



# FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST

October 2019 Whole No. 338  
(Vol. 75, No. 4)



*Brazzaville, French Congo to France bearing four of the 1900 provisional overprints at a proper 40c French community registered rate.*

*See page 119*

*Rare POSTES LA FOA cancellation on a registered letter to France.*

*See page 115*



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**FRANCE and COLONIES PHILATELIST**

USPS #207700

ISSN 0897-1293

Published quarterly by the  
**FRANCE AND COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC.**  
 Affiliate No. 45, American Philatelic Society

The France & Colonies Philatelist (*FCP*) is the official journal of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc. Permission to reprint material appearing herein is granted provided that proper credit is given to the *FCP* and the Editor is notified.

Dues for U.S. addresses \$20.00 per year (\$22.00 using PayPal)  
 Dues for others: \$25.00 per year (\$27.00 using PayPal)  
 Dues include a subscription to the *FCP*

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Periodical Postage paid at Publications office,  
 1000 Kingswood Drive, Akron, OH 44313-5921  
 An additional entry office at Platteville, WI 53818  
 Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to Publications Office noted above

# Au revoir le Type Groupe – Farewell to the Group Type

## *Edward Grabowski*

While collecting the postal history of the French Colonies General Issues in the seventies, I realized that, especially as an American collector, I would not see vast quantities of new material in my U.S. stamp show travels. Frequently shows of the day would produce no new material for my collection. I found this situation to be quite depressing; a bit like banging one's head on a wall. However, while looking through dealers' stocks of French Colonies covers, I frequently encountered examples of the so-called Group Type issue. I knew nothing about this issue, but decided to start accumulating these covers if I thought the prices were right. In addition to collecting Group Type covers proper, I also started buying any covers from the period or era of the Group Type's use as an adjunct to this collection. In the early 1980's I entered a three-frame exhibit in one of our national shows, covering as many of the colonies as I could muster. I was pleased to get a Silver Medal for the effort. From these early efforts an odyssey of collecting, exhibiting, writing and lecturing on the Group Type began which has occupied me for more than forty years.<sup>1</sup>

As I am now approaching my eighth decade, I realize that it is time to divest myself of this collection, which now consists of more than 2700 covers from every entity that used the issue plus related covers from the era. Oliver Stocker, President of Spink, presented me with an excellent plan for the disposition of the collection, and I am pleased to note that it will be sold by Spink at their London offices on November 13-14, 2019. Check the Spink web site for additional follow-up information, and see the ad in this issue of the *Philatelist*. As part of the separation process between me and this long-standing endeavor, I proposed to our Editor that I prepare an article on an overview of this collection, highlighting one or two covers from each of the entities that used the Group Type stamps, wherein each of the covers contrib-

uted something special to the overall collection. Happily he agreed, and my walk through the Group Type follows, starting with the French American colonies.

### Guadeloupe

Of course, Guadeloupe has to be my starting point. The Group Type was the penultimate section of my Washington 2006 exhibit on Guadeloupe Postal History, leaving the postage due material as the final section. Clearly this permitted me to end the exhibit with a bang and a boom, rather than the quiet exit that the Group Type material would have provided.<sup>2</sup> I never did get to putting together an exhibit on the Guadeloupe Group Type Issue itself, but I did accumulate a lot of interesting and unusual material. One of the more appealing covers is that shown in Figure 1 which was posted from the village of Saint Claude on October 23, 1899 to a plantation in Honolulu, Hawaii where it arrived on November 6, 1899. The cover quickly made the journey via Basse-Terre, New York and San Francisco in less than two weeks. It was posted at the double (2 x 25c) registered (25c) rate of 75c showing a single usage of the 75c stamp. Although the Saint Claude datestamps are a little light, one cannot be too fussy with an item like this, as it is the only Group Type cover that I have seen to Hawaii.

Another cover from Guadeloupe that attracted my strong attention is that shown in Figure 2. It was posted at Basse-Terre, the overseas port and capital of the colony, on March 10, 1907 at the 50c overseas registered rate to New York City where it arrived on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The cover is remarkably franked with five of the 10c red Group Type issues which were overprinted for revenue use, and clearly illegal for postal use. Why was such allowed by the local post office? One can only guess. Possibly the sender was anxious to inform the ad-



1. Cover from Saint Claude, Guadeloupe to Honolulu, Hawaii in 1899 at a 75c registered double weight rate.

dressee, a commercial firm in NYC, of the death of a key person in his commercial operations in Guadeloupe, and did not notice that revenue stamps were used. Certainly the postal clerk noticed the revenue usage, but allowed it so as not to delay the letter which was of importance to the sender

and possibly tightly timed relative to the next packet to the USA. This is the only use of revenue stamps for regular postage that I have seen within the Group Type.

**Martinique**



3. Registered letter from the small village of Case-Pilote, Martinique to Paraiso, Canal Zone in 1905. Returned as undeliverable a year later.

The colony of Martinique was quite similar to that of Guadeloupe during the early period of the use of postage stamps for the prepayment of mail. Both colonies had a long history of in-depth General Issues usage, large commercial centers from which most of the mail originated (Pointe-a-Pitre and Fort-de-France), capitals which also provided a considerable amount of mail (Basse-Terre and Saint Pierre) and a plethora of small villages to challenge the collector. Figure 3 shows an example of mail from a small village, one of the major sections of my overall Group Type collection. Collectors show a great affinity for mail from these villages, and they often command hefty prices. This letter was posted at the 50c registered rate from the small village of Case-Pilote, just north of Fort-de-France, on October 22, 1905. It is the only letter that I have seen from this office. That in itself would warrant a special place in my collection. What makes this letter even more unusual is that it was posted to Paraiso in the Canal Zone. Mail from the French Colonies to the Canal Zone is not that common, so the destination is definitely a plus for this cover. But what makes it an exceptional cover is that the addressee could not be found in the Canal Zone even after an heroic ef-



2. Registered cover from Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe to New York in 1907 franked at the proper 50c rate with five 10c fiscal stamps.

fort was made to locate him. This is confirmed by the number of Canal Zone transits present on the front and back (Figure 4) of the cover, and the numerous registry numbers assigned to it as it traveled through various post offices. The letter was returned to the sender arriving back in Case-Pilote on October 25, 1906 just over one year after it was first mailed! It also bears a number of Canal Zone special handstamps (**D.D.L. RECORD; FORWARDED.; REGISTRY SECTION, CORRECT, SEPT 17 1906, DIV DEAD LETTERS;** and **UNCLAIMED**) that should make it also of interest to Canal Zone collectors.



4. Reverse of the letter in Figure 3.

## French Guiana

French Guiana presented a special challenge with regard to the Group Type. It was a small colony with very little mail emanating from it. It was known for its prison on Devil's Island. At best I could marshal two frames of material, hardly enough for an impressive exhibit. I ended up combining it with three frames of Saint Pierre & Miquelon Group Type for a five frame exhibit contrasting the two small French American colonies: one with a main post office (Cayenne), a few small village offices from which one could find mail and regular service via the French Packets; the other with one main post office (Saint Pierre) from which almost all of the mail came, three tiny villages which provided almost no mail and overseas mail service mostly via Canada as it did not have enough mail to warrant regular French Packet service. The exhibit never proved a great sale to the judges, but it did get a Vermeil Medal at the

international show in Saint Pierre & Miquelon in 2014.

Figure 5 shows a registered declared-value military concession rate cover from the small village of Les Roches, French Guiana. It has enough attributes to make one's head spin. First and foremost, it is from the small village of Les Roches, French Guiana. Les Roches is about 50 km northwest of Cayenne along the Guiana coast. I know of four or five Group Type letters from this entity. This letter was posted on November 29, 1898 to France at a 60c rate. The rate included 15c for the military concession rate plus 25c for registration and 20c insurance on a declared value of 100 francs. The reverse (Figure 6) shows a standard military endorsement and commander's signature to validate the concession rate, and a blue **CORR.D'ARMEES ROCHES, 29 NOV 98** military datestamp. To my knowledge, this is the only recorded example of the use of this datestamp. As I see it, this is the definitive Group Type item for French Guiana, and an outstanding cover in every aspect.



5. Registered declared value military concession rate letter from Les Roches, French Guiana.



6. Reverse of the letter in Figure 5 showing the only recorded example of the **CORR.D'ARMEES ROCHES** military datestamp.

## Saint Pierre & Miquelon

The colony of Saint Pierre & Miquelon has always had a special place in collectors' hearts, and has been among the most popular of the French Colonies.<sup>3</sup> There has always been strong competition for better material from all of its philatelic periods. This tiny part of France provided five entries for the New York 2016 international show, a truly amazing showing of the strength of philately in a small place. The cover shown in Figure 7 comes from the Pratt Collection which was sold by Harmer's in 2011. It is franked at a 60c rate with two 10c Group Types and one 40c issue. What makes it a special cover is the bold **A.R.** handstamp which indicated that the sender requested a return receipt for this item. It was posted on April 17, 1897 at Saint Pierre, the capital and principal commercial center for the colony where most of the population lived. The rate breakdown for the cover is 25c for postage, 25c for registration and 10c for the return receipt. Prior to 1898, the 10c postage for return receipts was placed on the outgoing envelopes at the office of origin, and the return receipts were created by the offices of arrival. Beginning in 1898 the return receipts with 10c postage were provided by the sending office and accompanied the outgoing items. They were processed at the receiving offices and returned through the regular mails. What makes the cover in Figure 7 exceptional is that the **A.R.** handstamp was locally fabricated in Saint Pierre, and not one of the standard French issue handstamps provided by the PTT to the colonial offices. The locally fabricated **A.R.** handstamps come in all sorts of varieties of type available within the colonies, or are simply written on the envelopes in manuscript form.<sup>4</sup> This cover bears a Halifax transit and a Montreal arrival on the reverse.

The cover arrived in my collection in a round-about way. When I noted it in the Pratt sale, I put it on the **Must Have List**. At the actual sale, I bid it into absolutely outlandish territory, but my competitor refused to stop bidding. I finally gave up in dismay. Apparently the buyer, who was one of the major players in the sale, bought some material that he ultimately did not want. Such has happened to me in the past. Six months later this cover appeared in a Cherrystone sale with a much reduced starting bid, and I was able to get it for

much less than I had bid in the Pratt Sale. Needless to say, I was quite pleased.



