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My Secrets of Writing for Linn's (and Why It Is Good for French Philately in the U.S.)

Larry Rosenblum

Three years ago, I started writing the bi-monthly column “Philately of France” for *Linn's Stamp News*. This represents a new area for *Linn's*, a challenge for me, and, I believe, a benefit to French philately in the U.S.

I've been a regular reader of *Linn's* for many years, and I do not recall a regular column on French philately; if they ever had one, it was long ago. I was therefore pleased that they accepted my proposal for the column.

I have been pleased that the response to my column has been very good. The editor-at-large, Donna Houseman, has told me that my column is popular, and I've gotten positive comments from several readers.

I have no data on *Linn's* readership, but for them to consider a column to be popular, I have to believe it would have at least one to two thousand semi-regular to regular readers.

My articles have been featured twice on *Linn's* cover, most recently my article about the recently completed Marianne and Youth definitives (Figure 1).

I think this raises awareness of French philately here in the U.S. and, I hope, marginally increases the numbers of collectors in the long run. I also hope my column will have a slight positive effect on membership in our society over time.

Writing for *Linn's* is certainly not the same as writing for a specialist society journal like this one. First of all, *Linn's* is a commercial publication, and they choose topics and writers that ap-



Figure 1. My “Philately of France” column in *Linn's Stamp News* about the recently concluded Marianne and Youth series was featured on the cover.

peal to their diverse readers and thereby draw in subscribers and advertisers. Second, the readers are diverse, spanning beginning collectors to experienced exhibitors. Their interests are also diverse, and I have to assume that only a small fraction is actively collecting France or a France-related area.

How, then, do I try to attract readers?

Number one is having interesting illustrations. I want someone who is flipping through the magazine to see something interesting, read a caption or two, and then read the whole column. I also want my regular readers to see things that they are not familiar with.

Number two is choosing a variety of interesting subjects. I seem to have a knack for that; I find something that interests me and that I think will interest others. That has worked out well so far. I vary my topics: after a column about a group of stamps, such as the Marianne and Youth definitives, I will do a column about postal history, then perhaps a topically-oriented column. I am planning columns to tie in with several upcoming anniversaries: the centenary of Renoir's death in

2019, the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in 2020 and the 150th anniversary of the Franco-Prussian War balloon mail also in 2020.

Number three is trying to draw information together from multiple sources and put it together in a way that is interesting and informative. For example, I did a four-column series on the Sower definitives. One column featured tables in which I listed stamps chronologically with a brief explanation of why each one was issued. A collector using

Issue Date	Denom	Design	Color	Scott Num	First Use	Withdrawn
6/30/21	5c	Cameo	Orange	160	Domestic printed matter (1st)	1924
6/30/21	50c	Lined	Dull Blue	144	Foreign letters (1st, UPU color)	1923
1/31/22	30c	Cameo	Red	171	Foreign postcards (UPU color)	1923
2/-/22	10c	Cameo	Green	163	Foreign printer matter (1st, UPU color)	1929
6/17/24	60c	Lined	Light Violet	148	Domestic letters (3rd)	1925
9/9/24	85c	Lined	Vermillion	153	Domestic registered letters (1st)	1926
10/1/24	65c	Lined	Rose	149	Domestic COD letters (1st)	1925
1/6/25	30c	Cameo	Cerise	172	Domestic printed matter (3rd)	1925
8/-/25	30c	Cameo	Light Blue	173	Domestic letters (1st)	1926
8/-/25	40c	Cameo	Olive	177	Foreign printed matter (2nd) and domestic airmail fee	1926
11/7/25	1.05f	Cameo	Vermillion	181	Foreign registered letters (1st)	1926
11/-/25	80c	Lined	Vermillion	152	Domestic COD letters (1st)	1926
1/22/26	50c	Lined	Gray Green	145	Domestic letters (2nd)	1926
1/-/26	15c	Cameo	Red Brown	165	Domestic illustrated postcards with up to five words	1939
5/25/26	40c	Cameo	Vermillion	178	Domestic letters (1st)	1926
7/29/26	20c	Cameo	Red Violet	167	Domestic illustrated postcards with up to five words	1939
8/6/26	1.40f	Cameo	Cerise	183	Domestic registered letters (1st)	1926
8/6/26	1f	Lined	Dull Blue	154	Domestic registration fee	1933
8/25/26	50c	Lined	Vermillion	146	Domestic letters (1st)	1932
11/-/26	75c	Lined	Rose Lilac	151	Domestic letters (2nd)	1932
11/-/26	45c	Lined	Light Violet	143	Domestic printed matter (3rd)	1933
1/-/27	65c	Lined	Gray Green	150	Domestic printed matter (4th)	1933
3/-/27	1.10f	Cameo	Cerise	182	Domestic COD letters (1st)	1932
6/11/27	25c	Cameo	Yellow Brown	169	Domestic printed matter (2nd)	1938
9/-/27	40c	Cameo	Violet	179	Domestic postcards and unsealed invoices (1st)	1928
12/-/28	40c	Cameo	Lt Ultramarine	180	Domestic postcards and unsealed invoices (1st)	1933
1/1/31	2f	Cameo	Prussian Green	184	Airmail letters to certain nearby countries (1st)	1931
9/-/32	10c	Cameo	Ultramarine	164	Heavy newspapers and election literature	1938
3/-/33	2c	Cameo	Dark Green	157	Sorted (2nd) and unsorted (1st) printed matter	1939
8/-/33	1c	Cameo	Olive Bister	156	Sorted printed matter (1st)	1939
9/1/33	3c	Cameo	Vermillion	158	Sorted (3rd) and unsorted (2nd) printed matter	1937
12/-/34	5c	Cameo	Cerise	161	Heavy newspapers and election literature	1938
11/17/37	30c	Cameo	Copper Red	174	Domestic postal cards	1939
9/16/37	35c	Cameo	Green	176	Foreign printed matter (1st, UPU color)	1940
2/15/38	50c	Lined	Greenish Blue	147	Unsealed invoices (1st)	1939

Figure 2. For one of my columns about the Sower definitives, I included tables listing the stamps chronologically. This one lists unoverprinted issues of 1921 to 1938. The table gives readers more information than they can find in stamp catalogues.

a catalog can certainly find out what was issued and when, but there's no information about why. My table would answer questions that the collector may have, such as why there are four different 50 centime Sowers, two issued in the same year. (Figure 2 and Note 1.)

Some examples will show the variety of topics I have written about. I did a column about the Eiffel Tower; everyone is familiar with it, but probably most readers don't know when and why it was built. As with many of my columns, this combined history and philately.

My column about US-French friendship was also prominently featured on **Linn's cover**. I included the folder picturing the US-French joint issue, which most collectors have probably not seen. (Figure 3.)

I did postal history columns about the Paris pneumatic mail including its dedicated postal stationery, folded typewriter postcards (Figures 4 and 5), and Anglo-French moveable box mail. The latter two were based on exhibits by people I know who were kind enough to provide information and illustrations that I used.

Columns relating solely to stamps include the **Sower and Marianne** articles I've mentioned, the "**Caisse d'Amortissement**" (sinking fund) semi-postals (Figure 6), and an overview of all semi-postals.

Finally, I did a column about my personal experience of a spending a month in Provence (Figure 7).

