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*The Mystery of
Dr. Bertrand
Gau -
Following a
Philatelic Trail*

(see page 3)



*Tunis to Geneva via
Berlin: 1944*

(see page 22)

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The Mystery of Dr. Bertrand Gau - Following a Philatelic Trail

James R. Taylor

Head of the Hospital - St. Pierre & Miquelon 1939-1941

Doctor Bertrand Gau held an important Third Republic, French government posting as the Head of the Hospital at St. Pierre in the French North American Colony of St. Pierre and Miquelon in 1939 - 1941. Dr. Gau was 33 years old in 1939 and had graduated from Medical School at Lyon, France in 1930. His appointment to St. Pierre was a promotion to test his medical and administrative abilities. However his timing was bad - world events and flawed politics would soon overtake him.

The French Third Republic had declared war against Nazi Germany on September 3, 1939. The Battle of France in the spring of 1940 found Dr. Gau stranded in St. Pierre and cut off from his home country France, his dear wife, children and other loved ones. He had married on January 12, 1937. His wife, Madame Henriette Rose Grisoni Gau and children were back in France in the small village of St. Gaultier in Indre Province in Central France. The events in France were very upsetting, as the full German blitzkrieg offensive had been unleashed against the French in the spring of 1940.

The only practical means, in 1939 and early 1940, of trans-Atlantic communication from St. Pierre was by very slow ship post with the very real threat of the ship being sunk by enemy action. An April 13, 1940 (Figure 1) registered cover is addressed to Dr. Gau's wife, Madame Gau in France. The 3.50f franking prepaid the 20-30g



Figure 1. April 13, 1940 to Madame Gau in St. Gaultier, France

1.50f postage and the 2.00f registration fee. The envelope was opened for censor examination at St. Pierre and resealed with white stamp selvedge. The selvedge is tied on the front of the cover with the very rare St. Pierre Military censor marking (Taylor, 2003). The application of the Military censor marking is peculiar.

The Chief Censor, Emile-Jean Guillot controlled the St. Pierre military censor marking. It was a 44 mm long by 23 mm handstamped marking reading OUVERT / PAR / L'AUTORITÉ MILITAIRE in a double-pointed oval frame-line. But it was seldom applied it to outgoing mail. Guillot also had the habit of resealing censored letters using stamp selvedge, while his censor clerks normally used plain, brown manila tape. Dr. Gau's letters home had this military marking applied to his letters back to France up until April, 1941 when Guillot left the Colony and defected to the Free French in Canada (Taylor, 2003). Dr. Gau had perhaps caught the inquisitive eye of censor Guillot and his mail was given special treatment.



Figure 3. August 11, 1940 to Madam Gau at St. Gauthier, France



Figure 4. February 6, 1941 St. Pierre to Madame Gau at St. Gauthier, France

porter of Pétain and his Vichy Regime. He supported the pro-Vichy Administer at St. Pierre, Count Gilbert de Bournat. This was in spite of local island sympathies for de Gaulle's Free French, which vowed to continue the fight against Nazi Germany.

Christmas Eve Surprise 1941

Bertrand Gau was at St. Pierre during the 1941 Christmas Eve landing by de Gaulle's Free French Forces at St. Pierre commanded by Admiral Muselier. Gau was not happy with the turn of events and was visibly hostile towards the new Gaullist military regime. Mr C. C. Eberts, the Canadian Consul in at Pierre, in his despatch of 26 December, 1941 to the Canadian Government in

Ottawa, reported on the Free French takeover, in the light of his interview with Admiral Muselier, who had imposed martial law on the islands.

"You will, of course, appreciate that the majority of the population in these Islands are too overjoyed with present events here to be able to understand the difficulties which they may entail for the Allies in the wider sphere of policy and that, particularly the leadership of occupation forces, they might well put up a stubborn resistance to an attempt to reverse the results of the occupation and plebiscite, even if they knew from the outset that it was doomed to failure. It should perhaps be added that the Admiral's fear of reprisals against the de Gaullists in the event of his forces being withdrawn or overcome has already been substantiated to some extent.

Yesterday evening, when Dr. Gau, the Chief of the Health Service was listening to the news of [United States Secretary of State] Mr. Cordell Hull's statement on the occupation of these Islands, at the United states Consul's house, he said with obvious relish that there would certainly be reprisals if there was a further change here, such as an invasion by the Americans to reinstate the Vichyards. Again, today, a thoroughly reliable informant who has on various occasions furnished useful information to the United States Consul and myself, tells me that he has had an identical reaction from Mr. Georges Landry [manager of Le Banque des Îles], a local merchant. The attitude of these men would probably be typical of the pro-Vichy and rather anti-British elements here." (National Defence Canada, 1941).

Admiral Muselier was very fearful that possibly a Vichy naval force or more likely an American or Canadian force would try to retake the islands.

The pro-Vichy attitude of several of the island doctors including Gau, a number of other government functionaries, and some of the leading businessmen welcomed an American intervention. They hoped that sympathetic Americans would seize the islands and immediately reinstate the deposed pro-Vichy Governor and the other Vichy sympathisers and banish the Gaullists. In the meantime Gau and others withheld their services and refused cooperation with the new Gaullist martial law decrees proclaimed by Admiral Muselier (Anglin, 1999).

Muselier was especially fearful of an attack on the islands that would result in subsequent reprisals that might be taken against the Gaullists who had overwhelmingly, bravely supported his resolution in the Christmas Day [1941] Plebiscite. To prevent any such activity, Muselier issued orders that the more notorious Vichy officials were to be removed from office and had them arrested and held under house arrest.

Dr. Bertrand Gau, head of the health service fell under this edict as well as the Administrator Count Gilbert de Bournat, the islands' chief judge, heads of the radio-telegraph service, and the pub-

lic works (Anglin 1999, p.89). Gau along with another doctor were exiled for a time to the isolation of Langlade Island.

What happened to Dr. Gau after his adventures and incarceration at St. Pierre? Did he behave himself in St. Pierre or was he exiled to Miquelon? Perhaps he was deported to Canada.

The next cover provides the answer.

Back in Unoccupied France 1942

The next philatelic clue is an August 17, 1942 cover (Figure 5) posted to Dr. Gau, who has arrived back at St. Gaultier, France. The cover is over franked with a complete set of the St. Pierre first airmail issue with a straight line FIRST DAY COVER hand stamp in red. A manuscript endorsement reads "Via New-York et Lisbonne". I recognise the hand writing as being from Paul Colombani, a St. Pierre merchant and a stamp collecting friend of the Doctor.

When released, Dr. Gau had apparently made his way, under wartime conditions via Canada and the United States, back to Unoccupied France



Figure 5. August 17, 1942 St. Pierre to Dr. Gau at St. Gauthier, France

where he was re-untied with his family and the authority of Vichy France that he had so vigorously supported in St. Pierre.

On to West Africa 1945

It may have been shortly after this time, that Dr. Gau accepted the post of *Medecin Commandant* in Vichy controlled French West Africa. Alas, Dr. Gau's dream of a resurrection of French glory under Marshall Pétain's Vichy pro-German government was dashed after the Nazis revealed their true intentions and the German army moved south to Lyon and Marseille in response to the Allied invasion of North Africa in November, 1942.

A June 9, 1945 cover (Figure 6) from St. Pierre finally reached Dr. Gau in St. Louis, Senegal. The franking of 15.50f prepays postage 1.50f and the airmail surcharge 14f/10g. The postmark reads St. Pierre June 9, 1945. United States cellophane censor tape 5312 is on the left. The cover is addressed to Dakar, French West Africa, re-addressed to Zinder and then finally found the good doctor at St. Louis. The letter travelled by surface through Canada to New York and onward via Pan American Airway's flying boat to Bermuda,



Figure 6. June 9, 1945 St. Pierre to Dr. Gau in French West Africa



Figure 7. August 31, 1948 St. Pierre Flight cover to Dr. Gau at Étampes, France

Azores and Lisbon. Again the sender in St. Pierre is regular correspondent Paul Colombani.

Return to Liberated France 1948

The philatelic trail finds Dr. Gau in Étampes, Seine-et-Oise Province near Paris, France in 1948. An over franked registered first flight cover (Figure 7) dated August 31, 1948 was sent to Dr. Gau by Paul Colombani. A special red cachet marks the first commercial flight to Montreal, Canada. The back stamp is the circular Étampes dated September 7, 1948.

