

French Colonial Africa Senegal

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Collectors Club, October 19, 2016

[illegible]

This 1914 Vignette essay image of preparing food in the Native Market.

France's Wild & Wonderful Senegal

- ▶ Senegal - An ideal proxy for France Colonial philately of this time - France's prize African colony
- ▶ Artistically presented to the world
- ▶ Exotic imagery
 - ▶ Expansive ports
 - ▶ Wild animals, lush grounds, navigable waterways
- ▶ Gave Rise to Bi Color France Colonies Stamp Series
 - ▶ Senegal: Native Market, Preparing Food issue 1914-1940
- ▶ Timeframe of Bi Color Issues - Not Well Studied

Outline for Talk Tonight

- ▶ Introducing the Senegal and the Stamps
- ▶ How the Stamps were Used - Solo, Multiple, Combination
- ▶ Plenty of Rates & Changes
- ▶ Types of Mail
 - ▶ Surface Letter, Registered, Airmail, Post Card, Printed Matter
- ▶ Have a Little Fun

Orienting Ourselves to Senegal



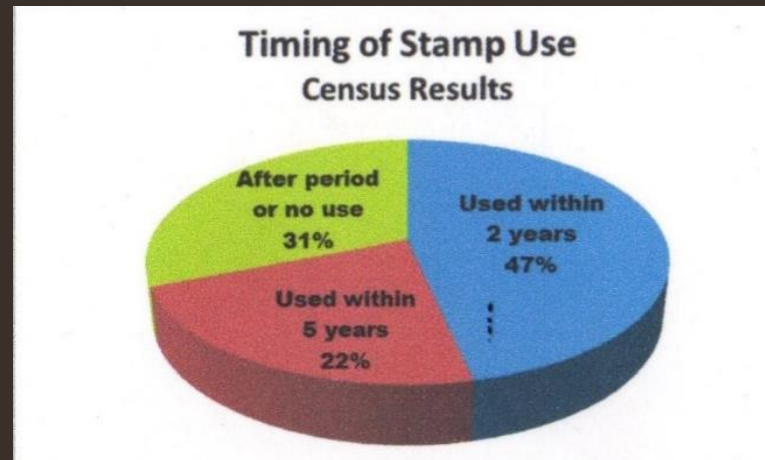
Native Market Bi Color Series



- ▶ First issues: April, 1914. Prevailing definitives until 1922
- ▶ Series issued over 25 years, 58 stamps in all
- ▶ Issued in five sets, also with surcharges and semi-postals

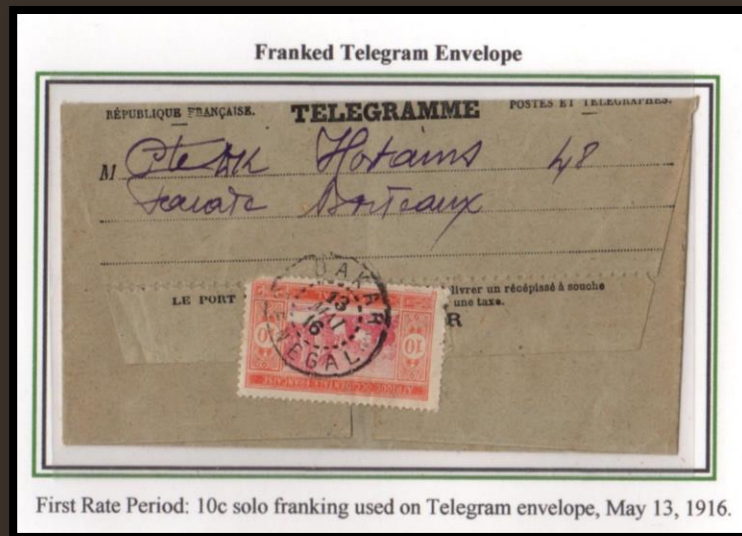
Collecting Challenges

- ▶ Many stamps are initially issued for multiple contemporary rates
- ▶ Then rates change and more values added to the series
- ▶ Single franking, with some exceptions, are not common
- ▶ At least in part, related to lax timely supply distribution



