

FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

July 2013
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Papeete to China and Beyond
See page 68



*St. Pierre and Miquelon Airmail
to France via Montreal, Canada*

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All communication about membership, subscriptions, publications, back issues, activities and services of the Society should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary:

Joel L. Bromberg

P.O. Box 102

Brooklyn, NY 11209-0102, USA

All contributions to and questions concerning the contents and policy of this periodical should be sent to the Editor:

Norval Rasmussen

224 Wilson Ave

Morgantown, WV 26501

Phone: 304-292-7652, e-mail: nrasmu@gmail.com

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

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Editorial

Norval Rasmussen

Summer is upon us. In West Virginia we have dodged most of the violent weather that has plagued much of the rest of the country. Our thoughts are with those who have experienced it. It is late June as I write this and we are in garden mode. I am proud to say Barbara and I have already harvested asparagus, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce, spinach, radishes, raspberries, and strawberries.

In This Issue

Ed Grabowski returns with an informative article on the group type stamps used in Papeete. **Ken Nilsestuen** responds to a call for fundamental information on French philately with an article on French stamps during the German occupation of France in World War II. **James Taylor** writes about airmail service between St. Pierre et Miquelon and France in 1945 and 1946. He also shares some St. Pierre-Miquelon forgeries with us. I have put to paper some observations on postal rates in French protectorate Tunisia. Many thanks to these authors for their contributions.

Needed

Articles, cover descriptions, reviews, whatever. Share your knowledge and collections with us. Instructions and guidelines are simple and brief: electronic submis-

sions are preferred with art scanned at 300 dpi. Column closers are really neat to have on hand, For example see the Algerian wrapper on page 61 of last issue (Vol. 69 No. 2). I would much rather have these to use than the frequent use of the society logo you have endured in the past two issues.

On The Horizon

SANDICAL 2014 on January 24-26 is our next convention. President Ken Nilsestuen promises a full panel of presentations by experts in their respective fields and beautiful weather for all of us who are not blessed with a southern California zip code. I guess our California members will enjoy the weather also but they may not appreciate it as much as I will.

What's Next?

Last issue I quoted a former editor and will do so again. In the July 1994 issue of *France & Colonies Philatelist* associate editor Stanley Luft wrote,

After reaching an all-time peak of 812 members in 1989, there has been, ever since, a net annual membership loss....Because this journal is the only link between our Society and the vast majority of our members, we have been attempting to make it even more

Continued on page 94

The Era of the French Colonial Group Type: Papeete to China and Beyond

By Edward Grabowski

In exhibiting covers from the era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type, I have put a strong emphasis on usage rather than traditional postal history. A number of judges have noted that they would prefer that the exhibits be cast in a traditional postal history rates and routes presentation. I have resisted such, maintaining that during the Group Type's Era (1892 – 1915) most of the rates were typical UPU rates, and most of the routes were those of the well-established French Packet Service. Within a colony, mail traveled by wagon or motorized vehicle or river boat or runner, or a combination. Within these exhibits, I put the emphasis on usage, and bring in information on rates and/or routes as warranted. However, occasionally the rate or the route is the dominant issue of the page, and that is where the focus justifiably is.

Mail sent from Papeete, French Oceania to China warrants this special consideration. During the period of the Group Type's use, there were no regular French Packets calling at Papeete, and other arrangements had to be made for the regular delivery of the mails. Much of the mail to European destinations was carried to the west coast of the United States under special contracts, across the country by train and then to Europe by existing US-European packet services. Mail from

French Oceania to China represented a special problem as there was no direct service at the time, or simple indirect services. Such mail had to cross the Pacific via established services, and then recross the Pacific on ships destined for the U.S. (typically) post office at Shanghai, China.

My first example of such mail is the 25c Group Type postal stationery envelope shown in Figures 1 and 2. From the front it looks quite ordinary: a 25c envelope posted at Papeete on January 12, 1900 to a member of the French Consulate in Peking, China. However, it is with the reverse that things get much more interesting (Figure 2). To get to China



Figure 1. Postal stationery envelope posted from Papeete to Peking in 1900.



Figure 2. Reverse of the envelope in Figure 1 showing the route of the cover.

this cover traveled to San Francisco arriving February 18, 1900. It was transferred to Tacoma, Washington on February 20th to catch a ship bound for China arriving at the U.S. office at Shanghai on March 24, 1900. It was transferred to the Chinese agency on the same day, and then carried by the Chinese local postal system to Peking where it arrived on March 29, 1900. The total journey took more than two and a half months, via numerous post offices, yet it arrived in very fine condition.

My records show that I purchased this cover in April of 1979 at a Roger Koerber sale in New York City. I was sitting next to fellow FCPS member Erwin Rosen at this sale. Erwin had put together a fantastic collection of French Pacific essays and proofs, and both of us were interested in this cover, me for its Group Type use and Erwin as a collateral piece for his French Polynesia collection. When he saw me bid on the cover, he gave me a nod to tell me that he was dropping out

of the bidding so that I could get the cover. I was able to purchase the cover at a very modest price, even by 1979 standards, thanks to Erwin. I have showed this cover many times in Group Type talks, and always noted it when I take people through the French Pacific Group Type exhibit. Each time I always think of Erwin and his kindness in letting me have this cover without significant competition. So the situation stood for more than thirty years. I have never seen a comparable cover from French Oceania from the Group Type period or earlier.

In April of 2013 I attended the WESTPEX Show, always one of the highlights of my annual philatelic travels. The Team at San Francisco certainly knows how to put a show together. On arrival at WESTPEX, I always make a beeline for David Wrigley's booth. Despite moving to Thailand in recent years, David still comes up with first rate French area material, and he did not disappoint me this year. Among my purchases is the post card shown in Figures 3 and 4. On first glance (Figure 3), it is simply a 10c rate post card posted from Papeete on October 24, 1904 franked with a pair of the 5c Group Types in the dark green shade from the pre-1900



Figure 3. Post card from Papeete to the China Sea in 1904 with datestamps.



Figure 4. Reverse of the post card in Figure 3 with the **SHANGHAI CHINE** transit.

printings. However, it is the addressee and the routing that make this an exceptional item. The card was addressed to the Captain of the French armored frigate the *Montcalm*, sailing somewhere in the China Sea. What a daunting addressee, and the transit markings

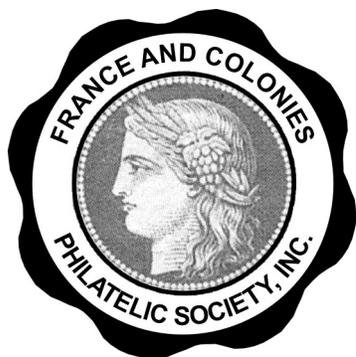
tell a wonderful story of bringing this card to its destination. Again we have the Papeete to China problem, and the solution is basically the same as in the previous case. The card was put on a contract ship sailing to San Francisco and arrived there on November 17, 1904. From San Francisco it was placed on a vessel going to China and arrived at the U.S. Shanghai Office on December 6, 1904, still a long way from the Captain of the *Montcalm*, wherever he was. From the U.S. office at Shanghai, it traveled to the local Chinese office in the same city arriving on December 16th. From this office it was transferred to the French Office at Shanghai (see Figure 2 where the datestamp **SHANGHAI CHINE** can be seen, but the date is unreadable), wherein it received some serious direction as to where the Captain of the *Montcalm* might



Figure 5. The Frigate *Montcalm* in a local port.

be with the manuscript notation: *Saïgon*. From the French Office at Shanghai it went to Victoria, Hong Kong arriving on December 20, 1904. From there it went on a regular ship to Saigon where it arrived on December 26th and was transferred to the Montcalm. The total journey time, despite the uncertain location of the addressee, was just over two months.