Immediate postwar France was not a welcoming place for pro-Vichy collaborators and many suffered for their misplaced loyalties. Dr. Gau was a relatively minor figure in the scheme of things and he was set on continuing his medical career.

To America 1951

The next event I am able to trace is 1951 - mystery solved. That was when Bertrand, Henniette and family arrived in Sykesville, Maryland in the United States. In 1953 Dr. Gau received his medical diploma from the State of Maryland in medical surgery and gynecology. From 1953 to 1958 he

practiced medicine in Sykesville (News, 1995). In 1972 the couple retired to Florida where he lived for 19 years before returning to Maryland where his adult children and their families had settled.

Dr. Bertrand Gau passed away in 1995. He was survived by his wife, a son, a daughter, 8 grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren. It had been an interesting journey with the twists and turns of wartime, unforeseen events and severe tests of loyalties. Constants thorough out, were his deep concern for his family and his dedication to his medical career.

Dr. Gau's son Claude, a retired United States career diplomat, ironically represented the very country which his father pinned his hopes on 63 years ago to invade the tiny islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon and rid St. Pierre of the nasty Gaullists.

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The Author

James R. (Jim) Taylor lives in Calgary, Alberta. His interests are St. Pierre and Miquelon and French Newfoundland. His latest book, co-authored with Henk Slabbinck of Belgium, is titled *Mail from the French Shore of Newfoundland* published by FriesenPress.com.

Attention FCPS members:

APEX needs French area expertizers who can sort out more than Fournier forgeries of the colonies. Surcharges, overprints, Speratis, and so on. Right now Mercer Bristow says they are having to return some French area items without an opinion. Basic qualifications are expertise and U.S. residence. If you can help contact Mercer Bristow at APS 814-933-3803, ext. 205.

The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type: Madagascar Optical Telegraph Military Franchise Letters

By *Edward Grabowski*

In 1989 it was my great pleasure to attend PHILEXFRANCE 89 in Paris, my first overseas international show. It was a wonderful time to be in France, and this proved to be one of the most exciting international shows that I ever attended. The fact that France was celebrating the Bicentennial of its revolution might have had something to do with it. I will never forget the opening ceremony of the show where I had the opportunity to stand next to Cardinal Richelieu who was among the many giants of French history who put in an appearance. The show catalog consisted of two beautifully-prepared volumes. Volume I dealt with all of the details of the show. Volume II dealt with articles on French history and French postal history. Among these were two articles on development of the French optical telegraph system during the late eighteenth century by a French engineer named Claude Chappe.^{1,2} It was the first time I had heard about this device which the French had used for rapid communication prior to the development of the electric telegraph in the nineteenth century. The catalog showed an etching of an optical telegraph that had been installed atop of Montmartre in Paris during Chappe's time. At the show, a full size model of an optical telegraph had been constructed and put on display to the delight of the visitors. English language articles on the development and use of the optical telegraph are available on the web via Wikipedia³ and in an article by Dilhac.⁴ A sketch of an example of this device is shown in Figure 1, to give the reader a sense of how it worked. There was actually an op-

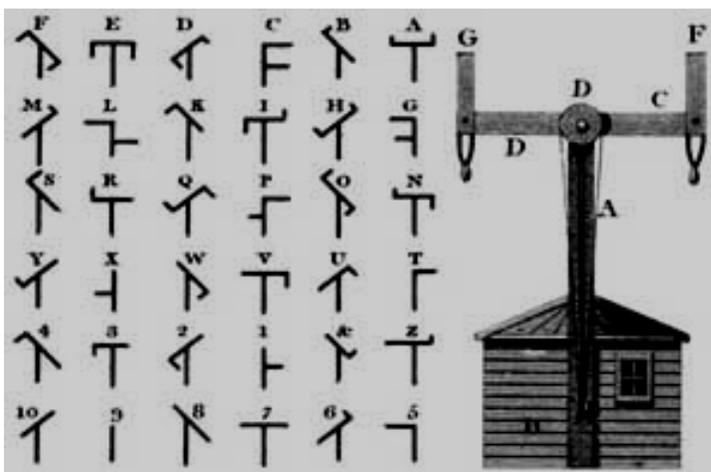


Figure 1: Sketch of an optical telegraph illustrating the coding system.

tical telegraph line that ran from Paris to Strasbourg, which could get information between these cities much faster than a horse and rider or the postal system of the day.

At the show I wondered about connections between the optical telegraph and the French postal system. But I never pursued this as I was already a committed colonialist at the time, and thought the likely hood of any connection between the French Colonies and the optical telegraph was going to be very small. However, in July 2007 an article on the Madagascar Telegraph System appeared in **Documents Philatéliques** written by Michel Varin, a noted expert on the French colony of Madagascar.⁵ In this comprehensive and beautifully illustrated article on the Madagascar telegraph system, Varin devotes three pages to the Madagascar optical telegraph. Based on the military experiences in western Madagascar in 1895 and the high costs and manpower requirements of

electric telegraph lines, the French decided to temporarily implement new optical lines in Madagascar during 1896 despite their lower efficiency. By 1900 the optical system, under military control, consisted of three main lines: Majunga to Diego Suarez; Tananarive to Mahabo with a branch to Morafanobe; and Ihosy to Tuléar. Because of the significant operating costs of this system, the line between Majunga and Diego Suarez was terminated on April 1, 1901 as additional electrical telegraph offices came on line.

In his article Varin illustrates a single military franchise optical telegraph letter transmitted by the optical military telegraphist at Tsitakabasia to the receiving station at Ankavandra on November 3, 1900 where it was transcribed and forwarded in the regular mails to Dijon, France. I decided to see if I could find an example of one of these letters to complement my Group Type Era collection of Madagascar & Dependencies. Finally in 2012 a small group of military franchise optical telegraph letters appeared in a French auction, and my bids were successful on two of them that illustrate somewhat different aspects of this category of mail.

The first (Figure 2) is quite similar to that illustrated by Varin in his article (the same sender, addressee and processing villages), except that it originated in February 1900 whereas the one he shows was not posted until November of the same year. That shown in Figure 2 originated at the optical telegraph office at Tsitakabasia, a village on the central west coast of Madagascar, on February 9, 1900 based on the dateline of the enclosed letter, and the manuscript endorsement ***Optique Tsitakabasia, J. Barbelenet*** on the front of the envelope which validated the military franchise privilege. Barbelenet was the soldier responsible for processing the optical telegraph letters at the station at Tsitakabasia. The transcribed letter entered the posts on February 13, 1900 based on the **MADAGASCAR 15** numeral datestamp on the front of the envelope. As read-

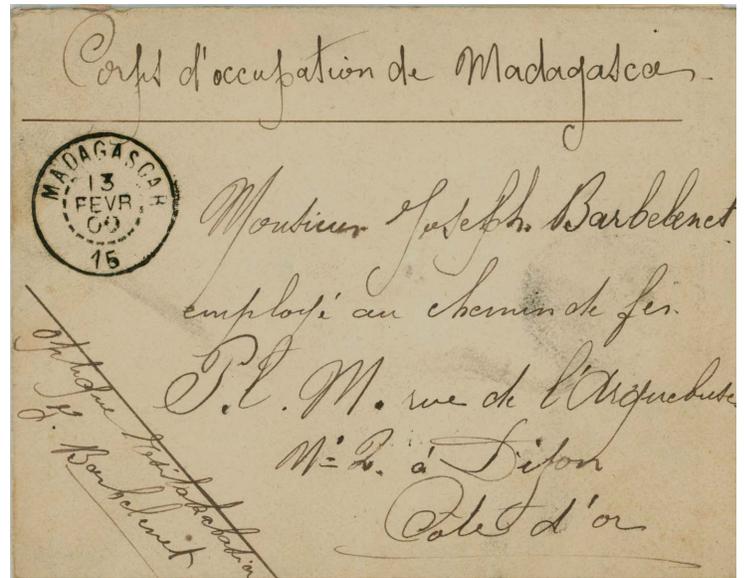


Figure 2: Optical telegraph letter from the village of Tsitakabasia.