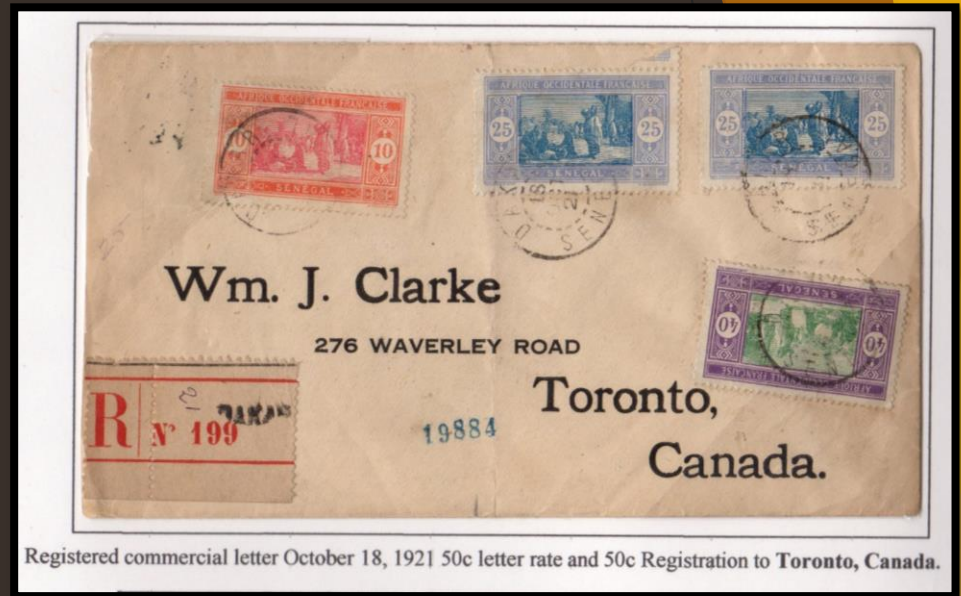
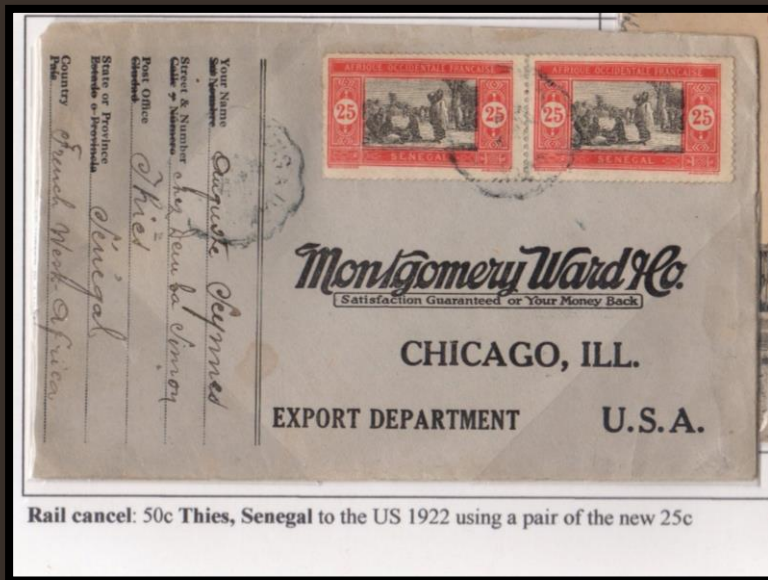
Collecting and Exhibiting French Colonial Africa Series Stamps

- Solo franking — Single stamp used to pay intended rate
- Multiple franking — Multiples of the same stamp used
- Combination franking — Includes stamps from within the set
- Mixed franking — Includes issues from other series - not focus of this talk tonight (just too many of those)



Multiple and Combination Franking

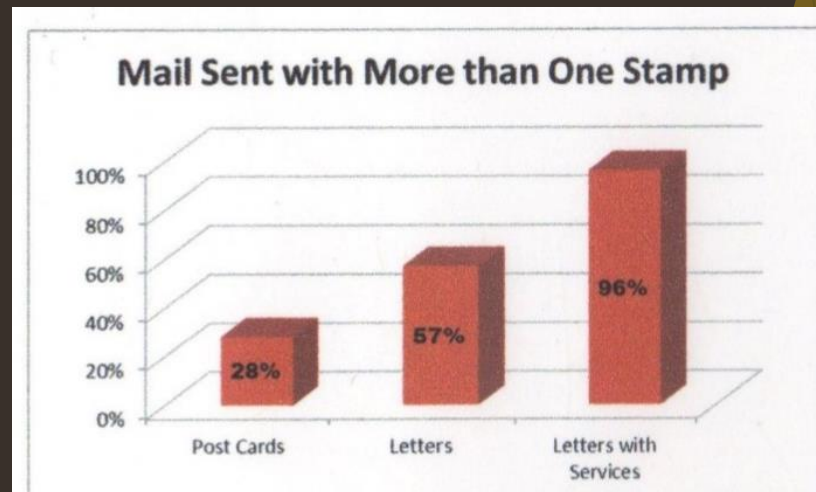
No use of a 50c stamp



Rates and Use of the Stamps

Guiding Principles:

- ▶ If one is good, more is better
- ▶ Franking is not an absolute, closeness counts
- ▶ Famous words of fellow collector, Paul Larsen:
 - ▶ This IS Africa, do not expect your normal to happen here



A Bit of Analysis Regarding Rates

Prevailing Rates & Stamps

- ▶ 45% of stamped issued that matched prevailing rates were found used within three years of printing
- ▶ 25% of stamp issued in anticipation of new rates were found used within five years of printing
- ▶ 25% of the stamps were used 80% of the time (80/20 rule)

Rate Periods

- ▶ 16 Rate Periods in a 25 year timeframe
- ▶ Rates driven by France for the France Colonies, not Senegal

Rates: Changes & Structure

1914-1939 Rates in Review

Domestic Rates to France & Colonies		Foreign Rates	
Rate Period	Frame	Rate Period	Frame
1. 1914 - 1916	1	2. 1914 - 1921	1
3. 1917 - 1920	2	4. 1921 - 1924	2
5. 1920 - 1924	2	6. 1924 - 1925	2
7. 1924 - 1925	2 - 3	8. 1925 - 1926	3
9. 1925 - 1926	3	10. 1926 - 1932	3 - 4
11. 1926 - 1930	4	Continued	4
12. 1930 - 1932	5	14. 1932 - 1937	6 - 7
13. 1932 - 1937	5 - 6	16. 1937 - 1939	7
15. 1937 - 1939	7	Exhibit Conclusion	7

