



France & Colonies Philatelist

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ON THE ROOSTER ("COQ DE DECARIS") STAMP OF FRANCE

By Raoul Lesgor

The last word is never said when it comes to French stamps. For the French postal administration uses very advanced and complex methods of printing, providing us with something new to look for with every stamp issued. The rooster stamp of 1962 is a good example of this. It was designed and engraved by that greatest of modern French stamp artists, Decaris, and hence is familiarly known to French collectors as the "Coq de Decaris."

The rooster stamp has several features which are easily classified as unusual for French stamps. For instance, the size, same as that of the Cocteau Marianna of 1961, is larger than the normal small-sized recent French stamps, but smaller than the regular commemorative and air-mail types. Also it is the first stamp of the smaller size to be printed in recess with the six-color Chambon presses, and the first small-size one to be recess printed since the Petain issue of the early 1940's (Scott nos. 448-450). The coils and booklets have novel aspects, as we shall see. They are the first French coils printed in recess.

The design and colors are the product of Decaris' well-known individuality; to me it is a strange looking fowl and in incredible colors (for a fowl): brown, ultramarine, and carmine, which overlapping combine into other shades. (See Decaris' comments on his design, cited in following note—Editor.)

There are many varieties and formats, mostly but not all characteristic of recent French stamps. The complicated Chambon color process leads occasionally to misses and run-togethers in the colors, that are offered sometimes as "errors," which they "ain't"—these are to be regarded as normal accidents of the process. A constant flaw is reported—a line from the cockscomb to top of

frame. Then there are the various proofs: the plate proofs on gummed paper in panes of 5x5 imperf., a horizontal row of which contains one or two stamps in each of the basic colors plus the last stamp in a combination of two or three of these colors. These are trial color proofs used to decide which colors to use, and can be found in both unissued and issued color combinations. Also the imperforate so-called "stamps" are found, as with all modern French issues; they are really just presentation proofs and are not valid for postage.

The coin datés of the early printings show that they were made on press No. 14 and on two new presses, Nos. 15 and 16.

The three formats in which this stamp is available are regular post office sheets, coils, and booklets. The plate composition is different for each of these formats:

1. The regular post office sheets ("feuilles de vente") consist of 100 (10x10) separated at top and bottom by a horizontal gutter the size of the stamp. And contrary to the previous practice the printing cylinder comprised three panes instead of the usual two. One turn of the cylinder thus produces 300 stamps and 30 blanks.

2. For the coils, the same cylinder composition but without blanks, which gives 330 stamps per rotation in endless rolls without N and S margins, which after being cut vertically over the perforations are sold in rolls of 1000. But on the back of every tenth stamp in the roll a serial number appears ("numero dorsal") over the gum, sometimes in red, sometimes in blue-green, for counting control in steps of ten. These were applied by means of a separate smaller typographic cylinder, a very unusual procedure to include on a recess press! The rolls of 1000 which I have received show a distinct variation in the colors of the stamps, those with green numerals being deeper or brighter than those with the red numerals—this could of course be merely an accidental connection. The coils first appeared in early 1963 (see BPM #248). Coils are also sold by vending machines in vertical pairs with perforations cut over at top and bottom.

3. For the booklets of 8, which began in late 1962 as S101.62 with pub. "Calberson," and sold in vending machines for 2NF, they used the same size cylinder and perforations as for the other formats. But the composition of the plate is different in that it contains panes of two vertical rows of four separated by a gutter the size of the stamp. The cylinder carries 264 clichés and 66 blanks. A set of numerals is struck by a comptometer-printer on the left margin of every tenth stamp, giving the cumulative count by steps of 100. Two horizontal strips of four, one to a page, with margins at left and right, make up each booklet. One strip has larger margins than the other. The booklet trim size is new, 26x72 cm. A very puzzling thing happened in assembling the booklet panes with numerals into the booklet; one out of every so many booklets should include the set of marginal numerals on the top strip of four in the book, but sometimes the numerals are found on the bottom strip and sometimes on both strips. As the entire operation is automatic and the machines are not supposed to make errors, an examination of the complex operation is needed to explain this. I think I now know how it happened, but I have asked our friend Pierre de Lizeray, who is very knowledgeable in all those technical aspects of French stamp printing, to give us a description of it for a later Philatelist. (See BPM 258, p. 1187, and 262, p. 1266.)

As noted by Mr. Stone in the last number of this magazine, some of these booklets were printed at Philatec in a special format. In fact there are a number of different formats of these booklets for Philatec, perhaps not all printed during the Exhibition: (We are not certain of all these as the reports are conflicting.)

- 1) with a different colored cover for each of the seven days of the week,

and a colored design on back showing a 19th-century printery,

- 2) same with date of the Exhibition, and "Serie Philatec 1964", on back,
- 3) with Philatec publicity on back and "Serie S 101.64",
- 4) without date on back but serial "Serie S 102.64" and Philatec publicity in carmine (on regular yellowish cover stock).

There may be even more varieties. These booklets loom more important with every letter I receive from France.

A few very attractive album pages can be made up from these various formats and varieties. One may show the normal stamp and the same imperforate (proofs), the booklets of 8 stamps, the booklet pane of 4 stamps with the serial number; coils of ten may be too long for your album but coils of 5 stamps with either red or green or both numbers on back may be displayed, and coils of 5 without numbers on back.