I am enjoying writing these columns and plan to continue as long as it remains well-received. If



Figure 3. For my column about stamps relating to US-France friendship, I showed this folder containing blocks of the joint issue commemorating the Statue of Liberty. I try to have eye-catching illustrations to get readers interested enough to read the column.

anyone has an idea for a column or an exhibit they wish to share with *Linn's* readers, please let me know.

Note 1: My Sower columns were based on Ashley Lawrence's excellent, fully illustrated book, *The Sower, A Common Little French Stamp*. It is available from the author who can be contacted at ashleylawrence1000@gmail.com.



Figure 4. I wrote a column about folded typewriter postcards (FTPC), a little known aspect of postal history. The unfolded card as shown here allows the typist to put both the address and message on one side of the card, eliminating the need to eject it and turn it over



Figure 5. The FTPC is then folded over and sealed, in this case with the postage stamp. These cards were approved by many postal administrations early in the twentieth century, and the UPU approved them for international mail at the postcard rate.



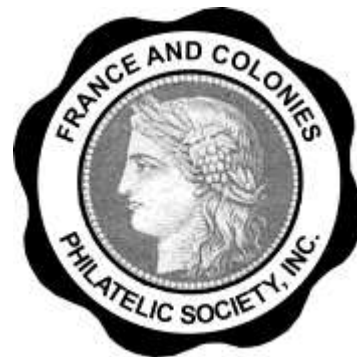
Figure 6. Semi-postals to raise funds for the “Caisse d’Amortissement” (a government fund used to pay off World War I debt) were issued between 1927 and 1931. Notice the large surtax of 8.50 francs compared to postage of 1.50f.

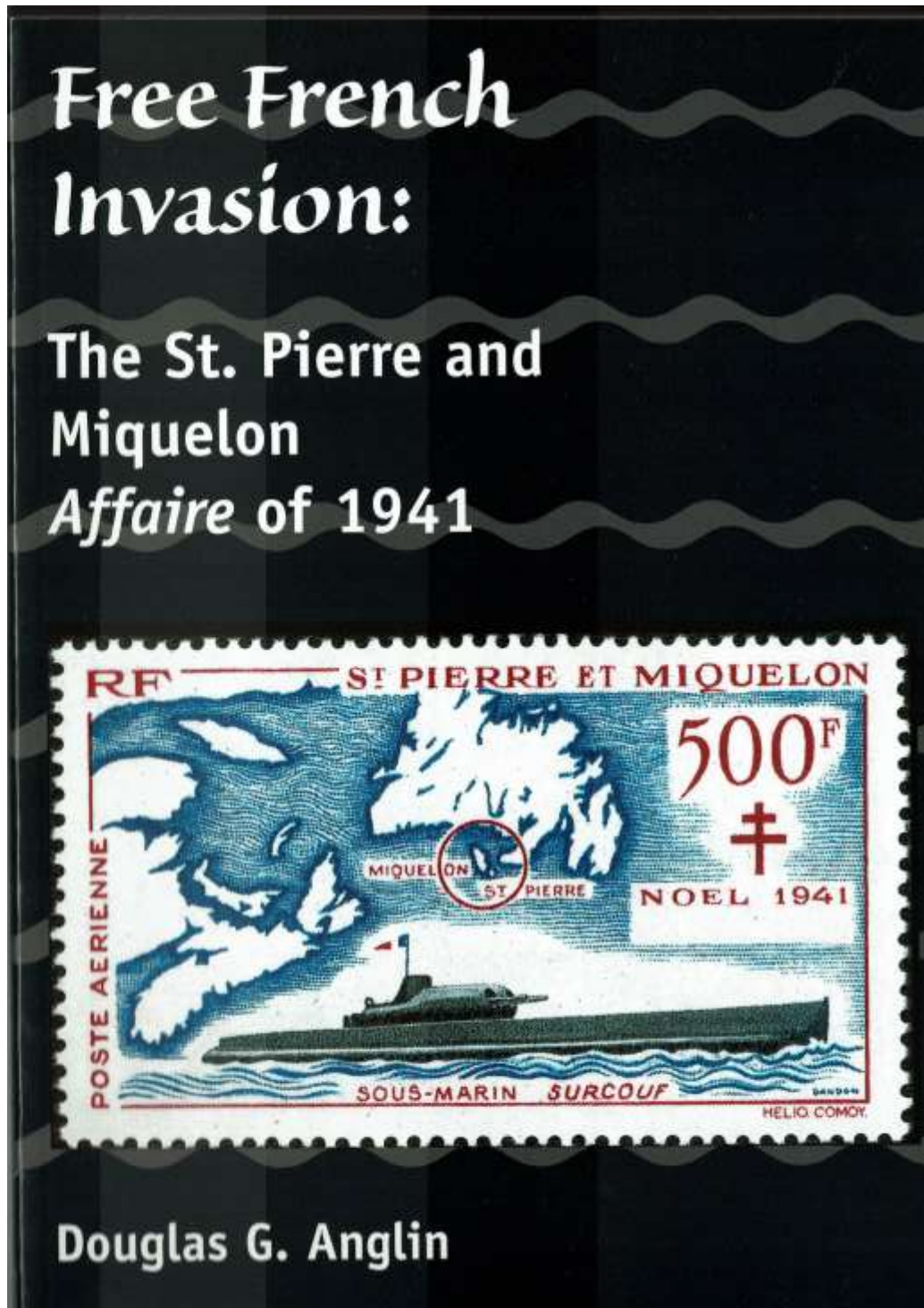
A full color pdf of this issue is available.

Email a request to the Editor.



Figure 7. This first day card was an illustration in my column about my vacation in Provence. It pictures the Fountain of the Rotunda in the center of the suburban city Aix-en-Provence. The cancel shows another fountain in the town, the Fountain of the Four Dolphins





James Taylor donated four copies of this book to be sold to benefit the France and Colonies Philatelic Society. Two remain at \$25.00 each. Requests to the editor at nrasmu@gmail.com.

Dahomey Palm Climber Bisects of 1920

Jere W. Dutt III 3419

In late 1920 the supply of the 1913 25 centime ultra and deep blue Dahomey palm climber ran out in several cities. (figure 1) The shortage was created by the January 4, 1920 domestic rate increase to 25 centimes. The domestic rate applied to internal mail as well as mail to France. Postal authorities approved bisecting either horizontally or vertically the 1913 50 centime chocolate and brown stamp (figure 2) to fill the need until a new supply of 25 centime stamps could be provided.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

This authorization covered September 1920 through December 1920. The cities of Bohicon, Cotonou, and Porto-Novo were authorized to use the bisect method. The precise usage was not clear to users, however. Officially the 50 centime stamp should have been bisected horizontally or vertically. However, postally used examples are known with incorrect cutting as well examples of incorrect stamps being bisected with mixed usage.

Figure 3 is the front of a letter mailed to the chief physician of Porto-Novo on Oct 30, 1920 from Cotonou with a 50 centime stamp bisected diagonally. Figure 3a shows the reverse off this letter backstamped Oct 31, 1921.



Figure 3. Diagonally bisected 50 centime stamp paid postage to Porto Novo.



Figure 3a. Reverse of Figure 3 cover with Porto Novo receiver.

An example of mixed franking mailed Dec 24, 1920 from Bohicon to France using a bisected 20 centime stamp and a 15 centime stamp to create proper postage is shown in figure 4. Figure 4a is the reverse of this cover showing the Dijon receiver mark dated Jan 20, 1921 indicating it passed successfully through the post.



Figure 4. Bohicon to Dijon cover franked with bisected 20 centime stamp.