7. Registered letter from Saint Pierre & Miquelon with a request for a return receipt. The **A.R.** handstamp was locally fabricated.



8. Registered letter from Miquelon employing a French **F.M.** stamp for postage and a 25c Group Type for registration.

The cover shown in Figure 8 is probably the most significant one in the collection from Saint Pierre & Miquelon. In 1901 France began issuing *franchise militaire* stamps. Current 15c Mouchon issues were overprinted **F.M.**, and each soldier who was on station but not engaged in combat, or each member of the Gendarmerie was allowed two stamps each month to send free letters, normally to family members.<sup>5</sup> Only single weight letters could be sent under this program. Higher weight levels and registration had to be prepaid in regular postage, and two **F.M.** stamps could not be

used to prepay a double weight letter. It was franked by a member of the Gendarmerie with the free **F.M.** stamp to prepay postage and a 25c Group Type stamp to prepay for registration as per the regulations. This cover represents the only recorded use of an **F.M.** stamp from this colony during the Group Type era. In addition, it was posted from the small village of Miquelon, one of the most difficult offices in all of the Group Type's usage from which to find material (Figure 9). It represents a true high point of the collection to end the visit to the American colonies.

9. Close up of the stamps and Miquelon cancel from the cover shown in Figure 8.



## Senegal

Moving to the West African colonies, a most unusual item from Senegal is shown in Figure 10. It was posted at the apparent 25c rate to France from the capital at Saint Louis on November 17, 1894 to the village of Bavay where it arrived on November 27<sup>th</sup> via French Packet Line J. A variety of low value stamps were used to pay the rate including 2 x 2c and 4 x 4c Group Type stamps. In addition, an attempt was made to use cutouts from 2c and 3c French Type Sage postal stationery wrappers to complete the franking. These cutouts, being of French origin, were not legal for franking for mail from the Colonies, so the letter was stuck with a **T** in triangle for postage due. The two cutouts were identified as illegal with a red crayon, and the envelope marked as due 5c by a red **0.05** manuscript addition. On arrival in Bavay, the addressee had to pay the 5c due. It has been my observation that mail improperly franked with stamps of another French entity is not treated as unfranked mail, and charged double the amount of the illegal attempted use. Instead, it is simply charged the amount of illegal use as due.

A second unusual due letter from Senegal is shown in Figure 11. It was posted from the village of Podor on October 23, 1906 to Kaedi, Senegal. Kaedi had originally been under the Senegal ad-



10. Saint Louis, Senegal to France at the 25c rate employing two French Type Sage postal stationery cutouts which were rejected.



11. Proper use of the Mauritania 1906 provisional postage due issue.

ministration, but had been recently transferred to the forming colony of Mauritania. This letter was posted at the 10c French Community rate which became effective throughout all French controlled entities on April 16, 1906. However, it reached the second weight level (15-30g). The envelope was struck on the face with a **T** in triangle for due, and sent on to Kaedi where it arrived on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. At this time Mauritania had been supplied with its own Faidherbe-Palmiers-Bally issues, but no postage due stamps. To fill this void the existing stamps were struck with local **T**'s to indicate due, and used to collect the correct amounts due by placing them on the envelopes and cancelling them with the CDS of the town of arrival.<sup>6</sup> The use of these issues as due stamps occurs on three levels. The first is outright philatelic wherein a variety of supposedly provisional due issues were placed on an envelope without regard to existing rates and were cancelled. Though relatively common, these covers command good prices because

they tend to have the higher values of the provisional due stamps. The second is carefully composed philatelic usages wherein the amount due and use of the provisional due stamps correctly fit an existing rate structure. The give-away on these covers is that a number of identical or very similar covers are addressed to the same person on the same or similar dates. The best of this usage to seek are genuine postal uses as shown in Figure 11. These, of course, are the most difficult to obtain as serious collectors know how to identify them.

## French Sudan

The political and geographical development of the French Sudan is the first complex colony that we come to during this overview of the era of the Group Type. A recent book by Peter Kelly of the United Kingdom is highly recommended to those who want to trace and understand the development of this entity as the French moved east in their African expansion from the colony of Senegal.<sup>7</sup> In 1894 the 75c and 1f Type Dubois issues of the General Issues were revalued to 15c and 25c to provide the first provisional issues for this new colony. Used and unused stamps and use on cover are extremely rare for this issue. In 1999 I bought the registered cover shown in Figure 12 with some reservation. It illustrates use of the 25c/1f provisional overprint and 5c Group Type on a registered letter at a 30c rate. With a Group Type stamp on this letter, it nicely fit into my collection. It was posted from the capital of Kayes, French Sudan on September 13, 1894 and arrived in Rufisque, Senegal on September 19<sup>th</sup> via Saint Louis, Senegal. At this time I was only aware of the 25c rate for registration in the French Colonies. My assumption was that the 30c rate represented registered printed matter illustrating a 5c printed matter rate and 25c for registration. I also assumed that any manuscript indication for printed matter had been left off of this item. I was concerned that the envelope was sealed, which one would not expect for printed matter. But I felt reasonably secure that the item was genuine as it has Roumet and Calves signatures. As time went forward, I had accumulated enough Group Type material to suggest that there was a special registered rate of 15c applicable to mail within Senegal, French Sudan and Upper Senegal & Niger, that was unique among the French Colonies. I

documented this position in an article in the FCP in 2011.<sup>8</sup>

I also concluded that this cover was an example of that special 15c registered rate applicable for mail within this area combined with a 15c rate for postage within the area. For further information on this rate and its use, I refer the reader to the publication.



12. Use of the 25c provisional issue of French Sudan in combination with a 5c Group Type prepaying the regional registered letter rate of 30c.

## Senegambia & Niger

As the French Sudan evolved the entity of Senegambia & Niger was created and it received Group Type stamps with the new legend **SÉNÉGAMBIE ET NIGER**. Unusual covers with stamps of this entity are the most difficult to find. Typically one finds post cards and local 15c and 10c French Community rates. My most unusual cover from this area is shown in Figure 13. It was posted from the town on Niamey located deep within the developing territory to Casablanca, Morocco, and is franked with 6 x 15c Group Types in Gray and a 10c Faidherbe issue with the **H<sup>T</sup> SENEGAL-NIGER** legend which was yet another political region created in this area. The total franking is 1f. The stamps are tied by a **NIAMEY H<sup>T</sup> SENEGAL ET NIGER, 10 JUIN 08** datestamp, and the letter traveled via a French Packet to Bordeaux. It shows a faint Morocco datestamp on the reverse, but the town is not readable. The one franc rate corresponds to a triple weight (30-

45g = 3 x 25c) registered letter (25c registry). In 1908 the French had offices in Morocco, but the actual territory had yet to be established. In addition to an excellent origin and destination, the addressee of this letter is also of interest. It was General d'Amade who was Commander of the French troops in Morocco. In fact, much of his military success and fame rested on his efforts in bringing Morocco under French control.



13. Triple weight registered letter from Naimey showing use of Group Type stamps with the *Sénégal et Niger* legend, addressed to General D'Amade commander of the French Troops in Morocco.

## French Guinea

French Guinea presented a special problem when I was preparing exhibits for West Africa. I was creating a Group Type exhibit titled Senegal & Dependencies which included Senegal, Mauritania under Senegal Administration, French Sudan and Senegambia & Niger. I remembered that French Guinea had some of its early postal history under the Senegal administration, so I decided to put it in the Senegal exhibit. I never got any negative feedback from US judges on this decision, but the exhibit and concept were never tested in international waters.

My most unusual cover in the French Guinea section of the exhibit was the military concession rate letter shown in Figure 14. It is properly franked with 5c and 10 stamps of French Guinea, with the manuscript endorsement: *Corps expéditionnaire du Sudan a du Fonta D'jallon*. Proper validation of the rate is shown by the unit

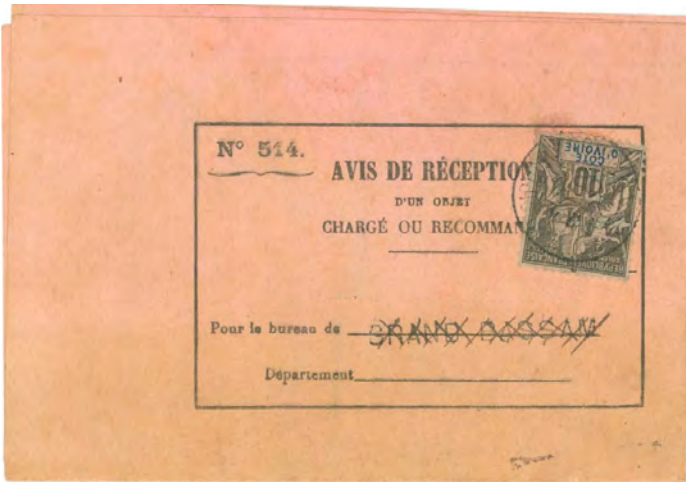
cachet, endorsement and signature at the lower left indicating that this Sudanese Guinean unit was fighting in the Timbo area which was part of a highland region in central Guinea called *du Fonta D'jallon*. The letter originated in Timbo, and was probably carried by the military to the post office at Conakry where it entered the posts on March 16, 1897. To my knowledge, this is the only military concession rate recorded for French Guinea during the era of the Group Type. I do not remember anything similar in Steve Tucker's collection.