DECARIS TELLS ABOUT HIS ROOSTER

In the "Bulletin d'Information des P. et T." in 1962, Albert Decaris was interviewed, during which he made the following remarks about the way he designed the new rooster stamp (—the rooster in our masthead is taken from this design.—R.G.S.).

"The subject was rather difficult because it had already been used several times. Therefore I made numerous essays and I think the one chosen is rather interesting. I had the notion that this stamp, which will be printed in three colors, should have a sufficiently gay and lively aspect that it will be becoming of a French stamp. I wished to symbolize the gallic cock, the national cock—with a rising sun—as is customary. For a model, I took one of the numerous sketches of animals in my folios. I had therein dozens of cocks, including a farm rooster as well as the one which surmounts the grill of the Avenue Gabriel next to the Elysée Garden. It gratified me to find among these dozens of cocks which best corresponded with the concept of a national cock, one beautiful cock, representative, well-muscled and vigorous. I do not remember the source of the one I designed. The animals which I do I make often in Provence where I have a little house—near Toulon. There is a farm very close by. I make many drawings of animals and landscapes down there. 'The Cock' will be printed in three colors; but it will be printed on the old machine, which means I have only to engrave one steel die; this is very significant for the register because with the single steel die there is not the trouble of obtaining good registration" (as on the new 6-color presses. However, it is thought by various French philatelists that all the rooster stamps are probably printed on the 6-color presses; the question requires clarification.—R.G.S.)

DO WE INCLUDE THE FORMER COLONIES NOW INDEPENDENT?

Collectors, dealers, catalog and album publishers all, have had to face this question. For some it was an easy yes or no based on strong if not arbitrary sentiments. But most of us had or have mixed feelings, and allowed one or another consideration to tip the scales against others. For every collector who has given up the former colonies simply because they were no longer strictly French, many others have started collecting the new independents feeling that there would be more variety, more issues, and greater investment possibilities. This was probably more true outside France than within. For Frenchmen, there were a number of compelling reasons to remain philatelically loyal to the former colonies in their new guise:—the past ties of language and culture, the continuing French influence and trade in the new countries, the many Frenchmen still living in them, and the fact that most of the stamps of the new independents were still being designed and printed by the French PTT and sold

by the Agence in Paris. Of course, for the philatelic merchants and publishers there were also purely commercial reasons to foster a continuation of the favored status of these countries in French philately. As a result, all the French specialized catalogs group the new independents (except Guinea) along with France and Colonies, and the French philatelic magazines do likewise in announcing the new issues. In France they now often use the term "franco-phone" or "d'expression Francaise" (French speaking) to designate the former colonies, but this is a misnomer as it evidently does not include Belgium, Haiti, Luxembourg, etc.

If by now it is definite that French philately shows no inclination to cut the former colonies off (except Guinea), there is nevertheless considerable complaint and misgiving about the free-wheeling stamp-issuing practices of some of the new countries. Among other negative factors in the situation is the marked weakening of French political influence in former Indochina, Guinea, Dahomey, and Togo, which have taken a more or less neutralist political stance. The latter three have veered toward some of the questionable methods of production, promotion, and selling their stamps, such as used by Ghana, Liberia, and many Latin American countries, which amount to a crass exploitation of collectors. (The Agence in Paris no longer sells stamps of Guinea and Togo.) Although the other independents have issued many more stamps than they did as colonies, the quality of the issues has been perhaps better, the French designers and printing facilities being utilized to good advantage. Quite obviously the frequent issues and the choice of designs and events to commemorate have been aimed at foreign collectors, especially topical collectors, rather than to the indigenous taste. Since the designers are nearly all French and the French government postage-stamp printery produces most of these stamps, they tend to have a certain sameness of character regardless of the country (except for Laos, Cambodia, and Viet Nam, perhaps).

Some collector reaction to all this has developed, so much so that the West African independents have promised to reduce the number of issues and make other "reforms." What it amounts to is that they will try to find an optimum strategy to maintain the maximum revenue from philatelic sales. Note that a number of these countries jointly advertise their stamps and have contracts with commercial "philatelic" advisors or consultants. (The machinations of some wholesale stamp firms in this kind of business are all too well known.)

Issues of the independents, however attractive to the topicalists, do not offer much of interest to the serious philatelic student because of their highly regular and standardized character. The various provisionals that the former colonies were inclined to issue whenever a good excuse arose, no longer occur, and indeed the localized abuses of the old provisionals seem rather trivial beside the massive managed collector-exploitation of the new countries. Philatelic fist-day covers and cancels are now de rigueur for every emission and a number of Paris dealers even "specialize" in them. The study of the postmarks of the new independents will remain an absorbing field for many, as it is with the former colonies. A very interesting transition period occurred when both colonial and independent issues were being used concurrently and former colonial cancellations continued in use for a time.

Thus the new era is quite different from the old—some like it less and some like it better. Even the few remaining French colonies have taken up the new philatelic promotion. We believe that there will be an increasing tendency for collectors of former French colonies to stop or start their collection with World War II if not with the date of independence. The forthcoming new edition Yvert et Tellier's specialized catalog of France and Colonies (last ed. was 1936-39), will lead to a greatly renewed interest in the former colonies and sharpen the fission between collectors of the old and the new. —R.G.S.

WHAT TO COLLECT NEXT?