Figure 5. Bohicon to Cotonou with bisected 30 centime stamp.



Figure 4a. Reverse of the cover in figure 4 with Dijon receiver.



Figure 5a. Reverse of the cover in figure 5 with Cotonou receiver.

Another mixed franking example was mailed November 14, 1920 from Bohicon to a resident in Cotonou. (figure 5) The 30 centime stamp from this series was bisected and paired with a 10 centime stamp to pay the correct 25 centime rate. The reverse (figure 5a) shows the Cotonou receiver mark dated November 16, 1920. These letters had no trouble traveling to their destination.

The cover shown in figure 6 is from this period of 25 centime stamp shortage, having been mailed September 16, 1920 from Porto Novo to Grand Popo, where it was received September 18, 1920.

(figure 6a) It was addressed to **Société Commerciale et Industrielle de la Cote d'Afrique** with no return address. It was franked with a red 10 centime and grey 15 centime postage due stamp creating the proper rate of 25 centimes. The Porto Novo postmark is both in the normal upper right hand position as well as on both postage due stamps.

Because this was early in the range of exception, and I have not seen an exact date of the authorization to begin bisecting the 50 centime stamp, this example may have been an attempt to make the 25 centime postage using the postage due stamps. With the Grand Popo receiver on the re-

verse and commercial address it appears to have travelled through the postal system. However, if the cover had arrived without proper postage it should have been charged a double rate. In addition, the Porto Novo (originating post office) post-mark cancelled the postage due stamps. The question is why didn't they use a combination of regular stamps? I am not aware of shortages in other denominations of this series. While odd, as it goes to a commercial organization it doesn't appear to be a collector created item. I would appreciate any thoughts or input. I can be reached at jere@duttenterprises.com.

Timbres Fiscaux-Quittances Question?



Figure 6 and 6a. Cover front to from Porto Novo to Grand Popo and reverse.



Over the years I have accumulated several of these Bulletin D'Expédition forms franked by Tunisian parcel post stamps. This example is the only one I have labeled VALEUR DÉCLARÉE with the quittances revenue stamps applied. Were these applied to pay the insurance? Any comments will be welcomed. Contact the editor to respond. Nrasmu@gmail.com. Thanks.

The St. Pierre – Miquelon Migratory Bird Airmail Series

James R. Taylor

Introuduction

The islands of St. Pierre et Miquelon are rich in bird life, since they are positioned along the north-south spring and fall migratory routes. Located 20 kilometres off the south coast of Newfoundland, the territory lies in the North Atlantic near the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The first scientific article about the bird population was written by Peters and Burleigh (1951), after their visit to the islands for three days in 1945. While studying the birds of Newfoundland, they recorded 35 species at St. Pierre. The next study was by Austin Cameron (1967) who spent nine weeks on the islands in 1963 and 1964. He recorded 118 species. Birding has since become popular with the local residents and the bird count was up to 319 in 2002. (Etcheberry, 2002)

An attractive 16-stamp airmail series shows migratory birds common to the islands. The same species, depicted in miniature on the stamps, also inhabit nearby Canada and many are familiar to bird watchers in the adjacent United States. The airmail series was issued over a 15-year period from 1993 to 2008 (Maury, 2010). The stamps, printed from steel engravings, make colorful album pages. The series is significant in that it spans two different currencies and an interim period when the two currency values were both inscribed on the stamps.

The stamps are discussed chronologically starting with the earliest 1993 issue and grouped into three currency types: French Francs (FRF); both French Francs and Euros (€); and finally only in Euros. The set also shows the ambiguity in the

territory name as it goes from completely spelled out in large letters on the initial stamps to the abbreviations SPM and SP&M with the name in tiny letters over the 15-year span. The dates of issue are shown; the common English names and the scientific Latin names are shown in each stamp description in the text. The French bird names are shown on the illustrations. Good references for birds native to St. Pierre and Miquelon are the Avibase Bird Checklists of the World (2015), Bird stamps (2017) and Birding (2017).

The stamp series evolved artistically as close ups of the various birds allowed for superb artistic licence. Some designs were more successful than others. Also note that on several values, notably the 2007 and 2008 1.50 € values, both the male and female plumage is shown for the duck species. The natural terrestrial and oceanic habitats are shown in the designs for several of the birds. The feeding and fishing habits of some of the various species are also illustrated.

The designers and engravers names appear in tiny letters in the lower margins of the stamps. The usual pattern is a combination of an established local St. Pierre designer and an engraver from the well known group of skilled and experienced Paris engravers. Also in the lower margin are the initials ITVF of the printer in the 1995 to 2005 issues. ITVF stands for *Imprimerie des Timbres-Poste et des Valeurs Fiduciaires* (French Government Printing Works, Périgueux). On the 2006 through 2008 stamps the imprint is *Phil@poste*, the designation and email address for the French stamp and philatelic service. Both of the two 1993 issues, and the 1995 stamp, lack a bottom margin

printers' imprint.

The French Franc (FRF) Denominated Series

Two values in a horizontal format initiated the Migratory Bird series on May 17, 1993. The 10 FRF value, (Figure 1), features the Manx Shearwater, *Puffinus gravis*, a dark-backed seabird with a white underside shown in natural habitat. The bird feeds on the ocean surface or in shallow subsurface dives. Flocks of Manx Shearwaters often float offshore and visit their rock island nests after dark. The 15 FRF stamp shown in Figure 2 was issued on the same day and shows the Eurasian Golden Plover, *Pluvialis apricaria*, a shore feeder. Designer for both stamps was Michel Borotra, a St. Pierre artist who contributed to the book *Oiseaux de St. Pierre et Miquelon*. The engraver was Jacques Combet, who had engraved 13 hundred postage stamps for France and territories. He passed away in 1993, a few months after the stamps were issued. As customary at the time, *épreuves deluxe*, proofs of the individual stamps on card, along with the pair on a single *épreuves collective* proof, were released in limited numbers.



Figure 1. 1993 Manx Shearwater



Figure 2. 1993 Eurasian Golden Plover

Skipping the year 1994, the third addition to the series was issued on May 17, 1995. The subject of the 10 FRF airmail stamp (Figure 3) was the Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea*. Often in flight over water, they feed on fish captured in plunge-dives. Shown in the design is also a pair in nesting mode. The nest is a lined hollow in the ground. The designer was Michel Borotra and the French engraver was Pierre Albuissou. An *épreuves deluxe* on gummed stamp paper was released in small quantities. The stamp was withdrawn on April 7, 2001. The *Maury* (2010) catalogue quotes withdrawal dates for only a few of the stamps as noted below.



Figure 3. 1995 Arctic Tern

On May 15 1996 a 15 FRF stamp (Figure 4) was issued showing small European Curlews or Whimbrels, *Numenius phaeopus*, in flight. They are notable for their long narrow, down-curved bill. They are often seen wading along shorelines, on their long spindly legs. The designer was St. Pierre educator and artist Joëlle Olaisola and the engraver was Pierre Albuissou. Withdrawal date was April 7, 2001.



Figure 4. 1996 Whimbrel

The only vertical stamp in the series is the five FRF Peregrine Falcon (Figure 5) *Falco peregrinus* airmail stamp, in a second printing. The second

printing was released on June 2, 1997. The designer was also Joëlle Olaisola, engraver Pierre Albuissou. There were two separate printings of this stamp that differed in color and shading, but only the second printing was regularly issued. The first printing was not issued (*non émis*) and because of color faults were sent for destruction. Only a small quantity, from advanced shipments to North American agents, escaped incineration. An *épreuves deluxe* proof exists for the five FRF second printing stamp. The *épreuves deluxe* proofs for the migratory bird series were discontinued after the 1997 five FRF proof distribution.