Figure 5 shows a picture of the Montcalm, flying the French flag, undoubtedly in a French area port, with the local residents enjoying the view and the ship's visit. I am readying my French Pacific exhibit for NO-JEX as of this writing, and these two covers will form an exciting page. As always, I would be interested in hearing from any readers who have similar material.



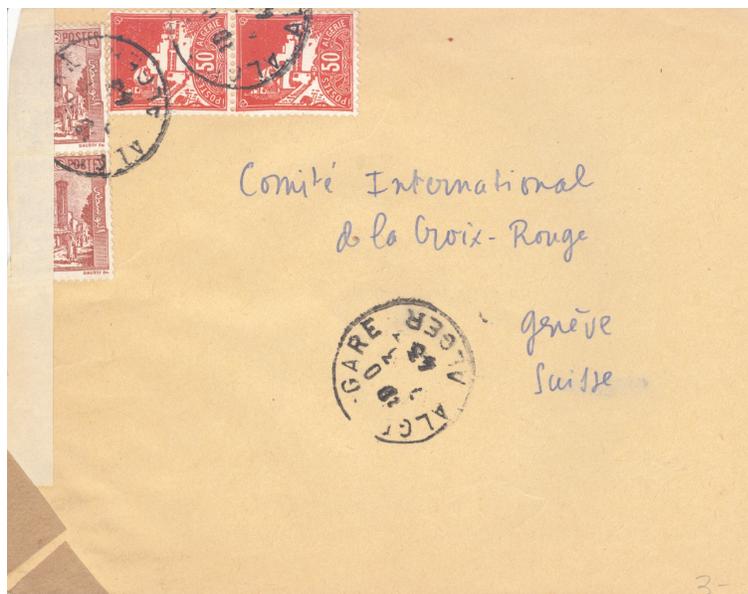
Mixed Franking: Algerian and Tunisian stamps

Below is an item I encounter from time to time. A letter to the International Red Cross in Geneva sent in March 1943 from Algiers. It is franked with two Tunisian one franc fifty centime stamps and two Algerian fifty centime stamps, all from the Vichy era (no RF on either stamp). The value tablets on the Tunisian stamps are covered by the censor's tape which is an English censor. On the reverse is A.X. in a circle which indicates it passed through the German censor office in Paris.

The correct foreign single letter rate in 1934 from both Tunisia and Algeria was four francs.

Does anyone know why this mixed franking?

Drop the editor a letter if you have thoughts on it, and when he has a nice file full of "column stoppers" from readers of this journal you will see less of same from Tunisia or Algeria.



France's WWII Stamp Issues

Kenneth R. Nilsestuen

I thought I would take my own suggestion to see if I could write an article of general interest about French stamps in a couple of hours. It took me a few minutes to pick this subject, about which I know very little, and to get started. I expect I am proving just how little I know, but as always, I welcome comments.

The topic of this article is the change in French stamps under Axis occupation during World War II. From the subject matters chosen in 1939 and early 1940 to those used in occupied France, one would expect differences. These will be highlighted below, along with a discussion of French stamp subjects from about 1939 to late 1944.

A brief look at WWII history tells us that Germany began its Blitzkrieg against Poland on 1 September 1939. Although Great Britain and France declared war on Germany two days later, Germany didn't invade France until 10 May 1940. France surrendered to the Axis in late June and was divided into three parts – two sectors occupied by Germany and Italy and the territory controlled by the Vichy regime. Vichy France was not independent of Axis influence, but administered all of France subject to Axis control. Only in 1944 following the D-Day invasion was France gradually liberated. By early 1945 all of France was under Free French and allied control.

So what did the 1939 and early 1940 French stamps reflect? Remember that this was a nation badly scarred by World War I. It had

lost a generation of young men in the trench warfare across France. Many wounded survived, victims of poison gas, direct injury from bullets and shrapnel and also bearing psychological scars. Consulting a Dallay catalog¹ shows that France issued a set of definitives and 32 commemoratives (including semi-postals, excluding airpost and others).

The low values of the definitive issue pictured Mercury, Roman god of financial gain, communication, travelers, luck and trickery. Higher values showed Iris, the Roman goddess who linked humans to the gods, Peace, and Cérès, the goddess of fertility and agriculture. Importantly, the design included "Republic Française" or the intertwined letters "RF" in each design.

The commemorative issues included stamps honoring Paul Cézanne, famous Post-Impressionist painter; the battleship *Clemenceau*, which was not completed at the time of the German invasion; the 1939 New York World's Fair; the centenary of photography depicting Niepce and Daguerre; St. Gregory of Tours, Strasbourg Cathedral, the French Revolution, anniversary of the battle of Verdun (WW I), and a few others. These celebrated France, French inventors, a saint, and so on. A typical selection of



1940 Iris definitive with "Republic Française" at the bottom.



1939 commemorative celebrating the 150th anniversary of the French Revolution

stamps to encourage national pride, although one might comment a little further on the Verdun stamp.

Verdun was a fortified city and region that was scheduled to be weakened by the French at the end of 1915. In February 1916 the Germans attacked Verdun, necessitating a change in tactics by the French. Defending against superior German forces, the French held Verdun against the German assault and eventually mounted two major counter-offensives. While the second was in August 1917, the trench war continued until the armistice in November 1918. Total casualties were between 750,000 and 1 million over the 2-plus years. Tactically, it was considered a French victory, but at a terrible cost. The commemorative stamp, issued 23 June 1939,



1939 Verdun commemorative stamp

commemorated the 23rd anniversary of the battle.

Now for a look at the semi-postal issues in 1939. The first issue was to raise funds to cure syphilis, still a significant and terrible disease that was only cured with the discovery of penicillin. Confirmation that penicillin was in fact a cure happened in 1943.

Continuing a theme from earlier years, the French issued a stamp to raise funds for the benefit of civilian victims of WW I. Earlier



1939 semi-postal stamp to benefit civilian victims of WW I

issues were for the infantry, health workers, and others.

Also included in the 1939 semi-postals were stamps issued for the 75th anniversary of the Red Cross, to erect a monument to army engineers who died in WW I, orphans of postal employees, the

postal museum, children of the unemployed, 50th anniversary of the Eiffel Tower, assistance for French intellectuals, the national alliance for population growth, a monument to sailors lost at sea, and a stamp raising funds for French seamen picturing Jean Charcot, discoverer of multiple sclerosis and other neurological diseases. Again, a mixture of stamps related to WW I and subjects that were the pride of France. The intellec-

tuals were honored with four stamps picturing Pierre Puvis de Chavannes, a painter who co-founded the French Society of Fine Arts; Claude Debussy, composer; Honoré de



1939 Semi-postal aiding the French repopulation campaign

In early 1940 the French stamp program continued with similar themes. Several Iris definitives appeared to pay new rates. Ten commemorative and semi-postal stamps also appeared prior to the creation of the *Etat Française* under Axis occupation. These early 1940 stamps benefited soldiers, the Red Cross, working women (illustrated by a woman with an ox-pulled plow), and a reissued New York World's Fair stamp to reflect a new rate. A series of three stamps portrayed Generals Joffre, Foch and Gallieni, all leaders of the French war effort in WW I. Each French stamp included either the words "Republique Française" or an "RF" monogram to indicate the country issuing the stamps.