When one finds that collecting a whole country like France, or all of the Colonies, is too much to handle, the question what to try next is not always easy. Of course, many a collector decides to specialize on a segment of the country which happened to take his fancy. But sometimes this too can be frustrating, if the chosen subject should turn out to be too competitive and expensive, or too hard to obtain, etc. There are attractive or interesting subjects which haven't been so popular nor well-known and which deserve consideration for a "specialty." Several have occurred to me which I would like to suggest here, and our readers may have others to promote in these columns later.

One of these suggestions is French postal stationery. This is, to be sure, a large object; some parts of it are rather monotonous and can be eschewed. However, in one aspect French stationery is rich and unusual—that is the use of vignette designs that were never used for adhesive stamps. (See article by Lefevre, *Le Monde des Phil.*, Oct. 1958 et seq.) Many of them are very attractive pictorial designs. Also a number of commemorative items are involved. A collection of these can be put together without great expense. There is a good catalogue (A.E.C.P.) to guide you, and a club in France facilitates their study and acquisition.

While on stationery, we can suggest another attractive object generally overlooked, the French colonial cards and envelopes with vignettes in the designs of the colonial pictorial adhesives of the 1905-40 period. No one colony issued very many different items of this type and most of them came out before 1930; apparently they did not prove popular with the colonial public so that few were put out in the later colonial designs. Although the A.E.C.P. catalog prices them rather cheap (except for several rarities), they are not nearly as easy to obtain as the earlier stationery (Dubois and Group Types), and clean commercially used ones are very desirable. A collection makes a pretty exhibit, many being bicolored. Moreover, our experience indicates there are some real "sleepers" in this group.

Another object good to get in on before it is discovered by the many, is the overprinted and specially-designed F. M. (Franchise Militaire) stamps of France. These were used in peacetime all over France and the colonies by troops wherever stationed (—in wartimes no stamps at all were used on soldier's mail—), so one can find a tremendous scope of cancellations on them. On cover they are especially interesting when connected with historic events or used in the colonies. The stamps are common and cheap, but very scarce when used from some of the more remote places.

We could mention in passing some other unhackneyed things to consider: French revenues, colonial postage stamps overprinted for revenue use, French parcel-post stamps, pre-adhesive-period colonial postal markings, French covers selected to show use of stamps for the rates they were issued for, colonial booklets, coin datés of colonies, stamps used on telegrams, auxiliary postal markings, Naval postmarks, colonial mail-autobus route markings, French and colonial "paquebot" (port-of-arrival) marks 1890-, etc. —R.G.S.

THE MAIL IN MAURITANIA

By Robert S. Gordon

In the "Philatelist" for April-May 1961, Mr. Stone had an interesting article "How Much Mail Was There from the Colonies in the 1860's-1880's?"

Members might like to know that the reports of the U.P.U., for some years, gave the volume of mail from many countries and colonies. The figures are

often hard to believe, but they make interesting reading nevertheless.

1931	22,850	3,900	700
1932	21,500	3,600	
1933	28,000	4,600	
1934	29,400	4,520	
1935	29,000	4,400	
1936	29,300	4,500	
1937	31,100	8,140	

Back in the days when I was enthusiastically chasing used stamps of Mauritania (preferably on cover, of course), I had the opportunity of going over a number of these U.P.U. reports. I still have the figures for Mauritania, for those years which I saw. You may be interested in them.

The figures are for the years 1921 to 1937, inclusive; except that 1925 is lacking. The file I saw was complete, I believe; but Mauritania apparently did not report for 1925.

It will be understood that the U.P.U. tables were not in the following form. The figures were rearranged for my own convenience.

Table I—Interior Circulation. (This refers to mail within the colony itself, but including mail to and from St. Louis, Senegal, which was, at this time, the seat of the government of Mauritania.)

(1) number of stamped letters

(2) number of registered articles

(3) number of articles sent by airmail

	(1)	(2)	(3)
1921	4,680	584	
1922	5,212	918	
1923	98,476	1,626	
1924	107,643	1,737	
1926	50,245	13,298	
1927	48,400	11,300	
1928	39,750	3,436	
1929	40,850	3,500	
1930	20,850	3,400	800

Table 2—Mail from Mauritania to France Only. (These figures are only given for four years—only once, however, for airmail items.)

	(1)	(2)	(3)
1921	1,212	380	
1922	1,327	687	
1928	50,900	2,845	
1937	37,450	3,300	5700

Table 3—Mail from Mauritania for Abroad. (Figures include mail for France, except for those years when mail for France is tabulated separately.)

	(1)	(2)	(3)
1921	9	7	
1922	86	25	
1923	7,428	692	
1924	8,018	937	
1926	91,362	15,397	
1927	92,400	11,800	
1928	10,100	650	1000
1929	63,650	3,200	1100
1930	48,200	4,300	7100
1931	49,700	4,600	7100
1932	48,300	4,400	4100
1933	74,000	6,400	4800
1934	57,740	3,600	5100
1935	53,400	2,700	4500
1936	67,200	3,200	5000
1937	20,700	2,540	590

ANNUAL STEPHEN G. RICH COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT, JANUARY 5

The France and Colonies Philatelic Society's Annual Competitive Exhibit, open to its membership in the United States and Overseas, will be held on the evening of January 5, 1965, at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street in New York City. The exhibit will be the feature of the Society's January meeting which is held at the same time, and will be on display from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Interested philatelists are invited to attend the meeting and view the entries. The exhibit is named in honor of one of the Society's founders, Stephen G. Rich, now deceased, but very well known as an authority on France and Colonies, and for many years the editor of "The France & Colonies Philatelist." The competition is divided into three classes: 1.) Classic France, Pre-stamp to 1899; 2.) Modern France, 1900 to date; 3.) French Colonies and Communities.