14. Military concession rate letter posted in Conakry, French Guinea in 1897.

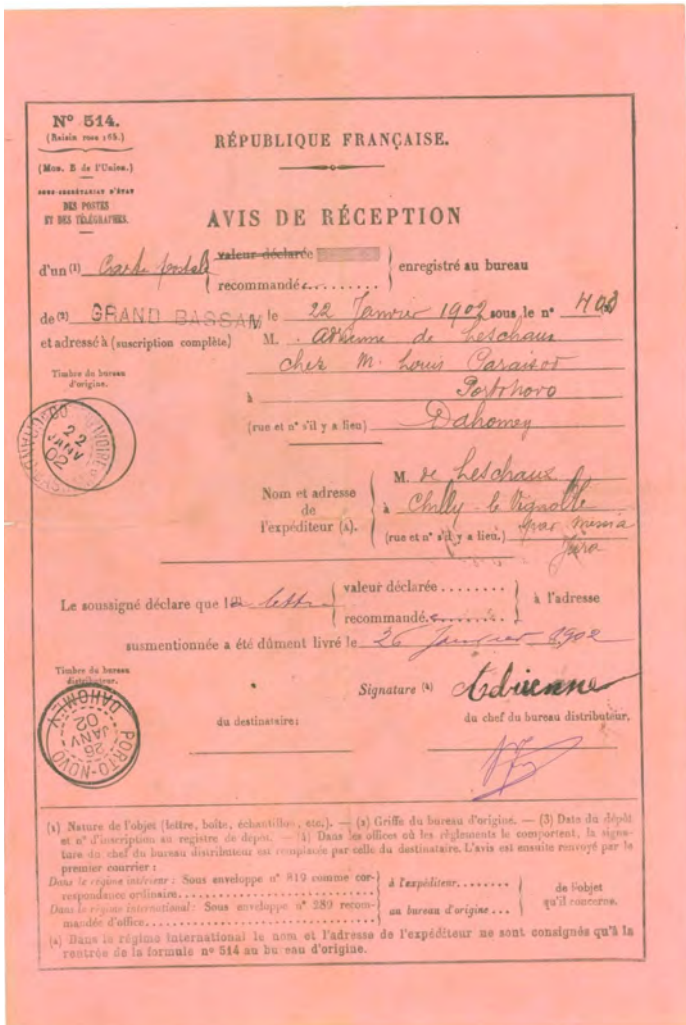
## Ivory Coast

From the Ivory Coast I am pleased to show an actual *Avis de Réception*. These are generally difficult to obtain. Some of the colonies used standard French forms for these receipts as is this case, others has special forms designed for their own use. Figure 15 shows the folded form as it traveled through the mails. This form accompanied the letter it was representing, and was returned to the originating post office after proper processing by the receiving office. The rate for these forms was uniformly 10c. Figure 16 shows the opened form which accompanied a registered postcard from Grand Bassam on January 22, 1902, to Porto Novo, Dahomey where it was processed on January 26, 1902.



15. Standard French Avis de Réception form used from the Ivory Coast.

organization of the colony during the period of the Group Type's use. The first set was issued in 1893 and bears the legend **GOLFE DE BÉNIN**. The second set was issued in 1894 and bears a **BÉNIN** legend. During the 1899-1905 period stamps arrived with the legend **DAHOMEY ET DÉPENDANCES** as the colony coalesced. The first major challenge in this colony is to obtain material with the **GOLFE DE BÉNIN** legend from the first year of use. Shown in Figure 17 is a 25c letter card posted from the village of Whydah, later Ouidah, with the first legend. It was posted in Whydah on April 18, 1893, and traveled on the Loango-Marseille French Packet on April 23, 1893. The reverse bears a chance **CORRESPCE MILITAIRE PORTO NOVO BENIN, 23 AVRIL 93** military transit suggesting it arrived at Porto Novo with the military mail. In addition to a Paris transit and a London arrival, the card bears a full message in German script. Taken together, this represents a remarkable combination of philatelic elements and a rare cover.



16. Inside of the form in Figure 15 showing all the details of proper processing.



17. Letter card from Whydah, Bénin in 1893 showing rare use of the **GOLFE DE BÉNIN** legend during its initial period of use.

Possibly the rarest cover from this entity is that shown in Figure 18. It was posted at the 4c local business papers rate (4c per 50g) locally from Porto Novo on February 16, 1899 arriving at Cotonou on the next day. It represents the only proper single use of the 4c Group Type stamp I have ever seen from any of the colonies.

### Bénin-Dahomey

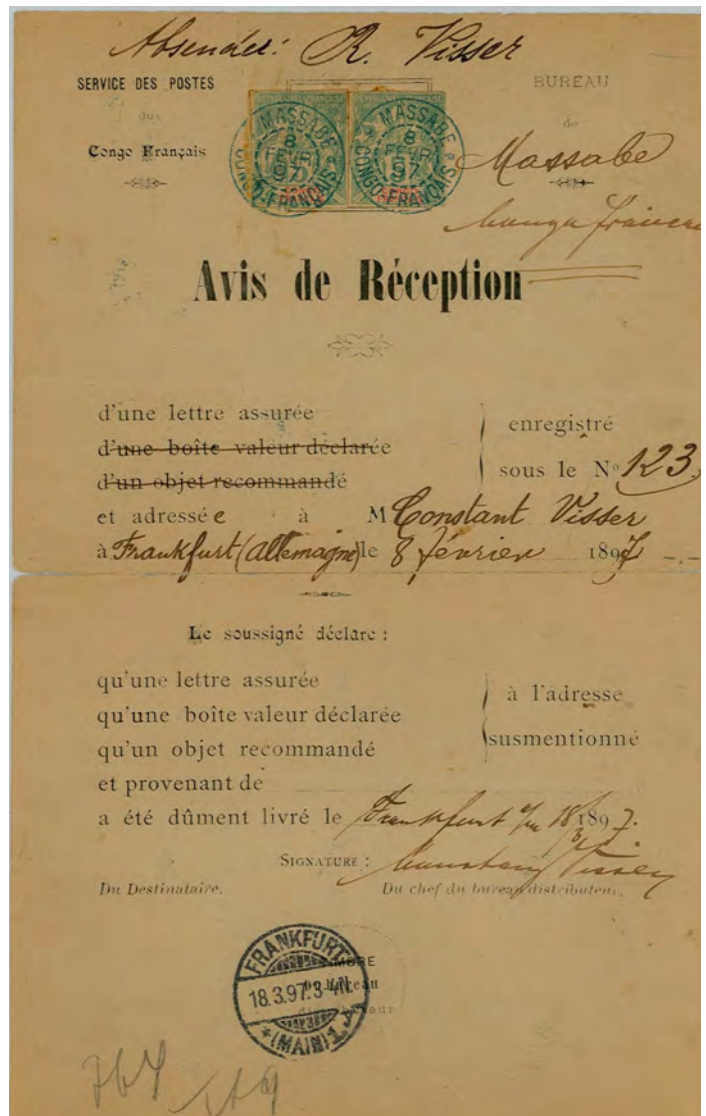
The colony of Bénin-Dahomey received three sets of Group Type stamps, each reflecting the political



18. Most probably unique 4c rate for papiers d'affaires (up to 50g) from Porto Novo to Conakry in 1899.

### FRENCH CONGO-GABON

Unlike the Ivory Coast which used standard issue French return receipts, The French Congo had a special form designed for its own use. A simple use of one of these forms would represent a most desirable item in one's Group Type collection. The example shown in Figure 19 goes a step further. To prepay the 10c postal charge for this receipt, two 5c Group Type postal stationery cut-outs were used for franking. Apparently, there was a shortage of 5c Group Type stamps in the village of Massabe during February 1897, and these cut-outs were authorized for emergency use. There are a number of emergency usages of Group Type entities that, like this one, were not of such significance to make it into the catalogs. The receipt accompanied a registered letter to Frankfurt. A close-up of the stamps (Figure 20) shows that the receipt was processed at Massabe on February 8, 1897, and received and returned from Frankfurt on March 18, 1897. Typically, prior to 1898 it was the receiving office's responsibility for creating return receipts. Beginning 1898 it was the sending office's responsibility to provide them such that they accompanied the item of reference to its destination, and the arriving office processed and returned the forms. This receipt suggests that sending offices were providing return receipts before it became mandatory by the UPU in 1898. I have noted a certain flexibility of these dates in other colonies also.



19. Avis de Réception form designed for use in the French Congo posted in 1897 showing use of postal stationery cutouts to prepay postage.



20. Close-up of the postage used in Figure 19 with Massabe datestamp.

From Gabon Figure 21 shows a simple registered postcard from Libreville on August 22, 1908 to Hamburg, Germany. Registered postcards are not of great rarity during the era of the Group Type. I have about two dozen in the collection. However, the franking can add a great deal to the rarity. This one is franked with a single 35c stamp of the period corresponding to 10c postage and 25c registration. Normally this stamp is found on 35c registered letters of the period. Of the two dozen registered postcards in the collection, only two are franked with a single 35c stamp: this one and another from French India.



21. Registered postcard franked with a single 35c stamp from Libreville, Gabon.

## Obock

Having finished with the West African colonies, we now turn our attention to Obock. Obock was a French coaling station that facilitated ready entry into the Suez Canal for the French independent of British influence. It received Group Type stamps in late 1892, briefly changed its name to Djibouti when the port was relocated and then became the Somali Coast. Despite this apparent complexity, use of the Group Type stamps bearing the Obock legend is quite limited because of the plethora of pictorial issues created for the colony. For me it was best displayed in a one frame exhibit. Of all of my Group Type exhibits, this one fared the best. It won a Grand Award, my only Group Type Grand, at NAPEX 2016. Of course the stars had to be aligned in my favor. My greatest competition in this class won a Grand just prior to NAPEX, and was moved to the Court of Honor for the show. One of the most prolific and successful of one frame exhibitors was a judge at this show,

and could not exhibit. Thus, two of my most serious competitors were removed from the competition, and I managed to sneak through the maze and take the Grand.

Figure 22 shows the 'must-show' cover from Obock. It is a commercial cover franked at 1.25f with 50c and 75c Obock Group Type stamps. This prepaid a fourth weight level registered letter (4 x 25c + 25c). That is unusual, but not exceptional. However, this cover was posted at Obock on December 11, 1892 to Paris via the Reunion-Marseille Packet. The Packet date is also December 11, 1892 confirming the posting date. This is very important, as I believe this to be the **earliest recorded use of Group Type stamps from any colony**. I have discussed this cover in a number of publications, and with a number of the collectors of this issue. No one has come up with an earlier date of use either on another stamp or cover. The stamps were shipped to the colonies in late November 1892, and one would expect an earliest known use from one of the closer colonies such as Obock or Senegal. I have another philatelic cover posted from Obock on the same day, and about a dozen covers with January 1893 posting dates throughout the remainder of the collection.