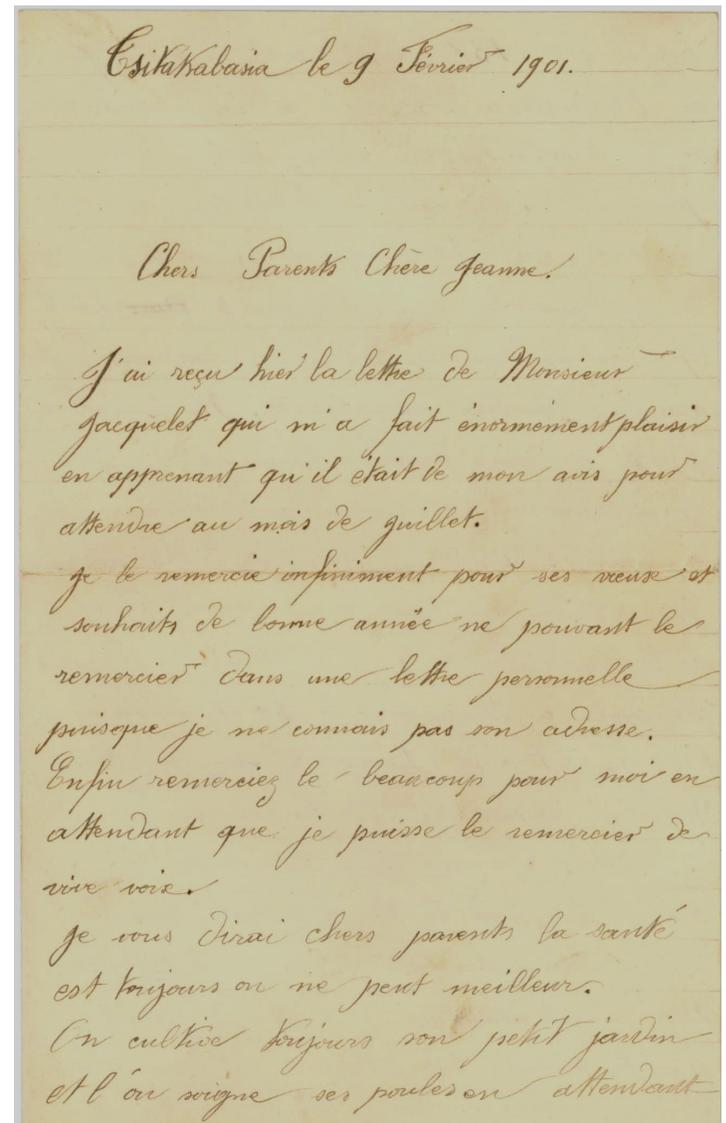


Figure 3: First page of the transcribed letter from Figure 2.

ers may know, the Madagascar numeral date-stamps were used on a provisional basis by newly opened offices, until regular postal devices could be prepared and shipped. At this time the office 15 datestamp was used by the village of Ankavandra according to Desnos.⁶ The reverse of the envelope bears a Tananarive transit from February 23rd, and a Dijon arrival. It should be noted that all of the written information on the front of the envelope was also transcribed at the receiving station, as part of the transcription process.

The sender of this letter and telegraphist at Tsitakabasia was J. Barbelenet, who was writing to his family. It is remarkable that the covers shown in this article contain the original transcriptions done at the receiving stations, or in the last case, the original letter sent from France to the transcribing station. The first page of the letter contained in the envelope of Figure 2 is shown in Figure 3. It is quite remarkable how ordinary this letter is – a son writing to his parents. Yet the time to send, receive and transcribe this letter had to be considerable given the optical device in use.

Figure 4 illustrates the second optical telegraph letter that I obtained from that French auction. It is from the same sender to his family in Dijon.

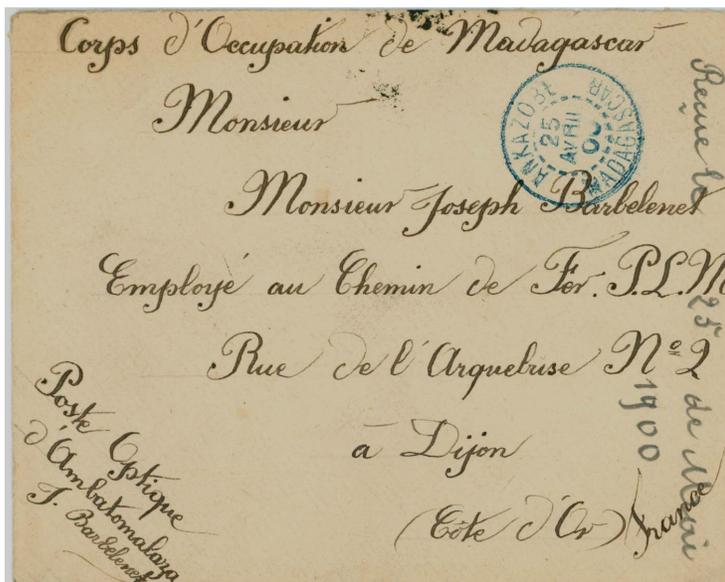


Figure 4: Optical telegraph letter from the village of Ambatomalaza.

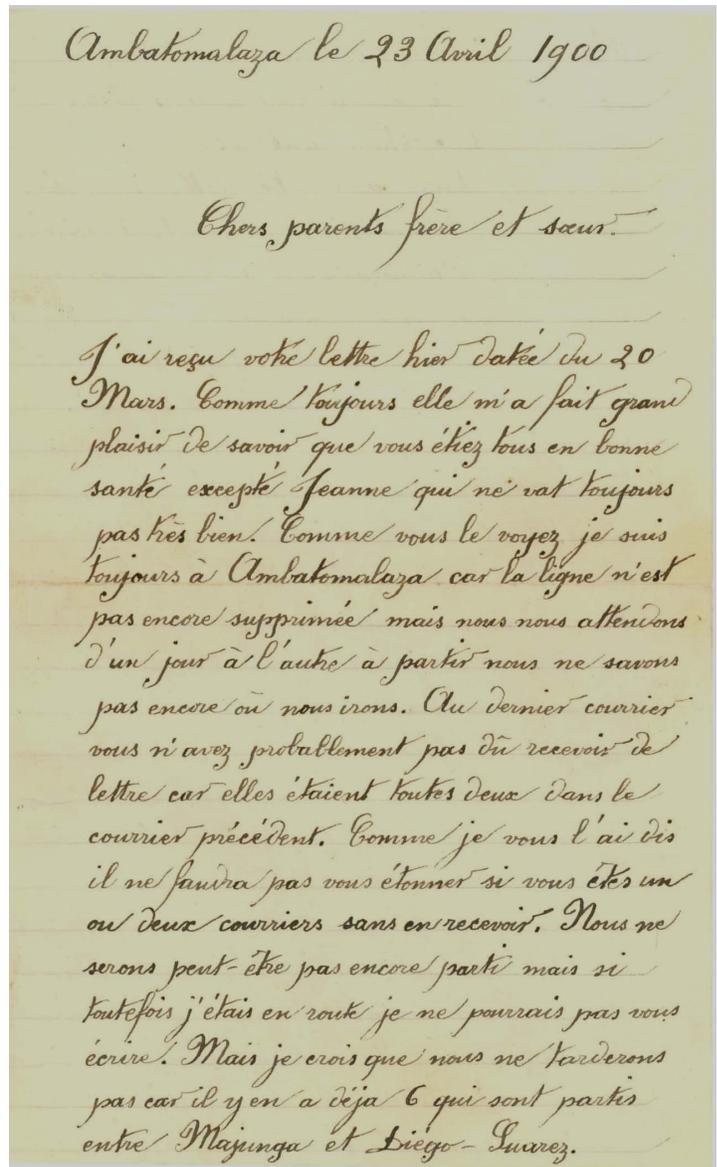


Figure 5: First page of the transcribed letter from Figure 4.