Balzac, novelist known for *The Human Comedy*; and Claude Bernard, a physiologist who first suggested blind experiments to validate scientific studies. Funds from that series aided unemployed intellectuals.

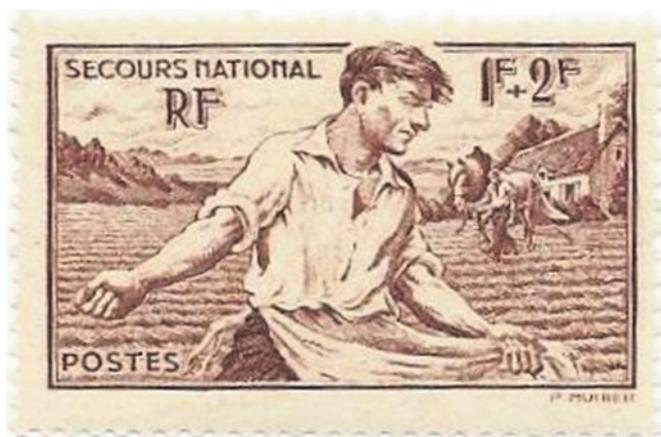
The first stamp released by the occupied French state (generally referred to as the Vichy government because that was its nominal capital) was issued over the protests of German officers.² Released in October 1940, it commemorated Georges Guynemer, the first French flying ace in WW I. He shot down 53 German planes before dying in September 1917 while on a flying mission. Interestingly, the stamp has the letters "RF" at the lower left.

In November 1940 the Vichy government reissued three of the 1939 intellectuals series – Debussy, Balzac and Bernard – with new values. "RF" again appeared in the designs. On the same day a semi-postal to benefit



1940 commemorative stamp depicting French WW I ace Georges Guynemer

war victims came out, this too with "RF" in the design. Finally, in December a national aid series appeared, the last stamps with "RF" in the design. The scenes are all pastoral, showing a sower, harvesting, and breeding. Neutral, but representative of French agricultural activities. It is interesting that all of the 1940 issues retained a reference to the French Republic, which by July had succumbed to German and limited Italian occupation.



1940 Vichy issue supporting National Relief

In 1941 the French State began issuing stamps reflecting the consequences of the occupation. Nearly 100 stamps appeared, many more than the previous two years. Leading off the list was a series of four identical design stamps with a portrait of Maréchal Philippe Pétain, the head of the French State. Also issued in January was a pair of semi-postals to benefit prisoners of war. The presumption is that the benefits were for WW II prisoners.

There followed a mélange of definitives. Surcharged RF stamps with Mercury, Peace and Cérès appeared, as well new values in the 1940 definitive series. Some of the older French commemoratives were also surcharged. A total of 18 stamps appeared with new values. In the midst of all this the 1 franc 1941 Pétain stamp was reissued with a 10 centime surcharge for emergency national aid.

The next ten stamps seemed fairly typical of the third republic, even though released by the Vichy government. A commemorative for the poet Frédéric Mistral (who bears a striking resemblance to Buffalo Bill Cody on the stamp), three more in the national tourism

series, semi-postals for the fight against cancer, winter assistance for the poor, the paquebot Pasteur, a re-issue of the 1939 national assistance for overseas and a new de-



1941 Frédéric Mistral commemorative, the Buffalo Bill lookalike

sign accompanying that reissued stamp were all part of the 1941 stamp program.

Starting late in 1941 the French State issued the first stamps in what became a 23-stamp series with five designs, all of Maréchal Pétain. These stamps were valued to meet various postal rates, from 20 centimes up to 50 francs. It appeared that the French had lost their creative ideas about stamp subjects.

In December 1941 the postal service issued the first set of coats of arms, a twelve stamp semi-postal series to raise funds for National Relief. This was the last set of 1941 stamps, now marking about 18 months under Axis occupation.



1941 Marechal Petain definitive

Among the first stamps of 1942 was a new Mercury stamp, same design as the 1939 definitive, even including "Republique Française" in the upper left corner. Whether or

not some German was asleep when approving the design or a cagey French postal employee slipped it past them on purpose, the stamp remained on sale for more than a year, and it wasn't until November 1942 that the stamp was reissued (with three others) with "Postes" substituted for "Republique."

The 1942 tourism stamp was a reissue of the 1941 Beaune hospital design in a new color and slightly modified design. Other commemoratives included a stamp honoring Jules Massenet, an operatic composer; the well-known novelist Stendhal³; André Blondel, inventor of the oscillograph, and another tourism stamp with an image of the Arras city hall's belfry.



1942 Mercury, new design with "Postes" substituted for "Republique"



1942 commemorative for the Belfry at Arras. Note ominous shading in the sky

The list of semi-postals also continued, with a stamp benefiting French airmen and their families; National Relief supported by a stamp honoring Jean-François de Galaup, count of la Pérouse, who attempted

a circumnavigation of the world in 1826 but disappeared in Oceania with his entire expedition; a composer, Emmanuel Chabrier, to support charity for musicians; a stamp raising money for National Relief noting the fifteen colonies still part of the French empire; a stamp to support aid to French seamen commemorating Jean de Vienne, first admiral of France during the Hundred Years War; the second set of twelve coats of arms also to raise funds for National Relief; and a design benefiting the Légion tricolore⁴ printed in sheets of twenty with two rows of blue stamps, a white row (albino impression) in the center and two rows of red stamps. Thus ended the 1942 stamp issues.



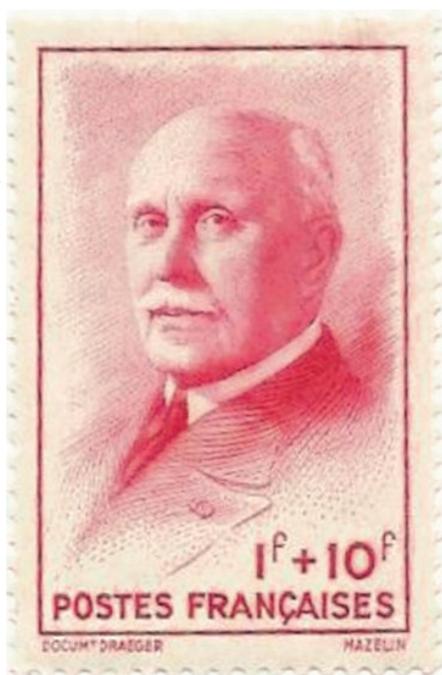
1942 Coat of arms - Nice

Despite the obvious influence of the Axis occupation reflected on the stamps with the removal of "republique" or the "RF" monogram, in general the stamp subjects continued to reflect French history and culture. The memories of WW I were supplanted by the realities of WW II, but using semi-postals to raise money to aid participants in the war continued the long French semi-postal tradition.

The most significant design change was a return to portraying the current national leader on French stamps. From the beginning of the Third Republic in 1870 until the Petain issues of 1941, French stamps commemorated writers, scientists, composers, war heroes

and others, but no current politicians. The Axis wanted the French to have a constant reminder of their puppet leader, so Petain became the principal subject for definitive stamps.

The 1943 stamp program again started with a twenty-stamp sheet with Petain semi-postals. As with the Légion tricolore stamps, some were in red, some in blue, with a tri-colored battle ax appearing in a column separating the two colors of stamps. Later that year a second set-tenant design appeared, anchored again by Petain on each end of a five-design strip. The Axis had



1943 semi-postal picturing Marechal Petain. Surtax was for National Relief

forced France to abandon its motto of “liberté, égalité, fraternité” in favor of “travail, famille, patrie,” and the three central stamps depicted these three ideals. These two semi-postal sets benefited National Relief. A third semi-postal issue was for the benefit of bombing victims and a set of two stamps benefited prisoner-of-war families.