22. Earliest recorded use of Group Type stamps from any colony: Obock - December 11, 1892.

## Madagascar & Dependencies

Madagascar & Dependencies represents the most complex of the colonies with regard to the use of the Group Type. Nine different legends were used

in the Group Type issues for this colony including: **DIEGO SUAREZ & DEPENDANCES, DIEGO SUAREZ, NOSSI-BÉ** and **SAINTE MARIE-DE-MADAGASCAR** which were incorporated into the colony of **MADAGASCAR & DEPENDANCES** when it was formed in 1896. The Comoro Islands of **MAYOTTE, SULTANAT D'ANJOUAN, GRANDE COMORE** and **MOHÉLI** were under separate administration initially, and became part of Madagascar in 1911. I put all of this under the title of Madagascar & Dependencies for my exhibit, and tried to put a lasso around all of it. But I was never sure that I succeeded with the judges. But the overall colony itself offered numerous opportunities for rare and unusual material.

One of my favorite covers from Diego Suarez is shown in Figure 23. The rate of 70c corresponds to a triple weight (3 x 15c) registered (25c) military concession rate letter franked with 20c and 50c stamps. Note the manuscript 3 at the upper left confirming the third weight level. The stamps are tied by the **CORR<sup>CES</sup> D'ARMEES DIEGO SUAREZ, 20 FEVR 97** octangular military datestamp of the colony. The rate is validated by the cachet and authorization on the front, and a Reunion-Marseille Packet transit and French arrival are present on the reverse.



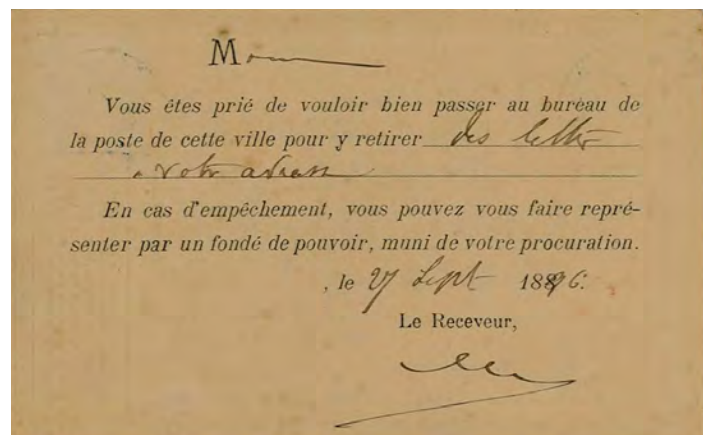
23. Triple weight registered military concession rate letter franked at 70c from Diego-Suarez posted in 1897.

From Sainte Marie-de-Madagascar Figure 24 shows an example of this colony's only formula card franked at a 5c message rate to Tamatave.

Only two examples of this card have been recorded franked with Group Type. It was posted on September 27, 1896 to an addressee in Tamatave. The reverse (Figure 25) advises the addressee that he should come to pick up letters addressed to him. I first became aware of this type of formula card during the sale of the Dubus collection by the Jamet firm in the late 1980's. A similar example was offered in that sale, and I saw a place for it in my collection. Based on the suggested starting price, I thought it would reach into the hundreds of dollars range, so I bid in the low four-figure range. To my surprise, I was not a significant player in the bidding for this lot. I was quite dispirited at not getting it, and wondered if I would ever see another example of this truly rare formula card.



24. Sainte Marie-de-Madagascar formula card posted at a 5c rate to Tamatave, Madagascar in 1896.



25. Reverse of the formula card shown in Figure 24 showing the message to the addressee.

At this time one of the New York City auction houses ran a large monthly mail sale in addition to its regular auctions. Normally there were thou-

sands of lots, mostly cheaper material, with two or three line mini-descriptions of each. Only a few hundred of the lots warranted photos. About a year after the Dubus sale, this mail auction showed a listing for Sainte Marie-de-Madagascar simply noting the lot as a Sainte Marie used post-card at an estimated price of \$25. I wondered if this was an example of the formula card noted above, or a regular picture post card? My first thought was to call the auction house and ask for a copy of the lot. But I thought it would be best not to bring this issue to their attention. At the time a properly used picture post card from Sainte Marie was worth about \$100. So I bid \$100 on it, with the thought that if it was a regular post card I would get it at a fair price. If it turned out to be the formula card, it would be my fish story! My lots arrived shortly after the sale, and I nervously opened the package wondering what I would find. My invoice noted that I got the Sainte Marie lot for \$85. When I got to it, I was elated to note it was the formula card pictured above, and not a regular post card. This is one of my few fish stories in all of the years of collecting the Group Type.

With regard to the colony of Madagascar proper, there are numerous exciting aspects of its postal history that draw a collector's attention. Quite possibly, developing a collection of material from the plethora of small villages in the colony is the most important. Madagascar was undergoing rapid development during the period of the Group Type's use, and new village post offices were opening throughout the era. It happened so quickly that the colony had to develop a set of provisional numeral circular datestamps for use in the newly opened offices until official devices arrived from Paris.<sup>9</sup> Representing small village use is the cover at the 50c registered rate from Antsirabe, Madagascar posted to the village of Khartoum, British Sudan on August 28, 1908 and shown in Figure 26. The cover has a clean elegance about it, and it went to a rare destination. The reverse (Figure 27) shows a Tananarive transit datestamp, from where it was taken to Tamatave and the Reunion-Marseille French Packet line. From the packet it was dropped off at Suez, Egypt, taken to Aswan and then the Shallal-Halfa TPO with arrival in Khartoum on September 26<sup>th</sup>. From a small village office with an unusual journey-destination,

all of which was beautifully documented on the cover.



26. Cover posted at the 50c registered rate from the small village of Antsirabe, Madagascar.



27. Reverse of the cover in Figure 26 showing transits and arrival at Khartoum.

Rather than show an item from each of the Comoro Islands, I thought I would just select one. In 1907 the French PTT provided the last Group Type issue for seven of its colonies. It was a 45c stamp designed to prepay the double registered French community rate of the day calculated as  $2 \times 10c + 25c = 45c$ . Why did only seven of the colonies receive this stamp? Most of the others already had pictorial issues covering this rate, so the stamp would have been redundant. As a result, the single use of this stamp on a cover has become a significant, and unrecognized, rarity

with only six covers recorded from the colonies that received the stamp.<sup>10</sup> Three of these covers are from French Oceania. Figure 28 shows an example of this stamp from Mohéli posted on June 27, 1908. The datestamp reads: **MAYOTTE-ET-DEPENDANCES MOHELI** noting that Mohéli was administered by Mayotte at the time. A Paris arrival is present on the reverse. This item is an example of the wonderful niches within the Group Type that provide the possibility of collecting truly rare material. Thus ends the material from the colony of Madagascar.



28. Use of a single 45c stamp from Mohéli to France in 1908.

## Reunion

The colony of Reunion is a typical, but smaller, colony that offers the collector many opportunities for building an interesting collection of material from the era of the Group Type. The colony had a major commercial center at Saint Denis from which most of the mail came, a port at Port des Galets that saw extensive use, a capital at Saint Pierre, numerous small village post offices to challenge the collector, windward and leeward railroad lines and a major three-week period in early 1901 when there was a shortage of Group Type stamps and the use of postage due stamps was authorized for use on local mail.<sup>11</sup> Figure 29 shows an unusual unpaid letter from Saint Denis posted on December 15, 1897 to the most unusual destination of Tahiti. The letter was properly struck with a **T** in triangle for due at Saint Denis, and traveled to France via the Reunion-Marseille regular packet line. From France it probably was carried in a closed bag by ship to New York, then San

Francisco by train and then by a ship providing regular service to Papeete. The letter arrived on February 26, 1898 where the 50c Duval due stamp, double the 25c rate, was applied as seen in the Figure 30 close-up.



29. Unpaid letter posted from Saint Denis, Reunion to Tahiti in 1897.



30. Letter in Figure 29 charged 50c due on arrival in Papeete with a 50c Duval postage due.

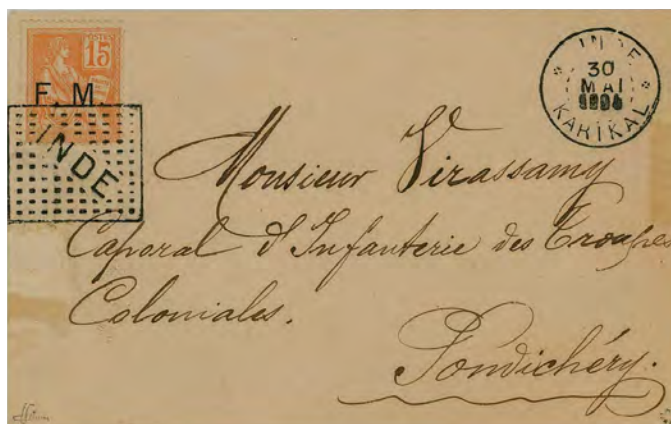
This cover was initially offered a number of years ago by the dealer David Wrigley at a WESTPEX Show. It was noted by David Herendeen, former FCPS President, Chief APS judge and exhibitor of French Colonial postage due stamps and covers; Ralph DeBoard, FCPS Board member and well-known collector French Oceania, and yours truly. We all felt that David's price was too high. However, about a year after the WESTPEX Show Ralph and I were looking at David Hereenden's colonial dues exhibit in the FCPS section of another national show, and we saw that he had purchased this due cover for his collection. Not only that, but

it was one of the featured items in the collection. Herendeen had decided that the cover belonged in his collection despite Wrigley's price, and he bought it! Ralph and I rethought the issues about this cover, and decided that Herendeen was right. It was/is a great item and we should have gone after it too, and both of us regretted not doing so. It should be noted that with this cover, and other new material, Herendeen's collection won a national Grand Award! Sadly, David died very prematurely a few years thereafter. Sometime afterwards, elements of his collection began to appear in Behr Sales in France, and I took the plunge and added this cover to my Group Type collection. It will be on the market again during my November sale. Possibly Ralph will feel the inclination to add it to his collection, and we will all have shared in owning it for a period of time. Such is life in philately.