Figure 5. 1997 Peregrine Falcon

The 10 FRF, Figure 6, the Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus etus*, stamp was issued on May 11, 1998. A close up of the eagle's head, with a background view of a bird in flight with a fish in its talons, makes for a striking design. Michel Boroetra designed the stamp. The engraver was Jacques Jubert, artistic director for the stamps of St. Pierre.



Figure 6. 1998 Bald Eagle

A 20 FRF, Figure 7, stamp of the Northern Pintail

Duck was released May 10, 1999. It also features a close up of the bird's head with a background view of a pair of ducks floating on a lake. The stamp was designed by Michel Boroetra, with engraving by Jacques Jubert.



Figure 7. 1999 Northern Pintail Duck

Dual Currency issues French Franc (FRF) and European Euro (€)

These dual currency stamps were issued in anticipation of the reversion to the new European currency, the Euro with the symbol €. The idea was to familiarize postal patrons of the currency change. The five FRF Rough-legged Buzzard, Figure 8, *Buteo lagopus*, of December 18, 2000 had a close-up view of the hawk feeding on fresh prey. In the background a second bird is shown with full wing extension floating on an updraft. Jacques Jubert was both the designer and engraver. Note the second currency, 0.75€ in small type, just above the 5,00 (FRF), in the lower left of the design. The stamp was withdrawn on June 14, 2002.



Figure 8. 2000 Rough-legged Buzzard

The Great Blue Heron, *Ardea Herodias*, is featured on the 15 FRF (2.29 €) in the Figure 9 dual currency stamp issued April 28, 2001. The design shows a close-up view of the heron with a fish in

its large beak. A full flight relative is skyward. Designer was Patrick Dérivable a local prolific artist. (Dérivable, 2009) The Engraver was Jacques Jubert. June 14, 2002 was the withdrawal date.



Figure 9. 2001 Great Blue Heron

European Euro (€) Currency Stamps

European Euro (€ = 100 cents) currency was introduced as circulating coins and banknotes on January 1, 2002. It took 6.559570002 FRF to equal one Euro. June 30, 2002 was the last day for changing old currency to Euros at any bank for the original 12 member states that included France and the Territories Outre Mer (TOMs) including St. Pierre et Miquelon. The dual currency issues spanned the introduction of the Euro and were withdrawn on June 14, 2002, just before the grace period for cashing in the old French Francs. Older stamps, including the dual currency issues in the series, retained postal validity beyond the currency conversion grace period.

The 2.50 € Atlantic Puffin, Figure 10, *Sterna paradisaea*, design, probably the most popular stamp in the set, was issued April 27, 2002. The endearing comical appearance of the puffin is captured as it secures a beak full of capelin. One puffin seems to make a desperate leap off the rocky cliff in the centre of the design. Also notice that the territory name has been reduce to the initials SPM in the upper right. The full name is tiny letters in the top margin that are hardly legible. The designer was Patrick Dérivable and engraver Jacques Jubert. The stamp was withdrawn December 12, 2003.



Figure 10. 2002 Atlantic Puffin

A 2.50 € Northern Gannet, Figure 11, *Morus bassanus*, stamp was released June 19, 2003. Large colonies of these birds inhabit rocky shorelines. Their characteristic plunge-diving into the sea to snag a fish is shown on the right of the busy design. I count 10 gannets on the stamp! Michel Borotra was the designer and the engraver was Jacques Jubert. The stamp was withdrawn July 29, 2005.



Figure 11. 2003 Northern Gannet

The Canada Goose 2.50 €, Figure 12, *Branta Canadensis*, stamp was issued July 8, 2004. On long distance migrations the flock follows a lead goose in a V-shaped formation in the sky. The designer Jean-Jacques Oliviéro's artistic license is particularly evident on the Canada Goose stamp value where a 3-D perspective is achieved. The engraver was Jacques Jubert.



Figure 12. 2004 Canada Goose

A 2.50 € Piping Plover, Figure 13, *Charadrius melodus* stamp was released June 22, 2005. A pair of the birds is shown in an onshore nesting scene. The designer was Jean-Jacques Oliviero and the engraver was Claude Andréotto who did a number of animal stamps for French Antarctic Territory.



Figure 13. 2005 Piping Plover

The 2.53 € Iceland Gull, Figure 14, *Larus glaucoïdes*, design was issued June 14, 2006. The striking design of the bird's head draws the observer to its eye. The initials for the territory now read SP&M in the bottom left corner. The joke at the time of issue was that it reminded some of SPAM, the name for unsolicited messages that clogged up e-mail on computers. Jean-Jacques Oliviero designed the stamp and Claude Andréotto engraved it.



Figure 14. 2006 Iceland Gull

The 1.50 € Eider Duck, Figure 15, *Somateria mollissima*, had its first day on May 5, 2007. Both the colorful male and plainer female plumage are shown in the ocean swells. The Common Eider is the largest duck in the Northern Hemisphere. The designer was Jean-Jacques Oliviero. The renowned French artist Marie-Noëlle Goffin was the engraver.



Figure 15. 2007 Eider Duck

A 1.50 € Harlequin Duck, Figure 16, *Histrionica histrionica*, stamp was issued June 28, 2008. Two male ducks with the brilliant fragmented pattern, a plainer female and two ducklings are shown. The designer was Jean-Jacques Oliviero and the engraver Marie-Noëlle Goffin.



Figure 16. 2008 Harlequin Duck

The migratory bird airmail series was discontinued in 2008. A current bird series, started in 2007, features regular postage stamps printed in multicolor offset lithography, not intaglio, as in the airmail series. The new designs, in smaller size horizontal format, lack the artistic licence and visual impact of the earlier engraved airmail series.

Sheet Arrangement, Gutter inscriptions and Used Sheets

All the stamps in the FRF series were sent from the printer to the post office in compact sheets of 10, five x two with a printed or unprinted gutter separating the two rows of five (Figure 17). The sheet arrangements and separating blank or printed gutters make for interesting multiples. Figure 18 shows a gutter block of four with the name of the bird in French "Le courlis" and the French inscription "Les grands Migrateurs".

Later issues in the series were printed in sheets of 25 stamps.