The last two sets of semi-postal stamps commemorated important French personages of the sixteenth century and regional heroes of

the eighteenth century. Both sets raised funds for National Relief.

Commemoratives in 1943 started with the first set of four provincial coats of arms. These were no longer semi-postal stamps, and were typographed instead of engraved. Other commemoratives included a stamp for Lavoisier, the founder of modern chemistry, and a tourism stamp for the ski area in Meije. That was it – just thirty-five stamps, but the influence of the Axis was clearer than before, especially with the stamps emphasizing “work, family and fatherland.”

The 1944 stamp program was also rather modest under the Axis and French State. Thirteen stamps appeared, and given the stresses that the war was now placing on Germany, this undoubtedly contributed to the small quantity of new issues. The commemoratives included four more provincial coats of arms, and also stamps to honor Edouard Branly, an inventor and physicist; a tourism issue for Château de Chenonceaux and a stamp honoring Claude Chappe, inventor of the semaphore system. A stamp also marked the centenary of railroad postal service.



1944 commemorative stamp for Chenonceaux

The usual semi-postals also appeared. French naval hero Anne-Hilarion de Cotentin, Count of Tourville, earned a semi-postal, but the proceeds were apparently not designated to any particular charity. A second semi-postal commemorated Charles Gounod, a French composer, the proceeds of which benefited French musicians. Maréchal Pétain turned 88 years old, and a set of three stamps marked that date. Presumably the proceeds went to National Relief, but again, it is not clear.



1944 – Among the last Vichy issues, this for Pétain's 88th birthday

The French postal service issued a six stamp semi-postal set commemorating important seventeenth century Frenchmen, including Louis II and XIV, Molière and Pascal. The last of the Vichy government semi-postals marked the centennial of the Paris-Orléans

and Paris-Rouen railroads. The image on that stamp is striking – it appears to be an engineer leaning out of a locomotive cab, but the engraver made it look like the subject is surrounded by smoke. It's a haunting image.

That was the end of Vichy France's stamp issues. The Allies set up a provisional government and began issuing stamps right away. The French state stamps issued under Axis occupation were all demonetized and/or withdrawn in late 1944.⁵

I started out expecting that I could show a change in the subject matter of French stamps issued while under Axis domination. There certainly was a change, with an emphasis on Maréchal Pétain's visage. This might have been the result of the Axis wanting to impress on the French that Pétain was their leader, despite the omnipresence of Nazi troops. The French must have hated to lick stamps promoting "work, family, fatherland" instead of "liberty, equality, brotherhood."

Semi-postals issued to benefit WW I veterans and families disappeared. But some subject continued, like the tourism issues.

French culture also continued to appear on their stamps. Historical figures, coats of arms, and even hairdos gave some semblance of normality to stamp issues. However, there is no way that this could erase the constant reminder of war and German occupation.

So I am satisfied that the war and occupation clearly influenced French stamps. Yet the stamp subjects were not as consistently mili-

tant as I might have expected when I started out.

And how did I do on my two hours? This article took me about four hours to write. Probably another hour to edit. Adding illustrations by scanning stamps and editing the images was another hour. Demonstrating that I am not an expert on French commemoratives came for free, but it was fun to learn what I did. So now I can encourage others of you who are “just” stamp collectors to write an article that entertains and informs. Just set aside enough time. I hope that when you do, you find it as enjoyable as I have.⁶

References:

1. *Maury Timbres de France, 114^e Edition: 2009*, Arthur Maury Corp. (Paris). The combined edition of the Maury, Cérès and Dallay catalogs, most often referred to by collectors as the “Dallay catalog.”

2. *Ibid.*, p. 621.

3. Born Marie-Henri Beyle, he adopted Stendhal as his pen name.

4. The Légion tricolore was the temporary name of a regiment of French collaborators recruited from prisoners of war. They volunteered to serve on the Eastern front, fighting against Russian troops, rather than remaining in POW camps at forced labor. The legion formed as the LVF, or Legion of French Volunteers. At the end of the war high-ranking LVF officers generally received death sentences, while lower ranking soldiers were given the option of joining the French Foreign Legion.

5. Demonetization or withdrawal dates noted in *Dallay*.

6. While I didn't cite every fact in this article, most information can be found in *Dallay, Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, (Sidney, Ohio, 2013), or on Wikipedia, www.wikipedia.org.

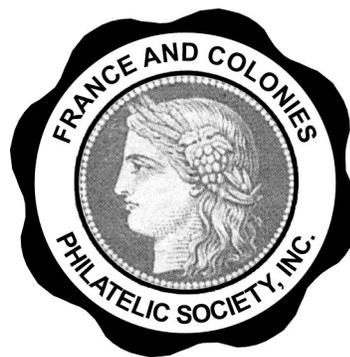
We Get Letters

Just received the April. I suggest you look at your copies from late 1990s to early 2000s, and perhaps pick up suggestions from what I inserted: France AND Colonies; sort of up-to-date news; material for newer members (including New Issues); and other stuff for not just our exhibitors. Good luck!

Sorry, too old and fuzzy headed to offer my services once again, but will be in Milwaukee (hopefully!)--Stan

Stanley Luft

I appreciate suggestions for content and pose this response to Stan and others; Do you wish to see new issues in the French area listed in the journal? What else would you like to see? I reviewed some older issues and note a column entitled “For the Record” that ran from issue to issue listing French area philatelic tidbits that seems interesting. As a matter of fact I used item number 703 as a basis for the Tunisian Charge letter piece on page 90 of this issue.



1945-1946 St. Pierre and Miquelon Airmail to France via Montreal, Canada

© *James R. Taylor*

Trans Canada Airlines / CGTAS

On April 2, 1943, the Canadian government flag carrier, Trans Canada Airlines (TCA, now Air Canada), was given permission to operate a non-commercial, wartime, air service between Dorval Airport, Montreal, Canada and Prestwick, Scotland, Great Britain with an intermediate, refueling stop at Gander Airport, Newfoundland (Pigott, 2002). For legal and British diplomatic reasons, the service had to be operated as a separate company and the Canadian Government Trans-Atlantic Air Service (CGTAS) was born.

During 1943-1947 TCA operated the CGTAS service using TCA pilots and Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) navigators. Trans-Atlantic air service for military and important civilian passengers, air mail and freight service, commenced using modified Avro Lancaster aircraft (Figure 1) of the type Lancastrian XPP (Figure 2). The XPP indicated that they were modified for passenger seating. A fleet

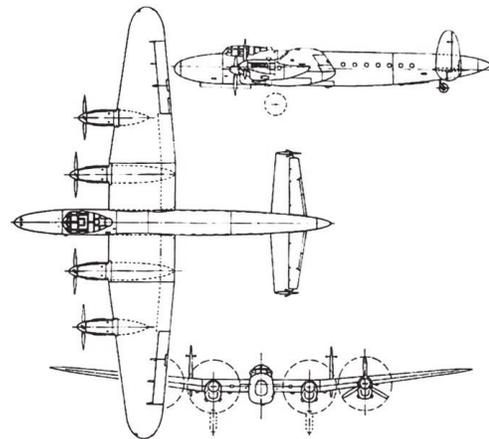


Figure 1. Lancaster Bomber (Aviastar, 2013).

of 9 Lancastrians were used for the CGTAS trans-Atlantic service. The Canadian built Lancastrians were fitted with Packard-built Rolls-Royce Merlin engines and accommodated ten passengers. A British built modified Lancaster was also part of the fleet.