## French India

The Group Type stamps of French India bear the legend: **ETABLISSEMENTS DE L'INDE**. It is an apt name as the five French Indian settlements (Pondichéry, Chandernagor, Karikal, Mahé and Yanon) were scattered about the coasts of the Indian subcontinent. My favorite of the French areas was Karikal, because of its unique and striking boxed **INDE** cancellation.<sup>12</sup> I had fifteen examples of this cancellation on cover in the collection, all illustrating some different aspect of the postal history of the area. Because the cancellation is so striking, it was naturally saved and has a larger survival percentage than typical Group Type covers. However, the cancellation is so striking that the collector demand for it also remains high. So with a high demand and high prices for these covers, one gets the general view that the material is much scarcer than it really is. Shown in Figure 31 is my favorite example of the use of this cancel on a *franchise militaire* letter used locally from Karikal on May 30, 1904 arriving in Pondichéry on June 1, 1904. Use of the French *franchise militaire* stamps from French India is extremely rare, with this being the only example that I have noted.

The second cover from Karikal shown in Figure 32 shows the relatively common registered French community rate of 40c on a letter posted on November 1, 1905 to Saint Laurent du Maroni,



31. Use of a French franchise militaire stamp on a letter showing the striking Karikal boxed INDE cancel on a letter to Pondichery.

French Guiana. Since no country destination was included in the written address, a postal clerk along the way added *Guyane Française* to assure certain delivery. This is an exceptional destination for a letter with a French India origin. Making the letter even more interesting, is the fact that it was posted to an Indian prisoner in one of the French Guiana prisons.



32. Registered French community rate of 40c from Karikal to an Indian prisoner in French Guiana.

## Indochina

Indochina Group Type stamps bear the **INDO-CHINE** legend. Of all of the colonies, Indochina was by far the most complex. It consisted of five provinces – Cochinchina, Annam, Tonkin, Cambodia and Laos – that were in different states of political and economic development during the era of the Group Type. Cochinchina was the most advanced, and Laos was the least, with the others falling in the order shown. A number of French Indochinese Offices were established in southern China north of the Indochinese border. Indochina Group Type stamps were overprinted for use in

these offices, and they were administered from Hanoi.<sup>12</sup> In addition there is mail from China proper which bears Chinese stamps for local postage and Indochinese stamps for international postage. I have exhibited this entity at eight fairs internationally and ten fairs nationally, but the actual collection occupied more than fourteen frames to accommodate the plethora and variety of material.

Military mail in all of its aspects, including concession rate letters, military franchise letters and use of the French **F.M.** stamps, is probably the most interesting aspect of this colony's mail during the era of the Group Type.<sup>13</sup> The province of Cochinchina was so well developed during the era of the Group Type that there were a number of small villages that warranted special military datestamps to process the concession rate mail. Shown in Figure 33 from the village of Soctrang is an exceptionally fine and rare example of a 15c military concession rate letter with the **CORR D'ARMEES SOCTRANG** datestamp from a September 2, 1897 posting. A proper rate validation is shown at the left, and the letter bears a Saigon transit on the reverse.



33. Military concession rate letter of 15c from the small village of Soctrang

From the province of Annam Figures 34 and 35 show a declared value letter from the small village of Binh-Dinh franked at 70c and posted on April 26, 1897. The breakdown of charges on this letter is 25c for postage for a first weight level letter, 25c for registration and 20c insurance on a value of 100 francs. The letter transited via

Quinhone on April 27<sup>th</sup> and Saigon on April 30, and joined a Packet Line N ship in Saigon harbor on Mar 1<sup>st</sup>. From there it was transferred to Line T on May 9<sup>th</sup> and arrived in Paris on May 25<sup>th</sup>. It appears not to be an overly impressive cover, until one realizes that quality declared value letters from small villages are generally difficult to find from any colony.



34. Declared value letter from the small village of Binh-Dinh, Annam to Paris in 1897.



35. Reverse of the letter in Figure 34 showing the declared value cachet and transits.

There are numerous possibilities for unusual letters from the province of Tonkin. It offers the most Group Type Era postal history of all of the provinces, has numerous small villages and an exceptionally large component of military franchise mail because of active combat during the



36. Complete registered newspaper from Haiphong in 1905.

period of the Group Type's use. My choice of an unusual cover is the registered newspaper shown in Figure 36. It was posted from the port of Haiphong on November 17, 1905 at a 35c registered rate, and is composed of the complete newspaper, the wrapper band and the address label designated for Paris. The item does not have a chamfered **R** for registration, but that was probably an oversight at the posting office. The letter is franked at 35c with a 20c Group Type stamp and a 15c Grasset issue, corresponding to 10c for postage on a newspaper weighing 50-100 grams and 25c registration. How rare are complete newspapers in wrappers during the era of the Group Type? I have but one other example, and that is from Reunion.

To conclude the Indochina proper section of this article let me bring your attention to the cover shown in Figure 37. It brings together the provinces of Laos and Cambodia, possibly more of the latter. It is possibly the earliest recorded example of military mail from the province of Laos written by an officer of the troops fighting in Moung-Sen, Laos in early 1895. Such can be established by the manuscript endorsement: *Troupes du Mékong* at the top, and the manuscript endorsement at the bottom left: *Le capitaine comm. & le poste de Moung-Sen – Brosset-Heckel*. As an officer, Brosset-Heckel was not entitled to the concession rate, so this registered letter to his wife bears the

full 50c postage (25c postage for <15 grams and 25c registration). It originated at the military area of Moung-Sen, Laos and was brought to Khong, Cambodia for entry into the regular mails. The letter was postmarked at Khong on January 8, 1895, transited via Saigon on January 17<sup>th</sup>, and traveled via the Modane-Paris rail line enroute to Lyon where it was received on February 16<sup>th</sup>. This letter has been posted on the Tricot French Colonial Military Mail web site since 2003 as the earliest example of military mail from Laos, and not been challenged by an earlier example.

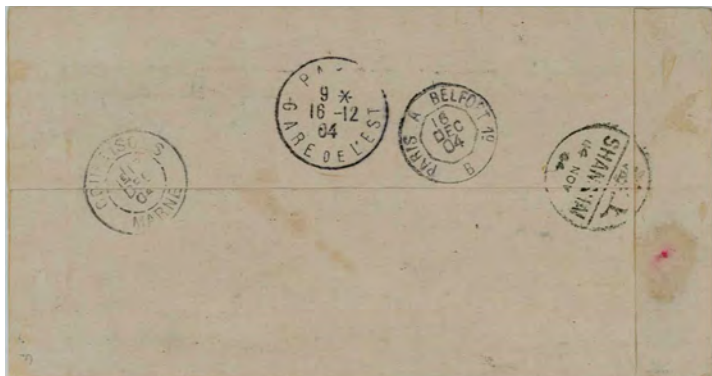


37. Military letter originating at Moung-Sen, Laos entering the mails at Kong, Cambodia enroute to France in 1895.

Bringing together the elements of the French Indochinese Offices in China and mail via China, the cover in Figures 38 and 39 began its journey in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, where it received its Chinese datestamp to Courtisols, France on September 17, 1904. With no indication of prepayment of local Chinese postage, one can only assume that it was prepaid in cash in Chengdu, and the cover was most likely franked at Chengdu with the 25c blue Group Type Tchongking overprint for international postage. The cover was received at the Chinese Office in Shanghai, about 2000 km to the east, on November 14, 1904 according to the datestamp on the reverse, and transferred to the French Office at Shanghai where the Group Type stamp was cancelled with the old 5104 GC cancel. To my knowledge, this is the latest recorded use of this numeral obliterator. From Shanghai, the letter made its way through the French system and arrived at the Paris Gare de l'Est on December 16<sup>th</sup>. It was then placed on the Paris-Belfort rail line for transit to its final destination. This cover was the choice of Olivier Stocker of Spink to be pictured on the front of the advertising brochure prepared for the sale of this collection, and makes an excellent end for the Indochina-French Indochinese Offices in China-China section of this article.



38. Letter from Chengdu, China to France via Shanghai in 1904 showing very late use of the 5104 Shanghai GC cancel.



39. Reverse of letter in Figure 38.

## New Caledonia

New Caledonia has become one of my favorite colonies in this collection. Its postal history offers breadth and depth to the collector, and there is enough complexity in its postal history (plenty of small village offices, a Group Type overprint issue rejected for international use by France, a local packet system, a strong grouping of military mail, a number of dependencies that used the Group Type, a long history as a penal colony, etc.) to occupy one's interest, time and savings.

One of my most favorite covers from this colony is shown in Figure 40. A few of the small villages had archaic datestamps with the word **POSTES** in the datestamp in lieu of the colony's name. These are a treasure in any New Caledonia collection. The example shown bears the **POSTES LA FOA** datestamp from the small village of La Foa in 1898. The combination of 10c and 40c Group Type stamps is a most colorful way to prepay the 50c registered rate letter that bears Nouméa and **MODANE A PARIS** transits and a Nancy arrival.



40. Rare POSTES LA FOA cancellation on a registered letter to France.

From the Dependencies, there can be only one cover to show herein. It was posted also at the 50c registered rate from Port Sandwich, New Hebrides to Professor Segno in the United States. (Figure 41) Professor Segno is the star of my Philately & International Mail Order Fraud collection. For \$10 a year he would project his Success Waves around the world twice a day, and subscribers' lives would improve in numerous ways, or so he claimed. In 1903 he had 12,000 subscrib-

ers, and this 1907 letter from Port Sandwich indicates that he was able to reach and defraud people from some of the most remote places in the world.



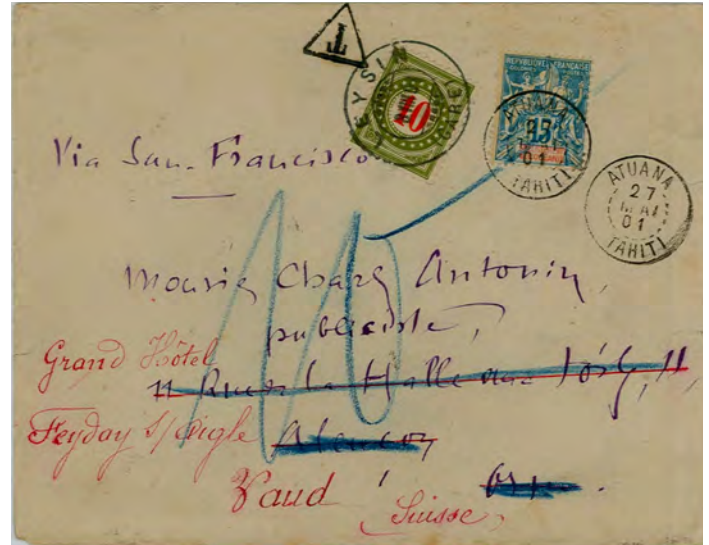
41. My favorite and most valuable Segno cover posted from Port Sandwich, New Hebrides in 1907 at a 50c registered rate. Contained payment for an allocation of the Professor's Success Waves.