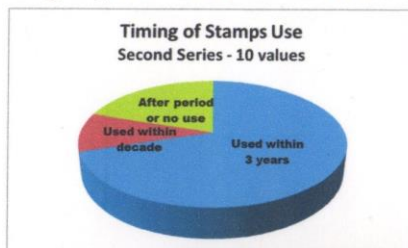
Changing Rates and More Stamps

Rate Period 4. Foreign Destinations Rates 1921 - 1924

April 1, 1921—March 31, 1924

Rates	Letter 50c	Post Card 30c, 10c	Registration 50c
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New values and color schemes were provided in 1922. Frequently used values were added in new colors, with 10c green, 25c red and 50c blue for UPU color conformity. Letter, Post Card & Registration **rates doubled**.



Of all of the series issued, this second set was most used.



Post card < 5 words, the Printed Matter rate



Make up Rate



Domestic Letter Rate



Surface Letters

Solo Use, When Space is Tight

Telegraph Office

Red and Blue Triple Lines
indicate Telegraph Office

25c Local surface letter 1933
from Kaolak, Senegal, north of
Gambia.



Surface Letters

Mix of Stamps, Even When Space is Tight

Theis, Senegal to Syria



Surface Letter

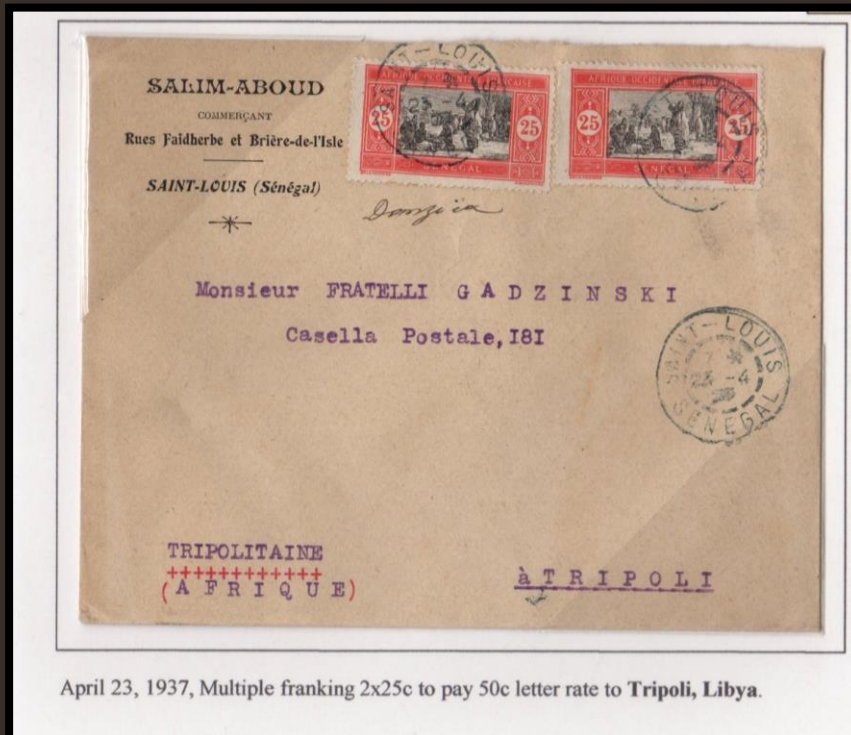
- ▶ Dual Addressed Cover
- ▶ 10c and 15c for 25c surface rate 1920s

Surface Letters - Multiple Franking

To Tripoli, Libya

Surface Letter

- 2 x 25c surface rate



Surface Letter - Mixed Franking



- ▶ Why Mauritania?
- ▶ Did it Matter?
- ▶ City of Saint Louis Location

The Revalued Stamps

5. France & Colonies Rates 1920 - 1924

April 1, 1920—March 24, 1924

Rates	Letter 25c	Post Card 20c, 5c	Registration 35c
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Revalued stamps: *Issued in 1922 to provide needed values from existing stocks, few were used regularly. The 60c and 1f50c however, were widely used, and with the initiation of Airmail services, higher denominations were needed and used.*



Third Set of Stamps

Rate Period 9. France & Colonies Rates 1925 - 1926

July 16, 1925 – August 8, 1926

Rates

Letter 30c Surface

Post Card 20c

New issues were added to the series in 1926 in this time of advancing rates. Notations indicate potential intended use. The 20c, 50c and 1f were most used.



Post card < 5 words



Post card < 5 words



Letter rate



Foreign Letter



Registration




Then A Fourth Series Providing Some Well Used Values

Rate Period 9. France & Colonies Rates 1925 - 1926
July 16, 1925 – August 8, 1926

Rates	Letter 30c Surface	Post Card 20c

New issues were added to the series in 1926 in this time of advancing rates. Notations indicate potential intended use. The 20c, 50c and 1f were most used.



