1934. One such usage is shown in Fig. 2.

The French Take Control

Shortly after DeGaulle organized the Free French movement in mid-1940, French forces became active in the Libyan theatre of operations.

While the French forces were not yet fully prepared for their famous Chad to Rhine campaign, they had to take the Koufra oasis due to its strategic position. The operation began in November 1940 and was completed in December 1940. Raids and probing actions continued until they were ready to make the military campaign to take Fezzan and Tripolitania.

Upon entry into Fezzan, the French military forces were directed to search every Italian post office in every town for stamps and postal stationery so that they could readily restart the postal service. They found far fewer stamps than expected, and hardly any of those found were in complete sheets. Most of the stamps were found in Murzuk, and these were sent to Algeria to be overprinted.³

New cancellation devices were also required. Those used in Fezzan were hand made locally using available materials. The most common

material available under the wartime conditions was the copper reclaimed from empty shells and shell casings left from the battles. This material made rather good cancelling and post mark devices.

Since the cancellation devices were made by hand, minor variations between them may be seen. These include the size of the cancellation itself, the size of the letters, font variations and wording differences. The cancellations are in a circular format either within a double circle or no circle around the information. Sebha was the city that used the non-enclosed type of cancel the most while the towns used the double circle type. The top of the circular cancel for Sebha reads R. F. SEBHA, and the bottom FEZZAN.

When a cancellation device is made, the city name is normally checked to make certain that it is spelled correctly. In the case of covers and cancels from Fezzan, one encounters several spellings for a city. This is not surprising since many place names were spelled differently in Italian and French.

Consider the town name **Murzuk** (Italian). In Italian, the "u" has a sound similar to "oo" in English. The same sound in French is usually represented by "ou." Thus, the French spelling for the town is **Mourzouk**. **But**, one then notices that spelling on the registration label is different than the one on the cancel. This is a natural result from the fact that all Italian postal related materials, including forms and postal cards, were kept and used by the French. This led to different spellings appearing on the same cover.

The Stampless Period

Prior to the availability of provisional stamps, simple handstamped cachets were used. Consider the cover shown in Fig. 3. It was sent from Sebha on 9 May 1943, a week before the first stamp issue.

One will note a wide variety of postal markings. On the upper right hand side is a clear postmark without the city name. On the upper left side is the cancel with R.F. SEBHA/FEZZAN P.P. with amount of postage "trois francs" written in manuscript rather than digits. In the



Figure 3. Stampless cover from May 1943.

middle of the cover there is a note that this was an incorrect procedure and then had the amount written correctly under the boxed P.P. cancel “3.00” plus a hand stamp between two lines “LE RECEVEUR DES P.T.T.” with an initial under it. It also has a registration label from Sebha. The author observes that even during a war the post office gets absolutely picky — bureaucrats are the same everywhere.

III. First Provisional Issue

The first provisional stamp issues appeared in post offices on 16 May 1943. As indicated earlier, supplies of stamps found after the military takeover were sent to Algeria for overprinting. Most of these were stamps of Libya although, as will be seen, some were also stamps of Italy. The overprint was set in three lines and bars were used to obscure the country or colony name on the underlying stamps. Also, most stamps were surcharged with new values in French currency, and two or three bars were printed over the old Italian currency as needed.

Yvert et Tellier⁴, Ceres⁵, and Sassone⁶ all have

common numbering for these stamps:

- ◆ Regular postage: No. 1-10
- ◆ Airmail: No. PA1-2
- ◆ Postage dues: T1-5 (Sassone S1-5)

It should be noted that the Scott catalogs do not list any of the issues discussed in this article. Scott only mentions these provisionals in a note, and then lists the permanent issues (1946-1951) under *Libya, Issued under French Occupation*. This was, in fact, the period in which Fezzan was technically a French Military Territory.

Two of these stamps were not surcharged: No. 1 and No. PA 1. These were standard Italian stamps, and the denomination of each was 50 cent(esimi). was close enough to 50 centimes in French currency. The author feels that the color of the stamps may have played a part in the decision as No. 1 was a deep purple color and No. PA1 was dark brown. Thus, the resulting overprints would be difficult to see on these dark stamps.

The number of stamps issued was very small. At first, customers were allowed to purchase one set of stamps as a souvenir. Due to a rapid depletion of stocks, the distribution became restricted. To get stamps, one had to show what was being mailed. By the time of the third issue, only a postal official could place stamps on articles being mailed.

The Postage Stamps

Among the regular postage stamps, Y&T 10, the 50 Fr. value, had the smallest printing of only 79 stamps while Y&T 8, the 10 Fr. value, had the largest printing of 4,300 stamps. Fig. 4 illustrates some of these stamps.



Figure 4. Selected examples of the first provisional issue.



Figure 4. Letter from Mourzouk to Ghadames.



Figure 5. Reverse of cover shown in Fig. 4 illustrating transit cancels.

Fig. 5 illustrates a cover dated 19 May 1943, sent from Mourzouk to Ghadames, and franked with Y&T 3. There are three receiving marks on the reverse as seen in Fig. 5. This shows two of the different canceller formats: the enclosed double circles of Mourzouk, Brach and Ghadames, and the cancel from Sebha without the enclosing circles.

Note that the Ghadames cancel in Fig. 5 shows the "S" reversed variety. There are many minor variations in the handmade cancels often most apparent with the letters "A" and "F."

There are five errors on the first postage stamps. Four of the stamps exist with double surcharge: Y&T 1, 4, 7, and 8. Sassone also reports a triple overprint on Y&T 7.

Consider that the first issue was printed under primitive conditions, full sheets were not always available, and the plates for the surcharge were composed of either 20 or 25 subjects. Some sheets had to be printed up to 4 times on an old press with one sheet fed at a time as well as positioning the plate especially on partial sheets. It was not unusual to have a perfectly surcharged stamp next to one double surcharged. The employees responsible for doing the overprinting were not stamp printers and their priority was to get stamps into the post offices. There was virtually no quality control.

Fig 6 shows an example of the double overprint variety, in a pair with a normal copy, used on cover from Mourzouk to Sebha.

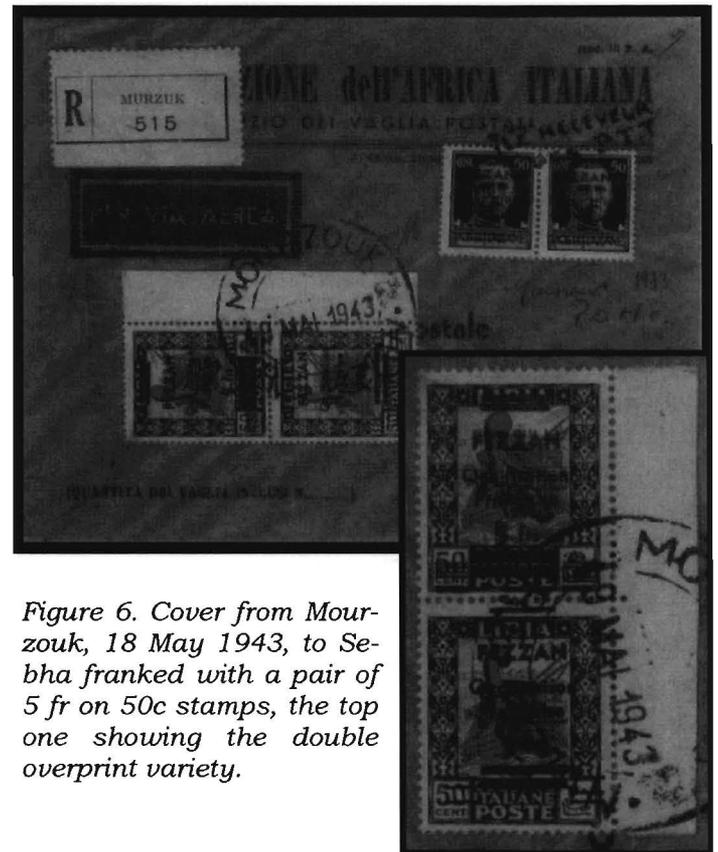


Figure 6. Cover from Mourzouk, 18 May 1943, to Sebha franked with a pair of 5 fr on 50c stamps, the top one showing the double overprint variety.

The Airmail Stamps

The first provisional issue included two airmail stamps. The first, Y&T PA 1, was overprinted on the 1930 Italian airmail, and the second, Y&T PA 2 was overprinted on the 1937 airmail stamp of Libya. These stamps, along with several of their major varieties, are shown in Fig. 7.



Figure 7. The first airmail issues and their varieties.

The Pegasus airmail stamp (PA 1) is known both with a double overprint (PA 1a of Fig. 7) and a triple overprint listed in Sassone. The second airmail (PA 2) normally has a three bar surcharge over the denomination on both the right and left hand bottom corners. In the variety, PA 2a, the surcharge has only two bars in the lower right hand corner

These airmails were used both domestically and internationally. Fig. 8 shows a cover mailed to Algeria using a block of four of PA 1. This is only one of the two covers known showing the block of four. Also of interest is the use of the military cancel of Ghadames rather than the civilian one.

In addition to the cancellers already discussed, the French Army also used military cancellers in Fezzan. Unlike the civilian cancellers, these were not made by hand. Two numbers were used: 560 in Sebha, and 561 in Ghadames. Particular numbers may have been used in



Figure 8. Usage of the first airmail stamps.

more than one location because the number is actually associated with the military unit rather than the city. This is an area that still needs much research.³

The Postage Due Stamps

An extremely limited overprinting of available Libyan postage due stamps was also made. These stamps were printed in quantities ranging from 98 of the 0.50 on 5c to 35 of the 5 fr on 1 lira. A complete mint set is shown in Fig. 9.⁷

There is one notable variety of the postage dues. The 1fr on 10c exists with a double overprint, one in black and one in red (Y&T TT2a). The postage due stamps were actually used and a cover is illustrated in Fig. 10.⁸ Not only is the cover itself a rarity, but two of the three postage due stamps are the double overprint varieties!



Figure 9. The provisional postage due stamps.

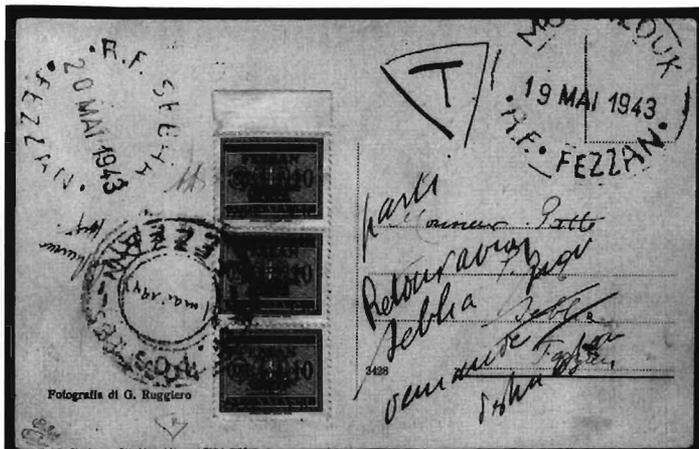


Figure 10. Postage due cover showing strip of three 1f on 10c dues. The top two are the two-color, double overprint varieties.

A Note on Postal Rates

A number of students have attempted to unravel the postal rates of Fezzan for both domestic and international mail. No official rate information appears to have been published.³ Such studies have generally been futile. This is why no analysis of rates is done for the covers shown in this article.