Trans-Atlantic Air Crossings and Losses

The record CGTAS trans-Atlantic crossing leg was completed non-stop in 12:26 hours; the average was about 13:25 hours (Figure 3). The CGTAS service pioneered commercial air travel across the North Atlantic. Initially the priority was to provide regular mail service to Canadian forces overseas and to transport key personnel on wartime assignments. Civilian mail was also carried by the CGTAS and on new military aircraft being ferried to Great Britain via the southern (Figure 3, the yellow line through Gander)



Figure 2. CGTAS Lancastrian XPP CMZ Aircraft at Dorval Airport (Bomber Command Museum, 2013).

and northern routing (Figure 3, the yellow

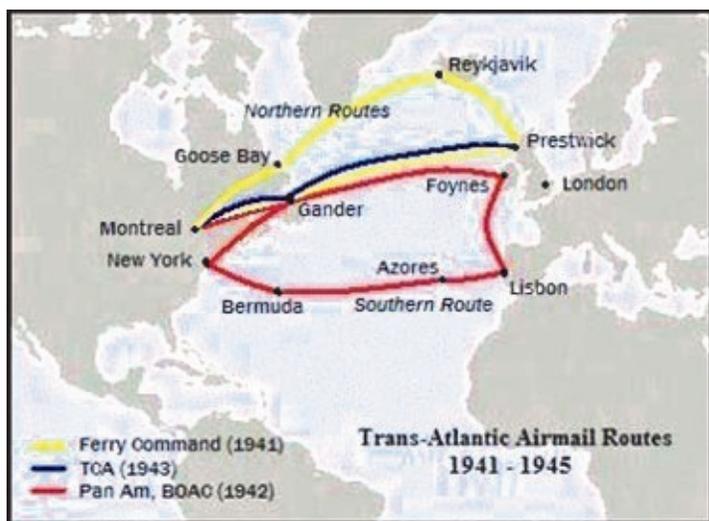


Figure 3. North Atlantic airmail routes. Note the TCA-CGTAS route in blue—Montreal-Gander-Prestwick (after Whiteley, 2006).

line through Goose Bay). By the end of the war, the modified Lancasters had completed hundreds of trips across the Atlantic and return. Passengers eventually included diplomats and important government officials (Pigott, 2002).

Several of the Avro Lancastrians were lost. CF-CMU crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the Azores during a night time, eastbound Atlantic crossing with no survivors. On 1 June 1945 Avro Lancaster CF-CMS, which was British Built R-5727, crashed and burned at Montreal-Dorval International Airport after a training flight. There were no injuries.

Liberation of France & resumption of Airmail Service

Paris was liberation on 25 August, 1944. A limited and restrictive mail service to the liberated parts of France was established in early September, 1944. At first non-illustrated post cards, written in English or

French, on personal or family matters, were acceptable if addressed to French civilians. As time and the liberation of France proceeded, single weight letters and postcards were allowed. One sticking point was the introduction of faster airmail service. A partial airmail service from Great Britain to France commenced in August, 1945.

Flown Airmail Covers

For the collector, it is nearly impossible to identify mail carried by the CGTAS flights without an endorsement on the cover to that effect. However airmail registered letters, originating on the French Colony of St. Pierre and Miquelon, had to be accounted for at Montreal. They received the circular MONTRÉAL CANADA back stamp that verified that they were routed on the trans-Atlantic CGTAS flights. I have three of these scarce St. Pierre covers with the appropriate Montreal Canada back stamps in my postal history exhibit (Figures 4 through 8).

Figure 4 is a remarkable, registered, insured, airmail European-size cover addressed to



Figure 4. 2(20f) = 40f prepays postage 2f, airmail surtax of 30f, insurance 4f and registration 4f. Postmarked St. Pierre March 14, 1946. R 113. Back stamped Montreal March 27, 1946.

Lyon, France. Insured letters are scarce. The cover is endorsed in manuscript "Value declare: Cinq mille francs - 5000. Recommandée". Manuscript "TAXE PERCUE 4FRS" and "POIDS EXACT ENG GRAMMES 12 GRS 6" Pink label VALEUR DECLARÉE in lower left. Straight line "SAINT-PIERRE ET MIQUELON" at top. Registration label R No 113. Two 20f green, definitive stamps frank the cover with a postmark dated March 14, 1946. The prized Montreal back stamp is dated March 27, 1946 is shown in Figure 5.



Figure 5. Montreal postmark March 27, 1946 enlarged.

Figure 6 is a registered, airmail cover addressed to Paris. A 20f green definitive and 1f orange, 5f brown and 10f black airmail stamps are tied with the St. Pierre postmark dated April 22, 1946. R for Registered. The Montreal back stamp is Figure 7.



Figure 6. $1.50f + 4.50f + 2(20f) = 46f$. Prepays postage 2f airmail surtax 40f registration 4.00f. Postmarked St. Pierre April 22, 1946. R 48. Back stamped Montreal May 2, 1946.



Figure 7. Montreal postmark May 2, 1946 enlarged.

Figure 8 is a registered, airmail cover addressed to Lyon, France. The addressee is C. Fontanay, the same addressee as in Figure 4, but the address in Lyon is different. A pair of 20f green definitive, a 1.50f red airmail and a 4.50f on 25c light green surcharged stamp are tied with the St. Pierre postmark dated April 24, 1946. R for Registration 48. The



Figure 8. $1f + 5f + 10f + 20f = 36f$ prepays postage 2f, airmail surtax of 30f (20f/5g) and registration 4f. Postmarked St. Pierre April 24, 1946. Back stamped Montreal May 2, 1946.

cover in Figure 8 appears to have travelled on the same flight as Figure 6 as the Montreal May 2, 1946 back stamp is the same (Figure 7) for both covers.

Besides the Montreal back stamps there are

no additional back stamps or way markings on the three covers.

Conclusions

The routes that French Colonial St. Pierre and Miquelon airmail took during the immediate post World War II period are revealing. The idea that all St. Pierre trans-Atlantic airmail, during this period, was routed through the United States is incorrect. Close examination, of the front and back of St. Pierre and Miquelon flown trans-Atlantic airmail covers, has revealed a shorter Canadian routing. The pioneering trans-Atlantic airmail flights of the Canadian Government Trans-Atlantic Air Service is an important link in the history of trans-Atlantic aviation. This little known airmail route, from the French Colony of St. Pierre and Miquelon via Montreal, Gander, Prestwick to metropolitan France, was important to re-establish links to loved-ones and contacts back in the mother country after six terrible years of war.

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Bomber Command Museum, 2013, Nanton, Alberta website <<http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/lanccanadian.html>>

Pigott, Peter, 2002, *Wings across Canada: An illustrated History of Canadian Aviation*, Dundurn Press, Toronto, 188p., p. 97-101.

Whiteley, 2006, *Airmail Services to Great Britain and European destinations: 1939-1945*, King George VI Post and Mail, May-Aug., issue 9, p 6-14.