The trophies and awards for the winners of the competition will be awarded during the Society's meeting. Contact Ira Zweifach, 336 Central Park West, New York 25.

THE LUDOVIC RODO AND SOME OTHER FRENCH PHILATELIC CARICATURES

By Robert G. Stone

That famous French philatelic merchant, expert, and publisher of a past generation, Arthur Maury, was a man of many parts. In his magazine, *Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste*, he often revealed his sense of humor (and wit), his artistic taste, love of French antiquities, and a lively opinionation about all sorts of things. One form of this expression was the publication in CTP between 1903 and 1911 of a series of some 35 caricatures of stamps and "postal life." These are timeless and universal in their feeling for human as well as philatelic foibles, albeit with a gallic talent for ridicule. We think they deserve to be exhumed from the musty tomes of CTP for a new generation to enjoy. With kind permission of Roger North, the present proprietor of the Arthur Maury firm and CTP, we shall reprint from time to time selections of the caricatures, those that deal with French and French-colonial stamps and the French postal service.

The artist for some of the caricatures was identified as one Ludovic Rodo, but others are not attributed. Maury speaks of him as "our artist." Ludovic Rodo is the nom de plume "for a name well known to you," he tells us. ("Ludovic" meant a denizen of the Latin Quarter, and "Rodo" a roamer.) And who were the other artists? We do not know. But they all drew in a late 19th Century style which anticipated our modern cartoon and comic strip.

When reproducing the first of these caricatures, Maury headed it "Fantaisie," accompanied by the following: "Note: We have received from our readers during this year a certain number of caricatures and imaginative designs of postmen and the divers machinations of the Administration of Posts. To our great regret we could not use these sketches because they departed too far from our subject, which is primarily stamp-collecting.

We are well disposed to pay honorariums to the authors of designs made

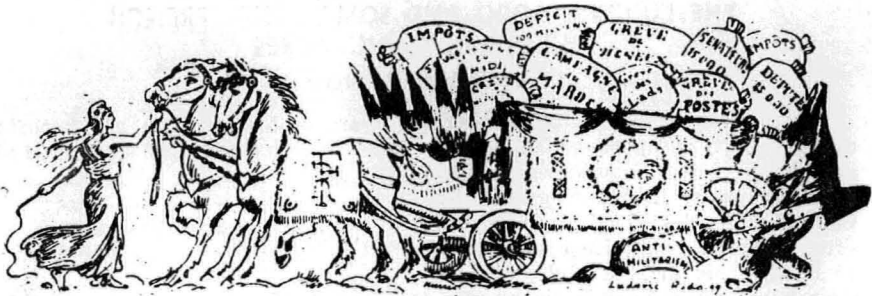


"Fantaisie: One of our subscribers has sent us this caricature-stamp.—A. M." (From "Coll. T.-P.," 1903, p. 373—the first one published)

LA SEMEUSE EN A ASSEZ



"The Sower has enough of it:—'After having to sow against the wind, my bright sunshine is taken away and I am obliged to work in the darkest of night . . . Now my last point of support has been taken away, my poor little piece of earth — It is too much, I turn in my apron!'" (From "Coll. T.-P.," 1906, p. 259)



"The Chariot of The State"—by Ludovic Rodo. The original caption read: "The Sower:—'Finally, my grain has germinated—the harvest is good!'" (From "Coll. T.-P.," 1909, p. 246.) The sacks in the wagon are labelled with various unpopular events—taxes, duties, strikes, Moroccan campaign, deficits, senators and deputies salaries, riots in the Midi, etc.—the wagon is held back by anti-militarism and the unions.—R.G.S.

along the latter line, but in order to assure in advance our agreement it would be desirable that they submit first a rough sketch, perhaps with a caption. We take advantage of this opportunity to reply to numerous correspondents that we are not publishing for free the illustrated postcards signed 'Maury' or 'Yruam'." Thus Maury invited the public to contribute caricatures. The first one attributed to Ludovic Rodo was the third one published. Maury's comments on still later Rodo pieces indicate Rodo became his favorite "dessinateur" of caricatures. That only some were credited seems odd, for the other sketches are similar in style and certainly as effective as the Rodos. Soon Maury in a footnote had to remind his readers that these caricatures were the property of the publisher and not to be copied without permission—evidence that they were making a big hit! Some of the caricatures were devoted to a topic under discussion in an article or note in the same issue, suggesting that Maury had artists upon whom he could call when the occasion seemed right. Since Maury was also a noted practical joker it is just possible that he drew some of these sketches himself!

The first caricature, published in 1903, was, appropriately enough, one on the then new Semeuse (Sower) design, which we reproduce herewith.