The transcriber of the address had beautiful and clear handwriting. The military franchise validation at the lower left (**Poste Optique, d'Ambatomalaza, J. Barbelenet**) shows that it originated at the optical telegraph station at Ambatomalaza, on April 23, 1900 according to the transcribed letter contained therein, and entered the regular posts on April 25, 1900 at Ankazobe. The envelope bears a Tananarive transit on April 27th and a Dijon arrival on May 25th. The six page letter inside (see Figure 5 for the first page) again contains the text of a son writing to his family, but now with some information about his military activities. What is remarkable is the length of the

N° 2 **TÉLÉGRAMME MILITAIRE.**

Reçu le _____ Réexpédié à _____
 h. m. _____ à h. m. _____
 Le Télégraphiste, _____ Le Télégraphiste, _____

Indications du service. }
 Pour _____ de _____ mots

Dépôt le _____ à h. m. du _____

À 5 heures on mange la soupe et ensuite on boit son thé comme dans le grand monde puis on prend l'air. À 6^h^{1/2} on commence à travailler jusqu'à 9 heures ou 10 heures et ensuite on va se coucher.
 Ainsi tu le vois chère mère on ne se fait pas de mauvais sang. D'ailleurs nous avec le caporal Tangel nous sommes toujours bien d'accord. Toute la journée on ne fait que rire. Ce n'est pas comme à Pamoizankova où pour le 1^{er} janvier nous avons mangé du serpent et je vous assure que ce n'était pas mauvais.
 Je ne vais plus rien à te écrire pour le moment. Je vois qu'à Echigoy c'est toujours la même chose, ça ne va toujours pas.

Figure 6: Fifth page of the transcribed letter from Figure 4.

letter. The fifth and sixth pages were transcribed on to a special telegraph form available at Ankazobe (Figure 6).

So things stood, until a recent Delcampe search brought forward the letter shown in Figure 7 which was being sold by a Spanish seller. It too is from the Barbelenet family correspondence, but in the reverse direction! The letter was posted to J. Barbelenet by his brother from Chalon-sur-Saone

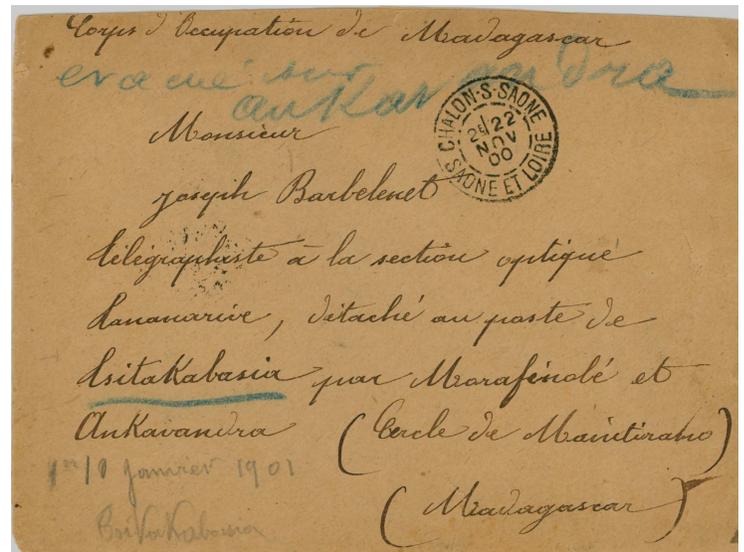


Figure 7: Letter posted from France to Tsitakabasia sent via the optical telegraph at Ankavandra.

Chalon-sur-Saone le 21 9^h 1900

Cher François

tu vas être épaté de voir que je suis au régiment, je suis au 56^{ème} à Chalon depuis hier le 20, je trouve la gamelle épatante nous autres, nous mangeons dans des assiettes et je te garantis que je m'en fiche de mes ventres surtout le soir qu'il y a du rognon, enfin si cela continue je te garantis que sa marchera, le temps me me dure pas du tout, je vais aussi écrire chez nous, tout à l'heure, je ne veux pas t'en raconter plus long aujourd'hui, arr il est déjà tard et j'ai pas mal bouffé d'exercices, aujourd'hui j'ai pu que me pas de gymnastique d'une demi heure, je m'arrête, j'oubiais de te dire que je suis engagé pour 6 ans et j'ai demandé à suivre le plateau

Figure 8: First page of the letter written in France from Figure 7.

on November 22, 1900. The franchise privilege was based on the fact that the addressee was in the military in Madagascar. The letter bears a Morondava, Madagascar transit from December 23rd, and a **MADAGASCAR 6** numeral datestamp transit from December 29th. According to Desnos this datestamp was used at Maintirano at this time, which just happens to be the last village noted in the complex address on the envelope (see Figure 7). The blue crayon endorsement on the letter suggests that it successfully reached Ankavandra where it was sent via the optical telegraph to the addressee at Tsitakabasia, where the letters noted by Varin and in Figure 1 started. The letter is from Barbelet's brother in France letting him know that he has just joined a regiment there (Figure 8). How this letter came to be saved is quite remarkable; possibly Barbelet picked it up at Ankavandra when he was there and ultimately put it with the family correspondence.

So between 1989 and 2015, I can claim mission accomplished. I now have two delightful Madagascar military franchise optical telegraph letters, and a third sent to a military telegraphist from his family in France. This will make a delightful two pages in the Madagascar Group Type Era exhibit.

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- ◇ 7 Oct 2015: 70th anniversary of Social Security. Valid for the green letter rate in France. €0.68.
- ◇ 12 Oct 2015: Stamp fest featuring the Tango. Valid for the green letter rate in France. €0.68.
- ◇ 12 Oct 2015: Stamp fest featuring ballet. Sheetlet of 1 €1.15 stamp.
- ◇ 19 Oct 2015: Laure Diebold Mutscler commemorative stamp. Valid for the priority letter rate in France. €0.68.
- ◇ 19 Oct 2015: Saint-Gobain commemorative stamp. Valid for the priority letter rate in France. €0.68.
- ◇ 2 Nov 2015: Happy New Year stamps. Booklet of 12 nondenominated stamps valid for the 20g green letter rate in France. €8.16.
- ◇ 4 Nov 2015: Legends of the air. Sheetlet of 5 different nondenominated designs valid for the green letter rate in France. €5.10.
- ◇ 5 Nov 2015: 4 Heroes of the resistance. Sheetlet of 4 nondenominated stamps valid for the green letter rate in France. €4.50.
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- ◇ 9 Nov 2015: Music boxes. Sheetlet of 6 different designs €0.68 each. €4.08.
- ◇ 13 Nov 2015: Roland Barthes commemorative stamp. Sheetlet of one €1.15 stamp. Valid for the green letter 50g rate in France.
- ◇ 16 Nov 2015: Gallic Coq.

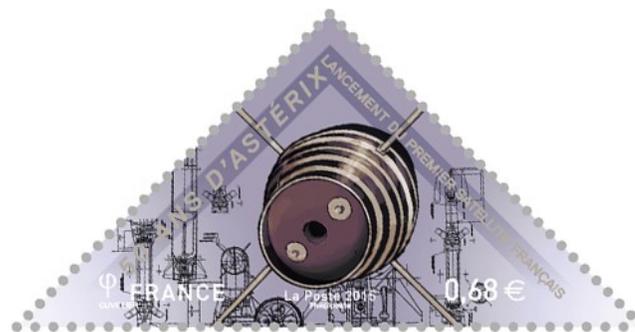


Valid for the green letter rate in France. €0.68.

- ◇ 16 Nov 2015: French roosters. Block of 4 different €0.68 stamps. €2.72.
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- ◇ 27 Nov 2015: Asterix satellite commemorative stamp. Green letter rate in France. €0.68.
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- ◇ 12 Dec 2015: EURO 2016. Booklet of 10 different designs, non denominated, each representing a host city for EURO 2016. Green letter rate for France. €9.50.
- ◇



Official Stamps

- ◇ 9 Nov 2015: UNESCO. Gnou Afrique. €0.95.
- ◇ 9 Nov 2015: UNESCO. Sagrada family. €1.20.



Andorra

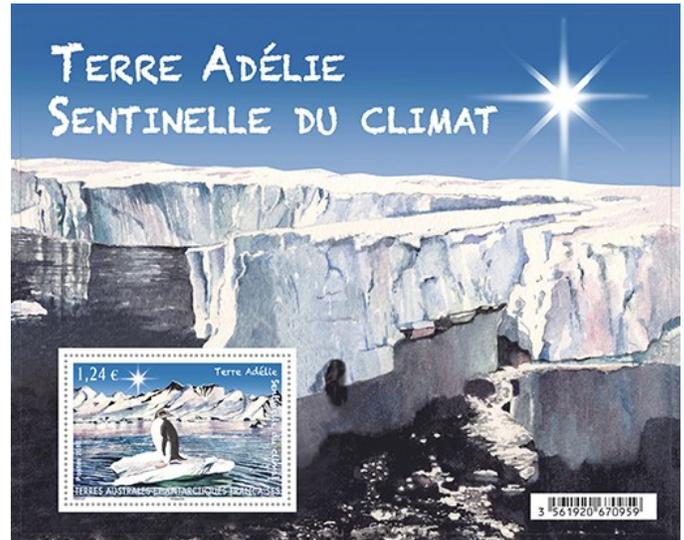
- ◇ 9 Nov 2015: Ramon d'Areny commemorative. €1.25.
- ◇ 28 Nov 2015: Living crèche of Engordany. €0.76.