Post card < 5 words Post card < 5 words Letter rate

Foreign Letter Registration

- ▶ Philatelically Inspired Issues
- ▶ Needed for New Rates
- ▶ Recolored for Differentiation
- ▶ Mix of All of These Reasons

And Yet More Stamps Needed Higher Values

Rate Period 11. France & Colonies Rates 1926 - 1930

August 9, 1926 - April 20, 1930

Rates	Letter 50c	Post Card 40c	Registration 1f
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New rates remained in effect for four years, after earlier changing nearly each year. Separately, on June 10, 1926 the Airmail rate changed from 2f to 2f60c.

No new issues
matched a new rate

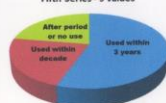


Majority of new
issues over 1f



While these new values mirrored earlier needed combinations, they did not match any new rates. However, the combination of limiting the number of new values issued, and selecting denominations that had reasonable reason for use resulted in census findings that the majority of issues, while not specifically matching a rate, were used within three years.

Timing of Stamp Use
Fifth Series - 9 values



November 2, 1926 3f10c Airmail letter franked 2f60c Airmail and 50c letter rate using six 50c from the new series and one 10c



Reverse franking makes security seal.

Post Card and Letter Rates Solo and Combination Registration and Airmail Services



Post card with solo
franking, 40c rate,
after August 9, 1926
rate increase.



November 16, 1926 4f10c Registered Airmail franked 2f60c Airmail, 1f Registration, 50c letter.

Registered Mail Fairly Commonly Used

- ▶ Confidence in the Mail - Not Too High
- ▶ Rate Changes Over the Period
- ▶ Rates Not Always Applied Correctly
- ▶ Lots of Different Label Types
- ▶ Once Again, Lots of Stamps



Registered Mail

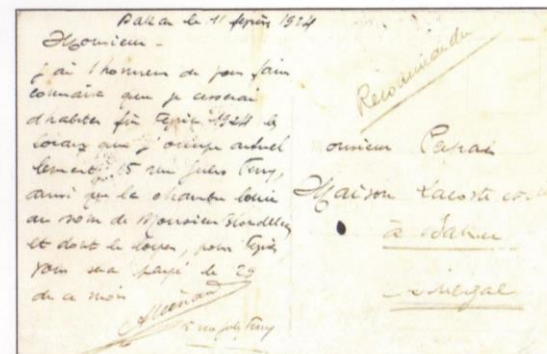
Franking is not an absolute, closeness counts
Convenience overfranking of 5c example

Local Post Card sent Registered Mail



Registered local post card sent with revalued 75c issue to 60c. Rate 20c post card with over 5 words and 35c Registration, 5c convenience over franked, February 11, 1924.

Why send a post card Registered mail?



Reverse above: This card in a notice of **canceling a lease**, sending it Registered gave more certainty of its delivery.

Note: Registry marking, "**Recommandé**" at top right.

Registered Mail

Franking Style: Two Stamps for Each Rate

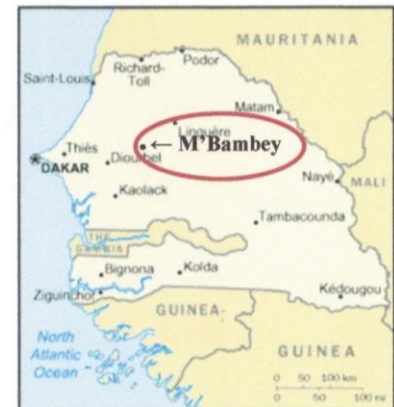


Spotting M'Bambey

Senegal Cities

Population centers were and are on the coast. Interior locations had limited road and initially no rail.

M'Bamby's location, added to the map, is well into the interior in the isolated Diourbel district.



Registered Mail



Registered letter to **Prague, Czechoslovakia** December 27, 1924. Paid with 15c, 75c and revalued 60c on 75c violet and sent from **Goree, Senegal**.

Note the separate perforations around the "R" on the Registration tag, allowing the Registration number to be removed. Format not standardized between cities in Senegal.