IV. Second Provisional Issue

Postmaster Gaston Patte and the Fezzan postal administration learned their lesson from the first provisional issue. Recall that they allowed each European to buy one complete set of postage stamps including air mails and postage due stamps. The stamps were "too" popular and restrictions were quickly introduced as some Europeans obtained many more of them.

By June 1943 the supply of stamps was nearly exhausted. The decision was made to produce more stamps in Sebha using a handmade overprints. The surprise came when the officials discovered they did not have as many Italian and Libyan stamps as they expected. The decision was made to use up three of the eleven types of stamps remaining in stock.

These were the same three stamps used for the first provisional issue, namely the 50 centesimi King's head and the 50 Pegasus air mail. They were both overprinted with a new value. These stamps, Y&T 18 and Y&T PA3, as well as the distinctive overprint, are shown in Fig. 11.



Y&T 18



Y&T PA3

R.F. 1 Fr
FEZZAN



Y&T 19

Figure 11. The second provisional issue.

The Libyan 25 centesimi stamp depicting Abudiatia was overprinted with a simpler, two line overprint (Y&T 19), also seen in Fig. 11. The dies for this overprint were handmade by the Postmaster, Gaston Patte. These three new stamps could only be purchased at the Post Office counter on an as-needed basis.

An interesting censor cover, mailed from Sebha to Algeria, is shown in Fig. 12. The franking includes all three of the second issue provisionals.

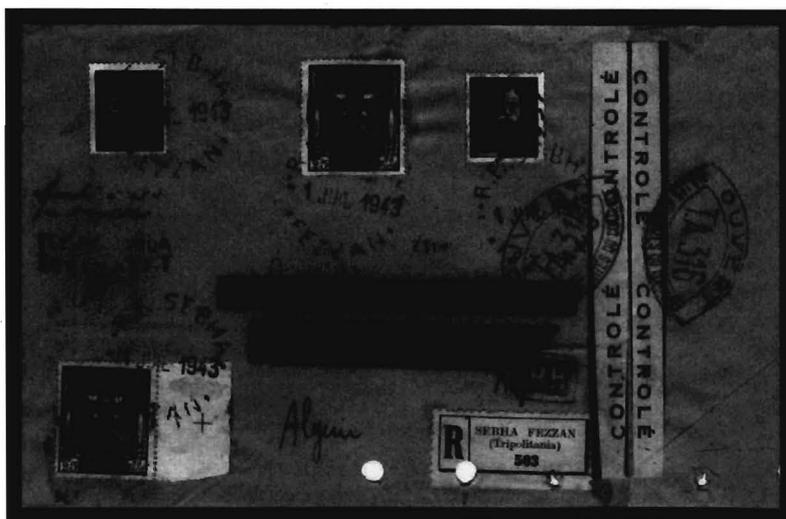


Figure 12. All second provisional values on letter from Sebha to Algeria. Enhanced to show typical war-time censor tape.

This particular cover has a special historical significance, as well. It contained a mimeographed list of the Fezzan stamp issues along with the quantities printed. Shown in Fig. 13, it appears to be a copy of a similar document that appears in Ref. 3, page 40.

V. Third Provisional Issue

The third, and final, provisional issue was in July 1943 (Y&T 21-27, Sass. 13-19). The straight-line overprint used on Y&T 19 was applied to available stocks of Libyan parcel post stamps of 1915-31. Available quantities ranged from 90 copies of the 5c Libyan stamp to only three of the 2, 3 and 4 lira stamps. This resulted in some of the rarest stamps from any country in the world. A complete set of these stamps was offered in 2007 by the Italian dealer Zanaria.⁹

This set is shown in Fig. 14. Note that all of the values are used. Experts believe that all of the existing examples of these stamps are used, even though they are listed in both mint and used condition in both the Yvert & Tellier and Sassone catalogues.

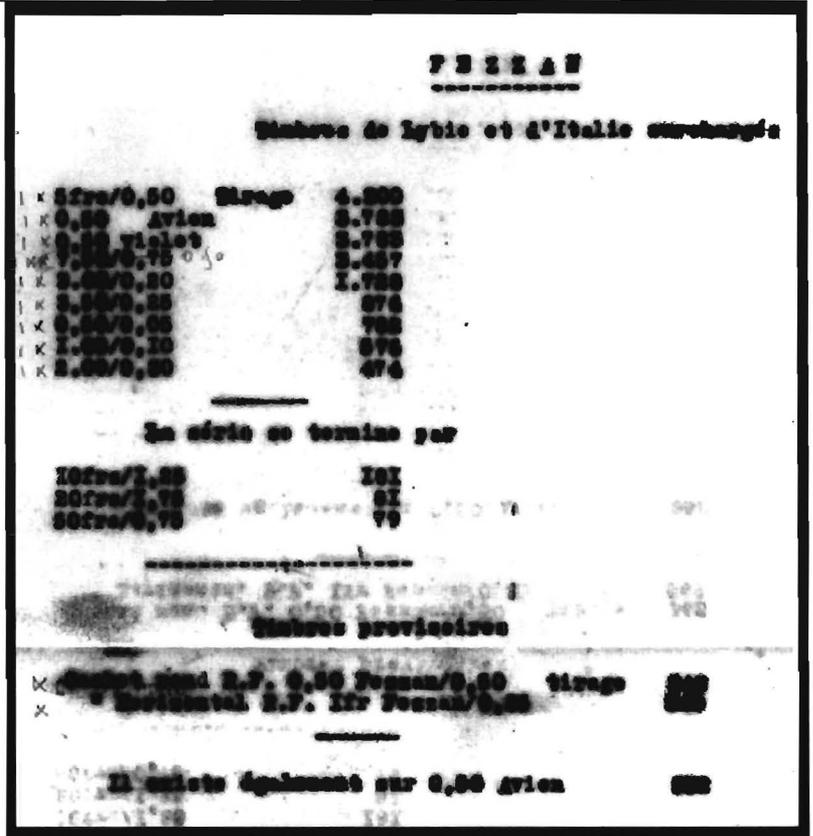


Figure 13. Document found inside the cover shown in Fig. 12.

A usage of two values on a philatelic post card is shown in Fig. 15.

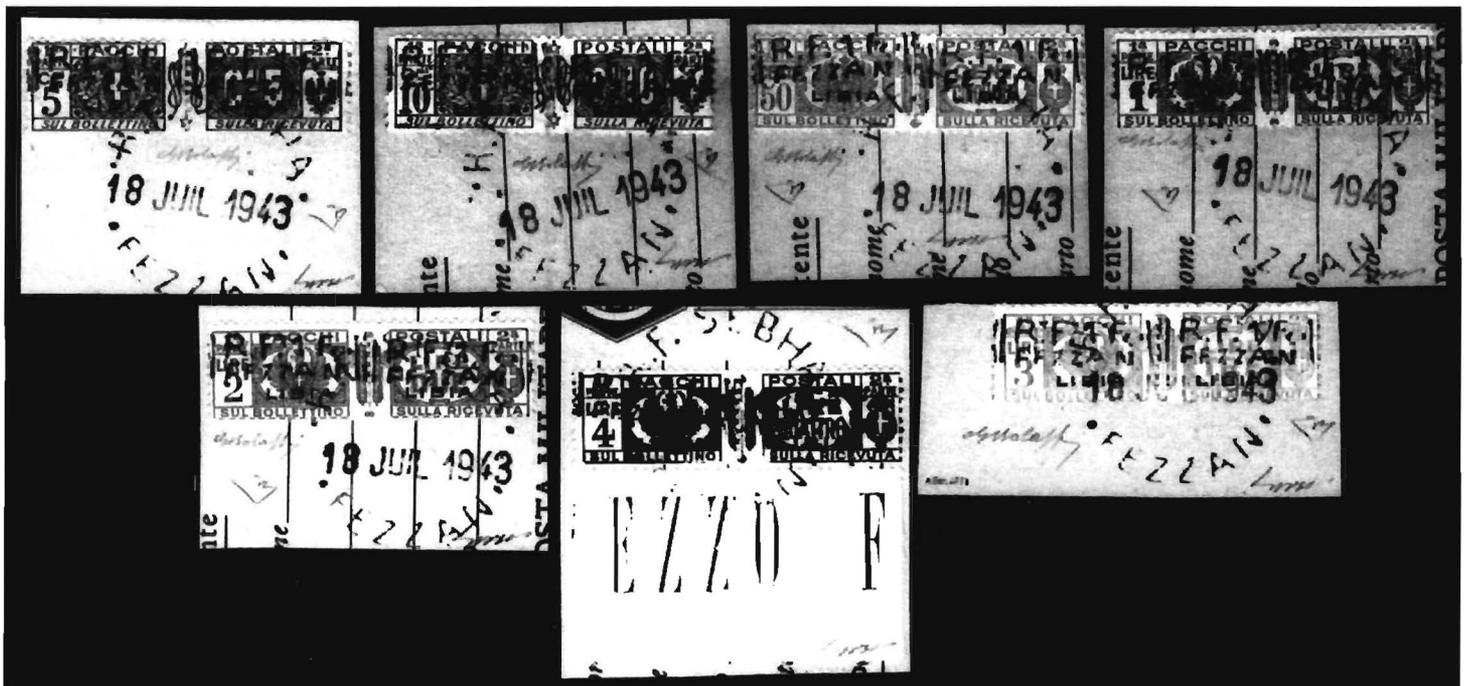


Figure 14. One of only three possible complete sets of the third provisional issue.

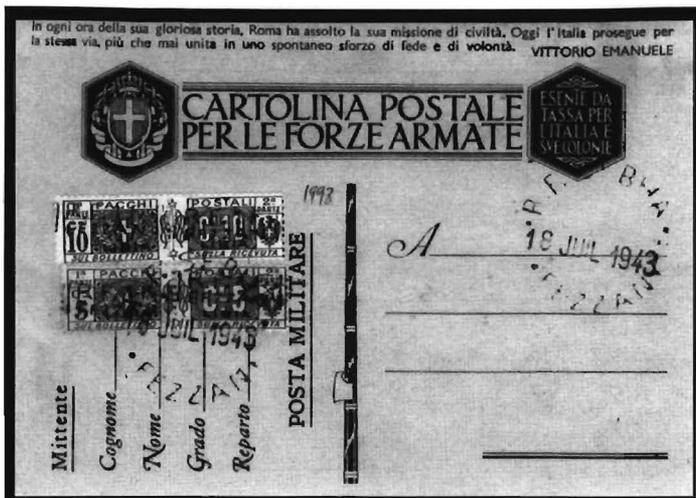


Figure 15. Postal card with two pairs of the third provisional issue. Although philatelic, there are very few usages of this issue.