◇

French Austral & Antarctic Terrs. (TAAF)

- ◇ 5 Nov 2015: Marion Dufresne commemorative. €1.35.
- ◇ 5 Nov 2015: Climate change. €1.24.
- ◇ 3 Dec 2015: Fishing boats. Sheetlet of 7 different €1.24 stamps. €8.68.



French Polynesia

- ◇ 5 Nov 2015: French Polynesia Red Cross. 500F. €4.19.
- ◇ 5 Nov 2015: Polynesian women. Sheetlet of 6 different designs, 100F each. €5.03.
- ◇



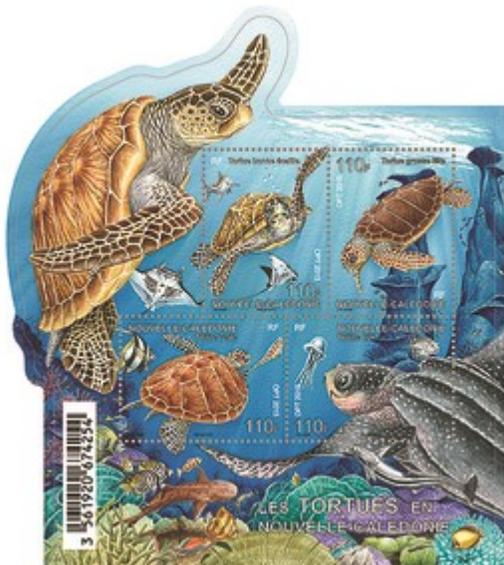
Monaco

- ◇ 24 Oct 2015: 70th anniversary of the United Nations. €0.76.
- ◇ 24 Oct 2015: The 100th Anniversary of the Publication of Einstein's Works on General Relativity. €1.00.
- ◇ 3 Nov 2015: Christmas stamp. €0.76.



New Caledonia

- ◇ 5 Nov 2015: Amédée Lighthouse. 110F. €0.92.
- ◇ 6 Nov 2015: Turtles of New Caledonia. Sheetlet of 4 different 110F stamps. €3.69.
- ◇ 6 Nov 2015: Flowers of New Caledonia. Booklet of 10 different 110F stamps. €9.22.
- ◇ 6 Nov 2015: Christmas stamp. 110F. €0.92.
- ◇



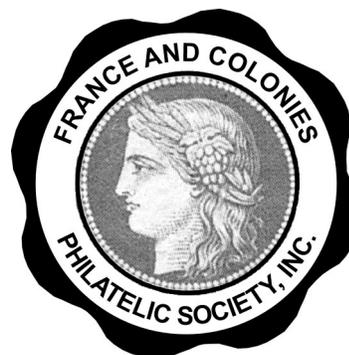
St. Pierre & Miquelon

- ◇ 5 Nov 2015: Gendarmerie commemorative. Sheetlet of 4 different designs of 4 different values. €3.57.
- ◇ 14 Nov 2015: Admiral Gauchet commemorative stamp. €1.00.
- ◇ 28 Nov 2015: Christmas stamp. €0.80.



Wallis & Futuna

- ◇ 14 Oct 2015: Tourism. Single in sheet of 10, 700F stamps.



Postage Due: Carte de Visite Rate Not Allowed

Norval Rasmussen

This is a small, 130 mm by 70 mm envelope with no contents. The gum on the envelope flap is intact and the flap was tucked neatly inside the envelope. It was mailed in Algeria from Algiers to Dellys in 1928. The single domestic rate was 50 centimes and this envelope was franked with a single 15 centime stamp. Fifteen centimes was the rate for a carte de visite item in 1928. The post office levied a 70 centime penalty for postage due. That is a correct penalty if this was not eligible for the carte de visite rate.

latelist in the September 2008 issue. At 130 mm long, this envelope was too large to qualify for the cheaper, carte de visite rate. The size allowed for this rate varied over the years but the largest ever allowed was 117 mm by 76 mm. The 35 centime deficiency was taxed at twice the deficiency, 70 centimes.

This led me on a search for information and I found an article on the subject by FCPS member Thomas Broadhead, "Petite Messages-the Development of Carte de Visite Mail in Nineteenth Century France," published in the *American Phi-*



France and Colonies Philatelist

Index to Volume 71 (2015)

Norval L. Rasmussen

PREFACE

The following numbers of the journal are included in the present index:

Vol. 71 No. 1 (Whole Number 319) January 2015

Vol. 71 No. 2 (Whole Number 320) April 2015

Vol. 71 No. 3 (Whole Number 321) July 2015

Vol. 71 No. 4 (Whole Number 322) October 2015

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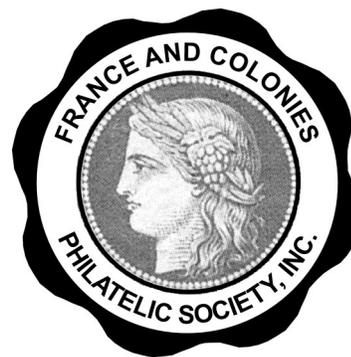
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REVIEW: The Postal History of the Type Sage Issue of France 1876-1900, by P.R.A. Kelly

Stanley Luft

Peter Kelly is the foremost student and collector of France's Sage ("Peace and Commerce") issues of the end of the 19th Century. The foremost in England, perhaps also in the world, France included. He has studied and written about the Sages for some 40 years and helped many a new collector in getting started the right way.

But Peter does not exhibit the Sages in competition, though he has assembled (and redone over and again—as a good exhibitor should) over 60 non-competitive frames. But quite recently has mounted them in frames to regale members of and visitors to various philatelic societies in Great Britain, France, and perhaps elsewhere in Europe. It is largely for the benefit of those Sages (and other) aficionados such as myself who were unable to travel and pay a visit to the frames, that he has converted his earlier (but still very useful) "The type Sage issue of France 1876-1900—A study of the postmarks and postal history", published in 2000 by The Society of Postal Historians.

The new work is considerably enlarged and far more extensive, and is graced by the presence of 225 color illustrations—mainly somewhat reduced, but also full-sized and occasionally enlarged. Space is saved by showing mainly cuts of the stamps and their postmarks. Where the history requires a greater degree of explanation, Peter shows the full cover, sometimes both sides.

I had expected and hoped to see a major definitive treatise on the Sage issue (I prefer to use the plural issues, as they made their appearance at vari-

ous times), so I was somewhat disappointed at first upon flipping the pages. It is based (and illustrated) almost entirely upon 52 frames that were displayed and discoursed upon at the Royal Philatelic Society meeting in London. Those fortunate members and guests in attendance have here something to guide their memories; others have something to get them started from scratch. And I had to see what was missing in those frames—plus the other frames that were not part of the Royal display.

I must state here that I also collect and do exhibit the Sages, but only the commonest value, that of 15 centimes, and take some pride in the awards received. But in my 17 or so mounted frames of the 15c values, I found myself lacking a number of the postal uses that Kelly discusses and illustrates! Of course, they would be the ones most impossible to obtain at auction! Or, if I do own a single example, he shows two or more...

I was tempted to copy here his Section Headings (or table of contents) but that would only pad the review. Just accept that there's absolutely nothing missing, including those section markings not shown in London.

The postal history does fail somewhat, should one expect to read more than just description of covers. But it fails also for most other writers. Perhaps postal history should be reserved for profound studies of single covers or groups of related covers, where one can declaim at length. But then, Kelly does so, and very well too, starting at Section 9 and page 129, where he is free to discuss various subjects in depth, without having to de-

pend on descriptive straightjackets as in many of the earlier sections. Some of this expository writing is quite expertly done as it explains the how's and why's, and a pleasure to read!

The extensive bibliography (pages 222-223) is, on the other hand, replete with typos and almost looks like it was written by some rank beginner. For shame!