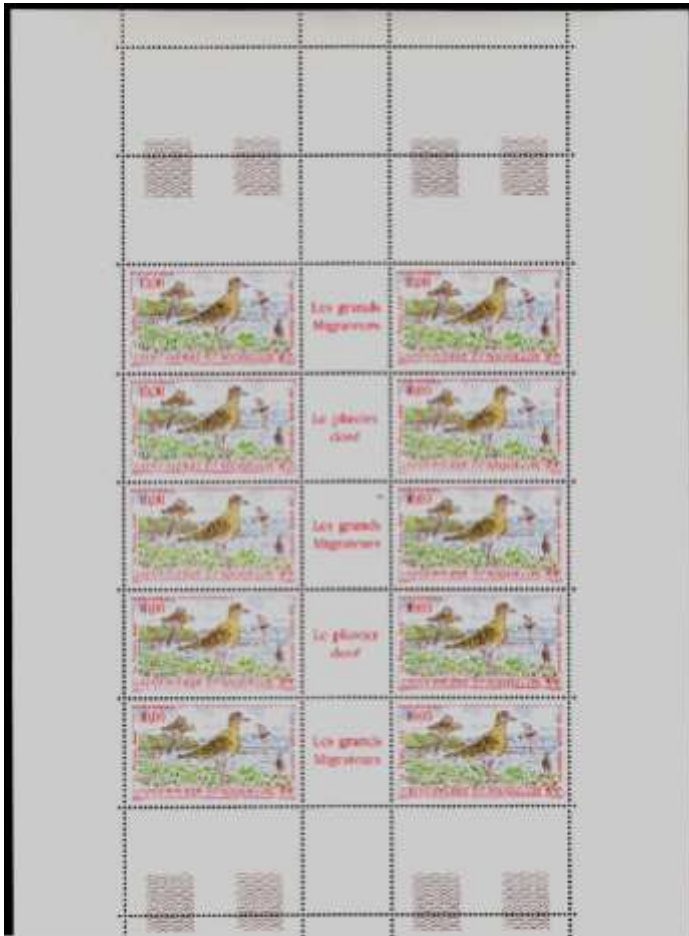


Figure 17. Sheet of 10 showing sheet arrangement 1993 10 FRF Eurasian Golden Plover



Figure 18. Gutter block with gutter inscriptions in French 5 FRF Manx Shearwaters

Proofs, Progressive Proofs, Colored Proofs

Proofs (*épreuves de luxe*) single printed stamps in issued colors appear to exist for only the early is-

sued stamps in the series the 'early bids.' These include the five FRF and 10 FRF of the 1993 (May 17) stamps as single proofs. These two stamps also appear as a proof pair together on a single sheet. The 1995 10FRF (May 17) Arctic Tern stamp was released as an unusual gummed proof on thin paper (Figure 19). The 15 FRF 1996 (May 15) stamp also appears as a single proof as does the second printing of the five FRF 1997 Per-



Figure 19. Gummed imperforate proof of 10 FRF 1995 Arctic Terns

egrine Falcon stamp.

Figure 20 shows a scarce, negative, black, progressive proof of the 1993 10 FRF signed by F. Combet, the engraver. Succeeding stamps in the



Figure 20. Negative progressive proof of 1993 10 FRF Eurasian Golden Plover

series have not had *épreuves de luxe* proofs printed. **Other artists' proofs are illustrated at Stamp Proofs (2017)**

Unissued (*non émis*) Color Variety

The scarcest variety is the unissued (*non émis*) five franc Le Faucon pelerine, which represents **the first printing which was in 'dull colors.'** The sharp eye of the local nature artist Joëlle Olaisola caught the color and shading errors. The shipment of the original printing of the five franc Peregrine Falcon airmail *Maury* (2010) #76A (Figure 21) was sent to St. Pierre, but lacked the bright yellow background color. The stamps also lacked the darker shading of other portions of the design. **This 'missing yellow' stamp was to be issued at St. Pierre on May 14th, 1997.** Joëlle Olaisola, the St. Pierre educator and designer of the stamp, could not believe her eyes. The stamps were too dull with the missing bright yellow color and the light shading in the design. This was not the stamp she had so carefully designed!



Figure 21. 1997 5 FRF unissued (*non émis*) First printing Peregrine Falcon



Figure 5. 1997 Peregrine Falcon

Olaisola insisted on a new printing with the proper colors. The entire shipment of the issue that had reached St. Pierre was promptly recalled and the stamps were destroyed by burning. As is the case in most stamp recalls, in spite of elaborate post office security measures, a few copies of the initial 'missing yellow' first printing survived.

They were part of a small quantity that had been sold outside of St. Pierre by philatelic sales agents in the United States before the recall. Copies of **the 'missing yellow' recalled stamp are scarce.** *Maury* (2010) values the airmail #76A recalled stamp at 875 €, the equivalent of 12 hundred dollars.

The second printing, Figure 5 again, with the bright yellow color *Maury* (2010) airmail #76 was issued at St. Pierre on June 2nd, 1997. This more brightly colored five FRF airmail stamp is probably the one you have on your album page. *Maury* prices the second printing at a more modest four dollars. You may want to check your copy just in case!

The color differences are striking when the recalled stamp is placed beside the issued one. The optical illusion is that the falcon is larger (or closer to the viewer) on the more brightly colored stamp. Certainly the second printing succeeds artistically where the dull first printing fails. (Taylor, 2013)

Remainders Destined for Incineration

Stamps that remained, when they were withdrawn from sale, were defaced with two sets of crossing diagonal dashes shown in Figure 22 on the left marginal 5.00 FRF (0.76€) Rough-legged Buzzard stamp of 2000. As with most survivors, intended for the fire barrel, these defaced stamps are rare.



Figure 22. Defaced remainder of 5 FRF 0.76 € 2000 Rough-legged Buzzard

Usages on Cover

Official first day covers and attractive maximum cards were obtainable from the philatelic bureau through an arrangement with the Club Philatelic de St. Pierre. Special pictorial cancellations, featuring birds in the design, were used on first day covers and maximum cards at the St. Pierre Philatelic bureau (Figure 23). These can be collected for the various, interesting, pictorial cancels with the line drawings of the birds shown on the stamp. Commercial usages on cover or wrapper prepaying registered and airmail postage on heavier mail are prized and harder to find (Figure 24). Because the stamps are in rounded Franc or Euro values, other lower value stamps are added to covers to make-up proper rates.



Figure 23. First day of issue cover 1996 15 FRF Whimbrel with pictorial cancel

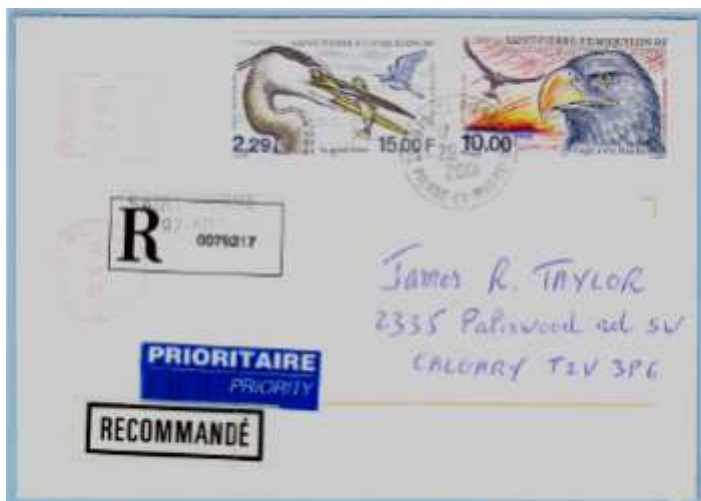


Figure 24. Registered Cover to Canada

In Closing

Migratory Bird Airmails, in spite of being a modern issue, presents collecting challenges. I am still looking for certain proofs, printing varieties and commercial use on covers and package wrappers. So far I have exhibited a single 16-page frame but I hope to expand it. Contact me if you have additional information on this set.

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Internal Algerian Underpaid Postcard

Norval Rasmussen



The correct rate for an illustrated postcard in 1907 was 5 centimes if it contained an address and no more than 5 words. This one was mailed in El Kantara, Constantine Department to Biskra, Constantine Department and franked with a French 5 centime type blanc stamp. Containing more than 5 words it was assessed 10 centimes postage due on arrival at Biskra. El Kantara was an important caravan station in 1907.