VI. The End of an Era

Patte knew he had to return to the "PORT PAYE" cachet as only a few provisional stamps were left in stock. He had handstamps made that had the appearance of a stamp, even showing serrated edges. This is seen in the top right of center of the cover shown in Fig. 16. Also present is a regular SEBHA cancel dated 12 July 1943. The cover has a receiving cancel of 15 July 1943 on the back. The addressee received it the next day as evidenced by the written date on the upper left. The cover has an Italian registration label. During this period, there was an overlap in the usage of stampless covers and covers fully paid with stamps, or

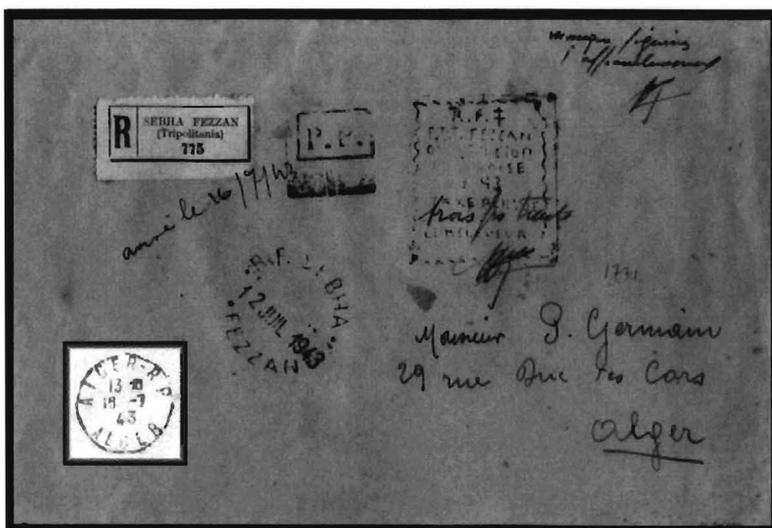


Figure 16. Example of the return to stampless covers.

even combinations of stamps and cachets. The author feels that Patte knew that it was over for stamps after the third issue. The author does not have a "combination type" cover to illustrate, but a cover has recently appeared with 24 francs postage —20 francs in adhesive stamps, and 4 francs paid in cash evidenced by the new handstamp seen in Figure 16.

VII. Conclusion

This paper has provided an overview of the complex and rare stamps issues of Fezzan under French Military occupation. It has described the three provisional stamp issues and how they were created by the postmaster, Mr. Gaston Patte. Examples of their usage in domestic and international mails illustrate their validity.

Any collector interested in collecting this area must have the catalogs shown in the reference list, and even better, all of the other historical and philatelic references, as well.

VIII. References

1. Taub, M., "Fezzan-Ghadames A Modern Philatelic Mystery," Reprint from the *American Philatelist*, 1964, 27 pages published by the American Philatelic Society, Inc, State college, PA. USA 16801
2. Michaud, D., "Fezzan quelques timbres nous font revivre le debut de l'épopée des Français Libres," *Timbres Magazine*, No. 68, May 2006, pp.68-73.
3. Calderon, M. and T., *L'occupazione Francese del Fezzan nella Libia Italiana*, 190 pages, Padova, Italy, 1997.
4. *Catalogue de Timbres-Poste, Tome II, 1^{re} partie, Colonies Françaises*, Yvert & Tellier, Amiens, France, 2008.
5. *Catalogue des Timbres-Poste, Anciennes Colonies Françaises, Tome A*, Editeur CERES Philatelie, Paris, 2008
6. *Catalogo dei Francobolli d'Italia e Paesi Italiani, Terzo Volume*, Sassone S.R.L., Rome, Italy, 2008.
7. Cherrystone Auctions, New York, NY, June 2008, Lot 4040.
8. *Ibid.*, Lot 4042.
9. Zanaria Filatelici, *Estate 2007—Vendita a Prezzi Netti Area Italiana*, Milan, Italy, 2007, Lot 4052..

French Philately on the World Wide Web

Bob Seeke (FCPS 1344)

There is a wealth of information on just about any conceivable subject available on the world wide web. French Philately is no exception. Here are some web sites our readers may find interesting and helpful:

[www.abelard.org/france/
marianne.php#commemorative](http://www.abelard.org/france/marianne.php#commemorative)

A site devoted to the French allegorical figure Marianne. A wealth of historical information as well as illustrations of many stamp designs featuring Marianne. Much non-philatelic content and links makes for very pleasant browsing even for those who are not collectors. This site is in **English**. I found it very easy to get totally absorbed in its content.

www.ffap.net

The official web site of the *Fédération Française des Associations Philatéliques*. Devoted to promoting many philatelic societies in France, this site includes show schedules, previous show awards, links to dealers and publications, and much more. This site is in **French**.

www.amisdemarianne.free.fr

The web site of the *Cercle des Amis de Marianne*, devoted to stamps which have Marianne as the theme. Includes many articles from past editions of the society journal. Well worth a visit. In **French**, membership is not required.

www.sococodami.com

The web site of the *Société des Collectionneurs de Coins Datés et Millésimes*. While membership is required to access information about printing dates of stamps and booklets, there is much of interest to the casual collector of *car-nets* and *coins datés*. In **French**.

www.museedelaposte.fr

The web site of the French Postal Museum at 34, boulevard de Vaugirard in Paris. Very comprehensive description of what is available at the museum, including a micro-tour. Well

worth an advance look if one is planning to visit the museum.

www.accp-asso.com

The web site of the *Association des Collectionneurs de Carnets et Publicitimbres*. Well worth a visit by anyone interested in the booklets of France. In **French**, membership is not required.

www.laposte.fr

The web site of the French postal service.

www.ceres.fr

While no longer publishing a yearly catalog, Ceres is still a big presence in French philately. Their web site provides ample information about publications for sale and their auctions.

<www.yvert.com>

Yvert et Tellier's web site.

www.academiedephilatelie.org

Site of the prestigious *Académie de Philatélie*. Provides a description of who they are, what they do, their quarterly *Documents Philatéliques*, and other research publications available. In **French**.

www.typesage.fr

A site developed by our member **François Delpy** that provides interesting research on the use of the type Sage stamps in the French community. In **French**.

There are many dealers in France who have their own web sites, but that is beyond the scope of this list.

Have fun surfing! Correspondence is always welcome:

csweeke@gmail.com

or:

866 La Costa Lane
North Fort Myers, FL 33917.

We Get Letters

I have been a long time member of *FCPS* but have been away from collecting for many years. I recently started up again and started to look more closely at our club periodical. My question is why do we no longer have an area of member to member contact for assistance and for products and services. I collect P.O.'s Abroad and as such would like to buy and trade with other members. This was once possible but seems to no longer be the case.

Gerald Smiley (FCPS 1553)

I assured Mr. Smiley that we are still happy to publish member to member appeals. For the most part, these have not been submitted to the Editor. Perhaps many readers have been under this impression. I direct you to page 65.

I read with great interest Bob Kinsley's article (No. 296, Vol.65 No. 2) on French Army markings 1791-1815, and while appreciating that the article was intended purely as an overview of the postal markings of the period, I would however draw attention to what is most probably a misunderstanding of the monetary system in use between 1791 and 1799 in Revolutionary France.

The very attractive ARM. DU NORD letter (Fig. 1) is described in paragraph 2 as showing postage due in *décimes*, this manuscript mark is I suggest a postage due charge of 14 sous, the rate for a letter not enclosed in an envelope and weighing $> \frac{1}{4}$ once, travelling between 150 and 180 *lieues* under the tariff of 1792. The decimal systems for money (1 franc = 10 *décimes* or 100 *centimes*), weights (*grammes*) and measures (*kilomètres*) not being generally introduced into postal rates until the law of 27 *frimaire an VIII* (December 18th 1799) became operative as the tariff of 1^{er} *Germinal an VIII* (22 March 1800).

From a postal history aspect it is worth noting that within the tariff of 15 *messidor an IV* (3 July 1796) internal, town to town letters and also items of printed matter were taxed in *sous* or the same number of 5 centime coins while still being weighed according to the once. e.g. a letter taxed at 6 *sous* could be paid for with 6

coins of 5 centimes.

12 deniers = 1 sol; 20 sols = 1 livre

1 sol = 1 sou = 5 centimes

1 lieue = circa 5 kilomètres

1 once = 8 gros = 30.594 grammes pre 1812
and 31.25 grammes post 1812

Notes: *Ancien régime* and up until 1800:

Sources and suggested further reading:

1. Instruction Générale sur le Service des Postes 1792
2. Introduction à l'Histoire Postale des Origines à 1848 – Michèle CHAUVET 2 vols. Brun et Fils 2000.
3. Documents Philatéliques no. 153, le Tarif du 27 frimaire an VIII

With best wishes,

Peter Maybury (FCPS 3371)
York, England

First, let me say how much I thoroughly enjoyed our exhibition and annual meeting in Denver. The camaraderie, viewing of exhibits and opportunity to discuss common interests with other *FCPS* members were very enjoyable experiences.

I have recently been experimenting with creating a stamp-related video to put on the Youtube site. There are actually two videos, each of which feature some of the beautiful pictorials of France over a sound track of "I Love Paris." I plan on adding more, also featuring French stamps.

Members can view one or both of these videos at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=toioJfkIV-E

or

www.youtube.com/watch?v=QV4kd11fVfU

Please provide me with any and all feedback on using this new technology. I may be reached at broadhea@utk.edu.

Tom Broadhead (FCPS 2830)

In the near future, this may become a simple and cost-effective manner in which to share our information. We'll follow this closely.

Member to Member

I have been away from collecting for many years but would like to throw myself back-in; as such I would like to communicate with other members that have my interests (France P.O.'s Abroad Used). I am interested in buying, trading or just getting information on what dealers handle this area.

I also have available Lindner-T hingeless pages for France (1960-1974) with or with-out stamps that I would like to trade (or sell). It includes 18 ring binder and slipcase in excellent condition. Please contact:

Gerald Smiley
316 North 74th Street
Milwaukee, Wi 53213

email: smiley31j@yahoo.com

The time has come for me to dispose of unwanted and unneeded stamps. I have collections of all the definitive issues from Type Blanc thru Lamouche. They are all heavy in *coins datés* and/or *millèsimes*, with a few singles and varieties. Also some items from 20th century France cataloging up to 1,350 Euros. All are priced very reasonably and looking for good homes. If interested, please contact:

Bob Seeke
866 La Costa Lane
N. Fort Myers, FL 33917

email: cwseeke@gmail.com

Would like to trade, buy, or sell France and offices overseas. Routine material 40% MNH, 35% MH or used, auction type material at estimated 10% less than auction prices. Contact:

Jack Shartsis
12923 Lincoln Drive,
Huntington Woods, MI 48070

email: jeshartsis@wowway.com

I have a number of New Caledonian issues from the WWII era. They were given to me by M. Richard Bernier, *Chef du Service Topographique* and son of a former Postmaster General of the Colony. For a list of stamps and more information, contact:

Richard N. Berry
650 Brighton Ave
Portland, ME 04102-1035

email: richardberry@gwi.net

"New Kind of Essay" Clarified

In the last *FCP* (No. 296, pp 43-44) I wrote about a "New Kind of Essay" that I had found of the 1914 postage due stamp of Senegal.

Of course, it's not new at all. My oversight was not realizing that this was one of the well-known *cussinet d'impression*, or *mise en train*, varieties documented in the French literature. The definition used in France (*Timbres de France, Le Spécialisé, 1849-1900*, Vol. I, Yvert & Tellier, 2000) is:

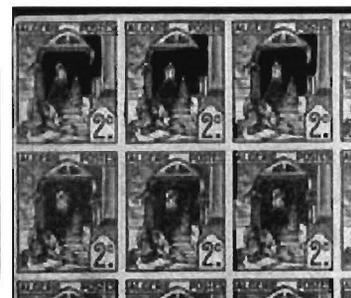
"Pour la confection des mises en train, indispensables en typographie, des galvanos sont imprimés, sur des papiers d'épaisseurs variables, dans des couleurs diverses. On connaît des découpages de ces mises en train, également dénommés 'cousinets d'impression.'"

In other words, when printing stamps by typography trial impressions may determine that certain parts of the plate are not yielding a sharp impression. Therefore a cushion (*cousinnet*), or pad, may be placed above the paper to even the pressure on the plate. This pad may be constructed from a proof sheet that has had portions cutout, or, in some case built-up. This also explains why the cut-outs often look amateurish: it's not necessary to be precise to reduce the pressure.