## French Oceania

Finally we have reached French Oceania, the last of the colonies that used the Group Type. My favorite Group Type exhibit was the one based on the French Pacific colonies of New Caledonia and French Oceania. It reached ten frames, and regularly received a Large Gold medal in national shows. I also showed at the Singlefingen, Germany Postal History Show where it received the Silver Post Horn as an award. This show had forty postal history exhibits, and gave but three awards – gold, silver and bronze Post Horn Medallions. So the Silver Award is not too bad, especially given that the Gold Award went to a collection of Swiss Cantonals. It is always difficult for a turn of the century exhibitor to win over a truly classic exhibit.

Figure 42 shows a letter from the village of Atuana, today Atuona, in the Marquesas Islands portion of the colony posted on May 27, 1901 at the 15c French Community rate to Alencon in France. As such, it is an excellent addition to any collection. However, when it arrived at Alencon on August 6<sup>th</sup>, the addressee was in Switzerland. The letter was struck with a T in triangle to indicate that the 15c rate did not prepay mail to non-French destinations as 25c was required, and forwarded to the Vaud in Switzerland. On arrival at

the Leysin rail station on August 8<sup>th</sup>, the letter was marked as 10c due in manuscript and the 10c Swiss due stamp applied. The 10c unpaid portion of the rate outside of the French Community was the only amount required under these circumstances, with no non-payment penalty.



42. Letter posted at the 15c French Community rate from Atuana in the Marquesas Islands of French Oceania, forwarded to Switzerland at 10c due on arrival.

## Dealers

No article would be complete without some comments on working with dealers to build a vast collection such as this. Simply put, without dealers, it would not have been possible to put this collection together. The search for material has to be world-wide, and only with dealers can you begin accomplish this. There are four dealers with whom I have worked closely on this collection over the years. Together they have provided about one-third of my Group Type collection! They are Thierry Lallavée of Lugdunum Philatélie; David Wrigley of Bangkok via Ireland; Andrew Holtz of the USA; and Alexandre Roumet and the Roumet firm in France.

The first cover in this section is from Lugdunum Philatélie and is shown in Figures 43 and 44. It is from the French Indochinese Office at Pak-Hoi posted on October 27, 1906. It has a number of unusual elements that warrant explanation. First, it is franked at an even 10f with two 5f Pak-Hoi issues. The front indicates that it was a de-

clared value item with a value of 300f. The reverse shows a declared value cachet which indicates that it weighed 547.60 grams, and it clearly was not a paper envelope, but a sack whose contents had been sewn inside. This was a thirty-seventh weight level item requiring 9.25f for postage and 25c registration leaving 50c for insurance. I do not have tables for insurance charges at Pak-Hoi in 1906. For a declared value of 300f, 50c would certainly be reasonable, it could have been a little less. So my conclusion on this item was that it came out at an even 10f rate, or so close to a 10f rate that the difference was not significant, and the item was franked at 10f rather than use a large mix of stamps to make a rate at a few centimes less. As such, it is an example of a 10f rate, or as close to 10f as one might get, and shows proper and accepted use of the 5f stamps. What did the sack contain to reach this weight level? A group of Chinese coins is my most likely guess.



43. Declared value cloth sack mailed at 10f postage from the French Office at Pak-Hoi in 1906 to Paris.



44. Reverse of Figure 43 showing the declared value cachet and a weight of 547.60 grams.

I first met David Wrigley at one of the biannual New York ASDA Shows. Right from that start, it was obvious that he was going to be a source of unusual material, the likes of which was not seen at regular U.S. shows. He clearly had an eye for unusual and most unusual covers. Shown in Figures 45 and 46 is a military franchise cover posted from Whydah, Benin on November 7, 1893 to Papeete, Tahiti. This is a cover that is part of 'The Era' section of the collection. The front shows a French Packet **ETABLISSEMENTS DU BENIN** transit, only used on franchise mail, from November 14<sup>th</sup>, and a Paris foreign office arrival on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The cover also shows a proper validation on the reverse, with a Kotonou transit on November 9<sup>th</sup> and a Papeete arrival on January 19, 1894. From Paris to Papeete the cover traveled to New York by French Packet, across the USA by train to San Francisco, and from there to Papeete on a regular contract ship thus completing the just over two month journey. This is the only military franchise cover I have seen from any of the colonies to Tahiti. For comparable unusualness, I have a military franchise letter from the French Indochinese forces in Siam to Nouméa, New Caledonia, and one from a member of the Madagascar occupation forces from Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe while on assignment in Guadeloupe back to Madagascar.



45. Military franchise cover from Whydah, Bénin to Papeete, Tahiti in 1893.



46. Reverse of the letter in Figure 45 showing the Papeete arrival.

I also used to see Andy Holtz regularly at the bi-annual ASDA Shows in New York City. The question always was should I go to the Wrigley or the Holtz table first, as both dealers always had something of interest to me. The stocks of both dealers tended to sell well as each traveled the world looking for unusual material for their clients. Andy was particularly good at finding covers with a joint Indochina-China interest, at a time when China was just becoming popular. From that area is the cover shown in Figure 47. It was posted in Nan-Ling (Quangsi Province) according to the Chinese cancellation tying the 10c stamp which paid for local postage within China. From there it traveled via Lungchow (June 28, 1901) to enter the French system at Lang-Son (Tonkin) on June 29<sup>th</sup> where the 15c Group Type stamp was



47. Mixed franking China-Indochina cover from Nan-Ling to Paris via Lang-Son.

cancelled representing the 15c French community rate. It arrived at the port of Haiphong on July 5<sup>th</sup>, and then Paris (August 6<sup>th</sup>) from where it underwent forwarding in France to its final destination.

One cover that I have always treasured from the Roumet Firm is that shown in Figure 48. It was posted at Saint Pierre, Reunion on May 25, 1899 to Saint Denis, Reunion where it was received on May 29<sup>th</sup>. It was posted at a remarkable 37c registered business papers rate which corresponded to 12c for postage on a letter weighing 100 - 150 grams, the third weight level, and 25c for registration. This is in the same rarity class as the 4c business papers rate shown in the Bénin section of this article. When I saw this item in a 2002 Roumet sale it immediately went on my Must Have List, and I bid accordingly.



48. Local triple weight registered business papers cover from Reunion at a remarkable 37c rate.

For my last Group Type cover, I want to show another from the Roumet firm as seen in Figure 49. It was posted at the 40c registered rate from Brazzaville, French Congo to France on July 12, 1900 via the Loango-Bordeaux Packet Line on July 30<sup>th</sup>. This is, most probably, **the most spectacular Group Type cover in existence**. It bears four of the emergency overprints used from Brazzaville from July 9 - 12, 1900 prepaying a proper registered French community rate, and is addressed to a standard addressee of the period. My 2005 - 2006 Dallay gives a 42,000 euro catalog value for this cover. I call covers such as this HEL-covers; my wife calls them HELL-covers. HEL, of course, indicates Home Equity Loan, the only way I could finance such a cover. My wife's view is ob-

vious. This cover was offered to me by Alexandre Roumet at a French Show sometime in the late 1990's. The price was close to the catalog value above, and the euro was valued at 85 cents per dollar in US currency at the time. I hesitated for about a week on this cover, trying to figure out some way to finance it, as I knew there was none better in the Group Type area. Finally, I decided that I would work it out some way, and I called the Roumet firm to say I would take the cover. Sadly, it had sold the night before, and was no longer on the market. I was unhappy that I did not get it, but maybe a bit happy too. No longer would I have to shake our financial foundations to their core.

So the matter stood for a number of years. Then one day I was notified by the Roumet firm that the owner had decided that he was getting older and it was time to return this cover to the market. I am very aware of that feeling these days. It was being offered at the same price in euros that he originally paid for it, which sounds like a reasonably fair deal. However, in the interim the value of the euro had risen from 85 cents per euro to 115 cents per euro. The price rise in US dollars was formidable to me, so I passed on the cover. Today, I am no longer sure about its status. It has not been repeatedly appearing in auctions seeking a new home. So that's my story on how the big one got away.



49. The crème-de-la-crème Group Type cover from Brazzaville, French Congo bearing four of the 1900 provisional overprints at a proper 40c French community registered rate.

## Closing Thoughts on *Farewell to the Group Type*

When I thought about writing this farewell article, I decided to show the simple title in both French and English. I wondered how to translate *farewell*. Should I use *Au revoir* or *Adieu*? I consulted the likely sites on the web, and could not get a clear answer. I thought to contact Alain Millet in Paris who has helped me out with numerous French issues over the years (and many philatelic ones too). He was not answering his emails and probably traveling. So I turned to Olivier Stocker of Spink with whom I had been regularly emailing and phoning in setting up the sale of the collection. Olivier is French and unquestionably attuned to such details. He pointed out that *Au revoir* was a casual way of saying farewell in French, and used when people are parting after a good dinner or a separate journey home after a short trip. *Adieu* on the other hand has a greater seriousness about it, and a sense of a certain level of finality. One might say it to a good friend of many years who was returning home to a distant land, and whom you might not see again for a long while. Or it might be used when saying farewell to a dear departed friend at a memorial service.

The announcement of this sale was made in Stockholm at the Royal's grand birthday party this spring. The collection is now in the hands of Spink in London and is being written up for auction. Lugdunum Philatélie has just announced its next sale, and I am not jumping to their web site to see what new Group Type items are available. The writing of this article has brought back many wonderful thoughts about friends, shows and the wonders, at least to me, of this assembly of covers. I confess to a certain sadness that I did not experience when I sold the Guadeloupe collection in 2007. Possibly the title for this article should have been: *Adieu le Type Groupe*.