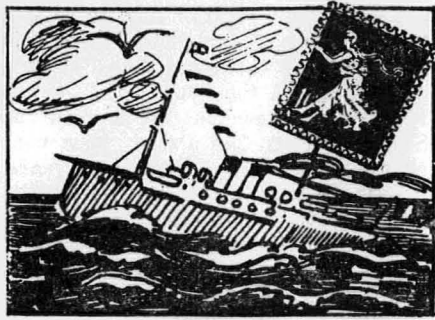
The Semeuse apparently became a favorite target of Maury's artists, for by 1911 CTP had published caricatures of it on no less than five occasions (reproduced here); no other topic drew so much pen fire in CTP as this. (Maury died in 1907 but his successor continued his policies.) Whether Maury did-

TIMBRE-CARICATURE



"Our designer Rodo thought that the allegory of the Sower was too general and that it was fitting to make a more appropriate motif of the postal service while keeping within the main lines of the design. Here is the project that he came up with." (From "Coll. T.-P." 1911, p. 150)

Les Pérégrinations de la Semeuse



"The Peregrinations of the Sower:—(top left:) I have hardly been in existence for several months when I am destined to frank a letter addressed to Senegal, to a Mr. X—, captain of a long journey. (Top right:) The trip was bearable and seasickness hardly bothered me. (Middle left:) Then I find myself at Dakar. The heat was overpowering; I find out that the captain X has departed for Borneo whence I am soon forwarded. (Middle right:) There, under pretext that my value is insufficient, they place beside me a terrible companion whose very presence makes me tremble. (Bottom left:) The mail from France brings some bad news; it appears that at Paris my former companions now have to sow all the time in obscurity and no longer can discern the tare of the good grain; and what's more, they have been deprived of the sole benefit that remained to them, their poor little piece of ground. (Bottom left:) As such a fate is no doubt coming to me later, I abandon the sack that burdens me and prefer to be done with existing."

(Design by Ludovic Rodo) (From "Coll. T.-P.," 1907, p. 388)

n't like the Semeuse, or the public found it too easy to poke fun at, is an interesting question. Maury does not in his book mention any aspersions to the Semeuse though he quotes in full the snide debates of the *Chambre de Deputés* on the "bad taste" of the Blanc and Mouchon types. As the Semeuse design had already been used on the coinage for a number of years, it was thought to meet with public favor. Nevertheless, there was something about the Semeuse, as you will see, that struck some Frenchmen as plain funny.

Maury's rival editors of the other French philatelic journals did not copy the caricature idea, though *Le Circulaire Philatelique* devoted some delicious rhymes and sketches to the Gabon warrior designs of 1910 (which we will have to show you sometime).

In *L'Echo de Timbrologie* for 31 July 1939, a faithful correspondent "Verax" of Marolles, addresses the Editor: "In your number of 15 July last (one of your distinguished contributors) in writing on the subject of a recently-issued commemorative stamp, stated: 'Above all don't ask your postoffice clerk for the Puss-in-boots stamp—there is no such thing!' Wrong! One can find it if he wants to. I can prove it to you by the enclosed example and by putting myself at your service to supply the Puss-in-boots stamp in blocks dated in all four corners, in *tete-beche*, and with varieties: 'cat without tail,' and 'cat completely de-booted.'" A reproduction of the stamp shows a very arrogant baroque Puss, at 2 Fr face. Alas, let us hope the sense of humor among French philatelists has not died.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Word has just come from R. Lesgor while on his recent Paris trip, that E. H. de Beaufond, the well-known dealer in philatelic publications, publisher of the former *Le Marcophile*, operator of auctions, and publisher of many of the most important scholarly works on French philately since the War, has passed away. His support to serious philatelic projects will be sorely missed.

A new Franchise Militaire stamp for France was issued in September; the new design shows the French flag in three colors, no face value.

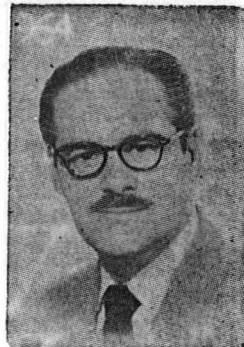
Prof. Dr. Eugene Olivier, President of the Academie de Philatelie, Paris, died on 9th May. He was an active student and writer on "marques postales," "flammes" (Daguin), and postal history of various French Departments, and editor of *Documents Philatéliques*.

It has been mentioned in the recent French philatelic magazines that Yvert et Tellier plan to issue a new edition of their famous specialized catalogue of France and Colonies (last ed. 1936-40), which has long been a "bible" but is now rather far out of date although still useful. This is very good news, if true.

F. & C. P. S. OFFICIAL

President's Letter

Dear Friends: The officers were very pleased to receive so many verbal and written comments bearing good wishes for the success of our FCPS revival and affirming their pleasure in our resumed Philatelist. For myself and in behalf of the other officers I say "Thanks." The Editor especially appreciated the numerous letters sent to him, but he asks again for your cooperation in submitting more contributions—original articles, reviews, notes of discoveries, oddities, news and announcements (—it is your magazine, not his). We are always hoping a veritable Balzac of Nassau St. will turn up, but will settle for a lot less—translation, re-write, editing, expert referrals, scholarly footnotes, can be supplied (free) by us. **So get out that pencil today.**



During the winter season your Society will hold several competitions, here at the Collectors Club and at various philatelic exhibitions in New York City. You are encouraged to participate—our out-of-town members have often done well in these affairs in the past. Details will be announced in the Philatelist, or contact your Exhibition Chairman, Ira Zweifach, 336 Central Park West, New York 25. As usual, awards and certificates will be given.

Our devoted past-President Eric Spiegel has accepted the Chairmanship of the Membership Committee; he asks all of you to help him recruit 100 new members during the coming year. Applications and details can be obtained from Eric at 300 West 109th St., New York 25.