All in all, it leaps beyond and extends the earlier 1982 work of Dr. Joany and others, one that tended to be mainly a descriptive study of the Sage types and subtypes, as well as shades, of which some subtypes had been first discovered and described by these eminent philatelist. Both that and the Kelly opus will surely in their own way stand the test of time. I heartily recommend this new achievement by Peter Kelly, for all he has painstakingly greatly added to our knowledge regarding those very important Sage types. Do get your copy before it goes out of print!

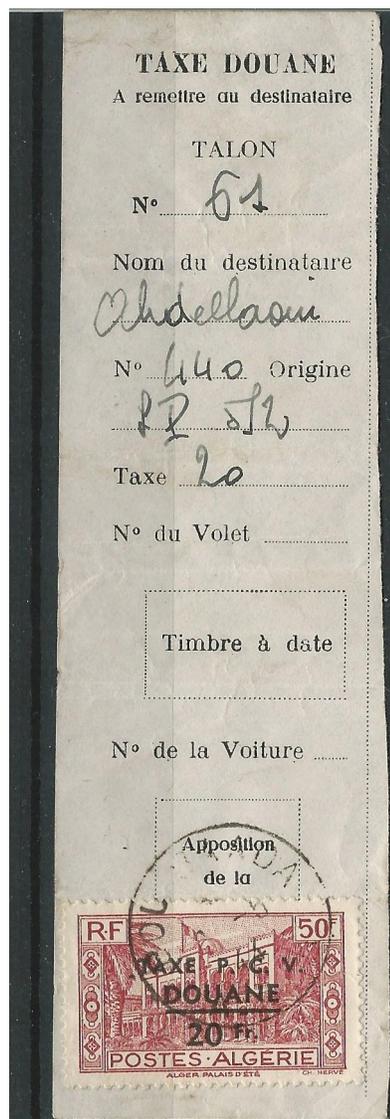
225 pp. In full color, perfect bound, card cover; £sterling + postage (inquire of the author, P.R.A. Kelly, regarding the additional postage for your part of the world, as it weighs in excess of 1 kg) at Malmsy House, Church Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol BS8 3PG, Great Britain. Payment best be made via PayPal, to peterkelly35@btinternet.com, or by personal check in Euro made out to P.R.A. Kelly.

Stanley Luft

Algeria Timbres de Service

Norval Rasmussen

The 50 franc summer palace stamp was overprinted "Taxe P. C. V. DOUANE 20 Fr." The purpose was to enable soldiers in the French expeditionary force in Italy to send packages to an Algerian destination for the flat rate of 20 francs. This was designed to cover the total postage cost and partially cover the customs tax. The stamp was placed on the customs slip and cancelled at the destination. These customs slips are scarce.



Tunis to Geneva via Berlin in 1944

Norval Rasmussen

Below is a cover I recently found on Ebay. It was mailed January 6, 1944 from Tunis to Geneva, where it arrived on January 27, 1944. It was censored in Tunis as evidenced by the double oval marks front and rear tying the sealing tape to the cover. The double oval marks have “OUVERT” at the top and “PAR L'AUTORITE MILITAIRE” at the bottom with VA 329 in the middle. This was the censor mark used at Tunis before the liberation of Tunisia. After the liberation in 1943 the wording in the oval's rim changed to “OUVERT PAR LES” at the top and “AUTORITES DE CONTROLE” at the bottom. The single line in the center was replaced with two lines by adding a roman numeral “I” below the VA 329. It also has a boxed VA over 14 in violet on the reverse, which was the censor's mark in Tunis.

It was censored again by the German censorship office in Berlin. The “Geöffnet” tape resealed the envelope. Both the tape and the pink circular censor mark have the letter “b” indicating Berlin as the location of the censoring.

On front and back are red and blue stripes left from the chemical search for hidden writing. This was done on mail transiting the Berlin censor's office.

Most of the censored mail I have between Algeria and Geneva was sent in 1943 and all of it was censored by the Germans in Paris. This is identified by the A. x. in a circle that is present on this mail.

The cancels are all “TUNIS COLIS POSTAUX” parcel post marks and the *CHARGÉ* label is also parcel post.

I hope that this description will generate some discussion about the late use of the censor marking in Tunisia and some thoughts on the routing from Tunis to Geneva via Berlin.



Society News

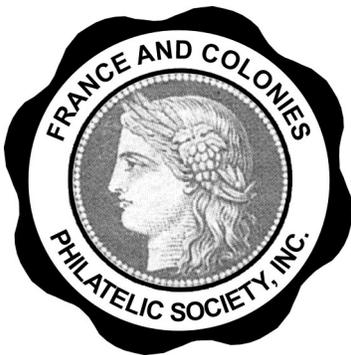
Convention Schedule

September 16, 2016 MILCOPEX
Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport
6401 South 13th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

June 2, 2017 NAPEX
McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner
7920 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, Virginia

November 2018 CHICAGOPEX
Westin Chicago Northwest
400 Park Boulevard
Itasca, Illinois 60143

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



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 224 Wilson Ave., Morgantown, WV 26501, or 304-292-7652, or 304-290-6117.

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

ED



President's Letter

I am sincerely hoping you are reading this issue of the *FCP* before Ameristamp Expo in Atlanta. For the first time in a while, circumstances have forced the APS to hold its show in a major downtown. I must admit I have some personal ties to the city, but regardless of those, Atlanta is a great place to visit. There is plenty to do other than attend a stamp show, there is easy access to the hotel from the airport, and, of course, it will be a darned good time at the show itself. I hope many of you can come to enjoy the moderate weather and your good friends.

I expect you are tired of all the reminders that NY 2016 is just around the corner, but I would be remiss if I didn't add to those messages. We will be sharing a table there with two other societies, so please stop by and say hello. If you want to sit for an hour or two, you can be a volunteer to greet others who come by. Remember, these shows happen in the United States only once every ten years, so it is a must attend event.

Now to a more serious subject. The APS contacted me to say that the expertizing service (APEX) has been without a France and colonies expert for a while. As a result, APEX has had to stop offering opinions on the genuineness of many French area stamps.

APEX needs one or more volunteers who can expertize French area stamps. Our membership is probably the best source for a person like that, so I am asking for one or more of you to share your knowledge for the benefit of the hobby. I know many of us can authoritatively pick out Groupe type Fournier forgeries, but there are many other stamps that require expertizing. Think of the

many surcharges on colonial issues, French semi-postals and air mails, for just a few. If your philatelic knowledge extends to those areas, APEX and the hobby can really use your help. If you are willing, please see the ad elsewhere in this issue for whom to contact.

In this issue we again see our membership numbers decreasing. We still need your help to grow our little group of French area collectors. No one I have talked to in our hobby has a magic elixir that will attract new collectors. However, two conversations prompted a couple of ideas.

First is the idea of joining. We recognize that most stamp collectors pursue their hobby quietly and often alone. Yet in talking to a few of us about the FCPS and other club memberships, there was a pattern. Many of us joined things when we were young. Church groups, scouting groups, school clubs and so on. What this did for us was ingrain the benefits of group activities. From this it was easier to join other groups like the FCPS as adults. We knew it would result in more knowledge and friendships.

My takeaway from this is to encourage our children and grandchildren to be socially active, and not just through web-based game playing. Sports are clearly the major child-oriented social activity in the early 21st century, and this is getting kids out of the house. We know it isn't the only social outlet, and there are still school, scouting, church and other groups. Perhaps this will encourage group activities as the next generation grows up.

As I write this, it also occurs to me that one of the many reasons sports have taken over extra-

curricular activities is that parents can be active along with their kids. In this time of helicopter parenting (and even grandparenting) the kids are still under adult supervision.