Timbre d'appoint de Janvier 1917



The 1906 five centime stamp with the overprinted "T" in a triangle was used for the month of January, 1917 as a postage due stamp. This came to happen because a rate change for the *carte de visite* occurred on January 1, 1917, passing from five centimes to ten centimes. This caught many people unaware and the postal authorities responded compassionately. The normal postage due tax was double the unpaid rate; in the case of the *carte de visite* ten centimes underpaid became twenty centimes minus the applied postage of five centimes for a tax of fifteen centimes. The overprinted five centime stamp was a *timbre d'appoint* (extra or auxiliary stamp). It was applied to the underpaid *carte de visite* and the recipient charged the five centimes. The postal clerk in Kebili, Algeria used the stamps on underpaid domestic mail from France such as the one shown above. The single domestic rate in 1917 was fifteen centimes so this letter was underpaid five centimes. This stamp on cover is elusive. I have yet to see one used correctly on a *carte de visite*. Does anyone have one? ED



Figure 2. This letter sent on July 20, 1888 paid the fifteen centime single domestic rate. Mail between France and Tunisia moved at a domestic rate, rather than a foreign rate as was the case in the other colonies until 1899.

dropped the official single letter domestic rate to ten centimes. They also lowered the domestic postcard rate from ten centimes to five centimes⁴. The single letter rate to France remained fifteen centimes. This maneuver resulted in a local, intra-Tunisian rate while maintaining a French domestic rate for France and Algeria. Figure 3 illustrates this local rate on a cover from Fom

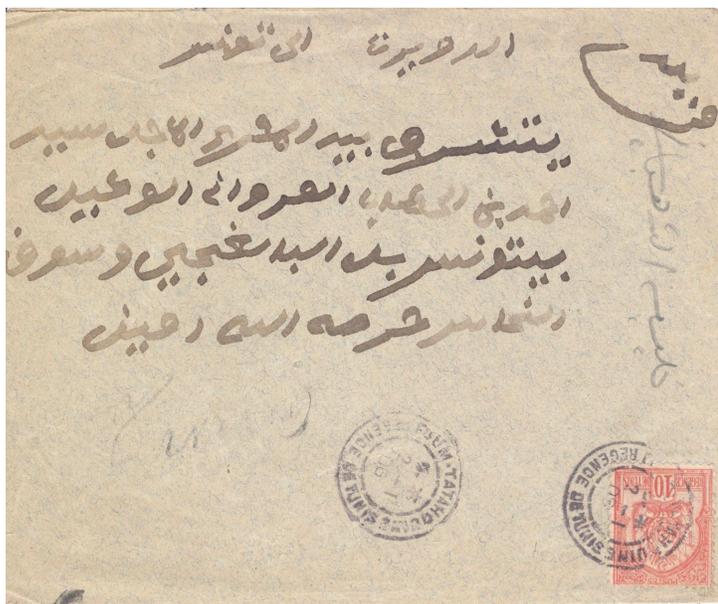


Figure 3. The local single letter rate established in 1893 was ten centimes as illustrated on this letter from Fom Tatahouine to Tunis



Figure 4. The single domestic letter rate to France remained fifteen centimes as illustrated on this cover from Souk El Arba to Paris in 1894.

Tatahouine to Tunis and figure 4 illustrates the continued fifteen centime domestic rate on a cover from Souk El Arba to Paris in 1894.

The single foreign letter rate at the emergence of the Tunisian post office was twenty-five centimes. The European population of Tunisia was primarily Italian, outnumbering the French by nearly eight to one. In August 1898 the Tunisian post office adopted a single letter to Italy rate of twenty centimes,

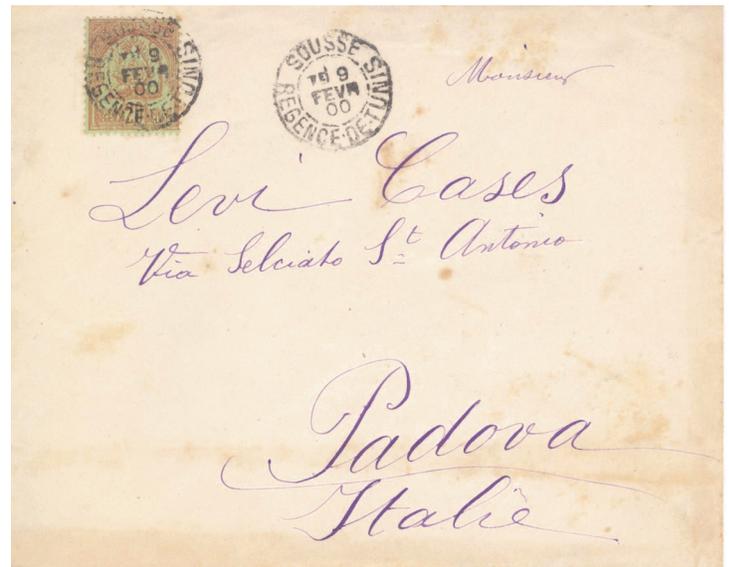


Figure 5. This February 1900 cover has the single letter rate to Italy, established in 1898, paid by the twenty centime stamp issued for this purpose.

down from the single foreign rate of twenty-five centimes⁵. Figure 5 illustrates this rate.

On March 15, 1917 Tunisia raised the single local letter rate to fifteen centimes, illustrated by the cover in Figure 6. This brought the postal rates into alignment with France until

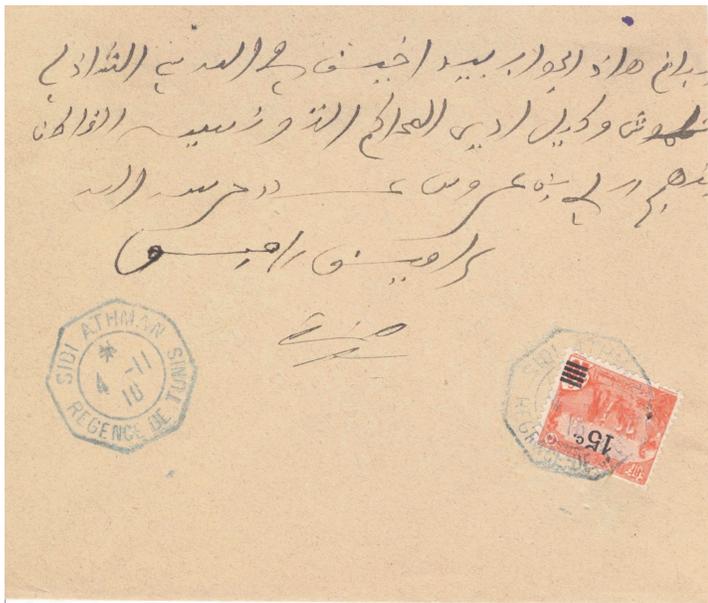


Figure 6. 1917 single local rate

April 1, 1920 when France raised the domestic single letter rate to twenty-five centimes.



Figure 7. The single letter to France cost fifteen centimes between 1917 and 1922. These semipostal stamps paid the single registered rate of forty centimes (15c postage and 25c registry fee)

Figure 7 illustrates the single domestic rate to France of fifteen centimes which lasted until April 1, 1920.

Domestic rate changes over the next few years consistently kept the interior Tunisian rate less than the interior French rates. In 1922 they were twenty centimes in Tunisia and twenty-five centimes in France as shown in figures 8 and 9.



Figure 8. A twenty centime stamp paid the local twenty centime rate on this insured letter from Kairouan to Tunis on April 1, 1922, the first day of the new rate.