While I was familiar with this procedure for the classic French stamps, including Cérés and Napoléon, I didn't realize it was still being used into the 1930s. Two other more modern examples, taken from the Caphila.free.fr web site are shown below.

I would like to thank Messrs. Jean-Philippe Kalkstein and Jean-François Brun for helping me to clarify this situation.

1924 Monaco



1926 Algeria

British Caribbean Mail: The French Connection

Charles Freeland, *FRPSL* and David L. Herendeen (*FCPS 2532*)

[Charles Freeland, of Basel, Switzerland, is one of the foremost collectors and scholars of British Caribbean philately. I have asked Charles for several years if he might contribute something for the FCP, and he gave me the basic materials for this little gem at Westpex 2008. I've been somewhat remiss in taking so long to publish it.

Nearly all of the covers shown in this article have long provenance in many major collections of British Caribbean material. I have decided to omit these since most of us would not recognize the names.]

Throughout the 19th century a large number of mail packets, both British and French, plied the Caribbean. In particular, the westernmost islands were serviced by packets of both countries. These routes are shown in Fig. 1.¹

At various times, it was possible to use one nation's packets to save a significant amount on postage over those of the other nation. One might also use a specific packet because of a more favorable schedule.

This article looks specifically at letters from British islands, both within the Caribbean and to Europe, that were carried by French packets.

Intra-Caribbean Mail

Usages of French packets between British colonies in the Caribbean basin are very rare. The first example, shown in Fig. 2, was mailed from the small island of St. Vincent (see Kingstown on the left map in Fig. 1) on 22 May 1869 to Demerara (Georgetown) in British Guiana. It was carried by the French packet on

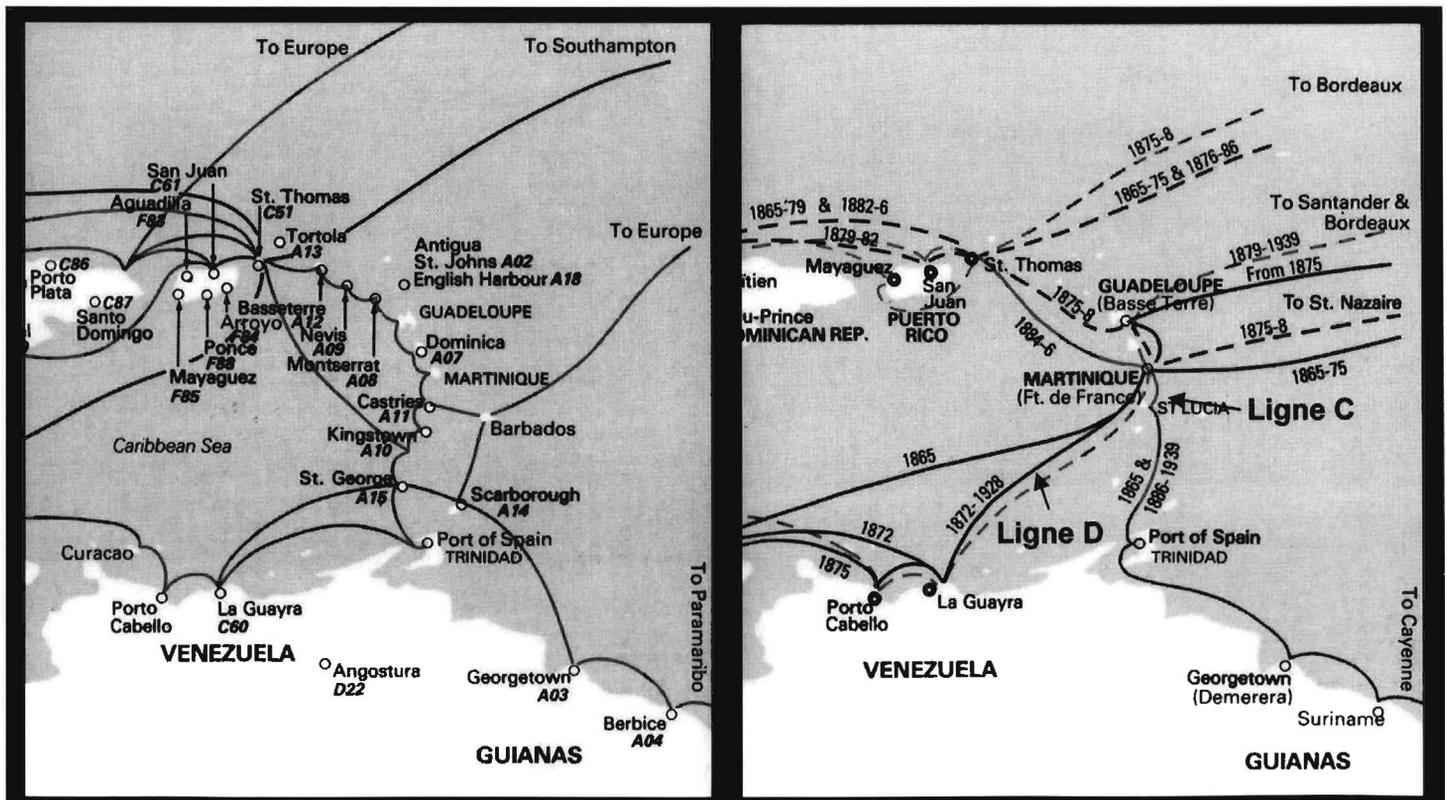


Figure 1. The British and French Packets in the Caribbean ca. 1850.

the feeder line from Fort de France to Cayenne for 4d. At this time, the rate charged by the British steamers was 6d per ¼ ounce. The cover shows a faint red handstamp PD (small arrow in Fig. 2) to indicate it was paid to its destination. It was backstamped Georgetown upon arrival in Demerara on 27 May.

Even rarer, the only example of the franking known, is the double rate cover shown in Fig. 3. It also exhibits the manuscript French Mail and a PD handstamp. Salles² indicates that both of these covers would have been carried by the French interisland steamer *Guyane*.

Mail to Europe

Naturally, there was more mail volume to Europe from the Caribbean than there was between islands. However, such mail is also very scarce.

Fig. 4 is a cover mailed from St. Lucia on 4 December 1869 to wine merchants *Audebert Frères* in Bordeaux. Paid with two 4d stamps, this historic cover was mailed on board *Messageries Maritimes* steamer en route to Fort de France. The stamps were canceled with the always scarce lozenge with anchor. The *Ligne C*

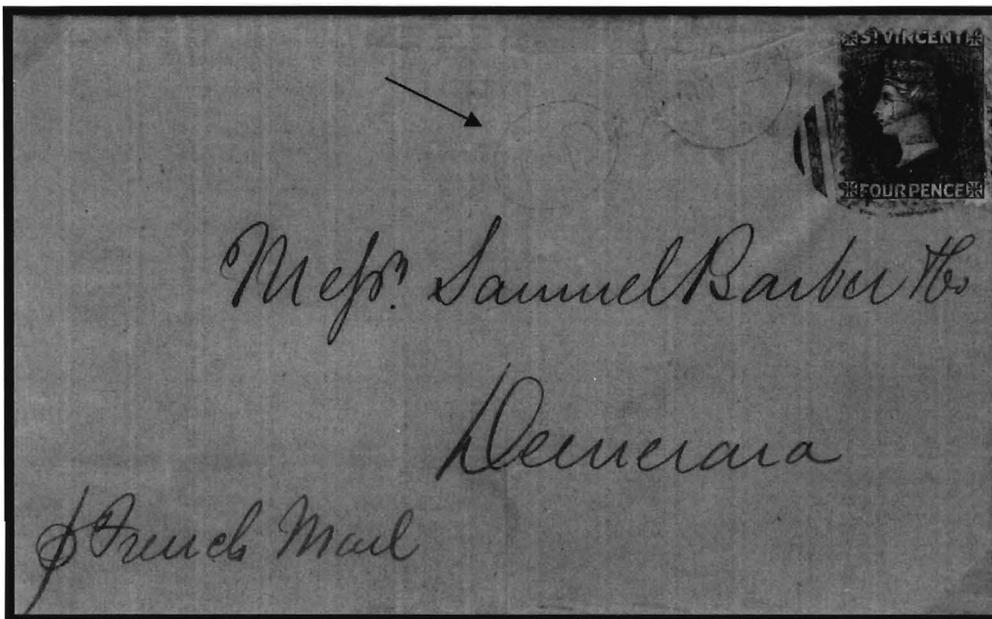


Figure 2.
St. Vincent to
British Guiana
4d French Packet Rate.

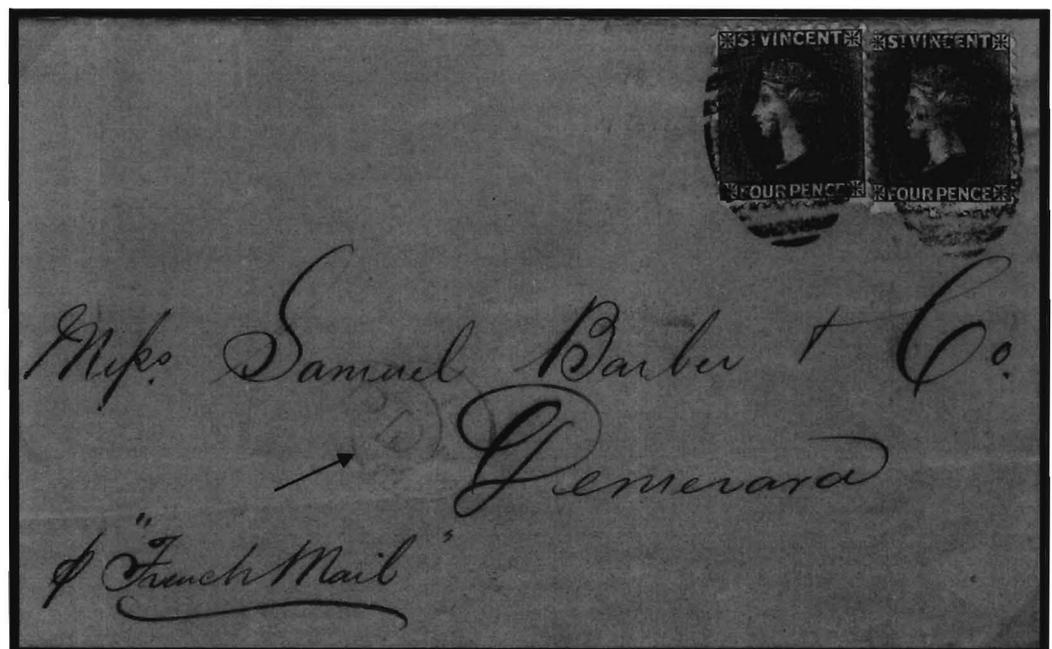


Figure 3.
St. Vincent to
British Guiana
8d Double Rate for
French Packet.



Figure 4. Only recorded cover from the British Caribbean cancelled on board a French packet.

canceller, dated 7 December 1869 is well struck as is the black boxed PD. In Fort de France it transferred to the *Imp. Eugénie* for onward carriage via Ligne A, as shown by a 9 December backstamp. Again, according to Salles, the *Eugénie* reached St Nazaire on 24 December and a further backstamp confirms its arrival in Bordeaux on Christmas Day (are today's postmen so diligent?)

This cover, first reported in 1949,³ is the only recorded St. Lucia cover canceled on board a French packet, and the earliest known date for the *Ste. Lucie* paquebot marking.