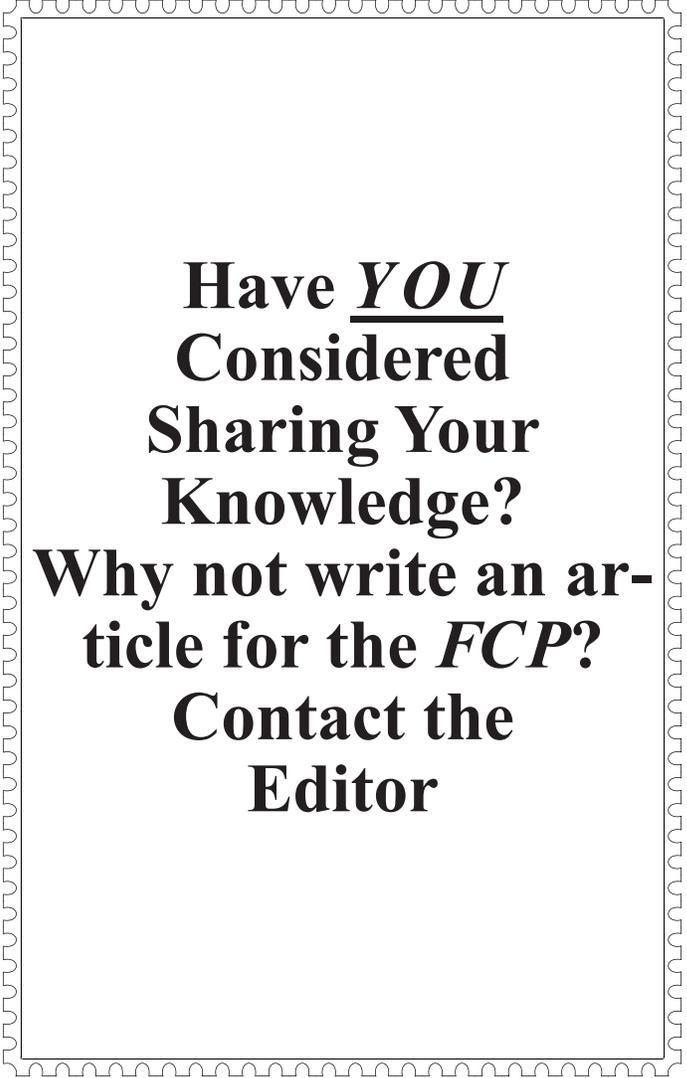
Where that leads me is to attract adults to our hobby and rather quickly explain to them how they can include their children. If we get parents to involve their children, we will make a lot of progress.

The second conversation was with my grandkids. I attended a stamp show near their home and brought home a really pretty 3 cent U.S. 1869 stamp (the blue one with a train on it). When they asked to see it, I suggested its appeal as an engraved stamp with a train, but that didn't get me very far. So I mentioned that the stamp was issued just four years after Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated. That got us started on an internet search that lasted for about fifteen minutes, looking up Lincoln, Booth, and related subjects. So while I didn't sprout two new collectors, the tie-in between that stamp and historical events they knew prompted a few minutes of learning. It is one of the great benefits of our hobby!

Briefly, remember to look far enough into the future to prepare for MILCOPEX this fall. As you know, our society will convene there. By the next issue of the *FCP* we have a start on presentations and perhaps some news about a dinner.

Lastly, I know we have mentioned Eliot Landau was ill. I am sorry to report that he died January 4, 2016, of complications from his stroke last year. He was very active as a judge and exhibitor, supporting our society in many ways. I, for one, will miss his entertaining stories and personality.

Ken Nilsestuen
President



**Have YOU
Considered
Sharing Your
Knowledge?
Why not write an ar-
ticle for the *FCP*?
Contact the
Editor**

We Get Letters

In the post-WWII period, with Germany divided into the four occupation zones, each of the Western zones adopted different postal regulations to deal with displaced persons (DPs). In the Collectors Club Philatelist, November-December 2015, Walter Farber provides some details of regulations in the American zone, which have not heretofore had systematic treatment. He refers to the work of W. Strobel, *Post der befreiten Zwangsarbeiter; Displaced Persons Mail Paid in Deutschland 1945-1949* (Bonn: Strobel, 2011) for a thorough treatment of the situation in the British zone.

Surprisingly, nothing appears to have been published regarding regulations and postal history of DPs in the French zone. Does anyone collect this subject? Is this a potential new research area?

Gene Fricks
genefricks@comcast.net

Greetings Friends --

I have a question for y'all about French offices in China / Mongtseu (Mengtsz).

In looking at my 2015 Scott specialized on p. 478 it shows the overprints on stamps 1 - 15, and the overprints on stamps 16 - 32. Could the same type of overprint on the former also be found on the latter?

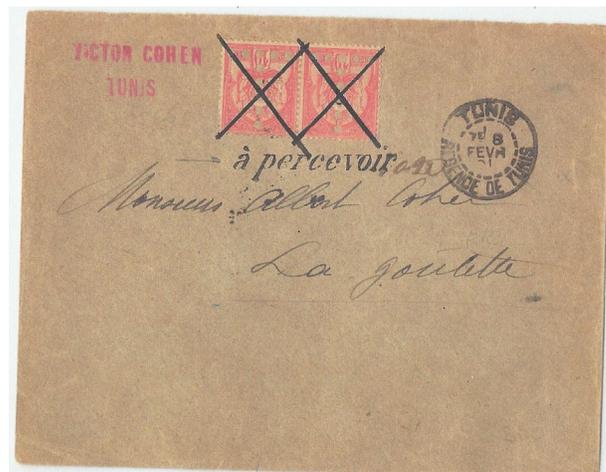
If this is an area that is outside your area of expertise, please feel free to forward it on to someone you think might be more knowledgeable.

Merci --

Carl Barna
Emmaus, PA

Hello, Norval: I thought you might find the attachment of interest. Note the date.

I enjoyed the last two articles about postage due stamps. Maybe that should be a regular feature.
Regards, Jon Hussey



This cover is very similar to the one illustrated in my article "T" Perforated Tunisian Stamps in Volume 71, no. 3 (July) of this issue. I own 3 similar covers and see them on ebay now and then.-ED

COLLECTORS CLUB OF CHICAGO

31 st December 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CCC Launches Collector- Friendly Website

The Collectors Club of Chicago (CCC) has announced the official launching of their website, dedicated specifically to provide the beginning and advanced collector with a comprehensive resource that provides information for all aspects of philately and its related requirements:

<http://www.collectorsclubchicago.org>

The website's construction was the result of an all-volunteer CCC members team effort requiring almost three years for its completion. It is a living document,

which continuously is being updated, upgraded and otherwise enhanced.

Aside from basic information related to the CCC and its operations, the website's majority content is philatelically related information of value for both the collector, and for the dealer. The data is easily found by cruising the navigation bar, which outlines the various webpages by designated categories.

The CCC has published thirty specialized handbooks, many of them being awarded Gold medals at national and international philatelic exhibitions. Those handbooks no longer in print have been digitized, and are available under the 'CCC Publications' button. Further handbook additions are in various stages of completion for entry on the website.

The 'Reports' button takes you to the six CCC-sponsored Salm Foundation reports. The Salm Foundation was organized by the CCC in order to conduct technical research on philatelic products, and to report on matters relevant to philatelic forgeries and fantasies.

The 'Awards' button details the award programs instituted by the CCC for the collecting public, and explains how these awards can be sourced. The Philatelic Exhibitors Award is given to a deserving exhibitor, as determined by the jury, at major philatelic exhibitions or shows. The Pratt Award consists of a one-thousand dollar honorarium awarded annually for articles or other publications related to the philately of Newfoundland, as judged by the Pratt Award Committee as being significant and of academic merit.

The 'Philatelic Resources' button takes one to six different webpages designed to provide the collector and dealer with technical information related to the Hobby: a Philatelic Encyclopedia, Expertizers and Expertizing Committees, Worldwide Philatelic Dealer Associations, Worldwide Philatelic Publications, Books on Philately and Published Specialized Articles.

The Philatelic Encyclopedia is a CCC team endeavor to assemble in a single basic information source a comprehensive compendium for all of the information available representing philately's various spheres of

collecting. It includes documentation for the terminology associated within the many collecting aspects of philatelia, ranging from the most basic concepts of the hobby, to the most complex and esoteric. In order to create an all-encompassing encyclopedia, nomenclature for the most common terms related to philatelia are translated from or into forty-eight different languages.

The 'Exhibits' button presents the CCC exhibits gallery, which includes award-winning name collections assembled by CCC members and other prominent philatelists, the latter representing guest speakers who have conducted their presentations during the monthly CCC general meetings. The webpage currently includes thirty-six exhibits, the addition of many more being planned.

The 'Links' webpage includes a very comprehensive listing of worldwide General and Specialty Societies, Philatelic Libraries and Commercial Philatelic Companies, each accompanied by their website URL for contact purposes.