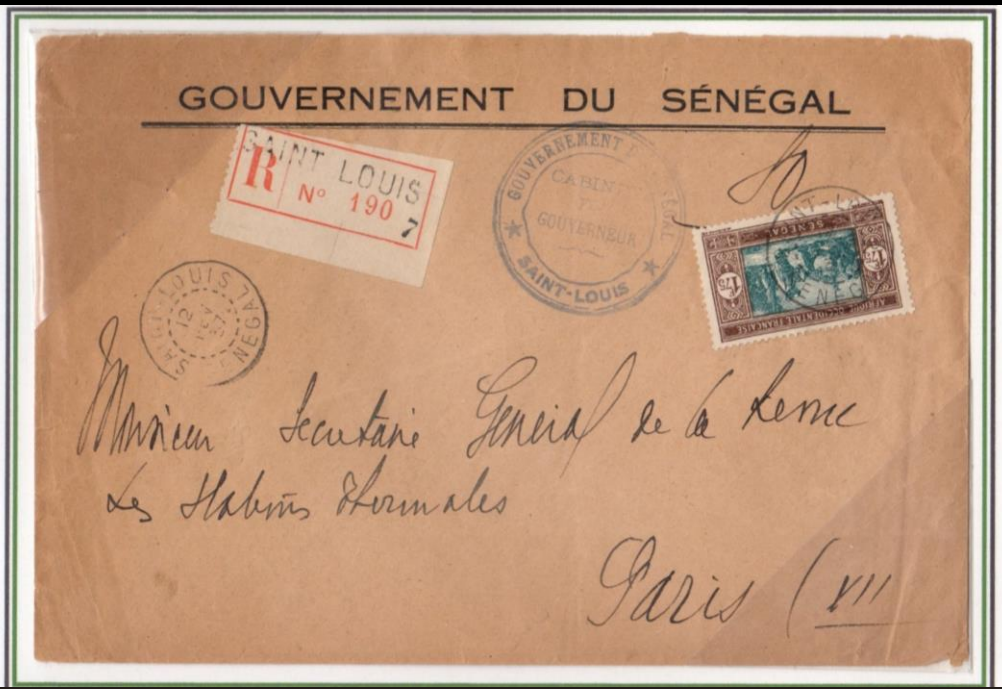
Registered Mail

Government surface letter

February 12, 1937 →

1f25c Registration and 50c
letter rate paid with solo 1f75c,
perfect minimal franking.

“Cabinet du Gouverneur
Government du Senegal Saint-
Lewis” handstamp, front and
reverse.



Solo Franking
Government Offices in Saint Louis



Registered Airmail to Europe

July 25, 1935. Minimal
franking 3f Airmail, 1f25c
Registration & 50c letter.

Letter addressed to
Principality of Monaco.



- ▶ Perfect Simple Combination Franking
- ▶ Each Value is Full Value for Service
- ▶ On Senegal Mail this is Infrequent

Airmail Rates

Plus, Plus, Plus

- ▶ Surface Rate
- ▶ Airmail Surcharge - for example, to France
- ▶ Onward Airmail Rating
- ▶ Any Other Supplemental Charges - Registration
- ▶ First Flights - Airmail rate may be waived

Airmail

7. France & Colonies Rates 1924 - 1925

March 25, 1924 – July 15, 1925

Airmail service, already commonplace in France was added for Western African Colonies, with the city of Dakar as hub. The *Airmail rate* was added as a surcharge in addition to surface postage at the rate of 2f.

Airmail letters sent a week after service initiated

June 4, 1925—

Registered Airmail

Perfect minimal franking.

Letter rate 25c

Registration rate of 60c

Airmail rate of 2f.



Registered Airmail letter, June 5, 1925. Each stamp paying its individual rate: 25c postage, 60c Registration and 2f Airmail. Handstamp: *PAR AVION/ OUVERTURE LIGNE/ LATECOERE /DAKAR TOULOUSE* = BY AIRPLANE OPENING LINE LATECOERE.

Letter Rates

Airmail Combination Franking



June 24, 1925 Oversized commercial letter franked 4f85c for weight 15g. Base letter rate 25c to 15g, Registration 60c, Airmail 2nd rate step 4f for weight 10g to 20g.

Why the handstamp for Airmail?

Early handstamps for Airmail were:

- ♦ An advertisement
- ♦ A directive to send by Airmail
- ♦ An indicated which leg of the service was served by Airmail.

Early Airmail service connected France with:

- ♦ Western Africa at Dakar, Senegal
- ♦ Eastern South America at Natal, Brazil

Linking Western Africa & France



Airmail: First Flight

Note: Franking Mauritania

June 6, 1925 First Flight →

Latecoere Breguet XIV departed Dakar
June 6, arriving at Casablanca June 8th
at 10:00 a.m.

**PAR AVION/ OUVERTURE LIGNE/
LATECOERE /DAKAR - TOULOUSE**

BY AIRPLANE OPENING LINE LATECOERE.

Foreign stamps used abroad

4f 5c Mauritania revalued stamps
used. Rate: letter 25c, Airmail 3f80c
10-20g Double Weight. Sent from
Saint Louis June 5th to Dakar 6th.

The Mauritanian post office was
located across the street in St. Louis.



Airmail: Flights Within Africa

13. France & Colonies Rates 1932 - 1937

July 18, 1932 – July 11, 1937

Aeromaritime Introductory Rates

Airmail Letter 1f75c

Airmail Letter with Registration 2f75c

Letter Rates

Airmail Services Combination Franking

New Airmail service allowed for faster communication by mail between cities within Africa, when new service was introduced, a cachet was often applied and a discounted introductory rate offered.

March 5, 1937

Aeromaritime letter routed through Cotonou, Dahomey to Niamey, Niger. Sent with discounted introductory rate 1f75c.



Transit marking at 75%

April 13, 1936

Two 1f50c for Airmail & 50c letter.

Arrival marked April 16, 1934—3 days.

Handstamp "Entièrement Transporté Par Avion"

Promotional message of letter carried entirely by air.



First Flight Airmail to Niger

March 1, 1937 →

Expanded African Airmail
Franked 2f75c with
Registration at Aeromaritime
intro rate.

Sender from Keyes, Sudan
using Airmail from Dakar to
Cotonou, Dahomey.

Letter wrongly addressed,
forwarded to Porto Novo,
Dahomey (now Benin).