Sometimes the routing from the Caribbean to Europe was complicated. For example, the cover shown in Fig. 5 was mailed from British Guiana to London on 5 January 1880.⁴ It was

first carried on *Ligne C* to Martinique, then transferred to *Ligne A* crossing the Atlantic to St. Nazaire. According to Salles, the *Lafayette* left Fort de France on 10 January, reaching St Nazaire on 25 January. The cover then traveled to London by cross-channel steamer, confirmed by the London dates-tamp of 26 January. This unusual route cost 8c which was equivalent to the standard 4d UPU rate.

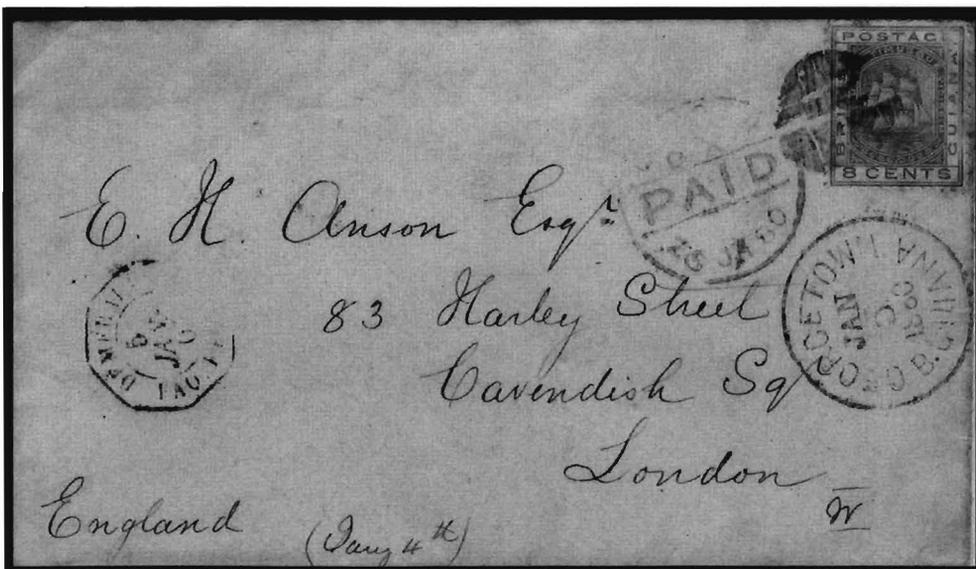


Figure 5. British Guiana to London, 1880.

An even more convoluted routing is shown for the cover in Fig. 6. It was sent from Belfield, British Guiana

on 5 October 1882 to Huntly, UK. The docketing was:

- Belfield, British Guiana, 5 Oct
- Georgetown, British Guiana, 5 Oct
- Fort de France, Martinique, 10 Oct
- Huntly, UK, 25 Oct

Backstamps, also shown in Fig. 6, include the Demerara Railway and the French *Ligne A* markings. Salles records that the French steamer *Washington* left Martinique on 10 October 1882, reaching St Nazaire on 23 October.

The Paquebot Cancels

As seen in Fig. 1, the French packets had many routes through the Caribbean islands. The distinctive cancels for the two marks discussed in this article, *Démérari* and *Ste. Lucie*, are shown in Fig. 7. Similar examples are known for Trinidad (*Trinité*) and, rarely, for Kingston (*Jamaica*). All these marks were applied at Fort de France to mail being unloaded from the *Ligne C* steamers or to mail on departing steamers. Salles also records marks for Grenada and St Vincent, but no examples have been reported.

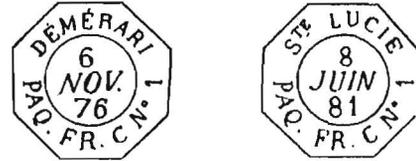


Figure 7. Two Paquebot Cancels of the French Lines (there are two others)

Conclusion

Examples of mail carried from the British Caribbean colonies by French ships, whether within the Caribbean or to Europe, are seldom encountered. The handful shown in this article are among only 20 examples that the author has gathered in more than 40 years of collecting British West Indies postal history.

Endnotes

1. Wellsted, W.R., S. Rossiter, and J. Flower, *The Stamp Atlas*, Facts on File Publications, New York, 1986.
2. Salles R., *La Poste Maritime Française Tome IV*, 1965.
3. Godden, F., "Notes on the Homan collection," *St. Lucia Philatelist*, No. 2, 1949.
4. Schlunegger Dr E. and C. Freeland "Demerari Paq Fr C No 1 mark," *British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin*, Whole No. 218, September 2008, pp 18-20.

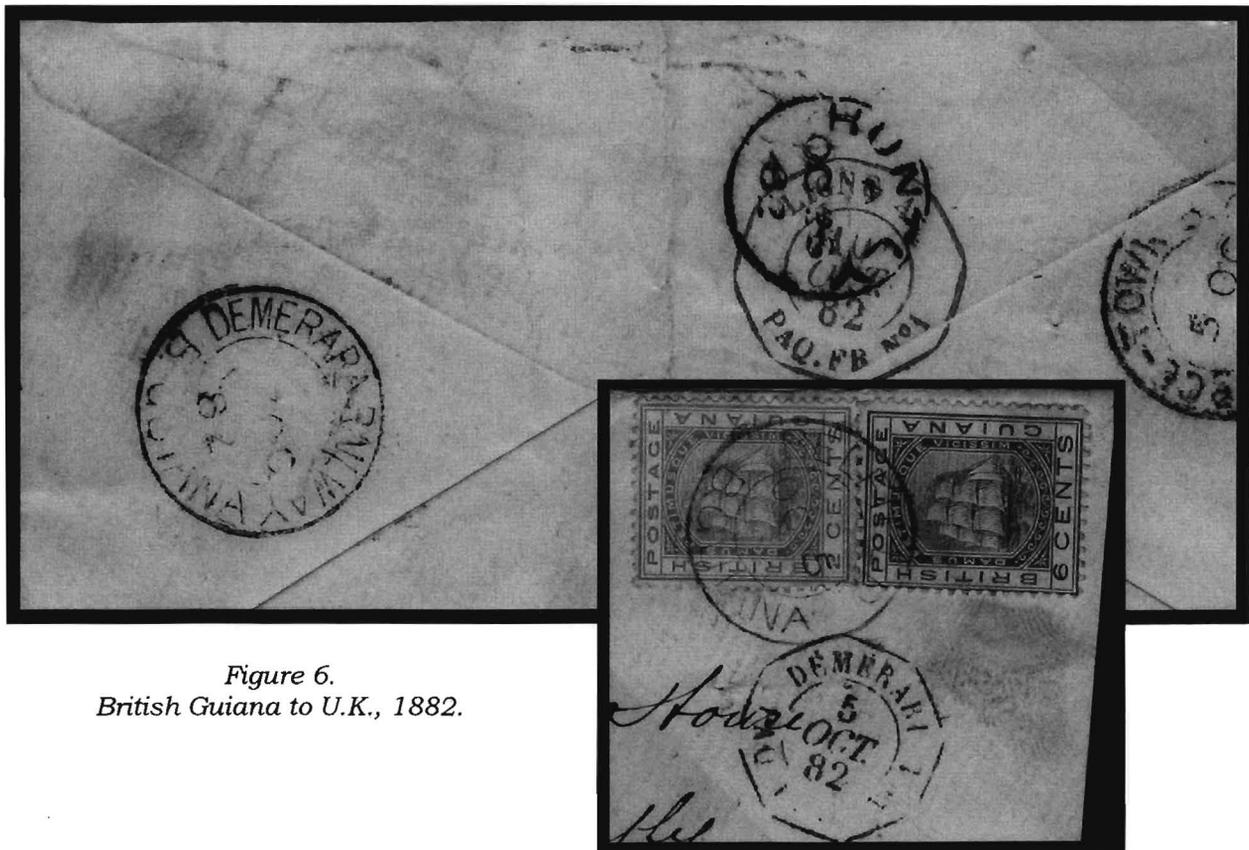


Figure 6. British Guiana to U.K., 1882.

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Fezzan: Ray McGarrity

Why I Exhibit: Steve Tucker

Marie Curie Stamps: Ron Hill

The First Issue of AOF? - Steve Tucker

Post Offices in Paradise? - Ralph DeBoard

The First Issue of French Guiana: Jeff Ward

Research at Le Musée de la Poste, Paris: Dave Herendeen

Real or Fake? How Does a Philatelist Know For Sure? Dr. Ed Grabowski

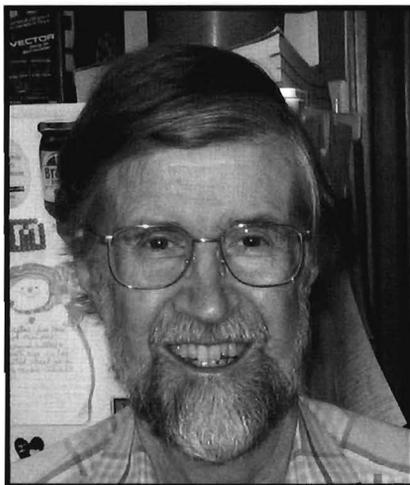


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Bratzel Wins First Excellence in Research Award

Leading expert on Cameroun philately, **Dr. Marty Bratzel**, has been awarded the first **Excellence in Research Award** for his article "Non-Postal Datestamps on Cameroun Postage Stamps and Mail." This article appeared in the *FCP* of April 2008 (No. 292, pp. 27-31).

Dr. Norvil Rasmussen, FCPS Vice-President chaired the selection committee which also included Director **Jeff Bohn**. This award, which includes an honorarium of \$250, has been graciously donated by *FCP* Editor **Dave Herendeen**. As Mr. Herendeen notes, the purpose for this award is simple: to inspire members to write more articles for the *FCP*.



Dr. Marty Bratzel

Dr. Bratzel has received numerous awards for his writing about the postal history of the French Cameroun. Most recently, his book entitled **The Postal Tariffs of Cameroun Under French Administration 1916-1959** was the recipient of the FCPS 2007 Gerard Gilbert award for the best philatelic publication, written in English, on a subject under the purview of the FCPS.

It's not too late to throw your hat into the ring for 2009 or even subsequent years. The Editor would like, once again, to note

that he is always eager to help all authors, new and returning, to turn their ideas into great articles. Don't be afraid to try, share your knowledge with fellow collectors.

THE FCPS SPACE.

Avant le déluge !

Except during meetings, the FCPS table always had from three to eight members sitting around and talking—what else? - philately.

Most of our Exhibitors

Top row, left to right, Loïc Detcheverry, Ralph DeBoard, Jeff Ward, John Bloor, and Tom Broadhead. Second row, Bob Kinsley, Paul Larsen, Steve Tucker, and Ed Grabowski. Third row, J.-J. Tillard, Jim Taylor, Stan Luft, Pat Moeser and Ron Hill.



The Awards Banquet



From the foreground, clockwise: Ray McGarrity, Paul Larsen, Rich Drews, Ken Nilsestuen, Joe Crosby, Ralph DeBoard, Jean-Jacques Tillard, and Loïc Detcheverry



From the left, clockwise: Tom Broadhead, Steve Tucker, Ed Grabowski, Stan Luft, Bob Kinsley, Eliot Landau, and Jim Taylor.



The FCPS dinner. From left: Eliot Landau, Tom Broadhead, Bob Kinsley, John Bloor and Anita Bloor.



Herendeen (looking more goofy than usual) with Jean-Jacques Tillard and Loïc Detcheverry, both from St. Pierre et Miquelon.

The FCPS Dinner



From left: Ed Grabowski, Steve Tucker, Paul Larsen and Ralph DeBoard.