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9. E. J. J. Grabowski, "Gleanings from the French Colonies: Manifestations of Madagascar Numeral Cancellations and the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type", *Collectors Club Philatelist*, 2005, Vol 84, pp 369 – 371.
10. E.J.J. Grabowski, "A Personal Odyssey – The 45c French Colonial Allegorical Group Type on Cover", *Collectors Club Philatelist*, 2001, Vol. 80, pp 185-189.
11. E.J.J. Grabowski, "Reunion: the Use of Due Stamps in Lieu of Regular Postage Stamps for Local Mail – Update, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, 2001, Vol. 80, pp 59-60.
12. E.J.J. Grabowski, "Indochina and the French Colonial Group Type", *France & Colonies Philatelist*, 1992, pp 117-119; 1993, 1-15.
13. E.J.J. Grabowski, "Indochina Military Mail Between 1893 – 1905", *Collectors Club Philatelist*, 2007, Vol. 86, pp 59-75.

## France

- ◇ 3 June 2019: Cartoon character Asterix. Booklet of 12 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate. €10.56.
- ◇ 8 July 2019: 100th anniversary of the presentation of the Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre. €1.05.
- ◇ 8 July 2019: Mediterranean costumes-Euromed. €1.30.
- ◇ 15 July 2019: Birth of Napoleon commemorative stamps. Sheetlet of different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate. €5.00.
- ◇ 22 July 2019: 50th Anniversary of the moon landing. €1.30.
- ◇ 5 August 2019: Coastal landmarks-lighthouses. Booklet of 12 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the priority letter rate in France. €12.60.
- ◇ 9 August 2019: 60th anniversary of Astérix. Sheetlet of 5 same design €0.88 stamps. €4.40.
- ◇ 19 August 2019: Giving birth. Booklet of 10 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate. €12.00.
- ◇ 26 August 2019: Marriage-Yes! Sheetlet of 10 different nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate. €12.00.
- ◇ 26 August 2019: 75th anniversary of the liberation of Paris. €1.30.
- ◇ 9 September 2019: Mount Cinto-the tallest mountain in Corsica. €0.88.
- ◇ 13 September 2019: preserving historic sites and monuments.. Booklet of 12 different nondenominated forever stamps valid for the green letter rate. €10.56.
- ◇ 21 September 2019: French revolution commemorative. Sheetlet of 4 different nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate. €5.00.
- ◇ 23 September 2019: Village of Le Creusot. €0.88.
- ◇ 23 September 2019: Artisans-book binders. €0.88.

## Andorra

- ◇ 6 July 2019: Artist Arranz Bravo commemorative. €1.05.
- ◇ 20 July 2019: Júlia Bonet Fité commemorative. €1.30.
- ◇ 10 August 2019: Archaeological remains. €2.10.
- ◇ 7 September 2019: Automobile-Renault 4CV. €1.05.

## French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

- ◇ 7 June 2019: Oceanographic ship La Curieuse. €1.35.

## French Polynesia

- ◇ 19 July 2019: Heiva - 40 years of the conservatory. 80F. €0.67.

- ◇ 23 August 2019: Aviation pioneer André Japy. 100F. €0.84.
- ◇ 6 September 2019: Centenary of the death of Milan Stefanik. 140F. €1.17.

## Monaco

- ◇ 18 June 2019: The 25th Anniversary of Zonta Club Monaco. €1.05.
- ◇ 18 June 2019: The 90th Anniversary of the Birth of Princess Grace of Monaco. Sheetlet of 3 different €2.00 stamps.
- ◇ 20 June 2019: The 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Jacques Offenbach, 1819-1880. €3.44.
- ◇ 20 June 2019: SEPAC issue-old residential houses. €0.86.
- ◇ 20 June 2019: Reopening of the Hotel de Paris. €1.05.
- ◇ 20 June 2019: MONOCOPHIL 2019. €1.05.
- ◇ 22 June 2019: Historical sites of the Grimaldis. Sheetlet of 4 different €1.05 stamps.
- ◇ 5 July 2019: 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 mission to the moon. €1.00.
- ◇ 5 July 2019: The 20th Anniversary of the Death of Salvador Dali, 1904-1989. €1.05.
- ◇ 5 August 2019: the 27th Grande Bourse. €0.86.
- ◇ 5 August 2019: The 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Henri Matisse, 1869-1954. €1.72.
- ◇ 2 September 2019: Ancient Grimaldi Strongholds - Valmont. €1.00.
- ◇ 2 September 2019: Ancient Grimaldi Strongholds - Romans-sur-Isère. €1.30.
- ◇ 2 September 2019: The 500th Anniversary of the World's First Circumnavigation. €2.60.

## New Caledonia

- ◇ 9 August 2019: CPS 70th anniversary. 75F. €0.63.
- ◇ 13 September 2019: Return of the Grand War combatants. 75F. €0.63.

## St. Pierre & Miquelon

- ◇ 13 July 2019: Chateaubriand. €2.00.
- ◇ 15 September 2019: Monsieur Georges Poulet. Nondenominated forever stamp valid for the first class overseas rate. €1.05.
- ◇ 27 September 2019: Taxis. Sheetlet of 4 different €1.05 stamps. €4.20.

## Wallis & Futuna

- ◇ 12 July 2019: Academy of Wallis and Futuna Languages. 65F.

## Official Stamps

- ◇ 6 May 2019: Council of Europe. European court of human rights. €1.30.
- ◇ 6 May 2019: Council of Europe. €1.30.
- ◇ 16 September 2019: UNESCO. International Year of Indigenous Languages. €1.30.



## Editorial



### Norval Rasmussen

I mailed digital editions of the July issue of FCP to 137 members, for whom we had email addresses. According to data from Constantcontact.com, 72% of the emails were opened and directors report the pdf was received. In addition to the direct email, the issue is now on the website and was available several days before the black and white hard copy. If you did not receive the digital addition we do not have a valid email address. You can rectify this by communicating with Joel Bromberg at [jbromberg@inta.org](mailto:jbromberg@inta.org). A postal address is on the masthead of this journal.

Only one article this issue. Ed Grabowski spans the use of Groupe type stamps in several colonies.

The information on Southeast Stamp Expo 2020 is at the beginning of the society news section.

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

1. Publication Title: **FRANCE and Colonies Philatelist**

2. Issue Frequency: **Quarterly**

3. Issue Date: **October 2019**

4. Number of Issues Published Annually: **4**

5. Annual Subscription Price: **\$20.00**

6. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®):  
**FRANCE and Colonies Philatelist  
1980 Kingswood Dr. Aiken, OH 44313-5921**

7. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer):  
**FRANCE and Colonies Philatelist  
1000 Kingswood Dr. Aiken, OH 44313-5921**

8. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):  
Publisher: **FRANCE and Colonies Philatelist Society  
1000 Kingswood Dr. Aiken, OH 44313-5921**  
Editor: **NOELAN ROEMERMAN  
975 Vandavia Rd., Morganhauw, WV 26561**  
Managing Editor: **NOELAN ROEMERMAN  
975 Vandavia Rd., Morganhauw, WV 26561**

9. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)  
Full Name: **FRANCE + Colonies Philatelist Society**  
Complete Mailing Address: **1000 Kingswood Dr. Aiken, OH 44313-5921**

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

11. Publication Title: **FRANCE and Colonies Philatelist**

12. The blocks of this statement for nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates. Check one:  
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months  
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title: **FRANCE and Colonies Philatelist**

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: **July 2019**

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	221	221
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions (Based on PS Form 3841 include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	165	165
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions (Based on PS Form 3841 include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mail (Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS)	0	0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (In g., First-Class Mail®)	17	17
c. Total Paid Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	182	182
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3841	21	21
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3841	0	0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (In g., First-Class Mail®)	10	10
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	31	31
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	214	214
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	7	7
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)	221	221
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15h times 100)	95%	95%

\* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to the 15 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

15. Electronic Copy Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 15a))	182	182
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 15a))	214	214
d. Percent Paid (Paid Print & Electronic Copies (Line 15a) divided by 15c + 100)	95%	95%

I certify that 95% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership  
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed on the **October 2019** issue of this publication.  Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner  
**NOELAN ROEMERMAN Editor** Date: **9-30-2019**

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

# Society News

## Convention Schedule

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

May 2021 Rocky Mountain Stamp Show

June 2022 NAPEX

## Membership Notices

### MEMBER CHANGES

- 2995 Wulff, Leland J.\*  
PO Box 1563  
Rohnert Park, CA 92947-1563  
\*Continuing the membership of John L. Wulff

### DECEASED

- 3299 Blizzard, C. Robert (Sep. 10, 2018)
- 2903 Stanislaw, Trevor K.
- 2995 Wulff, John L. (Dec. 2015)

### MEMBERS WITH UNPAID DUES

- Abram, Sam L.
- Bohn, Jeffrey C.
- Ellman, Lewis
- Fagan, John R.
- Haber, Lawrence D.
- Higgins, John P. M.
- Luther, Arthur A.
- McGarrity, Raymond B.
- Palay, Myron
- Radna, Rudolf B.
- Richards, Sarah E.
- Salovey, David E.
- Walpow, Nathan
- Ward, Jeffrey K.

# Southeastern Stamp Expo News

France & Colonies Philatelic Society  
Meeting Schedule  
January 31, 2020

Norcross, Georgia  
Southeastern Stamp Expo

Time	Topic	Speaker
11:00 AM	Madagascar: 150 Years of Political and Philatelic Turmoil	Robert Mustacich
12 noon	United States 1928 – 1960 Mail for St. Pierre and Miquelon via <i>The Gull</i> Fast Train through Maritime Canada	Jim Taylor
12:30 PM	Lunch break	
1:15 PM	Membership meeting	
1:30 PM	Dahomey Palm Climber Design: Workhorse Definitive 1913 – 1944	Jere Dutt
2:15 PM	Notre Dame de Paris – Past, Present and Future	Tom Broadhead
3:00 PM	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Postal History of the French Indian Settlements	Tom Marra
4:00 PM	1900 French Congo Pictorial Issue – Some Old and Some New Varieties	Ken Nilsestuen
4:45 PM	Marianne of the Barricades – France 1945 – 1954	Jim Taylor
5:30 PM	Adjournment	

FCPS will host a wide range of presentation topics at its meeting, January 31, 2020, at Southeastern Stamp Expo in Norcross, GA. APS is promoting our program as a pilot offshoot from its "On the Road" course series. More information about the show is at [www.sefsc.org](http://www.sefsc.org).

The APS judging team will be Kathryn Johnson (Chair), Ron Leshner, Allison Cusick, Robert Meegan, Wayne Menuz

If you plan to attend, register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/93BB7RV> so we know how many to expect. There is no fee for the program.