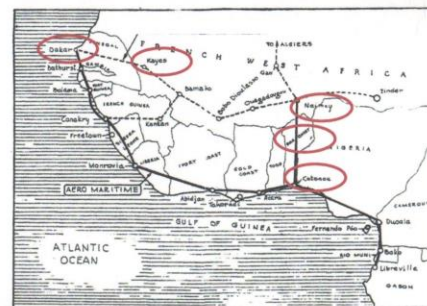


First Flight Registered Airmail to Dahomey



Mapping the intra-
African Airmail.

Circles on cities
above served by Air.



Airmail: Senegal to Niger

December 23, 1925

Rate: Surface letter 40c if Airmail used.
Correctly assessed **postage due** 10c,
charged double deficiency 20c due.

Promotional Airmail rate: no charge.

"Postale rapide" was *two weeks*, arrival in
Zinder, Niger January 6, 1926.



First Flight: "Postale Rapide" Air and Auto Zinder, Niger to Dakar



Airmail to France



- ▶ 1925 Airmail letter to France
- ▶ Rate 40c letter, 2f Airmail
- ▶ Paid 4 x 60c, covering the “Par Avion”
- ▶ Suggests shortage of stamps - in Dakar?

Airmail to France

September 3, 1935→

Colorfully franked
Senegal 3f paying
Airmail rate.

F.M. overprint is
French Military
official on 10c France
accepted for letter rate
postage.



- ▶ 1935 Airmail Letter
- ▶ 3f Airmail using colorful selection 1f, 1f, 45c, 55c
- ▶ Rate 50c letter paid including 10c F.M.

Airmail to Morocco



- ▶ 1927 Airmail letter to Morocco
- ▶ Rate 50c letter, 1f80c Airmail, 50c Late Fee
- ▶ Ziguinchor - Coastal town south of Gambia River

Airmail to Morocco



- ▶ 1927 Airmail letter to Morocco
- ▶ Rate 50c letter, 1f80c Airmail, 1f Registration AR
- ▶ St. Louis - North Coastal town at Mauritania border

Airmail to Europe

Airmail Letter 1937 Franked 37f 75c



1937 Airmail letter franked using revalued 20f and 10f issues. 81-84g weight.

Letter rate	1f75c per 20g
	4f for weight steps at 1f per 20g x 4 for 81g – 100 g
Airmail	32f for weight steps at 2f per 5g x 16 for 80 - 84 g
Total Franking	37.75 correct for 81-84g Airmail letter

Route: Railway carried Kaolac traveling post office to Theis, onward to Dakar. Dakar Airmail to Toulouse.

Sent to: The Gambia Control,

United Africa Company—this was a part of Unilever, operating a shipping business sending palm oils.

Airmail to Europe



High Franking Commercial Airmail



- ▶ 1932 Airmail letter to France, Rate 15f75c
- ▶ Double Weight Letter, 20g -50g weight, 75c Letter Rate
Five Times 10g Airmail Rate 5 x 3f 15f Airmail Rate
- ▶ Boite Postale handstamp - Postal Box Mark

High Franking Commercial Airmail



- ▶ 1932 Airmail letter to France, Rate 19f
- ▶ Triple Weight Letter, 50g-100g weight 1f Letter Rate Six Times 10g Airmail Rate 6 x 3f 19f Airmail Rate
- ▶ Boite Postale handstamp - Postal Box Mark

High Franking Commercial Airmail



- ▶ 1932 Airmail letter to France, Rate 61f75c
- ▶ Heavy Weight Letter, 150g-200g weight 1f75c Letter Rate
Twenty Times 10g Airmail Rate 20 x 3f 60f Airmail Rate

Printed Matter

- ▶ Infrequently Saved
- ▶ Poor Paper Quality
- ▶ These Most Collectible, Special Items

Printed Matter

7. France & Colonies Rates 1924 - 1925

March 25, 1924 – July 15, 1925

Rate

Printed Matter 15c

This short-lived rate period continued the Printed Matter rate of 15c up to 50g.