Ed Grabowski Wins FCPS Grand Prix

Ed Grabowski, FCPS member and recording secretary, won the 2009 FCPS Grand Prix in Denver, CO for his exhibit *Indochina and the French Offices in China: Use of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type*. Ed was also one of five candidates for the Grand Award of the show.

Ed's exhibit notes that Indochina received its first definitive stamp issue, the Allegorical Group Type, in early 1893. The issue was then used until World War I. A full compliment of postal stationery (postal cards, letter cards and envelopes) was also created for this issue. His exhibit examines the use of this issue (stamps and postal stationery) from its inception. Indochina represents the most complex use of the Group Type of all of the French Colonies. Ed notes that this colony was divided into five provinces reflecting the evolution of French influence in the area. By 1893 this influence was well established in the coastal provinces of Cochinchina and Annam and Tonkin. However, the western provinces of Cambodia and Laos were still under development. In the late 1890s the issue was overprinted for use in the French Offices in China, thus

adding another dimension to the use of this important issue. Combination covers from China also resulted since China was not a member of the UPU. All of these areas of the use of the Group Type are examined in his exhibit, with important aspects of the nonuse of the issue (military franchise mail, *franchise militaire* mail, government franchise mail, etc.) also covered in order to show representational completeness.

In 1893, fourteen values of the Group Type, ranging from 1c to 5Fr arrived in Indochina. Also included was an overprint for use on parcel post mail. In 1900 the colors of five of these values were changed to conform to UPU requirements,

and then in 1903 two overprints were created to fill a shortage of the commonly used lower values and an additional parcel post overprint was created. These stamps, plus the compliment of postal stationery, represent the totality of what was used in the colony. The extensive overprinting of this issue for philatelic purposes, such as that done in Guadeloupe and New Caledonia, was never done in Indochina.

Ed states that the rate structure under UPU auspices was relatively simple: 1c was the local printed matter rate (extremely rare on cover); 5c was the overseas printed matter and short message post card rate (less than twelve words); 10c was the rate for post cards (more than twelve words) and within the French Community beginning in late 1906; 15c was the reduced military rate until 1899, the local letter rate until 1906

and the French Community letter rate from 1899 to 1906; and, finally, 25c was the French Community letter until 1899 and the overseas letter rate throughout the period.

Registration was 25c and declared value letters included a charge for postage based on weight, 25c for registration and

an additional charge for insurance based on the declared value. Weights for regular mail increased in increments of fifteen grams. Additional rates are discussed as encountered in his exhibit.

His display includes an examination of mail from the individual provinces with a strong emphasis on rare material from the smaller villages which abound in this colony. Frequently, covers shown are the only recorded copies franked with the Group Type. Postal stationery is not treated as a separate category, but included with the individual provinces as relevant. As always with a Grabowski exhibit, an incredibly thorough showing of very scarce material well-presented.



Dr. Grabowski receiving the FCPS Grand Prix from president Ken Nilsestuen.

Denver: The Presentations

The eight PowerPoint presentations given by members were received warmly by the 25 members in attendance each of the two days. Those giving talks are shown in the adjacent photo (new member Ron Hill was unavailable).

The talks given were: **Fezzan** (Ray McGarrity), **Why I Exhibit** (Steve Tucker), **Marie Curie Stamps** (Ron Hill), **The First Issue of French Guiana**, (Jeff Ward), **Real or Fake? How Does a Philatelist Know For Sure?** (Ed Grabowski), **The First Issue of AOF?** (Steve Tucker), **Post Offices in Paradise** (Ralph DeBoard), and **Research at Le Musée de la Poste, Paris** (Dave Herendeen).

Attendees indicated that they learned a lot of new information, and many said they would like to prepare a talk in the future. . A poll of the audience resulted in three

“unofficial” awards. The **Most Popular** went to Ralph Deboard for his pictures of French Polynesian post offices, the **Best Research** to Jeff Ward for his study of the first issue of French Guiana, and the **Best Overall** to Ed Grabowski for sharing lessons he has learned while purchasing expensive covers.

Each of the presenters is heartily commended for their conscientious preparation and their well-paced and interesting talks.



From left: McGarrity, Tucker, Grabowski, Ward, DeBoard, Herendeen

Denver: The Exhibit Tours



From left: Larsen, Luft, Broadhead, Tucker, McGarrity and Taylor.

Sunday is usually a quiet time at shows with collectors paying for items purchased earlier during the weekend and, for the exhibitors, hanging around waiting to dismount their exhibits.

In order to pass the time more profitably, FCPS exhibitors waiting to collect their exhibits at the end of the show participated in a tour, also

called a “walkthrough,” wherein many exhibits were described by their owners, and methods of organizing and treating similar subjects were discussed.

Members participating included **Paul Larsen, Stan Luft, Tom Broadhead, Steve**

Tucker, Ray McGarrity, Jim Taylor, Jeff Ward and **Dave Herendeen**.

Of special interest were the comparisons of the exhibits of colonies in Africa (AOF, French Guinea, Ubangi-Shari and Sudan and Niger) and the Americas (St. Pierre et Miquelon and French Guinea)

Denver: FCPS Exhibits and Exhibitors

The 2009 FCPS exhibition included 22 exhibits entered by 14 of our members. The 131 frames of French-related material was the most in at least the last 20 years.

Incredibly, as you will see below, our members received 13 Gold Medals, two were candidates for the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (RMSS) Grand Award. (See photo below) Additionally, members received six Vermeil medals and two silvers. Special awards went to seven FCPS exhibits, including three of the APS time-period awards, pre-1900, 1900-1940 and 1940-1980.

The Jury

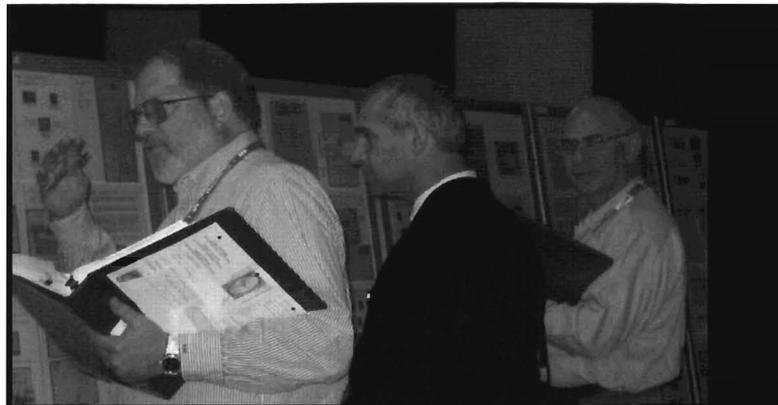
An excellent jury was responsible not only for the France and Colonies exhibits, but also for the convening societies of Cuban and Czech collectors. We were fortunate to have two judges, **Eliot Landau** and **Jay Carrigan**, on the jury. Because of the large number of colonial exhibits, **Dave Herendeen** served as an additional consultant to the jury.



Eliot Landau

The Exhibits

A list of the FCPS exhibits and their awards are shown on the next page. A tabular form was needed to list all of these spectacular results



Members of the jury hard at work. From the left, Rich Drews (Chief Judge), Yamil Koury and Alex Ioannides. FCPS judges Eliot Landau and Jay Carrigan not shown.

given the fantastic turnout that we had.

On to Chicago

In 2010, our Annual Meeting and Exhibition will be held in conjunction with the popular Chicagopex show. This will be held from 17-19 November in Arlington Heights, IL (a Chicago suburb).

It was great to have a number of important representatives from Chicago with us in Denver. **Eliot Landau** and Rich Drews indicated that we could expect a warm welcome in Chicago. Our exhibitor **Paul Larsen** is also a prominent member of the Chicago philatelic fraternity. FCPS expects to have another fantastic exhibition next year.



Candidates for RMSS Grand Award included FCPS members Ed Grabowski (second from left) and Paul Larsen (third from left).

AWARDS FOR FCPS MEMBERS AT RMSS 2009

MULTI-FRAME AWARDS

Lew Bussey	GOLD	French Naval Mail to America—The RF Period 1944-45	APS 1940-1980 Medal
Ralph DeBoard	GOLD	Postal History of Tahiti and French Oceania Prior to Independence	
Ed Grabowski	GOLD	Indochina and the French Offices in China: Use of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type	FCPS GRAND PRIX Candidate for RMSS Grand Award
Ed Grabowski	GOLD	Postal History of the French Colonial Group Type: Use in the French Pacific Ocean Colonies	
Bob Kinsley	GOLD	Aftermath of the French Revolution of 1791	APS Pre-1900 Medal
Paul Larsen	GOLD	Ubangi-Shari-Chad 1900-1938	APS 1900-1940 Medal Candidate for RMSS Grand Award
Paul Larsen	GOLD	French Sudan and Niger	
Stan Luft	GOLD	Alsace-Lorraine/Elsass-Lothringen 1870 to UPU	Postal History Society Award Aurora Stamp Club Award
Jean-Jacques Tillard	GOLD	St-Pierre et Miquelon, ses émissions de 1885 à 1900	
Steve Tucker	GOLD	French Guinea	
Jeff Ward	GOLD	French Guiana's First Pictorials, 1904-1928	
Tom Broadhead	VERMEIL	France: Transatlantic Mail to the United States, 1926-1937	
James Taylor	VERMEIL	St. Pierre-Miquelon 1845-1976 Victory and Peace	AAPE Award of Merit
Steve Tucker	VERMEIL	Afrique Occidentale Française	
Jeff Ward	VERMEIL	French Guiana and Inini Commemoratives	
Loic Detcheverry	SILVER	Les oblitérations canadiennes de la Nouvelle-Ecosse sur le courrier de Sainte-Pierre-et-Miquelon	

ONE-FRAME AWARDS

Tom Broadhead	GOLD	Petite Messages: Development of Carte de Visite Mail in 19th Century France	
Dave Herendeen	GOLD	Bosnia-Herzegovina: The 1904 Postage Due Issue	
Tom Broadhead	VERMEIL	Subterranean Airmail: French Pneumatic Postcard Usages -1879-1901	UPSS Marcus White Award
Ed Grabowski	VERMEIL	Madagascar: Early Postal History	
Jean-Jacques Tillard	VERMEIL	St-Pierre et Miquelon, la tête de pêcheur, premier timbre propre aux île	
Patricia Moeser	SILVER	Avion Survolant Marseille	Women Exhibitors Award

Membership Notices

NEW MEMBERS

3405	HILL, RONALD E., Littleton, CO
3406	COFFEY, RICHARD A., Moose Lake, MN
3407	ASPNES, RICHARD K., Littleton, CO
3408	BAZZI, RIDA A., Scottsdale, AZ
3409	BENNETT, PAMELA, Aurora, CO
3410	DETCHEVERY-VALLÉE, LOÏC, St-Pierre et Miquelon, France
3411	HOWARD, TIMOTHY L., Albuquerque, NM
3412	LOUGH, JEFFREY D., McPherson, KS
3413	ROBERTSON, RICHARD, Lakewood, CO

ADDRESS CHANGES

1469	GRABOWSKI, EDWARD J.J., Westfield, NJ
1593	KOHAGEN, ROGER A., Grand Blanc, MI
3391	LAMPEN, PETER C., New Brunswick, NJ
2492	WALPOW, NATHAN, Culver City, CA

MAIL RETURNED

L'ECHO DE LA TIMBROLOGIE, Amiens, France

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

3377	CLARKE, EDRIC
2023	DAVIDOFF, ROBERT A.
3221	KOPLAR, DAVID A.
3397	SWANSON, JOHN C.
3238	FISCHBACH, WILLIAM R.
1552	MULLINS, RICHARD L.
2024	ROUND, MICHAEL
3150	SURACE, RONALD J.