And another past-Prexy, our William (Congo "Bill" but not the real wild type) Connelly, has assumed with enthusiasm the Publicity Committee Chair, to help Eric and you meet that goal of 100 new members so we can publish more and bigger Philatelists. He has already gotten out a fine news release to the press, and plans releases on every issue of the Philatelist.

Allow me to say that your officers are very conscious of their responsibilities to serve you; and I remind the old members as well as inform the new ones that we are happy to answer requests for information about stamps, publications, activities, etc., and invite suggestions. Address the Corresponding Secretary, who will see that the proper official or source is contacted.

Out-of-town members and guests are always welcome and encouraged to attend our regular meetings held every first Tuesday of the month at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St. Nor should you miss one of our Annual Banquet parties (real gay) if you can make it. We plan to resumé the meetings in the Philatelist, but it would be impossible to capture some of the fiery discussions that go on.

One of the best rewards of this Office are the personal letters I receive from members with comments of all sorts; may there be lots more of them, for through them we can feel the pulse and benefit the Society.

Au Revoir till next issue.

Philatelically yours,
Charles Bretagne, President

NEW MEMBERS

(As of Nov. 11, 1964)

- 940 SHOCK, S. H., P. O. Box 56, Asheville, N. Carolina 28802 (France)
 941 CLAUS, Reverend Enno, Theo., 3424 Kensington, Detroit, Mich. 48224
 (19th and 20th Century France)
 942 STONE, Murray J., 3171 Bathurst St., Apt. 503, Toronto 19, Ont., Canada
 (France and Colonies General)
 943 COHEN, Leon J., 12 Ridgeway, Goshen, New York 10924 (Stps. of France)
 944 MIRES, Dr. Maynard H., Jr., 555 North State St., Dover, Del. 19901
 (Postal Markings of the Pre-Stamp Period as well as the "Classic" Issues
 of France (1849-1876)
 945 MOCKING, Bruce, 5248 Arcadia St., Skokie, Ill. 60077
 946 VOSSLER, Vernon R., TSgt. P. O. Box 2685, APO 328, San Francisco,
 Calif. 96428 (France Proper)
 947 LAGRANGE, Maurice, 726 Sunset Dr., Lexington, Ky. 40502 (General and
 Ballons Montés, First Flights, FDCs, Outre-Mer, Others)
 948 KRAMER, Fred, 223 North 8th Ave., P. O. Box 1268, Highland Park,
 New Jersey (France—Cancellations)

REINSTATEMENTS

- 643 PARSHALL, Walter E., 103 Spruce St., Bloomfield, New Jersey
 7 MORRISON, John A., 8 Candy Lane, Commack, New York
 620 JODRY, Richard L., 933 Blue Lake Circle, Richardson, Texas
 755 PACHECO, George M., 4477 Sierra Drive, Honolulu 16, Hawaii
 721 MARLOWE, Monroe, 14214 Valerio St., Van Nuys, Calif.
 854 WATERFIELD, John R., 428 So. Batavia Ave., Batavia, Illinois
 899 LEONARD, Nathaniel, 37 Walbrook Road, Scarsdale, New York
 285 MINSKER, J. H., 104 Maple St., East Aurora, New York
 768 LIPSET, Ben B., 1407 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10018
 863 COOPER, Janet D., 19903 Longbrook, Cleveland 28, Ohio
 505 GRANT, H. W., 1872 Bugle Lane, Clearwater, Florida
 20 McGEE, John R., Box 98, Greenbelt, Maryland
 902 SEELIG, Arthur R., 33 N. La Salle St., Chicago 2, Illinois
 716 DENNY, Frank W., Box 341, Ajo, Arizona
 872 SMITHEN, Dr. A. H., 236 Indian Road, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
 615 UTT, Dr. Walter C., Pacific Union College, Angwin, Calif. (Box 373)
 786 SIMMONDS, Wm. E., 428 W. Michigan, Jackson, Michigan
 821 SIMPSON, James L., 304 So. 9th, Bozeman, Montana
 592 MYERS, Nat. C., Jr., 199 Secor Road, Scarsdale, New York
 749 NORBECK, John L., 5828 Halifax Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minn. 55424
 901 CARABET, Norman, M.D., 9763 Mason Ave., Chatsworth, California
 885 RICE, Robert E., 1620 North Ridge Drive, Duncan, Oklahoma
 804 FALARDEAU, Cletus J., 5154 Campanile Drive, San Diego 15, Calif.
 858 CHIROT, Dr. Michel, 2713 15th Street, Troy, New York
 34 MENNINGER, Mrs. William C., 1724 Collins Ave., Topeka, Kansas
 876 GRACE, John P., 533 Aylmer St., Peterborough, Ontario, Canada

- 848 BUXTON, Kenneth, 295 Exmouth St., Sarnia, Ontario, Canada
 815 DOLGOY, Dr. M., 10233 125th St., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
 814 KOPF, Irving, 9516 Avenue L, Brooklyn, New York 11236.