Printed Matter Rate

Solo Franking

Printed Matter

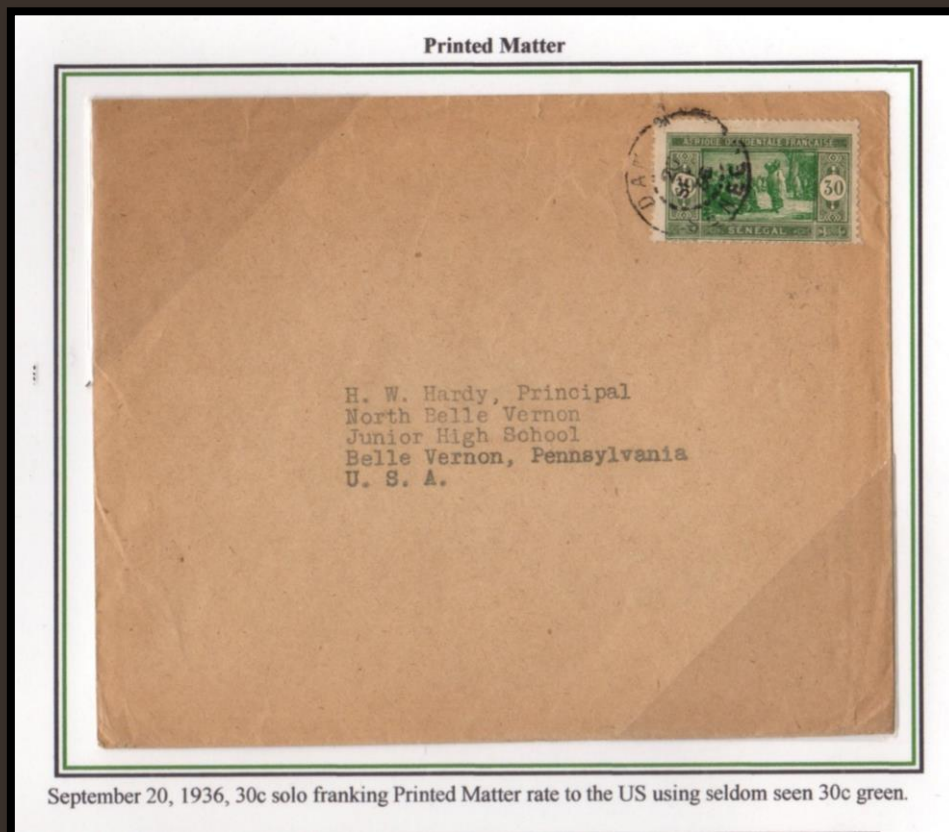


Newspaper was sent December 17, 1924 with minimal franking and was marked "T" for additional postage due. The appropriate rate is as follows:

Newspaper Actual Weight 26g
Postage Paid Shortfall 13c

Printed Matter Rate 15c for up to 50g
Double Deficiency Postage Due 26c

Printed Matter to the US



Printed Matter to France

15. France & Colonies Rates 1937 - 1939

July 12, 1937 – November 30, 1939

Printed Matter

May 28, 1938
Corner handstamp
advertising Air-
France service.

Solo franking of
20c rate.

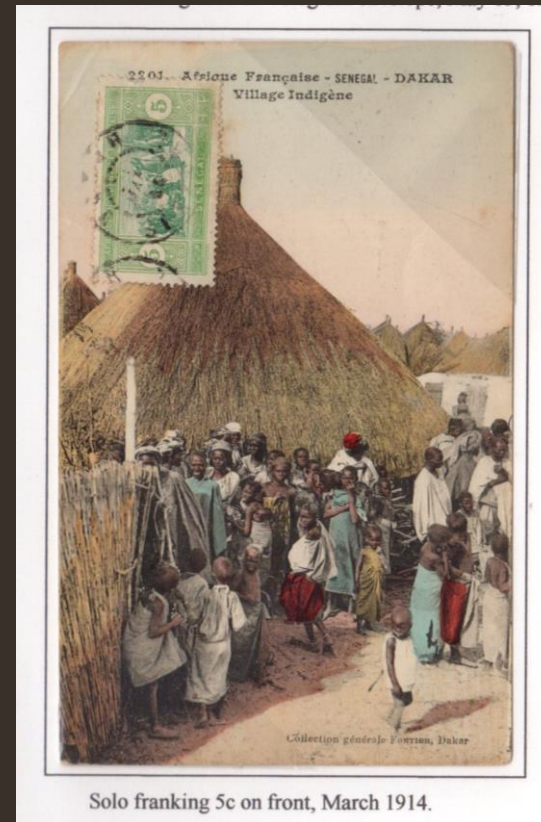
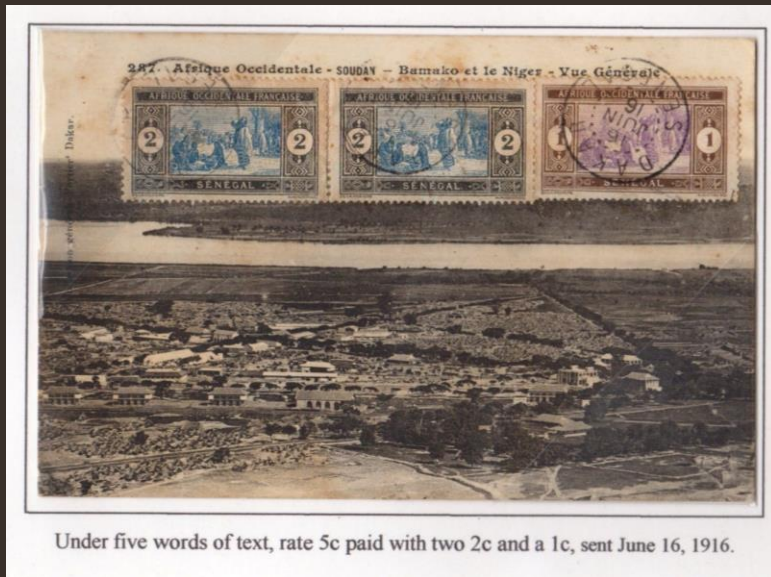


Post Cards

Low Cost Way to Correspond

- ▶ Rate Advantage
- ▶ Many, Many Choices of Cards
- ▶ Used by Business, Personal and Tourists Alike
- ▶ Rate Structure - More and Less than Five Words
- ▶ Style: Dressed Up With Stamps
- ▶ Franking Front and Back
- ▶ Sorry, I Skipped the Topless Senegalese
 - ▶ Saved for the Next Talk?