New Issues

France

- ◇ 8 Oct 2018: Françoise Dolto commemorative. **€0.95.**
- ◇ 15 Oct 2018: Célestin and Elise Freinet commemorative. **€0.95.**
- ◇ 22 Oct 2018: Sophie Calle, photographer, writer and French filmmaker. **€1.90.**
- ◇ 29 Oct 2018: French Red Cross. Sheetlet of 3 nondenominated forever stamps valid for the priority letter rate in France. **€4.85.**
- ◇ 29 Oct 2018: Périgueux - Dordogne. Single design se-tenant with tab. **€0.80.**
- ◇ 2 Nov 2018: 100th anniversary of postal money orders. **€0.80.**
- ◇ 12 Nov 2018: 100th anniversary of WW I Armistice. Sheetlet of 2 designs. **€2.60 each.**
- ◇ 12 Nov 2019: Hats. Sheetlet of 6 different designs. **€0.95 each.**
- ◇ 12 Nov 2018: Français Émile Gallé, art nouveau potter. Joint issue with Croatia. **€0.95.**
- ◇ 12 Nov 2018: Croatian vase artisan. Joint issue with Croatia. **€1.20.**
- ◇ 12 Nov 2018: Ivan Tourguenev, author. 200th anniversary of his birth. **€1.30.**
- ◇ 12 Nov 2018: Maurice Boyau and Michel Coiffard airmail commemorative. WW I pilots. **€3.80. Also available in a sheetlet of 10 stamps. €38.00**
- ◇ 12 Nov 2018: More than just wishes. Booklet of 12 different designs. Nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. **€9.60.**
- ◇ 28 Nov 2018: général Berthelot, Romanian hero, commemorative. Joint issue with Romania. Two different designs. **€1.30 each.**
- ◇ 11 Dec 2018: Rights of Man commemorative. **€0.88.**
- ◇ 17 Dec 2018: Roofs of Paris. Two sheetlets of 4 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the international priority letter rate each. **€7.30 each.**
- ◇ 17 Dec 2018: Roofs of Paris. 2 Sheetlets of 6 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate. **€7.00 each.**



Official Stamps

- ◇ 10 Sep 2018: UNESCO. The world's biosphere. €1.30.
- ◇ 15 Oct 2018: Conseil d'Europe. 20th anniversary of framework convention for the protection of minorities. €1.20.



Andorra

- ◇ 10 Nov 2018: Citroen CX automobile. €1.90.
- ◇ 17 Nov 2018: Altarpiece of the Holy Cross of Canillo. €0.95.



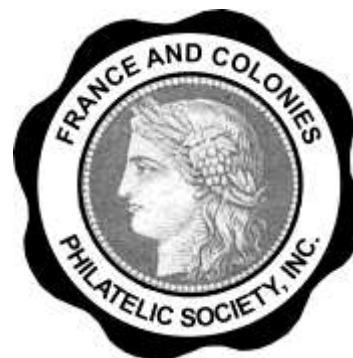
French Polynesia

- ◇ 8 Nov 2018: WW I commemorative. Sheetlet of one 500F stamp. €4.19.
- ◇ 8 Nov 2018: 60th anniversary of the first French Polynesian stamp. 190F. €1.59.
- ◇ 14 Dec 2018: Marae Taputapuatea. 100F. €0.85.



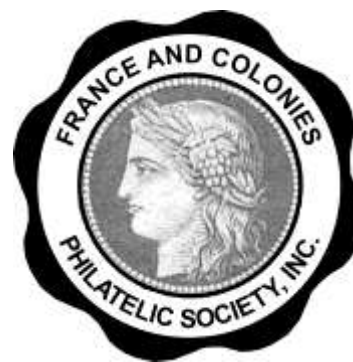
French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

- ◇ 17 Oct 2018: Alfred Faure commemorative. Sheetlet of 1 stamp. €0.95.
- ◇ 26 Oct 2018: Subtropical Rockhopper Penguin on St. Paul Island. 2 se-tenant stamps. €0.95 and 1.35.
- ◇ 8 Nov 2018: Gamma exhibition - Dynamics of the 5 districts. Sheetlet of 1 stamp. €2.20.



Monaco

- ◇ 5 Nov 2018: Christmas stamp. €0.95.



St. Pierre & Miquelon

- ◇ 12 Nov 2018: The false mousseron: flora. €0.95.
- ◇ 14 Nov 2018: WW I armistice. €1.50.

New Caledonia

- ◇ 7 Nov 2018: The planet revisited: fauna. Sheetlet of 3 different 75F stamps. €1.89.
- ◇ 8 Nov 2018: Tribute to Michel Rocard. 1000F. €8.38.
- ◇ 8 Nov 2018: Pollinators of New Caledonia. Sheetlet of three 110F designs. €3.69.
- ◇ 8 Nov 2018: Women's handball hockey. 110F. €0.92.



Wallis & Futuna

- ◇ 5 Sep 2018: Frangipani. Flora. Sheetlet of 4 different 55F stamps.
- ◇ 26 Sep 2018: European heritage day. 40F.
- ◇ 8 Nov 2018: Conservation of the ecosystem. 4 different 115F se-tenant stamps.
- ◇ 11 Nov 2018: 100th anniversary of the end of WW I. 390F.
- ◇



France and Colonies Philatelist

Index to Volume 74 (2018)

Norval L. Rasmussen

PREFACE

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Vol. 74 No. 2 (Whole Number 332) April 2018

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Society News

Convention Schedule

January 2020 Southeastern Stamp Expo
Hilton Hotel Atlanta Northeast
5993 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
Norcross, GA 30092

NAPEX 2022
McLean Hilton
Tysons Corner, VA
June 2022

Instructions for authors

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 but JPEG is acceptable..

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 1029 University Ave., Apt 401, Morgantown, WV 26505, 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

Chicagopex 2018



Larry Rosenblum presenting at Chicago



James Taylor also. Other presenters were not caught with my cell phone camera. Tom Marra and Kathryn Johnson also participated.



Society members dining with the Chicago Collectors Club Friday night.

Wanted:

Your articles on your topics. Your input on journal content. Your ideas of where we are as a society and where we should go.

We Get Letters

December 24, 2018

Dear Norval,

It was indeed a pleasure to present two Power-Point programs at the recent F&CPS meeting at ChicagoPEX in November. The audience feedback on the presentation was much appreciated.

Thomas Marra's presentation titled French Guiana Postal History : "Beyond Papillon the Fantasy Collection" was of particular interest. The comparison of the postal history of St. Pierre and Miquelon and that of French Guiana was particularly instructive. There were obvious similarities and some striking differences that require comment. Thomas was correct in his statement that French Guiana was added to the membership of the UPU as 'French Colonies' from 1 July 1876. James Bendon in his 2015 volume "UPU Specimen Stamps 1878-1961" on page 169 states "UPU member additional to France as 'French Colonies' from 1 July 1876. Officially, this date applies to all colonial territories then existing or formed subsequently." Thomas was quick to pick up that I had used a different UPU joining date for St. Pierre Miquelon in my talk.