CHANGE OF SPECIALTIES

- 113 DAYTON, Marjorie B.
 19th and 20th Century Cancellations and Post Marks of Paris.
 707 EATON, Frederik S.
 France 1849 to date

CHANGE OF ADDRESS (New Addresses)

- 774 LEVY, Theodore, 501 Briar Ave., Chicago, Illinois.
 601 VERWILT, William Bernard, 204 Third Ave., Asbury Park, N. J. 07712
 670 GADBOIS, Charles W., 1345 Elmer Drive, Denver, Colorado 80233
 761 JOSEPH, Frederick M., 1000 Park Ave., New York, N. Y. 10028
 551 BROCK, Dr. and Mrs. Fred C., 4434 Kling St., Burbank, Calif. 91505
 856 BURTNETT, Robert C., 443 West 4th St., Scottsdale, Arizona 85251
 785 MARTIN, Irving, 3530 DeKalb Ave., Bronx, New York, N. Y.
 12 BOUTRELLE, Adrien, One Montgomery Place, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11215

NEW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND CATALOGS

- "Catalogue 1964 des Vignettes Francaises de Croix Rouge." By L. Granger.
 118 p. 1964. The author, 19 Rue Roger Groizeleau, Angers, M. et L. 12.50Fr.
- "Catalogue des Flammes d'Obliteration Illustrées." By J. Robert. 2nd ed. 1964.
 256 pp. 400 ill. Ed. A. Raynaud, 20 Rue de la Republique, St. Etienne.
 20Fr. (Priced cat.)
- "Catalogue Yvert et Tellier 1965" Vol. I, France et Pays d'Expression Francais,
 Anciens Colonies, — Saar, — ." 520 pp. 1964. 4.50Fr. p.p. Yvert et Tellier,
 37 Rue de Jacobins, Amiens.
- "Catalogue Thiaude 1965, France et Pays d'Expression Francais." 1964, 352 pp.
 4.50Fr. p.p. M. Thiaude, 24 Rue du 4 Sept., Paris 2.
- "Catalogue Maury 1965" 2 vols. 152 and 356 pp. 3.75 Fr. each. 1964. A. Maury,
 6 Blvd. Montmartre, Paris 9.
- "Catalogue Ceres 1965." 375 pp. 4.50 Fr. p.p. Ed. Ceres, 25 Rue du Louvre,
 Paris 1. (Miro, Robineau, and Roumet served as consultants on prices.)
- "Catalogue Berck, 1965. France Specialisé" 304 pp. 5 Fr. p.p. Ed. Berck, 6 Place
 de la Madeleine, Paris 8. (Moderately specialized.)

- "Catalogue des Oblitérations Mécaniques a Flamme Illustrée ou Stylisé." By A. Lafon. 1964. Illustr. 30Fr. Le Monde des Philatelistes, 14 Rue du Helder, Paris 9. (Priced, incl. Algeria and Monaco.)
- "Catalogue des Variétés de France de 1900 a Nos Jours." 4th ed. 1964. By L. Wanos and de Belleville. Illustr. 23.20 Fr. p.p. Ed. Ceres, 25 Rue du Louvre, Paris 1. (Very useful reference.)
- "Oblitérations des Bleues de France." By H. Blot. 3rd ed. 1964. 12.50 Fr. Ed. Céres, 25 Rue du Louvre, Paris 1.
- "Nomenclature des Oblitérations et des Bureaux de 1849 a 1876." By H. Blot. 1964. 12.50 Fr., Ed. Ceres.
- "Les Vignettes de Colis Postaux de Paris pour Paris." By G. Chapier. 16 pp. 1964, 3.50Fr. Brochure Nr. 65, Le Monde des Philatelistes, 14 Rue du Helder, Paris 9.
- "Les Timbres du Guerre Dunkerque-Coudequerque le Juillet-9 Aout 1940." By Ed. Perron. 1964. 12 pp. 3.00Fr. Brochure Nr. 66, Le Monde des Philatelistes, 14 Rue du Helder, Paris 9.
- "Timbres-Poste de Fezzan 1943-52." By G. Vandelli. 52 pp. 1964. 10Fr plus p. Imprimerie Centrale de Paris, 66 Rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Paris 1 (also Le Monde des Phil. for 11.50Fr. p.p.).
- "Les Timbres Francais Perforés." By Col. Lebland. 1964. 48 pp. 6 Fr. Brochure Nr. 67, Le Monde des Philatelistes, 14 Rue du Helder, Paris 9.

FOR THE RECORD

(This Department is devoted to short notices on recent discoveries of varieties, unusual or little-known items, submitted by correspondents or culled from the recent magazines.)

14.) Regular mail service across the Sahara between Algeria and Niger began on March 15, 1908. The courier went monthly from Timbuctoo, Zinder, and Agades to Gao, where meharists took it to Timmimoun and In-Salah, which already had mails to Biskra and El Golea since Jan 1.

15.) We recently acquired a cover from Indochina 1904 to Switzerland, on which the 25c Group Type stamp was cancelled by the "Mont Cenis a Paris" postmark of the mail sorter on the railway mail car coming from Italy to France. This illustrates how the frequent cases of colonial and foreign stamps with French ambulant postmarks (espec. Calais-a-Paris) occur; the postoffice of origin accidentally fails to cancel the stamp so the sorter en route or at arrival office happens to see it and applies his own postmark. Common enough off cover, on cover it is rather rare.—R. G. S.

16.) The error variety of Wallis and Futuna 35c of 1938 with overprint missing has been imitated by changing the "4" to a "3" on the 45c of similar color of New Caledonia 1939 issue, according to Cte. de Pomyers (BPM #217, p. 343). This is surprising since the error catalogs only about \$4 in France.