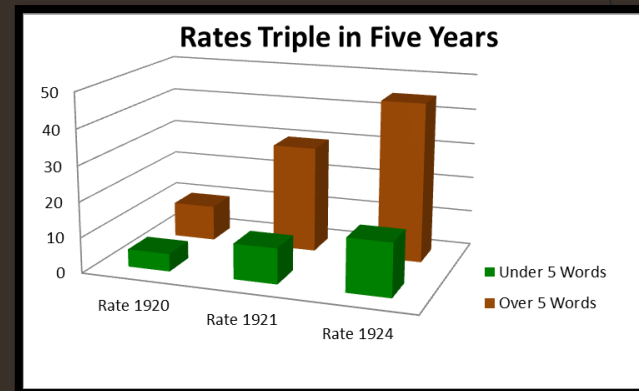
Paying the Five Cent Post Card Rate



Post Cards

Rate Change Example 1920 -1924

- ▶ Frequent Rate Changes
 - ▶ Initially Too Good of a Deal
- ▶ Solo Franking to Denmark 45c
- ▶ Combination Paquebot to Czechslovakia

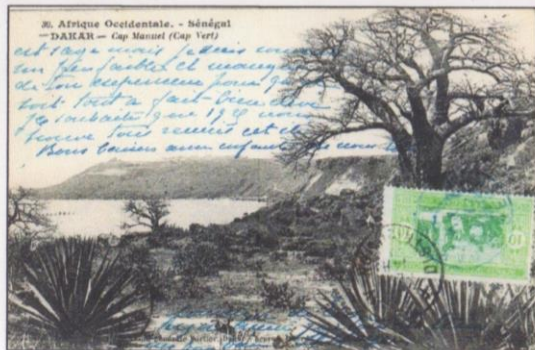


Post Card Franking

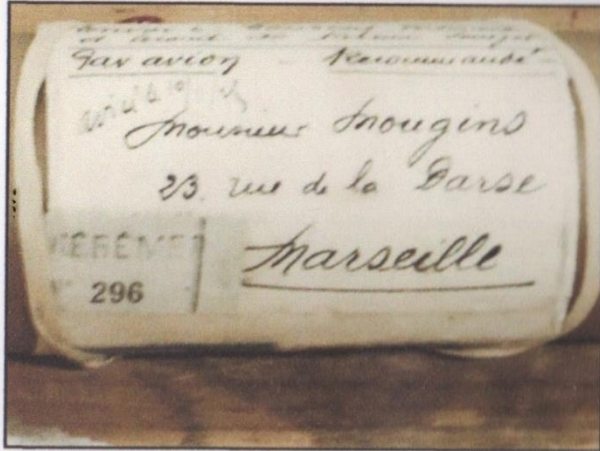
- ▶ Franking is Front & Back
- ▶ Rate is Not Correct
- ▶ Sure Used All the Space
- ▶ Not That Unusual



April 7, 1926, Post card 20c rate, 15c front 10c back, convenience overfrank 5c.



Have a Little Fun



This outer wrapped around a 5 cm tube



Registered Airmail Kébémér Four Times Weight parcel.

November 9, 1925.

1f postage for 50g

75c Registration

6f Airmail

What was the parcel?

A peanut sample.

Kébémér is in the peanut growing fields. At 50g this fits a scoop sample.



Have to Have a Few Philatelic Covers for Fun

Hand Cut
Registration -
From Dakar



Only Example of the .05 Surcharge I've Found - So Far

Can't You Just Picture the Stamps Inside?

A.C. Roessler Oddity



- ▶ 1927 Airmail letter NY to Chicago
- ▶ Foreign Section Handstamped
- ▶ Off to Senegal, correct postage for return
- ▶ 4f 10c letter: 1f 50c postage, 2f 60c Airmail



Popularity and Collecting Interest

- ▶ Packet Maker Stamps - We Know These From Childhood
- ▶ So Many Issues - Philatelically Inspired
- ▶ Covers That Might Be REAL Sure Look Philatelic
- ▶ Rates Are Not Tidy, Close Enough Does Not Inspire

YET

- ▶ There is Challenge to Rating and Understanding
- ▶ Understudied Area - Rates, Routes, Town Postmarks
- ▶ Airmail Sure Is a Challenge
- ▶ Plenty to Learn!

Summary of Talk

- ▶ Introducing the Senegal and the Stamps
- ▶ What's Interesting Here: How the Stamps were Used
- ▶ Types of Mail Seen
- ▶ Plenty of Rates & Changes
- ▶ Unusual Circumstances
- ▶ Broad Collecting Area and Opportunity
- ▶ An Opportunity to Study, Learn About & Enjoy

Helpful Resources

- ▶ Bob Picarilli's: *Postal & Airmail Rates in France & Colonies 1926-1945*.
- ▶ Derek Richardson: *Tables of French Postal Rates 1849-2005*.
- ▶ Collectors we know: Ed Grabowski, Paul Larsen, Bob Hisey
- ▶ Actually not enough people seriously collect this area
- ▶ How about you?

Questions?