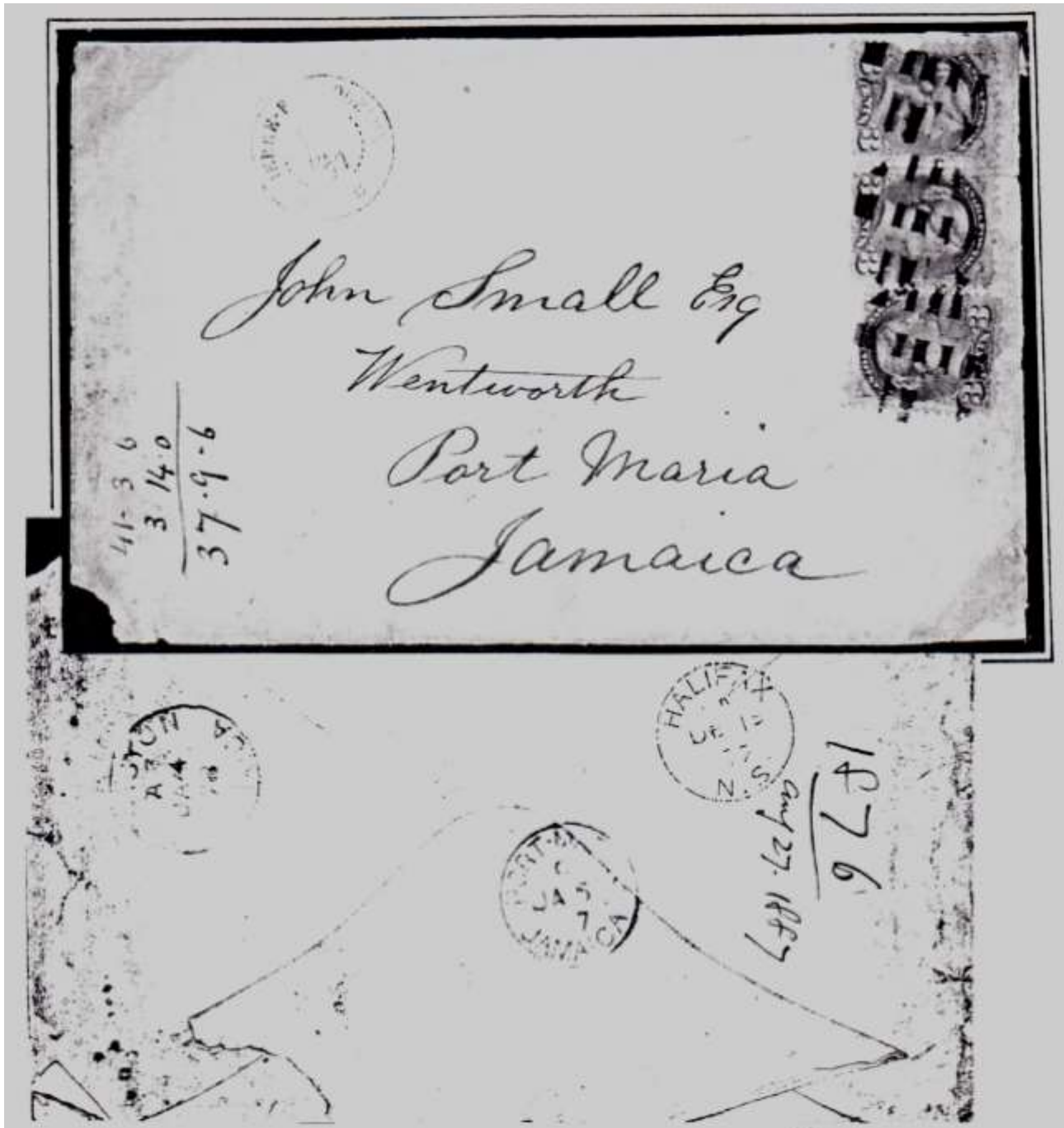
My research on St. Pierre and Miquelon outward bound mail appears to be an exception to the 1 July 1876 date for UPU membership or at least "practical membership" for St. Pierre. All the mail from St. Pierre and Miquelon had to pass through Canadian territory before and after 1 July 1879. Referring again to Bendon's authoritative volume page 122 "Canada UPU member since 1 July 1878" Also the provisions of the UPU were not enforced in Canada until three months later. The gap between 1 July 1876 and say 1 October 1878 presents a problem for the status of mail from St. Pierre and Miquelon to other countries. I have

been diligently trying to trace any St. Pierre mail that would have transited Canada to a foreign country during this time gap.

The illustrated cover (front and back) shows the use of 3 x 3 cent = 9 cents in small queen Canadian stamps on a cover to Kingston, Jamaica (courtesy of Henk Slabbinck of Belgium). It is postmarked 16 December 1877 at Halifax, Canada. Transit way markings are Halifax 19 December 1878, transit the United States (no marking), Kingston, Jamaica January 4, 1878 and Port Maria, Jamaica on 6 January 7?. This confirms the theory that stamps of St. Pierre, even if a UPU member under "French Colonies" did not have franking value in transit through Canada and use of Canadian stamps were still required to access Pre-UPU Canadian postal treaties or arrangements. I have taken 1879 as an approximate possible date for "practical UPU membership" where St. Pierre Miquelon postage was universally recognized and passed transit through Canada unencumbered. Any additional information on St. Pierre Miquelon mail that may fill the time gap is solicited. Please contact the Editor.

Best Regards,

Jim Taylor





President's Letter

Let's start off with a comment about the terrific exhibits at CHICAGOPEX 2018. Our members showed some really wonderful French area material. They also earned some high medals for their efforts. The list is elsewhere in our journal, so please take a minute and appreciate the years of collecting that got them to these honors.

Since I was tied up all day Friday, I missed the presentations. But even with judging duties, I was able to attend the joint dinner on Friday night. The food and beverages were good, as was our service (although paying seemed to take a while). Being there for the camaraderie was ample recompense for any inconvenience. It was definitely enough fun to do it again.

Looking elsewhere in our journal you see some good news and less good news. We showed a slight **"profit" for the year thanks to generous donations** from our members. That is excellent, and I offer my own thanks to each who helped us cover the costs of printing our journal.

The less good news is that our membership has fallen to 200 at the end of the year. We are following in the footsteps of similar philatelic groups (there are exceptions), even the APS. At some point not far in our future we are going to have to address how many members are critical mass to continue, but not yet. It will be on our board agenda when we next have a meeting.

Let me offer this. On a call this very afternoon (January 8) the strategic planning group comprising board members of the APS and APRL in addition to APS staff, we talked about the possibility

of the APS offering subgroup memberships. I compare this idea (and it is only an idea right now) to the American Institute of CPAs. I was a member for 40 years, and in addition to my basic membership, I could also be a member of a tax or information technology subgroup (there are several more) for an additional fee. So imagine being and APS member and also having the option to be a member of the France and Colonies and/or Spain and Colonies subgroup for an additional \$15 per year. The subgroup would still issue a newsletter or journal like we do today, depending on those members contributing material. The APS would serve as a base for attracting members, an administrator for collecting dues, and so on. This is just an idea, and one of several. It seems to be a basis for further discussion for a small specialty group like ours.

Our directors will talk about these matters and report to you in the April journal. They are important, so we hope you will contribute your ideas to us.

Now to some personal fun. A friend in northeast Ohio approached me with his collection of French Congo essays and proofs. He had been assembling them for many years, including buying some from me many years ago. Having looked through his accumulation, I bought it from him, of course at a fair price. I should clarify that these essays and proofs are of the 1900 pictorial issue, which has several unusual features. I promise some articles as I sort through the existing published material and what I now own.