DROPPED FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES

3194	CARON, MAURICE
3296	DEKEMA, JAN D.
2997	DODARO, PAUL E.
1865	GEYER, MELVIN R., JR.
3130	HAGGBLOM, KRIS
2465	HANOUNE, JACQUES
3352	HENRIQUEZ, HARRY
1829	MASSLER, JEROLD M.
1850	MOGGE, CAPT. M. H.
2088	NICOLINS, NAYA
3386	OLIVIER, MARK G.
3338	SANTANIELLO, JOSEPH A.
3372	THOMPSON, JEFFREY D.

DONATIONS RECEIVED

2761	ENGBLOM, R. DENNIS
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FCPS Reports—2008

[Presented below is the 2008 Treasurer's Report, which was omitted from the last issue due to space restrictions.]

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2008 As of 31 December 2008

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts	
Savings.....	5,919.64
Checking.....	8,534.63
Paypal.....	725.54
Certificate of Deposit.....	15,406.64
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts.....	\$30,586.45
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$30,586.45

LIABILITIES and EQUITY

LIABILITIES	
Prepaid Dues.....	715.00
Spiegel Fund.....	1,242.29
Vaurie Fund.....	19,522.23
TOTAL Other Liabilities.....	\$21,479.52
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	\$21,479.52
EQUITY.....	9,106.93

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY..... \$30,586.45

INCOME

Donations.....	760.00
Dues-Income 2007.....	8,190.50
Interest Income.....	503.62
FCP Ad Revenue.....	1,000.00
Publications.....	133.00
TOTAL INCOME.....	10,587.12

EXPENSE

France and Colonies Philatelist	
Editor.....	1,015.00
Insert.....	78.75
Postage.....	1,153.04
Printing.....	4,047.25
TOTAL France and Colonies Philatelist.....	5,279.04
Secretary, Corresponding.....	396.26
Recording.....	0.00
TOTAL Secretary.....	396.26
Treasurer	
Postage.....	158.36
Printing.....	184.46
TOTAL Treasurer.....	342.82
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	7,033.12
NET INCOME.....	\$3,554.00

**Share your
Knowledge
Contribute to the
FCP**

The Postage Due Stamps of Zanzibar

New Finds from Le Musée de la Poste

David L. Herendeen (FCPS 2532)

Last year, members of our group reported on their visit to Paris in June.¹ Among the highlights of that visit was a tour of *Le Musée de la Poste*. Information on how to use this wonderful facility for performing research on either French stamps, or those printed for the French colonies and offices abroad, will appear in a future *FCP*. As one might expect, a single visit to the archive, called the *Philatelic Collections*, may be all that is required to discover new facts previously unreported.

My recent definitive paper on the postage due stamps of the French post office in Zanzibar² notes a specific error that has been reported in the catalogs for many years. Postage due stamps for Zanzibar were first printed in 1897 by surcharging current French Duval postage dues with new values expressed in Indian currency. I requested the archival holdings of this issue to see what interesting items might be there.

Unlike some of the other colonial material that was seen, for the most part the archive for the Zanzibar postage dues contained a number of panes of 25, usually with selvedge including the *millésime*. There was also a set of blocks of 40 which include a complete pane, the gutter, and three columns of stamps from the second pane. All of these items bore *millésime* "7" indicating the initial 1897 printing.

There were, however, several additional items that surprised me. The first relates to the third value, the 1½ ANNA on 15c yellow-green. In addition to the pieces mentioned above, there was a partial sheet of 100 consisting of the bottom two double panes of 25. As seen in Fig. 1 (Forgive the poor digital photo), this appears to be an imprimatur sheet in that it was

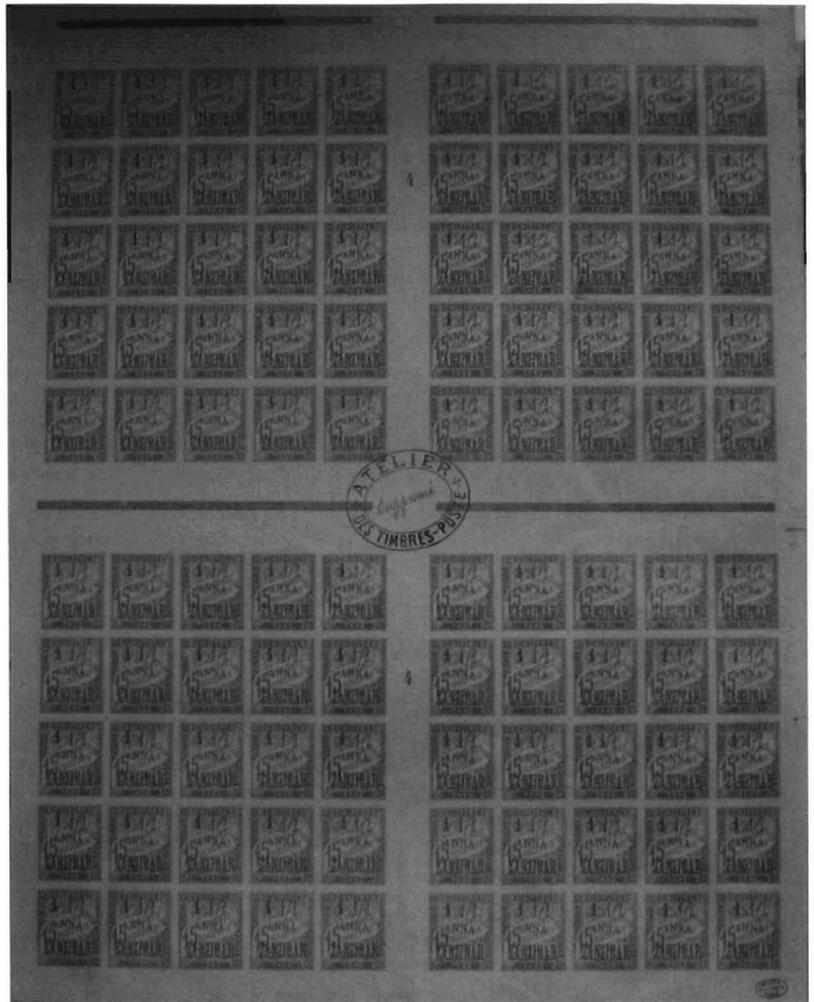


Figure 1. Two double panes of 50 from the bottom of the full proof sheet. (Courtesy of Le Musée de la Poste).



Figure 2. Security handstamp from the printer.

imperforate, ungummed and nullified by the security handstamp of the *Atelier des Timbres-Poste*, seen in Fig. 2, which appears at the intersection of the panes. While no other references discuss this variety (Sc J3a, Y&T TT3a), in Ref. 2, I note that:

It is believed that the imperforate variety, No. 3a, was printed in a complete sheet of 150. A partial sheet of 30, including a millésime pair was offered in the Gilbert sale. Interestingly, the millésime, shown in Fig. 8, is 1904 — a number not reported for the perforated postage due stamps.

I now think that the evidence shows that the 1904 printing of this value never happened, and somehow a full sheet of proofs escaped from the *atelier*. I further believe it was probably a full sheet because the Gilbert block was **NOT** the top double pane missing from the sheet in Fig. 1 because it includes color bars below.

The 2½ Annas on 50c Surcharge Error

Another interesting variety of this first postage due issue is the 2½ Annas on 50c surcharge (Not listed in Scott(?), Y&T TT5a), shown in Fig. 3. The correct overprint was 5 Annas on 50c. Just how did this error occur?



Figure 3. The 2½ Annas on 50c surcharge error.

As we know, there are two distinct ways for an overprint value error to occur. The first is that a single (or some specific number) of clichés are entered in the overprint setting with the wrong overprint. In this case, it is often possible to find multiples showing the two different overprints. The second way is that the entire overprint setting is made with the wrong value due to some gross error or misunderstanding by those responsible for the procedure.

There has been no satisfactory evidence to prove which of these was the case for the Zanzibar due other than an innocuous

comment in the 1936 Yvert catalogue which indicates that the error was found with millésime “7” without further expansion. One might glean from this that an entire sheet of errors may have been printed, but this does not qualify as adequate documentary evidence.

On the other hand, in the *Philatelic Collections* there are two horizontal pairs and a vertical strip of five mounted on part of an album page, shown in Fig. 4, of the error variety. These were, apparently, donated to the *Musée* by someone rather than placed in the archive by the printer. In either case, I am now satisfied that this variety was printed in a full sheet.

Conclusion

If you think there may be any varieties or unanswered questions about any issue of French or French colonial stamps that you are studying, a visit to see what treasures the *Philatelic Collections* may hold is required. Now that we all know about this resource, it should be used. As noted earlier, more details will appear in an upcoming later *FCP*. You may also contact me directly if you have an urgent need.

References

1. Herendeen, D.L., “The Philatelic Outing in Paris,” *FCP*, 64(3), pp. 70-73.
2. Herendeen, D.L., “Postage Dues of the French Post Office in Zanzibar,” *The Congress Book 2008*, American Philatelic Congress, Hartford, CT, 2008, pp. 183-200.

Figure 4. Vertical strip of five of the error variety. (Courtesy of Le Musée de la Poste).



Show Reports

AmeriStamp Expo 2009

Arlington, TX, February 2009

This show, primarily for single-frame exhibits, included a number of our members. A Prix d'Honneur to **Tom Broadhead** for "Balloon Post Cards of the Franco-German War — 1870-1871," which was competing for the single-frame Champion of Champions. In the open competition, a Gold Medal and Reserve Grand to new member **Jean-Jacques Tillard** for "*La Surcharge SPM Gothique de 1885*," and a Vermeil for his "*La tête de pêcheur, premier timbre propre aux îles*." Vermeil to **Ralph DeBoard** for "The Provisional Issues of Tahiti and French Oceania." For members not showing French material, two Gold medals to Cheryl Ganz; Vermeils to **Jay Carrigan**; and two to **Al Kugel**; and a Silver to **Al Kugel**. Also note that M. Tillard's wife, Joelle Olaïsolà, received a Vermeil for "*Le regard a travers les timbres de St.-Pierre & Miquelon*," and their daughter, Livie-Laure, received the youth Grand Award for "*La Marianne Surchargée Saint-Pierre et Miquelon*."

Sarasota 2009

Sarasota, FL, February 2009

Gold medal to Australian member **Ray Todd** for "Sabine De Gandon (France) - Definitive Series." Ray also captured the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award of Honor and the American Philatelic Society Post-1980 Medal of Excellence. A Vermeil medal to **Al Kugel** for his one-frame exhibit.

St. Louis Stamp Expo 2009

St. Louis, MO, February 2009

Vermeil medal to **Ralph DeBoard** for "A Postal History of Tahiti and French Oceania Prior to Independence." Gold medals to **Eliot Landau** and **Al Kugel**. In the one-frame arena, **Eliot** also won the Grand Award for his one-frame exhibit, and **Al** received a Silver.

Garfield-Perry 2009

Cleveland, OH, March 2009

Gold medal to **J.-J. Tillard** for "*Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon: ses émissions de 1885-1900*." **Ken Nilsestuen** served on the jury, and his "Algerian Postal History to 1876" appeared in the Court of Honor.

Westpex 2009

San Francisco, CA, April 2009

Gold medal to **Mike Bass** for "Foreign Post Offices in the Holyland 1852-1914." Also, a Gold to **Steve Tucker**.