As this goes to press there only three exhibitors registered. The show is holding 50 frames for us until the end of October. You can apply at <http://www.sefsc.org/exhibits.html>.

## We Get Letters

Stan Luft had a number of volumes of a plating study of the Ceres 25 centimes (6 volumes including Plates A2, B2, D1, D3, G1, and G3) which includes 50 covers. These studies are all nearly complete for each of the 150-stamp sheet with multiple examples of many. Also a plating study of the Empire Laure 20 centimes, 80 pages with 11 covers. The plates represented include A2, B2, A3 and B3, probably 85% or more complete. This includes the two-volume reference on the plating of the Ceres issues. All reasonable offers accepted and considered these being about the only remaining material left from his estate.

As the material resides here at my house, I would be glad to be the recipient of inquiries. [timbartshe@aol.com](mailto:timbartshe@aol.com) is the contact. As it will be in the October journal that will work out as we are leaving town for a month from mid-Sept to mid-Oct on a trip to SE Asia. My address and phone number is on the website for APS judges if you need it for any reason.

Tim Bartshe  
13955 W. 30th Ave  
Golden CO 80401  
3032739247

WANTED : I need covers and all documents stamped with the "Calmette" stamp issued in St-Pierre and Miquelon in 1963. See picture.



Jean-Jacques Tillard  
[jjtillard@cheznoo.net](mailto:jjtillard@cheznoo.net)

My new catalog, edition 2019-20, has been issued in april. Many informations and, for the first time, the value for all SPM Specimen stamps.

128 colored pages, one stamp per page. A great reference ! See few scans. (below and on back cover)

Price : \$US 40 including postage. If you order this catalog via the society, \$10 will be donated to the FCPS !

Jean-Jacques Tillard  
[jjtillard@cheznoo.net](mailto:jjtillard@cheznoo.net)

# TILLARD



*Catalogue de cotation des timbres de*

## SAINT-PIERRE-ET-MIQUELON

- Les « classiques » 1885-1908 -

**EDITION 2019-2020**



## President's Letter



Despite record temperatures for many of us, fall is on the way. Stamp shows are once again on the calendar, and as we finish off our late summer chores, we get back in the stamp room once again. So let's get to the important items.

First, Southeast Stamp Expo is holding 50 frames for our society. That hold expires at the end of October. If you are planning to exhibit, rush right over to [www.sefsc.org](http://www.sefsc.org) and fill out the prospectus. It is time to get into the show! Several members have already signed up and a few more have promised to put exhibits in the show, and there is room for yours, too.

Second, please plan to attend our great Friday seminar at SESE. As described in previous journals, we have a great line-up. You can register on line at <https://stamps.org/Learn/On-The-Road-Courses> if you click on the tablet at the right on that screen. There is no fee to attend, whether a member or just someone who wants to sit down for a while. As a reminder, there will be presentations about Madagascar, Notre Dame, Dahomey, French Congo and French India. I hope I remembered everyone. We should all have a delightful time that day.

Friday evening of the show, January 31, the show committee is planning a wine tasting before a group dinner. Our board has personally committed \$150 towards wine purchases, but we need a few more donations from you, our members, to provide a better selection. This will allow the show to host the wine tasting without an additional charge.

Following the wine tasting, presuming we get enough support for that event, SESE will hold a buffet dinner at the show hotel. Tickets will be around \$50. Our society attendees are invited to join the event, whether we are exhibitors or not. The event will be informal, so it should be a very sociable evening with lots of philatelic friends, spouses, significant others, and so on.

Remember the show is still three days, so you will have shopping opportunities, an American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors meeting, the feedback session for exhibitors, and more. While I am not sure how the judges will do their feedback at SESE, there has been a move towards more discussion at the frames rather than sitting in a room while exhibitors have their hard work picked apart. Those at-the-frame discussions are much more helpful, so if you are exhibiting, you should get some good suggestions.

Shifting gears, Rocky Mountain Stamp Show figuratively twisted our arms enough that the board agreed to hold our next meeting at the 2021 show in Denver. When the board looked at the time gap between SESE 2020 and NAPEX 2022, it seemed too long. The Denver show is a big one, since it has been hosting the Brett Cup for several years. That's the best 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century exhibit of the year. All of that is in addition to the regular WSP show. We have met there at least once before with success, since it is geographically towards the center of the country, and it is easy to get there by air. While the dates are not yet on their website, it will be in May 2021.

Last time I announced our new, functional website. Have you tried it yet? You should! Go to [www.franceandcolonies.org](http://www.franceandcolonies.org) and use the password "Eiffeltower" which is case sensitive. In 2020 we will update that password and distribute it via email rather than in a public way like this.

As I mentioned last quarter, having Larry serve as our webmaster places more responsibility on us to keep information current. I asked for a member volunteer, and Larry Rosenblum, one of our directors, stepped forward. So if you have a news item, a correction, a suggestion or other item for our website, please let Larry know at [larry\\_fcps@larryr.com](mailto:larry_fcps@larryr.com). He will see that Larry Filion, our webmaster, gets the info.

Since our last journal our editor, Norval Rasmussen, signed up for Constant Contact and sent a test message to our members. I hope you received it. This may well be the means by which we communicate the on-line availability of our full-color journal, so it is important that your email address is current and correct. I presume Ras is asking for that assistance elsewhere in this October journal.

So here are your assignments for this quarter:

- Sign up to attend our meeting in January – see [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org) to do that.
- Help subsidize our wine tasting at SESE – send checks to Ben Bump, our treasurer, at 43 North Road, Hampden, MA 01036, or use PayPal ([benbump@hotmail.com](mailto:benbump@hotmail.com)).
- Enter an exhibit for SESE – see [www.sefsc.org](http://www.sefsc.org) for that one.
- Visit our website at [www.franceandcolonies.org](http://www.franceandcolonies.org).
- Ensure that Norval Rasmussen has your correct email address. Ras is at [nras-mu@gmail.com](mailto:nras-mu@gmail.com).
- Make plans to exhibit and attend Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in May 2021.
- 

Notice that while some of this requires some effort, you can do the basics right at your desk or while sitting with your tablet / laptop in front of the television. Isn't that great? By making these commitments you can then look forward to a delightful and entertaining philatelic event. That will be a great return on your investment, whether time, money or both.

That's it for the fourth quarter of 2019. I am really looking forward to seeing you in Norcross in January. Between now and then, I wish you the best of holidays and many surprising and exciting philatelic discoveries.

## Dues are

# DUE!

Send yours to Ben Bump  
Ben Bump  
43 North Rd  
Hampden, MA 01036  
Paypal: [benbump@hotmail.com](mailto:benbump@hotmail.com)

\$20 domestic (\$22 if using paypal)

\$25 foreign (\$27 for paypal)



## SHOW REPORTS

### Americover 2019

St. Louis, MO July 26-28, 2019

Large gold to **Kenneth Nilsestuen** for “The Minnesota Territorial Stamp-1949.” Also the APS award of Excellence for 1940 – 1980 Material

### APS StampShow 2019

Omaha, NE August 1-4 2019

Literature large vermeil to **Lewis E. Bussey** for “U.S. Postal Cards of the Spanish-American War Period, 1898-1906.”

### Seapex 2019

Tukwila, WA September 13-15, 2019

Single frame large gold to **Charles J. LaBlonde** for “The Suspension of United States Mail to Switzerland 1942-1945.” Vermeil to **Charles J. LaBlonde** for “The Rise & Fall of WWII Postal Censorship – Swiss Perspective”. Also the Auxiliary Markings Club Award of Merit Large silver to **Charles J. LaBlonde** for “Italy – World War II Red Cross Mail to Geneva: The Complete Postal History.”

**N° 1891-8 (Vert 20)**

Le 4c. lilas-brun sur gris, dentelé au type Alphée Dubois, a été tiré à **15650** exemplaires (incluant les surchargés en rouge).

**Informations complémentaires :** Les surcharges renversées se situent aux positions 5, 14, 23, 32 et 41. Elles forment une diagonale sur le feuillet de 25 exemplaires.  
La lettre « S » omise se trouve à la position 44.  
Les lettres « o n » espacées sont positionnées case 2 de la composition. Ces variétés concernent une grande partie du tirage.



	Neuf	Oblitéré
1891-8 : 4c. Lilas-brun s/gris .....	55	- 45
1891-8A : Surcharge « SPECIMEN » en violet .....	1200	- (une pièce neuve connue)
1891-8a : Surcharge renversée .....	85	- 70
Idem tenant à normal .....	175	- 175
1891-8b : Lettre « S » omise .....	150	- 150
Idem tenant à normal .....	275	- 250
1891-8c : Lettres « o n » espacées .....	75	- 70
Idem tenant à normal .....	160	- 150









N°1891-8A

Toutes les frappes SPECIMEN. (en violet) sont apposées horizontalement sur le timbre déjà collé sur un bristol. Elles proviennent des archives de Natal (Ex colonie britannique de l'Afrique du sud).

### LES OBLITERATIONS SUR LE TYPE GROUPE

D'autres cachets, avec ou sans date, ont aussi frappé ces timbres lors des transits dans les ports canadiens de Halifax et North Sydney (Province de la Nouvelle Ecosse).

<p>Oblitération « parcel cancel » de Halifax (très rare)</p>  <p>Le 1893-6 .....</p>	<p>Oblitération « rouleau » de Halifax « (très rare)</p>  <p>Les 1893-4, 1893-5 et 1893-6 .....</p> <p>Le 1893-7 .....</p>
<p>Oblitération « duplex » de Halifax (très rare)</p>  <p>Le 1893-6 .....</p> <p>Les 1893-4 et 1893-5 .....</p>	<p>Oblitération datée « paquebot » de Halifax</p>  <p>Les 1900-1 et 1908-1 .....</p>
<p>Oblitération datée de North Sydney (type 1) (peu courante)</p>  <p>Les 1893-8 et 1900-1 .....</p> <p>Les 1893-4, 1893-5 et 1893-6 .....</p> <p>Le 1893-7 .....</p>	<p>Oblitération datée de North Sydney (type 2) (très rare)</p>  <p>Le 1900-1 .....</p>

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JJ Tillard's catalog sample pages. Continued from page 124.