17.) Years ago the French catalogs listed a set of the 1902 issue of Somali Coast having the colors of frame and center inverted from the normal and imperforate; they were considered as proofs of non-adopted color trials. (However, the Ministry made a mistake and chose the 4c colors from among the set submitted as "inverted.") Cte. de Pomyers describes a similar set of inverted colors but perforated and gummed like the stamps. They are very rare, and supposedly only one or two sheets of each were printed. The 25c stamp is usually catalogued as simply blue or "blue and blue"; but actually most copies have a slightly deeper frame color, and a copy purely unicolored is rare and worth much more. (See **BPM** #207, p. 132, and #211, p. 206.)

18.) A re-entry on the 30c "Poste" stamp of the Philatelic strip of May 1964 is reported by Nick Chase in **Mekeel's Weekly** for Aug. 4th. It shows as a slight redoubling of the Republique Francaise, and occurs on some sheets in the 21st stamp in the sheet (lowermost strip).

19.) The four new republics which were formerly parts of French Equatorial Africa formed a postal federation in 1960, called the Equatorial Office of Posts, which provides for interchangeability in use of their stamps, in case of emergency shortages, etc. According to Ben Hamilton, writing in **Covers** for August 1962, this explains the covers reported with Chad and Gabon stamps used in Central African Republic, etc. Chad stamps were available in Congo postoffices in 1962. Also the former colonial stamps were still being used for some time after independence.

20.) Several recent French stamps have been the subject of an unusual experiment by the PTT—perfumed gum! It began with the Le Touquet 1Fr printed 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 of August 1962 on press no. 9, which had the gum perfumed with a menthol or mint scent. The gum was somewhat greenish as a result. Later the .50Fr. Cote Varoise was perfumed, from 31/7/63 to 1/8/63, press no. 5. Some of these smelled so strong that one could detect them at a distance. Now the Marianne de Decaris .25Fr and other values are being perfumed; some booklets were made with an anise flavor. These gums are white. A correspondent of **BPM** reports being interrogated by a postal inspector as to his preference among the perfumes; the reactions are said not to be overly favorable. Our greatest gastronomic-tastevinic philatelist, R. Lesgor, thinks the use of mint is an Anglo-Saxon influence, and asks would it not have been more French if the flavors selected had been Chartreuse, Benedictine, or good old Armagnac?

21.) Anyone interested in the various cancellations used on mail carried by the new French Liner "France" on its maiden voyage in Jan.-Feb. 1962 will find an illustrated round-up by Daniel Perreau in **Covers** magazine for April 1962, pp. 22-3.

22.) Many members of FCPS have written the officers about the classification and status of the various essays, proofs, and imperforates issued in recent years by the French community of countries. It is a very confusing matter because the information about them comes mainly from the dealers interested in selling them and therefore unofficial and naturally suspect. Philatelists in France seem to be generally hostile, and there is little said in the French press. Some descriptions and classifications of this material put out by several of the dealers are not without merit, but there is no agreement among them or anybody else. The Essay Proof Society has not been able to fathom the question, but its editor Barbara Mueller gives an outline in **Western Stamp Collector** for May 23, 1964 (pp.3-4) based on an article by J. Burka (a dealer) in **Essay-Proof Jn.**, v. 7, no. 4, and Sanabria's "Catalog." A brochure

issued by Artists Proofs Inc. (dealer) is also of interest. The complex trial color proofs from the Chambon 3-color presses, which have flooded the market lately, have re-opened the debate. See the fiery correspondence in *L'Echange-iste Universelle*, Feb. and March 1964.—R.G.S.

23.) Stamps of France surcharged "Specimen" first appeared on the 1862 issue. These early ones were not prepared for the purpose of modern specimen overprints (UPU did not exist then), but rather to be pasted-up on posters hung on the wall of the French post offices abroad to advertise the availability of the stamps and their equivalents in local (non-French) currency.

24.) M. Aurand writing in BPM #265 notes that certain French and colonial stamps are very liable to damage by soaking in water. The early Obock and Somali rectangles and triangles, the surcharges of Nossi-Be 1889 and Diego Suarez 1890, violet stamps such as the 5fr Vezeley, Becquerel, and 8fr Rooster precancelled, are especially vulnerable.

An article by Robert G. Stone on "French Colonial Stamps—Some Oddities of Postal Usage," appeared in the *American Philatelic Congress Book for 1964*, pp. 25-32; the author has no separates to give away but can loan a copy to interested members for the cost of postage.

Charles Bretagne, President of FCPS, took many slides while attending Philatec last June, and has given some illustrated talks about his observations there.

Don't forget the Annual S. G. Rich Competition, Jan. 5—see under "FCPS Official" above.

MEMBERS APPEALS

WANTED FOR A SPECIALIZED STUDY: Used copies only, of France #263 (2fr Arc de Triomphe), especially multiples (pairs, strips, blocks); also used singles in quantity. Charles Neidorf, 1580 East 22nd St., Brooklyn 10, N. Y. (Member 364).

WANTED: To complete a plating of Scott #45 of France, 20c Type III Report 2, need positions 1 and 15 as shown on page 68 of Suarnet's "Bleues de France" (latest ed.). Will exchange other positions (2, 6, 7, and 9), or other issues, or buy. Raymond L. Smith, 1228B Douglas Rd., Rantoul, Ill. 61866. (Member 756).