Plymouth Show 2009

Plymouth, MI, April 2009

Gold medal and Reserve Grand to **Larry Gardner** for his "Morocco Foreign Post Offices and Agencies." Also the American Philatelic Congress Award. Also, Gold to **Paul Larsen** for "French Sudan and Niger." **Al Kugel** received two Vermeils for one-frame exhibits.

Research Help Wanted

I am a new member of the society. I'm trying to find information about the Edmund Dulac designed stamps for the Free French Colonies.

I have done preliminary search work at the APRL with limited results. Specifically, I would like any information about:

1. Details relating Charles de Gaulle's commissioning of the designs.
2. The stamp design and review process.
3. How the stamps were initially regarded by the philatelic community (as genuine or not).
4. How the stamps were used for fundraising by sale in bulk to stamp dealers.

Thank you for any assistance or ideas you can provide.

Joseph Sullivan
607 Stevenson Lane
Towson MD 21286-7602

CATALOGUE REVIEW

2009 *Maury-Ceres & Dallay Catalogue de Timbres de France*. Two soft-bound volumes, 1,428 pages, in French. Cover price 19.95 Euros, but delivered across the Atlantic and forwarded in U.S. The price from the distributor Henry Gitner (hgitner@hgitner.com) is \$39.95.

WOW! This is a monumental piece of work. Congratulations to Jean Vavrosky and his team of 21 collaborators. The catalogue is printed (in Greece) with all stamps nicely illustrated in color. It is labeled as the 114th edition of the Maury Catalogue. The 2006 Ceres, 2005-6 Dallay, and 2000 Yvert Specialized have been used for some comparisons.

Volume II begins with 1960 issues in New Francs, followed by the later issues in Euros, a logical point of separation making room for the future. Collectors of modern material will appreciate the quotations in both volumes for varieties, deluxe proofs, publicity *bandes*, *carnets*, *coins datés*, *millésimes*, and covers outside the period of normal use. Airmail specialists will note the inclusion of the 1920 Guynemer etiquettes and the unissued 1928 5F Ile de France.

In both volumes the identification of important varieties and sub-types are shown in clear magnifications. These are especially useful for things like the different fours in positions 146-7 of the 40c Ceres, Report 1 of the 5c Bordeaux, and the sub-types of issues such as the type Sage and Sowers. The color showings of the black 1c Sage includes both the Prussian and cobalt shades. Changes in major postal rates are given prior to introduction of the new stamps to meet the new rates.

Volume I is a Goldmine—with a whole 328 page section of 19th century specialized. Postal history collectors will love it! For covers to foreign destinations and the uses of September 1871 listed in the previous editions, now have been added for each issue *Affranchisements*—

covers with combinations of stamps to make up the rate. Specialists in the Bordeaux issue will be pleased to find quotations for bloc reconstructions of 15, both mint and used.

An important advance is the treatment of cancels on different values of each issue. For this purpose, groupings of cancels of a type have been established and ranked by difficulty. For example, seven groups of Paris stars, five groups for each type of Paris lozenges, ten groups for ambulant lozenges, eleven groups for small and 21 groups for large number lozenges, including separate ones for blue and red. This clever treatment gives a rational method of distinguishing a common cancel on an unexpected stamp or a rarely used cancel on a common stamp or

cover. To understand the genius of this method, compare the previous style of quoting for the cancel on any stamp, or the stamp with any cancel of the type. Now you can see that finally both elements of difficulty are recognized.

Picky-Picky: I see room for improvement in four areas:

1. There is no distinction between plates 4 and 5 of the type II (1871-6) 25c Ceres. According to Germain, the respective quantities issued were estimated at 7 ½ and 52 ½ million. This differential was recognized, with identification points, in the 1984-5 Marianne catalogue with a quote multiple of 8x for stamps of plate 4.
2. There are no listings for the (1871-6) 25c Ceres, type II or type III tête-bêche pairs. The type II is illustrated on cover in Germain's book, but hasn't been seen for years; but a type III pair was illustrated and sold by Roumet in 1995.
3. The 1893 brown 10c Duval type due (Taxe No.29) exists tête-bêche in defective, cross-gutter pairs. These are probably printer's waste. But since Vavrowsky and Baudot were involved in the four that have sold in the past 30 years, it's a surprise that they

*This is not a catalogue for people
just filling spaces on album
pages...*

aren't mentioned even in a note.

4. Use of US mails by French naval forces, World War II. The Dallay catalogue began listing of such covers in US mails prior to the introduction of "RF" overprints. But this and other French catalogues and auction houses continue to give quotations for mint singles and blocks of "RF" overprints on US airmail stamps. Students in the U.S. have persuaded our Scott catalog to quote only usage on appropriately censored covers during the authorized period of use. One part of this limitation is that the overprint was supposed to be applied only after the stamp was purchased and applied to the cover as it was turned in to be mailed. The other part is the announcement in September 1987 by a New York "firm" (full page ad in Linn's) that they had obtained a quantity of overprint and cancel devices, and could supply anything needed to fill any blank spaces in your collection of the material!

This is not a catalogue for people just filling spaces on album pages. The scope and depth are for serious collectors and students of all French stamps. It is a treasure house of information, and well worth the price of ownership.

—J.E.L

TYPES AND SUBTYPES

2,20 Liberté de Gandon

Type I: (sheet stamps from TD-6 and RGR presses; sealed booklets of 10 for vending machines; coils): Basal bars on the 2s of value are thinner than in Type II; that of the larger "2" is somewhat curved at top. (see Fig. 1a in the next column).

Type IB: (sheet stamps from RGR-1 press): five or less small sub-horizontal *hachures* at end of chin; present but usually difficult to see and not shown here.

Type II: (sheet stamps from TD-6 and RGR presses, including scarce "chalky" paper printing; open-face booklets of 10). (see Fig. 1b).

—S. J. Luft

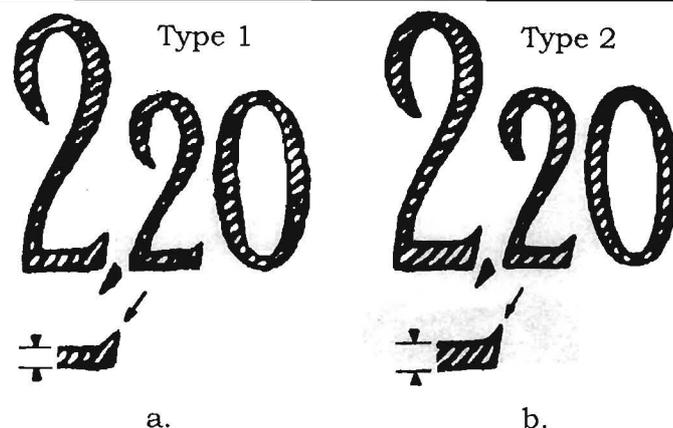


Figure 1. The two types of the
2,20 Liberté de Gandon

Knowledge Sharing

David L. Herendeen, Editor

As you have read, both in the "news" reports and the President's Letter, our Denver meeting was a huge success. I will not dwell further on the specifics, but more on the fallout of discussions with our many member that attended.

The Quest for Knowledge

As fellow collectors and exhibitors, we all know that shortly after getting beyond the simple "fill in the spaces" collecting phase we recognize the need for knowledge. We discover that a simple catalog doesn't really tell us much. So, we join some groups that we think might help provide us with help—like the FCPS. We hope that specialty journals and other collectors with like interests may be able to help us.

In my more than 20 years in organized philately I have discovered many things. Perhaps the most important of these is that 99%+ of collectors are more than happy to share what they have learned about their specialties.

The importance of this was apparent in the well-attended programs presented in Denver. This format was both educational and entertaining. There will be more.

Formal Knowledge Resources

Naturally one can obtain information from

books and publications. We have run a number of articles on these pages that highlight some of the great philatelic libraries. I'm sorry to say that we often must return to primary sources to verify "facts" that seem to have been in evidence for many decades. As the famous line from X-Files goes, "Trust No One."

The Network is the Thing

As noted earlier, beyond the formal resources one finds the human resources. This is the real beauty of groups like ours. In most cases it is easy to find another member who has fought some of your fights and won some of the battles. Don't be afraid to ask.

The first thing to do is to send me an email (or even call me) and ask. Use the network to your advantage. If I can't point you in the right direction, then I will forward your request to other members who make suggestions. If all this should fail, then we can make a direct appeal to other members (see page 80). It is even possible to query our sister groups in the U.K. or France if necessary.

You are not alone. You have friends that will help. Just ask!

President's Letter

Wow! Our Denver meeting was spectacular! We had a great turnout, we recruited new members, we socialized, we learned, and we won some awards. Many thanks to all who contributed to this effort (especially **Dave Herendeen**).

If you weren't there, what did you miss? You missed 130+ frames of France and colonies exhibits. Our members took home 13 golds, seven vermeils and two silver medals. The exhibits were just plain delightful, covering classic French colonial material from St.-Pierre-et-Miquelon, Madagascar and French Oceania to the wonderfully colorful issues of French Sudan, French Guiana, Inini, French Guinea and more. The quality of material and the skills of our exhibitors were well rewarded for their efforts. (See page 76 for the complete list of FCPS member awards.)

You also missed our dinner. Thirty-two members, spouses and guests had a delightful meal at Le Central, a French restaurant near downtown Denver. All present had good conversation, good wine, good food and good fellowship. It was even reasonably priced! With only a few public words of thanks to those who attended, the rest of the evening was spent making new friends and sharing stories with fellow collectors and spouses.

You missed our table at the show. While you might chuckle at this, there was conversation going all the time (at least Friday and Saturday). We added seven new members. Enticing them with a free copy of **Ed Grabowski's** Indochina pamphlet probably made the difference for a few. Our society table turned out to be a great spot for members to rest their feet and share some stories.

Of course, you also missed our programs. Our members put on really interesting talks, ranging from the general to the specific. We had a tour of Tahiti's post offices, a study in how a fake cover was detected, some history related to Marie Curie and lots more. Spread over two days, the presentations were well attended both days. Those who enjoyed these talks owe thanks to our speakers who generously volunteered their time to preparing this material.

We also took the opportunity to do a little business. Perhaps the most interesting is that two major philatelic organizations are investigating the possibility of converting their past journals to a searchable electronic medium. We are watching this to see if we can piggyback our past journals onto the project. This has the potential to make all old issues of the *France and Colonies Philatelist* available at a reasonable price and in a useful format.

Guess what's next? **CHICAGOPEX 2010**. Friends, we are expecting to have another great showing in the fall of 2010. We have exhibitors who will return and, according to the rumors, we will also have some new ones. **Dave Herendeen** is already recruiting speakers for our programs. The momentum of our RMSS meeting is carrying over to Chicago, and *you* should plan to be there. It's never too soon to start getting ready!



French Colonies

Common design Types

1938 Marie Curie Type CD80 VFNH
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1941 Petain Issue Complete NH set 48 stamps from 24 Colonies \$37

1941-5 Cross of Lorraine (Scott Type CD87) The complete Set
of 71 stamps all Mint NH \$74

1944 Petain Surcharges (Semipostals) Complete set of 48
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1945 Felix Eboue Type CD91 Complete NH set 26 stamps \$14

1946 Victory Type CD92 Set of 15 Mint NH \$12

1946 Chad to Rhine Types CD93-8 Complete set of 90 stamps
from 15 Colonies all Mint NH \$120

1950 Tropical Medicine Type CD100 Complete NH set of 10 \$55

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1954 Liberation Type CD102 Complete set all VF NH from 12
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