The Collectors Club of Chicago, incorporated on 13th October 1928, has as its primary objective the documentation, preservation, advancement and promotion of philately through education, study research and services. The CCC Library, considered the largest and most comprehensive philatelic literature library in mid-West U.S.A., is maintained not only for the use of CCC members, but is open to anyone in the philatelic community demonstrating a need to conduct philatelic research.

The CCC solicits for publication all manuscripts reflecting original philatelic research, regardless of the subject matter, or its perceived esoteric content. An abstract of the work should be submitted to Mr. Leonard H. Hartmann, CCC Publications Chairman, Collectors Club of Chicago, 'The Cabeen House', 1029 N. Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL, 60610-2803, U.S.A.



Editorial

Norval Rasmussen

In This Issue

Two interesting articles lead this issue. Submitted by returning authors Edward Grabowski and James Taylor, who continue to enhance our knowledge of French colonial philately and postal history. Many thanks.

At this time this issue contains nothing substantial penned by your editor. I am not yet finished and there may appear a column closer of some sort...

I have re-arranged the journal content a bit. I have moved the society items to the rear and left the journal opening to submitted articles. My plan is that this separation will continue. As always, I seek feedback from you.

Erosion of the Membership

I don't need to say much more on this subject. We only lost six members, net, this year.

Needed

For the first time since I stepped into this position, I am putting this issue to bed with a few articles in the locker for next issue. Thank you to the regular contributors. I would like to see some new names on this list.

If you are a member of an allied organization, would you consider submitting a column summarizing what appeared in their journal? This is a regular feature in many society journals and I

think it would be a valuable service to our members. *Malheureusement*, I am already committing about 80 hours to each journal issue and do not belong to allied organizations, so such an effort needs to come from you. Give it some thought.

Help Wanted

Assistant editor with knowledge of modern France philately. Duties include soliciting, reviewing and critiquing articles submitted to this journal.

Contact the editor if interested.

nrasmu@gmail.com

304-292-7652 or 304-290-6117

Membership Notices

NEW MEMBERS

- 3472 Rosenblum, Lawrence D.
1030 East El Camino Real, PMB 107,
Sunnyvale, CA 94087-3759
- 3473 St. Onge, John C.
PO Box 123
Wales, WI 53183-0123
- 3474 Janusz, Edward
PO Box 2282
Pawcatuck, CT 06379-7282
- 3475 Rdzak, John A.
12233 Lake View Drive
Orland Park, IL 60467-1043

REINSTATEMENTS:

- 3356 Barna, F. Carl
2564 Millbrook Drive
Emmaus, PA 18049-1218
- 3370 Dufresne de Virel, Loic P.
14245 NW Belle Court
Portland, OR 97229-8202

ADDRESS CHANGES

- 1593 Kohagen, Roger A.
10201 Baldwin Circle
Holly, MI 48442-9378

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED:

- 2316 Fricks, Ernest E.
2435 Killien, F. Christian, MD
3136 Todd, Raymond

DECEASED

- 2600 Churchman, David

DROPPED FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES

- 1736 Arellano, Refugio Jr.
1965 Bonnel, Patrick
2783 Bradley, Stuart V. Jr.
1318 DeVasher, William A. Jr.
3370 Dufresne de Virel, Loic P.
3156 Fisher, Edward F.
1603 La Place, Raymond
3367 Lipton, Marshall C.
3197 Newville, Edward G.
1793 Rickman, Leonard
2991 Shartsis, Jack
3390 Sherman, Lawrence, MD
2060 Theurer, G. Jack
3452 Thompson, Robert J.

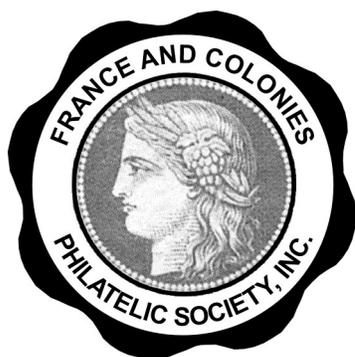
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2013

Total Membership as of January 1, 2015	211
New Members during 201	12
Members reinstated during 2015	8
Resignations received during 2015	8
Members deceased during 2015	4
Members dropped for non payment of dues	14
Net Membership Gain for 2014	0
Net Membership loss for 2014	6
Total Membership as of January 1, 2016	205

Donors for 2015

These members gave generously to the society this past year. Names and amounts are listed below. Thank you very much!

Adams, Rollo \$5
 Allen, David 10
 Broadhead, Thomas 200
 Churchman, David 5
 Dykhouse, Jack 80
 Faulkner, Carl 10
 Gagnier, Robert 20
 Grabowski, Edward 30
 Hussey, Jon 50
 Kudzma, Thomas 5
 La Chance, Leon 5
 Lampen, Peter 20
 Larsen, Paul 50
 Marinescu, Constantin 50
 Marra, Thomas 20
 McGarrity, Raymond 10
 Mitchell, W.G. 50
 Perz, George 10
 Petronie, Joe 5
 White, Kenneth 20
 Winter, Richard 20

**Treasurer's Report for 2015**

As of December 31, 2015

ASSETS

Checking	25,307.67
PayPal	3,328.20
Total	28,632.87

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Prepaid dues	209.00
Vaurie Fund	24,649.52
Equity	3,774.35
Total	28,632.87

INCOME

Dues	3,698.72
Donations	880.00
Advertising	0
Publications	53.00
Total	4,631.72

EXPENSES

Printing	5,229.95
Postage	19.11
Office Expenses	464.85
Show Expenses	0

Total	5,713.91
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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 224 Wilson Ave, Morgantown, WV 26501.

Show Reports

CHICAGOPEX

Chicago, IL November 20-22, 2015

Gold to **Alfred Kugel** for "The Germans in the Pacific--Postmarks & Unusual Items." Single frame Gold to **Paul Larsen** for "Leeward Islands Federal Postal Stationery of the King George V Reign: Registered Envelopes." Single frame Gold to non-member **Francois Guillotin** for "French Revenue Stamps Taxing Pharmaceutical Specialties 1918-1934." Also Chicago Philatelic Society Novice Award. Single frame Silver to **Alfred Kugel** for "British Forces in Ireland 1920-1922." Also Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award.

Filatelic Fiesta 2015

San Jose, CA November 13-15, 2015

Gold to **Lewis E. Bussey** for "U.S. One Cent Postal Card - the McKinley Designs of 1910-1911." Also the United States Stamp Society Statue of Freedom Award. Gold to **Stephen Tucker** for "The Suez-Aden-Bombay Seal Post Office Service." Also the American Philatelic Congress Award, the George Krieger Commonwealth Award, and the Lighthouse Stamp Society Award. Silver to **Stephen Tucker** for "Rotary International Conventions."

FLOREX 2015

Orlando, FL December 4-6, 2015

Single frame Gold to **Charles LaBlonde** for "The Suspension of United States Mail to Switzerland 1942-1945." Also the Military Postal History Society Award.

INDYPEX 2015

Nobelsville, IN October 2-5, 2015

Gold to **Larry Gardner** for "The Postal History of the British Morocco Agencies 1907-1957."

Gold to **Alfred Kugel** for "Postal History of the American Forces in China 1900-1941." Also the Indiana Stamp Club 20th Century Award and the Military Postal History Society Award. Single frame Gold to **Charles LaBlonde** for "World War II German and Italian Sailor's Mail from Goa to the Geneva Red Cross."

MILCOPEX 2015

Milwaukee, WI September 25-27, 2015

Gold to **Larry Gardner** for "German Postal Agencies in Morocco." Gold to **Alfred Kugel** for "The Allied Intervention in Russia 1918-1925." Single frame Gold to **Alfred Kugel** for "A AEF Booklet Pane Stamps of 1917." Also the United States Stamp Society Statue of Freedom Award.

SEAPEX 2015

Tukwila, WA September 11-13, 2015

Gold to non-member **Louis O. Fiset** for "Mail Between USA and France in World War II (1939-1948)." Also the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Award of Excellence - Plan & Headings.

SESCAL 2013

Los Angeles, CA October 17-19, 2014

Gold to **Stephen Tucker** for "Pan American's Pacific Clippers 1935-1942." Gold to **Stephen Tucker** for "Suez-Aden-Bombay Seal Post Office." Also the India Study Circle Award and the Lighthouse Stamp Society Award.

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