Figure 9. The single letter rate to France in 1922 was twenty-five centimes. That rate plus a thirty-five centime registry fee were paid with this sixty centime stamp



Figure 10. A single local rate of twenty-five centimes was established in 1926



Figure 11. The single rate to France was raised to thirty centimes on July 15, 1925

Single Local Rates for Tunisia and Single Domestic rates for France and other French Colonies

Rate Begins	Tunisia	France
7/1/1888	15c	15c ¹
3/1/1893	10c	15c
4/16/1906	10c	10c
1/1/1917	10c	15c
3/15/1917	15c	15c
4/1/1920	15c	25c
4/1/1922 ²	20c	25c
7/16/1925	20c	30c
1926 ³	25c	40c
8/9/1926	25c	50c
1/?/1927	40c	50c
1/?/1928	50c	50c

Notes on the chart of local rates above;

1. This was the rate begun on 5/1/1878 for France and Algeria.⁶
2. Rate change in Tunisia
3. The Tunisian rate change changed on 2/1/1926; France had the rate change on 5/1/1926

In 1926 it was twenty-five centimes and thirty centimes respectively (the rate to France was actually raised to thirty centimes on July 15, 1925). Figures 10 and 11 show these rates.

The twenty-five centime local rate was short-lived. In January 1927 the post office increased it to forty centimes as seen on the cover in figure 12. The single domestic rate to France was fifty centimes and is shown in figure 13. In January 1928, Tunisia raised the local letter rate to fifty centimes thereby



Figure 12. The 1927 single local rate of forty centimes in Tunisia



Figure 13. The single domestic rate established in 1926.

eliminating the local rate. The single domestic rate for first class mail remained the tariff for local mail from that time forward. An example of this rate is shown in figure 14.

End Notes

1. Robert E. Picirilli, "French Colonial Postal Rates 1878-1945," *France and Colonies Philatelist*, Vol. 63, No. 4 (October 2007), pp79-83.
2. Langlois, M. & Bourselet, V. *Les obliterations des Bureaux de Poste de l'Afrique du Nord*



Figure 14. The 1928 rate for a single domestic letter was fifty centimes

- (Algerie - Tunisie - Maroc) Amiens, [France]: Imprimerie Yvert & Cie, 1930. p53.
3. Morat, Jean, *Tunisie-L'Histoire Postale et les Emissions de Timbres Durant la Regence 1888 -1955*. Self published 2000.
 4. Brun, A. *Les Timbres de Tunisie*. Amiens, Yvert & Tellier, 1932. p23.
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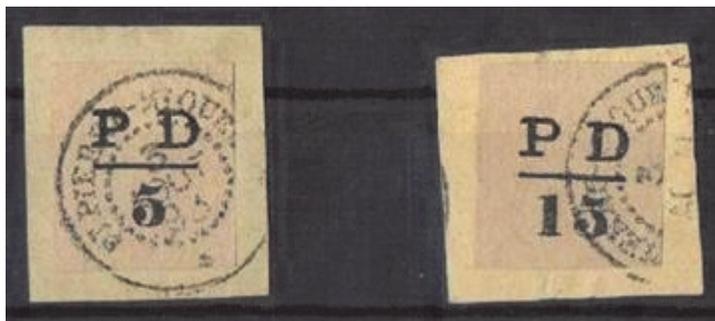
Your articles on your topics. Your input on journal content. Your ideas of where we are as a society and where we should go.

St. Pierre-Miquelon Forgeries

James Taylor

The St. Pierre and Miquelon 1886 set of three “Primitives”, with the PD abbreviation for the French *Payé jusqu’à Destination* (Paid to Destination), Scott #12 to 14, were issued in small quantities. Postal patrons had to hand their unstamped envelopes across the Post Office counter, where the stamps were affixed and cancelled. Genuine copies of the stamps in the set are always cancelled. They are usually tied to small pieces, which was preferred by collectors in the 1880s. Covers are scarce.

The stamps were issued on the 11th of February, 1886 as an emergency measure to alleviate a stamp shortage. They are known postmarked on



the 11th through the 28th of February, 1886. A single 10c (Scott #13) and a single 15c (Scott #14) are reported genuinely used at Miquelon postmarked on March 30, 1886, the same day that the stamp remainders are reported to have been incinerated.

The two stamps illustrated are both forgeries with well struck, forged St. Pierre and Miquelon postmarks. These forgeries are always cancelled ST. PIERRE-MIQUELON/ 3 AOUT 93/ + similar to cancel types of the time. The cancels are invar-

ably neatly applied tying the forged stamps to small pieces. The date, 3 August, 1893, of the fake cancels gives the stamps away as non-genuine. These two forgeries appeared for sale on the eBay stamp auction site with a starting price of 600€. Purchases of the 1886 “Primitives” should always have the correct dates for the genuine copies and be expertised. These forgeries, although easy enough to spot by the specialist, are traps for the less sophisticated collector. Reporting the listings as forgeries to EBay is a useless exercise.

These “3rd of August” forgeries appeared on the internet several years ago. Does any of our readers know from whom and/or from which country these forgeries first appeared? If anyone have any additional information please contact the writer.

James R. (Jim) Taylor

miquelon@shaw.ca

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Accountancy Marking Explanation

Norval Rasmussen



Shown is a cover sent from Tunis to Orange, France on June 28, 1889. It was insured for three hundred francs. On the reverse are five red wax seals and a red rectangular accountancy marking. The accountancy marking has five small boxes, two under the heading *poids* and three under the heading *cachets* with initials above each. Under the heading **GR** is a manuscript 9 for the weight of the letter in grams. Under the heading **C** is a manuscript 80 for the fractional additional weight of the letter in centigrams. Under **NOM** is a manuscript 5 for the number of wax seals. The next label is difficult to see on this cover but is **COUL** for the color of the wax seals, in which there is a manuscript R (rouge). Finally there is a manuscript HA in the box under **EMPR** which are the initials impressed into the wax seals.

The tariff was seventy centimes broken down in this way: fifteen centimes domestic single letter plus twenty-five centime registry fee and insurance at ten centimes per one hundred francs.

In 1889 the rate from most colonies to France was the foreign single letter rate. The post office in Tunis was originally an extension of the French post office in Bone, Algeria and mail from Tunisia was charged a domestic rate.

The franking consists of a single thin figured forty centime of the first stamp issue of July 1888, paired with two, thick figured fifteen franc stamps of the second stamp issue of October 1888.

Show Reports

NOJEX 2013

Seacaucus, NJ May 2013

Gold to **Edward Grabowski** for "The Era of the French Colonial Group Allegorical Group Type Part II New Caledonia & Dependencies and French Oceania." Also Postal History Society Posthorn medal. Gold to **Eliot Landau** for "Classic France: Postal History of the Ceres and Napoleon Issues of 1849-1875." Single frame Gold to **Edward Grabowski** for "The Era of the French Colonial Group Type: Obock."

NAPEX 2013

McLean, VA June 2013

Vermeil (Literature) to **Charles LaBlonde** for *Post D-Day Swiss Mail To/From Great Britain and the Americas*, also Silver-Bronze for *Censorship of World War II Danish Mail: A Primer*.

Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition 2013

Philadelphia, PA April 2013

Gold to **Eliot Landau** for "The 1890-1903 4¢ Lincoln Definitives." Gold to **Roger P. Quinby** for "The First Postal Cards of the Republic of Finland: The Saarinen Postal Cards 1917-1930." Also United Postal Stationery Society Marcus White Award.