This has sent me in new directions, including some interesting knowledge in the stacks of the APRL, a really detailed article by Jacques Nolet published in French in 1988, and part of a long article by Robert Stone in *The Essay-Proof Journal* many years ago. Let me say that accumulating examples of all the proofs and essays would be a nearly impossible task, but there is some really interesting stuff. Stay tuned for more, including some color pictures in the PDF version of our journal. I am excited to have the French Congo material and such an interesting issue to study.

What else? It's certainly time to plan for our next meeting to be held at Southeast Stamp Show in January 2020. Exhibits, program, and general volunteer help for us is in order. Once again we should have some fun.

Enough for now. Enjoy your hobby (probably one of several) during the cold weather. It's always a great time to be indoors.



Editorial

Norval Rasmussen



Welcome to 2019. In Morgantown we are enjoying our first wintery mix. For the first one in over 5 years we will not escape south for February but will tough it out.

I welcome Jere Dutt to the ranks of France & Colonies Philatelist authors. I have Tunisian bisects that I have kept out of my exhibit because **I can't explain them and they are likely philatelic.** They did make it through the mail however.

I visited the website this morning and am pleased to report it is up and running. Take a look: <http://www.franceandcolps.org/>.

Our Chicagopex experience was awesome. France & Colonies members took home 11 medals. Our journal earned a silver that was accompanied by some thoughtful advice for improvement from the jury.

Our plan to go primarily digital with this issue was put off for this year. A pdf is available on request from members and it will be on the website soon. **James Taylor's article on SPM bird stamps must be seen in color.**

I have 2 copies of *Free French Invasion: The St. Pierre and Miquelon Affaire of 1941* by Douglas Anglin available to the first requesters for \$25.00. It is a knowledgeable academic work and the purchase benefits the FCPS.

Membership Notices

NEW MEMBERS

- 3496 Canaday, David R.
PO Box 523
Brookings, SD 57006-0523
- 3497 Lujbli, Joseph
26 Hirth Drive
Newfoundland, NJ 07435-1710
- 3498 Guilbaud, François
145 rue Raymond Losserand
75014 Paris, France
- 3499 McCamish, Kenneth R.
1014 Pebble Creek Drive
Jeffersonville, IN 47130-5972

ADDRESS CHANGE

- 1593 Kohagen, Roger A.
3827 East Shore Drive
Stanton, MI 48888-9237

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED

- 3461 Boatwright, Phillip

DROPPED FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES

- Aspnes, Richard K. 3407
Buss, Dennis C. 3445
Clawson, Samuel C., Jr. 2937
Durand, Christophe 3464
Farber, Martin R. 2571
Fisher, Edward F. 3156
Galopin, Christophe 3471
Googer, Henry B. 3366
Guenter, Raymond A. 2221
Guillot, Francois 3478
Killien, F. Christian, MD 2435
La Chance, Leon J. 1816
Lane, Alexis 3483
Lawrence, Ashley 3107
McConnell, Barbara 3444
Petermann, Mike 2367
Schlosser, Evan 3469
Seff, Leslie 3485
Thayer, Denise J. 2490
Theurer, G. Jack 2060
Urich, Jack N. 3456
Weatherl, Wayne H. 3462
Zimowske, G.S. 1218

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2018

Total Membership as of January 1, 2018	200
New Members during 2017	10
Members reinstated during 2015	0
Resignations received during 2015	7
Members deceased during 2015	3
Members dropped for non payment of dues	23
Net Membership Gain for 2014	0
Net Membership loss for 2014	23
Total Membership as of January 1, 2019	176

France & Colonies Philatelic Society Donor List 2018

Stan Luft	\$50+
Rollo Adams	50
Steven Walske	80
Paul Larsen	50
Martin Stempien	20
Edward Janusz	22
Ken Nilsestuen	100
Gerard Schroedl	30
Kenneth L. White	30
George Perz	10
Thomas Broadhead	200
Steven Balch	180
Peter Lampen	18
Carl Faulkner	10
George Leslie	20
Steven Raphael	2
Robert Teunion	20
Richard Stevens	50
Sidney Morginstin	15
Lewis Ellman	2
David St. Maurice	13
John Rdzak	10
George Ray Elmore	30
Sam Abram	20
Jerome Alter	20
Eugene Kelton	5
August Helms	20
W. G. Mitchell	50+
James A. Rock	30
John A. Hussey	100
Eric Stumpf	2
Lawrence Haber	5
Robert Gagnier	30

Members Appeals

WANTED: Tunisian high value airmail stamps, Scott numbers C17-C20 on cover. Scans with asking price to Norval Rasmussen at nrasmu@gmail.com or 1029 University Ave, Apt 401, Morgantown, WV 26505.

Wallace Craig	55
Charles Vengrove	50
Laurence Henderson	5
Thomas Kudzma	5
Total	\$1,439.00

+Donation received in 2017, may or may not have been recognized already

In addition to this list from Treasurer Ben Bump, James Taylor donated four volumes of *Free French Invasion: the St. Pierre and Miquelon Affaire of 1941*, valued at \$25.00 each with instructions to sell them on behalf of the society. Two volumes were purchased at CHICAGOPEX. The remaining two volumes are available from the editor.

ED



France and Colonies Philatelic Society Treasurer's Report 2018

Beginning balance January 1, 2018 \$26,554.64

Income, 1/1/18 – 12/31/18	
Membership dues	3,633.00
Sale of publications	107.00
Donations	1,439.00
Total Income	\$5,179.00

Expenses	
Returned check	20.00
Returned check fee	6.84
Website expenses	186.75
PayPal fees	43.25
Printing and mailing	4,745.78
Total expense	\$5,002.62

Ending balance \$26,731.02

Assets and Liabilities, December 31, 2018

Assets

Checking Account	\$26,731.02
Total	\$26,731.02

Liabilities and Equity

Vaurie Fund	\$25,615.52
Equity	1,115.50
Total	\$26,731.02

Benjamin Bump, Treasurer

Show Reports

CHICAGOPEX 2018

Chicago, IL November 16-18, 2018

Large Gold to *Edward Grabowski* for “The Era of the French Colonial Group Type: the French Pacific Colonies.” Also the Postal History Society Medal. Large Gold to *Ralph DeBoard* for “The Postal History of Tahiti through the First Pictorial Issue.” Also the best French area exhibit. Large Gold to *Norval Rasmussen* for “Tunisia First Postage Issue: Bey Ali III ibn al-Husayn Coat of Arms.” Also the American Philatelic Congress Award. Large Vermeil to *James R. Taylor* for “St. Pierre & Miquelon 1932-1946.” Large Vermeil to *Alfred Kugel* for “The French in the Levant 1915-1944.” Large Vermeil to *James R. Taylor* for “St. Pierre & Miquelon-Definitive and Airmail Series of 1947.” Vermeil to *Alfred Kugel* for “Postal History of Slovakia 1939-1945.” Silver to *Ralph DeBoard* for “Slogan Cancellations of the French Colonies.” Single frame Large Silver to *Alfred Kugel* for “German Forces Defending the Eastern Borders Following World War I.” Literature: Gold to *Alfred Kugel* for “1914-The First War Year to 1918-the Fifth War Year.” Large Vermeil to *Edward Grabowski* Philately and International Mail Order Fraud: the Success of the New York Institute of Science in Hungary.” Silver to *Norval Rasmussen* for “France and Colonies Philatelist.”

INDYPEX 2018

Nobelsville, IN October 5-7, 2018

Large Vermeil to *Charles LaBlonde* for “Italy - World War II Red Cross Mail to Geneva—the Complete Postal History.”

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