PIPEX 2013

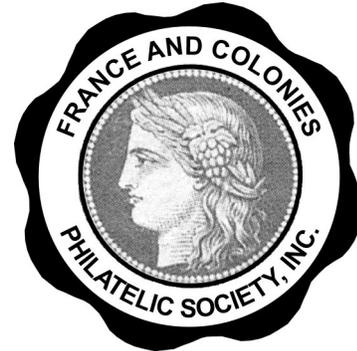
Portland, OR May 2013

Vermeil to **Stephen Tucker** for "Afrique Occidentale Francaise 1943-1960."

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2013

Denver, CO May 2013

Gold to **Stanley Luft** for "Post Offices and Postal Markings of the Annexed Paris Suburbs to the 1880s." Also American Philatelic Society Pre-1900 Medal of Excellence.



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President's Letter

Just like that and the summer solstice is behind us again. Time is an interesting phenomenon. Just as quickly we will be convening in San Diego for our next meeting! So what better subject to lead off this column?

It is time for you to volunteer as speakers. We need our program solidified by early September so we can provide lots of advance notice to our members. As you know, our presentations vary from thematic to technical, from travelogue to fable. The only common theme is France and colonial stamps, postal history, current or former dependencies, and so on. We would love to have you tell us an illustrated story about some part of or branch of philately. You should plan on speaking anywhere from 25 to 50 minutes. PowerPoint slides have been the standard in the past, with scans of your material. Anyone who needs assistance can call on a child or grandchild – they all have a better handle on technology than we do.

We'll get a schedule together and, with any luck, be able to publish it in our next issue. As we have done in the past, we will have a Friday meeting so that you can spend Saturday and Sunday at the exhibits and bourse. There will probably be a short business meeting as well, still on Friday. But most important is to have *you* warming up the group with your special part of French philately.

I think the only other news about the show is that I will be serving as the French area judge. That will limit my ability to participate on Friday, which is disappointing for

me. However, I do enjoy judging, and I certainly enjoy reviewing the exhibits you put together. Ras, our vice-president, will be on hand to chair our Friday meeting – maybe I should call him the emcee to emphasize that our get-together is not quite so formal.

At last we have some news to report on our digital conversion project. To be blunt, the cost to finish and maintain is significant. There may be ways to control some of the costs, but for now we have only one proposal in hand. Let me summarize some of the major points.

The proposal in hand is a bit complicated. One thing to keep in mind is that just digitizing our journals is not the end of the project. Our website is in poor shape, since it hasn't had a significant update in many years. If you have ever visited the site, you may have noticed that it is hosted on "drunkenboat," which hardly contributes to the image we want to project. That will be changed. So much of the proposal we have relates to the website design and hosting so that once our journals are digitized the data is actually available to us.

First is the raw cost of completing the digitization. To finish that, including making the database searchable, will be \$4,000 to \$5,000. That really isn't a surprise. It's only a bit more expensive than we expected at the outset, probably \$1,000 to \$3,000 more. Given the long saga, this part of the project seems realistic. However, the proposal also states that it will cost us \$220 *per month* to maintain the database on a hosted server. This is a new cost that hasn't been part of the discussion up to now. One of our immediate next

steps is to evaluate this and find an alternative, since we are not in a position to afford that cost. One part of the project requires some volunteer time, so you should expect an invitation to assist in that when the time comes.

There are two website alternatives in the proposal, one a lower cost and one higher. If we could afford the top shelf alternative, it would include a blog system, bookstore set up for e-commerce, members-only access to our journals and a bulletin board. We would be able to accept dues payments through PayPal, and so on. The site would be very professional and would look and feel like a first class site. Take a seat before you read the price - \$8,000 to \$12,000, although annual maintenance is probably not much.

The second website alternative, with no blog system, reduced content management, no bookstore, is \$3,500 to \$4,000. Annual maintenance should also be fairly low.

That leaves us in an interesting spot. Clearly we must look for less expensive alternatives for all but the digitization project. That project, which has built well on the work already done, is a go / no-go decision. The principal argument for completing the project is based on this logic: to attract and keep new members we need a good internet presence. To accomplish that we need a good website. Behind the website we need good content, because without good content the website has very limited use. Our journals are our best content, so we should finish the project.

Developing and maintaining the website are important to this as well. Yet despite my fondest hopes, I doubt our group of 300+ members is big enough to support a project that costs as much as the proposal in front of us. So we need to look for less expensive web designers to make our content accessible. Your board welcomes suggestions.

**See you in San Diego
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Editorial continued from page 67

useful ...to our readers. But this means of communications must work both ways. The letters I receive almost invariably come from regular correspondents and contributors....Please avail yourself these opportunities to seek help and advice, and to make yourself heard.

Our membership stood at 261 on January 1, 2013. We lost 26 members from January 1, 2012. I would like to make this journal even more useful to prospective and present members. I would seek some input from you, the members, on how to do this. In preparation for this editorial piece I reviewed my holdings of *F&CP* from 1985 through 2012 and note some features that have gone. In January issues starting in 2001 there appeared an index to the prior year (it may have started earlier as I had allowed my membership to lapse in 1996). This strikes me as useful but I note it stopped after 2010. Perhaps because of the anticipation of a digital and searchable journal? I will restart this in the January 2014 issue and will make some effort to recreate the 2011 and 2012 indexes.

A series of "Fundamental" articles appeared sporadically in the past. Can I entice someone to give me an article on French stamp issues aimed at an entering group of collectors?

Are there other features you would like to see in this journal? Let me know and I will enter into a dialogue with you and others to see what can be done.

Instructions for authors

I spent a great deal of time with the old issues before putting this one together. I found very detailed instructions for authors in the July 2007 *F&CP* volume (whole number 289). These should continue to guide you in your submissions. Electronic submission using Microsoft Word © is preferred. Pictures scanned at 300 dpi reproduce well and can be shown larger without losing clarity. The preferred format for the pictures will remain TIF. I note David Herendeen's instructions in the July 2007 issue concerning the use of JPEG scans. Some of the illustrations in the last issue lost clarity and sharpness in the final printed issue. They were in JPEG format. Although they looked fine in my document they degraded going forward.

In all cases if you need assistance in producing your article, cover write up, column closer, or other submission contact me: nrasmu@gmail.com or 224 Wilson Ave., Morgantown, WV 26501, or 304-292-7652, or 304-290-6117.

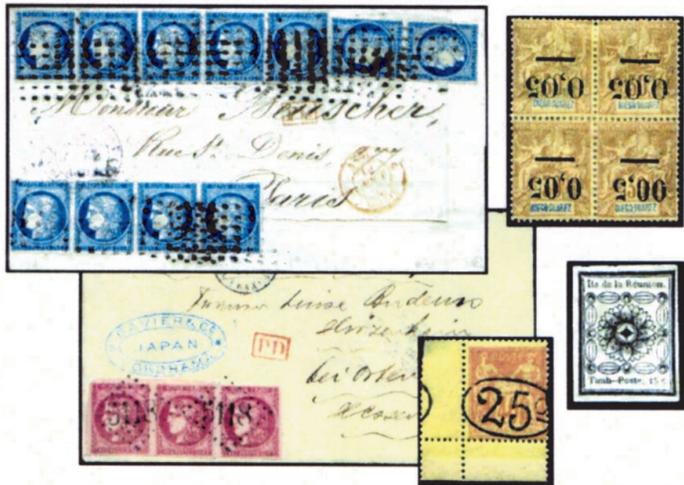
Deadlines are the 15th of the month preceding publication (December 15, March 15, June 15, September 15) but I can be reasonable.

ED

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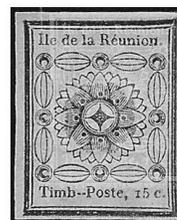
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